

An MVA Theme and Variations on  
 $ZH \rightarrow llbb$  with the ATLAS Detector at  
 $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$

A DISSERTATION PRESENTED  
BY  
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TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE DEGREE OF  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
IN THE SUBJECT OF  
PHYSICS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS  
2018

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# An MVA Theme and Variations on $ZH \rightarrow llb\bar{b}$ with the ATLAS Detector at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

## ABSTRACT

*This is a work in progress: All the material is here, but some connective tissue (for the Combination chapter in particular) and needed revision is missing.*

This thesis describes variations on the two lepton channel of the Run-2 search for the SM Higgs boson produced in association with a vector boson using different variable sets for MVA training. The three variable sets in question are the set of variables from the fiducial analysis, a set based on the Lorentz Invariants (LI) concept, and a set based on a combination of masses and decay angles derived using the RestFrames (RF) package. Aside from the variable sets used for MVA training and discriminant distributions, the analysis is otherwise identical to the fiducial analysis. Both the LI and RF sets perform competitively on the basis of significances, with the RF set showing a  $\sim 3.5\%$  improvement in expected fits to Asimov and data, though neither set boosts observed significance. Both sets also reduce the observed error on  $\hat{\mu}$ , with the LI set reducing the error due to systematics by  $7.5\%$  and the RF set doing so by  $16\%$ .

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THIS IS THE DEDICATION.

# Acknowledgments

THIS THESIS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE without large amounts of espresso.

*If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.*

Conventional Wisdom

# 0

## Introduction

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID Since the discovery of a Standard Model (SM) like Higgs boson at the LHC in 2012<sup>?</sup>, one of the main outstanding physics goals of the LHC has been to observe the primary SM Higgs decay mode,  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ , with efforts primarily targeted at searching for Higgs bosons produced in association with a leptonically decaying vector ( $W$  or  $Z$ , denoted generically as  $V$ ) boson. As the

integrated luminosity of data collected at the LHC increases,  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  searches will increasingly become limited by the ability to constrain systematic uncertainties, with the latest result from ATLAS at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV using  $36.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $pp$  collision data already approaching this regime, having a  $VH(b\bar{b})$  signal strength of  $1.20^{+0.24}_{-0.23}(\text{stat.})^{+0.34}_{-0.28}(\text{syst.})$  at  $m_H = 125 \text{ GeV}$ <sup>108</sup>.

While this effort will likely require a combination of several different methods at various different stages in the analysis chain, one possible avenue forward is to revise the multivariate analysis (MVA) discriminant input variables used, as various schemes offer the promise of reducing systematic uncertainties through more efficient use of data. This thesis discusses two such alternate MVA schemes, the RestFrames (RF) and Lorentz Invariants (LI) variables, in the context of the 2-lepton channel of the Run 2 analysis in<sup>89</sup> and<sup>108</sup>, henceforth referred to as the “fiducial analysis.”

Data and simulation samples used are described in Section ??, and event reconstruction definitions and event selection requirements are outlined in Section ???. The multivariate analysis, including a description of the LI and RF variable sets and a summary of performance in the absence of systematic uncertainties, is described in Section ???. The statistical fit model and systematic uncertainties are described in Section ??, and the fit results may be found in Section ???. Finally, conclusions and discussion are presented in Section A.16.

Editorial notes:

1. pdf will be *probability* distribution function
2. PDF will be *parton* distribution function

*Noli turbare circulos meos*

Archimedes

# 1

## The Large Hadron Collider and the ATLAS Detector

THE CERN ACCELERATOR COMPLEX AND ITS EXPERIMENTS stand as a testament to human ingenuity and its commitment to the pursuit of fundamental knowledge. In this chapter, we give a

cursory overview of the injection to and of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) before moving on to a more detailed review of the ATLAS detector.

## 1.1 THE CERN ACCELERATOR COMPLEX

The journey of protons from hydrogen canister to high energy collisions is also one through the history of CERN’s accelerator program. After being ionized in an electric field, protons are first accelerated in a linear accelerator, LINAC 2<sup>\*</sup>, to a kinetic energy of 50 MeV. From there, they are fed into the Proton Synchotron Booster<sup>†</sup>, which further accelerates them to 1.4 GeV and, as its name implies, feeds them to the 628 m Proton Synchotron (PS, 1959<sup>60</sup>) and up to 25 GeV. The penultimate stage is the 7 km Super Proton Synchotron (SPS, 1976; responsible for the discovery of the  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons and the 1983 Nobel Prize<sup>62</sup>), which accelerates the protons to a kinetic energy of 450 GeV. Finally, these 450 GeV protons are injected into the LHC<sup>95</sup>, a proton-proton collider housed in the 27 km circumference tunnel that housed the Large Electron Positron Collider (LEP) before its operations ceased in 2000. This is illustrated in Figure 1.1.

## 1.2 THE LARGE HADRON COLLIDER

The LHC was designed to function primarily as a proton-proton collider with a center of mass energy  $\sqrt{s} = 14$  TeV and an instantaneous luminosity of  $1 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , though it is also capable of producing heavy ion (Pb-Pb) collisions, which it does approximately for one month in a typical run

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<sup>\*</sup>1978’s LINAC 2 is the successor to 1959’s LINAC 1; it will be replaced in 2020 by LINAC 4; LINAC 3 is responsible for ion production.

<sup>†</sup>Protons can be directly from a LINAC into the PS, but the higher injection energy allows for more approximately 100 times more protons to be used at once<sup>61</sup>, 1972.

## CERN's Accelerator Complex

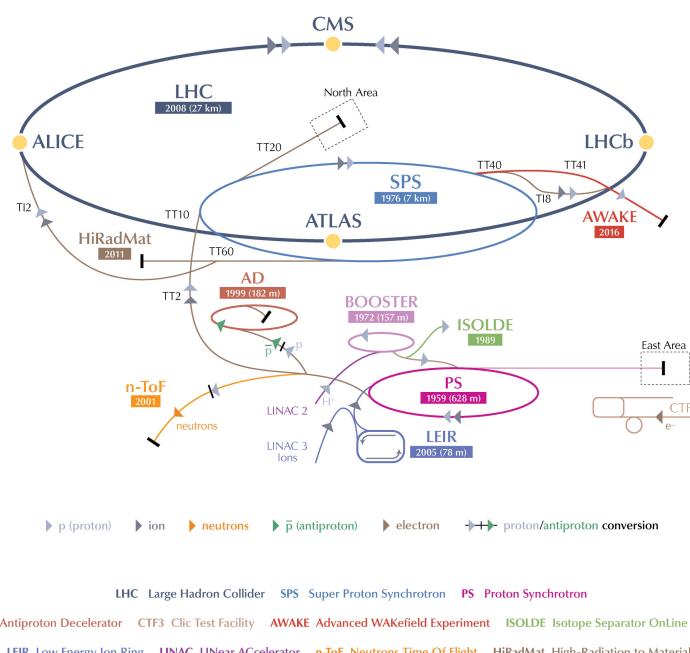
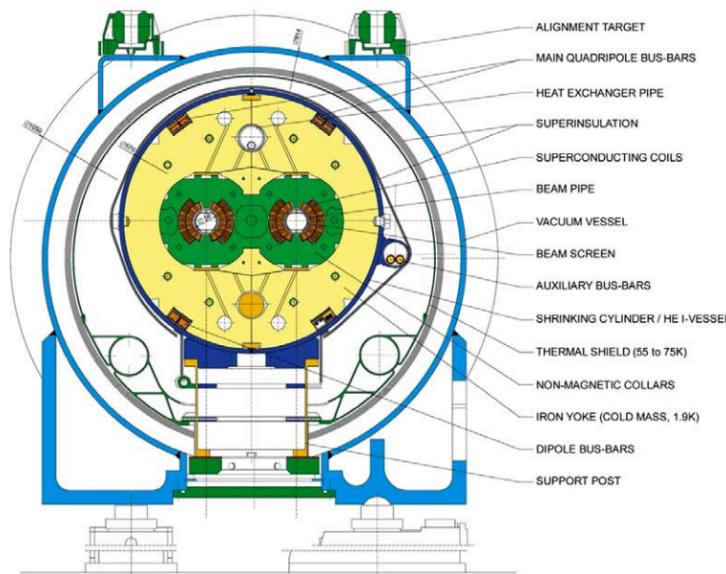


Figure 1.1: The CERN Accelerator Complex<sup>107</sup>

year. Owing to an accident at the beginning of the LHC's initial run, the accelerator has operated at center of mass energies of 7, 8, and now 13 TeV.

The limited size of the LEP tunnel ( $\sim 3.6$  m) means that it is impractical to have separate rings and magnet systems for each proton beam (proton-antiproton colliders like the Tevatron do not face this complication and can have both beams circulating in the same beam pipe), so the LHC magnets are coupled in a "twin bore" design. The LHC magnets make use of superconducting NbTi cables and are cooled using superfluid helium to a temperature of 2 K, which allows for operational field strengths in excess of 8 T. The layout of a LHC dipole magnet is shown in Figure 1.2. These dipole magnets are responsible for bending the LHC's proton beams, and their strength is the principal limiting factor in the center of mass energy achievable at a circular collider.



**Figure 1.2:** Schematic drawing of an LHC dipole magnet and cryogenics system.

In addition to the dipole magnets there are quadrupole magnet assemblies in the short straight sections for beam focusing, as well as quadrupole, octupole, and sextupole magnets interspersed throughout the length of the LHC ring for beam stabilization and other higher order corrections. The interior of the LHC beam pipe operates at a nominal pressure of  $\sim 10^{-7}$  Pa, famously more rarefied than outer space.

The LHC ring itself is between 45 m and 170 m below ground and has a 1.4% incline towards Lac Léman with eight arcs and eight straight sections. In the middle of each of the eight straight sections there are potential interaction points (each colloquially referred to by its number as “Point  $N$ ”), with each point housing either accelerator infrastructure or an experiment. A schematic of the contents of each component, as well as a more detailed view of the infrastructure in the LHC ring can be found in Figure 1.3.

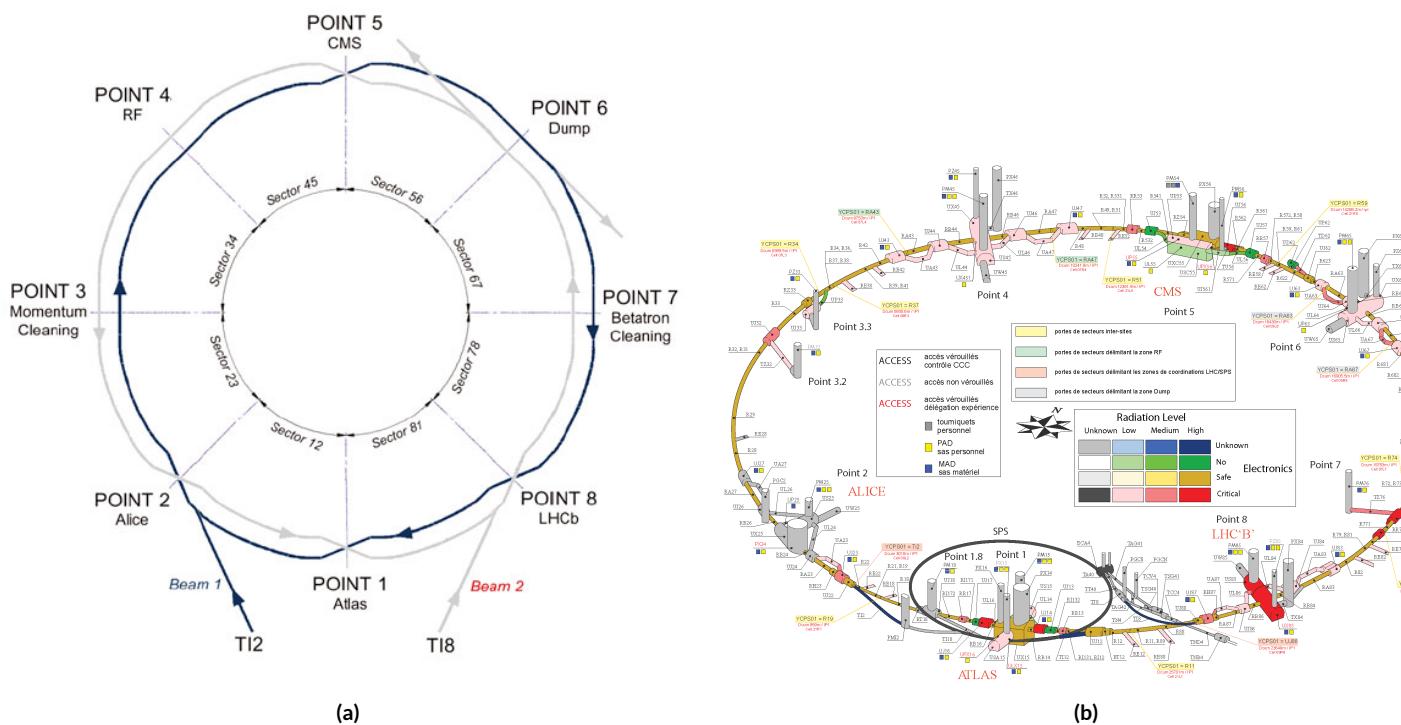


Figure 1.3: Schematic and detailed views of the LHC ring. IC:<sup>84</sup> <sup>114</sup>,

Points 1, 2, 5, and 8 house the LHC’s experiments, ATLAS (one of the two general purpose detectors, discussed in detail below), ALICE (A Large Ion Collider Experiment dedicated heavy ion experiment), CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid, the other general purpose detector), and LHCb (LHC beauty, a  $B$  physics experiment), respectively. Point 3 houses a series of collimators that scatters and absorbs particles in the beam with a large momentum deviation from other particles in the beam (“momentum cleaning”), while Point 7 has a similar setup to remove particles with large betatron amplitudes (“betatron cleaning”). Betatron amplitudes are related to how well focused beams are and can be thought of as giving a characteristic size for a beam; just as one wants to screen out particles deviating in physical space just as in momentum space as well focused beams in both position and momentum space are crucial to high quality collisions. Point 4 contains the LHC’s RF (radio frequency; 400 MHz) acceleration system, responsible for taking protons from their injection energy of 450 GeV to their collision energy of 3.5, 4, 6.5, or 7 TeV. Point 6 is where the energetic ionizing radiation of circulating beams can be safely taken out of the collider into a block of absorbing material either at the end of a data-taking run or in the event of an emergency (in the event of irregular behavior, it is essential to do this as quickly as possible to minimize damage to the accelerator and experiments); this is known as a “beam dump.”

## 1.3 ATLAS AT A GLANCE

### 1.3.1 COORDINATES AND DISTANCES IN THE ATLAS DETECTOR

*A Toroidal LHC ApparatuS* is one of the two general purpose, high luminosity detectors at the LHC, located at Interaction Point 1, as described above. With a length of 44 m and a height of 25 m, it is the detector with largest physical dimensions at the LHC.<sup>‡</sup>. While primarily a high luminosity proton-proton collision detector, ATLAS does collect heavy ion collision data, typically for one month during a year of typical operation.

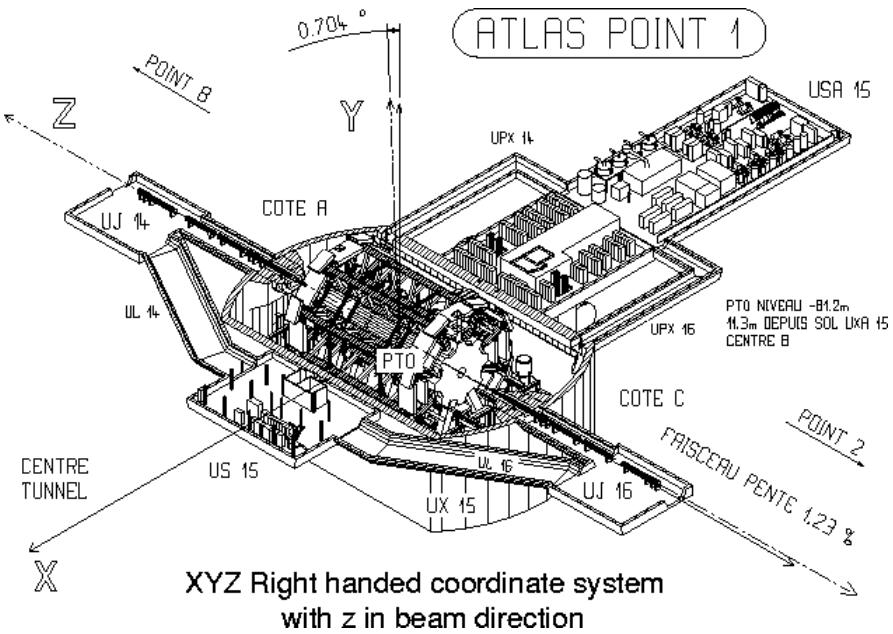
The ATLAS coordinate system is shown in Figure 1.4. It is a right-handed coordinate system centered at the nominal collision point, with the  $x$  axis pointing towards the center of the LHC ring, the  $z$  axis pointing up, and the  $y$  axis completing the right-handed coordinate system.

While the Cartesian coordinates are useful for specifying the locations of things like detector components and activated calorimeter cells, cylindrical polar coordinates with the same origin,  $z$  axis, and handedness are often more suitable, with a point in 3-space expressed as  $(r, \phi, \eta)$ .  $r$  is the perpendicular distance from the beam axis. This differs from the usual spherical  $\rho$ , the distance of a point from the origin, because the ATLAS detector is cylindrical<sup>§</sup>, and so detector components are more easily located using  $r$  instead of  $\rho$ . In some contexts, the latter is used, though this is (or should be) made clear.  $\phi$  is the usual (right-handed) azimuthal angle around the beam axis, with 0 at the  $+x$  axis.

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<sup>‡</sup>This is the only reason CMS can call itself “compact.”

<sup>§</sup>“toroidal;” the hole is the beam pipe



**Figure 1.4:** The ATLAS coordinate system. ``A'' side is the airport, and ``C'' side is ``Charlie's,' a pub in Saint-Genis, France.

In a lepton collider where total momentum is conserved, a useful coordinate is the relativistic rapidity of a particle:

$$y = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left[ \frac{E + p_z}{E - p_z} \right] \quad (1.1)$$

with  $E$  and  $p_z$  as the energy and longitudinal momentum of the particle, respectively. The rapidity is the relativistic analog of a rotation angle; boosts can be composed in a manner to rotations<sup>¶</sup>, and differences in boosts are invariant under boosts. In a hadronic collider, where the participants in the hard scatter are partons inside of the proton of unknown momentum fraction, momentum is not conserved in the  $z$  direction. Nevertheless, since the incident momentum is entirely in the  $z$  direc-

---

<sup>¶</sup>Generally, one need only insert the appropriate factor of  $i$ , the square root of  $-1$ ; this introduces differences in sign and changes all of the trigonometric functions associated with rotations into hyperbolic trigonometric functions; time is still special—it comes with special letters

tion, momentum is still conserved in the transverse plane, so quantities like transverse momentum

$\vec{p}_T$  or energy ( $E_T^{\parallel}$ ) are often very useful in analysis. However, in the massless limit<sup>\*\*</sup>, we can take

$E = \sqrt{p_T^2 + p_z^2}$ . Hence, with  $\theta$  being the zenith angle with  $o$  corresponding to the  $+z$  direction, for

a massless particle,  $p_z = E \cos \theta$ , using the usual half-angle formula  $\cos \theta = (1 - \tan^2 \theta) / (1 + \tan^2 \theta)$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left[ \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{1 - \cos \theta} \right] = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left[ \frac{(1 + \tan^2(\theta/2)) + (1 - \tan^2(\theta/2))}{(1 + \tan^2(\theta/2)) - (1 - \tan^2(\theta/2))} \right] = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left[ \frac{2}{2 \tan^2(\theta/2)} \right] = -\ln \left( \tan \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \quad (1.2)$$

This last expression, is denoted  $\eta$  and is known as the pseudorapidity.

$$\eta = -\ln \left( \tan \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \quad (1.3)$$

Lower values of  $|\eta|$  (1.3) correspond to more central areas of the detector known as the “barrel,”

with the typical layout here being concentric, cylindrical layers. Larger values of  $|\eta|$  (to  $\sim 2.5$  for

some systems and up to as much as  $\sim 4.5 - 5$  for others) are known as the “end caps,” where ma-

terial is typically arranged as disks of equal radius centered on the beam pipe stacked to ever greater

values of  $|z|$ . This terminology will be useful when discussing the various subsystems of the ATLAS

detector.

---

<sup>||</sup>Energy is not a vectorial quantity, but one can take the scalar or vectorial sum of vectors formed from energy deposits with their location as the direction and energy value as magnitude. In practice, primitives are almost always assumed to be massless, so transverse energy and momentum may loosely be thought of as equivalent, with  $E_T = |\vec{p}_T| = p_T$

<sup>\*\*</sup>not a terrible one for most particles depositing energy in the calorimeter; pions have masses of  $\sim 130$  MeV, and typical energies of calorimeter objects are  $\sim 10^3$  GeV, making for a boost of roughly 100.

Since decay products from a collision propagate radially (in the calorimeter portions of the detector with no magnetic field), the radial coordinate is not so important for composite physics objects like electrons or jets, which are typically expressed as momentum 4-vectors. Hence, only  $\eta$  and  $\phi$  are the only useful spatial coordinates. Distances between objects are often expressed not as a difference in solid angle, but as a distance,  $\Delta R$ , in the plane, where

$$\Delta R_{12} = (\eta_1 - \eta_2)^2 + (\phi_1 - \phi_2)^2 \quad (1.4)$$

In addition to the physical distance traveled by particles, also important in talking about particle detectors are radiation lengths and (nuclear) interaction lengths, both of which characterize typical lengths for the energy loss of energetic particles traveling through materials. In general, the energy loss is modeled as an exponential

$$E = E_0 e^{-l/L} \quad (1.5)$$

where  $E_0$  is the initial energy, and  $L$  is the characteristic length. These lengths are characteristics of the materials through which particles pass. In the case of uniform, composite materials, the length may be found by calculating the reciprocal of the sum of mass fraction weighted reciprocal characteristic lengths of the components. This formula works quite well for modeling the very regular behavior of electromagnetic showers (energetic photons convert into electron/positron pairs, which emit photons...). In this case,  $L$  is denoted  $X_0$ ; this is the radiation length. Hadronic showers are far more complicated, with shower multiplicity and makeup dependent on the particle in question and generally being highly variable (and things like pions converting to photons, which then shower elec-

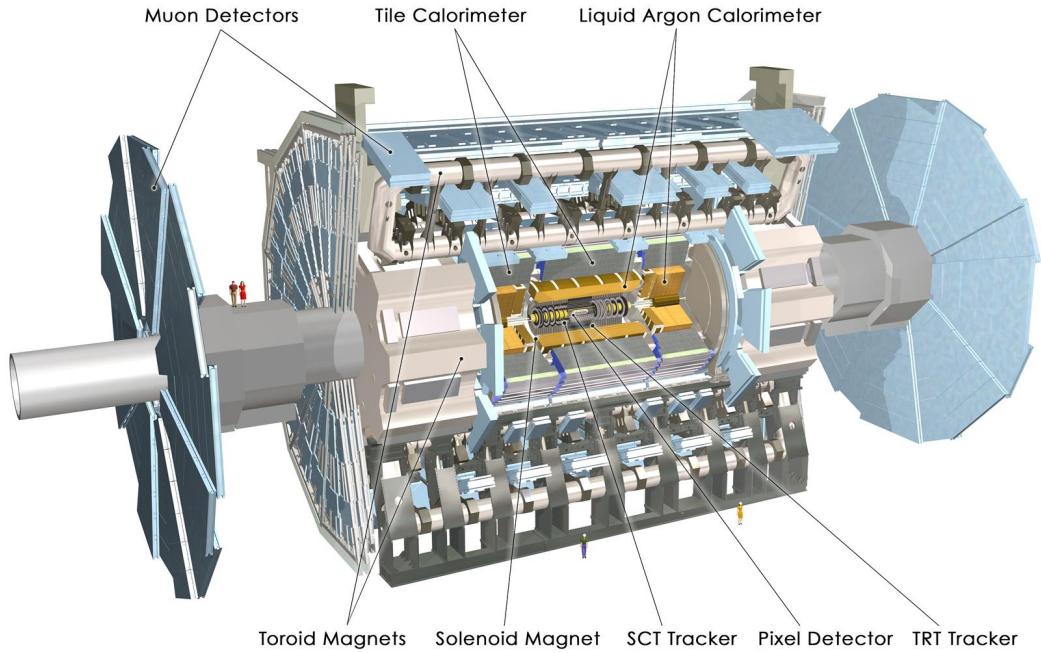
tromagnetically). Nevertheless, a characteristic length can be tabulated for a standard particle type, typically pions, and is called the nuclear interaction length.

### 1.3.2 GENERAL LAYOUT OF ATLAS

The ATLAS detector and its main components are shown in Figure 1.5. ATLAS is designed as a largely hermetic detector, offering full coverage in  $\phi$  and coverage in  $|\eta|$  up to 4.7. The multiple subsystems allow for good characterization of the decay products from collisions in the LHC. The innermost system is the inner detector (ID); composed primarily of silicon pixels and strips immersed in a magnetic field, it is designed to construct the curved trajectories of charged particles produced in collisions while taking up as little material as possible.

Surrounding the ID is the liquid argon based electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), which is designed to capture all of the energy of the electromagnetic showers produced by electrons and photons coming from particle collisions. The ECAL is in turn encapsulated by a scintillating tile based and liquid argon based hadronic calorimeter (HCAL) that captures any remaining energy from the jets produced by hadronizing quarks and gluons coming from collisions.

The outermost layer of ATLAS is the muon spectrometer (MS) with its own magnetic field produced by toroidal magnets. Muons are highly penetrating particles that escape the calorimeters with most of their initial momentum, so the MS and its magnets are designed to curve these charged particles and measure their trajectories to measure their outgoing momenta. Each of these detector systems has several principal subsystems and performance characteristics, which will be described in turn below.

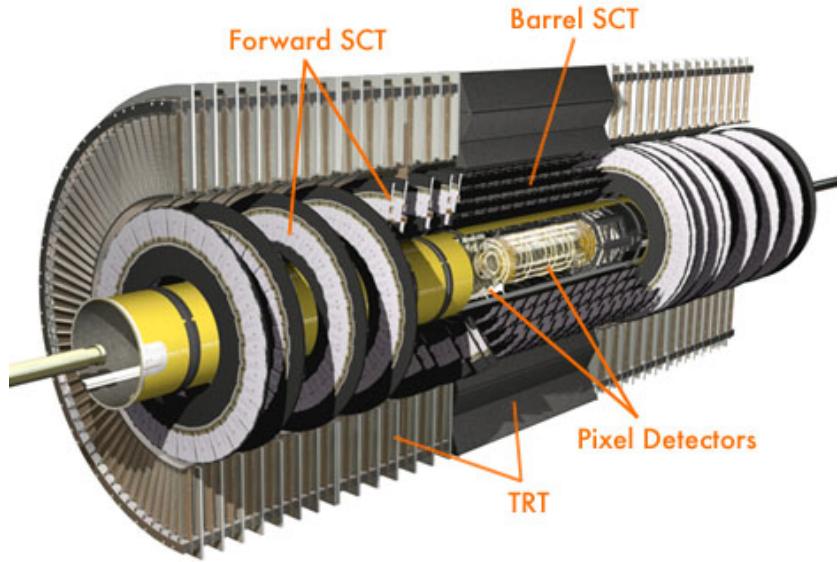


**Figure 1.5:** The ATLAS detector with principal subsystems shown.

#### 1.4 THE INNER DETECTOR

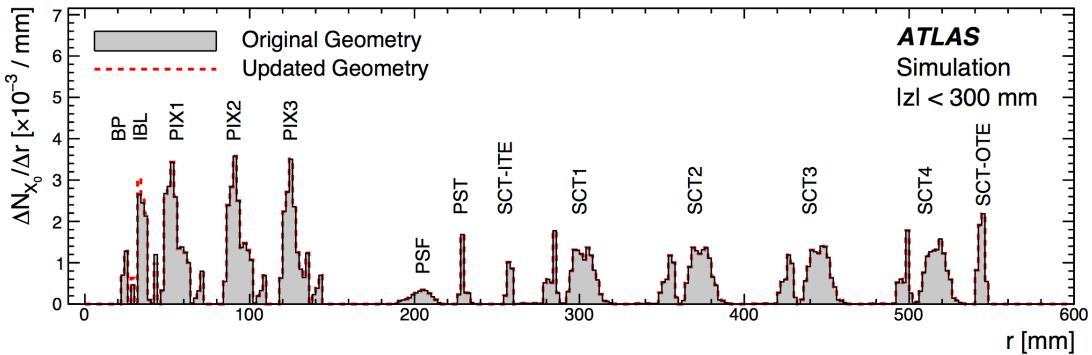
ATLAS's inner detector (ID) is surrounded by a superconducting solenoid that is cryogenically cooled to a temperature of 4.5 K, which immerses it in a 2 T magnetic field. The ID uses two silicon detector subsystems (the Pixel and SemiConductor (strip) Tracker (SCT)) to track the curved trajectories of charged particles emanating from particle collisions and one subsystem composed of gas straw detectors with filaments for  $e/\pi$  discrimination, as shown in Figure 1.9. The ID offers full coverage in  $\phi$  and extends to an  $|\eta|$  of 2.5.

Since the components of the ID do not provide an energy measurement, it is desirable for a tracking system to have as small a material budget as possible so that more accurate energy measurements



**Figure 1.6:** The ATLAS inner detector. IC:<sup>91</sup>

may be done in the calorimeters. Generally, there are two radiation lengths in the inner detector (it varies with  $\eta$ ); the full material budget, with the layout of the individual layers in each subsystem, can be seen in 1.8.



**Figure 1.7:** The ID material budget. IC:<sup>90</sup>

### 1.4.1 THE PIXEL DETECTOR

The innermost part of ATLAS is the pixel detector, which, as the name suggests, is comprised of four layers of pixels in the barrel at 32, 51, 89, and 123 mm from the beam pipe, and three layers in the end caps at 495, 580, and 650 mm from the beam pipe, with over 80 million channels total. The innermost layer of pixels, the insertable  $B$  layer (IBL) was installed during the 2013–14 LHC shutdown. The pixels are cooled to a temperature of  $\sim -5$  with  $N_2$  gas and operate at 150–600 V. The pixels themselves come in two sizes  $50 \times 400(600) \times 250 \mu\text{m}$ , with the larger pixels being in the outer layers. They provide nominal resolution of  $10(115) \mu\text{m}$  resolution in  $r - \phi(z)$  direction.

In order to improve total coverage in the detector and prevent any gaps, pixels are not installed flush with each other. Pixels in the barrel are tilted at about 20 with an overlap in  $r - \phi$ , as shown in Figure 1.8. The disks of the ID end caps are rotated with respect to each other by 3.75

### 1.4.2 THE SILICON MICROSTRIP DETECTOR (SCT)

The layout of the SCT is similar to that of the Pixel detector, except, for cost considerations, the SCT uses silicon strips that are also cooled to  $\sim -5$  with  $N_2$  gas and operate from 150–350 V. Strip dimensions are  $80 \times 6000 \times 285 \mu\text{m}$ , and provide nominal  $17(580) \mu\text{m}$  resolution in  $r - \phi(z)$ . Barrel strips feature an 11tilt and come in four layers at 299, 371, 443, and 514 mm. There are nine end cap disks on each side at  $z$  values varying from 934–2720 mm.

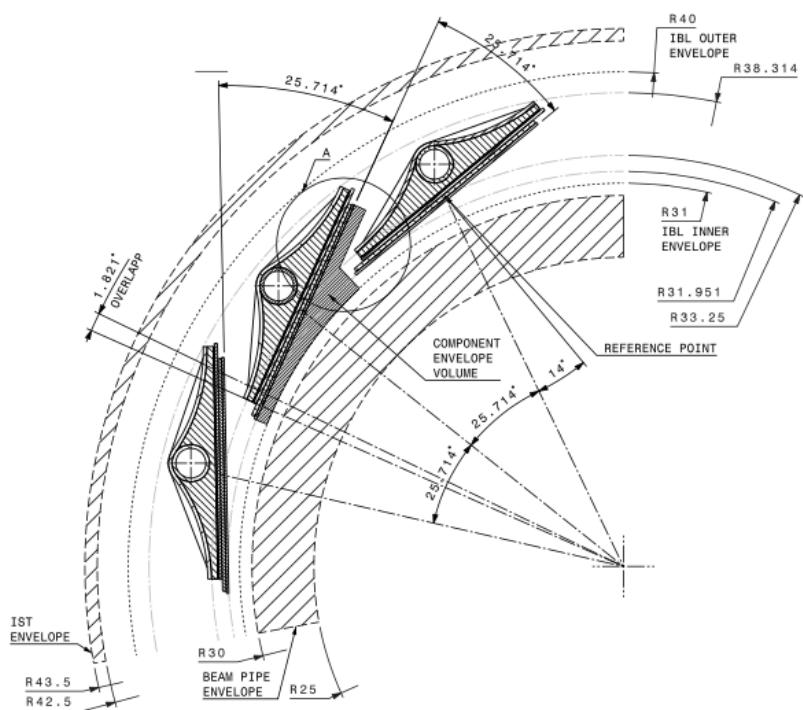


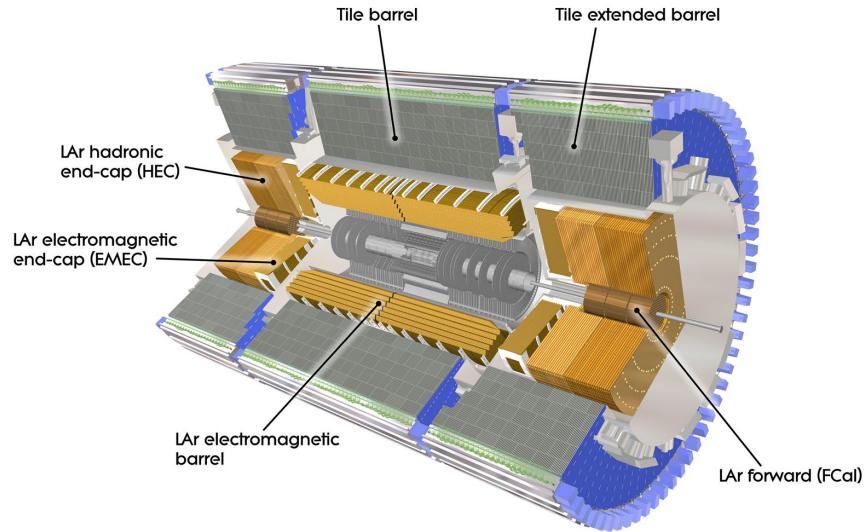
Figure 1.8: Arrangement of pixels in the barrel. IC:<sup>83</sup>

#### 1.4.3 TRANSITION RADIATION TRACKER (TRT)

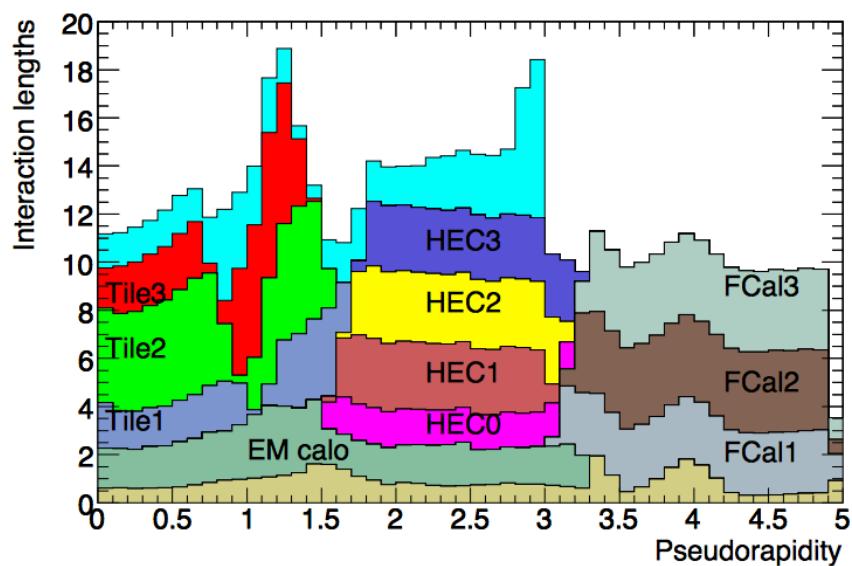
The final and outermost subsystem in the ID is the transition radiation tracker (TRT). It provides coverage for  $|\eta|$  up to 2.0 and is composed of straw detectors with a 4 mm diameter and run the length of the detector module, which provide 130  $\mu\text{m}$  resolution and filled with a Xe-CO<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> (70-27-3) gas combination and operate at -1500 V. The filaments and foil lining inside the straws induce X-ray emission in electrons and pions passing through the TRT as they move from a dielectric to a gas; this “transition radiation” is the source of the TRT’s name. Since the energy deposited due to transition radiation is proportional to the relativistic boost  $\gamma$ , for constant momentum, this is inversely proportional to mass, so electrons will have  $\sim 130/0.5 = 260 \times$  more transition radiation than pions, in principle enabling excellent electron/pion discrimination. The TRT will be replaced by silicon strips in the Phase II upgrade.

### 1.5 THE ATLAS CALORIMETERS

ATLAS has four main calorimeter systems: the liquid argon based electromagnetic (ECAL), hadronic end cap (HEC), and forward (FCAL) calorimeters, and the scintillating tile based hardronic Tile calorimeter in the barrel. Their layout and material budget in interaction lengths can be seen in Figure 1.10.



**Figure 1.9:** The ATLAS calorimeters.



**Figure 1.10:** Material depth of the ATLAS calorimeters. IC;<sup>91</sup>

### 1.5.1 CALORIMETER RESOLUTION

Before diving into the specifics of each of the ATLAS calorimeters, we review how calorimeter energy resolution performance is typically quoted. A calorimeters relative energy resolution (a ratio) can be broken up into three orthogonal components, as shown in Equation 1.6.

$$\frac{\sigma_E}{E} = \frac{S}{\sqrt{E}} \oplus \frac{N}{E} \oplus C \quad (1.6)$$

$S$  is the photoelectron statistics or stochastic term represents the coefficient to the usual counting term (assuming Gaussian statistics);  $N$  is a noise term, which is constant per channel (and hence comes in as  $1/E$  in the relative energy resolution); and  $C$  is a constant “calibration” term, which reflects how well one intrinsically understands a detector (i.e. mismodelling introduces an irreducible component to the energy resolution). If any detector were perfectly modeled/understood, it’s  $C$  term would be zero.  $N \sim 0.1 - 0.5$  GeV for the typical calorimeter regardless of type, so  $S$  and  $C$  are typically quoted.

A typical stochastic term scales as  $S \sim \text{few\%} \sqrt{d_{\text{active}} [\text{mm}] / f_{\text{samp}}}$ , where  $f_{\text{samp}}$  is the sampling fraction or the ratio of a calorimeter by mass is composed of an active volume capable (i.e. one that registers energy deposits). The tile calorimeter, for example, has a sampling fraction of about  $1/36$ . There are several reasons that this fraction is so low. First, many active volumes have insufficient stopping power; one wants to capture as much energy as possible from electromagnetic and hadronic showers inside the calorimeter, and this simply is not possible for most active media (one

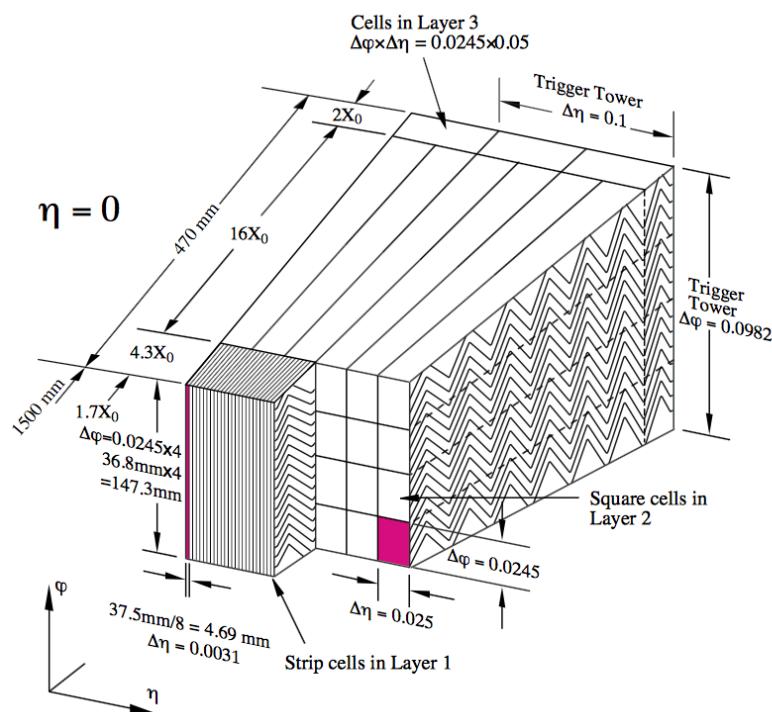
notable exception to this is the CMS crystal-based calorimeter; ATLAS is a more conservative design), so well-behaved absorbers like lead or iron are necessary to ensure all the energy is contained within a calorimeter. Another factor is cost; things like liquid argon are expensive. Finally, most active media are unsuitable for structural support, so sturdy absorbing materials help relieve engineering constraints.

### 1.5.2 THE ELECTROMAGNETIC CALORIMETER (ECAL)

The ECAL has liquid argon (LAr) as an active material with lead as an absorber. The ECAL barrel extends to  $|\eta|$  of 1.475 with three layers at 1150, 1250, and 2050 mm, and its end cap, comprised of two wheels extends covers  $1.375 < |\eta| < 2.5(3.2)$  for the inner (outer) wheel, with 3 (2) layers out to 3100 mm. There is a 1.1 (0.5) cm thick layer of LAr pre-sampler up to  $|\eta|$  of 1.8 in the barrel (end cap) of the ECAL, which is designed to aid in correcting for electron and photon energy loss in the ID.

The LAr and lead absorber are arranged in alternating beveled sawtooth layers in what is known as an “accordion” geometry, shown in Figure 1.11, which shows the layout of a barrel module in the ECAL. The absorber thickness is 1.53 (1.13) mm for  $|\eta|$  less (more) than 0.8 to ensure a constant sampling fraction. This arrangement helps provide greater coverage in  $\phi$ .

The ECAL overall typically covers 2–4 interaction lengths or about 20–40 radiation lengths. Its performance corresponds to resolution coefficients  $S = 0.1 \text{ GeV}^{-1/2}$  and  $C = 0.002$  with a 450 ns drift time. In order to optimize the material budget and overall detector construction, the ECAL barrel infrastructure is integrated with that of the ID’s solenoid. The granularity of the ECAL barrel middle layer,  $\Delta\eta \times \Delta\phi$  cells of size  $0.025 \times 0.025$ , are used to define the granularity of calorimeter

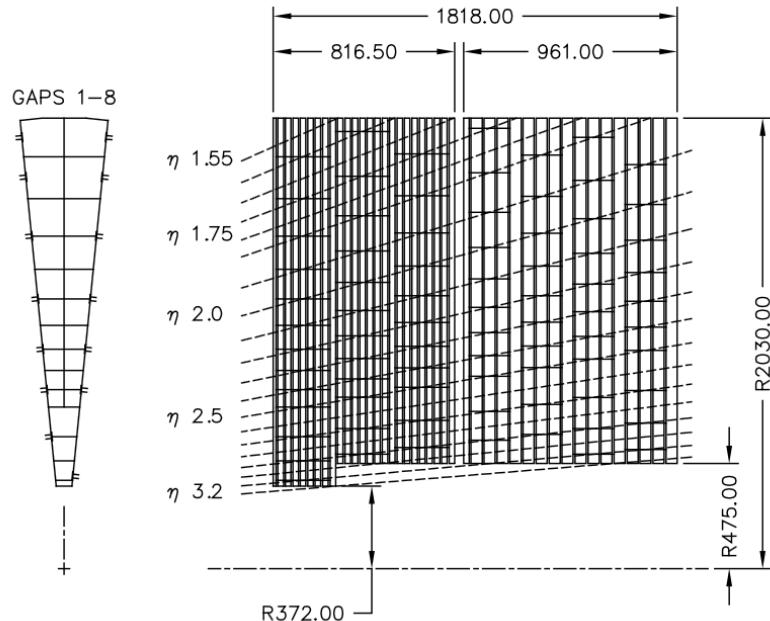


**Figure 1.11:** The accordion geometry of the LAr electromagnetic calorimeters is prominently shown in this illustration of an ECAL barrel module. IC:<sup>91</sup>

cluster reconstruction in ATLAS.

### 1.5.3 HADRONIC END CAPS (HEC)

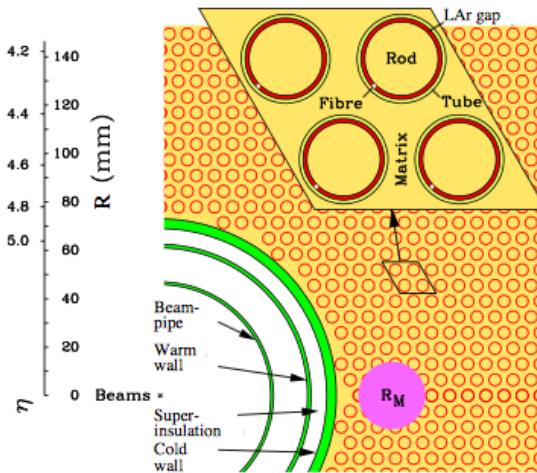
The HEC covers an  $|\eta|$  range of 1.5 to 3.2. Like the ECAL end caps, the HEC consists of two identical wheels out to a distance from the beam axis of 2030 mm; its layout is shown in Figure 1.12. The HEC also has LAr as the active material, but instead has flat copper plates as absorbers for sampling fraction of 4.4% and 2.2% in the first and second wheels, respectively. Its granularity in  $\eta$  is  $0.1 \times 0.1$  for  $|\eta|$  up to 2.5 and  $0.2 \times 0.2$  in the more forward regions.



**Figure 1.12:** The layout of the HEC in  $r - \phi$  and  $r - z$  dimensions are in millimeters. IC:<sup>91</sup>

#### 1.5.4 THE FORWARD CALORIMETER (FCAL)

The FCAL covers an  $|\eta|$  range from 3.1 to 4.9, again using LAr as the active material in gaps between rods and tubes in a copper-tungsten matrix, as shown in Figure 1.13. These system has characteristic performance corresponding to stochastic term of  $S \approx 1 \text{ GeV}^{-1/2}$ . There are three modules in the FCAL: one electromagnetic and two hadronic, with the latter two featuring a higher tungsten content for a larger absorption length.



**Figure 1.13:** The material layout for a typical section of the FCAL in the transverse plane. IC:<sup>91</sup>

#### 1.5.5 THE HADRONIC TILE CALORIMETER

The tile calorimeter, covering at  $|\eta|$  of up to 1.7 is made up of 64 modules in the barrel (each covering  $\Delta\phi$  of  $360/64 = 5.625$ , each with a layout as in Figure 1.14. It is designed to be self-supporting for structural reasons, and so is the only calorimeter without LAr as a an active medium, with a staggered matrix of active scintillating polystyrene and supporting steel. It operates at 1800 V with a 400

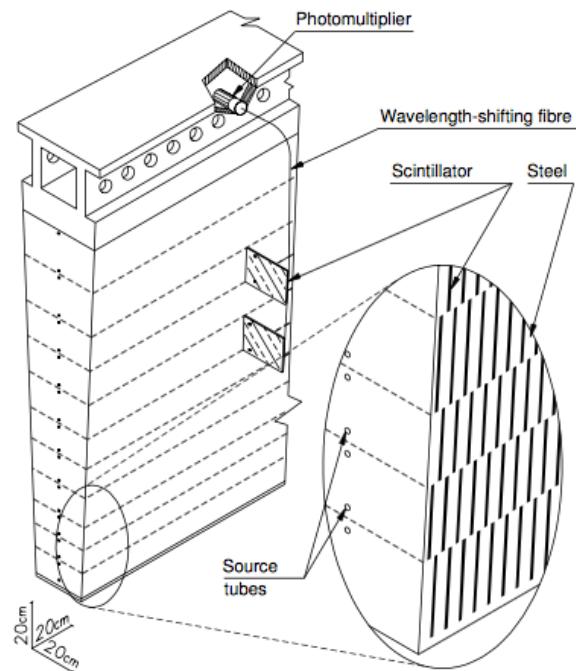


Figure 1.14: The material layout for a typical section of the hadronic tile calorimeter. IC:<sup>91</sup>

ns dead time and has a thickness corresponding to 10–20 interaction lengths (2.28–4.25 m). Its cell have a  $\Delta\eta \times \Delta\phi$  granularity of  $0.1 \times 0.1$  in the first two layers and  $0.2 \times 0.1$  in the last layer. Its performance corresponds to  $S = 0.5 \text{ GeV}^{-1/2}$  and  $C = 0.05$  ( $0.03$  after calibration).

