

¹ Observation of the Higgs boson in the WW^*
² channel and search for Higgs boson pair
³ production in the $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ channel with the
⁴ ATLAS detector

⁵ A DISSERTATION PRESENTED
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²⁰ **Observation of the Higgs boson in the WW^* channel and search
²¹ for Higgs boson pair production in the $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ channel with the
²² ATLAS detector**

²³ ABSTRACT

²⁴ This dissertation presents the observation and measurement of the Higgs boson in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow$
²⁵ $\ell\nu\ell\nu$ channel at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV and $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV and a search for Higgs pair production in the $HH \rightarrow$
²⁶ $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ channel at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with the ATLAS detector in pp collisions at the Large Hadron Collider.

²⁷ First, the discovery of a particle consistent with the Higgs boson in 4.8 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV and
²⁸ 5.8 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV is discussed. Then, the measurement of the Higgs boson signal strength
²⁹ and cross section in both the gluon fusion and vector boson fusion (VBF) production modes using
³⁰ 20.3 fb^{-1} of $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV data combined with 4.8 fb^{-1} of 7 TeV data is shown. The combined signal
³¹ strength is measured to be $\mu = 1.09^{+0.23}_{-0.21}$. The total observed significance of the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ process
³² is observed to be 6.1σ (with 5.8σ expected). Advanced methods for background reduction and estima-
³³ tion, particularly in same-flavor lepton final states, are shown. The VBF signal strength is measured to
³⁴ be $\mu_{\text{VBF}} = 1.27^{+0.53}_{-0.45}$ with an observed significance of 3.2σ (with 2.7σ expected). In the VBF chan-
³⁵ nel, a selection requirement based method, the precursor to the final multivariate technique used for the
³⁶ result, is detailed.

³⁷ Finally, a search for Higgs pair production in the $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ final state with 3.2 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV is
³⁸ presented. A particular focus is placed on a tailored signal region for resonant production of Higgs pairs
³⁹ at high masses. No significant excesses are observed, and upper limits on cross sections are placed for
⁴⁰ spin-2 Randall Sundrum gravitons (RSG) and narrow spin-0 resonances. The cross section of $\sigma(pp \rightarrow$
⁴¹ $G_{\text{KK}}^* \rightarrow hh \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b})$ with $k/\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}} = 1$ is constrained to be less than 70 fb for masses in the range
⁴² $600 < m_{G_{\text{KK}}^*} < 3000 \text{ GeV}$. The cross section upper limits for $\sigma(pp \rightarrow H \rightarrow hh \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b})$ ranges
⁴³ from 30 to 300 fb in the mass range of $500 < m_H < 3000 \text{ GeV}$.

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491

492

Introduction

493 The Higgs boson is often described as one of the cornerstones of particle physics. When the Standard
494 Model was first developed as a theory to describe the fundamental particles and forces of nature, physicists
495 were faced with a dilemma. The electroweak theory beautifully characterized both electromagnetism and
496 the weak force with a single underlying framework. However, the mass of the weak W and Z bosons
497 was puzzling given the fact that their electromagnetic counterpart, the photon, is massless. The Higgs
498 mechanism was developed as the leading theory for the origin of this electroweak symmetry breaking. It
499 predicted the existence of an additional spin-0 boson in the Standard Model, the Higgs boson. Generations
500 of collider experiments searched for this elusive particle. This dissertation presents research work on the
501 Higgs boson from its discovery to its use as a tool in the search for physics beyond the Standard Model
502 with the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

503 One of the first priorities for the LHC when it began colliding proton beams in 2010 was the search for
504 the Higgs boson. This search was initially tackled in three main channels: $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$,

505 and $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$. Each channel has its own merits, but the WW^* mode is particularly suited
506 to searching over a wide range of masses. The $H \rightarrow WW^*$ branching ratio is large and it is the primary
507 decay channel above the $2m_W$ mass threshold. Despite the fact that the full Higgs invariant mass cannot
508 be reconstructed in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ channel, its signal to background ratio makes it ideal for
509 measurement of Higgs properties such as the production cross section and couplings.

510 In 2012, the ATLAS and CMS experiments announced the discovery of a new particle consistent with
511 the Higgs boson [1, 2]. In ATLAS, this discovery was made with 4.8 fb^{-1} collected at $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$
512 and 5.8 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$. This dissertation first presents the search for gluon fusion production
513 of the Higgs in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ channel, which played an important role in this discovery.
514 Selection requirements which were optimized to maximize the discovery significance in this channel, as
515 well as background estimation procedures, are discussed.

516 After its discovery, interest in the Higgs shifted to focus on the measurement of its properties. As a result,
517 extensions of the initial discovery analysis in larger datasets had two main goals. Improvement of signal to
518 background ratio was important to allow for precision measurements. Also, searches for rarer production
519 modes of the Higgs were a priority. The first such extension presented in this dissertation is a tailored
520 selection for $\ell\nu\ell\nu$ final states with same flavor leptons. Novel variables for the reduction of the $Z+\text{jets}$
521 background that could remain robust under increasing LHC instantaneous luminosities are shown. The
522 second post-discovery result shown is the first evidence of Vector Boson Fusion (VBF) production of the
523 Higgs boson.

524 VBF production of the Higgs boson is particularly interesting in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ final state.
525 In this combination of production and decay modes, the Higgs boson couples exclusively to W bosons,
526 allowing for precise measurement of the Higgs- W coupling constant. However, it is challenging to observe
527 VBF Higgs production because its cross section at the LHC is an order of magnitude lower than gluon
528 fusion production. The large $H \rightarrow WW^*$ branching ratio thus presents another advantage over other
529 final states. Additionally, VBF production of the Higgs boson creates two forward jets in addition to the
530 Higgs, and these jets can be used to isolate VBF Higgs events from other production modes. The VBF
531 $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ analysis first created a selection requirement based signal region using variables

532 constructed specifically for the VBF Higgs production topology. This “cut-based” analysis is presented
533 in detail in this dissertation. These VBF topology variables, once validated in the cut-based analysis, were
534 then input into a multivariate boosted decision tree discriminant to achieve the first evidence of VBF Higgs
535 production with the full 20.3 fb^{-1} of $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$ data in ATLAS.

536 After a two year shutdown, the LHC restarted in 2015 with a center of mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$.
537 This increase improved the LHC’s ability to probe for physics beyond the Standard Model, and the Higgs
538 sector remained one of the largest regions of unprobed phase space where such new physics could be dis-
539 covered. Production of high mass resonances benefited most from the center of mass energy increase. In
540 particular, the cross section for a generic gluon-initiated 2 TeV resonance increased tenfold with the in-
541 crease from 8 to 13 TeV. Therefore, a natural next step in studies of the Higgs was a search for a new
542 heavy resonance which decays into a pair of Higgs bosons. The final result shown in this dissertation is a
543 search for resonant di-Higgs production in the $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ final state with 3.2 fb^{-1} recorded by
544 ATLAS at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$. This search has the unique advantage that it can both probe physics beyond
545 the Standard Model and gain further understanding of the Standard Model through constraints on SM
546 pair production of the Higgs.

547 As mentioned above, this dissertation begins by discussing the discovery of the Higgs and the role of
548 the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ channel. It then presents the first evidence for the VBF production mode using
549 the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ channel with the full ATLAS Run 1 dataset. It also shows the final combined
550 Run 1 measurements of gluon fusion Higgs production from this channel. Finally, it presents a search for
551 Higgs pair production in the $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ channel. It is organized into four parts.

552 Part 1 presents the theoretical and experimental background required for the subsequent parts. Chap-
553 ter 1 gives an overview of Higgs physics, particularly single and double Higgs production in the Standard
554 Model and beyond. Chapter 2 presents details regarding the Large Hadron Collider and the ATLAS experi-
555 ment. The evolution of machine conditions, descriptions of the ATLAS sub-detectors, and an overview of
556 object reconstruction in ATLAS are all shown. A brief interlude on the ATLAS Muon New Small Wheel
557 upgrade is also given, as this upgrade has been a focus of my graduate work and will have an important
558 impact on ATLAS’ ability to study the Higgs at the High Luminosity LHC.

559 Part 2 discusses the observation and measurement of the Higgs in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ channel
560 in the ATLAS Run 1 dataset at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV. Because I worked in this channel from before the
561 discovery through to the final analysis of the Run 1 dataset, Part 2 is organized in such a way to allow
562 easy presentation of multiple analyses on different subsets of the full Run 1 dataset. Chapter 3 presents
563 a general overview of the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ analysis strategy and defines many of the variables and common
564 elements used in the rest of Part 2. Chapter 4 presents the discovery of the Higgs boson, focusing on the
565 role of the WW^* channel in this discovery. Chapter 5 presents the first evidence for the VBF production
566 mode of the Higgs, a result from the WW^* channel in the full Run 1 ATLAS dataset. In this chapter,
567 the focus is mainly on the cut-based VBF analysis. The cut-based analysis was an important first step to
568 the final VBF result which used a boosted decision tree. Where appropriate, connections between the cut-
569 based and BDT analyses are shown and their compatibility is discussed. Finally, the VBF analysis was an
570 important input into the combined Run 1 $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ result, which used both the gluon fusion
571 and VBF channels in a combined fit to infer properties of the Higgs, including its couplings to the gauge
572 bosons and its production cross section. This is the topic of Chapter 6.

573 Part 3 presents a search for Higgs pair production in the $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ channel. Chapter 7 presents
574 an overview of this search in the boosted regime, where the Higgs pairs are the result of the decay of a
575 heavy resonance. Chapter 8 shows the combined results between the boosted regime and the resolved
576 regime, which is sensitive to lower mass resonances and non-resonant Higgs pair production. Finally, Part
577 4 presents a conclusion and brief outlook of future Higgs physics with ATLAS.

Part I

Theoretical and Experimental Background

In modern physics, there is no such thing as “nothing.”

Richard Morris

1

580

581

The Physics of the Higgs Boson

582 This chapter presents an overview of the Standard Model of Particle Physics and in particular the physics
583 of the Higgs boson. First, a brief overview of the Standard Model is presented. Then, a description of the
584 Higgs mechanism of electroweak symmetry breaking is given. Next, the physics of single Higgs boson
585 production and decay is described. The Standard Model also allows for production of two Higgs bosons
586 and this is detailed as well. Finally, di-Higgs production in two beyond the Standard Model (BSM) theories
587 - Randall-Sundrum gravitons (RSG) and Two Higgs Doublet Models (2HDM) - is shown.

588 **I.I THE STANDARD MODEL OF PARTICLE PHYSICS**

589 The Standard Model (SM) of Particle Physics is a quantum field theory describing the fundamental
590 particles of nature and the forces that govern their interactions. Several comprehensive treatments of the
591 SM already exist in the literature [3–8] and this section will not rehash those. Rather, this section presents
592 a brief overview of the SM particles and forces in order to define them for subsequent discussions.

593 The Standard Model consists of two primary categories of fundamental particles: fermions (spin 1/2
 594 particles) and bosons (integer spin particles). The SM also describes three forces: electromagnetism, the
 595 weak nuclear force, and the strong nuclear force. Gravity is not included in the theory and is largely irrele-
 596 vant at the scales currently probed by collider experiments. Within the fermions, there are both quarks
 597 (which interact via all three forces) and the leptons. The charged leptons interact via electromagnetic and
 598 weak interactions, while neutrinos (neutral leptons) interact only via the weak force. Within the bosons,
 599 there are the W^\pm and Z bosons (the mediators of the weak force), the gluon (g , the mediator of the strong
 600 force), and the photon (γ), the mediator of the electromagnetic force. Finally, there is the Higgs boson,
 601 a fundamental spin-0 particle resulting from the Higgs mechanism of electroweak symmetry breaking.
 602 Figure 1.1 summarizes the fermions and bosons of the SM.

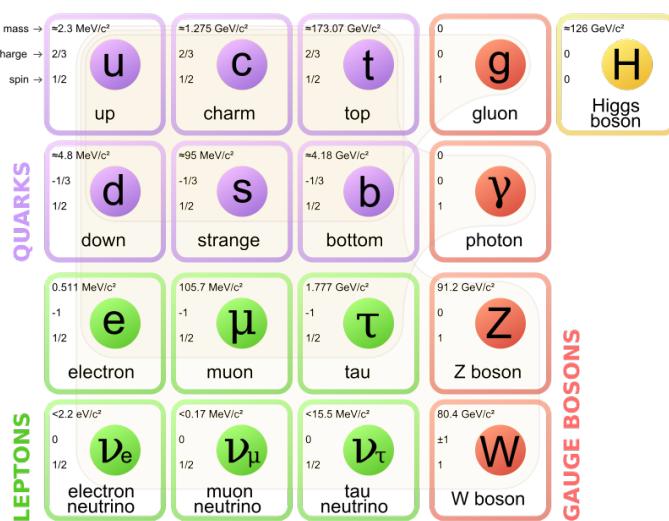


Figure 1.1: The particles of the Standard Model and their properties [6].

603 The Standard Model coalesced into a unified theoretical framework in the 1960s through the work
 604 of Glashow, Weinberg, Salam, and others on the theory of electroweak interactions [9–12]. This theory
 605 characterized both the electromagnetic and weak interactions as unified under a single gauge symmetry
 606 group, namely $SU(2) \times U(1)$. At low enough energy scales (on the order of the W and Z masses, the
 607 electroweak symmetry is broken, as evidenced by the fact that the weak bosons have mass while the photon
 608 does not. The discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012 confirmed the Higgs mechanism as the most likely
 609 candidate for this electroweak symmetry breaking [1, 2]. The electroweak theory is then combined with

⁶¹⁰ the theory of quantum chromodynamics (which models the strong sector as a non-Abelian $SU(3)$ gauge
⁶¹¹ group) to form the complete SM [13].

⁶¹² 1.2 ELECTROWEAK SYMMETRY BREAKING AND THE HIGGS

⁶¹³ In the Standard Model Lagrangian, it is difficult to include mass terms for the W and Z bosons without
⁶¹⁴ breaking the fundamental gauge symmetry of the Lagrangian. A traditional mass term does not preserve
⁶¹⁵ the $SU(2) \times U(1)$ symmetry. Additionally, scattering of massive W and Z bosons violate unitarity and
⁶¹⁶ these diagrams diverge at high energy scales. In the 1960s, Higgs, Brout, Englert, Guralnik, Kibble, and
⁶¹⁷ Hagen developed a mechanism for spontaneous symmetry breaking via the addition of a complex scalar
⁶¹⁸ doublet to the SM. Three of the four real degrees of freedom of this complex field would go to the lon-
⁶¹⁹ gitudinal modes of the W^\pm and Z , thus allowing them to have mass [14–17]. The remaining degree of
⁶²⁰ freedom would manifest as an additional scalar, known now as the Higgs boson.

⁶²¹ The mechanism works by introducing a Lagrangian for the newly introduced field that still respects the
⁶²² symmetry of the Standard Model inherently, but with a minimum at a non-zero vacuum expectation value
⁶²³ for the field. In this minimum of the potential, the electroweak symmetry is broken. Specifically, consider
⁶²⁴ a complex scalar doublet Φ with four degrees of freedom, as shown in equation 1.1.

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1^+ + i\phi_2^+ \\ \phi_1^0 + i\phi_2^0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.1)$$

⁶²⁵ The minimal potential of a self-interacting Higgs that still respects the SM symmetry is given in equa-
⁶²⁶ tion 1.2.

$$V(\Phi) = \mu^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi + \lambda (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2 \quad (1.2)$$

⁶²⁷ If the μ^2 term of this potential is positive, then the potential has a minimum at $\Phi = 0$ and the SM
⁶²⁸ symmetry is preserved. However, if instead $\mu^2 < 0$, then the minimum is at a finite value of Φ , namely

$$\Phi_{\min} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.3)$$

629 where $v = \sqrt{\mu^2/\lambda}$. Because this is the location of the minimum, it corresponds to the vacuum expecta-
 630 tion value for the field ($\langle \Phi \rangle = \Phi_{\min}$). The excitations of the Higgs can then be parameterized as

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + H \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.4)$$

631 The full scalar Lagrangian, including the kinetic term, is then given as

$$\mathcal{L}_s = (D^\mu \Phi)^\dagger (D_\mu \Phi) - V(\Phi) \quad (1.5)$$

632 where the covariant derivative is defined as

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + \frac{ig}{2} \tau^a W_\mu^a + ig' Y B_\mu \quad (1.6)$$

633 and W^1, W^2, W^3 and B are the $SU(2)$ and $U(1)$ gauge fields of the electroweak theory, respectively. g
 634 and g' are the corresponding coupling constants. With the scalar Lagrangian in place, the physical gauge
 635 fields can then be written as

$$W_\mu^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (W_\mu^1 \mp i W_\mu^2) \quad (1.7)$$

636

$$Z_\mu = \frac{-g'B_\mu + gW_\mu^3}{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}} \quad (1.8)$$

637

$$A_\mu = \frac{gB_\mu + g'W_\mu^3}{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}} \quad (1.9)$$

638 Equation 1.7 corresponds to the charged W^+ and W^- bosons, equation 1.8 corresponds to the neutral Z
 639 boson, and equation 1.9 corresponds to the neutral photon. The masses of the particles also arise from the
 640 Lagrangian. The photon has zero mass, while the masses of the W and Z bosons are given in equation 1.10.

641

$$M_W^2 = \frac{1}{4} g^2 v^2$$

$$M_Z^2 = \frac{1}{4} (g^2 + g'^2) v^2 \quad (1.10)$$

642 The fermion masses also arise through a coupling with the Higgs via the Yukawa interaction (for a detailed
643 description, see [8]). In this case the coupling between the Higgs and the fermions goes as

$$g_{Hf\bar{f}} = \frac{m_f}{v} \quad (\text{i.ii})$$

644 The full Lagrangian of Higgs interactions can be written as

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}} = -g_{Hf\bar{f}}\bar{f}fH + \frac{g_{HHH}}{6}H^3 + \frac{g_{HHHH}}{24}H^4 + \delta_V V_\mu V^\mu \left(g_{HV}VH + \frac{g_{HHV}}{2}H^2 \right) \quad (\text{i.12})$$

645 with

$$\begin{aligned} g_{HV} &= \frac{2m_V^2}{v} & g_{HHV} &= \frac{2m_V^2}{v^2} \\ g_{HHH} &= \frac{3m_H^2}{v} & g_{HHHH} &= \frac{3m_H^2}{v^2} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{i.13})$$

646 Here, V refers to the W^\pm and Z , and $\delta_W = 1$ while $\delta_Z = 1/2$. Phenomenologically, there are a few
647 features of this Lagrangian that are useful to note. First, note that the Higgs mass is a free parameter of the
648 theory that must be determined experimentally. Second, note that the coupling of the Higgs to the vector
649 bosons and fermions scales with the masses of these particles, a fact that is important when considering
650 both the production and decays of the particle. Also note that the branching ratio of the Higgs to W
651 bosons will be twice that of the branching ratio to Z if the Higgs mass is large enough to produce the
652 particles on shell because of the extra symmetry factor associated with the W coupling. Finally, note the
653 presence of the cubic and quartic Higgs self interaction terms, which can lead to final states with multiple
654 Higgs bosons produced.

655 1.3 HIGGS BOSON PRODUCTION AND DECAY

656 This section discusses the properties of Higgs production and decay mechanisms. The details presented
657 here will focus on the properties of a 125 GeV Higgs boson, as this is the mass closest to that of the newly
658 discovered Higgs.

659 1.3.1 HIGGS PRODUCTION

660 The Higgs is produced by four main production modes at the Large Hadron Collider - gluon-gluon
 661 fusion (ggF), vector boson fusion (VBF), associated production with a W or Z boson, or associated pro-
 662 duction with top quarks ($t\bar{t}H$). Figure 1.2 shows the Feynman diagrams for these four modes.

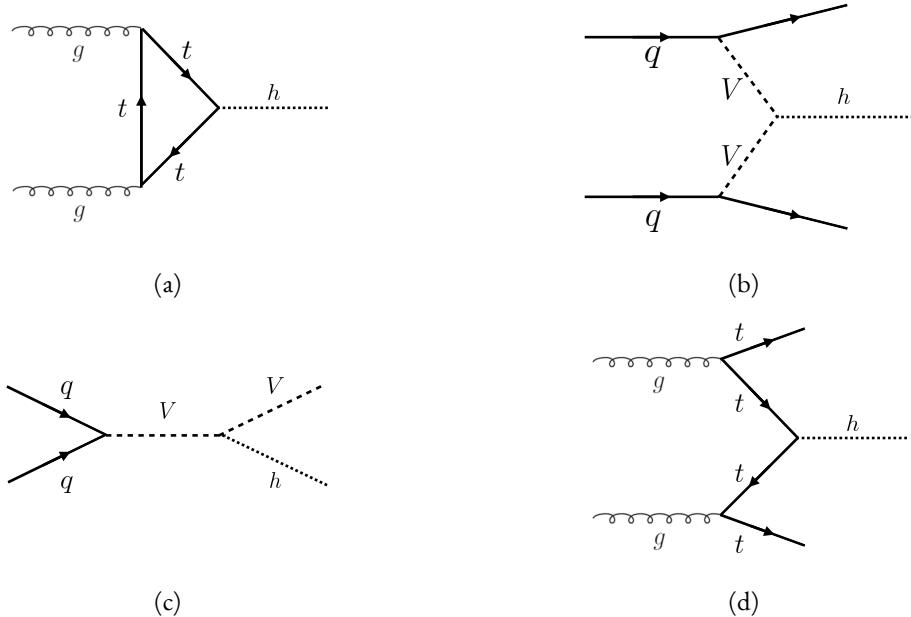


Figure 1.2: The four most common Higgs boson production modes at the LHC: (a) gluon-gluon fusion, (b) vector boson fusion, (c) $W/Z + H$ production, (d) $t\bar{t}H$ production

663 In gluon-gluon fusion, gluons from the incoming protons fuse via a top-quark loop to produce a Higgs.
 664 The top quark is the dominant contribution in the loop due to its heavy mass and the fact that the Higgs-
 665 fermion coupling constant scales with fermion mass. In vector boson fusion, the incoming quarks each
 666 radiate a W or Z boson which fuse to produce the Higgs. This production mode results in a final state
 667 with a Higgs boson and two additional jets which tend to be forward because they carry the longitudinal
 668 momentum of the incoming partons. The Higgs can also be produced in association with a W or Z boson.
 669 The W/Z is produced normally and then radiates a Higgs (this mode is also sometimes known as “Higgs-
 670 strahlung”). Finally, the Higgs can be produced in association with two top quarks. Each incoming gluon
 671 splits into a $t\bar{t}$ pair, and one of the top pairs combines to create a Higgs. Figure 1.3 shows the production
 672 cross section for a 125 GeV Higgs boson in each of these modes at a pp collider as a function of center of

673 mass energy.

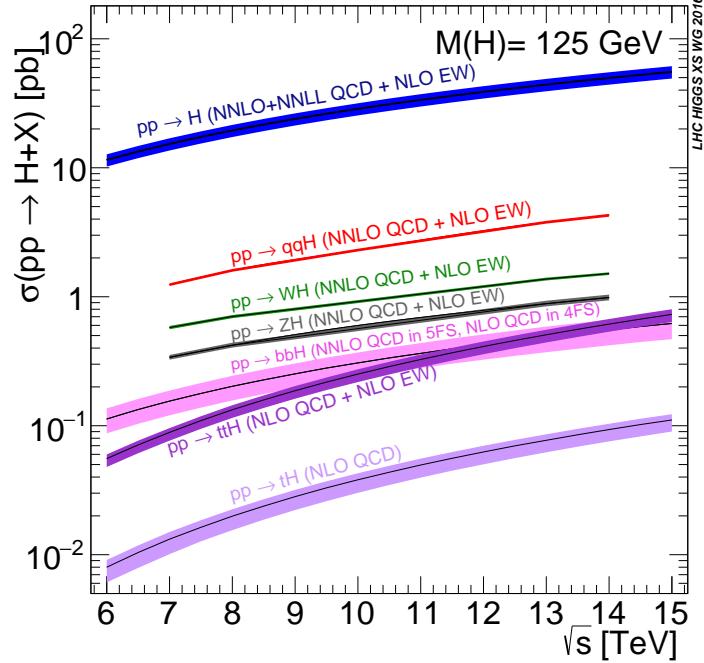


Figure 1.3: Higgs production cross sections as a function of center of mass energy (\sqrt{s}) at a pp collider [18].

674 In figure 1.3, note that gluon fusion has the largest cross section, while VBF is the second largest at ap-
 675 proximately a factor of 10 smaller. The figure also includes the less commonly studied $b\bar{b}H$ and tH modes.
 676 While the $b\bar{b}H$ mode has a larger cross section than $t\bar{t}H$, it also has larger backgrounds and is thus less sensi-
 677 tive. The tH mode is not as sensitive as $t\bar{t}H$ due to its lower cross section. At $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV, ggF production
 678 of a 125 GeV Higgs has a cross section of 19.47 pb, while VBF has a cross section of 1.601 pb [18]. The
 679 cross sections of all of the main Higgs production modes at this center of mass energy, as well as their un-
 680 certainties from varying the renormalization and factorization scales and PDFs, are summarized in table 1.1
 681 for a 125 GeV Higgs.

Production mode	σ (pb)	QCD scale uncert. (%)	PDF + α_s uncert. (%)
Gluon fusion	19.47	+7.3 / - 8.0	3.1
Vector boson fusion	1.601	+0.3 / - 0.2	2.2
WH	0.7026	+0.6 / - 0.9	2.0
ZH	0.4208	+2.9 / - 2.4	1.7
$b\bar{b}H$	0.2021	+20.7 / - 22.3	
$t\bar{t}H$	0.1330	+4.1 / - 9.2	4.3
tH (t -channel)	0.01869	+7.3 / - 16.5	4.6
tH (s -channel)	1.214×10^{-3}	+2.8 / - 2.4	2.8

Table 1.1: Production cross sections for a 125 GeV Higgs boson at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with scale and PDF uncertainties [18].

682 1.3.2 HIGGS BRANCHING RATIOS

683 The fact that the Higgs couples more strongly to more massive particles is crucial for understanding its
 684 branching ratios. The width for Higgs decays to fermions is given in equation 1.14 [5].

$$\Gamma(H \rightarrow f\bar{f}) = \frac{N_c \sqrt{2} G_F m_f^2 m_H}{8\pi} \quad (1.14)$$

685 In this case, N_c is the number of colors, G_F is the Fermi constant, m_f is the mass of the fermion, and
 686 m_H is the mass of the Higgs. Note that the width scales with the square of the fermion mass. (This also
 687 assumes that the Higgs mass is large enough to decay with both the fermions on shell.)

688 The decay width to WW , in the case where both W bosons are produced on shell ($m_H \geq 2m_W$), is
 689 given in equation 1.15 [5].

$$\Gamma(H \rightarrow W^+ W^-) = \frac{\sqrt{2} G_F M_W^2 m_H}{16\pi} \frac{\sqrt{1-x_W}}{x_W} (3x_W^2 - 4x_W + 4) \quad (1.15)$$

690 where m_W is the mass of the W and $x_W = 4M_W^2/m_H^2$. To get the branching ratio to ZZ (in the regime
 691 where $m_H \geq 2m_Z$), the equation is divided by 2 to account for identical particles in the final state, and
 692 x_W is replaced with $x_Z = 4M_Z^2/m_H^2$. This is shown in equation 1.16 [5].

$$\Gamma(H \rightarrow ZZ) = \frac{\sqrt{2} G_F M_Z^2 m_H}{32\pi} \frac{\sqrt{1-x_Z}}{x_Z} (3x_Z^2 - 4x_Z + 4) \quad (1.16)$$

⁶⁹³ The more general formula for Higgs branching into WW or ZZ , taking into account the case where one
⁶⁹⁴ or both vector bosons is off-shell, is shown in equation 1.17 [19].

$$\Gamma(H \rightarrow V^*V^*) = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \int_0^{M_H^2} \frac{dq_1^2 M_V \Gamma_V}{(q_1^2 - M_V^2)^2 + M_V^2 \Gamma_V^2} \int_0^{(M_H - q_1)^2} \frac{dq_2^2 M_V \Gamma_V}{(q_2^2 - M_V^2)^2 + M_V^2 \Gamma_V^2} \Gamma_0 \quad (1.17)$$

⁶⁹⁵ Here, q_1^2 and q_2^2 are the invariant masses of the virtual gauge bosons, M_V is the W or Z mass, and Γ_V is
⁶⁹⁶ the W or Z width. Γ_0 is the squared matrix element, which is given in equation 1.18 [19].

$$\Gamma_0 = \frac{G_F M_H^3}{8\sqrt{2}\pi} \delta_V \sqrt{\lambda(q_1^2, q_2^2, M_H^2)} \left[\lambda(q_1^2, q_2^2, M_H^2) + \frac{12q_1^2 q_2^2}{M_H^4} \right] \quad (1.18)$$

⁶⁹⁷ The function λ is defined as $\lambda(x, y, z) = (1 - x/z - y/z)^2 - 4xy/z^2$. The integral in the general off-
⁶⁹⁸ shell boson case is much more difficult to interpret than the simpler on-shell branching ratios, but it can be
⁶⁹⁹ evaluated numerically. These formulas can also be visualized as a function of Higgs mass. Figure 1.4 shows
the branching ratios as a function of the Higgs mass. There are a few interesting features to note in this

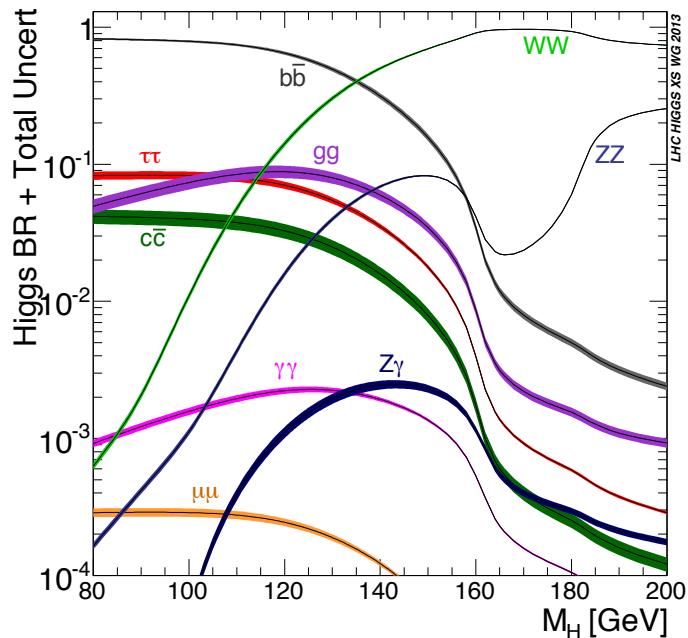


Figure 1.4: Higgs boson branching ratios as a function of m_H [18].

⁷⁰⁰
⁷⁰¹ figure. First, note that at high Higgs masses, once on-shell production of both W and Z bosons is possible,

702 these two decays are the dominant ones due to the large masses of the W/Z . Also note that the branching
 703 ratio to W s is twice that of Z s at these large masses due to the δ_V symmetry factor noted previously. At
 704 125 GeV, the Higgs is accessible through many different decay modes. The largest branching ratio is the
 705 decay $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ at 58.24% [18]. This branching is larger than the WW/ZZ decays because one of the two
 706 bosons must be produced off-shell for $m_H = 125$ GeV. The second largest branching ratio is to WW^* at
 707 21.37 % (before taking into account the branching ratios of the W). Table 1.2 summarizes the branching
 708 ratios for a 125 GeV Higgs. Note that there is in fact a Higgs branching ratio to $\gamma\gamma$ even though photons
 709 are massless. This decay happens through a loop (the largest contributions to the loop are top and W)
 710 which suppresses the branching ratio.

Decay	Branching ratio (%)	Relative uncertainty (%)
$b\bar{b}$	58.24	+0.25/ - 0.25
WW^*	21.37	+0.99/ - 0.99
gg	8.187	+3.40/ - 3.41
$\tau\tau$	6.272	+1.17/ - 1.16
$c\bar{c}$	2.891	+1.20/ - 1.20
ZZ^*	2.619	+0.99/ - 0.99
$\gamma\gamma$	0.2270	+1.73/ - 1.72
$Z\gamma$	0.1533	+5.71/ - 5.71
$\mu\mu$	0.02176	+1.23/ - 1.23

Table 1.2: Branching ratios for a 125 GeV Higgs boson, quoted as a percentage of the total width of the Higgs.
 Uncertainties shown are relative to the branching ratio value [18].

711 Note that the branching ratios alone do not tell the full story of which Higgs channels are the most
 712 sensitive. For example, a $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ search in gluon fusion production is incredibly difficult due to the
 713 large QCD dijet background at the LHC. However, in associated production of the Higgs, where a W
 714 or Z gives additional final state particles that can be used to reduce background, a search for $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$
 715 can be sensitive. The combinations of production and decay modes that are most commonly studied are
 716 summarized in table 1.3 [5].

Decay	Inclusive (incl. ggF)	VBF	WH/ZH	$t\bar{t}H$
$H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	✓	✓	✓	✓
$H \rightarrow bb$			✓	✓
$H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$		✓		
$H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$	✓	✓	✓	
$H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$	✓			
$H \rightarrow Z\gamma \rightarrow \ell\ell\gamma$	very low			

Table 1.3: Possible channels for Higgs searches. Checkmarks denote the most sensitive production modes for each decay channel [5].

717 1.4 HIGGS PAIR PRODUCTION IN THE STANDARD MODEL

718 The Standard Model also allows for processes that produce two Higgs bosons in the final state, known
 719 as Higgs pair production or di-Higgs production. The two main production mechanisms are shown in
 figure 1.5. The two diagrams in figure 1.5 interfere destructively with one another, resulting in a low overall

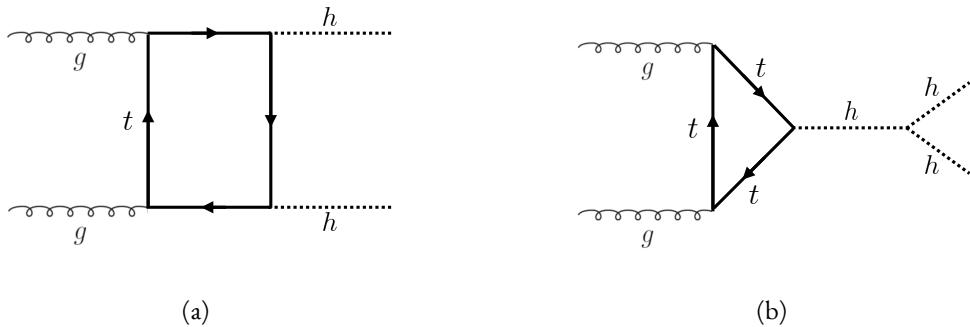


Figure 1.5: The two leading diagrams for Standard Model di-Higgs production at the LHC: (a) box diagram, (b) Higgs self coupling

720 cross section for di-Higgs production at the LHC. Nevertheless, Higgs pair production is quite interesting
 721 to study because it gives direct access to the λ parameter of the Higgs potential, also known as the Higgs
 722 self coupling. The diagram in figure 1.5(b) is sensitive to this coupling through the triple Higgs vertex.

723 One can substitute the gluon fusion production of diagram 1.5(b) with any of the other production
 724 modes previously discussed. These other modes do not suffer from interference with the box diagram in
 725 figure 1.5(a) due to the presence of additional particles in the final state. They still have a lower cross section
 726 than the gluon fusion mode, however. The cross sections for di-Higgs production in the different modes,
 727

728 as well as their uncertainties, are shown in table 1.4 [20]. These are shown for $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV as the higher
729 center of mass energy is more sensitive to this process. Note that the scale of cross section quoted is now
in fb rather than pb.

Production mode	σ (fb)	Total uncert. (%)
Gluon fusion	33.89	+37.2/ - 27.8
Vector boson fusion	2.01	+7.6/ - 5.1
$W H H$	0.57	+3.7/ - 3.3
$Z H H$	0.42	+7.0/ - 5.5
$t \bar{t} H$	1.02	-

Table 1.4: Production cross sections for pair production of a 125 GeV Higgs boson at $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV with total uncertainty [20]. The uncertainties include QCD scale and PDF variations as well as uncertainties on α_S .

730

731 1.5 HIGGS PAIR PRODUCTION IN THEORIES BEYOND THE STANDARD MODEL

732 The Standard Model Higgs pair production cross section is rather small, and datasets on the scale of
733 the full lifetime of the LHC will be required to obtain sensitive measurements of the Higgs self-coupling.
734 However, the discovery of the Higgs also gives particle physicists a new tool that can be exploited in the
735 search for new physics beyond the Standard Model. In particular, Higgs pair production is a promising
736 channel in the search for new physics. The cross section for di-Higgs production can be altered through
737 both resonant and non-resonant production of Higgs pairs. In non-resonant production, di-Higgs pro-
738 duction vertices can arise from the presence of a new strong sector and additional colored particles [21–23].
739 Figure 1.6 shows examples of the types of vertices that can arise. In the resonant case, new heavy particle
740 can decay to Higgs pairs. Such new particles can include heavy Higgs bosons arising in two Higgs doublet
741 models (2HDM) or Higgs portal models as well as heavy gravitons in Randall-Sundrum theories [21, 24–
742 30]. Figure 1.7 shows a generic diagram for a heavy resonance decaying to two Higgs bosons. In the 2HDM,
743 X corresponds to the heavy CP-even scalar H . In the Randall-Sundrum model, X corresponds to a heavy
744 spin-2 graviton G . The next sections provide more detail on the phenomenology of resonant Higgs pro-
745 duction in Randall-Sundrum and 2HDM models, as these models will later be tested in a dedicated search
746 for resonant production of boosted Higgs pairs.

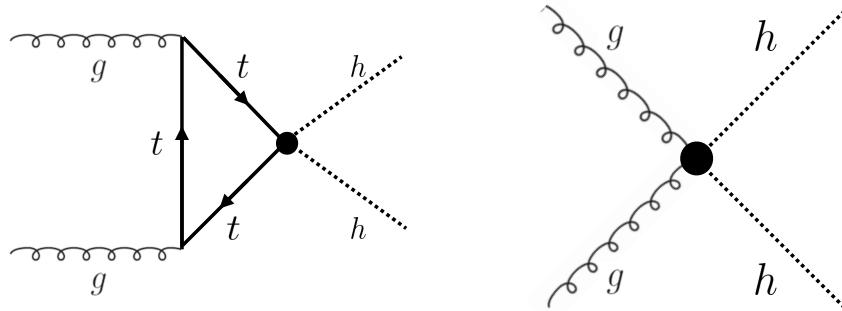


Figure 1.6: Diagrams with new vertices for non-resonant Higgs pair production arising in composite Higgs models

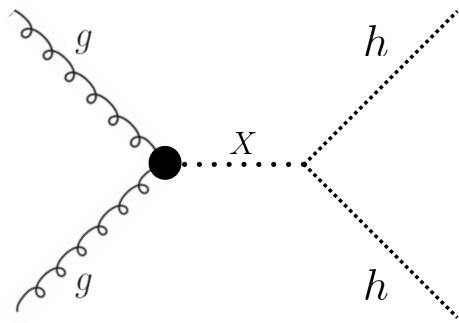


Figure 1.7: Generic Feynman diagram for resonant Higgs pair production in BSM theories

747 1.5.1 RANDALL-SUNDRUM GRAVITONS

748 The Randall-Sundrum model is a proposed solution to the hierarchy problem that posits a five-dimensional
 749 warped spacetime that contains two branes: one where the force of gravity is very strong and a second brane
 750 at the TeV scale corresponding to the known Standard Model sector [24]. In the theory, the branes are
 751 weakly coupled and the graviton probability function drops exponentially going from the gravity brane
 752 to the SM brane, rendering gravity weak on the SM brane. The experimental consequence of this theory
 753 is a tower of widely spaced (in mass) Kaluza-Klein graviton resonances. In theories where the fermions
 754 are localized to the SM brane, production of gravitons from fermion pairs is suppressed and the primary
 755 mode of production is gluon fusion [25]. These gravitons have a substantial branching fraction to Higgs
 756 pairs, ranging from 6.43% for gravitons with a mass of 500 GeV to 7.66% at 3 TeV. Figure 1.8 shows the
 757 branching ratios of the spin-2 Randall Sundrum graviton (RSG) as a function of its mass. The predomi-

758 nant decays are to $t\bar{t}$ above the mass threshold for that channel.

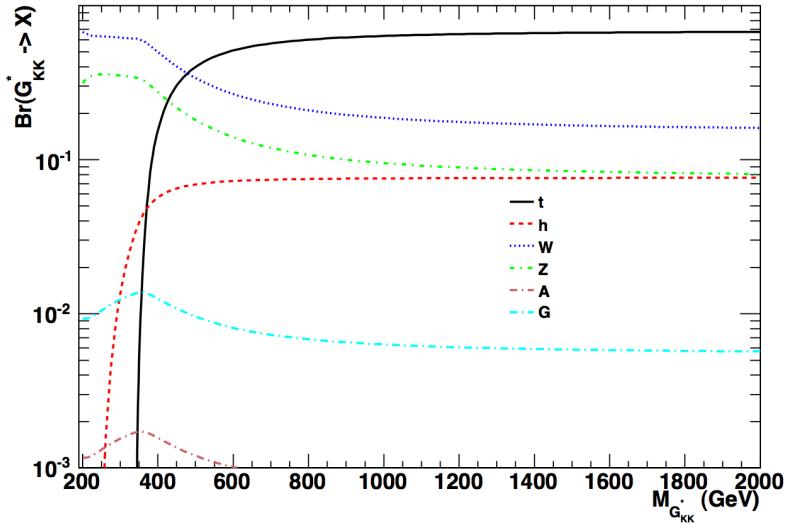


Figure 1.8: Branching ratios for a spin-2 Randall-Sundrum graviton as a function of mass computed in MadGraph with the CP3-Origins implementation [25, 31, 32]

759 These models have two free parameters - the mass of the graviton and a curvature parameter k . Typically,
 760 rather than k , the theory is parameterized using $c \equiv k/\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}}$, where \bar{M}_{Pl} is the reduced Planck mass. The
 761 cross section for production of the RSG decreases as a function of mass and is strongly dependent on the
 762 gluon PDF. The increase in center of mass energy from 8 to 13 TeV in LHC Run 2 greatly increases the
 763 cross section at higher mass. Figure 1.9 shows the cross section as a function of graviton mass at $\sqrt{s} =$
 764 13 TeV for RSG models with $c = 1.0$ and $c = 2.0$.

765 Another interesting feature of the theory is that the width of the graviton increases with both c and m_G .
 766 Figure 1.10 shows the graviton width for both $c = 1.0$ and $c = 2.0$ as a function of mass. In $c = 1.0$,
 767 the width starts at 8.365 GeV for a mass of 300 GeV and increases to 187.2 GeV at a mass of 3 TeV.
 768 Similarly, with $c = 2.0$, the width starts at 33.46 GeV for $m_G = 300$ GeV and increases to 748.8 GeV
 769 at a mass of 3 TeV.

770 1.5.2 TWO HIGGS DOUBLET MODELS

771 In Two Higgs Doublet Models (2HDM), a second complex scalar doublet is added to SM [27–29]. In
 772 this case, all four degrees of freedom in the second doublet correspond to new particles, meaning that there

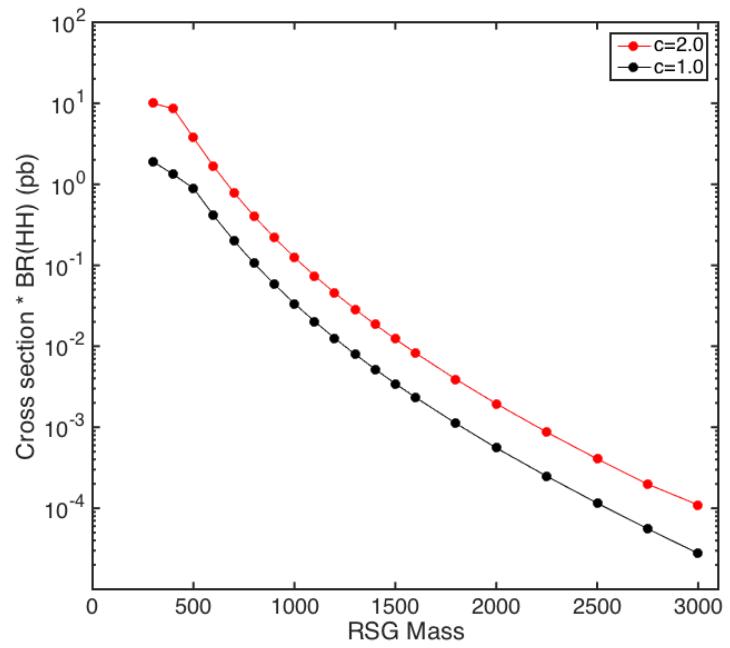


Figure 1.9: $\sigma \times \text{BR}(HH)$ for RSG as a function of mass computed in MadGraph with the CP3-Origins implementation [25, 31, 32]

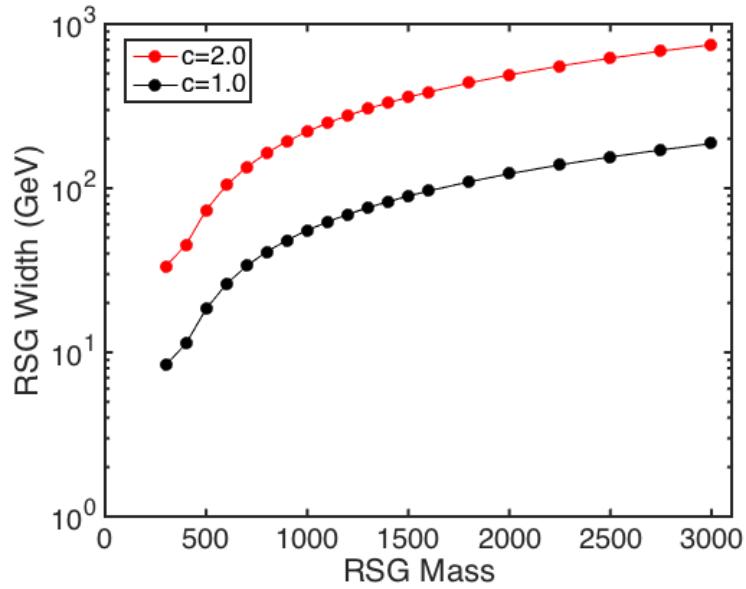


Figure 1.10: RSG width as a function of mass computed in MadGraph with the CP3-Origins implementation [25, 31, 32]

773 are five total scalars from the two Higgs doublets - h (light CP-even Higgs), H (heavy CP-even Higgs), A
 774 (heavy CP-odd Higgs), and H^\pm (charged Higgs). The model is parameterized by two main parameters.
 775 The first, $\tan \beta \equiv \frac{v_2}{v_1}$, is the ratio of the vacuum expectation values of the two Higgs doublets (where v_1
 776 corresponds to the v in the SM Higgs model described above). The second parameter is α , a mixing angle
 777 between the heavy and light Higgs fields. Models are also often parameterized with $\cos(\beta - \alpha)$ rather
 778 than α directly. The limit where $\cos(\beta - \alpha) = 0$ is called the alignment limit, and it is in this limit that
 779 the light Higgs h has the same couplings as a Standard Model Higgs.

780 2HDM models are usually separated into two main types - Type I and Type II. In Type I models, the
 781 charged fermions only couple to the second Higgs doublet, leading to a fermiophobic light Higgs. In
 782 Type II models, up-type quarks couple to the first doublet while down-type quarks couple to the second
 783 doublet. One specific realization of a Type II 2HDM is the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model
 784 (MSSM).

785 Resonant di-Higgs production in this model can proceed through decays of the heavy CP-even Higgs
 786 $H \rightarrow hh$. The branching ratio for $H \rightarrow hh$ depends on the model type as well as the values of $\tan \beta$ and
 787 $\cos \beta - \alpha$. Figure 1.II shows the branching ratios as a function of the mass of the heavy scalar H for both
 788 Type I and Type II models. Depending on the type of model hh can be a substantial fraction of the decays
 789 of H .

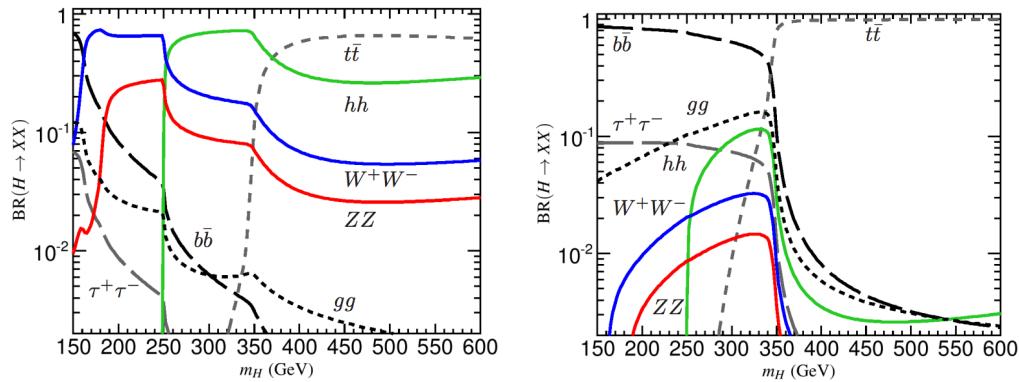


Figure 1.II: Branching ratios for heavy Higgs H in Type I (left) and Type II (right) 2HDM models with $\tan \beta = 1.5$ and $\cos(\beta - \alpha) = 0.1$ (Type I) (0.01 Type II). [29]

790 1.6 CONCLUSION

791 Studying the Higgs sector is essential for understanding the details of how mass arises in the Standard
792 Model and how the electroweak symmetry is broken. The discovery of the Higgs boson also opens the
793 door for its use as a tool to search for new physics, and Higgs pair production is an ideal candidate for
794 this study. Even if no BSM physics is found in Higgs pair production, searches for Higgs pairs will put
795 constraints on the Higgs self coupling and thus further knowledge of the Standard Model and the details
796 of the Higgs potential.

*The enthusiasm and motivation to explore particle physics
at the high-energy frontier knows no borders between the
nations and regions of the planet.*

Peter Jenni

2

797

798

The ATLAS detector and the Large Hadron 799 Collider

800 This chapter presents an overview of the experimental systems used to conduct the measurements pre-
801 sented in this thesis. First, a brief overview of the accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider, will be given.
802 In this section, the accelerator conditions relevant to data-taking are presented as well. Next, an overview
803 of the ATLAS experiment is given. The basics of each sub-detector's role are summarized, as well as the
804 details of the datasets accumulated. Then, a brief interlude on the ATLAS Muon New Small Wheel up-
805 grade is presented. While this new detector does not have a direct impact on any of the datasets taken so
806 far, it will have an impact on future analyses and the work done on it is briefly summarized here. Finally,
807 an overview of object reconstruction in ATLAS is given. While the details of all of the algorithms will not
808 be presented in detail, aspects of the reconstruction performance such as object resolutions are shown as
809 these are relevant to the two studies presented later in this thesis.

810 2.1 THE LARGE HADRON COLLIDER

811 The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is a proton-proton collider at the CERN laboratory in Geneva,
812 Switzerland [33]. It is designed for a maximum collision center of mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV and has a
813 circumference of 26.7 kilometers. Four main experiments are located at the interaction points (IP) of the
814 accelerator: ATLAS (A Toroidal LHC Apparatus), CMS (the Compact Muon Solenoid), ALICE (A Large
815 Ion Collider Experiment), and LHCb [34–37]. The studies performed in this thesis were all completed
816 with the ATLAS detector. Figure 2.1 shows a schematic of the LHC ring and the various experiments.

