Search for R-parity-violating supersymmetry in events with four or more leptons in √s = 7 TeV pp collisions with the ATLAS detector


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Search for $R$-parity-violating supersymmetry in events with four or more leptons in $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV $pp$ collisions with the ATLAS detector

The ATLAS Collaboration

Abstract

A search for new phenomena in final states with four or more leptons (electrons or muons) is presented. The analysis is based on 4.7 fb$^{-1}$ of $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV proton-proton collisions delivered by the Large Hadron Collider and recorded with the ATLAS detector. Observations are consistent with Standard Model expectations in two signal regions: one that requires moderate values of missing transverse momentum and another that requires large effective mass. The results are interpreted in a simplified model of $R$-parity-violating supersymmetry in which a 95% CL exclusion region is set for charged wino masses up to 540 GeV. In an $R$-parity-violating MSUGRA/CMSSM model, values of $m_{1/2}$ up to 820 GeV are excluded for $10 < \tan \beta < 40$. 
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1 Introduction

Events with four or more leptons are rarely produced in Standard Model (SM) processes while being predicted by a variety of theories for physics beyond the SM. These include supersymmetry (SUSY) [1–9], technicolour [10], and models with extra bosons [11] or heavy neutrinos [12]. This paper presents a search with the ATLAS detector for anomalous production of events with four or more leptons. “Leptons” refers to electrons or muons, including those from τ decays, but does not include τ leptons that decay hadronically. The analysis is based on 4.7 fb\(^{-1}\) of proton-proton collisions delivered by the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at a centre-of-mass energy \(\sqrt{s} = 7\) TeV between March and October 2011. The results are interpreted in the context of \(R\)-parity-violating (RPV) SUSY. Similar searches have been conducted at the Tevatron Collider [13, 14] and by CMS [15].
2 \textit{R}-parity-violating supersymmetry

SUSY postulates the existence of SUSY particles, or “sparticles”, each with spin ($S$) differing by one-half unit from that of its SM partner. Gauge-invariant and renormalisable interactions introduced in SUSY models can violate the conservation of baryon ($B$) and lepton ($L$) number and lead to a proton lifetime shorter than current experimental limits [16]. This is usually solved by assuming that $R$-parity, defined by $P_R = (-1)^{2S+3B+L}$, is conserved [17–21], which makes the lightest supersymmetric particle (LSP) stable. In $P_R$-conserving models where the LSP is neutral and weakly interacting, sparticle production is characterised by large missing transverse momentum ($E_T^{\text{miss}}$) due to LSPs escaping detection. Many SUSY searches at hadron colliders rely on this large $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ signature.

Alternatively, proton decay can be prevented by imposing other symmetries [22] that require the conservation of either lepton or baryon number, while allowing $R$-parity violation. Such models can accommodate non-zero neutrino masses and neutrino-mixing angles consistent with the observation of neutrino oscillations [23]. If $R$-parity is violated, the LSP decays into SM particles and the signature of large $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ may be lost. Trilinear lepton-number-violating RPV interactions can generate both charged leptons and neutrinos during the LSP decay, and therefore lead to a characteristic signature with high lepton multiplicity and moderate values of $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ compared to $R$-parity-conserving models.

3 \textit{R}-parity-violating models

The results of this analysis are interpreted in two Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) scenarios with an RPV superpotential term given by $W_{\text{RPV}} = \lambda_{ijk} L_i L_j \tilde{E}_k$. The $i, j, k$ indices of the $\lambda_{ijk}$ Yukawa couplings refer to the lepton generations. The lepton SU(2) doublet superfields are denoted by $L_i$, while the corresponding singlet superfields are given by $E_k$. Single coupling dominance is assumed with $\lambda_{121}$ as the only non-zero coupling. The $\lambda_{121}$ coupling is chosen as a representative model with multiple electrons and muons in the final state. Comparable signal yields are expected with a choice of $\lambda_{122}$ single coupling dominance.

The first scenario is a simplified model [24] where the lightest chargino and neutralino are the only sparticles with masses below the TeV scale. Charginos ($\tilde{\chi}_i^\pm$, $i = 1, 2$) and neutralinos ($\tilde{\chi}_j^0$, $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$) are the mass eigenstates formed from the linear superposition of the SUSY partners of the Higgs and electroweak gauge bosons. These are the Higgsinos, winos and bino. Wino-like charginos are pair-produced and each decays into a $W$ boson and a bino-like $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$, which is the LSP. The LSP then undergoes the three-body decay $\tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow e\mu\nu_e$ or $\tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow e\nu_e\mu$, through a virtual slepton or sneutrino, with a branching fraction of 50% each, as shown in figure 1(a–c). The width of the $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ is fixed at a value of 100 MeV resulting in prompt decays.

