



ATLAS Note

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2 WZ + Heavy Flavor Production in pp collisions 3 at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

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The ATLAS Collaboration

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A measurement of WZ produced with an associated heavy flavor jet is performed using 140
6 fb^{-1} of proton-proton collision data at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV from the ATLAS experiment at the
7 LHC. The measurement is performed in the fully leptonic decay mode, $\text{WZ} \rightarrow \ell\bar{\nu}\ell\bar{\nu}$. The
8 cross-section of $\text{WZ} + b\text{-jets}$ is measured to be $X \pm X \pm X$, while the cross-section of $\text{WZ} +$
9 charm is measured as X , with a correlation of X between the two processes.

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45 1 Changes and outstanding items**46 1.1 Changelog**

47 This is version 5

48 1.1.1 Changes relative to v4

- 49 • Fixed various typos, clarified wording
- 50 • Expanded info about JER uncertainties, theory uncertainties
- 51 • removed a table on lepton selection, included information in the text instead
- 52 • Plotted lepton Pt Z and W for Zjet CR, rather than lep 1 and 2
- 53 • fixed binning in kinematic plots
- 54 • Included prefit and postfit yield tables
- 55 • added signal modelling systematics

56 1.1.2 Changes relative to v3

- 57 • Merged introduction into executive summary, including unblinding details and list of
- 58 • SRs/CRs used
- 59 • listed ptag used (p4133), and release (AB 21.2.127)
- 60 • Included table reftab:xsecUnc listing x-sec uncertainties used
- 61 • Removed selection criteria listed in table ?? (QMisID, AmbiguityType) that were removed
- 62 • from the analysis
- 63 • specified variable used to make truth jet flavor determination (HadronConeExclTruthLa-
- 64 • belID)
- 65 • fixed bug in MtLepMet calculation, updated selection/fits to account for this
- 66 • Included plots of MtLepMet and PtZ, swapped lep 1 and 2 p_T plots for lep W and lep Z
- 67 • plots
- 68 • updated tZ BDT training to reduce overfitting, updated plots to include error bars, feature
- 69 • importance
- 70 • updated table 7 to clarify selection, fix the tZ_BDT cut used
- 71 • replace a few broken ntuples which included large weight events

- 72 • include DL1r distribution for Z+jets and $t\bar{t}$ VRs
 73 • Expanded section on fakes, included information on derived scale factors from VRs.
 74 • Changed the kinematic plots to include $p_T(Z)$ and $m_T(W)$, list lepton p_T based on W and
 75 Z candidates.

76 **1.1.3 Changes relative to v2**

- 77 • Added alternate VBS samples to include missing b-jet diagrams
 78 • Included a section on tZ interference effects, ??.
 79 • Updated to reflect changes for 2018, including the move to PFlow jets, DL1r, updated
 80 trigger, and updated AnalysisBase version (now 21.2.127)
 81 • Revised fit regions, using separate 1-jet and 2-jet fits, with all 2-j regions included
 82 • updated plots for tZ BDT, added details about the model
 83 • Included truth jet information

84 **1.1.4 Changes relative to v1**

- 85 • Added GRL list
 86 • Fixed latex issue in line 92, typo in line 172
 87 • Added tables 5 and ??, summarizing the event and object selection
 88 • Added table 2, which includes the DSID of samples used
 89 • Included reference to WZ inclusive paper in introduction

90 **1.2 Outstanding Items**

- 91 • Complete interference studies, apply any interference effects observed as a systematic
 92 • Update results section with additional studies, possibly including:
 – Truth jet migration studies
 – Simultaneous fit over 1j and 2j
 – Impact of allowing tZ to float
 93 • Unblind, update plots and fits to include data
 94 • Add cross-section, significance once unblinded

98 2 Executive Summary

99 The production of WZ in association with a heavy flavor jet represents an important background
100 for many major analyses. This includes any process with leptons and b-jets in the final state,
101 such as $t\bar{t}H$, $t\bar{t}W$, and $t\bar{t}Z$. While precise measurements have been made of WZ production
102 [1], $WZ +$ heavy flavor remains poorly understood. This is largely because the QCD processes
103 involved in the production of the b-jet make it difficult to simulate accurately. This introduces a
104 large uncertainty for analyses that include this process as a background.

105 Motivated by its relevance to the $t\bar{t}H$ multilepton analysis, we perform a study of the fully
106 leptonic decay mode of this channel; that is, events where both the W and Z decay leptonically.
107 Because WZ has no associated jets at leading order, while the major backgrounds for this channel
108 tend to have high jet multiplicity, events with more than two jets are rejected. This gives a final
109 state signature of three leptons and one or two jets.

110 Events that meet this selection criteria are sorted into pseudo-continuous b-tagging regions based
111 on the DL1r b-tag score of their associated jets. This is done to separate $WZ +$ b-jet events from
112 $WZ +$ charm and $WZ +$ light jets. These regions are fit to data in order make a more accurate
113 estimate of the contribution of $WZ +$ heavy-flavor, where heavy-flavor jets include b-jets and
114 charm jets. The full Run-2 dataset collected by the ATLAS detector, representing 139 fb^{-1} of
115 data from pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$, is used for this study.

116 All backgrounds are accounted for using Monte Carlo, with the simulation of non-prompt lepton
117 backgrounds - $Z+jets$ and $t\bar{t}$ - validated using non-prompt Validation Regions.

118 Section 3 details the data and Monte Carlo (MC) samples used in the analysis. The reconstruction
119 of various physics objects is described in section 4. Section 5 describes the event selection applied
120 to these samples, along the definitions of the various regions used in the fit. The multivariate
121 analysis techniques used to separate the tZ background from $WZ +$ heavy flavor are described in
122 section 6. Section 7 describes the various sources of systematic uncertainties considered in the
123 fit. Finally, the results of the analysis are summarized in section 8, followed by a brief conclusion
124 in section 9.

125 The current state of thee analysis shows blinded results for thee full Run 2 dataset. Regions
126 containing $>5\%$ $WZ+b$ events are blinded, and results are from Asimov, MC only fits. In
127 addition to adding some additional information to this note, remaining tasks include performing
128 WZ/tZ interference studies, finalizing the presentation of results, and unblinding.

129 3 Data and Monte Carlo Samples

130 Both data and Monte Carlo samples used in this analysis were prepared in the `xAOD` format,
131 which was used to produce a `DxAOD` sample in the `HIGG8D1` derivation framework. The `HIGG8D1`
132 framework is designed for the $t\bar{t}H$ multi-lepton analysis, which targets events with multiple
133 leptons as well as tau hadrons. This framework skims the dataset to remove unneeded variables

134 as well as entire events. Events are removed from the derivations that do not meet the following
 135 selection:

- 136 • at least two light leptons within a range $|\eta| < 2.6$, with leading lepton $p_T > 15$ GeV and
 137 subleading lepton $p_T > 5$ GeV
- 138 • at least one light lepton with $p_T > 15$ GeV within a range $|\eta| < 2.6$, and at least two hadronic
 139 taus with $p_T > 15$ GeV.

140 Samples were then generated from these HIGG8D1 derivations with p-tag of p4134 using Ana-
 141 lyticBase version 21.2.127 modified to include custom variables..

142 **3.1 Data Samples**

143 The study uses a sample of proton-proton collision data collected by the ATLAS detector from
 144 2015 through 2018 at an energy of $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, which represents an integrated luminosity of
 145 139 fb^{-1} . This data set was collected with a bunch crossing rate of 25 ns. All data used in this
 146 analysis was verified by data quality checks, having been included in the following Good Run
 147 Lists:

- 148 • data15_13TeV.periodAllYear_DetStatus-v79-repro20-02_DQDefects-00-02-02
 149 _PHYS_StandardGRL_All_Good_25ns.xml
- 150 • data16_13TeV.periodAllYear_DetStatus-v88-pro20-21_DQDefects-00-02-04
 151 _PHYS_StandardGRL_All_Good_25ns.xml
- 152 • data17_13TeV.periodAllYear_DetStatus-v97-pro21-13_Unknown_PHYS_StandardGRL
 153 _All_Good_25ns_Triggerno17e33prim.xml
- 154 • data18_13TeV.periodAllYear_DetStatus-v102-pro22-04_Unknown_PHYS_StandardGRL
 155 _All_Good_25ns_Triggerno17e33prim.xml

156 Runs included from the AllYear period containers are included.

157 **3.2 Monte Carlo Samples**

158 Several different generators were used to produce Monte Carlo simulations of the signal and
 159 background processes. For all samples, the response of the ATLAS detector is simulated using
 160 Geant4. The WZ signal samples are simulated using Sherpa 2.2.2 [2]. Specific information
 161 about the Monte Carlo samples being used can be found in table 1. A list of the specific samples
 162 used by data set ID is shown in table 2.

Table 1: The configurations used for event generation of signal and background processes, including the event generator, matrix element (ME) order, parton shower algorithm, and parton distribution function (PDF).

Process	Event generator	ME order	Parton Shower	PDF
WZ, VV	SHERPA 2.2.2	MEPS NLO	SHERPA	CT10
tZ	MG5_AMC	LO	PYTHIA 6	CTEQ6L1
t̄W	MG5_AMC (SHERPA 2.1.1)	NLO (LO multileg)	PYTHIA 8 (SHERPA)	NNPDF 3.0 NLO (NNPDF 3.0 NLO)
t̄t(Z/γ* → ll)	MG5_AMC	NLO	PYTHIA 8	NNPDF 3.0 NLO
t̄tH	MG5_AMC (MG5_AMC)	NLO (NLO)	PYTHIA 8 (HERWIG++)	NNPDF 3.0 NLO [Ball:2014uwa] (CT10 [ct10])
tHqb	MG5_AMC	LO	PYTHIA 8	CT10
tHW	MG5_AMC (SHERPA 2.1.1)	NLO (LO multileg)	HERWIG++ (SHERPA)	CT10 (NNPDF 3.0 NLO)
tWZ	MG5_AMC	NLO	PYTHIA 8	NNPDF 2.3 LO
t̄t, t̄t̄t̄	MG5_AMC	LO	PYTHIA 8	NNPDF 2.3 LO
t̄tW+W-	MG5_AMC	LO	PYTHIA 8	NNPDF 2.3 LO
t̄t	Powheg-BOX v2 [powheggtt]	NLO	PYTHIA 8	NNPDF 3.0 NLO
t̄tγ	MG5_AMC	LO	PYTHIA 8	NNPDF 2.3 LO
s-, t-channel, Wt single top	Powheg-BOX v1 [powhegstp]	NLO	PYTHIA 6	CT10
qqVV, VVV Z → l+l-	SHERPA 2.2.1	MEPS NLO	SHERPA	NNPDF 3.0 NLO

Sample	DSID
WZ	364253, 364739-42
VV	364250, 364254, 364255, 363355-60, 364890
t̄W	410155
t̄Z	410156, 410157, 410218-20
low mass t̄Z	410276-8
Rare Top	410397, 410398, 410399
single Top	410658-9, 410644-5
three Top	304014
four Top	410080
t̄WW	410081
Z + jets	364100-41
low mass Z + jets	364198-215
W + jets	364156-97
Vγ	364500-35
tZ	410560
tW	410013-4
WtZ	410408
VVV	364242-9
VH	342284-5
WtH	341998
t̄tγ	410389
t̄t	410470
t̄tH	345873-5, 346343-5

Table 2: List of Monte Carlo samples by data set ID used in the analysis.

163 4 Object Reconstruction

164 All regions defined in this analysis share a common lepton, jet, and overall event preselection.
 165 The selection applied to each physics object is detailed here; the event preselection, and the
 166 selection used to define the various fit regions, is described in section 5.

167 4.1 Trigger

168 Events are required to be selected by dilepton triggers, as summarized in table 3.

Dilepton triggers (2015)	
$\mu\mu$ (asymm.)	HLT_mu18_mu8noL1
ee (symm.)	HLT_2e12_lhloose_L12EM10VH
$e\mu, \mu e$ (\sim symm.)	HLT_e17_lhloose_mu14
Dilepton triggers (2016)	
$\mu\mu$ (asymm.)	HLT_mu22_mu8noL1
ee (symm.)	HLT_2e17_lhvloose_nod0
$e\mu, \mu e$ (\sim symm.)	HLT_e17_lhloose_nod0_mu14
Dilepton triggers (2017)	
$\mu\mu$ (asymm.)	HLT_mu22_mu8noL1
ee (symm.)	HLT_2e24_lhvloose_nod0
$e\mu, \mu e$ (\sim symm.)	HLT_e17_lhloose_nod0_mu14
Dilepton triggers (2018)	
$\mu\mu$ (asymm.)	HLT_mu22_mu8noL1
ee (symm.)	HLT_2e24_lhvloose_nod0
$e\mu, \mu e$ (\sim symm.)	HLT_e17_lhloose_nod0_mu14

Table 3: List of lowest p_T -threshold, un-prescaled dilepton triggers used for 2015-2018 data taking.

4.2 Light leptons

- 169 Electron candidates are reconstructed from energy clusters in the electromagnetic calorimeter
 170 that are associated with charged particle tracks reconstructed in the inner detector [3]. Electron
 171 candidates are required to have $p_T > 10$ GeV and $|\eta_{\text{cluster}}| < 2.47$. Muon candidates are
 172 reconstructed by combining inner detector tracks with track segments or full tracks in the muon
 173 spectrometer [4]. Muon candidates are required to have $p_T > 10$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$. Candidates
 174 in the transition region between different electromagnetic calorimeter components, $1.37 <$
 175 $|\eta_{\text{cluster}}| < 1.52$, are rejected. A multivariate likelihood discriminant combining shower shape
 176 and track information is used to distinguish real electrons from hadronic showers (fake electrons).
 177 To further reduce the non-prompt electron contribution, the track is required to be consistent
 178 with originating from the primary vertex; requirements are imposed on the transverse impact
 179 parameter significance ($|d_0|/\sigma_{d_0} < 5$) and the longitudinal impact parameter ($|\Delta z_0 \sin \theta_\ell| < 0.5$
 180 mm).
 181
- 182 Muon candidates are reconstructed by combining inner detector tracks with track segments or
 183 full tracks in the muon spectrometer [4]. Muon candidates are required to have $p_T > 10$ GeV
 184 and $|\eta| < 2.5$. The longitudinal impact parameter is the same for both electrons and muons, while
 185 muons are required to pass a slightly tighter transverse impact parameter, $|d_0|/\sigma_{d_0} < 3$.

186 All leptons are required to be isolated, as defined through the standard `isolationFixedCutLoose`
 187 working point supported by combined performance groups. Leptons are additionally required to
 188 pass a non-prompt BDT selection described in detail in detail in [5]. Optimized working points and scale
 189 factors for this BDT are taken from that analysis.

190 4.3 Jets

191 Jets are reconstructed from calibrated topological clusters built from energy deposits in the
 192 calorimeters [6], using the anti- k_t algorithm with a radius parameter $R = 0.4$. Jets with energy
 193 contributions likely arising from noise or detector effects are removed from consideration [7],
 194 and only jets satisfying $p_T > 25$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$ are used in this analysis. For jets with
 195 $p_T < 60$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$, a jet-track association algorithm is used to confirm that the jet
 196 originates from the selected primary vertex, in order to reject jets arising from pileup collisions
 197 [8].

198 4.4 B-tagged Jets

199 In order to make a measurement of $WZ +$ heavy flavor it is necessary to distinguish these events
 200 from $WZ +$ light jets. For this purpose, the DL1r b-tagging algorithm is used to distinguish
 201 heavy flavor jets from lighter ones. The DL1r algorithm uses jet kinematics, particularly jet
 202 vertex information, as input for a neural network which assigns each jet a score designed to
 203 reflect how likely that jet is to have originated from a b-quark.

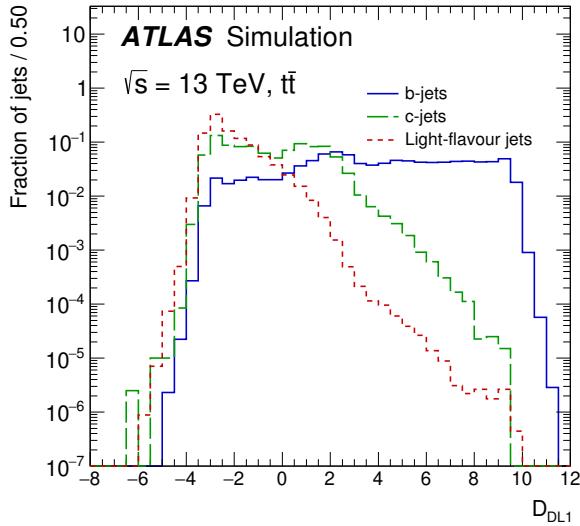


Figure 1: Output distribution of the DL1r algorithm for b-jets, charm jets, and light jets

204 From the output of the BDT, working points (WPs) are developed based on the efficiency of truth
 205 b-jets at particular values of the DL1r algorithm. The working points used in this analysis are
 206 summarized in table 4.

WP	none	loose	medium	tight	tightest
b eff.	-	85%	77%	70%	60%

Table 4: B-tagging Working Points by tightness and b-jet efficiency

207 A tighter WP will accept fewer b-jets, but reject a higher fraction of charm and light jets.
 208 Generally, analyses that include b-jets will use a fixed working point, for example, requiring that
 209 a jet pass the 70% threshold. By instead treating these working point as bins, e.g. events with
 210 jets that fall between the 85% and 77% WPs fall into one bin, while events with jets passing the
 211 60% WP fall into another, and looking at the full psuedo-continuous DL1r spectrum of the jets,
 212 additional information can be gained. The psuedo-continuous b-tag spectrum is used in this case
 213 to separate out WZ + b, WZ + charm, and WZ + light.

214 **4.5 Missing transverse energy**

215 Missing transverse momentum (E_T^{miss}) is used as part of the event selection. The missing
 216 transverse momentum vector is defined as the inverse of the sum of the transverse momenta of
 217 all reconstructed physics objects as well as remaining unclustered energy, the latter of which is
 218 estimated from low- p_T tracks associated with the primary vertex but not assigned to a hard object,
 219 with object definitions taken from [9]. Light leptons considered in the E_T^{miss} reconstruction are
 220 required to have $p_T > 10 \text{ GeV}$, while jets are required to have $p_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$.

221 **5 Event Selection and Signal Region Definitions**

222 Event are required to pass a preselection described in section 5.1 and summarized in table 5.
 223 Those that pass this preselection are divided into various fit regions described in section 5.2,
 224 based on the number of jets in the event, and the b-tag score of those jets.

225 **5.1 Event Preselection**

226 Events are required to include exactly three reconstructed light leptons passing the requirement
 227 described in 4.2, which have a total charge of ± 1 . As the opposite sign lepton is found to be
 228 prompt the vast majority of the time [5], it is required to be loose and isolated, as defined though
 229 the standard `isolationFixedCutLoose` working point supported by combined performance

groups. The same sign leptons are required to be very tightly isolated, as per the recommended `isolationFixedCutTight`.

The leptons are ordered in the analysis code as 0, 1, and 2. Lepton 0 is the lepton whose charge is opposite the other two. Lepton 1 is the lepton closest to the opposite charge lepton, i.e. the smallest ΔR , leaving lepton 2 as the lepton further from the opposite charge lepton. Lepton 0 is required to have $p_T > 10$ GeV, while the same sign leptons, 1 and 2, are required to have $p_T > 20$ GeV to reduce the contribution of non-prompt leptons.

The invariant mass of at least one pair of opposite sign, same flavor leptons is required to fall within 10 GeV of the mass of the Z boson, 91.2 GeV. Events where one of the opposite sign pairs have an invariant mass less than 12 GeV are rejected in order to suppress low mass resonances.

An additional requirement is placed on the missing transverse energy, $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 20$ GeV, and the transverse mass of the W candidate, $m(E_T^{\text{miss}} + l_{\text{other}}) > 30$ GeV, where E_T^{miss} is the missing transverse energy, and l_{other} is the lepton not included in the Z-candidate.

