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Sean Gasiorowski

$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the QCD Background

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Abstract

24

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Insert abstract here

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GLOSSARY

440 ARGUMENT: replacement text which customizes a L^AT_EX macro for each particular usage.

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442 Five years is both a short time and a long time – many things have happened and many
443 have stayed the same. I certainly know much more physics than I did at the outset, but also
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⁴⁶⁸ team, many of whom have already been mentioned, but who deserve an extra shout out for
⁴⁶⁹ keeping things fun even during stressful times.

⁴⁷⁰ The physics is done, the rest is paperwork. Let us begin.

471

DEDICATION

472

To family, both given and found

473

Chapter 1

474

THE STANDARD MODEL OF PARTICLE PHYSICS

475

The Standard Model of Particle Physics (SM) is a monumental historical achievement, providing a formalism with which one may describe everything from the physics of everyday experience to the physics that is studied at very high energies at the Large Hadron Collider (Chapter 3). In this chapter, we will provide a brief overview of the pieces that go into the construction of such a model. The primary focus of this thesis is searches for pair production of Higgs bosons decaying to four b -quarks. Consequently, we will pay particular attention to the relevant pieces of the Higgs Mechanism, as well as the theory behind searches at a hadronic collider.

483

1.1 Introduction: Particles and Fields

484

What is a particle? The Standard Model describes a set of fundamental, point-like, objects shown in Figure 1.1. These objects have distinguishing characteristics (e.g., mass and spin). These objects interact in very specific ways. The set of objects and their interactions result in a set of observable effects, and these effects are the basis of a field of experimental physics.

488

The effects of these objects and their interactions are familiar as fundamental forces: electromagnetism (photons, electrons), the strong interaction (quarks, gluons), the weak interaction (neutrinos, W and Z bosons). Gravity is not described in this model, as the weakest, with effects most relevant on much larger distance scales than the rest. However, the description of these other three is powerful – verifying and searching for cracks in this description is a large effort, and the topic of this thesis.

494

The formalism for describing these particles and their interactions is that of quantum field theory. Classical field theory is most familiar in the context of, e.g., electromagnetism – an

496 electric field exists in some region of space, and a charged point-particle experiences a force
497 characterized by the charge of the point-particle and the magnitude of the field at the location
498 of the point-particle in spacetime. The same language translates to quantum field theory.
499 Here, particles are described in terms of quantum fields in some region of spacetime. These
500 fields have associated charges which describe the forces they experience when interacting
501 with other quantum fields. Most familiar is electric charge – however this applies to e.g., the
502 strong interaction as well, where quantum fields have an associated *color charge* describing
503 behavior under the strong force.

504 Particles are observed to behave in different ways under different forces. These behaviors
505 respect certain *symmetries*, which are most naturally described in the language of group
506 theory. The respective fields, charges, and generators of these symmetry groups are the basic
507 pieces of the SM Lagrangian, which describes the full dynamics of the theory. In the following,
508 we will build up the basic components of this Lagrangian. The treatment presented here relies
509 heavily on Jackson's Classical Electrodynamics [2] for the build-up, and Thomson's Modern
510 Particle Physics [3] for the rest, with reference to Srednicki's Quantum Field Theory [4], and
511 some personal biases and interjections.

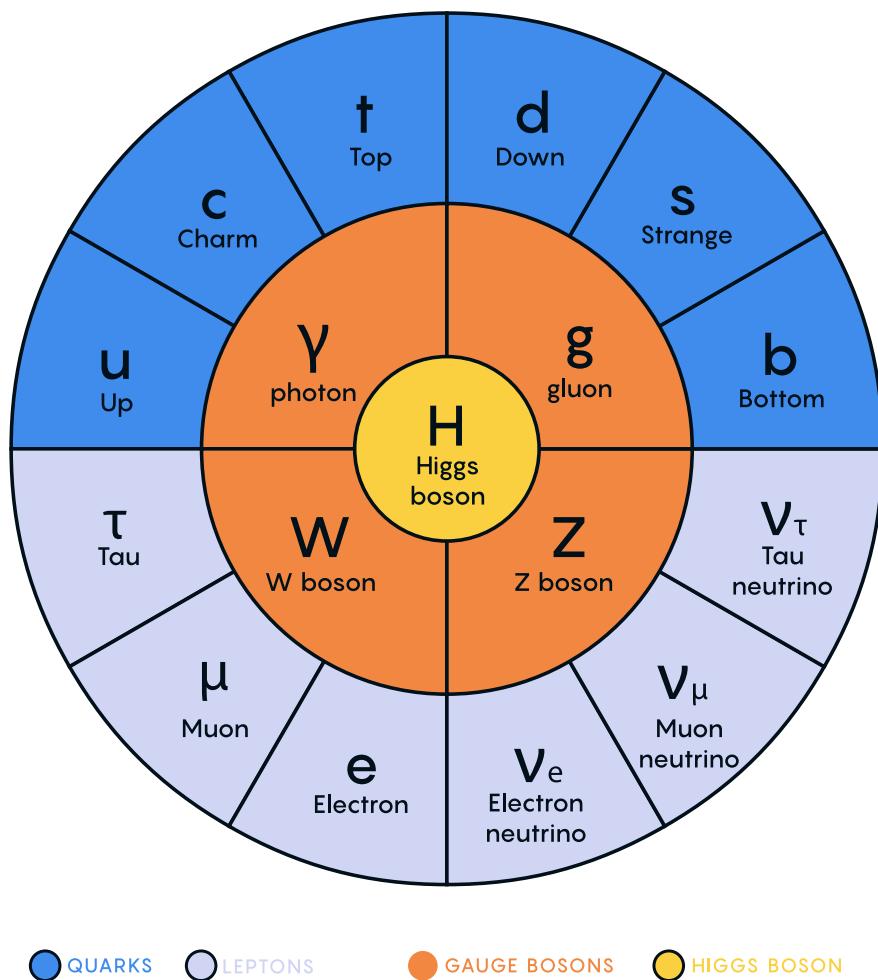


Figure 1.1: Diagram of the elementary particles described by the Standard Model [1].

512 **1.2 Quantum Electrodynamics**

Classical electrodynamics is familiar to the general physics audience: electric (\vec{E}) and magnetic (\vec{B}) fields are used to describe behavior of particles with charge q moving with velocity \vec{v} , with forces described as $\vec{F} = q\vec{E} + q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$. Hints at some more fundamental properties of electric and magnetic fields come via a simple thought experiment: in a frame of reference moving along with the particle at velocity \vec{v} , the particle would appear to be standing still, and therefore have no magnetic force exerted. Therefore a *relativistic* formulation of the theory is required. This is most easily accomplished with a repackaging: the fundamental objects are no longer classical fields but the electric and magnetic *potentials*: ϕ and \vec{A} respectively, with

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla\phi - \frac{\partial\vec{A}}{\partial t} \quad (1.1)$$

$$\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A} \quad (1.2)$$

It is then natural to fully repackage into a relativistic *four-vector*: $A^\mu = (\phi, \vec{A})$. Considering $\partial^\mu = (\frac{\partial}{\partial t}, \nabla)$, the x components of these above two equations become:

$$E_x = -\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial A_x}{\partial t} = -(\partial^0 A^1 - \partial^1 A^0) \quad (1.3)$$

$$B_x = \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial A_y}{\partial z} = -(\partial^2 A^3 - \partial^3 A^2) \quad (1.4)$$

513 where we have used the sign convention $(+, -, -, -)$, such that $\partial^\mu = (\frac{\partial}{\partial x_0}, -\nabla)$.

This is naturally suggestive of a second rank, antisymmetric tensor to describe both the electric and magnetic fields (the *field strength tensor*), defined as:

$$F^{\alpha\beta} = \partial^\alpha A^\beta - \partial^\beta A^\alpha \quad (1.5)$$

Defining a four-current as $J_\mu = (q, \vec{J})$, with q standard electric charge, \vec{J} standard electric current, conservation of charge may be expressed via the continuity equation

$$\partial_\mu J^\mu = 0 \quad (1.6)$$

and all of classical electromagnetism may be packaged into the Lagrangian density:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - J^\mu A_\mu. \quad (1.7)$$

514 This gets us partway to our goal, but is entirely classical - the description is of classical
 515 fields and point charges, not of quantum fields and particles. To reframe this, let us go back
 516 to the zoomed out view of the particles of the Standard Model. Two of the most familiar
 517 objects associated with electromagnetism are electrons: spin-1/2 particles with charge e , mass
 518 m , and photons: massless spin-1 particles which are the "pieces" of electromagnetic radiation.

519 We know that electrons experience electromagnetic interactions with other objects. Given
 520 this, and the fact that such interactions must be transmitted *somewhat* between e.g. two
 521 electrons, it seems natural that these interactions are facilitated by electromagnetic radiation.
 522 More specifically, we may think of photons as *mediators* of the electromagnetic force. It
 523 follows, then, that a description of electromagnetism on the level of particles must involve a
 524 description of both the "source" particles (e.g. electrons), the mediators (photons), and their
 525 interactions. Further, this description must be (1) relativistic and (2) consistent with the
 526 classically derived dynamics described above.

The beginnings of a relativistic description of spin-1/2 particles is due to Paul Dirac, with the famous Dirac equation:

$$(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi = 0 \quad (1.8)$$

where ∂_μ is as defined above, ψ is a Dirac *spinor*, i.e. a four-component wavefunction, m is the mass of the particle, and γ^μ are the Dirac gamma matrices, which define the algebraic structure of the theory. For the following, we also define a conjugate spinor,

$$\bar{\psi} = \psi^\dagger \gamma^0 \quad (1.9)$$

which satisfies the conjugate Dirac equation

$$\bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m) = 0 \quad (1.10)$$

527 where the derivative acts to the left.

The Dirac equation is the dynamical equation for spin-1/2, but we'd like to express these dynamics via a Lagrangian density. Further, to have a relativistic description, we'd like to

have this be density be Lorentz invariant. These constraints lead to a Lagrangian of the form

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi \quad (1.11)$$

528 where the Euler-Lagrange equation exactly recovers the Dirac equation.

The question now becomes how to marry the two Lagrangian descriptions that we have developed. Returning for a moment to classical electrodynamics, we know that the Hamiltonian for a charged particle in an electromagnetic field is described by

$$H = \frac{1}{2m}(\vec{p} - q\vec{A})^2 + q\phi. \quad (1.12)$$

Comparing this to the Hamiltonian for a free particle, we see that the modifications required are $\vec{p} \rightarrow \vec{p} - q\vec{A}$ and $E \rightarrow E - q\phi$. Using the canonical quantization trick of identifying \vec{p} with operator $-i\nabla$ and E with operator $i\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$, this identification becomes

$$i\partial_\mu \rightarrow i\partial_\mu - qA_\mu \quad (1.13)$$

Allowing for the naive substitution in the Dirac Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu(\partial_\mu + iqA_\mu) - m)\psi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}. \quad (1.14)$$

529 where the source term may be interpreted as coming from the Dirac fields themselves, namely,
530 $-q\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\psi A_\mu$.

Setting $q = e$ here (as appropriate for the case of an electron), and defining $D_\mu \equiv \partial_\mu + ieA_\mu$, this may then be written in the form

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m)\psi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}. \quad (1.15)$$

531 which is exactly the quantum electrodynamics Lagrangian.

532 We have swept a few things under the rug here, however. Recall that the general form
533 of a Lagrangian is conventionally $\mathcal{L} = T - V$, where T is the kinetic term, and thus ought
534 to contain a derivative with respect to time (c.f. the standard $\frac{1}{2}m\frac{\partial x}{\partial t}$ familiar from basic
535 kinematics). More particularly, given the definition of conjugate momentum as $\partial\mathcal{L}/\partial\dot{q}$ for

536 $\mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}, t)$ and $\dot{q} = \frac{\partial q}{\partial t}$, any field q which has no time derivative in the Lagrangian has 0
537 conjugate momentum, and thus no dynamics.

538 Looking at this final form, there is an easily identifiable kinetic term for the spinor fields
539 (just applying the D_μ operator). However trying to identify something similar for the A fields,
540 one comes up short – the antisymmetric nature of $F^{\mu\nu}$ term means that there is no time
541 derivative applied to A^0 .

542 What does this mean? A^μ is a four component object, but it would appear that only three
543 of the components have dynamics: we have too many degrees of freedom in the theory. This
544 is the principle behind *gauge symmetry* – an extra constraint on A^μ (a *gauge condition*) must
545 be defined such that a unique A^μ defines the theory and satisfies the condition. However,
546 we are free to choose this extra condition – the physics content of the theory should be
547 independent of this choice (that is, it should be *gauge invariant*).

To ground this a bit, let us return to basic electric and magnetic fields. These are physical quantities that can be measured, and are defined in terms of potentials as

$$\vec{E} = -\nabla\phi - \frac{\partial\vec{A}}{\partial t} \quad (1.16)$$

$$\vec{B} = \nabla \times \vec{A}. \quad (1.17)$$

548 It is easy to show, for any scalar function λ , that $\nabla \times \nabla\lambda = 0$. This implies that the physical
549 \vec{B} field is invariant under the transformation $\vec{A} \rightarrow \vec{A} + \nabla\lambda$ for any scalar function λ .

550 Under the same transformation of \vec{A} , the electric field \vec{E} becomes $-\nabla\phi - \frac{\partial\vec{A}}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial\nabla\lambda}{\partial t} =$
551 $-\nabla(\phi + \frac{\partial\lambda}{\partial t}) - \frac{\partial\vec{A}}{\partial t}$, such that, for the \vec{E} field to be unchanged, we must additionally apply
552 the transformation $\phi \rightarrow \phi - \frac{\partial\lambda}{\partial t}$.

This set of transformations to the potentials that leave the physical degrees of freedom invariant is expressed in our four vector notation naturally as

$$A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu - \partial_\mu \lambda \quad (1.18)$$

553 where $A_\mu = (\phi, -\vec{A})$ with our sign convention. It should be noted that this function λ is an
554 arbitrary function of *local* spacetime, and thus expresses invariance of the physics content

555 under a local transformation.

Let us return to the Lagrangian for QED. In particular, focusing on the free Dirac piece

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi \quad (1.19)$$

we note that if we apply a local transformation of the form $\psi \rightarrow e^{iq\lambda(x)}\psi$ (and correspondingly $\bar{\psi} \rightarrow \bar{\psi}e^{-iq\lambda(x)}$, by definition), the Lagrangian becomes

$$\bar{\psi}e^{-iq\lambda(x)}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)e^{iq\lambda(x)}\psi = \bar{\psi}e^{-iq\lambda(x)}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu)e^{iq\lambda(x)}\psi - m\bar{\psi}\psi. \quad (1.20)$$

As $\partial_\mu(e^{iq\lambda(x)}\psi) = iq e^{iq\lambda(x)}(\partial_\mu \lambda(x))\psi + e^{iq\lambda(x)}\partial_\mu \psi$, this becomes

$$\bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu(\partial_\mu + iq\partial_\mu \lambda(x)) - m)\psi. \quad (1.21)$$

Thus, the free Dirac Lagrangian on its own is not invariant under this transformation. We may note, however, that on interaction with an electromagnetic field, as described above, this transformed Lagrangian may be packaged as:

$$\bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu(\partial_\mu + iq\partial_\mu \lambda(x) + iqA_\mu) - m)\psi = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu(\partial_\mu + iq(A_\mu + \partial_\mu \lambda(x))) - m)\psi. \quad (1.22)$$

556 since by the arguments above, the physics content of the Lagrangian is invariant under the
557 transformation $A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu - \partial_\mu \lambda$, we may directly make this transformation, and remove this
558 extra $\partial_\mu \lambda(x)$ term. It is straightforward to verify that the $\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}$ term is invariant under
559 this same transformation of A_μ , so we may say that the QED Lagrangian is invariant under
560 local transformations of the form $\psi \rightarrow e^{iq\lambda(x)}\psi$.

561 These arguments illuminate some important concepts which will serve us well going forward.
562 First, while we have remained grounded in the “familiar” physics of electromagnetism for the
563 above, arguments of the “top down” variety would lead us to the exact same conclusions.
564 That is, suppose we wanted to construct a theory of spin-1/2 particles that was invariant
565 under local transformations of the form $\psi \rightarrow e^{iq\lambda(x)}\psi$. More broadly, we could say that we
566 desire this theory to be invariant under local $U(1)$ transformations, where $U(1)$ is exactly
567 this group, under multiplication, of complex numbers with absolute value 1. By very similar

arguments as above, we would see that, to achieve invariance, this theory would necessitate an additional degree of freedom, A_μ , with the exact properties that are familiar to us from electrodynamics. These arguments based on symmetries are extremely powerful in building theories with a less familiar grounding, as we will see in the following.

Second, we defined this quantity $D_\mu \equiv \partial_\mu + ieA_\mu$ above, seemingly as a matter of notational convenience. However, from the latter set of arguments, such a packaging takes on a new power: by explicitly including this gauge field A_μ which transforms in such a way as to keep invariance under a given transformation, the invariance is immediately more manifest. That is, to pose the $U(1)$ invariance in a more zoomed out way, under the transformation $\psi \rightarrow e^{iq\lambda(x)}\psi$, while

$$\bar{\psi}\partial_\mu\psi \rightarrow \bar{\psi}(\partial_\mu + iq\partial_\mu\lambda(x))\psi \quad (1.23)$$

with the extra term that gets canceled out by the gauge transformation of A_μ ,

$$\bar{\psi}D_\mu\psi \rightarrow \bar{\psi}D_\mu\psi \quad (1.24)$$

where this transformation is already folded in. This repackaging, called a *gauge covariant derivative* is much more immediately expressive of the symmetries of the theory.

Finally, to emphasize how fundamental these gauge symmetries are to the corresponding theory, let us examine the additional term needed for $U(1)$ invariance, $q\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu A_\mu\psi$. While a first principles examination of Feynman rules is beyond the scope of this thesis, it is powerful to note that this is expressive of a QED vertex: the $U(1)$ invariance of the theory and the interaction between photons and electrons are inextricably tied together.

1.3 An Aside on Group Theory

Quantum electrodynamics is very familiar and well covered, and provides (both historically and in this thesis) a nice bridge between “standard” physics and the language of symmetries and quantum field theory. However, now that we are acquainted with the language, we may set up to dive a bit deeper. To begin, let us look again at the $U(1)$ group that is so fundamental to QED. We have expressed this via a set of transformations on our Dirac spinor

objects, ψ , of the form $e^{iq\lambda(x)}$. Note that such transformations, though they are local (i.e. a function of spacetime) are purely *phase* transformations. Relatedly, $U(1)$ is an Abelian group, meaning that group elements commute.

To set up language to generalize beyond $U(1)$, note that we may equivalently write $U(1)$ elements as $e^{ig\vec{\alpha}(x)\cdot\vec{T}}$, $\vec{\alpha}(x)$ and \vec{T} and are vectors in the space of *generators* of the group, with each $\alpha^a(x)$ an associated scalar function to generator t^a , and g is some scalar strength parameter. Of course this is a bit silly for $U(1)$, which has a single generator, and thus reduces to the transformation we discussed above. However, this becomes much more useful for groups of higher degree, with more generators and degrees of freedom.

To discuss these groups in a bit more detail, note that $U(n)$ is the unitary group of degree n , and corresponds to the group of $n \times n$ unitary matrices (that is, $U^\dagger U = UU^\dagger = 1$). Given that group elements are $n \times n$, this means that there are n^2 degrees of freedom: n^2 generators are needed to characterize the group.

For $U(1)$, this is all consistent with what we have said above – the group of 1×1 unitary matrices have a single generator, and the phases we identify above clearly satisfy unitarity. Note that these degrees of freedom for the gauge group also characterize the number of gauge bosons we need to satisfy the local symmetry: for $U(1)$, we need one gauge boson, the photon.

Of relevance for the Standard Model are also the special unitary groups $SU(n)$. These are defined similarly to the unitary groups, with the additional requirement that group elements have determinant 1. This extra constraint removes 1 degree of freedom: groups are characterized by $n^2 - 1$ generators.

In particular, we will examine the groups $SU(2)$ in the context of the weak interaction, with an associated $2^2 - 1 = 3$ gauge bosons (cf. the W^\pm and Z bosons), and $SU(3)$, with an associated $3^2 - 1 = 8$ gauge bosons (cf. gluons of different flavors). Note that these groups are non-Abelian (2×2 or 3×3 matrices do not, in general, commute), leading to a variety of complications. However, both of these theories feature interactions with spin-1/2 particles, with transformations of a very similar form: $\psi \rightarrow e^{ig\vec{\alpha}(x)\cdot\vec{T}}\psi$, and the general framing of the arguments for QED will serve us well in the following.

613 **1.4 Quantum Chromodynamics**

614 In some sense, the simplest extension the development of QED is quantum chromodynamics
615 (QCD). QCD is a theory in which, once the basic dynamics are framed (a non-trivial task!)
616 the group structure becomes apparent. The quark model, developed by Murray Gell-Mann [5]
617 and George Zweig [6], provided the fundamental particles involved in the theory, and had
618 great success in explaining the expanding zoo of experimentally observed hadronic states.

619 Some puzzles were still apparent – the Δ^{++} baryon, e.g., is composed of three up quarks,
620 u , with aligned spins. As quarks are fermions, such a state should not be allowed by the
621 Pauli exclusion principle. The existence of such a state in nature implies the existence of
622 another quantum number, and a triplet of values, called *color charge* was proposed by Oscar
623 Greenberg [7]. With these pieces in place, the structure becomes more apparent, as elucidated
624 by Han and Nambu [8].

625 Let us reason our way to the symmetries using color charge. Experimentally, we know
626 that there is this triplet of color charge values r, g, b (the “plus” values, cf. electric charge)
627 and correspondingly anti-color charge $\bar{r}, \bar{g}, \bar{b}$ (the “minus” values). Supposing that the force
628 behind QCD (the *strong force*) is, similar to QED, interactions between fermions mediated
629 by gauge bosons (quarks and gluons respectively), we can start to line up the pieces.

630 What color charge does a gluon have? Similarly to electric charge, we may associate
631 particles with color charge, anti-particles with anti-color charge. Notably, free particles
632 observed experimentally are colorless (have no color charge). Thus, in order for charge to
633 be conserved throughout such processes, this already implies that there are charged gluons.
634 Further, examining color flow diagrams such as *TODO: insert*, it is apparent first that a
635 gluon has not one but two associated color charges and second that these two must be one
636 color charge and one anti-color charge.

637 Counting up the available types of gluons, then, we come up with nine. Six of mixed
638 color type: $r\bar{b}, r\bar{g}, b\bar{r}, b\bar{g}, g\bar{b}$, and $g\bar{r}$, and three of same color type: $r\bar{r}, g\bar{g}$, and $b\bar{b}$. In practice,
639 however, these latter three are a bit redundant: all express a colorless gluon, which, if we

could observe this as a free particle, would be indistinguishable from each other. The *color singlet* state is then a mix of these, $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(r\bar{r} + g\bar{g} + b\bar{b})$, leaving two unclaimed degrees of freedom, which may be satisfied by the linearly independent combinations $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(r\bar{r} - g\bar{g})$ and $\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(r\bar{r} + g\bar{g} - 2b\bar{b})$.

We thus have an octet of color states plus a colorless singlet state. If this colorless singlet state existed, however, we would be able to observe it, not only via interactions with quarks, but as a free particle. Since do not observe this in nature, this restricts us to 8 gluons. The simplest group with a corresponding 8 generators is $SU(3)$. Under the assumption that $SU(3)$ is the local gauge symmetry of the strong interaction, we may proceed in a similar way as we did for QED. The gauge transformation is $\psi \rightarrow e^{ig_S \vec{\alpha}(x) \cdot \vec{T}} \psi$, where \vec{T} is an eight component vector of the generators of $SU(3)$, often expressed via the Gell-Mann matrices, λ^a , as $t^a = \frac{1}{2}\lambda^a$, and the spinor ψ represents the fields corresponding to quarks.

This $SU(3)$ symmetry exactly expresses the color structure elucidated above – the Gell-Mann matrices are an equivalent presentation of the color combinations described above. Proceeding by analogy to QED, gauge invariance is achieved by introducing eight new degrees of freedom, G_μ^a , which are the gauge fields corresponding to the gluons, with the gauge covariant derivative then analogously taking the form $D_\mu \equiv \partial_\mu + ig_S G_\mu^a t^a$.

Recall from the QED derivation that the field strength tensor, $F^{\mu\nu}$ is a rank two antisymmetric tensor which is manifestly gauge invariant and which describes the physical dynamics of the A_μ field. We would like to analogously define a term for the gluon fields. Repackaging this QED tensor, it is apparent that

$$[D_\mu, D_\nu] = D_\mu D_\nu - D_\nu D_\mu \quad (1.25)$$

$$= (\partial_\mu + iqA_\mu)(\partial_\nu + iqA_\nu) - (\partial_\nu + iqA_\nu)(\partial_\mu + iqA_\mu) \quad (1.26)$$

$$= \partial_\mu \partial_\nu + iq\partial_\mu A_\nu + iqA_\mu \partial_\nu + (iq)^2 A_\mu A_\nu - (\partial_\nu \partial_\mu + iq\partial_\nu A_\mu + iqA_\nu \partial_\mu + (iq)^2 A_\nu A_\mu) \quad (1.27)$$

$$= iq(\partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu) + (iq)^2 (A_\mu A_\nu - A_\nu A_\mu) \quad (1.28)$$

$$= iq(\partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu) + (iq)^2 [A_\mu, A_\nu]. \quad (1.29)$$

We proceed through this derivation to highlight that, in the specific case of QED, with its Abelian $U(1)$ gauge symmetry, the field commutator vanishes, leaving exactly the definition of $F_{\mu\nu}$ as described above, i.e.,

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{iq}[D_\mu, D_\nu]. \quad (1.30)$$

We may proceed to define an analogous field strength term for G_μ^a in a similar way:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{ig_S}[D_\mu, D_\nu] \quad (1.31)$$

This has an extremely nice correspondence, but is complicated by the non-Abelian nature of $SU(3)$, with

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu(G_\nu^a t^a) - \partial_\nu(G_\mu^a t^a) + ig_s[G_\mu^a t^a, G_\nu^a t^a]. \quad (1.32)$$

in which the field commutator term is non-zero. In particular (since each term is summing over a , so we may relabel) as

$$[G_\mu^a t^a, G_\nu^b t^b] = [t^a, t^b]G_\mu^a G_\nu^b \quad (1.33)$$

and as $[t^a, t^b] = if^{abc}t^c$ for the Gell-Mann matrices, where f^{abc} are the structure constants of $SU(3)$, we have

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu(G_\nu^a t^a) - \partial_\nu(G_\mu^a t^a) - g_s f^{abc} t^c G_\mu^a G_\nu^b \quad (1.34)$$

$$= t^a(\partial_\mu G_\nu^a - \partial_\nu G_\mu^a - f^{bca} G_\mu^b G_\nu^c) \quad (1.35)$$

$$= t^a G_{\mu\nu}^a \quad (1.36)$$

⁶⁵⁷ for $G_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu G_\nu^a - \partial_\nu G_\mu^a - f^{abc} G_\mu^b G_\nu^c$.

⁶⁵⁸ This gives the component of the field strength corresponding to a particular gauge field a ,
⁶⁵⁹ where the first two terms have the familiar form of the QED field strength, while the last
⁶⁶⁰ term is new, and explicitly related to the group structure via the f^{abc} constants. In terms
⁶⁶¹ of the physics content of the theory, this latter term gives rise to a gluon *self-interaction*, a
⁶⁶² distinguishing feature of QCD.

⁶⁶³ Similarly as in QED, a Lorentz invariant combination of field strength tensors may be made
⁶⁶⁴ as $G_{\mu\nu} G^{\mu\nu}$. However, this is not manifestly gauge invariant. Under a gauge transformation

- 665 U , the covariant derivative behaves as $D^\mu \rightarrow UD^\mu U^{-1}$, corresponding to $G^{\mu\nu} \rightarrow UG^{\mu\nu}U^{-1}$.
666 The cyclic property of the trace thus ensures the gauge invariance of $\text{tr}(G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu})$, which we
667 will write as $G_{\mu\nu}^a G_a^{\mu\nu}$ with the implied sum over generators a .

Packaging up the theory, it is tempting to copy the form of the QED Lagrangian, with the identifications we have made above:

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m)\psi - \frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}^a G_a^{\mu\nu}. \quad (1.37)$$

However this is not quite correct due to the $SU(3)$ nature of the theory. In terms of the physics, the Dirac fields ψ have associated color charge, which must interact appropriately with the G_μ fields. Mathematically, the generators t^a are 3×3 matrices, while the ψ are four component spinors. Adding a color index to the Dirac fields, i.e., ψ_i where i runs over the three color charges, and similarly indexing the generators t_{ij}^a , we may then express the $SU(3)$ gauge covariant derivative component-wise as

$$(D_\mu)_{ij} = \partial_\mu \delta_{ij} + ig_S G_\mu^a t_{ij}^a \quad (1.38)$$

- 668 where δ_{ij} is the Kronecker delta, as ∂_μ does not participate in the $SU(3)$ structure.

The Lagrangian then becomes

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}_i(i(\gamma^\mu D_\mu)_{ij} - m\delta_{ij})\psi_j - \frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}^a G_a^{\mu\nu}. \quad (1.39)$$

- 669 and we have constructed QCD.

670 1.5 The Weak Interaction

- 671 One of the first theories of the weak interaction was from Enrico Fermi [9], in an effort to
672 explain beta decay, a process in which an electron or positron is emitted from an atomic
673 nucleus, resulting in the conversion of a neutron to a proton or proton to a neutron respectively.
674 Fermi's hypothesis was of a direct interaction between four fermions. However, in the advent of
675 QED, it is natural to wonder if a theory based on mediator particles and gauge symmetries
676 applies to the weak force as well. The modern formulation of such a theory is due to Sheldon

677 Glashow, Steven Weinberg, and Abdus Salam [10], and is what we will describe in the
678 following.

679 Considering emission of an electron, Fermi's theory involves an initial state neutron that
680 transitions to a proton with the emission of an electron and a neutrino. This transition
681 gives a hint that something slightly more complicated is happening than in QED: there is an
682 apparent mixing between particle types.

683 Now, with the assumption there are mediators for such an interaction, we further know
684 from beta decay and charge conservation that there must be at least two such degrees of
685 freedom: e.g. one that decays to an electron and neutrino (W^-) and one that decays to a
686 positron and neutrino (W^+). From consideration of the process $e^+e^- \rightarrow W^+W^-$, it turns
687 out that with just these two degrees of freedom, the cross section for this process increases
688 without limit as a function of center-of-mass energy, ultimately violating unitarity (more
689 W^+W^- pairs come out than e^+e^- pairs go in). This is resolved with a third, neutral degree
690 of freedom, the Z boson, whose contribution interferes negatively, regulating this process.

691 This leads to three degrees of freedom for the gauge symmetry of the weak interactions, so
692 we thus need a theory which is locally invariant under transformations of a group with three
693 generators. The simplest such choice is $SU(2)$. We may follow a very similar prescription as
694 for QED and QCD: $SU(2)$ has three generators, which implies the existence of three gauge
695 bosons, call them W_μ^k . The gauge transformation may be expressed as $\psi \rightarrow e^{ig_W \vec{\alpha}(x) \cdot \vec{T}} \psi$, where
696 in this case the generators are for $SU(2)$, which may be written in terms of the familiar Pauli
697 matrices: $\vec{T} = \frac{1}{2}\vec{\sigma}$. The structure constants for $SU(2)$ are the antisymmetric Levi-Civita
698 tensor, so the corresponding gauge covariant derivative is $D_\mu \equiv \partial_\mu + ig_W W_\mu^k t^k$, and the field
699 strength tensor is $W_{\mu\nu}^k = \partial_\mu W_\nu^k - \partial_\nu W_\mu^k - \epsilon^{ijk} W_\mu^k W_\nu^k$.

The corresponding Lagrangian would thus be

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}_i (i(\gamma^\mu D_\mu)_{ij} - m\delta_{ij}) \psi_j - \frac{1}{4} W_{\mu\nu}^k W_k^{\mu\nu} \quad (1.40)$$

700 where indices i and j run over $SU(2)$ charges.

701 On considering some of the details, the universe unfortunately turns out to be a bit

more complicated. However, this still provides a useful starting place for elucidating the theory of weak interactions. First off, let us consider the particle content, namely, what do the Dirac fields correspond to? This is still a theory of fermionic interactions with gauge bosons. However, we might notice that the fermion content of this theory is both a) broader than QCD, as we know experimentally (cf. beta decay) that both quarks and leptons (e.g. electrons) participate in the weak interaction and b) this fermion content seemingly has a large overlap with QED. In terms of the gauge bosons, we know that at both W^+ and W^- are electrically charged – this means that we expect some interaction of the weak theory with electromagnetism.

However, before diving deeper into this apparent connection between the weak interaction and QED, let us focus on the gauge symmetry. In QCD, the $SU(3)$ content of the theory is expressed via a contraction of color indices – the theory allows for transitions between quarks of one color and quarks of another. Thinking similarly in terms of $SU(2)$ transitions, the beta decay example is already fruitful – there is a transition between an electron and its corresponding neutrino, as well as between two types of quark. In particular, for the case of neutron (with quark content udd) and proton (with quark content udu), the weak interaction provides for a transition from down to up quark.

Such $SU(2)$ dynamics are described via a quantity called *weak isospin*, denoted I_W with third component $I_W^{(3)}$, and can be thought of in a very similar way as color charge in QCD (i.e. as the charge corresponding to the weak interaction). Since $SU(2)$ is 2×2 , there are two such charge states for the fermions, denoted as $I_W^{(3)} = \pm\frac{1}{2}$. This means that the bosons must have $I_W = 1$ such that, by sign convention corresponding to electric charge, the W^+ boson has $I_W^{(3)} = +1$, the Z boson has $I_W^{(3)} = 0$, and the W^- boson has $I_W^{(3)} = -1$.

From conservation of electric charge, this means that transitions involving a W^\pm are between particles that differ by ± 1 in both weak isospin $I_W^{(3)}$ and electric charge. We may thus line up all such doublets as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ e^- \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\mu \\ \mu^- \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\tau \\ \tau^- \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} u \\ d' \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} c \\ s' \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} t \\ b' \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.41)$$

725 with the top corresponding to the lower weak isospin and electric charge particles, and the
726 lower quark entries (d' , etc) corresponding to the weak quark eigenstates (which are related
727 to the mass eigenstates by the CKM matrix *TODO: more detail*). Similar doublets may be
728 constructed for the corresponding anti-particles.

The fundamental structuring of these transitions around both electric and weak charge is again indicative of a natural connection. However, nature is again a bit more complicated than we have described. This is because the weak interaction is a *chiral* theory. For massless particles, chirality is the same as the perhaps more intuitive *helicity*. This describes the relationship between a particle's spin and momentum: if the spin vector points in the same direction as the momentum vector, helicity is positive (the particle is “right-handed”), and if the two point in opposite directions, the helicity is negative (the particle is “left-handed”). More concretely:

$$H = \frac{\vec{s} \cdot \vec{p}}{|\vec{s} \cdot \vec{p}|}. \quad (1.42)$$

For massive particles, this generalizes a bit – in the language of Dirac fermions that we have developed, we define projection operators

$$P_R = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \gamma^5) \quad \text{and} \quad P_L = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \gamma^5) \quad (1.43)$$

729 for right and left-handed chiralities respectively – acting on a Dirac field with such operators
730 projects the field onto the corresponding chiral state.

Experimentally, this pops up via parity violation and the famous $V - A$ theory. For the scope of this thesis, it is sufficient to say that the weak interaction is only observed to take place for left-handed particles (and correspondingly, right-handed anti-particles). We therefore modify the theory stated above by projecting all fermions participating in the weak interaction onto respective chiral states – in particular, the $SU(2)$ gauge symmetry only acts on left-handed particles and right-handed anti-particles. We therefore modify the theory appropriately, denoting the chiral projected gauge symmetry as $SU(2)_L$, and similarly for the

Dirac fields. In particular, the weak isospin doublets listed above must now be left-handed:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ e^- \end{pmatrix}_L, \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\mu \\ \mu^- \end{pmatrix}_L, \begin{pmatrix} \nu_\tau \\ \tau^- \end{pmatrix}_L, \begin{pmatrix} u \\ d' \end{pmatrix}_L, \begin{pmatrix} c \\ s' \end{pmatrix}_L, \begin{pmatrix} t \\ b' \end{pmatrix}_L \quad (1.44)$$

⁷³¹ and right-handed particle states are placed in singlets and assigned 0 charge under $SU(2)_L$
⁷³² ($I_W = I_W^{(3)} = 0$).

With all of these assignments, let us revisit our guess at the form of the weak interaction Lagrangian. First, dwelling on the kinetic term $\bar{\psi}_i(i(\gamma^\mu D_\mu)_{ij}\psi_j)$, we note that the assigning of left-handed fermions to isospin doublets and right-handed fermions to isospin singlets allows us to remove explicit $SU(2)$ indices by treating these as the fundamental objects, that is, for a single *generation* of fermions, we may write:

$$\bar{Q}i\gamma^\mu D_\mu Q + \bar{u}i\gamma^\mu D_\mu u + \bar{d}i\gamma^\mu D_\mu d + \bar{L}i\gamma^\mu D_\mu L + \bar{e}i\gamma^\mu D_\mu e \quad (1.45)$$

⁷³³ for left-handed doublets Q and L for quarks and electron fields respectively and right handed
⁷³⁴ singlets u and d for up and down quark fields and e for electrons.

More concisely, and summing over the three generations of fermions, we may write

$$\sum_f \bar{f}i\gamma^\mu D_\mu f \quad (1.46)$$

⁷³⁵ where the f are understood to run over the fermion chiral doublets and singlets as above.

This then leaves our Lagrangian as

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_f \bar{f}i\gamma^\mu D_\mu f - \frac{1}{4}W_{\mu\nu}^k W_k^{\mu\nu} \quad (1.47)$$

$$= \sum_f \bar{f}\gamma^\mu(i\partial_\mu - \frac{1}{2}g_W W_\mu^k \sigma_k)f - \frac{1}{4}W_{\mu\nu}^k W_k^{\mu\nu}, \quad (1.48)$$

⁷³⁶ where we have expanded the covariant derivative for clarity. You may note that we have
⁷³⁷ dropped the mass term in the equation above – we will discuss this in detail in just a moment.

First, however, we return to the above comment about fermion content – we neglected to include the sum over fermions in our QED derivation for simplicity. However, all of the

fermions considered in the discussion of the weak interaction have an electric charge (except for the neutrinos). It would be nice to repackage the theory into a coherent *electroweak* theory. This is fairly straightforward when considering the gauge approach – from the discussion above we should expect the electroweak gauge group to be something like $SU(2) \times U(1)$, with four corresponding gauge bosons. Consider a gauge theory with group $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ – that is, the same weak interaction as discussed previously, but a new $U(1)_Y$ gauge group for electromagnetism, with transformations defined as

$$\psi \rightarrow e^{ig' \frac{Y}{2} \lambda(x)} \psi \quad (1.49)$$

⁷³⁸ with *weak hypercharge* Y .

Similarly to our discussion of QED, we may write the $U(1)_Y$ gauge field as B_μ , and interactions with the Dirac fields take the form $g' \frac{Y}{2} \gamma^\mu B_\mu \psi$. The relationship between this hypercharge and new B_μ field and classical electrodynamics is not so obvious – however it is convenient to parametrize as

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_\mu \\ Z_\mu \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_W & \sin \theta_W \\ -\sin \theta_W & \cos \theta_W \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} B_\mu \\ W_\mu^3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.50)$$

⁷³⁹ where A_μ and Z_μ are the physical fields, and we pick W_μ^3 as the neutral weak boson.

⁷⁴⁰ Note that in the $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ theory, the Lagrangian must be invariant under all of
⁷⁴¹ the local gauge transformations. In particular, this means that the hypercharge must be the
⁷⁴² same for fermion fields in each weak doublet to preserve $U(1)_Y$ invariance. This gives insight
⁷⁴³ into the relation between the charges of $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ and electric charge. In particular
⁷⁴⁴ we know that the hypercharge, Y , of e^- ($I_W^{(3)} = -\frac{1}{2}$) and ν_e ($I_W^{(3)} = +\frac{1}{2}$) is the same.

Supposing that $Y = \alpha I_W^{(3)} + \beta Q$, we must have $-\alpha \frac{1}{2} - \beta = \alpha \frac{1}{2} \implies \beta = -\alpha$. Therefore, choosing an overall scaling from convention,

$$Y = 2(Q - I_W^{(3)}). \quad (1.51)$$

⁷⁴⁵ Some of these particular forms are best understood in the context of the Higgs mechanism
⁷⁴⁶ – we will return to this discussion below.

⁷⁴⁷ **1.6 The Higgs Potential and the SM**

⁷⁴⁸ In the above, we have neglected a discussion of masses. However there are several things to
⁷⁴⁹ sort out here. In the first place, we know experimentally that the weak interactions occur
⁷⁵⁰ over very short ranges at low energies (e.g., why Fermi's effective four fermion interaction was
⁷⁵¹ such a good description). This is consistent with massive W^\pm and Z bosons (and indeed, this
⁷⁵² is seen experimentally). However, requiring local gauge invariance forbids mass terms in the
⁷⁵³ Lagrangian. In the simple $U(1)$ QED example, such a term would have the form $\frac{1}{2}m_\gamma^2 A_\mu A^\mu$,
⁷⁵⁴ which is not invariant under the transformation $A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu - \partial_\mu \lambda$, and similar arguments hold
⁷⁵⁵ for gauge bosons in the electroweak theory and QCD.

Similar issues are encountered with fermions – in the electroweak theory above, the gauge symmetries are separated into left and right handed chirality via doublet and singlet states. This means that a mass term would need to be separated as well. Such a term would have the form:

$$m\bar{f}f = m(\bar{f}_L + \bar{f}_R)(f_L + f_R) \quad (1.52)$$

$$= m(\bar{f}_L f_L + \bar{f}_L f_R + \bar{f}_R f_L + \bar{f}_R f_R) \quad (1.53)$$

$$= m(\bar{f}_L f_R + \bar{f}_R f_L) \quad (1.54)$$

⁷⁵⁶ where we have used that $f_{L,R} = P_{L,R}f$, $\bar{f}_{L,R} = \bar{f}P_{R,L}$, and $P_R P_L = P_L P_R = 0$. As left
⁷⁵⁷ and right-handed particles transform differently under $SU(2)_L$, this is manifestly not gauge
⁷⁵⁸ invariant.

⁷⁵⁹ The question then becomes: how do we include particle masses while preserving the
⁷⁶⁰ gauge properties of our theory? The answer, due to Robert Brout and François Englert [11],
⁷⁶¹ Peter Higgs [12], and Gerald Guralnik, Richard Hagen, and Tom Kibble [13] comes via the
⁷⁶² Higgs mechanism, which we will describe in the following. Importantly for this thesis, this
⁷⁶³ mechanism predicts the existence of a physical particle, the Higgs boson, and a particle
⁷⁶⁴ consistent with the Higgs boson was seen by both ATLAS [14] and CMS [15] in 2012.

To explain the Higgs, we focus first on generating masses for the electroweak gauge bosons.

Consider adding two complex scalar fields ϕ^+ and ϕ^0 to the Standard Model embedded in a weak isospin doublet ϕ . We may write the doublet as

$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 + i\phi_2 \\ \phi_3 + i\phi_4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.55)$$

765 where we explicitly note the four available degrees of freedom.

The Lagrangian for such a doublet takes the form

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \phi)^\dagger (\partial^\mu \phi) - V(\phi) \quad (1.56)$$

where V is the corresponding potential. Considering the particular form

$$V(\phi) = \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi + \lambda (\phi^\dagger \phi)^2 \quad (1.57)$$

766 we may notice that this has some interesting properties. Considering, as illustration, a similar
767 potential for a real scalar field, $\mu^2 \chi^2 + \lambda \chi^4$, taking the derivative and setting it equal to 0
768 yields extrema when $\chi = 0$ and $(\mu^2 + 2\lambda\chi^2) = 0 \implies \chi^2 = -\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}$. For $\mu^2 > 0$, there is a
769 unique minimum at $\chi = 0$, and for $\mu^2 < 0$ there are degenerate minima at $\chi = \pm\sqrt{-\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda}}$.
770 Note that we take $\lambda > 0$, otherwise the only minima in the theory are trivial.

The same simple calculus for the complex Higgs doublet above yields degenerate minima for $\mu^2 < 0$ at

$$\phi^\dagger \phi = \frac{1}{2} (\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2 + \phi_3^2 + \phi_4^2) = \frac{v}{2} = -\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda} \quad (1.58)$$

However, though there is this degenerate set of minima, there can only be a single *physical* vacuum state (we say that the symmetry is *spontaneously broken*). Without loss of generality, we may align our axes such that the physical vacuum state is at

$$\langle 0 | \phi | 0 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.59)$$

771 where we have explicitly chosen a real, non-zero vacuum expectation value for the neutral
772 component of the Higgs doublet to maintain a massless photon, as we shall see. Physically,
773 however, this makes sense - the vacuum is not electrically charged.

The vacuum is a classical state – we want a quantum one. We may express fluctuations about this nonzero expectation value via an expansion as $v + \eta(x) + i\xi(x)$. However, renaming of fields is only meaningful for the non-zero vacuum component - we thus have:

$$\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 + i\phi_2 \\ v + \eta(x) + i\phi_4 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1.60)$$

where we may expand the Lagrangian listed above:

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \phi)^\dagger (\partial^\mu \phi) - \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi - \lambda(\phi^\dagger \phi)^2. \quad (1.61)$$

It is an exercise in algebra to plug in the expansion about v into this Lagrangian: first expanding the potential

$$V(\phi) = \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi + \lambda(\phi^\dagger \phi)^2 \quad (1.62)$$

$$= \mu^2 \left(\sum_i \phi_i(x)^2 + (v + \eta(x))^2 \right) + \lambda \left(\sum_i \phi_i(x)^2 + (v + \eta(x))^2 \right) \quad (1.63)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{4} \lambda v^4 + \lambda v^2 \eta^2 + \lambda v \eta^3 + \frac{1}{4} \lambda \eta^4 \quad (1.64)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \lambda \sum_{i \neq j} \phi_i^2 \phi_j^2 + \lambda v \eta \sum_i \phi_i(x)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda \eta^2 \sum_i \phi_i(x)^2 + \frac{1}{4} \sum_i \phi_i(x)^4 \quad (1.65)$$

⁷⁷⁴ where the sums are over the $i \in 1, 2, 4$, that is, the fields with 0 vacuum expectation, and we
⁷⁷⁵ have used the definition $\mu^2 = -\lambda v^2$.

⁷⁷⁶ Within this potential, we note a quadratic term in $\eta(x)$ which we may identify with a
⁷⁷⁷ mass, namely $m_\eta = \sqrt{2\lambda v^2}$, whereas the ϕ_i are massless. These ϕ_i are known as *Goldstone*
⁷⁷⁸ *bosons*, and correspond to quantum fluctuations along the minimum of the potential. Of
⁷⁷⁹ particular note for this thesis are the interaction terms $\lambda v \eta^3$ and $\frac{1}{4} \lambda \eta^4$, expressing trilinear
⁷⁸⁰ and quartic self-interactions of the η field.

Expanding the kinetic term

$$(\partial_\mu \phi)^\dagger (\partial^\mu \phi) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\partial_\mu \phi_i)(\partial^\mu \phi_i) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu(v + \eta(x)))(\partial^\mu(v + \eta(x))) \quad (1.66)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (\partial_\mu \phi_i)(\partial^\mu \phi_i) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \eta)(\partial^\mu \eta) \quad (1.67)$$

⁷⁸¹ in a similar way, completing the story of three massless degrees of freedom (Goldstone bosons)
⁷⁸² and one massive one.

Now, this doublet is embedded in an $SU(2)_L \times U(1)$ theory, so we would like to preserve that gauge invariance. This is achieved in the same way as for the Dirac fields, with the introduction of the electroweak gauge covariant derivative such that the Lagrangian for the Higgs doublet and the electroweak bosons is just

$$\mathcal{L} = (D_\mu \phi)^\dagger (D^\mu \phi) - \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi - \lambda (\phi^\dagger \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{4} W_{\mu\nu}^k W_k^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \quad (1.68)$$

⁷⁸³ with $D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig_W W_\mu^k t^k + ig' \frac{Y}{2} B_\mu$.

We note that it is convenient to pick a gauge such that the Goldstone fields do not appear in the Lagrangian, upon which we may identify the field $\eta(x)$ with the physical Higgs field, $h(x)$. The field mass terms then very apparently come via the covariant derivative, namely, as

$$W_\mu^k \sigma^k + B_\mu = \begin{pmatrix} W_\mu^3 + B_\mu & W_\mu^1 - iW_\mu^2 \\ W_\mu^1 + iW_\mu^2 & -W_\mu^3 + B_\mu \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.69)$$

we may then write

$$D_\mu \phi = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 2\partial_\mu + ig_W W_\mu^3 + ig' Y B_\mu & ig_W W_\mu^1 + \frac{1}{2} g_W W_\mu^2 \\ ig_W W_\mu^1 - g_W W_\mu^2 & 2\partial_\mu - ig_W W_\mu^3 + ig' Y B_\mu \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + h \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.70)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} ig_W (W_\mu^1 - iW_\mu^2)(v + h) \\ (2\partial_\mu - ig_W W_\mu^3 + ig' Y B_\mu)(v + h) \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.71)$$

⁷⁸⁴ As identified above, $Y = 2(Q - I_W^{(3)})$. The Higgs has 0 electric charge, and the lower doublet
⁷⁸⁵ component has $I_W^{(3)} = -\frac{1}{2}$, yielding $Y = 1$.

Computing $(D_\mu \phi)^\dagger (D^\mu \phi)$, then, yields

$$\frac{1}{8} g_W^2 (W_\mu^1 + iW_\mu^2)(W^{\mu 1} - iW^{\mu 2})(v + h)^2 + \frac{1}{8} (2\partial_\mu + ig_W W_\mu^3 - ig' B_\mu)(2\partial^\mu - ig_W W^{\mu 3} + ig' B^\mu)(v + h)^2 \quad (1.72)$$

and extracting terms quadratic in the fields gives

$$\frac{1}{8} g_W^2 v^2 (W_{\mu 1} W^{\mu 1} + W_{\mu 2} W^{\mu 2}) + \frac{1}{8} v^2 (g_W W_\mu^3 - g' B_\mu)(g_W W^{\mu 3} - g' B^\mu) \quad (1.73)$$

meaning that W_μ^1 and W_μ^2 have masses $m_W = \frac{1}{2}g_W v$. The neutral boson case is a bit more complicated. Writing the corresponding term as

$$\frac{1}{8}v^2 \begin{pmatrix} W_\mu^3 & B_\mu \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} g_W^2 & -g_W g' \\ -g_W g' & g'^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} W^{\mu 3} \\ B^\mu \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.74)$$

we note that we must diagonalize this mass matrix to get the physical mass eigenstates. Doing so in the usual way yields eigenvalues 0 , $g'^2 + g_W^2$, thus corresponding to $m_\gamma = 0$ and $m_Z = \frac{1}{2}v\sqrt{g'^2 + g_W^2}$, with physical fields as the (normalized) eigenvectors

$$A_\mu = \frac{g'W_\mu^3 + g_W B_\mu}{\sqrt{g_W^2 + g'^2}} \quad (1.75)$$

$$Z_\mu = \frac{g_W W_\mu^3 - g' B_\mu}{\sqrt{g_W^2 + g'^2}} \quad (1.76)$$

From this form, the angular parametrization of the physical fields is very apparent, namely, defining

$$\tan \theta_W = \frac{g'}{g_W}, \quad (1.77)$$

these equations may be written in terms of the single parameter θ_W as

$$A_\mu = \cos \theta_W B_\mu + \sin \theta_W W_\mu^3 \quad (1.78)$$

$$Z_\mu = -\sin \theta_W B_\mu + \cos \theta_W W_\mu^3 \quad (1.79)$$

and, notably, from the above equations,

$$\frac{m_W}{m_Z} = \cos \theta_W. \quad (1.80)$$

To get the mass terms from Equation 1.72, we extracted those terms quadratic in fields, i.e., the v^2 terms within $(v + h)^2$. However there are also terms of the form VVh and $VVhh$ that arise, which describe the Higgs interactions with the corresponding vector bosons $V = W^\pm, Z$. Namely, identifying physical W bosons as

$$W^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(W^1 \mp iW^2) \quad (1.81)$$

we may express the first term of Equation 1.72 as

$$\frac{1}{4}g_W^2 W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} (v + h)^2 = \frac{1}{4}g_W^2 v^2 W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} + \frac{1}{2}g_W^2 v W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} h + \frac{1}{4}g_W^2 W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} h^2 \quad (1.82)$$

with the first term corresponding to the mass term $m_W = \frac{1}{2}g_W v$, and the second two terms corresponding to hW^+W^- and hhW^+W^- vertices. Of particular note is the coupling strength

$$g_{HWW} = \frac{1}{2}g_W^2 v = g_W m_W \quad (1.83)$$

⁷⁸⁶ which is proportional to the W mass – an analysis with the form of the physical Z boson
⁷⁸⁷ finds that the coupling g_{HZZ} is also proportional to the Z mass.

The Higgs coupling to fermions (in particular to quarks) is of particular interest for this thesis. We showed above that a naive introduction of a mass term

$$m\bar{f}f = m(\bar{f}_L f_R + \bar{f}_R f_L) \quad (1.84)$$

⁷⁸⁸ is manifestly not gauge invariant because right and left handed particles transform differently
⁷⁸⁹ under $SU(2)_L$. However, because the Higgs is constructed via an $SU(2)_L$ doublet, ϕ , writing
⁷⁹⁰ a fermion doublet as L and conjugate \bar{L} , it is apparent that $\bar{L}\phi$ is invariant under $SU(2)_L$.

Combining with the right handed singlet, R , creates a term invariant under $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$, $\bar{L}\phi R$ (and correspondingly $(\bar{L}\phi R)^\dagger$), such that we may include Yukawa [16] terms

$$\mathcal{L}_{Yukawa} = -g_f \left[\begin{pmatrix} \bar{f}_1 & \bar{f}_2 \end{pmatrix}_L \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 \end{pmatrix} f_R + \bar{f}_R \begin{pmatrix} \phi^{+*} & \phi^{0*} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{pmatrix}_L \right] \quad (1.85)$$

⁷⁹¹ where g_f is a corresponding Yukawa coupling, f_1 and f_2 have been used to denote components
⁷⁹² of the left-handed doublet and f_R the corresponding right-handed singlet.

After spontaneous symmetry breaking, with the gauge as described above to remove the Goldstone fields, the Higgs doublet becomes

$$\phi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + h(x) \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.86)$$

giving rise to terms such as

$$-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}g_f v(\bar{f}_{2L}\bar{f}_R + \bar{f}_R f_{2L}) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}g_f h(\bar{f}_{2L}\bar{f}_R + \bar{f}_R f_{2L}) \quad (1.87)$$

where we have kept the subscript f_{2L} to emphasize that these terms *only* impact the lower component of the left-handed doublet because of the 0 in the upper component of the Higgs doublet. Leaving this aside for a second, we note that the first term has the form of the desired mass term above (identifying f_{2L} to f_L) while the second term describes the coupling of the fermion to the physical Higgs field. The corresponding Yukawa coupling may be chosen to be consistent with the observed fermion mass, namely

$$g_f = \sqrt{2} \frac{m_f}{v} \quad (1.88)$$

such that

$$\mathcal{L}_f = -m_f \bar{f}f - \frac{m_f}{v} \bar{f}fh. \quad (1.89)$$

⁷⁹³ Notably here, the fermion coupling to the Higgs boson scales with the mass of the fermion, a
⁷⁹⁴ fact that is extremely relevant for this thesis analysis.

As we said above, these terms *only* impact the lower component of the left-handed doublet. The inclusion of terms for the upper component is accomplished via the introduction of a Higgs conjugate doublet, defined as

$$\phi_c = -i\sigma_2\phi^* = \begin{pmatrix} -\phi^{0*} \\ \phi^- \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1.90)$$

⁷⁹⁵ The argument proceeds similarly to the above, with similar results for couplings and masses
⁷⁹⁶ of upper components.

⁷⁹⁷ 1.7 The Standard Model: A Summary

After all of the above, we may write the Standard Model as a theory with a local $SU(3) \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ gauge symmetry, described by the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_f \bar{f}i\gamma^\mu D_\mu f - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{gauges} F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + (D_\mu\phi)^\dagger(D^\mu\phi) - \mu^2\phi^\dagger\phi - \lambda(\phi^\dagger\phi)^2 \quad (1.91)$$

where $D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig_W W_\mu^k t^k + ig' \frac{Y}{2} B_\mu + ig_S G_\mu^a t^a$, in addition to the Yukawa terms, which we write generally as

$$\mathcal{L}_{Yukawa} = - \sum_{f,\phi=\phi,-\phi_c} y_f (\bar{f}\phi f + (\bar{f}\phi f)^\dagger) \quad (1.92)$$

798 with the sum running over running over appropriate chiral fermion and Higgs doublets.

799 The $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ subgroup is spontaneously broken to a $U(1)$ symmetry, lending mass
800 to the associated gauge bosons and fermions. Of relevance for this thesis is the resulting
801 physical Higgs field, with a predicted trilinear self-interaction and associated coupling λv ,
802 related to the experimentally observed Higgs boson mass by $m_H = \sqrt{2\lambda v^2}$, as well as the fact
803 that the strength of the Higgs coupling to fermions scales proportionally with the fermion
804 mass.

805 The Standard Model has been monumentally successful, with predictions consistent across
806 many varied experimental cross-checks. This thesis participates in one such cross check.
807 However, the Standard Model is notably not a complete theory of the universe – there is
808 no inclusion of gravity, for instance, though a consistent description may be provided with
809 the introduction of a spin-2 particle. Neutrino oscillations demonstrate that neutrinos have
810 mass, but right-handed neutrinos have not been observed, leading to questions about whether
811 there is a different mechanism to provide neutrinos with mass than that described above.
812 Cosmology tells us that dark matter exists, but there is no corresponding particle within the
813 Standard Model. This thesis therefore also participates in searches for physics beyond the
814 Standard Model. We will provide a sketch of the relevant theories in the following chapter,
815 though a detailed theoretical discussion is beyond the scope of this work.

816

Chapter 2

817

DI-HIGGS PHENOMENOLOGY AND PHYSICS BEYOND THE STANDARD MODEL

818

819 This thesis focuses on searches for di-Higgs production in the $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ final state. In this
 820 chapter, we will provide a brief overview of the practical theoretical information motivating
 821 such searches. Though the searches test for physics beyond the Standard Model, particularly
 822 in the search for resonances, the goal of the experimental results is to be somewhat agnostic
 823 to particular theoretical frameworks. An in depth treatment of such models is therefore
 824 beyond the scope of this thesis, though we will attempt to provide a grounding for the models
 825 that we consider.

826 **2.1 Intro to Di-Higgs**

827 Di-Higgs searches can be split into two major theoretical categories: *resonant searches*, in
 828 which a physical resonance is produced that subsequently decays into two Higgs bosons, and
 829 a *non-resonant searches* in which no physical resonance is produced, but where the HH
 830 production cross section has a contribution from an exchange of a *virtual* or *off-shell* particle.

831 The focus of this thesis is gluon initiated processes – in the case of di-Higgs this is termed
 832 gluon-gluon fusion (ggF). HH production may also occur via vector boson fusion [17]. However
 833 the cross section for such production is significantly smaller. Representative Feynman diagrams
 834 are shown for gluon-gluon fusion resonant production in Figure 2.1 and for non-resonant
 835 production in Figure 2.2.

