



## ATLAS PUB Note Draft

HIGG-2019-19

Version 1.0

---

**Comments are due by: 14 October 2019**

---

### **Study of $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$ and $t\bar{t}W$ background modelling for $t\bar{t}H$ analyses**

This note presents Monte Carlo generator comparisons of the  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  and  $t\bar{t}W$  processes at particle level. The aim is to compare the modelling of some important backgrounds to  $t\bar{t}H$  measurements in the Higgs to  $b\bar{b}$  and Higgs to multi-lepton decay channels and the treatment of the associated theory uncertainties for a full Run-2 ATLAS+CMS combination. As a first step, pre-fit modelling and theory uncertainties as used in the experiments are compared in the relevant analysis regions.

---

### **Analysis Team**

Paul Glaysher, Kirill Grevtsov, Judith Katzy

---

### **Readers**

Klaus Moenig, Stephane Willocq

---



# ATLAS PUB Note

HIGG-2019-19

17th October 2019



Draft version 1.0

1

2

3

## Study of $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$ and $t\bar{t}W$ background modelling for $t\bar{t}H$ analyses

4

The ATLAS Collaboration

5

6

7

8

9

10

This note presents Monte Carlo generator comparisons of the  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  and  $t\bar{t}W$  processes at particle level. The aim is to compare the modelling of some important backgrounds to  $t\bar{t}H$  measurements in the Higgs to  $b\bar{b}$  and Higgs to multi-lepton decay channels and the treatment of the associated theory uncertainties for a full Run-2 ATLAS+CMS combination. As a first step, pre-fit modelling and theory uncertainties as used in the experiments are compared in the relevant analysis regions.

## 13 Contents

14	<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
15	<b>2 ttbb</b>	<b>4</b>
16	2.1 Samples	4
17	2.2 Fiducial Volume	5
18	2.3 Results	5
19	<b>3 <math>t\bar{t}W</math> process</b>	<b>14</b>
20	3.1 Samples	14
21	3.2 Fiducial Volume	14
22	3.3 Results	15

## 1 Introduction

The search for Higgs boson production in association with a top quark pair ( $t\bar{t}H$ ) in the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  [1] and  $H \rightarrow \text{multi-lepton}$  [2] analyses is limited by the modelling uncertainties of the main backgrounds,  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  and  $t\bar{t}W$  respectively. Examples of tree-level diagrams of said processes are shown in Figure 1. A comparison of available Monte Carlo generators is thus performed to study modelling differences. Comparisons of observables are made at particle level, in a phase space similar to the reference measurements. Differences in the object and event selection were made to the recently published  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  and  $H \rightarrow \text{multi-lepton}$  analyses, in order to define a common selection with the CMS Collaboration, to later compare these distributions between the two experiments. The goal is to decide on a common strategy between ATLAS and CMS for background modelling uncertainties in the  $t\bar{t}H(b\bar{b})$  and  $t\bar{t}H(\text{multi-lepton})$  analyses.

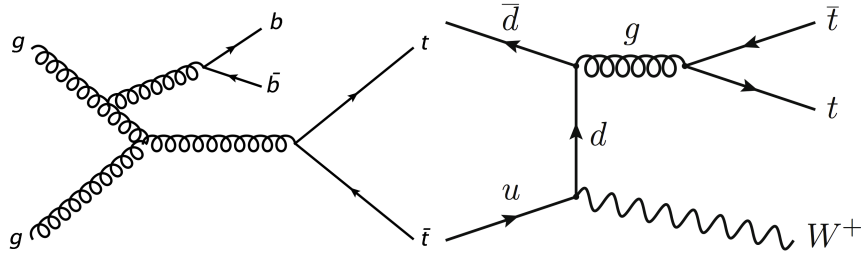


Figure 1: Examples of tree-level Feynman diagrams for  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  (left) and  $t\bar{t}W$  (right).

## 2 ttbb

### 2.1 Samples

Four Monte Carlo (MC) generators are compared in this study. One sample is generated with the POWHEG-BOX v2 NLO event generator [3–6] with NNPDF3.0 NLO PDF set, matched to Pythia8 and is referred to as PP8  $t\bar{t}$ , where the additional  $b\bar{b}$ -pair is described by the parton shower. The  $h_{damp}$  parameter was set to 1.5 times the top quark mass [7], which is assumed to be 172.5 GeV. The parton shower and the hadronisation were modelled by Pythia 8.210 [8] with the A14 set of tuned parameters [9]. The renormalisation and factorisation scales were set to the transverse mass of the top quark, defined as  $m_{T,t} = \sqrt{m_t^2 + p_{T,t}^2}$ , where  $p_{T,t}$  is the transverse momentum of the top quark in the  $t\bar{t}$  center-of-mass reference frame. This sample was previously used as the nominal background estimate in the ttH(bb) analysis. The intrinsic uncertainty of the nominal PP8  $t\bar{t}$  sample is expressed by the simultaneous variation of the renormalisation and factorisation scales ( $\mu_R$  and  $\mu_F$ ) together with the corresponding A14 Eigentune variation parameters. The RadiationUp variation has the renormalisation and factorisation scales decreased by a factor of two, the Var3c upward variation of the A14 parameter set and the  $h_{damp}$  parameter doubled. The RadiationDown variation has the renormalisation and factorisation scales increased by a factor of two, the Var3c downward variation and the nominal value of  $h_{damp}$ . Additionally, the up and down radiation uncertainty is calculated following the CMS approach, under which the renormalisation scale, factorisation scale and PDF tune variations are each taken individually and their difference to the nominal is summed in quadrature, without changing  $h_{damp}$ .

The PP8  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  sample uses the POWHEG-BOX-RES generator [10] and OPENLOOPS [11], where  $t\bar{t} + b\bar{b}$  matrix elements are calculated at NLO with massive b-quarks, using the four-flavour NNPDF30 NLO as 0118 4FS PDF set [12]. The parton shower and hadronisation is modelled by Pythia 8.240. The b-quark mass is set to 4.95 GeV in POWHEG. The scales are set to  $\mu_R = \sqrt[4]{m_{T,t} \times m_{T,\bar{t}} \times m_{T,b} \times m_{T,\bar{b}}}$ ,  $\mu_F = 0.5 \times (m_{T,t} + m_{T,\bar{t}} + m_{T,b} + m_{T,\bar{b}} + m_{T,gluon})$  and  $h_{damp} = H_T/2$ .

For the PP8 samples the bottom and charm quark decays are described by EVTGEN v1.2 [13] and the top quark spin correlations follow ref. [14].

The SHERPA  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  sample was generated using SHERPA-OPENLOOPS [15]. The  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  matrix elements were calculated with massive b-quarks at NLO, using the COMIX [16] and OPENLOOPS [11] matrix element generators, and merged with the Sherpa parton shower, tuned by the authors [17]. The four-flavour NNPDF30 NNLO as 0118 4FS PDF set was used. The q-quark mass is set to 4.75 GeV. The scales are set to  $\mu_R = \sqrt[4]{m_{T,t} \times m_{T,\bar{t}} \times m_{T,b} \times m_{T,\bar{b}}}$  and  $\mu_F = H_T/2$ .

Both the PP8  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  and the SHERPA  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  samples describe the additional  $b\bar{b}$ -pair with NLO precision in QCD, taking into account the b-quark mass.

The SHERPA  $t\bar{t}$  sample uses SHERPA version 2.2.1 [18] with the MEPS@NLO (multi-leg) setup using the MEPS@NLO prescription [19], interfaced with OPENLOOPS. It provides NLO accuracy for up to one additional parton and LO accuracy for up to four additional partons. The NNPDF3.0 NNLO PDF set is used with a five-flavour scheme and both renormalisation and factorisation scales are set to  $\sqrt{0.5 \times (m_{T,t}^2 + m_{T,\bar{t}}^2)}$ . A summary of all samples used is given in Table 1. All samples are filtered to contain only semi-leptonic  $t\bar{t}$  decays.

Table 1: The configurations used for the event generation of  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  processes.

Process	Generator	ME order	Parton shower	PDF	Tune
$t\bar{t}$	POWHEG v2	NLO	PYTHIA 8	5FS NNP3.0 NLO	A14
$t\bar{t} + b\bar{b}$	POWHEG-BOX-RES	NLO	PYTHIA 8	4FS NNP3.0 NLO as 0118	A14
$t\bar{t} + b\bar{b}$	SHERPA 2.2.1	NLO	SHERPA	4FS NNP3.0 NNLO as 0118	SHERPA default
$t\bar{t}$	SHERPA 2.2.1	tt+0,1NLO+2,3,4@LO	SHERPA	5FS NNP3.0 NNLO	SHERPA default

Table 2: The list of the validation variables for the comparison of the generators for  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  process.

Variable	Description
average $\Delta R(b, b)$	average over $\Delta R(b, b)$ build from all 2 b-jet combinations in the event
min $\Delta R(b, b)$	$\Delta R$ of the two b-jets in the event which are closest in $\Delta R$
$M(b, b)_{\max p_T}$	mass of the 2 b-jet system build of the b-jets with maximal $p_T$
$M(b, b)_{\min \Delta R(b, b)}$	mass of the 2 b-jet system build of the b-jets closest in $\Delta R$
$H_T$ b-jets	scalar sum of all b-jet $p_T$ in the event
$H_T$ light-jets	scalar sum of $p_T$ of all light jets in the event
$N_{jets}$	number of all jets in the event (including b-jets)
jet eta	$\eta$ of any jet in the event

## 2.2 Fiducial Volume

Object and event selection is defined at particle-level that closely matches the detector-level described in reference [1] and was defined together with CMS as a common phase space. Jets are reconstructed from stable particles with a mean lifetime of  $\tau > 3 \times 10^{-11}$  s, using the anti- $k_t$  algorithm with a radius parameter of  $R = 0.4$ , are required to have transverse momentum  $p_T > 25$  GeV and pseudorapidity  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . Jets that are matched to b-hadrons with  $p_T > 5$  GeV by ghost matching [20] and are referred to as b-jets. Electrons and muons, referred to as leptons, are required to satisfy  $p_T > 27$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . Leptons are removed if they are separated from a jet by less than  $\Delta R = 0.4$  ( $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$ ). Events are selected with exactly one lepton and at least 4 jets, equivalent to the semi-leptonic  $t\bar{t}$  decay. Two analysis regions are considered. The first is defined by the presence of exactly three selected b-jets (3b selection), while the second requires four or more such b-jets (4b selection).