Events are required to have one or two reconstructed jets passing the selection described in section 4.3. Events with more than two jets are rejected in order to reduce the contribution of backgrounds such as $t\bar{t}Z$ and $t\bar{t}W$, which tend to have higher jet multiplicity.

Event Selection

Exactly three leptons with charge ± 1

Two tight Iso, tight ID same-charge leptons with $p_T > 20$ GeV

One loose Iso, medium ID opposite charge lepton with $p_T > 10$ GeV
 $m(l^+l^-)$ within 10 GeV of 91.2 GeV

Transverse mass of W-candidate, $m_T(E_T^{\text{miss}} + \text{lep}_{\text{other}}) > 30$ GeV

Missing transverse energy, $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 20$ GeV

One or two jets with $p_T > 25$ GeV

Table 5: Summary of the selection applied to events for inclusion in the fit

The event yields in the preselection region for both data and Monte Carlo are summarized in table 5.1, which shows good agreement between data and Monte Carlo, and demonstrates that this region consists primarily of WZ events. The WZ events are split into WZ + b, WZ + c, and WZ + l based on the truth flavor of the associated jet in the event. Specifically, this determination is made based on the `HadronConeExclTruthLabelID` of the jet, as recommended by the b-tagging working group [BtagWG]. In this ordering b-jet supersedes charm, which supersedes light. That is, WZ + l events contain no charm and no b jets at truth level, WZ + c contain at least one truth charm and no b-jets, and WZ + b contains at least one truth b-jet.

Process	Events
WZ + b	167.6 ± 6.5
WZ + c	1080 ± 40
WZ + l	7220 ± 310
Other VV	850 ± 140
t̄tW	16.8 ± 2.3
t̄tZ	115 ± 17
rare Top	2.2 ± 0.1
Single top	0.10 ± 0.45
Three top	0.01 ± 0.01
Four top	0.02 ± 0.01
t̄tWW	0.23 ± 0.05
Z + jets	600 ± 260
V + γ	37 ± 54
tZ	190 ± 70
tW	5.5 ± 1.2
WtZ	25.8 ± 1.1
VVV	26.2 ± 0.9
VH	94 ± 7
t̄t	108.68 ± 8
t̄tH	4.3 ± 0.5
Total	10600 ± 530
Data	10574

Table 6: Event yields in the preselection region at 139.0 fb^{-1}

254 Here Other VV represents diboson processes other than WZ, and consists predominantly of
 255 $ZZ \rightarrow ll\bar{l}\bar{l}$ events where one of the leptons is not reconstructed.

256 Simulations are further validated by comparing the kinematic distributions of the Monte Carlo
 257 with data, which are shown in figure 2. Here, bins with 5% or more WZ+b are blinded.

WZ Fit Region - Inclusive

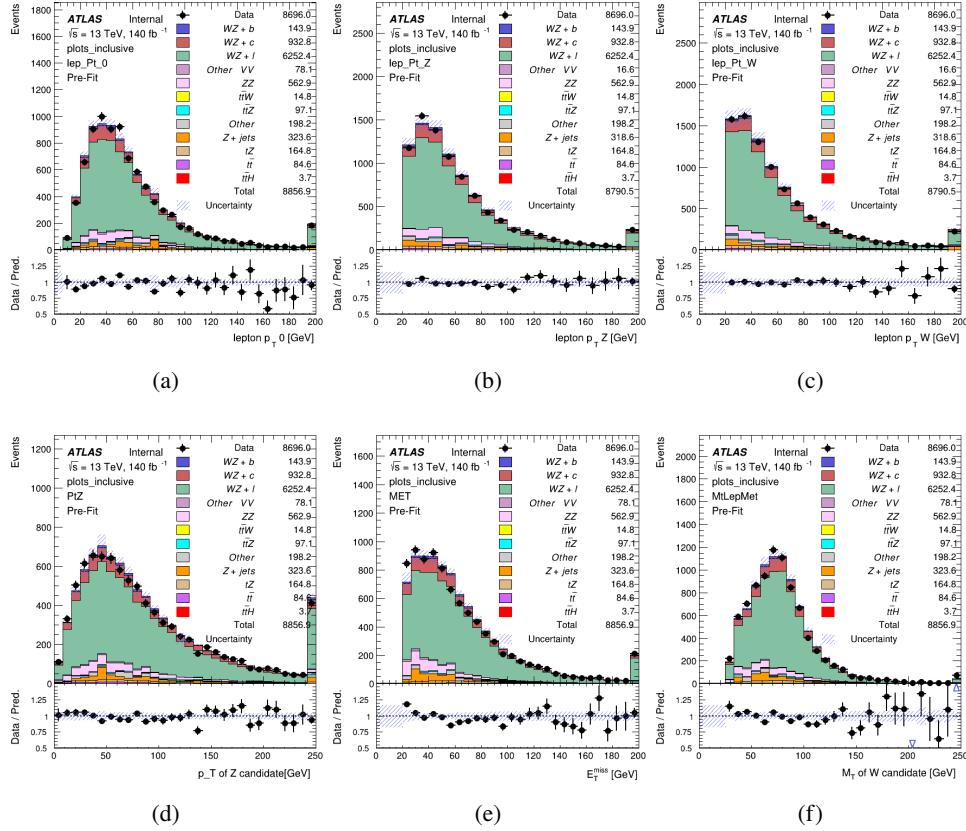


Figure 2: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the M_T of the W candidate.

5.2 Fit Regions

Once preselection has been applied, the remaining events are categorized into one of twelve orthogonal regions. The regions used in the fit are summarized in table 7.

Table 7: A list of the regions used in the fit and the selection used for each.

Region	Selection
1j, <85%	$N_{\text{jets}} = 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_85} = 0$
1j, 85%-77%	$N_{\text{jets}} = 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_85} = 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_77}=0$
1j, 77%-70%	$N_{\text{jets}} = 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_77} = 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_70}=0$
1j, 70%-60%	$N_{\text{jets}} = 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_70} = 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_60}=0$
1j, >60%	$N_{\text{jets}} = 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_60} = 1, tZ \text{ BDT} > 0.725$
1j tZ CR	$N_{\text{jets}} = 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_60} = 1, tZ \text{ BDT} < 0.725$
2j, <85%	$N_{\text{jets}} = 2, n\text{Jets_DL1r_85} = 0$
2j, 85%-77%	$N_{\text{jets}} = 2, n\text{Jets_DL1r_85} >= 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_77}=0$
2j, 77%-70%	$N_{\text{jets}} = 2, n\text{Jets_DL1r_77} >= 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_70}=0$
2j, 70%-60%	$N_{\text{jets}} = 2, n\text{Jets_DL1r_70} >= 1, n\text{Jets_DL1r_60}=0$
2j, >60%	$N_{\text{jets}} = 2, n\text{Jets_DL1r_60} >= 1, tZ \text{ BDT} > 0.725$
2j tZ CR	$N_{\text{jets}} = 2, n\text{Jets_DL1r_60} >= 1, tZ \text{ BDT} < 0.725$

261 The working points discussed in section 4.4 are used to separate events into fit regions based on
 262 the highest working point reached by a jet in each event. Because the background composition
 263 differs significantly based on the number of b-jets, events are further subdivided into 1 jet and 2
 264 jet regions in order to minimize the impact of background uncertainties.

265 An additional tZ control region is created based on the BDT described in section 6. The region
 266 with 1-jet passing the 60% working point is split in two - a signal enriched region of events with
 267 a BDT score greater than 0.03, and a tZ control region including events with less than 0.03. This
 268 cutoff is arrived at by performing an Asimov fit with a variety of cutoffs, and selecting the value
 269 that produces the highest significance for the measurement of WZ + b.

270 The modeling in each region is validated by comparing data and MC predictions for various
 271 kinematic distributions. These plot are shown in figures 3-16.

