

Digging Deeper Into SUSY Parameter Space With the CMS Experiment

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on behalf of the CMS Collaboration
SUSY 2022
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Outline

- Introduction to Unconventional SUSY
- Presentation of recent CMS Results
 - RPV/Stealth SUSY Top Squark Search
 - Soft τ Lepton Compressed SUSY Spectrum Search
- Summary & Conclusions

Unconventional SUSY Models

- No convincing evidence from traditional SUSY searches
 - Most efforts focused on high p_T , high MET signatures
 - What if we've been looking in the wrong places?
 - Consider **less conventional** parts of the SUSY phase space
- R-parity violating (RPV) SUSY
 - Smaller RPV couplings to SM: LSP decays to SM particles, leaving **no MET**
- Stealth SUSY
 - New hidden stealth sector weakly coupled to SUSY-breaking sector but with finite couplings to the visible sector
 - Stealth particles and their superpartners are nearly degenerate and thus can decay to SM particles while leaving **little MET**
- SUSY with compressed spectra
 - Small mass splittings among sparticles lead to **soft decay products** that require dedicated techniques to achieve sensitivity
 - See upcoming talk by Diogo Bastos: "Searches for top squarks in compressed scenarios"
- Recent CMS to be presented:
 - RPV/Stealth Top Squark Search: [Phys. Rev. D 104, 032006](#)
 - Soft τ Lepton Compressed Spectrum Search: [Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 041803](#)

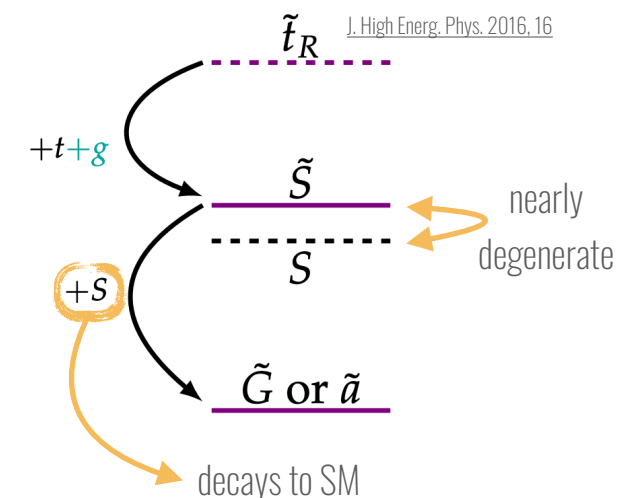
RPV Superpotential Terms

$$W_{RpV} = \epsilon_{ab} [\lambda_{ijk} L_i^a L_j^b \bar{E}_k + \lambda'_{ijk} L_i^a Q_j^b \bar{D}_k + \kappa_i L_i^a H_u^b] \quad \textcolor{red}{\mathbb{L}}$$

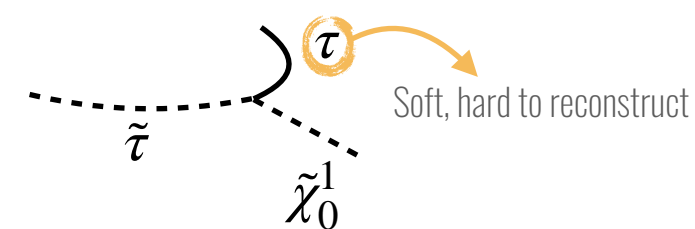
$$+ \lambda''_{ijk} \epsilon_{xyz} \bar{U}_i^x \bar{D}_j^y \bar{D}_k^z \quad \textcolor{red}{\mathbb{B}}$$

H. Dreiner

Stealth SUSY Spectrum

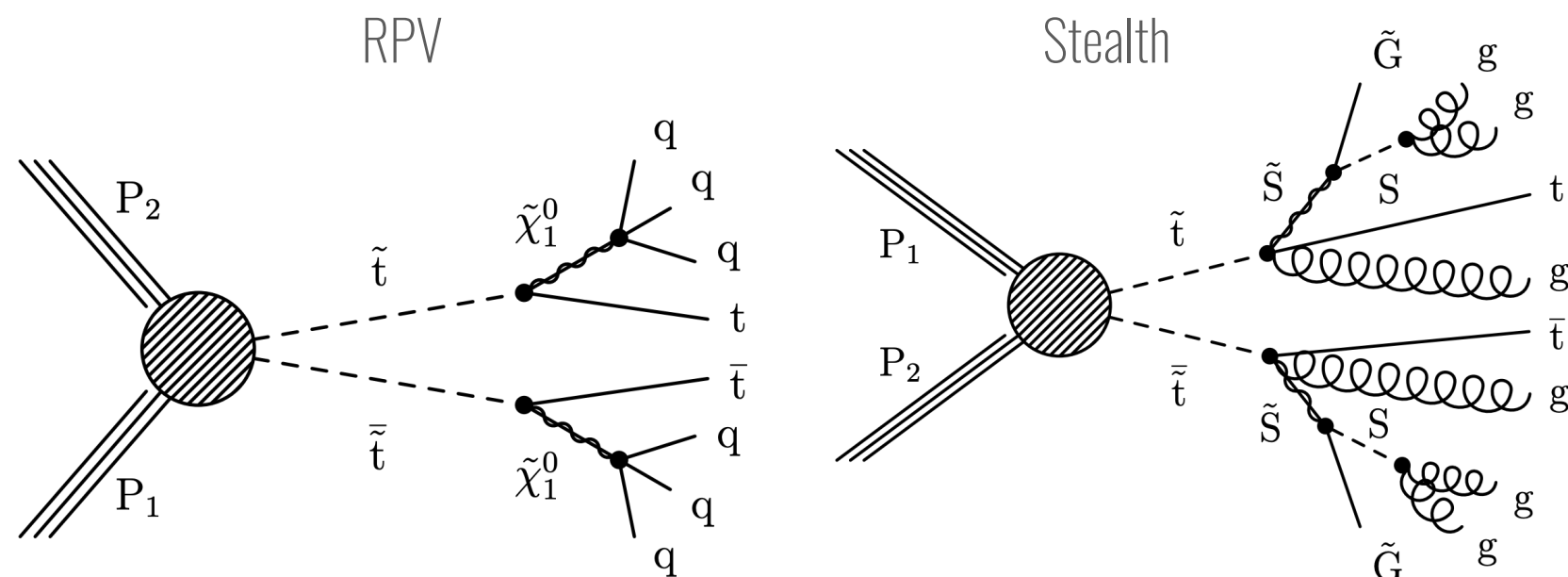


Compressed SUSY Spectrum Decay



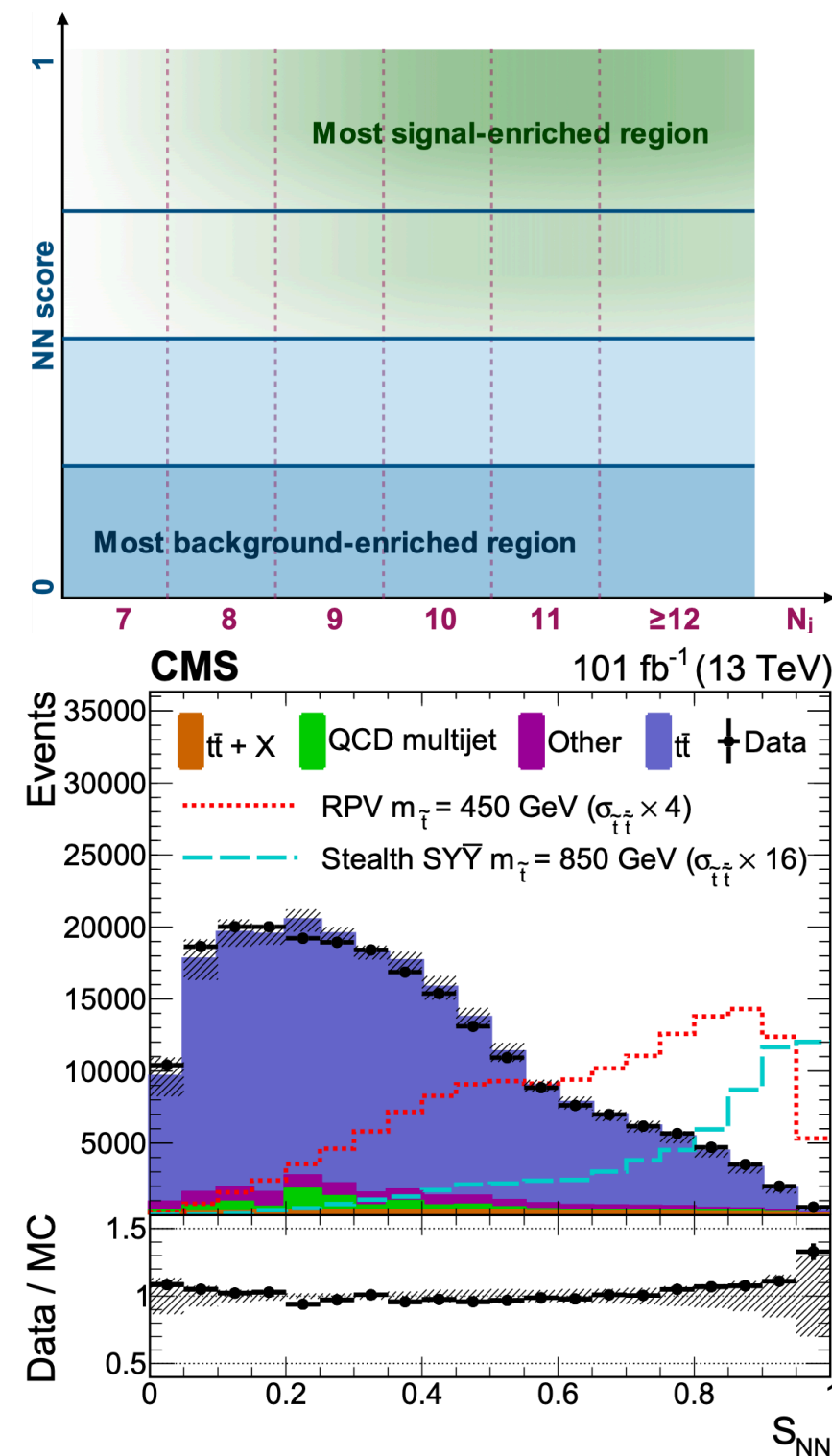
RPV/Stealth Top Squark Search

- Search for top squarks in the context of RPV and stealth SUSY models with 137 fb^{-1} (Run 2)
 - RPV: neutralino LSP from top squark decays to light jets via UDD coupling
 - Stealth: minimal stealth model ($\mathbf{SY\bar{Y}}$)
 - One scalar particle \mathbf{S} , its superpartner $\tilde{\mathbf{S}}$, and a portal mediated by a messenger field \mathbf{Y}
 - \mathbf{S} and $\tilde{\mathbf{S}}$ are nearly degenerate, decay of $\tilde{\mathbf{S}}$ to \mathbf{S} and light $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}$ leaves little MET
 - Both models lead to high jet multiplicity and low MET
- Target final state: $t\bar{t} + \text{jets} + 1l$
 - No MET
 - Lepton from top decay suppresses QCD background
- Previously unexplored phase space at the LHC for low-mass stops and light-flavor jets