## 2.3 Results

The nominal PP8  $t\bar{t}$  sample and the alternative generators are normalised to an integral of 1, after all cuts and in each histogram individually for a shape-only comparison. The radiation uncertainty variations on PP8  $t\bar{t}$  are added and include normalisation differences with respect to the central value. For the RadiationUp uncertainty, an alternative sample with different  $h_{damp}$  was used, here the number of events (not the sum of weights) was scaled to the central value. The central value of the PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the other three generators are normalised to 1. The first ratio plot shows the ratio of the different MC samples to PP8  $t\bar{t}$  from the upper plot, where the colour scheme is given in the legend. The list of the validation variables for this comparison is presented in this note summarised in Table 2.

Discrepancies between PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the alternative generators can be seen in the  $\Delta R$  quantities, as in Figures 2 and 3, where at least in the 4b selection the difference to the alternative generators is larger than the uncertainty band given by the radiation variations. Two types of  $b$ -jet pairs are defined: one pair is build from the two  $b$ -jets with the highest  $p_T$  sum, called  $maxP_T$ , and one pair from the two  $b$ -jets which are closest in  $\Delta R$ , called  $min\Delta R$ . The invariant mass of the  $b$ -jet pairs are shown in Figures 4 and 5, the largest difference is seen between the Sherpa  $t\bar{t}$  and all other samples. Differences are also observed in the  $H_T$  distributions, particularly in the 3b selection. In  $H_T$  of all  $b$ -jets, as in Figures 6, one observes a difference between PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the samples with  $b$ -jets in the matrix element, while in  $H_T$  of all light jets, shown in Figure 7, a difference between the 4 and 5 flavour schemes can be seen. The jet multiplicity, as in Figure 8, has poor agreement among the generators for large jet multiplicities. Lastly, differences among the samples are shown for the  $\eta_{jet}$  distribution, in Figure 9.

The second ratio plot shows the relative uncertainty of the radiation variations on PP8  $t\bar{t}$ , shown as the ratio of the varied sample to the nominal for two cases described above, where the scale and A14 Eigentune parameters are either varied simultaneously (black) or individually and then summed following the CMS approach (red).  $h_{damp}$  variations are only considered for the first case.

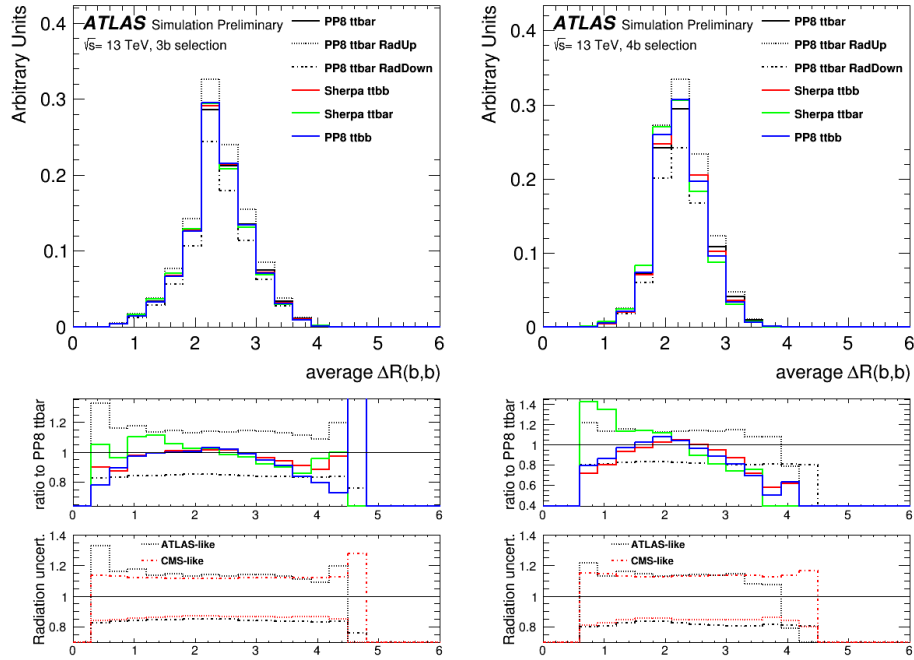


Figure 2: Distribution of the average opening angle between two  $b$ -jets, for the 3b selection (left) and the 4b-jet selection (right). The central value of the PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the other three generators are normalised to 1. The first ratio shows the different curves divided by PP8  $t\bar{t}$ . The second ratio plot shows the relative uncertainty of the radiation variations divided by the nominal PP8  $t\bar{t}$  following the above description of simultaneous variations (black) and as the sum of individual variations following the CMS approach (red).



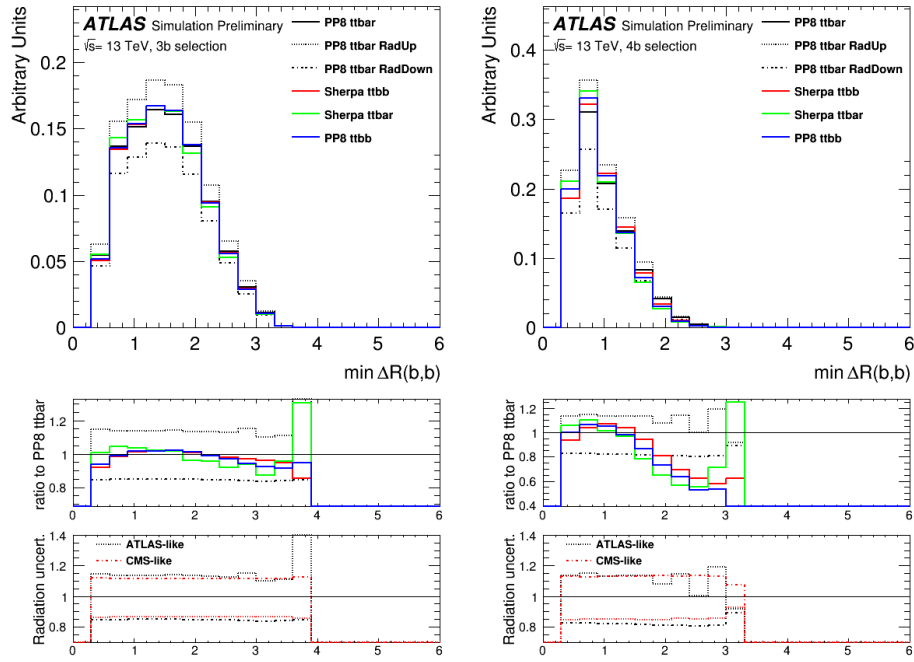


Figure 3: Distribution of the smallest opening angle between two b-jets, for the 3b selection (left) and the 4b-jet selection (right). The central value of the PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the other three generators are normalised to 1. The first ratio plot shows the different curves divided by PP8  $t\bar{t}$ . The second ratio plot shows the relative uncertainty of the radiation variations divided by the nominal PP8  $t\bar{t}$  following the above description of simultaneous variations (black) and as the sum of individual variations following the CMS approach (red).

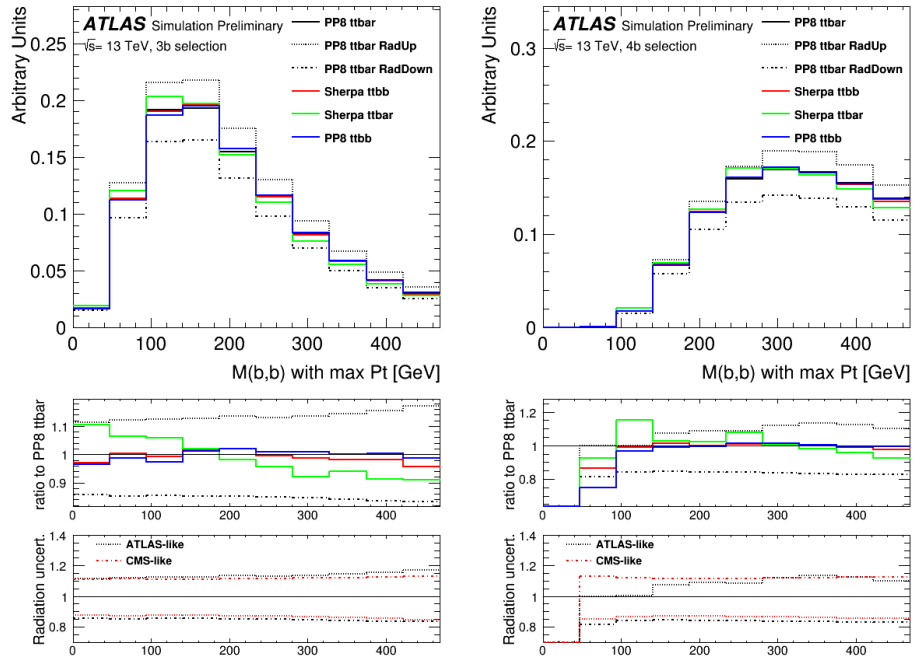


Figure 4: Distribution of the invariant mass in GeV of the two b-jets with the highest  $P_T$  sum, for the 3b selection (left) and the 4b-jet selection (right). The central value of the PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the other three generators are normalised to 1. The first ratio shows the different curves divided by PP8  $t\bar{t}$ . The second ratio plot shows the relative uncertainty of the radiation variations divided by the nominal PP8  $t\bar{t}$  following the above description of simultaneous variations (black) and as the sum of individual variations following the CMS approach (red).