WZ Fit Region - 1j Inclusive

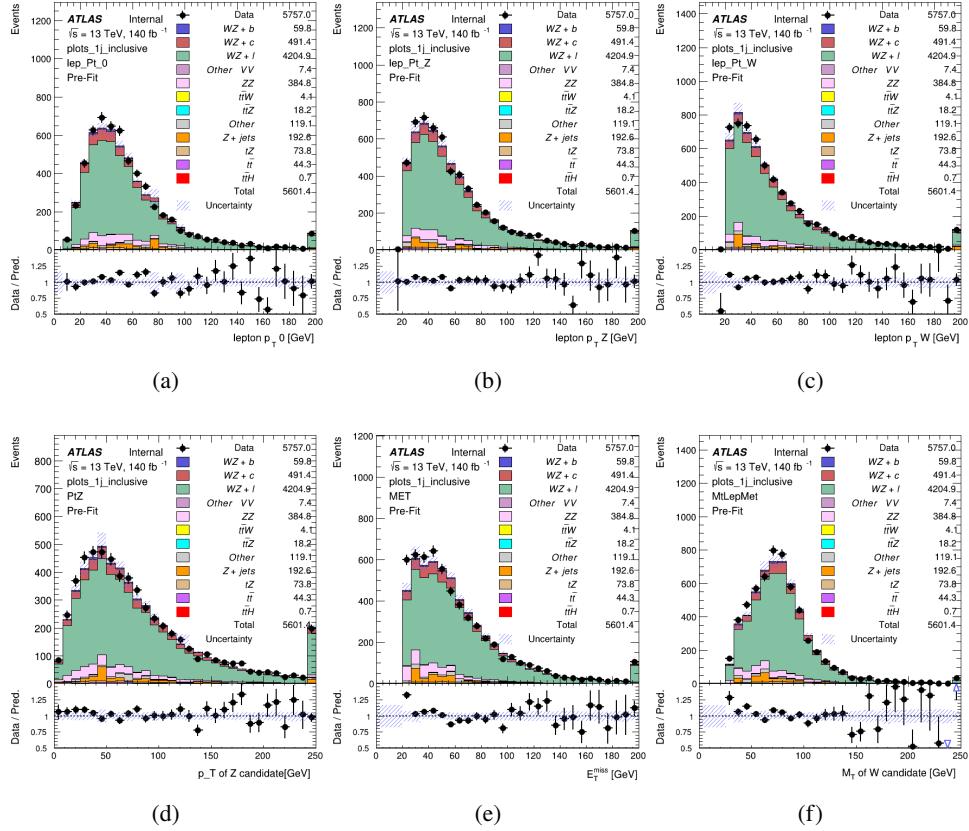


Figure 3: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 1j < 85% WP

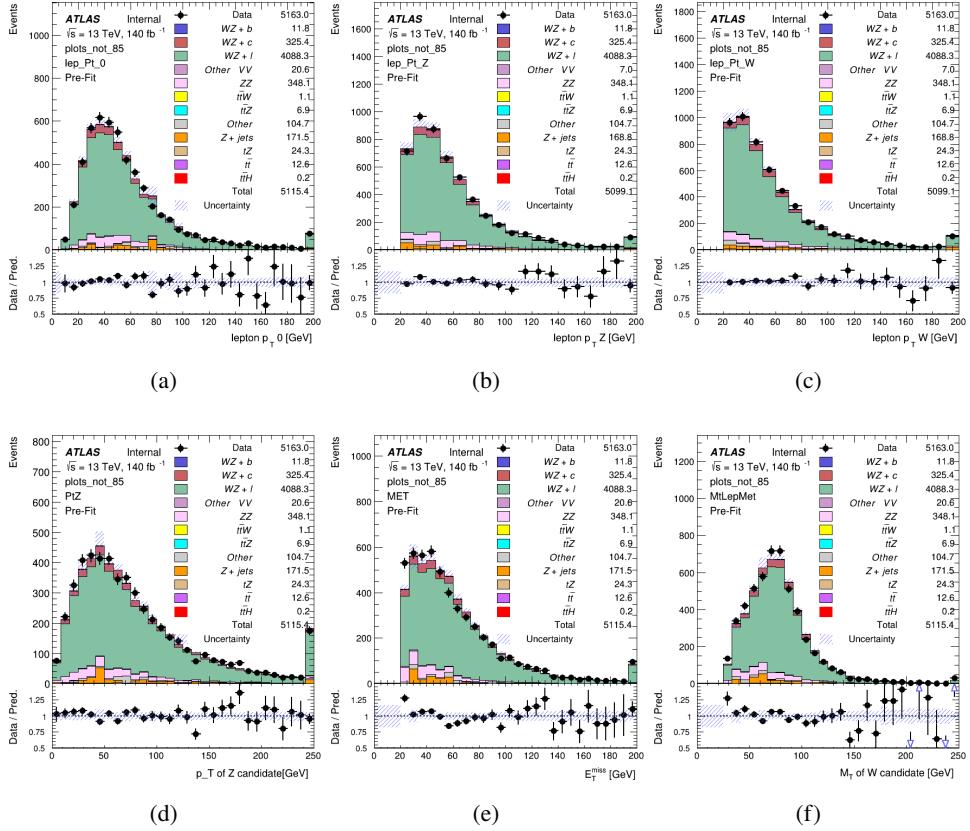


Figure 4: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 1j 77-85% WP

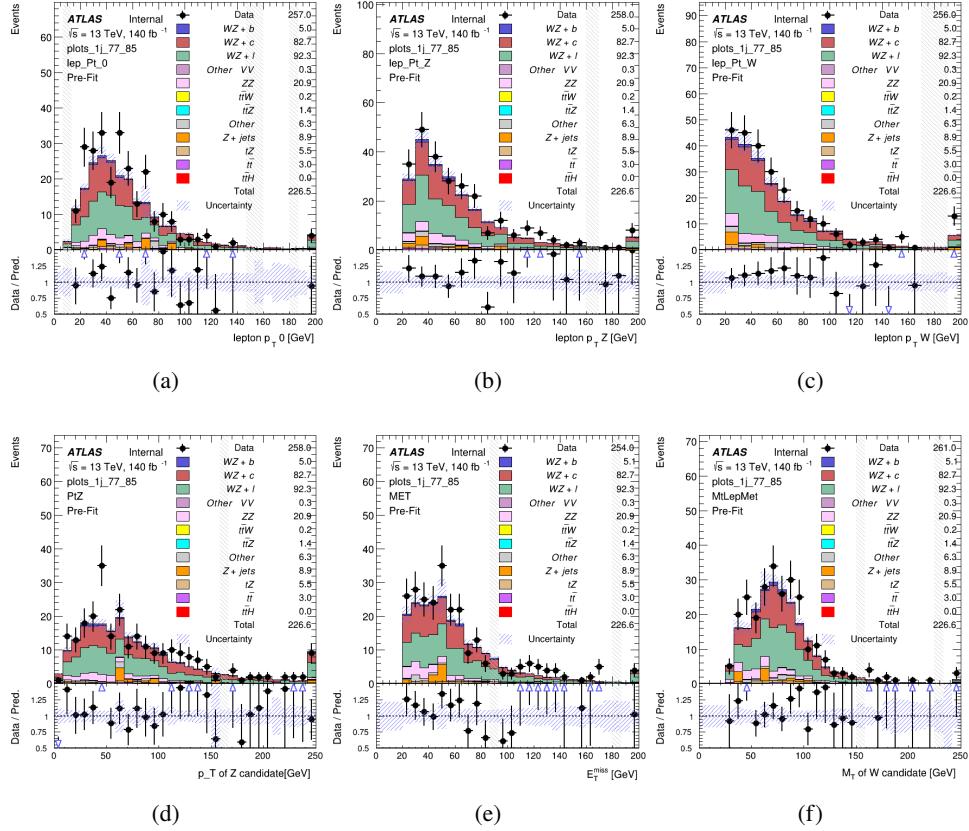


Figure 5: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 1j 70-77% WP

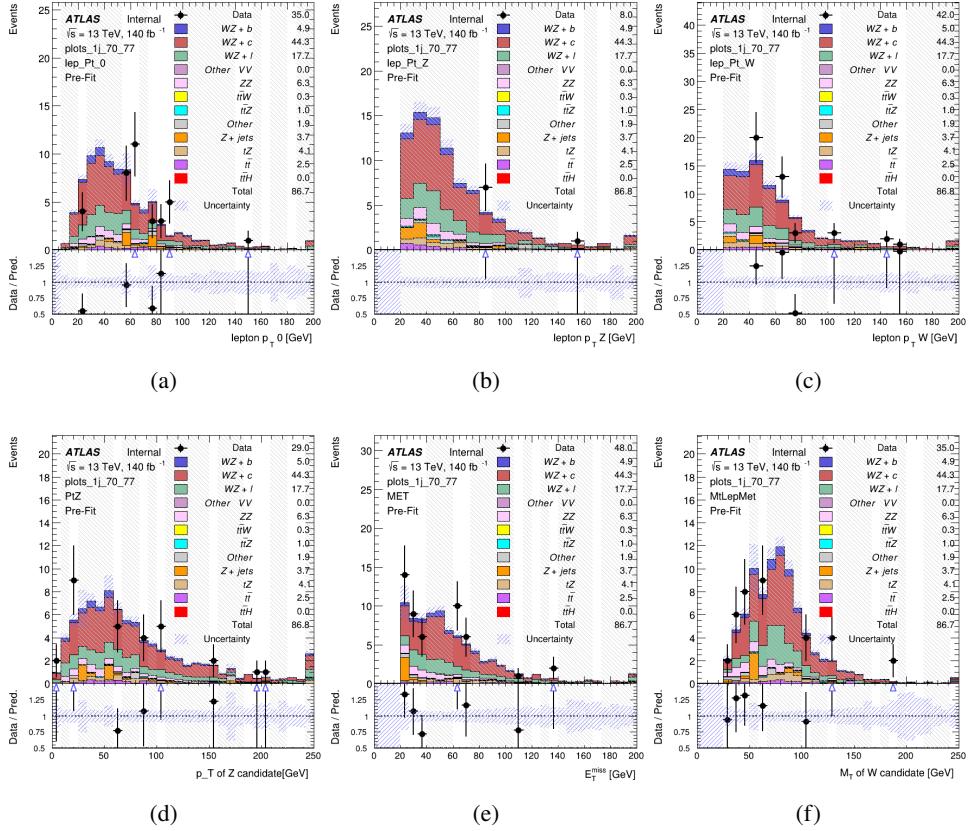


Figure 6: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 1j 60-70% WP

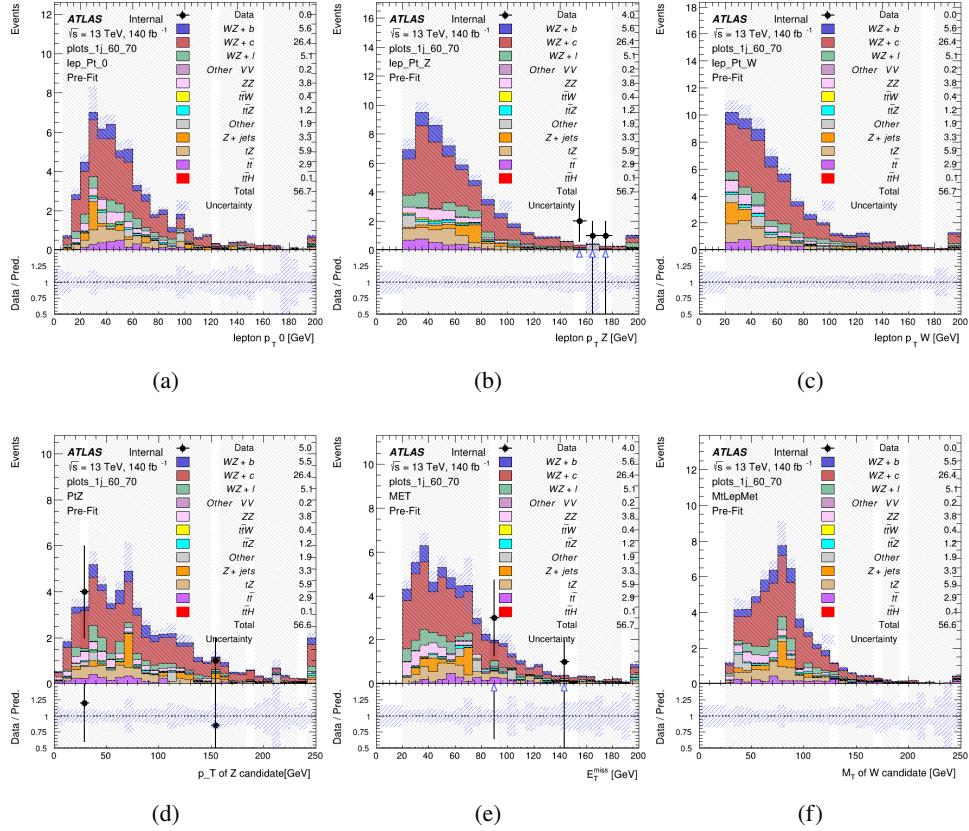


Figure 7: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 1j 60% WP

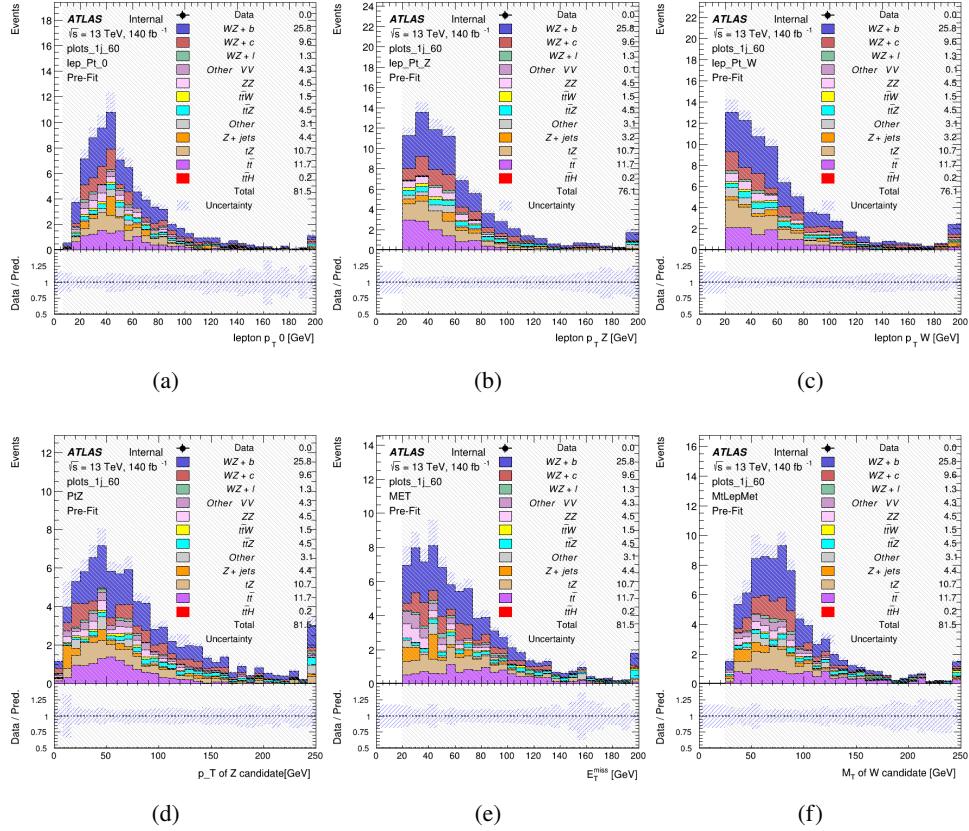


Figure 8: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - tZ-CR

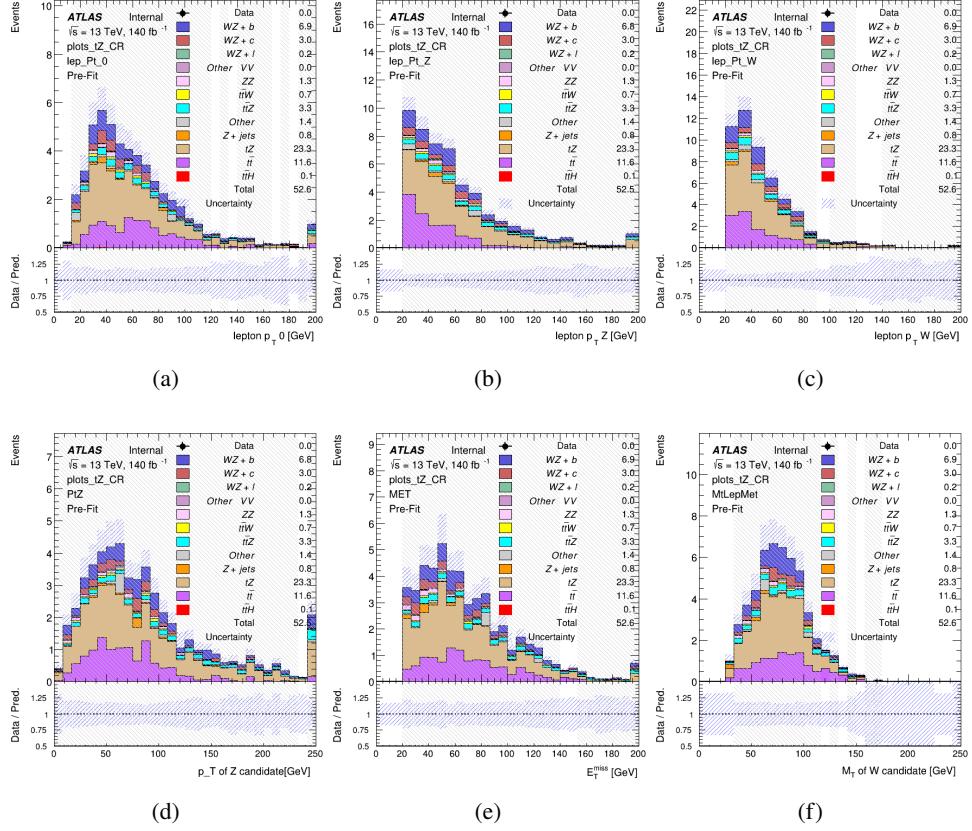


Figure 9: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 2j Inclusive

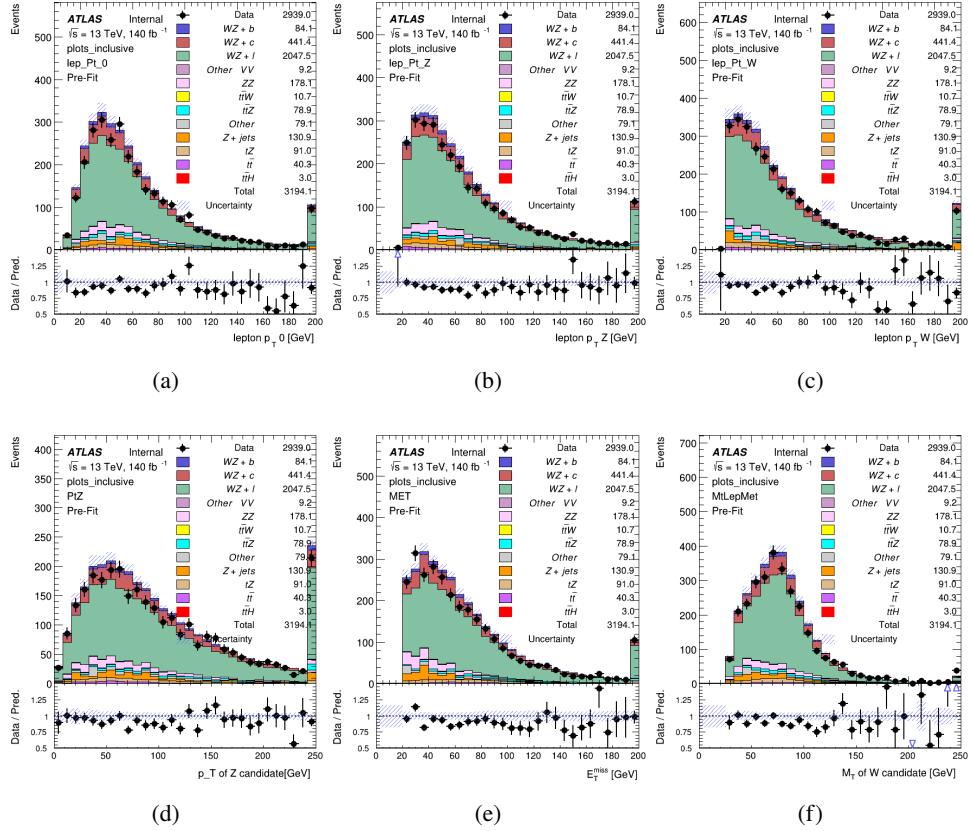


Figure 10: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 2j < 85% WP

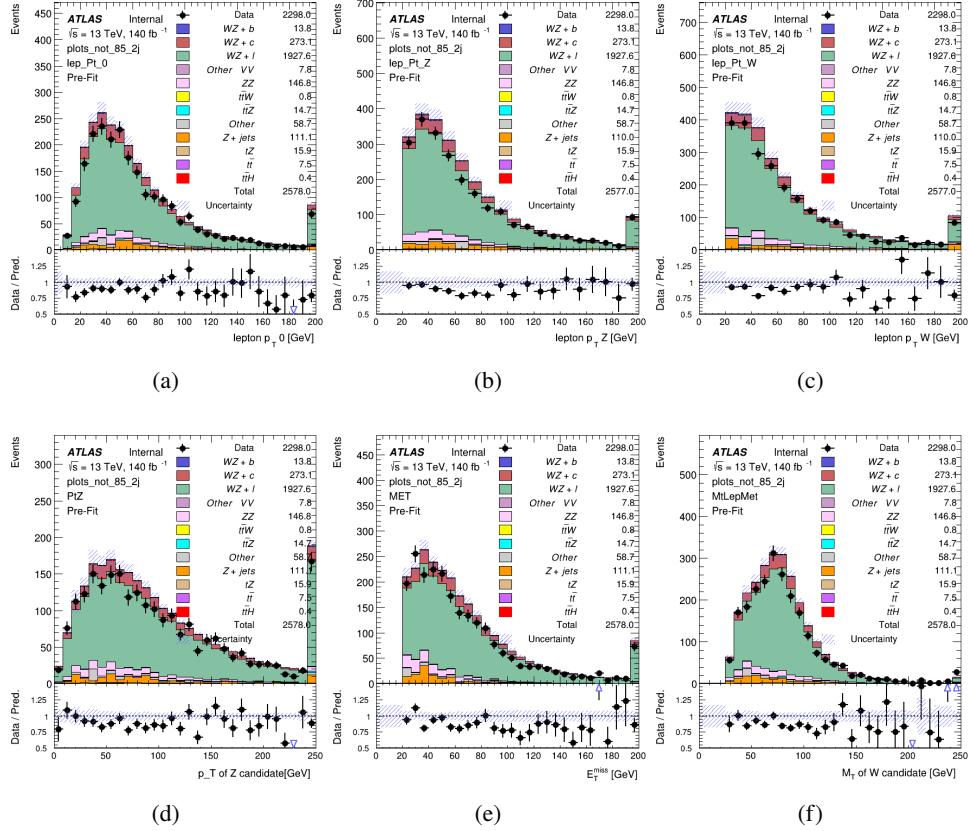


Figure 11: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 2j 77-85% WP

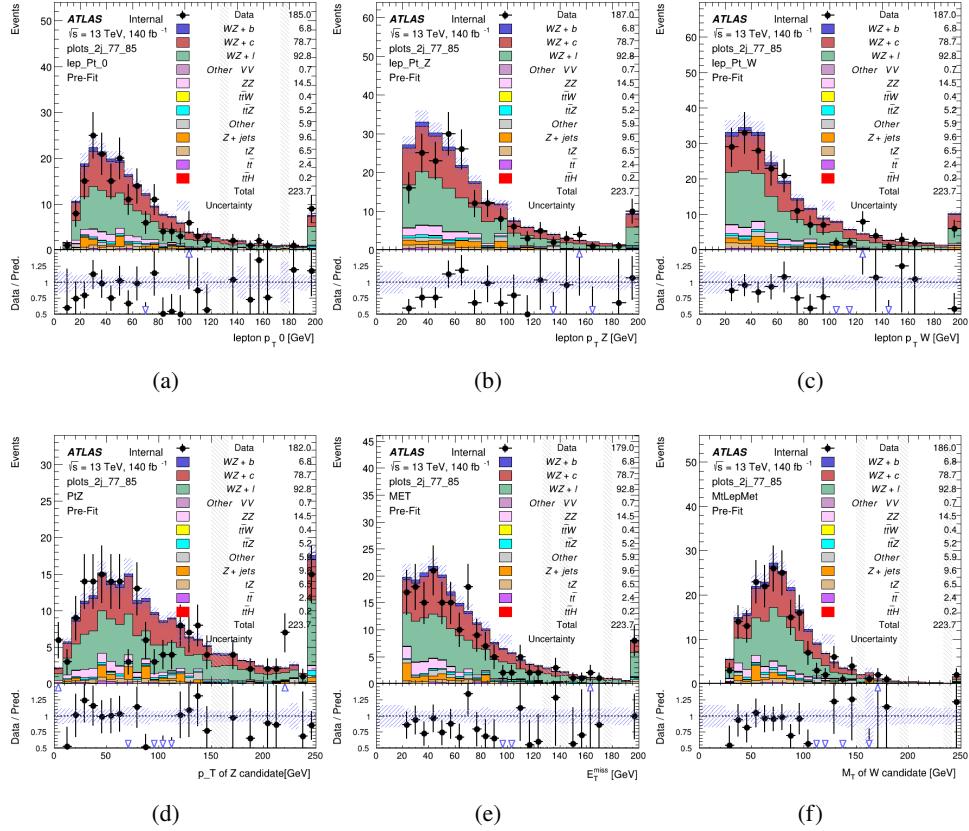


Figure 12: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 2j 70-77% WP

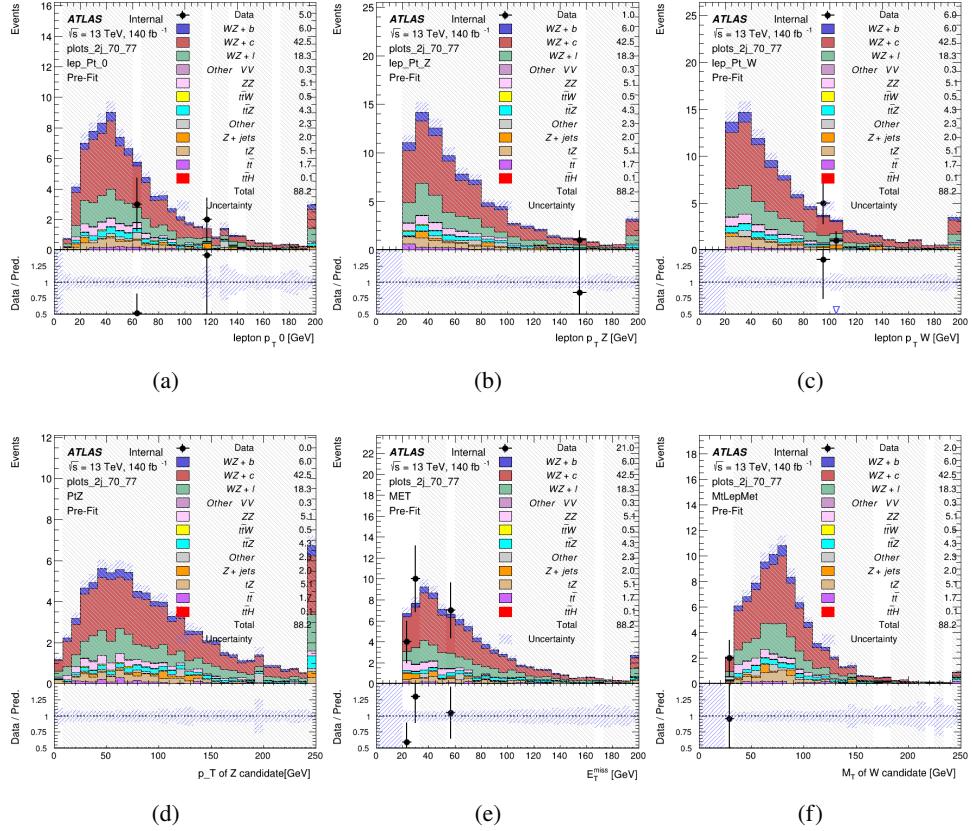


Figure 13: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 2j 60-70% WP

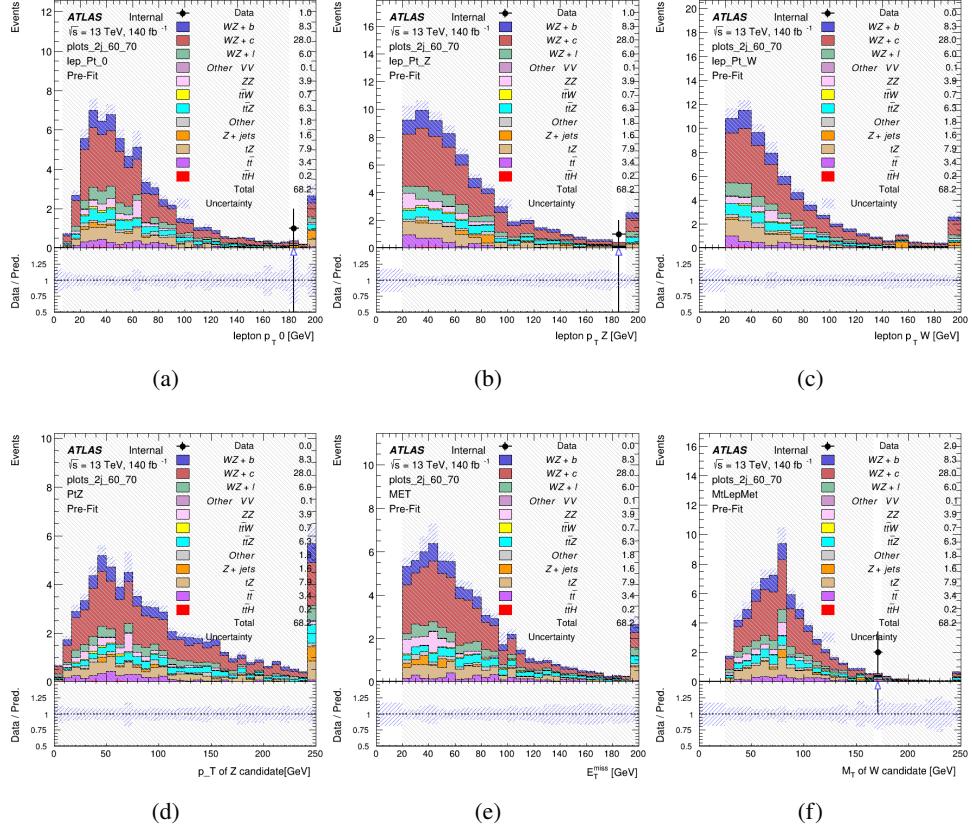


Figure 14: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - 2j 60% WP

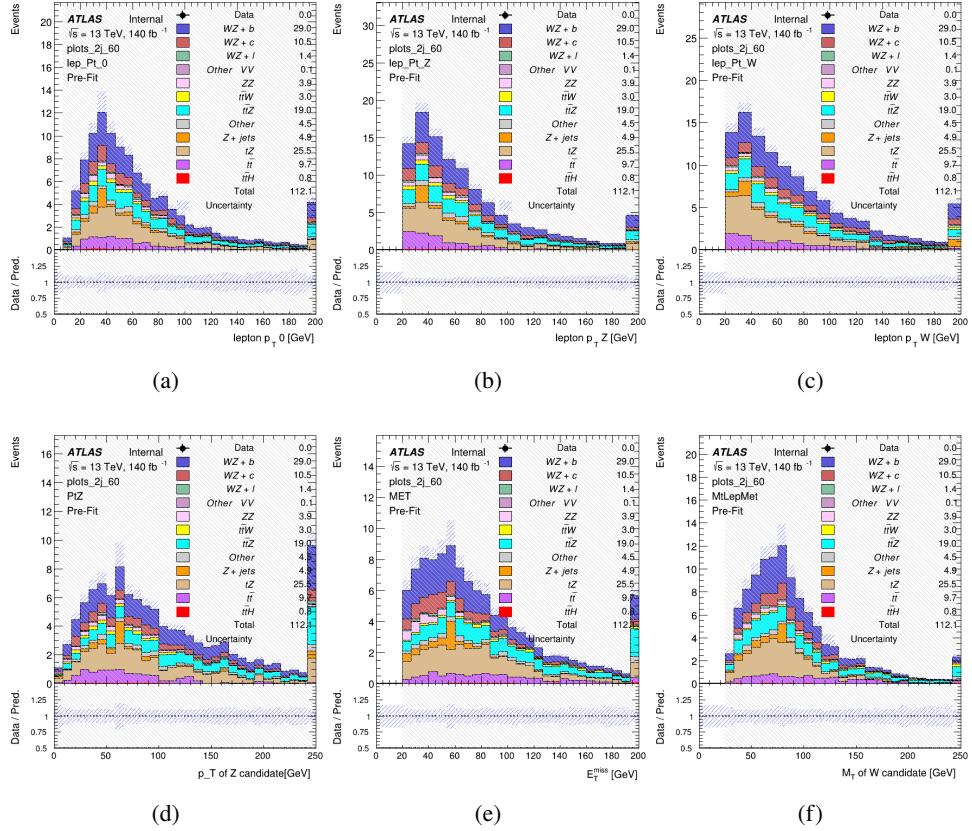


Figure 15: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

WZ Fit Region - tZ-CR-2j

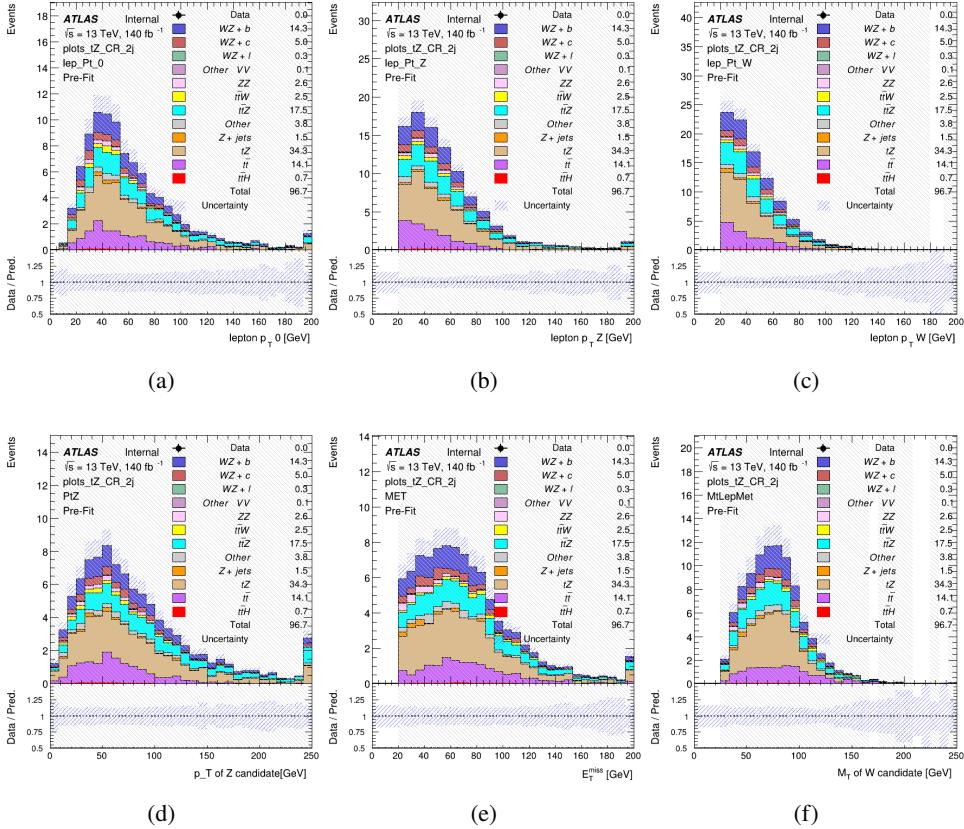


Figure 16: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the preselection region for (a) the p_T of the opposite sign lepton, (b) the p_T of the other lepton from the Z candidate, (c) the p_T of the lepton from the W candidate, (d) the p_T of the Z candidate, (e) the E_T^{miss} , and (f) the m_T of the W candidate.

5.3 Non-Prompt Lepton Estimation

Two processes act as sources of non-prompt leptons appear in the analysis: $t\bar{t}$ and $Z+jet$ production both produce two prompt leptons, and each contribute to the 31 region when an additional non-prompt lepton appears in the event. The contribution of these processes is estimated with Monte Carlo simulations, which are validated using enriched validation regions.

5.3.1 $t\bar{t}$ Validation

$t\bar{t}$ events can produce two prompt leptons from the decay of each of the tops. These top decays produce two b-quarks, the decay of which can produce additional non-prompt leptons, which occasionally pass the event preselection. In order to validate that the Monte Carlo accurately

281 simulates this process accurately, the MC prediction in a non-prompt $t\bar{t}$ enriched validation
282 region is compared to data.

283 The $t\bar{t}$ validation region is similar to the preselection region - three leptons meeting the criteria
284 described in section 5 are required, and the requirements on E_T^{miss} remain the same. However,
285 the selection requiring a lepton pair form a Z-candidate are reversed. Events where the invariant
