

Search for new physics with the MT2 variable in all-jets final states produced in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV (postprint)

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Abstract

使用包含一个或多个喷注、无孤立轻子以及通过 MT2 变量测量到的大横向动量不平衡的事件，进行了新物理的搜寻。MT2 变量是双不可见粒子事件中横向质量的扩展。结果基于在 LHC 的 CMS 探测器上收集的质心能量为 13 TeV 的质子-质子碰撞样本，对应的积分亮度为 2.3 fb^{-1} 。数据中观测到的事例产额与标准模型背景的预测一致。结果通过超对称简化模型进行解释，并对可能的新的有色粒子质量的限制形式给出。假设最轻的中性微子是稳定的且质量小于约 500 GeV，根据胶微子的衰变机制，质量在 1550-1750 GeV 以下的胶微子在 95% 置信水平下被排除。对于标量夸克-反标量夸克对的直接产生场景，假设衰变到顶夸克和中性微子的分支比为 100%，质量在 800 GeV 以下的顶标量夸克被排除。类似地，底标量夸克质量在 880 GeV 以下被排除，而轻味标量夸克的质量在 600-1260 GeV 以下被排除，具体取决于标量夸克质量的简并度。

Full Text

Preamble

Search for new physics with the MT2 variable in all-jets final states at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV in pp collisions at the LHC

The CMS Collaboration*

Abstract

A search for new physics is performed using events that contain one or more jets, no isolated leptons, and a large transverse momentum imbalance, as measured through the MT2 variable, which is an extension of the transverse mass in events with two invisible particles. The results are based on a sample of proton-proton collisions collected at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV with the CMS detector at the LHC, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 2.3 fb^{-1} . The observed event yields in the data are consistent with predictions for the standard model backgrounds. The results are interpreted using simplified models of

supersymmetry and are expressed in terms of limits on the masses of potential new colored particles. Assuming that the lightest neutralino is stable and has a mass less than about 500 GeV, gluino masses up to 1550–1750 GeV are excluded at 95% confidence level, depending on the gluino decay mechanism. For the scenario of direct production of squark-antisquark pairs, top squarks with masses up to 800 GeV are excluded, assuming a 100% branching fraction for the decay to a top quark and neutralino. Similarly, bottom squark masses are excluded up to 880 GeV, and masses of light-flavor squarks are excluded up to 600–1260 GeV, depending on the degree of degeneracy of the squark masses.

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*See Appendix D for the list of collaboration members

1 Introduction

Searches for new physics based on final states with jets and large transverse momentum imbalance are sensitive to broad classes of new physics models, including supersymmetry (SUSY) [1–8]. Such searches were previously conducted by both the CMS [9–13] and ATLAS [14, 15] collaborations using data from 8 TeV proton-proton (pp) collisions, placing lower limits on the masses of pair-produced colored particles near the TeV scale for a broad range of production and decay scenarios and providing some of the most stringent constraints on the production of supersymmetric particles. These searches are particularly interesting at this time as they are among the first to benefit from the increase in the CERN LHC center-of-mass energy from 8 to 13 TeV, as shown in two recent analyses of these final states by ATLAS and CMS [16, 17].

As a consequence of the increase in parton luminosity at 13 TeV, the cross section for the pair production of particles with the color quantum numbers of a gluon increases by more than a factor of 30 for a particle of mass 1.5 TeV. In this paper we present results of a search for new physics in events with jets and significant transverse momentum imbalance, as characterized by the “stransverse mass” MT_2 , a kinematic variable that was first proposed for use in SUSY searches in Refs. [18, 19] and used in several Run 1 searches [13, 20]. The search is performed using a data sample corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 2.3 fb^{-1} of pp collisions collected at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV with the CMS detector at the LHC. In this analysis we select events with at least one jet and veto events with an identified, isolated lepton. Signal regions are defined by the number of jets, the number of jets identified as a product of b quark fragmentation (b-tagged jets), the scalar sum of jet transverse momenta (HT), and MT_2 . The observed event yields in these regions are compared with the background expectation from standard model (SM) processes and the predicted contributions from simplified supersymmetric models of gluino and squark pair production [21–25].

2 The CMS Detector

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid, 13 m in length and 6 m in diameter, which provides an axial magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the field volume are several particle detection systems. Charged-particle trajectories are measured with silicon pixel and strip trackers, covering $0 < \phi < 2\pi$ in azimuth and $|\eta| < 2.5$ in pseudorapidity, where $\eta = -\ln[\tan(\theta/2)]$ and θ is the polar angle of the trajectory of the particle with respect to the counterclockwise beam direction. The transverse momentum, the component of the momentum p in the plane orthogonal to the beam, is defined in terms of the polar angle as $p_T = p \sin \theta$.

A lead-tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter surround the tracking volume, providing energy measurements of electrons, photons, and hadronic jets in the range $|\eta| < 3.0$. Muons are identified and measured within $|\eta| < 2.4$ by gas-ionization detectors embedded in the steel flux-return yoke of the solenoid. Forward calorimeters on each side of the interaction point encompass $3.0 < |\eta| < 5.0$. The detector is nearly hermetic, allowing momentum imbalance measurements in the plane transverse to the beam direction. A two-tier trigger system selects pp collision events of interest for use in physics analyses. A more detailed description of the CMS detector is available in Ref. [26].

3 Simulated Event Samples

Monte Carlo (MC) simulations are used in the estimate of some of the SM backgrounds (see Section 6), as well as to calculate the selection efficiency for various new physics scenarios. The main background and control samples (W+jets, Z+jets, tt+jets, +jets, and QCD multijet events), as well as signal samples of gluino and squark pair production, are generated with the MADGRAPH 5 generator [27] interfaced with PYTHIA 8.2 [28] for fragmentation and parton showering. Signal processes are generated at leading order with up to two extra partons present in the event. Other background samples are generated with MADGRAPH aMC@NLO 2.2 [29] (s-channel single top, ttW, ttZ, ttH) and with POWHEG v2 [30, 31] (t-channel single top, tW), both interfaced with PYTHIA 8.2 [28]. Next-to-leading order (NLO) and next-to-NLO cross sections [29-34] are used to normalize the simulated background samples, while NLO plus next-to-leading-logarithm (NLL) calculations [35] are used for the signal samples. The NNPDF3.0LO and NNPDF3.0NLO [36] parton distribution functions (PDF) are used, respectively, with MADGRAPH, and with POWHEG v2 and MADGRAPH aMC@NLO. Standard model processes are simulated using a GEANT4-based model [37] of the CMS detector, while the simulation of new physics signals is performed using the CMS fast simulation package [38]. All simulated events include the effects of pileup, i.e. multiple pp collisions within the same or neighboring bunch crossings, and are processed with the same chain of reconstruction programs as used for collision data.