836 As shown in Chapter 1, the Higgs coupling to fermions scales with particle mass. As the
 837 top quark has a mass of 173 GeV, whereas the H has a mass of 125 GeV, such that $H \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ is
 838 kinematically disfavored, $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ is the dominant fermionic Higgs decay mode, and, in fact,

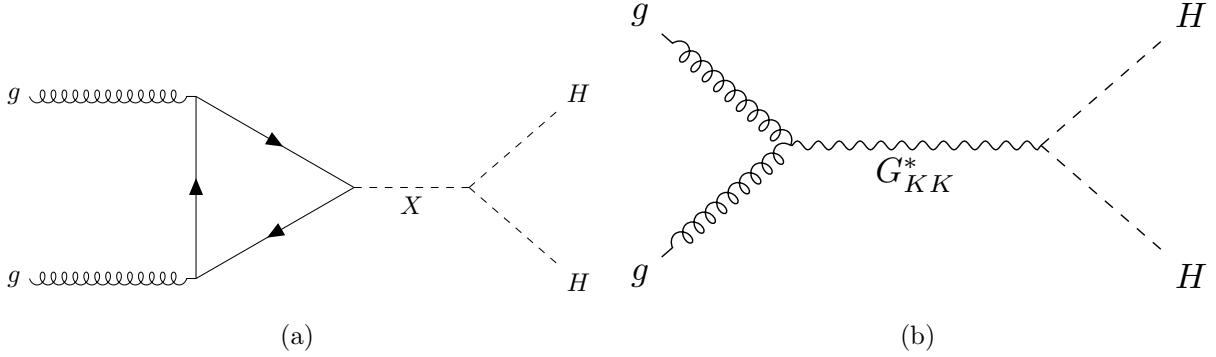


Figure 2.1: Representative diagrams for the gluon-gluon fusion production of spin-0 (X) and spin-2 (G_{KK}^*) resonances which decay to two Standard Model Higgs bosons. The spin-0 resonance considered for this thesis is a generic narrow width resonance which may be interpreted in the context of two Higgs doublet models [18], whereas the spin-2 resonance is considered as a Kaluza-Klein graviton within the bulk Randall-Sundrum (RS) model [19, 20].

the dominant overall decay mode, with a branching fraction of around 58 %. The dominant top quark Yukawa coupling to the H does play a role in H production, however – gluon-gluon fusion is dominated by processes including a top loop.

The single H properties translate to HH production, with $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ accounting for around 34 % of all HH decays. The H H branching fractions are shown in Figure 2.3.

2.2 Resonant HH Searches

Resonant di-Higgs production is predicted in a variety of extensions to the Standard Model. In particular, this thesis presents searches for both spin-0 and spin-2 resonances. The decay of spin-1 resonances to two identical spin-0 bosons is prohibited, as the final state must correspondingly be symmetric under particle exchange, but this process would require orbital angular momentum $\ell = 1$, and thus an anti-symmetric final state. Each model considered here is implemented in a particular theoretical context, but set up experimental results for generic searches.

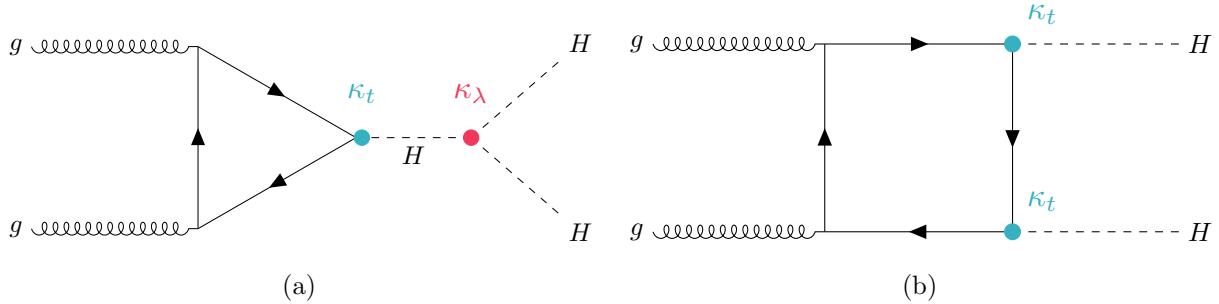


Figure 2.2: Dominant contributing diagrams for non-resonant gluon-gluon fusion production of HH . κ_λ and κ_t represent variations of the Higgs self-coupling and coupling to top quarks respectively, relative to that predicted by the Standard Model.

The spin-2 signal considered is implemented within the bulk Randall-Sundrum (RS) model [19, 20], which features spin-2 Kaluza-Klein gravitons, G_{KK}^* , that are produced via gluon-fusion and which may decay to a pair of Higgs bosons. The model predicts such gravitons as a consequence of warped extra dimensions, and is correspondingly parametrized by a value $c = k/\overline{M}_{\text{Pl}} = 1$, where k describes a curvature scale for the extra dimension and \overline{M}_{Pl} is the Planck mass. The model considered here has $c = 1.0$. However, this model was considered in the early Run 2 HH analyses [21], and was excluded across much of the relevant mass range.

The primary theoretical focus of this work is therefore the spin-0 result, which is implemented as a generic resonance with width below detector resolution. Scalar resonances are interesting, for instance, in the context of two Higgs doublet models [18], which posit the existence of a second Higgs doublet. This leads to the existence of five scalar particles in the Higgs sector – roughly, two complex doublets provide eight degrees of freedom, three of which are “eaten” by the electroweak bosons, leaving five degrees of freedom which may correspond to physical fields.

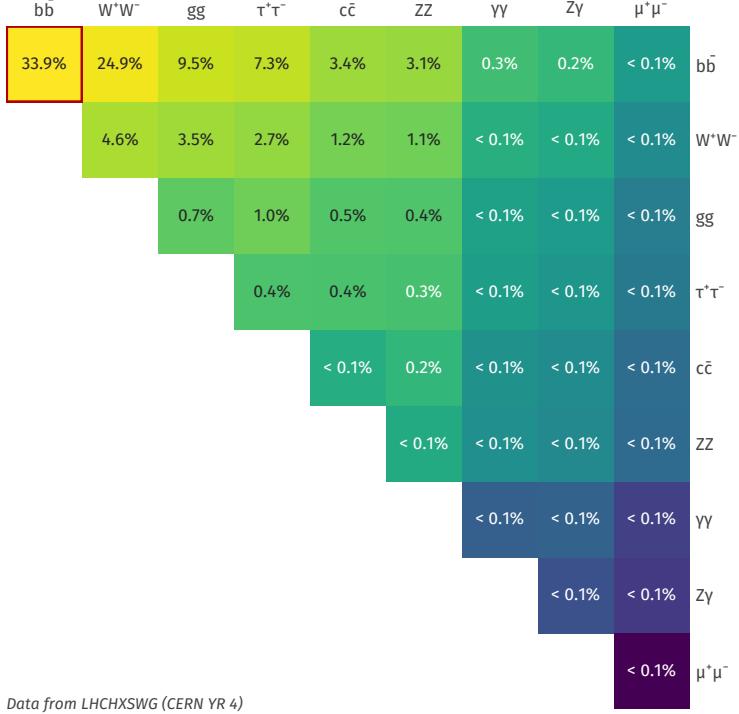


Figure 2.3: Illustration of dominant HH branching ratios. $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ is the most common decay mode, representing 34 % of all HH events produced at the LHC.

867 2.3 Non-resonant HH Searches

Non-resonant HH production is predicted by the Standard Model via the trilinear coupling discussed above, as well as via production in a fermion loop. More explicitly, after electroweak symmetry breaking, we have

$$\mathcal{L}_{SM} \supset -\lambda v^2 h^2 - \lambda v h^3 - \frac{1}{4} \lambda h^4 \quad (2.1)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} m_H^2 - \lambda_{HHH}^{SM} v h^3 - \lambda_{HHHH}^{SM} h^4 \quad (2.2)$$

where $m_H = \sqrt{2\lambda v^2}$ so that

$$\lambda_{HHH}^{SM} = \frac{m_H^2}{2v^2}. \quad (2.3)$$

868 The mass of the SM Higgs boson has been experimentally measured to be 125 GeV [22],
869 and the vacuum expectation value $v = 246$ GeV has a precise determination from the muon
870 lifetime [23]. This coupling is therefore precisely predicted in the Standard Model, such that
871 an observed deviation from this prediction would be a clear sign of new physics.

872 The relevant diagrams for non-resonant HH production are shown in Figure 2.2. Notably,
873 the diagrams *interfere* with each other, which can be easily seen by counting the fermion
874 lines. A detailed theoretical discussion is provided by, e.g. [24].

For the searches presented here, the quark couplings to the Higgs are considered to be consistent with the Standard Model value, with measurements of the dominant top Yukawa coupling left to more sensitive direct measurements, e.g. from $t\bar{t}$ final states [25]. Variations of the trilinear coupling away from the Standard Model are considered, however. Such variations are parametrized via

$$\kappa_\lambda = \frac{\lambda_{HHH}}{\lambda_{HHH}^{SM}} \quad (2.4)$$

875 where λ_{HHH} is a varied coupling and λ_{HHH}^{SM} is the Standard Model prediction. As this
876 variation only comes as a prefactor only with the *triangle* diagram, significant and interesting
877 effects are observed due to the interference. Examples of the impact of this tradeoff on the
878 di-Higgs invariant mass are shown in Figure 2.4. Generally speaking, the triangle diagram
879 contributes more at low mass, while the box diagram contributes more at high mass.

From a quick analysis of Figure 2.2, one may see that, at leading order, the box diagram, B has amplitude proportional to κ_t^2 , defined as the ratio of the top Yukawa coupling to the value predicted by the Standard Model, whereas the triangle diagram, T has amplitude proportional to $\kappa_t \kappa_\lambda$. Therefore, the cross section is proportional to

$$\sigma(\kappa_t, \kappa_\lambda) = |A(\kappa_t, \kappa_\lambda)|^2 \quad (2.5)$$

$$\sim |\kappa_t^2 B + \kappa_t \kappa_\lambda T|^2 \quad (2.6)$$

$$= \kappa_t^4 |B|^2 + \kappa_t^3 \kappa_\lambda (BT + TB) + \kappa_t^2 \kappa_\lambda^2 |T|^2, \quad (2.7)$$

880 and thus non-resonant HH production cross section may be parametrized as a second order
881 polynomial in κ_{lambda} .

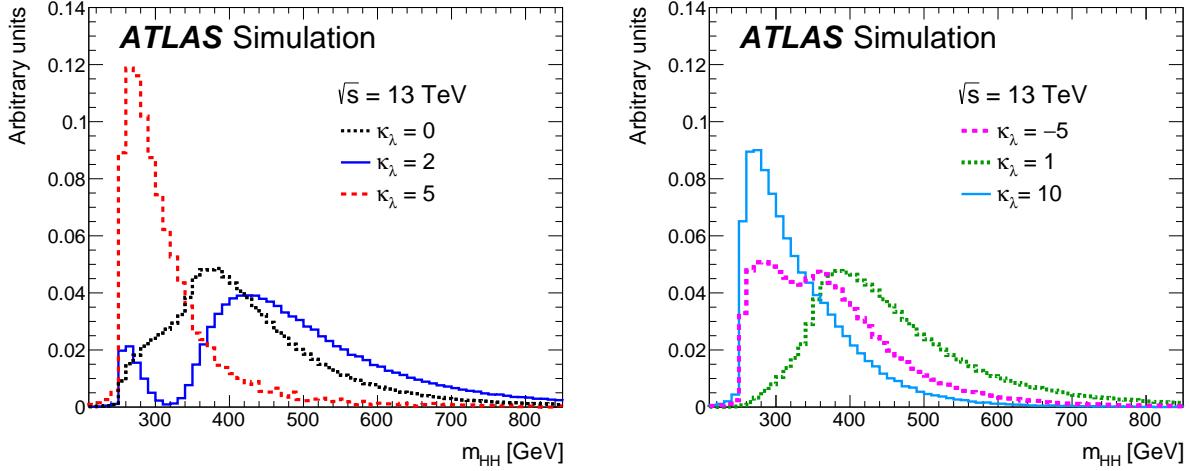


Figure 2.4: Monte Carlo generator level m_{HH} distributions for various values of κ_λ , demonstrating the impact of the interference between the two diagrams of Figure 2.2 on the resulting m_{HH} distribution. For $\kappa_\lambda = 0$ there is no triangle diagram contribution, demonstrating the shape of the box diagram contribution, whereas for $\kappa_\lambda = 10$, the triangle diagram dominates, with a strong low mass peak. The interplay between the two is quite evident for other values, resulting in, e.g., the double peaked structure present for $\kappa_\lambda = 2$ (near maximal destructive interference) and $\kappa_\lambda = -5$. [21]

For positive values of κ_λ , due to the relative minus sign between the triangle and box diagrams, the interference between the two diagrams is *destructive*, with a maximum interference near $\kappa_\lambda = 2.3$, corresponding to the minimum cross section prediction. One may note that the Standard Model value of $\kappa_\lambda = 1$ is not far away from this minimum – correspondingly the Standard Model cross section for HH production is quite small, namely 31.05 fb at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV for production via gluon-gluon fusion [26–33] compared to, e.g. single Higgs production, with a gluon-gluon fusion production cross section of 46.86 pb at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV [34] roughly 1500 times larger! For negative values of κ_λ , the interference is constructive.

891

Chapter 3

892

EXPERIMENTAL APPARATUS

893 What machines must we build to examine the smallest pieces of the universe? The famous
 894 equation $E = m$ provides that to create massive particles, we need to provide enough energy.
 895 In order to give kinematic phase space to the types of processes that are examined in this
 896 thesis (and many others besides), a system must be created in which there is enough energy
 897 to (at bare minimum), overcome kinematic thresholds: if you want to search for HH decays,
 898 you should have at least 250 GeV ($= 2 \times m_H$) to work with. It is not enough to simply induce
 899 such processes, however. These processes need to be captured in some way, emitted energy
 900 and particles must be characterized and identified, and in the end all of this information must
 901 be put into a useful and useable form such that selections can be made, statistics can be run,
 902 and a meaningful statement can be made about the universe. In this chapter, we describe the
 903 machines behind the physics, namely the Large Hadron Collider and the ATLAS experiment.

904 **3.1 The Large Hadron Collider**

905 The Large Hadron Collider is a particle accelerator near Geneva, Switzerland, operating
 906 at a center of mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. In broad scope, it is a ring with a 27 kilometer
 907 circumference. Hadrons (usually protons or heavy ions) move in two counter-circulating
 908 beams, which are made to collide at four collision points at various points on the ring. These
 909 four collision points correspond to the four detectors placed around the ring: two “general
 910 purpose” experiments: ATLAS and CMS; LHCb, focused primarily on flavor physics; and
 911 ALICE, focused primarily on heavy ions.

912 For proton-proton collisions, the focus of this thesis, the acceleration chain proceeds as
 913 follows: first, an electric field strips hydrogen of its electrons, creating protons. A linear

914 accelerator, LINAC 2, accelerates protons to 50 MeV. The resulting beam is injected into
 915 the Proton Synchrotron Booster (PSB), which pushes the protons to 1.4 GeV, and then the
 916 Proton Synchrotron, which brings the beam to 25 GeV.

917 Protons are then transferred to the Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS), which ramps up
 918 the energy to 450 GeV. Finally, the protons enter the LHC itself, bringing the beam up to
 919 6.5 TeV. *TODO: cite: <https://home.cern/science/accelerators/accelerator-complex>*

920 While there is, of course, much that goes into the Large Hadron Collider development and
 921 operation, perhaps two of the most fundamental ideas are (1) how are the beams directed
 922 and manipulated and (2) what do we mean when we say “protons are accelerated”. These
 923 questions both are directly answered by pieces of hardware, namely (1) magnets and (2)
 924 radiofrequency (RF) cavities.

925 One of fundamental components of the LHC is a large set of superconducting niobium-
 926 titanium magnets. These are cooled by liquid helium to achieve superconducting temperatures,
 927 and there are several types with very specific purposes. The obvious first question with a
 928 circular accelerator is how to keep the particle beam moving around in that circle. This job
 929 is done via a set of dipole magnets placed around the *beam pipes*: the tubes containing the
 930 beam. These are designed such that the magnetic field in the center of the beam pipe runs
 931 perpendicular to the velocity of the charged particles, providing the necessary centripetal
 932 force for the synchrotron motion.

933 A proton beam is not made of a single proton, however, but of many protons, grouped
 934 into a series of *bunches*. As all of these are positively charged, if unchecked, these bunches
 935 would become diffuse and break apart. What we want is a stable beam with tightly clustered
 936 protons to maximize the chance of a high energy collision. Such clustering is done via a series
 937 of quadropole magnets, with field distributed as in *TODO: grab image from General Exam.*
 938 Alternating sets of quadropoles provide the necessary forces for a tight, stable beam. While
 939 these are the two major components of the LHC magnet system, it is not the full story –
 940 higher order magnets are used to correct for small imperfections in the beam *TODO: expand.*

941 Magnetic fields do no work, however, so the magnet system is unable to do the job of the

actual acceleration. This is accomplished via a set of radiofrequency (RF) cavities. Within these cavities, an electric field is made to oscillate (switch direction) at a precise rate. These rates interact with the beam via in RF *buckets*, with bunches corresponding to groups of protons that fill a given bucket. The timing is such that protons will always experience an accelerating voltage, corresponding to the 25 ns bunch spacing used at the LHC.

A nice property of this bucket/bunch configuration is that there is some self-correction – there is some finite spread in the grouping of particles. If a particle arrives too early, it will experience some decelerating voltage; if too late, it will experience a higher accelerating voltage.

3.2 The ATLAS Experiment

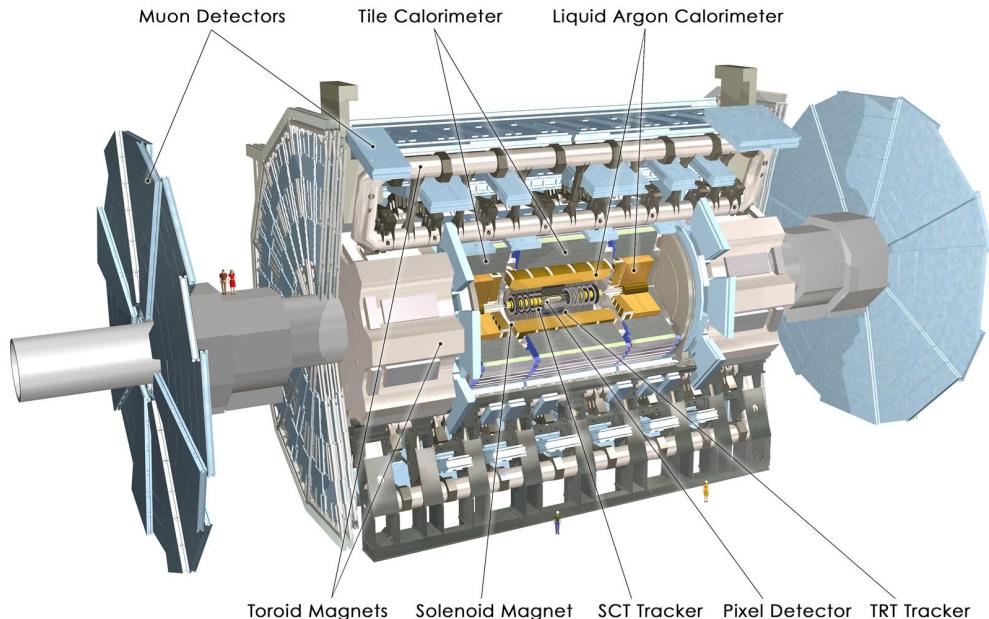


Figure 3.1: Diagram of the ATLAS detector [35]

This thesis focuses on searches done with the ATLAS experiment. As mentioned, this is one of two “general purpose” experiments at the LHC, by which we mean there is a very large and

broad variety of physics done within the experimental collaboration. This broad physics focus has a direct relation to the design of the ATLAS detector [36], pictured in Figure 3.1, which is composed of a sophisticated set of subsystems designed to fully characterize the physics of a given high energy particle collision. It consists of an inner tracking detector surrounded by a thin superconducting solenoid, electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and a muon spectrometer incorporating three large superconducting toroidal magnets. The ATLAS detector covers nearly the entire solid angle around the collision point, fully characterizing the “visible” components of a collision and allowing for indirect sensitivity to particles that do not interact with the detector (e.g. neutrinos) via “missing” energy (roughly momentum balance). We will go through the design and physics contribution of each of the detector components in the following. A schematic of how various particles interact with the detector is shown in Figure 3.2.

3.2.1 ATLAS Coordinate System

Of relevance for the following discussion, as well as for the analysis presented in Chapter 7, is the ATLAS coordinate system. ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point (IP) in the center of the detector and the z -axis along the beam pipe. The x -axis points from the IP to the centre of the LHC ring, and the y -axis points upwards. Cylindrical coordinates (r, ϕ) are used in the transverse plane, ϕ being the azimuthal angle around the z -axis. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle θ as $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$. Angular distance is measured in units of $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$. These coordinates are shown in Figure 3.3.

3.2.2 Inner Detector

The purpose of the inner detector is the reconstruction of the trajectory of charged particles, called *tracking*. This is accomplished primarily through the collection of electrons displaced when a charged particle passes through a tracking detector. By setting up multiple layers of

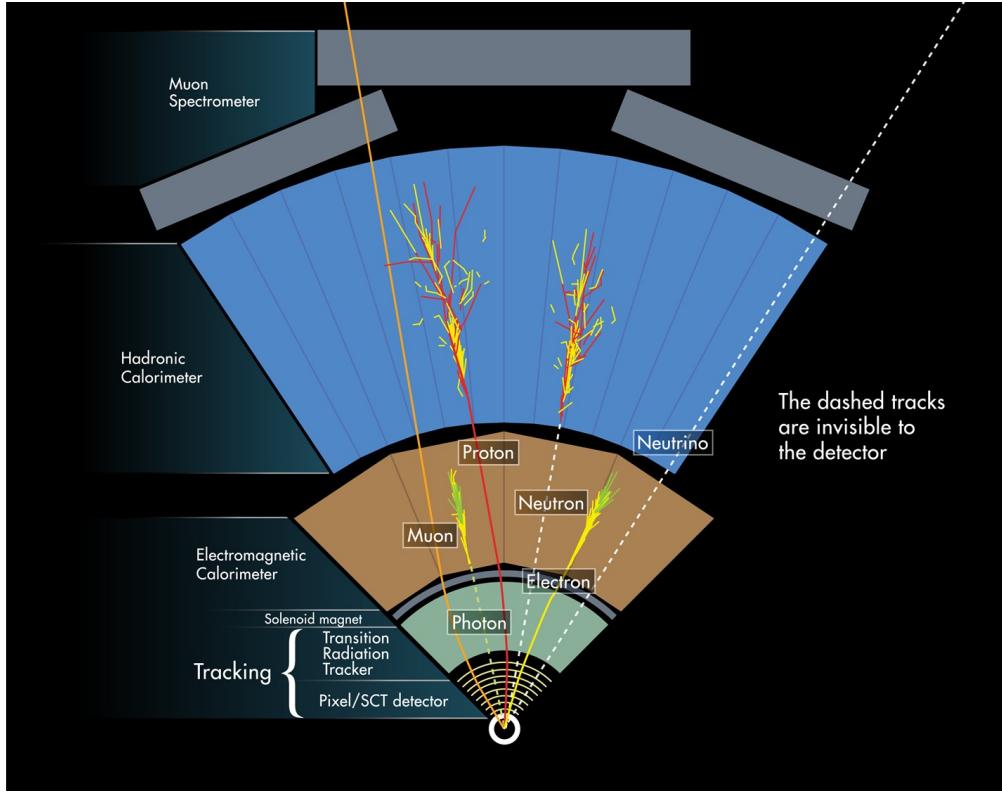


Figure 3.2: Cross section of the ATLAS detector showing how particles interact with various detector components [37]

such detectors, such that a given particle leaves a signature, known as a “hit”, in each layer, the trajectory of the particle may be inferred via “connecting the dots” between these hits.

The raw trajectory of a particle only provides positional information. However, the trajectory of a charged particle in a known magnetic field additionally provides information on particle momentum and charge via the curvature of the corresponding track (cf. $\vec{F} = q\vec{v} \times \vec{B}$). The inner detector system is therefore surrounded by a solenoid magnet, providing a 2 T magnetic field along the z -axis (yielding curvature in the transverse $x - y$ plane).

The inner detector provides charged particle tracking in the range $|\eta| < 2.5$ via a series of detector layers. The innermost of these is the high-granularity silicon pixel detector which typically provides four measurements per track, with the first hit in the insertable B-layer

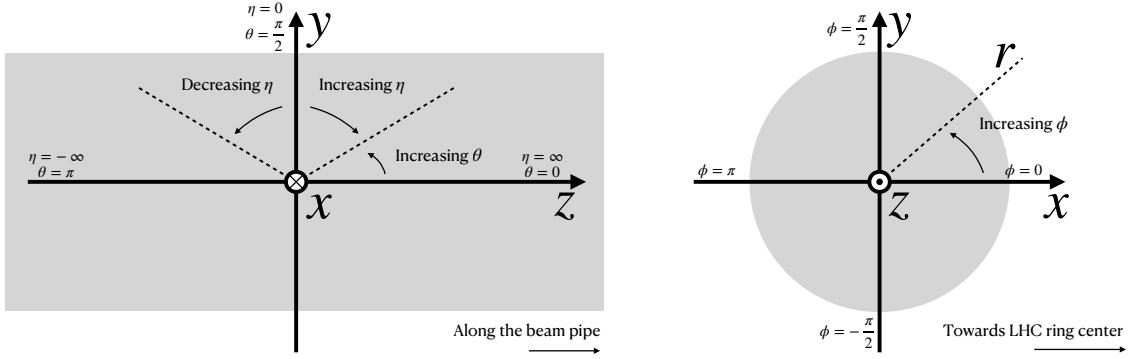


Figure 3.3: 2D projections of the ATLAS coordinate system

989 (IBL) installed before Run 2 [38, 39]. This is very close to the interaction point with a
990 high degree of positional information, and is therefore very important for e.g. b -tagging (see
991 Chapter 5). It is followed by the silicon microstrip tracker (SCT), which usually provides
992 eight measurements per track. This is lower granularity, but similar in concept to the pixel
993 detector.

994 Both of these silicon detectors are complemented by the transition radiation tracker
995 (TRT), which extends the radial track reconstruction within the range $|\eta| < 2.0$. This is
996 a different design, composed of *drift tubes*, i.e. straws filled with Xenon gas with a wire
997 in the center, but similarly collects electrons displaced by ionizing particles. In addition,
998 the TRT includes materials with widely varying indices of refraction, which leads to the
999 production of transition radiation, namely radiation produced by a charged particle passing
1000 through an inhomogeneous medium. The energy loss on such a transition is proportional
1001 to the Lorentz factor $\gamma = E/m$ – correspondingly, lighter particles (e.g. electrons) tend to
1002 lose more energy and emit more photons compared to heavier particles (e.g. pions). In the
1003 detector, this corresponds to a larger fraction of hits (typically 30 in total) above a given

1004 high energy-deposit threshold for electrons, providing particle identification information.

1005 *3.2.3 Calorimeter*

1006 Surrounding the inner detector in ATLAS is the calorimeter. The principle of the calorimeter
1007 is to completely absorb the energy of a produced particle in order to measure it. However,
1008 a pure block of absorber does not provide much information about the particle interaction
1009 with the material. The ATLAS calorimeter therefore has a *sampling calorimeter* structure,
1010 namely, layers of absorber interspersed with layers of sensitive material, giving the calorimeter
1011 “stopping power” while allowing detailed measurement of the resulting particle shower and
1012 corresponding deposited energy.

1013 The ATLAS calorimetersystem covers the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 4.9$, and is primarily
1014 composed of two components, an electromagnetic calorimeter, designed to measure particles
1015 which primarily interact via electromagnetism (e.g. photons and electrons), and a hadronic
1016 calorimeter, designed to measure particles which interact via the strong force (e.g. pions,
1017 other hadrons). We will return to the differences between these in a moment.

1018 In ATLAS, the electromagnetic calorimeter covers the region of $|\eta| < 3.2$, and uses
1019 lead for the absorbers and liquid-argon for the sensitive material. It is high granularity
1020 and, geometrically, has two components: the “barrel”, which covers the cylindrical body of
1021 the detector volume and the “endcap”, covering the ends. An additional thin liquid-argon
1022 presampler covers $|\eta| < 1.8$ to correct for energy loss in material upstream of the calorimeters.

1023 The hadronic calorimeter is composed of alternating steel and plastic scintillator tiles,
1024 segmented into three barrel structures within $|\eta| < 1.7$, in addition to two copper/liquid-argon
1025 endcap calorimeters.

1026 The solid angle coverage is completed with forward copper/liquid-argon and tungsten/liquid-
1027 argon calorimeter modules optimized for electromagnetic and hadronic energy measurements
1028 respectively.

1029 3.2.4 Muon Spectrometer

1030 While muons interact electromagnetically, they are around 200 times heavier than electrons
 1031 ($m_\mu = 106 \text{ MeV}$, while $m_e = 0.510 \text{ MeV}$). Therefore, electromagnetic interactions with ab-
 1032 sorbers in the calorimeter are not sufficient to stop them, and, as they do not interact via the
 1033 strong force, hard scattering with nuclei is rare. A dedicated system for muon measurements
 1034 is therefore required.

1035 The muon spectrometer (MS) is the outermost layer of ATLAS and is designed for this
 1036 purpose. It is composed of three parts: a set of triggering chambers, which detect if there is
 1037 a muon and provide a coordinate measurement, in conjunction with high-precision tracking
 1038 chambers, which measure the deflection of muons in a magnetic field to measure muon
 1039 momentum, similar to the inner detector solenoid. The magnetic field is generated by the
 1040 superconducting air-core toroidal magnets, with a field integral between 2.0 and 6.0 T m
 1041 across most of the detector. The toroid magnetic field runs roughly in a circle in the $x - y$
 1042 plane around the beam line, leading to muon curvature along the z-axis.

1043 The precision tracking system covers the region $|\eta| < 2.7$ via three layers of monitored
 1044 drift tubes, and is complemented by cathode-strip chambers in the forward region, where the
 1045 background is highest. The muon trigger system covers the range $|\eta| < 2.4$ with resistive-plate
 1046 chambers in the barrel, and thin-gap chambers in the endcap regions.

1047 3.2.5 Triggering

1048 During a typical run of the LHC, there are roughly 1 billion collisions in ATLAS per second
 1049 (1 GHz), corresponding to a 40 MHz bunch crossing rate. *TODO: cite: <https://cds.cern.ch/record/1457044/file>*
 1050 Saving the information from all of them is not only unnecessary, but infeasible. The ATLAS
 1051 trigger system provides a sophisticated set of selections to filter the collision data and only
 1052 keep those collision events useful for downstream analysis.

1053 These events are selected by the first-level trigger system, which is implemented in custom
 1054 hardware, and accepts events at a rate below 100 kHz. Selections are then made by algorithms

1055 implemented in software in the high-level trigger [40], reducing this further, and, in the end,
1056 events are recorded to disk at much more manageable rate of about 1 kHz.

1057 An extensive set of ATLAS software [41] is open source, including the software used for
1058 real and simulated data reconstruction and analysis and that used in the trigger and data
1059 acquisition systems of the experiment.

1060 *3.2.6 Particle Showers and the Calorimeter*

1061 The design of the ATLAS detector is directly tied to the physics it is trying to detect. Of these,
1062 possibly the most non-trivial distinction is in the calorimeter design. It is therefore useful to
1063 discuss in more detail the various properties of electromagnetic and hadronic interactions
1064 with material, and how these correspond to the particle showers measured by the detector
1065 described above.

1066 Electromagnetic showers in ATLAS predominantly occur via bremsstrahlung, or “braking
1067 radiation”, and electron-positron pair production. This proceeds roughly as follows: an electron
1068 entering a material is deflected by the electromagnetic field of a heavy nucleus. This results in
1069 the radiation of a photon. That photon produces an electron-positron pair, and the process
1070 repeats, resulting in a shower structure. At each step, characterized by *radiation length*, X_0 ,
1071 the number of particles approximately doubles and the average particle energy decreases by
1072 approximately a factor of two. *TODO: Include nice Thomson image*

Note that bremsstrahlung and pair production only dominate in specific energy regimes, with other processes taking over depending on particle energy. For electrons, bremsstrahlung only dominates for higher energies, as low energy electrons will form ions with the atoms of the material. The point where the rates for the two processes are equal is called the *critical energy*, and is roughly

$$E_c \approx \frac{800 \text{ MeV}}{Z} \quad (3.1)$$

1073 where Z is the nuclear charge. From a similar analysis of rates, we may see that the
1074 bremsstrahlung rate is inversely proportional to the square of the mass of the particle. This

¹⁰⁷⁵ explains why muons do not shower in a similar way, as the rate of bremsstrahlung is suppressed
¹⁰⁷⁶ by $(m_e/m_\mu)^2$ relative to electrons.

For lead, the absorber used for the ATLAS electromagnetic calorimeter, which has $Z = 82$, this critical energy is therefore around 10 MeV. Electrons resulting from LHC collisions are of a 1.3×10^3 GeV scale. With the approximation of a reduction in particle energy by a factor of two every radiation length, the number of radiation lengths before the critical energy is reached is

$$x = \frac{\ln(E/E_c)}{\ln 2} \quad (3.2)$$

¹⁰⁷⁷ such that for a 100 GeV shower in lead, $x \sim 13$. The radiation length for lead is around
¹⁰⁷⁸ 0.56 cm, such that an electromagnetic shower could be expected to be captured within 10 cm
¹⁰⁷⁹ of lead.

¹⁰⁸⁰ Electromagnetic showers are therefore characterized by depositing much of their energy
¹⁰⁸¹ within a small region of space. As we show below (Chapter 4) though electromagnetic
¹⁰⁸² showering is not deterministic, the large number of particles and the restricted set of processes
¹⁰⁸³ involved means that the shower development as a whole is very similar between individual
¹⁰⁸⁴ electromagnetic showers of the same energy.

¹⁰⁸⁵ For completeness, note as well that pair production dominates for photons of energy greater
¹⁰⁸⁶ than around 10 MeV, whereas for lower energies (below around 1 MeV), the photoelectric
¹⁰⁸⁷ effect, namely atomic photon absorption and electron emission, dominates.

¹⁰⁸⁸ Hadronic showers are distinguished by the fact that they interact strongly with atomic
¹⁰⁸⁹ nuclei. They are correspondingly more complex because (1) they involve a wider variety
¹⁰⁹⁰ of processes than electromagnetic showers, and (2) these processes have a wide variety of
¹⁰⁹¹ associated length scales. Because these are heavier than electrons (e.g. protons and charged
¹⁰⁹² pions) bremsstrahlung is suppressed, but ionization interactions with the electrons will cause
¹⁰⁹³ these particles to lose energy as they pass through the material. Hadronic showering occurs
¹⁰⁹⁴ on interaction with atomic nuclei. This may lead to production of, e.g. both charged (π^\pm)
¹⁰⁹⁵ and neutral (π^0) pions. The π^0 lifetime is much much shorter than that of the charged pions
¹⁰⁹⁶ (around a factor of 10^8), and immediately decays to two photons, starting an electromagnetic

1097 shower, as described above. The longer lived π^\pm travel further in the detector before
1098 experiencing another strong interaction with more particles produced, also with varying
1099 lifetimes and decay properties.

1100 It is therefore immediately apparent that hadronic showers are more complex than
1101 electromagnetic ones (electromagnetic showers can be a subset of the hadronic!), and therefore
1102 much more variable from shower to shower. The length scales involved are also significantly
1103 larger due to the reliance on nuclear interactions, characterized by length λ_I , which is around
1104 17 cm for iron (used in the ATLAS hadronic calorimeter). This motivates the calorimeter
1105 design, and results in the properties demonstrated in Figure 3.2.

1106

Chapter 4

1107

SIMULATION

1108 Simulated physics samples are a core piece of the physics output of the Large Hadron
 1109 Collider, providing a map from a physics theory into what is observed in our detector. This
 1110 is crucial for searches for new physics, where simulation is necessary to describe what a given
 1111 signal model looks like, but also extremely valuable for describing the physics of the Standard
 1112 Model, providing detailed predictions of background processes for use in everything from
 1113 designing simple cuts to training multivariate discriminators. Broadly, simulation can be split
 1114 into two stages: *event generation*, in which physics theory is used to generate a description of
 1115 particles present after a proton-proton collision, and *detector simulation*, which passes this
 1116 particle description through a simulation of the detector material, providing a view of the
 1117 physics event as it would be seen in ATLAS data. Such simulation is often called Monte Carlo
 1118 in reference to the underlying mathematical framework, which relies on random sampling.

1119 **4.1 Event Generation**

1120 A variety of tools are used to simulate various aspects of event generation. MADGRAPH [42]
 1121 is commonly used for the generation of the “hard scatter” event, i.e., two protons collide
 1122 and some desired physics process happens. In practice, this is not quite as simple as two
 1123 quarks or gluons interacting. Protons are composed of three “valence” quarks with various
 1124 momenta interacting with each other via exchange of gluons, but also a sea of virtual gluons
 1125 which may decay into other quarks. A hard scatter event is therefore characterized by
 1126 the corresponding particle level diagrams, but additionally by a set of *parton distribution*
 1127 *functions* (PDFs), which describe the probability to find constituent quarks or gluons at
 1128 carrying various momenta at a given energy scale (often written Q^2). Such PDFs are measured

1129 experimentally *TODO: cite* and the selection of a “PDF set” and a given physics process
 1130 characterizes the hard scatter. Depending on the model being considered and the particular
 1131 theoretical constraints, processes are often simulated at either leading (LO) or next to leading
 1132 order (NLO), corresponding to the order of the perturbative expansion (i.e. tree level or 1
 1133 loop diagrams). Various additional tools are developed for such NLO calculations, including
 1134 POWHEG Box v2 [43–45], which is used for this thesis.

1135 The hard scatter is not the only component of a given collider event, however. Incoming
 1136 and outgoing particles are themselves very energetic and may radiate particles along their
 1137 trajectory. In particular, gluons, which have a self-interaction term as described in Chapter 1,
 1138 may be radiated, which subsequently themselves radiate gluons or decay to quarks which can
 1139 also radiate gluons, in a whole mess of QCD that both contributes to the particle content
 1140 of a collider event and is not directly described by the hard scatter. This cascade, called
 1141 a *parton shower*, has a dedicated set of simulation tools, commonly HERWIG 7 [46][47] and
 1142 PYTHIA 8 [48], which interface with tools such as MADGRAPH for simulation.

1143 Due to color confinement (Chapter 1), quarks and gluons cannot be observed free particles,
 1144 but rather undergo a process called hadronization, in which they are grouped into colorless
 1145 hadrons (e.g. *mesons*, consisting of one quark and one antiquark). In simulation, this is also
 1146 handled with HERWIG 7 and PYTHIA 8.

1147 The physics of b -quarks is quite important for a variety of searches for new physics and
 1148 measurements of the Standard Model, including this thesis work *TODO: ref flavor tagging*
 1149 *sec?*. Correspondingly, the decay of “heavy flavor” particles (e.g. B and D mesons, containing
 1150 b and c quarks respectively) has been very well studied, and a dedicated simulation tool,
 1151 EVTGEN [49], is used for such processes.

1152 *TODO: add nice parton shower image*

1153 4.2 Detector Simulation

1154 Event generation provides a full description of the particle content of a given collider event.
 1155 In reality, however, we do not have access to such a description, and must rely on physical

detectors to collect information about said particle content. The design and components of the ATLAS detector are described in Chapter 3. Simulation of this detector quickly becomes complicated – there are a variety of different materials and subdetectors, each with particular configurations and resolutions. Interactions of particles with the detector materials can cause showering, and such showers must be simulated and characterized.

In ATLAS, the GEANT4 [50] simulation toolkit is used for detailed simulation of the ATLAS detector, often referred to as *full simulation*. The method can be thought of as proceeding step by step as a particle moves through the detector, simulating the interaction of the material at each stage, and following each branch of each resulting shower with a similarly detailed step by step simulation.

This type of simulation is very computationally intensive, especially in the calorimeter, which has a high density of material, leading to an extremely large set of material interactions to simulate. There is correspondingly a large effort within ATLAS to develop techniques to decrease the computational load – these techniques will be of increasing importance for Run 3 and the HL-LHC *TODO: include classic budget plot*.

The fast simulation used for this thesis, AtlFast-II [51], is one such technique, which uses a parametrized simulation of the calorimeter, called FastCaloSim, in conjunction with full simulation of the inner detector, to achieve an order of magnitude speed up in simulation time. This parametrized simulation uses a simplified detector geometry, in conjunction with a simulation of particle shower development based on statistical sampling of distributions from fully simulated events, to massively speed up simulation time and computational load.

Such a speed up comes at a bit of a cost in performance. In particular, the modeling of jet substructure (see Chapter 5) historically has been an issue for FastCaloSim. The ATLAS authorship qualification work supporting this thesis is an effort to improve such modeling, and is part of a suite of updates being considered for a new fast simulation targeting Run 3. We briefly describe this work in the following.

1182 **4.3 Correlated Fluctuations in FastCaloSim**

1183 A variety of developments have been made to FastCaloSim, improving on the version used for
 1184 AtlFast-II. This new fast calorimeter simulation [52] is largely based on two components: one
 1185 which describes the *total energy* deposited in each calorimeter layer as a shower moves from
 1186 the interaction point outward, and one which describes the *shape*, i.e., the pattern of energy
 1187 deposits, of a shower in each respective calorimeter layer. Both methods are parametrizations
 1188 of the full simulation, and therefore are considered to be performing well if they are able
 1189 to reproduce corresponding full simulation distributions. Of course, directly sampling from
 1190 a library of showers would identically reproduce such distributions – however a statistical
 1191 sampling of various shower *properties* provides much more generality in the simulation.

1192 For the simulation of total energy in each given layer, the primary challenge is that such en-
 1193 ergy deposits are highly correlated. The new FastCaloSim thus relies on a technique called Prin-
 1194 cipal Component Analysis (PCA) *TODO: cite <https://root.cern.ch/doc/master/classTPrincipal.html>*
 1195 to de-correlate the layers, aiding parametrisation.

1196 The PCA chain transforms N energy inputs into N Gaussians and projects these Gaussians
 1197 onto the eigenvectors of the corresponding covariance matrix. This results in N de-correlated
 1198 components, as the eigenvectors are orthogonal. The component of the PCA decomposition
 1199 with the largest corresponding eigenvalue is then used to define bins, in which showers
 1200 demonstrate similar patterns of energy deposition across the calorimeter layers. To further
 1201 de-correlate the inputs, the PCA chain is repeated on the showers within each such bin. This
 1202 full process is reversed for the particle simulation. A full description of the method can be
 1203 found in [52].

1204 Modeling of the lateral shower shape makes use of 2D histograms filled with GEANT4
 1205 hit energies in each layer and PCA bin. Binned in polar $\alpha - R$ coordinates in a local plane
 1206 tangential to the surface of the calorimeter system, these histograms represent the spatial
 1207 distribution of energy deposits for a given particle shower. Such histograms are constructed
 1208 for a number of Geant4 events, and the histograms for each event are normalized to total

1209 energy deposited in the given layer. The average of these histograms is then taken (what is
 1210 called here the “average shape”).

1211 In simulation, these average shape histograms are used as probability distributions, from
 1212 which a finite number of equal energy hits are drawn. This finite drawing of hits induces
 1213 a statistical fluctuation about the average shape which is tuned to match the expected
 1214 calorimeter sampling uncertainty.

1215 As an example, the intrinsic resolution of the ATLAS Liquid Argon calorimeter has a
 1216 sampling term of $\sigma_{\text{samp}} \approx 10\%/\sqrt{E}$ [53]. The number of hits to be drawn for each layer, $N_{\text{hits}}^{\text{layer}}$,
 1217 is thus taken from a Poisson distribution with mean $1/\sigma_{\text{samp}}^2$, where the energy assigned to
 1218 each hit is then just $E_{\text{hit}} = \frac{E_{\text{layer}}}{N_{\text{hits}}^{\text{layer}}}$. This induces a fluctuation of the order of $10\%/\sqrt{E_{\text{bin}}}$ for
 1219 each bin in the average shape.

1220 Figure 4.1 shows a comparison of energy and weta2 [54], defined as the energy weighted
 1221 lateral width of a shower in the second electromagnetic calorimeter layer, for 16 GeV photons
 1222 simulated with the new FastCaloSim and with full GEANT4 simulation. The agreement is
 1223 quite good, with FastCaloSim matching the Geant4 mean to within 0.3 and 0.03 percent
 respectively. Similar results are seen for other photon energies and η points.

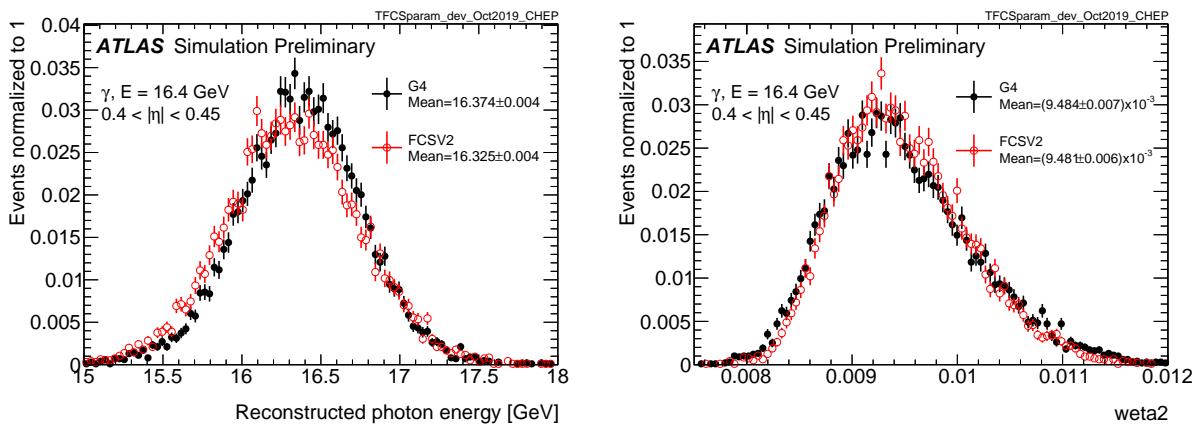


Figure 4.1: Energy and lateral shower width variable, weta2, for 16 GeV photons with full simulation (G4) and FastCaloSimV2 (FCSV2) [52].

1225 *4.3.1 Fluctuation Modeling*

1226 Figure 4.2 shows the ratio of calorimeter cell energies for single GEANT4 photon and pion
 1227 events to the corresponding cell energies in their respective average shapes. While the photon
 1228 event is quite close to the corresponding average, the pion event shows a deviation from the
 1229 average which is much larger and has a non-trivial structure, reflecting the different natures
 1230 of electromagnetic and hadronic showering.

1231 While the shape parametrization described above is thus sufficient for describing electro-
 1232 magnetic showers, we will demonstrate below that it is not sufficient for describing hadronic
 1233 showers (Figures 4.5 and 4.6). We therefore present and validate methods to improve this
 1234 hadronic shower modeling.

1235 Two methods for modeling deviations from the average shape have been studied: (1)
 1236 a neural network based approach using a Variational Autoencoder (VAE) [55] and (2) a
 1237 map through cumulative distributions to an n -dimensional Gaussian. With both methods,
 1238 the shape simulation then proceeds as described in Section ??, with the drawing of hits
 1239 according to the average shape. However, these hits no longer have equal energy, but have
 1240 weights applied to increase or decrease their energy depending on their spatial position.
 1241 This application of weights is designed to mimic a realistic shower structure and to encode
 1242 correlations between energy deposits.

1243 Both methods are trained on ratios of energy in binned units called voxels. This voxelization
 1244 is performed in the same polar $\alpha - R$ coordinates as the average shape, with a 5 mm core in
 1245 R and 20 mm binning thereafter. There are a total of 8 α bins from 0 to 2π and 8 additional
 1246 R bins from 5 mm to 165 mm. The 5 mm core is filled with the average value of core voxels
 1247 across the 8 α bins when creating the parametrisation. However, during simulation, each of
 1248 these 8 core bins is treated independently. The outputs of both methods mimic these energy
 1249 ratios and are used in the shape simulation as the weights described above. In contrast to
 1250 an approach based on, e.g., calorimeter cells, using voxels allows for flexibility in tuning the
 1251 binning used in creating the parametrisation. Further, due to their relatively large size, using

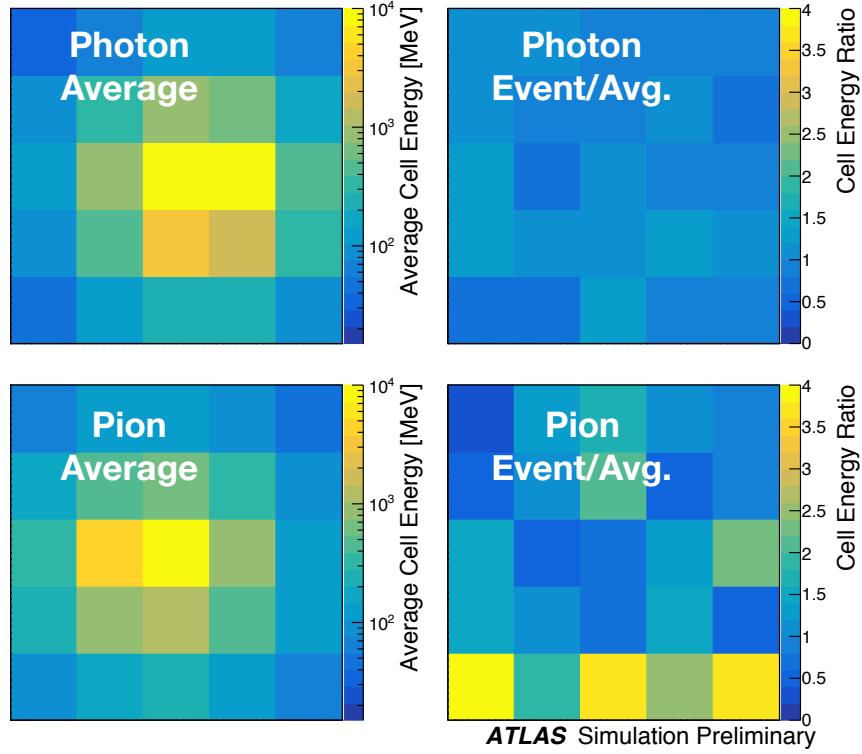


Figure 4.2: Example of photon and pion average shapes in 5×5 calorimeter cells. The left column shows the average shape over a sample of 10000 events, while the right column shows the energy ratio, in each cell, of single GEANT4 events with respect to this average. The photon ratios are all close to 1, while the pion ratios show significant deviation from the average.

1252 calorimeter cells is subject to “edge effects”, where the splitting of energy between cells has a
 1253 non-trivial effect on the observed energy ratio. The binning used here is of the order of half
 1254 of a cell size, mitigating this effect.

1255 The Gaussian method operates by using cumulative distributions to map GEANT4 energy
 1256 ratios to a multidimensional Gaussian distribution. New events are generated by randomly
 1257 sampling from this Gaussian distribution.

1258 For the VAE method, a system of two linked neural networks is trained to generate events.

1259 The first “encoder” neural network maps input GEANT4 energy ratios to a lower dimensional
 1260 latent space. A second “decoder” neural network then samples from that latent space and
 1261 tries to reproduce the inputs. In simulation, events are generated by taking random samples
 1262 from the latent space and passing them through the trained decoder.

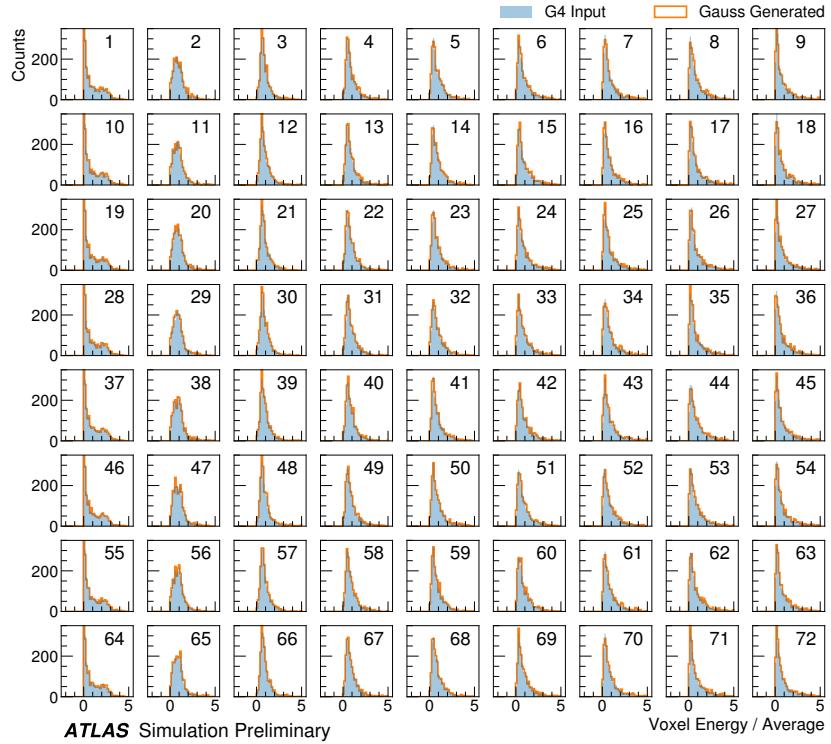


Figure 4.3: Distribution of the ratio of voxel energy in single events to the corresponding voxel energy in the average shape, with GEANT4 events in blue and Gaussian model events in orange, for 65 GeV central pions in EMB2. Moving top to bottom corresponds to increasing α , left to right corresponds to increasing R , with core voxels numbered 1, 10, 19, Agreement is quite good across all voxels. Results are similar for the VAE method.

1263 Figure 4.3 shows the distributions of input GEANT4 and Gaussian method generated
 1264 energy ratios in the grid of voxels. Figure 4.4 shows the correlation coefficient between the
 1265 center voxel from $\alpha = 0$ to $2\pi/8$ for input GEANT4 and the Gaussian and VAE fluctuation

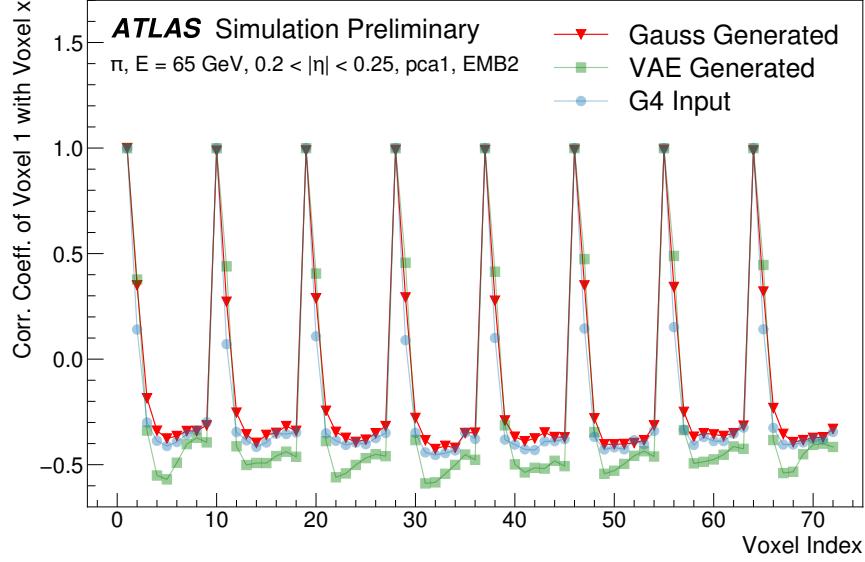


Figure 4.4: Correlation coefficient of ratios of voxel energy in single events to the corresponding voxel energy in the average shape, examined between the core bin from $\alpha = 0$ to $2\pi/8$ and each of the other voxels. The periodic structure represents the binning in α , and the increasing numbers in each of these periods correspond to increasing R , where the eight points with correlation coefficient 1 are the eight core bins. Both the Gaussian and VAE generated toy events are able to reproduce the major correlation structures for 65 GeV central pions in EMB2.

1266 methods. Agreement is good throughout.

1267 Validation of the Gaussian and VAE fluctuation methods was performed within FastCaloSimV2.

1268 Figure 4.5 shows the energy ratio of cells for a given simulation to the corresponding cells in
 1269 the average shape as a function of the distance from the shower center. The mean for all
 1270 simulation methods is expected to be around 1, with deviation from the average (the RMS
 1271 fluctuation) shown by the error bars. The Gaussian method RMS (red) and VAE method
 1272 RMS (green) both match the GEANT4 RMS (yellow) better than the case without correlated
 1273 fluctuations (blue) for a variety of energies, η points, and layers, often reproducing 80 – 100 %

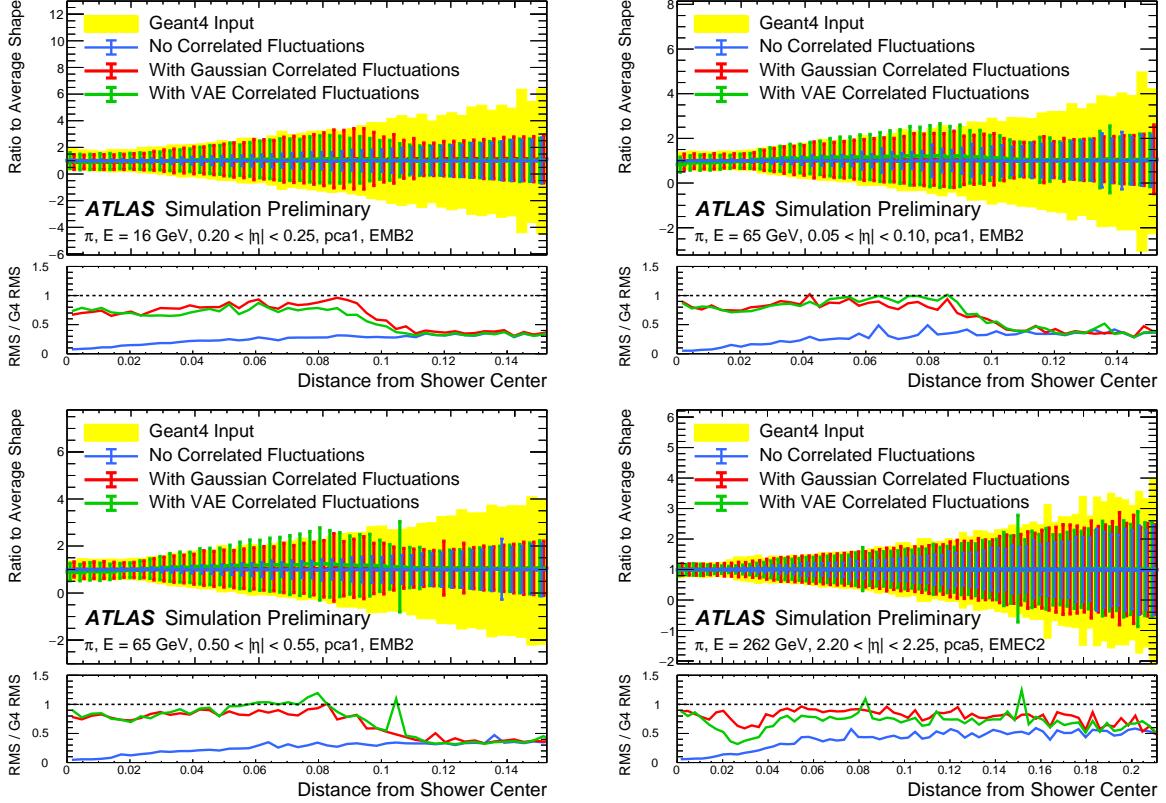


Figure 4.5: Comparison of the RMS fluctuations about the average shape with the Gaussian fluctuation model (red), the VAE fluctuation model (green), and without correlated fluctuations (blue) for a range of pion energies, η points, and layers.

of the GEANT4 RMS magnitude, compared to the 5 – 30% observed in the no correlated fluctuations case.

Figure 4.6 shows the result of a simulation with full ATLAS reconstruction for 65 GeV central pions with the Gaussian fluctuation model. The simulation with the Gaussian fluctuation model demonstrates improved modeling of several shape variables relative to baseline FastCaloSimV2, reproducing the distributions of events simulated with GEANT4.