The second scenario is taken from ref. [25] and is the ($m_{1/2}$, tan $\beta$) slice of the minimal SUper GRAvity/Constrained MSSM (MSUGRA/CMSSM) containing the BC1 point of ref. [26]. The unification parameters $m_0$ and $A_0$ are zero and $\mu$ is positive$^1$. The

\begin{footnotesize}
\footnotesize
\begin{itemize}
\item[1] The parameter $m_0$ is the universal scalar mass, $m_{1/2}$ is the universal gaugino mass, tan $\beta$ is the ratio
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
\[ \chi^0_1 \rightarrow e^-(\bar{\nu}_e) + \lambda_{r1} \]
\[ \chi^0_1 \rightarrow e^+(\nu_e) + \lambda_{r1} \]
\[ \chi^0_1 \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e(\bar{\nu}_\mu) + \lambda_{r1} \]
\[ \chi^0_1 \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e(\bar{\nu}_\mu) + \lambda_{r1} \]
\[ \chi^0_1 \rightarrow \bar{\tau}_1^+ + \lambda_{r1} \]
\[ \chi^0_1 \rightarrow \bar{\tau}_1^- + \lambda_{r1} \]
\[ \chi^0_1 \rightarrow e^-(\mu^-) + \lambda_{r1} \]
\[ \chi^0_1 \rightarrow e^+(\mu^+) + \lambda_{r1} \]

Figure 1. Illustration of the $\chi^0_1$ decay in the chosen simplified model (a–c), and the four-body $\tau_1$ decay in the MSUGRA/CMSSM model (d). The charge conjugate decay of the $\chi^0_1$ decay is implied.

RPV coupling $\lambda_{r12}$ is set to 0.032 at the unification scale [27]. Both strong and weak processes contribute to SUSY pair production, where weak processes are dominant above $m_{1/2} \sim 600$ GeV. The lighter stau, $\tilde{\tau}_1$, is the LSP over most of the parameter-space, and decays with equal probability through the four-body decays $\tilde{\tau}_1 \rightarrow \tau \mu \nu_e$ or $\tilde{\tau}_1 \rightarrow \tau e e \nu_\mu$, via a virtual neutralino and sneutrino or slepton, as shown in figure 1(d). While the Higgs mass values in this model are lower than those of the recently observed Higgs-like resonance [28, 29], the MSUGRA/CMSSM scenario considered nevertheless remains an instructive benchmark model.

4 Detector description

ATLAS [30] is a multipurpose particle detector with forward-backward symmetric cylindrical geometry. It includes an inner tracker (ID) immersed in a 2 T axial magnetic field providing precision tracking of charged particles for pseudorapidities $|\eta| < 2.5$. Sampling calorimeter systems with either liquid argon or scintillator tiles as the active media provide energy measurements over the range $|\eta| < 4.9$. The muon detectors are positioned outside the calorimeters and are contained in an air-core toroidal magnetic field produced by superconducting magnets with field integrals varying from 1 T·m to 8 T·m. They provide trigger and high-precision tracking capabilities for $|\eta| < 2.4$ and $|\eta| < 2.7$, respectively.


5 Monte Carlo simulation

Several Monte Carlo (MC) generators are used to simulate SM processes and new physics signals relevant for this analysis. SHERPA \cite{31} is used to simulate the diboson processes \(WW\), \(WZ\) and \(ZZ\), where \(Z\) also includes virtual photons. These diboson samples correspond to all SM diagrams leading to the \(\ell\nu\ell'\nu'\), \(\ell\ell\ell'\) and \(\ell\ell\ell'\ell'\) final states, where \(\ell, \ell' = e, \mu, \tau\) and \(\nu, \nu' = \nu_e, \nu_\mu, \nu_\tau\). Interference between the diagrams is taken into account. MadGraph \cite{32} is used for the \(t\bar{t}W\), \(t\bar{t}WW\), \(t\bar{t}Z\), \(W\gamma\) and \(Z\gamma\) processes. MC@NLO \cite{33} is chosen for the simulation of single and pair production of top quarks, and ALPGEN \cite{34} is used to simulate \(W^+\text{jets}\) and \(Z^+\text{jets}\) processes. Expected diboson yields are normalised using next-to-leading-order (NLO) QCD predictions obtained with MCFM \cite{35, 36}. The top-quark pair-production contribution is normalised to approximate next-to-next-to-leading-order calculations (NNLO) \cite{37} and the \(t\bar{t}W\), \(t\bar{t}WW\), \(t\bar{t}Z\) contributions are normalised to NLO predictions \cite{38, 39}. The \(W\gamma\) and \(Z\gamma\) yields are normalised to be consistent with the ATLAS cross-section measurements \cite{40}. The QCD NNLO FEWZ \cite{41, 42} cross-sections are used for normalisation of the inclusive \(W^+\text{jets}\) and \(Z^+\text{jets}\) processes.

The choice of the parton distribution functions (PDFs) depends on the generator. The CTEQ6L1 \cite{43} PDFs are used with MadGraph and ALPGEN, and the CT10 \cite{44} PDFs with MC@NLO and SHERPA.

The simplified model samples are produced with Herwig++ \cite{45} and the MSUGRA/CMSSM BC1-like samples are produced with HERWIG \cite{46}. The yields of the SUSY samples are normalised to the NLO cross-sections obtained from PROSPINO \cite{47} for weak processes, and to next-to-leading-logarithmic accuracy (NLL) for strong processes.

Fragmentation and hadronisation for the ALPGEN and MC@NLO samples are performed with HERWIG, while for MadGraph, PYTHIA \cite{48} is used, and for SHERPA these are performed internally. JIMMY \cite{49} is interfaced to HERWIG for simulation of the underlying event. For all MC samples, the propagation of particles through the ATLAS detector is modelled using GEANT4 \cite{50, 51}. 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 generated by PYTHIA onto hard-scatter events. Simulated events are weighted to match the distribution of the number of interactions per bunch crossing observed in data. Simulated data are reconstructed in the same manner as the data.

