



# Higgsinos

& sleptons: opening the soft lepton frontier at the LHC

IOP APP & HEPP Conference  
University of Bristol

26–28 Mar 2018

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University of Oxford



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*Where is the new physics hiding?*

What opportunities remain under the search lampost?

*Case study: hunting Higgsinos*

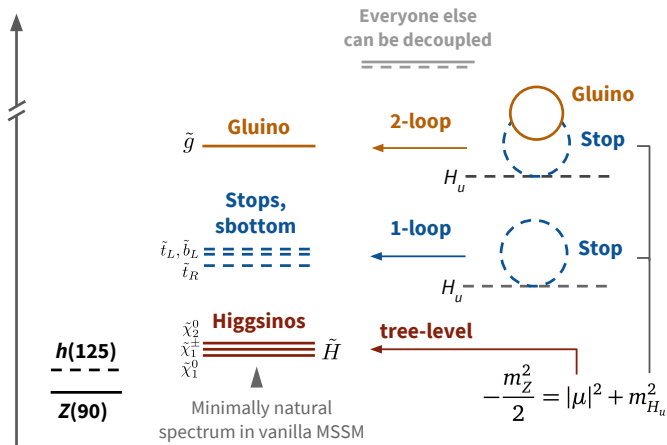
Why are MSSM compressed scenarios so challenging?

*Surpassing two-decade old LEP limits*

How do we detect Higgsino dark matter at hadron colliders?

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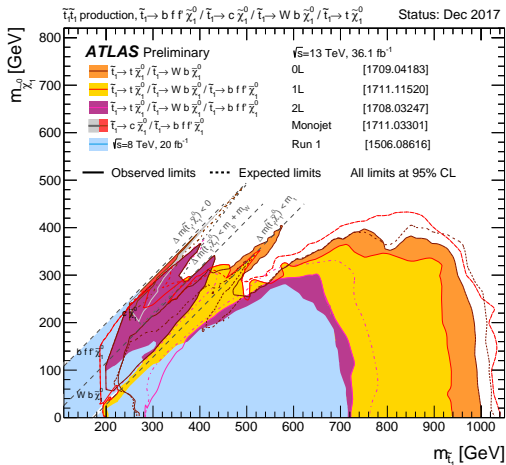
# Naturalness motivates light gluinos, stops, Higgsinos



Adapted from Papucci et al [arXiv:1110.6926]

**Light gluino searches: spectacular jets + MET signatures** — see Mike's talk

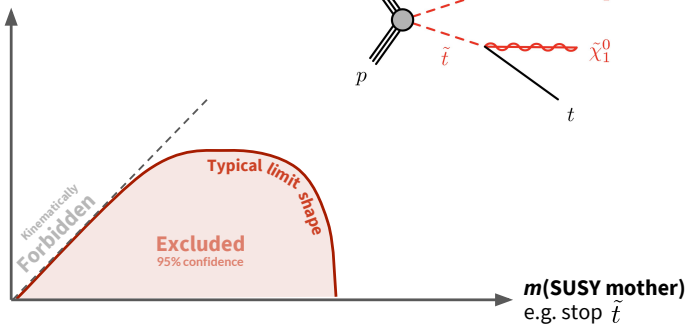
# Stop sensitivity approaching 1 TeV



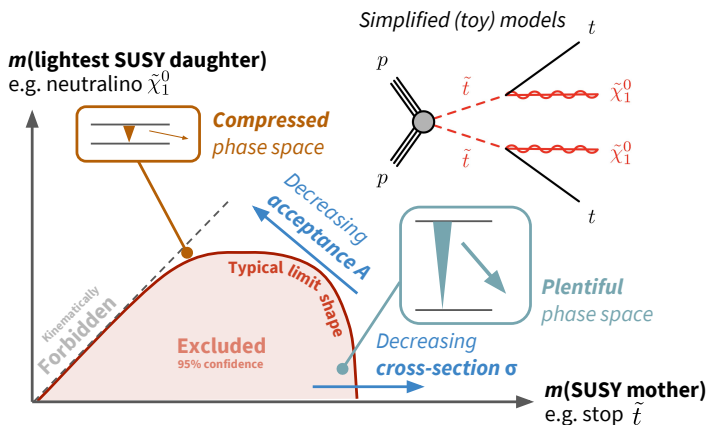
Electroweak naturalness motivates stop  $\tilde{t}$  near weak scale  
**Dedicated efforts in Run 2 searches closing gaps left after Run 1**  
 From ATLAS SUSY summary plots

# How to read typical SUSY simplified model exclusion plots

$m(\text{lightest SUSY daughter})$   
e.g. neutralino  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$

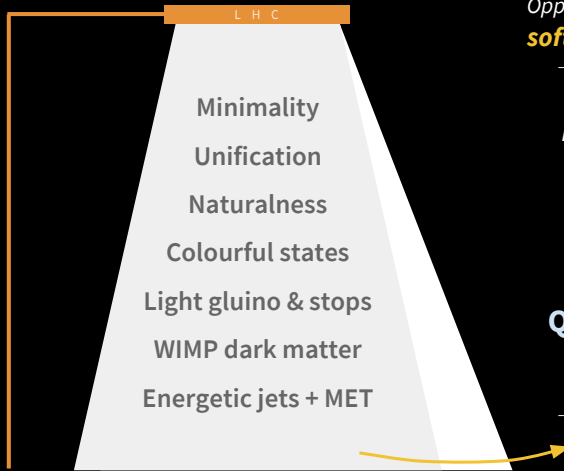


# How to read typical SUSY simplified model exclusion plots



# THE SEARCHLIGHT IS SHIFTING

from spectacular to subtle discoveries



*Opportunities & challenges for*  
***soft, rare, quirky signals***

## **Soft stuff**

*Particle identification*  
*Trigger thresholds*

## **Rare SUSY**

*Colourless sparticles*  
*Dark sector*

## **Quirky creatures**

*Displaced difficulties*  
*Long-lived exotica*

**Case study**  
***Higgsino***



# HUNTING HIGGSINOS

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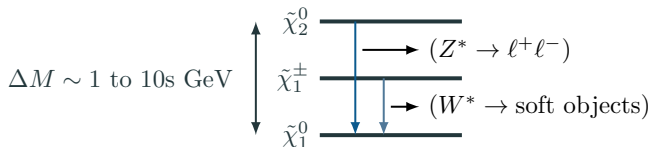
A benchmark for probing the soft, rare & long-lived frontiers