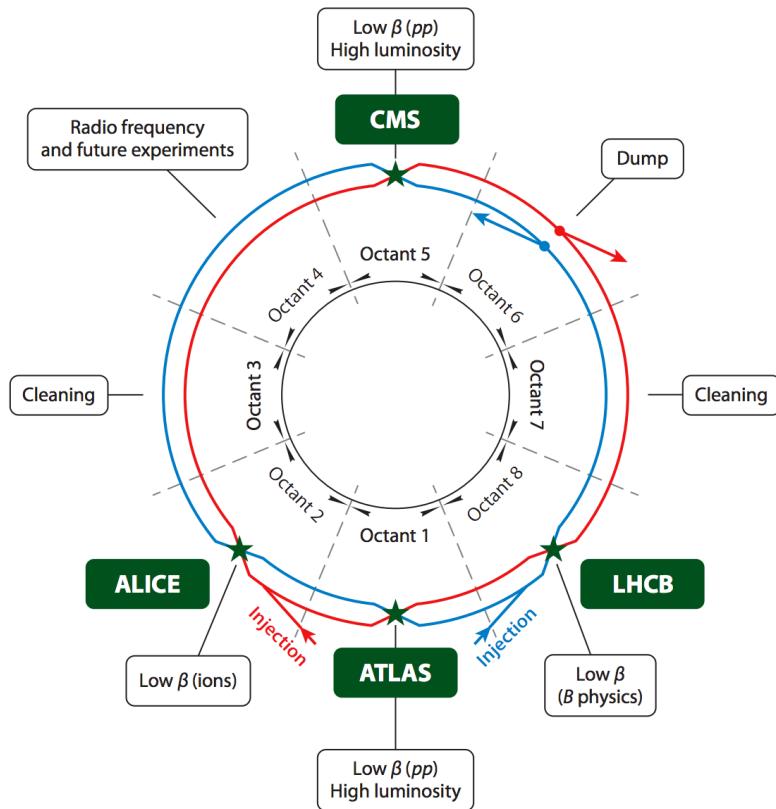


Figure 2.1: A schematic view of the LHC ring [38]

817 One of the most interesting features of the LHC is in its magnet design. Because the tunnel does not
818 have room for separate superconducting magnets for each of the beam pipes, the LHC employs a twin-bore
819 magnet design. Each magnet must hold an 8.3 Tesla magnetic field in order to bend the proton beams at
820 $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV. The superconducting magnets are cooled to a temperature of 1.9 Kelvin with superfluid

821 helium.

822 2.1.1 INSTANTANEOUS LUMINOSITY

823 The rate of physics events expected from the accelerator is dependent on the instantaneous luminosity
824 of the machine and the cross section of the physics process, $R_{\text{events}} = L\sigma$. Here, R_{events} is the number
825 of events per second, L is the instantaneous luminosity of the machine, and σ is the cross section for the
826 physics process being measured. The instantaneous luminosity of the LHC is determined by numerous
827 factors related to machine conditions. Equation 2.1 gives the equation for instantaneous luminosity of
828 Gaussian beam profile [38].

$$L = \frac{N_b^2 n_b f_{\text{rev}} \gamma_r}{4\pi \epsilon_n \beta^*} F \quad (2.1)$$

829 The LHC collides protons in bunches, and in the above equation N_b is the number of protons per bunch
830 while n_b is the number of bunches per beam. Nominally, the LHC can hold up to 2808 proton bunches.
831 f_{rev} is the revolution frequency. ϵ_n is the normalized transverse beam emittance, a measurement of the
832 average spread of the particles position-momentum space which has the dimension of length. β^* is the
833 value of the *beta* function for the beam at the interaction point. It relates the emittance to the Gaussian
834 width of the beam with $\sigma_{\text{beam}} = \sqrt{\epsilon \cdot \beta}$. F is a reduction factor that corrects for the fact that the beams
835 are colliding at an angle at the IP.

836 Another way of writing the instantaneous luminosity is shown in equation 2.2. In this case, the instanta-
837 neous luminosity is written as the ratio of the rate of inelastic collisions with the inelastic cross section [39].

838

$$L = \frac{R_{\text{inel}}}{\sigma_{\text{inel}}} = \frac{\mu n_b f_{\text{rev}}}{\sigma_{\text{inel}}} \quad (2.2)$$

839 In this case, μ is the average number of interactions per bunch crossing in the accelerator. μ is a use-
840 ful parameter for characterizing the amount of activity recorded in an experiment. As the instantane-
841 ous luminosity and thus μ increase, there are more interactions per bunch crossing and more activity in the
842 detector. This is often characterized with $\langle \mu \rangle$, the measured per bunch crossing μ value averaged over all
843 bunch crossings. The interactions inside each bunch crossing that are not the main physics process of in-

844 terest are often referred to as “pileup” interactions, and $\langle \mu \rangle$ is a measurement of the level of pileup in the
845 detector.

846 **2.1.2 EVOLUTION OF MACHINE CONDITIONS**

847 This thesis uses datasets taken at three different center of mass energies: $\sqrt{s} = 7\text{ TeV}$ data taken in the
848 year 2011, $\sqrt{s} = 8\text{ TeV}$ data taken in the year 2012, and $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{ TeV}$ data taken in the year 2015. In
849 addition to increasing center of mass energy, the instantaneous luminosity and parameters that determine
850 it were evolving. Table 2.1 summarizes that machine conditions in each of these datasets.

	2011	2012	2015	Design
$\sqrt{s} [\text{TeV}]$	7	8	13	14
Number of bunches	1380	1380	1825	2808
Max. protons per bunch	1.45×10^{11}	1.7×10^{11}	1.2×10^{11}	1.15×10^{11}
Bunch spacing [ns]	50	50	25	25
Max. instantaneous luminosity [$\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$]	3.7×10^{33}	7.7×10^{33}	5×10^{33}	10^{34}
$\beta^* [\text{m}]$	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.55
$\langle \mu \rangle$	11.6	20.7	13.7	-

Table 2.1: Evolution of LHC machine conditions [40, 41]

851 **2.2 THE ATLAS DETECTOR**

852 The ATLAS detector is a multi-purpose particle detector experiment at the LHC’s Point 1 [34]. It has
853 nearly 4π coverage in solid angle around the interaction point. It consists of an inner detector for mea-
854 suring charged particles, electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer. Figure 2.2
855 gives an overview of the detector.

856 **2.2.1 COORDINATE SYSTEM**

857 Before defining the properties of the individual detectors, it is important to establish the coordinate
858 system used. Figure 2.3 shows a schematic of the coordinate system. The azimuthal plane (perpendicular
859 to the beam line) is defined as the x - y plane. The angle in this plane is referred to as ϕ . The angle relative



Figure 2.2: A full diagram of the ATLAS detector [34]

860 to the beam axis is referred to as θ . Rather than using θ directly as a coordinate, the experiment often uses
 861 the pseudorapidity η . η is defined in equation 2.3.

$$\eta = -\ln \left(\tan \left(\frac{\theta}{2} \right) \right) \quad (2.3)$$

862 Pseudorapidity is the massless approximation of rapidity, the angle used to parameterize boosts in spe-
 863 cial relativity. This is important for two reasons. First, it means that differences in η are Lorentz invariant.
 864 Second, particle production is roughly constant in pseudorapidity. Particles with η close to zero are re-
 865 ferred to as “central”, while those at high $|\eta|$ are called “forward”. In general, two main detector topologies
 866 can be seen in figure 2.2. There are “barrel” elements, which surround the beam line cylindrically and are
 867 in the central region of the detector. In the forward region, there are “endcap” regions which are arranged
 868 as disks perpendicular to the beam line.

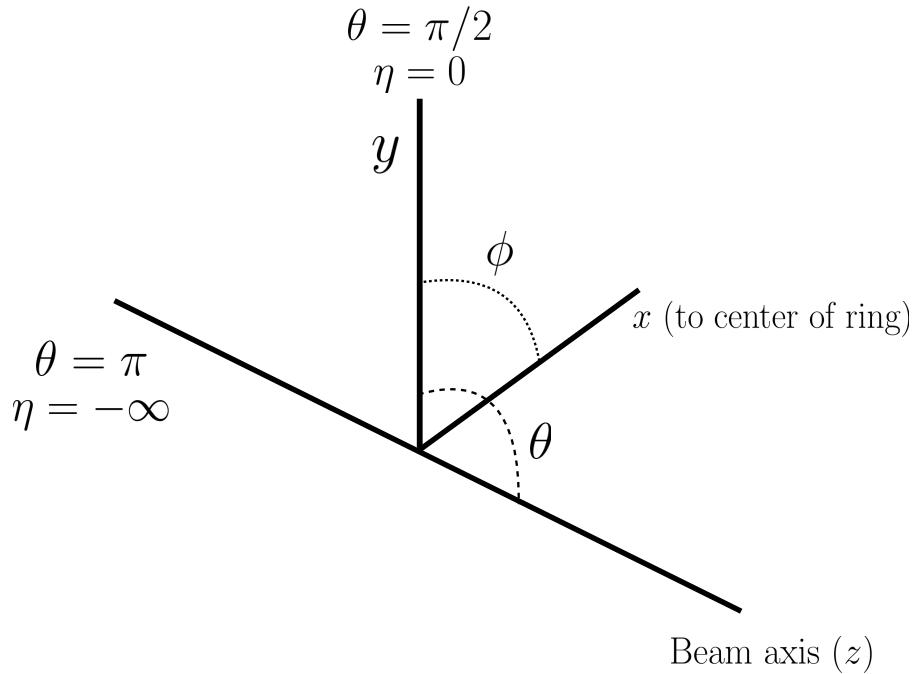


Figure 2.3: The ATLAS coordinate system

869 2.2.2 INNER DETECTOR

870 The ATLAS Inner Detector (ID) system is built for precision tracking of charged particles. It covers
 871 the range $|\eta| < 2.5$. In this range, approximately 1000 particles are generated every bunch crossing in the
 872 detector. This requires having fine granularity to achieve the resolutions required for good momentum
 873 measurement and vertex reconstruction.

874 The ID consists of three sub-components: the pixel detector, semiconductor tracker (SCT), and trans-
 875 sition radiation tracker (TRT). It is surrounded by a solenoid providing a 2 T axial magnetic field which
 876 bends particles in the transverse plane to allow for momentum measurement. Figure 2.4 shows the layout
 877 of each of these components.

878 PIXEL DETECTOR

879 The pixel detector is the first detector particles traverse after being generated in proton collisions and
 880 is the most granular detector. Its operation is crucial for precision tracking and vertex reconstruction as



Figure 2.4: Layout of the ATLAS Inner Detector system [42]

well as higher level object reconstruction like tagging of jets from b -quarks. The basic sensing element in this subdetector is a silicon pixel detector. The operating principle for the silicon pixels is that of a p - n junction. When a charged particle passes through, it creates electron-hole pairs that are then separated by the electric field. The sensors are $250\ \mu\text{m}$ thick and use oxygenated n -type wafers with readout pixels on the n^+ side of the detector [34]. Overall, the pixel detector has 1744 sensors and 80.4 million readout channels.

In the barrel region, the pixel detector has three concentric layers of sensors surrounding the beamline. In the endcap region, it consists of disks perpendicular to the beam axis. The detector is segmented in the R - ϕ plane and in z . Usually, three pixel layers are crossed by a charged particle track. The intrinsic accuracies of the sensors are $10\ \mu\text{m}$ in R - ϕ and $115\ \mu\text{m}$ in z (or R for the endcap).

891 INSERTABLE B-LAYER

In Run 2, a new innermost pixel layer, known as the insertable B-layer (IBL), was added to the Inner Detector [43]. This layer was added to cope with the higher luminosities planned in LHC Run 2 and at the

894 high luminosity HL-LHC. Additionally it improves tracking position resolution which in turn improves
895 the vertexing and b -tagging capabilities in ATLAS. The detector sits directly on a new beam pipe, only
896 33.25 mm away from the collision points in the azimuthal plane.

897 **SEMICONDUCTOR TRACKER (SCT)**

898 The semiconductor tracker (SCT) consists of silicon microstrips and comprises the next four layers
899 of the ID. This sub-detector has 6.4cm long sensors that are daisy-chained into strips with a strip pitch
900 of $80\ \mu\text{m}$ [34]. Some of the strips have a small stereo angle to allow for measurement of both angular
901 coordinates. In total there are 6.3 million readout channels. The intrinsic accuracies are $17\ \mu\text{m}$ in $R\text{-}\phi$
902 and $580\ \mu\text{m}$ in z (or R in the endcap).

903 **TRANSITION RADIATION TRACKER (TRT)**

904 The transition radiation tracker (TRT) serves two purposes. First, it consists of 4mm diameter straw
905 tubes filled with a 70/27/3% gas mixture of xenon, carbon dioxide, and oxygen to provide tracking of
906 charged particles. Particles typically have 36 TRT straw tube hits per track. The material in between
907 the straws is designed to induce transition radiation which can be useful for particle identification. As
908 particles pass between media with different dielectric constants, they emit transition radiation that can
909 cause additional showers in the TRT. In particular it is useful for discrimination between electrons and
910 pions or other charged hadrons, as the amount of transition radiation is proportional to the Lorentz factor
911 of the particle.

912 **2.2.3 CALORIMETERS**

913 The calorimeter system consists of two main sub-components: a fine granularity electromagnetic calorime-
914 ter tailored for the measurement of photons and electrons and multiple coarser hadronic calorimeters ded-
915 icated to the measurement of hadronic showers [34]. The calorimeter system has broader coverage than
916 the inner detector, covering the region out to $|\eta| < 4.9$. It is also designed to deliver good containment of
917 showers so as to limit leakage into the muon system. Figure 2.5 shows the layout of the calorimeter system.

918 Both the electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters are sampling calorimeters. They alternate active
919 material for energy measurement with passive material for energy absorption. The materials used for each
920 purpose vary based on the type of calorimeter and its location in the detector.

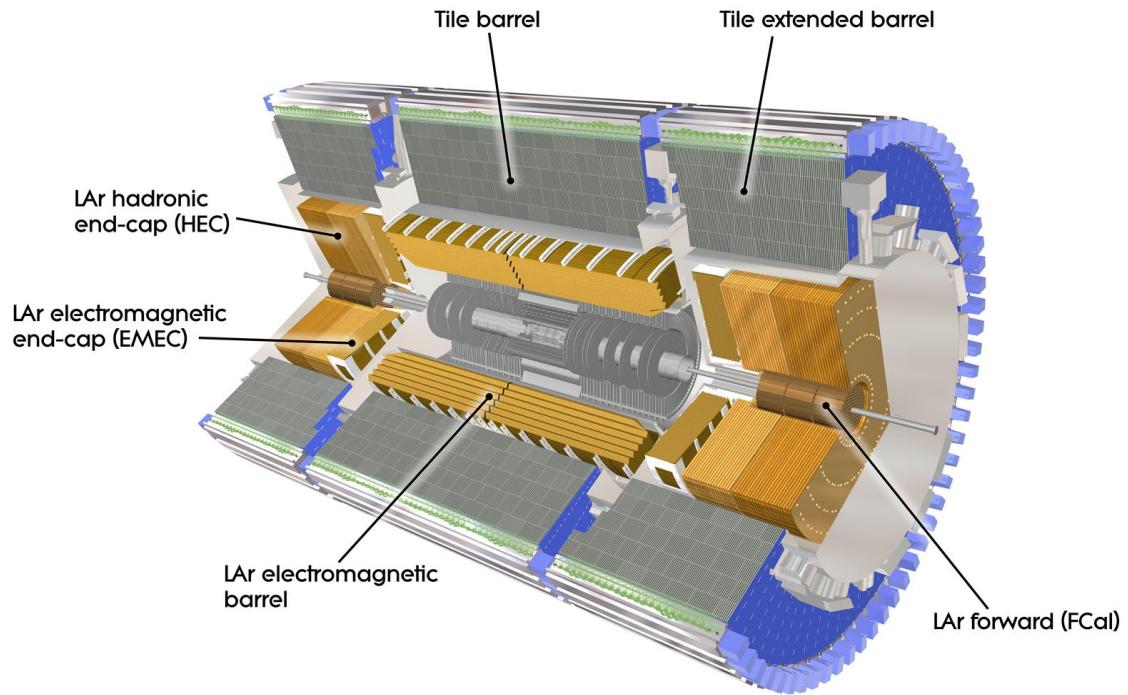


Figure 2.5: Layout of the ATLAS calorimeter system [34]

921 ELECTROMAGNETIC CALORIMETER

922 The electromagnetic calorimeter (EM calorimeter) use liquid Argon (LAr) as its active material and
923 lead as its passive material. It is arrange in an accordion geometry to increase the absorption area while still
924 allowing it to have no azimuthal cracks (complete symmetry in ϕ). The EM calorimeter is divided into a
925 barrel portion that extends to $|\eta| < 1.475$ and an endcap portion going from $1.375 < |\eta| < 3.2$. The
926 region where these two units overlap is called the “transition region”.

927 In order to provide good containment the calorimeter depth must be optimized. Typically, for elec-
928 tromagnetic calorimeters the depth is measured in radiation lengths. In general, the intensity of a par-
929 ticle beam attenuates exponentially in distance with a constant equal to the radiation length. That is,

$I(x) = I_0 e^{-x/X_0}$, where I is the intensity, x is the distance traveled, and X_0 is the radiation length.
The ATLAS EM calorimeter is designed to have > 22 radiation lengths in the barrel and > 24 in the endcap [34].

933 HADRONIC CALORIMETERS

934 There are three types of hadronic calorimeters present in ATLAS: the tile calorimeter (TileCal), hadronic
935 endcap (HEC), and forward calorimeter (FCal). Each one is optimized for stopping of hadronic showers
936 and the materials chosen are specific to their placement in the detector.

937 The TileCal is a scintillating tile calorimeter placed directly outside the EM calorimeter. It uses steel as
938 the absorber and plastic scintillator tiles as the active material. It has coverage in the barrel at $|\eta| < 1.0$
939 and in the “extended barrel” region of $0.8 < |\eta| < 1.7$.

940 The HEC had two wheels perpendicular to the beam line per endcap and is located directly behind the
941 EM calorimeter endcap modules. The HEC covers the region from $1.5 < |\eta| < 3.2$, overlapping slightly
942 with both the tile calorimeter and the forward calorimeter. Like the EM calorimeter, it uses liquid Argon
943 as the active material, but it uses copper as the absorber.

944 The FCal covers the most forward regions of the calorimeter system, extending to the region of $3.1 <$
945 $|\eta| < 4.9$. It again uses liquid argon as its active material. For absorber, it consists of an innermost module
946 made of copper followed by a module made of tungsten.

947 The hadronic equivalent of radiation length is called the interaction length and is denoted as λ . In the
948 barrel, the hadronic calorimeter depth is approximately 9.7λ , while in the endcap is 10λ . The outer
949 supports contribute an additional 1.3λ . This is been shown to be sufficient to limit punch-through of
950 showers to the muon system [34].

951 2.2.4 MUON SPECTROMETER

952 The muon spectrometer is dedicated to measuring the momentum and position of muons. It consists
953 of tracking and trigger chambers which are unique in the barrel and endcap regions. The magnetic field
954 for bending of muons is provided by a system of three large air-core toroid magnets (from which ATLAS

955 derives its name.) These magnets provide 1.5 to 5.5 Tm of bending power at $0 < |\eta| < 1.4$ and approx-
 956 imately 1 to 7.5 Tm in the endcap region of $1.6 < |\eta| < 2.7$. The entire muon system covers the range
 957 $0 < |\eta| < 2.7$. Monitored drift tubes (MDTs) are used for tracking in the barrel and the two outer layers
 958 of the endcap, while cathode strip chambers (CSCs) are used to provide tracking in the innermost endcap
 959 wheel. In the barrel, resistive plate chambers (RPCs) are used as trigger chambers while thin gap chambers
 960 (TGCs) are used in the endcap. Figure 2.6 shows the layout of the ATLAS muon system. The entire muon
 961 system is designed with the specification of providing a 10% momentum resolution for a 1 TeV muon.

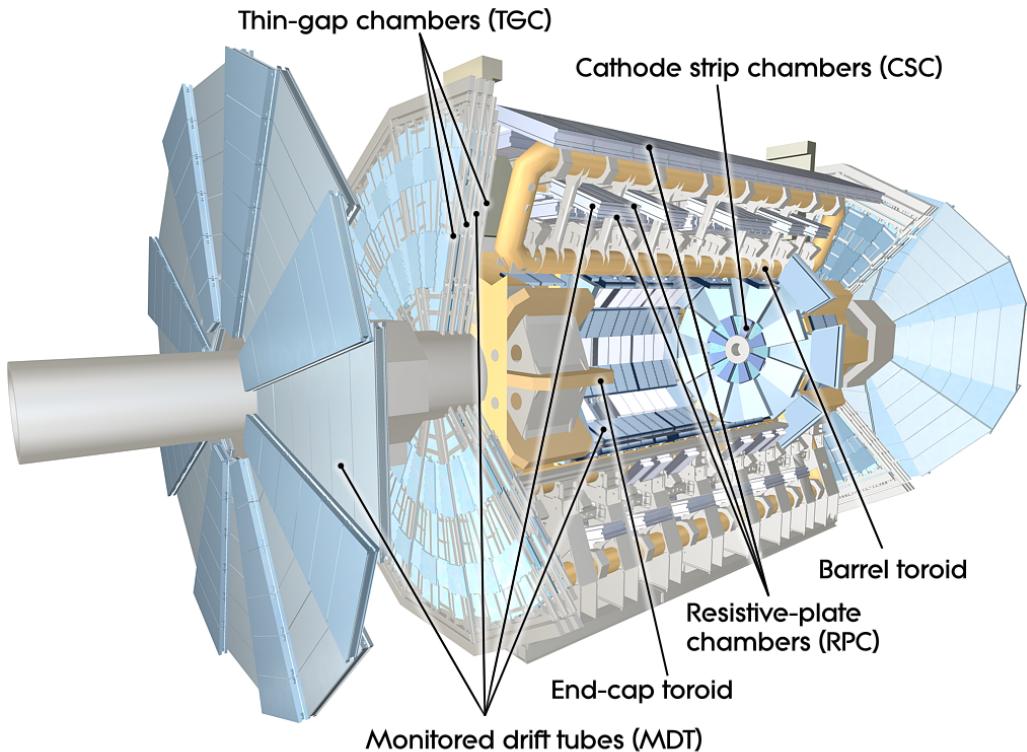


Figure 2.6: Layout of the ATLAS muon system [34]

962 MONITORED DRIFT TUBES (MDTs)

963 The monitored drift tubes (MDTs) are aluminum 3cm diameter tubes filled with a 93/7 % mixture of
 964 Argon and CO₂, with trace amounts of water. As a charged particle traverses the tube, it ionizes the gas
 965 and the ions drift to a wire at the center of the tube. The radial distance of traversal of the particle in the

966 tube is determined by the drift time of the electrons, allowing for fine position resolution. The tubes have
967 an average resolution of $80 \mu\text{m}$ per tube and a maximum drift time of approximately 700ns. The tubes
968 are oriented so that they give precision measurement in η and run along ϕ . They cover $|\eta| < 2.7$, except
969 in the innermost layer of the endcap where they only go to $|\eta| < 2.0$ [34].

970 **CATHODE STRIP CHAMBERS (CSCs)**

971 The cathode strip chambers cover a narrow window of the innermost endcap region at $2.0 < |\eta| <$
972 2.7. In this region the background rates in the cavern are particularly high and the CSCs are designed to
973 handle these higher rates. The CSCs are multiwire proportional chambers with wires pointing in the radial
974 direction (away from the beam pipe). The wire serves as an anode and there are two types of segmented
975 cathode strip, one perpendicular to the wires which gives the precision measurement and one parallel which
976 provides the transverse coordinate. It has an 80/20 gas mixture of Argon and CO₂ [34].

977 **RESISTIVE PLATE CHAMBERS (RPCs)**

978 The resistive plate chambers (RPCs) are gaseous electrode-plate detectors covering the region $|\eta| <$
979 1.05. They consist of two resistive plates separated by a distance of 2 mm. The gas mixture used is a
980 94.7/5/0.3% mixture of C₂H₂F₄, Iso-C₄H₁₀, and SF₆. It has readout strips with a pitch of 23-35 mm
981 for both η and ϕ measurement and thus provides measurement of the azimuthal coordinate in the barrel
982 that the MDTs do not. The thin gas gap allows for a quick response time which makes it ideal for use in the
983 trigger. There are three layers of RPCs which are referred to as the three trigger stations. They allow for
984 both a low p_T and high p_T trigger. The coincidence of hits in the innermost chambers allows for triggering
985 of muons between 6 and 9 GeV, while the outermost layer allows the trigger to select high momentum
986 tracks in the range of 9 to 35 GeV [34].

987 **THIN GAP CHAMBERS (TGCs)**

988 The thin gap chambers (TGCs) are multiwire proportional chambers where the wire to cathode dis-
989 tance (1.4mm) is smaller than the wire-to-wire distance (1.8 mm). They contain a gas mixture of CO₂
990 and *n*-pentane and use a high electric field to gain good time resolution. They serve two functions in the

991 end-cap system. First, they serve as the trigger chambers. Second, they also provide azimuthal coordinate
 992 measurement which the MDTs do not. They sit on the inner and middle layers of the endcap. The outer-
 993 most layer's azimuthal coordinate is determined by extrapolation [34].

994 2.2.5 MAGNET SYSTEM

995 As mentioned previously, there are two independent magnet systems in ATLAS. The first is a 2 T
 996 solenoid field in the inner detector which provides bending in the azimuthal plane. The second is an ap-
 997 proximately 0.5 T toroidal field in the muon system which provides bending in η . Figure 2.7 shows the
 998 predicted field integral as a function of $|\eta|$ [34].

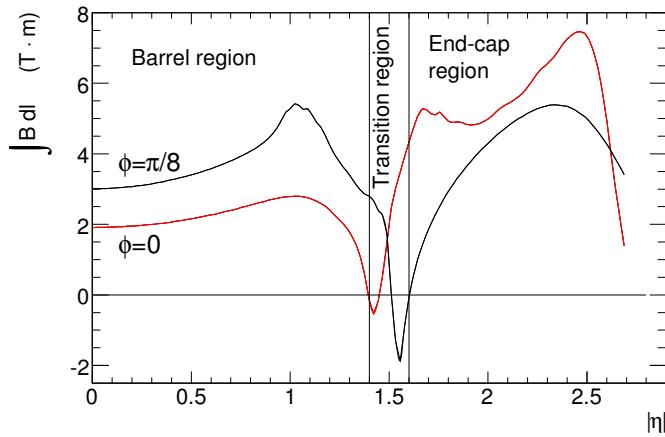


Figure 2.7: Predicted field integral as a function of $|\eta|$ for the ATLAS magnet system [34]

999 2.2.6 TRIGGER SYSTEM

1000 The ATLAS trigger system searches for signatures of muons, electrons, photons, hadronically decaying
 1001 τ leptons, and jets in order to save these events for further analysis. The trigger system in ATLAS is de-
 1002 signed to reduce the maximum LHC event rate of 40 MHz to a more reasonable rate that can be recorded.
 1003 The trigger first consists of a fast, hardware based system called the Level-1 (L1) trigger. The L1 trigger
 1004 consists of independent dedicated detector sub-components that can seed regions of interest (RoIs) for
 1005 further analysis downstream. For muons, the RPCs and TGCs are used, while in the calorimeter coarsely
 1006 grained sections of calorimeter cells called towers are used. Once regions of interest are seeded, a software

1007 based system called the High Level Trigger (HLT) is used to reconstruct objects and integrate information
 1008 from different parts of the detector. In Run 1 of ATLAS, the HLT consisted of two separate stages: the
 1009 level 2 (L2) trigger and the event filter (EF).

1010 The maximum trigger rate that the L1 trigger can handle is 75 kHz. In the HLT, the rate of events
 1011 written to disk is approximately 200 Hz. Figure 2.8 shows the trigger rates for different L1 triggers in 2012
 1012 and 2015 for ATLAS [44].

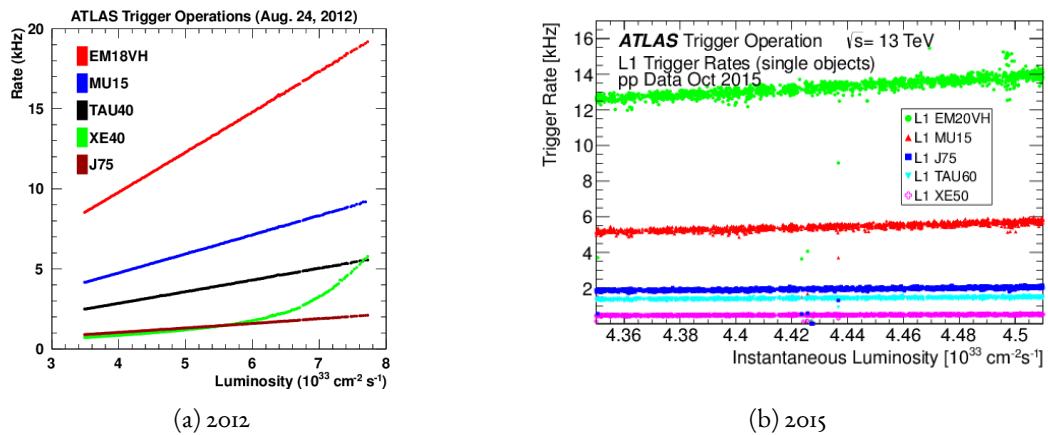


Figure 2.8: ATLAS trigger rates for Level-1 triggers as a function of instantaneous luminosity in 2012 and 2015 operation. These are single object triggers for electromagnetic clusters (EM), muons (MU), jets (J), missing energy (XE), and τ leptons (TAU). The threshold of the trigger is given in name in GeV. [44]

1013 2.2.7 ATLAS DATASETS

1014 ATLAS has collected data at center of mass energies of 7, 8, and 13 TeV. Figure 2.9 shows the integrated
 1015 luminosity as a function of time for each of the three collected datasets. At $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV, ATLAS recorded
 1016 5.08 fb^{-1} . Increased instantaneous luminosity in 2012 led to a larger dataset of 21.3 fb^{-1} recorded at
 1017 $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV. After Long Shutdown 1 (LS1) of the LHC and a restart in 2015, ATLAS recorded 3.9 fb^{-1}
 1018 of data at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. [45, 46]

1019 2.2.8 DETECTOR PERFORMANCE

1020 Table 2.2 summarizes the design requirements for each of the different sub-detectors. This table shows
 1021 the energy and momentum resolution of each tracking, calorimetry, and muon measurements.

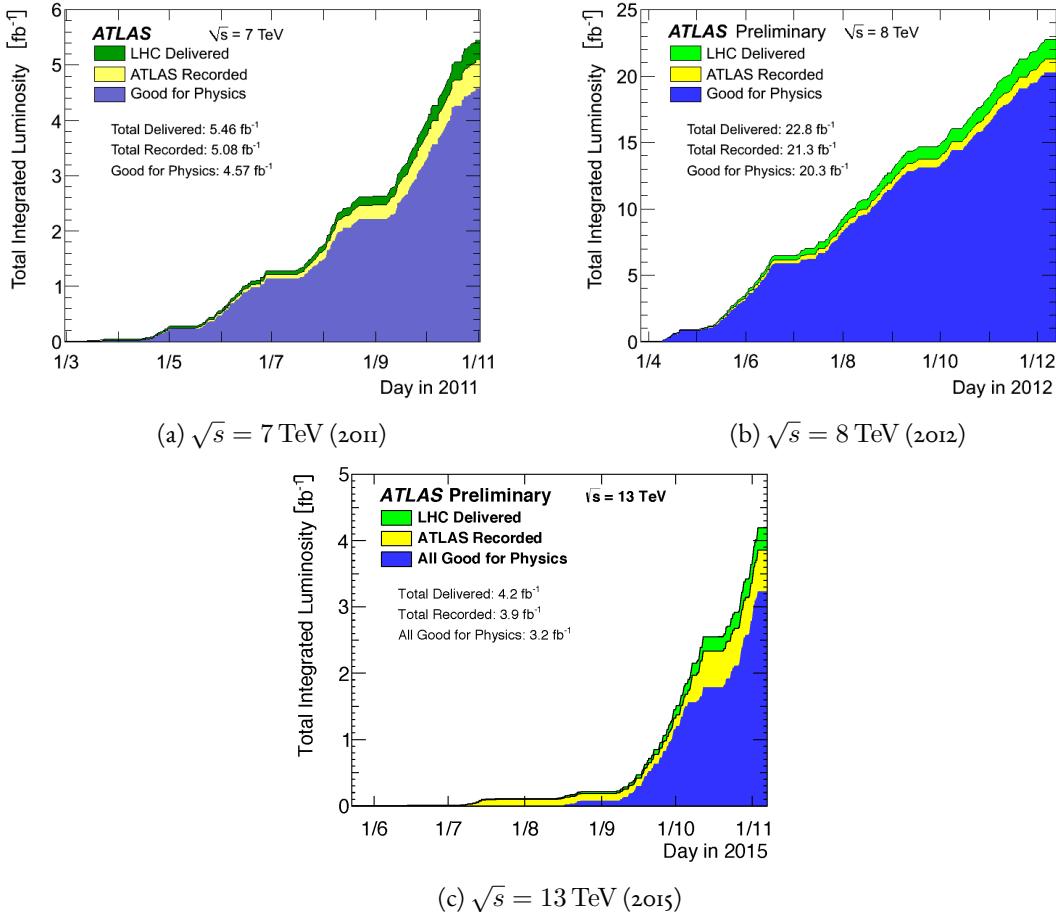


Figure 2.9: Instantaneous luminosity as a function of time for data recorded by ATLAS at different center of mass energies [45, 46]

	Required resolution
Tracking	$\sigma_{p_T}/p_T = 0.05\% p_T \oplus 1\%$
EM calorimetry	$\sigma_E/E = 10\%/\sqrt{E} \oplus 0.7\%$
Hadronic calorimetry	
Barrel and end-cap	$\sigma_E/E = 50\%/\sqrt{E} \oplus 3\%$
Forward	$\sigma_E/E = 100\%/\sqrt{E} \oplus 10\%$
Muon spectrometer	σ_{p_T}/p_T at $p_T = 1$ TeV

Table 2.2: Performance requirements for the ATLAS detector [34].

2.3 THE ATLAS MUON NEW SMALL WHEEL UPGRADE

1023 As the LHC continues operation, it is scheduled to be upgraded in several phases to allow it to reach
1024 higher instantaneous luminosities and thus collect larger datasets. These conditions will open new doors

1025 for study of rare physics processes but will also present interesting challenges that must be faced. ATLAS
 1026 will require new detector technologies to cope with the increased background rates in the cavern in these
 1027 high luminosity conditions. One such upgrade, scheduled to be installed during Long Shutdown 2 (LS2)
 1028 of the LHC in 2018, is the ATLAS Muon New Small Wheel (NSW) upgrade [47]. The NSW will replace
 1029 the innermost end-cap wheel of the muon system with new technologies, as this is the part of the muon
 1030 detector closest to the beam and thus suffers from the highest rates.

1031 2.3.1 MOTIVATION

1032 The motivation of the NSW is two-fold. First, the objective is to alleviate the decreased tracking ef-
 1033 ficiency that comes in a high rate environment. As figure 2.10, at the LHC design luminosity both the
 1034 efficiency of recording hits and reconstructing track segments in the MDTs decreases at the LHC design
 1035 luminosity.

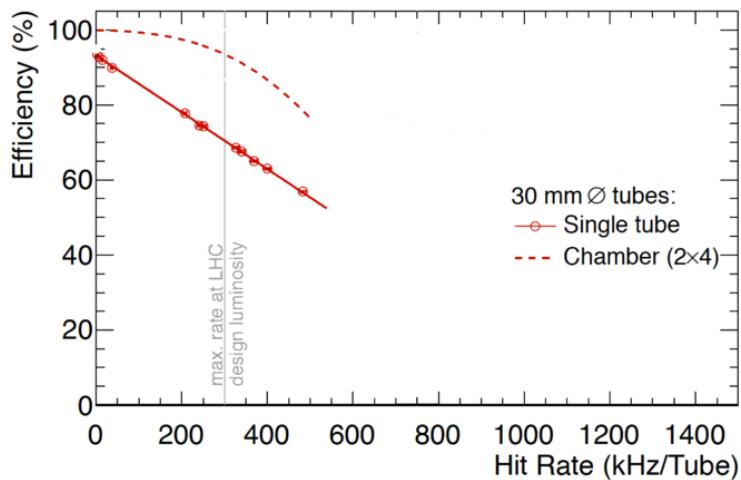


Figure 2.10: MDT tube hit (solid) and segment (dashed) efficiency as a function of hit rate per tube [47]

1036 Second, the NSW will work to alleviate the rate of fake triggers arising in the endcap. Figure 2.11 shows
 1037 the extrapolated trigger rates as a function of the p_T threshold with and without the NSW upgrade. As
 1038 the figure shows, the NSW upgrade will reduce the trigger rate by an order of magnitude compared to the
 1039 current endcap trigger system.

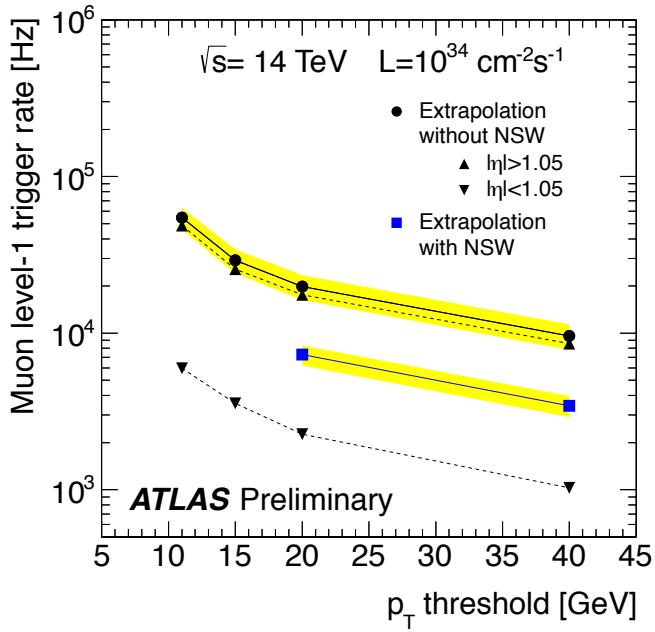


Figure 2.11: Trigger rate as a function of p_T threshold with and without the NSW upgrade [47]

1040 2.3.2 NSW DETECTOR TECHNOLOGIES

1041 The NSW will use two new detector technologies - micromesh gaseous structure detectors (micromegas)
 1042 and small-strip thin gap chambers (sTGCs) [47, 48]. Unlike the previous detectors, both of these detector
 1043 technologies can be used for tracking or trigger. However, the micromegas is more suited to tracking be-
 1044 cause of its good spatial resolution, while the sTGCs have better time resolution and are more suited for
 1045 the trigger. To maintain a fully redundant system, both technologies are used for both purposes.

1046 MICROMEGAS

1047 Micromegas detectors operate using a thin metallic mesh that sits approximately $100 \mu\text{m}$ away from the
 1048 readout electrodes to create the amplification region. Above this mesh, there is a drift region on the order
 1049 of a few mm in length capped by a drift electrode. As a charged particle traverses the detector, it ionizes gas
 1050 and the electrons drift down towards readout strips. The timing of the drift can be used to reconstruct the
 1051 angle of traversal of the particle. This is illustrated in figure 2.12. The micromegas used in ATLAS will be
 1052 resistive micromegas, where the readout electrodes are topped with resistive strips [49]. This alleviates the

1053 risk of sparking in the large area detectors that ATLAS will use.

1054 In ATLAS, the micromegas drift gap will be 5 mm and the amplification gap will be $128 \mu\text{m}$. They are
1055 filled with the same gas mixture as the MDTs. They will be stacked in an octuplet in an XXUV-UVXX
1056 geometry, where X refers to straight strips and U and V refer to stereo strips at an angle of $\pm 1.5^\circ$. This
1057 arrangement allows for measurement of the azimuthal coordinate and gives a large lever arm between the
1058 straight strips for triggering purposes. Figure 2.12 shows the geometry of a single micromegas detector as
1059 well as its operating principle [47].

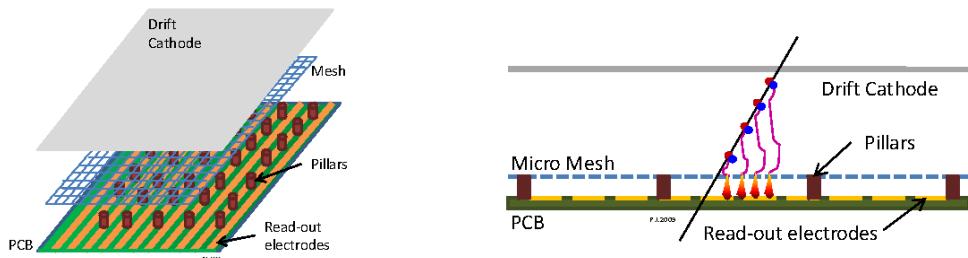


Figure 2.12: Illustrations of the geometry (left) and operating principle (right) of the micromegas detector [47]

1060 sTGCs

1061 The sTGCs are similar to the TGCs already described. They consist of gold-plated tungsten wires with a
1062 1.8 mm pitch between two cathode planes 1.4 mm away from the wire plane. One cathode plane consists
1063 of strips with a 3.2 mm pitch (much smaller pitch than the TGCs), while the other consists of coarser
1064 pads that are used for defining regions of interest in the sTGC trigger algorithm. Figure 2.13 shows the
1065 basic detector geometry.

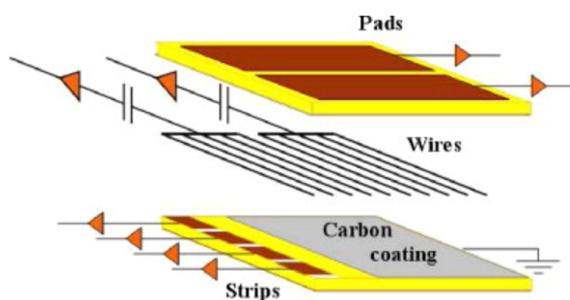


Figure 2.13: Geometry of the sTGC detector [47]

1066 2.3.3 PHYSICS IMPACT

1067 Maintaining low p_T thresholds for muons while still staying within the trigger rate budget at Level 1
1068 (20 kHz) for the muon system is crucial for physics analyses to be successful in high luminosity condi-
1069 tions. One realm where the lepton trigger threshold is especially important is in Higgs physics. In the
1070 $H \rightarrow WW^*$ analysis, one of the W bosons is off shell and tends to decay to soft leptons. In associated
1071 production of a Higgs with a W , the lepton is also important because the lepton provides the main han-
1072 dle which allows the event to be triggered. Table 2.3 shows the impact of increasing the trigger thresholds
1073 on these analyses. It shows that either raising the threshold or using only the barrel both have significant
1074 impacts on the signal efficiency. With the NSW, the signal efficiency is largely maintained and the triggers
1075 can be unprescaled.

Threshold	$H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ (%)	$H \rightarrow WW^*$ (%)
$p_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$	93	94
$p_T > 40 \text{ GeV}$	61	75
$p_T > 20 \text{ GeV} (\text{barrel only})$	43	72
$p_T > 20 \text{ GeV} (\text{with NSW})$	90	92

Table 2.3: Signal efficiencies for WH production with $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ and $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \mu\nu qq$ under different trigger configurations [47].

1076 2.4 OBJECT RECONSTRUCTION IN ATLAS

1077 ATLAS analyses first start by requiring the presence of certain reconstructed physics objects in the event.
1078 This section will present a brief overview of the algorithms used to reconstruct electrons, muons, jets (in-
1079 cluding b -jets), and missing energy¹. The performance of object reconstruction and measurement will also
1080 be discussed as these are relevant to the analyses presented later. Figure 2.14 gives an overview of the differ-
1081 ent sub-detectors that each type of particle will interact with in ATLAS.

¹Reconstruction algorithms for other objects, such as photons and τ leptons, are not detailed here as these objects are not used in the presented studies.

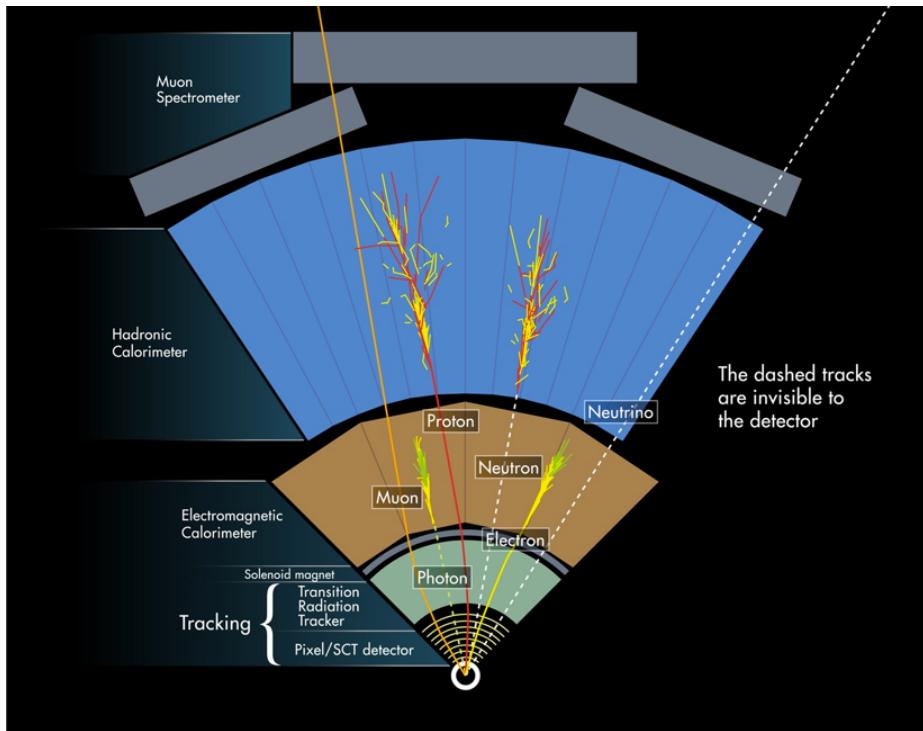


Figure 2.14: Illustration of particle interactions in ATLAS [50]

1082 2.4.I ELECTRONS

1083 Electrons in ATLAS will leave tracks in the inner detector and energy deposits in the electromagnetic
 1084 calorimeter. The algorithm for recognizing the signature of electrons proceeds in two steps: reconstruction
 1085 and identification.

1086 In reconstruction, an electron candidate is formed by matching EM calorimeter deposits with ID tracks.
 1087 The algorithm first chooses seed clusters in the EM calorimeter by using a sliding window algorithm that
 1088 searches for towers with transverse energy larger than 2.5 GeV. In addition to seed clusters, track candi-
 1089 dates must be identified in the ID. The algorithm selects seed tracks with $p_T > 1$ GeV that do not fit well
 1090 with a pion hypothesis. Once candidate tracks are selected, they are re-fit with a Gaussian Sum Filter (GSF)
 1091 algorithm to estimate electron parameters [51]. Finally, an electron candidate is formed if at least one track
 1092 matches to a seed cluster in the calorimeter. The full details of the reconstruction algorithm can be found
 1093 in reference [52].

1094 Once an electron candidate is present, identification criteria must be applied in order to reject fake elec-

1095 trons from background. Many different variables are used for this identification, most of them related to
 1096 the shower shape in the EM calorimeter and the amount of leakage into the hadronic calorimeter, as well
 1097 as information from the ID and in particular the TRT. There are both cut-based and likelihood-based
 1098 criteria that range from “loose” to “very tight”. For details, see reference [52].

1099 Figure 2.15 shows the algorithm’s reconstruction efficiency of true electrons for different identification
 1100 criteria as well as the electron energy resolution in simulation [52, 53]. The reconstruction efficiency is
 1101 measured using both Z and J/ψ tag and probe techniques.

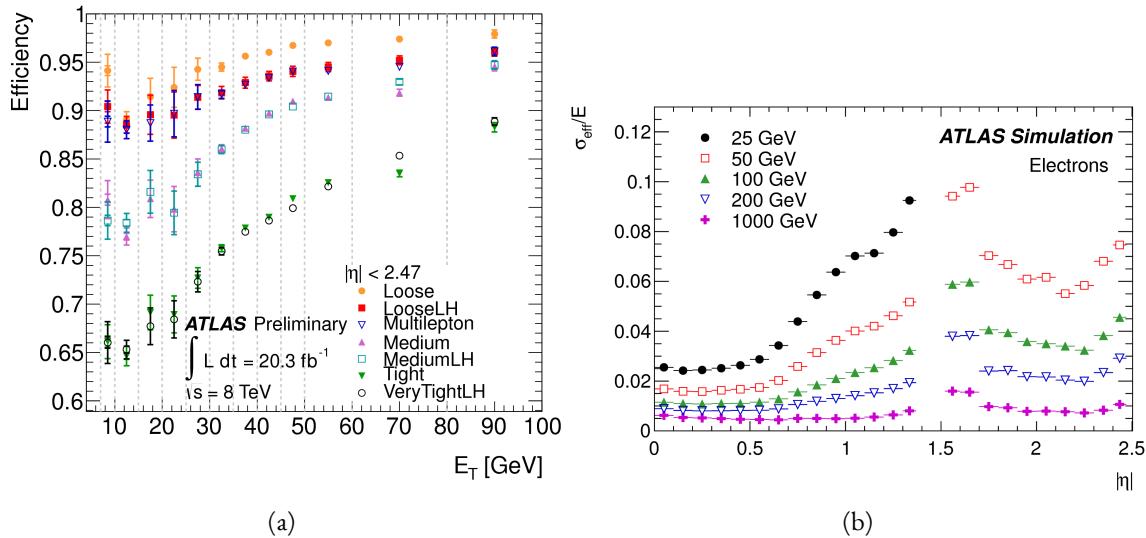


Figure 2.15: Electron performance: (a) reconstruction efficiency as a function of electron E_T [52] (b) energy resolution in simulation as a function of $|\eta|$ for different energy electrons [53]

1102 2.4.2 MUONS

1103 The ATLAS detector is designed to stop most particles before they reach the muon spectrometer. Muons,
 1104 however, are minimum ionizing particles, meaning that they will not lose a significant amount of energy
 1105 through interactions with the detector and will thus pass through. Therefore, the muon reconstruction
 1106 works to match tracks in the muon spectrometer with tracks in the inner detector.

1107 The first step of reconstruction is to reconstruct local straight line tracks, called segments, in each muon
 1108 chamber. Segments are then fit to larger tracks that traverse the entire muon spectrometer. Such muon
 1109 tracks are referred to as “standalone” tracks (SA) as they only use information from the muon spectrometer.

1110 The standalone tracks are then matched to tracks in the inner detector to form “combined” (CB) muons,
 1111 where the combined ID and MS fit are used to determine the momentum and direction of the muon. To
 1112 improve acceptance, segment-tagged and calorimeter-tagged muons are also reconstructed. In these cases,
 1113 ID tracks are matched to segments in the MS and calorimeter deposits consistent with a minimum ionizing
 1114 particle, respectively. The details of the reconstruction can be found in reference [54].

1115 As with electrons, once muon candidates are reconstructed they have identification criteria applied to
 1116 reduce background. These criteria include the χ^2 match between the ID and MS tracks, the number of
 1117 hits in the ID, overall ID and MS track fit quality, and additional variables [54]. The criteria range from
 1118 “loose” to “tight” as with electrons.

1119 Figure 2.16 shows the muon reconstruction efficiency (measured with Z and J/ψ tag and probe) and
 1120 invariant mass resolution [54].