6 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 required to have transverse momentum \(p_T^\mu\) (transverse energy \(E_T^e\)) above 20 GeV (25 GeV). For dilepton triggers, at least two reconstructed leptons are required to have triggered the event, with transverse energy or momentum above threshold. The two muons are each required to have \(p_T^\mu > 12\text{ GeV}\) for dimuon triggers, and the two electrons to have \(E_T^e > 17\text{ GeV}\) for dielectron triggers, while the thresholds for electron-muon triggers are \(E_T^e > 15\text{ GeV}\) and \(p_T^\mu > 10\text{ GeV}\). 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 $\sum p_T^2$ of associated tracks.

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

Jets are reconstructed with the anti-$k_t$ algorithm with a radius parameter of $R = 0.4$ using clustered energy deposits calibrated at the electromagnetic scale. The jet energy is corrected to account for the non-compensating nature of the calorimeter using correction factors parameterised as a function of the jet $E_T$ and $\eta$. The correction factors were obtained from simulation and have been refined and validated using data. Jets considered in this analysis have $E_T > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$. The $p_T$-weighted fraction of the tracks in the jet that are associated with the primary vertex is required to be larger than 0.75.

Events containing jets failing the quality criteria described in ref. are rejected to suppress both SM and beam-induced background. Jets are identified as containing $b$-hadron decays, and thus called “$b$-tagged”, using a multivariate technique based on quantities such as the impact parameters of the tracks associated to a reconstructed secondary vertex. The chosen working point of the $b$-tagging algorithm correctly identifies $b$-quark jets in simulated top-quark decays with an efficiency of 60% and misidentifies the jets initiated by light-flavour quarks or gluons with a rate of < 1%, for jets with $E_T > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$.

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 energy clusters with $|\eta| < 4.9$ not associated to these objects.

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

“Signal” leptons are tagged leptons for which the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of tracks within a cone of $\Delta R = 0.2$ 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 are those which have $p_T > 1$ GeV and are associated to the primary vertex of the event. Signal electrons must also pass “tight” identification criteria [52].

### 7 Signal region selection

Selected events must contain four or more signal leptons. The invariant mass of any same-flavour opposite-sign (SFOS) lepton pair, $m_{SFOS}$, must be above 20 GeV, otherwise the lepton pair is discarded to suppress background from low-mass resonances. Events which contain a SFOS lepton pair inside the [81.2, 101.2] GeV interval are vetoed to reject $Z$-boson candidates ($Z$-veto).

Two signal regions are then defined: a signal region with $E_T^{miss} > 50$ GeV (SR1) and one with effective mass $m_{eff} > 300$ GeV (SR2). The effective mass is defined by the scalar sum shown in (eq. 1), where $p_{T\mu}$ ($E_{Te}$) is the transverse momentum of the signal muons (electrons) and $E_{Tj}$ is the transverse energy of jets with $E_T > 40$ GeV:

$$m_{eff} = E_T^{miss} + \sum_{\mu} p_{T\mu} + \sum_{e} E_{Te} + \sum_{j} E_{Tj}.$$

(SR1) is optimised for regions of the parameter space with values of $m_{1/2}$ below $\sim$700 GeV or $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm}$ below $\sim$300 GeV. SR2 targets the production of heavier sparticles. In general, SR1 is sensitive to models with $E_T^{miss}$ originating from neutrinos and SR2 to scenarios with a large multiplicity of high-$p_T$ objects.

Three further regions are defined to validate the expected background against data. The validation regions are described in section 10. Table 1 summarises the signal and validation region definitions.

### 8 Standard Model background estimation

Several SM processes, which are classified into irreducible and reducible components below, contribute to the background in the signal regions. The dominant sources are $ZZ$, $WZ$, and $tt$ production in both SR1 and SR2.
8.1 Irreducible background processes

A background process is considered “irreducible” if it leads to events with four real, isolated leptons, referred to as “real” leptons below. These include $ZZ$, $t\bar{t}Z$ and $t\bar{t}WW$ production, where a gauge boson may be produced off-mass-shell. These contributions are determined using the corresponding MC samples, for which lepton and jet selection efficiencies [58–61], and trigger efficiencies are corrected to account for differences with respect to data.

8.2 Reducible background processes

A “reducible” process has at least one “fake” lepton, that is either a lepton from a semi-leptonic decay of a $b$- or $c$-quark, referred to as heavy-flavour, or an electron from an isolated single-track photon conversion. The contribution from misidentified light-flavour quark or gluon jets is found to be negligible based on studies in simulation. The reducible background includes $WZ$, $t\bar{t}$, $t\bar{t}W$, $WW$, single $t$-quark, or single $Z$-boson production, in all cases produced in association with jets or photons. The yield of $W$ bosons with three fake leptons is negligible. The $t\bar{t}$ and the $WZ$ backgrounds correspond respectively to 59% and 35% of the reducible background in SR1, and to 46% each in SR2. In both SR1 and SR2, fake leptons are predominantly fake electrons (99%), originating either from $b$-quarks in $t\bar{t}$ candidate events or from conversions in $WZ$ candidate events. Fake muons from $b$-quark decays in $t\bar{t}$ events are suppressed by the object separation scheme described in section 6. Regardless of the origin, the misidentification probability decreases as the lepton $p_T$ increases.