The new fast calorimeter simulation is a crucial part of the future of simulation for the ATLAS Experiment at the LHC. The per event simulation time of the full detector with GEANT4,

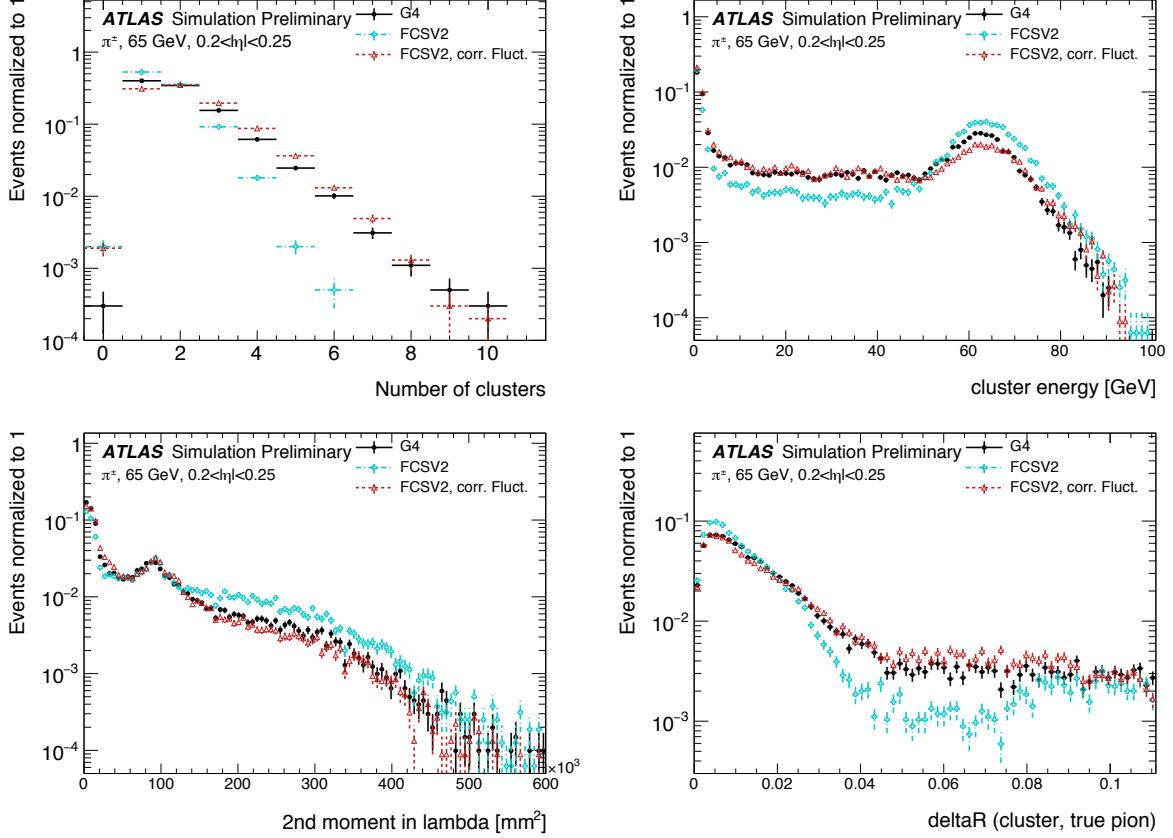


Figure 4.6: Comparison of the Gaussian fluctuation model to the default FCSV2 version and to G4 simulation, using pions of 65 GeV energy and $0.2 < |\eta| < 0.25$. With the correlated fluctuations, several shape variables demonstrate improved modeling.

calculated over 100 $t\bar{t}$ events, is 228.9 s. Using FastCaloSim for the calorimeter simulation reduces this to 26.6 s, of which FastCaloSim itself is only 0.015 s. Good physics modeling is achieved, the correlated fluctuations method shows good proof of concept improvement for the modeling of hadronic showers.

1286

Chapter 5

1287

RECONSTRUCTION

1288 Chapter 3 discusses how a proton-proton collision may be captured by a physical detector
 1289 and turned into data that may be stored and analyzed. Chapter 4 discusses the simulation
 1290 of this same process. At this most basic level, however, the ATLAS detector is only a
 1291 machine for turning particles into a set of electrical signals, albeit in a very sophisticated,
 1292 physics motivated way. This chapter discusses the step of turning these electrical signals into
 1293 objects which may be identified with the underlying physics processes, and therefore used to
 1294 make statements about what occurred within a given collision event. This process is termed
 1295 *reconstruction*, and we will focus particularly on jets and flavor tagging, as the most relevant
 1296 pieces for this thesis work.

1297

5.1 Jets

1298 As discussed in Chapters 3 and 4, the production of particles with color charge from a
 1299 proton-proton interaction is complicated both by parton showering and by confinement: a
 1300 quark produced from a hard scatter is not seen as a quark, but rather, as a spray of particles
 1301 with a variety of hadrons in the final state, which subsequently shower upon interaction with
 1302 the calorimeter in a complicated way.

1303 For hard scatter electrons, photons, or muons on the other hand, the picture is much
 1304 clearer: there is no parton showering, and each has a distinct signature in the detector:
 1305 photons have no tracks and a very localized calorimeter shower, electrons are associated
 1306 with tracks and are similarly localized in the calorimeter, and muons are associated with
 1307 tracks, pass through the calorimeter due to their large mass, and leave signatures in the muon
 1308 spectrometer.

1309 Jets are a tool to deal with the messiness of quarks and gluons. The basic concept is to
 1310 group the multitude of particles produced by a quark or gluon decay into a single object. Such
 1311 an object then has associated properties, including a four-vector, which may be identified
 1312 with the corresponding initial state particle. In practice a variety of information from the
 1313 ATLAS detector is used for such a reconstruction. The analysis considered in this thesis uses
 1314 particle flow jets [56], which combines information from both the tracker and the calorimeter,
 1315 where the combined objects may be identified with underlying particles. However, jets built
 1316 from clusters of calorimeter cells [57] as well as from charged particle tracks [58] have also
 1317 been used very effectively.

1318 A variety of algorithms are used to associate detector level objects to a given jet. The
 1319 most commonly used in ATLAS is the anti- k_T algorithm [59], which is a successor to the
 1320 k_T algorithm, among others [60], and develops as follows. Both algorithms are sequential
 1321 recombination algorithms, which begin with the smallest distance, d_{ij} between considered
 1322 objects (e.g. particles or intermediate groupings of particles). If d_{ij} is less than a parameter
 1323 d_{iB} (B for “beam”) object i is combined with object j , the distance d_{ij} is recomputed, and
 1324 the process repeats. This proceeds until $d_{ij} \geq d_{iB}$, at which point the jet is “complete” and
 1325 removed from the list of considered objects.

The definitional difference between k_T and anti- k_T is these distance parameters. In general
 form, these are defined as

$$d_{ij} = \min(p_{Ti}^{2p}, p_{Tj}^{2p}) \frac{\Delta R_{ij}^2}{R^2} \quad (5.1)$$

$$d_{iB} = p_{Ti}^{2p} \quad (5.2)$$

1326 where p_{Ti} is the transverse momentum of object i , ΔR_{ij} is the angular distance between
 1327 objects i and j , R is a radius parameter, and p controls the tradeoff between the p_T and
 1328 angular distance terms. For the k_T algorithm $p = 1$; for the anti- k_T algorithm, $p = -1$. This
 1329 is a simple change, but results in significantly different behavior.

The anti- k_T algorithm can be understood as follows: for a single high p_T particle (p_{T1})
 surrounded by a bunch of low p_T particles, the low p_T particles will be clustered with the

high p_T one if

$$d_{1j} = \frac{1}{p_{T1}^2} \frac{\Delta R_{1j}^2}{R^2} < \frac{1}{p_{T1}^2} \quad (5.3)$$

$$\implies \Delta R_{1j} < R. \quad (5.4)$$

1330 Therefore, a single high p_T particle (p_{T1}) surrounded by a bunch of low p_T particles results in
 1331 a perfectly conical jet. This shape may change with the presence of other high momentum
 1332 particles, but the key feature of the dynamics is that the jet shape is determined by high p_T
 1333 objects due to the $\frac{1}{p_T}$ nature of this definition. In contrast, the k_T algorithm results in jets
 1334 influenced by low momentum particles, which results in a less regular shape. This property,
 1335 of regular jet shapes determined by high momentum objects, as well as demonstrated good
 1336 practical performance, makes the anti- k_T algorithm the favored jet algorithm in ATLAS.

1337 Because jets are composed of multiple objects, a useful property of jets is jet *substructure*,
 1338 that is, acknowledging that jets are composite objects, analyzing the structure of a given
 1339 jet to infer physics information. This leads to the use of *subjets*; that is, after running jet
 1340 clustering, often to create a “large-R”, $R = 1.0$ anti- k_T jet, a smaller radius jet clustering
 1341 algorithm is run within the jet. Subjets are often chosen using the k_T algorithm, which again
 1342 is sensitive to lower momentum particles, with $R = 0.2$ or 0.3 . For the boosted version of this
 1343 thesis analysis, such a strategy is used, in which the subjets are *variable radius* and depend
 1344 on the momentum of the (proto)jet in question. Beyond this thesis work, substructure is
 1345 used in a large variety of analyses, with a set of associated variables and tools developed for
 1346 exploiting this structure *TODO: Cite some?*.

1347 5.2 Flavor Tagging

1348 For this this thesis, the physics process being considered is $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$. From the previous
 1349 section, we know that the standard practice is to identify these b quarks (or, rather, the
 1350 resulting B hadrons, due to confinement) with jets – in our case, these b -*jets* are $R=0.4$
 1351 anti- k_T particle flow jets (see Chapter 7). However, not all jets produced at the LHC are
 1352 from B hadrons; rather, there are a variety of different types of jets corresponding to different

1353 flavors of quarks. These are often classified as light jets (from u , d , or s quarks, or gluons)
 1354 or as other *heavy flavor* jets, e.g. c -jets, involving c quarks. Distinguishing between these
 1355 different categories is a very active area of work in ATLAS, termed *flavor tagging*, with much
 1356 focus on *b-tagging* in particular, that is, the identification of jets from B hadron decays. We
 1357 here briefly describe the techniques used for flavor tagging in ATLAS.

1358 What distinguishes a b -jet from any other jet? This question is fundamental to the design
 1359 of the various b -tagging algorithms, and has two major answers: (1) B hadrons have long
 1360 lifetimes, and (2) B hadrons have large masses. It is most illustrative to compare the B hadron
 1361 properties to a common light meson, e.g. π^0 , the neutral pion, with quark content $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(u\bar{u} - d\bar{d})$.
 1362 B hadrons have lifetimes around 1.5 ps, corresponding to a decay length $c\tau \approx 0.45$ mm. In
 1363 contrast, π^0 has a lifetime of 8.4×10^{-5} ps, which is around 20,000 times shorter! Theoretically,
 1364 this comes from CKM suppression of the b to c transition *TODO: check*, which dominates
 1365 the B decay modes. Experimentally, this difference pops up as shown in Figure 5.1 – light
 1366 flavor initiated jets decay almost immediately at the proton-proton interaction point, whereas
 1367 b -jets are distinguished by a displaced secondary vertex, corresponding to the 5 mm decay
 1368 length calculated above. This displaced vertex falls short of the detector itself, but may be
 1369 inferred from larger transverse (perpendicular to beam) and longitudinal (parallel to beam)
 1370 impact parameters of the resulting tracks, termed d_0 and z_0 respectively.

1371 Coming to the mass, B mesons have masses of around 5.2 GeV, whereas the π^0 mass
 1372 is around 0.134 GeV, (around 40 times lighter). This higher mass gives access to a larger
 1373 decay phase space, leading to a high multiplicity for b -jets (average of 5 charged particles per
 1374 decay).

1375 One final distinguishing feature of B hadrons is their *fragmentation function*, a function
 1376 describing the production of an observed final state. For B hadrons, this is particularly
 1377 “hard”, with the B hadrons themselves contributing to an average of around 75 % of the b -jet
 1378 energy. Thus, the identification of b -jets with B hadrons is, in some sense, descriptive.

1379 We have contrasted b -jets and light jets, demonstrating that there are several handles
 1380 available for making this distinction. c -jets are slightly more similar to b -jets, but the same

handles still apply – c -hadron lifetimes are between 0.5 and 1 ps, a factor of 2 smaller than B hadrons. Their mass is around 1.9 GeV, 2 to 3 times smaller than B hadrons, and c -hadrons contribute to an average of around 55 % of c -jet energy. Therefore, while the gap is slightly smaller, a distinction may still be made.

The ATLAS flavor tagging framework [62] relies on developing a suite of “low-level” taggers, which use a variety of information about tracks and vertices as inputs. The output of these lower level taggers are then fed into a higher level tagger, which aggregates these results into a high level discriminant. Each of these taggers is described below.

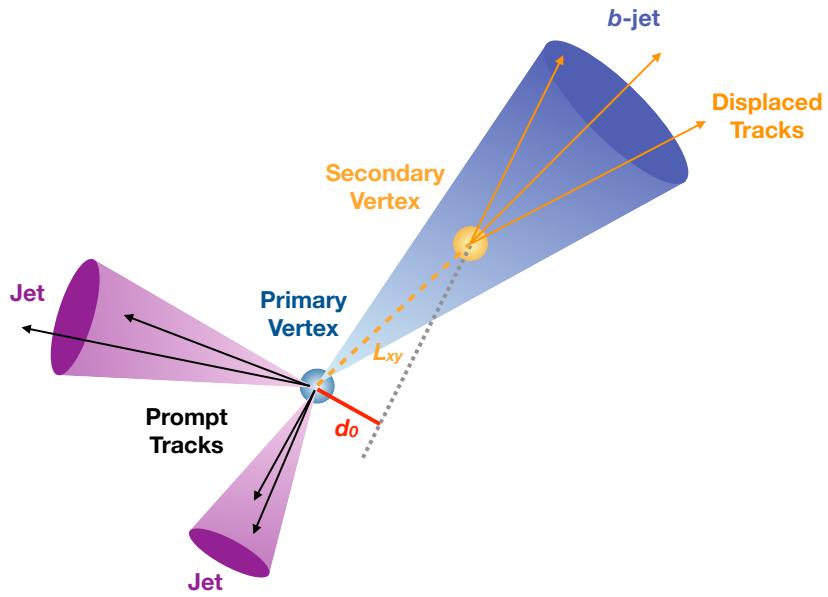


Figure 5.1: Illustration of an interaction producing two light jets and one b -jet in the transverse plane. While the light jets decay “promptly”, coinciding with the primary vertex of the proton-proton interaction, the longer lifetime of B hadrons leads to a secondary decay vertex, displaced from the primary vertex by length L_{xy} . This is typically a few mm, and therefore is not directly visible in the detector, but leads to a large transverse impact parameter, d_0 , for the resulting tracks. [61]

1389 *5.2.1 IP2D/3D*

1390 IP2D and IP3D are taggers based on the large track impact parameter (IP) nature of B
 1391 hadron decays. Both are based on histogram templates derived from Monte Carlo simulation,
 1392 which are used as probability density functions to construct log-likelihood discriminants.
 1393 IP2D incorporates just the transverse impact parameter information using 1D histogram
 1394 templates, whereas IP3D uses both transverse and longitudinal impact parameters in a 2D
 1395 template, which accounts for correlations. Importantly, these are *signed* impact parameters,
 1396 with sign based on the angle between the impact parameter and the considered jet – positive
 1397 impact parameters are consistent with a track extrapolation in front of the jet (angle between
 1398 impact parameter line and jet $< 90^\circ$), and therefore more consistent with tracks originating
 1399 from a displaced decay.

1400 Rather than using the impact parameters directly, an impact parameter *significance*
 1401 is used which incorporates an uncertainty on the impact parameter – tracks with a lower
 1402 uncertainty but the same impact parameter will contribute more in the calculation. This
 1403 signed significance is what is used to sample from the PDF templates, with the resulting
 1404 discriminants the sum of probability ratios between given jet hypotheses over tracks associated
 1405 to a given jet, namely $\sum_{i=1}^N \log \frac{p_b}{p_{light}}$ between b -jet and light jet hypotheses, where p_b and
 1406 p_{light} are the per-track probabilities. Similar discriminants are defined between b - and c -jets
 1407 and c and light jets. *TODO: show distributions?*

1408 *5.2.2 SV1*

1409 SV1 is an algorithm which aims to find a secondary vertex (SV) in a given jet. Operating
 1410 on all vertices associated with a considered jet, the algorithm discards tracks based on a
 1411 variety of cleaning requirements. It then proceeds to first construct all two-track vertices,
 1412 and then iterates over all the tracks involved in these two track vertices to try to fit a single
 1413 secondary vertex, which would then be identified with the secondary vertex from the b or c
 1414 hadron decay. This fit proceeds by evaluating a χ^2 for the association of a track and vertex,

1415 removing the track with the largest χ^2 , and iterating until the χ^2 is acceptable and the vertex
1416 has an invariant mass of less than 6 GeV (for consistency with b or c hadron decay).

1417 A variety of discriminating variables may then be constructed, including (1) invariant
1418 mass of the secondary vertex, (2) number of tracks associated with the secondary vertex, (3)
1419 number of two-track vertices, (4) energy fraction of the tracks associated to the secondary
1420 vertex (relative to all of the tracks associated to the jet), and various metrics associated with
1421 the secondary vertex position and decay length, including (5) transverse distance between the
1422 primary and secondary vertex, (6) distance between the primary and secondary vertex (7)
1423 distance between the primary and secondary vertex divided by its uncertainty, and (8) ΔR
1424 between the jet axis and the direction of the secondary vertex relative to the primary vertex.

1425 While all eight of these variables are used as inputs to the higher level taggers, the number
1426 of two-track vertices, the vertex mass, and the vertex energy fraction are additionally used with
1427 3D histogram templates to evaluate flavor tagging performance by constructing log-likelihood
1428 discriminants, similar to the procedure for IP2D/3D.

1429 5.2.3 JetFitter

1430 Rather than focusing on a particular aspect of the B hadron or D hadron decay topology
1431 (e.g impact parameter or secondary vertex), the third low level tagger, JETFITTER [63],
1432 tries to reconstruct the full decay chain, including all involved vertices. This is structured
1433 around a Kalman filter formalism [64], and has the strong underlying assumption that all
1434 tracks which stem from B and D hadron decay must intersect a common flight path. This
1435 assumption provides significant constraints, allowing for the reconstruction of vertices from
1436 even a single track, reducing the number of degrees of freedom in the fit, and allowing the
1437 use of “downstream” information, e.g., compatibility of tracks with a $B \rightarrow D$ -like decay.
1438 The constructed topology, including primary vertex location and B -hadron flight path, is
1439 iteratively updated over tracks associated to a given jet, and a variety of discriminating
1440 variables related to the resulting topology and reconstructed decay are used as inputs to the
1441 high level taggers.

1442 5.2.4 *RNNIP*

1443 The IP2D and IP3D algorithms rely on per-track probabilities, and the final discriminating
1444 variables (and inputs to the higher level taggers) are sums (products) over these independently
1445 considered quantities. In practice, however, the tracks are not independent – this is merely a
1446 simplifying assumption to allow for the use of a binned likelihood, as treatment of all of the
1447 interdependencies in such a framework quickly becomes intractable. To address this issue, a
1448 recurrent neural network-based algorithm, RNNIP [65], is used, which takes as input a variety
1449 of per-track variables, including the signed impact parameter significances (as in IP3D) as
1450 well as track momentum fraction relative to the jet and ΔR between the track and the jet.
1451 RNNs are sequence-based, and vectors of input variables corresponding to tracks for a given
1452 jet are ordered by magnitude of transverse impact parameter significance and then passed
1453 to the network, which outputs class probabilities corresponding to b-jet, c-jet, light-jet, and
1454 τ -jet hypotheses. Such a procedure allows the network to learn interdependencies between
1455 tracks, improving performance.

1456 5.2.5 *MV2 and DL1*

1457 Outputs from the above taggers are combined into high level taggers to aggregate all of the
1458 information and improve discriminating power relative to the respective individual taggers as,
1459 as shown in Figure 5.2. These high level taggers are primarily in two forms: MV2, which
1460 uses a Boosted Decision Tree (BDT) for this aggregation, and DL1, which uses a deep neural
1461 network. For the baseline versions of these taggers, only inputs from IP2D, IP3D, SV1, and
1462 JetFitter are used. The tagger used for this thesis analysis, DL1r, additionally incorporates
1463 RNNIP, demonstrating improved performance over the baseline DL1, as shown in Figure 5.3.
1464 All high level taggers also include jet p_T and $|\eta|$.

DL1 offers a variety of improvements over MV2. Rather than a single discriminant output, as with MV2, DL1 has a multidimensional output, corresponding to probabilities for a jet to be a *b*-jet, *c*-jet, or light jet. This allows the trained network to be used for both *b*- and *c*-jet

tagging. The final discriminant for b -tagging with DL1 correspondingly takes the form

$$D_{\text{DL1}} = \ln \left(\frac{p_b}{f_c \cdot p_c + (1 - f_c) \cdot p_{\text{light}}} \right) \quad (5.5)$$

where p_b , p_c , and p_{light} are the output b , c , and light jet probabilities, and f_c corresponds to an effective c -jet fraction, which may be tuned to optimize performance.

DL1 further includes an additional set of JETFITTER input variables relative to MV2 which correspond to c -tagging – notably properties of secondary and tertiary vertices, as would be seen in a $B \rightarrow D$ decay chain.

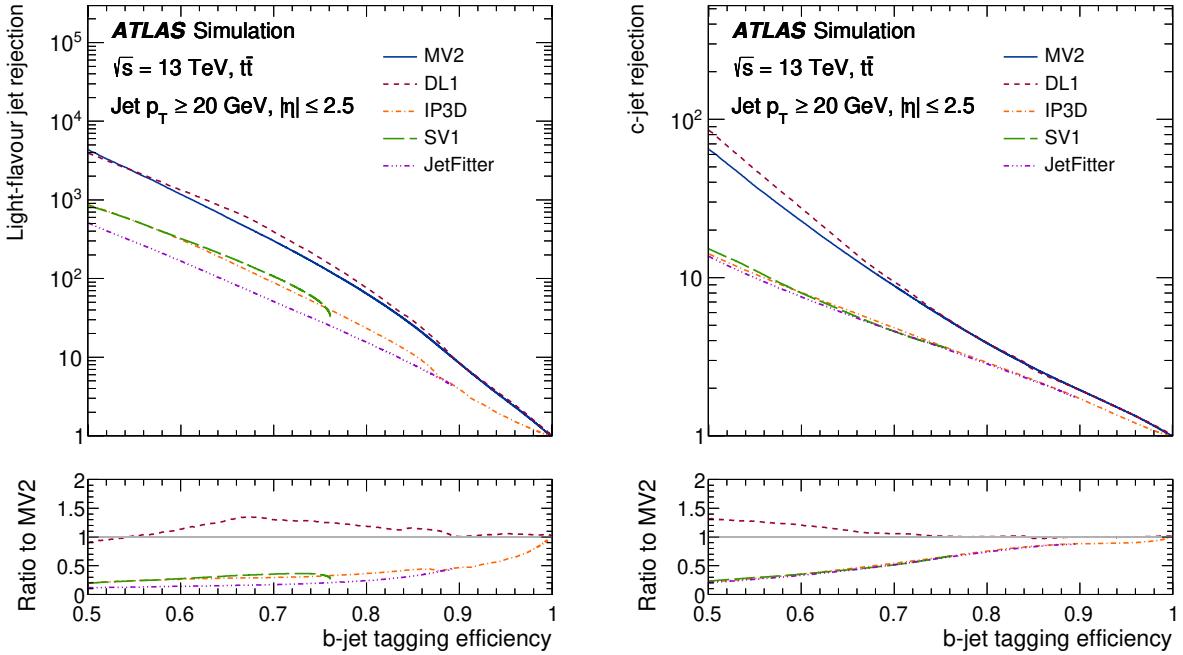


Figure 5.2: Performance of the various low and high level flavor tagging algorithms in $t\bar{t}$ simulation, demonstrating the tradeoff between b -jet efficiency and light and c -jet rejection. The high level taggers demonstrate significantly better performance than any of the individual low level taggers, with DL1 offering slight improvements over MV2 due to the inclusion of additional input variables.

Figure 5.2 shows a comparison of the performance of the various taggers. The b -tagging performance of DL1 and MV2 is found to be similar, with some improvements in light jet and c -jet rejection from the additional variables used in DL1. The performance of these high level taggers additionally is seen to be significantly better than any of the individual low level ones, even in regimes where only a single low level tagger is relevant (such as high b -tagging efficiencies, where SV1 and JETFITTER are limited by selections on tracks entering the respective algorithms).

The inclusion of RNNIP offers a significant improvement on top of baseline DL1, as shown in Figure 5.3, strongly motivating the choice of DL1r for this thesis.

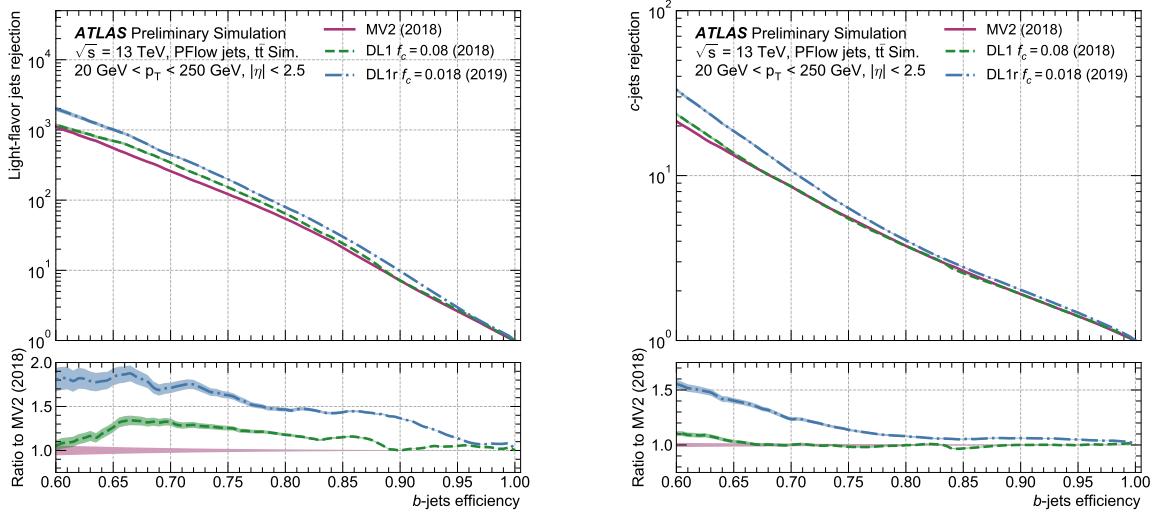


Figure 5.3: Performance of the MV2, DL1, and DL1r algorithms in $t\bar{t}$ simulation, demonstrating the tradeoff between b -jet efficiency and light and c -jet rejection. f_c controls the importance of c -jet rejection in the discriminating variable, and values shown have been optimized separately for each DL1 configuration. DL1r demonstrates a significant improvement in both light and c jet rejection over MV2 and DL1. [66]

1479 *5.2.6 Some Practical Notes*

1480 The b -tagging metrics presented in Figures 5.2 and 5.3 correspond to evaluating a tradeoff
1481 between b -jet efficiency and light jet and c -jet rejection. In this case, b -jet efficiency is defined
1482 such that, e.g. for a 77 % efficiency, 77 % of the real b -jets will be tagged as such. Somewhat
1483 counterintuitively, this means that a lower b -jet efficiency corresponds to a more aggressive
1484 (“tighter”) selection on the discriminating variable, while a higher b -jet efficiency corresponds
1485 to a less aggressive (“looser”) cut (100 % efficiency means no cut). Light and c jet efficiencies
1486 are defined similarly, with rejection defined as 1/ the corresponding efficiency.

1487 In ATLAS, the respective b -tagging efficiencies are used to define various b -tagging working
1488 points. The working point used for the nominal b -jet identification in this thesis is 77 % with
1489 DL1r. A loosened (less aggressive) selection at the 85 % working point is additionally used.
1490 See Chapter 7 for further details.

1491

Chapter 6

1492

THE ANATOMY OF AN LHC SEARCH

1493 In this thesis so far, we have set the theoretical foundation for the work carried out at the
1494 LHC. We have described how one may translate between this theoretical foundation and what
1495 we are actually able to observe with the ATLAS detector. We have further stepped through
1496 the process of simulating production of specific physics processes and their appearance in
1497 our detector, allowing us to describe how a hypothetical physics model would be seen in
1498 our experiment. The question then becomes: all of these pieces are on the table, what do
1499 we do with them? This chapter attempts to answer exactly that, setting up a roadmap for
1500 assembling these pieces into a statement about the universe.

1501 **6.1 Object Selection and Identification**

1502 As described in Chapter 5, there is a complicated set of steps for going from electrical signals
1503 in a detector to physics objects.

1504 **6.2 Defining a Signal Region**

1505 **6.3 Background Estimation**

1506 **6.4 Uncertainty Estimation**

1507 **6.5 Hypothesis Testing**

1508

Chapter 7

1509

SEARCH FOR PAIR PRODUCTION OF HIGGS BOSONS IN THE $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ FINAL STATE

1510

1511 This chapter presents two complementary searches for pair production of Higgs bosons
 1512 in the final state. Such searches are separated based on the signal models being considered:
 1513 resonant production, in which a new spin-0 or spin-2 particle is produced and decays to two
 1514 Standard Model Higgs bosons, and non-resonant production, which is sensitive to the value
 1515 of the Higgs self-coupling λ_{HHH} . Further information on the theory behind both channels
 1516 can be found in Chapter 2.

1517

While the searches face many similar challenges and proceed (in broad strokes) in a very
 similar manner, separate optimizations are performed to maximize the respective sensitivities
 for these two very different sets of signal hypotheses. More particularly, resonant signal
 hypotheses are (1) very peaked in values of the mass of the HH candidate system near
 the value of the resonance mass considered and (2) considered across a very broad range of
 signal mass hypotheses. The resonant searches are therefore split into resolved and boosted
 topologies based on Lorentz boost of the decay products, with the resolved channel as one of
 the primary focuses of this thesis. Further, several analysis design decisions are made to allow
 for sensitivity to a broad range of masses – in particular, though sensitivity is limited at lower
 values of m_{HH} relative to other channels *TODO: Combination, bbyy* due to the challenging
 background topology, retaining and properly reconstructing these low mass events allows the
 $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ channel to retain sensitivity up until the kinematic threshold at 250 GeV.

1529

In contrast, non-resonant signal hypotheses are quite broad in m_{HH} , and have a much
 more limited mass range, with Standard Model production peaking near 400 GeV, and the
 majority of the analysis sensitivity able to be captured with a resolved topology. Even for

1530

1531

1532 Beyond the Standard Model signal hypotheses, which may have more events at low m_{HH} ,
 1533 the non-resonant nature of the production allows the $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ channel to retain sensitivity while
 1534 discarding much of the challenging low mass background. Such freedom allows for decisions
 1535 which focus on improved background modeling for the middle to upper HH mass regime,
 1536 resulting in improved modeling and smaller uncertainties than would be obtained with a
 1537 more generic approach.

1538 Both searches are presented in the following, with emphasis on particular motivations for,
 1539 and consequences of, the various design decisions involved for each respective set of signal
 1540 hypotheses.

1541 The analyses improve upon previous work ?? in several notable ways. The resonant search
 1542 leverages a Boosted Decision Tree (BDT) based pairing algorithm, offering improved HH
 1543 pairing efficiency over a broad mass spectrum. The non-resonant adopts a different approach,
 1544 with a simplified algorithm based on the minimum angular distance (ΔR) between jets in
 1545 a Higgs candidate. Such an approach very efficiently discards low mass background events,
 1546 resulting in an easier to estimate background with reduced systematic uncertainties.

1547 A particular contribution of this thesis is the background estimation, which uses a novel,
 1548 neural network based approach, offering improved modeling over previous methods, as well
 1549 as the ability to model correlations between observables. While all aspects of the analysis of
 1550 course contribute to the final result, the author of this thesis wishes to emphasize that the
 1551 background estimate, with the corresponding uncertainties and all other associated decisions,
 1552 really is the core of the $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ analysis – the development of this procedure, and all
 1553 associated decisions, is similarly the core of this thesis work.

1554 ATLAS has performed a variety of searches in complementary decay channels as well, no-
 1555 tably in the $b\bar{b} W^+ W^-$ [67], $b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$ [68], $W^+ W^- W^+ W^-$ [69], $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ [70], and $W^+ W^- \gamma\gamma$ [71]
 1556 final states, which were combined along with $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ in [21].

1557 CMS has also performed searches for resonant production of Higgs boson pairs in the
 1558 $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ final state (among others) at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV [72] and $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV [73]. CMS have also
 1559 performed a combination of their searches in the $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$, $b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$, $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$, and $b\bar{b}VV$ channels

1560 in [74].

1561 This analysis also benefits from improvements to ATLAS jet reconstruction and calibration,
 1562 and flavour tagging [62]. In particular, this analysis benefits from the introduction of particle
 1563 flow jets [56]. These make use of tracking information to supplement calorimeter energy
 1564 deposits, improving the angular and transverse momentum resolution of jets by better
 1565 measuring these quantities for charged particles in those jets.

1566 The analysis also benefits from the new DL1r ATLAS flavour tagging algorithm. Whereas
 1567 the flavour tagging algorithm used in the previous analysis (MV2) used a boosted decision
 1568 tree (BDT) to combine the output of various low level algorithms, DL1r (and the baseline
 1569 DL1 algorithm) uses a deep neural network to do this combination. In addition to the low
 1570 level algorithms used as inputs to MV2, DL1 includes a variety of additional variables used
 1571 for c -tagging. DL1r further incorporates RNNIP, a recurrent neural network designed to
 1572 identify b -jets using the impact parameters, kinematics, and quality information of the tracks
 1573 in the jets, while also taking into account the correlations between the track features.

1574 The overall analysis sensitivity further benefits from a factor of ~ 4.6 increase in integrated
 1575 luminosity.

1576 **7.1 Data and Monte Carlo Simulation**

1577 Both the resonant and non-resonant searches are performed on the full ATLAS Run 2 dataset,
 1578 consisting of $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{ TeV}$ proton-proton collision data taken from 2016 to 2018 inclusive.
 1579 Data taken in 2015 is not used due to a lack of trigger jet matching information and b -jet
 1580 trigger scale factors. The integrated luminosity collected and usable in this analysis¹ was:

1581 • 24.6 fb^{-1} in 2016

1582 • 43.65 fb^{-1} in 2017

¹approximately 9 fb^{-1} of data was collected but could not be used in this analysis due to an inefficiency in the b -jet triggers at the start of 2016 [75]

- 1583 • 57.7 fb^{-1} in 2018

1584 This gives a total integrated luminosity of 126 fb^{-1} . This is lower than the 139 fb^{-1} ATLAS
 1585 collected during Run 2 [76] due to the inefficiency described in footnote 1 as well as the
 1586 3.2 fb^{-1} of 2015 data which is unused due to the trigger scale factor issue mentioned above.

1587 In this analysis, Monte Carlo samples are used purely for modelling signal processes. The
 1588 background is strongly dominated by events produced by QCD multijet processes, which
 1589 are difficult to correctly model in simulation. This necessitates the use of a data-driven
 1590 background modelling technique, which is described in Section 7.6.

1591 The scalar resonance signal model is simulated at leading order in α_s using MADGRAPH
 1592 [42]. Hadronization and parton showering are done using HERWIG 7 [46][47] with EVTGEN [49],
 1593 and the nominal PDF is NNPDF 2.3 LO. In practice this is implemented as a two Higgs
 1594 doublet model where the new neutral scalar is produced through gluon fusion and required
 1595 to decay to a pair of SM Higgs bosons. The heavy scalar is assigned a width much smaller
 1596 than detector resolution, and the other 2HDM particles do not enter the calculation.

1597 Scalar samples are produced at resonance masses between 251 and 900 GeV and the
 1598 detector simulation is done using AtlFast-II [51]. In addition the samples at 400 GeV and
 1599 900 GeV are also fully simulated to verify that the use of AtlFast-II is acceptable. For higher
 1600 masses, as well as for the boosted analysis, samples are produced between 1000 and 5000 GeV,
 1601 and the detector is fully simulated. As discussed in Chapter 4, an outstanding issue with
 1602 AtlFast-II is the modeling of jet substructure. While such variables are not used for the
 1603 resolved analysis, the boosted analysis begins at 900 GeV, motivating the different detector
 1604 simulation in these two regimes.

1605 The spin-2 resonance signal model is also simulated at LO in α_s using MADGRAPH.
 1606 Hadronization and parton showering are done using PYTHIA 8 [48] with EVTGEN, and the
 1607 nominal PDF is NNPDF 2.3 LO. In practice this is implemented as a Randall-Sundrum
 1608 graviton with $c = 1.0$.

1609 Spin-2 resonance samples are produced at masses between 251 and 5000 GeV, and these

1610 samples are all produced with full detector simulation.

1611 For the non-resonant search, samples are produced at values of $\kappa_\lambda = 1.0$ and 10.0, and are
1612 simulated using Powheg Box v2 generator [43–45] at next-to-leading order (NLO), with full
1613 NLO corrections with finite top mass, using the PDF4LHC [77] parton distribution function
1614 (PDF) set. Parton showers and hadronization are simulated with PYTHIA 8.

1615 Alternative ggF samples are simulated at NLO using Powheg Box v2, but instead using
1616 HERWIG 7 [78] for parton showering and hadronization. The comparison between these two
1617 is used to assess an uncertainty on the parton showering.

1618 7.2 Triggers and Object Definitions

1619 To maximize analysis sensitivity, a combination of multi- b -jet triggers is used. Due to the use
1620 of events with two b -tagged jets in the background estimate, such triggers have a maximum
1621 requirement of two b -tagged jets. For the resonant analysis, a combination of triggers of
1622 various topologies is used, namely

- 1623 • 2b + HT, which requires two b -tagged jets and a minimum value of of H_T , defined to
1624 be the scalar sum of p_T across all jets in the event.

- 1625 • 2b + 2j, which requires two b -tagged jets and two other jets matching some kinematic
1626 requirements

- 1627 • 2b + 1j, which requires two b -tagged jets and one other jet matching some kinematic
1628 requirements

- 1629 • 1b, which requires one b -tagged jet

1630 Due to minimal contributions from some of these triggers for the Standard Model non-resonant
1631 signal, a simplified strategy relying entirely on 2b + 1j and 2b + 2j triggers is used for the
1632 non-resonant search.

1633 While the use of multiple triggers is beneficial for analysis sensitivity, it comes with some
 1634 complications. Namely, a set of scale factors must be assigned to simulated events account
 1635 for trigger inefficiencies in data *TODO: check*. Because these scale factors may differ between
 1636 triggers, the use of multiple triggers becomes complicated: an event may pass more than one
 1637 trigger, while trigger scale factors are only provided for individual triggers.

1638 To simplify this calculation, a set of hierarchical offline selections is applied, closely
 1639 mimicking the trigger selection. Based on these selections, events are sorted into categories
 1640 (*trigger buckets*), after which the decision of a *single trigger* is checked.

1641 The resonant search applies such categorization in the following way, with selections
 1642 considered in order:

- 1643 1. If the leading jet is b -tagged with $p_T > 325 \text{ GeV}$, the event is in the $1b$ trigger category.
- 1644 2. Otherwise, if the leading jet is not b -tagged, but has $p_T > 168.75 \text{ GeV}$, the event is in
 1645 the $2b + 1j$ trigger category.
- 1646 3. If neither of the first two selections pass, if the scalar sum of jet p_T s, $H_T > 900 \text{ GeV}$,
 1647 the event falls into the $2b + HT$ trigger category.
- 1648 4. Events that do not pass any of the above offline selections are in the $2b + 2j$ trigger
 1649 category.

1650 Corresponding triggers are then checked in each category, and the final set of events consists
 1651 of those events that pass the trigger decision in their respective categories.

1652 For the resonant search, the $2b + 1j$ and $2b + 2j$ triggers are the dominant categories,
 1653 containing roughly 26 % and 49 % of spin-2 events, evaluated on MC16d samples with
 1654 resonance masses between 300 and 1200 GeV. Notably, the $1b$ trigger efficiency is largest at
 1655 high ($> 1 \text{ TeV}$) resonance masses.

1656 For the non-resonant search, it was noted that the $1b$ trigger has minimal contribution,
 1657 while the $2b + HT$ events are largely captured by the $2b + 2j$ trigger. Therefore, for, a

1658 simplified scheme is considered, with selections:

- 1659 1. If the 1st leading jet has $p_T > 170 \text{ GeV}$ and the 3rd leading jet has $p_T > 70 \text{ GeV}$, the
- 1660 event is in the $2b + 1j$ trigger category.
- 1661 2. Otherwise, the event is in the $2b + 2j$ trigger category.

1662 **7.3 Analysis Selection**

1663 After the trigger selections of Section 7.2, a variety of selections on the analysis objects are
1664 made, with the goal of (1) reconstructing a HH -like topology and (2) suppressing contributions
1665 from background processes.

1666 Both analyses begin with a common pre-selection, requiring at least four $R = 0.4$ anti- k_T
1667 jets with $|\eta| < 2.5$ and $p_T > 40 \text{ GeV}$. The $|\eta| < 2.5$ requirement is necessary for b -tagging
1668 due to the coverage of the ATLAS tracking detector (see Chapter 3) *TODO: check*, while the
1669 $p_T > 40 \text{ GeV}$ requirement is motivated by the trigger thresholds *TODO: mention low pT*. At
1670 least two of the jets passing this pre-selection are required to be b -tagged, and additional
1671 b -tagging requirements are made to define the following regions:

- 1672 • “2 b Region”: require exactly two b -tagged jets, used for background estimation
- 1673 • “4 b Region”: require at least (but possibly more) four b -tagged jets, used as a signal
1674 region for both resonant and non-resonant searches

1675 The non-resonant analysis additionally defines two 3 b regions:

- 1676 • “3 $b+1$ loose Region”: require exactly three b -tagged jets which pass the 77 % b-tagging
1677 working point (nominal) and one additional jet that fails the 77 % b-tagging working
1678 point but passes the *looser* 85 % b-tagging working point. Used as a signal region for
1679 the non-resonant search.

- 1680 • “3 b +1 fail Region”: complement of 3 b +1 loose. Require exactly three b -tagged jets
 1681 which pass the 77 % b-tagging working point, but require that none of the remaining jets
 1682 pass the 85 % b-tagging working point. Used as a validation region for the non-resonant
 1683 search.

1684 After these requirements, four jets are chosen, ranked first by b -tagging requirement and then
 1685 by p_T (e.g. for the 2 b region, the jets chosen are the two b -tagged jets and the two highest p_T
 1686 non-tagged jets; for the 4 b region, the jets are the four highest p_T b -tagged jets). To match
 1687 the topology of a $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ event, these four jets are then *paired* into *Higgs candidates*: the
 1688 four jets are split into two sets of two, and each of these pairs is used to define a reconstructed
 1689 object that is a proxy for a Higgs in a HH event.

1690 For four jets there are three possible pairings. For signal events, a correct pairing can be
 1691 identified (provided all necessary jets pass pre-selection) using the truth information of the
 1692 Monte Carlo simulation, and such information may be used to design/select an appropriate
 1693 pairing algorithm. This is only part of the story, however. The vast majority of the events in
 1694 data do *not* include a real HH decay (this is a search for a reason!), either because the event
 1695 originates from a background process (e.g. for 4 b events), or because the selection is not
 1696 designed to maximize the signal (e.g. 2 b events). As the pairing is part of the selection, it must
 1697 still be run on such events, such that various algorithms which achieve similar performance
 1698 in terms of pairing efficiency may have vastly different impacts in terms of the shape of the
 1699 background and the biases inherent in the background estimation procedure. The interplay
 1700 between these two facets of the pairing is an important part of the choices made for this
 1701 analysis.

1702 A comparison of different shapes due to three different paring strategies is shown in Figure
 1703 7.1.

1704 7.3.1 Resonant Pairing Strategy

1705 For the resonant analysis, a Boosted Decision Tree (BDT) is used for the pairing. The boosted
 1706 decision tree is given the total separation between the two jets in each of the two pairs (ΔR_1
 1707 and ΔR_2), the pseudo-rapidity separation between the two jets in each pair ($\Delta\eta_1$ and $\Delta\eta_2$),
 1708 and the angular separation between the two jets in each pair in the $x - y$ plane ($\Delta\phi_1$ and
 1709 $\Delta\phi_2$). The total separations (ΔR_s) are provided in addition to the components in order to
 1710 avoid requiring the boosted decision tree to reconstruct these variables in order to use them.
 1711 For these variables, pair 1 is the pair with the highest scalar sum of jet p_{T} s, and pair 2 the
 1712 other pair.

1713 The boosted decision tree is also parameterized on the di-Higgs mass (m_{HH}) by providing
 1714 this as an additional feature. Since the boosted decision tree is trained on correct and
 1715 incorrect pairings in signal events, there will be exactly one correct pairing and two incorrect
 1716 pairings in the training set for each m_{HH} value present in that set. As a result, this variable
 1717 cannot, in itself, distinguish a correct pairing from an incorrect pairing, and therefore the
 1718 inclusion of this variable simply serves to parameterize the BDT on m_{HH} ².

1719 The boosted decision tree was trained on one quarter of the total AFII simulated scalar
 1720 MC statistics, using the Gradient-based One Side Sampling (GOSS) algorithm which allows
 1721 rapid training with very large datasets. A preselection was applied requiring events to have
 1722 four jets with a p_{T} of at least 35 GeV. Note that this is a looser requirement than the 40 GeV
 1723 used in the analysis selection, and is meant to increase the available statistics for events with
 1724 low m_{HH} and to ensure a better performance as a function of that variable. Events were also
 1725 required to have four distinct jets that could be geometrically matched (to within $\Delta R \leq 0.4$)
 1726 to the b -quarks. The events used to train the BDT were not included when the analysis was
 1727 run on these signal simulations. The boosted decision tree was constructed with the following
 1728 hyperparameters:

1729 `min_data_in_leaf=50,`

²That is, the conditions placed on the other variables by the BDT vary with m_{HH} .

1730 num_leaves=180,
 1731 learning_rate=0.01

1732 These hyperparameters were optimized using a Bayesian optimization procedure [79].
 1733 Three fold cross-validation was used to perform this optimization without the need for an
 1734 additional sample, while avoiding over-training on signal events.

1735 *7.3.2 Non-resonant Pairing Strategy*

1736 For the non-resonant analysis, a simpler pairing algorithm is used, which proceeds as follows:
 1737 in a given event, Higgs candidates for each possible pairing are sorted by the p_T of the vector
 1738 sum of constituent jets. The angular separation, ΔR is computed between jets in the each of
 1739 the leading Higgs candidates, and the pairing with the smallest separation (ΔR_{jj}) is selected.
 1740 This method will be referred to as $\min \Delta R$ in the following.

1741 The primary motivation for the use of this pairing in the non-resonant search is a *smooth*
 1742 *mass plane*: by efficiently discarding low mass events, $\min \Delta R$ removes the background peak
 1743 present in the resonant search while maintaining good pairing efficiency for the Standard
 1744 Model non-resonant signal. This facilitates a background estimate with small kinematic bias
 1745 – the region in which the background estimate is derived is more similar to the signal region.

1746 Along with discarding low mass background, there is a corresponding loss of low mass
 1747 signal. This predominantly impacts points away from the Standard Model (see Figure 7.2),
 1748 but, because the $4b$ channel has the strongest contribution near the Standard Model and
 1749 because of the large low mass background present with other pairing methods, the impact on
 1750 analysis sensitivity is mitigated. The $\min \Delta R$ pairing is thus adopted for the non-resonant
 1751 search.

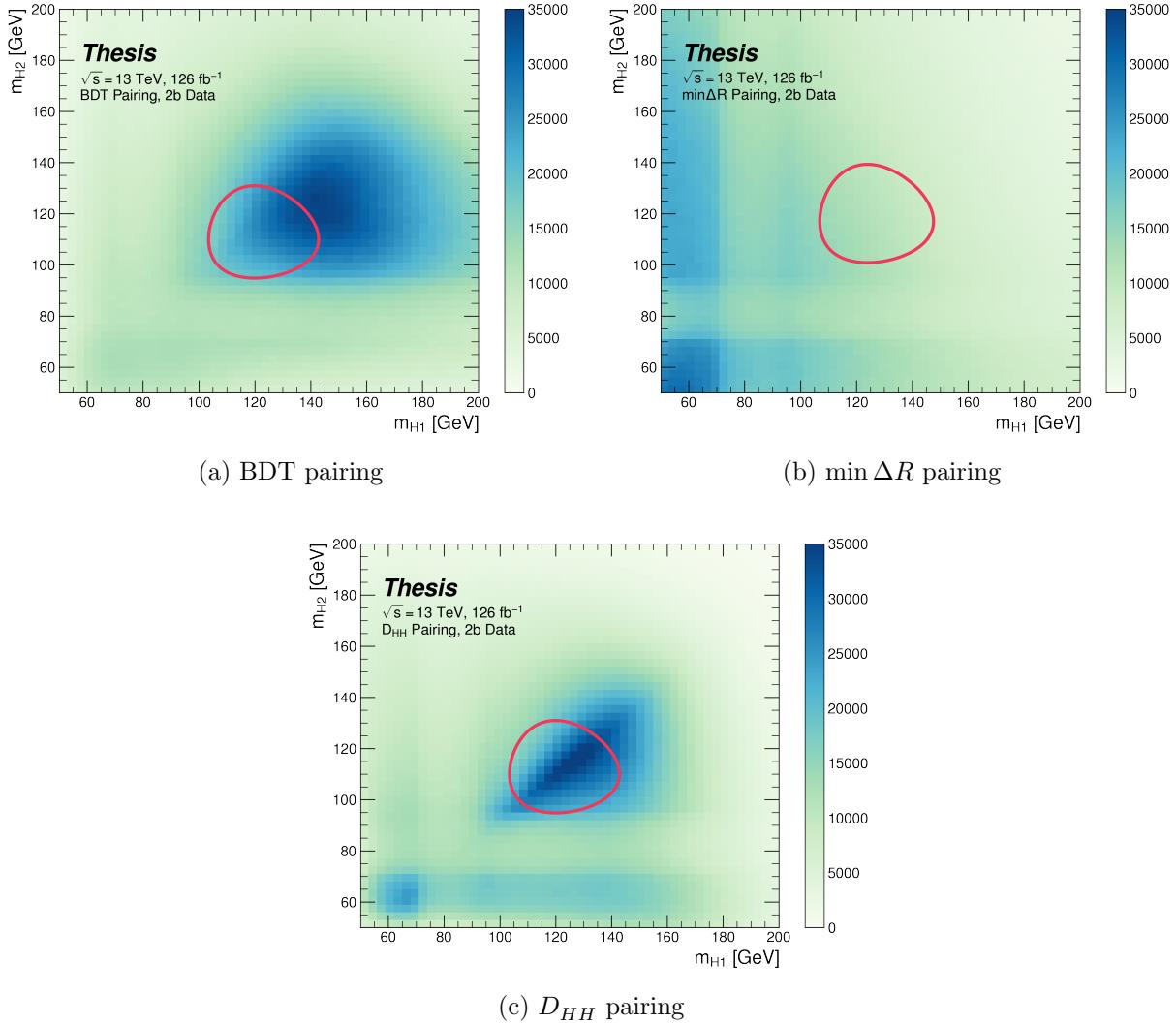


Figure 7.1: Comparison of m_{H1} vs m_{H2} planes for the full Run 2 2b dataset with different pairings. As evidenced, this choice significantly impacts where events fall in this plane, and therefore which events fall into the various kinematic regions defined in this plane (see Section 7.5). Respective signal regions are shown for reference, with the $\min \Delta R$ signal region shifted slightly up and to the right to match the non-resonant selection. Note that the band structure around 80 GeV in both m_{H1} and m_{H2} is introduced by the top veto described in Section 7.4.

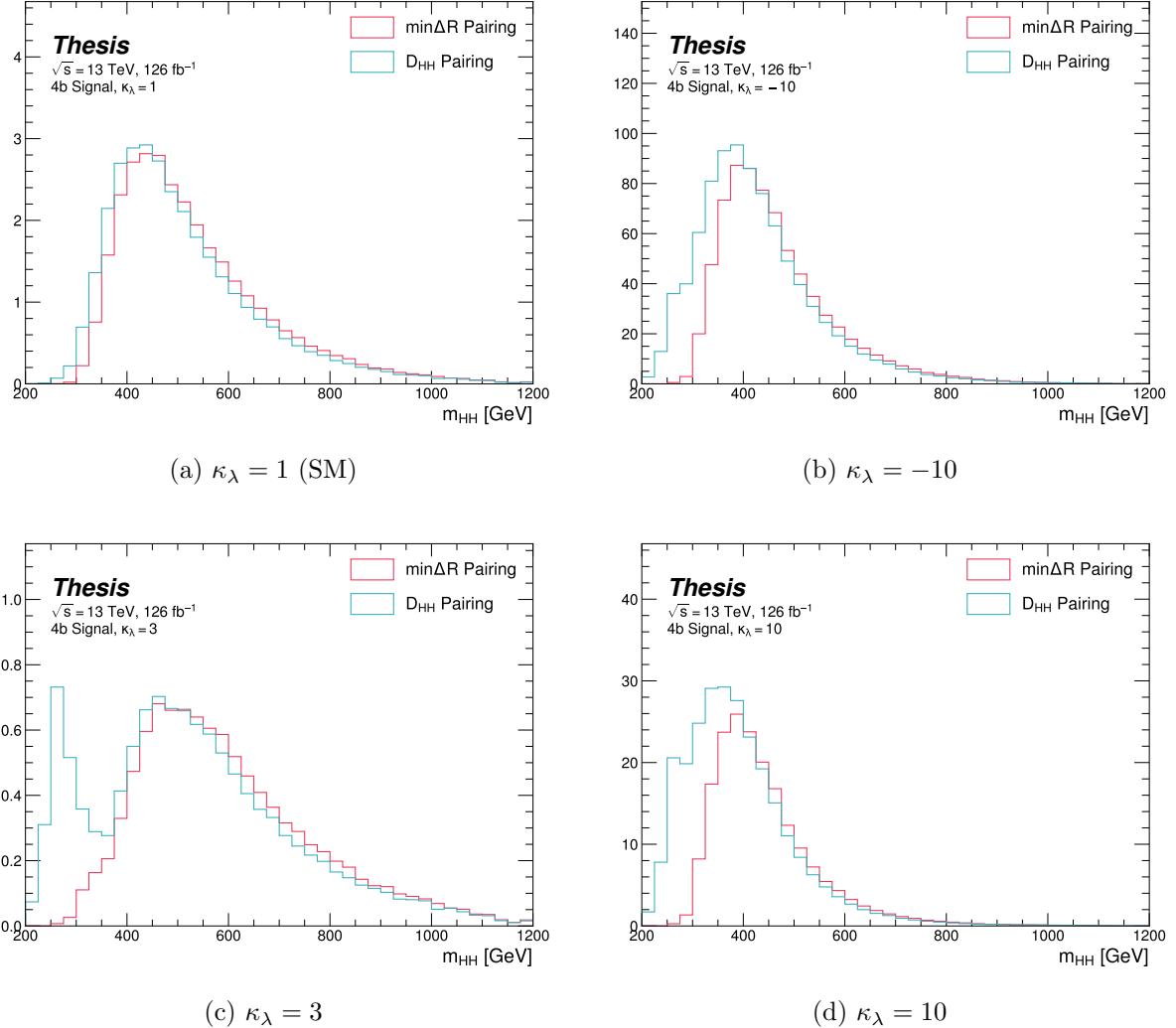


Figure 7.2: Comparison of signal distributions in the respective signal regions for the $\min \Delta R$ and D_{HH} pairing for various values of the Higgs trilinear coupling in the respective signal regions. The distributions are quite similar at the Standard Model point, but for other variations, $\min \Delta R$ does not pick up the low mass features.

1752 **7.4 Background Reduction and Top Veto**

1753 Choosing a pairing of the four b-tagged jets fully defines the di-Higgs candidate system used
1754 for each event in the remainder of the analysis chain. A requirement of $|\Delta\eta_{HH}| < 1.5$ on this
1755 di-Higgs candidate system mitigates QCD multijet background.

1756 Figure ?? illustrates this variable in the validation region (see Section ??). It demonstrates
1757 that this selection rejects only a small fraction of signal, but a significant fraction of data
1758 (which, in the validation region, is a good approximation of pure background).

1759 In order to mitigate the hadronic $t\bar{t}$ background, a top veto is then applied, removing
1760 events consistent with a $t \rightarrow b(W \rightarrow q_1\bar{q}_2)$ decay.

1761 The jets in the event are separated into *HC jets* which are the four jets used to build the
1762 Higgs candidates, and *non-*HC jets**, the other jets (passing the p_T and $|\eta|$ requirements) in
1763 the event.

1764 W candidates are built by forming all possible pairs of all jets in each event. With n jets,
1765 there are $\binom{n}{2}$ such pairs. t candidates are then built by pairing each W candidate with each
1766 HC jet (for $4\binom{n}{2}$ combinations). Note that all jets in a t candidate must be distinct (i.e. a
1767 HC jet may not be used both on its own and in a W candidate).

With m_t denoting the invariant mass of the t candidate, and m_W the invariant mass of the W candidate, the quantity

$$X_{Wt} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{m_W - 80.4 \text{ GeV}}{0.1 \cdot m_W}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m_t - 172.5 \text{ GeV}}{0.1 \cdot m_t}\right)^2} \quad (7.1)$$

1768 is constructed for each combination.

1769 Events are then vetoed if the minimum X_{Wt} over all combinations is less than 1.5.

1770 The same definitions and procedures are used for both the resonant and non-resonant
1771 analyses. However, for the non-resonant search, the top candidates considered for X_{Wt} have
1772 the additional requirement that the jet used for the b is b -tagged. While this is identical to
1773 the resonant analysis by definition for $4b$ events, it does change the set of events considered in
1774 lower tag regions, in particular for the $2b$ events considered in the derivation of the background

1775 estimate. Such a change is found to reduce the impact of background systematics by increasing

1776 $2b$ support in the high X_{Wt} kinematic region. *TODO: Insert plot*

¹⁷⁷⁷ **7.5 Kinematic Region Definition**

As has been mentioned, an important piece of the analysis is the plane defined by the two Higgs candidate masses (the *Higgs candidate mass plane*). After the selection described above, a signal region is defined by requiring $X_{HH} < 1.6$, where:

$$X_{HH} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{m(H_1) - c_1}{0.1 \cdot m(H_1)}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{m(H_2) - c_2}{0.1 \cdot m(H_2)}\right)^2} \quad (7.2)$$

¹⁷⁷⁸ with $m(H_1)$, $m(H_2)$ the leading and subleading Higgs candidate masses, c_1 and c_2 correspond
¹⁷⁷⁹ to the center of the signal region, and the denominator provides a Higgs candidate mass
¹⁷⁸⁰ dependent resolution of 10 %. For consistency with the HH decay hypothesis, c_1 and c_2
¹⁷⁸¹ are nominally (125 GeV, 125 GeV). However, these are allowed to vary due to energy loss,
¹⁷⁸² with specific values chosen described below. The selection of these values is one of several
¹⁷⁸³ significant differences between the regions defined for the resonant and non-resonant search.
¹⁷⁸⁴ We describe both below.

¹⁷⁸⁵ **7.5.1 Resonant Kinematic Regions**

¹⁷⁸⁶ For the resonant analysis, the signal region is centered at (120 GeV, 110 GeV) to account for
¹⁷⁸⁷ energy loss leading to the Higgs masses being under-reconstructed. *TODO: insert signal*
¹⁷⁸⁸ *location plot?* Note that leading and subleading Higgs candidates are defined according to
¹⁷⁸⁹ the *scalar sum* of constituent jet p_T .