## 1.6 THE MUON SPECTROMETER

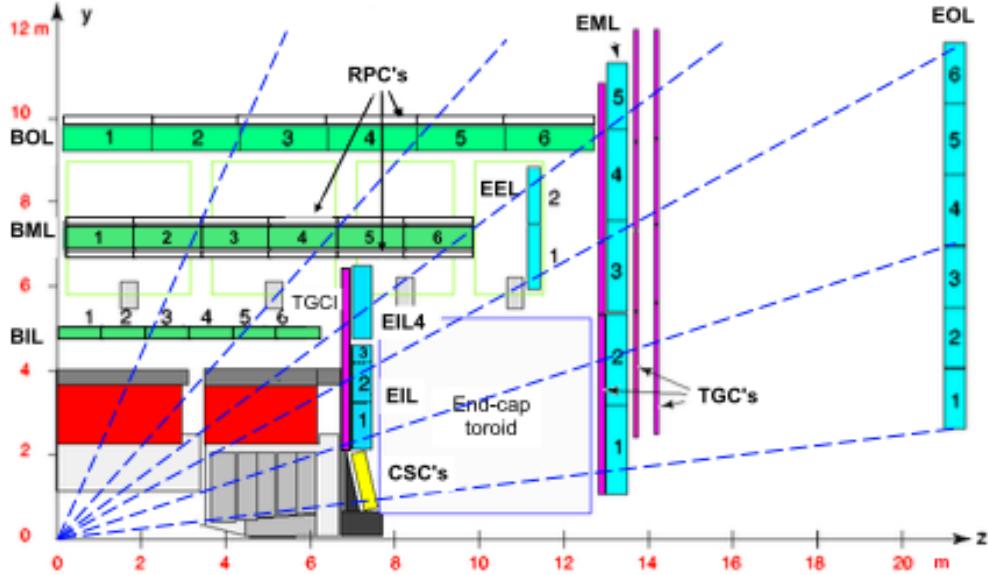
Since the energy of muons is not captured within the calorimeters, the stations of the ATLAS MS surrounds the entire detectors and provides tracks of outgoing muons that can be matched to tracks in the ID. The ATLAS toroids, which provide field strengths of up to 2.5 (3.5) T in the barrel (end cap) with typical strengths of 0.5–1.0 T, bends the muons, which allows for a muon momentum measurement since the mass of the muon is known. The relative momentum resolution of a tracker (assuming, as in ATLAS, that bending primarily happens in the  $\phi$  direction) may be expressed as

$$\frac{\sigma_{p_T}}{p_T} = c_o \oplus c_i \cdot p_T \quad (1.7)$$

The  $c_o$  term represents a degradation in resolution due to multiple scattering, and is typically 0.5–2%<sup>7</sup>. The  $c_i$  term describes the effect that, for a constant magnetic field, higher momentum muons will curve less. This term has typical values of  $10^{-3} - 10^{-4} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$ . At very high  $p_T$  values, this is of particular concern since a very small curvature can result in charge misidentification.

A cross-sectional view (in  $r-z$ ) of the muon spectrometer with station names, detector types, and layouts is shown in Figure 1.15. There are three layers of muon detectors in both the barrel (at 5 000, 7 500, and 10 000 mm) and end cap (at 7 000 (11 000), 13 500, and 21 000 mm), with the innermost

end cap layer split in two due to the end cap toroid. This corresponds to an  $|\eta|$  range up to 2.4 for both precision and trigger coverage, and up to 2.7 for precision detection only.



**Figure 1.15:** The ATLAS muon spectrometer. Naming of the MDT stations obeys the following convention [BE] (barrel or end cap) [IEMO] (inner, inner extended (end cap only), middle, or outer layer) [1-6] (increasing in  $z$  ( $r$ ) for the barrel (end cap)), so EI1 is the station in the inner most end cap layer closest to the beam pipe. IC:<sup>91</sup>

The MS can reconstruct muons with transverse momenta from 5 GeV up to 3 TeV (with 10% resolution at 1 TeV (3% at 100 GeV)). Detectors in the MS fall into two broad headings, precision detectors and trigger detectors, both described below. Nominal performance of the current detector types in the MS is summarized in Figure 1.16, a table taken from<sup>91</sup>. It should be noted that  $|\eta|$  ranges quoted below, where applicable, do not include the range 0-0.1, where this a gap in the MS to allow for cabling and other services to the ATLAS detector; for a discussion of compensatory measures in muon reconstruction, see Chapter 5.

Type	Function	Chamber resolution (RMS) in			Measurements/track		Number of	
		$z/R$	$\phi$	time	barrel	end-cap	chambers	channels
MDT	tracking	$35 \mu\text{m}$ ( $z$ )	—	—	20	20	1088 (1150)	339k (354k)
CSC	tracking	$40 \mu\text{m}$ ( $R$ )	5 mm	7 ns	—	4	32	30.7k
RPC	trigger	10 mm ( $z$ )	10 mm	1.5 ns	6	—	544 (606)	359k (373k)
TGC	trigger	2–6 mm ( $R$ )	3–7 mm	4 ns	—	9	3588	318k

Figure 1.16: ATLAS MS detector performance. IC:<sup>91</sup>

### 1.6.1 PRECISION DETECTORS

The ATLAS MS has two types of precision detectors: monitored drift tubes (MDT's) and cathode strip chambers (CSC's). An MDT is a tube with a 3 cm diameter with length depending on the station in which the tube is located. The tube is filled with an Ar/CO<sub>2</sub> gas mixture and has a tungsten-rhenium wire at its center that is kept at 3 000 V when operational. The MDT's provide  $35 \mu\text{m}$  resolution (per chamber) in their cross-sectional dimension (there is no sensitivity along the axis of the wire). Resolution of this magnitude requires very precise knowledge of the location of the wires within the MDT's; this is generally true for detectors in the MS (trigger as well as precision); to this end, stations of the MS are aligned using an optical laser system. For a detailed description of how misalignment can affect performance, see Appendix A for a detailed discussion of misalignment's simulated effects on the performance of the proposed micromegas trigger processor in the New Small Wheel (NSW) of the Phase I upgrade. Their 700 ns dead time, however, precludes their use as trigger detectors and also in the region of the small wheel (innermost endcap) closest to the beam pipe ( $|\eta|$  from 2.0 to 2.7), where rates are highest.

In this region, the precision detectors are the CSC's, which have a much lower dead time of  $\sim 40$

ns. These are multiwire proportional chambers with cathode planes that have orthogonal sets of strips, allowing for a measurement in both the principal directions. CSC detector sizes also vary by station, coming in both small and large chambers. The CSC strip pitch is 5.31 (5.56) mm for the large (small) chambers, with position determined from the induced charge distribution in the strips. This corresponds to a nominal resolution of 60 (5 000)  $\mu\text{m}$  per plane in the bending (non-bending) direction. These are slated to be replaced micromegas detectors in the NSW.

### 1.6.2 TRIGGER DETECTORS

Trigger detectors have a fundamentally different role than the precision detectors, instead needing to deliver “good enough” approximate values of muon track positions and  $p_T$  values. The MS has two types of trigger detectors: resistive plate chambers (RPC’s) in the barrel and thin gap chambers (TGC’s) in the end caps. They collectively cover an  $|\eta|$  range to 2.4, and their arrangement is shown in Figure 1.17.

The RPC’s are parallel plate detectors with a dead time of 5 ns and a thickness of 2 mm, kept at a potential of 9 800 V; they are deployed in three layers. RPC’s, too, feature strips with orthogonal arrangements on the top and bottom planes, with a strip pitch of 23–35 mm.

The TGC’s are multiwire proportional chambers with a dead time of 25 ns. Also, featuring orthogonal strips, the TGC’s also provide a  $\phi$  measurement to compensate for the lack of MDT sensitivity in this direction. There are four layers of TGC’s in the end cap. TGC’s will be supplanted by sTGC’s (small thin gap chambers) in the NSW.

For more details on how detector level trigger objects work in the ATLAS MS, see Appendix A

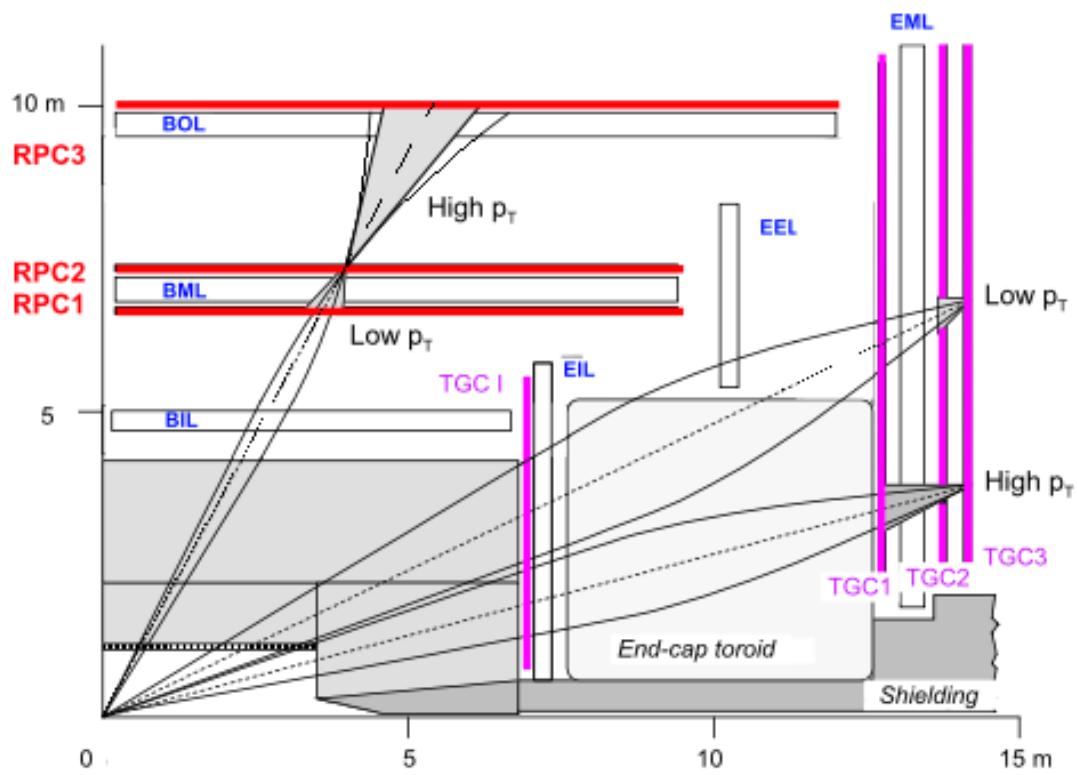


Figure 1.17: ATLAS MS trigger detector arrangement. IC:<sup>91</sup>

for details on the micromegas trigger processor algorithm.

*The relationship between theorists and experimentalists  
is like that between a truffle farmer and his pig*

Howard Georgi

# 2

## The Standard Model Higgs and Colider

### Event Variables

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID about the so-called Standard Model (SM) of particle physics, so we will try to keep this discussion as brief and (hopefully) as error free as possible. The discussion of Higgs

physics follows the notation of<sup>109</sup> Chapter II.

## 2.1 THE STANDARD MODEL HIGGS BOSON

The generic scalar Lagrangian potential (the kinetic term will be addressed later) for a scalar in the SM is:

$$V(\Phi) = m^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi + \lambda (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2 \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\Phi$  is the Higgs field, a complex scalar doublet under  $SU(2)$ . Its four degrees of freedom are typically decomposed as follows:

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2}\phi^+ \\ \phi^0 + i\alpha^0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.2)$$

$\phi^+$  is the complex charged component of the Higgs doublet, and  $\phi^0$  and  $\alpha^0$  are the CP-even and CP-odd neutral components, respectively.

If the sign of  $m^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi$  is negative,  $\Phi$  acquires a *vacuum expectation value* or VEV:

$$\langle \Phi \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \sqrt{\frac{2m^2}{\lambda}} \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.3)$$

with this value typically denoted  $v = \sqrt{2m^2/\lambda} = \sqrt{\sqrt{2}G_F}246 \text{ GeV}$  (with the coupling of the 4-Fermi effective theory of weak interactions measured through experiments involving muon decay), and  $\phi^0$  is rewritten as  $\phi^0 = H + v$ .

It is this non-zero VEV that induces spontaneous symmetry breaking in the SM's gauge (local) symmetry group of  $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  since the VEV does not respect the  $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  symmetry of the Lagrangian (i.e.  $\langle \Phi \rangle$  is not invariant under a gauge transformation of this group).

Three of the four generators of this subgroup are spontaneously broken, which implies the existence of three massless Goldstone bosons, which are in turn “eaten” by linear combinations of the  $W^a$  and  $B$  bosons to form the longitudinal components of the familiar  $W^\pm$  and  $Z$  bosons, with the last generator giving rise to the usual, unbroken  $U(1)_{EM}$  symmetry and its massless photon,  $A$ , as well as the scalar Higgs boson  $H$ . To see this one starts with the full Higgs SM Lagrangian (kinetic minus potential only)

$$\mathcal{L}_{Higgs} = (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger (D_\mu \Phi) - V(\Phi), \quad \mu \Phi = (\partial_\mu + ig\sigma^a W_\mu^a + ig' Y B_\mu/2) \Phi \quad (2.4)$$

One simply plugs in the reparametrized  $\Phi$  with  $\phi^0 = H + v$ , collects the terms involving  $v$  together with the appropriate  $W$  and  $B$  kinetic terms to extract:

$$M_W^2 = \frac{g^2 v^2}{4}, \quad M_Z^2 = \frac{(g'^2 + g^2) v^2}{4} \quad (2.5)$$

This is left as an exercise for the reader; this exercise also makes it manifest that the Higgs couplings with the  $W^\pm$  and  $Z$  scale quadratically with their masses. Since the Higgs field also respects the  $SU(3)_C$  color symmetry, the eight gluons are also left massless, and the  $H$  is left interacting with photons and gluons primarily through heavy quark loops.

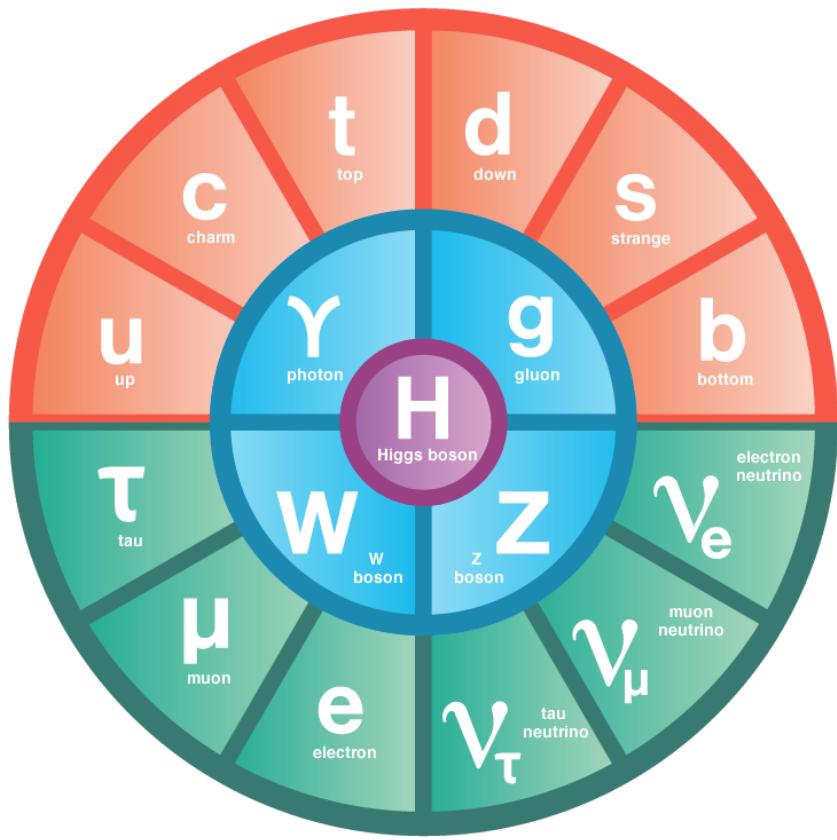


Figure 2.1: The fundamental particles of the Standard Model. IC.<sup>116</sup>

The Higgs is often introduced to the public at large as the mechanism through which fundamental fermions (enumerated in Figure 2.1) acquire mass—this is through the Yukawa interactions of the Higgs:

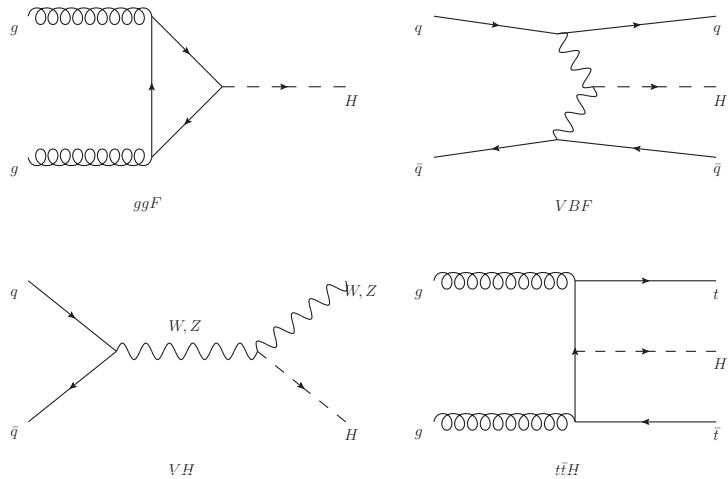
$$\mathcal{L}_{Yukawa} = -\hat{h}_{d_{ij}} \bar{q}_{L_i} \Phi d_{R_j} - \hat{h}_{u_{ij}} \bar{q}_{L_i} \tilde{\Phi} u_{R_j} - \hat{h}_{l_{ij}} \bar{l}_{L_i} \Phi e_{R_j} + h.c. \quad (2.6)$$

where  $\tilde{\Phi} = i\sigma_2 \Phi^*$ ,  $q_L$  ( $l_L$ ) and  $u_R$ ,  $d_R$  ( $e_R$ ) are the quark (lepton) left-handed doublets and right handed singlets of the weak  $SU(2)_L$  group, with each term parametrized by a  $3 \times 3$  matrix in family space (also known as the fermion generations). The neutrinos have been purposely omitted since the mechanism that generates their mass is as of yet unknown, though these Yukawa interactions could have a non-zero contribution. Once the Higgs VEV value is known and the Yukawa interaction matrices  $\hat{h}_{f_j}$  ( $i, j \in 1, 2, 3$ ) are diagonalized, the fermion masses can simply be written as  $m_{f_i} = h_{f_i} v / \sqrt{2}$ . The SM has no motivation for any of these masses.

Note that from  $\mathcal{L}_{Yukawa}$ , it is easy to see that the Higgs couplings with fermions scale linearly with fermion mass. Higgs self-couplings and beyond the standard model (BSM) Higgs scenarios are beyond the scope of this thesis.

## 2.2 HIGGS BOSON PRODUCTION AND DECAY AT THE LARGE HADRON COLLIDER

The leading order Feynmann diagrams for the four dominant modes of Higgs production at the LHC are shown in Figure 2.2, each described briefly in turn. The dominant process, accounting for some 87% of Higgs production at the nominal LHC center of mass energy of 14 TeV, is gluon-gluon fusion (ggF), shown in Figure 2.2 (a). At high center of mass energies, most of a proton's momen-



**Figure 2.2:** Dominant Higgs production modes.

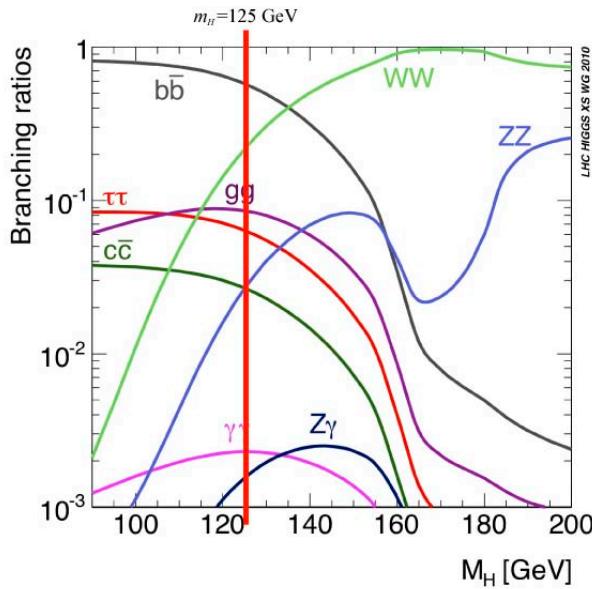
tum is predominantly carried by sea gluons (as opposed to the constituent valence quarks associated with the hadron's identity). This, along with the difficulties associated with high luminosity antiproton beam production, is why the LHC was designed as a proton-proton collider instead of a proton-antiproton collider (like the Tevatron). As mentioned above, the Higgs does not couple directly to gluons but must instead be produced through the fermion loop shown in the figure. The heaviest fundamental fermion by far is the top quark, with  $m_t = 173$  GeV, so top loops dominate this process. While not particularly relevant for this thesis, about 14% of events in the 2-lepton channel of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  analysis are ggF initiated.

The next most prevalent process is vector boson fusion (VBF), where vector bosons ( $W$  or  $Z$ , denoted generically as  $V$ ) from quarks in the colliding quarks “fuse” to form a Higgs. These quarks typically form jets in the forward region, which provides a unique signature for this process. This process is not relevant for this thesis.

The third leading process is “Higgsstrahlung” or Higgs production in association with a vector boson, often simply  $VH$  production. In this process, a quark-antiquark pair in the colliding protons forms an energetic vector boson, which then radiates a Higgs (this is similar to photon emission of accelerating electrons, called “bremsstrahlung,” hence the name). Some fraction of the time (about 21% of the time for  $WH$  and 6.7% of the time for  $ZH$ ), the energetic  $V$  will decay leptonically (i.e. into a decay involving an electron or a muon), which provides a unique and triggerable signature for this process. Another 20% of the time for  $ZH$  production, the  $Z$  will decay to neutrinos, which are not absorbed by detectors and show up as missing transverse energy ( $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$ ), another triggerable signature. This ability to trigger and require that this leptonic signature be consistent with a  $V$  allows one to significantly reduce the impact of multijet background (a very common generic processes at the LHC) on analysis. Hence, this is the process of primary importance to this thesis.

The final important Higgs production process is  $t\bar{t}H$  production, the box diagram in Figure 2.2 (d). Again, the top pair provides a useful signature for analysis. This, like VBF, is also not considered in this thesis.

Once the Higgs has been produced, it can decay in a number of ways, as shown in Figure ???. By far the most dominant decay mode of the Higgs is to  $b\bar{b}$  at 58% of all decays. This  $b$ -quark pair then hadronizes into two  $b$ -jets (for a more thorough discussion of jets and  $b$ -jets in particular, see Section 5.5). However, many processes at the LHC create pairs of  $b$ -jets with invariant masses consistent with the Higgs have much higher production rates ( $t\bar{t}$  production at the LHC is in the neighborhood of hundreds of pb), so a clear process signature is necessary to study  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  production at the LHC. This is why the bulk of search efforts have focused on  $VH$  production. A summary of Higgs



**Figure 2.3:** Higgs decay modes as a function of its mass; a line has been drawn at the observed Higgs mass of 125 GeV.

production cross sections and simple extrapolations to raw numbers of Higgs bosons produced for  $VH$  for leptonically decaying  $V$  is shown in Table 2.1

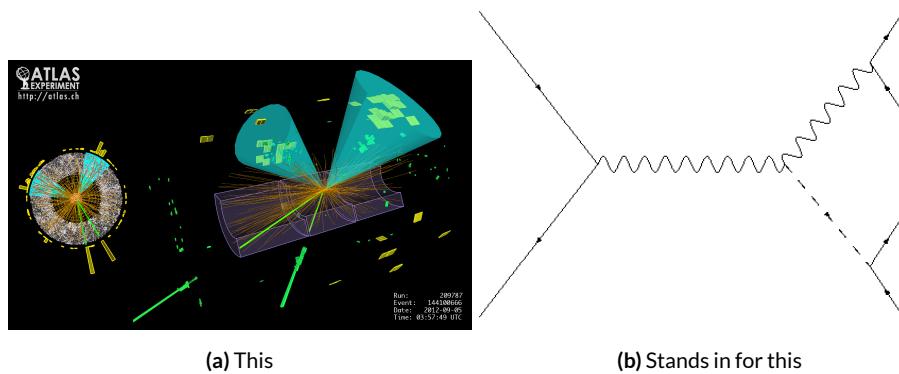
$\sqrt{s}$ (TeV)	ZH	WH	ggF	total $\sigma$	$N_{V \rightarrow \ell^+ \nu} H$
7	$0.34^{+4\%}_{-4\%}$	$0.58^{+3\%}_{-3\%}$	$15.3^{+10\%}_{-10\%}$	17.5	$4.7 \text{ fb}^{-1} \rightarrow 589$
8	$0.42^{+5\%}_{-5\%}$	$0.70^{+3\%}_{-3\%}$	$19.5^{+10\%}_{-10\%}$	22.3	$20.3 \text{ fb}^{-1} \rightarrow 3100$
13	$0.88^{+5\%}_{-5\%}$	$1.37^{+2\%}_{-2\%}$	$44.1^{+11\%}_{-11\%}$	50.6	$36.1 \text{ fb}^{-1} \rightarrow 11100$
14	$0.99^{+5\%}_{-5\%}$	$1.51^{+2\%}_{-2\%}$	$49.7^{+11\%}_{-11\%}$	57.1	$1000 \text{ fb}^{-1} \rightarrow 343000$

**Table 2.1:** Cross sections for processes important to the SM VHbb analysis and the total Higgs cross section as a function of center of mass energy. Also given are the total number of Higgs bosons produced for given luminosities through both  $WH$  and  $ZH$  processes.

## 2.3 COLLIDER EVENTS AND EVENT LEVEL VARIABLES

Collision data in experiments like ATLAS is structured using what is known as the *event data model*.

In this model, one collision corresponds to one event. The raw data, the various tracks, energy deposits, and hits in the detector, undergo reconstruction (described at length in Chapter 5) both through automated experiment-wide standards and through analysis-specific level selections, corrections, and calibrations. The result of this considerable effort is a collection of labeled 4-vectors, representing the final state objects. This is shown in Figure 2.4.



**Figure 2.4:** Reconstruction in a nutshell

In the process that is the focus of this thesis, every event ultimately is condensed into a lepton pair (two electrons or two muons), two or three jets\*, all 4-vectors and a  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  vector in the transverse plane. Further selection then takes place to winnow down events into interesting regions of phase space hopefully more rich in signal-like events. Once events are selected in a search like the one in this thesis, one then analyzes the data to test its consistency with some background only hy-

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\*Sometimes more, though this is a small fraction of events, and the wisdom of this choice may be questioned

pothesis to produce the usual significances quoted. This can be done in various ways, with main approaches being: a simple counting experiment (often referred to as the “cut and count” approach), a functional fit for excesses over a falling background spectrum (the so-called “bump hunt” used in analyses like the  $H \rightarrow \gamma$  discovery channel), or the use of discriminant distributions as PDF’s in a likelihood fit (the approach of this analysis). These distributions can be simple counts (i.e. single bin distributions) in analysis regions, quantities of interest (the distribution of the invariant mass of the two  $b$ -jets in selected events with the greatest transverse momenta,  $m_{bb}$ , is used as a validation), or something more complicated like a multivariate analysis (MVA) discriminant.

## 2.4 CHARACTERIZATION WITH EVENT-LEVEL VARIABLES

This is where our story truly begins. Traditionally, particle physicists have favored the approach of using distributions of physical variables since it is easier to develop “physical intuition” for what these distributions should “look like” during validation, so it is no surprise that as many LHC analyses have transitioned to using MVA techniques that these variables form the basis of many very robust physics results. These variables do quite well summarize many of the main physics features of an event for the signal topology. In  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  events, for example, one wishes to characterize the  $ZH$  system by using the lepton pair as a stand-in for the  $Z$  and the  $b$ -jet pair as a stand-in for the  $H$ , and composite variables like  $m_{bb}$  and  $m_{\ell\ell}$  can be used to check whether events are consistent with these objects. There are also variables like  $\vec{p}_T^V$  that characterize the momentum scale of the event, angles like  $\Delta R(b_1, b_2)$  and  $\Delta\phi(V, H)$  that can be further used to characterize the overall “shape” of these events, and variables like  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  that can discriminate against backgrounds like  $t\bar{t}$  that do not

have a closed topology.

Nevertheless, the intuition based approach, with incremental addition of variables as they prove useful in the lifetime of an analysis's iterations, does beg the question of whether there is a more systematic way to treat this information. There are clearly patterns to which variables are useful: these correspond to important information about the hypothesized physics objects and their relationships, so could there be some gain in finding a way to systematize the way these are found? Such systematic, top-down approaches often promise to increase performance in two ways. The first is by having higher descriptive power, often through some sophisticated treatment of the missing transverse energy in an event,  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$ .  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is just a single number, and if there is just one invisible object in a desired event topology, using  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  on its own often provides sufficient sensitivity. In more complicated topologies with multiple invisible particles in the final state, for example in many supersymmetry searches, a more careful treatment of the missing energy is often necessary.

The second means of improvement is through using a more orthogonal basis of description, which allows one to more efficiently use data and simulation samples. A more orthogonal basis implies that variables contain less overlapping information with each other and so allow for a more efficient exploration of parameter space. This means one can gain higher sensitivity from equivalent datasets using a more orthogonal basis. To see why this might be the case, take an MVA discriminant for  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  formed using only the classic variables  $\Delta R(b_1, b_2)$  and  $p_T^V$ . In the  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  topology, transverse mass of the  $Z$  and  $H$  (and hence the lepton pair and jet pair) are equivalent. This means that at higher  $p_T^V$  the  $p_T$  of  $b$ -jets will also be higher, which in turn implies that they will have a smaller angle of separation and hence a smaller  $\Delta R(b_1, b_2)$ . This correlation

is not unity—each variable still does have information the other does not—but it is still very high. Hence, when training an MVA, which in principle knows nothing about these variables other than some set limits, an undue number of training events will be wasted converging upon relations that could be known *a priori*, and while this might be easy to hard code in for a two variable toy example, the dimensionality of any real discriminant makes this prohibitive. An MVA that uses data (both actual and simulated) more efficiently will also tend to be more robust to variations, offering a potential avenue for reduction in the error on quantities of interest due to systematic uncertainties. Details of how this plays out in a likelihood fit will be deferred to the discussion of the fit model used in the VHbb search in Chapter 7.

Many of these novel schemes are designed to explicitly address the first issue in channels where it is of paramount importance while having the second issue as something of a fringe benefit. However, as the amount of data taken at the LHC grows, analyses will increasingly become systematics limited, so an exploration to the veracity of the second claim has great potential for the high luminosity era of the LHC. The  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  process offers a great setting for investigating this issue on its own since its closed topology largely mitigates any improvement from more sophisticated treatments of  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$ . We introduce two of these more top-down approaches to event-level variables below: the “Lorentz Invariant” (LI)<sup>98</sup> and “RestFrames inspired” (RF)<sup>100</sup> variable schemes. A broad overview of the concepts behind these schemes will be given here, with a more in-depth discussion of their implementation deferred until Chapter 6.

## 2.5 LORENTZ INVARIANTS

The LI variables, first put forth by S. Hagebeck and others<sup>98</sup>, are based upon the fact that the four-vectors of an event are determined, all of the information in an event are encoded into their inner products (Lorentz invariant quantities, hence the name) and the angles between them. This makes for 16 quantities in all: the ten inner products of the four vectors, the three Euler angles, and the three parameters specifying the boost of the  $ZH$  system. The masses of the four final state objects are not considered very useful and so can be removed to leave six meaningful inner products (the  ${}_4C_2$  combinations between distinct final state four vectors). Since these inner products can have an ill-defined physical interpretation and in order to help MVA training, each inner product is scaled by:

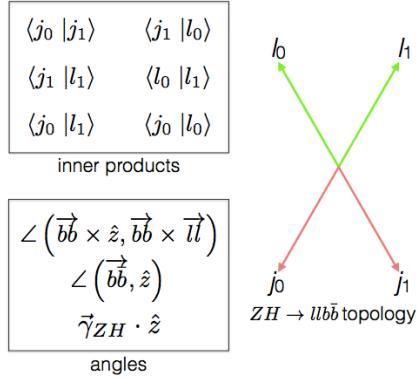


Figure 2.5: Summary of LI variables in the  $ZH \rightarrow ll\bar{b}\bar{b}$  topology.

$$x \rightarrow \frac{x}{x + c} \quad (2.7)$$

where  $c$  is the mean of the distribution in the signal MC distribution. These inner products are denoted  $x_i \cdot y_j$ , where  $x$  and  $y$  are either  $j$  (for jet) or  $l$  (for lepton) and the indices are either  $o$  ( $i$ ) for the leading (subleading) object by  $p_T$  in the event.

The number of useful angles can be reduced by recognizing some symmetries inherent in the final state. The symmetry around the beam axis eliminates one angle. Furthermore, the boost of the  $VH$  system is primarily in the beam direction ( $z$ ) direction, marginalizing the utility of the transverse boost angles. This leaves the boost in the  $z$  direction, denoted `gamma_ZHz`, and two angles chosen to be the angle between the  $b\bar{b}$  system and the beam (`angle_bb_z`) and the angle between  $(b_1 + b_2) \times \hat{z}$  and  $(b_1 + b_2) \times (l_1 + l_2)$  (`angle_bbz_bbll`).

These variables do contain a lot of information similar to the usual set: there are mass equivalents ( $j0_j1 \leftrightarrow mBB$ , and  $l0_l1 \leftrightarrow mL$ ) and angles. Instead of individual final state object scales, there are the four jet/lepton inner products, though this correspondence (and indeed any physical interpretation) is far from clear. An important advantage of the LI variable set is that all of the variables are in fact orthogonal in the signal case by construction. A drawback of this framework in a completely closed final state is that there is no way to treat  $E_T^{miss}$  in a Lorentz invariant way. There is also no prescription for any additional jets in the event beyond the two  $b$ -tagged jets. They are simply ignored in these variable calculations since the fiducial analysis requirement of exactly two  $b$ -tagged jets eliminates any combinatoric ambiguity.

Perhaps a more troubling weakness of the Lorentz Invariants approach is that it is not generically applicable to all analysis channels. The LI concept was initially formulated for sensitivity improvement in the  $l$ -lepton channel. In this case, the  $\vec{E}_T^{miss}$  has a natural interpretation as the transverse

momentum of the single neutrino in the signal topology. Using the constraint of a massless neutrino, there is only one free parameter remaining, which is chosen to be the neutrino's longitudinal momentum. Following the discussion in <sup>98</sup>, we first guess the neutrino energy in its rest frame and then boost to the lab frame:

$$\langle E_\nu \rangle = \frac{1}{4} m_{WH} \implies \langle p_z^\nu \rangle = \beta \gamma \langle E_\nu \rangle = \frac{p_z^{WH}}{m_{WH}} \langle E_\nu \rangle = \frac{1}{4} p_z^{WH} \quad (2.8)$$

Finally, assuming energy and momentum in aggregate are equally shared among final state constituents, we arrive at

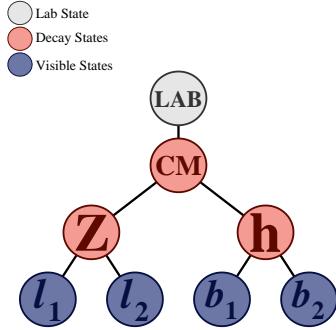
$$\langle p_z^\nu \rangle = \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{4}{3} (p_z^l + p_z^{j_o} + p_z^{j_i}) \quad (2.9)$$

Nevertheless, there is no straightforward way to generalize this to the o-lepton case, as there are twice as many degrees of freedom, making such a simple and intuitive guess impractical, or at least not immediately obvious.

This concept of rest frames and boost is actually the central tenant of the RestFrames variables, which can be used to construct variables for generic decay trees and to which we now turn.

## 2.6 RESTFRAMES VARIABLES

The RestFrames variables <sup>100</sup>, calculated using the software package of the same name, is based upon the idea that the most natural frame in which to analyze objects of the signal decay tree is in their individual production (rest) frames. The signal decay tree for  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  is show in Figure 2.6. Generally, one does not typically have enough information to determine exactly each of the intermediate



**Figure 2.6:** The  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  decay tree.

rest frames or the boosts between the frames, but in a completely closed final state like  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$ , this can be done in the usual way by adding the four-vectors of the final state objects and solving the usual equations from special relativity (`RestFrames` does this automatically for each event).

Each frame has associated with it the boost from its immediate parent and a mass scale; that mass (in this case the correspondence between RF mass variables and standard mass variables is exact) and the angles between the Euclidean three vector associated with boost and the axis of the decay products provide useful variables. In general, the polar angle (typically given as a cosine) is considered more useful than the azimuthal angle (typically just a  $\Delta\phi$ ), though this is dependent on the candidate decay tree. The  $Z$  frame, for example, has `MZ`, which is just the usual  $m_{\ell\ell}$ , `cosZ`, the cosine of the polar angle between the lepton momentum axis in their production frame and the boost from the  $ZH$  center of mass (CM) frame, and the angle `dphiCMZ`.

In addition to the masses and angles attached to individual object rest frames, energy scales associated with the CM frame can be used to contextualize other event level quantities. In particular, one can use the mass of the CM frame as a natural scale to evaluate the momentum of the CM frame,

and the  $p_T$  of the CM frame as a natural scale for the event's  $E_T^{miss}$ , yielding the variables:

$$R_{p_T} = \frac{p_{T,CM}}{p_{T,CM} + M_{CM}}, \quad R_{p_z} = \frac{p_{z,CM}}{p_{z,CM} + M_{CM}}, \quad R_{met} = \frac{E_T^{miss}}{E_T^{miss} + p_{T,CM}} \quad (2.10)$$

denoted  $R_{p_T}$ ,  $R_{p_z}$ , and  $R_{met}$ . These can be thought of as behaving like significance based variables in particle physics, like METHT or impact parameter significances. These are used instead of the final state object scales and standard  $E_T^{miss}$  of the standard variable set.

Unlike the LI variables, the physical interpretation of RF variables is very clear. Everything has physical units, and these are variables one might have introduced in the usual process of developing an MVA with the traditional mindset. The solution to the issue of additional jets in an event is not immediately clear. In order to keep the two non-standard MVA's on as equal footing as possible, the approach of simply ignoring additional jets is taken in this thesis. Nevertheless, it would be easy enough to redefine the  $H$  intermediate frame to have, for example, the two  $b$ -tagged jets and the highest  $p_T$  untagged jet for any subset of events. Of course, `RestFrames` cannot tell you what approach to take, but it is capable of handling more flexible topologies once optimization studies have been completed.

Extension to other analysis channels is much more straightforward using the `RestFrames` approach than with the Lorentz Invariants. In fact, calculating such variables for generic decay trees with multiple invisible objects and combinatoric ambiguities (allowing, for example, potential extensions to regions of phase space other than those with a strict 2  $b$ -tag requirement) is the focus of much of <sup>too</sup> and the functionality of the `RestFrames` package. Schematically, for the  $i$ -lepton

channel, one of the visible leptons in Figure 2.6 is replaced with an invisible neutrino, and for the 0-lepton case, the  $Z$  is treated as an invisible final state particle. Solving for the boost between frames can actually be done generically and `RestFrames`

*Insert discussion of recursive jigsaw reconstruction? Maybe replicate*

*If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.*

Conventional Wisdom

# 3

## Data and Simulated Samples

THE DATA AND Monte Carlo simulation (MC) samples are the same as in the fiducial analysis. The data corresponds to  $36.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $pp$  collision data collected in 2015+16 at the ATLAS detector at  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ . Only events recorded with all systems in ATLAS in good working order and passing certain quality requirements, according to a Good Run List (GRL), are analyzed.

Details about MC samples may be found in<sup>10</sup>. The  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  process is considered for both multivariate analysis (MVA) optimization and the final statistical analysis, while  $WH \rightarrow \ell\nu b\bar{b}$  and  $ZH \rightarrow \nu\nu b\bar{b}$  production are included in the final statistical analysis only. Signal MC samples were generated separately for  $qq$  and  $gg$  initiated  $VH$  processes.  $qqVH$  samples were generated with POWHEG MiNLO + PYTHIA8 with the AZNLO tune set and NNPDF3.0 PDF. Nominal  $ggZH$  samples were generated using POWHEG for the matrix element (ME) and PYTHIA8 for the parton shower (PS), underlying event (UE), and multiple parton interactions (MPI), again applying the AZNLO tune and NNPDF3.0 PDF set.<sup>104</sup>

The background processes considered in these studies are  $Z+jets$ ,  $t\bar{t}$ , and diboson production for both MVA optimization and the final statistical analysis and single top production and  $W+jets$  only considered in the final statistical analysis.  $V+jets$  samples are generated using SHERPA 2.2.1<sup>87</sup> for both the ME and PS. These samples are generated in different groups, according to the identity of the  $V$ , the max ( $H_T, p_T^V$ ) of events, and also further subdivided according to the flavor of the two leading jets in an event,  $b$ ,  $c$ , or  $l$ , for a total of six categories..  $t\bar{t}$  samples are generated using POWHEG with the NNPDF3.0 PDF set interfaced with PYTHIA8 using the NNPDF2.3 PDF's and the A14 tune<sup>93</sup>. Single top samples use POWHEG with the CT10 PDF's interfaced with PYTHIA6 using the CTEQ6L1 PDF's<sup>7,101</sup>. Diboson samples are generated with SHERPA 2.2.1 interfaced with the NNPDF3.0 NNLO PDF set normalized to NLO cross sections<sup>82</sup>.

*If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.*

Conventional Wisdom

# 4

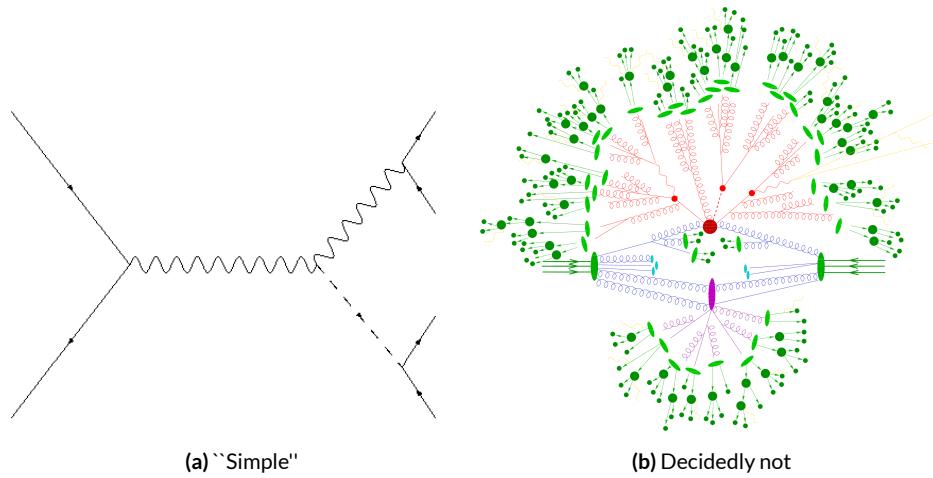
## Signal and Bacgkround Modeling

THIS CHAPTER summarizes the modeling of the dominant signal and background processes in this analysis, including corrections and systematic uncertainties (set in `this` font) related to each process. Further details on the specifics of these topics, including in-depth studies for the derivation and definitions of some of the quantities cited, may be in `no`. We start with a general discussion of modeling

and associated major categories of uncertainties before addressing each of the physics processes in turn.

#### 4.1 EVENT GENERATION IN A NUTSHELL

Before diving into the minutiae of the modeling and systematic uncertainties associated with each major set of physics processes considered in this analysis, we review at a schematic level\*, the problem of simulation event generation, namely, once a physics processes of interest has been determined, how does one simulate an ensemble of particle collisions with the process in question. This is illustrated in Figure 4.1. Note that the scope of this problem does not include how these generated collision products propagate through one's detector. This problem is left for Chapter 5.



**Figure 4.1:** The problem here is how to get from (a) to (b).

The primary source of complication in event generation comes from dealing with hadronic ob-

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\*i.e. this will not be a technically rigorous discussion. For a more thorough treatment, the reader is directed to the usual references.

jects both in the initial state (the lefthand side of Figure 4.1 (a); the LHC is a hadron collider) and the final state (this analysis searches for Higgs decays to  $b$ -jets, the lower righthand side of Figure 4.1). Common to all hadronic objects, by definition, are the many considerations that go into calculations in quantum chromodynamics (QCD). In calculating the hard scatter process itself, one must make a variety of choices, such as the parton distribution function (PDF) set to use and to what order in perturbation theory to do the calculation (common choices are leading order (LO), (next to) next to leading order ((N)NLO), and (next to) next to leading log (NNLL)). Similar considerations often need to be made for the electroweak parts of an event. These considerations and others will be discussed in more detail below.

The initial state includes not only the hard scatter partons that generate the physics process of interest but also the rest of partons in the colliding protons, known as the underlying event (UE). Moreover, the hard scatter partons may not be the only interacting partons in an event, further complicating matters; this phenomenon is known as multiple parton interactions (MPI). Specific to the final state are the kinematic distributions of the final state objects—what their energies and angular distributions will be in addition to the overall cross section of the process as measurable by the detector (acceptance effects). Furthermore, one has to model hadronization, the process by which any free (colored) partons in an event transform into colorless hadrons.

Typically, it takes several steps and tools to accomplish this. The hard scatter itself is often done with a dedicated event generator like POWHEG<sup>93</sup> or MADGRAPH<sup>Alwall et al.</sup>, with events generated being interfaced with a tool like PYTHIA<sup>93</sup> for the PS, UE, and MPI, though there are exceptions (SHERPA<sup>96</sup>, for example, can do both for some processes).

## 4.2 DESCRIPTION OF MODELING UNCERTAINTY CATEGORIES

The general idea behind a systematic uncertainty<sup>†</sup> is to characterize the scale of variation for a given process in such a way that this knowledge can be easily combined with all other sources of uncertainty in an analysis to give total uncertainties for categories of systematics, different channels of analysis, and the analysis as a whole (as well as the single systematic itself).

The modeling systematics in this analysis are parametrized in a number of ways but are often characterized as Gaussians centered at zero, and so the relevant quantity to derive is the standard deviation for this distribution. In practice, one does this by, in addition to making distributions of discriminants (usually an MVA or  $m_{bb}$ ) for the nominal case, distributions corresponding to a variation in a given systematic uncertainty by both one standard deviation up and one standard deviation down. Modeling systematics are exclusively weight systematics; that is, they only effect the weight with which an event is added to discriminating distributions.

Modeling systematics are derived separately for each physics process (simulation sample). Sometimes, all of the variation for a given process is encapsulated in a single systematic, but oftentimes the variations from multiple considerations are distinct enough to be treated separately. Furthermore, each of these separate systematics for a given sample may be treated in a number of ways. We will begin by outlining in more detail the former issue of theoretical considerations before describing the latter problem of different types of systematics.

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<sup>†</sup>The terms “systematic uncertainty,” “systematic,” “uncertainty,” and “nuisance parameter” (often simply NP in both writing and speech) are often used interchangeably, though each has its own pedantically distinct definition.

The motivation of this section is to give prototypical examples for certain treatments of systematics to prevent verbosity and redundancy when describing each sample in detail.

#### 4.2.1 PHYSICS CONSIDERATIONS

As described in the preceding section, many choices must be made when generating events for analysis studies. In general, evaluating the uncertainties arising from these choices entails generating alternate samples of events, which practically means tuning parameters in the various software packages and/or using alternate packages/libraries to make new samples. Once these samples have been created, they are compared at truth-level (particle level) using a package called Rivet<sup>80</sup> instead of using the full ATLAS detector reconstruction for computational considerations. Given the nature of the problem and the tools, there are generally three main categories of physics issues, each described below.

#### UNDERLYING EVENT AND PARTON SHOWER

The modeling of the underlying event (UE) and the parton shower (PS) are usually handled by the same package, typically PYTHIA8 and so are usually treated together. One approach to modeling these uncertainties is to simply see what happens when a different model is used and then compare this alternate set of events to the nominal set, taking the difference as the scale of variation. Another approach is to vary some parameter within a given model, for example, using different tunes in the A14 set for PYTHIA8 with their accompanying variations, to characterize the scale of variation.

A natural question is how to treat these two approaches on the same footing. When examining

a set of potential variations related to the same process or effect, oftentimes the largest single variation in a set is picked as defining the scale for the systematic uncertainty; another approach is to use the average over a set of variations. The `ATLAS_UEPS_VH_hbb` systematic, for example, uses the `Pythia8 + A14` tunes approach to determine the scale of UE variation and compares `Pythia8` with `Herwig7` to characterize the PS variation. Each of the `A14` tunes comes with an up and down variation, and the difference between each of these variations and a nominal setup may be expressed as a ratio,  $R$ , of total events.

As is often done when a physical argument can be made for combining related, but ultimately orthogonal categories/measurements/uncertainties/systematics, the combined UE+PS systematic is taken to be the sum in quadrature of these two effects:

$$\sum_{tunes} \max_{tune} (|R_{up} - R_{down}|) \oplus \sigma_{PS} \quad (4.1)$$

## QCD SCALE

The term “QCD scale” in the context of modeling uncertainties refers to the choice of renormalization ( $\mu_R$ ) and factorization ( $\mu_F$ ) scales used in QCD calculations. These are typically treated together. Usually, some multiplicative scale factor,  $f$ , is chosen, and each scale is varied in concert with the other scale by  $1/f$  and  $1/f$ (nine total combinations), sometimes with a cap on how large the combined variation can be (so ignoring the  $(f,f)$  and  $(1/f,1/f)$  cases). Just as in the UE+PS, the largest variation is usually taken as the systematic uncertainty.