The reducible background is estimated using a weighting method applied to events containing signal leptons ($\ell_S$) and loose leptons ($\ell_L$), which are tagged leptons failing the signal lepton requirements. Since the reducible background is dominated by events with at most two fake leptons, it is estimated as:

$$\begin{align*}
&\left[N_{\text{data}}(3\ell_S + \ell_L) - N_{\text{MCirr}}(3\ell_S + \ell_L)\right] \times F(\ell_L) \\
&\quad - \left[N_{\text{data}}(2\ell_S + \ell_{L1} + \ell_{L2}) - N_{\text{MCirr}}(2\ell_S + \ell_{L1} + \ell_{L2})\right] \times F(\ell_{L1}) \times F(\ell_{L2}),
\end{align*}$$

(2)

where the second term corrects for the double counting of reducible-background events with two fake leptons in the first term. The term $N_{\text{data}}(3\ell_S + \ell_L)$ is the total number of events with three signal and one loose lepton, while $N_{\text{MCirr}}(3\ell_S + \ell_L)$ is the irreducible contribution of events obtained from simulation. The definitions of $N_{\text{data}}(2\ell_S + \ell_{L1} + \ell_{L2})$ and $N_{\text{MCirr}}(2\ell_S + \ell_{L1} + \ell_{L2})$ are analogous. As a conservative approach, the potential signal contamination in the $3\ell_S + \ell_L$ and $2\ell_S + \ell_{L1} + \ell_{L2}$ loose lepton data samples is not taken into account. The average “fake ratio” $F$ depends on the flavour and kinematics of the loose lepton $\ell_L$ and it is defined as:

$$F = \sum_{i,j} \left(\alpha^i \times R^{ij} \times f^{ij}\right),$$

(3)

where $i$ is the type of fake (heavy-flavour leptons or conversion electrons) and $j$ is the process category the fake originates from (top quark or $W/Z$ boson). The fake ratios $f^{ij}$ are defined as the ratios of the probabilities that fake tagged leptons are identified as
signal leptons to the probabilities that they are identified as loose leptons. The $f^{ij}$ are determined for each relevant fake type and for each reducible-background process, and they are parameterised in muon (electron) $p_T$ ($E_T$) and $\eta$. The fake ratios are weighted according to the fractional contribution of the process they originate from through $R_f^{ij}$ fractions. Both $f^{ij}$ and $R_f^{ij}$ are determined in simulation. Each correction factor $\alpha_i^J$ is the fake ratio measured in data divided by that in simulation, in control samples described below. The fake ratios $F$ are estimated to vary from 0.8 to 0.05 for muons when the $p_T$ increases from 10 to 100 GeV. For electrons, there is little $p_T$ dependence, and the $F$ values are \sim 0.3.

The correction factor for heavy-flavour fakes is measured in a $b\bar{b}$-dominated control sample. This is defined by selecting events with only one $b$-tagged jet (containing a muon) and a tagged lepton. The non-$b\bar{b}$ contributions from the single and pair production of top quarks and $W$ bosons produced in association with $b$-quarks are suppressed with $E_T^{\text{miss}} < 40$ GeV and transverse mass $m_T = \sqrt{2 \cdot E_T^{\text{miss}} \cdot p_T^\ell \cdot (1 - \cos \Delta\phi_{\ell,E_T^{\text{miss}}})} < 40$ GeV requirements, where $\Delta\phi_{\ell,E_T^{\text{miss}}}$ is the azimuthal angle between the tagged lepton $\ell$ and the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$. The remaining non-$b\bar{b}$ background (\sim 1\% level) is subtracted from the control sample in data using MC predictions. In this control sample, the fake ratio from heavy-flavour decays is calculated using the ratio of tagged leptons passing signal lepton requirements to those that fail. The correction factors are found to be 0.97 \pm 0.13 and 0.86 \pm 0.13 for electrons and muons respectively.

The correction factor for electron candidates originating from photon conversions is determined in a sample of photons radiated from a muon in $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ decays. Events with two opposite-sign muons and one tagged electron are selected and the invariant mass of the $\mu\mu e$ triplet is required to lie within 10 GeV of the nominal $Z$-boson mass value. In this control sample, the fake ratio for conversion electrons is calculated using the ratio of tagged electrons identified as signal electrons to those identified as loose electrons. The correction factor is found to be 1.24 \pm 0.13.

9 Systematic uncertainties

Several sources of systematic uncertainty are considered in the signal, control and validation regions. Correlations of systematic uncertainties between processes and regions are accounted for.

MC-based sources of systematic uncertainty affect the irreducible background, the $R_f^{ij}$ fractions of the average fake ratios, and the signal yields. The MC-based systematic sources include the acceptance uncertainty due to the PDFs and the theoretical cross-section uncertainties due to the renormalisation/factorisation scale and PDFs. The uncertainty due to the PDF set is determined using the error set of the original PDF and the scale uncertainties are calculated by varying the factorisation and renormalisation scales. Additional systematic uncertainties are those resulting from the jet energy scale [58] and resolution [59], the lepton efficiencies [60, 61], energy scales and resolutions, and uncertainties in $b$-tagging rates [62–65]. The choice of MC generator is also included for the irreducible background.
The systematic uncertainty on the luminosity (3.9%) [66, 67] affects only the yields of the irreducible background and the signal yield.

