

# New Results for NMSSM Higgs and Dark Matter

Jack Gunion  
U.C. Davis

Higgs Hunting, Orsay, July 30, 2010

# NMSSM Review

- The NMSSM is defined by adding a single SM-singlet superfield  $\widehat{S}$  to the MSSM and imposing a  $Z_3$  symmetry on the superpotential, implying

$$W = \lambda \widehat{S} \widehat{H}_u \widehat{H}_d + \frac{\kappa}{3} \widehat{S}^3 \quad (1)$$

The reason for imposing the  $Z_3$  symmetry is that then only dimensionless couplings  $\lambda$ ,  $\kappa$  enter. All dimensionful parameters will then be determined by the soft-SUSY-breaking parameters. In particular, the  $\mu$  problem is solved via

$$\mu_{\text{eff}} = \lambda \langle S \rangle. \quad (2)$$

$\mu$  is automatically of order a TeV (as required) since  $\langle S \rangle$  is of order the SUSY-breaking scale, which will be below a TeV.

- The extra singlet field  $\widehat{S}$  implies: 5 neutralinos,  $\widetilde{\chi}_{1-5}^0$  with  $\widetilde{\chi}_1^0$  being either singlet or bino, depending on  $M_1$ ; 3 CP-even Higgs bosons,  $h_1, h_2, h_3$ ; and

2 CP-odd Higgs bosons,  $a_1, a_2$ . Their effects/implications will be the focus of this talk.

- The soft-SUSY-breaking terms corresponding to the terms in  $W$  are:

$$\lambda A_\lambda S H_u H_d + \frac{\kappa}{3} A_\kappa S^3. \quad (3)$$

When  $A_\lambda, A_\kappa \rightarrow 0$ , the NMSSM has an additional  $U(1)_R$  symmetry, in which limit the  $a_1$  is pure singlet and  $m_{a_1} = 0$ .

If,  $A_\lambda, A_\kappa = 0$  at  $M_U$ , RGE's give  $A_\lambda \sim 100$  GeV and  $A_\kappa \sim 1 - 20$  GeV, resulting in  $m_{a_1} < 2m_B$  (see later) being quite natural and not fine-tuned.

- The NMSSM maintains all the attractive features (GUT unification, RGE EWSB) of the MSSM while avoiding important MSSM problems.
- In particular, there are very attractive scenarios in the NMSSM with no EWSB fine-tuning.

To avoid EWSB fine-tuning (the sensitivity of  $m_Z$  or  $v$  to GUT-scale parameters), sparticles must be light, especially the stops; the optimal is  $\sqrt{m_{\tilde{t}_1} m_{\tilde{t}_2}} \sim 350 - 500$  GeV, somewhat above Tevatron limits but accessible at the LHC. (Also, the gluino should be light.)

As for the MSSM, for such stop masses, the Higgs that couples to  $WW, ZZ$  is predicted to have mass  $m_H \sim 90 - 110$  GeV.

- This is perfect for precision electroweak.

Indeed, if only the leptonic  $\sin^2 \theta_W^{eff}$  measurements are included, the SM gives a fit with CL near 0.78 with  $m_H \sim 50$  GeV and with a 95% CL upper limit of  $\sim 105$  GeV (Chanowitz, xarXiv:0806.0890).

- Electroweak Baryogenesis:  $m_H \lesssim 105$  GeV is needed for strong enough phase transition.
- Largest LEP excess: Perhaps the Higgs should be such as to predict the

## 2.3 $\sigma$ excess at $M_{b\bar{b}} \sim 98$ GeV seen in the $Z + b\bar{b}$ final state.

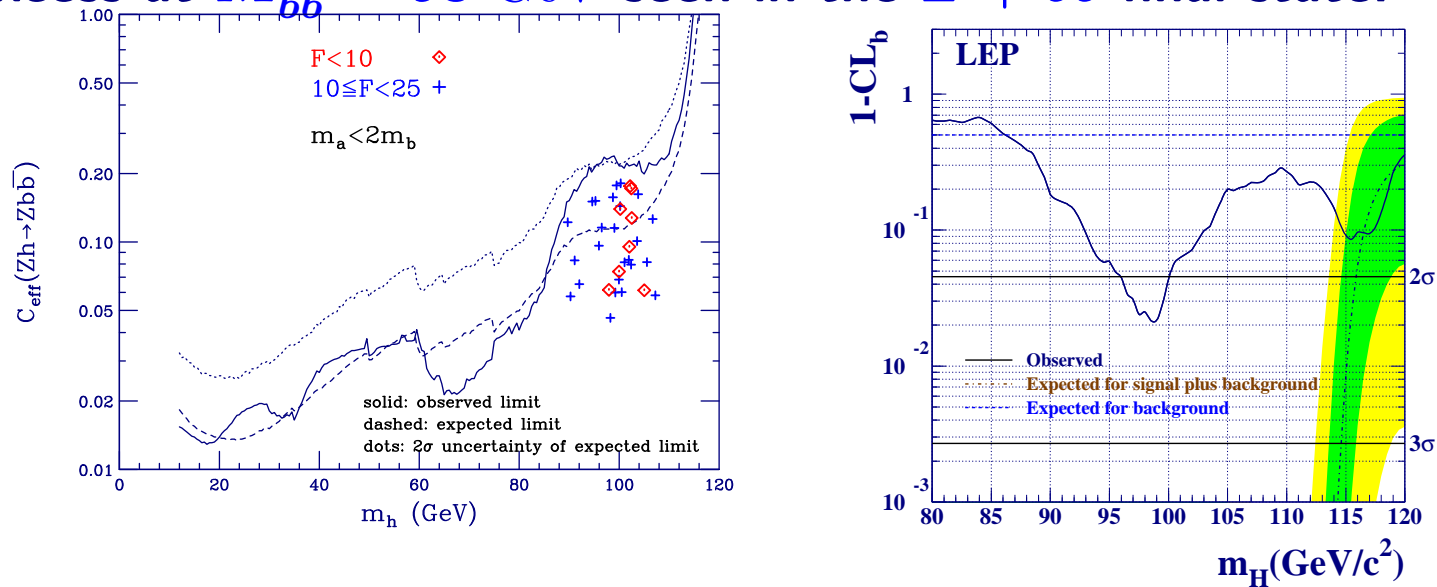


Figure 1: Plots for the  $Zb\bar{b}$  final state.  $F$  is the  $m_Z$ -fine-tuning measure for the NMSSM.

- The simplest possibility for the excess is to have  $m_H \sim 100$  GeV and  $B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b}) \sim (0.1 - 0.2) \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})_{SM}$  (assuming  $H$  has SM  $ZZ$  coupling as desired for precision electroweak) with the remaining  $H$  decays being to one or more of the  $Z + X$  channels that are poorly constrained at LEP.

This is natural in the NMSSM by virtue of  $H \rightarrow a_1 a_1$  decays, where  $m_{a_1} < 2m_B$  so that  $a_1 \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$  or  $jj$  (so as to escape LEP limits in the  $Z + b'$ s channel).

- In the case of large  $\tan\beta$  where  $a_1 \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$  is big, new ALEPH (LEP) limits on  $e^+e^- \rightarrow ZH$  with  $H \rightarrow a_1a_1 \rightarrow 4\tau$  tend to force one to the region of  $10 \text{ GeV} \lesssim m_{a_1}$  when  $m_H < 110 \text{ GeV}$ .

This is also the region where BaBar limits from  $\Upsilon_{3S}$  decays run out.

Dermisek and I showed in earlier work that this is also precisely the region with least "light- $a_1$ " finetuning (*i.e.*  $A_\lambda$  and  $A_\kappa$  need not be chosen very precisely — 20% or so is ok — to get large  $B(h_1 \rightarrow a_1a_1)$  and  $m_{a_1} < 2m_B$ ).

- In the simplest "ideal" Higgs scenarios, it will be the  $h_1$  of the NMSSM that has strong  $WW, ZZ$  couplings.

But, in some other scenarios related to dark matter, it might be the  $h_2$  that couples to  $WW, ZZ$  and  $m_{h_2}$  will be in the  $m_{h_2} \lesssim 105 - 110 \text{ GeV}$  range.

In some cases,  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  will share the  $WW, ZZ$  coupling.

What is important for precision electroweak is  $m_{eff}$  defined by

$$\ln m_{eff} = \sum_i C_V^2(i) \ln m_{h_i}, \quad (4)$$

where  $C_V(i) = g_{ZZh_i}/g_{ZZh_{SM}}$ . We want  $m_{eff} \lesssim 105 - 110$  GeV.

● Important bottom lines for the “ideal” NMSSM Higgs scenarios are:

(i) the Higgs could be “buried” under backgrounds;



(ii) and searching directly for the light  $a_1$  could be especially relevant.