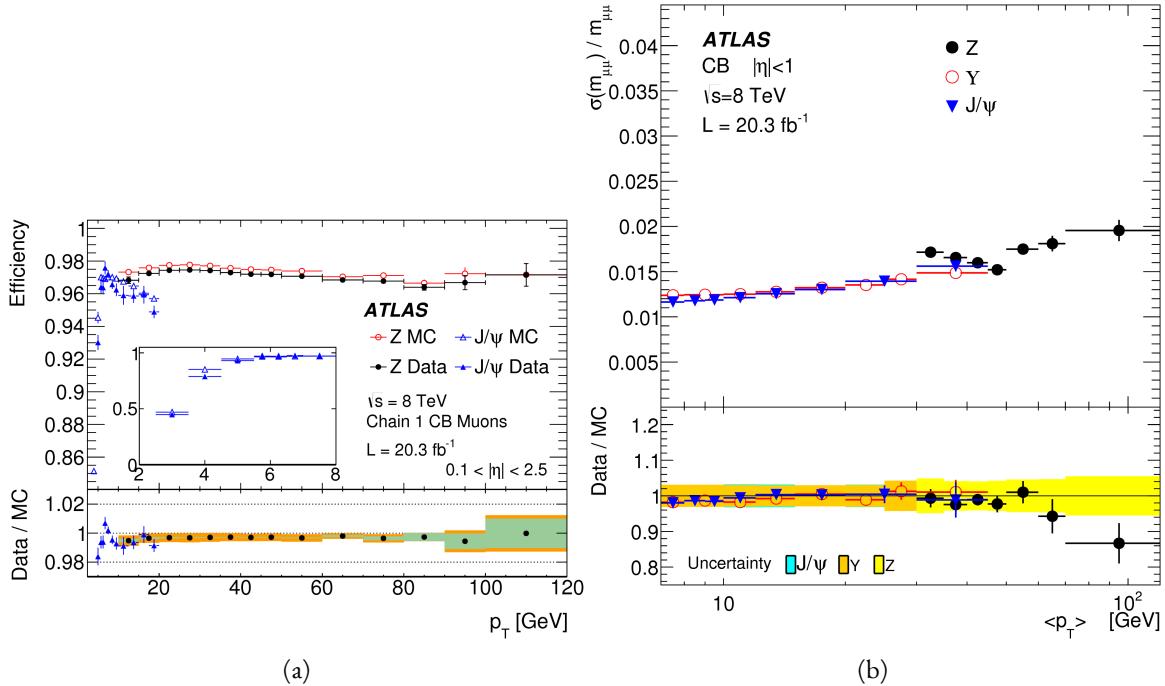


Figure 2.16: Muon performance: (a) reconstruction efficiency as a function of muon p_T (b) dimuon mass resolution as a function of average p_T [54]

1121 2.4.3 JETS

1122 When a quark or gluon is produced in collisions, it is not measured directly in ATLAS. Rather, due to
1123 QCD effects, it produces a collimated spray of hadrons in the direction of the original parton, which is
1124 known as a jet. Jets are reconstructed in ATLAS using energy deposits in the hadronic calorimeter. The
1125 first step is build “topological clusters” out of energy deposits in calorimeter cells [55, 56]. This is done
1126 using strategy where seed cells are chosen by picking cells whose energy measurements are four times the
1127 amount of noise expected for that cell. Adjacent cells with at least 2σ energy measurements are added to
1128 the cluster, then a final layer of clusters with energy above 0σ are added. Once calorimeter clusters are
1129 formed, they are clustered further into jet candidates using the anti- k_T jet clustering algorithm [57]. This
1130 algorithm uses a parameter R that appears in the denominator of the clustering distance metric and defines
1131 the radial size of the jet in η - ϕ space.

1132 The energy response of the calorimeter must be properly characterized in order to reconstruct jet energy.
1133 Calorimeter clusters can be calibrated either with the EM calibration, where each cluster is assumed to have
1134 come from the energy deposit of an electron or photon, or the LCW calibration, where local cluster weights
1135 are computed to allow for local calibration of clusters as hadronic or electromagnetic. The details of the
1136 jet energy calibration are not detailed here and are discussed in reference [58].

1137 Figure 2.17 shows the jet energy response after calibration in Monte Carlo as a function of the true p_T
1138 of the jet [58].

1139 2.4.4 b -TAGGING

1140 One important aspect of jet physics is the task of identifying the flavor of parton that produced the
1141 measured jet. While in general this is very difficult, jets from b -quarks offer an interesting case where such
1142 identification is possible. B mesons have a lifetime on the order of 10^{-12} seconds, which makes a $c\tau$ on
1143 the order of millimeters [6]. This type of displaced decay vertex can be identified in detectors like ATLAS
1144 and allows b -jets to be distinguished from other flavors of jets².

²Jets from charm quarks can also be detected in this way but they do not live quite as long so the displacement of the vertex is harder to distinguish

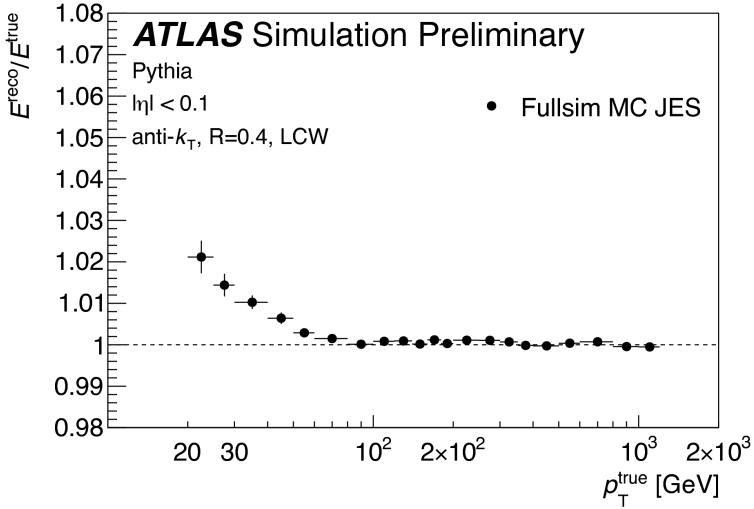


Figure 2.17: Jet energy response after calibration as a function of true p_T in simulation [58]

1145 ATLAS uses a multivariate machine learning algorithm to identify jets from b -quarks. The inputs to this
 1146 algorithm are determined from lower level reconstruction algorithms. There are three distinct algorithms
 1147 that reconstruct variables which are used as input to the multivariate technique.

1148 The first family is referred to as IPxD (where the x can either be 2 or 3). These algorithms use the trans-
 1149 verse and longitudinal impact parameters d_0 and z_0 of the tracks inside a jet to determine their consistency
 1150 with the primary vertex. They two or three dimensional (hence the x) templates for light flavor, charm,
 1151 and bottom jets and then evaluate the likelihood of the jet coming from each of these types. The likelihood
 1152 ratios are used as inputs to the multivariate algorithm.

1153 The next two algorithms used as input are referred to as the secondary vertex (SV) and JetFitter (JF)
 1154 algorithms. The SV algorithm uses tracks inside the jet to fit for vertices that are displaced from the pri-
 1155 mary vertex. The JF algorithm attempts to reconstruct the full flight path of the b by looking for multiple
 1156 displaced vertices along the same line (as B decays often result in subsequent c decays).

1157 In Run 1, the multivariate b -tagging algorithm used a neural network and was referred to as MV1.
 1158 The details of this algorithm and its inputs are given in reference [59]. In Run 2, the number of inputs
 1159 was simplified and a boosted decision tree with 24 input variables was used, referred to as MV2 [60]. The
 1160 MV2 algorithm is a boosted decision tree incorporating twenty-four input variables constructed from three

1161 lower level input algorithms described above. Figure 2.18 summarizes the inputs to MV2. Figure 2.19 shows
1162 the performance of each of these algorithms.

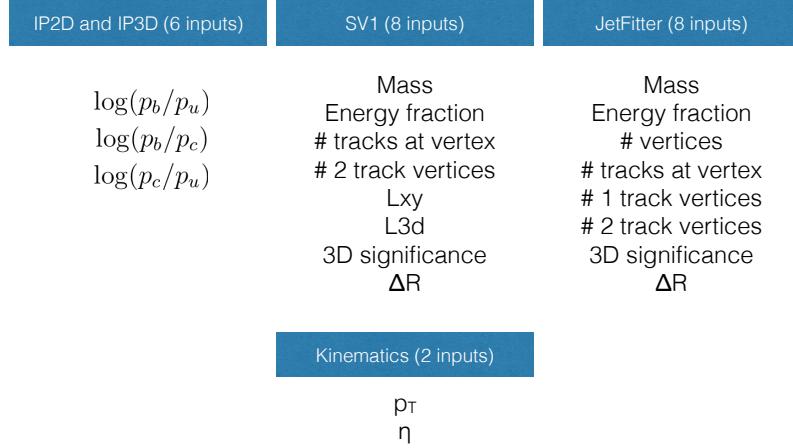


Figure 2.18: Summary of the inputs to the MV2 b -tagging algorithm

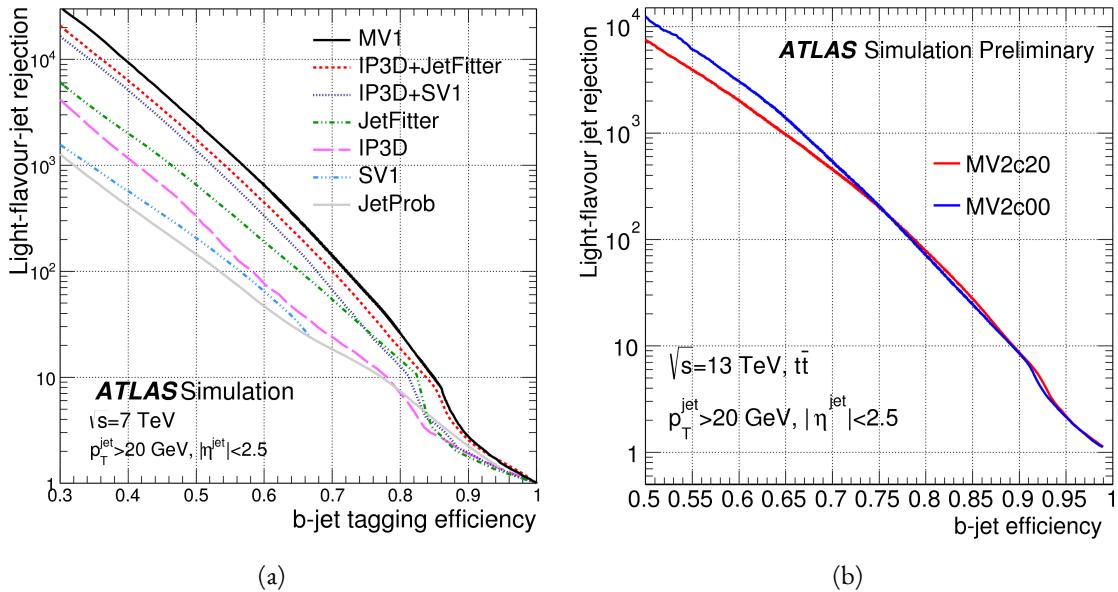


Figure 2.19: Light jet rejection (1/efficiency) vs. b -jet efficiency for MV1 and its input algorithms (a) [59] and MV2 (b) [60] in simulated $t\bar{t}$ events. The numbers in the algorithm names in (b) refer to the fraction of charm events used in the MV2 training.

1163 2.4.5 MISSING TRANSVERSE ENERGY

1164 As noted in figure 2.14, neutrinos produced in ATLAS will pass through the detector without interact-
1165 ing. The only way of detecting the presence of particles like neutrinos (or BSM particles that are long-lived)
1166 is to use missing transverse momentum. The basic principle of missing transverse energy is to use the mo-
1167 mentum balance of the incoming protons to infer the presence of missing particles. The net longitudinal
1168 momentum of the incoming partons that collide is not known (since each carries an unknown fraction of
1169 the proton's momentum). However, the protons (and thus incoming partons) have no net momentum
1170 in the plane transverse to the beam line (the x - y) plane. Therefore, if there are no un-measured particles
1171 in the final state, the transverse momenta of all of the final state particles should balance. The magnitude
1172 of this imbalance is known as missing transverse momentum (E_T^{miss}).

1173 The basic calculation of missing transverse momentum from calorimeter cells is given in equation 2.4 [61].

1174

$$\begin{aligned} E_x^{\text{miss}} &= -\sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{cell}}} E_i \sin \theta_i \cos \phi_i \\ E_y^{\text{miss}} &= -\sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{cell}}} E_i \sin \theta_i \sin \phi_i \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

1175 The E_T^{miss} calculation is separated into different terms based on the objects that the calorimeter clusters
1176 are associated with. This way, each cell's contribution is calibrated appropriately according to the object.
1177 This separation of terms is shown in equation 2.5 [61].

$$\begin{aligned} E_{x(y)}^{\text{miss,calo}} &= E_{x(y)}^{\text{miss},e} + E_{x(y)}^{\text{miss},\gamma} + E_{x(y)}^{\text{miss},\tau} + E_{x(y)}^{\text{miss,jets}} \\ &\quad + E_{x(y)}^{\text{miss,softjets}} + E_{x(y)}^{\text{miss},\mu} + E_{x(y)}^{\text{miss,CellOut}} \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

1178 The CellOut term of the above equation corresponds to calorimeter cells with energy deposits that are
1179 not associated with other objects. The soft jets term comes from cells associated to jets with p_T between
1180 7 and 20 GeV, while the jets term comes from jets with $p_T > 20$ GeV. Because muons do not deposit
1181 significant energy in the calorimeter, the muon momentum is used for the muon term [61]. The final
1182 E_T^{miss} is calculated using equation 2.6.

$$E_T^{\text{miss}} = \sqrt{(E_x^{\text{miss}})^2 + (E_y^{\text{miss}})^2} \quad (2.6)$$

1183 Figure 2.20 shows the resolution of the components of the E_T^{miss} under different pileup suppression tech-
niques [62].

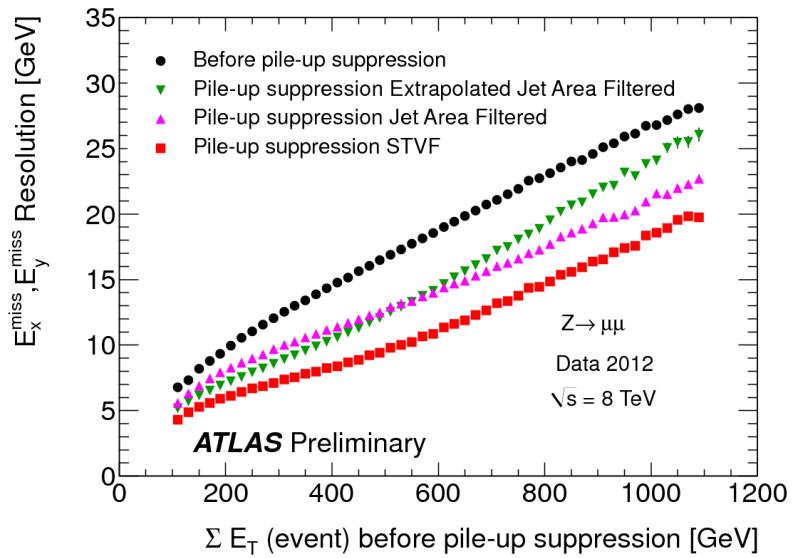


Figure 2.20: Resolution of E_T^{miss} components as a function of $\sum E_T$ before pileup suppression with different pileup techniques [62]

1184

Part II

1185

Observation and measurement of Higgs

1186

boson decays to WW^* in LHC Run I at

1187

$\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV

1188

*Basic research is what I am doing when I don't know what
I am doing.*

Wernher von Braun

3

1189

1190 $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ Analysis Strategy

1191 3.1 INTRODUCTION

1192 This chapter presents an overview of the strategy for searching for a Higgs boson in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow$
1193 $\ell\nu\ell\nu$ decay topology. Its purpose is to define in broad terms how the search and measurement are under-
1194 taken, before going into details on the specific sub-categories within the larger analysis. First, the properties
1195 of the Higgs signal are discussed and the associated backgrounds are presented. Next, the observables used
1196 to enhance the signal to background ratio are defined. Finally, the parameters of interest in the search
1197 and measurement will be shown, along with a brief overview of the statistical treatment of the final Higgs
1198 candidates.

1199 Following this chapter, the results of three different studies within the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ channel
1200 are shown. Chapter 4 presents a search for Higgs boson production in gluon fusion mode and the role of
1201 the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ channel in its discovery. Chapter 5 shows the search and first evidence in ATLAS of the
1202 Vector Boson Fusion (VBF) production mode of the Higgs. Finally, chapter 6 shows the combined Run

1203 1 $H \rightarrow WW^*$ results for the measurement of the Higgs cross section and relative coupling strengths to
1204 other SM particles.

1205 3.2 THE $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ SIGNAL IN ATLAS

1206 The signal studied in this and subsequent chapters is the Higgs boson in the WW^* final state, where
1207 each W boson subsequently decays into a charged lepton and a neutrino. In the simplest decay path, the
1208 final state consists of two neutrinos and two charged leptons, each of which can be either an electron or a
1209 muon. If a W decays to a τ lepton, only leptonic decays of the τ are considered. The τ lepton produce
1210 additional neutrinos in the final state but still yield two charged leptons (where each lepton is an electron or
1211 muon). Neutrinos are not detected in ATLAS, so the final state ultimately consists of two reconstructed
1212 leptons and missing transverse momentum (denoted as E_T^{miss}). Final states where both of the charged
1213 leptons are electrons or muons are referred to as the “same flavor” ($ee/\mu\mu$) final states, while those with
1214 one electron and one muon are referred to as “different flavor” ($e\mu$ or μe).

1215 There can be additional jets produced in association with the Higgs boson. As described in detail in
1216 Chapter 1, if the Higgs is produced via vector boson fusion production, there will be two additional forward
1217 jets in the event. In gluon fusion, one or more jets can be produced through initial state radiation from
1218 the incoming gluons. Because of the varying background composition as a function of jet multiplicity,
1219 each bin in this variable has its own dedicated requirements applied in the search and measurement. The
1220 $n_j = 0$ and $n_j = 1$ bins are dedicated to gluon fusion production, while the $n_j \geq 2$ bin has separate
1221 dedicated searches for ggF and VBF production.

1222 Figure 3.1 shows the relative branching fractions for the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ process, calculated from the Par-
1223 ticle Data Group values for the W and τ branching ratios [6]. The largest branching ratio corresponds
1224 to both W bosons decaying to quark pairs at 45.44%. The second largest ratio is for one W decaying lep-
1225 tonically and the other decaying to quarks, a branching ratio of 34.18%. In all cases, ℓ denotes either an
1226 electron or muon, and the leptonic branching ratios of the τ are included. For example, the $\ell\nu qq$ final
1227 state includes one W decaying to $e\nu$, $\mu\nu$, or $\tau\nu$. In the case of the $W \rightarrow \tau\nu$ decay, the τ lepton then
1228 decays to an electron or muon via $\tau \rightarrow \nu_\tau \ell \nu_\ell$. Final states with a τ_h refer to hadronic decays of the τ . The

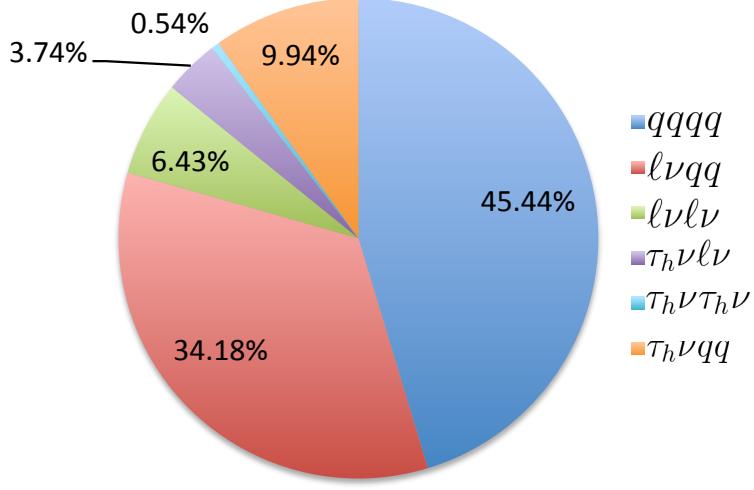


Figure 3.1: Branching ratios for a WW system. q refers to quarks. ℓ can be either an electron or muon, and the leptonic branching ratios of the τ are included. For example, the $\ell\nu qq$ final state includes one W decaying to $e\nu$, $\mu\nu$, or $\tau\nu$. τ_h refer to hadronic decays of the τ .

1229 branching ratio of the $\ell\nu\ell\nu$ final state is 6.43%.

1230 While the $\ell\nu\ell\nu$ final state is not a large fraction of the branching ratio, there are significant advantages
1231 to using this channel in an analysis. First, both the $qqqq$ and $\ell\nu qq$ channels suffer from a large QCD
1232 multijet background, which is often difficult to model. Second, events in the the $\ell\nu\ell\nu$ channel in data can
1233 be triggered more efficiently due to the presence of two leptons.

1234 3.3 BACKGROUND PROCESSES

1235 Many processes from the Standard Model can also produce a final state with two leptons and missing
1236 transverse momentum. This section describes the dominant backgrounds to Higgs production and further
1237 explains how they can be reduced. Table 3.1 summarizes the different background processes.

1238 3.3.1 STANDARD MODEL WW PRODUCTION

1239 Non-resonant Standard Model diboson production, as shown in figure 3.2, is an irreducible background
1240 to Higgs boson production in the WW final state. It produces the same exact final state objects, namely

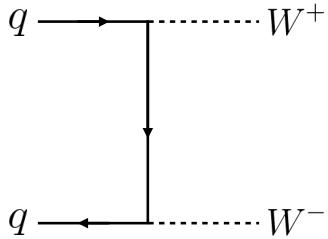


Figure 3.2: Feynman diagram for Standard Model WW production

1241 leptonically decaying W bosons. There are no additional objects in the final state that allow for back-
1242 ground reduction. Therefore the analysis solely relies on the correlations between the leptons to reduce
1243 this background.

1244 **3.3.2 TOP QUARK PRODUCTION**

1245 Top quark production can mimic the Higgs in the WW^* final state as well. Top quarks can be pro-
1246 duced either in pairs ($t\bar{t}$ production) or singly (s -channel, t -channel, or associated production Wt). The
1247 dominant top background are $t\bar{t}$ and Wt production.

1248 Because top quarks decay via $t \rightarrow Wb$, top pair production can produce a final state with two W bosons
1249 that then decay leptonically. In Wt production, there are two real W bosons produced, as with $t\bar{t}$. In
1250 both cases, there is at least one b -jet in the final state. By vetoing on the presence of b -jets, these top quark
1251 backgrounds can be reduced. Figure 3.3 shows the Feynman diagrams for $t\bar{t}$ and Wt production.

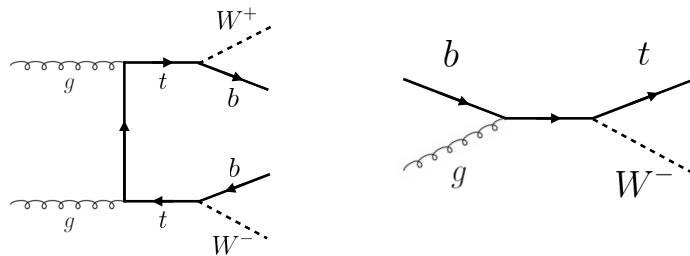


Figure 3.3: Feynman diagrams for top pair production (left) and Wt production (right)

1252 3.3.3 $W + \text{jets}$ BACKGROUND

1253 Single W boson production in association with jets is a unique background to Higgs production. The
1254 other backgrounds considered thus far have all included two prompt leptons, each decaying from a W
1255 boson, in the final state. In $W + \text{jets}$ production, however, only one reconstructed lepton originates from
1256 a W . The second reconstructed lepton is either an algorithmic “fake” or the result of non-prompt decays.
1257 In the first case, the lepton is a jet misidentified as a lepton by either the electron or muon reconstruction
1258 algorithms. In the second case, the lepton may be a real lepton but coming from semi-leptonic decays of
1259 particles inside the shower of the jet. This background can be reduced by requiring that the reconstructed
1260 lepton have little activity in the surrounding region of the calorimeter (also known as an “isolation”). Fig-
1261 ure 3.4 shows the Feynman diagram for $W + \text{jets}$ production.

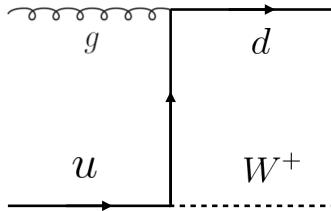


Figure 3.4: An example Feynman diagram of $W + \text{jets}$ production

1262 3.3.4 $Z/\gamma^* + \text{jets}$ BACKGROUND

1263 Production of a Z boson or virtual photon (also known as Drell-Yan and denoted with Z/γ^*) in as-
1264 sociation with jets is also a background to Higgs production. The Z boson decays to two leptons of the
1265 same flavor. When the Z/γ^* decays directly to electrons or muons, the background enters the same flavor
1266 final state. When the Z decays to two τ leptons the background can enter the different flavor final state as
1267 well. Figure 3.5 shows the production of a Z in association with one jet. Because there are no neutrinos in
1268 this final state, variables like E_T^{miss} can be used to reduce the background¹.

¹The E_T^{miss} cut is much more effective for the reduction of Z/γ^* production in the same flavor final state. If the background enters the different flavor final state through τ decays, there will be neutrinos present. Other requirements on the lepton invariant mass are made to reduce the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau$ background.



Figure 3.5: An example Feynman diagram of $Z + \text{jets}$ production

1269 3.3.5 SUBDOMINANT BACKGROUNDS

1270 There are additional processes which contribute to the background composition. These backgrounds
1271 are subdominant and contribute less to the total background estimate than those discussed previously.
1272 The first process is referred to as VV or “Other diboson” processes and includes multiple Standard Model
1273 diboson processes, including WZ , ZZ , $W\gamma$, $W\gamma^*$, and $Z\gamma$ production. Additionally, there is a back-
1274 ground contribution from QCD multijet production. While the cross section for this process is large, its
1275 contribution to the WW^* final state is small because two jets must be misidentified as leptons.

Category	Process	Description
SM WW	$WW \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$	Real leptons and neutrinos
Top quark production	$t\bar{t} \rightarrow WbWb \rightarrow \ell\nu b\bar{b}\nu\bar{b}$	Real leptons, untagged b s
	$tW \rightarrow WbW \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu b$	Real leptons, untagged b
	$t\bar{b}, t\bar{q}\bar{b}$	Untagged b , jet misidentified as lepton
Drell-Yan	$Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow ee, \mu\mu$	“Fake” E_T^{miss}
	$Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu\nu\nu$	Real leptons and neutrinos
Other dibosons	$ZZ \rightarrow \ell\ell\nu\nu$	Real leptons and neutrinos
	$W\gamma^*, WZ \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\ell, ZZ \rightarrow \ell\ell\ell\ell$	Unreconstructed leptons
	$W\gamma, Z\gamma$	γ reconstructed as e , unreconstructed lepton
$W + \text{jets}$	$Wj \rightarrow \ell\nu j$	Jet reconstructed as lepton
QCD multijet	jj	Jets reconstructed as leptons

Table 3.1: A summary of backgrounds to the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ signal

1276 3.4 SHARED SIGNAL REGION SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

1277 As presented in section 3.2, there are many different combinations of physics objects that can define a
1278 $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ final state. The multiplicity of jets and the flavor combinations of the leptons

1279 both lead to many potential signal regions. Additionally, signal regions can be optimized separately to be
 1280 sensitive to the distinct production modes of the Higgs. Gluon fusion, vector boson fusion, and associated
 1281 production of a Higgs all lead to unique final state topologies. Figure 3.6 delineates the different signal
 1282 regions used in the gluon fusion and vector boson fusion $H \rightarrow WW^*$ analyses. While there are different
 1283 optimizations possible in each signal region, there are also some commonly shared selections that will be
 1284 described here.

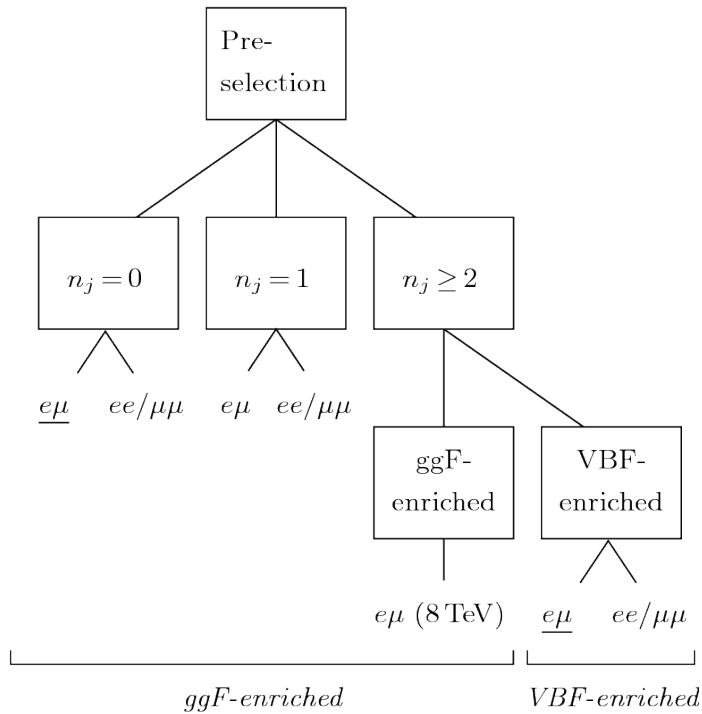


Figure 3.6: An illustration of the unique analysis signal regions [63]. The most sensitive regions for both gluon fusion and vector boson fusion production are underlined.

1285 3.4.1 EVENT PRE-SELECTION

1286 Before being sorted into the distinct signal regions, basic requirements are applied to the reconstructed
 1287 objects in the event to select Higgs-like event candidates. First, two oppositely charged leptons are required.
 1288 Once the leptons are selected, the last requirement for event pre-selection is the presence of neutrinos. As
 1289 neutrinos cannot be detected directly in ATLAS, E_T^{miss} can be used as a proxy for the combined neutrino
 1290 momentum in the transverse plane.

1291 In general, it is expected that the signal should have a harder E_T^{miss} spectrum than backgrounds, espe-
 1292 cially if these backgrounds do not contain neutrinos in the final state. When using E_T^{miss} , it is possible
 1293 mis-measurements of objects in the detector can lead to imbalances in the transverse plane. When such a
 1294 mis-measurement occurs, the E_T^{miss} vector in the transverse plane will often point in the same direction as
 1295 the mis-measured object. Therefore, a new variable, $E_{T,\text{rel}}^{\text{miss}}$, is used in the pre-selection. $E_{T,\text{rel}}^{\text{miss}}$ is defined
 1296 in equation 3.1.

$$E_{T,\text{rel}}^{\text{miss}} = \begin{cases} E_T^{\text{miss}} \sin \Delta\phi_{\text{near}} & \text{if } \Delta\phi_{\text{near}} < \pi/2 \\ E_T^{\text{miss}} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (3.1)$$

1297 If the closest object to the E_T^{miss} vector is within $\pi/2$ radians in the transverse plane, the E_T^{miss} is projected
 1298 away from this object. Otherwise, the normal E_T^{miss} vector is used. Figure 3.7 shows a graphical illustration
 of this concept.

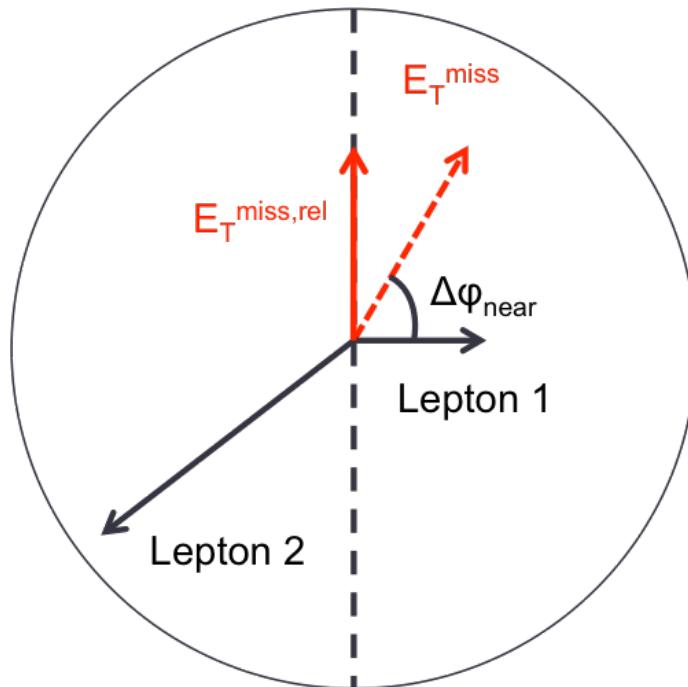


Figure 3.7: A graphical illustration of the $E_{T,\text{rel}}^{\text{miss}}$ calculation

1299
 1300 Once the lepton and E_T^{miss} pre-selections are made, the analysis is divided into different regions accord-
 1301 ing to jet multiplicity.

1302 3.4.2 JET MULTIPLICITY

1303 Jet multiplicity, denoted as n_j , is used to sub-divide the analysis into distinct signal regions. By creating
 1304 separate signal regions, each bin in jet multiplicity becomes sensitive to different modes of Higgs produc-
 1305 tion and different backgrounds.

1306 For example, the $n_j \geq 2$ region is more sensitive to VBF production because of the two high momen-
 1307 tum jets produced at matrix element level. For gluon fusion production to enter this bin, two initial state
 1308 radiation jets must be emitted.

1309 Figure 3.8 shows the jet multiplicity in both the different flavor and same flavor regions after the pre-
 1310 selection. It also shows the background composition in the bins of n_b . A few trends from this distribution
 1311 are worth noting. The first is that the Drell-Yan background dominates in the same flavor channels for
 1312 $n_j \leq 1$. Second, the top background becomes a clear contributor to the total background for $n_j \geq$
 1313 1. Lastly, the SM WW production dominates in the $n_j = 0$ bin, as it is an irreducible background to
 1314 $H \rightarrow WW^*$ production. Because of these distinct features, each jet multiplicity bin is treated separately.

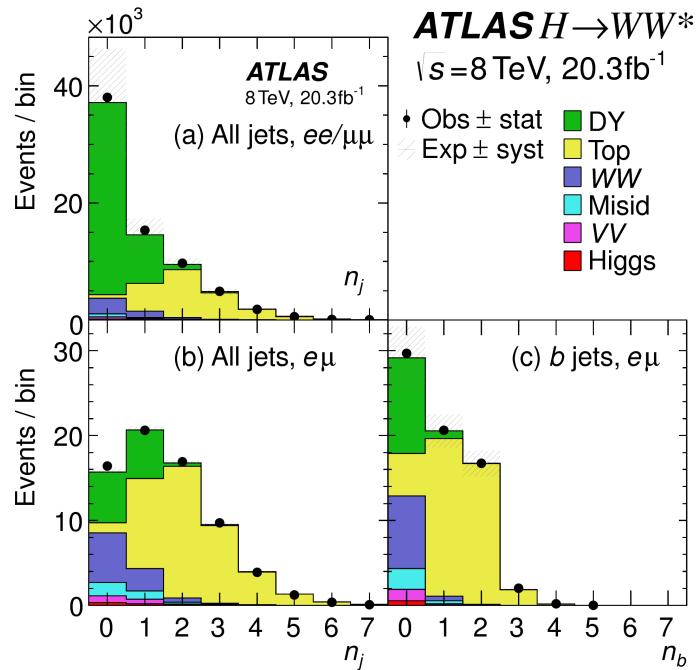


Figure 3.8: Predicted backgrounds (compared with data) as a function of n_j (a and b) and n_b (c) after pre-selection requirements

1315 **3.5 BACKGROUND REDUCTION IN SAME-FLAVOR FINAL STATES**

1316 As described in section 3.4.2, the background composition of the same flavor final states is different
1317 from that of the different flavor states. In particular, Drell Yan processes play a much larger role because
1318 the Z/γ^* decays to same flavor leptons. Because real neutrinos are absent in the Z/γ^* decays to ee and $\mu\mu$,
1319 a requirement on E_T^{miss} should largely reduce the background. However, as this section will demonstrate,
1320 with increasing pileup conditions the resolution of the calorimeter-based E_T^{miss} degrades greatly. There-
1321 fore, two new variables for Z/γ^* background reduction are constructed and described in this section.

1322 **3.5.1 PILEUP AND E_T^{miss} RESOLUTION**

1323 Secondary interactions of protons in the colliding bunches of the LHC (known as pileup interactions,
1324 described in detail in Chapter 2) deposit energy into the ATLAS calorimeter in addition to the energy that
1325 comes from the hard scatter process of interest. The calculation of E_T^{miss} is fundamentally Poissonian.
1326 Summing up all of the energy deposits in individual calorimeter cells or clusters is similar to a counting
1327 experiment. The error on a mean of N in a Poisson distribution is \sqrt{N} , so the energy resolution scales
1328 as \sqrt{E} . As more energy is deposited in the calorimeter, the E_T^{miss} resolution degrades, meaning that the
1329 E_T^{miss} resolution is particularly sensitive to LHC instantaneous luminosity conditions.

1330 Figure 3.9 shows an event display of a $Z/\gamma^* + \text{jets}$ event candidate with the twenty-five reconstructed
1331 primary vertices. This display illustrates that while the interaction of interest only has tracks coming from
1332 the hardest primary vertex, all of the secondary interactions deposit energy in the calorimeter as well.

1333 Figure 3.10 shows the RMS of the E_T^{miss} distribution in $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ events (where there are no real neu-
1334 trinos) as a function of the number of the average number of interactions. Under 2011 LHC conditions,
1335 this RMS was approximately 9 GeV, while under 2012 running conditions the resolution worsened to 12
1336 GeV. The increase in pileup dilutes the E_T^{miss} variable's ability to reduce the Z/γ^* background.

1337 **3.5.2 TRACK-BASED DEFINITIONS OF MISSING TRANSVERSE MOMENTUM**

1338 Because the increasing number of secondary proton-proton interactions degrades calorimeter-based
1339 E_T^{miss} resolution, a new variable using only contributions from the primary interaction vertex is necessary

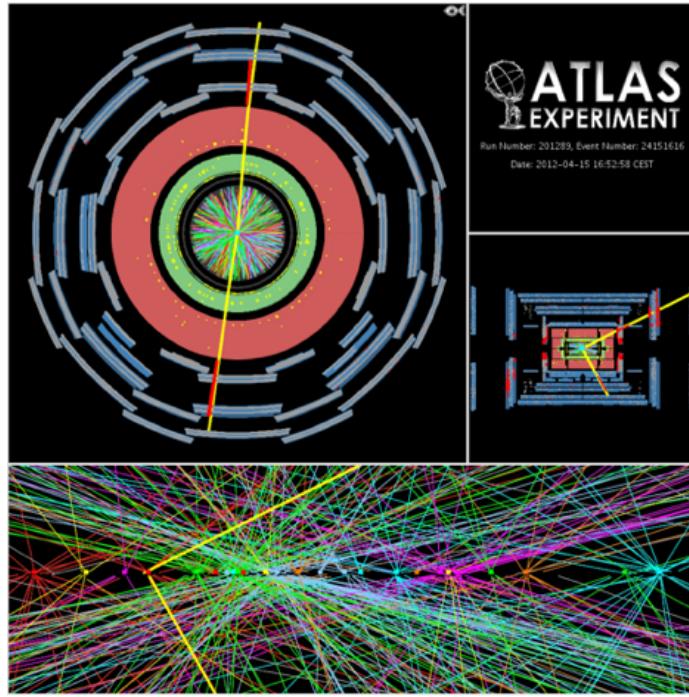


Figure 3.9: An event display of a Z/γ^* + jets event illustrating the effect of pileup interactions

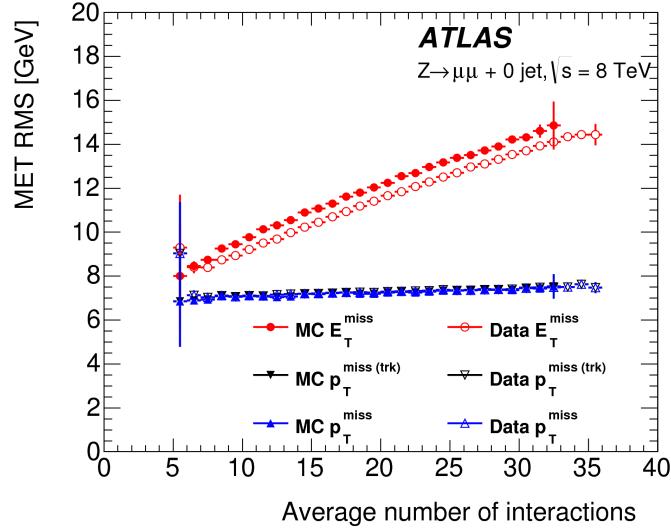


Figure 3.10: The RMS of different missing transverse momentum definitions as a function of the average number of interactions per bunch crossing

¹³⁴⁰ to further reduce the Z/γ^* background. While it is not possible to associate calorimeter energy deposits
¹³⁴¹ with a particular vertex, individual charged particle tracks in the Inner Detector are associated to unique
¹³⁴² vertices. Thus, two track-based definitions of missing transverse momentum , using only tracks coming

1343 from the primary vertex in the event, are used in the analysis. The simplest variable, $p_T^{\text{miss}(\text{trk})}$, is the vec-
 1344 torial sum of the p_T of all of the tracks from the primary vertex and the selected leptons (excluding the
 1345 tracks associated with the selected leptons to avoid double counting). Equation 3.2 defines $p_T^{\text{miss}(\text{trk})}$.

$$p_T^{\text{miss}(\text{trk})} = - \left(\sum_{\text{selected leptons}} p_T + \sum_{\text{other tracks}} p_T \right), \quad (3.2)$$

1346 To further improve the resolution on the missing transverse momentum, the variable p_T^{miss} is used as de-
 1347 fined in equation 3.3. For selected leptons and jets, the nominal p_T measurements are used. Tracks are used
 1348 to estimate the soft component of the missing transverse momentum instead of calorimeter measurements.

1349

$$p_T^{\text{miss}} = - \left(\sum_{\text{selected leptons}} p_T + \sum_{\text{selected jets}} p_T + \sum_{\text{other tracks}} p_T \right), \quad (3.3)$$

1350 Figure 3.10 illustrates that these two new variables accomplish their intended purpose. The resolution as a
 1351 function of mean number of interactions for both $p_T^{\text{miss}(\text{trk})}$ and p_T^{miss} is much flatter than the dependence
 1352 for E_T^{miss} . Figure 3.11a shows the difference between the true and reconstructed values of missing transverse
 1353 momentum using both the track-based p_T^{miss} and calorimeter based E_T^{miss} . The RMS of the distribution
 1354 improves by 3.5 GeV when using p_T^{miss} .

1355 3.5.3 DISTINGUISHING Z/γ^* +JETS AND $H \rightarrow WW^*$ TOPOLOGIES

1356 In addition to measuring missing transverse momentum, another variable can be constructed to exploit
 1357 kinematic and topological differences between the Z/γ^* background and $H \rightarrow WW^*$ signal. Because
 1358 there are no real neutrinos in the final state (in the case of $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow ee, \mu\mu$ decays), the dilepton system will
 1359 be balanced with the jets produced in the hard scatter. A new variable, f_{recoil} , is constructed to estimate
 1360 the balance between the dilepton system and recoiling jets and is defined in equation 3.4. The transverse
 1361 plane is divided into four sections, or quadrants, with one quadrant centered on the dilepton vector. The
 1362 numerator of f_{recoil} is the magnitude of the vectorial sum of the p_T of jets in the quadrant opposite the
 1363 dilepton system, weighted by each jet's Jet Vertex Fraction (JVF, described in chapter 2). The denominator

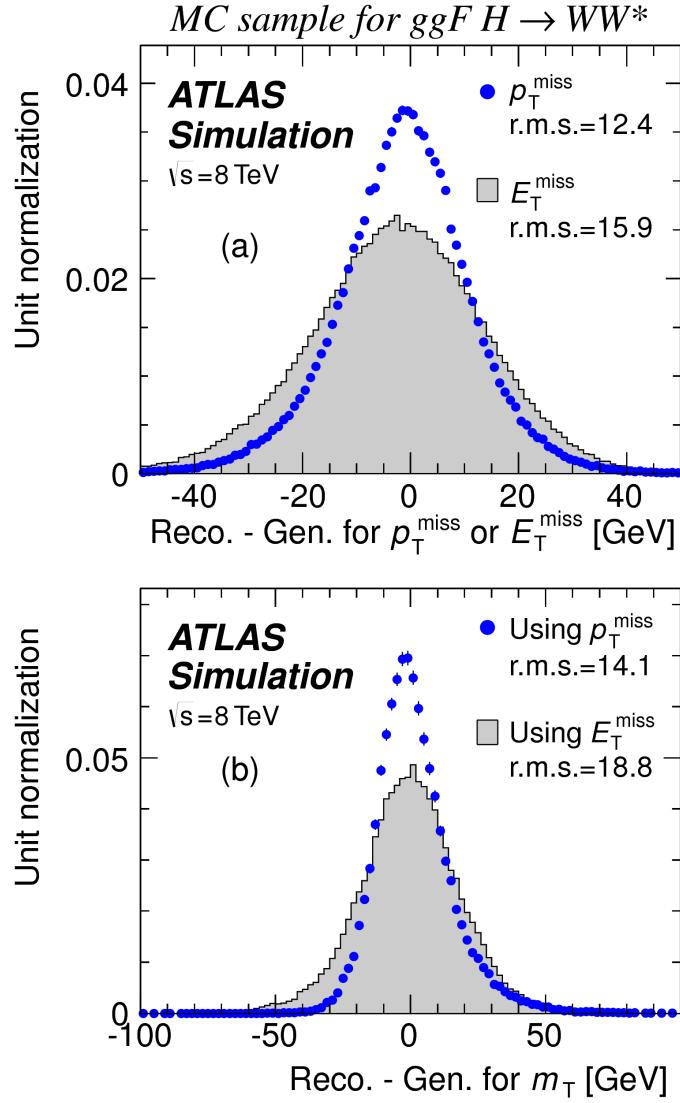


Figure 3.II: The difference between the true and reconstructed values of the missing transverse momentum (a) and m_T (b) in a gluon fusion signal sample

¹³⁶⁴ is the magnitude of the dilepton p_T .

$$f_{\text{recoil}} = \left| \sum_{\text{jets } j \text{ in } \wedge} \text{JVF}_j \cdot \mathbf{p}_T^j \right| / p_T^{\ell\ell}. \quad (3.4)$$

¹³⁶⁵ Figure 3.12 shows a shape comparison of the f_{recoil} distribution in a simulated $Z/\gamma^* + \text{jets}$ sample, a
¹³⁶⁶ $H \rightarrow WW^*$ signal sample, and other backgrounds that contain real neutrinos. The $Z/\gamma^* + \text{jets}$ events

1367 tend to be more balanced between the dilepton system and recoiling jets, while the processes containing
 1368 real neutrinos are less balanced in the transverse plane. Thus, a requirement on f_{recoil} will reduce the Z/γ^*
 1369 + jets background while maintaining a good signal efficiency.

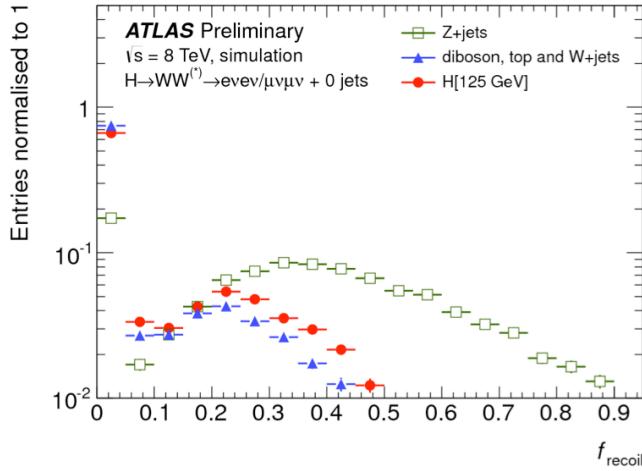


Figure 3.12: Comparison of f_{recoil} distributions for $Z/\gamma^* + \text{jets}$, $H \rightarrow WW^*$, and other backgrounds with real neutrinos.

1370 3.5.4 OPTIMIZING BACKGROUND REDUCTION SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

1371 The requirements on $p_T^{\text{miss}(\text{trk})}$ and f_{recoil} used to reduce the $Z + \text{jets}$ background must be optimized
 1372 to maximize expected signal significance in the same flavor channels. Figure 3.13 shows an optimization of
 1373 the combination of the two requirements in the gluon fusion zero jet bin. Each bin shows the expected
 1374 signal significance if the $p_{T,\text{rel}}^{\text{miss}(\text{trk})}$ is required to be greater than the left edge of the bin and the f_{recoil} is
 1375 required to be less than the top edge of the bin. The figure shows that the best signal significance comes
 1376 from requiring low values of f_{recoil} (< 0.05) and $p_{T,\text{rel}}^{\text{miss}(\text{trk})}$ values greater than 45 GeV.

1377 3.6 PARAMETERS OF INTEREST AND STATISTICAL TREATMENT

1378 As with any search or measurement, there are particular parameters of the Higgs that the $H \rightarrow WW^*$
 1379 analysis is interested in measuring. In this case, the parameters of interest are the mass of the Higgs boson
 1380 and its production cross section. Because the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ process does not have a closed final

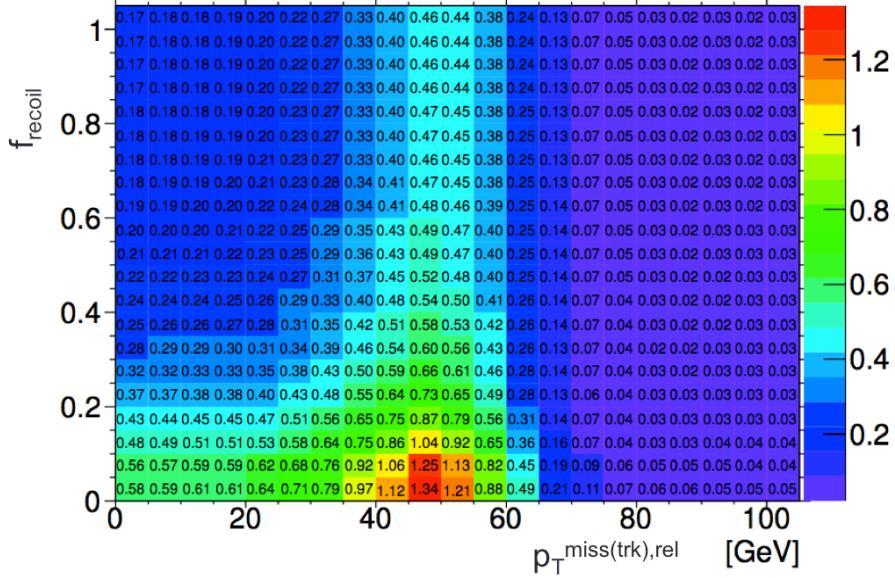


Figure 3.13: Signal significance as a function of required value for f_{recoil} and $p_{T,\text{rel}}^{\text{miss}(\text{trk})}$ in the ggF $H \rightarrow WW^*$ with $n_j = 0$

state, it is not possible to measure the full invariant mass of the particle that may have produced the final state. However, a proxy for the invariant mass is defined using transverse plane information and detailed in section 3.6.1. The second parameter of interest is the ratio of the measured cross section to that expected from the Standard Model Higgs, which is denoted a μ . This is defined in equation 3.5.

$$\mu = \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{\text{SM}}} \quad (3.5)$$

All of the likelihoods used in the statistical analysis of the final signal region events are parameterized as a function of μ . μ is a natural variable for hypothesis testing, as $\mu = 0$ corresponds to a background only hypothesis and $\mu = 1$ corresponds exactly to a Standard Model Higgs.

