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*Search for new phenomena in final states with large jet multiplicities and missing transverse momentum at  $\sqrt{s} = 8$  TeV proton-proton collisions using the ATLAS experiment*

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# Search for new phenomena in final states with large jet multiplicities and missing transverse momentum at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV proton-proton collisions using the ATLAS experiment

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**ABSTRACT:** A search is presented for new particles decaying to large numbers (7 or more) of jets, with missing transverse momentum and no isolated electrons or muons. This analysis uses  $20.3 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $pp$  collision data at  $\sqrt{s} = 8$  TeV collected by the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider. The sensitivity of the search is enhanced by considering the number of  $b$ -tagged jets and the scalar sum of masses of large-radius jets in an event. No evidence is found for physics beyond the Standard Model. The results are interpreted in the context of various simplified supersymmetry-inspired models where gluinos are pair produced, as well as an mSUGRA/CMSSM model.

**KEYWORDS:** Hadron-Hadron Scattering, Jet physics, Supersymmetry, Exotics

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**1 Introduction**

Many extensions of the Standard Model of particle physics predict the presence of TeV-scale strongly interacting particles that decay to weakly interacting descendants. In the context of R-parity-conserving supersymmetry (SUSY) [1–5], the strongly interacting parent particles are the partners of the quarks (squarks,  $\tilde{q}$ ) and gluons (gluinos,  $\tilde{g}$ ), and are produced in pairs. The lightest supersymmetric particle (LSP) is stable, providing a candidate that can contribute to the relic dark-matter density in the universe [6, 7]. If they are kinematically accessible, the squarks and gluinos could be produced in the proton-proton interactions at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [8].

Such particles are expected to decay in cascades, the nature of which depends on the mass hierarchy within the model. The events would be characterised by significant missing transverse momentum from the unobserved weakly interacting descendants, and by a large number of jets from emissions of quarks and/or gluons. Individual cascade decays may include gluino decays to a top squark (stop,  $\tilde{t}$ ) and an anti-top quark,

$$\tilde{g} \rightarrow \tilde{t} + \bar{t} \tag{1.1a}$$

followed by the top-squark decay to a top quark and a neutralino LSP,  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ ,

$$\tilde{t} \rightarrow t + \tilde{\chi}_1^0. \tag{1.1b}$$

Alternatively, if the top squark is heavier than the gluino, the three-body decay,

$$\tilde{g} \rightarrow t + \bar{t} + \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tag{1.2}$$

may result. Other possibilities include decays involving intermediate charginos, neutralinos, and/or squarks including bottom squarks. A pair of cascade decays produces a large number of Standard Model particles, together with a pair of LSPs, one from the end of each cascade. The LSPs are assumed to be stable and only weakly interacting, and so escape undetected, resulting in missing transverse momentum.

In this paper we consider final states with large numbers of jets together with significant missing transverse momentum in the absence of isolated electrons or muons, using the  $pp$  collision data recorded by the ATLAS experiment [9] during 2012 at a centre-of-mass energy of  $\sqrt{s} = 8$  TeV. The corresponding integrated luminosity is  $20.3 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . Searches for new phenomena in final states with large jet multiplicities — requiring from at least six to at least nine jets — and missing transverse momentum have previously been reported by the ATLAS Collaboration using LHC  $pp$  collision data corresponding to  $1.34 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  [10] and to  $4.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  [11] at  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV. Searches with explicit tagging of jets from bottom quarks ( $b$ -jets) in multi-jet events were also performed by ATLAS [12] and CMS [13–15]. These searches found no significant excess over the Standard Model expectation and provide limits on various supersymmetric models, including decays such as that in eq. (1.2) and an mSUGRA/CMSSM [16–21] model that includes strong production processes. The analysis presented in this paper extends previous analyses by reaching higher jet multiplicities and utilizing new sensitive variables.

Events are first selected with large jet multiplicities, with requirements ranging from at least seven to at least ten jets, reconstructed using the anti- $k_t$  clustering algorithm [22, 23] and jet radius parameter  $R = 0.4$ . Significant missing transverse momentum is also required in the event. The sensitivity of the search is further enhanced by the subdivision of the selected sample into several categories using additional information. Event classification based on the number of  $b$ -jets gives enhanced sensitivity to models which predict either more or fewer  $b$ -jets than the Standard Model background. In a complementary stream of the analysis, the  $R = 0.4$  jets are clustered into large ( $R = 1.0$ ) composite jets to form an event variable, the sum of the masses of the composite jets, which gives additional discrimination in models with a large number of objects in the final state [24]. Events

containing isolated, high transverse-momentum ( $p_T$ ) electrons or muons are vetoed in order to reduce backgrounds involving leptonic  $W$  boson decays. The previous analyses [10, 11] had signal regions with smaller jet multiplicities; those are now omitted since the absence of significant excesses in earlier analyses places stringent limits on models with large cross sections.

Searches involving final states with many jets and missing transverse momentum have been confirmed to have good sensitivity to decays such as those in eqs. (1.1) and (1.2) [11], but they also provide sensitivity to any model resulting in final states with large jet multiplicity in association with missing transverse momentum. Such models include the pair production of gluinos, each of them decaying via an off-shell squark, as

$$\tilde{g} \rightarrow \bar{q} + q' + \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \rightarrow \bar{q} + q' + W^\pm + \tilde{\chi}_1^0, \quad (1.3a)$$

or alternatively

$$\tilde{g} \rightarrow \bar{q} + q' + \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \rightarrow \bar{q} + q' + W^\pm + \tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \bar{q} + q' + W^\pm + Z^0 + \tilde{\chi}_1^0. \quad (1.3b)$$

Another possibility is the pair production of gluinos which decay as in eq. (1.1a) and the subsequent decay of the  $\tilde{t}$ -squark via

$$\tilde{t} \rightarrow b + \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm,$$

or via the R-parity-violating decay

$$\tilde{t} \rightarrow \bar{b} + \bar{s}. \quad (1.4)$$

Several supersymmetric models are used to interpret the analysis results: simplified models that include decays such as those in eqs. (1.1)–(1.4), and an mSUGRA/CMSSM model with parameters<sup>1</sup>  $\tan \beta = 30$ ,  $A_0 = -2m_0$  and  $\mu > 0$ , which accommodates a lightest Higgs boson mass compatible with the observed Higgs boson mass at the LHC [25, 26].

## 2 The ATLAS detector and data samples

The ATLAS experiment is a multi-purpose particle physics detector with a forward-backward symmetric cylindrical geometry and nearly  $4\pi$  coverage in solid angle.<sup>2</sup> The layout of the detector is defined by four superconducting magnet systems, which comprise a thin solenoid surrounding the inner tracking detectors (ID), and a barrel and two end-cap toroids generating the magnetic field for a large muon spectrometer. The ID provides precision reconstruction of tracks in the region  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . The calorimeters lie

<sup>1</sup>A particular mSUGRA/CMSSM model point is specified by five parameters: the universal scalar mass  $m_0$ , the universal gaugino mass  $m_{1/2}$ , the universal trilinear scalar coupling  $A_0$ , the ratio of the vacuum expectation values of the two Higgs fields  $\tan \beta$ , and the sign of the higgsino mass parameter  $\mu$ .

<sup>2</sup>ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point (IP) in the centre of the detector and the  $z$ -axis along the beam pipe. The  $x$ -axis points from the IP to the centre of the LHC ring, and the  $y$ -axis points upward. Cylindrical coordinates  $(r, \phi)$  are used in the transverse plane,  $\phi$  being the azimuthal angle around the beam pipe. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle  $\theta$  as  $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$ , and the transverse energy  $E_T$  by  $E_T = E \sin \theta$ .

between the ID and the muon system. In the pseudorapidity region  $|\eta| < 3.2$ , high-granularity liquid-argon (LAr) electromagnetic (EM) sampling calorimeters are used. An iron/scintillator-tile calorimeter provides hadronic coverage for  $|\eta| < 1.7$ . The end-cap and forward regions, spanning  $1.5 < |\eta| < 4.9$ , are instrumented with LAr calorimeters for both EM and hadronic measurements.

The data sample used in this analysis was taken during the period from March to December 2012 with the LHC operating at a  $pp$  centre-of-mass energy of  $\sqrt{s} = 8$  TeV. Application of data-quality requirements results in an integrated luminosity of  $20.3 \pm 0.6 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ , where the luminosity is measured using techniques similar to those described in ref. [27], with a preliminary calibration of the luminosity scale derived from beam-overlap scans performed in November 2012. The analysis makes use of dedicated multi-jet triggers, the final step of which required either at least five jets with  $E_T > 55$  GeV or at least six jets with  $E_T > 45$  GeV, where the jets must have  $|\eta| < 3.2$ . The final level of the trigger selection is based on a jet algorithm and calibration method closely matched to those used in the signal region selections. In all cases the trigger efficiency is greater than 99% for events satisfying the jet multiplicity selection criteria for the signal regions described in section 4. Events selected with single-lepton triggers and prescaled multi-jet triggers are used for background determination in control regions.

### 3 Physics object selection

Jets are reconstructed using the anti- $k_t$  jet clustering algorithm with radius parameter  $R = 0.4$ . The inputs to this algorithm are the energies and positions of clusters of calorimeter cells, where the clusters are formed starting from cells with energies significantly above the noise level [28]. Jet momenta are constructed by performing a four-vector sum over these clusters of calorimeter cells, treating each as an  $(E, \mathbf{p})$  four-vector with zero mass. The local cluster weighting (LCW) calibration method [29] is used to classify clusters as being of either electromagnetic or hadronic origin and, based on this classification, applies specific energy corrections derived from a combination of Monte Carlo simulation and data [28]. A further calibration is applied to the corrected jet energies to relate the response of the calorimeter to the true jet energy [28]. The jets are corrected for energy from additional proton-proton collisions (pile-up) using a method, proposed in ref. [30], which estimates the pile-up activity in any given event, as well as the sensitivity of any given jet to pile-up. The method subtracts a contribution from the jet energy equal to the product of the jet area and the average energy density of the event. All jets are required to satisfy  $p_T > 20$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.8$ . More stringent requirements on  $p_T$  and on  $|\eta|$  are made when defining signal regions as described in section 4.

Jets with heavy-flavour content are identified using a tagging algorithm that uses both impact parameter and secondary vertex information [31]. This  $b$ -tagging algorithm is applied to all jets that satisfy both  $|\eta| < 2.5$  and  $p_T > 40$  GeV. The parameters of the algorithm are chosen such that 70% of  $b$ -jets and about 1% of light-flavour or gluon jets are selected in  $t\bar{t}$  events in Monte Carlo simulations [32]. Jets initiated by charm quarks are tagged with about 20% efficiency.

Electrons are required to have  $p_T > 10$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.47$ . They must satisfy ‘medium’ electron shower shape and track selection criteria based upon those described in ref. [33], but modified to reduce the impact of pile-up and to match tightened trigger requirements. They must be separated by at least  $\Delta R = 0.4$  from any jet, where  $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$ . Events containing electrons passing these criteria are vetoed when forming signal regions. Additional requirements are applied to electrons when defining leptonic control regions used to aid in the estimate of the SM background contributions, as described in section 5.4; in this case, electrons must have  $p_T > 25$  GeV, must satisfy the ‘tight’ criteria of ref. [33], must have transverse and longitudinal impact parameters within 5 standard deviations and 0.4 mm, respectively, of the primary vertex, and are required to be well isolated.<sup>3</sup>

Muons are required to have  $p_T > 10$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.5$ , to satisfy track quality selection criteria, and to be separated by at least  $\Delta R = 0.4$  from the nearest jet candidate. Events containing muons passing these criteria are vetoed when forming signal regions. When defining leptonic control regions, muons must have  $p_T > 25$  GeV,  $|\eta| < 2.4$ , transverse and longitudinal impact parameters within 5 standard deviations and 0.4 mm, respectively, of the primary vertex and they must be isolated.<sup>4</sup>

The missing transverse momentum two-vector  $\mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is calculated from the negative vector sum of the transverse momenta of all calorimeter energy clusters with  $|\eta| < 4.5$  and of all muons [34]. Clusters associated with either electrons or photons with  $p_T > 10$  GeV, and those associated with jets with  $p_T > 20$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 4.5$  make use of the calibrations of these respective objects. For jets the calibration includes the area-based pile-up correction described above. Clusters not associated with such objects are calibrated using both calorimeter and tracker information. The magnitude of  $\mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$ , conventionally denoted by  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , is used to distinguish signal and background regions.