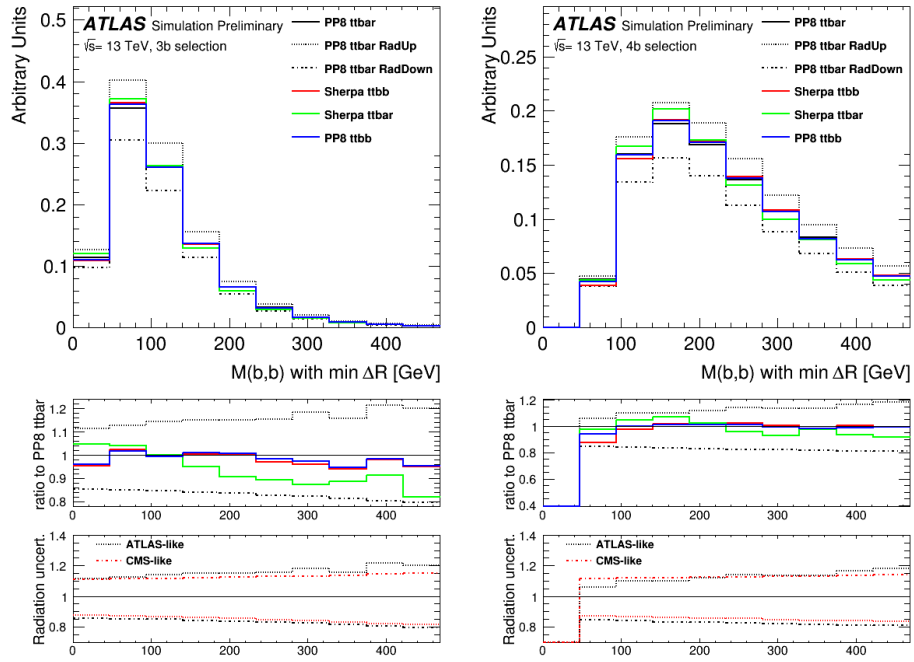


Figure 5: Distribution of the invariant mass in GeV of the two b-jets with the smallest opening angle, for the 3b selection (left) and the 4b-jet selection (right). The central value of the PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the other three generators are normalised to 1. The first ratio shows the different curves divided by PP8  $t\bar{t}$ . The second ratio plot shows the relative uncertainty of the radiation variations divided by the nominal PP8  $t\bar{t}$  following the above description of simultaneous variations (black) and as the sum of individual variations following the CMS approach (red).

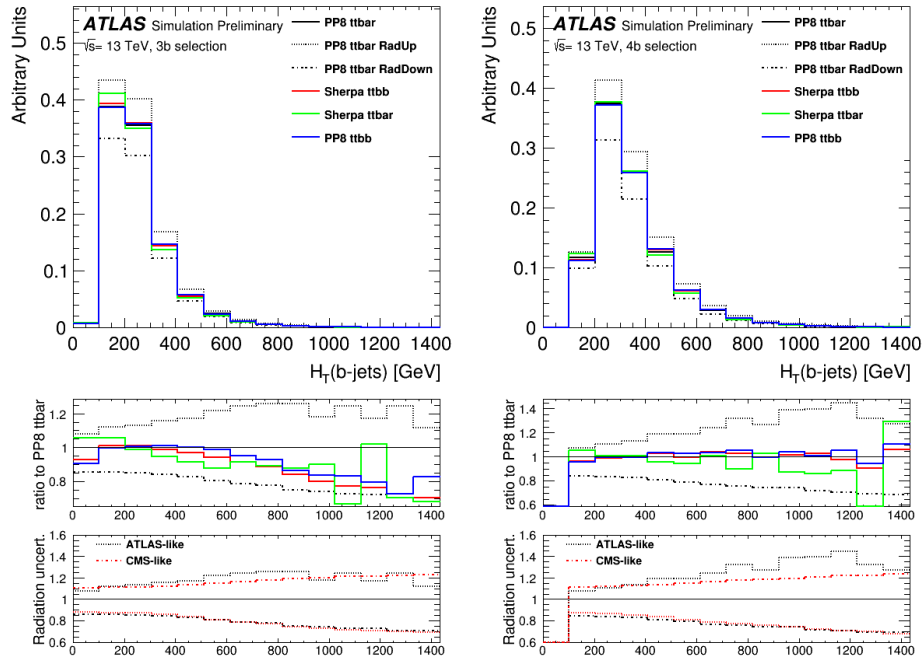


Figure 6: Sum of b-jet transverse momenta in GeV, for the 3b selection (left) and the 4b-jet selection (right). The central value of the PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the other three generators are normalised to 1. The first ratio shows the different curves divided by PP8  $t\bar{t}$ . The second ratio plot shows the relative uncertainty of the radiation variations divided by the nominal PP8  $t\bar{t}$  following the above description of simultaneous variations (black) and as the sum of individual variations following the CMS approach (red).

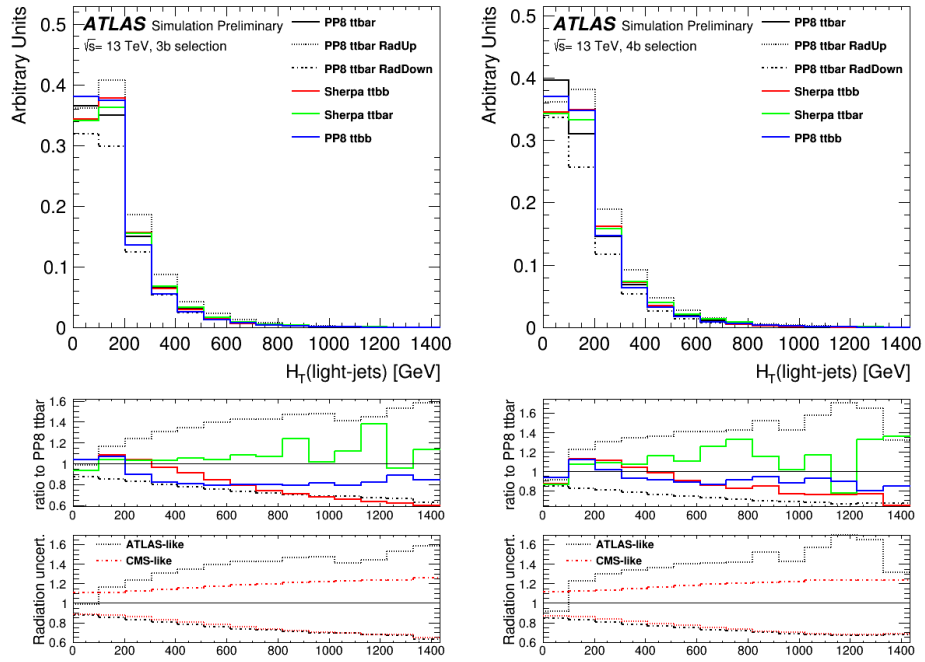


Figure 7: Sum of non-b-jet transverse momenta in GeV, for the 3b selection (left) and the 4b-jet selection (right). The central value of the PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the other three generators are normalised to 1. The first ratio shows the different curves divided by PP8  $t\bar{t}$ . The second ratio plot shows the relative uncertainty of the radiation variations divided by the nominal PP8  $t\bar{t}$  following the above description of simultaneous variations (black) and as the sum of individual variations following the CMS approach (red).

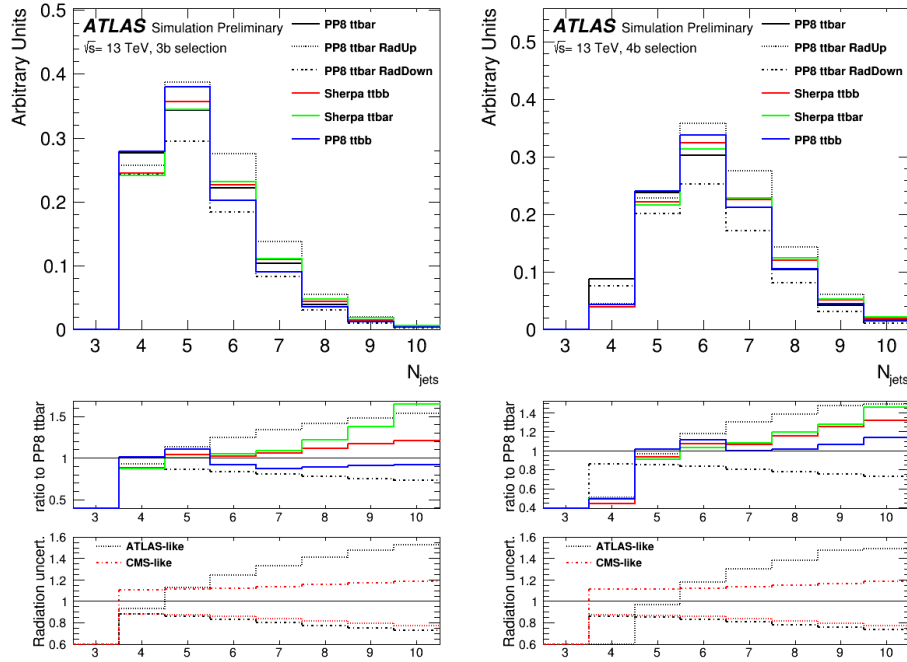


Figure 8: Jet multiplicity, for the 3b selection (left) and the 4b-jet selection (right). The central value of the PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the other three generators are normalised to 1. The first ratio shows the different curves divided by PP8  $t\bar{t}$ . The second ratio plot shows the relative uncertainty of the radiation variations divided by the nominal PP8  $t\bar{t}$  following the above description of simultaneous variations (black) and as the sum of individual variations following the CMS approach (red).

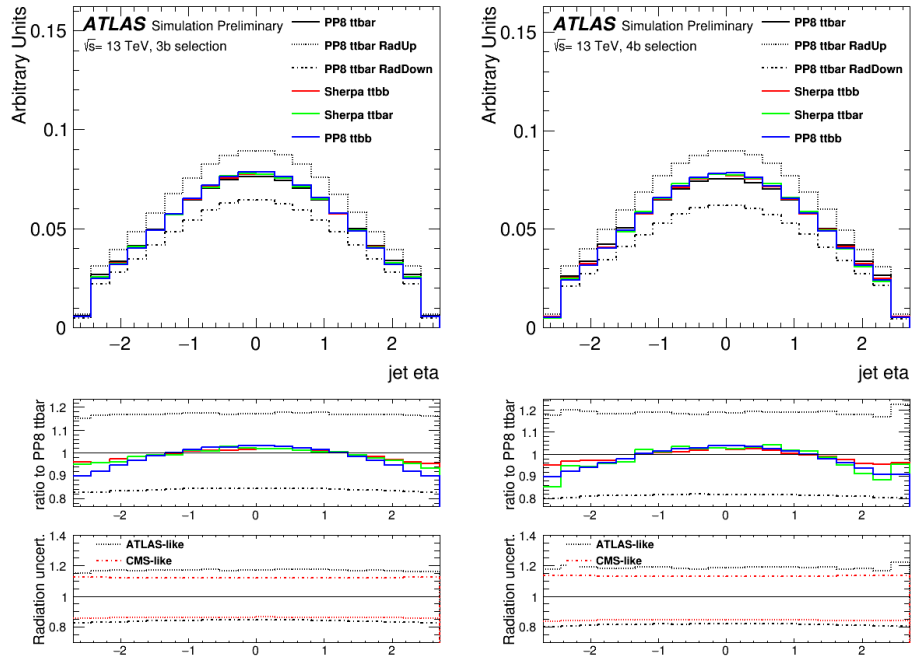


Figure 9: Jet pseudorapidity, for the 3b selection (left) and the 4b-jet selection (right). The central value of the PP8  $t\bar{t}$  and the other three generators are normalised to 1. The first ratio shows the different curves divided by PP8  $t\bar{t}$ . The second ratio plot shows the relative uncertainty of the radiation variations divided by the nominal PP8  $t\bar{t}$  following the above description of simultaneous variations (black) and as the sum of individual variations following the CMS approach (red).

