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Abstract

Placeholder abstract.

Acknowledgements

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Chapter 1

Introduction

The Standard Model is the current prevailing theoretical framework that encompasses all known elementary particles to date and describes their interactions, yet falls short of describing open problems in physics. Here, we introduce the Standard Model (Section 1.1) and provide a mathematical motivation of the SM a gauge theory (Section 1.2). We introduce the Higgs mechanism (Section 1.3), and outline two groups of theoretical extensions to the Standard Model that feature extended Higgs sectors (Sections 1.4 and 1.5).

1.1 History of the Standard Model

The building blocks of our modern-day understanding of particle physics were established over the course of decades by experimental discoveries and theoretical advances, culminating in the development of a theoretical framework known as the Standard Model (SM). In the 1880s, the electron was the first subatomic particle to be identified, through measurements of particles produced by ionizing gas. By the 1930s, atoms were known to consist mostly of empty space, with protons and neutrons concentrated at the center and orbited by electrons. Spurred by advances in particle accelerator technology, the experimental discoveries of the positron, the muon, and

the pion, painted an increasingly complicated picture of particle physics that could not be described solely with atomic physics.

In the absence of a theoretical framework describing these particles, in the 1960s and 1970s physicists and mathematicians developed the Standard Model to describe and encompass these fundamental particles and the forces that govern their interactions. The particle content of the Standard Model is shown in Fig. 1.1: they are grouped into fermions, which comprise all known matter, and bosons, which mediate the interactions between particles.

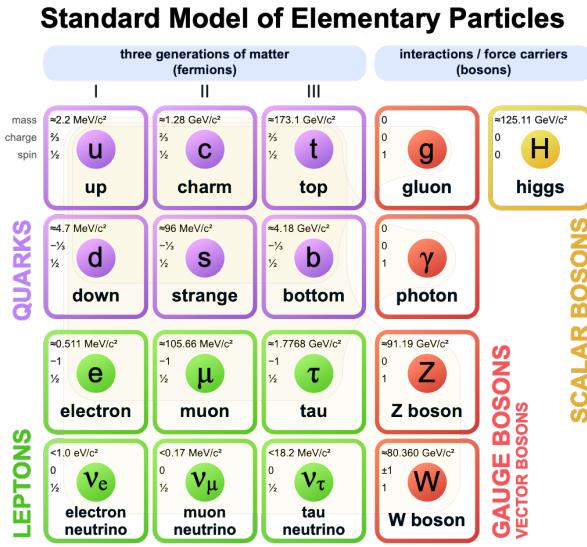


Figure 1.1: Table of Standard Model particles [CITE], showing the grouping of the fermions into three generations of matter and the bosons, responsible for carrying the three fundamental forces in the Standard Model. The masses, charges, and spins of the particles are shown. The antimatter counterparts of the fermions are not shown. The possible interactions between the fermions and gauge bosons are highlighted.

Fermions consist of quarks and leptons, and are grouped into three generations. For example, the electron belongs to the first generation of leptons. The second and third generation counterparts of the electron are the muon and the tau lepton, and are over 200 and 30,000 times heavier than the electron respectively. Bosons are force carriers; the interaction of fermions with bosons corresponds to fundamental forces. The Standard Model describes the electromagnetic force, the strong nuclear force,

and the weak nuclear force.

1.2 The Standard Model as a gauge theory

1.2.1 Gauge invariance

Gauge theories of elementary particle interactions originate from a freedom of choice in the mathematical description of particle fields which has no effect on the particles' physical states [CITE]. The existence and form of the particles' interactions, can be deduced from the existence of physically indeterminate, gaugable quantities.

An example of this gauge invariance is classical physics is the electromagnetic interaction, where the fundamental field is the four-vector potential A^μ . The physical electromagnetic fields and Maxwell's equations arise from the elements of the tensor $F_{\mu\nu}(x) = \partial_\mu A_\nu(x) - \partial_\nu A_\mu(x)$. Any two choices of A^μ that are related by a transformation of the form

$$A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu + \partial_\mu \alpha \quad (1.1)$$

for any real, differentiable function $\alpha(x)$, describe the same physical configuration, and has no effect on Maxwell's equations. This "redundancy" in the choice of gauge in Eqn. 1.1 is called a gauge symmetry.

One important consequence of gauge symmetry comes from the application of Noether's theorem, which states that for every global transformation under which the Lagrangian density is invariant, there exists a conserved quantity. If $\mathcal{L}(\Psi(x), \partial_\mu \Psi(x))$ is invariant under the transformation of the wave function $\Psi(x) \rightarrow \Psi'(x)$, where $\Psi'(x) = \Psi(x) + \delta\Psi(x)$, then there exists a conserved current

$$\partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(x)}{\partial(\partial_\mu \Psi(x))} \delta\Psi(x) \right) = 0 \quad (1.2)$$

In classical mechanics, the conservation of linear momentum, angular momentum, and energy follows from translational invariance, rotational variance, and invariance under translations in time. Likewise, charge conservation can be shown to arise from the invariance of the Dirac Lagrangian density $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Dirac}} = \bar{\Psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\Psi$ under the particle wavefunction's phase transformation, $\Psi'(x) = \exp(ie\chi)\Psi(x)$. Thus Noether's theorem establishes a correspondence between a gauge symmetry and a conserved internal property (e.g. charge or momentum).

1.2.2 Local gauge symmetries

Interactions between particles arise if we modify the wave function with a phase transformation $\Psi'(x) = \exp(ie\chi)\Psi(x)$, and allow the phase χ to be a function of spacetime. A wave function of the form

$$\Psi'(x) = \exp(ie\chi(x))\Psi(x) \quad (1.3)$$

can be verified to *not* be a solution to the Dirac equation for free particles: $(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\Psi(x) = 0$. This necessitates a modified Dirac equation, where the derivative takes into account that the vector field $V(x)$ needs to be compared at two displaced space-time points in a curvilinear coordinate system:

$$\mathcal{D}_\mu \equiv \lim_{\Delta x^\mu \rightarrow 0} \frac{V_{||}(x + \Delta x) - V(x)}{\Delta x^\mu} \quad (1.4)$$

We define a covariant derivative,

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ieA_\mu \quad (1.5)$$

where $A_\mu(x)$ is a 4-vector potential. Thus the modified Dirac equation reads:

$$(i\gamma^\mu \mathcal{D}_\mu - m) \Psi(x) = 0 \quad (1.6)$$

The simultaneous gauge transformation $A'_\mu(x) = A_\mu(x) - \partial_\mu \chi(x)$ and wavefunction transformation $\Psi'(x) = \exp(ie\chi(x))\Psi(x)$ leaves the covariant-derivative form of the Dirac equation (Eqn 1.1) invariant.

The generalization of this result is as follows: if a theory is invariant for unitary transformations U of the particle states according to

$$\Psi' = U\Psi \quad (1.7)$$

One must define a derivative of the form

$$D^\mu = \partial^\mu + igB^\mu \quad (1.8)$$

to keep the theory invariant under Eqn. 1.7. The four-potential B^μ represents the interacting four-potential which must be added to keep the theory invariant.

In the case of the Standard Model, the theory is built around the gauge transformations $G = SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$. $SU(3)$ is associated to the strong force (subscripted C); $SU(2)$ is associated to the weak force (subscripted L); and $U(1)$ is hypercharge (subscripted Y). The gauge-covariant derivative is

$$\mathcal{D}_\mu = \partial_\mu - ig'B_\mu \frac{Y}{2} - igW_\mu^\alpha \frac{\tau_a}{2} - ig_s G_\mu^k \frac{\lambda_k}{2} \quad (1.9)$$

- In the $U(1)_Y$ term, B_μ is the weak hypercharge field.
- In the $SU(2)_L$ term, $W_\mu(x) = (W_\mu^1(x), W_\mu^2(x), W_\mu^3(x))$ are a triplet of four-potentials. $\tau/2$ are the Pauli matrices, generators of the $SU(2)$ transformation.

- In the $SU(3)_C$ term, the gluon (color) field is G_μ . λ_k are the Gell-Man matrices, generators of the $SU(3)$ transformation.

The invariance of the Standard Model under $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ requires massless fermions and massless force carriers.

1.3 The Higgs Mechanism

To introduce mass into the theory, i.e. to change the propagation of the gauge particles and all the fermions, the physical vacuum cannot have all the symmetries of the Standard Model Lagrangian [CITE]. The symmetries of the physical vacuum must be spontaneously broken, without affecting gauge invariance in the Lagrangian. The Higgs mechanism proposes the existence of a scalar field, or fields, with nonzero vacuum expectation values, which reduce the gauge symmetries of the physical vacuum from $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ down to $SU(3)_C \times U(1)_{EM}$.

The Higgs field interacts with the gauge bosons and fermions throughout space, impeding their free propagation. The resulting broken symmetry correctly predicts the mass ratio of the neutral (Z) and charged (W) massive electroweak bosons, and predicts that at least one physical degree of freedom in the Higgs field is a particle degree of freedom, called the Higgs boson. The location of the minimum of the Higgs potential can be constrained from previously measured Standard Model parameters, but the shape of the mass distribution of the Higgs boson must be experimentally measured.

The minimal choice of Higgs field comes from the breaking of $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ down to $U(1)_{EM}$. The smallest $SU(2)$ multiplet is the doublet. The existence of three massive electroweak bosons leads the Higgs sector to have at least three degrees of

freedom. The minimal single-doublet complex scalar Higgs field is

$$\Phi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+(x) \\ \phi^0(x) \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1^+(x) + i\phi_2^+(x) \\ \phi_1^0(x) + i\phi_2^0(x) \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.10)$$

where ϕ_1^+ , ϕ_2^+ , ϕ_1^0 , and ϕ_2^0 are real (four degrees of freedom). By convention, the nonzero vacuum expectation value is assigned to ϕ_1^0 .

The minimal self-interacting Higgs potential that is invariant under $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ is given by

$$V(\Phi^\dagger \Phi) = -\mu^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi + \lambda (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2, \quad \mu^2 > 0, \lambda > 0 \quad (1.11)$$

where λ is the coupling strength of the four-point Higgs interaction. The potential energy is minimized at

$$\Phi_{\min} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{where } v = \sqrt{\mu^2/\lambda} \quad (1.12)$$

Choosing a fixed orientation of $\langle \Phi \rangle$ out of a continuous set of possible ground states spontaneously breaks the symmetry of the physical vacuum, as illustrated in Fig 1.2.

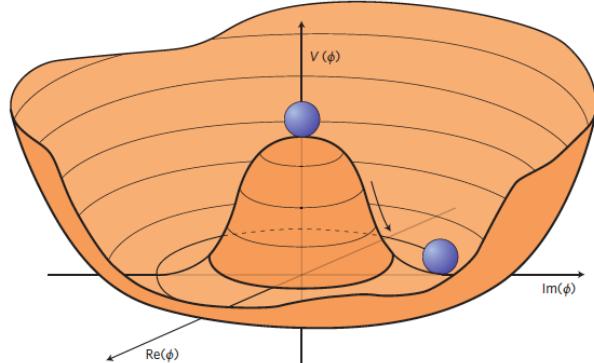


Figure 1.2: An illustration of the Higgs potential [CITE]. Choosing any of the points at the bottom of the potential breaks spontaneously the rotational $U(1)$ symmetry.

The excitations of the Higgs field with respect to the minimum Φ_{\min} are parameterized by

$$\Phi(x) = \exp(i\boldsymbol{\xi}(x) \cdot \boldsymbol{\tau}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + H(x) \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.13)$$

Three degrees of freedom are coupled directly to the electroweak gauge bosons; this is often referred to as the gauge bosons “eating up” the Goldstone bosons to form the longitudinal polarizations of the massive spin-1 boson states. The $H(x)$ excitation is in the radial direction and corresponds to the free particle state of the Higgs boson.

1.4 Two-Higgs Doublet Models

One of the simplest possible extensions to the Standard Model is adding a doublet to the minimal Higgs sector of the Standard Model, which is a $SU(2)_L$ doublet H with hypercharge $Y = +\frac{1}{2}$, denoted here as $H \sim 2_{+1/2}$. These extensions are found in several theories such as supersymmetry. A general 2HDM can be extended with a light scalar (2HDM+S) to obtain a rich set of exotic Higgs decays [CITE].

The charges of the Higgs fields are chosen to be $H_1 \sim 2_{-1/2}$ and $H_2 \sim 2_{+1/2}$, which acquire vacuum expectation values $v_{1,2}$ which are assumed to be real and aligned. Expanding about the minima yields two complex and four real degrees of freedom:

$$H_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} v_1 + H_{1,R}^0 + iH_{1,I}^0 \\ H_{1,R}^- + iH_{1,I}^- \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.14)$$

$$H_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} H_{2,R}^+ + iH_{2,I}^+ \\ v_2 + H_{2,R}^0 + iH_{2,I}^0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.15)$$

The charged scalar and pseudoscalar mass matrices are diagonalized by a rotation angle β , defined as $\tan \beta = v_2/v_1$. One charged (complex) field and one neutral pseudoscalar combination of $H_{1,2,I}^0$ are eaten by the SM gauge bosons after electroweak

symmetry breaking. The other complex field yields two charged mass eigenstates H^\pm , which are assumed to be heavy. The remaining three degrees of freedom yield one neutral pseudoscalar mass eigenstate

$$A = H_{1,I}^0 \sin \beta - H_{2,I}^0 \cos \beta \quad (1.16)$$

and two neutral scalar mass eigenstates (where $-\pi/2 \leq \alpha \leq \pi/2$)

$$\begin{pmatrix} h \\ H^0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \\ \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} H_{1,R}^0 \\ H_{2,R}^0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1.17)$$

We assume that the 2HDM is near or in the decoupling limit: $\alpha \rightarrow \pi/2 - \beta$, where the lightest state in the 2HDM is h , which we identify as the 125 GeV Higgs particle. In this limit, the fermion couplings of h become identical to the Standard Model Higgs, while the gauge boson couplings are very close to Standard Model-like for $\tan \beta \gtrsim 5$. All of the properties of h are determined by just two parameters: $\tan \beta$ and α , and the fermion couplings to the two Higgs doublets.