## Dark Matter and the NMSSM Warm-Up

- It has long been known (Gunion, McElrath, and Hooper, hep-ph/0509024) that the NMSSM can accommodate light ( $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} < 10$  GeV) dark matter with correct relic density.
- But, can the NMSSM light dark matter have  $\sigma_{SI}$  as large as suggested by COGENT data,  $\sigma_{SI} \sim 10^{-4}$  pb?
- We will find that a large fraction of the interesting points from the dark matter perspective have  $m_{h_1}$  somewhat below 100 GeV and  $m_{h_2}$  slightly above 100 GeV with  $|C_V(h_2)| > |C_V(h_1)|$  and will escape LEP limits because of  $h_2 \rightarrow a_1 a_1 \rightarrow 4\tau$  for  $10$  GeV  $\lesssim m_{a_1} \lesssim 2m_B$ .
- Other points consistent with Cogent  $\sigma_{SI}$  with  $110$  GeV  $\lesssim m_{h_2} \lesssim 115$  GeV (and  $C_V(2) \sim 1$ ) are less attractive from the EWSB finetuning point of view but can have any  $m_{a_1}$  because  $B(h_2 \rightarrow a_1 a_1 \rightarrow 4b) \sim 1$  is allowed in  $e^+e^- \rightarrow Zh_2$  in this mass range.



- $\Omega h^2 \sim 0.1$  and large  $\sigma_{SI}$  increase the likelihood that the CP-even Higgs with large  $WW, ZZ$  coupling will be very hard to detect at the LHC, but increase possibilities for detection of a neutral Higgs with enhanced  $b\bar{b}$  coupling and for detection of the  $h^+$  at the LHC.

Many such scenarios also suggest that  $a_1$  detection in  $gg \rightarrow a_1 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$  at the LHC will be possible.

## Reminders about the NMSSM $a_1$

- Define a generic coupling to fermions by

$$\mathcal{L}_{af\bar{f}} \equiv iC_{af\bar{f}} \frac{ig_2 m_f}{2m_W} \bar{f} \gamma_5 f a, \quad (5)$$

In the NMSSM, at tree level

$$C_{a_1 b\bar{b}} = \tan \beta \cos \theta_A, \quad (6)$$

where

$$a_1 = \cos \theta_A a_{MSSM} + \sin \theta_A a_S. \quad (7)$$

At large  $\tan \beta$ , SUSY corrections  $C_{abb} = C_{abb}^{tree} [1/(1 + \Delta_b^{SUSY})]$  can be large and either suppress or enhance  $C_{abb}$  relative to  $C_{a\tau^-\tau^+}$ . These are not included in next two plots, but are incorporated in final results.

- Limits on  $C_{abb}$  derive primarily from recent BaBar data (JFG, arXiv:0808.2509 and JFG+Dermisek, arXiv:0911.2460; see also Ellwanger and Domingo, arXiv:0810.4736) and appear in Fig. 2.

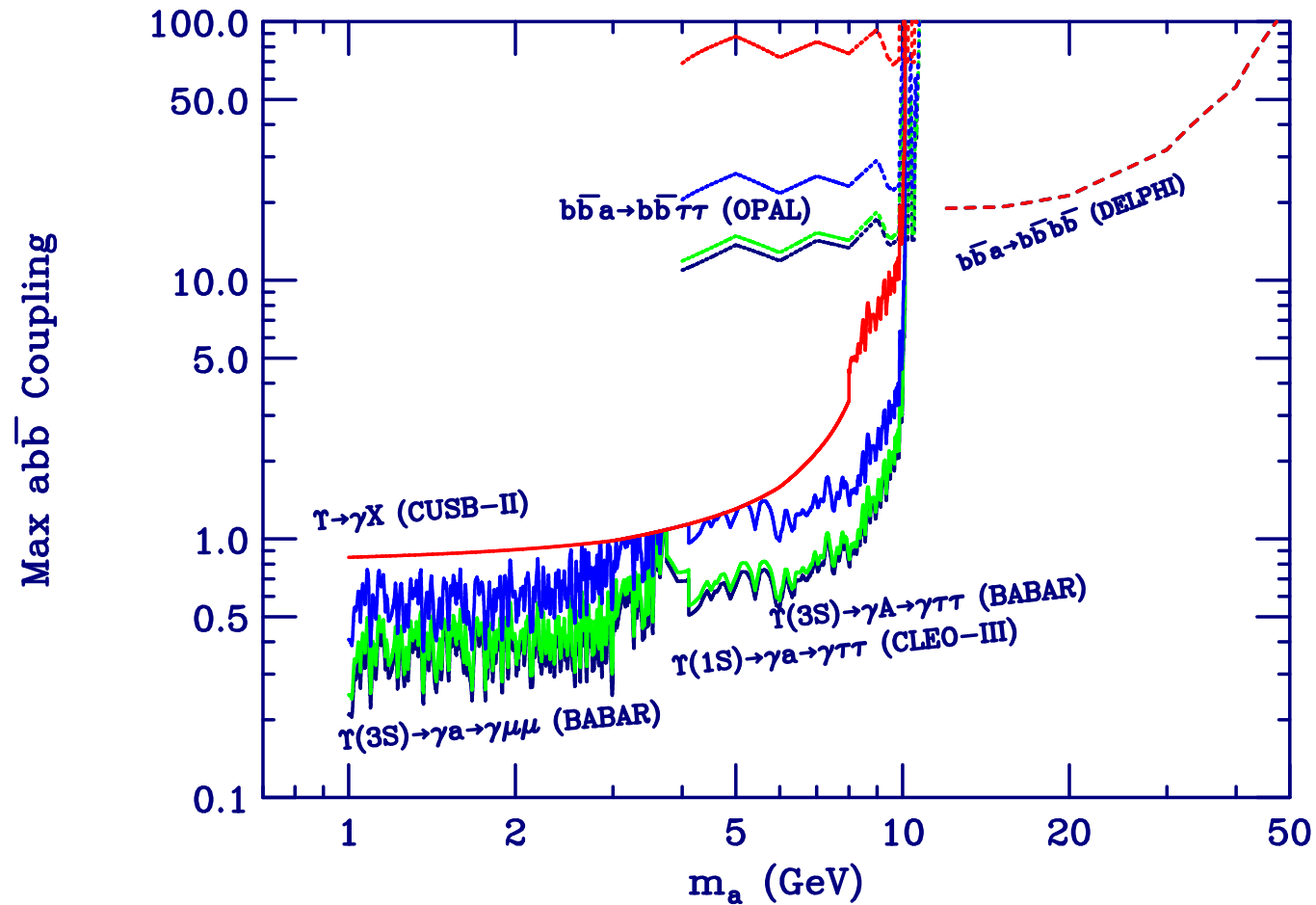
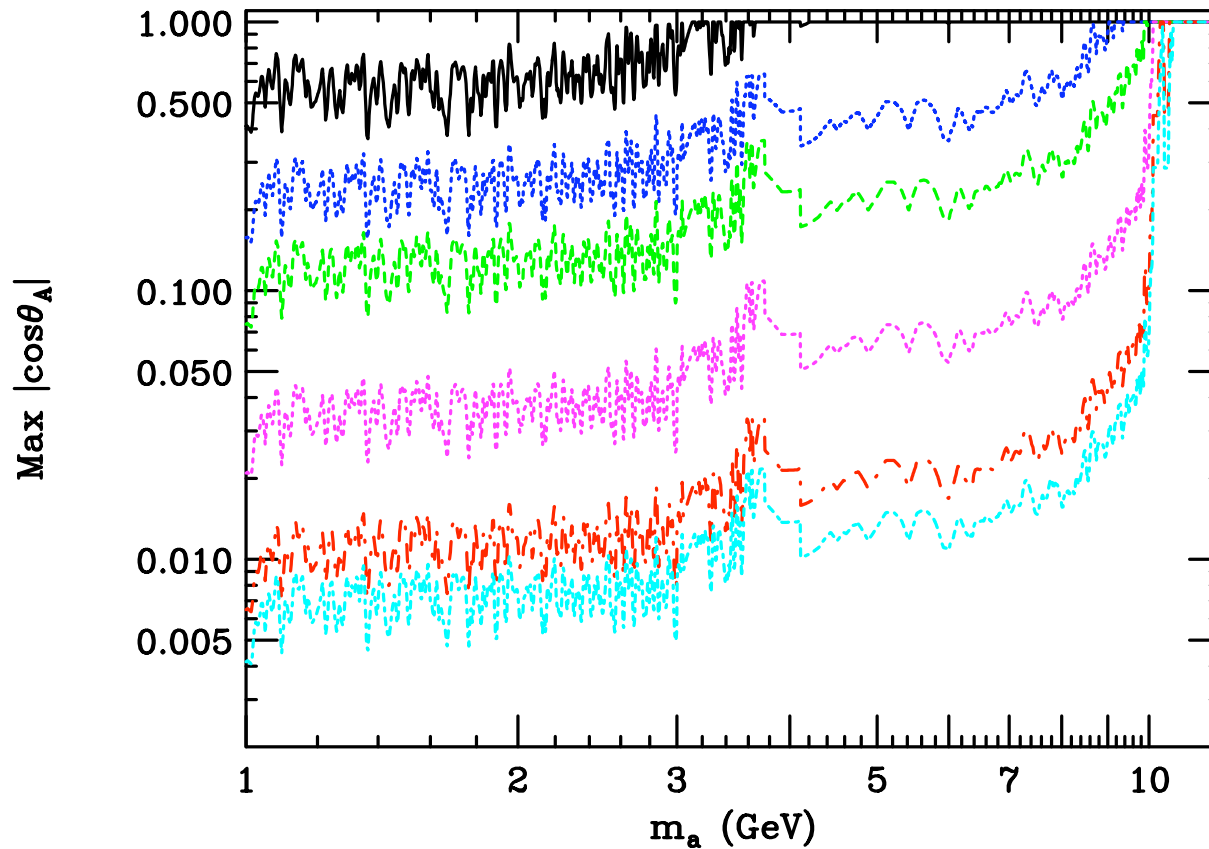


Figure 2: Limits on  $C_{abb}$  from JFG, arXiv:0808.2509 and JFG+Dermisek, arXiv:0911.2460. These limits include recent BaBar  $\Upsilon_{3S} \rightarrow \gamma \mu^+ \mu^-$  and  $\gamma \tau^+ \tau^-$  limits. Color code:  $\tan \beta = 0.5$ ;  $\tan \beta = 1$ ;  $\tan \beta = 2$ ;  $\tan \beta \geq 3$ . Keep an eye on  $C_{abb} = 1$ .