Table 3: The configurations used for the event generation of the  $t\bar{t}W$  processes.

Process	Generator	ME order	Parton shower	PDF	Tune
$t\bar{t}W$	SHERPA 2.2.1	MEPs@NLO 0,1 @NLO+2,3 @LO	SHERPA	NNPDF3.0 NNLO	SHERPA default
	MG5_aMcAtNLO	NLO	PYTHIA 8	NNPDF3.0 NLO	A14

### 3 $t\bar{t}W$ process

#### 3.1 Samples

Two MC generators are compared in this study. The nominal sample for  $t\bar{t}W$  production was generated using the SHERPA 2.2.1 [21] generator with the NNPDF3.0 NLO PDF set. The matrix element (ME) was calculated for up to one additional parton at NLO and up to two partons at LO using COMIX [22] and OPENLOOPS [11], and merged with the SHERPA parton shower [23] using the MEPs@NLO prescription [19] with a merging scale of 30 GeV. The choice of renormalisation and factorisation scales is  $\mu_R = \mu_F = H_T/2$ , where  $H_T$  is defined as the scalar sum of the transverse masses  $\sqrt{p_T^2 + m^2}$  of all final state particles.

Systematic uncertainties due to missing higher-order QCD corrections are estimated by varying the factorisation and renormalisation scales in the nominal sample simultaneously by a factor of 0.5 (2.0) with respect to the central value called further SherpaScaleDown (SherpaScaleUp). Uncertainties associated with the modelling of additional QCD radiation are estimated by comparing the nominal  $t\bar{t}W$  prediction with that of an alternative sample that was generated at NLO with the MADGRAPH5\_AMC@NLO 2.2.1 (MG5\_aMcAtNlo) generator using the same scale choice and PDF set as for the nominal sample, and interfaced to PYTHIA 8.2 in combination with the A14 tune. The samples configurations are summarised in Table 3.

#### 3.2 Fiducial Volume

Object and event selection is defined at particle-level that closely matches the detector-level described in reference [2] and was defined together with CMS as a common phase space. Jets are reconstructed from stable particles with a mean lifetime of  $\tau > 3 \times 10^{-11}$  s, using the anti- $k_t$  algorithm with a radius parameter of  $R = 0.4$ . Jets are required to satisfy  $p_T > 25$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . Jets that are matched to  $b$ -hadrons with  $p_T > 5$  GeV by ghost matching [20] are referred to as  $b$ -jets. Electrons and muons, referred to as light leptons  $\ell$ , are required to be separated from selected jets by  $\Delta R > 0.4$  and are otherwise removed. Hadronically decaying  $\tau$  leptons are required to satisfy  $p_T > 25$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . Events are selected with exactly two light leptons. Leptons are required to have  $|\eta| < 2.5$  and  $p_T > 25(20)$  GeV for leading  $\ell_0$  (subleading  $\ell_1$ ) lepton ( $p_T$  ordered). Leptons are required to have same charge, targeting the semi-leptonic  $t\bar{t}$  decay and leptonic  $W$  decay.

Events with at least 3 jets and at least one of them being a  $b$ -jet are considered in the fiducial volume. The acceptance for events passing this selection is  $A_X^{\geq 1b \geq 3j} = 1.82 \times 10^{-2}$  for SHERPA and  $1.90 \times 10^{-2}$  for MADGRAPH5\_AMC@NLO correspondingly. We then split into five regions, categorized by the number of jets of any flavour (three or  $\geq 4$ ),  $N_{b\text{-jets}}$  (one or  $\geq 2$ ) as well as the presence of hadronically decaying  $\tau$  lepton, as summarised in Table 4.



Table 4: The configurations used for the event generation of the  $t\bar{t}W$  processes.

Region	Selection
1	$N_{b\text{-jets}} = 1, N_{\text{jets}} \geq 4, 0\text{-}\tau_{had}$
2	$N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2, N_{\text{jets}} \geq 4, 0\text{-}\tau_{had}$
3	$N_{b\text{-jets}} = 1, N_{\text{jets}} = 3, 0\text{-}\tau_{had}$
4	$N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2, N_{\text{jets}} = 3, 0\text{-}\tau_{had}$
5	$N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 1, N_{\text{jets}} \geq 3, 1\text{-}\tau_{had}$

Table 5: The list of the validation variables for the comparison of the  $t\bar{t}W$  generators. The leptons  $\ell$  and  $b$ -jets are ordered in  $p_T$ - leading correspond to highest  $p_T$ .

Variable	Description	Regions
$N_{jets}$	Jet multiplicity	1,2,5
$N_{b\text{-jets}}$	Number of $b$ -jets	1,2,5
$HT^{jets}$	Scalar sum of transverse momentum of all jets in the event	1,2,3,4
$p_T^{b0}$	Leading $b$ -jet transverse momentum	1,2
$p_T^{\ell 0}$	Leading lepton transverse momentum	1,2,5
$\Delta R_{\ell 0 jets}$	Minimum angular separation between the leading lepton and the nearest jet	1,2
$\Delta R_{\ell 0 \ell 1}$	Angular distance between the two leptons	1,2,5
$max \eta_l $	Value of the highest lepton's pseudorapidity in the event	1,2
$\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$	Azimuthal separation between the leptons	1,2

The definitions of the regions are motivated by the  $t\bar{t}H$  Multilepton analysis strategy. Regions 1 and 2 corresponds to the signal regions<sup>1</sup> and Regions 3 and 4 are used as control regions in the  $2\ell$  same-sign  $0\text{-}\tau_{had}$   $t\bar{t}H$  channel. Definition of Region 5 is closely followed<sup>2</sup> by the selections in the  $2\ell$  same-sign  $1\text{-}\tau_{had}$   $t\bar{t}H$  channel.

### 3.3 Results

The nominal SHERPA  $t\bar{t}W$  sample is compared to its radiation uncertainty variations and the alternative generator. The ratio plots show the ratios of the alternative MC sample and scale variation to the nominal sample.

The list of variables for the comparison of the  $t\bar{t}W$  generators presented in this note are summarised in Table 5. Two sets of distributions are presented: the first comparing the shapes of the different generators - distributions are normalised to the integral, the second - comparing overall generator agreement - distributions are scaled to the cross section used at generation.

<sup>1</sup> slightly different then in ref. [2], in order to define a common selection with the CMS Collaboration.

<sup>2</sup> requirement on jet multiplicity is relaxed.

### 3.3.1 Shape comparison

In the following shape agreement between nominal and alternative generators will be presented - distributions are normalised to the integral.

Sizeable discrepancies in the modelling of jet kinematics can be seen between the SHERPA  $t\bar{t}W$  and MADGRAPH5\_AMC@NLO generators in the  $N_{b\text{-jets}}=1$  regions, while in the  $N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2$  regions the difference is reduced, as illustrated in Figures 10 and 11 for the high (Regions 1 and 2) and low (Regions 3 and 4) jet multiplicities correspondingly. Differences in distributions of  $b$ -jet kinematics follow a similar trend - sizeable discrepancies in the  $N_{b\text{-jets}}=1$  regions and agreement within scale uncertainties in the  $N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2$  regions, as presented on Figures 12 for Regions 1 and 2.

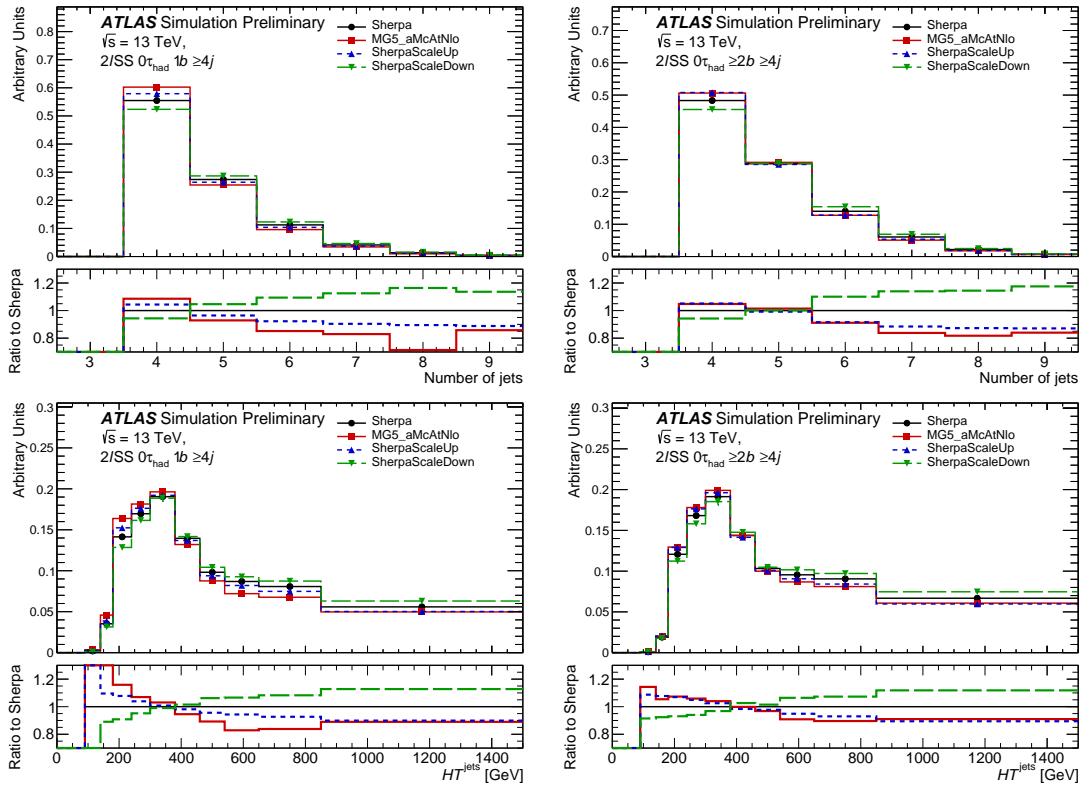


Figure 10: Distribution of the jet multiplicities (top) and the scalar sum of jets transverse momentum,  $HT^{\text{jets}}$  (bottom), for the Region 1 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}}=1$  (left) and Region 2 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2$  (right) selection requiring four and more jets.