**Higgsinos  $\tilde{H}$  are the spin-1/2 fermionic partner of the Higgs bosons**  
**Mass should be near weak scale by naturalness arguments**

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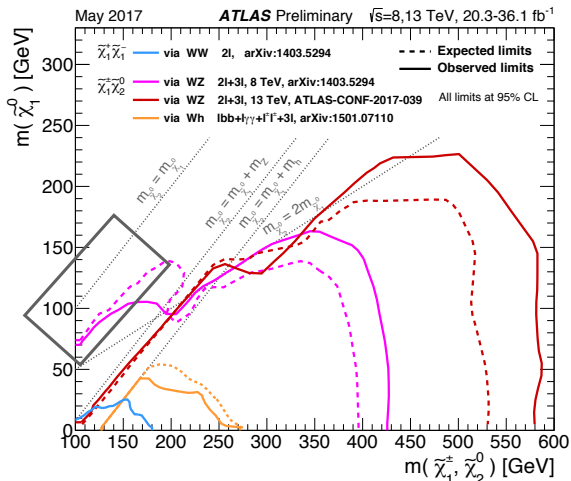
**Higgsinos realised as multiplet of neutralinos & charginos**



**Challenge to reconstruct intra-Higgsino soft decay products**

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# Striking gaps in ATLAS sensitivity



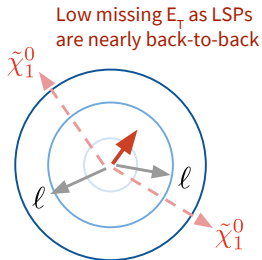
$$pp \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_2^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm (\text{wino}) \rightarrow W^{(*)} Z^{(*)} \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow \text{leptons} + E_T^{\text{miss}}$$

‘Smoking-gun’ lamppost of high  $p_T$  objects is focus of first LHC searches.

Confront the **soft lepton frontier** to open sensitivity to diagonal.

## EXISTING PROBES

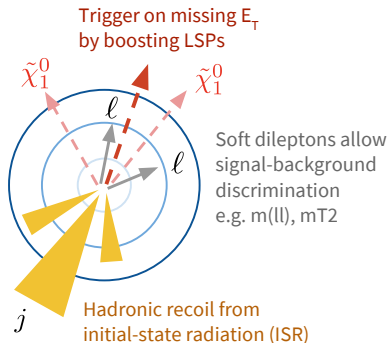
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Leptons too soft to pass lepton triggers

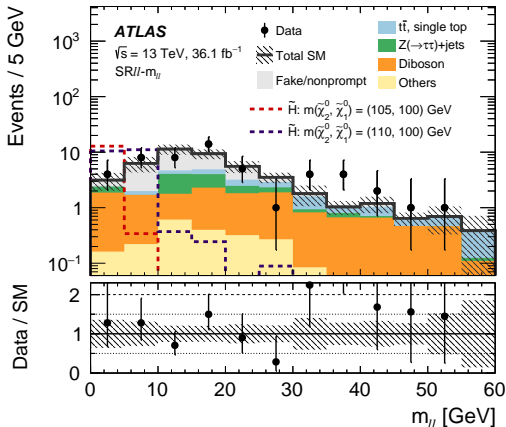
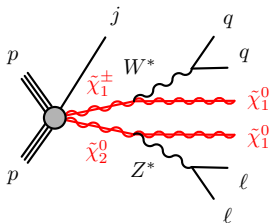
## OUR STRATEGY

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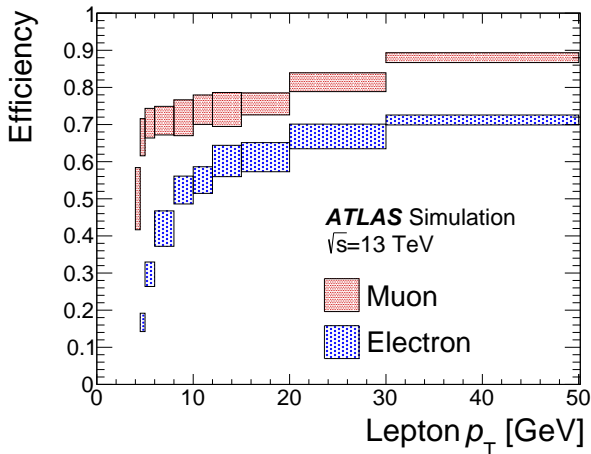
New strategy employed by ATLAS [[1712.08119](#)]

# Signals localised at low $m_{\ell\ell}$ : bump-hunt SUSY style!



**Sensitivity driven by  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- \tilde{\chi}_1^0$**  (same-flavour opposite-sign)

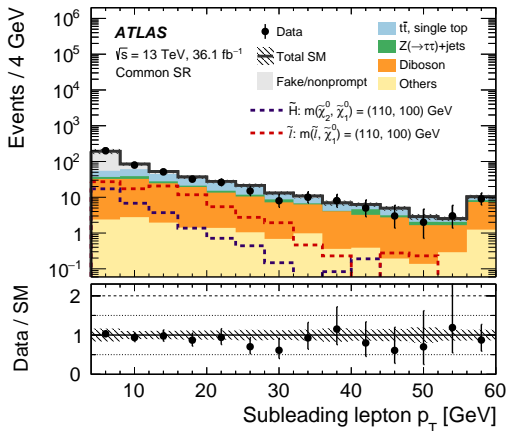
**Signal kinematic endpoint:**  $m_{\ell\ell} < \Delta M(\tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^0)$  gives dramatic background discrimination (Foreshadowing: sleptons where leptons come from different legs have endpoint in  $m_{T2}$  variable)



