We study the 8 TeV LHC reach on pair produced heavy flavored di-jet resonances. Motivated by theories of R-parity violation in supersymmetry we concentrate on a final state with two $b$-jets and two light jets. We exploit $b$-tagging to reject the background and discuss its importance at the trigger level to probe light stops. We present kinematical selections that can be used to isolate the signal as a bump in the mass distribution of the candidate resonances. We find that stops with R-parity violating couplings giving rise to fully hadronic final states can be observed in the current run of the LHC. Remarkably, the LHC can probe stop masses well within the range predicted by naturalness.

I. INTRODUCTION

A new boson has recently been discovered at the LHC [1, 2]. From its production cross section and a preliminary assessment of its properties it is favored to be significantly coupled to the SM matter in a way similar to the SM Higgs boson.

The existence of such a SM-like boson adds new emphasis on a long standing question about the existence of Supersymmetry (SUSY) at the TeV scale. In fact, at this stage there are indications that, if any, such TeV scale SUSY is likely to be non-minimal. An indicator of the non-minimality of the realization of SUSY at the TeV scale is the fact that the mass of the new boson is too large to be naturally accommodated in the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) and even in the Next-to-MSSM (NMSSM) [3–5]. We take this input as a further motivation for non-minimal scenarios of supersymmetry.

Departing from the minimal set-up, we think that one should still insist on naturalness in formulating SUSY models that can be probed at the LHC. Naturalness requires that the states with strong interactions with the Higgs sector must be light, hence they are the minimal degrees of freedom of the Effective Natural SUSY theory relevant at LHC energies. The minimal set of states that are expected to be light are the stop and the sbottom squarks, the higgsinos and the gauginos [6, 7].

The first and second generation squarks and the sleptons, on the other hand, do not need to be light by naturalness arguments. This is particularly relevant considering the strong bounds of the LHC on SUSY spectra containing light squarks [8, 9].

The results of the early LHC on “benchmark” SUSY spectra and the great relevance of Natural SUSY from the theory perspective [10–15] motivated a recent effort to search for third generation squarks. These searches are now constraining significant portions of the parameter space of Natural SUSY and in many scenarios the mass of the stop squark is bound to lie in a strip around $m_t$ [16]. More precisely a large part of the not yet excluded parameters space lies close to the line $m_t \sim m_{\chi} + m_t$, where $m_{\chi}$ is the mass of the Lightest Supersymmetric Particle (LSP) supposed to be stable and invisible to the detectors in all searches.

This latter assumption on the nature of the LSP is central in the design of current analyses. In fact it defines the main limitation of the current searches and the scope of several proposals, including ours, to extend them.

In the context of models with a stable LSP, several ideas have been put forward to extend the sensitivity of present experiments [17–23]. However, despite the relatively light mass, a stop with a mass around the one of the top quark, i.e. at the heart of the naturalness region, remains challenging to observe\(^1\). The main difficulty to overcome is typically that the final states are too “top-like” and therefore difficult to be distinguished from the usual SM sources. Particularly problematic is the fact that the new physics events lack large missing energy in the final state, which is one of the most effective selections of the current SUSY searches.

The difficulty to exclude new physics, even with substantial cross section, when it does not give rise to large missing energy indicates the status of where ongoing searches for SUSY and Natural SUSY currently stand.

In this work we discuss the discovery potential of scenarios where the large missing energy is completely absent due to no additional assumptions on the stability of the LSP. We consider decays of the LSP mediated by coupling that violate R-parity [25–28], which must generically be small not to be in contrast with observations (for

\(^1\) See also Ref. [24] for bounds and discovery potential of a metastable stop at colliders.
a review on R-parity breaking and bounds on the various couplings see Refs. [29–32]).

Despite the R-Parity Violating (RPV) couplings being small they can significantly alter the phenomenology of the lightest supersymmetric particle. We focus on the case where the LSP is a stop squark that decays into a b and an s quark

\[
\tilde{t} \to bs.
\]  

We consider small RPV couplings to easily satisfy flavor constraints. This also allows us to neglect the single-resonance production of superpartners and to rely only on the model-independent pair-production from color gauge interactions. We assume however that the RPV couplings are large enough to give prompt decays of the stop.

We consider the flavor pattern of Eq. (1) because the RPV coupling involving the t, b and s flavors is among the least constrained and because it is motivated by theories that describe R-parity breaking in a predictive and controllable way [37–41].

The flavor content of the final state in the decay of Eq. (1) allows background rejection using b-tagging techniques. Furthermore the fact that no new particle in the process is undetected opens the possibility to reconstruct the masses of the resonances and to improve the background rejection.

We consider stop masses above 100 GeV as dictated by previous searches of the RPV stop [42–44]. Besides the lightest stop we are not assuming other light superpartners, therefore our result fills the gap left by other recent studies that assumed a light bottom-stop doublet at the bottom of the SUSY spectrum. In fact in our study we do not exploit the leptons coming from electroweak currents that can dramatically help to reject the SM background. Hence our study applies to the two cases where either one or both the SU(2) singlet and doublet stop are light, including the case of a compressed third generation squark spectrum with \(m_{\tilde{t}_1} \gtrsim m_{\tilde{t}_2}\) or \(m_{\tilde{t}_1} \approx m_{\tilde{t}_2} \gtrsim m_{\tilde{b}}\).