3.6.1 TRANSVERSE MASS

The $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ analysis cannot reconstruct the full invariant mass of the Higgs because of the neutrinos in the final state. The transverse mass serves as a proxy for the full invariant mass by

1391 exploiting information from the transverse plane. The transverse mass is defined in equation 3.6.

$$m_T = \sqrt{(E_T^{\ell\ell} + p_T^{\text{miss}})^2 - |\vec{p}_T^{\ell\ell} + \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}|^2}, \quad (3.6)$$

1392 Here the $E_T^{\ell\ell}$ and $\vec{p}_T^{\ell\ell}$ are the transverse energy and momentum of the dilepton system, while p_T^{miss} is a
1393 proxy for the transverse momentum of the di-neutrino system. The track-based p_T^{miss} is used in the m_T
1394 rather than the calorimeter based E_T^{miss} because it has a better resolution on the true transverse mass.
1395 Figure 3.11b shows the improvement in the RMS of the difference between the true and reconstructed
1396 transverse mass in a ggF signal sample. The RMS improves by 4.7 GeV using p_T^{miss} in the m_T calculation.

1397 **3.6.2 STATISTICAL TREATMENT²**

1398 **LIKELIHOOD FUNCTION**

1399 The statistical analysis of final event candidates is framed as a hypothesis test, where the null hypoth-
1400 esis is background-only (no Standard Model Higgs). The first step in the analysis is to form a likelihood
1401 function for the data. In its simplest form, this likelihood is the probability of observing the number of
1402 events seen in the final signal region given knowledge of the signal strength. Because observation of events
1403 is fundamentally a Poisson counting experiment, this simple likelihood can be expressed as a Poisson prob-
1404 ability of observing N events given a total number of predicted signal and background events. This basic
1405 likelihood is shown in equation 3.7.

$$\mathcal{L}(\mu) = P(N|\mu S + B) \quad (3.7)$$

1406 Here, P is the Poisson probability density function, N is the total number of observed events, μ is the
1407 signal strength, S is the predicted number of signal events, and B is the predicted number of background
1408 events.

1409 In particle physics, certain background estimates are commonly normalized in so-called “control” re-
1410 gions and those predictions are scaled by the same normalization factor in the signal region. This leads to a

²Many thanks to Aaron Armbruster, whose thesis [64] inspired parts of this section.

₁₄₁₁ slightly more complicated likelihood, which is a function of both the signal strength and the background
₁₄₁₂ normalization. This is shown in equation 3.8.

$$\mathcal{L}(\mu, \theta) = P(N|\mu S + \theta B) P(N_{\text{CR}}|\theta B_{\text{CR}}) \quad (3.8)$$

₁₄₁₃ Here, θ serves as a “nuisance parameter”, or a parameter that is not of primary interest but still enters the
₁₄₁₄ likelihood. The second Poisson term enforces that the background normalization be consistent with the
₁₄₁₅ number of observed events in data in the control region, N_{CR} .

₁₄₁₆ So far, these two formulations of likelihoods have assumed a single signal region and do not take into
₁₄₁₇ account any shape information of potential discriminating variables. The $H \rightarrow WW^*$ analysis is divided
₁₄₁₈ into many different categories, the counting experiment described above can be performed in each individ-
₁₄₁₉ ual category. As mentioned in section 3.6.1, the transverse mass is used as the primary discriminating vari-
₁₄₂₀ able in many of the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ sub-analyses. The same counting experiment can be performed in each
₁₄₂₁ bin of the m_T distribution to incorporate some shape information. Thus, the total likelihood becomes a
₁₄₂₂ product over signal regions and bins of the m_T distribution. Finally, there are usually many backgrounds
₁₄₂₃ that are normalized in control regions. The new formulation of the likelihood takes this into account by
₁₄₂₄ including a product over control regions in the second Poisson term. All of these modifications are shown
₁₄₂₅ in equation 3.9.

$$\mathcal{L}(\mu, \theta) = \prod_{\substack{\text{SRs } i \\ \text{bins } b}} P\left(N_{ib} \middle| \mu S_{ib} + \sum_{\text{bkg } k} \theta_k B_{kib}\right) \prod_{\text{CRs } l} P\left(N_l \middle| \sum_{\text{bkg } k} \theta_k B_{kl}\right) \quad (3.9)$$

₁₄₂₆ The final step to obtain the full likelihood used in the analysis is to add nuisance parameters for the
₁₄₂₇ systematic uncertainties. In cases where the uncertainty does not affect the shape of m_T bin-by-bin, each
₁₄₂₈ systematic uncertainty ϵ is allowed to affect the expected event yields through a linear response function
₁₄₂₉ of the nuisance parameter, namely $\nu(\theta) = (1 + \epsilon)\theta$. If instead the uncertainty does affect the shape, the
₁₄₃₀ effect is instead parameterized by $\nu_b(\theta) = 1 + \epsilon_b\theta$. The value of the nuisance parameters for the systematic
₁₄₃₁ uncertainty are constrained with a Gaussian term that is added to the likelihood as well. This is of the form
₁₄₃₂ $g(\delta|\theta) = e^{-(\delta-\theta)^2/2}/\sqrt{2\pi}$, where δ is the central value and θ is a nuisance parameter. Finally, a last term is

¹⁴³³ added to account for the statistical uncertainty in the Monte Carlo samples used, which adds an additional
¹⁴³⁴ poisson term. The full likelihood used in the final statistical analysis is defined in equation 3.10.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = & \prod_{\substack{\text{SRs i} \\ \text{bins b}}} P \left(N_{ib} \middle| \mu S_{ib} \cdot \prod_{\substack{\text{sig.} \\ r}} \nu_{br}(\theta_r) + \sum_{\text{bkg k}} \theta_k B_{kib} \cdot \prod_{\substack{\text{bkg.} \\ s \\ \text{syst.}}} \nu_{bs}(\theta_s) \right) \\ & \cdot \prod_{\text{CRs l}} P \left(N_l \middle| \sum_{\text{bkg k}} \theta_k B_{kl} \right) \\ & \cdot \prod_{\substack{\text{syst} \\ t}} g(\delta_t | \theta_t) \cdot \prod_{\text{bkg k}} P(\xi_k | \zeta_k \theta_k) \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

¹⁴³⁵ The fourth term of the equation quantifies the uncertainty due to finite Monte Carlo sample size. Here,
¹⁴³⁶ ξ represents the central value of the background prediction, θ is the associated nuisance parameter, $\zeta =$
¹⁴³⁷ $(B/\delta B)^2$, where δB is the statistical uncertainty of B .

¹⁴³⁸ The best fit value of the signal strength μ is determined by finding the values of μ and $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ that maximize
¹⁴³⁹ the likelihood, while setting $\delta = 0$ and $\xi = \zeta$. Once the likelihood is defined, a test statistic must be built
¹⁴⁴⁰ for use in hypothesis testing.

¹⁴⁴¹ TEST STATISTIC

¹⁴⁴² To distinguish whether the data match a background only or background and signal hypothesis, a test
¹⁴⁴³ statistic must be used. The $H \rightarrow WW^*$ analysis uses the profile likelihood technique [65]. The first step
¹⁴⁴⁴ in formulating this test statistic is to define the profile likelihood ratio, shown in equation 3.11.

$$\lambda(\mu) = \frac{\mathcal{L}(\mu, \hat{\theta}_\mu)}{\mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta})} \quad (3.11)$$

¹⁴⁴⁵ Here $\hat{\theta}_\mu$ is the value of θ that maximizes the likelihood for the choice of μ being tested. Additionally, $\hat{\theta}$
¹⁴⁴⁶ and $\hat{\mu}$ represent the values of θ and μ that gives the overall maximum value of the likelihood.

1447 Once this is defined, a test statistic q_μ is constructed. This is shown in equation 3.12.

$$q_\mu = -2 \ln \lambda(\mu) \quad (3.12)$$

1448 A higher value of q_μ indicates that the data are more incompatible with the hypothesized value of μ , and
1449 q_0 then corresponds to the value of the test statistic for the background only hypothesis. A p_0 value is
1450 then defined to quantify the compatibility between the data and the null hypothesis. The p_0 value is the
1451 probability of obtaining a value of q_0 larger than the observed value, and this is shown in equation 3.13.

$$p_0 = \int_{q_0^{\text{obs}}}^{\infty} f(q_\mu | \mu = 0) dq_\mu \quad (3.13)$$

1452 Here $f(q_\mu)$ is the probability distribution function of the test statistic. Finally, the p_0 value can be con-
1453 verted into a signal significance, using the formula in equation 3.14, or the one-sided tail of the Gaussian
1454 distribution.

$$Z_0 = \sqrt{2} \operatorname{erf}^{-1}(1 - 2p_0) \quad (3.14)$$

1455 The threshold for discovery used in particle physics is $Z_0 \geq 5$, more commonly known as a value of 5σ .

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.

Marcel Proust

4

1456

1457 The discovery of the Higgs boson and the role

1458

of the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ channel

1459

4.1 INTRODUCTION

1460

This chapter presents the results of the search for the Higgs boson in 4.8 fb^{-1} collected at $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ and 5.8 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$. The results of three searches at $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$ in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$, $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, and $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ channels are combined with results of searches at $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ in the same search channels (as well as the $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$ production and associated production searches for $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$). The results of this combination are a 5.9σ detection of a new particle consistent with a Higgs boson. Rather than going into detail for all of the different Higgs decay searches, this chapter will discuss the three most sensitive channels and in particular focus on $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$. While the focus is on WW^* , some of the ZZ^* and $\gamma\gamma$ results are shown for completeness. The results not discussed here can

1468 be found in the ATLAS Higgs discovery publication [1].

1469 **4.2 DATA AND SIMULATION SAMPLES**

1470 The data sample used for the following results was taken in 2011 and 2012 at center of mass energies
1471 of 7 and 8 TeV, respectively, with 4.8 fb^{-1} collected at 7 TeV and 5.8 fb^{-1} collected at 8 TeV. Higgs
1472 production in the gluon fusion and vector boson fusion modes is modeled with **POWHEG** for the hard
1473 scattering event and **PYTHIA** for the showering and hadronization. Associated production of a Higgs with a
1474 vector boson or top quarks is modeled via **PYTHIA**. Table 4.1 shows the Monte Carlo generators used for
1475 modeling the signal and background processes relevant for the three analyses to be discussed.

Process	Generator
ggF, VBF H	POWHEG + PYTHIA
$WH, ZH, t\bar{t}H$	PYTHIA
$W + \text{jets}, Z/\gamma^* + \text{jets}$	ALPGEN + HERWIG
$t\bar{t}, tW, tb$	MC@NLO + HERWIG
tqb	ACERMC + PYTHIA
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow WW$	MC@NLO + HERWIG
$gg \rightarrow WW$	GG2WW+ HERWIG
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow ZZ$	POWHEG + PYTHIA
$gg \rightarrow ZZ$	GG2ZZ+ HERWIG
WZ	MADGRAPH+ PYTHIA , HERWIG
$W\gamma + \text{jets}$	ALPGEN + HERWIG
$W\gamma^*$	MADGRAPH+ PYTHIA
$q\bar{q}/gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	SHERPA

Table 4.1: Monte carlo generators used to model signal and background for the Higgs search [1].

1476 **4.3 $H \rightarrow WW \rightarrow e\nu\mu\nu$ SEARCH**

1477 The $H \rightarrow WW \rightarrow e\nu\mu\nu$ search is unique compared to the ZZ and $\gamma\gamma$ channels. The Higgs mass
1478 cannot be fully reconstructed due to the presence of neutrinos in the final state, so the transverse mass m_T
1479 is used as the final discriminating variable. Compared to the other channels, there are more backgrounds
1480 here as well, as discussed in chapter 3. The same flavor final states are excluded from the 8 TeV dataset due

¹⁴⁸¹ to high pileup conditions¹. These final states are later included in results with the full Run 1 dataset, as
¹⁴⁸² discussed in chapters 5 and 6.

¹⁴⁸³ **4.3.1 EVENT SELECTION**

¹⁴⁸⁴ The analysis requires two opposite charge isolated leptons, with the leading (sub-leading) lepton required
¹⁴⁸⁵ to have $p_T > 25(15)$ GeV. The events are separated into different signal regions depending on which
¹⁴⁸⁶ flavor of lepton is leading ($e\mu$ for leading electron, μe for leading muon). Strict lepton quality cuts are
¹⁴⁸⁷ applied to the sample to reduce backgrounds from fake leptons.

¹⁴⁸⁸ Jets are reconstructed with the anti- k_T algorithm with a radius parameter $R = 0.4$. The jets are re-
¹⁴⁸⁹ quired to have $p_T > 25$ GeV and $|eta| < 4.5$, with jets in the tracking volume required to have a jet
¹⁴⁹⁰ vertex fraction of 0.5 and jets in the forward region required to have $p_T > 30$ GeV. The analysis is sepa-
¹⁴⁹¹ rated into three different signal regions based on jet multiplicity: $n_j = 0, 1, \geq 2$.

¹⁴⁹² To indicate the presence of neutrinos in the event, a requirement of $E_{T,\text{rel}}^{\text{miss}} > 25$ GeV is made². This
¹⁴⁹³ requirement significantly reduces the QCD multijet and Z/γ^* + jets backgrounds. Figure 4.1 shows the
¹⁴⁹⁴ distribution of n_j in data and simulation after applying these “pre-selection” requirements.

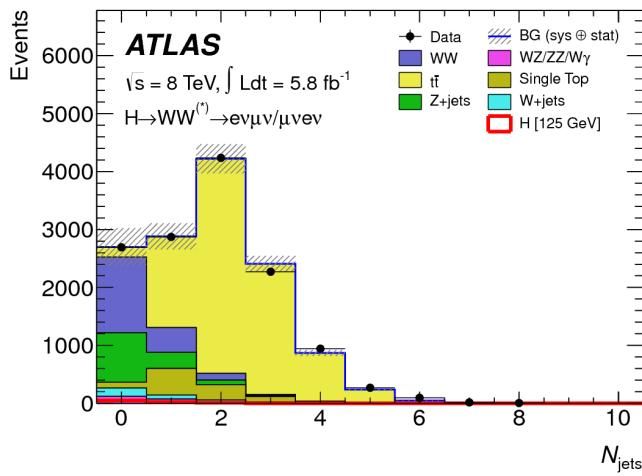


Figure 4.1: Jet multiplicity distribution in data and MC after applying lepton, jet, and $E_{T,\text{rel}}^{\text{miss}}$ selections. The WW and top backgrounds have been normalized using control samples, and the hashed band indicates the total uncertainty on the prediction. [1]

¹The less sensitive 7 TeV search result includes both different flavor and same flavor final states.

²For the definition of $E_{T,\text{rel}}^{\text{miss}}$, see chapter 3

1495 Additional selections are applied to require the dilepton topology to correspond to that of a SM Higgs.
1496 The requirements are presented here - more detailed discussion on the motivation for each requirement is
1497 saved for Chapter 5. In all of the jet multiplicity channels, the dilepton system is required to have a small
1498 gap in azimuthal angle, $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell} < 1.8$. Similarly, the $m_{\ell\ell}$ is required to be less than 50 GeV in the lower jet
1499 multiplicity channels and less than 80 GeV in the $n_j \geq 2$ channel. In the $n_j = 0$ channel, the magnitude
1500 of the dilepton p_T , $p_T^{\ell\ell}$, is required to be greater than 30 GeV.

1501 In the higher jet multiplicity channels ($n_j \geq 1$), the top background is a more important component
1502 and must be reduced. The total transverse momentum p_T^{sum} is thus required to be less than 30 GeV. Ad-
1503 ditionally, the di- τ invariant mass $m_{\tau\tau}$ (dilepton mass computed under the assumption that the neutrinos
1504 from the τ decay are emitted collinear to the charged leptons) is used to reject $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ events by requiring
1505 $|m_{\tau\tau} - m_Z| > 25$ GeV. These variables are also discussed in more detail in Chapter 5.

1506 In the $n_j \geq 2$ channel, requirements are made to isolate the VBF contribution to Higgs production.
1507 The kinematics of the two leading jets are used to make these requirements. In particular, the event must
1508 have $\Delta y_{jj} > 3.8$ and $m_{jj} > 500$ GeV, along with a veto on having any additional jets with rapidity
1509 between the two leading jets.

1510 4.3.2 BACKGROUND ESTIMATION

1511 The details of the background estimation techniques used in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ analysis are
1512 discussed in section 5.5. As that section refers to a later iteration of the analysis, a general discussion is given
1513 here for completeness. The dominant backgrounds are SM WW production and top (both pair and
1514 single) production, and these backgrounds have their normalizations estimated from dedicated control
1515 regions while their shapes are taken from simulation.

1516 The control sample for the Standard Model WW background is defined by making the same require-
1517 ments as the signal region with the $m_{\ell\ell}$ requirement inverted (now requiring $m_{\ell\ell} > 80$ GeV) and remov-
1518 ing the $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$ requirement. This creates a control sample that is 70% (40%) pure in the 0(1)-jet region. The
1519 correction to the pure MC-based background estimate is quantified by defining a normalization factor β
1520 which is the ratio of the data yield to the MC yield ($N_{\text{data}}/N_{\text{MC}}$) in this control sample. Table 4.2 shows

1521 the WW normalization factors in the $n_j = 0$ and $n_j = 1$ bins (the $n_j \geq 2$ estimate is taken directly
1522 from MC).

n_j	β_{WW}	β_t
$= 0$	1.06 ± 0.06	1.11 ± 0.06
$= 1$	0.99 ± 0.15	1.11 ± 0.05
≥ 2	-	1.01 ± 0.26

Table 4.2: Normalization factors (ratio of data and MC yields in a control sample) for the Standard Model WW and top backgrounds in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ analysis [1]. Only statistical uncertainties are shown.

1523 The top background estimate is also computed separately in each jet multiplicity bin. In the $n_j = 0$
1524 channel, the background is first normalized using data after pre-selection requirements with no selection
1525 on n_j . Then, a dedicated b -tagged control sample is used to evaluate the ratio of one-jet to two-jet events in
1526 data. The details of this technique are shown in reference [66]. In the $n_j = 1$ and the $n_j \geq 2$ regions, the
1527 top background is normalized in a control sample where the signal region selections are applied, but the
1528 b -jet veto is reversed and the Higgs topology requirements on $m_{\ell\ell}$ and $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$ are removed. The resulting
1529 normalization factors for these techniques are shown in table 4.2.

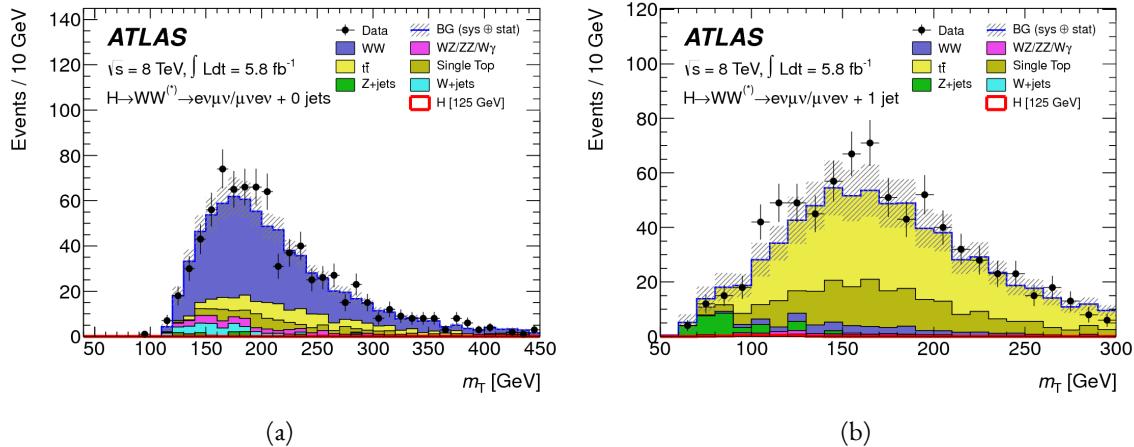


Figure 4.2: Comparison of m_T between data and simulation in the $n_j = 0$ WW (a) and $n_j = 1$ top (b) control samples [1]

1530 The control samples which are used for background normalization can also be used to validate the mod-
1531 eling of the m_T distribution for each background. Figure 4.2 shows the comparison between data and MC

1532 for the m_T distribution after correcting the normalization of the backgrounds in the WW and top control
1533 regions. Good agreement between data and simulation is seen in both cases.

1534 The $W + \text{jets}$ background estimate is taken entirely from data using a control sample with one well recon-
1535 structed lepton and one anti-identified lepton. All other backgrounds are taken purely from simulation.

1536 **4.3.3 SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES**

1537 The systematic uncertainties that have the largest impact on the analysis are the theoretical uncertainties
1538 associated with the signal cross section, and these are shared with the ZZ^* and $\gamma\gamma$ channels. The uncer-
1539 tainties resulting from variations of the QCD scale are $+7\%/-8\%$ on the final singal yield. Those coming
1540 from variations of the parton distribution function (PDF) used in the simulation add a $\pm 8\%$ uncertainty
1541 on the yield. The uncertainties on the branching ratios of the Higgs are $\pm 5\%$.

1542 The main experimental uncertainties come from variations of the jet energy scale (JES), jet energy reso-
1543 lution, pile-up, E_T^{miss} , b -tagging efficiency, $W + \text{jets}$ background estimate, and integrated luminosity. For
1544 more details, see reference [1].

1545 **4.3.4 RESULTS**

1546 Table 4.3 shows the signal and background yields in the final signal region after normalizing the back-
1547 grounds according to the methods described above.

	$n_j = 0$	$n_j = 1$	$n_j \geq 2$
Signal	20 ± 4	5 ± 2	0.34 ± 0.07
WW	101 ± 13	12 ± 5	0.10 ± 0.14
Other dibosons	12 ± 3	1.9 ± 1.1	0.10 ± 0.10
$t\bar{t}$	8 ± 2	6 ± 2	0.15 ± 0.10
Single top	3.4 ± 1.5	3.7 ± 1.6	-
$Z/\gamma^* + \text{jets}$	1.9 ± 1.3	0.10 ± 0.10	-
$W + \text{jets}$	15 ± 7	2 ± 1	-
Total background	142 ± 16	26 ± 6	0.35 ± 0.18
Observed in data	185	38	0

Table 4.3: Data and expected yields for signal and background in the final $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ signal region.
Uncertainties shown are both statistical and systematic. [1]

1548 Figure 4.3 shows the m_T distribution in the $n_j \leq 1$ channels for 8 TeV data. (No events are observed
 1549 in data in the $n_j \geq 2$ channels in this dataset). The excess shown here relatively flat as a function of
 1550 hypothesized Higgs mass. The combined 7 and 8 TeV data gives an excess with local significance of 2.8σ
 1551 with an expected significance of 2.3σ , corresponding to a μ measurement of 1.3 ± 0.5 .

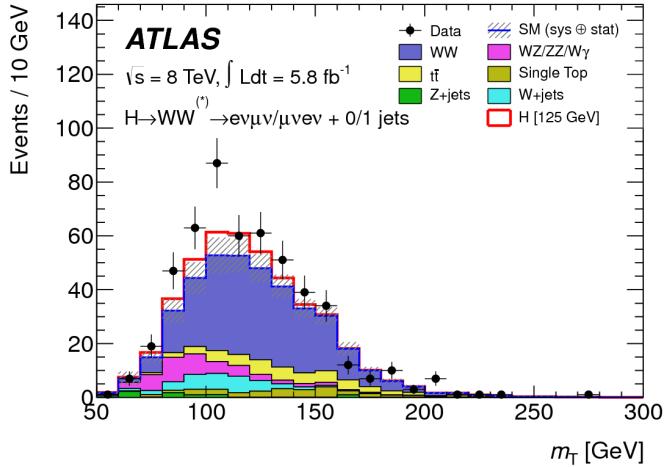


Figure 4.3: m_T distribution in the $H \rightarrow WW \rightarrow e\nu\mu\nu$ $n_j \leq 1$ channels for 8 TeV data [1].

1552 4.4 $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ SEARCH

1553 The $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ search is in essence a search for a peaked excess above the falling SM diphoton mass
 1554 spectrum, with $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ as the ultimate discriminating variable. Events are selected by requiring two isolated
 1555 photons, with the leading (sub-leading) photon required to have $E_T > 40(30)$ GeV. In the 8 TeV data,
 1556 the photons are required to pass cut-based identification criteria consistent with a photon in the electro-
 1557 magnetic calorimeter and little leakage in the hadronic calorimeter.

1558 The main challenges for this analysis are accurate mass reconstruction and background estimation. In
 1559 order to accurately reconstruct the invariant mass of the di-photon system, both the energy and direction
 1560 of the photons must be measured well. Therefore, the identification of the primary vertex of the hard
 1561 interaction is particularly important, and is done using a multivariate likelihood which combines informa-
 1562 tion about the photon direction and vertex position. The background is modeled with a falling spectrum
 1563 in $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ that is parameterized by different functions depending on the category of the event.

1564 4.4.1 RESULTS

1565 The resulting diphoton mass spectrum is shown in figure 4.4. The best fit mass value in the $\gamma\gamma$ channel
 1566 alone in the combined 7 and 8 TeV data is 126.5 GeV. The local significance at this point is 4.5σ , with
 1567 an expected significance of 2.5σ . Therefore, the measured signal strength μ is 1.8 ± 0.5 in this channel.

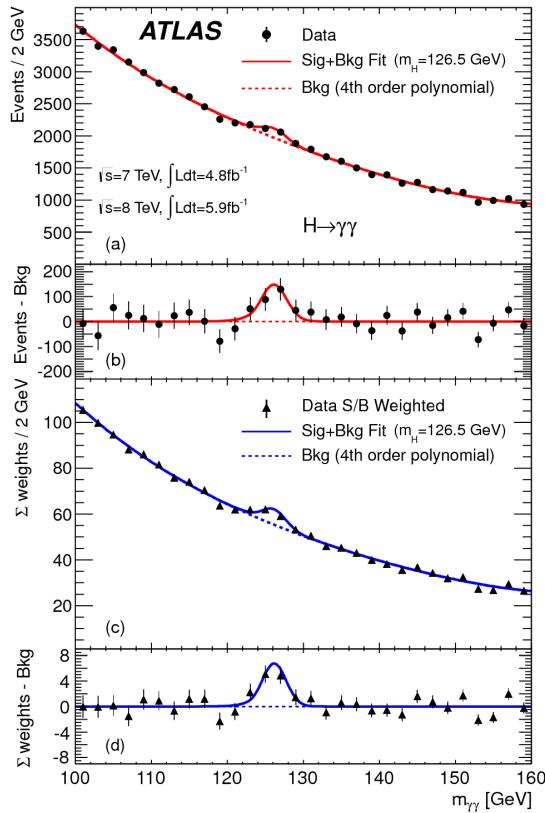


Figure 4.4: Diphoton mass spectrum in 7 and 8 TeV data. Panel a) shows the unweighted data distribution superimposed on the background fit, while panel c) shows the data where each event category is weighted by its signal to background ratio. Panels b) and d) show the respective distributions with background subtracted [1].

1568 4.5 $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ SEARCH

1569 The $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ analysis searches for a Standard Model Higgs boson decaying to two Z bosons,
 1570 each of which decays to a pair of same flavor, opposite charge isolated leptons. The ultimate discriminating
 1571 variable is $m_{4\ell}$, or the invariant mass of the four selected leptons. The ℓ denotes an e or μ as with the
 1572 $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ analysis.

1573 Four distinct signal regions are constructed depending on the flavors of the final state, additionally sep-
 1574 arated by the flavor of the leading lepton pair. These are referred to as $4e$, $2e2\mu$, $2\mu2e$, 4μ .

1575 The main backgrounds in the $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ search are continuum ZZ^* production, $Z + \text{jets}$ pro-
 1576 duction, and $t\bar{t}$. The $m_{4\ell}$ distribution for background is estimated from simulation. The normalization
 1577 of the SM ZZ^* background is also taken from MC simulation, while the $Z + \text{jets}$ and $t\bar{t}$ normalizations are
 1578 taken from data-driven methods.

1579 **4.5.1 RESULTS**

1580 Figure 4.5 shows the $m_{4\ell}$ spectrum measured in the 7 and 8 TeV datasets. The total number of events
 1581 observed in the window between 120 and 130 GeV is 13, with 6 events in the 4μ channel, 2 events in
 1582 the $4e$ channel, and 5 events in the $2e2\mu/2\mu2e$. The best fit μ value in the combined 7 and 8 TeV data
 1583 occurs at 125 GeV and is measured to be 1.2 ± 0.6 . The observed significance at this mass is 3.6σ , with
 1584 an expected significance of 2.7σ .

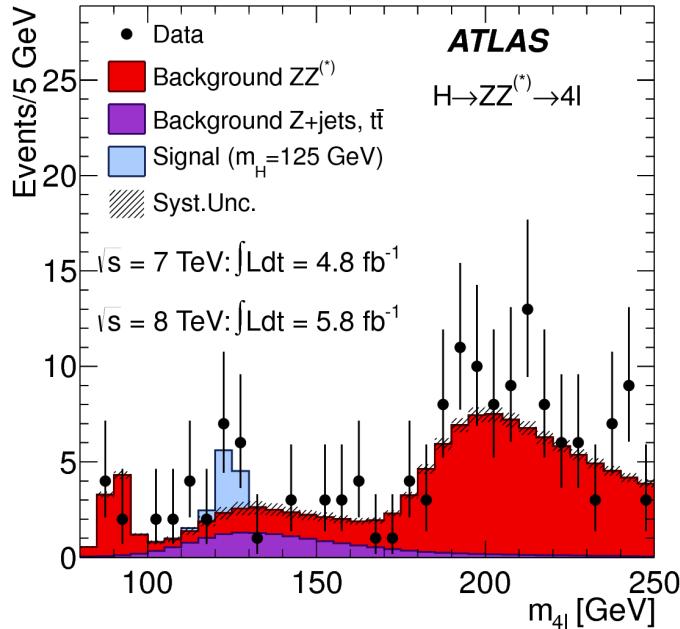


Figure 4.5: Four lepton invariant mass spectrum ($m_{4\ell}$) in 7 and 8 TeV data compared to background estimate. A 125 GeV SM Higgs signal is shown in blue [1].

1585 4.6 COMBINED RESULTS

1586 The statistical interpretation of the combined results is undertaken as described in section 3.6.2, with a
 1587 hypothesis test based on a likelihood ratio parameterized by the Higgs signal strength μ . The null hypoth-
 1588 esis corresponds to $\mu = 0$, while the SM Higgs corresponds to $\mu = 1$.

1589 Table 4.4 summarizes the properties of the individual channels as well as the significances of the excesses
 1590 seen. The most significant observed local excess comes from the $\gamma\gamma$ channel. Figure 4.6 shows a compari-
 1591 son of the observed local p_0 values as a function of hypothesized mass for the three different search chan-
 1592 nels. Both the ZZ^* and $\gamma\gamma$ channels have very peaked excesses, while the WW^* excess can be seen as very
 1593 broad because the m_T distribution does not provide detailed information about the true Higgs mass.

Channel	Fit var.	Observed Z_l	Expected Z_l	$\hat{\mu}$
$H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$	$m_{4\ell}$	3.6	2.7	1.2 ± 0.6
$H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	$m_{\gamma\gamma}$	4.5	2.5	1.8 ± 0.5
$H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow e\nu\mu\nu$	m_T	2.8	2.3	1.3 ± 0.5
Combined	-	6.0	4.9	1.4 ± 0.3

Table 4.4: Summary of the expected and observed significance and measured signal strengths in the combined 7 and 8 TeV datasets for the Higgs discovery analysis [1].

1594 Figure 4.7 shows the combined exclusion limit, p_0 , and signal strength. The highest local excess comes
 1595 at a value of 126.5 GeV and corresponds to a 6.0σ observed excess.

1596 Figure 4.8 shows a comparison of the measured signal strengths between the different Higgs search
 1597 channels. All measured μ are consistent with unity within their uncertainty, and the combined μ mea-
 1598 surement is 1.4 ± 0.3 .

1599 The likelihood can also be computed in a two-dimensional plane of m_H and μ , and this is shown in
 1600 figure 4.9. The figure shows that while the $\gamma\gamma$ and ZZ^* channels have very good mass resolution, the
 1601 excess in WW^* covers a broad mass range. The banana shape of the WW^* result is due to the fact that
 1602 the excess in this channel can either be explained by increasing the signal strength or by changing the mass
 1603 (and thus the cross section). The two parameters are correlated due to the lack of mass sensitivity in this
 1604 channel.

1605 Because multiple Higgs mass points are searched for, the local significance must be corrected for a look-

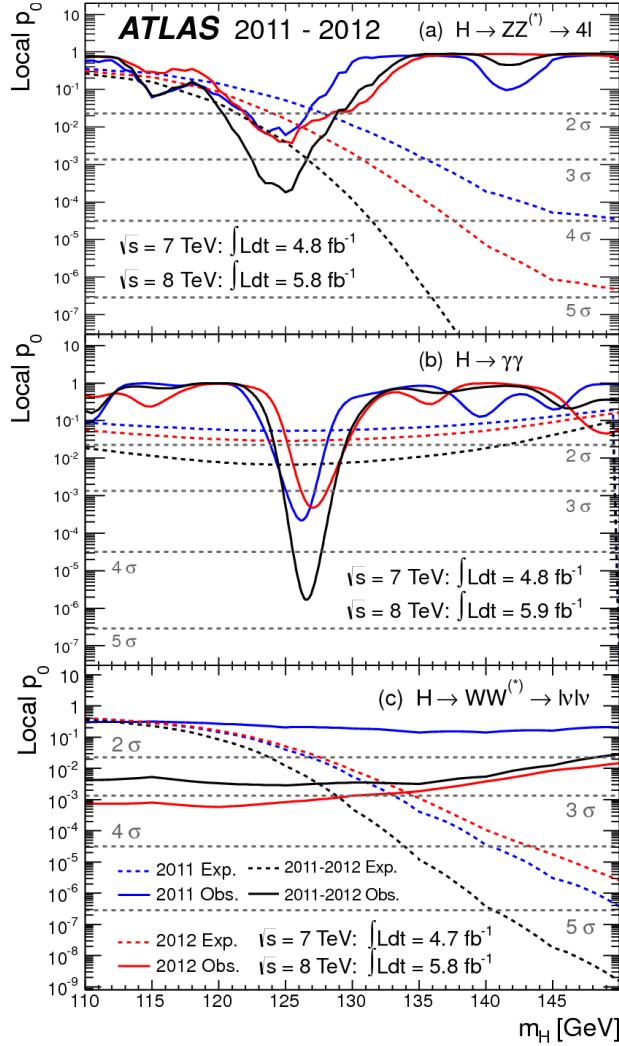


Figure 4.6: Local p_0 distribution as a function of hypothesized Higgs mass for the $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ (a), $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ (b), and $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ (c) channels. Dashed curves show expected results, while solid curves show observed. Red curves are from 7 TeV data, blue curves from 8 TeV, and black curved combined [1].

¹⁶⁰⁶ elsewhere effect to compute a true global significance. The global significance for finding a Higgs anywhere
¹⁶⁰⁷ in the mass range of 110 GeV to 600 GeV is 5.1σ . This increases slightly to 5.3σ if only mass range from
¹⁶⁰⁸ 110 to 150 GeV.

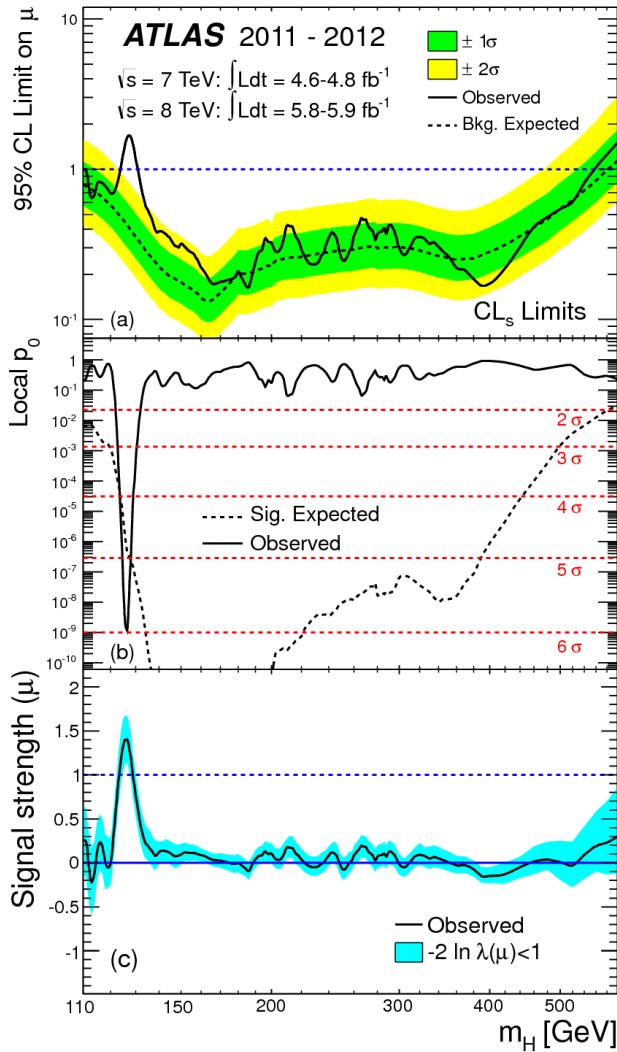


Figure 4.7: Combined 95% CL limits (a), local p_0 values (b), and signal strength measurement (c) as a function of Higgs mass [1].

1609 4.7 CONCLUSION

1610 A search for the production of a Standard Model Higgs boson was conducted in 4.8 fb^{-1} collected at
 1611 $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ and 5.8 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$. A new particle consistent with the Higgs boson was observed,
 1612 with a mass of 126.5 GeV and a global (local) significance of $5.1(6.0)\sigma$. This is the first discovery level
 1613 observation of a particle consistent with the Higgs.

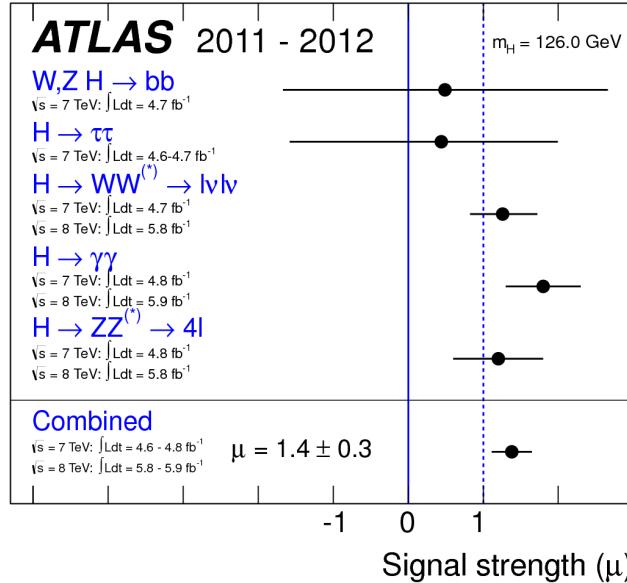


Figure 4.8: Comparison of measured signal strength μ for a 126 GeV Higgs in the 7 and 8 TeV datasets [1].

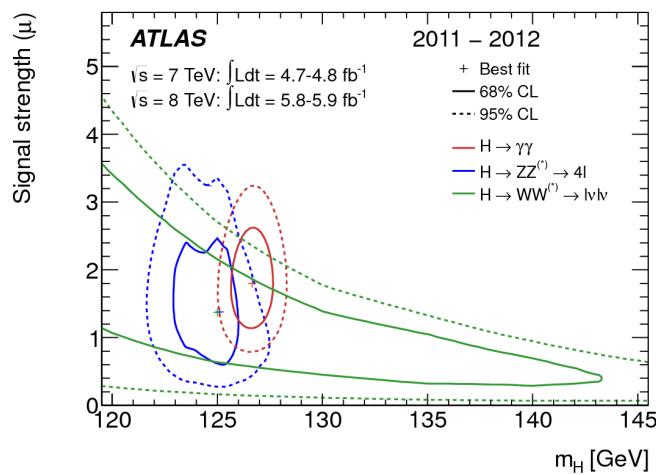


Figure 4.9: Two dimensional likelihood as a function of signal strength μ and Higgs mass m_H [1].

*The imagination of nature is far, far greater than the
imagination of man.*

Richard Feynman

5

1614

1615 Evidence for Vector Boson Fusion production

1616

$$\text{of } H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$$

1617 5.1 INTRODUCTION

1618 After the discovery of a particle consistent with the Higgs boson, the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ analysis had two main
1619 goals. The first goal was to increase the sensitivity of the analysis to fully confirm that the $H \rightarrow WW^*$
1620 process did indeed exist. The second goal was to characterize the particle as much as possible, including
1621 searching for the lower cross-section production modes, in order to confirm that it was indeed a Higgs
1622 boson. This chapter presents a dedicated search for Vector Boson Fusion (VBF) production of a Higgs
1623 boson decaying via the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ mode. First, basics of the topology of VBF production
1624 are presented. Then, the details of the analysis are shown, including signal region definition, background
1625 estimation techniques, and systematic uncertainties. Finally, the results of the analysis are presented. As

1626 will be shown, this analysis is the first and most sensitive evidence of the VBF production mode of the
1627 Higgs on ATLAS.

1628 In the VBF channel, there are both a selection requirement based signal region analysis (known as the
1629 “cut-based”) and a multivariate analysis which uses a boosted decision tree (known as the BDT analysis).
1630 The focus of this chapter will be on the cut-based signal region, as this is an important component of the
1631 VBF analysis and in particular acts as strong validation for the final BDT result. Connections between the
1632 cut-based and BDT analyses will be discussed where appropriate.

1633 5.2 DATA AND SIMULATION SAMPLES

1634 The results presented here are with 20.3 fb^{-1} taken at $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$ and 4.5 fb^{-1} taken at $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$.
1635 The details of the LHC and detector conditions during this period are given in Chapter 2. The trigger
1636 selection defining the dataset is discussed in section 5.2.1. The simulation samples used for signal and back-
1637 ground modeling are given in section 5.2.2.

1638 5.2.1 TRIGGERS

1639 The analysis uses a combination of single lepton and dilepton triggers to allow lowering of the p_T
1640 thresholds and increased signal acceptance. The p_T threshold on the leptons is a particularly important
1641 consideration for this signal. Because the second W produced in the decay can be off-shell, it tends to pro-
1642 duce lower momentum leptons. Thus, being able to lower the p_T threshold while still maintaining a low
1643 background rate is critical. Figure 5.1 shows an example of the subleading lepton p_T for a VBF $H \rightarrow WW^*$
1644 signal compared to the corresponding $t\bar{t}$ background. Note that the lepton p_T spectrum is considerably
1645 softer in the signal sample.

1646 As discussed in Chapter 2, there are multiple levels in the ATLAS trigger system, and there are different
1647 p_T thresholds imposed for the leptons at each level. Additionally, some triggers have a loose selection
1648 on the isolation of the lepton (looser than that applied offline in the analysis object selection). Table 5.1
1649 shows the thresholds used for single lepton triggers, while table 5.2 shows the thresholds coming from
1650 di-lepton triggers. The single lepton trigger efficiency for muons that pass the analysis object selection is



Figure 5.1: A comparison of the subleading lepton p_T spectrum between VBF $H \rightarrow WW^*$ production and $t\bar{t}$ background

1651 70% for muons in the barrel region ($|\eta| < 1.05$) and 90% in the endcap region. The electron trigger
 1652 efficiency increases with electron p_T but the average is approximately 90%. These efficiencies are measured
 1653 by combined performance and trigger signature groups [67, 68].

	Level-1 threshold	High-level threshold
Electron	18	$24i$
	30	60
Muon	15	$24i$
		36

Table 5.1: Single lepton triggers used for electrons and muons. A logical “or” of the triggers listed for each lepton type is taken. Units are in GeV, and the i denotes an isolation requirement in the trigger.

	Level-1 threshold	High-level threshold
ee	10 and 10	12 and 12
$\mu\mu$	15	18 and 8
$e\mu$	10 and 6	12 and 8

Table 5.2: Di-lepton triggers used for different flavor combinations. The two thresholds listed refer to leading and sub-leading leptons, respectively. The di-muon trigger only requires a single lepton at level-1.

1654 The combination of all triggers shown gives good efficiency for signal events. This efficiency is sum-
 1655 marized in table 5.3. The relative improvement in efficiency by adding the dilepton triggers is also shown

1656 in the same table. The largest gain comes in the $\mu\mu$ channel. Overall the trigger selection shows a good
1657 efficiency for $H \rightarrow WW^*$ signal events.

Channel	Trigger efficiency	Gain from 2ℓ trigger
ee	97%	9.1%
$\mu\mu$	89%	18.5%
$e\mu$	95%	8.3%
μe	81%	8.2%

Table 5.3: Trigger efficiency for signal events and relative gain of adding a dilepton trigger on top of the single lepton trigger selection. The first lepton is the leading, while the second is the sub-leading. Efficiencies shown here are for the ggF signal in the $n_j = 0$ category but are comparable for the VBF signal.

1658 5.2.2 MONTE CARLO SAMPLES

1659 Modeling of signal and background processes in the signal region, in particular for the m_T distribution,
1660 is an important consideration for the final interpretation of the analysis. Therefore, careful consideration
1661 must be paid to which Monte Carlo (MC) generators are used for specific processes. With the exception of
1662 the $W + \text{jet}$ and multijet backgrounds, the m_T shape used as the final discriminant is taken from simulation.
1663 (Many backgrounds are normalized from data, as described in section 5.5).

1664 Table 5.4 shows the MC generators used for the signal and background processes, as well as their cross
1665 sections. In order to include corrections up to next-to-leading order (NLO) in the QCD coupling constant
1666 α_s , the POWHEG [69] generator is often used. In some cases, only leading order generators like ACERMC
1667 [70] and GG2VV [71] are available for the process in question. If the process requires good modeling for
1668 very high parton multiplicities, the SHERPA [72] and ALPGEN [73] generators are used to provide merged
1669 calculations for five or fewer additional partons. These matrix element level calculations must then be
1670 additionally matched to models of the underlying event, hadronization, and parton shower. There are
1671 four possible generators for this: SHERPA, PYTHIA 6 [74], PYTHIA 8 [75], or HERWIG [76] + JIMMY [77].
1672 The simulation additionally requires an input parton distribution function (PDF). The CTEQ [78] PDFs
1673 are used for SHERPA and POWHEG simulated samples, while CTEQ6Li [79] is used for ALPGEN + HERWIG
1674 and ACERMC simulations. The Drell-Yan samples are reweighted to the MRST [80] PDFs, as these are
1675 found to give the best agreement between data and simulation.

Process	MC generator	$\sigma \cdot \mathcal{B}$ (pb)
Signal		
ggF $H \rightarrow WW^*$	POWHEG +PYTHIA 8	0.435
VBF $H \rightarrow WW^*$	POWHEG +PYTHIA 8	0.0356
VH $H \rightarrow WW^*$	PYTHIA 8	0.0253
WW		
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow WW$ and $qg \rightarrow WW$	POWHEG +PYTHIA 6	5.68
$gg \rightarrow WW$	GG2VV +HERWIG	0.196
$(q\bar{q} \rightarrow W) + (q\bar{q} \rightarrow W)$	PYTHIA 8	0.480
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow WW$	SHERPA	5.68
VBS $WW + 2$ jets	SHERPA	0.0397
Top quarks		
$t\bar{t}$	POWHEG +PYTHIA 6	26.6
Wt	POWHEG +PYTHIA 6	2.35
$t\bar{q}\bar{b}$	ACERMC +PYTHIA 6	28.4
$t\bar{b}$	POWHEG +PYTHIA 6	1.82
Other dibosons (VV)		
$W\gamma$ ($p_T^\gamma > 8$ GeV)	ALPGEN +HERWIG	369
$W\gamma^*$ ($m_{\ell\ell} \leq 7$ GeV)	SHERPA	12.2
WZ ($m_{\ell\ell} > 7$ GeV)	POWHEG +PYTHIA 8	12.7
VBS $WZ + 2$ jets	SHERPA	0.0126
($m_{\ell\ell} > 7$ GeV)		
$Z\gamma$ ($p_T^\gamma > 8$ GeV)	SHERPA	163
$Z\gamma^*$ (min. $m_{\ell\ell} \leq 4$ GeV)	SHERPA	7.31
ZZ ($m_{\ell\ell} > 4$ GeV)	POWHEG +PYTHIA 8	0.733
$ZZ \rightarrow \ell\ell\nu\nu$ ($m_{\ell\ell} > 4$ GeV)	POWHEG +PYTHIA 8	0.504
Drell-Yan		
Z ($m_{\ell\ell} > 10$ GeV)	ALPGEN +HERWIG	16500
VBF $Z + 2$ jets	SHERPA	5.36
($m_{\ell\ell} > 7$ GeV)		

Table 5.4: Monte Carlo samples used to model the signal and background processes [63].

Once the basic hard scattering process is simulated, it must be passed through a detector simulation and additional pile-up events must be overlaid. The pile-up events are modeled with PYTHIA 8, and the ATLAS detector is simulated with GEANT4 [81]. Because of the unique phase space of the $H \rightarrow WW^*$

1679 analysis, events are sometimes filtered at generator level to allow for more efficient generation of relevant
1680 events. The efficiency of the trigger in MC simulation does not always match the measured efficiency in
1681 data, so trigger scale factors are applied to correct the MC efficiency to the data. These are derived by the
1682 combined performance groups [67, 68].

1683 5.3 OBJECT SELECTION

1684 In order to define the signal region, the analysis must first select the objects to be considered. The details
1685 of the object reconstruction algorithms are discussed in Chapter 2, while this section gives specific selection
1686 cuts used in the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ analysis.

1687 The first step in this process is to select a primary vertex candidates. The event’s primary vertex is the
1688 vertex with the largest sum of p_T^2 for associated tracks and is required to have at least three tracks with
1689 $p_T > 450$ MeV. Many of the object selection cuts are then made relative to this chosen primary vertex.

1690 5.3.1 MUONS

1691 The analysis uses combined muon candidates, where a track in the Inner Detector has been matched to
1692 a standalone track in the Muon Spectrometer. The track parameters are combined statistically in the muon
1693 reconstruction algorithm [54]. The muons are required to be within $|\eta| < 2.5$ and have a $p_T > 10$ GeV.
1694 To reduce backgrounds coming from mis-reconstructed leptons, there are requirements on the impact
1695 parameter of the muon relative to the primary vertex. The transverse impact parameter d_0 is required to
1696 be small relative to its estimated uncertainty, the exact cut value being $d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 3$. The longitudinal
1697 impact parameter z_0 must satisfy $|z_0 \sin \theta| < 1$ mm.

1698 As discussed previously, the muons must also be isolated. There are two types of lepton isolations that
1699 are calculated: track-based and calorimeter-based. For muons, the track-based isolation is defined using the
1700 scalar sum $\sum p_T$ for tracks with $p_T > 1$ GeV (excluding the muon’s track) within a cone of $\Delta R = 0.3$
1701 (0.4) for muon with $p_T > 15$ GeV ($10 < p_T < 15$ GeV). The final isolation requirement is made my
1702 requiring that this scalar sum be no more than a certain fraction of the muon’s p_T . This requirement varies
1703 with muon p_T and the exact cuts are defined in table 5.5.

1704 The calorimeter-based muon isolation is defined using as a $\sum E_T$ calculated from calorimeter cells us-
 1705 ing the same cone size as the track-based isolation but excluding cells with $\Delta R < 0.05$ around the muon.
 1706 This requirement is also defined as a cut on the ratio of the sum to the muon p_T and varies with muon p_T .
 1707 The cut values are also given in table 5.5.

 1708 The isolation requirements loosen as a function of p_T to allow for larger signal acceptance. At low p_T ,
 1709 the isolation is tightened to reduce the $W + \text{jets}$ background which arises from a misidentified lepton.

p_T range (GeV)	Calorimeter isolation	Track isolation
10 – 15	0.06	0.06
15 – 20	0.12	0.08
20 – 25	0.18	0.12
> 25	0.30	0.12

Table 5.5: p_T dependent isolation requirements for muons. Muons are required to have the amount of calorimeter or track based cone sums be less than this fraction of their p_T .