Good agreement of the single lepton kinematics can be seen between nominal and alternative generators for the  $N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2$  regions, as shown on the right of Figure 13 representing Region 2. Similar behaviour is also seen in Region 4.

Sizeable differences in shapes between nominal and alternative generators are observed for the distributions involving correlations between the two leptons. The distributions of the angular distance between the two leptons, maximum of lepton's pseudorapidity and azimuthal separation between the leptons are presented in Figure 14 for Region 1 on the right and Region 2 on the left. Similar behaviour is also seen in Regions 3 and 4.

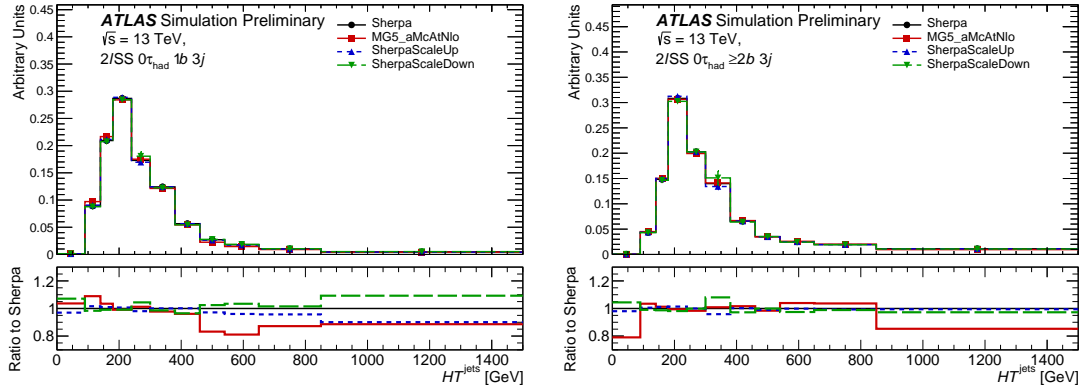


Figure 11: Distribution of the scalar sum of jets transverse momentum,  $HT^{\text{jets}}$ , for the Region 3  $N_{b\text{-jets}} = 1$  (left) and Region 4 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2$  (right) selection requiring exactly three jets.

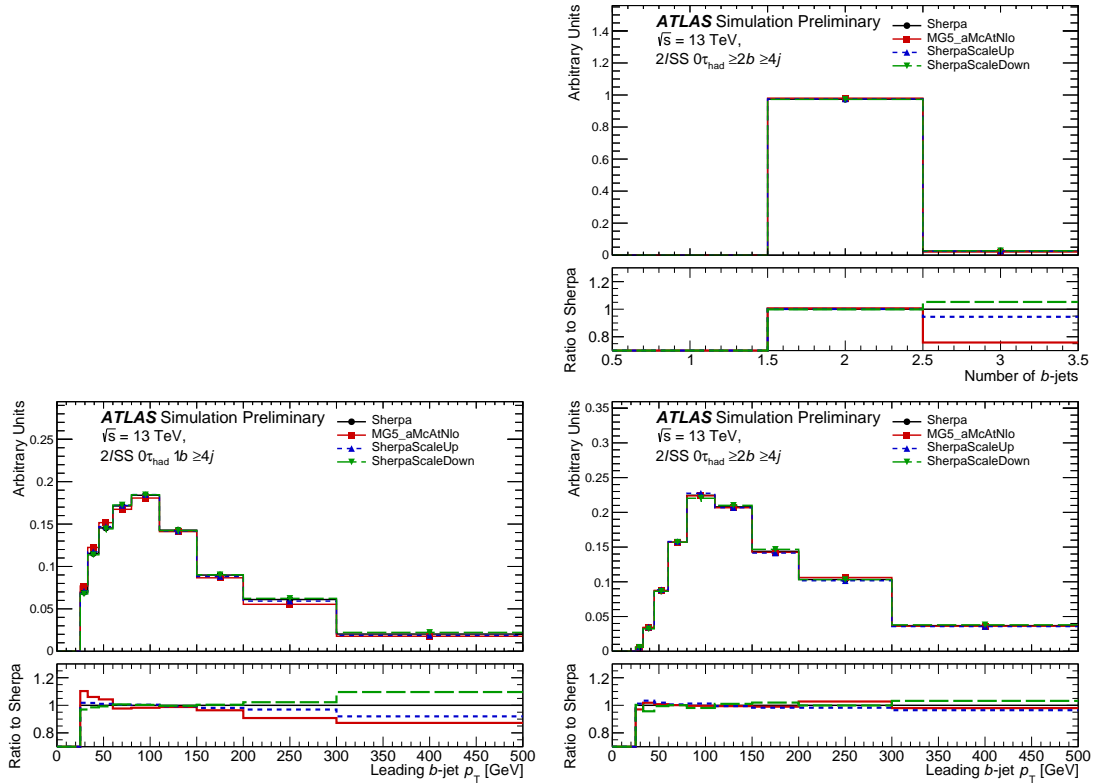


Figure 12: Distribution of the  $b$ -jet multiplicities (top) and the leading  $b$ -jet transverse momentum (bottom), for the Region 1 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}}=1$  (left) and Region 2 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2$  (right) selection requiring four and more jets.

Distributions of the jet multiplicity, number of  $b$ -jets, the leading lepton transverse momentum and the angular distance between the two leptons  $\Delta R_{\ell\ell 1}$  for the Region 5 with  $N_{\tau_{\text{had}}} = 1$  selection are presented in Figure 15. The difference observed between nominal and alternative generators for high jet multiplicities, at the edge of the scale variation uncertainty band. The distribution of  $N_{b\text{-jets}}$  is in agreement for  $N_{b\text{-jets}} = 2$ , while a sizeable difference is observed for  $N_{b\text{-jets}} = 1$ , which is similar to the  $N_{\tau_{\text{had}}} = 0$  selections. Lepton kinematic distributions show differences in shapes between the nominal and alternative generator.

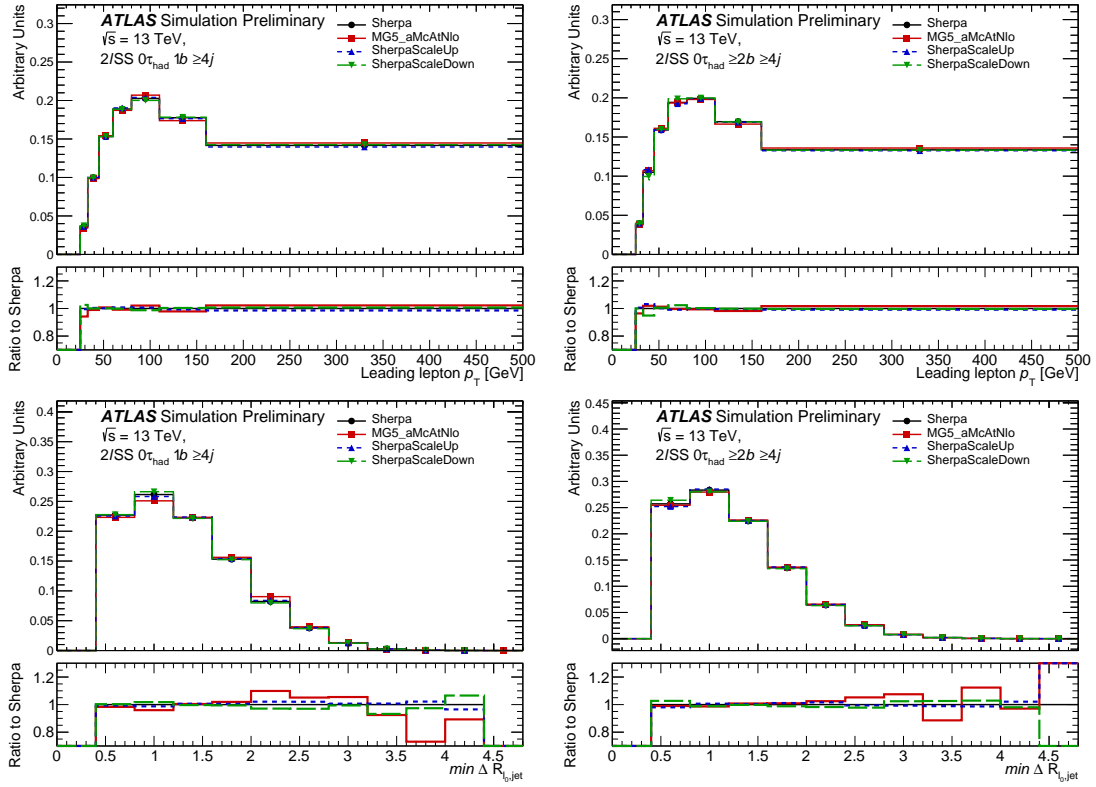


Figure 13: Distribution of the leading lepton transverse momentum (top) and the minimum angular separation between the leading lepton and the nearest jet (bottom), for the Region 1 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}}=1$ (left) and Region 2 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2$ (right) selection requiring four and more jets.

### 3.3.2 Generator comparison

In the following section a comparison of the generators will be given in terms of fiducial cross section. Some difference is observed in  $\sigma_{fid}^{gen} = A_X^{gen} \times \sigma_{tot}^{gen}$ , where  $A_X^{gen}$  is the acceptance factor of particular region,  $\sigma_{tot}^{gen}$  is the total generator cross section (taken directly from generation - i.e. not including any correction factors). The cross sections are  $\sigma_{tot}^{Sherpa} = 652$  fb and  $\sigma_{tot}^{MG5\_aMcAtNlo} = 548$  fb for Sherpa and MG5\_aMcAtNlo correspondingly. The fiducial cross sections of the five regions defined in Section 3.2 are presented on Figure 16. The same set of distribution discussed in Section 3.3.1 is presented, normalised to the fiducial cross section in Figures 17-22.