## 4 Event selection

Following the physics object reconstruction described in section 3, events are discarded if they contain any jet that fails quality criteria designed to suppress detector noise and non-collision backgrounds, or if they lack a reconstructed primary vertex with five or more associated tracks. Events containing isolated electron or muon candidates are also vetoed as described in section 3. The remaining events are then analysed in two complementary analysis streams, both of which require large jet multiplicities and significant  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . The selections of the two streams are verified to have good sensitivity to decays such as those in eqs. (1.1)–(1.4), but are kept generic to ensure sensitivity in a broad set of models with large jet multiplicity and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  in the final state.

<sup>3</sup>The electron isolation requirements are based on nearby tracks and calorimeter clusters, as follows. The scalar sum of transverse momenta of tracks, other than the track from the electron itself, in a cone of radius  $\Delta R = 0.3$  around the electron is required to be smaller than 16% of the electron’s  $p_T$ . The scalar sum of calorimeter transverse energy around the electron in the same cone, excluding the electron itself, is required to be smaller than 18% of the electron’s  $p_T$ .

<sup>4</sup>The scalar sum of the transverse momenta of the tracks, other than the track from the muon itself, within a cone of  $\Delta R = 0.3$  around the muon must be less than 12% of the muon’s  $p_T$ , and the scalar sum of calorimeter transverse energy in the same cone, excluding that from the muon, must be less than 12% of the muon’s  $p_T$ .

### 4.1 The multi-jet + flavour stream

In the multi-jet + flavour stream the number of jets with  $|\eta| < 2$  and  $p_T$  above the threshold  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  GeV is determined. Events with exactly eight or exactly nine such jets are selected, and the sample is further subdivided according to the number of the jets (0, 1 or  $\geq 2$ ) with  $p_T > 40$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.5$  which satisfy the  $b$ -tagging criteria. The  $b$ -tagged jets may belong to the set of jets with  $p_T$  greater than  $p_T^{\text{min}}$ , but this is not a requirement. Events with ten or more jets are retained in a separate category, without any further subdivision.

A similar procedure is followed for the higher jet- $p_T$  threshold of  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 80$  GeV. Signal regions are defined for events with exactly seven jets or at least eight jets. Both categories are again subdivided according to the number of jets (0, 1 or  $\geq 2$ ) that are  $b$ -tagged. Here again, the  $b$ -tagged jets do not necessarily satisfy the  $p_T^{\text{min}}$  requirement.

In all cases the final selection variable is  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$ , the ratio of the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  to the square root of the scalar sum  $H_T$  of the transverse momenta of all jets with  $p_T > 40$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.8$ . This ratio is closely related to the significance of the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  relative to the resolution due to stochastic variations in the measured jet energies [34]. The value of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  is required to be larger than 4 GeV<sup>1/2</sup> for all signal regions.

### 4.2 The multi-jet + $M_J^\Sigma$ stream

Analysis of the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream proceeds as follows. The number of ( $R = 0.4$ ) jets with  $p_T$  above 50 GeV is determined, this time using a larger pseudorapidity acceptance of  $|\eta| < 2.8$ . Events with at least eight, at least nine or at least ten such jets are retained, and a category is created for each of those multiplicity thresholds. The four-momenta of the  $R = 0.4$  jets satisfying  $p_T > 20$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.8$  are then used as inputs to a second iteration of the anti- $k_t$  jet algorithm, this time using the larger distance parameter  $R = 1.0$ . The resulting larger objects are denoted as composite jets. The selection variable  $M_J^\Sigma$  is then defined to be the sum of the masses  $m_j^{R=1.0}$  of the composite jets

$$M_J^\Sigma \equiv \sum_j m_j^{R=1.0},$$

where the sum is over the composite jets that satisfy  $p_T^{R=1.0} > 100$  GeV and  $|\eta^{R=1.0}| < 1.5$ . Signal regions are defined for two different  $M_J^\Sigma$  thresholds. Again the final selection requires that  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T} > 4$  GeV<sup>1/2</sup>.

### 4.3 Summary of signal regions

The nineteen resulting signal regions are summarized in table 1. Within the multi-jet + flavour stream the seven signal regions defined with  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  GeV are mutually disjoint. The same is true for the six signal regions defined with the threshold of 80 GeV. However, the two sets of signal regions overlap; an event found in one of the  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 80$  GeV signal regions may also be found in one of the  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  GeV signal regions. The multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream has six inclusive signal regions; for example an event which has at least ten  $R = 0.4$  jets with  $p_T > 50$  GeV,  $M_J^\Sigma > 420$  GeV and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T} > 4$  GeV<sup>1/2</sup> will be found in all six multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  regions. These overlaps are treated in the results of the analysis as described in section 6.



Identifier	Multi-jet + flavour stream				Multi-jet + $M_J^\Sigma$ stream			
	8j50	9j50	$\geq 10j50$	7j80	$\geq 8j80$	$\geq 8j50$	$\geq 9j50$	$\geq 10j50$
Jet $ \eta $	$< 2.0$				$< 2.0$			$< 2.8$
Jet $p_T$	$> 50 \text{ GeV}$				$> 80 \text{ GeV}$			$> 50 \text{ GeV}$
Jet count	= 8	= 9	$\geq 10$	= 7	$\geq 8$	$\geq 8$	$\geq 9$	$\geq 10$
$b$ -jets ( $p_T > 40 \text{ GeV},  \eta  < 2.5$ )	0	$\geq 2$	0	$\geq 2$	0	$\geq 2$	0	$\geq 2$
$M_J^\Sigma$ [GeV]	—				—			$> 340$ and $> 420$ for each case
$E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$	$> 4 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$				$> 4 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$			$> 4 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$

**Table 1.** Definition of the nineteen signal regions. The jet  $|\eta|$ ,  $p_T$  and multiplicity all refer to the  $R = 0.4$  jets. Composite jets with the larger radius parameter  $R = 1.0$  are used in the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream when constructing  $M_J^\Sigma$ . A long dash ‘—’ indicates that no requirement is made.

## 5 Standard model background determination

Two background categories are considered in this search: (1) multi-jet production, including purely strong interaction processes and fully hadronic decays of  $t\bar{t}$ , and hadronic decays of  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons in association with jets, and (2) processes with leptons in the final states, collectively referred to as leptonic backgrounds. The latter consist of semileptonic and fully leptonic decays of  $t\bar{t}$ , including  $t\bar{t}$  production in association with a boson; leptonically decaying  $W$  or  $Z$  bosons produced in association with jets; and single top quark production.

The major backgrounds (multi-jet,  $t\bar{t}$ ,  $W$  + jets, and  $Z$  + jets) are determined with the aid of control regions, which are defined such that they are enriched in the background process(es) of interest, but nevertheless remain kinematically close to the signal regions. The multi-jet background determination is fully data-driven, and the most significant of the other backgrounds use data control regions to normalise simulations. The normalisations of the event yields predicted by the simulations are adjusted simultaneously in all the control regions using a binned fit described in section 6, and the simulation is used to extrapolate the results into the signal regions. The methods used in the determination of the multi-jet and leptonic backgrounds are described in sections 5.2 and 5.4, respectively.

### 5.1 Monte Carlo simulations

Monte Carlo simulations are used as part of the leptonic background determination process, and to assess the sensitivity to specific SUSY signal models. Most of the leptonic backgrounds are generated using SHERPA-1.4.1 [35] with the CT10 [36] set of parton distribution functions (PDF). For  $t\bar{t}$  production, up to four additional partons are modelled in the matrix element. Samples of  $W$  + jets and  $Z$  + jets events are generated with up to five additional partons in the matrix element, except for processes involving  $b$ -quarks for which up to four additional partons are included. In all cases, additional jets are generated via parton showering. The leptonic  $W$  + jets,  $Z$  + jets and  $t\bar{t}$  backgrounds are normalised according to their inclusive theoretical cross sections [37, 38]. In the case of  $t\bar{t}$  production, to account for higher-order terms which are not present in the SHERPA Monte Carlo simulation, the fraction of events initiated by gluon fusion, relative to other processes, is modified to improve the agreement with data in  $t\bar{t}$ -enriched validation regions described in section 5.4. This corresponds to applying a scale factor of 1.37 to the processes initiated by gluon fusion and a corresponding factor to the other processes to keep the total  $t\bar{t}$  cross section the same. The estimation of the leptonic backgrounds in the signal regions is described in detail in section 5.4.

Smaller background contributions are also modelled for the following processes: single top quark production in association with a  $W$  boson in the  $s$ -channel (MC@NLO 4.06 [39–42] / HERWIG 6.520 [43] / JIMMY 4.31 [44]),  $t$ -channel single top quark production (ACERMC3.8 [45] / PYTHIA-6.426 [46]), and  $t\bar{t}$  production in association with a  $W$  or  $Z$  boson (MADGRAPH-5.1.4.8 [47] / PYTHIA-6.426).

Supersymmetric production processes are generated using HERWIG++2.5.2 [48] and MADGRAPH-5.1.4.8 with the PDF set CTEQ6L1 [49]. The cross sections are calculated

to next-to-leading order in the strong coupling constant  $\alpha_S$ , including the resummation of soft gluon emission at next-to-leading-logarithmic accuracy (NLO+NLL) [50–54].

For each process, the nominal cross section and its uncertainty are taken from an envelope of cross-section predictions using different PDF sets and factorisation and renormalisation scales, as described in ref. [55]. All Monte Carlo simulated samples also include simulation of pile-up and employ a detector simulation [56] based on GEANT4 [57]. The simulated events are reconstructed with the same algorithms as the data.

## 5.2 Multi-jet background

The dominant background at intermediate values of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  is multi-jet production including purely strong interaction processes and fully hadronic decays of  $t\bar{t}$ . The contribution from these processes is determined using collision data and the selection criteria were designed such that multi-jet processes can be accurately determined from supporting measurements.

The background determination method is based on the observation that the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  resolution of the detector is approximately proportional to  $\sqrt{H_T}$  and almost independent of the jet multiplicity in events dominated by jet activity, including hadronic decays of top quarks and gauge bosons [10, 11]. The distribution of the ratio  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  therefore has a shape that is almost invariant under changes in the jet multiplicity. The multi-jet backgrounds can be determined using control regions with lower  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  and/or lower jet multiplicity than the signal regions. The control regions are assumed to be dominated by Standard Model processes, and that assumption is corroborated by the agreement with Standard Model predictions of multi-jet cross-section measurements for up to six jets [58].

Events containing heavy quarks show a different  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distribution than those containing only light-quark or gluon jets, since semileptonic decays of heavy quarks contain neutrinos. The dependence of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  on the number of heavy quarks is accounted for in the multi-jet + flavour signal regions by using a consistent set of control regions with the same  $b$ -jet multiplicity as the target signal distribution. The  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distribution is also found to be approximately independent of the  $M_J^\Sigma$  event variable, so a similar technique is used to obtain the expected multi-jet background contributions to the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  signal regions.