4 Event Reconstruction

Event reconstruction is based on the particle-flow (PF) algorithm [39, 40], which combines information from the tracker, calorimeter, and muon systems to reconstruct and identify PF candidates, i.e. charged and neutral hadrons, photons, muons, and electrons. We select events with at least one reconstructed vertex that is within 24 cm (2 cm) of the center of the detector in the direction along (perpendicular to) the beam axis. In the presence of pileup, usually more than one such vertex is reconstructed. We designate as the primary vertex (PV) the one for which the summed pT^2 of the associated charged PF candidates is the largest. Charged PF candidates associated with the PV and neutral particle candidates are clustered into jets using the anti- kT algorithm [41] with a distance parameter of 0.4. The jet energy is calibrated using a set of corrections similar to those developed for the 8 TeV data [42]: an offset correction accounting for neutral energy arising from pileup interactions in the area of the reconstructed jet; a relative correction that makes the jet energy response, i.e. the ratio of the reconstructed to the original jet energy, uniform in pT and η ; an absolute correction that restores the average jet energy response to unity; and a residual correction, applied to account for remaining differences between data and simulation.

Jets originating from b quarks are identified by the combined secondary vertex algorithm [43]. We use a working point with a tagging efficiency of approximately 65% for jets originating from b quarks with momenta typical of top quark pair events. For jets with transverse momentum above approximately 200 GeV, the tagging efficiency decreases roughly linearly, reaching an efficiency of about 45% at 600 GeV. The probability to misidentify jets arising from c quarks as b jets is about 12%, while the corresponding probability for light-flavor quarks or gluons is about 1.5%. The transverse hadronic energy, HT , is defined as the scalar sum of the magnitudes of the jet transverse momenta, while the missing transverse hadronic momentum, H_{miss} , is defined as the negative vector sum of the transverse momenta of the same jets. Except for a few cases described later, the construction of higher-level variables and the event categorization are based on jets with $pT > 30$ GeV, $|\eta| < 2.5$, and passing loose requirements on the jet composition designed to reject rare spurious signals arising from noise and failures in the event reconstruction [44].

The transverse momentum imbalance (p_{miss}), whose magnitude is referred to as E_{miss} , is defined as the negative of the vector sum of the transverse momenta of all reconstructed charged and neutral PF candidates. Electron candidates are reconstructed as clusters of energy deposits in the electromagnetic calorimeter, matched to tracks in the silicon tracker [45]. We identify electrons having $pT > 10$ GeV by loose requirements on the shape of these energy deposits, on the ratio of energy in associated hadron and electromagnetic calorimeter cells (H/E), on the geometric matching between the energy deposits and the associated track, and on the consistency between the energy reconstructed from calorimeter deposits and the momentum measured in the tracker. In addition, we require

that the associated track be consistent with originating from the PV. The PF algorithm applies a looser set of requirements to identify “PF electrons” with even smaller transverse momenta. We use it to extend the range of identified electrons down to $p_T > 5$ GeV.

Muon candidates are reconstructed by combining tracks found in the muon system with corresponding tracks in the silicon detectors. Candidates are required to be classified as either Global Muons or Tracker Muons, according to the definitions given in Ref. [46], when they have $p_T > 10$ GeV. The associated silicon detector track is required to be consistent with originating from the PV. The PF algorithm applies looser requirements to identify “PF muons” with even smaller transverse momenta. We use it to extend the range of identified muons down to $p_T > 5$ GeV.

The isolation of electrons and muons is defined as the scalar sum of the transverse momenta of all neutral and charged PF candidates within a cone $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$ along the lepton direction. The variable is corrected for the effects of pileup using an effective area correction [47], and the size of the cone is dependent on the lepton p_T according to specific thresholds. The relative lepton isolation is the lepton isolation divided by the lepton p_T . When selecting PF electrons and muons, as well as isolated PF charged hadrons, a track-only isolation computed in a larger cone is used. Relative track isolation is calculated using all charged PF candidates within a cone $\Delta R < 0.3$ and longitudinal impact parameter $|\Delta z| < 0.1$ cm relative to the PV. The efficiency for selecting prompt electrons increases from 65–70% at a p_T of 10 GeV to 80–90% at 50 GeV, and plateaus at 85–95% above 100 GeV, where the smaller values are from signal samples with high jet multiplicity and the larger numbers are from tt +jets events. For prompt muons, the efficiency increases from 75–90% at a p_T of 10 GeV to 85–95% at 50 GeV, and plateaus at 95–99% above 200 GeV.

Photon candidates, used in the estimation of the $Z \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ background, are reconstructed from deposits in the electromagnetic calorimeter and are selected using the shower shape variable (σ_{had}), the ratio H/E , and a quantity characterizing the photon isolation [48]. We require that the sum of p_T values of the charged hadrons within an isolation cone $\Delta R < 0.3$ be less than 2.5 GeV.

5 Event Selection

Before assigning events to different signal regions, the baseline selection described in this section is implemented. Collision events are selected using triggers with different requirements on HT, Emiss, and Hmiss. Table 1 summarizes the triggers and corresponding offline selections, after which the triggers are found to be >98% efficient. As shown in the table, events with $HT < 1000$ GeV are selected with triggers that impose an Emiss requirement. As a consequence, for the low HT sample we employ a tighter requirement on the offline value of Emiss. The events passing the selections of Table 1 are further divided according to the total number of jets (N_j) and the number of jets identified as

originating from b quarks (Nb). When determining Nb, we lower the jet pT threshold from 30 to 20 GeV in order to increase sensitivity to potential signal scenarios with soft decay products.