**Confronting experimental limitations of soft lepton reconstruction crucial for sensitivity**

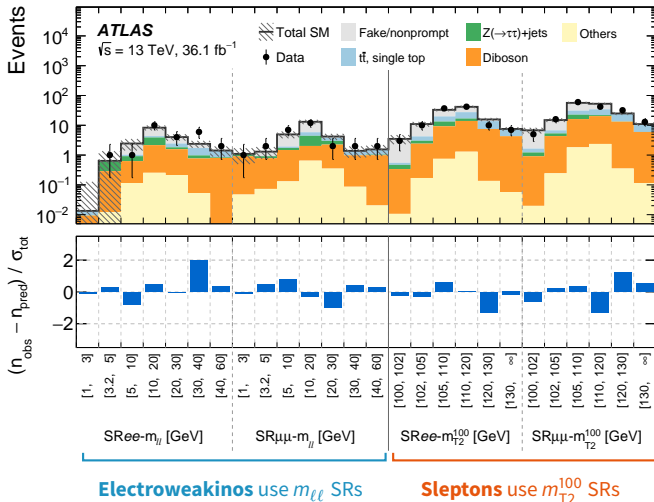
Fun fact: a muon loses 3 GeV of energy before reaching the ATLAS muon spectrometer

# Must confront 'fake/nonprompt' leptons at soft frontier



Soft lepton regime **dominated by challenging fake/nonprompt lepton\*** backgrounds  
Includes misidentified jets, photon conversions, semi-leptonic decays of  $B$ -hadrons, pileup  
Predicted using data-driven 'Fake Factor' method (details in backup)

# Exclusive bins for shape fit



Make bins orthogonal, split by  $ee/\mu\mu$  to statistically combine, improving exclusion.

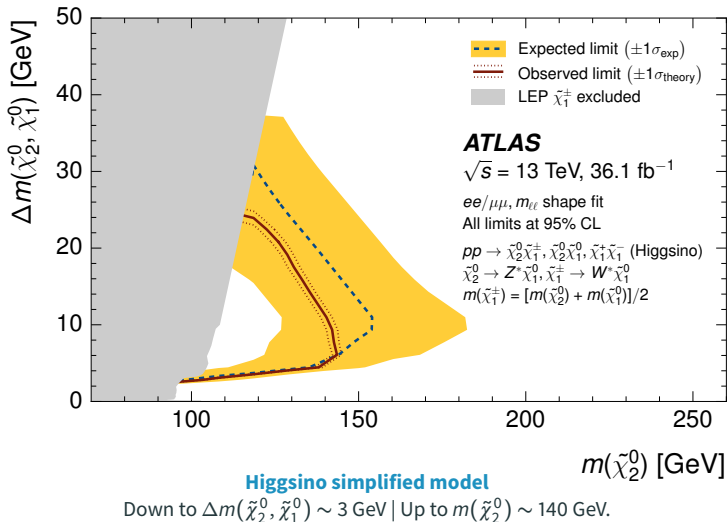
Showing fit with  $\mu_{\text{signal}} = 0$ .

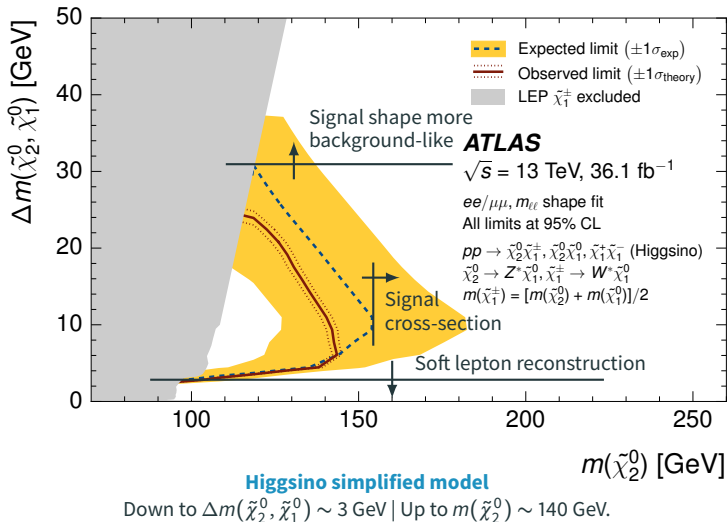
# LHC SENSITIVITY

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A hadron collider extends nearly 20 year old LEP limits

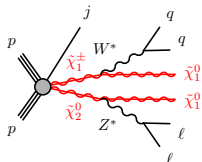




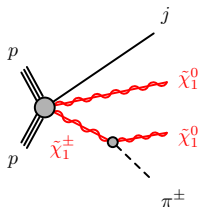


# From promptly decaying to long-lived Higgsinos

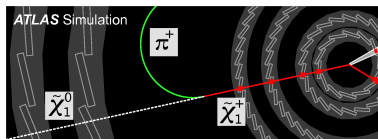
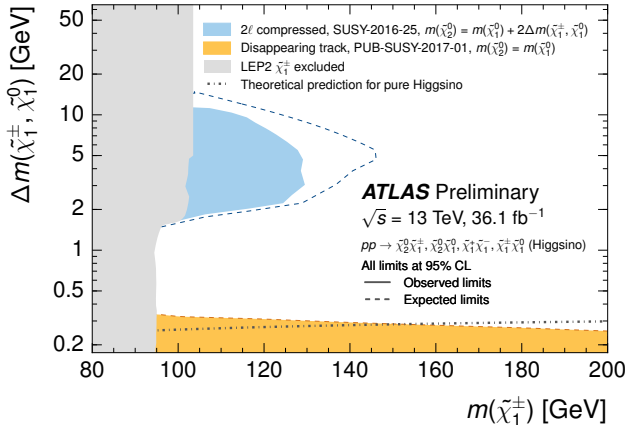
December 2017



