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Search for electroweakinos using the ATLAS detector

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LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITY MUNICH  
FACULTY OF PHYSICS

DISSERTATION

Eric Schanet  
February 2021



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## **Suche nach Elektroweakinos mit dem ATLAS Detektor**

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FAKULTÄT FÜR PHYSIK

DISSERTATION

Eric Schanet  
February 2021

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dorothee Schaile

*There is a particularly common and—at least until recently —widely believed seafarers' tale which may be heard everywhere from the most noisome seafront dives to the elegant drawing rooms of the ship-owning aristocracy. This is ‘supersymmetry’. It is a seductive story. It offers many things to the excitable traveller, and one of the things it offers is Dark Matter.*



## **Abstract**

My abstract



## **Zusammenfassung**

Meine Zusammenfassung



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# Introduction

Here is my introduction

Natural  
units and  
Minkowski  
metric



# Part I

## Fundamental concepts



# Chapter 1

## Theory

This chapter starts with an outline of the basic principles and concepts of the Standard Model of Particle Physics (SM), the theoretical framework describing nature on the level of elementary particles. This is followed by an introduction to supersymmetry, a promising class of theories aiming to solve some of the shortcomings of the SM.

By no means intended to be a full description, this chapter merely tries to highlight the important relations and consequences of the SM and supersymmetry. The mathematical description of this chapter largely follows [1, 2] for the SM and [3, 4] for supersymmetry.

### 1.1 The Standard Model of Particle Physics

By the end of the 1920s, quantum mechanics and general relativity had been relatively well established and the consensus among physicists was that matter was made of nuclear atoms consisting of electrons and protons. During the 1930s, a multitude of new experimental discoveries and theoretical puzzles excited physicists in three main fields of research: nuclear physics, cosmic rays and relativistic quantum mechanics [5]. The following years and decades saw particle physics emerge as a result of these currents ultimately flowing together.

Since these early times of particle physics research, physicists have made extraordinary progress in describing nature at the subatomic scale. Today, a century later, the resulting theoretical framework, the Standard Model of Particle Physics, is the most fundamental theory of nature to date. It provides an extremely precise description of the interactions of elementary particles and—using the Large Electron Positron (LEP)—has been tested and verified to an unprecedented level of accuracy up to the electroweak (EWK) scale. Given the unprecedented success of the SM, it is not surprising that its history is paved with numerous awards for both experimental and theoretical work. In 1964, the Nobel prize was awarded to Feynman, Schwinger and Tomonaga for their fundamental work in Quantum Electrodynamics (QED). This quantum field theory allows to precisely calculate fundamental processes as e.g. the anomalous magnetic moment of the electron to a relative experimental uncertainty of  $2.3 \times 10^{-10}$  [6]. In 1979, Glashow, Weinberg and Salam were awarded with the Nobel prize for their work towards electroweak unification. The most prominent recent progress is undoubtedly the discovery of the Higgs

**Table 1.1:** Names, electric charges and masses (rounded to three significant digits if known to that precision) of all observed fermions in the SM [7].

	generation	particle	electric charge [ $e$ ]	mass
leptons	1	electron ( $e$ )	-1	511 keV
		electron neutrino ( $\nu_e$ )	0	< 2 eV
	2	muon ( $\mu$ )	-1	106 MeV
		muon neutrino ( $\nu_\mu$ )	0	< 0.19 MeV
	3	tau ( $\tau$ )	-1	1.78 GeV
		tau neutrino ( $\nu_\tau$ )	0	< 18.2 MeV
quarks	1	up ( $u$ )	$\frac{2}{3}$	2.3 MeV
		down ( $d$ )	$-\frac{1}{3}$	4.8 MeV
	2	charm ( $c$ )	$\frac{2}{3}$	1.28 GeV
		strange ( $s$ )	$-\frac{1}{3}$	95 MeV
	3	top ( $t$ )	$\frac{2}{3}$	173 GeV
		bottom ( $b$ )	$-\frac{1}{3}$	4.18 GeV

boson, not only resulting in the Nobel prize being awarded to Englert and Higgs, but also completing the SM, roughly 50 years after the existence of the Higgs boson had been theorised.

### 1.1.1 Particle content of the SM

The SM successfully describes ordinary matter as well as their interactions, namely the electromagnetic, weak and strong interactions. Gravity is the only fundamental force not described within the SM. The particles in the SM are classified into two main categories, depending on their spin. Particles with half-integer spin follow Fermi-Dirac statistics and are called fermions. As they are subject to the Pauli exclusion principle, they make up ordinary matter. Particles with integer spin follow Bose-Einstein statistics and mediate the fundamental interactions between fermions.

Fermions are further divided into leptons and quarks, which each come in three generations with increasing masses<sup>†</sup>. The three electrically charged leptons are each associated with a corresponding neutral neutrino (more on this association in chapter). While the SM assumes massless neutrinos, the observation of neutrino oscillations [8] implies the existence of at least two massive neutrinos. By extending the SM to allow non-vanishing neutrino masses, neutrino oscillations can be introduced through lepton generation mixing, described by the Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sakata (PMNS) matrix [9]. Apart from an electric charge, the six quarks also carry a colour charge. There are three types of colour charge: *red*, *green* and *blue* as well as their respective anti-colours. The mixing in the quark sector through the weak interaction can be described by the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa (CKM) matrix [10, 11]. Finally, each fermion comes with its own anti-particle with same mass and spin, but inverted charge-like quantum numbers<sup>§</sup>. All fermions in the SM are listed in table 1.1.

<sup>†</sup> Neutrinos might not exist in a normal mass hierarchy but could also have an inverted mass hierarchy.

<sup>§</sup> The exact nature of anti-neutrinos is still an open question and ties into whether or not the neutrino mass matrix contains non-vanishing Majorana mass terms.

Couplings  
and  
masses are  
measured  
from ex-  
periment

Neutrino  
masses not  
in SM!

need ref

**Table 1.2:** Names, electric charges and masses (rounded to three significant digits if known to that precision) of all observed bosons in the SM [7].

particle	spin	electric charge [ $e$ ]	mass
photon ( $\gamma$ )	1	0	0
gluon ( $g$ )	1	0	0
$W^\pm$	1	$\pm 1$	80.4 GeV
$Z^0$	1	0	91.2 GeV
Higgs boson ( $H$ )	0	0	125 GeV

The fundamental forces described by the SM are propagated by bosons with spin  $1\hbar$ . The photon  $\gamma$  couples to electrically charged particles and mediates the electromagnetic interaction. As the photon is massless, the electromagnetic force has infinite range. The strong force is mediated by gluons carrying one unit of colour and one unit of anti-colour. Due to colour-confinement, colour charged particles like quarks and gluons cannot exist as free particles and instead will always form colour-neutral bound states. Although nine gluon states would theoretically be possible, only eight of them are realised in nature: the colour-singlet state  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(|r\bar{r}\rangle + |g\bar{g}\rangle + |b\bar{b}\rangle)$  would be colour-neutral result in long-range strong interactions, which have not been observed. Finally, the weak force is mediated by a total of three bosons, two charged  $W$ -bosons  $W^+$  and  $W^-$ , and a neutral  $Z$ -boson. The mediators of the weak force are massive, resulting in a finitely ranged interaction. The  $W^\pm$  and  $Z$  bosons gain their masses through the Higgs mechanism (discussed in chapter ), resulting in a massive spin-0 boson, called the Higgs boson. All bosons known to the SM are listed in table 1.2.

Might want to explain this later once I introduced the gauge groups?

need ref

### 1.1.2 The SM as a gauge theory

Formally, the SM is a collection of a special type of quantum field theories, called gauge theories. Quantum field theory (QFT) is the application of quantum mechanics to dynamical systems of fields, just as quantum mechanics is the quantisation of dynamical systems of particles. QFT provides a uniform description of quantum mechanical particles and classical fields, while including special relativity.

In classical mechanics, the fundamental quantity is the action  $S$ , which is the time integral of the Lagrangian  $L$ , a functional characterising the state of a system of particles in terms of generalised coordinates  $q_1, \dots, q_n$ . In field theory, the Lagrangian can be written as spatial integral of a Lagrangian density  $\mathcal{L}(\phi_i, \partial_\mu \phi_i)$ , that is a function of one or more fields  $\phi_i$  and their spacetime derivatives  $\partial_\mu \phi_i$ . For the action, this yields

$$S = \int L dt = \int \mathcal{L}(\phi_i, \partial_\mu \phi_i) d^4x. \quad (1.1)$$

In the following, the Lagrangian density  $\mathcal{L}$  will simply be referred to as the *Lagrangian*.

Using the principle of least action  $\delta S = 0$ , the equation of motions for each field are given by the Euler-Lagrange-equation,

$$\partial_\mu \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi_i)} \right) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi_i} = 0. \quad (1.2)$$

As opposed to the Hamiltonian formalism, the Lagrange formulation of field theory is especially well suited in this context, as it exhibits explicit Lorentz-invariance. This is a direct consequence of the principle of least action, since boosted extrema in the action will still be extrema for Lorentz-invariant Lagrangians.

Explicitly derive the Euler-Lagrange equations? Cf. Peskins Ch.2.2.

Check correctness of formulation

cite YM

Symmetries are of central importance in the SM. As Emmy Noether has famously shown in 1918 [12] for classical mechanics, every continuous symmetry of the action has a corresponding conservation law. In the context of classical field theory, each generator of a continuous internal or spacetime symmetry transformation leads to a conserved current, and thus to a conserved charge. In QFTs, quantum versions of Noether's theorem, called Ward–Takahashi identities [13, 14] for Abelian theories and Slavnov–Taylor identities [15–17] for non-Abelian theories relate the conservation of quantum currents and charge-like quantum numbers to continuous global symmetries of the Lagrangian.

From a theoretical point of view, the SM can be described by a non-Abelian Yang-Mills type gauge theory based on the symmetry group

$$SU(3)_C \otimes SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y,$$

where  $U(n)$  ( $SU(n)$ ) describes (special) unitary groups, i.e. the Lie groups of  $n \times n$  unitary matrices (with determinant 1, if special).  $SU(3)_C$  generates quantum chromodynamics (QCD), i.e. the interaction of particles with colour charge through exchange of gluons, and  $SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y$  generates the electroweak interaction. Here, the subscript  $Y$  represents the weak hypercharge, while the  $L$  indicates that  $SU(2)_L$  only couples to left-handed particles (right-handed antiparticles).

## Feynman diagrams

Transitioning from classic field theory to quantum field theory is typically done either through canonical quantisation or through the usage of path integral formalism. Only the the simplest field theories can be solved analytically, namely those containing only free fields, without any interactions. Perturbation theory has to be used for calculating scattering cross sections and decay rates for any QFT containing interactions. Any transition matrix can then be written as a series expansion in the coupling constant, with each term represented by a Feynman diagram.

Using appropriate Feynman rules dictating the possible vertices (representing interactions between fields) and propagators (representing the propagation of fields), an infinite number of Feynman diagrams can be written down. Given the incoming and outgoing particles, all possible combinations of propagators and vertices that can be placed in between (i.e. all possible Feynman diagrams) represent the full perturbation series. Only the lowest order in the series is considered at leading order (LO), the next-lowest at next-to-leading order (NLO), and so on.

is this paragraph correct?

## Gauge principle

The gauge principle is fundamental to the SM and dictates that the existence of gauge fields is directly related to symmetries under local gauge transformations. QED, being the simplest gauge theory, can be taken to illustrate this important principle. The free Dirac Lagrangian for a single, non-interacting fermion with mass  $m$  is given by

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Dirac}} = \bar{\psi} (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m) \psi, \quad (1.3)$$

where  $\psi$  is a four-component complex spinor field,  $\bar{\psi} = \psi^\dagger \gamma^0$ , and  $\gamma^\mu$  with  $\mu = 0, 1, 2, 3$  are the Dirac matrices with the usual anticommutation relations generating a matrix representation of the Dirac algebra

$$\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} \equiv \gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu + \gamma^\nu \gamma^\mu = 2\eta^{\mu\nu} \mathbb{1}_4. \quad (1.4)$$

It is worth noting that the free Dirac Lagrangian is invariant under a global  $U(1)$  transformation

$$\psi \rightarrow e^{i\theta} \psi, \quad (1.5)$$

where the phase  $\theta$  is spacetime independent and real. In order to produce the physics of electromagnetism, the free Dirac Lagrangian however has to be invariant under *local*  $U(1)$  phase transformations, which is not the case, as the transformed Lagrangian picks up an additional term from the spacetime derivative of the phase  $\partial_\mu \theta(x)$ .

In order for the Dirac Lagrangian to become invariant under a local gauge transformation, a new vector field  $A_\mu(x)$  has to be introduced and the partial derivative has to be replaced with the covariant derivative<sup>†</sup>

$$\partial_\mu \rightarrow D_\mu \equiv \partial_\mu + ieA_\mu, \quad (1.6)$$

where  $e$  is the coupling of the fermion field to the gauge field  $A_\mu$  and can be identified with the elementary charge. This leads to a Lagrangian that is invariant under the transformations

$$\psi \rightarrow e^{i\theta(x)} \psi, \quad A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu - \frac{1}{e} \partial_\mu \theta(x). \quad (1.7)$$

The modified Lagrangian now includes a term for interactions between the gauge field and the fermion field

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \mathcal{L}_{\text{Dirac}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \\ &= \bar{\psi} (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m) \psi - (e\bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi) A_\mu, \end{aligned} \quad (1.8)$$

and is indeed invariant under a local phase transformation. Yet, it still cannot be complete as it is missing a term describing the kinematics of the free gauge field  $A_\mu$ . For a vector field, the kinetic term is described by the Proca Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Proca}} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_A^2 A^\nu A_\nu, \quad (1.9)$$

where  $F^{\mu\nu} \equiv (\partial^\mu A^\nu - \partial^\nu A^\mu)$  is the field strength tensor that is invariant under the transformation in eq. (1.7). Since  $A^\nu A_\nu$  is not invariant under the same transformation, the only way to

---

<sup>†</sup> The prescription of achieving local gauge invariance by replacing  $\partial_\mu$  with  $D_\mu$  is called *minimal coupling*.

keep the full Lagrangian invariant under a local phase transformation is by requiring  $m_A = 0$ , i.e. the introduced gauge field  $A_\mu$  has to be massless, giving the Maxwell Lagrangian (ultimately generating the Maxwell equations)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Maxwell}} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}. \quad (1.10)$$

This finally yields the full Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{QED}} &= \mathcal{L}_{\text{Dirac}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Maxwell}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \\ &= \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu)\psi - m\bar{\psi}\psi - \frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} - (e\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\psi)A_\mu \end{aligned} \quad (1.11)$$

which can be identified to be the full Lagrangian of QED. The introduced gauge field  $A_\mu$  is therefore nothing else but the electromagnetic potential with its associated massless particle, the photon. Thus, by applying the gauge principle on the free Dirac Lagrangian, i.e. forcing a global phase invariance to hold locally, a new massless gauge field including interaction terms with the existing fields in the Lagrangian has to be introduced. In the case of the free Dirac Lagrangian, local gauge invariance produces all of quantum electrodynamics.

As Yang and Mills have shown in 1954 [18], requiring a global phase invariance to hold locally is perfectly possible in the case of any continuous symmetry group. Considering a general non-Abelian symmetry group  $G$ , represented by a set of  $n \times n$  unitary matrices  $U(\alpha^1, \dots, \alpha^N)$ , parametrised by  $N$  real parameters  $\alpha^1, \dots, \alpha^N$ , then a gauge-invariant Lagrangian can be constructed with a similar prescription [1] as previously in the case of  $U(1)$ .

A total of  $n$  fermion fields with mass  $m$  are needed, arranged in an  $n$ -dimensional multiplet  $\Psi = (\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n)^T$ . The free Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{free}} = \bar{\Psi}(i\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu - m)\Psi, \quad (1.12)$$

is invariant under a global phase transformation

$$\Psi(x) \rightarrow U(\alpha^1, \dots, \alpha^N)\Psi(x), \quad (1.13)$$

Each element in the set of transformations  $U$  can be written in terms of the group generators  $T^a$

$$U(\alpha^1, \dots, \alpha^N) = e^{i\alpha^a T^a}, \quad (1.14)$$

where the group indices  $a = 1, \dots, N$  are to be summed over. The group generators  $T^a$  satisfy the commutation relations

$$[T^a, T^b] = if^{abc}T^c, \quad (1.15)$$

with  $f^{abc}$  the so-called structure constants quantifying the lack of commutativity between the generators. By convention, the basis for the generators  $T^a$  is typically chosen such that  $f^{abc}$  is completely anti-symmetric.

In order to make the Lagrangian invariant under local phase transformations, i.e. under transformations with a set of spacetime-dependent real parameters  $\alpha^a(x)$  a vector field  $\mathbf{W}_\mu$

together with a coupling constant  $g$  have to be introduced through the covariant derivative

$$\partial_\mu \rightarrow D_\mu = \partial_\mu - ig\mathbf{W}_\mu. \quad (1.16)$$

As  $D_\mu$  acts on the  $n$ -dimensional multiplet  $\Psi$ , the introduced gauge field  $\mathbf{W}_\mu$  has to be an  $n \times n$  matrix and can thus be expanded in terms of the generators

$$\mathbf{W}_\mu(x) = T^a W_\mu^a(x), \quad (1.17)$$

explicitly illustrating, that a total of  $N$  gauge fields  $W_\mu^a$  are introduced through the covariant derivative. Similar to QED above, the covariant derivative also introduces an interaction term of the form

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = g\bar{\Psi}\gamma^\mu\mathbf{W}_\mu\Psi, \quad (1.18)$$

in the Lagrangian in eq. (1.12), coupling the gauge fields  $W_\mu^a$  to the fermion fields. For infinitesimal  $\alpha^a(x)$ , the gauge fields gauge transform according to

$$W_\mu^a \rightarrow W_\mu^a + \frac{1}{g}\partial_\mu\alpha^a + f^{abc}W_\mu^b\alpha^c, \quad (1.19)$$

where the term with  $\alpha^a$  looks familiar from the  $U(1)$  example and corresponds to the Abelian case, while the term with  $f^{abc}$  introduces the non-Abelian structure into the theory. The non-Abelian structure is again clearly visible when introducing a kinetic term for the gauge fields into the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_W = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{\mu\nu,a}, \quad (1.20)$$

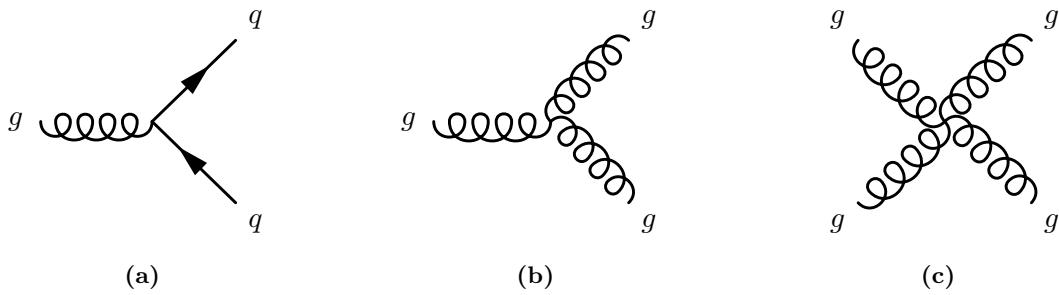
with the field-strength tensor now  $F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu W_\nu^a - \partial_\nu W_\mu^a + gf^{abc}W_\mu^bW_\nu^c$ . As was already the case for QED, the above Lagrangian contains Abelian terms quadratic in  $W$ , describing the propagation of the free gauge fields. This time, the Lagrangian however also contains non-Abelian terms cubic and quartic in  $W$ , leading to self-interaction of the gauge fields.

## Quantum chromodynamics

Quantum chromodynamics (QCD), the gauge theory describing the strong interaction between quarks and gluons in the SM, is an example for a non-Abelian Yang-Mills theory. QCD is based on the gauge group  $SU(3)_C$ , with the subscript  $C$  indicating that the quantum number associated with the symmetry group is the *colour*. Each quark is described by a triplet of fermion fields  $q = (q_r, q_g, q_b)^T$ , where the subscripts refer to the three different colours. The symmetry group  $SU(3)$  has a total of  $n^2 - 1 = 8$  generators, usually expressed in terms of the Gell-Mann matrices  $\lambda^a$ . The covariant derivative introducing the gauge fields  $G_\mu^a$  acting on the quark triplets is then

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu - ig_s \frac{\lambda^a}{2} G_\mu^a, \quad (1.21)$$

with  $g_s$  the coupling constant of the strong interaction, that is typically written as  $\alpha_s = g_s^2/(4\pi)$  in analogy to the fine-structure constant in QED. Gauge invariance thus introduces a total of  $N = 8$  gauge fields that can be identified with the eight gluons, leading to the full Lagrangian



**Figure 1.1:** Possible vertices in QCD.

of QCD

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \sum_q \bar{q}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m_q)q - \sum_q -g_s \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \frac{\lambda^a}{2} q G_\mu^a - \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{\mu\nu,a}, \quad (1.22)$$

where  $q = u, d, s, c, b, t$  and  $G_{\mu\nu}^a$  are the gluon field strengths given by

$$G_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu G_\nu^a - \partial_\nu G_\mu^a + g_s f^{abc} G_\mu^b G_\nu^c. \quad (1.23)$$

As expected from the previous section,  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}}$  contains terms that are cubic and quartic in the gluon fields, resulting in gluon self-interaction in the theory. All possible QCD interaction vertices involving gluons and quarks are shown in fig. 1.1. The gluon self-interactions lead to a number of phenomena unknown to Abelian theories, rendering the kinematics of QCD highly non-trivial.

In QCD, a similar effect to the electric charge screening in QED happens through quark-antiquark pairs, resulting in a screening of the colour charge. However, the existence of gluon loops in the gluon propagator due to gluon self-interaction creates an opposing *antiscreening* effect of colour charges. At short distances or large momentum scales, colour-charged particles essentially become free particles, a phenomenon that is called *asymptotic freedom*. In this regime, where  $\alpha_s$  is sufficiently small, QCD processes can be calculated using perturbation theory. At large distances or small moment scales however,  $\alpha_s$  becomes large and gluons interact very strongly with colour-charged particles, meaning that no free gluons or quarks can exist. This phenomenon is called *confinement* and implies that free quarks and gluons will be subject to *hadronisation*, i.e. form colourless bound states by combining with other quarks or gluons (that can be created from the vacuum). In a particle detector, hadronisation manifests itself as collimated showers of particles, called *jets*.

At momentum scales where the strong coupling  $\alpha_s$  becomes large ( $\alpha_s \approx \mathcal{O}(1)$ ), QCD processes can no longer be calculated using perturbation theory and instead lattice QCD [19, 20] is used.

### Electroweak interaction

During the 1960s, Glashow, Weinberg and Salam [21–23] developed a unified theory of the electromagnetic and weak interactions, based on the  $SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y$  symmetry group. Known already experimentally from the Wu experiment[24] in 1956, weak interaction violates parity, i.e. the symmetry transformations have to act differently on the left-handed and right-handed fermion fields. The left- and right-handed components of a fermion field can be projected out

using

$$\psi_L = \frac{1 - \gamma^5}{2} \psi, \quad \psi_R = \frac{1 + \gamma^5}{2} \psi, \quad (1.24)$$

with  $\gamma^5 = i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3$ . As the weak interaction only acts on left-handed fermions, they can be ordered as  $SU(2)$  doublets

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ e \end{pmatrix}_L, \quad \begin{pmatrix} u \\ d \end{pmatrix}_L, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\mu \\ \mu \end{pmatrix}_L, \quad \begin{pmatrix} c \\ s \end{pmatrix}_L, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\tau \\ \tau \end{pmatrix}_L, \quad \begin{pmatrix} t \\ b \end{pmatrix}_L. \quad (1.25)$$

The quantum number associated with  $SU(2)$  symmetry transformations is called weak isospin  $I$  with third component  $I_3$ . Fermion doublets have  $I = 1/2$ , with the upper component having  $I_3 = 1/2$  and the lower component  $I_3 = -1/2$ . Right-handed fermion fields have  $I = 0$ , i.e. are singlet states in weak isospin space

$$e_R, u_R, d_R, \quad \mu_R, c_R, s_R, \quad \tau_R, t_R, b_R, \quad (1.26)$$

and thus do not couple to the weak interaction. In the electroweak theory, neutrinos are assumed to be strictly massless, therefore no right-handed neutrino singlets exist.

The fermion doublets can be written in a free Lagrangian similar to eqs. (1.3) and (1.12)

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}_L i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_L, \quad (1.27)$$

with one crucial difference—the omission of the fermion masses. As  $\bar{\psi}\psi = \bar{\psi}_L\psi_R + \bar{\psi}_R\psi_L$ , mass terms would mix left- and right-handed terms and break gauge invariance. Section 1.1.2 will illustrate how fermion masses will instead be generated in the electroweak theory. For left-handed fermion fields, local  $SU(2)_L$  transformations can be written as

$$\psi_L \rightarrow \exp\left(ig_2\alpha^a \frac{\sigma^a}{2}\right) \psi_L, \quad (1.28)$$

where  $g_2$  is the coupling constant,  $\alpha^a$  with  $a = 1, 2, 3$  are real parameters and the Pauli matrices  $\sigma^a$  are the generators of  $SU(2)_L$ . By introducing the covariant derivative  $D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig_2 \frac{\sigma^a}{2} W_\mu^a$  and including the usual kinetic term for the gauge fields, the Lagrangian becomes invariant under  $SU(2)_L$  transformations and reads

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}_L i\gamma^\mu D_\mu \psi_L - \frac{1}{4} W_{\mu\nu}^a W^{\mu\nu,a}, \quad (1.29)$$

with the gauge field strength tensors  $W_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu W_\nu^a - \partial_\nu W_\mu^a + g_2 \epsilon^{abc} W_\mu^b W_\nu^c$  where  $\epsilon^{abc}$  are the structure constants. As previously in the case of QCD, the non-Abelian structure of the symmetry group causes self-interactions of the gauge fields.