For the background estimation, two regions are defined which are roughly concentric around the signal region: a *validation region* which consists of those events not in the signal region, but which do pass

$$\sqrt{(m(H_1) - 1.03 \times 120 \text{ GeV})^2 + (m(H_2) - 1.03 \times 110 \text{ GeV})^2} < 30 \text{ GeV} \quad (7.3)$$

and a *control region* whcih consists of those events not in the signal or validation regions, but which do pass

$$\sqrt{(m(H_1) - 1.05 \times 120 \text{ GeV})^2 + (m(H_2) - 1.05 \times 110 \text{ GeV})^2} < 45 \text{ GeV} \quad (7.4)$$

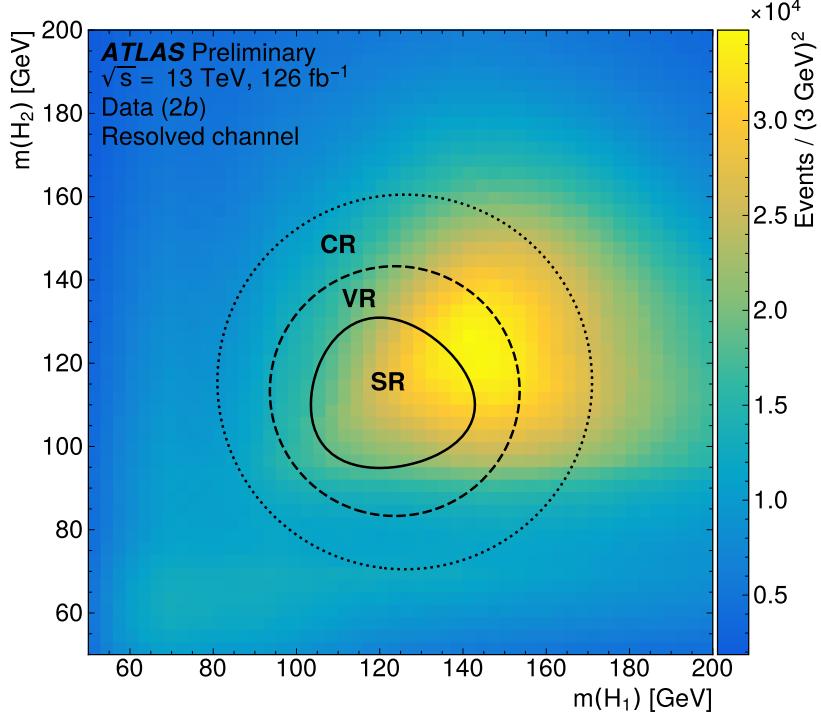


Figure 7.3: Regions used for the resonant search, shown on the $2b$ data mass plane. The outermost region (the “control region”) is used for derivation of the nominal background estimate. The innermost region is the signal region, where the signal extraction fit is performed. The region in between (the “validation region”) is used for the assessment of an uncertainty.

1790 For simplicity, the SR/VR/CR definitions from the early Run 2 paper [80] were chosen
 1791 for the resonant analysis, but were found to be close to optimal. These regions are shown in
 1792 Figure 7.3.

1793 7.5.2 Non-resonant Kinematic Regions

1794 For the non-resonant analysis the signal region is centered at $(124 \text{ GeV}, 117 \text{ GeV})$, corre-
 1795 sponding to the means of *correctly paired* Standard Model signal events. The shape of the
 1796 signal region (other than this change of center) was found to remain optimal.

1797 For the non-resonant search, leading and subleading Higgs candidates are defined according
 1798 to the *vector sum* of constituent jet p_T , more closely corresponding to the $1 \rightarrow 2$ decay
 1799 assumption behind the min ΔR pairing algorithm.

1800 Two areas for improvement were identified in the resonant analysis, which will be dis-
 1801 cussed in more detail below: *signal contamination* of the validation region (which impacts
 1802 the uncertainty assessed due to extrapolation) and *large nuisance parameter pulls* on this
 1803 uncertainty, corresponding to a rough assumption that the validation region is closer to the
 1804 signal region in the mass plane, and so offers a better estimate of the signal region.

To mitigate these two issues, a redesign of the control and validation regions was performed
 for the non-resonant analysis. The outer boundary defined by the shifted resonant control
 region:

$$\sqrt{(m(H_1) - 1.05 \times 124 \text{ GeV})^2 + (m(H_2) - 1.05 \times 117 \text{ GeV})^2} < 45 \text{ GeV} \quad (7.5)$$

1805 is kept, roughly corresponding to combining the regions used for the resonant analysis. In
 1806 order to assess the variation of the background estimate, two sets of regions are desired, so
 1807 this combined region is split into *quadrants*, that is, divided into four pieces along axes that
 1808 intersect with the signal region center. To avoid kinematic bias, quadrants on opposite sides
 1809 of the signal region are paired, with these pairs corresponding to the non-resonant control
 1810 and validation regions.

1811 The particular orientation of the regions is chosen such that region centers align with the
 1812 leading and subleading Higgs candidate masses, corresponding to a set of axes rotated at
 1813 45° , with the “top” and “bottom” quadrants together comprising the control region, and the
 1814 other set (“left” and “right”) the validation region. These regions are shown in Figure 7.4

1815 This design of regions includes a set of events closer to the signal region in the mass plane,
 1816 leveraging the assumption that these events are more similar to signal region events, while
 1817 also including events further away from the signal region, mitigating signal contamination.
 1818 This region selection is found to have good performance in alternate validation regions (see
 1819 Section 7.8).

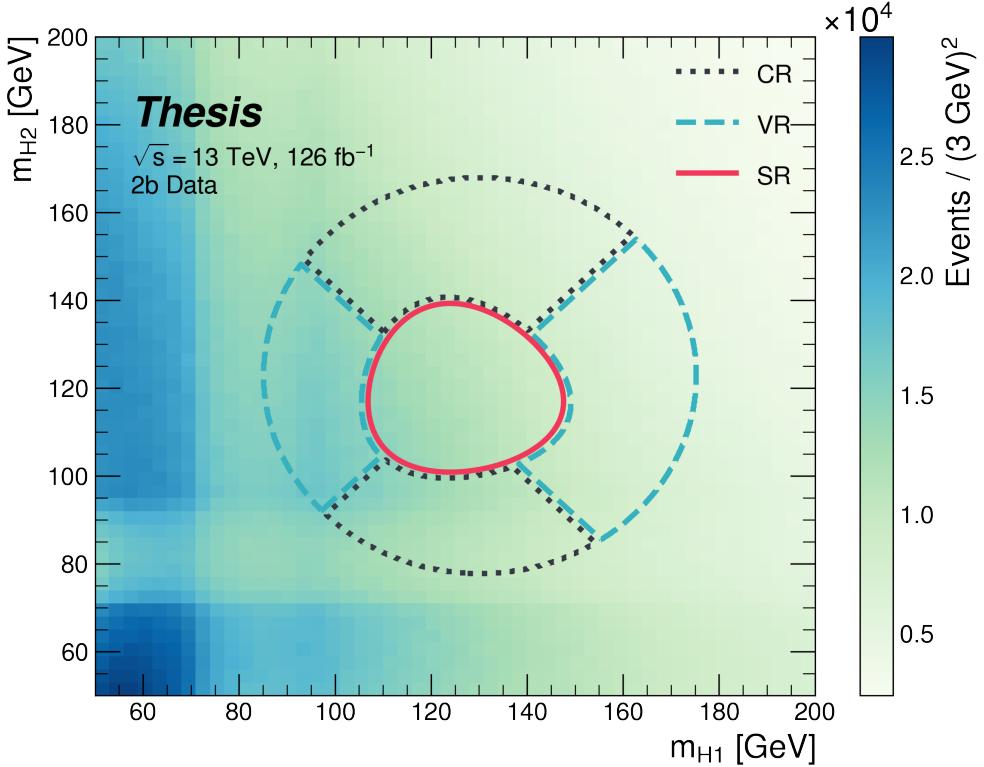


Figure 7.4: Regions used for the non-resonant search. The “top” and “bottom” quadrants together comprise the control region, in which the nominal background estimate is derived. The “left” and “right” quadrants together comprise the validation region, which is used to assess an uncertainty. The signal region, in the center, is where the signal extraction fit is performed.

1820 7.5.3 Discriminating Variable

1821 The discriminant used for the resonant analysis is *corrected* m_{HH} . This variable is calculated
 1822 by re-scaling the Higgs candidate four vectors such that each $m_H = 125$ GeV. These re-scaled
 1823 four-vectors are then summed, and their invariant mass is the corrected m_{HH} . These re-scaled
 1824 four-vectors are not used for any other purpose. The effect of this correction, which sharpens
 the m_{HH} peak and correctly centres it, is shown in Figure 7.5.

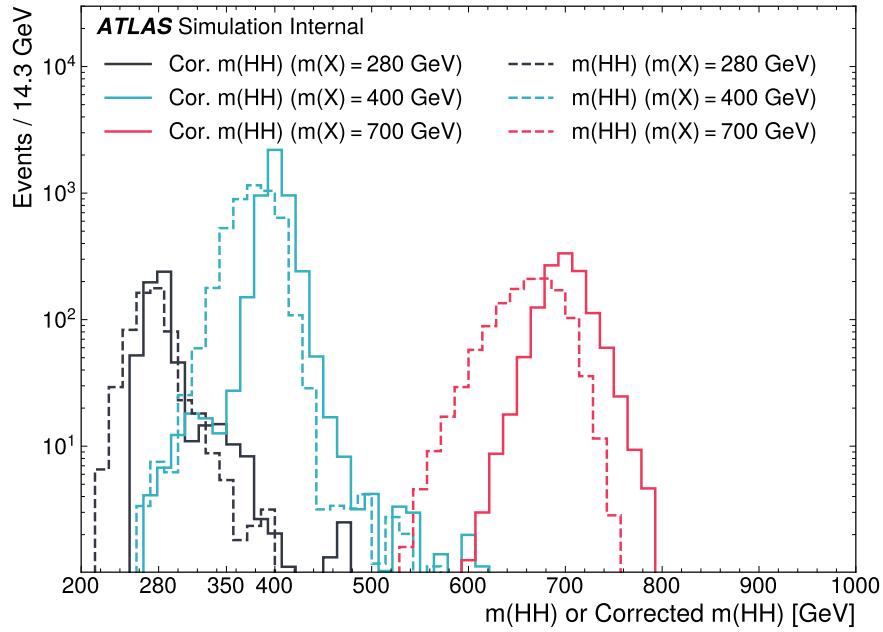


Figure 7.5: Impact of the m_{HH} correction on a range of spin-0 resonant signals. The corrected m_{HH} distributions (solid lines) are much sharper and more centered on the corresponding resonance masses than the uncorrected m_{HH} distributions (dashed).

1825

1826 For the non-resonant analysis, due to the broad nature of the signal in m_{HH} , such a
 1827 correction is not as motivated, and, indeed, is found to have very minimal impact. The
 1828 uncorrected m_{HH} (just referred to as m_{HH}) is therefore used as a discriminant. To maximize

1829 sensitivity, the non-resonant analysis additionally uses two variables for categorization: $\Delta\eta_{HH}$,
1830 an angular variable which, along with m_{HH} , fully characterizes the HH system [81], and X_{HH} ,
1831 the variable used for the signal region definition, which leverages the peaked structure of the
1832 signal in the $(m(H_1), m(H_2))$ plane to split the signal extraction fit into lower and higher
1833 purity regions (highest purity near $X_{HH} = 0$, the center of the signal region). Distributions
1834 of these variables are shown in *TODO: plots*. The categorization used for this thesis has been
1835 optimized to be 2×2 in these variables, with corresponding selections $0 \leq \Delta\eta_{HH} \leq 0.75$ and
1836 $0.75 \leq \Delta\eta_{HH} \leq 1.5$ for $\Delta\eta_{HH}$, and $0 \leq X_{HH} \leq 0.95$ and $0.95 \leq X_{HH} \leq 1.6$ for X_{HH} .

¹⁸³⁷ **7.6 Background Estimation**

¹⁸³⁸ After the event selection described above there are two major backgrounds, QCD and $t\bar{t}$.
¹⁸³⁹ A very similar approach is used for both the resonant and the non-resonant analyses, with
¹⁸⁴⁰ some small modifications. This approach is notably fully data-driven, which is warranted due
¹⁸⁴¹ to the flexibility of the estimation method, as well as the high relative proportion of QCD
¹⁸⁴² background ($> 90\%$), and allows for the use of machine learning methods in the construction
¹⁸⁴³ of the background estimate. However, it sacrifices an explicit treatment of the $t\bar{t}$ component.
¹⁸⁴⁴ Performance of the background estimate on the $t\bar{t}$ component is checked explicitly *TODO:*
¹⁸⁴⁵ *add plots*, and minimal impact due to $t\bar{t}$ mismodeling is seen.

¹⁸⁴⁶ Contributions of single Higgs processes and ZZ are found to be negligible, and the
¹⁸⁴⁷ Standard Model HH background is found to have no impact on the resonant search.

¹⁸⁴⁸ The foundation of the background estimate lies in the derivation of a reweighting function
¹⁸⁴⁹ which matches the kinematics of events with exactly two b -tagged jets to those of events in
¹⁸⁵⁰ the higher tagged regions (events with three or four b -tagged jets). The reweighting function
¹⁸⁵¹ and overall normalization are derived in the control region. Systematic bias of this estimate
¹⁸⁵² is assessed in the validation region.

¹⁸⁵³ For the resonant analysis, the systematic bias is a bias due to extrapolation: the validation
¹⁸⁵⁴ region lies between the control and signal regions. For the non-resonant analysis, the bias
¹⁸⁵⁵ instead comes from different possible interpolations of the signal region kinematics – given the
¹⁸⁵⁶ choice of nominal estimate, the validation region is a conceptually equivalent, but maximally
¹⁸⁵⁷ different, signal region estimate.

¹⁸⁵⁸ **7.6.1 The Two Tag Region**

¹⁸⁵⁹ Events in data with exactly two b -tagged jets are used for the data driven background
¹⁸⁶⁰ estimate. The hypothesis here is that, due to the presence of multiple b -tagged jets, the
¹⁸⁶¹ kinematics of such events are similar to the kinematics of events in higher b -tagged regions (i.e.
¹⁸⁶² events with three and four b -tagged jets, respectively), and any differences can be corrected

1863 by a reweighting procedure. The region with three b -tagged jets is split into two b -tagging
 1864 regions, with the $3b + 1$ loose region used as an additional signal region (see Section *TODO:*
 1865 *Add ref*). The lower tagged $3b$ component ($3b + 1$ fail, as described in Section ??) is reserved
 1866 for validation of the background modelling procedure. Events with fewer than two b -tagged
 1867 jets are not used for this analysis, as they are relatively more different from the higher tag
 1868 regions.

1869 The nominal event selection requires at least four jets in order to form Higgs candidates.
 1870 For the four tag region, these are the four highest p_T b -tagged jets. For the three tag regions,
 1871 these jets are the three b -tagged jets, plus the highest p_T jet satisfying a loosened b -tagging
 1872 requirement. Similarly, and following the approach of the resonant analysis, the two tag region
 1873 uses the two b -tagged jets and the two highest p_T non-tagged jets to form Higgs candidates.
 1874 Combinatoric bias from selection of different numbers of b -tagged jets is corrected as a part
 1875 of the kinematic reweighting procedure through the reweighting of the total number of jets in
 1876 the event. In this way, the full event selection may be run on two tagged events.

1877 7.6.2 Kinematic Reweighting

1878 The set of two tagged data events is the fundamental piece of the data driven background
 1879 estimate. However, kinematic differences from the four tag region exist and must be corrected
 1880 in order for this estimate to be useful. Binned approaches based on ratios of histograms
 1881 have been previously considered [80], [17], but are limited in their handling of correlations
 1882 between variables and by the “curse of dimensionality”, i.e. the dataset becomes sparser and
 1883 sparser in “reweighting space” as the number of dimensions in which to reweight increases,
 1884 limiting the number of variables used for reweighting. This leads either to an unstable fit
 1885 result (overfitting with finely grained bins) or a lower quality fit result (underfitting with
 1886 coarse bins).

1887 Note that even machine learning methods such as Boosted Decision Trees (BDTs), may
 1888 suffer from this curse of dimensionality, as the depth of each decision tree used is limited
 1889 by the available statistics after each set of corresponding selections (cf. binning in a more

1890 sophisticated way), limiting the expressivity of the learned reweighting function.

1891 To solve these issues, a neural network based reweighting procedure is used here. This
1892 is a truly multivariate approach, allowing for proper treatment of variable correlations. It
1893 further overcomes the issues associated with binned approaches by learning the reweighting
1894 function directly, allowing for greater sensitivity to local differences and helping to avoid the
1895 curse of dimensionality.

1896 *Neural Network Reweighting*

Let $p_{4b}(x)$ and $p_{2b}(x)$ be the probability density functions for four and two tag data respectively across some input variables x . The problem of learning the reweighting function between two and four tag data is then the problem of learning a function $w(x)$ such that

$$p_{2b}(x) \cdot w(x) = p_{4b}(x) \quad (7.6)$$

from which it follows that

$$w(x) = \frac{p_{4b}(x)}{p_{2b}(x)}. \quad (7.7)$$

This falls into the domain of density ratio estimation, for which there are a variety of approaches. The method considered here is modified from [82, 83], and depends on a loss function of the form

$$\mathcal{L}(R(x)) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{2b}}[\sqrt{R(x)}] + \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{4b}}\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{R(x)}}\right]. \quad (7.8)$$

where $R(x)$ is some estimator dependent on x and $\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{2b}}$ and $\mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{4b}}$ are the expectation values with respect to the 2b and 4b probability densities. A neural network trained with such a loss function has the objective of finding the estimator, $R(x)$, that minimizes this loss. It is straightforward to show (Appendix ??) that

$$\arg \min_R \mathcal{L}(R(x)) = \frac{p_{4b}(x)}{p_{2b}(x)} \quad (7.9)$$

1897 which is exactly the form of the desired reweighting function.

In practice, to avoid imposing explicit positivity constraints, the substitution $Q(x) \equiv \log R(x)$ is made. The loss function then takes the equivalent form

$$\mathcal{L}(Q(x)) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{2b}}[\sqrt{e^{Q(x)}}] + \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{4b}}\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{e^{Q(x)}}}\right], \quad (7.10)$$

with solution

$$\arg \min_Q \mathcal{L}(Q(x)) = \log \frac{p_{4b}(x)}{p_{2b}(x)}. \quad (7.11)$$

1898 Taking the exponent then results in the desired reweighting function.

1899 Note that similar methods for density ratio estimation are available *TODO: cite*, e.g. from

1900 a more standard binary cross-entropy loss. However, these were found to perform no better
1901 than the formulation presented here.

1902 *Variables and Results*

1903 The neural network is trained on a variety of variables sensitive to two vs. four tag differences.

1904 To help bring out these differences, the natural logarithm of some of the variables with a
1905 large, local change is taken. The set of training variables used for the resonant analysis is

1906 1. $\log(p_T)$ of the 4th leading Higgs candidate jet

1907 2. $\log(p_T)$ of the 2nd leading Higgs candidate jet

1908 3. $\log(\Delta R)$ between the closest two Higgs candidate jets

1909 4. $\log(\Delta R)$ between the other two Higgs candidate jets

1910 5. Average absolute value of Higgs candidate jet η

1911 6. $\log(p_T)$ of the di-Higgs system.

1912 7. ΔR between the two Higgs candidates

1913 8. $\Delta\phi$ between the jets in the leading Higgs candidate

1914 9. $\Delta\phi$ between the jets in the subleading Higgs candidate

1915 10. $\log(X_{Wt})$, where X_{Wt} is the variable used for the top veto

1916 11. Number of jets in the event.

1917 The non-resonant analysis uses an identical set of variables with two notable changes

1918 1. The definition of X_{Wt} differs from the resonant definition (as described in Section
1919 *TODO: ref*)

1920 2. An integer encoding of the two trigger categories is used as an input (variable which
1921 takes on the value 0 or 1 corresponding to each of the two categories). This was found
1922 to improve a mismodeling near the tradeoff in m_{HH} of the two buckets.

1923 The neural network used for both resonant and non-resonant reweighting has three densely
1924 connected hidden layers of 50 nodes each with ReLU activation functions and a single node
1925 linear output. This configuration demonstrates good performance in the modelling of a variety
1926 of relevant variables, including m_{HH} , when compared to a range of networks of similar size.

1927 In practice, a given training of the reweighting neural network is subject to variation
1928 due to training statistics and initial conditions. An uncertainty is assigned to account for
1929 this (Section 7.7), which relies on training an ensemble of reweighting networks [84]. To
1930 increase the stability of the background estimate, the median of the predicted weight for each
1931 event is calculated across the ensemble. This median is then used as the nominal background
1932 estimate. This approach is indeed seen to be much more stable and to demonstrate a better
1933 overall performance than a single arbitrary training. Each ensemble used for this analysis
1934 consists of 100 neural networks, trained as described in Section 7.7.

1935 The training of the ensemble used for the nominal estimate is done in the kinematic
1936 Control Region. The prediction of these networks in the Signal Region is then used for the
1937 nominal background estimate. In addition, a separate ensemble of networks is trained in the

1938 Validation Region. The difference between the prediction of the nominal estimate and the
 1939 estimate from the VR derived networks in the Signal Region is used to assign a systematic
 1940 uncertainty. Further details on this systematic uncertainty are shown in Section 7.7. Note
 1941 that although the same procedure is used for both Control and Validation Region trained
 1942 networks, only the median estimate from the VR derived reweighting is used for assessing a
 1943 systematic – no additional “uncertainty on the uncertainty” from VR ensemble variation is
 1944 applied.

1945 Each reweighted estimate is normalized such that the reweighted $2b$ yield matches the $4b$
 1946 yield in the corresponding training region. Note that this applies to each of the networks used
 1947 in each ensemble, where the normalization factor is also subject to the procedure described in
 1948 Section 7.7. As the median over these normalized weights is not guaranteed to preserve this
 1949 normalization, a further correction is applied such that the $2b$ yield, after the median weights
 1950 are applied, matches the $4b$ yield in the corresponding training region. As no preprocessing
 1951 is applied to correct for the class imbalance between $2b$ and $4b$ events entering the training,
 1952 this ratio of number of $4b$ events ($n(4b)$) over number of $2b$ events ($n(2b)$) is folded into the
 1953 learned weights. Correspondingly, the set of normalization factors described above is near 1
 1954 and the learned weights are centered around $n(4b)/n(2b)$ (roughly 0.01 over the full dataset).
 1955 This normalization procedure applies for all instances of the reweighting (e.g. those used for
 1956 validations in Section ??), with appropriate substitutions of reweighting origin (here $2b$) and
 1957 reweighting target (here $4b$).

1958 Note that, due to different trigger and pileup selections during each year, the reweighting
 1959 is trained on each year separately. An approach of training all of the years together with a
 1960 one-hot encoding was explored *TODO: reference study*, but was found to have minimal benefit
 1961 over the split years approach, and in fact to increase the systematic bias of the corresponding
 1962 background estimate. Because of this, and because trigger selections for each year significantly
 1963 impact the kinematics of each year, such that categorizing by year is expected to reflect
 1964 groupings of kinematically similar events and to provide a meaningful degree of freedom in
 1965 the signal extraction fit, the split-year approach is kept.

1966 The control region closure for the 2018 dataset is shown for the resonant search in Figures
 1967 7.6 through 7.14 and for the non-resonant search in Figures 7.24 through 7.32 for 4*b* and
 1968 Figures 7.42 through 7.50 for 3*b1l*. The impact of this control region derived reweighting
 1969 on the validation region is shown in Figures 7.15 through 7.23 for the resonant search and
 1970 Figures 7.33 through 7.41 for 4*b* and Figures 7.51 through 7.59 for 3*b1l* for the non-resonant
 1971 search. Generally good performance is seen, with some occasional mis-modeling. For the
 1972 resonant search, this is most notable in the case of individual jet p_T . Such mis-modeling
 1973 may be corrected by including the variables in the input set, but this was found to not
 1974 improve the modeling of m_{HH} , and so is not done here. This mis-modeling is notable for the
 1975 non-resonant search in the leading Higgs candidate jet p_T , and is a direct consequence of the
 1976 trigger category input, which improves modeling of m_{HH} . Results are similar for other years,
 1977 but are not included here for brevity.

1978 One other salient feature of the non-resonant plots is the distributions of m_{H1} and m_{H2} ,
 1979 which emphasize the quadrant region definitions – the control region has a peak around
 1980 125 GeV in m_{H1} , which may be thought of as “signal region-like”, motivating this alignment,
 1981 though consequently the distribution of m_{H2} is quite bimodal. The reverse is true for the
 1982 validation region.

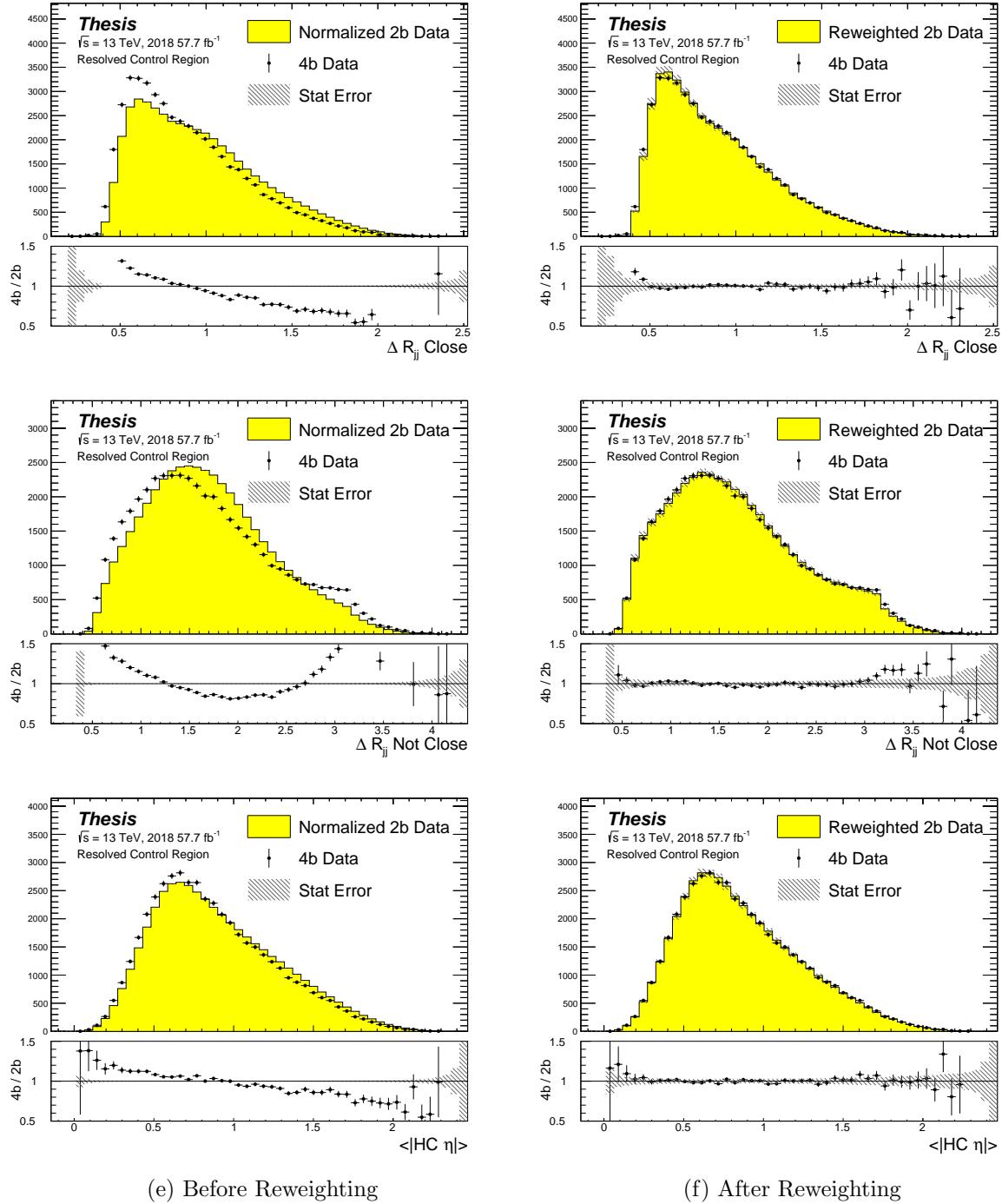


Figure 7.6: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of ΔR between the closest Higgs Candidate jets, ΔR between the other two, and average absolute value of HC jet η before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Control Region.

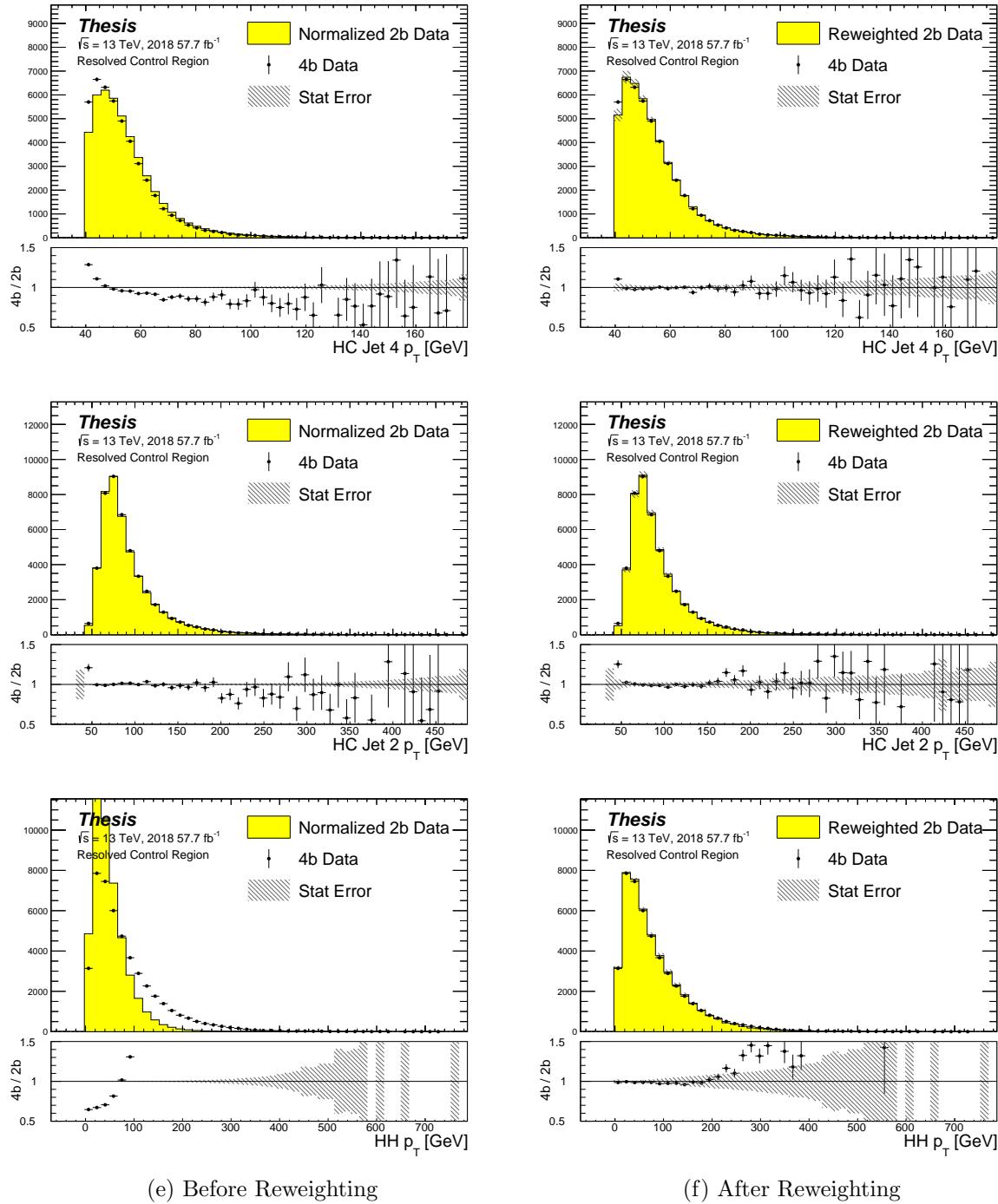


Figure 7.7: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of p_T of the 2nd and 4th leading Higgs Candidate jets and the p_T of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Control Region.

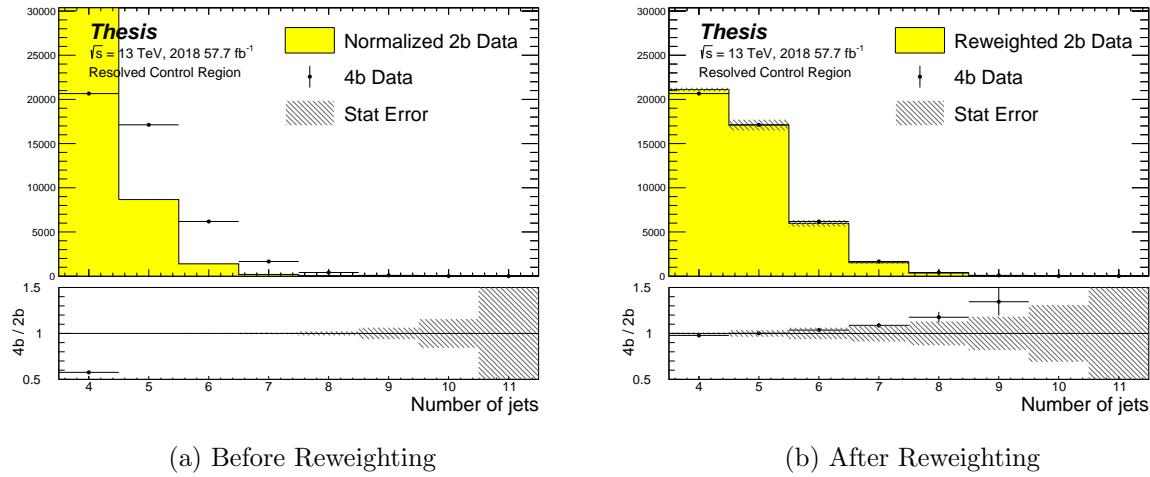


Figure 7.8: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of the number of jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Control Region. A minimum of 4 jets is required in each event in order to form Higgs candidates.

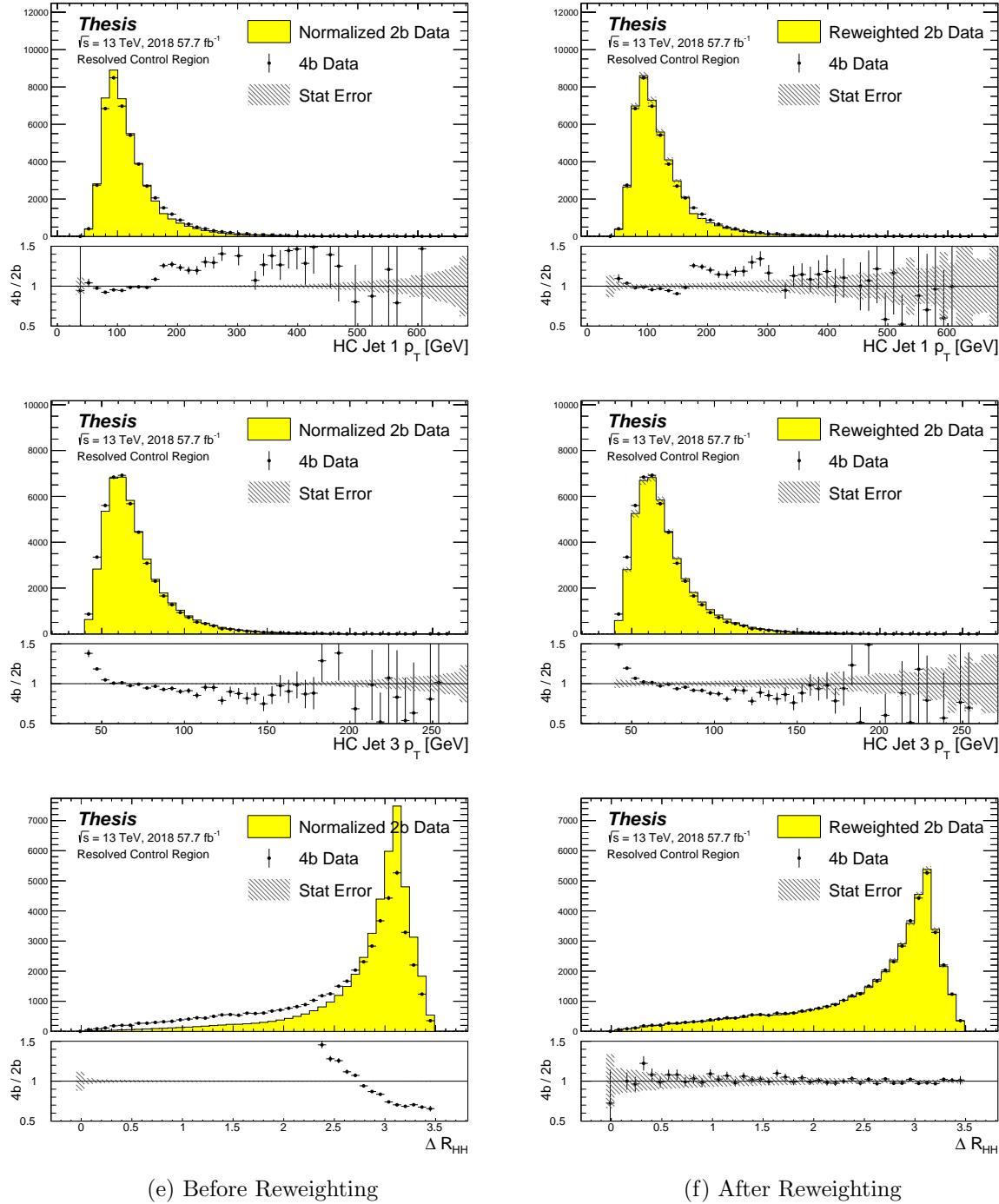


Figure 7.9: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of p_T of the 1st and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets and ΔR between Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Control Region.

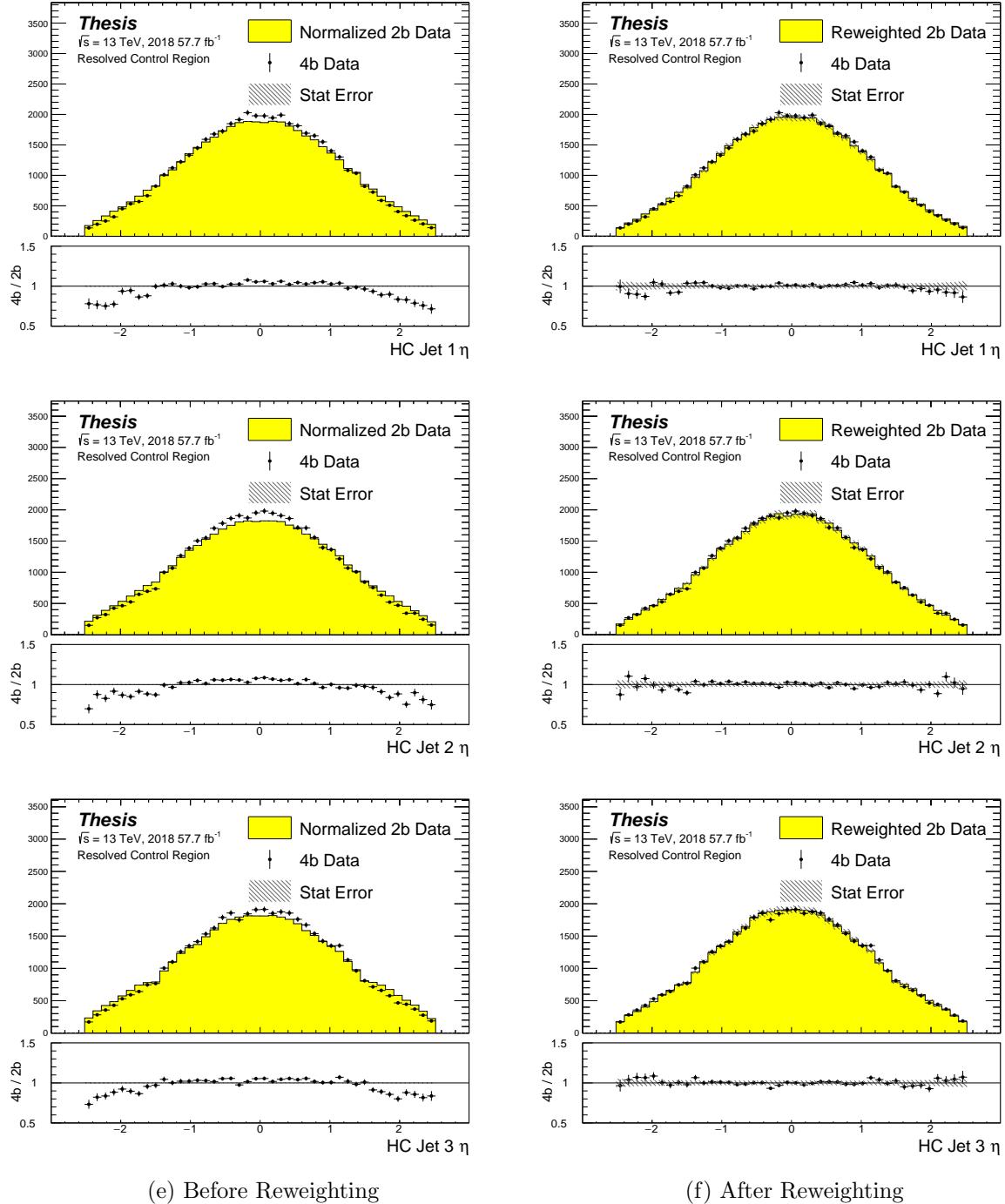


Figure 7.10: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of η of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Control Region.

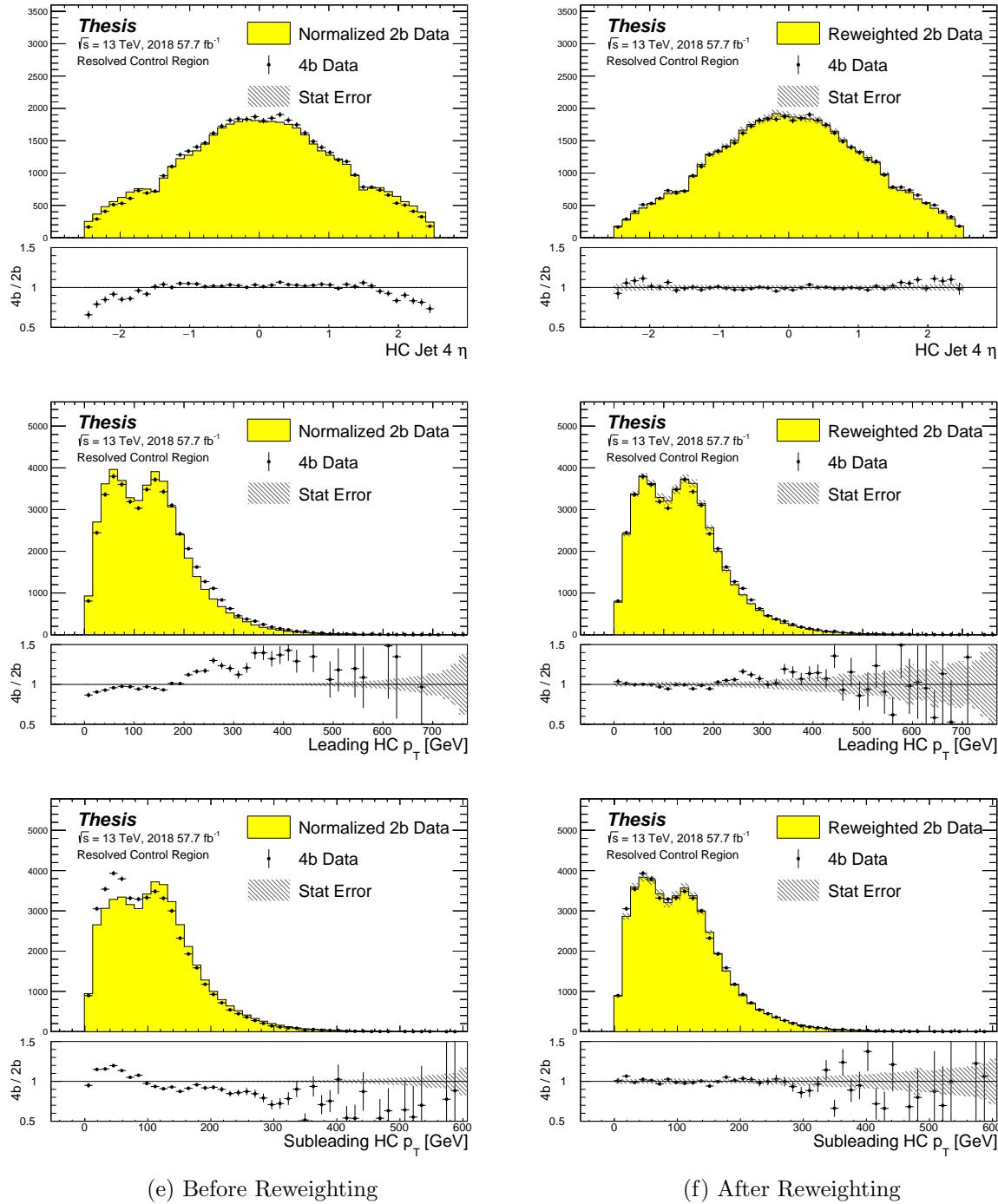


Figure 7.11: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of η of the 4th leading Higgs Candidate jet and the p_T of the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Control Region.

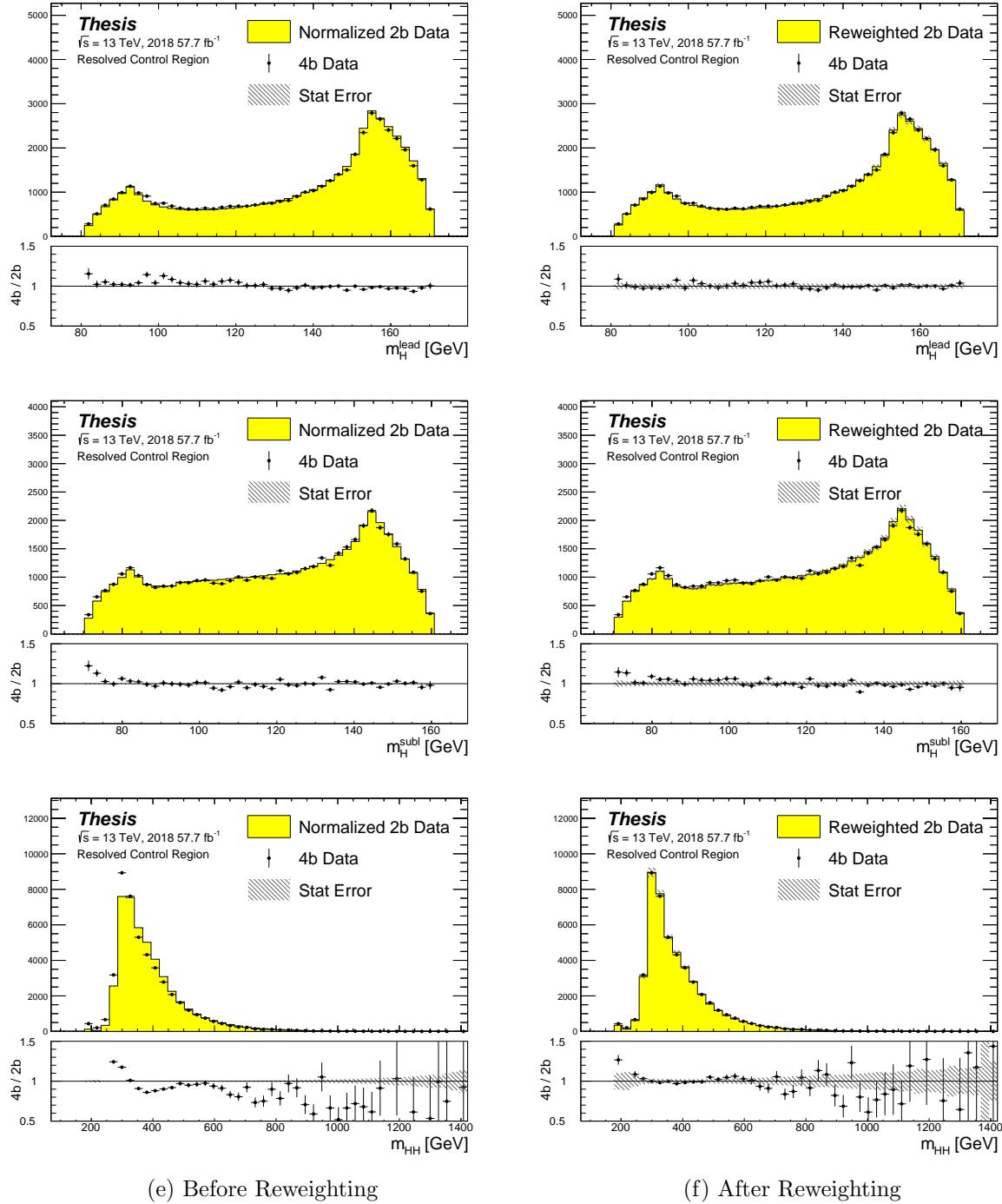


Figure 7.12: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of mass of the leading and subleading Higgs candidates and of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Control Region.

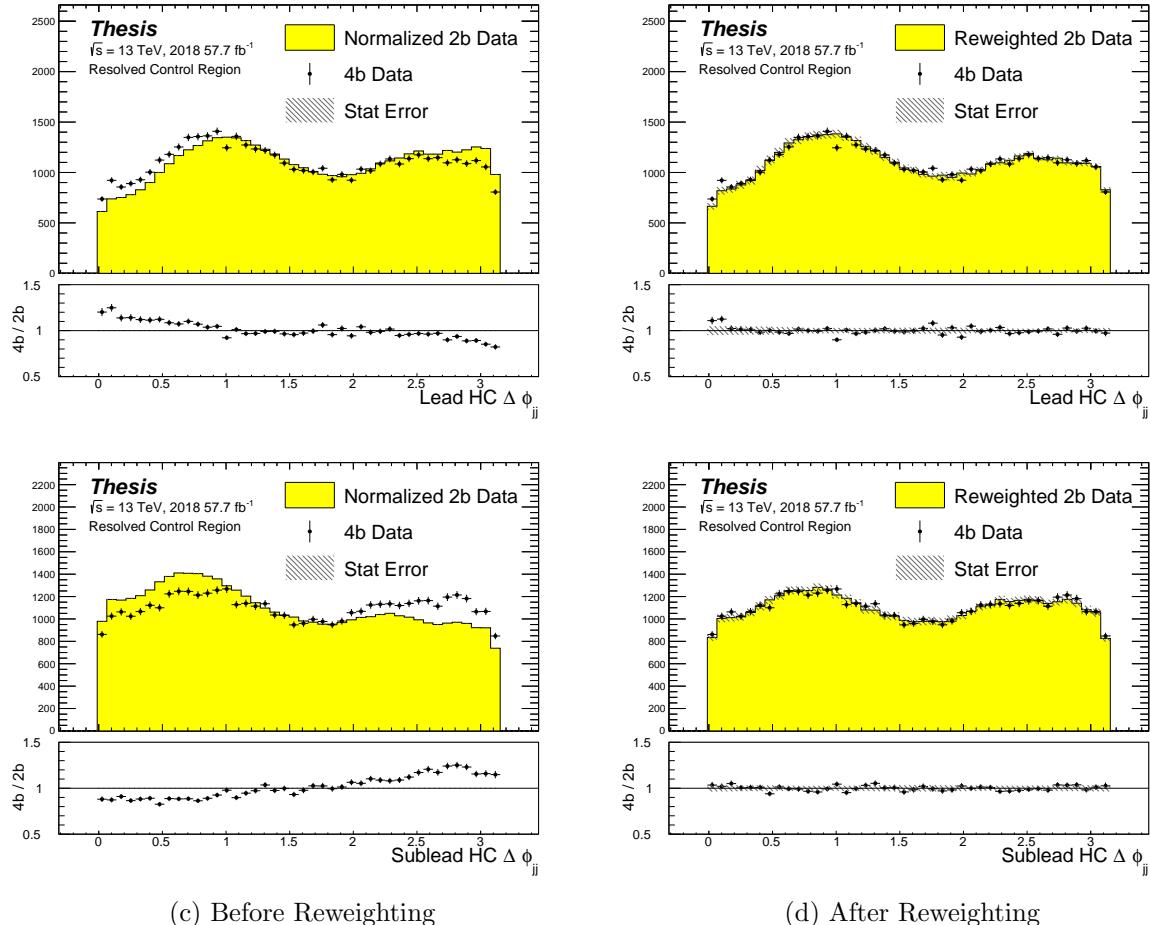


Figure 7.13: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of $\Delta\phi$ between jets in the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Control Region.

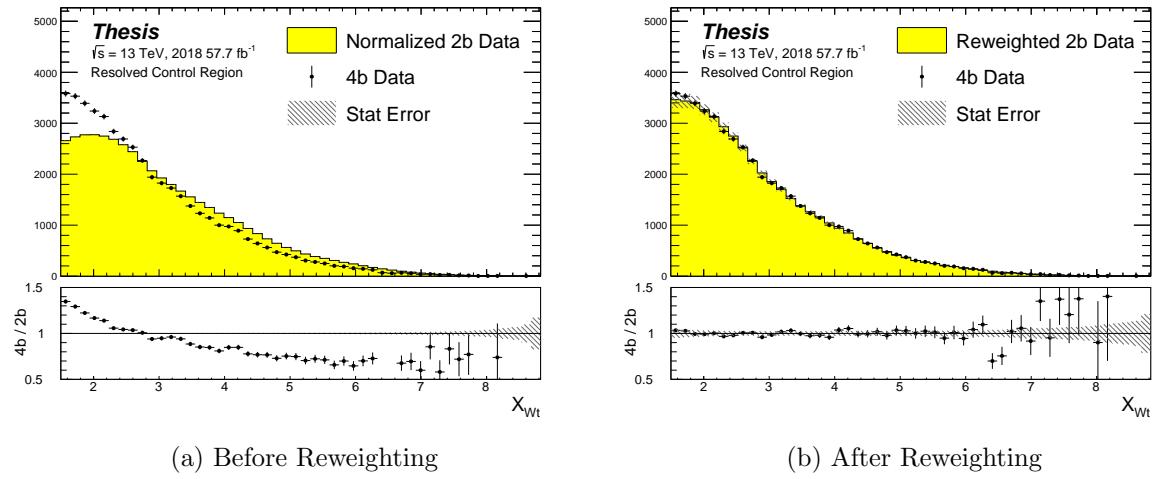


Figure 7.14: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of the top veto variable, X_{Wt} , before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Control Region. Reweighting is done after the cut on this variable is applied

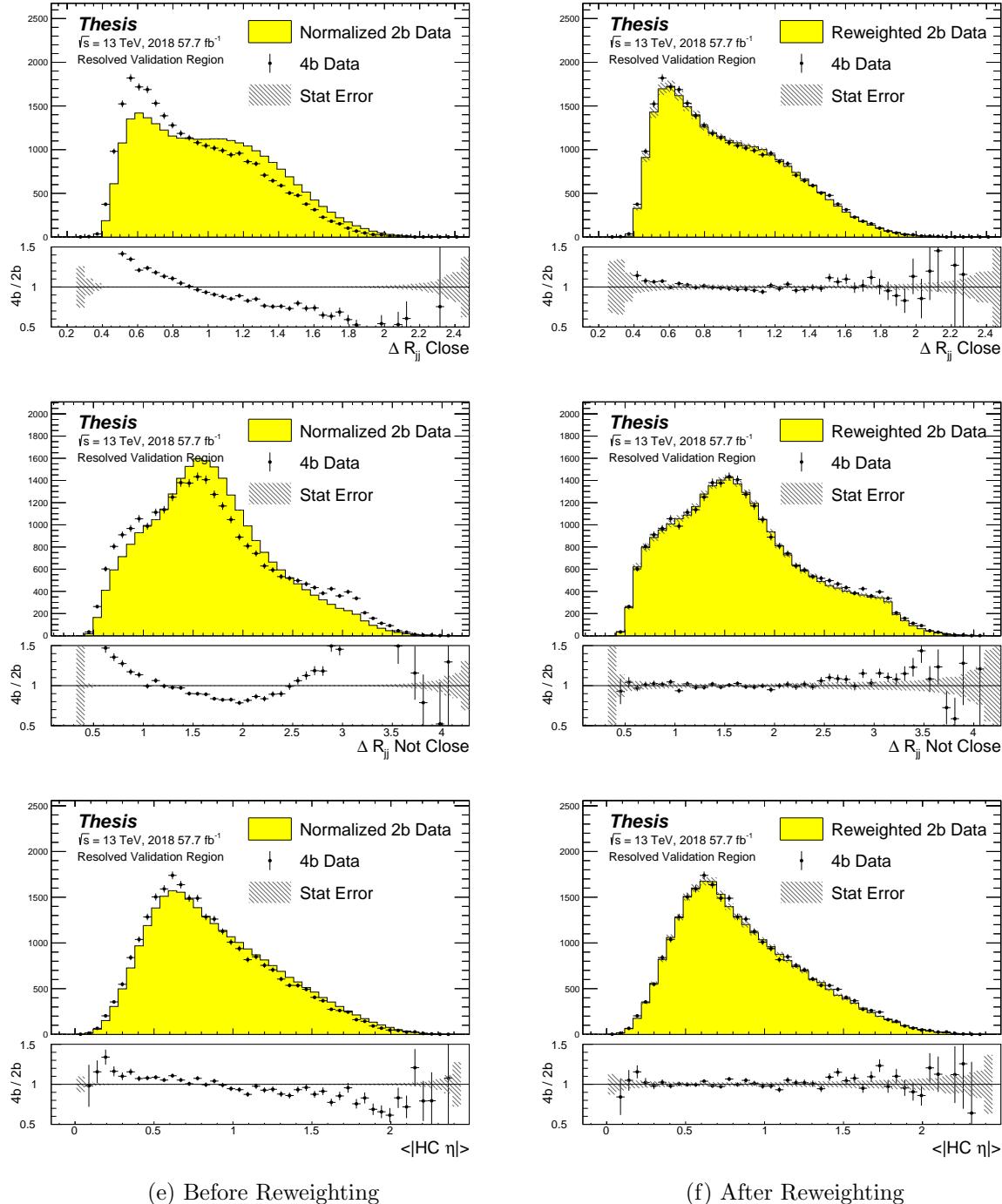


Figure 7.15: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of ΔR between the closest Higgs Candidate jets, ΔR between the other two, and average absolute value of HC jet η before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Validation Region.

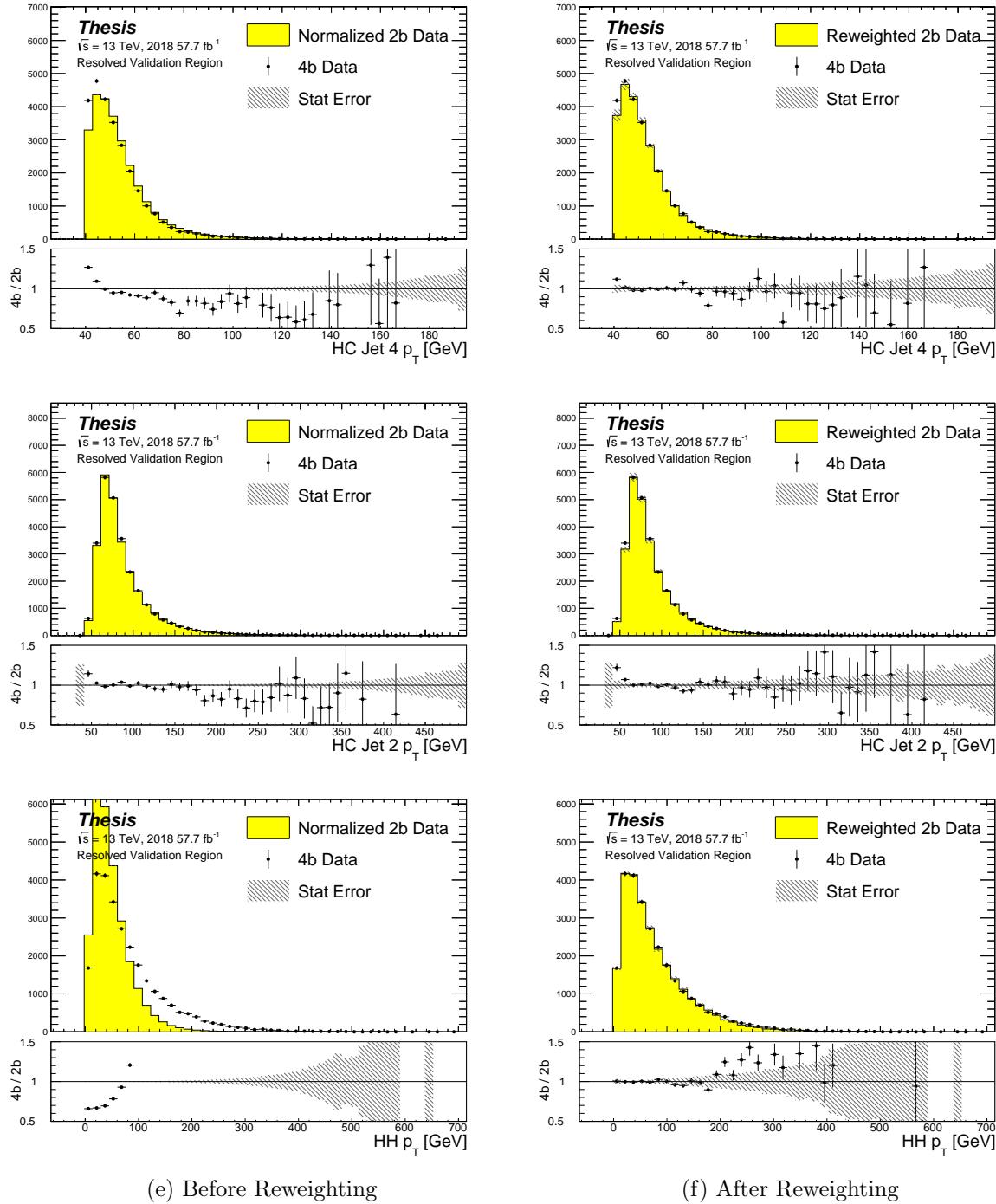


Figure 7.16: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of p_T of the 2nd and 4th leading Higgs Candidate jets and the p_T of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Validation Region.