The leading source of variation in  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  under changes in the jet multiplicity comes from a contribution to  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  from calorimeter energy deposits not associated with jets and hence not contributing to  $H_T$ . The effect of this ‘soft’ energy is corrected for by reweighting the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distribution separately for each jet multiplicity in the signal region, to provide the same  $\sum E_T^{\text{CellOut}}/H_T$  distribution, where  $\sum E_T^{\text{CellOut}}$  is the scalar sum of  $E_T$  over all clusters of calorimeter cells not associated with jets having  $p_T > 20$  GeV or electron, or muon candidates.

For example, to obtain the multi-jet contribution to the multi-jet + flavour stream 9j50 signal region with exactly one  $b$ -jet, the procedure is as follows. A template of the shape of the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distribution is formed from events which have exactly six jets with  $p_T > 50$  GeV, and exactly one  $b$ -jet (which is not required to be one of the six previous jets). The expected contribution from leptonic backgrounds is then subtracted, so that the template provides the expected distribution resulting from the detector resolution,

together with any contribution to the resolution from semileptonic  $b$ -quark decays. The nine-jet background prediction for the signal region ( $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T} > 4 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$ ) with exactly one  $b$ -jet is then given by

$$N_{\text{predicted}}^{\text{multi-jet}} = \left( N_{\text{data}}^{A, n^{\text{jet}}=9} - N_{\text{leptonic MC}}^{A, n^{\text{jet}}=9} \right) \times \left( \frac{N_{\text{data}}^{B, n^{\text{jet}}=6} - N_{\text{leptonic MC}}^{B, n^{\text{jet}}=6}}{N_{\text{data}}^{A, n^{\text{jet}}=6} - N_{\text{leptonic MC}}^{A, n^{\text{jet}}=6}} \right), \quad (5.1)$$

where  $A \equiv E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T} < 1.5 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$ ,  $B \equiv E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T} > 4 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$ , and each of the counts  $N$  is determined after requiring the same  $b$ -jet multiplicity as for the target signal region (i.e. exactly one  $b$ -jet in this example). Equation 5.1 is applied separately to each of ten bins (of width 0.1) in  $\sum E_T^{\text{CellOut}}/H_T$  to find the prediction for that bin, and then the contributions of the ten bins summed to provide the  $\sum E_T^{\text{CellOut}}/H_T$ -weighted multi-jet prediction.

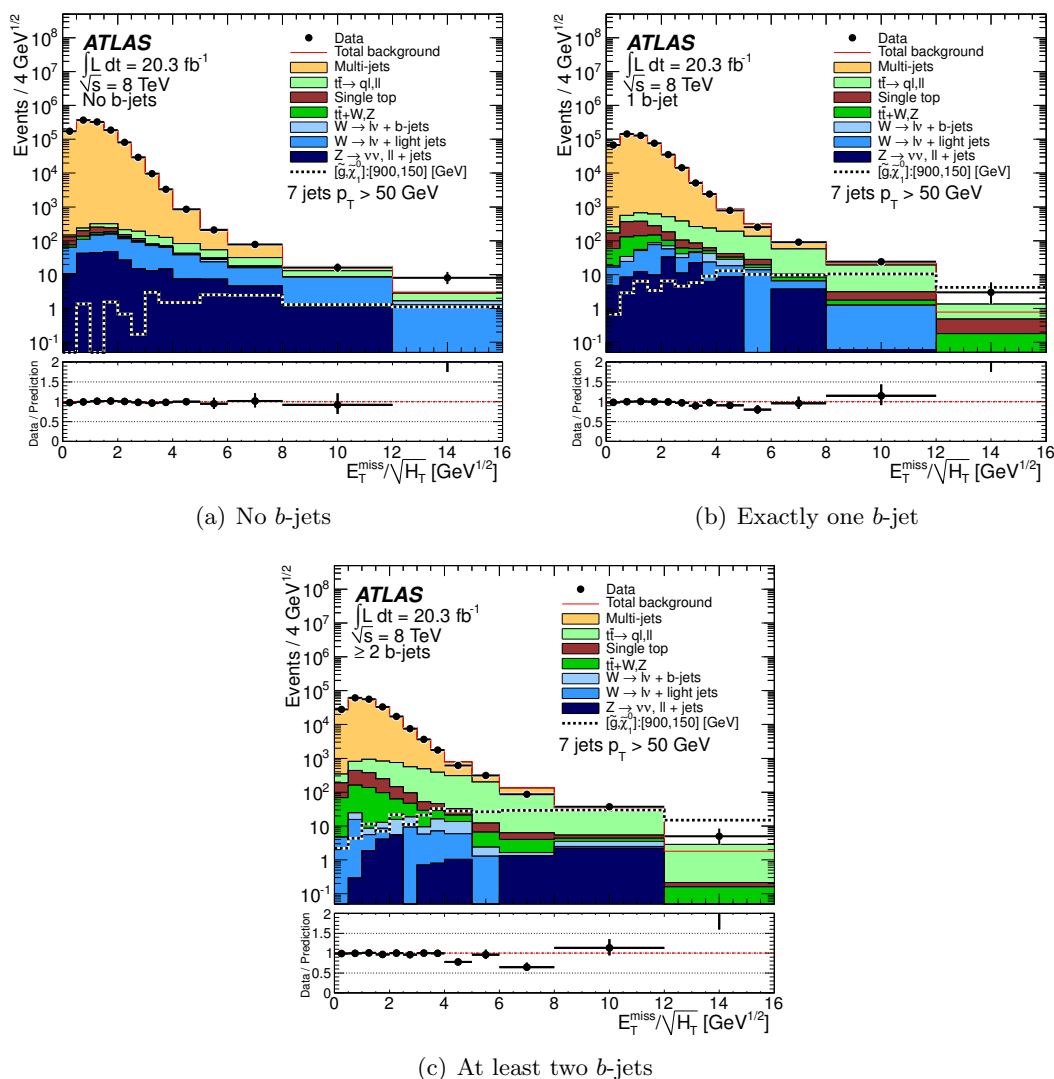
An analogous procedure is used to obtain the expected multi-jet contribution to each of the other multi-jet + flavour stream signal regions by using the appropriate  $p_T^{\text{min}}$ , jet multiplicity, and  $b$ -jet multiplicity as required by the target signal region. In each case the shape of the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distribution is obtained from a ‘template’ with exactly six (five) jets for signal regions with  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  (80) GeV. The distributions of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  for multi-jet + flavour stream control regions are shown in figure 1.

The procedure in the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream is similar: the same jet  $p_T^{\text{min}}$ , jet multiplicity and  $M_J^\Sigma$  criteria are used when forming the template and control regions that are required for the target signal region.  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distributions for control regions with exactly seven jets with  $p_T > 50$  GeV and additional  $M_J^\Sigma$  selection criteria applied are shown in figure 2. Leptonic backgrounds are subtracted, and  $\sum E_T^{\text{CellOut}}/H_T$  weighting is applied. For all cases in the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  template shape is determined from a sample which has exactly six jets with  $p_T > 50$  GeV.

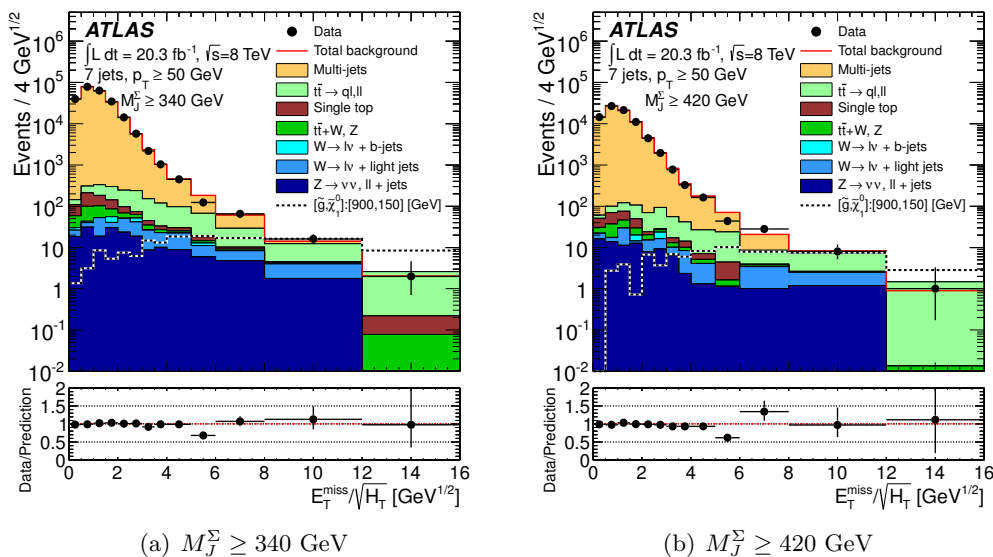
Variations in the shape of the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distribution under changes in the jet multiplicity are later used to quantify the systematic uncertainty associated with the method, as described in section 5.3.

### 5.3 Systematic uncertainties in the multi-jet background determination

The multi-jet background determination method is validated by measuring the accuracy of the predicted  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  template for regions with jet multiplicities and/or  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  smaller than those chosen for the signal regions. The consistency of the prediction with the number of observed events (*closure*) is tested in regions with  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  [ GeV<sup>1/2</sup>] in the ranges (1.5, 2.0), (2.0, 2.5), and (2.5, 3.5) for jet multiplicities of exactly seven, eight and nine, and in the range (1.5, 2.0) and (2.0, 3.5) for  $\geq 10$  jets. The tests are performed separately for 0, 1 and  $\geq 2$   $b$ -tagged jets. In addition, the method is tested for events with exactly six (five) jets with  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  GeV (80 GeV) across the full range of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  in this case using a template obtained from events with exactly five (four) jets. The five-jet (four-jet) events are obtained using a prescaled trigger for which only a fraction of the total luminosity is available. Agreement is found both for signal region jet multiplicities at intermediate values of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  and also for the signal region  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  selection at lower



**Figure 1.** Distribution of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  for the control regions with exactly seven jets with  $p_T \geq 50$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.0$ , for different  $b$ -jet multiplicities. The multi-jet prediction is determined from an  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  template obtained from events with exactly six jets. It is normalised to the data in the region  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T} < 1.5 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$  after subtraction of the leptonic backgrounds. The most important leptonic backgrounds are also shown, based on Monte Carlo simulations. Variable bin sizes are used with bin widths (in units of  $\text{GeV}^{1/2}$ ) of 0.5 (up to  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T} = 4 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$ ), 1 (from 4 to 6), 2 (from 6 to 8) and 4 thereafter. For reference and comparison, a supersymmetric model is used where gluinos of mass 900 GeV are pair produced and each decay as in eq. (1.2) to a  $t\bar{t}$  pair and a  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  with a mass of 150 GeV. The model is referred to as ‘ $[\tilde{g}, \tilde{\chi}_1^0] : [900, 150]$  [GeV]’.



**Figure 2.** Distribution of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  for control regions with exactly seven jets with  $p_T \geq 50$  GeV, and satisfying the same requirements as the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream signal regions, other than that on  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  itself. The multi-jet prediction was determined from an  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  template obtained from events with exactly six jets. Other details are as for figure 1.

multiplicity. A symmetrical systematic uncertainty on each signal region is constructed by taking the largest deviation in any of the closure regions with the same jet multiplicity or lower, for the same  $b$ -tagging requirements. Typical closure uncertainties are in the range 5% to 15%; they can grow as large as  $\sim 50\%$  for the tightest signal regions, due to larger statistical variations in the corresponding control regions.