In order to include electromagnetic interactions, the weak isospin group is extended with the  $U(1)_Y$ , corresponding to the multiplication of a phase factor  $e^{i\alpha \frac{Y}{2}}$  to each of the preceding doublets and singlets. Here,  $Y$  is the weak hypercharge as given by the Gell-Mann–Nishijima relation [25–27]

$$Q = I_3 + \frac{Y}{2}, \quad (1.30)$$

with  $Q$  the electric charge. The electromagnetic group  $U(1)_{\text{em}}$  as a subgroup of the combined electroweak gauge group.

By modifying the covariant derivative to include a  $U(1)_Y$  gauge field and ensuring that  $U(1)_Y$  acts the same on left- and on right-handed fermions it becomes  $D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig_2 \frac{\sigma^a}{2} W_\mu^a + ig_1 \frac{Y}{2} B_\mu$  for left-handed fermions and  $D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig_1 \frac{Y}{2} B_\mu$  for right-handed fermions. Then the full electroweak Lagrangian reads

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{electroweak}} &= \sum_j^6 \bar{\psi}_L^j i\gamma^\mu \left( \partial_\mu - ig_2 \frac{\sigma^a}{2} W_\mu^a + ig_1 \frac{Y}{2} B_\mu \right) \psi_L^j \\ &\quad + \sum_j^9 \bar{\psi}_R^j i\gamma^\mu \left( \partial_\mu + ig_1 \frac{Y}{2} B_\mu \right) \psi_R^j\end{aligned}\tag{1.31}$$

where  $B_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu B_\nu - \partial_\nu B_\mu$ .

### Spontaneous symmetry breaking

In the electroweak theory a total of three vector fields  $W_\mu^a$  and one vector field  $B_\mu$  are associated with the gauge groups  $SU(2)_L$  and  $U(1)_Y$ , respectively. As has been shown explicitly through the example of QED in section 1.1.2, the gauge fields need to be massless for the resulting Lagrangian to be gauge invariant under the respective symmetry group. In addition, the electroweak symmetry group does not allow for fermion masses. Both gauge bosons of the weak interaction and the fermion are however manifestly massive, hence the electroweak symmetry has to be broken in the SM.

This spontaneous symmetry breaking is achieved through the Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism [28–30]. In the SM, an isospin doublet of complex scalar fields, called Higgs doublet, is introduced

$$\Phi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+(x) \\ \phi^0(x) \end{pmatrix}.\tag{1.32}$$

The Higgs doublet has hypercharge  $Y = 1$ , hence according to eq. (1.30),  $\phi^+$  has electric charge  $+1$  while  $\phi^0$  is electrically neutral. With the covariant derivative introduced in section 1.1.2, the Higgs doublet gets an associated part in the SM Lagrangian reading

$$\mathcal{L}_H = (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger (D^\mu \Phi) - V(\Phi),\tag{1.33}$$

where  $V(\Phi)$  is a gauge invariant potential

$$V(\Phi) = -\mu^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi + \frac{\lambda}{4} (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2.\tag{1.34}$$

For positive and real parameters  $\mu^2$  and  $\lambda$ , this potential has the form of a *Mexican hat* and an infinite number of minima for field configurations with  $\Phi^\dagger \Phi = 2\mu^2/\lambda$ . In the vacuum, i.e. in the ground state of the theory with minimal potential energy of the field, one of these minima is

chosen such that the Higgs receives a vacuum expectation value (VEV)

$$\langle \Phi \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad v = \frac{2\mu}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \approx 246 \text{ GeV}. \quad (1.35)$$

This is neither invariant under a  $SU(2)_L$  transformation of the form  $U = \exp(i\alpha^a \frac{\sigma^a}{2})$ , nor under a  $U(1)_Y$  transformation of the form  $\exp(i\alpha \frac{Y}{2})$ , therefore the electroweak gauge symmetry is spontaneously broken; the Lagrangian has a symmetry that the vacuum does not have. It is worth noting that the  $U(1)_{\text{em}}$  gauge symmetry is not broken as the VEV of  $\phi^+$  vanishes and  $\phi^0$  is invariant under  $U(1)_{\text{em}}$ .

The Higgs doublet can be expressed as excitations around the ground state

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1(x) + i\phi_2(x) \\ v + H(x) + i\chi(x) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1.36)$$

where  $H$ ,  $\chi$ ,  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are real scalar fields with vanishing VEV. The Higgs potential can then be written as

$$V = \mu^2 H^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{v} H(H^2 + \chi^2 + \phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2) + \frac{\mu^2}{4v^2} (H^2 + \chi^2 + \phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2), \quad (1.37)$$

where only  $H$  gets a mass term, thus describing an electrically neutral scalar particle with mass  $m_H = \sqrt{2}\mu$ . The remaining scalar fields remain massless, in accordance with the Nambu-Goldstone theorem [31, 32], stating that every spontaneously broken continuous symmetry generates a massless Goldstone boson. These bosons are unphysical and can be gauged away through a  $SU(2)_L$  transformation, such that the expansion around the vacuum from eq. (1.36) involves only the physical scalar  $H(x)$

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + H(x) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1.38)$$

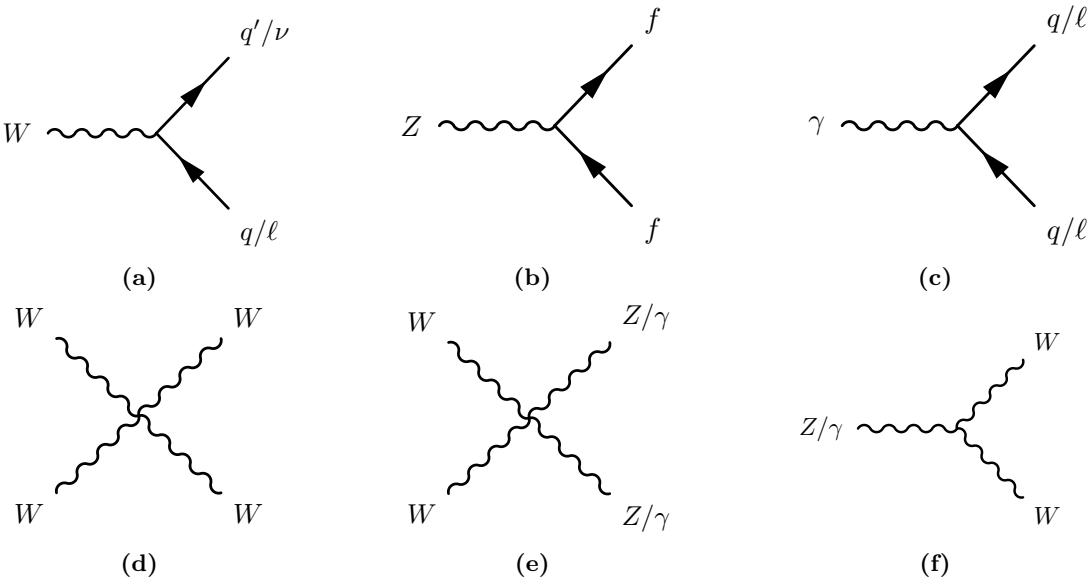
The gauge transformation bringing eq. (1.36) into the above form is called the *unitary gauge*. In this gauge, the Higgs potential from eq. (1.34) has the form

$$V = \frac{m_H^2}{2} H^2 + \frac{m_H^2}{2v} H^3 + \frac{m_H^2}{8v^2} H^4, \quad (1.39)$$

containing cubic and quartic self-interactions of the Higgs field proportional to  $m_H^2$ . Inserting the excitation around the vacuum state in the kinetic term of the  $\mathcal{L}_H$  yields mass terms for the vector bosons

$$\mathcal{L}_H \propto \frac{v^2}{8} g_2^2 \left( W_\mu^1 W^{1,\mu} + W_\mu^2 W^{2,\mu} \right) + \frac{v^2}{8} \begin{pmatrix} W_\mu^3 & B_\mu \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} g_2^2 & g_1 g_2 \\ g_1 g_2 & g_1^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} W^{3,\mu} \\ B^\mu \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1.40)$$

Instead of expressing the Lagrangian in terms of the fields  $W_\mu^a$  and  $B_\mu$  that make the original gauge invariance manifest, it can also be written in terms of the *physical* fields that correspond



**Figure 1.2:** Possible vertices in the electroweak interaction.

to the physical  $W^\pm$ ,  $Z$  and  $\gamma$  bosons in the electroweak theory

$$\begin{aligned} W_\mu^\pm &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(W_\mu^1 \mp iW_\mu^2) & \text{with } m_W &= \frac{g_2}{2}v, \\ Z_\mu &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{g_1^2 + g_2^2}}(g_2 W_\mu^3 - g_1 B_\mu) & \text{with } m_Z &= \frac{\sqrt{g_1^2 + g_2^2}}{2}v, \\ A_\mu &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{g_1^2 + g_2^2}}(g_1 W_\mu^3 + g_2 B_\mu) & \text{with } m_A &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

It is worth noting, that the massless photon field  $A_\mu$  associated with the electromagnetic  $U(1)_{\text{em}}$  gauge symmetry is automatically recovered. All possible vertices between fermions and the physical electroweak gauge bosons are shown in fig. 1.2. The change of basis from  $(W_\mu^3, B_\mu)$  to  $(Z_\mu, A_\mu)$  [2] can also be written as a basis rotation with the weak mixing angle  $\theta_W$

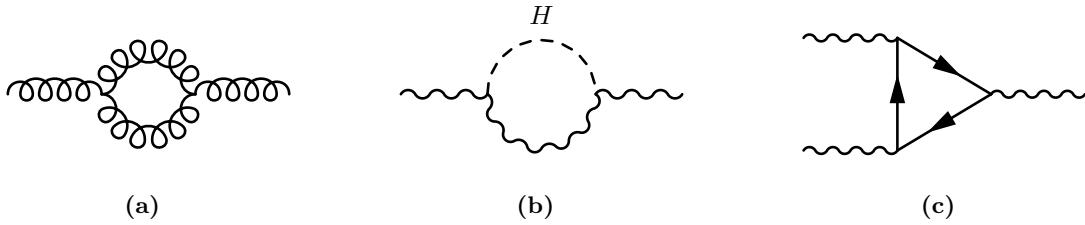
$$\begin{pmatrix} Z_\mu \\ A_\mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_W & \sin \theta_W \\ -\sin \theta_W & \cos \theta_W \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} W_\mu^3 \\ B_\mu \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with } \cos \theta_W = \frac{g_2}{\sqrt{g_1^2 + g_2^2}} = \frac{m_W}{m_Z}. \quad (1.41)$$

In the SM, not only the  $W^\pm$  and  $Z$  bosons but also fermions gain their masses through spontaneous breaking of the electroweak gauge symmetry. Fermion fields gain masses through gauge-invariant Yukawa interactions with the Higgs field. For one fermion generation, the respective Yukawa terms in the Lagrangian are

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa,gen}} = -\lambda_\ell \bar{L}_L \Phi \ell_R - \lambda_d \bar{Q}_L \Phi d_R - \lambda_u \bar{Q}_L \Phi^\dagger u_R + \text{h.c.}, \quad (1.42)$$

where  $\lambda_f$  with  $f = \ell, d, u$  are the dimensionless Yukawa couplings and  $L_L = (\nu_L, \ell_L)^T$  and  $Q_L = (u_L, d_L)^T$  are the left-handed lepton and quark doublets, respectively. The VEV of the

Write somewhere  
SU2xU1 to  
U1 break-  
down



**Figure 1.3:** Examples of loops corrections to (a) the gluon propagator, (b) the  $W$  or  $Z$  propagator and (c) the cubic gauge boson vertex.

Higgs field then gives rise to fermion mass terms in the Lagrangian, which, in the unitary gauge, reads for a single fermion generation

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa,gen}} = - \sum_{f=\ell,d,u} \left( m_f \bar{\psi}_f \psi_f + \frac{m_f}{v} H \bar{\psi}_f \psi_f \right) \quad \text{with} \quad m_f = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \lambda_f v. \quad (1.43)$$

When introducing all three fermion generations, additional Yukawa terms mixing fermions of different generations appear in the Lagrangian. The terms involving quark fields can be parametrised using the Cabibbo–Kobayashi–Maskaw (CKM) matrix  $V_{\text{CKM}}$  [10, 11], quantifying the transition probability between quark generations. Since no right-handed neutrinos exist in the SM, no generation mixing in the lepton sector occurs and hence no neutrino mass terms are allowed in the SM. Neutrino oscillations have however been observed experimentally, thus at least one massive neutrino generation needs to exist. Their mixing can then be described with the Pontecorvo–Maki–Nakagawa–Sakata (PMNS) matrix [9], allowing neutrinos to acquire mass e.g. through the see-saw mechanism [33].

### 1.1.3 Renormalisation and divergencies

At lowest order in the perturbative expansion, the momenta of the internal lines in the Feynman diagrams are fixed by the external particles. For higher orders where the diagrams involve loops, the momenta of the internal lines need to be integrated over as they are not fixed by energy-momentum conservation. Some examples of loop corrections to propagators and vertices are shown in fig. 1.3. As each vertex in the Feynman diagrams is associated with a coupling constant that is usually smaller than 1 (apart from the non-perturbative regime of QCD), higher orders in the perturbative expansion contribute less and less to the total amplitude of the full expansion.

The momentum integrals in loop corrections however lead to *ultraviolet divergencies* for large momenta. In order to eliminate the divergencies, the integrals have to be *regularised*, e.g. by applying a cut-off scale  $\Lambda$  or calculating the integrals in a number  $D = 4 - \epsilon$  of dimensions where they converge. The potential divergencies are then absorbed in parameters of the Lagrangian, such as coupling constants and masses, after which the regulator is removed (e.g.  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ ) again and a *renormalisation* procedure is applied, replacing the bare parameter values with the physical, measured values. Renormalisation effectively absorbs the effects of quantum fluctuations acting on much smaller scales than the scale of the given problem in the parameters of the theory. As Veltmann and t’Hooft [34, 15] have shown in the early 1970s, all Yang-Mills

Mass dimension needs to be  $< 4$

theories with massive gauge fields are renormalizable, making the SM as a whole a renormalizable theory.

## 1.2 Supersymmetry

Among the properties a quantum field theory might possess to make it more mathematically tractable, one specific higher symmetry reveals particularly far-reaching implications; a symmetry relating fermions and bosons, known as *supersymmetry* (SUSY). The following section introduces the basic concepts, a promising class of theories that turns out solving some of the shortcomings of the SM.

First, a motivation for the need of SUSY is given by highlighting some of the open questions of the SM, followed by an introduction to the mathematical description and phenomenological consequences of supersymmetric theories. This section is intended to highlight the most important concepts and relations, a complete and detailed introduction to SUSY can e.g. be found in [3].

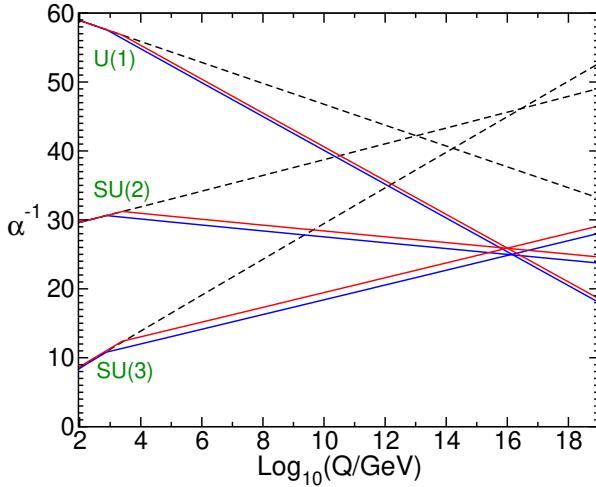
### 1.2.1 Shortcomings of the SM

Although the SM is a wildly successful theory able to predict and describe the interactions between elementary particles with unprecedented precision, there are still phenomena in nature that cannot be suitable understood with the SM. Those limitations and open questions are the reason for numerous searches looking for new physics beyond the Standard Model (BSM). Some of these open questions are described in the following.

#### Dark Matter

The existence of Dark Matter (DM), i.e. non-luminous and non-absorbing matter is nowadays well established [7]. Some of the earliest hints for the existence of DM came from the observation that the rotation curves of luminous objects were not consistent with the expected velocities based on the gravitational attraction of the visible objects around them. Zwicky already postulated in 1933 the existence of DM [35] based on rotation curves of galaxies in the Coma cluster. In 1970, Rubin measured rotation curves of spiral galaxies [36], revealing again a significant disagreement with the theoretically expected curves given the visible matter in the galaxies. Based on Newtonian dynamics, the circular velocity of stars outside the bulge of galaxies is expected to fall off with increasing radius as  $v(r) \propto 1/\sqrt{r}$  [37]. Rubin's observations showed however that the velocities of stars outside the bulge stay approximately constant, strongly suggesting the existence of a non-luminous (or *dark*) halo around the galaxies. Surveys of galaxy clusters and observations of gravitational lensing effects observed in e.g. the bullet cluster [38] or the Abell 1689 cluster [39] have since then further consolidated the existence of large accumulations of non-luminous mass in the universe.

The anisotropies in cosmic microwave background (CMB), studied by the COBE [40, 41], WMAP [42, 43] and Planck missions [44] are very well described by the Lambda Cold Dark Matter model ( $\Lambda$ CDM) [45], which includes a density for cold dark matter. Planck's latest



**Figure 1.4:** Evolution of the inverse coupling constants in the SM (dashed lines) and the MSSM (solid lines) in function of the energy scale  $Q$ . In the MSSM, the masses of the supersymmetric particles are treated as common threshold varied between 750 GeV and 2.5 TeV. Figure taken from [3].

results [46] suggest that the matter density of the universe is  $\Omega_m = 0.3111 \pm 0.0056^\dagger$  and that ordinary baryonic matter only takes up  $\sim 4.9\%$  of the universe, while DM accounts to  $\sim 26.1\%$ .

Candidates for non-baryonic DM need to satisfy certain conditions: they have to be stable on cosmological timescales (otherwise they would have decayed by now), they have to couple only very weakly to the electromagnetic interaction (otherwise they would be luminous matter) and they have to have the right relic density. Analyses of structure formations in the Universe have furthermore shown that most DM should have been *cold*, i.e. non-relativistic at the beginning of galaxy formation [37]. Candidates for DM particles are e.g. sterile neutrinos, axions, primordial black holes, or weakly interacting massive particles (WIMPs).

In the SM, the only DM candidate particle is the neutrino. Given the upper limits on the neutrino masses, an upper bound on their relic density can be computed, revealing that neutrinos are simply not abundant enough to be a dominant component of DM [37]. Many BSM theories naturally predict new WIMPs with masses in the GeV to TeV range. In many SUSY models with exact R-parity conservation (see section 1.2.5), the lightest supersymmetric particle is neutral and stable and might indeed be an ideal candidate for DM.

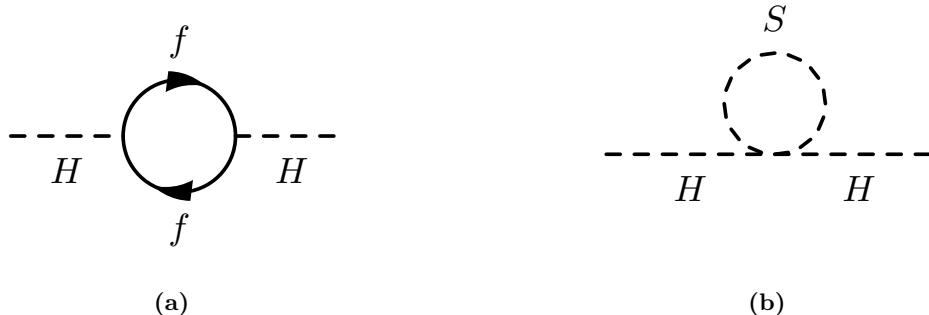
DM relic density

### Unification of forces

Apart from the non-perturbative low-energy behaviour of QCD, the SM as a  $SU(3)_C \otimes SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y$  gauge theory apparently gives a complete picture of nature up to the energy scale probed with today's accelerators. However, some peculiar aspects of the SM hint to a more fundamental theory. A prominent example is the question why the electric charges of the electrons and the charges of the quarks of the protons and neutrons in the nuclei exactly cancel, making for electrically neutral atoms [1]. Or in other words: why are the charges of all observed particles simple multiples of the fundamental charge?

An explanation to many of these peculiarities comes naturally when describing the SM as a unified theory with a single non-Abelian gauge group, usually taken to be  $SU(5)$  [47]. The larger symmetry group with a single coupling constant is then thought to be spontaneously

<sup>†</sup> The remaining  $\sim 69\%$  are taken up by *dark energy*, whose nature is still an open question.



**Figure 1.5:** A massive fermion (a) and a hypothetical massive scalar particle (b) coupling to the Higgs boson.

broken at very high energy, such that the known SM interactions are recovered at lower energies. In such a grand unified theory (GUT), the particles in the SM are arranged in anomaly-free irreducible representations of the gauge group, thereby e.g. naturally ensuring the fractional charges of quarks [2].

In the SM, the coupling constants run towards each other with increasing energy scale, but never exactly meet. In the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) with supersymmetric particles at the TeV scale the running couplings meet within their current uncertainties. Figure 1.4 shows the running of the coupling constants in both the SM and the MSSM.

### The Hierarchy Problem

As the SM is a renormalizable gauge theory, finite results are obtained for all higher-order loop corrections, making the SM a theory that is well-defined up to infinite energies. In renormalisation terms, this means that the cut-off scale  $\Lambda$  is theoretically allowed to go to infinity. It is however clear, that the SM cannot be a complete theory of nature and that at some unknown high-energy scale  $\Lambda$ , *new physics* has to appear. At the very least, a new theoretical framework becomes necessary at the Planck scale  $M_P \approx 10^{18} \text{ GeV}$  [3], where quantum gravitational effects can no longer be ignored.

The mass parameters of fermions and massive vector bosons are protected from large quantum corrections by chiral symmetry and gauge symmetry, respectively [48]. The mass parameter of the scalar Higgs field, on the other hand, gets loop corrections proportional at least to the scale at which new physics sets in. The coupling of the Higgs field to a fermion  $f$  with mass  $m_f$ , depicted in fig. 1.5(a), yields a one-loop correction term to the Higgs square mass [3] given by

$$\Delta m_H^2 = -\frac{|\lambda_f|^2}{8\pi^2} \Lambda^2 + \dots \quad (1.44)$$

Thus, in order to obtain the relatively low value of the Higgs mass in the order of  $10^2 \text{ GeV}$ , the quantum corrections to the bare Higgs parameter have to be tuned in such a way that they almost cancel. Hence, if there is *any* scale of new physics even only several orders of magnitude higher than the electroweak scale, the large quantum corrections to the Higgs mass immediately lead to a *fine-tuning* problem that is considered to be unnatural.

explain  
anomaly  
cancellations

In SUSY, the Higgs mass is automatically protected from the large quantum corrections by the introduction of two complex scalar partners to each SM fermion. The quantum corrections from the a hypothetical heavy complex scalar particle  $S$  with mass  $m_S$  as in fig. 1.5(b) yields a one-loop correction [3] given by

$$\Delta m_H^2 = \frac{\lambda_S}{16\pi^2} [\Lambda^2 + 2m_S^2 \log(\Lambda/m_S) + \dots]. \quad (1.45)$$

Interestingly, the corrections in eq. (1.44) and eq. (1.45) enter with opposite signs. Thus, if  $\lambda_S = |\lambda_f|^2$ , then the large quantum corrections neatly cancel and no excessive fine-tuning is needed. The requirement  $\lambda_S = |\lambda_f|^2$  means that the fermions and their supersymmetric bosonic partners would have same masses. Such particles would have been discovered long ago in particle physics experiments, meaning that SUSY must be a broken symmetry (see section 1.2.5) such that the supersymmetric particles acquire masses well above their SM partners.