- In the NMSSM, the limits on  $C_{abb\bar{b}}$  imply limits on  $\cos\theta_A$  for any given choice of  $\tan\beta$ .



**Figure 3:** Curves are for  $\tan\beta = 1$  (upper curve), 1.7, 3, 10, 32 and 50 (lowest curve).

- As we have seen, the Upsilon constraints on a light  $a$  run out for  $m_a > M_{\Upsilon_{3S}}$ . Tevatron data provides some constraints in this region.

The LHC will do much better.

- At a hadron collider, one studies  $gg \rightarrow a \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$  and reduces the heavy flavor background by isolation cuts on the muons.

At lowest order, the  $gga$  coupling is induced by quark loops, esp.  $b$  loops  
 $\Rightarrow \sigma(gg \rightarrow a) \propto C_{abb}^2$ .

Higher order corrections, both virtual and real (*e.g.* for the latter  $gg \rightarrow ag$ ) are, however, very significant.

- So long as  $m_a < 2m_B$ ,  $B(a \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-) \sim 0.002 - 0.003$  is normal in SUSY models at large  $\tan \beta$ , and rates for  $gg \rightarrow a \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$  are generically very large if the  $a$  is mainly doublet.

However, for a fairly singlet  $a \sim a_1$ , these rates are reduced by  $(\cos \theta_A)^2$  and, while still sizable, are often smaller than backgrounds and will be hard to dig out.

**Table 1: Luminosities (  $\text{fb}^{-1}$  ) needed for  $5\sigma$  if  $\tan\beta = 10$  and  $\cos\theta_A = 0.1$ .**

Case	$m_a = 8 \text{ GeV}$	$m_a = M_{\Upsilon_{1S}}$	$m_a \lesssim 2m_B$
ATLAS LHC7	17	63	9
ATLAS LHC10	13	48	7
ATLAS LHC14	10	37	5.4

Current projections of CMS working group are still more favorable.

- Some DM scenarios with large  $\sigma_{SI}$  have  $|C_{abb\bar{b}}| \sim 1$  as presumed for Table 1; others have  $|C_{abb\bar{b}}| \sim 5 - 25$ , but with larger  $m_{a_1}$  and therefore reduced  $B(a_1 \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-)$ .

There are no current estimates as to ability of LHC to see such  $a_1$ .

# Dark Matter

(collaborators: D. Hooper and A. Belikov)

- There are now significant hints that the dark matter particle could be quite light ( $\lesssim 10$  GeV) and have large  $\sigma_{SI}$ .
- In the NMSSM, large  $\sigma_{SI}$  from the  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  is typically achieved for a fairly bino-like  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  (with some higgsino/wino content).
- Sufficiently small  $\Omega h^2$  is typically achieved via  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow a_1^* \rightarrow X$  annihilation.
- However, when  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} \sim 5 - 10$  GeV the annihilation can easily be too strong if the Higgs sector forces  $m_{a_1} \sim 10$  GeV (as is often the case).

In such cases, the  $a_1$  must be fairly singlet.

- There is a fairly clear strategy for maximising  $\sigma_{SI}$ .

The largest elastic scattering cross sections arise in the case of large  $\tan \beta$ , significant  $N_{13}$  (the Higgsino component of the  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ ), and relatively light  $m_{H_d}$ , where  $H_d$  is the Higgs with enhanced coupling to down quarks,  $C_{H_d d \bar{d}} \sim \tan \beta$ . In this limit, the relevant scattering amplitude is

$$\frac{a_d}{m_d} \approx \frac{-g_2 g_1 N_{13} N_{11} \tan \beta}{4m_W m_{H_d}^2}, \quad (8)$$

which in turn yields

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0 p, n} &\approx \frac{g_2^2 g_1^2 N_{13}^2 N_{11}^2 \tan^2 \beta m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}^2 m_{p, n}^4}{4\pi m_W^2 m_{H_d}^4 (m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} + m_{p, n})^2} \left[ f_{T_s}^{(p, n)} + \frac{2}{27} f_{TG}^{(p, n)} \right]^2 \\ &\approx 1.1 \times 10^{-41} \text{cm}^2 \left( \frac{N_{13}^2}{0.10} \right) \left( \frac{\tan \beta}{50} \right)^2 \left( \frac{100 \text{GeV}}{m_{H_d}} \right)^4. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

The higgsino content of the lightest neutralino is constrained by the invisible width of the  $Z$  as measured at LEP,  $\Gamma_{\text{inv}}^{\text{LEP}} = 499 \pm 1.5 \text{ MeV}$ . In contrast, the standard model prediction for this quantity is slightly ( $1.4\sigma$ ) higher,



$\Gamma_{\text{inv}}^{\text{SM}} = 501.3 \pm 0.6$  MeV. Combining the measured and predicted values, we find a  $2\sigma$  upper limit of  $\Gamma_{Z \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0} < 1.9$  MeV.

As  $\Gamma_{Z \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  scales with  $[N_{13}^2 - N_{14}^2]^2$ , we can translate this result to a limit of  $|N_{13}^2 - N_{14}^2| < 0.103$ . For moderate or large values of  $\tan \beta$ , the two higgsino terms do not efficiently cancel, leading us to conclude that  $|N_{13}^2| < 0.103$ .

There are also important constraints arising from  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_i^0$  for the relevant parameter regions.

- In the MSSM, it is only the heavier of the two CP-even Higgs bosons, the  $H^0$ , that can have enhanced down-type coupling in the region allowed by LEP Higgs constraints, while it is the lighter  $h^0$  that will play the role of the SM-like Higgs.
- In the NMSSM, there are actually two choices.
  1. The  $h_1$  is SM-like while the  $h_2$  (or  $h_3$  — not good for large  $\sigma_{SI}$ ) has enhanced  $C_{h_2 d \bar{d}}$  (the generalized analogue of  $\tan \beta$ ).

This configuration suffers from the fact that the  $h_2$  is not as light as might be possible.

In fact, we find that the largest cross sections do not arise from this configuration.

**Corollary:** Cogent-like cross sections in the MSSM are not possible since it is always the case that it is the (at least moderately heavy)  $H^0$  that is  $\sim H_d$ .

2. The  $h_1$  has enhanced  $C_{h_1 d\bar{d}}$  while the  $h_2$  is SM-like.

We find that this configuration gives the largest  $\sigma_{SI}$  values: a factor of 10 larger  $\sigma_{SI}$  is possible relative to the former configuration.

● Constraints on the 2nd configuration are significant!

1. Constraints on the neutral Higgs sector from  $Zh_2$  at LEP.

These are important since we can minimize  $m_{h_1}$  for low  $m_{\text{SUSY}}$  and this keeps  $m_{h_2}$  low.

In these cases the  $h_2$  can be in the “ideal” zone and escapes LEP detection via  $h_2 \rightarrow a_1 a_1$  decays with  $m_{a_1} < 2m_B$  (but very close to avoid BaBar limits).

Recall again that Dermisek and I have argued that the necessary “light- $a_1$ ” finetuning is not large due to the  $U(1)_R$  symmetry limit of the NMSSM.

## 2. LEP constraints on $h_1 a_1$ and $h_1 a_2$ .

The  $h_1 a_1$  cross section is  $\propto \text{maximal} \times (\cos \theta_A)^2$ . Thus, small  $\cos \theta_A$  is desirable, which fits with the need for not having strong  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow a_1^* \rightarrow X$  annihilations, so as to achieve adequate  $\Omega h^2$ .

## 3. Tevatron limits.

There are two especially relevant limits given focus on large  $\tan \beta$ :

- (a)  $b\bar{b}h_1$  associated production, which scales as  $C_{h_1 b\bar{b}}^2$ , the latter being something we want to maximize.
- (b) And, since the  $h^+$  tends to be quite light (e.g.  $\sim 120 - 140$  GeV) when the  $h_2$  is SM-like, it is quite critical to include constraints from Tevatron limits on  $t \rightarrow h^+ b$  with  $h^+ \rightarrow \tau^+ \nu_\tau$  (the dominant mode at large  $\tan \beta$ ).

We will (at most) accept any parameter choices that yield less than a  $2\sigma$  excess from the current limits in these two cases, but will also summarize how keeping only points with at most  $1\sigma$  excess affects results.