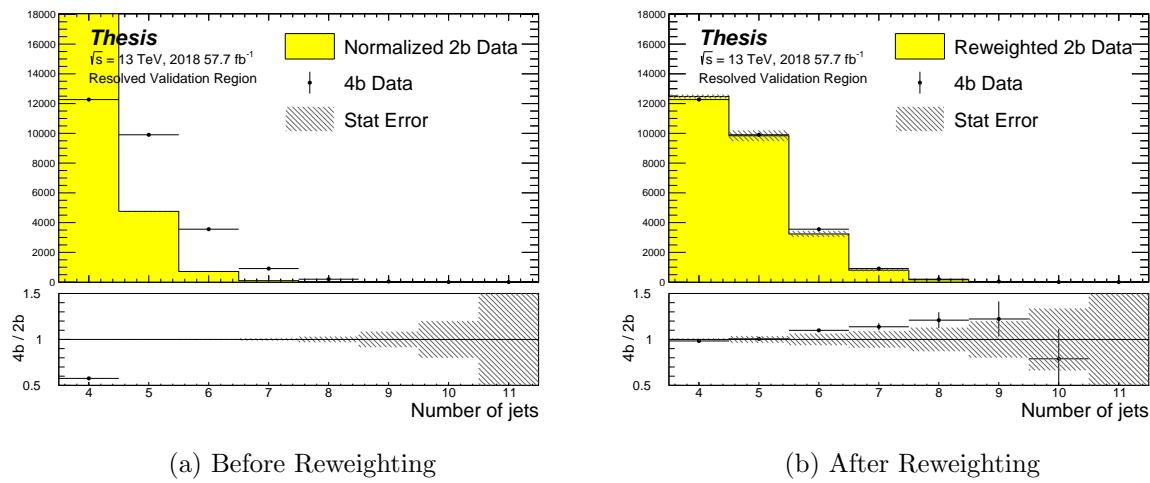


Figure 7.17: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of the number of jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Validation Region. A minimum of 4 jets is required in each event in order to form Higgs candidates.

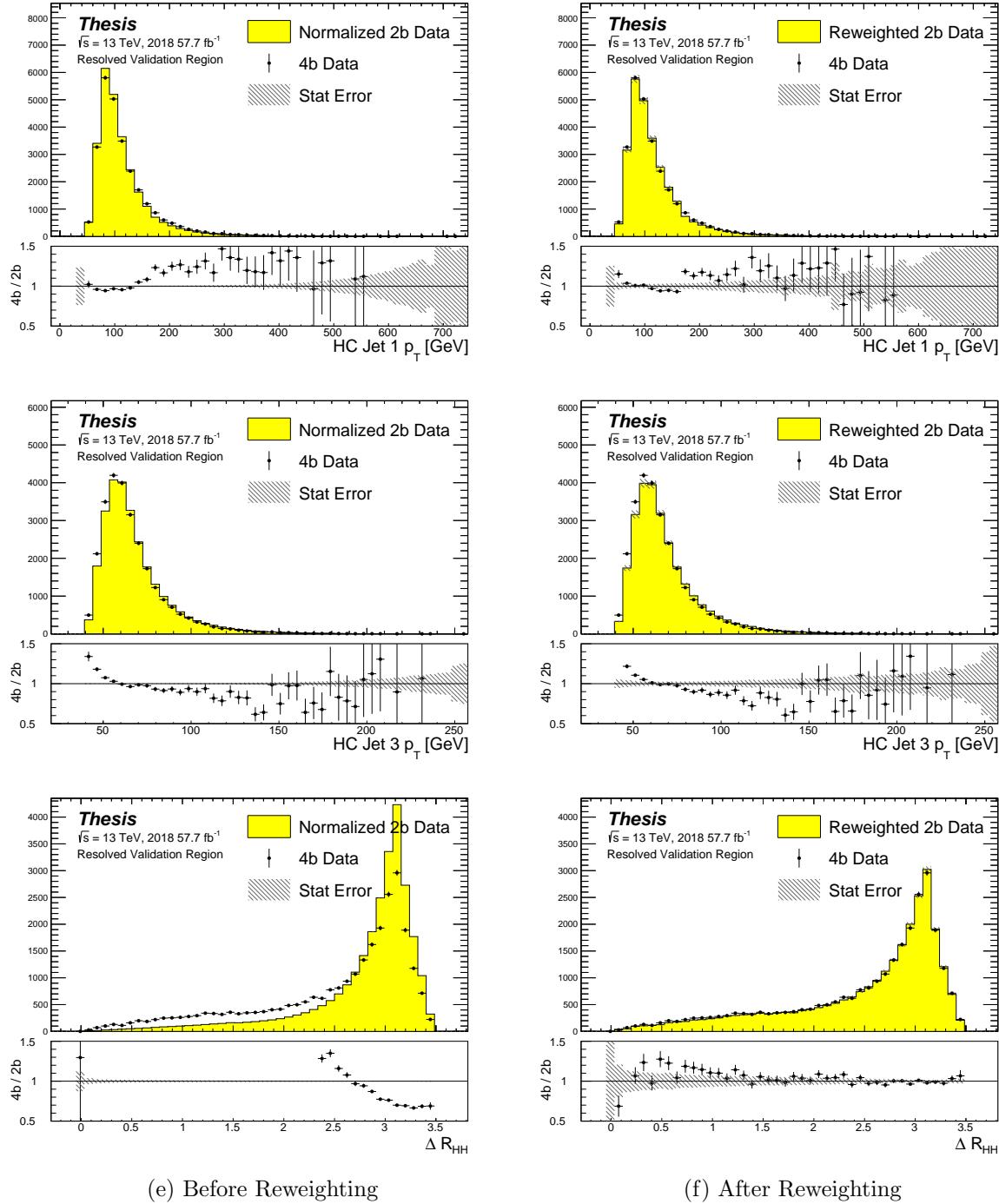


Figure 7.18: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of p_T of the 1st and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets and ΔR between Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Validation Region.

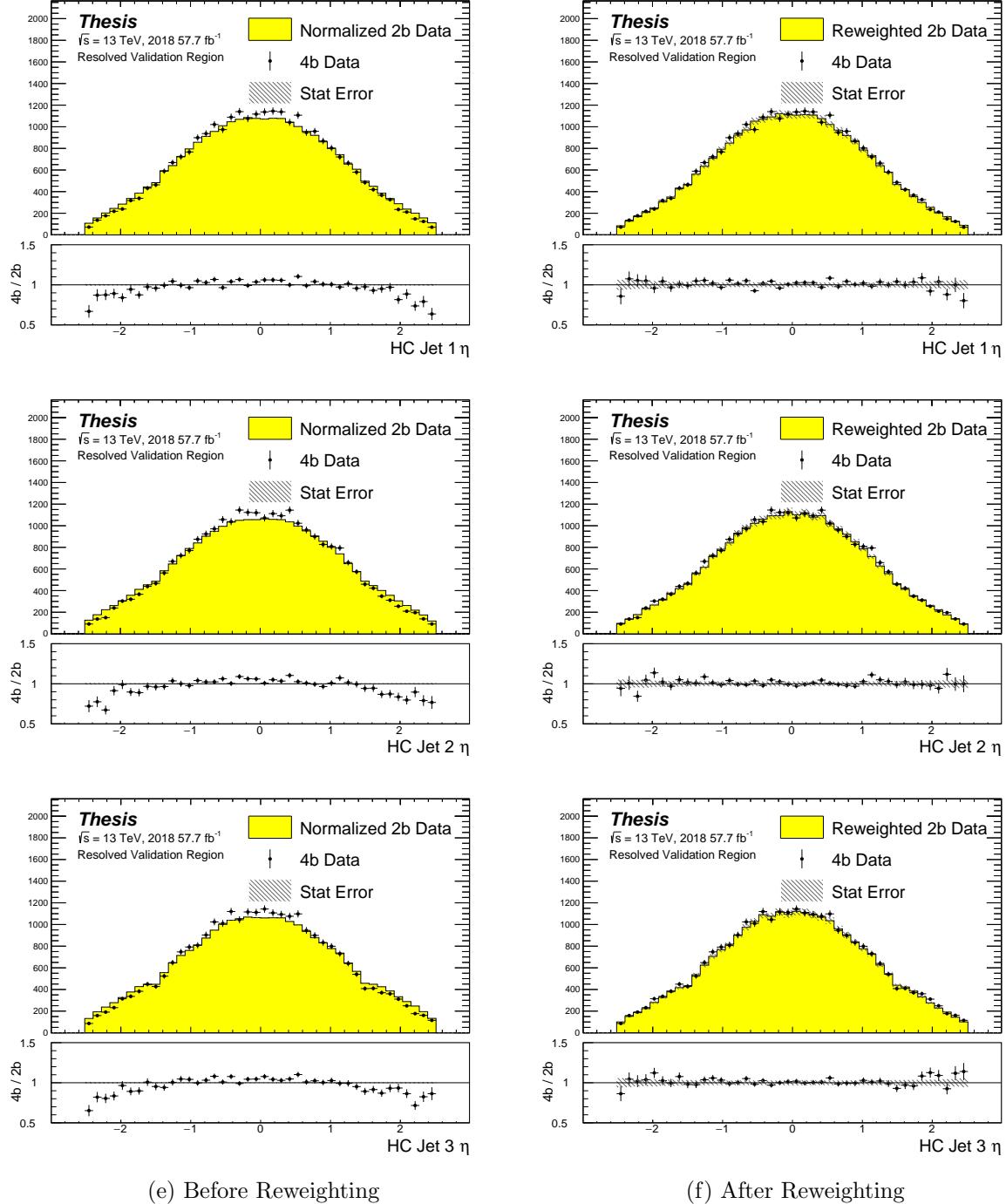


Figure 7.19: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of η of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Validation Region.

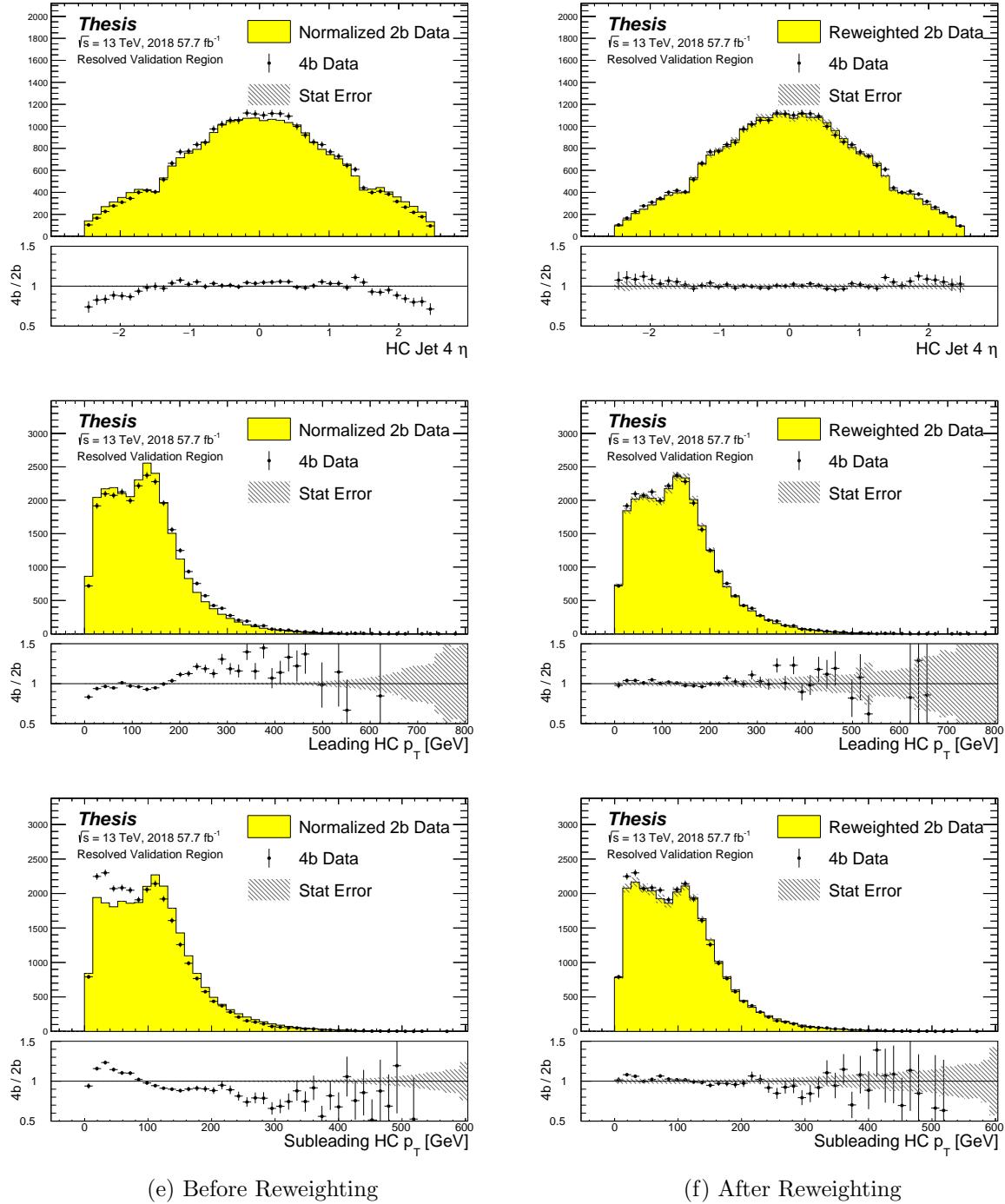


Figure 7.20: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of η of the 4th leading Higgs Candidate jet and the p_T of the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Validation Region.

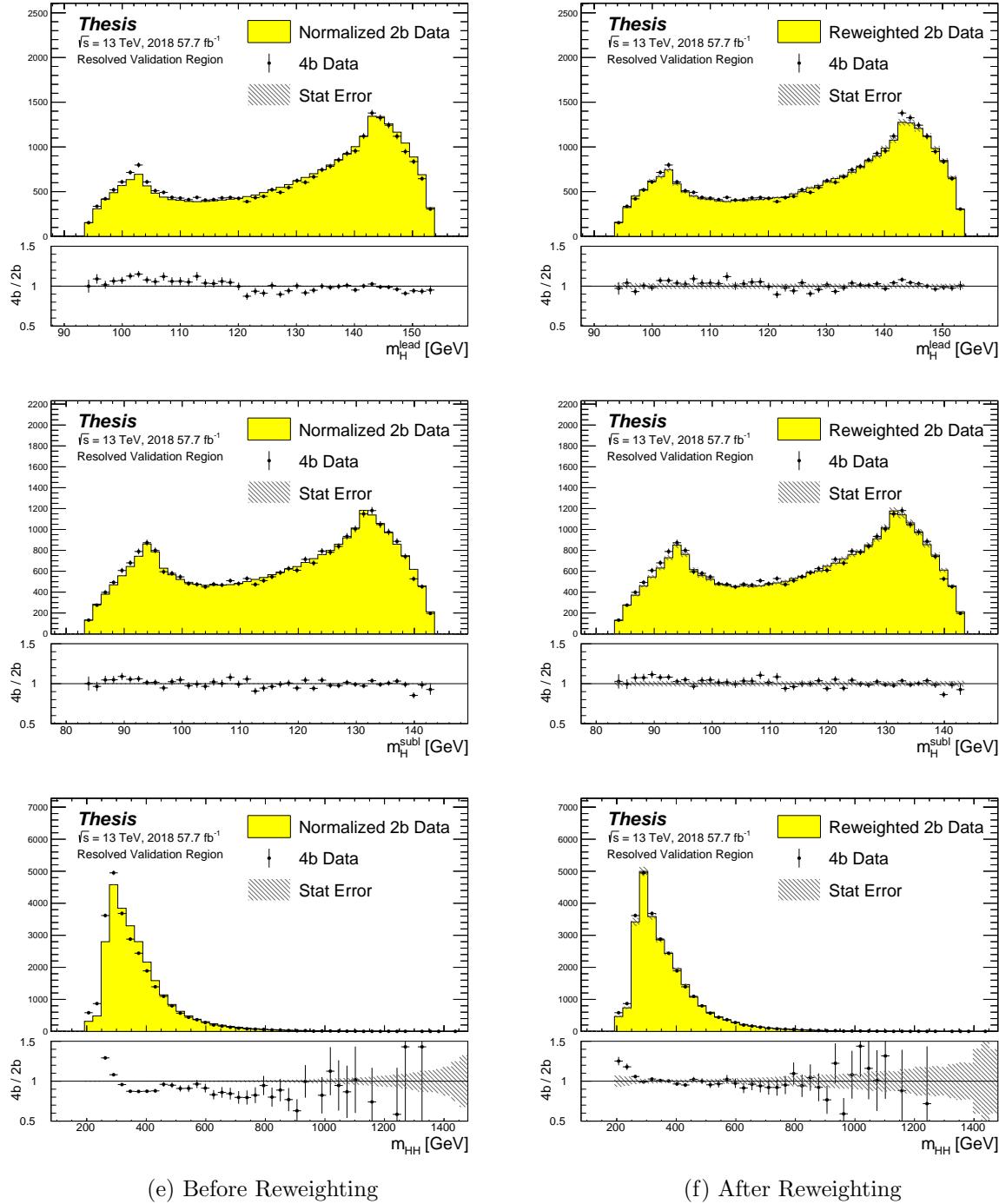


Figure 7.21: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of mass of the leading and subleading Higgs candidates and of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Validation Region.

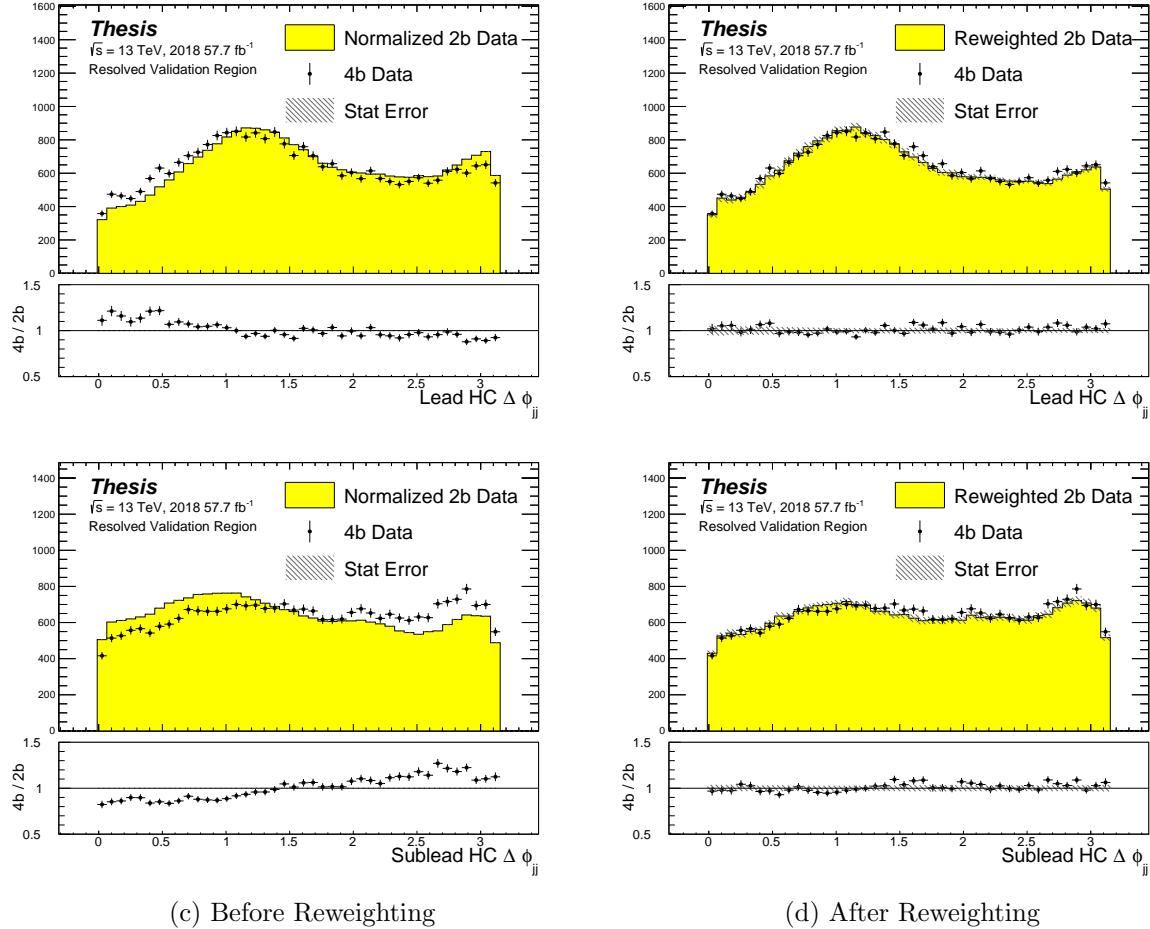


Figure 7.22: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of $\Delta\phi$ between jets in the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Validation Region.

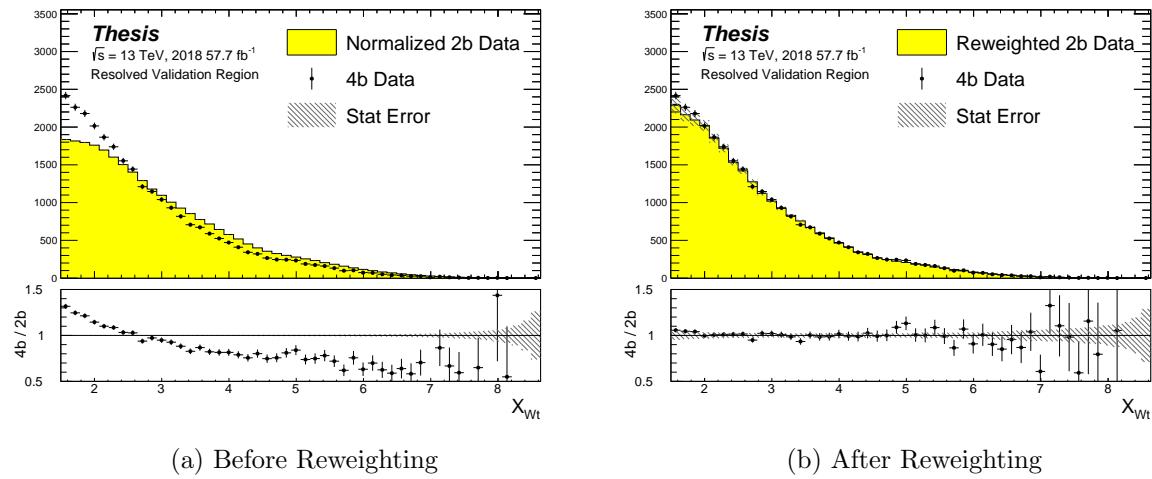


Figure 7.23: **Resonant Search:** Distributions of the top veto variable, X_{Wt} , before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 Validation Region. Reweighting is done after the cut on this variable is applied

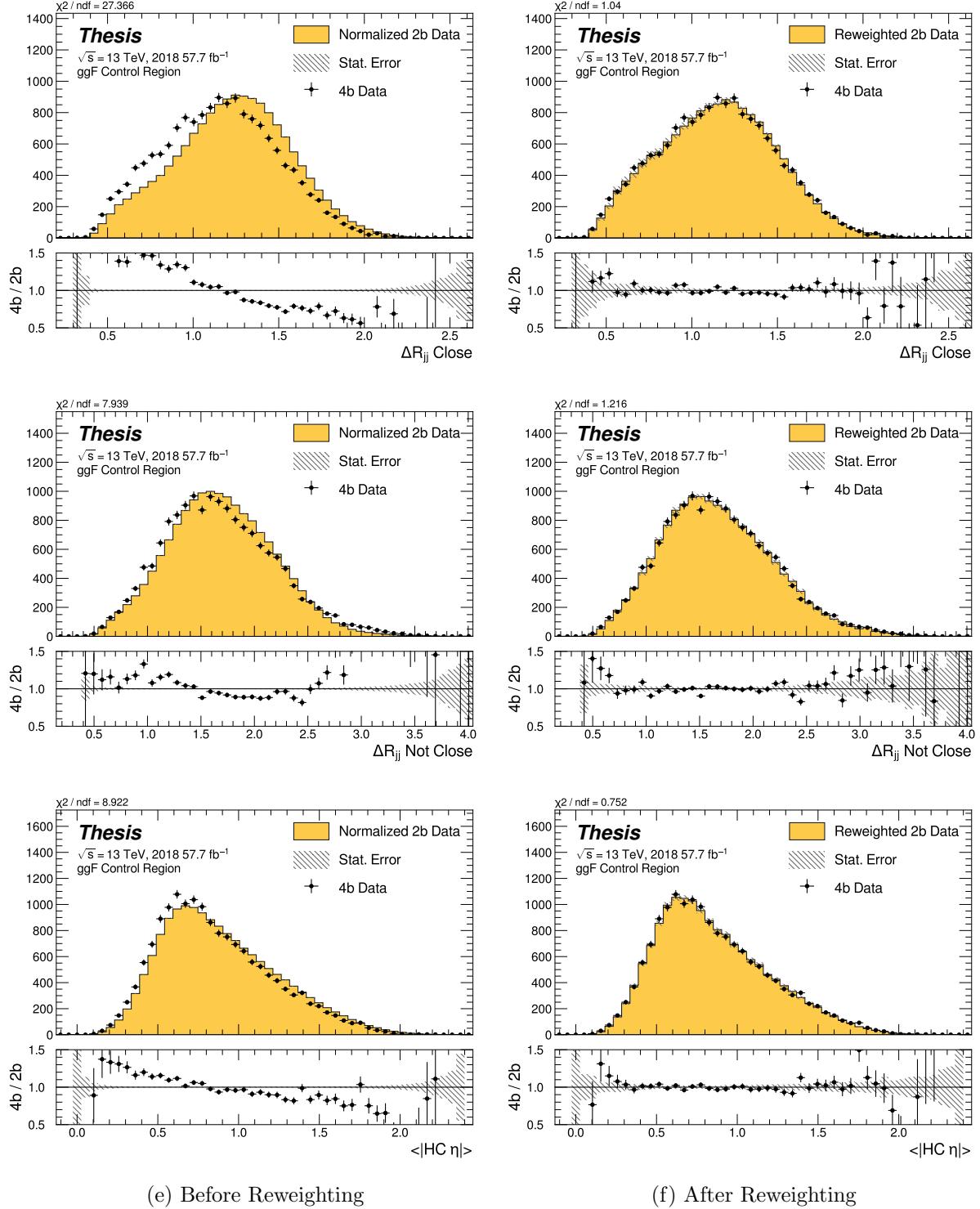


Figure 7.24: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of ΔR between the closest Higgs Candidate jets, ΔR between the other two, and average absolute value of HC jet η before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Control Region.

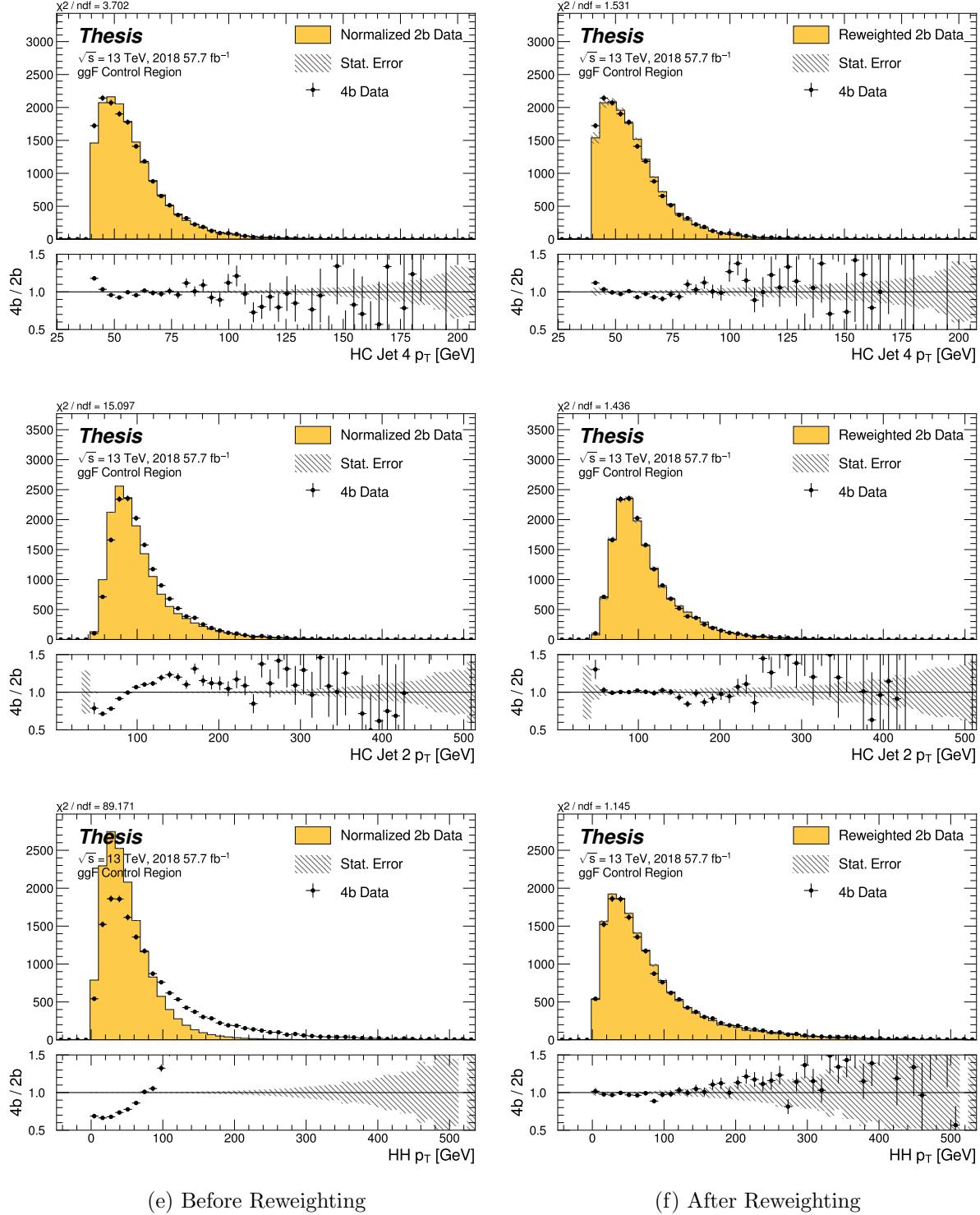


Figure 7.25: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of p_T of the 2nd and 4th leading Higgs Candidate jets and the p_T of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Control Region.

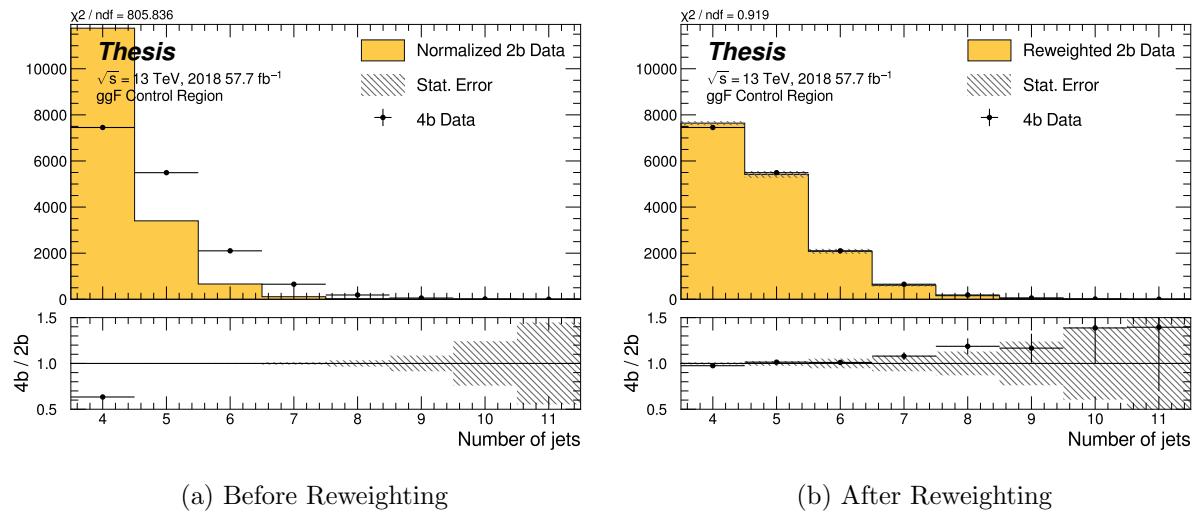


Figure 7.26: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of the number of jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Control Region. A minimum of 4 jets is required in each event in order to form Higgs candidates.

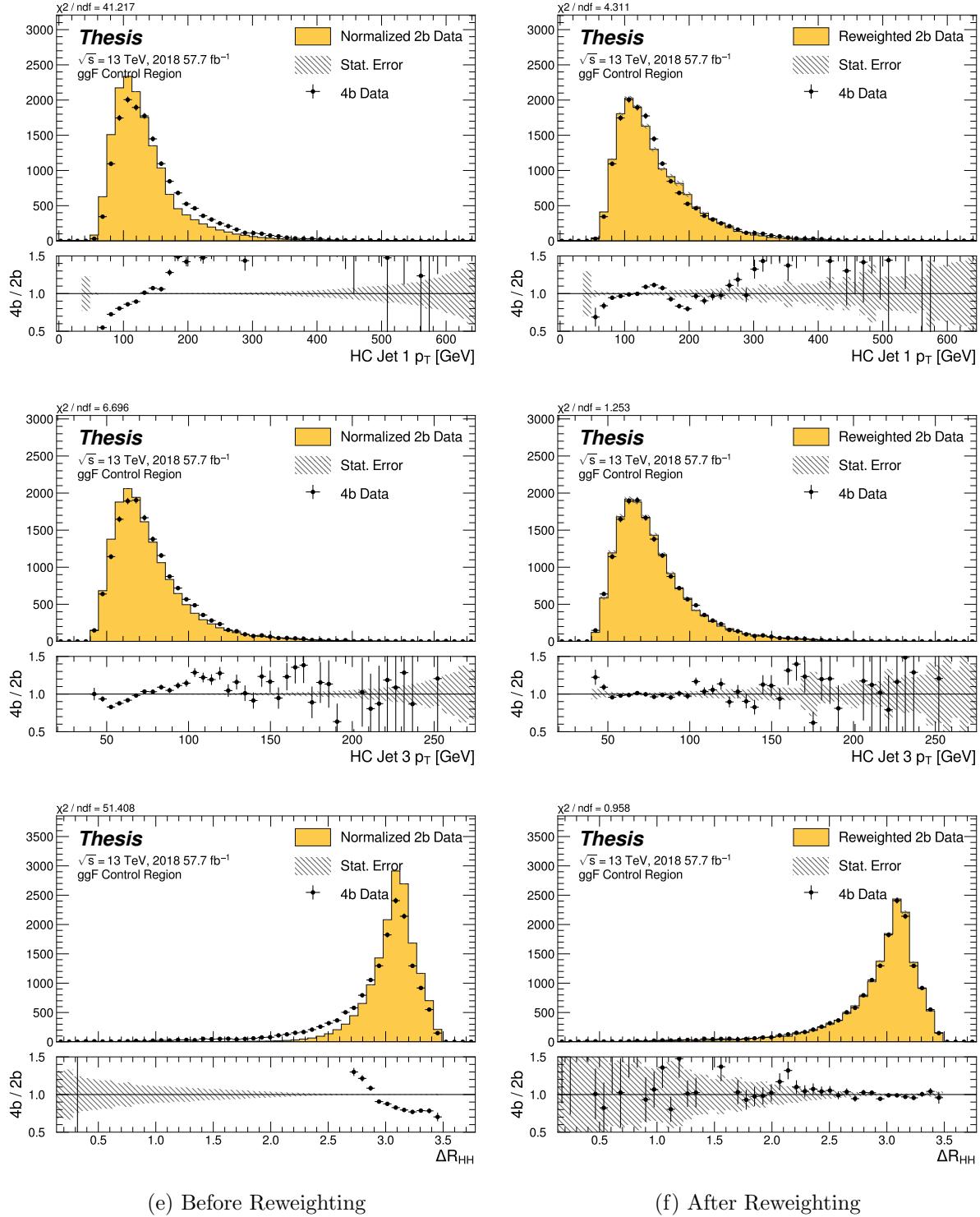


Figure 7.27: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of p_T of the 1st and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets and ΔR between Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Control Region.

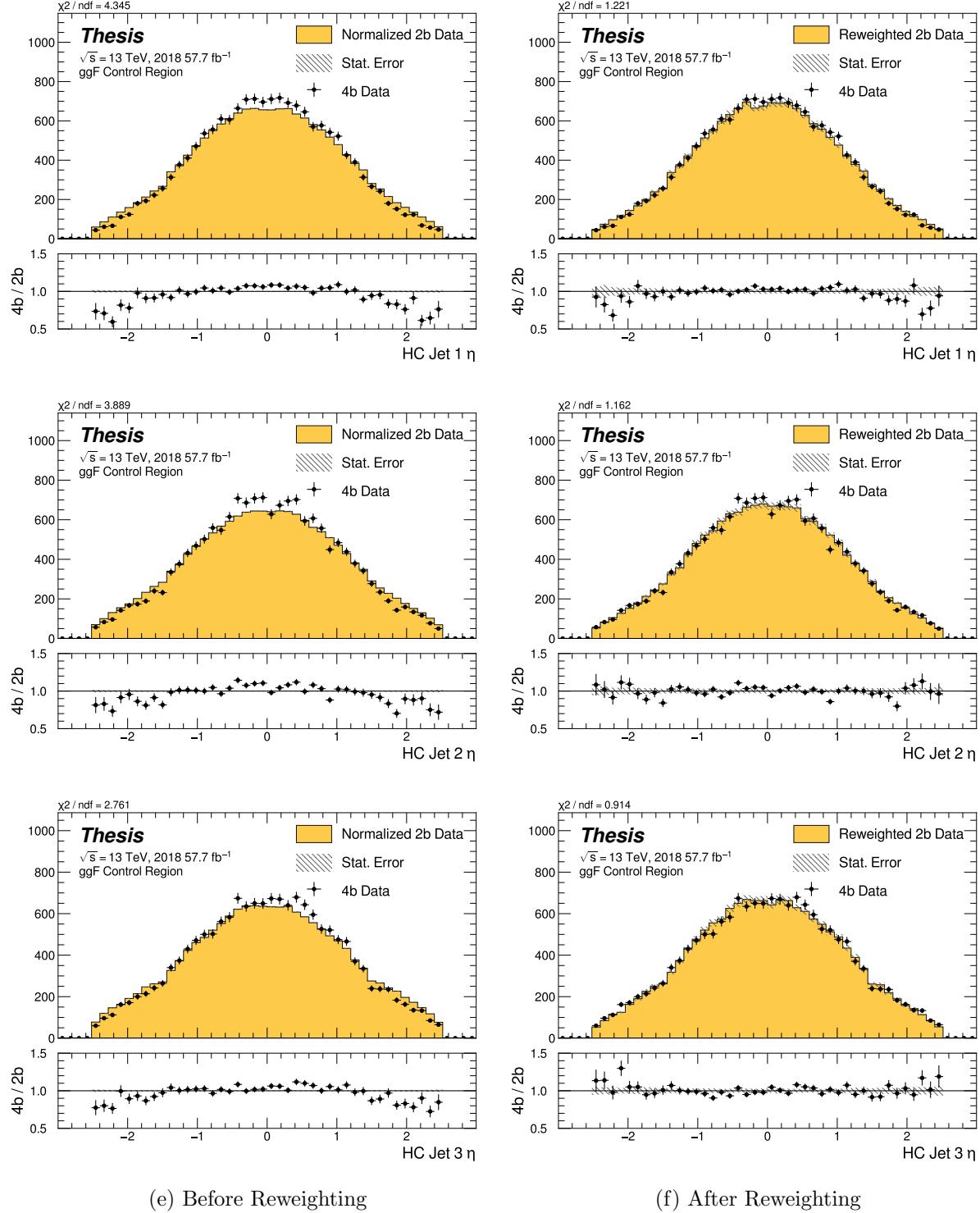


Figure 7.28: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of η of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Control Region.

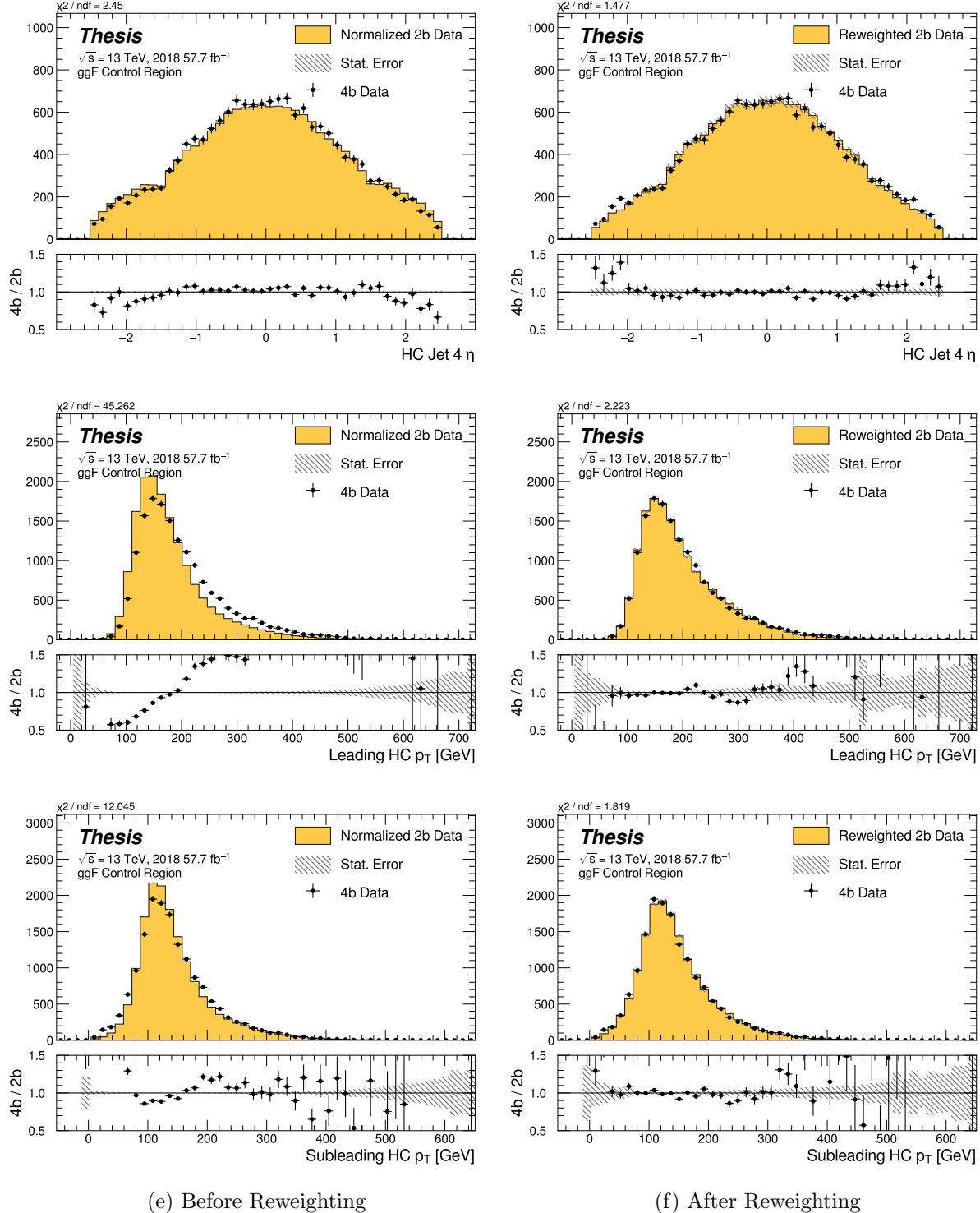


Figure 7.29: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of η of the 4th leading Higgs Candidate jet and the p_T of the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Control Region.

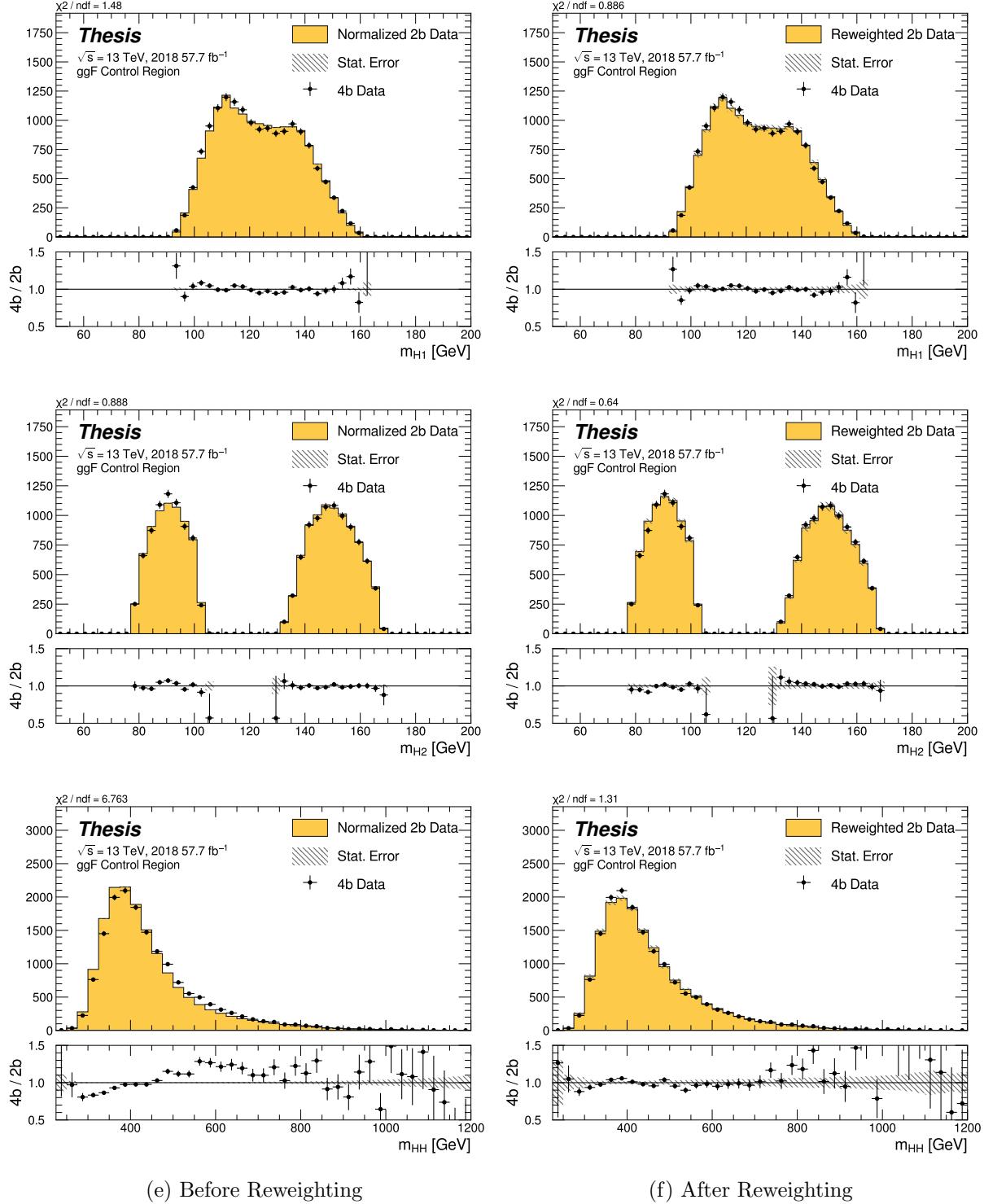


Figure 7.30: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of mass of the leading and subleading Higgs candidates and of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Control Region.

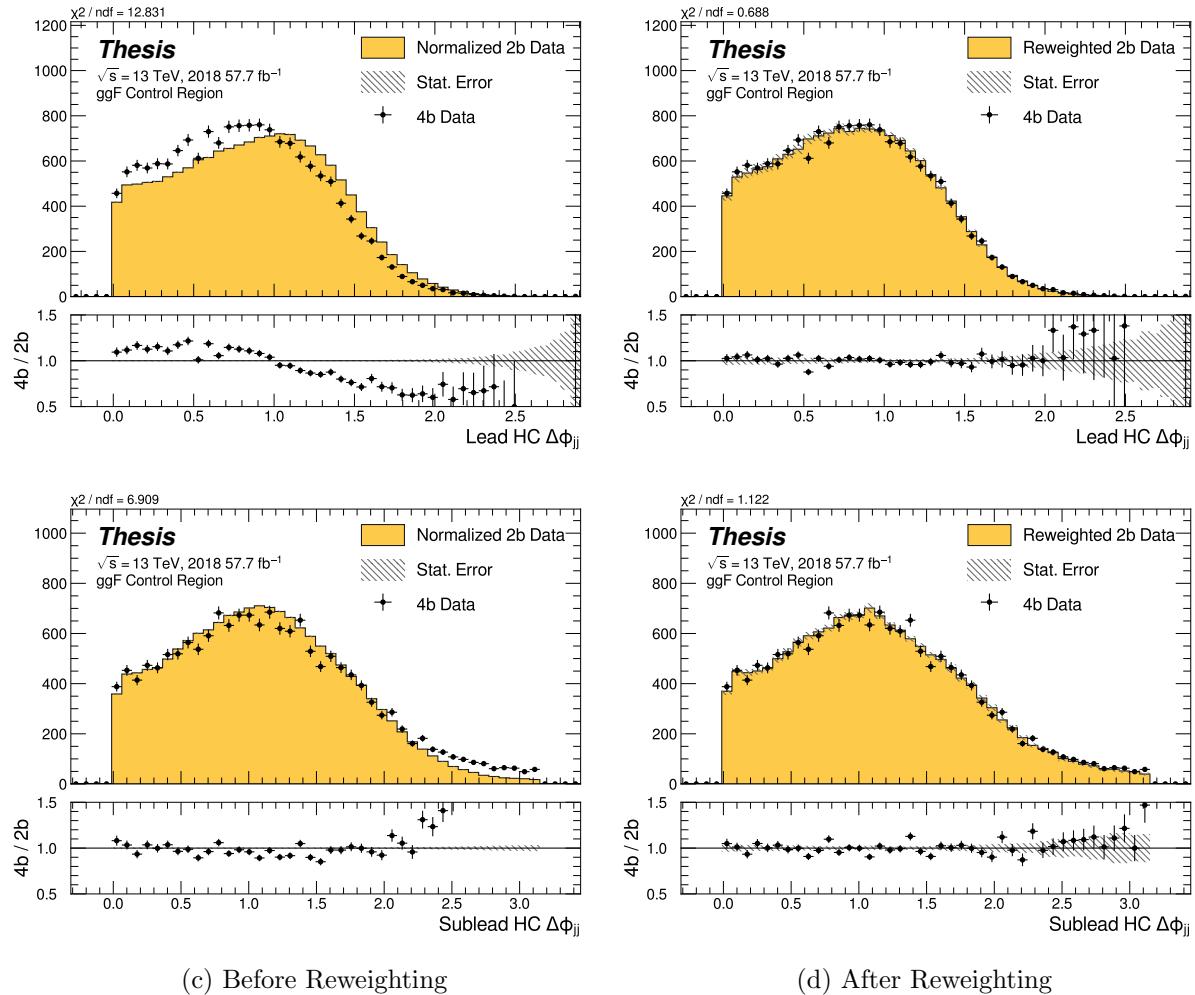


Figure 7.31: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of $\Delta\phi$ between jets in the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Control Region.

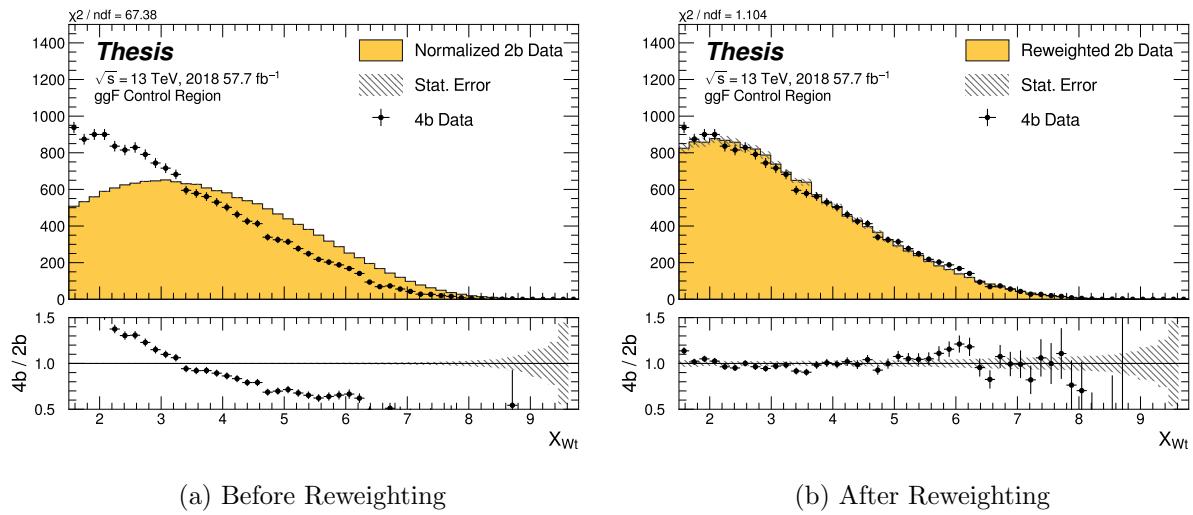


Figure 7.32: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of the top veto variable, X_{Wt} , before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Control Region. Reweighting is done after the cut on this variable is applied.

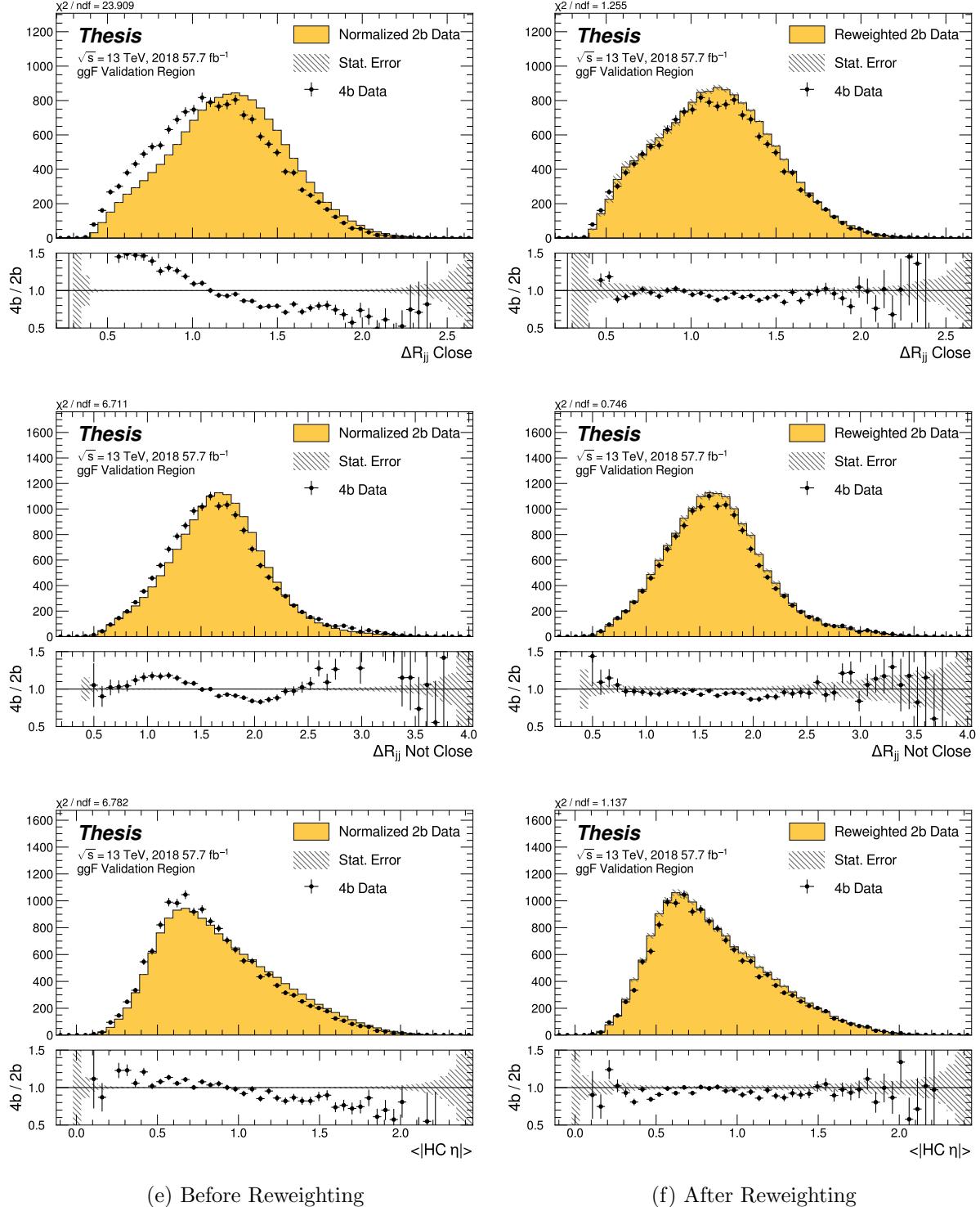


Figure 7.33: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of ΔR between the closest Higgs Candidate jets, ΔR between the other two, and average absolute value of HC jet η before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Validation Region.