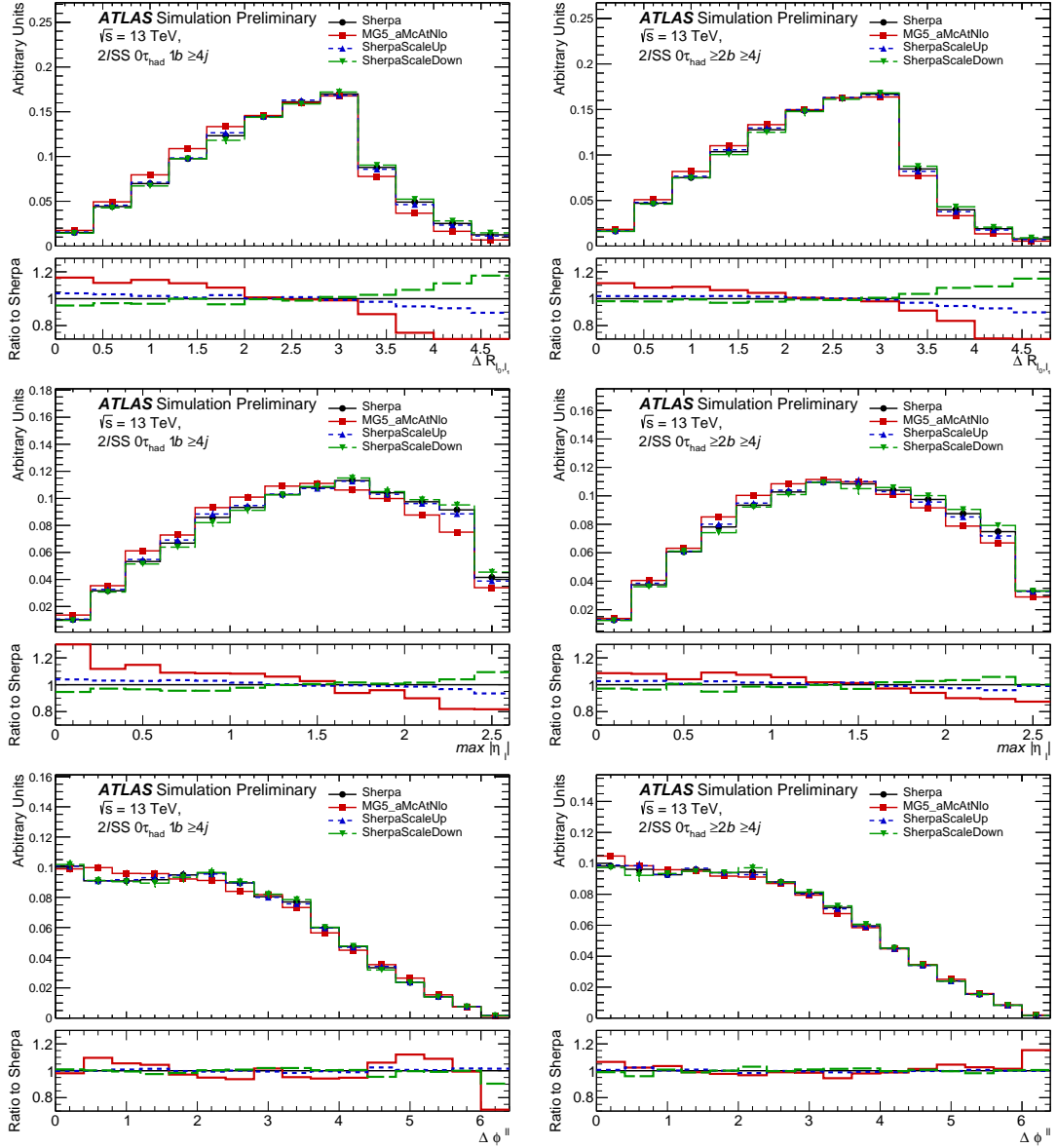


Figure 14: Distribution of the angular distance between the two leptons (top), maximum between lepton  $|\eta_{\ell 0}|$  and  $|\eta_{\ell 1}|$  (centre), azimuthal separation between the leptons  $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$  (bottom), for the Region 1 with  $N_{b-jets}=1$  (left) and Region 2 with  $N_{b-jets} \geq 2$  (right) selection requiring four and more jets.

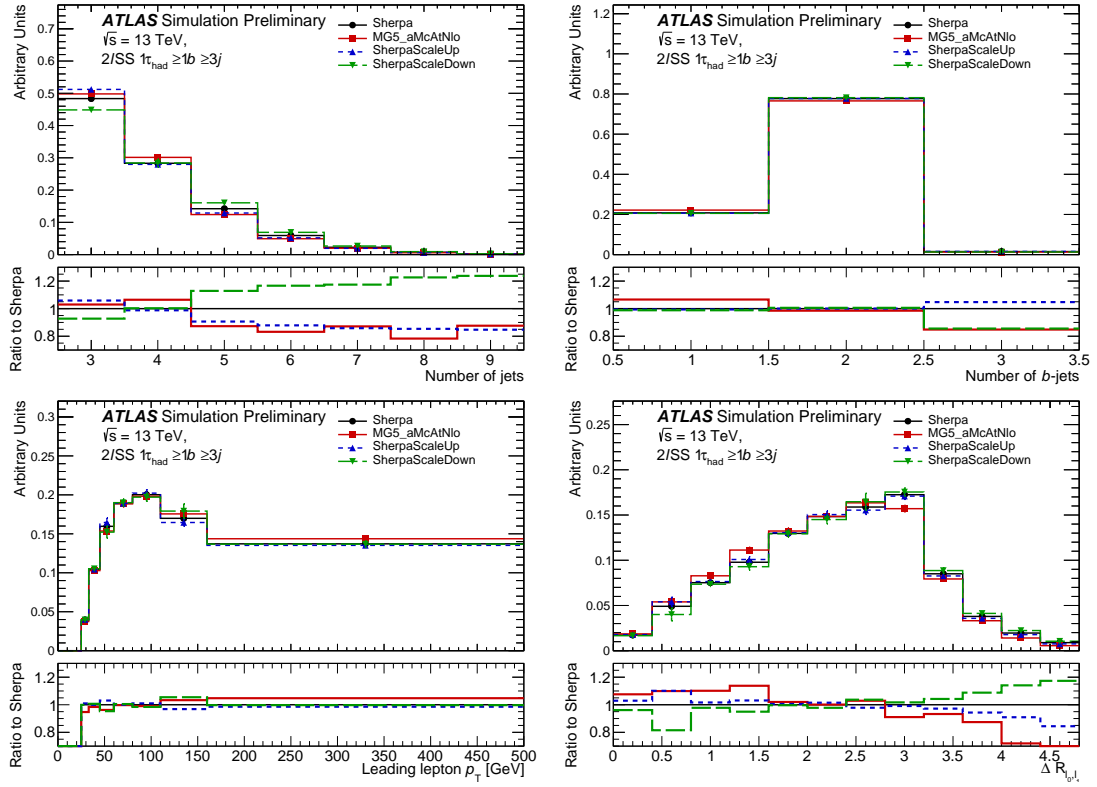


Figure 15: Distribution of the the jet multiplicity, number of  $b$ -jets, the leading lepton transverse momentum and the angular distance between the two leptons  $\Delta R_{\ell\ell}$  for the Region 5 with  $1\tau_{had}$  selection.

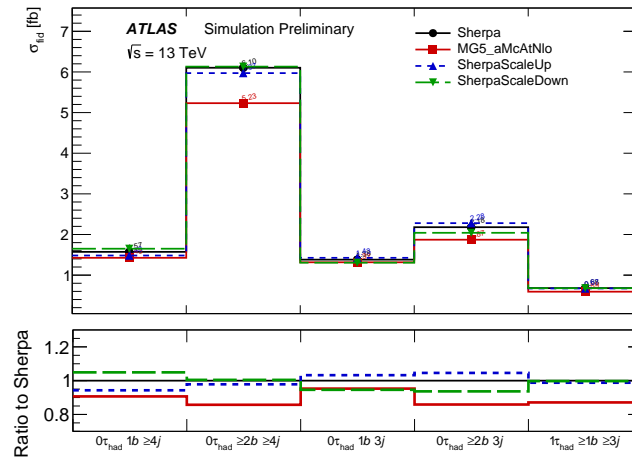


Figure 16: The fiducial cross sections,  $\sigma_{fid}^{gen} = A_X^{gen} \times \sigma_{tot}^{gen}$ , of the five regions for  $ttW$  analysis.

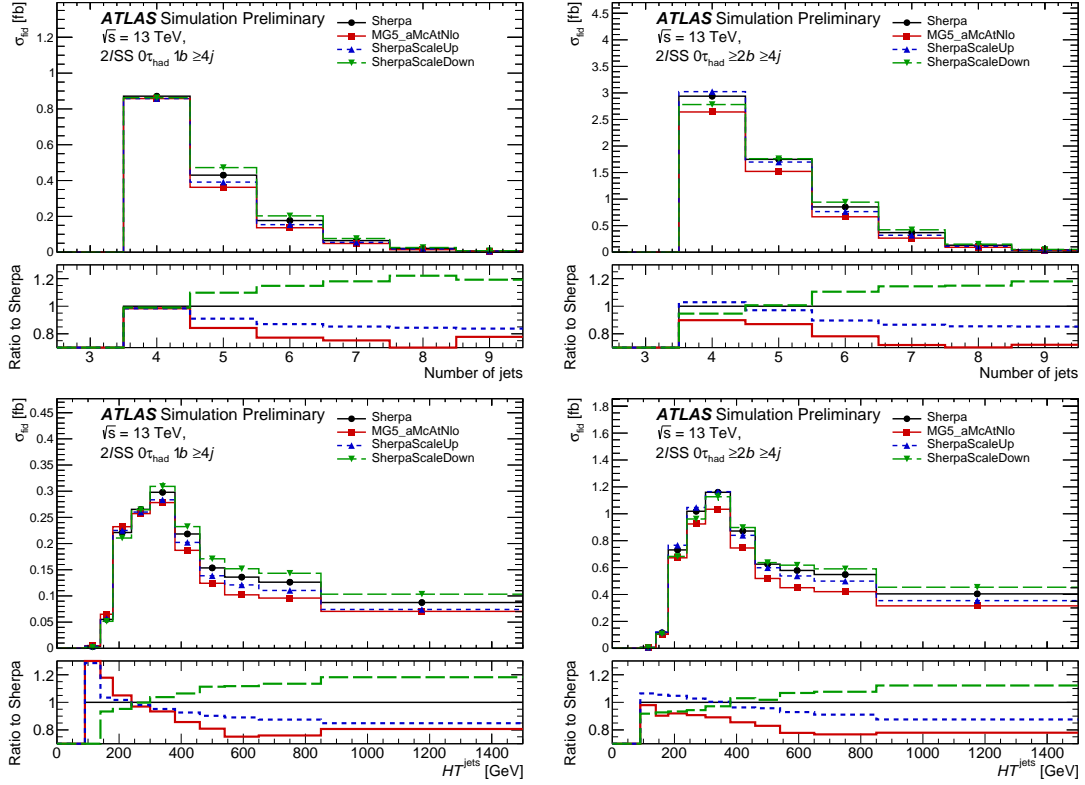


Figure 17: Distribution of the jet multiplicities (top) and the scalar sum of jets transverse momentum,  $HT^{\text{jets}}$  (bottom), for the Region 1 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}}=1$  (left) and Region 2 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2$  (right) selection requiring four and more jets.

