

<sup>1</sup> SEARCH FOR EXOTIC HIGGS DECAYS TO LIGHT  
<sup>2</sup> NEUTRAL SCALARS IN FINAL STATES WITH  
<sup>3</sup> BOTTOM QUARKS AND TAU LEPTONS

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<sup>5</sup> A DISSERTATION  
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## Abstract

Open questions in particle physics may be addressed by the existence of an extended Higgs sector beyond the Standard Model Higgs boson with mass 125 GeV, which was discovered in 2012 at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) by the CMS and ATLAS experiments. Many properties of a potential extended Higgs sector remain unconstrained by current measurements, making direct searches of exotic Higgs decays a powerful probe of new physics. The decay of the 125 GeV Higgs boson into two light neutral scalar particles ( $h \rightarrow aa$ ) is allowed in extensions of the Standard Model, such as Two Higgs Doublet Models extended with a scalar singlet (2HDM+S). We present a search at CMS for exotic decays of the 125 GeV Higgs boson to two light neutral scalars, which decay to two bottom quarks and two tau leptons ( $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$ ). This analysis is combined with a different search where the light scalars decay to two bottom quarks and two muons. The results from the  $bb\tau\tau$  analysis and the combined analyses are interpreted in 2HDM+S scenarios. In a different extension of the Standard Model, the Two Real Singlet Model (TRSM), the 125 GeV Higgs boson can decay to two light scalars with unequal mass ( $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$ ). This decay has not been searched for to date at CMS. We present ongoing work on a search for  $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$ , where the  $a_2$  decays into two  $a_1$ , resulting in four bottom quarks and two tau leptons in the final state, in the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel of the  $\tau\tau$  decay. Such searches for rare processes will directly benefit from the increased datasets that will be generated by the High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC), which is scheduled to increase the LHC's number of simultaneous proton-proton collisions by a factor of five to seven. To contribute to the performance of the CMS Level-1 Trigger in selecting collisions with interesting physics, this thesis presents an upgraded algorithm for reconstructing electrons and photons in the barrel calorimeter, which will use information with higher spatial granularity to distinguish genuine electrons and photons from background.

<sup>42</sup>

## Acknowledgements

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# <sup>365</sup> Chapter 1

## <sup>366</sup> Introduction

<sup>367</sup> The Standard Model is the current prevailing theoretical framework that encompasses  
<sup>368</sup> all known elementary particles to date and describes their interactions, yet falls short  
<sup>369</sup> of describing open problems in physics. Here, we describe the history of the Standard  
<sup>370</sup> Model and its particle content (Section 1.1), and provide a mathematical motivation of  
<sup>371</sup> the SM as a gauge theory (Section 1.2). We introduce the Higgs mechanism (Section  
<sup>372</sup> 1.3), and outline two groups of theoretical extensions to the Standard Model that  
<sup>373</sup> feature extended Higgs sectors (Sections 1.4 and 1.5).

### <sup>374</sup> 1.1 History of the Standard Model

<sup>375</sup> The building blocks of our modern-day understanding of particle physics were estab-  
<sup>376</sup> lished over the course of many decades by experimental discoveries and theoretical  
<sup>377</sup> advances, culminating in the development of a theoretical framework known as the  
<sup>378</sup> Standard Model (SM). In the 1880s, the electron was the first subatomic particle to  
<sup>379</sup> be identified, through measurements of particles produced by ionizing gas. By the  
<sup>380</sup> 1930s, atoms were known to consist mostly of empty space, with protons and neutrons  
<sup>381</sup> concentrated at the center and orbited by electrons. Spurred by advances in parti-  
<sup>382</sup> cle 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 [1]. Quantum field theory (QFT) began to be developed in the early 20th century as an extension of the conceptual framework of quantum mechanics to electromagnetic fields [2]. In 1927, Dirac coined the name quantum electrodynamics (QED), which was the first part of QFT that was developed. QED quantized the electromagnetic field and supplied a relativistic theory of the electron, and could be applied to concrete physical processes such as the scattering of high-frequency photons by free electrons (Compton scattering), and the production of electron-positron pairs by photons [2]. In the 1940s the QED-only picture was challenged by the realization that the four-fermion theory of weak interactions had infinities at higher orders of perturbation theory which could not be removed via the technique of renormalization [3], i.e. shifting divergences into parts of the theory that do not influence empirical measurements [2].

In the 1950s and 1960s, QFT was extended to describe not only the electromagnetic force, but also the strong and weak force, with the final picture forming the Standard Model. This took place in the development and maturation of three principles: the quark model, the idea of gauge (or local) symmetry, and spontaneously broken symmetry [3]. In the fully fledged QFT, Lagrangians had to be formed that contained new classes of quantum fields, or particles [2].

The particle content of the Standard Model is summarized in Fig. 1.1. Particles are grouped into fermions, which comprise all known matter, and bosons, which mediate the interactions between particles. 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. The quarks are also organized into three generations (top and bottom quarks, charm and strange quarks, and up and down quarks), and

410 carry fractional electric charge. Bosons are force carriers; the interaction of fermions  
 411 with bosons corresponds to fundamental forces. The Standard Model describes the  
 412 electromagnetic force, the strong nuclear force, and the weak nuclear force. Through  
 413 the strong force, quarks can form composite particles known as hadrons. Familiar  
 414 examples of hadrons are the protons and neutrons in the nucleus of an atom.

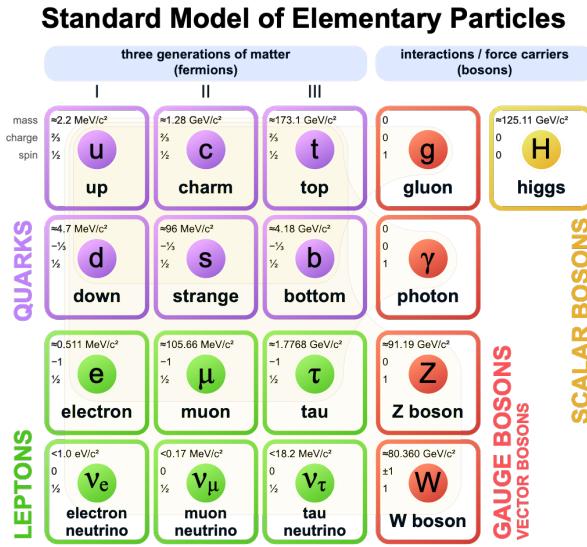


Figure 1.1: Table of Standard Model particles showing the grouping of the fermions into three generations of matter and the bosons, responsible for carrying the three fundamental forces in the Standard Model. The masses, charges, and spins of the particles are shown. The antimatter counterparts of the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

## 415 1.2 The Standard Model as a gauge theory

416 In this section we lay the theoretical foundations of the Standard Model as a gauge  
 417 theory, starting from the principle of gauge invariance (gauge symmetry), with local  
 418 gauge symmetries giving rise to interactions between particles.

419 Gauge theories of elementary particle interactions originate from a freedom of  
 420 choice in the mathematical description of particle fields which has no effect on the  
 421 particles' physical states [4]. The existence and form of the particles' interactions,

422 can be deduced from the existence of physically indeterminate, gaugable quantities.

423 An example of this gauge invariance is classical physics is the electromagnetic  
424 interaction, where the fundamental field is the four-vector potential  $A^\mu$  [4]. The  
425 physical electromagnetic fields and Maxwell's equations arise from the elements of  
426 the tensor  $F_{\mu\nu}(x) = \partial_\mu A_\nu(x) - \partial_\nu A_\mu(x)$ . Any two choices of  $A^\mu$  that are related by a  
427 transformation of the form

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

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

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

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

436 In classical mechanics, the conservation of linear momentum, angular momentum,  
437 and energy follows from translational invariance, rotational variance, and invariance  
438 under translations in time [4]. Likewise, charge conservation can be shown to arise  
439 from the invariance of the Dirac Lagrangian density  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Dirac}} = \bar{\Psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\Psi$  under the  
440 particle wavefunction's phase transformation,  $\Psi'(x) = \exp(i\epsilon\chi)\Psi(x)$ . Thus Noether's  
441 theorem establishes a correspondence between a gauge symmetry and a conserved  
442 internal property (e.g. charge or momentum).

443 Interactions between particles arise if we modify the wave function with a phase

<sup>444</sup> transformation  $\Psi'(x) = \exp(ie\chi)\Psi(x)$ , and allow the phase  $\chi$  to be a function of  
<sup>445</sup> spacetime [4]. A wave function of the form

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

<sup>446</sup> can be verified to *not* be a solution to the Dirac equation for free particles:  $(i\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu -$   
<sup>447</sup>  $m)\Psi(x) = 0$ . This necessitates a modified Dirac equation, where the derivative takes  
<sup>448</sup> into account that the vector field  $V(x)$  needs to be compared at two displaced space-  
<sup>449</sup> time points in a curvilinear coordinate system:

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

<sup>450</sup> We define a covariant derivative,

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

<sup>451</sup> where  $A_\mu(x)$  is a 4-vector potential. Thus the modified Dirac equation reads:

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

<sup>452</sup> The simultaneous gauge transformation  $A'_\mu(x) = A_\mu(x) - \partial_\mu\chi(x)$  and wavefunction  
<sup>453</sup> transformation  $\Psi'(x) = \exp(ie\chi(x))\Psi(x)$  leaves the covariant-derivative form of the  
<sup>454</sup> Dirac equation (Eqn 1.1) invariant.

<sup>455</sup> The generalization of this result is as follows: if a theory is invariant for unitary  
<sup>456</sup> transformations  $U$  of the particle states according to

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

457 One must define a derivative of the form

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

458 to keep the theory invariant under Eqn. 1.7. The four-potential  $B^\mu$  represents the  
459 interacting four-potential which must be added to keep the theory invariant.

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

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

464 • In the  $U(1)_Y$  term,  $B_\mu$  is the weak hypercharge field.

465 • 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-  
466 potentials.  $\tau/2$  are the Pauli matrices, generators of the  $SU(2)$  transformation.

467 • In the  $SU(3)_C$  term, the gluon (color) field is  $G_\mu$ .  $\lambda_k$  are the Gell-Man matrices,  
468 generators of the  $SU(3)$  transformation.

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

### 471 1.3 The Higgs Mechanism

472 To introduce mass into the theory, i.e. to change the propagation of the gauge par-  
473 ticles and all the fermions, the physical vacuum cannot have all the symmetries of  
474 the Standard Model Lagrangian [4]. The symmetries of the physical vacuum must  
475 be spontaneously broken, without affecting gauge invariance in the Lagrangian. The

476 Higgs mechanism proposes the existence of a scalar field, or fields, with nonzero vac-  
 477 uum expectation values, which reduce the gauge symmetries of the physical vacuum  
 478 from  $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  down to  $SU(3)_C \times U(1)_{EM}$ .

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

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

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

491 where  $\phi_1^+$ ,  $\phi_2^+$ ,  $\phi_1^0$ , and  $\phi_2^0$  are real (four degrees of freedom). By convention, the  
 492 nonzero vacuum expectation value is assigned to  $\phi_1^0$ .

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

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

495 where  $\lambda$  is the coupling strength of the four-point Higgs interaction. The potential

496 energy is minimized at

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

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

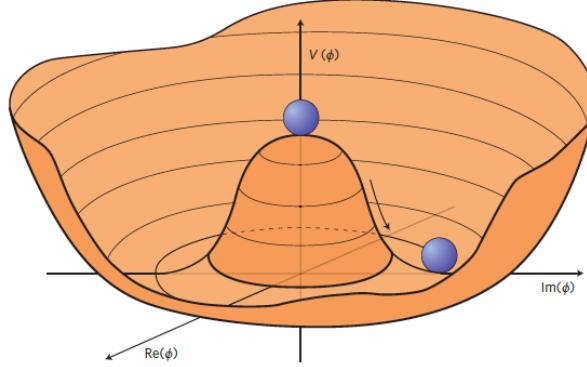


Figure 1.2: An illustration of the Higgs potential [5]. Choosing any of the points at the bottom of the potential breaks spontaneously the rotational  $U(1)$  symmetry.

499 The excitations of the Higgs field with respect to the minimum  $\Phi_{\min}$  are parame-  
500 terized by

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

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

## 505 1.4 Two-Higgs Doublet Models

506 One of the simplest possible extensions to the Standard Model is adding a doublet  
507 to the minimal Higgs sector of the Standard Model, which is a  $SU(2)_L$  doublet  $H$

508 with hypercharge  $Y = +\frac{1}{2}$ , denoted here as  $H \sim 2_{+1/2}$ . These extensions are found  
 509 in several theories such as supersymmetry. A general 2HDM can be extended with a  
 510 light scalar (2HDM+S) to obtain a rich set of exotic Higgs decays [6].

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 [6]. Expanding about the minima yields two complex and four real degrees of freedom:

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

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

511 The charged scalar and pseudoscalar mass matrices are diagonalized by a rotation  
 512 angle  $\beta$ , defined as  $\tan \beta = v_2/v_1$ . One charged (complex) field and one neutral  
 513 pseudoscalar combination of  $H_{1,2,I}^0$  are eaten by the SM gauge bosons after electroweak  
 514 symmetry breaking [6]. The other complex field yields two charged mass eigenstates  
 515  $H^\pm$ , which are assumed to be heavy. The remaining three degrees of freedom yield  
 516 one neutral pseudoscalar mass eigenstate

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

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

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

518 We assume that the 2HDM is near or in the decoupling limit:  $\alpha \rightarrow \pi/2 - \beta$ , where  
 519 the lightest state in the 2HDM is  $h$ , which we identify as the 125 GeV Higgs particle  
 520 [6]. In this limit, the fermion couplings of  $h$  become identical to the Standard Model

521 Higgs, while the gauge boson couplings are very close to Standard Model-like for  
 522  $\tan \beta \gtrsim 5$ . All of the properties of  $h$  can be determined by just two parameters:  $\tan \beta$   
 523 and  $\alpha$ , and the fermion couplings to the two Higgs doublets.

524 2HDM can be extended by a scalar singlet (2HDM+S) [6]:

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

525 If this singlet only couples to the Higgs doublets  $H_{1,2}$  and has no direct Yukawa  
 526 couplings, all of its couplings to SM fermions result from mixing with  $H_{1,2}$ . Under  
 527 these simple assumptions, exotic Higgs decays  $h \rightarrow ss \rightarrow X\bar{X}Y\bar{Y}$  or  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow$   
 528  $X\bar{X}Y\bar{Y}$ , and  $h \rightarrow aZ \rightarrow X\bar{X}Y\bar{Y}$  are permitted, where  $s(a)$  is a (pseudo)scalar mass  
 529 eigenstate mostly composed of  $S_R(S_I)$ , and  $X, Y$  are Standard Model fermions or  
 530 gauge bosons. There are two pseudoscalars in the 2HDM+S, and the mostly singlet-  
 531 like pseudoscalar can be chosen to be the one lighter than the SM-like Higgs. For  
 532  $m_a < m_h - m_Z \sim 35$  GeV, the exotic Higgs decay  $h \rightarrow Za$  is possible, and for  
 533  $m_a < m_h/2 \approx 63$  GeV, the exotic Higgs decay  $h \rightarrow aa$  is possible.

534 In 2HDM, and by extension 2HDM+S, there are four types of fermion couplings  
 535 commonly discussed in the literature that forbid flavor-changing neutral currents at  
 536 tree level [6]. These are referred to as Type I (all fermions couple to  $H_2$ ), Type II  
 537 (MSSM-like,  $d_R$  and  $e_R$  couple to  $H_1$ ,  $u_R$  to  $H_2$ ), Type III (lepton-specific, leptons  
 538 and quarks couple to  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  respectively) and Type IV (flipped, with  $u_R$ ,  $e_R$   
 539 coupling to  $H_2$  and  $d_R$  to  $H_1$ ). The exact branching ratios of the pseudoscalars to  
 540 Standard Model particles vary depending on the 2HDM+S model and the value of  
 541  $\tan \beta$  (e.g. Fig. 1.3).

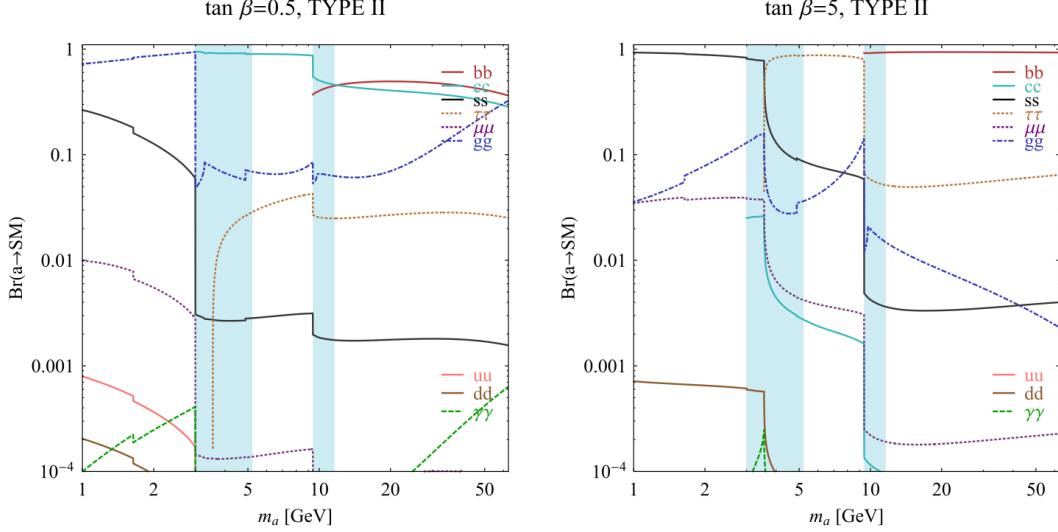


FIG. 7 (color online). Branching ratios of a singletlike pseudoscalar in the 2HDM + S for type-II Yukawa couplings. Decays to quarkonia likely invalidate our simple calculations in the shaded regions.

Figure 1.3: Branching ratios of a singlet-like pseudoscalar in Type II 2HDM+S for  $\tan\beta = 0.5$  (left) and  $\tan\beta = 5$  (right) from [6], 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.

## 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 [7]. 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.

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

557        After fixing one of the Higgs masses to the mass of the observed Higgs boson, and  
558        fixing the Higgs doublet vacuum expectation value to its Standard Model value, there  
559        are seven remaining free parameters of the TRSM [7].

560        In one benchmark scenario of TRSM [7], the heaviest scalar state  $h_3$  is identified  
561        with the 125 GeV Higgs,  $h_{125}$ , and it can decay asymmetrically  $h_{125} \rightarrow h_1 h_2$ , which  
562        we also denote  $h \rightarrow a_1 a_2$  to highlight the similarity with the symmetric decay  $h \rightarrow aa$   
563        typically interpreted in 2HDM+S as discussed. The parameter values in TRSM are  
564        chosen such that the coupling of  $h_3$  to Standard Model particles are nearly identical  
565        to the Standard Model predictions.

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

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

576        If the  $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$  decay is kinematically closed (i.e.  $M_2 < 2M_1$ ), both scalars decay  
577        directly to Standard Model particles, with branching ratios identical to a Standard  
578        Model-like Higgs boson, i.e. with the  $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$  final state dominating, as shown in Fig. 1.4

579 (*bottom left*), while at smaller masses, combinations with  $\tau$  leptons and eventually  
580 final states with charm quarks and muons become relevant [7].

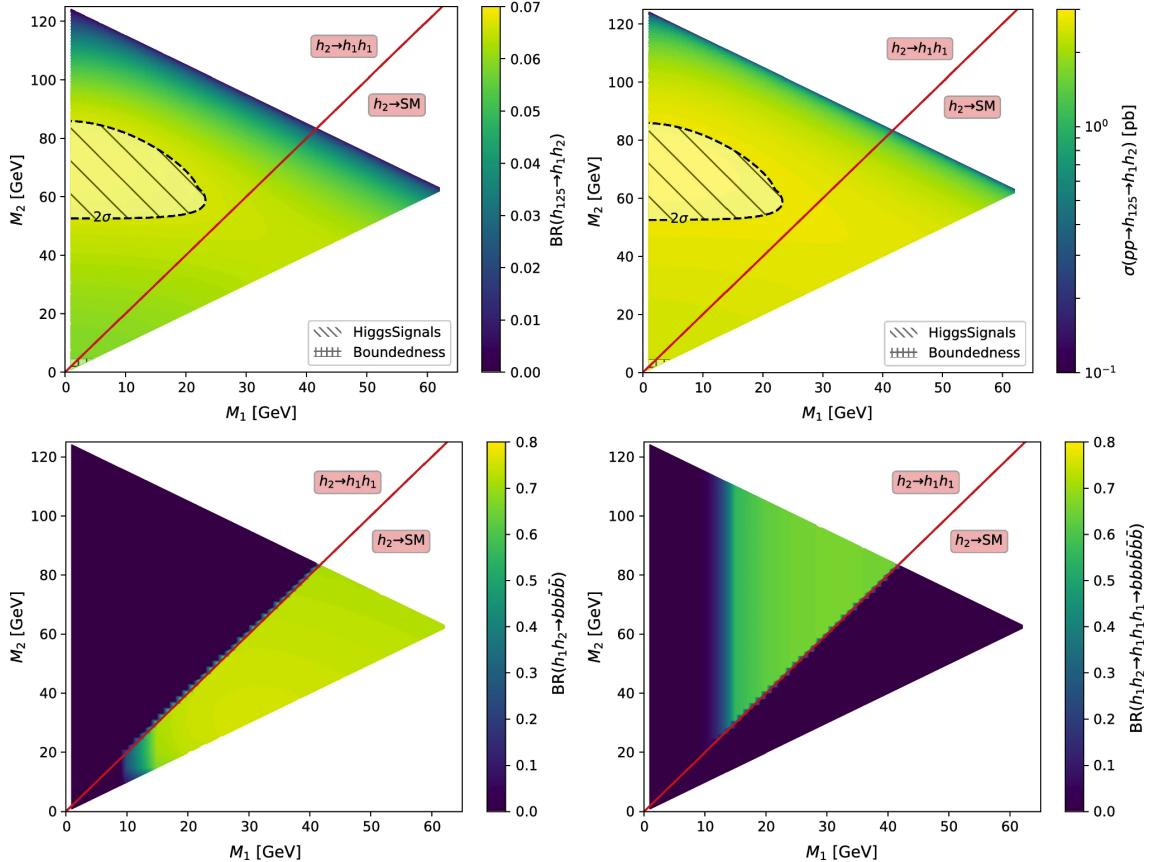


Figure 1.4: Benchmark plane BP1 for benchmark scenario 1 from [7], for the decay signature  $h_{125} \rightarrow h_1 h_2$  with  $h_{125} \equiv h_3$ , defined in the  $(M_1, M_2)$  plane. The color code shows  $\text{BR}(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_2)$  (*top left*) and the 13 TeV LHC signal rate for  $pp \rightarrow h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_2$  (*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)  $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ , and through a  $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$  cascade to  $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ . The hatched region indicates where the decay rate slightly exceeds the  $2\sigma$  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.

<sup>581</sup> **Chapter 2**

<sup>582</sup> **The Large Hadron Collider and the**  
<sup>583</sup> **CMS Experiment**

<sup>584</sup> This chapter introduces the key aspects of the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC)  
<sup>585</sup> and the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment where the work for this thesis was  
<sup>586</sup> conducted. Section 2.1 describes the history of accelerator developments at CERN  
<sup>587</sup> that led to the construction of the LHC, the current LHC configuration, and the  
<sup>588</sup> largest experiments located at the LHC. The concepts of beam luminosity and pileup,  
<sup>589</sup> which are critical for understanding and measuring high-energy particle collisions,  
<sup>590</sup> are described in Section 2.2 and discussed in the context of the High-Luminosity  
<sup>591</sup> LHC (HL-LHC) upgrade in Section 2.3. Lastly, Section 2.4 describes the design  
<sup>592</sup> and function of CMS and its subdetectors, and terminates in a description of data  
<sup>593</sup> processing at CMS, beginning from online event filtering in the Level-1 Trigger, to  
<sup>594</sup> processing in the High-Level Trigger, to offline particle reconstruction, and finally  
<sup>595</sup> long-term storage and processing of measured events.

## 596 2.1 The Large Hadron Collider

597 CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, is an international organiza-  
598 tion based in Meyrin, Switzerland which operates the world's largest particle physics  
599 laboratory, and is the site of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [8]. The very first  
600 accelerator built at CERN was the 600 MeV Synchrocyclotron (SC), which initially  
601 provided beams for CERN's first experiments. The newer and more powerful Proton  
602 Synchrotron (PS), which could accelerate particles to an energy of 28 GeV, began op-  
603 erations in 1959 and is still in use today. The first hadron collider at CERN was the  
604 Intersecting Storage Rings (ISR), which consisted of two interlaced rings each with a  
605 diameter of 200. The ISR collided protons at a center-of-mass energy of 62 GeV and  
606 began measuring collisions in 1971. In 1968 CERN began to accelerate heavy ions  
607 in the Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS), which is 7 kilometers in circumference and  
608 was the first of CERN's giant underground rings to be built. The SPS became the  
609 forefront of CERN's particle physics program in 1976, and in 1981 was converted into  
610 a proton-antiproton collider. The final and largest underground ring constructed at  
611 CERN was the Large Electron-Positron (LEP) collider, which was commissioned in  
612 July 1989 and hosted 5176 magnets and 128 accelerating cavities located around a  
613 27-kilometer circumference. Over 11 years of research, four detectors, ALEPH, DEL-  
614 PHI, L3, and OPAL measured the collisions, with collision energies reaching up to  
615 209 GeV in the year 2000. In November 2000, LEP was closed down to make way for  
616 the construction of the LHC in the same tunnel.

617 In its current configuration, the LHC accelerator complex at CERN is a suc-  
618 cession of machines that accelerate particles in stages until they reach their final energy  
619 of 6.5 TeV per beam [9] [10]. In Linear accelerator 4 (Linac4), negative hydrogen  
620 ions (hydrogen atoms with an additional electron) are accelerated to 160 MeV, and  
621 stripped of their two electrons, leaving only protons, before entering the Proton Syn-  
622 chrotron Booster (PSB). These protons are accelerated to 2 GeV, then to 26 GeV in

623 the Proton Synchrotron (PS), and 450 GeV in the Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS).  
624 The protons are transferred to the two beam pipes of the Large Hadron Collider  
625 (LHC). The LHC is a 27-kilometer ring of superconducting magnets, inside which  
626 one beam circulates clockwise and the other counterclockwise. Each LHC ring takes  
627 4 minutes and 20 seconds to fill, and it takes about 20 minutes for the protons to  
628 reach their maximum energy. During normal operating conditions, beams circulate  
629 for many hours inside the LHC ring.

630 The beams of particles in the LHC are made to collide at a center-of-mass energy  
631 of up to 14 TeV, at four positions at particle detector experiments located around  
632 the ring: ATLAS, CMS, ALICE, and LHCb. An aerial view of the four major  
633 experiments' locations is shown in Fig. 2.1 [11]. ATLAS and CMS are the two  
634 general-purpose detectors with broad physics programmes spanning Standard Model  
635 measurements and searches for signatures of new physics [12] [13]. The two experi-  
636 ments use different technical solutions and different magnet system designs. ALICE  
637 is a general-purpose detector dedicated to measuring LHC heavy-ion collisions, and  
638 is designed to address the physics of strongly interacting matter, and the properties  
639 of quark-gluon plasma [14]. The LHCb experiment specializes in investigating CP vi-  
640 olation through measuring the differences in matter and antimatter, by using a series  
641 of subdetectors to detect mainly forward particles close to the beam direction [15].

## 642 2.2 Luminosity and pileup

643 In order to search for rare processes, such as those resulting from a Higgs, W, or Z  
644 boson, a large number of parton interactions per second are required at the LHC.  
645 The number of events generated per second by the LHC collisions is given by

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

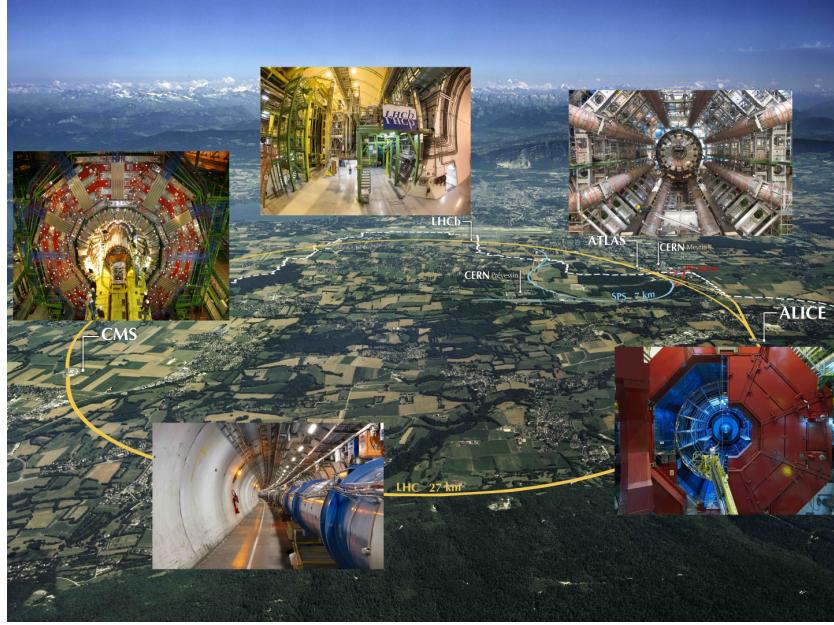


Figure 2.1: Aerial view of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) spanning the border of France and Switzerland, and the four major experiments located around the ring: CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid), LHCb (LHC beauty), ATLAS (A Toroidal LHC Apparatus), and ALICE (A Large Ion Collider Experiment) [11].

where  $\sigma_{event}$  is the cross-section for the event under study, and  $\mathcal{L}$  the instantaneous luminosity. The instantaneous 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 [16] [17]:

- $N_b$  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 ( $\approx 11 \text{ kHz}$ ),
- $\gamma_r$  is the relativistic gamma factor,

- $\epsilon_n$  is the normalized transverse beam emittance (area in a transverse plane occupied by the beam particles),
- $\beta^*$  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 [18]. 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  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$  [19], 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  $\sim 22$ .

679 While useful in the search for rare physics processes, higher luminosities create  
 680 more intense pileup conditions, posing a greater challenge to detector performance  
 681 and particle reconstruction and identification.

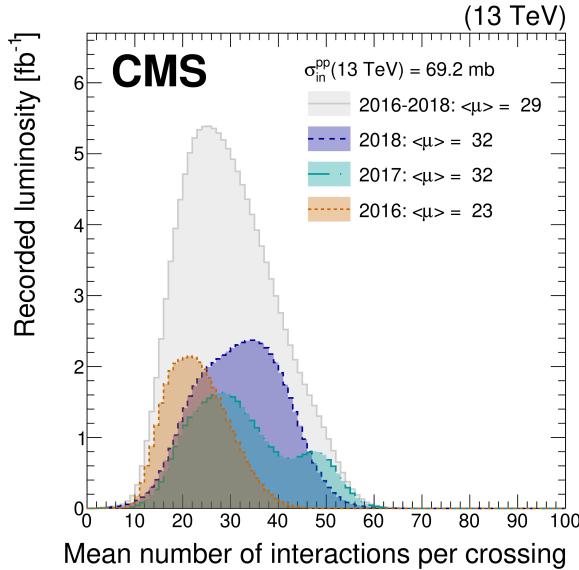


Figure 2.2: Distribution of the mean number of inelastic collisions per bunch crossing (pileup) in data [18], for proton-proton collisions in 2016 (*dotted orange*), 2017 (*dotted light blue*), 2018 (*dotted dark blue*), and integrated over 2016-2018 (*solid grey*). A cross-section of inelastic proton-proton 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 [20].

## 682 2.3 The High-Luminosity LHC

683 The High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) is a major upgrade of the LHC scheduled  
 684 to take place in the late 2020s, that will increase the instantaneous luminosity by  
 685 a factor of five beyond the original design value, and the integrated luminosity  
 686 by a factor of ten [20]. This will be accomplished through accelerator technological  
 687 advances: for instance, reduction of the interaction point  $\beta^*$  from 0.55 m down to 0.15  
 688 m by installation of new final-focusing magnets, and improvements in the geometric  
 689 luminosity loss factor  $F \approx 1$  through the installation of crab cavities that optimize

690 the orientation of colliding bunches. A further discussion of the HL-LHC upgrades  
691 for the CMS detector follows in Chapter 3.

## 692 2.4 The CMS Detector

693 The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment was conceived to study proton-  
694 proton and lead-lead collisions at a center-of-mass energy of 14 TeV (5.5 TeV nucleon-  
695 nucleon) and at luminosities up to  $10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  ( $10^{27} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) [21] [22]. Starting  
696 from the beam interaction region at the center of the CMS detector, particles first  
697 pass through a silicon pixel and strip tracker, in which charged-particle trajectories  
698 (tracks) and origins (vertices) are reconstructed from signals (hits) in the sensitive  
699 layers. The tracker is immersed in a high-magnetic-field superconducting solenoid  
700 that bends the trajectories of charged particles, allowing the measurement of their  
701 electric charge and momenta. Electrons and photons are then absorbed in an electro-  
702 magnetic calorimeter (ECAL) comprised of lead-tungstate scintillating-crystals. The  
703 corresponding electromagnetic showers are detected as clusters of energy recording in  
704 neighboring cells, from which the direction and energy of the particles can be deter-  
705 mined. Charged and neutral hadrons may initiate a hadronic shower in the ECAL  
706 as well, which is then fully absorbed in the hadron calorimeter (HCAL). The result-  
707 ing clusters are used to estimate their direction and energies. Muons and neutrinos  
708 pass through the calorimeters with little to no interactions. Neutrinos escaped un-  
709 detected; muons produce hits in additional gas-ionization chamber muon detectors  
710 housed in the iron yoke of the flux-return. A sketch of example particle interactions  
711 in a transverse slice of the CMS detector is shown in Fig. 2.3. The collision data is  
712 recorded with the use of the Level-1 (L1) trigger (discussed in greater detail in 2.5.5),  
713 the High-Level Trigger (HLT), and data acquisition systems ensuring high efficiency  
714 in selecting physics events of interest.

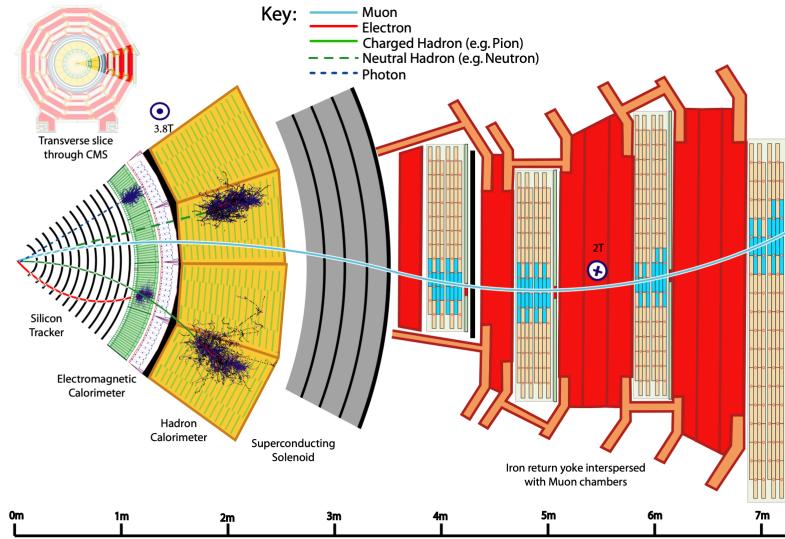


Figure 2.3: Sketch of particle trajectories of muons, electrons, charged and neutral hadrons, and photons in a transverse cross-section of the CMS detector [22].

715     CMS uses a right-handed coordinate system [21]. The origin is centered at the  
 716 nominal collision point inside the experiment. The  $x$  axis points towards the center  
 717 of the LHC, and the  $y$  axis points vertically upwards. The  $z$  axis points along the  
 718 beam direction. The azimuthal angle,  $\phi$ , is measured from the  $x$  axis in the  $x$ - $y$   
 719 plane, and the radial coordinate in this plane is denoted by  $r$ . The polar angle,  $\theta$ ,  
 720 is measured from the  $z$  axis. The pseudorapidity,  $\eta$ , is defined as  $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$ .  
 721 The momentum and energy transverse to the beam direction, denoted by  $p_T$  and  $E_T$   
 722 respectively, are computed from the  $x$  and  $y$  components. The momentum imbalance  
 723 in the transverse plane is called the missing transverse momentum, and its magnitude  
 724 is denoted by  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ .

## 725     2.5 Sub-detectors of CMS

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

### 728 2.5.1 Inner tracking system

729 The CMS Tracker performs robust tracking and detailed vertex reconstruction in the  
730 4 T magnetic field of the superconducting solenoidal magnet. The primary sensors  
731 used in the tracker are  $p^+$  on  $n$ -bulk devices, which allow high voltage operation and  
732 are radiation-resistant [23] [24]. The active envelope of the CMS Tracker extends to a  
733 radius of 115 cm, over a length of approximately 270 cm on each side of the interaction  
734 point [23]. Charged particles in the region  $|\eta| \lesssim 1.6$  benefit from the full momentum  
735 measurement precision. In this region, a charged particle with  $p_T$  of 1000 GeV has a  
736 sagitta of  $\sim 195 \mu\text{m}$ . The Tracker acceptance extends further to  $|\eta| = 2.5$ , with a  
737 reduced radius of approximately 50 cm.