## PARTON DISTRIBUTION FUNCTIONS AND $\alpha_s$

Finally, separate uncertainties are often made for the choice of parton distribution function (PDF) set and associated choice of strong coupling for QCD ( $\alpha_s$ ). Much as in the previous two cases, one can vary the parameter  $\alpha_s$  and study what samples of simulation events made using different PDF sets relative some nominal setup look like. Similarly, one can take the maximum, average, or sum in quadrature of different variations to characterize a systematic uncertainty.

### 4.2.2 MODELING SYSTEMATIC TYPES

#### ACCEPTANCE/NORMALIZATION

The most basic type of modeling uncertainty is a normalization uncertainty, often called an acceptance uncertainty. This simply denotes the uncertainty on the number of predicted events for a given process in a given region of phase space (usually delineated by the number of leptons in the final state sometimes by the number of and jets the  $p_T^V$  of an event) and is usually expressed as a percent.

As an example, the uncertainty on the theoretical prediction of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  branching ratio, denoted ATLAS\_BR\_bb (it is an ATLAS-wide systematic), is expressed as a normalization systematic with a value of 1.7%, affecting all  $VH$  processes. Now imagine we have an event in a  $VH$  sample with weight 1.0. The nominal histograms for this region gets filled with this event's relevant information with weight 1.0, while the ATLAS\_BR\_bb\_\_1up (\_1do) histograms get filled with weight 1.017 (0.983).

## SHAPE SYSTEMATICS

In addition to normalization systematics expressed as single numbers attached to different processes in different regions, there are also the so-called “shape systematics” and “shape corrections.” These have the schematic form

$$w_{event} = \mathcal{A}_{region} \times f_{region}(event)$$

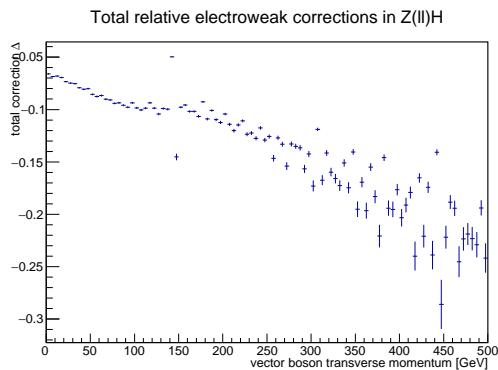
where  $w_{event}$  is the simulated event’s weight,  $\mathcal{A}_{region}$  is the overall normalization (in principle including any systematics), and  $f_{region}(event)$  is some function of event-level variables, usually a single variable, like  $p_T^V$  or  $m_{bb}$ . The purpose of these systematics is to take into account (in the case of a systematic) or correct (in the case of a correction applied to the event weight) the non-trivial dependence of a normalization on one of these quantities. Some of these are taken from histograms while others are parametric functions (in this analysis, usually linear ones).

An example of the former case is the quantity  $\delta_{EW}$ , the difference between the nominal  $qqVH$  cross section and the differential cross section as a function of  $p_T^V$  at next to leading order (NLO). As a correction, this term is simply used as a correction factor  $k_{EW}^{NLO} = (1 + \delta_{EW})$ .

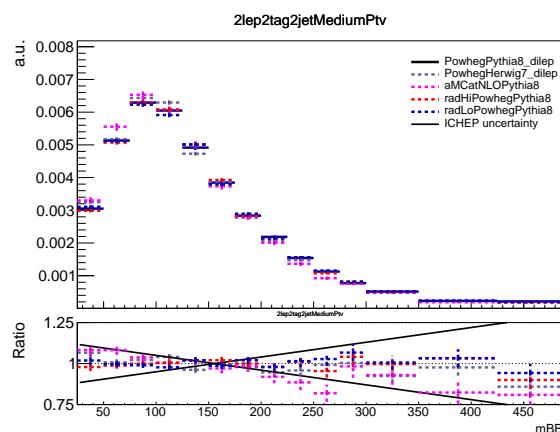
An example of the latter case is the systematic associated with the  $m_{bb}$  dependence of the  $t\bar{t}$  normalization for 2 jet,  $p_T^V \in [75, 150]$  GeV, 2 lepton events. In this case, a variety of effects are studied (ME, PS, UE), but the treatment of the ME calculation was seen to have the largest effect on normalization, so a linear fit to reasonably envelope the largest variation was done, and this was taken as a systematic variation.<sup>‡</sup>

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<sup>‡</sup>If this all seems a little ad-hoc, that’s because it is, but, at least in this instance, the idea was that a single



**Figure 4.2:** The  $\delta_{EW}$  correction term for 2-lepton  $qqZH$ .



**Figure 4.3:** The derivation of the 2-lepton  $t\bar{t} m_{bb}$  shape systematic.

## DIVIDING MODELING UNCERTAINTIES: ACCEPTANCE RATIOS

In addition to uncertainties on absolute normalizations (both inclusive and region specific), modeling uncertainties are sometimes introduced for the ratio of normalizations in different regions. The two main categories are ratios between different flavor regions and between regions with different numbers of jets (henceforth  $n_{jet}$  regions). The former category is only relevant for  $V+jets$  systematics and will be treated in that process's dedicated section below. In order to discuss the  $n_{jet}$  ratio systematics, we must first describe how exclusive  $n_{jet}$  cross section calculations are done.<sup>§</sup>

**THEORETICAL ASIDE: STEWART-TACKMANN** A way to calculate uncertainties on processes in regions with different numbers of jets was developed by Stewart and Tackmann and is implicitly used for most  $n_{jet}$  ratio systematics<sup>¶¶</sup>. The problem is how to calculate the cross section and associated uncertainty for a process with exclusively  $N$  jets in the final state. Generically:

$$\sigma_{\geq N} = \sigma_N + \sigma_{\geq N+1} \quad (4.3)$$

The physical interpretation of one parton to one jet is an idealized case. In order to demarcate between jets, one has some quantity that is used as a cutoff in an integral that defines the border between jet regions.

$$\sigma_{\geq N} = \int_0^{p_{cut}} \frac{d\sigma_N}{dp} + \int_{p_{cut}} \frac{d\sigma_{\geq N+1}}{dp} \quad (4.4)$$

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systematic covered the largest effect, so others were unnecessary.

<sup>¶¶</sup>We don't really need to do this, but everyone seems to mention Stewart-Tackmann, and no one ever explains it. The upshot is fairly simple, but the reasoning isn't necessarily so obvious.

Since these cutoffs (not necessarily constant, etc.) can make calculations more complicated, inclusive cross sections tend to be easier to calculate. Hence, it is usually much easier to evaluate the two inclusive cross sections and find the uncertainties on these by varying  $\alpha_s$  in the usual way. One then assumes the inclusive uncertainties are uncorrelated, for a covariance matrix for  $\{\sigma_{\geq N}, \sigma_N, \sigma_{\geq N+1}\}$  of:

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_{\geq N}^2 & \Delta_{\geq N}^2 & 0 \\ \Delta_{\geq N}^2 & \Delta_{\geq N}^2 + \Delta_{\geq N+1}^2 & -\Delta_{\geq N+1}^2 \\ 0 & -\Delta_{\geq N+1}^2 & \Delta_{\geq N+1}^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (4.5)$$

The main idea is that you have Sudakov double logs of  $p/Q$ , where  $Q = m_H$  or whatever scale your hard process occurs at, and  $p_{cut}$  is usually something like a  $p_T$  cutoff. Now, the  $N+1$  term in that matrix is actually some uncertainty associated with your cutoff, but your double logs will dominate your higher order terms with Stewart and Tackmann giving the following reasoning:

“In the limit  $\alpha_s L^2 \approx 1$ , the fixed-order perturbative expansion breaks down and the logarithmic terms must be resummed to all orders in  $\alpha_s$  to obtain a meaningful result. For typical experimental values of  $p_{cut}$  fixed-order perturbation theory can still be considered, but the logarithms cause large corrections at each order and dominate the series. This means varying the scale in  $\alpha_s$  in Eq. (9) directly tracks the size of the large logarithms and therefore allows one to get some estimate of the size of missing higher-order terms caused by  $p_{cut}$ , that correspond to  $\Delta_{cut}$ . Therefore, we can approximate  $\Delta_{cut} = \Delta_{\geq 1}$ , where  $\Delta_{\geq 1}$  is obtained from the scale variation for  $\sigma_{\geq 1}$ .”

The above considerations are important for this analysis since phase space is separated into  $\geq 2$  and  $\geq 3$  jet regions, and the uncertainties for these regions are anti-correlated.

Of particular importance to ratio systematics is the so-called “double ratio” that is often take as the scale of variation (plus one). The ATLAS\_UEPS\_VH\_hbb systematic mentioned above, for example, has associated with it, ATLAS\_UEPS\_VH\_hbb\_32JR. This systematic is evaluated by dividing the 3 jet to 2 jet ratio in the nominal setup by the same ratio in an alternate setup. Such a ratio generically looks like:

$$\frac{\text{Acceptance}[\text{Category}_A(\text{nominalMC})]}{\text{Acceptance}[\text{Category}_B(\text{nominalMC})]} \Big/ \frac{\text{Acceptance}[\text{Category}_A(\text{alternativeMC})]}{\text{Acceptance}[\text{Category}_B(\text{alternativeMC})]} \quad (4.6)$$

### 4.3 PROCESS SPECIFIC SYSTEMATIC SUMMARIES

Brief descriptions of modeling systematics, including recapitulations of nominal sample generation, are given in the following sections. The general approach here is to copy the relevant summary tables and describe any major deviations from the general procedures described in the previous section.

The dominant backgrounds for the 2-lepton channel are  $Z+hf$  and  $t\bar{t}$ , accounting for well over 90% of all background events. Diboson samples are the next-leading background and are an important validation sample; others are included for completeness. A summary of all the modeling systematics in this analysis are given in Table 4.1.

#### 4.3.1 SIGNAL PROCESSES

Nominal signal  $qqVH$  samples are generated using PowHEG with the MiNLO (multiscale improved NLO)<sup>106</sup> procedure applied interfaced with PYTHIA8 using the AZNLO tune<sup>69</sup> and NNPDF3.0

Process	Systematics
Signal	$H \rightarrow bb$ decay, QCD scale, PDF+ $\alpha_s$ scale, UE+PS (acc., $p_T^V$ , $m_{bb}$ , 3/2 jet ratio)
Z+jets	Acc, flavor composition, $p_T^V+m_{bb}$ shape
$t\bar{t}$	Acc, $p_T^V+m_{bb}$ shape
Diboson	Overall acc., UE+PS (acc, $p_T^V$ , $m_{bb}$ , 3/2 jet ratio), QCD scale (acc (2, 3 jet, jet veto), $p_T^V$ , $m_{bb}$ )
Single top	Acc., $p_T^V+m_{bb}$ shape

**Table 4.1:** Summary of modeling systematic uncertainties, with background samples listed in order of importance.

PDF set<sup>78</sup>. For the 2-lepton case, gluon fusion initiated Higgs production is also considered (accounting for  $\sim 14\%$  of the total cross section in this channel), with samples generated with Powheg interfaced with Pythia8 using the AZNLO tune; the NNPDF2.3 set<sup>77</sup> is used for both the ME and UE+PS.

Alternate samples  $qqVH$  samples are generated using MadGraph5\_aMC@NLO<sup>73</sup> for the ME and Pythia8 for the UE+PS, hadronization and MPI. The NNPDF2.3 5f FFN PDF sets and the Al4 tune<sup>63</sup>; the latter has variations included. Powheg+Minlo+Herwig7 were samples were also used for systematics.

The signal systematics categories are  $H \rightarrow bb$  decay cross section, QCD scale, PDF+ $\alpha_s$  scale, and UE+PS. Additionally, there is the NNLOEWK correction described above. The correction scale factor is derived using the HAWK MC software. To encapsulate NNLOEW effects the maximum of 1%, the square of the correction factor, and the photon induced cross section is used as a systematic.

Table 4.2, reproduced from<sup>110</sup>, summarizes the signal cross section systematics, which are applied uniformly across the analysis channels (as applicable).

The remaining signal systematics are analysis channel specific and are summarized in 4.3. The methodologies match those described in 5. The UE+PS systematics were derived using the alternate

Sys Name	source	Norm. effect	applied to
ATLAS_BR_bb	$H \rightarrow bb$ decay uncertainties (HO effects, $m_b$ , $\alpha_s$ )	1.7%	all $VH$ processes
ATLAS_QCDscale_VH	QCD scale uncertainty	0.7%	$qq \rightarrow VH$ processes
ATLAS_QCDscale_ggZH	QCD scale uncertainty	27%	$gg \rightarrow ZH$
ATLAS_pdf_Higgs_VH	PDF+ $\alpha_s$ uncertainty	1.9% 1.6%	$qq \rightarrow WH$ $qq \rightarrow ZH$
ATLAS_pdf_Higgs_ggZH	PDF+ $\alpha_s$ uncertainty	5.0%	$gg \rightarrow ZH$

**Table 4.2:** Summary of all systematic uncertainties on the  $VH$  cross section including their value, source and the corresponding nuisance parameter name.

samples mentioned above; QCD scale uncertainties were derived by varying scales by 1/3 and 3; and PDF uncertainties were derived by comparing the nominal set with the PDF4LHC15\_30 PDF set<sup>79</sup>.

NP name	0L:		1L:		2L:	
	2j	3j	2j	3j	2j	$\geq 3j$
ATLAS_UEPS_VH_hbb	10.0%	10.0%	12.1%	12.1%	13.9%	13.9%
ATLAS_UEPS_VH_hbb_32JR	–	13.0%	–	12.9%	–	13.4%
ATLAS_UEPS_VH_hbb_VPT	shape only			shape+norm		
ATLAS_UEPS_VH_hbb_MBB	shape only					
QCDscale_VH_ANA_hbb_J2	6.9%	–	8.8%	–	3.3%	–
QCDscale_VH_ANA_hbb_J3	-7%	+5%	-8.6%	+6.8%	-3.2%	+3.9%
QCDscale_VH_ANA_hbb_JVeto	–	-2.5%	–	3.8%	–	–
QCDscale_VH_ANA_hbb_VPT	shape only			shape+norm		
QCDscale_VH_ANA_hbb_MBB	shape only					
pdf_HIGGS_VH_ANA_hbb	1.1%	1.1%	1.3%	1.3%	0.5%	0.5%
pdf_VH_ANA_hbb_VPT	shape only			shape+norm		
pdf_VH_ANA_hbb_MBB	shape only					

**Table 4.3:** Summary of all systematic uncertainties on the  $VH$  acceptance and shapes originating from altering the PDF and  $\alpha_s$  uncertainties, including their corresponding nuisance parameter name.

### 4.3.2 $V+JETS$

Nominal  $V+jets$  samples are generated using **SHERPA 2.2.1@NLO**<sup>¶97</sup> for both the ME and PS, interfaced with the NNPDF's and using a five quark flavor scheme, and alternative samples are derived using **MADGRAPH5** interfaced with **PYTHIA8**. In order to increase statistics in important regions of phase space, these samples were separated into kinematic slices based on  $p_T^V$  and into bins of jet flavor. The kinematic slices were in the quantity  $\max(H_T, P_T^V)$  and had the intervals [070, 70140, 140280, 280500, 5001000,  $> 1000$ ] GeV. The jet flavor slices were made using flavor vetoes and filters:

- BFilter: at least 1 b-hadron with  $|\eta| < 4, p_T > 0$  GeV
- CFilterBVeto: at least 1 c-hadron with  $|\eta| < 3, p_T > 4$  GeV; veto events which pass the BFilter
- CVetoBVeto: veto events which pass the BFilter or the CFilterBVeto

These in turn are related to the main flavor regions used in the analysis, based on the flavor of the two leading jets in an event (based on  $p_T$ ). These five flavors (with up, down, and strange collectively known as “light”) yield six different flavor combinations:  $bb, bc, bl$  (these first three collectively known as “heavy flavor” or  $V+hf$ ),  $cc, cl, ll$  (or just “light” or  $l$ ). Ratio systematics are often made with respect to the acceptance in the  $bb$  region.

$V+jet$  systematics are derived in several steps. The first is to use double ratios of acceptances between analysis regions and nominal versus alternative MC's (so  $(\text{Region1-nominal}/\text{Region2-nominal})/(\text{Region1-alternate}/\text{Region2-alternate})$ ). The main region comparisons are 2 jet versus 3

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<sup>¶</sup>SHERPA 2.1 is used for some variations not available in SHERPA 2.2.1.

jet ( $3+$  jet for  $2$ -lepton) and then  $0$ -lepton versus  $2$ -lepton ( $1$ -lepton) for  $Z+hf$  ( $W+hf$ <sup>¶</sup>). The final uncertainty contains the sum in quadrature of four effects:

1. Variation of  $0.5$  and  $2$  of QCD scales in the **SHERPA** sample
2. Sum in quadrature of half the variation from different resummation and CKKW merging scales \*\*
3. Maximal variation between nominal setup and **SHERPA 2.2.1** with the MMHT<sub>2014nnlo68cl</sub> and CT<sub>14nnlo</sub> PDF sets
4. Difference between the **SHERPA** and **MADGRAPH5** sets

Summaries of the  $Z+jets$  uncertainties are provided here; the reader is referred to <sup>10</sup> for the  $W+jets$  systematics, as these events are virtually non-existent in the  $2$ -lepton case with which this thesis is almost exclusively concerned. In Table 4.4, from <sup>10</sup> are the normalization systematics.

Process	Name	prior in region					
		$2jet$			$(\geq)3jets$		
		$2L: low Vpt$	$2L: high Vpt$	$0L$	$2L: low Vpt$	$2L: high Vpt$	$0L$
$Z+l$ $Z+cl$ $Z+hf$	SysZclNorm				18%		
	SysZlNorm				23%		
	norm_Zbb				Floating Normalisation		
$Z+hf$	SysZbbNorm_L2_J3	–	–	–	30%	30%	–
	SysZbbNorm_J3	–	–	–	–	–	17%
	SysZbbNorm_0L	–	–	7%	–	–	7%
	SysZbbPTV	effect on each region obtained from shape rw					

**Table 4.4:** Effect of modelling systematics on  $Z+jets$  normalisation in the  $2$ -lepton regions. For systematic uncertainties implemented with a prior the effect of  $1-\sigma$  variation is reported. The uncertainties labelled as  $Zbb$  act on the entire  $Z+hf$  background.

The flavor composition ratio systematics are in Table 4.5, also from <sup>10</sup>.

<sup>¶</sup>The  $W+hf$  CR versus the SR is also considered for  $W+hf$

\*\* cf. <sup>103</sup>, Section 2 for a summary of the CKKW method for different parton multiplicities used in **SHERPA**

Category	Nuisance Parameter Name	Prior	Applied to
Z+bc/Z+bb	SysZbcZbbRatio	40%	Z+bc events (0-Lepton)
		40%	Z+bc events (2-Lepton 2jet)
		30%	Z+bc events (2-Lepton $\geq 3$ jet)
Z+bl/Z+bb	SysZblZbbRatio	25%	Z+bl events (0-Lepton)
		28%	Z+bl events (2-Lepton 2jet)
		20%	Z+bl events (2-Lepton $\geq 3$ jet)
Z+cc/Z+bb	SysZccZbbRatio	15%	Z+cc events (0-Lepton)
		16%	Z+cc events (2-Lepton 2jet)
		13%	Z+cc events (2-Lepton $\geq 3$ jet)

**Table 4.5:** The priors on the relative acceptance variations for  $Z+hf$ . The first column details the flavour components across which the acceptance variation is being considered, the second column lists the names of the corresponding nuisance parameter in the Profile Likelihood Fit, the third contains the value of the prior and the fourth column the processes and categories to which this nuisance parameter is applied.

Finally, the  $p_T^V$  and  $m_{bb}$  shape systematics are derived using control regions in data<sup>††</sup>. The functional form for the  $p_T^V$  systematic is  $\pm 0.2 \log 10(p_T^V/50\text{GeV})$ , and that of the  $m_{bb}$  systematic is  $\pm 0.0005 \times (m_{jj} - 100\text{ GeV})$ .

#### 4.3.3 TOP-PAIR PRODUCTION

Nominal  $t\bar{t}$  samples are produced with PowHEG at NLO for the ME calculation using the NNPDF3.0 PDF set interfaced with Pythia8.210 using the A14 tune and the NNPDF2.3 PDF set at LO. The parameters `hdamp` (nominal value  $1.5 m_{top}$ , a resummation damping factor for ME/PS matching that can heuristically thought of as tuning high  $p_T$  radiation) in PowHEG and `pThard` (nominal value 0) and `pTdef` (nominal value 2) in Pythia (both control merging with PowHEG) are varied to evaluate certain systematics. Alternative  $t\bar{t}$  samples use PowHEG+Herwig7, MadGraph55\_aMC@NLO+Pythia8.2,

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<sup>††</sup>These use the same selections as the signal regions except for  $b$ -tags (0, 1, and 2 tags are studied), with the added requirement in 2tag regions that  $m_{bb}$  not be in the range of 110–140GeV.

and the nominal setup with varied tunes and parameter values. Uncertainties are taken to cover the largest difference between the nominal and any of these alternate configurations.

The overall  $t\bar{t}$  normalization is a floating normalization<sup>#</sup>, and further systematics attached to the ratio of acceptances between regions (3-to-2 jet, SR-to-WhfCR, and 1-to-0 lepton) are defined using double ratios; these are summarized in Tables 4.6 and 4.7, taken from<sup>110</sup>

Systematic	0-lepton		1-lepton			
	2j	3j	WCR 2j	SR 2j	WCR 3j	SR 3j
norm_ttbar	floating normalisation					
SysttbarNorm_L0	8%	8%	–	–	–	–
SysttbarNorm_J2	9%	–	9%	9%	–	–
SysttbarNorm_DWhfCR_L1	–	–	25%	–	25%	–

**Table 4.6:** Effect of modelling systematics on normalisation in the 0 and 1-lepton analysis region.

	2jet		$\geq 3$ jets	
	low Vpt [SR/CR]	high Vpt [SR/CR]	low Vpt [SR/CR]	high Vpt [SR/CR]
norm_ttbar_J2_L2	floating normalisation		–	
norm_ttbar_J3_L2	–		floating normalisation	
SysTTbarPTV_L2_L2	effect on each region obtained from shape rw			

**Table 4.7:** Effect of modelling systematics on normalisation in the 2lepton regions. The SysTTbarPTV\_L2\_L2 systematic is implemented as a shape systematic over the full  $VpT > 75$  GeV range, and as a result has different acceptance effects in the low and high  $VpT$  regions.

Shape systematics for  $p_T^V$  and  $m_{bb}$  are linear and taken to cover the largest difference reasonably well, as described above in 4.2.2. These are summarized in Table 4.8, again taken from<sup>110</sup>.

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<sup>#</sup>The use of a top  $e - \mu$  control region helps constrain this.

Analysis region	Uncertainty	Value	Source	Nuisance Parameter
0,1 lepton	$p_T^V$ shape	shape	fit through largest deviation (aMC@NLO+PYTHIA8)	TTbarPTV
2 lepton	$p_T^V$ shape	norm + shape	fit through largest deviation (aMC@NLO+PYTHIA8)	TTbarPTV_L2
0,1 lepton	$m_{b\bar{b}}$ shape	shape only	fit through largest deviation (aMC@NLO+PYTHIA8)	TTbarMBB
2 lepton	$m_{b\bar{b}}$ shape	shape only	fit through largest deviation (aMC@NLO+PYTHIA8)	TTbarMBB_L2

**Table 4.8:** Summary of all shape uncertainties for the  $t\bar{t}$  process with short descriptions and the name of the corresponding nuisance parameters.

#### 4.3.4 DIBOSON PRODUCTION

Three diboson production processes (collectively denoted  $VV$ ) are important for these analyses:  $ZZ$ ,  $WZ$ , and  $WW$ . Nominal samples are created using **SHERPA 2.2.1** using the NNPDF3.0 PDF set. Alternative samples use Powheg+Pythia8 and Powheg+Herwig++. The methodology here is similar to that of the  $t\bar{t}$  systematics, with both overall acceptance and lepton channel specific uncertainties, with the exception that UE+PS and QCD scale are treated separately (PDF+ $\alpha_S$  was found to be negligible).  $p_T^V$  shape systematics are described using linear fits, while  $m_{b\bar{b}}$  shape systematics are described using hyperbolic tangents (third degree polynomials) in the 2 jet (3 jet) regions. Once again, summary tables from<sup>10</sup> are reproduced here.

Sys Name	source	Norm. effect	applied to
SysWWNorm	overall cross section uncertainty	25%	WW in all regions
SysWZNorm	overall cross section uncertainty	26%	WZ in all regions
SysZZNorm	overall cross section uncertainty	20%	ZZ in all regions

**Table 4.9:** Summary of all systematic uncertainties on the diboson cross section including their value, source and the corresponding nuisance parameter name.

NP name	oL:		iL:		zL:	
	2j	3j	2j	3j	2j	$\geq 3j$
SysVZ_UEPS_Acc	5.6%	5.6%	3.9%	3.9%	5.8%	5.8%
SysVZ_UEPS_32JR	–	7.3%	–	10.8%	–	3.1%
SysVZ_UEPS_VPT	shape+norm		shape only		shape+norm	
SysVZ_UEPS_MBB	shape only					
SysVZ_QCDscale_J2	10.3%	–	12.7%	–	11.9%	–
SysVZ_QCDscale_J3	-15.2%	+17.4%	-17.7%	+21.2%	-16.4%	+10.1%
SysVZ_QCDscale_JVeto	–	+18.2%	–	+19.0%	–	–
SysVZ_QCDscale_VPT	shape+norm		shape only		shape+norm	
SysVZ_QCDscale_MBB	shape only					

**Table 4.10:** Summary of the systematic uncertainties on the VH acceptance in each analysis region and on the  $p_T^V$  and  $m_{b\bar{b}}$  shapes originating from altering the QCD scale, including their nuisance parameter name.

#### 4.3.5 SINGLE TOP PRODUCTION

Single top sample are generated separately for the different production channels ( $s$ ,  $t$ , and  $Wt$ ) using PowHEG with the CT10 NLO PDF's interfaced with PYTHIA6 using the PERUGIA2012 PS tune and the corresponding CTEQ6L LO PDF's and PHOTOS (TAUOLA) for QED final state ( $\tau$ ) decays. Just as with  $t\bar{t}$  samples, PowHEG and PYTHIA settings are varied for certain systematics. Alternative samples use PowHEG+PYTHIA6 with  $Wt$  diagram subtraction (DS) (instead of “diagram removal” for the ME calculation) and MADGRAPH5\_aMC@NLO+HERWIG++. Systematics are derived separately in each channel, and are well described in the sumamry Table 4.11 taken from <sup>10</sup>.

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No references were given in the note, and this background really isn't that important.

Production	Uncertainty	Value	Source	Nuisance Parameter
$s$ -channel	overall normalisation	4.6%	sum in quadrature of $\mu_R$ , $\mu_F$ , $\alpha_S$ and PDF uncertainties	<code>stopNorm</code>
$t$ -channel	overall normalisation	4.4%	sum in quadrature of $\mu_R$ , $\mu_F$ , $\alpha_S$ and PDF uncertainties	<code>stopNorm</code>
$t$ -channel	2 jet region acceptance	17%	sum in quadrature of deviations in alternative generators	<code>stopAcc</code> correlated with overall and 3 jet case
$t$ -channel	3 jet region acceptance	20%	sum in quadrature of deviations in alternative generators	<code>stopAcc</code> correlated with overall and 2 jet case
$Wt$ channel	overall normalisation	6.2%	sum in quadrature of $\mu_R$ , $\mu_F$ , $\alpha_S$ and PDF uncertainties	<code>stopWtNorm</code>
$Wt$ channel	2 jet region normalisation	35%	sum in quadrature of deviations in alternative generators	<code>stopWtAcc</code> correlated with overall and 3 jet case
$Wt$ channel	3 jet region normalisation	41%	sum in quadrature of deviations in alternative generators	<code>stopWtAcc</code> correlated with overall and 2 jet case
$t$ -channel	$p_T^V$ shape	shape	fit through largest deviation (POWHEG+HERWIG++) $\pm 0.001 \times p_T^V \mp 0.17 + i$	<code>StopPTV</code>
$t$ -channel	$m_{b\bar{b}}$ shape	shape	fit through largest deviation (POWHEG+PYTHIA6  radHi-radLo ) $\pm 0.0008 \times m_{b\bar{b}} \mp 0.12 + i$	<code>StopMBB</code>
$Wt$ channel	$p_T^V$ shape	shape	fit through largest deviation (POWHEG+PYTHIA6 with diagram subtraction) $\pm 0.003 \times p_T^V \mp 0.69 + i$	<code>StopWtPTV</code>
$Wt$ channel	$m_{b\bar{b}}$ shape	shape	fit through largest deviation (POWHEG+PYTHIA6 with diagram subtraction) $\pm 0.0036 \times m_{b\bar{b}} \mp 0.52 + i$ ( $m_{b\bar{b}} < 275$ GeV) $\mp 0.47 + i$ ( $m_{b\bar{b}} \geq 275$ GeV)	<code>StopWtMBB</code>

**Table 4.11:** Summary of all uncertainties for the single top process with short descriptions and the name of the corresponding nuisance parameters, updated for the winter baseline analysis.

*“...what would you do first?”*

*The Master said, “It would have to be rectifying names.”*

Confucius, *The Analects*

# 5

## Object and Event Reconstruction and Selection

IN BREAKING WITH THE STANDARD CONVENTION both object definitions and their associated experimental systematic uncertainties will be defined in this chapter: the hope is that the proximity

of these descriptions will illuminate each other. Summary tables are almost exclusively taken from<sup>81</sup> or<sup>108</sup>. This analysis, like most typical analyses in ATLAS use central object definitions from collaboration combined performance (CP) groups using standard analysis tools and recommendations from these groups for the various objects and their accompanying systematic uncertainties.

Before proceeding to the objects used in this analysis, we begin with a few remarks on uncertainties associated with object reconstruction. Event-level variables and selections will be discussed more in depth in following chapters. As described in Section , systematics quantify the uncertainty associated with certain effects, and are generally treated in an analysis by saving histograms of discriminating distributions corresponding to the nominal analysis except with the systematic in question varied by plus and minus one standard deviation each (one histogram each). While for modeling systematics this only corresponds to different event weight, for experimental systematics like those described in this chapter (with the exception of flavor tagging and certain trigger systematics), this is done by varying the parameter in question and re-running reconstruction with the systematic varied before recomputing all event level quantities and then saving discriminant values in their appropriate distributions. This is, in general, a much more computationally intensive process in the analysis, which is why an entire software framework, the `CxAODFramework`, was created for this analysis (see Section 3 of<sup>81</sup> for more details).

## 5.1 TRIGGERS

Tables of the triggers used with the 2015 and 2016 datasets are given in Tables 5.1 and 5.2.

The 0-lepton channel uses a  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  trigger, while 2-lepton channels use single lepton triggers, with

o lep	1 lep	2 lep
HLT_xe70	HLT_xe70 HLT_e24_lhmedium_L1EM20VH OR HLT_e60_lhmedium OR HLT_e120_lhloose	HLT_mu20_iloose_L1MU15 OR HLT_mu40 HLT_e24_lhmedium_L1EM20VH OR HLT_e60_lhmedium OR HLT_e120_lhloose

Table 5.1: Summary table of triggers used in 2015 Data.

period	o lep	1 lep	2 lep
A	HLT_xe90_mht_L1XE50	HLT_xe90_mht_L1XE50 HLT_e26_lhtight_nod0_ivarloose OR HLT_e60_lhmedium_nod0 OR HLT_e60_medium OR HLT_e140_lhloose_nod0	HLT_mu24_ilosse(data) HLT_mu24_ilosse_L1MU15(MC) OR HLT_mu40 HLT_e26_lhtight_nod0_ivarloose OR HLT_e60_lhmedium_nod0 OR HLT_e60_medium OR HLT_e140_lhloose_nod0
B-D <sub>3</sub>	HLT_xe90_mht_L1XE50	HLT_xe90_mht_L1XE50 HLT_e26_lhtight_nod0_ivarloose OR HLT_e60_lhmedium_nod0 OR HLT_e60_medium OR HLT_e140_lhloose_nod0	HLT_mu24_ivarmedium OR HLT_mu50 HLT_e26_lhtight_nod0_ivarloose OR HLT_e60_lhmedium_nod0 OR HLT_e60_medium OR HLT_e140_lhloose_nod0
D <sub>4</sub> -E <sub>3</sub>	HLT_xe110_mht_L1XE50	HLT_xe110_mht_L1XE50 HLT_e26_lhtight_nod0_ivarloose OR HLT_e60_lhmedium_nod0 OR HLT_e60_medium OR HLT_e140_lhloose_nod0	HLT_mu24_ivarmedium OR HLT_mu50 HLT_e26_lhtight_nod0_ivarloose OR HLT_e60_lhmedium_nod0 OR HLT_e60_medium OR HLT_e140_lhloose_nod0
$\geq F_1$	HLT_xe110_mht_L1XE50	HLT_xe110_mht_L1XE50 HLT_e26_lhtight_nod0_ivarloose OR HLT_e60_lhmedium_nod0 OR HLT_e60_medium OR HLT_e140_lhloose_nod0	HLT_mu26_ivarmedium OR HLT_mu50 HLT_e26_lhtight_nod0_ivarloose OR HLT_e60_lhmedium_nod0 OR HLT_e60_medium OR HLT_e140_lhloose_nod0

Table 5.2: Summary table of triggers used in 2016 Data.

the 1-lepton analysis using both. Since the 0- and 1-lepton channels are largely beyond the scope of this thesis, the discussion here will be limited to the single lepton triggers; the interested reader is directed towards <sup>81</sup> and its cited sources for an in-depth discussion of the use of the  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  trigger.

The efficiency of triggers is in general different on simulated datasets than in actual data collected in ATLAS, so a scale factor to correct for this difference in efficiency must be applied to simulation events to correct for this difference. This scale factor is given by the muon CP group for muons for both the 1- and 2-lepton cases and from the electron CP group for the 1-lepton case. For the two electron case, this was calculated by the analysis team as (details in the <sup>81</sup>):

$$\frac{1 - (1 - \epsilon_{\text{MC}}^{e1} \times \text{SF}^{e1}) \times (1 - \epsilon_{\text{MC}}^{e2} \times \text{SF}^{e2})}{1 - (1 - \epsilon_{\text{MC}}^{e1}) \times (1 - \epsilon_{\text{MC}}^{e2})} \quad (5.1)$$

There are also systematic uncertainties associated with these trigger efficiencies. The single electron trigger efficiency systematic uncertainty is encapsulated in a single systematic, `EL_EFF_Trigger_Total_1NPCOR_PLUS_UNCOR`, while the single muon trigger efficiency has two components, one each for the sample statistics, `MUON_EFF_TrigStatUncertainty`, and systematic uncertainties `MUON_EFF_TrigSystUncertainty` associated with that efficiency's measurement.

While the momentum associated with the lowest un-prescaled single lepton triggers changes depending on data-taking conditions (the numbers associated with the triggers in the tables can be thought of as nominal  $p_T$  values for trigger level objects), the lowest typical value is  $\sim 25$  GeV. In order to maintain this triggering capability on low  $p_T$  muons in the higher luminosity environment of the Run 3 LHC and beyond, trigger-capable detectors will be installed in upgraded New

Small Wheels (NSW) of the ATLAS muon detector during the Phase I upgrade. Detailed studies in simulation of the trigger algorithm performance under nominal and misaligned conditions for the Micromegas detectors to be installed in the NSW may be found in Appendix A.

## 5.2 ELECTRONS

Electrons in ATLAS are reconstructed using a combination of the ATLAS electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL) and inner detector (ID). Reconstruction begins by searching for so-called “seed clusters” in the ECAL. The ECAL is divided into a  $200 \times 256$  tower grid in the  $\eta - \phi$  plane, with each tower having a size of  $0.025$  square in  $\eta$  and  $\phi$ , corresponding to the granularity of the ECAL in its middle layer, with all energy in a tower summed longitudinally. A “sliding window” of  $3 \times 5$  cells in the plane is then used to identify EM clusters associated with electrons based on criteria detailed in<sup>94</sup>. This comparatively simple algorithm (in contrast to jet reconstruction detailed below) is effective since electromagnetic showers have a well defined behavior and shape.

Once seed clusters have been formed, they are associated with tracks in the inner detector. Combined cluster-tracks pairs form electron candidates. In order for a electron candidate to be considered a suitable electron for analysis, it must pass certain quality requirements, based on a cut on the value of a likelihood-based (LH) discriminant (cf.<sup>64</sup> for details). This discriminant is given by:

$$d_{\mathcal{L}} = \frac{\mathcal{L}_S}{\mathcal{L}_S + \mathcal{L}_B}, \quad \mathcal{L}_S(\vec{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^n P_{s,i}(x_i) \quad (5.2)$$

where the  $s$  and  $S$  ( $b$  and  $B$ ) subscripts refer to distributions in fiducial signal (background) distribu-

tions in bins of  $|\eta|$  and  $E_T$ . The  $P(x_i)$  are probability distributions functions (pdf's) for input variables. Several input sets of input variables exist for increasingly stringent quality requirements on electrons; this analysis uses Loose LH electrons as the base for electron selection, with the input variables relating to leakage into the hadronic calorimeter (HCAL), shower and energy deposits in each of the ECAL layers, track quality requirements, TRT hits, and track-cluster matching. This analysis adds a LooseTrackOnly isolation requirement (the  $p_T$  sum of tracks within a certain distance of the candidate track must be below a certain value), impact parameter significance cuts, and an explicit B-layer hit requirement. The  $ZH$ -signal electrons must further pass a  $27 \text{ GeV} p_T$  cut ( $1.05 \times p_T^{\text{trigger}}$ ). These requirements are summarized in Table 5.3.

Electron Selection	$\eta$	ID	$d_{\phi}^{\text{sig}}$	$ \Delta z_{\phi}^{\text{BL}} \sin \theta $	Isolation	
$VH - \text{loose}$	$>7 \text{ GeV}$	$ \eta  < 2.47$	LH Loose + B-layer cut	$< 5$	$< 0.5 \text{ mm}$	LooseTrackOnly
$ZH - \text{signal}$	$>27 \text{ GeV}$	$ \eta  < 2.47$	LH Loose + B-layer cut	$< 5$	$< 0.5 \text{ mm}$	LooseTrackOnly
$WH - \text{signal}$	$>27 \text{ GeV}$	$ \eta  < 2.47$	LH Tight	$< 5$	$< 0.5 \text{ mm}$	FixedCutHighPtCaloOnly

**Table 5.3:** Electron selection requirements.

### 5.2.1 ELECTRON SYSTEMATICS

The electron CP group has tabulated standard systematic uncertainties to be associated with the use of reconstructed electrons in ATLAS analyses in two main categories. The first category is related to efficiency corrections and is broken into three components: identification (`EL_EFF_ID_TotalCorrUncertainty`), reconstruction (`EL_EFF_Reco_TotalCorrUncertainty`), and isolation (`EL_EFF_Iso_TotalCorrUncertainty`). The second category deals with electron energy scale (roughly, the uncertainty in taking the energy deposits in an EM cluster and turning them into an

electron energy) and energy resolution (the width associated with this). This is in practice a very complicated procedure, with over 60 systematics associated, but this analysis is not at all sensitive to these effects and so a simplified model of two systematics, EG\_RESOLUTION\_ALL and EG\_SCALE\_ALL, is used.

### 5.3 MUONS

This analysis uses the standard CP muon collection in an event, though these muons in ATLAS are constructed in a variety of ways; for full details see<sup>75</sup> and<sup>67</sup>. Most muons are constructed using tracks in the chambers of the muon spectrometer (MS), with a variety of algorithms available. MS tracks are sufficient to reconstruct a muon (a fit on these tracks can be used to point back to an interaction point for vertex matching, for example) and, in the  $|\eta| \in (2.5, 2.7)$  interval where there is no tracking, these standalone (SA) muons are the default. The most common and robust form of muon reconstruction combines tracks in the MS with tracks in the ID (more precisely, a global refit with hits from both subsystems is typically done) to form combined (CB) muons. CB and SA muons automatically pass the loose reconstruction requirements for the Loose muons used in this analysis. Additionally, since there is a gap in the  $|\eta| < 0.1$  range in the MS to make room for cabling and other detector services, there are two further muon types used in this range: the segment tagged (ST) muons that match ID tracks to segments in the MDT or CSC chambers and the calorimeter tagged (CT) muons that match ID tracks to calorimeter clusters consistent with minimum ionizing particles (which muons in ATLAS generally are).

Further quality requirements are imposed on Loose muons for the different muon categories

used in this analysis. Isolation requirements similar to the electrons in corresponding categories are imposed, and impact parameter requirements are also imposed. The  $ZH$  signal muons also have a  $p_T$  cut at 27 GeV and a requirement that the muon fall within the  $|\eta|$  range of the ID.

Muon Selection		$\eta$	ID	$d_o^{\text{sig}}$	$ \Delta z_o^{\text{BL}} \sin \theta $	Isolation
$VH - \text{loose}$	$> 7 \text{ GeV}$	$ \eta  < 2.7$	Loose quality	$< 3$	$< 0.5 \text{ mm}$	LooseTrackOnly
$ZH - \text{signal}$	$> 27 \text{ GeV}$	$ \eta  < 2.5$	Loose quality	$< 3$	$< 0.5 \text{ mm}$	LooseTrackOnly
$WH - \text{signal}$	$> 25 \text{ GeV}$	$ \eta  < 2.5$	Medium quality	$< 3$	$< 0.5 \text{ mm}$	FixedCutHighPtTrackOnly

**Table 5.4:** Muon selection requirements.

### 5.3.1 MUON SYSTEMATICS

Similar to the treatment of systematic uncertainties associated with the electrons, muons have CP defined systematics. The muon momentum scale and resolution systematics are divided into three categories associated one for uncertainties related to ID tracks (`MUONS_ID`), one for MS tracks (`MUONS_MS`), one for the overall scale (`MUONS_SCALE`), and two for charge dependent momentum scales (`MUON_SAGITTA_RHO` and `MUON_SAGITTA_RESBIAS`). The remaining systematics have a STAT and SYS component corresponding to the sample statistics and systematic uncertainties for their individual components. For Efficiency scale factors use different standard candles in different  $p_T$  ranges ( $J/\psi$ 's ( $Z$ 's) below (above) 15 GeV), and so these systematics are broken up into two categories (`MUON_EFF_STAT` and `MUON_EFF_SYS`; `MUON_EFF_STAT_LOWPT` and `MUON_EFF_SYS_LOWPT`). There are also isolation systematics (`MUON_ISO_STAT`, `MUON_ISO_SYS`) and track to vertex association systematics (`MUON_TTVA_STAT`, `MUON_TTVA_SYS`).

## 5.4 MISSING TRANSVERSE ENERGY

High precision performance of  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is not so crucial to the 2-lepton analysis (though it is very important to the other channels), so the interested reader is referred to<sup>76</sup> and its references for an in-depth discussion.  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  in ATLAS is the negative vectoral sum of physics objects (in this analysis just jets and leptons, though in principle also including  $\tau$ 's and  $\gamma$ 's) and a so-called track based soft term (TST). The TST is comprised of valid ID tracks not associated with any physics objects in an event. These tracks must be associated to an event's primary vertex, have a  $p_T > 0, 4 \text{ GeV}$ , and pass other quality requirements.

The  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  systematic uncertainties relevant to this analysis are related to track based energy scale and resolutions in both the soft term and in the jets and are: MET\_SoftTrk\_ResoPara, MET\_Soft-Trk\_ResoPerp, MET\_SoftTrk\_ScaleDown, MET\_SoftTrk\_ScaleUp, MET\_JetTrk\_Scale-Down, and MET\_JetTrk\_ScaleUp.

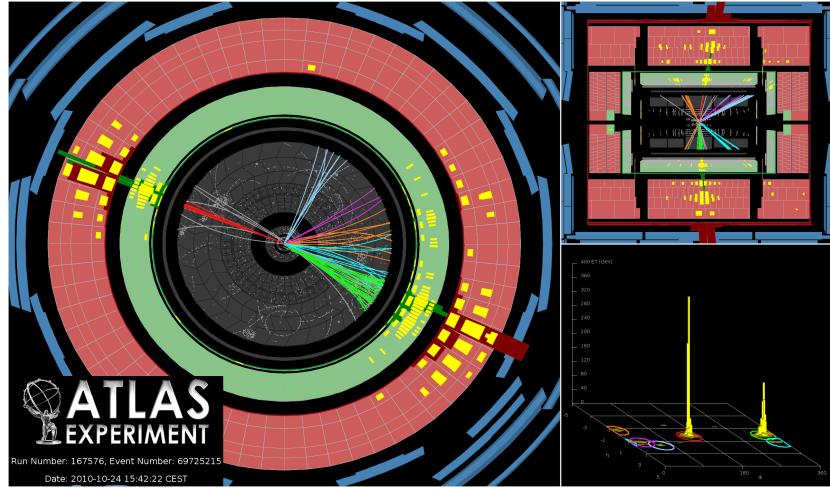
## 5.5 JETS

### 5.5.1 JET ALGORITHMS

The hadronic nature of jets makes jet reconstruction a lot more complicated than electron or photon reconstruction, where a regular shower shape and track matching (or lack thereof in the case of the chargeless photon) provide a fairly straightforward and robust approach. The interested reader is referred to<sup>112</sup> for an excellent survey, from which this discussion is greatly abbreviated.

Looking at an event like the one in Figure 5.1, the jets are particularly easy to identify, more or less

popping out of the plane plot, but this is not always the case.

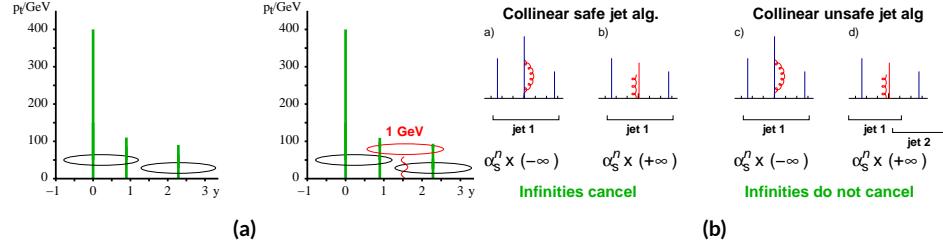


**Figure 5.1:** A clean ATLAS dijet event.

Two general methods of turning particles/calorimeter towers into jets exist: cone-based and sequential recombination. The general theme of the former is to find a hard (energetic) particle and draw a circle around it in the plane in an intelligent manner, while the theme of the latter is to find some metric of distance between particles and then to cluster pairs based on this distance into jets in an intelligent way. Cone-based algorithms are simple (and therefore generally quite fast) but generally lack some nice properties of the sequentially recombined jets (though there are notable exceptions like SISCone). These jets are important for trigger level objects in ATLAS, though since no jet triggers are used in this analysis, they will not be discussed any further here.

The general drawback of cone-based algorithms is that they are not infrared and collinear (IRC) safe. That is, the emission of a soft (IR) quark or gluon during hadronization should not change the final jet collection in an event, and neither should the collinear splitting of hard particles during

hadronization. These are fairly common edge cases and can lead to certain pathologies in QCD calculations. Infrared and collinear safety are diagrammed schematically in Figures 5.2 (a) and (b), taken from<sup>112</sup>.