1710 5.3.2 ELECTRONS

1711 Electrons are identified by matching reconstructed clusters in the electromagnetic calorimeter with tracks
 1712 in the inner detector. The electrons are identified using a likelihood based method [51, 52] which takes into
 1713 account the shower shapes in the calorimeter, the matching of tracks to clusters, and the amount of transi-
 1714 tion radiation in the TRT. The electrons are required to have $|\eta| < 2.47$, and candidates in the transition
 1715 region between the barrel and endcap ($1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52$) are excluded. As the muons, the electrons
 1716 are required to have transverse impact parameter significance < 3 , while in the longitudinal direction
 1717 they must have $|z_0 \sin \theta| < 0.4$ mm. Some electron requirements also vary with electron E_T , and these
 1718 requirements are summarized in table 5.6.

1719 The isolation for electrons are defined similarly to the muons but with unique cuts on the objects in-
 1720 cluded. The track-based isolation is defined using tracks with $p_T > 400$ MeV with cone sizes as defined
 1721 previously. The calorimeter-based isolation also uses the same cone size as the muon, but here the cells
 1722 within a 0.125×0.175 area in $\eta \times \phi$ around the electron cluster's barycenter are excluded. The other
 1723 difference with respect to muons is that the denominator of the isolation ratio is the electron's E_T rather
 1724 than p_T . The isolation cuts very with electron E_T and are defined in table 5.6.

1725 The electron is also required to not be consistent with a vertex coming from a photon conversion.

p_T range (GeV)	Quality cut	Calorimeter isolation	Track isolation
10 – 15	Very tight LH	0.20	0.06
15 – 20	Very tight LH	0.24	0.08
20 – 25	Very tight LH	0.28	0.10
> 25	Medium	0.28	0.10

Table 5.6: p_T dependent requirements for electrons. Electrons are required to have the amount of calorimeter or track based cone sums be less than this fraction of their E_T .

1726 5.3.3 JETS

1727 Jets are clustered with the anti- k_T reconstruction algorithm using a radius parameter of $R = 0.4$. They
1728 are required to have a jet vertex fraction (JVF) of at least 50%, meaning that half of the tracks associated with
1729 the jet originated from the primary vertex. Jets with no tracks associated (i.e. those outside the acceptance
1730 of the ID) do not have this requirement applied. Jets are required to have $p_T > 25$ GeV if they are within
1731 the tracking acceptance ($|\eta| < 2.4$). Jets with $2.4 < |\eta| < 4.5$ are required to have $p_T > 30$ GeV.
1732 This tighter requirement reduces jets from pileup in the region where JVF requirements cannot be applied.
1733 The two highest p_T jets in the event are referred to as the “VBF” jets and used to compute various analysis
1734 selections later.

1735 Identification of b -jets is done using the MV1 algorithm and is limited to the acceptance of the ID ($|\eta| <$
1736 2.5). The operating point of MV1 that is used is the one that is 85% efficient for identifying true b -jets. This
1737 operating point has a 10.3% of mis-tagging a light quark jet as a b -jet. In order to improve the rejection of b -
1738 jets, a lower threshold than the nominal p_T threshold described above is used. For the purposes of counting
1739 the number of b -jets, jets with p_T down to 20 GeV are used.

1740 5.3.4 OVERLAP REMOVAL

1741 There are some cases where certain reconstructed objects will overlap and one will have to be chosen
1742 (for example, an electron and a jet in the calorimeter). First, the case of lepton overlap is dealt with. If
1743 an electron candidate extends into the muon spectrometer, it is removed. If a muon or electron have a
1744 $\Delta R < 0.1$, the electron is removed and the muon is kept. If two electron candidates overlap within the

1745 same radius, then the higher E_T electron is kept. Next, the overlap between leptons and jets is considered.
1746 If an electron and jet are within $\Delta R < 0.3$ of one another, the electron is kept and the jet is removed.
1747 However, if a muon and jet overlap within $\Delta R < 0.3$, the jet is kept (as it is likely that the muon is the
1748 result of a semileptonic decay inside the jet).

1749 Once the overlap removal is complete, the final set of objects used in the analysis is defined.

1750 5.4 ANALYSIS SELECTION

1751 The VBF analysis uses two distinct selections. The first is a more standard selection, referred to as “cut-
1752 based”, that applies requirements on the VBF variables and uses m_T as the final discriminating variable.
1753 The second is a looser selection that uses a Boosted Decision Tree (BDT) score as the final discriminator in
1754 order to take advantage of the detailed correlations between the VBF variables. While the BDT analysis is
1755 ultimately more sensitive, the cut-based serves as an important component of the analysis. First, the cut-
1756 based allows for confirming the modeling and validity of many variables used as input to the BDT. Second,
1757 because this is the first use of such an MVA technique in the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ analysis, the cut-based selection
1758 allows confirmation of the final BDT result with a more traditional analysis. The cut-based techniques are
1759 the focus of this chapter, but connections to the BDT result will be illustrated when appropriate.

1760 One important note is that because this analysis is dedicated to the measurement of the VBF pro-
1761 duction mode of the Higgs, events coming from gluon fusion production with the Higgs decaying via
1762 $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ are treated as background events. This will be seen throughout the various predic-
1763 tions shown.

1764 5.4.1 COMMON PRE-SELECTION

1765 Both the cut-based and BDT analyses have a common pre-selection that is applied before the main signal
1766 region requirements. The requirements on leptons are common to all n_j bins. The analysis requires two
1767 oppositely charged leptons, with the leading lepton required to have $p_T > 22$ GeV while the subleading
1768 lepton must have $p_T > 10$ GeV. Next, to remove low mass Z/γ^* events, a cut on the dilepton mass
1769 $m_{\ell\ell} > 10$ (12) GeV is applied in the different (same) flavor channel. In the same flavor channels, there is

1770 an additional veto placed on the region around the Z peak, requiring that $|m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| > 15$ GeV.

1771 There are also requirements on the amount of missing transverse momentum in the event. These are
1772 only applied in the same flavor channels, as in the different flavor channels $t\bar{t}$ is the dominant background
1773 in $n_j \geq 2$. The BDT analysis requires $p_T^{\text{miss}} > 40$ GeV and $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 45$ GeV. The cut-based analysis
1774 must select more tightly on these variables to have maximal sensitivity and thus requires $p_T^{\text{miss}} > 50$ GeV
1775 and $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 55$ GeV.

1776 Finally, because this analysis is focused on VBF, a requirement on the jet multiplicity is placed, with
1777 $n_j \geq 2$. Additionally, the analysis requires that there are no jets identified as b-quarks in the event, or
1778 $n_b = 0$.

1779 5.4.2 CUT-BASED SELECTION

1780 The cut-based selection places sequential requirements on variables reconstructed from the VBF jets in
1781 order to increase the signal to background ratio.

1782 GENERAL BACKGROUND REDUCTION

1783 Top pair production is the primary background in the $n_j \geq 2$ bin. Even though $n_b = 0$ is required, an
1784 additional variable is constructed to further suppress the top background. There is often additional QCD
1785 radiation that accompanies the $t\bar{t}$ system when it is produced. Therefore, a variable which tests for the
1786 presence of this additional radiation, p_T^{sum} , is constructed. It is defined in equation 5.1.

$$p_T^{\text{sum}} = p_T^{\ell\ell} + p_T^{\text{miss}} + \sum p_T^j \quad (5.1)$$

1787 The first cut after pre-selection in the cut-based analysis requires $p_T^{\text{sum}} < 15$ GeV to further suppress $t\bar{t}$
1788 production.

1789 In the different flavor channels, a cut is made to reduce the contamination from $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ decays.
1790 The di- τ invariant mass, $m_{\tau\tau}$, is constructed by assuming that the neutrinos from the τ decays were
1791 collinear with the leptons [82]. The analysis requires that this mass not be consistent with a Z by requiring
1792 $m_{\tau\tau} < m_Z - 25$ GeV.

1793 VBF TOPOLOGICAL CUTS

1794 The characteristic feature of VBF production of the Higgs is the presence of two additional forward
1795 jets coming from the incoming partons which radiate the vector bosons that make the Higgs. These jets
1796 are forward because the outgoing partons still carry the longitudinal momentum of the incoming partons.
1797 Figure 5.2 shows the distribution of the η for the leading jet in a VBF event compared to a background top
1798 pair production event. As can be seen, the VBF jets tend to be more forward in η , while the $t\bar{t}$ jets are more
1799 central.

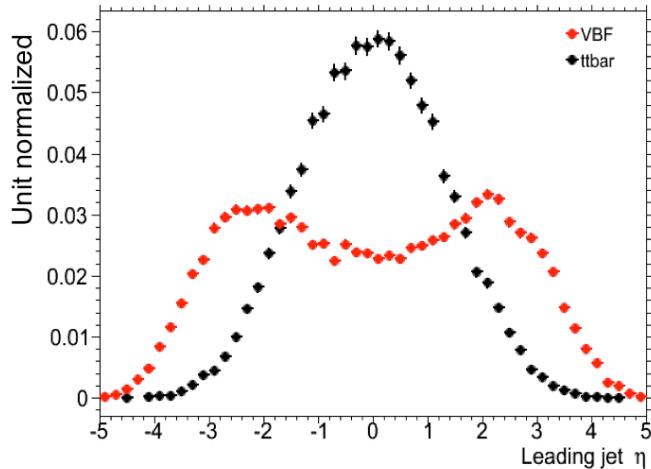


Figure 5.2: Leading jet η in VBF $H \rightarrow WW^*$ (red) and $t\bar{t}$ (black)

1800 Because the cross section for VBF production is an order of magnitude smaller than gluon fusion pro-
1801 duction, these forward jets must be used in order to better reduce background and achieve a good signal to
1802 background ratio. The dedicated VBF search selection requirements are constructed to maximally exploit
1803 the features of the unique VBF topology.

1804 Requirements on the VBF jets are collectively referred to as the “VBF topological cuts”. First, a require-
1805 ment on the dijet invariant mass of the VBF jets, m_{jj} , is placed, requiring $m_{jj} > 600$ GeV. Next, the
1806 event is required to have a large gap in rapidity between the two VBF jets, or $\Delta y_{jj} > 3.6$. Both of these
1807 cuts put tight requirements on the presence of two forward, high p_T jets moving in opposite directions in

1808 the longitudinal plane.

1809 Beyond requiring the presence of the two forward VBF jets, the analysis also vetoes on the presence
1810 of any additional jets that fall between the two VBF jets. This cut is referred to as the central jet veto, or
1811 CJV. Any events with a third jet with $p_T > 20$ GeV whose rapidity is between the region defined by the
1812 two VBF jets are vetoed. This can be expressed in terms of a variable called the jet centrality, defined in
1813 equation 5.2.

$$C_{j3} = \left| \eta_{j3} - \frac{\eta_{j1} + \eta_{j2}}{2} \right| / \frac{|\eta_{j1} - \eta_{j2}|}{2}, \quad (5.2)$$

1814 Here, η_{j1} and η_{j2} are the pseudorapidities of the leading and subleading jets, respectively, while η_{j3} is
1815 the pseudorapidity of the extra jet in the event (if one exists). Intuitively, C_{j3} is zero when η_{j3} is directly
1816 centered between the two jets and unity when η_{j3} is aligned with either of the VBF jets. Thus, the CJV
1817 can be expressed as a requirement that $C_{j3} > 1$.

1818 The decay products of the Higgs tend to be central as well. Thus, the analysis also requires that both
1819 leptons in the analysis fall within the rapidity gap defined by the jets. This cut is referred to as the outside
1820 lepton veto, or OLV. A quantitative way to define the cut is to require that the centrality of each lepton
1821 (defined analogously to that of the third jet in equation 5.2) correspond to the lepton being within the jet
1822 rapidity gap, or $C_\ell < 1$ for both leptons.

1823 Figure 5.3a-c shows the m_{jj} , Δy_{jj} , and $C_{\ell 1}$ variables at the stage where all previous cuts in the sequence
1824 have been made. The agreement between data and Monte Carlo is good, and the bottom panels show their
1825 power in discriminating the VBF signal from the background processes.

1826 The final signal region is also split into two bins of m_{jj} , with the first bin corresponding to $600 \text{ GeV} <$
1827 $m_{jj} < 1 \text{ TeV}$ and the second bin corresponding to $m_{jj} > 1 \text{ TeV}$. The first bin has more statistics but
1828 also a larger contribution from background, while the second bin has lower statistics but a 1:1 signal to
1829 background ratio.

1830 HIGGS TOPOLOGICAL CUTS

1831 The final state leptons will exhibit unique correlations due to the fact that they are arising from the
1832 decay of a spin zero resonance. In particular, the spins of the final state leptons and neutrinos must all

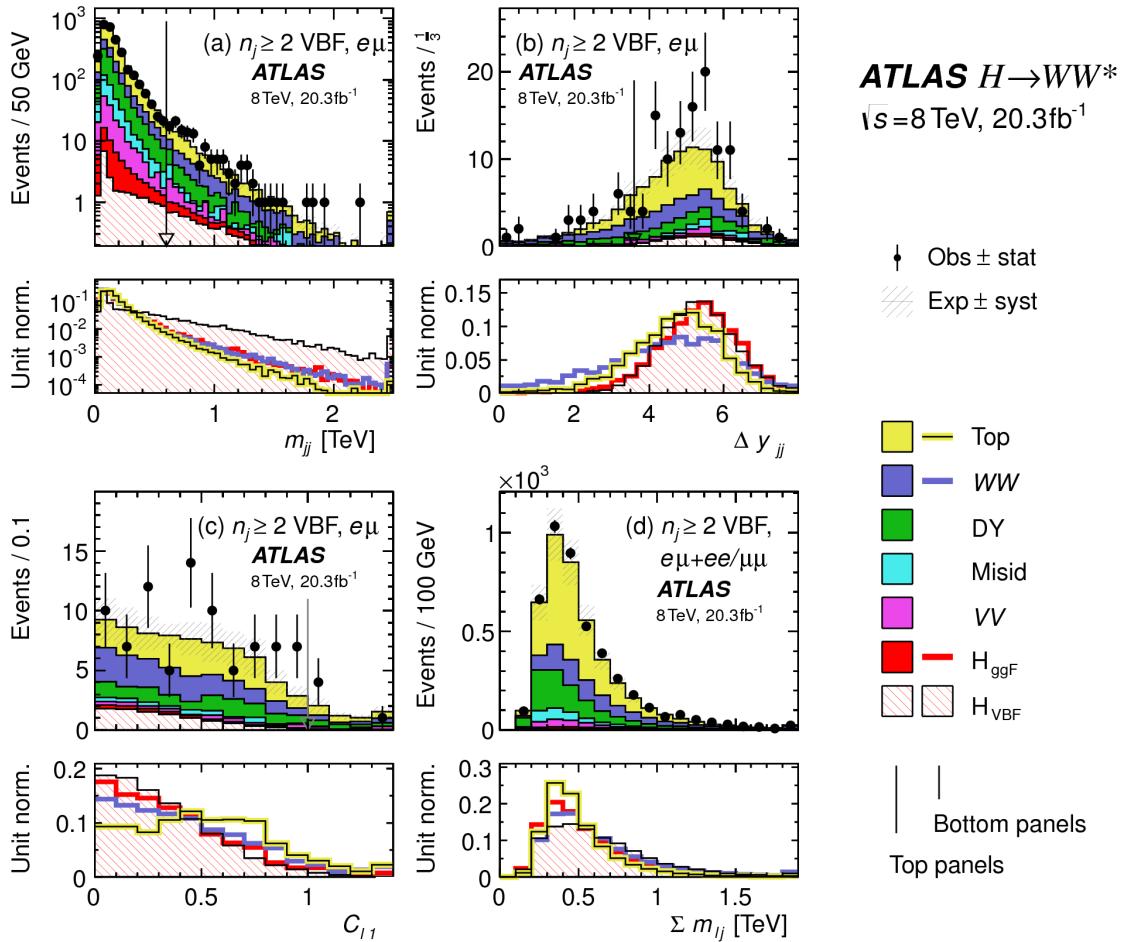


Figure 5.3: Distributions of (a) m_{jj} , (b) Δy_{jj} , (c) $C_{\ell 1}$, and (d) $\Sigma m_{\ell j}$, for the VBF analysis. The top panels compare simulation and data, while the bottom panels show normalized distributions for all background processes and signal [63].

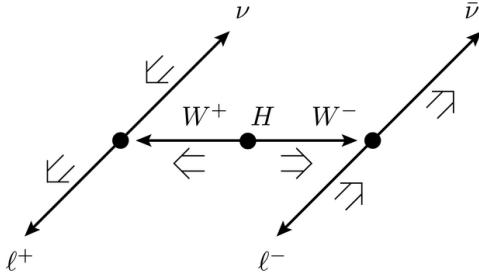


Figure 5.4: A cartoon of the WW final state. Momenta are represented with thin arrows, spins with thick arrows.
[63]

cancel, as shown in figure 5.4. Because the neutrino has a left handed chirality and the anti-neutrino has a right handed chirality (in the massless neutrino approximation), the spin and momentum of the particles will be anti-aligned and aligned, respectively. In the transverse plane, the momenta of all four final state objects must cancel as well. With the constraint of having both the momenta and the spin alignments cancel, the final state kinematics strongly prefer having a small angle between the leptons in the transverse plane (low $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$). This angular correlation will also lead to low values of the di-lepton invariant mass $m_{\ell\ell}$. These unique signal final state kinematic correlations will be exploited to define the ultimate signal region.

The analysis places additional requirements on the final state leptons. Two requirements on dilepton kinematics are made that are common with lower multiplicity jet bins as well. The angle between leptons in the transverse plane, $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$, is required to be less than 1.8 radians. Additionally, the dilepton mass $m_{\ell\ell}$ is required to be less than 50 GeV.

The cut-based analysis uses m_T as the final discriminating variable as in the ggF focused analysis. The optimal number of bins in m_T was found to be three bins, with the bin boundaries at 80 and 130 GeV.

Table 5.7 shows a summary of the data and estimated signal and background yields from simulation as each requirement described above is made. The table shows how the overall signal to background ratio grows through the various selection requirements. Table 5.8 shows the background composition after each selection requirement, illustrating which backgrounds are reduced most by certain requirements. Figure 5.5 shows an ATLAS event display of a candidate event in the final signal region.

Selection	Summary					
	$N_{\text{obs}}/N_{\text{bkg}}$	N_{obs}	N_{bkg}	N_{signal}		
				N_{ggF}	N_{VBF}	N_{VH}
$e\mu$ sample	1.00 ± 0.00	61434	61180	85	32	26
$n_b = 0$	1.02 ± 0.01	7818	7700	63	26	16
$p_T^{\text{sum}} < 15$	1.03 ± 0.01	5787	5630	46	23	13
$m_{\tau\tau} < m_Z - 25$	1.05 ± 0.02	3129	2970	40	20	9.9
$m_{jj} > 600$	1.31 ± 0.12	131	100	2.3	8.2	—
$\Delta y_{jj} > 3.6$	1.33 ± 0.13	107	80	2.1	7.9	—
$C_{j3} > 1$	1.36 ± 0.18	58	43	1.3	6.6	—
$C_{\ell 1} < 1, C_{\ell 2} < 1$	1.42 ± 0.20	51	36	1.2	6.4	—
$m_{\ell\ell}, \Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}, m_T$	2.53 ± 0.71	14	5.5	0.8	4.7	—
$ee/\mu\mu$ sample	0.99 ± 0.01	26949	27190	31	14	10.1
$n_b, p_T^{\text{sum}}, m_{\tau\tau}$	1.03 ± 0.03	1344	1310	13	8.0	4.0
$m_{jj}, \Delta y_{jj}, C_{j3}, C_\ell$	1.39 ± 0.28	26	19	0.4	2.9	0.0
$m_{\ell\ell}, \Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}, m_T$	1.63 ± 0.69	6	3.7	0.3	2.2	0.0

Table 5.7: Summary of event selection for the $n_j \geq 2$ VBF analysis in the 8 TeV cut-based analysis [63].

	Composition of N_{bkg}								
	N_{WW}		N_{top}		N_{misid}		N_{VV}	$N_{\text{Drell-Yan}}$	
	N_{WW}^{QCD}	N_{WW}^{EW}	$N_{t\bar{t}}$	N_t	N_{Wj}	N_{jj}	N_{VV}	$N_{ee/\mu\mu}^{\text{QCD}}$	$N_{\tau\tau}^{\text{EW}}$
$e\mu$ sample	1350	68	51810	2970	847	308	380	51	3260
$n_b = 0$	993	43	3000	367	313	193	273	35	2400
$p_T^{\text{sum}} < 15$	781	38	1910	270	216	107	201	27	2010
$m_{\tau\tau} < m_Z - 25$	484	22	1270	177	141	66	132	7.6	627
$m_{jj} > 600$	18	8.9	40	5.3	1.8	2.4	5.1	0.1	15
$\Delta y_{jj} > 3.6$	11.7	6.9	35	5.0	1.6	2.3	3.3	—	11.6
$C_{j3} > 1$	6.9	5.6	14	3.0	1.3	1.3	2.0	—	6.8
$C_{\ell 1} < 1, C_{\ell 2} < 1$	5.9	5.2	10.8	2.5	1.3	1.3	1.6	—	5.7
$m_{\ell\ell}, \Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}, m_T$	1.0	0.5	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	—	0.5
$ee/\mu\mu$ sample	594	37	23440	1320	230	8.6	137	690	679
$n_b, p_T^{\text{sum}}, m_{\tau\tau}$	229	12.0	633	86	26	0.9	45	187	76
$m_{jj}, \Delta y_{jj}, C_{j3}, C_\ell$	3.1	3.1	5.5	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.7	3.8	0.7
$m_{\ell\ell}, \Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}, m_T$	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	1.5	0.3

Table 5.8: Background composition after each requirement in the $n_j \geq 2$ VBF analysis in the 8 TeV cut-based analysis [63].

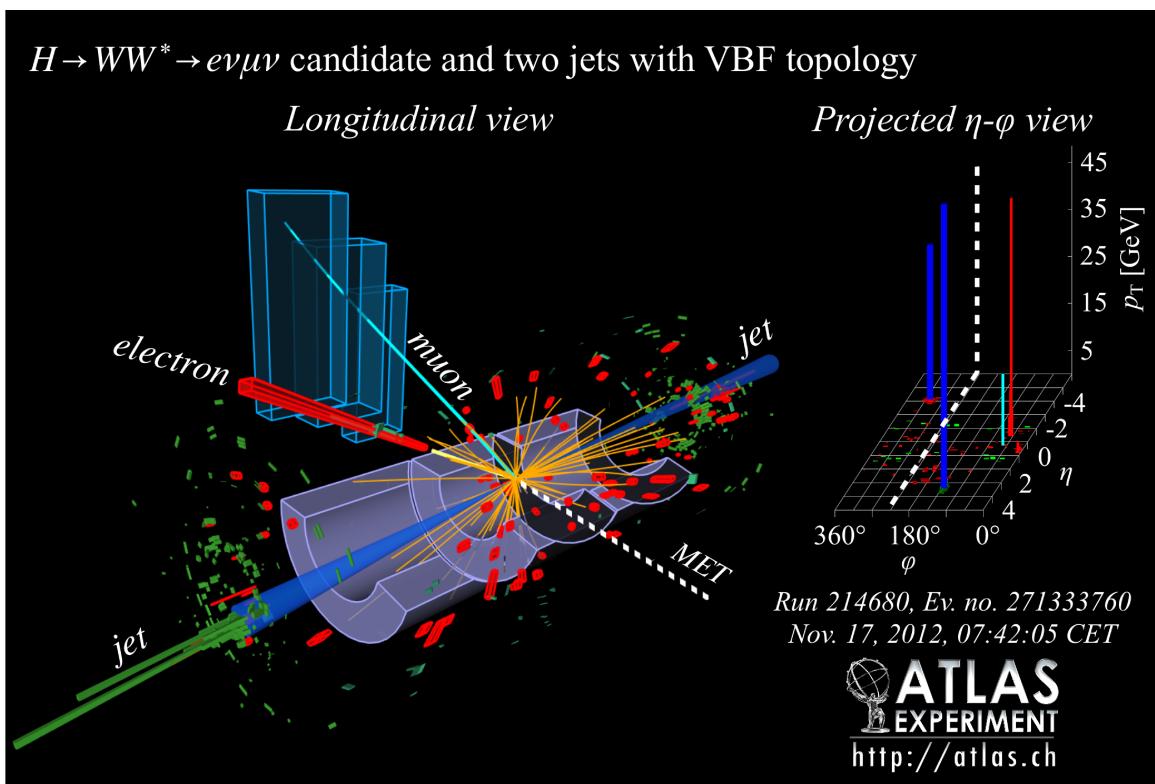


Figure 5.5: Event display of a VBF candidate event [63].

1851 5.4.3 BDT-BASED SELECTION

1852 The boosted decision tree based analysis takes a different philosophy compared to the cut-based. Rather
 1853 than cutting sequentially on many variables, the BDT analysis uses many of these variables as inputs to
 1854 the BDT and the output BDT score (O_{BDT}) as the final discriminant. The BDT is trained with the
 1855 VBF $H \rightarrow WW^*$ simulation as the signal samples and all other processes as background, including ggF
 1856 $H \rightarrow WW^*$ production. While the BDT based analysis is treated as a separate result, it has significant
 1857 overlap with the cut-based selection.

1858 PRE-TRAINING SELECTION AND BDT INPUTS

1859 Before training, the common pre-selection cuts described in section 5.4.1 are applied. Additionally, the
 1860 central jet veto and outside lepton veto described in section 5.4.2 are applied. The BDT has eight input
 1861 variables, six of which are also variables that are used in the cut-based analysis. The six shared variables

1862 are p_T^{sum} , m_{jj} , Δy_{jj} , $m_{\ell\ell}$, $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$, and m_T . The seventh variable input in the BDT is a combination of
 1863 the variables used to do the OLV in the cut-based analysis. The BDT uses as input the sum of lepton
 1864 centralities, or $\sum C_\ell = C_{\ell 1} + C_{\ell 2}$. The final BDT input variable, $\Sigma m_{\ell j}$, is constructed to account for
 1865 the correlations between the jets and leptons in the event. It is the sum of the invariant masses of all four
 1866 possible lepton-jet combinations.

1867 Figure 5.3d shows the agreement between data and simulation for the $\Sigma m_{\ell j}$ variable, as well as showing
 1868 its discriminating power. Figure 5.6 shows the distributions of the Higgs topological variables that are
 1869 shared between the cut-based and BDT analyses. Figure 5.7 shows the distributions of the VBF topological
 1870 variables shared between the cut-based and BDT analyses. In both cases, the VBF yield has been scaled by
 1871 a factor of 50 to better show the shape difference compared to the backgrounds.

1872 Table ?? summarizes the cuts applied for the cut-based and analyses, as well as which variables are used
 1873 as input to the BDT.

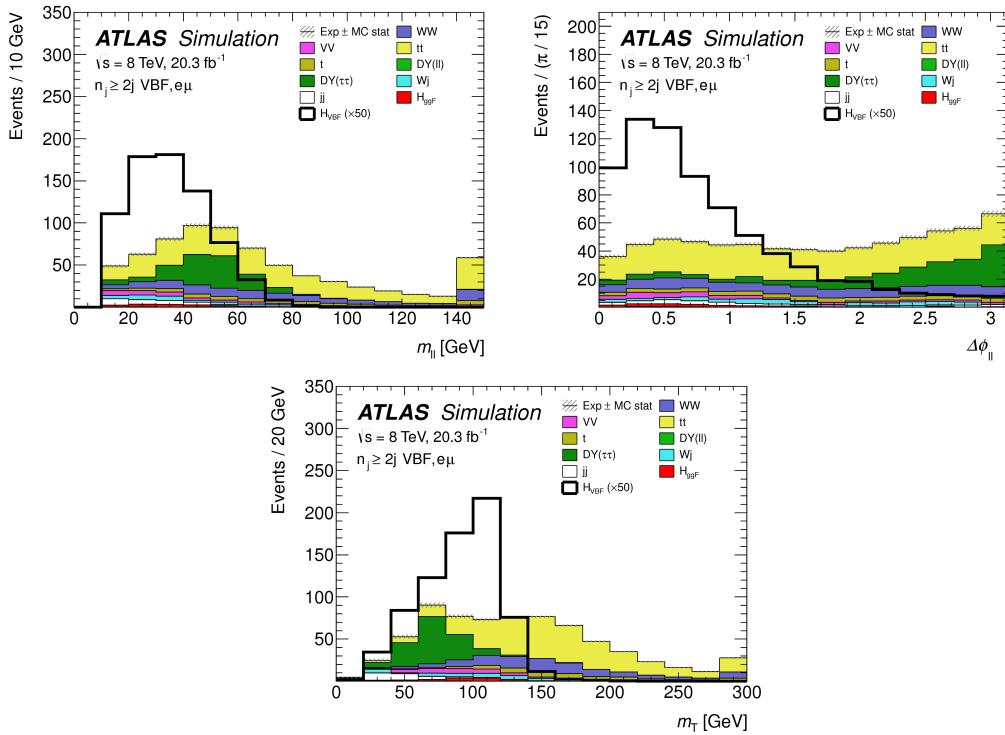


Figure 5.6: Distributions of $m_{\ell\ell}$ (top left), $\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell}$ (top right), and m_T (bottom), Higgs topology variables used in the selection requirements of the cut-based signal region and as inputs to the BDT result. These are plotted after all of the BDT pre-training selection cuts [63].

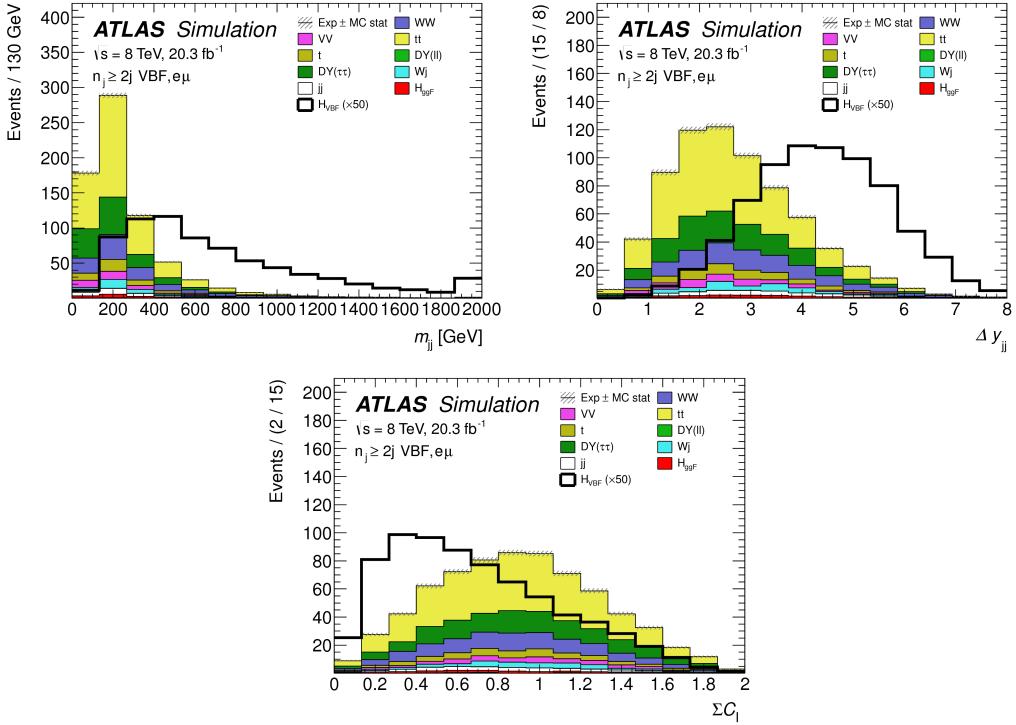


Figure 5.7: Distributions of m_{jj} (top left), Δy_{jj} (top right), $\sum C_\ell$ (bottom), VBF topology variables used in the selection requirements of the cut-based signal region and as inputs to the BDT result. These are plotted after all of the BDT pre-training selection cuts [63].

1874 5.5 BACKGROUND ESTIMATION

1875 This section describes the procedures used to estimate backgrounds for the VBF analysis in both the
 1876 cut-based and BDT analyses.

1877 5.5.1 GENERAL STRATEGY

1878 Most of the backgrounds in the VBF analysis have shapes estimated from Monte Carlo simulation but
 1879 normalizations derived from control regions in data. In essence, a normalization factor (denoted with β
 1880 or abbreviated as NF) is derived by scaling the MC yield in the control region to the corresponding yield
 1881 in data. Once this factor is derived, it can be used to scale the MC estimate of the background in the signal

1882 region. This is illustrated in equation 5.3.

$$B_{\text{SR}}^{\text{est}} = B_{\text{SR}} \times \frac{N_{\text{CR}}}{B_{\text{CR}}} \equiv B_{\text{SR}} \times \beta \quad (5.3)$$

1883 Here, B denotes the MC yield prediction in the denoted region, while N denotes the observed number of
1884 events in data in the denoted region.

1885 Another way of writing the same equation, in terms of an extrapolation factor α rather than a normal-
1886 ization factor β . The overall calculation is exactly the same. However, when phrased in this way, it shows
1887 how the uncertainty on the background estimation can be reduced. This is shown in equation 5.4.

$$B_{\text{SR}}^{\text{est}} = N_{\text{CR}} \times \frac{B_{\text{SR}}}{B_{\text{CR}}} \equiv N_{\text{CR}} \times \alpha \quad (5.4)$$

1888 Phrased this way, the equation shows that with enough statistics in the control region, a large theoretical
1889 uncertainty on the overall background yield in the signal region can be replaced by a small statistical un-
1890 certainty coming from the number of data events in the CR and a smaller theoretical uncertainty on the
1891 extrapolation from the control region to the signal region.

1892 5.5.2 TOP BACKGROUND

1893 The normalization factor β_t for the top background in the VBF analysis is derived in a region required
1894 to have one b-tagged jet, or $n_b = 1$. In the cut-based analysis, normalization factors are computed at every
1895 stage of the cutflow by applying the appropriate cuts in the CR. These NF are then applied to the $t\bar{t}$ and
1896 single top event yields in the SR. In the BDT analysis, a single normalization factor is computed for each
1897 bin of O_{BDT} after applying the BDT pre-training cuts described previously. The computed normaliza-
1898 tion factors are derived with all flavor combinations combined in order to decrease statistical uncertainty.
1899 Additionally, in the BDT analysis, BDT bins 2 and 3 are merged for the same reason.

1900 Table 5.9 shows the evolution of the β_t through the cut-based selection. Table 5.10 shows the value of
1901 the β_t in each bin of O_{BDT} . In all cases, the computed factors are relatively consistent with unity, with
1902 the largest discrepancy coming in bin 1 of O_{BDT} . The normalization factors in the bins of O_{BDT} are also

1903 consistent with those derived in teh cut-based sisgnal region, increasing confidence in the BDT estimation.

Cut	β_t
$p_T^{\text{sum}} < 15 \text{ GeV}$	1.03 ± 0.01
$m_{\tau\tau} < m_Z - 25$	1.05 ± 0.01
$m_{jj} > 600 \text{ GeV}$	0.96 ± 0.06
$\Delta y_{jj} > 3.6$	1.02 ± 0.08
CJV	1.13 ± 0.16
OLV	1.01 ± 0.19
$m_{jj} < 1 \text{ TeV}$	0.94 ± 0.19
$m_{jj} > 1 \text{ TeV}$	1.48 ± 0.66

Table 5.9: Top normalization factors computed at each stage of the cut-based selection. Uncertainties are statistical only.

O_{BDT}	β_t
Bin0	1.09 ± 0.02
Bin1	1.58 ± 0.15
Bin2	0.95 ± 0.31
Bin3	0.95 ± 0.31

Table 5.10: Top normalization factors computed for each bin of O_{BDT} . Uncertainties are statistical only.

1904 Figure 5.8 shows the m_{jj} and O_{BDT} distributions in the top control region. Overall the modeling looks
1905 consistent with the data.

1906 While these normalization factors can be computed and applied to the expected background yields listed
1907 in tables like table ??, in the end the normalization of the top background is profiled (meaning there is a
1908 dedicated Poisson constraint) and allowed to float in the final statistical fit.

1909 5.5.3 $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau$ BACKGROUND

1910 In the different flavor channels, the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau$ background is an important one. Di-tau production
1911 can produce an $e\mu$ final state if each τ lepton decays to a different flavor lepton.

1912 In the BDT analysis, a single normalization factor for the background is derived. A control region
1913 is defined using the pre-training selection cuts, except requiring that $|m_{\tau\tau} - m_Z| < 25 \text{ GeV}$ so that
1914 the region is enriched in $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau$ background. Additional requirements of $m_{\ell\ell} < 80(75) \text{ GeV}$

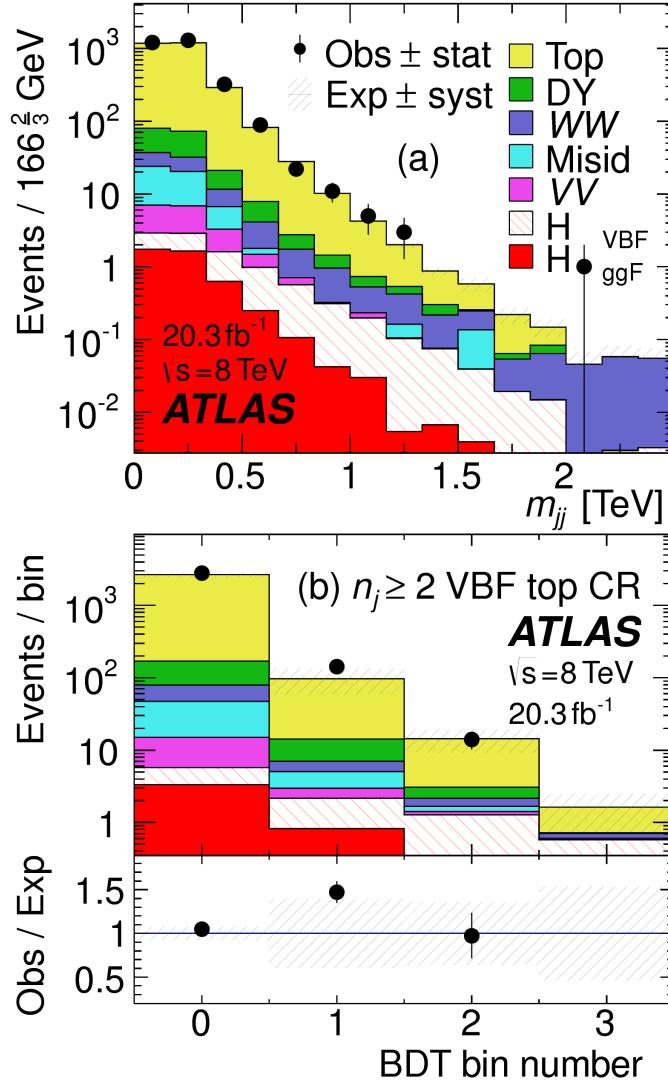


Figure 5.8: Distributions of m_{jj} (a) and O_{BDT} (b) in the VBF $n_b = 1$ top CR [63].

in the different (same) flavor channel, as well as $O_{\text{BDT}} > -0.48$ are applied to increase the purity of the region. The final $\beta_{Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau}$ is calculated to be 0.9 ± 0.3 (statistical uncertainty only). Because of the small contribution of this background in the BDT analysis and the large statistical uncertainty, no additional systematics are calculated. The final SR estimate is scaled by this β and not allowed to float in the fit.

The cut-based corrections are a bit more involved because they need to be applied selection by selection, as well as in the final signal region for the fit. The region is defined including all SR cuts up to the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau$ veto, which is instead made into a Z mass peak requirement as for the BDT region. The $m_{\ell\ell}$ cut from

1922 the BDT region is included as well. The cut-based approach aims to correct the normalization of the
 1923 $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau$ background in two ways. First, an overall normalization factor is computed from the control
 1924 region. However, the VBF topological cuts are not included in this region, and applying them as is done in
 1925 the top CR is not feasible due to limited statistics. So, instead, correction factors (CF) to the cut efficiencies
 1926 of the VBF cuts are derived in a same flavor $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ control region, which has significantly more statistics.
 1927 The CF is simply the ratio of the cut efficiencies in data and MC derived in this region. In the end, the
 1928 overall background estimate is given by equation 5.5.

$$N_{Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau}^{\text{est}} = B_{Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau}^{\text{SR}} \times \beta_{\tau\tau} \times \frac{\epsilon_{\text{VBF cuts}}^{\text{data}}}{\epsilon_{\text{VBF cuts}}^{\text{MC}}} \quad (5.5)$$

1929 The hypothesis is that while the normalization correction must be derived in a dedicated region, the ef-
 1930 ficiency of the VBF cuts should not be sensitive to the type of Z/γ^* process and thus the larger control
 1931 region can be exploited to derive the CF. Figure 5.9 shows a shape comparison for the m_{jj} variable in
 1932 $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ events in the signal region and $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ events in the control region. The figure shows that the
 1933 shapes are indeed comparable and thus any CF derived in the same flavor control region can reliably be
 1934 applied in the signal region.

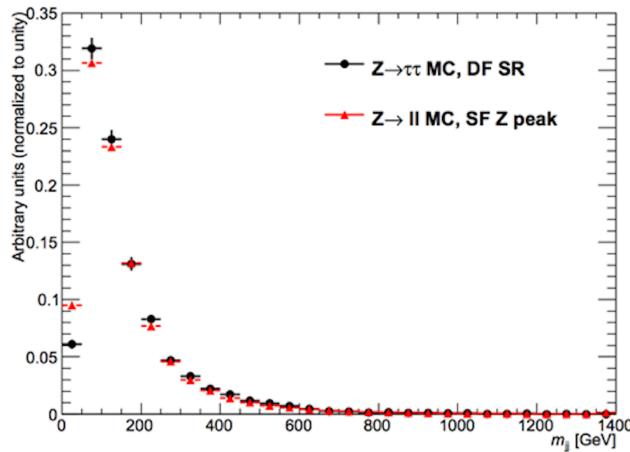


Figure 5.9: Comparison of m_{jj} shape in a same flavor $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ control region and the VBF cut-based signal region.

1935 Table 5.11 shows the overall normalization factor $\beta_{\tau\tau}$ and the efficiency correction factors for the various
 1936 VBF topological cuts. In general, the statistical uncertainties on the cut efficiency corrections are quite

¹⁹³⁷ good, and the MC tends to underestimate the efficiency of the VBF cuts for the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau$ background.
¹⁹³⁸ The overall normalization factor is also consistent with that calculated for the BDT analysis.

$\beta_{\tau\tau}$	0.97 ± 0.04
Cut	Correction factors
$m_{jj} > 600 \text{ GeV}$	1.09 ± 0.01
$\Delta y_{jj} > 3.6$	1.14 ± 0.02
CJV	1.20 ± 0.02
OLV	1.17 ± 0.03
$m_{jj} < 1 \text{ TeV}$	1.17 ± 0.06
$m_{jj} > 1 \text{ TeV}$	1.18 ± 0.13

Table 5.II: $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau$ correction factors for the VBF cut-based analysis. Uncertainties are statistical only.

¹⁹³⁹ **5.5.4 $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell$ BACKGROUND**

¹⁹⁴⁰ In the same flavor channels, the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell$ background is dominant and thus must be estimated cor-
¹⁹⁴¹ rectly. In both the BDT and cut-based analyses, the background is estimated using the so-called “ABCD”
¹⁹⁴² method. The ABCD method creates four different regions by defining cuts on two variables. One of the
¹⁹⁴³ regions (A) is the signal region, while the other regions are defined by inverting one of both of the cuts.
¹⁹⁴⁴ in this case, the two variables used are $m_{\ell\ell}$ and E_T^{miss} , because inverting either of the SR cuts on these
¹⁹⁴⁵ variables will give regions rich in the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell$ background. Figure 5.10 illustrates the general strategy
¹⁹⁴⁶ for each region.

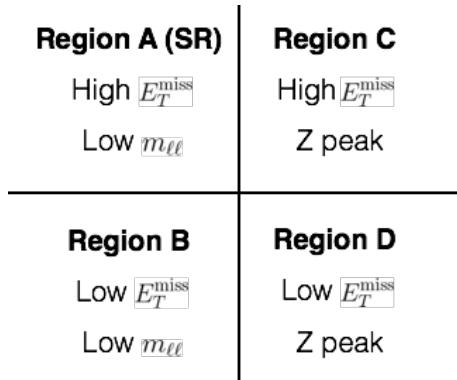


Figure 5.10: General illustration of the ABCD region definitions for $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell$ background estimation.

¹⁹⁴⁷ In both of the cut-based and BDT analyses, the Z peak region is defined with $|m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| < 15 \text{ GeV}$.

1948 In the cut-based analysis, low $m_{\ell\ell}$ corresponds to $m_{\ell\ell} < 50$ GeV (this defines the cut-based SR) while
 1949 in the BDT it is $m_{\ell\ell} < 75$ GeV. In the cut-based, high and low E_T^{miss} are defined as opposite ends of
 1950 the 55 GeV cut applied for the signal region definition. The BDT low E_T^{miss} region is between 25 and
 1951 45 GeV, while the high E_T^{miss} region is $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 45$ GeV.

1952 Once the regions are defined, the final signal region background estimate is done by taking the estimate
 1953 in region B and extrapolating it to the signal region (A) by multiplying it by the ratio of regions C and
 1954 D. Effectively, the Z peak region is used to estimate the efficiency of the E_T^{miss} cut in data, and then this
 1955 efficiency is applied in the low $m_{\ell\ell}$ region. An additional correction is also applied for the non-closure of
 1956 the method in MC. This is summarized in equations 5.6 and 5.7.

$$N_{Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell}^{\text{SR}} = N_{Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell}^B \times \frac{N_{Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell}^C}{N_{Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell}^D} \times f_{\text{corr}} \quad (5.6)$$

$$f_{\text{corr}} = \frac{B_{\text{MC}}^A / B_{\text{MC}}^B}{B_{\text{MC}}^C / B_{\text{MC}}^D} \quad (5.7)$$

1957 Here, the N refer to data yields in each region with the non Z/γ^* backgrounds subtracted, while B
 1958 refer to the Z/γ^* yields in MC in each region.

1959 A normalization factor $\beta_{\ell\ell}$ is computed for each analysis as the ratio of the predicted data yield to the
 1960 MC yield in the SR. The shape of the BDT distribution is taken from data region B, while the shape of
 1961 the m_T distribution in the cut-based analysis is taken from Z/γ^* MC in the SR. The values of the $\beta_{\ell\ell}$ in
 1962 the cut-based and BDT analyses from this method are summarized in table 5.12. They are quite consistent
 1963 with one another within the statistical uncertainties. In the cut-based analysis, the same cut efficiency
 1964 correction factors shown in table 5.11 are also applied (in product with the $\beta_{\ell\ell}$) in the same flavor channels
 1965 to this background, as they were derived in the Z peak region.

	$\beta_{\ell\ell}$
BDT Bin 1	1.01 ± 0.15
BDT Bin 2	0.89 ± 0.28
Cut-based	0.81 ± 0.21

Table 5.12: $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell$ normalization factors for cut-based and BDT analyses. Uncertainties are statistical only.

1966 5.5.5 WW AND OTHER DIBOSON BACKGROUNDS

1967 The WW and other diboson backgrounds have both their shape and normalization taken from MC
1968 simulation. They are validated in dedicated control regions and found to agree with data well.

1969 As WW is the largest of these backgrounds and is irreducible, validating the estimate is of particular
1970 importance. The validation region is constructed by requiring the pre-selection cuts on leptons and $m_{\ell\ell}$,
1971 $n_b = 0$, and $m_T > 100$ GeV. The m_{T2} variable [83] is an additional discriminant that will isolate
1972 the WW background, and a requirement of $m_{T2} > 160$ GeV is placed to define the WW validation
1973 region. This cut gives a 60% purity for the validation region. The derived normalization factor in the
1974 region is 1.15 ± 0.19 and is thus consistent with unity. Figure 5.11 shows the m_{T2} distribution and how it
1975 distinguishes the WW background.

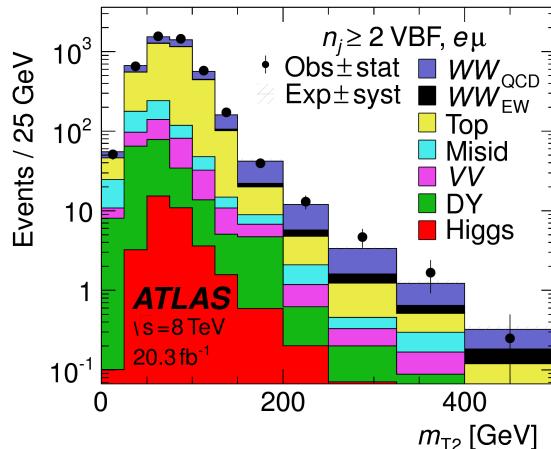


Figure 5.11: Distribution of m_{T2} in the WW validation region of the VBF analysis [63].

1976 5.5.6 HIGGS PRODUCTION VIA GLUON-GLUON FUSION

1977 Because this analysis is dedicated to measuring the VBF contribution to Higgs production, the compo-
1978 nent of Higgs production from gluon-gluon fusion is treated as a background. The shape is taken directly
1979 from simulation, using the generators described in table 5.4. In the final combined fit of all different signal
1980 regions, the normalization is controlled by either a combined signal strength parameter μ , which controls
1981 the normalization of both ggF and VBF production, or a separate parameter μ_{ggF} depending on the in-

1982 terpretation being presented in the final results.

1983 5.5.7 BACKGROUNDS WITH MISIDENTIFIED LEPTONS

1984 As discussed previously, the $W + \text{jets}$ and QCD multijet backgrounds are derived with fully data-driven
1985 methods. These backgrounds do not make a large contribution to the final VBF signal region but their
1986 estimation methods are discussed briefly here.

1987 $W + \text{jets}$ BACKGROUND

1988 The $W + \text{jets}$ background enters the signal region by having one of the jets mis-reconstructed as a lep-
1989 ton. The background is estimated by constructing a control sample with two leptons, where one lepton
1990 passes the usual lepton quality cuts but the second lepton fails one of those cuts (also known as the “anti-
1991 identified” lepton). This control region is rich in the $W + \text{jets}$ contribution because if a second lepton is
1992 reconstructed in a $W + \text{jets}$ event it is likely to be poor quality. The purity of this $W + \text{jets}$ control sample is
1993 85% to 90% depending on the exact configuration of leptons in the final state.

1994 The signal region estimate of $W + \text{jets}$ is estimated by extrapolation from the control sample to the sig-
1995 nal region using extrapolation factors derived in a $Z + \text{jets}$ control sample in data. The extrapolation factor
1996 is the ratio of the number of lepton candidates satisfying all quality criteria to the number of lepton can-
1997 didates anti-identified. This ratio is measured in bins of p_T and η . Thus, the final signal region estimate
1998 (binned as the extrapolation factor is binned) is simply the number of events in the anti-identified lepton
1999 control sample multiplied by the extrapolation factor derived from the $Z + \text{jets}$ control sample. Figure 5.12
2000 shows the extrapolation factors derived for electrons and muons.

2001 QCD MULTIJET BACKGROUND

2002 The method for estimating the multijet background is very similar to the $W + \text{jets}$ estimation method.
2003 The control sample in this case has two anti-identified leptons but otherwise satisfies all signal region re-
2004 quirements. The extrapolation factor is estimated from a multijet sample and applied twice to the control
2005 sample.

