Search for direct production of charginos and neutralinos in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV pp collisions with the ATLAS detector


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Search for direct production of charginos and neutralinos in events with three leptons and missing transverse momentum in $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV $pp$ collisions with the ATLAS detector

The ATLAS Collaboration

Abstract

A search for the direct production of charginos and neutralinos in final states with three electrons or muons and missing transverse momentum is presented. The analysis is based on 4.7 fb$^{-1}$ of $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV proton-proton collision data delivered by the Large Hadron Collider and recorded with the ATLAS detector. Observations are consistent with Standard Model expectations in three signal regions that are either depleted or enriched in $Z$-boson decays. Upper limits at 95% confidence level are set in R-parity conserving phenomenological minimal supersymmetric models and in simplified models, significantly extending previous results.
Abstract

A search for the direct production of charginos and neutralinos in final states with three electrons or muons and missing transverse momentum is presented. The analysis is based on 4.7 fb⁻¹ of √s = 7 TeV proton-proton collision data delivered by the Large Hadron Collider and recorded with the ATLAS detector. Observations are consistent with Standard Model expectations in three signal regions that are either depleted or enriched in Z-boson decays. Upper limits at 95% confidence level are set in R-parity conserving phenomenological minimal supersymmetric models and in simplified models, significantly extending previous results.

1. Introduction

Supersymmetry (SUSY) postulates the existence of SUSY particles, or “sparticles”, with spin differing by one-half unit with respect to that of their Standard Model (SM) partner. If R-parity is conserved, the lightest SUSY particle (LSP) is stable and sparticles can only be pair-produced and decay into final states with SM particles and LSPs. Charginos (χ±₁, i = 1, 2) and neutralinos (χ₀ₐ, j = 1, 2, 3, 4) are the mass eigenstates formed from the linear superposition of the SUSY partners of the Higgs and electroweak gauge bosons. These are the Higgsinos, and the winos, zinos, and bino, collectively known as gauginos. Naturalness requires χ⁺ᵢ and χ₀ᵢ (and third-generation sparticles) to have masses in the hundreds of GeV range. In scenarios where squark and gluino masses are larger than a few TeV, the direct production of gauginos may be the dominant SUSY process at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). Charginos can decay into leptonic final states via sneutrinos (νℓ), sleptons (ℓν) or W bosons (Wχ₀ᵢ), while unstable neutralinos can decay via sleptons (ℓℓ) or Z bosons (Zχ₀ᵢ).

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

2. Detector Description

ATLAS is a multipurpose particle detector with forward-backward symmetric cylindrical geometry. It includes an inner tracker (ID) immersed in a 2 T magnetic field providing precision tracking of charged particles and high-precision tracking capabilities for the direct production of charginos and neutralinos leading to three-lepton final states is χ⁺ᵢ and χ₀ᵢ depends on the gaugino masses M₁ and M₂, the Higgs mass parameter μ, and tan β, the ratio of the expectation values of the two Higgs doublets. The dominant mode for gaugino production leading to three-lepton final states is χ₁⁺ × χ₂⁻ production via the s-channel exchange of a virtual gauge boson. Other χ₁⁺ × χ₀ᵢ processes contribute a maximum of

1. ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point (IP) in the centre of the detector and the z-axis along the beam pipe. The x-axis points from the IP to the centre of the LHC ring, and the y-axis points upward. Cylindrical coordinates (r, φ) are used in the transverse plane, φ being the azimuthal angle around the beam pipe. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle θ as η = −ln tan(θ/2).
20% to three-lepton final states depending on the values of the mass parameters. The right-handed sleptons (including third-generation sleptons) are assumed to be degenerate and have a mass \(m_{\tilde{e}_L} = (m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_2} + m_{\tilde{\chi}^+_1})/2\), set via the right-handed SUSY-breaking slepton mass parameter at the electroweak scale. In these scenarios, decays to sleptons are favoured. The parameter \(\tan \beta\) is set to 6, yielding comparable branching ratios into each slepton generation. The masses of the gluinos, squarks and left-handed sleptons are chosen to be larger than 2 TeV. In order to achieve maximum mixing in the top squark sector the corresponding trilinear couplings are set to non-zero values, while all other trilinear couplings are set to zero.