**Figure 5.2:** Infrared (a) and collinear (b) safety.

The sequential recombination algorithms are generally safe from these effects, as these edge cases are very “close” to each other by construction. A sequential recombination algorithm proceeds as follows

1. Evaluate the set of distances  $d_{ij}$  (for pairs of objects) and  $d_{iB}$  (the “beam distance” for each individual object)

$$d_{ij} = \min \left( p_{Ti}^{2p}, p_{Tj}^{2p} \right) \frac{\Delta R_{ij}^2}{R^2}, \quad d_{iB} = p_{Ti}^{2p} \quad (5.3)$$

2. Find the minimum distance
3. If the minimum distance is:
  - A  $d_{ij}$ : cluster these objects together, and go to step 1
  - A  $d_{iB}$ : call the  $i^{\text{th}}$  object a jet, remove it from the set of objects to be clustered, and go to step 1
4. Repeat until all objects are clustered into jets

The choices one must make in sequential recombination are the size parameter  $R$ , akin to a cone radius in cone-based algorithms, and the momentum power  $p$ . Common choices and their trade-offs are:

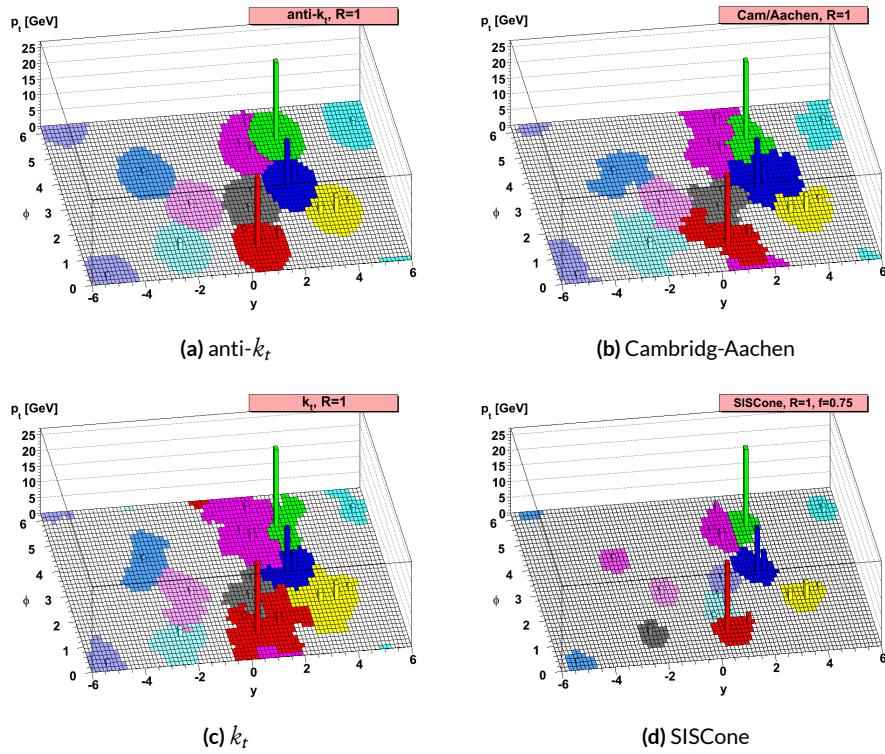
- +1: the  $k_t$  algorithm; favors the softer particles in an event, so the cluster sequence gives a history of hadronization, but jet shapes are irregular
- 0: the Cambridge-Aachen algorithm: a pure distance metric; less substructure but jets are less “weird” looking
- -1: the anti- $k_t$  algorithm: clustering begins with hardest particles in an event; regular, localized jet shapes, but virtually no substructure in clustering history

As shown in Figure 5.3

All three algorithms have uses for different applications in ATLAS, with anti- $k_t R = 0.4$  jets being the default jet collection. These are the jets used in this analysis.

If the choice of jet algorithm seems a little arbitrary, it is. There is no one-size-fits-all jet collection perfect for every application, and analyzers have to make these choices for themselves. One interesting choice is the jet size parameter,  $R$ . A large  $R$  jet will contain more of the radiation coming from a final state object, but its large size makes it susceptible to contamination from the underlying event and pileup, with small  $R$  jets having the opposite features.  $R = 0.4$  is a fairly middle-of-the-road choice. A natural question to ask is whether there needs to be just one jet collection in an analysis.

Might there not be more information to be gained from looking at more jet sizes or clusterings? Preliminary studies point to this answer being yes and are addressed in Appendix B.



**Figure 5.3:** Different jet algorithms used on the same event. IC: <sup>112</sup>

### 5.5.2 STANDARD ATLAS HBB JETS

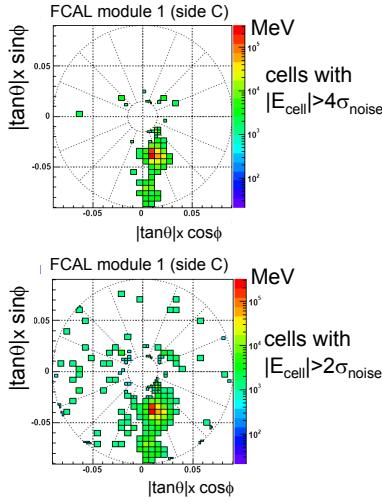
There are a few considerations that arise with jets in physical detectors. The first is what type of object to use as the stand in for “particles” since ATLAS measures energy deposits, not pions. The approach ATLAS has settled upon are calorimeter topological clusters (or CaloTopoClusters for short)<sup>102</sup>. Unlike the sliding window algorithm used for electron clusters, CaloTopoClusters use a noise significance based approach in the “4-2-1” algorithm. Each cell in the electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters (ECAL and HCAL, respectively) has associated with it a characteristic noise level, with this noise level in each channel, it is possible to construct a “significance” for the registered energy deposit in the event by dividing the measured value by its characteristic noise. Groups of cells having a significance of 4 are taken as the centers of clusters in the plane. The second layer in a cluster includes all neighboring cells to the central layer with significance of 2, and the final layer includes all the nearest neighbors to the second layer. This is described in Figure 5.4 from <sup>103</sup>.

Once CaloTopoClusters have been formed and clustered into jets, they are calibrated using the electromagnetic (EM) scale (the scale for clusters coming from EM showers). Further details may be found in <sup>66</sup>.

Jets in this analysis fall into two categories, “signal” and “forward” jets, and are required to pass certain quality requirements, described in Table 5.5. All jets must pass a series of jet cleaning requirements using calorimeter level variables to eliminate jets coming from problematic calorimeter cells and certain backgrounds. Some signal jet candidates also make use of a Jet Vertex Tagger (JVT) that uses primary vertex and jet and track  $p_T$  information to decide whether certain soft jets are likely

## Local Hadronic Calibration: Clusters

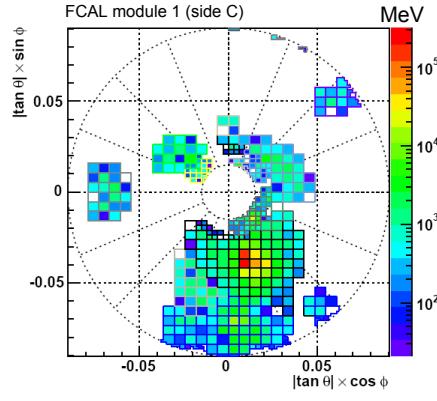
Sven Menke



□ Topological clustering

❖ 4,2,0 clusters in FCal

➢ jets with  $p_T > 50 \text{ GeV}$



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Figure 5.4: A description of the 4-2-0 clustering algorithm.

to have come from the primary (hard scatter) vertex in an event or are to be considered pileup.

Further details on JVT may be found in<sup>74</sup>. Jets are further corrected using standard CP tools and a dedicated PtReco correction, all outlined in Section 7.3 of<sup>81</sup>.

Jet Category	Selection Requirements
Forward Jets	jet cleaning $p_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$ $2.5 \leq  \eta  < 4.5$
Signal Jets	$p_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$ and $ \eta  < 2.5$ jet cleaning $\text{JVT} \geq 0.59$ if ( $p_T < 60 \text{ GeV}$ and $ \eta  < 2.4$ )

Table 5.5: AntiKt4EMTopoJets selection requirements. The jet cleaning is applied via the JetCleaningTool, that removes events in regions corresponding to hot calorimeter cells.

Overlap removal in this analysis is done according to the following precedence, taken from<sup>81</sup> with

further steps only taken into account if an object survives previous steps:

- tau-electron: If  $(\tau, e) < 0.2$ , the  $\tau$  lepton is removed.
- tau-muon: If  $(\tau, \mu) < 0.2$ , the  $\tau$  lepton is removed, with the exception that if the  $\tau$  lepton has  $> 50$  GeV and the muon is not a combined muon, then the  $\tau$  lepton is not removed.
- electron-muon: If a combined muon shares an ID track with an electron, the electron is removed.

If a calo-tagged muon shares an ID track with an electron, the muon is removed.

- electron-jet: If  $(jet, e) < 0.2$  the jet is removed.

For any surviving jets, if  $(jet, e) < \min(0.4, 0.04 + 10 \text{ GeV}/e)$ , the electron is removed.

- muon-jet If  $(jet, \mu) < 0.2$  or the muon ID track is ghost associated to the jet, then the jet is removed if the jet has less than three associated tracks with  $> 500$  MeV ( $\text{NumTrkPt} < 3$ ) or both of the following conditions are met: the ratio of the muon and jet is larger than  $0.5$  ( $\mu/\text{jet} > 0.5$ ) and the ratio of the muon to the sum of tracks with  $> 500$  MeV associated to the jet is larger than  $0.7$  ( $\text{muon}/\text{SumPtTrkPt} > 0.7$ ).

For any surviving jets, if  $(jet, \mu) < \min(0.4, 0.04 + 10 \text{ GeV}/\mu)$ , the muon is removed.

- tau-jet: If  $(\tau, jet) < 0.2$ , the jet is removed.
- electron-fat jet: If  $(e, \text{fat jet}) < 1.2$ , the fat jet is removed.

Jets are corrected using a muon-in-jet correction and then a kinematic fitter (Appendix D of<sup>108</sup>) for the 2-lepton case (PtReco correction for the 0- and 1- lepton case). The muon-in-jet correction is designed for  $b$ -jets. Since the decay of a  $b$ -quark to a  $c$ -quark and finally to a light quark (these are the multiple vertices for which JetFitter searches) involves two weak decays, there are two  $W$ -bosons

involved in the decay. Some of these will decay semileptonically, and, while electron and  $\tau$  energy will be captured by the calorimeters, semileptonic  $\mu$ 's will only be registered in the MS, which occurs in some 44% of all decays from a theoretical standpoint, which amounts to about 12% in practice (due to track isolation requirements for the leptons). This value is about 1–2% for electrons, which deposit their energy in the calorimeter and so require no correction; any jet with a valid lepton associated to it is deemed semileptonic (all others are called hadronic). Any jet with muons associated with it has the closest muon's 4-vector (in the plane) added to it.

The PtReco correction is a scale factor on the muon-in-jet corrected jet's 4-vector based on the jet's  $p_T$  and whether the jet is hadronic or semileptonic. This correction factor is based on particle level studies done on a TruthWZ sample. As the 0- and 1-lepton cases are not the focus of this thesis, the interested reader is directed to Section 7.3 of<sup>81</sup>.

The kinematic fitter used in 2-lepton events with two or three jets takes as its input 12 fit parameters,

- energies of 2 electron or of 2 muons
- energies of 2  $b$ -jets
- $\eta, \phi$  of 2 leptons and 2 jets
- $p_X$  and  $p_Y$  of  $\ell\ell b\bar{b}$  system.
- $m_{\ell\ell}$

and 3 constraints for the variation of these parameters,

- parameters : Gaussian (b-jet energy : Transfer Functions (TF); these are denoted  $L$ , with an  $L_{truth}$  as a prior) (the  $\phi$  parameters)

- $p_X$  and  $p_Y$  of  $\ell\ell b\bar{b}$  system : zero with a width of 9 GeV obtained from  $ZH$  signal MC.
- $m_{ll}$  : Breit-Wigner (BW) distribution of  $Z$  boson (final term, leptons denoted  $\Omega$ )

which leads to test statistic from the usual likelihood formalism to be minimized in each event:

$$\begin{aligned}
 -2 \ln \mathcal{L} = & \sum_{i=j} \left( \frac{(\phi_i^n - \phi_i^o)^2}{\sigma_\phi^2} \right) + \left( \frac{(\Omega_l^n - \Omega_l^o)^2}{\sigma_\Omega^2} \right) - 2 \ln(L^j) - 2 \ln(L_{truth}^j) \\
 & + \sum_{i=x,y} \frac{(\sum p_i^n - \sum p_i^o)^2}{\sigma_{\sum p_i}^2} + 2 \ln((m_{\ell\ell} - M_X^2)^2 + M_X^2 \Gamma^2) \quad (5.4)
 \end{aligned}$$

### 5.5.3 JET SYSTEMATICS

As with the electron systematics, jet energy scale (JES) and resolution (JER) are the two principal considerations for systematic uncertainties, with even more standard. JER, as with the electron energy resolution, is a single systematic uncertainty, `JET_JER_SINGLE_NP`. There is also a single JVT efficiency `JET_JvtEfficiency` systematic uncertainty. There are 88 nominal JES systematics, and this analysis is sufficiently sensitive to these variations that a single systematic is grossly insufficient. Nevertheless, some simplification is possible, with the 75 of these nuisance parameters (mostly statistical uncertainties related to the  $Z$ +jet and  $\gamma$ +jet calibrations) being reduced to 8, and 13 explicitly named nuisance parameter. These remaining 13 are related to the  $\eta$  intercalibration used to extrapolate standard calibrations to other jet  $\eta$  regions, uncertainties related to the flavor composition of principle background samples ( $W/Z$ +jets, top, and diboson), a single systematic for the  $b$ -jet energy

scale, a high  $p_T$  jet energy scale systematic, and one for jets that punch through the HCAL to leave energy deposits in the MS. These are listed explicitly in Table 5.7.

#### 5.5.4 FLAVOR TAGGING

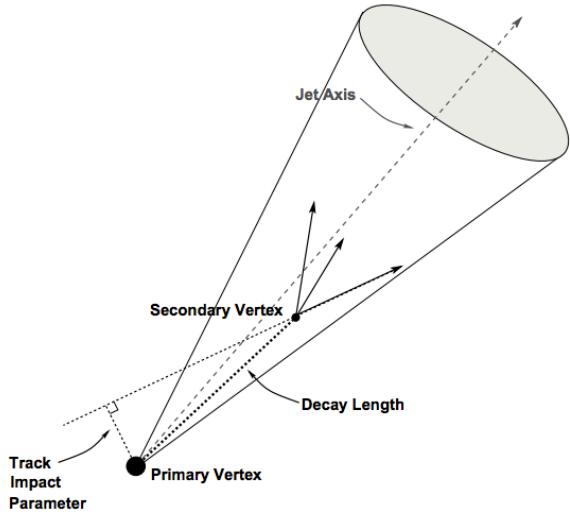
Given that the final state in this analysis involves pairs of jets originating from  $b$ -quarks, deploying effective flavor tagging algorithms is imperative. While flavor tagging in general can be used to isolate any flavor ( $b$ ,  $c$ , or light ( $u$ ,  $d$ ,  $s$ , or gluon-initiated jets)), this analysis exclusively looks for  $b$ -jets, so this discussion will focus on  $b$ 's. At truth-level in simulation this is fairly straightforward: one need only look at the particles contained within a jet and seeing if any include a  $b$ -quark (sometimes a  $B$  hadron) in the decay chain.

#### DIRECT TAGGING

One of the most distinctive features of  $b$ -jets is the presence of secondary vertices, as illustrated in Figure 5.5. While most partons created in particle collisions will hadronize promptly,  $b$ -quarks will first hadronize into  $B$ -hadrons, which have lifetimes of about a picosecond. This small but finite lifetime means that these particles will travel about half a millimeter or so before decaying into a jet in much the usual way, and the tracks from this decay will point back to this displaced, secondary vertex.

There are various secondary vertex algorithms used as inputs to the nominal  $b$ -tagging algorithm<sup>65</sup>, with three main types of algorithms used as inputs

1. Track impact parameter based algorithms: I<sub>2</sub>PD (signed transverse only; more pileup robust), I<sub>3</sub>PD (signed transverse and longitudinal)



**Figure 5.5:** An illustration of a secondary vertex in a  $b$ -jet. Image credit: <sup>99</sup>

2. Inclusive secondary vertex reconstruction: SV1 (start with two track vertex pairs and construct a secondary vertex)
3. Multiple vertex reconstruction (decay chain): JetFitter ( $PV \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$  decay chain using Kalman filter)

All of these are combined into a boosted decision tree (BDT) and trained on five million  $t\bar{t}$  events with an 90%/10%  $c$ /light jet background to form the MV<sub>2c10</sub> algorithm, with 10 referring to the percentage of charm samples in the training background. The 10% charm ratio was found to be a good balance between increased charm rejection capability (as opposed to MV<sub>2c00</sub>, which has no charm in the background training) and loss in light jet rejection (compared to MV<sub>2c20</sub>, which has

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**ANALYSIS SPECIFIC CONCERNS AND SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES** In addition to specifying the tagging algorithm, the working point efficiency must be specified. As with selection algorithms

in general, there is a trade off between efficiency (identifying all the  $b$ -jets, minimizing type II error) and purity (making sure all jets positively identified are in fact  $b$ -jets, minimizing type I error). Nominal efficiency working points have been calibrated by the flavor tagging CP group and are outlined in Table 5.6.

name	MV2c10 weight cut	$b$ -tagging efficiency [%]	$c$ RR	light RR
FixedCutBEff_60	0.9349	60.03	34.54	1538.78
FixedCutBEff_70	0.8244	69.97	12.17	381.32
FixedCutBEff_77	0.6459	76.97	6.21	134.34
FixedCutBEff_85	0.1758	84.95	3.10	33.53

**Table 5.6:**  $b$ -tagging working points available for MV2c10 for AntiKt4EMTopoJets. RR is the rejection rate (the inverse of efficiency).

These values are aggregate figures, as both the jet’s  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  are inputs to the MV2c10 discriminant. The working point chosen for this analysis is the 70% FixedCutBEff\_70 working point, with “fixed cut” referring to the fact that this particular usage of the MV2c10 BDT value is a simple cut value.

Just as with the trigger and lepton identification efficiencies, efficiencies differ from their nominal values somewhat depending on what simulation or data sample is being used. To account for this difference, just as in the other cases, scale factors are applied to simulation event weights. It is through these event weights, as with the modeling systematics, that the flavor tagging systematic uncertainties are applied. Given that there are 24 input variables to MV2c10 and that flavor tagging is in general a very difficult problem, it is not surprising that, as with the JES, there are very many systematic uncertainties associated with flavor tagging. However, as with JES, the CP group has compacted the full systematic set into a reduced set of 13 systematic uncertainties: 3 each associated with

$c$  and light jets,  $\varsigma$  for  $b$ -jets (with the naming convention `FT_EFF_Eigen_(B|C|Light)N`), one for the extrapolation of scale factors to different jet  $p_T$  regimes (`FT_EFF_Eigen_extrapolation`), and one for the charm to bottom extrapolation (`FT_EFF_Eigen_extrapolation_from_charm`)<sup>18</sup>.

This schematic is a middle-of-the-road “Medium” set of systematics.

## TRUTH TAGGING

Since imposing a 2  $b$ -tag requirement overwhelmingly rejects events dominated by  $c$ - and light jets, statistics in such MC samples are very low. In order to circumvent this problem and restore full MC statistics, the tag rate function, or “truth-tagging” procedure (in contrast to the standard or “direct tagging” procedure) is applied, in which all events are kept but given a weight that preserves the overall shape and normalization of underlying distributions. Intuitively, this is done by giving events with real  $b$ -jets in MC a much higher weight than events having only  $c$ - or light jets. Truth-tagging is applied to all samples when conducting MVA training in order to maximize statistics and reduce the risk of overtraining. Truth-tagging is also used for data-MC comparison plots in 2-tag regions and for  $V + cc$ ,  $V + c\ell$ ,  $V + \ell$ , and  $WW$  samples used in the final likelihood fit. A detailed description of the truth-tagging process is provided below.

Each jet in a given event has associated with it a  $b$ -tagging efficiency, denoted  $\varepsilon$ , that is a function of its  $p_T$ ,  $\eta$ , and real flavor ( $b$ ,  $c$ , or light) from truth-level information in MC. Intuitively, this efficiency can be thought of as the likelihood that a given jet will be  $b$ -tagged. Hence,  $b$ -jets have a much higher  $b$ -tagging efficiency than  $c$ -jets, which in turn have a higher  $b$ -tagging efficiency than light jets. We define a truth-tag weight for a given combination of tagged and untagged jets as the product of

the efficiencies of the tagged jets times the product of the complements of the efficiencies of the untagged jets. For example, for an event with three jets, labeled 1, 2, and 3, if jets 1 and 2 are tagged, and jet 3 is untagged, the truth-tag weight associated with this combination is

$$\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 (1 - \varepsilon_3) \quad (5.5)$$

In order to obtain a truth-tag weight for an event, one takes the sum of the weights for each possible tag combination. The current analysis requires that all events have exactly two  $b$ -tagged jets, so the truth-tag weight is the sum of all the weights of all possible pairs of tagged jets (events with fewer than two jets are discarded). Going back to the three jet example, one has the possible combinations: jets 1+2 as tagged and jet 3 as untagged; jets 1+3 as tagged and jet 2 as untagged; and finally jets 2+3 as tagged and jet 1 as untagged, which yields a total event weight of

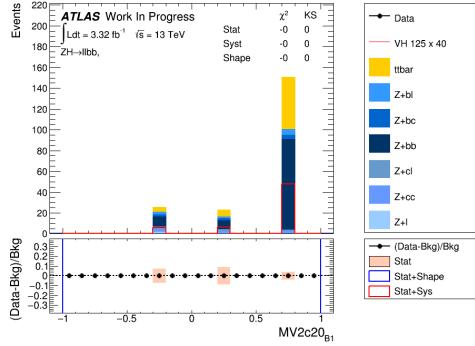
$$w_{tot} = \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 (1 - \varepsilon_3) + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_3 (1 - \varepsilon_2) + \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_3 (1 - \varepsilon_1) \quad (5.6)$$

For some applications (e.g. in order to use variables like  $pTB_1$ , the  $p_T$  of the harder  $b$ -tagged jet in an event, in MVA training), it is necessary to choose a combination of jets in an event as “tagged.” This combination is chosen randomly, with the probability for a given combination to be chosen being proportional to its truth-tag weight. In the three jet example, the probability of tagging jets 1+2 is:

$$\frac{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 (1 - \varepsilon_3)}{w_{tot}} = \frac{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 (1 - \varepsilon_3)}{\varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_2 (1 - \varepsilon_3) + \varepsilon_1 \varepsilon_3 (1 - \varepsilon_2) + \varepsilon_2 \varepsilon_3 (1 - \varepsilon_1)} \quad (5.7)$$

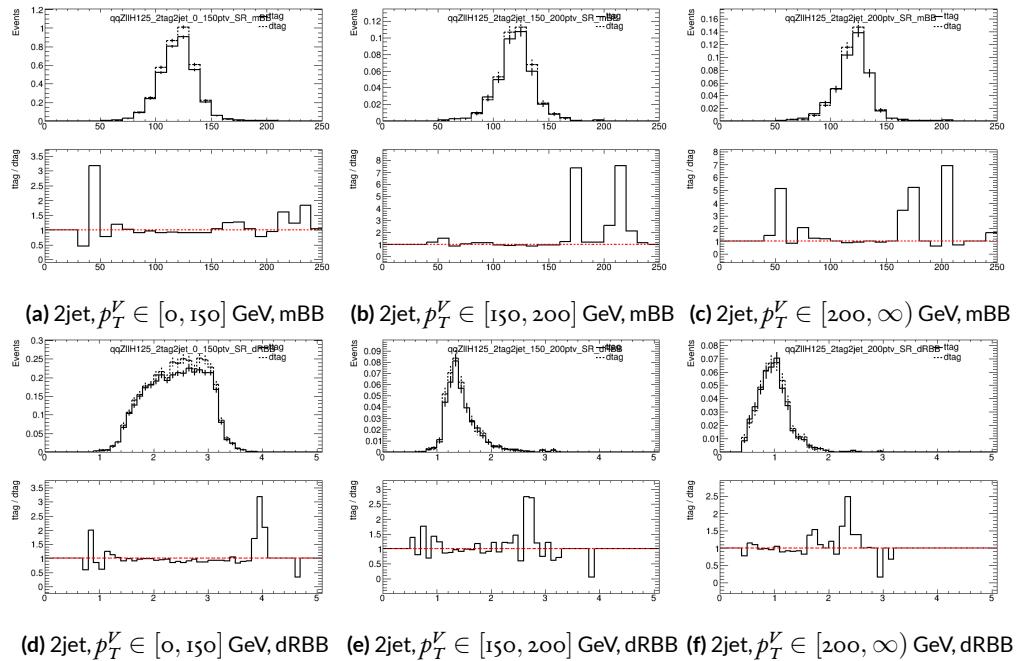
Though not used in the current analysis, functionality exists for generic truth-tagging requirements (i.e. an arbitrary number of tags on an arbitrary number of jets) through the logical combinatoric extension and for so-called “pseudo-continuous tagging,” where a  $b$ -tag score is generated for each jet in a given event. Since a random combination of jets is set by hand to pass the  $b$ -tagging cuts regardless of its  $b$ -tag score, a new score must be generated if this information is to be used in further analysis. Under current settings, jets that are tagged are assigned a random  $b$ -tag score that is sampled from the MV<sub>2c10</sub> cumulative distribution above the 70% efficiency working point cut. All other jets in the event are assigned a random  $b$ -tag score below the 70% working point cut. Since these distributions are discrete, the scores are not truly continuous (cf. example distributions in Figure ??), hence the “pseudo-continuous” nomenclature.

**Figure 5.6:** An example of a pseudo-continuous  $b$ -tagging distribution

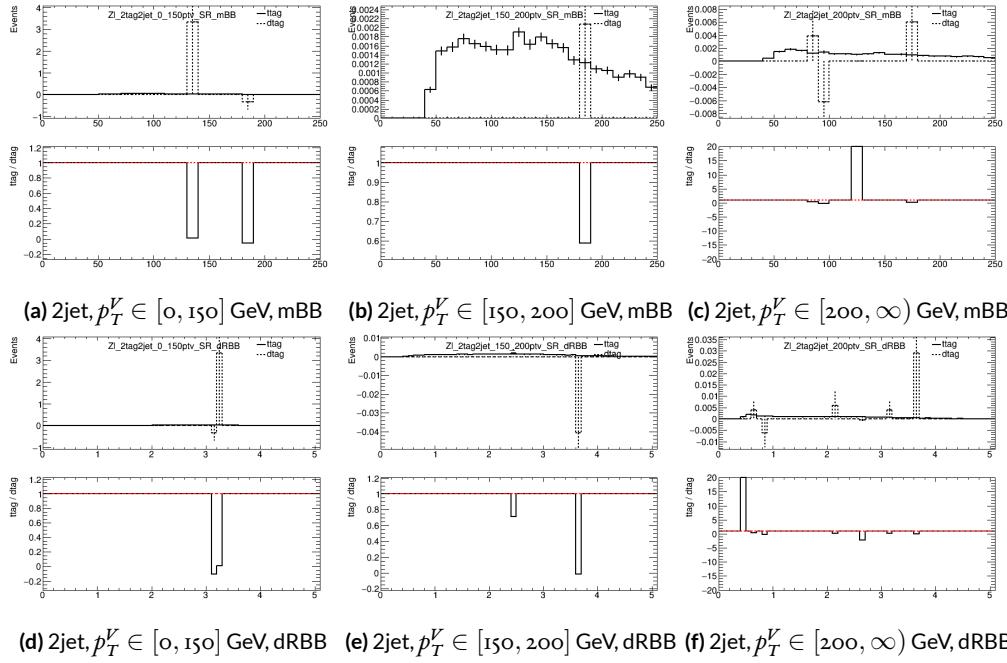


A number of closure tests were performed on both the nominal and several systematics cases. In the plots that follow, truth (solid) and direct (dashed) tagging distributions for  $m_{bb}$  and  $\Delta R(b_1, b_2)$  in different  $p_T^V$  regimes for 2 lepton, 2 jet events. Agreement between the truth and direct tagging cases is generally very good, an example of which can be seen in Figure ?? for a signal qqZllH125 sam-

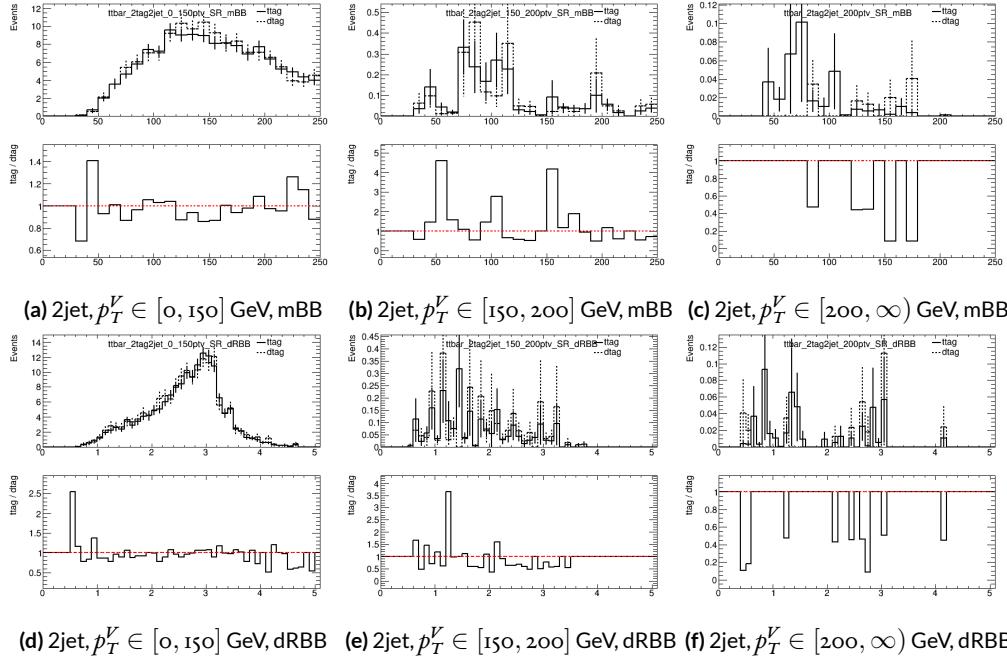
ple, and the overall benefit of truth-tagging can be somewhat dramatically seen in the corresponding plots  $Z + \ell$  samples in Figure ???. At high  $p_T^V$  ( $p_T^V > 200$  GeV), however, in events with two real  $b$ -jets, there is a much greater likelihood that the  $b$ -jets will merge into a single jet, which render the naïve assumption that jets remain discrete invalid. While this does not appear to be a problem in most samples (cf.  $\bar{t}t$  in Figure ??), there is a mismodelling effect at low  $m_{bb}$  and low  $\Delta R(b_1, b_2)$  at  $p_T^V > 200$  GeV for  $W/Z + bb$  samples where truth-tagging overestimates the number of events in this merged regime, as can be seen in Figure ??



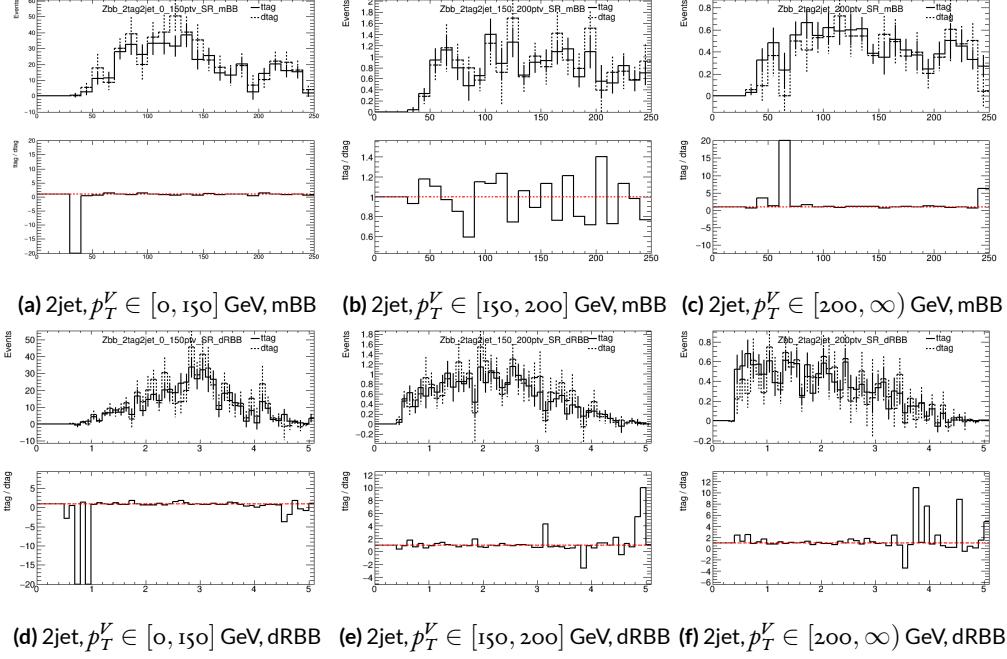
**Figure 5.7:** Truth-tagging closure tests for 2 lepton, 2 jet qqZIIH125 samples in three different  $p_T^V$  regions.



**Figure 5.8:** Truth-tagging closure tests for 2 lepton, 2 jet  $Z + \ell$  samples in three different  $p_T^V$  regions.



**Figure 5.9:** Truth-tagging closure tests for 2 lepton, 2 jet  $t\bar{t}$  samples in three different  $p_T^V$  regions.



**Figure 5.10:** Truth-tagging closure tests for 2 lepton, 2 jet  $Z + bb$  samples in three different  $p_T^V$  regions.

## 5.6 MISCELLANIA AND SYSTEMATICS SUMMARY

A summary of all experimental systematics, taken from<sup>108</sup>, may be found below. In addition to the systematics discussed above, there are also two further systematics, on the total integrated luminosity and on the event reweighting factor used to account for pileup, both included in Table 5.7

## 5.7 EVENT SELECTION AND ANALYSIS REGIONS

With object and event reconstruction described, it is now time to address which events are actually selected for use in analysis. This analysis focuses specifically on the 2-lepton channel of the fiducial analysis, with the event selection and analysis region definitions being identical. Common to all lepton channels in the fiducial analysis is the set of requirements on the jets in a given event. There must be at least two central jets and exactly two signal jets that have been “*b*-tagged” according to the MV2c10 algorithm<sup>3</sup>, with at least one of these *b*-jets having  $p_T > 45$  GeV. For MVA training and certain background samples, a process known as “truth-tagging” is applied instead of the standard *b*-tagging to boost sample statistics and stabilize training/fits (cf.<sup>108</sup> Section 4.2 for details). After event selection, the *muon-in-jet* and *PtReco* corrections, described in<sup>81</sup> 6.3.3-4, are applied to the *b*-jets.

In addition to the common selections, there are 2-lepton specific selections. All events are required to pass an un-prescaled single lepton trigger, a full list of which may be found in Tables 5 and 6 of<sup>81</sup> with the requirement that one of the two selected leptons in the event must have fired the trigger. There must be 2 VH-loose leptons, and at least one of these must be a ZH-signal lepton (cf. Tables 5.3 and 5.4 for definitions). This lepton pair must have an invariant mass between 81 and 101

Systematic uncertainty	Short description	Reference
Event		
Luminosity	uncertainty on total integrated luminosity	Section 11.1 in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
Pileup Reweighting	uncertainty on pileup reweighting	Section 11.1 in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
Electrons		
EL_EFF_Trigger_Total_iNPCOR_PLUS_UNCOR	trigger efficiency uncertainty	Section 11.2.2. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
EL_EFF_Reco_Total_iNPCOR_PLUS_UNCOR	reconstruction efficiency uncertainty	Section 11.3.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
EL_EFF_ID_Total_iNPCOR_PLUS_UNCOR	ID efficiency uncertainty	Section 11.3.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
EL_EFF_Iso_Total_iNPCOR_PLUS_UNCOR	isolation efficiency uncertainty	Section 11.3.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
EG_SCALE_ALL	energy scale uncertainty	Section 11.3.2. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
EG_RESOLUTION_ALL	energy resolution uncertainty	Section 11.3.2. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
Muons		
MUON_EFF_TrigStatUncertainty	trigger efficiency uncertainty	Section 11.2.2. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MUON_EFF_TrigSystUncertainty	reconstruction and ID efficiency uncertainty for muons with $> 15$ GeV	Section 11.4.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MUON_EFF_STAT	reconstruction and ID efficiency uncertainty for muons with $< 15$ GeV	Section 11.4.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MUON_EFF_SYS	isolation efficiency uncertainty	Section 11.4.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MUON_EFF_STAT_LOWPT	track-to-vertex association efficiency uncertainty	Section 11.4.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MUON_EFF_SYST_LOWPT	momentum resolution uncertainty from inner detector	Section 11.4.2. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MUON_ISO_STAT	momentum resolution uncertainty from muon system	Section 11.4.2. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MUON_ISO_SYS	momentum scale uncertainty	Section 11.4.2. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MUON_TTVA_STAT	charge dependent momentum scale uncertainty	Section 11.4.2 in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MUON_TTVA_SYS		
MUON_ID		
MUON_MS		
MUON_SCALE		
MUON_SAGITTA_RHO		
MUON_SAGITTA_RESBIAS		
Jets		
JET_2iNP_JET_EffectiveNP_1	energy scale uncertainty from the in situ analyses splits into 8 components	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_EffectiveNP_2	energy scale uncertainty from the in situ analyses splits into 8 components	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_EffectiveNP_3	energy scale uncertainty from the in situ analyses splits into 8 components	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_EffectiveNP_4	energy scale uncertainty from the in situ analyses splits into 8 components	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_EffectiveNP_5	energy scale uncertainty from the in situ analyses splits into 8 components	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_EffectiveNP_6	energy scale uncertainty from the in situ analyses splits into 8 components	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_EffectiveNP_7	energy scale uncertainty from the in situ analyses splits into 8 components	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_EffectiveNP_8restTerm	energy scale uncertainty from the in situ analyses splits into 8 components	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_EtaIntercalibration_Modeling	energy scale uncertainty on eta-intercalibration (modeling)	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_EtaIntercalibration_TotalStat	energy scale uncertainty on eta-intercalibrations (statistics/method)	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_EtaIntercalibration_NonClosure	energy scale uncertainty on eta-intercalibrations (non-closure)	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_Pileup_OffsetMu	energy scale uncertainty on pile-up (mu dependent)	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_Pileup_OffsetNPV	energy scale uncertainty on pile-up (NPV dependent)	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_Pileup_PtTerm	energy scale uncertainty on pile-up (pt term)	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_Pileup_RhoTopology	energy scale uncertainty on pile-up (density $\rho$ )	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_Flavor_Composition_Zjets	energy scale uncertainty on Z+jets sample's flavour composition	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_Flavor_Composition_Wjets	energy scale uncertainty on W+jets sample's flavour composition	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_Flavor_Composition_top	energy scale uncertainty on top sample's flavour composition	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_Flavor_Composition	energy scale uncertainty on $VV$ and $VH$ sample's flavour composition	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_Flavor_Response	energy scale uncertainty on samples' flavour response	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_BJES_Response	energy scale uncertainty on b-jets	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_PunchThrough_MC15	energy scale uncertainty for punch-through jets	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_2iNP_JET_SingleParticle_HighPt	energy scale uncertainty from the behaviour of high-pT jets	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_JER_SINGLE_NP	energy resolution uncertainty	Section 11.5.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
JET_JvtEfficiency	JVT efficiency uncertainty	Section 11.5.1 in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
FT_EFF_Eigen_B	b-tagging efficiency uncertainties ("BTAG_MEDIUM"): 3 components for b jets, 3 for c jets and 5 for light jets	Section 11.7. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
FT_EFF_Eigen_C		
FT_EFF_Eigen_L		
FT_EFF_Eigen_extrapolation	b-tagging efficiency uncertainty on the extrapolation to high-jets	Section 11.7. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
FT_EFF_Eigen_extrapolation_from_charm	b-tagging efficiency uncertainty on tau jets	Section 11.7. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MET		
METTrigStat	trigger efficiency uncertainty	Section 11.2.1. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
METTrigTop/Z	track-based soft term related longitudinal resolution uncertainty	Section 11.6. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MET_SoftTrk_ResoPara	track-based soft term related transverse resolution uncertainty	Section 11.6. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MET_SoftTrk_ResoPerp	track-based soft term related longitudinal scale uncertainty	Section 11.6. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>
MET_SoftTrk_Scale	track MET scale uncertainty due to tracks in jets	Section 11.6. in Ref. <sup>81</sup>

**Table 5.7:** Summary of the experimental systematic uncertainties considered. Details on the individual systematic uncertainties can be found in the given Sections of Ref. <sup>81</sup>.

GeV. In addition to the jet corrections described above, a kinematic fitter is applied to the leptons and two leading corrected jets in an event with three or fewer jets<sup>\*</sup> to take advantage of the fact that the 2-lepton final state is closed (cf.<sup>79</sup>); these objects are only used for MVA training/fit inputs.

In order to increase analysis sensitivity, the analysis is split into orthogonal regions based on the number of jets and the transverse momentum of the  $Z$  candidate (the vectoral sum of the lepton pair; this  $p_T$  is denoted  $p_T^V$ ): 2 and  $\geq 3$  jets;  $p_T^V$  in  $[75, 150], [150, \infty)$  GeV. In addition to the signal regions where the leptons are required to be the same flavor ( $e$  or  $\mu$ ), there are top  $e - \mu$  control regions used to constrain the top backgrounds.

All of these requirements are summarized in ??.

Category	Requirement
Trigger	un-prescaled, single lepton
Jets	$\geq 2$ central jets; 2 $b$ -tagged signal jets, harder jet with $p_T > 45$ GeV
Leptons	2 VH-loose leptons ( $\geq 1$ ZH-signal lepton); same (opp) flavor for SR (CR)
$m_{\ell\ell}$	$m_{\ell\ell} \in (81, 101)$ GeV
$p_T^V$ regions (GeV)	$[75, 150], [150, \infty)$

**Table 5.8:** Event selection requirements

It should be noted that the use of  $\geq 3$  jet events is a 2-lepton specific selection. These regions are exclusive 3 jet regions in the 0- and 1-lepton channels, but the fiducial 2-lepton analysis was found to see a  $\sim 4\%$  gain in sensitivity in studies by including  $\geq 4$  jet events<sup>108</sup>.

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\*The gain from using the kinematic fitter is found to be smeared out in events with higher jet multiplicities.

*If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.*

Conventional Wisdom

# 6

## Multivariate Analysis Configuration

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID

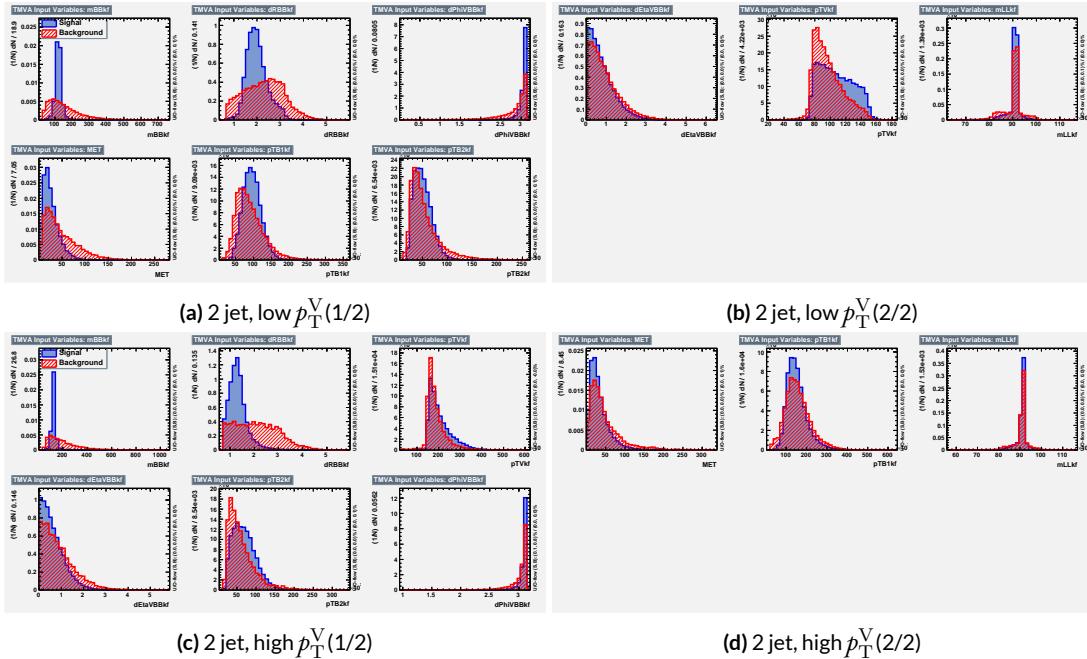
### 6.1 TRAINING SAMPLES AND VARIABLE SELECTION

A subset of samples described in Section 3 was used for multivariate analysis (MVA) training, with  $qqZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  and  $ggZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  used as signal samples and  $Z + \text{jets}$ ,  $t\bar{t}$ , and  $VV$  used as background

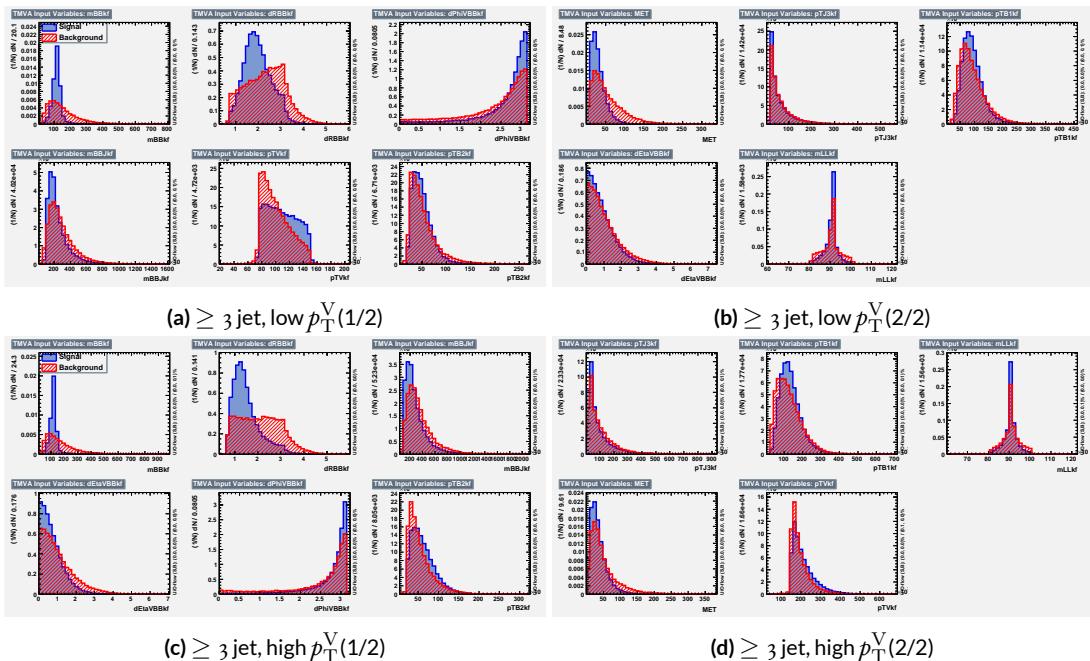
samples. Truth-tagging is used on all samples in MVA training to improve training statistics and stability. All figures quoted in this section scale distributions to a luminosity of  $36.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ .

### 6.1.1 STANDARD VARIABLES

The standard set of variables taken as a baseline is the same as used in the fiducial analysis. The variables fall into several main categories: energy/momentum scales of composite objects ( $m_{bb}$ ,  $m_{bbj}$ ,  $p_T^V$ ,  $m_{\ell\ell}$ ), angles ( $\Delta R(b_1, b_2)$ ,  $\Delta\phi(V, H)$ ,  $\Delta\eta(V, H)$ ), transverse momenta of the jets in the event ( $p_T^{b_1}$ ,  $p_T^{b_2}$ ,  $p_T^{j_3}$ ), and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . Input distributions for these variables in all the 2 ( $\geq 3$  jet) analysis signal regions may be found in Figure 6.1 (6.2). The “kf” at the end of variable names denotes that these are derived using 4-vectors that are the result of the kinematic fitter. The distributions in the figure



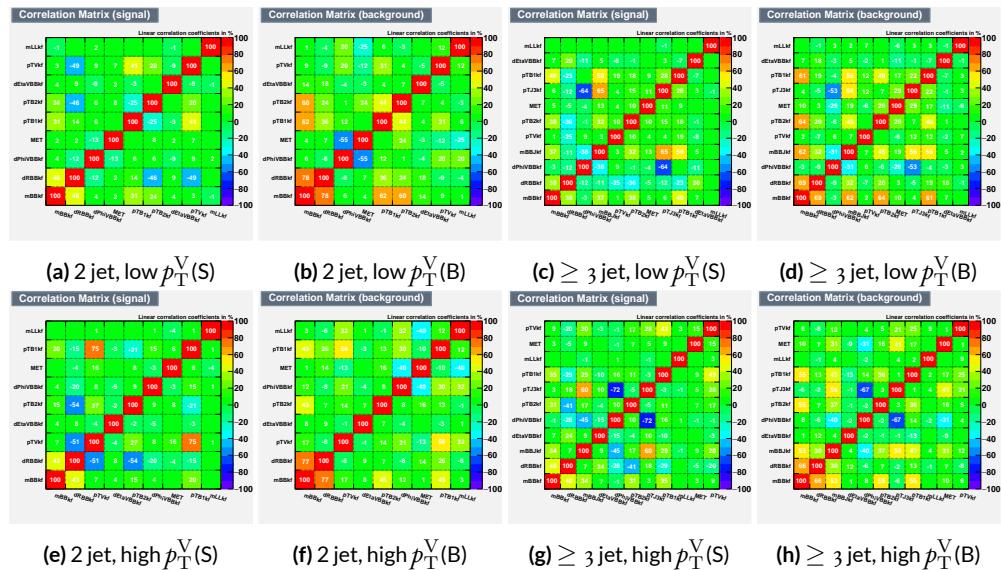
**Figure 6.1:** Input variables in 2 jet signal regions for the standard variable set. Signal distributions are in red, and background distributions are in blue.



**Figure 6.2:** Input variables in  $\geq 3$  jet signal regions for the standard variable set. Signal distributions are in red, and background distributions are in blue.

are those used as inputs for one of the two k-folded final discriminants, and the order of the distributions is the hyperparameter optimized order for feeding into the BDT; what precisely this means will be discussed in following sections. While variables in the analysis regions are generally similar, there are some notable exceptions.  $p_T^V$  and the correlated  $\Delta R(b_1, b_2)$  have different shapes, by construction for the former and by correlation for the latter, at low and high  $p_T^V$ . \* The  $\geq 3$  jet regions also have variables that are not applicable to the 2 jet regions; the inclusion of  $m_{BBJ}$  (the invariant mass of the two  $b$ -jets and leading untagged jet) in particular is of note and suggests an avenue for refinements of the non-standard variables.