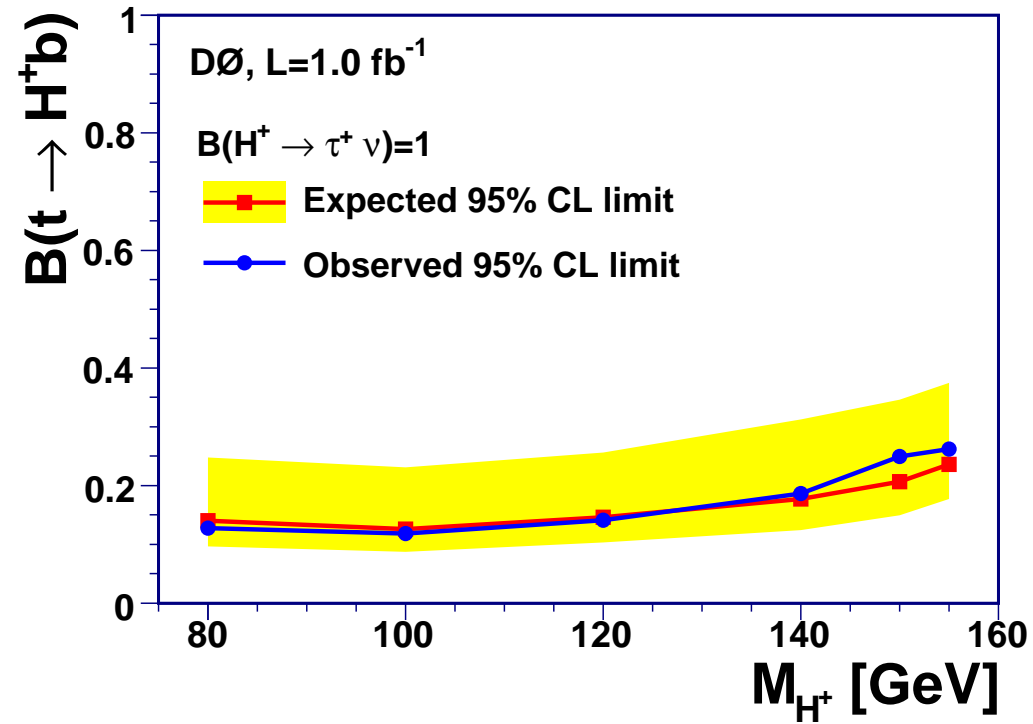
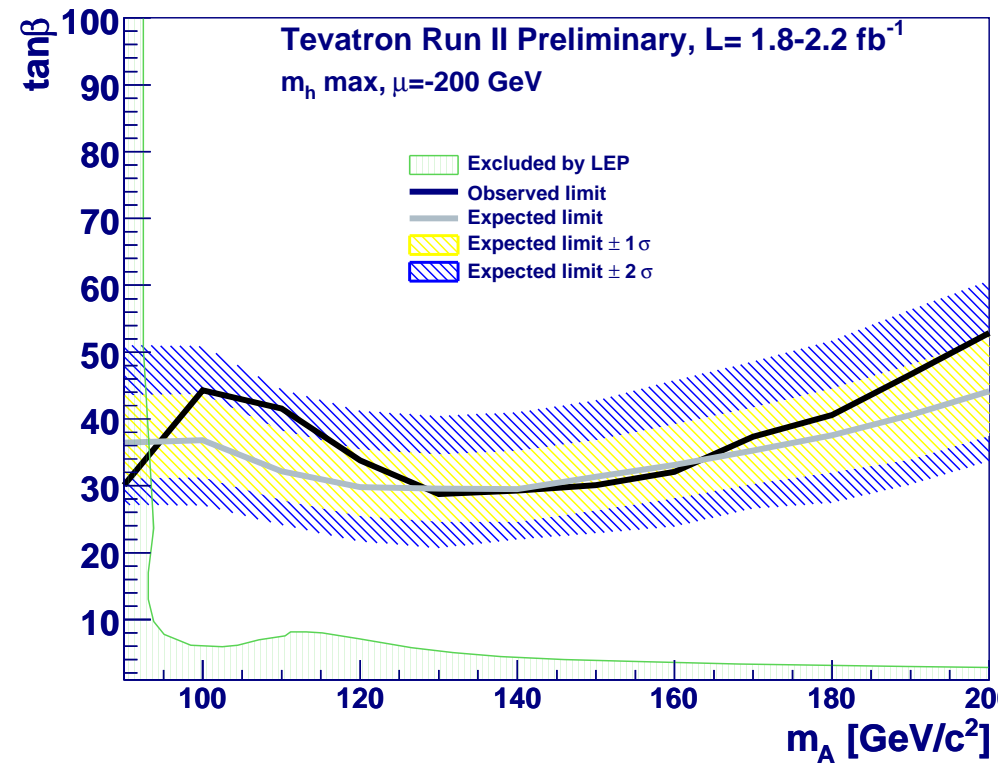


Figure 4: In left plot, must correct for fact that these curves assume  $m_{H^0} \sim m_{A^0}$  which does not normally apply in our case.

#### 4. *B*-physics constraints.

(a) The most restricting constraint arises from the very strong limit on  $B(B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)$ .

Achieving a small enough value fixes  $A_t$  as a function of  $m_{\text{SUSY}}$ .

(b)  $b \rightarrow s\gamma$ .

– The  $\mu > 0$  scenarios have roughly  $1\sigma$  discrepancy with the  $2\sigma$  experimental window.

– The  $\mu < 0$  scenarios only rarely have a  $b \rightarrow s\gamma$  problem.

(c)  $B^+ \rightarrow \tau^+ \nu_\tau$ .

– The  $\mu > 0$  scenarios are mostly within the  $2\sigma$  experimental window.

– The  $\mu < 0$  scenarios with largest  $\sigma_{SI}$  typically have  $1 - 2\sigma$  deviations from the experimental  $2\sigma$  window.

5.  $(g - 2)_\mu$ .

This is possibly crucial.

– For  $\mu < 0$ , the largest  $\sigma_{SI}$  values are achieved when  $(g - 2)_\mu$  is a few sigma outside the  $2\sigma$  limits including theoretical uncertainties.

If  $(g - 2)_\mu$  is strictly enforced, then it is not possible to get  $\sigma_{SI}$  as large as that suggested by the COGENT data.

– For  $\mu > 0$ , the largest  $\sigma_{SI}$  (so far) yield  $(g - 2)_\mu$  within the  $2\sigma$  exp.+theor. window, but (again, so far) after including all other constraints the  $\sigma_{SI}$  values for  $\mu > 0$  are not as large as those found with  $\mu < 0$ .

6.  $\Omega h^2$ :

Of course, we will require that any accepted scenario have correct relic density ( $\sim 0.1$ ) within the somewhat loose experimental limits encoded in NMSSMTools.

## Procedure

1. Choose parameters, adjusting  $A_t$  to minimize  $B(B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)$ .
2. Check LEP constraints, including invisible  $Z$  decays,  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0 \tilde{\chi}_{i>1}$ , and Higgs. Immediately reject any parameter choices that do not obey constraints encoded in NMHDECAY (which do not include latest ALEPH limits).
3. Adjust  $m_{a_1}$  (by changing  $A_\kappa$ ) and/or  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  so as to get correct relic density. Make sure that such adjustments do not cause problems with 2. above.

In many cases, LEP constraints are very sensitive to changes in  $m_{a_1}$ . This is typically the case when  $m_{h_2} < 110$  GeV as for most  $m_{\text{SUSY}} = 500$  GeV points since then large  $B(h_2 \rightarrow a_1 a_1 \rightarrow 4\tau)$  is needed to escape LEP constraints.

In these cases, only  $m_{a_1} \sim 10$  GeV is consistent with both LEP and BaBar limits and then only a very limited range of  $A_\kappa$ , *i.e.*  $m_{a_1}$ , adjustment is

possible. As a result, it is often impossible to get correct  $\Omega h^2$ . This is especially true for  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} \sim 4 - 7$  GeV, *i.e.* near  $\frac{1}{2}m_{a_1}$ , which is in the heart of the Cogent region, thereby explaining the gap in  $m_{\text{SUSY}} = 500$  GeV (blue) points with large  $\sigma_{SI}$  in this region in the upcoming plots.

However, in cases where  $m_{h_2} > 110$  GeV and  $B(h_2 \rightarrow a_1 a_1) \sim 1$  ( $B(h_2 \rightarrow b\bar{b}) \sim 0$ ), almost any choice of  $m_{a_1} > 10$  GeV will obey LEP and BaBar constraints. Then, one can increase  $m_{a_1}$  and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  in correlated fashion in such a way as to maintain  $\Omega h^2 \sim 0.1$ , with  $\sigma_{SI}$  changing very slowly.

In other words,  $\sigma_{SI}$  depends very weakly on  $A_\kappa$  so that the selection of points with large  $\sigma_{SI}$  can be made fairly independently of getting correct  $\Omega h^2$ .

4. Then assess which, if any, of the additional ALEPH, Tevatron, or  $B$ -physics constraints are violated.

Keep any points that are not too far from obeying all these latter constraints.

For the points plotted below, ALEPH constraints and BaBar  $\Upsilon$  decay constraints are satisfied, but some of the others are slightly violated as

described below.