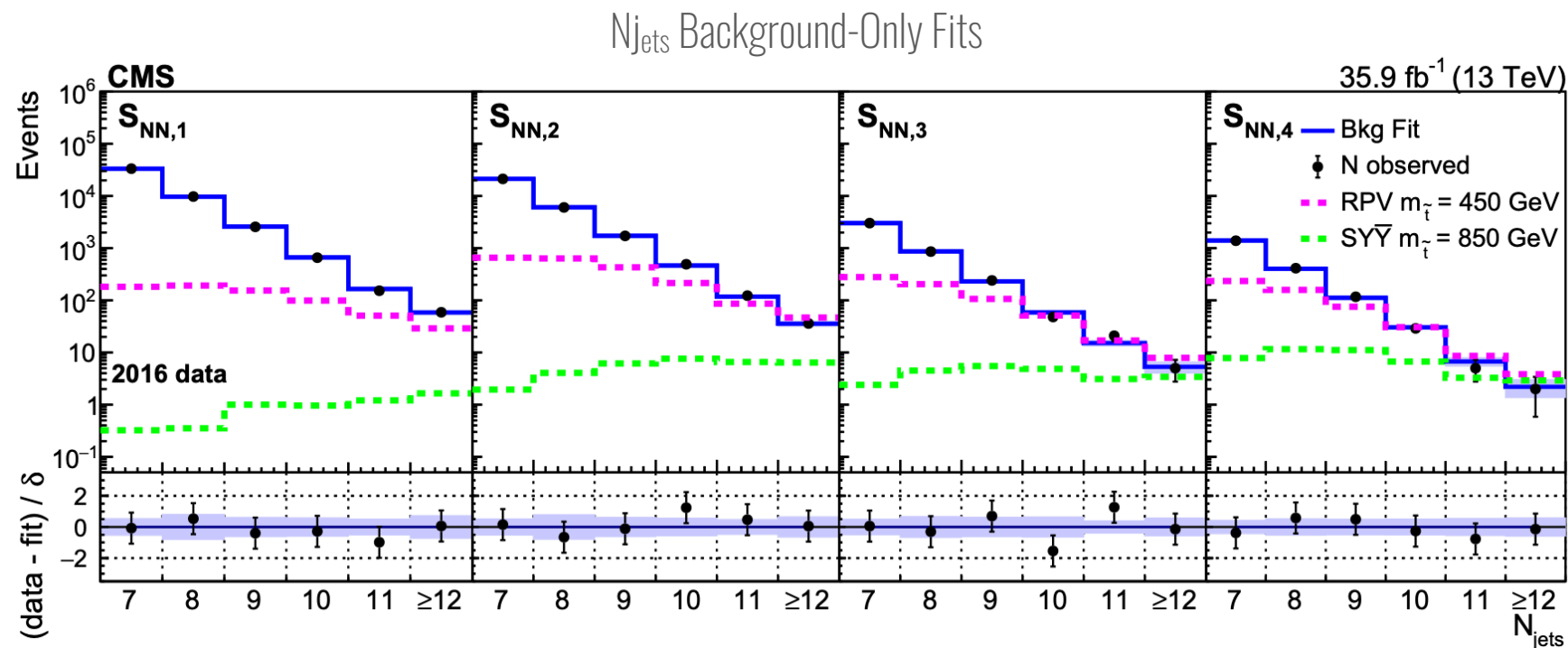


RPV/Stealth Search: Analysis Strategy

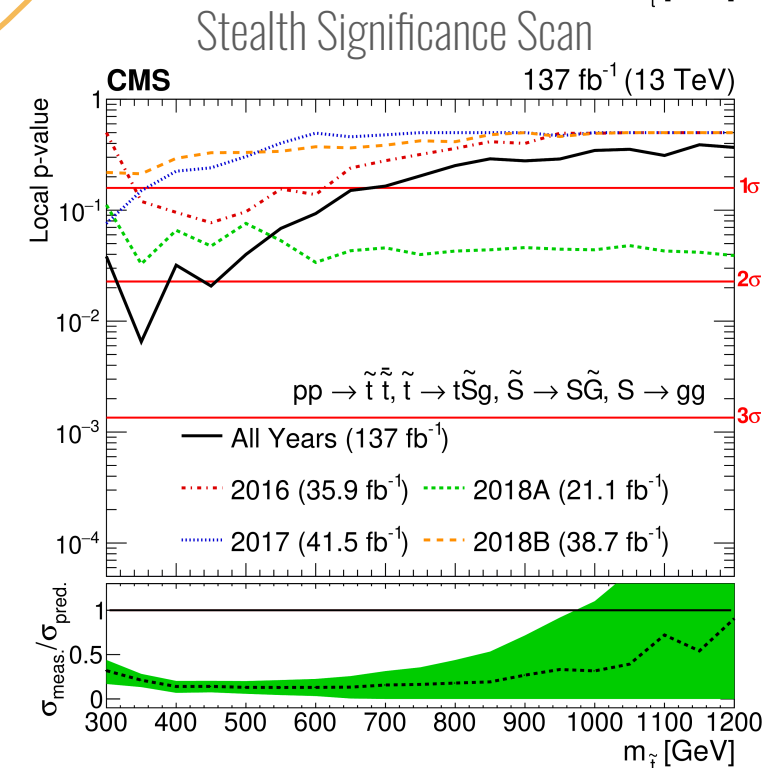
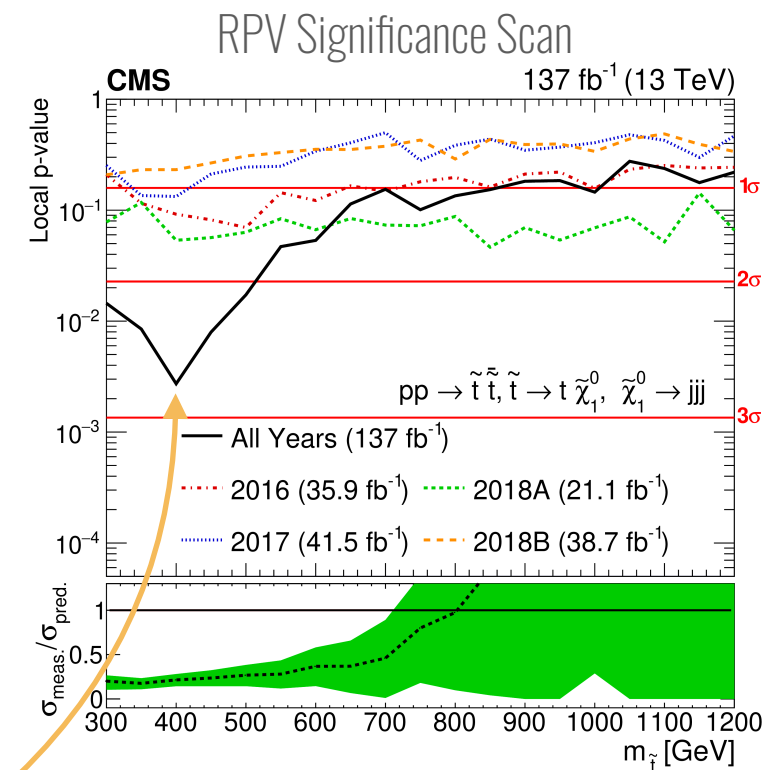
- Primary discriminating variables: N_{jets} and S_{NN}
 - N_{jets} : jet multiplicity (higher for signal)
 - S_{NN} : neural network (NN) score
 - NN trained to separate signal from dominant, irreducible $t\bar{t} + \text{jets}$ background
 - Events separated into 4 bins based on NN score (S_{NN})
 - Gradient reversal technique minimizes dependence on N_{jets}
- N_{jets} distribution is fit using a parametrization from theory
 - Simultaneous fit over all S_{NN} bins
 - $t\bar{t}$ N_{jets} shape constrained to be the same in each S_{NN} bin
- Background estimation
 - $t\bar{t}$ (~87%): predicted from N_{jets} distribution in data using S_{NN}
 - QCD (~4%): estimated from CR enriched in QCD multi-jet events
 - $t\bar{t} + X$ and other minor backgrounds (~8%): estimated from MC



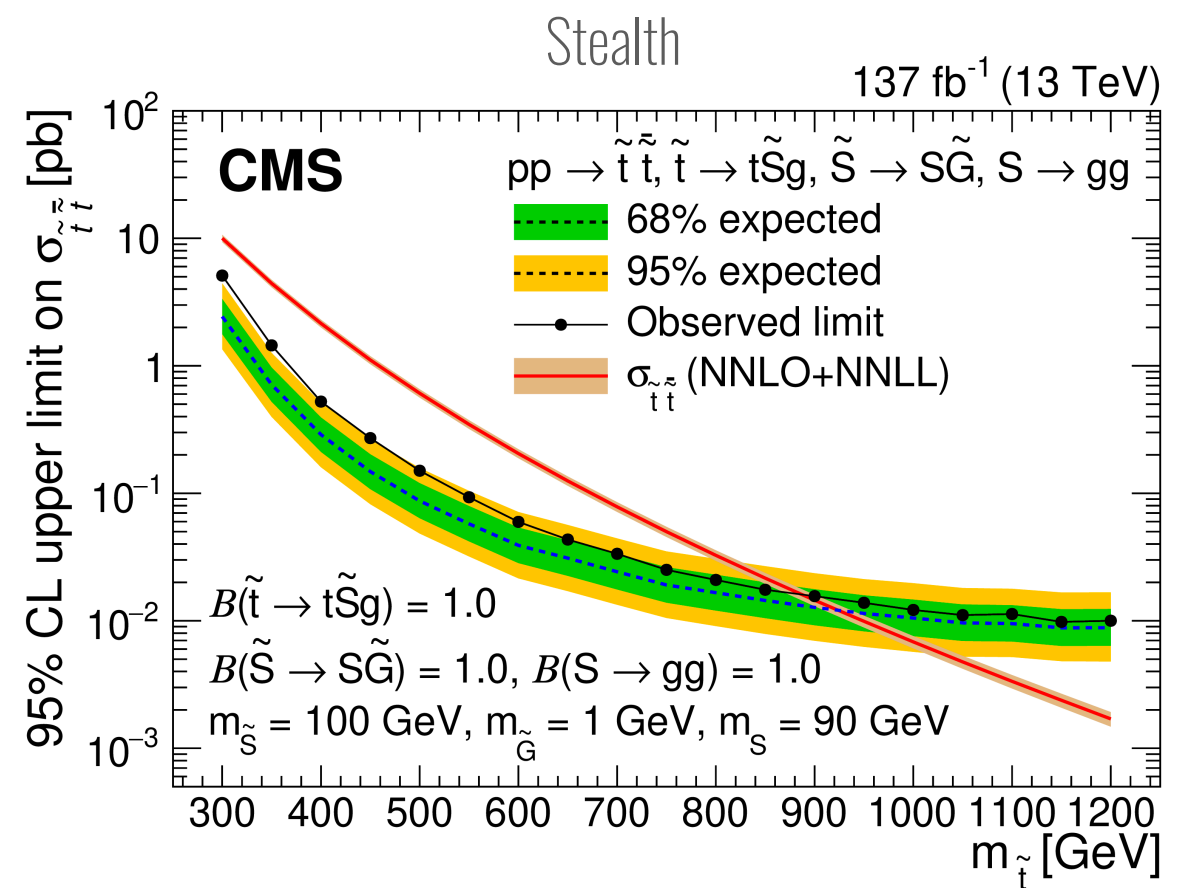
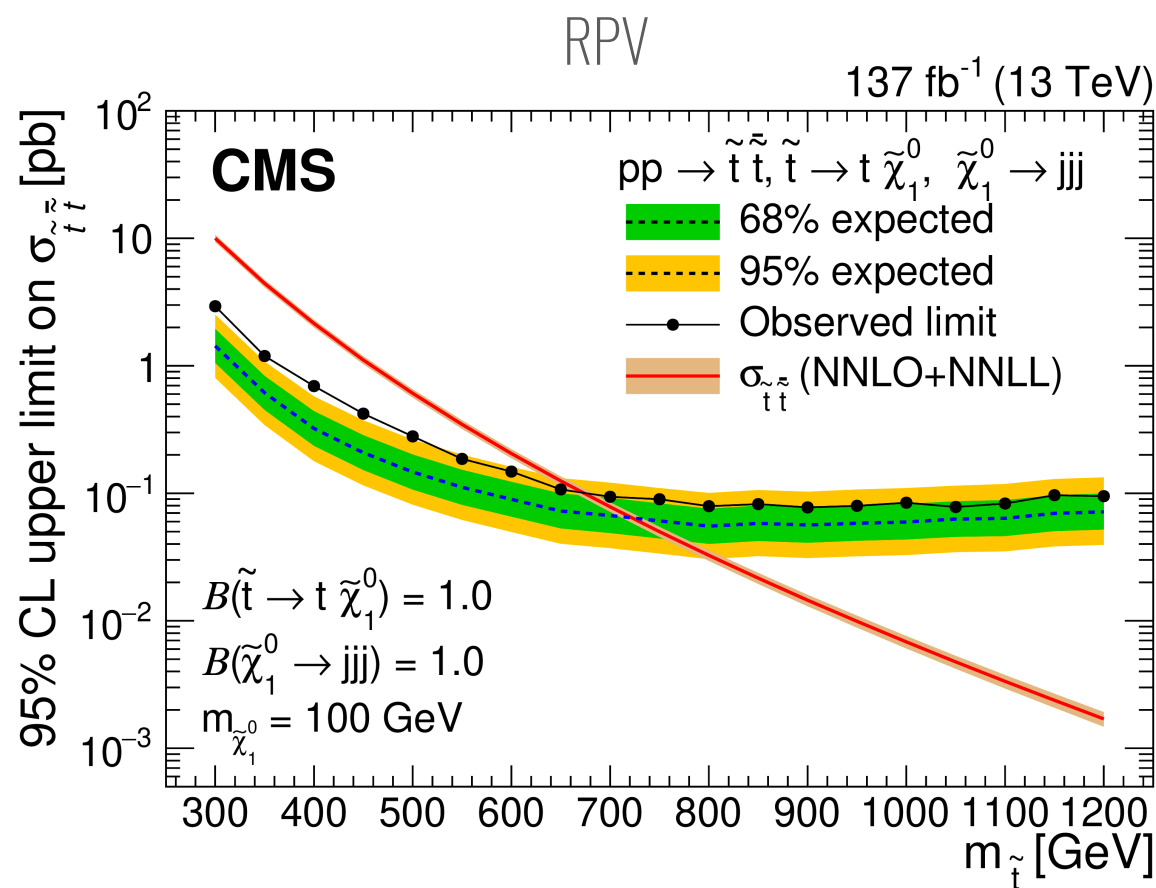
RPV/Stealth Search: Results



