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Dissertation

WWW **PRODUCTION: THE HUNT BEGINS**

by

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(Order No.   )

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ABSTRACT

In 2012 a resonance with a mass of 125 GeV resembling the elusive Higgs boson was discovered simultaneously by the ATLAS and CMS experiments using data collected from the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. With more data from the LHC, the evidence continues to mount in favor of this being the Higgs boson of the Standard Model. This would finally confirm the mechanism for Spontaneous Electroweak Symmetry Breaking (EWSB) necessary for describing the mass structure of the electroweak gauge bosons. In 2013, Peter Higgs and Francois Englert were awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for their work in developing this theory of EWSB now referred to as the Higgs mechanism. The explanation for EWSB is often referred to as the last piece of the puzzle required to build a consistent theory of the Standard Model. But does that mean that there are no new surprises to be found? Many electroweak processes have yet to be measured and are just starting to become accessible with the data collected at the LHC. Indeed, this unexplored region of electroweak physics may provide clues to as of yet unknown new physics processes at even higher energy scales. Using the 2012 LHC data recorded by the ATLAS experiment, we seek to make the first observation of one such electroweak process, the massive tri-boson final state: WWW. It represents one of the first searches to probe the Standard Model WWWW coupling directly at a collider. This search looks specifically at the channel where each W boson decays to a charged lepton and a neutrino, offering the best sensitivity for making such a measurement. In addition to testing the Standard Model directly, we also use an effective field theory approach to test for the existence of

anomalous quartic gauge couplings which could offer evidence for new physics at higher energies than those produced by the LHC.

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List of Symbols

aQGC	....	anomalous Quartic Gauge Coupling
ATLAS	....	A Toroidal LHC ApparatuS
LHC	....	Large Hadron Collider
LO	....	Leading-Order
MC	....	Monte Carlo simulation
NLO	....	Next-To-Leading-Order
QGC	....	Quartic Gauge Coupling
SM	....	Standard Model
PDF	....	Parton Distribution Function

Chapter 1

Introduction

Chapter 2

Theory

We can describe the probability of a given process to be produced by calculating its cross-section, measured in barns (1 barn = 10^{-24} cm^2).

Since a W boson is too short lived to ever be measured directly, we must instead study its decay products. The W boson can decay into two different categories of particles: either "leptonically" into a charged lepton (ℓ) and a neutrino (ν) or "hadronically" into a pair of quarks. Quarks are particles that interact with the Strong force and are usually measured as complicated collections of particles called jets. The charged leptons include the electrons, $e^{\pm}$, familiar because of their presence in stable matter, and the less familiar muons, $\mu^{\pm}$, and taus, $\tau^{\pm}$, which themselves decay before forming stable matter. Muons live long enough to be measured in the ATLAS detector while tau leptons do not. Because of this, we only refer to electrons and muons when discussing the charged leptons. There are also three different types of neutrinos, named according to which charged lepton they pair with during W decay; these are the electron neutrino (ν_e), muon neutrino (ν_μ), and tau neutrino (ν_τ). Neutrinos are peculiar because they are notoriously difficult to measure. As a result, we can only infer their presence after measuring all of the particles in the detector and taking into account that the momentum is constrained at the collision point. If the momentum from all of the particles that were measured does not meet this constraint, the imbalance is attributed to the presence of neutrinos. We call this "missing energy". Thus, the leptonic W decay channel is measured experimentally by the presence of a charged lepton (electron or muon) plus missing energy.

2.1 Standard Model

2.1.1 The Electroweak Theory

2.2 Effective Field Theories

A measurement of the production rate can be used to probe the gauge couplings, in particular, the process is sensitive to quartic gauge couplings. The VBFNLO code has implemented a list of higher order operators that parameterize the effects of new physics at energy scale beyond the reach of current collider experiments. The effective field theory approach is practical and widely used when there is no compelling specific model of new physics beyond the SM, see for example, discussions in Refs: [46], [32] and [38]. As a benchmark, we choose two gauge invariant dimension-8 operators:

$$\mathcal{L}_{s,0} = [(D_\mu \phi)^\dagger D_\nu \phi] \times [(D^\mu \phi)^\dagger D^\nu \phi] \tag{2.1}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{s,1} = [(D_\mu \phi)^\dagger D^\mu \phi] \times [(D_\nu \phi)^\dagger D^\nu \phi] \tag{2.2}$$

where ϕ is the Higgs field doublet, and D_μ is the covariant derivative. The Lagrangian of the effective field theory is thus:

$$\mathcal{L}_{eff} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \frac{f_{s0}}{\Lambda^4}\mathcal{L}_{s,0} + \frac{f_{s1}}{\Lambda^4}\mathcal{L}_{s,1} \tag{2.3}$$

The choice of the two operators is introduced to benchmark possible deviations from the Standard Model. If a significant excess of events is observed in the data, the parameterization will be changed, to incorporate more operators, to investigate the nature of the observed new physics.

Chapter 3

The ATLAS Detector

[23]

Chapter 4

The Large Hadron Collider

Chapter 5

The first search for $WWW \rightarrow \ell\nu \; \ell\nu \; \ell\nu$

The first measurement of the WWW production process is sought by using a dataset containing 20.3 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity collected from the LHC at an energy of $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV in 2012. In addition to being the first study of this this particular process, it is also the first study to search for a final state with more than two massive gauge bosons and one of the first studies to be sensitive to QGCs predicted by the SM and by extension, aQGCs. The total cross-section for this process is expected to be roughly 224 femtobarns, as determined using MADGRAPH [17]. If measured, it would be one of the smallest cross-section measurements within ATLAS. For this search, the WWW process is studied in the so-called "fully leptonic" decay channel where each W boson decays leptonically (excluding τ lepton decays). As can be seen in Figure 5.1, this decay channel occurs only about 1% of the time, while the rest of the time at least one of the W bosons decays hadronically. While the branching fraction is small, this channel should have a smaller background than those decay channels that include hadronic W decays. As a result, the fully leptonic channel is one of the most sensible channels for obtaining sensitivity to this process.

The data is studied in a region where the signal is most prominent with respect to the background. This region is primarily characterized by having three high p_{T} leptons (e or μ), with additional requirements determined using an optimization on the expected measurement precision. The signal is modeled purely using Monte Carlo (MC) simulation while the backgrounds are modeled using a combination of MC simulation and data-driven techniques. Prior to the measurement, each important background is studied in control regions which are either orthogonal to the signal region selection or where the signal is su-
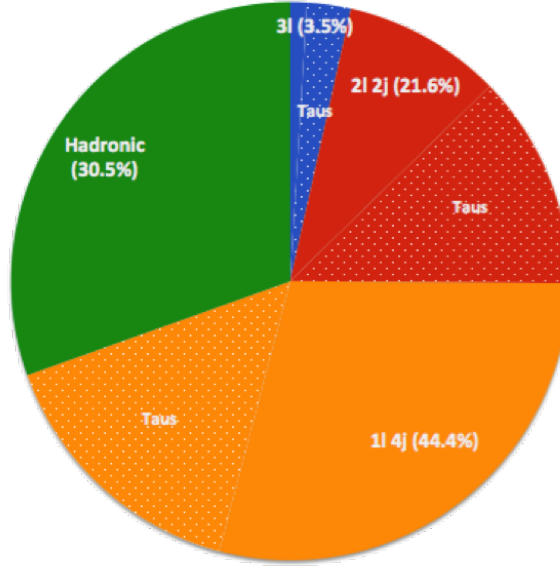
Figure 5.1: Pie chart showing the different decay modes contributing to the total cross-section for the WWW process. The dotted areas indicate the portion of each decay mode which is due to the production of tau leptons.

pressed. This is to ensure that all backgrounds are described accurately. The agreement of the data with the signal plus background prediction is determined using a "cut-and-count" approach where the total number of data events observed in the signal regions is compared to the expected number of events from the model. A fit to the data is performed using a profile likelihood with the relative normalization of the signal as the parameter of interest and with statistical and systematic uncertainties treated as nuisance parameters. From this fit, the measured signal cross-section and uncertainty are extracted. The sensitivity to the signal is also evaluated by measuring the p-value under the background only hypothesis. In addition to measuring the SM cross-section , limits are set on the sensitivity to new physics in an effective field theory with additional aQGCs.

5.1 Data and Simulation Samples

5.1.1 Data

This analysis is based on the study of the full proton-proton collision data from the LHC in 2012. After quality requirements, the amount of data used in this analysis corresponds to 20.3 fb^{-1}. The uncertainty on the luminosity is 2.8% following the same methodology as in [12]. The data are selected after requiring that at least one of a series of single lepton triggers passed during data taking, specifically, one of the following: either an electron trigger requiring at least one isolated electron with $p_\text{T} > 24$ GeV , an electron trigger requiring at least one electron (with no isolation requirement) with $p_\text{T} > 60$ GeV, a muon trigger requiring at least one isolated muon with $p_\text{T} > 24$ GeV, or a muon trigger requiring at least one muon (with no isolation requirement) with $p_\text{T} > 36$ GeV.

5.1.2 Simulation samples

An important tool for the modelling of physics processes that are or could be produced at the LHC is Monte Carlo simulation (MC). MC relies on random sampling to connect the matrix element formulations derived from quantum mechanical pertubation theory into actual predictions of the results of proton-proton collisions. The prediction of a single collision from the MC represents one possible outcome of the proton-proton collision, with all of the products of the hard-scattering and their four-momenta. This result can be passed through additional MC simulation to describe hadronization and the soft products of the collision e.g. photon radiation. Finally, these products are passed through a detailed simulation of the ATLAS detector built in GEANT4 [14] and then through the same reconstruction algorithms as the data, allowing for a similar treatment. This is repeated many times to populate the distribution of possible outcomes. Dedicated MC programs are provided by theorists for different processes and to different orders in pertubation theory, sometimes with different treatments. Details of the different processes simulated from MC and their treatment are presented below.

5.1.2.1 Signal Processes

The signal processes studied in this analysis are $pp \rightarrow W^+W^+W^- + X$ and $pp \rightarrow W^+W^-W^-$ $+ X$, where X is intended to refer to the fact that no requirements are placed on additional particles produced in the hard interaction. No requirements are placed upon whether or not the W bosons are on-shell. The process includes associated Higgs production, or "Higgsstrahlung", where a W boson radiates a Higgs boson, $pp \rightarrow WH$, and subsequently decays into a W^+W^- pair. The Higgs decay results in one W boson being produced off-shell, $H \rightarrow WW^*$, making this the largest contribution to off-shell production. The resonance from the Higgs can clearly be seen from the distribution of $m_{W^+W^-}$ taken from simulation of WWW events in Figure 5.2. The WWW process also includes contributions from the $WWWW$ quartic coupling.
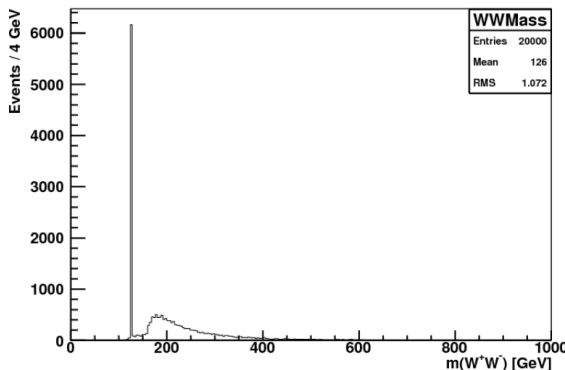
Figure 5.2: Invariant mass distribution of two opposite-sign W bosons in WWW events generated with VBFNLO at LO. The Higgs mass peak is clearly visible at 126 GeV.

The SM signal processes are implemented in the Monte Carlo program VBFNLO [21, 22], which can generate partonic events at leading-order (LO) with next-to-leading-order (NLO) cross-sections, and is also implemented in MADGRAPH [17], which can generate partonic events at NLO with NLO cross-sections. The partonic events are further processed by PYTHIA8[55] and PHOTOS[43] to add effects of beam remnant interactions and initial and final state radiation. The ATLAS tune of AU2[9] is adopted for PYTHIA8. SM parameters must be provided to the MC generator as input. The most relevant input parameters are

listed in Table 5.1. The LO CTEQ6L1 [52] PDF set is used in the LO VBFNLO generation while while CT10 NLO [45] is used in the NLO cross-section calculation. CTEQ6L1 is used in the NLO MADGRAPH generation and cross-section calculation, but this is reweighted to CT10 NLO using a k-factor. The renormalization and factorization scales are dynamically set to the WWW invariant mass in the VBFNLO samples, while they are set to a fixed scale equal to the Z mass in MADGRAPH. The VBFNLO samples are restricted to leptonic decays of the W bosons where each lepton has a p_T of at least 5 GeV. Meanwhile, the MADGRAPH samples include all decays of the W boson, with a requirement that jets have a a p_T of at least 10 GeVbut with no requirement on the p_T of leptons. The VBFNLO and MADGRAPH samples handle interference between $WH \rightarrow WWW(*)$ and on-shell WWW production at LO, but MADGRAPH is not able to do this at NLO. As a result, the NLO MADGRAPH samples are split by on-shell WWW and $WH \rightarrow WWW(*)$ production. Both sets of samples are further split by the WWW charge mode. The cross-sections are summarized in Table 5.2 for each sample in their full phase space and in a common fiducial phase space defined in Sec. ... The fiducial cross-sections are observed to be nearly the same, as expected. This serves as a good check of the understanding of the signal process. The MADGRAPH cross-sections are used throughout the remainder of the analysis.

	VBFNLO	MADGRAPH
Higgs mass, m_H	126.0 GeV	
Top mass, m_t	172.4 GeV	
Z mass, m_Z	91.1876 GeV	91.188 GeV
W mass, m_W	80.398 GeV	
Fermi constant, G_F	1.16637×10^{-5} GeV^{-2}	

Table 5.1: List of the most relevant SM parameters used as input to the signal MC generation.

The PDF uncertainties are evaluated using the 52 error sets in `CT10` following the prescription of Ref [48] and are found to be $^{+1.8\%}_{-2.3\%}$ for $W^+W^+W^-$ and $^{+1.4\%}_{-3.7\%}$ for $W^-W^+W^-$. The factorization and renormalization scales are varied independently by a factor of $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2. The relative variation of the cross sections are tabulated in Tables 5.3 and 5.4. The

Sample		Cross-section [fb]	
		Inclusive	Fiducial
VBFNLO NLO	$W^+W^+W^- \to l\nu l\nu l\nu$	4.95 ± 0.007	0.2050 ± 0.0070
	$W^-W^+W^- \to l\nu l\nu l\nu$	2.65 ± 0.004	0.0987 ± 0.0037
	Sum	7.60 ± 0.008	0.3037 ± 0.0072
MADGRAPH NLO	$W^+W^-W^+ \to$ Anything	59.47 ± 0.11	0.0900 ± 0.0048
	$W^-W^+W^- \to$ Anything	28.069 ± 0.076	0.0476 ± 0.0043
	$W^+H \to W^+W^+W^-(*) \to$ Anything	99.106 ± 0.019	0.1114 ± 0.0029
	$W^-H \to W^-W^+W^-(*) \to$ Anything	54.804 ± 0.010	0.0603 ± 0.0015
	Sum	241.47 ± 0.13	0.3092 ± 0.0072

Table 5.2: Inclusive and common fiducial cross-sections for VBFNLO and MAD-GRAPH samples. The sum of the inclusive cross-sections are different because of the different branching fractions in the two cases. However, the sum of the fiducial cross-sections are expected to be similar because they are computed for the same phase space, as described in Sec. ...

maximum variations are taken as the systematics uncertainty associated to scale dependencies, namely, 2.6% for $W^+W^+W^-$ and 2.5% for $W^-W^+W^-$. The total uncertainties are defined by adding uncertainties from PDF and scales in quadrature: $^{+3.2\%}_{-3.5\%}$ for $W^+W^+W^-$ and $^{+2.9\%}_{-4.5\%}$ for $W^-W^+W^-$.

	$\mu_R = \frac{1}{2}M_{WWW}$	$\mu_R = M_{WWW}$	$\mu_R = 2M_{WWW}$
$\mu_F = \frac{1}{2}M_{WWW}$	2.62%	-0.14%	-2.11%
$\mu_F = M_{WWW}$	2.13%	0	-2.41%
$\mu_F = 2M_{WWW}$	1.56%	0.24%	-2.42%

Table 5.3: The relative variation of the NLO cross sections corresponding to different choices of factorization and renormalization scales for the $W^+W^+W^-$ processes.

	$\mu_R = \frac{1}{2}M_{WWW}$	$\mu_R = M_{WWW}$	$\mu_R = 2M_{WWW}$
$\mu_F = \frac{1}{2}M_{WWW}$	1.91%	1.38%	-2.00%
$\mu_F = M_{WWW}$	1.61%	0	-2.53%
$\mu_F = 2M_{WWW}$	1.25%	-1.05%	-2.12%

Table 5.4: The relative variation of the NLO cross sections corresponding to different choices of factorization and renormalization scales for the $W^-W^+W^-$ processes.

The analysis considers events with three leptons (e or μ) in the final state. The contributions from events in which W bosons decay to τ's, and the τ's sequentially decay to e or μ should be included and is expected to be 40% of total yield of the 3-lepton final state.

5.1.2.2   aQGC signal

With exactly the same settings as for the SM samples, samples with anomalous quartic gauge couplings are generated and simulated. The cross sections are computed at NLO in QCD. As expected, the production rate is very sensitive to aQGCs. The cross sections change significantly with respect to the variation of $\frac{f_{s0}}{\Lambda^4}$ and $\frac{f_{s1}}{\Lambda^4}$. It has been suggested [1] to scale the coupling parameters with a form factor function, for unitarity considerations,

$$FF = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{s}{\Lambda_{FF}^2}\right)^{NF}}$$

where the exponent NF and form factor scale Λ_{FF} are arbitrary parameters. A tool provided by the VBFNLO authors suggests the minimum values of Λ_{FF} for a given NF, based on the Froissart bound implied by the optical theorem which is applicable to $2 \to 2$ processes with identical incoming and outgoing particles for the vertex involving anomalous couplings. While this is a theoretical issue which is not yet fully resolved for our processes, the authors suggest the use of $NF = 3$ to obtain the Λ_{FF} from the tool, and use $NF = 1$ together with the obtained Λ_{FF} for the event generation. We demonstrate that a form factor function with $NF = 1$ can indeed control the growth of event rate at high s. In Fig. 5.3, the ratio of cross section to that of the SM stabilizes at high $\sqrt{s}$ with the proposed method of unitarization. The simulated aQGC samples were generated with no unitarization schema. For each of them, we generate two samples of very high statistics with the same couplings. One of them is unitarized and the other is not. We derive the weights to weight a non-unitarized sample to a unitarized sample from the ratio of the distributions of $\sqrt{s}$ of the two samples of high statistics. The dataset ID, coupling parameters, non-unitarized cross sections at LO and NLO, Λ_{FF} for unitarization and unitarized cross sections are listed in Tables 5.5 and 5.6. The uncertainties on the NLO cross sections due to scales and PDF are evaluated in the same manner as for the SM cross sections.
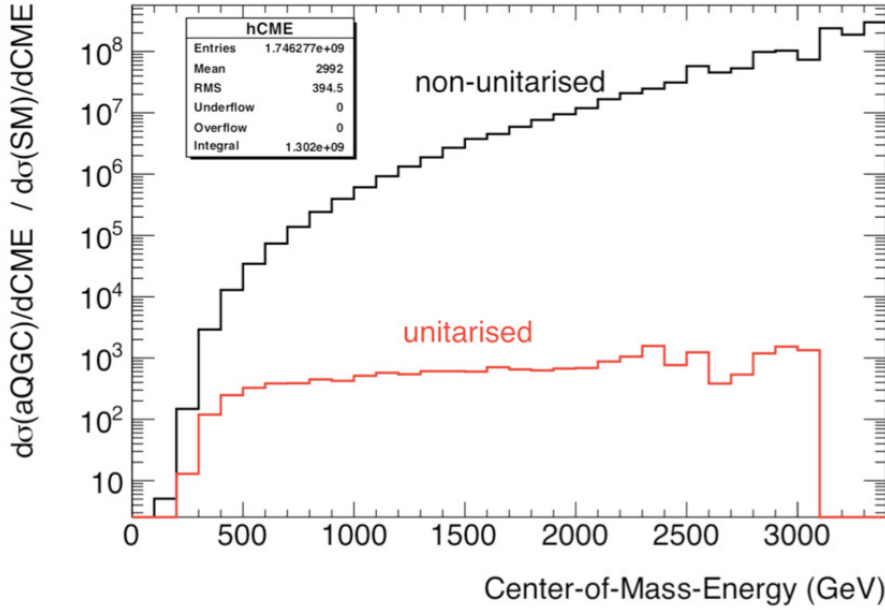
Figure 5.3: The unitarized and non-unitarized differential cross sections as a function of $\sqrt{s}$ for $f_{s0}/\Lambda^4 = 6 \times 10^{-7}$ GeV^{-4} divided by the SM values. The form factor function with $NF = 1$ and $\Lambda_{FF} = 180$ GeVis used for unitarization.

5.1.2.3   Backgrounds samples

Only processes containing 3 or more prompt leptons (WZ, ZZ, $t\bar{t}V$, VVV), or 2 leptons and an isolated photon ($Z+\gamma$) are estimated using MC simulation samples in this analysis. The other processes are estimated from data as this will be explained in Section **??**. The samples listed in this section and containing less than 3 prompt leptons have been used for preliminary or dedicated studies, but are not used for the determination of the final results. The MC samples are pass through the GEANT4 [14] simulation [10] of the ATLAS detector and reconstructed in the same way as the data.

The diboson and triboson samples are listed in Table 5.7. The triboson samples other than the signal, *ie*: ZWW^* and ZZZ^* were generated using the MadGraph [18] generator, hadronized through the Pythia6 [54] parton shower, with the AUET2B [**?**] tunes and the CTEQ6L1 [52] PDF set. The $Z\gamma$ samples were generated with the Sherpa [42] generator and the CT10 [45] PDF set. The $W\gamma$ samples were generated with the AlpGen [49] generator,

hadronized through JIMMY [34], with the AUET2C [?] tunes and the CTEQ6L1 PDF set. Other diboson samples (WW, WZ, ZZ) were obtained using the Powheg [16, 50, 39, 15] generator, hadronized through the Pythia8 [55] parton shower, with the AU2 [?] tunes and the CT10 PDF set. Dedicated high-stat WZ and ZZ samples were generated to increase the statistics in all the signal region used in this analysis. They were obtained requesting the presence of 3 leptons with $p_\mathrm{T} > 7$ GeV.

The dibosons samples where the production is due to loop induced process or Double Parton Scattering (DPS) processes are summarized in Table 5.8. The loop induced processes were generated using the gg2ZZ [31] and gg2WW [30] generators, hadronized using JIMMY, with the AU2 tunes and the CT10 PDF set. The DPS processes were generated with the AU2 tunes and the CTEQ6L1 PDF set. The cross section of these processes have been evaluated for the ATLAS same sign WW analysis [26], as this will be explained in Section 5.3.4.4.

Single boson processes are summarized in Table 5.9 for the Z+jets samples and in Table 5.10 for the W+jets samples. The Z+jets samples were generated with the Sherpa generator and the CT10 PDF set. Low mass Drell-Yan samples were not simluated using the GEANT4 simulation, but with the AF2 simulation, however dedicated scale factors are applied for these samples, when they are used, in the analysis. The W+jets samples were generated with the AlpGen generator, hadronized through JIMMY, with the AUET2C tunes and the CTEQ6L1 PDF set.

Samples containing top quarks are summarized in Table 5.11. $t\bar{t}$ events were generated using the MCatNLO[53] generator, hadronized through JIMMY with the CT10 PDF set. Single top samples in the s-channel and in the Wt channel were generated using MCatNLO hadronized through JIMMY with the CT10 PDF set. Single top samples in the t-channel were generated using AcerMC[47], hadronized using PYTHIA6 with the AUET2B tunes and the CTEQ6L1 PDF set. Finally $t\bar{t}V$ processes were generated using the MadGraph generator, hadronized through the Pythia6 parton shower, with the AUET2B tunes and the CTEQ6L1PDF set.

When Z+jets and $Z+\gamma$ samples are used simultaneously, an overlap removal procedure must be used to avoid double counting of FSR events. Events containing an FSR photon with $E_T > 10$ GeV are explicitely vetoed out from the Z+jets sample. The algorithm used is the same as what was developped in the 8 TeV ATLAS WZ analysis [19].