The LHC experiments have already performed searches for scenarios where new physics does not give rise to large missing energy. For instance, they have been looking for the pair-production of colored resonances in the multi-jet final states [45–51]. In particular, in Refs. [45–48], searches have been presented for a final state with 4 hard jets, very similar to the one that we expect from

\[
pp \to \tilde{t}\tilde{t} \to bb\bar{s}\bar{s}.
\]  

The current analyses, however, are not sensitive to the presence of heavy flavors in the final state and do not place any bound on a triplet of color SU(3) such as the stop decaying into light jets [36].

Other studies of similar new physics objects appeared in Refs. [54–59]. However in these works no flavor structure of the final state could be exploited to isolate signals. As such, our case of a flavored di-jet resonance from the stop is crucially different. Furthermore we develop a selection strategy significantly different from those discussed in earlier works (mainly in the identification of the resonance candidates, see Section III).

A more directly relevant earlier work is the one of Ref. [60] where hadronic RPV stop decays have been considered at the 14 TeV LHC. However the range of masses of interest for that work is rather shifted towards a higher and unnatural region. Furthermore we believe that a discussion of the sharpness of the isolation of the searched di-jet peak is in order for a fully hadronic final state such as the one produced in the process of Eq. (2). In fact we present the analysis putting the emphasis on the shapes of the background and the signal distributions. Finally, in contrast to Ref. [60], we concentrate on the discovery chances of the ongoing run of the LHC at 8 TeV, therefore considering an integrated luminosity of around 20 fb\(^{-1}\).

Compared to previous theoretical works we can use the experience from recent ATLAS [45, 46] and CMS [47, 48] searches to compare two different approaches for the candidate resonance reconstruction. We also use experience from data to address the issue of triggering on interesting events from “light” particles such as a stop of a few hundred GeV in the extremely complex and noisy environment of the LHC. In particular we discuss how b-tagging at trigger level, b-trigger in the following, can be used to have sustainable trigger rates while searching for low mass resonances, such as the light stop predicted by Natural SUSY.

With our work we intend to motivate experimental activity to search for the RPV stop, that is an under-investigated, though well motivated, case of a generic top partner, i.e. a partner of the top quark that, to stabilize the electroweak scale, is expected to have mass and couplings to the Higgs boson similar to those of the top quark. In this sense our work goes in the same direction of the recent work of Ref. [61] where direct pair-production of sbottom squarks or heavy stops decaying into lighter stops \(\tilde{b} \to \tilde{t}_1W^*\), \(\tilde{t}_2 \to \tilde{t}_1h^*\), \(\tilde{t}_2 \to \tilde{t}_1Z^*\), where \(\tilde{t}_1 \to jj\), has been studied in the context of RPV SUSY\(^5\).

We remark that our search strategy is mostly based on general considerations on the pair-production of di-jet resonances and therefore, except for differences in the selection efficiencies, is expected to also apply to other kinds of heavy-flavored di-jet resonances. For instance

---

2 See, for instance, Ref. [33] for a recent study of the decay patterns of supersymmetric particles in presence of RPV.

3 For results on the case of long lived sbottom and stop giving rise to mesino-antimesino oscillations see Refs. [34–36].

4 Further extensions of these searches to exploit the production regime of boosted resonances have also been proposed [52, 53].

5 See also Ref. [62] for a study of the phenomenology of RPV SUSY with long lived LSP decaying at a measurable displaced distance from the primary interaction point.
the analysis could be applied to heavy fermionic partners of the bottom quark when they decay mostly as $B \rightarrow bq$ via a dimension 5 chromo-magnetic interaction. Hence, although being inspired by the search for the RPV stop, we can anticipate that the proposed experimental search can have a much wider reach.

Our paper is organized as follows. In Section II we review the motivations for R-parity and we remind how these motivations are weakened once Natural SUSY is taken as an effective theory up to relatively low scales. We also briefly review possible ways to break R-parity in a controlled way. In Section III we describe our search strategy for the RPV stop and estimate the results of these searches at the LHC with $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV and an integrated luminosity of 20 fb$^{-1}$. In Section IV we conclude.

II. R-PARITY AND ITS BREAKING

R-parity is a symmetry originally introduced to overcome the issues with baryon and lepton number conservation that arise when the SM is extended to be supersymmetric. With the minimal superfield content needed to make the SM supersymmetric $^{63}$, the model contains baryon number, $B$, and lepton number, $L$, violating terms already at the renormalizable level. These are the super-potential terms

$$W_B = \lambda'' UDD, \quad (3)$$

and

$$W_L = \lambda LLE + \lambda' QLD + \mu' LH_d. \quad (4)$$

From a theory perspective it looks appealing to forbid these terms by some dynamics, without explicitly imposing baryon and lepton number conservation, as it happens in the SM, where baryon and lepton number conservation arise as accidental symmetries from the gauge and Lorentz structure of the theory and its field content (in perturbation theory and barring small effects from possible Majorana masses for neutrinos).