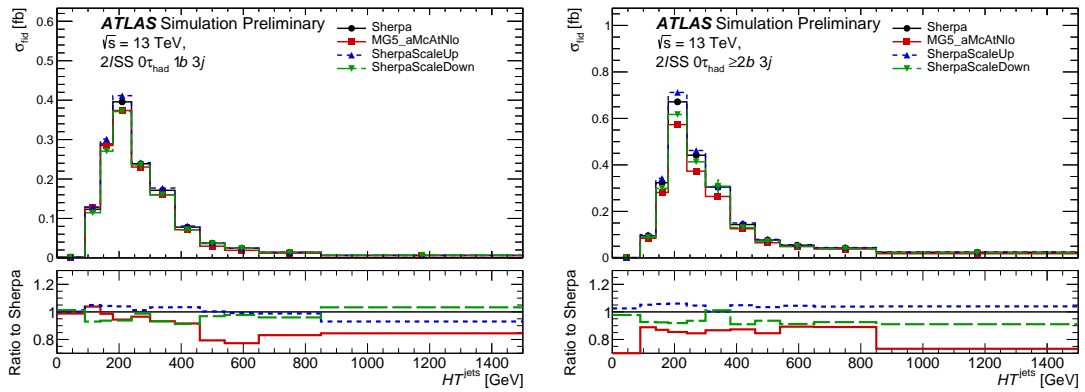


Figure 18: Distribution of the scalar sum of jets transverse momentum,  $HT^{\text{jets}}$ , for the Region 3 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}}=1$  (left) and Region 4 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2$  (right) selection requiring exactly three jets.

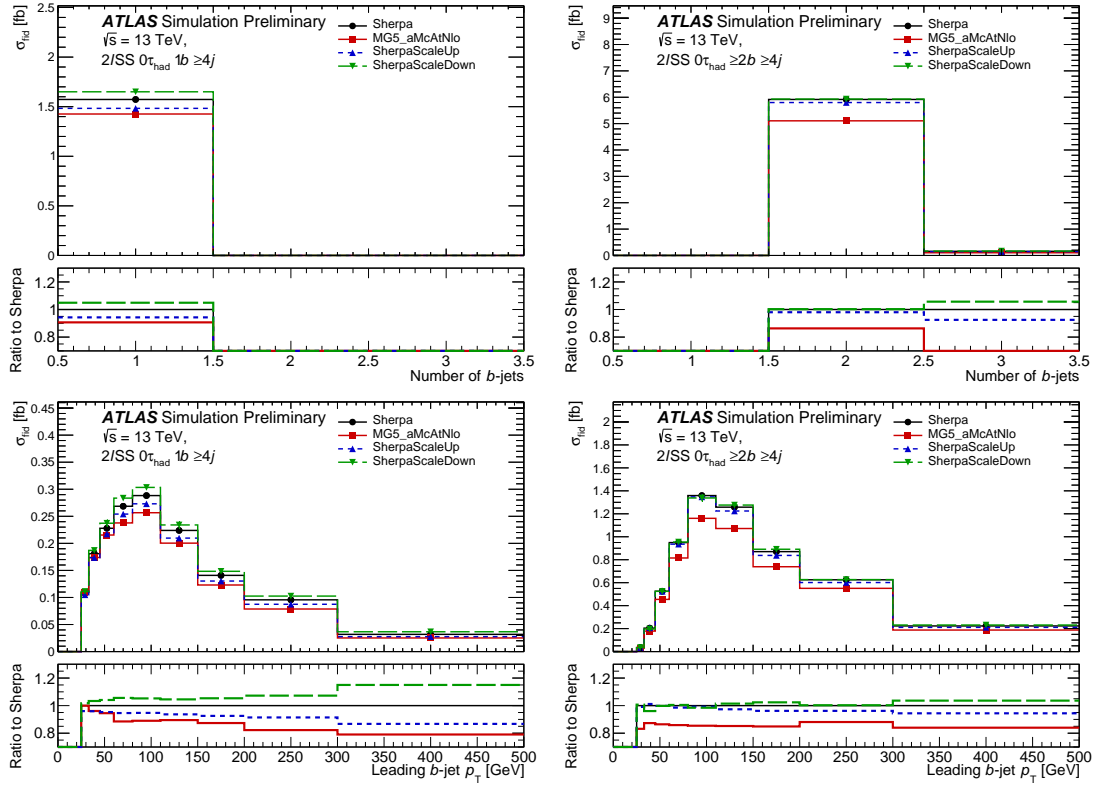


Figure 19: Distribution of the  $b$ -jet multiplicities (top) and the leading  $b$ -jet transverse momentum (bottom), for the Region 1 with  $N_{b-jets}=1$  (left) and Region 2 with  $N_{b-jets} \geq 2$  (right) selection requiring four and more jets.



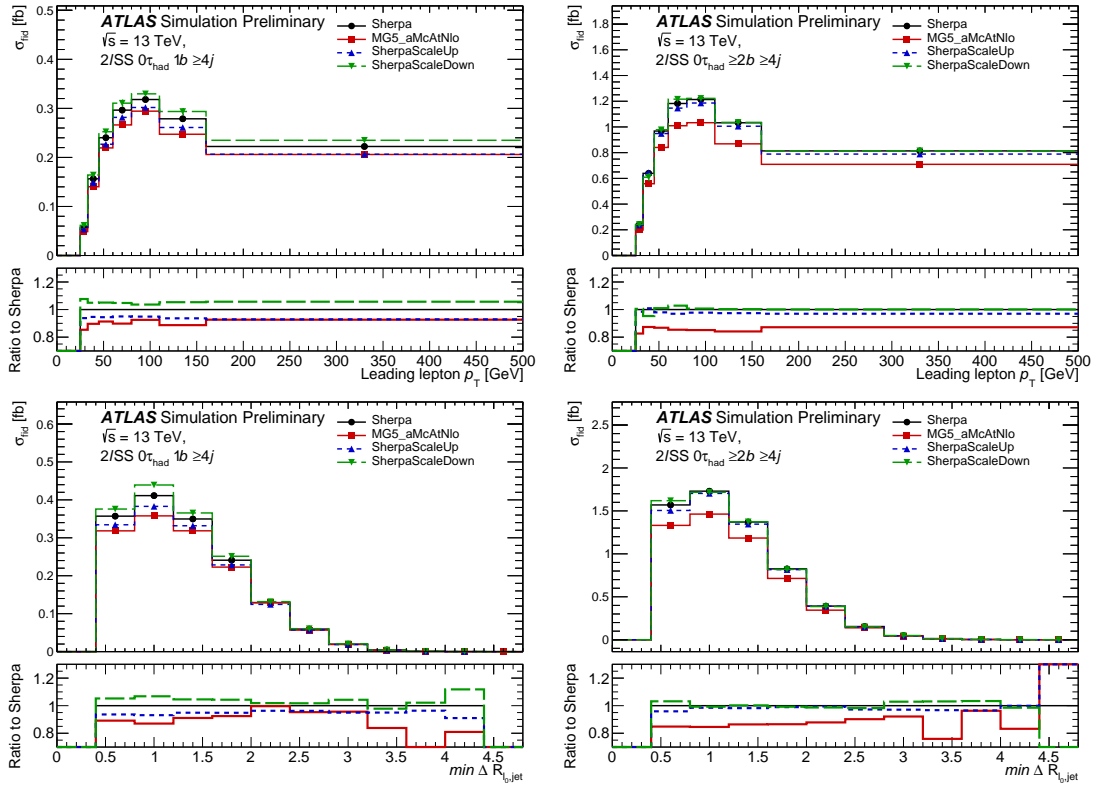


Figure 20: Distribution of the leading lepton transverse momentum (top) and the minimum angular separation between the leading lepton and the nearest jet (bottom), for the Region 1 with  $N_{b-jets}=1$  (left) and Region 2 with  $N_{b-jets} \geq 2$  (right) selection requiring four and more jets.