5.2 Object selection

5.2.1 Muons

Muons used in this analysis follow the recommendations and treatment of the Muon Combined Performance group [5]. STACO tight muons are used if they are reconstructed from the combination of an Inner Detector track and a Muon spectrometer one. They must satisfy:

- $p_{\mathrm{T}} > 10$ GeV.

- $|\eta| < 2.5$.

- The following ID hits criteria must be satisfied:

  - $N_{\mathrm{hits}}^{\mathrm{pixel}} + N_{\mathrm{dead}}^{\mathrm{pixel}} > 0$.
  - $N_{\mathrm{hits}}^{\mathrm{SCT}} + N_{\mathrm{dead}}^{\mathrm{SCT}} > 4$.
  - $N_{\mathrm{holes}}^{\mathrm{pixel}} + N_{\mathrm{holes}}^{\mathrm{SCT}} < 3$.
  - if the muon is in $0.1 < |\eta| < 1.9$ then $(N_{\mathrm{hits}}^{\mathrm{TRT}} + N_{\mathrm{outliers}}^{\mathrm{TRT}} > 5)$ and $(N_{\mathrm{outliers}}^{\mathrm{TRT}} < 0.9 \times (N_{\mathrm{hits}}^{\mathrm{TRT}} + N_{\mathrm{outliers}}^{\mathrm{TRT}}))$.
  - else if the muon is in $|\eta| \leq 0.1$ or $|\eta| \geq 1.9$ and $(N_{\mathrm{hits}}^{\mathrm{TRT}} + N_{\mathrm{outliers}}^{\mathrm{TRT}} > 5)$ then $(N_{\mathrm{outliers}}^{\mathrm{TRT}} < 0.9 \times (N_{\mathrm{hits}}^{\mathrm{TRT}} + N_{\mathrm{outliers}}^{\mathrm{TRT}}))$.

- The tracking isolation (defined as the scalar sum of all tracks in a cone of $\Delta R < 0.2$ around the muon trajectory, and excluding the muon p_{T}): $p_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/p_T < 0.04$.

- The calorimeter isolation (defined as the scalar sum of all calorimeter deposition in a cone of $\Delta R < 0.2$ around the muon trajectory, and excluding the muon p_{T}):

    – if $p_{\mathrm{T}} > 20$ GeV then $E_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/E_T < 0.1$

    – else if $p_{\mathrm{T}} < 20$ GeV then $E_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/E_T < 0.07$.

The calorimeter isolation is corrected using the number of primary vertices to account for the occupancy of the event.

- The transverse impact parameter significance (computed wrt the unbiased Primary Vertex (unbiased-PV)): $\dfrac{|d_0|}{|\sigma_{d_0}|} < 3$

- The longitudinal impact parameter times the sin of the track θ (computed wrt the unbiased Primary Vertex (unbiased-PV)): $|z_0 * \sin\theta| < 0.5$ mm

- In order to avoid duplicate muons, it is checked to see if any other muons are reconstructed within $\Delta R(\mu, \mu)$ ¡ 0.1. If so, the higher p_T muon is kept while the other is thrown away.

The electron energy is corrected to reproduce the muon energy scale measured in the data using $Z \to \mu\mu$ events. In MC samples, the muon p_{T} is smeared to take into account differences between the simulation and the data. The events are weighted by the product of the reconstruction, identification and trigger efficiency scale factors for each muon. These scale factors are determined from by comparing ratio of the efficiencies between data and MC when tag-and-probes method.

5.2.2 Electrons

Electrons used in this analysis follow the recommendations of the Egamma Combined Performance group [3]. Tight++ electrons are selected. In order to achieve the best measurement, the electron directions are reconstructed using the direction of the track, while the energy used is the one from the calorimeter cluster.

They must satisfy:

- $p_{\mathrm{T}} > 10$ GeV.

- $|\eta| < 2.47$ and be outside the EM calorimeter transition region ($1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52$).

- The algorithm (el_author) used for the electron reconstruction should be 1 or 3.

- The electrons must not be reconstructed close to a known badly behaving calorimeter region: (el_OQ & 1446) == 0

- The tracking isolation (defined as the scalar sum of all tracks in a cone of $\Delta R < 0.2$ around the muon trajectory, and excluding the electron p_T): $p_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/p_T < 0.04$.

- The calorimeter isolation (defined as the scalar sum of all calorimeter deposition in a cone of $\Delta R < 0.2$ around the muon trajectory, and excluding the electron p_T):

  - if $p_T > 20$ GeV then $E_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/E_T < 0.1$

  - else if $p_T < 20$ GeV then $E_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/E_T < 0.07$.

  The calorimeter isolation is corrected toward the number of primary vertex to account for the occupancy of the event.

- The transverse impact parameter significance (computed wrt the unbiased Primary Vertex (unbiased-PV)): $\dfrac{|d_0|}{|\sigma_{d_0}|} < 3$

- The longitudinal impact parameter times the sin of the track θ (computed wrt the unbiased Primary Vertex (unbiased-PV)): $|z_0 * \sin\theta| < 0.5$ mm

- In order to avoid duplicate electrons, it is checked to see if any other electrons are reconstructed within $\Delta R(e, e)$ ¡ 0.1. If so, the higher p_T electron is kept while the other is thrown away.

The electron energy is corrected to reproduce the electron energy scale measured in the data using $Z \rightarrow ee$ events. In MC samples, their momentum are also smeared to take into accounts differences recorded on the data with the simulation. The MC events are weighted by the product of the reconstruction, identification and trigger efficiency scale

factors for each electron. These scale factors are determined from by comparing ratio of the efficiencies between data and MC when tag-and-probes method.

5.2.3 Jets

Jets used in this analysis must satisfy the following criteria:

- Reconstructed with the anti-k_T algorithm, with a parameter $\Delta R < 0.4$.

- Calibrated using the LC Topo schema.

- Calibrated $p_T > 25$ GeV.

- $|\eta| < 4.5$.

- Jet-Vertex Fraction: $|JVF| > 0.5$ for jets with calibrated $p_T < 50$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$. This later cut is used to suppress the jets coming from pile-up events.

- Jets are tagged as $b-$jets using the MV1 classifier and the 85% working point.

The jet energy is calibrated using the following method:

```
JetCalibrationTool::ApplyJetAreaOffsetEtaJES(...)
```

In MC the events are weighted by the product of b-tagging efficiency scale factors for jets that have been tagged as b-jets or by a jet tagging inefficiency scale factor otherwise.

5.2.4 Missing transverse energy

The missing transverse energy (E_T^{miss}) used, when it is used, in this analysis is MET_RefFinal. This quantity is reconstructed from calorimeter cells with $|\eta| < 4.9$ and from muons.

Calorimeter cells are calibrated according to the reconstructed physics objects to which they are associated. The cells are associated to objects in a certain order: electrons, photons, hadronically decaying τ-leptons, jets and muons. Cells not associated with any such objects are also taken into account in the E_T^{miss} calculation as the cell-out term. Finally, the

muon momenta are added in the $E_\mathrm{T}^\mathrm{miss}$ calculation to take into account their contributions in the events.

The calibrations and corrections (e.g. momentum smearing) mentionned above and applied on electrons, muons and jets are propagated in the $E_\mathrm{T}^\mathrm{miss}$ calculation for MC simulations.

5.2.5   Overlap removal

It is possible that the reconstructed electrons, muons, and/or jets may overlap with each other inside the detector. This can occur because because of the same physics object being reconstructed as different objects in the ATLAS detector. We handle these occurences using the following scheme in order of precedence:

- Electron-Muon Overlap: If$|\Delta R(e, \mu)| < 0.1$ then the muon is kept while the electron is thrown away.

- Electron-Jet Overlap: If $|\Delta R(e, j)| < 0.2$ keep the electron and throw away the jet.

- Muon-Jet Overlap: If $|\Delta R(\mu, j)| < 0.2$ keep the muon and throw away the jet

For electrons, the direction is taken from the only the electron calorimeter information. Muons use the full combined track information while jets use the direction taken from the anti-k_T algorithm with a constant energy scale. No momentum smearing or calibration corrections are applied to the reconstructed object directions.

Using this scheme means that a precedence is set when reconstructed objects overlap such that $\mu > e > j$ where '>' should be interpreted to mean 'is kept instead of'. The motivation for this scheme is as follows. Muons will frequently radiate photons which then can pair-produce to electrons. If the energy of one of the pair-produced electrons is large enough then this can be reconstructed as well and will likely be collimated with the muon. Since the electron comes from the muon radiation and since the reverse process with an electron having pair-produced muons is heavily supressed, the muon is kept preferentially. The reconstruction of overlapping electrons and jets would rely on much of the

same calorimeter energy deposits. But the electron reconstruction also relies on matching with a well defined inner detector track. It is thus assumed that if an electron overlaps with a reconstructed jet that this is more likely to be the signature of a high energy electron. Finally, if a muon overlaps with a jet, the muon could come from a heavy flavor decay. In this occurs, we choose to keep the event and consider only the muon.

5.3 Event selection

5.3.1 Event Pre-selection

The events undergo a first set of event pre-selection cuts to be considered in the analysis. In the rest of this document this minimal selection will be referred to as "event pre-selection". Events must pass each of the following cuts:

- Good run list: As stated in Section 5.1.1, the data must pass a selection ensuring that the detector and LHC conditions were good enough to introduce no selection bias.

- Event cleaning: The events where the LAr or Tile calorimeters have had functional problems during the data taking are explicitly vetoed. This is done using the following logic:

  - Noise bursts in LAr calorimeters: reject if `larError==2`

  - Corrupted events in the tile calorimeter: reject if `tileError==2`

  - Events where tile drawer were off: reject if `TTileTripReader::checkEvent()==1`

- Primary vertex: The event must contain a primary vertex with 3 tracks.

- $E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$ cleaning: If an event contains jets close to a badly behaving calorimeter region, it is vetoed, in order to avoid any bias on the $E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$ measurement.

- Trigger: The event must pass one of the lowest un-prescaled single lepton trigger items: EF_e24vhi_medium1, EF_e60_medium1 or EF_mu24i_tight, or EF_mu36_tight. Tests were done to add dilepton trigger items with lower p_T threshold, but they turned out to increase the signal selection effiency by a minimal amount ($\approx 5\%$), while this considerbly complicating the analysis. They were therefore not considered further.

- 3 leptons selection: The event selected must contain exactly three leptons with $p_\mathrm{T} >$ 20 GeV.

- Trigger matching: At least one of the leptons must have fired the trigger, and it is required that it's transverse momentum is greater than the threshold fired adding 1 GeV if it does. As stated earlier, the events are corrected for trigger efficiencies measured in data.

5.3.2   Signal regions

5.3.2.1   Same-Flavor Opposite-Sign Lepton pairs

The signal regions used in this analysis are separated based on the number of Same-Flavor Opposite-Sign (SFOS) lepton pairs selected in the event. That is to say, the number of lepton pair combinations in the event which could feasibly come from the leptonic decay of a Z-boson. This results in three separate signal regions listed below with the lepton charge combinations which fall in each category:

- **0 SFOS**: $e^\pm e^\pm \mu^\mp$, $\mu^\pm \mu^\pm e^\mp$ ($e^\pm e^\pm \mu^\pm$, $\mu^\pm \mu^\pm e^\pm$, $e^\pm e^\pm e^\pm$, $\mu^\pm \mu^\pm \mu^\pm$)

- **1 SFOS**: $e^\pm e^\mp \mu^\pm$, $e^\pm e^\mp \mu^\mp$, $\mu^\pm \mu^\mp e^\pm$, $\mu^\pm \mu^\mp e^\mp$

- **2 SFOS**: $e^\pm e^\pm e^\mp$, $\mu^\pm \mu^\pm \mu^\mp$

Note that in the 2 SFOS region, one lepton is allowed to belong to both pair combinations. Those combinations listed in parentheses are not allowed for the signal based on charge

conservation (neglecting charge mis-identification). The amount of the $W^\pm W^\mp W^\pm$ signal which falls into each category is purely combinatoric. From the above list one can thus see that there are twice as many ways for the signal combinations (again neglecting those in parentheses) to fall in the 1 SFOS regions as there to fall in either the 0 SFOS or 2 SFOS regions. Absent possible difference in signal efficiencies based on the leptons in each signal region, one should expect branching fractions of 25%, 50% and 25% for the 0, 1, and 2 SFOS signal regions, respectively.

The advantage of splitting the signal region based on this classification comes when looking at the background, specifically the electroweak WZ and ZZ backgrounds where SFOS lepton pairs may be produced from the decay of the Z boson(s). Consider only the case where the WZ and ZZ decay to either e or μ. The WZ production process is thus characterised by 3 leptons with at least 1 SFOS lepton pair which comes from the Z. If all three leptons from the WZ decay have been reconstructed, then the there is a 50 % chance the third lepton will also be able to form a SFOS pair with one of the leptons from the Z decay. Thus, the WZ background will split evenly betweeen the 1 and 2 SFOS classification. Something similar occurs for the ZZ background except that the fourth lepton in the decay must be lost (usually due to possesing a low p_T). The large cross-section for theses processes means that they becomes the dominant backgrounds in the 1 and 2 SFOS regions.

The 0 SFOS signal region is mostly spared from contamination by these large processes but still includes both the WZ and ZZ processes as background due to the non-negligible (albeit small) effect of mis-measurement of the lepton charge, see section **??**. The 0 SFOS signal region is thus unique in having a small background which is almost entirely reducible and dominated instead by events where a jet is mismeasured as or overlaps with a lepton, called the fake lepton background, along with the aforementioned subdominant effect of lepton charge mis-identification described in Section **??**. From this, one can clearly see that it is advantageous to split these signal regions so that the dominant backgrounds in each region may be targeted individually. Furthermore, note that while the 1 SFOS region

contains more of the signal than the 0 and 2 SFOS regions, it is the 0 SFOS region which is most likely to have the best sensitivity due to the smaller background contribution.

5.3.2.2 Signal Region Selections

The final signal selection cuts are determined using an optimization procedure which considers both the signal yield as well as the uncertainty on the measurement (including statistical and systematic uncertrainties) of the signal strength as taken from the profile likelihood.

Many different quantities were considered in the optimization. All three signal regions start from event pre-selection (described above in Section 5.3.1) where we have 3 leptons with a p_T of at least 20 GeV and where at least one of the leptons is matched to one of the single lepton triggers. It was considered whether or not to lower the p_T threshold, but this was found to increase the fake lepton background contribution without gaining much signal. Tighter cuts on the p_T were also considered but this was shown to not be a good discriminant.

In all regions, a veto is applied on events with jets tagged to come from b or b-hadron decays. The highest efficiency opearting point that is supported by the b-tagging group is used, which has a b-tagging efficiency of 85 %. This also increases the mis-identification efficiency, but it remains managable at about 1 %. Even with some jet mis-identification, the signal has a very high efficiency of passing this cut of > 99 % while offering some of the strongest reduction in the fake lepton background. On top of the b-jet veto, there is an additional cut on the jet multiplicity, regardless of the whether or not the jet is tagged. By only keeping events with no more than one jet, the signal efficiency is almost 90 % while reducing the background by about 50 %. Applying a veto on all jets does a very good job at removing the fake lepton background, but the signal efficiency is prohibitively small, at about 60 %.

A Z-veto is applied in each signal region, each which have slightly different specifications and mass windows as chosen by the optimization. In the 1 and 2 SFOS regions, the Z-veto

is performed by looking at the invariant mass of SFOS pairs. In the 2 SFOS region, both sets of pairs are considered and the event is vetoed if either fall within the mass window. In the 1 SFOS region, there is a larger contribution from $Z\gamma$ processes than in the 2 SFOS region. This process mostly shows up in the low shoulder of the Z peak. The optimization prefers removing this $Z\gamma$ contribution by setting an asymmetric Z-window in the 1 SFOS region, with the boundaries being 35 GeV below the Z-pole and 20 GeV above. In the 2 SFOS region, the $Z\gamma$ contribution is not as prominent and the optimization happens to prefer a symmetric window of ±20 GeV around the Z-pole. In the 0 SFOS region there are no SFOS pairs by definition, but there is still a peak in the same-sign electron-electron mass distribution due to charge mis-identification. The optimization prefers a slightly narrower symmetric window of ±15 GeV around the Z-pole. In all cases the mass used for the Z-pole is $m_Z = 91.1876$ GeV as taken from the PDG [51].

The signal is characterized by having a large missing E_T component. Therefore, we also optimized our the threshold for selecting this quantity separately for each signal region. In the 1 and 2 SFOS regions, a missing E_T threshold is preferred around $40 - 60$ GeV. The missing E_T cut also does a good job of cutting out some of the $Z\gamma$ background in the 1 SFOS region. As a result, the Z-veto and missing E_T cuts are correlated. The optimization procedure takes into account this correlation by cutting considering varitions of the Z-veto window and missing E_T threshold together. As a result, the optimization prefers to keep the missing E_T cut a little loose in the 1 SFOS region, with a threshold of $E_T^{Miss} > 45$ GeV, while applying the asymmetric Z-veto already discussed as the best way to get rid of the $Z\gamma$ contribution. In the 2 SFOS region the looser Z-veto allows for a tighter missing E_T cut with a threshold of $E_T^{Miss} > 55$ GeV. The 0 SFOS region is peculiar in that it is dominated by the fake lepton background. This background turns out to have a similar missing E_T distribution as the signal. As a result, cutting on the missing E_T in this region offers little to no discriminating power between the signal and background so we have chosen not to apply any cut here in order to maximize the signal yield.

The signal is characterized by having three charged leptons and three neutrinos. The

magnitude and direction of the missing E_T may be intepreted as coming from the vector sum of the neutrinos. By agruments of symmetry, one could then compare the azimuthal direction of the missing E_T to the azimuthal direction of the vector sum of the three charged leptons. When doing so, one finds that in the transverse plane, the direction of the three charged leptons tends to be back-to-back with the direction of the three neutrinos (missing E_T). To some extent, the backgrounds also show this behavior, but it is less pronounced than it is for the signal. As a result, there is some discriminating power when cutting on the difference in the two angles: $|\Delta\phi(3l, E_T^{Miss})| = |\phi(3l) - \phi(E_T^{Miss})|$. The behavior of this quantity for signal and background is similar in all three signal regions so based on the optimization it was chosen to apply the cut $|\Delta\phi(3l, E_T^{Miss})| > 2.5$ everywhere. We also considered taking the difference in angle between the missing E_T and individual leptons (e.g. the highest p_{T} lepton) but this was shown to be not nearly as effective.

Finally, the distribution of same-flavor lepton pairs (regardless of sign) was considered in the 0 SFOS region to remove any low-mass contamination from processes like from QCD. This was shown to offer some modest discriminating power and a threshold of $m_{SF} > 20$ GeV was chosen only for the 0 SFOS region.

The optimized selection for each signal region is summarized in Table 5.12. More details about the optimization procedure and the cuts used can be found in appendix **??**.

Sample	$\frac{f_{s0}}{\Lambda^4}$ $(10^3$ TeV$^{-4})$	$\frac{f_{s1}}{\Lambda^4}$ $(10^3$ TeV$^{-4})$	σ@LO [fb]	σ@NLO [fb]	Λ_{FF} (GeV)	unitarized σ @NLO [fb]
185398	-10	-10	33.56	$44.84 \cdot (100^{+7.2}_{-7.3} \pm 3.9)\%$	380	$4.44 \cdot (100^{+2.7}_{-3.3} \pm 2.2)$
185399	-10	-6	27.31	$36.52 \cdot (100^{+6.9}_{-7.9} \pm 3.8)\%$	390	$4.09 \cdot (100^{+2.4}_{-4.1} \pm 2.6)$
185400	-10	-2	24.54	$32.94 \cdot (100^{+8.1}_{-7.7} \pm 3.4)\%$	400	$3.82 \cdot (100^{+2.9}_{-3.7} \pm 2.2)$
185401	-10	2	25.21	$33.78 \cdot (100^{+8.6}_{-7.1} \pm 3.9)\%$	560	$4.86 \cdot (100^{+3.2}_{-3.4} \pm 2.6)$
185402	-10	6	29.25	$39.16 \cdot (100^{+7.4}_{-9.2} \pm 3.9)\%$	430	$3.90 \cdot (100^{+4.0}_{-2.8} \pm 2.2)$
185403	-10	10	36.73	$49.06 \cdot (100^{+9.3}_{-7.5} \pm 2.5)\%$	440	$4.16 \cdot (100^{+3.0}_{-3.3} \pm 2.5)$
185404	-6	-10	19.96	$26.80 \cdot (100^{+7.2}_{-7.0} \pm 3.2)\%$	390	$3.84 \cdot (100^{+3.4}_{-3.0} \pm 2.6)$
185405	-6	-6	13.43	$18.10 \cdot (100^{+7.8}_{-6.3} \pm 3.5)\%$	430	$3.58 \cdot (100^{+2.4}_{-3.8} \pm 1.9)$
185406	-6	-2	10.34	$13.88 \cdot (100^{+8.4}_{-5.5} \pm 3.8)\%$	450	$3.34 \cdot (100^{+2.2}_{-3.8} \pm 2.8)$
185407	-6	2	10.67	$14.48 \cdot (100^{+6.7}_{-7.7} \pm 2.6)\%$	470	$3.18 \cdot (100^{+3.6}_{-2.3} \pm 2.3)$
185408	-6	6	14.38	$19.19 \cdot (100^{+8.5}_{-8.0} \pm 4.0)\%$	500	$3.38 \cdot (100^{+3.8}_{-3.2} \pm 2.4)$
185409	-6	10	21.66	$28.23 \cdot (100^{+8.3}_{-9.8} \pm 6.1)\%$	430	$3.38 \cdot (100^{+2.8}_{-3.5} \pm 2.0)$
185410	-2	-10	13.36	$18.09 \cdot (100^{+6.0}_{-7.7} \pm 5.0)\%$	410	$3.53 \cdot (100^{+2.6}_{-3.4} \pm 2.3)$
185411	-2	-6	6.65	$8.91 \cdot (100^{+5.9}_{-5.6} \pm 3.1)\%$	460	$3.15 \cdot (100^{+3.0}_{-2.9} \pm 2.4)$
185412	-2	-2	3.24	$4.49 \cdot (100^{+5.1}_{-3.6} \pm 2.9)\%$	560	$2.89 \cdot (100^{+2.4}_{-3.1} \pm 2.2)$
185413	-2	2	3.25	$4.45 \cdot (100^{+4.3}_{-5.1} \pm 2.3)\%$	660	$2.82 \cdot (100^{+3.7}_{-2.3} \pm 2.4)$
185414	-2	6	6.64	$8.62 \cdot (100^{+6.1}_{-6.4} \pm 6.6)\%$	470	$2.82 \cdot (100^{+2.7}_{-2.9} \pm 2.6)$
185415	-2	10	13.50	$17.04 \cdot (100^{+4.4}_{-141} \pm 11.1)\%$	410	$3.00 \cdot (100^{+3.5}_{-2.9} \pm 3.1)$
185416	2	-10	14.16	$17.86 \cdot (100^{+9.9}_{-5.2} \pm 6.8)\%$	430	$3.47 \cdot (100^{+2.8}_{-3.5} \pm 2.3)$
185417	2	-6	7.03	$9.20 \cdot (100^{+5.6}_{-8.2} \pm 5.7)\%$	490	$3.10 \cdot (100^{+2.8}_{-3.3} \pm 2.4)$
185418	2	-2	3.28	$4.53 \cdot (100^{+3.1}_{-6.9} \pm 3.6)\%$	730	$2.89 \cdot (100^{+3.1}_{-3.1} \pm 2.7)$
185419	2	2	2.98	$4.17 \cdot (100^{+3.2}_{-5.6} \pm 3.6)\%$	530	$2.73 \cdot (100^{+2.4}_{-3.1} \pm 2.3)$
185420	2	6	6.08	$8.29 \cdot (100^{+5.8}_{-6.6} \pm 2.3)\%$	430	$2.82 \cdot (100^{+2.4}_{-3.6} \pm 2.4)$
185421	2	10	12.53	$16.79 \cdot (100^{+4.3}_{-11.3} \pm 4.1)\%$	390	$2.97 \cdot (100^{+2.7}_{-2.9} \pm 2.3)$
185422	6	-10	21.95	$28.97 \cdot (100^{+17.1}_{-3.4} \pm 9.0)\%$	450	$3.78 \cdot (100^{+2.8}_{-3.3} \pm 2.4)$
185423	6	-6	14.48	$19.41 \cdot (100^{+9.2}_{-6.5} \pm 3.7)\%$	560	$3.76 \cdot (100^{+2.8}_{-3.5} \pm 2.4)$
185424	6	-2	10.42	$14.21 \cdot (100^{+9.9}_{-5.3} \pm 3.8)\%$	540	$3.28 \cdot (100^{+2.1}_{-4.0} \pm 2.5)$
185425	6	2	9.82	$13.46 \cdot (100^{+5.4}_{-8.6} \pm 4.8)\%$	470	$3.08 \cdot (100^{+3.7}_{-2.6} \pm 3.1)$
185426	6	6	12.63	$17.11 \cdot (100^{+7.7}_{-6.5} \pm 3.9)\%$	410	$3.09 \cdot (100^{+3.0}_{-3.1} \pm 2.8)$
185427	6	10	18.82	$25.34 \cdot (100^{+7.1}_{-6.8} \pm 4.4)\%$	370	$3.17 \cdot (100^{+2.5}_{-3.3} \pm 2.2)$
185428	10	-10	36.84	$49.61 \cdot (100^{+7.5}_{-9.1} \pm 3.8)\%$	490	$4.79 \cdot (100^{+3.6}_{-3.3} \pm 2.5)$
185429	10	-6	29.18	$39.54 \cdot (100^{+11.2}_{-6.4} \pm 3.6)\%$	490	$4.28 \cdot (100^{+3.2}_{-3.4} \pm 2.4)$
185430	10	-2	24.82	$34.04 \cdot (100^{+9.4}_{-6.6} \pm 3.5)\%$	470	$3.88 \cdot (100^{+3.0}_{-3.6} \pm 2.3)$
185431	10	2	23.78	$32.07 \cdot (100^{+8.8}_{-6.6} \pm 3.4)\%$	440	$3.69 \cdot (100^{+2.3}_{-3.7} \pm 2.1)$
185432	10	6	26.28	$35.53 \cdot (100^{+7.9}_{-7.3} \pm 3.4)\%$	390	$3.54 \cdot (100^{+2.9}_{-3.3} \pm 2.2)$
185433	10	10	32.15	$43.31 \cdot (100^{+6.7}_{-8.5} \pm 4.1)\%$	360	$3.55 \cdot (100^{+2.5}_{-3.6} \pm 2.1)$