2HDM can be extended by a scalar singlet (2HDM+S):

$$S = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(S_R + iS_I) \quad (1.18)$$

If this singlet only couples to the Higgs doublets $H_{1,2}$ and has no direct Yukawa couplings, all of its couplings to SM fermions result from mixing with $H_{1,2}$. Under these simple assumptions, exotic Higgs decays $h \rightarrow ss \rightarrow X\bar{X}Y\bar{Y}$ or $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow X\bar{X}Y\bar{Y}$, and $h \rightarrow aZ \rightarrow X\bar{X}Y\bar{Y}$ are permitted, where $s(a)$ is a (pseudo)scalar mass eigenstate mostly composed of $S_R(S_I)$, and X, Y are Standard Model fermions or gauge bosons. There are two pseudoscalars in the 2HDM+S, and the mostly singlet-like pseudoscalar can be chosen to be the one lighter than the SM-like Higgs. For

$m_a < m_h - m_Z \sim 35$ GeV, the exotic Higgs decay $h \rightarrow Za$ is possible, and for $m_a < m_h/2 \approx 63$ GeV, the exotic Higgs decay $h \rightarrow aa$ is possible.

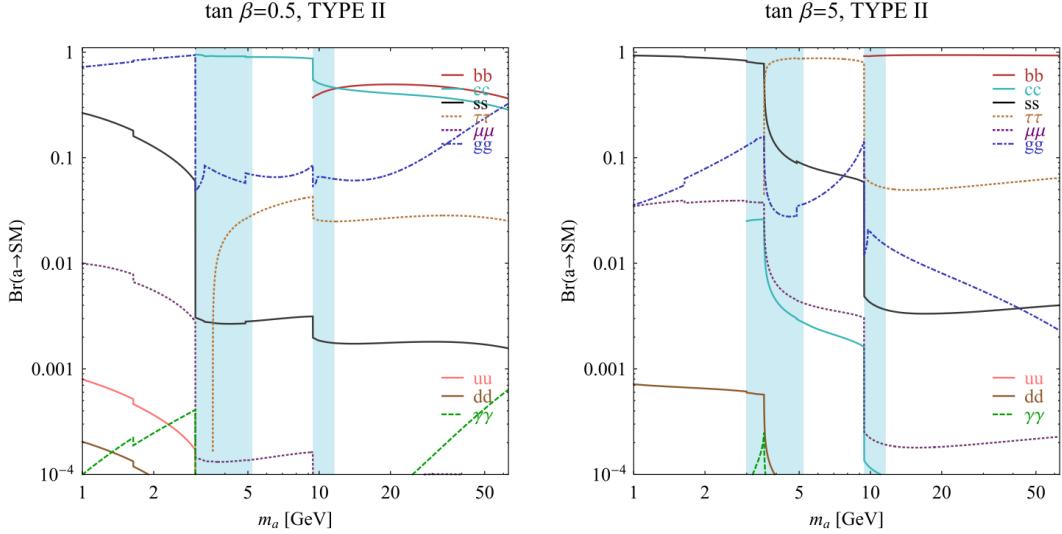


FIG. 7 (color online). Branching ratios of a singletlike pseudoscalar in the 2HDM + S for type-II Yukawa couplings. Decays to quarkonia likely invalidate our simple calculations in the shaded regions.

Figure 1.3: Figure 7 from Curtin et al. (2014): Branching ratios of a singlet-like pseudoscalar in Type II 2HDM+S for $\tan\beta = 0.5$ (left) and $\tan\beta = 5$ (right), showing the dependence of the branching ratios on $\tan\beta$, as well as the prominence of the branching ratios to bb and $\tau\tau$, the channels searched for in the analysis presented here.

In 2HDM, and by extension 2HDM+S, there are four types of fermion couplings commonly discussed in the literature that forbid flavour-changing neutral currents at tree level. These are referred to as Type I (all fermions couple to H_2), Type II (MSSM-like, d_R and e_R couple to H_1 , u_R to H_2), Type III (lepton-specific, leptons and quarks couple to H_1 and H_2 respectively) and Type IV (flipped, with u_R , e_R coupling to H_2 and d_R to H_1). The exact branching ratios of the pseudoscalars to Standard Model particles vary depending on the 2HDM+S model and the value of $\tan\beta$ (e.g. Fig. 1.3).

1.5 Two Real Singlet Model

The two real singlet model (TRSM) adds two real singlet degrees of freedom to the Standard Model. These are written as two real singlet fields S and X . Depending on the vacuum expectation values acquired by the scalars, different phases of the model can be realized [CITE]. To reduce the number of free parameters, two discrete \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetries are introduced. The fields are decomposed as

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{\phi_h + v}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}, S = \frac{\phi_S + v_S}{\sqrt{2}}, X = \frac{\phi_X + v_X}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (1.19)$$

To achieve electroweak-breaking symmetry, $v = v_{SM} \sim 246$ GeV is necessary. If the vacuum expectation values $v_S, v_X \neq 0$ the \mathbb{Z}_2 are spontaneously broken, and the fields $\phi_{h,S,X}$ mix into three physical scalar states. This is called the broken phase and leads to the most interesting collider phenomenology.

The mass eigenstates $h_{1,2,3}$ are related to the fields $\phi_{h,S,X}$ through a 3×3 orthogonal mixing matrix denoted R . The mass eigenstates are assumed to be ordered $M_1 \leq M_2 \leq M_3$. R is parameterized by the three mixing angles θ_{hS} , θ_{hX} , θ_{SX} . The nine parameters of the scalar potential can be expressed in terms of the three physical Higgs masses, the three mixing angles, and the three vacuum expectation values.

After fixing one of the Higgs masses to the mass of the observed Higgs boson, and fixing the Higgs doublet vacuum expectation value to its Standard Model value, there are seven remaining free parameters of the TRSM.

In one benchmark scenario of TRSM, the heaviest scalar state h_3 is identified with the 125 GeV Higgs, h_{125} , and it can decay asymmetrically $h_{125} \rightarrow h_1 h_2$, which we also denote $h \rightarrow a_1 a_2$ to highlight the similarity with the symmetric decay $h \rightarrow aa$ typically interpreted in 2HDM+S as discussed. The parameter values in TRSM are chosen such that the coupling of h_3 to Standard Model particles are nearly identical to the Standard Model predictions.

In benchmark scenario 1 (benchmark plane 1, or BP1) (Fig. 1.4 from [CITE] Robens et. al), the maximal branching ratios for $h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_2$ reach up to 7–8% which translates into a signal rate of around 3 pb. These maximal branching ratios are reached in the intermediate mass state for h_2 , $M_2 \sim 60 - 80$ GeV. For $M_2 < 40$ GeV, although phase space opens up significantly for light decay products, the branching ratio becomes smaller.

If the decay channel $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ is kinematically open (i.e. $M_2 > 2M_1$), it is the dominant decay mode leading to a significant rate for the $h_1 h_1 h_1$ final state, in a “cascade” decay. In BP1, $BR(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1) \simeq 100\%$ above the red line in Fig. 1.4. If, in addition, $M_1 \gtrsim 10$ GeV, the h_1 decays dominantly to $b\bar{b}$ leading to a sizable rate for the $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ final state as shown in Fig. 1.4 (*bottom right*).

If the $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ decay is kinematically closed (i.e. $M_2 < 2M_1$), both scalars decay directly to Standard Model particles, with branching ratios identical to a Standard Model-like Higgs boson, i.e. with the $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ final state dominating, as shown in Fig. 1.4 (*bottom left*), while at smaller masses, combinations with τ leptons and eventually final states with charm quarks and muons become relevant.

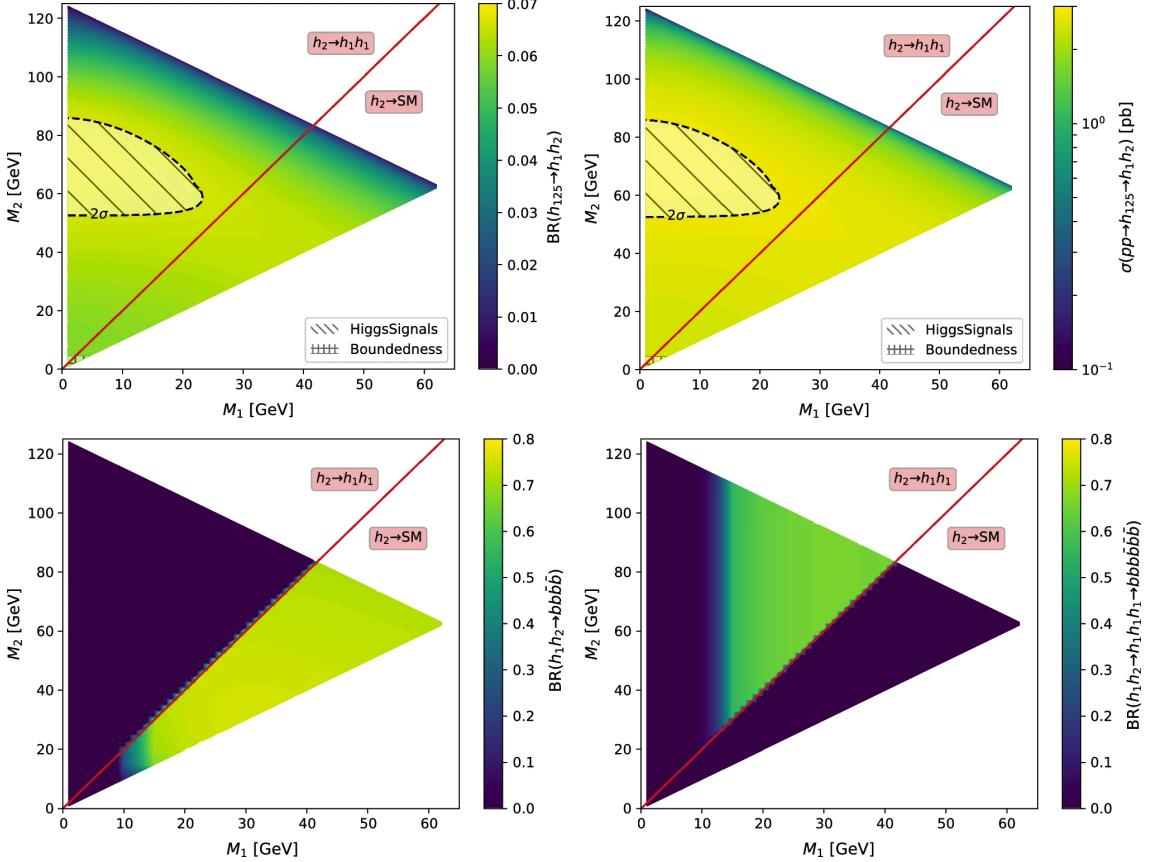


Figure 1.4: Benchmark plane BP1 for benchmark scenario 1 from [CITE] Robens et. al. for the decay signature $h_{125} \rightarrow h_1 h_2$ with $h_{125} \equiv h_3$, defined in the (M_1, M_2) plane. The color code shows $\text{BR}(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_2)$ (*top left*) and the 13 TeV LHC signal rate for $pp \rightarrow h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_2$ (*top right*). The red line separates the region $M_2 > 2M_1$, where $\text{BR}(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1) \sim 100\%$, from the region $M_2 < 2M_1$, where $\text{BR}(h_2 \rightarrow F_{SM}) \sim 100\%$. The *bottom left* and *right* show the branching ratio of the $h_1 h_2$ into (respectively) $bb\bar{b}\bar{b}$, and through a $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ cascade to $bb\bar{b}\bar{b}\bar{b}\bar{b}$. The hatched region indicates where the decay rate slightly exceeds the 2σ upper limit inferred from the LHC Higgs rate measurements, though the region depends on the parameter choices and experimental searches should cover the whole mass range.

Chapter 2

The Large Hadron Collider and the CMS Experiment

2.1 The Large Hadron Collider

The CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is an accelerator complex consisting of a 27-kilometer ring of superconducting magnets with accelerating structures to boost the energy of particles, which collide at a center-of-mass energy of up to 14 TeV. The beams inside the LHC are made to collide at four locations around the accelerator ring, at the locations of four particle detectors: ATLAS, CMS, ALICE, and LHCb. An aerial view of the four major experiments' locations is shown in Fig. 2.1. ATLAS and CMS are the two general-purpose detectors with broad physics programmes spanning Standard Model measurements and searches for signatures of new physics [CITE ATLAS] [CITE CMS]. The two experiments use different technical solutions and different magnet system designs. ALICE is a general-purpose detector dedicated to measuring LHC heavy-ion collisions, and is designed to address the physics of strongly interacting matter, and the properties of quark-gluon plasma [CITE ALICE]. The LHCb experiment specializes in investigating CP violation through measuring

the differences in matter and antimatter, by using a series of subdetectors to detect mainly forward particles close to the beam direction [CITE LHCb].

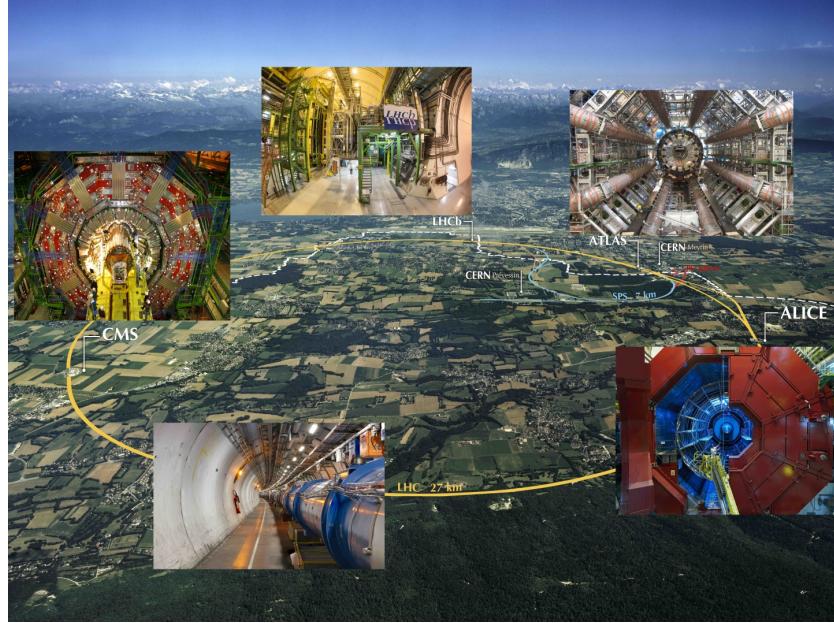


Figure 2.1: Aerial view of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) spanning the border of France and Switzerland, and the four major experiments located around the ring: CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid), LHCb (LHC beauty), ATLAS (A Toroidal LHC Apparatus), and ALICE (A Large Ion Collider Experiment). [CITE]

The accelerator complex at CERN is a succession of machines that accelerate particles in stages until they reach their final energy of 6.5 TeV per beam [CITE] [CITE]. In Linear accelerator 4 (Linac4), negative hydrogen ions (hydrogen atoms with an additional electron) are accelerated to 160 MeV, and stripped of their two electrons, leaving only protons, before entering the Proton Synchrotron Booster (PSB). These protons are accelerated to 2 GeV, then to 26 GeV in the Proton Synchrotron (PS), and 450 GeV in the Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS). The protons are transferred to the two beam pipes of the LHC, where one beam circulates clockwise and the other counterclockwise. Each LHC ring takes 4 minutes and 20 seconds to fill, and it takes about 20 minutes for the protons to reach their maximum energy. During normal operating conditions, beams circulate for many hours inside the LHC ring.