Additional systematic uncertainties result from modelling of the heavy-flavour content (25%), which is assessed by using combinations of the templates of different  $b$ -tagged jet multiplicity to vary the purity of the different samples. The closure in simulation of samples with high heavy-flavour content is also tested. The leptonic backgrounds that are subtracted when forming the template have an uncertainty associated with them (5–20%, depending on the signal region). Furthermore, other uncertainties taken into account are due to the scale choice of the cutoff for the soft energy term,  $\sum E_T^{\text{CellOut}}$ , (3–15%) and the trigger efficiency ( $<1\%$ ) in the region where the template is formed.

#### 5.4 Leptonic backgrounds

The leptonic backgrounds are defined to be those which involve the leptonic decays  $W \rightarrow \ell\nu$  or  $Z \rightarrow \nu\nu$ . Contributions are determined for partly hadronic (i.e. semileptonic or dileptonic)  $t\bar{t}$ , single top,  $W$  and  $Z$  production, and diboson production, each in association with jets. The category excludes semileptonic decays of charm and bottom quarks, which are considered within the multi-jet category (section 5.2). The leptonic backgrounds which contribute most to the signal regions are  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$  + jets. In each case, events can evade the lepton veto, either via hadronic  $\tau$  decays or when electrons or muons are produced but not reconstructed.

<b>Single-lepton validation region</b>	
Lepton $p_T$	$> 25 \text{ GeV}$
Lepton multiplicity	Exactly one, $\ell \in \{e, \mu\}$
$E_T^{\text{miss}}$	$> 30 \text{ GeV}$
$E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$	$> 2.0 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$
$m_T$	$< 120 \text{ GeV}$
Jet $p_T$	As for signal regions (table 1)
Jet multiplicity	
$b$ -jet multiplicity	
$M_J^\Sigma$	
<b>Control region (additional criteria)</b>	
Jet multiplicity	Unit increment if $p_T^\ell > p_T^{\text{min}}$
$E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T (+p_T^\ell)}$	$> 4.0 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$

**Table 2.** The selection criteria for the validation and control regions for the  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W + \text{jets}$  backgrounds. In the control region the lepton is recast as a jet so it contributes to  $H_T$  if  $p_T^\ell > 40 \text{ GeV}$  and to the jet multiplicity count if  $p_T^\ell > p_T^{\text{min}}$ .

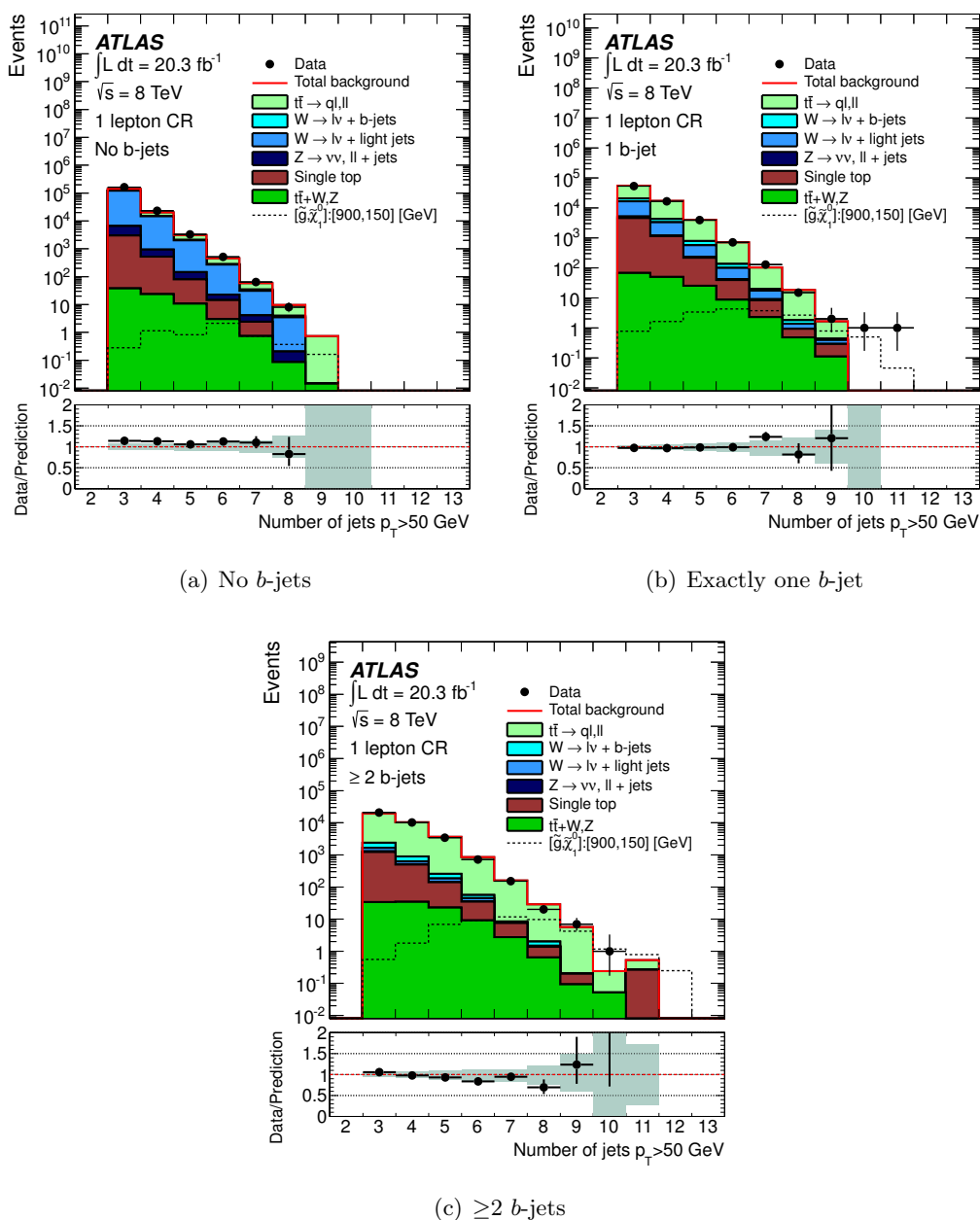
The predictions employ the Monte Carlo simulations described in section 5.1. When predictions are taken directly from the Monte Carlo simulations, the leptonic background event yields are subject to large theoretical uncertainties associated with the use of a leading-order Monte Carlo simulation generator. These include scale variations as well as changes in the number of partons present in the matrix element calculation, and uncertainties in the response of the detector. To reduce these uncertainties the background predictions are, where possible, normalised to data using control regions and cross-checked against data in other validation regions. These control regions and validation regions are designed to be distinct from, but kinematically close to, the signal regions, and orthogonal to them by requiring an identified lepton candidate.

The validation and control regions for the  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W + \text{jets}$  backgrounds are defined in table 2. In single-lepton regions, a single lepton ( $e$  or  $\mu$ ) is required, with sufficient  $p_T$  to allow the leptonic trigger to be employed. Modest requirements on  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  reduce the background from fake leptons. An upper limit on

$$m_T = \sqrt{2 (|\mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}}| |\mathbf{p}_T^\ell| - \mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}} \cdot \mathbf{p}_T^\ell)},$$

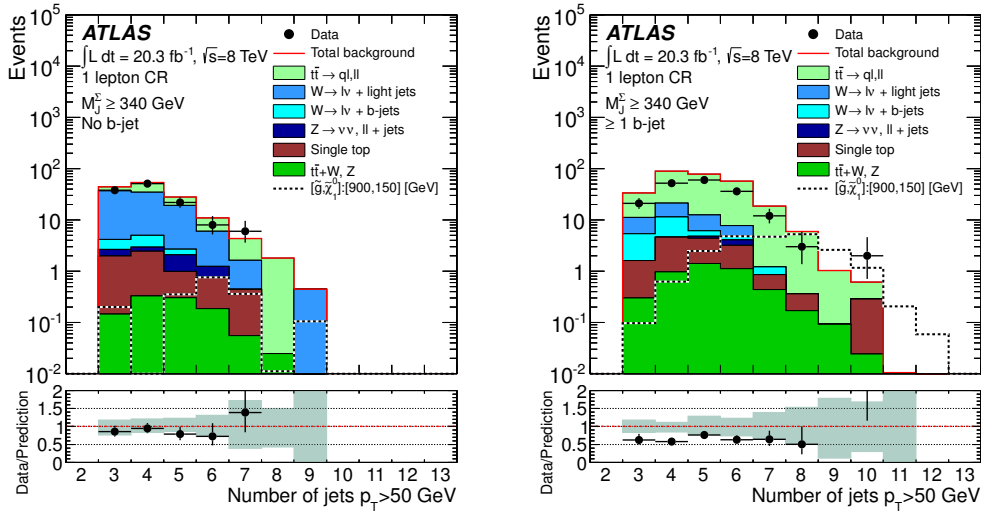
where  $\mathbf{p}_T^\ell$  is the transverse momentum vector of the lepton, decreases possible contamination from non-Standard-Model processes.

Since it is dominantly through hadronic  $\tau$  decays that  $W$  bosons and  $t\bar{t}$  pairs contribute to the signal regions, the corresponding control regions are created by recasting the muon or electron as a jet. If the electron or muon has sufficient  $p_T$  (without any additional calibration), it is considered as an additional ‘jet’ and it can contribute to the jet multiplicity count, as well as to  $H_T$  and hence to the selection variable  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$ . The same jet



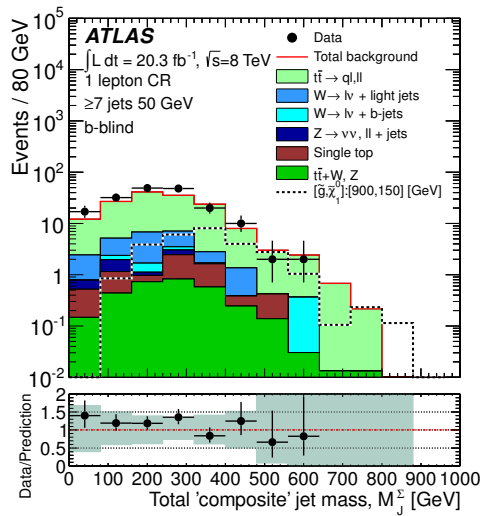
**Figure 3.** Jet multiplicity distributions for  $p_T^{\min} = 50$  GeV jets in the one-lepton  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$  + jets control regions (CR) for different  $b$ -jet multiplicities. Monte Carlo simulation predictions are before fitting to data. Other details are as for figure 1. The band in the ratio plot indicates the experimental uncertainties on the Monte Carlo simulation prediction and also includes the Monte Carlo simulation statistical uncertainty. Additional theoretical uncertainties are not shown.





(a)  $M_J^\Sigma > 340$  GeV, no  $b$ -jets

(b)  $M_J^\Sigma > 340$  GeV,  $\geq 1$   $b$ -jets



(c)  $M_J^\Sigma$  distribution,  $\geq 7j50$  selection applied

**Figure 4.** Jet multiplicity distributions for  $p_T^{\min} = 50$  GeV jets in the one-lepton  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$  + jets control regions (CR) for different  $b$ -jet multiplicities and a selection on  $M_J^\Sigma > 340$  GeV (4(a))–(4(b)), and the  $M_J^\Sigma$  distribution for an inclusive selection of seven jets with  $p_T^{\min} = 50$  GeV (4(c)). Other details are as for figure 3.