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

742 A schematic view of the current Phase-1 CMS tracker [25], including the pixel  
743 detector, is shown in Fig. 2.4. The Phase-1 pixel detector consists of three barrel  
744 layers (BPIX) at radii of 4.4 cm, 7.3 cm, and 10.2 cm, and two forward/backward disks  
745 (FPIX) at longitudinal positions of  $\pm 34.5$  cm and  $\pm 46.5$  cm, and extending in radius  
746 from about 6 cm to 15 cm. These pixelated detectors produce 3D measurements along  
747 the paths of charged particles with single hit resolutions between 10-20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

748 After the pixel and on their way out of the tracker, particles pass through the  
749 silicon strip tracker which reaches out to a radius of 130 cm (Fig. 2.4). The sensor  
750 elements in the strip tracker are single-sided  $p$ -on- $n$  type silicon micro-strip sensors  
751 [21]. The silicon strip detector consists of four inner barrel (TIB) layers assembled  
752 in shells, with two inner endcaps (TID), each composed of three small discs. The  
753 outer barrel (TOB) consists of six concentric layers. Two endcaps (TEC) close off  
754 the tracker on either end.

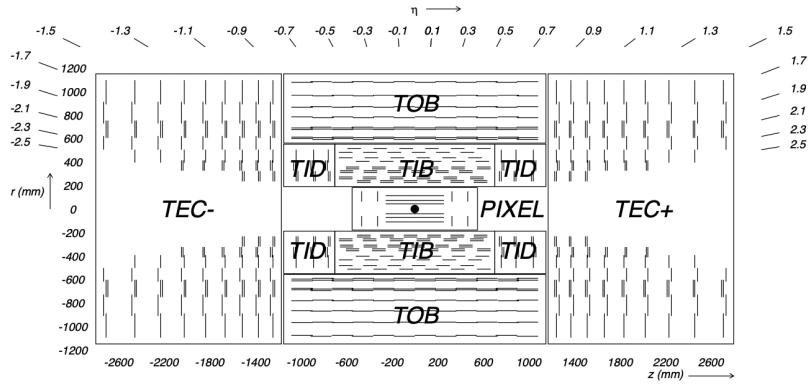


Figure 2.4: Cross section of the current Phase-1 CMS tracker [25]. Each line represents a detector module. Double lines indicate back-to-back modules which deliver two-dimensional (stereo) hits in the strip tracker.

### 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 ( $\text{PbWO}_4$ ) crystals mounted in the central barrel, with 7,324 crystals in each of the two endcaps [21]. 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  $\text{g cm}^{-2}$ . The radiation length is also the mean distance over which a high-energy electron loses all but  $1/e$  of its energy via bremsstrahlung [26]. Thus high granularity in  $\eta$  and  $\phi$ , and the length of the ECAL crystals, is designed to capture the shower of  $e/\gamma$  produced

772 by electrons and photons.

773 The barrel part of the ECAL (EB) covers the pseudorapidity range  $|\eta| < 1.479$   
774 [21]. The barrel granularity is 360-fold in  $\phi$  and  $(2 \times 85)$ -fold in  $\eta$ . The crystal cross-  
775 section corresponds to approximately  $0.0174 \times 0.0174$  in  $\eta - \phi$  or  $22 \times 22$  mm $^2$  at the  
776 front face of the crystal, and  $26 \times 26$  mm $^2$  at the rear face. The crystal length is 230  
777 mm, corresponding to  $25.8 X_0$ .

778 The ECAL read-out acquires the signals of the photodetectors [21]. At each bunch  
779 crossing, digital sums representing the energy deposit in a trigger tower, comprising  
780  $5 \times 5$  crystals in  $\eta \times \phi$ , are generated and sent to the Level-1 trigger system (detailed  
781 in Section 2.5.5).

### 782 2.5.3 HCAL

783 The hadronic calorimeter (HCAL) of CMS measures hadronic energy, which is key to  
784 characterizing the presence of apparent missing transverse energy which could arise  
785 from hadron jets and neutrinos or exotic particles [21]. A schematic of the components  
786 of HCAL are shown in Fig. 2.5. The HCAL barrel (HB) and endcaps (HE) are located  
787 outside of the tracker and the ECAL, spanning a radius of 1.77 m (outer extent of  
788 ECAL) up to 2.95 m (inner extent of the magnet coil). An outer hadron calorimeter  
789 (HO) is placed outside the solenoid to complement the barrel calorimeter. Beyond  
790  $|\eta| = 3$ , the forward hadron calorimeter (HF) at 11.2 m from the interaction point  
791 extend the pseudorapidity coverage to  $|\eta| = 5.2$ .

792 The HB is a sampling calorimeter covering the pseudorapidity range  $|\eta| < 1.3$  [21].  
793 It consists of 36 identical azimuthal wedges which form two half-barrels (HB+ and HB-  
794 ), with a segmentation of  $(\Delta\eta, \Delta\phi) = (0.087, 0.087)$ . The HE covers pseudorapidity  
795  $1.3 < |\eta| < 3$ . The HB and endcap HE calorimeters are sampling calorimeters which  
796 use brass as the absorber and plastic scintillator as the active material. Light from  
797 the plastic scintillator is wavelength-shifted and captured in optic fibers which are

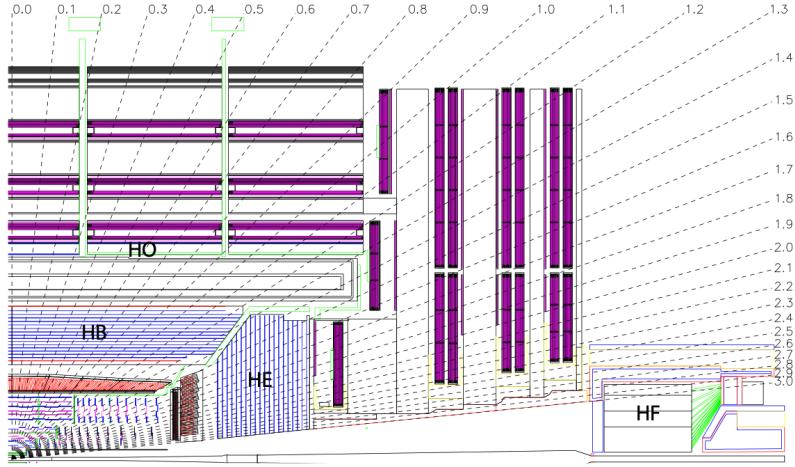


Figure 2.5: Longitudinal view of the CMS detector showing the hadron calorimeter barrel (HB), endcap (HE), outer (HO), and forward (HF) calorimeters from [21].

798 read out by front-end electronics [27].

799 In the central pseudorapidity region, the combined stopping power of EB plus the  
800 HB is insufficient to contain hadron showers [21]. To ensure adequate sampling depth,  
801 the hadron calorimeter is extended with a tail catcher, the HO. The size and position  
802 of the tiles are designed to roughly map the layers of the HB to make towers with  
803 the same granularity of  $0.087 \times 0.087$  in  $\eta$  and  $\phi$ . HO uses the same active material  
804 as the HB and HE calorimeters, but uses the steel return yoke and magnet material  
805 of CMS as absorbers [27].

806 The HF is a Cherenkov calorimeter based on a steel absorber and quartz fibers  
807 which run longitudinally through the absorber and collect Cherenkov light, primarily  
808 from the electromagnetic component of showers developed in the calorimeter [27].  
809 Photomultiplier tubes are used to collect light from the quartz fibers. The HF is  
810 designed to survive in the harsh radiation conditions and high particle flux of the  
811 forward region. On average, 760 GeV per proton-proton interaction is deposited into  
812 the two forward calorimeters, compared to only 100 GeV for the rest of the detector  
813 [21]. Furthermore, this energy has a pronounced maximum at the highest rapidities.

814    **2.5.4 Muon detectors**

815    The CMS muon system is designed to have the capability of reconstructing the mo-  
816    mentum and charge of muons over the kinematic range of the LHC, since muons are a  
817    powerful handle on signatures of interesting processes over the high background rate  
818    of the LHC [21]. For instance, the decay of the Standard Model Higgs boson into  
819     $ZZ$ , which in turn decay to 4 leptons, can be reconstructed with high 4-particle mass  
820    resolution if all the leptons are muons, since muons are less affected than electrons  
821    by radiative losses in the tracker material.

822    The muon system consists of a cylindrical barrel section and two planar endcap  
823    regions [21]. The barrel muon detector consists of drift tube (DT) chambers covering  
824    the pseudorapidity region  $|\eta| < 1.2$  (Fig. 2.6). The DTs can be used as tracking  
825    detectors due to the barrel region's characteristic low neutron-induced backgrounds,  
826    low muon rate, and relatively uniform 4T magnetic field contained in the steel yoke.

827    In the two endcap regions, the muon rates and background levels are high and the  
828    magnetic field is large and non-uniform [21]. Here, the muon system uses cathode  
829    strip chambers (CSCs) to identify muons between  $0.9 < |\eta| < 2.4$ . The cathode strips  
830    of each chamber run radially outwards and provide a precision measurement in the  
831     $r - \phi$  bending plane. The anode wires run approximately perpendicular to the strips  
832    and are read out in order to measure  $\eta$  and the beam-crossing time of a muon.

833    In addition to the DT and CSC, a dedicated trigger system consisting of resistive  
834    plate chambers (RPCs) in the barrel and endcap regions provide a fast, independent,  
835    and highly-segmented trigger with a sharp  $p_T$  threshold over a large portion of the  
836    pseudorapidity range ( $|\eta| < 1.6$ ) of the muon system [21]. RPCs have good time  
837    resolution but coarser position resolution compared to the DTs or CSCs. The RPCs  
838    also play a role in resolving ambiguities in reconstructing tracks from multiple hits in  
839    a chamber.

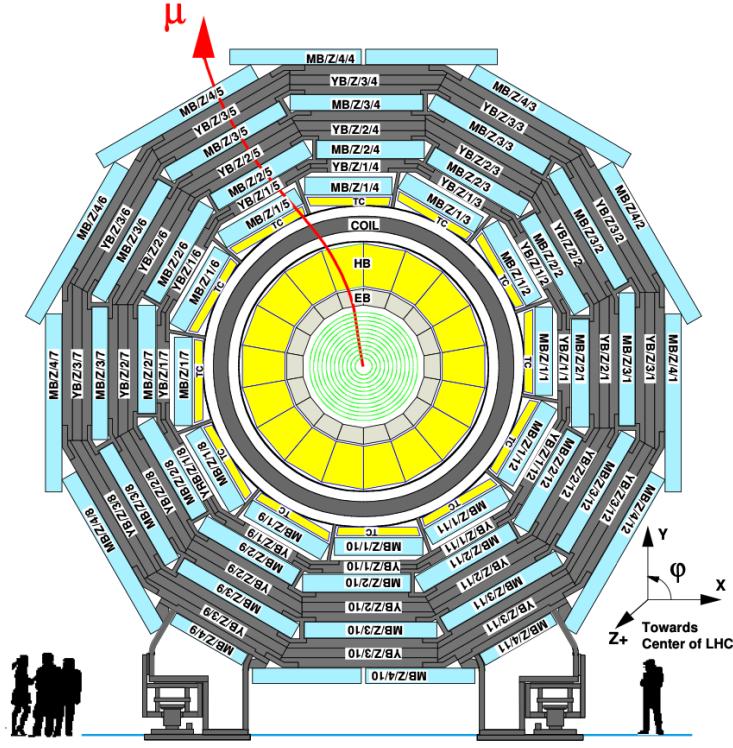


Figure 2.6: Layout of the CMS barrel muon drift tube (DT) chambers in one of the five wheels from [21]. The DTs are organized in 12 sectors of the yoke barrel (YB). In each of the 12 sectors of the yoke, there are 4 muon chambers per wheel (MB1, MB2, MB3, and MB4).

### 2.5.5 The 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 [28]. 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

850 Trigger (HLT) which is described in Section 2.5.6. This section describes the Phase-1  
 851 configuration of the Level-1 Trigger.

852 The L1 Trigger data flow of Phase-1 is shown in Fig. 2.7 [28], with organization  
 853 into the L1 calorimeter trigger, the L1 muon trigger, and the L1 global trigger.

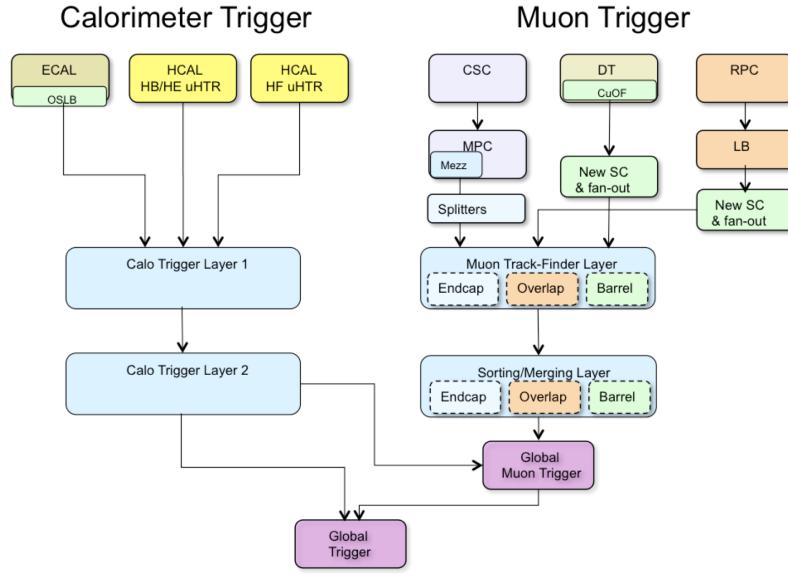


Figure 2.7: Dataflow for the Phase-1 Level-1 Trigger [28], which is implemented in custom hardware and is responsible for reducing the event rate from the LHC bunch crossing frequency of 400 MHz (bunch crossings every 25 ns) to a maximum rate of 100 kHz. In Phase-1, the Level-1 Trigger has access to information from the calorimeter and muon detectors.

854 The L1 calorimeter trigger begins with trigger tower energy sums formed by the  
 855 ECAL, HCAL, and HF Trigger Primitive Generator (TPG) circuits from the indi-  
 856 vidual calorimeter cell energies. In the original configuration, the ECAL energies  
 857 were accompanied by a bit indicating the transverse extent of the electromagnetic  
 858 energy deposits, and the HCAL energies were accompanied by a bit indicating the  
 859 presence of minimum ionizing energy [29]. Between Long Shutdowns 1 and 2 (LS1  
 860 and LS2), HF was upgraded to provide finer granularity information to the trigger,  
 861 and the HCAL barrel and endcap front-end electronics were upgraded to provide  
 862 high-precision timing information and depth segmentation information.

863 In the original design of the L1 calorimeter trigger, the trigger primitives are pro-  
864 cessed by the Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT, upgraded to Calo Layer 1 after  
865 LS2) which finds isolated and non-isolated electron/photon candidates [28]. At this  
866 stage, electrons/photons candidates are treated together since they cannot be defini-  
867 tively distinguished at this stage due to lack of tracking information in the L1 trigger.  
868 The Global Calorimeter Trigger (GCT, upgraded to Calo Layer 2 after LS2) sorts  
869 further the candidate electrons/photons, finds jets (classified as central, forward, and  
870 tau) using the  $E_T$  sums and performs calibration of the clustered jet energies, and  
871 calculates global quantities such as missing  $E_T$ . It sends the top four candidates of  
872 each type to the global trigger (GT) [28].

873 Each of the L1 muon triggers has its own trigger logic [29]. The RPC strips are  
874 connected to a Pattern Comparator Trigger (PACT), which forms trigger segments  
875 that are used to build tracks and calculate  $p_T$ . The RPC logic also provides some  
876 hit data to the CSC trigger system to resolve ambiguities caused by two muons in  
877 the same CSC. The CSCs form local charged tracks (LCTs) from the cathode strips,  
878 which are combined with the anode wire information. LCTs are combined into full  
879 muon tracks and assigned  $p_T$  values.

880 The Global Muon Trigger (GMT) sorts the RPC, DT, and CSC muon tracks,  
881 converts these tracks to the same  $\eta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $p_T$  scale, and validates the muon sign [29].  
882 It improves the trigger efficiency by merging muon candidates that were detected  
883 in two complementary sub-systems (i.e. DT+RPC, or CSC+RPC). The GMT also  
884 contains logic to correlate the found muon tracks with an  $\eta-\phi$  grid of quiet calorimeter  
885 towers to determine if the muons are isolated, as well as logic to remove duplicate  
886 candidates originating in the overlap regions from both DT and CSC systems. The  
887 final collection of muons are sorted based on their initial quality, correlation, and  $p_T$ ,  
888 and the top four muons are sent to the Global Trigger [29].

889 Information from the GCT and GT are sent to the Global Trigger (GT), which

890 makes the Level-1 Accept (L1A) decision to either discard or accept the bunch crossing  
891 [29]. This is accomplished by sorting ranked trigger objects that are accompanied by  
892 positional information in  $\eta$  and  $\phi$ , permitting the trigger to applying criteria with  
893 thresholds that can vary based on the location of the trigger objects, and/or to  
894 require trigger objects to be close to or opposite from each other. The GT L1A  
895 decision arrives at the detector front end with a  $3.8 \mu\text{s}$  latency after the interaction  
896 at a rate which is required to be less than 100 kHz, and triggers a full readout of the  
897 detector for further processing.

### 898 **2.5.6 The High-Level Trigger**

899 The HLT is implemented in software running on a large computer farm of fast com-  
900 mercial processors [30] [31]. The algorithms in HLT have access to full data from  
901 all CMS sub-detectors, including the tracker, with full granularity and resolution.  
902 The HLT reconstruction software is similar to what is used offline for full CMS data  
903 analysis. As a result, the HLT can calculate quantities with a resolution compara-  
904 ble to the final detector resolution, compared to the L1 Trigger. The HLT performs  
905 more computationally-intensive algorithms, such as combining tau-jet candidates in  
906 the calorimeter with high- $p_T$  stubs in the tracker, to form a hadronic tau trigger. The  
907 maximum HLT input rate from the L1 Trigger is 100 kHz, and the HLT output rate  
908 is approximately 100 Hz.

909 The HLT contains trigger paths, each corresponding to a dedicated trigger [32].  
910 A path consists of several steps implemented as software modules. Each HLT trigger  
911 path must be seeded by one or more L1 trigger bits: the first module always looks  
912 for a L1 seed, consisting of L1 bit(s) and L1 object(s). Each module performs a well-  
913 defined task such as unpacking (raw to digitized quantities), reconstruction of physics  
914 objects (electrons, muons, jet, missing transverse energy, etc.), making intermediate  
915 decisions that trigger more detailed reconstruction modules, and calculating the final

916 decision for the trigger path. If an intermediate filter decision is negative, the rest of  
917 the path is not executed, and the trigger rejects the event.

918 **2.5.7 Particle reconstruction**

919 To build a description of the physics objects present in the particle collision, the  
920 basic elements from the detector layers (tracks and clusters of energy) are correlated  
921 to identify each particle in the final state. Measurements from different sub-detectors  
922 are combined to reconstruct the particle properties. This approach is called particle-  
923 flow (PF) reconstruction [22]. Key to the success of the PF reconstruction is the  
924 fine spatial granularity of the detector layers. Coarse-grained detectors can cause  
925 the signals from different particles to merge, especially within jets. However, if the  
926 subdetectors are sufficiently segmented to separate individual particles, it becomes  
927 possible to produce a global event description that identifies all physics objects with  
928 high efficiencies and resolution.

929 **2.5.8 Data storage and computational infrastructure**

930 The LHC generates over 15 petabytes (15 million gigabytes) of data every year, neces-  
931 sitating a flexible computing system that can be accessed by researchers working at  
932 the four main LHC experiments: ALICE, ATLAS, CMS, and LHCb. The Worldwide  
933 LHC Computing Grid (WLCG) [33] is a global collaboration of computer centers that  
934 links thousands of computers and storage systems in over 170 centers across 41 coun-  
935 tries. These centers are arranged in “tiers”, and provide near real-time access to users  
936 processing, analyzing, and storing LHC data. One of the final stages of data analy-  
937 sis at LHC experiments is large-scale data processing taking place over distributing  
938 computing, for instance, with the use of Condor [34], a distributed, scalable, flexible  
939 batch processing system which accepts a computing job, allocates a resource to it,  
940 executes it, and returns the result back to a user transparently.

941 **Chapter 3**

942 **The Phase-2 Upgrade of CMS**

943 This chapter gives an overview of the High-Luminosity LHC upgrade of the LHC in  
944 Section 3.1, and the upgrades for the Phase-2 CMS Level-1 (L1) Trigger in Section  
945 3.2. One of the major upgrades is the new availability of calorimeter crystal-level  
946 information to the L1 calorimeter trigger, compared to the current trigger which only  
947 has access to tower-level information (a tower being 5 by 5 in crystals). To capitalize  
948 on the increased spatial granularity of this information, an upgraded algorithm is  
949 presented which reconstructs and identifies electron and photon candidates in the the  
950 Layer-1 Calorimeter Trigger. A description of the algorithm and a validation of its  
951 performance in Phase-2 conditions is given in Section 3.3.

952 **3.1 The High-Luminosity LHC**

953 In order to sustain and extend the LHC’s physics discovery program and maintain  
954 operability for a decade or more, the LHC is undergoing a major upgrade to the High-  
955 Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC). In its final configuration, the HL-LHC will deliver a peak  
956 luminosity of  $7.5 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , potentially leading to total integrated luminosity  
957 of  $4000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  after ten years of operations, scheduled to begin in 2027 [35]. This  
958 integrated luminosity is about ten times the predicted luminosity reach of the LHC

959 in its initial configuration. To enable the CMS experiment to continue operations and  
960 data-taking and to maximize the discovery potential of the unprecedented amount  
961 of data, the CMS detector is undergoing Phase-2 upgrades in order to perform high-  
962 precision measurements and searches for physics beyond the Standard Model in the  
963 intense running conditions of the HL-LHC.

## 964 3.2 The Phase-2 Level-1 Trigger

965 To achieve the goals of the HL-LHC program and to ensure the collection of information-  
966 rich datasets in the HL-LHC, the Phase-2 upgrade of the CMS Level-1 Trigger [35]  
967 must be upgraded in conjunction with the CMS sub-detectors and their readouts, to  
968 maintain physics selectivity. The HL-LHC will produce an intense hadronic environ-  
969 ment corresponding to 200 simultaneous collisions per beam crossing, necessitating  
970 comprehensive upgrades of the trigger system outlined below.

971 To profit from the extended coverage and increased granularity of the upgraded  
972 CMS detector, the latency of the L1 trigger system (time available to produce a L1  
973 Accept signal) will be increased significantly from  $3.8 \mu\text{s}$  to  $12.5 \mu\text{s}$ , with an increased  
974 maximum output bandwidth of 750 kHz [35]. With the increased latency, in addition  
975 to information from calorimeters and muon detectors (as in the Phase-1 system),  
976 information from the new tracker and high-granularity endcap calorimeter can also  
977 be included at L1 for the first time. This is illustrated in the functional diagram of  
978 the architecture of the Phase-2 trigger system in Fig. 3.1.

979 The key feature of the Phase-2 L1 Trigger is the introduction of a correlator layer,  
980 where algorithms produce higher-level trigger objects by combining information from  
981 sub-detectors, with a selectivity approaching that of offline reconstruction in the  
982 HLT [35]. Four independent data processing paths (grouped together in Fig. 3.1) are  
983 implemented: tracking, calorimetry, muon systems, and particle-flow techniques:

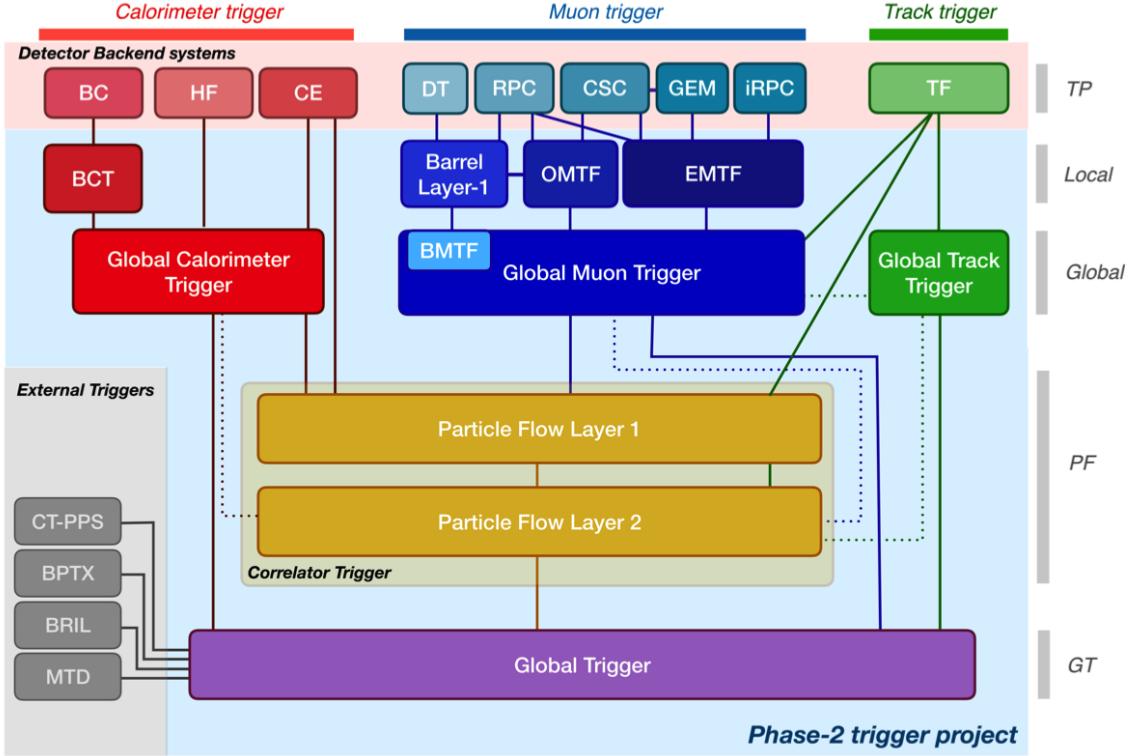


Figure 3.1: Functional diagram of the CMS L1 Phase-2 upgraded trigger design [35], showing the four trigger paths: calorimeter, muon, track, and Particle Flow. For the first time, tracking information will be available as early as the L1 Trigger.

- **Calorimeter Trigger path:** (red, Fig. 3.1) 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  $e/\gamma$  candidates, hadronically decaying tau lepton candidates, jets, and energy sums are built.
- **Track Trigger path:** (green, Fig. 3.1) 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. 3.1) 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. 3.1) 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. 3.1), 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. 3.1), such as triggers for the precision proton spectrometer (PPS), beam position and timing monitors (BPTX), and luminosity and beam monitoring (BRIL) detectors [35]. 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) [36].

### 1017 3.3 Standalone Barrel Calorimeter electron/photon

1018 reconstruction

1019 The reconstruction and identification of electrons and photons ( $e/\gamma$ ) begin with the  
 1020 trigger primitives of the barrel ECAL and HCAL detectors and endcap HGCAL  
 1021 calorimeters, covering the pseudorapidity region  $|\eta| < 3$ . The barrel and endcap re-  
 1022 gions of the detector are intrinsically different enough to warrant different approaches  
 1023 to  $e/\gamma$  reconstruction. This work focuses on the Standalone Calorimeter  $e/\gamma$  recon-  
 1024 struction taking place in the barrel (Fig. 3.2).

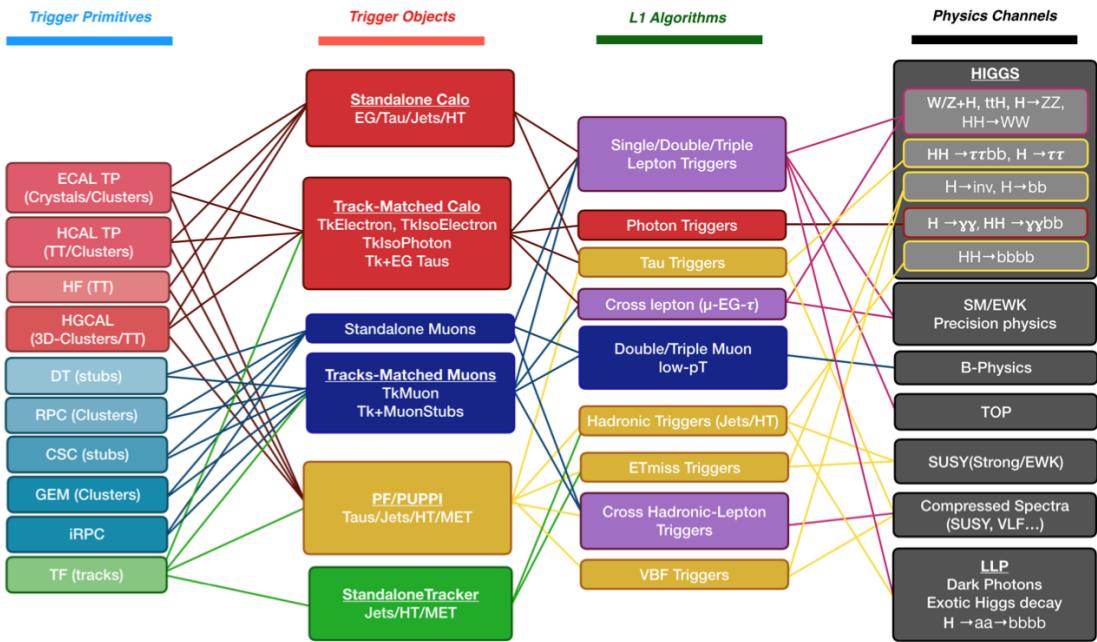


Figure 3.2: Summary of the links between the trigger primitives (*first column*), the trigger objects (*second column*), the Level-1 algorithms used in the menu (*3rd column*), and the physics channels (*4th column*), from [35], where a full description of the Phase-2 L1 algorithms can be found. This work focuses on developments for the Standalone Calorimeter electron and photon ("EG") reconstruction algorithm.

1025 **3.3.1 Phase-2 geometry of the ECAL Barrel trigger**

1026 In Phase-2, the upgrade of both on-detector and off-detector electronics for the barrel  
1027 calorimeters trigger primitive generator (TPG) will stream single crystal data from  
1028 the on-detector to the backend electronics, in contrast to the lower-granularity output  
1029 of the Phase-1 ECAL TPG that is restricted to providing trigger tower sums of  $5 \times 5$   
1030 crystals [35]. A schematic representation of the geometry of the ECAL barrel in the  
1031 Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT) is shown in Fig. 3.3. The barrel is spanned by  
1032 36 RCT cards, each spanning  $17 \times 4$  towers in  $\eta \times \phi$ . Each RCT card is subdivided  
1033 into five “regions” as shown in Fig. 3.4. After initial clustering and processing, the  
1034 outputs of the RCT card are sent to the Global Calorimeter (GCT) trigger, which is  
1035 processed in three cards as shown in Fig. 3.5.

1036 **3.3.2 Phase-2 electron/photon reconstruction algorithm**

1037 The standalone barrel algorithm for reconstructing and identifying electrons and pho-  
1038 tons in the Phase-2 Level-1 Trigger takes as input the digitized response of each crystal  
1039 of the barrel ECAL, with a granularity  $0.0175 \times 0.0175$  in  $\eta \times \phi$ , which is 25 times  
1040 higher than the input to the Phase-1 trigger, which consisted of trigger towers with  
1041 a granularity of  $0.0875 \times 0.0875$ . In HCAL the tower size of  $0.0875 \times 0.0875$  is un-  
1042 changed. The trigger algorithm is designed to closely reproduce the algorithm used in  
1043 the offline reconstruction, with limitations and simplifications due to trigger latency.

1044 In the RCT, an initial requirement of  $p_T > 0.5$  GeV is imposed on the input  
1045 trigger primitives (i.e. energies from the ECAL crystals and HCAL towers) to reject  
1046 contribution from pileup. In one of the regions inside a RCT card (Fig. 3.4), the  
1047 crystal containing the highest energy deposit is identified as the seed crystal, as shown  
1048 in Fig. 3.6. The energy in the crystals in a window of size  $3 \times 5$  in  $\eta \times \phi$  around  
1049 the seed cluster is added into a cluster. The energy is considered “clustered”. The  
1050 process is repeated with the remaining “unclustered” energy, until up to four clusters

1051 are produced in the region.

1052 To improve  $e/\gamma$  identification and to reduce background contributions, identifica-  
1053 tion and reconstruction algorithms are implemented at this stage:

1054 • Shower shape: The energy deposit sums around the seed crystal is computed in  
1055 windows of size  $2 \times 5$  and  $5 \times 5$  (Fig. 3.6, *dashed lines*), with true  $e/\gamma$  clusters  
1056 tending to produce showers that deposit most of their energy in a  $2 \times 5$  region.

1057 • Bremsstrahlung recovery:  $e/\gamma$  tend to spread in the  $\phi$  direction due to charged  
1058 particles being bent by the magnetic field of the CMS solenoid. If sufficient  
1059 energy comparable to the core  $3 \times 5$  cluster is found in the adjacent  $3 \times 5$   
1060 windows (Fig. 3.6, *shaded yellow*), the energy is added to the core cluster and  
1061 no longer considered unclustered energy.

1062 After parallel processing in the regions, the clusters in a RCT card are stitched  
1063 together if they are located directly along the borders of a region (Fig. 3.3). The  
1064 remaining unclustered ECAL energy is summed into ECAL towers.

1065 From each RCT card, the twelve highest-energy clusters, as well as any remaining  
1066 unclustered energy, are sent to the GCT. Since each GCT card has information from  
1067 sixteen RCT cards (Fig. 3.5), final stitching across the boundaries of the RCT cards  
1068 is performed. One more identification algorithm is performed at this stage:

1069 • Isolation: One handle to reject backgrounds from e.g. pileup, comes from the  
1070 tendency for background to be spread more uniformly across a large area in the  
1071 detector, whereas genuine  $e/\gamma$  are expected to produce showers concentrated in  
1072 the  $3 \times 5$  crystal window. The energy sum in a large window of  $7 \times 7$  in towers  
1073 is computed and used to reject background.

1074 The performance of the standalone barrel  $e/\gamma$  algorithm in Phase-2 conditions is  
1075 summarized in the efficiency and rates. The efficiencies are measured with a simulated  
1076 Monte Carlo sample containing electrons. The rates are measured with a simulated

1077 minimum bias sample intended to closely mimic generic proton-proton collisions in  
1078 the CMS detector. The performance of the Phase-2 emulator discussed in this work,  
1079 which closely mimics the firmware logic and uses fixed-precision integers, is shown to  
1080 be comparable to the previous emulator which used floats and idealized logic.

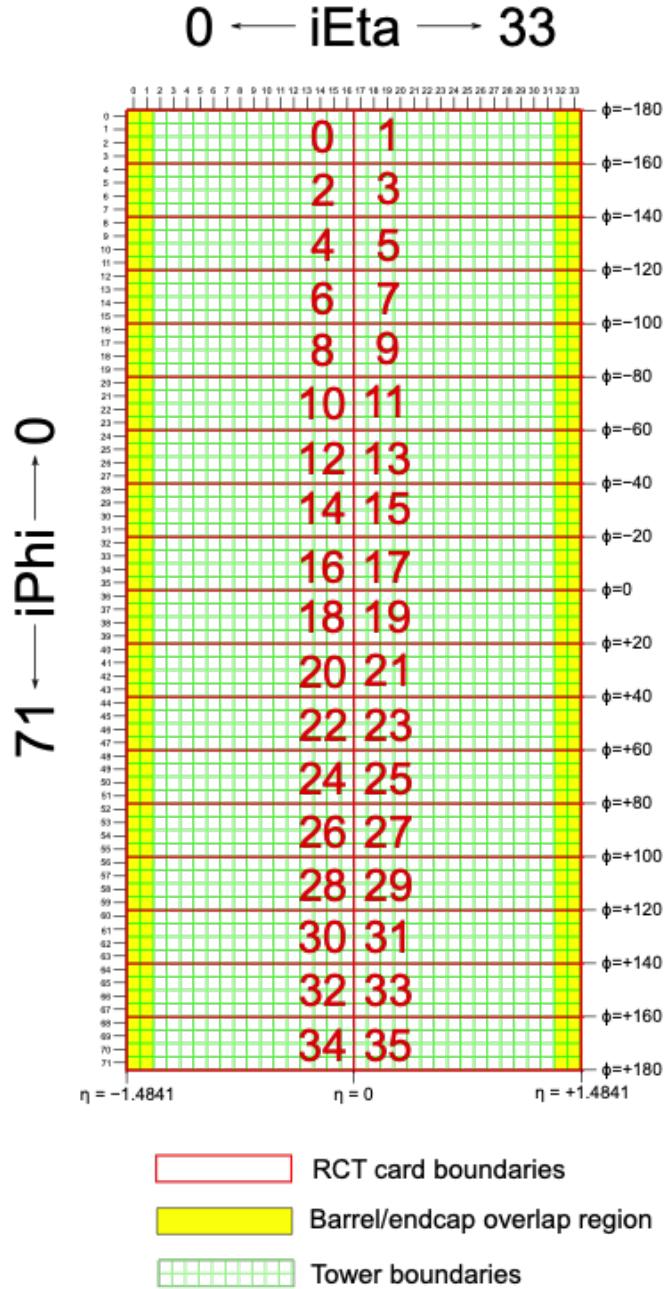


Figure 3.3: Schematic of the geometry of the Phase-2 ECAL barrel in the Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT), showing the division of the barrel region into 36 Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT) cards (*red*). Each card spans  $17 \times 4$  towers in  $\eta \times \phi$  (*green*), and each tower is  $5 \times 5$  in single crystals in  $\eta \times \phi$ . Towers in the overlap region (*shaded yellow*) are read out to both the barrel and endcap.