2.2 Luminosity and pileup

The number of events generated per second by the LHC collisions is given by

$$N_{event} = \mathcal{L} \cdot \sigma_{event} \quad (2.1)$$

where σ_{event} is the cross-section for the event under study, and \mathcal{L} the machine luminosity. The machine luminosity is measured in units of $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, and depends only on the beam parameters, and can be written for a Gaussian beam distribution as:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{N_b^2 n_b f_{rev} \gamma_r}{4\pi \epsilon_n \beta^*} F \quad (2.2)$$

where the parameters are as defined, along with some example typical nominal values in Phase-1 of the LHC:

- N_b is the number of particles per bunch ($N_b \approx 1.15 \times 10^{11}$ protons per bunch),
- n_b is the number of bunches per beam (maximum 2808),
- f_{rev} is the revolution frequency (≈ 11 kHz),
- γ_r is the relativistic gamma factor,
- ϵ_n is the normalized transverse beam emittance (area in a transverse plane occupied by the beam particles),
- β^* is the beta function at the collision point ($\beta^* = 0.55$ m),
- and F is the geometric luminosity reduction factor due to the crossing angle at the interaction points ($F \approx 0.84$ for Phase-1. Note that complete overlap would give $F = 1$).

Peak luminosity at interaction points 1 and 5 reach values of $\sim 1.0 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, with peak luminosity per bunch crossing reaching $\sim 3.56 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Per Eqn. 2.1, the integrated luminosity over time is proportional to the number of events produced, and the size of LHC datasets is commonly presented in terms of integrated luminosity. Collider operation aims to optimize the integrated luminosity. Thus the exploration of rare events in the LHC collisions requires both high beam energies and high beam intensities.

The LHC’s nominal beam luminosities are sufficiently large for multiple proton-proton collisions to occur in the same time window of 25 nanoseconds in which proton bunches collide. These multiple collisions will lead to particle interactions overlapping in the detector. To measure a proton-proton collision, the single collision must be separated from overlapping collisions, which are called “pileup” collisions. A distribution of pileup in the data-taking years 2016-2018 is shown in Fig. 2.2. The pileup is defined as the average number of pp collisions per bunch crossing.

CMS reports an inelastic pp cross section of $\sigma_{\text{inel}} = 68.6$ millibarns at a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV [1], which can be used to estimate pileup as follows:

$$\text{Pileup} = \frac{\mathcal{L} \times \sigma_{\text{inel}}}{n_b \cdot f} \quad (2.3)$$

With the example values above, pileup can be estimated to be ~ 22 .

Thus, higher luminosities create more intense pileup conditions, posing a greater challenge to detector performance and particle reconstruction and identification.

2.3 The High-Luminosity LHC

The High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) is a major upgrade of the LHC scheduled to take place in the late 2020s, that will increase the instantaneous luminosity by a factor of five beyond the original design value, and the integrated luminosity by a factor of ten [CITE HL-LHC]. This will be accomplished through accelerator technological advances: for instance, reduction of the interaction point β^* from 0.55 m down to 0.15

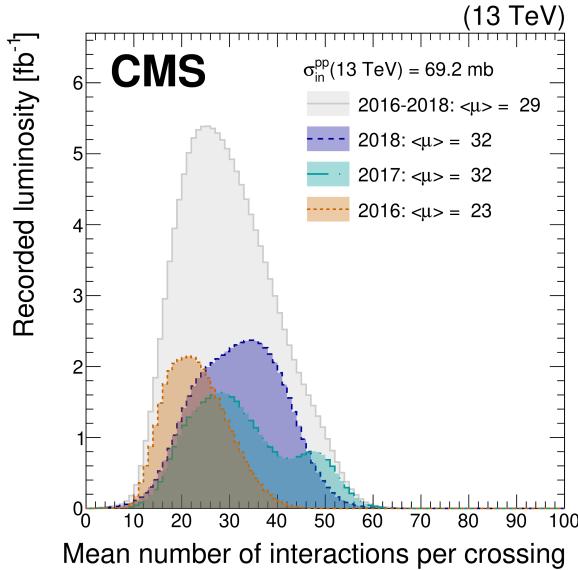


Figure 2.2: Distribution of the mean number of inelastic collisions per bunch crossing (pileup) in data [CITE], for proton-proton collisions in 2016 (*dotted orange*), 2017 (*dotted light blue*), 2018 (*dotted dark blue*), and integrated over 2016-2018 (*solid grey*). A cross-section of inelastic proton-proton collisions of 69.2 mbarns is assumed. In the running conditions of the High-Luminosity LHC, pileup will reach unprecedented levels of up to 200 per bunch crossing. [CITE HL-LHC]

m by installation of new final-focusing magnets, and improvements in the geometric luminosity loss factor $F \approx 1$ through the installation of crab cavities that optimize the orientation of colliding bunches. A further discussion of the HL-LHC upgrades for the CMS detector follows in a later section.

2.4 The CMS Detector

The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment was conceived to study proton-proton and lead-lead collisions at a center-of-mass energy of 14 TeV (5.5 TeV nucleon-nucleon) and at luminosities up to $10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ($10^{27} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$). Starting from the beam interaction region at the center of the CMS detector, particles first pass through a silicon pixel and strip tracker, in which charged-particle trajectories (tracks) and origins (vertices) are reconstructed from signals (hits) in the sensitive layers. The

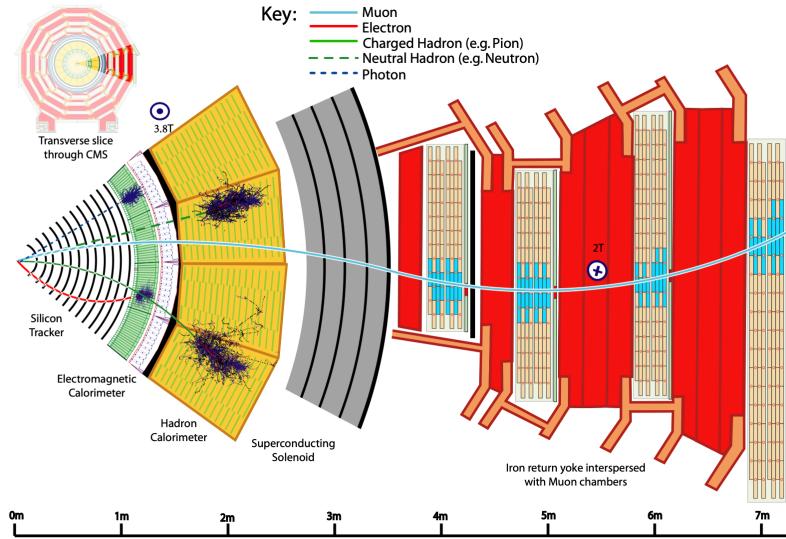


Figure 2.3: Sketch of particle trajectories of muons, electrons, charged and neutral hadrons, and photons in a transverse cross-section of the CMS detector, from [CITE] <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1706.04965.pdf>.

tracker is immersed in a high-magnetic-field superconducting solenoid that bends the trajectories of charged particles, allowing the measurement of their electric charge and momenta. Electrons and photons are then absorbed in an electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL) comprised of lead-tungstate scintillating-crystals. The corresponding electromagnetic showers are detected as clusters of energy recording in neighboring cells, from which the direction and energy of the particles can be determined. Charged and neutral hadrons may initiate a hadronic shower in the ECAL as well, which is then fully absorbed in the hadron calorimeter (HCAL). The resulting clusters are used to estimate their direction and energies. Muons and neutrinos pass through the calorimeters with little to no interactions. Neutrinos escaped undetected; muons produce hits in additional gas-ionization chamber muon detectors housed in the iron yoke of the flux-return. A sketch of example particle interactions in a transverse slice of the CMS detector is shown in Fig. 2.3. The collision data is recorded with the use of the Level-1 (L1) trigger (discussed separately in 3.1), high-level trigger (HLT), and data acquisition systems ensuring high efficiency in selecting physics events of

interest.

CMS uses a right-handed coordinate system [CITE]. The origin is centered at the nominal collision point inside the experiment. The x axis points towards the center of the LHC, and the y axis points vertically upwards. The z axis points along the beam direction. The azimuthal angle, ϕ , is measured from the x axis in the x - y plane, and the radial coordinate in this plane is denoted by r . The polar angle, θ , is measured from the z axis. The pseudorapidity, η , is defined as $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$. The momentum and energy transverse to the beam direction, denoted by p_T and E_T respectively, are computed from the x and y components. The momentum imbalance in the transverse plane is called the missing transverse momentum, and its magnitude is denoted by E_T^{miss} .

2.5 Sub-detectors of CMS

This section details the sub-detectors of CMS that operate to identify and precisely measure muons, electrons, photons, and jets over a large energy range.

2.5.1 Inner tracking system

The CMS Tracker performs robust tracking and detailed vertex reconstruction in the 4 T magnetic field of the superconducting solenoidal magnet. The primary sensors used in the tracker are p^+ on n -bulk devices, which allow high voltage operation and are radiation-resistant [CITE original tracker TDR]. The active envelope of the CMS Tracker extends to a radius of 115 cm, over a length of approximately 270 cm on each side of the interaction point [CITE] Charged particles in the region $|\eta| \lesssim 1.6$ benefit from the full momentum measurement precision. In this region, a charged particle with p_T of 1000 GeV has a sagitta of ~ 195 μm . The Tracker acceptance extends further to $|\eta| = 2.5$, with a reduced radius of approximately 50 cm.

The high magnetic field of CMS causes low p_T charged particles to travel in helical trajectories with small radii. The majority of events contain particles with a steeply falling p_T spectrum, resulting in a track density which rapidly decreases at higher radii.

A schematic view of the current Phase-1 CMS tracker, including the pixel detector, is shown in Fig. 2.4. The Phase-1 pixel detector consists of three barrel layers (BPIX) at radii of 4.4 cm, 7.3 cm, and 10.2 cm, and two forward/backward disks (FPIX) at longitudinal positions of ± 34.5 cm and ± 46.5 cm, and extending in radius from about 6 cm to 15 cm. These pixelated detectors produce 3D measurements along the paths of charged particles with single hit resolutions between 10-20 μm .

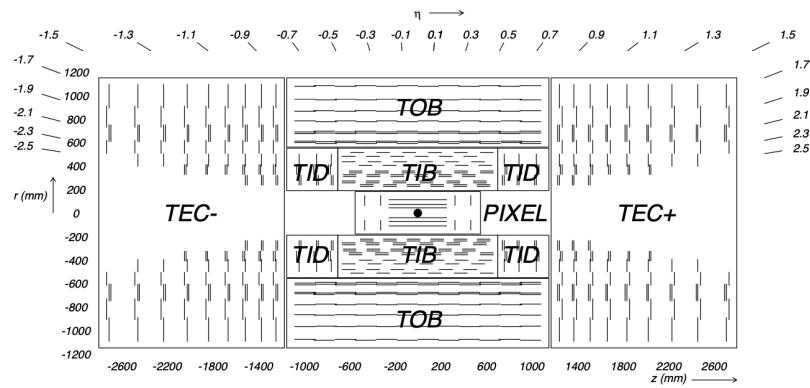


Figure 2.4: Cross section of the current Phase-1 CMS tracker from [CITE]. Each line represents a detector module. Double lines indicate back-to-back modules which deliver two-dimensional (stereo) hits in the strip tracker.

After the pixel and on their way out of the tracker, particles pass through the silicon strip tracker which reaches out to a radius of 130 cm (Fig. 2.4). The sensor elements in the strip tracker are single-sided p -on- n type silicon micro-strip sensors [CITE 2008 CMS]. The silicon strip detector consists of four inner barrel (TIB) layers assembled in shells, with two inner endcaps (TID), each composed of three small discs. The outer barrel (TOB) consists of six concentric layers. Two endcaps (TEC) close off the tracker on either end.

2.5.2 ECAL

The electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL) of CMS measures electromagnetic energy deposits with high granularity. One of the driving criteria in the design was the capability of detecting the Standard Model Higgs boson decay to two photons (in fact, the channel in which the 125 GeV Higgs boson was discovered at CMS). ECAL is a hermetic homogeneous calorimeter comprised of 61,200 lead tungstate (PbWO_4) crystals mounted in the central barrel, with 7,324 crystals in each of the two endcaps [CITE]. A preshower detector is located in front of the endcap crystals. Avalanche photodiodes (APDs) are used as photodetectors in the barrel and vacuum phototriodes (VPTs) in the endcaps.

The design of the ECAL is driven by the behaviour of high-energy electrons, which predominantly lose energy in matter via bremsstrahlung, and high-energy photons by e^+e^- pair production. The characteristic amount of matter traversed for these interactions is the radiation length X^0 , usually measured in units of g cm^{-2} . The radiation length is also the mean distance over which a high-energy electron loses all but $1/e$ of its energy via bremsstrahlung [CITE PDG]. Thus high granularity in η and ϕ , and the length of the ECAL crystals, is designed to capture the shower of e/γ produced by electrons and photons.

The barrel part of the ECAL (EB) covers the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 1.479$. The barrel granularity is 360-fold in ϕ and (2×85) -fold in η . The crystal cross-section corresponds to approximately 0.0174×0.0174 in $\eta - \phi$ or $22 \times 22 \text{ mm}^2$ at the front face of the crystal, and $26 \times 26 \text{ mm}^2$ at the rear face. The crystal length is 230 mm, corresponding to $25.8 X_0$.

The ECAL read-out acquires the signals of the photodetectors. At each bunch crossing, digital sums representing the energy deposit in a trigger tower, comprising 5×5 crystals in $\eta \times \phi$, are generated and sent to the Level-1 trigger system (detailed in Section 3.1).