286 mass of any two opposite sign, same flavor leptons falls within 10 GeV of 91.2 GeV are rejected.
287 This ensures the $t\bar{t}$ validation region is orthogonal to the preselection region.

288 Further, because the jet multiplicity of $t\bar{t}$ events tends to be higher than WZ, the number of jets
289 in each event is required to be greater than 1. As b-jets are almost invariably produced from top
290 decays, at least one b-tagged jet passing the 70% DL1r WP in each event is required. Various
291 kinematic plots of this region are shown in figure 17.

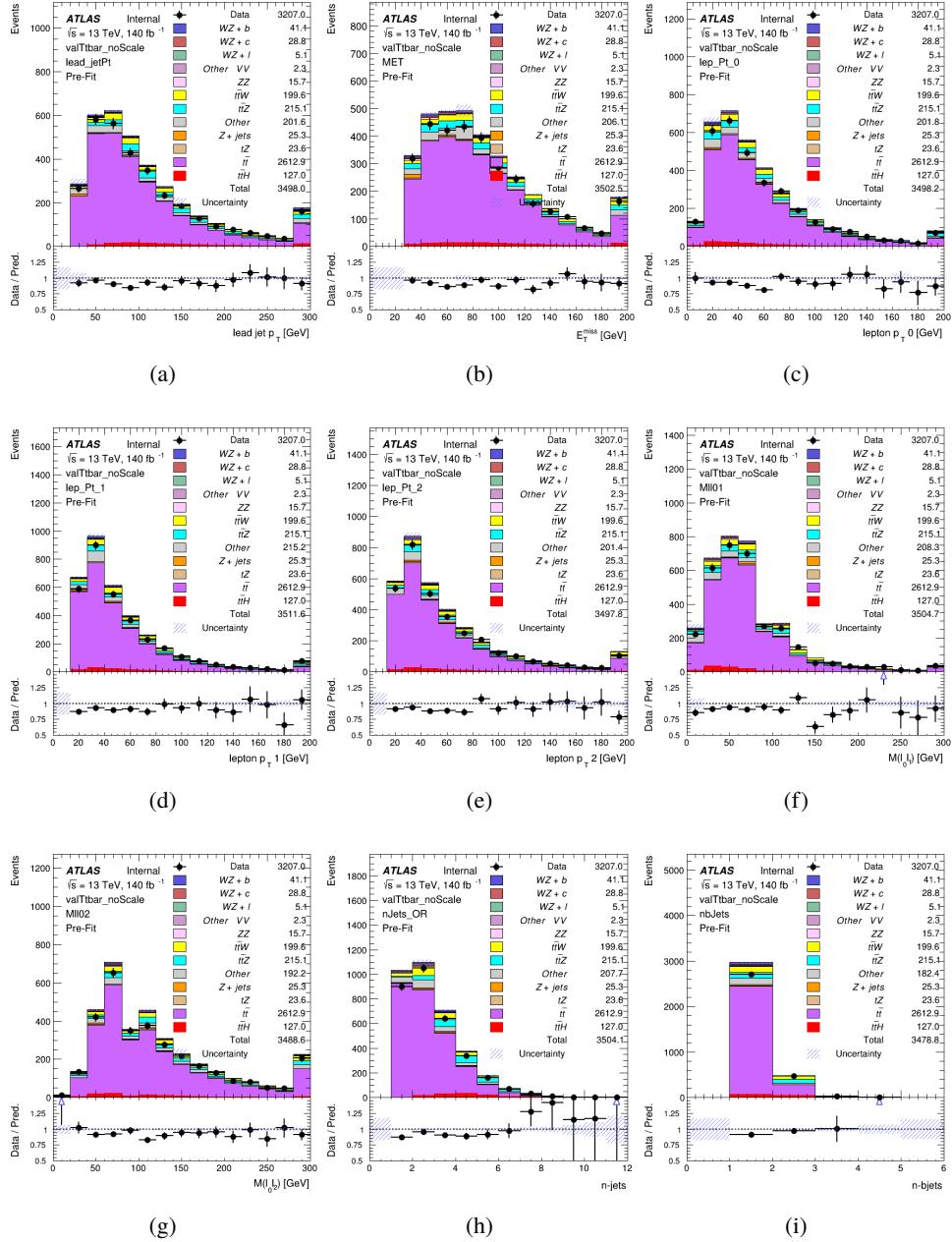


Figure 17: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the $t\bar{t}$ validation region for (a) the p_T of the leading jet, (b) the missing transverse energy, (c) the p_T of lepton 0, (d) p_T of lepton 1, (e) p_T of lepton 2, (f) the invariant mass of leptons 0 and 1, (g) the invariant mass of leptons 0 and 2, (h) the number of jets, (i) the number of b-tagged jets.

292 The shape of each distribution agrees quite well between data and MC, with a constant offset
293 between the two. This is accounted for by applying a constant correction factor of 0.883 to the $t\bar{t}$

294 MC prediction. Plots showing the kinematics of the $t\bar{t}$ VR after this correction factor has been
 295 applied are shown in figure 18.

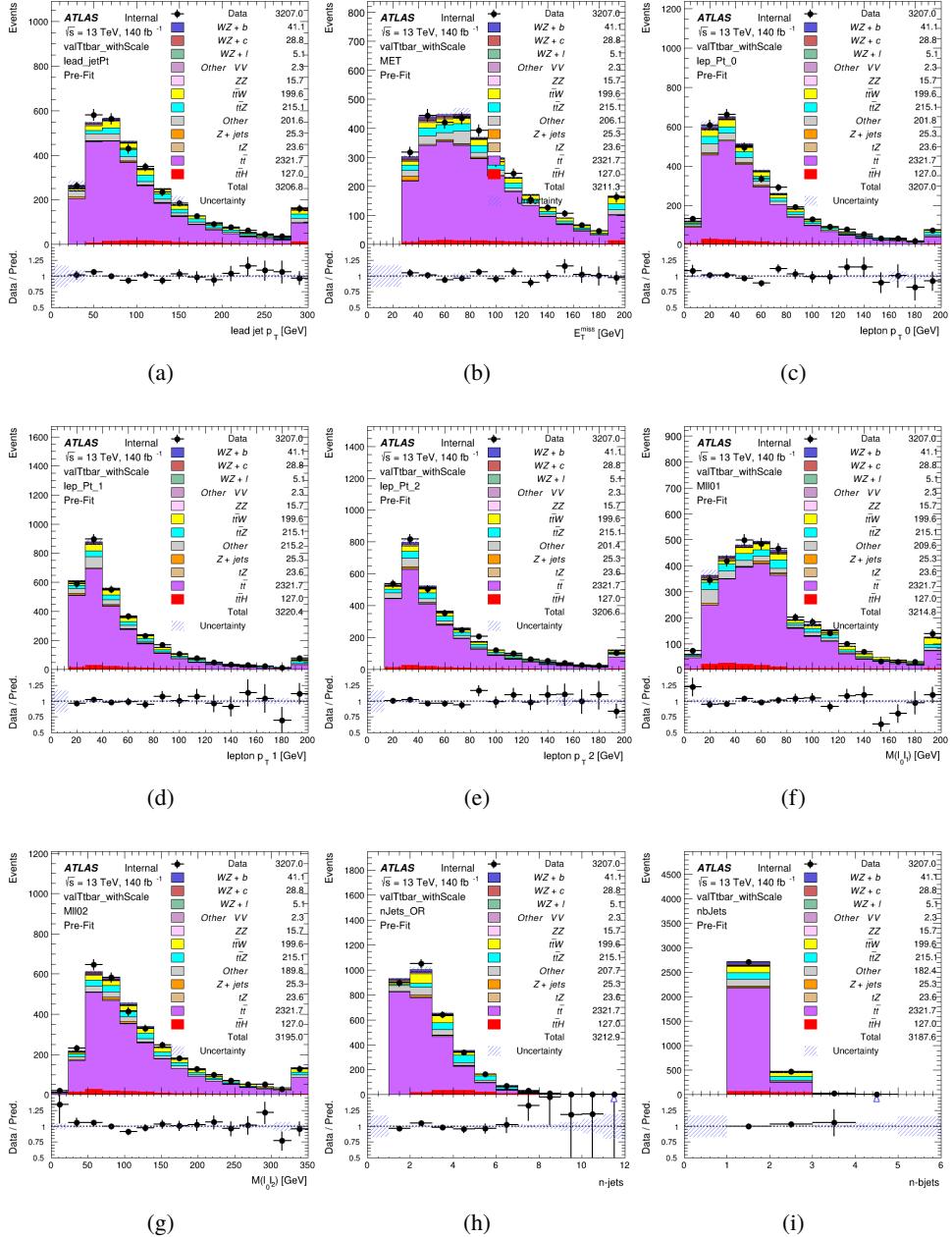


Figure 18: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the $t\bar{t}$ validation region after the correction factor has been applied for (a) the p_T of the leading jet, (b) the missing transverse energy, (c) the p_T of lepton 0, (d) p_T of lepton 1, (e) p_T of lepton 2, (f) the invariant mass of leptons 0 and 1, (g) the invariant mass of leptons 0 and 2, (h) the number of jets, (i) the number of b-tagged jets.

296 The modeling is further validated by looking at the yield in the $t\bar{t}$ VR for each DL1r WP, giving
 297 a clearer correspondence to the signal regions used in the fit. Each region shown in figure 22
 298 requires one or more jets pass the listed WP, with no jets passing the next highest WP.

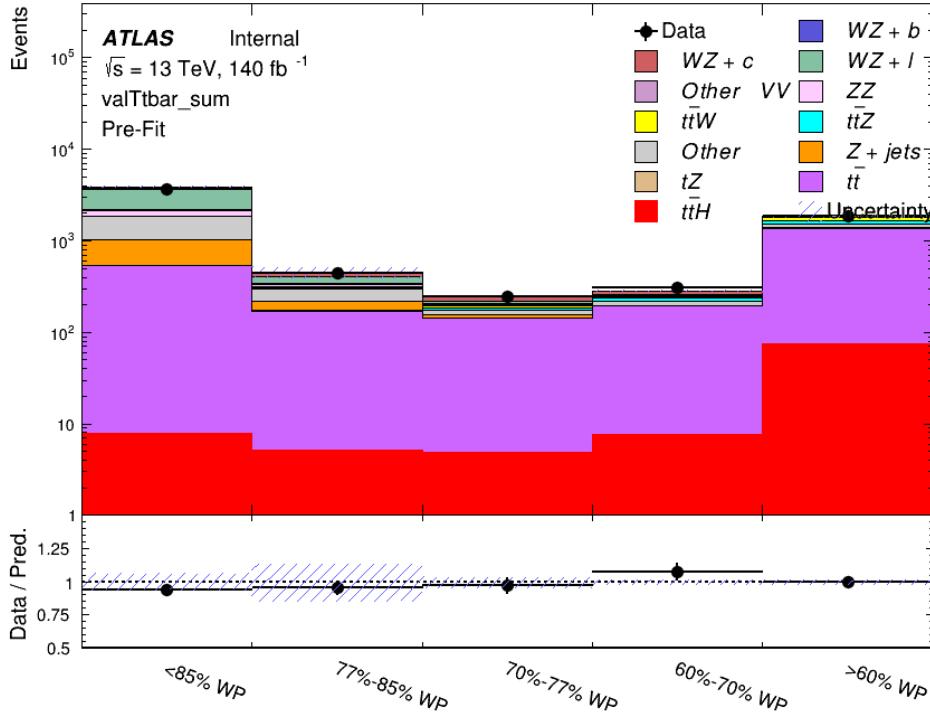


Figure 19: Data and MC comparisons for each DL1r WP for both 1-jet and 2-jet regions, after the $t\bar{t}$ VR selection and correction factor have been applied

299 As data and MC are found to agree within 10% for each of these working points, a 10% systematic
 300 uncertainty on the $t\bar{t}$ prediction is included for the analysis.

301 5.3.2 Z+jets Validation

302 Similar to $t\bar{t}$, a non-prompt Z+jets validation region is produced in order to validate the MC
 303 predictions. The lepton requirements remain the same as the preselection region. Because no
 304 neutrinos are present for this process, the E_T^{miss} cut is reversed, requiring $E_T^{\text{miss}} < 30 \text{ GeV}$. This
 305 also ensures this validation region is orthogonal to the preselection region. Further, the number
 306 of jets in each event is required to be greater than or equal to one. Various kinematic plots of this
 307 region are shown below. The general agreement between data and MC in each of these suggests
 308 that the non-prompt contribution of Z+jets is well modeled by Monte Carlo.