## Results

NMSSM Cogent-like points:  $\mu = -200$  GeV

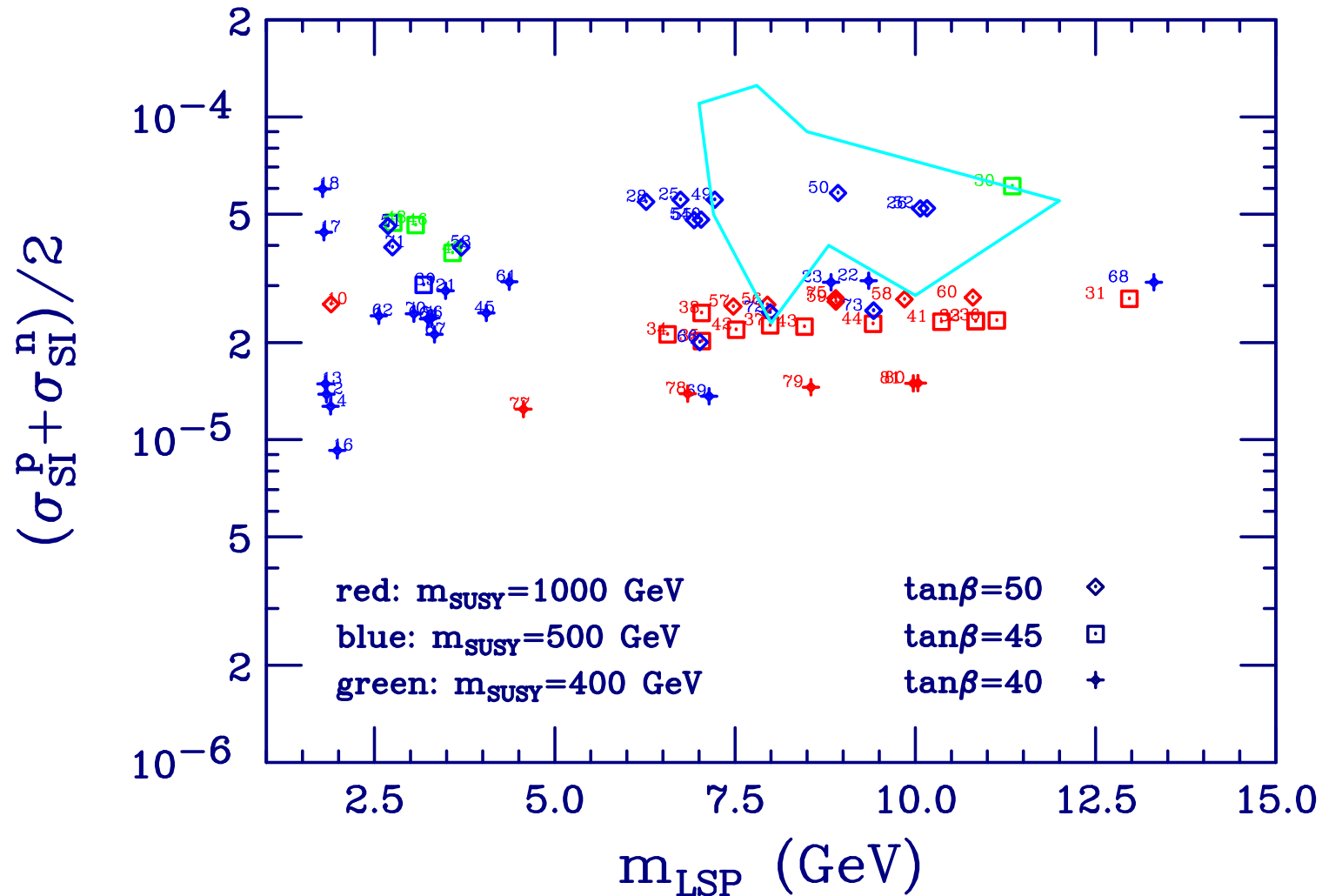
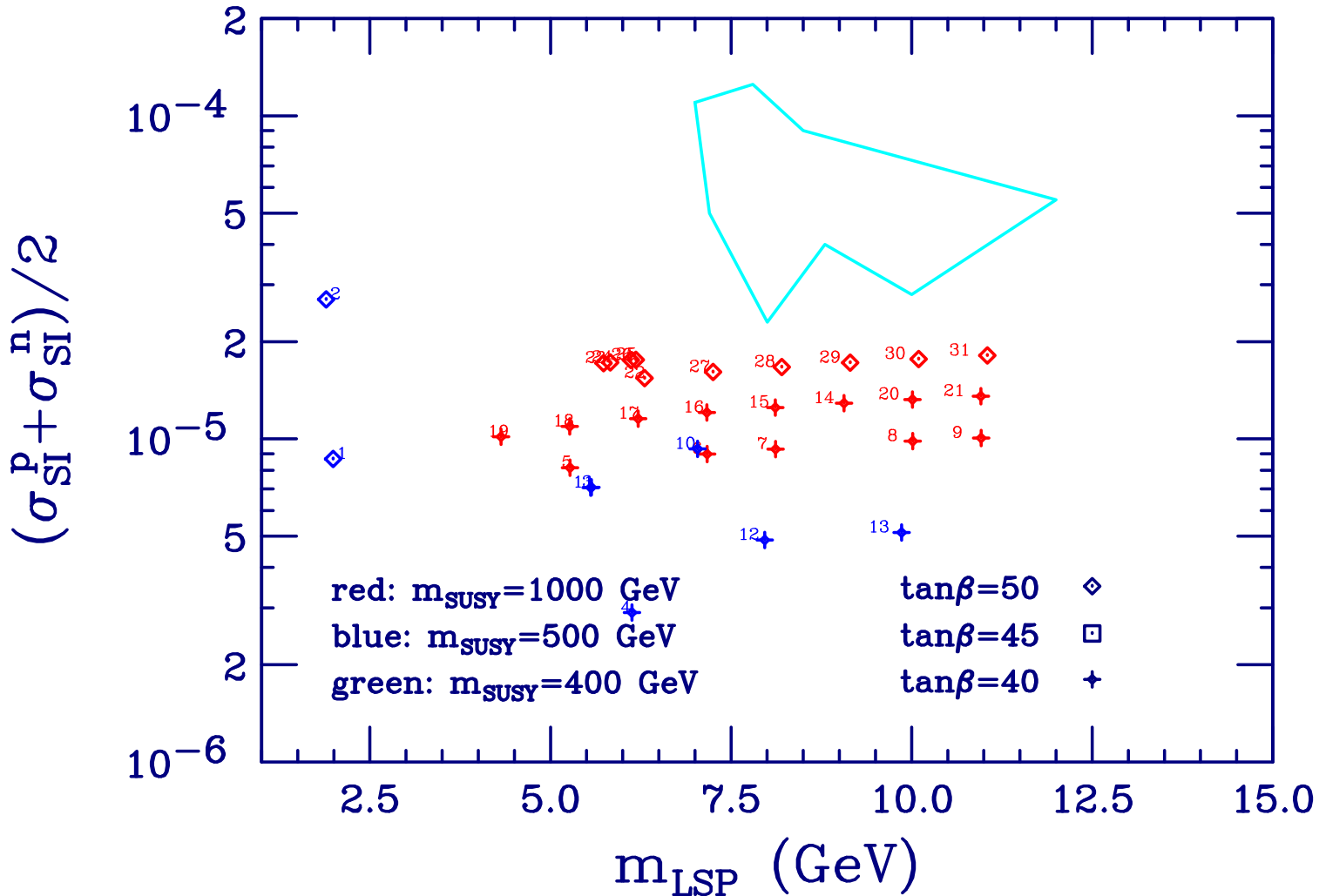


Figure 5:  $\mu < 0$ : all points. Almost all these points have  $m_{eff} < 115$  GeV.