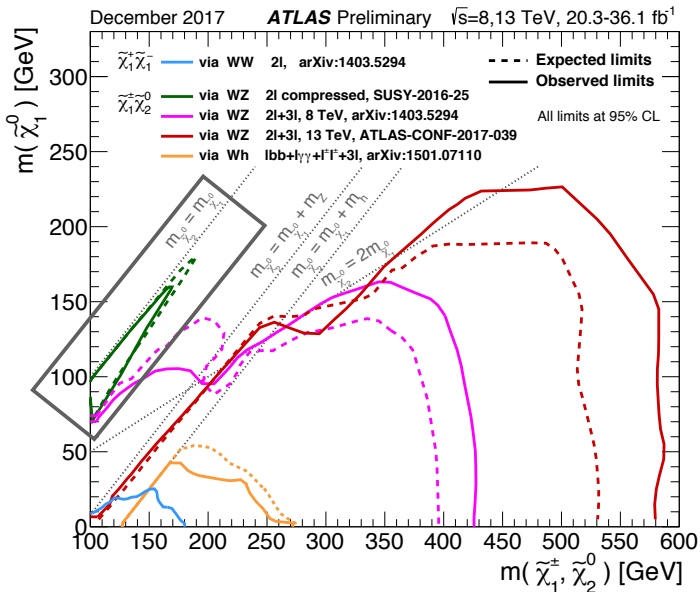
**2l compressed**  
Soft  $p_T^{e,\mu} > 4.5, 4 \text{ GeV}$   
[1712.08119]



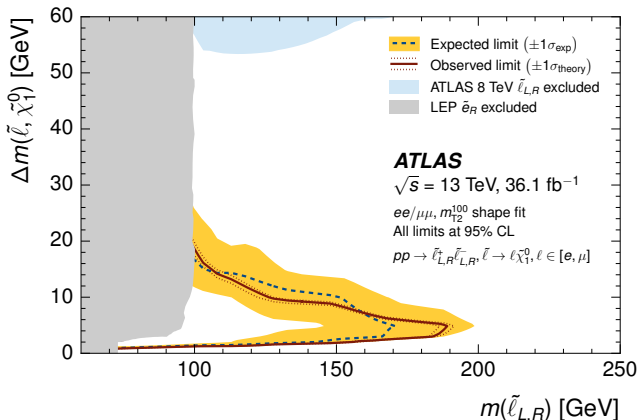
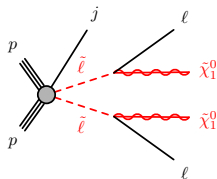
**Disappearing track**  
IBL+Pixel tracklets  
[PHYS-PUB-2017-019]



# Closing the ATLAS wino-bino via WZ gap



# Bonus result: 2L search also opens compressed slepton sensitivity



**First hadron collider sensitivity beyond LEP in  $\Delta M \lesssim 55 \text{ GeV}$  gap**

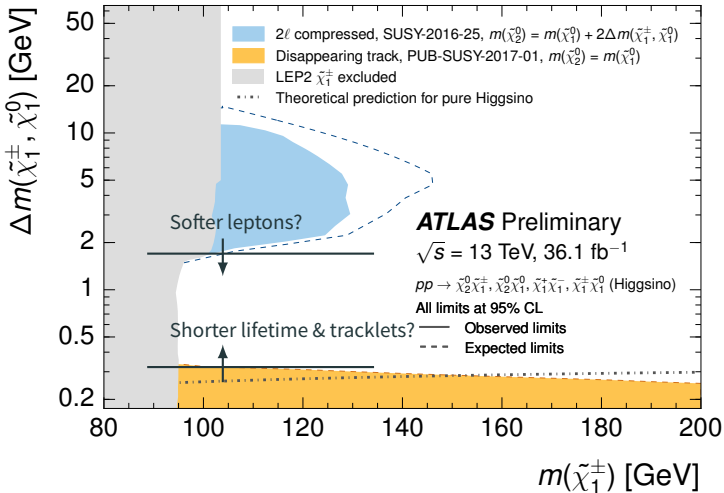
**Compressed frontier:** down to  $\Delta m(\tilde{\ell}, \tilde{\chi}_1^0) \sim 1 \text{ GeV}$

**Mass frontier:** up to  $m(\tilde{\ell}) \sim 190 \text{ GeV}$

[1712.08119]

# How do we close the Higgsino prompt–long-lived gap?

December 2017



Need new techniques to overcome limiting factors in sensitivity

# SUMMARY

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## Physics opportunities

Soft  $2\ell + E_T^{\text{miss}}$  + ISR strategy: opened window on sought-after SUSY states.  
Search for **Higgsino** & **slepton** production with  $2\ell$ .

## Challenges at the soft lepton frontier

Recent support for  $p_T(e/\mu) > 4.5/4$  GeV critical for small  $\Delta M$  sensitivity.  
Fake/non-prompt leptons dominate background — used data-driven estimate.

## Sensitivity beyond LEP

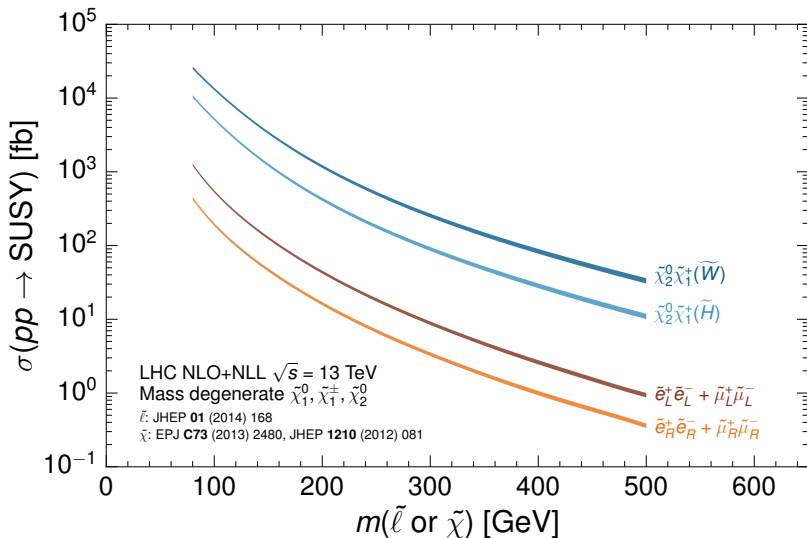
Signal regions binned in  $m_{\ell\ell}$  or  $m_{T2}$  for decisive sensitivity.  
Sensitivity down to  $\Delta m$  of **3 GeV for Higgsinos**, **1 GeV for sleptons**.