Requiring conservation of R-parity, defined as $R_P = (-1)^{2S + 3(B-L)}$, where $S$ denotes the spin, the renormalizable superpotential terms of Eqs. (3) and (4) are forbidden and the effects of the violation of baryon and lepton numbers are pushed to the level of higher dimensional operators $^{64, 65}$ of the type

$$W_{\text{HDO}} \propto UUDE.$$ In SUSY models where all the mass scales beyond the TeV scale are close to the GUT scale R-parity is a viable symmetry to forbid too large baryon and lepton number violation.

In the context of effective theories valid up to some intermediate scale well below the GUT scale the motivation for R-parity becomes weaker. In fact the higher dimensional operators, which in general are allowed by R-parity and mediate $B$ and $L$ transitions, may be suppressed by a too low scale to explain the stability of the proton. In this sense in a low scale SUSY model R-parity is not sufficient to make the model phenomenologically viable, and hence not a necessary ingredient of the model $^{11}$. Other mechanisms need to be invoked to suppress the large $B$ and $L$ transitions.

Given the rather strong restrictions on the phenomenology implied by R-parity, we think that in the context of an effective theory for Natural SUSY, valid only up to 10-100 TeV, it is very well motivated to remove the assumption of R-parity conservation.

Remarkably the breaking of R-parity can be motivated also from a theory standpoint when the stringent requirements of flavor physics experiments are taken as a guideline for SUSY model building both in the context of elementary and composite Higgs models $^{37-40}$. In these constructions the large mass of the top quark singles it out from the other lighter quarks. As a consequence of its special nature, and happily matching the available constraints from experiments, the third generation can host larger RPV couplings. This is for instance the case in the decay of the $t$ which, in the mentioned scenarios, has a preference to decay into heavy quarks.

III. SEARCH STRATEGY

A. $b$-tagging and triggers

A crucial issue to search for new physics in multi-jet final states is that of triggering. Due to the absence of other hard objects in the event the new physics must pass multi-jet triggers or “inelasticity” triggers such as a trigger on the scalar sum of the jets $p_T$.

The large cross section of QCD multi-jet production and the high instantaneous luminosity of the LHC forces us to put rather high thresholds for these fully hadronic triggers. This is illustrated well, for instance, by the evolution of the ATLAS searches. In Ref. $^{46}$ the ATLAS Collaboration used low luminosity 2010 data and a first level trigger requiring at least four jets with a transverse momentum, $p_T$, of at least 5 GeV. With that trigger new physics searches were carried out with $p_T$ of the jets as low as 55 GeV. Instead in the search of Ref. $^{45}$ they used the much larger 2011 dataset and had to use a multi-jet trigger requiring at least four jets that had an almost flat final states is that of triggering. Due to the absence of other hard objects in the event the new physics must pass multi-jet triggers or “inelasticity” triggers such as a trigger on the scalar sum of the jets $p_T$.

The large cross section of QCD multi-jet production and the high instantaneous luminosity of the LHC forces us to put rather high thresholds for these fully hadronic triggers. This is illustrated well, for instance, by the evolution of the ATLAS searches. In Ref. $^{46}$ the ATLAS Collaboration used low luminosity 2010 data and a first level trigger requiring at least four jets with a transverse momentum, $p_T$, of at least 5 GeV. With that trigger new physics searches were carried out with $p_T$ of the jets as low as 55 GeV. Instead in the search of Ref. $^{45}$ they used the much larger 2011 dataset and had to use a multi-jet trigger requiring at least four jets that had an almost flat efficiency for $p_T \geq 80$ GeV.

The need to raise the trigger thresholds makes it difficult to search for light states, that are less likely to give jets with sufficiently high transverse momentum. In fact the scale of the $p_T$ of the jets from the decay of the pair produced new physics resonances is typically a fraction of the mass of the resonance.

Hereafter we consider the possibility of relying on the peculiarity of $b$-quarks to deal with fully hadronic final states in a high luminosity regime, still keeping relatively low $p_T$ thresholds for the trigger. The possibility to use
raw $b$-tagging information at the trigger level in a high luminosity environment has already been demonstrated in several measurements of properties of the Standard Model, as for instance in the study of hadronic decays of the top quark [60, 67]. Thus, in the following we assume that the data has been recorded using a multi-jet trigger with one or more $b$-tags at trigger level. However it should be remarked that the $b$-trigger is less and less needed as the considered resonance gets heavier. In fact in the following we consider also masses of the stop that should be well within the range of applicability of standard multi-jet triggers.

The tagging of $b$-jets is of course very important to isolate our signal and in fact is the main handle that we use to improve the bounds from [45–48] recasted for the RPV stop. For illustration we take the tagging efficiency to be $\epsilon_b = 0.66$ and for simplicity we assume it not to depend on the value of $p_T$ and $\eta$ of the tagged jet. Since we only consider central jets, in a relatively narrow range of $p_T$, these effects should be small. Taking as reference the recent assessment of the $b$-tagging efficiency [68, 69] we take the $b$-tagging probability to be less than 1% for a light jet and 10% for a charm jet.