For events with at least two reconstructed jets, we start with the pair having the largest dijet invariant mass and iteratively cluster all selected jets using a hemisphere algorithm that minimizes the Lund distance measure [49, 50] until two stable pseudo-jets are obtained. The resulting pseudo-jets together with the pmiss are used to determine the stransverse mass MT2 [18, 19]. This kinematic mass variable, which can be considered as a generalization of the transverse mass variable MT defined in Ref. [51], was introduced as a means to measure the mass of pair-produced particles in situations where both decay to a final state containing the same type of undetected particle. The variable MT2 is defined as:

$$MT2 = \min_{\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}(1)} + \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}(2)} = \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}} \left[\max \left(M_T^{(1)}, M_T^{(2)} \right) \right]$$

where $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}(i)}$ (with $i = 1, 2$) are the unknown transverse momenta of the two undetected particles and M_T the transverse masses obtained by pairing any of the two invisible particles with one of the two pseudojets. The minimization is performed over trial momenta of the undetected particles fulfilling the \vec{p}_T^{miss} constraint. Most of the background from QCD multijet events (defined more precisely in Section 6) is characterized by very small values of MT2, while a wide class of new physics models imply large values of stransverse mass. Figure 1 [Figure 1: see original paper] shows the MT2 distributions expected from simulation for the background processes and one signal model, the gluino-mediated bottom squark production described in Section 7. Selections based on the MT2 variable are a powerful means to reduce the contribution from multijet events to a subleading component of the total background. A complete discussion of the MT2 properties as a discovery variable and details about the exact calculation of the variable are given in Refs. [13, 20].

The main selection to suppress the background from multijet production is the requirement $MT2 > 200$ GeV in events with at least two reconstructed jets. Even after this requirement, a residual background contribution with large MT2 values remains, arising primarily from events in which the energy of a jet has been severely undermeasured. To further suppress background events resulting from jet mismeasurement, we require $\Delta \min > 0.3$, where $\Delta \min$ is defined as the minimum azimuthal angle between the \vec{p}_T^{miss} vector and up to four highest pT jets. For the purpose of the $\Delta \min$ calculation only, we consider jets with $|\eta| < 4.7$.

In addition, we require that the magnitude of the vector difference in the transverse momentum imbalance determined using either the selected jets (\vec{H}_T^{miss}) or all PF candidates (\vec{p}_T^{miss}) satisfy $|\vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}} - \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}|/E_{\text{miss}} < 0.5$. This requirement protects against large imbalances arising from objects with $pT < 30$ GeV or $|\eta| > 4.7$.

> 2.5. Finally, events with possible contributions from beam halo processes or anomalous noise in the calorimeters are rejected using dedicated filters [52].

To reduce the background from SM processes with genuine Emiss arising from the decay of a W boson, we reject events with an identified electron or muon with $p_T > 10$ GeV and $|\Delta R| < 2.4$. Only electrons (muons) with a relative isolation less than 0.1 (0.2) are considered in the veto. Events are also vetoed if they contain an isolated charged PF candidate (electron, muon or charged hadron) to reject leptons decaying to leptons or hadrons. To avoid loss of efficiency in potential signals with large jet multiplicities, events are only vetoed if the transverse mass (MT) formed by the momentum of the isolated charged PF candidate and \vec{p}_T^{miss} is less than 100 GeV, consistent with the leptonic decay of a W boson. For charged candidates identified as a PF electron or muon, we veto the event if the candidate has $p_T > 5$ GeV and a relative track isolation of less than 0.2. For charged candidates identified as a PF hadron, we veto the event if the candidate has $p_T > 10$ GeV and a relative track isolation of less than 0.2.

5.1 Signal Regions

Signal regions are defined separately for events with either exactly one jet passing the counting criteria above, or with two or more jets. Events with $N_j = 2$ are categorized based on HT, N_j , N_b as follows: - 5 bins in HT: [200,450], [450, 575], [575, 1000], [1000, 1500], and >1500. These bins, which are expressed in GeV, are also referred to as very low HT, low HT, medium HT, high HT, and extreme HT regions. - 11 bins in N_j and N_b : 2-3j & 0b, 2-3j & 1b, 2-3j & 2b, 4-6j & 0b, 4-6j & 1b, 4-6j & 2b, 7j & 0b, 7j & 1b, 7j & 2b, 2-6j & 3b, 7j & 3b.

Each bin defined by the HT, N_j , N_b requirements above is referred to as a “topological region”. We further divide each topological region in bins of MT2, expressed in GeV, as follows: - 3 bins at very-low HT: [200,300], [300,400], and >400 - 4 bins at low HT: [200,300], [300,400], [400,500], and >500 - 5 bins at medium HT: [200,300], [300,400], [400,600], [600,800], and >800 - 5 bins at high HT: [200,400], [400,600], [600,800], [800, 1000], and >1000 - 5 bins at extreme HT: [200,400], [400,600], [600,800], [800,1000], and >1000

For events with $N_j = 1$, i.e. belonging to the “monojet” signal regions, the MT2 variable is not defined. We instead opt for a simpler strategy with signal regions defined by the p_T of the jet and N_b : - N_b : 0b, 1b - 7 bins in jet p_T , indicated in GeV, which are defined as follows: [200,250], [250,350], [350,450], [450,575], [575,700], [700,1000], and >1000

In order to have more than one event expected in each signal region, the actual MT2 (or jet p_T) binning is coarser than indicated above for some of the topological regions. A complete list of the signal bins is provided in Tables A.1, A.2, and A.3 in Appendix A. In total, we define 172 separate signal regions.

6 Backgrounds

There are three sources of SM background to potential new physics signals in a jets plus Emiss final state: - **Lost lepton background**: events with genuine invisible particles, i.e. neutrinos, from leptonic W boson decays where the charged lepton is either out of acceptance, not reconstructed, not identified, or not isolated. This background comes from both W+jets and tt+jets events, with a small contribution from single top quark production, and is one of the dominant backgrounds in nearly all search regions. It is estimated using a one-lepton control sample, obtained by inverting the lepton veto in each topological region. - **Z \rightarrow background**: Z+jets events where the Z boson decays to neutrinos. This almost irreducible background is most similar to potential signals. It is a major background in nearly all search regions, its importance decreasing for tighter requirements on Nb. This background is estimated using +jets and Z \rightarrow control samples. - **Multijet background**: mostly instrumental background that enters a search region because of either significant mismeasurement of the jet momentum or sources of anomalous noise in the detector. There is also a small contribution from events with genuine Emiss from neutrinos produced in semi-leptonic decays of charm and bottom quarks. To suppress this background we apply the selections described in Section 5, after which this type of background is sub-dominant in almost all search regions. The background is estimated from a control sample obtained by inverting the Δ min requirement in each topological region.