New strategy presented by ATLAS [1712.08119]

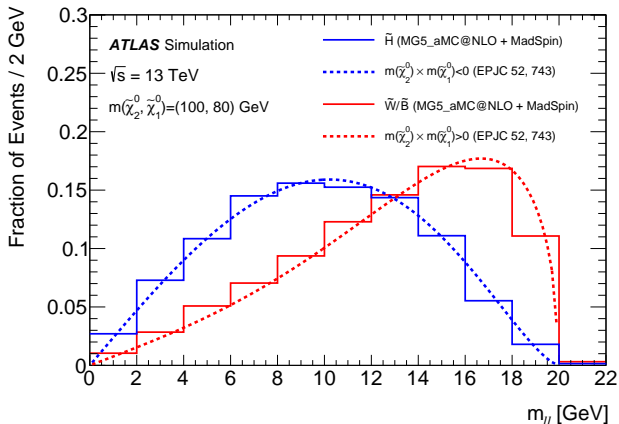
# EXTRAS



# LHC cross-sections for wino, Higgsino, slepton production



# Higgsino vs wino–bino dilepton invariant mass shape

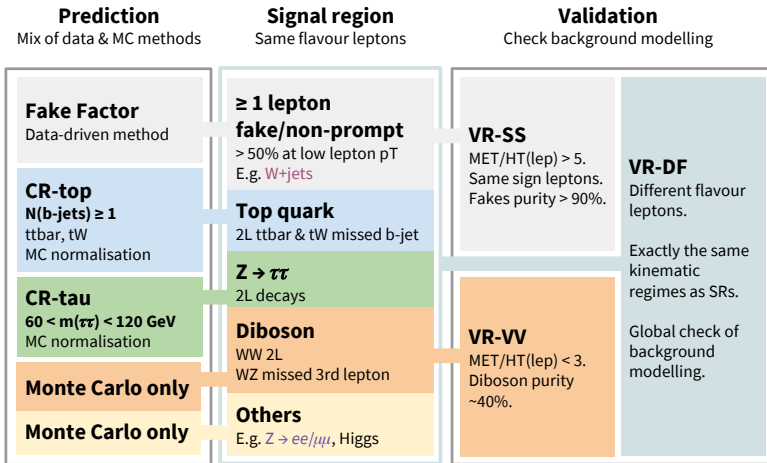


## LHC can probe *composition* of electroweakinos i.e. underlying SUSY parameters

$m_{\ell\ell}$  shape differs for Higgsino  $\tilde{H}$  vs wino–bino  $\tilde{W}/\tilde{B}$  scenarios.

Using MadSpin to model  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- \tilde{\chi}_1^0$  decays to match predicted shape.

# Background estimation strategy: schematic overview

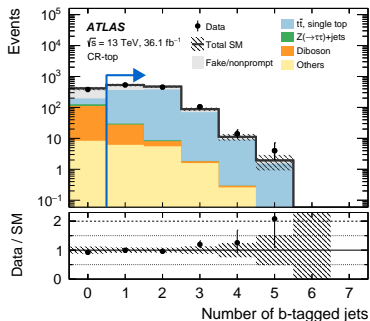


**Irreducible:** 2 real & prompt leptons and MET from neutrinos

**Reducible:**  $\geq 1$  or more fake/non-prompt lepton(s), instrumental MET (negligible)

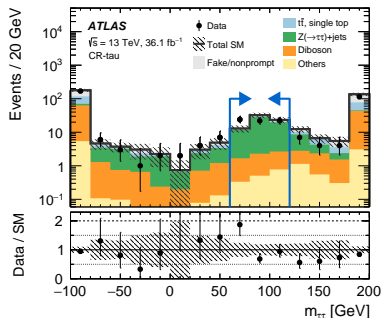
List of MC samples in backup p??, more details of strategy in backup p??.

# Control regions for irreducible backgrounds



## CR-top

$$\mu_{\text{top}} = 0.97 \pm 0.09 \text{ for } t\bar{t}, \text{ Single top}$$



## CR-tau

$$\mu_{Z \rightarrow \tau\tau} = 0.77 \pm 0.14 \text{ for } Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$$

Region	Leptons	$E_T^{\text{miss}} / H_T^{\text{lep}}$	Additional requirements
CR-top	$e^\pm e^\mp, \mu^\pm \mu^\mp, e^\pm \mu^\mp, \mu^\pm e^\mp$	$> 5$	$\geq 1$ b-tagged jet(s)
CR-tau	$e^\pm e^\mp, \mu^\pm \mu^\mp, e^\pm \mu^\mp, \mu^\pm e^\mp$	$\in [4, 8]$	$m_{\tau\tau} \in [60, 120]$ GeV

For SR  
orthogonality

## Background-only fit to CR-top & CR-tau (each single-bins).

This derives normalisation factors  $\mu_{\text{top}}, \mu_{Z \rightarrow \tau\tau}$  respectively.

	Variable	Common requirement
<b>Select 2 soft SFOS leptons</b>	Number of leptons	= 2
	Lepton charge and flavour	$e^+e^-$ or $\mu^+\mu^-$
	Leading lepton $p_T^{\ell_1}$	> 5 (5) GeV for electron (muon)
	Subleading lepton $p_T^{\ell_2}$	> 4.5 (4) GeV for electron (muon)
Conversions/fake muons	$\Delta R_{\ell\ell}$	> 0.05
	$m_{\ell\ell}$	$\in [1, 60]$ GeV excluding $[3.0, 3.2]$ GeV
Drell-Yan resonances	$E_T^{\text{miss}}$	> 200 GeV
	Leading jet $p_T^{j_1}$	> 100 GeV
<b>Select ISR topology</b>	$\Delta\phi(j_1, \mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}})$	> 2.0
	$\min(\Delta\phi(\text{any jet}, \mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}}))$	> 0.4
Mis-measured jets	Number of $b$ -jets	= 0
	$m_{\tau\tau}$	< 0 or > 160 GeV
Top quarks		
$Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$		

### Same-flavour opposite sign (SFOS) signature

**Higgsino** sensitivity dominated by  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 (Z^* \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-)$ .