In the simplified models considered, the masses of the relevant particles \((\tilde{\chi}^+_1, \tilde{\chi}^0_2, \tilde{\nu}_L, \tilde{t}_L)\) are the only free parameters. The charginos and heavy neutralinos are set to be wino-like and mass degenerate, and the lightest neutralino is set to be bino-like. Two different scenarios are considered. In the first case, the \(\tilde{\chi}^+_1\) and \(\tilde{\chi}^0_2\) are pair-produced and decay via left-handed sleptons, including staus, and sneutrinos of mass \(m_\tilde{\nu} = m_{\tilde{e}_L} = (m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_2} + m_{\tilde{\chi}^+_1})/2\) with a branching ratio of 50% each. In the second scenario, the \(\tilde{\chi}^+_1\) and \(\tilde{\chi}^0_2\) decay via W and Z bosons.

### 4. Monte Carlo Simulation

Several Monte Carlo (MC) generators are used to simulate SM processes and new physics signals relevant for this analysis. SHERPA [25] is used to simulate diboson processes \(WZ\) and \(ZZ\). These include all diagrams leading to three leptons and one neutrino, and to four leptons, respectively, including internal conversions (virtual photons converting into lepton pairs). HERWIG [26] is used for \(WW\), while MadGraph [27] is used for the \(tt\), \(t\bar{t}W\), \(t\bar{t}WW\), \(t\bar{t}Z\), \(W\gamma\) and \(Z\gamma\) processes. MCFM [28] is chosen for the simulation of single- and pair-production of top quarks, and ALPGEN [29] is used to simulate \(W/Z + \) jets. Expected diboson yields are normalised using next-to-leading-order (NLO) QCD predictions obtained with MCFM [30, 31]. The top-quark pair-production contribution is normalised to approximate next-to-next-to-leading-order calculations (NNLO) [32] and the \(t\bar{t}W(W)/Z\) contributions are normalised to NLO [33, 34]. The \(W\gamma\) and \(Z\gamma\) yields are normalised to be consistent with the ATLAS cross-section measurement [35]. The QCD NNLO FEWZ [36, 37] cross-sections are used for normalisation of the inclusive \(W +\) light-flavour jets and \(Z +\) light-flavour jets. The ratio of the NNLO to LO cross-section is used to rescale the \(W +\) heavy-flavour jets and \(Z +\) heavy-flavour jets LO cross-sections.

The choice of the parton distribution functions (PDFs) depends on the generator. The CTEQ6L1 [38] PDFs are used with MadGraph and ALPGEN, and the CT10 [39] PDFs with MCFM and SHERPA. The MRTSmcal PDF set [40] is used for HERWIG.

The pMSSM samples are produced with HERWIG and the simplified model samples with Herwig++ [41]. The yields of the SUSY samples are normalised to the NLO cross-sections obtained from PROSPINO [12] using the PDF set CTEQ6.6 with the renormalisation/factorisation scales set to the average of the relevant gaugino masses.

Fragmentation and hadronisation for the ALPGEN and MCFM (MadGraph) samples are performed with HERWIG (PYTHIA [23]), while for SHERPA, these are performed internally. JIMMY [14] is interfaced to HERWIG for simulating the underlying event. For all MC samples, the propagation of particles through the ATLAS detector is modelled using GEANT4 [15, 16]. The effect of multiple proton-proton collisions from the same or different bunch crossings is incorporated into the simulation by overlaying additional minimum bias events onto hard-scatter events using PYTHIA. Simulated events are weighted to match the distribution of the number of interactions per bunch crossing observed in data.

### 5. Event Reconstruction and Preselection

The data sample was collected with an inclusive selection of single-lepton and double-lepton triggers. For single-lepton triggers, at least one reconstructed muon (electron) is requested to have transverse momentum \(p_T^\mu\) \(\geq 12\) GeV (transverse energy \(E_T^\gamma\) above 20 GeV (25 GeV). For di-lepton triggers, at least two leptons are required to be present in the event with transverse energy or momentum above threshold.

The two muons are required to have \(p_T^\mu > 10\) GeV for di-muon triggers, and the two electrons to have \(E_T^\gamma > 17\) GeV for di-electron triggers, while the thresholds for electron-muon triggers are \(E_T^\gamma > 15\) GeV and \(p_T^\mu > 10\) GeV. These thresholds are chosen such that the overall trigger efficiency is high, typically in excess of 90%, and independent of the transverse momentum of the triggerable objects within uncertainties.