For all three categories, the event yields in the control regions are translated into background estimates in the signal regions using “transfer factors”, either based on simulation or measured in data, which are described in the next sections.

6.1 Estimation of the Background from Leptonic W Boson Decays

Single-lepton control regions are used to estimate the background arising from leptonic W boson decays in W+jets and tt+jets processes. Control region events are selected using the same triggers as for signal regions, and the baseline selections of Section 5 are applied with the exception of the lepton veto. Instead, we require exactly one lepton candidate passing either the PF lepton selection (e or μ only) or the lepton selection used in lepton vetoes. In addition, we require $MT(\ell, \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}) < 100$ GeV to reduce potential contamination from signal. Selected events are then grouped into the categories described in Section 5.1, binning the single-lepton control regions in the HT, Nj, and Nb dimensions, but not in MT2, to preserve statistical precision. The binning in Nj and Nb is the same as that of the signal regions, except for signal bins with Nj = 7 and Nb = 1. For these signal regions, the background prediction is obtained using a control region with the same HT selection as the signal and requiring Nj = 7 and 1 \leq Nb \leq 2. This is motivated by the scarcity of data in control regions with Nj = 7 and Nb = 2 as well as potential contamination from signal in bins with Nj = 7 and Nb = 3. For events with Nj = 1, one control region is defined for each bin of jet pT.

The background yield $N_{\text{SR}}^{1\ell}$ in each signal region SR is obtained from the corresponding single-lepton yield $N_{\text{CR}}^{1\ell}$ in the control region CR by the application of transfer factors $R_{0\ell/1\ell}^{\text{MC}}$ and k^{MC} , and according to the following equation:

$$N_{\text{SR}}^{1\ell}(H_T, N_j, N_b, M_{T2}) = N_{\text{CR}}^{1\ell}(H_T, N_j, N_b) \times R_{0\ell/1\ell}^{\text{MC}}(H_T, N_j, N_b) \times k^{\text{MC}}(M_{T2})$$

The number of events for which we fail to reconstruct or identify an isolated lepton candidate is obtained via the factor $R_{0\ell/1\ell}^{\text{MC}}$, which accounts for lepton acceptance and selection efficiency and the expected contribution from the decay of W bosons to hadrons through an intermediate lepton. The factor $R_{0\ell/1\ell}^{\text{MC}}$ is obtained from simulation and corrected for small measured differences in lepton efficiency between data and simulation. The fraction of events in each topological region expected to populate a particular MT2 bin, $k^{\text{MC}}(M_{T2})$, is used to obtain the estimate in each search bin and is also obtained from simulation. Normalization to data control regions reduces reliance on the MC modeling of most kinematic quantities, except MT2.

The uncertainty in $k^{\text{MC}}(M_{T2})$ is evaluated in simulation by variations of the important experimental and theoretical parameters. Reconstruction uncertainties, assessed by varying the tagging efficiency for b quarks, and by evaluating the impact of variations in jet response on the counting of jets and b-tagged jets, Emiss, and MT2, are typically found to be less than 10%, but can reach as much as 40% in some bins. Renormalization and factorization scales, PDFs [53], and the relative composition of W+jets and tt+jets are varied to assess the dominant theoretical uncertainties, which are found to be as large as 30%. Based on these results, for $k^{\text{MC}}(M_{T2})$ we assign a shape uncertainty that reaches 40% in the highest bins of MT2.

The MC modeling of the MT2 distribution is checked in data using control regions enriched in events originating from either W+jets or tt+jets, as shown in the left and right plots of Fig. 2 [Figure 2: see original paper], respectively. An additional check is performed by comparing the standard estimate with that obtained by replacing the factor $k^{\text{MC}}(M_{T2})$ in Eq. (3) with an extra dimension in the binning of the control region, which becomes $N_{\text{CR}}^{1\ell}(H_T, N_j, N_b, M_{T2})$. The two estimates agree within the statistical precision permitted by the size of the control regions. The single-lepton control regions typically have 1-2 times as many events expected as compared to the corresponding signal region. The statistical uncertainty in this event yield ranges from 1-100%, depending on the region, and is propagated to the final uncertainty in the background estimate.

The transfer factor $R_{0\ell/1\ell}^{\text{MC}}$ depends on the MC modeling of the lepton veto and MT selection efficiencies. Leptonic Z boson decays are used to evaluate the MC modeling of lepton selection efficiencies, and the resulting uncertainty propagated to the background estimate is found to be as large as 7%. The MT selection efficiency is cross-checked using a similar dilepton sample and removing

one of the leptons to mimic events where the W boson decays to a lepton, and an uncertainty of 3% is assigned by comparing data to simulation. The uncertainty in the MC modeling of the lepton acceptance, assessed by varying the renormalization and factorization scales and PDF sets, is found to be as large as 5%. Finally, the uncertainty in the b tagging efficiency and the jet energy scale is typically less than 10%, although it can be as large as 40% in some bins.

The effect of signal contributions to the lost-lepton control samples can be non-negligible in some parts of signal parameter space, and is taken into account in the interpretations presented in Section 7. Such a contribution would cause an overestimate of the lost-lepton background in the signal regions. In order to account for this effect, which is typically small but can become as large as 20% in some compressed scenarios, the predicted signal yield in each signal region is corrected by the amount by which the background would be overestimated.

6.2 Estimation of the Background from $Z(\gamma)+\text{jets}$

The $Z \rightarrow \gamma$ background is estimated using a γ +jets control sample selected using a single-photon trigger. We select events where the photon has $p_T > 180$ GeV, to mimic the implicit requirement on the p_T of the Z boson arising from the baseline selection $MT2 > 200$ GeV, and $|\eta| < 2.5$. The full baseline selection requirements are made based on kinematic variables re-calculated after removing the photon from the event, to replicate the $Z \rightarrow \gamma$ kinematics. Adopting a similar strategy as that used for the estimation of the lost-lepton background, selected events are then grouped into the categories described in Section 5.1, binning the photon control regions in the HT, Nj, and Nb dimensions, but not in MT2, to preserve statistical precision. For events with $N_j = 1$, one control region is defined for each bin of jet p_T .