Looking at the correlation matrices for the standard variables in Figure 6.3, it is easy to see that there are large number of non-trivial correlations

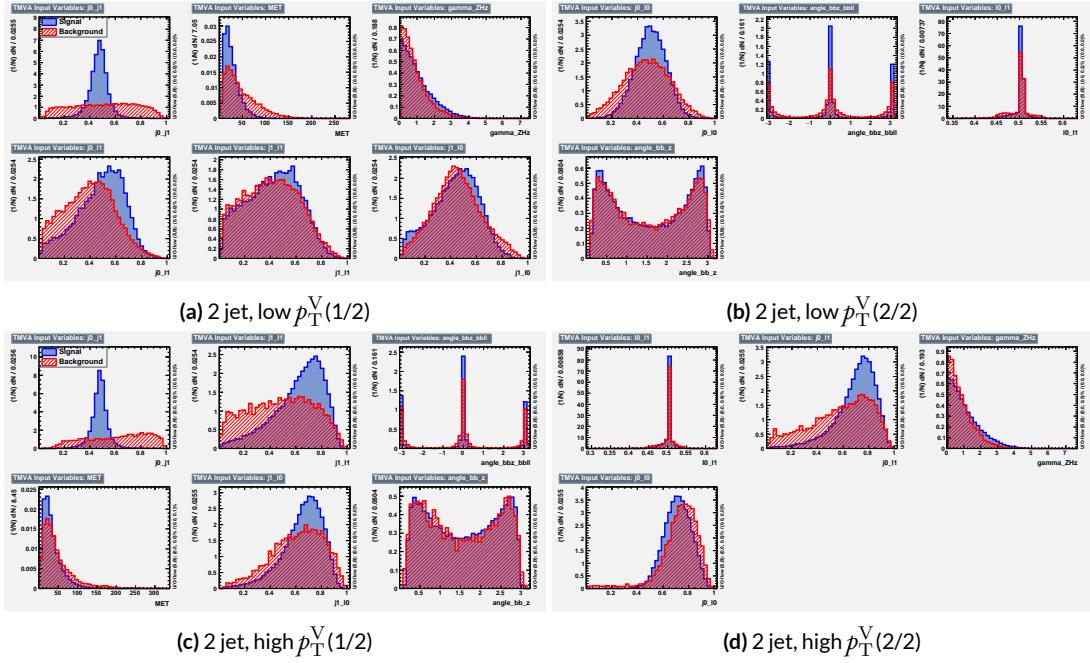


**Figure 6.3:** Signal and background variable correlations for the standard variable set.

\*Recall that higher  $p_T^V$  means, in a balanced final state like  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$ , the  $b$ -jet pair will have higher  $p_T$  and hence be more collimated (lower  $\Delta R(b_1, b_2)$ ); this is not necessarily the case for background events, as the distributions show.

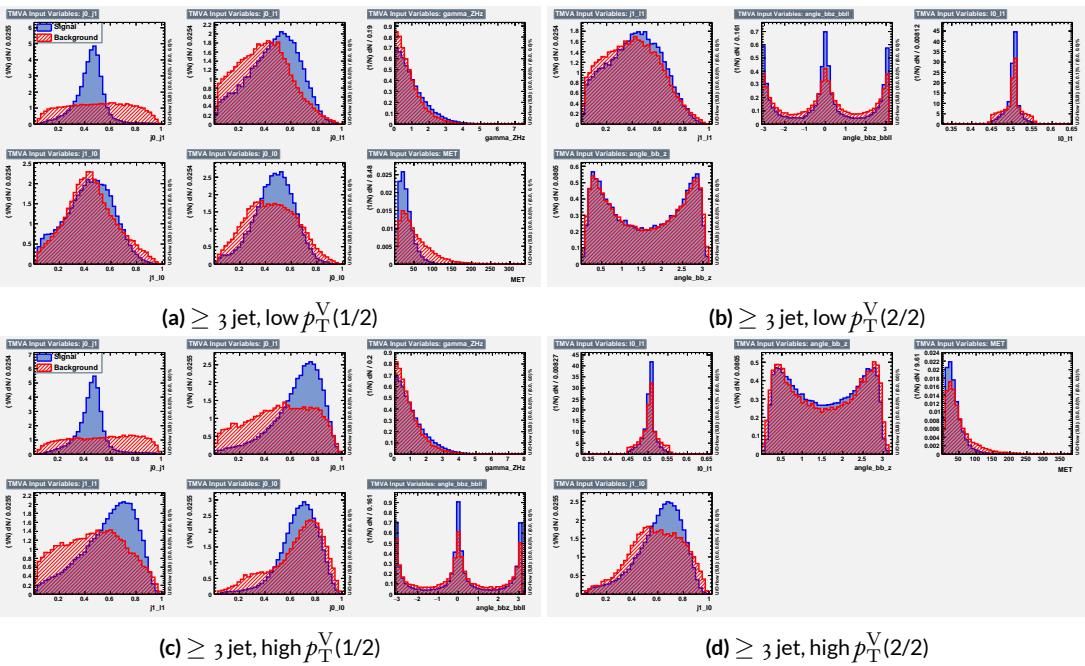
### 6.1.2 LORENTZ INVARIANTS

In choosing the set of variables used for a set of Lorentz Invariants based discriminants, we decided to use S. Hagebeck's set from<sup>98</sup> and related studies. Distributions of these variables in the same arrangement as with the standard variables may be seen in Figures 6.4 and 6.5. One thing to note



**Figure 6.4:** Input variables in 2 jet signal regions for the LI variable set. Signal distributions are in red, and background distributions are in blue.

about the variable set chosen here is that  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  has been added to the standard LI set. Since the LI construction assumes that this quantity is zero, there is no obvious way to include it. Nevertheless, as the correlation matrices for the LI variables show in Figure 6.6, there is actually very little correlation between  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the other variables (with this being slightly less the case for the background correlations, as to be expected since  $t\bar{t}$ , a principal background, is  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$ -rich). Hence, if including



**Figure 6.5:** Input variables in  $\geq 3$  jet signal regions for the LI variable set. Signal distributions are in red, and background distributions are in blue.

$\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$  violates the spirit somewhat of the LI variables, it does not break terribly much with the aim

of having a more orthogonal set.

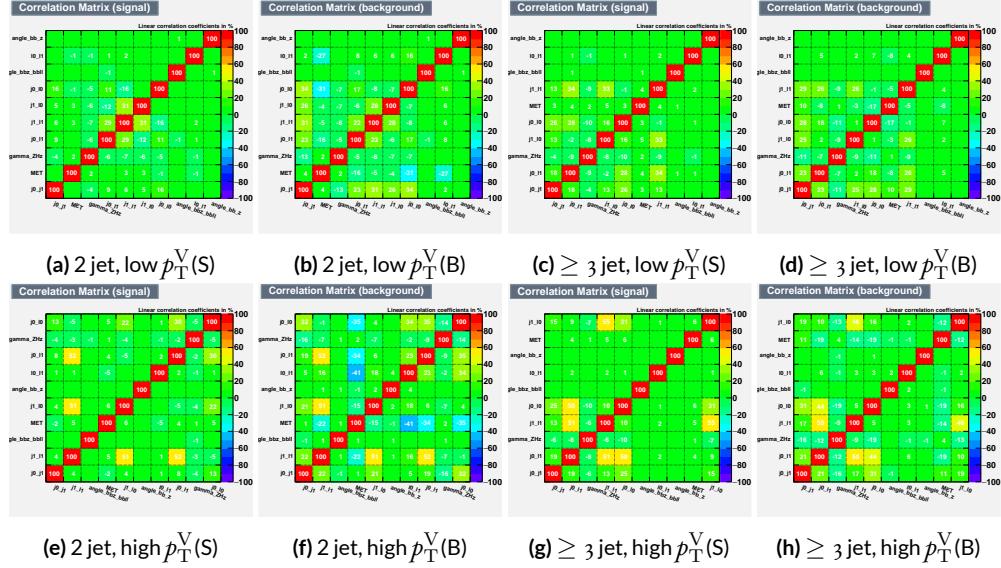


Figure 6.6: Signal and background variable correlations for the LI variable set.

### 6.1.3 RESTFRAMES VARIABLES

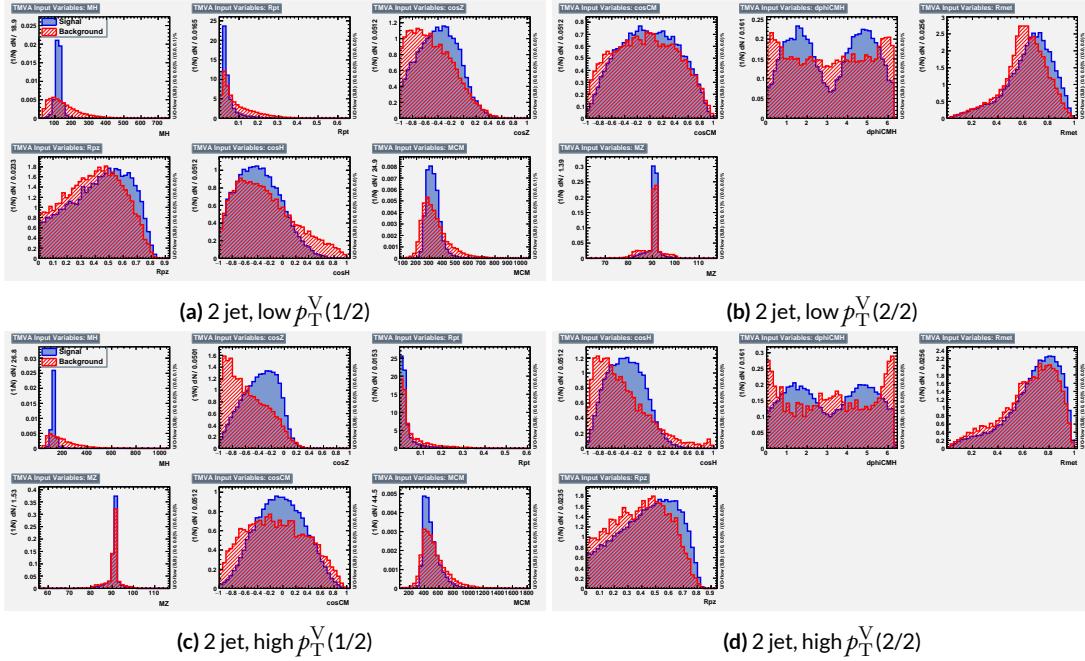
There is no precedent for using the RestFrames variables in the  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  analysis, so a subset of possible RF variables had to be selected as the basis of a discriminant. The masses and cosines of boost angles from parent frames for the CM,  $Z$ , and  $H$  frames gives six variables, and it was decided that it would be good to match the LI in terms of variable number and treatment (i.e. no special treatment of the third jet), which leaves four more variables. In addition to the cosines, there are also the  $\Delta\phi$  angles. Furthermore, there are the event-by-event scaled momentum ratios, both longitudinal and transverse. There is also both a  $\Delta\phi$  and an event ratio for the  $\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}$ . All of these variables were included in a ranking using slightly different training settings as the main hyperparameter optimization variable rankign described below. The goal of this study was not to develop a discriminant, as the number of variables is too high, but rather to see which ones are generally useful.

Table 6.1 shows the results of this study. Percent gains (losses) at each step by adding the variable with biggest gain (smallest loss) are shown in green (red). The final row shows an aggregate ranking, calculated simply by adding up a variables ranks in all bins and ordering the variables smallest to greatest. This simple aggregation does not take into account which regions are potentially more sensitive and so where taken simply to give an idea of how variables generally performed. With this in mind, the RF variables were chosen to be the masses  $M_{CM}$ ,  $M_H$ , and  $M_Z$ , the angles  $\cos_{CM}$ ,  $\cos_H$ ,  $\cos_Z$ ,  $d\phi_{CMH}$ , and the ratios  $R_{pt}$ ,  $R_{pz}$ , and  $R_{met}$ . Their distributions may be seen in Figures ?? and ??.

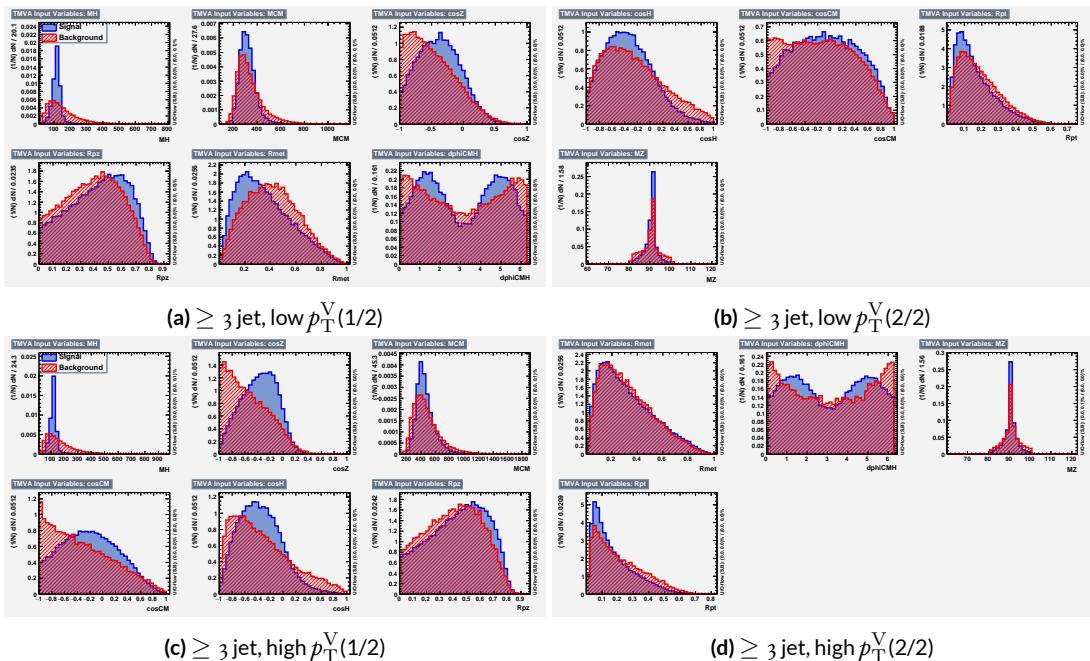
Correlations for the chosen RF variables are shown in Figure 6.9. These correlations are much lower than for the standard case but still slightly higher than for the LI case. Given the generally bet-

Region	Variable Chain
2jet pTVbin1	Rpt (65.8%), Rpz (29.0%), cosZ (11.4%), MZ (-1.75%), dphiCMH (7.26%), cosCM (3.95%), cosH (0.142%), MCM (2.18%), dphiCMZ (-2.3%), dphiCMMet (-0.236%), dphiLABCM (0.404%), Rmet (-4.04%)
3jet pTVbin1	Rpt (50.8%), Rpz (15.6%), MZ (14.8%), cosZ (5.08%), MCM (3.79%), dphiCMH (3.24%), cosH (0.755%), dphiCMMet (1.04%), Rmet (-1.03%), cosCM (5.31%), dphiCMZ (-1.27%), dphiLABCM (-2.88%), pTJ3 (-1.27%)
2jet pTVbin2	Rpt (52.0%), Rpz (13.8%), cosZ (16.9%), cosH (6.49%), MCM (1.71%), cosCM (6.21%), Rmet (4.25%), dphiCMMet (-1.53%), dphiLABCM (-0.757%), dphiCMH (0.213%), MZ (-0.788%), dphiCMZ (-2.39%)
3jet pTVbin2	Rpt (31.5%), Rpz (21.6%), cosH (8.97%), cosZ (1.42%), cosCM (11.3%), dphiCMZ (-2.84%), MCM (8.17%), dphiCMH (-0.841%), dphiLABCM (-0.00318%), dphiCMMet (-2.6%), pTJ3 (-3.21%), MZ (-1.8%), Rmet (-6.29%)
Aggregate	Rpt (o,o,o,o), Rpz (1,1,1,1), cosZ (2,3,2,3), cosH (6,6,3,2), MCM (7,4,4,6), MZ (3,2,10,11), dphiCMH (4,5,9,7), cosCM (5,9,5,4), dphiCMMet (9,7,7,9), dphiCMZ (8,10,11,5), Rmet (11,8,6,12), dphiLABCM (10,11,8,8)

**Table 6.1:** Full RF variable ranking study summary. Green (red) percentages represent gains (losses) in a validation significance at each step.

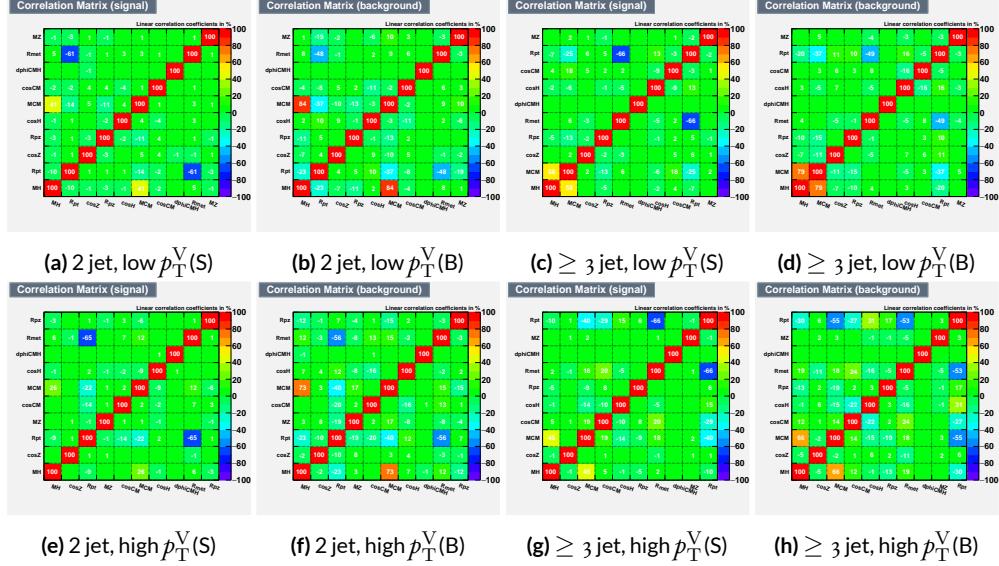


**Figure 6.7:** Input variables in 2 jet signal regions for the RF variable set. Signal distributions are in red, and background distributions are in blue.



**Figure 6.8:** Input variables in  $\geq 3$  jet signal regions for the RF variable set. Signal distributions are in red, and background distributions are in blue.

ter performance of the RF sets, as we shall see in following sections and chapters, this slight tradeoff is likely an aesthetic one, with the main benefits of a more orthogonal basis likely realized at this level of correlation.



**Figure 6.9:** Signal and background variable correlations for the RF variable set.

A summary of the variables used in the three cases is given in ??.

Variable Set	Variables
Standard	mBB, mLL, (mBBJ), pTV, pTB1, pTB2, (pTJ3), dRBB, dPhiVBB, dEtaVBB, MET 9 (11) vars
Lorentz Invariants	j0_j1, j0_l1, l0_l1, j1_l1, j0_l0, j1_l0, gamma_ZHz, angle_bbz_bbll angle_bb_z, MET 10 vars
RestFrames	MH, MCM, MZ, cosH, cosCM, cosZ, Rpz, Rpt, dPhiCMH, Rmet 10 vars

**Table 6.2:** Variables used in MVA training. Variables in parentheses are only used in the  $\geq 3$  jet regions.

## 6.2 MVA TRAINING

With variables chosen the MVA discriminants must be trained and optimized. MVA training and hyperparameter optimization (in this case, just the order in which variables are fed into the MVA) is conducted using the “holdout” method. In this scheme, events are divided into three equal portions (in this case using `EventNumber%3`), with the first third (the “training” set) being used for the initial training, the second third (the “validation” set) being used for hyperparameter optimizaiton, and the final third (the “testing” set) used to evaluate the performanace of the final discriminants in each analysis region.

The MVA discriminant used is a boosted descision tree (BDT). Training is done in TMVA using the training settings of the fiducial analysis<sup>108†</sup>. For the purposes of hyperparameterization and testing, transformation D with  $z_s = z_b = 10$  is applied to the BDT distributions, and the cumulative sum of the significance  $S/\sqrt{S + B}$  in each bin is calculated for each pair of distributions.

Transformation D is a histogram transformation, developed during the Run 1 VHbb search, designed to reduce the number of bins in final BDT distributions (to reduce the effect of statistical fluctuations in data) while also maintaining sensitivity. Such an arbitrary transformation may be expressed as:

$$Z(I[k, l]) = Z(z_s, n_s(I[k, l]), N_s, z_b, n_b(I[k, l]), N_b) \quad (6.1)$$

where

---

<sup>†</sup>Namely, `!H:!V:BoostType=AdaBoost:AdaBoostBeta=0.15:SeparationType=GiniIndex:-PruneMethod=NoPruning:NTrees=200:MaxDepth=4:nCuts=100:nEventsMin=5%`

- $I[k, l]$  is an interval of the histograms, containing the bins between bin  $k$  and bin  $l$ ;
- $N_s$  is the total number of signal events in the histogram;
- $N_b$  is the total number of background events in the histogram;
- $n_s(I[k, l])$  is the total number of signal events in the interval  $I[k, l]$ ;
- $n_b(I[k, l])$  is the total number of background events in the interval  $I[k, l]$ ;
- $z_s$  and  $z_b$  are parameters used to tune the algorithm.

Transformation D uses:

$$Z = z_s \frac{n_s}{N_s} + z_b \frac{n_b}{N_b} \quad (6.2)$$

Rebinning occurs as follow:

1. Begin with the highest valued bin in the original pair of distributions. Call this the “last” bin and use it as  $l$ , and have  $k$  be this bin as well.
2. Calculate  $Z(I[k, l])$
3. If  $Z \leq 1$ , set  $k \rightarrow k - 1$  and return to step 2. If not, rebin bins  $k-l$  into a single bin and name  $k-1$  the new “last” bin  $l$ .
4. Continue until all bins have been iterated through; if  $Z \leq 1$  for any remaining  $n$  of the lowest-valued bins (as is often the case), simply rebin these as a single bin.

Variable ranking is done iteratively in each analysis region. In each set, the validation significance of a BDT using an initial subset of variables is calculated (dRBB and mBB for the standard set; j0\_j1 for the LI set; and MH for the RF set). Each of the remaining unranked variables are then added separately, one at a time, to the BDT. The variable yielding the highest validation significance is then added to the set list of ranked variables and removed from the list of unranked variables. This process is repeated until no variables remain. These rankings are shown in Figures 6.10–6.12. Rankings tend to be fairly stable.

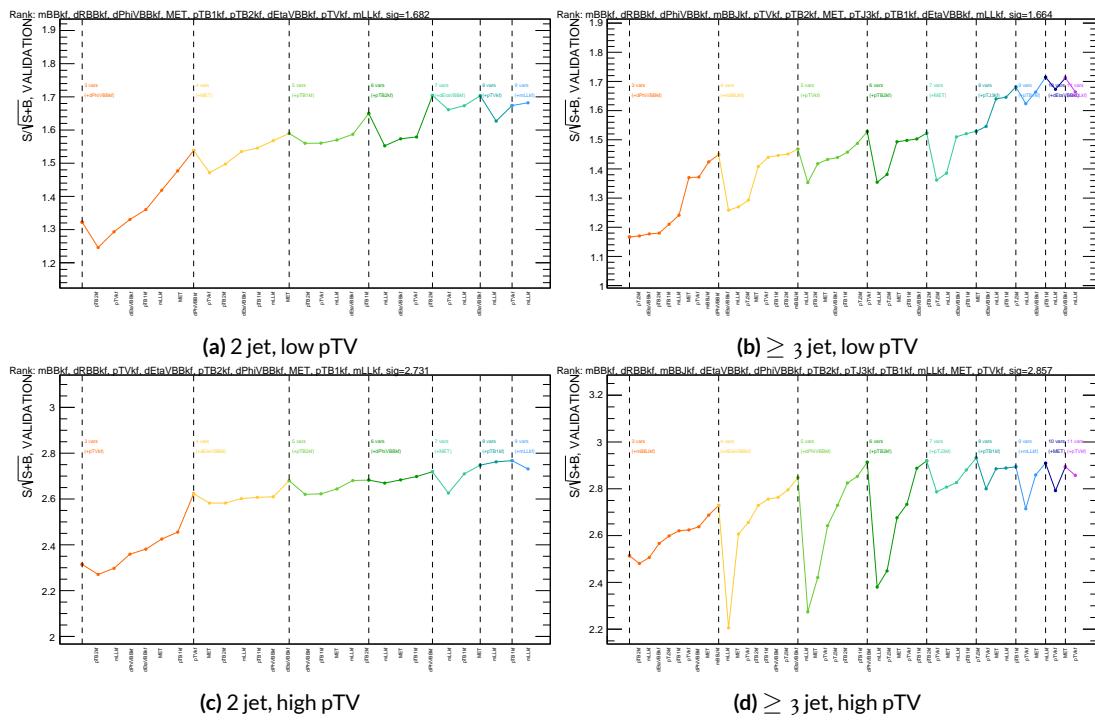


Figure 6.10: Rankings for the standard variable set.

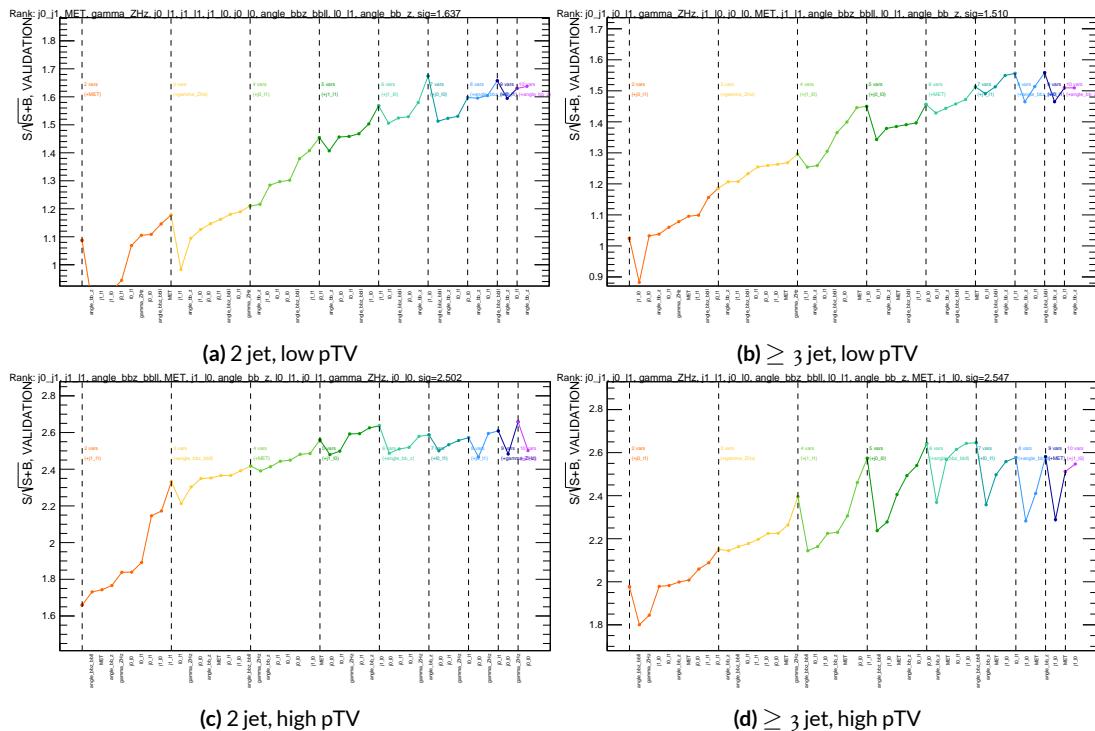


Figure 6.11: Rankings for the LL variable set.

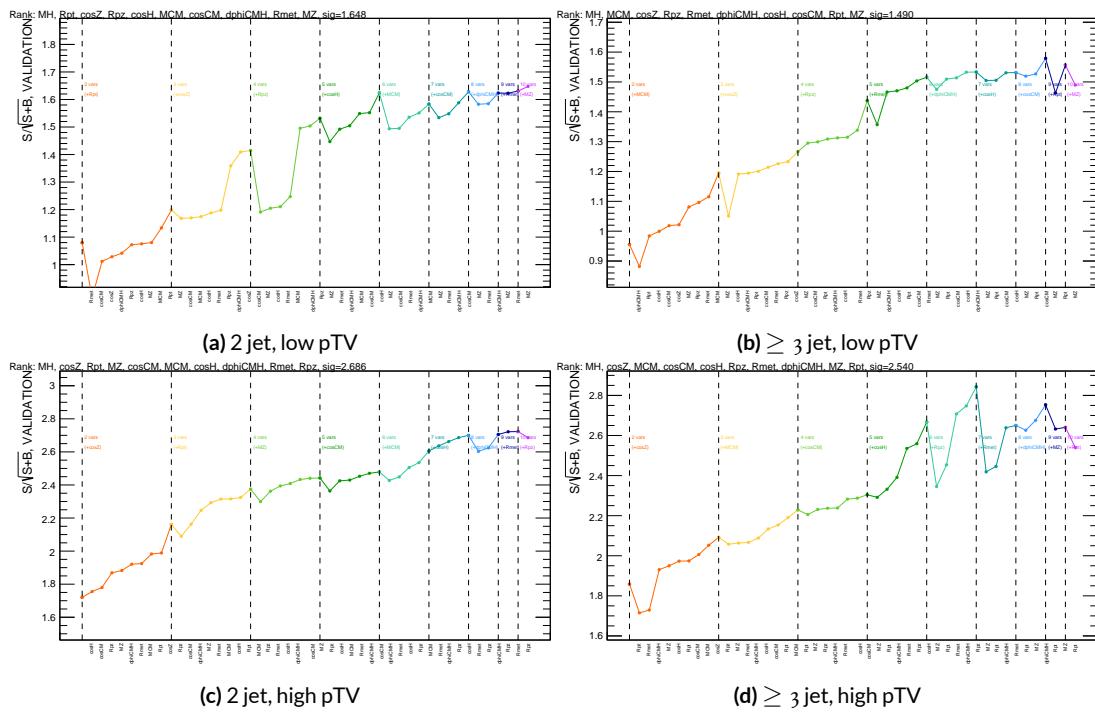


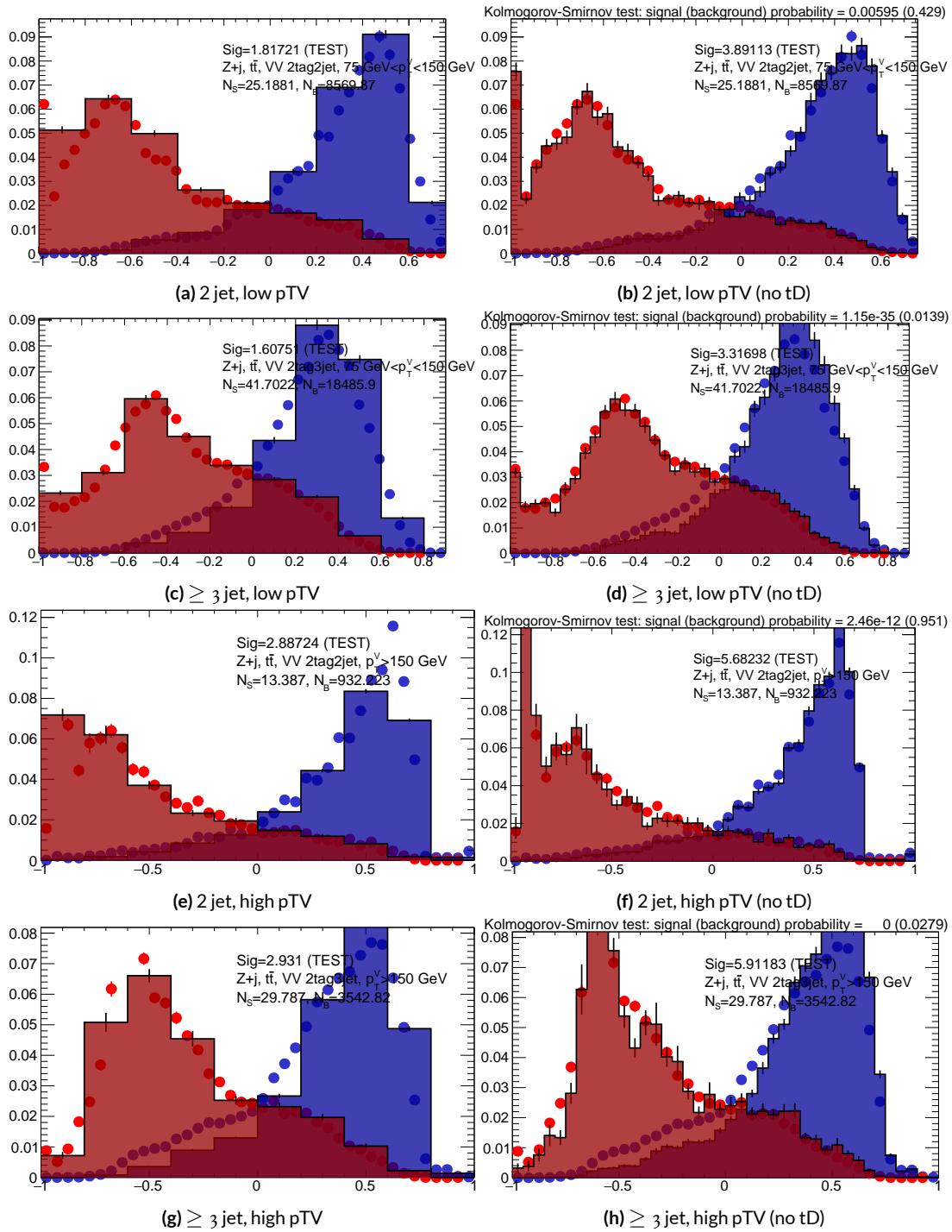
Figure 6.12: Rankings for the RF variable set.

Once variables have been ranked, the BDT may be used both to evaluate performance in a simplified analysis scenario in the absence of systematic uncertainties (described below in Section 6.3) and to create xml files for the production of fit inputs for an analysis including systematics. Following the approach taken in the fiducial analysis, BDT discriminants using two “k-folds” are produced to prevent overtraining, since the samples used for training are the same as those used to produce inputs for the full profile likelihood fit. In this scheme, a BDT trained on events with an even (odd) `EventNumber` are used to evaluate events with an odd (even) `EventNumber`.

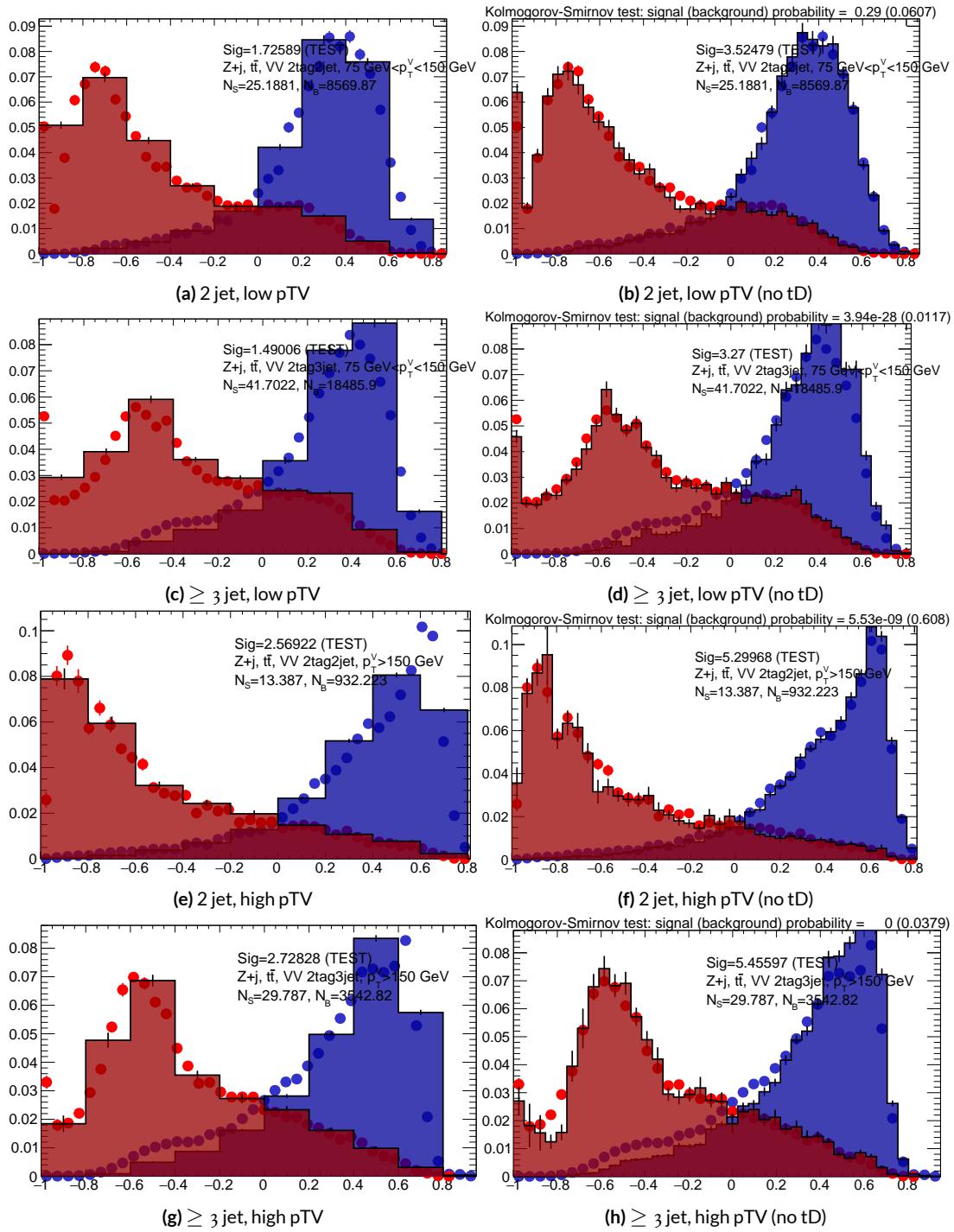
### 6.3 STATISTICS ONLY BDT PERFORMANCE

As described above, cumulative significances can be extracted from pairs of signal and background BDT output distributions in a given region. In order to evaluate performance of variable sets in the absence of systematic uncertainties, such pairs can be constructed by evaluating BDT score on the testing set of events using the optimal variable rankings in each region. We show two versions of each testing distribution for each variable set in each signal region in Figures ??–???. The training distribution is always shown as points. The plots with block histograms with numbers of bins that match (do not match) the training distribution do not (do) have transformation D applied. Transformation D histograms are included to show the distributions actually used for significance evaluation, while the untransformed histograms are included to illustrate that the level of overtraining is not too terrible. For better comparison of the distributions, all histograms have been scaled to have the same normalization.

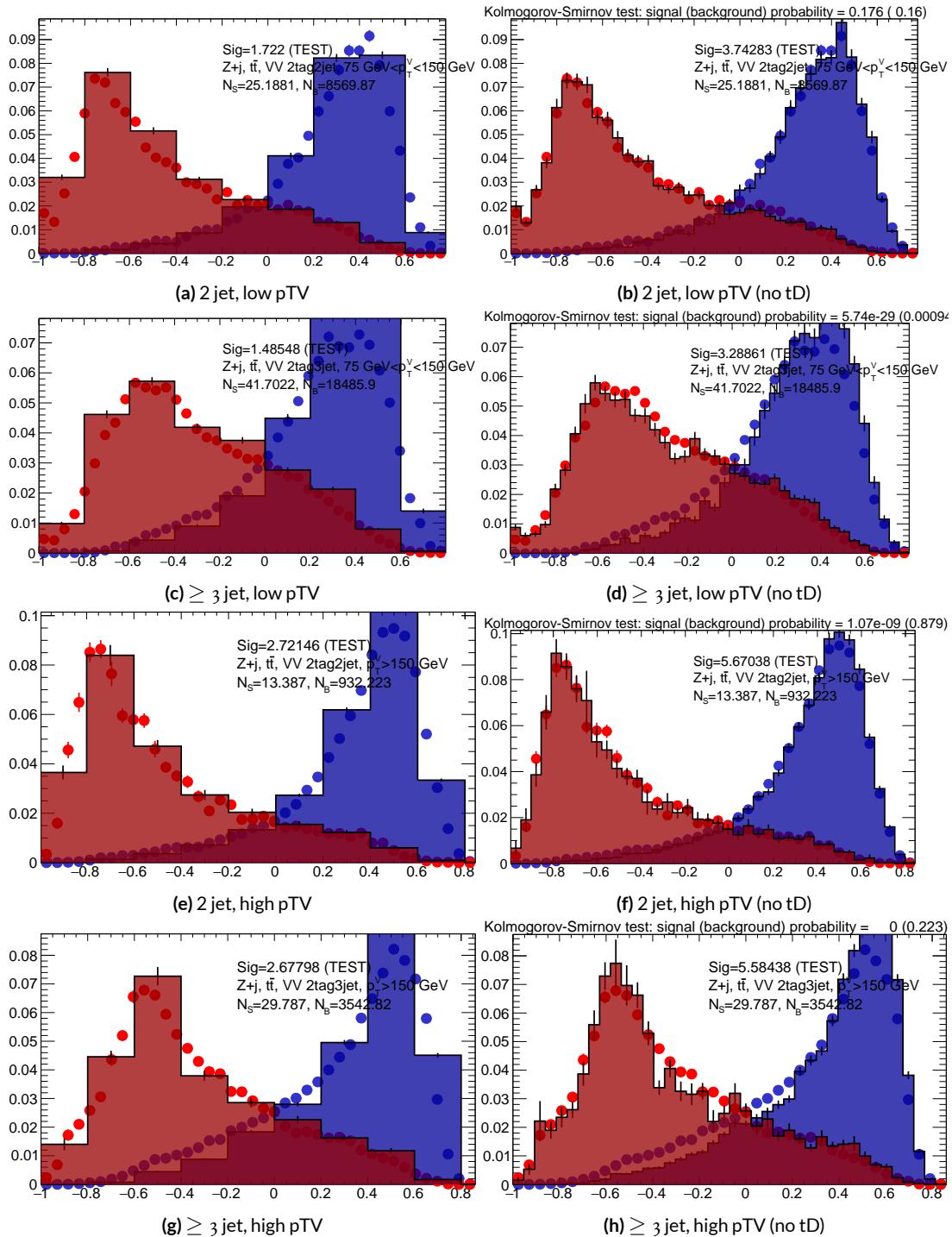
As can be seen in the summary of cumulative significances for each of these analysis regions and



**Figure 6.13:** Training (points) and testing (block histogram) MVA distributions used for stat only testing for the standard variable set.

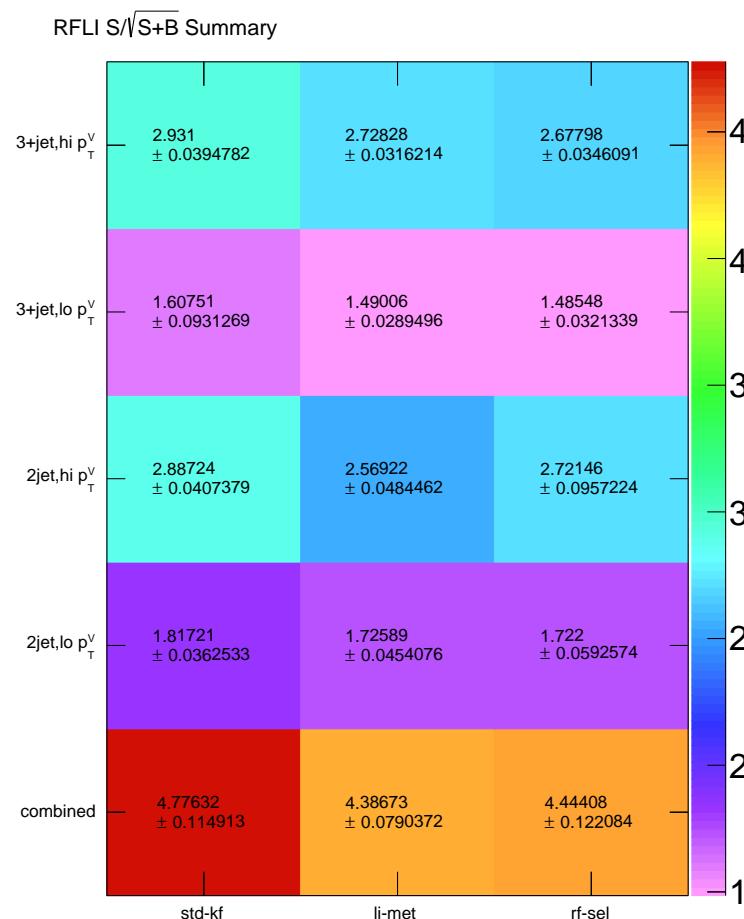


**Figure 6.14:** Training (points) and testing (block histogram) MVA distributions used for stat only testing for the LI variable set.



**Figure 6.15:** Training (points) and testing (block histogram) MVA distributions used for stat only testing for the RF variable set.

variable sets in Figure 6.16, the performance of each of the variable sets is quite similar. The standard set performs best, with the LI (RF) set having a cumulative significance that is 7.9% (6.9%) lower. This suggests that the LI and RF variables, in the  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  closed final state, have no more intrinsic descriptive power than the standard set. That these figures are all relatively high ( $\sim 4.5$ ) is due largely to the absence of systematics and possibly in part due to the fact that many of the most significant bins occur at high values of the BDT output, which, as can be seen in any of the testing distributions, contain a small fraction of background events. An interesting feature to note in Figure 6.16 is that while the standard set does perform better in all regions, the gap is larger in the  $\geq 3$  jet regions, suggesting that further optimization in the  $\geq 3$  jet case could be useful. Moreover, as discussed at the end of Chapter 5, the choice of  $\geq 3$  jet and not exclusive 3 jet regions is a 2-lepton specific choice and may not be justified for the non-standard variable sets.



**Figure 6.16:** Results of testing significances sorted by analysis region and variable set.

*Multivac picked you as most representative this year.*

*Not the smartest, or the strongest, or the luckiest, but just  
the most representative.*

Isaac Asimov, “Franchise”

# 7

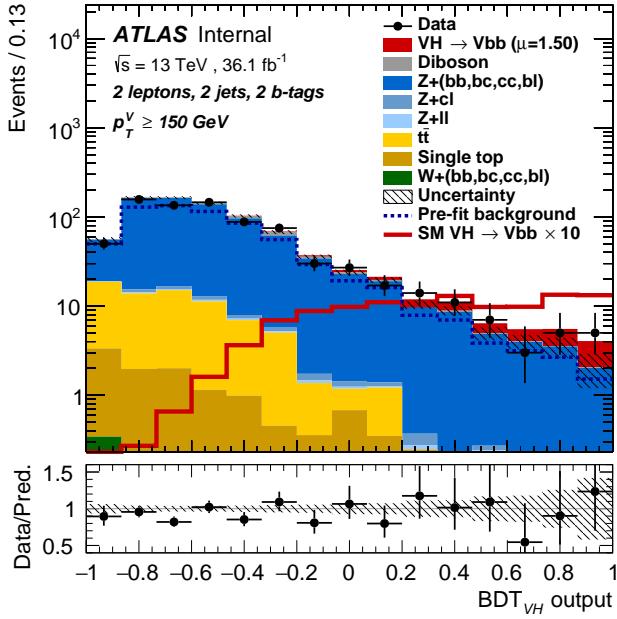
## Statistical Fit Model and Validation

THE ULTIMATE GOAL of an analysis like the search for SM VHbb decay is to say with as much precision as possible with the ATLAS collision data whether or not the SM-like Higgs observed in other decay modes also decays to  $b$ -quarks and, if so, whether this rate matches the SM prediction. In the limit of perfect modeling of both background processes and detector/reconstruction, the only free

parameter is this production rate, referred to typically as a “signal strength,” denoted  $\mu$ , with  $\mu = 1$  corresponding to the SM prediction.

To get a better sense of what this would look like, take a look at the example discriminant distribution in Figure 7.1. The black points are data (with statistical error bars), and the colored block histograms have size corresponding to the number of predicted events for each process in each bin of the final BDT. In the limit of perfect understanding, a fit would correspond to a constant scale factor on the red, signal histogram, where one would choose a best fit  $\mu$  value, denoted  $\hat{\mu}$ , that would minimize the sum in quadrature of differences between the number of observed data events and  $\mu s_i + b_i$ , where  $s_i$  and  $b_i$  are the predicted number of signal and background events in each bin.

The only source of uncertainty would be due to data statistics, so for an infinitely large dataset with



**Figure 7.1:** An example postfit distribution. The reason this looks different from postfit distributions later in this chapter is that this is a log plot.

perfect understanding,  $\mu$  could be fitted to arbitrary precision. This, of course, is not the case since there are very many sources of systematic uncertainty, discussed in previous chapters. This chapter will first describe how systematic uncertainties are integrated into the statistical fit of this analysis before describing two sets of cross checks on both a validation  $VZ$  fit and on the fit for the  $VH$  fit of interest.

