

ILC as a SUSY discovery and precision instrument

M.T. Núñez Pardo de Vera^{a,1,*}

^aDESY,

Notkestrasse 85, Hamburg, Germany

E-mail: maria-teresa.nunez-pardo-de-vera@desy.de

Data from the LHC at 7, 8, and 13 TeV have so far yielded no evidence for new particles beyond the 125 GeV Higgs boson, in particular, there have been no signs of SUSY. However, the complementary nature of physics with e^+e^- collisions still offers many interesting scenarios in which SUSY can be discovered at the ILC. These scenarios take advantage of the capability of e^+e^- collisions to observe events with missing four-momentum - a signature not available at hadron colliders, where only transverse imbalance is observable. Due to low backgrounds and trigger-less operation, detectors at e^+e^- colliders can observe events with much less visible energy than what is possible at hadron colliders. In this contribution, we will present detailed simulation studies done with the ILD concept at the ILC. These studies include simulation of the full SM background, as well as realistic accelerator conditions. We will show results both on expected discovery and exclusion reaches for the most challenging SUSY channels, such as higgsinos or winos at low mass differences. Evaluations of precision of model-parameter measurements, in case of discovery, will also be given. We also report on how such measurements can be used to put constraints on parts of the sparticle-spectrum beyond direct reach, and to discriminate between different models of SUSY breaking at high scales.

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*Speaker

1. Introduction

A supersymmetric extension of the Standard Model could be the solution or give some light into the limitations of this model. Up to now there is no evidence of SUSY. SUSY exclusion/discovery limits coming from searches at hadron colliders are strongly model dependent and they do not cover the whole SUSY parameter space, not being able to access scenarios that are needed for SUSY to be the solution of the Standard Model problems. The complementary nature of physics at electron-positron colliders, like the ILC, offers the possibility of studying these scenarios, computing exclusion/discovery limits in a model independent way and covering the parameter space up to the kinematic limit reached by the collider. One of the scenarios that would be very challenging or even impossible to be accessed by the LHC or any other hadron collider is the one required by SUSY as a solution to the absence of electroweak naturalness in the SM. This scenario would imply the existence of a cluster of four light Higgsinos, $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$, $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ and $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$, within a compressed spectrum (10-20 GeV) and masses around 100-300 GeV. The experimental conditions at the ILC, electron-positron collider at $\sqrt{s} = 500$ GeV with energy upgradability, make possible the study of this region of the SUSY parameter space, taking profit of its electron (80%) and positron (30%) polarised beams, a well defined initial state (4-momentum and spin configuration), a clean and reconstructable final state, hermetic detectors (almost 4π coverage) and a triggerless operation. This paper is based on two papers showing the capability of the ILC for excluding or, respectively, discovering Higgsinos, and more general charginos, in the ILC500 benchmark¹ [1] and, in case of discovery, for measuring the Higgsino properties with sufficient precision for making important predictions not only related to SUSY but also to other subjects in the field of Particle Physics or Cosmology [2].

2. Chargino searches

The lightest chargino is one of the prime candidates to be the Next to Lightest SUSY particle, NLSP, and so the first one to be discovered. Some previous studies had shown the reach of the ILC for excluding/discovering charginos, but those studies were done with model restrictions and at some specific points of the SUSY parameter space. The study presented in this paper performs chargino searches in a general way covering a wide range of parameters. The first step of the study was to determine the scenario with the lowest chargino production cross sections assuming only the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model, MSSM, and R -parity conservation. The cross sections of this scenario were compared to limits for chargino observation extrapolated from LEP studies, what can be also considered as the worst case since no improvements due to accelerator or detector technologies were taken into account. The cross sections were computed for three different cases depending on the chargino mixing, Higgsino-like, Wino-like and mixed charginos, and, since the charginos are produced not only in the s -channel but also in the t -channel via sneutrino exchange, for each of the three different cases the cross sections were computed for low (around the kinematic limit) and high (about 1 TeV) sneutrino masses. For high sneutrino masses the worst scenario, lowest cross sections, corresponds to the Higgsino-like charginos. If the sneutrino masses are decreased to values close to the kinematic limit the t -channel also contributes to chargino

¹ $\sqrt{s}=500$ GeV, a total integrated luminosity of 4 ab^{-1} divided in 1.6 ab^{-1} for $P(e^-, e^+) = (-80\%, +30\%)$, 1.6 ab^{-1} for $P(e^-, e^+) = (+80\%, -30\%)$, 0.4 ab^{-1} for $P(e^-, e^+) = (+80\%, +30\%)$ and 0.4 ab^{-1} for $P(e^-, e^+) = (-80\%, -30\%)$

production, interfering destructively with the s -channel. This effect is only seen in the Wino-like case, due to the weak coupling between Higgsinos and sneutrinos, and produce a decrease of the production cross sections, reaching the minimum values for sneutrino masses at the kinematic limit. This scenario corresponds to the lowest cross sections.