sample ID	$\frac{f_{s0}}{\Lambda^4}$ (10^3 TeV^{-4})	$\frac{f_{s1}}{\Lambda^4}$ (10^3 TeV^{-4})	σ@LO [fb]	σ@ NLO [fb]	Λ_{FF} (GeV)	unitarized σ @NL
185434	-10	-10	101.78	$119.67 \cdot (100^{+7.9}_{-7.9} \pm 3.6)\%$	380	$8.75 \cdot (100^{+2.7}_{-3.5} \pm 2.6$
185435	-10	-6	83.20	$97.87 \cdot (100^{+7.0}_{-9.0} \pm 3.7)\%$	390	$8.04 \cdot (100^{+2.8}_{-3.3} \pm 2.1$
185436	-10	-2	75.86	$88.44(100^{+7.6}_{-9.0} \pm 3.8)\%$	400	$7.51 \cdot (100^{+2.8}_{-3.0} \pm 2.1$
185437	-10	2	79.12	$91.60(100^{+6.9}_{-10.7} \pm 5.0)\%$	560	$9.98 \cdot (100^{+3.2}_{-3.4} \pm 2.4$
185438	-10	6	93.02	$107.73(100^{+9.7}_{-8.1} \pm 2.9)\%$	430	$7.68 \cdot (100^{+2.3}_{-3.8} \pm 2.0$
185439	-10	10	118.34	$135.00(100^{+9.5}_{-8.7} \pm 4.3)\%$	440	$8.40 \cdot (100^{+2.3}_{-4.1} \pm 2.2$
185440	-6	-10	58.84	$70.39(100^{+6.5}_{-8.2} \pm 3.4)\%$	390	$7.44 \cdot (100^{+2.1}_{-3.9} \pm 2.4$
185441	-6	-6	39.23	$46.96(100^{+7.1}_{-7.7} \pm 3.5)\%$	430	$6.97 \cdot (100^{+3.5}_{-2.7} \pm 3.1$
185442	-6	-2	30.28	$36.45(100^{+7.0}_{-8.1} \pm 3.2)\%$	450	$6.35 \cdot (100^{+2.0}_{-4.1} \pm 2.3$
185443	-6	2	32.17	$38.04(100^{+8.8}_{-7.1} \pm 2.9)\%$	470	$6.20 \cdot (100^{+2.5}_{-3.8} \pm 2.3$
185444	-6	6	44.86	$52.28(100^{+6.5}_{-9.7} \pm 4.7)\%$	500	$6.65 \cdot (100^{+2.7}_{-3.5} \pm 2.4$
185445	-6	10	68.00	$75.46(100^{+3.4}_{-17.5} \pm 4.9)\%$	430	$6.65 \cdot (100^{+2.8}_{-3.2} \pm 2.4$
185446	-2	-10	39.50	$46.00(100^{+5.4}_{-10.0} \pm 5.1)\%$	410	$6.75 \cdot (100^{+1.8}_{-4.2} \pm 2.5$
185447	-2	-6	18.10	$21.40(100^{+7.8}_{-5.3} \pm 4.9)\%$	460	$6.11 \cdot (100^{+3.9}_{-2.5} \pm 3.1$
185448	-2	-2	7.71	$9.95(100^{+3.3}_{-6.5} \pm 3.8)\%$	560	$5.48 \cdot (100^{+5.2}_{-1.4} \pm 3.2$
185449	-2	2	8.12	$10.08(100^{+9.6}_{-3.4} \pm 4.8)\%$	660	$5.31 \cdot (100^{+2.9}_{-2.9} \pm 2.7$
185450	-2	6	19.23	$21.76(100^{+4.5}_{-14.9} \pm 6.1)\%$	470	$5.41 \cdot (100^{+2.9}_{-3.0} \pm 2.6$
185451	-2	10	41.19	$44.66(100^{+7.3}_{-11.6} \pm 10.6)\%$	410	$5.76 \cdot (100^{+3.4}_{-2.6} \pm 2.6$
185452	2	-10	42.97	$48.64(100^{+3.3}_{-15.5} \pm 4.6)\%$	430	$6.69 \cdot (100^{+2.6}_{-3.3} \pm 2.5$
185453	2	-6	19.86	$22.64(100^{+4.4}_{-10.8} \pm 4.6)\%$	490	$5.99 \cdot (100^{+2.5}_{-3.2} \pm 2.6$
185454	2	-2	8.18	$10.07(100^{+6.4}_{-5.0} \pm 3.9)\%$	730	$5.52 \cdot (100^{+2.3}_{-3.2} \pm 3.1$
185455	2	2	7.12	$9.17(100^{+6.2}_{-3.7} \pm 3.1)\%$	530	$5.03 \cdot (100^{+2.4}_{-3.3} \pm 2.2$
185456	2	6	16.99	$20.36(100^{+5.3}_{-8.2} \pm 3.9)\%$	430	$5.26 \cdot (100^{+3.5}_{-2.3} \pm 3.0$
185457	2	10	37.28	$44.77(100^{+12.0}_{-3.8} \pm 7.6)\%$	390	$5.69 \cdot (100^{+2.0}_{-3.6} \pm 2.2$
185458	6	-10	69.13	$76.41(100^{+6.1}_{-9.7} \pm 11.4)\%$	450	$7.41 \cdot (100^{+3.1}_{-3.1} \pm 3.0$
185459	6	-6	45.00	$51.40(100^{+6.5}_{-10.0} \pm 5.4)\%$	560	$7.49 \cdot (100^{+2.6}_{-4.0} \pm 2.7$
185460	6	-2	31.70	$37.58(100^{+7.7}_{-9.2} \pm 5.4)\%$	540	$6.40 \cdot (100^{+2.6}_{-3.5} \pm 2.4$
185461	6	2	29.15	$35.00(100^{+7.0}_{-8.2} \pm 3.1)\%$	470	$5.94 \cdot (100^{+2.8}_{-3.3} \pm 2.3$
185462	6	6	37.40	$44.85(100^{+5.5}_{-9.9} \pm 4.3)\%$	410	$5.84 \cdot (100^{+2.3}_{-3.6} \pm 2.2$
185463	6	10	56.49	$67.15(100^{+7.5}_{-8.0} \pm 3.8)\%$	370	$6.13 \cdot (100^{+2.3}_{-3.0} \pm 2.4$
185464	10	-10	118.00	$137.09(100^{+9.2}_{-9.2} \pm 4.2)\%$	490	$9.85 \cdot (100^{+2.6}_{-4.3} \pm 2.4$
185465	10	-6	93.09	$108.25(100^{+8.2}_{-9.9} \pm 4.0)\%$	490	$8.64 \cdot (100^{+2.9}_{-3.7} \pm 2.7$
185466	10	-2	77.80	$91.46(100^{+8.6}_{-8.7} \pm 3.6)\%$	470	$7.81 \cdot (100^{+1.9}_{-4.7} \pm 2.7$
185467	10	2	74.29	$87.16(100^{+8.0}_{-8.9} \pm 4.3)\%$	440	$7.30 \cdot (100^{+3.3}_{-2.9} \pm 3.2$
185468	10	6	81.13	$95.43(100^{+7.9}_{-8.3} \pm 4.1)\%$	390	$6.90 \cdot (100^{+2.5}_{-4.1} \pm 2.8$
185469	10	10	98.57	$117.14(100^{+7.3}_{-9.1} \pm 4.0)\%$	360	$7.01 \cdot (100^{+3.1}_{-2.8} \pm 2.6$

Sample	Generator	Sample type	Cross-Section [pb]	k-factor	Event filter efficiency	used
167007	MadGraphPythia	ZWWStar lllnulnu	0.0015546	1	1	
167008	MadGraphPythia	ZZZStar nunullll	0.00033239	1	1	
145161	Sherpa	eegammaPt10	32.26	1	1	
145162	Sherpa	mumugammaPt10	32.317	1	1	
146436	AlpgenJimmy	Wgamma Np0	229.88	1.15	0.31372	
146437	AlpgenJimmy	Wgamma Np1	59.518	1.15	0.44871	
146438	AlpgenJimmy	Wgamma Np2	21.39	1.15	0.54461	
146439	AlpgenJimmy	Wgamma Np3	7.1203	1.15	0.62974	
126928	PowhegPythia8	WpWm ee	0.62	1.0	1	
126929	PowhegPythia8	WpWm me	0.62	1.0	1	
126930	PowhegPythia8	WpWm te	0.62	1.0	1	
126931	PowhegPythia8	WpWm em	0.62	1.0	1	
126932	PowhegPythia8	WpWm mm	0.62	1.0	1	
126933	PowhegPythia8	WpWm tm	0.62	1.0	1	
126934	PowhegPythia8	WpWm et	0.62	1.0	1	
126935	PowhegPythia8	WpWm mt	0.62	1.0	1	
126936	PowhegPythia8	WpWm tt	0.62	1.0	1	
185813	PowhegPythia8	ZZ 4e mll4 TriLeptonFilter	0.07677	1	0.57204	
185814	PowhegPythia8	ZZ 2e2mu mll4 TriLeptonFilter	0.1757	1	0.49893	
185815	PowhegPythia8	ZZ 2e2tau mll4 TriLeptonFilter	0.1757	1	0.086032	
185816	PowhegPythia8	ZZ 4mu mll4 TriLeptonFilter	0.07677	1	0.58293	
185817	PowhegPythia8	ZZ 2mu2tau mll4 TriLeptonFilter	0.1757	1	0.087166	
185818	PowhegPythia8	ZZ 4tau mll4 TriLeptonFilter	0.07677	1	0.0076557	
181471	Sherpa	$ZZ* \to eeee\ m_{Z,1} > 4$ GeV, $m_{Z,2} < 4$ GeV	2.8286	0.880	1.0	
181472	Sherpa	$ZZ* \to ee\mu\mu\ m_{Z,1} > 4$ GeV, $m_{Z,2} < 4$ GeV	2.34503	0.880	1.0	
181473	Sherpa	$ZZ* \to ee\tau\tau\ m_{Z,1} > 4$ GeV, $m_{Z,2} < 4$ GeV	1.59326	0.880	1.0	
181474	Sherpa	$ZZ* \to \mu\mu ee\ m_{Z,1} > 4$ GeV, $m_{Z,2} < 4$ GeV	0.48613	0.880	1.0	
181475	Sherpa	$ZZ* \to \mu\mu\mu\mu\ m_{Z,1} > 4$ GeV, $m_{Z,2} < 4$ GeV	0.50835	0.880	1.0	
181476	Sherpa	$ZZ* \to \mu\mu\tau\tau\ m_{Z,1} > 4$ GeV, $m_{Z,2} < 4$ GeV	0.42288	0.880	1.0	
181477	Sherpa	$ZZ* \to \tau\tau ee\ m_{Z,1} > 4$ GeV, $m_{Z,2} < 4$ GeV	0.00403	0.880	1.0	
181478	Sherpa	$ZZ* \to \tau\tau\mu\mu\ m_{Z,1} > 4$ GeV, $m_{Z,2} < 4$ GeV	0.00401	0.880	1.0	
181479	Sherpa	$ZZ* \to \tau\tau\tau\tau\ m_{Z,1} > 4$ GeV, $m_{Z,2} < 4$ GeV	0.00411	0.880	1.0	
126949	PowhegPythia8	ZZllnunu ee mll4	0.168	1	1	
126950	PowhegPythia8	ZZllnunu mm mll4	0.168	1	1	
126951	PowhegPythia8	ZZllnunu tt mll4	0.168	1	1	
185795	PowhegPythia8	WmZ 3e mll0p25 TriLeptonFilter	0.9655	1	0.051928	
185796	PowhegPythia8	WmZ e2mu mll0p4614 TriLeptonFilter	0.6326	1	0.073874	
185797	PowhegPythia8	WmZ e2tau mll3p804 TriLeptonFilter	0.1125	1	0.012544	
185798	PowhegPythia8	WmZ mu2e mll0p25 TriLeptonFilter	0.9687	1	0.054302	
185799	PowhegPythia8	WmZ 3mu mll0p4614 TriLeptonFilter	0.6479	1	0.071268	
185800	PowhegPythia8	WmZ mu2tau mll3p804 TriLeptonFilter	0.1125	1	0.01258	
185801	PowhegPythia8	WmZ tau2e mll0p25 TriLeptonFilter	0.9687	1	0.012075	
185802	PowhegPythia8	WmZ tau2mu mll0p4614 TriLeptonFilter	0.6326	1	0.01664	
185803	PowhegPythia8	WmZ 3tau mll3p804 TriLeptonFilter	0.1108	1	0.0034037	
185804	PowhegPythia8	WpZ 3e mll0p25 TriLeptonFilter	1.416	1	0.053051	
185805	PowhegPythia8	WpZ e2mu mll0p4614 TriLeptonFilter	0.9421	1	0.075904	
185806	PowhegPythia8	WpZ e2tau mll3p804 TriLeptonFilter	0.1755	1	0.013867	
185807	PowhegPythia8	WpZ mu2e mll0p25 TriLeptonFilter	1.412	1	0.055296	
185808	PowhegPythia8	WpZ 3mu mll0p4614 TriLeptonFilter	0.9572	1	0.073362	
185809	PowhegPythia8	WpZ mu2tau mll3p804 TriLeptonFilter	0.1755	1	0.013891	
185810	PowhegPythia8	WpZ tau2e mll0p25 TriLeptonFilter	1.412	1	0.012105	
185811	PowhegPythia8	WpZ tau2mu mll0p4614 TriLeptonFilter	0.9421	1	0.016718	
185812	PowhegPythia8	WpZ 3tau mll3p804 TriLeptonFilter	0.172	1	0.0036427	

Table 5.7: List of diboson samples used in the analysis. For the three lepton signal regions, it is indicated for each sample whether or not the sample is used. If not, it is replaced by a data-driven fake estimate described in Section 5.3.3. All samples are used in dilepton control regions.

Sample	Generator	Sample type	Cross-Section [pb]	k-factor	Event filter efficiency	used in signal region
116600	gg2ZZJimmy	ZZ4lep	0.00459	1	1	Yes
116601	gg2ZZJimmy	ZZ4e	0.000675	1	1	Yes
116602	gg2ZZJimmy	ZZ4mu	0.000675	1	1	Yes
116603	gg2ZZJimmy	ZZ2e2mu	0.00134539	1	1	Yes
169471	gg2wwJimmy	WpWmenuenu	0.017	1	1	No
169472	gg2wwJimmy	WpWmenumunu	0.017	1	1	No
169473	gg2wwJimmy	WpWmenutaunu	0.017	1	1	No
169474	gg2wwJimmy	WpWmmunumunu	0.017	1	1	No
169475	gg2wwJimmy	WpWmmunuenu	0.017	1	1	No
169476	gg2wwJimmy	WpWmmunutaunu	0.017	1	1	No
169477	gg2wwJimmy	WpWmtaunutaunu	0.017	1	1	No
169478	gg2wwJimmy	WpWmtaunuenu	0.017	1	1	No
169479	gg2wwJimmy	WpWmtaunumunu	0.017	1	1	No
147280	Pythia8	DPI W W 2l	0.0258	1	0.48	Yes
147281	Pythia8	DPI W W 2l2j	0.0258	1	0.0752	Yes
147282	Pythia8	DPI W Z 2l	0.139	1	0.0539	Yes
147283	Pythia8	DPI W Z 2l2j	0.139	1	0.00873	Yes
147284	Pythia8	DPI W gamma 1l1gm	9.86	1	0.159	Yes
147285	Pythia8	DPI Z Z 2l	0.213	1	0.0547	Yes
147286	Pythia8	DPI Z Z 2l2j	0.213	1	0.00457	Yes
147287	Pythia8	DPI Z gamma 1l1gm	26.5	1	0.012	Yes
147288	Pythia8	DPI WZ dijet 2l2j	1.43	1	0.102	Yes
147289	Pythia8	DPI ZZ dijet 2l2j	1.86	1	0.0422	Yes
147290	Pythia8	DPI W diphoton 1l2gm	0.012	1	0.0632	Yes
147291	Pythia8	DPI Zll diphoton 1l2gm	0.00581	1	0.0259	Yes
147292	Pythia8	DPI Zvv diphoton 2gm	0.00221	1	0.0898	Yes
147293	Pythia8	DPI gamma gamma 2gm	943	1	0.00422	Yes

Table 5.8: List of loop induced, or DPI, diboson samples used in the analysis. For the three lepton signal regions, it is indicated for each sample whether or not the sample is used. If not, it is replaced by a data-driven fake estimate described in Section 5.3.3. All samples are used in dilepton control regions.

Sample	Generator	Sample type	Cross-Section [pb]	k-factor	Event filter efficiency	used in signal region
147770	Sherpa	Zee	1241.2	1	1	No
147771	Sherpa	Zmumu	1241.2	1	1	No
147772	Sherpa	Ztautau	1241.2	1	1	No
173041	Sherpa	DYeeM08to15	92.148	1	1	No
173042	Sherpa	DYeeM015to40	279.06	1	1	No
173043	Sherpa	DYmumuM015to40	92.097	1	1	No
173044	Sherpa	DYmumuM015to40	279.31	1	1	No
173045	Sherpa	DYtautauM015to40	92.121	1	1	No
173046	Sherpa	DYtautauM015to40	279.26	1	1	No

Table 5.9: List of $Z + jets$ samples used in the analysis. For the three lepton signal regions, it is indicated for each sample whether or not the sample is used. If not, it is replaced by a data-driven fake estimate described in Section 5.3.3. All samples are used in dilepton control regions.

Sample	Generator	Sample type	Cross-Section [pb]	k-factor	Event filter efficiency	used in signal region
107680	AlpgenJimmy	WenuNp0	8037.1	1.19	1	No
107681	AlpgenJimmy	WenuNp1	1579.2	1.19	1	No
107682	AlpgenJimmy	WenuNp2	477.2	1.19	1	No
107683	AlpgenJimmy	WenuNp3	133.93	1.19	1	No
107684	AlpgenJimmy	WenuNp4	35.622	1.19	1	No
107685	AlpgenJimmy	WenuNp5	10.553	1.19	1	No
107690	AlpgenJimmy	WmunuNp0	8040	1.19	1	No
107691	AlpgenJimmy	WmunuNp1	1580.3	1.19	1	No
107692	AlpgenJimmy	WmunuNp2	477.5	1.19	1	No
107693	AlpgenJimmy	WmunuNp3	133.94	1.19	1	No
107694	AlpgenJimmy	WmunuNp4	35.636	1.19	1	No
107695	AlpgenJimmy	WmunuNp5	10.571	1.19	1	No
107700	AlpgenJimmy	WtaunuNp0	8035.8	1.19	1	No
107701	AlpgenJimmy	WtaunuNp1	1579.8	1.19	1	No
107702	AlpgenJimmy	WtaunuNp2	477.55	1.19	1	No
107703	AlpgenJimmy	WtaunuNp3	133.79	1.19	1	No
107704	AlpgenJimmy	WtaunuNp4	35.583	1.19	1	No
107705	AlpgenJimmy	WtaunuNp5	10.54	1.19	1	No

Table 5.10: List of $W + jets$ used in the analysis. For the three lepton signal regions, it is indicated for each sample whether or not the sample is used. If not, it is replaced by a data-driven fake estimate described in Section 5.3.3. All samples are used in dilepton control regions.

Sample	Generator	Sample type	Cross-Section [pb]	k-factor	Event filter efficiency	used in signal region
110001	McAtNloJimmy	ttbar dilepton	21.81	1.146	1	No
108343	McAtNloJimmy	SingleTopSChanWenu	0.564	1	1	No
108344	McAtNloJimmy	SingleTopSChanWmunu	0.564	1	1	No
108345	McAtNloJimmy	SingleTopSChanWtaunu	0.564	1	1	No
108346	McAtNloJimmy	SingleTopWtChanIncl	22.37	1	1	No
117360	AcerMCPythia	singletop tchan e	9.48	1	1	No
117361	AcerMCPythia	singletop tchan mu	9.48	1	1	No
117362	AcerMCPythia	singletop tchan tau	9.48	1	1	No
185878	MadGraphPythia	ttbarW Np0 3lep	0.0036	1	0.51933	Yes
185879	MadGraphPythia	ttbarW Np1 3lep	0.0032	1	0.53383	Yes
117489	MadGraphPythia	ttbarZ Np0 1lep	0.069058	1	0.6978	Yes
117490	MadGraphPythia	ttbarZ Np1 1lep	0.013819	1	0.908	Yes

Table 5.11: List of processes containing top quarks used in the analysis. For the three lepton signal regions, it is indicated for each sample whether or not the sample is used. If not, it is replaced by a data-driven fake estimate described in Section 5.3.3. All samples are used in dilepton control regions.

	0 SFOS	1 SFOS	2 SFOS
Pre-selection	Exactly 3 leptons with $P_T > 20$ GeV where at least one is trigger matched. (See Section 5.3.1)		
b-tagged Jet Veto	$N_{b-jet} = 0$ (85 % b-tagging efficiency)		
Same-Flavor Mass	$m_{\mathrm{SF}} > 20$ GeV		
Z-Veto ($m_Z = 91.1876$ GeV)	$\lvert m_{ee} - m_Z \rvert > 15$ GeV	No m_{SFOS} with $m_Z - 35\mathrm{GeV} < m_{\mathrm{SFOS}} < m_Z + 20$ GeV	$\lvert m_{\mathrm{SFOS}} - m_Z \rvert >$
Missing E_T		$E_T^{Miss} > 45$ GeV	$E_T^{Miss} > 55$ G
Lepton-Missing E_T Angle	$\lvert \phi(3l) - \phi(E_T^{Miss}) \rvert > 2.5$		
Inclusive Jet veto	$N_{jet} \leq 1$		

Table 5.12: Optimized signal selection split by number of Same-Flavor Opposite-Sign (SFOS) lepton pairs.

5.3.2.3 Fiducial Cross-sections

Fiducial regions are defined for each channel which are designed to be close to the reconstruction level signal selection from Table 5.12. The fiducial selections are determined at truth level using Rivet [33]. Only prompt leptons (those not originating from hadron decays) are used for lepton selections, and these leptons are dressed with prompt photons within a cone with $\Delta R = 0.1$. Generator-level jets are reconstructed by running the anti-kt algorithm with radius parameter $\Delta R = 0.4$ on all final-state particles after the parton showering and hadronization with the exception of prompt leptons, prompt photons, and neutrinos. The MET variable is calculated using all generator-level neutrinos. Events are removed if τ leptons are present from the W decays. Thus, the fiducial cross-section does not include the branching fraction to $W \to \tau\nu$ decay, even though there will be some contamination from this process in the final reconstruction level selection. The final fiducial selection is presented for each channel in Table 5.13.