### Anomalous magnetic moment of the muon

One of the longest standing disagreements between experiment and theory in the SM is the anomalous magnetic moment of the muon. The magnetic moment of the muon  $\vec{\mu}_\mu$  is related to its intrinsic spin  $\vec{S}$  through the gyromagnetic ratio  $g_\mu$  by

$$\vec{\mu}_\mu = g_\mu \frac{q}{2m} \vec{S}. \quad (1.46)$$

For a structureless spin-1/2 particle with mass  $m$  and charge  $q = \pm e$ , the gyromagnetic ratio is  $g_\mu = 2$  [49]. Loop corrections coupling the muon spin to virtual fields cause small deviations, parameterised by the anomalous magnetic moment

$$a_\mu = \frac{1}{2}(g_\mu - 2). \quad (1.47)$$

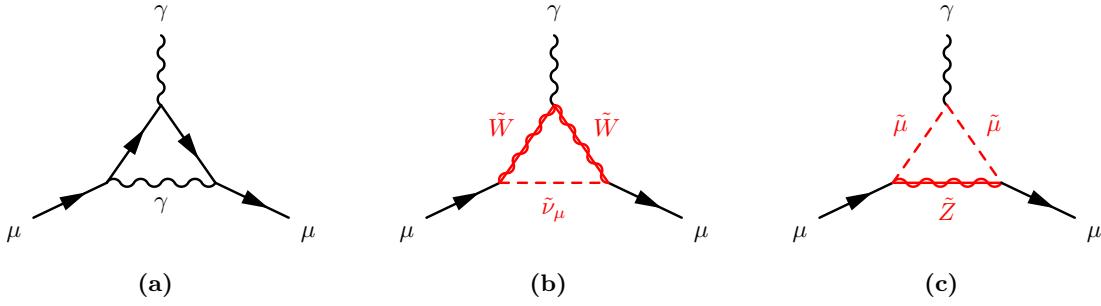
The anomalous magnetic moment can be precisely measured as well as predicted within the SM, a comparison between experimental data and theoretical prediction thus directly tests the SM at quantum loop level and may hint to effects from new physics in case of discrepancies [50]. In the SM, the most dominant contribution to  $a_\mu$  comes from QED corrections involving photon and fermion loops. An exemplary diagram is shown in fig. 1.6(a). Weak contributions involving the heavy  $W^\pm$ ,  $Z$  and Higgs particles are relatively suppressed due to their mass [7]. Although the contributions from QCD are relatively small, they give rise to the main theoretical uncertainties as they are not calculable from first principles [7].

The E821 experiment at Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) [49] has measured the anomalous magnetic moment of the muon and found a deviation from the SM expectation of

$$\Delta a_\mu = a_\mu^{\text{exp}} - a_\mu^{\text{SM}} = 261(63)(48) \times 10^{-11}, \quad (1.48)$$

where the numbers in parentheses are the uncertainties from experiment and theory, respectively. This represents a deviation of  $3.3\sigma$  [7] from the SM expectation.

In SUSY, additional Feynman diagrams exist involving the supersymmetric partners of the muon, the muon neutrino and the electroweak gauge bosons, and thus the measured deviation



**Figure 1.6:** Electromagnetic (a) and supersymmetric (b), (c) contributions to  $a_\mu$ . Adapted from [50].

in  $a_\mu$  can easily be accommodated in many supersymmetric models [51, 52]. Two exemplary lowest-order diagrams involving supersymmetric particles is shown in figs. 1.6(b) and 1.6(c).

### 1.2.2 Supersymmetric Algebra

A generator of supersymmetric transformations is an anti-commuting spinor  $Q$  that turns fermionic states  $|f\rangle$  into bosonic states  $|b\rangle$  and vice-versa.

$$Q|f\rangle = |b\rangle, \quad Q|b\rangle = |f\rangle. \quad (1.49)$$

As spinors are complex objects,  $Q^\dagger$  is also a symmetry operator. Both  $Q$  and  $Q^\dagger$  are necessarily fermionic and thus must carry half-integer spin, in the simplest case spin-1/2, meaning that SUSY must be a spacetime symmetry, i.e. a Poincaré symmetry. The Coleman-Mandula theorem [53] dictates that the symmetry group generating a consistent spacetime quantum field theory must be the direct product of the internal symmetry group with the Poincaré group, which in principle rules out the possibility for SUSY. The Haag-Lopuszanski-Sohnius extension [54] however states that the only possible way of non-trivially combining internal and spacetime symmetry groups is to use a Lie superalgebra and fermionic spin-1/2 generators. Thus, in order to obey the Haag-Lopuszanski-Sohnius theorem and simultaneously allow for parity-violating interactions, the SUSY generators have to satisfy the following algebra of commutation and anti-commutation relations [4].

$$\begin{aligned} \{Q, Q^\dagger\} &= 2\sigma_\mu P^\mu, \\ \{Q, Q\} &= \{Q^\dagger, Q^\dagger\} = 0, \\ [P^\mu, Q] &= [P^\mu, Q^\dagger] = 0, \\ \{M^{\mu\nu}, Q\} &= \sigma^{\mu\nu} Q, \\ \{M^{\mu\nu}, Q^\dagger\} &= \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\nu} Q^\dagger, \end{aligned} \quad (1.50)$$

where  $P^\mu$  is the four-momentum generator of spacetime translations,  $\sigma_\mu = (\mathbb{1}_2, \sigma_i)$ ,  $\bar{\sigma}_\mu = (\mathbb{1}_2, -\sigma_i)$  with  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and the Pauli matrices  $\sigma_i$ , and  $\sigma^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{4}(\sigma^\mu \bar{\sigma}^\nu - \sigma^\nu \bar{\sigma}^\mu)$  as well as  $\bar{\sigma}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{4}(\bar{\sigma}^\mu \sigma^\nu - \bar{\sigma}^\nu \sigma^\mu)$ . This is the simplest version of SUSY, called  $N = 1$  symmetry, as it introduces only one pair of generators. Supersymmetric theories with  $N \geq 2$  pairs of generators also exist and generally have some theoretical advantages as e.g. fewer divergencies in the case of  $N = 2$  or even no divergencies at all in the case of  $N = 4$  [4]. SUSY models with  $N \geq 2$  however

do not allow for parity violation and thus fail to describe the physics of the SM, disqualifying them from an experimental point of view [4].

As both SUSY generators commute with spacetime translations (see eq. (1.50)), they also both commute with the squared mass operator  $-P^2$ . Consequently, particles related by the generators, called *superpartners*, must have equal eigenvalues under  $-P^2$ , i.e. equal masses. Furthermore, the SUSY generators also commute with the gauge transformation generators, hence superpartners must have same electric charge, weak isospin and degrees of freedom in colour space [3].

Mention link to gravity

### 1.2.3 Supermultiplets

The SM and SUSY particles are arranged in irreducible representations of the SUSY algebra, called *supermultiplets*, that each contain both fermionic and bosonic states, that are superpartners of each other. It can be shown that each supermultiplet has an equal number of fermion and boson degrees of freedom,  $n_f = n_b$  [3].

The simplest supermultiplet  $\Psi$  that can be constructed contains a single Weyl fermion *psi* and two real scalars, described by a single complex field *phi*, called the *sfermion*. The Weyl fermion has two spin helicity states, hence  $n_f = 2$ , and the complex scalar field has two components with  $n_b = 1$  each. An additional complex scalar field *F*, called *auxiliary field* and not corresponding to a physical particle, has to be introduced in order to allow the SUSY algebra to close off-shell [3]. The supermultiplet  $\Psi$  thus reads

$$\Psi = (\phi, \psi, F). \quad (1.51)$$

Being a pure bookkeeping device, the auxiliary field does not propagate and can be eliminated on-shell with the equations of motion  $F = F^* = 0$ . This supermultiplet is called a *chiral* or *scalar* supermultiplet.

The next-simplest supermultiplet for which  $n_f = n_b$  holds, is the *vector* or *gauge* supermultiplet  $\Phi$  containing a spin-1 gauge boson  $A_a^\mu$ , where  $a$  is the index of the gauge group. In order for the theory to be renormalizable, this gauge boson must be massless before spontaneous breaking of the symmetry. As a massless spin-1 boson has two helicity states,  $n_b = 2$ , the superpartner, called *gaugino*, must be a massless spin-1/2 Weyl fermion  $\lambda_a$  with two helicity states,  $n_f = 2$  [3]. An auxiliary real bosonic field  $D_a$  is needed in order to balance the degrees of freedom off-shell [4], completing the supermultiplet to be

$$\Phi = (\lambda_a, A_a^\mu, D_a). \quad (1.52)$$

Like the chiral auxiliary field, the gauge auxiliary field does not correspond to a physical particle and can be eliminated on-shell through its equations of motion [3].

### 1.2.4 Supersymmetric Lagrangian

The simplest supersymmetric model that can be shown to realise the superalgebra is the massless, non-interacting Wess-Zumino model [55, 3], given by

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{free}} &= \mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{fermion}} \\ &= \partial^\mu \phi^* \partial_\mu \phi + i \psi^\dagger \bar{\sigma}^\mu \partial_\mu \psi,\end{aligned}\tag{1.53}$$

with a massless complex scalar  $\phi$  and a spin-1/2 fermion  $\psi$ , corresponding to a single chiral supermultiplet. As discussed in section 1.2.3, in order for this Lagrangian to satisfy the supersymmetry off-shell where the equations of motion cannot be used, an auxiliary complex scalar field  $F$  has to be added. For a collection of  $i$  chiral supermultiplets, the free Lagrangian reads

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{free}} &= \mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{fermion}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{aux}} \\ &= \partial^\mu \phi^{*i} \partial_\mu \phi_i + i \psi^{\dagger i} \bar{\sigma}^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_i + F^* i F_i,\end{aligned}\tag{1.54}$$

where the repreated indices  $i$  are summed over. The auxiliary Lagrangian term  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{aux}}$  implies the trivial equations of motion  $F = F^* = 0$  which are needed to remove the auxiliary field in the on-shell case. The next step involves adding terms for non-gauge interactions for the chiral supermultiplets. It can be shown that the most general non-gauge interactions for chiral supermultiplets are determined by a holomorphic<sup>†</sup> function of the complex scalar fields, called the *superpotential*  $W$  [3, 4], which reads

$$W = \frac{1}{2} m^{ij} \phi_i \phi_j + \frac{1}{6} y^{ijk} \phi_i \phi_j \phi_k,\tag{1.55}$$

with  $y^{ij}$  the Yukawa couplings between the scalars and fermions. The superpotential can at most be cubic in order for the final Lagrangian to be renormalizable [4]. The requirement that the interaction part of the Lagrangian be invariant under supersymmetry transformations further defines the potential  $V$ . The equations of motions of the auxiliary fields  $F$  can be written as

$$F_i = \frac{\partial W(\phi)}{\partial \phi^i} = -W_i^*, \quad F^{*i} = -\frac{\partial W(\phi)}{\partial \phi_i} = -W^i,\tag{1.56}$$

which thus yields for the potential  $V = W_i^* W^i = F_i F^{*i}$ . The full Lagrangian of the Wess-Zumino model with general chiral interactions for  $i$  chiral supermultiplets is then given [3] by

$$\mathcal{L} = \partial^\mu \phi^{*i} \partial_\mu \phi_i + i \psi^{\dagger i} \bar{\sigma}^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_i + \frac{1}{2} m^{ij} \psi_i \psi_j + \frac{1}{2} m_{ij}^* \psi^{\dagger i} \psi^{\dagger j} + \frac{1}{2} y^{ijk} \phi_i \psi_j \psi_k + \frac{1}{2} y_{ijk}^* \phi^{*i} \psi^{\dagger j} \psi^{\dagger k} + V.\tag{1.57}$$

The Lagrangian in eq. (1.57) immediately reveals that, as expected by supersymmetry, the masses of the fermions and bosons in the same supermultiplet are identical. In order to incorporate gauge supermultiplets and consider the interactions between fermions and gauge bosons observed in the SM, the usual minimal coupling rule has to be applied, replacing  $\partial_\mu$

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<sup>†</sup> A holomorphic function is a complex-valued function in one or more complex variables that is complex differentiable in a neighbourhood for every point of its domain.

with  $D_\mu$ . This leads to equation of motions for the auxiliary fields  $D^a$

$$D^a = -g(\phi^* T^a \phi), \quad (1.58)$$

where  $T^a$  are the generators of the gauge group and  $g$  is the coupling constant [3]. The potential then becomes

$$V = F^{*i} F_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_a D^a D^a = W_i^* W^i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_a g_a^2 (\phi^* T^a \phi)^2, \quad (1.59)$$

where  $a$  runs over the gauge groups that in general have different gauge couplings [3, 4].

### 1.2.5 The Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model

The Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) is the simplest supersymmetrisation of the SM in the sense that it introduces a minimal set of additional particles.

#### Particle content and interactions

The MSSM arranges all SM particles in one chiral (all the fermions and quarks) and one gauge (all spin-1 bosons) supermultiplet. As supersymmetric partners (*spartners*) have the same quantum numbers apart from spin, none of the SM particles can be spartners of each other. Thus, all spartners have to be new, unseen particles. Table 1.3 summaries the names, notations and spins of all spartners introduced in the MSSM. The naming convention is to prepend the names of the spartners of fermions with an 's' (e.g. *selectron*, *stop*, ...) and append '-ino' to the names of the spartners of the bosons (e.g. *Wino*, *Higgsino*, ...). Supersymmetric particles (*sparticles*) are generally denoted by adding a tilde to the symbol of SM particles (e.g.  $\tilde{e}$ ,  $\tilde{u}$ ,  $\tilde{g}$ , ...).

An important detail to note is that right-handed and left-handed fermions get their own chiral supermultiplets and thus have distinct spartners, as otherwise the preference of the weak interaction for left-handed particles would be violated. For example, left-handed and right-handed quarks ( $q_L$ ,  $q_R$ ) get two different spartners ( $\tilde{q}_L$ ,  $\tilde{q}_R$ ), denoted with an index L and R, which refers to the handedness of the SM particle as scalar particles have only one helicity state. Additionally, the spartners of the left-handed and right-handed will mix to form physical mass eigenstates.

It is also worth asking why the spartners of SM particles are of lower spin in the first place, as e.g. spin-1 spartners of the SM fermions could also have been considered. The MSSM being minimal, this would not be possible as the introduction of spin-1 bosons would entail the introduction of new gauge interactions. Furthermore, introducing spartners with spin greater than 1 would make the resulting theory non-renormalizable [4].

In the MSSM, two Higgs doublets are needed in order to give masses to the up-type and down-type quarks via Yukawa couplings. A single Higgs field  $h$  cannot be used for this as it would require Yukawa terms including the complex conjugate  $h^*$  of the Higgs field, which is forbidden as the superpotential, being a holomorphic function of the fields, cannot depend on the complex conjugates of the same fields [4]. Additionally, the use of a single Higgs doublet would lead to gauge anomaly in the electroweak gauge symmetry [56]. Instead two complex

**Table 1.3:** Particle content of the MSSM. The spin refers to the spin of the spartner. Adapted from [4].

Particle	Spartner 0	Spin
quarks $q$	squarks $\tilde{q}$	0
→ top $t$	stop $\tilde{t}$	
→ bottom $b$	sbottom $\tilde{b}$	
...		
leptons $\ell$	sleptons $\tilde{\ell}$	0
→ electron $e$	selectron $\tilde{e}$	
→ muon $\mu$	smuon $\tilde{\mu}$	
→ tau $\tau$	stau $\tilde{\tau}$	
→ neutrinos $\nu_\ell$	stop $\tilde{\nu}_\ell$	
gauge bosons	gauginos	1/2
→ photon $\gamma$	photino $\tilde{\gamma}$	
→ boson $Z$	Zino $\tilde{Z}$	
→ boson $B$	Bino $\tilde{B}$	
→ boson $W$	Wino $\tilde{W}$	
→ gluon $g$	gluino $\tilde{g}$	
Higgs bosons $H_i^{\pm,0}$	higgsinos $\tilde{H}_i^{\pm,0}$	1/2

Higgs doublets with hypercharge  $Y = +1/2$  and  $Y = -1/2$  are used in the MSSM. The two Higgs doublets can be written as

$$H_u = \begin{pmatrix} H_u^0 \\ H_u^- \end{pmatrix}, \quad H_d = \begin{pmatrix} H_d^+ \\ H_d^0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1.60)$$

As illustrated in section 1.2.4 using the Wess-Zumino model, interactions are introduced using the superpotential. In the MSSM, the superpotential reads

$$W_{\text{MSSM}} = \bar{u} \mathbf{y}_u Q H_u - \bar{d} \mathbf{y}_d Q H_d - \bar{e} \mathbf{y}_e L H_d + \mu H_u H_d, \quad (1.61)$$

where  $Q$  and  $L$  correspond to the supermultiplets containing the left-handed quarks and leptons as well as their spartners, respectively, and  $\bar{u}$ ,  $\bar{d}$ ,  $\bar{e}$  correspond to the supermultiplets containing the right-handed up-type quarks, down-type quarks and leptons as well as their spartners, respectively. The parameters  $\mathbf{y}_u$ ,  $\mathbf{y}_d$  and  $\mathbf{y}_e$  are the  $3 \times 3$  Yukawa coupling matrices. Except for the third generation, the Yukawa couplings are already known to be relatively small [3] and are thus not of direct interest for the phenomenology of the theory. Phenomenologically more interesting are the supersymmetric gauge interactions that dominate the production and decay process of spartners in the MSSM [3]. The superpotential in eq. (1.61) illustrates again why two Higgs doublets are needed in the MSSM, since terms like  $\bar{u} Q H_d^*$  or  $\bar{e} L H_u^*$  are not allowed due to the holomorphism of the superpotential. The term  $\mu H_u H_d$  contains the *higgsino mass parameter*  $\mu$  and is the supersymmetric version of the Higgs mass term in the SM Lagrangian.

## Soft supersymmetry breaking

As stated in section 1.2.2, all superpartners must have same quantum numbers apart from their spin. They especially also should have same masses, however such particles would have been discovered a long time ago and thus SUSY must be broken. Formally, SUSY should thus be an exact symmetry that is spontaneously broken because the Lagrangian has a symmetry under which the vacuum state is not invariant. However, if broken SUSY is still to provide a solution to the Hierarchy problem, i.e. cancel the quadratic divergencies in the loop corrections for the Higgs mass parameter, then the relations between the dimensionless couplings of the SM particles and their superpartners have to be maintained [3]. Hence, only symmetry breaking terms with positive mass dimension are allowed in the Lagrangian, especially also forbidding the presence of dimensionless SUSY-breaking couplings [3]. Such a breaking of SUSY is called *soft* breaking and can be written as

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SUSY}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}}. \quad (1.62)$$

where,  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}}$  contains all the symmetry breaking terms while  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{SUSY}}$  is the SUSY invariant Lagrangian with all the gauge and Yukawa interactions. In a softly broken SUSY, the loop corrections to the Higgs mass parameter depend quadratically on the largest mass scale associated with the soft terms ( $m_{\text{soft}}$ ). As the fine-tuning problem reappears if  $m_{\text{soft}}$  becomes too large, superpartners with masses not far above the TeV scale are generally assumed.

A total of 105 new parameters with no counterpart in the SM are introduced through  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}}$  [3, 57]:

- gaugino mass parameters  $M_1$ ,  $M_2$  and  $M_3$ ,
- trilinear scalar couplings, parametrized by  $3 \times 3$  matrices in generation space  $\mathbf{a}_u$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_d$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_e$ , representing Higgs-squark-squark and Higgs-slepton-slepton interactions,
- Hermitian  $3 \times 3$  matrices in generation space  $\mathbf{m}_Q^2$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_{\tilde{u}}^2$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_{\tilde{d}}^2$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_L^2$ ,  $\mathbf{m}_{\tilde{e}}^2$  that represent the sfermion masses,
- SUSY breaking parameters  $m_{H_u}^2$ ,  $m_{H_d}^2$  and  $b$ .

The sfermion mass matrices and the trilinear scalar couplings may introduce additional flavour mixing and CP violation, both of which are heavily constrained by experimental results. Flavour mixing in the lepton sector is for example constrained by an upper limit on  $\text{BR}(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma) < 4.2 \times 10^{-12}$  [58]. Bounds on additional CP violation as well as squark mixing terms come from measurements of the electron and neutron electric moments and neutral meson systems<sup>†</sup>. Formally, in order to avoid these terms, SUSY breaking can be assumed to be *flavour-blind*, meaning that the mass matrices are approximately diagonal. The large Yukawa couplings for the third generation squarks and sfermions can then be achieved by assuming that the trilinear scalar couplings are proportional to the corresponding Yukawa coupling matrix.

As most of the parameters in the MSSM are related to soft SUSY breaking, it is not surprising that the phenomenology of the MSSM strongly depends on the exact breaking mechanism. The breaking is usually introduced to happen in a *hidden sector* and the effects of the breaking

<sup>†</sup> It is of course still possible to fine-tune the numerous phases in the MSSM, creating cancelling contributions

citation?

are then typically mediated by messenger particles from a messenger field to the *visible sector* containing all the particles of the MSSM. Since the hidden sector is assumed to be only coupled weakly or indirectly to the visible sector, the phenomenology mostly depends on the mechanism mediating the breaking. The two most popular mechanisms are *gravity-mediated* and *gauge-mediated* SUSY breaking.

Mediating SUSY breaking through gravity is an attractive approach, since all particles share gravitational interactions. This makes it easy to imagine gravitational effects to be the only connection between the hidden and the visible sectors. In such models SUSY breaking is mediated through effects of gravitational strength, suppressed by inverse powers of the Plack mass [7]. The gravitino mass is typically of electroweak scale [59, 60]. Due to its couplings of gravitational strengths, it typically does not play a role in collider physics [7].

In gauge-mediated SUSY breaking (GMSB), additional messenger fields sharing gauge interactions with the MSSM fields are transmitting the breaking from the hidden to the visible sector. In such models, the gravitino is typically the LSP, as its mass ranges from a few eV to a few GeV, making it a candidate for DM [61].

## Mass spectrum

In the MSSM, electroweak symmetry breaking is generalised to the two Higgs doublets introduced in eq. (1.60). In total, the two doublets have eight degrees of freedom, three of which are used up to give masses to the  $W^\pm$  and  $Z$  bosons during the breaking of  $SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y$  to  $U(1)_{\text{em}}$  (see section 1.1.2). Thus, five physical Higgs bosons appear in the MSSM; two neutral Higgs bosons even under CP transformation called  $h^0$ , one neutral Higgs boson odd under CP transformation called  $A^0$  and finally two charged Higgs bosons called  $H^\pm$ . The two Higgs doublets  $H_u$  and  $H_d$  each get a VEV ( $v_u$  and  $v_d$ , respectively) that are connected to the VEV  $v$  of the SM Higgs field by

$$v_u^2 + v_d^2 = v^2. \quad (1.63)$$

Phenomenologically, the ratio of the two VEVs is usually considered, conventionally called  $\tan \beta$ ,

$$\tan \beta = \frac{v_u}{v_d}. \quad (1.64)$$

Due to electroweak symmetry breaking, the gauginos and higgsinos are not mass eigenstates but mix to form states with definite mass, called *electroweakinos*:

- the two charged higgsinos mix with the two charged winos to form two charged mass eigenstates  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm, \tilde{\chi}_2^\pm$ , called *charginos*,
- the remaining neutral higgsinos mix with the photino, zino and bino to form four neutral mass eigenstates  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0, \tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_3^0, \tilde{\chi}_4^0$ , called *neutralinos*.

Both charginos and neutralinos are by convention labeled in ascending mass order. In the gauge-eigenstate basis  $\psi^0 = (\tilde{B}, \tilde{W}^0, \tilde{H}_d^0, \tilde{H}_u^0)$ , the neutralino mixing matrix reads [3]

$$\mathbf{M}_{\tilde{\chi}}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} M_1 & 0 & -g_1 v_d / \sqrt{2} & g_1 v_u / \sqrt{2} \\ 0 & M_2 & g_2 v_d / \sqrt{2} & -g_2 v_u / \sqrt{2} \\ -g_1 v_d / \sqrt{2} & g_2 v_d / \sqrt{2} & 0 & -\mu \\ g_1 v_u / \sqrt{2} & -g_2 v_u / \sqrt{2} & -\mu & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1.65)$$

where  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  stem directly from the soft SUSY breaking terms while the  $-\mu$  terms are the higgsino mass terms. Entries with  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  come from Higgs-higgsino-gaugino couplings. The neutralino mixing matrix can be diagonalized to obtain the neutralino masses, which can be expressed in terms of the parameters  $M_1$ ,  $M_2$ ,  $\mu$  and  $\tan \beta$  [3]. As the exact forms of the mass expressions are relatively complicated, they are typically evaluated in limits where one of the mass parameters is significantly smaller than the other two. This is possible because  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  can be chosen to be real and positive through an appropriate phase redefinition of  $\tilde{B}$  and  $\tilde{W}^\dagger$ . If neutralinos are dominated the wino, bino or higgsino component, they are called wino-, bino- or higgsino-like in the following.

The chargino mixing matrix can be written in a similar fashion. In the gauge-eigenstate  $\psi^\pm = (\tilde{W}^\pm, \tilde{H}_u^+, \tilde{W}^-, \tilde{H}_d^-)$ , it can be written as

$$\mathbf{M}_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{0}_2 & \mathbf{X}^T \\ \mathbf{X} & \mathbb{0}_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{X} = \begin{pmatrix} M_2 & g_2 v_u \\ g_2 v_d & \mu \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1.66)$$

The masses of the charginos are then the eigenvalues of the doubly degenerate  $4 \times 4$  matrix  $\mathbf{M}_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm}^\dagger \mathbf{M}_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm}$  and can be expressed in terms of  $M_2$ ,  $\mu$  and  $\sin 2\beta$  [3].