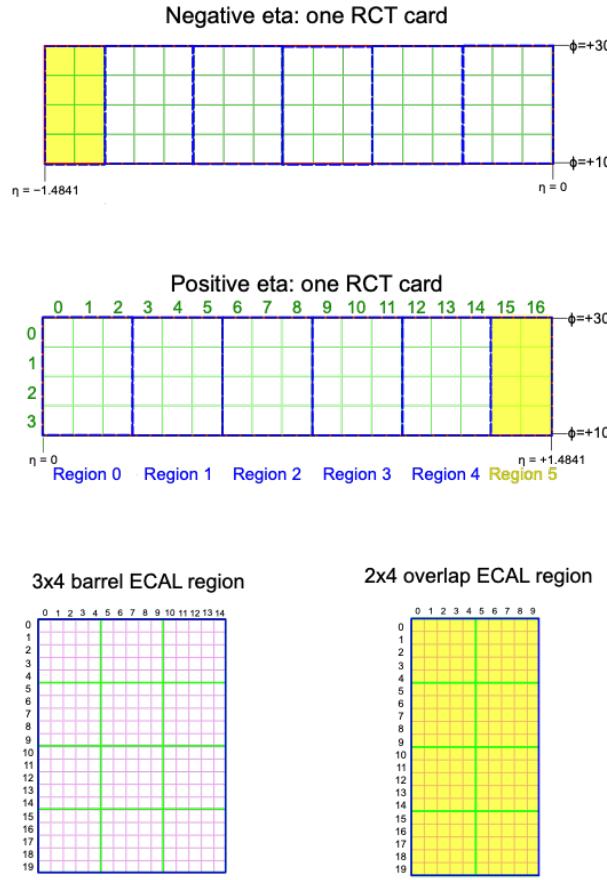


Figure 3.4: Schematic of two example RCT cards in the negative eta (*top*) and positive eta (*center*) regions of the ECAL barrel. Each RCT card is divided into five regions: four regions are of size  $3 \times 4$  towers in  $\eta \times \phi$  (*bottom left*), and a fifth smaller overlap region of size  $2 \times 4$  towers (*bottom right*). Each tower is  $5 \times 5$  ( $\eta \times \phi$ ) in crystals.

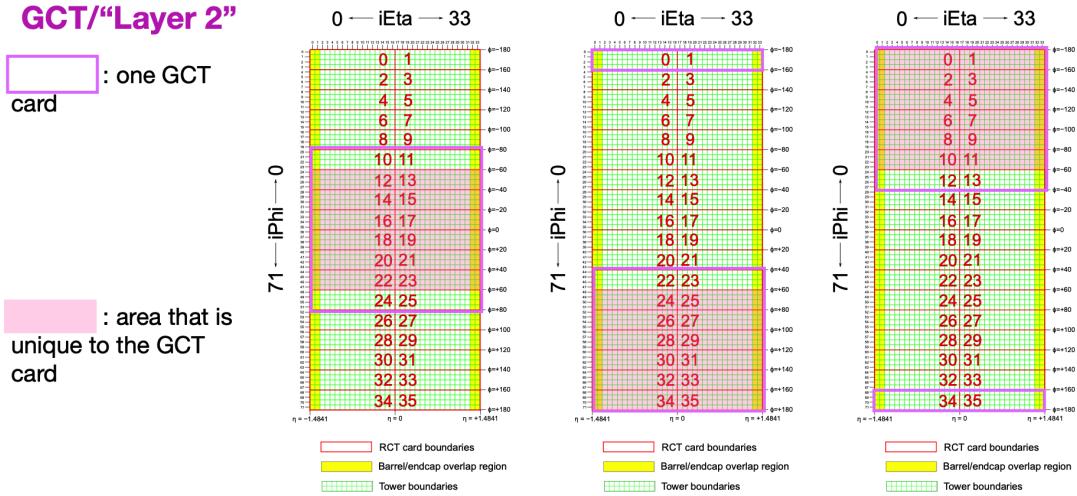


Figure 3.5: Schematic of the Phase-2 ECAL barrel in the Global Calorimeter Trigger (GCT), which will process the outputs of the Regional Calorimeter Trigger (RCT) in three cards (*magenta highlights*). Each card in the GCT processes the equivalent of sixteen RCT cards, with the center twelve being unique to that GCT card (*shaded pink*), and the remaining four processed in overlap with the other GCT cards.

### 3x4 barrel ECAL region

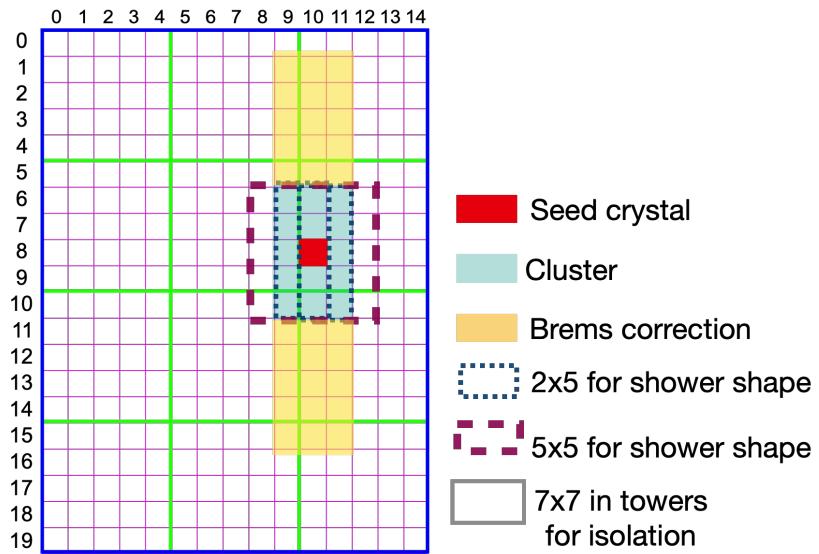


Figure 3.6: Illustration of an example electron/photon ( $e/\gamma$ ) cluster in the Phase-2 Level-1 Trigger standalone barrel  $e/\gamma$  reconstruction, in a region of  $15 \times 20$  crystals ( $3 \times 4$  towers). Each small pink square is one crystal, the highest-granularity ECAL trigger primitives available to the L1 Trigger in Phase-2. The core cluster consists of the energy sum in a  $3 \times 5$  window of crystals, (*shaded light blue*) centered around the seed crystal (*red*). Bremsstrahlung corrections are checked in the adjacent  $3 \times 5$  windows in the  $\phi$  direction (*shaded light yellow*). The relative energies in windows of size  $2 \times 5$  and  $5 \times 5$  in crystals (*dashed dark blue and dark red*) are used to compute shower shape variables to identify true  $e/\gamma$  objects. Lastly, an isolation sum is computed in a window of size  $7 \times 7$  in towers (not shown in figure).

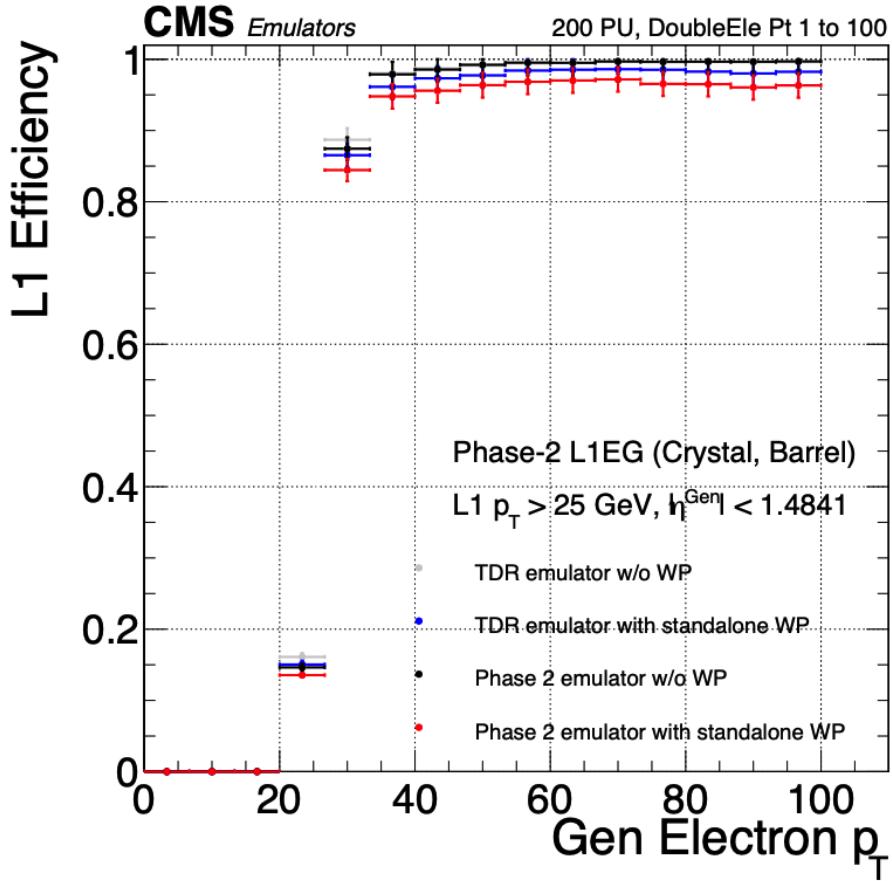


Figure 3.7: Efficiency of the standalone barrel  $e/\gamma$  reconstruction, measured in a simulated sample of electrons, as a function of the true electron's transverse momentum  $p_T$ . The performance of the previous, idealized algorithm as shown in the 2021 Phase-2 TDR [35] with and without the isolation 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.

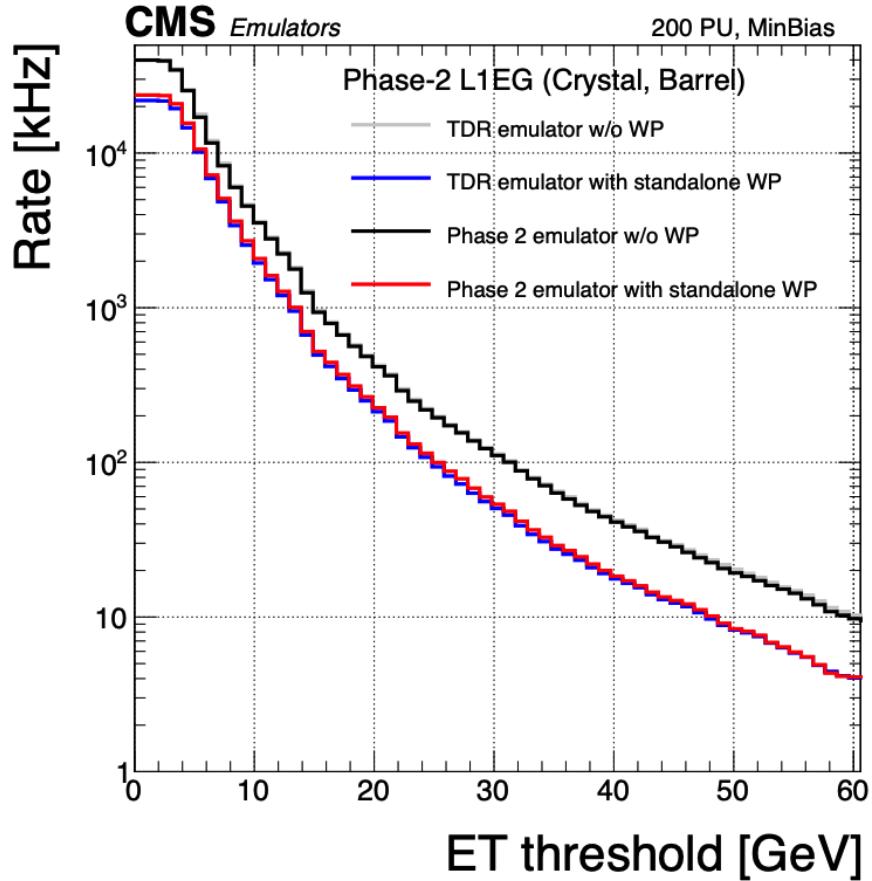


Figure 3.8: Rates of the standalone barrel  $e/\gamma$  reconstruction, evaluated on a minimum bias sample, measured as a function of the minimum energy ( $E_T$ ) required of the reconstructed  $e/\gamma$  object in each event. The performance of the previous, idealized algorithm as shown in the 2021 Phase-2 TDR [35] 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.

1081 **Chapter 4**

1082 **Datasets and Monte Carlo samples**

1083 The search for the exotic decay of the 125 GeV Higgs boson to two light neutral scalars  
1084 decaying to a pair of bottom quarks and a pair of tau leptons ( $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$ ) is  
1085 based on proton-proton collision data at a center-of-mass energy 13 TeV collected  
1086 in Run-2 of data-taking, spanning the data-taking years 2016, 2017, and 2018. The  
1087 datasets used and the triggers used to collect the data are described in Section 4.1.  
1088 Section 4.2 describes the Monte Carlo simulated samples that are used to model the  
1089  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$  signal and background Standard Model processes. Lastly, in order  
1090 to obtain a better description of Standard Model backgrounds that contain two tau  
1091 leptons, a data-Monte Carlo hybrid technique is used to generate embedded samples  
1092 which model processes with genuine  $\tau\tau$  in the final state, as detailed in Section 4.3.

1093 **4.1 Datasets used**

1094 The  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$  analysis [37] is based on proton-proton collision data at a center-  
1095 of-mass energy of 13 TeV collected in full Run-2 (2016-18) with the CMS detector.  
1096 The data analyzed corresponds to a total integrated luminosity of  $138 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  ( $36.33 \text{ fb}^{-1}$   
1097 for 2016,  $41.53 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  for 2017, and  $59.74 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  for 2018) [38] [39] [40]. The cumulative  
1098 delivered and recorded luminosity versus time for 2015-2018 is shown in Fig. 4.1.

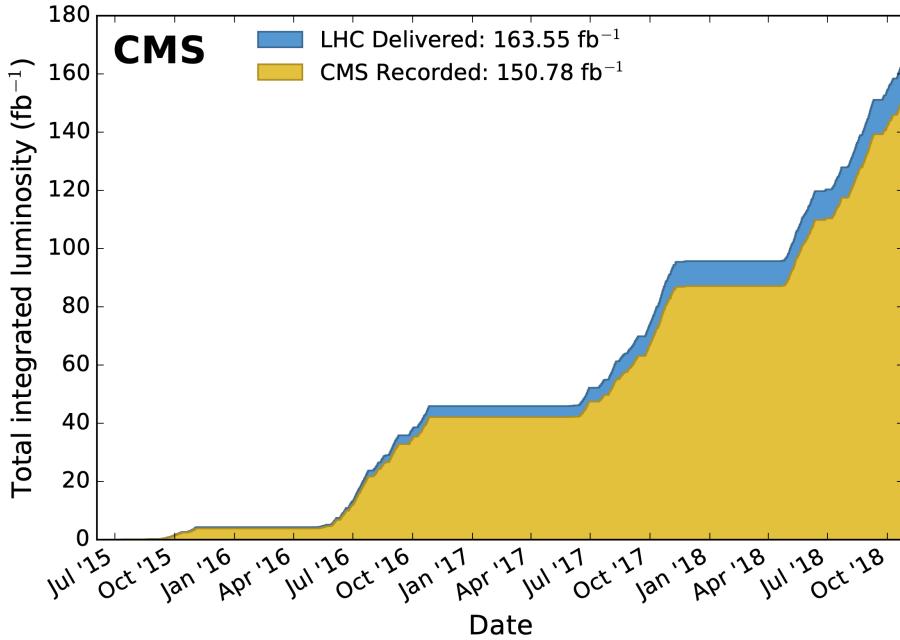


Figure 4.1: Cumulative delivered and recorded luminosity versus time for 2015-2018 at CMS, in proton-proton collision data only, at nominal center-of-mass energy [41].

1099 Data collected with the single muon trigger is used for the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel. For the  
 1100  $e\tau_h$  channel, data collected with the single electron trigger is used; and for the  $e\mu$   
 1101 channel, data collected with the electron + muon trigger is used. A more in-depth  
 1102 discussion of the triggers used follows in a later section.

1103 A full list of samples used can be found in the full documentation [42] [37].

## 1104 4.2 Monte Carlo samples

1105 Modeling and computing observables originating from arbitrary physics processes at  
 1106 the tree level and at next-to-leading order (NLO) is performed by Monte Carlo (MC)  
 1107 event generators, such as Powheg and MadGraph5\\_amCNLO [43] [44]. The informa-  
 1108 tion generated, e.g. the computation of the differential cross sections and kinematics  
 1109 of the final state particles, is saved in a compressed file and used to generate MC

1110 samples that are used in physics analyses. The samples are digitized using GEANT4  
1111 [45], a platform used at the LHC and other facilities to comprehensively simulate the  
1112 passage of particles through matter. The digitized samples are passed through the  
1113 same detector reconstruction as real data events collected in the detector.

1114 The samples for modeling the signal ( $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow 2b2\tau$  and  $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$ ) in the  
1115 2HDM+S and TRSM are generated at tree-level, for a range of masses of the light  
1116 neutral scalar  $a$ . For  $h \rightarrow aa$ , the mass hypotheses for the  $a$  range from  $m_a =$   
1117 (12 GeV, 62.5 GeV). For  $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$ , the mass hypotheses for the two light scalars span  
1118 combinations of  $m_{a1}$ ,  $m_{a2}$  ranging from (12 GeV, 62.5 GeV) for the two scalars.

### 1119 4.3 Embedded samples

1120 An important background for Higgs boson studies and searches for additional Higgs  
1121 bosons is the decay of  $Z$  bosons into pairs of  $\tau$  leptons ( $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ ). An embedded tech-  
1122 nique was developed in the context of Standard Model Higgs to  $\tau\tau$  measurements, to  
1123 model  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$  decays, and was expanded to also model all Standard Model processes  
1124 that contain  $\tau\tau$  [46]. The embedded technique has since been used successfully at  
1125 CMS for the Standard Model  $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$  measurement, as well as searches for minimal  
1126 supersymmetric extensions to the Standard Model (MSSM) [47] [48].

1127 Fig. 4.2 shows a schematic of how embedded samples are produced. Data events  
1128 containing  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$  decays are selected. In these events, all energy deposits of the  
1129 recorded muons are removed, and are replaced with simulated tau leptons with the  
1130 same kinematic properties as the removed muons. This results in a hybrid data format  
1131 containing information from both observed and simulated events, as illustrated in Fig.  
1132 4.2 [46].

1133 In the selection step of the embedded technique, events are selected with at least  
1134 one of a set of  $\mu\mu$  trigger paths, which require  $p_T > 17(8)$  GeV for the leading

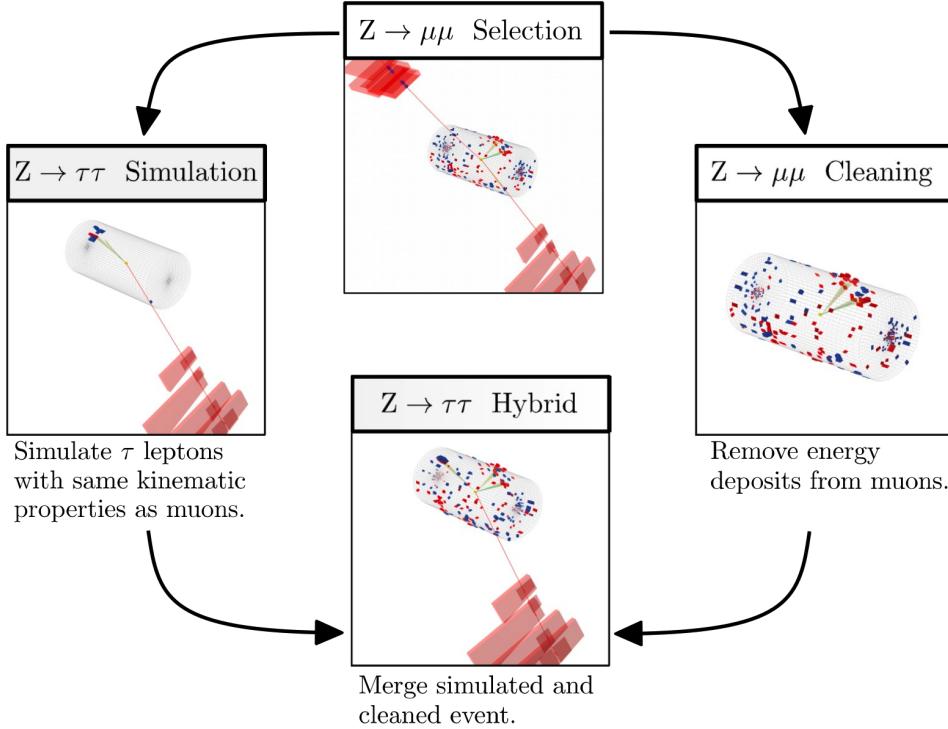


Figure 4.2: Schematic view of the four main steps of the embedding technique for  $\tau$  leptons, as described in Section 4.3 [46]. A  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$  event is selected in data ( $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$  selection), all of the energy deposits associated with the muons are removed ( $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$  cleaning), and two  $\tau$  leptons and their decays are simulated in an empty detector ( $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$  simulation). Lastly, all energy deposits of the simulated  $\tau$  decays are combined with the data event ( $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$  hybrid).

(sub-leading) muons, and a minimum requirement between 3.8 and 8.0 GeV on the invariant di-muon mass  $m_{\mu\mu}$  [46]. The offline reconstructed muons must match the objects at trigger level and also have offline  $p_T > 17(8)$  GeV. They must have  $|\eta| < 2.4$  and be located at a distance  $|d_z| < 0.2$  cm to the primary vertex along the beam axis. To form a Z boson candidate, each muon is required to originate from a global muon track. The muon pairs must have opposite charges with an invariant mass of  $m_{\mu\mu} > 20$  GeV. If more than two di-muon pairs are found, the pair with the invariant mass closest to the Z boson mass (91.19 GeV) is chosen.

This selection is designed to be tight enough to ensure a high purity of genuine  $\mu\mu$  events, and also loose enough to minimize biases of the embedded event samples. Isolation requirements are avoided, since they would introduce a bias towards less

hadronic activity in the vicinities of the embedded leptons that will appear more isolated than expected in data. The selection results in an expected mixture of events summarized in Table 4.1 from [46].  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$  is the dominant process modeled by the embedded technique, with  $t\bar{t}$ , QCD, and diboson and single top processes becoming more significant when considering events with b-tag jets.

Process	Fraction (%)		
	Inclusive	$m_{\mu\mu} > 70$ GeV	$N(\text{b-tag jets}) > 0$
$Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$	97.36	99.11	69.25
QCD	0.84	0.10	2.08
$t\bar{t}$	0.78	0.55	25.61
$Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$	0.71	0.05	0.57
Diboson, single t	0.17	0.17	2.35
W+jets	0.08	0.02	0.14

Table 4.1: Expected event composition after selecting two muons in the embedded technique [46], before additional cuts (i.e. inclusive, *column 2*), and after adding a requirement on the di-muon mass  $m_{\mu\mu} > 70$  GeV (*column 3*), or a requirement on the number of b-tag jets in the event (*column 4*).

The advantage of the embedded technique is that aspects of the event that are difficult to model and describe are directly taken from data, resulting in a better data description than can be achieved with only the  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$  simulation [46]. The simulation must be tuned extensively to accurately model aspects of the data, such as time-dependent pileup profiles, the production of additional jets, e.g. in multijet and vector boson fusion topologies, the number of reconstructed primary interaction vertices, and the missing transverse momentum  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$ . Since all events with genuine  $\tau\tau$  are estimated with samples made with the embedded technique (referred to as embedded samples from here on), events in Monte Carlo simulation with genuine  $\tau\tau$  are not used, in order to avoid double-counting.

<sub>1161</sub> **Chapter 5**

<sub>1162</sub> **Object reconstruction and  
1163 corrections applied**

<sub>1164</sub> In the data processing workflow, data events and simulated events are analyzed to  
<sub>1165</sub> reconstruct physics objects of interest, and algorithms for distinguishing genuine par-  
<sub>1166</sub> ticle candidates from background, are employed. Section 5.1 describes the physical  
<sub>1167</sub> properties of the most important objects in the  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$  analysis: taus,  
<sub>1168</sub> muons, electrons, jets, and jets originating from b-quarks (b-flavor jets), as well as  
<sub>1169</sub> their reconstruction and identification in CMS. In this analysis, the full energy and  
<sub>1170</sub> momentum of the two tau leptons ( $m_{\tau\tau}$ ) is estimated from the measured (i.e. visible)  
<sub>1171</sub> components of the tau leptons using the SVFit/FastMTT algorithm, which is de-  
<sub>1172</sub> scribed in Section 5.2. Corrections are applied to the simulated samples at the object  
<sub>1173</sub> level and the event level to account for known discrepancies between simulations and  
<sub>1174</sub> the data that the simulations are intended to model. These corrections are listed and  
<sub>1175</sub> detailed in Section 5.3.

<sub>1176</sub> **5.1 Object reconstruction**

<sub>1177</sub> **5.1.1 Taus**

<sub>1178</sub> The tau ( $\tau$ ) is the heaviest known lepton. With a rest mass of 1776.86 MeV, it can  
<sub>1179</sub> decay to not only electrons and muons, but also hadrons. The mean lifetime of the  $\tau$   
<sub>1180</sub> is  $\tau = 290 \times 10^{-15}$  seconds, corresponding to  $c\tau = 87.03 \mu\text{m}$ , which is short enough  
<sub>1181</sub> that taus decay in the CMS detector before reaching the detector elements.

<sub>1182</sub> In two thirds of the cases,  $\tau$  leptons decay hadronically, typically into one or three  
<sub>1183</sub> charged mesons (predominantly  $\pi^+$ ,  $\pi^-$ ), often accompanied by neutral pions (that  
<sub>1184</sub> decay  $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ), and a  $\nu_\tau$ . These hadronic decays are denoted  $\tau_h$ . In the remainder of  
<sub>1185</sub> the decays, the tau decays to the lighter leptons (electron or muon), termed leptonic  
<sub>1186</sub> decays. In all cases, at least one neutrino is produced, resulting in missing transverse  
<sub>1187</sub> energy in the CMS detector. The tau's largest decay branching ratios (proportional  
<sub>1188</sub> to probability of decay) are listed below [26]:

- <sub>1189</sub> • 17.8% decay to  $e^- \bar{\nu}_e \nu_\tau$
- <sub>1190</sub> • 17.4% decay to  $\mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu \nu_\tau$
- <sub>1191</sub> • 25.5% decay to  $\pi^- \pi^0 \nu_\tau$  ( $\rho^-$  resonance at 770 MeV)
- <sub>1192</sub> • 10.8% decay to  $\pi^- \nu_\tau$
- <sub>1193</sub> • 9.3% decay to  $\pi^- \pi^0 \pi^0 \nu_\tau$  ( $a_1^-$  resonance at 1200 MeV)
- <sub>1194</sub> • 9.0% decay to  $\pi^- \pi^- \pi^+ \nu_\tau$  ( $a_1^-$  resonance at 1200 MeV)

<sub>1195</sub> The neutrinos escape undetected from the CMS detector and are not considered  
<sub>1196</sub> in the reconstruction. Charged hadrons leave tracks in the tracking detector before  
<sub>1197</sub> being absorbed in the hadronic calorimeter; in CMS tau reconstruction terminology,  
<sub>1198</sub> they are often called “prongs”, i.e. the dominant  $\tau_h$  decay modes are termed “1 prong”

<sub>1199</sub>  $(\pi^\pm)$ , “1 prong +  $\pi^0$ (s)”, and “3-prong”. Neutral pions decay to two photons which  
<sub>1200</sub> lose their energy in the electromagnetic calorimeter. Taus that decay to electrons  
<sub>1201</sub> and muons, are typically triggered on and reconstructed as electrons and muons  
<sub>1202</sub> respectively.

<sub>1203</sub> **Hadron plus strips (HPS) reconstruction of  $\tau_h$**

<sub>1204</sub> At CMS, hadronically decaying tau leptons are reconstructed with the hadron plus  
<sub>1205</sub> strips (HPS) algorithm [49] [50]. The HPS algorithm capitalizes on photon conversions  
<sub>1206</sub> in the CMS tracker material, which originate from the neutral pion ( $\pi^0$ ) decaying  
<sub>1207</sub> to two photons. The bending of electron/positron tracks due to the CMS solenoid  
<sub>1208</sub> magnetic field leads to a spread of the neutral pions’ calorimeter signatures in the  $\phi$   
<sub>1209</sub> direction. This motivates the reconstruction of photons in “strips”: objects that are  
<sub>1210</sub> built out of PF photons and electrons. The strip reconstruction starts with centering  
<sub>1211</sub> a strip on the most energetic electromagnetic particle in a PF jet. Among other  
<sub>1212</sub> electromagnetic particles located in a window of size  $\Delta\eta = 0.05$  and  $\Delta\phi = 0.20$   
<sub>1213</sub> around the strip center, the most energetic one is associated with the strip and its  
<sub>1214</sub> momentum is added to the strip momentum. This is repeated iteratively until no  
<sub>1215</sub> further particles can be associated. Lastly, strips satisfying a requirement of  $p_T^{\text{strip}} > 1$   
<sub>1216</sub> GeV are combined with charged hadrons to reconstruct individual  $\tau_h$  decay modes,  
<sub>1217</sub> where  $h$  stands for both  $\pi$  and  $K$ :

- <sub>1218</sub> • *Single hadron:*  $h^- \nu_\tau$  and  $h^- \pi^0 \nu_\tau$  decay modes, in which the neutral pions have  
<sub>1219</sub> too little energy to be reconstructed as strips.
- <sub>1220</sub> • *One hadron + one strip:*  $h^- \pi^0 \nu_\tau$  decay modes, where the photons from the  $\pi^0$   
<sub>1221</sub> decay are close together in the calorimeter.
- <sub>1222</sub> • *One hadron + two strips:*  $h^- \pi^0 \nu_\tau$  decay modes, where the photons from the  $\pi^0$   
<sub>1223</sub> decay are well separated.

- 1224     • *Three hadrons:*  $h^-h^+h^-\nu_\tau$  decay modes. The three charged hadrons are re-  
1225         quired to originate from the same secondary vertex.

1226     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  
1227         reconstructed with the above topologies.

1228     In the HPS algorithm, the direction of the reconstructed tau momentum  $\vec{p}^{\tau_h}$   
1229     is required to fall within a distance of  $\Delta R = 0.1$  from the original PF jet. All  
1230     charged hadrons and strips are required to be contained within a cone of size  $\Delta R =$   
1231      $(2.8 \text{ GeV})/p_T^{\tau_h}$ , from the  $\tau_h$  as reconstructed by the HPS.

1232     All charged hadrons are assumed to be pions, and they are required to be consis-  
1233         tent with the masses of the intermediate meson resonances (if applicable), with the  
1234         following allowed windows for candidates: 50-200 MeV for  $\pi^0$ , 0.3-1.3 GeV for  $\rho$ , and  
1235         0.8-1.5 GeV for  $a_1$ . If the  $\tau_h$  decay is compatible with more than one hypothesis, the  
1236         one giving the highest  $p_T^{\tau_h}$  is chosen. Lastly, an isolation requirement is applied: aside  
1237         from the  $\tau_h$  decay products, no charged hadrons or photons can be present within  
1238         an isolation cone of size  $\Delta R = 0.5$  around the direction of the  $\tau_h$ . The outputs of  
1239         the HPS algorithm are the reconstructed decay mode and the visible four-momentum  
1240         (i.e. the four-momenta of all decay products excluding the neutrinos).

## 1241     **DeepTau for identifying $\tau_h$**

1242     The identification of  $\tau_h$  candidates in CMS has historically been divided into separate  
1243         discriminators against jets, electrons, and muons. Discriminators versus jets and  
1244         electrons use information from derived quantities, such as the  $p_T$  sum of particles  
1245         near the  $\tau_h$  axis. Building on the previous multivariate analysis (MVA) classifier [51]  
1246         based on a boosted decision tree (BDT), DeepTau is a more recent classifier based on a  
1247         deep neural network (DNN) that simultaneously discriminates against jets, electrons,  
1248         and muons. The DNN uses a combination of high-level inputs, similar to previous  
1249         algorithms, and also uses convolutional layers in  $\eta$ - $\phi$  space to process information

1250 from all reconstructed particles near the  $\tau_h$  axis. Convolutional layers are based on  
1251 the principle that an image can be processed independently of its position.

1252 The final DeepTau discriminators against jets, muons, and electrons are given by

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

1253 where  $y_\tau$  ( $y_\alpha$ ) are estimates of the probabilities for the  $\tau_h$  candidate to come from  
1254 a genuine  $\tau_h$  (jet,  $\mu$ ,  $e$ ). Working points for each discriminator with different  $\tau_h$   
1255 identification efficiencies are defined for  $D_e$ ,  $D_\mu$ , and  $D_{\text{jet}}$ , for usage in physics analyses  
1256 and derivation of data-to-simulation corrections [52].

### 1257 5.1.2 Muons

1258 Muons are the next lightest lepton after taus, with a mass of 105.66 MeV and a  
1259 mean lifetime of  $\tau = 2.20 \times 10^{-6}$  seconds, or  $c\tau = 658.64$  m. At CMS, muons are  
1260 identified with requirements on the quality of the track reconstruction and on the  
1261 number of measurements in the tracker and the muon systems [53]. In the standard  
1262 CMS reconstruction, tracks are first reconstructed independently in the inner tracker  
1263 (tracker track) and in the muon system (standalone-muon track). Next, these tracks  
1264 are processed in two different methods.

1265 The first is Global Muon reconstruction (outside-in) [53], which fits combined hits  
1266 from the tracker track and standalone-muon track, using the Kalman-filter technique.  
1267 At large transverse momenta,  $p_T \gtrsim 200$  GeV, the global-muon fit can improve the  
1268 momentum resolution compared to the tracker-only fit.

1269 The second is Tracker Muon reconstruction (inside-out) [53], which starts with  
1270 tracker tracks with  $p_T > 0.5$  GeV and total momentum  $p_T > 2.5$  GeV. These tracks  
1271 are extrapolated outwards to the muon system and matched to detector segments  
1272 there, taking into account the magnetic field, expected energy losses, and multiple

1273 Coulomb scattering in the detector material. Tracker Muon reconstruction is more  
 1274 efficient than the Global Muon reconstruction at low momenta,  $p \lesssim 5$  GeV, because  
 1275 it only requires a single muon segment in the muon system, whereas Global Muon  
 1276 reconstruction typically requires segments in at least two muon stations.

1277 To further suppress fake muons from decay in flight, isolation cuts are used. A  
 1278 relative isolation variable is defined to quantify the energy flow of particles near the  
 1279 muon trajectory. A relative isolation is defined similarly for muons and electrons:

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

1280 where  $\sum_{\text{charged}} p_T$  is the scalar sum of the  $p_T$  of the charged particles originating from  
 1281 the primary vertex and located in a cone of size  $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2} = 0.4(0.3)$   
 1282 centered on the direction of the muon (electron). The sum  $\sum_{\text{neutral}} p_T$  is the equivalent  
 1283 for neutral particles. The sum  $\sum_{\text{charged, PU}} p_T$  is the scalar sum of the  $p_T$  of the  
 1284 charged hadrons in the cone originating from pileup vertices. The factor 1/2 comes  
 1285 from simulation estimations, which find that the ratio of neutral to charged hadron  
 1286 production in the hadronization process of inelastic  $pp$  collisions is 1/2. Thus the  
 1287 subtracted term is intended to subtract contribution from pileup, from the neutral  
 1288 particle contribution to the isolation sum. Finally, this is divided by the lepton  
 1289 transverse momentum,  $p_T^\ell$ .

### 1290 5.1.3 Electrons

1291 Electrons are the lightest lepton with a mass of 0.511 MeV. At CMS, electrons are  
 1292 reconstructed by associating a track reconstructed in the silicon tracking detector  
 1293 with a cluster of energy in the ECAL. Performance is maximized via a combination  
 1294 of a stand-alone approach and the complementary global particle-flow approach [54].