	0 SFOS	1 SFOS	2 SFOS
All	All		
Tau Veto	$N_\tau < 1$		
Fiducial Leptons	Exactly 3 leptons with $p_T > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$		
Lepton Overlap Removal	$\Delta R(\ell\ell) > 0.1$		
Same-Flavor Mass	$m_{\mathrm{SF}} > 20$ GeV		
Z-Veto ($m_Z = 91.1876$ GeV)	$|m_{ee} - m_Z| > 15$ GeV	No m_{SFOS} with $m_Z - 35\mathrm{GeV} < m_{\mathrm{SFOS}} < m_Z + 20$ GeV	$|m_{\mathrm{SFOS}} - m_Z| > 20$ GeV
Missing E_T		$E_T^{Miss} > 45$ GeV	$E_T^{Miss} > 55$ GeV
Lepton-Missing E_T Angle	$|\phi(3l) - \phi(E_T^{Miss})| > 2.5$		
Inclusive Jet veto	$N_{jet} \leq 1$ with fiducial jets of $p_T > 25$ GeV and $|\eta| < 4.5$		

Table 5.13: Fiducial regions based on optimized selection.

The fiducial cross-sections are evaluated in the VBFNLO samples mentioned in Section 5.1.2.1 and compared to another set of samples generated using MadGraph at NLO in QCD. Unlike the VBFNLO signal samples, which are generated only include the leptonic decays of the W boson, the MadGraph samples include all W boson decays, including hadronic decays. The VBFNLO samples, generated at LO, include interference effects between non-resonant production to three Ws and to resonant production to $WH \to$

$WWW(*)$ while the NLO MadGraph samples do not, generating the two separately. As measured at truth level from the MadGraph samples, resonant production is observed to contribute about 50-60% to the fiducial cross-section in each channel, even though it contributes about 90% of the total cross-section. A summary of the signal sample phase space and cross-sections is presented in Table 5.14.

The derived fiducial cross-sections using the two generators are shown in Table 5.15. The cross-sections are observed to be in good agreement between the two generators. The MadGraph NLO fiducial cross-sections are used in the final measurement.

	Sample	Cross-section [fb]	Lepton p_T	Lepton η
VBFNLO LO	$W^+W^+W^- \to l\nu l\nu l\nu$	4.95	$p_\text{T} > 5$ GeV	$|\eta < 45|$
	$W^-W^+W^- \to l\nu l\nu l\nu$	2.65	$p_\text{T} > 5$ GeV	$|\eta < 45|$
MadGraph NLO	$W^+W^-W^+ \to$ Anything	55.07 ± 0.10	Inclusive	Inclusive
	$W^-W^+W^- \to$ Anything	25.99 ± 0.07	Inclusive	Inclusive
	$W^+H \to W^+W^+W^-(*) \to$ Anything	91.765 ± 0.018	Inclusive	Inclusive
	$W^-H \to W^-W^+W^-(*) \to$ Anything	50.7440 ± 0.0094	Inclusive	Inclusive

Table 5.14: Details of signal samples used to study signal fiducial cross-sections.

	Fiducial Cross-section [ab]	
Channel	MadGraph	VBFNLO
0 SFOS	114.7 ± 4.3	126.9 ± 1.0
1 SFOS	126.6 ± 4.3	126.1 ± 1.0
2 SFOS	50.2 ± 2.7	$50.62 \pm .66$

Table 5.15: Fiducial cross-sections derived in each signal region for the two generators. Production modes are summed together to get one fiducial cross-section per channel per generator. The cross-sections are seen to be in good agreement between the two generators.

5.3.3 Fake lepton background

This background consists of the events with at least one non-prompt lepton denoting the hadrons misidentified as leptons and leptons originating from heavy-flavour decays, such as $b-$meson decays. We refer to these non-prompt leptons as "fake" leptons and subsequently refer to prompt leptons as "real" leptons. It is estimated using a generalised matrix method [20, 41] which is a fully data-driven technique. All leptons are firstly classified as "loose" or "tight" according to their identification and/or isolation quality. The loose leptons must

pass all lepton preselection requirements and fail any of the signal selection criteria defined in Tables 5.16 and 5.17. Once the efficiencies for real and fake preselected leptons to satisfy the tight lepton selections are measured, the number of events with fake lepton background can be predicted. This measurement is done as a function of p_T.

Preselected electron	
Algorithm	Central Electrons (author is 1 or 3)
Acceptance	$p_T > 10$ GeV, $|\eta| < 2.47$ excluding crack region
Quality	`Medium++`
Impact parameter	$|d_0/\sigma(d_0)| < 3.0$
	$|z_0 \cdot sin(\theta)| < 0.5$ mm
e-e isolation	$\Delta R(e, e) > 0.2$
e-μ isolation	$\Delta R(e, \mu) > 0.2$
Signal electron	
Quality	`Tight++`
Track isolation	$p_T$cone20$/p_T < 0.04$
Calorimeter isolation	$E_T$cone20$/E_T < 0.10$

Table 5.16: Summary of the electron selection criteria used for the global matrix method. The signal requirements defined in Section 5.2 are applied on top of the lepton preselection.

Preselected muon	
Algorithm	STACO combined
Acceptance	$p_T > 10$ GeV, $|\eta| < 2.5$
Quality	Tight
Inner detector track quality	MCP ID Hits selection
Impact parameter	$|d_0/\sigma(d_0)| < 3.0$
	$|z_0 \cdot sin(\theta)| < 0.5$ mm
μ-μ isolation	$\Delta R(\mu, \mu) > 0.2$
Signal muon	
Track isolation	$p_T$cone20$/p_T < 3.0$
Calorimeter isolation	$E_T$cone20$/E_T < 0.10$

Table 5.17: Summary of the muon selection criteria used for the global matrix method. The signal requirements defined in Section 5.2 are applied on top of the lepton preselection.

5.3.3.1 Generalized matrix element method

The advantage of the matrix method used in this analysis is that an arbitrary number of preselected leptons can be present in the event. In case of single lepton events, the

equation relating the number of events with real (n_R) and fake (n_F) lepton in p_T bin i to the expected number of events with the lepton reconstructed as tight (n_T) or loose (n_L) can be written as following:

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_T \\ n_L \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_i & \zeta_i \\ 1 - \varepsilon_i & 1 - \zeta_i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} n_R \\ n_F \end{pmatrix}$$

where ε_i and ζ_i are the real and fake efficiencies measured in p_T bin i. Given the measurements of n_T and n_L, the expected real and fake contributions can be calculated from the inverted relation:

$$\begin{pmatrix} n_R \\ n_F \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon_i - \zeta_i} \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \zeta_i & -\zeta_i \\ \varepsilon_i - 1 & \varepsilon_i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} n_T \\ n_L \end{pmatrix}$$

The procedure to obtain an estimate for the number of fake leptons passing the tight requirements n'_T is:

$$\begin{pmatrix} n'_T \\ n'_L \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_i & \zeta_i \\ 1 - \varepsilon_i & 1 - \zeta_i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ n_F \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_i & \zeta_i \\ 1 - \varepsilon_i & 1 - \zeta_i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} n_R \\ n_F \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_i & \zeta_i \\ 1 - \varepsilon_i & 1 - \zeta_i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\varepsilon_i - \zeta_i} \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \zeta_i & -\zeta_i \\ \varepsilon_i - 1 & \varepsilon_i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} n_T \\ n_L \end{pmatrix}$$

This is typically calculated as a weight w_i for each event where the lepton in p_T bin i is either tight ($n_T = 1$ and $n_L = 0$) or loose ($n_T = 0$ and $n_L = 1$).

For compactness, it is useful to introduce the following notation where summation convention is implied over repeated indices:

$$r = \begin{pmatrix} n_R \\ n_F \end{pmatrix} , \quad t = \begin{pmatrix} n_T \\ n_L \end{pmatrix} , \quad \phi = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_i & \zeta_i \\ 1 - \varepsilon_i & 1 - \zeta_i \end{pmatrix} \quad \Rightarrow \quad t_\beta = \phi_\beta{}^\alpha r_\alpha$$

where α takes values corresponding to R or F, and similarly β for T or L. The expected number of tight leptons that are fake is then:

$$t'_\nu = \phi_\nu{}^\mu \omega_\mu{}^\beta \phi^{-1}{}_\beta{}^\alpha t_\alpha$$

where ω represents the selection of only the expected fake component.

In case of an event with N preselected leptons, the formula can be written in this compacted notation as following:

$$t'_{\nu_1\cdots\nu_N} = \phi_{\nu_1}{}^{\mu_1} \cdots \phi_{\nu_N}{}^{\mu_N}\ \omega_{\mu_1\cdots\mu_N}^{\beta_1\cdots\beta_N}\ \phi^{-1}{}_{\beta_1}{}^{\alpha_1} \cdots \phi^{-1}{}_{\beta_N}{}^{\alpha_N} t_{\alpha_1\cdots\alpha_N}.$$

Each ϕ is computed with the efficiencies ε and ζ appropriate for the lepton index. The "real/fake configuration selector" ω picks out the sets of indices β_i corresponding to components one wish to count as fake background. In general, it looks like:

$$\omega_{\mu_1\cdots\mu_N}^{\beta_1\cdots\beta_N} = \delta_{\mu_1}^{\beta_1} \cdots \delta_{\mu_N}^{\beta_N}\ f(\beta_1,\ \ldots,\ \beta_N)$$

where δ_i^j is the Kronecker delta and f is a function of the indices taking values 1 (for a fake combination) and 0 (for a real combination).

This method assigns a set of weights for each event with N leptons and a measured tight/loose combination – one for each output tight/loose configuration separately. Therefore, for each of these matrix method output combinations, different leptons will be defining the event and passing through the signal selections. It is important to stress that the correlations between each configuration must be taken into account.

For example, if one measures an event with four preselected leptons, $e^+e^-e^+\mu^+$, with configuration TTLL, then the matrix method will produce the following:

Input   **Output**

$$e^+e^-e^+\mu^+, TTLL \longrightarrow \begin{cases} LLLL & w_{LLLL} & e_L^+e_L^-e_L^+\mu_L^+ & \text{Fails cuts} \\ \dots & \dots \\ TTTL & w_{TTTL} & e_T^+e_T^-e_T^+\mu_L^+ & \text{Exactly 3 leptons with 2SFOS} \\ TTLT & w_{TTLT} & e_T^+e_T^-e_L^+\mu_T^+ & \text{Exactly 3 leptons with 1SFOS} \\ TLTT & w_{TLTT} & e_T^+e_L^-e_T^+\mu_T^+ & \text{Exactly 3 leptons with 0SFOS} \\ LTTT & w_{LTTT} & e_L^+e_T^-e_T^+\mu_T^+ & \text{Exactly 3 leptons with 1SFOS} \\ TTTT & w_{TTTT} & e_T^+e_T^-e_T^+\mu_T^+ & \text{Fails cuts} \end{cases}$$

If one presumes that trigger matching and other requirements are satisfied, only four of all possible combinations pass the event pre-selection cuts. In addition, each of these "subevents" falls into specific channel according to the number of same flavour opposite sign (SFOS) pairs.

To propagate uncertainties on the efficiencies, the derivatives of $t'_{\nu_1\cdots\nu_N}$ with respect to ε_i and ζ_i for each lepton i need to be calculated. This can be evaluated exactly and efficiently at runtime. Correlations between the real efficiencies ε measured in different p_T bins are neglected since the uncertainty on the measurement is small. Correlations between the fake efficiencies ζ binned in p_T are preserved by propagating the systematic variation for each bin separately. Finally, there is a statistical correlation between two output configurations from one input event falling into one signal region which need to be taken into account. Using the previous example, the variance of each subevent in 1SFOS treated as separately is w^2_{TTLT} and w^2_{LTTT}. However, it should be in fact $(w_{TTLT} + w_{TTLT})^2$.

5.3.3.2 Real lepton efficiency

The efficiencies for real preselected leptons to pass the tight requirements are measured in data as a function of the lepton p_T. The measurement is performed in data samples enriched with real leptons from $Z \to l^+l^-$ decay with a standard tag-and-probe method. The tag passes all signal lepton selections and is trigger matched, while the requirement imposed to the probe is to satisfy only the lepton preselection cuts. Their invariant mass has to be

within Z-mass window: $m_{ll} \in [80, 100]$ GeV. If both leptons satisfy the tag requirements, they are alternatively considered as the tag in order to avoid any bias introduced by its selection. The invariant mass for two opposite sign same-flavour leptons is illustrated in Fig. 5.4.

The p_T distributions for both the number of probes passing the signal requirements, n^{Tight}, and the total number of probes, n, are shown separately in the electron and muon control regions used to derive the rates in Figure 5.5. The efficiency, ε_i, is calculated in each p_T bin, i, by taking the ratio of n_i^{Tight} over n_i. That is,

$$\varepsilon_i = \frac{n_i^{\text{Tight}}}{n_i}$$

The final binning of the efficiency is chosen to be coarse enough to have good statistics in the ratio while also preserving shape information as a function of p_T. The final efficiencies determined using both data and MC can be seen in Fig. 5.6.

Two sources of systematic uncertainties are taken into account. Firstly, the measurement may be affected by the selection of 20 GeV Z-mass window. It has been thus varied by 5 GeV and the final effect has been proved to be negligible. Secondly, the measurement is done in Drell-Yan data without any specific treatment of the other background. Therefore, the difference between the efficiencies measured in data and MC is taken as a systematic. A summary of the rates measured in data and MC used to compute the systematic uncertainties are shown for electrons in Table 5.18 and for Muons in Table 5.19.
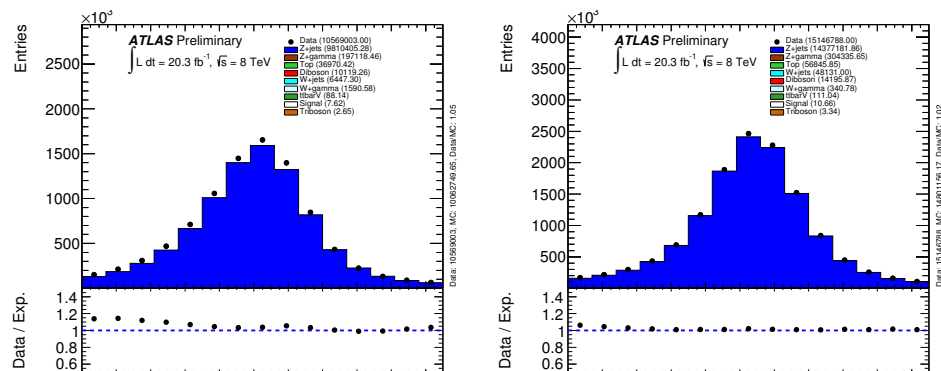
Figure 5.4: Invariant mass distribution of two opposite charge and same flavor di-lepton invariant mass electrons (left) and muons (right).
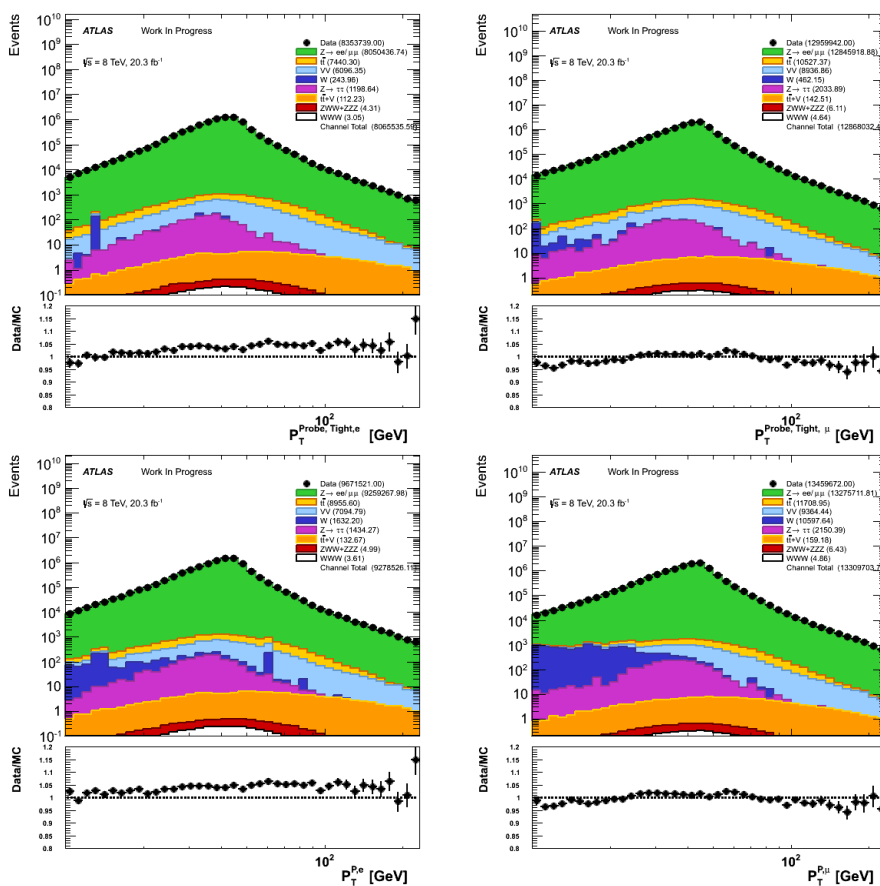
Figure 5.5: Probe lepton p_T distributions in SFOS tag and probe control regions used to derive real rates. Electron (left) and muon (right) are shown when the probe lepton is either tight (top) or no additional selection (besides the preselection) is required (bottom)
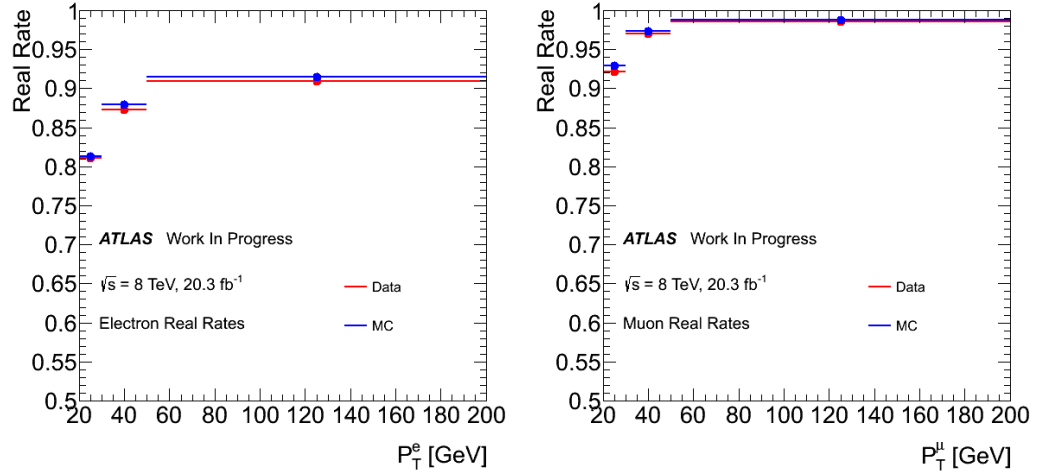
Figure 5.6: Real lepton efficiency as a fucntion of p_T and measured in data (red) and MC (blue) for electrons (left) and muons (right).

	Data		MC		
	ε	σ_{stat}	ε	σ_{stat}	σ_{sys}
$p_T \in [20, 30]$ GeV	0.8105	0.0011	0.8134	0.0013	0.0028
$p_T \in [30, 50]$ GeV	0.8732	0.0005	0.8794	0.0006	0.0062
$p_T > 50$ GeV	0.9097	0.0012	0.9150	0.0012	0.0053

Table 5.18: Measured real efficiencies for electrons including statistical and systematic absolute uncertainties. Systematic is calculated by taking the difference between the efficiencies measured in data and MC. The efficiency measured in data is used as the nominal central value.

	Data		MC		
	ε	σ_{stat}	ε	σ_{stat}	σ_{sys}
$p_T \in [20, 30]$ GeV	0.9217	0.0010	0.9291	0.0012	0.0074
$p_T \in [30, 50]$ GeV	0.9700	0.0004	0.9737	0.0006	0.0038
$p_T > 50$ GeV	0.9862	0.0011	0.9878	0.0011	0.0017

Table 5.19: Measured real efficiencies for muons including statistical and systematic absolute uncertainties. Systematic is calculated by taking the difference between the efficiencies measured in data and MC. The efficiency measured in data is used as the nominal central value.

5.3.3.3 Fake lepton efficiency

The fake efficiency represents the probability that a fake lepton satisfying the preselected criteria passes also the signal requirements. The measurement, performed separately for each p_T bin, i, is performed in fake-enriched samples by looking at the number of probe leptons in data passing preselection, n_i, and comparing to the number which only pass also the tight selection, n_i^{Tight}. Contamination from real leptons, n_i^{Real} and $n_i^{\text{Tight,Real}}$, and from photon converted leptons, n_i^{PC} and $n_i^{\text{Tight,PC}}$, is corrected using MC by subtracting from the totals. The rate is then determined as follows:

$$\zeta_i = \frac{n_i^{\text{Tight}} - n_i^{\text{Tight,Real}} - n_i^{\text{Tight,PC}}}{n_i - n_i^{\text{Real}} - n_i^{\text{PC}}} \qquad (5.1)$$

Since the rates depend on the fake lepton origin, the derivation is done separately for electrons and muons.

The classification of leptons in MC as being either real or from photon conversion is performed on an event-by-event basis at truth level using the MCTruthClassifier tool [4]. Since this is a dilepton control region, the majority of events with a real lepton tag and a probe lepton due to photon conversion comes from the $W\gamma$ process where the photon converted lepton is an electron. As expected, the number of probe muons coming from photon conversion are observed to be negligible.

Efficiencies are measured from a data set enriched with one tight lepton that passes the signal lepton selections with $p_T > 40$ GeV and one fake candidate satisfying only the preselection criteria defined in tables 5.16 and 5.17. Events with additional loose or tight leptons are rejected. The QCD background may also enter these control regions, especially in low E_T^{miss} . Therefore, an additional $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 10$ GeV requirement is introduced. In order to reduce the contamination from real processes like $t\bar{t}$, WW and Z, the two leptons are required to have the same sign. Finally, the control regions are split based on the flavor of the tag and probe leptons. The muon rates are determined in the region with two muons while the electron rates are determined in the region with a muon tag and an

electron probe. The choice of a muon tag in the region used to derive the electron rates is particularly important since allowing electron tags have a large contamination from Z backgrounds. This is true even after the same-sign requirement because of charge mis-identification. The charge mis-identification rate for muons is negligible and so allows one to use the muon-muon control region for the muon rates, which has the least contamination. This behavior can be seen in the distributions of probe muon transverse momentum in the same-sign muon-muon tag-and-probe control region used to derive the muon fake rates shown in Fig. 5.7 while the distributions of probe electron transverse momentum are shown in the same-sign electron-muon tag-and-probe control region used to derive the electron fake rates shown in Fig. 5.8. The control regions for both electrons and muons are further split based on the number of b-tagged jets in the event, which has an effect on the source of the fake leptons. In particular, requiring b-tagged jets increases the fraction of fake leptons coming from heavy flavor. Two different sets of control regions were ultimately considered, those with at least one b-tagged jet and those without any requirement on the presence of b-tagged jets. The region with at least one b-tagged jet ($N_{b-jet} > 0$) is used as the central value since it contains more heavy flavor contributions and so compares better with the signal regions, as described later in Section 5.3.3.4. The other is used to determine a systematic on the composition, described later.

A detailed breakdown of the numbers used to compute the fake rates are shown in Appendix ??.