In SR1, the total uncertainty on the irreducible background is 70%. This is dominated by the uncertainty on the efficiency times acceptance of the signal region selection for the ZZ MC event generator, determined by comparing the SHERPA and POWHEG [68–71] generators and found to be 65% of the SHERPA ZZ yield. The next largest uncertainties on the irreducible background are due to the jet energy scale (53%) and that due to the limited number of MC events generated (34%). All the remaining uncertainties in this signal region lie in the range of 0.1–5%. In SR2, the uncertainties are similar, except for smaller uncertainties due to the jet energy scale (3%) and the limited number of generated events (17%).

For the average fake ratio $F$, the $R^{ij}$ fractions are varied between 0% and 100% to account for the uncertainty on the $R^{ij}$ fractions from the sources listed above. The uncertainty from the $R^{ij}$ fractions is expected to have a small impact on the uncertainty of the reducible background, since the fake ratios $f^{ij}$ are similar across processes and types of fakes in most of the kinematic region. Also included in the uncertainty on the reducible background is the uncertainty from the dependence of the fake ratio on $E_T^{miss}$ (10%) and the uncertainty on the fake-ratio correction factors (15–34%). In SR1, the dominant uncertainty on the reducible background is that due to the $R^{ij}$ fractions (75%). This large uncertainty is due to events in the loose lepton data sample that happen to fall in kinematic regions with large variations in the fake ratio between processes and types of fakes. The next to leading uncertainties are those from the statistical uncertainty on the data (60%) and the dependence of the fake ratio on $E_T^{miss}$ (25%). In SR2, the uncertainty on the reducible background is dominated by that from the limited number of data events (140%), followed by that due to the $R^{ij}$ fractions (6%) and the dependence of the fake ratio on $E_T^{miss}$ (4%).

The total uncertainties on the signal yields are 10–20% and are calculated using the method described in ref. [72]. Signal cross-sections are calculated to NLO in the strong coupling constant using PROSPINO$^3$. An envelope of cross-section predictions is defined using the 68% CL intervals of the CTEQ6.6 [77] (including the $\alpha_S$ uncertainty) and MSTW [78] 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, closely following the PDF4LHC recommendations [79].

10 Background model validation

The background predictions have been verified in three validation regions (VR). A region (VR1) selects events with three signal leptons, $E_T^{miss} > 50$ GeV, and vetos events with Z-boson candidates described in section 7. In VR1 the reducible background is dominated by $t\bar{t}$ production. The contribution from ZZ production is validated in a region (VR2) defined

$^3$The addition of the resummation of soft gluon emission at NLL [47, 73–76] is performed in the case of strong SUSY pair-production.
by events with four leptons containing a Z-boson candidate. A region (VR3) containing events with $E_T^{\text{miss}} < 50$ GeV, $m_{\text{eff}} < 300$ GeV, four signal leptons, and no Z-boson candidate is used to validate the sum of the reducible and irreducible backgrounds. The data and predictions are in agreement within the quoted statistical and systematic uncertainties, as shown in table 2. Reported are the probabilities that the background fluctuates to the observed number of events or higher ($p_0$-value) and the corresponding number of standard deviations ($\sigma$).

Table 2. Expected number of events from SUSY signals, SM backgrounds, and observed number of events in data in validation regions VR1, VR2 and VR3 (4.7 fb$^{-1}$). “SUSY ref. point 1” refers to a simplified model with $m_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm} = 500$ GeV, $m_{\tilde{\chi}^0} = 300$ GeV, while “SUSY ref. point 2” refers to a MSUGRA model with $m_{1/2} = 860$ GeV and $\tan \beta = 37$. The uncertainties quoted include statistical and systematic effects. The processes labelled with (†) are classified as irreducible background in the three-lepton validation regions. In the four-lepton validation regions they are included in the reducible background. The subtraction of the double-counted contributions can lead to negative central values for the reducible background.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection</th>
<th>VR1</th>
<th>VR2</th>
<th>VR3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUSY ref. point 1</td>
<td>4.6 ± 0.5</td>
<td>1.38 ± 0.16</td>
<td>0.004 ± 0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUSY ref. point 2</td>
<td>3.5 ± 0.4</td>
<td>2.32 ± 0.34</td>
<td>0.120 ± 0.029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZZ</td>
<td>3.2 ± 1.9</td>
<td>38 ± 7</td>
<td>2.9 ± 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}Z$</td>
<td>0.70 ± 0.35</td>
<td>0.64 ± 0.32</td>
<td>(3.5 ± 3.6) × 10$^{-3}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}WW$</td>
<td>0.08 ± 0.06</td>
<td>(1.3 ± 1.0) × 10$^{-3}$</td>
<td>(2.2 ± 2.1) × 10$^{-4}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WZ (†)</td>
<td>34.6 ± 6</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}W$ (†)</td>
<td>2.6 ± 0.8</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Sigma$ Irreducible</td>
<td>41 ± 8</td>
<td>38 ± 7</td>
<td>2.9 ± 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\Sigma$ SM</td>
<td>95 ± 32</td>
<td>−0.25 ± 0.96</td>
<td>1.3 ± 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>136 ± 33</td>
<td>38 ± 7</td>
<td>4.2 ± 1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$p_0$-value ($\sigma$)</td>
<td>0.33 (0.45)</td>
<td>0.42 (0.21)</td>
<td>0.80 (−0.85)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11 Results and interpretation

The numbers of observed and predicted events in SR1 and SR2 are reported in table 3. Distributions of $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ and $m_{\text{eff}}$ in events that have at least four leptons and no Z-boson candidates (before either the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ or $m_{\text{eff}}$ requirements) are presented in fig. 2.