The lowest cross-section values for high and low sneutrino masses (Higgsino and Wino-like charginos, respectively) were compared to limits from LEP extrapolated to 1.6 ab^{-1} , integrated luminosity for $P(e^-, e^+) = (-80\%, +30\%)$ polarisation² in the ILC500 benchmark, taking only into account the relation between the limits and the inverse of the square root of the luminosity, i.e., $Limit_{ILC} = Limit_{LEP} \times \sqrt{\mathcal{L}_{LEP}/\mathcal{L}_{ILC}}$. From this comparison exclusion/discovery limits were determined for Higgsino-like and Wino-like cases. Figures 1(a) and 1(b) show the exclusion limits as a function of chargino mass and the mass difference between the chargino and the LSP. Limits from LEP and from LHC, strongly model dependent and not covering the whole parameter space, are also shown. For high sneutrino masses, exclusion and discovery limits are at most 5 GeV apart from each other. This happens in the most challenging region, for values of the chargino-LSP mass difference between the pion mass and 3 GeV, where the soft products of the chargino decay were not energetic enough for triggering the detectors and an ISR photon had to be requested in the trigger, decreasing the detection efficiency considerably. Even in the particular case with sneutrino masses close to the kinematic limit, not considered in the LEP analysis but included in this study for completeness, exclusion and discovery is guaranteed up to less than 10 GeV from the kinematic limit in the regions with mass difference below the pion mass and above 3 GeV. In the region with mass differences between these values exclusion is guaranteed up to a chargino mass of 225 GeV and discovery up to 205 GeV. This region has to be taken with care since it was not included in the LEP studies and low sneutrino and, in general, sfermion masses would introduce another processes that should be taken into account. It is important to note that in the current study none of the ILC-specific improvements in the experimental environment were taken into account. A full study including polarisation, the triggerless operation, the improved detectors and the tiny size of the ILC beam spot is expected to yield even higher sensitivities.

3. From light Higgsinos to test of the unification

Following a discovery, the ILC has the capability to precisely determine the properties of superparticles. Such measurements allow to pin down the underlying model, including the type of SUSY breaking, to predict the yet unobserved part of the spectrum and to provide insights into the nature of dark matter. All these aspects have been studied for example in three benchmarks with light higgsino-like charginos and neutralinos [2]. The first two ones, ILC1 and ILC2, are based on the NUMH2 model and hence feature gaugino mass unification at the GUT scale. The third one, nGMM1, is a mirage mediated model with gaugino mass unification at an intermediate scale. These benchmarks were chosen to have light Higgsino masses about 150 GeV and mass differences between 4 and 20 GeV. The analysis was based on two channels: $e^-e^+ \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^+ \tilde{\chi}_1^- \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0 qq' \ell \nu_\ell$ and $e^-e^+ \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$, where $\ell = e$ or μ . From kinematic distributions of these channels the masses and mass differences of the Higgsinos, with 1% precision, and their cross-section times

²The inverse polarisation was not considered in this study since the contribution to the chargino production is negligible.