Three systematic uncertainties are considered. First, the subtraction of the processes with two real leptons ($t\bar{t}V$, VV and VVV) using MC prediction introduced an uncertainty on their cross-sections. This effect is estimated by varying the MC normalization by $\pm 20\%$. We refer to this is as the 'correlated' systematic uncertainty. Second, given that the extraction regions and the signal regions have different kinematic selections, the fake leptons of different origin dominate. This kinematic dependence of fake efficiencies has been estimated by modifying the requirements of the sample used for the measurement. In particular, the cut thresholds on the E_T^{Miss} and tag lepton p_T used for determining the

dilepton control regions are varied. The E_T^{Miss} threshold is varied in 5 GeV steps scanning a range of ±10 GeV around the nominal threshold of $E_T^{Miss} > 10$ GeV while the p_T threshold is varied in 5 GeV steps in a range of ±20 GeV around the nominal threshold of $p_T > 40$ GeV. When varying the E_T^{Miss} cut, the p_T cut is kept at the nominal threshold and vise-versa. This is referred to as the 'uncorrelated' systematic. These are determined separtely for electrons and muons, since they use different control regions. The 'uncorrelated' and 'correlated' systematics for electrons and muons are then combined together by adding in quadrature on an event-by-event basis. As a result the uncertainty is presented as a single systematic uncertainty on the fake electron contribution and a separte single systematic on the fake muon contribution. The third and final systematic contribution comes from the choice of control region, based on the number of b-tagged jets, as described earlier. The nominal control regions for both the electron and muon cases is when there is at least one b-tagged jet present. The difference between the rates for the nominal case and the region where no requirement is placed on the presence of b-tagged jets is chosen as a systematic. We have determined that the difference in the composition in these two regions adequately covers the difference in composition that may be present due to the extrapolation from the control regions to the signal regions. This is discussed in more detail in Section 5.3.3.4. Another set of control regions was studied which vetos any b-tagged jets, but this was observed to give a very large difference in composition which is probably too conservative of an estimate to be used as a reasonable systematic. The rates along with the statistical and systematic uncertainties are summarized in Fig. 5.9 as well as in Tables 5.20 and 5.21. The final binning of the efficiency is chosen to be coarse enough to have good statistics in the ratio while also preserving shape information as a function of p_T.
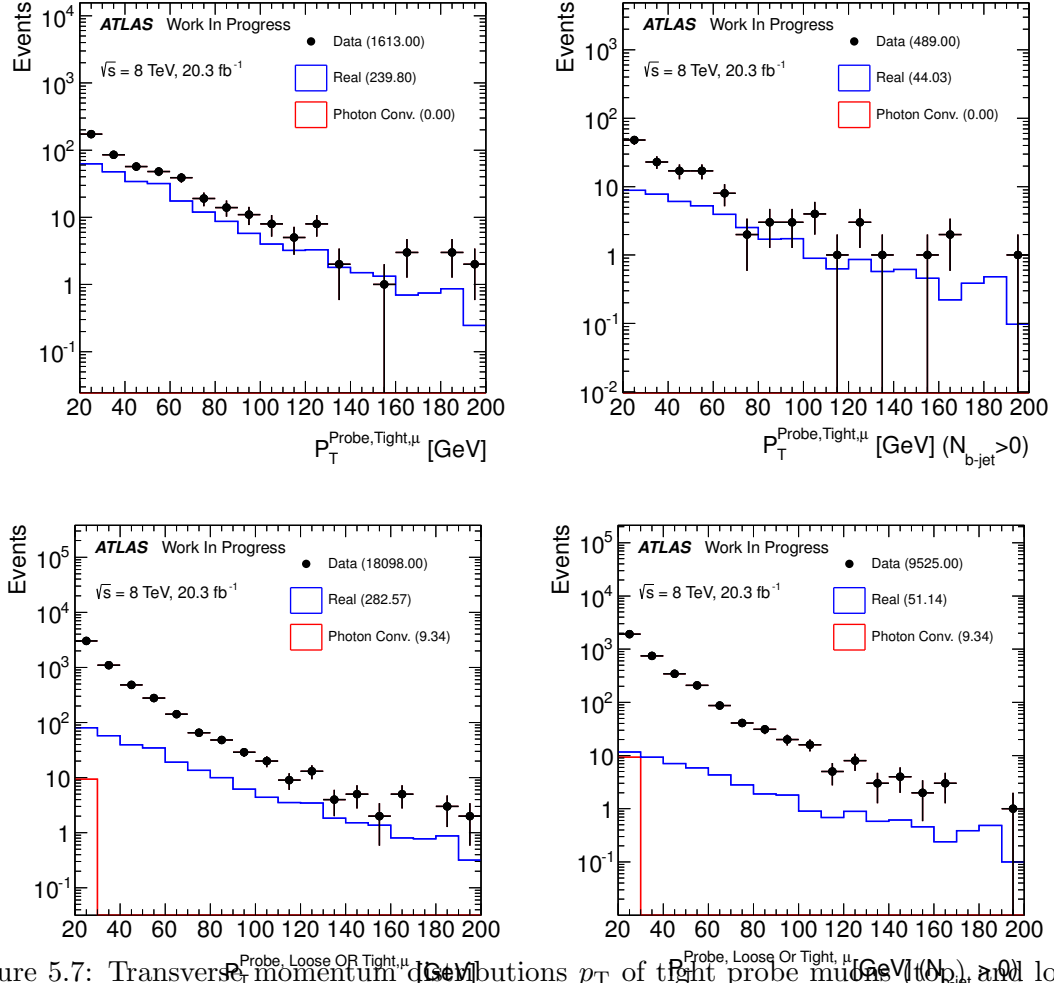
Figure 5.7: Transverse momentum distributions p_T of tight probe muons (top) and loose OR tight probe muons (bottom) passing signal selection criteria in the control Same-Sign $\mu - \mu$ control region without any additional requirement on b-jets in the event (left) and at least one b-jet (right). The amount observed in data (black points) corresponds to n (bottom) and n_Tight (top) in Eq. 5.1. Meanwhile, the contribution determined in MC to come from real leptons (blue line) and from photon conversion (red line) are shown separately; they are not stacked. The real lepton contribution corresponds to $n_\text{Tight}^\text{Real}$ (top) and n^Real (bottom) and the photon conversion contribution corresponds to n_Tight^PC (top) and n^PC (bottom) in Eq. 5.1. The photon conversion is observed to be negligible for muons.
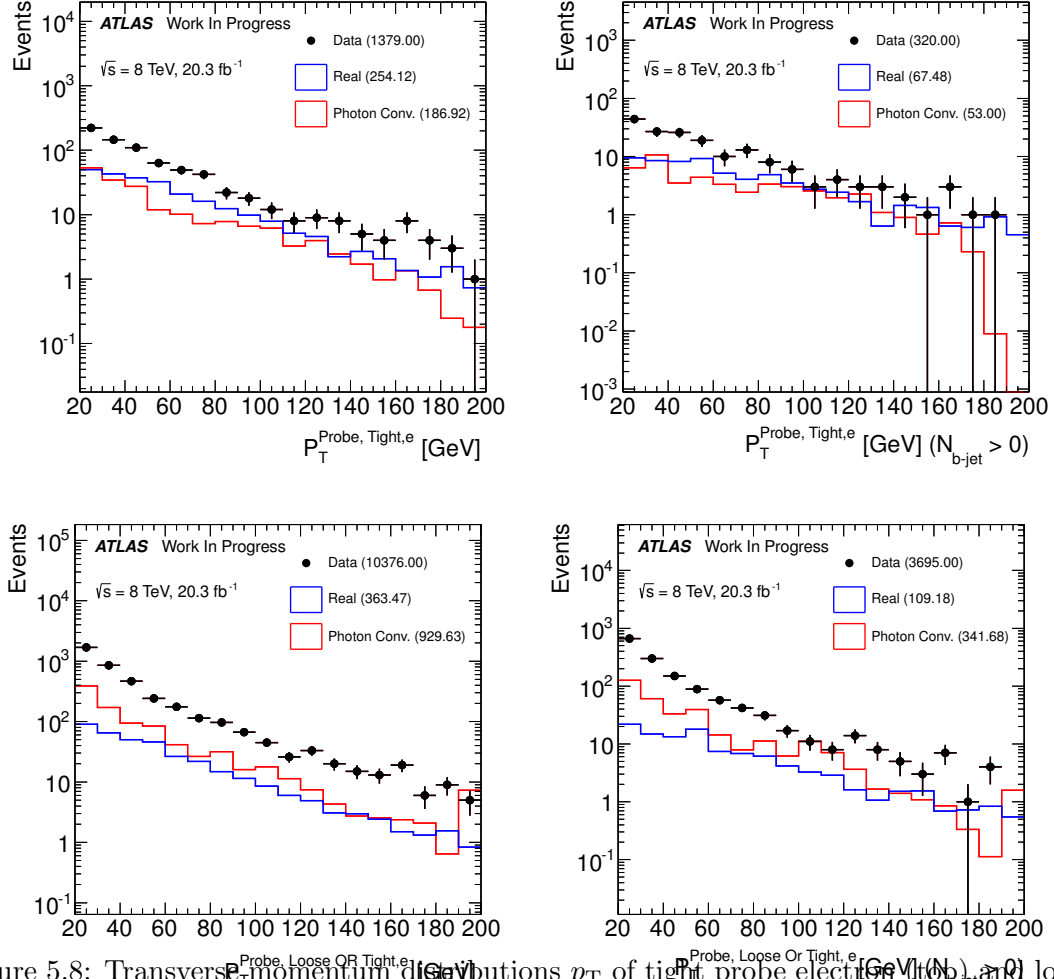
Figure 5.8: Transverse momentum distributions p_T of tight probe electrons (top) and loose or tight probe electrons (bottom) passing signal selection criteria in the Same-Sign $e - \mu$ control region without any additional requirement on b-jets in the event (left) and at least one b-jet (right). The amount observed in data (black points) corresponds to n (bottom) and n_{Tight} (top) in Eq. 5.1. Meanwhile, the contribution determined in MC to come from real leptons (blue line) and from photon conversion (red line) are shown separately; they are not stacked. The real lepton contribution corresponds to $n_{\text{Tight}}^{\text{Real}}$ (top) and n^{Real} (bottom) and the photon conversion contribution corresponds to $n_{\text{Tight}}^{\text{PC}}$ (top) and n^{PC} (bottom) in Eq. 5.1.

Figure 5.9: Distributions of the electron (left) and muon (right) fake rates as a function of p_T extracted in the control regions for three different selections: without any additional requirement on b-jets in the event and at least one b-jet.

	ζ	σ_{stat}	σ_{sys}^{uncorr}	σ_{sys}^{corr}
	$N_{b-jet} > 0$			
$p_T \in [20, 30]$ GeV	0.0549	0.0136	0.0084	0.0032
$p_T \in [30, 50]$ GeV	0.0645	0.0272	0.0203	0.0161
$p_T > 50$ GeV	0.0816	0.0723	0.0764	0.1088
	$N_{b-jet} \geq 0$			
$p_T \in [20, 30]$ GeV	0.0995	0.0141	0.0270	0.0099
$p_T \in [30, 50]$ GeV	0.1192	0.0208	0.0324	0.0232
$p_T > 50$ GeV	0.1428	0.0374	0.0428	0.0674

Table 5.20: Measured fake efficiencies for electrons measured in three regions: with no additional requirements on the presence of b-jets and with at least one b-jet in a event. Statistical and systematic absolute uncertainties are also shown.

	ζ	σ_{stat}	σ_{sys}^{uncorr}	σ_{sys}^{corr}
	$N_{b-jet} > 0$			
$p_T \in [20, 30]$ GeV	0.0208	0.0037	0.0067	0.0009
$p_T \in [30, 40]$ GeV	0.0207	0.0066	0.0113	0.0020
$p_T > 40$ GeV	0.0492	0.0109	0.0259	0.0068
	$N_{b-jet} \geq 0$			
$p_T \in [20, 30]$ GeV	0.0378	0.0046	0.0140	0.0040
$p_T \in [30, 40]$ GeV	0.0360	0.0091	0.0096	0.0089
$p_T > 40$ GeV	0.0967	0.0166	0.0252	0.0244

Table 5.21: Measured fake efficiencies for muons measured in three regions: with no additional requirements on the presence of b-jets and with at least one b-jet in the event. Statistical and systematic absolute uncertainties are also shown.

5.3.3.4 Study of the fake lepton composition

The use of the generalized matrix method to determine the relies on the assumption that the fake rates derived in the di-lepton control regions may be extrapolated to the three lepton signal regions. The fake rate depends primarily on the source of the fake leptons, thus one can check the validity of this assumption by looking at the composition of the different fake lepton sources in the dilepton control regions and comparing them to the composition in the three lepton signal regions.

The fake composition is investigated by classifying the MC events as a function of the origin of the fake leptons found in each event. The MCTruthClassifier tool [4] is used to identify the fake laptops origin as follows:

- Real - Prompt leptons

  - *IsoElectron*

  - *IsoMuon*

  - In $Z\gamma$ events classified as either *UnknownElectron* or *UnknownMuon* and parent of lepton is γ.

  - In $Z \to \tau\tau$ events classified as either *NonIsoElectron* or *NonIsoMuon* and lepton has τ as parent.

- Heavy Flavor (HF) - Leptons from heavy flavor jets or heavy hadron decays

  - *NonIsoElectron*

  - *NonIsoMuon*

- Light Flavor (LF) - Leptons from light flavor jets

  - *Hadron*

  - *Others*

  - In ZWW and ZZZ events classified as either *UnknownElectron* or *Unknown-Muon* and parent of lepton is either an up quark, down quark, or a gluon.

- Photon Conversion (PC) - Leptons due to radiation

  - *BkgElectron*

  - *BkgMuon*

The composition is shown for electrons in the dilepton control regions in Table 5.22 and in the event pre-selection and in region close to the signal regions in Table 5.23. First, one can see that the PC contribution is roughly half of the fake contribution estimate using MC in the control regions and in the region close to the signal regions. Since this is being estimated using MC close to the signal regions, this component is subtracted out in order to remove any double counting in the final estimate. Then, after subtraction, if one compares the composition in the control regions to the composition in the region close to the signal regions only for electrons, in particular after tight selection, one can see that the composition is similar for both, with about 50 to 75 % coming from HF and the rest from LF.

For the muons, one can see the composition in the dilepton control regions in Table 5.24 and in the event pre-selection and region close to the signal regions in Table 5.25. For the muons the PC component is negligible, as expected, and there is no need for subtraction. In this case, the composition is dominated by HF, contributing about 90% with the rest coming from LF. This is true in the region close to the signal regions and in the control regions.

The differences observed in the composition between the inclusive $b - jet$ and $b - jet$ tagged dilepton control regions is observed to be of a similar size to the difference in the composition for the region close to the signal regions for both the electron and muon cases. Thus, comparing the rates derived in the control regions using the two different $b - jet$ criteria should take into account any differences in the composition due to extrapolation. This is the motivation for choosing the difference in these two control regions as an additional systematic on the fake rates.

Using this study of the composition, we conclude that the composition appears to be

consistent between the control regions and the region close to the signal regions. We have chosen a comparison of two different dilepton control regions to be used a systematic which should take into account any remaining differences in the composition.

It should be said that in the dilepton control regions, the MC estimate strongly underestimates the amount observed in data, presumably because of additional sources of fakes not modeled in our MC, such as from QCD. The difference in the estimates can be clearly seen in Figures 5.10 and 5.11 which show the stacked MC estimate from real, photon conversion, heavy flavor and light flavor sources compared to data. Thus, the composition estimates shown are only reliable if these additional sources would have a similar composition to the ones observed in this study that we are able to model. This effectively puts a large uncertainty on the composition estimates observed in this study. Also, because the additinonal sources are most likely dominated by QCD, the PC contribution to these sources should be small. Thus, the PC component before subtraction is likely overstated as shown in Tables 5.22 and 5.23. As discussed earlier, we subtract the PC component from the data when obtaining the fake rate. This procedure then assumes explicitly that all of the photon conversion contribution is modeled in MC and is small.

Control regions				
PC subtracted	N_{b-jet}	HF	PC	LF
yes	—	$57 \pm 4\%$	0%	$43 \pm 6\%$
yes	$N_{b-jet} > 0$	$75 \pm 5\%$	0%	$25 \pm 3\%$
no	—	$22 \pm 3\%$	$61 \pm 13\%$	$17 \pm 3\%$
no	$N_{b-jet} > 0$	$43 \pm 3\%$	$42 \pm 6\%$	$15 \pm 2\%$

Table 5.22: Composition of fake electrons taken from MC events in the same-sign electron-muon dilepton control regions used to extract electron fake rates. The composition is split as either Heavy Flavor (HF), Photon Conversion (PC), and Light Flavor (LF) are shown. In the "PC subtracted" case, the PC component has been explicitly removed. This corresponds to the scenario ultimately used in the fake rate estimation.
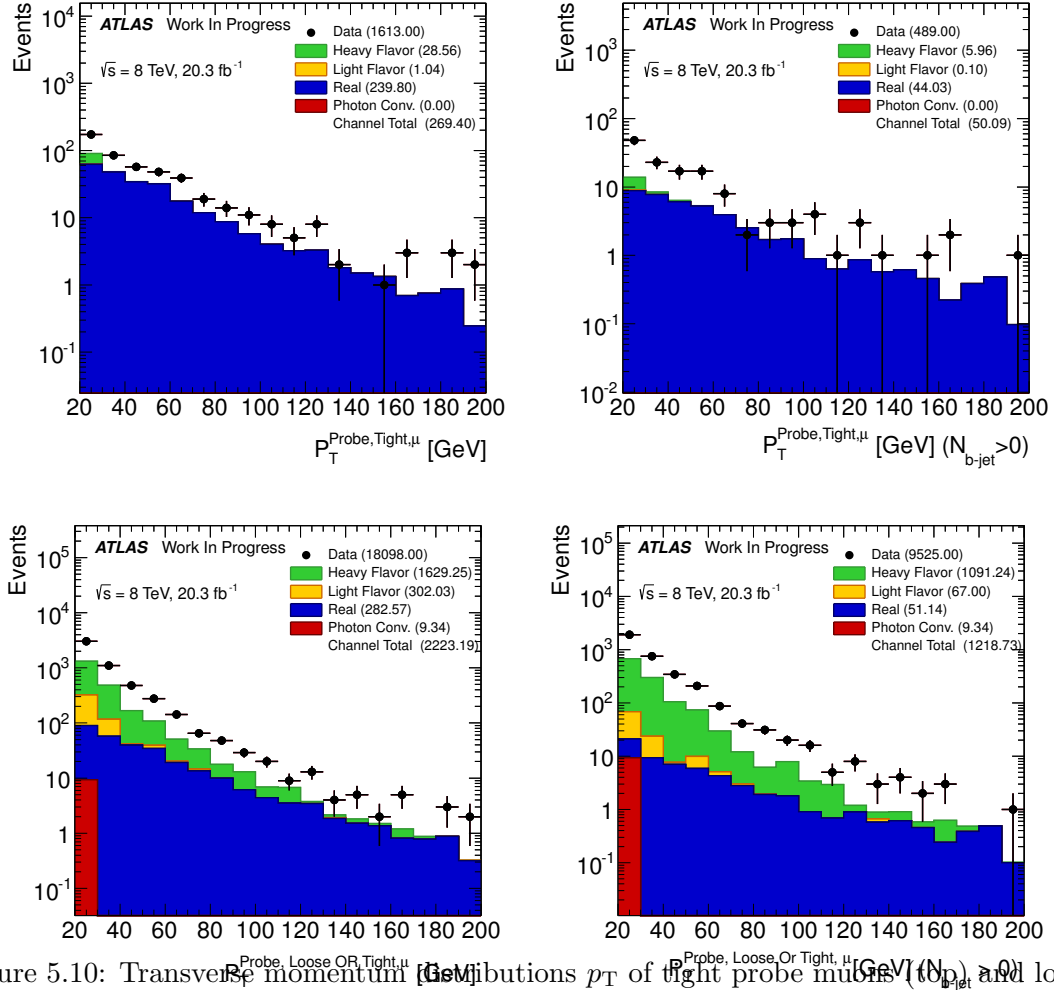
Figure 5.10: Transverse momentum distributions p_T of tight probe muons (top), and loose OR tight probe muons (bottom) passing signal selection criteria in the control Same-Sign $\mu - \mu$ control region without any additional requirement on b-jets in the event (left) and at least one b-jet (right). The amount observed in data (black points) corresponds to n (bottom) and n_{Tight} (top) in Eq. 5.1. Meanwhile, the contribution determined in MC to come from real leptons (blue), photon conversion (red), heavy flavor (green) and light flavor (orange) are shown stacked on top of each other. The difference between the data and MC does not effect the data-driven fake estimate but may have an impact on the composition estiamte.

Figure 5.11: Transverse momentum distributions p_T of tight probe electrons (top) and loose or tight probe electrons (bottom) passing signal selection criteria in the Same-Sign $e - \mu$ control region without any additional requirement on b-jets in the event (left) and at least one b-jet (right). The amount observed in data (black points) corresponds to n (bottom) and n_{Tight} (top) in Eq. 5.1. Meanwhile, the contribution determined in MC to come from real leptons (blue), photon conversion (red), heavy flavor (green) and light flavor (orange) are shown stacked on top of each other. The difference between the data and MC does not effect the data-driven fake estimate but may have an impact on the composition estiamte.

Pre-selection and signal regions		
	Heavy Flavor	Light Flavor
Pre-selection	$53.7 \pm 9.4\%$	$46.3 \pm 10.0\%$
0 SFOS	$80.2 \pm 19.9\%$	$19.8 \pm 11.8\%$
1 SFOS	$52.4 \pm 12.5\%$	$47.6 \pm 11.9\%$
2 SFOS	$47.7 \pm 16.1\%$	$52.3 \pm 23.3\%$

Table 5.23: Composition of fake electrons taken from MC events in the event pre-selection and regions close to the signal regions used in the analysis. The composition is split as either Heavy Flavor (HF) or Light Flavor (LF).

Control regions				
PC subtracted	N_{b-jet}	HF	PC	LF
yes	—	$89 \pm 4\%$	0%	$11 \pm 1\%$
yes	$N_{b-jet} > 0$	$95 \pm 3\%$	0%	$4 \pm 1\%$
no	—	$89 \pm 4\%$	0%	$11 \pm 1\%$
no	$N_{b-jet} > 0$	$95 \pm 3\%$	0%	$4 \pm 1\%$

Table 5.24: Composition of fake muons taken from MC events in the event pre-selection and regions close to the signal regions used in the analysis. The composition is split as either Heavy Flavor (HF), Photon Conversion (PC), and Light Flavor (LF) are shown. The photon conversion component is measured to be negligible. No PC subtraction is performed.

Pre-selection and signal regions		
	Heavy Flavor	Light Flavor
Pre-selection	$78.9 \pm 10.0\%$	$21.1 \pm 4.6\%$
0 SFOS	$96.7 \pm 21.0\%$	$3.3 \pm 3.7\%$
1 SFOS	$77.4 \pm 14.1\%$	$22.6 \pm 7.2\%$
2 SFOS	$77.3 \pm 15.9\%$	$22.8 \pm 7.1\%$

Table 5.25: Composition of fake muons taken from MC events in the same-sign muon-muon dilepton control regions used to extract the muon fake rates. The composition is split into either Heavy Flavor (HF) or Light Flavor (LF).

5.3.3.5   Fake lepton background validation

A Monte Carlo closure test of the generalized matrix method is performed. The fake rates are computed from MC samples in the dilepton control regions defined in section 5.3.3.4, and the method is then applied on the most important MC samples contributing to the event pre-selection: Z+jets and $t\bar{t}$. The event pre-selection is used for this test, because the statistics available for the MC samples containing fake leptons in the signal region is too small to be able to draw any conclusion. Figure 5.12, show the MC fake rates obtained from the CR, while figure 5.13 show the MC agreement with the MC events reweighted using the generalized matrix method in the event pre-selection region, for the third-leading lepton p_T and the E_T^{miss} distribution. As it can be seen the shape agreement and the overall normalization are pretty good, showing that the matrix method is performing well.
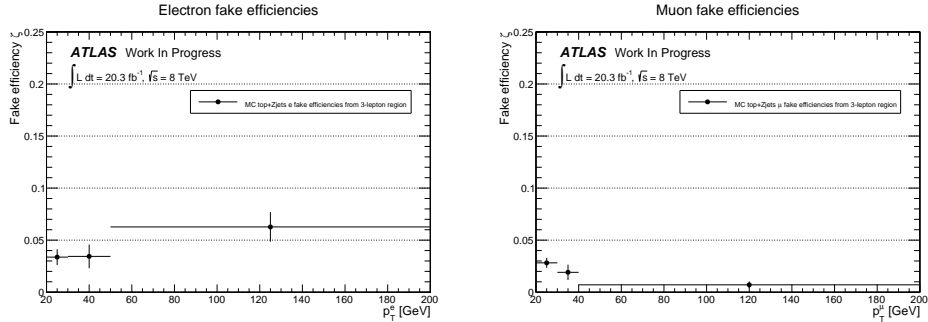
Figure 5.12: Distribution of the fake rates obtained from MC samples in the dilepton control regions. The errors shown here are statistical only. These rates are used to performed a MC closure check of the global matrix method.