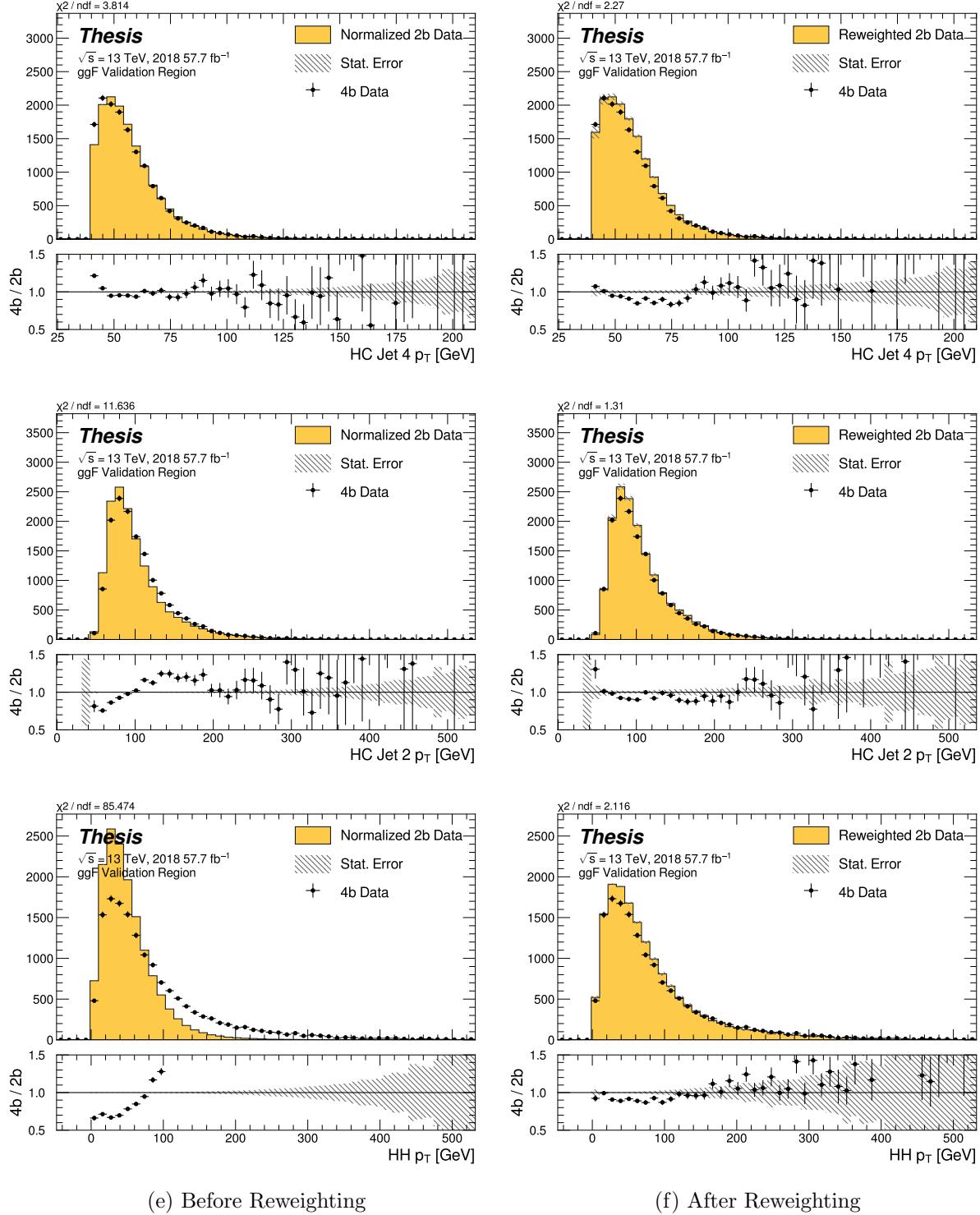


Figure 7.34: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of p_T of the 2nd and 4th leading Higgs Candidate jets and the p_T of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Validation Region.

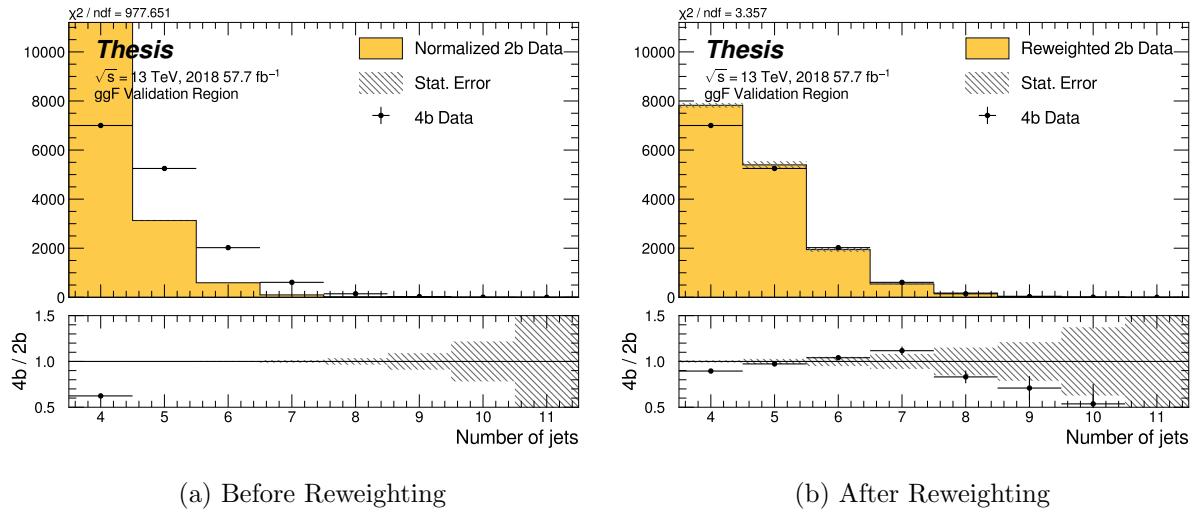


Figure 7.35: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of the number of jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Validation Region. A minimum of 4 jets is required in each event in order to form Higgs candidates.

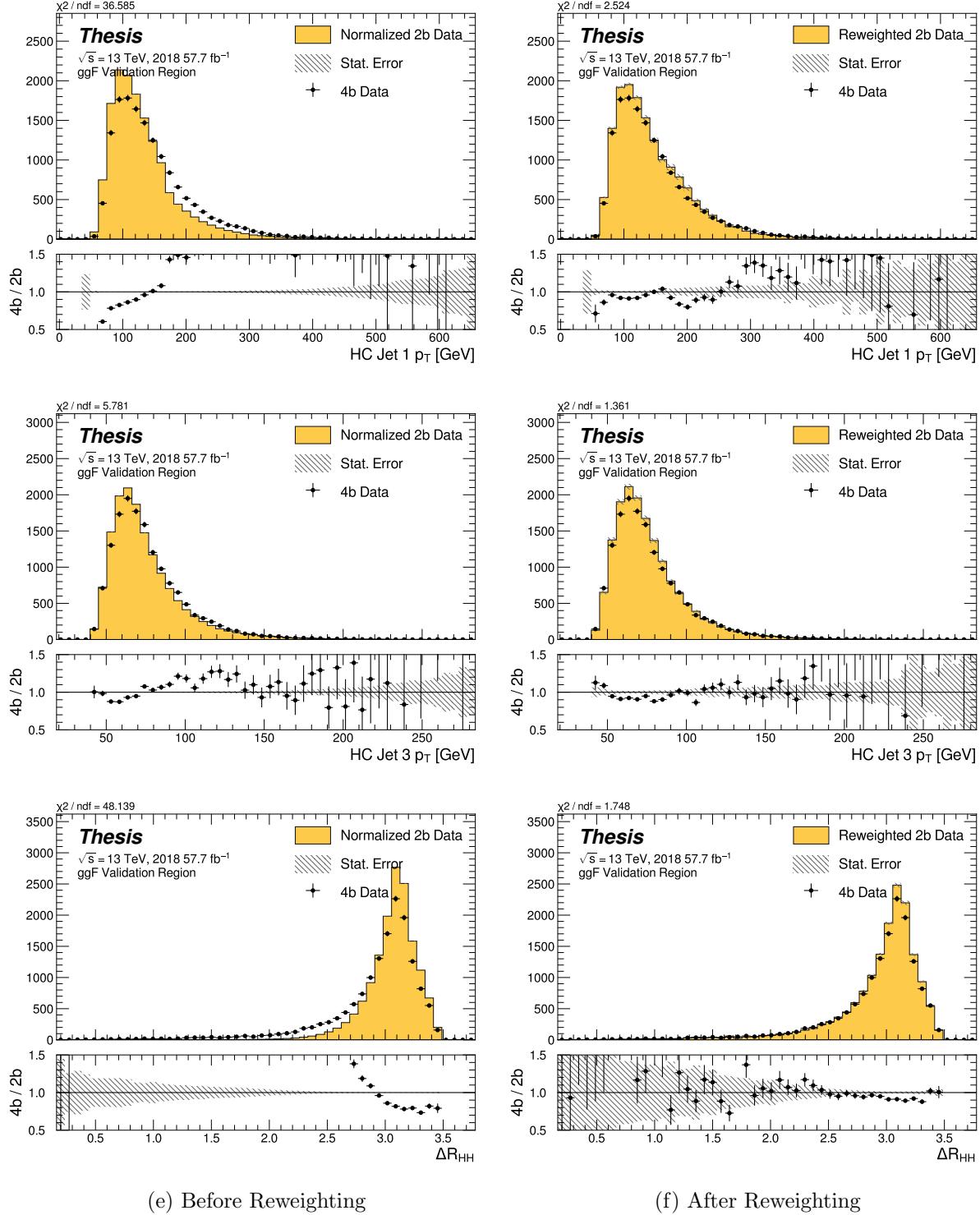


Figure 7.36: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of p_T of the 1st and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets and ΔR between Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Validation Region.

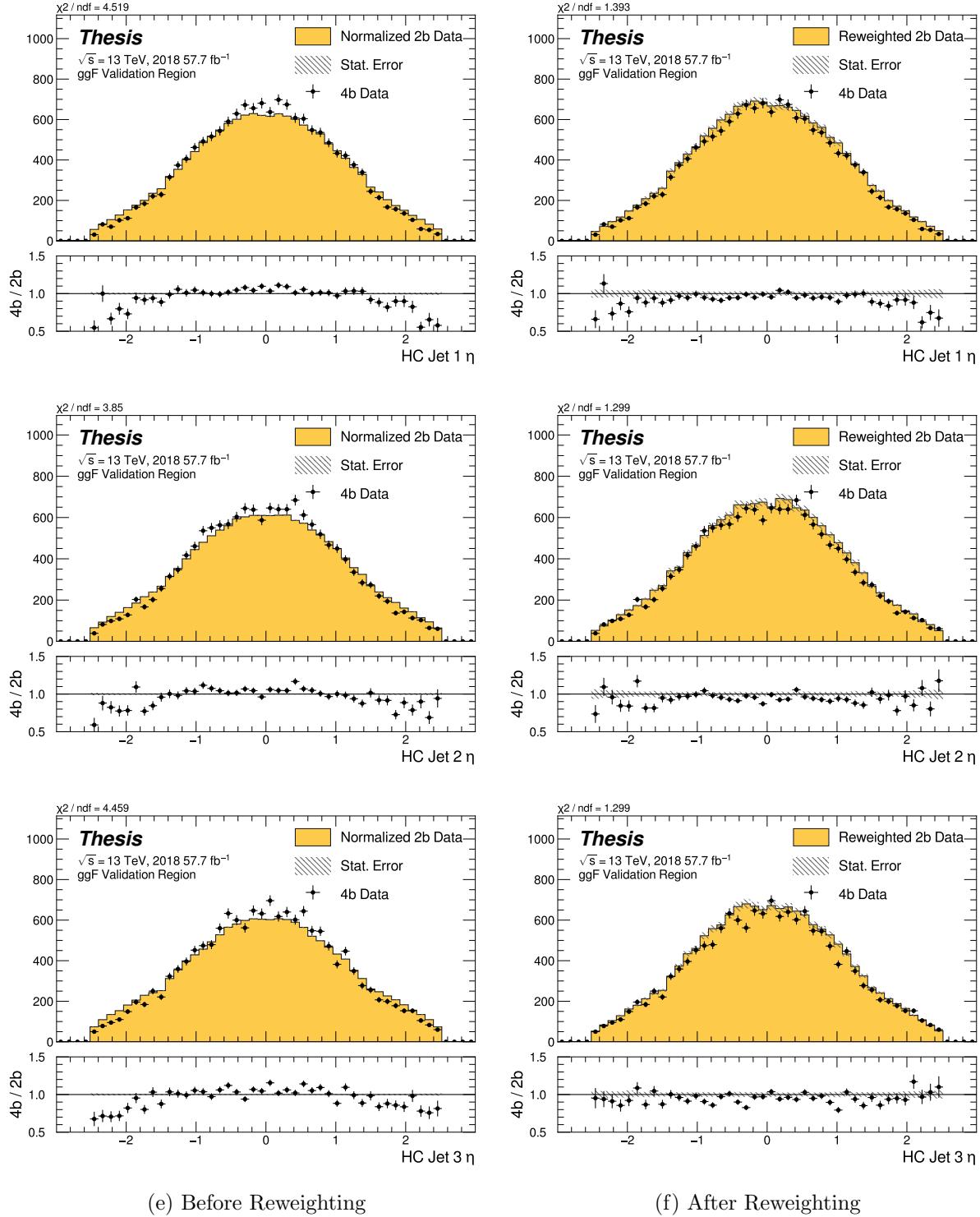


Figure 7.37: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of η of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Validation Region.

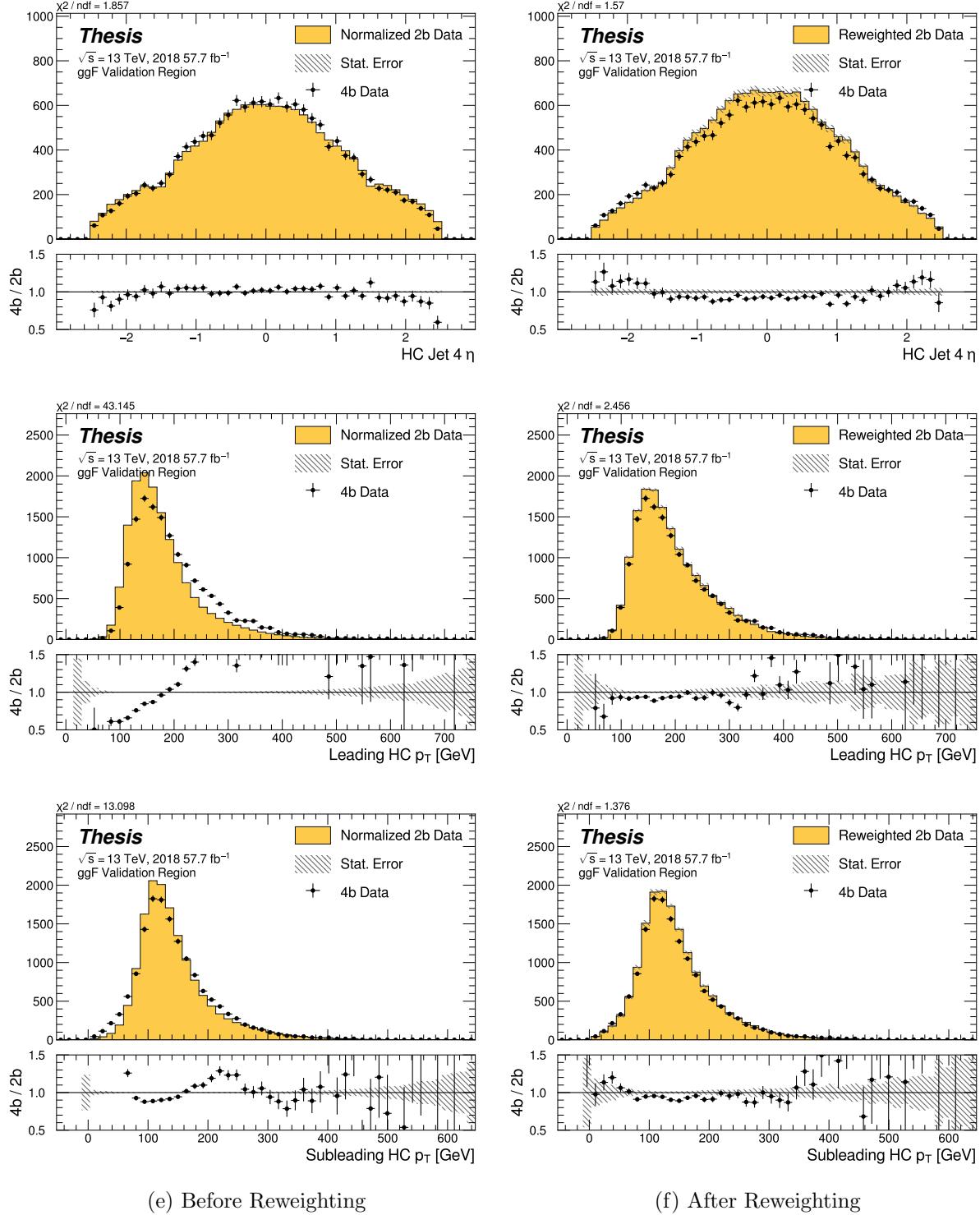


Figure 7.38: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of η of the 4th leading Higgs Candidate jet and the p_T of the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Validation Region.

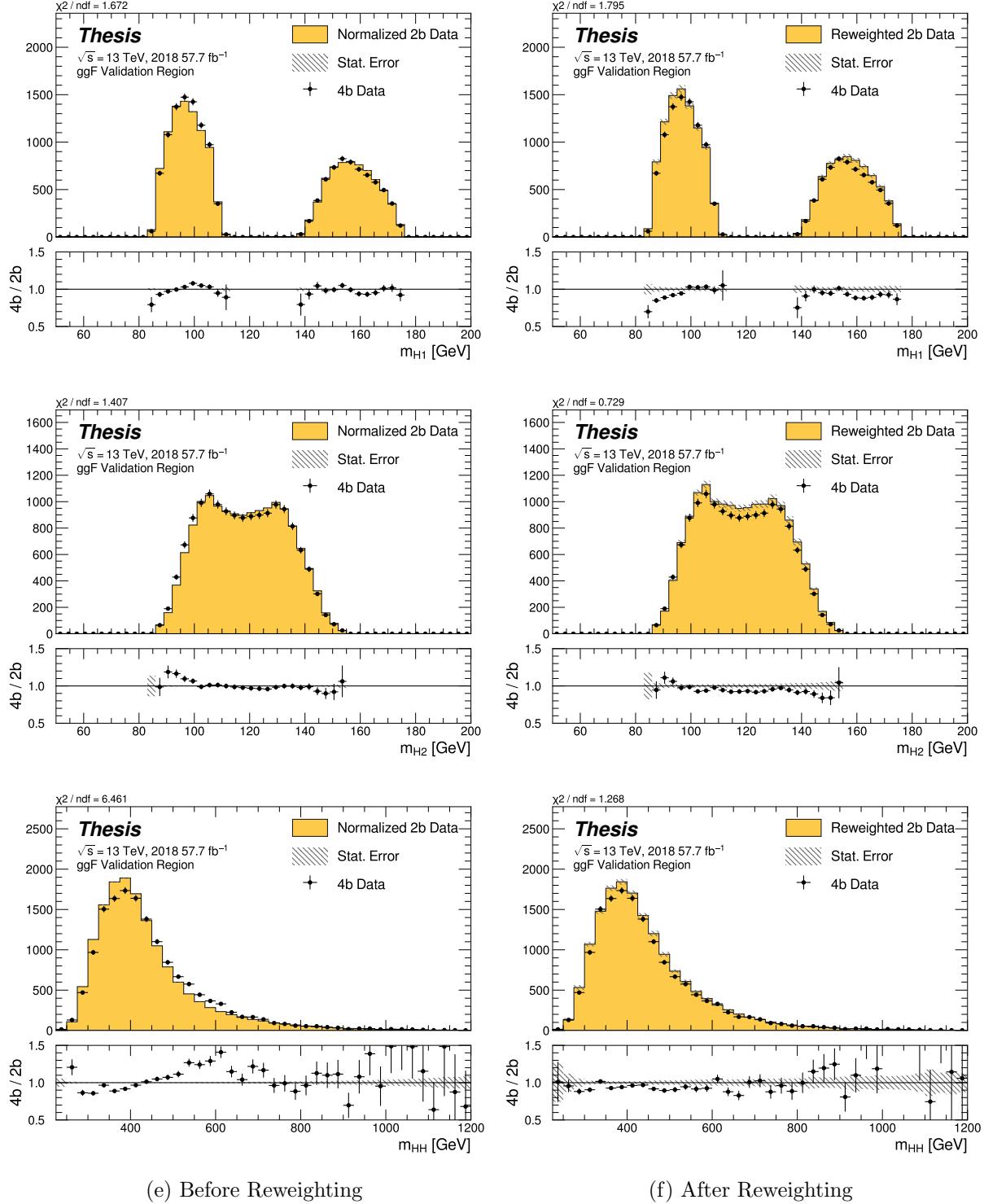


Figure 7.39: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of mass of the leading and subleading Higgs candidates and of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Validation Region.

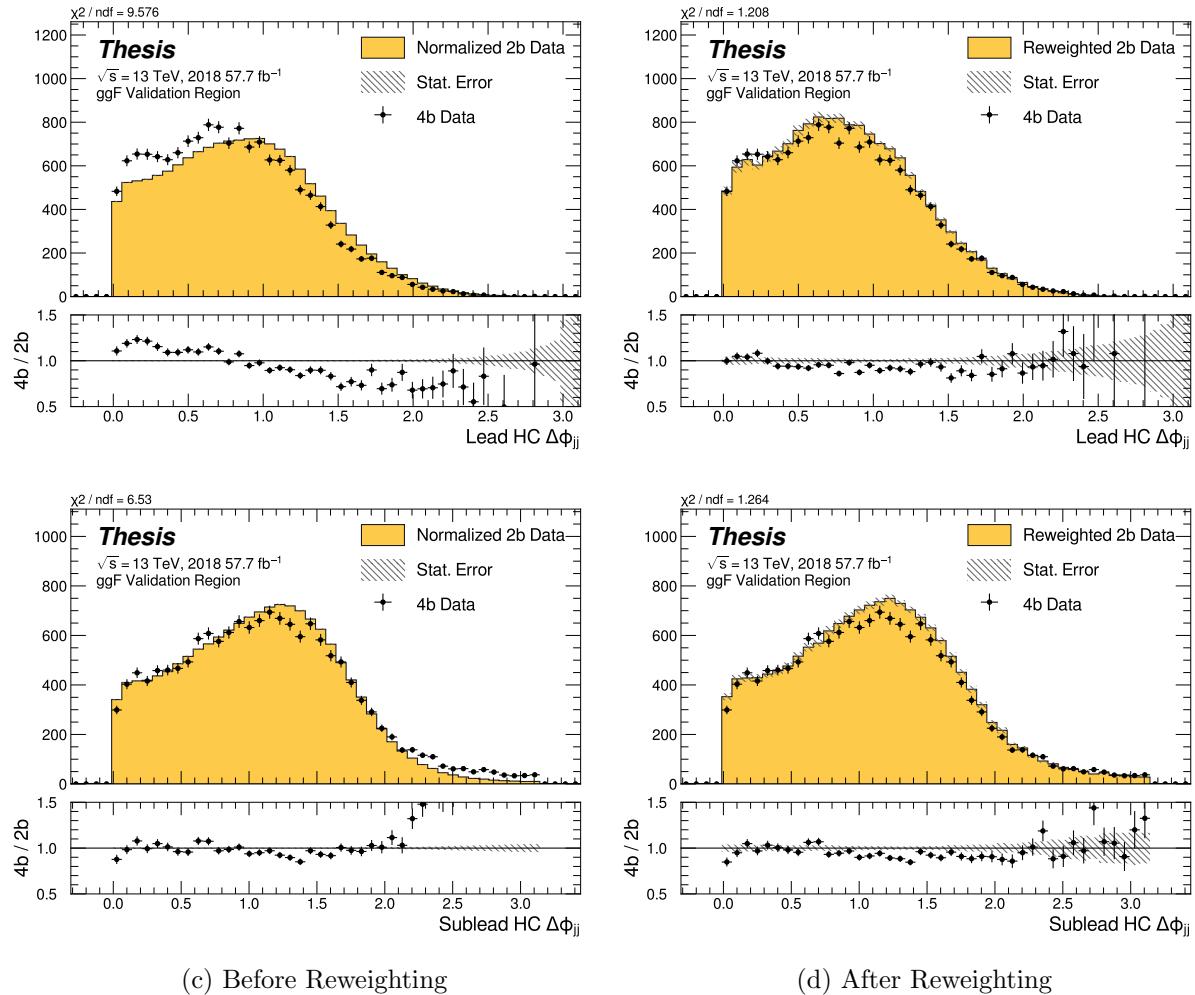


Figure 7.40: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Distributions of $\Delta\phi$ between jets in the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Validation Region.

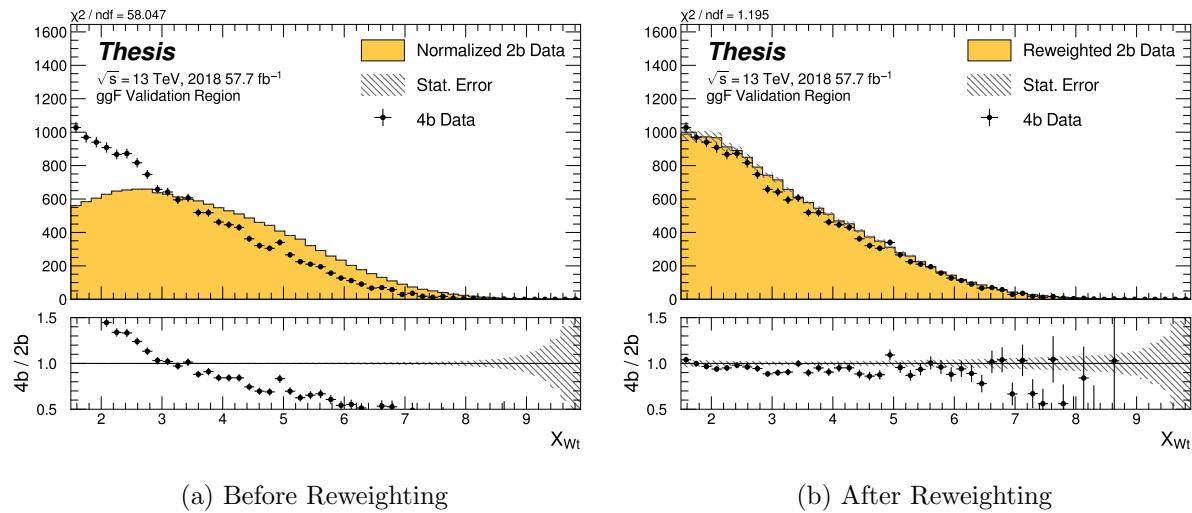


Figure 7.41: **Non-resonant Search (4b)**: Distributions of the top veto variable, X_{Wt} , before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 4b Validation Region. Reweighting is done after the cut on this variable is applied.

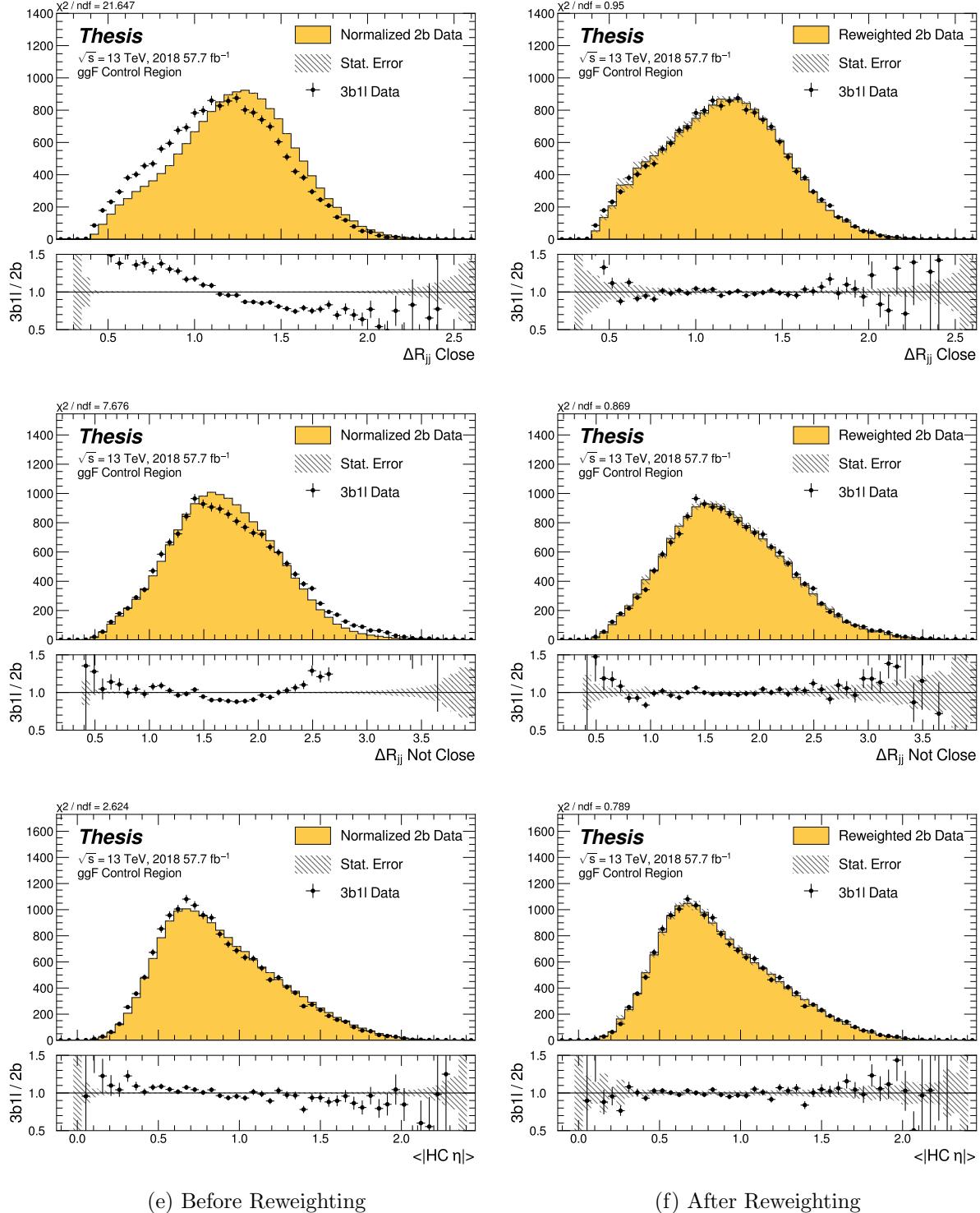


Figure 7.42: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of ΔR between the closest Higgs Candidate jets, ΔR between the other two, and average absolute value of HC jet η before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Control Region.

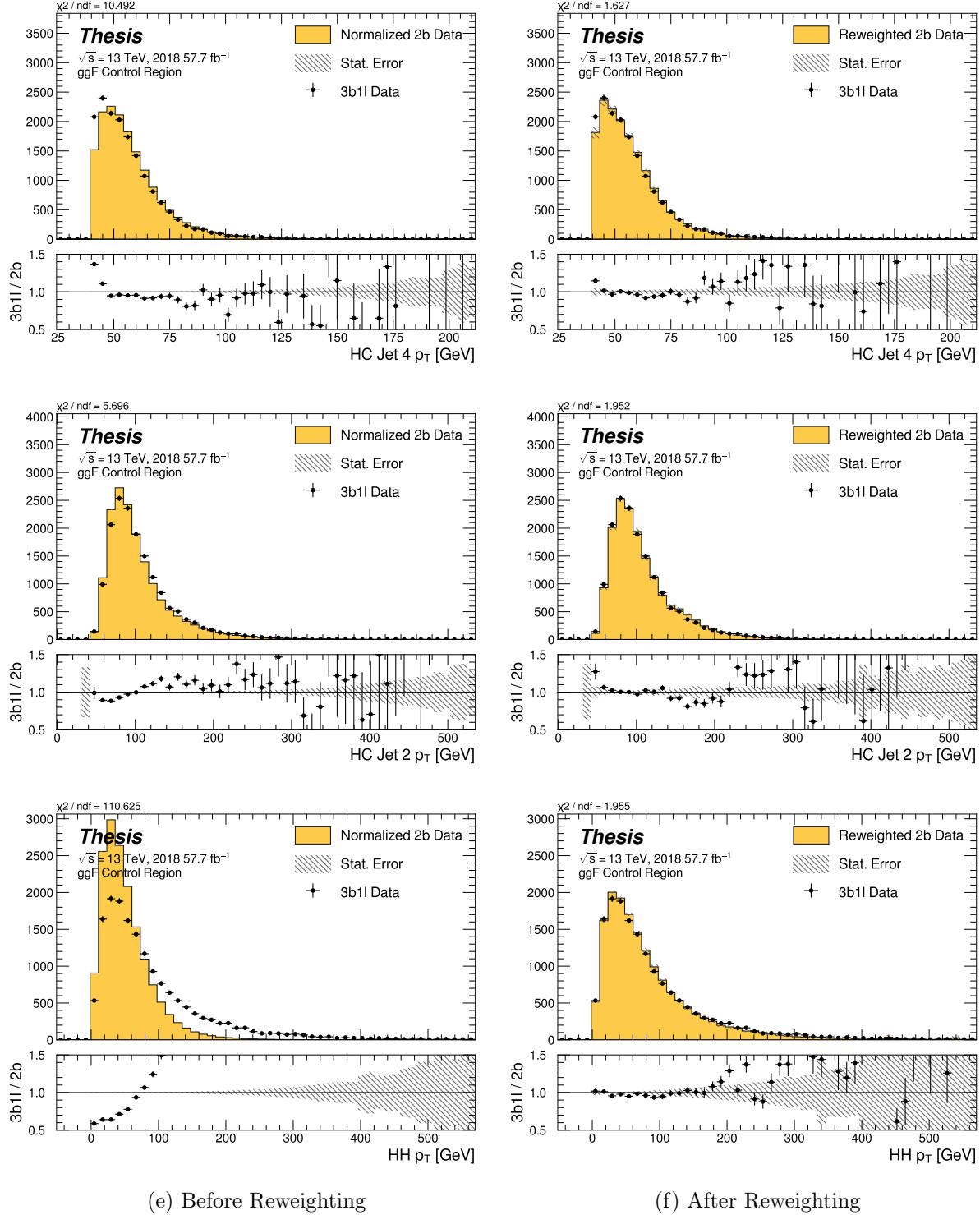


Figure 7.43: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of p_T of the 2nd and 4th leading Higgs Candidate jets and the p_T of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Control Region.

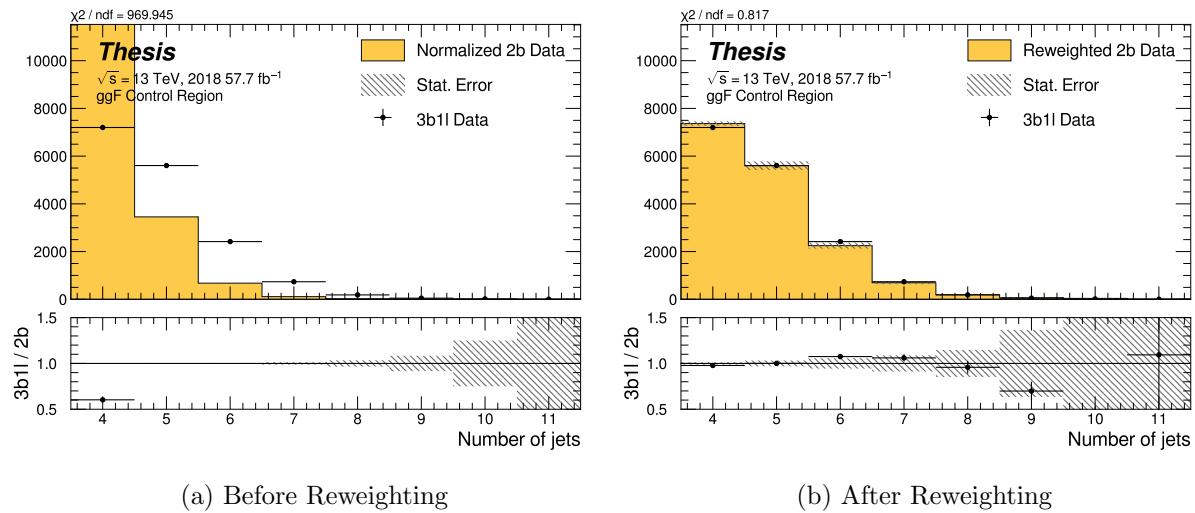


Figure 7.44: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of the number of jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Control Region. A minimum of 4 jets is required in each event in order to form Higgs candidates.

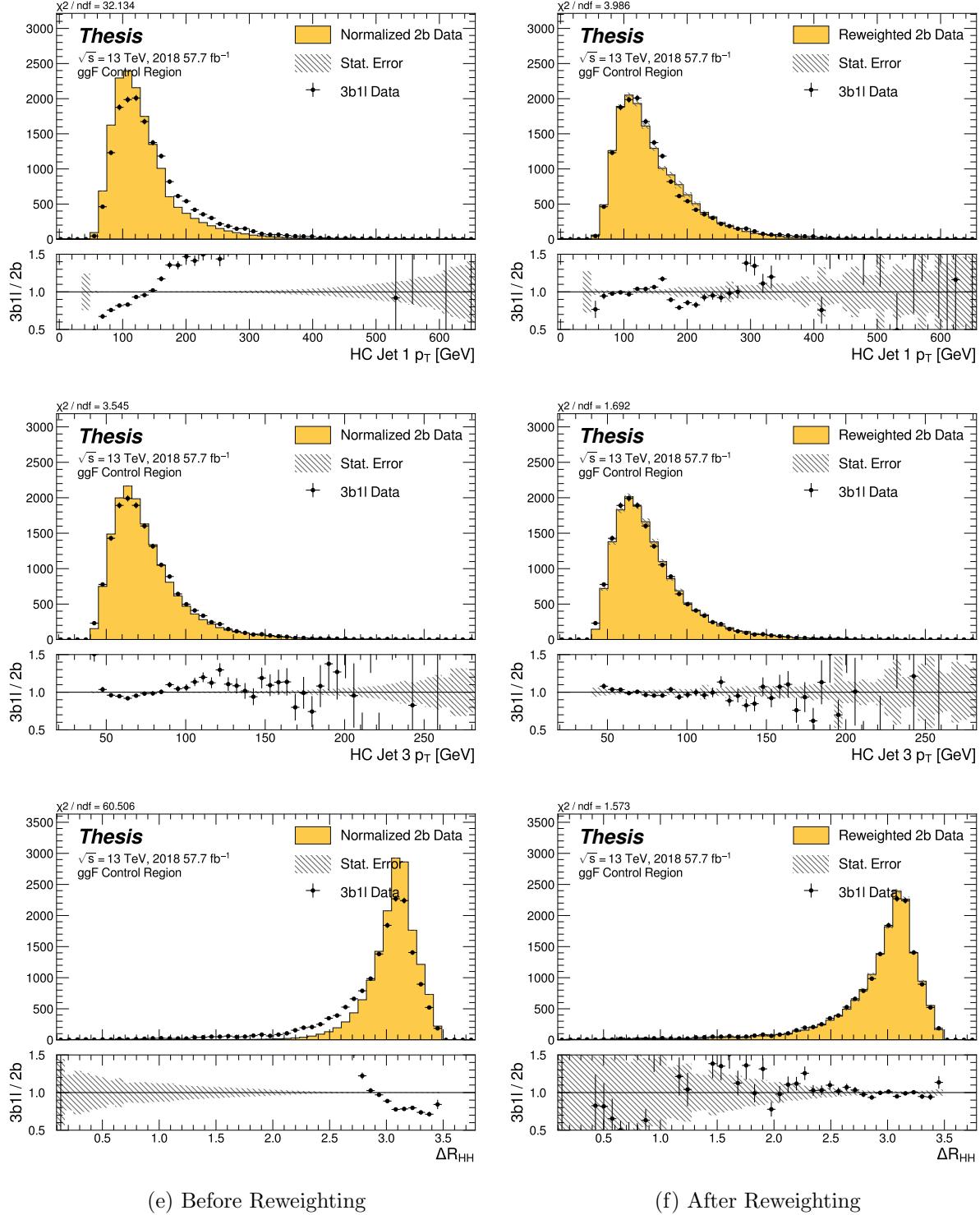


Figure 7.45: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of p_T of the 1st and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets and ΔR between Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Control Region.

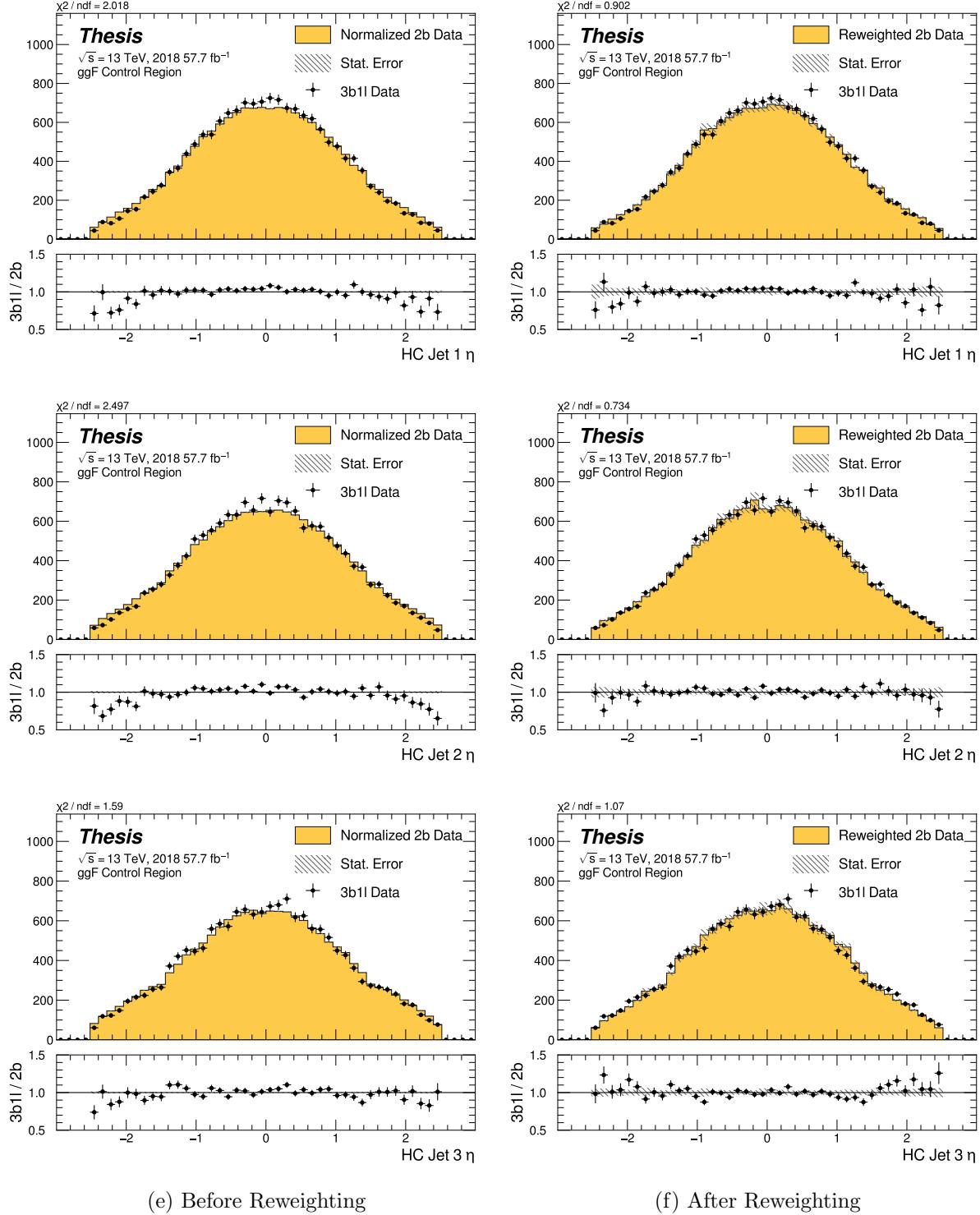


Figure 7.46: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of η of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Control Region.

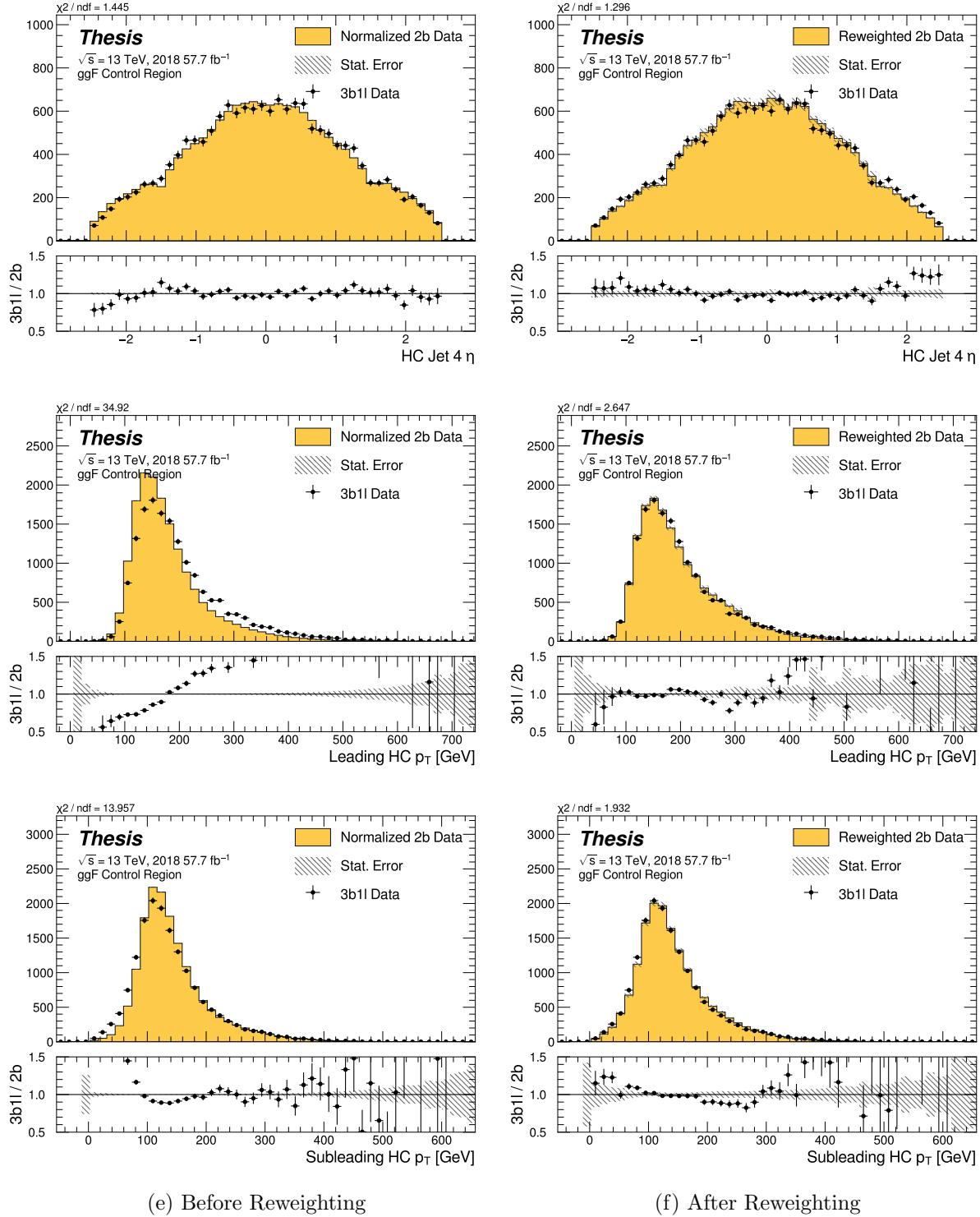


Figure 7.47: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of η of the 4th leading Higgs Candidate jet and the p_T of the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Control Region.

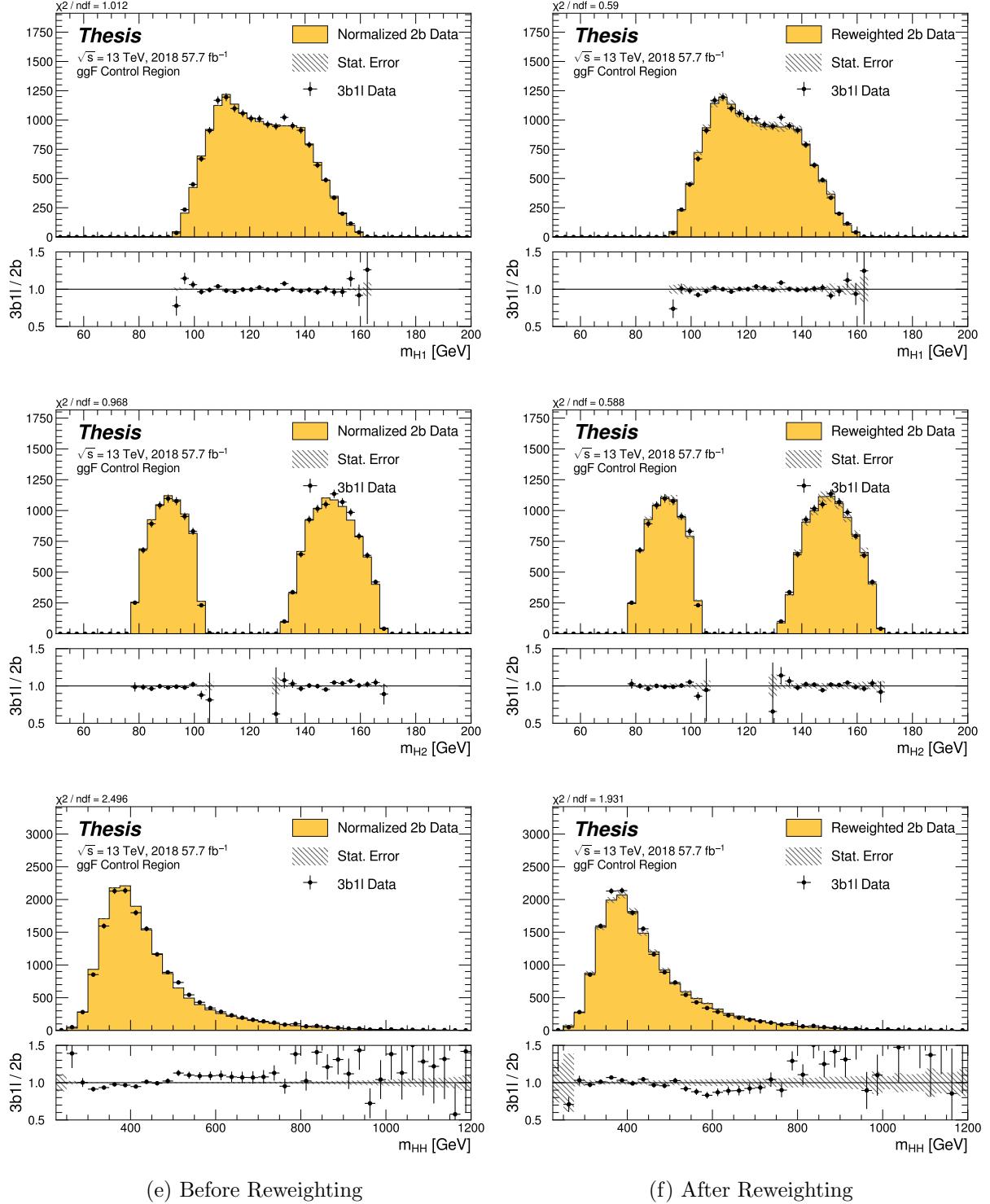


Figure 7.48: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of mass of the leading and sub-leading Higgs candidates and of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Control Region.

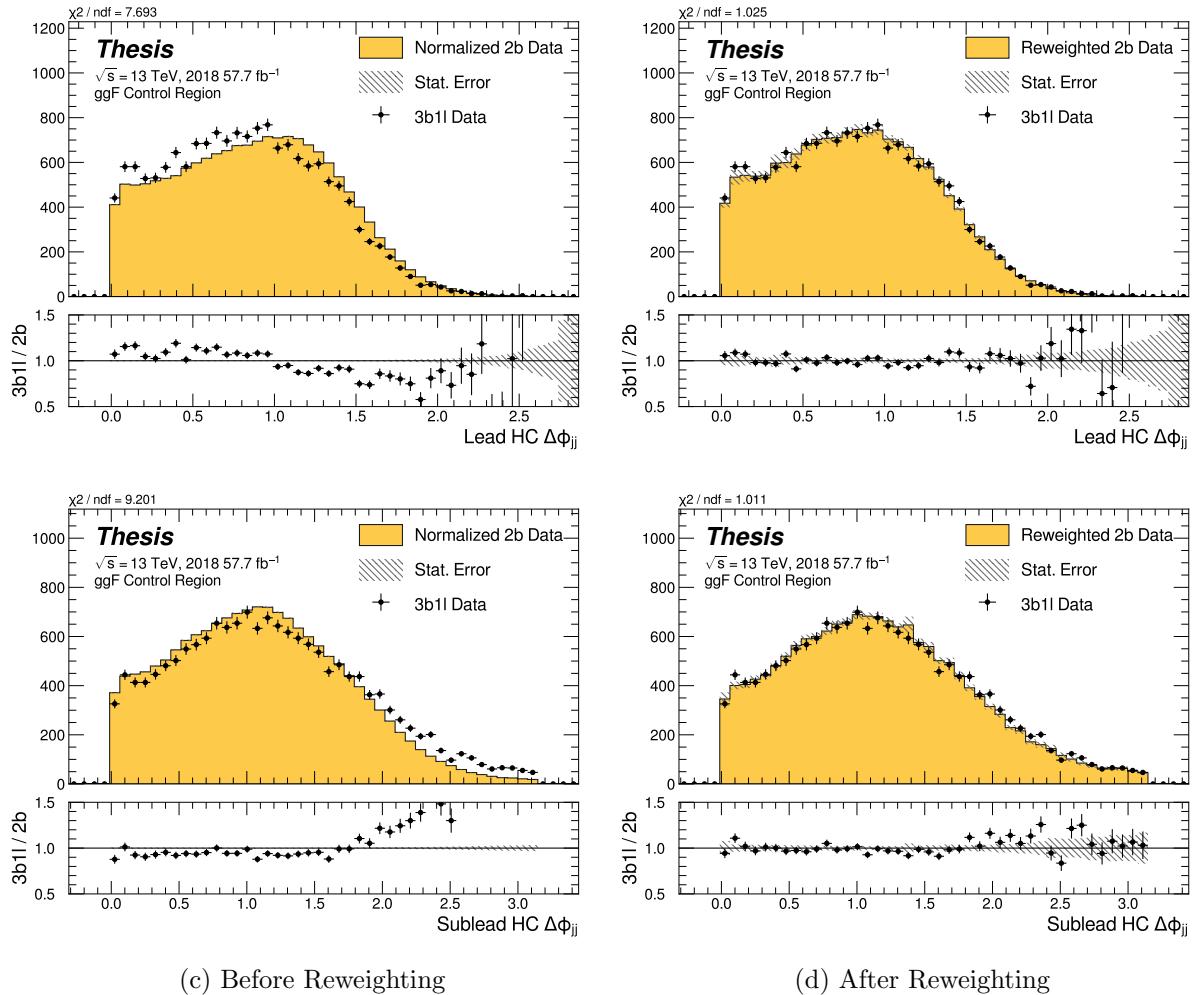


Figure 7.49: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of $\Delta\phi$ between jets in the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Control Region.

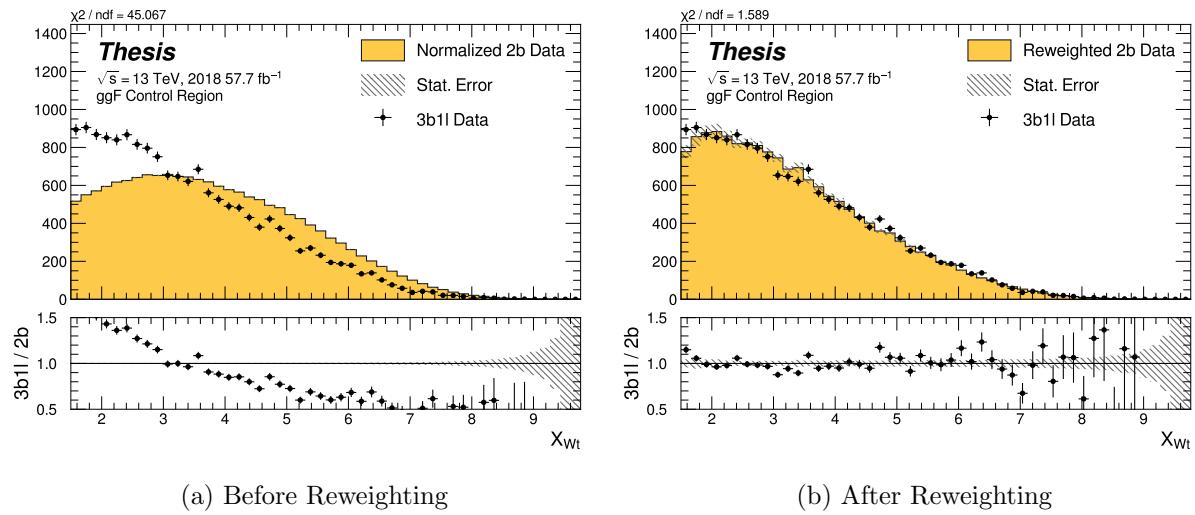


Figure 7.50: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of the top veto variable, X_{Wt} , before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Control Region. Reweighting is done after the cut on this variable is applied.

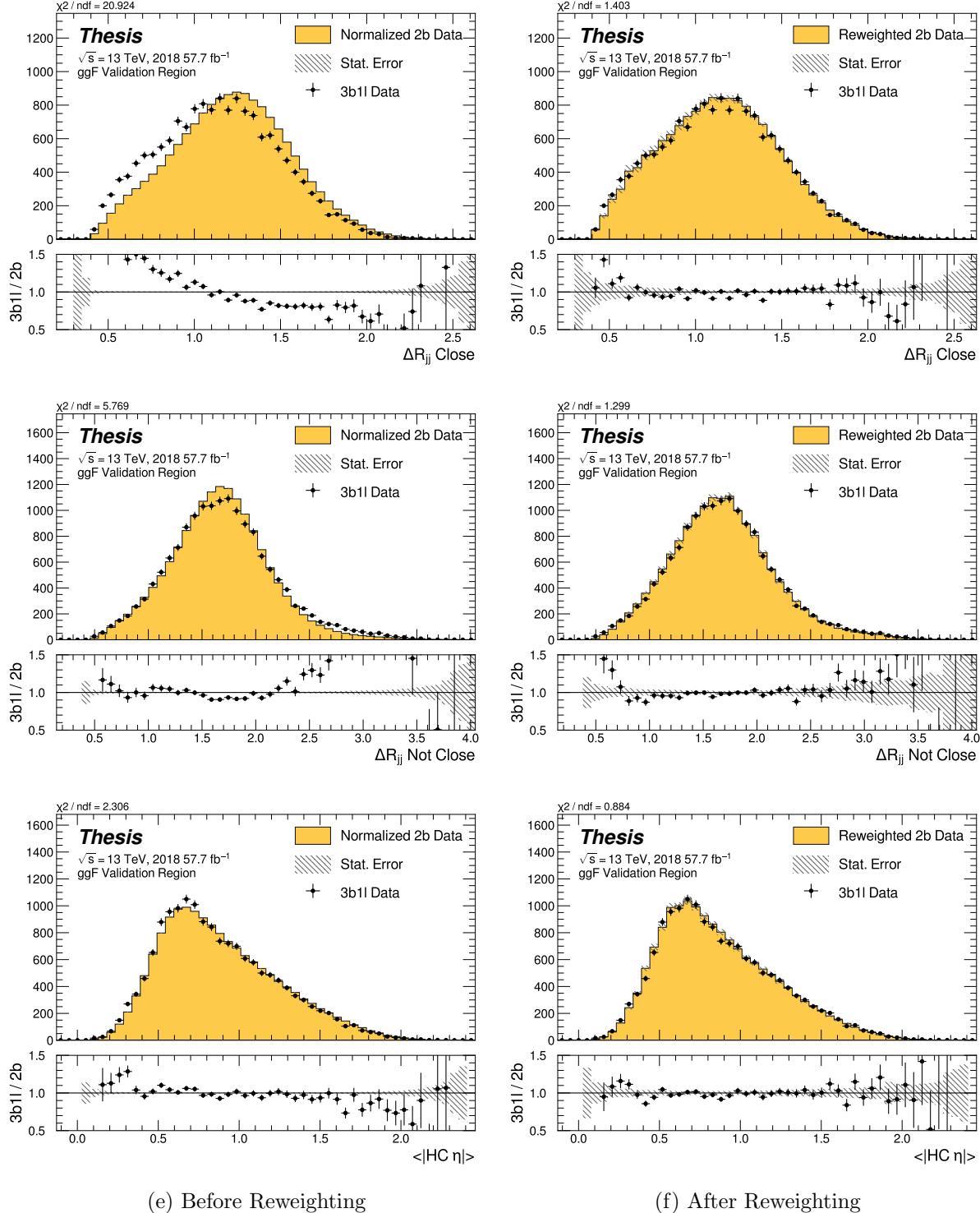


Figure 7.51: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of ΔR between the closest Higgs Candidate jets, ΔR between the other two, and average absolute value of HC jet η before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Validation Region.