<b>Two-lepton validation region</b>	
Lepton $p_T$	$> 25 \text{ GeV}$
Lepton multiplicity	Exactly two, $ee$ or $\mu\mu$
$m_{\ell\ell}$	80 GeV to 100 GeV
Jet $p_T$	As for signal regions (table 1)
Jet multiplicity	
$b$ -jet multiplicity	
$M_J^\Sigma$	
<b>Control region (additional criteria)</b>	
$ \mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}} + \mathbf{p}_T^{\ell_1} + \mathbf{p}_T^{\ell_2} /\sqrt{H_T}$	$> 4.0 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$

**Table 3.** The selection criteria for the validation and control regions for the  $Z$  + jets background.

multiplicity as the signal region is required for the equivalent control regions. Additionally, the same criteria for  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$ ,  $M_J^\Sigma$  and the number of  $b$ -tagged jets are required. For the  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream these control regions are further split into regions with no  $b$ -tagged jets and those with  $b$ -tagged jets to allow separation of contributions from  $W$ +jets and  $t\bar{t}$  events. Provided the expected number of Standard Model events in the corresponding control region is greater than two, the number of observed events in that control region is used in a fit to determine the Standard Model background as described in section 6. Distributions of jet multiplicity for the leptonic control regions can be found in figures 3–4. In figure 4 the  $M_J^\Sigma$  distribution for a leptonic control region is also shown.

The  $Z$ +jets control regions require two same-flavour leptons with an invariant mass consistent with that of the  $Z$  boson. To create control regions that emulate the signal regions, the lepton transverse momenta are added to the missing momentum two-vector and then the requirement  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T} > 4 \text{ GeV}^{1/2}$  is applied. This emulates the situation expected for the  $Z \rightarrow \nu\nu$  background. The details of the selection criteria are given in table 3. This selection, but with relaxed jet multiplicity criteria, is used to validate the Monte Carlo simulation description of this process; however, insufficient events remain at high jet multiplicity, so the estimation of this background is taken from Monte Carlo simulations.

### 5.5 Systematic uncertainties in the leptonic background determination

Systematic uncertainties on the leptonic backgrounds originate from both detector-related and theoretical sources from the Monte Carlo simulation modelling. Experimental uncertainties are dominated by those on the jet energy scale, jet energy resolution and, in the case of the flavour stream,  $b$ -tagging efficiency. Other less important uncertainties result from the modelling of the pile-up, the lepton identification and the soft energy term in the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  calculation; these make negligible contributions to the total systematic uncertainty.

The ATLAS jet energy scale and resolution are determined using in-situ techniques [28, 59]. The jet energy scale uncertainty includes uncertainties associated with the quark-gluon composition of the sample, the heavy-flavour fraction and pile-up uncer-

tainties. The uncertainties are derived for  $R = 0.4$  jets and propagated to all objects and selections used in the analysis. The sources of the jet energy scale uncertainty are treated as correlated between the various Standard Model backgrounds as well as with the signal contributions when setting exclusion limits. The uncertainties on the yields due to those on the jet energy scale and resolution range typically between 20% and 30%. The  $b$ -tagging efficiency uncertainties are treated in a similar way when setting limits and have typical values of  $\approx 10\%$ . They are derived from data samples tagged with muons associated with jets, using techniques described in refs. [31, 32].

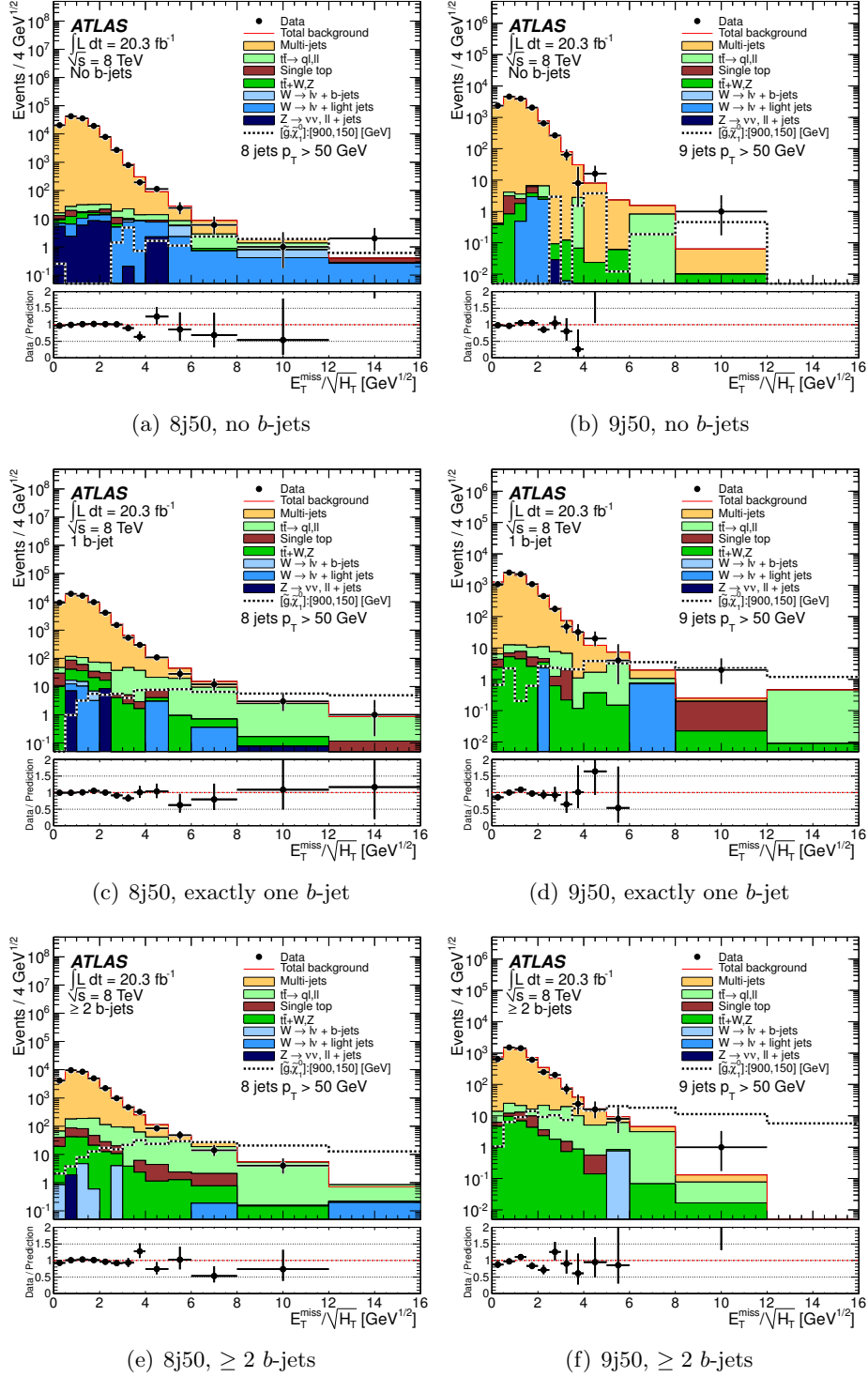
For the  $t\bar{t}$  background, theoretical uncertainties are evaluated by comparing the particle-level predictions of the nominal SHERPA samples with additional samples in which some of the parameter settings were varied. These include variations of the factorisation scale, the matching scale of the matrix element to the parton shower, the number of partons in the matrix element and the PDFs. ALPGEN [60] samples are also generated with the renormalisation scale associated with  $\alpha_S$  in the matrix element calculation varied up and down by a factor of two relative to the original scale  $k_t$  between two partons [61]. Finally, samples with and without weighting of events initiated by gluon fusion relative to other processes are used to provide a systematic uncertainty on this procedure. The two latter sources of systematic uncertainty are the dominant ones with typical values of 25–30% each, leading to a total theoretical uncertainty on the  $t\bar{t}$  background of  $\approx 40\%$ .

Alternative samples are generated similarly for the other smaller backgrounds with different parameters and/or generators to assess the associated theoretical uncertainties, which are found to be similar to those for the  $t\bar{t}$  background.

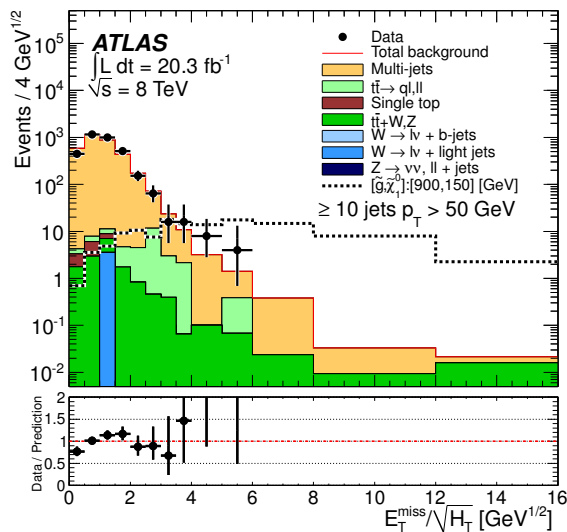
## 6 Results

Figures 5–8 show the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distributions for all the signal regions of both analysis streams. In order to check the consistency of the data with the background-only and signal hypotheses, a simultaneous profile maximum likelihood fit [62] is performed in the control and signal regions, for each of the analysis streams separately. Poisson likelihood functions are used for event counts in signal and control regions. Systematic uncertainties are treated as nuisance parameters. They are assumed to follow Gaussian distributions and their effect is propagated to the likelihood function. A control region is taken into account in the fit if there are at least two expected events associated with it. The fits differ significantly between the two analysis streams, as described in the following sections.

When evaluating a supersymmetric signal model for exclusion, any signal contamination in the control regions is taken into account for each signal point in the control-region fits performed for each signal hypothesis. Separately, each signal region (one at a time), along with all control regions, is also fitted under the background-only hypothesis. This fit is used to characterise the agreement in each signal region with the background-only hypothesis, and to extract visible cross-section limits and upper limits on the production of events from new physics. For these limits, possible signal contamination in the control regions is neglected.



**Figure 5.**  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distributions for the multi-jet + flavour stream with  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  GeV, and either exactly eight jets (left) or exactly nine jets (right) with the signal region selection, other than that on  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  itself. The  $b$ -jet multiplicity increases from no  $b$ -jets (top) to exactly one  $b$ -jet (middle) to at least two  $b$ -jets (bottom). Other details are as for figure 1.



**Figure 6.**  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distribution for the multi-jet + flavour stream with  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  GeV, and at least ten jets. The complete  $\geq 10j50$  selection has been applied, other than the final  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  requirement. Other details are as for figure 1.