The background estimate $N_{\text{SR}}^{Z \rightarrow \nu\nu}$ in each signal bin is obtained from the events yield N_{CR}^γ in the control region by the application of transfer factors according to Eq. (4):

$$N_{\text{SR}}^{Z \rightarrow \nu\nu}(H_T, N_j, N_b, M_{T2}) = N_{\text{CR}}^\gamma(H_T, N_j, N_b) \times P_\gamma(H_T, N_j, N_b) \times R_{Z/\gamma}^{\text{MC}}(H_T, N_j, N_b) \times k^{\text{MC}}(M_{T2})$$

The prompt-photon purity, P_γ , which accounts for photons arising from meson decays, is measured in data by performing a template fit of the charged-hadron isolation distribution for each HT, Nj, and Nb region. The shape of the template for prompt photons is obtained from data by measuring the charged-hadron activity in cones well-separated from the photon and any jet. The isolation template for background photons arising from meson decays, which happen normally within hadronic jets, is also obtained from data using photon candidates that fail the η requirement. A prompt photon purity of 90-100%, as measured in data, is well reproduced by simulation as seen in the left plot of Fig. 3 [Figure

3: see original paper]. A separate determination of the prompt photon purity using a tight-to-loose ratio method [54] obtained from the charged-hadron isolation sideband is found to yield consistent results.

The $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell\gamma$ background in each bin of HT, Nj, and Nb is obtained from the corresponding photon control region yield via the factor $R_{Z/\gamma}^{\text{MC}}$, which accounts for the photon acceptance and selection efficiency and the ratio of cross sections for the production of Z+jets and $\ell\ell$ +jets events. The ratio $R_{Z/\gamma}^{\text{MC}}$ is obtained from $\ell\ell$ +jet events simulated with MADGRAPH with an implicit requirement $\Delta R > 0.4$ between the prompt photon and the nearest parton. As no such requirement can be made in data, a correction factor $f = 0.92$ is applied to account for the fraction of selected photons passing the ΔR requirement. This factor is determined from studies with samples of MADGRAPH+PYTHIA and PYTHIA-only multijet events, the latter having no explicit requirement on the separation between the photon and the nearest parton.

The ratio $R_{Z/\gamma}^{\text{MC}}$ obtained from simulation is validated in data using $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell\gamma$ events. In this validation, the baseline selection is applied to the $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell\gamma$ sample after removing the reconstructed leptons from the event, to replicate the kinematics of $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell\gamma$, and the top-quark background contamination is subtracted. The upper right plot of Fig. 3 shows the $R_{Z/\gamma}$ ratios in simulation and in data, while the double ratio, $R_{Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-\gamma}$, is shown in the lower right plot. The values are shown in bins of HT, after corrections to account for measured differences between data and simulation in lepton and photon selection efficiencies and in b tagging. The double ratio shows no significant trend as a function of HT, and a correction factor of 0.95 is applied to $R_{Z/\gamma}^{\text{MC}}$ to account for the observed deviation from unity. Similarly, the double ratio as a function of Nj and Nb shows no significant trends and is found to be consistent with unity after the same correction factor is applied.

As in the case of the estimate of the single-lepton background, normalization to data control regions reduces reliance on the MC modeling to a single dimension, MT2. The fraction of events in each topological region expected to populate a particular MT2 bin, $k^{\text{MC}}(M_{T2})$, is used to obtain the estimate in each search bin. The uncertainty in this fraction in each MT2 bin is evaluated in simulation by variations of the important experimental and theoretical quantities. Theoretical uncertainties represent the largest contribution, and are assessed by variations of the renormalization and factorization scales and PDF sets. Smaller contributions from reconstruction uncertainties are determined by varying the b-tagging efficiency and the mistag rate, and by evaluating the impact of variations in jet energy response on the counting of jets and b-tagged jets, Emiss, and MT2. Experimental and theoretical uncertainties in $k^{\text{MC}}(M_{T2})$ total as much as 30% at large values of MT2. Based on these results, we assign an uncertainty for $k^{\text{MC}}(M_{T2})$ that reaches 40% in the highest bins of MT2.

The MC modeling of the MT2 variable is checked in data using highly populated control samples of $\ell\ell$ +jets and $W \rightarrow \ell\ell$ events. Figure 4 [Figure 4: see original pa-

per] shows good agreement between the MT_2 distribution obtained from these samples with that from $Z \rightarrow$ simulation in the medium- and high-HT regions. In this comparison, the $+jets$ sample is corrected based on P_γ , f , and $R_{Z/\gamma}^{MC}$, while the W boson sample is corrected for top-quark background contamination and rescaled by a factor analogous to $R_{Z/\gamma}^{MC}$. Similarly to what is done for the lost-lepton background, an additional check is performed by comparing the standard estimate with that obtained by replacing the factor $k^{MC}(M_{T2})$ in Eq. (4) with an extra dimension in the binning of the control region, which becomes $N_{CR}^\gamma(H_T, N_j, N_b, M_{T2})$. These two estimates agree within the statistical precision permitted by the size of the control regions. The single-photon control regions typically have 2-3 times as many events as compared to the corresponding signal regions. The statistical uncertainty in this yield ranges from 1-100%, depending on the region, and is propagated in the final estimate.

The dominant uncertainty in the MC modeling of $R_{Z/\gamma}^{MC}$ comes from the validation of the ratio using $Z \rightarrow$ events. One-dimensional projections of the double ratio are constructed—separately in bins of number of jets, number of b-tagged jets, and HT (Fig. 3, right)—and an uncertainty in $R_{Z/\gamma}^{MC}$ in each bin of N_j , N_b , and HT is determined by adding in quadrature the uncertainty in the ratio $R_{Z \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- / \gamma}$ from the corresponding bins of the one-dimensional projections. As sufficient data are not available to evaluate the double ratio for regions with $N_b = 3$, and as no trends are visible in the N_b distribution for $N_b < 3$, we assign twice the uncertainty obtained in the nearest bin, i.e. $N_b = 2$. This uncertainty ranges from 10 to 100%, depending on the search region. An additional 11% uncertainty in the transfer factor, based on the observed offset of the double ratio from unity, is added in quadrature with the above. The uncertainty in the measurement of the prompt photon purity includes a statistical contribution from yields in the isolation sideband that is typically 5-10%, but can reach as much as 100% for search regions requiring extreme values of HT or large N_j . An additional 5% uncertainty is derived from variations in purity caused by modifications of the signal and background templates, and from a “closure test” of the method in simulation. We indicate with closure test a measurement of the ability of the method to predict correctly the true number of background events when applied to simulated samples. Finally, an uncertainty of 8% is assigned to cover differences in the correction fraction f observed between MADGRAPH+PYTHIA and PYTHIA-only simulations.