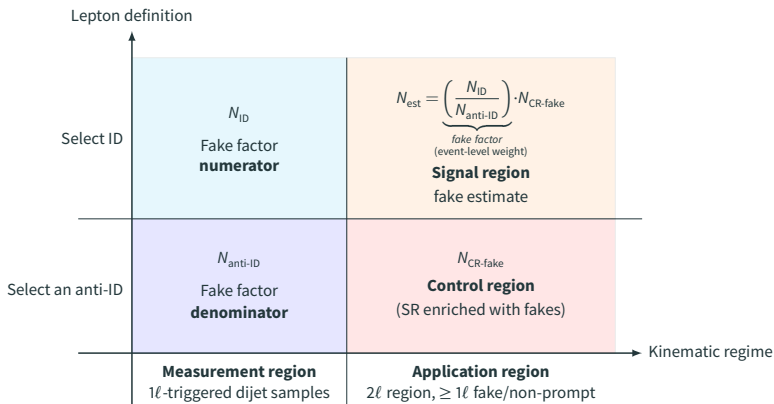
### Select ISR topology

$E_T^{\text{miss}} > 200$  GeV,  $p_T^{j_1} > 100$  GeV,  $\Delta\phi(j_1, \mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}}) > 2.0$ .

### Suppress backgrounds

Other common requirements reduce various backgrounds labelled above.

# Schematic of data-driven Fake Factor method



**Numerator (denominator) intuition:** given fake leptons, fraction that **pass (fail)** signal requirements.

**ID Electrons:** *Tight* identification, *GradientLoose* isolation.

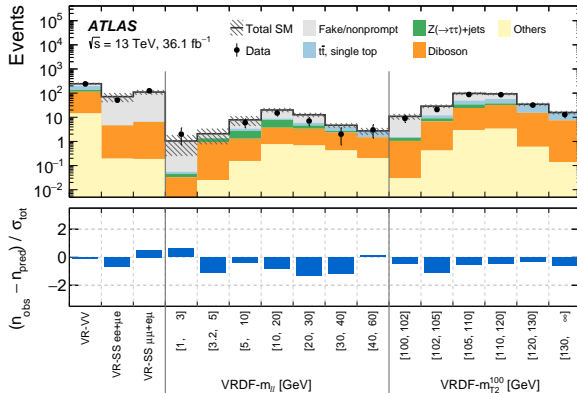
**ID Muons:** *Medium* identification, *FixedCutTightTrackOnly* isolation.

**ID leptons:** same as signal leptons | **Anti-ID leptons:** invert  $\geq 1$  ID requirements.

Bin in  $p_T$  for  $e$  &  $\mu$ , bin in  $N_{b-jet}$  only for  $\mu$  fake factors.

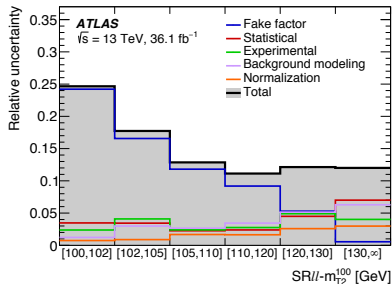
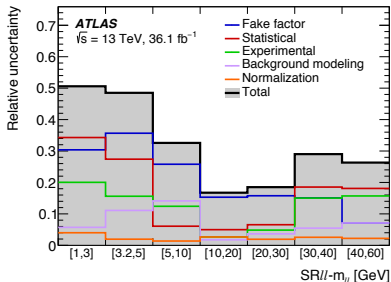
Fake Factor developed in [H to WW analysis](#). Studied fake composition in MC (mostly heavy flavour), optimised object definitions.

# Summary of background estimation validation



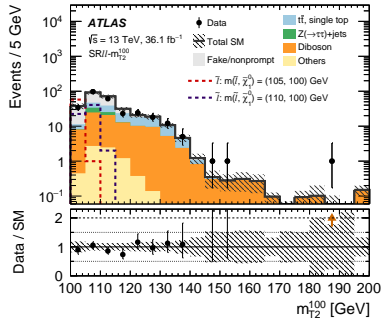
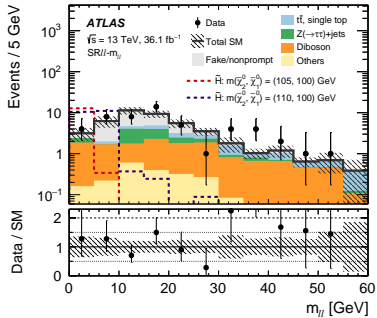
Region	Leptons	$E_T^{\text{miss}}/H_T^{\text{lep}}$	Additional requirements
CR-top	$e^\pm e^\mp, \mu^\pm \mu^\mp, e^\pm \mu^\mp, \mu^\pm e^\mp$	$> 5$	$\geq 1$ $b$ -tagged jet(s)
CR-tau	$e^\pm e^\mp, \mu^\pm \mu^\mp, e^\pm \mu^\mp, \mu^\pm e^\mp$	$\in [4, 8]$	$m_{\tau\tau} \in [60, 120] \text{ GeV}$
VR-VV	$e^\pm e^\mp, \mu^\pm \mu^\mp, e^\pm \mu^\mp, \mu^\pm e^\mp$	$< 3$	
VR-SS	$e^\pm e^\pm, \mu^\pm \mu^\pm, e^\pm \mu^\pm, \mu^\pm e^\pm$	$> 5$	
VRDF- $m_{T\ell}$	$e^\pm \mu^\mp, \mu^\pm e^\mp$	$> \max\left(5, 15 - 2 \frac{m_{T\ell}}{1 \text{ GeV}}\right)$	$\Delta R_{\ell\ell} < 2, m_T^{\ell_1} < 70 \text{ GeV}$
VRDF- $m_{T2}^{100}$	$e^\pm \mu^\mp, \mu^\pm e^\mp$	$> \max\left(3, 15 - 2 \left(\frac{m_{T2}^{100}}{1 \text{ GeV}} - 100\right)\right)$	