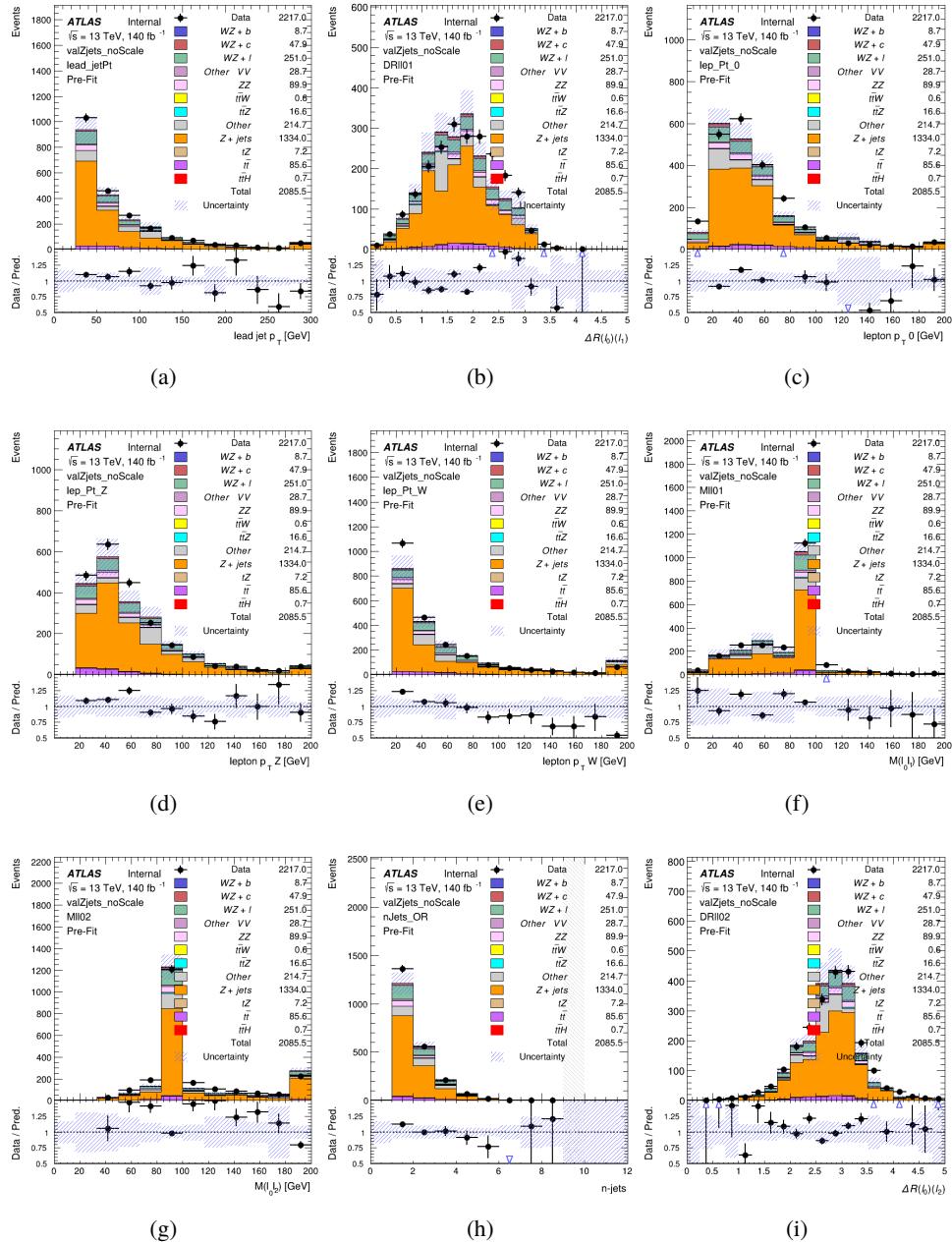


Figure 20: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the Z+jets validation region for (a) the p_T of the leading jet, (b) ΔR between leptons 0 and 1, (c) the p_T of lepton 0, (d) p_T of SS lepton from the Z candidate, (e) p_T of the SS lepton from the W candidate, (f) the invariant mass of leptons 0 and 1, (g) the invariant mass of leptons 0 and 2, (h) the number of jets, (i) ΔR between leptons 0 and 2. Includes only statistical uncertainties

309 While there is general agreement between data and MC within statistical uncertainty, the shape

³¹⁰ of the p_T spectrum of the lepton from the W is found to differ. To account for this discrepancy,
³¹¹ a variable correction factor is applied to Z+jets. χ^2 minimization of the lepton 2 p_T spectrum is
³¹² performed to derive a correction factor of $1.53 - 6.6 \cdot 10^{-6}(\text{lep_Pt_W})$. Kinematic plots of the
³¹³ Z + jets validation region after this correction factor has been applied are shown in figure 21.

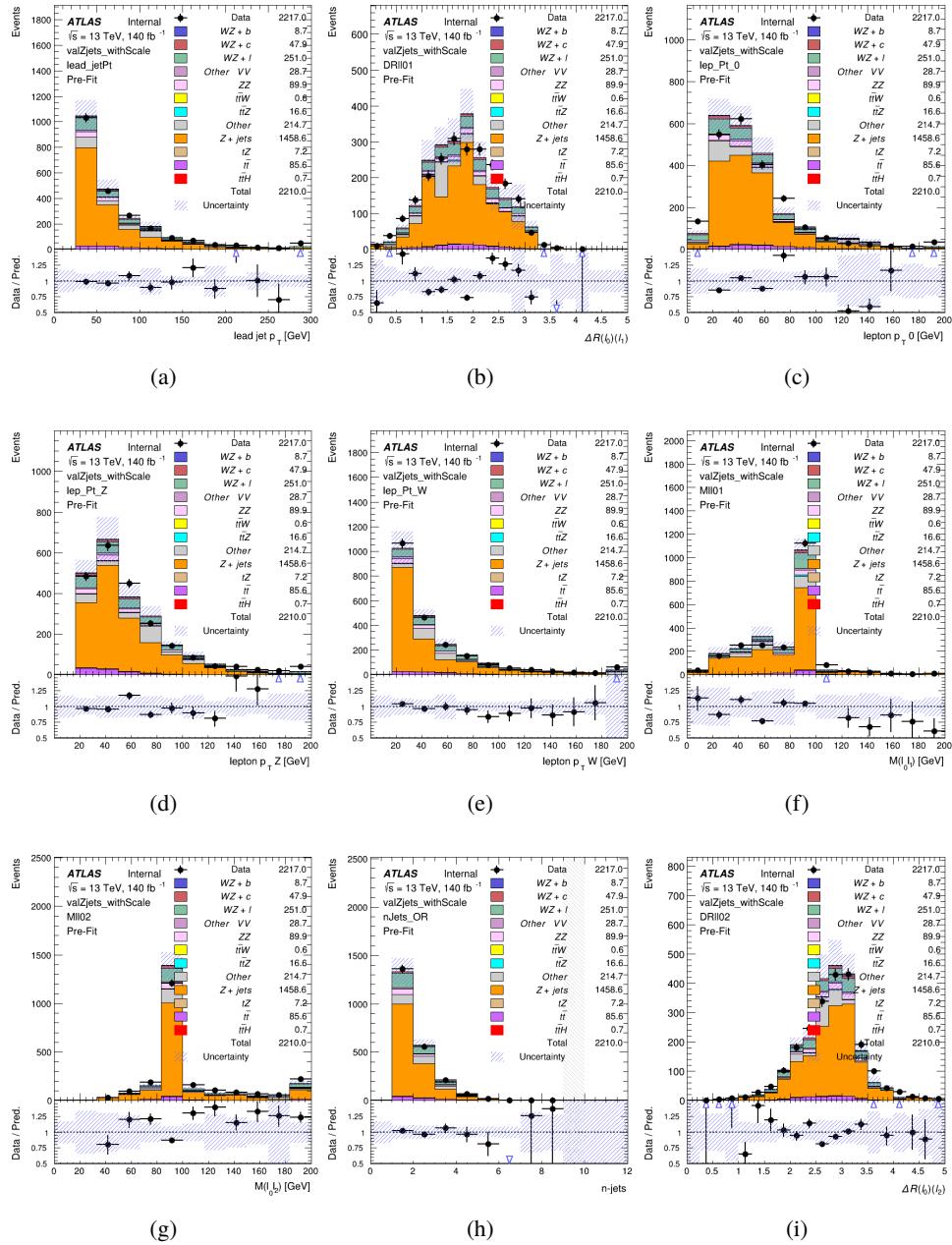


Figure 21: Comparisons between the data and MC distributions in the Z+jets validation region after the correction factor has been applied for (a) the p_T of the leading jet, (b) ΔR between leptons 0 and 1, (c) the p_T of lepton 0, (d) p_T of SS lepton from the Z candidate, (e) p_T of the SS lepton from the W candidate, (f) the invariant mass of leptons 0 and 1, (g) the invariant mass of leptons 0 and 2, (h) the number of jets, (i) ΔR between leptons 0 and 2

314 The modeling is further validated by looking at the yield in the Z+jets VR for each DL1r WP,

315 giving a clearer correspondence to the signal regions used in the fit. Each region shown in figure
 316 22 requires one or more jets pass the listed WP, with no jets passing the next highest WP.

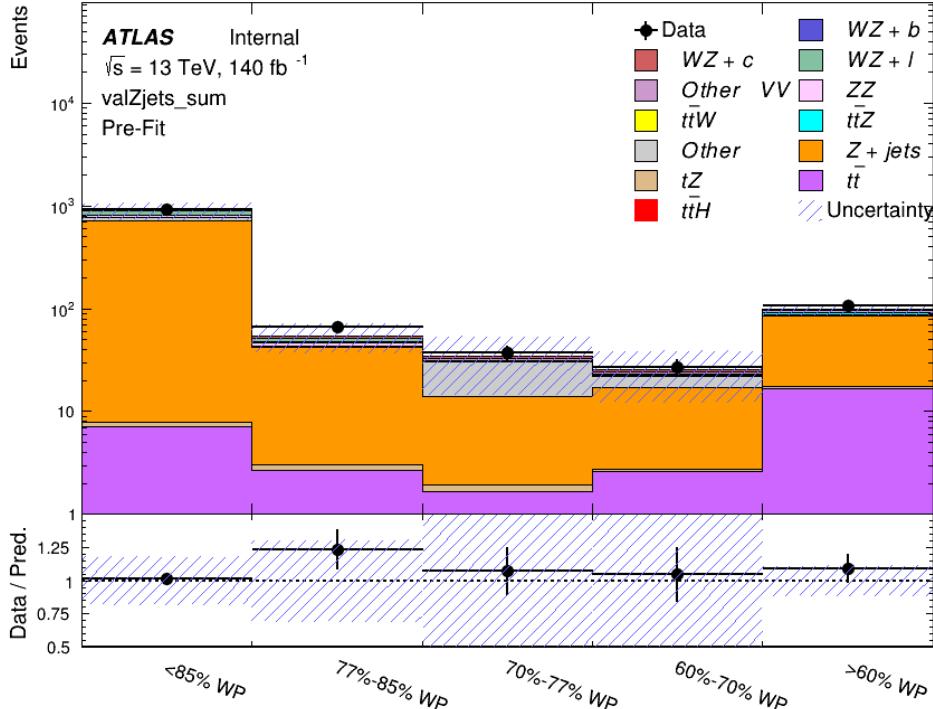


Figure 22: Data and MC comparisons for each DL1r WP for both 1-jet and 2-jet regions, after the Z+jets VR selection and correction factor have been applied

317 For each of the b-tagging working points considered, the data falls within 20% of the MC
 318 prediction once this correction factor has been applied. Therefore, a 20% systematic uncertainty
 319 is applied to Z + jets in the analysis.

320 6 tZ Interference Studies and Separation Multivariate Analysis

321 Because tZ produces a final state identical to signal, it represents a predominant background in
 322 the most signal enriched regions. That is, the region with one jet passing the 60% DL1r WP.
 323 Therefore, a boosted decision tree (BDT) algorithm is trained using TMVA [10] to separate WZ
 324 + heavy flavor from tZ.

325 Separation between tZ and WZ + heavy flavor is achieved in part by reconstructing the invariant
 326 mass of the top candidate, which clusters more closely to the top mass for tZ than WZ + heavy
 327 flavor.

328 The result of this BDT is used to create a tZ enriched region in the fit, reducing its impact on the
 329 measurement of WZ + heavy flavor.

330 **6.1 Top Mass Reconstruction**

331 The reconstruction of the top mass follows the procedure described in detail in section 6.1 of
 332 [11]. The mass of the top quark candidate is reconstructed from the jet, the lepton not included
 333 in the Z-candidate, and a reconstructed neutrino. In the case that there is one jet in the event,
 334 there is only possible b-jet candidate. For events with two jets, the jet with the highest DL1r
 335 score is used.

336 The neutrino from the W decay is expected to be the only source of E_T^{miss} . Therefore, the E_T
 337 and ϕ of the neutrino are taken from the E_T^{miss} measurement. This leaves the z-component of
 338 the neutrino momentum, $p_{\nu z}$ as the only unknown.

339 This unknown is solved for by taking the combined invariant mass of the lepton and neutrino to
 340 give the invariant mass of the W boson:

$$341 \quad (p_l + p_\nu)^2 = m_W^2$$

342 Expanding this out into components, this equation gives:

$$343 \quad \sqrt{p_{T\nu}^2 + p_{z\nu}^2} E_l = \frac{m_w^2 - m_l^2}{2} + p_{T\nu}(p_{lx}\cos\phi_\nu + p_{ly}\sin\phi_\nu) + p_{lz}p_{\nu z}$$

344 This equation gives two solutions for $p_{\nu z}$. For cases where only one of these solutions is real,
 345 that is taken as the value of $p_{\nu z}$. For instances with two real solutions, the one which is shown
 346 to be correct in the largest fraction of simulations is taken. For cases when no real solution is
 347 found, often because of detector effects, the value of E_T^{miss} is varied in decreasing increments of
 348 100 MeV until a real solution is found.

349 The reconstructed top mass distribution for tZ and WZ + b can be seen in figure 23.

350 **6.2 tZ BDT**

351 A Boosted Decision Tree (BDT), specifically XGBoost [xgboost_cite], is used to provide separa-
 352 tion between tZ and WZ+b. The following kinematic variables are used as inputs:

- 353 • The invariant mass of the reconstructed top candidate
- 354 • p_T of each of the leptons, jet
- 355 • The invariant mass of each combination of lepton pairs, $M(l\bar{l})$
- 356 • E_T^{miss}

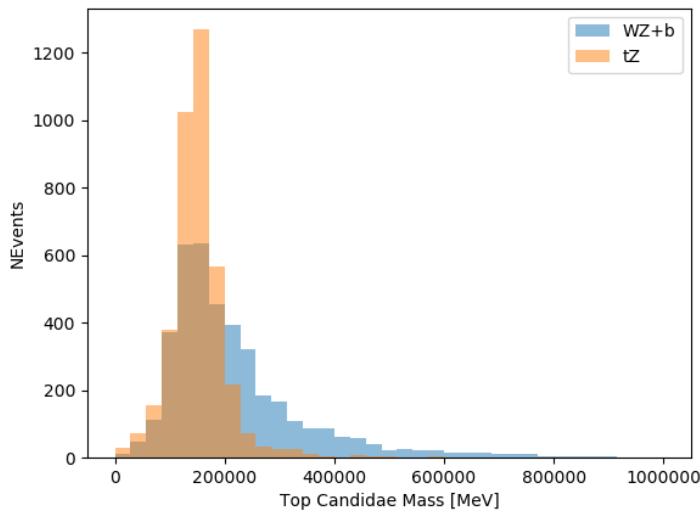


Figure 23: Reconstructed top mass distributions for tZ and WZ + b, measured in MeV.

- 357 • Distance between each combination of leptons, $\Delta R(ll)$
 - 358 • Distance between each lepton and the jet, $\Delta R(lj)$
- 359 The training samples included only events meeting the requirements of the 1-jet, >60% region,
 360 i.e. passing all the selection described in section 5 and having exactly one jet which passes the
 361 tightest (60%) DL1r working point.
- 362 The distributions of a few of these features for both signal and background is shown in figure
 363 24.

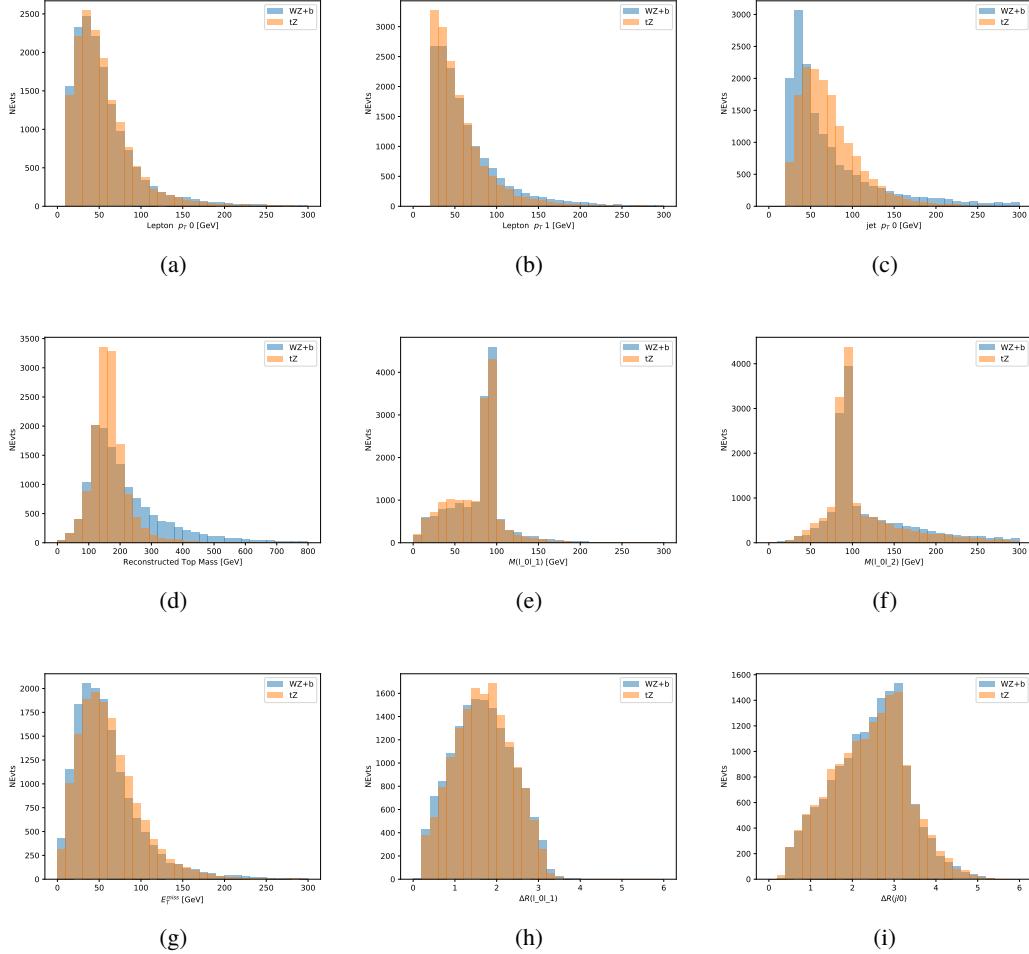


Figure 24: Distribution of input features of the BDT for signal (WZ) and background (tZ). Both are scaled to an equal number of events. (a), (b) and (c) show the p_T of lepton 0, lepton 1, and the jet, (d) show the reconstructed top mass, (e) and (f) show the invariant mass of leptons 0 and 1, leptons 0 and 2. (g) shows the E_T^{miss} of each event. (h) and (i) show the ΔR between lepton 0 and lepton 1, and the jet.

364 A sample of 20,000 background (tZ) and signal (WZ+b) Monte Carlo events are used to train
 365 the BDT. And additional 5,000 events are reserved for testing the model, in order to prevent
 366 over-fitting. A total of 750 decision trees with a maximum depth of 6 branches are used to build
 367 the model. These parameters are chosen empirically, by training several models with different
 368 parameters and selecting the one that gave the best separation for the test sample.

369 The results of the BDT training are shown in figure 25. The output scores for both signal and
 370 background events is shown on the left. The right shows the receiving operating characteristic
 371 (ROC) curve that results from the MVA. The ROC curve represents the background rejection
 372 as a function of signal efficiency, where each point on the curve represents a different response

373 score. The ROC curve of the BDT is compared to the performance of using an optimal set of flat
 374 selections on the same set of input variables.

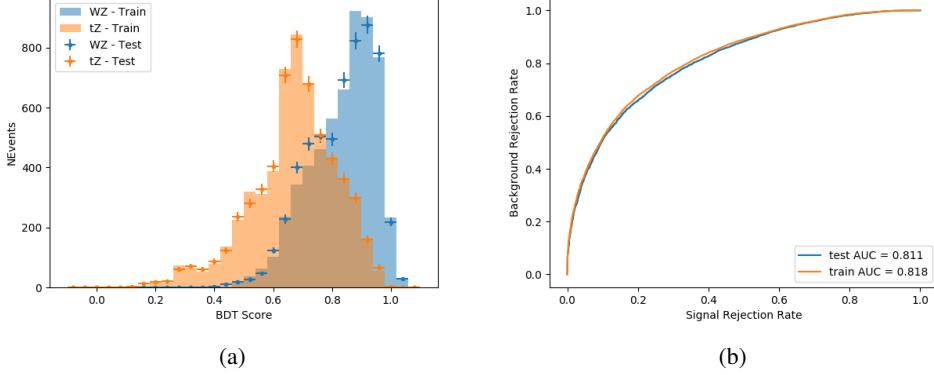


Figure 25: Distribution of the BDT response for signal and background events on the left, the ROC curve for the BDT on the right.

375 The relative important of each input feature in the model, measured by how often they appeared
 376 in the decision trees, is shown in figure 26.