No significant excess of events is found in the signal regions. Upper limits on the visible cross-section of new physics processes are calculated, defined by the product of production cross-section, acceptance and efficiency, and placed at 95% CL with the modified frequentist CL$_S$ prescription [80]. All systematic uncertainties and their correlations are taken into account via nuisance parameters in a profile likelihood fit [81]. Observed 95% CL limits on
Table 3. Expected number of events from SUSY signals, SM backgrounds, and observed number of events in data in signal regions SR1 and SR2 (4.7 fb$^{-1}$). “SUSY ref. point 1” refers to a simplified model with $m_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm_1} = 500$ GeV, $m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_1} = 300$ GeV, while “SUSY ref. point 2” refers to a MSUGRA model with $m_{1/2} = 860$ GeV and $\tan \beta = 37$. The uncertainties quoted include statistical and systematic effects. Upper limits on the observed (expected) visible production cross-section of new physics processes at 95% CL are also shown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection</th>
<th>SR1</th>
<th>SR2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUSY ref. point 1</td>
<td>6.5 ± 0.6</td>
<td>7.1 ± 0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUSY ref. point 2</td>
<td>4.2 ± 0.6</td>
<td>4.5 ± 0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZZ</td>
<td>0.14 ± 0.11</td>
<td>0.51 ± 0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}Z$</td>
<td>0.023 ± 0.014</td>
<td>0.029 ± 0.016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t\bar{t}WW$</td>
<td>0.0044 ± 0.0035</td>
<td>0.005 ± 0.0044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ Irreducible</td>
<td>0.17 ± 0.12</td>
<td>0.54 ± 0.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reducible</td>
<td>0.8 ± 0.8</td>
<td>0.18 ± 0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σ SM</td>
<td>1.0 ± 0.8</td>
<td>0.7 ± 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$p_0$-value ($\sigma$)</td>
<td>0.05 (1.7)</td>
<td>0.07 (1.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\sigma_{vis}$ obs (exp)</td>
<td>1.3 (0.8)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The visible cross-section of new physics processes are placed at 1.3 fb in SR1 and 1.1 fb in SR2. The corresponding expected limits are 0.8 fb and 0.7 fb, respectively.

The results of the analysis are interpreted in two RPV SUSY scenarios and shown in fig. 3, where the limits are calculated choosing the signal region with 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 by the red dotted lines.

The main features of the exclusion limits can be explained in broad terms as follows. In the simplified model the sensitivity is governed by the production cross-section, which decreases at large $m_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm_1}$ values, and by the efficiency of the signal region selection cuts. The requirements on the minimum value of the SFOS dilepton mass, and on the minimum lepton-lepton separation reduce the acceptance and selection efficiency for leptons from light $\tilde{\chi}^0_1$, hence only values of 10 GeV and above are considered. As the mass of the $\tilde{\chi}^0_1$ approaches zero, the phase space for leptonic decays is greatly reduced, while values of $m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_1} = 0$ GeV are not possible without the LSP becoming stable. In the MSUGRA/CMSSM model, the production cross-section decreases as $m_{1/2}$ increases, leading to smaller sensitivities in the high-mass region. Due to lower values of the four-body decay branching ratio and an increased $\tilde{\tau}_1$ lifetime, the sensitivity drops for $\tan \beta$ values above 40. In the region of the parameter space with $m_{1/2} \sim 800$ GeV, weak gaugino production contributes 50% to the total SUSY production cross-section, while $\tilde{e}/\tilde{\mu}/\tilde{\nu}$ ($\tilde{\tau}_1$) production contributes 10–20% (10–30%), and strong production 20%. Similar fractional contributions are also seen in the
two signal regions.

12 Summary

Results from a search for new phenomena in the final state with four or more leptons (electrons or muons) and either moderate values of missing transverse momentum or large effective mass 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. No significant excess of events is found in data. Observed 95\% CL limits on the visible cross-section are placed at 1.3 fb and 1.1 fb in the two signal regions, respectively. The null result is interpreted in a simplified model of chargino pair-production in which each chargino cascades to the lightest neutralino that decays into two charged leptons (ee or e\(\mu\)) and a neutrino via an RPV coupling. In the simplified model of RPV supersymmetry, chargino masses up to 540 GeV are excluded for LSP masses above 300 GeV. Limits are also set in an RPV MSUGRA model with a \(\tilde{\tau}_1\) LSP that promptly decays into a \(\tau\) lepton, two charged leptons and a neutrino, where values of \(m_{1/2}\) below 820 GeV are excluded when 10 < \(\tan \beta\) < 40.
Figure 2. Distributions of (a) $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ and (b) $m_{\text{eff}}$ for events with at least four leptons and no Z-boson candidates (before either the $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ or $m_{\text{eff}}$ requirements). The uncertainty band includes both statistical and systematic uncertainty. The yields of two benchmark SUSY models are shown for illustration purposes. “SUSY ref. point 1” is a simplified model point defined by $m_{\tilde{\chi}_\pm^1} = 500$ GeV and $m_{\tilde{\chi}_0^1} = 300$ GeV, while “SUSY ref. point 2” is a MSUGRA model point defined by $m_{1/2} = 860$ GeV and $\tan\beta = 37$. The signal distributions are not stacked on top of the expected background.
Figure 3. Observed and expected 95% CL limit contours for (a) simplified model and (b) MSUGRA/CMSSM. 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 lines are the $\pm 1\sigma$ signal theory uncertainty on the observed limit (red solid line). 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 more sensitive signal region (lowest expected CL). It should be noted that the $y$-axis does not start at zero for either plot. The LEP limit corresponds to the limit on the $\tilde{\chi}^\pm_1$ mass in ref. [82], while the D0 limit corresponds to the limit in the $\tilde{\chi}^\pm_1, \tilde{\chi}^0_1$ mass plane in ref. [13]. The hard $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1} < 40$ GeV limit is from the LEP $Z$ width measurement [83].
13 Acknowledgements