6.3 Estimation of the Multijet Background

The multijet background consists predominantly of light-flavor and gluon multijet events. Though this background is expected to be small after requiring $MT_2 > 200$ GeV, we estimate any residual contribution based on data control samples. For events with at least two jets, a multijet-enriched control region is obtained in each HT bin by inverting the Δ min requirement described in Section 5. For the high- and extreme-HT bins, control region events are selected using the same trigger as for signal events. For lower-HT regions, the online

Emiss requirement precludes the use of the signal trigger, and the control sample is instead selected using prescaled HT triggers with lower thresholds. Prescaled triggers accept only a fixed fraction of the events that satisfy their selection criteria.

The extrapolation from low- to high- Δ min is based on the following ratio:

$$r_\varphi(M_{T2}) = N(\Delta\varphi_{\min} > 0.3)/N(\Delta\varphi_{\min} < 0.3)$$

Studies in simulation show the ratio to be well described by a power law function, $a(M_{T2})^b$. The parameters a , b are determined in each HT bin by fitting the ratio $r(M_{T2})$ in a sideband in data, i.e. $60 < M_{T2} < 100$ GeV, after subtracting non-multijet contributions using simulation. For the high- and extreme-HT regions, the fit is performed in a slightly narrower M_{T2} window, with the lower edge increased to 70 GeV. An example in the high-HT region is shown in Fig. 5 [Figure 5: see original paper].

The inclusive multijet contribution in each HT region, $N_{\text{SR}}^{\text{inc}}(M_{T2})$, is estimated using the fitted $r(M_{T2})$ and the number of events in the low- Δ min control region, $N_{\text{CR}}^{\text{inc}}(H_T)$:

$$N_{\text{SR}}^{\text{inc}}(M_{T2}) = N_{\text{CR}}^{\text{inc}}(H_T) \times r_\varphi(M_{T2})$$

From the inclusive multijet estimate in each HT region, the predicted background in bins of N_j and N_b is obtained from the following equation:

$$N_{\text{SR}}^{j,b}(M_{T2}) = N_{\text{SR}}^{\text{inc}}(M_{T2}) \times f_j(H_T) \times r_b(N_j)$$

where f_j is the fraction of multijet events falling in bin N_j , and r_b is the fraction of all events in bin N_j that fall in bin N_b . Simulation indicates that f_j and r_b attain similar values in low- and high- Δ min regions, and that the values are independent of M_{T2} . We take advantage of this to measure the values of f_j and r_b using events with M_{T2} between 100-200 GeV in the low- Δ min sideband, where f_j is measured separately in each HT bin, while r_b is measured in bins of N_j , integrated over HT, as r_b is found to be independent of the latter. Values of f_j and r_b measured in data are shown in Fig. 6 [Figure 6: see original paper] compared to simulation.

An estimate based on $r(M_{T2})$ is not viable in the monojet search region so a different strategy must be employed. Multijet events can pass the monojet event selections through rare fluctuations in dijet events, as when the transverse momentum of one of the two jets is severely underestimated because of detector response or because of particularly energetic neutrinos from b and c quark decays. In these cases, the resulting reconstructed jet can be assigned a transverse momentum below the jet-counting threshold ($p_T < 30$ GeV). In order to estimate this background contribution, we define a control region by selecting dijet

events in which the leading jet has a transverse momentum $p_T > 200$ GeV (as in the monojet signal region), and the second jet has a transverse momentum just above threshold, i.e. $30 < p_T < 60$ GeV. These events must further pass an inverted Δ min requirement, in order to ensure statistical independence from the signal region. After subtracting non-multijet contributions, the data yield in the control region is taken as an estimate of the background in the monojet search regions. The rate of events with $30 < p_T < 60$ GeV is expected to be larger than that of events with $p_T < 30$ GeV, as the latter would require even larger detector response fluctuations. Closure tests on the simulation indicate a small overestimate. Nevertheless, the multijet background is not expected to exceed 8% in any monojet search region.

Statistical uncertainties due to the event yields in the control regions, where the r (MT2) fit is performed and the f_j and r_b values are measured, are propagated to the final estimate. The invariance of f_j with MT2 and r_b with MT2 and HT is evaluated in simulation, and residual differences are taken as additional systematic uncertainties, which are shown in Fig. 6. An additional uncertainty is assigned to cover the sensitivity of the r value to variations in the fit window. These variations result in an uncertainty that increases with MT2 and ranges from 15–200%. The total uncertainty in the estimate covers the differences observed in closure tests based on simulation and in data control regions. The latter is performed in the $100 < \text{MT2} < 200$ GeV sideband. For the monojet regions, the statistical uncertainty from the data yield in the dijet sideband is combined with a 50% systematic uncertainty in all bins.

6.4 Cross-Check of Multijet Background Estimation

As a cross-check of the Δ min ratio method described in Section 6.3, the multijet background is also estimated using the “rebalance and smear” (R&S) method described in Ref. [55]. This method rebalances multijet events in data by adjusting the jet p_T values to minimize E_{miss} and then smears them multiple times in order to build a large sample of multijet events with nonzero E_{miss} . During both the rebalance and the smearing steps, the jet p_T values are varied according to a parameterization of the jet energy response. The performance of the method has been tested on multijet simulation, as well as on data control regions defined by inverting the Δ min requirement or by selecting a sideband of MT2 (i.e. $100 < \text{MT2} < 200$ GeV). Based on these studies, we assign total systematic uncertainties of 50% (low- and medium-HT regions) and 40% (high- and extreme-HT regions) in the background estimate based on R&S for $\text{MT2} > 200$ GeV. These uncertainties also include a small ($< 7\%$) uncertainty due to contamination from W+jets and Z+jets events of the multijet data sample used in the R&S procedure.