1295 In the stand-alone approach, the electron energy, which is typically spread over

1296 several crystals of the ECAL, is clustered with the “hybrid” algorithm in the barrel  
1297 and the “multi- $5 \times 5$ ” in the endcaps [54]. The hybrid algorithm collects energy in a  
1298 small window in  $\eta$  and an extended window in  $\phi$ . It identifies a seed crystal, and adds  
1299 arrays of  $5 \times 1$  crystals in  $\eta \times \phi$  in a range of  $N = 17$  crystals in both directions of  
1300  $\phi$ , if their energies exceed a minimum threshold, thus forming a supercluster (SC). In  
1301 the endcap, crystals are not arranged in an  $\eta \times \phi$  geometry; instead clusters are build  
1302 around seed crystals in clusters of  $5 \times 5$  crystals that can partly overlap. Nearby  
1303 clusters are grouped into a supercluster, and energy is recovered from associated  
1304 deposits in the preshower.

1305 In the PF reconstruction [54], PF clusters are reconstructed by aggregating around  
1306 a seed all contiguous crystals with energies two standard deviations above the elec-  
1307 tronic noise observed at the beginning of a data-taking run. The energy of a given  
1308 crystal can be shared among two or more clusters.

1309 The electron track reconstruction is performed in two ways [54]: the ECAL-based  
1310 seeding, which begins with the SC energy and positioning, and the tracker-based  
1311 seeding (part of the PF reconstruction algorithm), which uses tracks reconstructed  
1312 from the general algorithm for charged particles, extrapolated towards the ECAL and  
1313 matched to an SC. Kalman filter (KF) tracks with a small number of hits or that are  
1314 not well-fitted, are re-fitted with a dedicated Gaussian sum Filter (GSF).

1315 A global identification variable [54] is defined using a multivariate analysis (MVA)  
1316 technique that combines information on track observables (kinematics, quality of the  
1317 KF track and GSF track), the electron PF cluster observables (shape and pattern),  
1318 and the association between the two (geometric and kinematic observables). For  
1319 electrons seeded only through the tracker-based approach, a weak selection is applied  
1320 on this MVA variable. For electrons seeded through both approaches, a logical OR is  
1321 taken.

1322 Electron isolation, i.e. the presence of energy deposits near the electron trajectory,

1323 is a separate key handle in rejecting significant background. Compared to isolated  
 1324 electrons, electrons from misidentified jets or genuine electrons within a jet resulting  
 1325 from semileptonic decays of  $b$  or  $c$  quarks tend to have significant energy deposits  
 1326 near the primary trajectory [54]. Offline analyses benefit from the PF technique  
 1327 for defining isolation, which sums the PF candidates reconstructed located within a  
 1328 specified isolation cone around the electron candidate, as in Eqn. 5.2.

### 1329 **5.1.4 Jets**

1330 The vast majority of processes of interest at the LHC contains quarks or gluons in  
 1331 the final state, but these particles cannot be observed directly. In a process called  
 1332 hadronization, they fragment into spatially-grouped collections of particles called jets,  
 1333 which can be detected in the tracking and calorimeter systems. Hadronization and  
 1334 the subsequent decays of unstable hadrons can produce hundreds of nearby particles  
 1335 in the CMS detector. Jets are reconstructed by the PF algorithm (PF jets), or from  
 1336 the sum of the ECAL and HCAL energies deposited in the calorimeter towers (Calo  
 1337 jets). In PF jets, typically used in offline analyses, jets are built using the anti- $k_T$   
 1338 (AK) clustering algorithm [55]. The anti- $k_T$  algorithm iterates over particle pairs and  
 1339 finds the two that are closest in a distance measure  $d$ , and determines whether to  
 1340 combine them:

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

1341 where  $\Delta_{ij}^2 = (\eta_i - \eta_j)^2 + (\phi_i - \phi_j)^2$  and  $p_{T,i}$ ,  $\eta_i$ ,  $\phi_i$  are the transverse momentum, rapid-  
 1342 ity, and azimuthal angle of particle  $i$ . The power  $-2$  means that higher-momentum  
 1343 particles are clustered first, leading to jets that tend to be centered on the hardest  
 1344 (highest  $p_T$ ) particle.

1345 There are several methods to remove contributions of pileup collisions from jet

1346 clustering [56]:

- 1347 • Charged hadron subtraction (CHS), which removes all charged hadron candidates associated with a track that is not associated with the primary vertex.
- 1349 • PileUp Per Particle Identification (PUPPI), which weighs input particles based  
1350 on their likelihood of arising from pileup. QCD particles tend to have a collinear  
1351 structure, compared to soft diffuse radiation coming from pileup. The local  
1352 shape for charged pileup, used as a proxy for all pileup particles, is used on an  
1353 event-by-event basis to calculate a weight for each particle. PUPPI is deployed  
1354 in Run-2 and is more performant than CHS in high pileup scenarios.

### 1355 5.1.5 B-flavored jets

1356 Jets that arise from bottom-quark hadronization (b-flavor jets) have overwhelming  
1357 background from processes involving jets from gluons (g) and light-flavor quarks (u, d,  
1358 s), and from c-quark fragmentation. The ability to identify b-flavor jets, or b-tagging,  
1359 exploits the b hadrons' relatively large masses, long lifetimes, and daughter particles  
1360 with hard momentum spectra [55].

1361 The impact parameter (IP) of a track is the 3-dimensional distance between the  
1362 track and the primary vertex (PV) at the point of closest approach. The IP is positive  
1363 if the track originates from the decay of particles travelling along the jet axis. The  
1364 resolution of the IP depends on the  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  of the track, motivating the use of the  
1365 impact parameter significance  $S_{\text{IP}}$  (ratio of the IP to its estimated uncertainty) as an  
1366 observable [55].

1367 Because of the large but finite lifetimes of the b hadrons, b hadrons tend to  
1368 travel a short distance before decaying at a secondary vertex (SV), which can be  
1369 measured and reconstructed separately from the primary vertex due to the excellent  
1370 position resolution of the pixel detector [55]. Previous b-tagging algorithms (e.g.

1371 CSV, cMVAv2, and DeepCSV) have capitalized on variables such as the presence of  
1372 a SV, the flight distance and direction (computed from the vector between the PV  
1373 and the SV), and kinematics of the system of associated secondary tracks (e.g. track  
1374 multiplicity, mass, and energy).

1375 The DeepJet (formerly known as DeepFlavour) algorithm [57] is a deep-neural-  
1376 network multi-classification algorithm, which uses 16 properties of up to 25 charged  
1377 and 6 properties of 25 neutral particle-flow jet constituents, as well as 17 properties  
1378 from up to 4 secondary vertices associate with the jet. Compared to the previous clas-  
1379 sifying algorithm DeepCSV, DeepJet has been demonstrated to have higher efficiency  
1380 with lower misidentification probability in Phase-1 data [58].

## 1381 5.2 Reconstruction of the $\tau\tau$ mass

1382 The final signal extraction is done to the total  $\tau\tau$  mass, which is estimated from the  
1383 visible  $\tau\tau$  mass using the FastMTT algorithm [59]. FastMTT is based on the SVFit  
1384 algorithm, originally developed for the Standard Model  $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$  analysis [60]. Both  
1385 the SVFit algorithms, and the FastMTT algorithm, are described below, to give a  
1386 complete picture of how tau decays are parameterized.

1387 To specify a hadronic  $\tau$  decay, six parameters are needed [60]: the polar and  
1388 azimuthal angles of the visible decay product system in the  $\tau$  rest frame, the three  
1389 boost parameters from the  $\tau$  rest frame to the laboratory frame, and the invariant  
1390 mass  $m_{\text{vis}}$  of the visible decay products. For a leptonic  $\tau$  decay, two neutrinos are  
1391 produced, and a seventh parameter, the invariant mass of the two-neutrino system, is  
1392 necessary. The unknown parameters are constrained by four observables that are the  
1393 components of the four-momentum of the system formed by the visible decay products  
1394 of the  $\tau$  lepton, measured in the laboratory frame. The remaining unconstrained  
1395 parameters for hadronic and leptonic  $\tau$  decays are thus:

- The fraction of the  $\tau$  energy in the laboratory frame carried by the visible decay

1397 products,

- $\phi$ , the azimuthal angle of the  $\tau$  direction in the laboratory frame,

- $m_{\nu\nu}$ , the invariant mass of the two-neutrino system in leptonic  $\tau$  decays (for hadronic  $\tau$  decays,  $m_{\nu\nu}$  is set to 0).

1401  $E_x^{\text{miss}}$  and  $E_y^{\text{miss}}$ , the  $x$  and  $y$  components of the missing transverse energy  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$   
 1402 provide two further constraints.

### 1403 5.2.1 Original SVFit ‘‘standalone’’: maximum likelihood

1404 In one of the original versions of SVFit, called ‘‘standalone’’ SVFit [60], a maximum  
 1405 likelihood fit method is used to reconstruct the mass  $m_{\tau\tau}$  by combining the measured  
 1406 observables  $E_x^{\text{miss}}$  and  $E_y^{\text{miss}}$  with a likelihood model that includes terms for the  $\tau$   
 1407 decay kinematics and the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  resolution [60]. The likelihood function  $f(\vec{z}, \vec{y}, \vec{a}_1 \vec{a}_2)$   
 1408 of the parameters  $\vec{z} = (E_x^{\text{miss}}, E_y^{\text{miss}})$  in an event is constructed, where the remaining  
 1409 parameters are the kinematics of the two  $\tau$  decays, denoted  $\vec{a}_1 = (x_1, \phi_1, m_{\nu\nu,1})$  and  
 1410  $\vec{a}_2 = (x_2, \phi_2, m_{\nu\nu,2})$ , and the four-momenta of the visible decay products with the  
 1411 measured values  $\vec{y} = (p_1^{\text{vis}}, p_2^{\text{vis}})$ .

1412 The likelihood  $f$  is the product of three likelihood functions. The first two likelihood  
 1413 functions model the decay parameters  $\vec{a}_1$  and  $\vec{a}_2$  of the two  $\tau$  leptons. For leptonic  
 1414 decays, the likelihood function is modeled using matrix elements for  $\tau$  decays,  
 1415 and integrated over the allowed phase space  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq m_{\nu\nu} \leq m_\tau \sqrt{1-x}$ . For  
 1416 hadronic  $\tau$  decays, a model based on the two-body phase space is used and integrated  
 1417 over  $m_{\text{vis}}^2/m_{\tau\tau}^2 \leq x \leq 1$ . The third likelihood function quantifies the compatibility of  
 1418 a  $\tau$  decay hypothesis with the reconstructed  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  in an event, assuming the neutrinos  
 1419 are the only source of missing transverse energy. The expected  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  resolution

1420 is represented by a covariant matrix, estimated on an event-by-event basis using a  
1421 significance algorithm [61].

### 1422 5.2.2 “Classic SVFit” with matrix element

1423 Classic SVFit is an improved algorithm of the original “standalone” SVFit using the  
1424 formalism of the matrix element (ME) method [59]. In the ME method, an estimate  
1425 for the unknown model parameter  $\Theta$  (here, the mass  $m_{\tau\tau}$ ) is obtained by maximizing  
1426 the probability density  $\mathcal{P}$ . The key ingredients of the probability density are the  
1427 squared modulus of the matrix element  $|\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{p}, \Theta)|^2$  and the transfer function  $W(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{p})$   
1428 (probability density to observe the measured observables  $\mathbf{y}$  given the phase space  
1429 point  $\mathbf{p}$ ). The best estimate  $m_{\tau\tau}$  is obtained by computing the probability density  $\mathcal{P}$   
1430 for a range of mass hypotheses and finding the value of  $m_{\tau\tau}$  that maximizes  $\mathcal{P}$ .

1431 Distributions illustrating the performance of the classic matrix element SVFit  
1432 algorithm are shown in Fig. 5.1 from [59], showing the di-tau mass after and before  
1433 application of SVFit to recover energy lost to neutrinos. The SVFit algorithm is  
1434 found to improve the sensitivity of the Standard Model  $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$  analysis performed  
1435 by CMS by about 30%, compared to performing the same analysis using only the  
1436 visible mass  $m_{\text{vis}}$ .

### 1437 5.2.3 FastMTT: optimized SVFit

1438 FastMTT [62] is a further simplification to the matrix element method of Classic  
1439 SVFit which has comparable performance but is about 100 times faster. FastMTT  
1440 drops the matrix element component of the computation without significant impact  
1441 on the final mass resolution, and simplifies the computation of the transfer functions.  
1442 The opening angle of the  $\tau$  decay products with respect to the initial  $\tau$  momenta ap-  
1443 proaches 0 for  $\tau$  with high  $\gamma = E_\tau/m_\tau$ , with typical  $\tau$  decays from the Z boson decays  
1444 already satisfying this condition. In this collinear approximation, the dimensionality

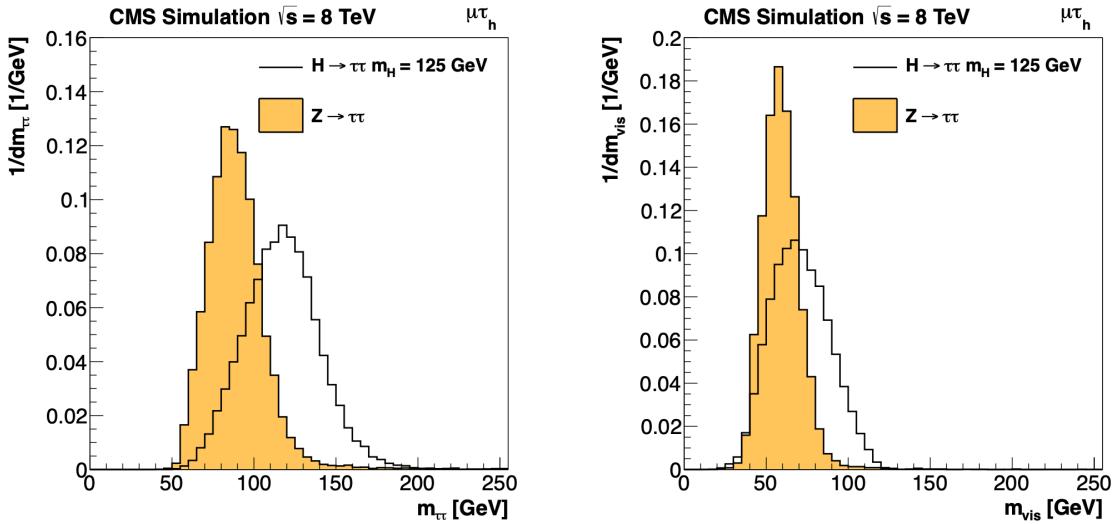


Figure 5.1: Distributions from [59], of  $m_{\tau\tau}$  after reconstruction with the original SVFit algorithm (*left*), and before SVFit with only the visible tau decay products (*right*), for  $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$  signal events of mass  $m_H = 125$  GeV (*black line*) and the  $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau\tau$  background (*orange, solid*), in the decay channel  $\tau\tau \rightarrow \mu\tau_h$ .

1445 of the transfer function can be reduced in the computation of FastMTT, while still  
1446 yielding similar results to Classic SVFit [62].

### 1447 5.3 Corrections applied to simulation

1448 Corrections are applied to simulated samples to account for known effects in the event  
1449 modeling and reconstruction and data-taking, and are intended to bring simulations  
1450 in closer agreement with data. Corrections fall into two broad categories: *energy*  
1451 *scale corrections* applied to physics objects, and *event-level corrections*. Energy scale  
1452 corrections are multiplicative factors applied to the energy and transverse momentum  
1453  $p_T$  of simulated objects (e.g. leptons or jets), and bring the average reconstructed en-  
1454 ergies of simulated particles into better agreement with those of objects reconstructed  
1455 from data. Event-level corrections are applied as a per-event multiplicative weight,  
1456 and account for effects such as mis-modeling in simulations of the underlying physics  
1457 process, or changing detector operating conditions during data-taking. Event-level

1458 corrections change the shapes of the distributions of all the physical observables.

1459 Uncertainties in scale factors and corrections are also sources of systematic errors  
1460 in the analysis, detailed in Chapter 8. Systematic uncertainties in the tau, muon, and  
1461 electron energy scales can shift the  $p_T$  of the leptons up or down, which can change  
1462 whether events pass or fail the offline  $p_T$  thresholds for the trigger paths described in  
1463 the previous section, i.e. change the number of events in the signal region.

### 1464 5.3.1 Tau energy scale

1465 An energy scale is applied to the transverse momentum  $p_T$  and mass of the hadronic  
1466 tau  $\tau_h$  in the  $\mu\tau_h$  and  $e\tau_h$  channels, to correct for a deviation of the average recon-  
1467 structed  $\tau_h$  energy from the generator-level energy of the visible  $\tau_h$  decay products.  
1468 These correction factors are derived centrally [51], by fitting to events in  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$   
1469 final states in  $Z/\gamma^*$  events separately for the  $h^\pm$ ,  $h^\pm\pi^0$ , and  $h^\pm h^\mp h^\pm$  decays. The  
1470 values used are shown in Table 5.1.

1471 When applying the energy scale to the  $\tau_h$ , the 4-momentum of the missing trans-  
1472 verse energy (MET) is adjusted such that the total 4-momenta of the  $\tau_h$  and the MET  
1473 remains unchanged [63].

Tau energy scale factor				
Decay mode	2018	2017	2016 pre-VFP	2016 post-VFP
0	$0.991 \pm 0.008$	$0.986 \pm 0.009$	$0.987 \pm 0.01$	$0.993 \pm 0.009$
1	$1.004 \pm 0.006$	$0.999 \pm 0.006$	$0.998 \pm 0.006$	$0.991 \pm 0.007$
10	$0.998 \pm 0.007$	$0.999 \pm 0.007$	$0.984 \pm 0.008$	$1.001 \pm 0.007$
11	$1.004 \pm 0.009$	$0.996 \pm 0.01$	$0.999 \pm 0.011$	$0.997 \pm 0.016$

Table 5.1: Energy scales applied to genuine hadronic tau decays  $\tau_h$  by data-taking year/era and decay mode, along with systematic errors.

1474 **5.3.2 Muon energy scale**

1475 An energy scale is applied to the  $p_T$  and mass of genuine muons from  $\tau$  decays in the  
1476  $e\mu$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels [64]. The applied values are the same for MC and embedded  
1477 samples and are shown in Table 5.2. Following the SM  $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$  analysis, Rochester  
1478 corrections are not applied, and instead prescriptions from [65] are followed.

Muon energy scale factor	
Eta range	Value for all years
$ \eta  \in [0.0, 1.2)$	$1.0 \pm 0.004$
$ \eta  \in [1.2, 2.1)$	$1.0 \pm 0.009$
$ \eta  \in [2.1, 2.4)$	$1.0 \pm 0.027$

Table 5.2: Energy scales and systematic errors applied to genuine muons. The values are the same for MC and embedded for all years [66] [65].

1479 **5.3.3 Electron energy scale**

1480 Corrections to the electron energy scale are applied to genuine  $e$  from  $\tau$  decays, and  
1481 are binned in two dimensions by electron  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  for barrel vs. endcap [67]. The  
1482 scale factors are binned in  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  for MC samples: e.g. values for 2018 are shown  
1483 in Fig. 5.2 from [68]. For embedded samples the electron energy scale is taken as  
1484 only binned in  $\eta$  (Table 5.3).

Electron energy scale factor for embedded samples			
Eta range	2018	2017	2016
$ \eta  \in [0.0, 1.479)$	$0.973 \pm 0.005$	$0.986 \pm 0.009$	$0.9976 \pm 0.0050$
$ \eta  \in [1.479, 2.4)$	$0.980 \pm 0.0125$	$0.887 \pm 0.0125$	$0.993 \pm 0.0125$

Table 5.3: Energy scales and systematic errors applied to electrons in embedded samples, binned in the electron  $\eta$ , by data-taking year [69] [70] [71].

1485 **5.3.4  $\tau_h$  identification efficiency**

1486 The  $\tau_h$  identification efficiency can differ in data and MC [63]. Recommended correc-  
1487 tions are provided by the Tau POG, and we use the medium DeepTau vs. jet working

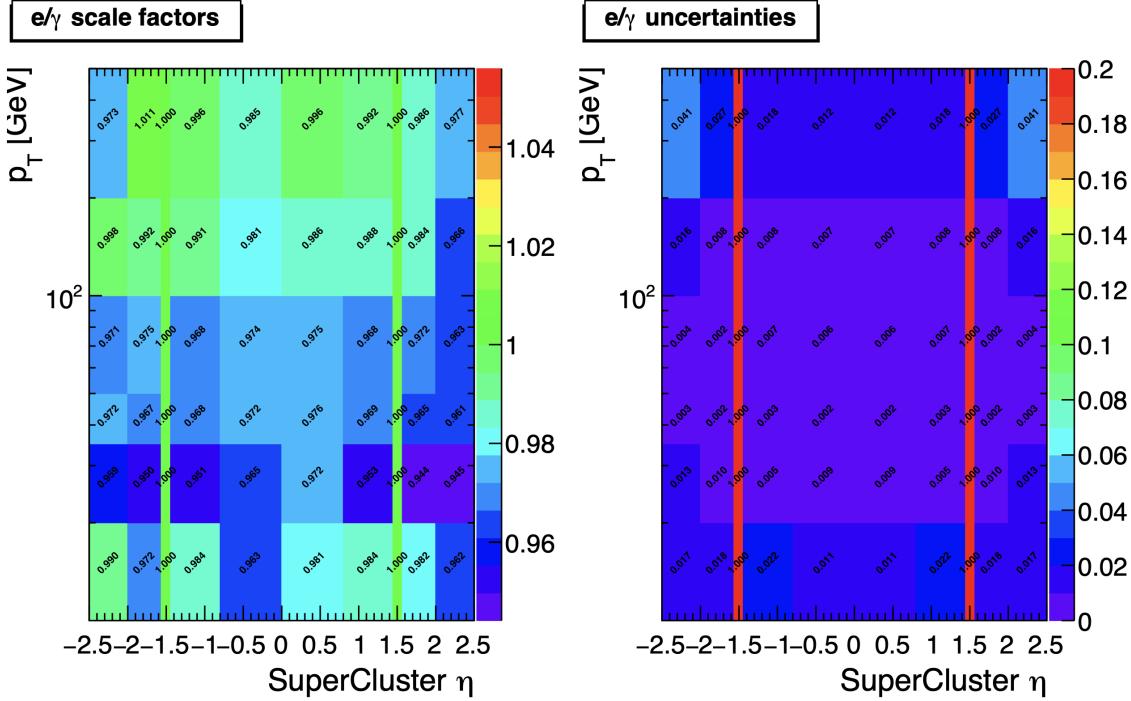


Figure 5.2: Electron/photon energy scale factors (*left*) and corresponding uncertainties (*right*) binned in the electron  $\eta$  and  $p_T$ , for the data-taking year 2018 [68].

<sup>1488</sup> point values. The identification efficiency is measured in  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$  events in the  $\mu\tau_h$   
<sup>1489</sup> final state, and is binned in  $p_T$  due to clear  $p_T$  dependence of the DeepTau ID.

Tau ID efficiency for DeepTau Medium vs. jet WP in 2018						
$p_T$ (GeV)	< 20	(20, 25]	(25, 30]	(30, 35]	(35, 40]	(40, 500]
Central value	0	0.945	0.946	0.916	0.921	1.005
Up value	0	1.001	0.981	0.946	0.950	1.035
Down value	0	0.888	0.981	0.883	0.893	0.953

Table 5.4: Tau ID efficiency for the DeepTau vs. jet medium working point, with central, up, and down values for 2018, binned in the tau  $p_T$  [63].

### <sup>1490</sup> 5.3.5 Trigger efficiencies

<sup>1491</sup> Scale factors are applied to correct for differences in trigger efficiencies between MC  
<sup>1492</sup> and embedded vs. data, with values taken from tools provided by the Standard Model  
<sup>1493</sup>  $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$  working group which uses the same trigger paths [66]. In the following

1494 sections we review relevant trigger efficiencies in data, which form the basis of the  
1495 trigger efficiency corrections applied to MC and embedded.

1496 **5.3.6 Tau trigger efficiencies**

1497 The efficiencies in data of the single- $\tau_h$  leg in  $\mu\tau_h$ ,  $e\tau_h$ , and di- $\tau_h$  triggers is computed  
1498 centrally per using a Tag and Probe (TnP) method [72] which is outlined here. In  
1499 this method,  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau \rightarrow \mu\tau_h$  are selected in data and a Drell-Yan simulated sample  
1500 ( $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell, \ell = e, \mu, \tau_h$ ) with high purity. Cuts are applied to reject events not in this  
1501 final state, e.g. suppressing  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$  by vetoing events with a single loose ID muon.  
1502 An isolated muon candidate (the tag) with online  $p_T > 27$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.1$  is  
1503 identified and matched to an offline  $\mu$ . An offline  $\tau_h$  candidate (the probe) is selected,  
1504 which is separated from the tag  $\mu$ , and has  $p_T > 20$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.1$ . The probe  
1505  $\tau_h$  must pass anti-muon and anti-electron discriminators to avoid fakes from muons  
1506 and electrons, and must pass the medium MVA tau isolation to suppress fakes from  
1507 QCD jets. The trigger efficiency in the TnP method is calculated as

$$\text{Efficiency} = \frac{\text{Number of events passing the TnP selection with fires the HLT path}}{\text{Number of events passing the TnP selection}} \quad (5.4)$$

1508 The efficiencies for the hadronic tau legs in the relevant channels of this analyses  
1509 ( $\mu\tau_h$  and  $e\tau_h$ ) as a function of the offline tau  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ , are shown for data taken in  
1510 2016, 2017, and 2018 in Figures 5.3a and 5.3b [72] [73]. In both figures, the different  
1511 HLT thresholds and differences in the L1 seed result in higher efficiencies in 2016 and  
1512 differences in shapes of the 2016 efficiencies compared to 2017 and 2018. The low  
1513 pileup in 2016 also leads to higher efficiencies in that year.

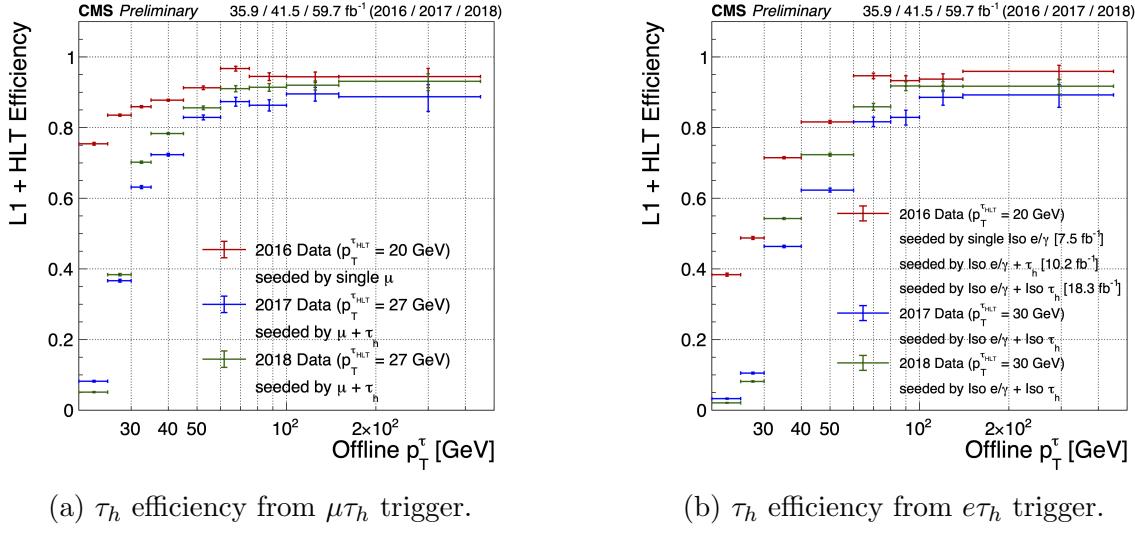
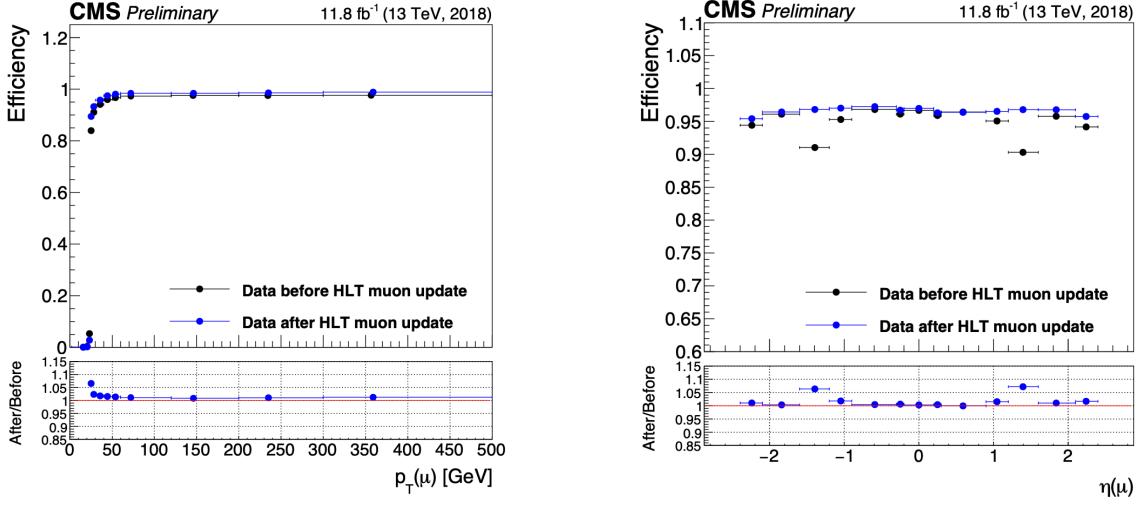


Figure 5.3: Hadronic tau leg efficiency of the cross-triggers for  $\mu\tau_h$  (*left*) and  $e\tau_h$  (*right*) triggers as a function of offline tau  $p_T$  for the years 2016 (red), 2017 (blue) and 2018 (green), from [73]. HLT  $p_T$  thresholds and L1 seeds are indicated in the legends.

### 5.3.7 Single muon trigger efficiencies

The efficiencies for the single isolated muon trigger with  $p_T > 24$  GeV used in this analysis, is shown for the data-taking year 2018 in Fig. 5.4a as a function of the muon  $p_T$  and as a function of the muon  $|\eta|$  in Fig. 5.4b from [74]. The data is split with respect to a HLT muon reconstruction update that was deployed on 15/05/2018. A small asymmetry in efficiencies between negative and positive  $\eta$  in Fig. 5.4b is due to disabled muon chambers (CSCs). The efficiencies shown are estimated using a Tag and Probe method using  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$  events, with the tag being an offline muon with  $p_T > 29$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.4$  passing a tight ID criteria, and the probe is an online (L1) trigger object with  $\Delta R < 0.3$  and passing tight ID and Particle Flow based isolation requirements with  $p_T > 26$  GeV.



(a) Muon efficiency vs  $p_T$  for SingleMuon.

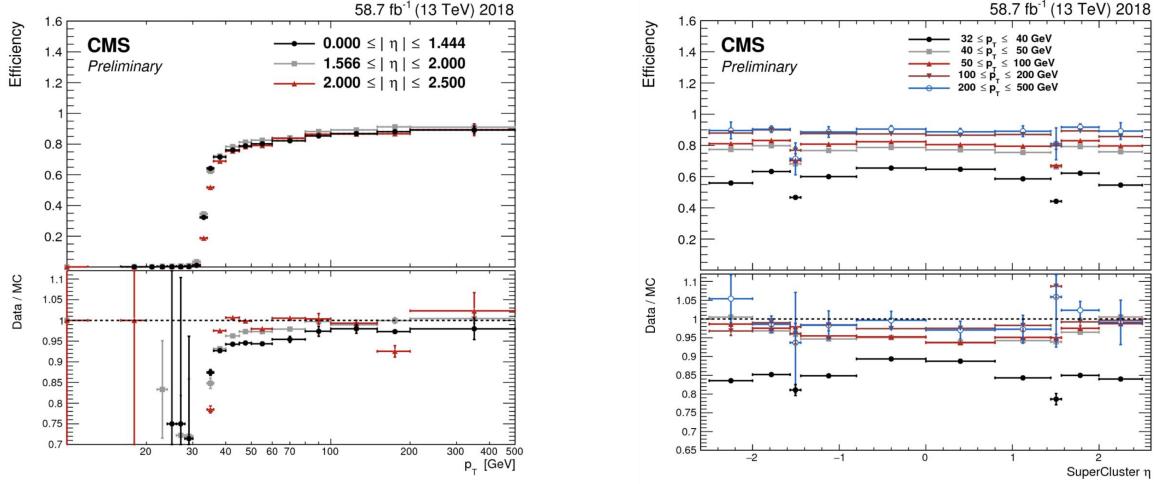
(b) Muon efficiency vs  $|\eta|$  for SingleMuon.

Figure 5.4: Trigger efficiencies in data (*top panels*) and ratio of efficiencies after/before a HLT muon reconstruction update (*bottom panels*) for the muon in the isolated single muon trigger with threshold  $p_T > 24$  GeV in the data-taking year 2018, as functions of the muon  $p_T$  (*left*) and muon  $|\eta|$  (*right*). Only statistical errors are shown [74].

### 5.3.8 Single electron trigger efficiencies

The efficiencies in data, and the ratio between data and MC, of the single electron HLT trigger with  $p_T$  threshold 32 GeV used in this analysis are shown for 2018, as a function of the electron  $p_T$  in Fig. 5.5a and of the electron  $|\eta|$  in Fig. 5.5b, from [75]. In the Tag and Probe method used for the 2018 dataset, the tag is an offline reconstructed electron with  $|\eta| \leq 2.1$  and not in the barrel and endcap overlap region, with  $p_T > 35$  GeV with tight isolation and shower shape requirements, firing the tag trigger. The probe is an offline reconstructed electron with  $|\eta| \leq 2.5$  with  $E_T^{\text{ECAL}} > 5$  GeV with no extra identification criteria [75].

The disagreement between data and MC, particularly at low transverse momentum, is in part due to detector effects that are difficult to simulate, such as crystal transparency losses in the ECAL and the evolution of dead regions in the pixel tracker [75].



(a) Electron efficiency vs  $p_T$  for single electron.

(b) Electron efficiency vs  $|\eta|$  for single electron.

Figure 5.5: Trigger efficiencies in data, and the data/MC ratio for the electron in the single electron trigger with threshold  $p_T > 32$  GeV in the data-taking year 2018, as functions of the electron  $p_T$  (*left*) and electron  $|\eta|$  (*right*) [75]. In the plot vs.  $p_T$ , the region  $1.442 \leq |\eta| \leq 1.566$  is not included as it corresponds to the transition between barrel and endcap parts of the ECAL.

### 1538 5.3.9 $e\mu$ cross-trigger efficiencies

1539 The efficiencies of the electron and muons for the cross-trigger with leading muon  
 1540 used in the  $e\mu$  channel are shown for data in 2016, 2017, and 2018 in Figures 5.6a and  
 1541 5.6b [76]. These efficiencies were measured centrally using a Tag and Probe in events  
 1542 with  $Z$  to dileptons with the same flavor and opposite charge, where the tags are an  
 1543 isolated muon or electron, and the probe (offline) candidate is required to satisfy the  
 1544 same lepton selection as that of the tag candidate, be matched within  $\Delta R < 0.1$  with  
 1545 a corresponding online trigger object, and also to pass the cross-trigger. The trigger  
 1546 efficiency is then:

$$\text{Efficiency} = \frac{\text{Events passing lepton pair selections and probe passing trigger}}{\text{Events passing lepton pair selections}} \quad (5.5)$$

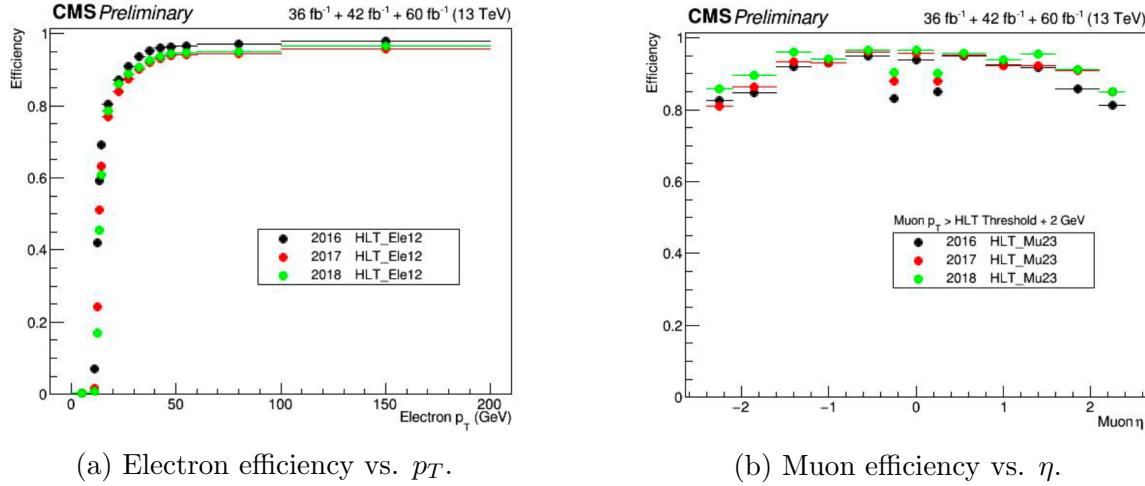
(a) Electron efficiency vs.  $p_T$ .(b) Muon efficiency vs.  $\eta$ .