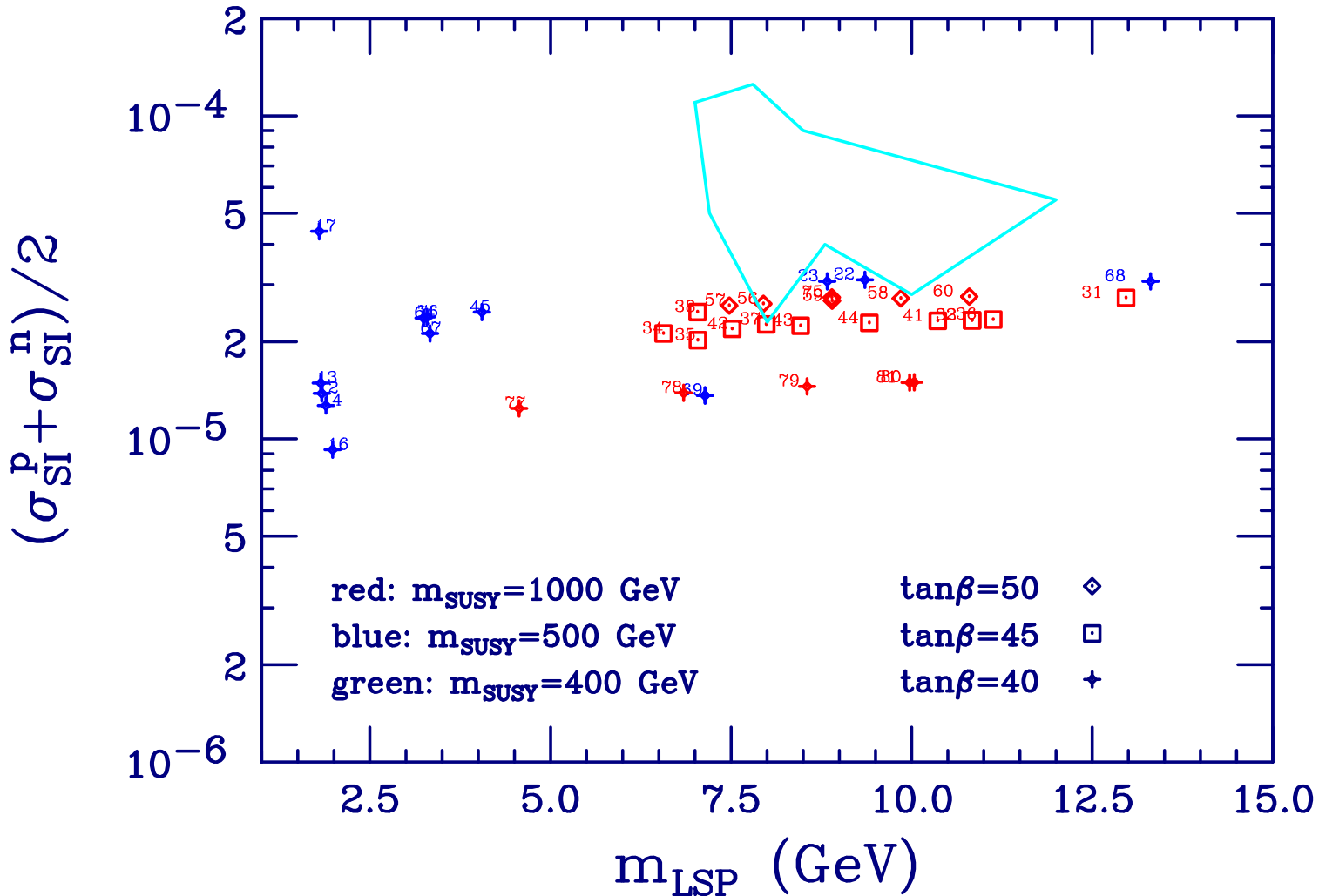


# NMSSM Cogent-like points: $\mu=+200$ GeV



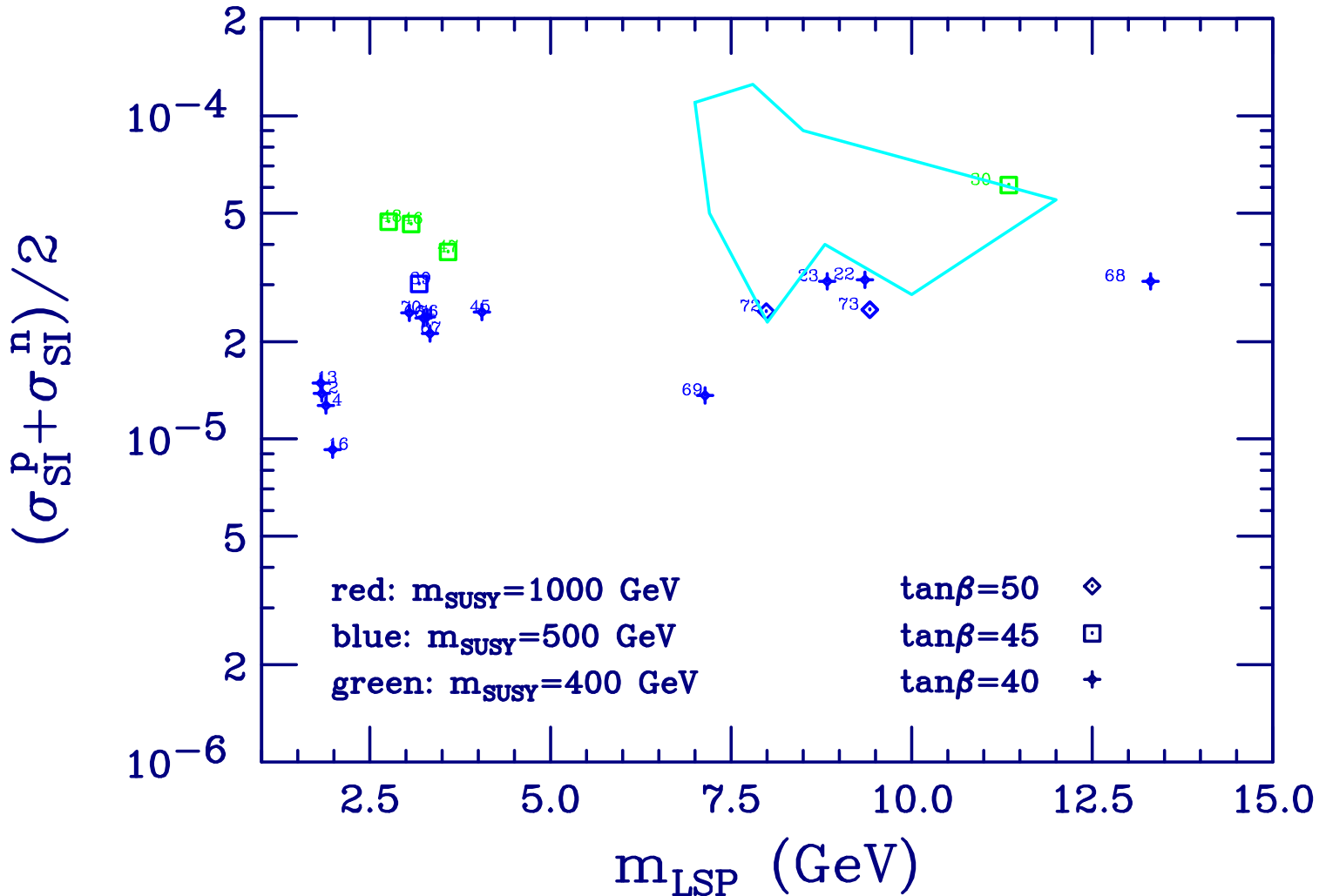
**Figure 6:**  $\mu > 0$ : all points (so far). Observe that the  $m_{SUSY} = 1000$  GeV points are a factor of about 2 lower than equivalent  $\mu < 0$  points. No low- $m_{SUSY}$  points with large  $\sigma_{SI}$  have emerged so far after imposing Higgs sector restrictions including LEP constraints.

# NMSSM Cogent-like points: $\mu = -200$ GeV



**Figure 7:**  $\mu < 0$ : all points with no more than  $1\sigma$  discrepancy with  $h_1(\rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-)b\bar{b}$  and/or  $t \rightarrow h^+(\rightarrow \tau^+\nu)b$  Tevatron bounds. Note that highest- $\sigma_{SI}$  large- $\tan\beta$  points have disappeared.

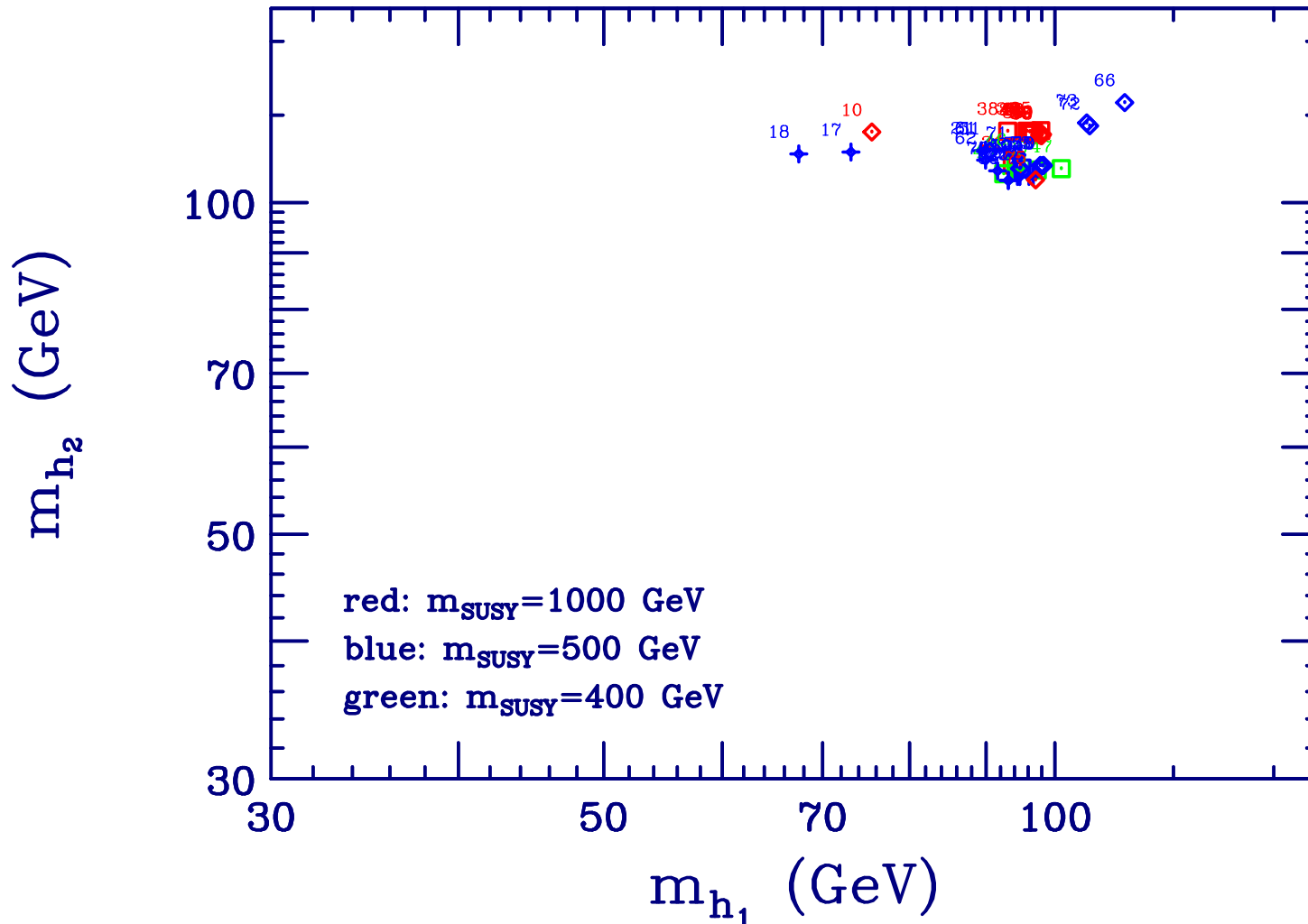
# NMSSM Cogent-like points: $\mu = -200$ GeV