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

Electrons must satisfy “tight” identification criteria [47] and fulfill \(|\eta| < 2.47\) and \(E_T > 10\) GeV, where \(E_T\) and \(|\eta|\) are determined from the calibrated clustered energy deposits in the electromagnetic calorimeter and the matched ID track respectively. Muons are reconstructed by combining tracks in the ID and tracks in the muon spectrometer [48]. Reconstructed muons are considered as candidates if they have transverse momentum \(p_T > 10\) GeV and \(|\eta| < 2.4\).

“Tagged” leptons are electrons and muons, well separated from each other and from each candidate jet. Events containing at least one tagged muon having transverse impact parameter with respect to the primary vertex \(|d_0| > 0.2\) mm or longitudinal impact parameter with respect to the primary vertex \(|z_0| > 1\) mm are rejected to suppress cosmic muon background. “Signal leptons” are tagged leptons for which the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of tracks within a cone of \(\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta \phi)^2 + (\Delta \eta)^2} = 0.2\)
around the lepton candidate, and excluding the lepton candidate track itself, is less than 10% of the lepton $E_T$ for electrons and less than 1.8 GeV for muons. Tracks selected for the electron and muon isolation requirement, defined above, have $p_T > 1$ GeV and are associated to the primary vertex of the event. To suppress leptons originating from secondary vertices, the distance of closest approach of the lepton track to the primary vertex normalised to its uncertainty is required to be small, with $|d_0|/\sigma(d_0) < 6(3)$ for electrons (muons).

Jets are reconstructed using the anti-$k_t$ algorithm [49] with a radius parameter of $R = 0.4$ using clustered energy deposits calibrated at the electromagnetic scale. The jet energy is corrected to account for the non-compensating nature of the calorimeter using correction factors parameterised as a function of the jet $E_T$ and $\eta$ [50]. The correction factors applied to jets have been obtained from simulation and have been tuned and validated using data. Jets considered in this analysis have $E_T > 20$ GeV, $|\eta| < 2.5$ and a fraction of the jet’s track transverse momenta that can be associated with the primary vertex greater than 0.75. Events containing jets failing the quality criteria described in Ref. [54] are rejected to suppress both SM and beam-induced background. Jets are identified as containing $b$-hadron decays, and thus called “$b$-tagged”, using a multivariate technique based on quantities such as the impact parameters of the tracks associated to a reconstructed secondary vertex. The $b$-tagging algorithm [51] correctly identifies $b$-quark jets in simulated top-quark decays with an efficiency of 60% and misidentifies jets containing light-flavour quarks and gluons with a rate of < 1%, for jets with $|\eta| < 2.5$ and jet $E_T > 20$ GeV.

The missing transverse momentum, $E_{T}^{\text{miss}}$, is the magnitude of the vector sum of the transverse momentum or transverse energy of all $p_T > 10$ GeV muons, $E_T > 20$ GeV electrons, $E_T > 20$ GeV jets, and calibrated calorimeter clusters with $|\eta| < 4.9$ not associated to these objects [52].

6. Signal Region Selection

Selected events must contain exactly three signal leptons. As R-parity conserving leptonic decays of $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ yield same-flavour opposite-sign (SFOS) lepton pairs, the presence of at least one such pair is required. The invariant mass of any SFOS lepton pair must be above 20 GeV to suppress background from low-mass resonances and the missing transverse momentum must satisfy $E_{T}^{\text{miss}} > 75$ GeV.