The ability of the generalized matrix method just described to model accurately the fake lepton background is tested in a control region designed to be enhanced in the fake lepton background while mainitaining orthogonality with the signal regions described in Section 5.3.2. The control region starts by using the event pre-selection region described in Section 5.3.1. To reduce contamination in the control region from the WZ process, it is required that none of the three leptons selected form a Same-Flavor Opposite-Sign lepton pair. Finally, to ensure orthogonality with the signal regions which require that no
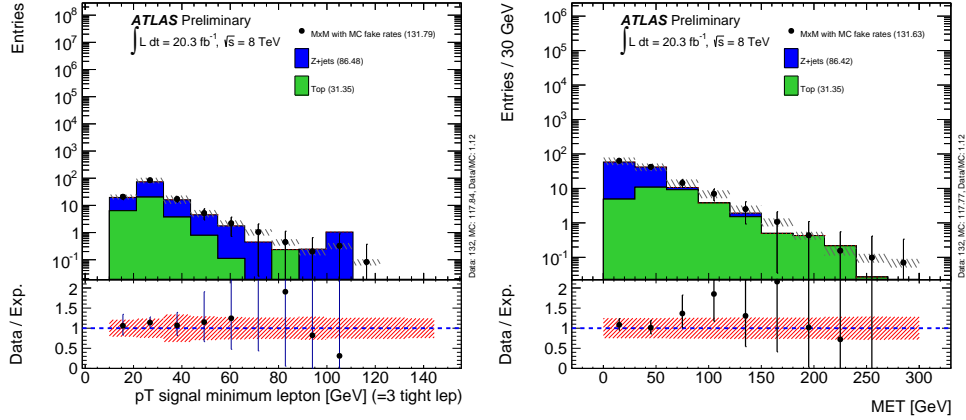
Figure 5.13: Distributions of the third leading lepton p_T and E_T^{miss} in the event preselection region, for Z+jets and $t\bar{t}$, compared to events from these samples reweigthed using the global matrix method and the rates shown in Figure 5.12. Good agreement is observed

b-tagged jets are present in the event, this control region requires the presence of at least one b-tagged jet in the event.

This control region is clearly dominated by the data-driven fake lepton background as can be seen in Fig. 5.14 and in Table 5.26. Furthermore, Table 5.26 shows good agreement between data and the fake background modeling on the total event yield, which is within the statistical uncertainties. One can even see from Fig. 5.14 that the shape description does a reasonable job, although the statistical uncertainty is a bit too large to draw strong conclusions. One can also see that the systematic uncertainty easily covers most of the differences that are observed. Thus, we conclude that the fake background description is working and may be used in our signal regions. Especially since the fake background is most important in the 0 SFOS region (described in more detail in Section 5.3.2) which differs primarily from this control region only by the b-veto requirement.

5.3.4   Monte Carlo Backgrounds

Details of the MC based background estimations are described below. Any additional normalizations or uncertainties are summarized in Table 5.27.
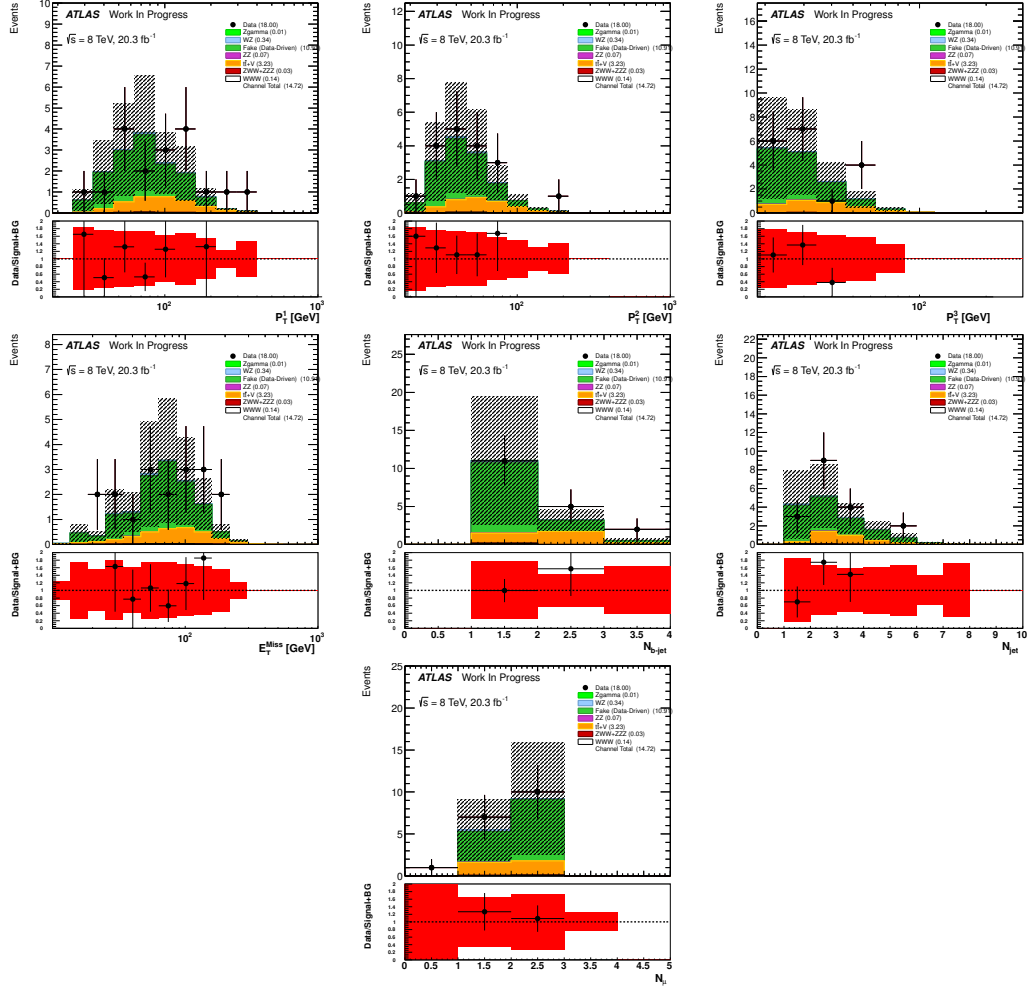
Figure 5.14: Distributions in a control region designed to study the data-driven fake lepton background estimate. The selection used is as follows: Event pre-selection + 0 SFOS + at least 1 b-jet. Good agreement is observed

5.3.4.1 WZ

Introduction The WZ process constitute an irreducible background for the WWW final state. Studies of this final state have been performed at the LHC by the ATLAS [11, 19] and CMS [7] collaborations. They have shown that the measured cross-section is systematically found to be higher than the NLO predictions, by a factor of about $\approx 10 - 15\%$. The recent cross-sections calculations at NNLO for the $V\gamma$ processes [44] have shown that the expectations are corrected by a large factor compared to the one at NLO. Similar

	Event Yield
WZ	0.338 ± 0.021
ZZ	0.0747 ± 0.0064
$Z\gamma$	0.0058 ± 0.0058
$ZWW + ZZZ$	0.026 ± 0.005
$t\bar{t} + V$	3.228 ± 0.039
Fake (data-driven)	10.91 ± 0.73
WWW	0.1431 ± 0.0052
Expected Background	14.58 ± 0.73
Expected Signal + Background	14.72 ± 0.73
Observed Data	18.0 ± 4.2

Table 5.26: Expected and observed yields for the fake lepton control region.

Background	Normalization Factor	Unceratinty
WZ	1.08	10 %
ZZ	1.05	15 %
$t\bar{t} + V$	1.0	30 %
$ZWW + ZZZ$	1.0	50 %

Table 5.27: Summary of normalizations and their uncertainties for the MC based background estimates used in the analysis.

conclusions also apply for the ZZ final state [35]. However these predictions are not yet available for the WZ process. Therefore the NLO predictions for this background, must be checked from the data. In the following a correction factor to MC predictions will be derived from the data using a 2D sideband method. To simplify the explanations, in this section, the WZ process will be considered as the signal process.

The normalization of this process is determined from data using a two-dimensional sideband method (2D sideband method or so-called ABCD method [25]). Events are requested to pass the event pre-selection and contain exactly one SFOS lepton pair, and one third lepton from a different flavor. In order to supress contributions from fake-lepton backgrounds as much as possible, all leptons must satisfy the following transverse momentum requirement: $p_T > 25$ GeV. The two dimensions of the method are defined as the invariant mass of the two SFOS leptons on one axis and the isolation of the non-SFOS lepton as the other one. This leads to 4 regions defined as follows:

- Signal Region (A): Isolated and in Z-peak $|m^{SFOS}_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| < 15$ GeV, $E_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/E_T < 0.10$ and $p_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/p_T < 0.04$.

- Control Region (B): Isolated and off Z-peak $|m^{SFOS}_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| > 25$ GeV, $E_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/E_T < 0.10$ and $p_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/p_T < 0.04$.

- Control Region (C): Non-isolated and in Z-peak $|m^{SFOS}_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| < 15$ GeV, $E_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/E_T > 0.15$ and $p_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/p_T > 0.10$.

- Control Region (D): Non-isolated and off on Z-peak $|m^{SFOS}_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| > 25$ GeV, $E_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/E_T > 0.15$ and $p_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/p_T > .10$.

The 2D-sideband method is based on the following two assumptions:

- The presence of WZ signal events in the three control regions (B, C, and D) is negligible. This allow us to consider all reconstructed leptons falling in one of these regions as coming from a background (non WZ)event. The number of events N^{jet} with jet faking leptons can then be extracted by subtracting from the data the contribution from processes containing 3 real leptons (ZZ, ttV, triboson) or 2 real lepton and 1 photon ($Z\gamma$) and noted in the following as N^{EW}. These are estimated from Monte Carlo. The total number of observed events in each of these three regions can be expressed as:

$$N_A = N_A^{WZ}(measured) + N_A^{jet} + N_A^{EW} \tag{5.2}$$

$$N_B = N_B^{jet} + N_B^{EW} \tag{5.3}$$

$$N_C = N_C^{jet} + N_C^{EW} \tag{5.4}$$

$$N_D = N_D^{jet} + N_D^{EW} \tag{5.5}$$

- The ratio of isolated to non-isolated background candidates from jet-fakes in the Z-peak bin ($\frac{N_D^{jet}}{N_C^{jet}}$) is equal to the same ratio computed in the off Z-peak bin ($\frac{N_B^{jet}}{N_A^{jet}}$).

From these equations, the number of WZ events in the signal region A can be calculated as:

$$N_A^{WZ}(Measured) = (N_A - N_A^{EW}) - \frac{1}{R^{jet}} \frac{(N_B - N_B^{EW} - c_B(N_A^{WZ}(MC)))(N_C - N_C^{EW} - c_C(N_A^{WZ}(MC)))}{N_D - N_D^{EW} - c_D(N_A^{WZ}(MC))}$$

(5.6)

Where

- $R^{jet} = \frac{N_B^{jet} N_C^{jet}}{N_A^{jet} N_D^{jet}}$ is defined to account for the bias on the background correlation between region A-B to C-D. These numbers are estimated from MC simulations, they are obtained from summing together samples containing 2 real leptons and a fake lepton (Z+jets, $t\bar{t}$ and WW). The MC samples used for these processes are summarized in Tables 5.7, 5.8, and 5.9 in Section 5.1.2.3.

- $C_X = \frac{N_X^{WZ}(MC)}{N_A^{WZ}(MC)}$, X=(B,C,D) is defined to account for the signal leakage. These numbers are estimated from MC simulations.

- N_X^{EW}, X=(A,B,C,D), is evaluated from MC and defined as the number of events containing 3 real leptons (ZZ, $t\bar{t}V$, triboson) or 2 real lepton and 1 photon ($Z\gamma$).

The signal leakage C_X is estimated using the signal WZ Monte Carlo, whereas, when computing the measurement central value, the R^{jet} factor is fixed to 1. A systematic uncertainty is associated to this assumption.

Nominal estimate Table 5.28 summarizes the number of events measured in all 4 regions.

In region A the total predicted number of WZ events is $N_A^{WZ}(MC) = 498 \pm 1$, while the measurement with the 2D-sideband method gives $N_A^{WZ}(measured) = 537. \pm 35$ events, this yield a correction factor of 1.08 ± 0.07(stat). This normalization factor is found to agree well with the measurements done by the ATLAS and CMS collaborations. The number of fake leptons events can also be evaluated with this method, subtracting the number of

Regions	N data events	N EWbkg	N fakes (MC)	CX
A	724 ± 27	172 ± 3	25 ± 4	1 ± 0
B	67 ± 8	29 ± 2	5 ± 2	0.0639 ± 0.0007
C	272 ± 16	7.7 ± 0.9	282 ± 12	0.0018 ± 0.0001
D	118 ± 11	1.9 ± 0.6	103 ± 7	0.00019 ± 0.00003

Table 5.28: Number of data and MC events reccorded in each regions, used for the determination of the WZ normalization using the 2D-sideband method.

EW and WZ events to the total number of data events in region A. Doing so, one find $N_A^{jet}(measured) = 8. \pm 23.$, to be compared to the MC expectation of $N_A^{jet}(MC) = 25 \pm 4.$. The error on this number is large, but since the contamination of fake events in this region A is small, the impact on the correction factor is also small.

Figure 5.15 shows the $m_{\ell\ell}^{SFOS}$ distribution for the two isolation regions. As it can be seen the backgrounds do not model perfectly the data, especially in the non-isolated region. It is important to notice that the fake backgrounds are here completely determined from Monte Carlo simulations, as well as the WZ normalization.
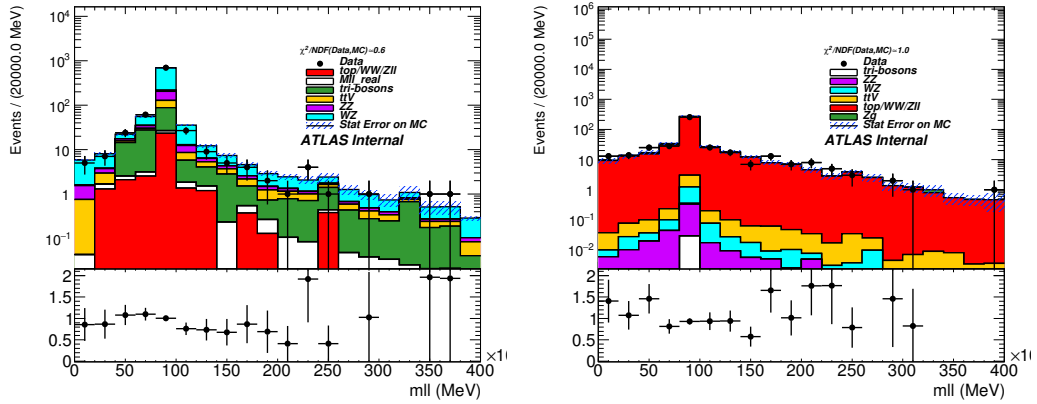
Figure 5.15: WZ Control regions. Distribution of the $m_{\ell\ell}^{SFOS}$ in the isolated and anti-isolated CR.

Closure test and systematic uncertainties To prove that the 2D-sideband method can determine accurately the WZ normalization, MC closure tests are performed. The MC processes of the two isolations regions showed on Figure 5.15 are summed up. Two

templates are obtained, and they are used as if they were data in region A, B, C and D. These templates are used to generate pseudo-datasets which will serve to recompute the number of WZ events with the 2D-sideband method. Once again the NLO prediction in region A gives $N_A^{WZ}(MC) = 498 \pm 1$, using the pseudo-data one find $N_A^{WZ}(measured) = 495. \pm 39$ events. Other tests are performed:

- Scaling up the WZ signal by 20%.

- Scaling up the fake background by 50%.

- Scaling up the EW background by 20%.

In all these cases the 2D-sideband method allows to retrieve the proper normalization of the WZ signal injected. More information can be found in the Appendix **??**.

Several sources of systematic effects are investigated. The difference between the number of WZ events measured in region A after varying one variable and the central value reported above is taken into account as a systematic. They are listed below, more details can be found in appendix **??**.

- The isolation cuts are varied to $E_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/E_T > 0.25$ and $p_T^{Iso(R<0.2)}/p_T > 0.2$, in order to check the impact of this cut on the measured number of events. The total number of WZ events found in this case is: $N_A^{WZ}(measured) = 539 \pm 35$, which yield a systematic uncertainty of 0.5% on the normalization factor.

- The cut on the $m_{\ell\ell}$ is increased to 35 GeV in the definition of region B and D. The total number of WZ events found in this case is: $N_A^{WZ}(measured) = 557. \pm 35$, which yield a ratio of 1.12 ± 0.07, or a difference of 3.7% with the nominal normalization factor.

- The normalization of the backgrounds taken from MC, which are subtracted, is varied by 20% up and down and the largest difference is taken as another systematic

uncertainty. It is found that the largest uncertainty is obtained by varying up the normalization of these backgrounds. In this case one find $N_A^{WZ}(measured) = 558 \pm 35$, which gives a ratio of 1.12 ± 0.07, or an uncertainty of 3.8% compared to the central prediction.

- Finally the R^{jet} factor is varied from $R^{jet} = 1.$ to the value measured in MC: $R^{jet} = 0.61 \pm 0.24$. The uncertainty on this factor is quite large due to the very low statistics available in MC in the isolated control regions. $N_A^{WZ}(measured) = 527. \pm 136.$, which gives a correction factor of 1.06 ± 0.23. This yield a systematic uncertainty of 2.4% on the normalization factor.

All these uncertainties are added in quadrature giving a total systematic uncertainty of 5.9% on the scale factor. The final correction factor on the normalization of the WZ background is therefore: $k_{WZ} = 1.08 \pm 0.07^{stat} \pm 0.07^{sys}$.

Validation In order to check the consistency of the scale factor determined above, the agreement between the data and the model is checked in a region passing the event pre-Selection cuts and containing exactly two SFOS lepton pairs. Figure 5.16 show the leading lepton p_T, the E_T^{miss}, the invariant mass distribution of the two leading lepton p_T, and the jet multiplicity in this region. Table 5.29 show the overall yields predicted by the model and observed on the data. The data agrees very well with the model in this region after using the k-factor presented above.
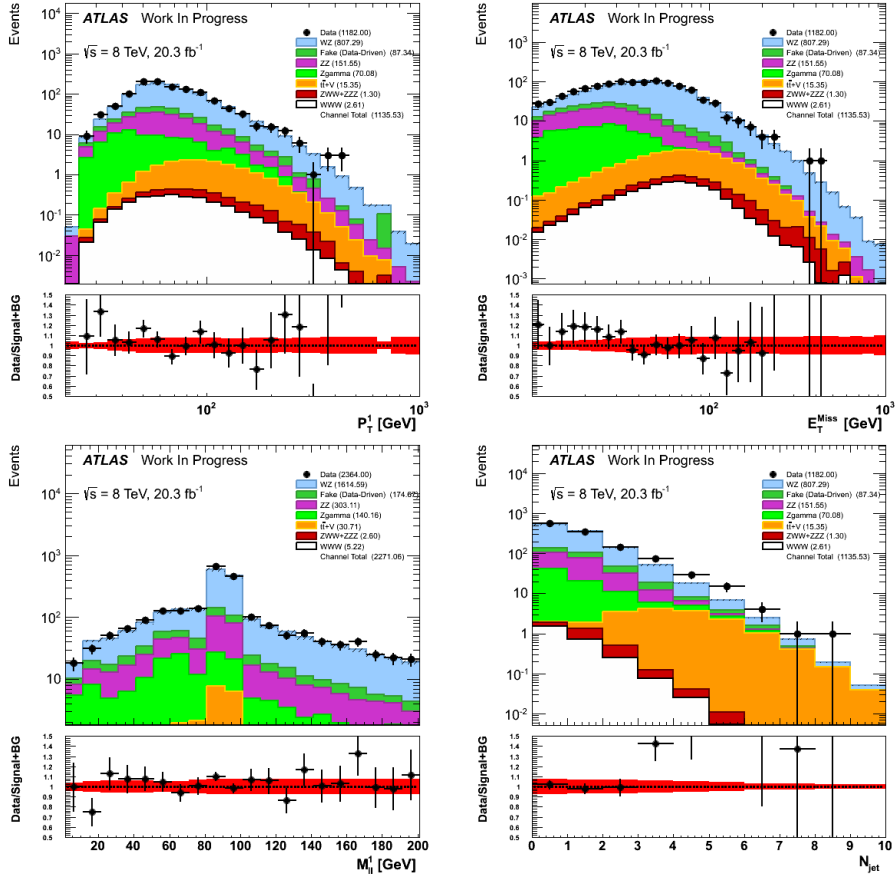
Figure 5.16: WZ 2SFOS Control regions. Distribution of leading lepton p_T, $E_{\mathrm{T}}^{\mathrm{miss}}$, m_{12}, and jet multiplicity. The systematic band shows the uncertainty on the WZ k-factor.

	eee	$ee\mu$	$e\mu\mu$	$\mu\mu\mu$
WZ	$240.28 \pm 0.67(\text{stat})\ \pm21(\text{syst})$	0.0 ± 0	0.0 ± 0	$567.0 \pm 1\ \pm50(\text{syst})$
ZZ	60.07 ± 0.13	0.0 ± 0	0.0 ± 0	91.48 ± 0.17
$Z\gamma$	69.9 ± 2.7	0.0 ± 0	0.0 ± 0	0.17 ± 0.12
$ZWW + ZZZ$	0.435 ± 0.019	0.0 ± 0	0.0 ± 0	0.864 ± 0.028
$t\bar{t} + V$	4.845 ± 0.044	0.0 ± 0	0.0 ± 0	10.509 ± 0.066
Fake (data-driven)	44.9 ± 2.2	0.0 ± 0	0.0 ± 0	42.4 ± 1.2
WWW	0.768 ± 0.011	0.0 ± 0	0.0 ± 0	1.843 ± 0.018
Expected Background	$420.4 \pm 3.5\ \pm21(\text{syst})$	0.0 ± 0	0.0 ± 0	$712.5 \pm 1.6\ \pm50(\text{syst})$
Expected Signal + Background	$421.2 \pm 3.5\ \pm21(\text{syst})$	0.0 ± 0	0.0 ± 0	$714.3 \pm 1.6\ \pm50(\text{syst})$
Observed Data	425 ± 21	0.0 ± 0	0.0 ± 0	757 ± 28

Table 5.29: Expected and observed event yields binned by lepton flavor combination for the following selection: event pre-selection + 2 SFOS. Only the systematic uncertainties on the WZ background due to the k-factor is given. The other uncertainties are only statistical.

5.3.4.2 ZZ

Another important process that participate to the 3 lepton final state, is due to the ZZ^* production, where one lepton goes out of the detector acceptance, or doen't pass the selection criteria. The ZZ^* backgrounds are modelled using the Powheg generator, and the $gg2ZZ$ generator for the loop induced processes. The normalization of the non-loop induced processes are scaled up to NNLO predictions using a kfactor which is 1.05, as defined in [35, 28, 29]. The total systematic uncertainty associated to the theoretical predictions in this final state is taken to be 15% [35, 28, 29].

The agreement between data and the model is then checked in a control region, where 2 same flavors opposite sign pairs leptons (e and μ) are requested. The leptons must follow the quality requirements defined in Section 5.2. The transverse momentum of the leptons should be: $p_T^1 > 25$ GeV, $p_T^2 > 15$ GeV, $p_T^3 > 15$ GeV, and $p_T^4 > 10$ GeV. The pairing of the leptons follows the algorithm defined in [27]. In order to remove any contribution from fake backgrounds, only the events where the two Z bosons are on shell are kept, *ie*: $60 < m_{12} < 120$ GeV and $60 < m_{34} < 120$ GeV. Figure 5.17, show the distributions of m_{12}, m_{34}, m_{4l}, and the leptons p_T for this selection, while Table 5.30 gives the total number of event measured in this CR and the prediction on the different processes in the same region.

The agreement between the data and the MC predictions is very good, for the shape or for the prediction of the total number of events in this control region.