**B. Analysis**

In this section we discuss the discovery potential of RPV stop pair-production in the process of Eq. (2) at the LHC at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV. For simplicity we assume that the stop decays into a $b$ and a $s$ quark 100% of the times. For our analysis we take two reference $t$ masses $m_t = 200$ GeV and 100 GeV. For $m_t = 200$ GeV the analysis can be carried out relying solely on triggers that have already been employed for this kind of searches. For $m_t = 100$ GeV instead it seems necessary to use $b$-tagging information to reduce the trigger thresholds down to 50 GeV in the offline reconstruction of the fourth jet of the event\(^7\). The chosen values of the stop mass are well within the range indicated by the naturalness of the electroweak scale, thus the proposed analysis probes a very interesting scenario for Natural RPV SUSY.

The main SM backgrounds to our signal are QCD multi-jet production and $t\bar{t}$ production. With the aforementioned $b$-jet misidentification rate we checked that the QCD multi-jet production is dominantly due to $pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}jj$ and in the following we consider only this process for the QCD background. For the $t\bar{t}$ background we found that most of the rate comes from top decays with at least one $W$ decaying hadronically. In this case we retain all the $t\bar{t}$ decay modes in our analysis.

To isolate the signal we exploit its resonant structure as opposed to the incoherent nature of the QCD multi-jet background and the different resonant structure of $t\bar{t}$ production. In particular we attempt to reconstruct the two stop resonances and we identify the signal as a bump over a smooth distribution of the reconstructed resonance mass obtained with our reconstruction procedure. We put particular care in devising cuts that avoid as much as possible to produce a background distribution that is too similar in shape to the signal. We work especially to obtain two distributions whose peaks are resolvable with the expected di-jet invariant mass resolution. Furthermore we aim to give a smoothly falling shape to the background in the vicinity of the expected bump, to make it more easily detectable by a suitable bump-hunting procedure (see, for instance, Ref. [71]).

For our analysis we consider only the four hardest jets found in each event within the acceptance selections (defined later). In the case of the signal these jets should correspond to the hadronic activity that arises from the decay of the colored stop resonances. Other jets are not taken into account in the analysis since they are more likely originated from soft processes that accompany the pair production of stops. Inspired by previous studies we consider two possible algorithms to pair the four final state jets in order to isolate the signal by fully reconstructing the two intermediate resonances:

- **Mass pairing** [47]: choose the two jet pairs $(ab)$ and $(cd)$ that minimize the quantity
  \[ \delta_m = \frac{|m_{ab} - m_{cd}|}{m_{ab} + m_{cd}} \, , \]

- **$\Delta R$ pairing** [45, 46]: choose the two jet pairs $(ab)$ and $(cd)$ that minimize the quantity
  \[ \delta_{\Delta R} = |\Delta R_{ab} - 1| + |\Delta R_{cd} - 1| \, , \]

where $m_{ij}$ is the invariant mass of the $(ij)$ pair and $\Delta R_{ij} = \sqrt{(\Delta \eta_{ij})^2 + (\Delta \phi_{ij})^2}$ is the angular distance between two jets defined as a function of the azimuthal angle $\phi$ and the pseudorapidity $\eta = -\log(\tan \frac{\theta}{2})$.

The mass pairing attempts to reconstruct the resonances by insisting on the pair-production of two resonances of identical mass. The $\Delta R$ pairing instead exploits the fact that in the laboratory frame the decay products of each resonance tend to be collimated. This is especially the case for light resonances that are likely to be produced with a large boost. Furthermore the collimation of the decay products is enhanced when considering jets of $p_T$ comparable to the mass of the resonance as we do in the following to isolate our signal from the background.

We define the following kinematic variables that are

\(^7\) Although we are not aware of any publicly available analysis that uses a similar trigger on the 2012 data, an item very close to our trigger should be available in the trigger menu of the ATLAS experiment [70].
used in our analysis:
\[ m_{\text{best}} = \frac{m_{ab} + m_{cd}}{2}, \quad (7a) \]
\[ \Delta \eta_{\text{best}} = \frac{|\Delta \eta_{ab}| + |\Delta \eta_{cd}|}{2}, \quad (7b) \]
\[ \Delta \phi_{\text{best}} = \frac{\Delta \phi_{ab} + \Delta \phi_{cd}}{2}, \quad (7c) \]
\[ \Delta R_{\text{best}} = \frac{\Delta R_{ab} + \Delta R_{cd}}{2}, \quad (7d) \]
\[ \cos \theta^* = \frac{\mathbf{p}_{z a}^\text{cm} + \mathbf{p}_{z b}^\text{cm}}{\mathbf{p}_{a}^\text{cm} + \mathbf{p}_{b}^\text{cm}}, \quad (7e) \]

where \( \theta^* \) is the scattering angle of the reconstructed di-jet resonance in the center of mass frame, computed in the approximation of zero \( p_T \) of the center of mass.