- Largest observed local significance:
 - 2.8σ for RPV model with $m_{\tilde{t}} = 400$ GeV



RPV/Stealth Search: Limits & Conclusions



- 95% CL exclusion limits set for stop masses below:
 - 670 GeV in the RPV scenario
 - 870 GeV in the stealth ($S\tilde{Y}\tilde{Y}$) scenario
- Analysis is systematics dominated
 - Primary uncertainties include modeling of H_T , jet mass, and jet p_T in $t\bar{t}$ MC and statistical uncertainties on non- $t\bar{t}$ background MC
- Ongoing CMS analyses seek to significantly mitigate the impact of systematic uncertainties and investigate other final states

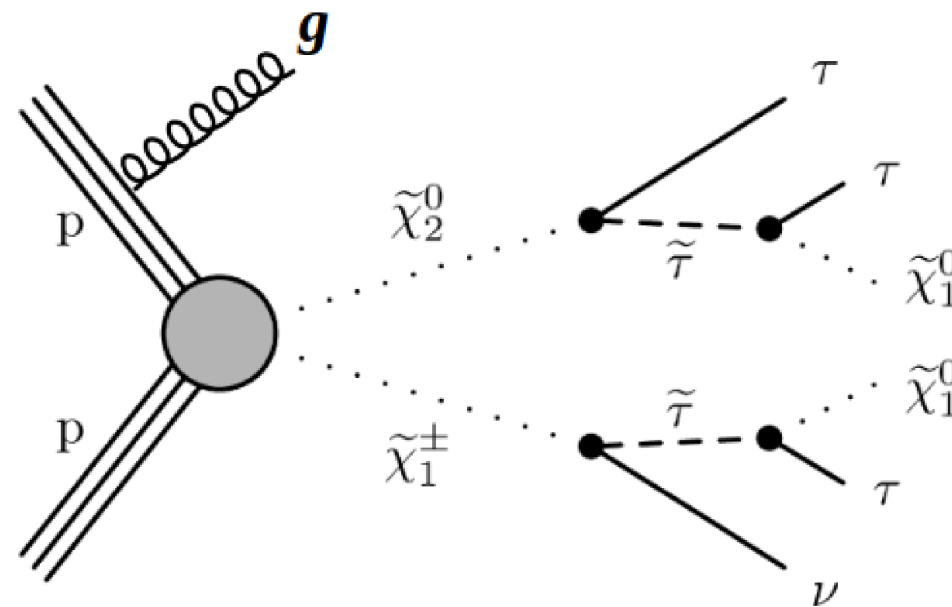
Soft τ Lepton Compressed Spectrum Search

- Dark matter (DM) relic density motivation

- For a density consistent with measurements, coannihilation (CA) between neutralino LSP and stau to normal matter can be introduced
- DM relic density very sensitive to $\Delta m(\tilde{\tau}, \tilde{\chi}_1^0)$ with $\sigma_{\text{CA}} \propto e^{-\Delta m}$
- Observed DM relic density can be achieved in compressed scenarios with $\Delta m \lesssim 50$ GeV

- Search for soft, hadronic tau (τ_h) from $\tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$, and/or $\tilde{\tau}$ decays in a compressed SUSY spectrum with 77.2 fb⁻¹ (2016-2017 from Run 2)

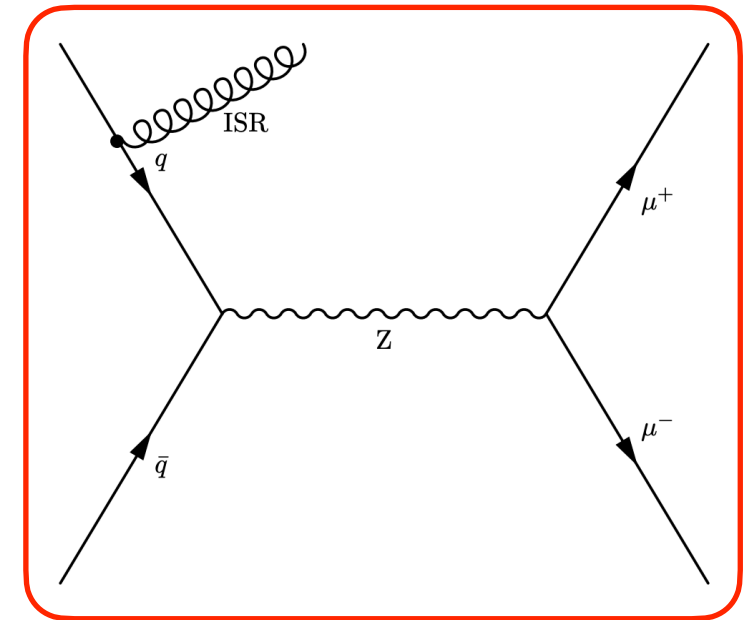
- Initial state radiation (ISR) jet ($p_T > 30$ GeV) provides boost that improves acceptance of τ_h
- Compressed spectrum also leads to high MET from neutrinos (require MET > 230 GeV)
- Require exactly one soft τ_h candidate ($20 < p_T < 40$ GeV) and veto b-jets



Soft τ Compressed Search: Background Estimation

$$N_{\text{SR}} = \sigma \cdot L_{\text{int}} \cdot \epsilon_{\tau_h} \cdot \epsilon_{E_T^{\text{miss}}} \cdot \epsilon_{\text{ISR}} \cdot \epsilon_{\text{b-jet}}$$

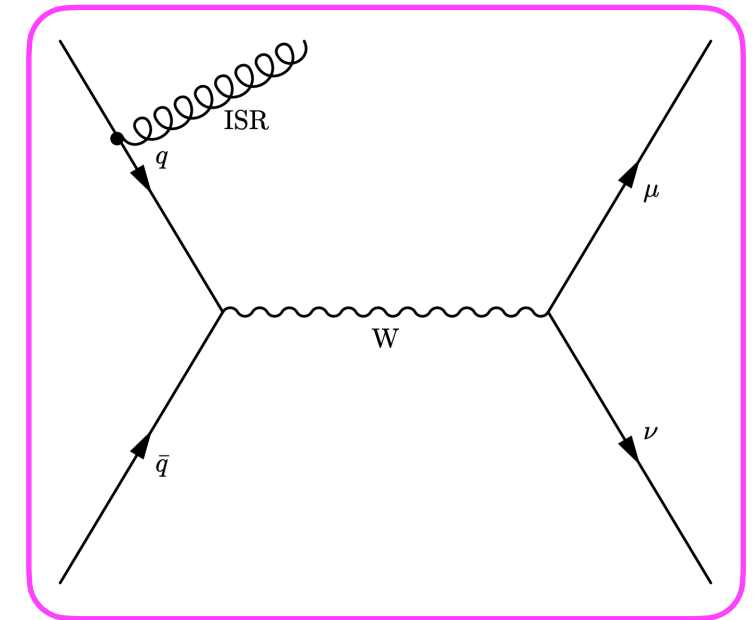
- $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu + \text{ISR control region (CR)}$ to understand ISR jet efficiency
 - Boost weights derived to correct for mismodeling of ISR jet based on study of Z p_T
- $W \rightarrow \mu\nu + \text{ISR validation region (VR)}$ to understand MET efficiency
 - Boost weights validated in region with real MET
 - Good modeling of ISR jet activity and MET are confirmed
- $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau(\rightarrow \tau_h\tau_h) + \text{ISR CR}$ to understand τ_h ID efficiency
 - Good modeling of τ_h ID is observed and a systematic uncertainty is derived for residual differences
- $4 \text{ } t\bar{t} \text{ CRs}$ to understand b-jet modeling
 - Different regions differentiated by: $N_{\text{b-jets}}$, τ_h ID, number of τ_h charged particle tracks
 - Good modeling of b-jets is observed and a residual systematic uncertainty is derived
- QCD CR to develop a data-driven estimate of QCD contribution in SR due to fake τ_h
 - Define a transfer factor based on different ID requirements using data from an additional $W \rightarrow \mu\nu + \tau_h(\text{fake})$ CR
 - Achieves the proper normalization and m_T shape for QCD events