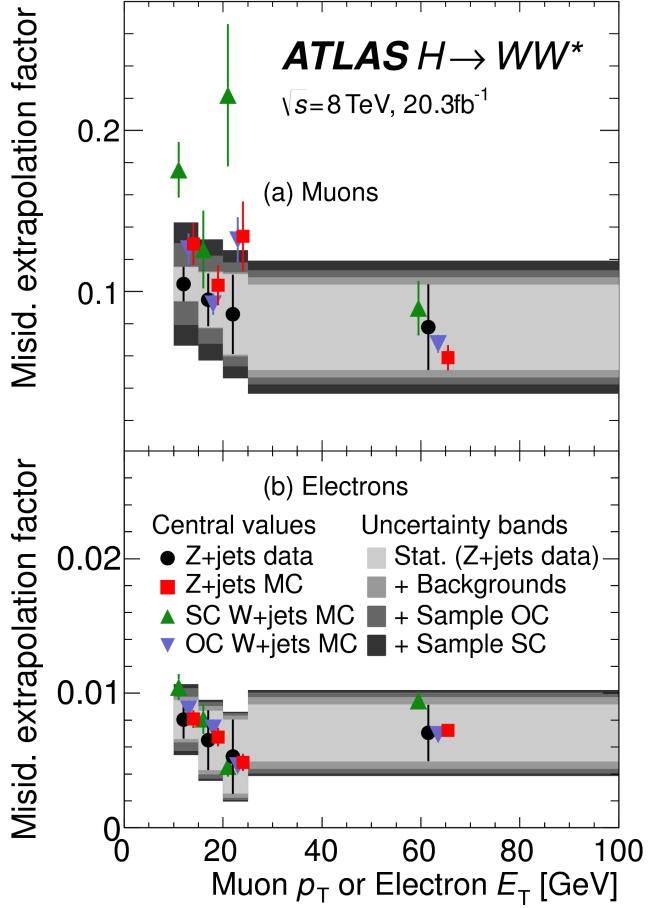


Figure 5.12: Extrapolation factors for the $W + \text{jets}$ estimate derived for muons (a) and electrons (b) as a function of lepton p_T [63].

2006 5.5.8 BACKGROUND COMPOSITION IN FINAL SIGNAL REGION

2007 After all of these estimation procedures, the final signal region composition can be calculated. The esti-
 2008 mated yields are all shown in table ???. Figure 5.13 shows the relative percentages of the different background
 2009 for the different flavor and same flavor final states. In $e\mu$, the leading backgrounds are top backgrounds,
 2010 ggF Higgs, and SM WW production. In $ee/\mu\mu$, the leading background is Drell-Yan, followed by top
 2011 and ggF Higgs.

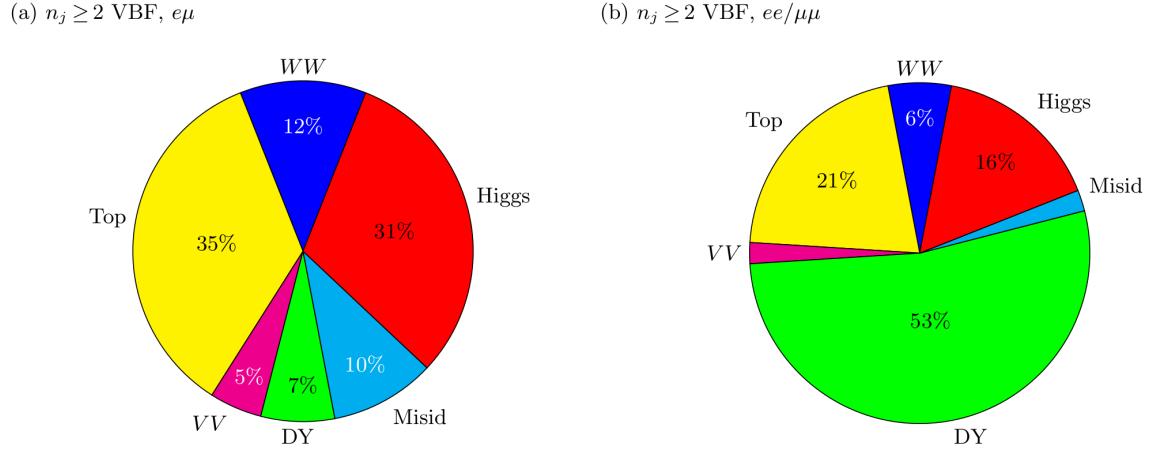


Figure 5.13: Background composition in final VBF signal region [63].

5.6 SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

There are two main types of systematic uncertainties that are assessed for the analysis. First, theoretical uncertainties associated with the various signal and background yield estimates are discussed. Then, experimental uncertainties due to detector effects are shown. Normalization uncertainties refer to uncertainties that affect the cross section of the process in question in the signal region being probed. Shape uncertainties refer to systematic uncertainties that affect the shape of the final discriminating variable (either m_T or O_{BDT}).

5.6.1 THEORETICAL UNCERTAINTIES

There are four main components to theoretical uncertainties assigned to signal and background processes taken from Monte Carlo. Each one is a different source of variation in the overall acceptance for that process. The first involves variation of the QCD renormalization and factorization scales used in the calculation. In this case, the two scales are varied independently and simultaneously by factors of two high or low and quantifying the resulting variation in normalization and shape for the process. This approximates the correction to the cross section that would come from including the next order of the QCD calculation (referred to as scale uncertainty). Next, there is an uncertainty associated with the PDF set used in generating the events. The uncertainty eigenvectors for the given PDF set are studied, and the en-

2028 envelope of maximal variation is taken as an uncertainty. Finally, there are two uncertainties associated with
 2029 the choice of MC software (referred to as PDF uncertainty). An uncertainty associated with the generator
 2030 chosen for the hard scattering process is evaluated by keeping the parton showering software constant but
 2031 varying the matrix element generator and taking the maximal variation as an uncertainty (referred to as
 2032 the generator uncertainty). The converse variation can also be done, where the matrix element generator
 2033 remains constant and the generator used for the underlying event/parton shower modeling is varied (re-
 2034 ferred to as the UE/PS uncertainty). In cases where the background is normalized in a control region, the
 2035 systematic uncertainty arises from variations of the extrapolation factor α between the CR and the SR,
 2036 which can affect the normalization of the background in the SR.

2037 There are two additional uncertainties that are applied to the Higgs processes as well. First, there are
 2038 uncertainties assigned to the Higgs total production cross section. Then, there are uncertainties assigned
 2039 based on the fact that the analysis is done in exclusive jet bins and it is possible for signal events to migrate
 2040 from one bin to the next depending on the presence or absence of jets. These are assigned using the Jet
 2041 Veto Efficiency (JVE) procedure [18, 84] for ggF events and the Stewart-Tackmann (ST) method [85] for
 2042 VBF production.

2043 Table 5.13 shows the total theory uncertainties on the backgrounds in the cut-based analysis. These are
 2044 the sum in quadrature of the uncertainties from each of the variations described above.

Process	Theory syst. (%)
ggF H	48
Top	26
QCD WW	37
$Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau$	6.1

Table 5.13: Systematic uncertainties for various processes in the cut-based VBF analysis, given in units of % change
in yield. Values are given for the low m_{jj} signal region.

2045 Figures 5.14 and 5.15 show the variations in the extrapolation factor from the PDF and QCD uncertain-
 2046 ties on the top background estimate, binned in m_T , for the cut-based analysis. In both cases, there was
 2047 no significant shape uncertainty but normalization uncertainties were assigned according to the maximal
 2048 variation. These uncertainties enter into the 26% total uncertainty on top quoted in table 5.13

2049 While the estimate for the same-flavor $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell\ell$ background is data-driven, there is still a systematic
 2050 uncertainty taken for the non-closure of the method in Monte Carlo. This is taken as the maximum of the
 2051 deviation of the non-closure factor f_{corr} from unity and its uncertainty, or $\max(|1 - f_{\text{corr}}|, \delta f_{\text{corr}})$. For
 2052 the cut-based analysis this non-closure uncertainty 23%, while for the BDT analysis it is 17%.

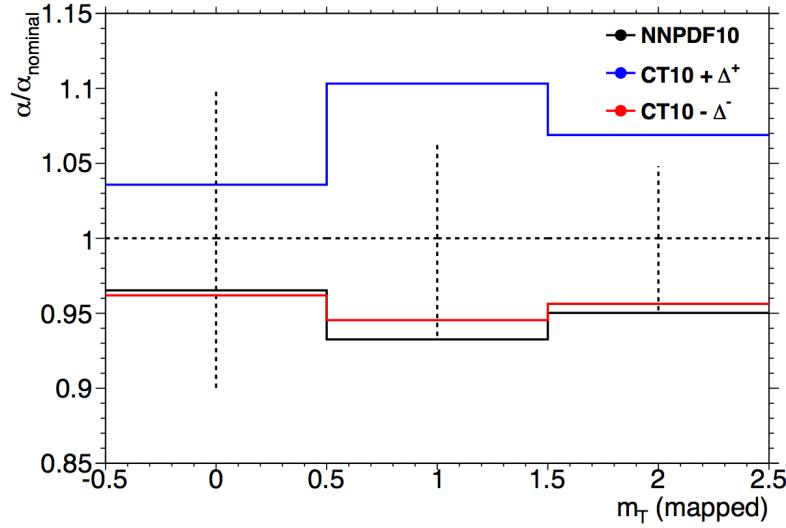


Figure 5.14: Variations in the top background extrapolation factor in the cut-based analysis due to PDF uncertainties, binned in m_T .

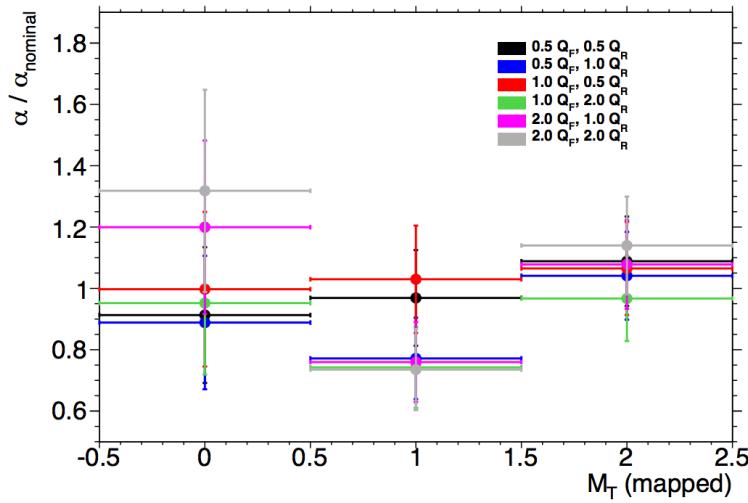


Figure 5.15: Variations in the top background extrapolation factor in the cut-based analysis due to QCD scale uncertainties, binned in m_T .

2053 5.6.2 EXPERIMENTAL UNCERTAINTIES

2054 In this analysis, the theoretical uncertainties end up being the most dominant, but there are some ex-
2055 perimental uncertainties that make a contribution as well. The first is the uncertainty on the measured
2056 integrated luminosity, which affects backgrounds whose normalization is taken from MC and is measured
2057 to be 2.8% in the 8 TeV dataset [86]. The dominant sources of uncertainty overall are uncertainties on the
2058 jet energy scale and resolution and the b -tagging efficiency. Additional sources include lepton uncertain-
2059 ties on identification, resolution, and trigger efficiency, as well as uncertainties on the missing transverse
2060 momentum .

2061 The jet energy scale uncertainty is split into several independent components, including jet-flavor de-
2062 pendent calorimeter response uncertainties, uncertainties on modeling of pile-up interactions, uncertain-
2063 ties on extrapolation from the central to forward detector regions, and MC non-closure [87]. The uncer-
2064 tainty on energy scale for jets used in this analysis ranges from 1% to 7% depending on the jet p_T and η .
2065 The jet energy resolution varies from 5% to 20%, with uncertainties ranging from 2% to 40% (the largest
2066 uncertainties occurring at the selection threshold).

2067 The b -tagging efficiency is independently measured in data samples enriched in dileptonic decays of $t\bar{t}$
2068 events or in events where a muon is reconstructed in the vicinity of a jet [88, 89]. The efficiencies and
2069 their uncertainties are binned in p_T and decomposed into uncorrelated components using an eigenvector
2070 method [90]. Uncertainties on the efficiency range from 1% to 7.8%. The uncertainty on the rate of
2071 misidentification of c -jets as b -jets ranges from 6-14%, while the uncertainty on the rate of light jet mis-
2072 tagging ranges from 9-19% depending on p_T and η .

2073 The total experimental uncertainties on different signal and background components are summarized
2074 in table 5.14. They are compared to the level of other statistical and systematic uncertainties as well. Overall,
2075 the experimental uncertainties are sub-dominant compared to the statistical and theoretical uncertainties.

2076 5.7 RESULTS

2077 While the combined results of all the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ sub-analyses will be discussed in the next chapter,
2078 this section presents the results of the VBF specific analysis and interpretations. As table ?? shows, the final

Sample	Total error	Stat. error	Expt. syst. err.	Theo. syst. err.
$n_j \geq 2$ VBF-enriched				
N_{sig}	13	—	6.8	12
N_{bkg}	9.2	4.7	6.4	4.5
N_{WW}	32	—	14	28
N_{top}	15	9.6	7.6	8.5
N_{misid}	22	—	12	19
N_{VV}	20	—	12	15
$N_{\tau\tau}$ (DY)	40	25	31	2.9
$N_{ee/\mu\mu}$ (DY)	19	11	15	—

Table 5.14: Composition of the post-fit uncertainties (in %) on the total signal (N_{sig}), total background (N_{bkg}), and individual background yields in the VBF analysis [63].

2079 cut-based signal region contains 20 events in data with $m_T < 150$ GeV, 14 coming from the $e\mu$ channel
 2080 and 6 coming from the $ee + \mu\mu$ channel. The BDT analysis has many more candidates due to its looser
 2081 selection, and the yields in each bin of O_{BDT} are shown in table 5.15.

(a) Before the BDT classification

Selection	Summary						Composition of N_{bkg}										
	$N_{\text{obs}}/N_{\text{bkg}}$	N_{obs}	N_{bkg}	N_{signal}			N_{WW}^{QCD}	N_{WW}^{EW}	N_{tt}	N_t	N_{Wj}	N_{jj}	N_{VV}	$N_{\text{Drell-Yan}}$	$N_{ee/\mu\mu}^{\text{QCD}}$	$N_{\tau\tau}^{\text{QCD}}$	$N_{\tau\tau}^{\text{EW}}$
				N_{ggF}	N_{VBF}	N_{VH}											
$e\mu$ sample	1.04 ± 0.04	718	689	13	15	2.0	90	11	327	42	29	23	31	2.2	130	2	
$ee/\mu\mu$ sample	1.18 ± 0.08	469	397	6.0	7.7	0.9	37	3	132	17	5.2	1.2	10.1	168	23	1	

(b) Bins in O_{BDT}

$e\mu$ sample																
Bin 0 (not used)	1.02 ± 0.04	661	650	8.8	3.0	1.9	83	9	313	40	26	21	28	2.2	126	1
Bin 1	0.99 ± 0.16	37	37	3.0	4.2	0.1	5.0	1.0	17	3.1	3.3	1.8	2.6	—	4.0	0.2
Bin 2	2.26 ± 0.63	14	6.2	1.2	4.2	—	1.5	0.5	1.8	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	—	0.3	0.3
Bin 3	5.41 ± 2.32	6	1.1	0.4	3.1	—	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	—	—	0.1	—	0.1	0.1
$ee/\mu\mu$ sample																
Bin 0 (not used)	1.91 ± 0.08	396	345	3.8	1.3	0.8	33	2	123	16	4.1	1.1	8.8	137	20.5	0.5
Bin 1	0.82 ± 0.14	53	45	1.5	2.2	0.1	3.0	0.5	10.4	1.8	0.8	0.2	0.9	26	1.7	0.1
Bin 2	1.77 ± 0.49	14	7.9	0.6	2.5	—	0.8	0.3	1.1	0.2	0.2	—	0.3	4.4	0.3	0.1
Bin 3	6.52 ± 2.87	6	0.9	0.2	1.7	—	0.1	0.2	0.2	—	—	—	—	0.7	—	—

Table 5.15: Event selection for the VBF BDT analysis. The event yields in (a) are shown after the pre-selection and the additional requirements applied before the BDT classification (see text). The event yields in (b) are given in bins in O_{BDT} after the classification [63].

2082 Figure 5.16(a) shows the final distribution of data candidates compared to the expected m_T distribution
 2083 for signal and background. The data are very consistent with a VBF Higgs hypothesis. Figure 5.16(b) shows

2084 where the data candidates fall in the two-dimensional binning of m_T and m_{jj} used in the fit for the cut-
 2085 based analysis.

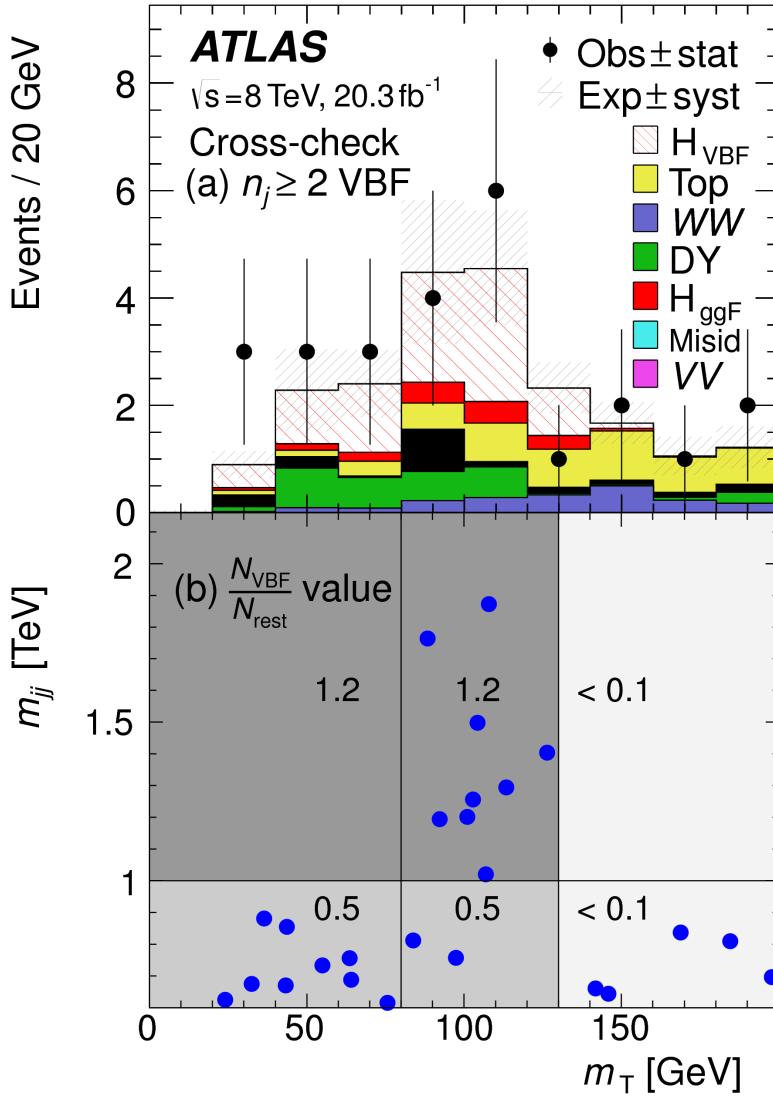


Figure 5.16: Post-fit distributions in the cut-based VBF analysis. Panel (a) shows the one-dimensional m_T distribution, while (b) shows the data candidates split into the bins of m_T and m_{jj} used in the final fit [63].

2086 Figure 5.17 shows the distributions of O_{BDT} and m_T in the VBF BDT analysis. Again the data are quite
 2087 consistent with a VBF Higgs hypothesis.

2088 Because the cut-based result is used as a validation for the BDT analysis and the two signal regions are
 2089 not fully orthogonal, it is interesting to explore which events overlap between the two analyses. Of the

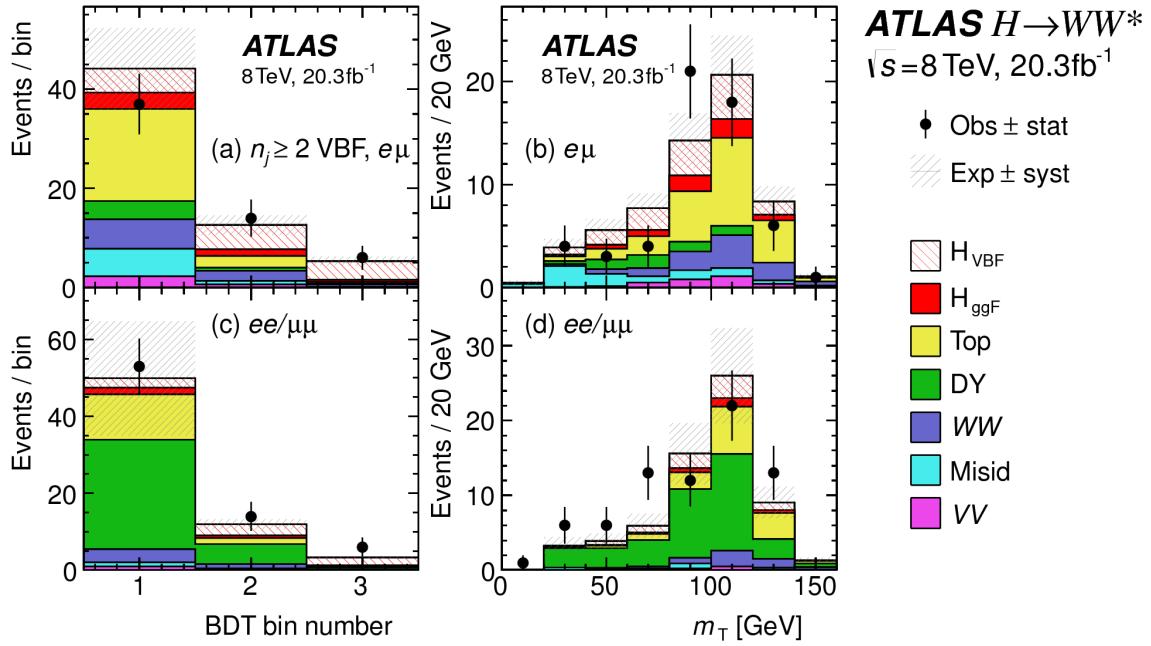


Figure 5.17: Postfit distributions in the BDT VBF analysis [63].

2090 twenty events in the cut-based signal region, only seven were not selected by the BDT analysis, while the
 2091 other thirteen also enter the BDT signal region. Figure 5.18 shows where the different analysis candidates
 2092 lie in the m_{jj} - m_T plane. This shows clearly that the advantage of the BDT analysis is that it can extract
 2093 signal candidates lower m_{jj} region due to its ability to recognize correlations with other variables.

2094 While the context of these results in the broader $H \rightarrow WW^*$ statistical analysis will be presented in the
 2095 next chapter, the statistical significance of the VBF Higgs result can be shown here. In the BDT analysis, the
 2096 expected signal significance was 2.7σ , while the observed significance was 3.1σ . In the cut-based analysis,
 2097 the expected significance was 2.1σ and the observed significance was 3.0σ . The compatibility between
 2098 these two results can be evaluated by computing the probability of observing a larger difference in Z_0 values
 2099 than the one measured. Using toy Monte Carlo with the ggF signal strength fixed to unity and considering
 2100 only statistical uncertainties, this probability is computed to be 79%, indicating good agreement between
 2101 the analyses. This result represents the first evidence of the vector boson fusion production of a Higgs
 2102 boson.

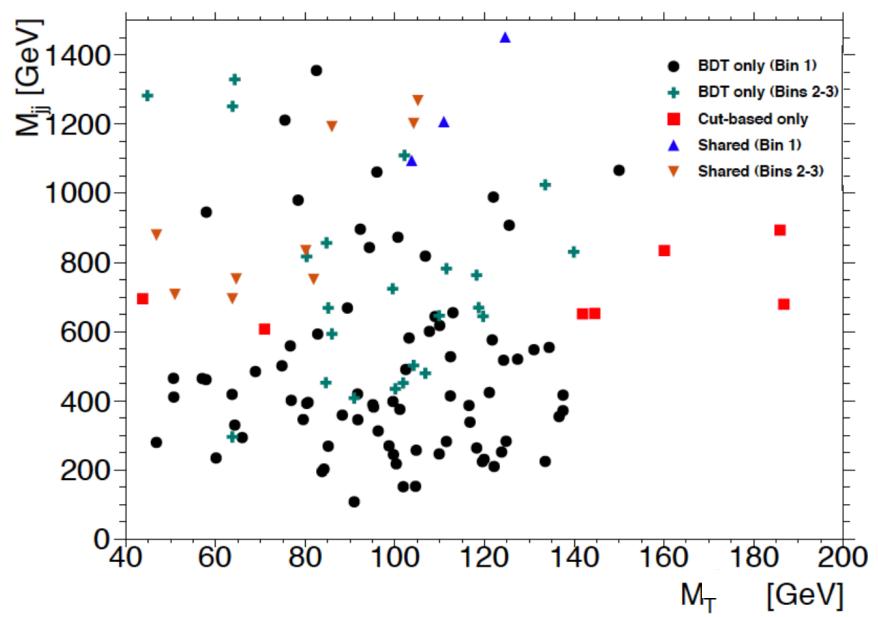


Figure 5.18: Overlap between cut-based and BDT VBF signal region candidates in the m_{jj} - m_T plane.

*The feeling is less like an ending than just another starting
point.*

Chuck Palahniuk

6

2103

2104

Combined Run I $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$

2105

results

2106

6.1 INTRODUCTION

2107

In the final statistical analysis of $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$, the dedicated gluon-gluon fusion and vector boson fusion sensitive signal regions are all combined into a single fit to determine the main parameters of interest, the Higgs signal strength μ and mass m_H . Therefore, while the specific requirements applied for the VBF sensitive analysis are discussed in chapter 5, the final measurement of these parameters can only be discussed in combination with the results of the ggF dedicated analysis. For example, because ggF Higgs production is considered a background in the VBF analysis, the ggF dedicated signal regions can actually constrain the normalization of this background in the VBF dedicated region.

2114

This chapter presents the combined interpretation of results in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ analysis

SR category i			Fit var.
n_j , flavor	$\otimes m_{\ell\ell}$	$\otimes p_T^{\ell 2}$	
$n_j = 0$	$e\mu$	$\otimes [10, 30, 55]$	$\otimes [10, 15, 20, \infty]$
	$ee/\mu\mu$	$\otimes [12, 55]$	$\otimes [10, \infty]$
			m_T
$n_j = 1$	$e\mu$	$\otimes [10, 30, 55]$	$\otimes [10, 15, 20, \infty]$
	$ee/\mu\mu$	$\otimes [12, 55]$	$\otimes [10, \infty]$
			m_T
$n_j \geq 2$ ggF	$e\mu$	$\otimes [10, 55]$	$\otimes [10, \infty]$
$n_j \geq 2$ VBF	$e\mu$	$\otimes [10, 50]$	$\otimes [10, \infty]$
	$ee/\mu\mu$	$\otimes [12, 50]$	$\otimes [10, \infty]$
			O_{BDT}

Table 6.1: All signal regions definitions input into final statistical fit [63].

for gluon fusion and vector boson fusion Higgs production. First, the results of the dedicated gluon fusion search are presented. Then, a comparison of the individual production mode signal strengths (μ_{ggF} and μ_{VBF}) and a measurement of the combined signal strength (μ) are shown. Subsequently, the measured values of the Higgs couplings to fermions and vector bosons is presented. Finally, the cross section measurement for ggF and VBF production are shown.

6.2 RESULTS OF DEDICATION GLUON FUSION $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ SEARCH

The details of the dedicated gluon fusion $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ search are not discussed in this thesis and instead left to more comprehensive sources [63]. However, a brief summary of the results are essential for describing the results of the full analysis and interpreting the results of the dedicated VBF search in this broader context.

Table 6.1 shows the individual signal regions that were input into the final statistical fit. The ggF dedicated bins use m_T as their discriminating variable and are separated into bins of p_T of the subleading lepton as well. The VBF dedicated bin uses the O_{BDT} distribution as its final discriminant.

Table 6.2 shows the yields in the various signal regions in both data and expected signal and back-

2129 grounds. The yields for signal and background are all scaled according to the final normalizations cal-
2130 culated in the fit.

	N_{obs}	N_{bkg}	N_{ggF}	N_{VBF}
$n_j = 0$	3750	3430 ± 90	300 ± 50	8 ± 4
$n_j = 1$	1596	1470 ± 40	102 ± 26	17 ± 5
$n_j \geq 2, \text{ggF } e\mu$	1017	960 ± 40	37 ± 11	13 ± 1.4
$n_j \geq 2, \text{VBF}$	130	99 ± 9	7.7 ± 2.6	21 ± 3

Table 6.2: Post-fit yields in the different ggF and VBF dedicated signal regions [63].

2131 Figure 6.1 shows the final post-fit m_T distribution in the $n_j \leq 1$ regions. The data are very consistent with the hypothesis of ggF Higgs production. These yields are used as input, along with the VBF results

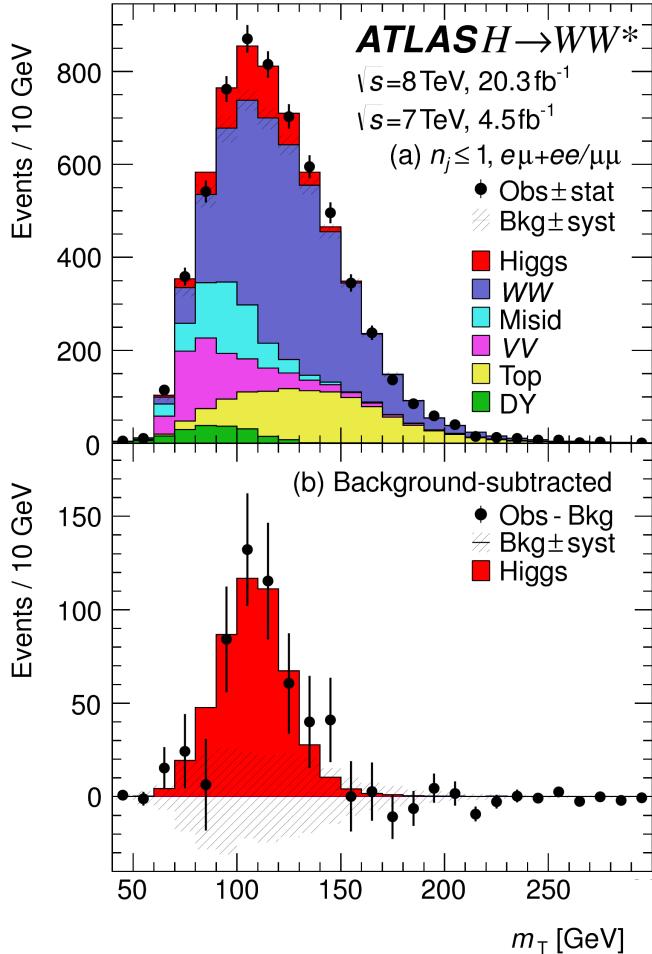


Figure 6.1: Post-fit m_T distribution in the $n_j \leq 1$ regions [63].

2132

2133 in chapter 5, for the physical interpretation of results presented in subsequent sections.

2134 **6.3 SIGNAL STRENGTH MEASUREMENTS IN ggF AND VBF PRODUCTION**

2135 When all of the signal regions are combined in the fit, there can be a combined measurement of the
 2136 signal strength as well as the individual ggF and VBF signal strengths. The combined signal strength is the
 2137 ratio of the sum of the gluon fusion and VBF cross sections to the theory prediction, or a signal strength
 2138 for the total Higgs production cross section that this analysis is sensitive to. The final measured combined
 2139 signal strength μ is measured shown in equation 6.1.

$$\begin{aligned} \mu &= 1.09 \quad {}^{+0.16}_{-0.15} \text{ (stat.)} \quad {}^{+0.08}_{-0.07} \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{expt} \\ \text{syst} \end{array} \right) \quad {}^{+0.15}_{-0.12} \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{theo} \\ \text{syst} \end{array} \right) \quad \pm 0.03 \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{lumi} \\ \text{syst} \end{array} \right) \\ &= 1.09 \quad {}^{+0.16}_{-0.15} \text{ (stat)} \quad {}^{+0.17}_{-0.14} \text{ (syst)} \\ &= 1.09 \quad {}^{+0.23}_{-0.21}. \end{aligned} \tag{6.1}$$

2140 Figure 6.2 gives the best fit signal strength $\hat{\mu}$ as a function of the hypothesized Higgs mass. The value
 2141 at 125.36 GeV corresponds to the μ quoted in equation 6.1. This value of the Higgs mass is used because it
 2142 is the most precise mass measurement from ATLAS, a result of the combined $\gamma\gamma$ and ZZ mass measure-
 2143 ments [91].

2144 As explained in chapter 3, a probability p_0 can be computed using the test statistic q_0 to quantify the
 2145 probability that the background could fluctuate to produce an excess at least as large as the one observed
 2146 in the data. The local p_0 value is shown in figure 6.3 as a function of m_H . The minimum p_0 value is at
 2147 $m_H = 130$ GeV and corresponds to a significance of 6.1σ . The curve is relatively flat and the significance
 2148 is the same at 125.36 GeV within the quoted precision. The expected significance for a signal with strength
 2149 $\mu = 1.0$ is 5.8σ . This represents the first discovery level significance measurement in the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow$
 2150 $\ell\nu\ell\nu$ analysis.

2151 All the results presented so far in this section have been for the combined gluon fusion and VBF pro-
 2152 duction modes. However, each signal strength can be calculated separately in the likelihood as well. There
 2153 are two ways to do this. First, the likelihood can be parameterized in terms of a single parameter, the ratio

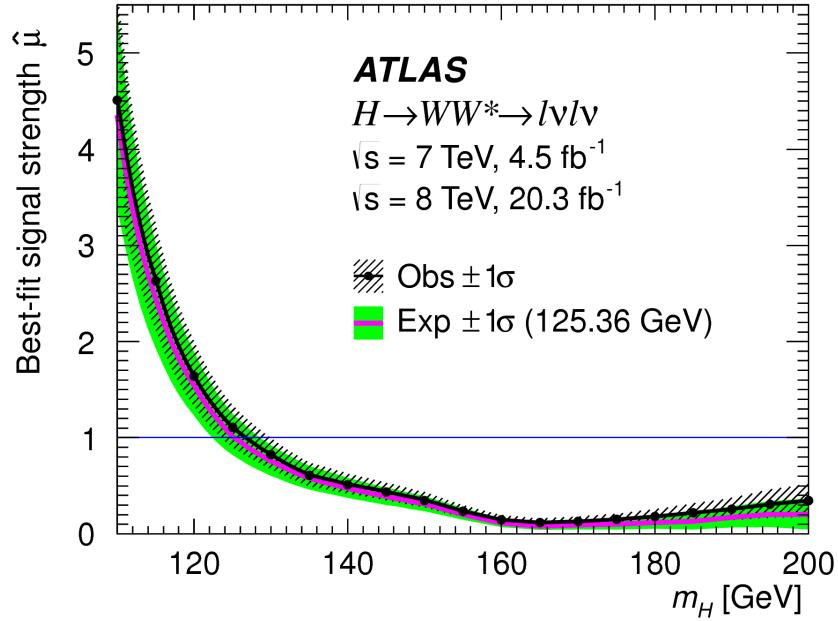


Figure 6.2: Best fit signal strength $\hat{\mu}$ as a function of hypothesized m_H [63].

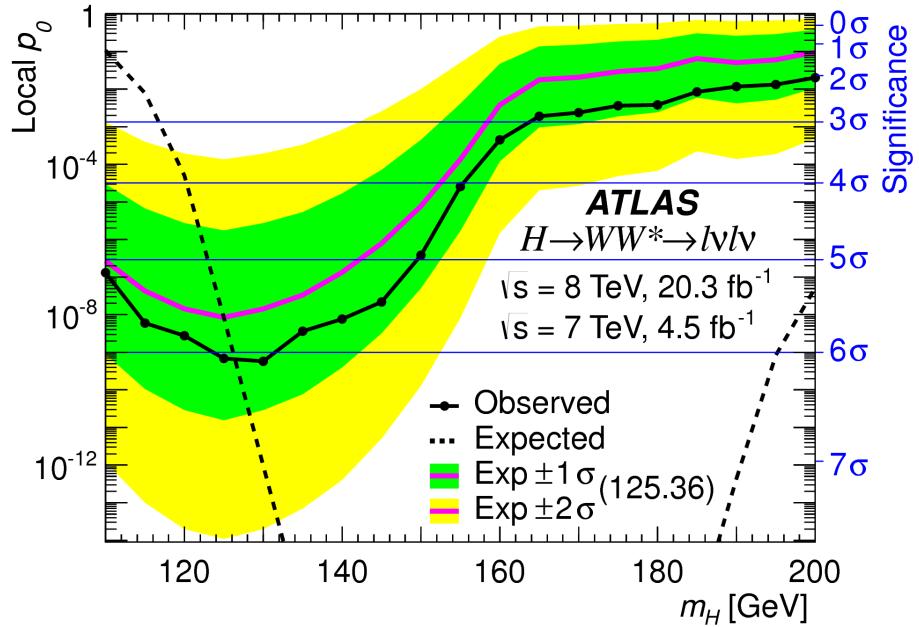


Figure 6.3: Local p_0 as a function of m_H [63].

of the VBF and gluon fusion signal strengths. With this method, the statistical significance of the VBF
 2154 Higgs result can be evaluated. Figure 6.4 shows the likelihood as a function of the ratio $\mu_{\text{VBF}}/\mu_{\text{ggF}}$.
 2155

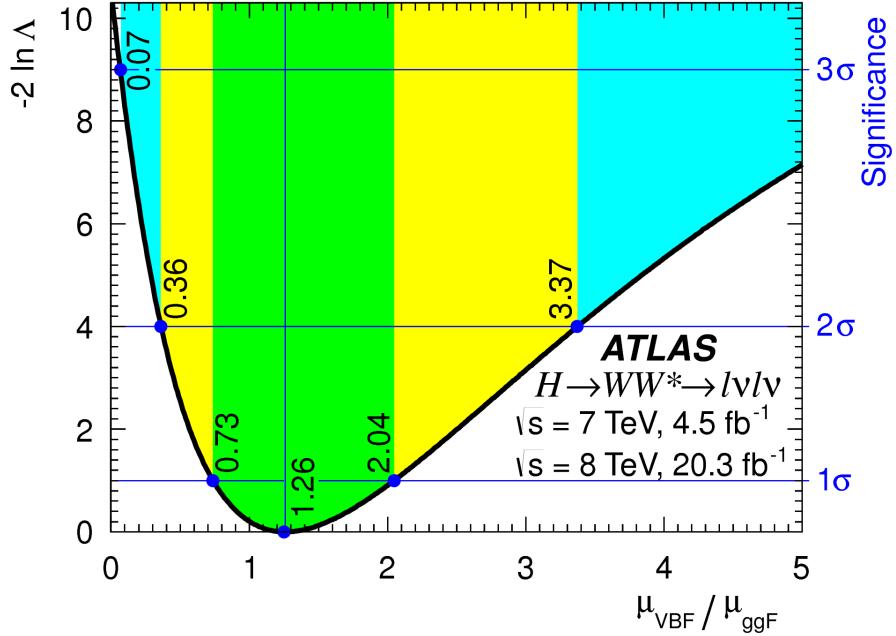


Figure 6.4: Likelihood as a function of $\mu_{\text{VBF}} / \mu_{\text{ggF}}$ [63].

2156 The best fit value of the ratio of signal strengths is shown in equation 6.2. Within the quoted uncer-
 2157 tainties, it is consistent with a ratio of unity.

$$\frac{\mu_{\text{VBF}}}{\mu_{\text{ggF}}} = 1.26^{+0.61} (\text{stat.})^{+0.50} (\text{syst.}) = 1.26^{+0.79}_{-0.53} \quad (6.2)$$

2158 The null hypothesis for VBF production corresponds to a ratio of $\mu_{\text{VBF}} / \mu_{\text{ggF}} = 0$. The likelihood in
 2159 figure 6.4 gives a significance of 3.2σ at $\mu_{\text{VBF}} / \mu_{\text{ggF}} = 0$, as quoted in chapter 5.

2160 In addition to the ratio of signal strengths, each signal strength can be varied independently in the like-
 2161 lihood as well. Figure 6.5 shows the two dimensional likelihood scan in the $\mu_{\text{ggF}}-\mu_{\text{VBF}}$ plane. The best fit
 2162 values of the two signal strengths are shown in equation 6.3. Both are consistent with unity within their
 2163 uncertainties.

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\text{ggF}} &= 1.02 \pm 0.19^{+0.22}_{-0.18} = 1.02^{+0.29}_{-0.26} \\ \mu_{\text{VBF}} &= 1.27 \pm 0.40^{+0.44}_{-0.21} = 1.27^{+0.53}_{-0.45}. \end{aligned} \quad (6.3)$$

(stat.) (syst.)

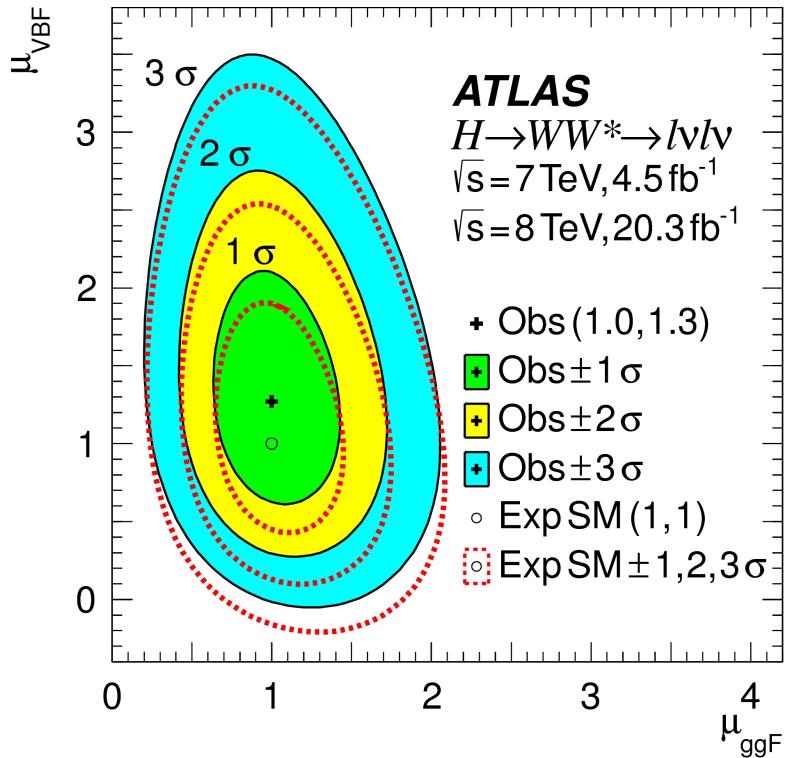


Figure 6.5: Likelihood scan as a function of μ_{VBF} and μ_{ggF} [63].

2164 6.4 MEASUREMENT OF HIGGS COUPLINGS TO VECTOR BOSONS AND FERMIONS

2165 Similar to the parameterization of signal strength, the couplings of the Higgs to fermions and bosons
 2166 can also be parameterized. The parameter of interest in this case is κ , or the ratio of the measured coupling
 2167 to the standard model expectation. Both the fermion and boson couplings have these so-called scale factors,
 2168 κ_F for fermions and κ_V for bosons. Gluon fusion production is sensitive to the fermion couplings through
 2169 the top quark loops in its production, while VBF production is sensitive to the vector boson couplings in
 2170 its production. Both modes are sensitive to the vector boson couplings in their decays. The signal strengths
 2171 will have dependence on the coupling scale factors as described in equation 6.4 [18].

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{\text{ggF}} &\propto \frac{\kappa_F^2 \cdot \kappa_V^2}{(\mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow f\bar{f}} + \mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow gg}) \kappa_F^2 + (\mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow VV}) \kappa_V^2} \\ \mu_{\text{VBF}} &\propto \frac{\kappa_V^4}{(\mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow f\bar{f}} + \mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow gg}) \kappa_F^2 + (\mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow VV}) \kappa_V^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (6.4)$$

2172 Figure 6.6 shows the two-dimensional likelihood scan of κ_F and κ_V . The best-fit values are given in equa-
 2173 tion 6.5. The best-fit values are consistent with unity within their uncertainties.

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_F &= 0.93 & +0.24 & +0.21 & = 0.93 & +0.32 \\ \kappa_V &= 1.04 & +0.07 & +0.07 & = 1.04 & \pm 0.11. \end{aligned} \quad (6.5)$$

(stat.) (syst.)

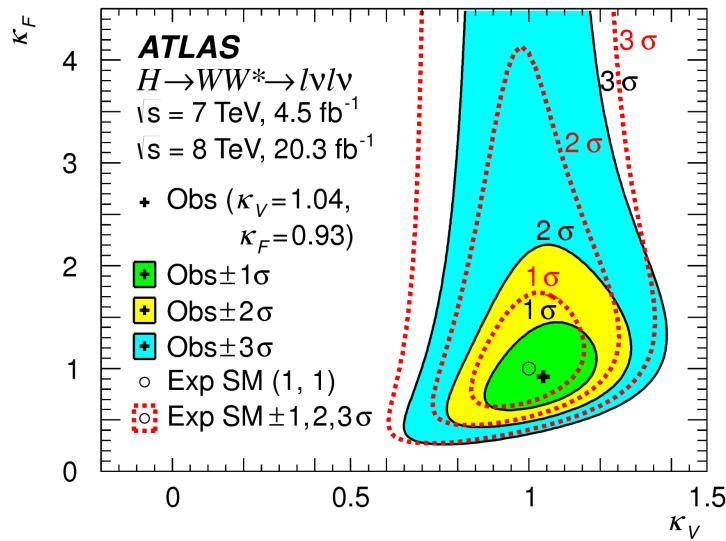


Figure 6.6: Likelihood scan as a function of κ_F and κ_V [63].

2174

2175 6.5 HIGGS PRODUCTION CROSS SECTION MEASUREMENT

2176 Another measurement that comes naturally from the signal strength numbers quoted earlier is the pro-
 2177 duction cross section and 7 and 8 TeV for both gluon fusion and VBF production. The general equation
 2178 for calculating the cross section is given in equation 6.6.

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma \cdot \mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow WW^*})_{\text{obs}} &= \frac{(N_{\text{sig}})_{\text{obs}}}{\mathcal{A} \cdot \mathcal{C} \cdot \mathcal{B}_{WW \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu}} \cdot \frac{1}{\int L dt} \\ &= \hat{\mu} \cdot (\sigma \cdot \mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow WW^*})_{\text{exp}} \end{aligned} \quad (6.6)$$

2179 $(N_{\text{sig}})_{\text{obs}}$ is the number of events observed in data. \mathcal{A} is the geometric and kinematic acceptance of the
 2180 detector, while \mathcal{C} is the efficiency of the signal region selection for events that are reconstructed in the
 2181 detector. The branching ratio of a WW system to leptons must also be divided out. The production
 2182 cross section depends on the center of mass energy and the production mode desired (gluon fusion or
 2183 VBF), and so three separate cross section measurements are quoted in equation 6.7.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma_{\text{ggf}}^{\text{7TeV}} \cdot \mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow WW^*} &= 2.0 \pm 1.7^{+1.2}_{-1.1} = 2.0^{+2.1}_{-2.0} \text{ pb} \\
 \sigma_{\text{ggf}}^{\text{8TeV}} \cdot \mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow WW^*} &= 4.6 \pm 0.9^{+0.8}_{-0.7} = 4.6^{+1.2}_{-1.1} \text{ pb} \\
 \sigma_{\text{vbf}}^{\text{8TeV}} \cdot \mathcal{B}_{H \rightarrow WW^*} &= 0.51^{+0.17}_{-0.15} {}^{+0.13}_{-0.08} = 0.51^{+0.22}_{-0.17} \text{ pb.}
 \end{aligned} \tag{6.7}$$

(stat.) (syst.)

2184 The predicted cross section values for gluon fusion are 3.3 ± 0.4 pb at 7 TeV and 4.2 ± 0.5 pb at 8 TeV,
 2185 consistent with the measured values within their uncertainties. For vector boson fusion, the predicted
 2186 cross section is 0.35 ± 0.02 pb, again consistent with the measured value.

2187 6.6 CONCLUSION

2188 The combined analysis of the gluon fusion and vector boson fusion processes in $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$
 2189 in the 7 and 8 TeV datasets has yielded the first discovery level significance for Higgs production in this
 2190 decay channel. Additionally, precise measurements of the couplings to vector bosons and fermions are
 2191 given. Finally, signal strengths and cross sections for each production mode are measured. Figure 6.7 shows
 2192 the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ measurements in comparison with other Higgs decay channels in ATLAS. The
 2193 measurement of signal strength from this channel remains the most sensitive in both the gluon fusion and
 2194 VBF production modes for the Run 1 dataset.

ATLAS

Individual analysis

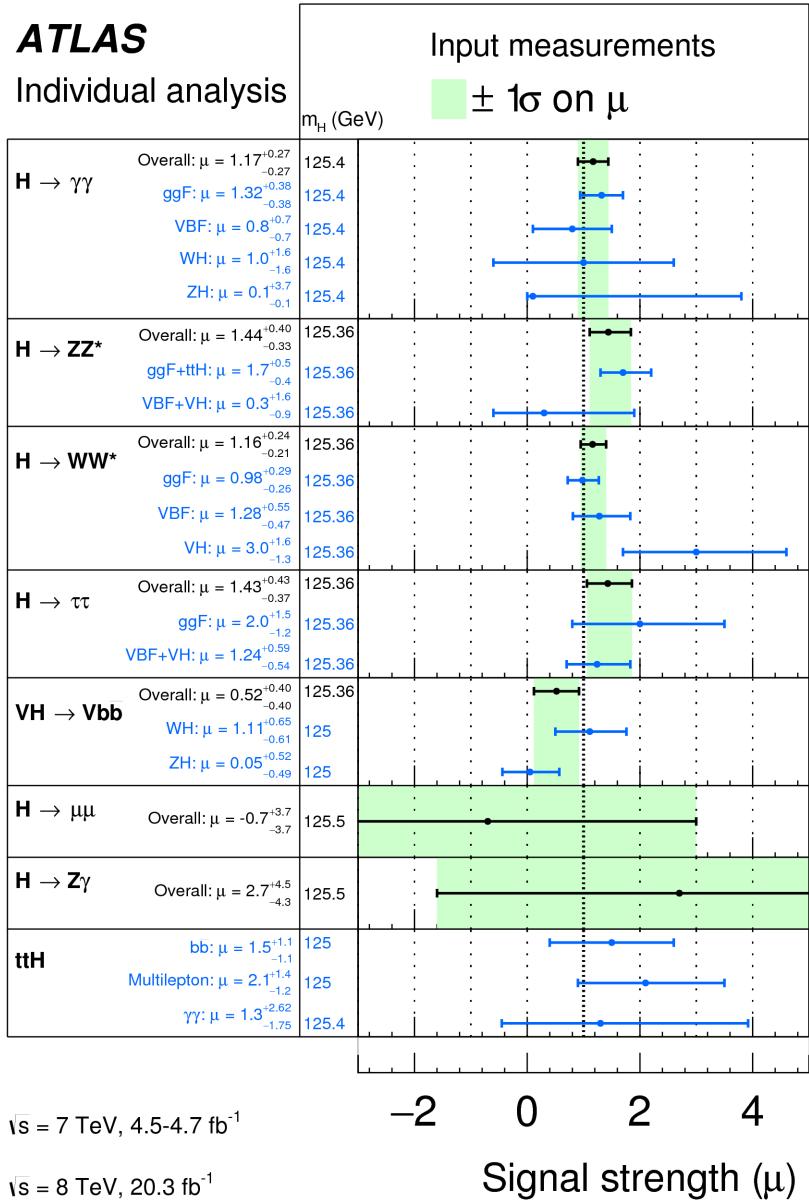


Figure 6.7: Comparison of signal strength measurements in different Higgs decay channels on ATLAS [92].