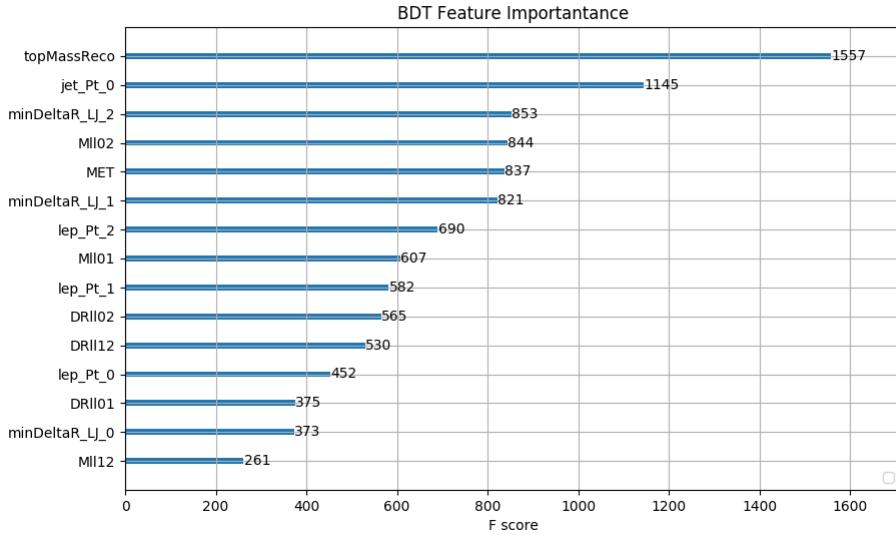


Figure 26: Relative importance of each input feature in the model.

377 These results suggest that some amount of separation can be achieved between these two pro-
 378 cesses, with a high BDT score selecting a set of events that is pure in $WZ + b$. A BDT score

379 of 0.725 is selected as a cutoff, where events with scores higher than this form a signal enriched
 380 region, and events with scores lower than this form a tZ control region. This cutoff is selected by
 381 varying the value of this cutoff in stat-only Asimov fits, and selecting the value that minimizes
 382 the statistical uncertainty on WZ + b.

383 7 Systematic Uncertainties

384 The systematic uncertainties that are considered are summarized in table 8. These are imple-
 385 mented in the fit either as a normalization factors or as a shape variation or both in the signal
 386 and background estimations. The numerical impact of each of these uncertainties is outlined in
 387 section 8.

Table 8: Sources of systematic uncertainty considered in the analysis.

Systematic uncertainty	Components
Luminosity	1
Pileup reweighting	1
Physics Objects	
Electron	6
Muon	15
Jet energy scale and resolution	28
Jet vertex fraction	1
Jet flavor tagging	131
E_T^{miss}	3
Total (Experimental)	186
Background Modeling	
Cross section	24
Renormalization and factorization scales	10
Parton shower and hadronization model	2
Shower tune	4
Total (Signal and background modeling)	40
Total (Overall)	226

388 The uncertainty in the combined integrated luminosity is derived from a calibration of the
 389 luminosity scale performed for 13 TeV proton-proton collisions [12], [**LUCID2**].

390 The experimental uncertainties are related to the reconstruction and identification of light leptons
 391 and b-tagging of jets, and to the reconstruction of E_T^{miss} . The sources which contribute to the
 392 uncertainty in the jet energy scale (JES) [13] are decomposed into uncorrelated components and
 393 treated as independent sources in the analysis. The CategoryReduction model is used to account
 394 for JES uncertainties, which decomposes the uncertainties into 30 nuisance parameters included

395 in the fit. The SimpleJER model is used to account for jet energy resolution (JER) uncertainties,
396 and 8 JER uncertainty components unclded as NPs in the fit.

397 The uncertainties in the b-tagging efficiencies measured in dedicated calibration analyses [14] are
398 also decomposed into uncorrelated components. The large number of components for b-tagging
399 is due to the calibration of the distribution of the MVA discriminant.

400 The systematic uncertainties associated with the signal and background processes are accounted
401 for by varying the cross-section of each process within its uncertainty.

402 The full list of systematic uncertainties considered in the analysis is summarized in tables 9, 10
403 and 11.

404

Experimental Systematics on Leptons and E_T^{miss}			
Type	Description	Systematics Name	Application
Trigger			
Scale Factors	Trigger Efficiency	lepSFTrigTight_MU(EL)_SF_Trigger_STAT(SYST)	Event Weight
Muons			
Efficiencies	Reconstruction and Identification	lepSFObjTight_MU_SF_ID_STAT(SYST)	Event Weight
	Isolation	lepSFObjTight_MU_SF_Isol_STAT(SYST)	Event Weight
	Track To Vertex Association	lepSFObjTight_MU_SF_TTVA_STAT(SYST)	Event Weight
p_T Scale	p_T Scale	MUONS_SCALE	p_T Correction
Resolution	Inner Detector Energy Resolution	MUONS_ID	p_T Correction
	Muon Spectrometer Energy Resolution	MUONS_MS	p_T Correction
Electrons			
Efficiencies	Reconstruction	lepSFObjTight_EL_SF_ID	Event Weight
	Identification	lepSFObjTight_EL_SF_Reco	Event Weight
	Isolation	lepSFObjTight_EL_SF_Isol	Event Weight
Scale Factor	Energy Scale	EG_SCALE_ALL	Energy Correction
Resolution	Energy Resolution	EG_RESOLUTION_ALL	Energy Correction
E_T^{miss}			
Soft Tracks Terms	Resolution	MET_SoftTrk_ResoPerp	p_T Correction
	Resolution	MET_SoftTrk_ResoPara	p_T Correction
	Scale	MET_SoftTrk_ScaleUp	p_T Correction
	Scale	MET_SoftTrk_ScaleDown	p_T Correction

Table 9: Summary of experimental systematics considered for leptons and E_T^{miss} . Includes type, description, name of systematic as used in the fit, and mode of application. The mode of application indicates the systematic evaluation, e.g. as an overall event re-weighting (Event Weight) or rescaling (p_T Correction).

Experimental Systematics on Jets			
Type	Origin	Systematics Name	Application
Jet Vertex Tagger		JVT	Event Weight
Energy Scale	Calibration Method	JET_21NP_ JET_EffectiveNP_1-19	p_T Correction p_T Correction
	η inter-calibration	JET_EtaIntercalibration_Modelling JET_EtaIntercalibration_NonClosure JET_EtaIntercalibration_TotalStat	p_T Correction p_T Correction p_T Correction
	High p_T jets	JET_SingleParticle_HighPt	p_T Correction
	Pile-Up	JET_Pileup_OffsetNPV JET_Pileup_OffsetMu JET_Pileup_PtTerm JET_Pileup_RhoTopology	p_T Correction p_T Correction p_T Correction p_T Correction
	Non Closure	JET_PunchThrough_MC15	p_T Correction
	Flavour	JET_Flavor_Response JET_BJES_Response JET_Flavor_Composition	p_T Correction p_T Correction p_T Correction
Resolution		JET_JER_SINGLE_NP	Event Weight

Table 10: Jet systematics take into account effects of jets calibration method, η inter-calibration, high p_T jets, pile-up, and flavor response. They are all diagonalised into effective parameters.

Experimental Systematics on b-tagging		
Type	Origin	Systematic Name
Scale Factors	DL1r b-tagger efficiency on b originated jets in bins of η	DL1r_Continuous_EventWeight_B0-29
	DL1r b-tagger efficiency on c originated jets in bins of η	DL1r_Continuous_EventWeight_C0-19
	DL1r b-tagger efficiency on light flavoured originated jets in bins of η and p_T	DL1r_Continuous_EventWeight_Light0-79
	DL1r b-tagger extrapolation efficiency	DL1r_Continuous_EventWeight_extrapolation DL1r_Continuous_EventWeight_extrapolation_from_charm

Table 11: Summary of experimental systematics to be included for b-tagging of jets in the analysis, using the continuous DL1r tagging algorithm. All of the b-tagging related systematics are applied as event weights. From left: type, description, and the name of systematic used in the fit.

- 405 Theoretical uncertainties applied to MC predictions, including cross section, PDF, and scale
 406 uncertainties are taken from theory calculations, with the exception of non-prompt and diboson
 407 backgrounds. The cross-section uncertainty on tZ is taken from [tZ_paper]. Derivation of the
 408 non-prompt background uncertainties, Z+jets and tt, are explained in detail in section 5.3.
 409 The other VV + heavy flavor processes (namely VV+b and VV+charm, which primarily comprise
 410 of ZZ events) are also poorly understood, because these processes involve much of the same
 411 physics as WZ + heavy flavor, and have also not been measured. Therefore, a conservative 50%
 412 uncertainty is applied to those samples.
 413 The theory uncertainties applied to the predominate background estimates are summarized in
 414 table 12.

Process	X-section [%]
WZ	QCD Scale: $^{+3.7}_{-3.4}$ PDF($+\alpha_S$): ± 3.1
tZ	X-sec: ± 15.2 QCD Scale: $^{+5.2}_{-1.3}$ PDF($+\alpha_S$): ± 1.2
t̄H (aMC@NLO+Pythia8)	QCD Scale: $^{+5.8}_{-9.2}$ PDF($+\alpha_S$): ± 3.6
t̄Z (aMC@NLO+Pythia8)	QCD Scale: $^{+9.6}_{-11.3}$ PDF($+\alpha_S$): ± 4
t̄W (aMC@NLO+Pythia8)	QCD Scale: $^{+12.9}_{-11.5}$ PDF($+\alpha_S$): ± 3.4
VV + b/charm (Sherpa 2.2.1)	± 50
VV + light (Sherpa 2.2.1)	± 6
t̄t	± 10
Z + jets	± 20

Table 12: Summary of theoretical uncertainties for MC predictions in the analysis.

415 Additional signal uncertainties are estimated by comparing estimates from the nominal Sherpa
 416 WZ samples with alternate WZ samples generated with Powheg+PYTHIA8 (DSID 361601).
 417 The shape of the templates used in the fit are compared between these two samples for WZ + b,
 418 WZ + charm and WZ + light, as shown in figures 27 and 28. Each of these plots are normalized
 419 to unity in order to capture differences in shape.

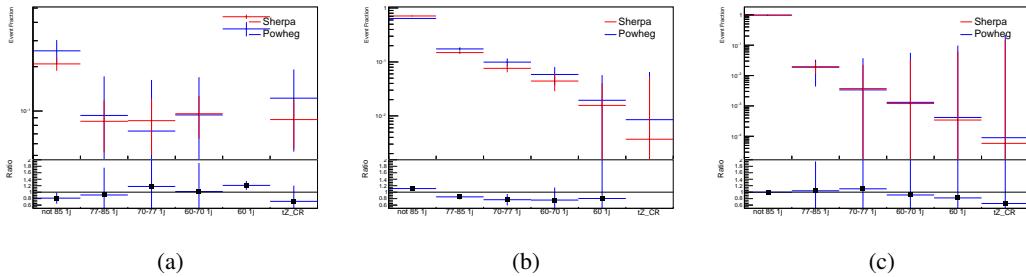


Figure 27: Comparison between Sherpa and Powheg predictions of the distribution of (a) WZ + b, (b) WZ + charm, and (c) WZ + light among the various b-tag WPs used in the 1-jet fit.

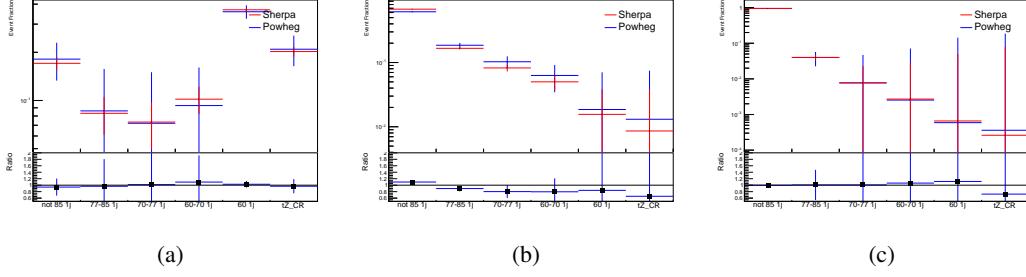


Figure 28: Comparison between Sherpa and Powheg predictions of the distribution of (a) WZ + b, (b) WZ + charm, and (c) WZ + light among the various b-tag WPs used in the 2-jet fit.

420 Separate systematics are included in the fit for WZ + b, WZ + charm and WZ + light, where
 421 the distribution among each of the fit regions is varied based on the prediction of the Powheg
 422 sample.

8 Results

424 A separate maximum-likelihood fit is performed over the 1-jet and 2-jet fit regions in order to
 425 extract the best-fit value of the WZ + b-jet and WZ + charm jet contributions. The WZ + b,
 426 WZ + charm and WZ + light contributions are allowed to float, with the remaining background
 427 contributions are held fixed. **The current fit strategy treats the WZ + b-jet contribution as**
 428 **the parameter of interest, with the normalization of the WZ + charm and the WZ + light**
 429 **contributions taken as systematic uncertainties. This could however be adjusted, depending**
 430 **on whether it is decided the goal of the analysis should be to measure WZ+b specifically or**
 431 **WZ + heavy flavor overall.** The result of the fit is used to extract the cross-section of WZ +
 432 heavy-flavor production.

433 A maximum likelihood fit to data is performed simultaneously in the regions described in section
 434 5. The parameters μ_{WZ+b} , $\mu_{WZ+charm}$, $\mu_{WZ+light}$, where $\mu = \sigma_{\text{observed}}/\sigma_{\text{SM}}$, are extracted
 435 from the fit.

436 While in the nominal fit events with an intermediate top quark are treated as a separate process, an
 437 alternative version of the measurement is performed which considers tZ as part of the signal.

8.1 1-jet Fit Results

439 **The results of the fit are currently blinded.**

440 The pre-fit yields in each of the regions used in the fit are shown in table 8.1.

Sample	1j, <85% WP	1j, 77%-85% WP	1j, 70%-77% WP	1j, 60%-70% WP	1j, >60% WP	tZ CR
WZ + b	11 ± 2	4.7 ± 0.5	4.6 ± 0.4	5.1 ± 0.4	24 ± 2	6.0 ± 0.5
WZ + c	318 ± 22	81 ± 6	43.1 ± 3.6	25.8 ± 2.6	9.4 ± 1.8	2.9 ± 0.6
WZ + l	4020 ± 250	91 ± 13	17 ± 3	4.9 ± 1.6	1.3 ± 0.4	0.2 ± 0.1
Other VV	6.2 ± 0.6	0.2 ± 0.4	0.2 ± 0.04	0.07 ± 0.1	0.1 ± 0.1	0.1 ± 0.2
ZZ	336 ± nan	17.81 ± nan	4.33 ± nan	1.66 ± nan	0.36 ± nan	0.10 ± nan
t̄W	1.1 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.1	0.3 ± 0.1	0.4 ± 0.1	1.5 ± 0.3	0.7 ± 0.2
t̄Z	6.8 ± 1.2	1.4 ± 0.3	1.0 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.2	4.4 ± 0.8	3.2 ± 0.6
Z + jets	169 ± 38	8.9 ± 1.9	3.7 ± 0.8	3.3 ± 0.7	3.2 ± 0.7	0.8 ± 0.17
V + γ	45 ± 28	1.9 ± 2.4	0.1 ± 0.1	0.02 ± 0.01	1.0 ± 0.9	0.02 ± 0.03
tZ	24.3 ± 4.3	5.5 ± 1.1	4.1 ± 0.8	5.9 ± 1.1	10.7 ± 2.0	23 ± 4
tW	1.4 ± 0.8	0.2 ± 0.5	0.0 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.6	0.26 ± 0.42	0.39 ± 0.41
WtZ	2.3 ± 1.2	0.6 ± 0.3	0.3 ± 0.21	0.27 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 0.7	0.6 ± 0.5
VVV	12.4 ± 0.5	0.93 ± 0.06	0.35 ± 0.03	0.13 ± 0.02	0.14 ± 0.03	0.02 ± 0.01
VH	40 ± 6	2.6 ± 1.4	0.9 ± 0.8	0.7 ± 0.8	0.5 ± 0.6	0.0 ± 0.0
t̄t	12.1 ± 1.6	2.9 ± 0.6	2.5 ± 0.5	2.8 ± 0.5	11.2 ± 1.4	10.9 ± 1.5
t̄tH	0.24 ± 0.03	0.05 ± 0.01	0.04 ± 0.01	0.06 ± 0.01	0.20 ± 0.03	0.13 ± 0.02
Total	5010 ± nan	227 ± nan	87.7 ± nan	56.7 ± nan	76.1 ± nan	52.5 ± nan

Table 13: Pre-fit yields in each of the 1-jet fit regions.

⁴⁴² The post-fit yields in each region are summarized in figure 8.1.

⁴⁴³

	1j, <85% WP	1j, 77%-85% WP	1j, 70%-77% WP	1j, 60%-70% WP	1j, >60% WP	tZ CR
WZ + b	11 ± 5	4.7 ± 2.0	4.6 ± 2.0	5.1 ± 2.1	24 ± 10	6.0 ± 2.50
WZ + c	320 ± 60	80 ± 14	43 ± 7	26 ± 5	9.4 ± 2.3	2.9 ± 0.7
WZ + l	4020 ± 130	90 ± 11	17.3 ± 2.8	4.9 ± 1.6	1.3 ± 0.4	0.23 ± 0.1
Other VV + b	0.1 ± 0.1	0.0 ± 0.2	0.01 ± 0.01	0.07 ± 0.06	0.04 ± 0.10	0.03 ± 0.0
Other VV + c	0.67 ± 0.38	0.08 ± 0.12	0.03 ± 0.03	0.07 ± 0.06	0.04 ± 0.05	0.01 ± 0.0
Other VV + l	6.2 ± 0.6	0.92 ± 0.07	0.02 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.0
ZZ + b	1.3 ± 0.7	0.69 ± 0.39	0.49 ± 0.27	1.1 ± 0.6	3.6 ± 1.9	1.0 ± 0.6
ZZ + c	10 ± 5	2.4 ± 1.3	1.5 ± 0.8	1.0 ± 0.5	0.6 ± 0.3	0.1 ± 0.1
ZZ + l	336 ± 55	17.8 ± 3.1	4.3 ± 0.8	1.7 ± 0.5	0.36 ± 0.12	0.10 ± 0.0
t <bar>t>W</bar>	1.09 ± 0.21	0.2 ± 0.1	0.1 ± 0.1	0.4 ± 0.1	1.5 ± 0.3	0.1 ± 0.2
t <bar>t>Z</bar>	6.8 ± 1.2	1.4 ± 0.3	1.0 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.2	4.4 ± 0.7	3.2 ± 0.5
rare Top	0.14 ± 0.04	0.04 ± 0.02	0.04 ± 0.0	0.1 ± 0.03	0.14 ± 0.04	0.15 ± 0.0
t <bar>t>WW</bar>	0.04 ± 0.03	0.01 ± 0.02	0.01 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.02	0.01 ± 0.0
Z + jets	169 ± 37	8.9 ± 1.9	3.7 ± 0.8	3.3 ± 0.7	3.2 ± 0.7	0.8 ± 0.2
W + jets	0.01 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.0				
V + γ	46 ± 28	1.9 ± 2.4	0.1 ± 0.1	0.0 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.9	0.0 ± 0.0
tZ	24 ± 4	5.5 ± 1.0	4.1 ± 0.8	5.9 ± 1.1	10.7 ± 1.8	23.3 ± 3.7
tW	1.37 ± 0.82	0.18 ± 0.26	0.01 ± 0.12	0.67 ± 0.64	0.26 ± 0.42	0.39 ± 0.4
WtZ	2.3 ± 1.2	0.6 ± 0.3	0.3 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 0.6	0.6 ± 0.3
VVV	12.4 ± 0.4	0.9 ± 0.1	0.4 ± 0.1	0.13 ± 0.02	0.14 ± 0.03	0.02 ± 0.0
VH	40 ± 6	2.6 ± 1.4	0.9 ± 0.8	0.7 ± 0.8	0.4 ± 0.6	0.01 ± 0.0
t <bar>t></bar>	12.1 ± 1.6	2.9 ± 0.6	2.5 ± 0.5	2.8 ± 0.5	11.2 ± 1.5	10.9 ± 1.4
t <bar>t>H</bar>	0.24 ± 0.03	0.05 ± 0.01	0.04 ± 0.01	0.06 ± 0.01	0.20 ± 0.03	0.13 ± 0.0
Total	5100 ± 110	227 ± 12	87 ± 6	56.7 ± 4.4	76 ± 9	52.5 ± 4.2

Table 14: Post-fit yields in each of the 1-jet fit regions.