2.5.3 HCAL

The hadronic calorimeter (HCAL) of CMS measures hadronic energy, which is key to characterizing the presence of apparent missing transverse energy which could arise from hadron jets and neutrinos or exotic particles. A schematic of the components of HCAL are shown in Fig. 2.5. The HCAL barrel (HB) and endcaps (HE) are located outside of the tracker and the ECAL, spanning a radius of 1.77 m (outer extent of ECAL) up to 2.95 m (inner extent of the magnet coil). An outer hadron calorimeter (HO) is placed outside the solenoid to complement the barrel calorimeter. Beyond $|\eta| = 3$, the forward hadron calorimeter (HF) at 11.2 m from the interaction point extend the pseudorapidity coverage to $|\eta| = 5.2$.



Figure 2.5: Longitudinal view of the CMS detector showing the hadron calorimeter barrel (HB), endcap (HE), outer (HO), and forward (HF) calorimeters from [CITE 2008 JINST 3 S08004].

The HB is a sampling calorimeter covering the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 1.3$. It consists of 36 identical azimuthal wedges which form two half-barrels (HB+ and HB-), with a segmentation of $(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi) = (0.087, 0.087)$. The HE covers pseudorapidity $1.3 < |\eta| < 3$. The HB and endcap HE calorimeters are sampling calorimeters which use brass as the absorber and plastic scintillator as the active material. Light from the plastic scintillator is wavelength-shifted and captured in optic fibers which are

read out by front-end electronics [CITE].

In the central pseudorapidity region, the combined stopping power of EB plus the HB is insufficient to contain hadron showers [CITE]. To ensure adequate sampling depth, the hadron calorimeter is extended with a tail catcher, the HO. The size and position of the tiles are designed to roughly map the layers of the HB to make towers with the same granularity of 0.087×0.087 in η and ϕ . HO uses the same active material as the HB and HE calorimeters, but uses the steel return yoke and magnet material of CMS as absorbers [CITE].

The HF is a Cherenkov calorimeter based on a steel absorber and quartz fibers which run longitudinally through the absorber and collect Cherenkov light, primarily from the electromagnetic component of showers developed in the calorimeter [CITE]. Photomultiplier tubes are used to collect light from the quartz fibers. The HF is designed to survive in the harsh radiation conditions and high particle flux of the forward region. On average, 760 GeV per proton-proton interaction is deposited into the two forward calorimeters, compared to only 100 GeV for the rest of the detector [CITE]. Furthermore, this energy has a pronounced maximum at the highest rapidities.

2.5.4 Muon detectors

The CMS muon system is designed to have the capability of reconstructing the momentum and charge of muons over the kinematic range of the LHC, since muons are a powerful handle on signatures of interesting processes over the high background rate of the LHC. For instance, the decay of the Standard Model Higgs boson into ZZ , which in turn decay to 4 leptons, can be reconstructed with high 4-particle mass resolution if all the leptons are muons, since muons are less affected than electrons by radiative losses in the tracker material.

The muon system consists of a cylindrical barrel section and two planar endcap

regions. The barrel muon detector consists of drift tube (DT) chambers covering the pseudorapidity region $|\eta| < 1.2$ (Fig. 2.6). The DTs can be used as tracking detectors due to the barrel region's characteristic low neutron-induced backgrounds, low muon rate, and relatively uniform 4T magnetic field contained in the steel yoke.

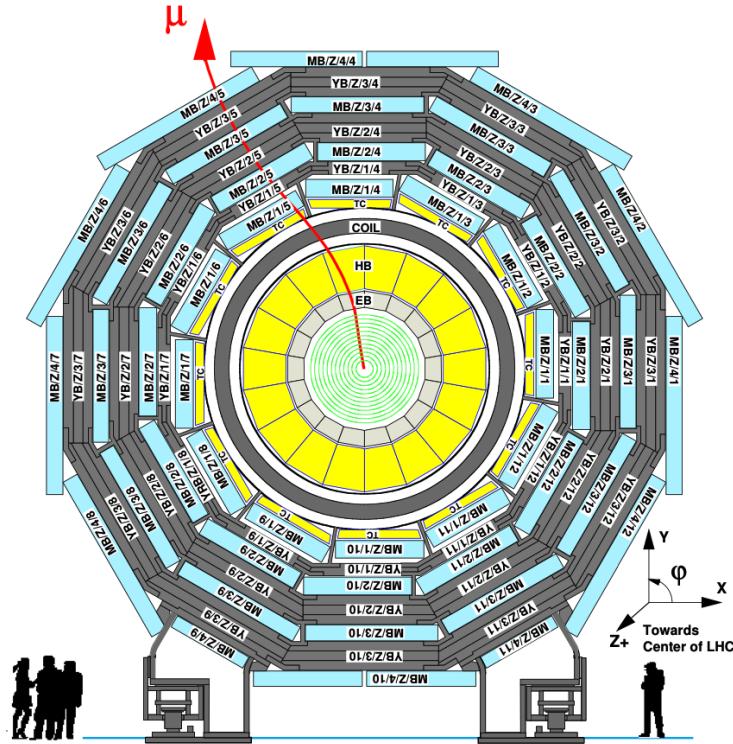


Figure 2.6: Layout of the CMS barrel muon drift tube (DT) chambers in one of the five wheels from [CITE 2008 JINST 3 S08004]. The DTs are organized in 12 sectors of the yoke barrel (YB). In each of the 12 sectors of the yoke, there are 4 muon chambers per wheel (MB1, MB2, MB3, and MB4).

In the two endcap regions, the muon rates and background levels are high and the magnetic field is large and non-uniform. Here, the muon system uses cathode strip chambers (CSCs) to identify muons between $0.9 < |\eta| < 2.4$. The cathode strips of each chamber run radially outwards and provide a precision measurement in the $r - \phi$ bending plane. The anode wires run approximately perpendicular to the strips and are read out in order to measure η and the beam-crossing time of a muon.

In addition to the DT and CSC, a dedicated trigger system consisting of resistive plate chambers (RPCs) in the barrel and endcap regions provide a fast, independent, and highly-segmented trigger with a sharp p_T threshold over a large portion of the pseudorapidity range ($|\eta| < 1.6$) of the muon system. RPCs have good time resolution but coarser position resolution compared to the DTs or CSCs. The RPCs also play a role in resolving ambiguities in reconstructing tracks from multiple hits in a chamber.

2.5.5 The High-Level Trigger

The HLT is implemented in software running on a large computer farm of fast commercial processors. The algorithms in HLT have access to full data from all CMS sub-detectors, including the tracker, with full granularity and resolution. The HLT reconstruction software is similar to what is used offline for full CMS data analysis. As a result, the HLT can calculate quantities with a resolution comparable to the final detector resolution, compared to the L1 Trigger. The HLT performs more computationally-intensive algorithms, such as combining tau-jet candidates in the calorimeter with high- p_T stubs in the tracker, to form a hadronic tau trigger. The maximum HLT input rate from the L1 Trigger is 100 kHz, and the HLT output rate is approximately 100 Hz.

2.5.6 Particle reconstruction

To build a description of the physics objects present in the particle collision, the basic elements from the detector layers (tracks and clusters of energy) are correlated to identify each particle in the final state. Measurements from different sub-detectors are combined to reconstruct the particle properties. This approach is called particle-flow (PF) reconstruction [CITE]. Key to the success of the PF reconstruction is the fine spatial granularity of the detector layers. Coarse-grained detectors can cause the signals from different particles to merge, especially within jets. However, if the

subdetectors are sufficiently segmented to separate individual particles, it becomes possible to produce a global event description that identifies all physics objects with high efficiencies and resolution.

2.5.7 Data storage and computational infrastructure

The LHC generates over 15 petabytes (15 million gigabytes) of data every year, necessitating a flexible computing system that can be accessed by researchers working at the four main LHC experiments: ALICE, ATLAS, CMS, and LHCb. The Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (WLCG) is a global collaboration of computer centers that links thousands of computers and storage systems in over 170 centers across 41 countries. These centers are arranged in “tiers”, and provide near real-time access to users processing, analyzing, and storing LHC data. One of the final stages of data analysis at LHC experiments is large-scale data processing taking place over distributing computing, for instance, with the use of Condor, a distributed, scalable, flexible batch processing system which accepts a computing job, allocates a resource to it, executes it, and returns the result back to a user transparently [CITE].

Chapter 3

The CMS Phase-1 Level-1 Trigger

3.1 The Phase-1 Level-1 Trigger

The design performance of the LHC corresponds to an instantaneous luminosity of $10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ with a 25 ns bunch crossing rate, giving an average pile-up (number of simultaneous events) of 25 per bunch crossing. The large number of minimum bias events per bunch crossing, combined with the small cross-sections of possible physics discovery signatures, necessitates a sophisticated event selection system for filtering this large event rate, as it is impossible to save all events. This data filtering system is implemented by CMS in two stages. The first stage is the Level-1 (L1) Trigger, which is deployed in custom electronic hardware systems and is responsible for reducing the event rate to around 100 kHz. The second stage is the High-Level Trigger (HLT) which is described in Section 2.5.5. This section describes the Phase-1 configuration of the Level-1 Trigger.

The L1 Trigger data flow of Phase-1 is shown in Fig. 3.1, with organization into the L1 calorimeter trigger, the L1 muon trigger, and the L1 global trigger.

The L1 calorimeter trigger begins with trigger tower energy sums formed by the ECAL, HCAL, and HF Trigger Primitive Generator (TPG) circuits from the indi-

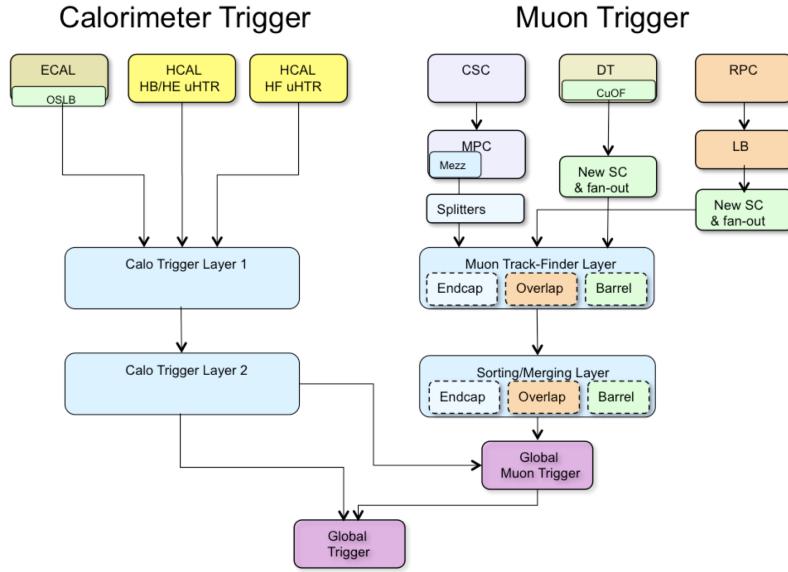


Figure 3.1: Dataflow for the Phase-1 Level-1 Trigger [CITE], which is implemented in custom hardware and is responsible for reducing the event rate from the LHC bunch crossing frequency of 400 MHz (bunch crossings every 25 ns) to a maximum rate of 100 kHz. In Phase-1, the Level-1 Trigger has access to information from the calorimeter and muon detectors.

vidual calorimeter cell energies. In the original configuration, the ECAL energies were accompanied by a bit indicating the transverse extent of the electromagnetic energy deposits, and the HCAL energies were accompanied by a bit indicating the presence of minimum ionizing energy [CITE]. Between Long Shutdowns 1 and 2 (LS1 and LS2), HF was upgraded to provide finer granularity information to the trigger, and the HCAL barrel and endcap front-end electronics were upgraded to provide high-precision timing information and depth segmentation information.

In the original design of the L1 calorimeter trigger, the trigger primitives are processed by the Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT, upgraded to Calo Layer 1 after LS2) which finds isolated and non-isolated electron/photon candidates. (At this stage, electrons/photons candidates are treated together since they cannot be definitively distinguished at this stage due to lack of tracking information in the L1 trigger.) The Global Calorimeter Trigger (GCT, upgraded to Calo Layer 2 after LS2) sorts

further the candidate electrons/photons, finds jets (classified as central, forward, and tau) using the E_T sums and performs calibration of the clustered jet energies, and calculates global quantities such as missing E_T . It sends the top four candidates of each type to the global trigger (GT).

Each of the L1 muon triggers has its own trigger logic. The RPC strips are connected to a Pattern Comparator Trigger (PACT), which forms trigger segments that are used to build tracks and calculate p_T . The RPC logic also provides some hit data to the CSC trigger system to resolve ambiguities caused by two muons in the same CSC. The CSCs form local charged tracks (LCTs) from the cathode strips, which are combined with the anode wire information. LCTs are combined into full muon tracks and assigned p_T values.

The Global Muon Trigger (GMT) sorts the RPC, DT, and CSC muon tracks, converts these tracks to the same η , ϕ , and p_T scale, and validates the muon sign. It improves the trigger efficiency by merging muon candidates that were detected in two complementary sub-systems (i.e. DT+RPC, or CSC+RPC). The GMT also contains logic to correlate the found muon tracks with an $\eta - \phi$ grid of quiet calorimeter towers to determine if the muons are isolated, as well as logic to remove duplicate candidates originating in the overlap regions from both DT and CSC systems. The final collection of muons are sorted based on their initial quality, correlation, and p_T , and the top four muons are sent to the Global Trigger.

Information from the GCT and GT are sent to the Global Trigger (GT), which makes the Level-1 Accept (L1A) decision to either discard or accept the bunch crossing. This is accomplished by sorting ranked trigger objects that are accompanied by positional information in η and ϕ , permitting the trigger to applying criteria with thresholds that can vary based on the location of the trigger objects, and/or to require trigger objects to be close to or opposite from each other. The GT L1A decision arrives at the detector front end with a $3.8\ \mu\text{s}$ latency after the interaction at a rate

which is required to be less than 100 kHz, and triggers a full readout of the detector for further processing.

Chapter 4

The Phase-2 Upgrade of CMS

4.1 High-Luminosity LHC and CMS

In order to sustain and extend the LHC’s physics discovery program and maintain operability for a decade or more, the LHC is undergoing a major upgrade to the High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC). In its final configuration, the HL-LHC will deliver a peak luminosity of $7.5 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, potentially leading to total integrated luminosity of 4000 fb^{-1} after ten years of operations, scheduled to begin in 2027 [CITE]. This integrated luminosity is about ten times the predicted luminosity reach of the LHC in its initial configuration. To maximize the discovery potential of this unprecedented amount of data, the CMS detector is undergoing Phase-2 upgrades in order to perform high-precision measurements and searches for physics beyond the Standard Model in the intense running conditions of the HL-LHC.