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References

The ATLAS Collaboration

G. Aad48, T. Abajyan21, B. Abbott111, J. Abdallah12, S. Abdel Khalek115,
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I.N. Aleksandrov64, F. Alessandria89a, C. Alexa26a, G. Alexander153, G. Alexandre49,
T. Alexopoulos10, M. Alrhoob164a,164c, M. Aliev16, G. Alimonti89a, J. Alison120,
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1 School of Chemistry and Physics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia
2 Physics Department, SUNY Albany, Albany NY, United States of America
3 Department of Physics, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB, Canada
4 (a)Department of Physics, Ankara University, Ankara; (b)Department of Physics, Dumlupinar University, Kutahya; (c)Department of Physics, Gazi University, Ankara;
(d)Division of Physics, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara;
Turkish Atomic Energy Authority, Ankara, Turkey
LAPP, CNRS/IN2P3 and Université de Savoie, Annecy-le-Vieux, France
High Energy Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne IL, United States of America
Department of Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ, United States of America
Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington TX, United States of America
Physics Department, University of Athens, Athens, Greece
Physics Department, National Technical University of Athens, Zografou, Greece
Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
Institut de Física d’Altes Energies and Departament de Física de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and ICREA, Barcelona, Spain
(a) Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade; (b) Vinca Institute of Nuclear Sciences, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
Department for Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley CA, United States of America
Department of Physics, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany
Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics and Laboratory for High Energy Physics, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
(a) Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul; (b) Division of Physics, Dogus University, Istanbul; (c) Department of Physics Engineering, Gaziantep University, Gaziantep; (d) Department of Physics, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey
(a) INFN Sezione di Bologna; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy
Physikalisches Institut, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
Department of Physics, Boston University, Boston MA, United States of America
Department of Physics, Brandeis University, Waltham MA, United States of America
(a) Universidade Federal do Rio De Janeiro COPPE/EE/IF, Rio de Janeiro; (b) Federal University of Juiz de Fora (UFJF), Juiz de Fora; (c) Federal University of Sao Joao del Rei (UFSJ), Sao Joao del Rei; (d) Instituto de Fisica, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton NY, United States of America
(a) National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest; (b) University Politehnica Bucharest, Bucharest; (c) West University in Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania
Departamento de Física, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Department of Physics, Carleton University, Ottawa ON, Canada
CERN, Geneva, Switzerland
Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago IL, United States of America
Department of Física, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago;
Department of Física, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Valparaíso, Chile
Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing;
Department of Modern Physics, University of Science and Technology of China, Anhui;
Department of Physics, Nanjing University, Jiangsu; School of Physics, Shandong University, Shandong; Physics Department, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China
Laboratoire de Physique Corpusculaire, Clermont Université and Université Blaise Pascal and CNRS/IN2P3, Clermont-Ferrand, France
Nevis Laboratory, Columbia University, Irvington NY, United States of America
Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, København, Denmark
INFN Gruppo Collegato di Cosenza; Dipartimento di Fisica, Università della Calabria, Arcavata di Rende, Italy
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, Technical University 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; Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Genova, Genova, Italy
E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi; 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
58 (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
59 Faculty of Applied Information Science, Hiroshima Institute of Technology, Hiroshima, Japan
60 Department of Physics, Indiana University, Bloomington IN, United States of America
61 Institut für Astro-und Teilchenphysik, Leopold-Franzens-Universität, Innsbruck, Austria
62 University of Iowa, Iowa City IA, United States of America
63 Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames IA, United States of America
64 Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, JINR Dubna, Dubna, Russia
65 KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba, Japan
66 Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan
67 Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan
68 Kyoto University of Education, Kyoto, Japan
69 Department of Physics, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan
70 Instituto de Física La Plata, Universidad Nacional de La Plata and CONICET, La Plata, Argentina
71 Physics Department, Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom
72 (a) INFN Sezione di Lecce; (b) Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università del Salento, Lecce, Italy
73 Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom
74 Department of Physics, Jožef Stefan Institute and University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
75 School of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom
76 Department of Physics, Royal Holloway University of London, Surrey, United Kingdom
77 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom
78 Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et de Hautes Energies, UPMC and Université Paris-Diderot and CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France
79 Fysiska institutionen, Lunds universitet, Lund, Sweden
80 Departamento de Física Teórica C-15, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain
81 Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz, Germany
82 School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom
83 CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université and CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille, France
84 Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA, United States of America
85 Department of Physics, McGill University, Montreal QC, Canada
86 School of Physics, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
87 Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America
88 Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI, United States of America
89 (a) INFN Sezione di Milano; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, Milano, Italy
90 B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
91 National Scientific and Educational Centre for Particle and High Energy Physics, Minsk, Republic of Belarus
92 Department of Physics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA, United States of America
93 Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal QC, Canada
94 P.N. Lebedev Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia
95 Institute for Theoretical and Experimental Physics (ITEP), Moscow, Russia
96 Moscow Engineering and Physics Institute (MEPhI), Moscow, Russia
97 Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia
98 Fakultät für Physik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München, Germany
99 Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), München, Germany