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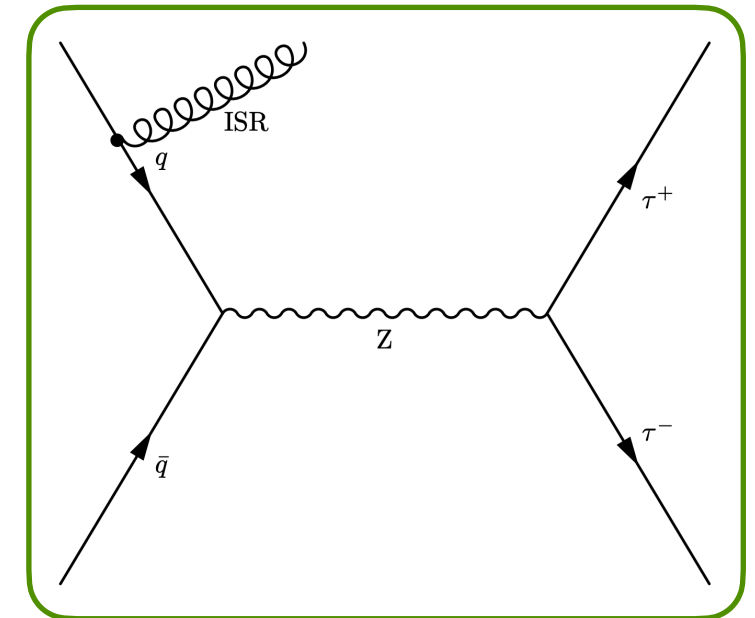
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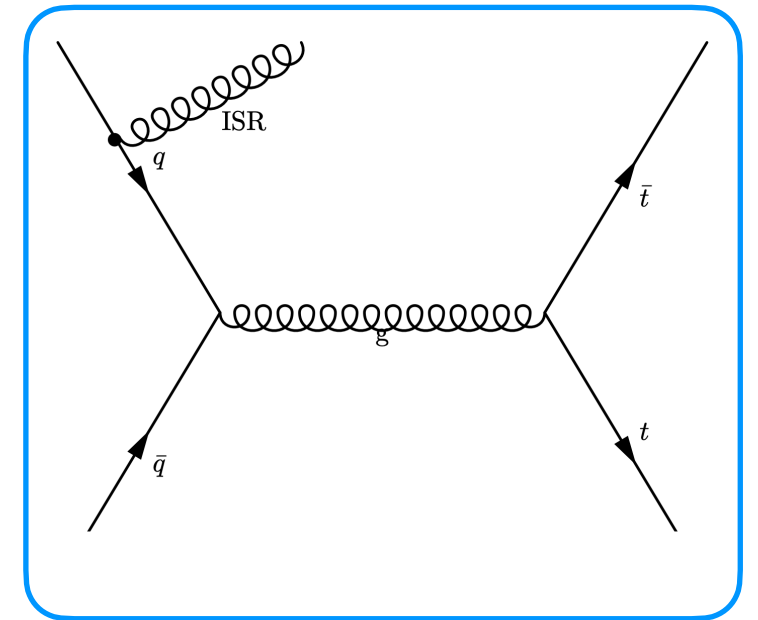
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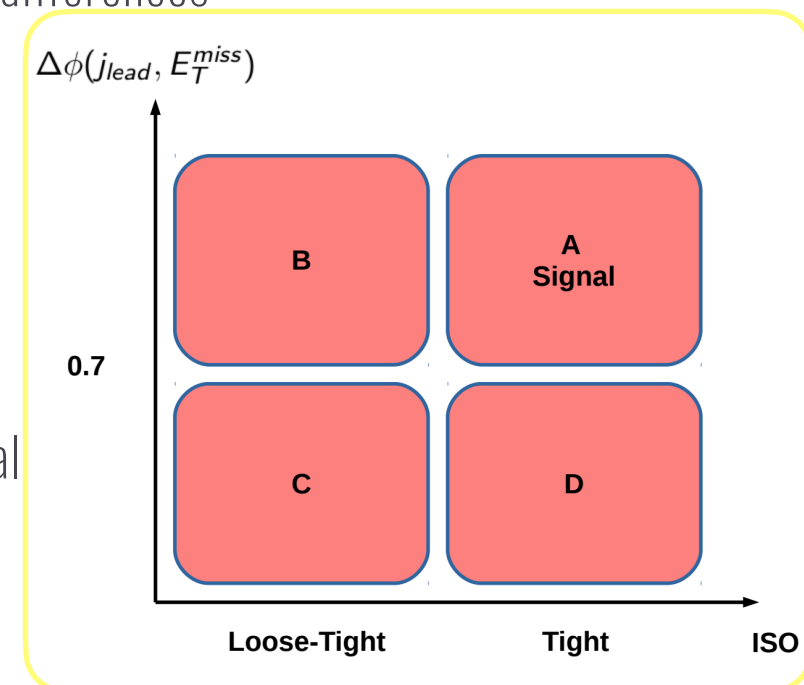
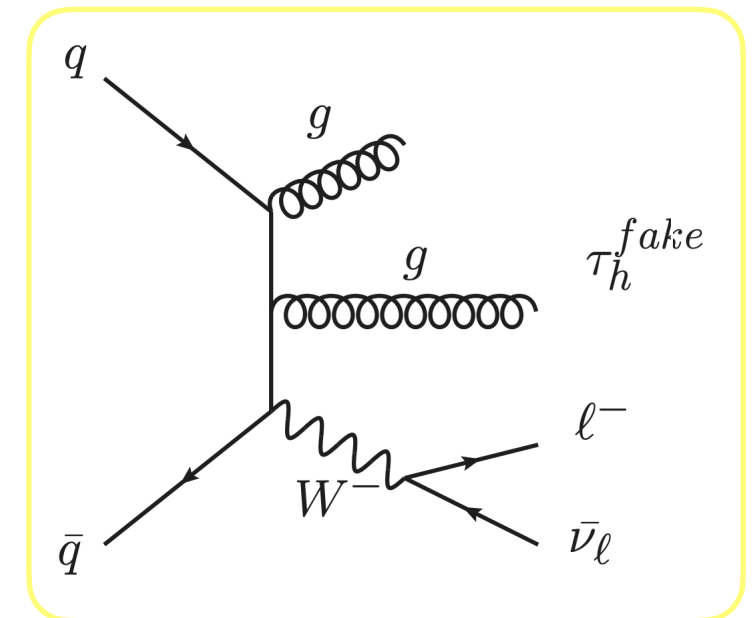
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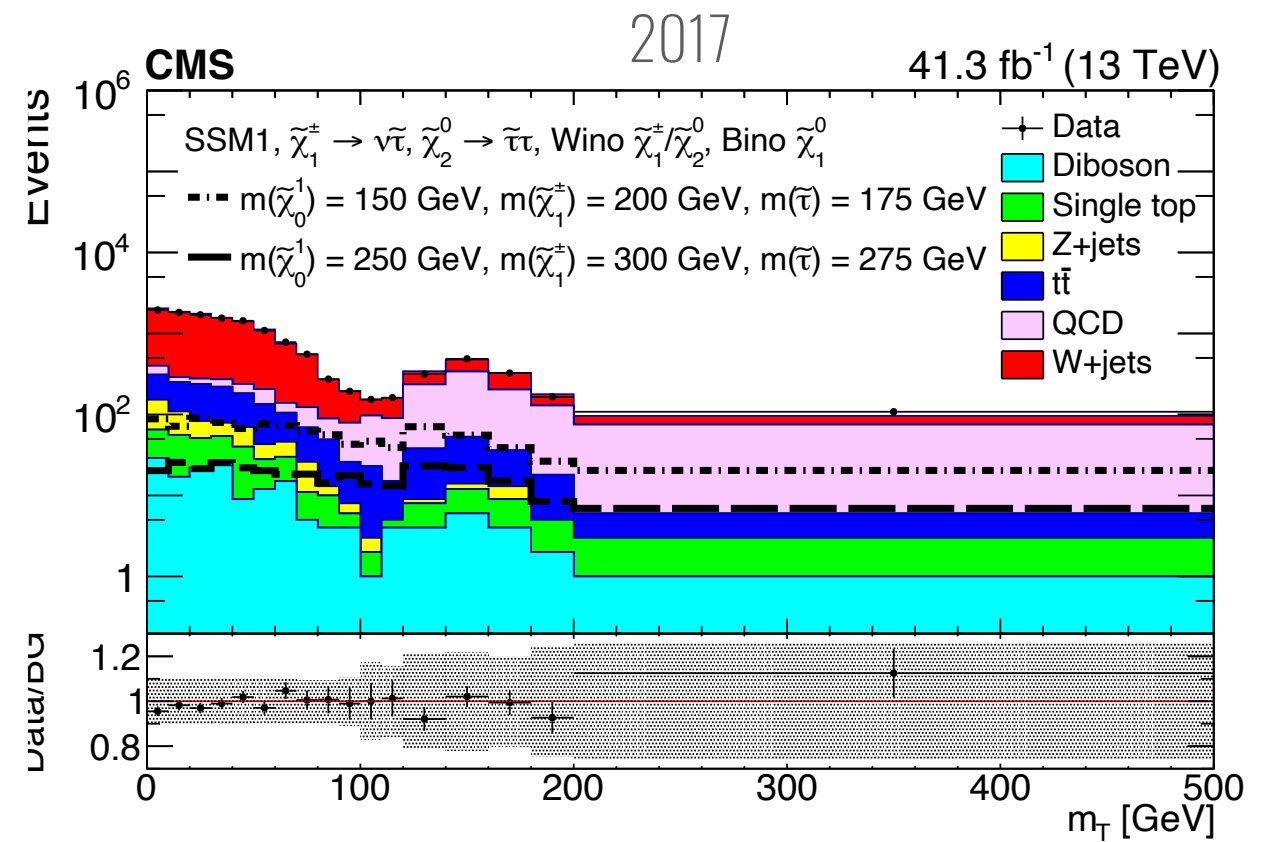
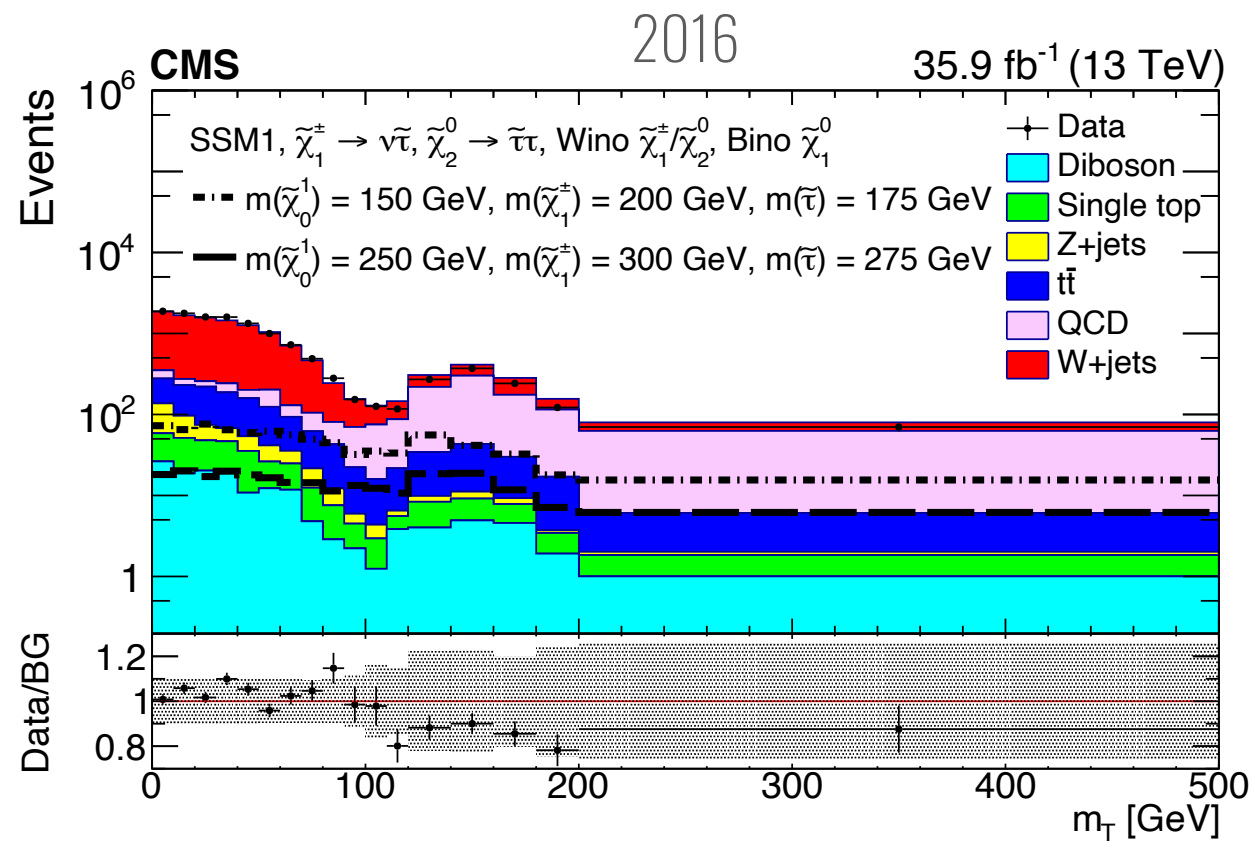
Soft τ Compressed Search: Results