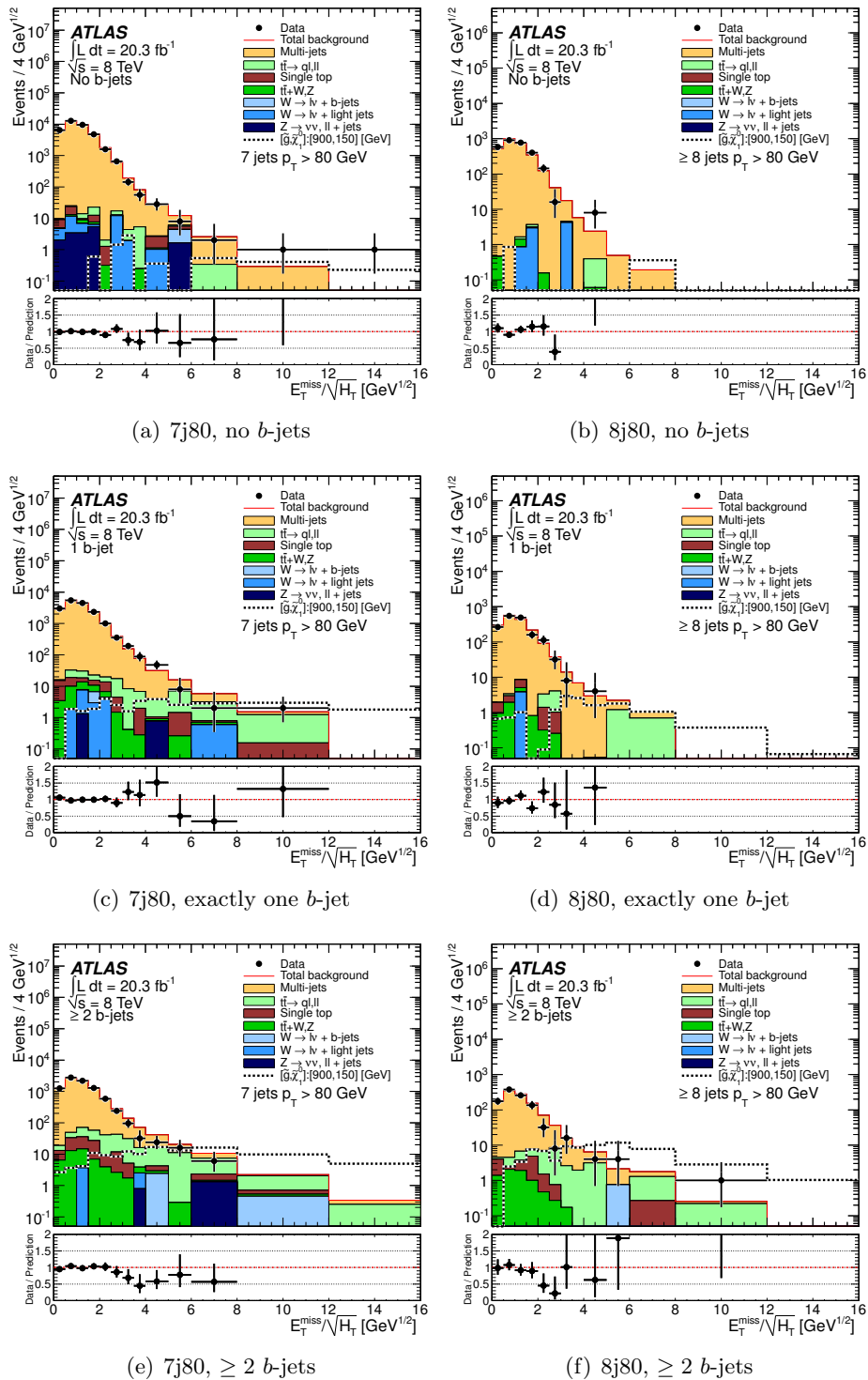
### 6.1 Simultaneous fit in the multi-jet + flavour stream

The seven  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  GeV signal regions (and similarly the six  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 80$  GeV signal regions) are fitted to the background and signal predictions. Correlations from sample to sample and region to region are taken into account, separately for the  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  GeV and  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 80$  GeV signal regions. Systematic uncertainties arising from the same source are treated as fully correlated.

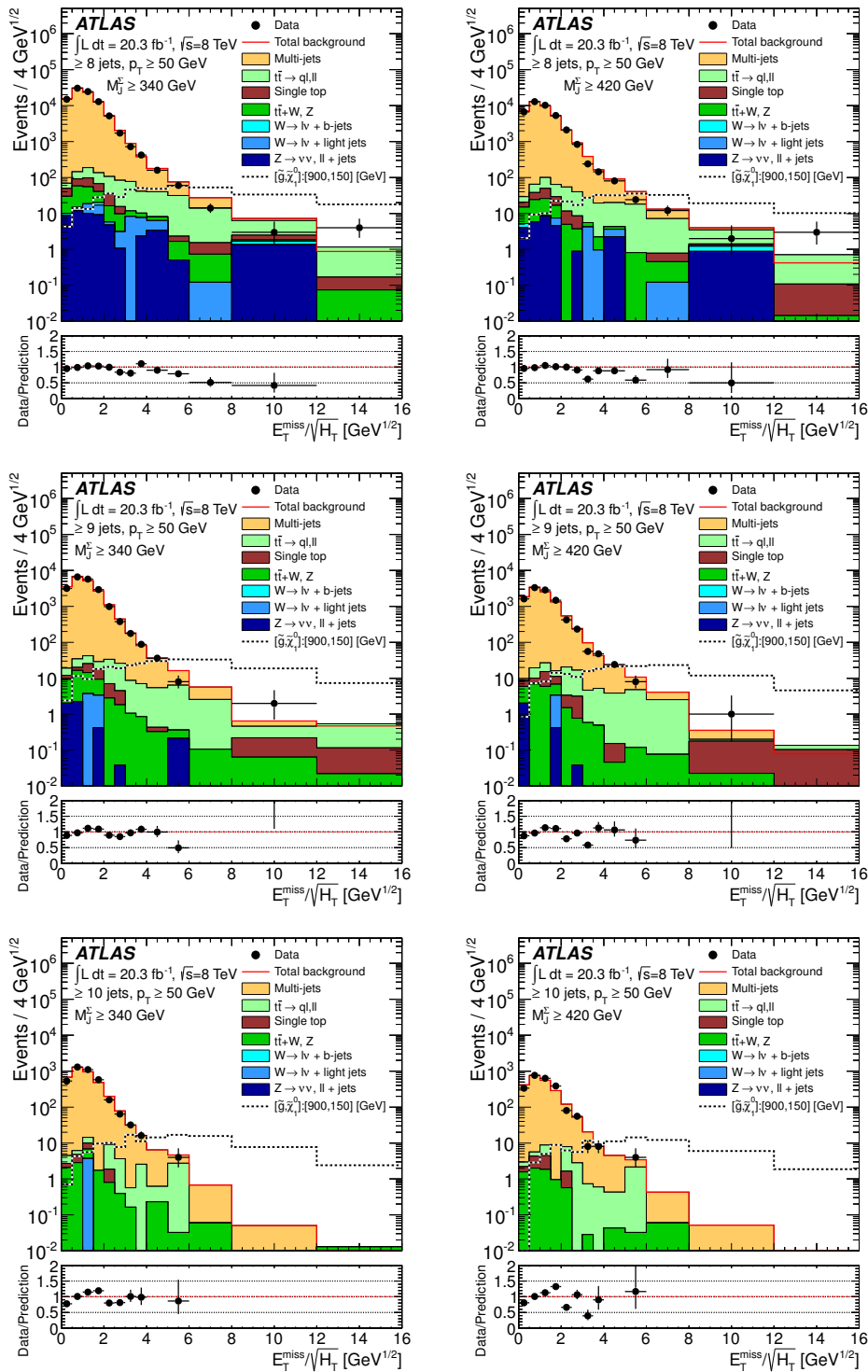
The fit considers several independent background components:

- $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$  + jets. One control region is defined for each signal region, as described in table 2; the normalisation of each background component is allowed to vary freely in the fit.
- Less significant backgrounds ( $Z$  + jets,  $t\bar{t} + W$ ,  $t\bar{t} + Z$ , and single top) are determined using Monte Carlo simulations. These are individually allowed to vary within their uncertainties.
- Multi-jet background. Being data-driven, it is not constrained in the fit by any control region. It is constrained in the signal regions by its uncertainties, which are described in section 5.3.

The systematic effects, described in sections 5.3 and 5.5, are treated as nuisance parameters in the fit. For the signal, the dominant systematic effects are included in the fit; these are the jet energy scale and resolution uncertainties, the  $b$ -tagging efficiency uncertainties, and the theoretical uncertainties.



**Figure 7.**  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distributions for the multi-jet + flavour stream with  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 80$  GeV. The complete signal region selections were applied, other than the final  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  requirement. Other details are as for figure 1.



**Figure 8.**  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  distributions for the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream with the signal region selection, other than the final  $E_T^{\text{miss}}/\sqrt{H_T}$  requirement. The figures on the left are for events with  $M_J^\Sigma > 340$  GeV, while those on the right are for  $M_J^\Sigma > 420$  GeV. The minimum multiplicity requirement for  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  GeV,  $R = 0.4$  jets increases from eight (top) to nine (middle) and finally to ten jets (bottom). Other details are as for figure 1.

## 6.2 Simultaneous fit in the multi-jet + $M_J^\Sigma$ stream

For the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  signal regions, a separate fit is performed on each signal region to adjust the normalisation of the  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$  + jets backgrounds using control regions, as defined in table 2.

The systematic uncertainties affecting the background, described in sections 5.3 and 5.5, and signal predictions are treated as nuisance parameters in the fit. The dominant sources of uncertainty are considered for the signal predictions: the jet energy scale, the jet energy resolution, and the theoretical uncertainties.

## 6.3 Fit results

Tables 4–7 summarise the fit results; the number of events observed in each of the signal regions, as well as their Standard Model background expectations, are reported before and after the fit to the control regions. In each of the signal regions, agreement is found between the Standard Model prediction and the data. The fit results are checked for stability and consistency with the background modelling based on the predictions described in sections 5.2 and 5.4. There is no indication of a systematic mis-modelling of any of the major backgrounds; the fitted values are in all cases consistent with the Monte Carlo simulation predictions.

In addition to the event yields, the probability ( $p_0$ -value) that a background-only pseudo-experiment is more signal-like than the observed data is given for each individual signal region. To obtain these  $p_0$ -values, the fit in the signal region proceeds in the same way as the control-region-only fit, except that the number of events observed in the signal region is included as an input to the fit. Then, an additional parameter for the non-Standard-Model signal strength, constrained to be non-negative, is fitted. The significance ( $\sigma$ ) of the agreement between data and the Standard Model prediction is given. No significant deviations from the Standard Model prediction are found. The 95% confidence level (CL) upper limit on the number of events ( $N_{\text{BSM}}^{95\%}$ ) and the cross section times acceptance times efficiency ( $\sigma_{\text{BSM,max}}^{95\%} \cdot A \cdot \epsilon$ ) from non-Standard-Model production are also provided, neglecting in the fit possible signal contamination in the control regions.

## 7 Interpretation

In the absence of significant discrepancies, exclusion limits at 95% CL are set in the context of several simplified supersymmetric models and an mSUGRA/CMSSM model, all described in section 1. Theoretical uncertainties on the SUSY signals are estimated as described in section 5.1. Combined experimental systematic uncertainties on the signal yield from the jet energy scale, resolution, and  $b$ -tagging efficiency in the case of the flavour stream, range from 15% to 25%. Acceptance and efficiency values, uncertainties and other information per signal region are tabulated in HepData [63].