4.2 The Phase-2 Level-1 Trigger

To achieve the goals of the HL-LHC program and to ensure the collection of information-rich datasets in the HL-LHC, the Phase-2 upgrade of the CMS Level-1 Trigger must be upgraded in conjunction with the CMS sub-detectors and their readouts, to main-

tain physics selectivity. The HL-LHC will produce an intense hadronic environment corresponding to 200 simultaneous collisions per beam crossing, necessitating comprehensive upgrades of the trigger system outlined below.

To profit from the extended coverage and increased granularity of the upgraded CMS detector, the latency of the L1 trigger system (time available to produce a L1 Accept signal) will be increased significantly from $3.8 \mu\text{s}$ to $12.5 \mu\text{s}$, with an increased maximum output bandwidth of 750 kHz. [CITE]. With the increased latency, in addition to information from calorimeters and muon detectors (as in the Phase-1 system), information from the new tracker and high-granularity endcap calorimeter can also be included at L1 for the first time. This is illustrated in the functional diagram of the architecture of the Phase-2 trigger system in Fig. 4.1.

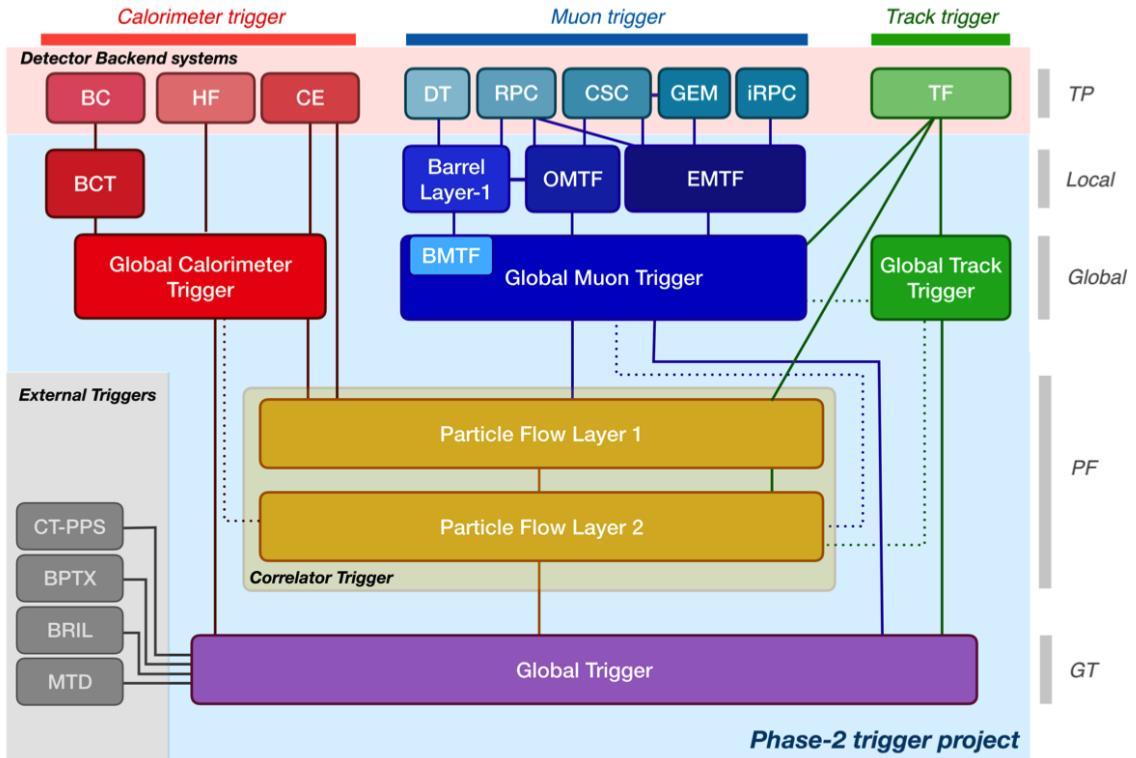


Figure 4.1: Functional diagram of the CMS L1 Phase-2 upgraded trigger design from [CITE] <https://cds.cern.ch/record/2714892/files/CMS-TDR-021.pdf>, showing the four trigger paths: calorimeter, muon, track, and Particle Flow. For the first time, tracking information will be available as early as the L1 Trigger.

The key feature of the Phase-2 L1 Trigger is the introduction of a correlator layer, where algorithms produce higher-level trigger objects by combining information from sub-detectors, with a selectivity approaching that of offline reconstruction in the HLT. Four independent data processing paths (grouped together in Fig. 4.1) are implemented: tracking, calorimetry, muon systems, and particle-flow techniques:

- **Calorimeter Trigger path:** (*red*, Fig. 4.1) A barrel calorimeter trigger (BCT) and the HGCAL backend are used to produce high-granularity information from the calorimeters to produce high-resolution clusters and identification variables used for later processing. Outputs from the BCT, HGCAL, and the HF are sent to a global calorimeter trigger (GCT), where calorimeter-only objects such as e/γ candidates, hadronically decaying tau lepton candidates, jets, and energy sums are built.
- **Track Trigger path:** (*green*, Fig. 4.1) Tracks from the Outer Tracker are reconstructed in the track finder (TF) processors as part of the detector backend. A global track trigger (GTT) will reconstruct the primary vertices of the event, along with tracker-only based objects, such as jets and missing transverse momentum.
- **Muon Trigger path:** (*blue*, Fig. 4.1) Trigger primitives are processed by muon track finder algorithms, again separated into the barrel (barrel muon track finder, BMTF), overlap (overlap muon track finder, OMTF), and endcap (endcap muon track finder, EMTF). Standalone muons and stubs containing information such as position, bend angle, and timing, as well as L1 tracks, are sent to the global muon trigger (GMT).
- **Particle-Flow Trigger path:** (*yellow*, Fig. 4.1) The correlator trigger (CT) aims to approach the performance of offline Particle Flow, and is implemented in two layers. “Layer-1” produces the particle-flow candidates from matching

calorimeter clusters and tracks. “Layer 2” builds and sorts final trigger objects and applies additional identification and isolation criteria.

The outputs from the above trigger paths are combined in the Global Trigger (GT) (*purple*, Fig. 4.1), which calculates the final trigger decision (Level-1 Accept), transmitting it to the Trigger Control and Distribution System (TCDS), which distributes it to the detector backend systems, initiating the readout to the DAQ. The GT also provides the interface to external triggers (*grey*, Fig. 4.1), such as triggers for the precision proton spectrometer (PPS), beam position and timing monitors (BPTX), and luminosity and beam monitoring (BRIL) detectors. The design of the Phase-2 Level-1 Trigger allows for future inclusion of triggering information, for instance information about minimum ionizing particles (MIPs) from the MIP Timing Detector (MTD).

4.3 Standalone Barrel Calorimeter electron/photon reconstruction

The reconstruction and identification of electrons and photons (e/γ) begin with the trigger primitives of the barrel ECAL and HCAL detectors and endcap HGCAL calorimeters, covering the pseudorapidity region $|\eta| < 3$. The barrel and endcap regions of the detector are intrinsically different enough to warrant different approaches to e/γ reconstruction. This work focuses on the Standalone Calorimeter e/γ reconstruction taking place in the barrel (Fig. 4.2).

4.3.1 Phase-2 geometry of the ECAL Barrel trigger

In Phase-2, the upgrade of both on-detector and off-detector electronics for the barrel calorimeters trigger primitive generator (TPG) will stream single crystal data from

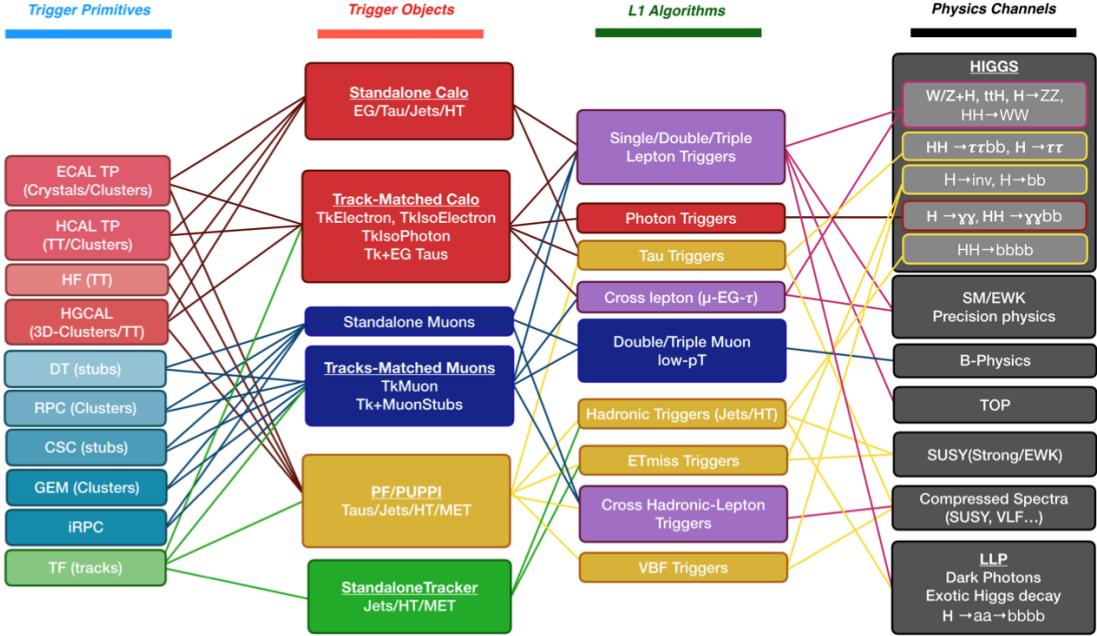


Figure 4.2: Summary of the links between the trigger primitives (*first column*), the trigger objects (*second column*), the Level-1 algorithms used in the menu (*3rd column*), and the physics channels (*4th column*), from [CITE] <https://cds.cern.ch/record/2714892/files/CMS-TDR-021.pdf>, where a full description of the Phase-2 L1 algorithms can be found. This work focuses on developments for the Standalone Calorimeter electron and photon ("EG") reconstruction algorithm.

the on-detector to the backend electronics, in contrast to the lower-granularity output of the Phase-1 ECAL TPG that is restricted to providing trigger tower sums of 5×5 crystals. A schematic representation of the geometry of the ECAL barrel in the Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT) is shown in Fig. 4.3. The barrel is spanned by 36 RCT cards, each spanning 17×4 towers in $\eta \times \phi$. Each RCT card is subdivided into five “regions” as shown in Fig. 4.4. After initial clustering and processing, the outputs of the RCT card are sent to the Global Calorimeter (GCT) trigger, which is processed in three cards as shown in Fig. 4.5.

4.3.2 Phase-2 electron/photon reconstruction algorithm

The standalone barrel algorithm for reconstructing and identifying electrons and photons in the Phase-2 Level-1 Trigger takes as input the digitized response of each crystal of the barrel ECAL, with a granularity 0.0175×0.0175 in $\eta \times \phi$, which is 25 times higher than the input to the Phase-1 trigger, which consisted of trigger towers with a granularity of 0.0875×0.0875 . In HCAL the tower size of 0.0875×0.0875 is unchanged. The trigger algorithm is designed to closely reproduce the algorithm used in the offline reconstruction, with limitations and simplifications due to trigger latency.

In the RCT, an initial requirement of $p_T > 0.5$ GeV is imposed on the input trigger primitives (i.e. energies from the ECAL crystals and HCAL towers) to reject contribution from pileup. In one of the regions inside a RCT card (Fig. 4.4), the crystal containing the highest energy deposit is identified as the seed crystal, as shown in Fig. 4.6. The energy in the crystals in a window of size 3×5 in $\eta \times \phi$ around the seed cluster is added into a cluster. The energy is considered “clustered”. The process is repeated with the remaining “unclustered” energy, until up to four clusters are produced in the region.

To improve e/γ identification and to reduce background contributions, identification and reconstruction algorithms are implemented at this stage:

- Shower shape: The energy deposit sums around the seed crystal is computed in windows of size 2×5 and 5×5 (Fig. 4.6, *dashed lines*), with true e/γ clusters tending to produce showers that deposit most of their energy in a 2×5 region.
- Bremsstrahlung recovery: e/γ tend to spread in the ϕ direction due to charged particles being bent by the magnetic field of the CMS solenoid. If sufficient energy comparable to the core 3×5 cluster is found in the adjacent 3×5 windows (Fig. 4.6, *shaded yellow*), the energy is added to the core cluster and no longer considered unclustered energy.

After parallel processing in the regions, the clusters in a RCT card are stitched together if they are located directly along the borders of a region (Fig. 4.3). The remaining unclustered ECAL energy is summed into ECAL towers.

From each RCT card, the twelve highest-energy clusters, as well as any remaining unclustered energy, are sent to the GCT. Since each GCT card has information from sixteen RCT cards (Fig. 4.5), final stitching across the boundaries of the RCT cards is performed. One more identification algorithm is performed at this stage:

- Isolation: One handle to reject backgrounds from e.g. pileup, comes from the tendency for background to be spread more uniformly across a large area in the detector, whereas genuine e/γ are expected to produce showers concentrated in the 3×5 crystal window. The energy sum in a large window of 7×7 in towers is computed and used to reject background.

The performance of the standalone barrel e/γ algorithm in Phase-2 conditions is summarized in the efficiency and rates. The efficiencies are measured with a simulated Monte Carlo sample containing electrons. The rates are measured with a simulated minimum bias sample intended to closely mimic generic proton-proton collisions in the CMS detector. The performance of the Phase-2 emulator discussed in this work, which closely mimics the firmware logic and uses fixed-precision integers, is shown to be comparable to the previous emulator which used floats and idealized logic.