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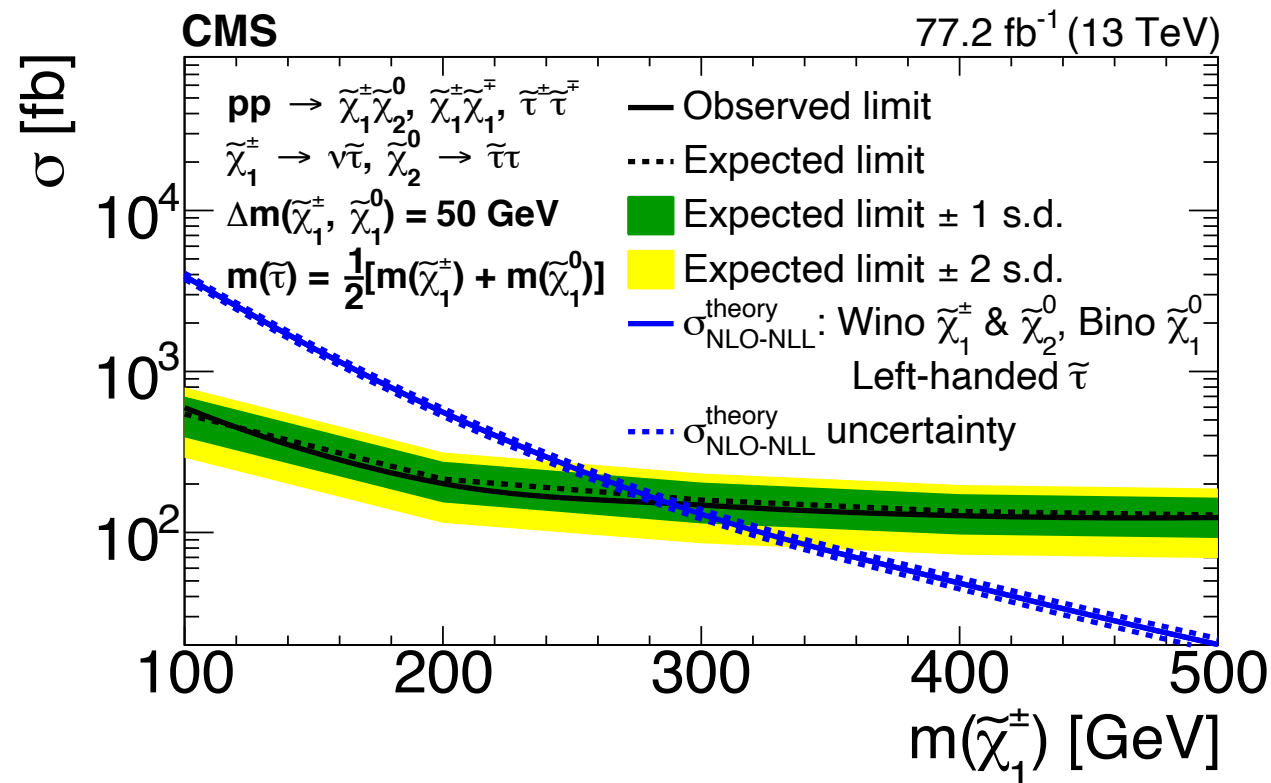
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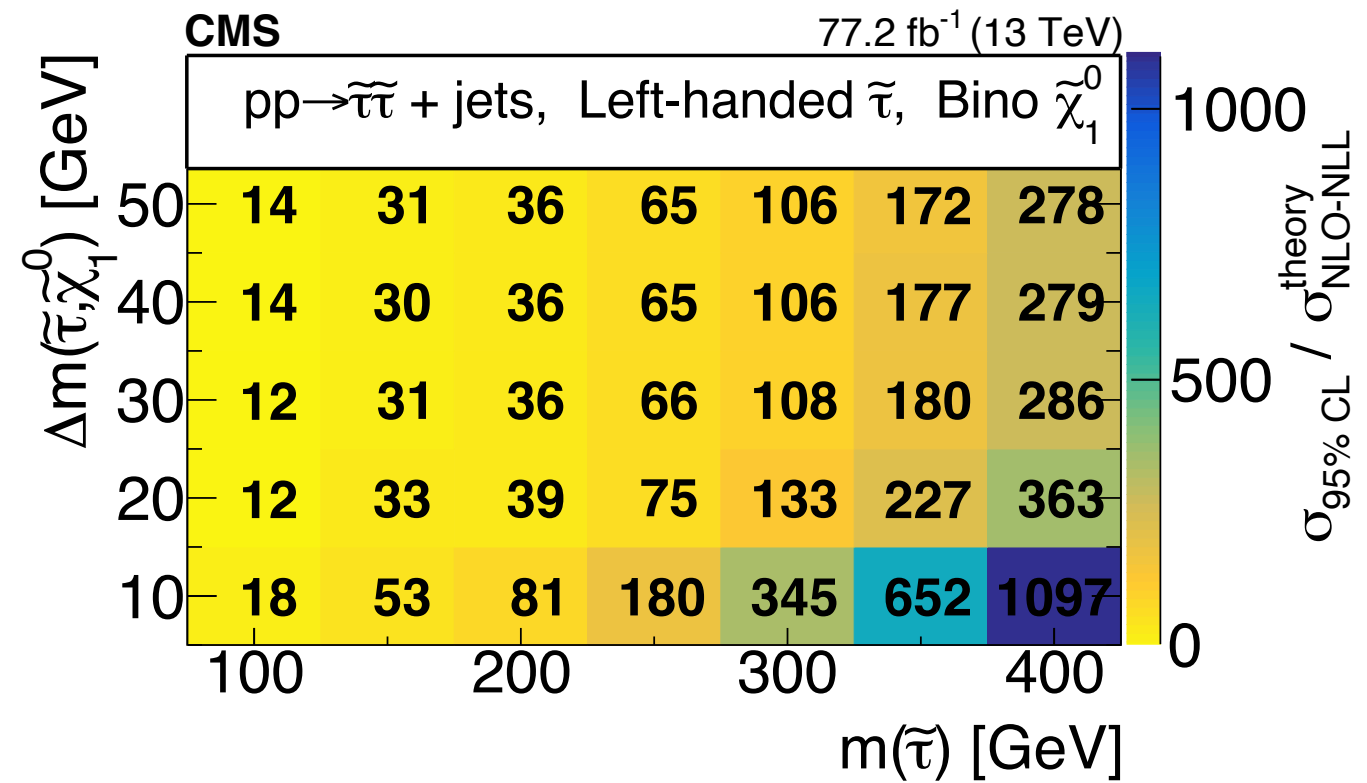
- Observed SR data is consistent with SM background

Soft τ Compressed Search: Limits & Conclusions

Inclusive $\tilde{\tau}$ Production Modes



Direct $\tilde{\tau}$ Production



- 95% CL exclusion limits on $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 / \tilde{\chi}_1^{\pm}$ mass set at 290 GeV for $\Delta m(\tilde{\chi}_1^{\pm}, \tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 50 \text{ GeV}$
 - Exceeding previous exclusions of $\sim 100 \text{ GeV}$ (LEP)
- Cross section exclusions computed for direct stau production
 - For comparisons to previous searches and for reinterpretations

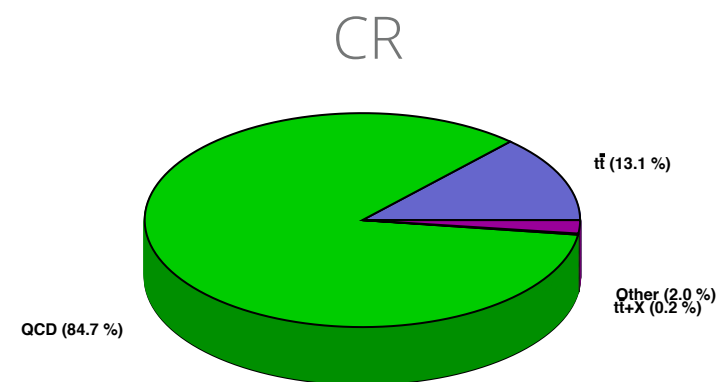
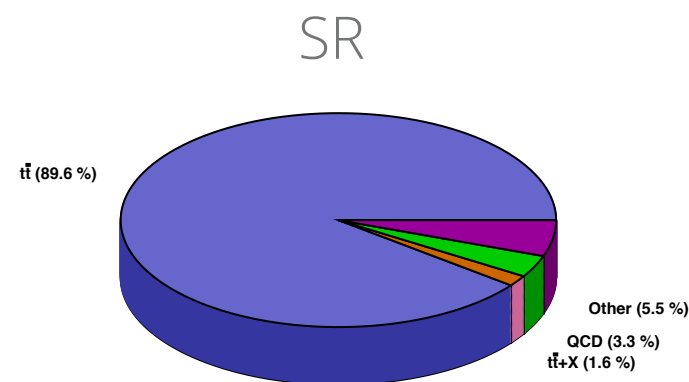
Summary & Conclusions