Squarks and sleptons also mix with each other. As in principle any scalars with same electric charge, colour charge and R-parity can mix with each other, the mass eigenstates of the sleptons and squarks should a priori be obtained through diagonalization of three  $6 \times 6$  mixing matrices (one for up-type squarks, one for down-type squarks and one for charged sleptons) and one  $3 \times 3$  matrix (for sneutrinos). The assumption of flavour-blind soft SUSY breaking terms leads to most of the mixing angles being very small. As opposed to the first and second generation, the third generation sfermions have relatively large Yukawa couplings, therefore the superpartners of the left- and right-handed fermions mix to mass eigenstates  $(\tilde{t}_1, \tilde{t}_2)$ ,  $(\tilde{b}_1, \tilde{b}_2)$ ,  $(\tilde{\tau}_1, \tilde{\tau}_2)$ , again labeled in ascending mass order. The first and second generation sfermions, on the other hand, having very small Yukawa couplings, end up in nearly mass-degenerate, unmixed pairs.

The gluino, being the single color octet fermion of the unbroken  $SU(3)_C$  gauge group, cannot mix with another fermion and thus is a mass eigenstate with mass  $m_{\tilde{g}} = |M_3|$  at tree level [3, 50].

## R-parity

The superpotential of the MSSM in principle allows additional gauge-invariant terms that are holomorphic in the chiral superfields but violate either lepton number (L) or baryon number (B). However, L- or B-violating have never been observed. Even worse, the L- and B-violating

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<sup>†</sup> This makes the phase of  $\mu$  in that convention a physical parameter that can no longer be rotated away through basis rotation.

terms would cause a finite lifetime of the proton by allowing for it to decay e.g. via  $p \rightarrow e^+ \pi^0$ , a process that is heavily constrained to have a lifetime longer than  $1.6 \times 10^{34}$  years [62] as found by the Super-Kamiokande experiment.

In order to avoid these terms, a new symmetry called *R-parity* is introduced. R-parity is a multiplicatively conserved quantum number defined to be

$$P_R = (-1)^{3(B-L)+2s}, \quad (1.67)$$

where  $s$  is the spin of the particle. Given this definition, all SM particles and the Higgs bosons have even R-parity ( $P_R = +1$ ) while all sparticles have odd R-parity ( $P_R = -1$ ). Assuming R-parity to be exactly conserved at each vertex in the MSSM leads to a number of interesting phenomenological consequences:

- Sparticles are always produced in pairs.
- Heavier sparticles decay into lighter ones.
- The number of sparticles at each vertex must be even.
- The lightest supersymmetric particle (LSP) must be stable as it cannot decay any further without violating R-parity.

The nature of the LSP can be further constrained by cosmological observations [63]. If it were electrically charged or coupled to the strong interaction, it would have dissipated its energy and mixed with ordinary matter in the galactic disks where it would have formed anomalous heavy isotopes. Upper limits on such supersymmetric relics [64] thus heavily favour an electrically neutral and weakly interacting LSP. This excludes in particular the gluino as an LSP. Another possible LSP, the sneutrino, is ruled out by LEP and direct searches. A gravitino LSP is especially attractive in gauge mediated theories.

Another option is a neutralino LSP. In large portions of the MSSM parameter space, a neutralino LSP produces a DM relic density that is compatible with the DM relic density measured by Planck [64, 46]. In the following, only R-parity conserving SUSY models with neutralino LSPs are considered.

### 1.2.6 The phenomenological MSSM

In addition to the 19 parameters of the SM, the MSSM adds a total of 105 additional parameters, too much to allow for a realistic exploration of the MSSM in a model-independent way. However, as already discussed in section 1.2.5, not all values of the 105 additional parameters lead to phenomenologically viable models. By requiring a set of phenomenological constraints, the 105 free parameters can be reduced to only 19 free parameters, spanning a model space called the phenomenological MSSM (pMSSM) [65, 66]. The free parameters in the pMSSM are listed in table 1.4.

The reduction of free parameters is obtained by applying the following constraints on the MSSM:

**Table 1.4:** Parameters of the pMSSM.

Parameter	Meaning
$\tan \beta$	ratio of the Higgs doublet VEVs
$M_A$	mass of the CP-odd Higgs boson
$\mu$	Higgs-higgsino mass parameters
$M_1, M_2, M_3$	wino, bino and gluino mass parameters
$m_{\tilde{q}}, m_{\tilde{u}_R}, m_{\tilde{d}_R}, m_{\tilde{\ell}}, m_{\tilde{e}_R}$	first and second generation sfermion masses
$m_{\tilde{Q}}, m_{\tilde{t}_R}, m_{\tilde{b}_R}, m_{\tilde{L}}, m_{\tilde{\tau}_R}$	third generation sfermion masses
$A_t, A_b, A_\tau$	third generation trilinear couplings

- No new source of CP violation, as discussed already in section 1.2.5, achieved by assuming all soft breaking parameters to be real.
- Minimal flavour violation, meaning that FCNC, heavily constrained by experiment, are not allowed and the flavour physics is governed by the CKM matrix.
- First and second sfermion generations are mass-degenerate<sup>†</sup>.
- The trilinear couplings and Yukawa couplings are negligible for the first and second sfermion generations.

The pMSSM does not make any assumptions on the physics above the TeV scale, and therefore does not assume a specific SUSY breaking mechanism. With its 19 free parameters, and the typical complexity of a search for SUSY, the pMSSM is still computationally extremely challenging to probe. Using appropriate approximations, the computational complexity can be simplified enough for exhaustive scans and comparisons to experimental data to become possible.

### 1.2.7 Simplified models

In searches for BSM physics at the Large Hadron Collider, it is common to use simplified models [67–69] as a way of reducing the space of free parameters to a manageable level. Simplified models do not aim to represent complete supersymmetric models but are mostly defined by the empirical objects and kinematic variables used in the searches, typically allowing only a small number of sparticles to be involved in the decay chain (usually only two or three). Other sparticles are decoupled by setting their masses to be kinematically inaccessible at current collider experiments. The decay chains of the participating sparticles are determined by fixed branching ratios, often set to be 100%. Experimental bounds from non-observation of a given model are then usually presented in function of the physical masses of the sparticles involved in the decay chain. The model space spanned by the free parameters of the simplified model is typically called a *signal grid*, as each set of distinct mass parameter values, called *signal point*, occupies a single point in this space.

<sup>†</sup> This is motivated by e.g. Kaon mixing measurements and holds unless first and second generation squarks are significantly heavier than  $\mathcal{O}(1 \text{ TeV})$ .

Simplified models have the inherent advantage that they circumvent the issue of having to search for SUSY in a vast parameters space where many of the parameters only have small effects on observables. Their interpretation in terms of limits on individual SUSY production and decay topologies in function of sparticle masses is straightforward and very convenient. The hope is, that simplified models are a reasonable approximation of sizeable regions of parameter space of the more complete model they are embedded in [7]. The obvious downside is however, that the limits obtained in simplified models are not automatically a good approximation of the true underlying constraint on the respective model parameter when interpreted in more complete SUSY models. Often times, for example, the constraints set on sparticle masses in simplified models, significantly overestimate the true constraints obtained in more complex SUSY spectra, especially when the usual 100% branching fractions are assumed in the simplified models (see e.g. [70, 71]).

One way of circumventing these issues while sticking to the simplified model approach is to ensure that the limits obtained in different simplified models involving different production and decay mechanisms are combined into limits representing more complex SUSY spectra. In such an approach, the simplified model limits can be seen as building blocks for more complete and realistic SUSY models. Another possibility is to perform reinterpretations of SUSY searches—optimised for one or more simplified models—in more complete SUSY model spaces, like e.g. the pMSSM. This can not only demonstrate the sensitivity of existing SUSY searches beyond simplified models, but also potentially identify blind spots and uncovered model regions. In addition, direct connections to DM searches as well as Higgs and flavour measurements can be explored this way. Some recent efforts going in this direction are provided in [70, 72, 73].

### 1.3 Search for electroweakinos

While both the ATLAS experiment [74] and CMS experiment [75] at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN set strong limits on the presence of gluinos and squarks at the TeV scale, the limits on electroweakinos are mostly still well below 1 TeV and thus offer ample space for SUSY to hide in. The reason why the limits on electroweakinos are still low is mostly due to the low cross-sections of electroweakino production, compared to those of squark and gluino production.

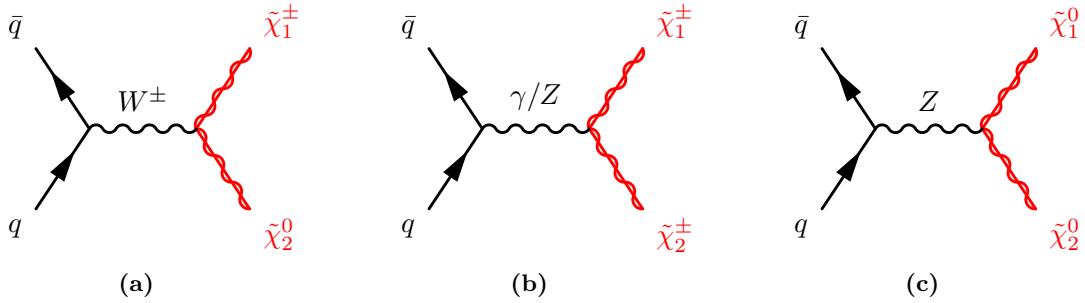
Apart from the electroweakino mass limits set by the current collider experiments, some additional limits from the LEP experiments are still relevant. Combining the results from all four LEP experiments leads to a general lower chargino mass limit of 103.5 GeV, except for corners of the phase space with low sneutrino mass [76]. For small mass splittings between the  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$  and the  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ , the lower limit is a little weaker with dedicated searches excluding charginos with  $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm) < 91.9$  GeV [76]. For the neutralino, a general lower limit on the lightest neutralino mass comes from limits on the invisible width of the  $Z$  boson, excluding  $m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0) < 45.5$  GeV<sup>†</sup> [7].

#### 1.3.1 Production of electroweakinos at the Large Hadron Collider

If gluinos and squarks are heavier than a few TeV, i.e. too heavy to be within reach of the Large Hadron Collider, the direct production of electroweakinos might be the dominant production

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<sup>†</sup> Depending on the coupling between the  $Z$  boson and the lightest neutralino.



**Figure 1.7:** Dominant Feynman diagrams for direct production of electroweakino pairs at the Large Hadron Collider.

mode of SUSY. At hadron colliders, electroweakinos can be pair-produced directly via electroweak processes. The direct production of electroweakino pairs dominantly happens through electroweak gauge bosons from *s*-channel  $q\bar{q}$  annihilation, as shown in fig. 1.7. Contributions from *t*-channels via squark exchange are typically of less importance [3].

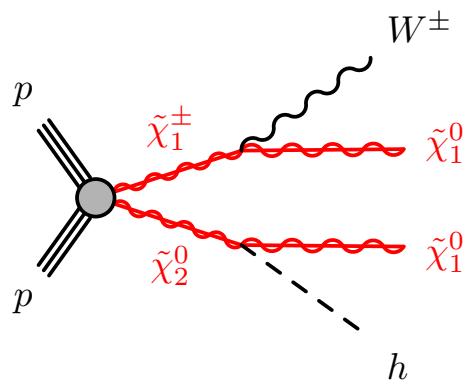
### 1.3.2 Models used within this work

In SUSY scenarios where superpartners of the leptons and the pseudoscalar Higgs boson are heavier than the charginos and neutralinos, the lightest chargino decays through  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \rightarrow W^\pm \tilde{\chi}_1^0$  while the next-to-lightest neutralino decays via  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow Z/h\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ . If, in addition, the higgsinos are much heavier than the wino, and the mass splitting between the two lightest neutralinos is larger than the Higgs boson mass, the decay  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow h\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  is the dominant decay mode of the  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ . In this case, the  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$  are wino-like and nearly mass-degenerate.

The main model used in this work and pictured in fig. 1.8 is a simplified model considering direct production of a  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \tilde{\chi}_2^0$  pair where the lightest chargino decays via  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \rightarrow W^\pm \tilde{\chi}_1^0$  and the next-to-lightest neutralino decays via  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow h\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ , each with 100% branching ratio. The lightest chargino  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$  and the next-to-lightest neutralino  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$  are assumed to be degenerate in mass and pure wino states, while the lightest neutralino  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  is considered to be a pure-bino LSP. The mass parameter hierarchy for this model thus reads  $|M_1| < |M_2| \ll |\mu|$ . The masses of  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm/\tilde{\chi}_2^0$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  are free parameters and are systematically varied, creating a two-dimensional signal grid to be scanned and compared to data. The Higgs boson mass is set to 125 GeV in accordance with the measured value [77, 78] and its branching ratios are the ones from the SM.

In addition to the simplified model targeted by the SUSY search presented in this work, an additional class of models is considered in the second part of this work. These models are sampled directly from the pMSSM and are used to reinterpret the SUSY search in the pMSSM. In accordance with the simplified model in fig. 1.8, the pMSSM models are sampled with a focus on electroweakinos, i.e. all electroweak parameters are set to be lighter than 2 TeV while first and second generation squarks are decoupled and set to have mass parameters of 10 TeV. Sleptons are also set to be decoupled with mass parameters fixed at 10 TeV. In order to yield a better rate of surviving models during the sampling without affecting the decays of the electroweakinos too much, third generation squark and gluino mass parameters are varied between 2–5 TeV and 1–5 TeV, respectively. No assumptions are made on the bino, wino or

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**Figure 1.8:** Diagram for the simplified model used in this work.

higgsino nature of either charginos or neutralinos. More details on the sampling of the pMSSM models are given in

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# Chapter 2

# Experiment

One of Europe’s first joint ventures in science [79], CERN (Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire) is the largest physics research facility in the world, bringing together more than 12,200 people from 110 nationalities to work together and push the frontiers of science and technology. Located at the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva, CERN was founded in 1954 and nowadays counts 23 member states [79]. CERN’s main research area is particle physics, hence why the organization operates a full complex of particle accelerators and detectors.

This chapter introduces the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), CERN’s main particle accelerator, as well as the ATLAS experiment, in which the Supersymmetry (SUSY) search presented in this work is embedded in.

## 2.1 The Large Hadron Collider

The LHC [80] is the largest particle accelerator situated at CERN. It is installed in a tunnel with 26.7 km circumference, that was originally constructed from 1984 to 1989 for the LEP accelerator. The tunnel is situated on the Franco-Swiss border and wedged between the Jura mountains and lake Léman. It lies between 45 m (in the limestone of the Juar) and 170 m (in molasse rock) below the surface, resulting in a tilt of 1.4% towards the lake. While proton-proton ( $pp$ ) collisions are the main operating mode of the LHC, its design also allows it to accelerate and collide heavy ions like lead and xenon. Since data from  $pp$  collisions is used in this work, the following sections will mainly focus on this operating mode. As a particle-particle collider, the LHC obviously consists of two rings with counter-rotating beams, as opposed to particle-antiparticle colliders that only need a single ring. With an inner diameter of only 3.7 m, the tunnel however simply too narrow to fit two separate proton rings. Instead the LHC is built in a twin bore design<sup>†</sup>, housing two sets of coils and beam channels in a single magnetic and mechanical structure and cryostat [80]. While saving costs, this design has the disadvantage of both beams being magnetically coupled, thereby reducing flexibility of the machine.

Before being injected into the LHC, protons are pre-accelerated by an injection chain built from multiple existing machines in CERN’s accelerator complex, pictured in fig. 2.1. The injection chain consists of predecessor accelerators that have been upgraded in order to be

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<sup>†</sup> Originally proposed by John Blewett at BNL for cost-saving measures of the Colliding Beam Accelerator [80].

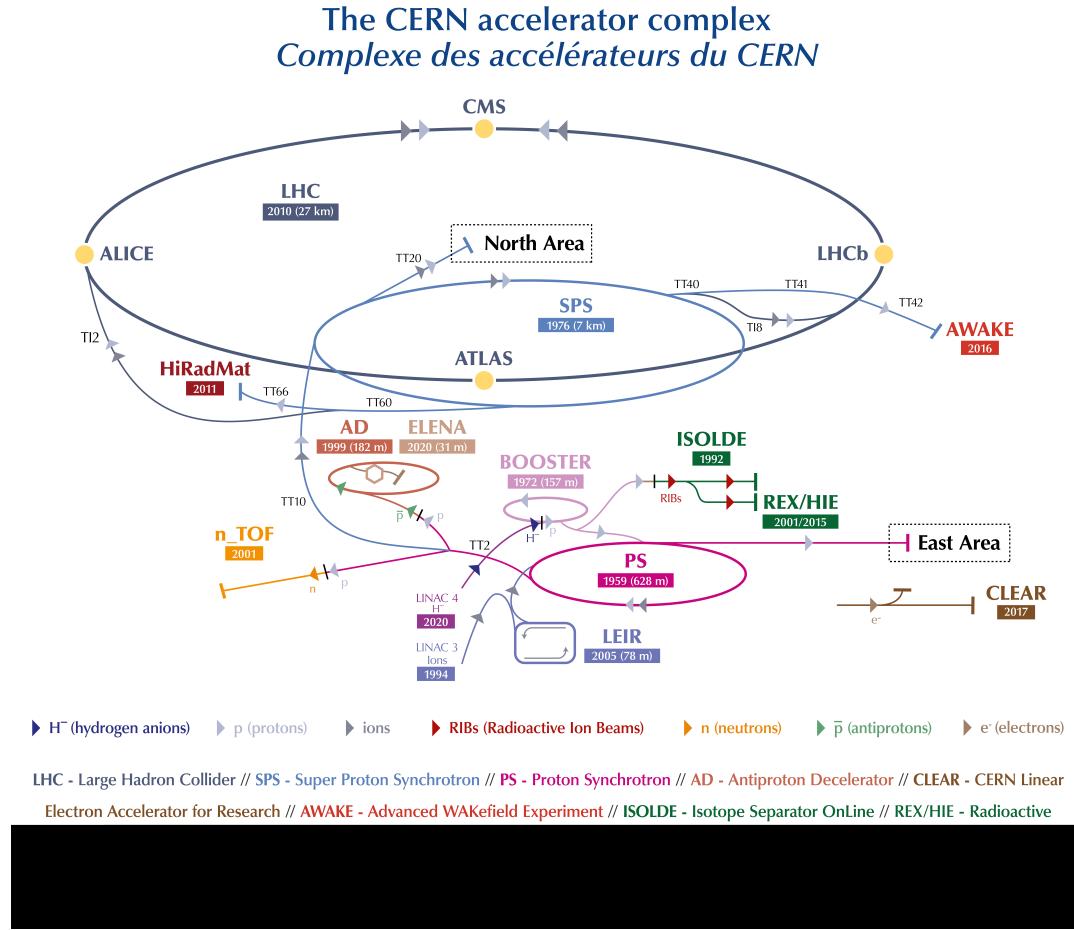


Figure 2.1: CERN accelerator complex as of 2018 [82].

able to handle the high luminosity and high energy requirements of the LHC. The protons for the LHC stem from a duoplasmatron source [81], stripping electrons from hydrogen atoms through electric discharges between a hot anode and cathode. The 90 keV protons are then accelerated by a Radio frequency (RF) quadrupole to 750 keV before being injected into Linac2<sup>†</sup>, a linear accelerator producing a beam of 50 MeV protons through the use of RF cavities. The protons then enter a set of circular accelerators, the Proton Synchrotron Booster, the Proton Synchrotron and the Super Proton Synchrotron, creating a stepwise acceleration up to an energy of 450 GeV, which is the injection energy of the LHC. The LHC finally accelerates the protons up to nominal beam energy before colliding them.

The LHC is composed of eight straight sections and eight arcs. The eight straight sections each serve as interaction points (*Point*), either for particle detectors, or for machine hardware of the collider itself. The Points are labelled clockwise, with IP 1 being closest to the CERN Meyrin site. Four of the eight Points house the main particle physics experiments at the LHC, called ATLAS, CMS, ALICE and LHCb, covering a wide range of fundamental research. The two

<sup>†</sup> Originally built to replace Linac 1 in order to produce higher energetic proton beams, Linac 2 has been replaced by Linac 4 in 2020.

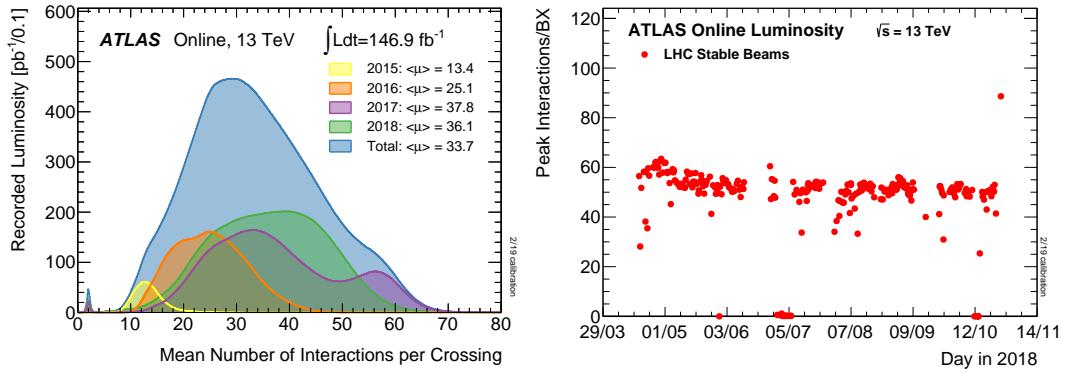
general purpose particle detectors ATLAS [83] and CMS [84] are installed at Point 1 and Point 5, respectively. Both ATLAS and CMS are designed to perform high precision SM measurements including Higgs measurements as well as searches for BSM physics. Being very similar in terms of targeted phase space, ATLAS and CMS can be used to cross-check results of each other. ALICE [85] is situated at Point 2 and specializes on heavy ion physics, studying the physics of quark-gluon plasma at high energy densities. Built in Point 8, LHCb [86] targets  $B$ -physics and performs measurements of CP-violation. Apart from the four main experiments, three smaller experiments exist at the LHC: TOTEM, MoEDAL and LHCf. While TOTEM [87] and LHCf [88] study forwards physics close to CMS and ATLAS, respectively, MoEDAL [89] searches for magnetic monopoles.

The remaining four Points house accelerator equipment needed for operation of the LHC. Most of the collimation system is placed at Point 3 and Point 7, performing beam cleaning and machine protection through a series of beam intercepting devices, ensuring that no stray particles from experimental debris or beam halo can reach and damage other machine components. The acceleration of the beam itself is performed at Point 4 with two RF systems, one for each LHC beam. The RF cavities operate at 400 MHz and provide 8 MV during injection and 16 MV during coast [80]. Due to the RF acceleration, the accelerated protons are grouped in packages called *bunches*, each containing roughly  $10^{11}$  protons, with a bunch spacing of 25 ns [80]. Each beam contains a total of 2808 [80] bunches as design value. The remaining Point 6 houses the beam dumping system, allowing to horizontally deflect and fan out both beams into dump absorbers using fast-paced *kicker* magnets. The two nitrogen-cooled dump absorbers each consist of a graphite core contained in a steel cylinder, surrounded by 750 t of concrete and iron shielding [90]. Insertion of the beams from the Super Proton Synchrotron into the LHC happens at Points 2 and 8, close to the ALICE and LHCb experiments.

The eight arcs of the LHC are filled with dipole magnets built from superconducting NbTi Rutherford cables. The electromagnets are responsible for keeping the accelerated particles on their circular trajectory and are the limiting factor of the maximal centre-of-mass energy  $\sqrt{s}$  of the LHC. In order to achieve the design energy of  $\sqrt{s} = 14$  TeV [90], the magnets have to create a field strength of 8.3 T [80]. In order to sustain the electric currents needed for such high field strengths, the magnets need to be cooled down to 1.9 K [80] using superfluid helium and operated in superconducting state. In addition to the dipole magnets, the arcs contain quadrupole magnets used to shape and focus the beams, as well as multipole magnets correcting and optimizing the beam trajectory. Quadrupole magnets are also used to reduce the beam size before and after the interaction points.

### 2.1.1 Pile-up

Due to the high number of protons in each bunch, several  $pp$  collisions occur at each bunch crossing. This leads to a phenomenon called *pile-up*, where the recorded events not only contain information from the hard-scattering process of interest, but also remnants from additional, often low-energy,  $pp$  collisions. During the Run 2 data-taking period, the mean number of inelastic  $pp$  collisions per bunch crossing,  $\mu$ , has varied from roughly 10 to 70, with the majority of bunch crossings having a value of  $\mu$  around 30. Figure 2.2(a) shows the mean number of interactions per bunch crossing during the Run 2 data-taking period, weighted by luminosity.



(a) Luminosity-weighted mean number of interactions per bunch crossing during Run 2 data-taking.  
(b) Peak mean number of interactions per bunch crossing for each fill during 2018.

**Figure 2.2:** Number of interactions per bunch crossing recorded by the ATLAS detector [91]

The peak number of interactions per bunch crossing  $\mu_{\text{peak}}$  per fill has been consistently around 50 during the 2018 data-taking (cf. fig. 2.2(b)).