The limit for each signal region is obtained by comparing the observed event count with that expected from Standard Model background plus SUSY signal processes. All uncertainties on the Standard Model expectation are used, including those which are correlated between signal and background (for instance jet energy scale uncertainties) and all



Signal region	8j50			9j50			10j50
	0	1	$\geq 2$	0	1	$\geq 2$	
<i>b</i> -jets	40	44	44	5	8	7	—
Observed events	35 ± 4	40 ± 10	50 ± 10	3.3 ± 0.7	6.1 ± 1.7	8.0 ± 2.7	1.37 ± 0.35
Total events after fit	2.7 ± 0.9	11.8 ± 3.0	23.0 ± 5.0	0.36 ± 0.18	1.5 ± 0.5	3.2 ± 1.1	0.06 <sup>+0.09</sup> <sub>-0.06</sub>
Fitted <i>t</i> $\bar{t}$	2.0 <sup>+2.6</sup> <sub>-2.0</sub>	0.62 <sup>+0.81</sup> <sub>-0.62</sub>	0.20 <sup>+0.28</sup> <sub>-0.20</sub>	—	0.24 <sup>+0.65</sup> <sub>-0.24</sub>	—	—
Fitted <i>W</i> +jets	2.9 <sup>+1.8</sup> <sub>-1.8</sub>	1.7 <sup>+1.5</sup> <sub>-1.2</sub>	2.8 <sup>+2.3</sup> <sub>-2.0</sub>	0.03 ± 0.03	0.38 ± 0.25	0.40 <sup>+0.60</sup> <sub>-0.24</sub>	0.08 ± 0.08
Fitted others	36	48	59	3.4	6.6	8.9	1.39
Total events before fit	3.5	15	30	0.41	1.8	4	0.08
<i>t</i> $\bar{t}$ before fit	2.9	1.0	0.29	—	0.40	—	—
<i>W</i> +jets before fit	2.4	1.8	2.8	0.03	0.34	0.4	0.08
Others before fit	27 ± 3	30 ± 10	26 ± 10	3.0 ± 0.6	4.0 ± 1.4	4.4 ± 2.2	1.23 ± 0.32
Multi-jets	16	23	26	5	7	8	4
$N_{\text{BSM}}^{95\%}$ (exp)	20	23	22	7	9	7	6
$N_{\text{BSM}}^{95\%}$ (obs)	0.8	1.2	1.3	0.26	0.36	0.40	0.19
$\sigma_{\text{BSM,max}}^{95\%} \cdot A \cdot \epsilon$ (exp) [fb]	0.97	1.1	1.1	0.34	0.43	0.37	0.29
$\sigma_{\text{BSM,max}}^{95\%} \cdot A \cdot \epsilon$ (obs) [fb]	0.24	0.5	0.7	0.21	0.28	0.6	0.13
$p_0$	0.7	-0.02	-0.6	0.8	0.6	-0.28	1.14
Significance ( $\sigma$ )							

**Table 4.** Number of observed and expected (fitted) events for the seven  $p_T^{\text{min}} = 50$  GeV signal regions of the multi-jet + flavour stream. The category indicated by ‘others’ includes the contributions from  $Z$  + jets,  $t\bar{t} + W$ ,  $t\bar{t} + Z$ , and single top. The table also contains for each signal region the probability,  $p_0$ , that a background-only pseudo-experiment is more signal-like than the observed data; the significance,  $\sigma$ , of the agreement between data and the Standard Model prediction; the 95% CL upper limit on the number of events,  $N_{\text{BSM}}^{95\%}$ , originating from sources other than the Standard Model; and the corresponding cross section times acceptance times efficiency,  $\sigma_{\text{BSM,max}}^{95\%} \cdot A \cdot \epsilon$ .

Signal region	<b>7j80</b>			<b>8j80</b>		
	0	1	$\geq 2$	0	1	$\geq 2$
$b$ -jets	0	1	$\geq 2$	0	1	$\geq 2$
Observed events	12	17	13	2	1	3
Total fitted events	$11.0 \pm 2.2$	$17 \pm 6$	$25 \pm 10$	$0.9 \pm 0.6$	$1.5 \pm 0.9$	$3.3 \pm 2.2$
Fitted $t\bar{t}$	$0.00^{+0.26}_{-0.00}$	$5.0 \pm 4.0$	$12 \pm 9$	$0.10^{+0.14}_{-0.10}$	$0.32^{+0.67}_{-0.32}$	$1.5^{+1.9}_{-1.5}$
Fitted $W$ +jets	$0.07^{+0.38}_{-0.07}$	$0.29^{+0.37}_{-0.29}$	–	–	–	–
Fitted others	$1.9^{+1.1}_{-0.9}$	$0.71^{+0.31}_{-0.25}$	$2.6^{+1.7}_{-1.1}$	$0.02 \pm 0.02$	$0.02 \pm 0.02$	$0.32^{+0.36}_{-0.21}$
Total events before fit	11.7	16	23	0.8	1.8	3.3
$t\bar{t}$ before fit	0.34	4	10	0.08	0.6	1.5
$W$ +jets before fit	0.46	0.29	–	–	–	–
Others before fit	1.8	0.89	3.0	0.02	0.02	0.35
Multi-jets	$9.1 \pm 1.6$	$11 \pm 4$	$10 \pm 4$	$0.75 \pm 0.56$	$1.2 \pm 0.5$	$1.4 \pm 1.0$
$N_{\text{BSM}}^{95\%}$ (exp)	10	17	14	4	4	6
$N_{\text{BSM}}^{95\%}$ (obs)	10	16	12	5	3.5	6
$\sigma_{\text{BSM,max}}^{95\%} \cdot A \cdot \epsilon$ (exp) [fb]	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.18	0.18	0.31
$\sigma_{\text{BSM,max}}^{95\%} \cdot A \cdot \epsilon$ (obs) [fb]	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.24	0.17	0.31
$p_0$	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.19	0.6	0.5
Significance ( $\sigma$ )	0.05	–0.14	–1.0	0.9	–0.28	–0.06

**Table 5.** As for table 4 but for the six signal regions for which  $p_T^{\min} = 80$  GeV.

Signal region	<b>8j50</b>	
	340	420
$M_J^{\geq}$ [GeV]		
Observed events	69	37
Total events after fit	$75 \pm 19$	$45 \pm 14$
Fitted $t\bar{t}$	$17 \pm 11$	$16 \pm 13$
Fitted $W$ +jets	$0.8^{+1.3}_{-0.8}$	$0.4^{+0.7}_{-0.4}$
Fitted others	$5.2^{+4.0}_{-2.5}$	$2.8^{+2.9}_{-1.6}$
Total events before fit	85	44
$t\bar{t}$ before fit	27	14
$W$ +jets before fit	0.8	0.4
Others before fit	5	2.8
Multi-jets	$52 \pm 15$	$27 \pm 7$
$N_{\text{BSM}}^{95\%}$ (exp)	40	23
$N_{\text{BSM}}^{95\%}$ (obs)	35	20
$\sigma_{\text{BSM,max}}^{95\%} \cdot A \cdot \epsilon$ (exp) [fb]	1.9	1.1
$\sigma_{\text{BSM,max}}^{95\%} \cdot A \cdot \epsilon$ (obs) [fb]	1.7	1.0
$p_0$	0.60	0.7
Significance ( $\sigma$ )	–0.27	–0.6

**Table 6.** As for table 4 but for the signal regions in the multi-jet +  $M_J^{\geq}$  stream for which the number of events in the control regions allowed background determination using a fit.

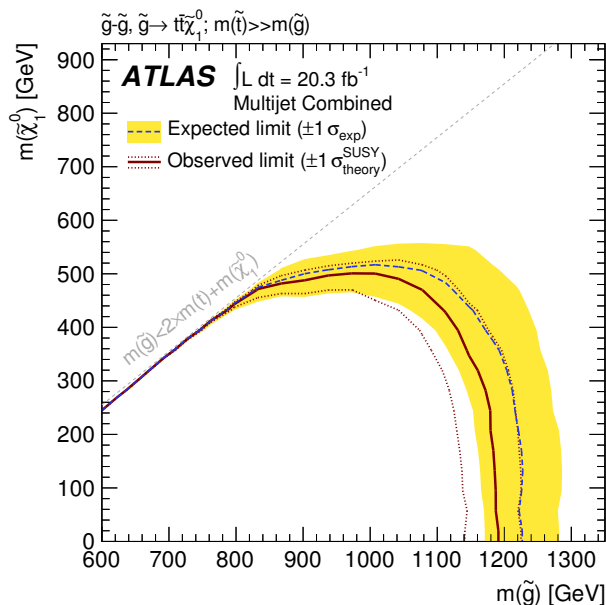
Signal region	9j50		10j50	
$M_J^\Sigma$ [GeV]	340	420	340	420
Observed events	13	9	1	1
Total events	$17 \pm 7$	$11 \pm 5$	$3.2^{+3.7}_{-3.2}$	$2.2 \pm 2.0$
$t\bar{t}$	$5 \pm 4$	$3.4^{+3.6}_{-3.4}$	$0.8^{+0.8}_{-0.8}$	$0.6^{+0.9}_{-0.6}$
$W$ +jets	–	–	–	–
Others	$0.58^{+0.54}_{-0.33}$	$0.39^{+0.32}_{-0.30}$	$0.12 \pm 0.12$	$0.06 \pm 0.06$
Multi-jets	$12 \pm 4$	$7.0 \pm 2.3$	$2.3^{+3.6}_{-2.3}$	$1.6^{+1.8}_{-1.6}$
$N_{\text{BSM}}^{95\%}$ (exp)	13	11	5	5
$N_{\text{BSM}}^{95\%}$ (obs)	11	10	4	4
$\sigma_{\text{BSM,max}}^{95\%} \cdot A \cdot \epsilon$ (exp) [fb]	0.7	0.5	0.23	0.23
$\sigma_{\text{BSM,max}}^{95\%} \cdot A \cdot \epsilon$ (obs) [fb]	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
$p_0$	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7
Significance ( $\sigma$ )	–0.6	–0.34	–0.8	–0.6

**Table 7.** As for table 4 but for the signal regions in the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream for which the number of events in the control regions did not allow background determination using a fit and therefore the leptonic background is extracted directly from Monte Carlo simulations.

but theoretical cross-section uncertainties (PDF and scale) on the signal expectation. The resulting exclusion regions are obtained using the  $CL_s$  prescription [64]. For the multi-jet + flavour stream a simultaneous fit is performed in all the signal regions for each of the two values of  $p_T^{\text{min}}$ , and the two fit results are combined using the better expected limit per point in the parameter space, as described in section 6.1. For the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream the signal region with the best expected limit at each point in parameter space is used. The stream with the better expected limit at each point in parameter space is chosen when combining the two streams. The multi-jet + flavour stream typically has stronger expected exclusion limits than the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream. However, in models with large numbers of objects in the final state, and more so in boosted topologies, the multi-jet +  $M_J^\Sigma$  stream becomes competitive. Limits on sparticle masses quoted in the text are those from the lower edge of the  $1\sigma$  signal cross-section band rather than the central value of the observed limit.

As shown in the rest of this section, the analysis substantially extends previous published exclusion limits on various models, from ATLAS [11, 12] and CMS [13, 65].

**‘Gluino-stop (off-shell)’ model.** The analysis result is interpreted in a simplified model that contains only a gluino octet and a neutralino  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  within kinematic reach, and decaying with unit probability according to eq. 1.2, via an off-shell  $\tilde{t}$ -squark. The results are presented in the  $(m_{\tilde{g}}, m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0})$  plane in figure 9, which shows the combined exclusion. Within the context of this simplified model, the 95% CL exclusion bound on the gluino mass is 1.1 TeV for the lightest neutralino mass up to 350 GeV.

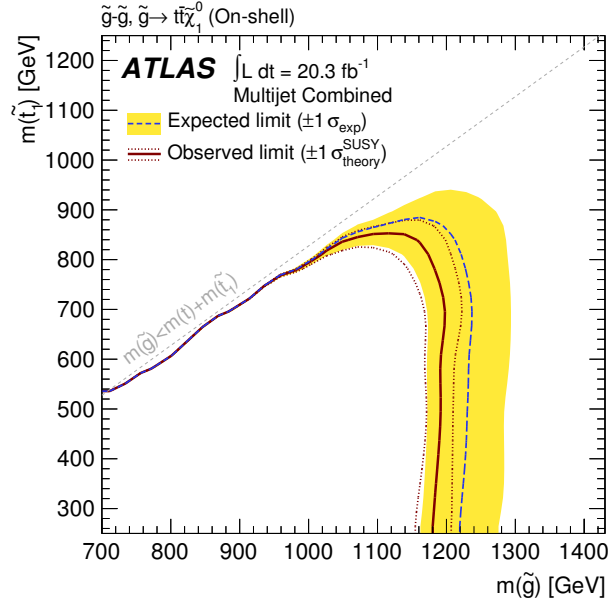


**Figure 9.** 95% CL exclusion curve for the simplified gluino-stop (off-shell) model. The dashed grey and solid red curves show the 95% CL expected and observed limits, respectively, including all uncertainties except the theoretical signal cross-section uncertainty (PDF and scale). The shaded yellow band around the expected limit shows the  $\pm 1\sigma$  result. The  $\pm 1\sigma$  lines around the observed limit represent the result produced when moving the signal cross section by  $\pm 1\sigma$  (as defined by the PDF and scale uncertainties). The diagonal dashed line is the kinematic limit for this decay channel.