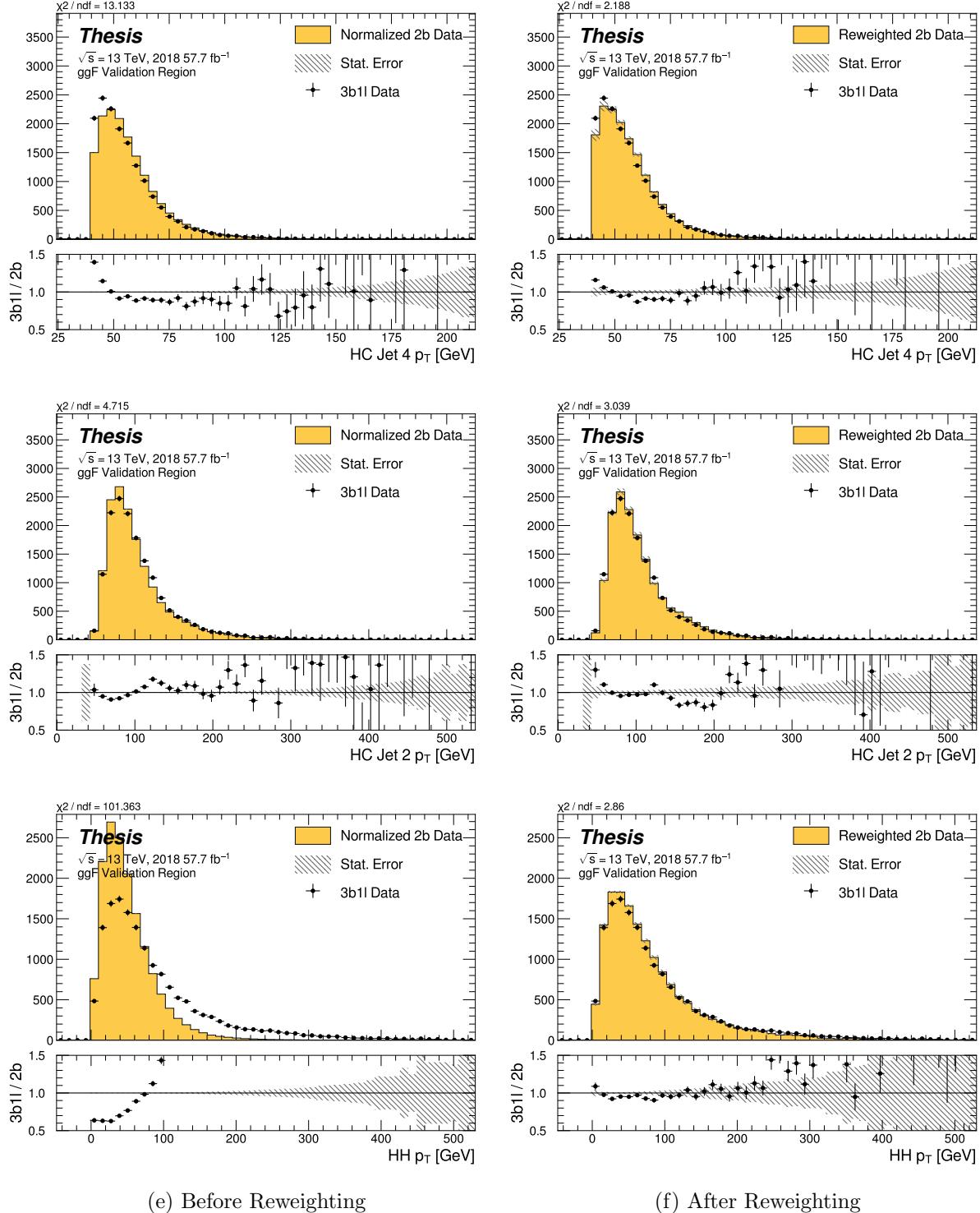


Figure 7.52: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of p_T of the 2nd and 4th leading Higgs Candidate jets and the p_T of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Validation Region.

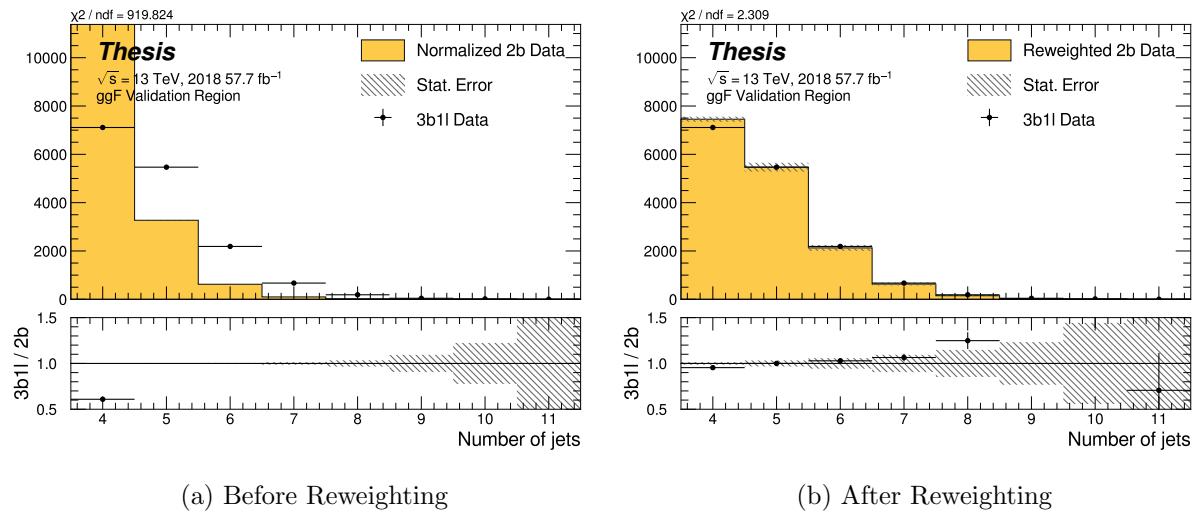


Figure 7.53: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of the number of jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Validation Region. A minimum of 4 jets is required in each event in order to form Higgs candidates.

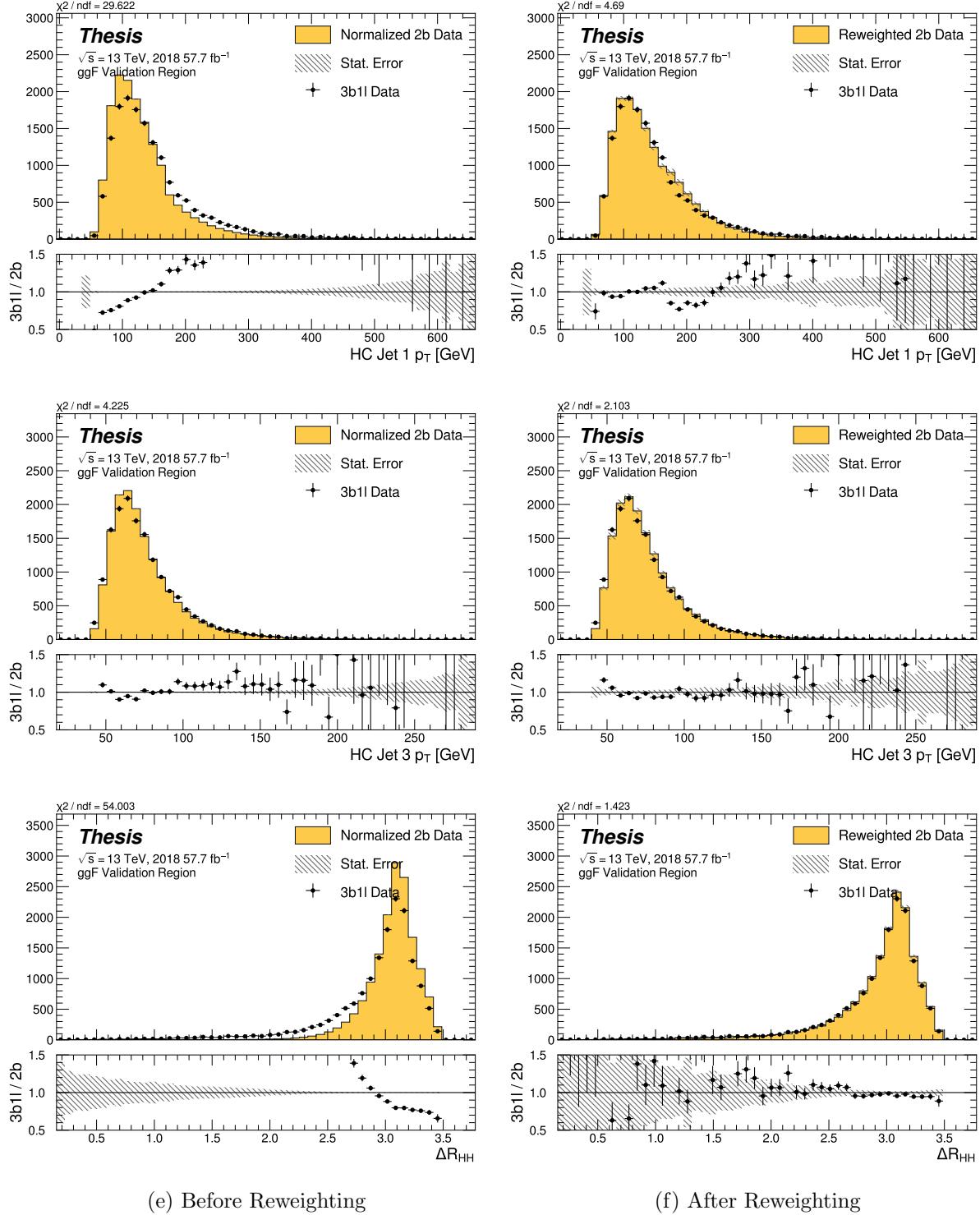


Figure 7.54: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of p_T of the 1st and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets and ΔR between Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Validation Region.

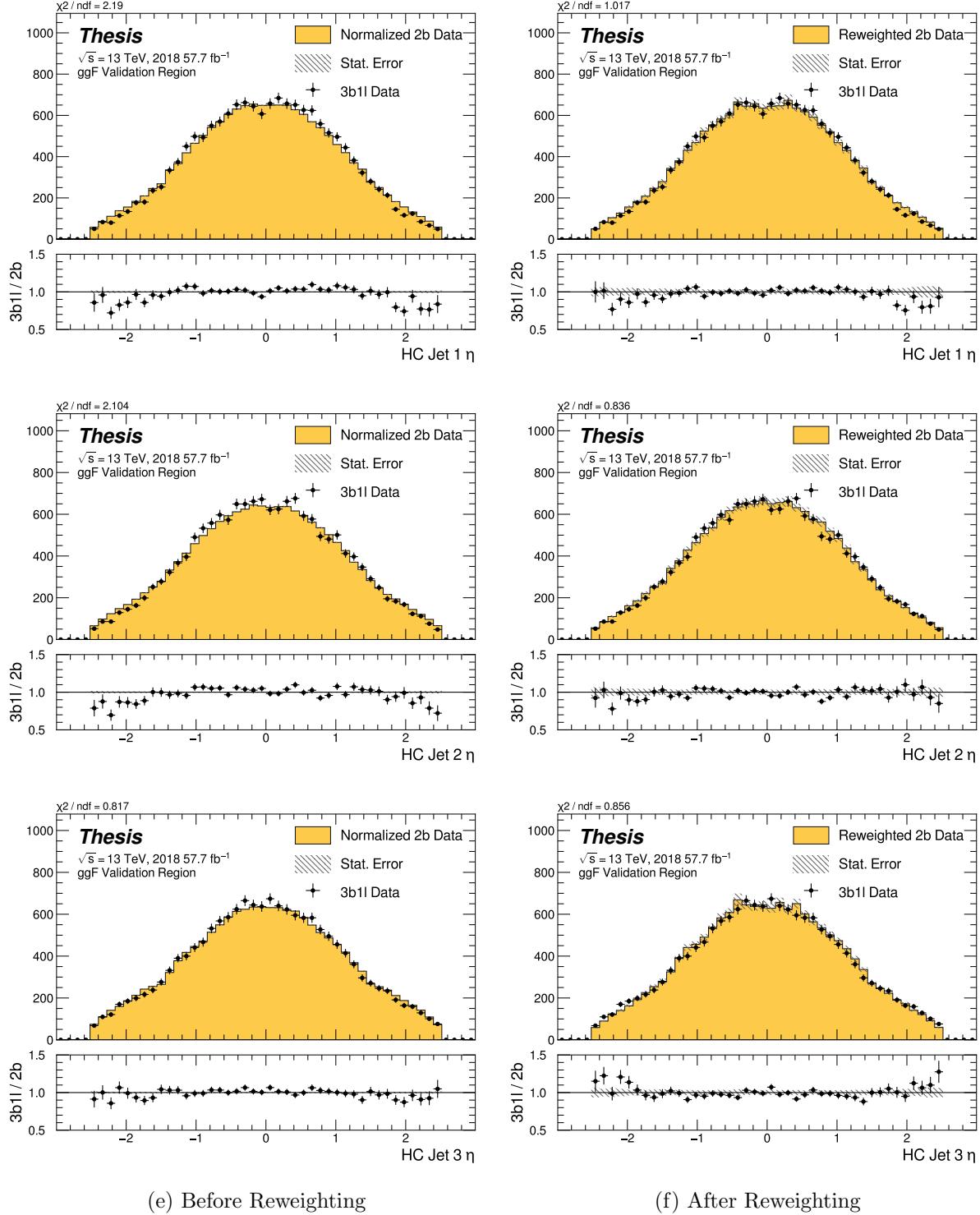


Figure 7.55: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of η of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd leading Higgs Candidate jets before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Validation Region.

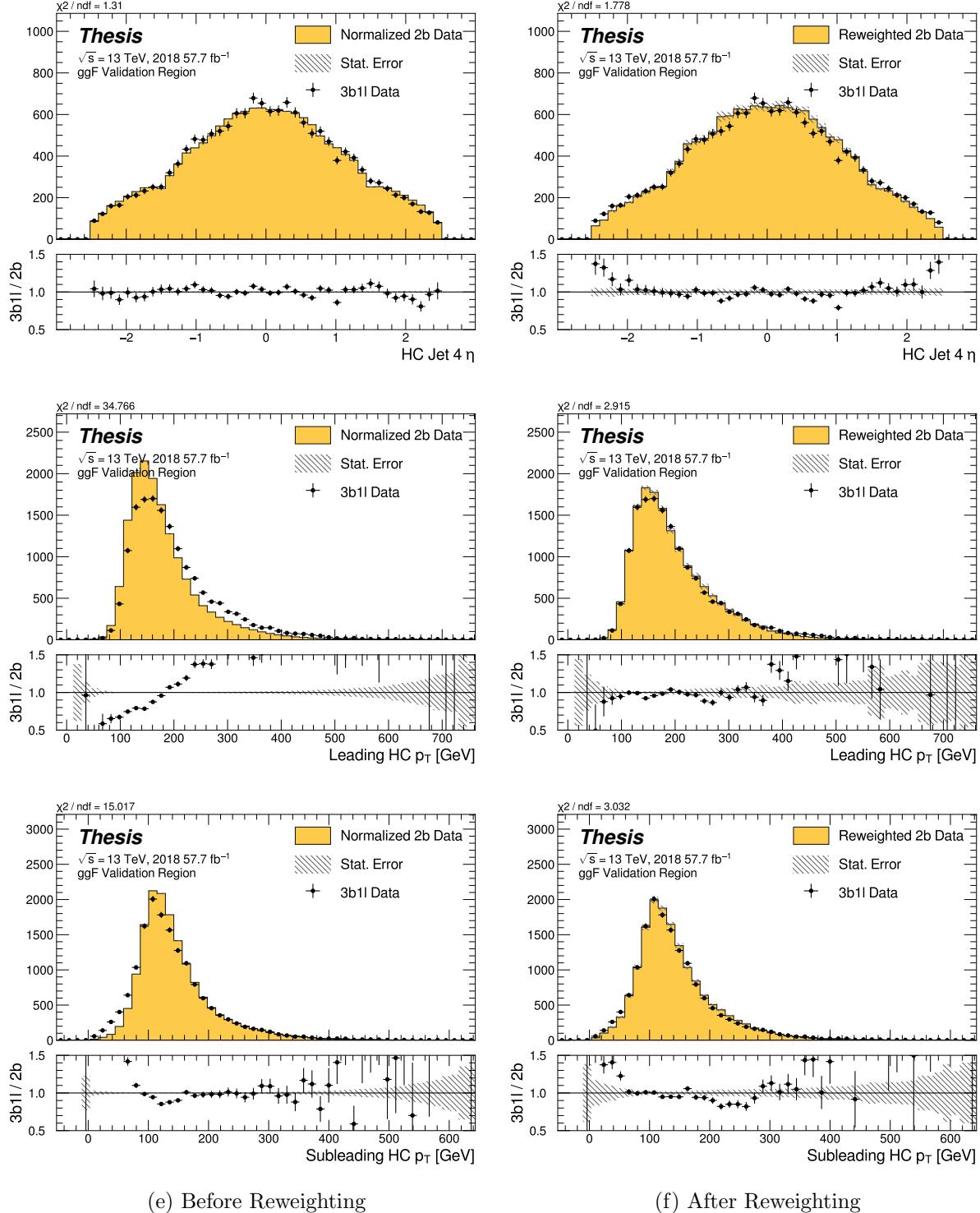


Figure 7.56: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of η of the 4th leading Higgs Candidate jet and the p_T of the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Validation Region.

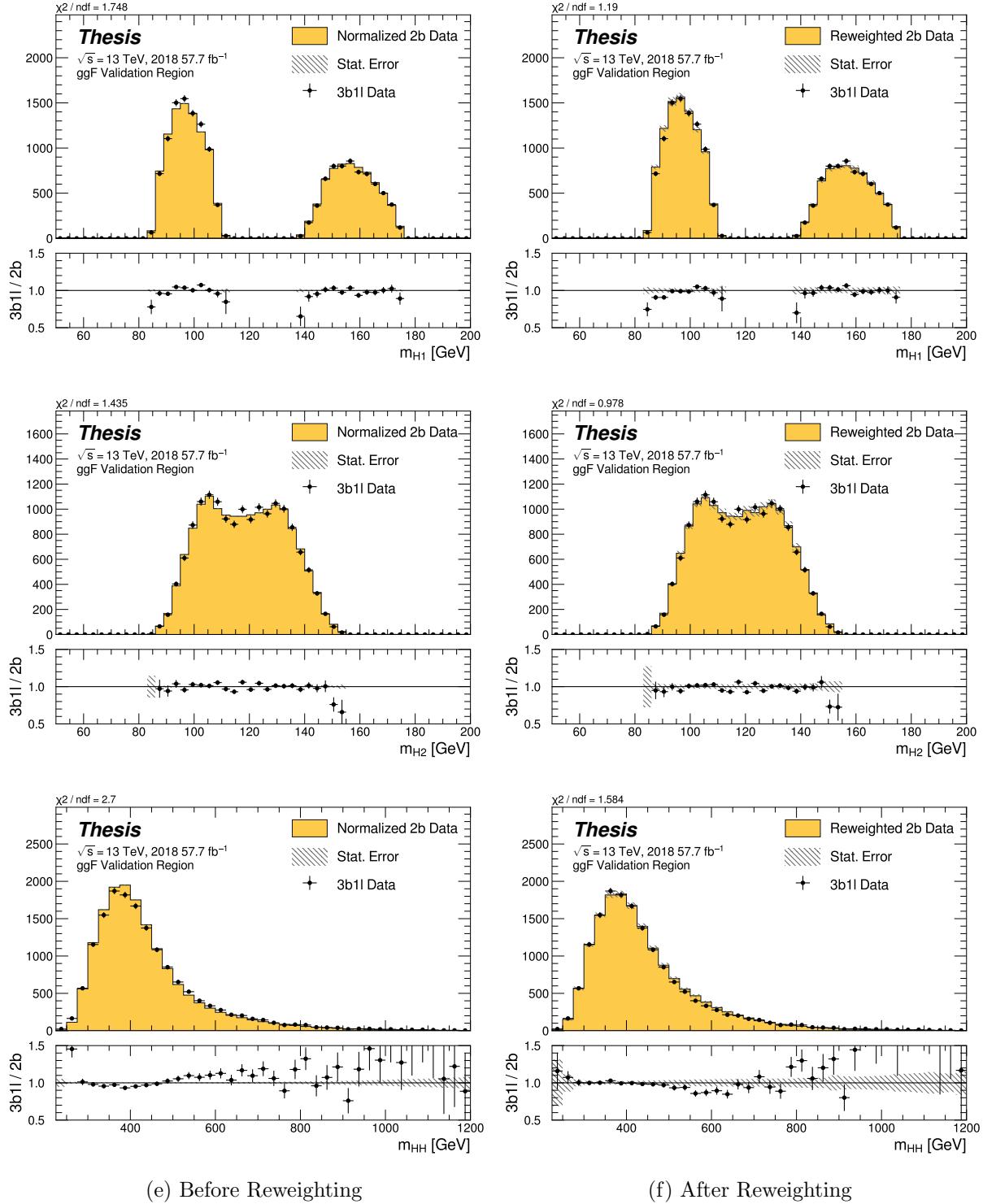


Figure 7.57: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of mass of the leading and sub-leading Higgs candidates and of the di-Higgs system before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Validation Region.

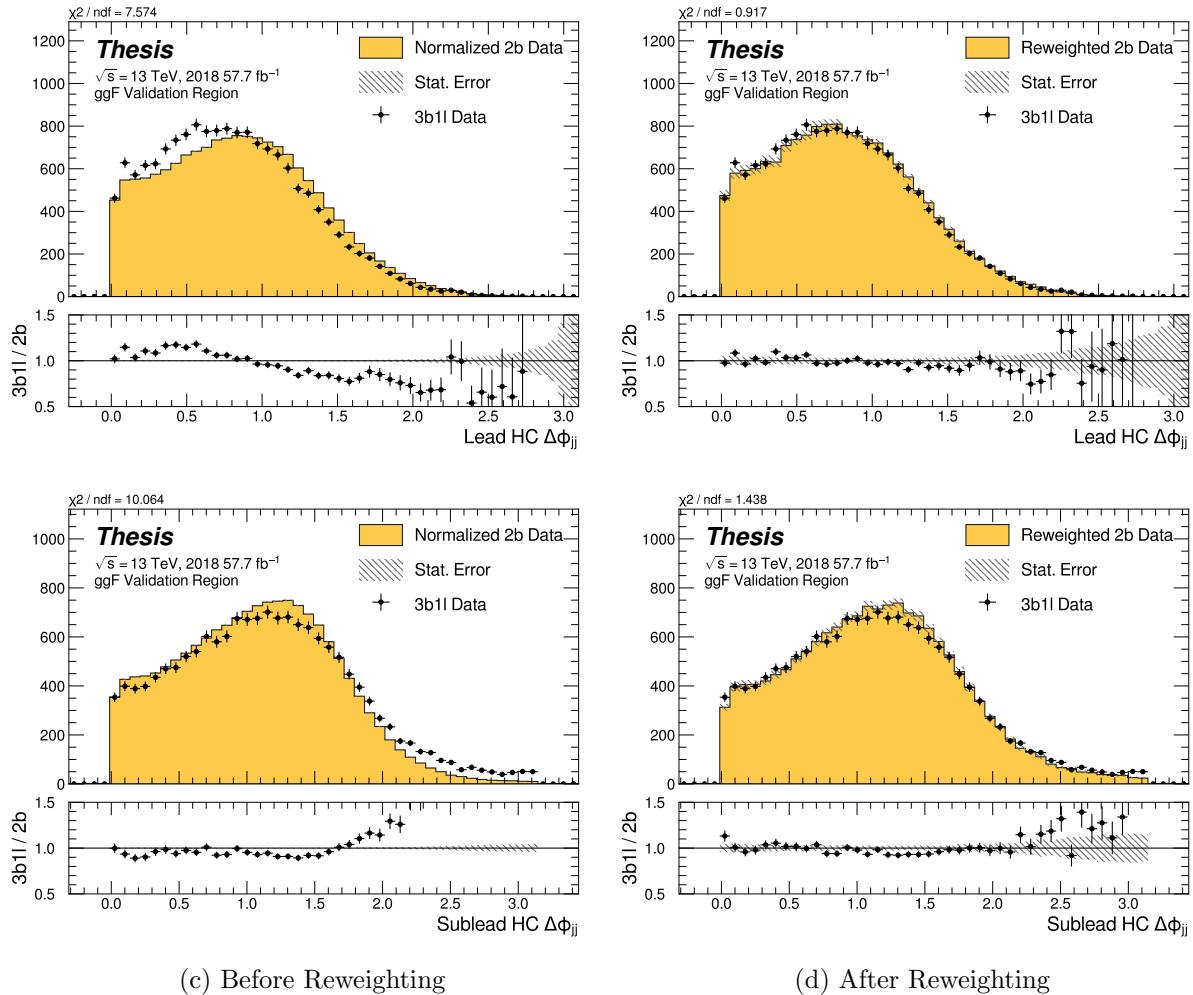


Figure 7.58: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of $\Delta\phi$ between jets in the leading and subleading Higgs candidates before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Validation Region.

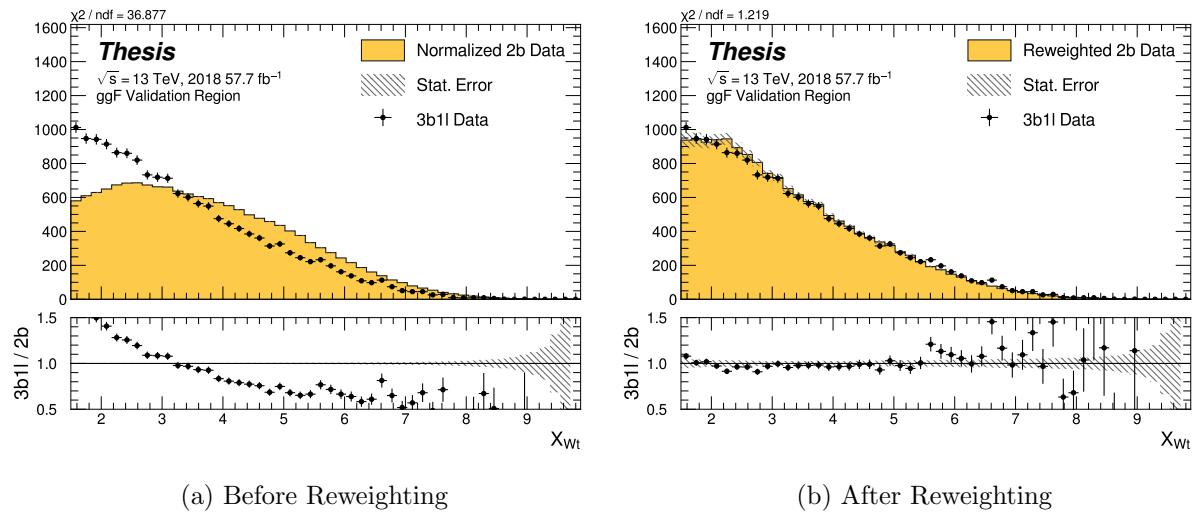


Figure 7.59: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Distributions of the top veto variable, X_{Wt} , before and after CR derived reweighting for the 2018 3b1l Validation Region. Reweighting is done after the cut on this variable is applied.

1983 **7.7 Uncertainties**

1984 A variety of uncertainties are assigned to account for known biases in the underlying methods,
1985 calibrations, and objects used for this analysis. The largest such uncertainty is associated with
1986 the kinematic bias inherent in deriving the background estimate away from the signal region.
1987 However, a statistical biasing of this same estimate has an effect of a similar magnitude.
1988 Additionally, due to the use of Monte Carlo for signal modelling and b -tagging calibration,
1989 uncertainties related to mismodellings in simulation must also be accounted for. These
1990 components, and their impact on this analysis, are described here in detail. Note that, while
1991 the Poisson error (from 2b data statistics) is negligible relative to the bootstrap error in
1992 the bulk of the distribution, it becomes relevant in the high m_{HH} tail. The final statistical
1993 uncertainty used for the limit setting is therefore the sum (in quadrature) of these two
1994 components.

1995 **7.7.1 Statistical Uncertainties and Bootstrapping**

1996 There are two components to the statistical error for the neural network background estimate.
1997 The first is standard Poisson error, i.e., a given bin, i , in the background histogram has value
1998 $n_i = \sum_{j \in i} w_j$, where w_j is the weight for an event j which falls in bin i . Standard techniques
1999 then result in statistical error $\delta n_i = \sqrt{\sum_{j \in i} w_j^2}$, which reduces to the familiar \sqrt{N} Poisson error
2000 when all w_j are equal to 1.

2001 However, this procedure does not take into account the statistical uncertainty on the
2002 w_j due to the finite training dataset. Due to the large size difference between the two tag
2003 and four tag datasets, it is the statistical uncertainty due to the four tag training data that
2004 dominates that on the background. A standard method for estimating this uncertainty is the
2005 bootstrap resampling technique [85]. Conceptually, a set of statistically equivalent sets is
2006 constructed by sampling with replacement from the original training set. The reweighting
2007 network is then trained on each of these separately, resulting in a set of statistically equivalent
2008 background estimates. Each of these sets is below referred to as a replica.

2009 In practice, as the original training set is large, the resampling procedure is able to
 2010 be simplified through the relation $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Binomial}(n, 1/n) = \text{Poisson}(1)$, which dictates that
 2011 sampling with replacement is approximately equivalent to applying a randomly distributed
 2012 integer weight to each event, drawn from a Poisson distribution with a mean of 1.

2013 Though the network configuration itself is the same for each bootstrap training, the
 2014 network initialization is allowed to vary. It should therefore be noted that the bootstrap
 2015 uncertainties implicitly capture the uncertainty due to this variation in addition to the
 2016 previously mentioned training set variation.

2017 The variation from this bootstrapping procedure is used to assign a bin-by-bin uncertainty
 2018 which is treated as a statistical uncertainty in the fit. Due to practical constraints, a
 2019 procedure for approximating the full bootstrap error band is developed which demonstrates
 2020 good agreement with the full bootstrap uncertainty. This procedure is described below.

2021 *Calculating the Bootstrap Error Band*

2022 The standard procedure to calculate the bootstrap uncertainty would proceed as follows: first,
 2023 each network trained on each bootstrap replica dataset would be used to produce a histogram
 2024 in the variable of interest. This would result in a set of replica histograms (e.g. for 100
 2025 bootstrap replicas, 100 histograms would be created). The nominal estimate would then be
 2026 the mean of bin values across these replica histograms, with errors set by the corresponding
 2027 standard deviation.

2028 In practice, such an approach is inflexible and demanding both in computation and in
 2029 storage, in so far as we would like to produce histograms in many variables, with a variety
 2030 of different cuts and binnings. This motivates a derivation based on event-level quantities.
 2031 However, due to non-trivial correlations between replica weights, simple linear propagation of
 2032 event weight variation is not correct.

2033 We therefore adopt an approach which has been empirically found to produce results
 2034 (for this analysis) in line with those produced by generating all of the histograms, as in the
 2035 standard procedure. This approach is described below. Note that, for robustness to outliers

2036 and weight distribution asymmetry, the median and interquartile range (IQR) are used for
 2037 the central value and width respectively (as opposed to the mean and standard deviation).

2038 The components involved in the calculation have been mentioned in Section 7.6 and are
 2039 as follows:

2040 1. Replica weight (w_i): weight predicted for a given event by a network trained on replica
 2041 dataset i .

2042 2. Replica norm (α_i): normalization factor for replica i . This normalizes the reweighting
 2043 prediction of the network trained on replica dataset i to match the correponding target
 2044 yield.

3. Median weight (w_{med}): median weight for a given event across replica datasets, used
 for the nominal estimate. Defined (for 100 bootstrap replicas) as

$$w_{med} \equiv \text{median}(\alpha_1 w_1, \dots, \alpha_{100} w_{100}) \quad (7.12)$$

2045 4. Normalization correction (α_{med}): normalization factor to match the predicted yield of
 2046 the median weights (w_{med}) to the target yield in the training region.

2047 As mentioned in Section 7.6, the *nominal estimate* is constructed from the set of median
 2048 weights and the normalization correction, i.e. $\alpha_{med} \cdot w_{med}$.

2049 For the bootstrap error band, a “varied” histogram is then generated by applying, for
 2050 each event, a weight equal to the median weight (with no normalization correction) plus half
 2051 the interquartile range of the replica weights: $w_{varied} = w_{med} + \frac{1}{2} \text{IQR}(w_1, \dots, w_{100})$.

2052 This varied histogram is scaled to match the yield of the nominal estimate. To account
 2053 for variation of the nominal estimate yield, a normalization variation is calculated from the
 2054 interquartile range of the replica norms: $\frac{1}{2} \text{IQR}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{100})$. This variation, multiplied into
 2055 the nominal estimate, is used to set a baseline for the varied histogram described above.

Denoting $H(\text{weights})$ as a histogram constructed from a given set of weights, $Y(\text{weights})$ as the predicted yield for a given set of weights, the final varied histogram is thus:

$$H(w_{med} + \frac{1}{2} \text{IQR}(w_1, \dots, w_{100})) \cdot \frac{Y(\alpha_{med} w_{med})}{Y(w_{med} + \frac{1}{2} \text{IQR}(w_1, \dots, w_{100}))} + \frac{1}{2} \text{IQR}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{100}) \cdot H(\alpha_{med} w_{med}) \quad (7.13)$$

where the first term roughly describes the behaviour of the bootstrap variation across

the distribution of the variable of interest while the second term describes the normalization

variation of the bootstrap replicas.

The difference between the varied histogram and the nominal histogram is then taken to

be the bootstrap statistical uncertainty on the nominal histogram.

Figure 7.60 demonstrates how each of the components described above contribute to the

uncertainty envelope for the non-resonant 2017 Control Region and compares this approximate

band to the variation of histograms from individual bootstrap estimates. The error band

constructed from the above procedure is seen to provide a good description of the bootstrap

variation.

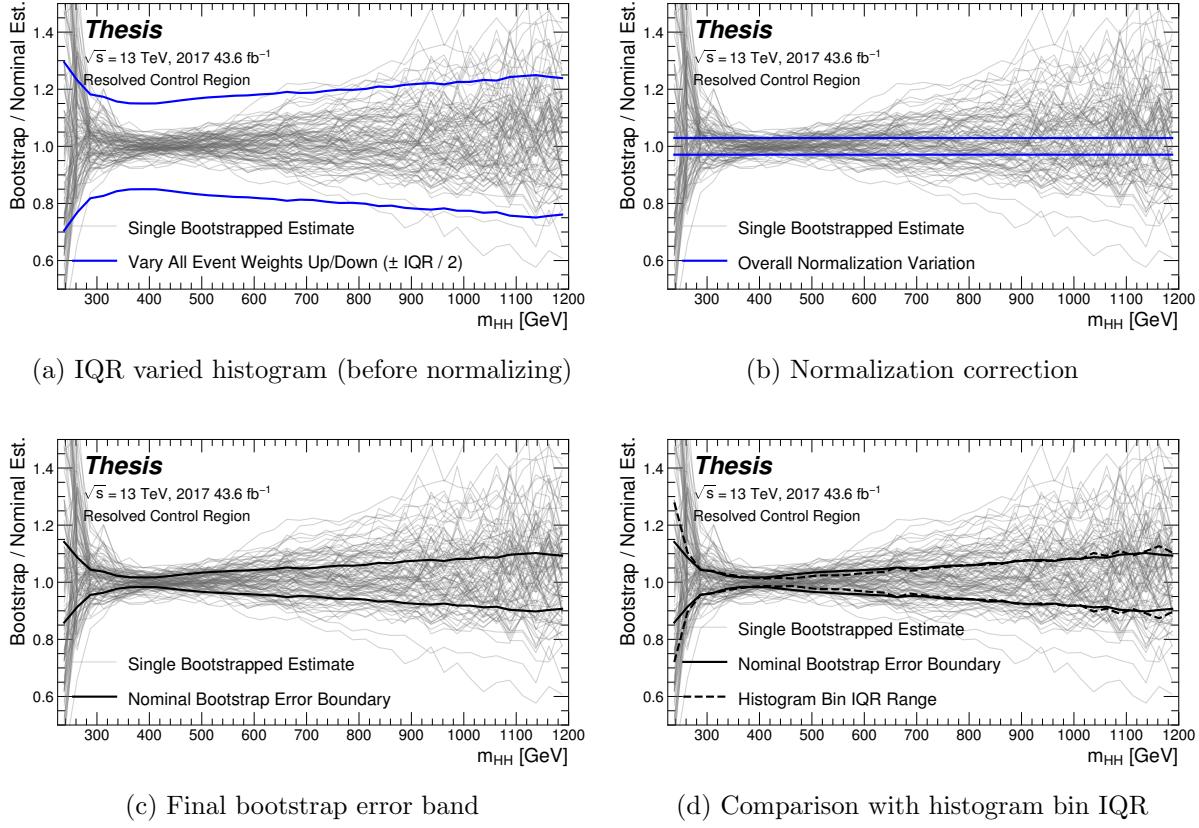


Figure 7.60: Illustration of the approximate bootstrap band procedure, shown as a ratio to the nominal estimate for the 2017 non-resonant background estimate. Each grey line is from the m_{HH} prediction for a single bootstrap training. Figure 7.60(a) shows the variation histograms constructed from median weight \pm the IQR of the replica weights. It can be seen that this captures the rough shape of the bootstrap envelope, but is not good estimate for the overall magnitude of the variation. Figure 7.60(b) demonstrates the applied normalization correction, and Figure 7.60(c) shows the final band (normalized Figure 7.60(a) + Figure 7.60(b)). Comparing this with the IQR variation for the prediction from each bootstrap in each bin in Figure 7.60(d), the approximate envelope describes a very similar variation.

2066 7.7.2 *Background Shape Uncertainties*

2067 To account for the systematic bias associated with deriving the reweighting function in the
 2068 control region and extrapolating to the signal region, an alternative background model is
 2069 derived in the validation region. Because of the fully data-driven nature of the background
 2070 model, this is an uncertainty assessed on the full background. The alternative model and
 2071 the baseline are consistent with the observed data in their training regions, and differences
 2072 between the alternative and baseline models are used to define a shape uncertainty on the
 2073 m_{HH} spectrum, with a two-sided uncertainty defined by symmetrizing the difference about
 2074 the baseline.

2075 For the resonant analysis, this uncertainty is split into two components to allow for two
 2076 independent variations of the m_{HH} spectrum: : a low- H_T and a high- H_T component, where
 2077 H_T is the scalar sum of the p_T of the four jets constituting the Higgs boson candidates, and
 2078 serves as a proxy for m_{HH} , while avoiding introducing a sharp discontinuity. The boundary
 2079 value is 300 GeV. The low- H_T shape uncertainty primarily affects the m_{HH} spectrum below
 2080 400 GeV (close to the kinematic threshold) by up to around 5%, and the high- H_T uncertainty
 2081 mainly m_{HH} above this by up to around 20% relative to nominal. These separate m_{HH}
 2082 regimes are by design – the H_T split is introduced to prevent low mass bins from constraining
 2083 the high mass uncertainty and vice-versa.

2084 This was the *status quo* shape uncertainty decomposition from the Early Run 2 analysis.
 2085 A decomposition in terms of orthogonal polynomials, which would provide increased flexibility,
 2086 was also evaluated. This study revealed that both decompositions are able to account for the
 2087 systematic deviations between four tag data and the background estimate (evaluated in the
 2088 kinematic validation region), and produce almost identical limits. The simpler *status quo*
 2089 decomposition is therefore kept.

2090 For the non-resonant analysis, the quadrant nature of the background estimation leads to
 2091 a natural breakdown of the nuisance parameters: quadrants are defined in the signal region
 2092 along the same axes as those used for the control and validation region definitions. Variations

2093 are then assessed in each of these signal region quadrants, corresponding to regions that
 2094 are “closer to” and “further away from” the nominal and alternate estimate regions, fully
 2095 leveraging the power of the two equivalent but systematically different estimates.

2096 Figure 7.61 shows an example of the variation in each H_T region for the 2018 resonant
 2097 analysis. Figure 7.62 shows the example quadrant variation for the 2018 4 b non-resonant
 analysis.

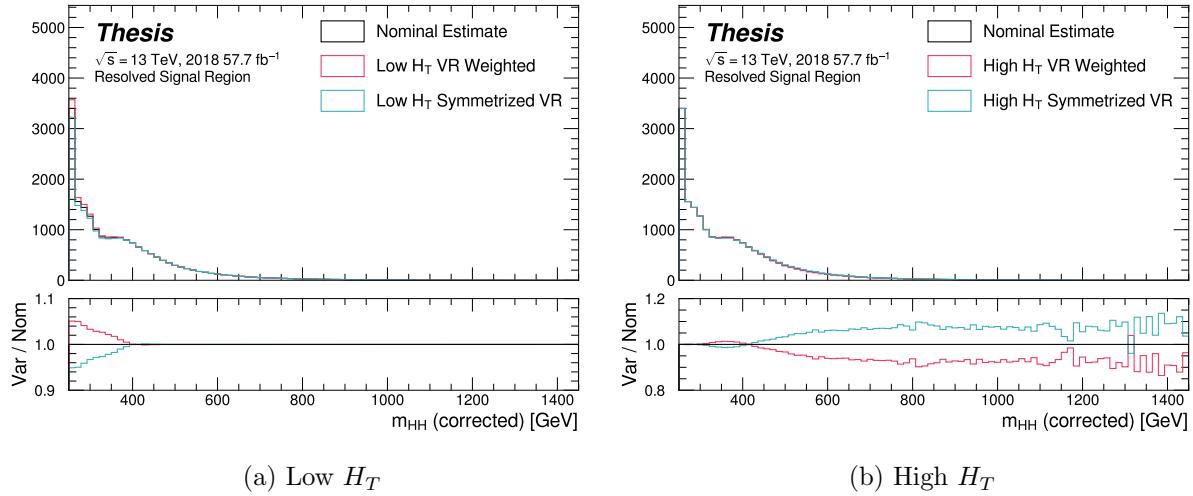
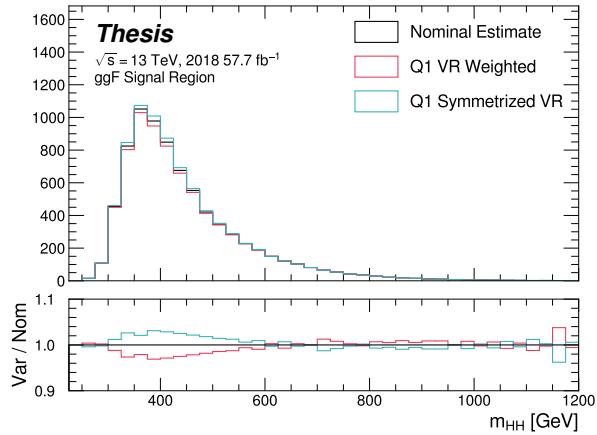
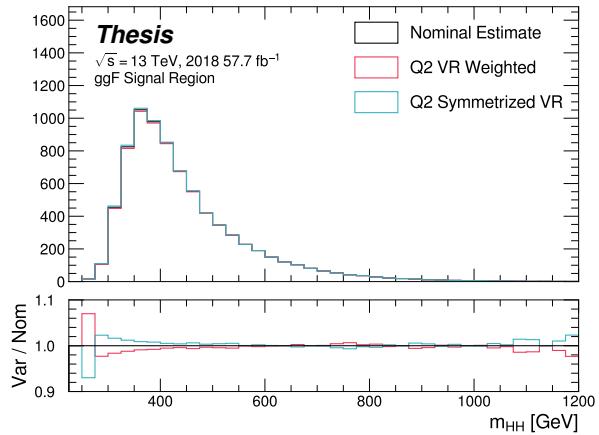


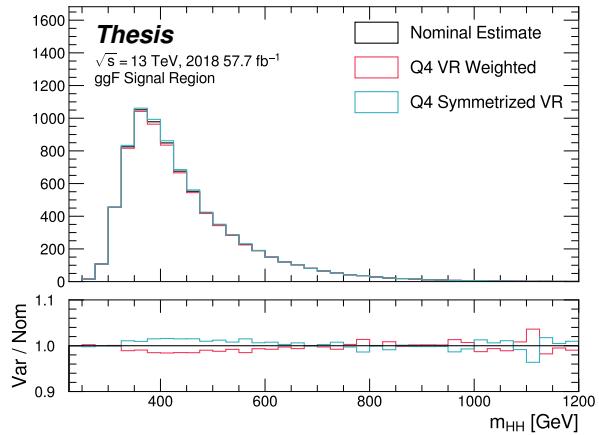
Figure 7.61: **Resonant Search:** Example of CR vs VR variation in each H_T region for 2018.
 The variation nicely factorizes into low and high mass components.



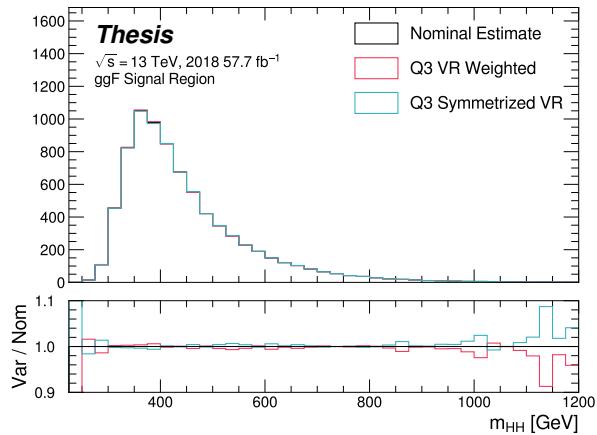
(a) Q1 (top)



(b) Q2 (left)



(c) Q4 (right)



(d) Q3 (bottom)

Figure 7.62: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Example of CR vs VR variation in each signal region quadrant for 2018. Significantly different behavior is seen between quadrants, with the largest variation in quadrant 1 and the smallest in quadrant 4.

2099 7.7.3 *Detector Modelling and Reconstruction Uncertainties*

2100 Detector modelling and reconstruction uncertainties account for Monte Carlo simulation not
2101 being a faithful representation of real data as a result of mismodelling of the detector and
2102 differential performance of algorithms on simulation compared to data. In this analysis they
2103 consist of uncertainties related to jet properties, and uncertainties stemming from the flavour
2104 tagging procedure. The background modelling in this analysis is fully data-driven. As a
2105 result, these uncertainties are applied only to the signal simulation.

2106 The jet uncertainties are implemented as variations of the jet properties themselves. The
2107 category reduction (with ~ 30 nuisance parameters) is used for jet energy scale uncertainties
2108 and the FullJER configuration is used for jet energy resolution uncertainties (14 nuisance
2109 parameters). This is to preserve the ability to meaningfully statistically combine the results
2110 of this analysis with other di-Higgs analyses. The flavour tagging uncertainties meanwhile
2111 are implemented as scale factors applied to the Monte Carlo event weights.

2112 A systematic related to the PtReco b -jet energy correction has been studied in the
2113 $HH \rightarrow \gamma\gamma b\bar{b}$ analysis [86] and found to be negligible compared to JER. Following this
2114 example, such a systematic is therefore neglected here.

2115 7.7.4 *Trigger Uncertainties*

2116 Trigger uncertainties stem from imperfect knowledge of the ratio between the efficiency of a
2117 given trigger in data to its efficiency in Monte Carlo simulation. This ratio is applied as a
2118 scale factor to all simulated events (as described in Section ??), with the systematic variations
2119 produced by varying the scale factor up or down by one sigma.

2120 7.7.5 *Theoretical Uncertainties*

2121 The theoretical uncertainties on the acceptance times efficiency ($A \times \varepsilon$) are evaluated by
2122 analysis of specially-generated, particle-level signal samples. The generation of these samples
2123 follows the configuration of the baseline samples, but with modifications to probe the following

2124 theoretical uncertainties: uncertainties in the parton density functions (PDFs); uncertainties
 2125 due to missing higher order terms in the matrix elements; and uncertainties in the modelling
 2126 of the underlying event, which includes multi-parton interactions, of hadronic showers and of
 2127 initial and final state radiation.

2128 Uncertainties due to modelling of the parton shower and the underlying event (including
 2129 multi-parton interactions) are evaluated by switching the MC generator used. For the scalar
 2130 samples, this means switching from Herwig7.7.1.3 to Pythia 8.235. Figure ?? shows the
 2131 impact of these variations on the signal acceptance for two resonance masses: 500 GeV and
 2132 1 TeV, covering the range of the resolved analysis. No significant dependence on the variable
 2133 of interest, m_{HH} , is observed. The disagreement observed in the tails of $p_T(hh)$ and the
 2134 number of jets multiplicities is negligible with respect to the final signal acceptance. A 5%
 2135 flat systematic uncertainty is assigned to all signal samples, extracted from the acceptance
 2136 comparison for the full 4-tag selection, as seen in Figs. ?? and ??.

2137 To evaluate the potential effect of missing higher order terms in the matrix element, the
 2138 renormalization and factorization scales used in the signal generation were varied coherently
 2139 by factors of $0.5\times$ and $2\times$ for the signals. The alternative weights were generated as described
 2140 on the TWiki [here](#), applying on-the-fly variations using the ATLAS MadGraphControl
 2141 framework. These weights correspond to variations of the scales either together or separately
 2142 up and down by a factor of two. Seven-point scale variations are considered: $(\mu_R, \mu_F) = (0.5,$
 2143 $0.5), (1, 0.5), (0.5, 1), (1, 1), (2, 1), (1, 2), (2, 2)$. The scale uncertainties are combined by
 2144 taking an envelope of all of the uncertainties. These uncertainties are evaluated to be less
 2145 than $\pm 1\%$, thus neglected.

2146 PDF uncertainties are evaluated using the PDF4LHC15_nlo_mc set, which combined
 2147 CT14, MMHT14 and NNPDF3.0 PDF sets. The uncertainty is evaluated by calculating
 2148 the acceptance for each PDF replica. The standard deviation of these acceptance values
 2149 divided by the baseline acceptance is taken as the PDF uncertainty. For each mass point the
 2150 distribution of their corresponding ration is compatible with a Gaussian centered one. The
 2151 measured uncertainty in acceptance due to PDF uncertainties is less than $\pm 1\%$ across the

2152 full mass range considered for the analysis. For this reason, it is neglected in the statistical
2153 analysis described in Section ??.

2154 These uncertainties are implemented in the final statistical analysis as normalization
2155 uncertainties on the signals, with the value taken from the polynomial fit. This smooths out
2156 statistical fluctuations and allows interpolation between the generated mass points, if needed.

2157 The results for the non-resonant analysis presented here are preliminary and only include
2158 background systematics. However, these are expected to be by far the dominant uncertainties,
2159 and should therefore be reflective of the final results.

2160 **7.8 Background Validation**

2161 In addition to checking the performance of the background estimate in the control and
2162 validation regions, a variety of alternative selections are defined to allow for a full “dress
2163 rehearsal” of the background estimation procedure.

2164 Both the resonant and non-resonant analyses make use of a *reversed* $\Delta\eta$ region, in which
2165 the kinematic cut on $\Delta\eta_{HH}$ is reversed, so that events are required to have $\Delta\eta_{HH} > 1.5$.
2166 This is orthogonal to the nominal signal region and has minimal sensitivity, allowing for the
2167 comparison of the background estimate $4b$ data in the corresponding “signal region”. For
2168 this validation, a new reweighting is trained following nominal procedures, but entirely in the
2169 $\Delta\eta_{HH} > 1.5$ region.

2170 The non-resonant analysis additionally makes use of the $3b + 1$ fail region mentioned
2171 above, which again is orthogonal to the nominal signal regions and has minimal sensitivity.
2172 The reweighting in this case is between $2b$ and $3b + 1$ fail events rather than between $2b$
2173 and $3b + 1$ loose or $2b$ and $4b$. However, the kinematic selections of signal region events are
2174 otherwise identical, allowing for a complementary test of the background estimate.

2175 *TODO: Add shifted regions if they’re ready*

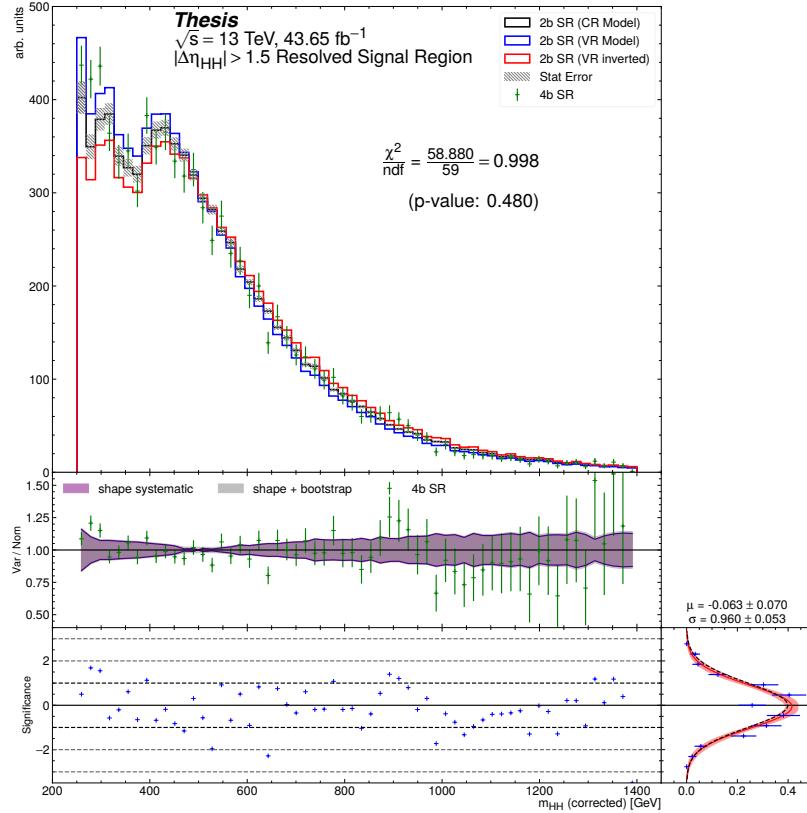


Figure 7.63: **Resonant Search:** Performance of the background estimation method in the resonant analysis reversed $\Delta\eta_{HH}$ kinematic signal region. A new background estimate is trained following nominal procedures entirely within the reversed $\Delta\eta_{HH}$ region, and the resulting model, including uncertainties, is compared with $4b$ data in the corresponding signal region. Good agreement is shown. The quoted p -value uses the χ^2 test statistic, and demonstrates no evidence that the data differs from the assessed background.

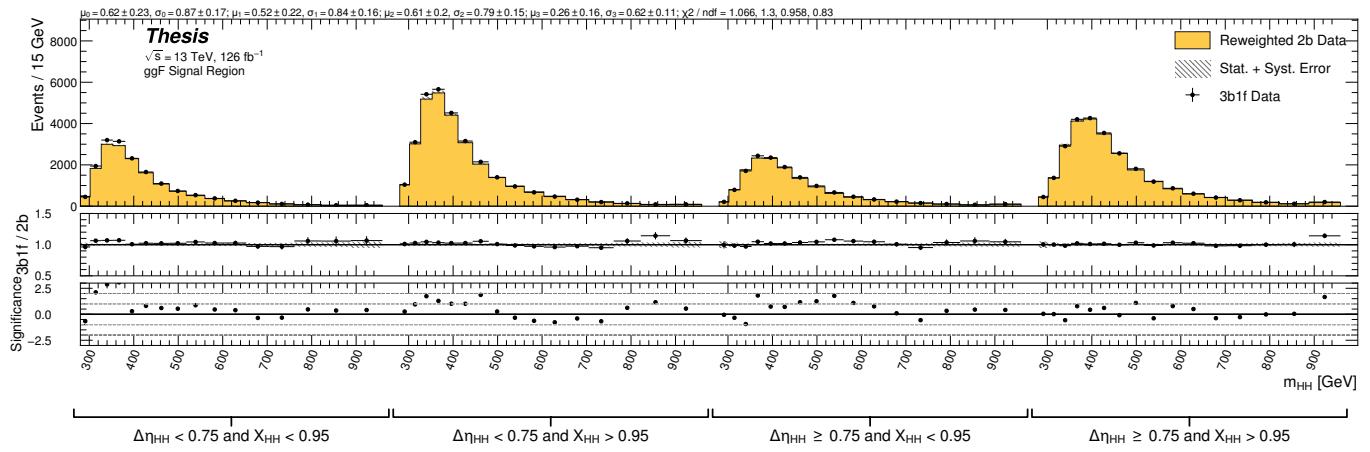


Figure 7.64: **Non-resonant Search:** Performance of the background estimation method in the $3b + 1$ fail validation region. A new background estimate is trained following nominal procedures but with a reweighting from $2b$ to $3b + 1$ fail events. Generally good agreement is seen, though there is some deviation at very low masses in the low $\Delta\eta_{HH}$ low X_{HH} category.

2176 **7.9 Overview of Other $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ Channels**

2177 The results discussed above have been developed in conjunction with (1) a boosted channel for
2178 the resonant search and (2) a vector boson fusion (VBF) channel for the non-resonant search.
2179 Detailed discussions of these two channels are beyond the scope of this thesis. However,
2180 a combined set of results is presented below (*TODO: or will be combined for VBF?*). We
2181 therefore briefly summarize the analyses here.

2182 **7.9.1 Resonant: Boosted Channel**

2183 The boosted analysis selection targets resonance masses from 900 GeV to 5 TeV. In such
2184 events, H decays have a high Lorentz boost, such that the $b\bar{b}$ decays are very collimated. The
2185 resolved analysis fails to reconstruct such HH events, as the $R = 0.4$ jets start to overlap.

2186 The boosted analysis instead reconstructs H decays as large radius, $R = 1.0$ jets, with
2187 corresponding b -quarks identified with variable radius subjets, that is jets with a radius that
2188 scales as ρ/p_T , the p_T is that of the jet in question, and ρ is a fixed parameter, here chosen
2189 to be 30 GeV, which is optimized to maintain truth-level double b-labelling efficiency across
2190 the full range of Higgs jet p_T *TODO: cite: <https://cds.cern.ch/record/2268678>.*

2191 Due to limited boosted b-tagging efficiency *TODO: cite* and to maintain sensitivity even
2192 when b -jets are highly collimated, the boosted analysis is divided into three categories based
2193 on the number of b -tagged jets associated to each large radius jet:

- 2194 • 4 b category: two b -tagged jets in each
- 2195 • 2 $b - 1$ category: two b -tagged jets in one, one in the other
- 2196 • 1 $b - 1$ category: one b -tagged jet in each

2197 The analysis then proceeds in each of these categories. *TODO: what other boosted details?*
2198 The resolved and boosted channels are combined for resonance masses from 900 GeV to
2199 1.5 TeV inclusive. To keep the channels statistically independent, the boosted channel vetos

2200 events passing the resolved analysis selection.

2201 *7.9.2 Non-resonant: VBF Channel*

2202 The vector boson fusion channel is only considered for the non-resonant search. While the
2203 sensitivity is in general much more limited than the gluon-gluon fusion analysis due to the
2204 much smaller production cross section, VBF is sensitive to a variety of Beyond the Standard
2205 Model physics, both complementary and orthogonal to the theoretical scope of gluon-gluon
2206 fusion. *TODO: I'll probably mention more details in the pheno section*

2207 The VBF channel proceeds very similarly to the ggF, with the primary differences being
2208 the kinematic selections and the categorization.

2209 *TODO: fill in kinematics*

2210 Note that the background estimation is inherited from the resonant and ggF analyses, an
2211 ancillary, but significant, contribution of this thesis work.

2212 **7.10 m_{HH} Distributions**

2213 *7.10.1 Resonant Search*

2214 The final discriminant used for the resonant search is corrected m_{HH} . Histogram binning
2215 was optimized for the resonant search to be 84 equal width bins from 250 GeV to 1450 GeV,
2216 corresponding to a bin width of 14.3 GeV, and overflow events (events above 1450 GeV) are
2217 included in the last bin. A demonstration of the performance of the reweighting on this
2218 distribution is shown in Figure 7.65 for the control region and Figure 7.66 for the validation
2219 region. A background-only profile likelihood fit is run for the distribution in the
2220 signal region, and results with spin-0 signals overlaid are shown in Figure 7.67. Note that the
2221 plots show the sum across all years, but the signal extraction fit and background estimate
2222 are run with the years separately. Agreement is generally good throughout.