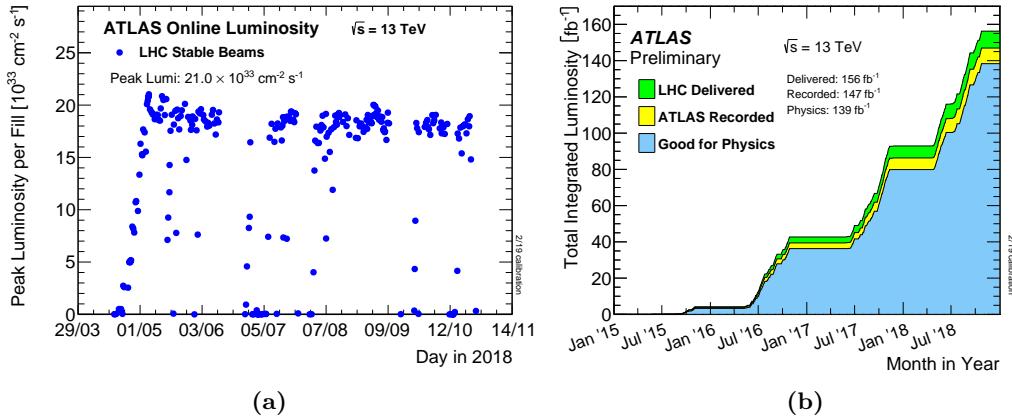
Experimentally, pile-up can be divided into five major components [92]:

- *In-time* pile-up: multiple interactions during a single bunch crossing, of which not all will be interesting, as often with relatively low energy. If they can be resolved, the main hard-scattering event can still be isolated and studied.
- *Out-of-time* pile-up: additional collisions occurring in bunch crossings before or after the main event of interest. This happens either due to read-out electronic integrating over longer time frames than the 25 ns bunch spacing, or detector components being sensitive to several bunch crossings.
- *Cavern background*: gas of thermal neutrons and photons that typically fill the experimental caverns during a run of the LHC and tend to cause random hits in detector components.
- *Beam halo events*: protons scraping an up-stream collimator, typically resulting in muons travelling parallel to the beam pip
- *Beam gas events*: collision events that originate from interactions between proton bunches and residual gas inside the beam pipe.

While the effects of cavern background can be mitigated through special pieces of shielding, beam halo and beam gas events leave signatures that can be recognized and removed. Signals from in-time and out-of-time pile-up create irreducible overlap with the events of interest, significantly impacting analyses, and thus need to be simulated [92].

### 2.1.2 Luminosity and data-taking

Apart from the beam energy, the most important quantity for a collider is the instantaneous luminosity  $L$ . For a synchrotron with Gaussian beam distribution, the instantaneous luminosity



**Figure 2.3:** Instantaneous and cumulative luminosities in Run 2. Figure (a) shows the peak instantaneous luminosity delivered to ATLAS during  $pp$  collision data taking in 2018 as a function of time. Figure (b) shows the cumulative luminosity delivered to ATLAS (green), recorded by ATLAS (yellow) and deemed good for physics analysis (blue) during the entirety of Run 2 [91].

can be written as

$$L = \frac{N_b^2 n_b f_{\text{rev}}}{4\pi\sigma_x\sigma_y} F, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $n_b$  is the number of bunches,  $N_b$  the number of protons per bunch,  $f_{\text{rev}}$  the revolution frequency and  $\sigma_x$  and  $\sigma_y$  the transverse beam sizes. The parameters  $F$  is a geometrical correction factor accounting for the reduction in instantaneous luminosity due to the beams crossing at a certain crossing angle. While the design instantaneous luminosity of the LHC at the high-luminosity experiments ATLAS and CMS is  $L = 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  [80], the 2017 and 2018 data-taking periods saw a peak luminosity twice as high [93].

The instantaneous luminosity is related to the total number of events  $N$  through the cross section  $\sigma$  of the events in question

$$N = \sigma L_{\text{int}} = \sigma \int L dt, \quad (2.2)$$

with  $L_{\text{int}}$  the total integrated luminosity, a measure for the total amount of collision data produced.

A precise knowledge of the integrated luminosity corresponding to a given dataset is crucial for both SM measurements as well as searches for Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) physics. Searches for SUSY like the one presented in this work rely on precise measurements of the integrated luminosity in order to be able to estimate the contribution from SM background processes. The luminosity measurement for the Run 2 dataset used within this work is described in detail in [94, 95] and relies on a measurement of the bunch luminosity, i.e. the luminosity produced by a single pair of colliding bunches

$$L_b = \frac{\mu f_{\text{rev}}}{\sigma_{\text{inel}}} = \frac{\mu_{\text{vis}} f_{\text{rev}}}{\sigma_{\text{vis}}}, \quad (2.3)$$

with  $\mu$  the pile-up parameter,  $\sigma_{\text{inel}}$  the cross section of inelastic  $pp$  collisions,  $\mu_{\text{vis}} = \epsilon\mu$  is the fraction  $\epsilon$  of the pile-up parameter  $\mu$  visible to the detector and  $\sigma_{\text{vis}} = \epsilon\sigma_{\text{inel}}$  the visible inelastic cross section. If  $\sigma_{\text{vis}}$  is known, the currently recorded luminosity can be determined by measuring  $\mu_{\text{vis}}$ . At the ATLAS experiment, the observed number of inelastic interactions per bunch crossing  $\mu_{\text{vis}}$  is measured using dedicated detectors, as for example LUCID-2 [96], a forward Cherenkov-detector using the quartz windows from photomultipliers as Cherenkov medium. In order to use  $\mu_{\text{vis}}$  as luminosity monitor, the respective detectors need to be calibrated through a measurement of the visible inelastic cross section  $\sigma_{\text{vis}}$ . This can be done using van der Meer (vdM) scans [97, 98], in which the transverse distribution of protons in the bunches is inferred by measuring the relative interaction rates as a function of the transverse beam separation<sup>†</sup>. The algorithms used to determine the  $\sigma_{\text{vis}}$  calibration are described in [94, 95] and the luminosity during the vdM runs can be determined using eq. (2.1). At the LHC, vdM scans are typically performed in special low- $\mu$  runs with well-known machine parameters in order to minimise uncertainties [94]. During high- $\mu$  physics runs, the luminosity measurement is then an extrapolation from the vdM runs.

The LHC entered operation in 2008, with first beams in September and first collisions by the end of November that same year [99]. Its operation is in general structured into so-called *Runs*, that are spanned by multiple years of data-taking. Run 1 spanned from 2009 to 2013 and delivered roughly  $28.5 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $pp$  collision data to ATLAS, taken at centre-of-mass energies of 7 TeV and 8 TeV [100, 101, 95]. Run 2 lasted from 2015 to 2018 and saw a centre-of-mass energy increase to 13 TeV, delivering approximately  $156 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $pp$  collision data to ATLAS [94]. Run 3 of  $pp$  collision data taking with two times design peak luminosity is currently planned to start its physics program in 2022 and last until end of 2024 [102]. Current plans foresee Run 3 to deliver about  $150 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $pp$  collision data with centre-of-mass energies of 13 TeV and 14 TeV. After Run 3, the LHC will be upgraded to the High Luminosity LHC, significantly increasing the peak instantaneous luminosity and delivering up to  $3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $pp$  collision data from 2027 until 2040 [102, 103].

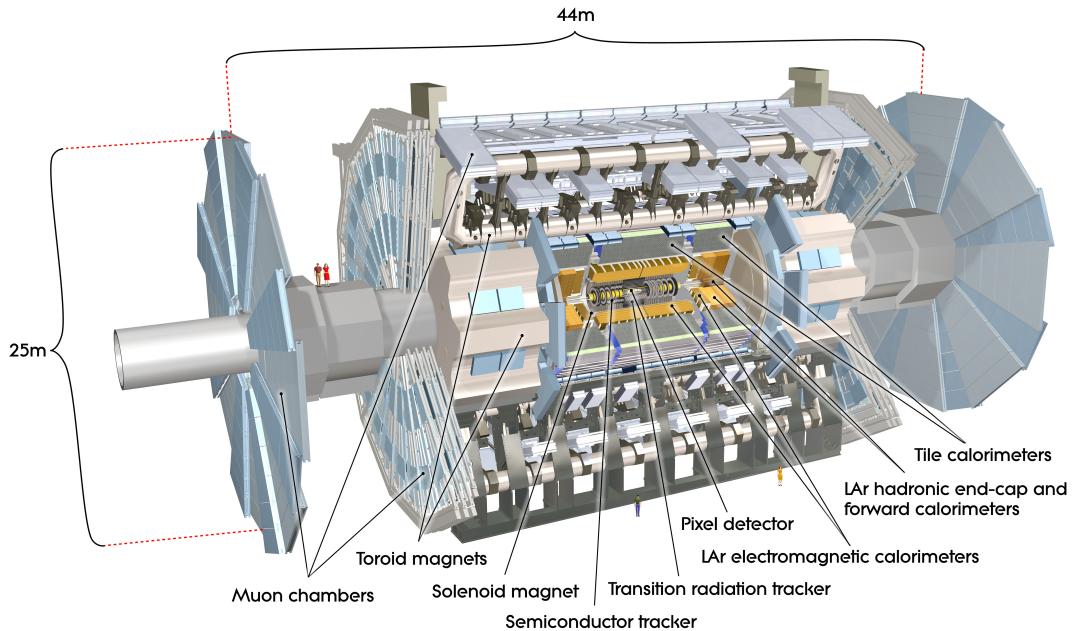
This work uses  $pp$  collision data taken by ATLAS during Run 2 of the LHC. Of the  $156 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  delivered to ATLAS,  $147 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  were recorded, and  $139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  were deemed to be good for physics analysis. Figure 2.3 shows the cumulative luminosity delivered to ATLAS during Run 2. Uncertainties on the measurement total recorded luminosity stem from the measurements of  $\mu_{\text{vis}}$  and  $\sigma_{\text{vis}}$ , but are dominated by the uncertainties on  $\sigma_{\text{vis}}$  as vdM scans can only be done during special runs, while the general conditions during high- $\mu$  conditions change continuously. For the full Run 2 dataset, the uncertainties accumulate to  $\pm 1.7\%$  [94].

## 2.2 ATLAS Experiment

The ATLAS experiment is one of two general-purpose detectors at the LHC. Located at Point 1 in a cavern 100 m below the surface, it is approximately 44 m long and 25 m high [83]. The design of the ATLAS experiment is driven by the aim to allow for a diverse research program, including SM precision measurements, Higgs physics and searches for BSM physics, whilst at the same time taking into account the unique and challenging conditions set by the LHC. The various detector technologies used are designed to withstand the high-radiation environment

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<sup>†</sup> Often called *beam sweeping*.



**Figure 2.4:** Computer generated picture of the ATLAS detector, giving an overview on the various subsystems [104].

of the LHC, while allowing particle measurements with high spatial and temporal granularity. The general structure of ATLAS is depicted in fig. 2.4, and consists of a central part, called *barrel*, that has a cylindrical shape around the beam pipe, and two discs, called *end-caps*, that close off the barrel on each side. This makes the ATLAS detector forward-backward symmetric and covering nearly the full solid angle of  $4\pi$ , which is needed in order to measure momentum imbalances caused by particles that only interact weakly with the detector material.

The interface between the ATLAS experiment and the LHC is the beam pipe. In order to be maximally transparent to the particles created in the collisions, but also be able to withstand the forces from the vacuum, the beam pipe is made out of Beryllium close to the Interaction Point (IP), and stainless-steel further away from the IP [1].

The following sections introduce the working principles of the different detector components used in ATLAS, starting with the innermost component closest to the IP, the inner detector, followed by the calorimeters in the middle and finally the muon spectrometers on the outside. If not otherwise stated, details on the detector components are extracted from [83].

### 2.2.1 Coordinate system

In order to properly describe collision events in the ATLAS detector, a suitable detector system is needed. The right-handed coordinate system [105] used in ATLAS has its origin at the nominal IP in the centre of the detector. The positive  $x$ -axis points towards the centre of the LHC ring, the positive  $y$ -axis points upwards to the surface, and the beam pipe is used to define the  $z$ -axis. In the  $x-y$  plane, called the transverse plane, the azimuthal angle  $\phi$  is the angle

around the beam axis, and the polar angle  $\theta$  is measured from the beam axis. The rapidity [7] is defined as

$$y = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( \frac{E + p_z}{E - p_z} \right) = \tanh \frac{p_z}{E}^{-1}, \quad (2.4)$$

with  $E$  the energy of an object and  $p_z$  its momentum in  $z$ -direction. As opposed to the polar angle  $\theta$ , differences in the rapidity are invariant under Lorentz boosts in  $z$ -direction.

The pseudorapidity [7] is the high-energy limit ( $p \gg m$ ) of the rapidity, and defined as

$$\eta = -\ln \tan \frac{\theta}{2}, \quad (2.5)$$

with  $\cos \theta = p_z/p$ . Pseudorapidity and rapidity are approximately equal in the limit where  $p \gg m$  and  $\theta \gg \frac{1}{\gamma}$ . Compared to the rapidity, the pseudorapidity has the advantage of not depending on the energy and momentum calibration of the detected objects. Additionally, it gives a direct correspondence to the polar angle  $\theta$  through the relation  $\tanh \eta = \cos \theta$ . Objects travelling along the beam axis have a pseudorapidity of  $\eta = \text{inf}$  and objects travelling upwards along the  $y$ -axis have  $\eta = 0$ .

The distance between two objects in the ATLAS detector is given by

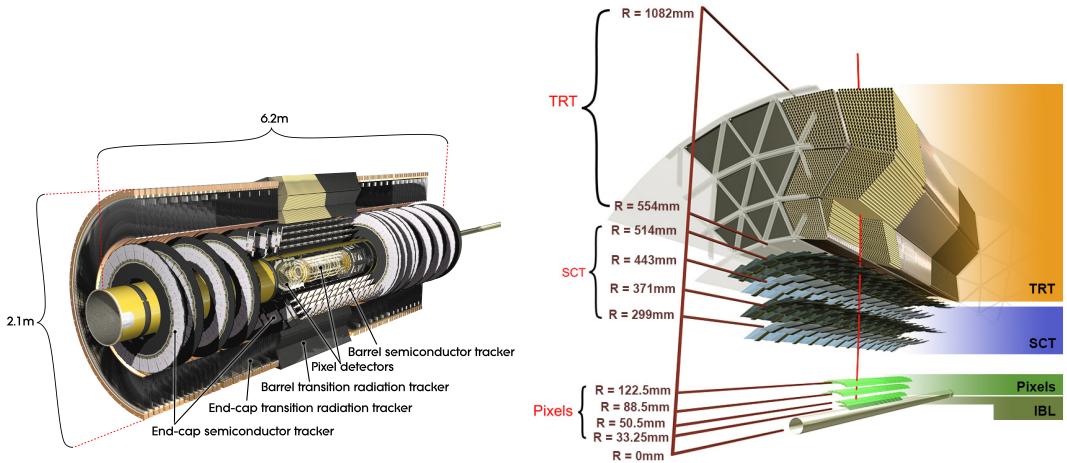
$$\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}. \quad (2.6)$$

The longitudinal momentum of the partons composing the colliding hadrons is only known by means of the Parton Distribution Functions (PDFs), giving the probabilities of the partons to have a certain energy in the direction of the beam. Thus, the total longitudinal energy in each collision is not exactly known, impeding the use of physics quantities in the  $z$ -direction. In the  $x-y$  plane, however, momentum conservation can be applied, which is why mainly transverse physics quantities are used, indicated by a subscript ‘T’, e.g.  $E_T$  or  $p_T$ .

### 2.2.2 Magnet system

In order to perform precise momentum measurements of particles, ATLAS uses a system of magnets, whose magnetic fields force charged particles on curved tracks due to the Lorentz force. Using precise measurements of the tracks taken in the inner detector and the muon spectrometers, the curvature of the tracks can be determined, allowing an inference of the charge-to-momentum ratio  $q/p$  of charged particles. ATLAS employs a set of four superconducting magnets, one central solenoid, and three toroids, all operating at a nominal temperature of 4.5 K, achieved through a cryogenic system using liquid helium [83].

The solenoid is aligned on the beam axis and provides a 2 T magnetic field for the inner detector [83]. As it is located in front of the calorimeters (as seen from the IP), it is specially designed to have minimal material thickness in order to avoid influencing the subsequent energy measurements. The solenoid consists of single-layer coils made out of a Nb/Ti conductor and additional aluminum for stability. It operates at a nominal current of 7.73 kA and uses the hadronic calorimeter as return yoke [83].



**Figure 2.5:** Schematic drawing of the ID and its subdetectors. Images adapted from [106, 107].

The toroid magnets consist of a barrel toroid and two end-cap toroids, producing a magnetic field of 0.5 T and 1 T for the muon spectrometers in the barrel and end-caps, respectively<sup>†</sup> [83]. Both barrel and end-cap toroids are made out of Nb/Ti/Cu conductor with aluminum stabilisation, wound into double pancake-shaped coils. The barrel toroid coils are enclosed in eight stainless-steel vacuum vessels in a racetrack-shaped configuration and arranged around the barrel calorimeters with an azimuthal symmetry. In order to withstand the Lorentz forces, the end-cap toroid coils are assembled in eight square units, and bolted and glued together with eight wedges, forming rigid structures. Both end-cap and barrel toroids operate at a nominal current of 20.5 kA [83].

### 2.2.3 Inner detector

Embedded in the magnetic field of the solenoid, the Inner Detector (ID) measures tracks of charged particles, allowing a determination of their momentum, while also providing crucial information for vertex reconstruction. As the ID is the detector closest to the beam pipe, its components need to be able to withstand the extreme high-radiation environment close to the IP. The ID consists of three subdetectors and uses two different working principles: semiconductor and gaseous detectors. In semiconductor-based tracking detectors, charged particles passing through the detector create a trail of electron-hole pairs that subsequently drift through the semiconductor material and cause electric signals. In gaseous detectors, traversing particles create electron-ion pairs also drift towards metal electrodes and induce electric signals.

Closest to the ID lies the pixel detector, followed by the Silicon Microstrip Tracker (SCT), both of which are made of semiconductors. The SCT is surrounded by the Transition Radiation Tracker (TRT), a gaseous detector. In total, the ID provides tracking and momentum information within  $|\eta| < 2.5$  and down to transverse momenta of nominally 0.5 GeV. A schematic illustration of the ID and its subdetectors is shown in fig. 2.5.

<sup>†</sup> The magnetic field in the toroid magnets is designed to be higher in the end-caps in order to ensure enough bending power necessary for precise momentum measurements.

## Pixel detector

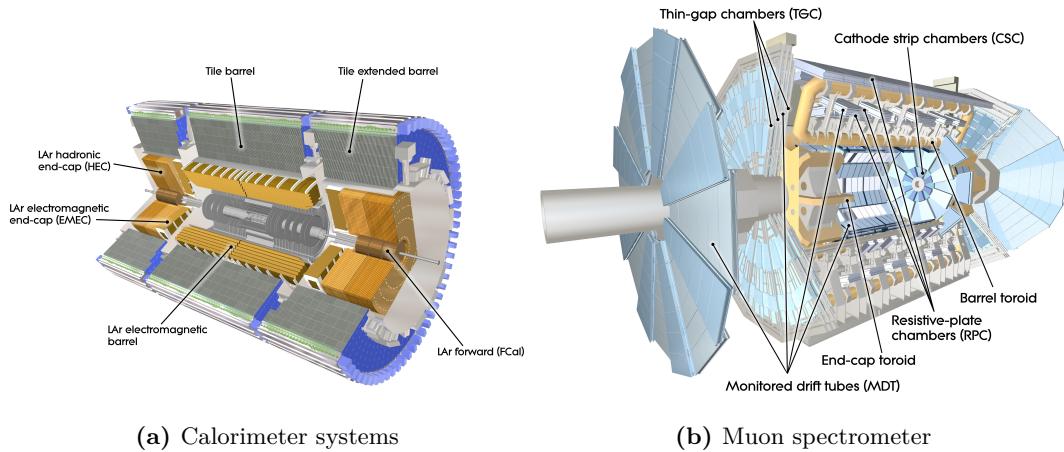
In the high-rate environment directly adjacent to the beam pipe, the only detector technology able to operate and deliver high-precision tracking information are semiconductor detectors segmented into pixels. As opposed to strip detectors, the reduced size of silicon pixel detectors and thus significantly reduced hit rate per readout channel allows pixel detectors to still be operational in the harsh environment close to the IP. In ATLAS, pixels are hybrids of sensors and readout electronics, and were originally arranged in three layers in the barrel and the end-caps with a typical pixel of  $50\text{ }\mu\text{m} \times 400\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , covering pseudorapidities up to  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . In order to increase robustness and performance in the high-luminosity environment, a new innermost layer, called the Insertable B-Layer (IBL), was installed together with a new, smaller radius beam pipe between Run 1 and Run 2 [108, 109]. The IBL uses smaller pixels with a size of  $50\text{ }\mu\text{m} \times 250\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and improves the tracking precision as well as vertex identification performance [109]. It also improves the performance of identifying jets originating from  $b$ -quarks (called  $b$ -tagging). The pixel detector [110]. The tracking precision obtained by the pixel detector is  $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  in  $(R - \phi)$  and  $115\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  in  $(z)$  for the barrel and  $(R)$  for the end-caps.

## Silicon microstrip detector

The pixel detector is surrounded by the SCT, consisting of four layers in the barrel and nine disks in the end-caps. In order to provide two-dimensional tracking information, strips are arranged in double-layers with a small crossing angle of  $40\text{ mrad}$  and a mean pitch of  $80\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  [83]. A charged particle traversing the SCT through the barrel thus creates four space point measurements. In the barrel, one set of strips in each of the four double-layers is oriented in beam direction, thereby measuring  $R - \phi$ , and in the end-caps, one set of strips in each layer is oriented in radial direction. The SCT has roughly 6.3 million readout channels and provides tracking information up to  $|\eta| < 2.5$  [83]. It achieves a precision of  $17\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  in  $(R - \phi)$  and  $580\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  in  $(z)$  for the barrel and  $(R)$  for the end-caps [83].

## Transition radiation tracker

The last and also largest of the three subdetectors of the ID is the TRT, a gaseous detector made of multiple layers of 4 mm diameter drift tubes, surrounding the pixel detector and the SCT. The drift tubes consist of an aluminum cathode coated on a polyimide layer reinforced by carbon fibers and use a gold-plated tungsten wire as anode. The tubes are filled with a Xe-based gas mixture, providing an electric permittivity different from the surrounding material, causing transition radiation when traversed by ultrarelativistic particles. While the 144 cm long tubes in the barrel region are aligned parallel to the beam pipe, the 37 cm long tubes in the end-caps are aligned in radial direction, providing coverage up to  $|\eta| < 2.0$  and an intrinsic accuracy of  $130\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  in  $R - \phi$  [83]. The low accuracy compared to the pixel detector and the SCT is compensated by the large amount of hits (typically 36 per track) and the longer measured track length. As the amount of transition radiation given off by a particle, is proportional to its Lorentz factor  $\gamma$  [7], the TRT is also used to improve electron identification [? ]. For the same momentum, electrons will have a higher Lorentz factor than the heavier charged pions, and consequently give off more transition radiation.



**Figure 2.6:** Schematic drawing of the calorimeter systems and the muon spectrometer in ATLAS. Images adapted from [111, 112].

#### 2.2.4 Calorimeters

The primary goal of calorimeters is to measure the energies of incoming particles by completely absorbing them. As the energies of neutral particles can not be measured by other means, calorimeters are especially important for jet energy measurements (which contain neutral hadrons) [1]. Since particles like photons and electrons interact mostly electromagnetically, while hadrons predominantly interact through the strong interaction, two different calorimeter types are needed in ATLAS. For values in  $\eta$  matching the ID, the electromagnetic calorimeter uses a finer granularity designed for precision measurements of electrons and photons. The subsequent hadronic calorimeter uses a coarser granularity sufficient for the requirements of jet reconstruction and missing transverse momentum measurements. With a coverage up to  $|\eta| < 4.9$ , the calorimeter system in ATLAS provides the near hermetic energy measurements needed for the inference of missing transverse momentum created by neutrinos and other weakly interacting neutral particles [83].

Both calorimeters are sampling calorimeters, consisting of alternating layers of active and absorbing material. The absorbing material interacts with the incoming particles, causing them to deposit their energy by creating cascades or *showers* of secondary particles. The active layers are then used to record the shape and intensity of the produced showers. This alternating structure results in reduced material costs but also reduced energy resolution as only part of the particle's energy is sampled. Due to the typically longer cascades in hadronic interactions compared to electromagnetic interactions, and in order to minimise punch-through into the muon system, the hadronic calorimeter requires a greater material depth than the electromagnetic one. The calorimeter systems in ATLAS are schematically illustrated in fig. 2.6(a).