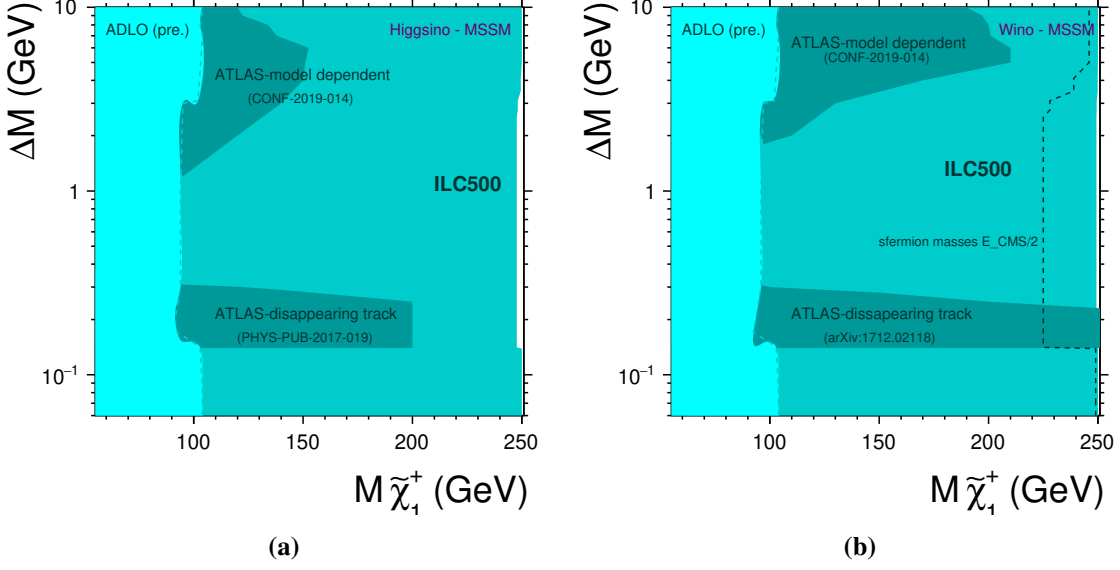


Figure 1: (a) Comparison of the $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ mass limits for the Higgsino-like case for LEP, ILC500 and LHC [3][4]. (b) Comparison of the $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ mass limits for the Wino-like case for LEP, ILC500 and LHC [3][5]. The LEP results assume high sfermion masses. In both cases the ATLAS results shown for the region with mass differences above 1 GeV are model dependent.

the branching ratios, with a few per cent precision depending on the channel and polarisation, were extracted.

3.1 Fitting fundamental parameters and testing unification

The obtained mass and cross-section projections were used, together with Higgs observables taken from previous ILC studies, to investigate how the underlying SUSY model can be constrained.

In a first step, different GUT-scale models were fitted to the projections. Compatibility with the NUMH1 and the CMSSM could be ruled out at 95% CL with only 0.1% of the total integrated luminosity. All three benchmarks were found compatible with the NUMH2 in this approach.

A more general approach based on weak scale parameters was also investigated. At the tree-level, only four parameters enter the Higgsino observables (pMSSM-4). At the one-loop level, ten parameters play a role (pMSSM-10). Already in the pMSSM-10 case, all the parameters can be determined with sufficient precision to predict the mass spectrum of the heavier SUSY particles, as shown in figure 2(a). The masses of the heavy electroweakinos and the SUSY higgs bosons can be predicted extremely well, with precisions of about 4% and 20%, respectively. The rest of the sfermion masses are less constrained but upper limits can be obtained, being very important for future hadron colliders. For the pMSSM-4 fit, the loop-level parameters were fixed to the values obtained from the pMSSM-10 fit. As a result the predictions for the heavier electroweakino masses improve to 1.6-3%, as shown in figure 2(b). In addition, it was shown that varying the loop-level parameter values even at the 2σ level does not affect the pMSSM-4 parameters beyond their 1σ range. For the other benchmarks analogous results were obtained.

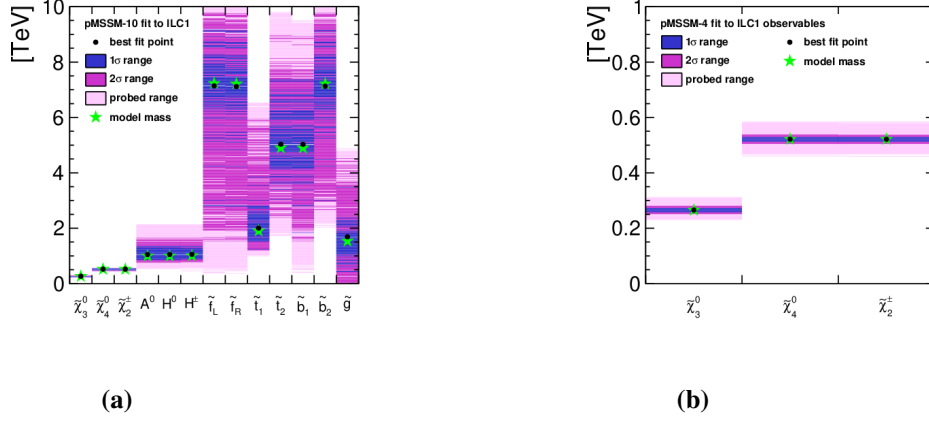


Figure 2: (a) Predicted mass ranges from the pMSSM-10 fit to ILC1. (b) Predicted mass and SUSY parameter ranges from the pMSSM-4 fit to ILC1. The green/magenta stars indicate the true model values, while the black dots show the best fit point.