2195

Part III

2196

Search for Higgs pair production in the

2197

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ channel in LHC Run 2 at $\sqrt{s} =$

2198

13 TeV

Passion is in all great searches and is necessary to all creative endeavors.

W. Eugene Smith

7

2199

2200 Search for Higgs pair production in boosted 2201 $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ final states

2202 7.1 INTRODUCTION

2203 After the discovery of the Higgs boson in the ATLAS Run 1 dataset and the subsequent measurements
2204 of its properties, the Higgs transformed into a potential tool in searches for physics beyond the Standard
2205 Model. The pair production cross section of the Higgs can be enhanced through BSM physics. Studying
2206 di-Higgs production also probes the Higgs self-coupling, shedding light on the structure of the Higgs po-
2207 tential. This chapter presents a search for resonant production of a Higgs pair in the $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$
2208 final state in 3.2 fb^{-1} of data collected at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$. In particular, this chapter focuses on a search for
2209 this final state in the regime where m_X is large ($\gtrsim 1 \text{ TeV}$) and the Higgs bosons in the decay are signifi-
2210 cantly boosted. A tailored selection for this boosted selection, using novel techniques in jet substructure

and b -tagging, is discussed. Then, the data-driven background estimate is presented. Finally, the results of the search are shown. The signal models used as benchmarks are a spin-2 Randall Sundrum graviton (RSG) and a narrow width spin-0 resonance. These models are described in more detail in Chapter 1. Limits on signal models are reserved for the next chapter where the results of this chapter are combined with the results of a separate selection dedicated to the lower m_X regime.

7.2 MOTIVATION

With the center of mass energy increase from $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV to $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, the LHC and ATLAS are able to probe new resonances at higher mass scales than previously accessible in Run 1. This is a powerful motivator for searching for a new resonance in the early 13 TeV data. Figure 7.1 shows the ratios of parton luminosities between 8 and 13 TeV for different resonance masses. For a resonance of $M_X = 2$ TeV, the cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV is roughly a factor of 10 larger than at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV.

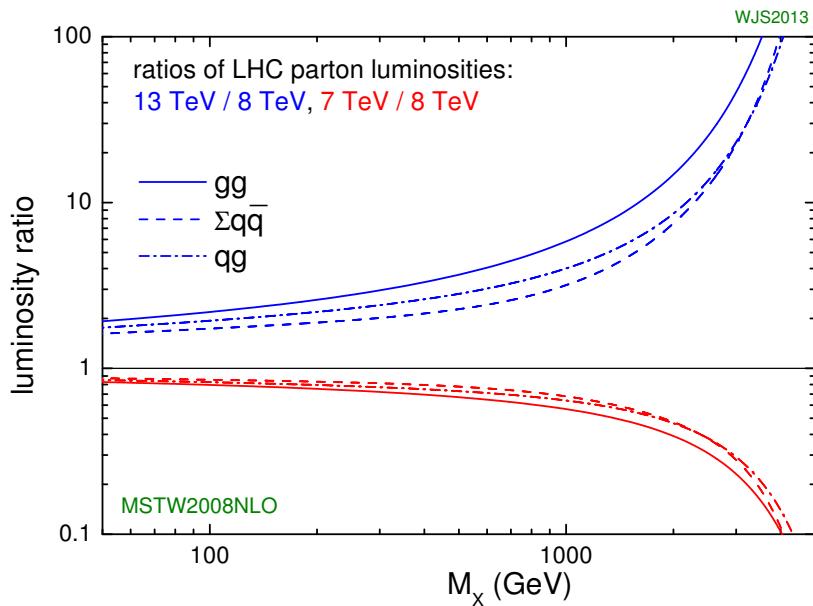


Figure 7.1: Parton luminosity ratios as a function of resonance mass M_X for 13/8 TeV and 7/8 TeV [93].

Higgs pair production offers a vast array of unprobed regions of phase space where searches for BSM physics can be made. Chapter 1 discusses some possibilities for both resonant and non-resonant enhance-

ment of the di-Higgs production cross section. Given the increased mass reach of the LHC in Run 2, it is particularly important to focus on resonant searches at high m_X . One consideration when conducting a search in the HH final state is which decay modes of the Higgs to consider. Figure 7.2 shows the branching ratio of the HH final state for different combinations of decays of each individual Higgs. As the largest branching ratio for the 125 GeV Higgs is $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$, the $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ branching ratio is also the largest at 33%.

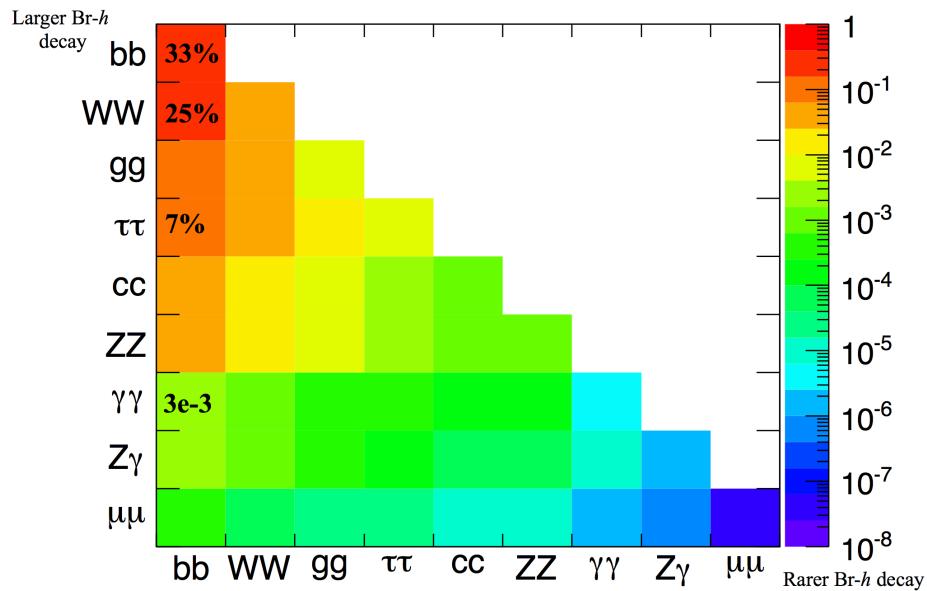


Figure 7.2: Summary of HH branching ratios [94].

At high m_X , the Higgs bosons resulting from the decay of a heavy resonance will have large p_T ¹. The ΔR between the decay products of the Higgs is inversely proportional to the Higgs p_T , as shown in equation 7.1.

$$\Delta R \approx \frac{2m}{p_T} \quad (7.1)$$

Figure 7.3 shows the minimum ΔR between truth level B decay vertices in simulation samples for Randall-Sundrum gravitons of different masses. The figure shows that as the mass of the graviton increases, the ΔR distribution between the b quarks in the Higgs decay tends to shift to lower values. Because of this effect, it is necessary to tailor a selection to target these merged b -jets.

¹In the limit that $m_H \ell \ell m_X$, the Higgs p_T is roughly $m_X/2$.

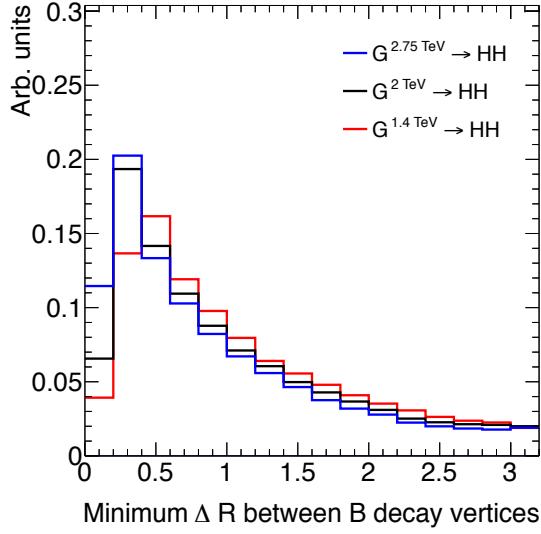


Figure 7.3: Minimum ΔR between B decay vertices for different RSG masses in a $G_{KK}^* \rightarrow HH \rightarrow 4b$ sample with $c = 1$

2237 7.3 DATA AND SIMULATION SAMPLES

2238 7.3.1 SIGNAL MODELS

2239 While the resonance search is by its nature generic (as it is a simple search for a peak in the $4b$ invariant
 2240 mass spectrum), there are two signal models that the selection requirements have been optimized for.
 2241 The first is Randall-Sundrum (RSG) model, where a tower of massive spin-2 Kaluza-Klein gravitons is
 2242 predicted. The second is a heavy narrow spin-0 resonance, the so-called “heavy Higgs”. This type of res-
 2243 onance arises, for example, in the two Higgs doublet model (2HDM). More details about the physics of
 2244 these models and their motivation is given in chapter 1.

2245 Signal graviton (G_{KK}^*) events are generated at leading order (LO) with **MADGRAPH5 v2.2.2** [95]. The
 2246 PDF set used is the **NNPDF2.3 LO** set [96]. For modeling parton shower and hadronization in jets, **PYTHIA**
 2247 8.186 is used with the A14 tune [75, 97]. The free parameters in the RSG model are the graviton mass
 2248 and the coupling constant $c \equiv k/\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}}^2$. Both the production cross section and width of the graviton are
 2249 proportional to c^2 . Samples are generated at both $c = 1$ and $c = 2$ for a variety of mass points between

² k is the curvature constant for the warped extra dimension and \bar{M}_{Pl} is the Planck mass divided by 8π

2250 300 GeV and 3 TeV.

2251 The second signal sample is a heavy spin-0 resonance H with a fixed width of $\Gamma_H = 1$ GeV. This
2252 is generated with **MADGRAPH5** and uses the **CT10** PDF set [78]. The parton shower and hadronization
2253 are handled by **HERWIG ++** with the **CTEQ6L1** PDF set and the **UEEE5** event tune [79, 98, 99]. Because
2254 the width and branching ratios depend on 2HDM parameters, each mass point generated with this fixed
2255 width corresponds to a different point in the 2HDM parameter phase space. Mass points are generated
2256 between 300 GeV and 1 TeV as with the RSG signal samples.

2257 **7.3.2 BACKGROUND SAMPLES**

2258 While the dominant **QCD** multijet background is estimated with a fully data-driven method, the sub-
2259 dominant backgrounds $t\bar{t}$ and Z +jets are modeled with some input from simulation.

2260 $t\bar{t}$ events are simulated at next-to-leading order (NLO) with the **POWHEG-BOX** version 1 generator us-
2261 ing the **CT10** PDF set [100]. The parton shower, hadronization, and underlying event are simulated with
2262 **PYTHIA 6.428** with the **CTEQ6L1** PDF set [74]. The Perugia 2012 tune is used [101]. NNLO **QCD** cor-
2263 rections to the cross sections are computed in **Top++ 2.0** [102]. The top quark mass is set to 172.5 GeV.
2264 The shapes of distributions in $t\bar{t}$ are taken from MC while the normalization is taken from data.

2265 Finally, the Z +jets background is simulated with **PYTHIA 8.186** and the **NNPDF2.3** LO PDF set. This
2266 background is negligible compared to the others and is taken fully from MC.

2267 **7.3.3 DATA SAMPLE AND TRIGGER**

2268 This analysis is done on 3.2 fb^{-1} of data taken in 2015 at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. The details of the machine
2269 conditions during this time can be found in Chapter 2. Only data which was taken during stable beam con-
2270 ditions with all detectors functioning is used. Events must pass a trigger which requires a single 360 GeV
2271 large radius ($R = 1.0$) jet to be reconstructed in the HLT. Figure 7.4 shows the trigger efficiency for vari-
2272 ous trigger options as a function of graviton mass. Above $m_G > 1$ TeV, the single large radius jet trigger
2273 is 99% efficient for events passing the signal selection.

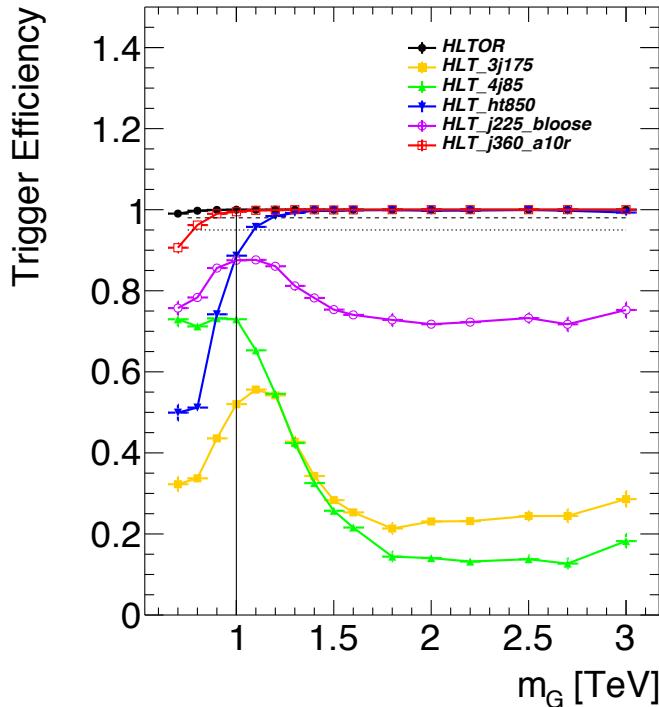


Figure 7.4: Trigger efficiency for events passing all signal region selections as a function of mass in $G_{KK}^* \rightarrow HH \rightarrow 4b$ samples with $c = 1$ [103]. In the trigger names, “j” refers to a jet or jets. “ht” refers to H_T , the scalar sum of transverse momenta in the event. “bloose” refers to a loose b -tagging requirement applied to the jet. “a10r” refers to anti- k_T jets with $R = 1.0$. The numbers at the end are the thresholds on the given quantity in GeV.

2274 7.4 EVENT RECONSTRUCTION AND OBJECT SELECTION

2275 The boosted selection first begins by defining a unique set of objects that can be exploited to increase
 2276 signal efficiency in the kinematic regime where the final state b -jets are very merged.

2277 7.4.1 LARGE RADIUS ($R = 1.0$) JETS

2278 The first step towards reconstructing the final state is to define objects that can be used to measure the
 2279 kinematics of the Higgs bosons. In the boosted selection anti- k_T jets with a radius parameter of 1.0 are
 2280 used. These jets are much larger in angular size than the typical $R = 0.4$ jets and are intended to encompass
 2281 both jets resulting from the Higgs decay³. The jets are built from clusters in the calorimeter calibrated with

³This is in contrast to the resolved selection, which uses two $R = 0.4$ anti- k_T jets for each Higgs

local calibration weighting [58].

Because of the large extent of these jets, great care must be taken to remove potential contributions of calorimeter clusters from pile-up. This is done using a technique called jet trimming [104]. With trimming, the constituents of the large radius jet are re-clustered with a smaller radius with the k_T algorithm. Then, these so-called subjets are removed from the larger jet if $p_T^{\text{subjett}}/p_T^{\text{jet}} < f_{\text{cut}}$. In this analysis, the subjet radius is $R = 0.2$ and $f_{\text{cut}} = 0.05$. Trimming has been shown to improve the mass resolution of large radius jets. Figure 7.5 shows the effect of trimming on the large radius jet mass (M_J). Because the large radius jet fully contains the higgs decay products, its invariant mass should correspond to the 125 GeV mass of the Higgs. The trimming algorithm brings the jet mass much closer to the expected Higgs mass and improves the mass resolution.

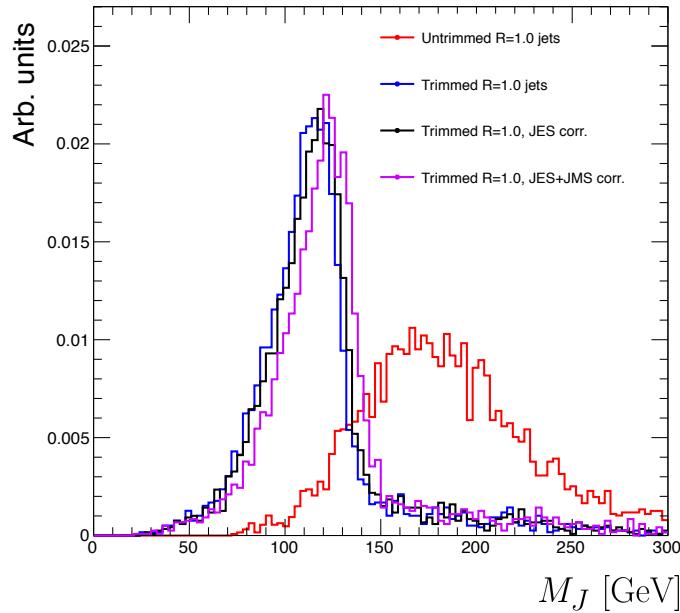


Figure 7.5: Comparison of untrimmed and trimmed jet masses for large radius jets in a RSG sample with $m_{G_{KK}^*} = 1 \text{ TeV}$. JES (JMS) refers to the standard jet energy (mass) scale calibration for ATLAS [58].

The large radius jets are required to satisfy $250 < p_T < 1500 \text{ GeV}$. They must also be within $|\eta| < 2.0$ in order to ensure that the full jet is within the inner detector tracking volume. Finally, they are required to have $M_J > 50 \text{ GeV}$. The upper p_T cut and lower threshold on mass are applied to correspond to the kinematic range where uncertainties are available in ATLAS calibrations [105, 106].

2296 7.4.2 TRACK JETS AND b -TAGGING

2297 Because the b -jets from boosted Higgs decays are so close together (as illustrated in figure 7.3), narrow ra-
2298 dius jets are required to fully resolve both b -jets. The minimum radius feasible for jets based on calorimeter
2299 deposits is determined by the calorimeter granularity. However, because b -tagging relies on information
2300 from the inner detector, it is possible to define another type of jet that can have a smaller radius and better
2301 b -tagging resolution. These jets are called “track jets” [106, 107].

2302 Track jets are formed by applying the usual anti- k_T clustering algorithm to tracks that are required to be
2303 consistent with the primary vertex. After the jet axis has been determined using these tracks, a second step
2304 of track association is also performed to add tracks that can be useful for b -tagging [107]. In this analysis,
2305 the tracks are clustered with a radius parameter of $R = 0.2$. This radius has been shown to give good
2306 performance in boosted Higgs tagging [106, 107]. Figure 7.6 shows a comparison among different track jet
2307 radii of the efficiency for reconstructing two b -jets from each Higgs in a RSG sample as a function of mass.
Track jets with radius of 0.2 give the best performance, especially at high mass. In this analysis, track jets

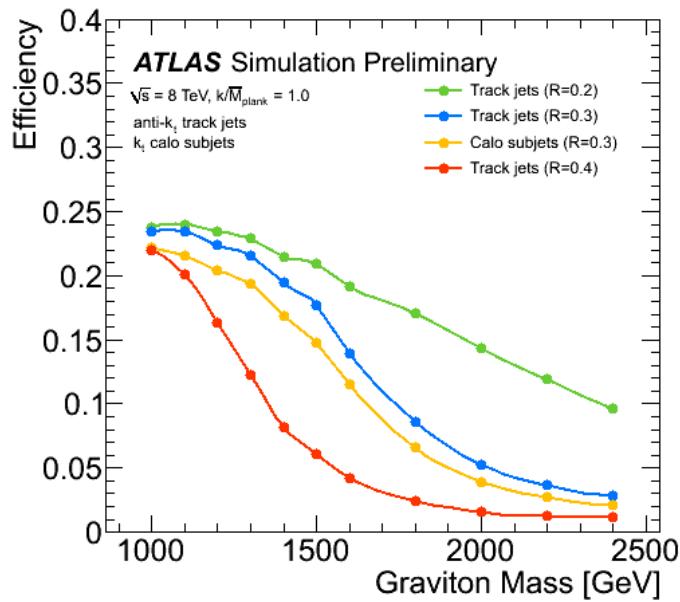


Figure 7.6: Efficiency of finding two b -jets from each Higgs in an RSG event using calorimeter jets with $R = 0.3$ or
2308 different track jet radii [107]

2309 are required to have $p_T > 10$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$. They must also have at least two tracks.

2310 7.4.3 MUONS

2311 Muons are used in this study to correct the four-momenta of calorimeter jets by accounting for semi-
2312 leptonic b decays. The muons used are combined ID and MS muons which must satisfy tight identification
2313 requirements [54]. The muons must have $p_T > 4 \text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta| < 2.5$. Table 7.1 summarizes the object
2314 requirements described in this section.

	R	p_T	$ \eta $	M
Calorimeter jets	1.0	$250 < p_T < 1500 \text{ GeV}$	< 2.0	$> 50 \text{ GeV}$
Track jets	0.2	$> 10 \text{ GeV}$	< 2.5	-
Muons	-	4 GeV	< 2.5	-

Table 7.1: Summary of requirements on objects used in the $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ search

2315 7.5 EVENT SELECTION

2316 The first requirement in the boosted selection is for ≥ 2 large radius jets satisfying the selections out-
2317 lined above. The two highest momentum large-R jets in the event are referred to as “Higgs candidates”.
2318 The leading jet is required to have $p_T > 350 \text{ GeV}$.

2319 Track jets satisfying the object selections are matched to Higgs candidate jets via ghost association [108].
2320 Each Higgs candidate must have at least 2 track jets associated with it. These basic requirements are illus-
2321 trated in figure 7.7.

2322 The QCD multijet background produces less central jets than high mass resonances, so there is an ad-
2323 dditional requirement that the two Higgs candidates be close together in η . The large-R jets are required to
2324 satisfy $|\Delta\eta(JJ)| < 1.7$.

2325 7.5.1 MASS REQUIREMENTS

2326 The final set of requirements ensures that the Higgs candidates are consistent with expected properties
2327 of the 125.0 GeV Higgs. First, a variable (X_{hh}) is defined to measure the consistency of both of the Higgs

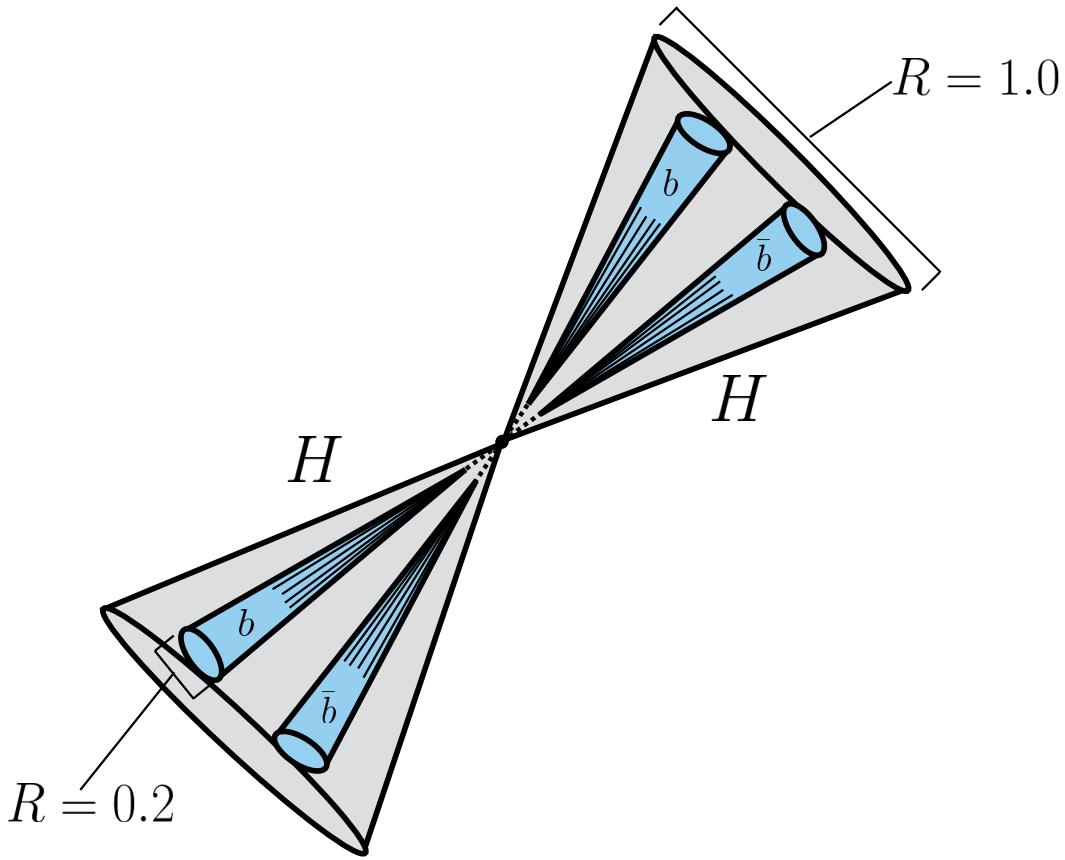


Figure 7.7: Illustration of the boosted selection requirements on Higgs candidates. Each large-radius calorimeter jet (Higgs candidate) must contain two track jets

²³²⁸ candidate jets with the SM Higgs mass. This is shown in equation 7.2.

$$X_{hh} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{M_J^{\text{lead}} - 124 \text{ GeV}}{0.1 M_J^{\text{lead}}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{M_J^{\text{sublead}} - 115 \text{ GeV}}{0.1 M_J^{\text{sublead}}}\right)^2} \quad (7.2)$$

²³²⁹ The mass values in the X_{hh} formula are optimized to maximize signal efficiency. The sub-leading jet
²³³⁰ typically has a lower mass due to semi-leptonic b decays and final state radiation. X_{hh} effectively acts as
²³³¹ a χ^2 measurement of the consistency of the two Higgs candidate masses with the signal hypothesis. The
²³³² denominators of each term ($0.1M$) give the uncertainty on the mass measurement for the large radius jets.
²³³³ Events are required to satisfy $X_{hh} < 1.6$.

²³³⁴ Before making the requirement on X_{hh} , the masses of the Higgs candidates are corrected for semi-

leptonic b decays using muons with the criteria outlined in the previous section. Any muons within a $\Delta R < 0.2$ of a b -tagged track jet (as described in the next section) have their four-momenta added to the four-momentum of the Higgs candidate. This correction does not affect the pre-selection requirements but does affect the X_{hh} requirement and the final invariant mass distribution used.

7.5.2 b -TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

The last requirement applied is on the number of b -tagged track jets. There are two signal regions defined. The first requires exactly four b -tagged track jets, two in each Higgs candidate (known as the $4b$ signal region). At high resonance masses, this requirement is inefficient, so an additional signal region requiring only three b -tagged track jets is also defined (known as the $3b$ signal region). While this has a larger background it is also more efficient for high resonance masses. For both signal regions, the MV2c20 algorithm, where the training sample for the algorithm has 20% charm events is used. More details for this algorithm can be found in Chapter 2.

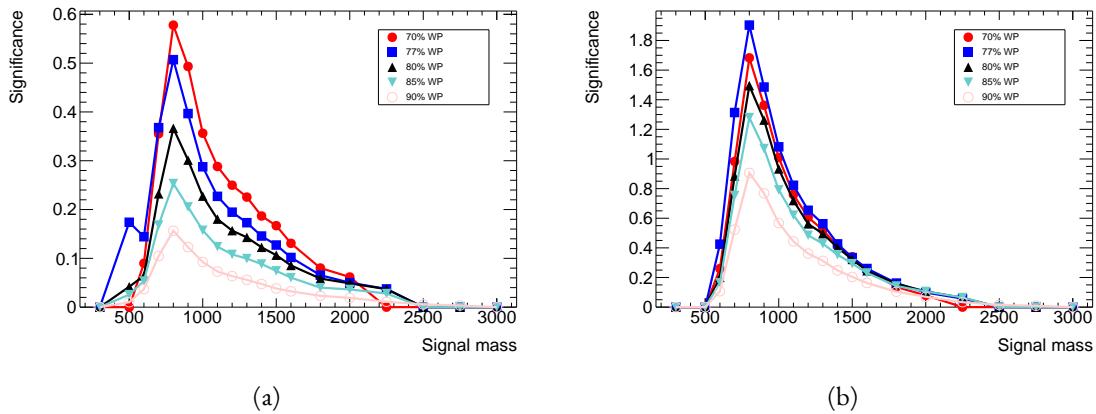


Figure 7.8: Estimated significance as a function of signal mass for RSG $c = 1$ models in the $3b$ (a) and $4b$ (b) regions for different b -tagging efficiency working points

Once the algorithm is selected, an efficiency working point must also be chosen. This working point defines the efficiency with which true b -jets are tagged and also fixes the overall background rejection of the algorithm. Higher efficiency working points accept more true b -jets but also allow for more background. Five different working points (70%, 77%, 80%, 85%, 90%) are tested. With each working point, the full data driven background estimation method is run to quantify the amount of background that will be

present in the final signal region. The significance is quantified using the median discovery significance for signal and background with Poisson errors, given in equation 7.3 [109].

$$Z = \sqrt{2 \left((s + b) \ln \left(1 + \frac{s}{b} \right) - s \right)} \quad (7.3)$$

Here, s is the expected number of signal events and b is the expected number of background events. This formula is derived using Poisson statistics with errors on both the signal and background. It is used because it is valid in the regime where s and b are of the same order. Note that in the limit where s is much smaller than b , this equation reduces to the more well known s/\sqrt{b} . Figure 7.8 shows the estimated significance as a function of signal mass in RSG $c = 1$ models for the $3b$ and $4b$ signal regions. The 77% working point gives the best performance over a wide range of masses in the $4b$ signal region. As this is the region which contributes the most to the total discovery significance, the 77% efficiency working point is chosen for the analysis.

7.5.3 SELECTION EFFICIENCY

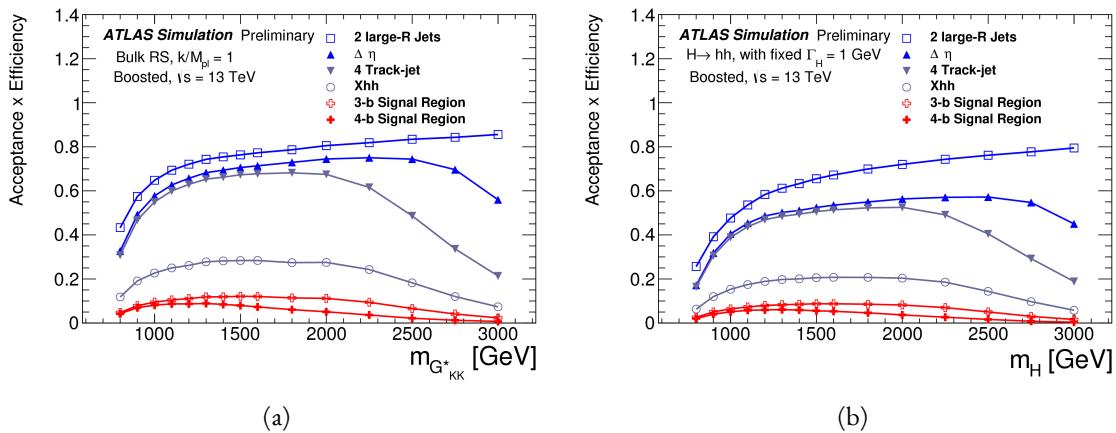


Figure 7.9: Acceptance \times efficiency as a function of mass for (a) RSG and (b) narrow heavy scalar signal models [110].

Figure 7.9 shows the product of acceptance and efficiency as a function of mass for both the RSG and narrow heavy scalar resonance signal models. After $m_X > 1$ TeV, the efficiency of the $4b$ requirement begins to decline. After $m_X > 2$ TeV, the efficiency of requiring two track jets in each Higgs candidate

begins to decline as well. Both of these behaviors illustrate the difficulty of resolving the merged decay products at high mass. Figure 7.10 shows a more detailed comparison of the signal efficiency in the $3b$ vs $4b$ signal regions for the RSG model. The efficiencies shown here are relative to all prior selection requirements. It can be seen there that at high masses the $3b$ signal region is more efficient for signal.

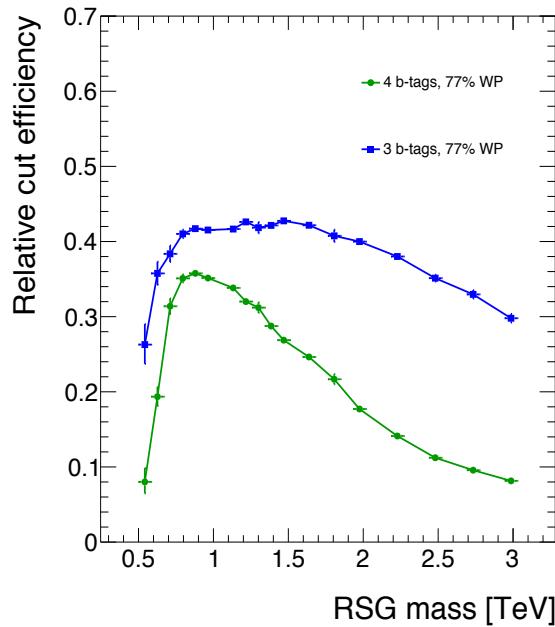


Figure 7.10: Efficiency of requiring 3 or 4 b -tagged track jets vs. RSG mass. The efficiency quoted is relative to the previous selection requirements (rather than an absolute efficiency).

To investigate the degradation of b -tagging efficiency at high p_T , the individual jet tagging efficiencies can be compared as a function of signal mass. This is shown in figure 7.11. The figure shows that the leading jet tagging efficiency in both calorimeter jets degrades heavily, while the sub-lead jet tagging efficiency remains relatively constant. More details on the cause of this degradation are shown in appendix A.

The final discriminating variable used in the boosted analysis is M_{2J} , the invariant mass of the two Higgs candidates. In order to improve the mass resolution, the four-momenta of each Higgs candidate are scaled by m_h/M_J . The effect of this correction is small in the boosted analysis but is done for consistency with the resolved selection. Table 7.2 shows the effect of the selection requirements on signal and background simulations as well as data.

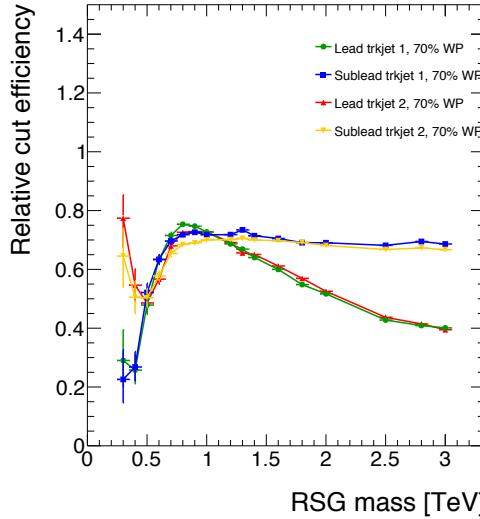


Figure 7.11: MV2c20 b -tagging efficiency for each of the four track jets in the boosted $4b$ selection as a function of RSG mass for $c = 1$ models.

Selection	Data	$m_{G_{KK}^*} = 1\text{TeV}$	$m_{G_{KK}^*} = 2\text{TeV}$	$t\bar{t}$	$Z + \text{jets}$
$N(\text{fiducial large-R jets}) \geq 2$	2202396	23.3	0.48	32345.2	4255.7
leading large-R jet $p_T > 350\text{ GeV}$	1873741	22.9	0.48	26511.7	3649.9
Both large-R jet $m > 50\text{ GeV}$	1854625	21.2	0.47	24369.8	3575.8
Both large-R jet $p_T < 1500\text{ GeV}$	1853601	21.2	0.46	24346.5	3572.9
$ \Delta\eta(JJ) < 1.7$	1435273	20.8	0.44	20751.0	3265.8
≥ 2 track-jets per large-R jet	1224727	19.8	0.40	18234.5	2692.6
3 b -tags, $X_{hh} < 1.6$	316	3.4	0.067	46.7	2.0
4 b -tags, $X_{hh} < 1.6$	20	2.9	0.030	1.4	0.0

Table 7.2: Effect of boosted selection on data, RSG signal models, $t\bar{t}$, and $Z + \text{jets}$. The numbers from simulation are normalized with the MC generator cross section and do not take into account the data driven estimates described in section 7.6 [III].

2379 7.6 DATA-DRIVEN BACKGROUND ESTIMATION

2380 The largest background to this final state is QCD multijet production, constituting 80-90% of the to-
 2381 total background. Because of the difficulties in modeling higher order QCD processes, this background is
 2382 estimated with a fully data-driven method. The only other non-negligible background is $t\bar{t}$, constituting
 2383 the other 10-20%⁴. Due to the presence of $t\bar{t}$ in the sideband region where the QCD background will be

⁴The $Z + \text{jets}$ background is a sub-percent level contribution

2384 estimated, the normalization of the QCD and $t\bar{t}$ backgrounds are simultaneously estimated.

2385 **7.6.1 MASS REGION DEFINITIONS**

2386 The first step in the data-driven background estimate is to define a sideband mass region where the
2387 background normalization can be derived. Additionally, a control region is defined where the background
2388 estimate can be validated. The control (CR) and sideband (SB) regions are defined using a radial distance
2389 in the two-dimensional large-R jet mass plane, R_{hh} , which is defined in equation 7.4.

$$R_{hh} = \sqrt{(M_J^{\text{lead}} - 124 \text{ GeV})^2 + (M_J^{\text{sublead}} - 115 \text{ GeV})^2} \quad (7.4)$$

2390 Events in the sideband region are required to fail the signal region $X_{hh} < 1.6$ requirement and have
2391 $R_{hh} > 35.8 \text{ GeV}$. The control region consists of those events which are not in the signal or sideband
regions. Figure 7.12 shows the definition of the signal, control, and sideband mass regions. Table 7.3 sum-

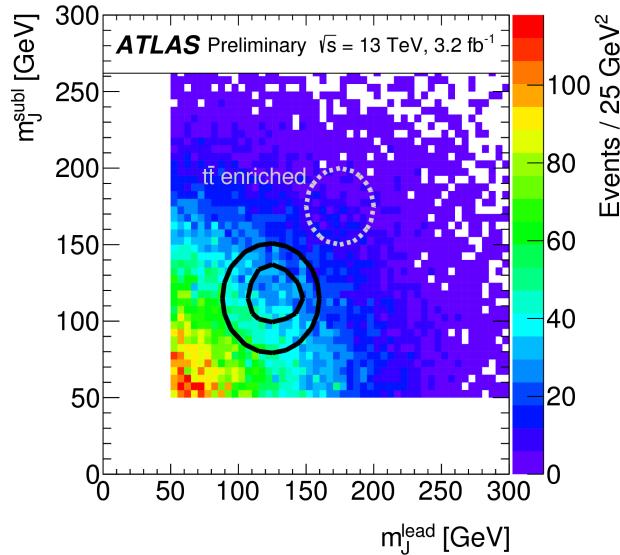


Figure 7.12: M_J^{sublead} vs. M_J^{lead} in a 2 b -tag data sample. The signal region is defined by the inner black contour ($X_{hh} < 1.6$) and the sideband region is defined by the outer contour ($R_{hh} > 35.8 \text{ GeV}$). The region between the black contours is the control region. The mass region which is enriched in $t\bar{t}$ background is also shown for illustration. [110]

2392

2393 summarizes the mass region selections for the three different regions used in the analysis.

Region	Requirement	Notes
Signal Region (SR)	$X_{hh} < 1.6$	-
Control Region (CR)	$R_{hh} < 35.8 \text{ GeV}$ and $X_{hh} > 1.6$	Used for validation of background estimates
Sideband Region (SB)	$R_{hh} > 35.8 \text{ GeV}$	Used to derive background normalization

Table 7.3: Mass region definitions used for background estimation

2394 7.6.2 BACKGROUND ESTIMATION

2395 The method for estimating the background in this analysis is similar to the ABCD method presented in
 2396 Chapter 5. In this case, the two handles used to define different regions for the estimate are the number of
 2397 b -tagged track jets and the mass regions. A region requiring exactly two b -tagged track jets in one large-R
 2398 jet (referred to as the 2-tag or $2b$ region) is defined for use in the background estimate. The number of
 2399 expected background events in the $3b$ and $4b$ signal regions is then given by equation 7.5.

$$N_{\text{bkg}}^{3(4)-\text{tag},\text{SR}} = \mu_{\text{Multijet}} N_{\text{Multijet}}^{2-\text{tag},\text{SR}} + \beta_{t\bar{t}} N_{t\bar{t}}^{3(4)-\text{tag},\text{SR}} + N_{Z+\text{jets}}^{3(4)-\text{tag},\text{SR}} \quad (7.5)$$

2400 In this equation, $N_{\text{bkg}}^{3(4)-\text{tag}}$ is the expected number of background events in the $3b$ or $4b$ signal regions.
 2401 $N_{\text{Multijet}}^{2-\text{tag}}$ is the number of multijet events in the 2-tag region. $N_{t\bar{t}}^{3(4)-\text{tag}}$ is the number of $t\bar{t}$ events pre-
 2402 dicted in the MC for the $3b$ or $4b$ signal region, and the variable is similarly defined for the $Z+\text{jets}$ back-
 2403 ground. The $\beta_{t\bar{t}}$ parameter is a scale factor used to correct the normalization of the $t\bar{t}$ estimate in the signal
 2404 region. μ_{Multijet} is an extrapolation factor that is derived in the sideband region and used to estimate the
 2405 ratio of 2-tag events to 3(4)-tag events in the signal region. It is defined in equation 7.6.

$$\mu_{\text{Multijet}} = \frac{N_{\text{Multijet}}^{3(4)-\text{tag},\text{SB}}}{N_{\text{Multijet}}^{2-\text{tag},\text{SB}}} = \frac{N_{\text{data}}^{3(4)-\text{tag},\text{SB}} - \beta_{t\bar{t}} N_{t\bar{t}}^{3(4)-\text{tag},\text{SB}} - N_{Z+\text{jets}}^{3(4)-\text{tag},\text{SB}}}{N_{\text{data}}^{2-\text{tag},\text{SB}} - \beta_{t\bar{t}} N_{t\bar{t}}^{2-\text{tag},\text{SB}} - N_{Z+\text{jets}}^{2-\text{tag},\text{SB}}} \quad (7.6)$$

2406 The $t\bar{t}$ scale factor ($\beta_{t\bar{t}}$) and the QCD multijet extrapolation factor (μ_{Multijet}) are estimated together in
 2407 a simultaneous fit in the sideband region. Then, the number of events in the 2-tag signal region is used,
 2408 along with the $t\bar{t}$ estimate in the $3b$ and $4b$ signal regions and μ_{Multijet} , to estimate the total number
 2409 of background events in the two final signal regions. The shape of the final discriminant M_{2J} is also

²⁴¹⁰ taken from the 2-tag signal region where there are more statistics. This method is illustrated graphically in
²⁴¹¹ figure 7.13.

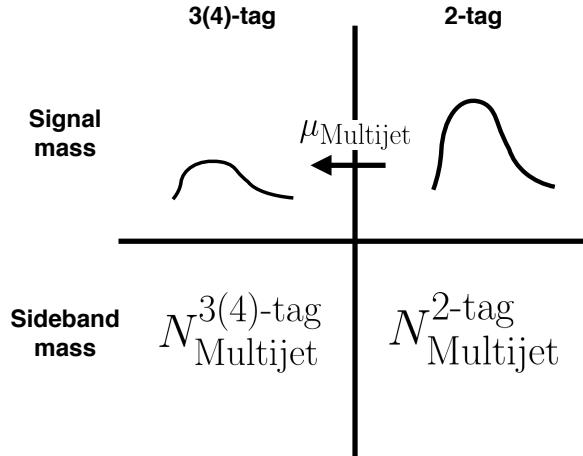


Figure 7.13: An illustration of the data-driven background estimation technique for the boosted analysis

²⁴¹² In the $3b$ region, the fit yields values of $\mu_{\text{Multijet}} = 0.160 \pm 0.03$ and $\beta_{t\bar{t}} = 1.02 \pm 0.09$. In the $4b$
²⁴¹³ region, the fit gives $\mu_{\text{Multijet}} = 0.0091 \pm 0.0007$ and $\beta_{t\bar{t}} = 0.82 \pm 0.39$. The uncertainties quoted are
²⁴¹⁴ statistical only. The larger uncertainties in the $4b$ values indicate the lower statistics available in that region.

²⁴¹⁵ Figure 7.14 shows the distributions of data and background estimates in the $3b$ and $4b$ sideband regions
²⁴¹⁶ after the background fit has been done. The normalizations are constrained from the fit to match that of
²⁴¹⁷ the data, but good modeling of the shape of the mass of the leading large-R jet is seen as well. The shapes
²⁴¹⁸ of the kinematic distributions in the $4b$ region are taken from the $3b$ region due to the better MC statistics
²⁴¹⁹ in that region.

²⁴²⁰ 7.6.3 BACKGROUND SHAPE FIT

²⁴²¹ As mentioned in the previous section, the background shape in the 3-tag and 4-tag signal regions is
²⁴²² taken from the 2-tag signal mass region. Due to the limited statistics available, the background shapes are
²⁴²³ additionally smoothed after being extrapolated to the 3-tag and 4-tag signal regions. Only the data in the
²⁴²⁴ range $900 < M_{2J} < 2000$ GeV is included in the fit due to the limited statistics available above 2 TeV.
²⁴²⁵ Both the $t\bar{t}$ and QCD multijet background are independently fit with an exponential shape, $y = e^{ax+b}$.

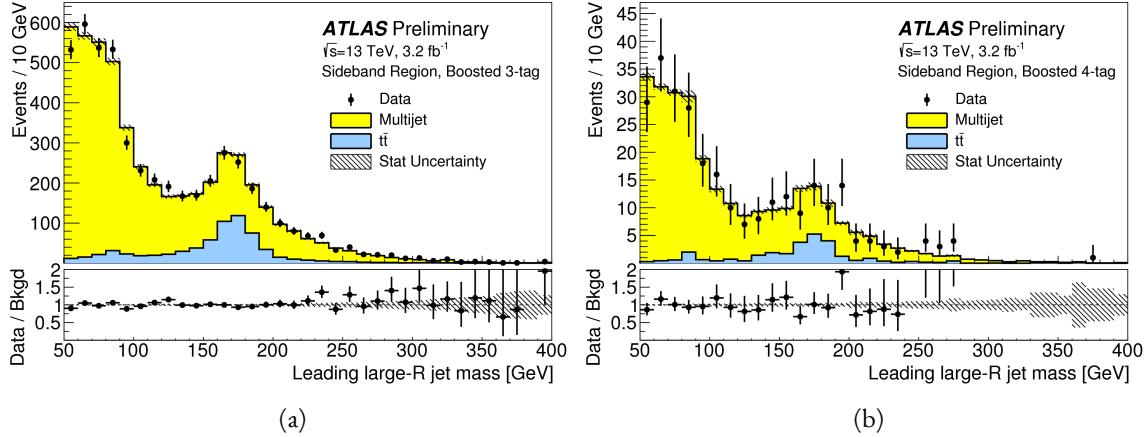


Figure 7.14: Leading large-R jet mass in the 3b (a) and 4b (b) sideband regions. The multijet and $t\bar{t}$ backgrounds are estimated using the data-driven methods described above. Because their normalizations are derived in the sideband region, the total background normalization is constrained by default to match the normalization of the data [110].

2426 Other shapes are considered and used for the systematic uncertainties. Table 7.4 shows the fit values for
 2427 the parameters. Because both the 3b and 4b QCD shapes come from the 2-tag region, the slopes derived
 2428 are very similar.

	a	b
QCD (4b)	0.00545 ± 0.00021	5.44 ± 0.24
$t\bar{t}$ (4b)	0.00746 ± 0.00021	4.88 ± 0.36
QCD (3b)	0.00545 ± 0.00021	8.30 ± 0.24
$t\bar{t}$ (3b)	0.00746 ± 0.00021	8.58 ± 0.36

Table 7.4: Parameters derived for exponential fit to background M_{2J} shape in the 3b and 4b signal regions [111]

2429 7.6.4 VALIDATION OF BACKGROUND ESTIMATE

2430 The background estimate can be validated by using the method to estimate the number of events in the
 2431 control mass region rather than the signal mass region. Figure 7.15 shows the M_{2J} distribution in the 3b
 2432 and 4b control regions, comparing data and background estimates. In both cases, both the background
 2433 shape and normalization are consistent with the data, indicating good agreement. The ratio of data to the
 2434 background estimates is also fit to a line in the figure to test for any shape difference. The slope of the
 2435 line is within 1σ (from the fit uncertainties) of flat, further indicating that the data is consistent with the
 2436 background estimate in the control region.

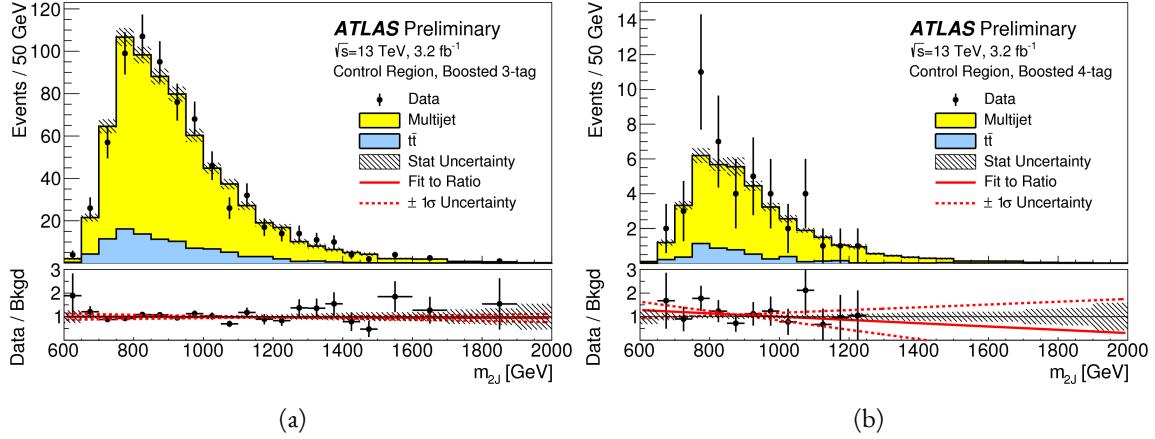


Figure 7.15: Di-jet invariant mass (M_{2J}) in the 3b (a) and 4b (b) control regions. The multijet and $t\bar{t}$ backgrounds are estimated using the data-driven methods described above [110].

Table 7.5 shows the yields in data and background estimates in the 3-tag and 4-tag sideband and control regions. Again, here, it can be seen that the total number of predicted background events from the data driven method is consistent with the number of data events in the region.

Sample (3-tag)	Sideband Region	Control Region
Multijet	4328 ± 27	607 ± 10
$t\bar{t}$	683.5 ± 8.1	99.6 ± 3.1
Z+jets	31.8 ± 3.7	7.7 ± 1.8
Total	5043 ± 28	715 ± 11
Data	5043	724
Sample (4-tag)	Sideband Region	Control Region
Multijet	247.4 ± 1.5	34.7 ± 0.6
$t\bar{t}$	28.4 ± 1.5	5.1 ± 0.7
Z+jets	3.4 ± 1.2	0.6 ± 0.5
Total	279.2 ± 2.5	40.3 ± 1.0
Data	279	45

Table 7.5: The number of events in data and predicted background events in the boosted 3-tag and 4-tag sideband and control regions. The uncertainties shown are statistical only. [110]

2440 7.7 SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

2441 The systematic uncertainties in this analysis can be divided into two broad categories. The first type
2442 is uncertainties associated with the modeling of the signal processes. The second type of uncertainty is
2443 associated with both the shape and normalization of the background prediction.

2444 7.7.1 SIGNAL MODELING UNCERTAINTIES

2445 The signal modeling uncertainty has three main components: theoretical uncertainty on the acceptance,
2446 experimental uncertainties on the large-R jets, and experimental uncertainties on the track jets related to
2447 b -tagging. In this analysis the experimental uncertainties are the most significant.