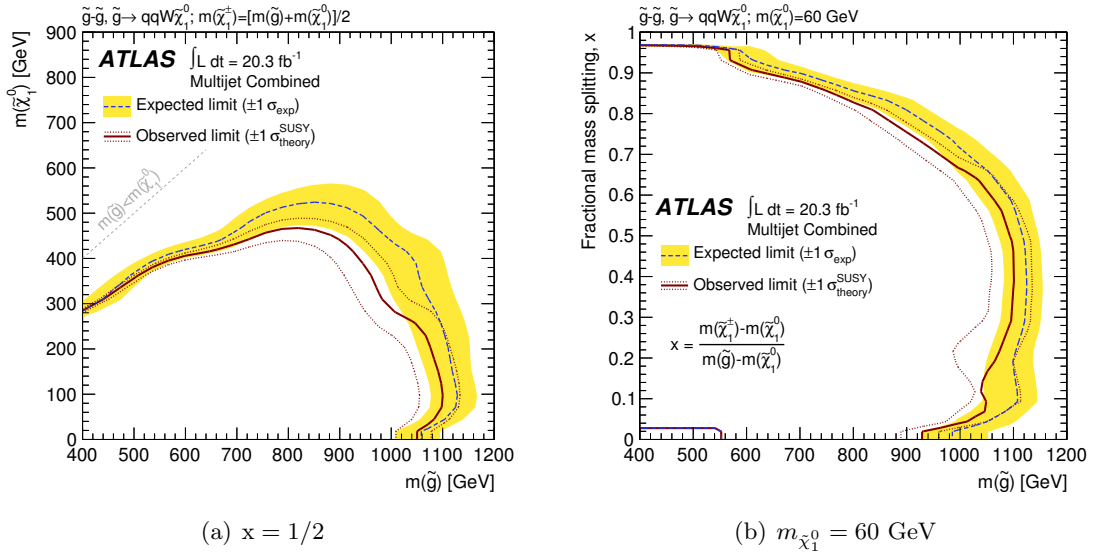
**‘Gluino-stop (on-shell)’ model.** In this simplified model, each gluino of a pair decays as  $\tilde{g} \rightarrow \tilde{t} + \bar{t}$ ;  $\tilde{t} \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 + t$ . The mass of  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  is fixed to 60 GeV. The results are presented in the  $(m_{\tilde{g}}, m_{\tilde{t}})$  plane in figure 10 which shows the combined exclusion limits. Within the context of this simplified model, the 95% CL exclusion bound on the gluino mass is 1.15 TeV for stop masses up to 750 GeV.

**‘Gluino-squark (via  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ )’ model.** In this simplified model, each gluino of a pair decays promptly via an off-shell squark as  $\tilde{g} \rightarrow \bar{q} + q' + \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \rightarrow \bar{q} + q' + W^\pm + \tilde{\chi}_1^0$ . Two versions of this model are evaluated, and the combined exclusion results are shown in figure 11. In figure 11a, the fractional mass splitting,  $x$ , defined as  $x = (m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm} - m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}) / (m_{\tilde{g}} - m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0})$ , is set to 1/2, while the  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  mass varies, and the results are shown in the  $(m_{\tilde{g}}, m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0})$  plane. In the second case, the  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  mass is fixed to 60 GeV while  $x$  varies, and the results are presented in the  $(m_{\tilde{g}}, x)$  plane. Gluino masses are excluded below 1 TeV at 95% CL, for  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  masses below 200 GeV, in the case of  $x = 1/2$ .

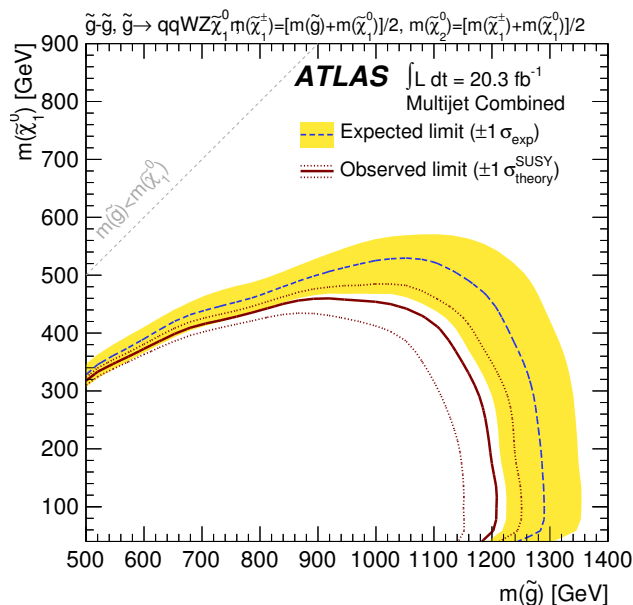
**‘Gluino-squark (via  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ )’ model.** In this simplified model, each gluino of a pair decays promptly via an off-shell squark as  $\tilde{g} \rightarrow \bar{q} + q' + \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm \rightarrow \bar{q} + q' + W^\pm + \tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \bar{q} + q' + W^\pm + Z^0 + \tilde{\chi}_1^0$ . The intermediate particle masses,  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm}$  and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_2^0}$ , are set to  $(m_{\tilde{g}} + m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0})/2$  and  $(m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm} + m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0})/2$ , respectively. The results are presented in the  $(m_{\tilde{g}}, m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0})$  plane in figure 12, which shows the combined exclusion limits for this model. Gluino masses are excluded below 1.1 TeV at 95% CL, for  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  masses below 300 GeV.



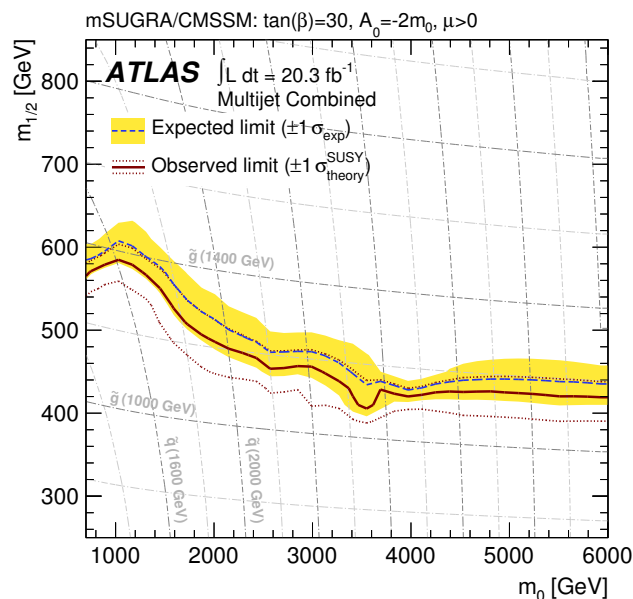
**Figure 10.** 95% CL exclusion curve for the simplified gluino-stop (on-shell) model, where the gluino decays as  $\tilde{g} \rightarrow \tilde{t} + \bar{t}$  and the stop as  $\tilde{t} \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 + t$ , with  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 60$  GeV. Other details are as in figure 9.



**Figure 11.** 95% CL exclusion curve for the simplified gluino-squark (via  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ ) model, for the two versions of the model; fixed  $x = 1/2$ , where  $x = (m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm} - m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}) / (m_{\tilde{g}} - m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0})$ , and varying  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  mass on the left, and  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  mass fixed to 60 GeV and varying  $x$  on the right. The region with gluino masses between 400 GeV and 550 GeV at small  $x$  has no signal Monte Carlo simulation. Other details are as in figure 9.

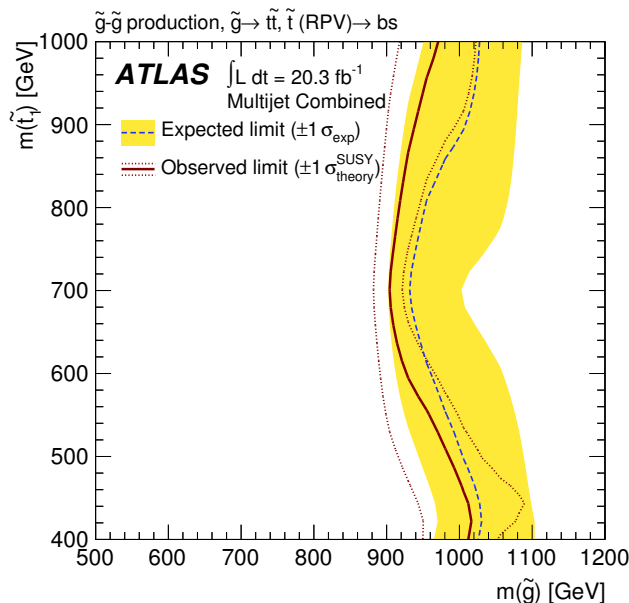


**Figure 12.** 95% CL exclusion curve for the simplified gluino-squark (via  $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ ) model. Other details are as in figure 9.



**Figure 13.** 95% CL exclusion curve for the mSUGRA/CMSSM model, generated with parameters  $\tan \beta = 30$ ,  $A_0 = -2m_0$  and  $\mu > 0$ . Other details are as in figure 9.

**mSUGRA/CMSSM.** An mSUGRA/CMSSM model with parameters  $\tan \beta = 30$ ,  $A_0 = -2m_0$  and  $\mu > 0$  is also used to interpret the analysis results. The exclusion limits are presented in the  $(m_0, m_{1/2})$  plane in figure 13. For large universal scalar mass  $m_0$ , gluino masses smaller than 1.1 TeV are excluded at 95% CL.



**Figure 14.** 95% CL exclusion curve for the simplified gluino-stop (RPV) model. Other details are as in figure 9.

**‘Gluino-stop (RPV)’ model.** In this simplified model, each gluino of a pair decays as  $\tilde{g} \rightarrow \tilde{t} + \bar{t}$ ; and the  $\tilde{t}$ -squark decays via the R-parity- and baryon-number-violating decay  $\tilde{t} \rightarrow \bar{s} + \bar{b}$ . The results are presented in the  $(m_{\tilde{g}}, m_{\tilde{t}})$  plane in figure 14. Within the context of this simplified model, the 95% CL exclusion bound on the gluino mass is 900 GeV for  $\tilde{t}$ -squark masses ranging from 400 GeV to 1 TeV.

## 8 Conclusion

A search is presented for new phenomena with large jet multiplicities (from 7 to  $\geq 10$ ) and missing transverse momentum using  $20.3 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of 8 TeV  $pp$  collision data collected by the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider. The sensitivity to new physics is enhanced by considering the number of  $b$ -tagged jets and the scalar sum of masses of radius  $R = 1.0$  jets in the event, reconstructed using the anti- $k_t$  clustering algorithm. The Standard Model predictions are found to be consistent with the data. The results are interpreted in the context of an mSUGRA/CMSSM model and various simplified models resulting in final states with large jet multiplicity and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . The exclusion limits substantially extend previous results. For example, in a model where both of the pair-produced gluinos decay via  $\tilde{g} \rightarrow t + \bar{t} + \tilde{\chi}_1^0$ , gluino masses smaller than 1.1 TeV are excluded for neutralino masses below 350 GeV.

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