## 7.1 THE FIT MODEL

In order to derive the strength of the signal process  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  and other quantities of interest while taking into account systematic uncertainties or nuisance parameters (NP's, collectively denoted  $\theta$ ), a binned likelihood function is constructed as the product over bins of Poisson distributions:

$$\mathcal{L}(\mu, \theta) = \text{Pois}(n | \mu S + B) \left[ \prod_{i \in \text{bins}} \frac{\mu s_i + b_i}{\mu S + B} \right] \quad (7.1)$$

where  $n$  is the total number of events observed,  $s_i$  and  $b_i$  are the number of expected signal and background events in each bin, and  $S$  and  $B$  are the total expected signal and background events. The signal and background expectations generally are functions of the NP's  $\theta$ . NP's related to the normalization of signal and background processes fall into two categories. The first set is left to float freely like  $\mu$  while the second set are parametrized as log-normally distributed to prevent negative predicted values. All other NP's are parametrized with Gaussian priors. This results in a “penalty” on the NLL discussed below of  $(\hat{\alpha} - \mu_\alpha)^2 / \sigma_\alpha^2$ , for NP  $\alpha$ , normally parametrized with mean  $\mu_\alpha$  and variance  $\sigma_\alpha^2$  for an MLE of  $\hat{\alpha}$ .

One can maximize<sup>\*</sup> the likelihood in Equation 7.1 for a fixed value of  $\mu$  to derive estimators for the NP's  $\theta$ ; values of  $\theta$  so derived are denoted  $\hat{\theta}_\mu$  to emphasize that these are likelihood maximizing for a given  $\mu$ . The profile likelihood technique finds the likelihood function's maximum by comparing the values of the likelihood over all possible values of  $\mu$  using these "profiles" and picking the one with the greatest  $\mathcal{L}(\mu, \hat{\theta}_\mu)$  value; these values of  $\mu$  and  $\theta$  are denoted  $\hat{\mu}$  and  $\hat{\theta}$ . The profile likelihood can further be used to construct a test statistic<sup>†</sup>

$$q_\mu = -2 \left( \log \mathcal{L}(\mu, \hat{\theta}_\mu) - \log \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta}) \right) \quad (7.2)$$

This statistic can be used to derive the usual significance ( $p$  value), by setting  $\mu = 0$  to find the compatibility with the background-only hypothesis<sup>92</sup>. If there is insufficient evidence for the signal hypothesis, the  $CL_s$  method can be used to set limits<sup>68</sup>.

In order to both validate the fit model and study the behavior of fits independent of a given dataset, a so-called "Asimov" dataset can be constructed for a given fit model; this dataset has each bin equal to its expectation value for assumed values of the NP's and a given  $\mu$  value (in this case,  $\mu = 0$ , the SM prediction).

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<sup>\*</sup>Maximization is mathematically identical to finding the minimum of the negative logarithm of the likelihood, which is numerically an easier problem. This is what is done.

<sup>†</sup>The factor of -2 is added so that this statistic gives, in the asymptotic limit of large  $N$ , a  $\chi^2$  distribution.

## 7.2 FIT INPUTS

Inputs to the binned likelihood are distributions of the BDT outputs described in Chapter 6 for the signal regions and of  $m_{bb}$  for the top  $e - \mu$  control regions. These regions split events according to their  $p_T^V$  and number of jets. All events are required to have two  $b$ -tags, as well as pass the other event selection requirements summarized in Table ??; the only difference between the signal and control region selections is that the same flavor requirement (i.e. leptons both be electrons or muons) is flipped so that events in the control region have exactly one electron and one muon. The BDT outputs are binned using transformation D, while the  $m_{bb}$  distributions have 50 GeV bins, with the exception of the 2 jet, high  $p_T^V$  region, where a single bin is used due to low statistics.

Input distributions in MC are further divided according to their physics process. The signal processes are divided based on both the identity of associated  $V$  and the number of leptons in the final state;  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  events are further separated into distributions for  $qq$  and  $gg$  initiated processes.  $V+jets$  events are split according to  $V$  identity and into the jet flavor bins described in Chapter 3. Due to the effectiveness of the 2  $b$ -tag requirement suppressing the presence of both  $c$  and  $l$  jets, truth-tagging is used to boost MC statistics in the  $cc$ ,  $cl$ , and  $ll$  distributions.<sup>‡</sup> For top backgrounds, single top production is split according to production mode ( $s$ ,  $t$ , and  $Wt$ ), with  $t\bar{t}$  as single category. Diboson background distributions are also split according to the identity of the  $V$ 's ( $ZZ$ ,  $WZ$ , and  $WW$ ). Fit input segmentation is summarized in Table 7.1.

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<sup>‡</sup>Since  $WW$  is not an important contribution to the already small total diboson background, no truth-tagging was applied here, in contrast to the fiducial analysis.

Category	Bins
# of Jets	2, 3+
$p_T^V$ Regions (GeV)	$[75, 150], [150, \infty)$
Sample	data, signal $[(W, qqZ, ggZ) \times n_{lep}]$ , $V + \text{jet} [(W, Z) \times (bb, bc, bl, cc, cl, l)]$ , $t\bar{t}$ , diboson ( $ZZ, WW, WZ$ ), single top ( $s, t, Wt$ )

**Table 7.1:** Fit input segmentation.

### 7.3 SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES REVIEW

Tables 7.2 and 7.3 summarize modeling (Chapter 4) and experimental (Chapter 5) systematic uncertainties considered in this analysis, respectively. In addition to these, simulation statistics uncertainties (“MC stat errors”) are also included in the fit model. There is one distribution per systematic (one each for up and down) per sample per region. The  $\pm 1\sigma$  variation for a systematic is calculated as the difference in the integrals between the nominal and up/down varied distributions.

Process	Systematics
Signal	$H \rightarrow bb$ decay, QCD scale, PDF+ $\alpha_S$ scale, UE+PS (acc., $p_T^V, m_{bb}, 3/2$ jet ratio)
$Z + \text{jets}$	Acc, flavor composition, $p_T^V + m_{bb}$ shape
$t\bar{t}$	Acc, $p_T^V + m_{bb}$ shape
Single top	Acc., $p_T^V + m_{bb}$ shape
Diboson	Overall acc., UE+PS (acc, $p_T^V, m_{bb}, 3/2$ jet ratio), QCD scale (acc (2, 3 jet, jet veto), $p_T^V, m_{bb}$ )

**Table 7.2:** Summary of modeling systematic uncertainties.

The systematics distributions undergo processes known as “smoothing” and “pruning” before being combined into the final likelihood used in minimization.

The difference between systematics varied distributions and nominal distributions approaches

Process	Systematics
Jets	21 NP scheme for JES, JER as single NP
$E_T^{\text{miss}}$	trigger efficiency, track-based soft terms, scale uncertainty due to jet tracks
Flavor Tagging	Eigen parameter scheme (CDI File: 2016-20_7-13TeV-MC15-CDI-2017-06-07_v2)
Electrons	trigger eff, reco/ID eff, isolation eff, energy scale/resoltuion
Muons	trigger eff, reco/ID eff, isolation eff, track to vertex association, momentum resolution/scale
Event	total luminosity, pileup reweighting

**Table 7.3:** Summary of experimental systematic uncertainties.

some stable value in the limit of large simulation statistics, but if the fluctuations due to simulation statistics in a distribution are large compared to the actual physical effect (whether this is because the actual effect is small or if the actual distribution is derived from a small number of simulation events), then systematic uncertainty will be overestimated by, in effect, counting the MC stat error multiple times. Smoothing is designed to mitigate these effects by merging adjacent bins in some input distributions. Smoothing happens in two steps (the full details of smoothing algorithms may be found in <sup>108</sup> and in the `WSMaker` code):

Merge bins iteratively where bin differences are smallest in input distributions until no local extrema remain (obviously, a single peak or valley is allowed to remain)

Sequentially merge bins (highest to lowest, like transformation D) until the statistical uncertainty in a given bin is smaller than 5% of merged bin content

Not all systematic uncertainties defined are included in the final fit. Pruning Systematics are subject “pruning” (individually in each region/sample: there are two histograms per systematic

(up/down) per region per sample, so pruning just consists of removing the histograms from the set of distributions included in the likelihood) if they are do not have a significant impact, defined as follows.

- Normalization/acceptance systematics are pruned away if either:
  - The variation is less than 0.5%
  - Both up and down variations have the same sign
- Shape systematics pruned away if either:
  - Not one single bin has a deviation over 0.5% after the overall normalisation is removed
  - If only the up or the down variation is non-zero
- Shape+Normalisation systematics are pruned away if the associated sample is less than 2% of the total background and either:
  - If the predicted signal is  $< 2\%$  of the total background in all bins and the shape and normalisation error are each  $< 0.5\%$  of the total background
  - If instead at least one bin has a signal contribution  $> 2\%$  of the total background, and only in each of these bins, the shape and normalisation error are each  $< 2\%$  of the signal yield

## 7.4 THE VZ VALIDATION FIT

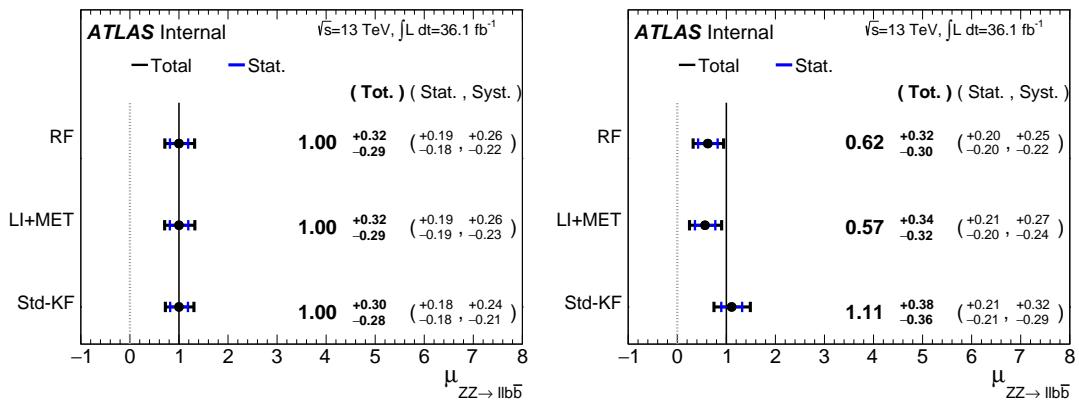
One of the primary validation cross-checks for the fiducial analysis was a  $VZ$  fit—that is, conducting the entire analysis but looking for  $Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  decays instead of the Higgs. The idea here is that the  $Z$  is very well understood and so “rediscovering” the  $Z$  is taken as a benchmark of analysis reliability since the complexity of the fit model precludes the use of orthogonal control regions for validation as is done in other analyses (generally, if there is a good control region, one prefers to use it to constrain backgrounds and improve the fit model). To do this, a new MVA discriminant is made by keeping all hyperparameter configurations the same (e.g. variable ranking) but using diboson samples as signal. For the 2-lepton case, this means using  $ZZ \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  as the signal sample. This new MVA is used to make the inputs described in Section 7.2, and the fit is then run as for the  $VH$  fit (again, with  $ZZ$  as signal).

The  $VZ$  fit sensitivities for the standard, LI, and RF fits are summarized in Table 7.4. The expected significances are all fairly comparable and about what was the case in the fiducial analysis. The observed significance for the standard set matches fairly well with the expected value on data, but the LI and RF observed significances are quite a bit lower.

	Standard	LI	RF
Expected (Asimov)	3.83	3.67	3.72
Expected (data)	3.00	2.95	3.11
Observed (data)	3.17	1.80	2.09

**Table 7.4:** Expected (for both data and Asimov) and observed  $VZ \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  sensitivities for the standard, LI, and RF variable sets.

These values, however, are consistent with the observed signal strength values, which can be seen in Figure 7.2 (b), with both the LI and RF fits showing a deficit of signal events with respect to the SM expectation, though not by much more than one standard deviation (a possible explanation is explored in the following section). Just as in the  $VH$  fits, errors arising systematic uncertainties are lower in the fits to the observed dataset. That the effect is not noticeable in Asimov fits is not too surprising, since this analysis (and these variable configurations in particular), is not optimized for  $VZ$ .



**Figure 7.2:**  $\mu$  summary plots for the standard, LI, and RF variable sets. The Asimov case (with  $\mu = 1$  by construction) is in (a), and  $\hat{\mu}$  best fit values and error summary are in (b).

#### 7.4.I 2 AND $\geq 3$ JET FITS

While the treatment of simply ignoring any additional jets in the event seems adequate for the  $VH$  analysis (discussed below), the potential shortcoming of this treatment appears in the  $VZ$  analysis when the  $2$  and  $\geq 3$  jet cases are fit separately<sup>§</sup>, as can be seen in Figure 7.3. Compared to the standard fit, the LI and RF fits have lower  $\hat{\mu}_{\geq 3 \text{ jet}}$  values, consistent with the interpretation that the addi-

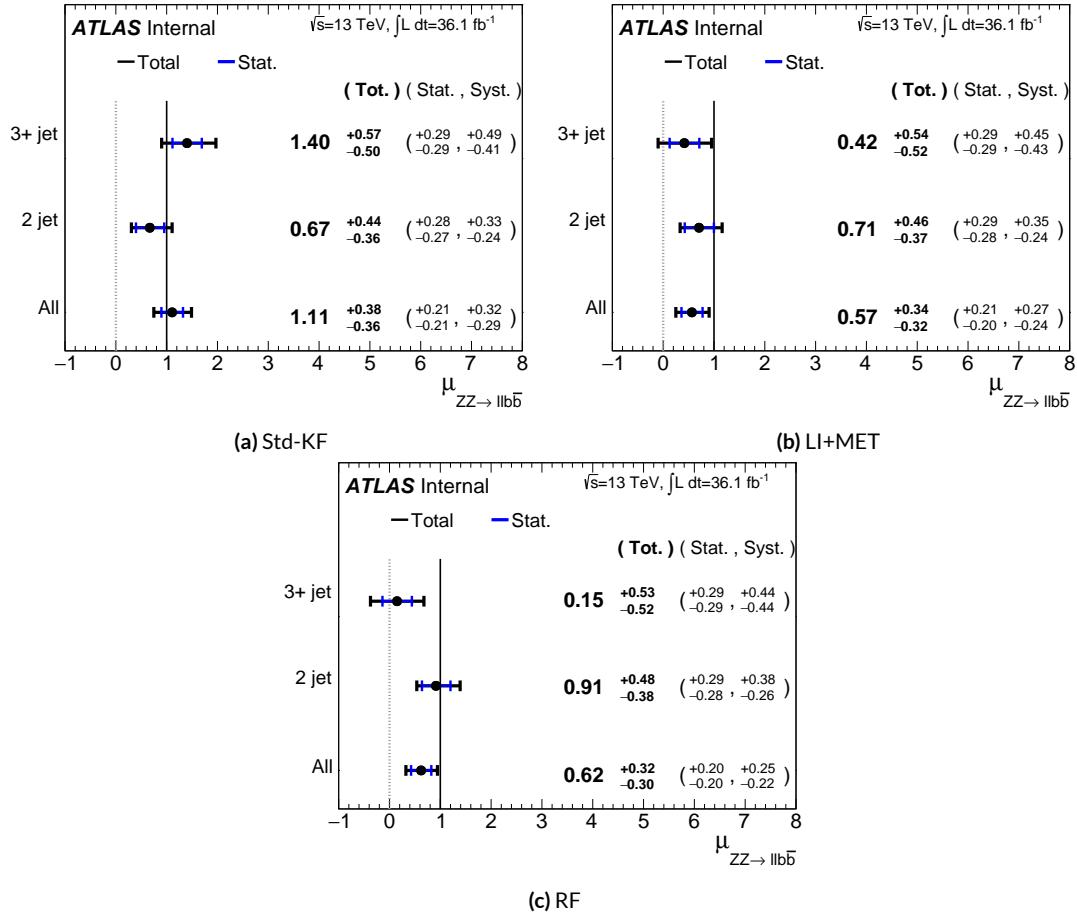
<sup>§</sup>standalone fits, with half the regions each, not 2 POI fits

tional information in the  $\geq 3$  jet regions for the standard case is important for characterizing events in these regions for  $VZ$  fits.

A natural question to ask is why this would be an issue for the  $VZ$  but not the  $VH$  case. One potential answer is that at high transverse boosts, there is a greater probability for final state radiation in the hadronically decaying  $Z$ , so there are more events where the third jet should be included in the calculation of variables like  $m_{b\bar{b}}$  or for angles involving the  $b\bar{b}$  system (e.g.  $\cosh$  in the RF case). While the absolute scale at which the low and high  $p_T^V$  regions are separated remains the same does not change from the  $VH$  to the  $VZ$  analysis, 150 GeV, the implicit cutoff on the transverse boost of the hadronically decaying boson does. For the Higgs, with a mass of 125 GeV, the  $p_T^V$  cutoff corresponds to  $\gamma \sim 1.56 - 6.74$ , but for the  $Z$ , with a mass of 91 GeV, this is  $\gamma \sim 1.93 - 9.21$ , about 23–37% higher.

If either the LI or RF schemes were to be used in a mainstream analysis, these validation fits suggest that the third jet ought to be included in variable schemes (e.g. by adding the third jet to the Higgs in the high  $p_T^V$  case). On the issue of whether or not  $\geq 4$  jet events should be included, the RF set shows very little sensitivity to this change (a 2 jet and 3 jet only fit moves  $\hat{\mu}$  to 0.64, while doing so for the LI set moves it to 0.40, so this, like the addition of the third jet into the variable sets, would have to be addressed individually. Nevertheless, this optimization is beyond the scope of this thesis, which aim to preserve as much of the fiducial analysis as possible for as straightforward a comparison as possible.

For completeness, we include the full set of fit validation results for the  $VZ$  fit, explaining them in turn.



**Figure 7.3:**  $\hat{\mu}$  summary plots with standalone fits for the different  $n_{jet}$  regions for the standard, LI, and RF variable sets.

## 7.5 NUISANCE PARAMETER PULLS

The first set of plots statistical fit experts will want to look at are the “pulls” and “pull comparisons.”

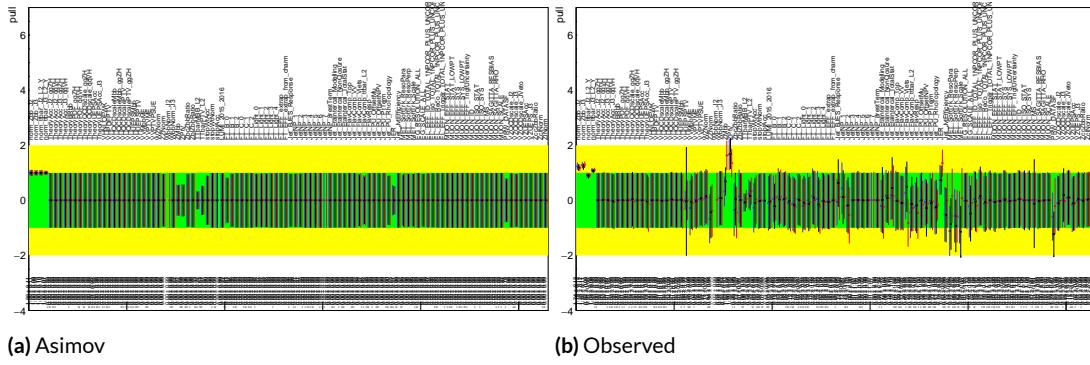
In these plots, the best fit (nominal) values and one standard deviation error bars are shown for observed (Asimov) pull plots, with the green and yellow bands corresponding to  $\pm 1, 2\sigma$ , respectively. These plots are divided by NP category for readability.<sup>¶</sup> In pull comparisons, these pulls are overlaid and color-coded. Pull comparisons here have the following color code: black is the standard variable set, red is the LI set, and blue is the RF set.

A well-behaved fit has pulls close to nominal values (“closeness” should be interpreted in the context of pull value divided by pull error). As can be seen in Figures 7.4–7.8, the fits for the three different variable sets are fairly similar from a NP pull perspective, though the  $Z+jets$   $m_{bb}$  and  $p_T^V$  NP’s and the jet energy resolution NP are heavily pulled (a handful of poorly behaved pulls is not uncommon, though typically warrants further investigation). As a general note, these pull plots calculate pulls using a simultaneous HESSE matrix inversion, which is fine for relatively small fits, but the more reliable MINOS result, which calculates the impact of each NP on its own, should be cross-checked for significant pulls. The ranking plots below do this.

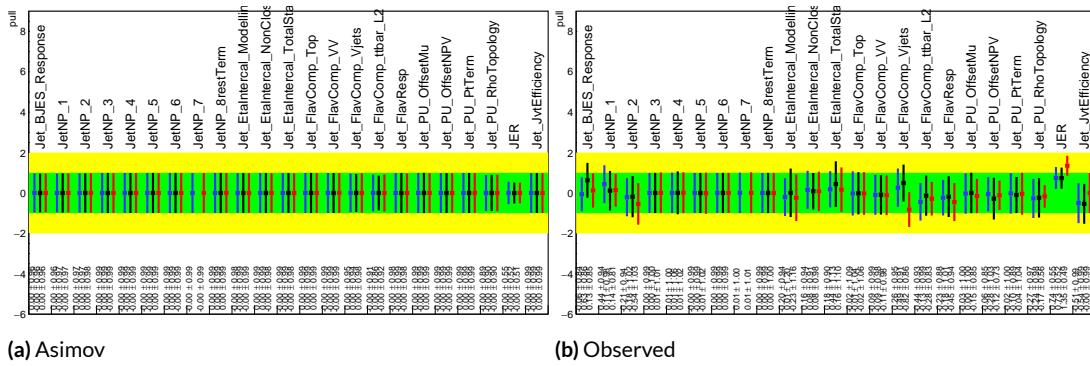
Nuisance parameter correlation matrices (for correlations with magnitude at least 0.25) for all three variable set fits can be found in Figures 7.10–7.12. These are useful for seeing which NP’s move together (if there is no physical argument for them to do so, this is a potential indicator that further investigation is warranted).

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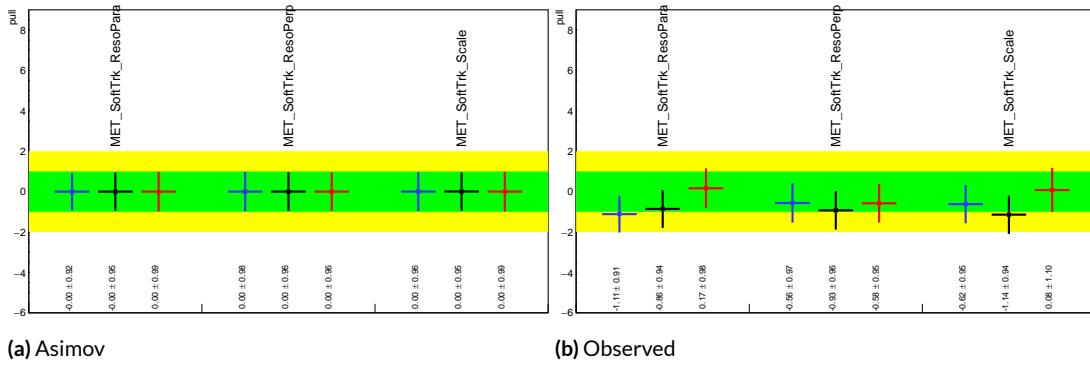
<sup>¶</sup>Over 100 non-MC stat NP’s survive pruning in these 2-lepton only Run 2 fits; well over 500 survive in the Run 1+Run 2 combined fit.



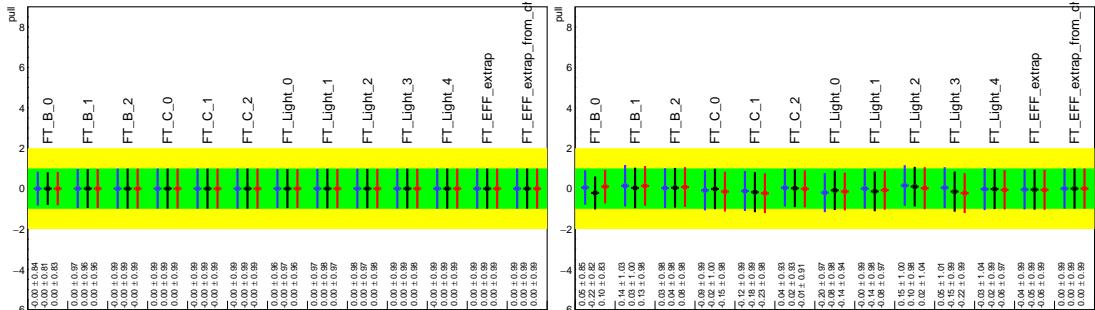
**Figure 7.4:** Pull comparison for all NP's but MC stats.



**Figure 7.5:** Pull comparison for jet NP's.



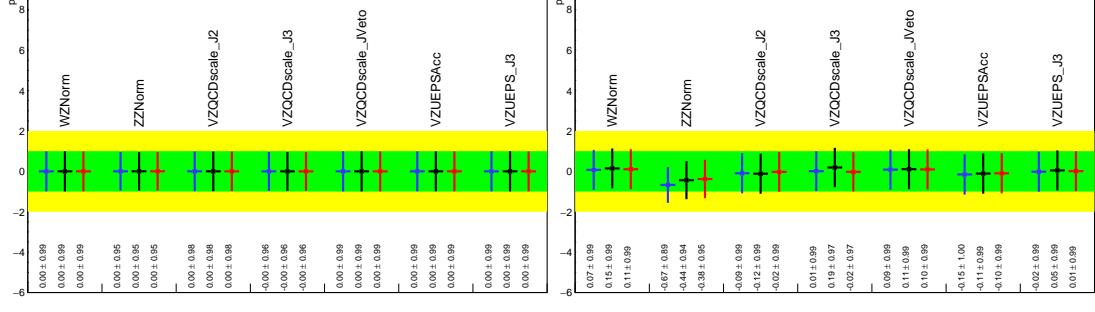
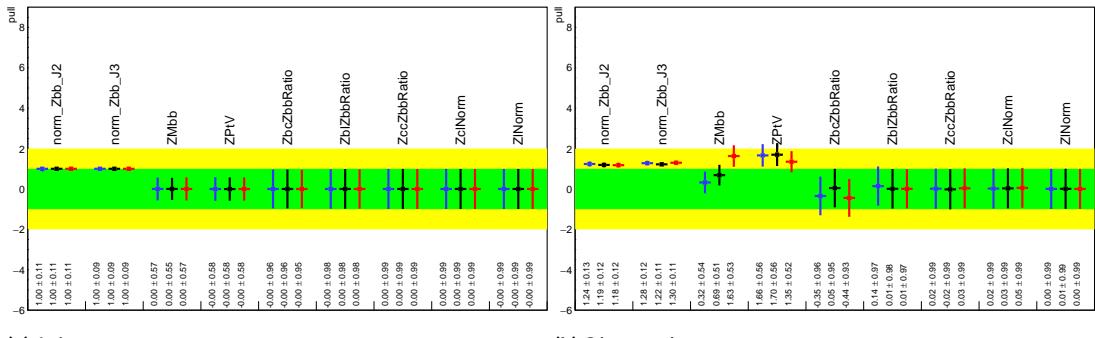
**Figure 7.6:** Pull comparison for MET NP's.



(a) Asimov

**(b) Observed**

**Figure 7.7:** Pull comparison for Flavour Tagging NP's.



(2) 1.2000

(2) 2000-2001

Figure 7.5: Full comparison for signal process modeling NT's.

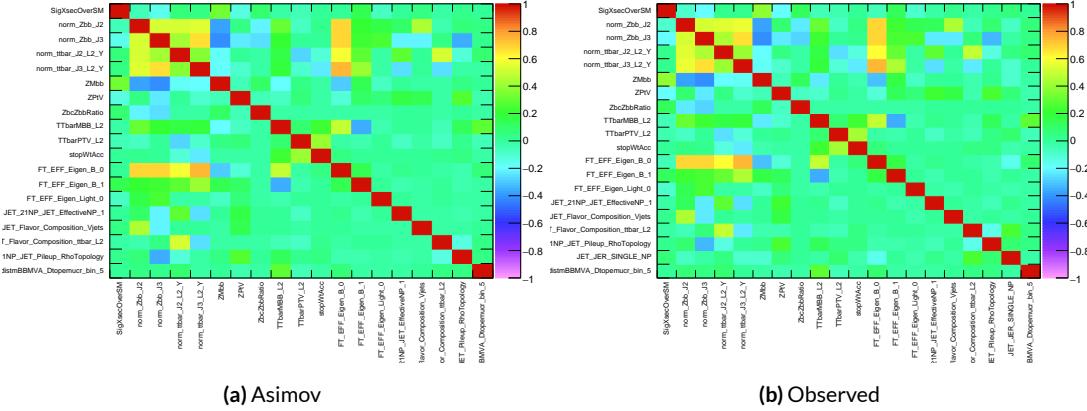


Figure 7.10: NP correlations for standard variable fits.

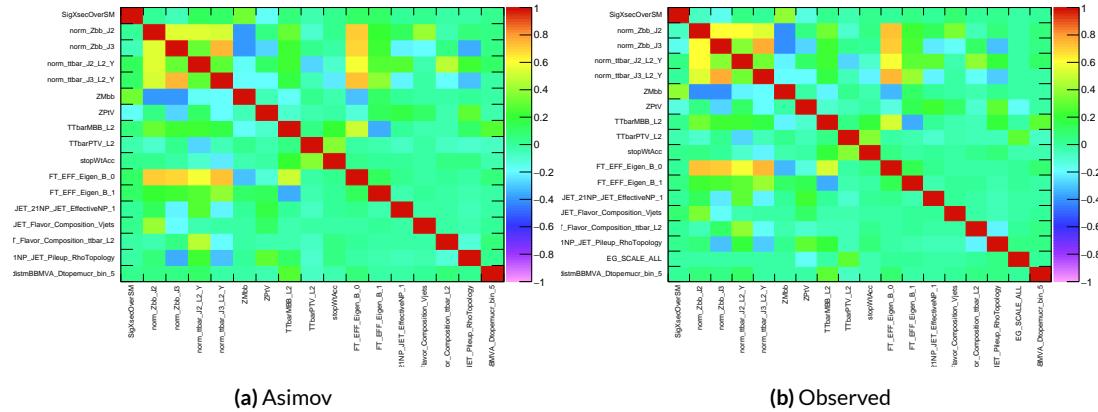


Figure 7.11: NP correlations for L1 variable fits.

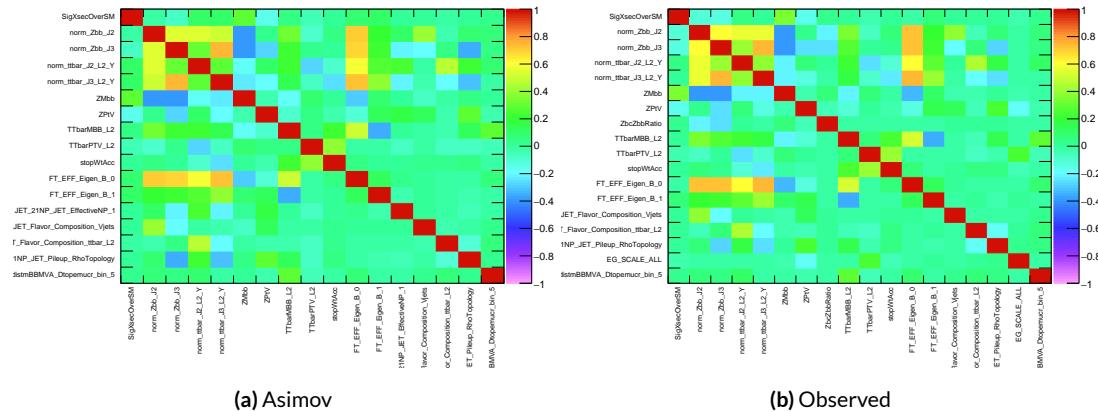
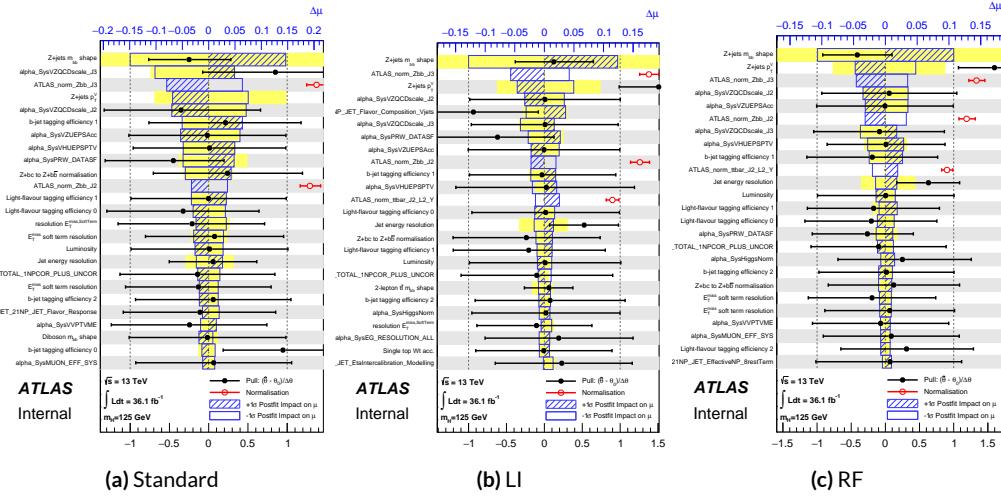


Figure 7.12: NP correlations for RF variable fits.

### 7.5.1 NUISANCE PARAMETER RANKING PLOTS AND BREAKDOWNS

The next set of fit results that is used to diagnose the quality of a fit is the impact of different nuisance parameters on the total error on  $\mu$ , both individually and as categories. Figure 7.13 shows the top 25 nuisance parameters ranked by their postfit impact on  $\hat{\mu}$ ; these plots use the aforementioned more reliable MINOS approach. This set of rankings is fairly similar, with  $Z$ -jets systematics being particularly prominent. The advantage of seeing individual nuisance parameter rankings, as opposed to impacts of categories in aggregate, is that particularly pathological NP's are easier to see; in particular, jet energy resolution and  $Z$ -jets  $p_T^V$  systematic from the pull comparison plots show up with high rankings. Yellow bands are pre-fit impact on  $\mu$ .



**Figure 7.13:** Plots for the top 25 nuisance parameters according to their postfit impact on  $\hat{\mu}$  for the standard (a), LI (b), and RF (c) variable sets.

This is consistent with the picture of NP's taken in aggregate categories in Tables 7.5 and 7.6, known as “breakdowns,” with  $Z$ -jets in particular featuring prominently. Of particular interest is

also the lower impact of MC stats in the observed fit.

	Std-KF	LI+MET	RF
Total	+0.305 / -0.277	+0.324 / -0.292	+0.319 / -0.288
DataStat	+0.183 / -0.179	+0.190 / -0.186	+0.188 / -0.184
FullSyst	+0.244 / -0.212	+0.262 / -0.226	+0.258 / -0.221
Floating normalizations	+0.092 / -0.084	+0.098 / -0.079	+0.094 / -0.076
All normalizations	+0.093 / -0.084	+0.098 / -0.079	+0.094 / -0.076
All but normalizations	+0.214 / -0.179	+0.229 / -0.188	+0.224 / -0.182
Jets, MET	+0.052 / -0.043	+0.041 / -0.034	+0.047 / -0.037
Jets	+0.034 / -0.029	+0.033 / -0.028	+0.032 / -0.026
MET	+0.035 / -0.027	+0.015 / -0.012	+0.020 / -0.016
BTag	+0.064 / -0.051	+0.063 / -0.031	+0.059 / -0.032
BTag b	+0.053 / -0.041	+0.061 / -0.028	+0.055 / -0.025
BTag c	+0.011 / -0.010	+0.006 / -0.005	+0.007 / -0.006
BTag light	+0.030 / -0.027	+0.016 / -0.013	+0.022 / -0.019
Leptons	+0.021 / -0.012	+0.022 / -0.014	+0.023 / -0.014
Luminosity	+0.039 / -0.022	+0.039 / -0.022	+0.040 / -0.022
Diboson	+0.049 / -0.028	+0.047 / -0.026	+0.047 / -0.026
Model Zjets	+0.106 / -0.105	+0.113 / -0.110	+0.102 / -0.099
Zjets flt. norm.	+0.039 / -0.053	+0.024 / -0.029	+0.021 / -0.031
Model Wjets	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000
Wjets flt. norm.	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000
Model ttbar	+0.015 / -0.013	+0.032 / -0.017	+0.030 / -0.016
Model Single Top	+0.004 / -0.003	+0.009 / -0.008	+0.005 / -0.004
Model Multi Jet	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000
Signal Systematics	+0.003 / -0.003	+0.003 / -0.003	+0.003 / -0.003
MC stat	+0.097 / -0.094	+0.108 / -0.103	+0.107 / -0.104

**Table 7.5:** Summary of impact of various nuisance parameter categories on the error on  $\mu$  for Asimov fits for the standard, LI, and RF variable sets.

	Std-KF	LI+MET	RF
$\hat{\mu}$	1.1079	0.5651	0.6218
Total	+0.381 / -0.360	+0.339 / -0.316	+0.322 / -0.299
DataStat	+0.214 / -0.211	+0.210 / -0.205	+0.201 / -0.197
FullSyst	+0.315 / -0.292	+0.267 / -0.241	+0.252 / -0.225
Floating normalizations	+0.120 / -0.122	+0.095 / -0.089	+0.082 / -0.079
All normalizations	+0.121 / -0.123	+0.095 / -0.090	+0.082 / -0.079
All but normalizations	+0.279 / -0.254	+0.228 / -0.200	+0.213 / -0.184
Jets, MET	+0.076 / -0.065	+0.045 / -0.043	+0.038 / -0.033
Jets	+0.047 / -0.040	+0.044 / -0.041	+0.027 / -0.024
MET	+0.055 / -0.046	+0.015 / -0.015	+0.012 / -0.010
BTag	+0.083 / -0.079	+0.041 / -0.031	+0.041 / -0.035
BTag b	+0.063 / -0.059	+0.032 / -0.022	+0.031 / -0.026
BTag c	+0.018 / -0.017	+0.008 / -0.007	+0.010 / -0.009
BTag light	+0.051 / -0.046	+0.024 / -0.021	+0.025 / -0.022
Leptons	+0.022 / -0.011	+0.015 / -0.008	+0.019 / -0.008
Luminosity	+0.044 / -0.022	+0.026 / -0.006	+0.027 / -0.008
Diboson	+0.049 / -0.026	+0.025 / -0.013	+0.027 / -0.017
Model Zjets	+0.156 / -0.162	+0.133 / -0.133	+0.115 / -0.117
Zjets flt. norm.	+0.061 / -0.089	+0.041 / -0.064	+0.028 / -0.056
Model Wjets	+0.000 / -0.001	+0.000 / -0.001	+0.000 / -0.001
Wjets flt. norm.	+0.000 / -0.001	+0.000 / -0.001	+0.000 / -0.001
Model ttbar	+0.015 / -0.024	+0.018 / -0.005	+0.017 / -0.009
Model Single Top	+0.005 / -0.003	+0.010 / -0.008	+0.007 / -0.004
Model Multi Jet	+0.000 / -0.001	+0.000 / -0.001	+0.000 / -0.001
Signal Systematics	+0.005 / -0.004	+0.009 / -0.006	+0.005 / -0.006
MC stat	+0.140 / -0.143	+0.132 / -0.131	+0.128 / -0.129

**Table 7.6:** Summary of impact of various nuisance parameter categories on the error on  $\hat{\mu}$  for observed fits for the standard, LI, and RF variable sets.

## 7.6 POSTFIT DISTRIBUTIONS

Finally, postfit distributions for the MVA discriminant ( $m_{bb}$ ) distribution in the signal (top  $e - \mu$  control) region for the standard, Lorentz Invariant, and RestFrames variable sets are shown. It is generally considered good practice to check the actual postfit distributions of discriminating quantities used to make sure there is good agreement.<sup>¶</sup> It should be noted that agreement is not always great when “eyeballing” a distribution, as fits are messy and  $V+hf$  modeling is notoriously hard to get correct. This is particularly true in the  $VZ$  fit since normalizations for  $Z+hf$  in particular are derived using  $VH$  optimized sidebands. This is also why a lot of these plots are presented as log plots (which hide disagreement better; the general argument goes that one has the ratio plots on the bottom).

## 7.7 VH FIT MODEL VALIDATION

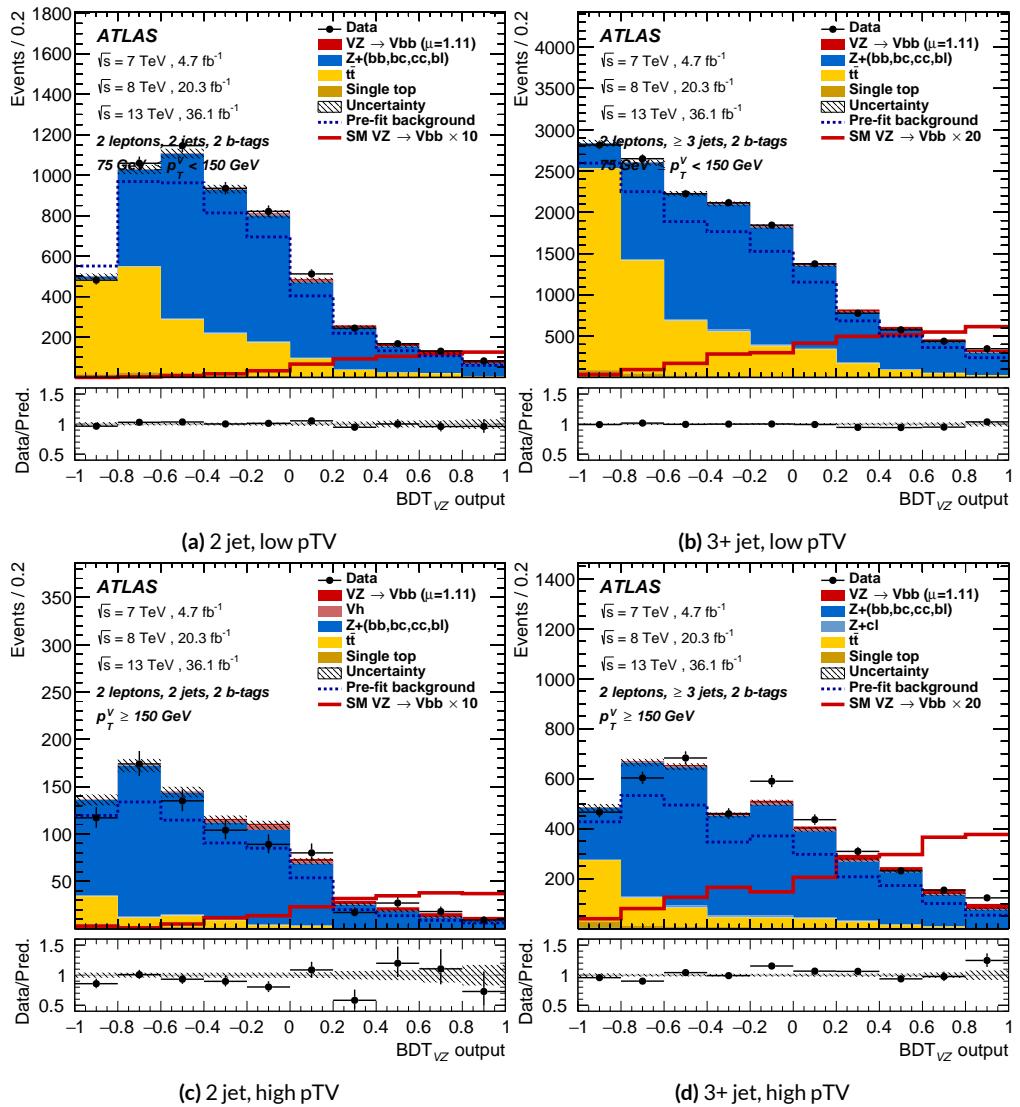
We now move onto the fit validation distributions and numbers for the  $VH$  fit of interest.

### 7.7.1 NUISANCE PARAMETER PULLS

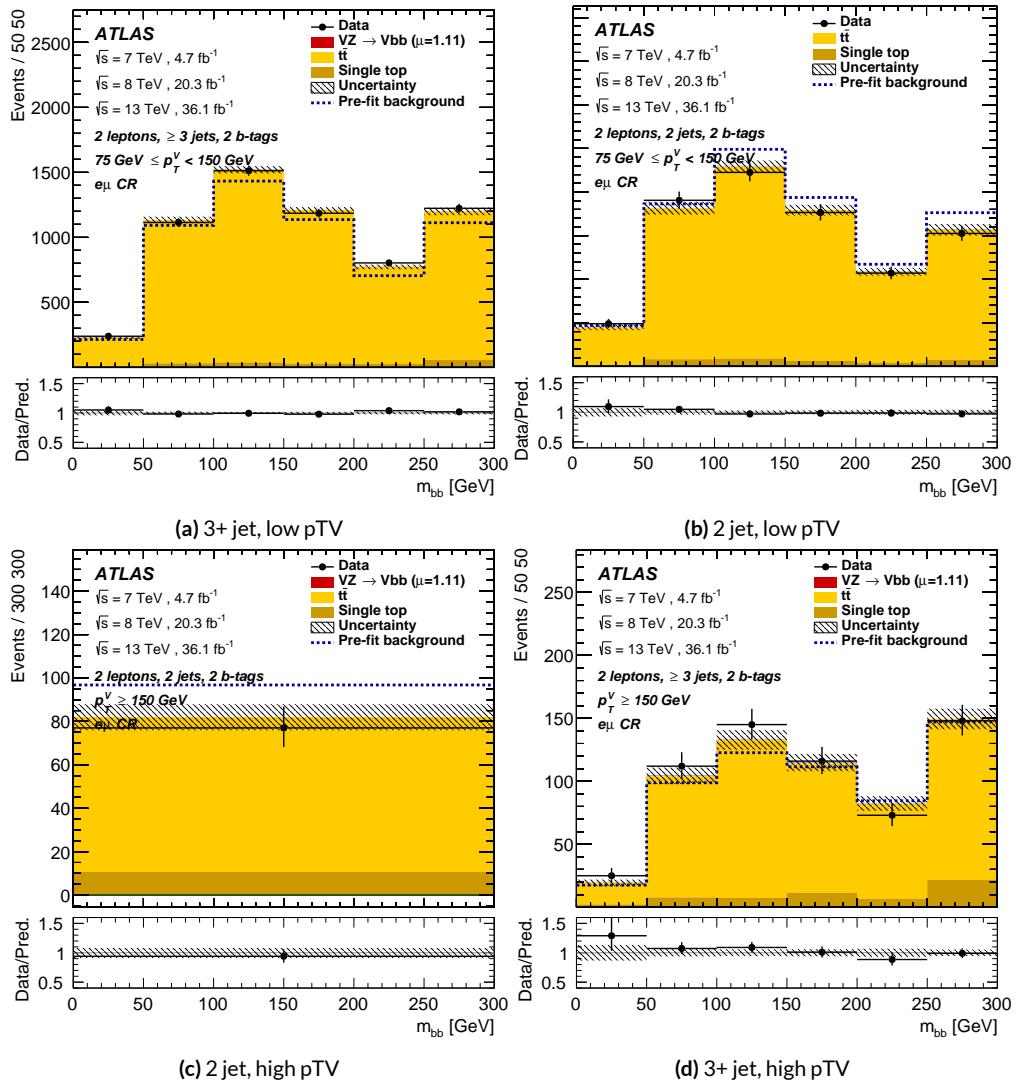
As can be seen in Figures 7.20–7.24, the fits for the three different variable sets are fairly similar from a NP pull perspective. Again, black is the standard variable set, red is the LI set, and blue is the RF set. The possible exception is the signal UE+PS  $p_T^V$  systematic, which looks very different for all three cases (underconstrained for the standard, but overconstrained for the novel variable cases),

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<sup>¶</sup>Sometimes distributions of input variables (MC histograms scaled by their postfit normalizations) are also used.