# Breakdown of systematics in SRs





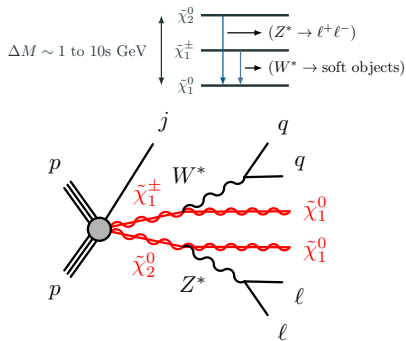
# Electroweakino and slepton SRs



Variable	Common requirement	Electroweakino SRs	Slepton SRs
Number of leptons	= 2		
Lepton charge and flavour	$e^+e^-$ or $\mu^+\mu^-$		
Leading lepton $p_T^{\ell_1}$	> 5 (5) GeV for electron (muon)		
Subleading lepton $p_T^{\ell_2}$	> 4.5 (4) GeV for electron (muon)		
$\Delta R_{\ell\ell}$	> 0.05		
$m_{\ell\ell}$	$\in [1, 60]$ GeV excluding [3.0, 3.2] GeV		
$E_T^{\text{miss}}$	> 200 GeV		
Leading jet $p_T^{\text{jet}}$	> 100 GeV		
$\Delta\phi(j_1, \mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}})$	> 2.0		
$\min(\Delta\phi(\text{any jet}, \mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}}))$	> 0.4		
Number of $b$ -jets	= 0		
$m_{\tau\tau}$	< 0 or > 160 GeV		
$\Delta R_{\ell\ell}$	< 2		—
$m_{\tilde{l}\tilde{l}}^{\text{bin}}$	< 70 GeV		—
Binned in	$m_{\ell\ell}$		$m_{\tilde{l}\tilde{l}}^{100}$

		Electroweakino SRs						
Exclusive	$SRee-m_{\ell\ell}, SR\mu\mu-m_{\ell\ell}$	[1, 3]	[3.2, 5]	[5, 10]	[10, 20]	[20, 30]	[30, 40]	[40, 60]
Inclusive	$SR\ell\ell-m_{\ell\ell}$	[1, 3]	[1, 5]	[1, 10]	[1, 20]	[1, 30]	[1, 40]	[1, 60]
		Slepton SRs						
Exclusive	$SRee-m_{T2}^{100}, SR\mu\mu-m_{T2}^{100}$	[100, 102]	[102, 105]	[105, 110]	[110, 120]	[120, 130]	[130, $\infty$ ]	
Inclusive	$SR\ell\ell-m_{T2}^{100}$	[100, 102]	[100, 105]	[100, 110]	[100, 120]	[100, 130]	[100, $\infty$ ]	

# Signal models: 2 ways to realise dilepton decay chain with MET



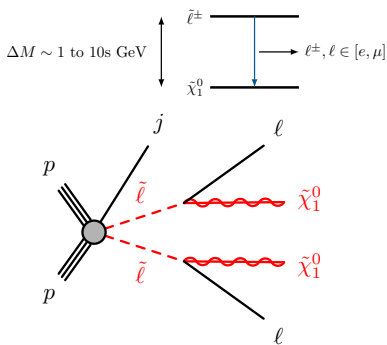
## Electroweakinos

Target  $\ell^+ \ell^-$  from **same** leg

Bump in **dilepton invariant mass**  $m_{\ell\ell}$

Higgsino:  $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm) = [m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0) + m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0)]/2$

Sensitivity driven by  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- \tilde{\chi}_1^0$



## Sleptons

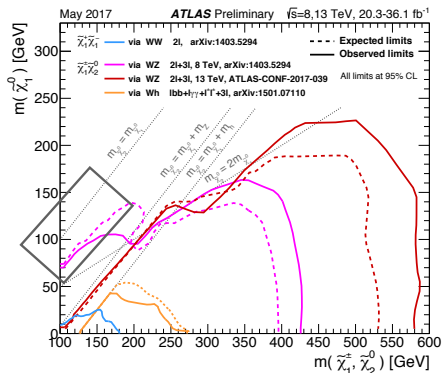
Target  $\ell^+ \ell^-$  from **different** legs

Bump in **stransverse mass**  $m_{T2}$

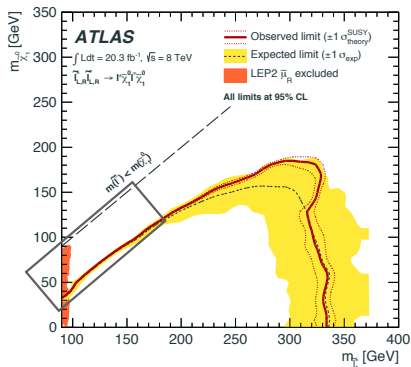
$m(\tilde{e}_L) = m(\tilde{e}_R) = m(\tilde{\mu}_L) = m(\tilde{\mu}_R)$

$\sigma \times \text{BR}_{2\ell}$  similar to electroweakinos

# Striking gaps in ATLAS sensitivity

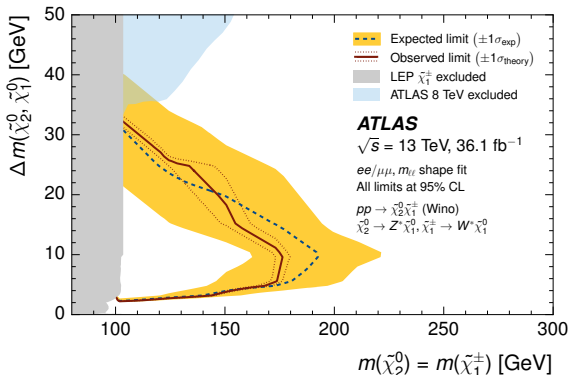


Wino  $\tilde{\chi}_2^0\tilde{\chi}_1^{\pm} \rightarrow W^{(*)}Z^{(*)}\tilde{\chi}_1^0\tilde{\chi}_1^{\pm}$   
 $\Delta m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^0) \lesssim 40$  GeV

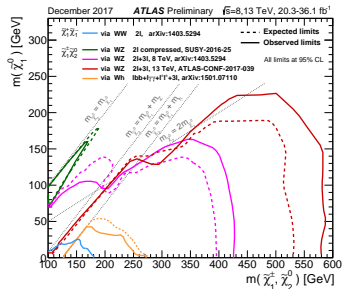


Sleptons  $\tilde{l}^+\tilde{l}^- \rightarrow l^+l^-\tilde{\chi}_1^0\tilde{\chi}_1^0$   
 $\Delta m(\tilde{l}, \tilde{\chi}_1^0) \lesssim 60$  GeV

# Closing the ATLAS wino-bino gap



Zoom into diagonal.