**Figure 8:**  $\mu < 0$ : all points with  $m_{eff} < 110$  GeV. Note that  $m_{SUSY} = 1000$  GeV points have disappeared, but there are still some low- $m_{SUSY}$  points on Cogent region border. Note: points 22 and 23 are common to this and previous figure.

# NMSSM Cogent-like points: $\mu = -200$ GeV

$$\sigma_{SI} > 0.2 \times 10^{-4} \text{ pb}$$



**Figure 9:**  $\mu < 0$ : all points. Note that both  $m_{h_2}$  and  $m_{h_1}$  are below or not far above 110 GeV.

# NMSSM Cogent-like points: $\mu = -200$ GeV

$\sigma_{SI} > 0.2 \times 10^{-4}$  pb

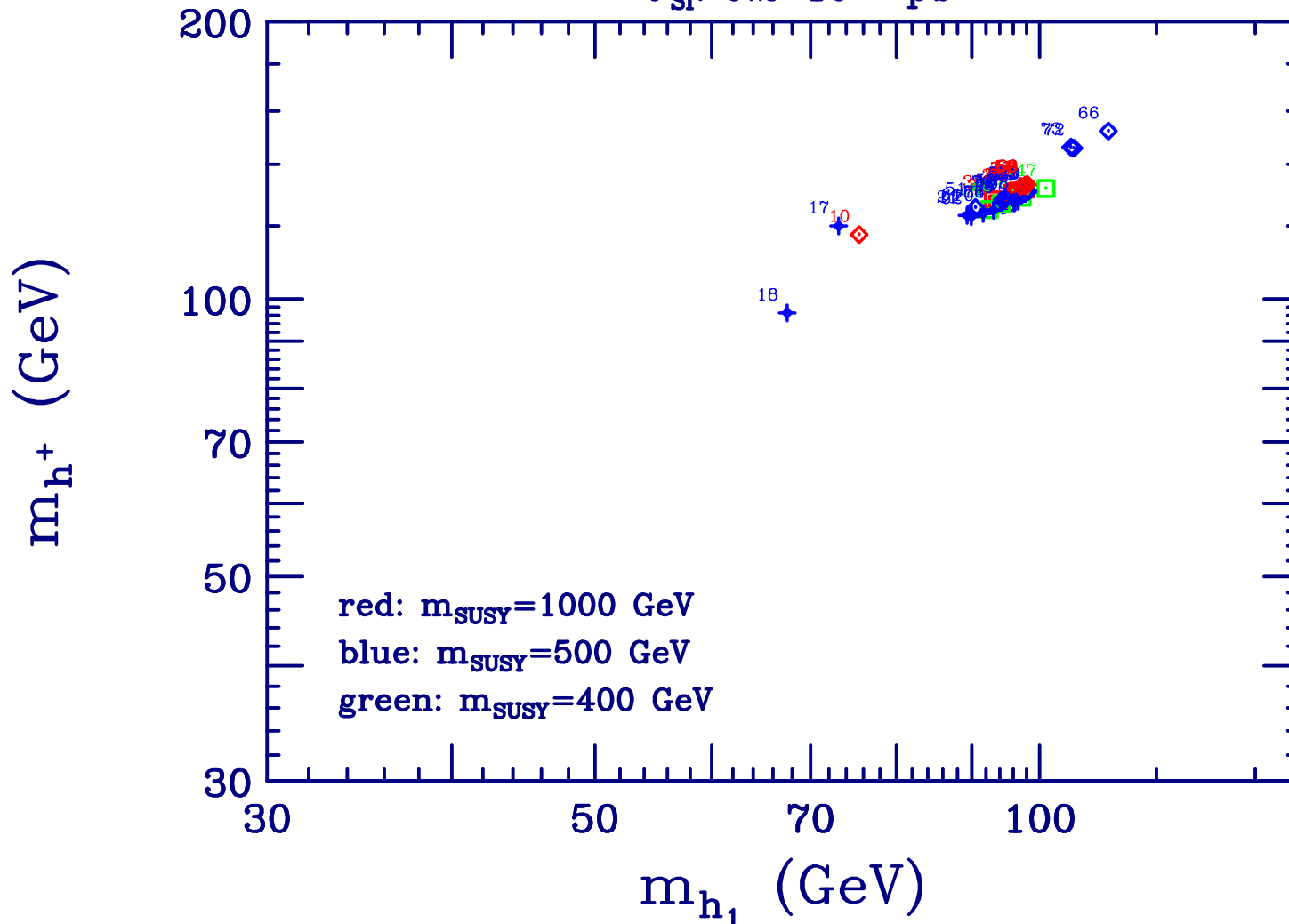
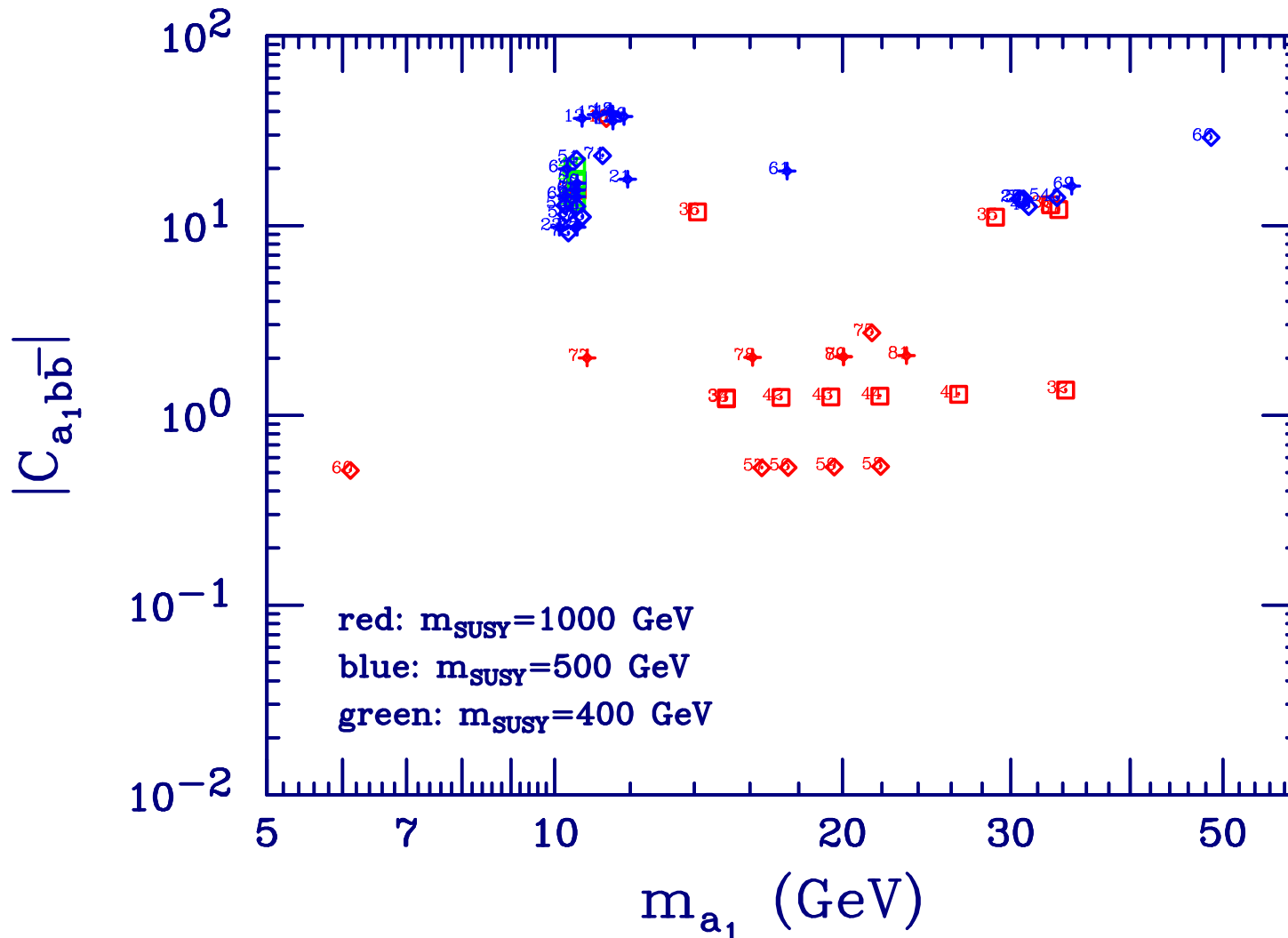


Figure 10:  $\mu < 0$ : all points. Note that  $m_{h^+}$  is also small.

# NMSSM Cogent-like points: $\mu = -200$ GeV



**Figure 11:**  $\mu < 0$ : all points. The cluster of (pretty good) blue points ( $m_{\text{SUSY}} = 500$  GeV) near  $m_{a_1} \sim 10$  GeV will have “significant”  $B(a_1 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-)$  and should be readily observable at the LHC using  $gg \rightarrow a_1 \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ . (Of course, they may be eliminated using first run data: c.f. Table 1 with  $|C_{a_1 b \bar{b}}| \sim 1$ .)

NMSSM Cogent-like points:  $\mu = -200$  GeV

$\sigma_{SI} > 0.2 \times 10^{-4}$  pb

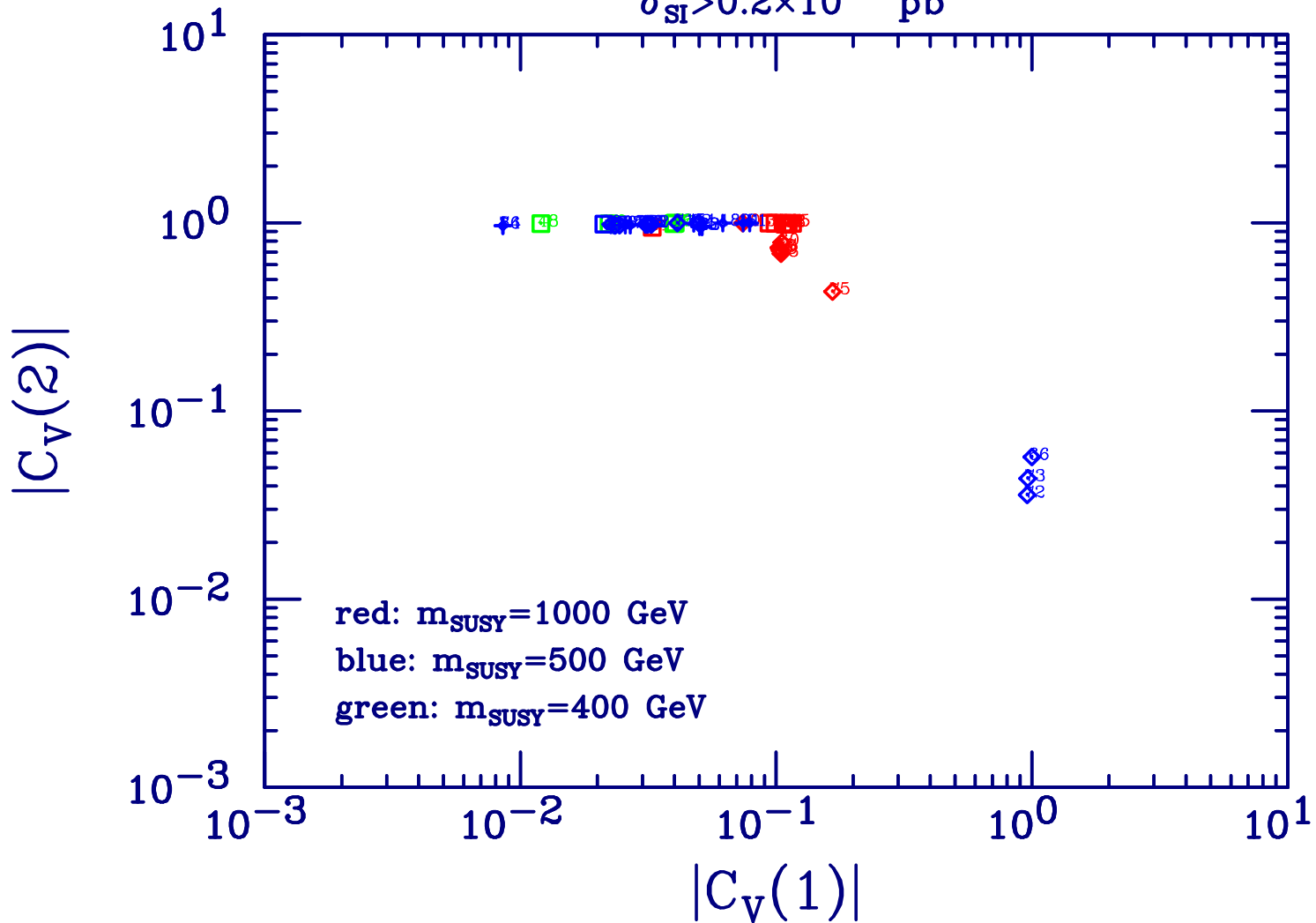


Figure 12:  $\mu < 0$ : all points. Note: one or the other of  $h_2$  or  $h_1$ , and usually  $h_2$ , is SM-like.

- In a very recent paper by Das and Ellwanger (arXiv:1007.1151), cross sections as large as those found here are not achieved. They have all  $\sigma_{SI}$  near  $10^{-6}$  pb (without enhancing  $s$  content of nucleon).

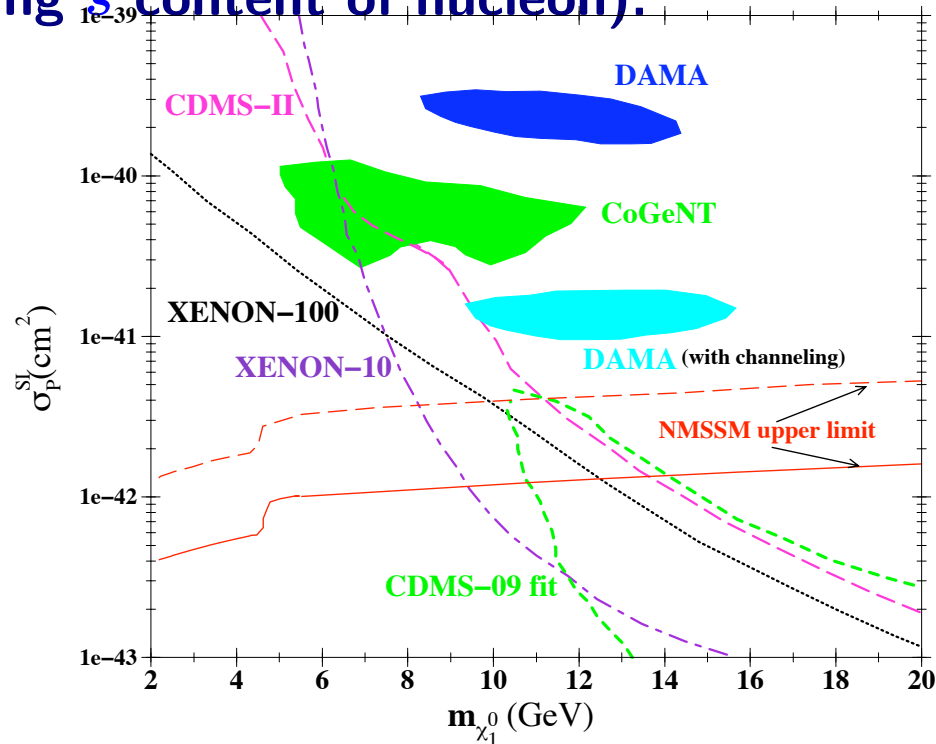


Figure 2: Upper bounds on the spin-independent cross section  $\sigma_p^{SI}$  in the NMSSM for default values of the strange quark content of nucleons as a full red line, and an enhanced strange quark content of nucleons as a dashed red line. Also shown are regions compatible with DAMA, CoGeNT and CDMS-II, and limits from Xenon10, Xenon100 and CDMS-II as explained in the text.

It may be that their smaller  $\sigma_{SI}$  is largely because they did not seek scenarios with  $h_1 \sim H_d$ . In addition, they did not take advantage of the  $m_{a_1} \sim 10$  GeV possibilities (they regard these as too finetuned). Should we opt for enhanced- $s$  quark nucleon content, our cross sections would go up by about the same factor of  $\sim 3$  as in their plot.



# Conclusions

- If you are willing to relax a few  $B$  physics bounds and/or  $(g - 2)_\mu$  bounds, then the SM-like Higgs can be in the ideal mass range and  $\sigma_{SI}$  can be Cogent-like.

Front



**WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T  
HAVE YOUR CAKE  
AND EAT IT TOO. . .**



**IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY,  
ENJOY EVERY BITE!**

Inside

- We theorists have been going a bit crazy waiting for **THE** Higgs and **THE** dark matter particle. There is a good chance that the Higgs sector and Dark Matter are strongly related.



- "Unfortunately", a lot of the theories developed make sense, but I remain enamored of the NMSSM scenarios and hope for eventual verification that nature has chosen "wisely".
- The first sign of the Higgs sector could be detection of a light  $a$  and such

an  $a$  could play a crucial role in the case of light dark matter.

- Meanwhile, all I can do is watch and wait (but perhaps not from quite so close a viewpoint).