- Presented two recent CMS searches in unconventional corners of the SUSY parameter space
- RPV/Stealth SUSY Top Squark Search
 - 2.8σ local significance for RPV model with $m_{\tilde{t}} = 400$ GeV
 - Limits set at $m_{\tilde{t}} = 670$ GeV (870 GeV) in the RPV (stealth) scenario
 - New limits in previously unexplored phase space
- Soft τ Lepton Compressed SUSY Spectrum Search
 - Limits set at $m_{\tilde{\chi}_2^0/\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm} = 290$ GeV for $\Delta m(\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm, \tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 50$ GeV, greatly extending beyond previous limits from LEP at ~ 100 GeV
 - For $m_{\tilde{\tau}} = 100$ GeV, observed cross section limit is ~ 10 times theory for $\Delta m(\tilde{\tau}, \tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 25$ GeV
- Novel searches and ~ 200 fb $^{-1}$ of anticipated new data from Run 3 will significantly extend the reach of CMS's SUSY search program

Backup

RPV/Stealth Search: Event Selection

■ $t\bar{t}$ ■ $t\bar{t}+X$ ■ QCD ■ Other



- Signal region (SR):

- Optimized to maximize signal significance
- Selection:
 - ≥ 7 jets
 - $H_T > 300$ GeV
 - ≥ 1 b-jet
 - 1 e/μ
 - $50 < m_{b,l} < 250$ GeV

- Control region (CR):

- Optimized to be enriched in QCD multi jet events
- Used to estimate QCD contribution in SR and to validate independence of N_{jets} shape and S_{NN}
- Selection:
 - ≥ 7 jets
 - $H_T > 300$ GeV
 - 0 b-jets
 - 1 μ with $p_T > 55$ GeV

RPV/Stealth Search: Systematic Uncertainties

- Dominant uncertainties:

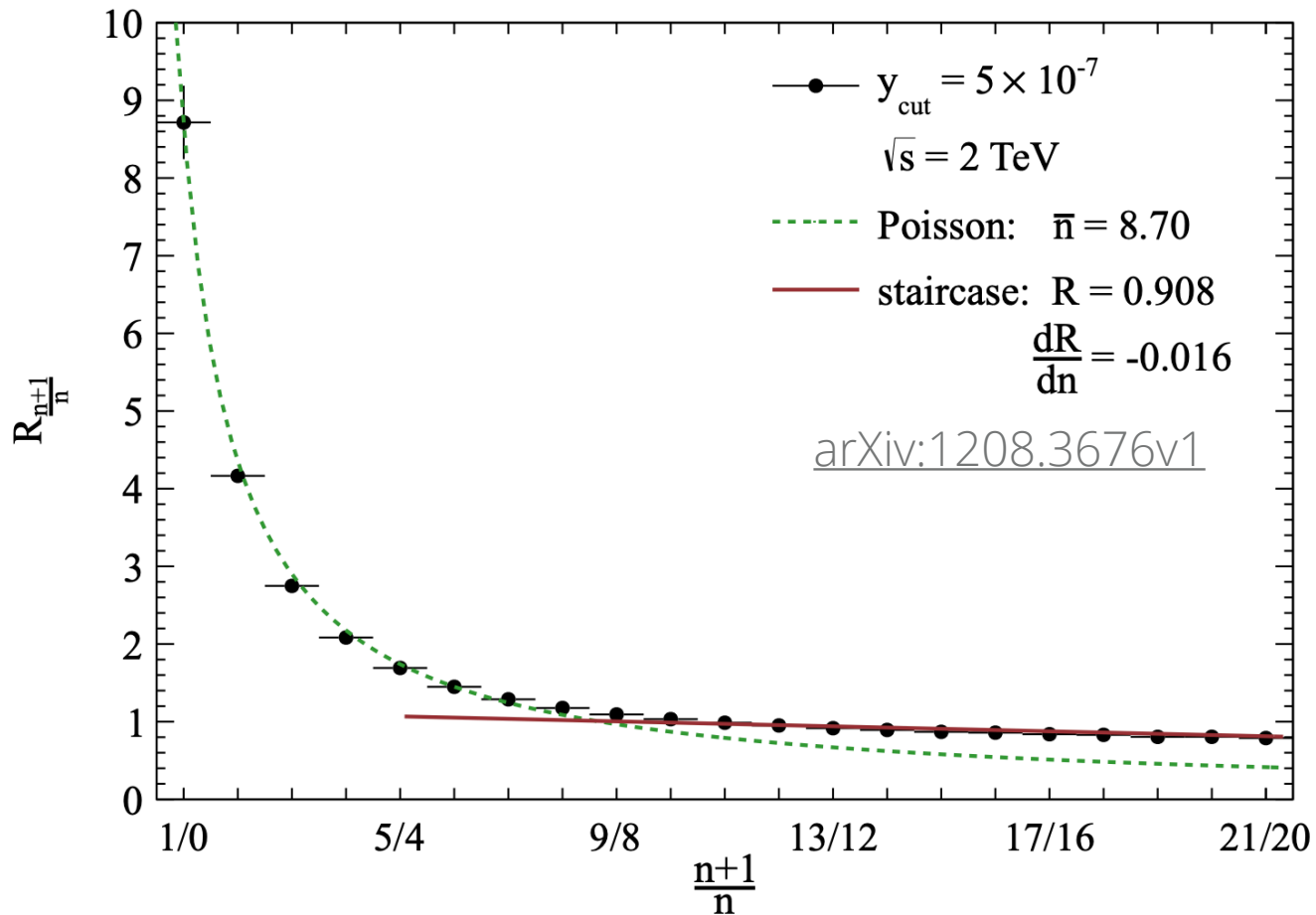
- Modeling of H_T , jet mass, and jet p_T in $t\bar{t}$ simulation
- Statistical uncertainties on simulated non- $t\bar{t}$ backgrounds

- Analysis is systematics dominated

Source of uncertainty	$t\bar{t}$ background	Minor background	RPV signal
PDFs	0–1 (2)	0–1 (8)	0–2 (7)
(μ_R, μ_F) scales	0–2 (5)	1–8 (18)	0–3 (4)
ISR	0–4 (15)	—	—
FSR	0–8 (27)	—	—
Color reconnection	0–10 (44)	—	—
ME-PS	0–14 (82)	—	—
UE tune	0–7 (100)	—	—
Pileup	0–2 (7)	0–7 (28)	0–2 (4)
JES	0–4 (18)	5–21 (100)	1–11 (31)
JER	0–2 (10)	1–15 (100)	0–6 (14)
b tagging	0–1 (3)	0–2 (12)	0–2 (2)
Lepton efficiencies	0–1 (1)	3–5 (5)	3–4 (4)
H_T primary	0–5 (17)	—	—
H_T validation	0–1 (4)	0–6 (10)	—
H_T H_T -parameterization	0–2 (9)	—	—
H_T N_{jets} -parameterization	0–7 (27)	—	—
Jet p_T	0–4 (15)	—	—
Jet mass	0–4 (15)	—	—
N_{jets} shape invariance	0–12 (37)	—	—
Integrated luminosity	—	2.3–2.5	2.3–2.5
Theoretical cross section	—	30	—