We have observed that some crucial quantities such as \( m_{\text{best}} \) are sensitive to detector effects and therefore have performed our analysis with the hard cross section computed at Leading Order (LO) with Madgraph5 [72] and the PDF set CTEQ6L1 [73], soft QCD radiation simulated with Pythia 8 [74] and detector response parametrized with Delphes 2.0 [75]. Jets have been made with Fastjet 2 [76, 77] using the anti-\( k_T \) algorithm with parameter \( R = 0.6 \) [78].

In order to verify that our simulation is consistent with experimental results we reproduced the ATLAS search for pair produced colored resonances in the four jet final state of Ref. [46]. The ATLAS results of Ref. [46] were obtained using ATLAS full detector simulation on the particle level prediction from a MLM [79] matched computation. After all kinematic selections we agree with the simulation used in the experimental analysis at the 30% level. Since the final state we are studying in the present work only differs from the one of the aforementioned ATLAS analysis by the relevance of the \( b \)-tagging, which we take into account with a flat efficiency factor, we expect our predictions to be reasonably realistic.

For each of the two cases, Mass pairing and \( \Delta R \) pairing, we devised an optimized strategy to isolate the signal. In doing so we explored selection strategies involving, among others, the quantities defined in Eqs. (7). For the \( \Delta R \) pairing we are more easily able to obtain a smoothly falling shape for the background in the vicinity of the sought stop mass. Moreover, with the \( \Delta R \) pairing we find a better signal over background ratio both in the overall rates and for \( m_{\text{best}} \) in the vicinity of the relevant stop mass. Therefore the \( \Delta R \) pairing seems to perform overall better than the Mass pairing in terms of the sharpness of the isolation of the new physics contribution. This gain in clarity of the observation may not always correspond to a better statistical significance, depending on the total efficiency of the selections. However we decided to insist on the \( \Delta R \) pairing to pursue as much as possible the clarity of the observation of new physics. In presence of the large uncertainties that are inherent in the QCD background this seems to be the most robust way to assess the presence of new physics.

In our analysis we consider events with at least four jets satisfying the following requirements:

\[ p_T, j > \frac{m_j}{2}, \quad |\eta_j| < 2.8, \quad \Delta R_{jj} > 0.7, \]
\[ \delta m < 0.075, \quad |\cos \theta^*| < 0.4, \quad \Delta R_{\text{best}} < 1.5, \quad \Delta \eta_{\text{best}} < 0.8. \]  

The signal is identified as a bump in the \( m_{\text{best}} \) distribution as shown in Figure 1 (upper row). The bin size chosen to plot the \( m_{\text{best}} \) distribution corresponds to 10% of the resonance mass that we consider. This choice is consistent with the expected experimental resolution on the di-jet invariant mass. The efficiencies of the selections and the LO cross sections used in the calculation are collected in Table I for the two choices \( m_t = 100 \) GeV and \( m_t = 200 \) GeV. It is clear from the Figure that there can be several bins with a signal over background ratio 30%. Given the sensitivity to multi jet signals that the ATLAS and CMS experiments have demonstrated [45, 48] we expect this signal to be observable. We estimate that with a luminosity of about 20/fb the observation can be made at about the 5\( \sigma \) confidence level for both choices of the stop mass that we consider.

However we notice that the separation of the background and signal peaks is marginal with the expected resolution in the di-jet invariant mass. Depending on the performances of the experiments on this quantity it may be desirable to obtain a better separation between the signal and the background peaks. To achieve this we can enforce a tighter cut on \( \Delta R_{\text{best}} \), which pushes the background peak towards smaller values of \( m_{\text{best}} \). To display the attainable peak separation we show, in the lower row of Figure 1, the results for \( \Delta R_{\text{best}} < 1 \).

The signal in this case can be clearly identified as a distinct peak on a smoothly falling background shape, a situation that improves the possibility to observe or exclude the new physics. We notice however that tightening the requirement on \( \Delta R_{\text{best}} \) in general reduces the achievable statistical significance of the observation. We leave the detailed study of the best balance between the significance and the reduction of uncertainties in the observation to the experimental collaborations. Most of the result of this kind of optimization depends in fact on the actual detailed performances of the detectors.

---

8 In particular we considered extra selection involving the transverse sphericity, the th quantity \( \Delta \) defined in Ref. [47].