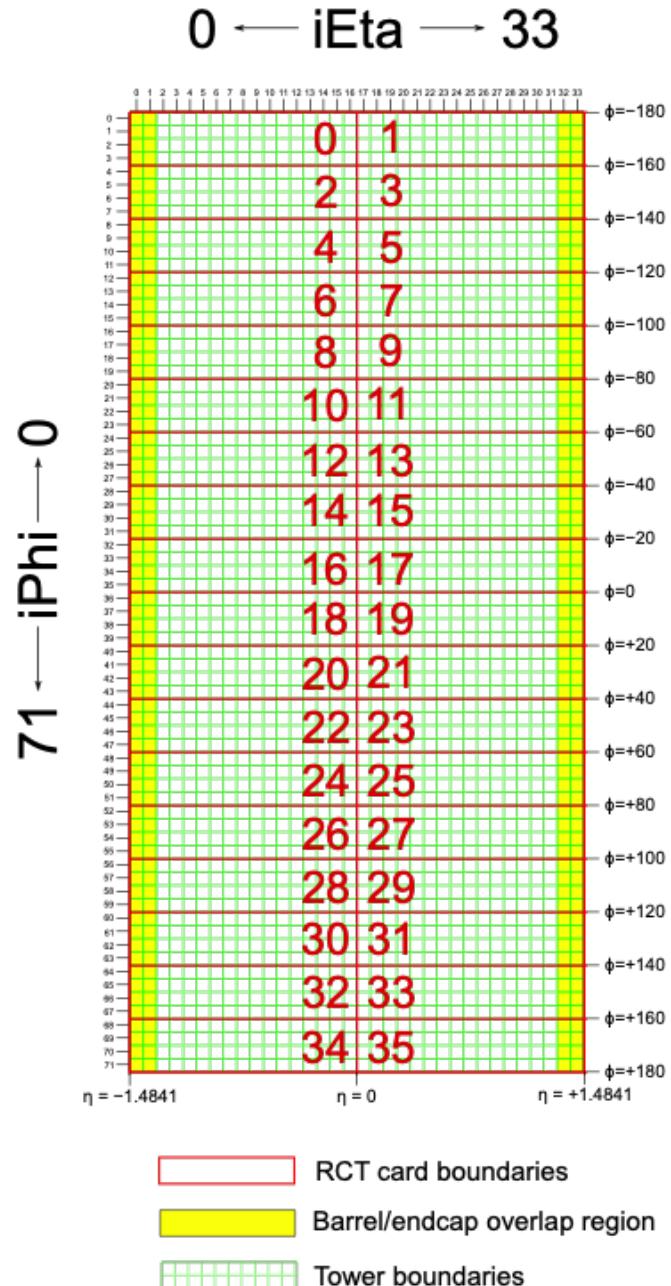


Figure 4.3: Schematic of the geometry of the Phase-2 ECAL barrel in the Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT), showing the division of the barrel region into 36 Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT) cards (*red*). Each card spans 17×4 towers in $\eta \times \phi$ (*green*), and each tower is 5×5 in single crystals in $\eta \times \phi$. Towers in the overlap region (*shaded yellow*) are read out to both the barrel and endcap.

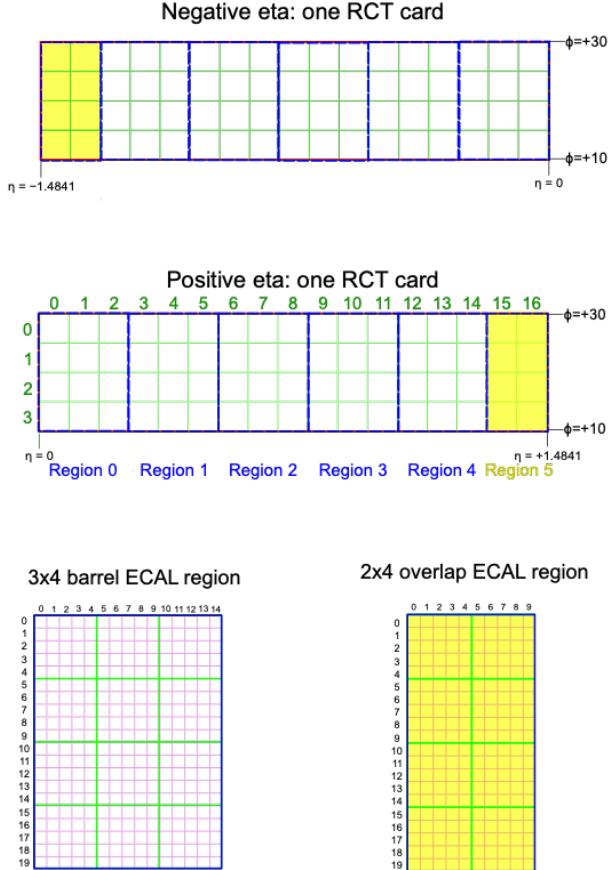


Figure 4.4: Schematic of two example RCT cards in the negative eta (*top*) and positive eta (*center*) regions of the ECAL barrel. Each RCT card is divided into five regions: four regions are of size 3×4 towers in $\eta \times \phi$ (*bottom left*), and a fifth smaller overlap region of size 2×4 towers (*bottom right*). Each tower is 5×5 ($\eta \times \phi$) in crystals.

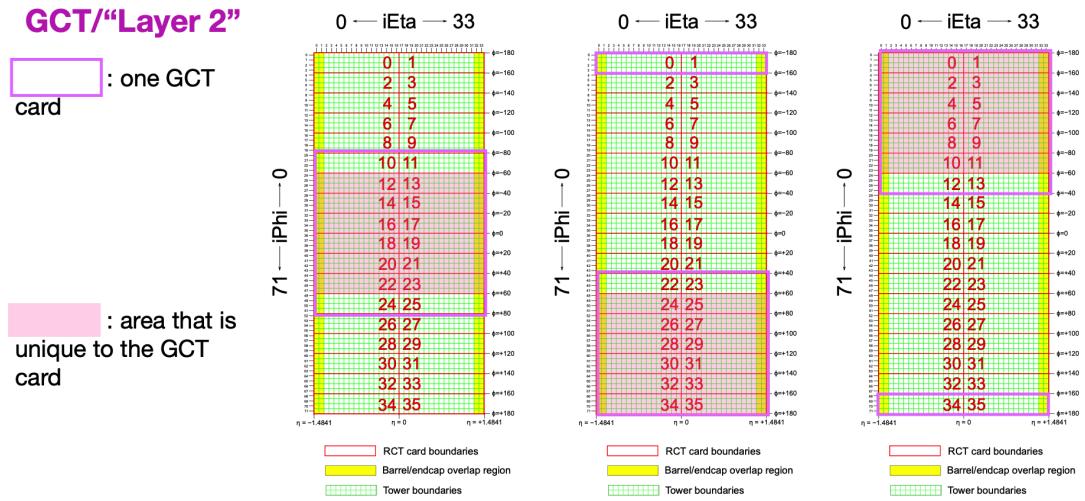


Figure 4.5: Schematic of the Phase-2 ECAL barrel in the Global Calorimeter Trigger (GCT), which will process the outputs of the Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT) in three cards (*magenta highlights*). Each card in the GCT processes the equivalent of sixteen RCT cards, with the center twelve being unique to that GCT card (*shaded pink*), and the remaining four processed in overlap with the other GCT cards.

3x4 barrel ECAL region

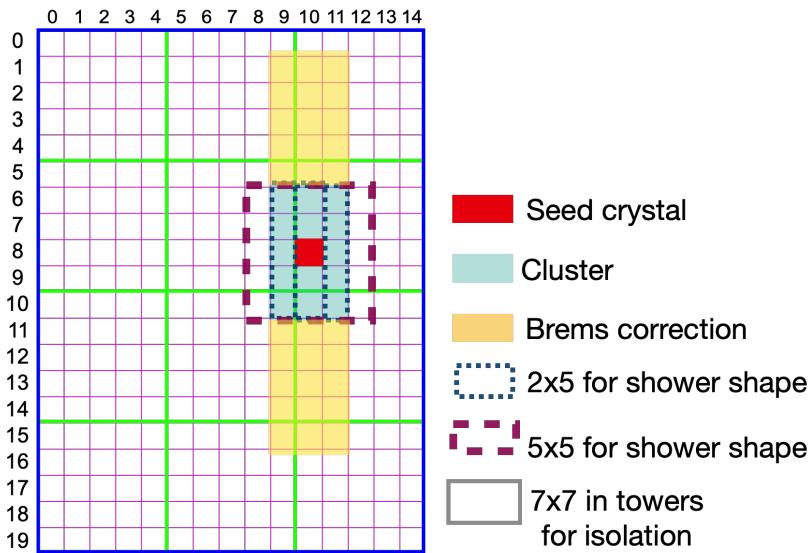


Figure 4.6: Illustration of an example electron/photon (e/γ) cluster in the Phase-2 Level-1 Trigger standalone barrel e/γ reconstruction, in a region of 15×20 crystals (3×4 towers). Each small pink square is one crystal, the highest-granularity ECAL trigger primitives available to the L1 Trigger in Phase-2. The core cluster consists of the energy sum in a 3×5 window of crystals, (*shaded light blue*) centered around the seed crystal (*red*). Bremsstrahlung corrections are checked in the adjacent 3×5 windows in the ϕ direction (*shaded light yellow*). The relative energies in windows of size 2×5 and 5×5 in crystals (*dashed dark blue and dark red*) are used to compute shower shape variables to identify true e/γ objects. Lastly, an isolation sum is computed in a window of size 7×7 in towers (not shown in figure).

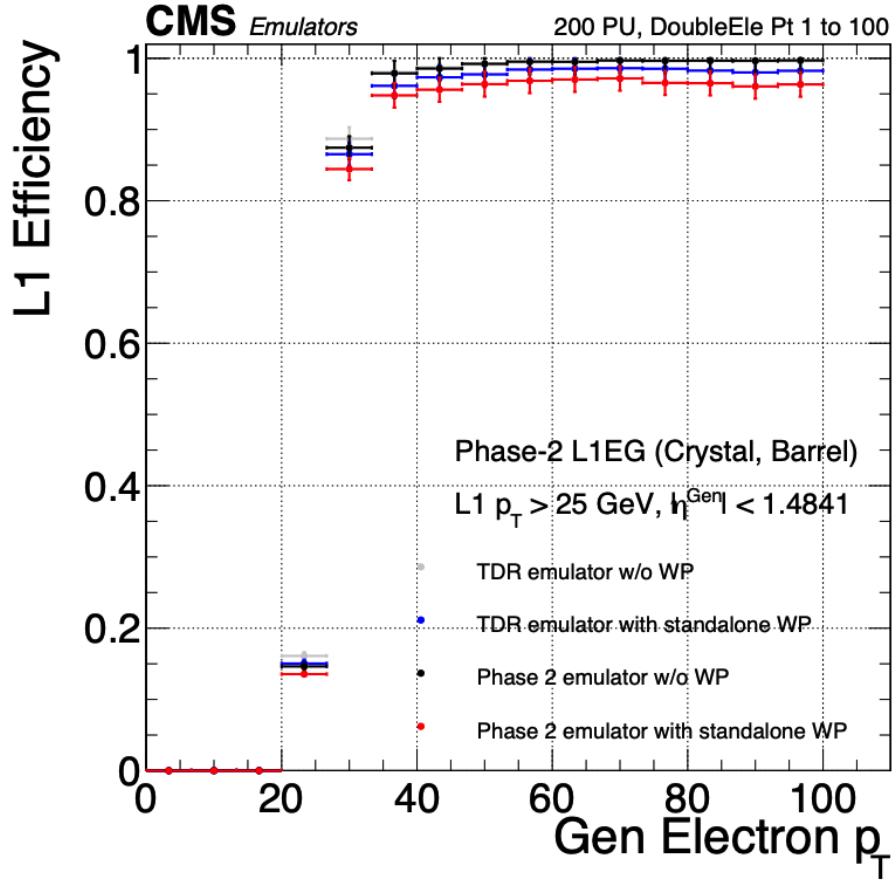


Figure 4.7: Efficiency of the standalone barrel e/γ reconstruction, measured in a simulated sample of electrons, as a function of the true electron's transverse momentum p_T . The performance of the previous, idealized algorithm as shown in the 2021 TDR [CITE] with and without the isolation and shower shape discrimination variables (“standalone working point/ WP”) (*dark blue, grey*). The Phase-2 emulator discussed in this work with and without the same working point (*black, red*) is shown to have comparable performance.

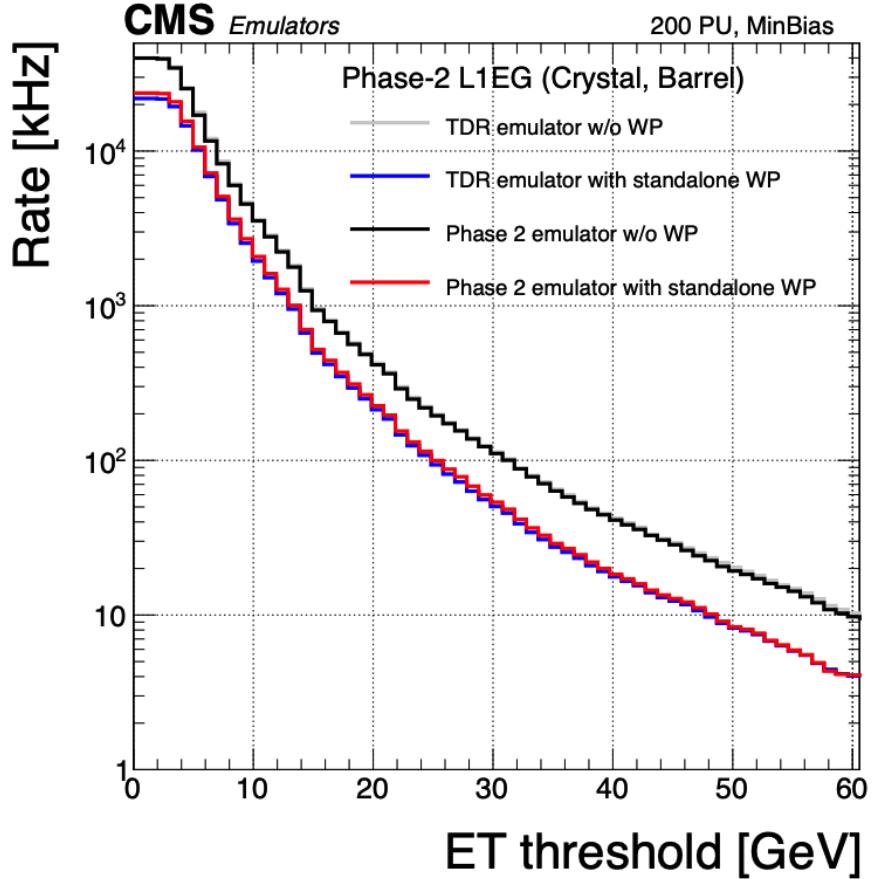


Figure 4.8: Rates of the standalone barrel e/γ reconstruction, evaluated on a minimum bias sample, measured as a function of the minimum energy (E_T) required of the reconstructed e/γ object in each event. The performance of the previous, idealized algorithm as shown in the 2021 TDR [CITE] with and without the isolation and shower shape discrimination variables (“standalone working point/ WP”) (dark blue, grey). The Phase-2 emulator discussed in this work with and without the same working point (black, red) is shown to have comparable performance.