Three signal regions are then defined: two “$Z$-depleted” regions (SR1a and SR1b), with no SFOS pairs having invariant mass within 10 GeV of the nominal $Z$-boson mass; and a “$Z$-enriched” one (SR2), where at least one SFOS pair has an invariant mass within 10 GeV of the $Z$-boson mass. Events in SR1a and SR1b are further required to contain no $b$-tagged jets to suppress contributions from $b$-jet-rich background processes, where a lepton could originate from the decay of a heavy-flavor quark. SR1b is designed to increase sensitivity to scenarios characterised by large mass splittings between the heavy gauginos and the LSP by requiring all three leptons to have $p_T > 30$ GeV. In both SR1b and SR2, the transverse mass variable $m_T$ must take values greater than 90 GeV, where $m_T$ is constructed using the $E_{T}^{\text{miss}}$ and the lepton not included in the lepton pair with invariant mass closest to the nominal $Z$-boson mass. The $m_T$ requirement is introduced to suppress background from $WZ$ events. The SR1a/b regions target neutralino decays via intermediate sleptons or via off-shell $Z$ bosons while SR2 targets decays via an on-shell $Z$ boson. Table 1 summarises the selection requirements for the three signal regions.

7. Standard Model Background Estimation

7.1. Reducible Background Processes

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

In this implementation of the matrix method, the signal lepton with the highest $p_T$ or $E_T$ is taken to be real, which is a valid assumption in 99% of the cases, based on simulation. The number of observed events with one or two fakes is then extracted from a system of linear equations relating the number of events with two additional signal or tagged candidates to the number of events with two additional candidates that are either real or fake. The coefficients of the linear equations are functions of the real-lepton identification efficiencies and of the fake-object misidentification probabilities.
The identification efficiency is measured in data using lepton candidates from $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ decays. Misidentification probabilities for each relevant fake type (heavy flavour or conversion) and for each reducible background process, parameterised with the lepton $p_T$ and $\eta$, are obtained using simulated events with one signal and two tagged leptons. These misidentification probabilities are then corrected using the ratio (fake scale factor) of the misidentification probability in data to that in simulation obtained from dedicated control samples. For heavy-flavour fakes, the correction factor is measured in a $bb$-dominated control sample. This is defined by selecting events with only one $b$-tagged jet (containing a muon) and a tagged lepton, for which the fake rate is measured. The non-$bb$ background includes top-quark pair production and $W$ bosons produced in association with a $b$-quark. An $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ requirement of less than 40 GeV suppresses both the $t\bar{t}$ and the $W$ contamination, while requiring $m_T < 40$ GeV reduces the $W$ background. The remaining (small) background is subtracted from data using MC predictions. The fake scale factor for the conversion candidates is determined in a sample of photons radiated from a muon in $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ decays. These are selected by requiring $m_{\mu\mu}$ to lie within 10 GeV of the nominal $Z$-boson mass value. A weighted average misidentification probability is then calculated by weighting the corrected type- and process-dependent misidentification probabilities according to the relative contributions in a given signal or validation region, defined below.

7.2. Irreducible Background Processes

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

The largest irreducible background, $WZ$, is determined using a semi-data-driven approach. The $WZ$ background is fit to data in a control region including events with exactly three leptons, one SFOS lepton pair, a $Z$ candidate, $E_T^{\text{miss}} < 50$ GeV, a $b$-veto, and $m_T > 40$ GeV. The $WZ$ purity in the control region is $\sim 80\%$. Non-$WZ$ backgrounds, both irreducible and reducible, are determined based on simulation or by using the matrix method and subtracted. A $WZ$ normalisation factor $1.25\pm0.12$ is obtained in the control region under a background-only hypothesis and used to estimate the $WZ$ background in the validation regions. To obtain the model-independent 95% CL upper limit on the new phenomena cross-section, a fit is performed simultaneously in the $WZ$ control region and in the signal region, with floating $WZ$ normalisation factor and a non-negative signal in the signal region only. This allows the propagation of the uncertainties on the normalisation factor. When setting limits on specific new physics scenarios, the potential signal contamination in the $WZ$ control region is accounted for in the simultaneous fit.

8. Background Model Validation

The background predictions have been tested in various validation regions. A region (VR1) dominated by Drell-Yan and $WZ$ events is selected by requiring three signal leptons, at least one SFOS lepton pair, $30\text{ GeV} < E_T^{\text{miss}} < 75$ GeV, and a $Z$-boson veto. A reducible-background dominated region (VR2, where top-quark pair-production and decay to two real and one fake lepton is the main contribution) is built by requiring three signal leptons, $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 50$ GeV and by vetoing SFOS lepton pairs. Finally, a $WZ$-dominated region (VR3) is defined by selecting events with three signal leptons, at least one SFOS lepton pair, a $Z$ candidate, and $50\text{ GeV} < E_T^{\text{miss}} < 75$ GeV. The data and predictions are in agreement within the quoted statistical and systematic uncertainties as shown in Table 2.