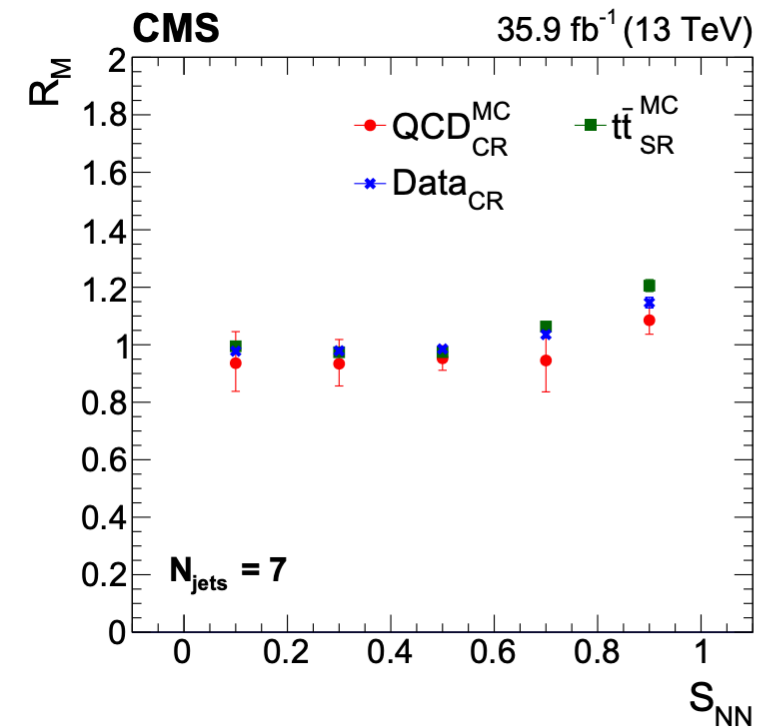
RPV/Stealth Search: N_{jets} Modeling

N_{jets} Parametrization

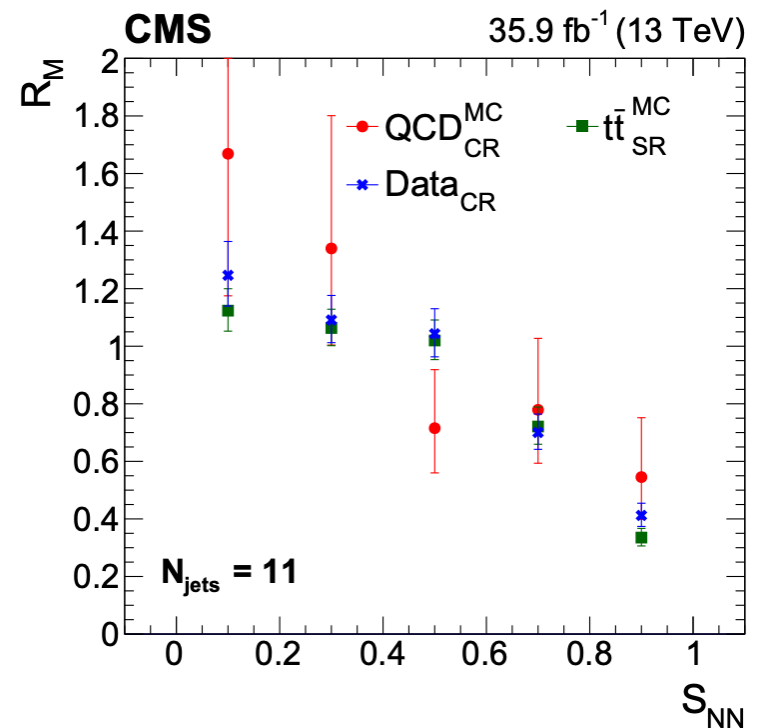


$$f(i) = a_2 + \left[\frac{(a_1 - a_2)^{i-7}}{(a_0 - a_2)^{i-9}} \right]^{1/2}$$

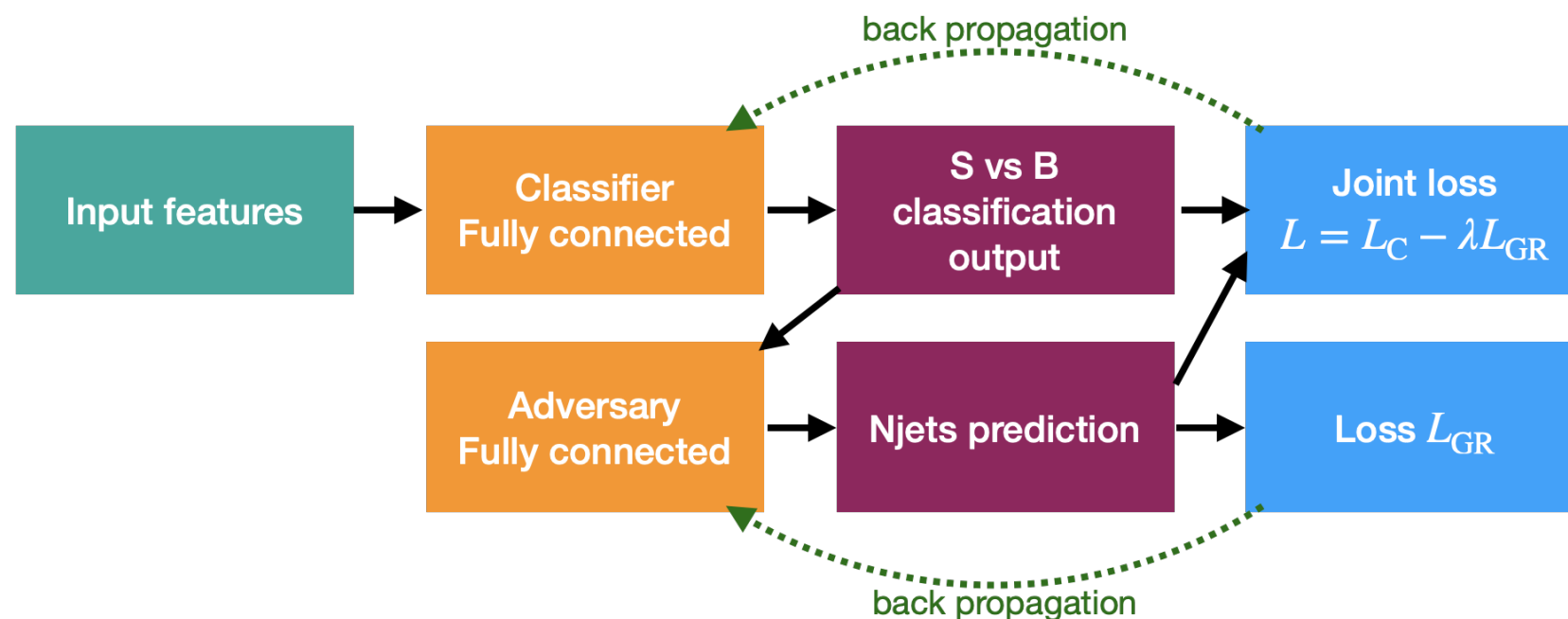
N_{jets} -SNN Dependence Modeling



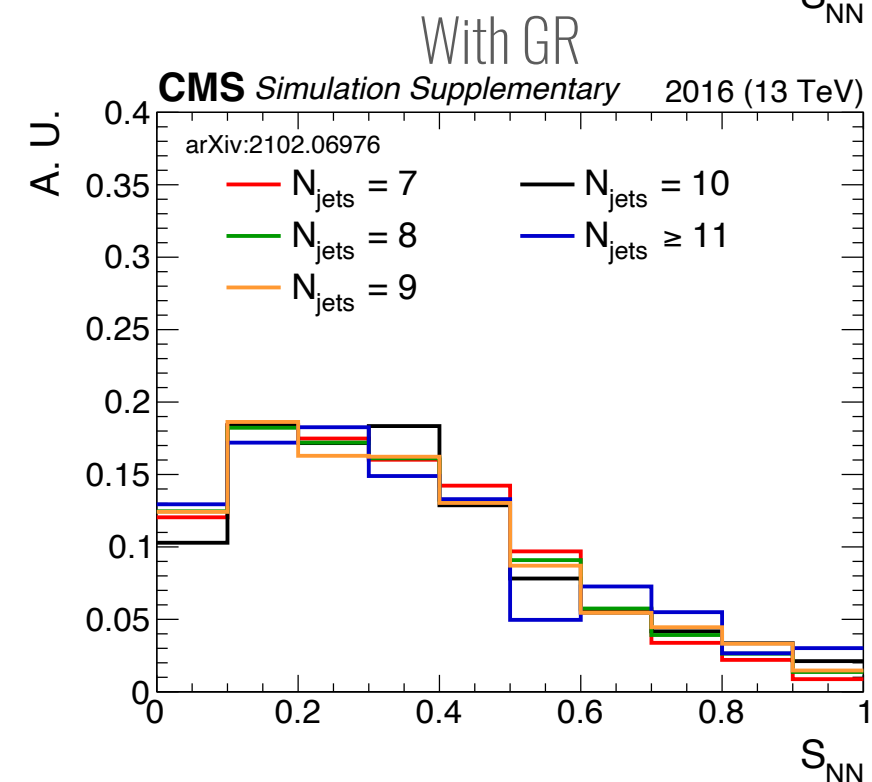
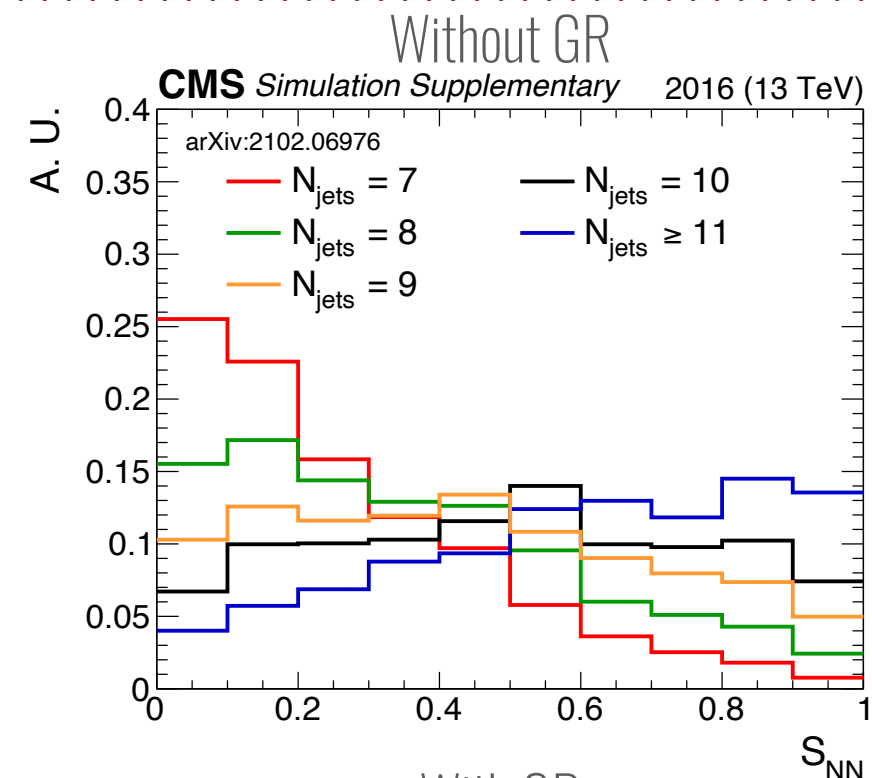
$$R_M = \frac{1}{\mu_i} \frac{M_{\text{all}}}{M_i}$$