It was also checked whether or not the contribution of ZZ^* where the Z^* boson is very offshell, $m_{Z^*} < 4$ GeV, while the other boson has a mass $m_Z > 4$ GeV has any impact on the signal regions. This was eveluted by looking at the samples with channel numbers 181471 through 181479 in Table 5.7. The contribution from these samples were found to be negligible, with a statistical uncertainty compatible with exaxtly 0 events in the individual signal regions. As a result, these samples were not considered any further and are not included in the final background estimate for the signal regions or in the ZZ

control regions.
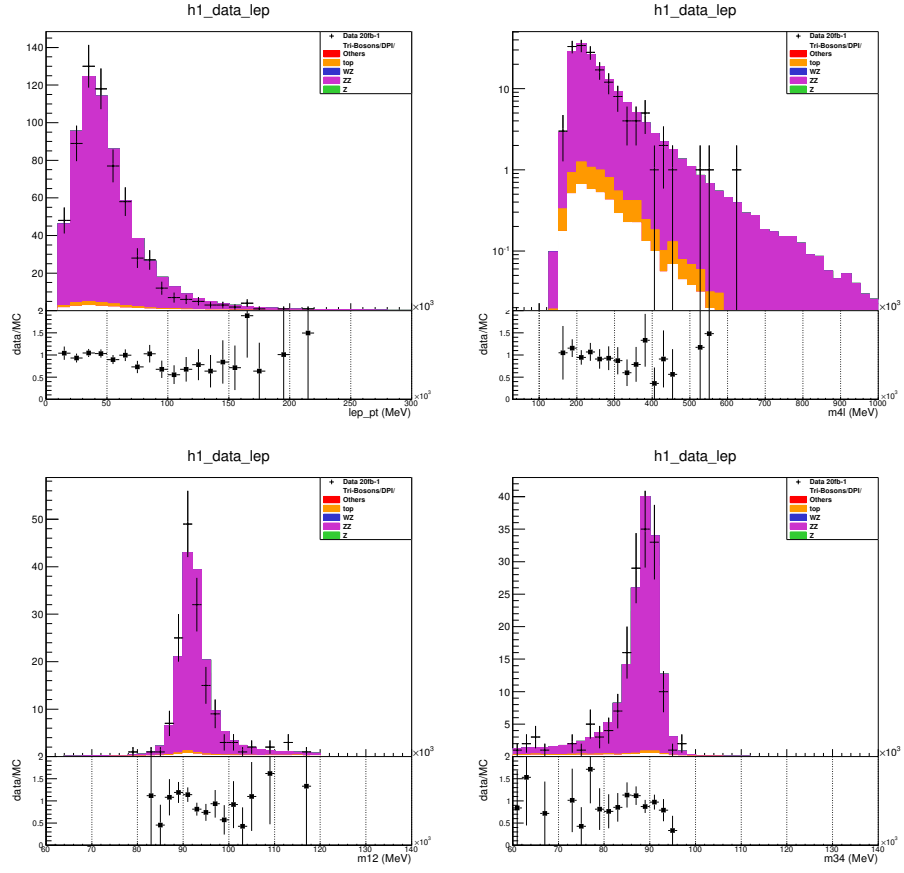
Figure 5.17: $ZZ \to 4\ell$ Control regions. Distribution of leptons p_T, m_{12}, m_{34}, m_{4l}.

	Event Yield
WZ	0.05 ± 0.01
ZZ	$156.2 \pm 0.3(\text{stat}) \pm 22.3(\text{syst})$
$Z\gamma$	0.0 ± 0.0
Fake (MC)	3.6 ± 0.2
triboson and $t\bar{t} + V$	4.1 ± 0.2
Expected Signal + Background	$164.0 \pm 0.3 \text{ (stat)} \pm 22.3(\text{syst})$
Observed Data	155 ± 12

Table 5.30: Number of data and predicted events in the ZZ CR. The error quoted on the MC samples represents only the statistical error on the MC samples. The systematic error due to theoretical normalization on the ZZ sample is also showed.

5.3.4.3 $Z\gamma$

The $Z\gamma$ process, where the Z boson decays to a pair of leptons (e and μ), is estimated from MC. This proces is obtained using the Sherpa generator. It was found that Sherpa describes accurately the shape and normalization of data in the 7 TeV and 8 TeV datasets [25, 24]. Therefore the normalization of these sample is taken to be the cross-section provided by the Sherpa generator. These processes are contributing to our selection, via the conversion of one photon into a pair of electrons, and then the loss of one of these electrons in the acceptance.

These effects are expected to be properly described by the simulation, but the agreement between the data and the model is checked in a control region where the events are requested to contains exactly two muons and one electron, and the tri-body invariant mass of this system, should be close to the Z-pole mass [51]: $|m_{\mu\mu e} - 91.19| < 15$ GeV.

Figure 5.18 shows the invariant mass distribution of the 3 leptons, the leptons p_T, the η distribution of the electron, and the jet multiplicity. The normalization in the CR is also checked and is provided in Table 5.31. All the distributions and the event yield show a very good agreement between the data and the model.

	Event Yield
WZ	7.47 ± 0.11
ZZ	9.116 ± 0.075
$Z\gamma$	80.3 ± 2.8
$ZWW + ZZZ$	0.0285 ± 0.0046
$t\bar{t} + V$	0.338 ± 0.012
Fake (data-driven)	21.9 ± 1.2
WWW	0.3142 ± 0.0072
Expected Background	119.2 ± 3.1
Expected Signal + Background	119.5 ± 3.1
Observed Data	119 ± 11

Table 5.31: Expected and observed event yields for the $Z\gamma$ control region. Only the statistical uncertainties are showed.

5.3.4.4   Double parton scattering, $t\bar{t} + V$, and VVV
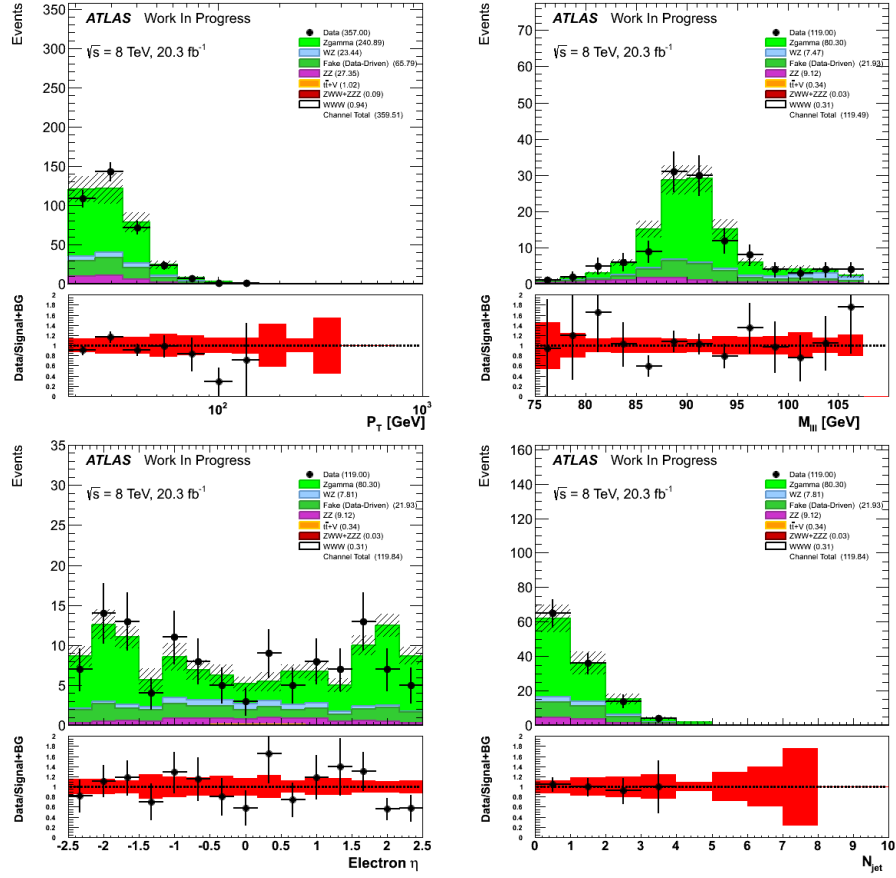
Figure 5.18: $Z\gamma$ Control region. Distribution of leptons p_T, invariant mass of the 3leptons, electron η, and jet multiplicity.

DPS Double parton scattering (DPS) backgrounds are also taken into account in the analysis. To estimate their contribution a list of samples used in the same sign WW analysis [26, 2] has been used. The cross section of these processes can not be taken directly from MC, but it must be further studied. Considering the DPS production of $A + B$, where A and B can be products of any single-parton, the cross section can can be factorised as [40]:

$$\sigma_{(A+B)}^{DPS} = \frac{m}{2} \times \frac{\sigma_A^S \times \sigma_B^S}{\sigma_{eff}} \tag{5.7}$$

Where $\sigma_{(A/B)}^S$ is the single-parton scattering production cross-section of the procss A/B, m is a factor which takes the value of 1 when $A = B$ and 2 when $A \neq B$, σ_{eff} is the effective cross section of the proton. A measurement of $\sigma_{eff} = 15 \pm 3(stat)_{-3}^{+5}(syst)$ mb for 7 TeV $p-p$ collisions has been recently performed by ATLAS [13]. By factorising the cross-section in this form, the correlation between the two parton interactions are neglected.

The samples and cross section that have been used in this analysis are given in Table 5.8. An uncertainty of 50% is applied on the normalization of these processes. Among these processes the one that can give a trilepton final state are: WZ, ZZ, and $Z\gamma$.

Their contributions are found to be negligible.

Other backgrounds The other backgrounds evaluated from MC are the one containing three real leptons: $t\bar{t}+V$, WWZ, and WZZ. The PDF and scale uncertainties for the $t\bar{t}+V$ processes have been evaluated by other member of the ATLAS collaboration [6], and found to be about 30% of their normalization. These processes have been recently measured by the ATLAS collaboration [8], and their normalization are found to be consistent with the NLO predictions.

An equivalent 30% uncertainty is assigned for the other VVV contributions (ZWW^* and ZZZ^*) that are not coming from our signal.

5.4 Event Yield in event Pre-selection and Signal Regions

The background estimation described in Section **??** and the data are passed through the three-lepton selections described in Section 5.3.

5.4.1 Event Pre-selection

The three lepton event pre-selection region is used as a starting point for all three signal regions and follows the selection described in Section 5.3.1. Kinematic distributions in this region are shown in Figure 5.19 while the yields are shown binned by the lepton flavor combinations in Table 5.33. The yields in the individual signal channels just after pre-selection are shown in Figure 5.20 with systematic uncertainties. In general, good agreement is observed.

	eee	$ee\mu$	$e\mu\mu$	$\mu\mu\mu$
WZ	240.85 ± 0.67	339.17 ± 0.82	422.07 ± 0.87	567.0 ± 1
ZZ	60.21 ± 0.13	54.1 ± 0.2	118.60 ± 0.31	91.48 ± 0.17
$Z\gamma$	70.1 ± 2.7	0.47 ± 0.22	149.4 ± 3.9	0.17 ± 0.12
$ZWW + ZZZ$	0.436 ± 0.019	0.834 ± 0.027	1.00 ± 0.03	0.864 ± 0.028
$t\bar{t} + V$	4.854 ± 0.044	9.549 ± 0.064	12.047 ± 0.072	10.510 ± 0.066
Fake (data-driven)	45.1 ± 2.2	37.8 ± 1.6	112.7 ± 2.8	42.5 ± 1.2
WWW	0.770 ± 0.011	3.023 ± 0.023	3.970 ± 0.026	1.843 ± 0.018
Expected Background	421.6 ± 3.5	441.9 ± 1.8	815.8 ± 4.9	712.5 ± 1.6
Expected Signal + Background	422.4 ± 3.5	444.9 ± 1.8	819.8 ± 4.9	714.4 ± 1.6
Observed Data	426 ± 21	468 ± 22	821 ± 29	757 ± 28

Table 5.32: Expected and observed event yields binned by lepton flavor combination at event pre-selection. Only statistical uncertainties are shown.
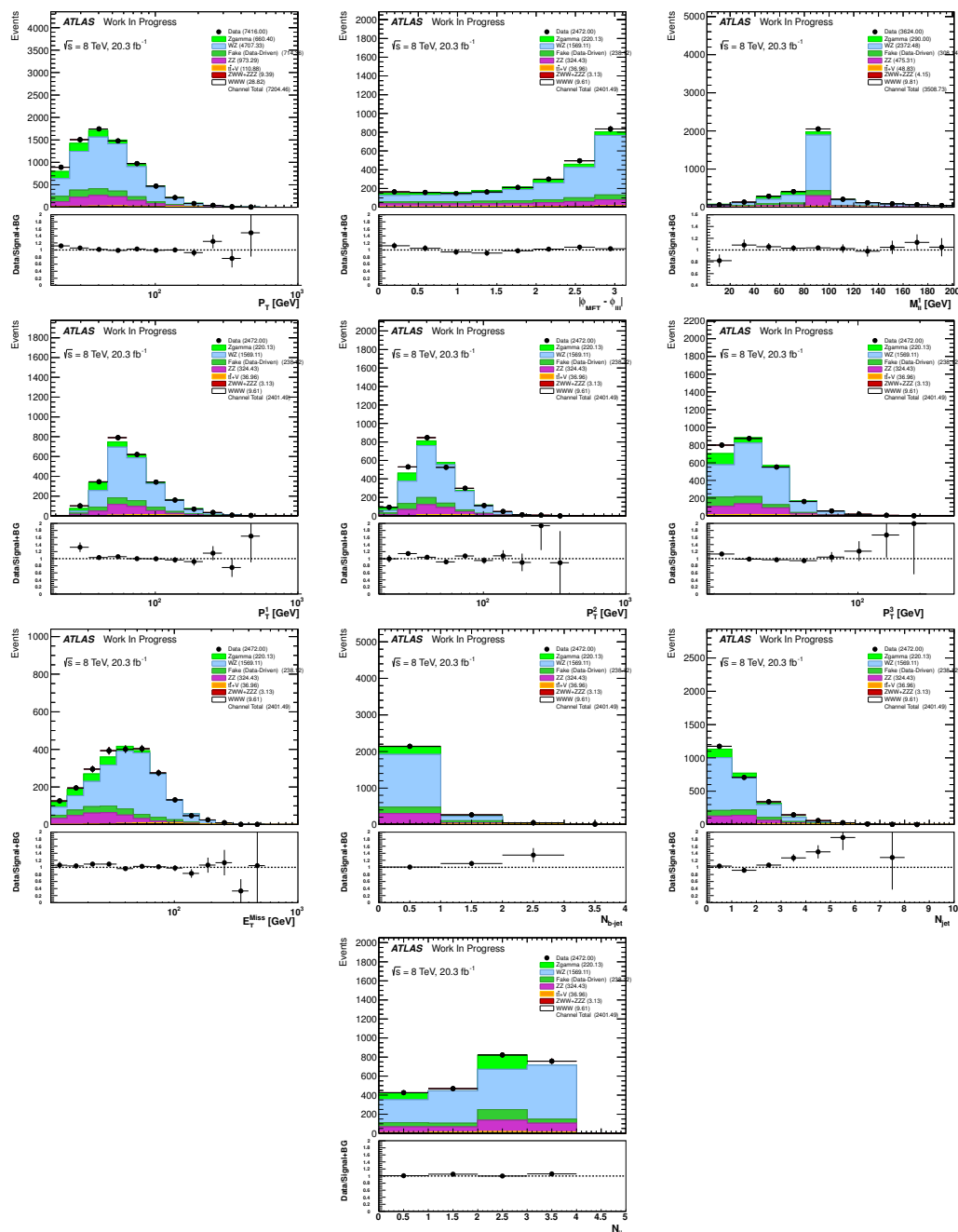
Figure 5.19: Distributions showing the observed data compared to the background estimate at event pre-selection.
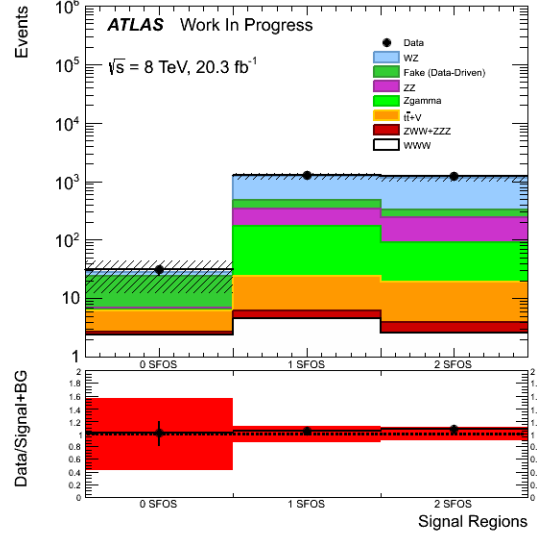
Figure 5.20: Yields at event pre-selection in the 0, 1 and 2 SFOS regions. The most important systematic uncertainties (discussed in section ??) are shown, namely from the fake estimates and the uncertainties on the WZ and ZZ k-factors.

	eee	$ee\mu$	$e\mu\mu$	$\mu\mu\mu$
WZ	240.85 ± 0.67	339.17 ± 0.82	422.07 ± 0.87	567.0 ± 1
ZZ	60.21 ± 0.13	54.1 ± 0.2	118.60 ± 0.31	91.48 ± 0.17
$Z\gamma$	70.1 ± 2.7	0.47 ± 0.22	149.4 ± 3.9	0.17 ± 0.12
$ZWW + ZZZ$	0.436 ± 0.019	0.834 ± 0.027	1.00 ± 0.03	0.864 ± 0.028
$t\bar{t} + V$	4.854 ± 0.044	9.549 ± 0.064	12.047 ± 0.072	10.510 ± 0.066
Fake (data-driven)	45.1 ± 2.2	37.8 ± 1.6	112.7 ± 2.8	42.5 ± 1.2
WWW	0.770 ± 0.011	3.023 ± 0.023	3.970 ± 0.026	1.843 ± 0.018
Expected Background	421.6 ± 3.5	441.9 ± 1.8	815.8 ± 4.9	712.5 ± 1.6
Expected Signal + Background	422.4 ± 3.5	444.9 ± 1.8	819.8 ± 4.9	714.4 ± 1.6
Observed Data	426 ± 21	468 ± 22	821 ± 29	757 ± 28

Table 5.33: Expected and observed event yields binned by lepton flavor combination at event pre-selection. Only statistical uncertainties are shown.

5.4.2 Signal Regions

The selection used in the final signal regions is determined as described in Section 5.3.2 and is summarized in Table 5.12. Kinematic distributions are shown for the distribution that is cut on just before the cut is applied for each stage of the selection in Figures 5.21, 5.22, and 5.23 for the 0, 1, and 2 SFOS regions, respectively. A more detailed set of kinematic distributions at each stage of the selection is shown in appendix **??**. Cutflows showing the weighted cutflows at each stage of the signal selection are shown for the 0, 1, and 2 SFOS regions in Tables 5.34, 5.35, 5.36. Unweighted cutflows are shown in appendix **??**.

5.4.2.1 0 SFOS Signal Region

The cutflows for the selection in the 0 SFOS region are shown in Table 5.34 while the distributions at each stage of the selection are shown in Figure 5.21. This is the most sensitive channel with an expected signal to background ratio of 56%. The data is observed to agree with the expectation within statstical uncertainties. The background is ultimately dominated by fake background contributions, which themselves have a large systematic uncertainty that is similar in size to the statistical uncertainty. This is described in more detail in section **??**. The poisson probability of observing 5 events with 3.67 events expected from the signal plus background prediction is 14.1%.

| | Signal | | Background | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | WZ | | ZZ | | $t\bar{t}+V$ | | $ZZZ+ZWW$ | | $Z\gamma$ | | Fake | | |
	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yie
1. Pre-selection	9.61	—	1566.91	—	323.60	—	36.93	—	3.12	—	219.80	—	238.12	—	24
2. 0 SFOS	2.27	0.24	2.84	0.002	0.50	0.002	0.26	0.01	0.25	0.08	0.20	0.001	17.31	0.07	3
3. Charge Sum $=\pm1$	2.26	1.00	1.92	0.68	0.33	0.65	0.26	0.99	0.25	1.00	0.00	0.00	16.79	0.97	2
4. $N_{\text{b}-\text{jet}}=0$	2.25	0.99	1.91	0.99	0.33	0.99	0.25	0.98	0.25	0.99	0.00	0.00	5.85	0.35	1
5. $m_{SF}>20$ GeV	2.21	0.98	1.88	0.98	0.32	0.98	0.25	0.98	0.24	0.98	0.00	0.00	5.63	0.96	1
6. $|m_{ee}-m_Z|>15$ GeV	2.02	0.91	1.27	0.68	0.21	0.66	0.22	0.90	0.22	0.90	0.00	0.00	5.17	0.92	9
7. $|\Delta\phi(3l,E_T^{Miss})|>2.5$	1.39	0.69	0.65	0.51	0.07	0.34	0.09	0.38	0.13	0.59	0.00	0.00	2.17	0.42	6
8. $N_{\text{Jet}}\leq1$	1.32	0.95	0.62	0.95	0.07	0.91	0.04	0.45	0.11	0.86	0.00	0.00	1.51	0.70	5

Table 5.34: Cutflows showing the event yields and efficiencies for each cut in the 0 SFOS signal region starting from event pre-selection and binned by category. Event yields for MC backgrounds and signal include all weights and are normalized to an integrated luminosity of 20.3 fb^{-1}. The fake lepton background only includes the matrix method weights. The data is unweighted. Efficiencies show the ratio of the yield with respect to the previous cut. The efficiency is first calculated at the first cut after event pre-selection.

Figure 5.21: Distributions showing data compared to the signal plus background estimate in the 0 SFOS region at each stage of the selection before the cuts are applied to the given distribution. Plots should be read sequentially from left to right and from top to bottom. Referring to Table 5.34, the top left plot is shown before cut #4 is applied, top middle is before cut #5, and so on until the bottom right which is after all cuts are applied.

5.4.2.2 1 SFOS Signal Region

The cutflows for the selection in the 1 SFOS region are shown in Table 5.35 while the distributions at each stage of the selection are shown in Figure 5.22. This region is not as sensitive as the 0 SFOS region with a signal to background ratio of about 9.2%. The background is overwhelmingly dominated by WZ contributions. The observed data is slightly discrepant from the overall prediction, but is about 1 sigma if considering systematics, as demonstrated later in Table ??. The difference is observed to come almost entirely from the $ee\mu$ region, while the $e\mu\mu$ region shows good agreement, as can be seen in the bottom right of Figure 5.22. From Figure 5.22 we can also see that the agreement is quite good at each stage of the selection until the cut on the jet multiplicity (bottom middle of Figure 5.22) where the 0 and 1 jet bins are kept but the 1 jet bin is discrepant. This suggests that the discrepancy comes from this cut. This was investigated further for the different lepton flavor combinations in appendix ??. The efficiencies for the predictions are very similar for the jet multiplicity cut between the two lepton flavor bins. However, there is a smaller efficiency observed in the data in the $ee\mu$ bin. This suggests that the difference is most likely due to a statistical fluctuation. The poisson probability of observing 13 events with 16.14 events expected from the signal plus background prediction is 7.9%.