9. Systematic uncertainties

Several sources of systematic uncertainty are considered in the signal, control and validation regions. The systematic uncertainties affecting the simulation-based estimates (the yield of the irreducible background, the cross-section weighted misidentification probabilities, the signal yield) include the theoretical cross-section uncertainties due to renormalisation and factorisation scale and PDFs, the acceptance uncertainty due to PDFs, the uncertainty on the luminosity, the uncertainty due to the jet energy scale, jet energy resolution, lepton energy scale, lepton energy resolution, lepton efficiency, $b$-tagging efficiency, mistag probability, and the choice of MC generator. In SR1a, the total uncertainty on the irreducible background is 24%. This is dominated by the uncertainty on the efficiency of the signal region selection for the $WZ$ generator, determined by comparing the nominal yield with that obtained with the HERWIG generator and found to be 26%. The next largest uncertainties are the uncertainty due to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection</th>
<th>VR1</th>
<th>VR2</th>
<th>VR3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}Z$</td>
<td>0.17±0.14</td>
<td>0.12±0.10</td>
<td>1.1±0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}W$</td>
<td>0.6±0.5</td>
<td>0.7±0.5</td>
<td>0.10±0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}WW$</td>
<td>0.017±0.014</td>
<td>0.022±0.017</td>
<td>0.0023±0.0019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ZZ$</td>
<td>17±15</td>
<td>0.10±0.05</td>
<td>3.9±0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$WZ$</td>
<td>46±8</td>
<td>0.93±0.29</td>
<td>98±12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducible Bkg.</td>
<td>50±28</td>
<td>13±7</td>
<td>3.1±0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bkg.</td>
<td>114±32</td>
<td>15±7</td>
<td>106±13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
the MC generator (16%) and that on the cross-sections (9%) of the non-WZ background. The MC generator uncertainty partially accounts for the cross-section uncertainty, leading to a slight overestimate of the overall uncertainty. All the remaining uncertainties on the irreducible background in this signal region range between 0.5 and 5%. The total uncertainty on the irreducible background in SR1b is slightly larger, at 25%, due to the limited number of simulated events. In SR2, the uncertainty on the irreducible background is 24%, with increased contributions from the jet energy scale and resolution and cross-section uncertainties.

The uncertainty on the reducible background includes the MC uncertainty on the weights for the misidentification probabilities from the sources listed above (up to 10%) and the uncertainty due to the dependence of the misidentification probability on $E_{T}^{miss}$ (0.6–15%). Also included in the uncertainty on the reducible background is the uncertainty on the fake scale factors (10–34%), and that due to the limited number of data events with three tagged leptons, of which at least one is a signal lepton (19–130%). The latter uncertainty is highest in SR2 where the reducible background is very low.

The total uncertainties on the signal yields are 10–20%, where the largest contribution is from the uncertainty on the cross-sections (7%). Signal cross-sections are calculated to NLO in the strong coupling constant using PROSPINO. An envelope of cross-section predictions is defined using the 68% CL ranges of the CTEQ6.6 [21] (including the $\alpha_{s}$ uncertainty) and the MSTW [22] PDF sets, together with variations of the factorisation and renormalisation scales by factors of two or one half. The nominal cross-section value is taken to be the midpoint of the envelope and the uncertainty assigned is half the full width of the envelope, following the PDF4LHC recommendations [23].

In all of the above, the value used for the uncertainty on the luminosity is 3.9% [24]. Correlations of systematic uncertainties between processes and regions are accounted for.

10. Results and Interpretation

The numbers of observed events and the prediction for SM backgrounds in SR1a, SR1b and SR2 are given in Table 3. Distributions of the $E_{T}^{miss}$ in SR1a and SR2 are presented in Fig. 1.