##### Electromagnetic calorimeter

The Electromagnetic (EM) calorimeter has an accordion-shaped structure and uses liquid argon (LAr) as active material and lead as absorber, providing full  $\phi$  symmetry without azimuthal cracks. It is divided into a barrel part and two end-caps, covering  $|\eta| < 1.475$  and

$1.375 < |\eta| < 3.2$ , respectively, and arranged in a way to provide uniform performance and resolution as a function of  $\phi$ . The barrel EM calorimeter consists of two identical half-barrels with a small gap of 4 cm at  $z = 0$ . In the end-caps, the EM calorimeter consists of two coaxial wheels, covering the region  $1.375 < |\eta| < 2.5$  and  $2.5 < |\eta| < 3.2$ , respectively. Calorimeter cells in the EM calorimeter are segmented into multiple layers with fine granularity in first layers in the  $\eta$  region matching the ID, and coarser granularity in the outer layers and for  $2.5 < |\eta| < 3.2$ . In order to offer good containment of electromagnetic showers, the EM calorimeter has a depth of at least 22 (24) radiation lengths in the barrel (end-caps). A single instrumented LAr layer serves as presampler in the region with  $|\eta| < 1.8$ , allowing measurements of the energy losses upstream of the EM calorimeter, e.g. in the cryostats [83]. The design energy resolution of the EM calorimeter is  $\sigma_E/E = 10\%/\sqrt{E} \oplus 0.7\%$  [83].

### Hadronic calorimeter

Placed directly outside the envelope of the EM calorimeter is the hadronic tile calorimeter. It uses steel plates as absorber and polystyrene-based scintillating tiles as active material, and is subdivided into one central barrel and two extended barrels. Each barrel is segmented in three layers in depth with a total thickness of 7.4 interaction lengths. The tiles are oriented radially and perpendicular to the beam pipe and grouped in 64 tile modules per barrel, resulting in a near hermetic azimuthal coverage. Wavelength shifting fibres are used to shift the ultraviolet light produced in the scintillator to visible light and guide it into photomultipliers located at the radially far end of each module. The tile calorimeter covers a region with  $|\eta| < 1.7$  and has a granularity of  $\Delta\eta \times \Delta\phi = 0.1 \times 0.1$  except for the outermost layer which has a slightly coarser granularity in  $\eta$ . The design energy resolution of the tile calorimeter is  $\sigma_E/E = 56.4\%/\sqrt{E} \oplus 5.5\%$  [83].

Hadronic calorimetry in the end-caps is provided by two independent calorimeter wheels per end-cap, situated directly behind the Electromagnetic end-cap calorimeter (EMEC). Similar to the EMEC, the Hadronic end-cap calorimeter (HEC) also uses LAr calorimeter as active material, allowing both calorimeter systems to share a single cryostat per end-cap. Instead of lead, the HEC however uses copper as absorber, which not only drastically reduces the mass of a calorimeter with a given interaction length, but also improves the linearity of low-energy hadronic signals [113]. Each of the four wheels of the HEC is comprised of 32 wedge-shaped modules, divided into two layers in depth. The HEC provides coverage in the region with  $1.5 < |\eta| < 3.2$ , slightly overlapping with the tile calorimeter and thus reducing the drop in material density in the transition region. While the granularity in the precision region with  $1.5 < |\eta| < 2.5$  is the same as for the tile calorimeter, more forward regions with large  $|\eta|$  have a granularity of  $\Delta\eta \times \Delta\phi = 0.2 \times 0.2$  [83]. The design resolution of the HEC is  $\sigma_E/E = 70.6\%/\sqrt{E} \oplus 5.8\%$  [83].

The forward region with  $3.1 < |\eta| < 4.9$  is covered by the LAr Forward Calorimeter (FCal), which is integrated into the end-cap cryostats. This hermetic design not only minimises energy losses in cracks between the calorimeter systems, but also reduces the amount of background reaching the muon system in the outer shell of the ATLAS experiment. In order to limit the amount of neutrons reflected into the ID, the FCal is recessed by about 1.2 m with respect to the EM calorimeter, motivating a high-density design due to space constraints. The FCal in each end-cap consists of three layers with a total depth of 10 interaction lengths. While the first

layer uses copper as absorber and is optimised for electromagnetic measurements, the remaining two layers are made of tungsten and cover hadronic interactions. The metals comprising each layer are arranged in a matrix structure with electrodes consisting of rods and tubes parallel to the beam pipe filling out regular channels. The small gaps (0.25 mm in the first layer) between the rods and tubes of the electrodes are filled with LAr as active material.

### 2.2.5 Muon spectrometer

Muons, being minimum ionising particles, are the only charged particles that consistently pass through the entire detector including the calorimeter system. Providing one of the cleanest signatures for BSM physics [1], muonic final states are measured with a dedicated detector system on the outermost layer of the ATLAS experiment. Embedded in the magnetic field of the toroid magnets, the Muon Spectrometer (MS) consists of three concentric cylindrical layers in the barrel region, and three wheels in each end-cap, and provides momentum measurements up to  $|\eta| < 2.7$  [83]. It is designed to deliver a transverse momentum resolution of 10% for 1 TeV tracks and be able to measure muon momenta down to roughly 3 GeV.

The MS uses two high-precision gaseous detector chamber types, Monitoring Drift Tube (MDT) chambers and Cathode Strip Chamber (CSC). As both the MDT and CSC are drift chambers relying on charges drifting to an anode or cathode, the maximum response times of 700 ns and 50 ns, respectively, are slow compared to the bunch-spacing of 25 ns. ATLAS therefore uses Resistive Plate Chamber (RPC) in the barrel and Thin Gap Chamber (TGC) in the end-caps as triggers in order to associate measurements to the right bunch-crossing.

#### Monitored drift tubes

The MDT chambers are the main subcomponent providing precision measurements of the muon tracks up to  $|\eta| < 2.7$ , except in the innermost end-cap layer where their coverage only extends to  $|\eta| < 2.0$ . The MDT are made of 3–4 layers of  $\sim 30$  mm diameter drift tubes operated with Ar/CO<sub>2</sub> gas<sup>†</sup> pressurised to 3 bar. Charged particles traversing the drift tubes ionise the gas, creating electrons that drift towards a central tungsten-rhenium anode wire with a diameter of 50  $\mu\text{m}$ . Following the symmetry of the barrel toroid magnet, the MDT chambers are arranged as octets around the calorimeters with the drift tubes in  $\phi$  direction, i.e. tangential to circles around the beam pipe. In order to be able to correct for potential chamber deformations due to varying thermal gradients, each MDT chamber is equipped with an internal optical alignment system. Apart from the regular chambers in the barrel and the end-cap wheels, special modules are installed in order to minimise the acceptance losses due to the ATLAS support structure (the *feets* of the experiment).

#### Cathode strip chambers

In the region with  $|\eta| > 2.0$  in the first layer of the end-caps, the particle flux is too high to allow for safe operation of MDT chambers. Instead, CSC, multiwire proportional chambers, are used for precision measurements in this region. The gold-plated tungsten-rhenium anode wires

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<sup>†</sup> With a small admixture of 300 ppm of water to improve high voltage stability.

in the CSC have a diameter of  $30\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and are oriented in radial direction. The wires are enclosed on both sides by cathode planes, one segmented perpendicular to the wires (thus providing the precision coordinate), the other parallel to the wires. Each chamber is filled with an Ar/CO<sub>2</sub> gas mixture and consists of four wire planes, resulting in four measurements of  $\eta$  and  $\phi$  for each track. In addition to the chamber-internal alignment sensors, ATLAS also employs an optical alignment system in order to align the precision chambers to each other [83].

### Resistive plate chambers

RPC are gaseous parallel electrode-plate chambers that use two resistive plastic laminate plates kept 2 mm apart by insulating spacers. Due to an electric field of roughly  $4.9\text{ kV mm}^{-1}$  between the plates, charged particles traversing the chamber cause avalanches of charges that can be read out through capacitive coupling to metallic strips mounted on the outside of the resistive plates. In order to provide tracking information in both coordinates, each RPC consists of two rectangular units each containing two gas volumes with a total of four pairwise orthogonal sets of readout strips. The three concentric cylindrical layers of RPC in the barrel region thus provide six measurements of  $\eta$  and  $\phi$  and cover  $|\eta| < 1.05$

### Thin gap chambers

The TGC are not only necessary for triggering in the end-cap MS but also provide measurements of a second coordinate, orthogonal to the measurements of the MDT. TGC are multi-wire proportional chambers enclosed by two cathode planes and a wire-to-wire gap of 1.8 mm. The gas mixture of CO<sub>2</sub> and n-pentane allows for a quasi-saturated operation mode resulting in a relatively low gas gain. Each TGC unit is built from a doublet or triplet of such chambers, separated by a supporting honeycomb structure. In each unit, the azimuthal coordinate is measured by radial copper readout strips, while the bending coordinate is provided by the wire groups. The TGC are mounted in two concentric disks in each end-cap, one covering the rapidity range  $1.05 < |\eta| < 1.92$  and one covering the more forward region  $1.92 < |\eta| < 2.4$ .

### 2.2.6 Forward detectors

Apart from the relative luminosity monitor LUCID-2 [96] (introduced in section 2.1.2) located at  $\pm 17\text{ m}$  from the IP, ATLAS uses three additional small detectors in the forward region. At  $\pm 140\text{ m}$  from the IP, immediately behind the location where the straight beam pipe splits back into two separate beam pipes, lies the Zero-Degree Calorimeter (ZDC) [114]. The ZDC is embedded in an absorber for neutrals mainly measures forward neutrons with  $|\eta| > 8.3$  in heavy-ion collisions. Even further out from the IP at  $\pm 240\text{ m}$ , lies the Absolute Luminosity for ATLAS (ALFA) detector [115], consisting of scintillating fibre trackers placed in Roman pots [116] measuring the absolute luminosity through small scattering angles of  $3\text{ }\mu\text{rad}$  (necessitating the special beam conditions also used for the LUCID-2 calibrations). The last of the forward detectors is the ATLAS Forward Proton (AFP) [117] detector, installed at the end of 2016 and operational since early 2017, is situated  $\pm 205\text{ m}$  and  $\pm 217\text{ m}$  from the IP and consists of Roman pots containing silicon trackers and time-of-flight detectors. The AFP detector aims to study very forward protons from elastic and diffractive scattering.

### 2.2.7 Trigger and data acquisition system

With a nominal bunch spacing of 25 ns, the bunch crossing rate within ATLAS is 40 MHz. Even with only a single  $pp$  collision event per bunch crossing, a mean event size of  $\sim 1.6$  MB results in a data volume of more than  $60 \text{ TB s}^{-1}$ , which is impossible to process and write to disk with current technology. In addition, interesting physics events will often only occur at relatively low rates, and generally be hidden in vast amounts of QCD processes that have much higher cross-sections. In order to reduce the event rate written to disk and focus on interesting signatures worth studying, ATLAS used a two-level trigger system during the Run 2 data-taking period [118].

The Level 1 (L1) trigger [119] is hardware-based and uses only coarse granularity calorimeter and muon detector information as inputs in order to define Regions of Interest (ROIs), i.e. regions in  $\eta$  and  $\phi$  with interesting features. With a decision time of only 2.5  $\mu\text{s}$  per event, the L1 trigger reduces the event rate from the bunch-crossing rate of 40 MHz to 100 kHz. The ROIs generated by the L1 trigger are subsequently processed by the High Level Trigger (HLT) [120], a software-based trigger running on a computing farm. The HLT has access to the full detector granularity in the ROIs as well as the entire event and runs reconstruction algorithms similar to those used in offline analysis, allowing to significantly refine the decisions from the L1 trigger. The HLT reduces the event rate from 100 kHz to 1 kHz, matching the data storage constraints. Data flow from the detectors to the storage elements and between the L1 and HLT trigger elements is handled by the Data Acquisition System (DAQ) [120].

The SUSY search presented in this work uses data recorded with missing transverse momentum ( $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$ ) triggers [121]. Selecting events with invisible particles is inherently difficult precisely because these particles do not leave a trace in the detector. As described previously, the L1 trigger uses ROIs to define interesting objects and regions in each event that will be further analyses by the HLT. This technique of reconstructing only partial regions of the instrumented region is not well suited for momentum imbalance triggers that rely on a sum of momenta over the full solid angle. In addition, the significant increase in luminosity in Run 2 of the LHC degrades the  $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$  resolution in the calorimeters, the only detector component used for the  $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$  triggers [121]. Two different types of  $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$  triggers are used in the following, one based on jets (`mht` algorithm), and one implementing local pile-up suppression (`pufit` algorithm). As hadronic jets dominate the visible momentum in most interesting events, using them for  $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$  computation and triggering is well-motivated. The `mht` algorithm computes the  $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{miss}}$  from the negative vectorial sum of the transverse momenta of all jets with a transverse momentum  $p_{\text{T}} > 7 \text{ GeV}$  before calibration [121]. The HLT jets are reconstructed and calibrated using a similar procedure as for offline analysis, and are thus corrected for pile-up effects [122]. The `pufit` algorithm takes as input topological clusters formed from electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeter cells in a multistage process common to many ATLAS reconstruction algorithms [123]. It subsequently combines the clusters into  $\eta-\phi$  patches of approximately jet size and corrects for pile-up effects based on the distribution of the energy deposits in the calorimeter. The `pufit` algorithm assumes that high transverse energy deposits stem from the hard-scatter events, while low transverse energy deposits originate mainly from pile-up effects [121].

### 2.2.8 Object reconstruction

### 2.2.9 Monte Carlo simulation

Monte Carlo (MC) methods play a crucial role for simulating physics events in ATLAS. MC simulations are computational algorithms using repeated random sampling to solve complex problems, often the estimation of multi-dimensional integrals for which analytical solutions are not known. According to the law of large numbers the numerical approximations obtained by such a stochastic method become more accurate, the larger the sample size is. In addition, the central limit theorem also allows to state an uncertainty on the estimation of an expected value. This method can in principle be used for any problem with a probabilistic interpretation and is therefore well suited for particle physics where many aspects are inherently connected to Probability Density Functions (pdfs).

In the ATLAS experiment, MC methods are not only used in physics analysis to estimate contributions from various physics processes in different phase space regions, but also to simulate particle interactions with the detector material and even finds ample applications in detector design and optimisation as well as physics objects reconstruction techniques. All of these applications rely on the MC simulations being as precise as possible, i.e. correctly describing the physics processes and detector responses underlying the data recorded by the ATLAS experiment. For reasons of more efficient computing resource utilisation and easier software validation, the ATLAS simulation infrastructure [124] can be divided into three main steps:

- (i) Event generation,
- (ii) Detector simulation,
- (iii) Digitisation,

producing an output format identical to that of the DAQ for recorded  $pp$  collision events, such that the same trigger and reconstruction algorithms can be run over simulated data.

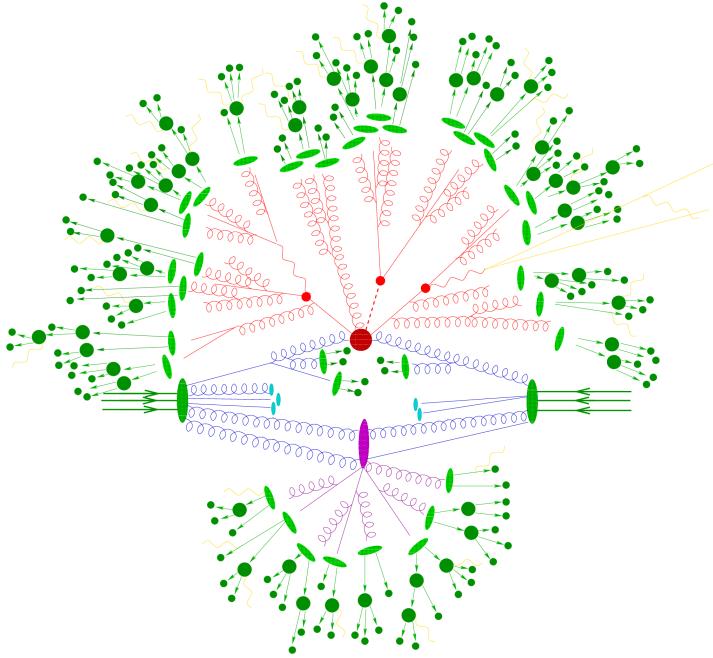
#### Event generation

The majority of  $pp$  collisions are not interesting for particle physicists in the sense that they only involve soft hadrons travelling along the beam axis. Only a few events actually involve an *hard-scattering* event with high-momentum transfer, rendering them interesting for particle physicists to study. Generating and understanding the final states of these  $pp$  collision events is an enormously challenging problem as it typically involves hundreds of particles with energies spanning many orders of magnitude [126]. This makes the matrix elements connected to these processes too complicated to be computed beyond the first few orders of perturbation theory. The treatment of divergences and the integration over large phase-spaces further complicates the calculation of experimental observables.

It is not surprising that the simulation of the hard-scatter interaction is at the heart of any MC event generator. Due to the high-momentum transfer scale, the cross section of this process can

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**Figure 2.7:** Pictorial representation of a  $t\bar{t} + H$  event simulated by a MC event generator. The hard interaction (big red blob) is followed by the decay of the two top quarks and the Higgs boson (small red blobs). ISR and FSR are shown as curly blue and red lines, respectively. A second interaction is simulated (purple blob) and contributions from the underlying event are modelled (purple lines). The hadronisation of final-state partons (light green blobs) is followed by the decays of unstable hadrons (dark green blobs). QED radiation (yellow lines) is added at each stage of the event simulation. Figure adapted from [125].

be calculated perturbatively using collinear factorisation [126],

$$\sigma = \sum_{a,b} \int_0^1 dx_a dx_b \int d\Phi_n f_a^{h_1}(x_a, \mu_F) f_b^{h_2}(x_b, \mu_F) \times \frac{1}{2x_a x_b s} |\mathcal{M}_{ab \rightarrow n}|^2(\Phi_n; \mu_F, \mu_R), \quad (2.7)$$

with  $x_a$  and  $x_b$  the momentum fractions of the partons  $a$  and  $b$  with respect to their parent hadrons  $h_1$  and  $h_2$ ,  $\mu_F$  and  $\mu_R$  are the unphysical factorisation and the renormalisation scales, respectively and  $d\Phi_n$  is the differential final state phase-space element. The phase space integration is typically done using MC sampling methods. The choices for  $\mu_R$  and  $\mu_F$  are to some degree arbitrary, but are typically chosen to be in accordance with the logarithmic structure of Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD), such that the matrix elements can be combined with the subsequent parton showers [126]. The Matrix Element (ME)  $|\mathcal{M}_{ab \rightarrow n}|^2$  can be calculated using different methods [126], with most MC generators employing Leading Order (LO) computations. As LO matrix elements are only reliable for the shapes of the distributions, an additional *K-factor* correcting the normalisation of the cross section to Next-to-leading Order (NLO) is typically used. The probability of finding a parton with momentum fractions  $x$  in a hadron  $h$ , is given by the PDF  $f_a^h(x, \mu_F)$  and depends on the probed factorisation scale  $\mu_F$ . The PDFs depend on non-perturbative aspects of the proton wave function and can thus not be calculated from first principles. Instead, they are extracted from measurements in deep inelastic scattering experiments (see e.g. [127, 128]). The variety of PDFs provided by different groups, is accessible in a common format through a unified interface implemented by the LHAPDF library [129]. In MC generators, the choice of PDFs not only play a crucial role for the simulation of the hard process, but also in the subsequent parton showers and multiple parton interactions, thus influencing both cross sections and event shapes.

Fixed-order matrix elements work well for describing separated, hard partons but is not sufficient to describe soft and collinear partons. Higher order effects from gluon radiation can be simulated using a Parton Shower (PS) algorithm. The emitted gluons will radiate additional gluons or split

into quark–antiquark pairs which can in turn undergo gluon radiation. The PS thus describes an evolutionary process in momentum transfer scales from the scale of the hard scatter interaction down to the infrared scale  $\mathcal{O}(1\text{ GeV})$  where QCD becomes non-perturbative and partons are confined into hadrons. Both ISR and FSR are simulated through the PS . As opposed to ME calculations, PSs offer poor modelling of few hard partons, but excel in the simulation of collinear and soft multi-parton states.

In order to avoid double counting, the hard partons described by the calculation of the ME and the soft collinear emissions of the PS have to be connected to each other. This is done either through *matching* or *merging*. ME matching approaches [130] integrate higher-order corrections to an inclusive process with the PS [126]. Merging techniques like the CKKW [131] or CKKW-L [132] methods define an unphysical merging scale which can be understood as a jet resolution scale such that higher order ME corrections are only calculated for jets above that scale (while jets below that scale are modelled with the PS).

Next, additional activity in the event not directly associated to the hard process is simulated. The underlying event is typically defined to be all additional activity after ISR and FSR off the hard process has been taken into account [126]. Furthermore, *multiple interactions* can occur in a single  $pp$  collision. The modelling of multiple interactions involves multiple hard scatter processes per  $pp$  collision as well as multiple soft interactions in addition to the hard scatter process.

Once the PS reaches energies of  $\mathcal{O}(1\text{ GeV})$ , entering the non-perturbative regime of QCD, the coloured objects need to be transformed into colourless states. This so-called *hadronisation* step cannot be calculated from first principles but has to be modelled, typically with either a *string* or a *cluster* model. The most advanced of the string models is the *Lund* model [133, 134]. It starts from linear confinement and considers a linear potential between a  $q\bar{q}$  pair, that can be thought of as a uniform colour flux tube stretching between the  $q$  and  $\bar{q}$ , with a transverse dimension of the order of typical hadronic size (i.e. around 1 fm). As the  $q\bar{q}$  pair moves apart, the flux tube stretches in length, leading to an increase in potential energy, finally breaking apart once enough energy is available to create a new  $q'\bar{q}'$  pair, resulting in two colourless quark pairs  $q\bar{q}'$  and  $q'\bar{q}$ . The new quark pairs can again move apart and break up further, leading to quark anti-quark pairs with low relative momentum, forming the final hadrons. The cluster model is based on the preconfinement property of PSs [135], stating that the colourless clusters of partons can be formed at any evolution scale  $Q_0$  of the PS, and result in universal invariant mass distributions that depend only on  $Q_0$  and the QCD scale  $\Lambda$ , but not on the energy scale  $Q$  or nature of the hard process at the origin of the PS [126]. The universal invariant mass distribution holds in the asymptotic limit where  $Q_0 \ll Q$ . If further  $Q_0 \gg \Lambda$ , then the mass, momentum and multiplicity distributions of the colourless clusters can even be calculated perturbatively [126]. Cluster models start with non-perturbative splitting of gluons and  $q\bar{q}$  pairs, followed by the formation of clusters from colour-connected pairs. Clusters further split up until the  $Q_0$  scale is reached, where they form the final mesons.

As not all hadrons formed in the hadronisation process are stable, the affected hadrons need to be decayed until they form resonances stable enough to reach the detector material. In addition QED radiation, that can happen at any time during the event, needs to be simulated. This is typically done with algorithms similar to the ones used for the PS.

The simulation steps that cannot be performed from first principles but rely on phenomenological models (underlying event, PS, hadronisation) introduce free parameters that need to be derived or *tuned* from parameter optimisations against experimental data. In ATLAS, the output of MC event generators is stored in so-called EVNT data format containing HepMC [136] event records. Although only the stable final-state particles are propagated to the detector simulation, the HepMC event record contains the entire connected tree as so-called *Monte Carlo truth*.

## Detector simulation

Only the final-state particles generated by the MC event generator are read into the detector simulation. In ATLAS, the full detector simulation is handled GEANT4 [137], a toolkit providing detailed models for physics processes and an infrastructure for particle transportation through a geometry. GEANT4 has knowledge about the full detector geometry as well as the materials used in the subdetectors and is able to compute the energy deposits (so-called *hits*) from single particles in the different sensitive portions of the detector components. The GEANT4 simulation adds information to the Monte Carlo truth content created during the event generation, including however only the most relevant tracks (mostly from the ID) due to size constraints [124].

The complicated detector geometry and the detailed description of physics processes requires large computing resources for the full detector simulation using GEANT4, rendering it inaccessible for many physics studies requiring large statistics. Several varieties of fast simulations are available to this end. One of the most-used ones is ATLFAST-II [124], a fast simulation that uses the GEANT4 full simulation only for the ID and MS. The slow simulation in the calorimeters—that takes about 80% of the full simulation time—is replaced with FASTCALOSIM [138], using parameterised electromagnetic and hadronic showers. Compared to the  $\mathcal{O}(10^3)$  s simulation time per event in the full simulation, the ATLFAST-II detector simulation only takes  $\mathcal{O}(10^2)$  s [124].

## Digitisation

During the digitisation step, the hits from the detector simulation are converted into detector responses, so-called *digits* that are typically produced when currents or voltages in the respective readout channels rise above a certain threshold in a given time window. The digitisation considers a modelling of the peculiarities of each detector component, including electronic noise and cross-talk [124]. The effects from out-of-time and in-time pile-up are also considered by reading in multiple events and overlaying their hits. In order to match the true pile-up distribution in data, the number of events to overlay per bunch crossing can be set at run time. As described in section 2.1.1, effects from cavern background, beam halo and beam gas can either be mitigated or removed at analysis level and are therefore typically not simulated.



# Chapter 3

## Statistical data analysis

Statistical models are used in order to quantify the correspondence between theoretical predictions and the experimental observations in searches for SUSY. This chapter introduces the statistical concepts, methods and formulae used in this work for statistical inference. A frequentist approach to statistics is employed, interpreting probabilities as the frequencies of the outcomes of repeatable experiments that may either be real, based on computer simulations, or mathematical abstraction [7, 139]. The ensuing description largely follows [139, 140]

### 3.1 The likelihood function

In measurements in high energy physics, a *statistical model*  $f(\mathbf{x}|\phi)$  is a parametric family of Probability Density Functions (pdfs) describing the probability of observing data  $\mathbf{x}$  given a set of model parameters  $\phi$  that typically describe parameters of the physical theory or unknown detector effects. The *likelihood function*  $L(\phi)$  is then numerically equivalent to  $f(\mathbf{x}|\phi)$  with  $\mathbf{x}$  fixed. As opposed to the pdf  $f(\mathbf{x})$  which describes the value of  $f$  as a function of  $\mathbf{x}$  given a fixed set of parameters  $\phi$ , the likelihood refers to the value of  $f$  as a function of  $\phi$  given a fixed value of  $\mathbf{x}$ .