⁴⁴⁴ A post-fit summary plot of the 1-jet fitted regions is shown in figure 29:

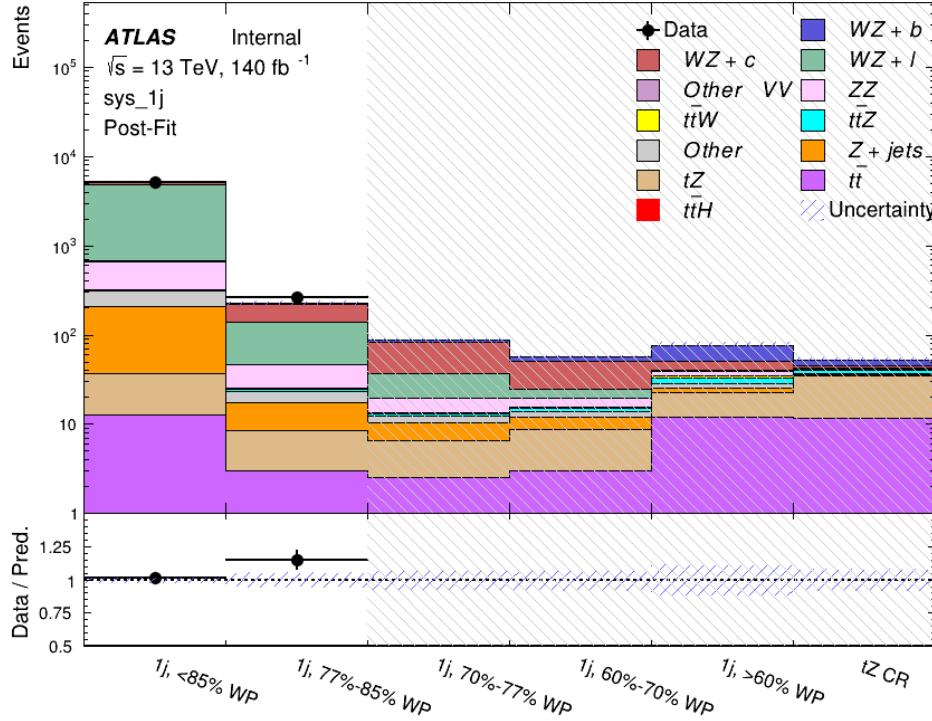


Figure 29: Post-fit summary of the 1-jet fit regions.

445 As described in section 7, there are 226 systematic uncertainties that are considered as NPs in
 446 the fit. These NPs are constrained by Gaussian or log-normal probability density functions. The
 447 latter are used for normalisation factors to ensure that they are always positive. The expected
 448 numbers of signal and background events are functions of the likelihood. The prior for each
 449 NP is added as a penalty term, decreasing the likelihood as it is shifted away from its nominal
 450 value.

451 The impact of each NP is calculated by performing the fit with the parameter of interest held
 452 fixed, varied from its fitted value by its uncertainty, and calculating $\Delta\mu$ relative to the baseline
 453 fit. The impact of the most significant sources of systematic uncertainties is summarized in table
 454 15.

Uncertainty Source	$\Delta\mu$	
WZ + charm cross-section	-0.1966	0.2171
tZ cross-section	-0.1521	0.1518
WZ + light cross-section	0.1485	-0.1411
Other VV + b cross-section	-0.1115	0.1163
Flavor Tagging	0.0955	0.0957
Jet Energy Scale	0.0613	0.081
t <bar>t</bar>	-0.0662	0.0654
Luminosity	-0.0609	0.0655
Z + jets cross-section	-0.0284	0.0284
Other VV + charm cross-section	0.0207	-0.0202
Muon Trigger Scale Factor	0.019	0.0209
Total Systematic Uncertainty	0.3511	0.3679

Table 15: Summary of the most significant sources of systematic uncertainty on the measurement of WZ + b with exactly one associated jet.

455 The ranking and impact of those nuisance parameters with the largest contribution to the overall
456 uncertainty is shown in figure 30.

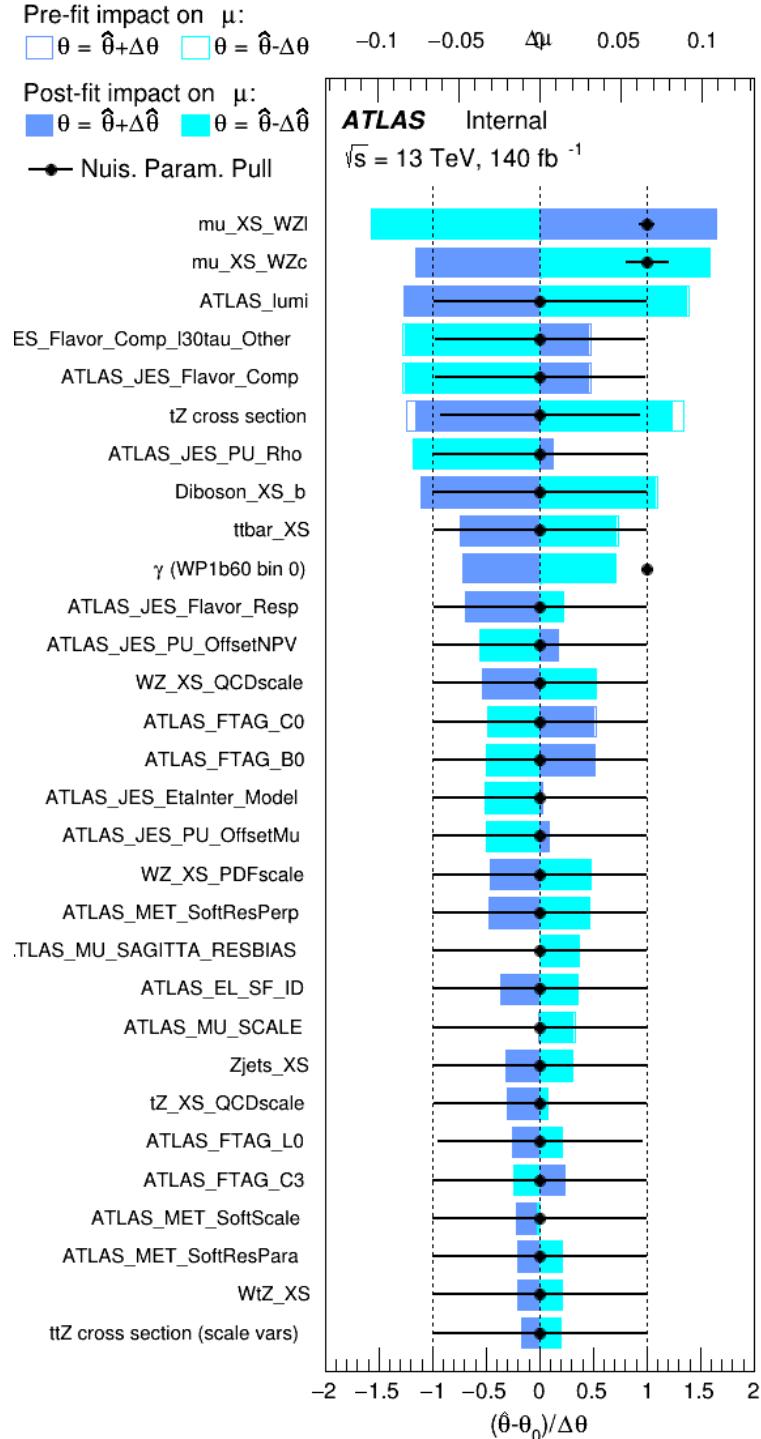


Figure 30: Impact of systematic uncertainties on the signal-strength of $WZ + b$ for events with exactly one jet

457 The large impact of the Jet Energy Scale and Jet Flavor Tagging is unsurprising, as the shape
 458 of the fit regions depends heavily on the modeling of the jets. The other major sources of
 459 uncertainty come from background modelling and cross-section uncertainty. The pie charts in
 460 figure 31 show that for the modelling uncertainties that contribute most correspond to the most
 461 significant backgrounds.

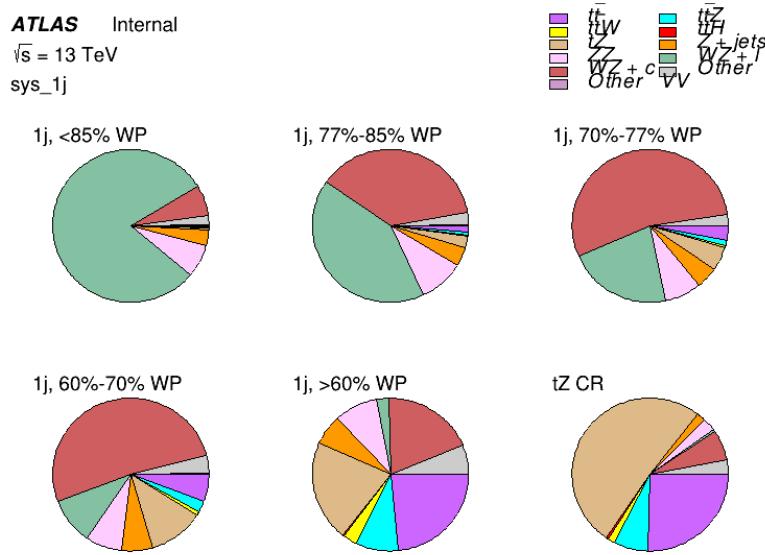


Figure 31: Post-fit background composition of the fit regions.

462 The correlations between these nuisance parameters are summarized in figure 32.

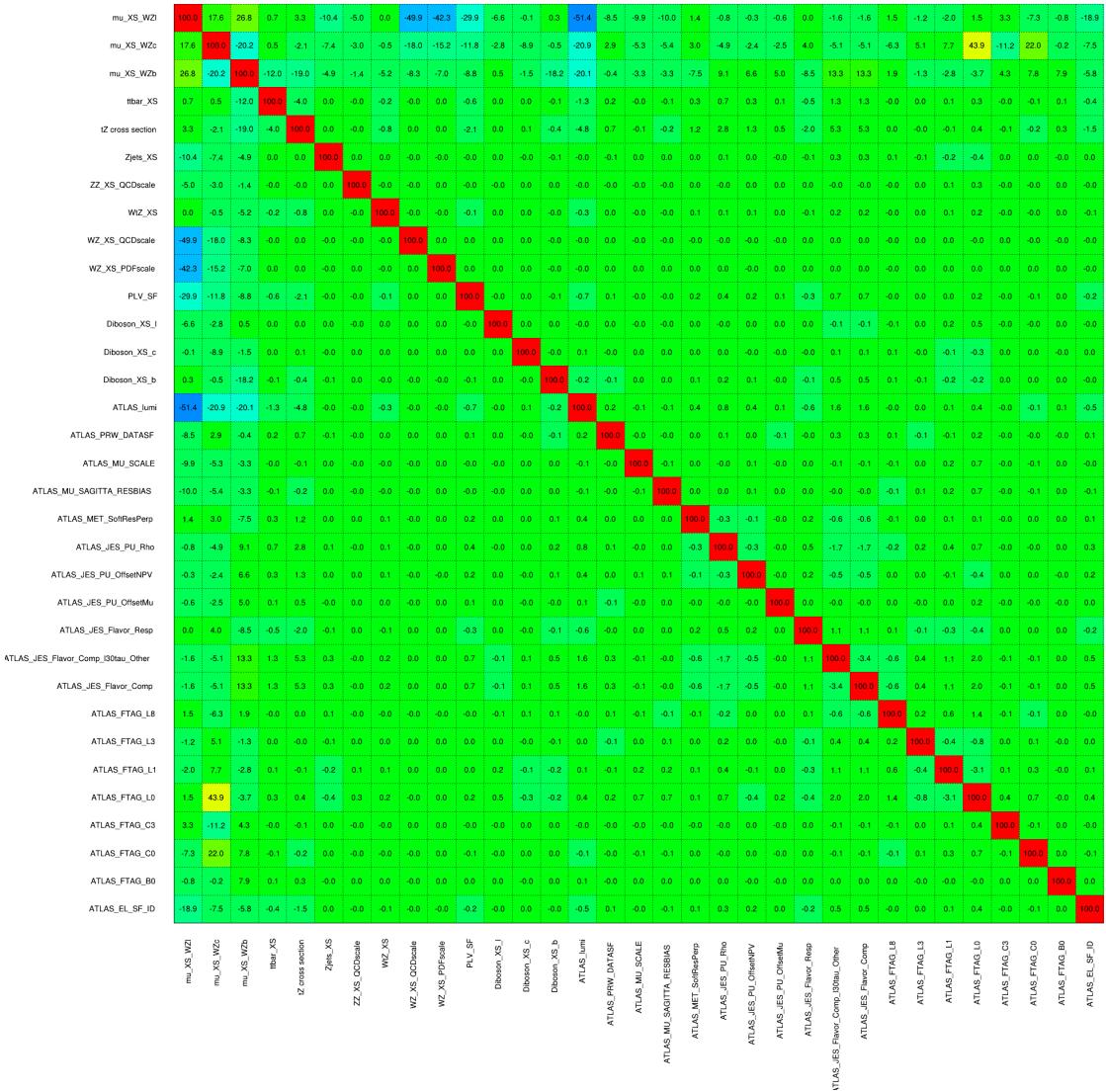


Figure 32: Correlations between nuisance parameters

463 The negative correlations between $\mu_{WZ+charm}$ and μ_{WZ+b} and $\mu_{WZ+light}$ are expected: $WZ +$
 464 charm is present in both the $WZ + b$ and $WZ + light$ enriched regions, therefore increasing the
 465 fraction of charm requires increasing the fraction of $WZ + b$ and $WZ + light$. This reasoning
 466 also explains the positive correlation between μ_{WZ+b} and $\mu_{WZ+light}$.

467 Two of the major backgrounds in the region with the highest purity of $WZ + b$ are tZ and Other
 468 $VV + b$, explaining the negative correlations between μ_{WZ+b} and the tZ cross section, and the
 469 $VV + b$ cross section.

⁴⁷⁰ The high correlation between the luminosity and $\mu_{WZ+light}$ arises from the fact that the uncer-
⁴⁷¹ tainty on $\mu_{WZ+light}$ is very low (around 4%). Small changes in luminosity cause a change in
⁴⁷² the yield of WZ + light that is large compared to its uncertainty, producing a large correlation
⁴⁷³ between these two parameters.

⁴⁷⁴ 8.2 2-jet Fit Results

⁴⁷⁵ The results of the fit are currently blinded.

⁴⁷⁶ Pre-fit yields in each of the 2-jet fit regions are shown in figure 8.2.

	2j, <85% WP	2j, 77%-85% WP	2j, 70%-77% WP	2j, 60%-70% WP	2j, >60% WP
WZ + b	13 ±2	6.7±0.5	5.6±0.4	8.0±0.6	31 ±2
WZ + c	260 ±20	77 ±6	41 ±3	27 ±3	11 ±2
WZ + l	1860 ±150	90 ±14	18 ±3	5.8±1.4	1.4±0.4
Other VV	0.12±0.11	0.10±0.08	0.00±0.00	0.05±0.05	0.13±0.12
Other VV	1.01±0.53	0.30±0.18	0.16±0.09	0.05±0.05	0.10±0.09
Other VV	6.63±0.63	0.35±0.07	0.09±0.03	0.01±0.01	0.00±0.00
ZZ	1.41±nan	0.91±nan	0.74±nan	1.66±nan	3.93±nan
ZZ	9.92±nan	2.78±nan	1.70±nan	1.20±nan	0.48±nan
ZZ	135.41 ±nan	11.33±nan	2.71±nan	1.04±nan	0.13±nan
t̄tW	0.8±0.2	0.4±0.1	0.5±0.1	0.7±0.2	4.3±0.6
t̄tZ	14.7 ±2.2	5.6±0.8	4.5±0.7	6.5±1.1	25.4 ±4.0
rare Top	0.14±0.04	0.07±0.03	0.03±0.02	0.09±0.03	0.37±0.07
t̄tWW	0.04±0.03	0.02±0.02	0.01±0.01	0.01±0.00	0.03±0.03
Z + jets	110.0 ±22.9	9.6±2.0	2.1±0.50	1.6±0.4	5.1±1.1
W + jets	0.0±0.0	0.0±0.0	0.0±0.0	0.0±0.0	0.0±0.0
V + γ	25 ±18	0.5±0.2	0.1±0.1	0.1±0.1	0.0±0.02
tZ	15.9 ±2.9	6.9±1.3	5.1±1.0	8.0±1.5	18.7 ±3.2
tW	0.9±0.7	0.2±0.3	0.0±0.1	0.0±0.0	0.8±0.6
WtZ	4.9±2.5	1.5±0.8	1.1±0.6	1.3±0.7	4.6±2.4
VVV	7.4±0.3	1.0±0.1	0.4±0.1	0.2±0.1	0.13±0.03
VH	19.5 ±4.2	2.8±1.6	0.7±0.7	0.1±0.2	0.0±0.0
t̄t	0.7±0.4	0.1±0.1	0.05±0.06	0.15±0.13	0.8±0.5
t̄t	6.8±1.0	2.4±0.5	1.8±0.4	3.3±0.6	8.4±1.2
t̄tH	0.4±0.1	0.2±0.1	0.16±0.02	0.23±0.03	0.94±0.11
Total	2580 ±nan	229 ±nan	89.30±nan	69.12±nan	120.37 ±nan

Table 16: Pre-fit yields in each of the 2-jet fit regions.

⁴⁷⁷ The post-fit yields in each region are summarized in figure 8.2.

	2j, <85% WP	2j, 77%-85% WP	2j, 70%-77% WP	2j, 60%-70% WP	2j, >60% WP	tZ CR 2j
WZ + b	13 ± 6	6.7 ± 2.9	5.8 ± 2.5	8.0 ± 3.5	31 ± 13	14 ± 5
WZ + c	260 ± 60	77 ± 15	41 ± 8	26 ± 5	10.9 ± 2.4	4.8 ± 1.1
WZ + l	1860 ± 90	90 ± 12	17.6 ± 2.8	5.8 ± 1.3	1.4 ± 0.4	0.3 ± 0.2
Other VV + b	0.1 ± 0.11	0.10 ± 0.08	0.00 ± 0.00	0.05 ± 0.05	0.13 ± 0.12	0.08 ± 0.0
Other VV + c	1.0 ± 0.5	0.3 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.1	0.05 ± 0.05	0.1 ± 0.1	0.01 ± 0.0
Other VV + l	6.6 ± 0.6	0.3 ± 0.1	0.10 ± 0.03	0.01 ± 0.01	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
ZZ + b	1.4 ± 0.7	0.9 ± 0.5	0.7 ± 0.4	1.7 ± 1.3	3.9 ± 2.1	2.4 ± 1.3
ZZ + b	9.9 ± 5.2	2.8 ± 1.5	1.7 ± 0.9	1.2 ± 0.7	0.5 ± 0.3	0.2 ± 0.1
ZZ + b	135 ± 25	11.3 ± 2.4	2.7 ± 0.6	1.0 ± 0.3	0.1 ± 0.06	0.09 ± 0.0
t̄tW	0.8 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.1	0.54 ± 0.12	0.74 ± 0.15	4.3 ± 0.6	3.9 ± 0.6
t̄tZ	14.7 ± 2.2	5.6 ± 0.8	4.5 ± 0.7	6.5 ± 1.0	25.4 ± 3.9	21.9 ± 3.3
rare Top	0.14 ± 0.04	0.07 ± 0.03	0.03 ± 0.02	0.09 ± 0.03	0.4 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.1
t̄tWW	0.04 ± 0.03	0.02 ± 0.02	0.01 ± 0.01	0.01 ± 0.01	0.03 ± 0.03	0.01 ± 0.0
Z + jets	110 ± 23	9.6 ± 2.0	2.1 ± 0.5	1.6 ± 0.4	5.1 ± 1.1	1.5 ± 0.3
W + jets	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0				
V + γ	25 ± 19	0.5 ± 0.2	0.1 ± 0.1	0.13 ± 0.14	0.0 ± 0.02	0.05 ± 0.0
tZ	15.9 ± 2.7	6.9 ± 1.2	5.1 ± 0.9	8.0 ± 1.4	18.7 ± 3.0	36 ± 6
tW	0.1 ± 0.7	0.2 ± 0.3	0.0 ± 0.1	0.0 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.6	0.2 ± 0.2
WtZ	4.9 ± 2.5	1.5 ± 0.8	1.1 ± 0.6	1.3 ± 0.7	4.6 ± 2.3	3.3 ± 1.7
VVV	7.4 ± 0.3	1.0 ± 0.1	0.36 ± 0.03	0.19 ± 0.03	0.13 ± 0.03	0.04 ± 0.0
VH	19 ± 4	2.8 ± 1.6	0.7 ± 0.7	0.1 ± 0.2	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
t̄t	6.8 ± 1.0	2.4 ± 0.5	1.8 ± 0.4	3.3 ± 0.6	8.4 ± 1.2	13.6 ± 1.7
t̄tH	0.40 ± 0.05	0.19 ± 0.03	0.16 ± 0.02	0.23 ± 0.03	0.94 ± 0.11	1.03 ± 0.1
Total	2580 ± 60	229 ± 11	89 ± 6	69.1 ± 4.1	120 ± 10	108 ± 6

Table 17: Post-fit yields in each of the 2-jet fit regions.