	Signal		WZ		ZZ		$t\bar{t}+V$		$ZZZ+ZWW$		$Z\gamma$		Fake		Da
	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield
1. Pre-selection	9.61	—	1566.91	—	323.60	—	36.93	—	3.12	—	219.80	—	238.12	—	2472
2. 1 SFOS	4.59	0.48	757.38	0.48	171.39	0.53	18.10	0.49	1.55	0.50	149.60	0.68	133.47	0.56	1260
3. $N_{\text{b}-\text{jet}}=0$	4.34	0.94	696.90	0.92	150.14	0.88	1.42	0.08	1.31	0.84	136.96	0.92	99.93	0.75	1095
4. NOT m_Z-35 GeV $< m_{\text{SFOS}} < m_Z+20$ GeV	2.71	0.63	44.30	0.06	13.79	0.09	0.37	0.26	0.34	0.26	22.44	0.16	16.72	0.17	93
5. $E_T^{Miss} > 45$ GeV	1.88	0.69	21.38	0.48	1.46	0.11	0.29	0.78	0.24	0.71	1.36	0.06	5.10	0.31	27
6. $|\Delta\phi(3l, E_T^{Miss})| > 2.5$	1.45	0.77	13.07	0.61	0.71	0.49	0.11	0.39	0.17	0.69	0.20	0.15	2.47	0.48	16
7. $N_{\text{Jet}} \leq 1$	1.37	0.94	11.90	0.91	0.58	0.82	0.05	0.45	0.14	0.84	0.20	1.00	1.90	0.77	13

Table 5.35: Cutflows showing the event yields and efficiencies for each cut in the 1 SFOS signal region starting from event pre-selection and binned by category. Event yields for MC backgrounds and signal include all weights and are normalized to an integrated luminosity of 20.3 fb^{-1}. The fake lepton background only includes the matrix method weights. The data is unweighted. Efficiencies show the ratio of the yield with respect to the previous cut. The efficiency is first calculated at the first cut after event pre-selection.
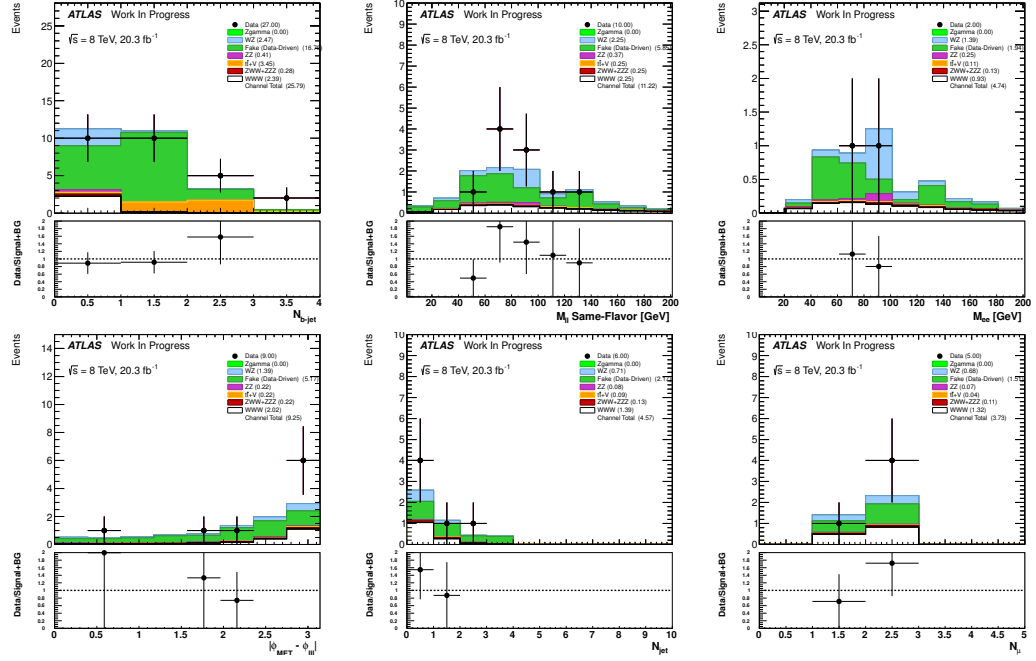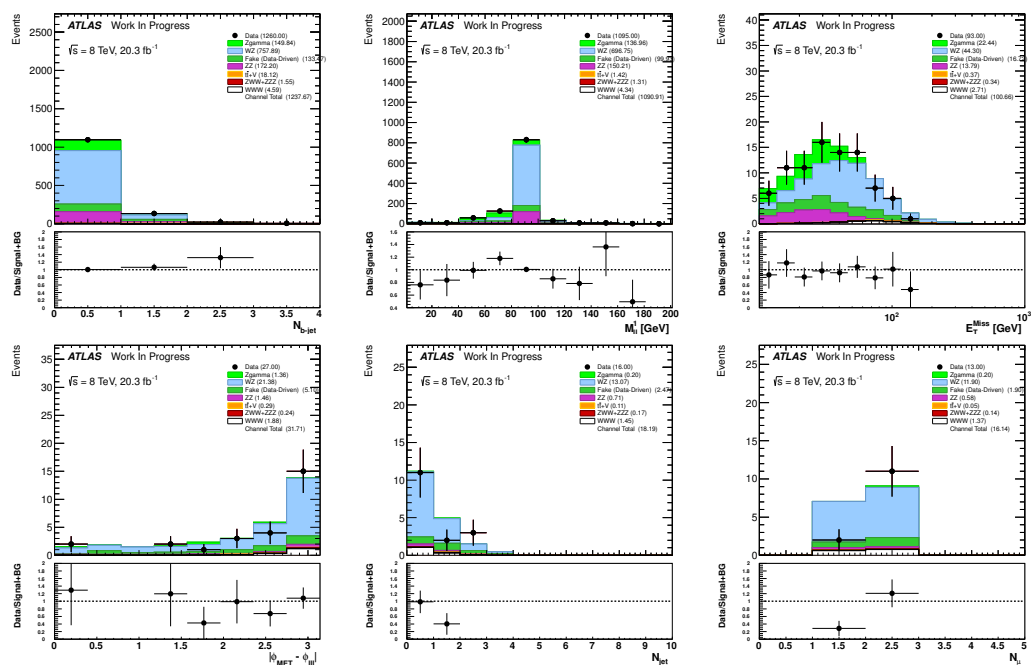
Figure 5.22: Distributions showing data compared to the signal plus background estimate in the 1 SFOS region at each stage of the selection before the cuts are applied to the given distribution. Plots should be read sequentially from left to right and from top to bottom. Referring to Table 5.35, the top left plot is shown before cut #3 is applied, top middle is before cut #4, and so on until the bottom right which is after all cuts are applied.

5.4.2.3   2 SFOS Signal Region

The cutflows for the selection in the 2 SFOS region are shown in Table 5.36 while the distributions at each stage of the selection are shown in Figure 5.23. Even though, the expected background is lower in this region than in the 1 SFOS region, this is the least sensitive signal region due to a similar signal efficiency in this region as compared to the 1 SFOS region. The signal to background ratio is 5.8% with the dominant background being due to WZ, similar to the 1 SFOS region. There is a fairly large discrepancy observed between the total prediction and the data in this region that is (possibly) about 2-3 sigma if considering systematic uncertainties reported in Table **??**. The discrepancy is similar for both the *eee* and *μμμ* lepton flavor combinations as can be seen in the bottom right of Figure 5.23. If we examine the other distributions of Figure 5.23 we see that the discrepancy begins to appear at the cut on $E_T^{Miss} > 55$ GeV. The E_T^{Miss} distribution is shown in the top right of Figure 5.23 before the cut is applied. Here we can see that the prediction shows reasonably good agreement with the data, with only 2 bins showing a discrepancy larger than 1 sigma from the statistical uncertainty. However, after the cut on E_T^{Miss}, one of these discrepant bins ends up being the highest contribution to the overall estimate, thus enhancing the disagreement. This suggests that the disagreement may just be due to a statitical fluctuation. The poisson probability of observing 6 events with 10.86 events expected from the signal plus background prediction is 5.7%.

5.4.2.4   Signal Efficiency

The signal efficiency, ε_i, is defined for each channel, i, as the ratio of the number of expected signal events measured at the reconstruction level, N_i^{Signal}, over the fiducial cross-section, $\sigma_i^{\text{Fiducial}}$, times the integrated luminosity:

$$\varepsilon_i = \frac{N_i^{\text{Signal}}}{\sigma_i^{\text{Fiducial}} \cdot \int \mathscr{L} \ \mathrm{d}t} \tag{5.8}$$

	Signal		WZ		ZZ		$t\bar{t}+V$		$ZZZ+ZWW$		$Z\gamma$		Fake		
								Background							
	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yield	Eff.	Yie
1. Pre-selection	9.61	—	1566.91	—	323.60	—	36.93	—	3.12	—	219.80	—	238.12	—	247
2. 2 SFOS	2.61	0.27	807.27	0.52	151.28	0.47	15.35	0.42	1.30	0.41	69.99	0.32	87.34	0.37	118
3. $N_{\mathrm{b-jet}}=0$	2.46	0.94	743.12	0.92	136.16	0.90	1.19	0.08	1.10	0.85	64.70	0.92	65.80	0.75	103
4. $|m_{\mathrm{SFOS}}-m_Z|>20$ GeV	1.43	0.58	44.95	0.06	21.13	0.16	0.22	0.18	0.19	0.17	29.52	0.46	12.87	0.20	10
5. $E_T^{Miss}>55$ GeV	0.82	0.57	15.86	0.35	0.97	0.05	0.14	0.65	0.12	0.63	0.43	0.01	1.47	0.11	18
6. $|\Delta\phi(3l,E_T^{Miss})|>2.5$	0.64	0.78	10.09	0.64	0.55	0.57	0.07	0.49	0.10	0.82	0.11	0.25	0.72	0.49	8
7. $N_{\mathrm{Jet}}\leq 1$	0.60	0.94	9.07	0.90	0.48	0.86	0.02	0.35	0.08	0.82	0.11	1.00	0.49	0.69	6

Table 5.36: Cutflows showing the event yields and efficiencies for each cut in the 2 SFOS signal region starting from event pre-selection and binned by category. Event yields for MC backgrounds and signal include all weights and are normalized to an integrated luminosity of 20.3 fb^{-1}. The fake lepton background only includes the matrix method weights. The data is unweighted. Efficiencies show the ratio of the yield with respect to the previous cut. The efficiency is first calculated at the first cut after event pre-selection.
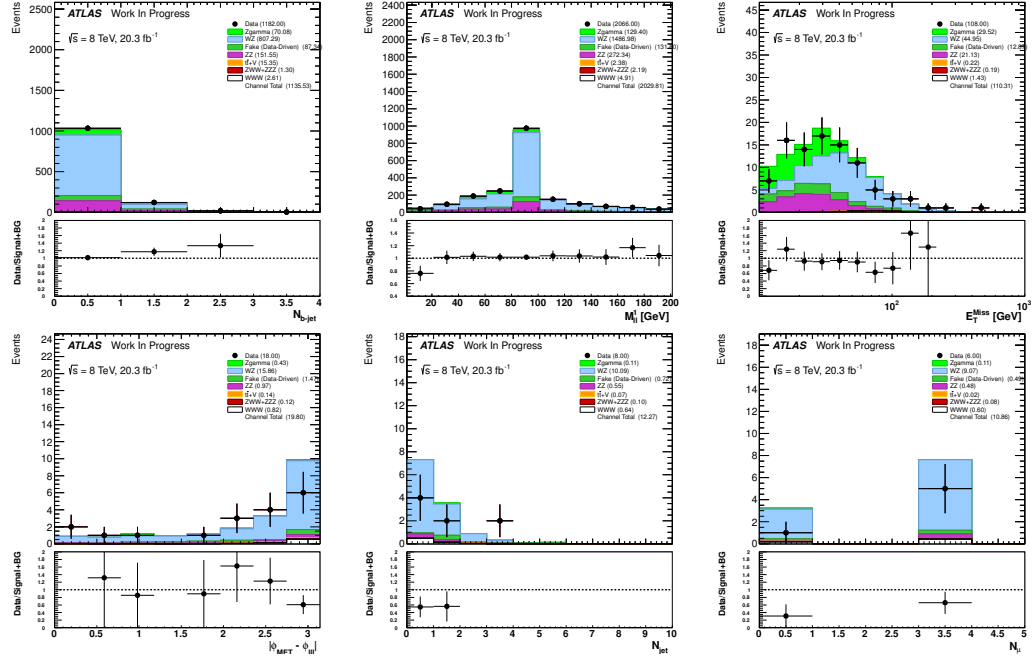
Figure 5.23: Distributions showing data compared to the signal plus background estimate in the 2 SFOS region at each stage of the selection before the cuts are applied to the given distribution. Plots should be read sequentially from left to right and from top to bottom. Referring to Table 5.36, the top left plot is shown before cut #3 is applied, the top middle is before cut #4, and so on until the bottom right which is after all cuts are applied.

Recall that the fiducial cross-sections are presented in Section 5.3.2.3. Further, the fiducial cross-section definition does not include the branching fraction from $W \to \tau\nu$ decays. We observe by looking at truth information that about 20% of signal events reconstructed

at truth level contain at least one $W \to \tau\nu$ decay. Thus, the signal efficiency definition includes this level of contamination from these events even though they do not belong explicitly to our signal definition. Using the reconstructed signal yields listed above and the fiducial cross-sections generated using MadGraph from Table 5.15, we arrive at the signal efficiencies listed in Table 5.37.

Channel	Signal Efficiency
0 SFOS	$0.567 \pm .022$
1 SFOS	$0.533 \pm .019$
2 SFOS	$0.589 \pm .033$

Table 5.37: Signal efficiencies derived separately for each signal region. Only statistical uncertainties are shown.

5.5 Statistical Interpretation and Measurement

5.5.1 Introduction

In this analysis we seek to measure the fiducial cross-section, σ^{Observed}, for the WWW production process in the fully-leptonic channel (e,μ). The observed cross-section is parameterized by looking at the signal strength, μ, which is related to the expected fiducial cross-sections from section 5.3.2.3 by the relation:

$$\sigma^{\text{Observed}} = \mu \sum_{i \in \text{Channels}} \sigma_i^{\text{Fiducial}} \tag{5.9}$$

Assuming a counting experiment in each bin i, the expectated event count is given by:

$$N_i^{\text{exp}}(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = N_i^{\text{exp}}(\mu, \mathcal{L}_0, \Delta_{\mathcal{L}}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_s, \boldsymbol{\theta}_b) = \mu \cdot \left(\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{L}_0, \Delta_{\mathcal{L}}) \cdot \sigma_i^{\text{Fiducial}} \cdot \varepsilon_i(\boldsymbol{\theta}_s) \right) + \sum_{\text{bkg}} N_i^{\text{bkg}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_b) \tag{5.10}$$

where ε_i is the efficiency measured in each bin as discussed in section 5.4.2.4 and $\sigma_i^{\text{Fiducial}}$ is the fiducial cross-section in each bin discussed in section 5.3.2.3. The individual background expectations in a given bin/channel, i, are expressed simply by the number of events for

a given background as N_i^{bkg}. The signal efficiencies and background expecatations are assumed to follow probability distributions described by shape parameters determined from dedicated measurements of the background normalizations and systematic uncertainties. The set of signal efficiency shape parameters are referred to as $\boldsymbol{\theta}_s$ while the set of normalization and shape parameters on the background expectations are referred to as $\boldsymbol{\theta}_b$. The integrated luminosity, $\mathcal{L}$, is assumed to follow a Gaussian distribuion with nominal integrated luminosity, $\mathcal{L}_0$, and width, $\Delta_{\mathcal{L}}$. Collectively, we refer to all of these parameters, except for μ as the set of nuisance parameters, $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\mathcal{L}_0, \Delta_{\mathcal{L}}, \boldsymbol{\theta}_s, \boldsymbol{\theta}_b)$.

The discovery significance is tested using frequentist statistics to estimate the degree of compatibility with the background only hypothesis [36]. The measurement and uncertainty are evaluated by using the shape of the profile likelihood ratio [51] which is a function of the data and the signal strength.

5.5.2 Profile Likelihood Ratio

The likelihood used is constructed as follows:

$$L(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathrm{Gaus}(\mathcal{L}_0|\mathcal{L}, \Delta_{\mathcal{L}}) \prod_{i \in \mathrm{Chan}} \mathrm{Pois}(N_i^{obs}|N_i^{exp}(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta})) \prod_{j \in \mathrm{Sys}} \mathrm{Gaus}(\theta_j^0|\theta_j, 1) \qquad (5.11)$$

using the HistFactory tool developed within ATLAS [37]. Note that the systematic uncertainties are given Gaussian constraints with $\pm 1\sigma$ uncertainties.

The basic form of the test statistic used for comparing hypotheses is called the profile likelihood ratio, $\lambda(\mu)$ and is defined as:

$$-2\ln\lambda(\mu) = -2\ln\frac{L(\mu, \hat{\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}}(\mu))}{L(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}})} \qquad (5.12)$$

Note that it no longer depends on the nuisance parameters, $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, and instead depends only on μ. The negative of twice the logarithm of the profile likelihood ratio is used because the logarithm is monotonic and typically easier to work with. The presence of the nuiscance

paramaters are handled in the profiling step when constructing the profile likelihood ratio, which results in a smearing of the profile likelihood ratio contour. During profiling, the systematic uncertainties are interpolated using a piecewise linear function for shape uncertainties and a piecewise exponential function for the normalization uncertainties in order to maintain a normaliztion that is greater than zero. The denominator is the unconditional maximumum likelihood (ML) evaluated at the ML estimators $\hat{\mu}$ and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$. This quantity is a unique constant when specified for a given likelihood and set of nuisance parameters. Meanwhile, the numerator is the conditional ML which depends on μ and evaluated at the conditional ML estimator for the set of nuisance parameters, $\hat{\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}}$, which itself depends on μ. Clearly, the profile likelihood ratio runs from $0 < \lambda(\mu) < 1$ with values close to 0 showing more agreement with the background only hypothesis and values closer to 1 showing more agreement with the signal hypothesis, μ. When taking the negative log likelihood, the range is mapped to the entire positive axis and inverted. This means that values close to 0 are more background-like and larger values are more-signal like.

The minimum of the negative log of the profile likelihood is taken as the measurement of the signal strength, while the uncertainty on the measurement is taken from the shape of the negative log profile likelihood assuming the behavior in the asymptotic limit can be used. The asymptotic behavior of the profile likelihood is used to evalute the final confidence interval.

5.5.3 Testing for Discovery Significance

The rejection of the background-only hypothesis ($\mu = 0$) is used to estimate the significance of a possible observation of the signal. For the purposes of this test, the following test statistic is used:

$$
q_0 = \begin{cases} -2\ln\lambda(0), & \hat{\mu} \geq 0 \\ 0, & \hat{\mu} < 0 \end{cases} \tag{5.13}
$$

The test statistic is set to 0 when $\hat{\mu} < 0$ to enforce the notion that an observation which is less than the background expectation should not be treated as signal like. The p-value in this case tells us the degree of incompatibility with the background only hypothesis and is defined as:

$$p_0 = \int_{q_{0,\text{obs}}}^{\infty} f(q_0|\mu = 0)\,dq_0 \tag{5.14}$$

where $q_{0,\text{obs}}$ is the observed value of q_0 and $f(q_0|\mu = 0)$ is the probability density of the test statistic q_0 under the background only hypothesis which is evaluated using toy MC. By examining the p-value one can say what the probability is that the deviation away from the background only hypothesis is due to chance. A small probability suggests that such a fluctuation is unlikely. Frequently one refers to the significance:

$$Z = \Phi^{-1}(1 - p_0) \tag{5.15}$$

where Φ^{-1} is the inverse of the Gaussian cumulative distribution function. In this way, one may refer to $Z\sigma$ significance of a measurement where usually 3σ is considered to constitute 'evidence' while 5σ constitues discovery.

The distribution of q_0 is shown in Fig. 5.24 for the combination. The observed null p-value is found to be 0.27 for the combination which corresponds to a significance of 0.63σ. One may compare to this to an expected p-value of 0.26 corresponding to a significance of 0.65σ.

5.5.4 Measurement and Uncertainty using Profile Likelihood Interval

The measured value of the signal strength is determined by looking at the minimum of the negative log profile likelihood for each channel separately and also for the combination of all channels. The size of the uncertainty on the measurement is taken by looking at the shape of the negative log profile likelihood contour which in general should follow a parabolic shape centered about the minimum in the asymptotic limit. In this limit, Wilk's theorem [56] can be used [51] to determine that the range of the uncertainty for a given
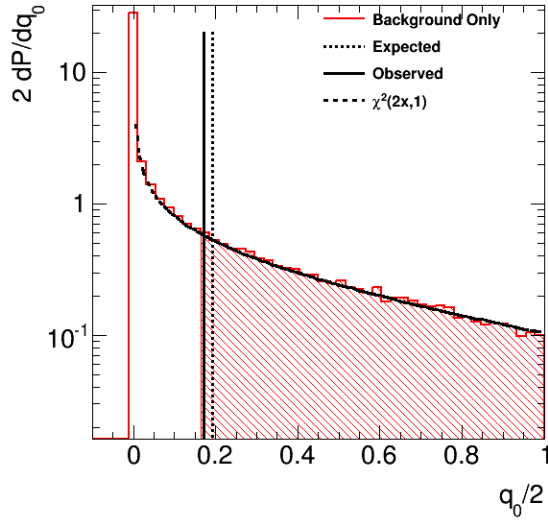
Figure 5.24: PDF of the background only hypothesis as a function of q_0 for the combination of all three channels. PDFs are determined using toy MC. The solid black line represents the observed value of q_0 seen in the data. The shaded area above this line represents the null p-value or the integral of the background hypothesis in the signal-like region. The dotted black curve shows a χ^2 distribution for 1 degree of freedom with which it can be seen is a good approximation of the the background only PDF.

number of Gaussian σ can be related directly to the negative profile log likelihood. In particular, for a 1σ uncertainty, where %68.3 of experiments will fall, one expects that $|-\ln\lambda(\mu)| \leq 1/2$. Note that even if the contour is not distributed symmetrically about the minimum value, invariance of the likelihood under transformations like $g(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}})$ where g is some function, means the same conclusion still holds. The value of μ is not forced to be only positive and is left unrestricted.

The profile likelihood contour is evaluated once without systematic uncertainties included as nuisance parameters in order to estimate the size of the measurement uncertainty purely from statistical effects and then a second time with the systematic uncertainties included as nuisance parameters whose errors are constrained to be Gaussian and then profiled out. The contour with systematic uncertainties included represent the total uncertainty and the systematic uncertainty is determined by assuming that the total uncertainty is formed from the statistical and systematic uncertainties being added in quadrature. The

negative log likelihood contour is for the combination of all three channels in Fig. 5.25. The expected value and uncertainties for the fiducial cross-section is:

$$\sigma^{\text{Expected}} = 291.5^{+416}_{-322}(\text{stat})^{+303}_{-328}(\text{sys})\text{ab} \tag{5.16}$$

while the observed fiducial cross-section is:

$$\sigma^{\text{Observed:}} = 302.2^{+333}_{-320}(\text{stat})^{+313}_{-333}(\text{sys})\text{ab} \tag{5.17}$$
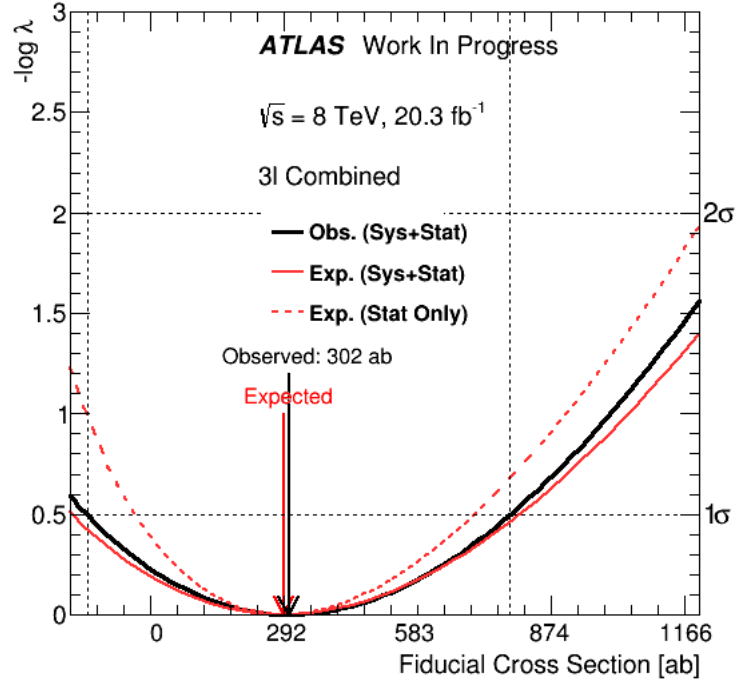
Figure 5.25: The profile likelihood contours evaluated as a function of the signal strength for the combination of all three channels. The observed (black) and expected (red) contours are shown when considering only statistical unceratinty (dashed line) and when considering both statistical and systematic uncertainties (solid line). The dotted black lines pinpoint the location of the 1 σ and 2 σ total Gaussian uncertainties on the measurement of the signal strength which corresponds to the minimum value of the contour.

Chapter 6

Results

Chapter 7

Conclusions

List of Journal Abbreviations

Nucl. Phys. B Nuclear Physics B: Particle physics, field theory and statistical systems, physical mathematics

Bibliography

[1] aqgc common twiki.

[2] Dps cross section and method.

[3] Egamma common twiki.

[4] Mc truth classifier.

[5] MCP Analysis Guidelines for data analysis using 2012 dataset.

[6] ttv common twiki.

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