Figure 5.6: Efficiencies of the electron leg vs.  $p_T$  (*left*) and the muon log vs.  $\eta$  (*right*), for the HLT path with online thresholds of 12 GeV for the electron and 23 GeV for the muon, for the data-taking years 2016 (*black*), 2017 (*red*), and 2018 (*green*) [76].

### 1547 5.3.10 Electrons and muons faking $\tau_h$ : energy scales

1548 Energy scales for electrons misidentified as hadronic tau decays ( $e$  faking  $\tau_h$ ) are  
 1549 provided by the Tau POG, and were measured in the  $e\tau_h$  channel with the visible  
 1550 invariant mass of the electron and hadronic tau system [66]. This energy scale is  
 1551 applied for  $\tau_h$  with  $p_T > 20$  GeV regardless of which DeepTau vs. electron working  
 1552 point was used. Values for 2018 are shown in Table 5.5.

Electrons faking $\tau_h$ energy scale factor in 2018	
Reconstructed decay mode of the fake $\tau_h$	Central value and (up, down) shifts
0	1.01362 (+0.00474, -0.00904)
1	1.01945 (+0.01598, -0.01226)
10	0.96903 (+0.0125, -0.03404)
11	0.985 (+0.04309, -0.05499)

Table 5.5: Energy scales and up/down systematic uncertainties applied to electrons misidentified as hadronic taus for 2018, binned in decay mode of the fake  $\tau_h$  [66].

1553 No nominal energy scale is applied for muons mis-reconstructed as  $\tau_h$ , and the  
 1554 uncertainty is treated as  $\pm 1\%$  and uncorrelated in the reconstructed decay mode  
 1555 [66].

1556    **5.3.11 Electrons and muons faking  $\tau_h$ : misidentification effi-**  
 1557    **ciencies**

1558    Corrections on identification efficiencies are applied to genuine electrons and muons  
 1559    misidentified as  $\tau$  to account for differences in data and MC.

1560    The specific values depend on the vs. electron and vs. muon discriminator working  
 1561    points used. For misidentified  $\mu \rightarrow \tau_h$ , the scale factors are split into different  $|\eta|$   
 1562    regions, determined by the CMS muon and tracker detector geometries, as shown in  
 1563    Table 5.6 for 2018 [63].

Tau ID efficiency for DeepTau vs. muon WPs in 2018		
$ \eta $	Tight working point	VLoose working point
(0.0, 0.2)	$0.767 \pm 0.127$	$0.954 \pm 0.069$
(0.2, 0.6)	$1.255 \pm 0.258$	$1.009 \pm 0.098$
(0.6, 1.0)	$0.902 \pm 0.203$	$1.029 \pm 0.075$
(1.0, 1.45)	$0.833 \pm 0.415$	$0.928 \pm 0.145$
(1.45, 2.0)	$4.436 \pm 0.814$	$5.000 \pm 0.377$
(2.0, 2.53)	$1.000 \pm 0.000$	$1.000 \pm 0.000$

Table 5.6: Tau mis-identification efficiency for the DeepTau Tight and Very Loose (VLoose) working points vs. muons in 2018, binned in the muon  $|\eta|$  [63].

1564    For misidentified  $e \rightarrow \tau_h$ , the scale factors are split into barrel and endcap regions,  
 1565    dictated by the ECAL detector geometry, as shown in Table 5.7 for 2018.

Tau ID efficiency for DeepTau vs. electron WPs in 2018		
$ \eta $	Tight working point	VLoose working point
(0.0, 0.73)	$1.47 \pm 0.27$	$0.95 \pm 0.07$
(0.73, 1.509)	$1.509 \pm 0.0$	$1.00 \pm 0.0$
(1.509, 1.929)	$1.929 \pm 0.2$	$0.86 \pm 0.1$
(1.929, 2.683)	$2.683 \pm 0.9$	$2.68 \pm 0.0$

Table 5.7: Tau mis-identification efficiency for the DeepTau Tight and Very Loose (VLoose) working points vs. electrons in 2018, binned in the electron  $|\eta|$  [63].

### 1566 5.3.12 Electron ID and tracking efficiency

1567 Scale factors are applied to MC to correct for differences between MC and data in  
 1568 the performance of electron identification (ID) and tracking.

1569 Electron and photon identification, as discussed earlier, use variables with good  
 1570 signal vs. background discrimination power such as lateral shower shape and ratio  
 1571 of energy deposited in the HCAL to energy deposited in the ECAL at the position  
 1572 of the electron. The cut-based electron identification efficiencies in data and ratio of  
 1573 efficiencies in data to MC are shown in Fig. 5.7a for the multivariate analysis (MVA)  
 1574 identification working point.

1575 The tracking efficiencies in data and the data/MC ratio are shown in Fig. 5.7b  
 1576 for the Gaussian-sum filter (GSF) tracking [77].

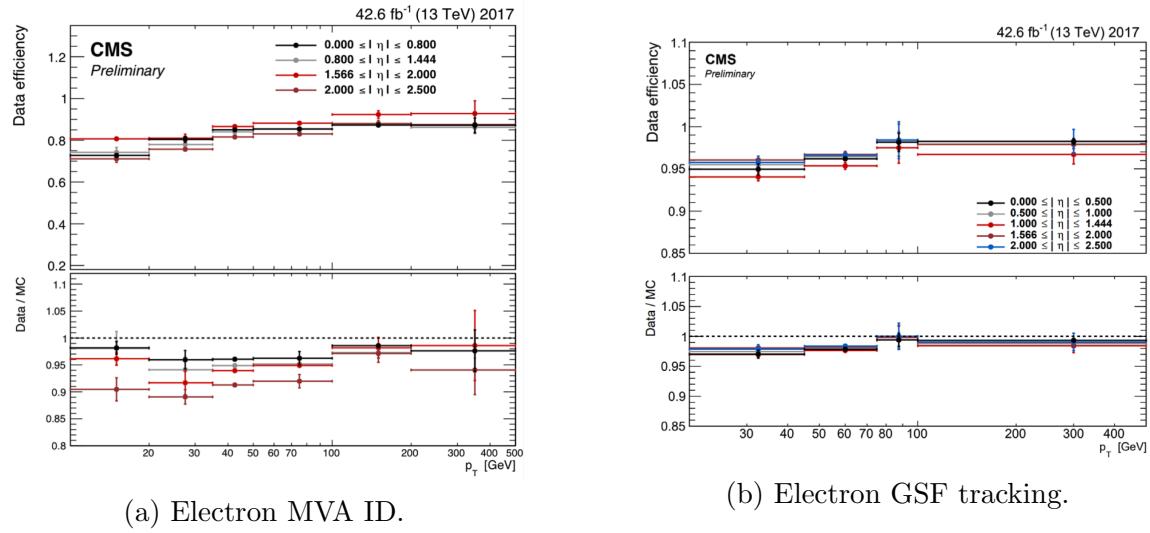


Figure 5.7: Efficiencies in data (*top panels*) and the ratio of efficiencies in data/MC (*bottom panels*), for the electron multivariate analysis (MVA) identification (*left*) and for the Gaussian-sum filter (GSF) tracking (*right*) [77]. Error bars represent statistical and systematic uncertainties.

### 1577 5.3.13 Muon ID, isolation, and tracking efficiencies

1578 Scale factors are applied to MC to correct for differences between MC and data in  
 1579 the performance of muon identification, isolation, and tracking, as detailed below.

1580 The efficiencies for muon identification measured in 2015 data and MC simulation  
 1581 are shown in Figures 5.8a and 5.8b for the loose ID and tight ID respectively [78].  
 1582 The loose ID is chosen such that efficiency exceeds 99% over the full  $\eta$  range, and the  
 1583 data and simulation agree to within 1%. The tight ID is chosen such that efficiency  
 1584 varies between 95% and 99% as a function of  $\eta$ , and the data and simulation agree  
 1585 to within 1-3%. The muon identification working point used in this analysis is the  
 1586 medium ID, which has an efficiency of 98% for all  $\eta$  and an agreement within 1-2%  
 1587 [78].

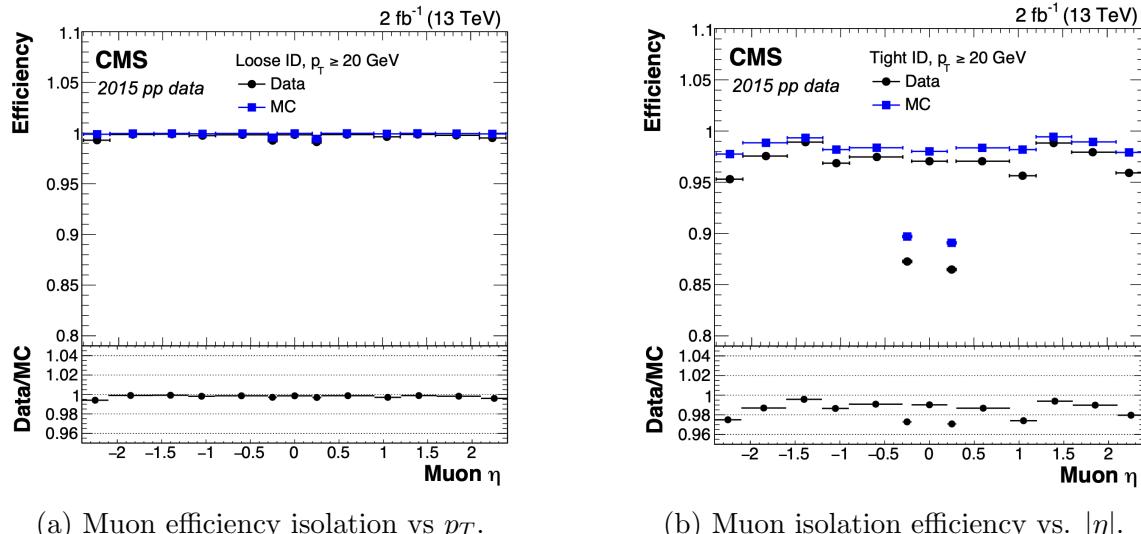


Figure 5.8: Muon identification efficiencies in 2015 data and MC as a function of the muon  $p_T$  for the loose ID (*left*) and tight ID (*right*) working points [78].

1588 The efficiencies in data for the muon isolation, as measured in Level-3 muons  
 1589 (muons in one of the final stages of reconstruction in the HLT), as a function of the  
 1590 muon  $p_T$  and  $|\eta|$  are shown in Figures 5.9a and 5.9b [78]. The HLT muon reconstruc-  
 1591 tion consists of two steps: Level-2 (L2), where the muon is reconstructed in the muon  
 1592 subdetectors only, and Level-3 (L3) which is a global fit of tracker and muon hits (i.e.  
 1593 the global muon reconstruction as described in Section 5.1.2) [79].

1594 The muon tracking efficiencies as a function of  $|\eta|$  for standalone muons (i.e. tracks  
 1595 from only the muon system, i.e. DT, CSC, and RPC, as discussed in Section 5.1.2),

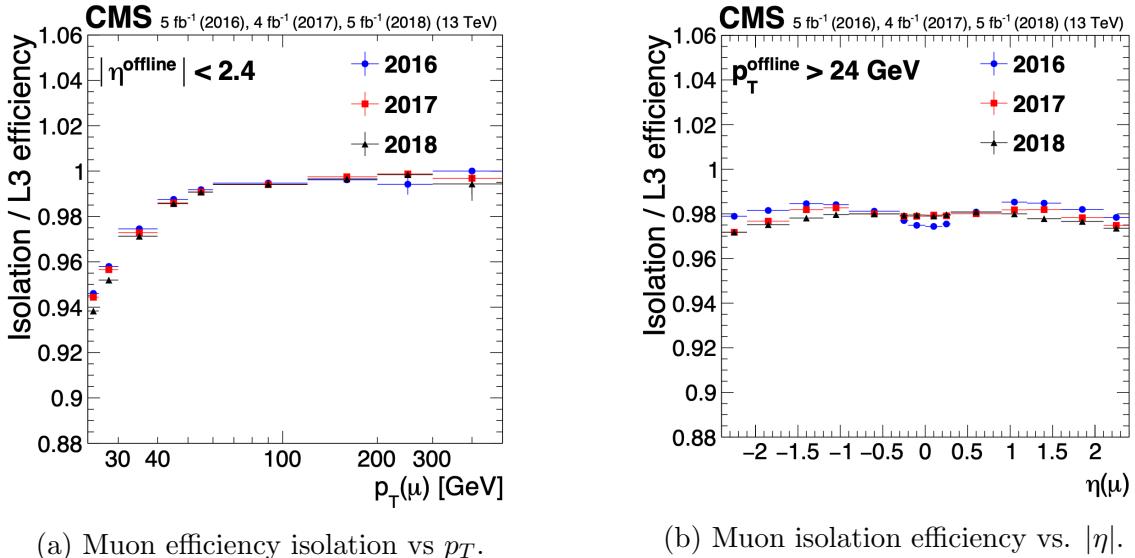


Figure 5.9: Muon isolation efficiencies in Run-2 data with respect to Level-3 muons (one of the final stages of HLT muon reconstruction) as a function of the muon  $p_T$  (*left*) and  $|\eta|$  (*right*) [78].

1596 is shown for data and simulated Drell-Yan samples in Fig. 5.10 [80].

### 1597 5.3.14 Recoil corrections

1598 In proton-proton collisions, W and Z bosons are predominantly produced through  
1599 quark-antiquark annihilation. Higher-order processes can induce radiated quarks or  
1600 gluons that recoil against the boson, imparting a non-zero transverse momentum to  
1601 the boson [81]. Recoil corrections accounting for this effect are applied to samples  
1602 with W+jets, Z+jets, and Higgs bosons [66]. The corrections are performed on the  
1603 vectorial difference between the measured missing transverse momentum and the total  
1604 transverse momentum of neutrinos originating from the decay of the W, Z, or Higgs  
1605 boson. This vector is projected onto the axes parallel and orthogonal to the boson  
1606  $p_T$ . This vector, and the resulting correction to use, is measured in  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$  events,  
1607 since these events have leptonic recoil that do not contain neutrinos, allowing the  
1608 4-vector of the Z boson to be measured precisely. The corrections are binned in  
1609 generator-level  $p_T$  of the parent boson and also the number of jets in the event.

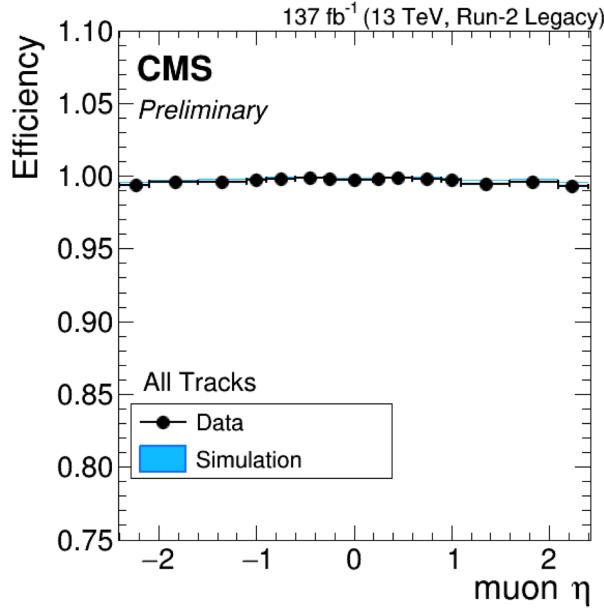


Figure 5.10: Muon tracking efficiencies as a function of  $|\eta|$  for standalone muons in Run-2 data (*black*) and Drell-Yan MC simulation (*blue*) [80]. All Tracks refers to tracks which exploit the presence of muon candidates in the muon system to seed the track reconstruction in the inner tracker, in contrast to tracks that use tracker-only hits for seeding. Uncertainties shown are statistical.

### 5.3.15 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 [82]. Per-event weights derived by the 2016 data-only version of this analysis [82] 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.

### 5.3.16 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 [83].

1621 **5.3.17 Pre-firing corrections**

1622 In 2016 and 2017 data-taking, a gradual timing shift of ECAL was not properly  
1623 propagated to L1 trigger primitives (TPs), resulting in a large fraction of high  $\eta$   
1624 TPs being incorrectly associated with the previous bunch crossing. L1 trigger rules  
1625 prevent two consecutive bunch crossings from firing, causing events to be rejected if  
1626 significant ECAL energy was deposited in  $2.0 < |\eta| < 3.0$ . To account for this issue,  
1627 MC simulations for 2016 and 2017 are corrected using an event-dependent weight.  
1628 Embedded samples are not corrected [48].

1629 **5.3.18 Top  $p_T$  spectrum reweighing**

1630 In Run-1 and Run-2 it was observed that the  $p_T$  spectra of top quarks in  $t\bar{t}$  data  
1631 was significantly softer than those predicted by MC simulations [84]. Possible sources  
1632 of this discrepancy are higher order QCD and/or electroweak corrections, and non-  
1633 resonant production of  $t\bar{t}$ -like final states. To account for this, corrections derived  
1634 from Run-2 data by the Top Physics Analysis Group (PAG) are applied to the  $p_T$   
1635 of the top and anti-top quarks in MC simulations, computed as a function of their  
1636 generator-level  $p_T$  [84].

1637 **5.3.19 B-tagging efficiency**

1638 In order to predict correct b-tagging discriminant distributions and event yields in  
1639 data, the weight of selected MC events is reweighed according to recommendations by  
1640 the BTV POG [85]. The reweighing depends on the jet  $p_T$ ,  $\eta$ , and the b-tagging dis-  
1641 criminant. In this method, there is no migration of events from one b-tag multiplicity  
1642 bin to another.

### **1643 5.3.20 Jet energy resolution and jet energy smearing**

1644 Calibration of jet energies, i.e. ensuring that the energy and momentum of the recon-  
1645 structed jet matches that of the quark/gluon-initiated jet, is a challenging task due  
1646 to time-dependent changes in the detector response and calibration and high pileup  
1647 [86] [87]. Jet calibration is done via jet energy corrections (JECs) applied to the  $p_T$   
1648 of jets in MC samples, accounting successively for the effects of pileup, uniformity of  
1649 the detector response, and residual data-simulation jet energy scale differences [88].  
1650 Typical jet energy resolutions reported at  $\sqrt{s} = 8$  TeV in the central rapidities are  
1651 15-20% at 30 GeV and about 10% at 100 GeV [86]. Jet energy corrections are also  
1652 propagated to the missing transverse energy.

1653 Measurements show that the jet energy resolution (JER) in data is worse than  
1654 in simulation, and so the jets in MC need to be smeared to describe the data. JER  
1655 corrections are applied after JEC on MC simulations, and adjust the width of the  $p_T$   
1656 distribution based on pileup, jet size, and jet flavor [89]. Tools for applying JEC and  
1657 JER are provided centrally by the JER Corrections group.

1658 **Chapter 6**

1659 **Event selection**

1660 This chapter describes how events in data and simulated samples are selected in the  
1661 search for  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$ . As described in the previous chapter, the tau lepton can  
1662 decay to electrons ( $e$ ), muons ( $\mu$ ), or hadronic states ( $\tau_h$ ). As a result, several different  
1663 final states of the  $\tau\tau$  system are possible, and are here referred to as “channels” since  
1664 they are mutually exclusive. The three  $\tau\tau$  final states studied in this analysis are  
1665 muon and hadronic tau ( $\mu\tau_h$ ), electron and hadronic tau ( $e\tau_h$ ), and electron and  
1666 muon ( $e\mu$ ). The procedure for dividing events into these three channels begins with  
1667 checking the High-Level Trigger paths passed by the events as detailed in Section 6.1.  
1668 Events are further accepted or rejected based on criteria applied to the leptons in the  
1669 event. These event selections are described for the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel in Section 6.2, the  $e\tau_h$   
1670 channel in Section 6.3, and the  $e\mu$  channel in Section 6.4.

1671 **6.1 General procedure for all channels**

1672 For the search for  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$ , three final states of the  $\tau\tau$  system are considered:  
1673  $\mu\tau_h$ ,  $e\tau_h$ , and  $e\mu$ . The  $\tau_h\tau_h$  final state is not considered because signal events in the  
1674  $\tau_h\tau_h$  channel would typically produce hadronic taus with momenta below data-taking  
1675 trigger thresholds.

1676 In all three final states, events are required to have at least one b-tag jet passing the  
1677 medium working point of the DeepFlavour tagger, with  $p_T > 20$  GeV, and  $|\eta| < 2.4$ .  
1678 A second b-tag jet is not required because such a requirement would reduce signal  
1679 acceptance by 80% compared to only requiring one b-tag jet.

1680 Events in MC samples are sorted into one of the three  $\tau\tau$  channels if they pass the  
1681 following trigger requirements and requirements on the offline reconstructed objects  
1682 in the event, first checking the HLT paths for the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel, then  $e\tau_h$ , and finally  $e\mu$ .  
1683 The two leading leptons (e.g. muon and hadronic tau for the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel) that were  
1684 determined to have originated from the  $\tau\tau$  decay, are called the  $\tau\tau$  “legs”. For events  
1685 in data and embedded samples, the HLT paths requirements for the corresponding  
1686 channel are checked.

1687 After sorting events by HLT paths and identifying the leading tau legs in the offline  
1688 reconstructed objects, the  $p_T$  of the offline objects is checked against the online trigger  
1689 thresholds. Trigger matching is also performed, which checks the correspondence  
1690 between each offline reconstructed object used in the analysis (e.g. a muon), and a  
1691 trigger object in the HLT (e.g. a HLT muon). An offline object is considered to be  
1692 matched, if it corresponds to a trigger object of the same object type, with  $\Delta R < 0.5$ .  
1693 This matched trigger object is also required to pass the filter(s) of the HLT trigger.  
1694 The trigger thresholds used for the  $bb\mu\mu$  final state and the  $bb\tau\tau$  final state (the focus  
1695 of this work) are summarized in Tables 6.1.

1696 After checking the HLT paths and trigger objects in each channel, events are  
1697 subject to further selection to ensure that they contain leptons and b-tag jet(s) of in-  
1698 terest. These requirements are summarized in Table 6.2, and detailed in the following  
1699 sections.

Year	Single/dilepton trigger $p_T$	$bb\mu\mu$	$bb\tau\tau$					
			$e\mu$		$e\tau_h$		$\mu\tau_h$	
		$\mu$	$e$	$\mu$	$e$	$\tau_h$	$\mu$	$\tau_h$
2016	Single lepton	24	–	–	25	–	22	–
	$p_T$ -leading lepton	17	23	23	–	–	–	20
	$p_T$ -subleading lepton	8	12	8	–	–	19	–
2017	Single lepton	24	–	–	27, 32	–	24, 27	–
	$p_T$ -leading lepton	17	23	23	–	30	–	27
	$p_T$ -subleading lepton	8	12	8	24	–	20	–
2018	Single lepton	24	–	–	32, 35	–	24, 27	–
	$p_T$ -leading lepton	17	23	23	–	30	–	27
	$p_T$ subleading lepton	8	12	8	24	–	20	–

Table 6.1: Trigger thresholds used for the leptons in the  $bb\mu\mu$  analysis and the  $bb\tau\tau$  analysis (the focus of this work). The thresholds for the three  $bb\tau\tau$  channels ( $e\mu$ ,  $e\tau_h$ , and  $\mu\tau_h$ ) are listed separately, with some channels and years taking the logical OR of two triggers with different thresholds.

## 6.2 Event selection in the $\mu\tau_h$ channel

In all three years, a single muon trigger is used if the muon has sufficiently high  $p_T$ , otherwise a dilepton  $\mu\tau_h$  cross-trigger is used (Tables 6.3, 6.4, and 6.5). 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  $\tau_h$  is required to have  $|\eta| < 2.3$  if the single trigger is fired,  $|\eta| < 2.1$ .

The muon and  $\tau_h$  are required to have opposite charge and be separated by  $\Delta R > 0.4$ . The muon is required to have  $|\eta| < 2.4$ , and the  $\tau_h$  is required to have  $|\eta| < 2.3$  unless a cross-trigger is required, in which case we require  $|\eta| < 2.1$  as discussed above.

The muon is required to pass the medium identification (ID) working point [90], which is defined by the Muon POG as a loose muon (i.e. a Particle Flow muon that is either a global or a tracker muon - see Section 5.1.2) with additional requirements on

All years (2016, 2017, 2018) and eras				
Kinematic variable	$bb\mu\mu$		$bb\tau\tau$	
	$\mu$	$e\mu$	$e\tau_h$	$\mu\tau_h$
$\Delta R$ between leptons	>0.4	>0.3	>0.4	>0.4
$ \eta $ of electron	-	<2.4	<2.1	-
$ \eta $ of muon	<2.4	<2.4	-	<2.1
$ \eta $ of hadronic tau	-	-	<2.3/< 2.1	<2.3/< 2.1
Relative isolation of electron	-	<0.10	-	<0.15
Relative isolation of muon	<0.25	<0.15	-	<0.15
Leading b-tag jet $p_T$	>15 GeV		>20 GeV	
Leading b-tag jet $ \eta $	<2.4		<2.4	
Leading b-tag jet WP	Tight		Medium	
Sub-leading b-tag jet $p_T$	>15 GeV		-	
Sub-leading b-tag jet $ \eta $	<2.4		-	
Sub-leading b-tag jet WP	Loose		-	
$\Delta R$ between jet(s) and leptons	>0.4		>0.5	

Table 6.2: Summary of requirements applied to the leptons in the  $bb\mu\mu$  analysis and the  $bb\tau\tau$  analysis (the focus of this work).  $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$  is a measure of spatial separation. Relative isolation is defined in Eqn. 5.2 and Section 5.1.2. The b-tag jets are required to pass the listed DeepFlavour working points (WP), which are described in Section 5.1.5. In the  $bb\tau\tau$  analysis, the required  $|\eta|$  of the hadronic taus are listed for the single and cross triggers respectively. The  $bb\mu\mu$  analysis requires two b-tag jets in all events, while the  $bb\tau\tau$  analysis only requires one.

1716 track quality and muon quality. This identification criteria is designed to be highly  
1717 efficiently for prompt muons and for muons from heavy quark decays. In addition to  
1718 the ID, for prompt muons it is recommended to apply cuts on the impact parameter  
1719 [90]: we apply  $|\Delta(z)| < 0.2$  and  $|\Delta(xy)| < 0.045$ .

1720 In addition, a cut is applied on the muon relative isolation (defined in Section  
1721 5.1.2), to be less than 0.15 in a cone size of  $\Delta R = 0.4$ , which corresponds to the  
1722 Tight Particle Flow isolation requirement [90].

1723 The  $\tau_h$  is required to pass a cut on its impact parameter of  $|\Delta(z)| < 0.2$ . The  $\tau_h$   
1724 is also required to pass the VLoose (Very Loose) DeepTau working point vs. elec-  
1725 tron, the Tight DeepTau working point vs. muons, and the VVVLoose and Medium  
1726 DeepTau working point vs. jets. Events with taus reconstructed in two of the decay  
1727 modes (labeled 5 and 6) are rejected, since these decay modes are meant to recover  
1728 3-prong taus, but are only recommended for use in analyses where the benefits in  
1729 final significance outweigh the resulting increase in background [63].

1730 For the estimation of the background from jets faking  $\tau_h$ , which is described in Sec-  
1731 tion 7.7, anti-isolated events are selected, by requiring events to pass all the selections  
1732 described above, except failing the Medium DeepTau working point vs. jets.

### 1733 6.3 Event selection in the $e\tau_h$ channel

1734 The HLT trigger paths for the  $e\tau_h$  channel are summarized in Tables 6.3, 6.4, and  
1735 6.5. Similarly to the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel, a single electron trigger is used if the electron has  
1736 sufficiently high  $p_T$  in 2018 and 2017. For data taken in 2018 (2017), the OR of the  
1737 single electron triggers with online  $p_T$  thresholds at 32 and 35 (27 and 32) GeV are  
1738 used, with the corresponding offline electrons required to have  $p_T$  greater than 33  
1739 (28) GeV. A  $e + \tau_h$  cross-trigger is used for electrons with lower offline  $p_T$  between  
1740 25 and 33 GeV (25 and 28 GeV). For the 2016 dataset, there is no cross trigger but

1741 only a single electron trigger with online  $p_T$  threshold at 25 GeV, which is used if the  
1742 offline electron has  $p_T$  greater than 26 GeV.

1743 The electron and  $\tau_h$  are required to have opposite charge and be separated by  
1744  $\Delta R > 0.4$ . The electron is required to be within  $|\eta| < 2.3$  when no cross trigger is  
1745 used, and  $|\eta| < 2.1$  when the cross trigger is fired. The  $\tau_h$  is required to have  $|\eta| < 2.3$   
1746 if no cross trigger is fired, and have  $|\eta| < 2.1$  if the cross trigger is fired.

1747 The electron is required to have a relative isolation (same definition as in Section  
1748 5.1.2) of less than 0.1 in a cone size of  $\Delta R = 0.3$ , which is the standard recommended  
1749 cone size giving minimal pileup dependence and reduced probability of other objects  
1750 overlapping with the cone. The isolation quantity used includes an “effective area”  
1751 (EA) correction to remove the effect of pileup in the barrel and endcap parts of the  
1752 detector [91].

1753 The electron is also required to pass cuts on its impact parameter of  $|\Delta(z)| < 0.2$   
1754 and  $|\Delta(xy)| < 0.045$ . It is also required to pass the non-isolated MVA working point  
1755 corresponding to 90% efficiency. The electron’s number of missing hits, which are  
1756 gaps in its trajectory through the inner tracker [91], must be less than or equal to  
1757 1. The electron must pass a conversion veto, which rejects electrons coming from  
1758 photon conversions in the tracker, which should instead be reconstructed as part of  
1759 the photon [91].

1760 The impact parameter cut for the  $\tau_h$  is  $|\Delta(z)| < 0.2$ . In contrast to the  $\mu\tau_h$  event  
1761 selection, the vs. electron and vs. muon DeepTau working points are flipped, to  
1762 reject muons faking the  $\tau_h$  leg. The  $\tau_h$  is required to pass the Tight DeepTau working  
1763 point vs. electrons, the VLoose DeepTau working point vs. muons, and the Medium  
1764 DeepTau working point vs. jets.

1765 As in the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel, for the estimation of the background from jets faking  $\tau_h$ ,  
1766 which is described in Section 7.7, anti-isolated events are selected, by requiring events  
1767 to pass all the selections described above, except failing the Medium DeepTau working

1768 point vs. jets.

## 1769 6.4 Event selection in the $e\mu$ channel

1770 The HLT trigger paths for the  $e\mu$  channel are summarized in Tables 6.3, 6.4, and  
1771 6.5. Events are selected with the logical OR of two  $e + \mu$  cross triggers, where either  
1772 the electron or muon can have larger  $p_T$ : (1) leading electron, where the electron has  
1773 online  $p_T > 23$  GeV and muon has online  $p_T > 8$  GeV, or (2) leading muon, where  
1774 electron has online  $p_T > 12$  GeV and muon has online  $p_T > 23$  GeV.

1775 The leading and sub-leading leptons are required to have an offline  $p_T$  greater  
1776 than 1 GeV above the online threshold (i.e.  $p_T > 24$  GeV). If the sub-leading lepton  
1777 is the electron, the offline  $p_T$  threshold is 1 GeV above the online threshold ( $p_T > 13$   
1778 GeV), but if it is a muon, the offline  $p_T$  threshold is required to be at least 5 GeV  
1779 greater than the online threshold (i.e.  $p_T > 13$  GeV). This is because of poor data  
1780 and simulation agreement for low- $p_T$  muons with  $p_T$  between 9 GeV and 13 GeV, and  
1781 the higher probability of mis-identifying jets as muons at lower  $p_T$ . With no effect on  
1782 the expected limits, the offline  $p_T$  threshold for muons is raised to 13 GeV instead of  
1783 9 GeV, even though it may lead to loss in signal acceptance. Both the electron and  
1784 muon are required to have  $|\eta| < 2.4$ .

1785 The electron and muon are required to have opposite charge and be separated  
1786 by  $\Delta R > 0.3$  (note the decreased separation requirement compared to the other  
1787 two channels). The electron is required to pass the non-isolated MVA identification  
1788 working point corresponding to 90% efficiency, and to have a relative isolation less  
1789 than 0.1 for a cone size of  $\Delta R = 0.3$  with the EA pileup subtraction correction.  
1790 The electron must have one or fewer missing hits and pass the conversion veto (both  
1791 described previously in Section 6.3).

1792 The muon is required to pass the medium identification working point (described

1793 earlier in 6.2), and to have a relative isolation less than 0.15 for a cone size of  $\Delta R =$   
1794 0.4. The muon impact parameter is required to have  $|\Delta(z)| > 0.2$  and  $|\Delta(xy)| < 0.045$ .

1795 For the QCD multijet background estimation described in Section 7.8, the same-  
1796 sign region is selected by requiring all the above selections, except the legs are required  
1797 to have the same electric charge rather than opposite.

2016 $\mu\tau_h$ trigger paths	
Notes	HLT Path
	HLT_IsoMu22_v
	HLT_IsoMu22_eta2p1_v
	HLT_IsoTkMu22_v
	HLT_IsoTkMu22_eta2p1_v
	HLT_IsoMu19_eta2p1_LooseIsoPFTau20_v
	HLT_IsoMu19_eta2p1_LooseIsoPFTau20_SingleL1_v
2016 $e\tau_h$ trigger paths	
Notes	HLT Path
	HLT_Ele25_eta2p1_WPTight_Gsf_v
2016 $e\mu$ trigger paths	
Notes	HLT Path
runs B-F and MC	HLT_Mu23_TrkIsoVVL_Ele12_CaloIdL_TrackIdL_IsoVL_v
runs B-F and MC	HLT_Mu8_TrkIsoVVL_Ele23_CaloIdL_TrackIdL_IsoVL_v
runs G-H	HLT_Mu23_TrkIsoVVL_Ele12_CaloIdL_TrackIdL_IsoVL_DZ_v
runs G-H	HLT_Mu8_TrkIsoVVL_Ele23_CaloIdL_TrackIdL_IsoVL_DZ_v

Table 6.3: High-Level Trigger (HLT) paths used to select data and simulation events in 2016 for the three  $\tau\tau$  channels.

## 1798 6.5 Extra lepton vetoes in all channels

1799 Events containing a third lepton (electron or muon) that is neither of the leading  $\tau\tau$   
1800 legs are rejected, and events with di-muons and di-electrons are vetoed, with criteria  
1801 taken from the Standard Model  $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$  working group [66].

1802 The event is vetoed if a third electron is found with the following properties:  
1803  $p_T > 10$  GeV,  $|\eta| < 2.5$ , impact parameter  $|\Delta(z)| < 0.2$  and  $|\Delta(xy)| < 0.045$ , passing  
1804 non-isolation MVA identification with 90% efficiency, conversion veto,  $\leq 1$  missing

2017 $\mu\tau_h$ trigger paths	
Notes	HLT Path
	HLT_IsoMu24_v
	HLT_IsoMu27_v
	HLT_IsoMu20_eta2p1_LooseChargedIso_PFTau27_eta2p1_CrossL1_v
2017 $e\tau_h$ trigger paths	
Notes	HLT Path
	HLT_Ele32_WPTight_Gsf_v
	HLT_Ele35_WPTight_Gsf_v
	HLT_Ele24_eta2p1_WPTight_Gsf_Loose_ChargedIsoPFTau30_eta2p1_CrossL1_v
2017 $e\mu$ trigger paths	
Notes	HLT Path
	HLT_Mu23_TrkIsoVVL_Ele12_CaloIdL_TrackIdL_IsoVL_DZ_v
	HLT_Mu8_TrkIsoVVL_Ele23_CaloIdL_TrackIdL_IsoVL_DZ_v

Table 6.4: High-Level Trigger (HLT) paths used to select data and simulation events in 2017 for the three  $\tau\tau$  channels.

1805 hits, and relative isolation  $< 0.3$  with cone size  $\Delta R = 0.3$ . The event is also vetoed if  
 1806 a third muon is found with the following properties:  $p_T > 10$  GeV,  $|\eta| < 2.4$ , impact  
 1807 parameter  $|\Delta(z)| < 0.2$  and  $|\Delta(xy)| < 0.045$ , medium ID, and isolation  $< 0.3$  with  
 1808 cone size  $\Delta R = 0.4$ .