⁴⁷⁸ A post-fit summary plot of the fitted regions is shown in figure 33:

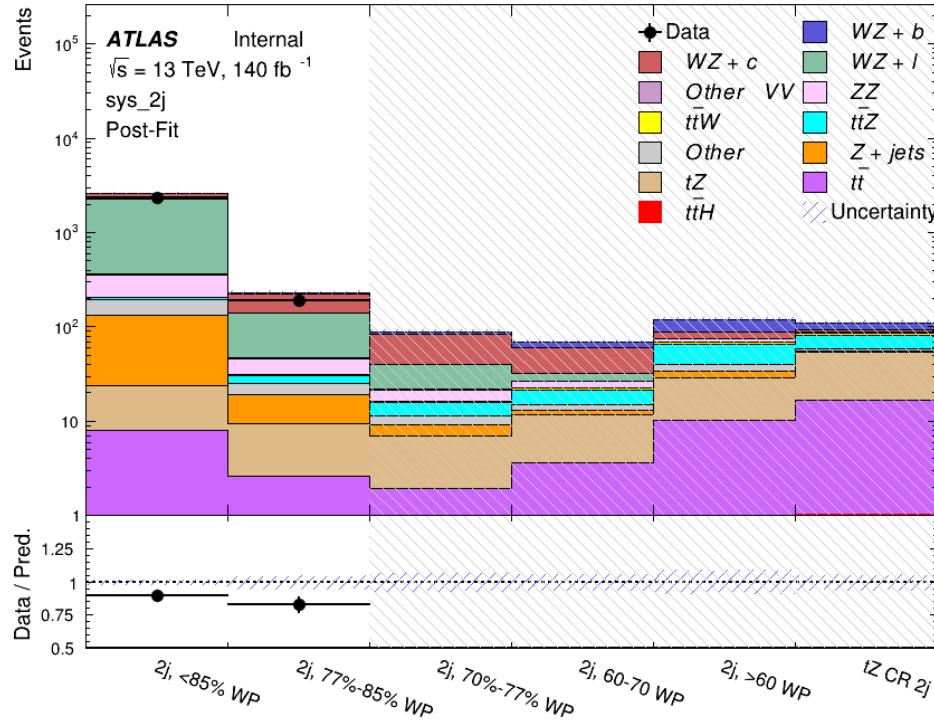


Figure 33: Post-fit summary of the fit over 2-jet regions.

479 The same set of systematic uncertainties consider for the 1-jet fit are included in the 2-jet fit as
 480 well. The impact of the most significant systematic uncertainties is summarized in table 18.

Uncertainty Source	$\Delta\mu$	
WZ + charm cross-section	-0.1966	0.2171
tZ cross-section	-0.1521	0.1518
WZ + light cross-section	0.1485	-0.1411
Other VV + b cross-section	-0.1115	0.1163
Flavor Tagging	0.0955	0.0957
Jet Energy Scale	0.0613	0.081
t <bar>t</bar>	-0.0662	0.0654
Luminosity	-0.0609	0.0655
Z + jets cross-section	-0.0284	0.0284
Other VV + charm cross-section	0.0207	-0.0202
Muon Trigger Scale Factor	0.019	0.0209
Total Systematic Uncertainty	0.3511	0.3679

Table 18: Summary of the most significant sources of systematic uncertainty on the measurement of WZ + b 2-jet events.

⁴⁸¹ The ranking and impact of those nuisance parameters with the largest contribution to the overall
⁴⁸² uncertainty is shown in figure 34.

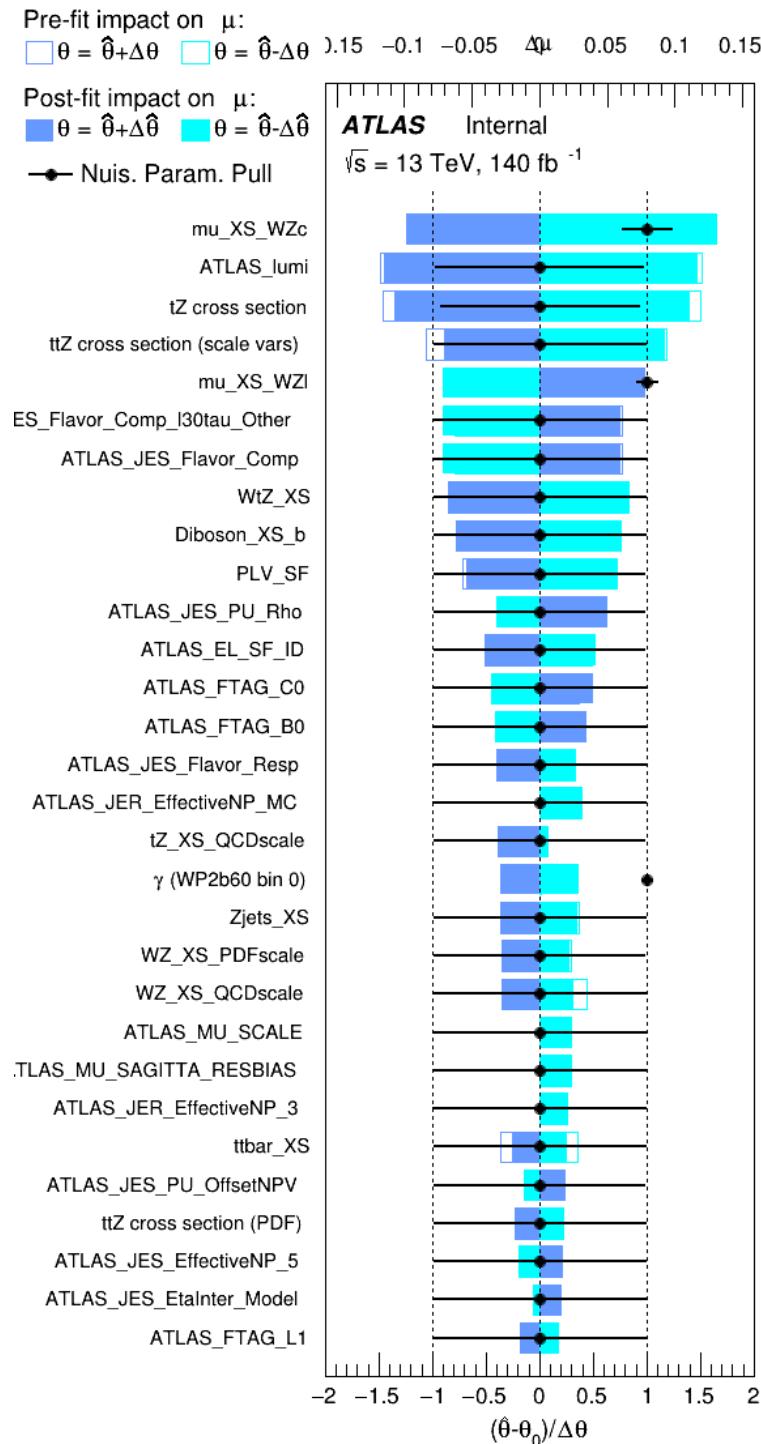


Figure 34: Impact of systematic uncertainties on the signal-strength of $WZ + b$ in 2-jet events.

483 The large impact of the Jet Energy Scale and Jet Flavor Tagging is unsurprising, as the shape
 484 of the fit regions depends heavily on the modeling of the jets. The other major sources of
 485 uncertainty come from background modelling and cross-section uncertainty. The pie charts in
 486 figure 35 show that for the modelling uncertainties that contribute most correspond to the most
 487 significant backgrounds.

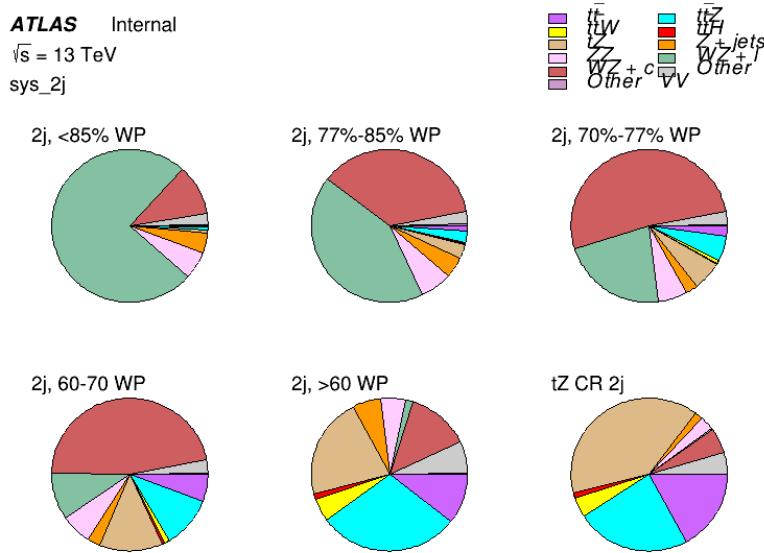
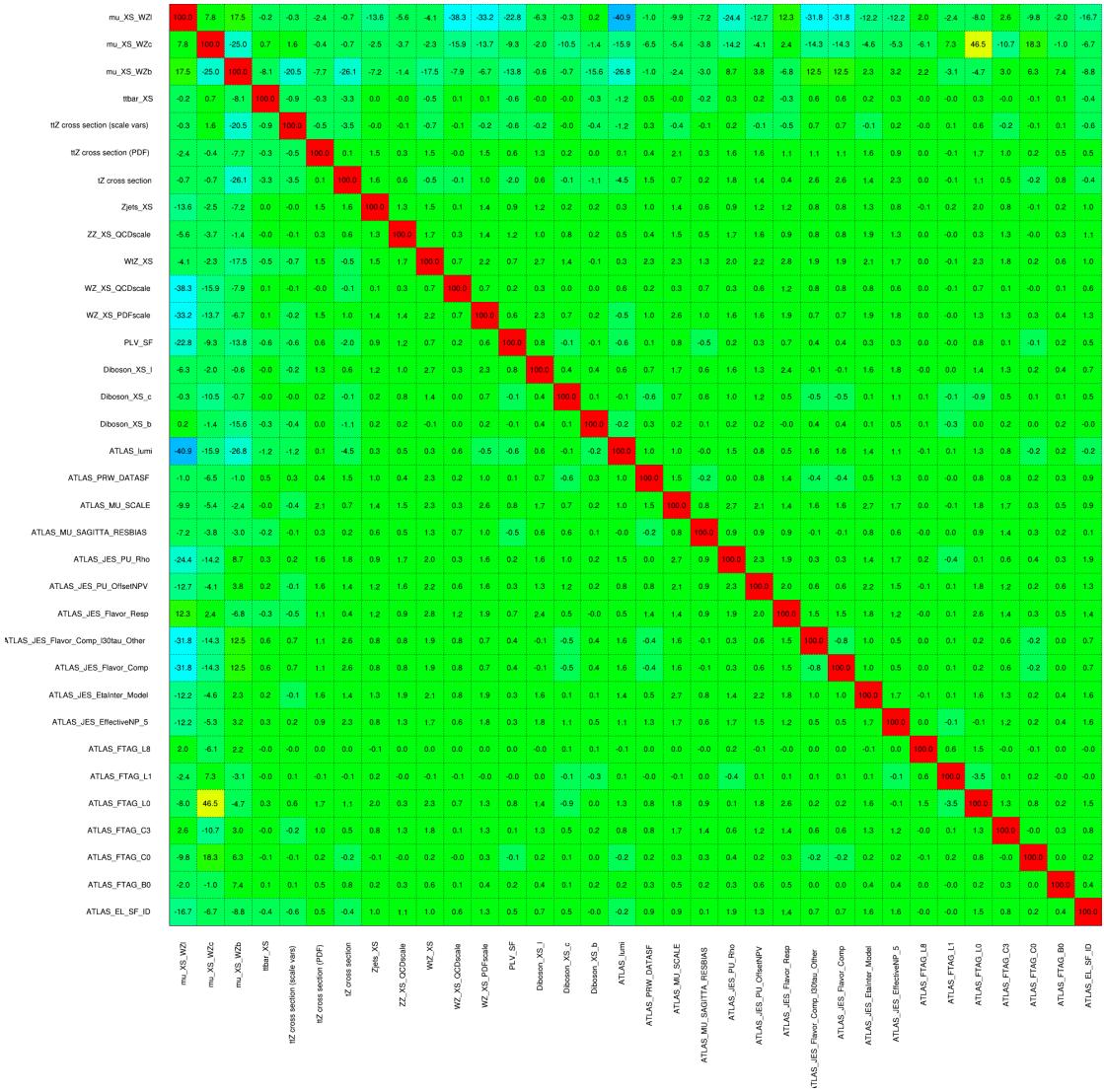


Figure 35: Post-fit background composition of the 2-jet fit regions.

⁴⁸⁸ The correlations between these nuisance parameters are summarized in figure 36.



493 9 Conclusion

494 A measurement of $WZ + \text{heavy flavor}$ is performed using 140 fb^{-1} of $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ proton-
495 proton collision data collected by the ATLAS detector at the LHC. **This section will be include**
496 **final results once unblinded.**

497 **Appendices**

498 **tZ Interference Studies**

499 Because it includes an on-shell Z boson as well as a b-jet and W from the top decay, tZ
500 production represents an identical final state to WZ + b-jet. This implies the possibility of matrix
501 level interference between these two processes not accounted for in the Monte Carlo simulations,
502 which consider the two processes independently. Truth level studies are performed in order to
503 estimate the impact of these interference effects.

504 In order to estimate the matrix level interference effects between tZ and WZ + b-jet, two different
505 sets of simulations are produced using MadGraph 5 [**Madgraph**] - one which simulates these
506 two processes independently, and another where they are produced simultaneously, such that
507 interference effects are present. These two sets of samples are then compared, and the difference
508 between them can be taken to represent any interference effects.

509 MadGraph simulations of 10,000 tZ and 10,000 WZ + b-jet events are produced, along with
510 20,000 events where both are present, in the fiducial region where three leptons and at least one
511 jet are produced.

512 A selection mimicking the preselection used in the main analysis is applied to the samples: The
513 SS leptons are required to have $p_T > 20$ GeV, and > 10 GeV is required for the OS lepton. The
514 associated b-jet is required to have $p_T > 25$ GeV, and all physics objects are required to fall in a
515 range of $|\eta| < 2.5$.

516 The kinematics of these samples after the selection has been applied are shown below:

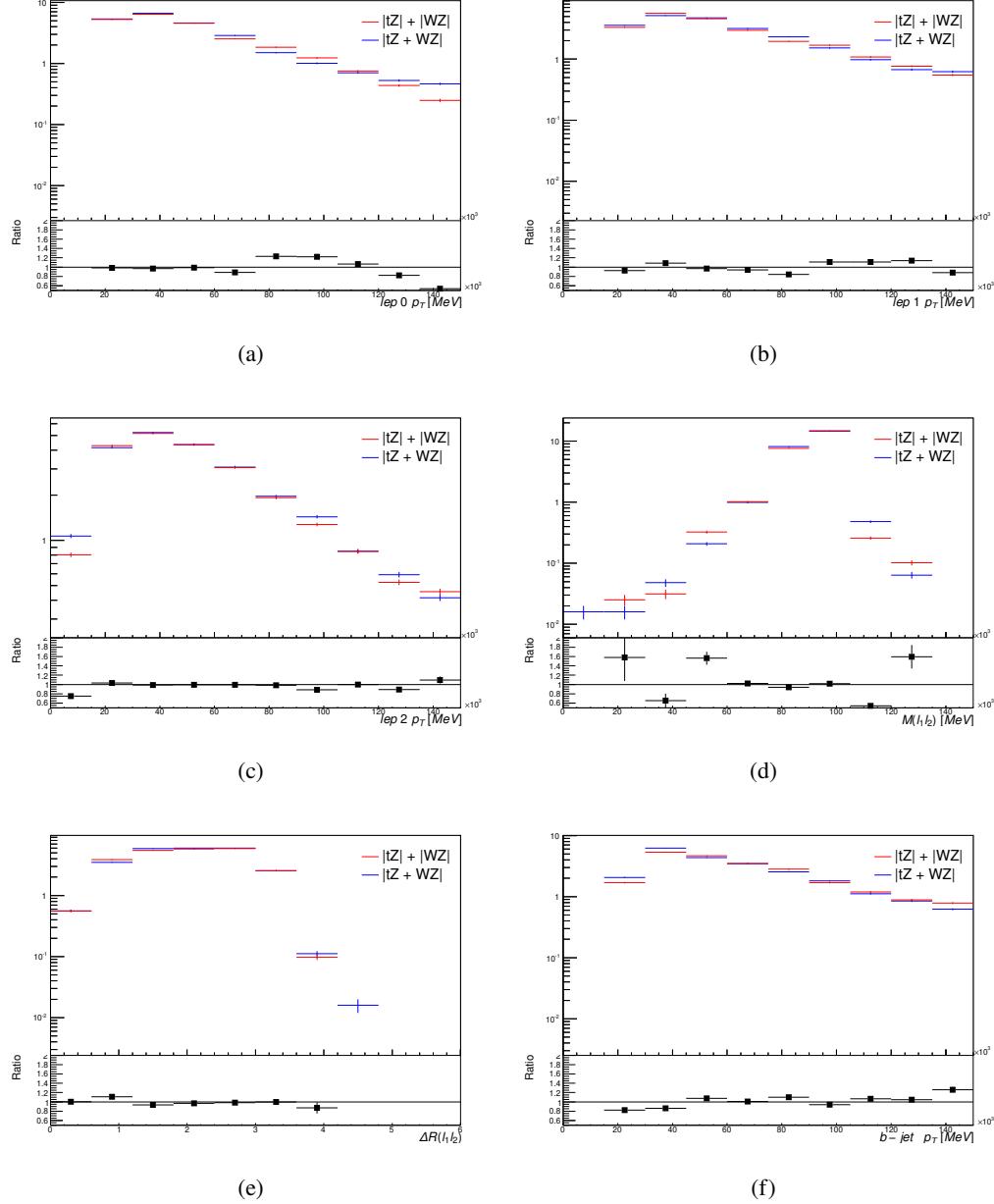


Figure 37: Comparisons between (a) the p_T of the lepton from the W, (b) and (c) show the p_T of the lepton from the Z, (d) the invariant mass of the Z-candidate, (e) ΔR of the leptons from the Z, and (f) the p_T of the b-jet, for WZ and tZ events generated with interference effects (blue) and without interference effects (red).

517 The overall cross-section of the two methods agree within error, and no significant differences
518 in the kinematic distributions are seen. It is therefore concluded that interference effects do not

519 significantly impact the results.

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