Chapter 5

Event reconstruction

We review the properties of the particles most pertinent to the analyses presented in this work (taus, muons, electrons, jets, and b-jets), their signatures in the CMS detector, and dedicated reconstruction techniques used at CMS.

5.1 Taus

5.1.1 Decay modes

The lifetime of τ leptons is short enough that they decay before reaching the detector elements. In two thirds of the cases, τ leptons decay hadronically, typically into one or three charged mesons (predominantly π^+ , π^-), often accompanied by neutral pions (that decay $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$), and a ν_τ . These hadronic decays are denoted τ_h . In the remainder of the decays, the tau decays to the lighter leptons (electron or muon), termed leptonic decays. In all cases, at least one neutrino is produced, resulting in missing transverse energy in the CMS detector. The tau's largest decay branching ratios (proportional to probability of decay) are listed below [2]:

- 17.8% decay to $e^- \bar{\nu}_e \nu_\tau$
- 17.4% decay to $\mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu \nu_\tau$

- 25.5% decay to $\pi^-\pi^0\nu_\tau$ (ρ^- resonance at 770 MeV)
- 10.8% decay to $\pi^-\nu_\tau$
- 9.3% decay to $\pi^-\pi^0\pi^0\nu_\tau$ (a_1^- resonance at 1200 MeV)
- 9.0% decay to $\pi^-\pi^-\pi^+\nu_\tau$ (a_1^- resonance at 1200 MeV)

The neutrinos escape undetected from the CMS detector and are not considered in the reconstruction. Charged hadrons leave tracks in the tracking detector before being absorbed in the hadronic calorimeter; in CMS tau reconstruction terminology, they are often called “prongs”, i.e. the dominant τ_h decay modes are termed “1 prong” (π^\pm), “1 prong + $\pi^0(s)$ ”, and “3-prong”. Neutral pions decay to two photons which lose their energy in the electromagnetic calorimeter. Taus that decay to electrons and muons, are typically triggered on and reconstructed as electrons and muons respectively.

5.1.2 Hadron plus strips (HPS) reconstruction

At CMS, hadronically decaying tau leptons are reconstructed with the hadron plus strips (HPS) algorithm [3] [4]. The HPS algorithm capitalizes on photon conversions in the CMS tracker material, which originate from the neutral pion (π^0) decaying to two photons. The bending of electron/positron tracks due to the CMS solenoid magnetic field leads to a spread of the neutral pions’ calorimeter signatures in the ϕ direction. This motivates the reconstruction of photons in “strips”: objects that are built out of PF photons and electrons. The strip reconstruction starts with centering a strip on the most energetic electromagnetic particle in a PF jet. Among other electromagnetic particles located in a window of size $\Delta\eta = 0.05$ and $\Delta\phi = 0.20$ around the strip center, the most energetic one is associated with the strip and its momentum is added to the strip momentum. This is repeated iteratively until no

further particles can be associated. Lastly, strips satisfying a requirement of $p_T^{\text{strip}} > 1$ GeV are combined with charged hadrons to reconstruct individual τ_h decay modes, where h stands for both π and K :

- *Single hadron:* $h^- \nu_\tau$ and $h^- \pi^0 \nu_\tau$ decay modes, in which the neutral pions have too little energy to be reconstructed as strips.
- *One hadron + one strip:* $h^- \pi^0 \nu_\tau$ decay modes, where the photons from the π^0 decay are close together in the calorimeter.
- *One hadron + two strips:* $h^- \pi^0 \nu_\tau$ decay modes, where the photons from the π^0 decay are well separated.
- *Three hadrons:* $h^- h^+ h^- \nu_\tau$ decay modes. The three charged hadrons are required to originate from the same secondary vertex.

The $h^- \pi^0 \pi^0 \nu_\tau$ and $h^- h^+ h^- \pi^0 \nu_\tau$ decay modes do not have their own treatment are reconstructed with the above topologies.

In the HPS algorithm, the direction of the reconstructed tau momentum \vec{p}^{τ_h} is required to fall within a distance of $\Delta R = 0.1$ from the original PF jet. All charged hadrons and strips are required to be contained within a cone of size $\Delta R = (2.8 \text{ GeV})/p_T^{\tau_h}$, from the τ_h as reconstructed by the HPS.

All charged hadrons are assumed to be pions, and they are required to be consistent with the masses of the intermediate meson resonances (if applicable), with the following allowed windows for candidates: 50-200 MeV for π^0 , 0.3-1.3 GeV for ρ , and 0.8-1.5 GeV for a_1 . If the τ_h decay is compatible with more than one hypothesis, the one giving the highest $p_T^{\tau_h}$ is chosen. Lastly, an isolation requirement is applied: aside from the τ_h decay products, no charged hadrons or photons can be present within an isolation cone of size $\Delta R = 0.5$ around the direction of the τ_h . The outputs of the HPS algorithm are the reconstructed decay mode and the visible four-momentum (i.e. the four-momenta of all decay products excluding the neutrinos).

5.1.3 DeepTau

The identification of τ_h candidates in CMS has historically been divided into separate discriminators against jets, electrons, and muons. Discriminators versus jets and electrons use information from derived quantities, such as the p_T sum of particles near the τ_h axis. Building on the previous multivariate analysis (MVA) classifier [5] based on a boosted decision tree (BDT), DeepTau is a more recent classifier based on a deep neural network (DNN) that simultaneously discriminates against jets, electrons, and muons. The DNN uses a combination of high-level inputs, similar to previous algorithms, and also uses convolutional layers in $\eta\text{-}\phi$ space to process information from all reconstructed particles near the τ_h axis. Convolutional layers are based on the principle that an image can be processed independently of its position.

The final DeepTau discriminators against jets, muons, and electrons are given by

$$D_\alpha(y) = \frac{y_\tau}{y_\tau + y_\alpha} \quad (5.1)$$

where y_τ (y_α) are estimates of the probabilities for the τ_h candidate to come from a genuine τ_h (jet, μ , e). Working points for each discriminator with different τ_h identification efficiencies are defined for D_e , D_μ , and D_{jet} , for usage in physics analyses and derivation of data-to-simulation corrections [6].

5.2 Muons

Muons are identified with requirements on the quality of the track reconstruction and on the number of measurements in the tracker and the muon systems [7]. In the standard CMS reconstruction, tracks are first reconstructed independently in the inner tracker (tracker track) and in the muon system (standalone-muon track). Next, these tracks are processed in two different methods.

The first is Global Muon reconstruction (outside-in) [7], which fits combined hits from the tracker track and standalone-muon track, using the Kalman-filter technique. At large transverse momenta, $p_T \gtrsim 200$ GeV, the global-muon fit can improve the momentum resolution compared to the tracker-only fit.

The second is Tracker Muon reconstruction (inside-out) [7], which starts with tracker tracks with $p_T > 0.5$ GeV and total momentum $p_T > 2.5$ GeV. These tracks are extrapolated outwards to the muon system and matched to detector segments there, taking into account the magnetic field, expected energy losses, and multiple Coulomb scattering in the detector material. Tracker Muon reconstruction is more efficient than the Global Muon reconstruction at low momenta, $p \lesssim 5$ GeV, because it only requires a single muon segment in the muon system, whereas Global Muon reconstruction typically requires segments in at least two muon stations.

To further suppress fake muons from decay in flight, isolation cuts are used. A relative isolation variable is defined to quantify the energy flow of particles near the muon trajectory. A relative isolation is defined similarly for muons and electrons:

$$I^\ell \equiv \frac{\sum_{\text{charged}} p_T + \max\left(0, \sum_{\text{neutral}} p_T - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\text{charged, PU}} p_T\right)}{p_T^\ell} \quad (5.2)$$

where $\sum_{\text{charged}} p_T$ is the scalar sum of the p_T of the charged particles originating from the primary vertex and located in a cone of size $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} = 0.4(0.3)$ centered on the direction of the muon (electron). The sum $\sum_{\text{neutral}} p_T$ is the equivalent for neutral particles. The sum $\sum_{\text{charged, PU}} p_T$ is the scalar sum of the p_T of the charged hadrons in the cone originating from pileup vertices. The factor 1/2 comes from simulation estimations, which find that the ratio of neutral to charged hadron production in the hadronization process of inelastic pp collisions is 1/2. Thus the subtracted term is intended to subtract contribution from pileup, from the neutral particle contribution to the isolation sum. Finally, this is divided by the lepton

transverse momentum, p_T^ℓ .

5.3 Electrons

Electrons are reconstructed by associating a track reconstructed in the silicon tracking detector with a cluster of energy in the ECAL. Performance is maximized via a combination of a stand-alone approach and the complementary global particle-flow approach [8].

In the stand-alone approach, the electron energy, which is typically spread over several crystals of the ECAL, is clustered with the “hybrid” algorithm in the barrel and the “multi- 5×5 ” in the endcaps [8]. The hybrid algorithm collects energy in a small window in η and an extended window in ϕ . It identifies a seed crystal, and adds arrays of 5×1 crystals in $\eta \times \phi$ in a range of $N = 17$ crystals in both directions of ϕ , if their energies exceed a minimum threshold, thus forming a supercluster (SC). In the endcap, crystals are not arranged in an $\eta \times \phi$ geometry; instead clusters are build around seed crystals in clusters of 5×5 crystals that can partly overlap. Nearby clusters are grouped into a supercluster, and energy is recovered from associated deposits in the preshower.

In the PF reconstruction [8], PF clusters are reconstructed by aggregating around a seed all contiguous crystals with energies two standard deviations above the electronic noise observed at the beginning of a data-taking run. The energy of a given crystal can be shared among two or more clusters.

The electron track reconstruction is performed in two ways [8]: the ECAL-based seeding, which begins with the SC energy and positioning, and the tracker-based seeding (part of the PF reconstruction algorithm), which uses tracks reconstructed from the general algorithm for charged particles, extrapolated towards the ECAL and matched to an SC. Kalman filter (KF) tracks with a small number of hits or that are

not well-fitted, are re-fitted with a dedicated Gaussian sum Filter (GSF).

A global identification variable [8] is defined using a multivariate analysis (MVA) technique that combines information on track observables (kinematics, quality of the KF track and GSF track), the electron PF cluster observables (shape and pattern), and the association between the two (geometric and kinematic observables). For electrons seeded only through the tracker-based approach, a weak selection is applied on this MVA variable. For electrons seeded through both approaches, a logical OR is taken.

Electron isolation, i.e. the presence of energy deposits near the electron trajectory, is a separate key handle in rejecting significant background. Compared to isolated electrons, electrons from misidentified jets or genuine electrons within a jet resulting from semileptonic decays of b or c quarks tend to have significant energy deposits near the primary trajectory [8]. Offline analyses benefit from the PF technique for defining isolation, which sums the PF candidates reconstructed located within a specified isolation cone around the electron candidate, as in Eqn. 5.2.

5.4 Jets

The vast majority of processes of interest at the LHC contains quarks or gluons in the final state, but these particles cannot be observed directly. In a process called hadronization, they fragment into spatially-grouped collections of particles called jets, which can be detected in the tracking and calorimeter systems. Hadronization and the subsequent decays of unstable hadrons can produce hundreds of nearby particles in the CMS detector. Jets are reconstructed by the PF algorithm (PF jets), or from the sum of the ECAL and HCAL energies deposited in the calorimeter towers (Calo jets). In PF jets, typically used in offline analyses, jets are built using the anti- k_T (AK) clustering algorithm [9]. The anti- k_T algorithm iterates over particle pairs and

finds the two that are closest in a distance measure d , and determines whether to combine them:

$$d_{ij} = \min(p_{T,i}^{-2}, p_{T,j}^{-2}) \frac{\Delta_{ij}^2}{R^2}, \text{ combine when } d_{ij} < p_{T,i}^{-2}; \text{ stop when } d_{ij} > p_{T,i}^{-2} \quad (5.3)$$

where $\Delta_{ij}^2 = (\eta_i - \eta_j)^2 + (\phi_i - \phi_j)^2$ and $p_{T,i}$, η_i , ϕ_i are the transverse momentum, rapidity, and azimuthal angle of particle i . The power -2 means that higher-momentum particles are clustered first, leading to jets that tend to be centered on the hardest (highest p_T) particle.

There are several methods to remove contributions of pileup collisions from jet clustering [10]:

- Charged hadron subtraction (CHS), which removes all charged hadron candidates associated with a track that is not associated with the primary vertex.
- PileUp Per Particle Identification (PUPPI), which weighs input particles based on their likelihood of arising from pileup. QCD particles tend to have a collinear structure, compared to soft diffuse radiation coming from pileup. The local shape for charged pileup, used as a proxy for all pileup particles, is used on an event-by-event basis to calculate a weight for each particle. PUPPI is deployed in Run-2 and is more performant than CHS in high pileup scenarios.

5.5 B jets

Jets that arise from bottom-quark hadronization (b jets) have overwhelming background from processes involving jets from gluons (g) and light-flavour quarks (u, d, s), and from c -quark fragmentation. The ability to identify b jets, or b -tagging, exploits the b hadrons' relatively large masses, long lifetimes, and daughter particles with hard momentum spectra [9].

The impact parameter (IP) of a track is the 3-dimensional distance between the track and the primary vertex (PV) at the point of closest approach. The IP is positive if the track originates from the decay of particles travelling along the jet axis. The resolution of the IP depends on the p_T and η of the track, motivating the use of the impact parameter significance S_{IP} (ratio of the IP to its estimated uncertainty) as an observable [9].

Because of the large but finite lifetimes of the b hadrons, b hadrons tend to travel a short distance before decaying at a secondary vertex (SV), which can be measured and reconstructed separately from the primary vertex due to the excellent position resolution of the pixel detector [9]. Previous b-tagging algorithms (e.g. CSV, cMVAv2, and DeepCSV) have capitalized on variables such as the presence of a SV, the flight distance and direction (computed from the vector between the PV and the SV), and kinematics of the system of associated secondary tracks (e.g. track multiplicity, mass, and energy).