**Figure 7.14:** Postfit  $BDT_{VZ}$  plots in the signal region for the standard variable set.



**Figure 7.15:** Postfit  $m_{bb}$  plots in the top  $e - \mu$  CR for the standard variable set.

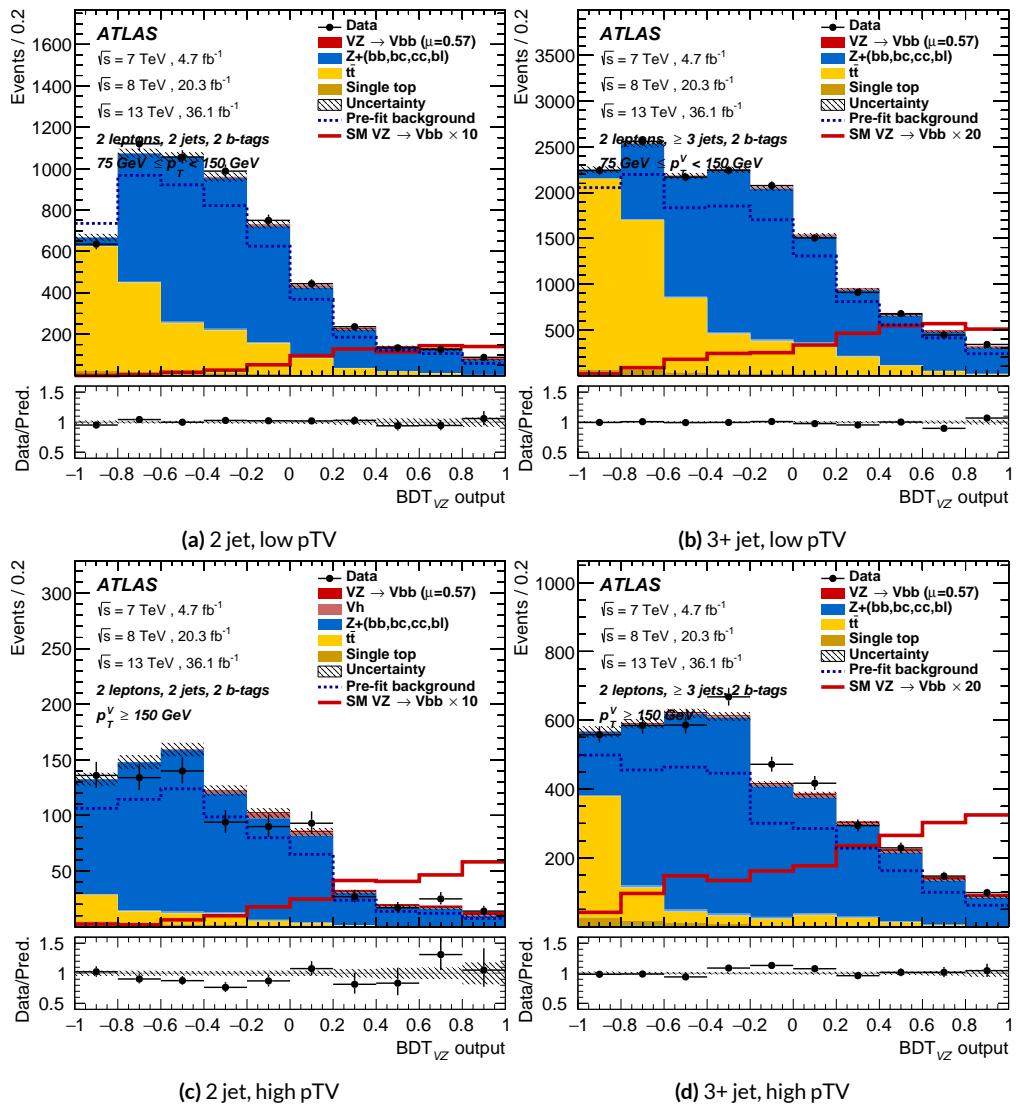


Figure 7.16: Postfit  $BDT_{VZ}$  plots in the signal region for the LI variable set.

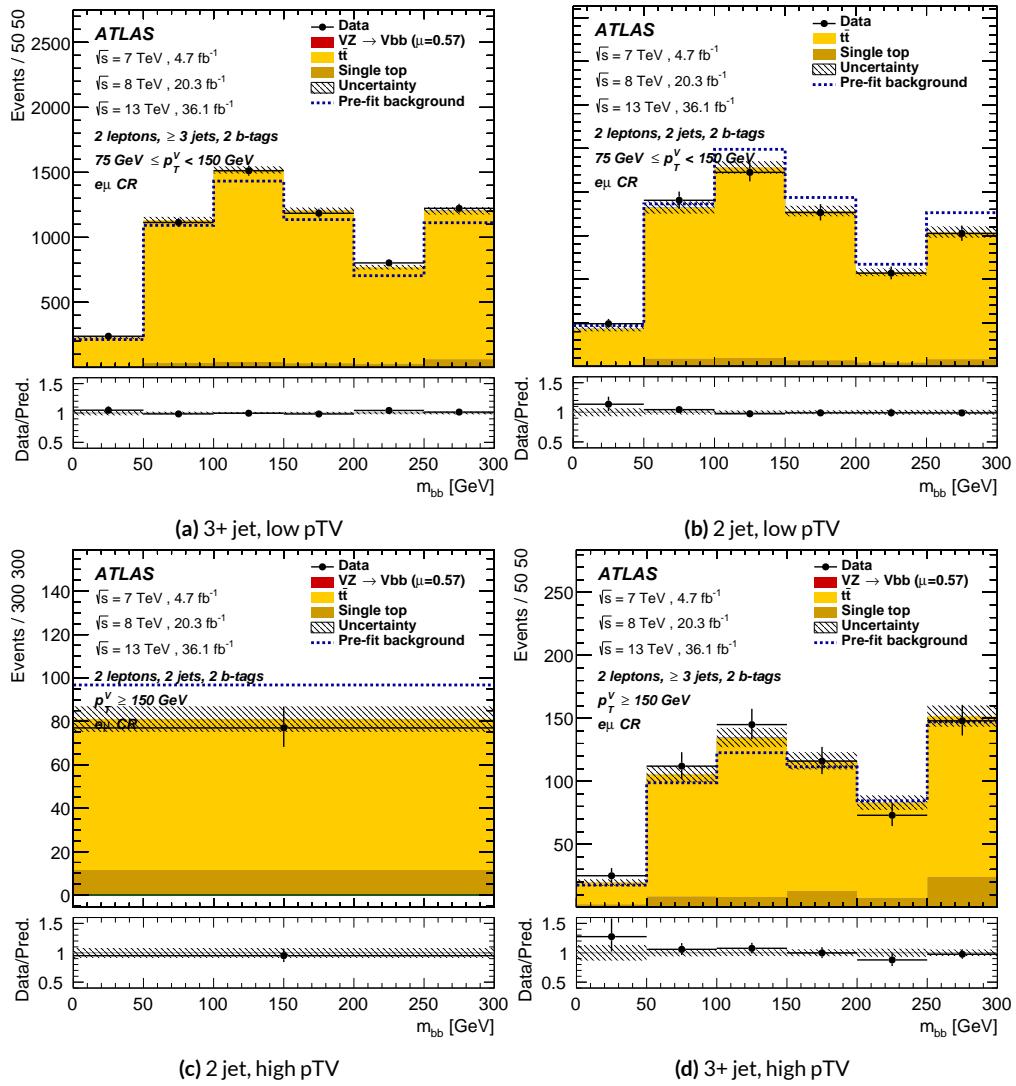
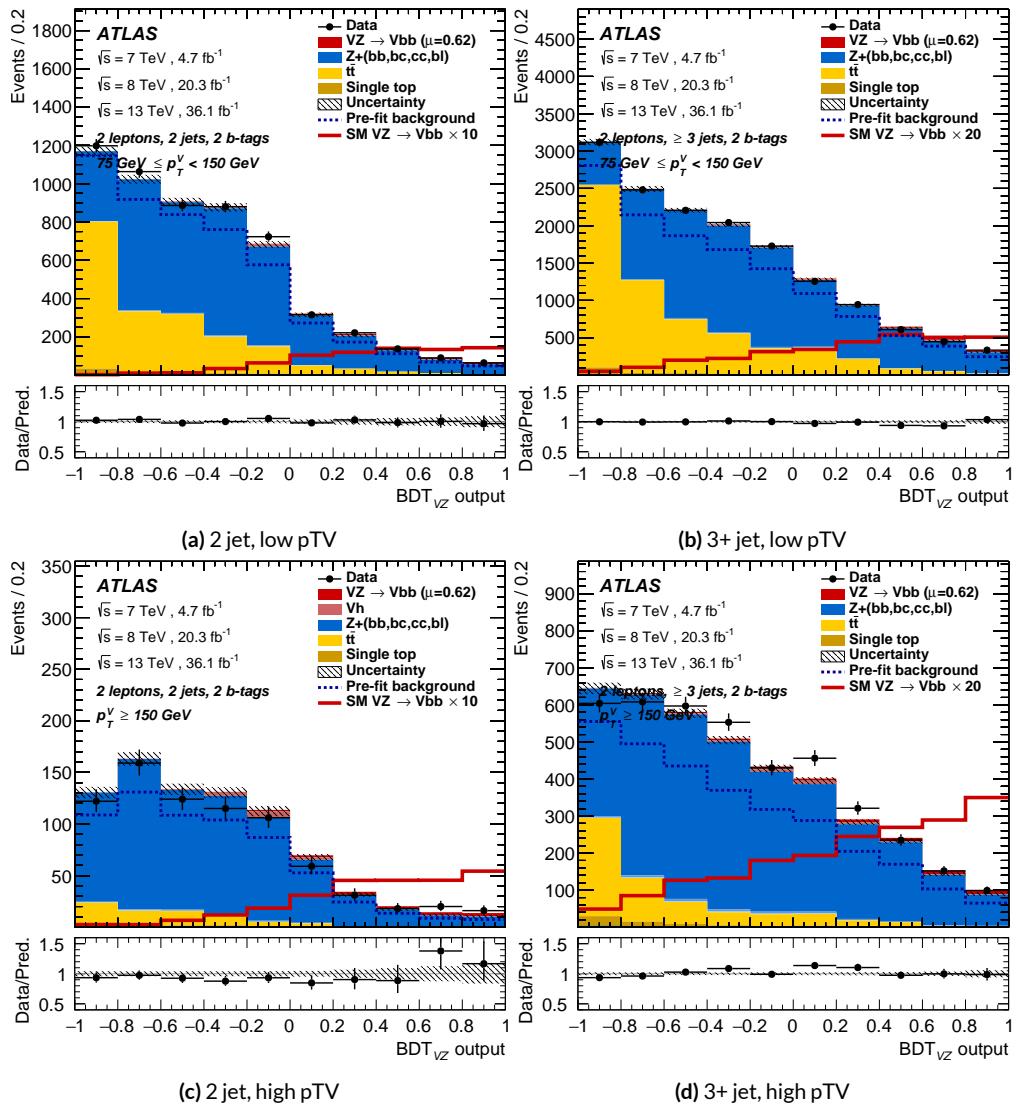
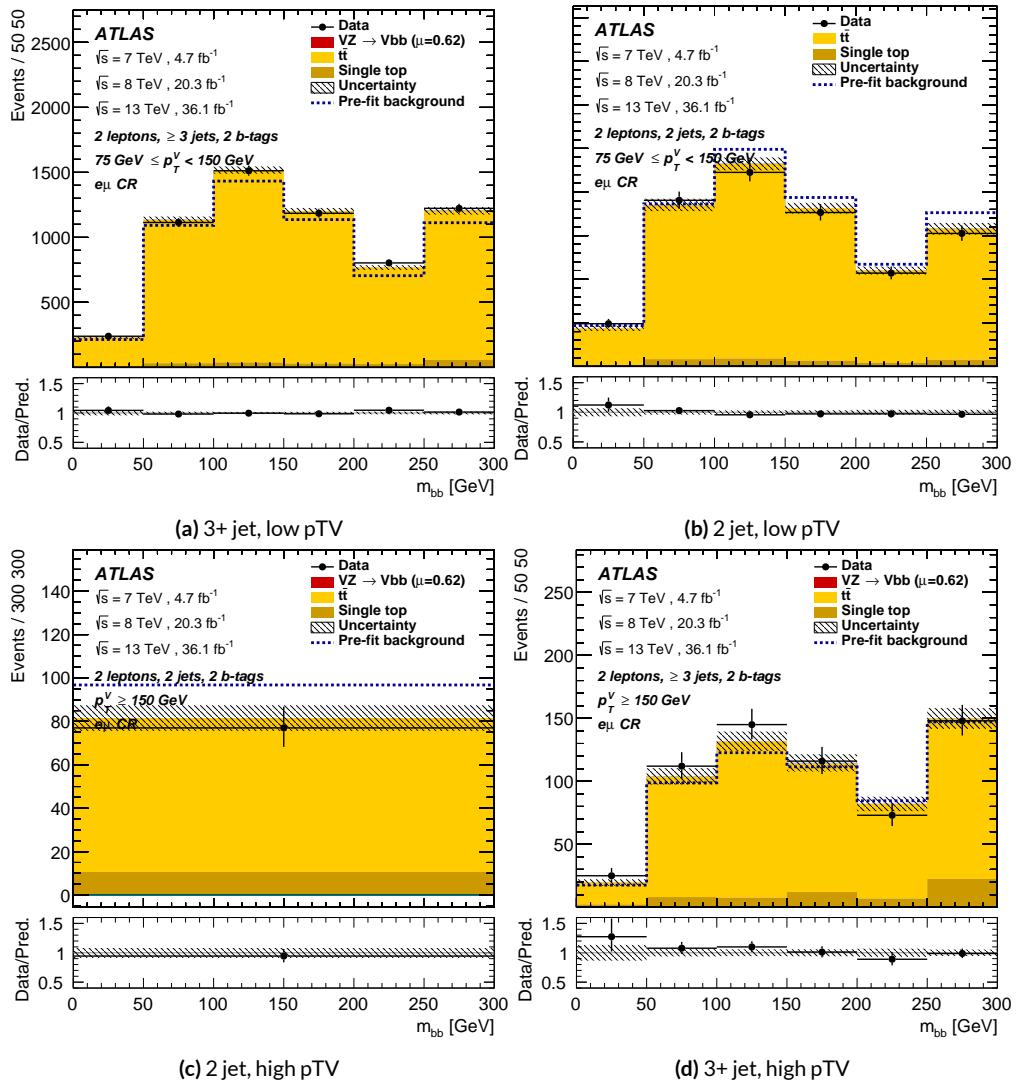


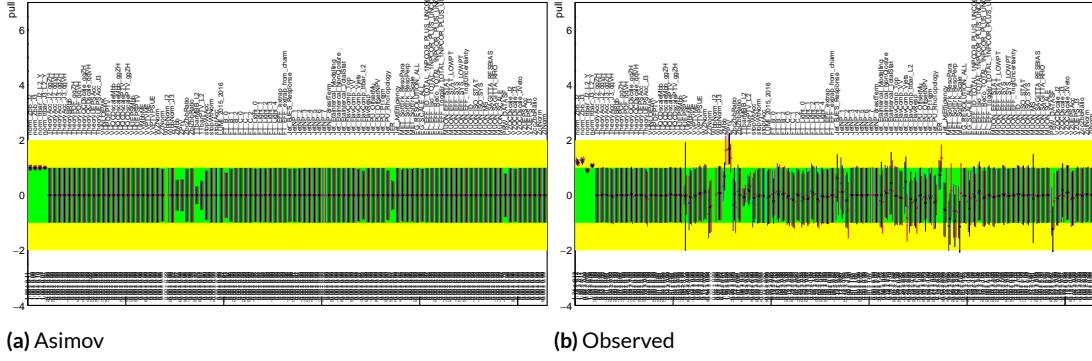
Figure 7.17: Postfit  $m_{bb}$  plots in the top  $e - \mu$  CR for the LI variable set.



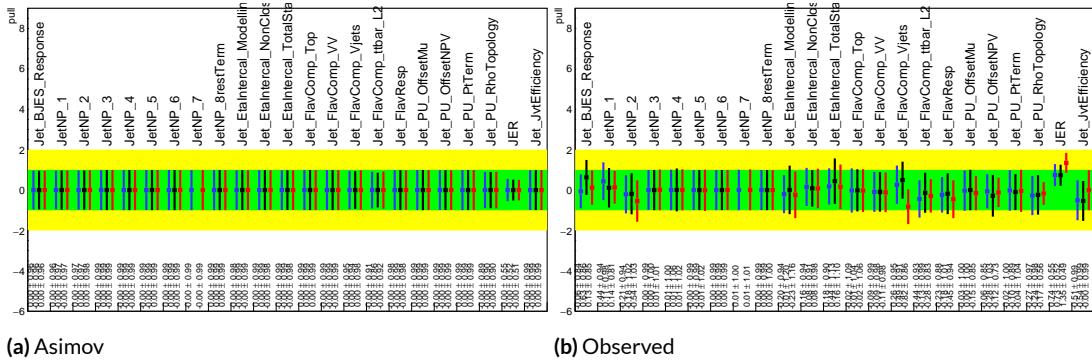
**Figure 7.18:** Postfit  $BDT_{VZ}$  plots in the signal region for the RF variable set.



**Figure 7.19:** Postfit  $m_{bb}$  plots in the top  $e - \mu$  CR for the RF variable set.



**Figure 7.20:** Pull comparison for all NP's but MC stats.



**Figure 7.21:** Pull comparison for jet NP's.

though this difference goes away in the ranking plot.

Nuisance parameter correlation matrices (for correlations with magnitude at least 0.25) for all three variable set fits can be found in Figures 7.26–7.28.

### 7.7.2 FULL BREAKDOWN OF ERRORS

A postfit ranking of nuisance parameters according to their impact on  $\hat{\mu}$  for the different variable sets may be found in Figure 7.29, with rankings being fairly similar. In particular, the signal UE+PS  $p_T^V$  systematic is top-ranked for all three variable sets and also looks very similar, unlike in the pull

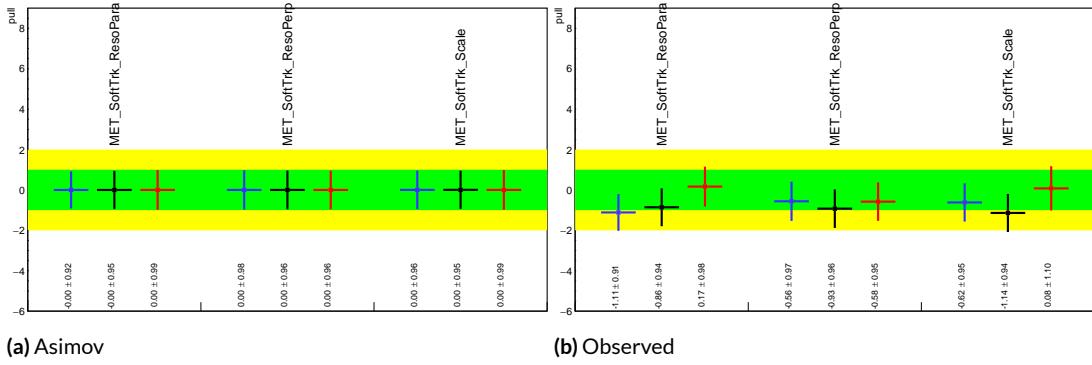


Figure 7.22: Pull comparison for MET NP's.

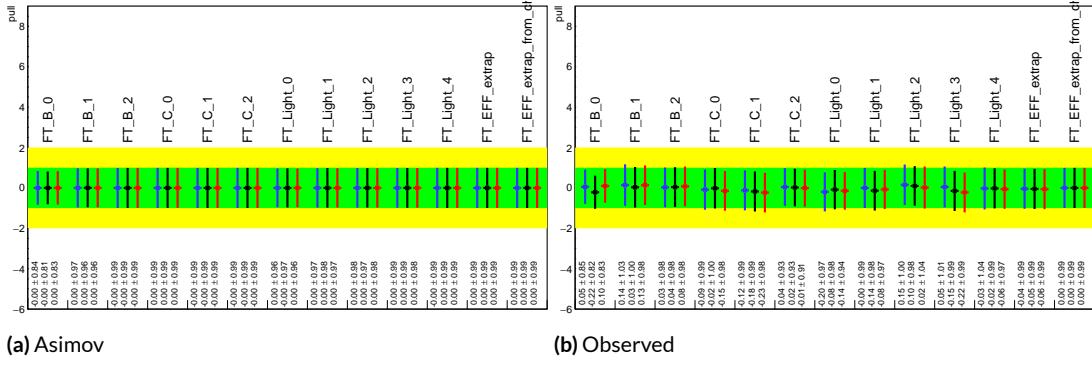


Figure 7.23: Pull comparison for Flavour Tagging NP's.

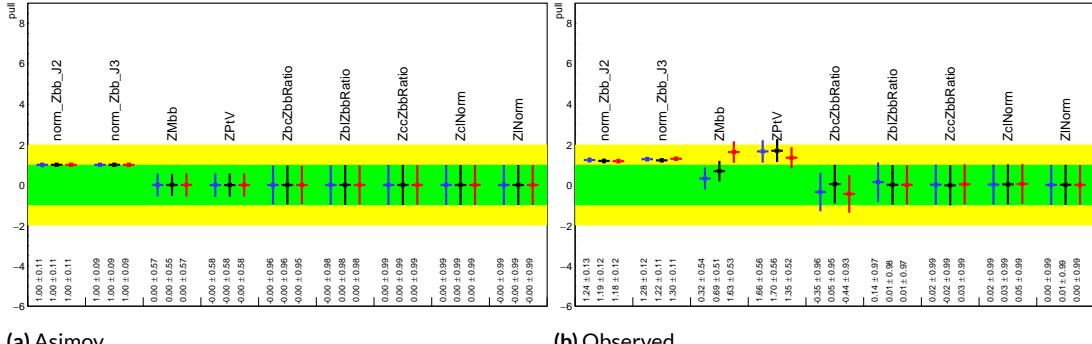
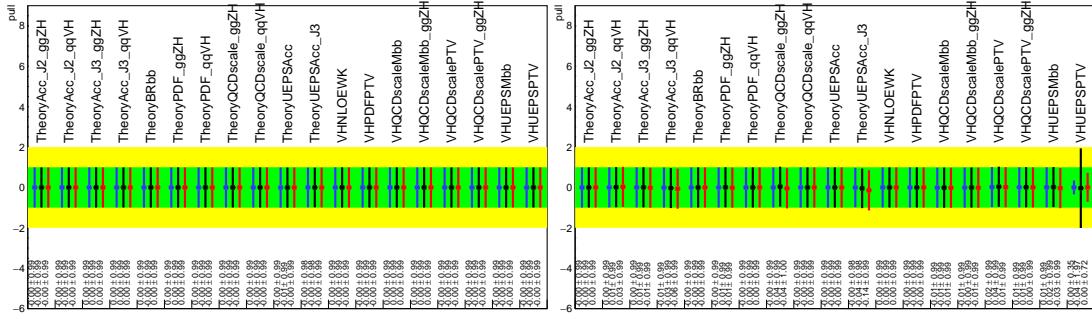


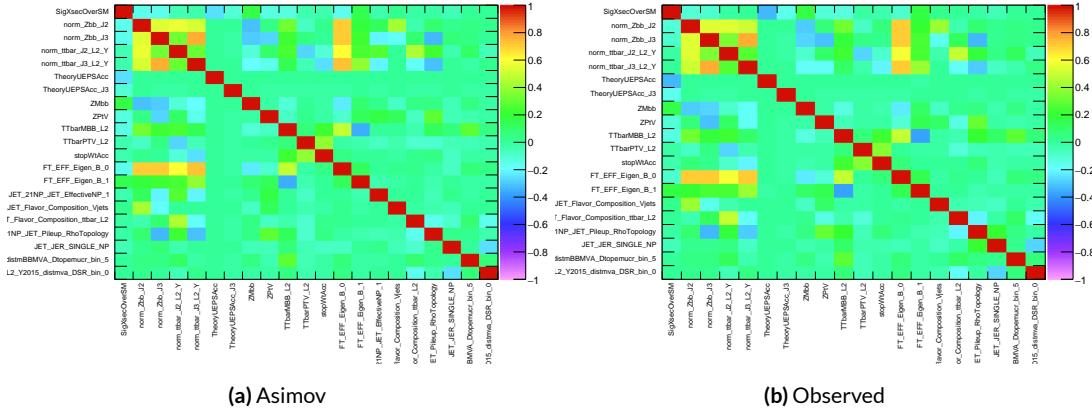
Figure 7.24: Pull comparison for  $Z$ +jets NP's.



(a) Asimov

(b) Observed

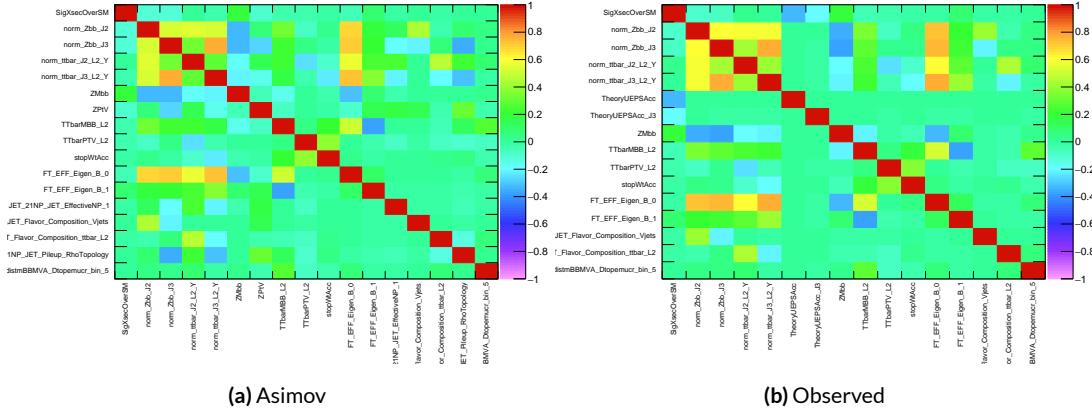
Figure 7.25: Pull comparison for signal process modeling NP's.



(a) Asimov

(b) Observed

Figure 7.26: NP correlations for standard variable fits.



(a) Asimov

(b) Observed

Figure 7.27: NP correlations for L1 variable fits.

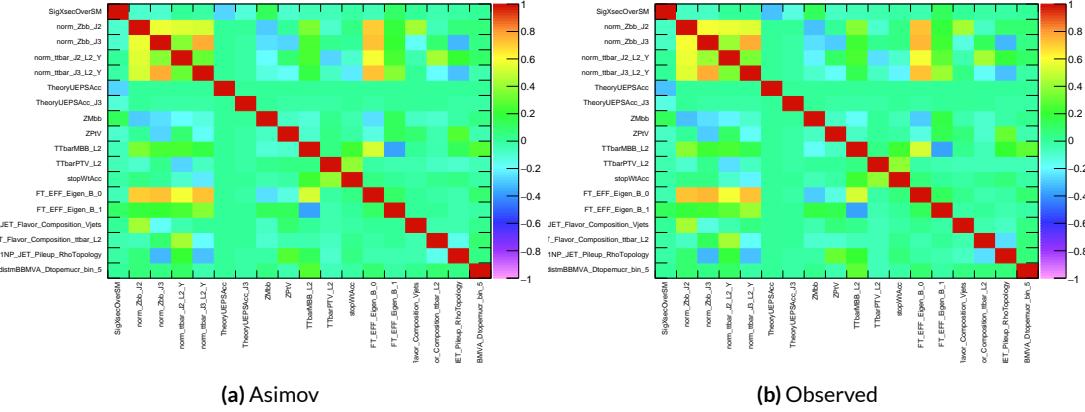


Figure 7.28: NP correlations for RF variable fits.

comparison plot, reiterating the importance of evaluating individually the impact of highly ranked NP's. The  $Z+jets p_T^V$  is highly pulled in all three cases, though this is less severe for the non-standard set (it is off the scale for the standard). The RF discriminant mitigates the effect of poorly modeled jet energy resolution better than the other sets.

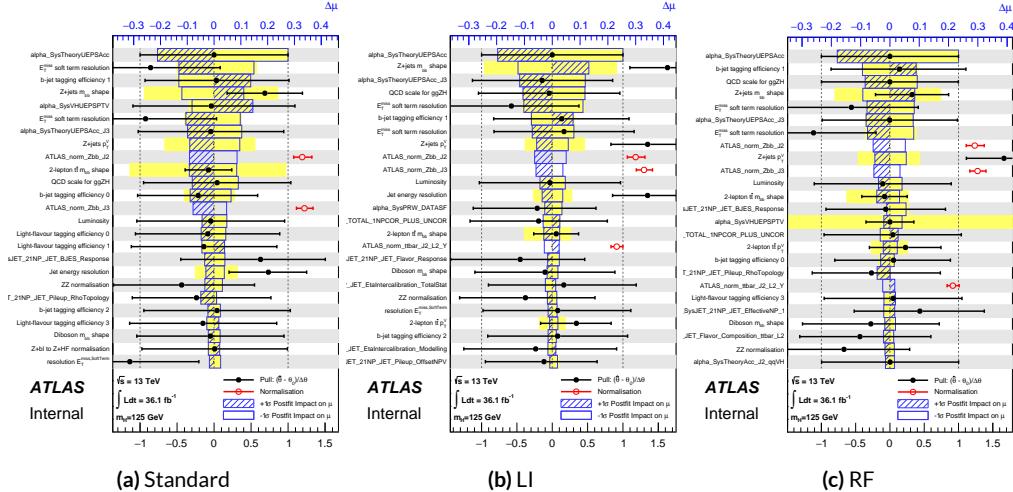


Figure 7.29: Plots for the top 25 nuisance parameters according to their postfit impact on  $\hat{\mu}$  for the standard (a), LI (b), and RF (c) variable sets.

The Asimov (Table 7.7) and observed (Table 7.8) breakdowns both consistently suggest that the LI variable set does a better job of constraining systematic uncertainties than the standard set and that the RF set does better still. It is also not surprising that the gain is more substantial in the observed fit than in the Asimov fits, as in the latter there are the “penalty” terms from pulls in addition to the overall broadening in the likelihood.

	Std-KF	LI+MET	RF
Total	+0.608 / -0.511	+0.632 / -0.539	+0.600 / -0.494
DataStat	+0.420 / -0.401	+0.453 / -0.434	+0.424 / -0.404
FullSyst	+0.440 / -0.318	+0.441 / -0.319	+0.425 / -0.284
Floating normalizations	+0.122 / -0.125	+0.110 / -0.111	+0.093 / -0.089
All normalizations	+0.128 / -0.129	+0.112 / -0.112	+0.099 / -0.092
All but normalizations	+0.403 / -0.274	+0.387 / -0.250	+0.382 / -0.227
Jets, MET	+0.180 / -0.097	+0.146 / -0.079	+0.122 / -0.083
Jets	+0.051 / -0.030	+0.044 / -0.035	+0.025 / -0.042
MET	+0.173 / -0.091	+0.140 / -0.074	+0.117 / -0.063
BTag	+0.138 / -0.136	+0.069 / -0.071	+0.076 / -0.078
BTag b	+0.125 / -0.125	+0.067 / -0.070	+0.073 / -0.075
BTag c	+0.018 / -0.016	+0.004 / -0.004	+0.005 / -0.005
BTag light	+0.057 / -0.051	+0.020 / -0.014	+0.009 / -0.018
Leptons	+0.013 / -0.012	+0.029 / -0.026	+0.012 / -0.023
Luminosity	+0.052 / -0.020	+0.050 / -0.016	+0.050 / -0.019
Diboson	+0.043 / -0.039	+0.035 / -0.031	+0.038 / -0.029
Model Zjets	+0.119 / -0.117	+0.124 / -0.127	+0.095 / -0.086
Zjets flt. norm.	+0.080 / -0.106	+0.052 / -0.092	+0.026 / -0.072
Model Wjets	+0.001 / -0.001	+0.001 / -0.001	+0.000 / -0.001
Wjets flt. norm.	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000
Model ttbar	+0.076 / -0.080	+0.025 / -0.035	+0.025 / -0.040
Model Single Top	+0.015 / -0.015	+0.002 / -0.004	+0.021 / -0.007
Model Multi Jet	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000
Signal Systematics	+0.262 / -0.087	+0.272 / -0.082	+0.290 / -0.088
MC stat	+0.149 / -0.136	+0.168 / -0.154	+0.153 / -0.136

**Table 7.7:** Expected error breakdowns for the standard, LI, and RF variable sets

	Std-KF	LI+MET	RF
$\hat{\mu}$	1.7458	1.6467	1.5019
Total	+0.811 / -0.662	+0.778 / -0.641	+0.731 / -0.612
DataStat	+0.502 / -0.484	+0.507 / -0.489	+0.500 / -0.481
FullSyst	+0.637 / -0.451	+0.591 / -0.415	+0.533 / -0.378
Floating normalizations	+0.153 / -0.143	+0.128 / -0.118	+0.110 / -0.109
All normalizations	+0.158 / -0.147	+0.130 / -0.119	+0.112 / -0.110
All but normalizations	+0.599 / -0.402	+0.544 / -0.354	+0.486 / -0.318
Jets, MET	+0.218 / -0.145	+0.198 / -0.113	+0.167 / -0.106
Jets	+0.071 / -0.059	+0.065 / -0.047	+0.036 / -0.051
MET	+0.209 / -0.130	+0.190 / -0.102	+0.152 / -0.077
BTag	+0.162 / -0.166	+0.093 / -0.070	+0.115 / -0.099
BTag b	+0.142 / -0.147	+0.090 / -0.066	+0.110 / -0.094
BTag c	+0.022 / -0.021	+0.006 / -0.006	+0.007 / -0.007
BTag light	+0.074 / -0.072	+0.025 / -0.022	+0.031 / -0.029
Leptons	+0.039 / -0.029	+0.035 / -0.031	+0.034 / -0.030
Luminosity	+0.079 / -0.039	+0.073 / -0.034	+0.069 / -0.032
Diboson	+0.047 / -0.043	+0.031 / -0.028	+0.029 / -0.028
Model Zjets	+0.164 / -0.152	+0.141 / -0.143	+0.101 / -0.105
Zjets flt. norm.	+0.070 / -0.109	+0.041 / -0.086	+0.033 / -0.083
Model Wjets	+0.001 / -0.001	+0.001 / -0.000	+0.001 / -0.001
Wjets flt. norm.	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000
Model ttbar	+0.067 / -0.102	+0.029 / -0.040	+0.040 / -0.048
Model Single Top	+0.015 / -0.020	+0.001 / -0.005	+0.004 / -0.006
Model Multi Jet	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000	+0.000 / -0.000
Signal Systematics	+0.434 / -0.183	+0.418 / -0.190	+0.364 / -0.152
MC stat	+0.226 / -0.201	+0.221 / -0.200	+0.212 / -0.189

**Table 7.8:** Observed signal strengths, and error breakdowns for the standard, LI, and RF variable sets

### 7.7.3 POSTFIT DISTRIBUTIONS AND S/B PLOTS

Postfit distributions for the MVA discriminant ( $m_{bb}$ ) distribution in the signal (top  $e - \mu$  control) region for the standard, Lorentz Invariant, and RestFrames variable sets. Here, as in the  $VZ$  fit, agreement is reasonable. In a combined fit with all three channels,  $Z + hf$  normalizations in particular would be correlated across the 0- and 2-lepton channels, which might help to better constrain this mismodeling (and perhaps as a result some of the  $Z + jets$  systematics as well).

One final type of plot presented as a result is the binned  $\log_{10} (S/B)$  in signal regions distributions may be found in Figure 7.36. For these plots, one fills a histogram with the  $\log_{10} (S/B)$  ratio in each postfit distribution bin weighted by the total number of events. In this case, a log plot is helpful because otherwise the highest bins would be invisible on a linear plot. These distributions are allegedly useful for seeing where most of one's sensitivity lies. Practically, it is problematic if the pull (from the null hypothesis) is higher at lower  $S/B$  values, which may indicate a poorly optimized discriminant.

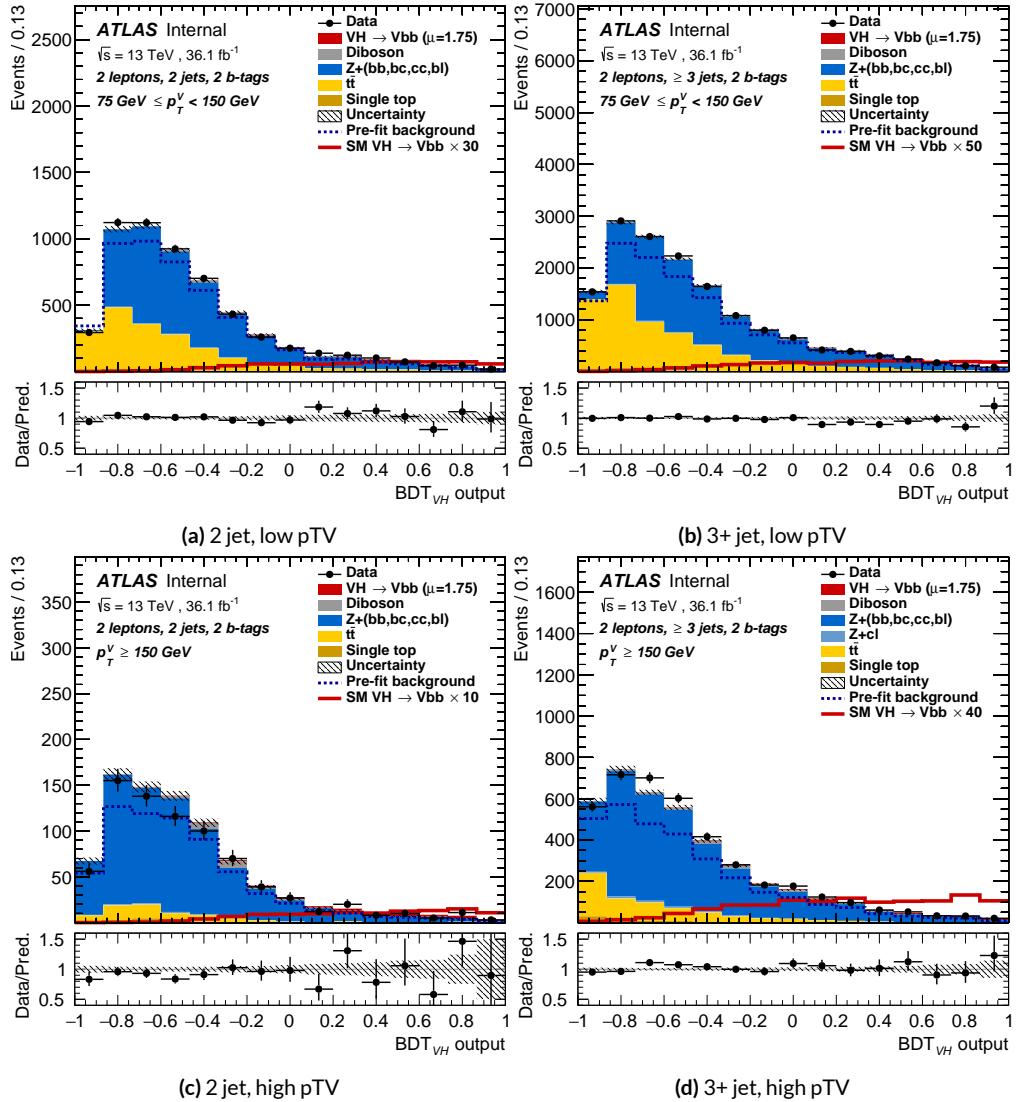
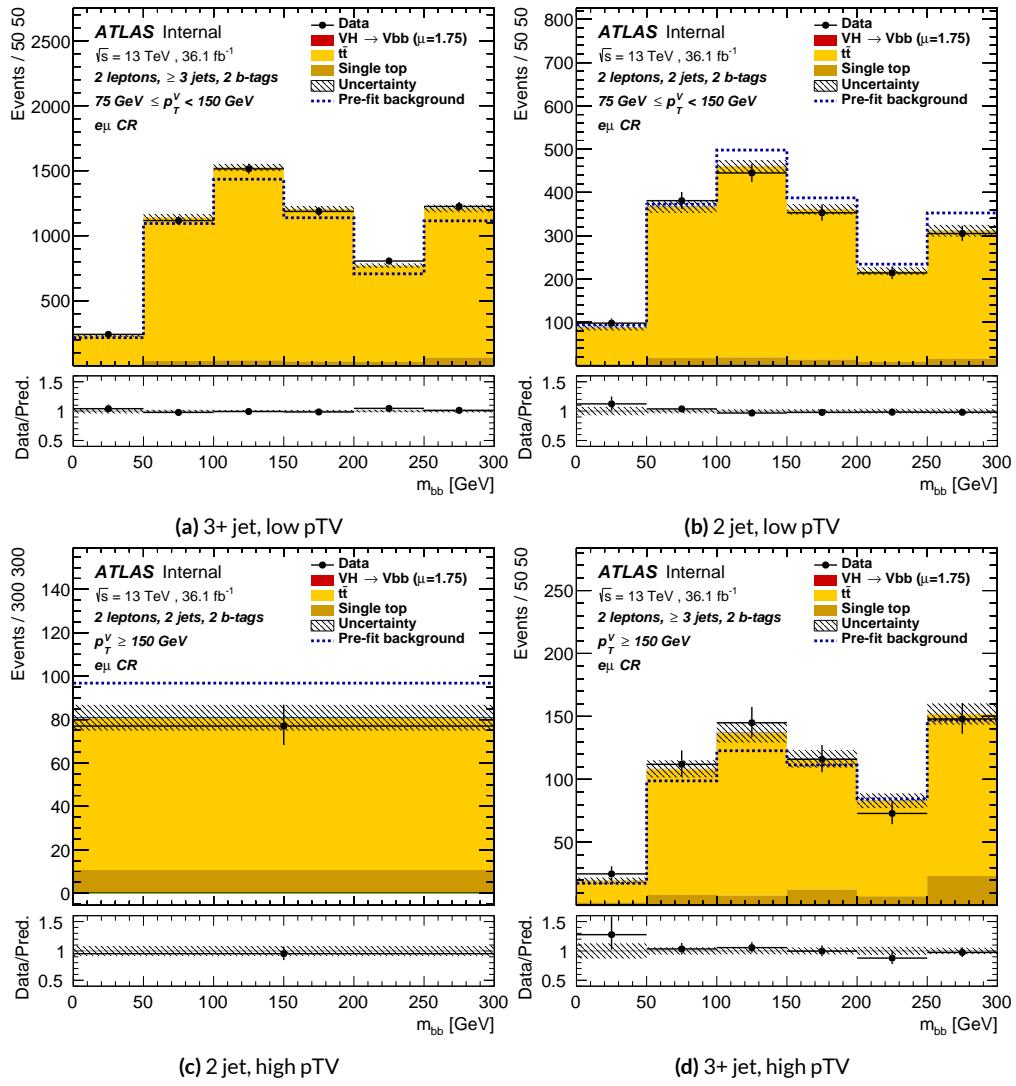


Figure 7.30: Postfit  $BDT_{VH}$  plots in the signal region for the standard variable set.



**Figure 7.31:** Postfit  $m_{bb}$  plots in the top  $e - \mu$  CR for the standard variable set.

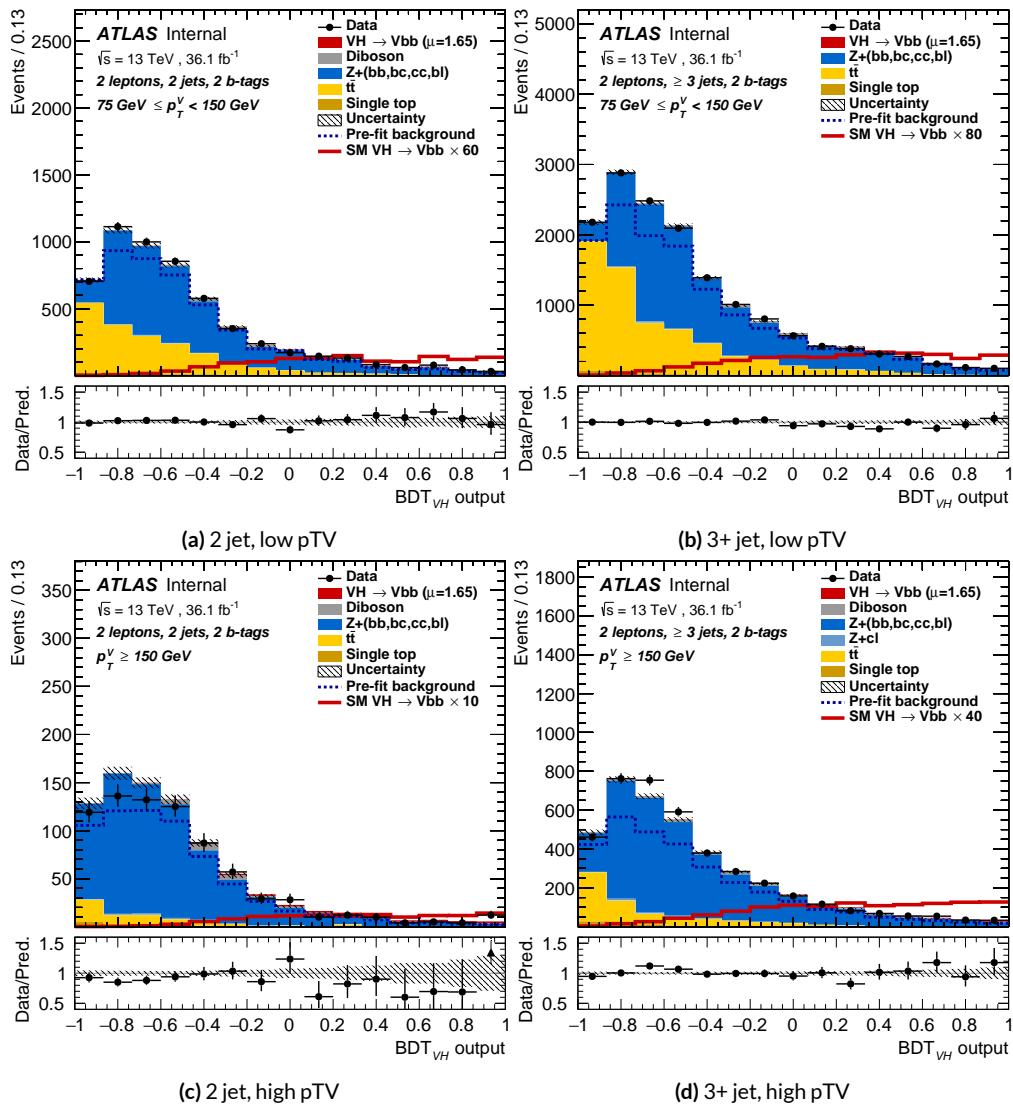


Figure 7.32: Postfit  $BDT_{VH}$  plots in the signal region for the LI variable set.