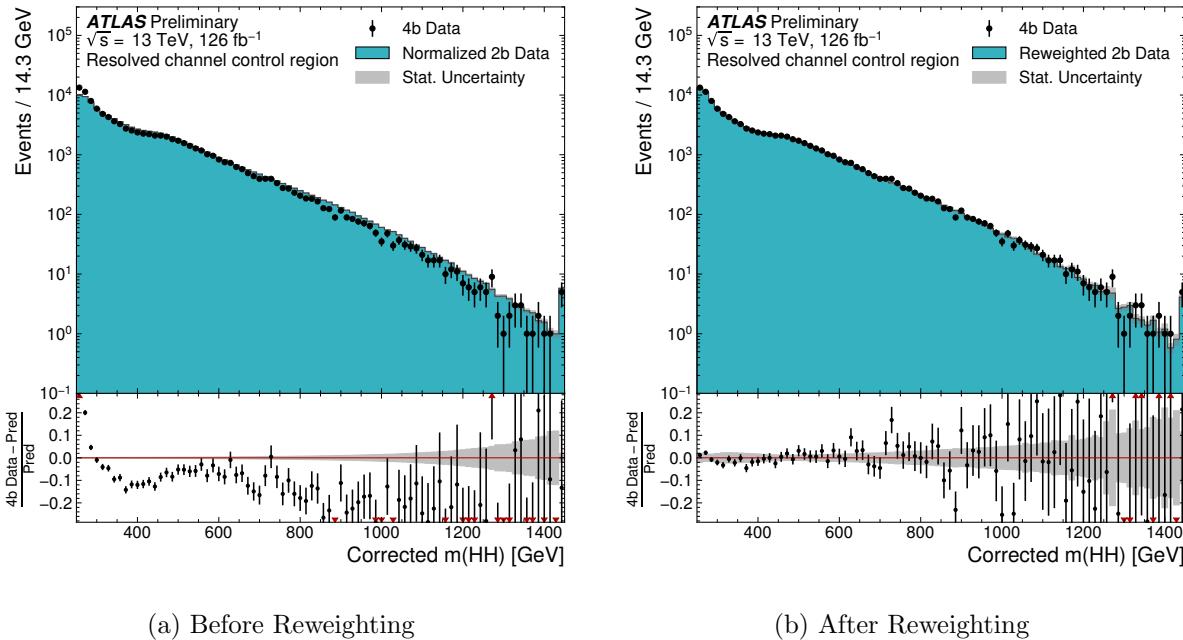


Figure 7.65: **Resonant Search:** Demonstration of the performance of the nominal reweighting in the control region on corrected m_{HH} , with Figure 7.65(a) showing $2b$ events normalized to the total $4b$ yield and Figure 7.65(b) applying the reweighting procedure. Agreement is much improved with the reweighting. Note that overall reweighted $2b$ yield agrees with $4b$ yield in the control region by construction.

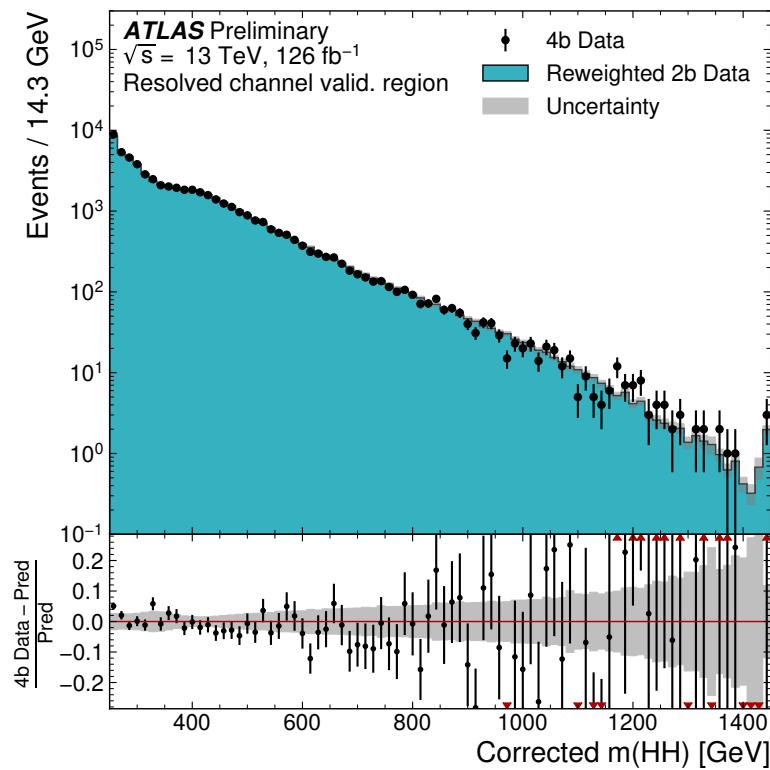


Figure 7.66: **Resonant Search:** Demonstration of the performance of the control region derived reweighting in the validation region on corrected m_{HH} . Agreement is generally good for this extrapolated estimate. Note that the uncertainty band includes the extrapolation systematic, which is defined by a reweighting trained in the validation region.

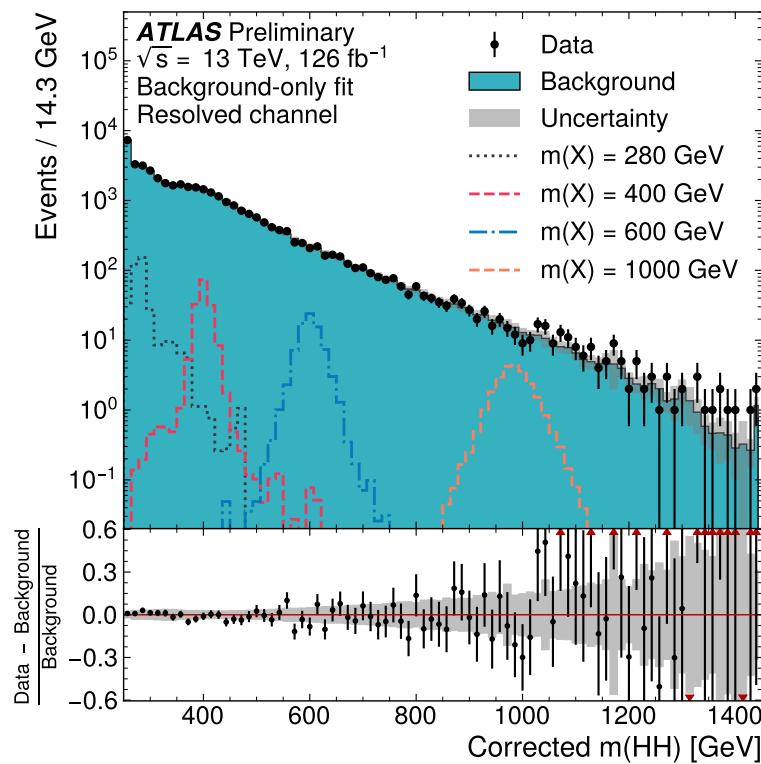


Figure 7.67: **Resonant Search:** Signal region agreement of the background estimate and observed data after a background-only profile likelihood fit. The closure is generally quite good, though there is an evident deficit in the background estimate relative to the data for higher values of corrected m_{HH} .

2223 7.10.2 Non-resonant Search

As discussed above, the non-resonant search splits the signal extraction into two categories of $\Delta\eta_{HH}$ ($0 \leq \Delta\eta_{HH} < 0.75$ and $0.75 \leq \Delta\eta_{HH} < 1.5$), and two categories of X_{HH} ($0 \leq X_{HH} < 0.95$ and $0.95 \leq X_{HH} < 1.6$). To maintain reasonable statistics in each bin entering the signal extraction fit, a variable width binning is considered defined by a resolution parameter, r , and a set range in m_{HH} , where bin edges are determined iteratively as

$$b_{low}^{i+1} = b_{low}^i + r \cdot b_{low}^i, \quad (7.14)$$

2224 where b_{low}^i is the low edge of bin i . The parameters used here are $r = 0.08$ over a range
2225 from 280 GeV to 975 GeV, and underflow and overflow are included in the intial and final
2226 bin contents respectively. m_{HH} with no correction is used as the final discriminant in each
2227 category.

2228 A demonstration of the performance of the reweighting on distributions unrolled across
2229 categories is shown in Figure *TODO: insert* for the control region and Figure *TODO:*
2230 *insert* for the validation region. A background-only profile likelihood fit is run for the
2231 distribution in the signal region, and results with the Standard Model HH signal and $\kappa_\lambda = 6$
2232 signal overlaid are shown for $4b$ in Figure 7.68 and $3b1l$ in Figure 7.69. Note that the plots
2233 show the sum across all years, but the signal extraction fit and background estimate are run
2234 with the years separately. All bins are normalized to represent a density of Events / 15 GeV.

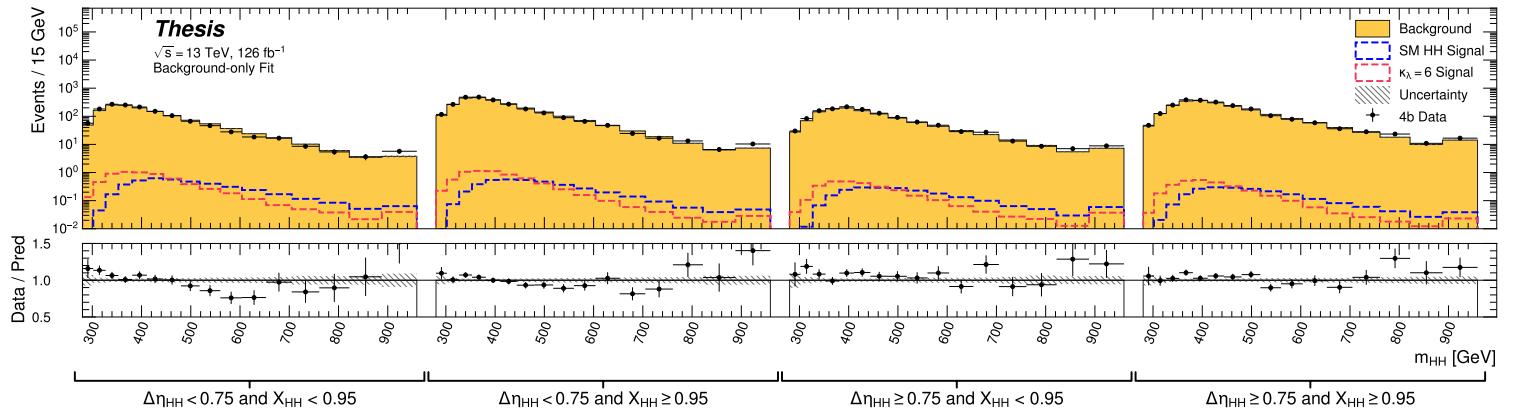


Figure 7.68: **Non-resonant Search (4b):** Signal region agreement of the background estimate and observed data after a background-only profile likelihood fit for the $4b$ channels, with Standard Model and $\kappa_\lambda = 6$ signal overlaid for reference. Modeling is generally quite good near the Standard Model peak, but disagreements are seen at very low and high masses. A deficit is present in low $\Delta\eta_{HH}$ bins near 600 GeV.

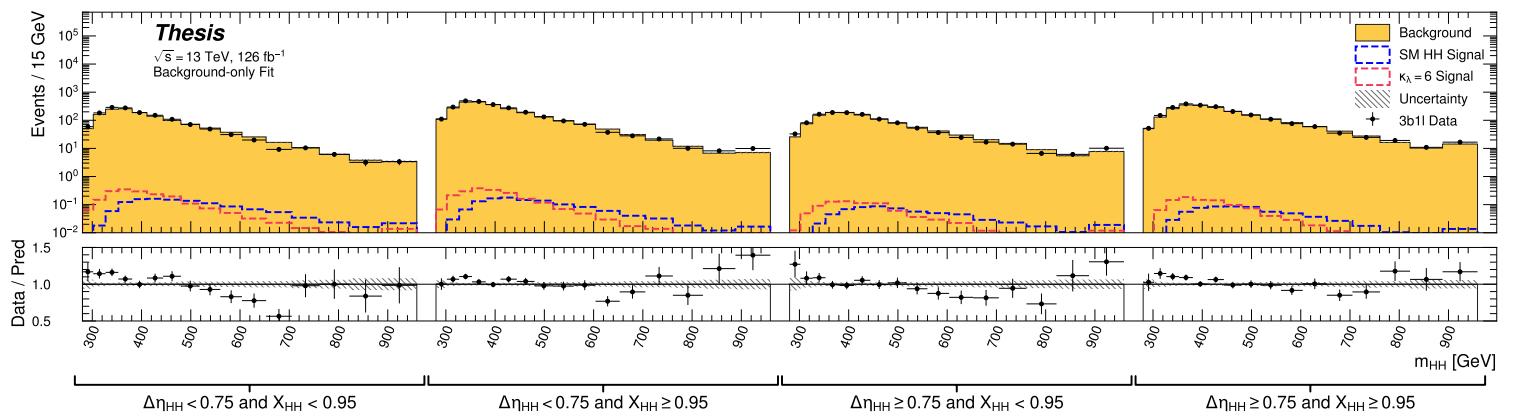


Figure 7.69: **Non-resonant Search (3b1l):** Signal region agreement of the background estimate and observed data after a background-only profile likelihood fit for the 3b1l channels, with Standard Model and $\kappa_\lambda = 6$ signal overlaid for reference. Conclusions are very similar to the 4b channels, with generally good modeling near the Standard Model peak, but disagreements at very low and high masses. A deficit is present near 600 GeV.

2235 **7.11 Statistical Analysis**

2236 The resonant analysis is used to set a 95% confidence level upper limit on the $pp \rightarrow X \rightarrow$
2237 $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ and $pp \rightarrow G_{KK}^* \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ cross-sections, while the non-resonant analysis
2238 is used to set a 95% confidence level upper limit on the $pp \rightarrow HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ cross sections for
2239 a variety of values of the trilinear Higgs coupling.

2240 The upper limit is extracted using the CL_s method [87]. The test statistic used is q_μ [88],
2241 where μ is the signal strength, and θ represents the nuisance parameters. Due to the use of
2242 signals normalized to 1 fb, μ is also the signal cross-section in fb. A single hat represents the
2243 maximum likelihood estimate of a parameter, while $\hat{\theta}(x)$ represents the conditional maximum
2244 likelihood estimate of the nuisance parameters if the signal cross-section is fixed at x .

$$q_\mu = \begin{cases} -2 \ln \left(\frac{\mathcal{L}(\mu, \hat{\theta}(\mu))}{\mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta})} \right) & \hat{\mu} \leq \mu \\ 0 & \hat{\mu} > \mu \end{cases} \quad (7.15)$$

2245 CL_s for some test value of μ is then defined by

$$CL_s = \frac{CL_{s+b}}{CL_b} = \frac{p(q_\mu \geq q_{\mu, \text{obs}} | s+b)}{p(q_\mu \geq q_{\mu, \text{obs}} | b)}, \quad (7.16)$$

2246 where the p -values are calculated in the asymptotic approximation [88], which is valid in
2247 the large sample limit.

2248 The signal cross-section μ fb is excluded at the 95% confidence level if $CL_s < 0.05$.

Observed	-2σ	-1σ	Expected	$+1\sigma$	$+2\sigma$
4.4	3.1	4.2	5.9	8.2	11.0

Table 7.1: Limits on Standard Model $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ production, presented in units of the predicted Standard Model cross section. Results include background systematics only.

2249 7.12 Results

2250 Figure 7.70 shows the expected limit for the spin-0 and spin-2 resonant search. The resolved
 2251 channel covers the range between 251 and 1500 GeV and is combined with the boosted channel
 2252 between 900 and 1500 GeV. The boosted channel then extends to 3 TeV. The most significant
 2253 excess is seen for a signal mass of 1100 GeV, with local significance of 2.6σ for the spin-0
 2254 signal and 2.7σ for the spin-2 signal. This is reduced to 1.0σ and 1.2σ globally.

2255 The spin-2 bulk Randall-Sundrum model with $k/\overline{M}_{\text{Pl}} = 1$ is excluded for graviton masses
 2256 between 298 and 1440 GeV.

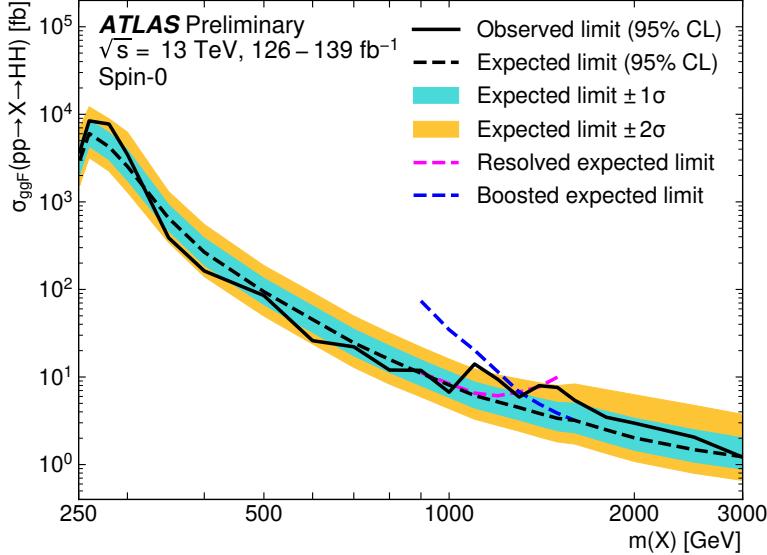
2257 Preliminary results are presented here for the gluon-gluon fusion non-resonant search,
 2258 combining results from the $4b$ and $3b + 1l$ signal regions in the 2×2 category scheme in
 2259 $\Delta\eta_{HH}$ and X_{HH} . These results will be further combined with a VBF channel as discussed,
 2260 but this is left for future work. Results shown here include background systematics only.
 2261 Limits are set for κ_λ values from -20 to 20 . The cross section limit for HH production is set
 2262 at 140 fb (180 fb) observed (expected), corresponding to an observed (expected) limit of 4.4
 2263 (5.9) times the Standard Model prediction (see Table 7.1). κ_λ is constrained to be within the
 2264 range $-4.9 \leq \kappa_\lambda \leq 14.4$ observed ($-3.9 \leq \kappa_\lambda \leq 10.9$ expected). These results are shown in
 2265 Figure 7.71.

2266 We note that this is a significant improvement over the early Run 2 result, which achieved
 2267 an observed (expected) limit of 12.9 (20.7) times the Standard Model prediction. The dataset
 2268 is 4.6 times larger, and a naive scaling of the early Run 2 result (Poisson statistics \implies a factor
 2269 of $1/\sqrt{4.6}$) would predict an observed (expected) limit of 6.0 (9.7) times the Standard Model.

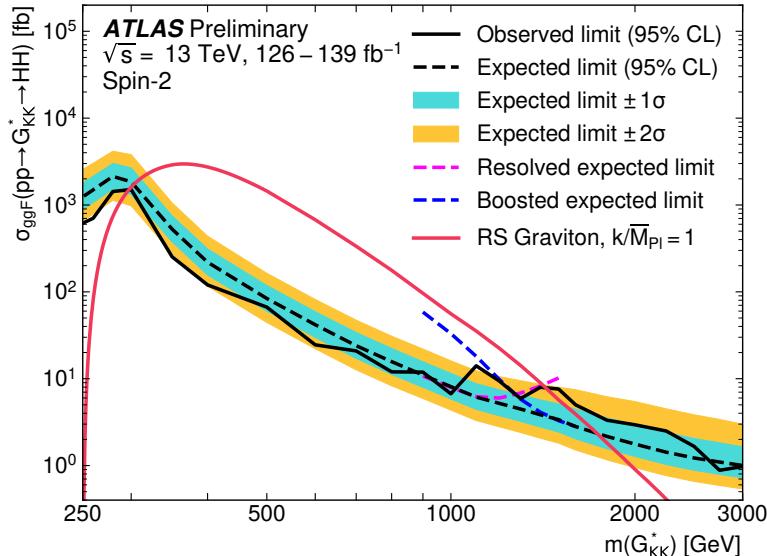
2270 The result of 4.4 (5.9) observed (expected) presented here is therefore both an improvement
 2271 by a factor of 3 (3.5) over the previous result and also beats the statistical scaling by around
 2272 30 (40) %, demonstrating the impact of the various analysis improvements presented here.
 2273 We note again that these results do not include the complete set of uncertainties – however
 2274 we expect the addition of the remaining uncertainties to have no more than a few percent
 2275 impact.

2276 The observed limits presented in Figure 7.71 are consistently above the 2σ band for values
 2277 of $\kappa_\lambda \geq 5$, peaking at a local significance of 3.8σ for $\kappa_\lambda = 6$. As this analysis is optimized for
 2278 points near the Standard Model, and as there is no excess present in more sensitive channels
 2279 in this same region (e.g. $HH \rightarrow bb\gamma\gamma$ *TODO: include comparison*), we do not believe this is a
 2280 real effect, but is rather due to a mis-modeling of the background at low mass, where the
 2281 min ΔR pairing has poor signal efficiency and the assumption of well behaved background in
 2282 the mass plane breaks down. This is consistent with the location of the $\kappa_\lambda = 6$ signal in m_{HH} ,
 2283 as shown in Figures 7.68 and 7.69. It was considered, but not implemented, for this analysis
 2284 to impose a cut on m_{HH} near 350 or 400 GeV to avoid such a low mass modeling issue.

2285 To check the impact of if we would have imposed such a cut, and to verify that the excess
 2286 is due to the low mass regime, we therefore run the same set of limits without the low mass
 2287 bins. In this case, we choose to simply drop the first few bins in m_{HH} such that everything
 2288 else, including the higher mass bin edges, is kept the same. Due to the variable width binning,
 2289 this corresponds to an m_{HH} cut of 381 GeV. The results of this check are shown in Figure
 2290 7.72, overlaid with the limits of Figure 7.71 for reference. With the m_{HH} cut imposed, there
 2291 is a slight degradation in the expected limits for larger positive and negative values of κ_λ ,
 2292 but the points near the Standard Model are nearly identical. Further, the observed excess is
 2293 significantly reduced, with observed limits for $\kappa_\lambda \geq 5$ now falling entirely within the expected
 2294 1σ band. Due to the preliminary nature of these results, further study is left for future
 2295 work. However, we believe, in conjunction with the $HH \rightarrow bb\gamma\gamma$ results and our expectations
 2296 about the difficulty of the background estimation at low mass, that this is demonstrative of a
 2297 mismodeling rather than a real excess.



(a)



(b)

Figure 7.70: Expected (dashed black) and observed (solid black) 95% CL upper limits on the cross-section times branching ratio of resonant production for spin-0 ($X \rightarrow HH$) and spin-2 $G_{KK}^* \rightarrow HH$. The $\pm 1\sigma$ and $\pm 2\sigma$ ranges for the expected limits are shown in the colored bands. The resolved channel expected limit is shown in dashed pink and covers the range from 251 and 1500 GeV. It is combined with the boosted channel (dashed blue) between 900 and 1500 GeV. The theoretical prediction for the bulk RS model with $k/\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}} = 1$ [20] (solid red line) is shown, with the decrease below 350 GeV due to a sharp reduction in the $G_{KK}^* \rightarrow HH$ branching ratio. The nominal $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ branching ratio is taken as 0.582.

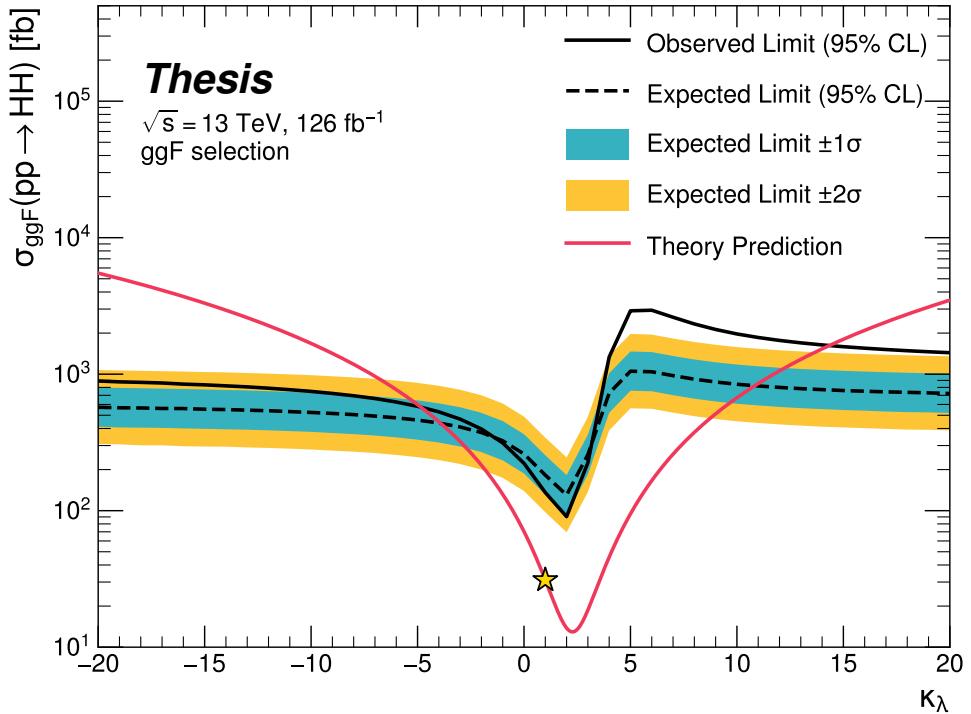


Figure 7.71: Expected (dashed black) and observed (solid black) 95% CL upper limits on the cross-section times branching ratio of non-resonant production for a range of values of the Higgs self-coupling, with the Standard Model value ($\kappa_\lambda = 1$) illustrated with a star. The $\pm 1\sigma$ and $\pm 2\sigma$ ranges for the expected limits are shown in the colored bands. The cross section limit for HH production is set at 140 fb (180 fb) observed (expected), corresponding to an observed (expected) limit of 4.4 (5.9) times the Standard Model prediction. κ_λ is constrained to be within the range $-4.9 \leq \kappa_\lambda \leq 14.4$ observed ($-3.9 \leq \kappa_\lambda \leq 10.9$ expected). The nominal $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ branching ratio is taken as 0.582. We note that the excess present for $\kappa_\lambda \geq 5$ is thought to be due to a low mass background mis-modeling, present due to the optimization of this analysis for the Standard Model point, and is not present in more sensitive channels in this same region (e.g. $HH \rightarrow bb\gamma\gamma$).

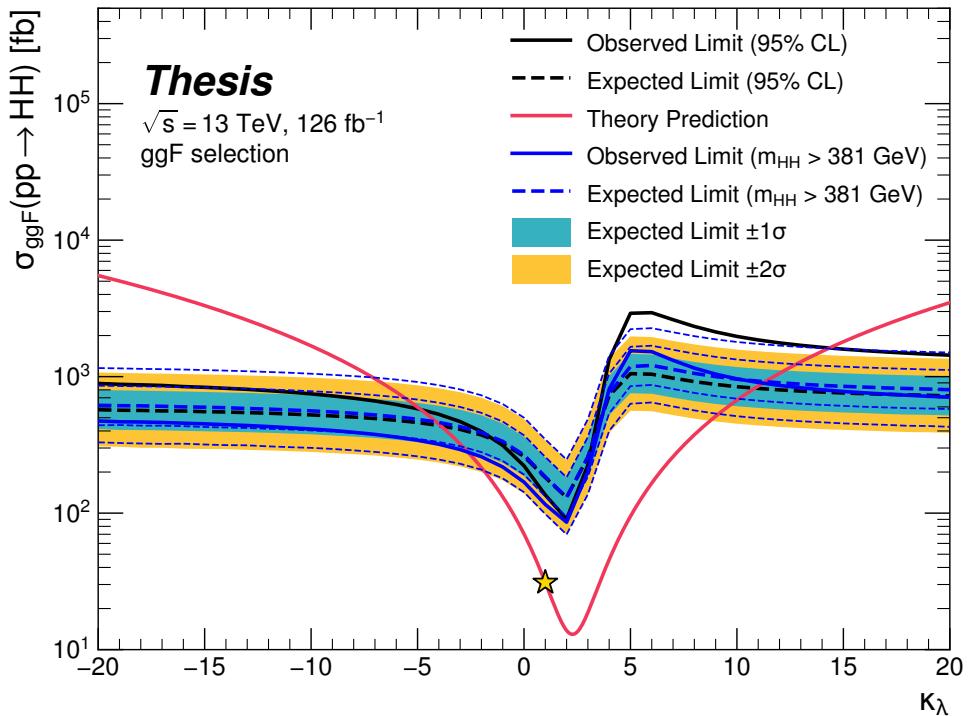


Figure 7.72: Comparison of the limits in Figure 7.71 with an equivalent set of limits that drop the m_{HH} bins below 381 GeV, with the value of 381 GeV determined by the optimized variable width binning. The expected limit band with this mass cut is shown in dashed blue, and the observed is shown in solid blue. The excess at and above $\kappa_\lambda = 5$ is significantly reduced, demonstrating that this is driven by low mass. Notably, there is minimal impact on the expected sensitivity with this m_{HH} cut.

2298

Chapter 8

2299

FUTURE IDEAS FOR $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$

2300 The searches presented in this thesis make use of a large suite of sophisticated techniques,
 2301 selected through careful study and validation. During this process, a variety of interesting
 2302 directions for the $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ analysis were explored by this thesis author, in collaboration
 2303 with a few others¹, but were not used due to a variety of constraints. We present two
 2304 such interesting directions here, with the hope of encouraging further exploration of these
 2305 techniques in future work.

2306 **8.1 pairAGraph: A New Method for Jet Pairing**

2307 As discussed in Chapter 7, one of the main problems to solve is the pairing of b -jets into
 2308 Higgs candidates. Figure 7.1 demonstrates that the choice of the pairing method, while
 2309 important for achieving good reconstruction of signal events, also significantly impacts the
 2310 structure of non- HH events, leading to various biases in the background estimate. Evaluation
 2311 of the pairing method therefore must take both of these factors into account. While we have
 2312 presented some advantages in respective contexts for the pairing methods considered here,
 2313 we of course would like to explore further improvements to this important component of the
 2314 analysis.

2315 To that end, we note that all of the pairing methods considered here share a common
 2316 feature: four jets are selected, and the pairing is some discrimination between the available
 2317 three pairings of these four jets. For the methods used in this analysis, the jet selection
 2318 proceeds via a simple p_T ordering, with b -tagged jets receiving a higher priority than non-

¹Notably Nicole Hartman (SLAC), who spearheaded much of the development and proof of concept work, in collaboration with Michael Kagan and Rafael Teixeira De Lima.

2319 tagged jets.

2320 With the advent of a variety of machine learning methods for dealing with a variable
2321 number of inputs (e.g. recurrent neural networks [89], deep sets [90], graph neural networks [91],
2322 and transformers [92]), a natural place to improve on the pairing is to consider more than
2323 just four jets. The pairing and jet selection is then performed simultaneously, allowing for
2324 the incorporation of more event information in the pairing decision and the incorporation of
2325 jet correlation structure in the jet selection.

2326 In practice, the majority of $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ events have either four or five jets which pass the
2327 kinematic preselection, and any gain from this additional freedom would come from events
2328 with greater than or equal to five jets. However, this five jet topology is particularly exciting
2329 for scenarios such as events with initial state radiation (ISR), in which the $HH - > 4b$ jets
2330 are offset by a single jet with p_T similar in magnitude to that of the $HH - > 4b$ system.
2331 Such events have explicit event level information which is not encoded with the inclusion
2332 of only the $HH - > 4b$ jets, and are pathological if the ISR jet happens to pass b -tagging
2333 requirements.

2334 Additionally, with the use of lower tagged regions for background estimation and alternate
2335 signal regions, this extra flexibility in jet selection may provide a very useful bias – since the
2336 algorithm is trained on signal, the selected jets for the pairing will be the most “4b-like” jets
2337 available in the considered set.

2338 For the studies considered here, a transformer [92] based architecture is used. This is best
2339 visualized by considering the event as a graph with jets corresponding to nodes and edges
2340 corresponding to potential connections – for this reason, we term this algorithm “pairAGraph”.
2341 The approach is as follows: each jet, i , is represented by some vector of input variables, \vec{x}_i ,
2342 in our case the four-vector information, (p_T, η, ϕ, E) of each jet, plus information on the
2343 b -tagging decision. A multi-layer perceptron (MLP) is used to create a latent embedding,
2344 $\mathbf{h}(\vec{x}_i)$, of this input vector.

To describe the relationship between various jets in the event, we then define a vector \vec{z}_i

for each jet as

$$\vec{z}_i = \sum_j w_{ij} \mathbf{h}(\vec{x}_j) \quad (8.1)$$

where j runs over all jets in the event (including $i = j$), the w_{ij} can be thought of as edge weights, and $\mathbf{h}(\vec{x}_j)$ is the latent embedding for jet j mentioned above.

Within this formula, both \mathbf{h} and the w_{ij} are learnable. To learn an appropriate latent mapping and set of edge weights, we define a similarity metric corresponding to each possible jet pairing:

$$\vec{z}_{1a} \cdot \vec{z}_{1b} + \vec{z}_{2a} \cdot \vec{z}_{2b} \quad (8.2)$$

where subscripts $1a$ and $1b$ correspond to the two jets in pair 1, $2a$ and $2b$ to the jets in pair 2 for a given pairing of four distinct jets.

This similarity metric is calculated for all possible pairings, which are then passed through a softmax [93] activation function, which compresses these scores to between 0 and 1 with sum of 1, lending an interpretation as probability of each pairing.

In training, the ground truth pairing is set by *truth matching* jets to the b -jets in the HH signal simulation – a jet is considered to match if it is < 0.3 in ΔR away from a b -jet in the simulation record. Given this ground truth, a cross-entropy loss *TODO: cite* is used on the softmax outputs, and w_{ij} and \mathbf{h} are updated correspondingly. Training in such a way corresponds to updating w_{ij} and \mathbf{h} to maximize the similarity metric for the correct pairing.

In evaluation, the pairings with a higher score (and therefore higher softmax output) given the trained h and w_{ij} therefore correspond to the pairings that are most “ HH -like”. The maximum over these scores is therefore the pairing used as the predicted result from the algorithm.

Because the majority of $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ events have either four or five jets, it was found to be sufficient to only consider a maximum of 5 jets. Consideration of more is in principle possible, but the quickly expanding combinatorics leads to a rapidly more difficult problem. The jets considered are the five leading jets in p_T . Notably, this set of jets may include jets which are not b -tagged, even for the nominal $4b$ region – therefore events with 4 b -jets are

2366 not required to use all of them in the construction of Higgs candidates, in contrast to the
2367 other algorithms used in this thesis.

2368 **8.2 Background Estimation with Mass Plane Interpolation**

2369 The choice of a pairing algorithm that results in a smooth mass plane (such as $\min \Delta R$)
2370 opens up a variety of options for the background estimation. While the method based on
2371 reweighting of $2b$ events used for this thesis performs well and has been extensively studied
2372 and validated, it also relies on several assumptions. In particular, the reweighting is derived
2373 between e.g., $2b$ and $4b$ events *outside* of the signal region and then applied to $2b$ events *inside*
2374 the signal region, with the assumption that the $2b$ to $4b$ transfer function will be sufficiently
2375 similar in both regions of the mass plane. An uncertainty is assigned to account for the bias
2376 due to this assumption, but the extrapolation in the mass plane is never explicitly treated in
2377 the nominal estimate. While the approach of reweighting $2b$ events within the signal region
2378 does have the advantage of incorporating explicit signal region information (that is, the $2b$
2379 signal region events), the importance of the extrapolation bias motivates consideration of
2380 a method that operates within the $4b$ mass plane. This additionally removes the reliance
2381 on lower b -tagging regions, allowing for the use of, e.g. $3b$ triggers, and future-proofing the
2382 analysis against trigger bandwidth constraints in the low tag regions.

The method considered here relies on the following: for a given vector of input variables (event kinematics, etc), \vec{x} , the joint probability in the HH mass plane may be written as:

$$p(\vec{x}, m_{H1}, m_{H2}) = p(\vec{x}|m_{H1}, m_{H2})p(m_{H1}, m_{H2}) \quad (8.3)$$

2383 by the chain rule of probability. This means that the full dynamics of events in the HH mass
2384 plane may be described by (1) the conditional probability of considered variables \vec{x} , given
2385 values of m_{H1} and m_{H2} , and (2) the density of the mass plane itself.

2386 We present here an approach which uses normalizing flows *TODO: cite* to model the
2387 conditional probabilities of events in the mass plane and Gaussian processes to model the
2388 mass plane density. These models are trained in a region around, but not including, the

2389 signal region, and the trained models are then used to construct an *interpolated* estimate of
 2390 the signal region kinematics. This approach therefore explicitly treats event behavior within
 2391 the mass plane, avoiding the concerns associated with a reweighted estimate. Validation of
 2392 such a method, as well as assessing of closure and biases of the method, may be done in
 2393 alternate b -tagging or kinematic regions, notably the now unused $2b$ region, results of which
 2394 are shown below.

2395 *8.2.1 Normalizing Flows*

Normalizing flows model observed data $x \in X$, with $x \sim p_X$, as the output of an invertible,
 differentiable function $f : X \rightarrow Z$, with $z \in Z$ a latent variable with a simple prior probability
 distribution (often standard normal), $z \sim p_Z$. From a change of variables, given such a
 function, we may write

$$p_X(x) = p_Z(f(x)) \left| \det \left(\frac{d(f(x))}{dx} \right) \right| \quad (8.4)$$

2396 where $\left(\frac{d(f(x))}{dx} \right)$ is the Jacobian of f at x .

2397 The problem of normalizing flows then reduces to (1) choosing sets of f which are both
 2398 tractable and sufficiently expressive to describe observed data, and (2) optimizing associated
 2399 sets of functional parameters on observed data via maximum likelihood estimation using
 2400 the above formula. Sampling from the learned density is done by drawing from the latent
 2401 distribution $z \sim p_Z$ (cf. inverse transform sampling) – the corresponding sample is then
 2402 $x \sim p_X$ with $x = f^{-1}(z)$.

2403 A standard approach to the definition of these f is as a composition of affine transfor-
 2404 mations (e.g. RealNVP *TODO: cite*), that is, transformations of the form $\alpha z + \beta$, with α and β
 2405 learnable parameter vectors. This can roughly be thought of as shifting and squeezing the
 2406 input prior density in order to match the data density. However, this has somewhat
 2407 limited expressivity, for instance in the case of a multi-modal density.

This work thus instead relies on neural spline flows *TODO: cite: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1906.04032.pdf>*
 in which the functions considered are monotonic rational-quadratic splines, which have an

analytic inverse. A rational quadratic function has the form of a quotient of two quadratic polynomials, namely,

$$f_j(x_i) = \frac{a_{ij}x_i^2 + b_{ij}x_{ij} + c_{ij}}{d_{ij}x_i^2 + e_{ij}x_i + f_{ij}} \quad (8.5)$$

with six associated parameters (a_{ij} through f_{ij}) per each piecewise bin j of the spline and each input dimension i . This is explicitly more flexible and expressive than a simple affine transformation, allowing, e.g., the treatment of multi-modality via the piecewise nature of the spline.

The rational quadratic spline is defined on an set interval. The transformation outside of this interval is set to the identity, with these linear tails allowing for unconstrained inputs. The boundaries between bins of the spline are set by coordinates scalled *knots*, with $K + 1$ knots for K bins – the two endpoints for the spline interval plus the $K - 1$ internal boundaries. The derivatives at these points are constrained to be positive for the internal knots, and boundary derivatives are set to 1 to match the linear tails.

The bin widths and heights are learnable ($2 \cdot K$ parameters) as are the internal knot derivatives ($K - 1$ parameters), and these $3K - 1$ ouputs of the neural network are sufficient to define a monotonic rational-quadratic spline which passes through each knot and has the given derivative value at each knot.

In the context of the $HH \rightarrow 4b$ analysis, a neural spline flow is used to model the four vector information of each Higgs candidate, conditional on their respective masses. The resulting flow is therefore five dimensional, with inputs $x = (p_{T,H1}, p_{T,H2}, \eta_{H1}, \eta_{H2}, \Delta\phi_{HH})$, where the ATLAS ϕ symmetry has been encdoded by assuming $\phi_{H1} = 0$. Conditional variables m_{H1} and m_{H2} are not modeled by the flow, but “come along for the ride”. A standard normal distribution in 5 dimensions is used for the underlying prior. Modeling of the four vectors was chosen in order to reduce bias from modeling m_{HH} directly.

The trained flow model then gives a model for $p(x|m_{H1}, m_{H2})$ which may be sampled from to reconstruct distributions of HH kinematics given values of m_{H1} and m_{H2} .

2431 8.2.2 Gaussian Processes

2432 The second piece of this background estimate is the modeling of the mass plane density,
2433 $p(m_{H1}, m_{H2})$. This is done using Gaussian process regression – note that a similar procedure
2434 is used to define a systematic in the boosted $4b$ analysis. Generally, Gaussian processes
2435 are a collection of random variables in which every finite collection of said variables is
2436 distributed according to a multivariate normal distribution. For the context of Gaussian
2437 process regression, what we consider is a Gaussian process over function space, that is, for a
2438 collection of points, x_1, \dots, x_N , the space of corresponding function values, $(f(x_1), \dots, f(x_N))$
2439 is Gaussian process distributed, that is, described by an N dimensional normal distribution
2440 with mean μ , covariance matrix Σ .

2441 For a single point, this would correspond to a function space described entirely by a
2442 normal distribution, with various samples from that distribution yielding various candidate
2443 functions. For multiple points, a covariance matrix describes the relationship between each
2444 pair of points – correspondingly, it is represented via a *kernel function*, $K(x, x')$. As, in
2445 practice, μ may always be set to 0 via a centering of the data, the kernel function fully defines
2446 the considered family of functions.

The considered family of functions describes a Bayesian *prior* for the data. This prior may be conditioned on a set of training data points (X_1, \vec{y}_1) . This conditional *posterior* may then be used to make predictions $\vec{y}_2 = f(X_2)$ at a set of new points X_2 . Because of the Gaussian process prior assumption, \vec{y}_1 and \vec{y}_2 are assumed to be jointly Gaussian. We may therefore write

$$\begin{pmatrix} \vec{y}_1 \\ \vec{y}_2 \end{pmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N} \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} K(X_1, X_1) & K(X_1, X_2) \\ K(X_1, X_2) & K(X_2, X_2) \end{pmatrix} \right) \quad (8.6)$$

2447 where we have used that the kernel function is symmetric and assumed prior mean 0.

By standard conditioning properties of Gaussian distributions,

$$\vec{y}_2 | \vec{y}_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(K(X_2, X_1)K(X_1, X_1)^{-1}\vec{y}_1, K(X_2, X_2) - K(X_2, X_1)K(X_1, X_1)^{-1}K(X_1, X_2)) \quad (8.7)$$

2448 which is the sampling distribution for a Gaussian process given kernel K . In practice, the
 2449 mean of this sampling distribution is used as the function estimate, with an uncertainty from
 2450 the predicted variance at a given point.

The choice of kernel function has a very strong impact on the fitted curve, and must therefore be chosen to express the expected dynamics of the data. A common such choice is a radial basis function (RBF) kernel, which takes the form

$$K(x, x') = \exp\left(-\frac{d(x, x')^2}{2l^2}\right) \quad (8.8)$$

2451 where $d(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the Euclidean distance and $l > 0$ is a length scale parameter. Conceptually, as
 2452 distances $d(x, x')$ increase relative to the chosen length scale, the kernel smoothly dies off –
 2453 further away points influence each other less.

2454 Coming back to our case of the mass plane, the procedure runs as follows:

2455 1. A binned 2d histogram of the blinded mass plane is created in a window around the
 2456 “standard” analysis regions. Bins which have any overlap with the signal region are
 2457 excluded.

2458 2. A Gaussian process is trained using the bin centers, values as training points. The
 2459 scikit-learn implementation [94] is used, with RBF kernel with anisotropic length scale
 2460 (l is dimension 2). The length scale is initialized to $(50, 50)$ to cover the signal region,
 2461 and optimized by minimizing the negative log-marginal likelihood on the training data,
 2462 $-\log p(\vec{y}|\theta)$. Training data is centered and scaled to mean 0, variance 1, and a statistical
 2463 error is included in the fit.

2464 3. The Gaussian process is then used to predict the density $p(m_{H1}, m_{H2})$ in the signal
 2465 region. This may then be sampled from via an inverse transform sampling to generate
 2466 values (m_{H1}, m_{H2}) according to the density (specifically, according to the mean of the
 2467 Gaussian process posterior). Though in principle the Gaussian process sampling is not
 2468 limited to bin centers, this is kept for simplicity, with a uniform smearing applied within

2469 each sampled bin to approximate the continuous estimate, namely, if a bin is sampled
2470 from, the returned value is drawn uniformly at random within the sampled bin.

4. The sampling in the previous step can be arbitrary – to set the overall normalization, a Monte Carlo sampling of the Gaussian process is done to approximate the relative fraction of events predicted both inside (f_{in}) and outside (f_{out}) of the signal region, within the training box. The number of events outside of the signal region (n_{out}) is known, therefore, the number of events inside of the signal region, n_{in} , may be estimated as

$$n_{in} = \frac{n_{out}}{f_{out}} \cdot f_{in}. \quad (8.9)$$

2471 Note that the Monte Carlo sampling procedure is simply a set of samples of the Gaussian
2472 process from uniformly random values of m_{H1}, m_{H2} , and is the most convenient approach
2473 given the irregular shape of the signal region.

2474 This procedure results in a generated set of predicted m_{H1}, m_{H2} values for signal region
2475 background events, along with an overall yield prediction.

2476 8.2.3 The Full Prediction

2477 Given the normalizing flow parametrization of $p(x|m_{H1}, m_{H2})$ and the Gaussian process
2478 generation of $(m_{H1}, m_{H2}) \sim p(m_{H1}, m_{H2})$ and prediction of the signal region yield, all of the
2479 pieces are in place to construct an interpolation background estimate. Namely

- 2480 1. Gaussian process sampled (m_{H1}, m_{H2}) values are provided to the normalizing flow to
2481 predict the other variables for the Higgs candidate four-vectors. These are used to
2482 construct the HH system (notably $m_{HH}, \cos \theta^*$).
- 2483 2. These final distributions are normalized according to the predicted background yield.

2484 *8.2.4 Results*

2485 The Gaussian process sampling procedure is trained on a small fraction (0.01) of $2b$ data to
 2486 mimic the available $4b$ statistics. This fraction of $2b$ data is blinded, and the prediction of the
 2487 estimate trained on this blinded region may then be compared to real $2b$ data in the signal
 2488 region. The predictions for signal region m_{H_1} and m_{H_2} individually are shown in Figure 8.1,
 and the resulting mass planes are compared in Figure 8.2. Good agreement is seen.

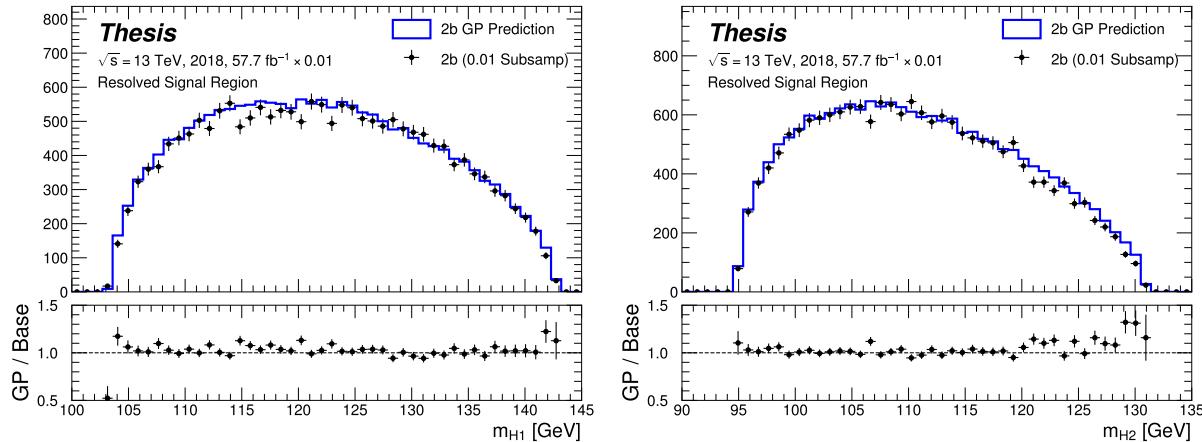


Figure 8.1: Gaussian process sampling prediction of marginals m_{H_1} and m_{H_2} for $2b$ signal region events compared to real $2b$ signal region events for the 2018 dataset. Good agreement is seen. Only a small fraction (0.01) of the $2b$ dataset is used for both training and this final comparison to mimic $4b$ statistics.

2489

2490 The $4b$ region is kept blinded for this work, meaning that a direct comparison of the
 2491 Gaussian process estimate in the $4b$ signal region is not done. However, a Gaussian process is
 2492 trained on the blinded $4b$ region and compared to the corresponding reweighted $2b$ estimate,
 2493 trained per the nominal procedures from the analyses above. The predictions for signal
 2494 region m_{H_1} and m_{H_2} individually are shown in Figure 8.3, compared to both the control and
 2495 validation region derived reweighting estimates, and the resulting signal region mass planes
 2496 are compared in Figure 8.4. The estimates are seen to be compatible.

2497 *8.2.5 Outstanding Points*

2498 While good performance is demonstrated from the nominal interpolated background estimate,
2499 various uncertainties must be assigned according to the various stages of the estimate. These
2500 notably include

- 2501 • Assessing a statistical uncertainty on the normalizing flow training (cf. bootstrap
2502 uncertainty).
- 2503 • Propagation of the Gaussian process uncertainty through the sampling procedure.
- 2504 • Validation of the resulting estimate and assessment of necessary systematic uncertainties
2505 (e.g. from validation region non-closure).

2506 These are all quite tractable, but some, especially the choice of an appropriate systematic
2507 uncertainty, are certainly not obvious and require detailed study. In this respect, the
2508 reweighting validation work of the non-resonant analysis is certainly quite useful as a starting
2509 place in terms of the available regions and their correspondence to the nominal $4b$ signal
2510 region.

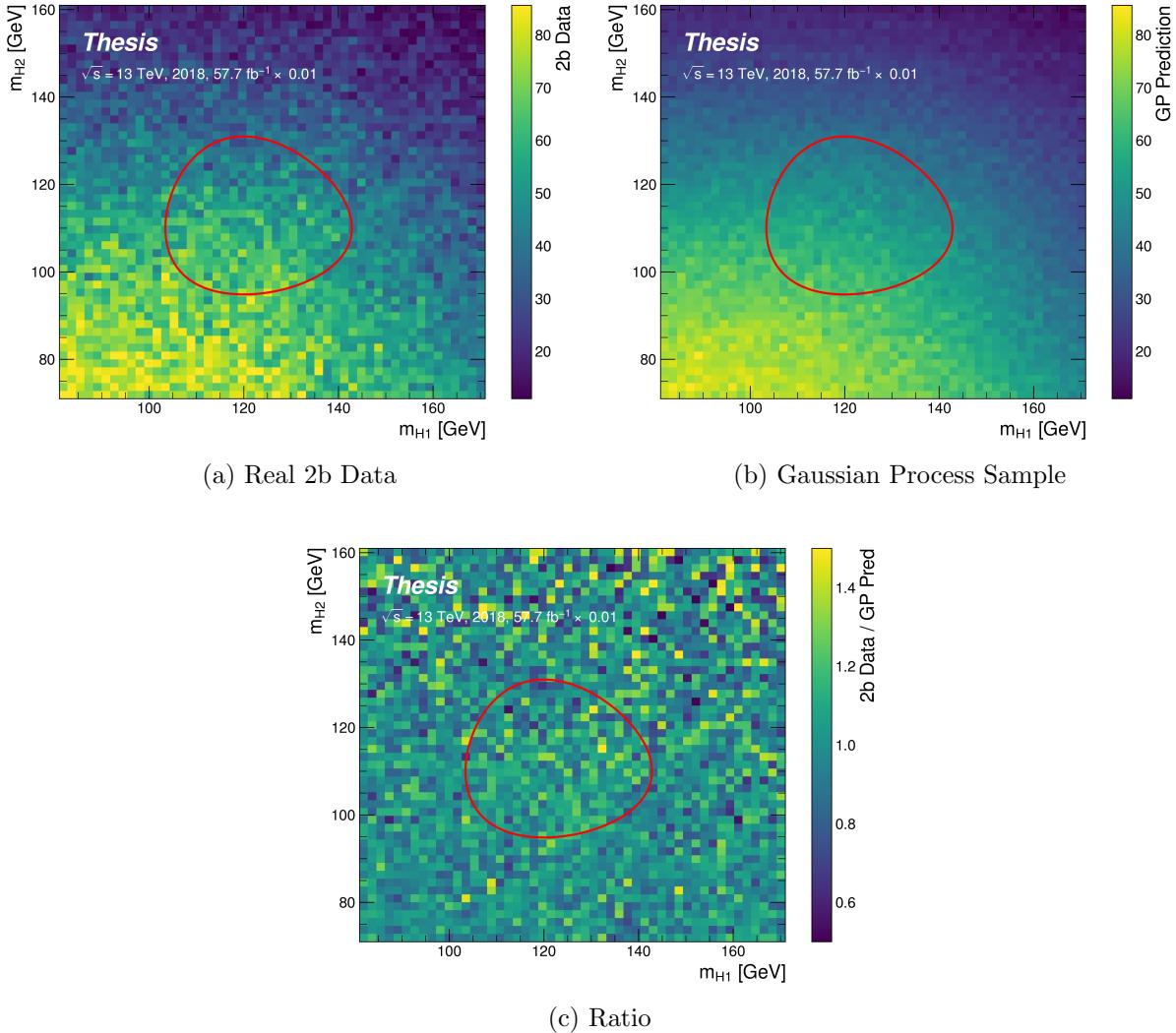


Figure 8.2: Gaussian process sampling prediction for the mass plane compared to the real 2b dataset for 2018. Only a small fraction (0.01) of the 2b dataset is used for both training and this final comparison to mimic 4b statistics. Good agreement is seen.

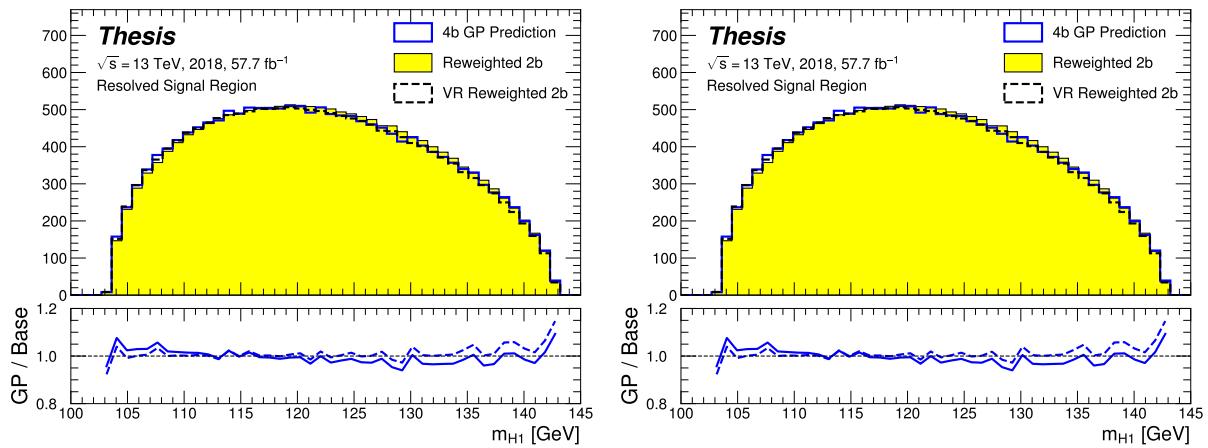


Figure 8.3: Gaussian process sampling prediction of marginals m_{H1} and m_{H2} for 4b signal region events compared to both control and validation reweighting predictions. While there are some differences, the estimates are compatible.

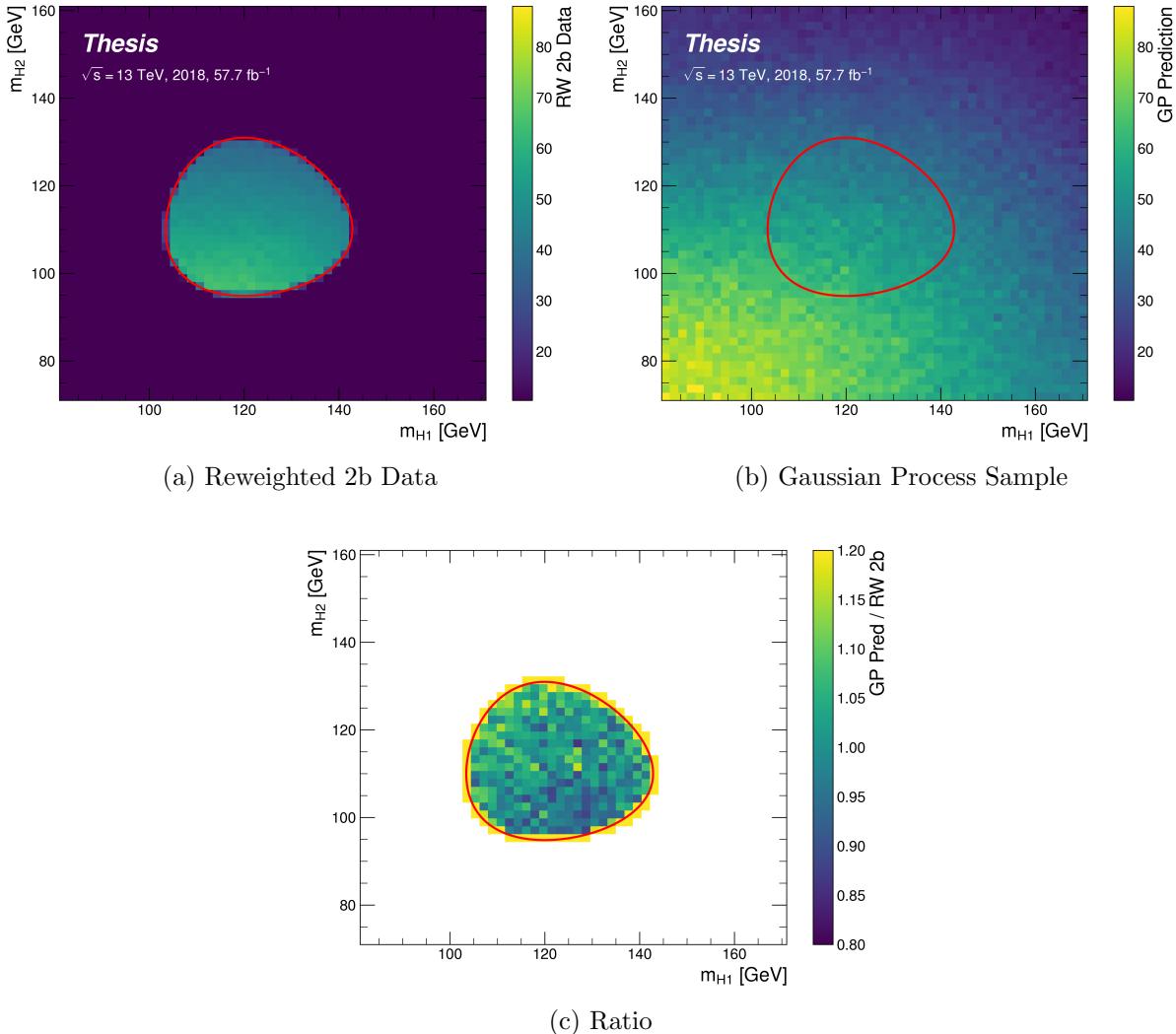


Figure 8.4: Gaussian process sampling prediction for the $4b$ mass plane compared to the reweighted $2b$ estimate in the signal region. Both estimates are compatible.

2511

Chapter 9

2512

CONCLUSIONS

2513 This thesis has provided an overview of the Standard Model, with an emphasis on pair
2514 production of Higgs bosons and how this process may be used to both verify the Standard
2515 Model and to search for new physics. An overview of the Large Hadron Collider and the
2516 ATLAS detector has been provided, and the design and use of simulation infrastructure
2517 has been explained, including work to improve hadronic shower modeling in fast detector
2518 simulation. The translation of detector level information to analysis level information has
2519 been explained, with an emphasis on jets and the identification of B hadron decay. Finally,
2520 two searches for Higgs boson pair production have been presented, with a complete set of
2521 results for resonant production included, focusing on searches beyond the Standard Model,
2522 and a preliminary set of results for non-resonant production, targeting Standard Model
2523 production, with variations of the Higgs self-coupling. Two advanced techniques for the
2524 future of these analyses are further presented, along with proof-of-concept results.

2525

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