1809 A di-muon veto is applied, which rejects events containing a pair of muons with  
 1810 opposite charge and separation of  $\Delta R > 0.15$ , that both pass the following selections:  
 1811  $p_T > 15$  GeV,  $|\eta| < 2.4$ , flag for global muons, flag for tracker muon, flag for Particle  
 1812 Flow muon,  $|\Delta(z)| < 0.2$ ,  $|\Delta(xy)| < 0.045$ , and isolation  $< 0.3$  with cone size  $\Delta R =$   
 1813 0.4. A similar di-electron veto is applied to reject events containing a pair of electrons  
 1814 with opposite charge and separation of  $\Delta R > 0.15$ , that both pass the following  
 1815 selections:  $p_T > 15$  GeV,  $|\eta| < 2.5$ , a dedicated electron ID (cut-based) for vetoing  
 1816 third leptons,  $|\Delta(z)| < 0.2$ ,  $|\Delta(xy)| < 0.045$ , with pileup-corrected relative isolation  
 1817  $< 0.3$  with cone size  $\Delta R = 0.3$ .

1818 These vetoes on extra leptons also ensure orthogonality of events to analyses such  
 1819 as the  $bb\mu\mu$  final state, whose results are combined with this  $bb\tau\tau$  final state as  
 1820 described in Section 10.2.

2018 $\mu\tau_h$ trigger paths	
Notes	HLT Path
	HLT_IsoMu24_v
	HLT_IsoMu27_v
only data run < 317509	HLT_IsoMu20_eta2p1_ (contd.)
	LooseChargedIsoPFTauHPS27_eta2p1_CrossL1_v
MC and data run $\geq$ 317509	HLT_IsoMu20_eta2p1_ (contd.)
	LooseChargedIsoPFTauHPS27_eta2p1_TightID_CrossL1_v
2018 $e\tau_h$ trigger paths	
Notes	HLT Path
	HLT_Ele32_WPTight_Gsf_v
	HLT_Ele35_WPTight_Gsf_v
only data run < 317509	HLT_Ele24_eta2p1_WPTight_Gsf_ (contd.)
	LooseChargedIsoPFTauHPS30_eta2p1_CrossL1_v
MC and data run $\geq$ 317509	HLT_Ele24_eta2p1_WPTight_Gsf_ (contd.)
	LooseChargedIsoPFTauHPS30_eta2p1_TightID_CrossL1_v
2018 $e\mu$ trigger paths	
Notes	HLT Path
	HLT_Mu23_TrkIsoVVL_Ele12_CaloIdL_TrackIdL_IsoVL_DZ_v
	HLT_Mu8_TrkIsoVVL_Ele23_CaloIdL_TrackIdL_IsoVL_DZ_v

Table 6.5: High-Level Trigger (HLT) paths used to select data and simulation events in 2018 for the three  $\tau\tau$  channels. In 2018 a HLT trigger path using the hadron plus strips (HPS) tau reconstruction algorithm became available.

<sub>1821</sub> **Chapter 7**

<sub>1822</sub> **Background estimation**

<sub>1823</sub> This section describes methods used to estimate sources of background from Standard  
<sub>1824</sub> Model processes in the search for  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$ . Similar background estimation  
<sub>1825</sub> methods are being used for the  $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$  analysis. The background contributions  
<sub>1826</sub> directly taken from MC are described in Sections 7.1 to 7.6. Section 7.7 describes  
<sub>1827</sub> the data-driven method for estimating backgrounds from jets faking hadronic tau  
<sub>1828</sub> decays ( $\text{jet} \rightarrow \tau_h$ ), which is used in the  $\mu\tau_h$  and  $e\tau_h$  channels. Section 7.8 describes  
<sub>1829</sub> the data-driven method for estimating background from quantum chromodynamic  
<sub>1830</sub> (QCD) processes in the  $e\mu$  channel.

<sub>1831</sub> **7.1 Z+jets**

<sub>1832</sub> A major source of background for  $\tau\tau$  analyses is the Drell-Yan (DY) process (Z+jets).  
<sub>1833</sub> The Z boson decays to  $\tau\tau/\mu\mu/ee$  with equal probability of 3.4% each, with the dom-  
<sub>1834</sub> inant decay modes being to hadrons (around 70%) and neutrinos (invisible) (20%)  
<sub>1835</sub> [26].

<sub>1836</sub> The Drell-Yan contribution with genuine taus,  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ , is estimated using embed-  
<sub>1837</sub> ded samples, described in Section 4.3. To avoid double-counting between embedded  
<sub>1838</sub> and MC samples, in all MC samples, events with legs that originated from genuine  $\tau$

1839 are discarded.

1840 The other decays of the  $Z$ ,  $Z \rightarrow ee$  and  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ , are estimated from MC simulation,  
1841 and are hereafter referred to as simply the Drell-Yan background. These MC samples  
1842 are generated to leading order (LO) with different numbers of jets (jet multiplicity) in  
1843 the matrix element:  $Z+1$  jet,  $Z+2$  jets,  $Z+3$  jets,  $Z+4$  jets, and inclusive  $Z+jets$ . The  
1844 cross-sections of the samples with  $\geq 1$  jets are normalized to next-to-NLO (NNLO)  
1845 in QCD.

1846 For the inclusive Drell-Yan sample, two samples are used with different thresholds  
1847 for the di-lepton invariant mass ( $m_{\ell\ell}$ ) at the generator level: one with  $m_{\ell\ell} > 50$  GeV  
1848 and the other with  $10 < m_{\ell\ell} < 50$ .

## 1849 7.2 W+jets

1850 The dominant  $W$  boson decay modes are to hadrons (67.4%),  $e + \nu_e$  (10.7%),  $\mu + \nu_\mu$   
1851 (10.6%), and  $\tau + \nu_\tau$  (11.4%) [26]. The  $W+jets$  background is estimated from MC  
1852 simulation. Similarly to the  $Z+jets$ , the  $W+jets$  samples are generated with different  
1853 jet multiplicities in the matrix element. LO samples are used for greater statistics  
1854 and are normalized to NNLO cross sections.

## 1855 7.3 $t\bar{t} + jets$

1856 In hadron collisions, top quarks are produced singly with the weak interaction, or in  
1857 pairs via the strong interaction, with interference between these leading-order pro-  
1858 cesses possible in higher orders of the perturbation theory. The top quark is the  
1859 heaviest fermion in the Standard Model and has a short lifetime ( $\sim 10^{-25}$  s), decay-  
1860 ing without hadronization into a bottom quark and a  $W$  boson [26], with the decay  
1861 modes of the  $W$  boson as listed in the previous section. With two top quarks, the  
1862 final states of the two resulting  $W$  bosons can be described as fully leptonic, semilep-

1863 tonic, and fully hadronic. These three final states are modeled separately with MC  
1864 simulation in 2018 and 2017, while for 2016 the sample used is inclusive.

## 1865 7.4 Single top

1866 There are three main production modes of the single top in  $pp$  collisions [92]: the  
1867 exchange of a virtual W boson ( $t$  channel), the production and decay of a virtual W  
1868 boson ( $s$  channel), and the associated production of a top quark and W boson ( $tW$ ,  
1869 or W-associated) channel. As the  $s$  channel process is rare and only 3% of the total  
1870 production, the dominant production mode of the  $t$ -channel and the  $tW$  production  
1871 are considered and modeled with MC.

## 1872 7.5 Diboson

1873 In  $pp$  collisions, the production of dibosons (pairs of electroweak gauge bosons, i.e.  
1874 WW, WZ, and ZZ) is dominated by quark-antiquark annihilation, with a small con-  
1875 tribution from gluon-gluon interaction [93]. MC is used to model the pair production  
1876 and decays of VV to  $2\ell 2\nu$ , WZ to  $2q 2\ell$  and  $3\ell\nu$ , and ZZ to  $4\ell$  and  $2q 2\ell$  ( $q$  being  
1877 quarks and  $\ell$  being leptons).

## 1878 7.6 Standard Model Higgs

1879 MC is used to simulate backgrounds from major production modes of the Standard  
1880 Model 125 GeV Higgs boson: gluon-gluon fusion (ggH), vector boson fusion (VBF),  
1881 associated production with a W or Z (WH, ZH), and associated production with a  
1882 top pair (ttH) (see Fig. 7.1 for leading-order diagrams). For these production modes,  
1883 samples with the Higgs decaying to  $\tau\tau$  or to  $WW$  are used. Samples made with  
1884 higher-order diagrams for WH and ZH that include the production of a jet, with the

1885 Higgs decaying to WW, are also used.

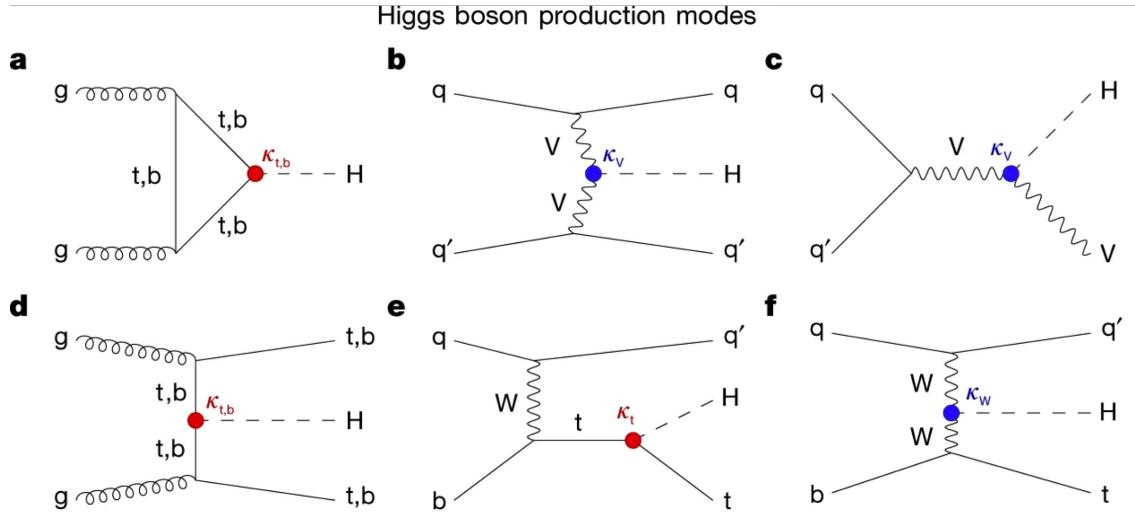


Figure 7.1: Leading-order Feynman diagrams of Higgs production from [94], in  $ggH$  (a) and vector boson fusion (VBF; b), associated production with a  $W$  or  $Z$  ( $V$ ) boson ( $VH$ ; c), associated production with a top or bottom quark pair ( $ttH$  or  $bbH$ ); d, and associated production with a single top quark ( $tH$ ; e, f).

## 1886 7.7 Jet faking $\tau_h$

1887 Events with a jet mis-reconstructed as the hadronic tau leg  $\tau_h$  are a major source of  
1888 background in the  $\mu\tau_h$  and  $e\tau_h$  channels. The main processes contributing to jet  $\rightarrow \tau_h$   
1889 events are QCD multijet,  $W+jets$ , and  $t\bar{t}$  production. These events are estimated  
1890 using a data-driven method adapted from past analyses [48] [82]. This background  
1891 includes contributions from  $W+jets$ , QCD multijets, and  $t\bar{t}+jets$ . To estimate this  
1892 background, a sideband region is constructed, where events are required to pass all  
1893 baseline  $\mu\tau_h/e\tau_h$  selection criteria, but fail the  $\tau_h$  isolation criteria. The events in  
1894 this sideband region are reweighted with a factor  $f/(1-f)$ , where  $f$  is the probability  
1895 for a jet to be misidentified as a  $\tau_h$ . The jet  $\rightarrow \tau_h$  background is the anti-isolated,  
1896 reweighted MC and embedded events subtracted from the anti-isolated, reweighted  
1897 data events.

1898        The fake factor is measured in  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu + \text{jets}$  events in data in the  $\mu\mu\tau_h$  final  
1899 state, as any reconstructed  $\tau_h$  in these events must originate from a jet. The two  
1900 muons are required to be isolated ( $< 0.15$ ), have opposite electric charge, and have  
1901 an invariant mass between 76 and 106 GeV (close to the Z mass). These events are  
1902 selected with a double muon trigger, with the leading muon having offline  $p_T > 20$   
1903 GeV and the subleading muon  $p_T > 10$  GeV. Simulated diboson (ZZ and WZ) events  
1904 are subtracted to avoid contamination from events with real  $\tau_h$ . The denominator of  
1905 the fake rate corresponds to fake taus passing the VVVLoose working point of the  
1906 discriminator vs. jets, while the numerator corresponds to those passing the Medium  
1907 working point, i.e.  $f = N_{\text{jet passing tight}} / N_{\text{jet passing loose}}$ .

1908         $f$  is measured as a function of the  $\tau_h$  transverse momentum and is 8% - 10% in  
1909 each of the data-taking years.  $f$  is derived separately for the  $\mu\tau_h$  and  $e\tau_h$  channels  
1910 because the channels use different anti-lepton identification working points.

## 1911        7.8 QCD multijet background

1912        In the  $e\mu$  channel, events with jets faking electrons or muons originating from QCD  
1913 multijet, is estimated from data events with the same baseline selection as in the  
1914 signal region, except with same-signed (SS) charged  $e + \mu$ , ensuring orthogonality  
1915 with the signal region which requires opposite-sign (OS)  $e\mu$  pairs. All same-sign MC  
1916 events (both events with real and fake  $e + \mu$ ) are subtracted from same-sign data  
1917 events to remove contamination from other backgrounds. i.e.  $\text{QCD}_{\text{SS}} = \text{Data}_{\text{SS}} -$   
1918  $\text{MC}_{\text{SS}}$ .

1919        Three scale factors are applied to the  $\text{QCD}_{\text{SS}}$  events to compute the QCD multijet  
1920 background [82] [37]:

- 1921        • *OS-to-SS scale factor*: This scales the SS QCD to the OS region, and is mea-  
1922        sured from an orthogonal region with an isolated electron and an anti-isolated

muon. Only the muon is chosen to be anti-isolated because this scale factor was observed to depend more strongly on electron isolation than that of the muon. This scale factor is treated as a function of the  $\Delta R$  separation of the trajectories of the electron and muon, and is measured separately for events with 0 jets, 1, jet, and greater than 1 jet.

- *2D closure correction for the lepton  $p_T$ :* This factor accounts for subleading dependencies of the first scale factor on the  $p_T$  of the two leptons. A 2D weight is derived in a similar fashion, as a ratio of  $\text{QCD}_{OS}$  events to  $\text{QCD}_{SS}$  events, but parameterized by both electron and muon  $p_T$ , where the SS events have the previous scale factor applied.

- *Isolation correction for the muon:* The third and final factor is an isolation correction, which is a bias correction to account for the fact that the fake factor was determined for less-isolated muons. This factor is obtained as the ratio of the OS-to-SS scale factors measured in two other control regions: (1) events where the electron is anti-isolated ( $0.15 < \text{iso} < 0.5$ ) and the muon is isolated, and (2) events where both leptons are anti-isolated.

1939 **Chapter 8**

1940 **Systematic uncertainties**

1941 The handling of systematic uncertainties is separated into normalization uncertainties  
1942 (those that affect the total yield of a variables' distribution) and shape uncertainties  
1943 (those that shift the distribution of events). Normalization uncertainties are expressed  
1944 as multiplicative factors, while shape uncertainties are represented as up and down  
1945 shifts of a variable's distribution.

1946 Up/down shifts of shape uncertainties can change the number of background  
1947 events in a distribution. For instance, hadronic taus receive corrections from the  
1948 nominal tau energy scale, with the nominal, up, and down energy scales provided  
1949 centrally by CMS. For the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel, an event could have a  $\tau_h$  with  $p_T$  just below  
1950 the offline threshold of 20 GeV (for instance, 19.5 GeV), so in the nominal distribution  
1951 of  $m_{\tau\tau}$  (or any other variable for this channel), the event is excluded. However, when  
1952 we build our distributions with the tau energy scale “up” shift, the energy of this  $\tau_h$   
1953 may be scaled up to, say, 20.5 GeV, and now the event passes the offline  $p_T$  threshold  
1954 for the single muon trigger, leading to the event's inclusion in the distributions made  
1955 with the tau energy scale “up” shift.

1956 In evaluating the up and down shifts of a specific source of uncertainty, all other  
1957 corrections and scale factors are held at their nominal values, and the full chain of

1958 object and event selection and event categorization is performed to obtain the observ-  
1959 able distributions. Any “downstream” variables that depend on the shifted variable,  
1960 e.g. the invariant di-tau mass  $m_{\tau\tau}$ , must be computed for the nominal case, and then  
1961 re-computed separately for each up and down shift of the tau legs’ energy scale. The  
1962 objective of this process is to quantify the effect of a single source of uncertainty on  
1963 the resulting observable distributions. Each scale factor and correction described in  
1964 Section 5.3 has an associated uncertainty. The binning of the uncertainties follows  
1965 that of the nominal scale factor value.

1966 Sections 8.1 to 8.5 describe uncertainties associated with physics objects, and  
1967 Sections 8.6 and 8.7 describe uncertainties associated with sample-level effects. The  
1968 pulls and impacts for the top sixty most important systematics are shown in Section  
1969 8.8.

## 1970 8.1 Uncertainties in the lepton energy scales

1971 The uncertainties in the tau energy scales [63] are binned by the tau decay mode and  
1972 are taken as shape uncertainties treated as uncorrelated across the tau decay modes  
1973 and years. Same as with the application of the nominal scale factor, when applying  
1974 the up or down shifts, the missing transverse energy ( $p_T^{\text{miss}}$ ) of the event is adjusted  
1975 so that the 4-vector sum of the tau  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$  is unchanged.

1976 The uncertainties in the muon energy scale [64] are 0.4% for  $|\eta| < 1.2$ , 0.9% for  
1977  $1.2 < |\eta| < 2.1$ , and 2.7% for  $2.1 < |\eta| < 2.4$ , and are treated as shape uncertainties,  
1978 fully uncorrelated between embedded and MC samples.

1979 The uncertainties in the electron energy scale [67] in MC are binned in the electron  
1980  $|\eta|$  and  $p_T$ , and are shown in Fig. 5.2. The uncertainties range from 0.5% to 2.2% in  
1981 the barrel, and 0.3% to 4.1% in the endcap, across the  $p_T$  range. The uncertainties  
1982 for the embedded sample are binned only in  $|\eta|$  and are on the order of 0.5% and

1983 1.25% for the barrel and endcap [71].

1984 There are also uncertainties in the energy scales for electrons and muons misidentified as  $\tau_h$ . The uncertainty for muons misidentified as  $\tau_h$  is 1% [63]. For electrons misidentified as  $\tau_h$ , the uncertainty is binned in barrel/endcap  $\eta$  and by 1-prong and 1-prong +  $\pi_0$  decays. The probability for  $e/\mu$  faking a 3-prong decay mode is much lower.

## 1989 8.2 Uncertainties from other lepton corrections

1990 Uncertainties associated with the  $\tau_h$  identification efficiencies are treated as shapes, 1991 uncorrelated across the seven  $p_T$  bins and years. The shape uncertainties in the 1992 embedded samples are taken as 50% correlated with those of the MC samples.

1993 The uncertainties on electron and muon identification efficiencies are taken as 1994 normalization uncertainties of 2% each, with a 50% correlation between embedded 1995 and MC samples.

1996 In the  $e\tau_h$  channel, there is an additional uncertainty for the vs. jet discrimination 1997 efficiency [63], because the analysis uses a looser anti-lepton working point (VLoose 1998 WP) than the working points used in the measurement of the efficiency (namely, 1999 VLoose WP vs e, and Tight WP vs mu). For nominal  $\tau_h p_T < 100$  GeV, an additional 2000 uncertainty of 3% (5%) is used in MC (embedded), and for high  $p_T$  an uncertainty of 2001 15% is used for both.

2002 The uncertainties in trigger efficiencies are taken as shapes [63]. In the  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  2003 channels, there are uncertainties for the single and cross lepton triggers, and in the 2004  $e\mu$  channel there is one uncertainty each for the two  $e + \mu$  triggers, and one combined 2005 uncertainty since their trigger phase spaces are not mutually exclusive.

## 2006 8.3 Uncertainties from jet energy scale and reso- 2007 lution

2008 The jet energy scale uncertainties are taken as shape uncertainties: there are eleven  
2009 in total, with seven correlated across years (labeled “Year” below) and the remainder  
2010 uncorrelated across years. They affect the b-tag jet  $p_T$  and mass, and hence the  
2011 missing transverse energy  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$ . The shifts are propagated through the b-tagging  
2012 scale factor calculation and b-tag jet counting.

2013 The uncertainties in the jet energy correction and resolution [86] [95] are as follows:

- 2014 • *Absolute, AbsoluteYear*: flat absolute scale uncertainties.

2015 • *BBEC1, BBEC1Year*: for sub-detector regions, with barrel “BB” in  $|\eta| < 1.3$   
2016 and endcap region 1 “EC1”:  $1.3 < |\eta| < 2.5$ .

2017 • *EC2, EC2 year*: for sub-detector regions, with endcap region 2 “EC2” in  $2.5 <$   
2018  $|\eta| < 3.0$ .

2019 • *HF, HF year*: for sub-detector regions, with hadron forward “HF” in  $|\eta| > 3$ .

2020 • *FlavorQCD*: for uncertainty in jet flavor (uds/c/b-quark and gluon) estimates  
2021 based on comparing Pythia and Herwig (different MC generator) predictions.

2022 • *RelativeBal*: account for difference between log-linear fits of the two methods  
2023 used to study the jet energy response: MPF (missing transverse momentum  
2024 projection fraction) and  $p_T$  balance.

2025 • *RelativeSample*: account for  $\eta$ -dependent uncertainty due to a difference be-  
2026 tween relative residuals, observed with dijet and Z+jets in Run D of 2018 data.

2027 • *JetResolution*: uncertainty in the jet energy resolution.

## **8.4 Uncertainties from b-tagging scale factors**

The b-tagging scale factor has its own set of associated uncertainties (not to be confused with shifts in the b-tagging scale factor due to the propagation of the jet energy scale uncertainties described in the previous section 8.3). They are:

- $hf$ : contamination from heavy flavor ( $b+c$ ) jets in the light flavor region.
  - $hfstats1, hfstats2$ : linear and quadratic statistical fluctuations from  $b$ -flavor jets.
  - $lf$ : contamination from light flavor ( $udsg+c$  jets) in the heavy flavor region.
  - $lfstats1, lfstats2$ : linear and quadratic statistical fluctuations from  $udsg$  jets.
  - $cferr, cferr2$ : uncertainty for charm jets.
- The variations for “ $lf, hf, hfstats1/2, lfstats1/2$ ” are applied to both  $b$  and  $udsg$  jets. For  $c$ -flavor jets, only “ $cferr1/2$ ” is applied.

## **8.5 Uncertainties from MET**

Samples where recoil corrections were applied ( $Z+jets$ ,  $W+jets$ , and Standard Model Higgs, as described in Section 5.3) have uncertainties from the response and resolution of the hadronic recoil against the leptonic system. These are each binned in jet multiplicity.

## **8.6 Uncertainties associated with samples used**

Normalization uncertainties related to the samples used are:

- *Cross-section uncertainties*:  $\sigma(t\bar{t})$ : 4.2%,  $\sigma(\text{diboson})$ : 5%,  $\sigma(\text{single top})$ : 5%,  $\sigma(\text{ggH})$ : 3.2%,  $\sigma(\text{qqH})$ : 2.1%,  $\sigma(\text{WH})$ : 1.9%,  $\sigma(\text{ZH})$ : 1.3%,  $\sigma(\text{ttH})$ : 3.6%

2048 • *Uncertainties in QCD renormalization scale*: QCD scale(qqH): +0.43%-0.33%,

2049 QCD scale(WH): +0.5%-0.7%, QCD scale(ttH): +5.8%-9.2%

2050 • *Branching ratio uncertainties*: BR( $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$ ): 1.8%, and BR( $H \rightarrow WW$ ): 1.5%.

2051 • *Normalization uncertainties*: 2% for Drell-Yan, 4% for embedded, 20% pre-fit  
2052 for the QCD multijet background in the  $e\mu$  channel, 20% pre-fit for the jet  
2053 faking background.

2054 The  $t\bar{t}$  process has additional acceptance uncertainties from QCD scale variation  
2055 and parton shower uncertainties [96]. Parton shower uncertainties originate from  
2056 the modeling of perturbative and non-perturbative QCD effects handled in parton  
2057 shower MC generators. The scale variations are determined from the envelope of the  
2058 6 provided shapes due to variations in the factorization scale, renormalization scale,  
2059 and their combined variation [96].

2060 The Z  $p_T$  reweighing uncertainty in Drell-Yan samples is taken to be 10% of the  
2061 nominal value, taken as a shape uncertainty.

2062 The fake rate uncertainties are taken as shape uncertainties. For the weight ap-  
2063 plied to scale up anti-isolated events in cross-trigger regions, 20% of the nominal  
2064 weight is taken as a shape uncertainty.

## 2065 8.7 Other uncertainties

2066 A 3.6% yield uncertainty in the signal is used to cover uncertainties in the parton  
2067 distribution functions,  $\alpha_s$  (fine structure constant), and QCD scale.

2068 Normalization uncertainties from luminosity are applied to all MC samples, di-  
2069 vided into those uncorrelated across years, those correlated between 2017 and 2018,  
2070 and one for 2018 [83].

## 2071 8.8 Pulls and impacts

2072 The top impacts and pulls computed for the combination of all channels and years is  
2073 shown in Fig. 8.1. The top impacts are related to uncertainty in the signal sample and  
2074 cross-section of the  $t\bar{t}$  cross-section, and also the yields of the jet faking  $\tau_h$  background,  
2075 which is a major background in all channels and expected to be constrained due to  
2076 the yield uncertainty which is taken to be 20% pre-fit.

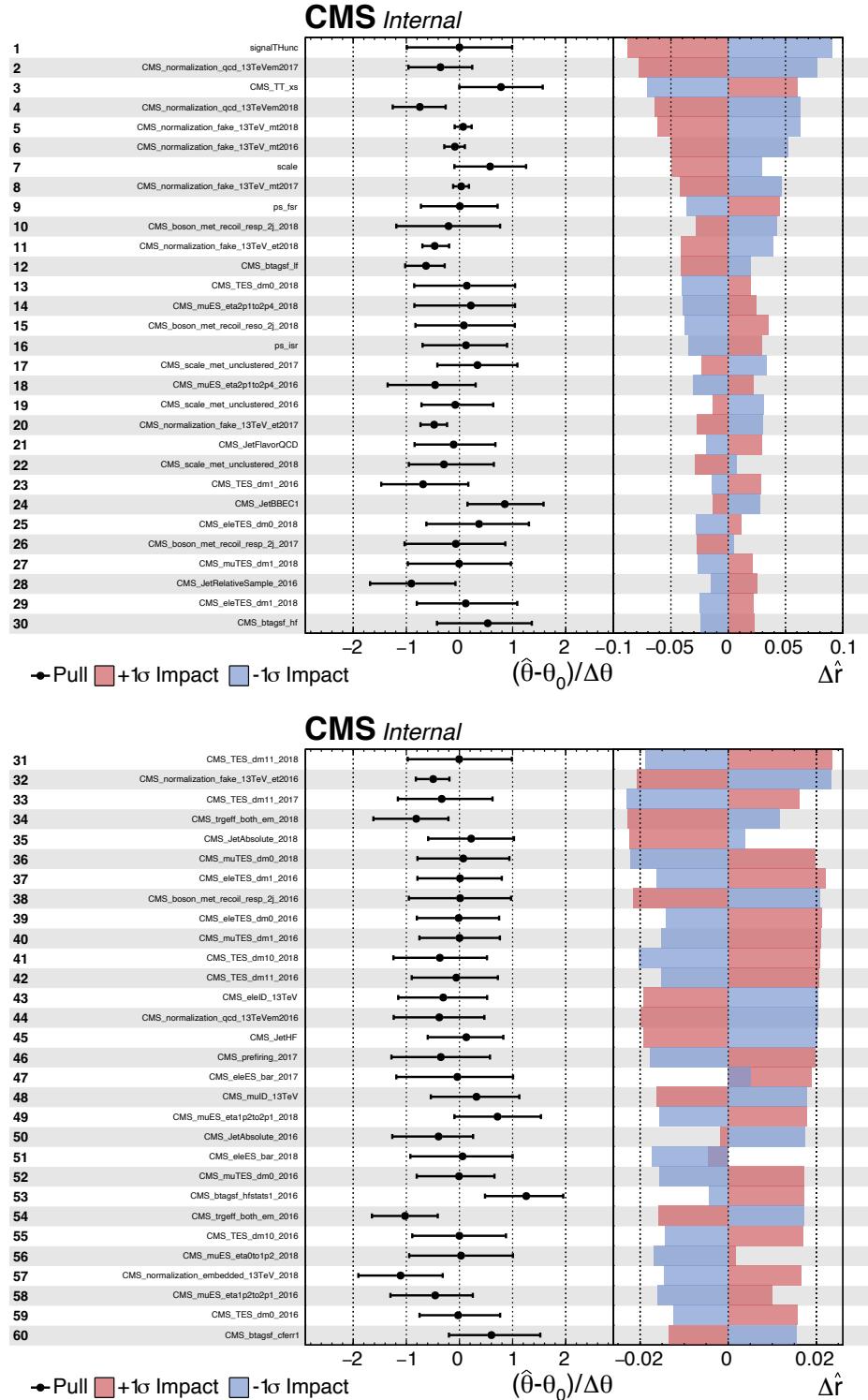


Figure 8.1: Top sixty pulls and impacts for the combination of all channels and years [42].

2077 **Chapter 9**

2078 **Event categorization and signal  
extraction**

2080 **9.1 B-tag jet multiplicity**

2081 The increased statistics of the full Run-2 dataset enables the separation of events into  
2082 events with exactly 1 b-tag jet and events with greater than 1 b-tag jet. Further event  
2083 categorization is performed with deep neural networks (DNNs) described below. The  
2084 DNNs are used only for separating events into signal and control regions in the 1  
2085 b-tag and 2 b-tag jets scenarios. The final results are extracted from the statistical  
2086 fitting to the mass of the  $\tau\tau$ ,  $m_{\tau\tau}$ .

2087 **9.2 DNN-based event categorization**

2088 A brief overview of the DNN-based event categorization is given below with a focus  
2089 on the physics aspects, with full details of the machine learning training in [37] and  
2090 associated documentation.

2091 **Training samples**

2092 Neural networks for event categorization are trained for each of the  $\mu\tau_h$ ,  $e\tau_h$ , and  $e\mu$   
2093 channels, for 1 and 2 b-tag jets, giving  $3 \times 2 = 6$  networks in total. In the training,  
2094 the signal is taken to be all of the possible pseudoscalar mass  $m_a$  hypotheses together.  
2095 The backgrounds for each DNN are taken to be a representative combination of the  
2096 three major backgrounds:  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ ,  $t\bar{t}$ +jets, and fake backgrounds. The proportions of  
2097 each background for each channel and b-tag jet multiplicity are taken from the yields  
2098 in the  $m_{\tau\tau}$  distribution. For instance, in the  $\mu\tau_h$  1 b-tag jet category, the composition  
2099 of the background for training is 17.4% from  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ , 42.4% from  $t\bar{t}$ +jets, and 40.2%  
2100 fakes.

2101 **Input variables**

2102 The input variables capture the key differences between the signal and the back-  
2103 ground:

- 2104 • Transverse momentum  $p_T$  of the electron and muon in the  $e\tau_h$  and  $\mu\tau_h$  channels,  
2105 where the signal tends to have a softer  $p_T$  spectrum (lower energy) than the  
2106 background.
- 2107 •  $p_T$  of the b-tag jet(s). The signal sample b-tag jet(s) tend to have softer  $p_T$ .
- 2108 • Invariant masses of the various objects ( $\tau\tau$  legs and the b-tag jet(s)), which  
2109 tend to be smaller for the signal samples.
- 2110 • The angular separation  $\Delta R$  between pairs of the objects, where signal samples  
2111 peak at smaller  $\Delta R$  values.
- 2112 • The transverse mass between the missing transverse energy  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$  and each of

2113 the four objects [82], defined as

$$m_T(\ell, p_T^{\text{miss}}) \equiv \sqrt{2p_T^\ell \cdot p_T^{\text{miss}}[1 - \cos(\Delta\phi)]} \quad (9.1)$$

2114 where  $p_T^\ell$  is the transverse momentum of the object  $\ell$ , and  $\Delta\phi$  is the difference  
 2115 in azimuthal angle between the object and the  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$ . Events from  $t\bar{t}$ +jets and  
 2116 jets faking  $\tau_h$  backgrounds have larger  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$  resulting in larger transverse mass  
 2117 values compared to the signal, which tends to have smaller  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$  that is also  
 2118 more aligned with the lepton legs.

2119 • The variable  $D_\zeta$  [82], defined as

$$D_\zeta \equiv p_\zeta - 0.85p_\zeta^{\text{vis}} \quad (9.2)$$

2120 where the  $\zeta$  axis is the bisector of the transverse directions of the visible  $\tau$  decay  
 2121 products.  $p_\zeta$  is the component of the  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$  along the  $\zeta$  axis, and  $p_\zeta^{\text{vis}}$  is the sum  
 2122 of the components of the lepton  $p_T$  along the same axis. This variable captures  
 2123 the fact that in signal the  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$  is small and approximately aligned with the  $\tau\tau$ .  
 2124 In contrast, the  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$  background tends towards large  $D_\zeta$  values because the  
 2125  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$  is collinear to the  $\tau\tau$ , and the  $t\bar{t}$ +jets events tend to have small  $D_\zeta$  due to  
 2126 a large  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$  not aligned with the  $\tau\tau$ .

2127 • For events with 2 b-tag jets, one additional variable is defined to capture the  
 2128 difference in the invariant mass of the  $bb$  and the  $\tau\tau$ :

$$\Delta m_{a_1} \equiv (m_{bb} - m_{\tau\tau})/m_{\tau\tau} \quad (9.3)$$

2129 This variable peaks at zero for the  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow 2b2\tau$  signal.

2130 **Categorization using the DNN score**

2131 After training, events in data, MC, and embedded are evaluated with the six DNNs  
2132 and assigned a raw score between 0 and 1 (background-like or signal-like). In order  
2133 to flatten the distribution of the score and define score thresholds for categorizing  
2134 events, the raw output scores are transformed with the function  $\tilde{p}(n) = \text{arctanh}(p \times$   
2135  $\tanh(n))/n$  where  $n$  is a positive integer. The thresholds of the DNN score used for  
2136 signal/control region definition are determined using scans that optimize the signal  
2137 sensitivity and are shown in Tables 9.1 and 9.2.

1bNN $\tilde{p}(n = 1.5)$				
	SR1	SR2	SR3	CR
$\mu\tau_h$ 2018	$> 0.98$	$\in [0.95, 0.98]$	$\in [0.90, 0.95]$	$< 0.90$
$\mu\tau_h$ 2017	$> 0.97$	$\in [0.94, 0.97]$	$\in [0.90, 0.94]$	$< 0.90$
$\mu\tau_h$ 2016	$> 0.97$	$\in [0.94, 0.97]$	$\in [0.89, 0.94]$	$< 0.89$
1bNN $\tilde{p}(n = 1.5)$				
	SR1	SR2	SR3	CR
$e\tau_h$ 2018	$> 0.97$	$\in [0.945, 0.97]$	$\in [0.90, 0.945]$	$< 0.90$
$e\tau_h$ 2017	$> 0.985$	$\in [0.965, 0.985]$	$\in [0.93, 0.965]$	$< 0.93$
$e\tau_h$ 2016	$> 0.985$	$\in [0.965, 0.985]$	$\in [0.93, 0.965]$	$< 0.93$
1bNN $\tilde{p}(n = 2.5)$				
	SR1	SR2	SR3	CR
$e\mu$ 2018	$> 0.99$	$\in [0.95, 0.99]$	$\in [0.85, 0.95]$	$< 0.85$
$e\mu$ 2017	$> 0.985$	$\in [0.95, 0.985]$	$\in [0.85, 0.95]$	$< 0.85$
$e\mu$ 2016	$> 0.99$	$\in [0.95, 0.99]$	$\in [0.85, 0.95]$	$< 0.85$

Table 9.1: Event categorization based on DNN scores for events with exactly 1 b-tag jet (1bNN), for the three  $\tau\tau$  channels and three eras.

2138 **9.3 Methodology for signal extraction**

2139 In this section we outline the statistics terminology and concepts underlying the  
2140 modified frequentist method  $CL_S$  used to perform signal extraction.

	2bNN $\tilde{p}(n = 1.5)$		
	SR1	SR2	CR
$\mu\tau_h$ 2018	> 0.99	$\in [0.96, 0.99]$	< 0.96
$\mu\tau_h$ 2017	> 0.98	$\in [0.94, 0.98]$	< 0.94
$\mu\tau_h$ 2016	> 0.97	$\in [0.93, 0.97]$	< 0.93
	2bNN $\tilde{p}(n = 1.5)$		
	SR1	SR2	CR
$e\tau_h$ 2018	> 0.96	NA	< 0.96
$e\tau_h$ 2017	> 0.985	NA	< 0.985
$e\tau_h$ 2016	> 0.96	NA	< 0.96
	2bNN $\tilde{p}(n = 2.5)$		
	SR1	SR2	CR
$e\mu$ 2018	> 0.98	$\in [0.94, 0.98]$	< 0.94
$e\mu$ 2017	> 0.97	$\in [0.93, 0.97]$	< 0.93
$e\mu$ 2016	> 0.98	$\in [0.94, 0.98]$	< 0.94

Table 9.2: Event categorization based on DNN scores for events with 2 b-tag jets (2bNN), for the three  $\tau\tau$  channels and three eras.

### 9.3.1 Model building and parameter estimation

In the frequentist interpretation of probability, an experiment measuring an observable can be repeated, resulting in different values of the observable, e.g. the invariant mass of a candidate Higgs boson in a search for the Higgs [97]. The ensemble of values of the observable  $x$  gives rise to the probability density function (PDF)  $f(x)$ , which has the important property that it is normalized to unity:

$$\int f(x) dx = 1.$$

A parametric family of PDFs

$$f(x|\alpha),$$

read “ $f$  of  $x$  given  $\alpha$ ”, is referred to as a probability model or model. The parameters  $\alpha$  typically represent parameters of the theory or an unknown property of the detector’s response. The parameters are not frequentist in nature, unlike  $x$ . Out of all the

2145 parameters, typically only a few are of interest, and are called the parameters of  
 2146 interest (POI), labeled  $\mu$  here. The remaining are referred to as nuisance parameters  
 2147 (NP) [97] and are labeled  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ .

2148  $f(x)$  is the probability density for the observable in one event and we wish to  
 2149 describe the probability density for a dataset with many events,  $\mathcal{D} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ ,  
 2150 called the total probability model  $\mathbf{f}$ . For instance, if we also have a prediction for  
 2151 the total number of events expected, called  $\nu$ , we also account for the overall Poisson  
 2152 probability for observing  $n$  events given  $\nu$  expected:

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathcal{D}|\nu, \alpha) = \text{Poisson}(n|\nu) \prod_{e=1}^n f(x_e|\alpha) \quad (9.4)$$

The likelihood function  $L(\alpha)$  is numerically equivalent to  $f(x|\alpha)$  for fixed  $x$ , or  
 $\mathbf{f}(\mathcal{D}|\alpha)$  with  $\mathcal{D}$  fixed [97]. The likelihood function is not a probability density for  $\alpha$   
 and is not normalized to unity:

$$\int L(\alpha) d(\alpha) \neq 1.$$

2153 i.e. the likelihood function is the value of  $f$  as a function of  $\alpha$  given a fixed value of  
 2154  $x$ .

2155 To estimate the parameter  $\alpha$  we use an estimator, which is a function of the  
 2156 data. Take for example the measurement of data distributed according to a Gaussian  
 2157 probability density  $f(x|\mu, \sigma) = \text{Gauss}(x|\mu, \sigma)$ . One possible estimator of the mean  $\mu$ ,  
 2158 is the mean of the measured data points  $\bar{x} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i/n$  [97].

2159 A commonly used estimator in physics is the maximum likelihood estimator  
 2160 (MLE), defined as the value  $\hat{\alpha}$  which maximizes the likelihood function  $L(\alpha)$ . This  
 2161 value, labeled  $\hat{\alpha}$ , also maximizes  $\ln L(\alpha)$  and minimizes  $-\ln L(\alpha)$ . By convention the  
 2162  $-\ln L(\alpha)$  is minimized, in a process called “fitting”, and the maximum likelihood  
 2163 estimate is called the “best fit value”.

### 2164 9.3.2 Hypothesis testing

2165 In this section we next introduce concepts related to hypothesis testing such as the  
2166 test statistic constructed from the ratio of likelihood functions.

2167 The objective of a likelihood analysis is to distinguish different models repre-  
2168 senting the various hypotheses, and determine the one that best explains the ex-  
2169 perimental outcome. In a search for new physics, a signal is additive on top of the  
2170 background. The background-only hypothesis is the null hypothesis, and the signal-  
2171 plus-background hypothesis is the alternative.

2172 As a simple example, take the  $p$ -value test, for an experiment where we count  
2173 events in the signal region,  $n_{SR}$ , and expect  $\nu_B$  background events and  $\nu_S$  events from  
2174 the signal [97]. Then

- 2175 1. The null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ), i.e. the background-only hypothesis in this experi-  
2176     ment, with the probability modeled by  $\text{Poisson}(n_{SR}|\nu_B)$ .
- 2177 2. The alternate hypothesis ( $H_1$ ), i.e. signal-plus-background hypothesis, with the  
2178     probability modeled by  $\text{Poisson}(n_{SR}|(\nu_B + \nu_S))$ .

2179 The compatibility of the observed data  $\nu_{SR}^0$  and the null hypothesis, is quantified as  
2180 the probability that the background-only hypothesis would produce at least as many  
2181 events as was observed. This probability is the  $p$ -value:

$$p = \sum_{n=n_{SR}^0}^{\infty} \text{Poisson}(n|\nu_B). \quad (9.5)$$

2182 If the  $p$ -value is very small, we might reject the null hypothesis. The  $p$ -value is not the  
2183 probability of the null hypothesis given the data; rather, it expresses the probability  
2184 that data with a certain property was obtained, assuming the null hypothesis [97].

2185 The  $p$ -value is an example of a test statistic  $T$ , which maps the data to a single  
2186 real number. The Neyman-Pearson lemma states that out of the infinite possibilities

2187 of choices of test statistic, the uniformly most powerful test statistic is the likelihood  
2188 ratio  $T_{NP}$  [97]:

$$T_{NP}(\mathcal{D}) = \frac{L(\mathcal{D}|H_1)}{L(\mathcal{D}|H_0)} \quad (9.6)$$

To reiterate, the test statistic  $T$  is a real-valued function of the data, implying that a particular probability model  $\mathbf{f}(\mathcal{D}|\boldsymbol{\alpha})$  implies a distribution of the test statistic,  $f(T|\boldsymbol{\alpha})$ , which depends on the value of  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ . With this distribution in hand, the  $p$ -value can be evaluated in the following equivalent formulations:

$$p(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \int_{T_0}^{\infty} f(T|\boldsymbol{\alpha}) dT \quad (9.7)$$

$$= \int \mathbf{f}(\mathcal{D}|\boldsymbol{\alpha}) \theta(T(\mathcal{D}) - T_0) d\mathcal{D} \quad (9.8)$$

$$= P(T \geq T_0|\boldsymbol{\alpha}) \quad (9.9)$$

2189 where  $T_0$  is the value of  $T$  based on the observed data, and  $\theta()$  is the Heaviside  
2190 function. The size of the test is conventionally chosen to be 10%, 5%, or 1%. As  
2191 the  $p$ -value depends on  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  (both the POI and NP), the null hypothesis should not be  
2192 rejected if the  $p$ -value is larger than the size of the test for any value of the nuisance  
2193 parameters.

### 2194 9.3.3 Confidence intervals

2195 In an example of the measurement of the Standard Model Higgs boson,  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{\text{POI}} =$   
2196  $(\sigma/\sigma_{SM}, M_H)$ , with  $\sigma/\sigma_{SM}$  is the ratio of the production cross-section for Higgs with  
2197 respect to its value in the SM, and  $M_H$  is the unknown mass of the Higgs, values  
2198 of these parameters outside specific bounds are said to be “excluded at the 95%  
2199 confidence level”. These allowed regions are called confidence levels or confidence  
2200 regions, and the parameter values outside of them are considered excluded [97]. A

2201 95% confidence interval does not mean that there is a 95% chance that the true value  
 2202 of the parameter is inside the interval. Rather, a 95% confidence interval covers the  
 2203 true value 95% of the time (even though we do not know the true value).

2204 To construct a confidence interval for a parameter  $\alpha$ , the Neyman Construction  
 2205 is used to invert a series of hypothesis tests; i.e. for each possible value of  $\alpha$ , the null  
 2206 hypothesis is treated as  $\alpha$ , and we perform a hypothesis test based on a test statistic.  
 2207 To construct a 95% confidence interval, we construct a series of hypothesis tests with  
 2208 size of 5%. The confidence interval  $I(\mathcal{D})$  is constructed by taking the set of parameter  
 2209 values  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  where the null hypothesis is accepted:

$$I(\mathcal{D}) = \{\boldsymbol{\alpha} | P(T(\mathcal{D}) > k_\alpha | \boldsymbol{\alpha}) < \alpha\}, \quad (9.10)$$

2210 where  $T(\mathcal{D})$  is the test statistic, and the last  $\alpha$  (not bolded) and the subscript  $k_\alpha$   
 2211 refer to the size of the test. A schematic of the Neyman construction is shown in Fig.  
 2212 9.1. In a more generalized case, the  $x$ -axis is the test statistic  $T$ .

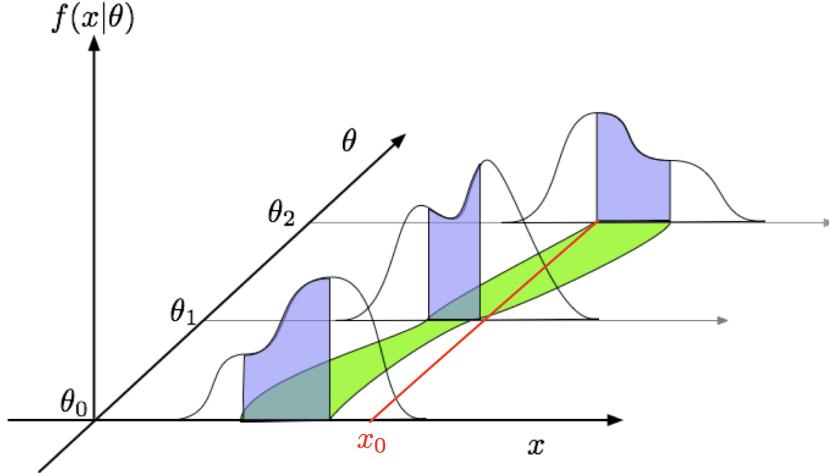


Figure 9.1: Schematic of the Neyman construction for confidence intervals [97]. For each value of  $\theta$ , we find a region in  $x$  where  $\int f(x|\theta)dx$  satisfies the size of the test (blue). These regions form a confidence belt (green). The intersection of the observation  $x_0$  (red) with the confidence belt defines the confidence interval  $[\theta_1, \theta_2]$  [97].

### 2213 9.3.4 Profile likelihood ratio

2214 In this section we describe a frequentist statistical procedure based on the profile  
 2215 likelihood ratio test statistic, which is implemented using asymptotic distributions.

2216 With a multi-parameter likelihood function  $L(\boldsymbol{\alpha})$ , the maximum likelihood of  
 2217 one specific parameter  $\alpha_p$  with other parameters  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_o$  fixed, is called the conditional  
 2218 maximum likelihood estimate and is denoted  $\hat{\alpha}_p(\boldsymbol{\alpha}_0)$ . The process of choosing specific  
 2219 values of the nuisance parameters for a given value of  $\mu$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{simulated}}$ , and value of global  
 2220 observables  $\mathcal{G}$  is called profiling. From the full list of parameters  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ , we denote the  
 2221 parameter of interest  $\mu$ , and the nuisance parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ .

2222 We construct the profile likelihood ratio,

$$\lambda(\mu) = \frac{L(\mu, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mu))}{L(\mu, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}})} \quad (9.11)$$

2223 which depends explicitly on the parameter of interest  $\mu$ , implicitly on the data  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{sim}}$   
 2224 and global observables  $\mathcal{G}$ , and is independent of the nuisance parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ , which  
 2225 have been eliminated in profiling [97].

2226 The main conceptual reason for constructing the test statistic from the profile  
 2227 likelihood ratio is that asymptotically (i.e. for measurements with many events) the  
 2228 distribution of the profile likelihood ratio  $\lambda(\mu = \mu_{\text{true}})$  is independent of the values of  
 2229 the nuisance parameters [97].

2230 The following  $p$ -value is used to quantify the consistency with the hypothesis of a  
 2231 signal strength of  $\mu$ :

$$p_\mu = \int_{\tilde{q}_{\mu, \text{obs}}}^{\infty} f(\tilde{q}_\mu | \mu, \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mu, \text{obs})) d\tilde{q}_\mu \quad (9.12)$$

2232 **9.3.5 Modified frequentist method:  $CL_S$**

2233 In the modified frequentist method called  $CL_S$ , to test a hypothesis with signal, we  
2234 define  $p'_\mu$  as a ratio of  $p$ -values [97]:

$$p'_\mu = \frac{p_\mu}{1 - p_b} \quad (9.13)$$

2235 where  $p_b$  is the  $p$ -value derived under the background-only hypothesis:

$$p_b = 1 - p_0 \equiv 1 - \int_{\tilde{q}_{\mu,\text{obs}}}^{\infty} f(\tilde{q}_\mu | 0, \hat{\theta}(\mu = 0, \text{obs})) d\tilde{q}_\mu. \quad (9.14)$$

2236 The  $CL_S$  upper limit on  $\mu$ , denoted  $\mu_{up}$ , is obtained by solving for  $p'_{\mu_{up}} = 5\%$ .  
2237 If testing the compatibility of the data with the background-only hypothesis, we  
2238 consider the  $p_b$  value defined above and conventionally convert it into the quantile  
2239 or “sigma” of a unit Gaussian.  $z$  standard deviations (e.g.  $z = 5$  in “ $5\sigma$ ”) means  
2240 that the probability of falling above these standard deviations, equals  $p_b$  (e.g.  $3\sigma$   
2241 corresponds to  $p_b = 2.7 \times 10^{-3}$  or 95.43%, and  $5\sigma$  corresponds to  $p_b = 5.7 \times 10^{-7}$  or  
2242 99.999943%).

2243 **Chapter 10**

2244 **Results**

2245 **10.1 Results from  $bb\tau\tau$**

2246 In each of the three  $\tau\tau$  channels studied ( $\mu\tau_h$ ,  $e\tau_h$ , and  $e\mu$ ), events are divided based  
2247 on whether they contain exactly 1 or 2 b-tag jets, and further divided into signal  
2248 and control regions (SRs and CRs) using the DNN categorization score as described  
2249 in Section 9.2. The control regions demonstrate good agreement between observed  
2250 events in data, and the sum of the contributions from expected backgrounds that  
2251 are modeled in simulated and embedded samples. The signal regions are defined to  
2252 be sensitive to the  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$  signal. The postfit final observed and expected  
2253 distributions of the di-tau invariant mass  $m_{\tau\tau}$  reconstructed with SVFit (described  
2254 in Section 5.2) are shown in Fig. 10.1 for the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel, Fig. 10.2 for the  $e\tau_h$   
2255 channel, and Fig. 10.3 for the  $e\mu$  channel. In all figures, the hypothesized yield for  
2256 the  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$  signal is shown for the pseudoscalar mass  $m_a = 35$  GeV and  
2257 assuming a branching fraction  $B(H \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau) = 10\%$ .

2258 The 95% CL expected and observed exclusion limits on the signal strength of the  
2259 branching fraction  $B(h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau)$  as a function of the pseudoscalar mass  $m_a$   
2260 ranging from 12 GeV to 60 GeV, are shown for the three  $\tau\tau$  channels and all three

channels combined in Fig. 10.4. The limits are shown as percentages and normalized to the production cross-section of the Standard Model Higgs boson. No excess of events above the Standard Model expectations is observed. In the limits for the three  $\tau\tau$  channels combined, expected (observed) limits range from 1.4 to 5.6% (1.7 to 7.6%) for pseudoscalar masses between 12 and 60 GeV.

The  $e\mu$  channel is the only channel that has signal sensitivity to the  $m_a = 12$  GeV pseudoscalar mass hypothesis, because the minimum required spatial separation  $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$  between the two  $\tau$  legs is smaller than the other two channels ( $\Delta R < 0.3$  for  $e\mu$ , compared to  $\Delta R < 0.4$  for the other two channels). This decreased  $\Delta R$  requirement results in better signal acceptance for low mass signals for the  $e\mu$  channel. The  $\mu\tau_h$  and  $e\tau_h$  channels are most sensitive to the intermediate mass points studied, since the analysis targets a resolved signature: at low mass points, the tau legs are boosted, and at high mass points, the  $m_{\tau\tau}$  distributions in signal have larger overlap with background distributions. In the combination of the three  $\tau\tau$  channels, the limit for  $m_a = 12$  GeV comes only from the  $e\mu$  channel, and the best sensitivity is attained at intermediate mass points around  $m_a = 20$  GeV to 45 GeV.

To set limits on the branching fraction of the 125 GeV Higgs to the two pseudoscalars,  $B(h \rightarrow aa)$ , we interpret the results in four types of 2HDM+S, which were introduced in Section 1.4. In 2HDM+S, the theorized branching fraction of the pseudoscalars depends on the 2HDM+S model type, the pseudoscalar mass  $m_a$ , and the ratio of the two Higgs doublets' vacuum expectation values  $\tan\beta$ . In Type I models, the branching fraction is independent of  $\tan\beta$ , while in Types II, III, and IV, it is a function of  $m_a$  and  $\tan\beta$ . Limits for the  $bb\tau\tau$  final state as a function of  $m_a$  for 2HDM+S Type I (valid for all  $\tan\beta$  values), Type II with  $\tan\beta = 2.0$ , Type III with  $\tan\beta = 2.0$ , and Type IV with  $\tan\beta = 0.6$  are overlaid and shown in Fig. 10.5a.

## 2286 10.2 Combination with $bb\mu\mu$ final state

2287 Results from this analysis for the  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$  final state are combined with the  
2288 analysis for the  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\mu\mu$  final state [98]. While the predicted branching ratio  
2289 for  $aa \rightarrow bb\mu\mu$  is comparatively small, the  $bb\mu\mu$  final state has competitive results  
2290 due to the excellent di-muon resolution measured by CMS. The  $bb\mu\mu$  analysis uses  
2291 an unbinned fit to the data using the di-muon mass  $m_{\mu\mu}$  distribution. Details can be  
2292 found in [98].

2293 Combining the results is possible since the  $bb\tau\tau$  analysis explicitly rejects events  
2294 with extra leptons, so there is no overlap between the events studied in the  $bb\tau\tau$   
2295 analysis and the  $bb\mu\mu$  analysis. In the statistical combination, several systematic  
2296 uncertainties are treated as correlated: the integrated luminosity normalization, the  
2297 b-tagging scale factor, the scale factors related to muon reconstruction, identifica-  
2298 tion, and trigger efficiencies, the inefficiency in the ECAL trigger readout, and the  
2299 theoretical uncertainties related to signal modeling.

2300 Since the results in both final states are statistically limited, the combination ben-  
2301 efits from the additional data. For  $m_a = 35$  GeV, all systematic uncertainties amount  
2302 to around 6% of the total uncertainty, with the dominant systematic uncertainties  
2303 coming from jet energy systematics in the  $bb\mu\mu$  final state, theoretical uncertainties  
2304 in the signal, and uncertainties in the QCD multijet backgrounds in the  $e\mu$  channel  
2305 of the  $bb\tau\tau$  final state.

2306 The mass distributions of the di-muon and di-tau objects ( $m_{\mu\mu}$  and  $m_{\tau\tau}$ ) are  
2307 compared to the data in a combined maximum likelihood fit to derive upper limits  
2308 on  $B(h \rightarrow aa)$ . The observed limits at 95% CL on  $B(h \rightarrow aa)$  for different 2HDM+S  
2309 scenarios, are shown for the search for  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\mu\mu$  in Fig. 10.5b, and the  
2310 combined analyses  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\ell\ell$  in Fig. 10.6.

2311 Exclusion limits in a two-dimensional plane as a function of  $\tan\beta$  and  $m_a$  are  
2312 set for 2HDM+S Types II, III, and IV in Fig. 10.7. The most stringent constraints

are observed for 2HDM+S type III because of large branching fractions predicted in theory, with predicted branching fractions between 0.47 and 0.42 for  $\tan \beta = 2.0$  and values of  $m_a$  between 15 and 60 GeV, compared to the observed 95% CL upper limits which are between 0.08 and 0.03. For 2HDM+S type IV, the predicted branching fractions from theory are between 0.26 and 0.20 for  $\tan \beta = 0.6$  for values of  $m_a$  between 15 and 60 GeV, and the 95% CL observed upper limits are between 0.12 and 0.05.

The combined results from  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\ell\ell$  are compared with CMS results in other final states as a function of the pseudoscalar mass  $m_a$ : for 2HDM+S type I in Fig. 10.8, type II with  $\tan \beta = 2.0$  in Fig. 10.9, and type III with  $\tan \beta = 2.0$  in Fig. 10.10. In other scenarios, e.g. type III with  $\tan \beta = 5.0$ , more stringent limits are set by analyses in other final states,  $\mu\mu\tau\tau$  in this case. Other summary plots for other model types and  $\tan \beta$  values can be found at [99].

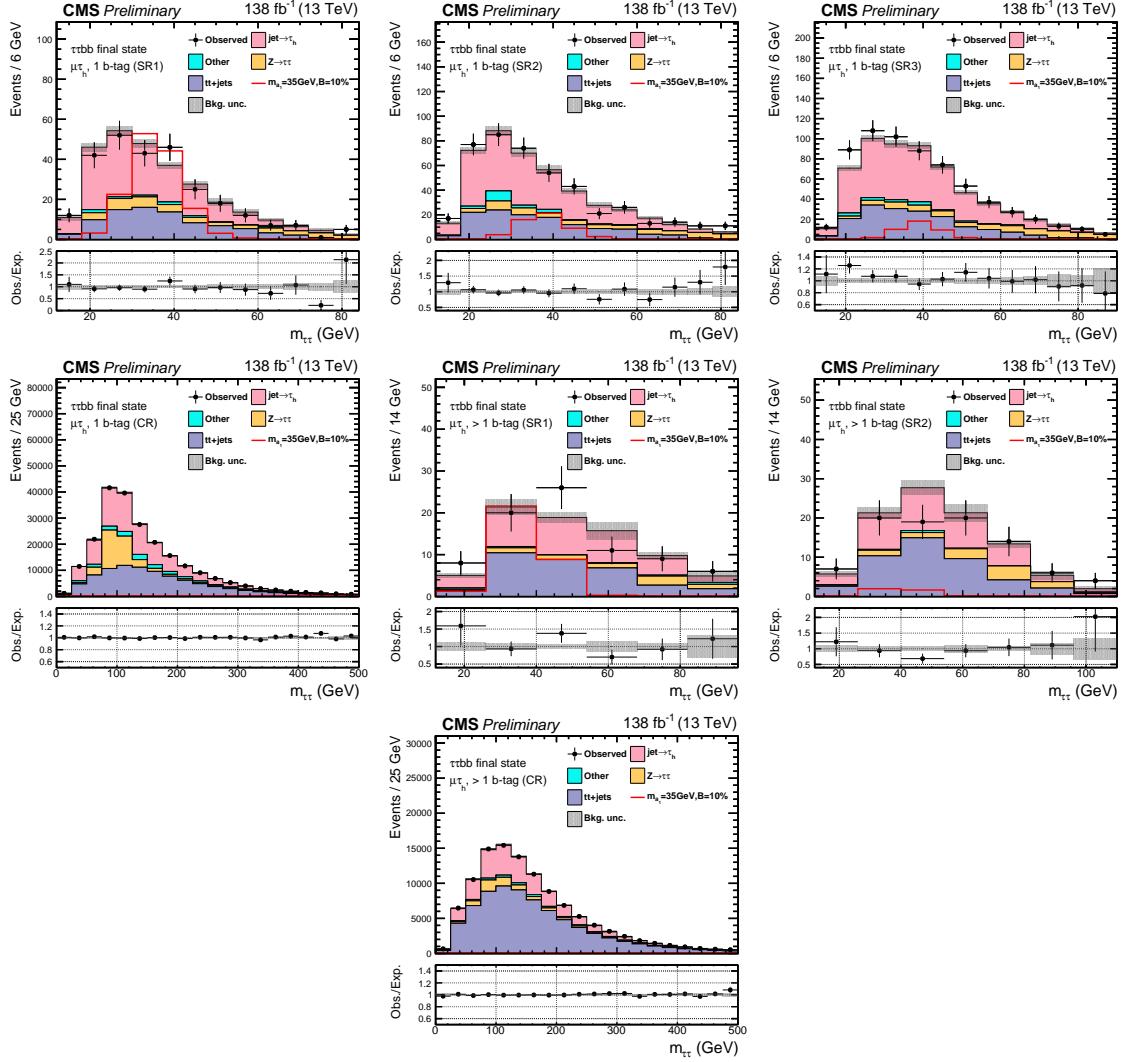


Figure 10.1: Postfit final  $m_{\tau\tau}$  observed and expected distributions, and the observed/expected ratios, in the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel [42]. Events are divided into the 1 b-tag jet signal regions (SR1, SR2, SR3) (*top row*), 1 b-tag jet control region (*middle row*), 2 b-tag jet signal regions (SR1, SR2) (*middle row*), and lastly the 2 b-tag jet control region (CR) (*bottom*). Statistical and systematic sources of uncertainties in the expected events are added in quadrature and labeled “Bkg. unc” (*shaded gray*). The dominant backgrounds in all categories are jets faking the  $\tau_h$  leg (*pink*),  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$  (*orange*), and  $t\bar{t}+j$ ets (*purple*). For illustrative purposes, the beyond-Standard Model signal yield from  $h \rightarrow aabb\tau\tau$  is shown for the pseudoscalar mass hypothesis  $m_a = 35$  GeV, assuming a branching fraction  $B(h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau) = 10\%$  (*red line*).

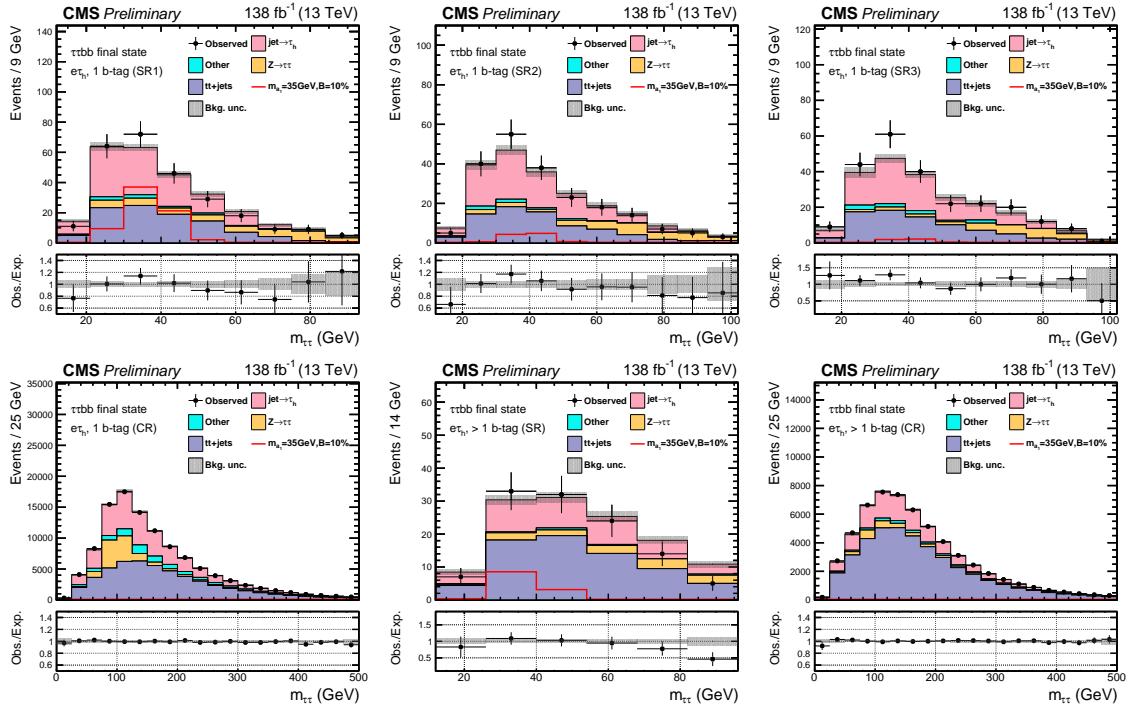


Figure 10.2: Postfit final observed and expected  $m_{\tau\tau}$  distributions, and the observed/expected ratios, in the  $e\tau_h$  channel [42]. Events are divided into the 1 b-tag jet signal regions (SR1, SR2, SR3) (*top row*), the 1 b-tag jet control region (CR) (*bottom row*), and 2 b-tag jet signal region (SR) and control region (CR) (*bottom row*). Statistical and systematic sources of uncertainties in the expected events are added in quadrature and labeled “Bkg. unc” (*shaded gray*). In this channel, the dominant backgrounds are jets faking the  $\tau_h$  leg (*pink*),  $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$  (*orange*), and  $t\bar{t}+j$  (*purple*). For illustrative purposes, the beyond-Standard Model signal yield from  $h \rightarrow aabb\tau\tau$  is shown for the pseudoscalar mass hypothesis  $m_a = 35$  GeV, assuming a branching fraction  $B(h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau) = 10\%$  (*red line*).

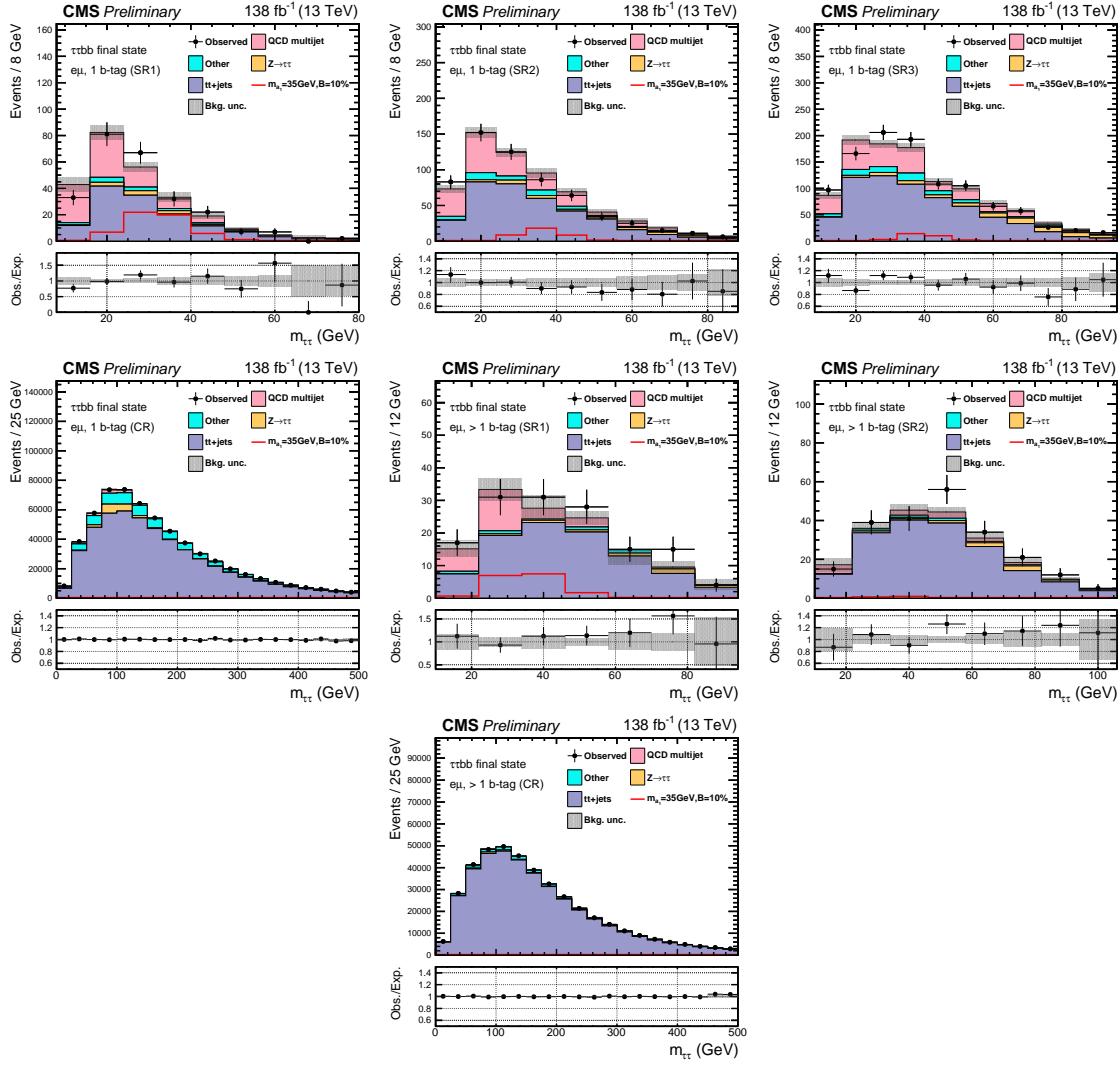


Figure 10.3: Postfit final observed and expected  $m_{\tau\tau}$  distributions, and the observed/expected ratios, in the  $e\mu$  channel [42]. Events are divided into the 1 b-tag jet signal regions (SR1, SR2, and SR3) (*top row*), 1 b-tag jet control region (CR) (*middle row*), 2 b-tag jet signal regions (SR1 and SR2) (*middle row*), and 2 b-tag jet control region (CR) (*bottom row*). Statistical and systematic sources of uncertainties in the expected events are added in quadrature and labeled “Bkg. unc” (*shaded gray*). The  $t\bar{t}+j$  process (*purple*) is a major background, and in the signal regions the QCD multijet (*pink*) is also a major background. TFor illustrative purposes, the beyond-Standard Model signal yield from  $h \rightarrow aabb\tau\tau$  is shown for the pseudoscalar mass hypothesis  $m_a = 35$  GeV, assuming a branching fraction  $B(h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau) = 10\%$  (*red line*).

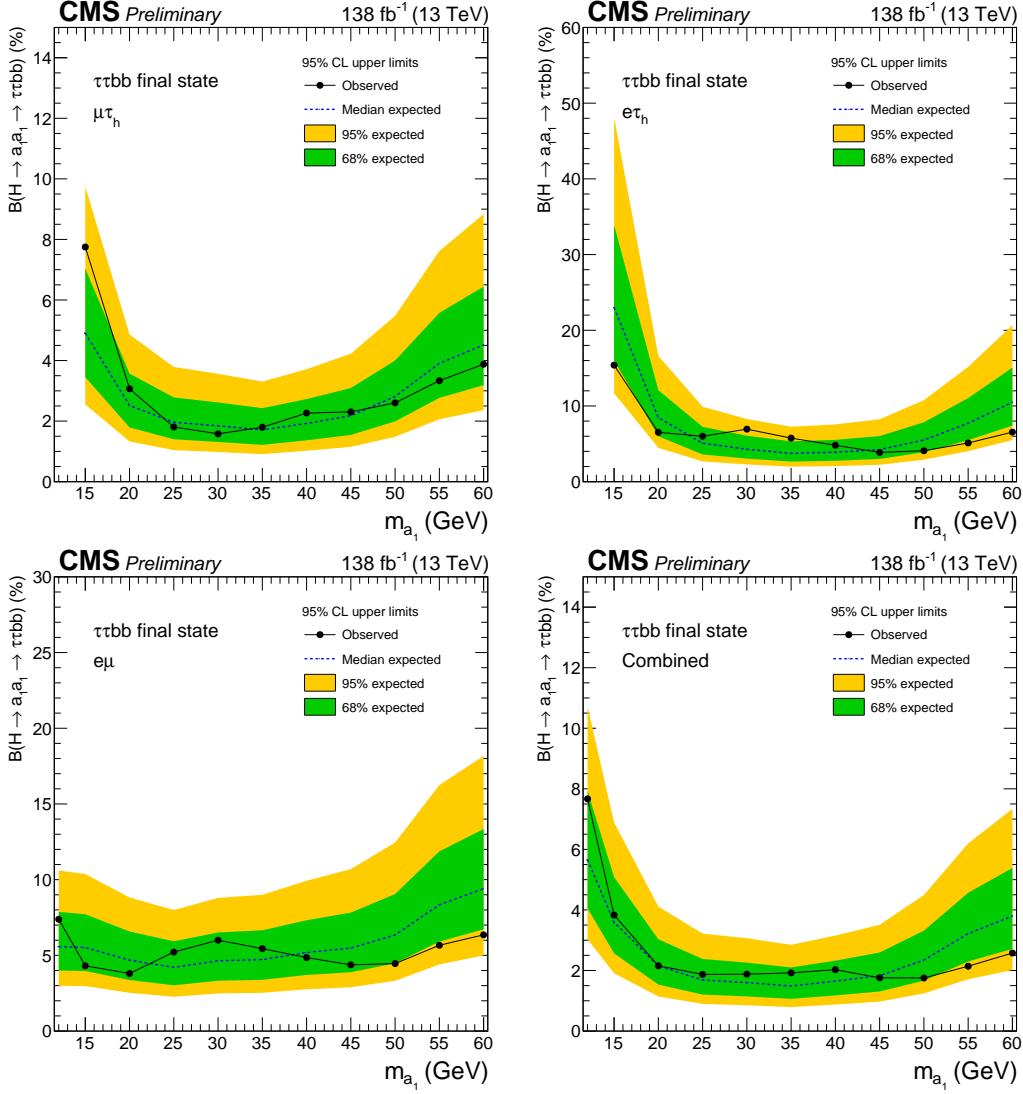


Figure 10.4: Observed 95% CL exclusion limits (*black, solid lines*) and expected 95% CL and 68% CL limits (*shaded yellow and green*) on the branching fraction  $B(h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau)$  in percentages, assuming the Standard Model production for the 125 GeV Higgs ( $h$ ). Limits are shown for the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel (*top left*), the  $e\tau_h$  channel (*top right*), and the  $e\mu$  channel (*bottom left*), and lastly the combination of all three channels (*bottom right*) [42]. The dataset corresponds to 138  $\text{fb}^{-1}$  of data collected in the years 2016-2018 at a center-of-mass energy 13 TeV. Only the  $e\mu$  channel has sensitivity to the mass hypothesis  $m_a = 12$  GeV. The best sensitivity is attained at intermediate mass points.

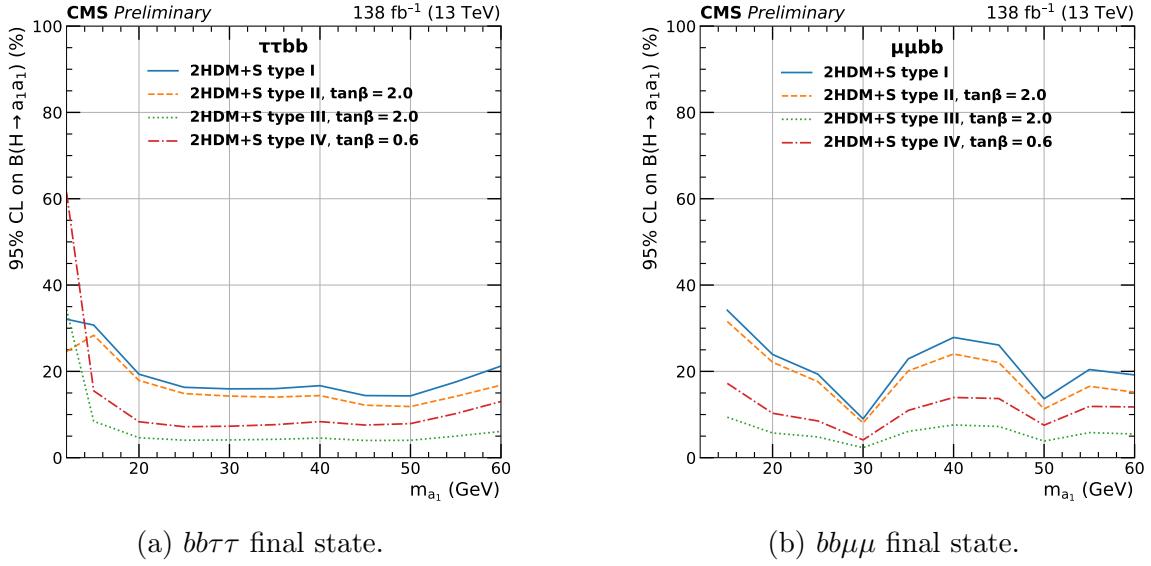


Figure 10.5: Observed 95% CL upper limits on  $B(h \rightarrow aa)$  in %, for the  $bb\tau\tau$  final state (*left*) and  $bb\mu\mu$  final state (*right*) using the full Run 2 integrated luminosity of  $138 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  in 2HDM+S type I (blue), type II with  $\tan\beta = 2.0$  (orange dashed), type III with  $\tan\beta = 2.0$  (dotted green), and type IV with  $\tan\beta = 0.6$  (red dashed) [42]. Linear interpolation is used between points in the graphs. The  $\tan\beta$  values chosen here correspond to the most stringent limits in each model.

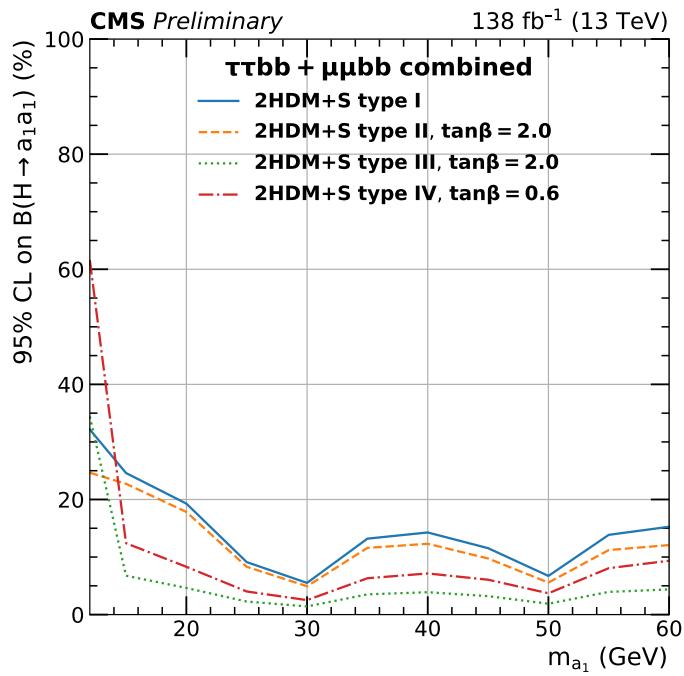


Figure 10.6: Observed 95% CL upper limits on the branching fraction of the 125 GeV Higgs boson to two pseudoscalars,  $B(h \rightarrow aa)$ , in percentages, as a function of the pseudoscalar mass  $m_a$ , in 2HDM+S type I (blue), type II with  $\tan\beta = 2.0$  (orange dashed), type III with  $\tan\beta = 2.0$  (dotted green), and type IV with  $\tan\beta = 0.6$  (red dashed), for the combination of  $bb\mu\mu$  and  $bb\tau\tau$  channels using the full Run 2 integrated luminosity of  $138 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  [42].

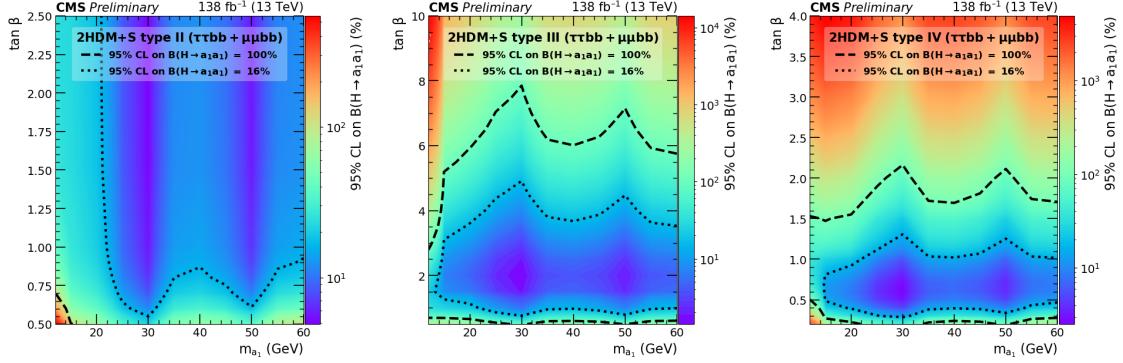


Figure 10.7: Observed 95% CL upper limits on  $\mathcal{B}(h \rightarrow aa)$  in %, for the combination of  $bb\mu\mu$  and  $bb\tau\tau$  channels using the full Run 2 integrated luminosity of  $138 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  for Type II (left), Type III (middle), and Type IV (right) 2HDM+S in the  $\tan \beta$  vs.  $m_a$  phase space. The contours (dashed black) correspond to branching fractions of 100% and 16%, where 16% is the combined upper limit on Higgs boson to undetected particle decays from previous Run-2 results. All points inside the contour are allowed within that upper limit. Linear extrapolation has been used between different points on the figures [42].

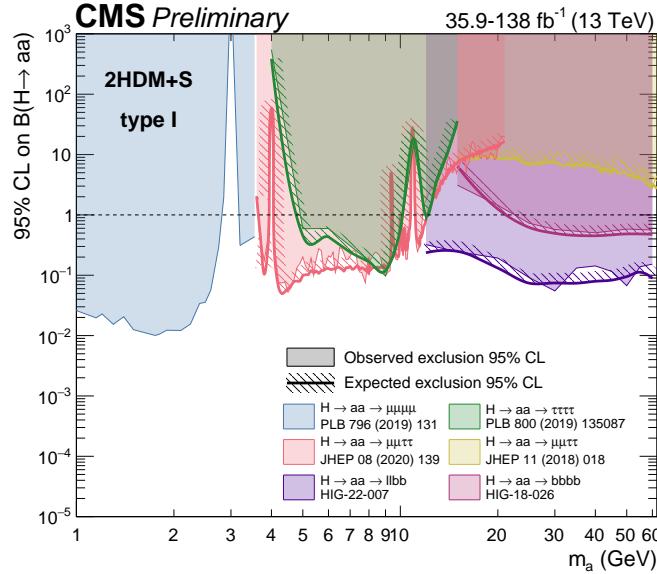


Figure 10.8: Summary plot of current 95% limits on the branching ratio of the 125 GeV Higgs boson to two pseudoscalars, normalized to the Standard Model Higgs production cross-section,  $\frac{\sigma(h)}{\sigma_{SM}} \times B(h \rightarrow aa)$  in the 2HDM+S type I scenario performed with data collected at 13 TeV [99]. Results from different final states studied at CMS are overlaid on this figure:  $\mu\mu\mu\mu$  (blue),  $\tau\tau\tau\tau$  (green), boosted  $2\mu 2\tau$  (red), resolved  $2\mu 2\tau$  (yellow),  $bbbb$  (magenta), and the combined result for  $llbb$  ( $l = \mu, \tau$ ) (purple).

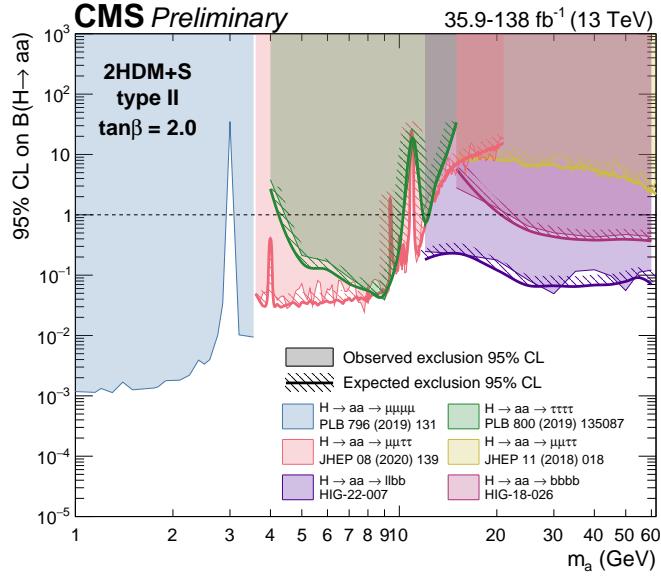


Figure 10.9: Summary plot of current observed and expected 95% CL limits on the branching ratio of the 125 GeV Higgs boson to two pseudoscalars, normalized to the Standard Model Higgs production cross-section,  $\frac{\sigma(h)}{\sigma_{\text{SM}}} \times B(h \rightarrow aa)$ , in the 2HDM+S type II scenario with  $\tan \beta = 2.0$ , obtained at CMS with data collected at 13 TeV [99]. Results from different final states studied at CMS are overlaid on this figure:  $\mu\mu\mu\mu$  (blue),  $\tau\tau\tau\tau$  (green), boosted  $2\mu 2\tau$  (red), resolved  $2\mu 2\tau$  (yellow),  $bbbb$  (magenta), and the combined result for  $\ell\ell bb$  ( $\ell = \mu, \tau$ ) (purple).

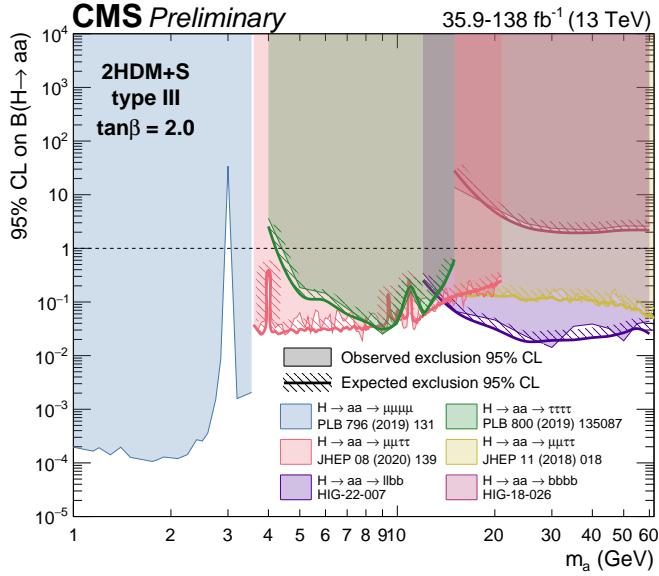


Figure 10.10: Summary plot of current observed and expected 95% CL limits on the branching ratio of the 125 GeV Higgs boson to two pseudoscalars, normalized to the Standard Model Higgs production cross section,  $\frac{\sigma(h)}{\sigma_{SM}} \times B(h \rightarrow aa)$  in the 2HDM+S type-III scenario with  $\tan \beta = 2.0$ , obtained at CMS with data collected at 13 TeV [99]. Results from different final states studied at CMS are overlaid on this figure:  $\mu\mu\mu\mu$  (blue),  $\tau\tau\tau\tau$  (green), boosted  $2\mu 2\tau$  (red), resolved  $2\mu 2\tau$  (yellow),  $bbbb$  (magenta), and the combined result for  $\ell\ell bb$  ( $\ell = \mu, \tau$ ) (purple).

2326 **Chapter 11**

2327 **Asymmetric exotic Higgs decays**

2328 This chapter presents progress towards a search for exotic Higgs decays to two light  
2329 scalars with unequal mass ( $h \rightarrow a_1 a_2$ ) final states with bottom quarks and  $\tau$  leptons,  
2330 with plans to interpret the results in the context of Two Real Singlet Models (TRSMs),  
2331 described in Section 1.5. Compared to the symmetric decay scenario  $h \rightarrow aa$  which  
2332 has been studied in multiple final states at CMS with stringent limits set on the  
2333 various 2HDM+S scenarios, this asymmetric decay scenario has not been directly  
2334 searched for at the CMS experiment. Section 11.1 lists the mass hypotheses of the  
2335 new particles  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  that will be studied. Section 11.2 describes the studies on  
2336 which channels the analysis will be carried out in. Section 11.3 shows the control  
2337 plots produced using the analysis framework that will be used for this analysis.

2338 **11.1 Signal masses**

2339 As discussed in Section 1.5,  $h \rightarrow a_1 a_2$  can result in a “cascade” decay if one of the  
2340 scalars,  $a_2$  is sufficiently heavy ( $m_{a_2} > 2m_{a_1}$ ). The “non-cascade” case is where the  
2341 light scalars decay directly to Standard Model particles.

2342 The mass hypotheses (mass points) ( $m_{a_1}, m_{a_2}$ ) studied here are:

- 2343     • *Cascade mass points:* (15, 30), (15, 40), (15, 50), (15, 60), (15, 70), (15, 80),  
 2344                 (15, 90), (15, 100), (15, 110), (20, 40), (20, 50), (20, 60), (20, 70), (20, 80), (20,  
 2345                 90), (20, 100), (30, 60), (30, 70), (30, 80), and (30, 90) GeV

- 2346     • *Non-cascade mass points:* (15, 20), (15, 30), (20, 30), (20, 40), (30, 40), (30,  
 2347                 50), (30, 60), (40, 50), (40, 60), (40, 70), (40, 80), (50, 60), and (50, 70) GeV

2348     Samples were produced using the MadGraph5\_aMCatNLO event generator, for each  
 2349     signal mass point in the gluon-gluon fusion (ggF) and vector boson fusion (VBF)  
 2350     production modes of the 125 GeV Higgs boson. In the sample generation, the decays  
 2351     of  $a$  to Standard Model particles were specified to be decays to bottom quarks or  $\tau$   
 2352     leptons.

## 2353     11.2 Cascade scenario signal studies

2354     Studies of the signal phenomenology in the cascade scenario were performed to de-  
 2355     termine the viability of the  $4b2\tau$  and/or  $2b4\tau$  channels.

2356     Cross sections and branching fractions of the  $4b2\tau$  and  $2b4\tau$  final states were  
 2357     compared using cross-section predictions provided by the authors of [7]. For an  
 2358     example mass point  $m_{a_2} = 80$  GeV,  $m_{a_1} = 30$  GeV, the branching fractions to  
 2359      $4b2\tau$  is ten times larger than  $2b4\tau$ :  $B(h \rightarrow a_1 a_2 \rightarrow 3a_1 \rightarrow 4b2\tau) = 0.00857$ , vs.  
 2360      $B(h \rightarrow a_1 a_2 \rightarrow 3a_1 \rightarrow 2b4\tau) = 0.00068$ . The  $4b2\tau$  final state is chosen for this  
 2361     analysis.

2362     In general the four b-flavor jets have low  $p_T$  at generator level, as illustrated for  
 2363     example mass points (100, 15) GeV and (40, 20) GeV in Fig. 11.1. The  $p_T$  distribution  
 2364     of the sub-leading jet peaks at an energy below 20 GeV, with the third and fourth  
 2365     jets tending to have even softer energies.

2366     An event category with three or more b-tag jets was determined to be infeasible  
 2367     due to low statistics in this category, due to the difficulties in reconstructing the third

2368 and fourth b-flavor jets which have very low transverse momenta  $p_T$ . Event categories  
 2369 with exactly 1 b-tag jet and  $\geq 2$  b-tag jets will be used.

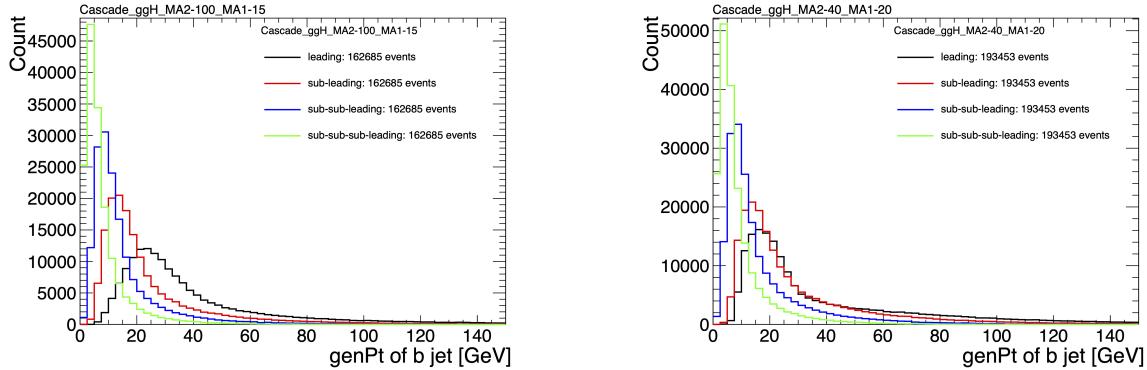


Figure 11.1: Generator-level b-flavor jet transverse momenta  $p_T$ , for  $h \rightarrow a_1 a_2$  cascade scenario in the  $4b2\tau$  final state, for mass hypotheses  $(m_{a_1}, m_{a_2}) = (100, 15)$  GeV (*left*) and  $(40, 20)$  GeV (*right*). In each plot the generator-level  $p_T$  of the leading (*black*), sub-leading (*red*), third (*blue*), and fourth (*light green*) are overlaid.

2370 In the  $4b2\tau$  final state, the possibility of the leading and sub-leading b-tag jets  
 2371 being sufficiently close in  $\Delta R$  to require boosted jet reconstruction techniques was  
 2372 explored. In the  $4b2\tau$  case, the two b-flavor-jets in the generated event that were  
 2373 spatially closest in  $\Delta R$  were considered as one object. This two b-flavor jet object was  
 2374 spatially matched in  $\Delta R$  to the jets reconstructed with the standard AK4 algorithm  
 2375 which uses a cone size of  $\Delta R = 0.4$ . The quality of the  $p_T$  resolution (computed as  
 2376  $(p_{T,\text{reconstructed}} - p_{T,\text{gen}})/p_{T,\text{gen}}$ ) and closeness in distance  $\Delta R$  of the reconstructed jet  
 2377 to the nearest generator-level jets, was seen to depend on the absolute and relative  
 2378 masses of the light scalars. The best (worst) performance occurred in samples with  
 2379 large (small) mass differences between the heavier scalar  $a_2$  and the lighter scalar  $a_1$ ,  
 2380 as illustrated for the mass hypotheses  $(m_{a_1}, m_{a_2})$  (100, 15) GeV and (40, 20) GeV in  
 2381 Fig. 11.2.

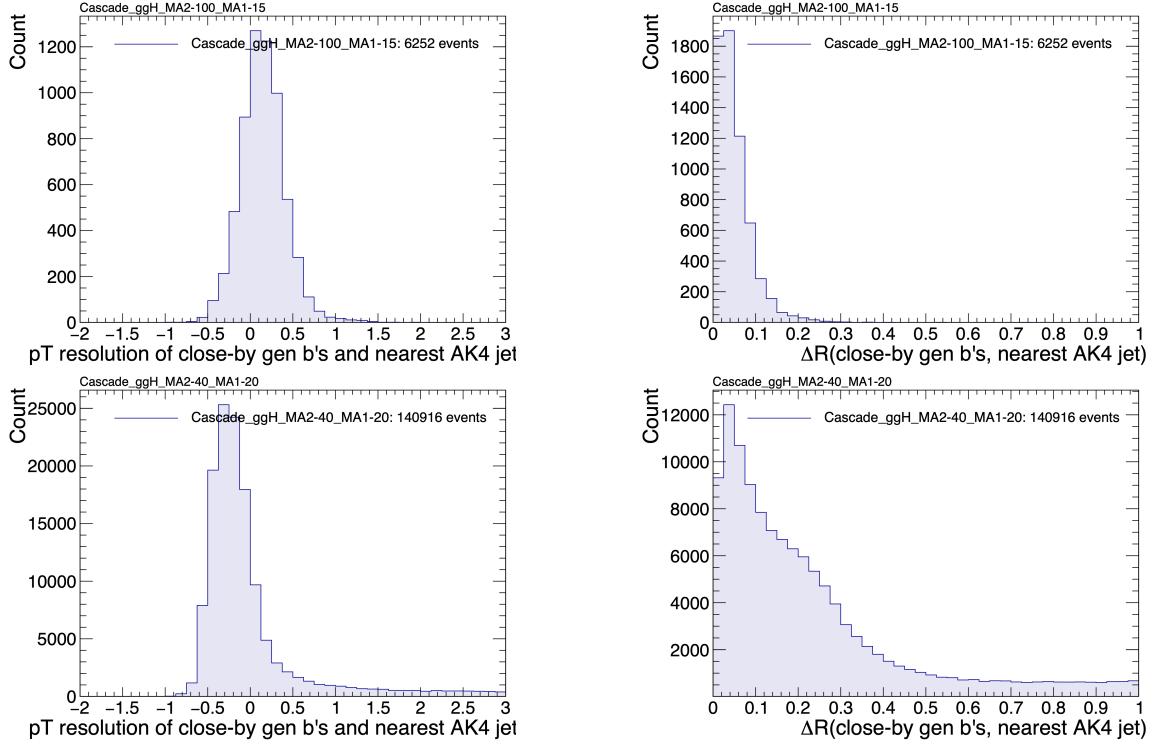


Figure 11.2: Distributions (arbitrary units) of transverse momentum  $p_T$  resolution and  $\Delta R$  between the two closest generator-level  $b$  jets, treated as one object, and the nearest reconstructed AK4 jet, for two different  $h \rightarrow a_1 a_2$  mass hypotheses ( $m_{a_1}, m_{a_2}$ ) = (100, 15) GeV (top left, top right) and (40, 20) GeV (bottom left, bottom right) in the ggH production of the 125 GeV  $h$ . In the (40, 20) GeV mass point, the longer  $p_T$  resolution tail (bottom left) indicates that the reconstructed jet underestimates the generator  $b$ -flavor jets' energy, and the significant fraction of events with larger  $\Delta R$  values (bottom right) indicate worse matching.

### 11.3 Current control plots for $\mu\tau_h$ channel

The  $\tau\tau$  states for the  $h \rightarrow a_1 a_2$  to  $4b2\tau$  analysis will be similar to those studied in  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$ . For the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel, histograms of the key kinematic variables are made for data and the sum of the expected backgrounds, which are estimated from Monte Carlo samples, embedded samples, and the data-driven method for estimating jets faking  $\tau_h$  as described in Chapter 7. Nominal values of the scale factors and event reweighting are applied, as described in Chapter ???. The errors shown in the figures only include statistical errors and only several of the full set of systematic errors (only those associated with the lepton energy scales and  $\tau_h$  identification efficiency,

2391 described in Sections 5.3.1, 5.3.2, and 5.3.4).

2392 The  $p_T$ ,  $\eta$ , and  $\phi$  of the leading muon and hadronic tau  $\tau_h$ , and the di-tau visible  
2393 mass  $m_{\text{vis}}$  and momentum  $p_{T,\text{vis}}$ , are shown in Fig. 11.3. The  $p_T$ ,  $\eta$ , and  $\phi$  of the the  
2394 leading and sub-leading b-tag jets, and the missing transverse energy magnitude and  
2395 azimuthal direction, are shown in Fig. 11.4.

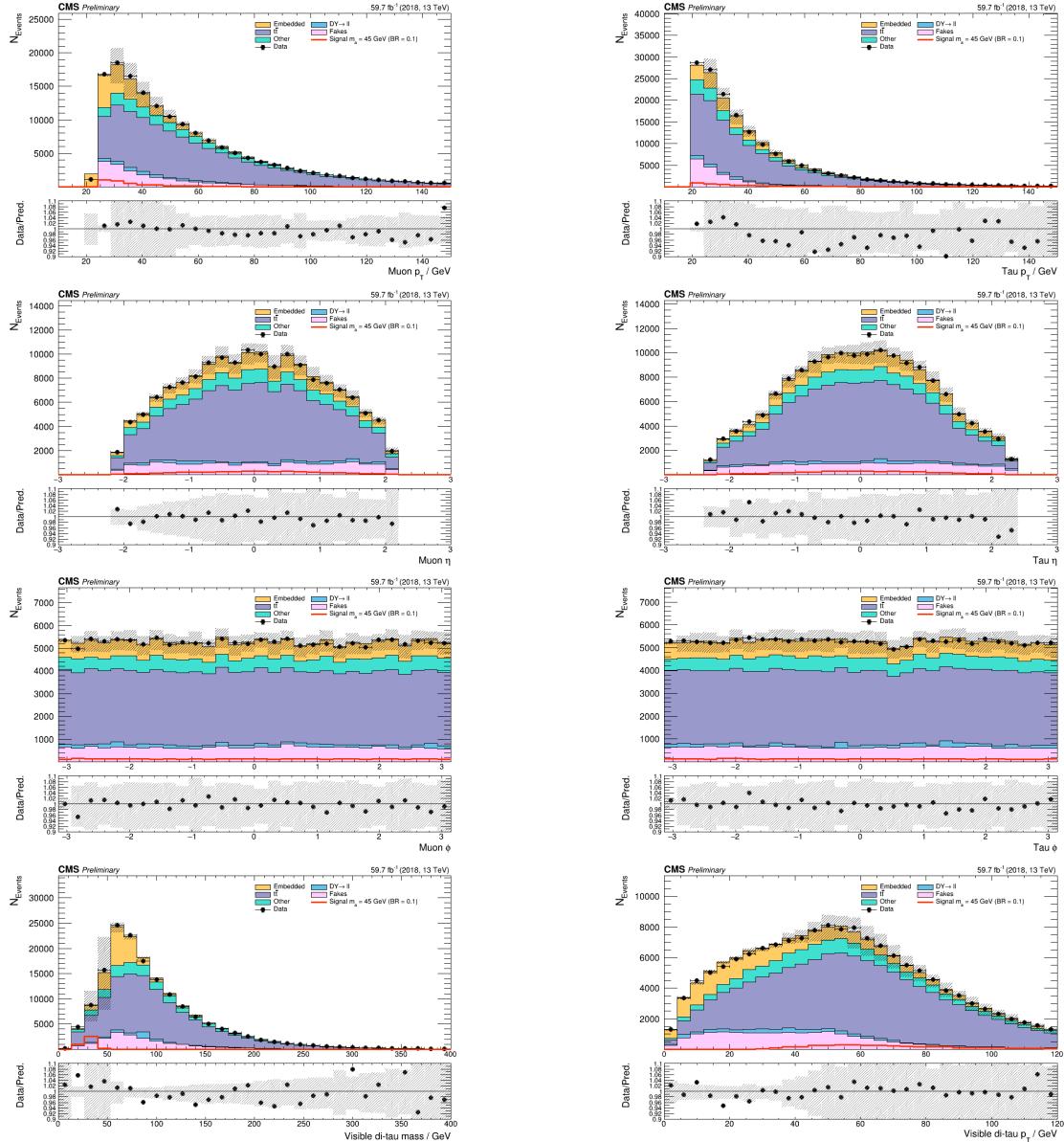


Figure 11.3: Kinematic properties of the leading muon and  $\tau_h$  in the  $\mu\tau_h$  channel:  $p_T$  (top row),  $\eta$  (second row), and  $\phi$  (third row). The visible 4-momenta of the muon and  $\tau_h$  are summed, giving the visible di-tau mass  $m_{\text{vis}}$  and transverse momentum  $p_{T,\text{vis}}$ . The errors shown in the figures only include statistical errors and only several of the full set of systematic errors (only those associated with the lepton energy scales and  $\tau_h$  identification efficiency).

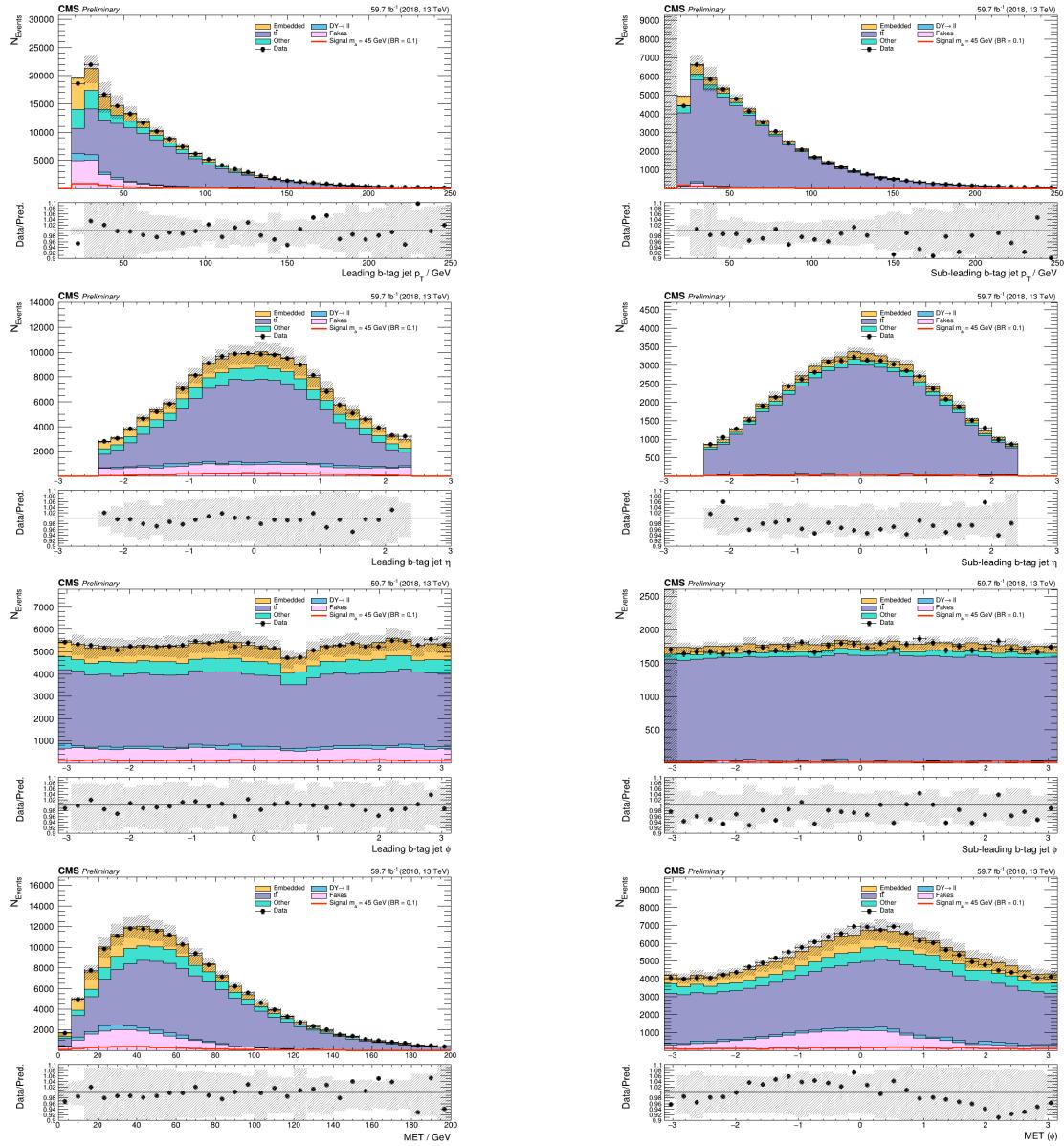


Figure 11.4: Kinematic properties of the leading and sub-leading b-tag jets in the  $\mu\tau_h$  final state: jet  $p_T$  (*top row*),  $\eta$  (*second row*),  $\phi$  (*third row*), as well as the missing transverse energy magnitude and azimuthal direction (*bottom row*). The errors shown in the figures only include statistical errors and only several of the full set of systematic errors (only those associated with the lepton energy scales and  $\tau_h$  identification efficiency).

<sup>2396</sup> **Chapter 12**

<sup>2397</sup> **Conclusion and outlook**

<sup>2398</sup> With the discovery of a Higgs boson with mass 125 GeV at the LHC in 2012, the LHC  
<sup>2399</sup> and CMS physics program has evolved to include the precise characterization of the  
<sup>2400</sup> 125 GeV Higgs boson and searching for evidence of additional Higgs particles in an  
<sup>2401</sup> extended Higgs sector. This thesis presents a direct search at CMS for exotic decays  
<sup>2402</sup> of the Higgs boson with mass 125 GeV in data collected in the years 2016-2018 in  
<sup>2403</sup> proton-proton collisions at center-of-mass energy 13 TeV, to two light neutral scalar  
<sup>2404</sup> particles that decay to two bottom quarks and two tau leptons ( $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\tau\tau$ ). The  
<sup>2405</sup> results are combined with another search that was performed in the  $h \rightarrow aa \rightarrow bb\mu\mu$   
<sup>2406</sup> final state, giving the most stringent limits to date for theories with Two Higgs  
<sup>2407</sup> Doublet Models extended with a singlet scalar (2HDM+S), for pseudoscalar masses  
<sup>2408</sup>  $m_a$  ranging from 15 GeV to 60 GeV, in a number of 2HDM+S scenarios such as type  
<sup>2409</sup> II and III with  $\tan\beta = 2.0$ .

<sup>2410</sup> As the rich physics program of CMS has set stringent limits on the exotic decay  
<sup>2411</sup>  $h \rightarrow aa$ , we turn our attention to direct searches for decays to light neutral scalars  
<sup>2412</sup> with potentially unequal mass,  $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$ , which has not been performed at CMS  
<sup>2413</sup> to date. Preliminary studies on  $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$  signals in the Two Real Singlet Model  
<sup>2414</sup> (TRSM) are shown, and work is ongoing to develop the analysis for  $h \rightarrow a_1a_2$  in final

2415 states with bottom quarks and tau leptons.

2416 To ensure the continued performance of the CMS detector and to enhance its  
2417 data-taking capabilities in the intense pileup conditions of the Phase-2 upgrade of  
2418 the High-Luminosity LHC, upgrades of the Level-1 Trigger are paramount for filter-  
2419 ing the increased data rate of the HL-LHC. This thesis presents work on the stan-  
2420 dalone barrel calorimeter algorithm for reconstructing and identifying electron and  
2421 photon candidates, using high granularity crystal-level information from the ECAL  
2422 subdetector. For Phase-2, the increase in the granularity of information sent from  
2423 the electromagnetic calorimeter to the Level-1 trigger, from energy sums over towers  
2424 (which are  $5 \times 5$  in crystals) to crystal-level information, allows for the implementation  
2425 of a more sophisticated clustering algorithm that can exploit the fact that genuine  
2426 electrons and photons tend to leave energies concentrated a  $3 \times 5$  window in crystals,  
2427 and use shape and isolation information to distinguish genuine electrons and photons  
2428 from noise. Electrons and photons are key to characterizing Standard Model pro-  
2429 cesses and performing searches for new physics, and this represents one of the many  
2430 upgrades of the CMS detector in preparation for Phase-2. With the ongoing Run-3  
2431 data collecting period, and wealth of ongoing and scheduled upgrades, there remains  
2432 an abundance of directions for detector development and physics at CMS heading  
2433 into Phase-2 of the LHC.

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