In a final step, the MSSM renormalization group equations (RGEs) were used to evolve the pMSSM-10 fitted parameters to higher energy scales and test the unification hypothesis. Figure 3(a) shows the running gaugino masses based on the fit to the ILC1 observables, where the bands correspond to 1 σ confidence interval. Running gaugino masses M_1 and M_2 cross close to 10^{16} , verifying the prediction of a SUSY GUT model. The M_3 band is quite wide but also consistent with the unification hypothesis. The unified gaugino mass parameter $M_{1/2}$ is also in agreement with the value obtained from the previously mentioned fit of NUMH2 parameters to the observables. The same conclusions arise from the fit to the ILC2 observables. If the gluino is discovered at the LHC or a future hadron collider, its direct mass determination can be cross-checked against the weak scale fit to ILC observables. Alternatively, M_3 at the weak scale can be predicted from $M_{1/2}$ assuming gaugino mass unification.

The nGMM1 benchmark has the smallest mass differences among the three cases and is thus the experimentally most challenging one. When assuming precisions of 1.7% and, in average, 7% on the masses and cross-sections, respectively, and performing only a pMSSM-10 fit, an unification of M_1 and M_2 at the GUT scale can be excluded at the 99.9% CL. However the error bands on the running masses are very wide, as shown in figure 3(b), and it remains unclear whether there is an unification at a lower energy scale. With the better mass and cross-sections precisions of 0.5% and 6% obtained from the ILD full detector simulation study, and when performing the pMSSM-4 fit after the pMSSM-10 as described above, a much clearer picture shown in 3(c) can be obtained.

4. Conclusions

The reach of the ILC for discovering SUSY in the chargino channel within the worst scenario and in very conservative conditions has been shown, getting mass limits for exclusion and discovery up to a few GeV below the kinematic limit. In case of SUSY discovery, the capability of the ILC for measuring SUSY observables with sufficient precision to make relevant SUSY related predictions has been studied and confirmed, showing how improvements in the experimental results are clear

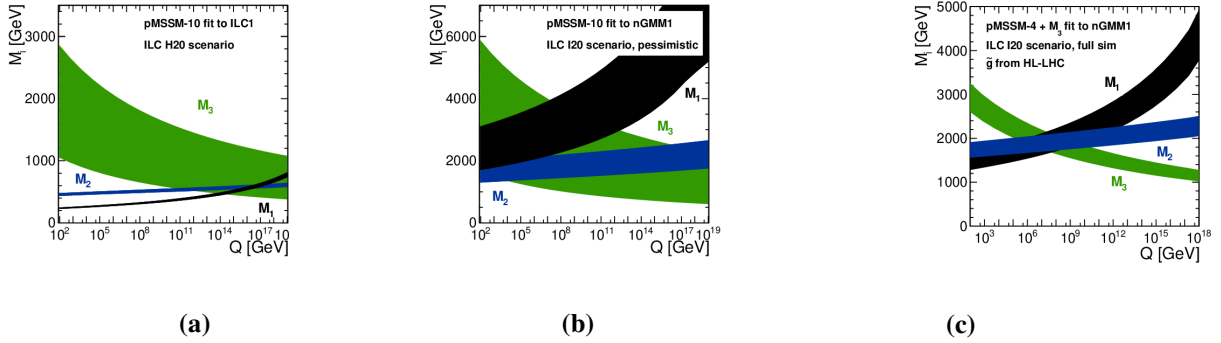


Figure 3: The running gaugino masses M_i . Bands correspond to one standard deviation. (a) based on the pMSSM-10 fit to ILC1 observables. M_3 at the weak scale is used as constrained from ILC measurements. (b) and (c) extracting their weak scale values from a fit to nGMM1 observables. (b) pMSSM-10 fit result with absolute masses as input. (c) estimated effect of improvement from using the full simulation results, and from including a 10% measurement of the gluino mass from HL-LHC (or other future hadron collider). In addition a fit of the pMSSM-4 parameters, and M_3 as a fit parameter, is run.

reflected in the precision of the predictions. As a conclusion of the study, it is important to remark how the interplay between ILC and LHC SUSY measurements or predictions can considerably improve the results of both analyses. Moreover, the predictions extracted from direct SUSY measurements can have an important role in accelerator designs and upgrades beyond the ILC.

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