## Wino-bino simplified model

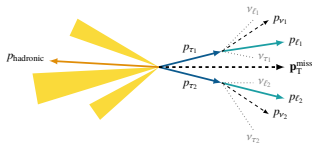
Down to  $\Delta M \sim 2.5 \text{ GeV}$  | Up to  $m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0) \sim 170 \text{ GeV}$ .

Priority in 2018: close gap at  $m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0) - m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) \approx 30 \text{ GeV}$ .

# Simplified models motivated by 3 compressed spectra scenarios

Simplified models considered			
	Higgsino LSP	Slepton Bino LSP	Wino Bino LSP
Use in this analysis	Optimisation & interpretation		Interpretation
Compression	Radiative/mixing	Accidental	
SM splitting analogy	W/Z bosons ~10% apart	Charm quark & tau lepton mass ~30% apart	
Desirable feature	Weak scale naturalness <sup>§</sup>	Resolve $(g-2)_\mu$ tension <sup>¶</sup>	Favoured by global fits <sup>**</sup>
LSP as dark matter	'Well-tempered' mixing <sup>£</sup>	Bino saturates relic density via coannihilation <sup>^</sup>	
E.g. cross-sections <sup>#</sup>	$m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm) = (110, 105) \text{ GeV}$ $\sigma(pp \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_2^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm) = 4.3 \text{ pb}$	$m(\tilde{\ell}_{L,R}) = 110 \text{ GeV}$ $\sigma(pp \rightarrow \tilde{\ell}_{L,R} \tilde{\ell}_{L,R}) = 0.55 \text{ pb}$	$m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm) = 110 \text{ GeV}$ $\sigma(pp \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_2^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm) = 16 \text{ pb}$

E.g. arXiv: <sup>§</sup>1110.6926, <sup>¶</sup>1505.05896, <sup>\*\*</sup>1504.0326, <sup>£</sup>hep-ph/0601041 <sup>^</sup>1508.06608, <sup>#</sup>Resummino NLO+NLL 1304.0790



$$m_{\tau\tau} = \text{sign}(m_{\tau\tau}^2) \sqrt{|m_{\tau\tau}^2|} \quad (1)$$

The construction assumes the  $\tau$  leptons decay products are nearly collinear.

$p_{\tau i} = p_{\ell i} + p_{\nu i}$ . Then the  $\tau$  momentum is a rescaling of the observable lepton momenta  $p_{\ell i}$

$$p_{\tau i} = (1 + \xi_i) p_{\ell i} \equiv f_i p_{\ell i}, \quad (7)$$

where  $f_i \equiv 1 + \xi_i$ . To solve for the two unknown scalars  $\xi_i$ , one constrains the neutrino momenta using the missing transverse momentum <sup>1</sup> as Ref. [46] prescribes

$$\mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}} = \xi_1 \mathbf{p}_T^{\ell_1} + \xi_2 \mathbf{p}_T^{\ell_2}. \quad (8)$$

Equation (8) assumes the lepton-invisible colinearity limit  $p_{\nu i} \approx \xi_i p_{\ell i}$  and comprises two independent constraints in the transverse plane for the two unknown scalars  $\xi_i$ . This is solved by performing  $2 \times 2$  matrix inversion in for example the  $x$ - $y$  transverse plane

$$\begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\begin{vmatrix} p_x^{\ell_1} p_y^{\ell_2} - p_x^{\ell_2} p_y^{\ell_1} \\ p_y^{\text{miss}} p_x^{\ell_1} - p_x^{\text{miss}} p_y^{\ell_1} \end{vmatrix}} \begin{pmatrix} p_x^{\text{miss}} p_y^{\ell_2} - p_x^{\ell_2} p_y^{\text{miss}} \\ p_y^{\text{miss}} p_x^{\ell_1} - p_x^{\text{miss}} p_y^{\ell_1} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (9)$$

Assuming highly boosted taus such that  $m_{\tau i}^2 \approx 0$ , the di-tau invariant mass squared is then given by

$$m_{\tau\tau}^2 = (p_{\tau 1} + p_{\tau 2})^2 \approx 2 p_{\ell 1} \cdot p_{\ell 2} (1 + \xi_1)(1 + \xi_2). \quad (10)$$

$m_{\tau\tau}^2$  can go negative when  $f_i \equiv 1 + \xi_i < 0$ . This happens when one of the leptons is anti-aligned with  $\mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and  $E_T^{\text{miss}} > |\mathbf{p}_T^{\ell_j}|$ , such that the rescaling has to invert the direction to approximate the tau-momentum.

In slepton-pair production (Figure 1(b)), the event topology can be used to infer the slepton mass given the LSP mass. The transverse mass [37, 38] is defined by

$$m_{T2}^{m_\chi}(\mathbf{p}_T^{\ell_1}, \mathbf{p}_T^{\ell_2}, \mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}}) = \min_{\mathbf{q}_T} \left( \max \left[ m_T(\mathbf{p}_T^{\ell_1}, \mathbf{q}_T, m_\chi), m_T(\mathbf{p}_T^{\ell_2}, \mathbf{p}_T^{\text{miss}} - \mathbf{q}_T, m_\chi) \right] \right),$$

where the transverse vector  $\mathbf{q}_T$  is chosen to minimize the larger of the two transverse masses, defined by

$$m_T(\mathbf{p}_T, \mathbf{q}_T, m_\chi) = \sqrt{m_\ell^2 + m_\chi^2 + 2 \left( \sqrt{p_T^2 + m_\ell^2} \sqrt{q_T^2 + m_\chi^2} - \mathbf{p}_T \cdot \mathbf{q}_T \right)}.$$

The values of  $m_{T2}^{m_\chi}$  are bounded by the slepton mass from above when the hypothesis invisible mass  $m_\chi$  is set to the LSP mass. The transverse mass  $m_{T2}^{100}$  with  $m_\chi = 100$  GeV is used to define the binning of the slepton SRs as further described below. The value of 100 GeV is chosen based on the expected LSP masses of the slepton signals targeted by this analysis.