No significant excess of events is found in any of the three signal regions. Upper limits on the visible cross-section, defined as the production cross-section times acceptance times efficiency, of 3.0 fb in SR1a, 0.7 fb in SR1b and 2.0 fb in SR2 are placed at 95% CL with the modified frequentist CL$_{s}$ prescription [25]. All systematic uncertainties and their correlations are taken into account via nuisance parameters in a profile likelihood fit [26]. The corresponding expected limits are 3.0 fb, 0.8 fb and 2.0 fb, respectively.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection</th>
<th>SR1a</th>
<th>SR1b</th>
<th>SR2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}Z$</td>
<td>0.06±0.05</td>
<td>0.025±0.023</td>
<td>0.6±0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}W$</td>
<td>0.36±0.29</td>
<td>0.10±0.08</td>
<td>0.09±0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}WW$</td>
<td>0.010±0.008</td>
<td>0.0023±0.0019</td>
<td>0.004±0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZZ</td>
<td>0.67±0.21</td>
<td>0.09±0.08</td>
<td>0.34±0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WZ</td>
<td>15.5±2.9</td>
<td>1.05±0.28</td>
<td>9.3±2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducible Bkg.</td>
<td>10±5</td>
<td>0.35±0.34</td>
<td>0.5±0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Bkg.</td>
<td>25±6</td>
<td>1.6±0.5</td>
<td>10.9±2.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data | 24 | 0 | 11 |

SUSY ref. point 1 | 8.0±0.8 | 6.5±0.6 | 0.36±0.05 |
SUSY ref. point 2 | 1.03±0.19 | 0.21±0.09 | 10.9±1.0 |
Visible $\sigma$ (exp) | <3.0 fb | <0.8 fb | <2.0 fb |
Visible $\sigma$ (obs) | <3.0 fb | <0.7 fb | <2.0 fb |

SR1a and SR1b provide the best sensitivity for the pMSSM scenarios; in particular SR1a (SR1b) targets scenarios with small (large) mass splitting between the heavy gauginos and the LSP. The limits are calculated using the signal region providing the best expected limit for each of the model points. The uncertainties on the signal cross-section are not included in the limit calculation but their impact on the observed limit is shown.

The main features in the exclusion limits shown in Fig. 2 as a function of the three parameters $M_{1}$, $M_{2}$ and $\mu$ can be explained in broad terms as follows. For a given value of $M_{1}$, for example $M_{1} = 100$ GeV in Fig. 2 (a), the production cross-section decreases as $M_{2}$ and $\mu$ increase, which explains why limits become less stringent when both $M_{2}$ and $\mu$ take high values. In general, the sensitivity is reduced in the region at low $M_{2}$ and high $\mu$, due to the small mass splitting between the $\chi_{0}^{0}$ and the $\chi_{1}^{0}$. When $\mu$ is greater than $M_{1}$ and $M_{2}$, which is true for example in the rightmost part of the exclusion plots for $M_{1} = 100$ GeV (Fig. 2 (a)) and $M_{1} = 140$ GeV (Fig. 2 (b)), the mass of the gauginos does not depend on $\mu$ and the sensitivity remains constant as a function of $\mu$. On the contrary, in a large section of the plane shown for $M_{1} = 250$ GeV (Fig. 2 (c)), the condition that $\mu$ should be greater than $M_{1}$ is not fulfilled and the resulting limits on the same plane become less stringent. Additionally, the reduced reach at high $M_{2}$ and low $\mu$ for $M_{1} = 140$ GeV can be explained in terms of smaller cross-section values and smaller mass splittings in that section of the parameter space. The difference between expected and observed limits seen in the upper right corner of the $M_{1} = 100$ GeV exclusion plot, where SR1b has the best sensitivity, is explained by the observed under-fluctuation in data with respect to SM predictions.
The value of $\tan \beta$ does not have a significant impact on $\sigma(pp \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_i^\pm \tilde{\chi}^0_j) \times BR(\tilde{\chi}_i^\pm \rightarrow \ell \nu \tilde{\chi}_j^0)$, which decreases by 10% if $\tan \beta$ is raised from 6 to 10.

The results obtained in signal regions SR1a and SR1b are combined with results from the relevant signal region in the ATLAS two-lepton search (SR-$m_{T2}$) [6]. The fits are performed on the combined likelihood function from $m_{T2}$ with SR1a, and from $m_{T2}$ with SR1b. The combination yielding the highest expected sensitivity is selected for optimal exclusions in the pMSSM planes (Fig. 2). The uncertainties are profiled in the likelihood and correlations between channels and processes are taken into account. An improvement in the sensitivity for $M_1 = 250$ GeV and small values of $M_2$ is seen when results from the three-lepton and the two-lepton analyses are combined.