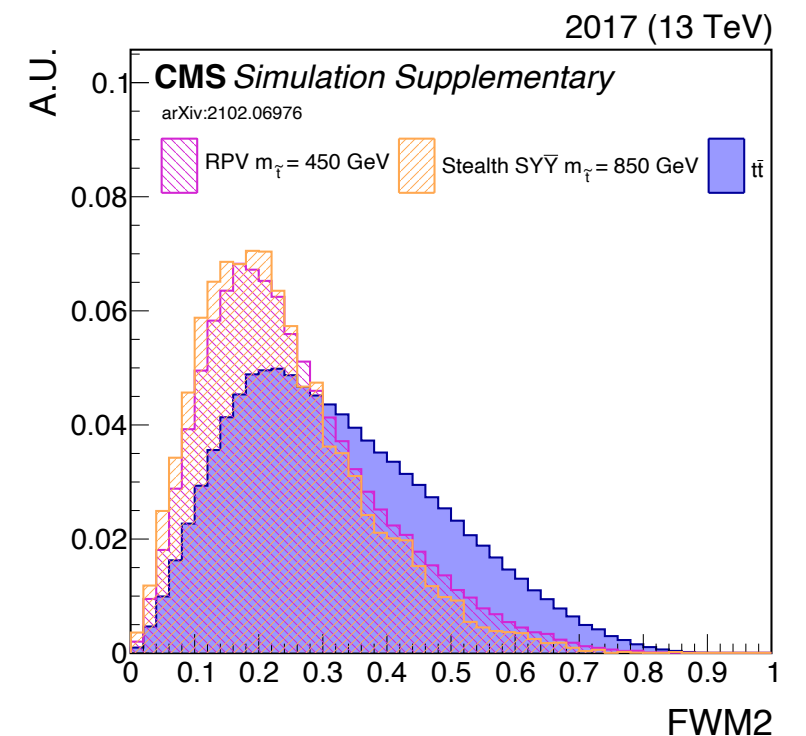
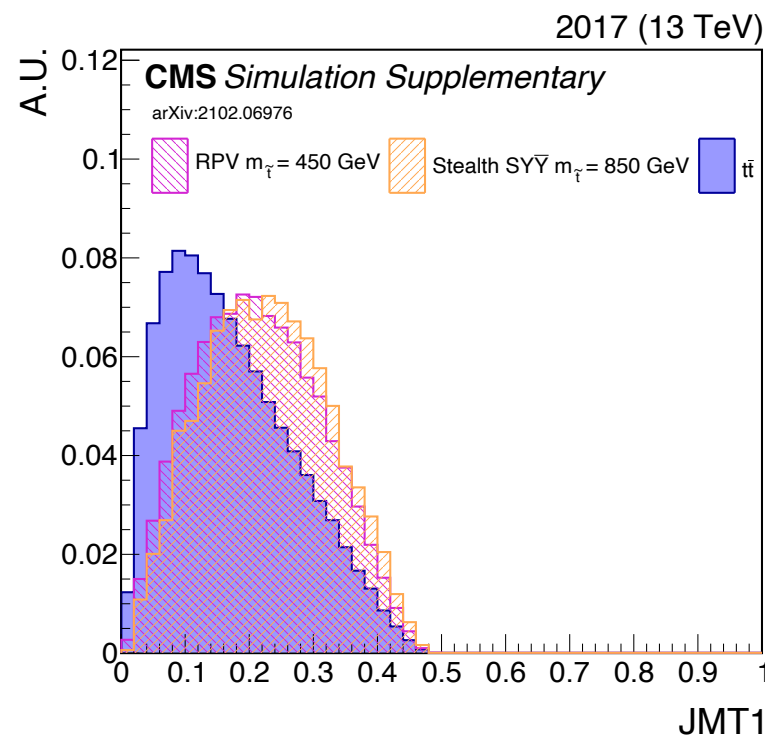
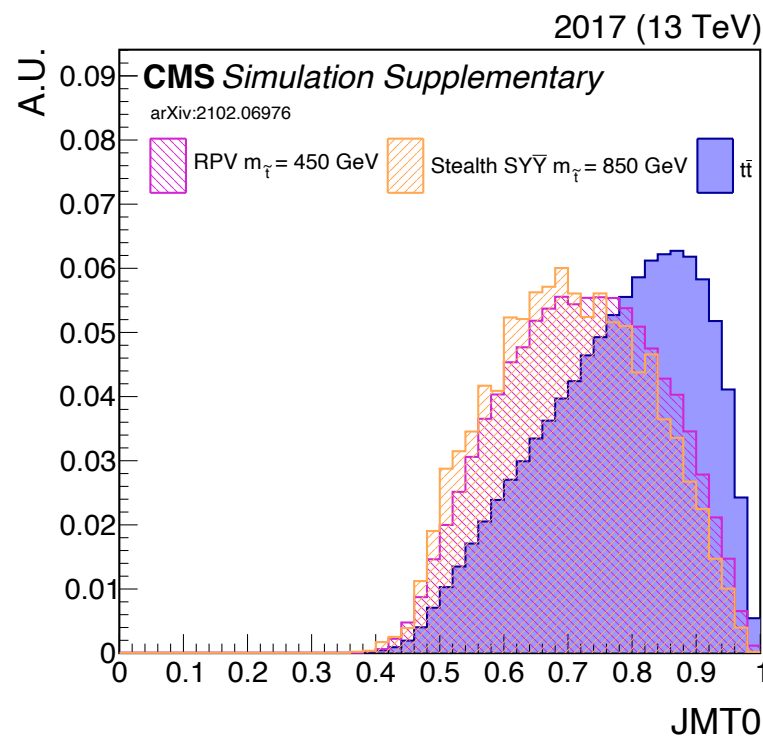
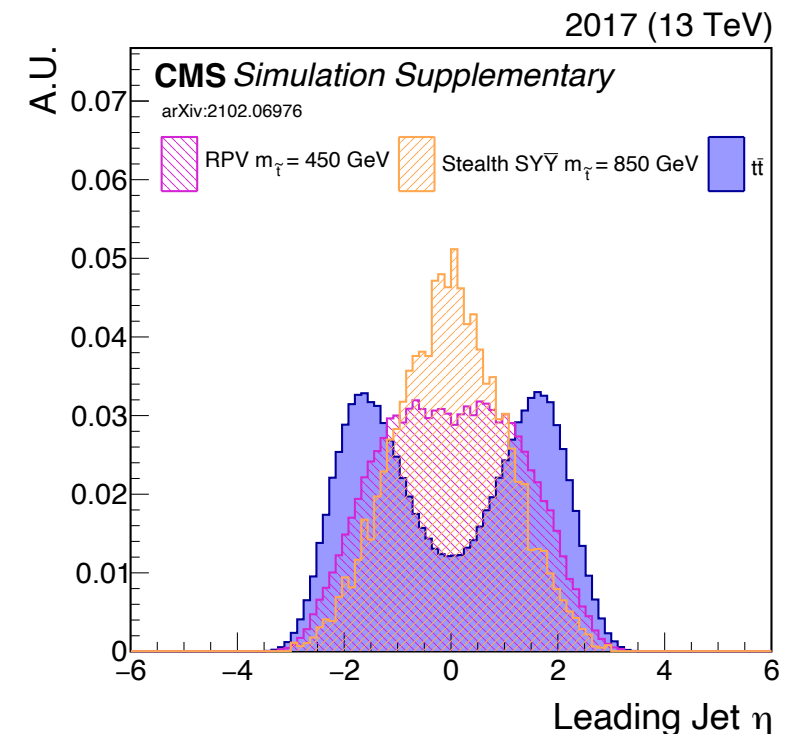
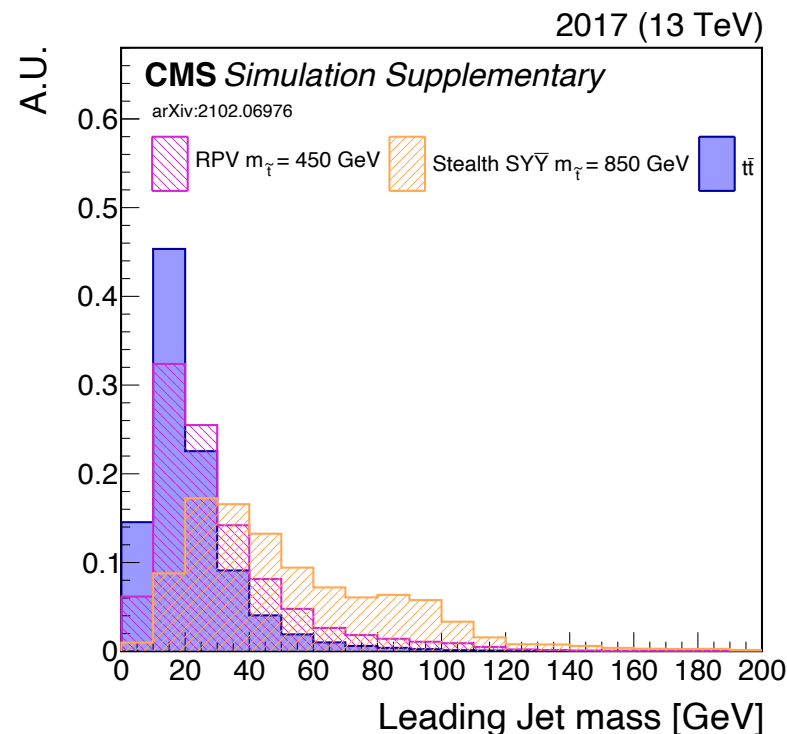
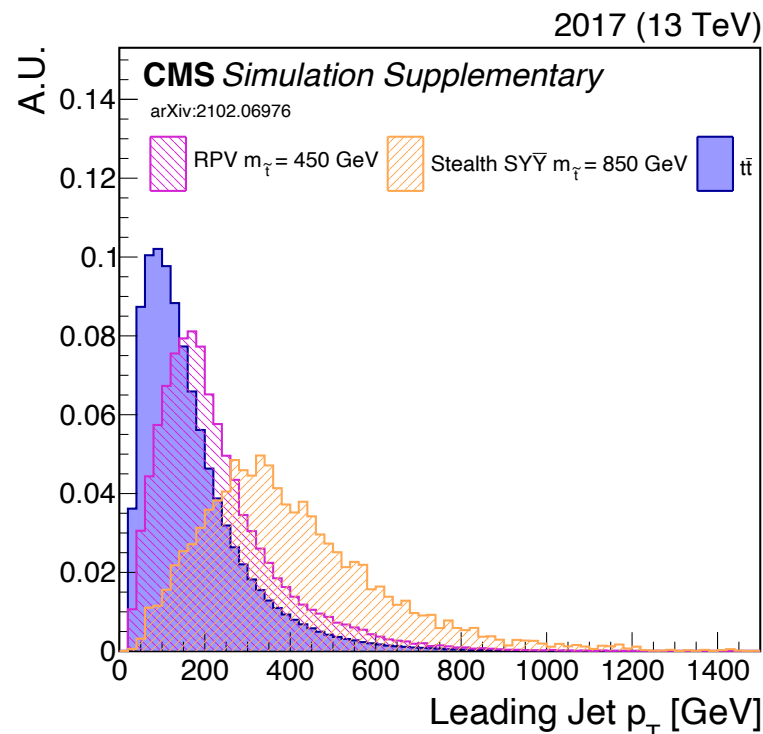
RPV/Stealth Search: NN Structure



- NN classifier with gradient reversal (GR) to mitigate N_{jets} dependence
- NN inputs:
 - 4-vectors of 7 highest p_T jets and lepton
 - Jet energy-momentum tensor eigenvalues and Fox-Wolfram moments
- Training sample: $t\bar{t}$ as background, all models as signal



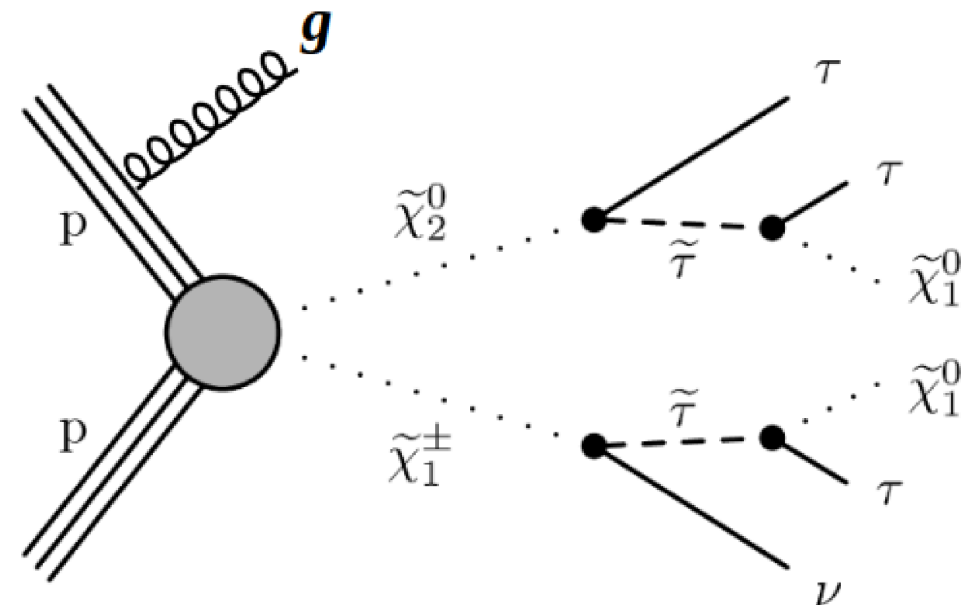
RPV/Stealth Search: NN Input Variable Shapes



Soft τ Compressed Search: Event Selection

Event Selection

- Basic Selection and Event Cleaning
 - noise filters, good primary vertex, etc.
 - MET filters
- ≥ 1 jet with $p_T(j) > 30$ GeV
 - $|\eta(j)| < 2.4$ & “Loose” (2016) or “Tight” (2017) ID
 - $p_T^{ISR}(j) = p_T^{lead}(j) > 100$ GeV
- jet cross-cleaned with τ_h ($\Delta R(j, \tau_h) > 0.3$)
- $E_T^{miss} > 230$ GeV
 - PFMet with HF and type-1 corrections, MET-v2 in 2017
- $N(\tau_h) == 1, 20 < p_T(\tau_h) < 40$ GeV, $|\eta(\tau_h)| < 2.1$
- QCD rejection: $|\Delta\phi(j_{lead}, E_T^{miss})| \geq 0.7$
- 1 prong requirement for τ_h + “Tight” MVA isolation
- Veto b-jets: $p_T > 30$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$
- Veto other leptons (“Tight” for μ and “Loose” cut-based for e)
- Trigger: MET trigger ($> 99\%$ efficiency w.r.t to our selections)



Phenomenology Reference:
[Phys. Rev. D 94, 073007](#)

Soft τ Compressed Search: Systematic Uncertainties

Source	W	DY	$t\bar{t}$	VV	QCD	Signal
Lumi	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	–	2.5
μ ID	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	–	1
e ID	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	–	1
τ_h ID	6	8	9	9	–	9
Trigger	3	3	3	3	–	3
b ID	2	2	7	2	–	2
JES	s	s	s	s	–	s
TES	s	s	s	s	–	s
MMS	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	–	< 1
EES	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	–	< 1
Pileup	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	–	5.0
PDF	4.8	4.2	4.2	3.5	–	6.0
bin-by-bin stat.	s	s	s	s	–	s
Closure+Norm.	2	8	6	–	23	–
ISR	s	s	–	–	–	s
Prefiring	–	–	–	–	–	s
$Ratio_{Loose}^{Tight}$	–	–	–	–	s	–
Gen. Scale	1	1	3.5	–	–	2
Fast Sim.	–	–	–	–	–	s

Values are given as percents
“s” indicates a shape uncertainty