9 NLO corrections to the production rates are in general not small and a modest increase in the significance is expected to arise from these corrections.
Figure 1: $m_{\text{best}}$ distribution for the two analyses for $m_{\tilde{t}} = 100$ GeV (left) and $m_{\tilde{t}} = 200$ GeV (right). The upper row corresponds to a loose selection $\Delta R_{\text{best}} < 1.5$ that can give higher significance at the price of less resolved shapes for the background and the signal. The lower row corresponds to a tighter selection $\Delta R_{\text{best}} < 1$ that privileges a sharper separation of signal and background.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we discussed the discovery potential of the LHC of pair-production of heavy flavored di-jet resonances. We studied the well motivated example of the RPV stop in detail. However our analysis, with minor modifications, can be applied to other types of new physics that result in the $2b2j$ final state. Our study was carried out including the effect of QCD radiation and detector reconstruction effects on the final state of the hard collision. We employed the angular method of Refs. [45, 46] to identify the candidate reconstructed stop resonances and showed that, with suitable selections, the production of stops can result in a bump in the distribution of $m_{\text{best}}$, the mass of the candidate resonances. We also showed that the shape of the $m_{\text{best}}$ background distribution can be modified to be more favorable for the identification of the signal by applying cuts on suitable angular variables.

In particular we identified the kinematic variable $\Delta R_{\text{best}}$ as the quantity to better control the background shape and enforce a separation between the signal and the background peaks sufficient to be resolved with the experimental resolution on the invariant mass of the system of two jets. Figure 1 shows the difference in the result that can be induced by adjusting the cut on $\Delta R_{\text{best}}$. The same Figure also clearly shows that the signal of stop production can be observed with a signal over background ratio of the order of 10% in several bins around the mass of the resonance.

For the case of a lighter stop, for instance the case of $m_{\tilde{t}} = 100$ GeV that we studied explicitly, we highlighted the importance of having low thresholds in the triggers in order to retain most of the signal from light stop production. In this respect we welcome the advent of $b$-jet identification at trigger level in the LHC experiments that allows us to keep low trigger thresholds even in a high instantaneous luminosity environment such as the 2012 run of the LHC. Alternatively, for light stop masses the events could pass a trigger for multiple jets thanks to the presence of hard, hence costly in terms of production rate, extra QCD radiation. While this is certainly an interesting way to look for light colored resonances at the LHC we did not study this possibility which is, however, an interesting check for observations carried out with our method. Finally we encourage the experiments to broaden their program for the search of new physics connected with the naturalness of the electroweak scale. In particular we encourage them to carry out heavy fla-
Table I: Signal and background efficiencies after the kinematic selections of Eq. (8) at the LHC at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV using the $\Delta R$ pairing. $\epsilon^{(1)}$ is the efficiency of the single cut independently of the others, $\epsilon$ is the global efficiency of the cuts at and above that line in the table, $\epsilon_{i\rightarrow i+1}$ is the efficiency of the cut with respect to the previous line. The numbers in parenthesis are the total cross sections computed at LO with Madgraph5. Corrections to the overall rate from the NLO in QCD have been computed and give $K_{\text{NLO}} \simeq 1.5$ both for the signal (see for instance Ref. [80]) and for multi-jet backgrounds (see for instance Refs. [81, 82]), therefore they are not expected to alter our results.

| Selection | $\epsilon^{(1)}$ | $\epsilon$ | $\epsilon_{i\rightarrow i+1}$ | $\epsilon^{(1)}$ | $\epsilon$ | $\epsilon_{i\rightarrow i+1}$ |
|-----------|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| $\eta < 2.8$ | 0.81 | 0.81 | - | 0.82 | 0.82 | - |
| $p_T > 50$ GeV | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.19 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.18 |
| $|\cos \theta^*| < 0.4$ | 0.33 | 0.0047 | 0.46 | 0.19 | 0.0021 | 0.24 |
| $\Delta R_{\text{best}} < 1$ | 0.031 | 0.00080 | 0.32 | 0.030 | 0.00020 | 0.32 |

$\epsilon$ is the efficiency of the single cut independently of the others, $\epsilon$ is the global efficiency of the cuts at and above that line in the table, $\epsilon_{i\rightarrow i+1}$ is the efficiency of the cut with respect to the previous line. The numbers in parenthesis are the total cross sections computed at LO with Madgraph5. Corrections to the overall rate from the NLO in QCD have been computed and give $K_{\text{NLO}} \simeq 1.5$ both for the signal (see for instance Ref. [80]) and for multi-jet backgrounds (see for instance Refs. [81, 82]), therefore they are not expected to alter our results.

| Selection | $\epsilon^{(1)}$ | $\epsilon$ | $\epsilon_{i\rightarrow i+1}$ | $\epsilon^{(1)}$ | $\epsilon$ | $\epsilon_{i\rightarrow i+1}$ |
|-----------|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| $\eta < 2.8$ | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.19 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.18 |
| $p_T > 100$ GeV | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.16 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.14 |
| $|\cos \theta^*| < 0.4$ | 0.096 | 0.0018 | 0.57 | 0.25 | 0.0021 | 0.29 |
| $\Delta R_{\text{best}} < 1$ | 0.012 | 0.00031 | 0.29 | 0.046 | 0.00025 | 0.35 |

$\Delta R > 0.7$ for the matrix element computation.