Region SR1b provides the best sensitivity to the sim-

Figure 1: $E_T^{miss}$ distributions for events in signal regions SR1a (a) and SR2 (b). The uncertainty band includes both statistical and systematic uncertainty, while the uncertainties on the data points are statistical only. The yields for two of the simplified model scenarios are also shown for illustration purposes: one with intermediate sleptons “SUSY ref. point 1” ($m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^+}, m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}, m_{\tilde{\chi}_2^0} = 425, 425, 250, 75$ GeV) and a second with no sleptons “SUSY ref. point 2” ($m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^+}, m_{\tilde{\chi}_2^0}, m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 150, 150, 0$ GeV). The signal distribution is not stacked on top of the expected background.

The observed and expected 95% CL limit contours for chargino and neutralino production in the pMSSM for $M_1 = 100$ GeV (a), $M_1 = 140$ GeV (b) and $M_1 = 250$ GeV (c). The regions with low values of $M_2$ and $\mu$ are the excluded ones for all values of $M_1$. The expected and observed limits are calculated without signal cross-section uncertainty taken into account. The yellow band is the $\pm 1\sigma$ experimental uncertainty on the expected limit (black dashed line). The red dotted band is the $\pm 1\sigma$ signal theory uncertainty on the observed limit (red solid line). The LEP2 limit in the Figure corresponds to the limit on the $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ mass in [21] as transposed to this pMSSM plane. Linear interpolation is used to account for the discreteness of the signal grids. The exclusion contours are optimised by applying in each signal grid point the CL values from the most sensitive signal region (lowest expected CL) for $M_1 = 100$ GeV and 140 GeV, whereas signal region SR1a is used for $M_1 = 250$ GeV.
plified models with intermediate slepton decay for which the interpretation is shown in Fig. 3 (a). In the simplified models with intermediate slepton decays, degenerate $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ and $\tilde{\chi}_0$ masses up to 500 GeV are excluded for large mass differences from the $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$. Both SR1a and SR2 are used to interpret the results in the simplified model with gauginos decaying via gauge bosons (Fig. 4 (b)). The signal region SR1a has the best sensitivity for small mass differences between the heavy and light neutralinos, while SR2 is sensitive to decays of $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ into on-mass-shell $Z$ bosons.

Figure 4: Observed and expected 95% CL limit contours for chargino and neutralino production in the simplified model scenario with intermediate slepton decay (a) and intermediate gauge boson decay (b). The colour coding is the same as that in Figure 3. For scenarios with intermediate slepton decay (with no intermediate slepton decay) the reference point is “SUSY ref. point 2” (“SUSY ref. point 2”). The “ATLAS 2.06 fb$^{-1}$ 3 leptons” contour corresponds to the result of the ATLAS search documented in [18].

11. Summary

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

12. Acknowledgements

We thank CERN for the very successful operation of the LHC, as well as the support staff from our institutions without whom ATLAS could not be operated efficiently.

We acknowledge the support of ANPCyT, Argentina; YerPhI, Armenia; ARC, Australia; BMWF, Austria; ANAS, Azerbaijan; STFC, Belaruas; CPNPq and FAPESP, Brazil; NSERC, NRC and CFI, Canada; CAS, MOST and NSFC, China; COLCIENCIAS, Colombia; MSMT CR, MPO CR and VSC CR, Czech Republic; FNRS and FWO, Belgium; CEA, CNRS/IN2P3, RAL (UK) and the ATLAS Tier-1 facilities at TRIUMF (Canada), NDGF (Denmark, Norway, Sweden), CC-IN2P3 (France), KIT/GridKA (Germany), INFN-CNAF (Italy), NL-T1 (Netherlands), PIC (Spain), ASGC (Taiwan), RAL (UK) and BNL (USA) and in the Tier-2 facilities worldwide.