The DeepJet (formerly known as DeepFlavour) algorithm [11] is a deep-neural-network multi-classification algorithm, which uses 16 properties of up to 25 charged and 6 properties of 25 neutral particle-flow jet constituents, as well as 17 properties from up to 4 secondary vertices associate with the jet. Compared to the previous classifying algorithm DeepCSV, DeepJet has been demonstrated to have higher efficiency with lower misidentification probability in Phase-1 data [12].

Chapter 6

Datasets and Monte Carlo samples

6.1 Datasets used

The $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow 2b2\tau$ analysis (CMS CADI line HIG-22-007) is based on proton-proton collision data at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV collected in full Run-2 (2016–18) with the CMS detector. The data analyzed corresponds to a total integrated luminosity of 138 fb^{-1} (36.33 fb^{-1} for 2016, 41.53 fb^{-1} for 2017, and 59.74 fb^{-1} for 2018) [13] [14] [15].

Data collected with the single muon trigger is used for the $\mu\tau_h$ channel. For the $e\tau_h$ channel, data collected with the single electron trigger is used; and for the $e\mu$ channel, data collected with the electron + muon trigger is used. A more in-depth discussion of the triggers used follows in a later section.

6.2 Monte Carlo samples

Modeling and computing observables originating from arbitrary physics processes at the tree level and at next-to-leading order (NLO) is performed by Monte Carlo (MC) event generators, such as Powheg and MadGraph5_amCNLO [16] [17]. The information generated, e.g. the computation of the differential cross sections and kinematics

of the final state particles, is saved in a compressed file and used to generate MC samples that are used in physics analyses. The samples are digitized using GEANT4 [18], a platform used at the LHC and other facilities to comprehensively simulate the passage of particles through matter. The digitized samples are passed through the same detector reconstruction as real data events collected in the detector.

The samples for modeling the signal ($h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow 2b2\tau$ and $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$) in the 2HDM+S and TRSM are generated at tree-level, for a range of masses of the light neutral scalar a . For $h \rightarrow aa$, the mass hypotheses for the a range from $m_a = (12 \text{ GeV}, 62.5 \text{ GeV})$. For $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$, the mass hypotheses for the two light scalars span combinations of m_{a1} , m_{a2} ranging from $(12 \text{ GeV}, 62.5 \text{ GeV})$ for the two scalars.

6.3 Embedded samples

An embedding technique is used to estimate background from the Standard Model Z boson decaying to $\tau\tau$, from data with minimal simulation input [19]. In data events selected to have $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ decays, all energy deposits of the recorded muons are removed from the event, and replaced with simulated tau leptons with the same kinematic properties as the removed muons. This results in a hybrid data format containing information from both observed and simulated events. The advantage of the Embedded samples is that the portions of the event that are difficult to model and describe (e.g. the underlying event or production of additional jets) are directly taken from data.

Chapter 7

Event selection

For the search for $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow 2b2\tau$, three final states of the $\tau\tau$ system are considered: $\mu\tau_h$, $e\tau_h$, and $e\mu$. The $\tau_h\tau_h$ final state is not considered because signal events in the $\tau_h\tau_h$ channel would typically produce hadronic taus with momenta below data-taking trigger thresholds.

In all three final states, events are required to pass at least one b-tag jet passing the medium working point of the DeepFlavour tagger, with $p_T > 20$ GeV, and $|\eta| < 2.4$. A second b-tag jet is not required because such a requirement would reduce signal acceptance by 80% compared to only requiring one b-tag jet.

Events in data, MC samples, and Embedded samples are sorted into one of the three $\tau\tau$ channels if they pass the following trigger requirements and requirements on the offline reconstructed objects in the event. The two leading leptons (e.g. muon and hadronic tau for the $\mu\tau_h$ channel) determined to have originated from the $\tau\tau$ decay, are called the leading “legs” and are respectively subscripted 1 and 2 in this work.

7.1 $\mu\tau_h$ channel

A single muon trigger is used if the muon has sufficiently high p_T , otherwise a dilepton $\mu\tau_h$ cross-trigger is used. For data taken in 2017-2018 (2016), the logical OR of the single muon triggers with online p_T thresholds 24 and 27 (23) GeV is used, with the corresponding offline muon required to have with p_T 1 GeV above the online threshold. For data taken in 2017-2018 (2016), a dilepton $\mu + \tau_h$ cross-trigger with p_T thresholds of 20 (19) and 27 (20) GeV for the muon and tau respectively, is used. The τ_h is required to have $|\eta| < 2.3$ if the single trigger is fired, $|\eta| < 2.1$.

7.2 $e\tau_h$ channel

Similarly to the $\mu\tau_h$ channel, a single electron trigger is used if the electron has sufficiently high p_T in 2018 and 2017. For data taken in 2018 (2017), the OR of the single electron triggers with online p_T thresholds at 32 and 35 (27 and 32) GeV are used, with the corresponding offline electrons required to have p_T greater than 33 (28) GeV. A $e + \tau_h$ cross-trigger is used for electrons with lower offline p_T between 25 and 33 GeV (25 and 28 GeV). For the 2016 dataset, there is no cross trigger but only a single electron trigger with online p_T threshold at 25 GeV, which is used if the offline electron has p_T greater than 26 GeV.

7.3 $e\mu$ channel

In the $e\mu$ channel, events are selected with the logical OR of two $e + \mu$ cross triggers: electron with online $p_T > 23$ GeV and muon with online $p_T > 8$ GeV, or electron with online $p_T > 12$ GeV and muon with online $p_T > 23$ GeV. The corresponding offline objects are required to have offline p_T several GeV greater than the online thresholds.

Chapter 8

Scale factors and corrections

As the modeling of the CMS detector and underlying physics processes are imperfect, scale factors and corrections are applied to Monte Carlo events and in some cases, the embedded samples, to improve agreement with measurements in data. For the standard reconstruction physics objects in this work, central recommendations provided by dedicated physics object groups (POGs) in CMS are used.

Uncertainties in scale factors and corrections are also sources of systematic errors in the analysis.

8.1 Lepton energy scales

Lepton energy scales are applied to the p_T and mass of the relevant objects (τ_h , muon, and electron). Systematic uncertainties in the lepton energy scales can shift the p_T of the leptons up or down, causing a migration of number of events that pass the offline p_T thresholds described in the previous section.

The τ_h energy scale is binned in the four reconstructed decay topologies of the τ_h [20]. When applying the energy scale to the τ_h , the 4-momentum of the missing transverse energy (MET) is adjusted such that the total 4-momenta of the τ_h and the MET remains unchanged.

Measurements of the muon energy scale have shown a relative p_T resolution range of 1% to 1.5% for muons in the barrel and less than 6% in the endcaps, which is reflected in the systematical uncertainties of the muon energy scale [21]. They are applied to genuine μ from τ decays.

Corrections to the electron energy scale are applied to genuine e from τ decays, and are binned in regions of η [22].

8.2 τ_h identification efficiency

The τ_h identification efficiency can differ in data and MC [20]. Recommended corrections are provided by the Tau POG. The identification efficiency is measured in $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ events in the $\mu\tau_h$ final state, and is binned in p_T due to clear p_T dependence of the DeepTau ID.

8.3 $e \rightarrow \tau_h$ and $\mu \rightarrow \tau_h$ misidentification efficiency

Corrections on identification efficiencies are applied to genuine electrons and muons misidentified as τ s to account for differences in data and MC. The specific values depend on the vs. electron and vs. muon discriminator working points used. For misidentified $e \rightarrow \tau_h$, the scale factors are split into barrel and endcap regions, dictated by the ECAL detector geometry. For misidentified $\mu \rightarrow \tau_h$, the scale factors are split into different $|\eta|$ regions, determined by the CMS muon and tracker detector geometries.

8.4 Electron and muon ID, isolation, and tracking

Scale factors to correct for differences between data and MC in the identification, isolation, and tracking of the electrons and muons are taken from the Standard Model

$H \rightarrow \tau\tau$ analysis [23], due to the similarities in event and object selection.

8.5 Recoil corrections

In proton-proton collisions, W and Z bosons are predominantly produced through quark-antiquark annihilation. Higher-order processes can induce radiated quarks or gluons that recoil against the boson, imparting a non-zero transverse momentum to the boson [24]. Recoil corrections accounting for this effect are applied to samples with W+jets, Z+jets, and Higgs bosons. The corrections were derived by the $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$ working group. The corrections are applied on an event-by-event basis to the missing transverse energy, and are a function of the generator-level p_T of the parent boson and number of jets in the event.

8.6 Drell-Yan corrections

The Z boson transverse momentum distribution disagrees between leading-order (LO) simulations and data in a $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ control region with at least one b-tag jet [25]. Per-event weights derived by the 2016 data-only version of this analysis [25] are applied to $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau/\ell\ell$ events, as a function of the generator-level Z boson p_T to provide better matching of MC to data.

8.7 Pileup reweighting

Reweighting is performed to rescale MC events to account for differences between MC and data, in the distribution of the pileup (number of additional proton-proton interactions per bunch crossing). A tool for calculating the pileup reweighting for the MC samples used is provided centrally by the Luminosity POG [26].

8.8 Trigger efficiencies

Scale factors are applied to correct for differences in trigger efficiencies between MC and data, and embedded samples and data. They are taken from the Standard Model $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$ working group which uses similar trigger paths [27].

8.9 Top p_T spectrum reweighting

In Run-1 and Run-2 it was observed that the p_T spectra of top quarks in $t\bar{t}$ data was significantly softer than those predicted by MC simulations [28]. Possible sources of this discrepancy are higher order QCD and/or electroweak corrections, and non-resonant production of $t\bar{t}$ -like final states. To account for this, corrections derived from Run-2 data by the Top Physics Analysis Group (PAG) are applied to the p_T of the top and anti-top quarks in MC simulations, computed as a function of their generator-level p_T [28].

8.10 B-tagging efficiency

In order to predict correct b-tagging discriminant distributions and event yields in data, the weight of selected MC events is reweighted according to recommendations by the BTV POG [29]. The reweighting depends on the jet p_T , η , and the b-tagging discriminant. In this method, there is no migration of events from one b-tag multiplicity bin to another.

8.11 Jet energy resolution and jet energy smearing

Calibration of jet energies, i.e. ensuring that the energy and momentum of the reconstructed jet matches that of the quark/gluon-initiated jet, is a challenging task due

to time-dependent changes in the detector response and calibration and high pileup [30] [31]. Jet calibration is done via jet energy corrections (JECs) applied to the p_T of jets in MC samples, accounting successively for the effects of pileup, uniformity of the detector response, and residual data-simulation jet energy scale differences [32]. Typical jet energy resolutions reported at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV in the central rapidities are 15-20% at 30 GeV and about 10% at 100 GeV [30]. Jet energy corrections are also propagated to the missing transverse energy.

Measurements show that the jet energy resolution (JER) in data is worse than in simulation, and so the jets in MC need to be smeared to describe the data. JER corrections are applied after JEC on MC simulations, and adjust the width of the p_T distribution based on pileup, jet size, and jet flavour [33]. Tools for applying JEC and JER are provided centrally by the JER Corrections group.

Chapter 9

Background estimation

This section describes methods used to estimate sources of background from Standard Model processes in the search for $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$. Similar background estimation methods are being used for the $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$ analysis. The background contributions directly taken from MC are described first, followed by backgrounds estimated from data-driven methods to produce sufficient statistics in the signal region.

9.1 Z+jets

A major source of background for $\tau\tau$ analyses is the Drell-Yan (DY) process (Z+jets). The Z boson decays to $\tau\tau/\mu\mu/ee$ with equal probability of 3.4% each, with the dominant decay modes being to hadrons (around 70%) and neutrinos (invisible) (20%) [2].

The Drell-Yan contribution with genuine taus, $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$, is estimated using embedded samples, described in Section 6.3. To avoid double-counting between embedded and MC samples, in all MC samples, events with legs that originated from genuine τ are discarded.

The other decays of the Z, $Z \rightarrow ee$ and $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$, are estimated from MC simulation, and are hereafter referred to as simply the Drell-Yan background. These MC samples

are generated to leading order (LO) with different numbers of jets (jet multiplicity) in the matrix element: Z+1 jet, Z+2jets, Z+3 jets, Z+4 jets, and inclusive Z+jets. The cross-sections of the samples with ≥ 1 jets are normalized to next-to-NLO (NNLO) in QCD.

For the inclusive Drell-Yan sample, two samples are used with different thresholds for the di-lepton invariant mass ($m_{\ell\ell}$) at the generator level: one with $m_{\ell\ell} > 50$ GeV and the other with $10 < m_{\ell\ell} < 50$.

9.2 W+jets

The dominant W boson decay modes are to hadrons (67.4%), $e + \nu_e$ (10.7%), $\mu + \nu_\mu$ (10.6%), and $\tau + \nu_\tau$ (11.4%) [2]. The W+jets background is estimated from MC simulation. Similarly to the Z+jets, the W+jets samples are generated with different jet multiplicities in the matrix element. LO samples are used for greater statistics and are normalized to NNLO cross sections.

9.3 $t\bar{t}$ + jets

In hadron collisions, top quarks are produced singly with the weak interaction, or in pairs via the strong interaction, with interference between these leading-order processes possible in higher orders of the perturbation theory. The top quark is the heaviest fermion in the Standard Model and has a short lifetime ($\sim 10^{-25}$ s), decaying without hadronization into a bottom quark and a W boson [2], with the decay modes of the W boson as listed in the previous section. With two top quarks, the final states of the two resulting W bosons can be described as fully leptonic, semileptonic, and fully hadronic. These three final states are modeled separately with MC simulation in 2018 and 2017, while for 2016 the sample used is inclusive.

9.4 Single top

There are three main production modes of the single top in pp collisions [34]: the exchange of a virtual W boson (t channel), the production and decay of a virtual W boson (s channel), and the associated production of a top quark and W boson (tW , or W-associated) channel. As the s channel process is rare and only 3% of the total production, the dominant production mode of the t -channel and the tW production are considered and modeled with MC.

9.5 Diboson

In pp collisions, the production of dibosons (pairs of electroweak gauge bosons, i.e. WW, WZ, and ZZ) is dominated by quark-antiquark annihilation, with a small contribution from gluon-gluon interaction [35]. MC is used to model the pair production and decays of VV to $2\ell 2\nu$, WZ to $2q 2\ell$ and $3\ell\nu$, and ZZ to 4ℓ and $2q 2\ell$ (q being quarks and ℓ being leptons).

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