In Fig. 7 [Figure 7: see original paper], we compare the multijet predictions from the R&S method with those from the Δ min ratio method, i.e. the estimation method used in our analysis for multijet signal regions. This comparison is done separately for each topological region, integrating over MT2 bins. The level of

agreement between the two methods serves to further increase our confidence in the multijet background estimation used for the final results of the analysis. The R&S method cannot be applied to the very-low-HT region as not enough data are available in the relevant multijet control sample because of the small fraction of events accepted by the prescaled triggers with very low thresholds in HT.

7 Results and Interpretation

Figure 8 [Figure 8: see original paper] shows a summary of the observed event yields in data, together with the predicted total SM background. Each bin in the upper plot corresponds to a single (HT, Nj, Nb) search region integrated over MT2. The lower plot further breaks down the background estimates and observed data yields into all MT2 bins for the medium HT region. The data are statistically compatible with the expected background contributions, providing no evidence for new physics. The background estimates and corresponding uncertainties shown in these plots rely exclusively on the inputs from control samples and simulation as described in Section 6 and are indicated in the rest of the text as “pre-fit background” results.

We also estimate the backgrounds in the signal regions performing a maximum-likelihood fit to the data in the signal regions themselves. These fits are carried out under either the background-only or background+signal hypotheses. The estimates from the fits, which still depend on the modeling of the backgrounds from the pre-fit procedure, are indicated as “post-fit” results and are utilized to constrain models of new physics as described below. Similar comparisons between data and background predictions, for both pre- and post-fit estimates, are shown for all the remaining HT regions in Appendix A.

The results of the search are used to constrain specific models of new physics such as those identified by the diagrams in Fig. 9 [Figure 9: see original paper]. For each scenario of gluino (squark) pair production, our simplified models assume that all supersymmetric particles other than the gluino (squark) and the lightest neutralino are too heavy to be produced directly, and that the gluino (squark) decays promptly. For the gluino pair production, the models assume that each gluino decays with a 100% branching fraction into the lightest supersymmetric particle (LSP) and either b quark pairs ($\tilde{g} \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tilde{\chi}_1^0$), top quark pairs ($\tilde{g} \rightarrow t\bar{t}\tilde{\chi}_1^0$), or light-flavor quarks ($\tilde{g} \rightarrow q\bar{q}\tilde{\chi}_1^0$), proceeding respectively through an off-shell bottom, top, or light-flavor squark. For a given signal scenario, limits are derived by combining all search regions using a modified frequentist approach, employing the CLs criterion and an asymptotic formulation [56-59]. Typical values of the uncertainties considered in the signal yield are listed in Table 2. The largest uncertainties come from the limited size of the MC samples and the uncertainty in the b tagging efficiency.

The uncertainty in the modeling of initial-state radiation (ISR) can also be significant for model points with small mass splittings, where some boost from

ISR is necessary to observe the decay products of the initially produced sparticles. The uncertainty is determined by comparing the simulated and measured p_T spectra of the system recoiling against the ISR jets in $t\bar{t}$ events, using the technique described in Ref. [60]. The two spectra are observed to agree below 400 GeV, and the statistical precision of the comparison is used to define an uncertainty of 15% (30%) for $400 < p_T < 600$ GeV ($p_T > 600$ GeV). The uncertainty in the acceptance due to the renormalization and factorization scales is found to be relatively small, and a constant value of 5% is used in the analysis. The uncertainty due to the jet energy scale is found to be compatible with statistical fluctuations for bins populated by few MC events, so a constant value of 5% is taken, motivated by more populated search bins. Uncertainties in the integrated luminosity, ISR, b tagging, and lepton efficiencies are treated as correlated across search bins. No additional uncertainty due to variations of the PDF set is taken since the main effect on signal acceptance is through modeling of the recoil p_T spectrum and the ISR uncertainty already accounts for this.

Figure 10 [Figure 10: see original paper] shows exclusion limits at 95% confidence level (CL) for gluino-mediated bottom squark, top squark, and light-flavor squark production. Exclusion limits for the pair production of bottom, top and light-flavor squarks are shown in Fig. 11 [Figure 11: see original paper]. In the upper right plot of this figure, the white diagonal band corresponds to the region $|m_{\tilde{t}} - m_{\tilde{t}} - m_{\text{LSP}}| < 25$ GeV, where the selection efficiency of top squark events is a strong function of $m_{\tilde{t}} - m_{\text{LSP}}$. As a result, the precise determination of the cross section upper limit is uncertain because of the finite granularity of the available MC samples in this region of the $(m_{\tilde{t}}, m_{\text{LSP}})$ plane. All mass limits shown are obtained using signal cross sections calculated at NLO+NLL order in s [61–65]. Table 3 summarizes the limits of the supersymmetric particles excluded in the simplified model scenarios considered.

To facilitate reinterpretation of our results in the context of other models, we have also provided predictions and results in “aggregated regions,” made from summing up our individual signal bins in topologically similar regions. These results are presented in Appendix B.

8 Summary

A search for new physics using events containing hadronic jets with transverse momentum imbalance as measured by the MT_2 variable has been presented. Results are based on a data sample of proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV collected with the CMS detector and corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 2.3 fb^{-1} . No significant deviations from the standard model expectations are observed.

In the limit of a massless LSP, gluino masses of up to 1750 GeV are excluded, extending the reach of Run 1 searches by more than 300 GeV. For lighter gluinos, LSP masses up to 1125 GeV in the most favorable models are excluded, also

increasing previous limits by more than 300 GeV. Among the three gluino decays considered, the strongest limits on gluino pair production are generally achieved for the $\tilde{g} \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ channel. Improved sensitivity is obtained in this scenario as selections requiring at least two b-tagged jets in the final state retain a significant fraction of gluino-mediated bottom squark events, while strongly suppressing the background from W+jets, Z+jets, and multijet processes. Also, unlike for models with $\tilde{g} \rightarrow t\bar{t}\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ decays, which include leptonic decays, gluino-mediated bottom squark events do not suffer from an efficiency loss due to the lepton veto.