Searches for BSM physics are typically centred around the measurement of several disjoint binned distributions (called *channels*  $c$ ) that are each associated with different event selection criteria (as opposed to different scattering processes) yielding observed event counts  $\mathbf{n}$ . In such counting experiments where each event is independently drawn from the same underlying distribution, each bin is fundamentally described by a Poisson term. The Poisson probability to observe  $n$  events with a expectation of  $\nu$  events, is given by

$$\text{Pois}(n|\nu) = \frac{\nu^n}{n!} e^{-\nu}. \quad (3.1)$$

The expectation  $\nu_{cb}$  in each channel  $c$  and bin  $b$  is a sum over the set of physics processes considered (called *samples*). The sample-wise rates are in general a function of the the model parameters  $\phi$ , that can either be *free parameters*  $\eta$  or *constrained parameters*  $\chi$ . Free parameters directly determined by the Poisson terms for the data observations are called *normalisation factors*. The constrained parameters represent the systematic uncertainties considered in the

model. The degree to which they cause a deviation of the expected event rates from the nominal event rates is limited through *constraint terms*  $c_\chi(a_\chi|\chi)$  that can be viewed as *auxiliary measurements* with global observed data  $\mathbf{a}$ .

For a given observation  $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a})$  of observed events  $\mathbf{n}$  and auxiliary data  $\mathbf{a}$ , the likelihood then reads

$$L(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \chi) = \prod_{c \in \text{channels}} \prod_{b \in \text{bins}_c} \text{Pois}(n_{cb}|\nu_{cb}(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \chi)) \prod_{\chi \in \chi} c_\chi(a_\chi|\chi), \quad (3.2)$$

where, given a certain integrated luminosity,  $n_{cb}$  and  $\nu_{cb}$  refer to the corresponding observed and expected rate of events, respectively [141]. Most of the systematic uncertainties are so-called *interpolation parameters*  $\alpha$  representing either normalisation uncertainties or correlated shape uncertainties. Their constraint terms  $c_\alpha(a_\alpha|\alpha)$  are parametrised by a Gaussian with mean  $a = 0|\alpha$  and variance  $\sigma = 1$ , with  $\alpha = 0$  representing the nominal value. The *up* and *down* variations are then given by  $\alpha = \pm 1$ , thus representing  $\pm 1\sigma$  variations. The impact of any given value of the parameter on the event rates is then evaluated through polynomial interpolation and exponential extrapolation, a method that avoids discontinuous first and second derivatives at  $\alpha = 0$  and ensures positive values for the predicted event rates [142].

Sample rates derived from theory calculations (i.e. MC simulation), are scaled to the integrated luminosity corresponding to the observed data. The integrated luminosity is itself a measurement that is subject to uncertainties. Therefore, an additional constraint term in the likelihood is needed. It is parametrised by a Gaussian with mean corresponding to the nominal integrated luminosity measurement and variance equal to the integrated luminosity measurement uncertainty.

Uncertainties arising from the finite size of the MC datasets often used to derive estimated event rates are modelled by bin-wise scale factors  $\gamma_b$ . The constraint terms are Gaussian distributions with central value equal to unity and variances calculated from the individual uncertainties of the samples defined in the respective channel.

As the event rate in a given bin can depend on multiple parameters, and, likewise, a single parameter can affect the expected event rate in multiple bins, correlations between the model parameters  $\phi$  can occur.

The above prescription for building binned likelihoods is called the HISTFACTORY template [142]. In this work, two independent implementations of the HISTFACTORY template are used. The first implementation uses ROOFIT and RooStats for fitting (using `Minuit`), and HISTFITTER as interface for steering fits and hypothesis tests and bookkeeping of results. The second implementation uses `pyhf`, a pure-Python implementation of HISTFACTORY that is independent from ROOT and uses computational graph libraries like PyTorch, TENSORFLOW and JAX to speed up the minimisation process.

Apart from separating the model parameter set into free and constrained parameters  $\phi = (\boldsymbol{\eta}, \chi)$ , a separate partition  $\phi = (\psi, \theta)$  is frequently used in the context of hypothesis testing. Here,  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$  are so-called *parameters of interests* of the model for which hypothesis tests are performed, and  $\theta$  are *nuisance parameters* that are not of immediate interest but need to be accounted for to correctly model the data. In the search presented in this work, the only Parameter of Interest (POI) is the *signal strength* parameter  $\mu$ , representing the ratio of the signal process cross section to its reference cross section as expected from theory. The expectation  $\nu_i$  in each

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bin  $i$  can be parametrised through

$$\nu_b = \mu S_b + B_b, \quad (3.3)$$

where  $S_b$  and  $B_b$  are the bin-wise expected signal and background rates, respectively. Fixing  $\mu = 0$  thus yields an expected event rate containing only SM processes (thus called *background-only*), while  $\mu = 1$  represents a *signal-plus-background* description at nominal signal cross section. Scanning multiple values of  $\mu$  allows to set limits on the visible cross sections of the signal models considered in the search.

## 3.2 Parameter estimation

Given a likelihood  $L(\mu, \phi)$  for a fixed set of observations  $\mathbf{x}$ , a measurement can be understood as a parameter estimation. In general, an estimator  $\hat{\phi}$  is a function of the observed data used to estimate the true value of the model parameter  $\phi$ .

In particle physics, the most commonly used estimator is the Maximum Likelihood Estimator (MLE). The MLEs for the model parameters  $\hat{\phi}$  are defined to be the parameter values that maximise  $L(\phi)$ , or, equivalently maximise  $\ln L(\phi)$  and minimises  $-\ln L(\phi)$ . The logarithm of the likelihood is used for computational reasons, as it not only reduces the computational complexity by avoiding exponentials and products, but also avoids problems of running out of floating point precision. As the logarithm is a monotonically increasing function,  $\ln L(\phi)$  has maxima at the same parameter values as  $L(\phi)$ .

The MLE  $\hat{\phi}$  can thus be found by solving

$$\frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \phi_i} = 0, \quad (3.4)$$

where the index  $i$  runs over all parameters. The solution typically needs to be found numerically using minimisation algorithms. In the following, the parameter estimation is referred to as a *fit* of the model to data, and the maximum likelihood estimates of the parameters are consequently called *best-fit values*.

## 3.3 Statistical tests

In addition to estimating the values of model parameters, searches for SUSY are naturally interested in claiming discovery (or alternatively exclusion) of hypothesised signal models. In the frequentist approach, this can be formulated in terms of hypothesis tests, evaluating a *null hypothesis*  $H_0$  against an *alternative hypothesis*  $H_1$ , with the goal of rejecting the null hypothesis. For discovering a new signal process,  $H_0$  is defined to describe only known SM processes (called *background-only* hypothesis), while  $H_1$  describes both SM background processes as well as the signal process (called *signal plus background hypothesis*). When excluding a signal model the signal plus background hypothesis takes over the role of  $H_0$  and is tested against the background-only hypothesis.

The degree of agreement of observed data with a certain hypothesis  $H$  is quantified by computing a *p*-value, representing the probability of finding data of greater or more extreme incompatibility

under assumption of  $H$ . The hypothesis can then be considered as excluded if its observed  $p$ -value is below a specified threshold. It is common to convert the  $p$ -value into a *significance*  $Z$ , defined in such a way that a Gaussian distributed observable with measured value  $Z$  standard deviations above its mean gives a one-sided upper tail probability equal to  $p$ . This yields the expression

$$Z = \Phi^{-1}(1 - p), \quad (3.5)$$

where  $\Phi^{-1}$  is the quantile of the standard Gaussian. Discovery of a signal then conventionally requires a significance of at least  $Z = 5$ , while exclusion of a signal hypothesis at 95% confidence level requires a  $p$ -value of 0.05, i.e.  $Z = 1.64$  [140].

The  $p$ -values are calculated using a *test statistic* that parameterises the compatibility between the hypothesis and data in a single value. At the LHC experiments, the test statistics used for hypothesis testing are based on the *profile likelihood ratio*

$$\lambda(\mu) = \frac{L(\mu, \hat{\theta}(\mu))}{L(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta})}, \quad (3.6)$$

where the *conditional maximum likelihood estimates*  $\hat{\theta}$  are the values of  $\theta$  that maximise the likelihood with  $\mu$  fixed. The profile likelihood ratio depends explicitly on  $\mu$ , and implicitly on  $\mathbf{x} = (\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{a})$ , but is asymptotically (i.e. in the limit of a large number of events) independent of the nuisance parameters  $\theta^\dagger$ . The asymptotic independence from  $\theta$  follows from Wald's and Wilks' theorems [143, 144] and is one of the main motivations for using the profile likelihood ratio, as it avoids the problem of having to compute  $p$ -values for all possible values of  $\theta$ . The profile likelihood ratio takes values between 0 and 1, with  $\lambda(\mu) = 1$  corresponding to cases where the tested value of  $\mu$  is in good agreement with the observed data.

As the rate of signal processes considered in this work is non-negative, an estimator for  $\mu$  must satisfy  $\hat{\mu} \geq 0$ . In order to avoid the formal complications of having a boundary at  $\mu = 0$ , it is convenient to consider an effective estimator  $\hat{\mu}$  that is allowed to become negative, provided that the respective Poisson terms for  $\mu S_b + B_b$  remain positive. By imposing the constraint  $\mu \geq 0$  on the test statistic itself, it is possible to avoid the formal problems of having a boundary at  $\mu = 0$ . This leads to the definition of

$$\tilde{\lambda}(\mu) = \begin{cases} \frac{L(\mu, \hat{\theta}(\mu))}{L(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta})}, & \hat{\mu} \geq 0, \\ \frac{L(\mu, \hat{\theta}(\mu))}{L(0, \hat{\theta}(0))}, & \hat{\mu} < 0, \end{cases} \quad (3.7)$$

where  $\hat{\theta}(0)$  and  $\hat{\theta}(\mu)$  are the conditional MLEs of  $\theta$  given a signal strength parameter of 0 and  $\mu$ , respectively.

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<sup>†</sup> Eliminated by choosing specific values of the nuisance parameters for a given  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mu$ , often referred to as *profiling*.

## Discovery

For the important special case where  $\mu = 0$  is tested in a model with  $\mu \geq 0$ , i.e. discovery of a non-negative signal (rejection of the  $\mu = 0$  hypothesis), the test statistic in eq. (3.7) becomes

$$q_0 = \tilde{t}_0 = \begin{cases} -\ln \lambda(0), & \hat{\mu} \geq 0, \\ 0, & \hat{\mu} < 0. \end{cases} \quad (3.8)$$

This definition ensures that the  $\mu = 0$  hypothesis is not rejected due to a downward fluctuation in data, causing  $\hat{\mu} < 0$ . In case more events are seen in data than expected based on the background-only hypothesis, eq. (3.8) produces increasingly large values of  $q_0$ , corresponding to an increasing incompatibility between data and the background-only hypothesis. The  $p$ -value quantifying the disagreement between the  $\mu = 0$  hypothesis and data can then be computed using

$$p_0 = \int_{q_0,\text{obs}}^{\infty} f(q_0|0) dq, \quad (3.9)$$

with  $q_0,\text{obs}$  the observed value of the test statistic  $q_0$  in data and  $f(q_0|0)$  the pdf of  $q_0$  under assumption of the  $\mu = 0$  hypothesis. In the asymptotic limit with a single POI, the test statistic  $q_0$  can be written as

$$q_0 = \begin{cases} \hat{\mu}^2/\sigma^2, & \hat{\mu} \geq 0, \\ 0, & \hat{\mu} < 0, \end{cases} \quad (3.10)$$

where  $\hat{\mu}$  has a Gaussian distribution with mean  $\mu'$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ . In the case where  $\mu' = 0$ , the pdf of  $q_0$  has the form of a half chi-square distribution with one degree of freedom, and its cumulative distribution is  $F(q_0|0) = \Phi(\sqrt{q_0})$ . Using eq. (3.5), the  $p$ -value obtained with eq. (3.9) can be expressed with the significance  $Z_0$  as

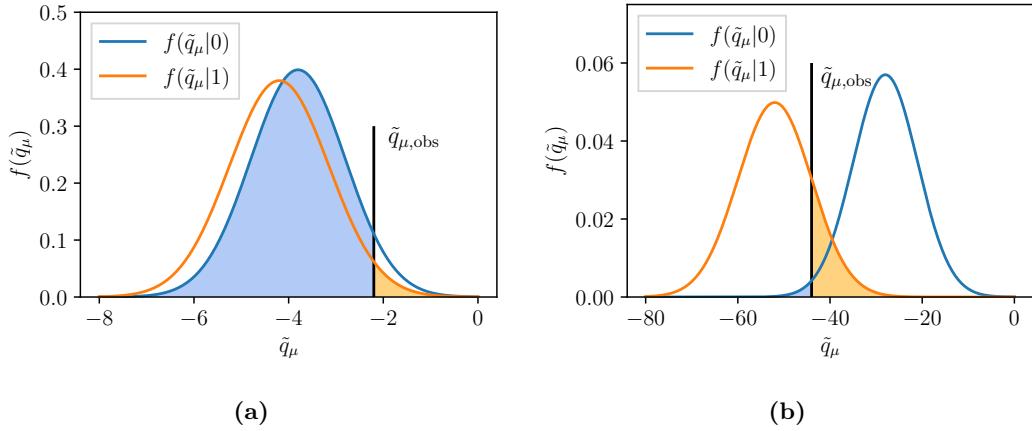
$$Z_0 = \sqrt{q_0}. \quad (3.11)$$

## Exclusion and upper limits

If the background-only ( $\mu = 0$ ) hypothesis cannot be rejected, the hypotheses can be switched around and instead the signal plus background hypothesis can be tested. For excluding the signal plus background ( $\mu = 1$ ) hypothesis and setting upper limits on the signal strength  $\mu$ , the test statistic is defined as

$$\tilde{q}_{\mu} = \begin{cases} -2 \ln \tilde{\lambda}(\mu), & \hat{\mu} \geq 0, \\ 0, & \hat{\mu} < 0. \end{cases} = \begin{cases} -2 \ln \frac{L(\mu, \hat{\theta}(\mu))}{L(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta})}, & \hat{\mu} \geq 0, \\ -2 \ln \frac{L(\mu, \hat{\theta}(\mu))}{L(0, \hat{\theta}(0))}, & 0 \leq \hat{\mu} \leq \mu, \\ 0 & \hat{\mu} > \mu. \end{cases} \quad (3.12)$$

Setting  $\tilde{q}_{\mu} = 0$  in the case where  $\hat{\mu} > \mu$  ensures that an overfluctuation of data is not considered as evidence against the signal hypothesis. This is opposed to the definition of  $q_0$ , where an underfluctuation of data ( $\hat{\mu} < \mu$ ) is not regarded to be evidence against the background-only hypothesis. The  $p$ -value, quantifying the level of agreement between data and the tested value



**Figure 3.1:** Distribution of the pdfs of the signal plus background (in orange) and background-only (in blue) models. The coloured areas represent the  $p_{s+b}$  and  $p_b$  values, respectively. Figure (a) shows a case where both pdfs are close together, while figure (b) shows a case where both are well separated. Adapted from [145].

of  $\mu$  is then given by

$$p_\mu = \int_{\tilde{q}_{\mu,\text{obs}}}^{\infty} f(\tilde{q}_\mu|\mu) d\tilde{q}_\mu, \quad (3.13)$$

where, as before,  $\tilde{q}_{\mu,\text{obs}}$  is the observed value of the test statistic in data and  $f(\tilde{q}_\mu|\mu)$  is the pdf of  $\tilde{q}_\mu$  given the hypothesis  $\mu$ . In the asymptotic limit, the test statistic  $\tilde{q}_\mu$  can be written as

$$\tilde{q}_\mu = \begin{cases} \mu^2\sigma^2 - 2\mu\hat{\mu}/\sigma^2, & \hat{\mu} \geq 0, \\ (\mu - \hat{\mu})^2\sigma^2, & 0 \leq \hat{\mu} \leq \mu, \\ 0 & \hat{\mu} > \mu, \end{cases} \quad (3.14)$$

which yields for the significance  $Z_\mu$  the expression

$$Z_\mu = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\tilde{q}_\mu}, & 0 < \tilde{q}_\mu \leq \mu^2/\sigma^2 \\ \frac{\tilde{q}_\mu + \mu^2/\sigma^2}{2\mu/\sigma}, & \tilde{q}_\mu > \mu^2/\sigma^2. \end{cases} \quad (3.15)$$

### 3.4 Asimov dataset

### 3.5 Intervals and limits

### 3.6 $CL_s$ approach

In the  $CL_{s+b}$  method, a signal plus background model is excluded if  $p_{s+b} < \alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  is defined by the desired confidence level, typically  $CL = 1 - \alpha = 95\%$ , and  $p_{s+b}$  can be calculated using the test statistic  $\tilde{q}_\mu$  (with  $\mu = 1$ ) introduced before. If the experiment has very low sensitivity to a specific signal plus background model, e.g. because the production cross section

is too low, the test statistic of the signal plus background model will be very close to that of the background-only model. In case of an underfluctuation in data, the  $\mu = 1$  model can then falsely be excluded, even though no sensitivity is expected. Figure 3.1 illustrates this with a simple example. In fact, the exclusion of models to which the experiment has no sensitivity has a probability of at least  $\alpha$  [145].

This problem can be remedied by adopting the  $CL_s$  method [146], altering the threshold for excluding a model in a way to avoid exclusion of models to which the experiment has very low sensitivity. The  $CL_s$  value is defined as

$$CL_s = \frac{p_{s+b}}{1 - p_b}, \quad (3.16)$$

where  $p_b$  is the  $p$ -value of the background-only hypothesis. If the distributions of the test statistics for the signal plus background and the background-only models are close a small value of  $p_{s+b}$  due to an underfluctuation in data will entail a large value of  $p_b$ . Consequently, in the calculation of the  $CL_s$  value,  $p_{s+b}$  will be penalised by  $1 - p_b$  (that will be close to 0), resulting in  $CL_s > p_{s+b}$ , preventing the exclusion of the signal plus background model. Conversely, in the case where the two test statistics are well-separated and  $p_{s+b} < \alpha$ , then  $p_b$  will also be small and thus  $CL_s$  will be close to  $p_{s+b}$  obtained by the frequentist approach.



## **Part II**

# **The 1-lepton analysis**



# Chapter 4

## Analysis overview

This chapter aims to give an introduction to the search for electroweakinos presented in this work. First, the targeted final state, the 1-lepton final state, is introduced and motivated, followed by the SM background processes that need to be considered when doing searches for SUSY in this final state. Next the reconstruction and identification of physics objects as well as the event selection requirements are described.

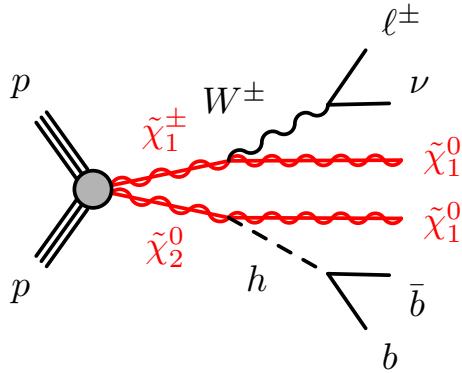
### 4.1 Search for electroweakinos in the 1-lepton final state

In the search for electroweakinos presented herein, the simplified model introduced in section 1.3.2 is interpreted in final states with one lepton, two  $b$ -jets and high missing transverse momentum. This final state can occur when the  $W$  boson decays through  $W^\pm \rightarrow \ell^\pm \nu_\ell$ , while the Higgs boson decays into  $h \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ . Although a final state without leptons would benefit from the higher branching fraction of the  $W^\pm \rightarrow q'\bar{q}$  decay, due to the QCD couplings these final states are largely dominated by QCD multi-jet background processes that are omnipresent at hadron colliders like the LHC. Final states with exactly one lepton have lower cross sections but allow to reject a majority of the QCD background, as pure QCD multi-jet events can only appear in the 1-lepton final state through false reconstruction of a jet as a lepton (so-called *fake* leptons).

Targeting the decay of the Higgs boson into a pair of  $b$  quarks benefits from the high branching ratio of 58.3% and allows a full reconstruction of Higgs candidates, a procedure that will be used to achieve a high signal-to-background ratio. Figure 4.1 shows the full signal model targeted in this search, including the considered decays of the  $W$  and Higgs bosons.

Previous searches for electroweakinos in this final state have been performed by the ATLAS [147, 148] and CMS [149] collaborations, excluding  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \tilde{\chi}_2^0$  masses up to 540 GeV and 490 GeV, respectively, for massless  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ . The two previous ATLAS searches used  $20.3 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$  and  $36.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$   $pp$  collision data, respectively. As opposed to this, the search presented in the following uses the full dataset available from the Run 2 data taking period, amounting to an unprecedented  $139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $pp$  collision data at  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ .

refer to observables



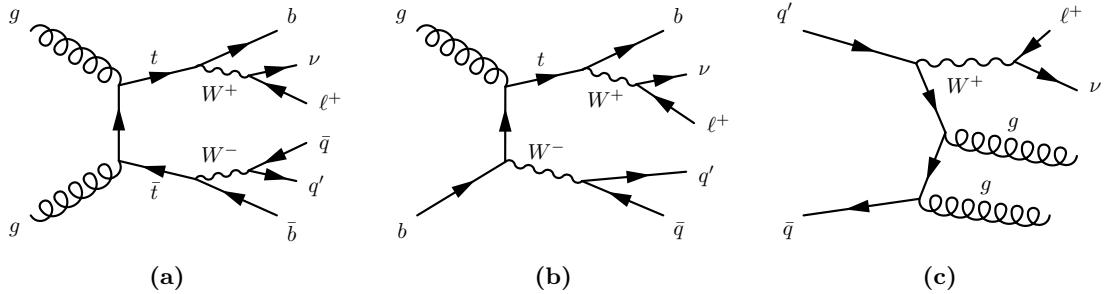
**Figure 4.1:** Diagram for the simplified model used in this work including the decays  $W^\pm \rightarrow \ell^\pm \nu_\ell$  and  $h \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ .

## 4.2 Standard Model backgrounds

Although the requirement of exactly one lepton isolated from surrounding hadronic activity significantly reduces the contribution from QCD multi-jet background, numerous SM processes can result in final states with exactly one isolated lepton, multiple jets and missing transverse momentum. Background sources are generally classified into *reducible* and *irreducible* backgrounds. Irreducible backgrounds are processes that have a physical phase space that is indistinguishable from the final state of the signal process considered. Reducible backgrounds, on the other hand, result from partially misreconstructed processes as well as mismeasurements. Examples of reducible processes are events where a lepton originates from a heavy flavour (HF) decay, photon conversions or misreconstructed jets. SM processes that result in final states with an isolated lepton, multiple jets and missing transverse momentum typically involve a  $W$  boson decaying into a lepton–neutrino pair (a so-called *leptonic decay*). The neutrino will contribute to the total missing transverse momentum in the event, while additional jets can appear in the final state through QCD radiation or other branches of the decay chain.

By far the largest SM background contributions stem from the production of top quarks, predominantly through top quark pair  $t\bar{t}$  production, where both top quarks decay into a  $W$  boson and a  $b$  quark. Final states with one isolated lepton can occur through leptonic decay of one of the  $W$  bosons. Figure 4.2(a) shows a diagram depicting an exemplary decay of a  $t\bar{t}$  system into a final state with one lepton, multiple jets (two of which originate from  $b$  quarks) and missing transverse momentum. In addition to  $t\bar{t}$ , single top production ( $s$ -channel,  $t$ -channel or  $tW$ -channel) can also result in similar final states as the SUSY signal and thus constitutes a significant SM background process. An exemplary decay is shown in fig. 4.2(b).

Apart from processes involving top quarks, the production of a  $W$  boson in association with multiple jets ( $W + \text{jets}$ ) is the third major background considered in the analysis. If the  $W$  boson undergoes a leptonic decay and two of the produced jets are tagged as originating from  $b$  quarks, the signature of this process is similar to that of signal events. An exemplary diagram for a  $W + \text{jets}$  event is shown in fig. 4.2(c).



**Figure 4.2:** Exemplary Feynman diagrams showing the dominant processes (a)  $t\bar{t}$ , (b) single top and (c)  $W + \text{jets}$  production with subsequent decays.

Production of multiple vector bosons  $V$  ( $= W, Z$ )—although not a dominant background due to low cross sections—can still result in the same final state as the signal process. In the following, diboson  $VV$  and multibosons  $VVV$  processes are considered.