References

Nevis Laboratory, Columbia University, Irvington NY, United States of America
Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, København, Denmark
AGH University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, Krakow, Poland
The Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, Poland
Physics Department, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX, United States of America
Physics Department, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson TX, United States of America
DESY, Hamburg and Zeuthen, Germany
Institut für Experimentelle Physik IV, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany
Institut für Kern-und Teilchenphysik, Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden, Germany
Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham NC, United States of America
SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
INFN Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati, Italy
Fakultät für Mathematik und Physik, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg, Germany
Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland
INFN Sezione di Genova; (b)Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Genova, Genova, Italy
E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi; (b)High Energy Physics Institute, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
II Physikalisches Institut, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Giessen, Germany
SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom
II Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany
Laboratoire de Physique Subatomique et de Cosmologie, Université Joseph Fourier and CNRS/IN2P3 and Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble, Grenoble, France
Department of Physics, Hampton University, Hampton VA, United States of America
Laboratory for Particle Physics and Cosmology, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, United States of America
(a)Kirchhoff-Institut für Physik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; (b)Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; (c)ZITI Institut für technische Informatik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Mannheim, Germany
Faculty of Applied Information Science, Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Hiroshima, Japan
Department of Physics, Indiana University, Bloomington IN, United States of America
Institut für Astro-und Teilchenphysik, Leopold-Franzens-Universität, Innsbruck, Austria
University of Iowa, Iowa City IA, United States of America
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames IA, United States of America
Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, JINR Dubna, Dubna, Russia
KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Japan
Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan
Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
Kyoto University of Education, Kyoto, Japan
Department of Physics, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan
Instituto de Física La Plata, Universidad Nacional de La Plata and CONICET, La Plata, Argentina
Physics Department, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom
(a)INFN Sezione di Lecce; (b)Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università del Salento, Lecce, Italy
Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom
Department of Physics, Jožef Stefan Institute and University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
School of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom
Department of Physics, Royal Holloway University of London, Surrey, United Kingdom
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom
Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et de Hautes Énergies, UPMC and Université Paris-Diderot and CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France
Fysiska institutionen, Lunds universitet, Lund, Sweden
Departamento de Física Teórica C-15, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany
School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom
CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France
Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA, United States of America
Department of Physics, McGill University, Montreal QC, Canada
School of Physics, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
137 Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz CA, United States of America
138 Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle WA, United States of America
139 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom
140 Department of Physics, Shinshu University, Nagano, Japan
141 Fachbereich Physik, Universität Siegen, Siegen, Germany
142 Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC, Canada
143 SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford CA, United States of America
144 (a)Faculty of Mathematics, Physics & Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava; (b)Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice, Slovak Republic
145 (a)Department of Physics, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg; (b)School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
146 (a)Department of Physics, Stockholm University; (b)The Oskar Klein Centre, Stockholm, Sweden
147 Physics Department, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden
148 Departments of Physics & Astronomy and Chemistry, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook NY, United States of America
149 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
150 School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
151 Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
152 Department of Physics, Technion: Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel
153 Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
154 Department of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece
155 International Center for Elementary Particle Physics and Department of Physics, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
156 Graduate School of Science and Technology, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo, Japan
157 Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan
158 Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto ON, Canada
159 (a)TRIUMF, Vancouver BC; (b)Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Toronto ON, Canada
160 Institute of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan
161 Science and Technology Center, Tufts University, Medford MA, United States of America
162 Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Antonio Nariño, Bogota, Colombia
163 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine, Irvine CA, United States of America
164 (a)INFN Gruppo Collegato di Udine; (b)ICTP, Trieste; (c)Dipartimento di Chimica, Fisica e Ambiente, Università di Udine, Udine, Italy
165 Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana IL, United States of America
166 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden
167 Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC) and Departamento de Física Atómica, Molecular y Nuclear and Departamento de Ingeniería Electrónica and Instituto de Microelectrónica de Barcelona (IMB-CNM), University of Valencia and CSIC, Valencia, Spain
168 Department of Physics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada
169 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria BC, Canada
170 Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom
171 Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
172 Department of Particle Physics, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel
173 Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI, United States of America
174 Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg, Germany
175 Fachbereich C Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany
176 Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven CT, United States of America
177 Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
178 Centre de Calcul de l’Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules (IN2P3), Villeurbanne, France
160 Also at Laboratorio de Instrumentacion e Fisica Experimental de Particulas - LIP, Lisboa, Portugal
161 Also at Faculdade de Ciencias and CFNUL, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
162 Also at Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
163 Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver BC, Canada
164 Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Fresno CA, United States of America
165 Also at Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia