

SEARCH FOR RESONANT DOUBLE HIGGS PRODUCTION WITH  $b\bar{b}Z\bar{Z}$   
DECAYS IN THE  $b\bar{b}\ell\ell\nu\bar{\nu}$  FINAL STATE IN  $pp$  COLLISIONS AT  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV

by

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Since the discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012 by the ATLAS and CMS experiments, most of the quantum mechanical properties that describe the long-awaited Higgs boson have been measured. Due to the outstanding work of the LHC, over a hundred of  $\text{fb}^{-1}$  of proton collisions data have been delivered to both experiments. Finally, it became sensible for analyses teams to start working with a very low cross section processes involving the Higgs boson, e.g., a recent success in observing  $t\bar{t}H$  and  $VHbb$  processes. One of the main remaining untouched topics is a double Higgs boson production. However, an additional hundred of  $\text{fb}^{-1}$  per year from the HL-LHC will not necessarily help us much with the SM double Higgs physics, as the process may remain unseen even in the most optimistic scenarios. The solution is to work in parallel on new reconstruction and signal extraction methods as well as new analysis techniques to improve the sensitivity of measurements. This thesis is about both approaches: we have used the largest available dataset at the time the analysis has been performed and developed/used the most novel analysis methods. One such method is the new electron identification algorithm that we have developed in the CMS electron identification group, to which I have had a privilege to contribute during several years of my stay at CERN.

The majority of this thesis is devoted to techniques for the first search at the LHC for double Higgs boson production mediated by a heavy narrow-width resonance in

the  $b\bar{b}ZZ$  channel:  $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}ZZ^* \rightarrow b\bar{b}\ell\ell\nu\bar{\nu}$ . The measurement searches for the resonant production of a Higgs boson pair in the range of masses of the resonant parent particle from 250 to 1000 GeV using  $35.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data taken in 2016 at 13 TeV. Two spin scenarios of the resonance are considered: spin 0 and spin 2. In the absence of the evidence of the resonant double Higgs boson production from the previous searches, we proceed with setting the upper confidence limits.

*“You keep writing, we will keep reading”*

*Ken Bloom, 2018.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This will be a long list!

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## CHAPTER 1

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### *bbZZ* Physics Analysis

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In this chapter, we report on a search for the resonant production of the double Higgs boson system. Higgs boson pairs subsequently decay through the  $bbZZ$  channel. The final state consists of two b jets, two charged leptons, and two neutrinos ( $2b2l2\nu$  final state). Analysed data set was collected in 2016 by the CMS experiment in proton-proton collisions at 13 TeV COM energy, and corresponds to  $35.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of the integrated luminosity.

### 1.1 Physics analysis overview

We search for di-Higgs production through the gluon fusion mechanism mediated by two types of possible heavy resonances (separately): a spin-2 Randall-Sundrum (RS1) Kaluza-Klein (KK) graviton and a spin-0 RS1 radion [44, 52]. The width of the graviton and radion is assumed to be negligible with respect to the experimental resolution. We look for decays of WED particles (X) to the  $bbZZ$  and  $bbWW$  channels with the two b jets, two charged leptons, and two neutrinos final state  $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow bbZZ/bbWW \rightarrow 2b2l2\nu$ . In the above, one of the Higgs bosons decays to a pair of b quarks and the other Higgs boson decays to ZZ or WW system. We consider only leptonic decays of ZZ and WW. Intermediate taus are allowed to decay to daughter

muons and electrons. We explore the invariant masses of WED particles ranging from 250 to 1000 GeV. The result of the measurement is the production cross section of the resonance times the branching fraction of its decay into the aforementioned  $2b2l2\nu$  final state.

In this data analysis (later referred to as the analysis), we will describe first the data sets (often referred to as a dataset) and triggers. The measurement uses the DoubleEG and DoubleMuon PDs defined in the previous chapter. These di-electron and di-muon channels are analysed separately and the information is combined in the final result. To select the events with two prompt charged leptons, a set of triggers is applied. To increase the statistics of the measurement and maximise the number of leptons passing the selection, certain complex trigger strategies are employed.

We continue then with the discussion on the MC simulation of the signal and background processes (later referred to as signal and background). The signal MC samples had to be produced for both graviton and radion particles for 16 mass points from 250 to 1000 GeV to cover the whole search range.

The description of the physics object reconstruction and event selection is given. Physics objects are constructed using the information from the CMS subsystems and the output of the PF algorithm. Then, based on the final state signature, the events are selected containing corresponding physics objects. The construction of the Higgs and Z boson candidates is discussed at length. The characteristics of signal and background processes are specified and data-MC SFs are discussed.

MVA technique is used to improve signal-background discrimination. We rely on the BDT classifier to reduce the contribution of the background processes in the signal-enriched regions. In all physics measurements, there are sources of the systematic and statistical uncertainties that affect the final results. We discuss all major uncertainties at length and specify the size of the effect of individual types of uncer-

tainties on the final result.

We present the statistical analysis used to extract the results of the measurements and discuss the CMS statistical package that has been used to extract the final results. Then, we present the results of the measurement and compare them with the theory predictions. Finally, we discuss the “grand HH combination” using measurements of all available HH channels.

The material in this chapter follows the description of two articles to which the author contributed directly [159, 181].

## 1.2 Data analysis strategy

We form the Lorentz energy-momentum vector associated with the double Higgs system. This vector is constructed as the sum of the Lorentz vectors of the two leptons, two b-jets, and the four-vector representing neutrinos ( $\cancel{p}_T$ ). As the z component of the neutrinos' momentum is unknown, we proceed forming a pseudo transverse mass:  $\tilde{M}_T(HH) = \sqrt{E^2 - p_z^2}$  (further referred to as transverse mass for brevity), where  $E$  and  $p_z$  are the energy and the z axis component of the Lorentz energy-momentum vector of the di-Higgs candidate.

The  $\tilde{M}_T(HH)$  distributions are derived for 16 mass and for both spin hypotheses. The  $\tilde{M}_T(HH)$  is constructed using the signal and background simulations. The distributions are produced separately for the signal-enriched (SR) and control regions (CR), which are defined later in this chapter.

To extract the final results, we perform a simultaneous fit of the sum of the signal and background  $\tilde{M}_T(HH)$  distributions in the SR and CRs to the data. The fits are produced for both di-electron and di-muon channels and the results are combined. We obtain 95% CL upper limits on the HH production cross times the BFs of the



subsequent decay to the final state of this measurement. The employed statistical method is based on the  $CL_S$  asymptotic procedure [107].

## 1.3 Data and Triggers

### 1.3.1 Data

The search is performed using DoubleMuon and DoubleEG PDs corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $35.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  recorded by the CMS experiment during Run 2 in 2016. The data were produced in proton-proton collisions at the LHC at 13 TeV COM energy. The data were collected in several data taking periods and approximate values of the integrated luminosity of these periods are given in the Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1:** List of used data sets collected by the CMS in 2016. Each era contains a unique letter identifier and also specifies the date when the data processing was done. If the re-processing was run, the name contains the word ending “v2”. Corresponding integrated luminosities are shown in the second column.

Dataset	$\int \mathcal{L} \text{ (fb}^{-1}\text{)}$
Run2016B-03Feb2017-v2	$\sim 5.9$
Run2016C-03Feb2017-v1	$\sim 2.7$
Run2016D-03Feb2017-v1	$\sim 4.3$
Run2016E-03Feb2017-v1	$\sim 4.1$
Run2016F-03Feb2017-v1	$\sim 3.2$
Run2016G-03Feb2017-v1	$\sim 3.8$
Run2016H-03Feb2017-v1	$\sim 11.8$
Total Luminosity	35.9

### 1.3.2 Triggers

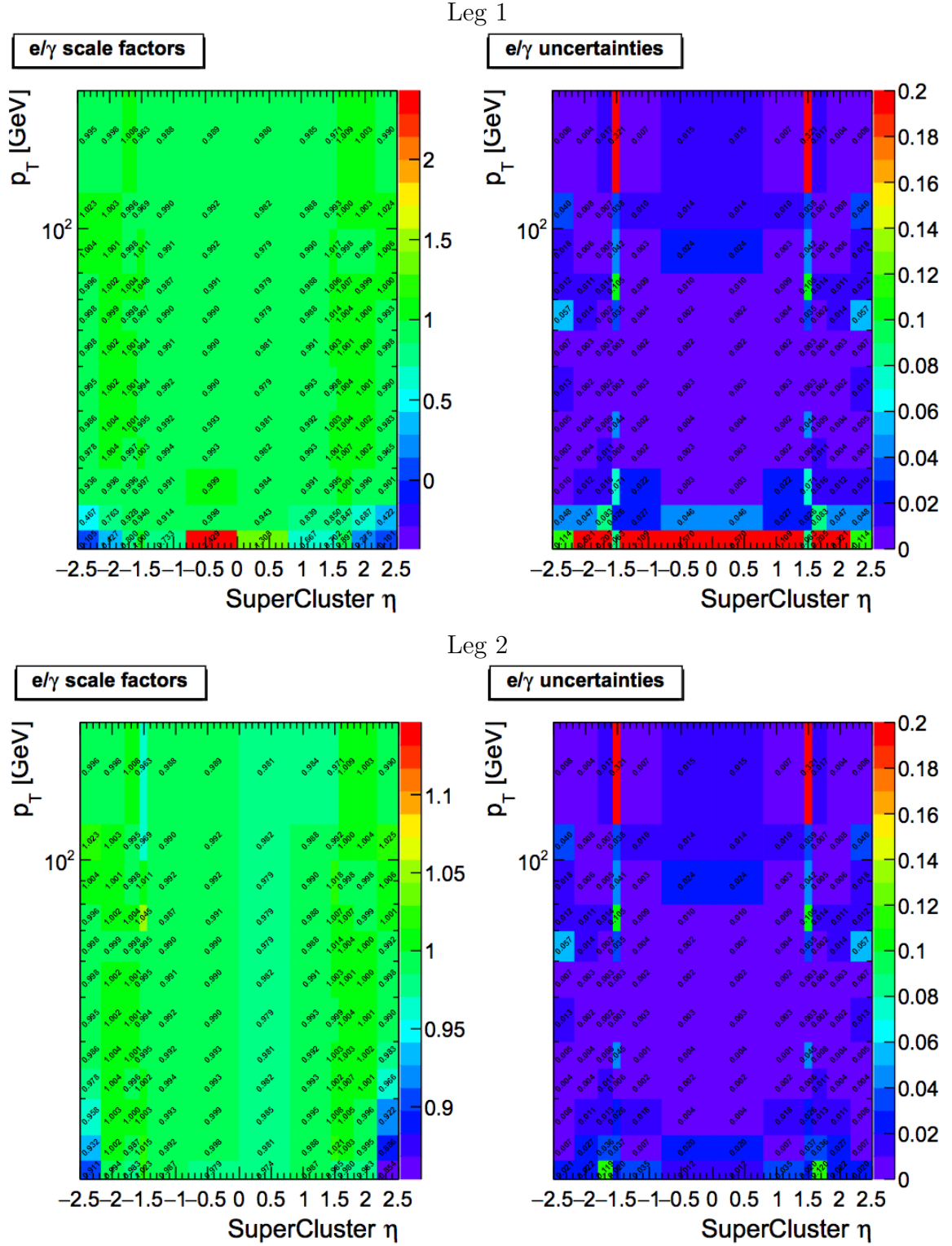
The data events that are used in this measurement are selected with a set of HLT triggers, each requiring the presence of two muons or two electrons in the event. In the di-electron final state, the trigger requires the leading electron to have the  $p_T$  above

23 GeV, and the sub-leading electron to have the  $p_T$  above 12 GeV. The latter leg corresponds to a relatively low efficiency electron. Since the measurement is focused on “golden” electrons coming from on-shell Z boson decays, the offline selection is slightly tighter than the HLT selection and requires the sub-leading electron to have the  $p_T$  above 15 GeV.

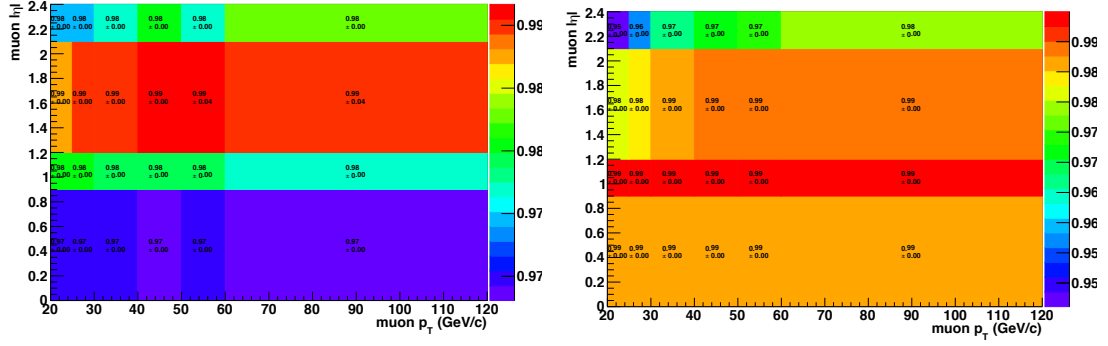
The final state that contains two prompt muons is selected with the HLT path that is a combination of several HLT paths chained using the logical “OR” operation, in other words, the muons are required to pass the selection of at least one of the HLT paths. At the HLT level, the leading and the sub-leading muons have to pass 17 and 8 GeV  $p_T$  requirements respectively. The difference among HLT paths has been explained at length in the Section ???. The offline analysis increases the  $p_T$  threshold values to 20 and 15 GeV correspondingly. For the offline selection, electrons are selected in the range  $\eta < 2.5$  and muons in the range  $\eta < 2.4$ . For both channels, the  $\eta$  region in the gap (1.4442 to 1.566) between the barrel and endcap is excluded.

The same trigger selections are applied to MC simulated events. The efficiencies are then derived for MC and data, and SFs are determined using the TnP procedure discussed in Section ???. Trigger SFs have been computed for each trigger leg separately, since the selection of each leg varies (Fig. 1.1). Following the recommendations from the CMS Muon POG, scale factors have been calculated separately for two data collecting periods: runs B to G (Fig. 1.2, and run H separately (Fig. 1.3), since the LHC conditions varied significantly for the run H. All eras have slightly different integrated luminosities, see Table ??, so the final SFs are luminosity averaged. Additionally, as was discussed in the chapter on CMS Physics Objects Reconstruction, some triggers did not contain DZ requirement, while others did. Therefore, scale factors of the DZ selection are also measured, see Fig. 1.4). Prior to measuring the trigger scale factors, the electrons and muons were required to satisfy ID and ISO

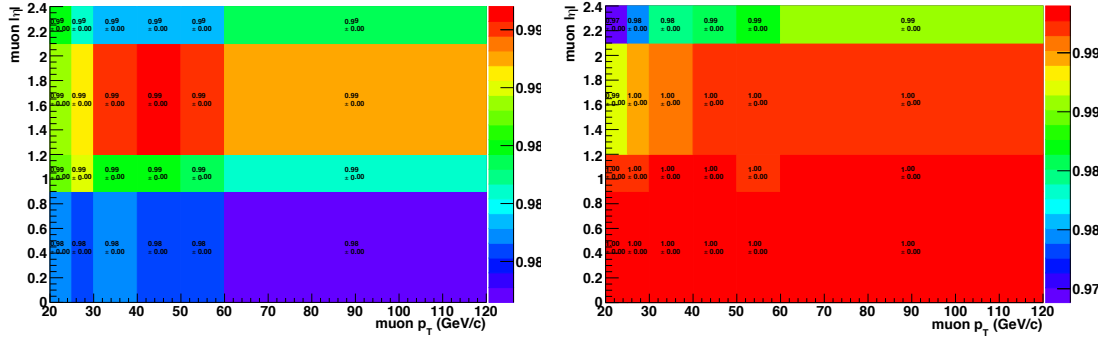
selections, more in the subsections ??.



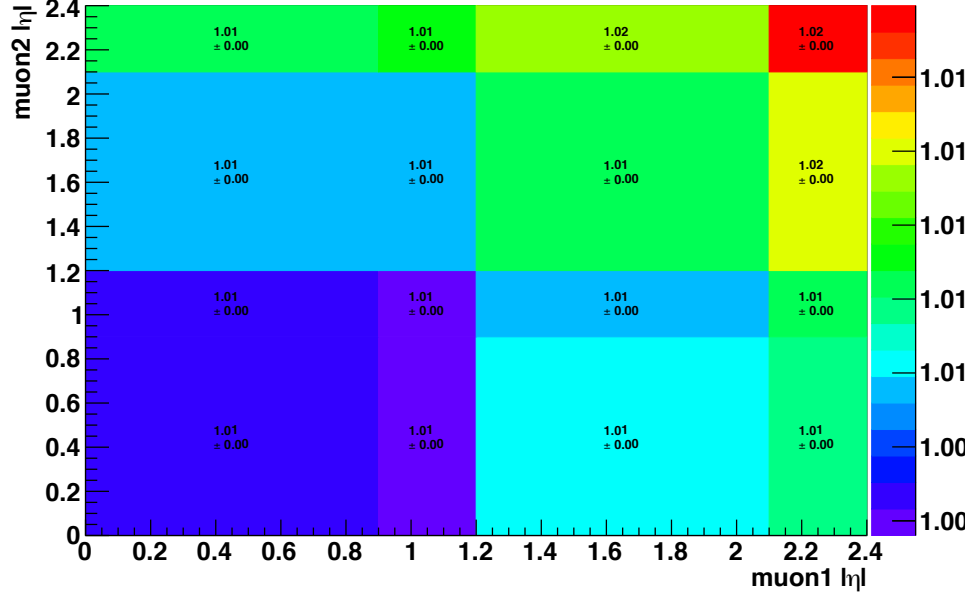
**Figure 1.1:** HLT trigger SFs for electrons approved by the CMS  $e/\gamma$  POG group. SFs are derived for both legs separately: Leg 1 (top) corresponds to the leading electron and Leg 2 (bottom) corresponds to the sub-leading electron. The values of the SFs are shown on the left, and the associated uncertainties with each value are shown on the right. Taken from [1].



**Figure 1.2:** Final HLT SFs for muons as a function of  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ , measured for eras B to G. Left: Scale factors for 8 GeV leg (sub-leading muon). Right: Scale factors for 17 GeV leg (leading muons), provided that the sub-leading muon already passed 8 GeV  $p_T$  requirement.



**Figure 1.3:** Final HLT SFs for muons as a function of  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ , measured for the era H. Left: Scale factors for 8 GeV leg (sub-leading muon). Right: Scale factors for 17 GeV leg (leading muons), provided that the sub-leading muon already passed 8 GeV  $p_T$  requirement.



**Figure 1.4:** SFs for muons of the dZ requirement as a function of  $\eta$ 's of both muons.

## 1.4 Simulated Samples

The data analysis carried out in this thesis is optimised using the MC simulation. MC samples for signal and background processes have been produced with various HEP software (“generators”) that generates the processes of interest: processes that mimic the final state of this measurement.

### 1.4.1 Signal processes simulation

The signal Monte Carlo (MC) samples have been generated using MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO [87] package. In these samples, simulated at leading order (LO), gluon fusion production of WED spin-0 and spin-2 narrow resonances is followed by the decay of the resonances to double Higgs boson system. All Higgs boson are assumed to be SM Higgs bosons with the invariant mass of 125 GeV. Samples are generated for two spin hypotheses and 16 mass values covering the range of heavy resonance masses

from 250 to 1000 GeV. Two types of signal samples are present: resonance decaying to  $2b2l2\nu$  final state through the  $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow bbZZ$  decays and also through the  $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow bbWW$  decays. In both samples the first Higgs boson decays to a pair of  $b$  quarks. However, in the first sample the other Higgs boson decays to  $ZZ$  pair, while in the second sample the other Higgs boson decays to  $WW$  pair. Only  $Z$  boson decays in the a dielectron, a dimuon, or a two neutrino state are selected. For  $W$  bosons, the chosen signature is characterised by a  $W$  boson decay to an electron and an anti-electron neutrino or a muon accompanied by an anti-muon neutrino.

To compare the expected numbers of events in the simulation to the number of observed events in the data for a given integrated luminosity, the signal production cross section has been normalised to 2 pb. This is a typical value of the production cross section of the WED particle in the 250-300 GeV range, the range to which the current physics analyses are very sensitive with the available LHC data. Additionally, the computed event rates take into account the branching fractions of the corresponding di-Higgs decay chains to the final state: 0.0012 and 0.0266 for  $HH \rightarrow bbZZ \rightarrow bbl\ell\nu\nu$  and  $HH \rightarrow bbWW \rightarrow bbl\nu\ell\nu$ , respectively [103].

## 1.4.2 Background processes simulation

In this analysis the main background processes are top-antitop production ( $t\bar{t}$ ) and Drell-Yan production in association with jets. Other background processes that contribute to a lesser degree include the single top production, diboson production, and the production of a single Higgs boson in association with a  $Z$  boson (“ZH production”), see Table 1.2. Other background processes are fully rejected in the event selection and thus are neglected.

**Table 1.2:** Background Monte Carlo samples

DY plus 1 Jet	MADGRAPH5_aMC@NLO-PYTHIA
DY plus 2 Jets	MADGRAPH5_aMC@NLO-PYTHIA
DY plus 3 Jets	MADGRAPH5_aMC@NLO-PYTHIA
DY plus 4 Jets	MADGRAPH5_aMC@NLO-PYTHIA
WW	PYTHIA
WZ	PYTHIA
ZZ	PYTHIA
ZH with $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ and $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$	MADGRAPH5_aMC@NLO
$t\bar{t}$	POWHEG-PYTHIA
top quark tW channel	POWHEG-PYTHIA
$\bar{t}$ quark tW channel	POWHEG-PYTHIA
top quark t-channel	POWHEG-PYTHIA
$\bar{t}$ t-channel	POWHEG-PYTHIA
top quark s-channel	MADGRAPH5_aMC@NLO-PYTHIA

Drell-Yan (DY) process in association with one to four jets is generated at leading order (LO) using MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO with the MLM matching scheme [110]. To account for the higher order QCD and electroweak effects in V+jets production (following [?]), DY events are further reweighted according to the dilepton transverse momentum.

The simulations of the background processes associated with top quark production are generated at next-to-leading order (NLO). POWHEG [?, ?, ?, 158] generator was used to generate the samples for top quark pair production and single top quark production in the tW and t channels. For the single top s channel production, the MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO generator was used. Single top backgrounds have been rescaled to the theoretical values of the NNLO cross sections [?, ?].

PYTHIA 8.212 [?, 156] was used to generate diboson samples at LO. Diboson background yields are normalized to NLO cross sections [?, ?, ?]. The dominant SM Higgs background process, the SM production of a single Higgs boson in the association with a Z boson (ZH), is simulated at NLO using the MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO gen-



erator with FxFx merging [157]. The SM Higgs background from the ZH process is scaled to NNLO with the MCFM program [112]. All the final cross section values at the NNLO accuracy in perturbative QCD have been computed with the original generators and are found to be in agreement with the values from the LHC Higgs cross section working group [97, 99–102].

Normalizations for  $t\bar{t}$  and DY background processes are determined from data, as explained later in this chapter. The NNPDF3.0 [?] parton distribution functions (PDF) set is used for all the LO and NLO samples. POWHEG and MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO interfaced with PYTHIA8.212 are used for the parton showering and hadronization stages. The description of the underlying event is done using the tune CUETP8M1 derived in [155]. For the simulation of the CMS detector response, GEANT4 [92] was used. For all MC simulations, further reweighting of events is done using the SFs derived to account for the discrepancies between the data and simulation: lepton identification and b tagging efficiencies, see Section ???. As discussed in the Section ??, multiple overlapping proton-proton interactions occurred in each bunch crossing during data collecting in 2016, with an average of 24 hard scattering vertices per event. To account for this fact, all simulated samples include additional interactions to reproduce the real pileup distribution measured in data.

## 1.5 Physics Objects Selection

During the reconstruction of the collisions at the CMS, data for each event are refined into high-level physics objects that correspond to particles created as a result of the proton-proton interaction. Among the physics objects necessary for this measurements are reconstructed electrons, muons, jets originating from quarks of heavy flavor (b jets), and the missing transverse momentum. The reconstruction details

have been given in Section ??, here we focus on the analysis specific selection of each of these physics objects.

### 1.5.1 Electrons

Electrons are reconstructed using the GSF algorithm [74]. The electron candidates are then selected by first applying a loose isolation requirement of 0.4, after which they have to pass Tight ID criteri defined by the CMS  $e/\gamma$  POG, see ??. At the offline level, the analysis applies additionally the loose WP (WP90) [1]. With this WP, utilising variables such as the agreement between the position of the ECAL cluster and GSF track that form the electron, the energy of the 3 by 3 crystal core of the electron's cluster, the ratio of the electron energy measured in ECAL to electron's momentum measured in the tracking system, etc., one achieves an electron selection efficiency of 90%. This is a justified level of the desired identification efficiency for the  $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$  channel since we select on-shell Z boson decays to charged leptons, where produced prompt leptons are very energetic. Finally, the electrons are required to be isolated from other particles in the event. Numerically, a selection criterion on the isolation ?? is imposed, where the expected contribution of particles from pileup interactions is  $\rho$ -subtracted using the effective areas method, see Section ??. In this measurement, the isolation (with the cone size 0.3) for electrons is required to be smaller than 0.06, which means that all other particles together in the isolation cone around the electron cannot have more than 6% of the electron's energy.

### 1.5.2 Muons

Muon candidates are reconstructed using tracker muon and global muon tracks identified by the PF algorithm. The selection procedure is similar to the one of electrons:

first a loose relative isolation selection of 0.4 is applied, then muons have to pass the Tight WP of the muon ID selection. At the offline level, a more stringent set of quality requirements (WP Loose) recommended by the CMS Muon POG is applied to the muon object. Lastly, a relative  $\Delta\beta$ -subtracted PF isolation selection of 0.15 is applied, with the cone size 0.4.

### 1.5.3 Jets

Jets are reconstructed using the anti- $k_T$  jet clustering algorithm. This algorithm clusters PF candidates in a cone of the radius 0.4. The energy and the resolution of the produced jets (so-called AK4 jets) are further corrected using JEC and JER corrections. These are used to calibrate the energy of the jets and to smear the resolution of jets to match the one in the data.

To reject misreconstructed jets due to detector noise, pileup, etc., a loose jet identification WP is applied following the recommendations from the CMS JetMET POG. If jets are found to be overlapping with charged leptons used in the measurement, these jets are not considered by the analysis. We consider jets with a  $p_T$  greater than 30 GeV, which are in the range of  $|\eta| < 2.4$ . At least two jets must be present in the event.

### 1.5.4 b jets

Each identified jet is further assigned a probability to originate from the b quark using the CMVA b tagging discriminator. These tagger as an output produces a continuous discriminator, a value between -1 and 1, that is used to define three WPs depending on the chosen discriminant value. CMS BTag POG provides the CMS with the WP Loose, Medium, and Tight. For our measurement, the WP Medium

requirement ( $>0.4432$ ) is found to lead to the best expected (from the simulation) results. Therefore, the WP Medium is chosen in this analysis for the derivation of the final results. Jets passing the WP Medium requirement are classified as b jets. The threshold is chosen such that the misidentification rate for light-quark and gluon jets is about 1% and the b jet tagging efficiency for this working point is about 66%. Two b jets with the largest scores of the CMVA discriminator are used to reconstruct  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate, which will be explained at length later in this chapter.

### 1.5.5 Missing transverse momentum

In this measurement two neutrinos are present in the final state, they come from the off-shell Z boson decays to neutrinos and also from leptonic decays of W bosons. Even though the two neutrinos present in the signal events cannot be identified directly by the CMS detector, their presence can be inferred from the combined transverse momentum vector, using the momentum conservation requirement in the transverse plane for each event. The missing transverse momentum  $\cancel{p}_T$  is computed as the negative vector sum of the transverse momenta of all visible PF objects and is further JEC and JER corrected, see Section ???. The missing transverse energy  $\cancel{E}_T$  is the magnitude of the  $\cancel{p}_T$  vector.

All corrections recommended by the CMS JetMET POG are applied [162]. Additionally, a set of filters related to the instrumental effects is employed, such as removal of the misreconstructed signal in the HCAL, noise in the tracker, etc. [163].

## 1.6 Event Selection

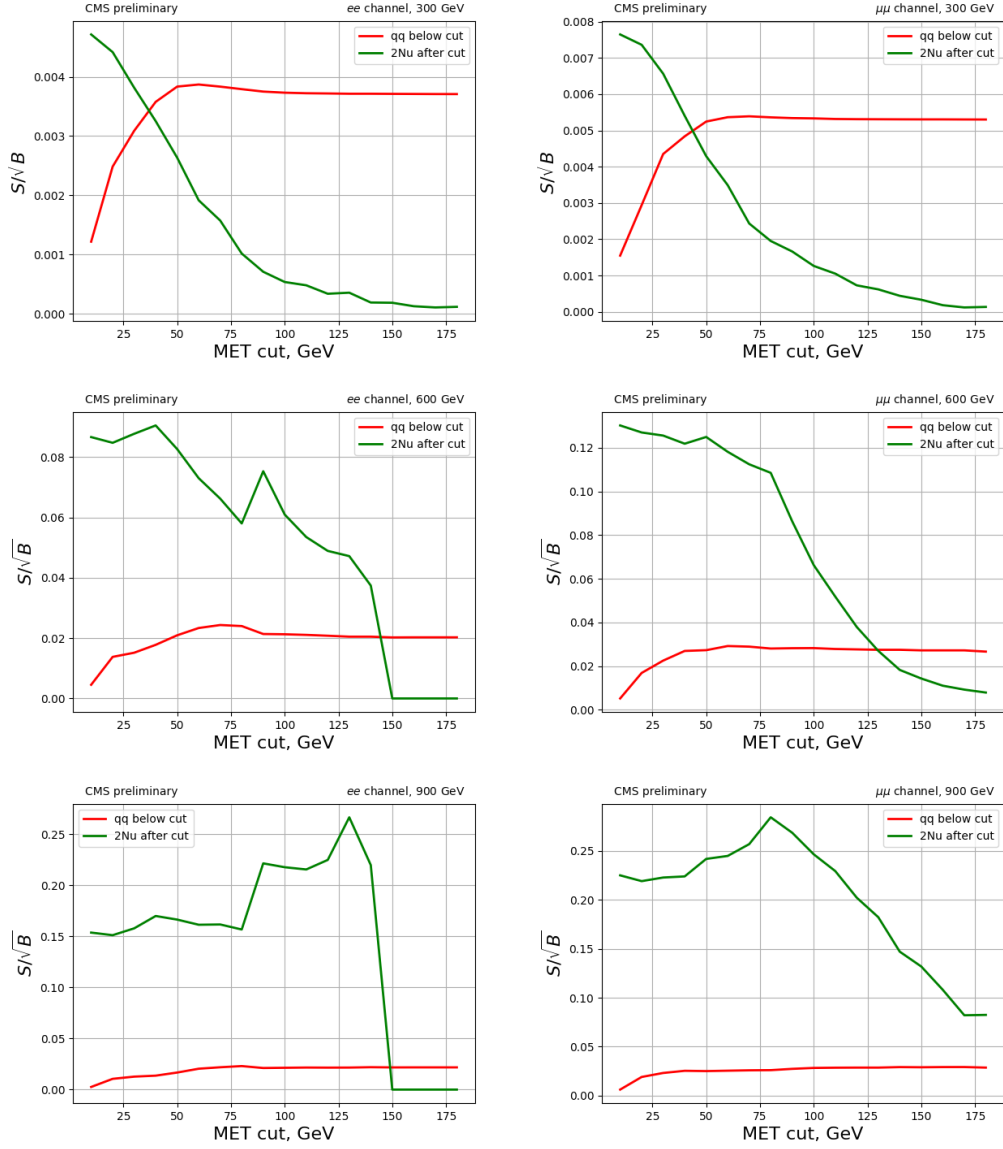
The candidate events are selected in the data sample if they contain the following physics objects: 2 b jets, 2 charged leptons, and a missing transverse energy. Then

we reconstruct intermediate particles of the decay chain by combining the observed physics objects:  $Z \rightarrow ll$  and  $Z \rightarrow \nu\nu$  are reconstructed first. Then  $H \rightarrow ZZ^*$  and  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  are reconstructed. Finally, two Higgs boson candidate are used to form the HH system that could originate from a narrow resonance we are searching for.

In this chapter we discuss how HH candidates are formed, how the selection criteria is applied to reduce contamination from background processes in signal-enriched region, how kinematic quantities used to compute the final results are defined, and how well simulation represents the data.

### 1.6.1 Kinematic selection of physics objects

We have described the kinematic selection of leptons and jets (and b jets) in the previous chapter. Because there is another  $bbZZ$  measurement in the CMS Higgs group, our analysis shares some phase space with the other measurement. Therefore, the results may contain certain overlap. The other  $bbZZ$  team studies the  $2b2l2q$  final state, where  $q$  stands for any quark initiating the jet. To ensure that both measurements produce statistically independent (“orthogonal”) results, the selection on the MET is introduced. Since the final results - the production cross sections times the BF’s of the final state - depend on the mass point, the MET selection varies with mass. While the derivation of the final results (called “limits”) will be explained later in this chapter, at this point, it is worth to point out that both analyses computed limits for all resonance mass hypotheses applying different MET selection criteria, see Fig. ???. The found set of MET requirements that yielded the best combined limits (see Table 1.3), when the results of two measurements are merged together, is used by both teams.



**Figure 1.5:** Optimisation of the MET selection for two  $bbZZ$  analyses.  $S$  and  $B$  stand for signal and background process' yields respectively. Significance-like figure of merit ( $\sqrt{S}/B$ ) as a function of the MET cut is used to identify the best selection for each given mass hypothesis. Green curve shows the significance for this measurement, where events are kept above a given threshold. Red curve shows the significance for the other  $bbZZ$  measurement, where the MET requirement is inverted (events are kept below that threshold). Top: 300 GeV mass. Middle: 600 GeV mass. Bottom: 900 GeV mass. On the left di-electron channel, di-muon channel is shown on the right.

**Table 1.3:** The MET requirements as a function of the mass of the HH candidate. Selection values (the second column) are provided for different mass hypotheses (the first column) of the narrow resonance decaying to the HH system.

Signal mass, GeV	$\cancel{E}_T$ selection, GeV
260-300	$> 40$
350-600	$> 75$
650-1000	$> 100$

### 1.6.2 Signal candidate construction and selection

Two leptons of opposite sign and same flavor with the invariant mass higher than 76 GeV are selected as Z candidates. This mass requirement helps rejecting di-lepton candidates not corresponding to real Z bosons. Events with di-lepton mass higher than 76 GeV will be used for SR and  $t\bar{t}$  CR. Additional Z mass selection will be discussed in the corresponding section later in this chapter. These on-shell Z bosons are assumed to come from the  $H \rightarrow ZZ^*$  decays. The other Z boson, off-shell Z boson, decays to two neutrinos in our signature, and is represented by MET. Lorentz four-vectors of the di-lepton candidate and MET are added and the resulting four-vector represents the first Higgs boson candidate.

The other Higgs boson is formed from the pair of b jets with the highest output value of the CMVA algorithm. No requirement is applied on existence or absence of other b jets in an event because such may be present due to a b jet misidentification or b jets resulting from pileup interactions or an underlying event. The invariant mass of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate is required to be greater than 20 GeV to remove contamination from background events with low mass resonances that decay to two jets, such as events with J/psi, Upsilon or low energy QCD interactions. There is no upper requirement on the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  invariant mass. Together with the first Higgs boson, the constructed di-Higgs system approximates the double Higgs boson

production that this measurement studies.

The final double Higgs boson candidate (HH candidate) comprises the  $Z(\ell\ell)$  candidate, the MET representing the  $Z(\nu\nu)$  decay, and the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate. The four-momentum of this HH candidate is defined as the sum of the four momenta of the two leptons and two b jets in the candidate as well as the four momentum of the MET, defined in Sec. ??.

HH system decays to a pair of b quarks and a pair of W bosons can also result in the same final state. The expected yields for the  $bbWW$  channel with respect to the  $bbZZ$  yields are comparatively small (1 to 4), because of the stringent kinematic selection on the di-lepton invariant mass. However, the contribution from the HH system decaying through the  $bbWW$  intermediate state is still considered to be part of our signal in this measurement. The minimum requirement on the di-lepton mass is necessary to ensure that our measurement is orthogonal to the known HH search from CMS in the  $bbVV$  channel that focused on  $bbWW$  decays [123], where only events with the di-lepton mass below 76 GeV were studied.

In collider physics, one of several common definitions of the transverse mass is given by:  $M_T = \sqrt{(E^2 - p_z^2)}$ . This quantity is widely used in the CMS searches for new particles. We proceed in the same fashion constructing our final variable -  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$ , using the di-Higgs four-vector defined in the previous paragraphs.

While up until this moment we had the same requirements for the search of the  $radion/graviton \rightarrow HH$  for any heavy resonance mass, it is worth noting that at this point the analysis becomes mass point-specific. This is because the selection on the BDT discriminant (explained later) and the MET requirement differ with the mass hypothesis. When we compute limits for different radion or graviton hypotheses, we apply different selection criteria.

Finally, the reader should be informed that if an event does not have enough



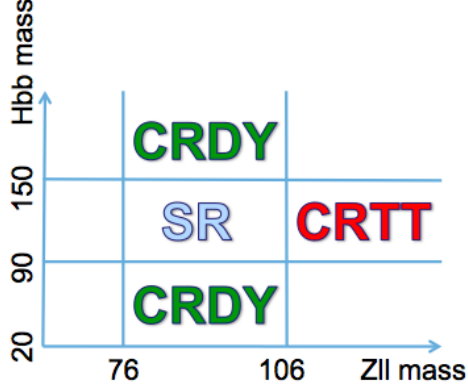
physics objects suitable (as discussed in the objects selection section) for building the  $Z(\ell\ell)$  or  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidates, or if the event does not pass candidate selection requirements on those objects or the full HH system, the event is discarded.

### 1.6.3 Signal and control kinematic regions

Three regions are defined: signal-enriched or signal region, and two CRs. The signal region is chosen such that the expected signal fraction is the largest there. Two control regions are defined such that they contain predominantly the background events with almost no signal. We define two CRs, one for each of the two main background sources: the CR for  $t\bar{t}$  (CRTT) and the CR for Drell-Yan in association with jets (CRDY).

Two intermediate particles in the decay chain are nearly fully reconstructed, such as  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  and  $Z(\ell\ell)$ . The signal region is defined in the phase space of  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  and  $Z(\ell\ell)$  events. This corresponds to an area determined by the mass of the Higgs boson (125 GeV) and the mass of the Z boson (91.2 GeV). To account for the detector smearing effects, the mass windows near the pole masses are defined such that we select events within the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  mass range from 90 to 150 GeV and Z mass range from 76 to 106 GeV, see Fig. 1.6. In the CMS, these relatively standard mass windows are chosen taking into account the detector resolution effects on a two b jet system and a di-lepton (and the natural width for a Z boson) mass and contain approximately 95% of true Higgs and Z boson candidates. The proportion of signal events is further increased with respect to background events by applying an additional requirement, the MVA requirement, which will be explained in the next section.

CRs are defined inverting the SR selection. Drell-Yan plus jets (or “DY” later for brevity) background process contains a real Z boson, while the two jets are random



**Figure 1.6:** Signal region, control region  $t\bar{t}$ , and control region Drell-Yan in the phase space of  $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$  and  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  masses.

and have random invariant mass. We obtain the CRDY inverting the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  selection. For CRTT,  $t\bar{t}$  events always have two b quarks whose invariant mass has a broad distribution, while they do not have a real Z boson. Thus, to select CRTT, we invert the  $Z(\ell\ell)$  selection and use only the events in the upper range of the Z mass, see Fig. 1.6.

CRs are used to fit the event yield of the simulated background processes to the event yield in data and, thus, to determine the relative normalisations of  $t\bar{t}$  and Drell-Yan background processes, which is done using CRTT and CRDY correspondingly.

The efficiency of the candidate selection, up to this point, is summarised in the Table 1.4, where numbers are provided for the SR. The signal contributions are split into two components  $bbZZ$  and  $bbWW$ , and are shown separately. The corresponding total numbers of events passing the selection are also given (the fourth column).

**Table 1.4:** Number of events surviving the candidate selection and kinematic requirements. Numbers are given for  $bbZZ$  and  $bbWW$  contributions in the SR. Efficiency values are also provided (the third column) and are normalised to the initial event counts before any selection is applied. Di-muon channel is presented. Numbers for di-electron channel have the same trend but lower values since in the CMS, efficiencies for electrons are lower than for muons.

Process	Mass, GeV	Efficiency, %	Number of events
bbWW	300	0.2	85
bbZZ	300	10.4	4511
bbWW	900	0.1	23
bbZZ	900	15.1	12963

#### 1.6.4 Signal region candidate selection with a multivariate technique

After the SR and CRs have been defined, in the final step of the event selection we require the events in the SR to pass the threshold value of the BDT discriminant. An MVA discriminant that uses a boosted decision trees algorithm is trained considering a number of kinematic quantities of a candidate to be above a certain threshold. As this selection step is complex, it is described in a dedicated chapter: 1.7.

### 1.7 Multivariate selection in the signal region

To reduce the background contamination in the SR, we employ a standard practice of CMS physics analyses of utilising the MVA discriminant. In this section, we will discuss which discriminating variables were used, how the MVA discriminant was constructed, and what are the efficiencies of the BDT selection for all major signal and background processes.

### 1.7.1 Kinematic variables of a candidate

A number of kinematic quantities can be constructed out of four-vectors that comprise candidates of our final state. The distributions of these quantities in general differ for candidates originating from different background processes as opposed to for candidates from the hypothetical signal.

In this section we discuss a set of kinematic quantities that are the most discriminating between the expected signal candidates and background candidates. This set of variables is used as an input for computing the multivariate discriminate that is later discussed in this section. In total, nine variables are chosen for this purpose and discussed here. About 30-40 other kinematic variables were considered at early stages of this data analysis. However, they were discarded as it was found that they do not improve the results of this measurement in a significant way, while they increase considerably the complexity of the measurement.

Since the MVA selection requirement will be applied on a quantity computed based on these variables, the simulation has to reproduce the main variables well. We will define each of the nine variables below. For SR and both CRs, we will show the comparison of distributions from data and simulation for each variable. Since the number of plots would be too large to show for two channels and two spin hypotheses, not to mention for all masses, we will include in this dissertation only di-muon channel plots for 300 GeV graviton mass hypothesis. However, all other relevant figures of the nine main variables, including the di-electron channel and other mass points, were examined and discussed with CMS collaborators during the review of the measurement in CMS. They show a similar behaviour and agreement as those included here.

As we outlined before, even for simple physics objects the distributions from MC

simulations and data have discrepancies. For more complex objects and candidates, these discrepancies become even larger. In general, MC simulations are not supposed to reproduce well very narrow regions of the kinematic phase space or align with the data perfectly at the high order in the QCD. Therefore, one normally adjusts the rates of background processes using the normalisation values determined in the fit to data in the control regions. The distributions as they are, without the extra normalisations (from the fit) applied to the event yields of MC simulated background processes, are in general called pre-fit distributions. After the normalisations from the fit are applied on the rates of background processes, post-fit distributions are obtained.

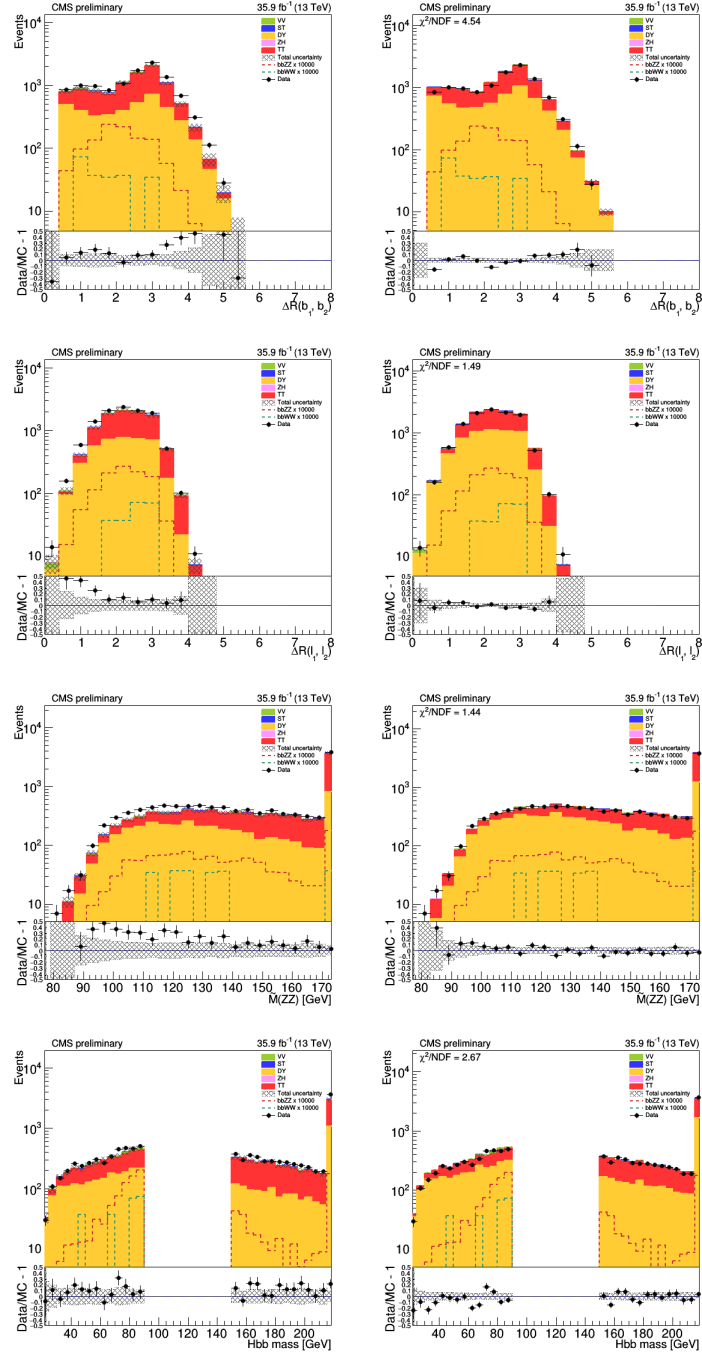
The list below summarises the set of variables used as input to the MVA discriminant:

- **$\Delta R$  separation between two b jets.** The  $\Delta R$  (defined in the Section ??) separation between the b jets ( $\Delta R_{b \text{ jets}}$ ) gradually decreases as we start considering larger graviton or radion masses. This fact is explained by the Lorentz boost of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  system. When the heavy resonance produces two SM Higgs bosons, they are highly boosted. For the Higgs boson, which will further decay to a pair of b quarks ( $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ ), the b quarks will come out of the decay almost collinear to each other with a minimal value of the  $\Delta R_{b \text{ jets}}$ . For background processes this separation does not depend on the graviton or radion mass hypothesis.
- **$\Delta R$  separation between two leptons.** The distance between two leptons in the  $\eta - \varphi$  space ( $\Delta R_{leptons}$ ) tends to be smaller for the di-lepton system coming from the real Z bosons originated from the  $H \rightarrow ZZ$  decays, in comparison to the  $\Delta R_{leptons}$  distance between two random OSSF leptons produced by background processes.

- **Missing transverse momentum.**  $\cancel{p}_T$  distribution coming from the off-shell Z bosons is constrained by the invariant mass of the parent Higgs boson and has, thus, a more narrow distribution. Contrary, the MET coming from  $t\bar{t}$  background process can produce smaller and larger values of the MET.
- **Invariant mass of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate.**  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  mass for two b jets coming from real Higgs boson tends to be close to the SM Higgs boson invariant mass smeared by the b jet energy-momentum resolution, while the background candidates from unrelated b jets can have smaller and larger masses, especially if they come from the top quarks of the  $t\bar{t}$  background.
- **Transverse momentum of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate.** The transverse momentum of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate ( $p_T^{Hb\bar{b}}$ ) tends to be have a relatively narrow peaky distribution for candidates coming from the hypothetical signal in comparison to broad distributions produced by the background processes.
- **Invariant mass of the  $ZZ^*$  system.**  $ZZ^*$  mass of two Z bosons coming from the Higgs boson decay ( $H \rightarrow ZZ$ ) tends to be close to the SM Higgs boson mass smeared by the  $\cancel{p}_T$  resolution, while the background candidates from DY production in association with jets can have random masses, which can be particularly large if they come from the DY production in association with several jets in addition to some instrumental MET present in the event.
- **Transverse momentum of the  $ZZ^*$  system.** The transverse momentum of the  $H \rightarrow ZZ$  candidate ( $p_T^{Hzz}$ ) tends to be have a relatively narrow peaky distribution for candidates coming from the hypothetical signal in comparison to broad distributions produced by the background processes.

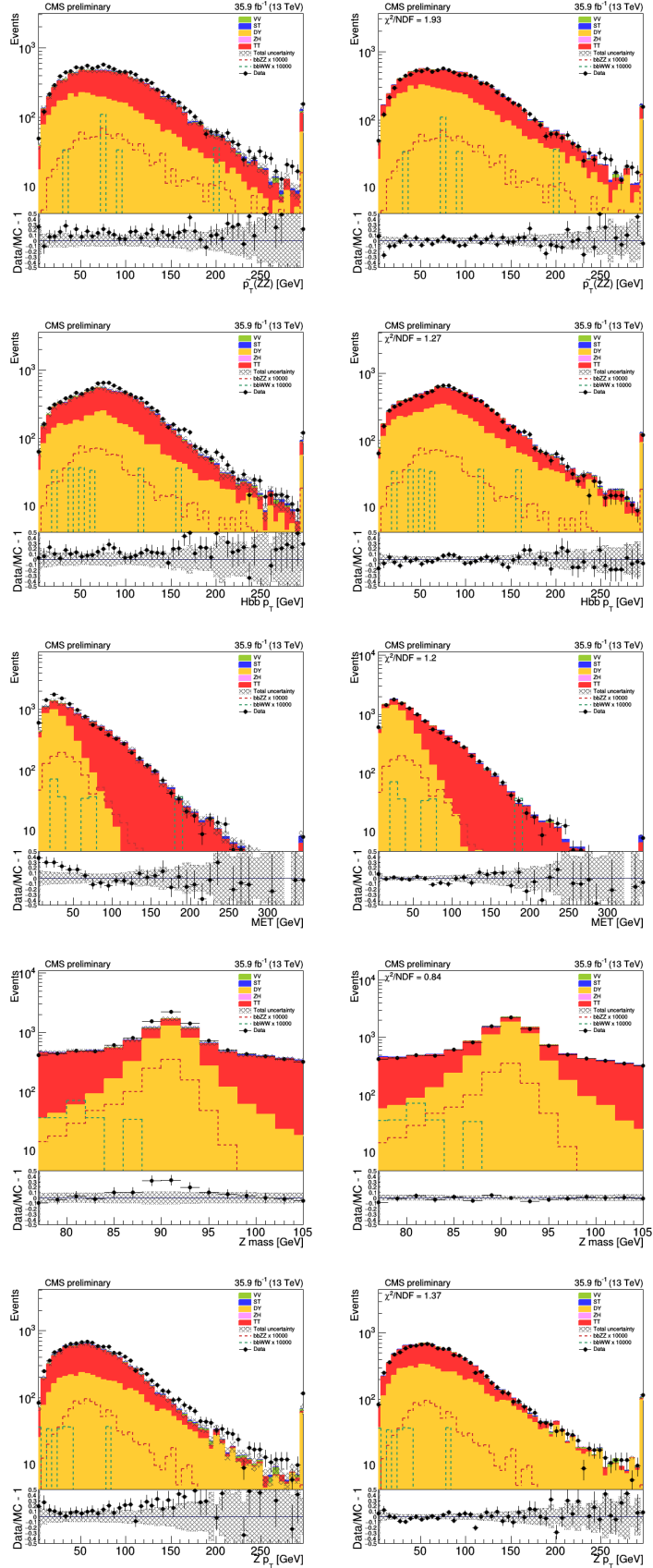
- **Invariant mass of the Z boson candidate.** Z bosons coming from the Higgs boson have the invariant mass near the pole mass, while Z bosons from DY plus jets production can have a broader peak.
- **Transverse momentum of the Z boson candidate.** The transverse momentum of the Z candidate ( $p_T^Z$ ) tends to be have a relatively narrow distribution for candidates coming from the real Z boson produced in the decays of the hypothetical signal in comparison to broad distributions of the  $p_T^{\ell\ell}$ , when di-lepton systems are produced by background processes.

At this stage of the analysis description, we would like to refer the reader to the pre-fit plots (figures in the left columns). The figures are shown in the following order: all nine distributions in CRDY ??, in SR ??, and in CRTT ??. The simulated distributions are found in an acceptable agreement with those from the data and are judged to be adequate for a use in a multivariate discriminant construction discussed next.

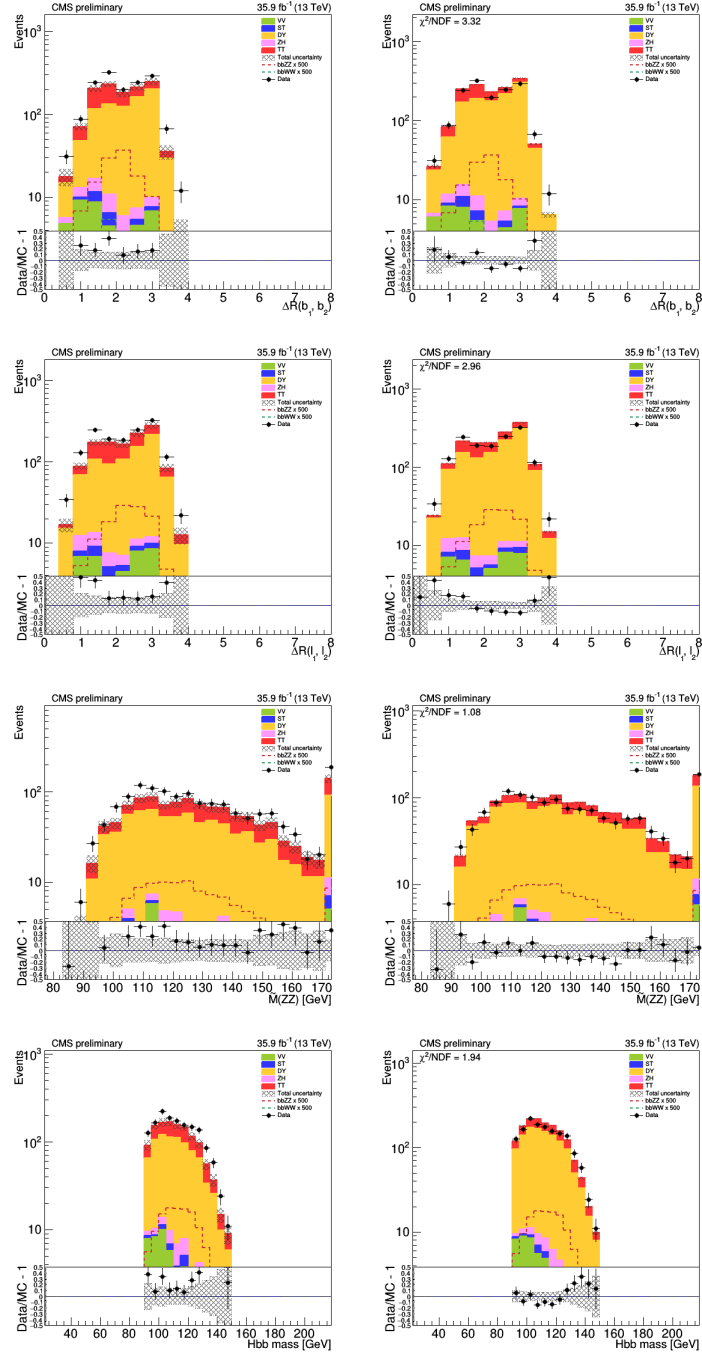


**Figure 1.7:** Comparison of data and MC samples. 300 GeV, CRDY region, mm channel. Prefit plot on the left, Full Postfit plot on the right.

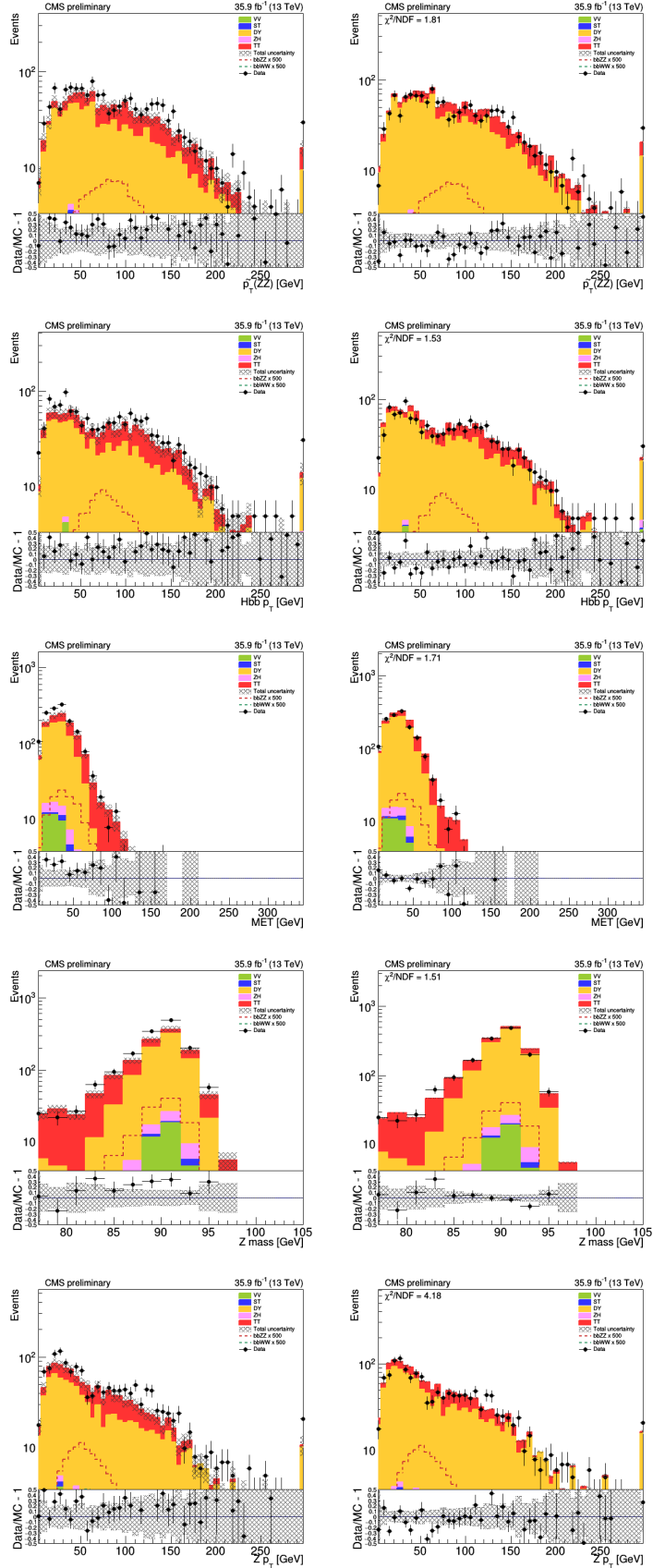




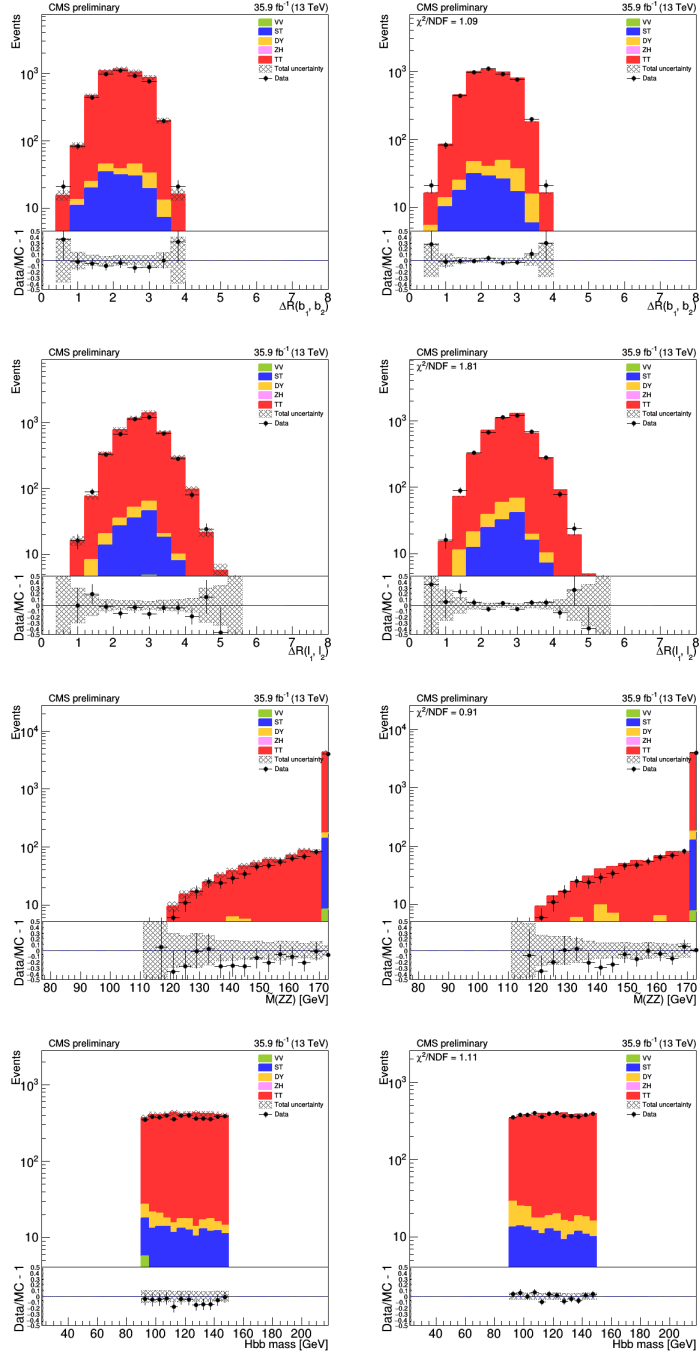
**Figure 1.8:** Comparison of data and MC samples. 300 GeV, CRDY region, mm channel. Profits plot on the left, Full Postfit plot on the right.



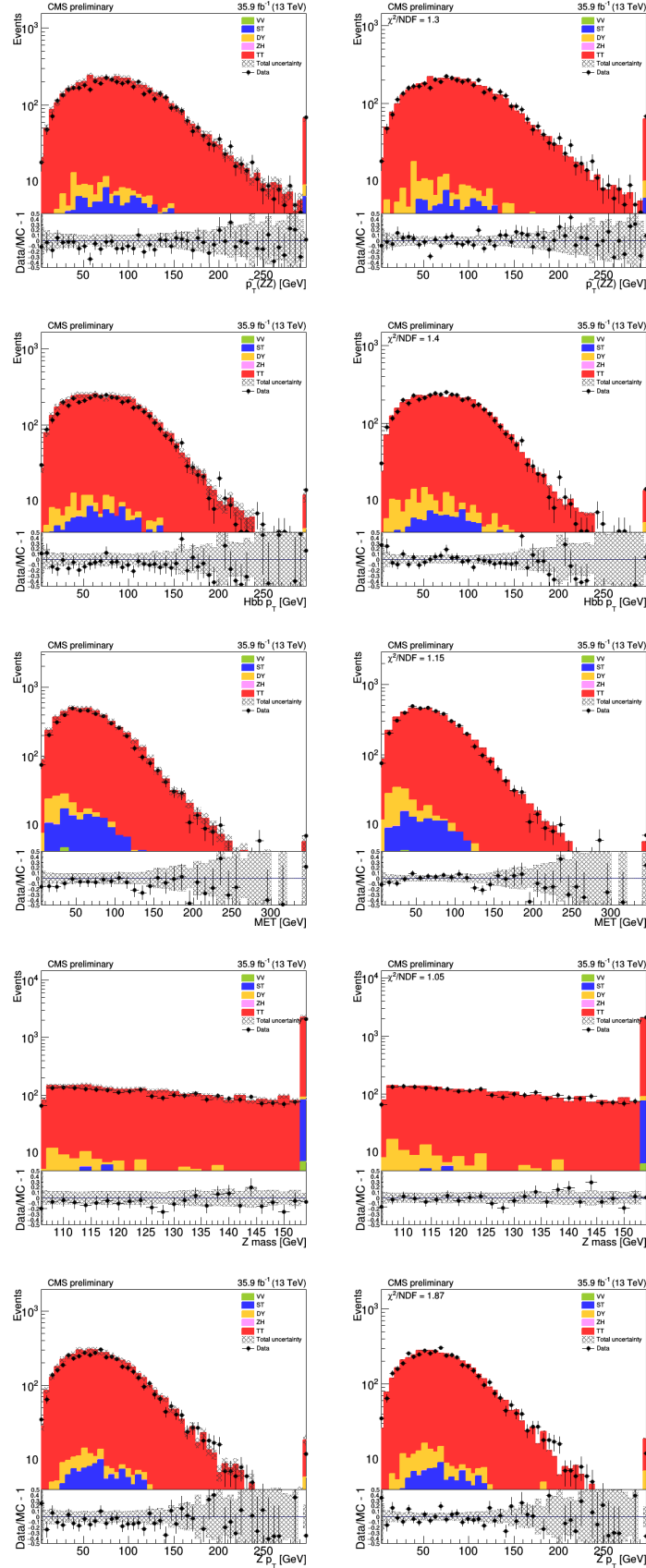
**Figure 1.9:** Comparison of data and MC samples. 300 GeV, SR region, mm channel. Prefit plot on the left, Full Postfit plot on the right.



**Figure 1.10:** Comparison of data and MC samples. 300 GeV, SR region, mm channel. Prefit plot on the left, Full Postfit plot on the right.



**Figure 1.11:** Comparison of data and MC samples. 300 GeV, CRTT region, mm channel. Profit plot on the left, Full Postfit plot on the right.



**Figure 1.12:** Comparison of data and MC samples. 300 GeV, CRTT region, mm channel. Prefit plot on the left, Full Postfit plot on the right.

### 1.7.2 Multivariate discriminant: a BDT classifier

In HEP in many areas, such as an object identification, a reduction of the background contribution in the signal region, etc., there are needs to discriminate a “signal” from one or several “backgrounds”. The discriminating algorithms can use a single physical variable for signal-background separation, or several variables. The way an algorithm uses the input variables can be of a sequential nature, or through some non-linear dependence. The Higgs boson discovery, in part, was possible due to an employed BDT approach, where several variables are combined into an artificial BDT score or output. The BDT output, as a higher-level construct, has no direct physical interpretation. However, due to the shown gain in signal-background separation performance, the BDT has been successfully used for years for the final classification decision.

Multivariate discriminants (or models or classifiers) based on the BDT or other algorithms are constructed using machine learning (ML) techniques. Now, almost at every stage of the HEP data analysis, starting from the track reconstruction, through the object identification and the signal region purification, up to the construction of the final discriminating MVA variable, physicists rely on the ML methods.

In simple terms, the ML procedure consists of the training and testing stages (sometimes also the validation stage is added). First, the data is split into two non-overlapping sets: a train and a test data. Then, the classifier is trained, when the model is learning the patterns in the train data. After that, the performance of the model is tested using the independent test data.

After the training procedure, ML algorithm produce a discriminator, which is a function that is related to the likelihood of an event to belong to a signal or to a background category. Here and in other parts of the thesis, we are describing the BDT procedure, which is a non-parametric supervised learning method used for

classification; other MVA methods that are not related to this measurement, are well-explained in [?].

Every analysts would always like to have a classifier that has a low bias and a low variance. A bias is a difference between the average prediction of our model and the correct value, which we are trying to predict. A classifier with a high bias oversimplifies the model and does not take into account all the nuances of a given train data. Therefore, one prefers a low bias models, which are flexible and perform well both on the train and test data, and always provide a stable good separation between the signal and background hypotheses. A variance is the variability of model prediction for a given data point. A variance is related to the spread of our data. A model with high variance learns almost every single pattern in the train data and, therefore, will not generalise well, when given new unseen data. As a result, models with a high variance achieve the best scores using the train data but perform poorly on the test data. Thus, one prefers a low variance models, which are robust when applying the trained classifiers on a dataset that is statistically independent from the one used for training.

One of the most popular ML algorithms in HEP is based on the boosted decision trees (BDT). A single decision tree is a sequence of simple binary splits on each of the input variables. The tree, thus, can be depicted as a multidimensional set of selections on input space. The tree assigns a score of +1 or -1 if a given event is signal or background-like. The key elements in each step of the BDT splits are the variables used for the selection and the positions of the selections. Both are determined using an impurity criterion  $I(p_n)$ , which is a function of the signal purity  $p_n$  in tree node  $n$ . The signal purity is defined as a ratio of the signal contribution to the total number of signal and background events,  $p_n = S/(S+B)$ . The impurity criterion is chosen such that it is at the minumum when  $p_n=0$  or  $p_n=1$ . These values would give a perfect

signal-background discrimination. The criterion is at the maximum, when  $p_n=0.5$ , which means no discrimination is achieved. Each split maximises the gain function  $G = I(p_n) - f_1 I(p_{c1}) - f_2 I(p_{c2})$ . In this formulation of  $G$ , the labels c1 and c2 refer to child nodes of the parent node, and  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are the fractions of events of the parent node that are found in child nodes c1 and c2, respectively.

The tree keeps applying the selection on the input variables until either a maximum depth is reached (a number of consecutive splits), or a minimum number of events in the final child nodes are attained. The problem with such a tree growing procedure is that it is prone to overtraining, which means the model will not generalise well and have a high variance. One way to deal with BDT overtraining is boosting. The idea behind boosting is, that signal events from the training sample that end up in a background node or vice versa, are given intentionally large weights (a penalty). These weights are normally significantly larger than the weights for events with the correct leave node prediction. Such penalty procedure reweighs the train data and then new decision trees are created. The boosting is applied hundreds of times, which produces a set of new reweighed trees (a forest). Intuitively, the boosting is a method in which a large number of shallow trees, which have only a few splits, are combined by taking a weighted average of their output scores. The discriminating power of a single shallow tree is usually poor, but such a tree is less prone to overtraining, therefore, when combined, the ensemble of these trees produces a model with a high and stable performance.

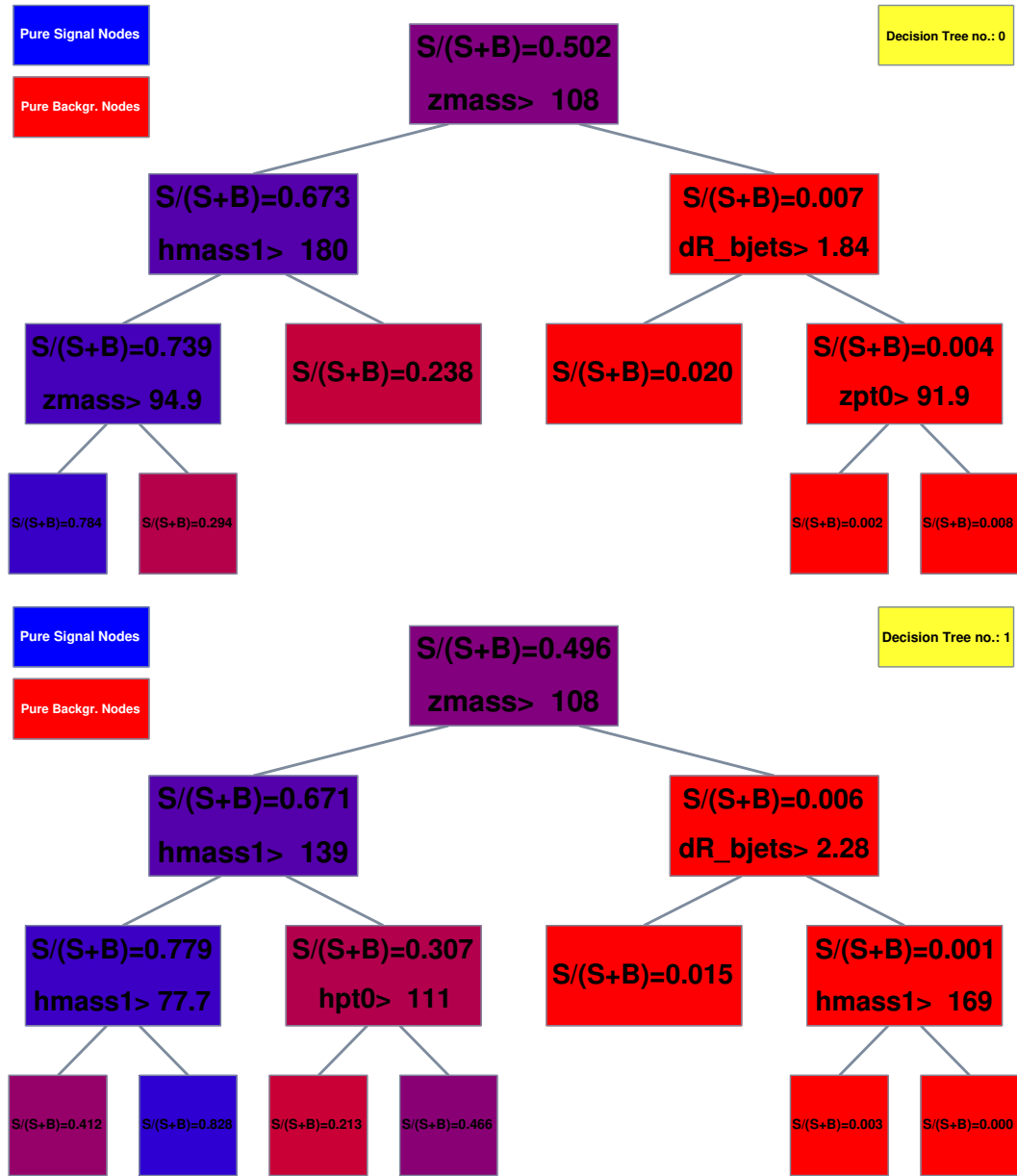
For the boosting algorithm, we chose the gradient boosting method, as is implemented in the popular MVA package for HEP - TMVA [165]. Gradient boosting can be thought of as a function expansion approach. In this case each tree corresponds to a summand. The parameters for each summand (tree) are determined by minimising of an error function. In the TMVA implementation, the binomial log-likelihood loss



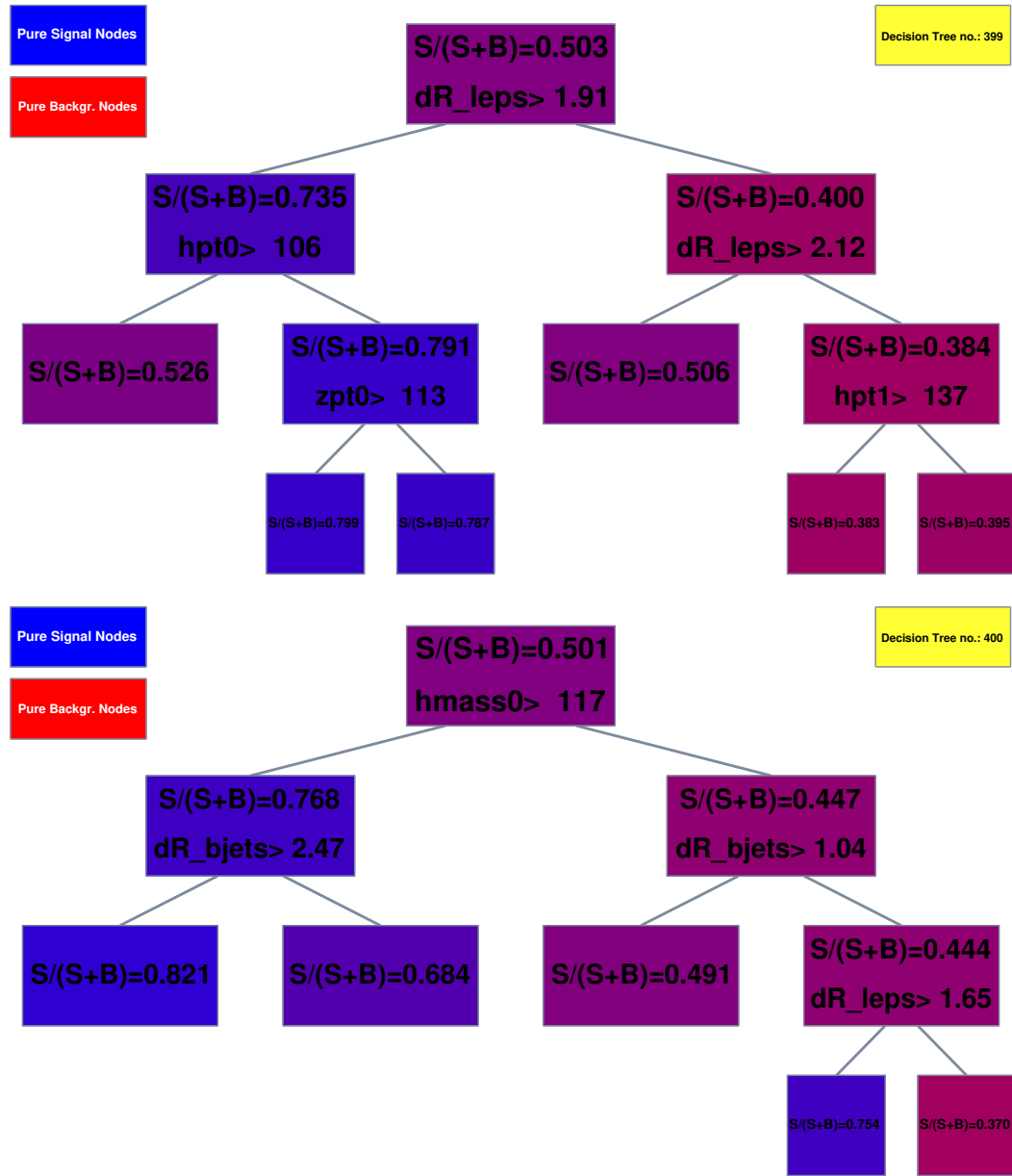
function is used. The adopted procedure follows the greedy algorithm approach - only one tree is modified at a time, while the other trees remain invariable.

Several decision trees of the BDT procedure, that is employed in the analysis, are shown below. This training was done in the d-electron channel. In all figures produced by the TMVA, the index 0 refers to  $H \rightarrow ZZ$  candidate and index 1 refers to  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate. For example, “hmass1” denotes the mass of the  $H \rightarrow ZZ$  candidate, “hpt0” denotes the  $p_T$  of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate, etc. For the Z boson candidate, the on-shell Z boson decaying to charged leptons,  $Z(\ell\ell)$ , has either an index 0 or the index is dropped. The closer the node color is to blue, the more the event is classified as signal-like, same idea is illustrated with the red color for background events.

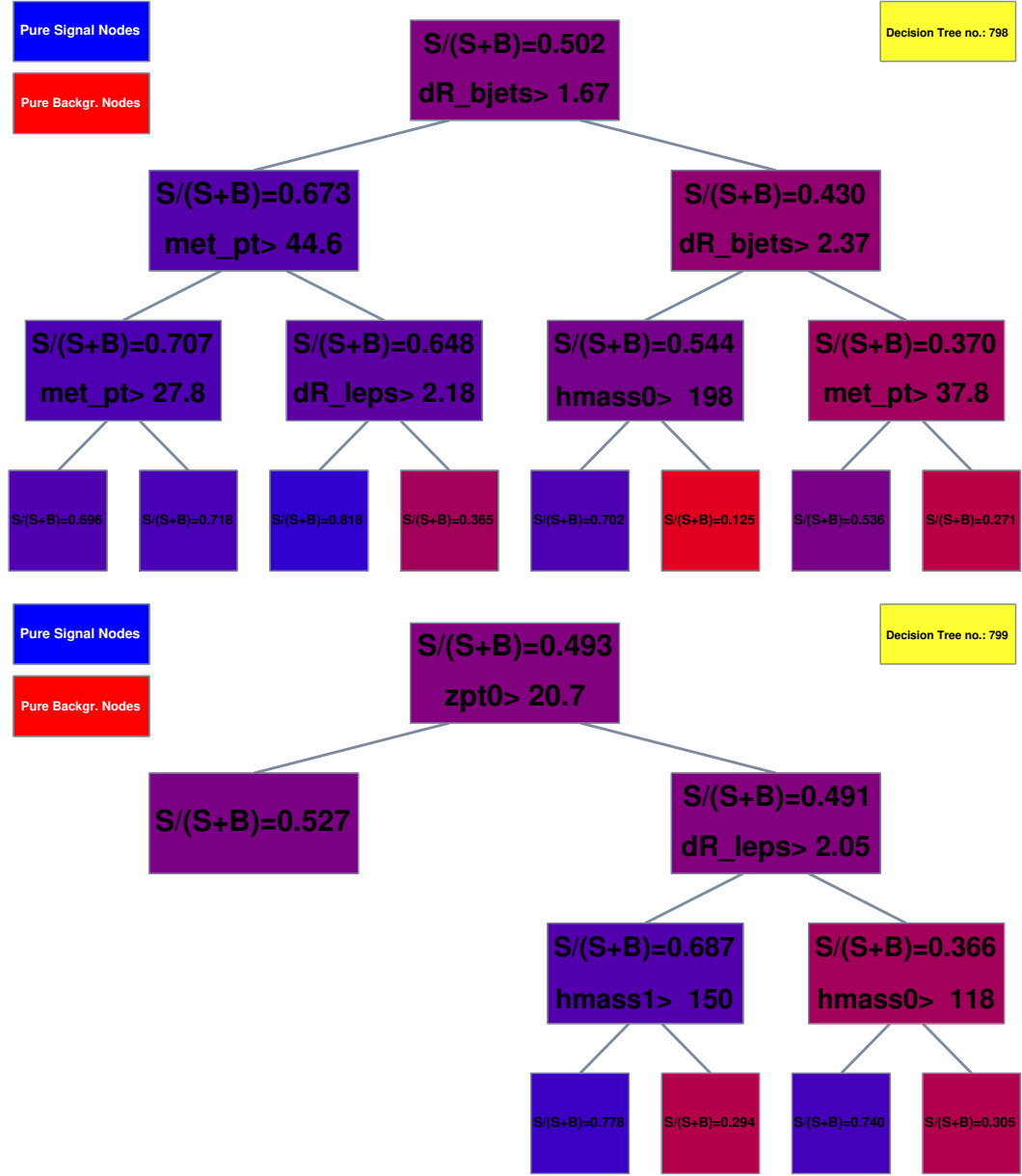
Di-electron and di-muon channels have been trained separately and the BDT metrics (discussed later in this chapter) show similar performance. That is why to save the space, in this chapter we show mostly figures related to the di-electron channel.



**Figure 1.13:** BDT trees 1 and 2 (indexing starts from 0). These trees relied on: the mass and the  $p_T$  of the  $Z(\ell\ell)$  candidate,  $\Delta R$  separation between two b jets, the mass of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate, and the  $p_T$  of the  $ZZ^*$  system. The TMVA notation is explained in ??.



**Figure 1.14:** BDT trees 400 and 401 (indexing starts from 0). These trees relied on: the  $p_T$  of the  $Z(\ell\ell)$  candidate,  $\Delta R$  separation between two b jets,  $\Delta R$  separation between two charged leptons, the  $p_T$  of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate, and the mass and the  $p_T$  of the  $ZZ^*$  system. The TMVA notation is explained in ??.



**Figure 1.15:** BDT trees 799 and 800 (indexing starts from 0). These trees relied on: the  $p_T$  of the  $Z(\ell\ell)$  candidate,  $\Delta R$  separation between two b jets,  $\Delta R$  separation between two charged leptons, the mass of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  candidate, and the mass of the  $ZZ^*$  system. The TMVA notation is explained in ??.

The BDT discriminant (later the BDT for brevity) is trained on a pure sample of signal and background events from simulation, using the train data. The properties

of the discriminant are studied on an independent testing sample of pure signal and background events, using the test data. The Deep Neural Network (DL) approach also has been studied, however, due to the lack of the event statistics, the DL approach could not offer a performance higher than the one achieved with the BDT, and thus, was abandoned. Training 16 BDTs per the spin hypothesis seems unpractical since our data analysis is dominated by the statistical errors. Instead, we follow an approach of other HH analyses [?]: we split the range from 250 to 1000 into two regions: low mass (250 to 450 GeV) and high mass (500 to 1000 GeV) regions. This separation boundary at 450 GeV was optimised first using ROC curves (described later in this section), then running the whole analysis chain all the way to the final limits. This procedure not only saves CPU cycles, training two BDTs instead of sixteen, but mostly increases the statistics and improves the robustness of the trained BDT.

During the training procedure, some variables provide more discriminating power and on average are used more often than others. The more often the variable is used, the higher is its importance. The tables below show the ranking and average importance of each of the BDT training: low and high mass regions, di-electron and di-muon channels, see Tables ??.

Rank	Variable	Importance, %
1	$\Delta R_{b \text{ jets}}$	13.9
2	MET	12.1
3	Mass of $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ candidate	11.9
4	$p_T^{ZZ^*}$	11
5	$\Delta R_{leptons}$	10.9
6	$p_T$ of $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ candidate	10.7
7	$p_T$ of Z boson candidate	10.2
8	Mass of $ZZ^*$ system	10.1
9	Mass of Z boson candidate	9.26

**Table 1.5:** Di-electron channel. Relative importance of the input variables in the low mass BDT training.

Rank	Variable	Importance, %
1	$\Delta R_{leptons}$	14.1
2	Mass of $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ candidate	13.7
3	$\Delta R_{b\ jets}$	13.2
4	$p_T$ of $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ candidate	12.1
5	$p_T$ of Z boson candidate	11.5
6	$p_T^{ZZ^*}$	11.3
7	MET	10.3
8	Mass of $ZZ^*$ system	7.7
9	Mass of Z boson candidate	6.1

**Table 1.6:** Di-electron channel. Relative importance of the input variables in the high mass BDT training.

Rank	Variable	Importance, %
1	Mass of $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ candidate	13.8
2	$\Delta R_{b\ jets}$	13.1
3	$\Delta R_{leptons}$	12.9
4	$p_T$ of $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ candidate	11.7
5	$p_T^{ZZ^*}$	11.3
6	$p_T$ of Z boson candidate	11.1
7	MET	11
8	Mass of $ZZ^*$ system	8.8
9	Mass of Z boson candidate	6.2

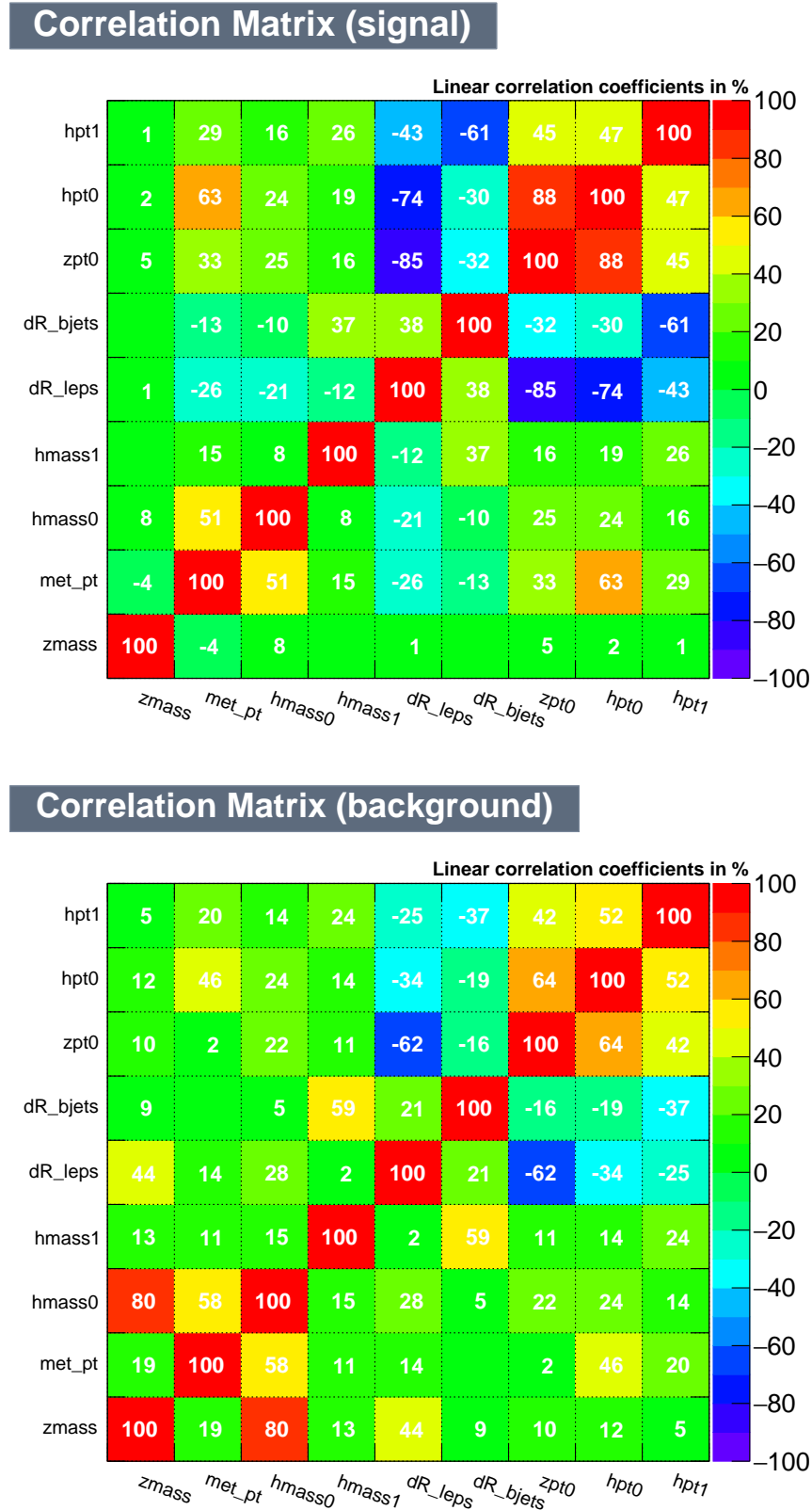
**Table 1.8:** Di-muon channel. Relative importance of the input variables in the high mass BDT training.

Rank	Variable	Importance, %
1	$\Delta R_{b\ jets}$	13
2	MET	12.2
3	Mass of $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ candidate	11.9
4	$p_T$ of $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ candidate	11.3
5	$p_T$ of Z boson candidate	11.1
6	$p_T^{ZZ^*}$	10.9
7	$\Delta R_{leptons}$	10.5
8	Mass of $ZZ^*$ system	9.7
9	Mass of Z boson candidate	9.5

**Table 1.7:** Di-muon channel. Relative importance of the input variables in the low mass BDT training.

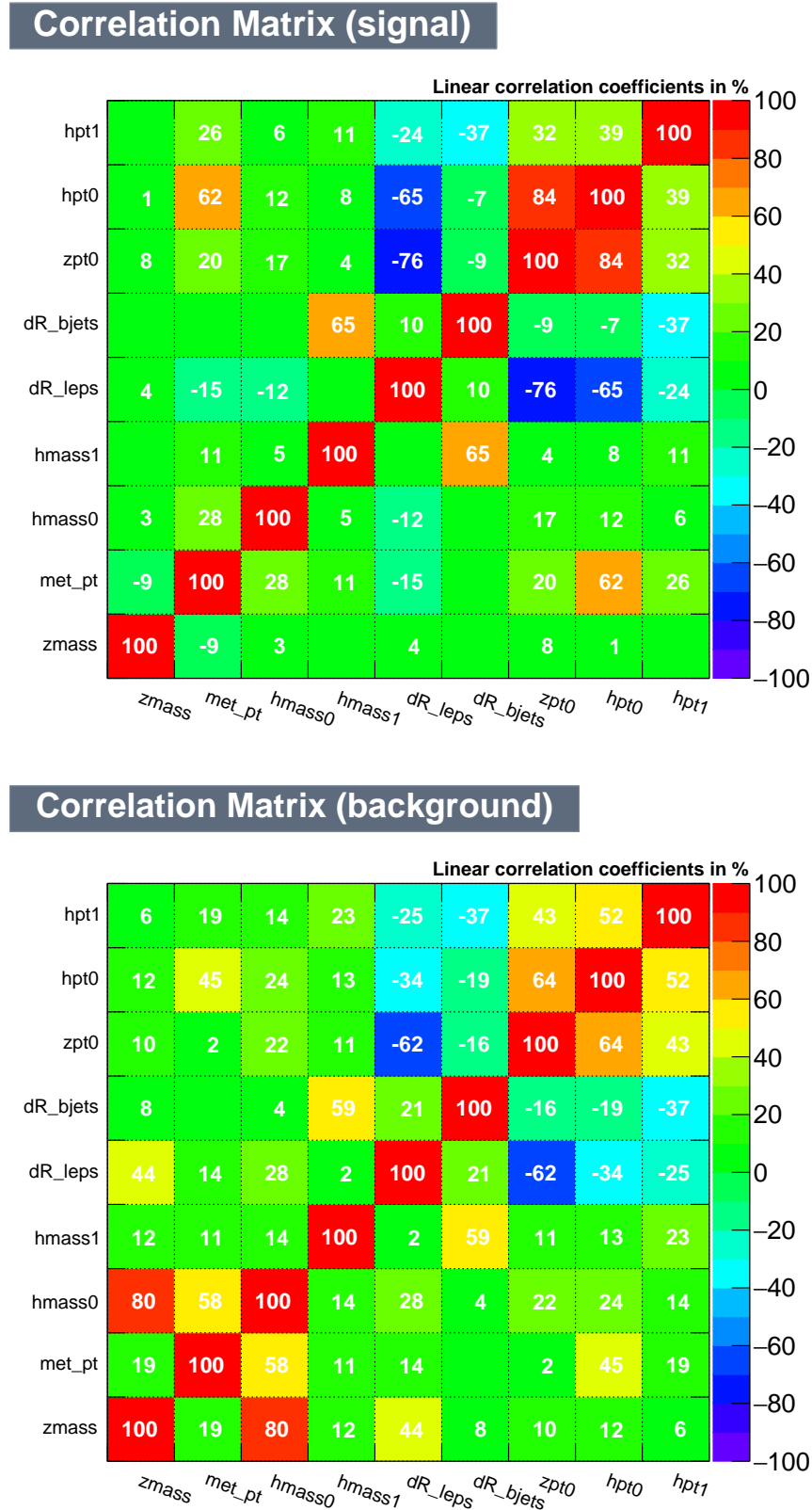
The correlations among the input variables are shown in the Figs. 1.16, 1.17, ??, ??. For low mass training, signal samples for mass hypotheses from 250 to 450 GeV are combined together and represent the “signal”. Similarly is done for high mass training - it is a mix of signal samples for mass hypotheses from 500 to 1000 GeV. For background samples, the “background” is a mix of samples of two main background processes: DY in association with jets and  $t\bar{t}$  production, weighted by the cross section value.

Below we include figures of the BDT input variables. They are the same variables shown few pages before, but produced by the TMVA package, in this style they allow one a bit easier visual judgement of which variables behave more differently between the signal and the background, see Fig. ??.

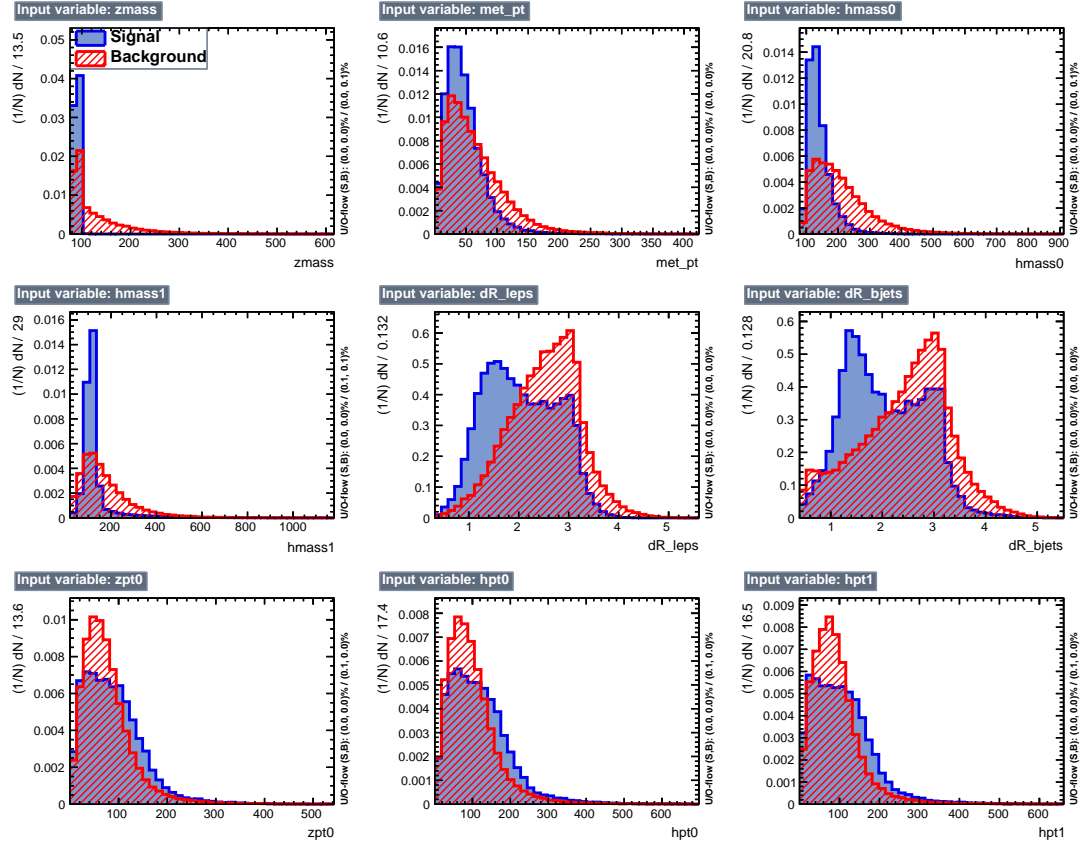


**Figure 1.16:** Input variable correlations of the di-electron channel, low mass training. Top: signal sample mix. Bottom: background sample mix. The TMVA notation is explained in ??.

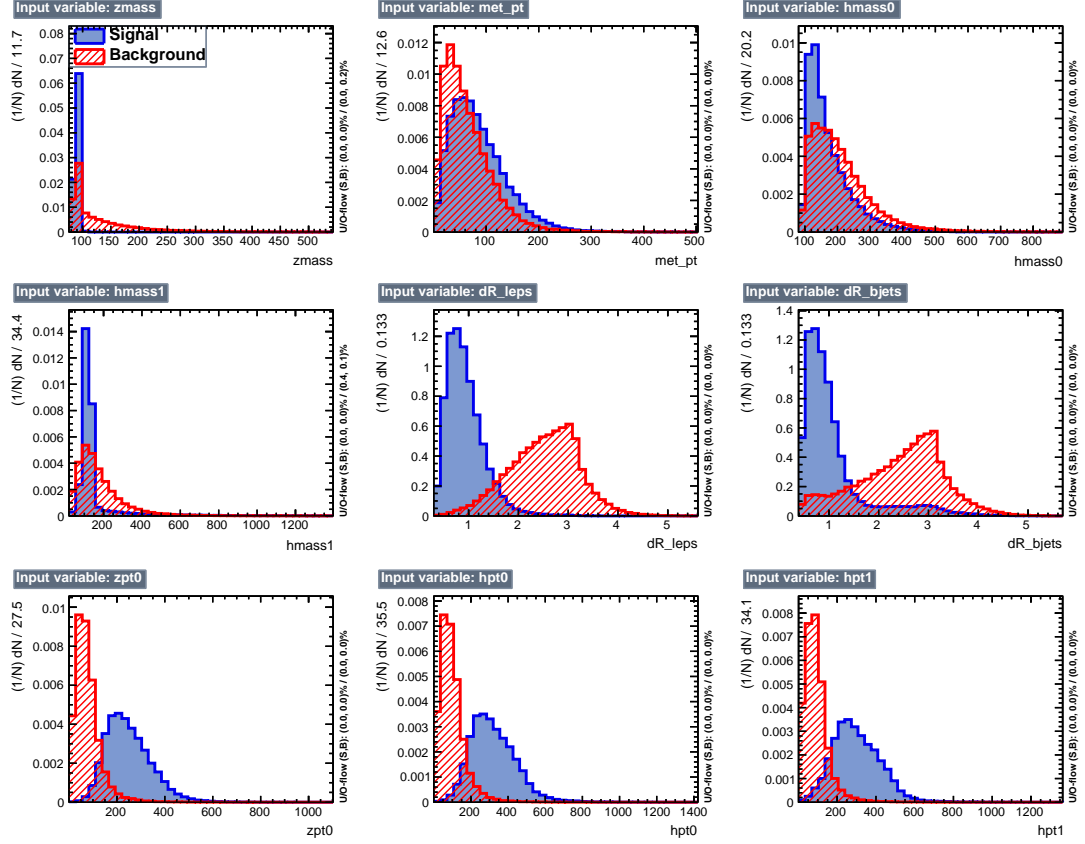




**Figure 1.17:** Input variable correlations of the di-electron channel, high mass training. Top: signal sample mix. Bottom: background sample mix. The TMVA notation is explained in ??.



**Figure 1.18:** Variables used in the low mass training for di-electron channel. Index '1' refers to  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decay and index '0' refers to  $H \rightarrow ZZ$  decay. The TMVA notation is explained in ??.



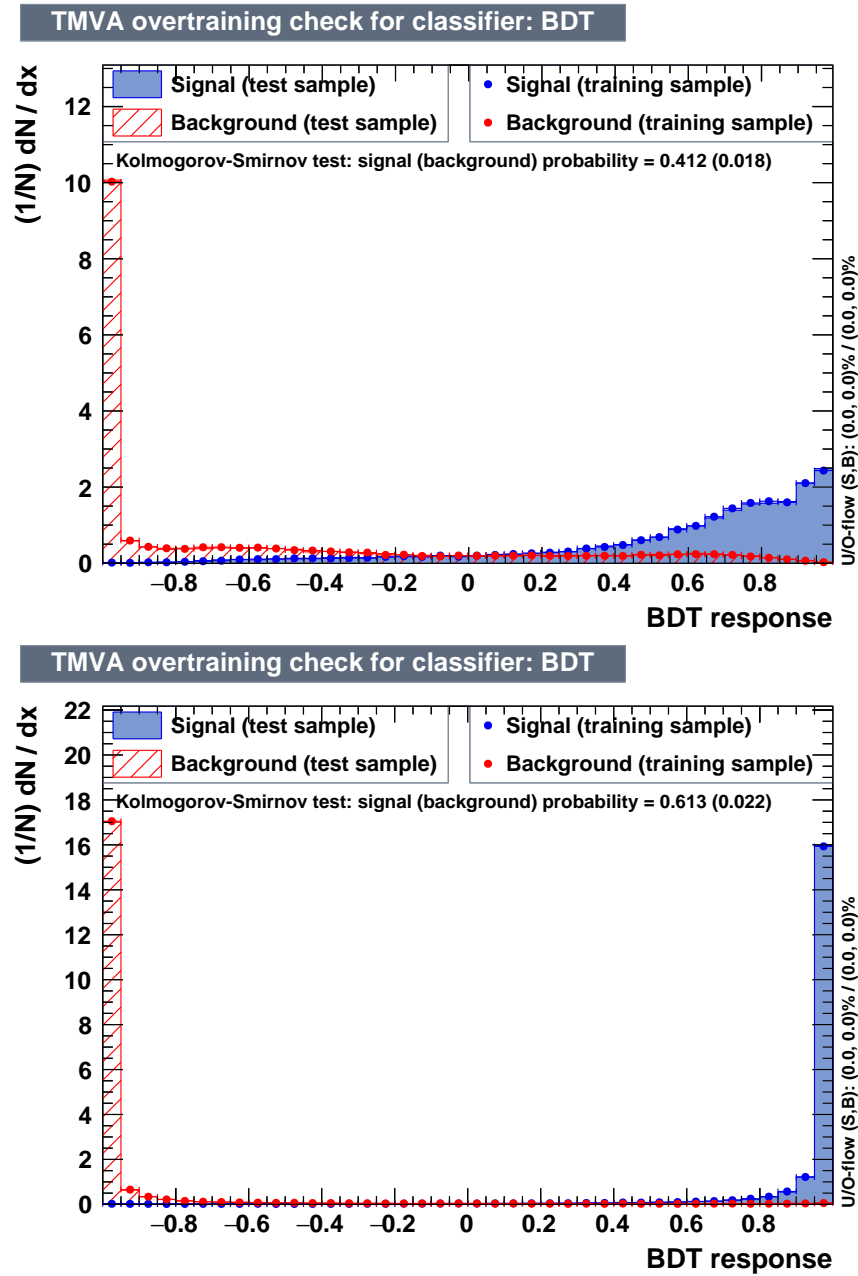
**Figure 1.19:** Variables used in the high mass training for di-electron channel. Index '1' refers to  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decay and index '0' refers to  $H \rightarrow ZZ$  decay. The TMVA notation is explained in ??.

After the training, the BDT model is created. This model produces the BDT distribution (BDT response), see the Fig. 1.20. This figure shows the BDT output for the di-electron channel, train and test parameters are overlaid.

It is difficult to get high performance in the low mass training, since this region

corresponds to the range of HH masses where all the background processes are concentrated (Figs. 1.18, 1.19). The rate of background in this region is very high and most variables have similar distributions for signal and background processes. The BDT performance is noticeably better than what can be achieved using a simple linear discriminant method (LD), see Figs. 1.20, 1.21.

Performance of the high mass training can be considered a perfect one, see Fig. 1.19. Most background processes concentrate in the low mass region, therefore, for high mass region even linear discriminant is performing well, see Figs. 1.20, 1.21.

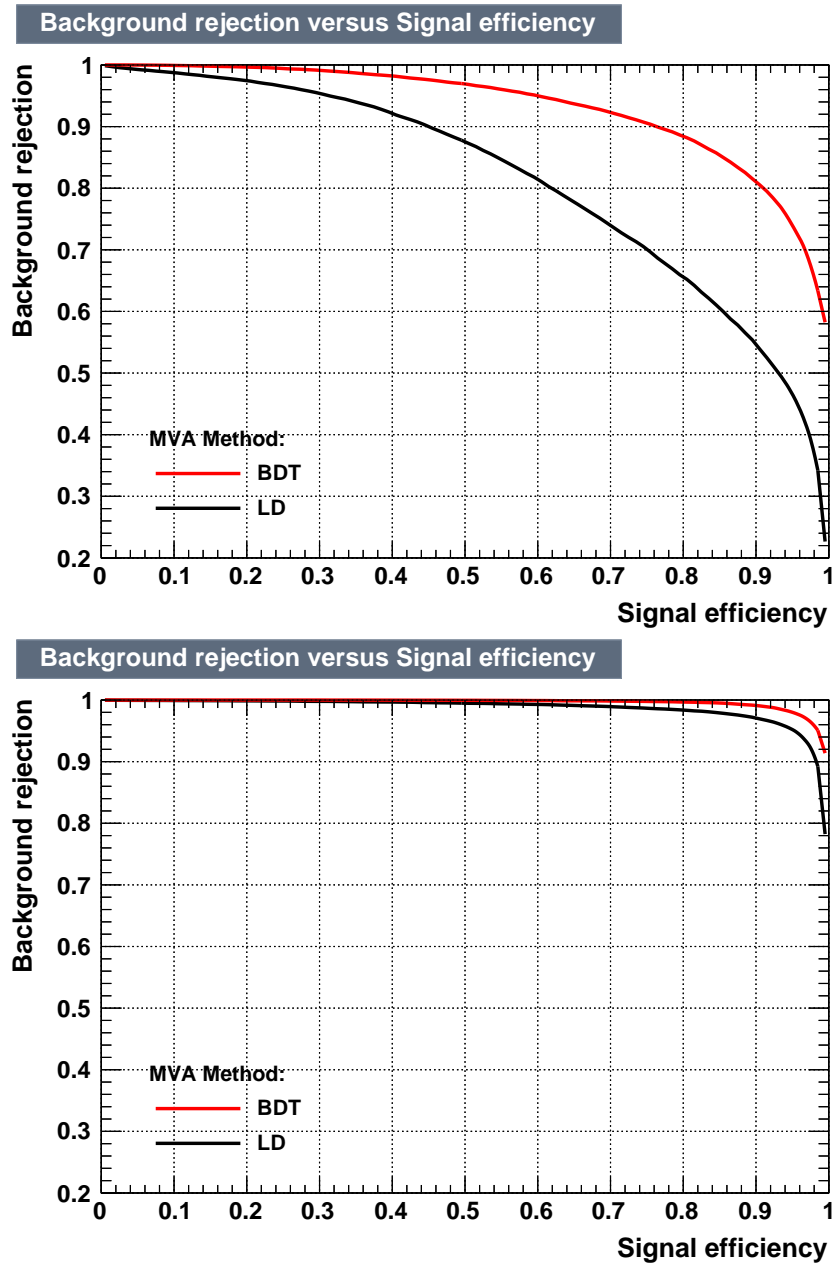


**Figure 1.20:** BDT discriminants for di-electron channel. Top: low mass training. Bottom: high mass training.

In the machine learning, one needs performance measures to compare several models. Usually for a classification problem, one relies on the Receiver Operating Characteristics curve (ROC) and its Area Under The Curve (AUC). These two are the

most important evaluation metrics for checking the performance for any classification model. The ROC is a curve plotted in the space of signal efficiency and background rejection efficiency, where background rejection is equal to one minus the background efficiency. On the 0 to 1 ranges for axes (values of efficiencies), a diagonal line represents the efficiency of the random guess, which is 0.5. A perfect ROC would bend very close to the top right corner. Such ROC has the AUC almost equal to 1. The ROC curves for di-electron training in low and high mass regions are shown in Fig. 1.21.

ROC can be regarded as a probability curve and, in this case, the AUC represents the degree or measure of signal-background separability. It tells how much model is capable of distinguishing between two given classes. The higher the AUC is, the better the model is at predicting signal as signal-like event and background as background-like event.



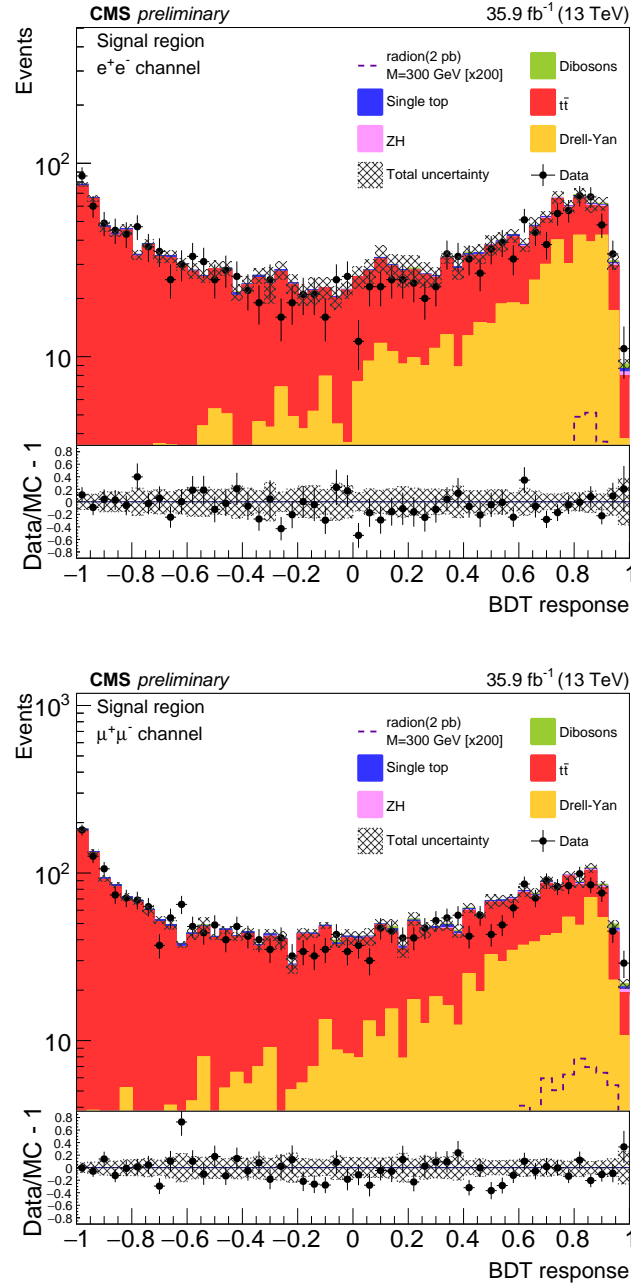
**Figure 1.21:** ROC curves for di-electron channel. Top: low mass training. Bottom: high mass training.

For two given signal efficiencies, one would prefer the model, which has the lower background efficiency, or in other words, the higher background rejection efficiency. In practice, when AUCs are close to one and ROCs are similar, one compares AUCs

directly and decides which model to use based on the AUC value.

Finally, we provide the figures of the BDT discriminant in the SR. The plots are shown for the 300 GeV radion decaying in the di-electron and di-muon channels. Both figures are of the post-fit type.





**Figure 1.22:** BDT distributions for the radion case, electron(muon) channel is shown at the top(bottom). Signal region is presented, 300 GeV mass hypothesis. For electrons the selection is at 0.4, for muons at 0.7, as is described in Section 1.7.3.

### 1.7.3 BDT selection requirement in the signal region

In this subsection, you explain that you apply a requirement to candidates in the signal region. You explain that the requirement is specific to the mass hypothesis, and specific to the lepton channel (but does not depend on the resonance nature). Then you explain the method you used to choose the cut value, and provide the table of optimized BDT cut values and the efficiencies (those efficiencies that are presently in the Table 5.2 in the PDF).

[Note that not once in my proposal do I mention the MTHH variable. This is because we really look at it after the full selection including the BDT cut, so it appears premature to look at it earlier. I will propose, in my future comments, to define it and look at its distributions in the Statistical Analysis chapter.]

[There is no need to mention all side studies, all optimizations in detail, or all cross checks in the dissertation, as you would certainly agree. Such as: kinematic plots from BDT sidebands, or CR-only fits.]

## 1.8 Systematic Uncertainties

Systematic uncertainties that affect the sensitivity of our di-Higgs search come from a variety of sources such as theoretical uncertainties on cross sections or proton structure, experimental uncertainties related to the modelling of the detector response, the amount of collected data, and the discrepancies between the simulated samples and the real data.

Systematic uncertainties can be divided into two broad categories: those affecting only the yields of selected events from different processes (the "normalization" uncertainties) and those that, in addition to the change in rate, may distort the shape of the  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$  distribution used in the extraction of the limits (the "shape" uncertainties).

**Table 1.9:** Efficiency of the BDT selection requirement.  $ee$  channel (top) and  $\mu\mu$  channel (bottom).

sample	Efficiency at 300 GeV, [%]	Efficiency at 900 GeV, [%]
signal (bbZZ)	89.2	94.9
signal (bbWW)	75.0	88.4
$t\bar{t}$	28.8	0.2
Drell-Yan	74.2	1.2
Single top	33.1	1.1
ZH	88.8	10.7
Dibosons	90.0	5.0

sample	Efficiency at 300 GeV, [%]	Efficiency at 900 GeV, [%]
signal (bbZZ)	58.1	91.1
signal (bbWW)	25.9	96.3
$t\bar{t}$	13.6	0.2
Drell-Yan	39.0	0.8
Single top	13.0	0.2
ZH	56.0	8.4
Dibosons	51.4	6.2

### 1.8.1 Normalization uncertainties

The sources of systematic uncertainties that affect normalizations are discussed in the list below. The sizes of some systematic uncertainties may vary depending on the resonance mass hypothesis and the decay channel of the leptonically decaying Zboson, in which cases ranges of the uncertainty values are listed. Normalization uncertainties discussed in this section do not affect the normalizations of the  $t\bar{t}$  and DY backgrounds because those are determined from data during the simultaneous fit of the signal and control regions.

- **Luminosity** - CMS estimated this uncertainty on the integrated luminosity of the CMS 2016 data set to be 2.5% [?]. This uncertainty directly affects the expected event yields for the signal processes as well as all background processes except for the two dominant backgrounds, DY and  $t\bar{t}$ .

- **Pileup** - Signal and background event yields depend on the accuracy of the re-production of pileup interactions in each simulated event. The effect of pileup is considered on each process. The recommended nominal value of 69.2 mb is used for the total inelastic pp cross section, for Down and Up variations, the values of 66.02 and 72.38 mb are used respectively, reflecting the imperfect knowledge of the total inelastic proton-proton interaction cross section at 13 TeV. The effect is seen only in the normalization and we, thus, consider this a normalization uncertainty and assign the value of 6%.
- **Proton PDF** - The systematic bias associated with the limited knowledge of the interacting proton content is evaluated using an ensemble of a hundred of PDF replicas from the NNPDF set [?] following the PDF4LHC prescription [?,?] and the RMS of the resulting process normalizations is taken as a measure of the bias. It is found to be of order 5%.
- **QCD scales** - Theoretical uncertainties in the QCD factorization and renormalization scales affect the expected yield of the signal and background events, excluding the  $t\bar{t}$  and DY yields as mentioned earlier. This uncertainty is estimated by varying independently these two scales in simulation by factors 0.5 and 2 with respect to the nominal values of the scales. The unphysical cases with one of the scales fluctuating up while the other fluctuates down are discarded. In each bin of the HH transverse mass distribution the maximum and minimum variation are used to build an envelope around the nominal shape, resulting in the effect of the size 4-6% on the processes' yields.
- **Missing transverse energy/momentum** - Clustered energy in jets and leptons undergo energy corrections during event reconstruction, however, neutral hadrons and photons that do not belong to any jet ("unclustered energy") and

jets with low transverse momenta (below 10 GeV) lack such corrections. This results in a small systematic bias in the reconstructed missing transverse momentum.  $\cancel{E}_T$  enters the  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$  variable, thus the effect of the unclustered energy has to be studied. We shift the energy of each particle not contained in jets or contained in low- $p_T$  jets by its uncertainty Up and Down. Such variations affect the event yields of signal and background processes at about 3% level but do not have a visible effect on the shape of the HH transverse mass, thus this source is categorised as a "normalization" systematic source.

### 1.8.2 Shape uncertainties

Several sources of systematic uncertainties affect not only the rate but also the shapes of various kinematic distributions which are inputs to the BDT or a part of the  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$  construction, the BDT discriminant itself, and the shape of the  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$  distribution. Each source is varied separately within one standard deviation up and down, and the effect is propagated through all related variables resulting in the nominal shape of the HH invariant mass distribution and two modified shapes corresponding to the Up and Down variations. Such triplet of shapes is prepared for each channel, each mass hypothesis, and for all processes.

All these shapes are fit simultaneously in the signal extraction likelihood fit. The discussion of these sources of uncertainties follows.

- **Lepton efficiency** - The effect of the detector on the reconstruction of the lepton: identification and isolation selection criteria, and the requirement to pass trigger selection requirements are studied separately and are used to account for data/MC discrepancies. The corrections are derived from large dedicated samples of Zboson decays and also have an error associated with the procedure.

The uncertainty on lepton efficiency corrections are derived as a function of lepton  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  and is propagated to the final  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$  distributions. The effect of these uncertainties is sub-percent for the muon channel and up to 6% for the electron channel.

- Jet energy scale** - The uncertainty on the jet energy scale affects  $\text{H} \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  mass and  $p_T$ , which are inputs to the BDT. In addition, jet energy scale directly affects  $\text{H} \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  mass and  $\cancel{E}_T$ , which are used during the construction of the HH invariant mass. Jet energy scale is varied Up and Down within one standard deviation of its uncertainty as a function of jet  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ , and the effect on the jet kinematics and on the  $\cancel{E}_T$  is calculated and propagated through the steps of the measurement yielding the variation of the HH invariant mass shape. Jet energy scale uncertainty, with all factors combined, has the effect on the yields of the signal and some background components as large as 5 to 10%.
- Jet energy resolution** - Data and MC a different energy resolution, which also affects the final  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$  shapes via its effect on the dijet invariant mass for  $\text{H} \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  and its effect on the  $\cancel{E}_T$ . Jet energy resolution is varied in simulation by one standard deviation as a function of jet  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  and the effect is propagated through the steps of the measurement. Its effect on the  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$  yield is typically order of 0.5%.
- b-tagging and mistagging** - The efficiency to tag a  $q_b$ -jet and the probability to misidentify a different flavor or a gluon jet and tag it as a  $q_b$ -jet is corrected in MC samples by factors derived from flavor-enhanced jet samples. The uncertainties on these corrections are propagated through the whole analysis setup. The effect of the  $q_b$ -tagging efficiency (mistagging/flavor misidentification) is

about 5% (7–10%) for the Drell-Yan process and at the sub-percent level for other processes (7–10%).

- **Bin-by-bin uncertainties** - Since the available statistics for the simulated MC samples is limited, the lack of events in some bins of the  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$  distribution is addressed by bin-by-bin (BBB) uncertainty. This effect may result in sizeable fluctuations of the bin content of the HH invariant mass shapes that enter the likelihood fit. Therefore, for each bin of the HH invariant mass distributions an individual nuisance parameter is added to the likelihood fit with the Gaussian constraint of one standard deviation of the yield uncertainty in that bin.

## 1.9 Statistical Analysis

The results in this measurement are obtained with the maximum likelihood fit. We perform a simultaneous fit of the SR and both CRs for both dielectron and dimuon channels using the likelihood function constructed as a product of Poisson terms over all bins of the input  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$  distributions in the three regions (SR, CRDY, CRTT) with Gaussian terms to constrain the nuisance parameters:

$$L(r_{\text{signal}}, r_k | \text{data}) = \prod_{i=1}^{N_{\text{bins}}} \frac{\mu_i^{n_i} \cdot e^{-\mu_i}}{n_i!} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{N_{\text{nuisances}}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\theta_j^2}$$

where the product index  $i$  refers to the bin of the input distributions, the product index  $j$  refers to uncertainties accounted for by the fit model, and  $n_i$  is the number of observed data events in the bin  $i$ . The mean value for each of the Poisson distributions is computed as:

$$\mu_i = r_{\text{signal}} \cdot S_i + \sum_k r_k \cdot B_{k,i},$$

where  $k$  refers to the background process  $k$ , and  $B_{k,i}$  is the content of the bin  $i$  of the background shape for a process  $k$ , while  $S_i$  is the content of the bin  $i$  of the signal shape. The parameter  $r_k$  sets the normalization of the background process  $k$  while  $r_{\text{signal}}$  is the signal strength parameter, all  $r$  parameters are floating freely in the fit. Two values of the signal strength parameter are of special interest:  $r_{\text{signal}} = 0$  describes the background-only hypothesis, while  $r_{\text{signal}} = 1$  corresponds to the case when the HH cross section matches the cross section used for the initial signal normalization inspired by BSM models, 2pb in our case. The terms  $\theta_j$  represent the set of nuisance parameters that are introduced into the likelihood function as Gaussian constraints.

Figure 1.31( 1.32) shows the HH transverse mass distributions for the signal and two control regions for both channels for the graviton (radion) resonance mass hypothesis with normalizations and shapes of all components adjusted according to the best-fit values. The signal sample is normalized to the cross section of 2 pb, a typical value for predictions of WED models (e.g., at 300 GeV), and is further scaled, as indicated on the Figure, to make it clearly visible.

With the given 2016 dataset, the fit results show no evidence for HH production through a narrow resonance, whose width is negligible in comparison to experimental resolution, in the mass range from 250 GeV to 1 TeV. Thus, upper 95 % confidence level limits on the HH production cross section are set using the modified frequentist  $\text{CL}_s$  approach (asymptotic  $\text{CL}_s$ ) [88–90, 108].

The observed and expected 95% upper CL limits for the full mass range and both



resonances are listed in Table 1.11. We produce the standard CMS Brazilian-flag type of plot for the limits, shown in Fig. 1.25. The green and yellow bands correspond to one and two standard deviations around the expected limit respectively. Since 450 GeV is the separation boundary between two mass regions: low mass and high mass, the limit calculation is performed with both of the BDTs at 450 GeV, where the discontinuity is seen in the figure. The Figure also shows the expected production cross section for a RS1 KK graviton/RS1 radion in WED models. This cross section is computed in [2] under the assumption of no mixing with the SM Higgs boson.

## 1.10 Limits Extraction

### DROP

Prior to the derivation of the expected limits, we had to make sure their values are the most sensitive limits that our analysis can set. For that, we have done an optimization study finding the best cut value on the BDT discriminant with the idea to yield the lowest (the most sensitive) limit.

### 1.10.1 Optimization for the best limit

For this study, before doing the combination of electron and muon channels, we have optimized each of the channels separately. Systematical uncertainties were present only of the normalization type ( $\ln N$ ), since we are statistically limited and systematics plays a secondary role. As an example, for a specific analysis setup the 300 GeV fit in the muon channel yields the limit ('r-value') 255.25 (with the systematics but neglecting BBB uncertainties), without systematics the 'r-value' is 238.25. The difference is 17 parts in 255.25, which is just 6.7 %.

**Table 1.10:** Suboptimal BDT cuts used in the analysis

channel	260 and 270 GeV	300 and 350 GeV	400 and 450 GeV	600 GeV to 1000 GeV
muons	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.99
electrons	0.4	0.4	0.925	0.99

As can be seen from the plots 1.23 and 1.24, for high mass region the best cut to use is 0.99 for both electron and muon channels. For low mass region, the situation is more complicated. Depending on the mass point (and channel!) one cut is better than the other. For electron channel for 400 and 450 GeV mass points the best cut is 0.925. In the lower region, the situation changes, 0.2 for 260 GeV, 0.4 for 270 and 300 GeV, 0.825 for 350 GeV.

Running the whole analysis for each separate cut and channel and spin hypothesis is not possible computationally taking into account the number of samples and shapes one has to create and process. That is why a reasonable compromise is to observe that for 260  $\rightarrow$  350 GeV included, the suboptimal cut can be 0.4, being well inside the  $1\sigma$  error band. This leaves the whole mass range with just three different cut values. This approach of suboptimal cuts, cuts which are close the best values but, most importantly, can be shared among several mass points, is what we adopted for this measurement.

For instance, for muons the best cuts are: 0.1 for 260 and 270 GeV, 0.5 for 300 GeV, 0.7 for 350 GeV, 0.925 for 400 and 450 GeV. Taking the approach of suboptimal cuts, the values we kept are: 0.1 for 260 and 270 GeV, 0.7 for 300  $\rightarrow$  450 GeV included. This way we simplify the analysis to three different BDT cuts per channel and, at the same time, remain optimal within the error bands with respect to the best cut values. This is summarized in the Table 1.10.

### 1.10.2 Results from the fit

The extraction of the results is performed by what is called at CMS "Binned shape analysis". We used Higgs Combination Tool ("HiggsCombine") [166], which is a framework with the help of which the Higgs boson had been discovered. HiggsCombine is based on the RooStats package that has been very popular in the HEP community for years.

We do a simultaneous fit ( $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$  transverse mass distribution is used) of all three regions: signal region and two control regions, to extract both signal strength parameter as well as normalizations of  $t\bar{t}$  and Drell-Yan backgrounds. We use the following command to produce expected limits with the Asimov [89] toy dataset :

```
combine -M Asymptotic -t -1 -v 3 -m massValue --run blind comb_card_massValue.txt.
```

The results in the Table 1.11 are final limits produced with the combined data of electron and muon channels. The corresponding plots, from which these numbers were extracted, are shown on the Figs. 1.25.

Full postfit distributions (the naming emphasises that all regions are used in the fit, signal region included) are shown on the Figs. 1.31 for the graviton case and Figs. 1.32 for the radion case.

This the first ever bbZZ analysis performed at CERN with the real data. We use the standard set of the CMS reconstructed physics objects. Below, we describe reconstruction of each separately: electrons, muons, jets and b jets, and MET.

**Table 1.11:** The expected and observed HH production cross section upper limits at 95% CL for different narrow resonance graviton (top) and radion (bottom) mass hypotheses for both dielectron and dimuon channels combined.

Mass, GeV	Observed Limit, pb	Expected Limit, pb
250	253.5	589.1
260	272.2	585.9
270	274.4	537.5
300	380.0	434.4
350	330.6	309.4
400	90.4	119.9
450	59.8	63.3
500	31.0	36.6
550	14.5	20.2
600	9.8	12.7
650	18.5	11.1
700	16.1	10.1
750	13.7	8.8
800	10.1	6.5
900	8.1	4.8
1000	5.8	4.2

Mass, GeV	Observed Limit, pb	Expected Limit, pb
250	107.3	297.7
260	170.8	410.9
270	207.0	470.3
300	451.7	496.9
350	532.6	496.9
400	155.7	171.1
450	89.3	82.0
500	36.0	54.4
550	18.7	28.5
600	13.2	19.6
650	24.6	17.2
700	16.4	12.0
750	13.9	10.4
800	12.6	9.8
900	6.9	5.6
1000	5.7	4.5

## 1.11 $bbZZ$ measurements and combination of all HH channels

I suggest to change the title to ?Discussion?. Or ?Combination of HH measurements in different channels?. I'd suggest the former.

The discussion as it is need to be re-thought. Many of the points are fine to discuss, however they need to be rearranged and the language improved. I will make a suggestion here, but I have not commented extensively the yellow notes in the PDF, the reshuffling is too significant. Still, please see some minor notes in [1] in section 10. On the positive side, it is not too much work, just one page.

Start saying that in searches for a process when intermediate particles can decay through a variety of channels, a common experimental approach is to search for multiple final states in parallel, and, subsequently, combine the results, such as limits on a cross section of a physics process such as production of a heavy resonance, into a single result. At CMS, the Higgs program includes searches for HH production, both of the SM and BSM type, in multiple channels that are published as individual papers. For HH, the individual channels include many of the channels seen in Fig.XX[with Rami's photo]. This is usually followed by the final paper that presents the combined result of all individual channels, the ?grand combination?. This measurement, the search for a resonant production of the HH system decaying through the intermediate  $bbZZ$  state into the final state  $2b2l2\nu$  is completed, approved by the CMS collaboration [give reference to your PAS], and is shown at conferences. This measurement is, at the time of this writing, is being combined with a similar channel, where the HH system decays through the same intermediate state  $bbZZ$  into the final state  $2b2l2\text{jets}$ , and a paper is will be submitted to the Physical Review D shortly after the defense of this dissertation. Once the 13 TeV dataset is fully analyzed, CMS

plans to release the grand combination paper for the HH production search that is based on the bbZZ channel discussed here as well as many other channels. As of this writing, the best available grand combination from the CMS experiment is based on a partial 13 TeV dataset analysis published in [xx] that includes a subset of all channels. That paper does not include the present measurement, which would be found just above the bbWW graph seen in the legend as  $\nu\bar{\nu}\nu\bar{\nu}$ . As can be seen from the figure, the most sensitive channels are the bbgg for the mass region below 500 GeV, and the bbbb channel for higher masses. Here, discuss the prospects. Say that while no individual channel measurement is not going to be sensitive enough to see a resonant HH production at the level predicted by WED, the grand combination for the full dataset may be able to see the process if it exists and approach the sensitivity of order of picobarns. With more data taken in Run 3 and the HL-LHC period, the BSM theories discussed here will be probed more and more stringently. However, the ability for a collider experiment to see the SM production of the HH system is at least a decay, or more, in the future. Next, you can explain that a projected sensitivity for a measurement based on the full data set expected to be collected with the HL-LHC is such and such, and will be able to probe the SM production at this level. Finally, you can say that whether searching for a BSM resonant production on the SM production of HH, we need new data + new methods, etc, which is in progress in CMS, etc. You can keep the last paragraph as it is as a jumping board into the conclusions.

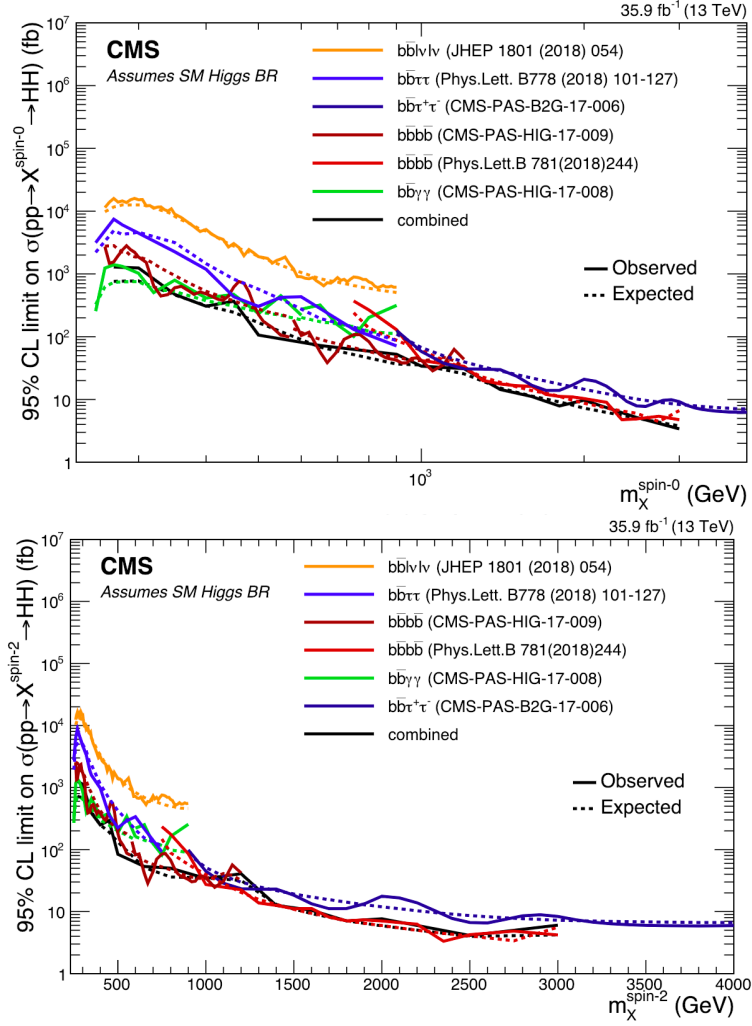
Even for the HL-LHC with almost  $3\text{ ab}^{-1}$  of data, none of the HH analyses can reach the discovery sensitivity, thus the goal for all HH analyses now and in the nearest future is to contribute to the grand combination and only in this collaborative way to achieve the desired sensitivity. From the recent results of the HL-LHC HH combination projection analysis [178]: "the statistical combination of the five decay channels results in an expected significance for the standard model HH signal of  $2.6\sigma$ ".

This is a clear sign that more data are needed. However, many Higgs analysts would agree that new statistical and MVA tools should be developed/employed. Thus, the next iteration of this analysis will most likely use a sophisticated neural network not only for the signal-background separation, but also for lepton reconstruction, etc.

This analysis is the search for the double Higgs boson production mediated by the intermediate graviton (and separately) by the radion in the  $bbZZ$  channel with the 2  $b$  jets, 2 leptons, 2 neutrinos final state with the  $35.9fb^{-1}$  2016 dataset. According to the CMS Physics Coordination, for the paper in PRD this analysis has to be combined with the other  $bbZZ$  analysis, which is focused on the 2 bjets, 2 leptons, 2 jets signature. The mass range to be covered in the combined measurement is also from 250 GeV to 1000 GeV.

Regarding the latest grand combination for the spin 0 and spin 2 cases [179] shown at the Fig. 1.26, the results are obtained for the extended mass range going from 250 GeV up to 3000 GeV, but no significant excess is found. The combination is done for the mass regions where at least two decay channels could contribute. Overall,  $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$  is the most sensitive channel in the low mass region and  $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$  in the higher mass region (above  $\sim 500$  GeV).

This concludes the discussion of analysis details and in the next chapter we will summarise the main ideas that have been covered throughout this thesis.



**Figure 1.26:** Combination of HH channels using 2016 data. Expected (dashed) and observed (solid line) 95% CL exclusion limits are shown. The results describe the production cross section of a narrow width spin 0 (top) and spin 2 (bottom) resonance decaying into a pair of SM Higgs bosons.

### 1.11.1 Data and MC comparison

FROM SEAN

The first such correction addresses the difference between the  $pT(V)$  spectrum in data and the  $V$  +jets MC samples. The  $pT(V)$  distribution is harder for simulation than for data because the simulation does not include higher-order electroweak



corrections.[103] The  $V + \text{jets}$  samples are therefore reweighted as a function of the  $p_T(V)$  to apply the NLO electroweak correction shown in Figure 4-5 which accounts for discrepancies of up to 10

A third correction addresses the discrepancy between the di-jet invariant mass  $m(jj)$  distribution in data and the LO  $V + \text{jets}$  MC samples. Although NLO  $V + \text{jets}$  MC samples are readily available and show good agreement with data for the  $m(jj)$  distribution, they are not used by the analysis because their limited statistical power results in an over 10% Higgs boson decay  $BR(jj)$  is derived as a ratio of the NLO to LO  $V + \text{jets}$  samples following the procedure outlined in Ref. [28]. An example of this ratio is shown in Figure 4-6. These reweighting functions improve the agreement between data and the LO  $V + \text{jets}$  89 samples for the  $m(jj)$  and  $p_T(V)$  distributions while demonstrating a negligible effect on the remaining distributions. The full reweighting is assessed as a systematic uncertainty.

BDT selection is applied in the signal region only, we are not cutting on BDT for control regions, therefore, all the mass points belonging to the low mass region (and separately to the high mass region) have the same background and data distributions. Thus, we provide plots for two mass points: one mass point representing low mass region, 300 GeV, and one mass point representing high mass region, 900 GeV. Signal  $bbZZ$  and  $bbWW$  rates for all plots are multiplied additionally by a factor of 500 purely for the visualization purpose and do not go in the real analysis.

Postfit plots that include SR in the simultaneous fit with control regions, hence a common jargon name "Full postfit" plots, in contrast to the control regions only type of the fit, or a control regions plus signal region sideband. Figures 1.31 - 1.32 show data and MC comparison in the SR, CRDY, and CRTT. For both  $ee$  and  $\mu\mu$  channels, low and high mass regions. The latest style plots produced for the analysis public document (Physics Analysis Summary called "PAS") can be found at Fig. 1.31

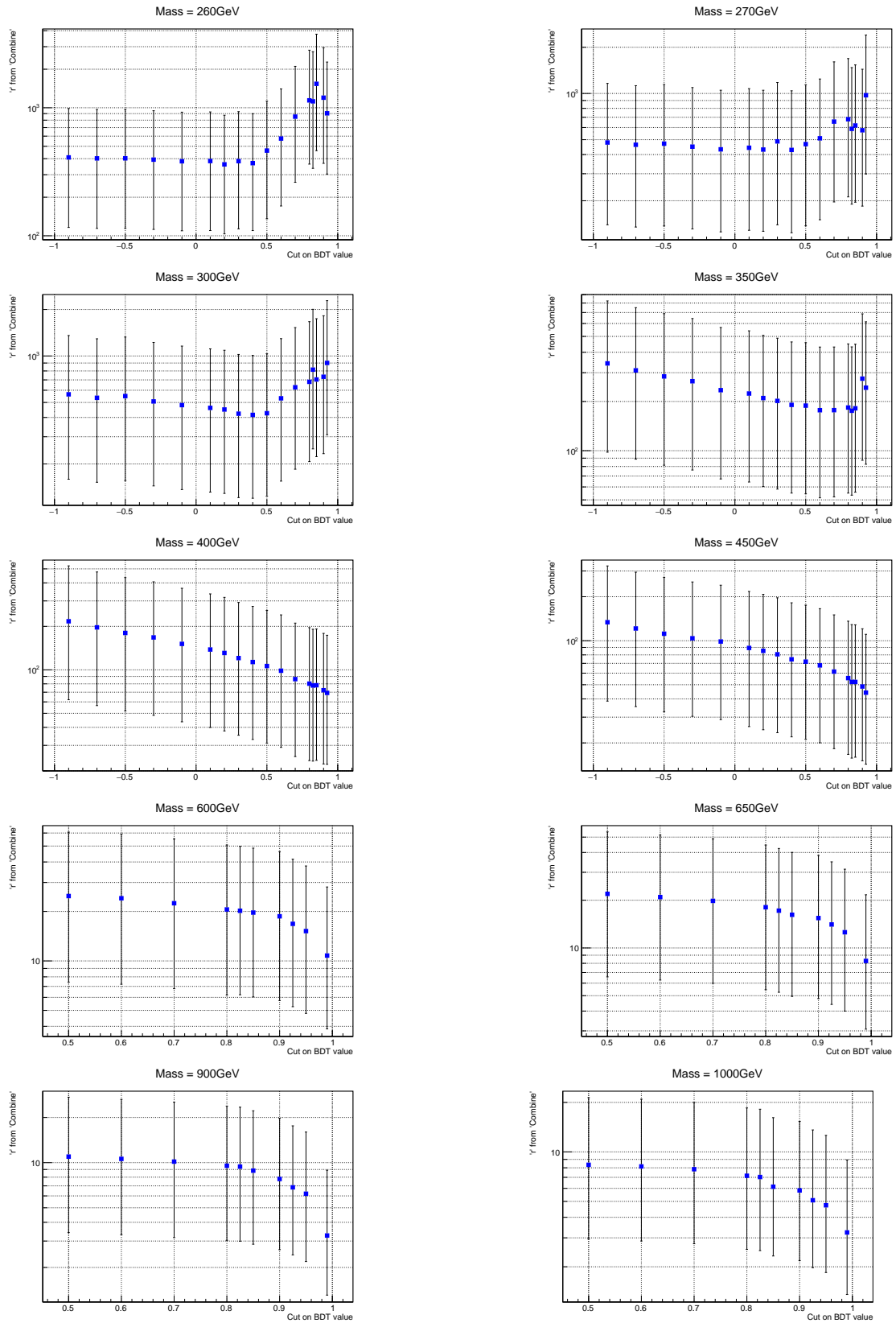
for the graviton case and Fig. 1.32 for the radion case.

Distributions of nine variables that go into the BDT have been studied in depth during the pre-approval process and are available in the Appendix of the analysis note [159]. All variables show good data/MC agreement after applying postfit scale factors (not to be confused with the POG recommended scale factors in the section below). The most important variables in this analysis, namely the BDT itself and the variable that we fit,  $\tilde{M}_T(\text{HH})$ , are shown in the Fig. 1.31 for graviton and in Fig. 1.32 for the radion.

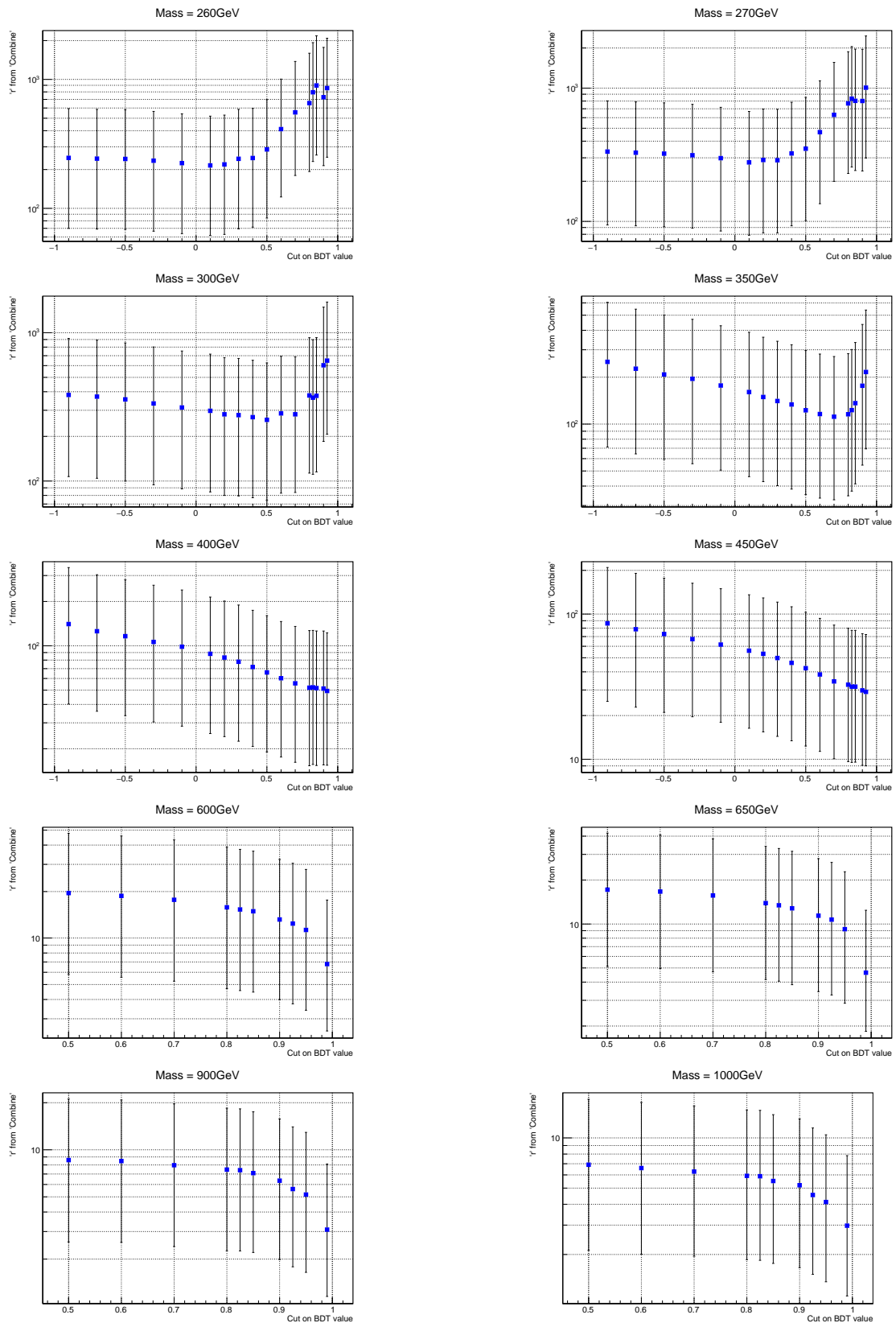
### 1.11.2 Scale Factors

Electron ID and ISO scale factors, as well as HLT scale factors (Fig. 1.1), have been computed by VHbb group, which ntuples and analysis setup we reutilise. Scale factors have been presented at the EGamma physics object groups (POG) meeting [160] and fully approved. We reuse those scale factors and apply them to our MC samples.

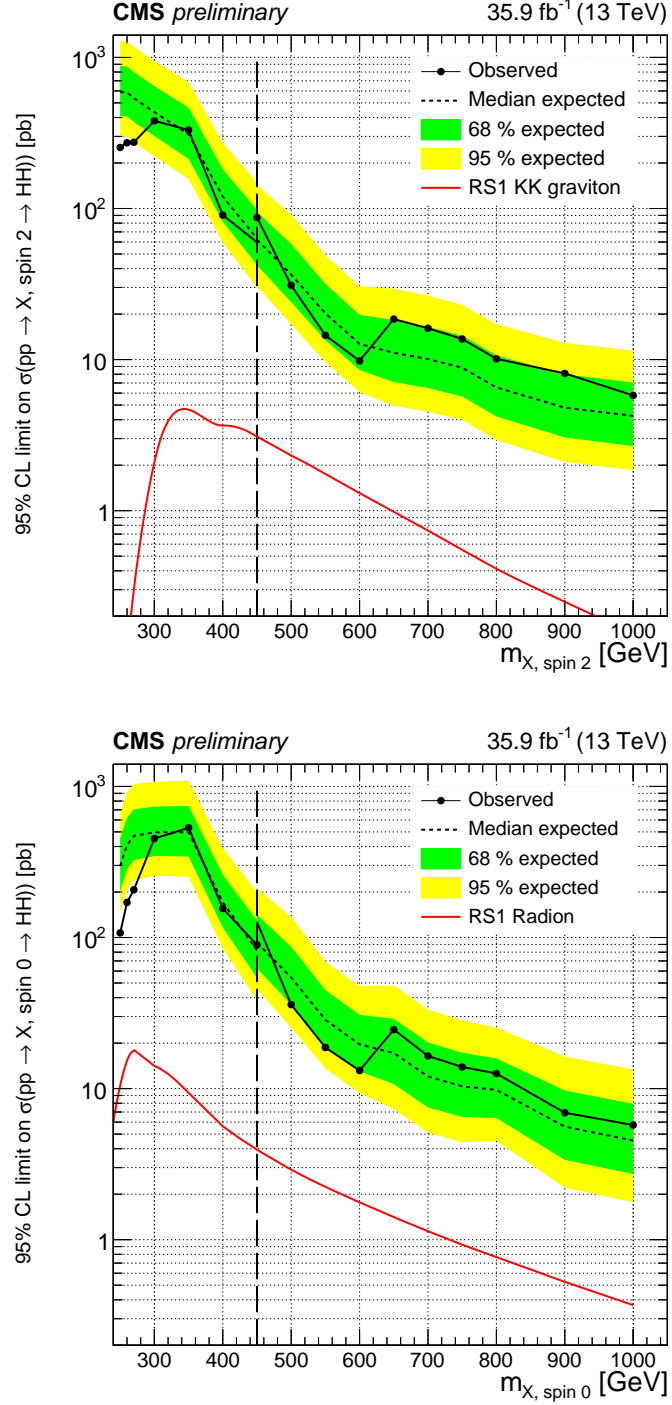
Muon ID scale factors, as well as ISO scale factors, have been derived separately for runs G/H and B/C/D/E/F runs (2016 data at LHC has been split into several "runs") and then luminosity averaged to obtain the final numbers [114]. Tracker scale factors (1.1) are taken from the Muon POG twiki page [115] and used as is. HLT dimuon scale factors were derived by VHbb group and further approved by the muon POG. These scale factors were derived separately for run H (Fig. 1.3) and B/C/D/E/F/G (Fig. 1.2) runs and then luminosity averaged [116]. On top, separate scale factors are calculated for the dZ requirement of `HLT_Mu17_TrkIsoVVL_Mu8_TrkIsoVVL_DZ_v*` OR `HLT_Mu17_TrkIsoVVL_TkMu8_TrkIsoVVL_DZ_v*` triggers, using dilepton events that have already passed the `HLT_Mu17_TrkIsoVVL_Mu8_TrkIsoVVL_v*` OR `HLT_Mu17_TrkIsoVVL_TkMu8_TrkIsoVVL_v*` triggers (Fig. 1.4).



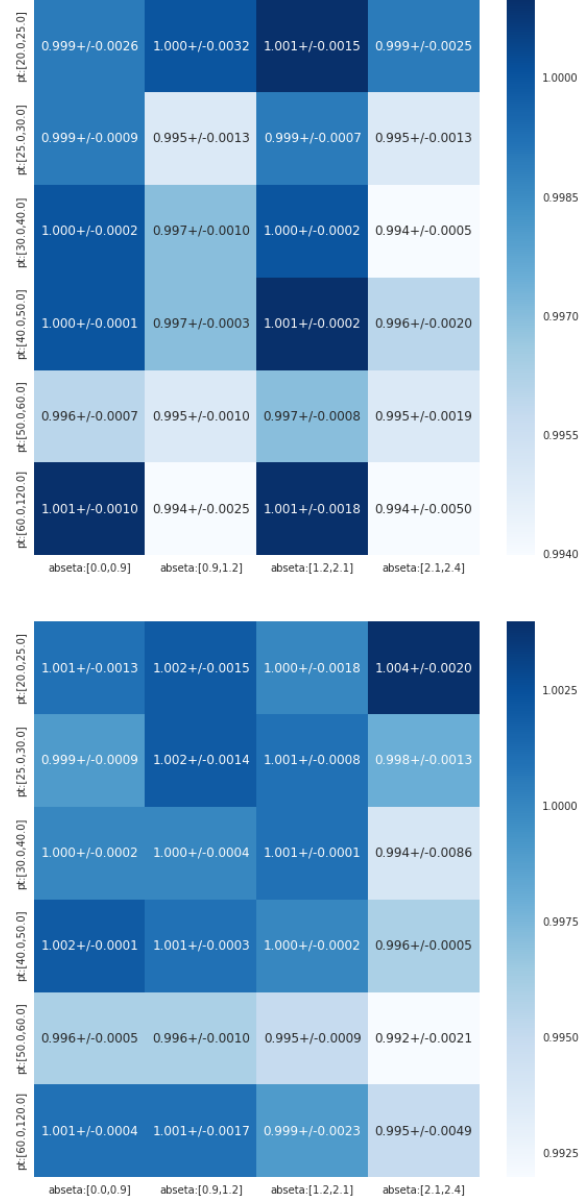
**Figure 1.23:** Cut on the BDT output vs 'r-value' from Combine. Electron channel.



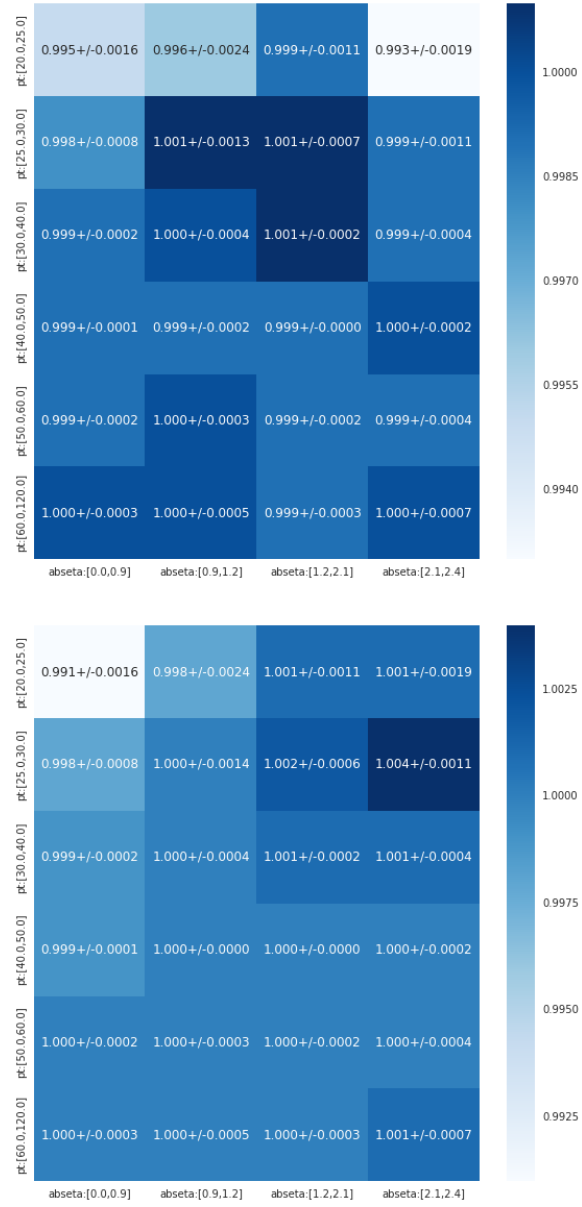
**Figure 1.24:** Cut on the BDT output vs 'r-value' from Combine. Muon channel.



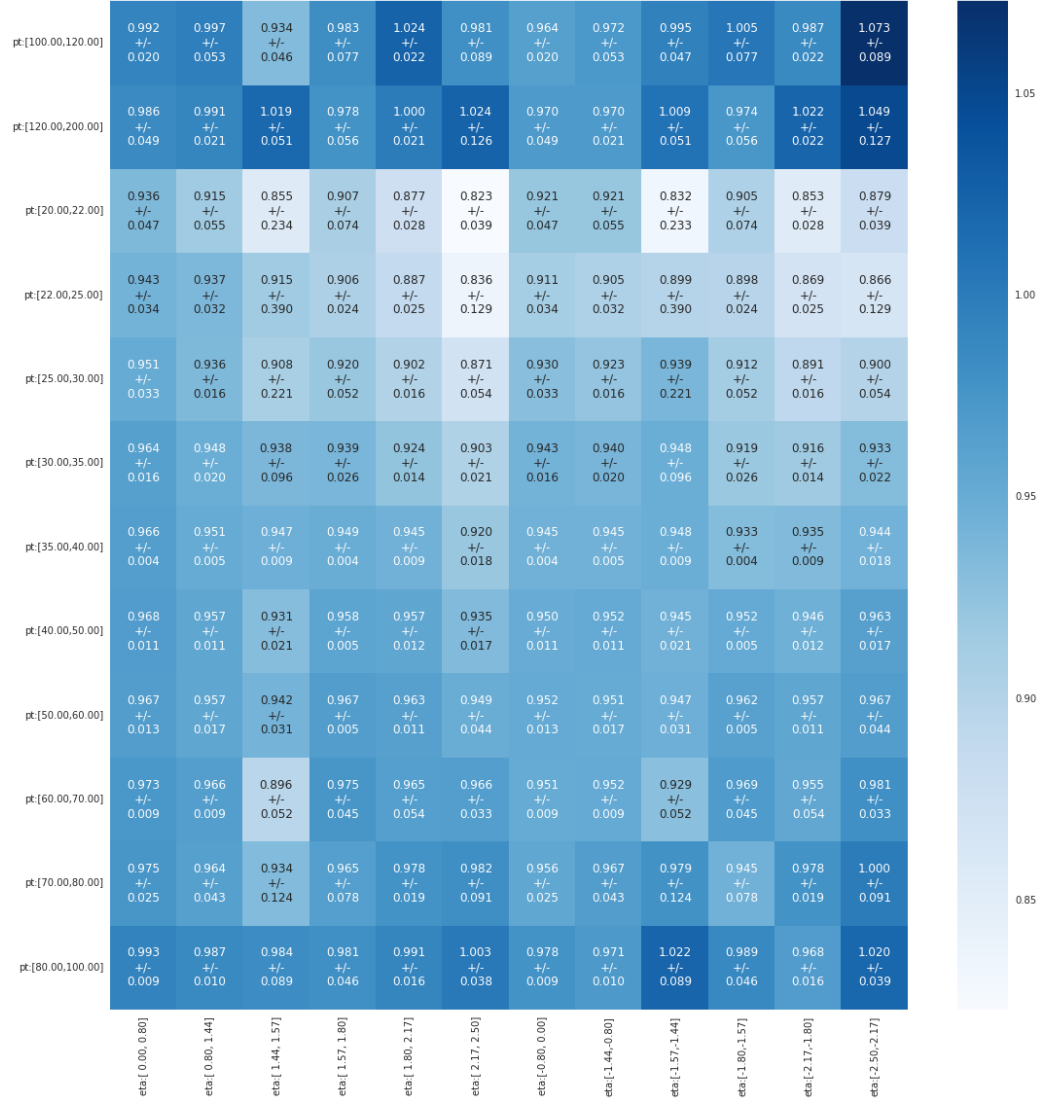
**Figure 1.25:** Expected (dashed line) and observed (solid line) limits on the cross section of a resonant HH production as a function of the mass of the narrow resonance for both leptonic channels combined. Graviton case is shown at the top and radion case at the bottom. The red line shows a theoretical prediction for the production of a WED particle with certain model assumptions [2].



**Figure 1.27:** Muon ID scale factors in  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  bins. Left: runs B to F. Right: runs G and H.



**Figure 1.28:** Muon ISO scale factors in  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  bins. Left: runs B to F. Right: runs G and H.

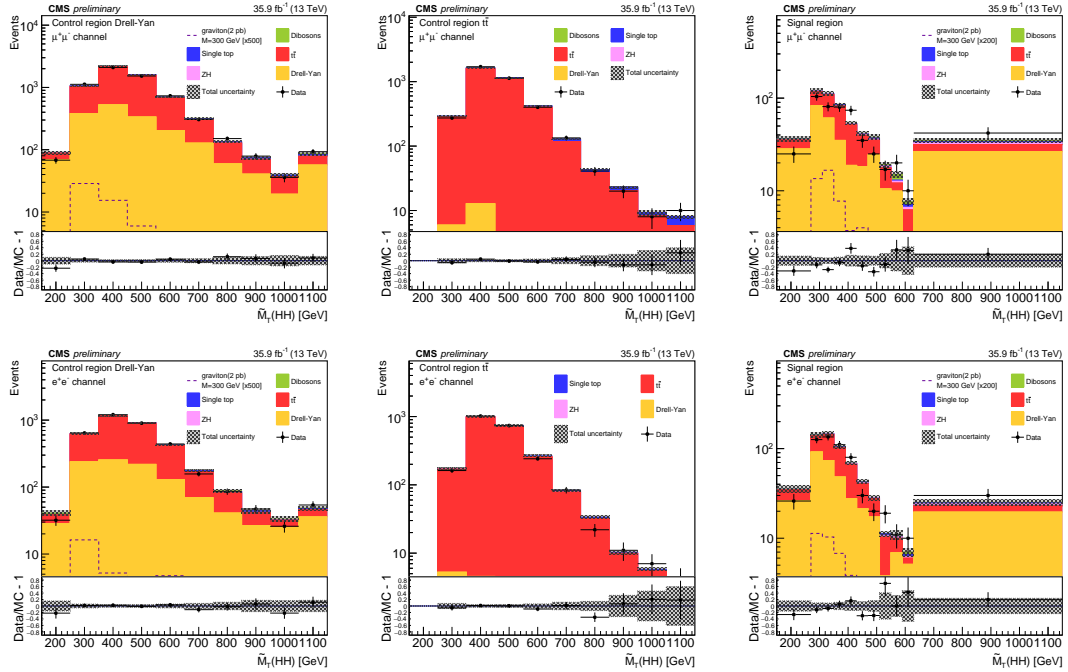


**Figure 1.29:** Electron ID+ISO scale factors in  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  bins.

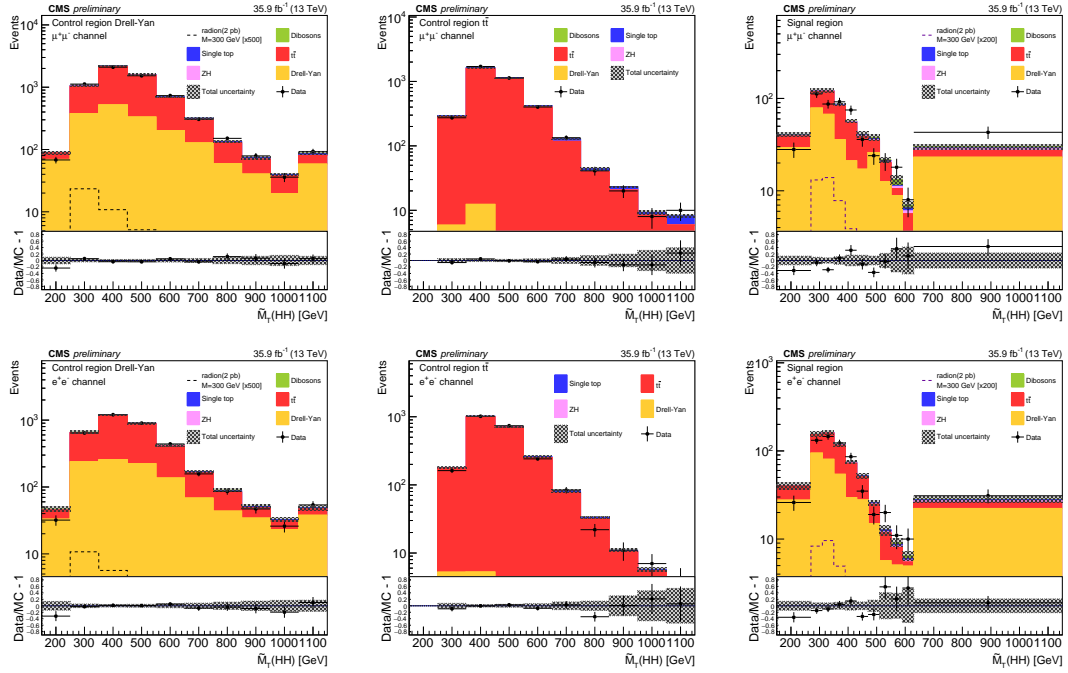


	2 very loose muons	2 loose muons	mva ID	leading pt and eta gap	iso<0.15	trigger	>=2b-jets, Hbb and Zll cuts
bbWW300		100.0	41.8	21.6	20.3	17.8	16.6
bbZZ300		100.0	87.4	61.6	56.7	43.0	40.7
bbWW900		100.0	53.5	15.8	14.6	10.5	9.9
bbZZ900		100.0	84.0	63.3	59.7	53.6	50.2
	2 very loose electrons	2 loose electrons	mva ID	leading pt and eta gap	iso<0.06	trigger	>=2b-jets, Hbb and Zll cuts
bbWW300		100.0	38.8	18.9	17.4	13.0	10.0
bbZZ300		100.0	68.2	46.3	43.9	24.7	23.1
bbWW900		100.0	38.5	14.9	13.1	5.5	4.8
bbZZ900		100.0	71.4	46.0	43.7	36.0	33.9

Figure 1.30: Cut flow for mm (top) and ee (bottom) channels.



**Figure 1.31:** Transverse mass of the reconstructed HH candidates for data, the simulated signal graviton sample for the 300 GeV mass hypothesis, and simulated backgrounds scaled according to the fit results. The top row shows the figures for the muon channel while the bottom row is for the electron channel. For each row, the left plot is for the Drell-Yan control region, the middle is for the  $t\bar{t}$  control region, and the right is for the signal region. Signal normalization choice is discussed in the text. The crosshatched area represents the sum of statistical and systematic uncertainties.



**Figure 1.32:** Transverse mass of the reconstructed HH candidates for data, the simulated signal radion sample for the 300 GeV mass hypothesis, and simulated backgrounds scaled according to the fit results. The top row shows the figures for the muon channel while the bottom row is for the electron channel. For each row, the left plot is for the Drell-Yan control region, the middle is for the  $t\bar{t}$  control region, and the right is for the signal region. Signal normalization choice is discussed in the text. The crosshatched area represents the sum of statistical and systematic uncertainties.

## CHAPTER 2

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### Conclusions

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This thesis described the search for the double Higgs boson production mediated separately by the KK graviton and by the radion heavy resonances in the  $bbZZ$  channel: one of the Higgs bosons decays to two  $q_b$  quarks while the other decays to a pair of Zbosons which, in turn, decay to a pair of neutrinos and a pair of electrons or muons. For this measurement we used 2016 data set with the integrated luminosity of  $35.9fb^{-1}$  collected by the CMS experiment at the LHC in the proton-proton collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV.

No statistically significant deviations from the SM predictions for background processes have been observed, and 95% upper confidence limits are reported for production cross section of a KK graviton/radion times the branching fraction of the subsequent decay into an HH system and further to our final state. The limits are derived for resonance masses in the 250 GeV to 1 TeV range.

This analysis became public in November 2018 [181]. Now, according to the CMS Physics Coordination, CMS would like to have a combination of this analysis with the other  $bbZZ$  analysis, which is focused on the 2 b jets, 2 leptons, 2 jets signature. Currents plans are to produce a paper for the Physical Review D (PRD), where we will report the best limits for all available  $bbZZ$  searches. Of course, prior to the grand  $bbZZ$  merge, each analysis combines the data from both dimuon and

dielectron channels. The mass range to be covered in the combined measurement is also from 250 GeV to 1000 GeV.

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