Other SM backgrounds with small contributions in the phases spaces targeted by the analysis include  $Z + \text{jets}$  production,  $t\bar{t} + V$  production, as well as various processes involving Higgs bosons.  $Z + \text{jets}$  plays only a minor role, as the only irreducible component is  $Z(\rightarrow \tau\tau) + \text{jets}$ , where one  $\tau$ -lepton undergoes a leptonic decay and the other one a hadronic decay. Production of  $t\bar{t} + V$  has a similar topology as ordinary  $t\bar{t}$  processes but with lower cross section and additional objects in the final state. Higgs processes considered in the following include single Higgs production through vector boson fusion (VBF) or gluon–gluon fusion (ggF) as well as  $h + V$  and  $h + t\bar{t}$  processes. In the following, these backgrounds are simply labelled *other*.

Pure QCD multi-jet events can only appear in the 1-lepton final state through false reconstruction of a jet as a lepton (so-called *fake* leptons) and mismeasurement of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . As it has been shown that this background is negligible in all selections relevant to this search, no estimation for QCD contribution is considered in the following [150].

## 4.3 Monte Carlo samples

Table 4.1 summarises all MC generators and software versions used for the simulated events used in the following. Further details are given in the relevant ATLAS simulation notes [151–155].

### 4.3.1 Signal samples

The  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm/\tilde{\chi}_2^0$  pair production signal samples were generated at LO using MADGRAPH5\_AMC@NLO 2.6.2 [156, 157] with up to two additional partons in the ME. MADGRAPH5\_AMC@NLO is interfaced with PYTHIA8 [158] for the PS, hadronisation and underlying event, using the CKKW-L [159] scheme for matching the PS to the MEs. The NNPDF 2.3 LO [160] PDF set and the A14 set of tuned parameters [161] are used. For modelling the decay of HF quarks, EVTGEN [162] v1.6 is used.

As the  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm/\tilde{\chi}_2^0$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  masses are free parameters of the signal model, they are systematically scanned, resulting in a set of 164 distinct evenly distributed in the two-dimensional grid spanned

by the mass parameters. In the following the two-dimensional grid will be referred to as *signal grid*, while the distinct signal scenarios (each with a unique set of mass parameter values) will be referred to as *signal point*. The generated signal grid covers  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm/\tilde{\chi}_2^0$  masses from 150 GeV to 1.1 TeV and  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  masses from 0 GeV to 550 GeV, avoiding the kinematically forbidden region with  $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm/\tilde{\chi}_2^0) < m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) + m(h)$ .

Signal samples well within the expected sensitivity range of the analysis (with relatively low  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm/\tilde{\chi}_2^0$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  masses) are generated using the ATLFast-II detector simulation, while the full detector simulation using GEANT4 is used for the remaining model points for maximum accuracy. In order to account for pileup effects, all signal samples are overlaid with simulated minimum bias events generated using PYTHIA8 and the A3 tune [163], reweighted to match the pileup distribution measured in data.

The cross sections for chargino pair production have been calculated using RESUMMINO [164] at NLO in the strong coupling constant and including Next-to-leading logarithm (NLL) terms in the soft gluon resummation [165, 166].

#### 4.3.2 Background samples

Top pair production and single top processes were generated using POWHEG-Box v2 [167], implementing the POWHEG method [168, 169] for merging NLO MEs with the PSs. The PS, hadronisation and underlying event were simulated using PYTHIA8 with the A14 tune. Production of  $t\bar{t}$  in association with a vector boson  $t\bar{t} + V$  are generated using MADGRAPH5\_AMC@NLO 2.3.3, interfaced with PYTHIA8 for the PS. The set of PDFs used for simulation of  $t\bar{t}$ , single top, and  $t\bar{t} + V$  is the NNPDF2.3LO set.

Production of a vector boson  $V$  with additional jets ( $V + \text{jets}$ ) is simulated using SHERPA 2.2.1 [125, 170], allowing up to two (four) additional parton emissions at NLO (LO) accuracy. The CKKW ME+PS matching and merging scheme [171, 131], extended to NLO accuracy [172]. Diboson ( $VV$ ) and multiboson ( $VVV$ ) is simulated using SHERPA 2.2.1 and 2.2.2. The PDFs used are provided by the NNPDF3.0NNLO set [173] and the generator tune is the default SHERPA tune.

All Higgs processes are simulated using POWHEG-Box v2 for the ME calculations and PYTHIA8 for the PS, underlying event and hadronisation. While the generation of  $h + t\bar{t}$  uses the A14 tune and the NNPDF2.3LO set,  $h + V$  and single Higgs production are simulated using the NNPDF 3.0 NNLO set and the AZNLO [174] set of tuned generator parameters.

The detector simulation for all MC background samples was performed using the full detector simulation based on GEANT4, introduced in section 2.2.9. Except for the MC samples generated using SHERPA, all background samples use EVTGEN v1.2 or v1.6 to model the decay of HF quarks. Similar to the signal models, all background samples are mixed with simulated minimum bias events generated with PYTHIA8 and the A3 tune.

### 4.4 Object definitions

The reconstruction of physics objects requires the combination of data from multiple detector components. Due to finite detector resolutions, and the sheer amount of particles produced

**Table 4.1:** Overview of configuration of MC generators used for simulating the various signal and SM background processes.

Process	Matrix element	Parton shower	PDF set	Cross section	Tune
Signal	MADGRAPH5_AMC@NLO 2.6.2	PYTHIA 8.230	NNPDF 2.3 LO	NLO+NLL [164–166]	A14
$t\bar{t}$	POWHEG-BOX	PYTHIA 8.230	NNPDF2.3LO	NNLO+NNLL [175, 176]	A14
$t$ (s-channel)	POWHEG-BOX	PYTHIA 8.230	NNPDF2.3LO	NLO [177]	A14
$t$ (t-channel)	POWHEG-BOX	PYTHIA 8.230	NNPDF2.3LO	NLO [177]	A14
$t + W$	POWHEG-BOX	PYTHIA 8.230	NNPDF2.3LO	NNLO [177? , 178]	A14
$t\bar{t} + V$	MADGRAPH5_AMC@NLO 2.3.3	PYTHIA 8.210	NNPDF2.3LO	NLO [179, 180]	A14
$V + \text{jets}$	SHERPA 2.2.1		NNPDF3.0NNLO	NNLO [181]	SHERPA default
$VV$	SHERPA 2.2.1/2.2.2		NNPDF3.0NNLO	NLO [154]	SHERPA default
$VVV$	SHERPA 2.2.1/2.2.2		NNPDF3.0NNLO	NLO [154]	SHERPA default
$h + t\bar{t}$	POWHEG-BOX	PYTHIA 8.230	NNPDF2.3LO	NLO [182]	A14
$h + V$	POWHEG-BOX	PYTHIA 8.212	NNPDF3.0NNLO	NNLO [182]	AZNLO
$h$ ( $ggF$ )	POWHEG-BOX	PYTHIA 8.212	NNPDF3.0NNLO	$N^3LO+N^3LL$ [182]	AZNLO
$h$ ( $VBF$ )	POWHEG-BOX	PYTHIA 8.212	NNPDF3.0NNLO	NNLO [182]	AZNLO

in each collision, this process does not always work without flaws. Sometimes, objects are falsely reconstructed or not reconstructed at all. In order to minimise reconstruction errors, different identification and reconstruction criteria are introduced for each physics object category. Electrons and muons are categorised into *baseline* and *signal* objects. Baseline objects have a smaller purity but a higher acceptance which is e.g. useful for the reconstruction of the missing transverse momentum. Stricter identification and isolation criteria are required for signal objects, resulting in lower acceptances but also lower reconstruction errors. In this analysis, signal-type objects are used as the physical objects.

#### 4.4.1 Tracks and vertices

The reconstruction of tracks of charged particles starts with the formation of clusters from the raw data recorded in the Pixel and SCT detectors. Clusters are formed by grouping together adjacent pixels and strips with energy deposits above threshold and are subsequently used to create three-dimensional space-points, representing the points where charged particles traversed the active ID material [183]. Sets of three space-points form track seeds that serve as inputs for a combinatorial Kalman filtering technique [184] that includes additional space-points from the remaining pixel and SCT layers to extend the preliminary trajectory. A  $\chi^2$  track fit is performed at each step of the extension. Multiple track candidates are formed from seeds that can be extended by more than one compatible space-point in one layer. Ambiguities are resolved by assigning track candidates a score taking into account basic track properties like the  $\chi^2$  of the track fit, or its associated  $p_T$  [183]. The ambiguity solver requires track candidates to contain a minimum of 7 pixel and SCT clusters, have a maximum of one shared pixel cluster and two shared SCT clusters on the same layer and have no more than two holes<sup>†</sup> of which only one is allowed to be in the pixel detector. Track candidates also need to have  $p_T > 400$  MeV,  $|\eta| < 2.5$  and have longitudinal ( $z_0$ ) and transversal ( $d_0$ ) impact parameters with respect to their associated vertex satisfying  $|z_0 \sin \theta| < 3.0$  mm and  $|d_0| < 2.0$  mm, where  $\theta$  is the polar angle of the track. Track candidates surviving the ambiguity solver are extended by compatible

table with  
obj def  
somewhere

<sup>†</sup> Holes are intersections of the track trajectory with sensitive detector material not containing a cluster.

hits in the TRT [185] and subject to a global high-resolution track fit before being added to the final track collection [183].

Vertex reconstruction uses a selection of tracks satisfying a set of quality requirements [186] to fit the best vertex position in a procedure iteratively downweighting less compatible tracks [187]. Once the vertex position has been determined, incompatible tracks with small weights are removed and can be reused for the reconstruction of additional vertices [187]. All reconstructed vertices with at least two associated tracks are kept as valid primary vertex candidates. In events with multiple candidates, the primary vertex is defined to be the one with the highest  $\sum p_T^2$  of its associated tracks.

#### 4.4.2 Electrons and Photons

Electron and photon candidates are reconstructed from energy deposits in topologically connected cells in the electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters. The reconstruction algorithm starts with the preparation of the energy deposits into so-called *topo-clusters* [188]. These are formed by calorimeter cells containing energy deposits above a certain noise threshold, so-called *seed* cells, including their neighbouring cells which can, in turn, also act as seed cells. All cell signals are measured at the electromagnetic scale, assuming that energy deposits stem only from electromagnetic interactions. Although the topo-clustering algorithm starts with cells from both calorimeters, only cells from the EM calorimeter are used in the subsequent electron and photon reconstruction steps. Using only EM topo-clusters with a certain threshold ratio of the EM energy to the total cluster energy significantly reduces contamination from pileup clusters [189]. The EM topo-clusters are then loosely matched to ID tracks that are re-fitted in order to account for energy losses through bremsstrahlung [189]. Vertices from photon conversions are reconstructed from tracks matched to fixed-size clusters [190] and also matched to the EM topo-clusters. In the final step of the reconstruction algorithm, EM topo-clusters are sorted according to descending  $E_T$  and tested as seed clusters for dynamic, variable-size *superclusters*, with different seed requirements for electrons and photons [189]. Clusters near seed candidates can be added as satellites cluster candidates, originating e.g. from bremsstrahlung. Electrons and photons are then finally built from the reconstructed superclusters and their energies are calibrated using  $Z \rightarrow ee$  decays [191].

The identification of prompt electrons relies on a likelihood discriminant built from quantities measured in the ID and calorimeters. The quantities are chosen according to their ability of discriminating prompt isolated electrons from non-prompt leptons originating in HF decays, from photon conversions or from jets. They include the properties of the electron track, the shape of the EM shower and the quality of the match between the electron track and the calorimeter clusters [192]. Photon identification, on the other hand, relies on a cut-based selection exploiting the shape of the EM shower.

In this analysis, electrons are required to satisfy  $p_T > 7 \text{ GeV}$  and  $|\eta| < 2.47$ . Baseline electrons are identified using the *LooseAndBLayer* requirement on the identification likelihood, requiring a hit in the innermost layer of the pixel detector, at least two additional hits in the remaining layers of the pixel detector and seven hits in the pixel and SCT detectors combined [192]. In addition, the longitudinal impact parameter  $z_0$  of baseline electrons needs to satisfy  $\Delta z_0 \sin \theta < 0.5 \text{ mm}$  with respect to the primary vertex. Signal electrons are a subset of baseline electrons and need to satisfy the *tight* likelihood identification, yielding an efficiency of 80% for prompt electrons

with  $E_T = 40 \text{ GeV}$  [192]. In addition to the longitudinal impact parameter, signal leptons also need to satisfy  $d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 5$ , where the transverse impact parameter  $d_0$  and its uncertainty  $\sigma_{d_0}$  are measured with respect to the beam line.

Finally, electrons need to be *isolated*, meaning that the vicinity of electrons needs to be clear of additional significant detector activity. Requiring electrons to be isolated prevents the selection of non-prompt electrons originating e.g. from HF decays or misidentifications of light hadrons. Isolation is quantified using two observables, one using tracking information and the other one using calorimeter data. The track based isolation variable  $p_T^{\text{varcone}20}$  is the sum of all track momenta above 1 GeV, (excluding the electrons track itself) in a cone around the electron. The size of the cone is  $\Delta R = \min(10 \text{ GeV}/p_T, 0.2)$ , i.e. shrinking with increasing electrons  $p_T$ . The calorimeter based variable  $E_T^{\text{cone}20}$  corresponds to the sum of the transverse energies in topo-clusters (excluding the electrons itself and after correcting for pileup effects) in a cone with  $\Delta R = 0.2$  around the electrons. In this analysis, both baseline and signal electrons are required to satisfy the *Loose* working point [189], corresponding to the requirements  $p_T^{\text{varcone}20}/p_T < 0.2$  and  $E_T^{\text{cone}20} < 0.15$ . In order improve the rejection of non-prompt electrons at high transverse momenta, electrons with  $p_T > 200 \text{ GeV}$  need to satisfy the *HighPtCaloOnly* working point, applying the tighter requirement  $E_T^{\text{cone}20} < \max(0.015 \cdot p_T, 3.5 \text{ GeV})$ .

Photons are required to have  $p_T > 13 \text{ GeV}$  and  $|\eta| < 2.37$  and need to satisfy the *tight* identification and *FixedCutTight* isolation requirements [189]. In this analysis, photons are only used in the calculation of the missing transverse momentum.

#### 4.4.3 Muons

The reconstruction of muons uses primarily data from the ID and MS and is based on the fact that muons are minimum ionising particles. Muon candidates are independently reconstructed in the ID and the MS as muon tracks and only then combined to a muon candidate that can be used by physics analysis [193, 194]. The track reconstruction in the ID follows the same procedure used for other charged-particle tracks, described in section 4.4.1. In the MS, the muon track reconstruction starts with the identification of short straight-line track segments. Segments from different MS layers are combined into preliminary muon track candidates if they are loosely compatible with the IP and match a first-order approximation of the parabolic trajectory describing the muon track in the magnetic field. Track candidates are then fitted in a global  $\chi^2$  fit, taking into account possible MS chamber misalignments as well as interactions with the detector material [194]. In order to increase the reconstruction performance, MS muon tracks are subsequently combined with the ID tracks using five different reconstruction strategies, described in detail in [194]. Only two of these strategies are relevant for this analysis:

- *combined muons*, which are formed by combining the ID and MS tracks through a global fit, taking into account the energy loss in the calorimeters,
- *MS extrapolated muons*, which are built using MS muon tracks only, but extrapolating the tracks back to the IP and requiring them to be loosely compatible with the IP. Extrapolated muons are mainly used for providing acceptance in the region  $2.5 < |\eta| < 2.7$ , which is beyond the coverage provided by the ID.

After resolving the overlaps between the different muon types, the muon objects used for physics analysis are subject to a momentum calibration using data from  $J/\Psi \rightarrow \mu\mu$  and  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$  decays [193, 194].

Identification of muons is performed using quality requirements designed to suppress non-prompt muons originating from pion and kaon decays and allow a robust momentum measurement. Muons in this analysis are built using combined and extrapolated muons that satisfy the *medium* identification requirements [193]. Combined muons need to have at least three hits in at least two MDT layers, except for the region with  $|\eta| < 0.1$ , where a single MDT layer is enough, as long as there is no more than one MDT hole layer. Extrapolated muons need to have at least three hits in at least three MDT and CSC layers. In addition, all muons need to have a significance of the ratio of the measured charge and momentum of the muons satisfying  $\sigma(q/p) < 7$ .

Muons in this analysis also need to satisfy  $p_T > 6 \text{ GeV}$  as well as  $|\eta| < 2.7$  or  $|\eta| < 2.5$  for baseline or signal muons, respectively. The longitudinal impact parameter of baseline muons is required to be  $\Delta z_0 \sin \theta < 0.5 \text{ mm}$  with respect to the primary vertex. Signal muons additionally need to have a transverse impact parameter satisfying  $d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 3$ . Similar to electrons, muons also need to be isolated, using the same variables. Both signal and baseline muons need to conform to the *Loose* working point, requiring  $p_T^{\text{varcone}20}/p_T < 0.3$  and  $E_T^{\text{cone}20} < 0.15$  [194].

#### 4.4.4 Jets

Jets are reconstructed at the EM scale using the anti- $k_t$  algorithm [195] with a radius parameter  $R = 0.4$ , implemented in the FASTJET [196, 197] package. The inputs to the anti- $k_t$  algorithm are topo-clusters [198], built using the same procedure introduced in section 4.4.2. Tracks with  $p_T > 500 \text{ MeV}$  and an association to the primary vertex are assigned to jets using *ghost association* [199], a method treating them as particles with infinitesimal momentum such that the properties of the calorimeter-based jets are not changed.

Reconstructed jets undergo a jet energy scale (JES) calibration, correcting the four-momentum and scaling the energy and mass [198]. In a first step, energy contributions from in-time and out-of-time pileup are removed using a data-driven jet-by-jet approach based on jet areas and pileup  $p_T$  density as well as a residual correction derived from MC simulation and parameterised by the number of mean interactions per bunch crossing and the number of reconstructed primary vertices [198, 199]. The reconstructed jet four-momentum is corrected to the particle-level energy scale through an absolute JES and  $\eta$  calibration. In order to reduce the dependence of the jet response (i.e. the ratio between the measured jet energy and the true jet energy) on the flavour and energy distribution of its constituents, a series of multiplicative corrections, called global sequential calibration (GSC) [200], is applied. The GSC improves the jet energy resolution (JER) and is based on data from the calorimeters, jet-related tracking information as well as MS information. Differences between the jet response in data and MC simulation, caused by imperfect detector and physics simulations, are corrected using so-called *in situ* calibrations [198]. The jet response in data and MC simulations is measured separately, allowing to derive a correction factor that is applied on data. Similar to the JES, the JER is also calibrated. The JER is measured in dijet events through  $p_T$  asymmetry [201].

truth jets

Even after the subtraction of pileup effects, some pileup jets still remain. The jet vertex tagger (JVT) [202], a multivariate discriminant, can be used to suppress pileup jets. The JVT uses variables that describe the fraction of the total jet momentum corresponding to tracks associated to the primary vertex.

topo cluster [203] JES [204, 198] antikt [195] fastjet [196, 197]

#### 4.4.5 Flavour tagging

#### 4.4.6 Missing transverse momentum

### 4.5 Overlap removal

### 4.6 Event selection

### 4.7 Triggers



## **Chapter 5**

# **Signal region optimisation**



## **Chapter 6**

# **Background estimation**



## **Chapter 7**

# **Systematic uncertainties**



## **Chapter 8**

## **Results**



# **Part III**

# **Reinterpretation**



## **Chapter 9**

# **Simplified likelihoods**



## **Chapter 10**

# **Reinterpretation in the pMSSM**



## **Part IV**

# **Summary and Outlook**



## **Chapter 11**

### **Summary**

Here be dragons/



# **Part V**

# **Appendix**



# **Appendix A**

## **A.1 N-1 plots for cut-scan results**



## **Appendix B**

### **B.1 Scatter plots comparing truth and reco yields in the SRs**



# Abbreviations

**AFP** ATLAS Forward Proton. 50

**ALFA** Absolute Luminosity for ATLAS. 50

**BSM** Beyond the Standard Model. 41, 42, 49, 57

**CSC** Cathode Strip Chamber. 49, 50, 74

**DAQ** Data Acquisition System. 51, 52

**EM** Electromagnetic. 47, 48, 72, 74

**EMEC** Electromagnetic end-cap calorimeter. 48

**EWK** electroweak. 7

**FCal** Forward Calorimeter. 48

**FSR** Final State Radiation. 53, 54

**ggF** gluon–gluon fusion. 69

**GSC** global sequential calibration. 74

**HEC** Hadronic end-cap calorimeter. 48

**HF** heavy flavour. 68–70, 72, 73

**HLT** High Level Trigger. 51

**IBL** Insertable B-Layer. 46

**ID** Inner Detector. 45–48, 55, 71–73

**IP** Interaction Point. 43–45, 50, 73

**ISR** Initial State Radiation. 53, 54

**JER** jet energy resolution. 74

- JES** jet energy scale. 74
- JVT** jet vertex tagger. 75
- L1** Level 1. 51
- LAr** liquid argon. 47–49
- LEP** Large Electron Positron. 7, 37
- LHC** Large Hadron Collider. 37–39, 41–43, 67
- LO** Leading Order. 53, 69
- MC** Monte Carlo. 52, 53, 55, 58, 69–71, 74
- MDT** Monitoring Drift Tube. 49, 50, 74
- ME** Matrix Element. 53, 54, 69, 70
- MLE** Maximum Likelihood Estimator. 59, 60
- MS** Muon Spectrometer. 49, 50, 55, 73, 74
- NLL** Next-to-leading logarithm. 70
- NLO** Next-to-leading Order. 53, 70
- PDF** Parton Distribution Function. 44, 53, 69, 70
- pdf** Probability Density Function. 52, 57, 61, 62
- POI** Parameter of Interest. 58, 61
- PS** Parton Shower. 53–55, 69, 70
- QCD** Quantum Chromodynamics. 53, 54, 67–69
- QED** Quantum Electrodynamics. 7, 53, 54
- RF** Radio frequency. 38, 39
- ROIs** Regions of Interest. 51
- RPC** Resistive Plate Chamber. 49, 50
- SCT** Silicon Microstip Tracker. 45, 46, 71, 72
- SM** Standard Model of Particle Physics. 7, 8, 59, 67–69, 71
- SUSY** Supersymmetry. 37, 41, 51, 57, 59, 67, 68
- TGC** Thin Gap Chamber. 49, 50

**TRT** Transition Radiation Tracker. [45](#), [46](#), [72](#)

**VBF** vector boson fusion. [69](#)

**vdM** van der Meer. [42](#)

**ZDC** Zero-Degree Calorimeter. [50](#)



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## Acknowledgements

An dieser Stelle möchte ich mich herzlich bei allen bedanken, die mich bei der Anfertigung dieser Arbeit unterstützt haben. Insbesondere danke ich herzlich

- Prof. Dr. Dorothee Schaile für die Möglichkeit, diese Arbeit an ihrem Lehrstuhl durchzuführen sowie das Korrekturlesen der Arbeit.
- Dr. Jeanette Lorenz für die ausgezeichnete Betreuung, die vielen Anregungen, sowie die ehrliche und konstruktive Kritik beim Korrekturlesen dieser Arbeit. Sie hat es mir ermöglicht aktiv im 1-Lepton Analyseteam an der Suche nach Supersymmetrie mitwirken zu können.
- Dr. Nikolai Hartmann für die unzähligen Diskussionen über den Sinn und Unsinn der Datenanalyse mit und ohne ATLAS Software. Vielen Dank für die stets geduldige und ausführliche Beantwortung meiner Fragen, sowie das Bereitstellen unzähliger Zeilen Code, ohne die vieles schwieriger gewesen wäre.
- Allen Mitgliedern des Lehrstuhls Schaile für die angenehme und freundliche Arbeitsatmosphäre.
- Allen Freunden, die stets da waren, wenn ich sie gebraucht habe.

I also want to thank the entire 1-lepton analysis team, especially the coordinators Jeanette Lorenz, Da Xu and Alberto Cervelli. Thank you for the always supportive and enjoyable work environment. Many thanks also to Valentina Tudorache for patiently answering all my questions as well as all the entertaining conversations.

I would further like to thank Dr. Brian Petersen without whom the presented pMSSM studies would not have been possible.

En léiwen Merci och dem Yannick Erpelding fir d'Korrekturlesen—och wann en net alles verstanen huet—an dem Nick Beffort, fir all déi domm Reddit Posts, d'Korrekturlesen, an dei onzähleg Stonnen zesummen mat enger Spezi an der Hand.

Zu gudden Läschte, wëll ech op dëser Platz menger ganzer Famill merci soen, virun allem mengan léiwen Elteren an menger wonnerbarer Schwëster. Merci dass dir mëch bei allem waat ech maachen énnerstëtzzt an dass ech émmer op iech zielen kann, och wann ech weit fort sin. Ouni iech wier daat heiten net méiglech gewiescht. Besonneschen Merci och dem Nathalie Münster, dofir dass et mech seit Joren émmer énnerstëtzzt an émmer fir mech do as, och wann ech heiansdo depriméiert oder duercherneen sin.



## **Selbstständigkeitserklärung**

Hiermit erkläre ich, die vorliegende Arbeit mit dem Titel

**Search for electroweakinos using the ATLAS detector**

Suche nach Elektroweakinos mit dem ATLAS Detektor

selbstständig verfasst zu haben und keine anderen als die in der Arbeit angegebenen Quellen und Hilfsmittel benutzt zu haben.

Eric Schanet

München, den 01. Mai 2021