Acknowledgments

We thank Dinko Ferencek, Shahram Rahatlou, Kai Yi for clarifications on the multi-jet searches of CMS and Andrea Coccaro for discussions on the current and future trigger in ATLAS. We also thank Roberto Contino, Andrey Katz and Daniel Stolarski for discussions. We thank the CERN Theory Division for hospitality and support while this research was carried out. RF thanks the Galileo Galilei Institute for hospitality and support during the completion of this work. The work of RF is supported by the NSF Grants PHY-0910467 and PHY-0968854 and by the Maryland Center for Fundamental Physics. The work of RT was partly supported by the Spanish MICINN under grants CPAN CSD2007-00042 (Consolider-Ingenio 2010 Programme) and FPA2010-17747, by the Community of Madrid under grant HEP-HACOS S2009/ESP-1473, by the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Union under the Grant Agreement number PITN-GA-2010-264564 (LHCPheNoNet) and by the ERC Advanced Grant no. 267985, Electroweak Symmetry Breaking, Flavour and Dark Matter: One Solution for Three Mysteries (DaMeSyFla).

[1] CMS Collaboration, S. Chatrchyan et al., “Observation of a new boson at a mass of 125 GeV with the CMS experiment at the LHC”, Phys. Lett. B 716 (2012) 30-61, arXiv:1207.7235 [Inspire].
[2] ATLAS Collaboration, G. Aad et al., “Observation of a new particle in the search for the Standard Model Higgs boson with the ATLAS detector at the LHC”, Phys. Lett. B 716 (2012) 1–29, arXiv:1207.7214 [Inspire].
[3] L. J. Hall, D. Pinna, and J. T. Ruderman, “A Natural SUSY Higgs Near 125 GeV”, JHEP 04 (2012) 131, arXiv:1112.2703 [Inspire].
[4] K. Agashe, Y. Cui, and R. Franceschini, “Natural Islands for a 125 GeV Higgs in the scale-invariant NMSSM”, arXiv:1209.2115 [Inspire].

vored multi-jet searches that can probe large parts of the parameters space of scenarios of natural supersymmetric theories with R-parity violation.
massive colored scalars in four-jet final states in \(\sqrt{s} = 7\) TeV proton-proton collisions with the ATLAS detector, *Eur. Phys. J. C* **71** (2011) 1828, arXiv:1110.2693 [Inspire].

[47] CMS Collaboration, S. Chatrchyan *et al.*, “Search for New Physics in the Paired Dijet Mass Spectrum”, *CMS Note CMS-PAS-EXO-11-016* (2012) [CDS].

[48] CMS Collaboration, S. Chatrchyan *et al.*, “Search for pair-produced dijet resonances in four-jet final states in pp collisions at \(\sqrt{s} = 7\) TeV”, arXiv:1302.0531 [Inspire].

[49] CMS Collaboration, S. Chatrchyan *et al.*, “Search for Multijet Resonances in pp Collisions at \(\sqrt{s} = 7\) TeV”, *CMS Note CMS-PAS-EXO-11-001* (2011) [Inspire].

[50] CMS Collaboration, S. Chatrchyan *et al.*, “Search for Multijet Resonances in the 8-jet Final State”, *CMS Note CMS-PAS-EXO-11-075* (2012) [Inspire].

[51] CMS Collaboration, S. Chatrchyan *et al.*, “Search for three-jet resonances in pp collisions at \(\sqrt{s} = 7\) TeV”, arXiv:1208.2931 [Inspire].

[52] D. Curtin, R. Essig, and B. Shuve, “Boosted Multijet Resonances and New Color-Flow Variables”, arXiv:1210.5523 [Inspire].

[53] Z. Han, A. Katz, M. Son, and B. Tweedie, “Boosting Searches for Natural SUSY with RPV via Gluino Cascades”, arXiv:1211.4025 [Inspire].

[54] S. Schumann, A. Renaud, and D. Zerwas, “Hadronically decaying color-adjoint scalars at the LHC”, *JHEP* **09** (2011) 074, arXiv:1108.2957 [Inspire].

[55] Y. Bai and J. Shelton, “Composite Octet Searches with Jet Substructure”, *JHEP* **07** (2012) 067, arXiv:1107.3563 [Inspire].

[56] C. Kilic, S. Schumann, and M. Son, “Searching for multijet resonances at the LHC”, *JHEP* **04** (2009) 128, arXiv:0810.5542 [Inspire].

[57] E. Del Nobile, R. Franceschini, D. Pappadopulo, and A. Strumia, “Minimal matter at the large hadron collider”, *Nucl. Phys. B* **825** (2012) 217–234, arXiv:0908.1567 [Inspire].

[58] T. Plehn and T. M. P. Tait, “Seeking sgluons”, J. Phys. **G** **36** (2009) 075001, arXiv:0810.3919 [Inspire].

[59] S. Y. Choi, M. Drees, J. Kalinowski, J. M. Kim, E. Popenda, and P. M. Zerwas, “Color-octet scalars of N=2 supersymmetry at the LHC”, *Phys. Lett. B* **672** (2009) 246–252, arXiv:0812.3586 [Inspire].

[60] D. Choudhury, M. Datta, and M. Maiti, “Search for the lightest scalar top quark in R-parity violating decays at the LHC”, *JHEP* **10** (2011) 004, arXiv:1106.5114 [Inspire].