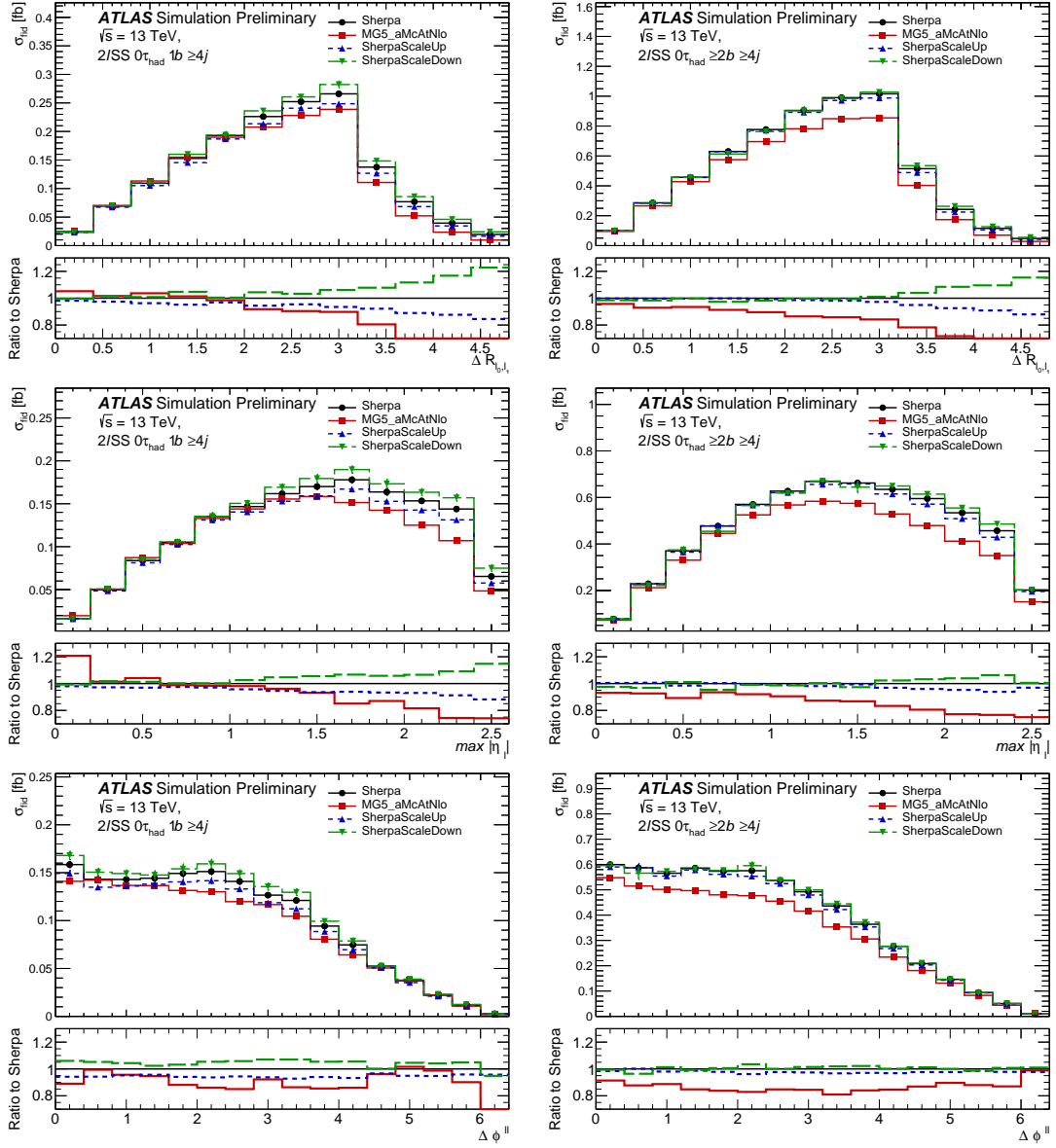


Figure 21: Distribution of the angular distance between the two leptons (top), maximum between lepton  $|\eta_{\ell 0}|$  and  $|\eta_{\ell 1}|$  (centre), azimuthal separation between the leptons  $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$  (bottom), for the Region 1 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}}=1$  (left) and Region 2 with  $N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2$  (right) selection requiring four and more jets.

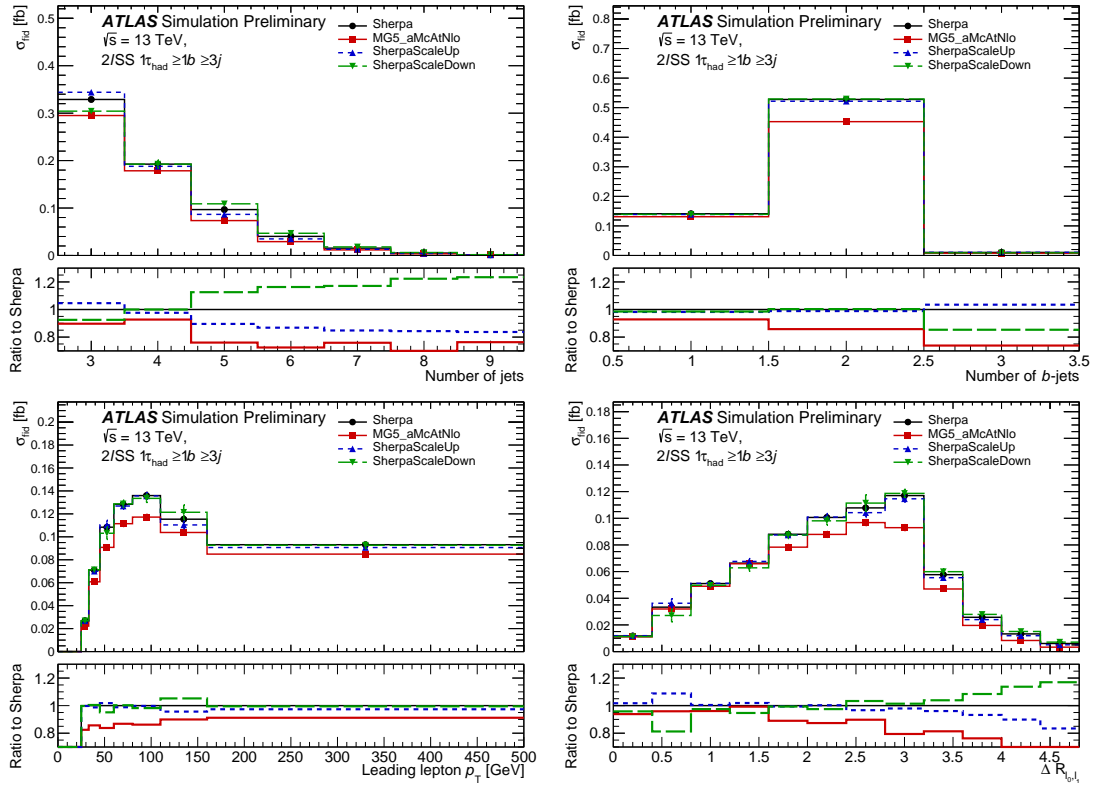


Figure 22: Distribution of the the jet multiplicity, number of  $b$ -jets, the leading lepton transverse momentum and the angular distance between the two leptons  $\Delta R_{\ell\ell}$  for the Region 5 with  $1\tau_{had}$  selection.

## References

- [1] ATLAS Collaboration, *Search for the standard model Higgs boson produced in association with top quarks and decaying into a  $b\bar{b}$  pair in  $pp$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV with the ATLAS detector*, *Phys. Rev. D* **97** (2018) 072016, arXiv: [1712.08895 \[hep-ex\]](#) (cit. on pp. 3, 5).
- [2] ATLAS Collaboration, *Analysis of  $t\bar{t}H$  and  $tW$  production in the multilepton final states with the ATLAS detector*, ATLAS-CONF-2019-045, 2019, URL: <https://atlas.web.cern.ch/Atlas/GROUPS/PHYSICS/CONFNOTES/ATLAS-CONF-2019-045/> (cit. on pp. 3, 14, 15).
- [3] P. Nason, *A New method for combining NLO QCD with shower Monte Carlo algorithms*, *JHEP* **11** (2004) 040, arXiv: [hep-ph/0409146 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).
- [4] S. Frixione, P. Nason and C. Oleari, *Matching NLO QCD computations with Parton Shower simulations: the POWHEG method*, *JHEP* **11** (2007) 070, arXiv: [0709.2092 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).
- [5] S. Alioli, P. Nason, C. Oleari and E. Re, *A general framework for implementing NLO calculations in shower Monte Carlo programs: the POWHEG BOX*, *JHEP* **06** (2010) 043, arXiv: [1002.2581 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).
- [6] J. M. Campbell, R. K. Ellis, P. Nason and E. Re, *Top-Pair Production and Decay at NLO Matched with Parton Showers*, *JHEP* **04** (2015) 114, arXiv: [1412.1828 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).
- [7] ATLAS Collaboration, *Studies on top-quark Monte Carlo modelling for Top2016*, ATL-PHYS-PUB-2016-020, 2016, URL: <https://cds.cern.ch/record/2216168> (cit. on p. 4).
- [8] W. T. Giele, D. A. Kosower and P. Z. Skands, *A simple shower and matching algorithm*, *Phys. Rev. D* **78** (1 2008) 014026, URL: <https://link.aps.org/doi/10.1103/PhysRevD.78.014026> (cit. on p. 4).
- [9] ATLAS Collaboration, *ATLAS Pythia 8 tunes to 7 TeV data*, ATL-PHYS-PUB-2014-021, 2014, URL: <https://cds.cern.ch/record/1966419> (cit. on p. 4).
- [10] T. Ježo and P. Nason, *On the Treatment of Resonances in Next-to-Leading Order Calculations Matched to a Parton Shower*, 2015, arXiv: [1509.09071 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).
- [11] F. Cascioli, P. Maierhofer and S. Pozzorini, *Scattering Amplitudes with Open Loops*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **108** (2012) 111601, arXiv: [1111.5206 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on pp. 4, 14).
- [12] T. Ježo, J. M. Lindert, N. Moretti and S. Pozzorini, *New NLOPS predictions for  $t\bar{t} + b$  -jet production at the LHC*, *Eur. Phys. J. C* **78** (2018) 502, arXiv: [1802.00426 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).
- [13] D. J. Lange, *The EvtGen particle decay simulation package*, *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A: Accelerators, Spectrometers, Detectors and Associated Equipment* **462** (2001) 152, BEAUTY2000, Proceedings of the 7th Int. Conf. on B-Physics at Hadron Machines, ISSN: 0168-9002, URL: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0168900201000894> (cit. on p. 4).
- [14] S. Frixione, E. Laenen, P. Motylinski and B. R. Webber, *Angular correlations of lepton pairs from vector boson and top quark decays in Monte Carlo simulations*, *JHEP* **04** (2007) 081, arXiv: [hep-ph/0702198 \[HEP-PH\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).
- [15] F. Cascioli, P. Maierhofer, N. Moretti, S. Pozzorini and F. Siegert, *NLO matching for  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  production with massive  $b$ -quarks*, *Phys. Lett. B* **734** (2014) 210, arXiv: [1309.5912 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).

- [16] T. Gleisberg and S. Hoeche, *Comix, a new matrix element generator*, 2008, arXiv: [0808.3674 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).
- [17] S. Schumann and F. Krauss, *A parton shower algorithm based on Catani-Seymour dipole factorisation*, 2007, arXiv: [0709.1027 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).
- [18] T. Gleisberg et al., *Event generation with SHERPA 1.1*, *JHEP* **02** (2009) 007, arXiv: [0811.4622 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 4).
- [19] S. Hoeche, F. Krauss, M. Schonherr and F. Siegert, *QCD matrix elements + parton showers: The NLO case*, *JHEP* **04** (2013) 027, arXiv: [1207.5030 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on pp. 4, 14).
- [20] M. Cacciari, G. P. Salam and G. Soyez, *The Catchment Area of Jets*, *JHEP* **04** (2008) 005, arXiv: [0802.1188 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on pp. 5, 14).
- [21] T. Gleisberg et al., *Event generation with SHERPA 1.1*, *JHEP* **02** (2009) 007, arXiv: [0811.4622 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 14).
- [22] T. Gleisberg and S. Hoeche, *Comix, a new matrix element generator*, *JHEP* **12** (2008) 039, arXiv: [0808.3674 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 14).
- [23] S. Schumann and F. Krauss, *A Parton shower algorithm based on Catani-Seymour dipole factorisation*, *JHEP* **03** (2008) 038, arXiv: [0709.1027 \[hep-ph\]](#) (cit. on p. 14).