2448 The first uncertainty on signal modeling is the theoretical uncertainty on the acceptance. As explained
2449 in section 5.6.1, there are four components to this uncertainty. The first is related to missing higher order
2450 terms from the matrix element calculations which is estimated by varying the QCD renormalization and
2451 factorization scales. The second is uncertainty due to the PDF set used. The third is a generator uncer-
2452 tainty which is estimated by modifying the generator used to model the underlying event and hadroniza-
2453 tion. Finally, there is an uncertainty associated with the modeling of the initial state and final state radia-
2454 tion (ISR/FSR). The total theoretical uncertainty on the signal yield is 3%, and this is dominated by the
2455 ISR/FSR modeling.

2456 There are uncertainties on the large-R jets in both the jet energy scale (JES) and jet energy resolution
2457 (JER) as well as the jet mass scale (JMS) and jet mass resolution (JMR). These are evaluated using $\sqrt{s} =$
2458 8 TeV data from Run 1 of ATLAS and extrapolated to the Run 2 beam and detector conditions using
2459 MC^s. The details of these uncertainties can be found in reference [112].

2460 Uncertainties on the track jets are related to the b -tagging efficiency. The total uncertainty on the signal
2461 yield due to b -tagging is evaluated by propagating variations of the b -tagging efficiency through the boosted
2462 selection requirements. The uncertainties are calculated jet-by-jet and parameterized as a function of b -jet
2463 p_T and η [90]. For high p_T b -jets (with $p_T > 300$ GeV), the uncertainties are extrapolated using MC
2464 simulation from the lower p_T b -jets [113].

^sThe uncertainties are correspondingly larger due to the uncertainty of this extrapolation.

2465 Table 7.6 shows the systematic uncertainties on the signal normalization for models with $m_{G_{\text{KK}}^*} =$
2466 1.5 TeV and both $c = 1$ and $c = 2$ as well as a narrow width heavy scalar. The dominant uncertainty
2467 comes from b -tagging and this uncertainty is larger in the 4-tag region than the 3-tag region.

Source	Background	G_{KK}^*		H
		$c = 1$	$c = 2$	
Luminosity	-	5.0	5.0	5.0
3-tag				
JER	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1
JES	2	< 1	< 1	< 1
JMR	1	12	12	11
JMS	5	14	13	17
b -tagging	1	23	22	23
Theoretical	-	3	3	3
Multijet Normalization	3	-	-	-
Statistical	2	1	1	1
Total	7	31	30	33
4-tag				
JER	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1
JES	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1
JMR	4	12	13	13
JMS	5	13	13	14
b -tagging	2	36	36	36
Theoretical	-	3	3	3
Multijet Normalization	14	-	-	-
Statistical	3	1	1	1
Total	15	42	42	43

Table 7.6: Summary of systematic uncertainties in the total background and signal event yields (expressed in %) in the boosted 3-tag and 4-tag signal regions. Systematic uncertainties on the signal normalization are shown for models with $m_{G_{\text{KK}}^*} = 1.5$ TeV and both $c = 1$ and $c = 2$ as well as a narrow width heavy scalar.

2468 7.7.2 BACKGROUND UNCERTAINTIES

2469 Uncertainties on the QCD multijet background normalization and shape are estimated using the con-
2470 trol mass region. As shown previously, the background predictions in the control region match with the

2471 data yields within the statistical uncertainty in both the 3-tag and 4-tag control regions. As an additional
2472 protection, the statistical uncertainty on the background prediction in the control region is assigned as a
2473 systematic uncertainty on the normalization of the QCD background.

2474 Additional robustness tests are done by varying the definition of the control mass region and the b -
2475 tagging requirements used to define the 2-tag sample. In all cases, the effect of the variations is found to be
2476 within the statistical uncertainties on the background normalization in the control region.

2477 Shape uncertainties on the background are evaluated using two techniques. First, as shown in fig-
2478 ure 7.15, the ratio between the data and background prediction is fit with a linear function. The uncer-
2479 tainties on the slope of this fit are assigned as shape uncertainties. An additional uncertainty is assigned by
2480 using alternate power law fit functions for the smoothing of the background shape. Table 7.7 shows the
2481 alternate shapes used. The largest difference between the nominal fit function and the alternates, taking
2482 into account the 1σ uncertainty band on each fit as well, is taken as a shape uncertainty.

Functional Form
$f_1(x) = p_0(1 - x)^{p_1}x^{p_2}$
$f_2(x) = p_0(1 - x)^{p_1}e^{p_2 x^2}$
$f_3(x) = p_0(1 - x)^{p_1}x^{p_2}x$
$f_4(x) = p_0(1 - x)^{p_1}x^{p_2} \ln x$
$f_5(x) = p_0(1 - x)^{p_1}(1 + x)^{p_2}x$
$f_6(x) = p_0(1 - x)^{p_1}(1 + x)^{p_2} \ln x$
$f_7(x) = \frac{p_0}{x}(1 - x)^{p_1-p_2} \ln x$
$f_8(x) = \frac{p_0}{x^2}(1 - x)^{p_1-p_2} \ln x$

Table 7.7: Alternate fit functions used to model the M_{2J} distribution in the QCD multijet background. In the equations, $x = M_{2J}/\sqrt{s}$.

2483 The uncertainties on the $t\bar{t}$ background are obtained by propagating the various experimental variations
2484 (JES, JER, JMS, JMR, b -tagging) through the analysis selection requirements. Table 7.6 summarizes the
2485 background uncertainties in the 3-tag and 4-tag regions.

2486 7.8 RESULTS

2487 Table 7.8 shows the observed yields in the 3-tag and 4-tag signal regions for the boosted analysis com-
 2488 pared to the predicted number of background events. In the 3-tag region, 316 events are observed with
 2489 a predicted background of 285 ± 19 . In the 4-tag region, 20 events are observed with a predicted back-
 2490 ground of 14.6 ± 2.4 . Figure 7.16 shows the M_{2J} distribution in the 3-tag and 4-tag regions. There are
 2491 some small excesses in the data, in particular in the 3-tag region around $M_{2J} \approx 900$ GeV and in the region
 2492 of $1.6 < M_{2J} < 2.0$ TeV. The significance of these excesses will be evaluated in the next chapter in the
 2493 statistical combination with the resolved results.

Sample	Signal Region (3-tag)	Signal Region (4-tag)
Multijet	235 ± 14	13.5 ± 2.4
$t\bar{t}$	48 ± 22	1.2 ± 1.0
$Z + \text{jets}$	2.0 ± 2.2	-
Total	285 ± 19	14.6 ± 2.4
Data	316	20
G_{KK}^* (1000 GeV), $c = 1$	3.4 ± 0.9	2.9 ± 1.1

Table 7.8: Observed yields in the 3-tag and 4-tag signal regions for the boosted analysis compared to the predicted number of background events Errors correspond to the total uncertainties in the predicted event yields. The yields for a graviton with $m_{G_{\text{KK}}^*} = 1$ TeV and $c = 1$ are also shown. [110]

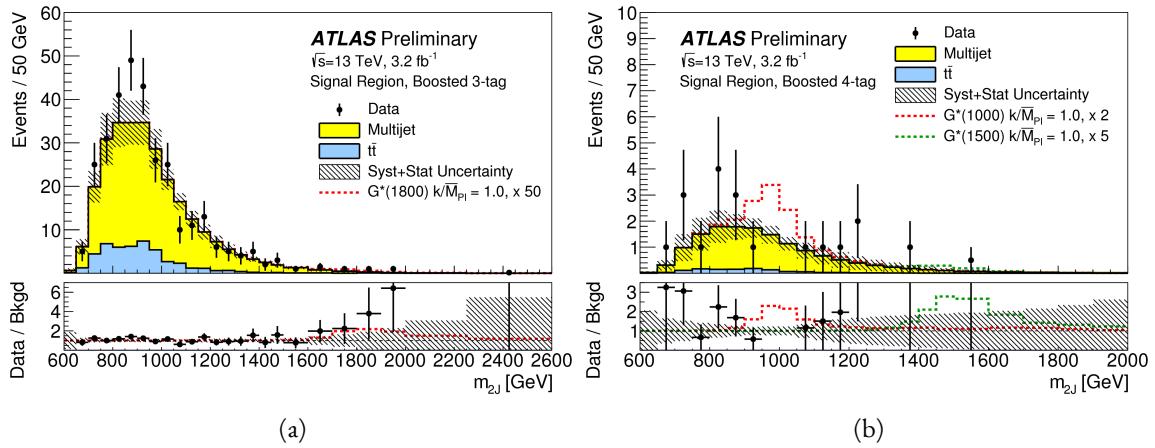


Figure 7.16: Di-jet invariant mass (M_{2J}) in the $3b$ (a) and $4b$ (b) signal regions. The multijet and $t\bar{t}$ backgrounds are estimated using the data-driven methods described above. In the $3b$ region, a graviton signal with $m_{G_{KK}^*} = 1.8 \text{ TeV}$ and $c = 1$ is overlaid, with the cross section multiplied by a factor of 50 so that the signal is visible. In the $4b$ region, signals with $m_{G_{KK}^*} = 1.0 \text{ TeV}$ and $m_{G_{KK}^*} = 1.5 \text{ TeV}$ are overlaid, both with $c = 1$ and the yields multiplied by factors of 2 and 5 respectively [110].

*There is no real ending. It's just the place where you stop
the story.*

Frank Herbert

8

2494

2495

Combined limits from boosted and resolved searches

2496

2497

8.1 INTRODUCTION

2498 In order to cover the full mass range of possible resonances decaying to di-Higgs final states, two distinct
2499 tailored selections were produced. The resolved selection is more sensitive in the mass range of $400 < m_X < 1100$ GeV while the boosted selection is more sensitive to masses in the range $1100 < m_X <$
2500 3000 GeV. Chapter 7 presents the details of the boosted selection and results. In setting limits on spin-2
2501 Randall-Sundrum graviton (RSG) and narrow width heavy scalar (H) models, the results of the boosted
2502 selection are combined with the results of the resolved selection to cover the full mass range.
2503

2504 This chapter presents limits on signal models resulting from the $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ search in both
2505 the resolved and boosted selections. It first presents a brief overview of the resolved results that go into

2506 the limit setting. Then, an overview of the statistical methods used for the search and limit setting is given.
 2507 Finally, limits on the RSG and heavy scalar models are presented.

2508 **8.2 RESOLVED RESULTS**

2509 The details of the resolved selection will not be presented here and can be found in reference [110]. In
 2510 basic terms, the selection searches for four $R = 0.4$ b-tagged calorimeter jets (where each pair of jets is
 2511 one Higgs candidate). This is distinct from the boosted methodology which searches for merged decay
 2512 products. The backgrounds to the resolved selection are the same as those presented in Chapter 7 for the
 2513 boosted analysis.

2514 Table 8.1 shows the results for data yields and expected background in the resolved signal region. Fig-
 2515 ure 8.1 shows the M_{2J} distribution in the resolved signal region. The total number of events is consistent
 2516 with the prediction and no significant excess is seen. One event in the boosted 4-tag signal is shared with
 2517 the resolved signal region and has a mass of 852 GeV.

Sample	Signal Region Yield
Multijet	43.3 ± 2.3
$t\bar{t}$	4.3 ± 3.0
$Z + \text{jets}$	-
Total	47.6 ± 3.8
Data	46
SM hh	0.25 ± 0.07
$G_{\text{KK}}^*(800 \text{ GeV}), c = 1$	5.7 ± 1.5

Table 8.1: Observed yields in the resolve selection 4-tag signal region compared to the predicted number of background events Errors correspond to the total uncertainties in the predicted event yields. The yields for a graviton with $m_{G_{\text{KK}}^*} = 800$ GeV and $c = 1$ are also shown. [110]

2518 **8.3 SEARCH TECHNIQUE AND RESULTS**

2519 The statistical technique used for the search in this analysis is the same as that used in the $H \rightarrow WW^*$
 2520 analysis presented in section 3.6.2. The test statistic q_0 is used to define the p -values which measure the

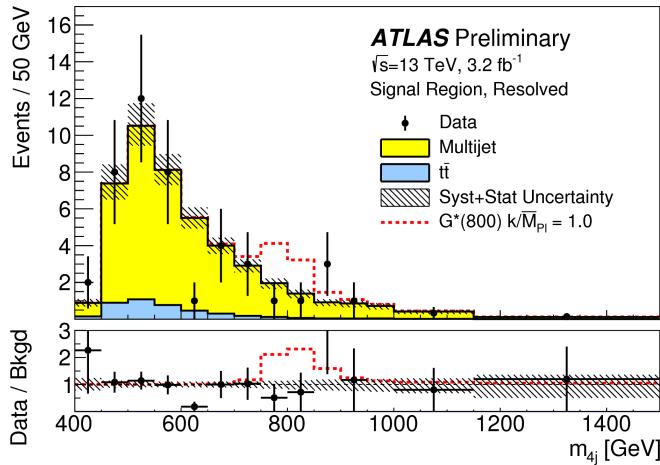


Figure 8.1: Di-jet invariant mass (M_{2J}) in the resolved signal region. A graviton signal with $m_{G_{KK}^*} = 800 \text{ GeV}$ and $c = 1$ is overlaid. [110].

compatibility of the data with the background-only hypothesis corresponding to a signal strength $\mu = 0$.

Local p_0 values are computed to quantify the probability that the background could produce a fluctuation greater than or equal to the one observed in the data. In the resolved analysis, no significant excesses are observed. The largest discrepancy with respect to the background only hypothesis occurs near a resonance mass of 900 GeV and is found to be less than 2σ in significance.

In the boosted selection, the largest local excess is a broad excess in the $3b$ signal region that begins near $M_{2J} \approx 1.7 \text{ GeV}$. Assuming a G_{KK}^* with this mass and $c = 1.0$, the local significance of this excess is 2.0σ .

8.4 LIMIT SETTING

In the absence of any significant excess observed in the data, limits on different signal models can be set. This section describes the limit setting procedure and presents combined results of the resolved and boosted analyses.

8.4.1 LIMIT SETTING PROCEDURE

The procedure used for setting exclusion limits in this analysis is the CL_s method [114]. The first step in setting the limits is to define a test statistic which will be used. For limit setting, the test statistic is shown

2536 in equation 8.1.

$$\tilde{q}_\mu = \begin{cases} -2 \ln \frac{L(\mu, \hat{\theta}(\mu))}{L(0, \hat{\theta}(0))} & \hat{\mu} < 0 \\ -2 \ln \frac{L(\mu, \hat{\theta}(\mu))}{L(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta})} & 0 \leq \hat{\mu} < \mu \\ 0 & \hat{\mu} > \mu \end{cases} \quad (8.1)$$

2537 In the above equation, μ is the value of the signal strength under test, $\hat{\mu}$ is the best fit μ , $\hat{\theta}$ is the
2538 best fit value of the nuisance parameters, $\hat{\theta}$ is the best fit value of the nuisance parameters under the fixed
2539 μ value, and L is the Poisson likelihood of the data (as described in section 3.6.2).

2540 The test statistic \tilde{q}_μ is constructed to protect against two interesting corner cases when setting the upper
2541 limit on the cross section. First, it protects against negative signal strengths μ which are unphysical. Second,
2542 it does not count excesses in the data larger than those expected by a signal strength μ as evidence against
2543 the μ hypothesis.

2544 The CL_s statistic is constructed by taking a ratio of two probabilities. CL_{s+b} is the probability that the
2545 signal+background hypothesis would produce a value of the test statistic that is less than or equal to the
2546 observed value¹. CL_b is the probability that the background only hypothesis will produce a value
2547 of the test statistics less than or equal to the observed. The CL_s statistic is then the ratio CL_{s+b}/CL_b . A
2548 95% upper limit on the cross section is set at the value of μ that makes the CL_s statistic less than 5%.

2549 In practice, the limits are computed numerically within an asymptotic approximation for the distribu-
2550 tion of the test statistic \tilde{q}_μ . The details of this approximation can be found in reference [65].

2551 The resolved and boosted analyses are combined using a very simple procedure rather than a full statis-
2552 tical combination. For each mass point tested, the limit which gives the most stringent constraint is used.
2553 This means that for mass points below 1.1 TeV the resolved signal region is used, while at and above this
2554 point the combination of the orthogonal 3b and 4b boosted signal regions is used.

2555 8.4.2 LIMIT SETTING RESULTS

2556 Figure 8.2 shows the combined 95% upper bounds as a function of mass for three different models:
2557 G_{KK}^* with $c = 1$, G_{KK}^* with $c = 2$, and a narrow heavy scalar H .

¹Lower values of \tilde{q}_μ mean better compatibility

2558 The cross section of $\sigma(pp \rightarrow G_{\text{KK}}^* \rightarrow hh \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b})$ with $c = 1$ is constrained to be less than 70 fb
2559 for masses in the range $600 < m_{G_{\text{KK}}^*} < 3000$ GeV. For the RSG model with $c = 2$, cross sections limits
2560 between 40 fb and 200 fb are set for the mass range of $500 < m_{G_{\text{KK}}^*} < 3000$ GeV. Masses in the range
2561 of $475 < m_{G_{\text{KK}}^*} < 785$ GeV are excluded with $c = 1$ (with an exclusion of the range 465 to 745 GeV
2562 expected). Masses less than 980 GeV are excluded with $c = 2$ (with an exclusion for masses less than
2563 1 TeV expected).

2564 In the heavy Higgs model, the cross section upper limits for $\sigma(pp \rightarrow H \rightarrow hh \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b})$ ranges from
2565 30 to 300 fb in the mass range of $500 < m_H < 3000$ GeV. The resolved analysis can also set an upper
2566 limit on the Standard Model di-Higgs production cross section discussed in chapter 3. The upper limit on
2567 $\sigma(pp \rightarrow hh \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b})$ in the Standard Model is constrained to be less than 1.22 pb.

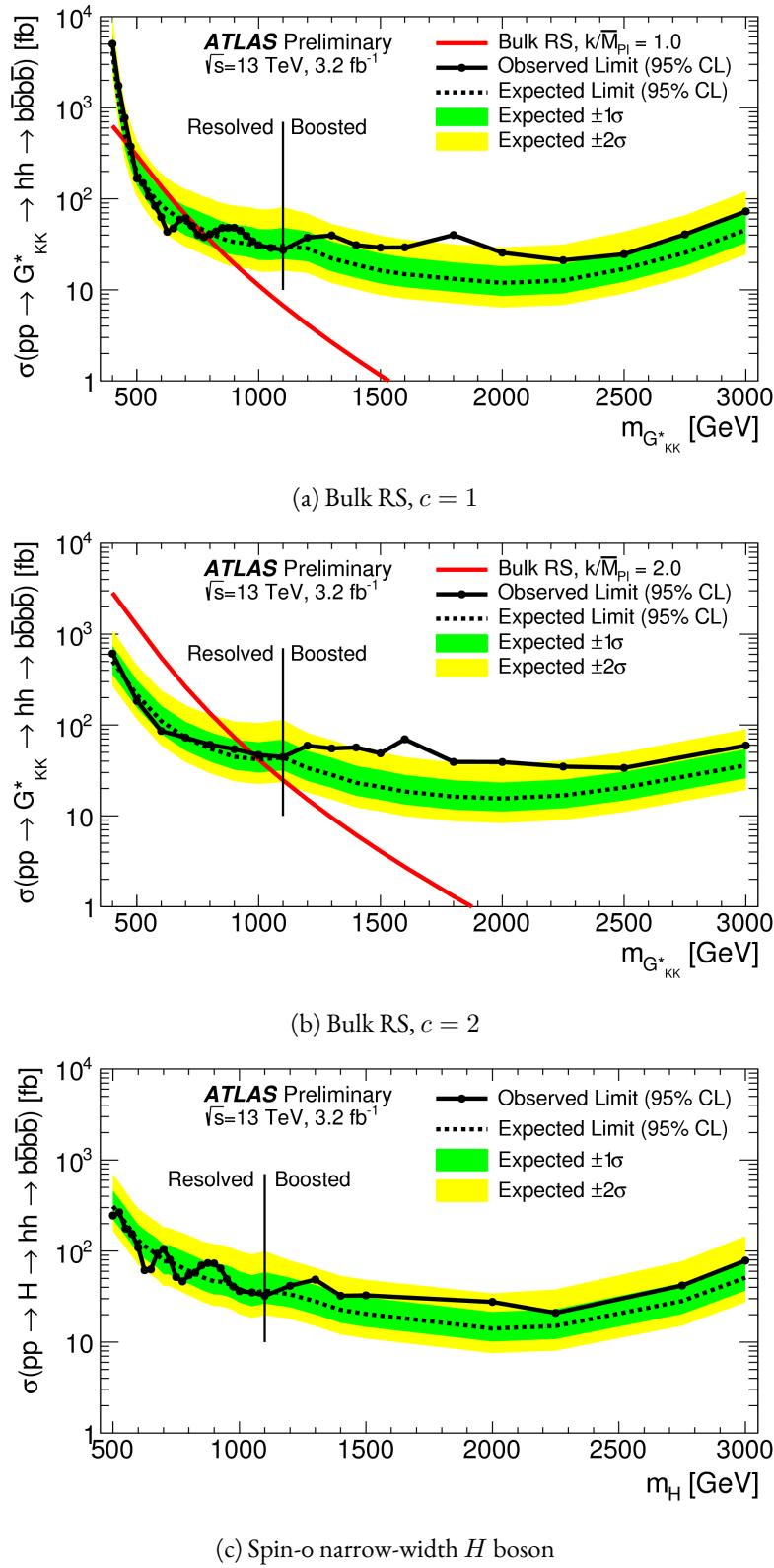


Figure 8.2: Expected and observed upper limit as a function of mass for G_{KK}^* in the RSG model with (a) $c = 1$ and (b) $c = 2$, as well as (c) H with fixed $\Gamma_H = 1$ GeV, at the 95% confidence level in the CL_s method. [110]

Part IV

Looking ahead

9

2570

Conclusion

2571

2572 After being sought for many years at different collider experiments, the Higgs boson was discovered by
2573 the ATLAS and CMS experiments in 2012, confirming the leading theory for the source of electroweak
2574 symmetry breaking and filling in the last missing piece of the Standard Model. After its discovery, mea-
2575 surements of the particle's detailed properties and searches for new particles decaying to Higgs final states
2576 were both extremely important in constraining physics beyond the Standard Model. This dissertation
2577 presented this evolution through two results: the observation and measurement of the Higgs boson in the
2578 $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ channel at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV and $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV and a search for Higgs pair production
2579 in the $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ channel at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with the ATLAS detector in pp collisions at the Large
2580 Hadron Collider.

2581 In the $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$, results from both the discovery of the Higgs boson and the full ATLAS
2582 Run 1 dataset were presented. The Higgs boson was discovered with a 6.1σ significance in a combination
2583 of the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, $H \rightarrow ZZ4\ell$, $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$ with 4.2 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV and 5.2 fb^{-1} at

2584 $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV. With the full 20.3 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV and 4.2 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV, ATLAS achieved dis-
2585covery level significance in the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ channel alone and obtained the first evidence of vector boson
2586fusion production in that channel. The combined signal strength is measured to be $\mu = 1.09^{+0.23}_{-0.21}$. The
2587total observed significance of the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ process is observed to be 6.1σ (with 5.8σ expected). Ad-
2588vanced methods for background reduction and estimation, particularly in same-flavor lepton final states,
2589are shown. The VBF signal strength is measured to be $\mu_{\text{VBF}} = 1.27^{+0.53}_{-0.45}$ with an observed significance
2590of 3.2σ (with 2.7σ expected).

2591 These results required many novel innovations. The increase of pileup interactions in the higher in-
2592stantaneous luminosity LHC conditions of 2012 led to a degradation of missing transverse momentum
2593resolution. As a result, the prominent $Z/\gamma^* + \text{jets}$ background of the same flavor $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow \ell\nu\ell\nu$
2594final states increased greatly. New variables, including a track-based missing transverse momentum and a
2595measurement of the balance between the dilepton system and recoiling jets, allowed for significant reduc-
2596tion of this background. In the VBF channel, selections were optimized to exploit the unique VBF final
2597state topology. Incorporating these variables into a boosted decision tree technique allowed the analysis
2598to exceed the 3σ statistical significance threshold.

2599 After the end of Run 1, the results of Higgs measurements from ATLAS were combined with those
2600from CMS to produce the most precise measurements of the Higgs boson so far [115]. Figure 9.1 shows the
2601combination of ATLAS and CMS data for the Higgs signal strength in and coupling measurements. In the
2602signal strength measurements of gluon fusion and vector boson fusion, the $H \rightarrow WW^*$ channel provides
2603the tightest constraints. Additionally, the Higgs coupling to W bosons is the most precisely measured with
2604a relative uncertainty of 10%.

2605 With the discovery of the Higgs firmly established and its properties measured, a natural next step was
2606to search for new physics with Higgs final states. At $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, a search for Higgs pair production
2607in the $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ final state with 3.2 fb^{-1} was conducted. A signal region optimized for the boosted final states
2608arising from high mass resonances was constructed. This signal region utilized large-radius calorimeter jets
2609and b -tagging with small radius track jets to maximize the signal acceptance. No significant excesses were
2610observed, and upper limits on cross sections are placed for spin-2 Randall Sundrum gravitons (RSG) and

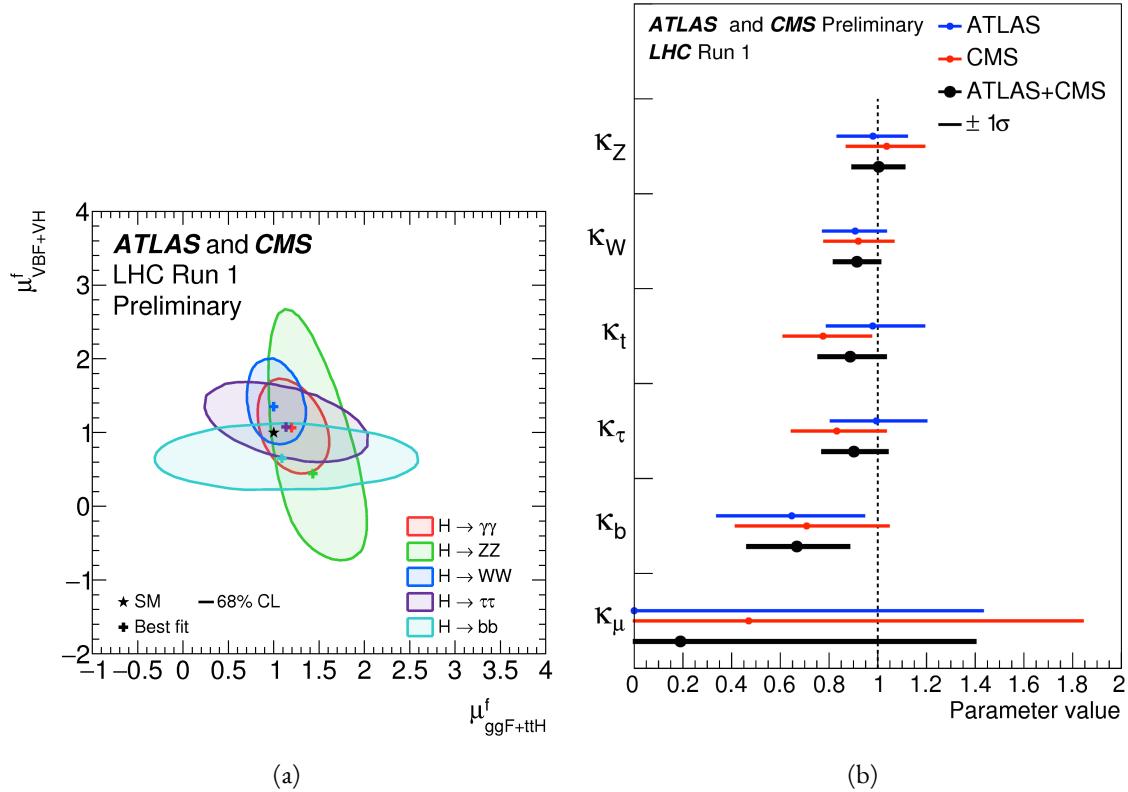


Figure 9.1: Combined ATLAS and CMS measurements in Run 1 for (a) Higgs signal strength in gluon fusion and VBF and (b) Higgs couplings normalized to their SM predictions

narrow spin-0 resonances. The increase in center of mass energy in Run 2 allowed this analysis to extend upper limits up to 3 TeV, while previous results from ATLAS in Run 1 only quotes limits up to 2 TeV. The cross section of $\sigma(pp \rightarrow G_{KK}^* \rightarrow hh \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b})$ with $k/\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}} = 1$ is constrained to be less than 70 fb for masses in the range $600 < m_{G_{KK}^*} < 3000$ GeV. For the RSG model with $k/\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}} = 2$, cross sections limits between 40 fb and 200 fb are set for the mass range of $500 < m_{G_{KK}^*} < 3000$ GeV. The cross section upper limits for $\sigma(pp \rightarrow H \rightarrow hh \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b})$ ranges from 30 to 300 fb in the mass range of $500 < m_H < 3000$ GeV.

While there has been a rigorous program of measurements and searches involving the Higgs, there is still much room for improvement at the High Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) and beyond. The measured signal strength for VBF production in $H \rightarrow WW^*$ still has a relative error at the level of 40%, largely dominated by statistical uncertainty. Projections for the HL-LHC show that the uncertainty on the VBF signal strength can be reduced to approximately 15% with 3000 fb^{-1} [116, 117]. This uncertainty also

2623 assumes that theoretical uncertainties on the signal, which would be the largest contribution in this dataset,
 2624 remain as they are now. Improvements in the theoretical understanding of the Higgs signal would also
 2625 reduce the signal strength uncertainty dramatically. Such precision measurements allow for measurements
 2626 of the Higgs coupling to vector bosons precise to the few percent level, therefore giving much power to
 2627 constrain or discover new physics.

2628 The prospects for detection of beyond the Standard Model resonant di-Higgs production at the HL-
 2629 LHC are also quite promising. Figure 9.2 shows projections for the discovery significance of RSG signals at
 2630 the HL-LHC in the $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ search [117]. In all detector budget scenarios, a 1.5 TeV resonance
 is above or near 5σ significance, while a 2 TeV resonance is between $4-5\sigma$ except for the lowest budget.

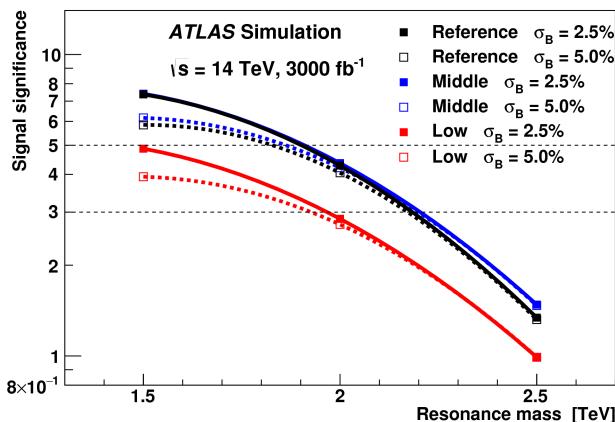


Figure 9.2: Discovery significance for RSG models at the HL-LHC in three different budget scenarios [117]. Systematic uncertainties on the background prediction (σ_B) of 2.5% and 5.0% are both tested.

2631
 2632 The Higgs will continue to be an incredibly powerful tool in the understanding of nature at the HL-
 2633 LHC and beyond. Through both precision measurements and searches, the nature of electroweak symme-
 2634 try breaking will be better understood and the potential for the discovery of physics beyond the Standard
 2635 Model has never been greater.

A

2636

2637

b-tagging performance at high p_T

2638 One of the limiting factors of the signal acceptance in the $X \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ search at high resonance
2639 masses is the degradation of the *b*-tagging efficiency for high p_T jets. This appendix presents a study of the
2640 underlying causes of this degradation.

2641 A.I CHANGES IN MV₂ SCORE AT HIGH p_T

2642 The degradation of *b*-tagging at high p_T was studied in particular in the context of RSG models at high
2643 mass. Figure A.I shows the p_T of the leading track jet inside of the leading calorimeter jet in RSG events.
2644 At high $m_{G_{KK}^*}$, the p_T spectrum of track jets is much harder than at lower masses due to the increased
2645 Higgs p_T .

2646 Figure A.2 shows the MV_{2c2o} algorithm score for the leading and subleading track jets inside of the
2647 leading calorimeter jet. In both cases, it can be seen that at higher RSG masses the MV₂ score shifts towards
2648 more background like (negative) values. Additionally, this effect is more pronounced in the leading track

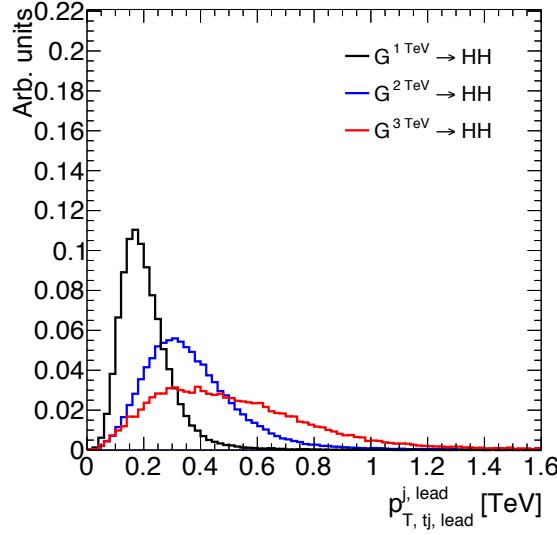


Figure A.1: p_T of the leading track jet in the leading calorimeter jet for different signal masses in RSG $c = 1$ models

2649 jet than the subleading.

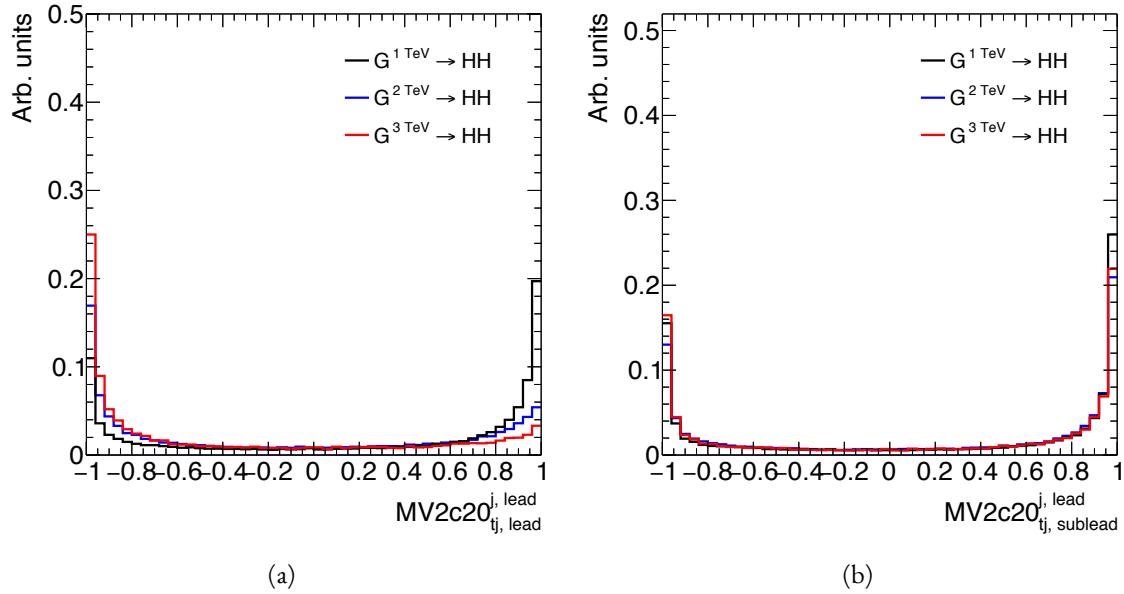


Figure A.2: MV2c20 score for the leading track jet (a) and subleading track jet (b) of the leading calorimeter jet for different signal masses in RSG $c = 1$ models

2650 To understand what is causing this change in the MV2c20 score, the same comparisons can be made for
 2651 the input variables of MV2c20. The focus in these comparisons will be on the leading track jet as this is the
 2652 one seen to have the largest difference in MV2 score. Figure A.3 shows the log likelihood ratio $\log(p_b/p_u)$

from the IP₃D (three dimensional impact parameter) algorithm. At higher masses, the IP₃D likelihood ratio distribution does become more background-like.

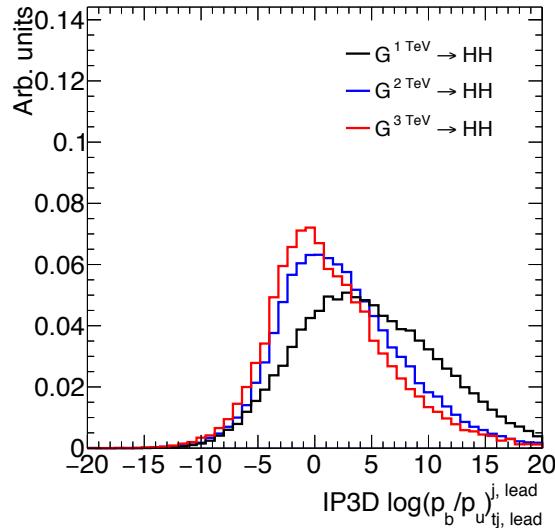


Figure A.3: IP₃D log-likelihood ratio ($\log(p_b/p_u)$) of the leading track jet in the leading calorimeter jet for different signal masses in RSG $c = 1$ models

Figure A.4 shows the mass and number of tracks at the secondary vertex computed by the SV1 algorithm. When there is no secondary vertex found, the algorithm assigns a default negative value for these quantities. Both of these distributions show that there is a significantly larger fraction of jets where no secondary vertex is found in the high mass samples compared to the $m_{G_{KK}^*} = 1$ TeV sample. The SV1 algorithm's inability to find a secondary vertex could be an important factor in the overall MV₂ score shift, as this eliminates eight of the input variables that would normally contribute information to the algorithm.

Figure A.5 shows the same quantities for the JetFitter algorithm. In this case, there is also a change in the fraction of jets which have their secondary vertices successfully reconstructed, but this change is not as drastic as that seen in SV1. There is also an increase in the number of jets which have high values of mass.

A.2 EFFECT OF MULTIPLE b -QUARKS INSIDE ONE JET

One hypothesis for why the efficiency of b -tagging the leading track jet degrades is that at high masses, the b quarks get close enough together that both of them are inside of the leading track jet. Because MV₂

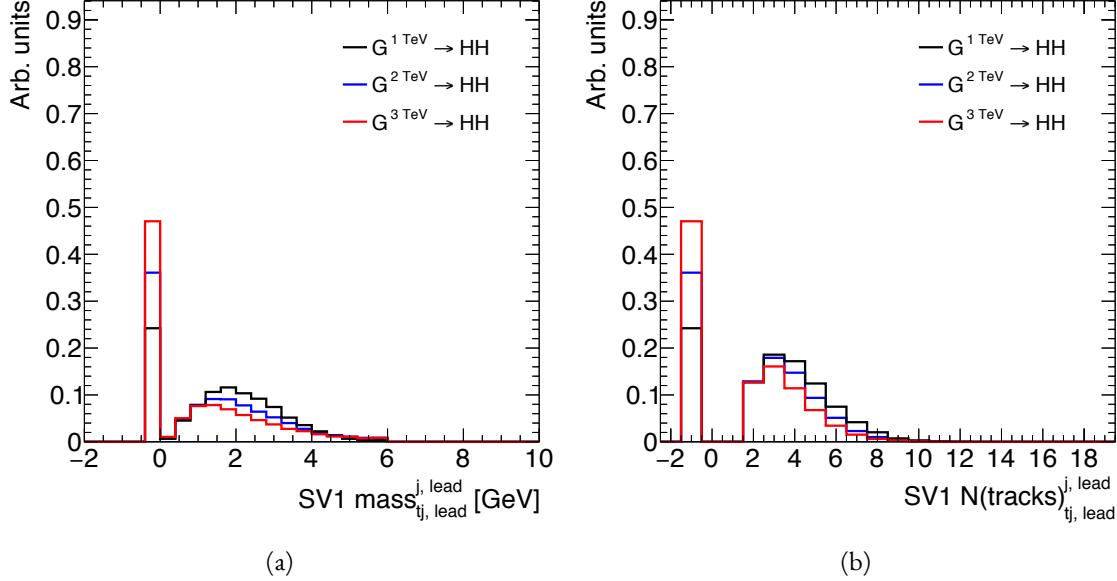


Figure A.4: Mass (a) and number of tracks (b) for the secondary vertices computed with the SV1 algorithm. When no secondary vertex is found, the quantities are assigned to default negative values.

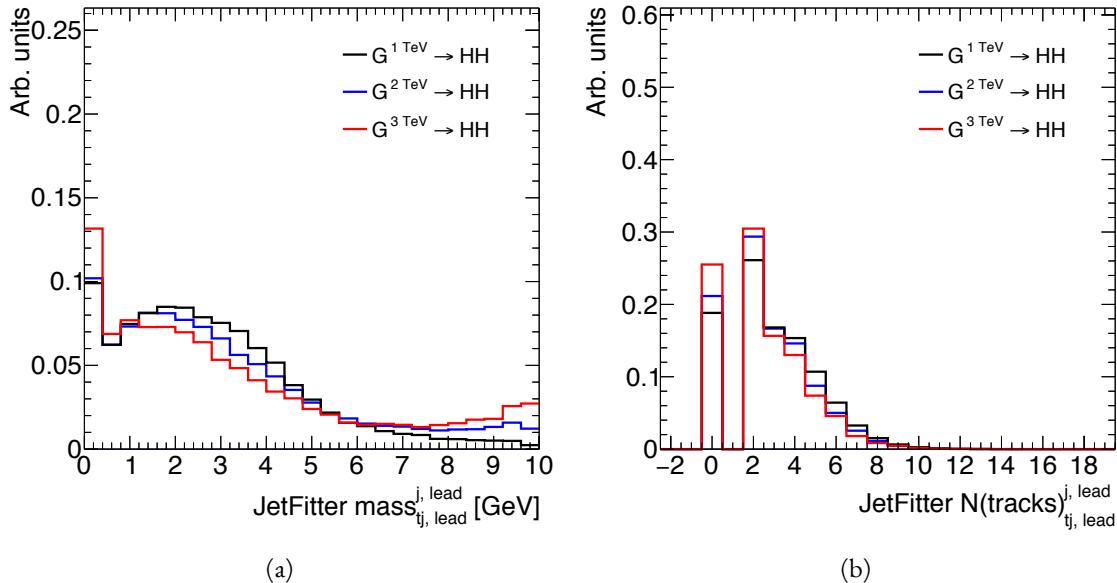


Figure A.5: Mass (a) and number of tracks (b) for vertices computed with the JetFitter algorithm. When no vertices are found, the quantities are assigned to default negative values.

2667 is not tuned for tagging multiple b quarks inside one jet, the tagging efficiency could degrade. Figure A.6
 2668 shows MV₂ scores and SV1 mass for cases where there are two b quarks at truth level within the radius of

the leading track jet compared to cases where there is only one true b^l . This figure suggests that the presence

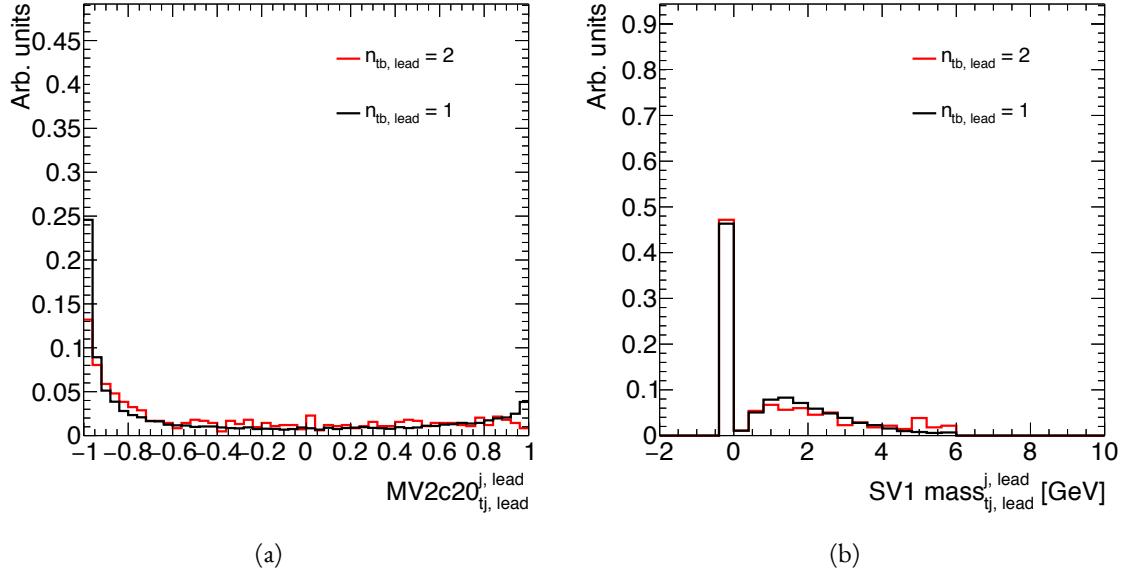


Figure A.6: MV₂c20 score (a) and SV1 mass (b) for leading track jets with two truth b quarks ($n_{tb, \text{lead}} = 2$) compared to those with only one truth b ($n_{tb, \text{lead}} = 1$).

of two b -quarks inside the leading jet is not the cause of the degradation in efficiency. There is a change in the shape of the MV₂ score distribution, but it is not nearly as pronounced as that seen in A.2 at higher masses. Additionally, the fraction of jets with no secondary vertex found is nearly identical in the track jets with two truth b -quarks.

A.3 CHANGES IN TRACK QUALITY AT HIGH p_T

Another hypothesis for the degradation of the b -tagging efficiency is a decrease in track quality for high p_T b jets. One way to check the overall quality of the tracking inside the jet is to investigate quantities related to the leading track inside of the track jet. Figure A.7 shows the fit χ^2/n_{DOF} and number of hits in the pixel detector for the leading track of the leading track jet. In both cases, the figure shows that in higher mass samples, the quality of the leading track inside of the track jet degrades substantially. The fit quality is lessened and the tracks have less hits in the pixel detector. This is likely due to the fact that at higher p_T ,

¹When two truth b quarks are required in the leading jet, the subleading jet is required to have zero. When one is required for the leading, one is also required for the subleading.

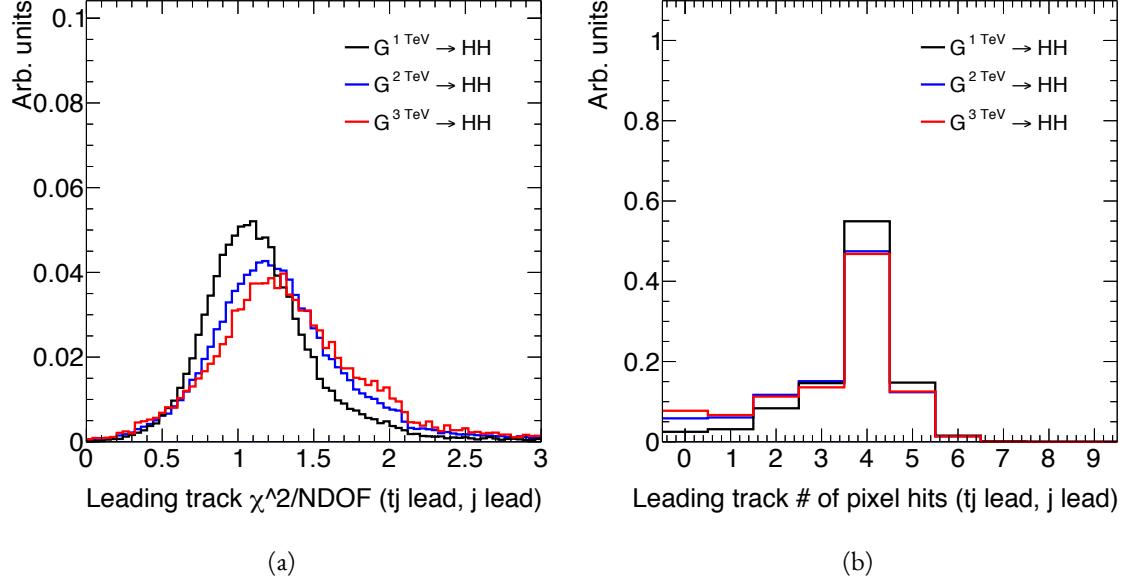


Figure A.7: Track fit χ^2/nDOF (a) and number of pixel detector hits (b) for the leading track of the leading track jet in different mass RSG $c = 1$ samples

the B -hadron will sometimes live long enough to miss the IBL and first pixel layer, thus decreasing the number of hits on the track.

To check whether this is the cause for the shift in the MV_2 score and the higher difficulty in reconstructing secondary vertices, jets whose leading track have at least four pixel hits are compared with those whose tracks have less than four pixel hits. The results for the MV_2 score and SV_1 mass are shown in figure A.8. Track jets where the leading track does not have at least four pixel hits are more likely to not have a secondary vertex reconstructed. Additionally, their $\text{MV}_{2\text{c}2\text{o}}$ score is shifted more significantly to background-like values. This seems to confirm the hypothesis that degrading track quality is responsible for the lowered b -tagging efficiency at high p_T .

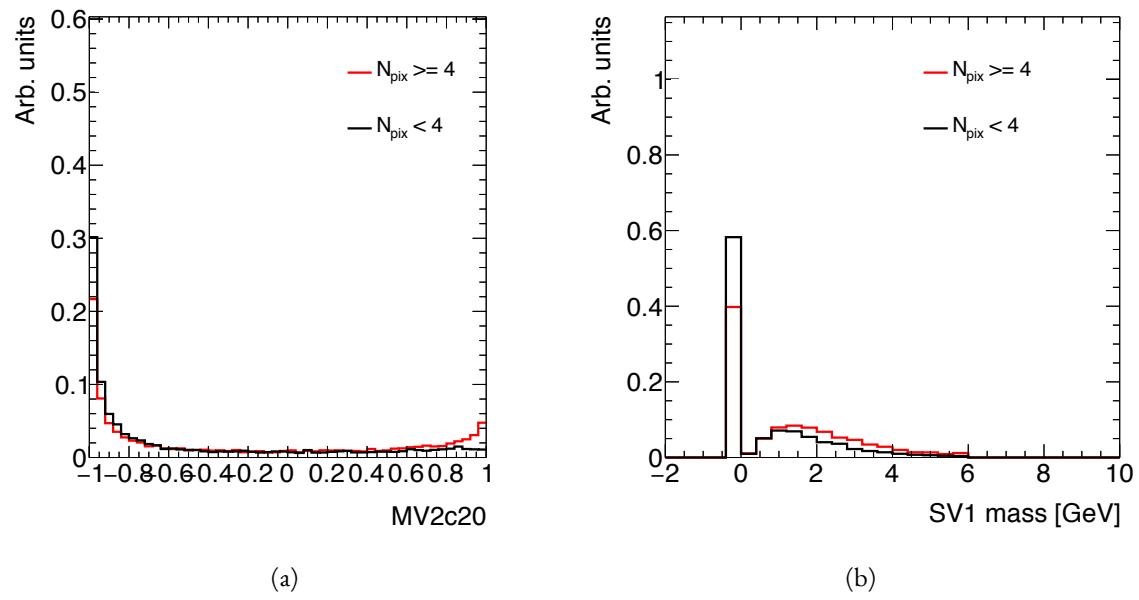


Figure A.8: MV₂c₂₀ score (a) and SV1 mass (b) for leading track jets whose leading track jet has at least four pixel hits ($N_{\text{pix}} \geq 4$) compared to those which do not ($N_{\text{pix}} < 4$).

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