For direct pair production of first- and second-generation squarks, each assumed to decay exclusively to a quark of the same flavor and the lightest neutralino, squark masses of about 1260 GeV and LSP masses up to 580 GeV are excluded. If only a single squark is assumed to be light, the limit on the squark and LSP masses is relaxed to 600 and 300 GeV, respectively. For the pair production of third-generation squarks, each assumed to decay with 100% branching fraction to a quark of the same flavor and the lightest neutralino, a bottom (top) squark mass up to 880 (800) GeV is excluded.

For gluino-induced and direct squark production models, the observed exclusion limits on the masses of the sparticles are from 200 to about 300 GeV higher than those obtained by a similar analysis performed on 8 TeV data [13]. In relative terms, the largest difference is in the limit on the mass of the top squark, which moves from about 500 GeV to 800 GeV for a massless LSP. This is mostly due to a fluctuation in the 8 TeV data that is not present in the 13 TeV data.

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A Detailed Results

Figure A.1: (Above) Comparison of the estimated background (pre-fit) and observed data events in each signal bin in the monojet region. On the x-axis, the jet p_T binning is shown (in GeV). Hatched bands represent the full uncertainty in the background estimate. (Below) Same for the very-low-HT region. On the x-axis, the MT_2 binning is shown (in GeV). Bins with no entry for data have an observed count of 0 events. [FIGURE:A.1]

Figure A.2: (Above) Comparison of the estimated background (pre-fit) and observed data events in each signal bin in the low-HT region. Hatched bands represent the full uncertainty in the background estimate. (Below) Same for the medium-HT region. On the x-axis, the MT_2 binning is shown (in GeV). Bins with no entry for data have an observed count of 0 events. [FIGURE:A.2]

Figure A.3: (Above) Comparison of the estimated background (pre-fit) and observed data events in each signal bin in the high-HT region. Hatched bands represent the full uncertainty in the background estimate. (Below) Same for the extreme-HT region. On the x-axis, the MT_2 binning is shown (in GeV). Bins with no entry for data have an observed count of 0 events. [FIGURE:A.3]

Figure A.4: Comparison of post-fit background prediction and observed data

events in each topological region. Hatched bands represent the post-fit uncertainty in the background prediction. For the monojet region, on the x-axis, the HT binning is shown in GeV. [FIGURE:A.4]

Figure A.5: Post-fit background prediction, expected signal yields, and observed data events in each topological region. Hatched bands represent the post-fit uncertainty in the background prediction. For the monojet region, on the x-axis, the jet p_T binning is shown (in GeV). The red histogram shows the expected contribution from a compressed-spectrum signal model of gluino-mediated bottom squark production with the mass of the gluino and the LSP equal to 700 and 600 GeV, respectively. [FIGURE:A.5]

Figure A.6: Post-fit background prediction, expected signal yields, and observed data events in each signal bin in the extreme-HT region. Hatched bands represent the post-fit uncertainty in the background prediction. On the x-axis, the MT_2 binning is shown (in GeV). The red histogram shows the expected contribution from an open-spectra signal model of gluino-mediated bottom squark production with the mass of the gluino and the LSP equal to 1500 and 100 GeV, respectively. [FIGURE:A.6]

Table A.1: Binning in MT_2 for each topological region of the multijet search regions with very low, low, and medium HT. Within each topological or Nb categorization, we merge MT_2 bins that are expected to contain fewer than one background event. [TABLE:A.1]

Table A.2: Binning in MT_2 for each topological region of the multijet search regions with high and extreme HT. Within each topological or Nb categorization, we merge MT_2 bins that are expected to contain fewer than one background event. [TABLE:A.2]

Table A.3: Binning in jet p_T for the monojet regions. Within each Nb categorization, we merge jet p_T bins that are expected to contain fewer than one background event. [TABLE:A.3]

B Aggregated Regions

To allow simpler reinterpretations, we also provide our results in “aggregated regions,” made from summing up the event yields and the pre-fit background predictions for individual signal bins in topologically similar regions. The uncertainty in the prediction in each aggregated region is calculated taking into account the same correlation model used in the full analysis. The definitions of these regions are given in Table B.1 and Table B.2 gives the predicted and observed number of events in each region together with the 95% CL upper limit on the number of signal events.

If these aggregated regions are used to derive cross section limits on the signals considered in this paper, they typically yield results that are less stringent by a factor of about two compared to the full binned analysis. This is shown in more detail for few signal models in Table B.3. The expected upper limit on

the signal cross section as obtained from the full analysis is compared to the one obtained from the aggregated region that has the best sensitivity to the signal model considered. A 15% uncertainty in the signal selection efficiency is assumed for calculating these limits. The same table also provides the expected signal yields in the given aggregated regions.

Table B.1: Definitions of aggregated regions. Each aggregated region is obtained by selecting all events that pass the logical OR of the listed selections. [TABLE:B.1]

Table B.2: Predictions and observations for the aggregated regions defined in Table B.1, together with the observed 95% CL limit on the number of signal events contributing to each region (N_{obs}^{95}). An uncertainty of either 15 or 30% in the signal efficiency is assumed for calculating the limits. [TABLE:B.2]

Table B.3: Expected upper limits on the cross section of several signal models, as determined from the full binned analysis, are compared to the upper limits obtained using only the aggregated region that has the best sensitivity to each considered signal model. A 15% uncertainty in the signal selection efficiency is assumed for calculating these limits. The signal yields expected for an integrated luminosity of 2.3 fb^{-1} are also shown. [TABLE:B.3]

C Summary Plots

The figures in this appendix summarize in fewer bins the results shown in Figs 8, A.1, and A.2. The observed data are compared to estimated backgrounds as a function of MT2 in more inclusive regions. The aggregated regions presented in these figures are different from those in Appendix B, being instead formed by summing pre-fit values for all signal regions contained in the inclusive HT,Nj,Nb selection displayed in the upper left corner of each plot.

Figure C.1: Comparison of estimated background and observed data events in inclusive topological regions, as labeled in the legends, as a function of MT2, for events with $200 < \text{HT} < 1500 \text{ GeV}$. [FIGURE:C.1]

C Summary Plots

Figure C.2 presents a comparison of estimated background and observed data events in inclusive topological regions as a function of MT2 for events with $\text{HT} > 1000 \text{ GeV}$, with the specific region labels indicated in the legends. The background prediction is derived by summing the pre-fit values for all signal regions included in each plot, where the hatched bands represent the full uncertainty in the background estimate.

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