100 Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, Nagasaki, Japan
101 Graduate School of Science and Kobayashi-Maskawa Institute, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan
102 (a) INFN Sezione di Napoli; (b) Dipartimento di Scienze Fisiche, Università di Napoli, Napoli, Italy
103 Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM, United States of America
104 Institute for Mathematics, Astrophysics and Particle Physics, Radboud University Nijmegen/Nikhef, Nijmegen, Netherlands
105 Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
106 Department of Physics, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL, United States of America
107 Budker Institute of Nuclear Physics, SB RAS, Novosibirsk, Russia
108 Department of Physics, New York University, New York NY, United States of America
109 Ohio State University, Columbus OH, United States of America
110 Faculty of Science, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan
111 Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK, United States of America
112 Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater OK, United States of America
Palacký University, RCPTM, Olomouc, Czech Republic
Center for High Energy Physics, University of Oregon, Eugene OR, United States of America
LAL, Université Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France
Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan
Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway
Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom
(a) INFN Sezione di Pavia; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy
Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA, United States of America
Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Gatchina, Russia
(a) INFN Sezione di Pisa; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi, Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA, United States of America
Laboratorio de Instrumentacao e Fisica Experimental de Particulas - LIP, Lisboa, Portugal; (b) Departamento de Fisica Teorica y del Cosmos and CAFPE, Universidad de Granada, Granada, Spain
Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Praha, Czech Republic
Czech Technical University in Prague, Praha, Czech Republic
Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University in Prague, Praha, Czech Republic
State Research Center Institute for High Energy Physics, Protvino, Russia
Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
Physics Department, University of Regina, Regina SK, Canada
Ritsumeikan University, Kusatsu, Shiga, Japan
(a) INFN Sezione di Roma I; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy
(a) INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
(a) INFN Sezione di Roma Tre; (b) Dipartimento di Fisica, Università Roma Tre, Roma, Italy
(a) Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Energies - Université Hassan II, Casablanca; (b) Centre National de l’Énergie des Sciences Techniques Nucléaires, Rabat; (c) Faculté des Sciences Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech; (d) Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier and LPTPM, Oujda; (e) Faculté des sciences, Université Mohammed V-Agdal, Rabat, Morocco
DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l’Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives), Gif-sur-Yvette, France
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 Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan
161 Department of Physics and Astronomy, Tufts University, Medford MA, United States of America
162 Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Antonio Narino, 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
Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana IL, United States of America
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden
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-CNMT), University of Valencia and CSIC, Valencia, Spain
Department of Physics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada
Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria BC, Canada
Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom
Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
Department of Particle Physics, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel
Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI, United States of America
Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität, Würzburg, Germany
Fachbereich C Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal, Germany
Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven CT, United States of America
Yerevan Physics Institute, Yerevan, Armenia
Centre de Calcul de l’Institut National de Physique Nucléaire et de Physique des Particules (IN2P3), Villeurbanne, France
\(^a\) Also at Department of Physics, King’s College London, London, United Kingdom
\(^b\) Also at Laboratorio de Instrumentación e Física Experimental de Partículas - LIP, Lisboa, Portugal
\(^c\) Also at Faculdade de Ciências and CFNUL, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal
\(^d\) Also at Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot, United Kingdom
\(^e\) Also at Department of Physics, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
\(^f\) Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver BC, Canada
\(^g\) Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Fresno CA, United States of America
\(^h\) Also at Novosibirsk State University, Novosibirsk, Russia
\(^i\) Also at Department of Physics, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
\(^j\) Also at Department of Physics, UASLP, San Luis Potosi, Mexico
\(^k\) Also at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli, Italy
\(^l\) Also at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP), Canada
\(^m\) Also at Department of Physics, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey
\(^n\) Also at Louisiana Tech University, Ruston LA, United States of America
\(^o\) Also at Dep Fisica and CEFITEC of Faculdade de Ciencias e Tecnologia, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Caparica, Portugal
\(^p\) Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, United Kingdom
\(^q\) Also at Department of Physics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
\(^r\) Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku, Azerbaijan
Also at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Also at Manhattan College, New York NY, United States of America

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

Also at School of Physics and Engineering, Sun Yat-sen University, Guanzhou, China

Also at Academia Sinica Grid Computing, Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

Also at School of Physics, Shandong University, Shandong, China

Also at Dipartimento di Fisica, Università La Sapienza, Roma, Italy

Also at DSM/IRFU (Institut de Recherches sur les Lois Fondamentales de l’Univers), CEA Saclay (Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives), Gif-sur-Yvette, France

Also at Section de Physique, Université de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland

Also at Departamento de Fisica, Universidade de Minho, Braga, Portugal

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC, United States of America

Also at Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Wigner Research Centre for Physics, Budapest, Hungary

Also at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena CA, United States of America

Also at Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland

Also at LAL, Université Paris-Sud and CNRS/IN2P3, Orsay, France

Also at Nevis Laboratory, Columbia University, Irvington NY, United States of America

Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom

Also at Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom

Also at Department of Physics, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI, United States of America

Also at Discipline of Physics, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

Also at Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

* Deceased