[61] C. Brust, A. Katz, and R. Sundrum, “SUSY Stops at a Bump”, *JHEP* **08** (2012) 059, arXiv:1206.2353 [Inspire].

[62] P. W. Graham, D. E. Kaplan, S. Rajendran, and P. Saraswat, “Displaced Supersymmetry”, *JHEP* **07** (2012) 149, arXiv:1204.6038 [Inspire].

[63] S. Dimopoulos and H. Georgi, “Softly Broken Supersymmetry and SU(5)”, *Nucl. Phys. B* **193** (1981) 150 [Inspire].

[64] N. Sakai and T. Yanagida, “Proton Decay in a Class of Supersymmetric Grand Unified Models”, *Nucl. Phys. B* **197** (1982) 533 [Inspire].

[65] S. Weinberg, “Supersymmetry at ordinary energies. masses and conservation laws”, *Phys. Rev. D* **26** (1982) 287 [Inspire].

[66] ATLAS Collaboration, G. Aad *et al.*, “Measurement of the \(t\bar{t}\) production cross section in the final state with a hadronically decaying tau lepton and jets using the ATLAS detector”, *ATLAS Note ATLAS-CONF-2012-032* (2012) [Inspire].

[67] ATLAS Collaboration, G. Aad *et al.*, “Measurement of the \(t\bar{t}\) production cross section in the all-hadronic channel in ATLAS with \(\sqrt{s} = 7\) TeV data”, *ATLAS Note ATLAS-CONF-2012-031* (2012) [Inspire].

[68] ATLAS Collaboration, G. Aad *et al.*, “Measuring the b-tag efficiency in a top-pair sample with 4.7 fb of data from the atlas detector”, *ATLAS Note ATLAS-CONF-2012-097* (2012) [Inspire].

[69] CMS Collaboration, S. Chatrchyan *et al.*, “Identification of b-quark jets with the CMS experiment”, arXiv:1211.4462 [Inspire].

[70] A. Coccaro, Private communication.

[71] G. Choudalakis, “On hypothesis testing, trials factor, hypertests and the BumpHunter”, arXiv:1101.0390 [Inspire].

[72] J. Alwall, M. Herquet, F. Maltoni, O. Mattelaer, and T. Stelzer, “MadGraph 5: going beyond”, *JHEP* **06** (2011) 128, arXiv:1106.0522 [Inspire].

[73] J. Pumplin, D. R. Stump, J. Huston, H. L. Lai, P. M. Nadolsky, and W. K. Tung, “New generation of parton distributions with uncertainties from global QCD analysis”, *JHEP* **07** (2002) 012, hep-ph/0201195 [Inspire].

[74] T. Sjöstrand, S. Mrenna, and P. Z. Skands, “A Brief Introduction to PYTHIA 8.1”, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **178** (Oct., 2008) 852–867, arXiv:0710.3820 [Inspire].

[75] S. Ovyn, X. Rouby, and V. Lemaitre, “Delphes, a framework for fast simulation of a generic collider experiment”, arXiv:0903.2225 [Inspire].

[76] M. Cacciari, G. P. Salam, and G. Soyer, “FastJet user manual”, *Eur. Phys. J. C* **72** (2012) 1986, arXiv:1111.6097 [Inspire].

[77] M. Cacciari and G. P. Salam, “Dispelling the \(N^3\) myth for the \(k_t\) jet-finder”, *Phys. Lett. B* **641** (2006) 57–61, hep-ph/0512210 [Inspire].

[78] M. Cacciari, G. P. Salam, and G. Soyer, “The anti-\(k_t\) jet clustering algorithm”, *JHEP* **04** (2008) 063, arXiv:0802.1189 [Inspire].

[79] J. Alwall, S. Hoeche, F. Krauss, N. Lavesson, L. Lonnblad, F. Maltoni, M. L. Mangano, M. Moretti, C. G. Papadopoulos, F. Piccinini, S. Schumann, M. Treccani, J. Winter, and M. Worek, “Comparative study of various algorithms for the merging of parton showers and matrix elements in hadronic collisions”, *Eur. Phys. J. C* **53** (2008) 473–500, arXiv:0706.2569 [Inspire].

[80] W. Beenakker, S. Brensing, M. Krämer, A. Kulesza, E. Laenen, M. Motyka, and I. Niessen, “Squark and gluino hadroproduction”, *Int. J. Mod. Phys. A* **26** (2011) 2637, arXiv:1105.1110 [Inspire].

[81] N. Greiner, A. Guffanti, T. Reiter, and J. Reuter, “NLO QCD corrections to the production of two bottom-antibottom pairs at the LHC”, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **107** (2011) 102002, arXiv:1105.3624 [Inspire].

[82] Z. Bern, G. Diana, L. J. Dixon, F. F. Cordero, S. Hoeche, D. A. Kosower, H. Ita, D. Maitre, and K. Ozeren, “Four-Jet Production at the Large Hadron Collider at Next-to-Leading Order in QCD”, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **109** (2012) 042001, arXiv:1112.3940 [Inspire].