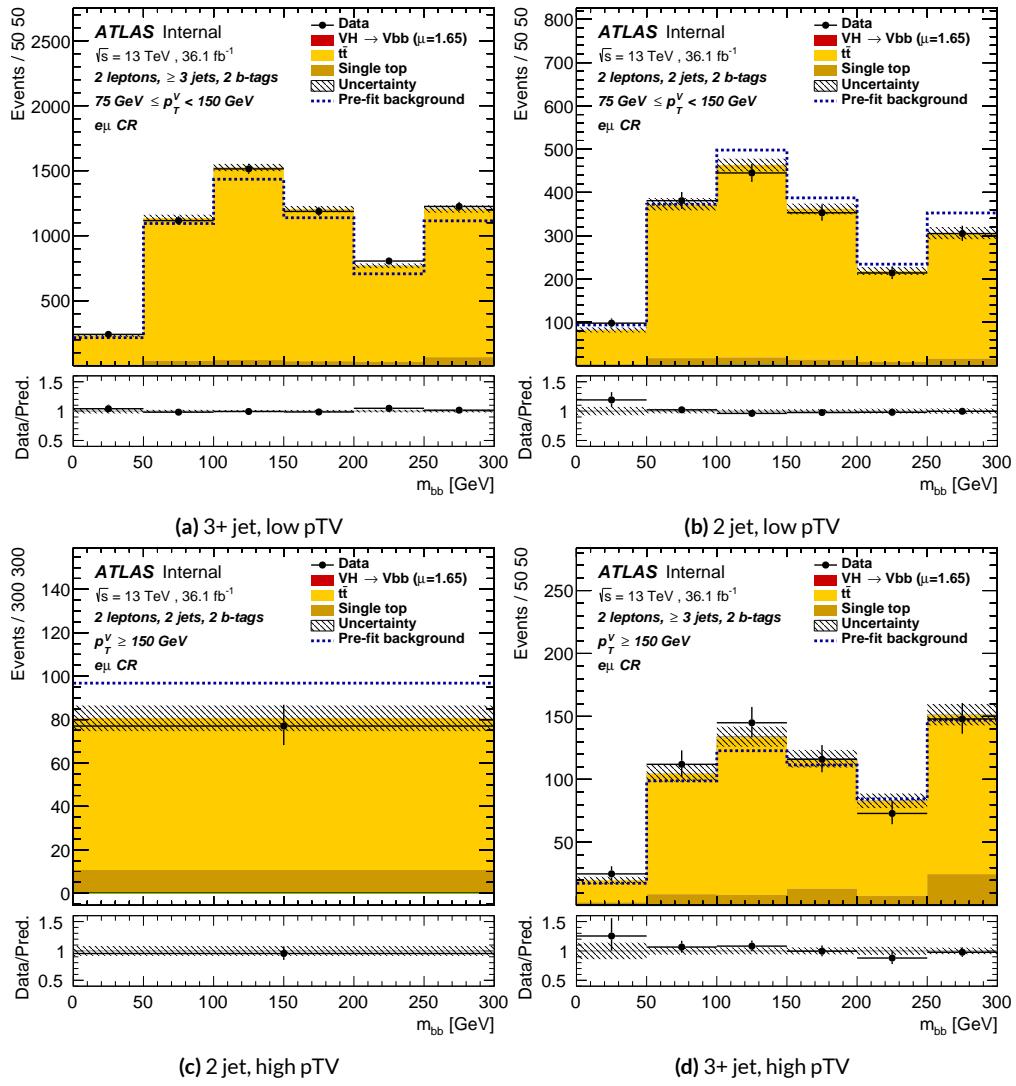
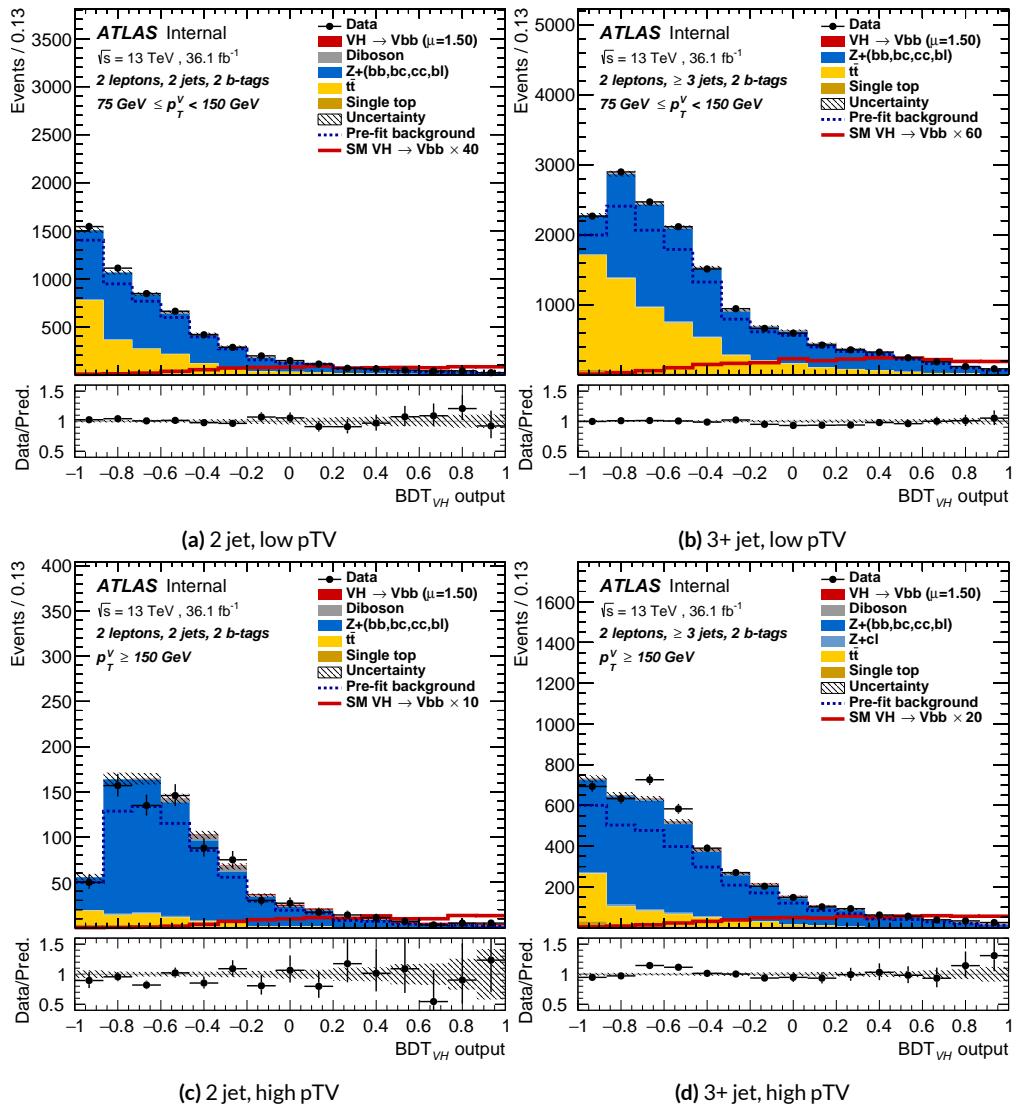
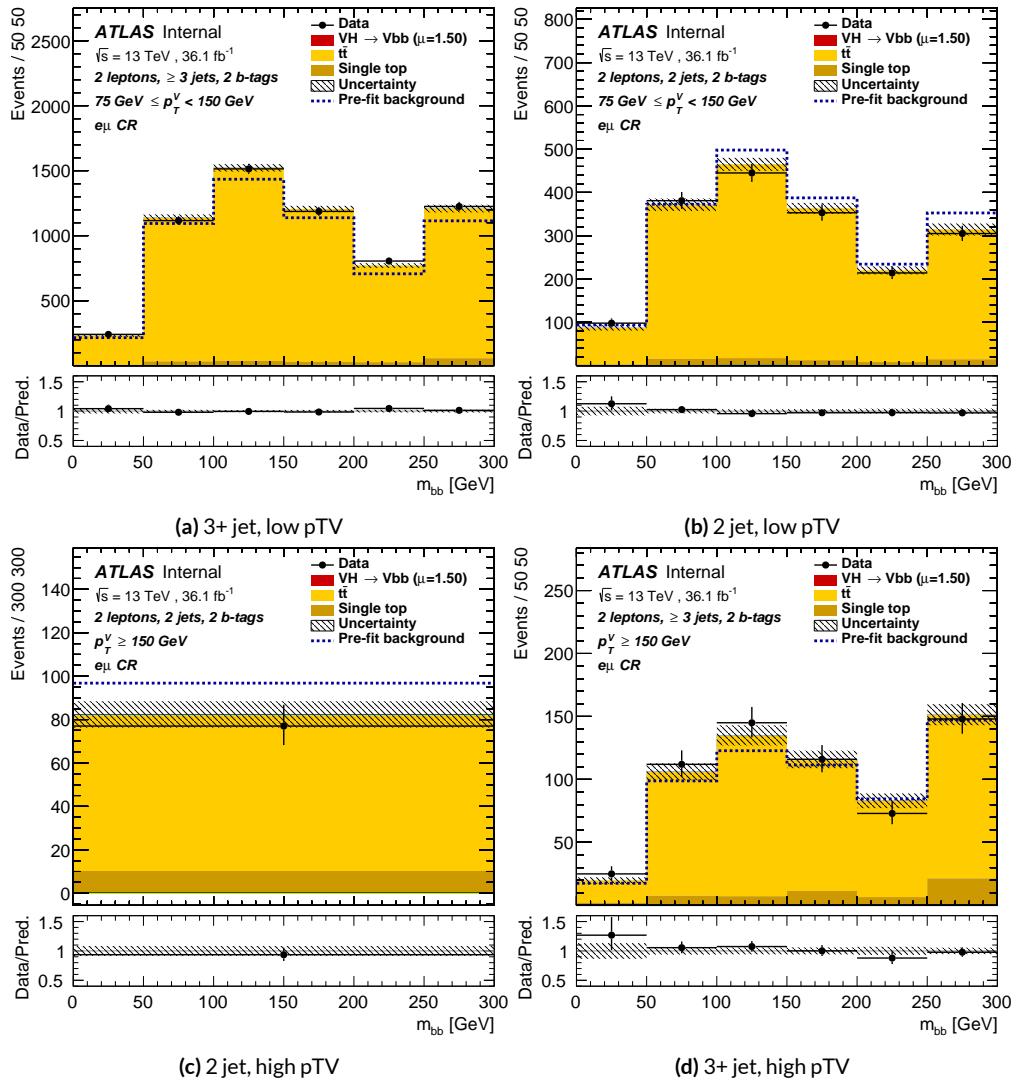


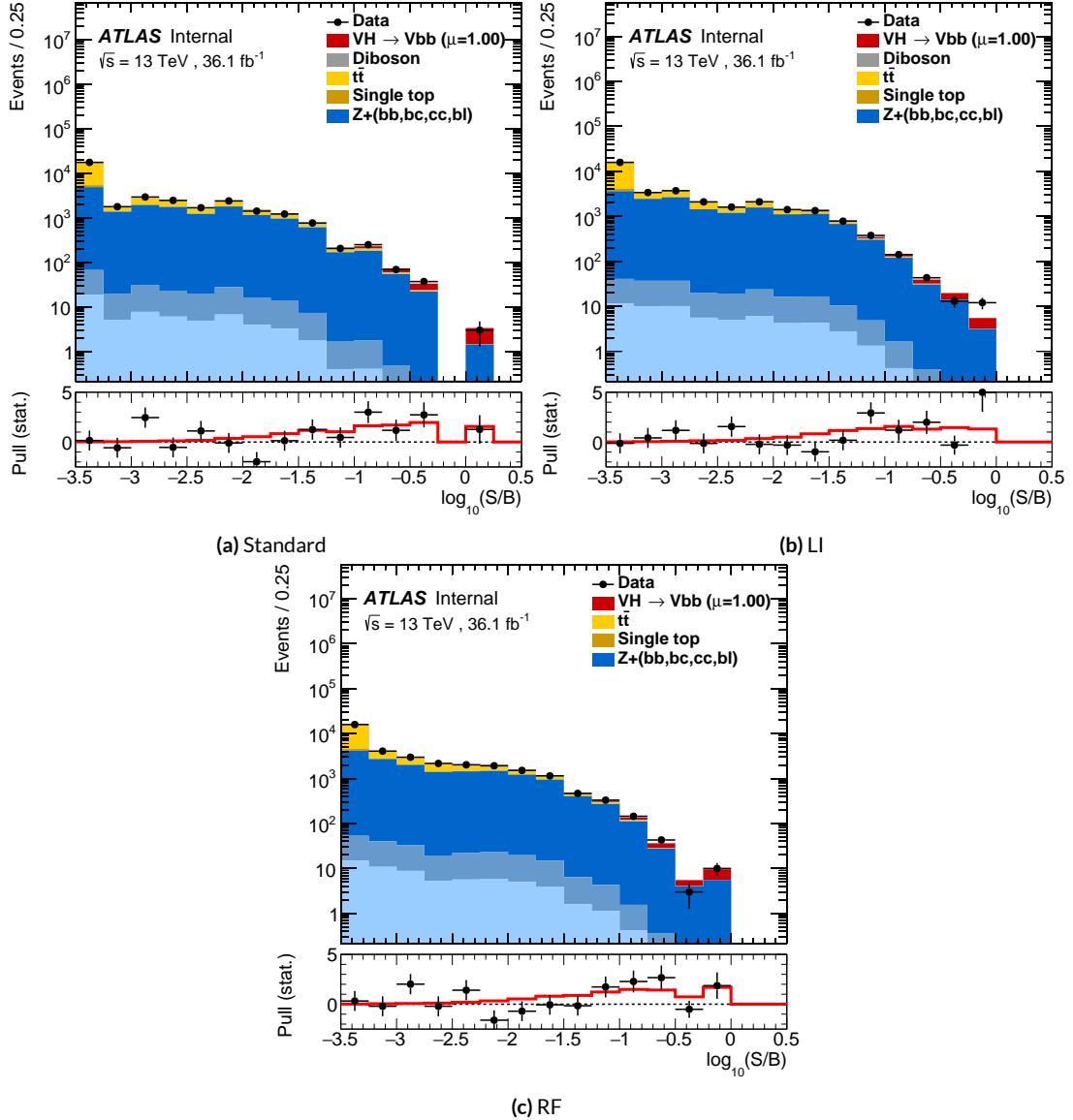
Figure 7.33: Postfit  $m_{bb}$  plots in the top  $e - \mu$  CR for the LI variable set.



**Figure 7.34:** Postfit  $BDT_{VH}$  plots in the signal region for the RF variable set.



**Figure 7.35:** Postfit  $m_{bb}$  plots in the top  $e - \mu$  CR for the RF variable set.



**Figure 7.36:** Binned S/B plots for the standard (a), LI (b), and RF (c) variable sets. Signal is weighted to  $\mu = 1$  for comparison to the SM prediction.

*If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.*

Conventional Wisdom

# 8

## Fit Results

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID Expected and observed sensitivities for the different variable sets may be found in Table 8.1. The RF fits feature the highest expected sensitivities, outperforming the standard set by 3.5% and 3.4% for fits to Asimov and observed datasets, respectively. The LI variable has a lower significance than both for expected fits to both Asimov and data with a 6.7% (1.7%) signifi-

cance than the standard set for the Asimov (observed) dataset. While the fit using standard variables does have a higher observed significance than both the LI and RF fits, by 2.8% and 8.6%, respectively, these numbers should be viewed in the context of the best fit  $\hat{\mu}$  values, discussed below. That is, the standard set may yield the highest sensitivity for this particular dataset, but this is not necessarily (and likely is not) the case for any given dataset.

	Standard	LI	RF
Expected (Asimov)	2.06	1.92	2.13
Expected (data)	1.76	1.73	1.80
Observed (data)	2.87	2.79	2.62

**Table 8.1:** Expected (for both data and Asimov) and observed significances for the standard, LI, and RF variable sets.

A summary of fitted signal strengths and errors for both the Asimov (a) and observed (b) datasets are shown in Figure 8.1.<sup>\*</sup> A summary of error breakdowns is given in Tables 8.2 (Asimov) and 8.3 (observed) for total error, data statistics contributions, total systematic error contributions, and categories for which the total impact is  $\geq 0.1$  for the standard fit. As is to be expected for both the Asimov and observed dataset fits, the contribution to the total error on  $\mu$  arising from data statistics is nearly identical, since each set of fits uses the same selections and data.<sup>†</sup>

The contribution from systematic uncertainties, however, does vary considerably across the variable sets. The Asimov fits are a best case scenario in the sense that, by construction, all NP's are equal to their predicted values (and so no “penalty” is paid for pulls on Gaussian NP's). The systematics

<sup>\*</sup>For reference, the standalone 2-lepton fit from the fiducial analysis is  $2.11^{+0.50}_{-0.48}$  (stat.)  $^{+0.64}_{-0.47}$  (syst.)

<sup>†</sup>Though not exactly identical. Since the BDT's are different for the different variable sets, the binning (as determined by transformation D) and bin contents in each set are generally different, leading to slightly different data statistics errors.

	Std-KF	LI+MET	RF
Total	+0.608 / -0.511	+0.632 / -0.539	+0.600 / -0.494
DataStat	+0.420 / -0.401	+0.453 / -0.434	+0.424 / -0.404
FullSyst	+0.440 / -0.318	+0.441 / -0.319	+0.425 / -0.284
Signal Systematics	+0.262 / -0.087	+0.272 / -0.082	+0.290 / -0.088
MET	+0.173 / -0.091	+0.140 / -0.074	+0.117 / -0.063
Flavor Tagging	+0.138 / -0.136	+0.069 / -0.071	+0.076 / -0.078
Model Zjets	+0.119 / -0.117	+0.124 / -0.127	+0.095 / -0.086

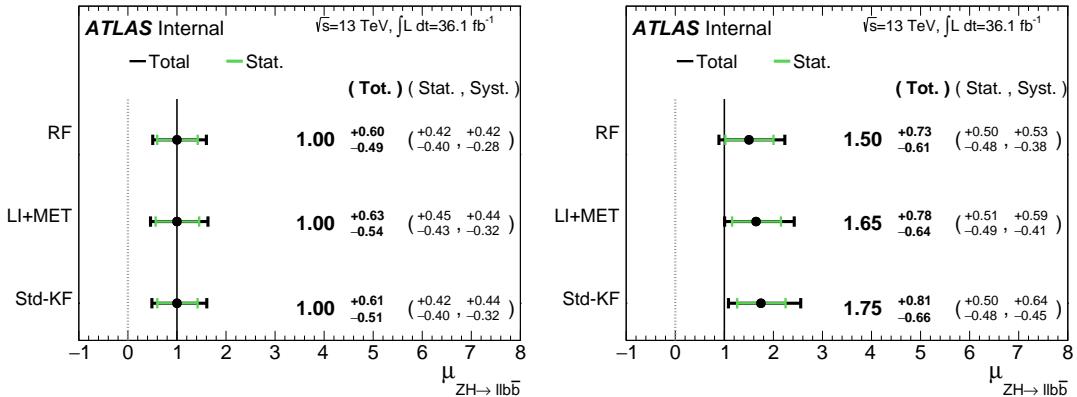
**Table 8.2:** Summary of error impacts on total  $\mu$  error for principal categories in the Asimov standard, LI, and RF fits.

	Std-KF	LI+MET	RF
Total	+0.811 / -0.662	+0.778 / -0.641	+0.731 / -0.612
DataStat	+0.502 / -0.484	+0.507 / -0.489	+0.500 / -0.481
FullSyst	+0.637 / -0.451	+0.591 / -0.415	+0.533 / -0.378
Signal Systematics	+0.434 / -0.183	+0.418 / -0.190	+0.364 / -0.152
MET	+0.209 / -0.130	+0.190 / -0.102	+0.152 / -0.077
Flavor Tagging	+0.162 / -0.166	+0.093 / -0.070	+0.115 / -0.099
Model Zjets	+0.164 / -0.152	+0.141 / -0.143	+0.101 / -0.105

**Table 8.3:** Summary of error impacts on total  $\hat{\mu}$  error for principal categories in the observed standard, LI, and RF fits.

error from the LI fit is slightly higher (subpercent) than that from the standard fit, and 4.6% higher error overall due to differences in data stats. The RF Asimov fit, however, has a 6.5% lower total error from systematics than the standard Asimov fit (and a 2.2% lower error overall). Moreover, for both the LI and RF sets, errors are markedly smaller for the MET and Flavor Tagging categories, with the RF fit also featuring a smaller errors on  $Z$ +jets modeling; the only notable exception to this trend in Asimov fits are the signal systematics.

These trends are more pronounced in the observed fits. As can be seen in Table 8.3, both the LI and RF fits have smaller errors from systematic uncertainties, both overall and in all principal categories, with the LI and RF fits having 7.5% (3.7%) and 16% (8.8%) lower systematics (total) error on  $\hat{\mu}$ , respectively.



**Figure 8.1:**  $\mu$  summary plots for the standard, LI, and RF variable sets. The Asimov case (with  $\mu = 1$  by construction) is in (a), and  $\hat{\mu}$  best fit values and error summary are in (b).

*If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.*

Conventional Wisdom

# 9

## Measurement Combinations

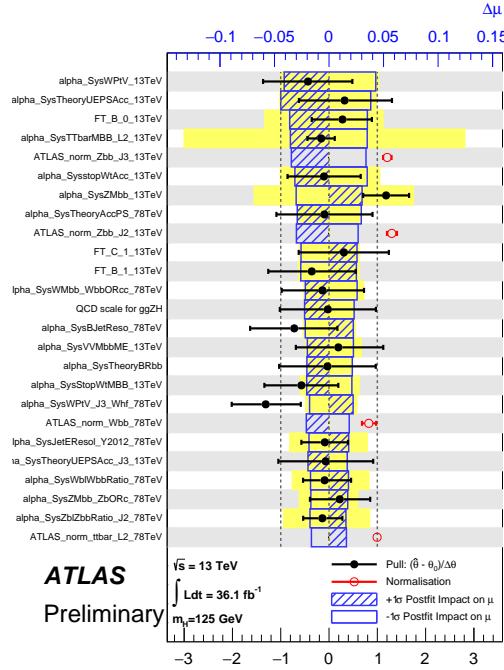
IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE sensitivity, it is necessary to use all available datasets. The Run1 ( $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV with  $4.7 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data, and  $\sqrt{s} = 8$  TeV with  $20.3 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data) and Run2 workspaces are combined according to the correlation scheme in Table 9.1. The impact of correlating experimental and modelling nuisance parameters (NP's) was checked and found to have negligible impact on fit results

(details may be found in Appendix ??). Hence, only signal NP's and the  $b$ -jet energy scale are correlated.

7 TeV NP	8 TeV NP	13 TeV NP
	ATLAS_BR_bb	SysTheoryBRbb
	SysTheoryQCDscale_ggZH	SysTheoryQCDscale_ggZH
	SysTheoryQCDscale_qqVH	SysTheoryQCDscale_qqVH
—	SysTheoryPDF_ggZH_8TeV	SysTheoryPDF_ggZH
—	SysTheoryPDF_qqVH_8TeV	SysTheoryPDF_qqVH
—	SysTheoryVHPt_8TeV	SysVHNLOEWK
SysJetFlavB_7TeV	SysJetFlavB_8TeV	SysJET_21NP_JET_BJES_Response

**Table 9.1:** A summary of correlated nuisance parameters among the 7, 8, and 13 TeV datasets.

The combined results yields an observed (expected) significance of 3.57 (4.00) and an observed (expected) limit of 1.37 ( $0.510^{+0.200}_{-0.143}$ ), with a signal strength of  $\hat{\mu} = 0.898^{+0.278}_{-0.261}$ .



**Figure 9.1:** Ranked nuisance parameters for the Run1+Run2 combination.

Two (34.2% compatibility with single parameter of interest fit) and three (1.49% compatibility with single parameter of interest fit) parameter of interest fits were also conducted, and summaries of  $\hat{\mu}$  for these fits and for 7, 8, and 13 TeV may be found in Figures 9.2-9.4. The main results for Run 1, Run 2, and the combination may be found in Table 9.2.

Dataset	$\hat{\mu}$	Total Error in $\hat{\mu}$	Obs. (Exp.)	Significance
Run 1	0.51	+0.40 / -0.37		1.4 (2.6)
Run 2	1.20	+0.42 / -0.36		3.54 (3.03)
Combined	0.90	+0.28 / -0.26		3.57 (4.00)

Table 9.2: A summary of main results for the Run 1, Run 2, and combined fits.

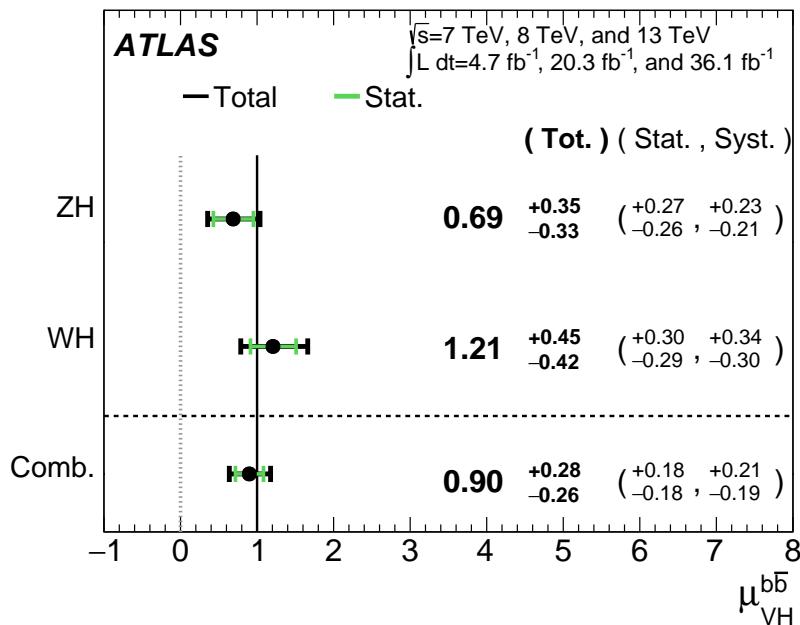


Figure 9.2:  $\hat{\mu}$  summary plot for a two parameter of interest fit.

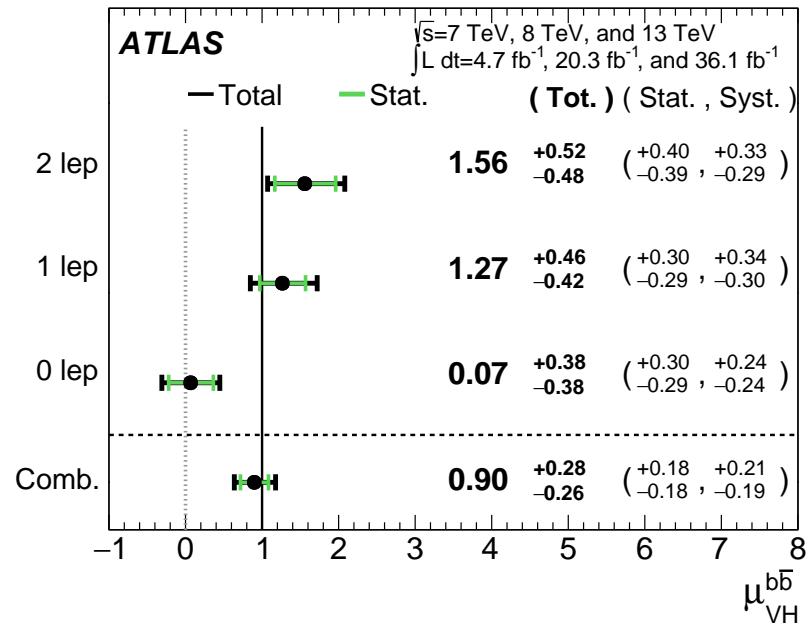


Figure 9.3:  $\hat{\mu}$  summary plot for a three parameter of interest fit.

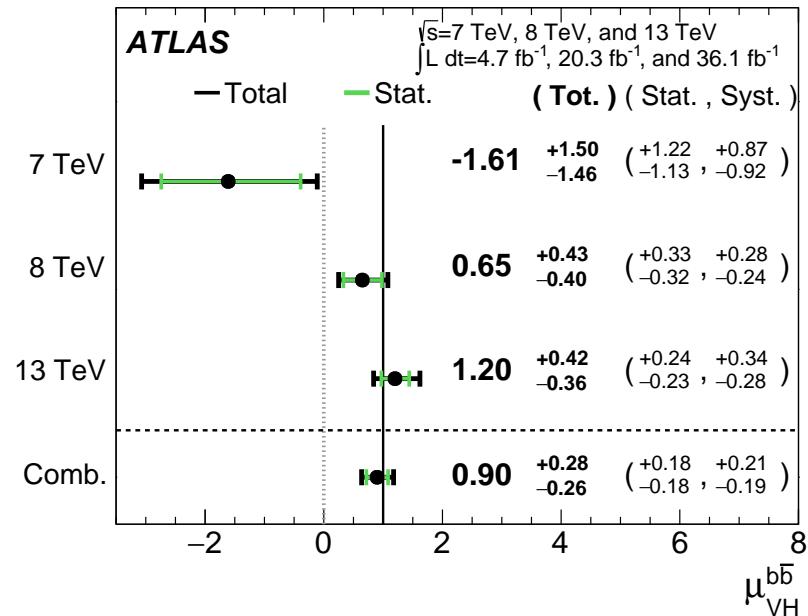


Figure 9.4:  $\hat{\mu}$  summary plot for different  $\sqrt{s}$  values.

#### 9.0.4 BREAKDOWN OF STATISTICAL AND SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

A breakdown of the uncertainties from data statistics (“DataStat”), systematic uncertainties together with MC statistical uncertainties (“FullSyst”), and other systematic uncertainty categories on the total error on  $\hat{\mu}$  may be found in Table 9.3.

Total	+0.278 / -0.261
DataStat	+0.185 / -0.181
FullSyst	+0.208 / -0.188
Floating normalizations	+0.055 / -0.056
All normalizations	+0.068 / -0.069
All but normalizations	+0.192 / -0.172
Jets, MET	+0.046 / -0.040
Jets	+0.041 / -0.036
MET	+0.023 / -0.018
BTag	+0.077 / -0.076
BTag b	+0.062 / -0.059
BTag c	+0.033 / -0.032
BTag light	+0.028 / -0.028
Leptons	+0.008 / -0.008
Luminosity	+0.026 / -0.014
Diboson	+0.030 / -0.027
Model Zjets	+0.049 / -0.050
Zjets flt. norm.	+0.032 / -0.040
Model Wjets	+0.082 / -0.083
Wjets flt. norm.	+0.031 / -0.027
Model ttbar	+0.047 / -0.046
ttbar flt. norm.	+0.025 / -0.026
Model Single Top	+0.047 / -0.045
Model Multi Jet	+0.027 / -0.038
Signal Systematics	+0.098 / -0.052
MC stat	+0.080 / -0.084

**Table 9.3:** Summary of the impact of different nuisance parameter categories on the total error on  $\hat{\mu}$  for the combined Run1+Run2 fit.

Figures 9.5– 9.7 show  $\hat{\mu}$  summary plots for multiple parameter of interest fits. A fit with two parameters of interest as the  $\hat{\mu}$ 's of Run 1 and Run 2 show has a 20.1% compatibility with the single parameter of interest fit, and a six parameter interest fit (one each for each lepton channel in Run 1 and Run 2) has a 7.10% compatibility with the single parameter of interest fit, while a four parameter of interest fit has a 34.6% compatibility.

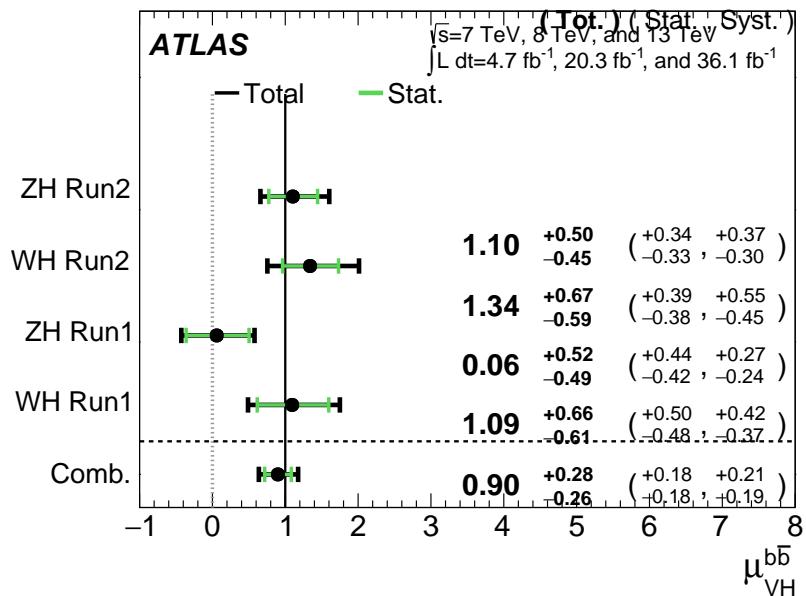


Figure 9.5:  $\hat{\mu}$  summary plot for a four parameter of interest fit.

### 9.0.5 CORRELATION STUDIES

In order to decide which NP's would and would not be correlated between Run 1 and Run 2, a number of studies were conducted concerning jet energy scale (JES) and modeling systematics. Each is described in turn below. It should be noted that correlation studies were conducted using postfit Asimov data with  $\mu = 0.51$  (1.0) for Run 1 (2), which is why the results differ from those in the final,

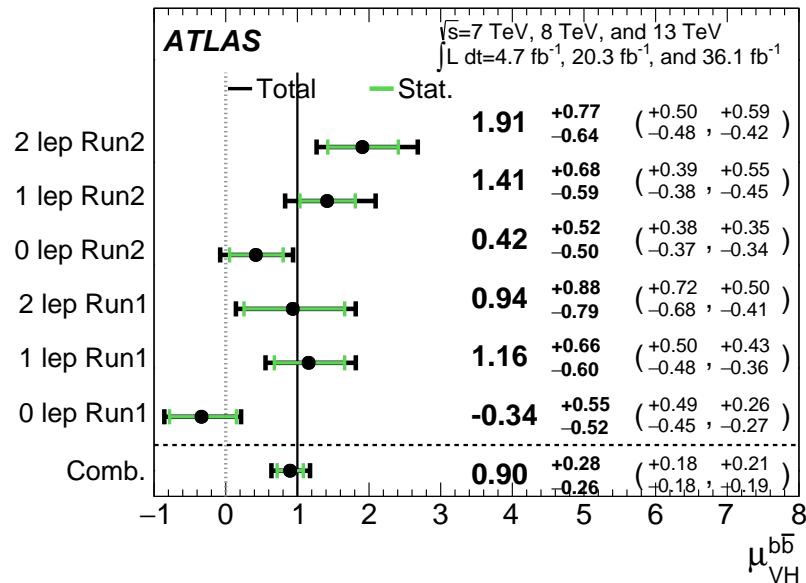


Figure 9.6:  $\hat{\mu}$  summary plot for a six parameter of interest fit.

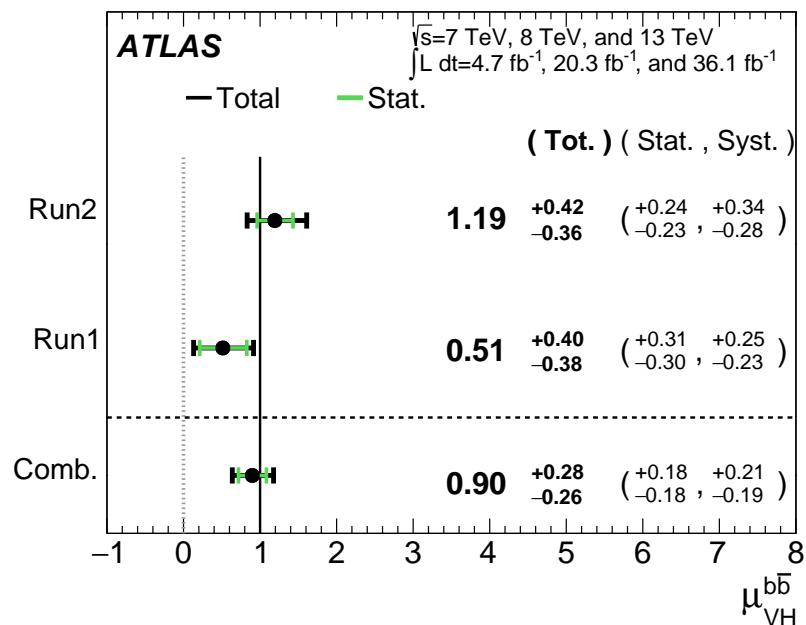


Figure 9.7:  $\hat{\mu}$  summary plot for a two parameter of interest (Run 1 and Run 2) values.

unblinded combination with actual data. Updated results using the unblinded data are in progress.

## JET ENERGY SCALE

The JetEtMiss recommended “strong” and “weak” correlation schemes between Run 1 and Run 2 were used as a point of departure for the combination correlation scheme regarding JES NP’s. However, the JES NP’s in both the Run 1 and Run 2 workspaces are a reduced set of NP’s, with some 56 (75) NP’s reduced to 6 (8) for Run 1 (2). In order to restore the full set of JES NP’s, the effective NP’s in each workspace are unfolded using maps detailing the linear combinations of unfolded NP’s that form the effective NP’s.

The linear combinations used to unfold the effective JES NP’s were calculated as follows:

$$NP_{i,eff} = \frac{\sum_j A_{ij} |NP_{j,unf}| NP_{j,unf}}{\sqrt{\sum_j A_{ij}^2 |NP_{j,unf}|^2}} \quad (9.1)$$

where *eff* and *unf* are for effective and unfolded NP’s, respectively, the  $A_{ij}$ ’s are scalar coefficients taken from raw maps, and  $|NP_{j,unf}|$  are the amplitudes of the unfolded NP’s. The raw  $A_{ij}$  and scaled maps for Run 1 and Run 2 may be found in Figure 9.8

Unfolding was found to have very little effect on both expected sensitivities and errors, as can be seen in Tables ?? and ??.

It was also found that fit quantities of interest were similarly indifferent to the use of either the strong or weak JES correlation schemes, as shown in Tables 9.8 and 9.9.

As a result of these studies, the weak JES correlation scheme with uncorrelated effective JES NP’s

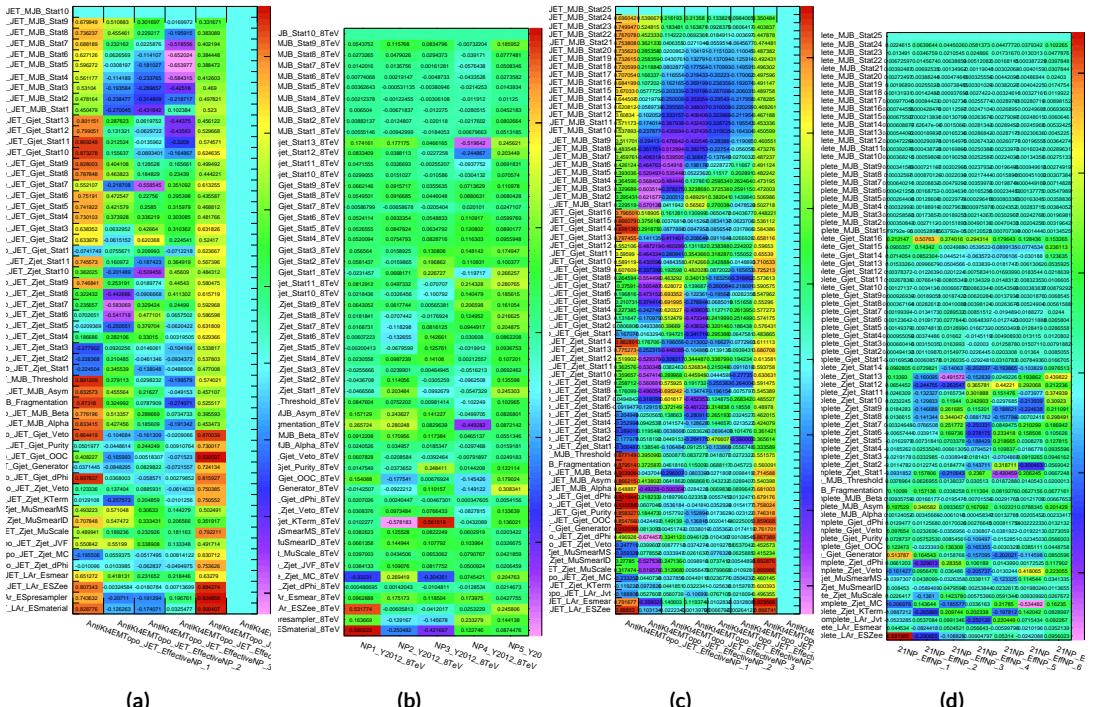


Figure 9.8: The raw and scaled coefficients for unfolding Run 1 (a and b) and Run 2 (c and d), respectively

	R <sub>1</sub> Unfold	R <sub>1</sub> Eff	R <sub>2</sub> Unfold	R <sub>2</sub> Eff	Comb Unfold	Comb Eff
Exp. Sig.	2.604	2.606	3.014	3.014	4.005	3.998
Obs. Sig.	1.369	1.374	3.53	3.53	3.581	3.571
Exp. Limit	$0.755^{+0.296}_{-0.211}$	$0.755^{+0.296}_{-0.211}$	$0.732^{+0.287}_{-0.205}$	$0.732^{+0.287}_{-0.205}$	$0.512^{+0.201}_{-0.143}$	$0.51^{+0.2}_{-0.143}$
Obs. Limit	1.211	1.211	1.94	1.94	1.36	1.37

Table 9.4: Expected and observed sensitivities for Run 1, Run 2, and combined workspaces with effective and unfolded JES NP's.

	R <sub>1</sub> Unfold	R <sub>1</sub> Eff
$ \Delta\hat{\mu} $	0.0018	
$\hat{\mu}$	0.5064	0.5082
Total	+0.400 / -0.373	+0.401 / -0.373
DataStat	+0.312 / -0.301	+0.312 / -0.301
FullSyst	+0.250 / -0.220	+0.251 / -0.220
Jets	+0.060 / -0.051	+0.060 / -0.052
BTag	+0.094 / -0.079	+0.095 / -0.079
	+0.119 / -0.106	+0.119 / -0.106
	+0.076 / -0.076	+0.077 / -0.076

**Table 9.5:** Error on signal strength breakdowns for Run 1 workspaces with effective and unfolded JES NP's.

	R <sub>1</sub> Unfold	R <sub>1</sub> Eff
R <sub>2</sub> Unfold	R <sub>2</sub> Eff	Comb Unfold
Comb Eff		
$ \Delta\hat{\mu} $	0.0	
$\hat{\mu}$	1.2051	1.2052
Total	+0.421 / -0.366	+0.421 / -0.366
DataStat	+0.239 / -0.234	+0.239 / -0.234
FullSyst	+0.346 / -0.282	+0.346 / -0.282
Jets	+0.066 / -0.047	+0.066 / -0.047
BTag	+0.119 / -0.106	+0.119 / -0.106

**Table 9.6:** Error on signal strength breakdowns for Run 2 workspaces with effective and unfolded JES NP's.

	Comb Unfold	Comb Eff
$ \Delta\hat{\mu} $	0.0006	
$\hat{\mu}$	0.8992	0.8985
Total	+0.278 / -0.261	+0.278 / -0.261
DataStat	+0.185 / -0.181	+0.185 / -0.181
FullSyst	+0.208 / -0.187	+0.208 / -0.188
Jets	+0.040 / -0.044	+0.041 / -0.036
BTag	+0.076 / -0.076	+0.077 / -0.076

**Table 9.7:** Error on signal strength breakdowns for combined workspaces with effective and unfolded JES NP's.

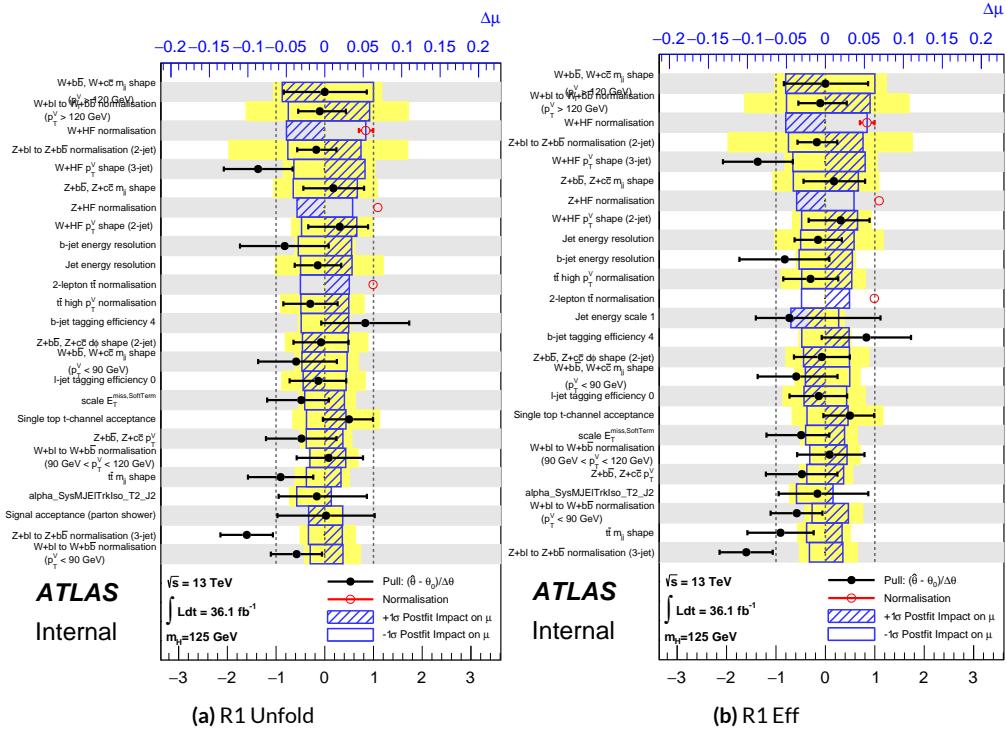
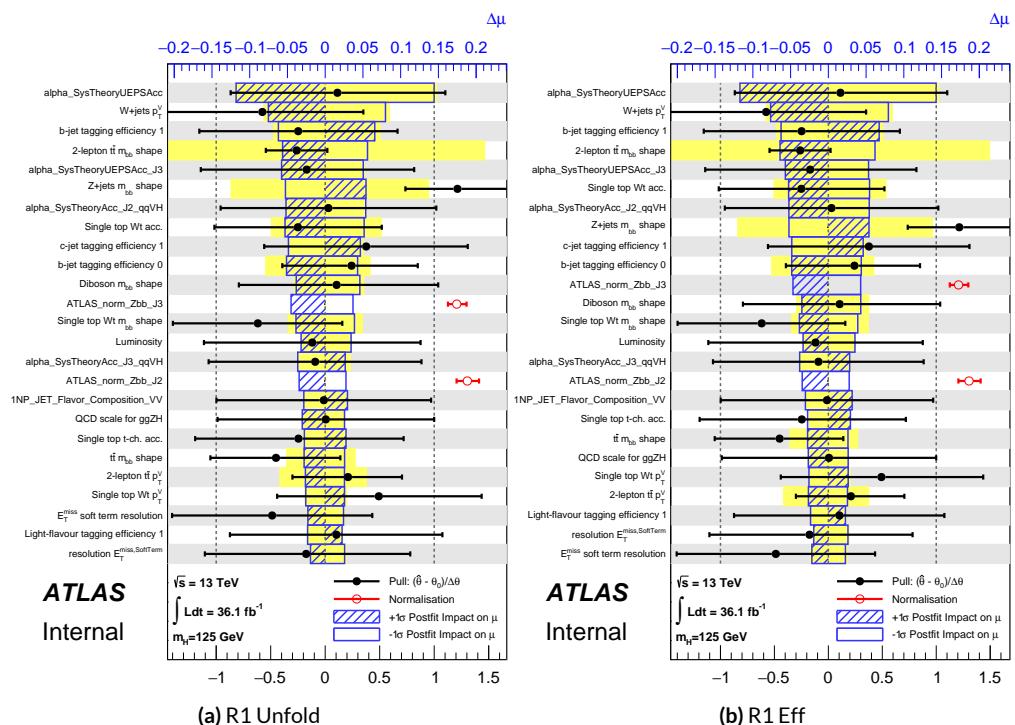
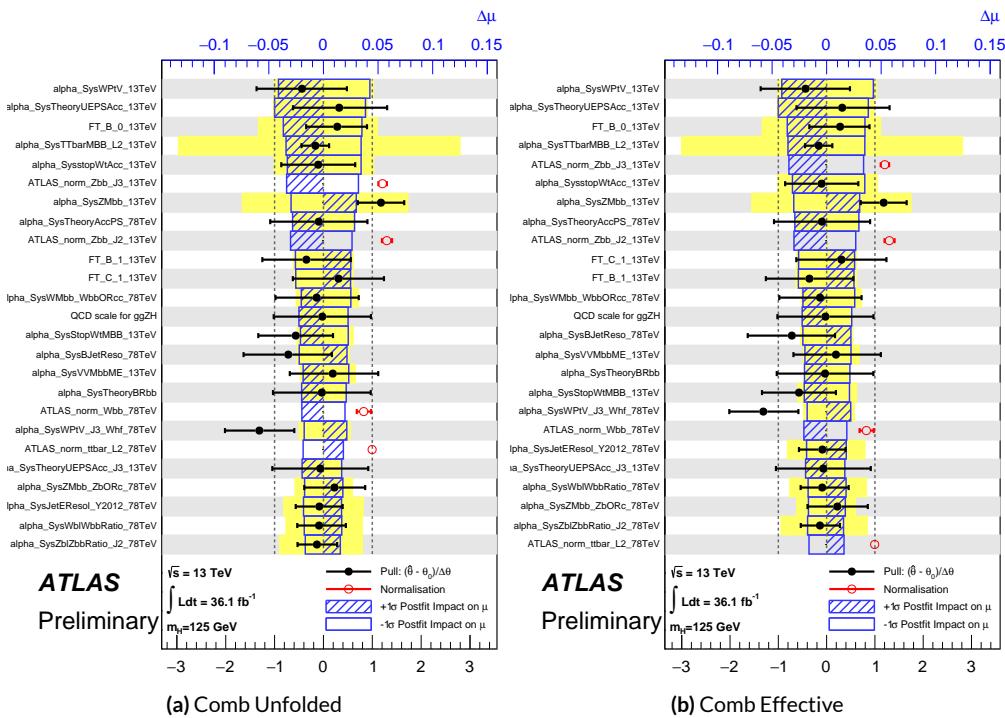


Figure 9.9: Ranks for the effective and unfolded JES NP Run1 combined workspaces.



**Figure 9.10:** Ranks for the effective and unfolded JES NP Run2 combined workspaces.



**Figure 9.11:** Ranks for the effective and unfolded JES NP Run1+Run2 combined workspaces.

	JES Weak Unfold	JES Weak Eff	JES Strong Unfold	JES Strong Eff
Exp. Sig.	3.57	3.57	3.59	3.59
Exp. Limit	0.493 <sup>+0.193</sup> <sub>-0.138</sub>	0.494 <sup>+0.193</sup> <sub>-0.138</sub>	0.493 <sup>+0.193</sup> <sub>-0.138</sub>	0.493 <sup>+0.193</sup> <sub>-0.138</sub>

**Table 9.8:** Expected sensitivities for both effective and unfolded combined workspaces using the strong and weak JES correlation schemes.

	Comb Unfold	Comb Eff	Strong Unfold	Strong Eff
$\Delta\hat{\mu}$	0.0009		0.0025	
Total	+0.269 -0.254	+0.27 -0.255	+0.27 -0.255	+0.27 -0.255
DataStat	+0.181 -0.177	+0.181 -0.177	+0.181 -0.177	+0.181 -0.178
FullSyst	+0.199 -0.183	+0.2 -0.183	+0.2 -0.183	+0.201 -0.183
Jets	+0.0387 -0.032	+0.041 -0.0337	+0.0425 -0.0329	+0.0432 -0.0338
BTag	+0.0975 -0.0933	+0.098 -0.0936	+0.0979 -0.0935	+0.098 -0.0936

**Table 9.9:** Error on signal strength breakdowns for both effective and unfolded combined workspaces using the strong and weak JES correlation schemes.

has been chosen as the treatment of JES in the Run 1 + Run 2 combined fit.

## JES PULL COMPARISONS

## MODELING SYSTEMATICS

Another principal systematic category is modeling uncertainties. The effect of correlating groups of systematics was estimated using the same strategy employed by the ATLAS/CMS SHVHbb combination for Run 1. This extrapolation can be used to estimate the impact of correlations on the estimated signal strength, the total error on the signal strength, and the  $\chi^2$  of the result. The impact of such correlations is no more than a few percent effect, as the following tables demonstrate, beginning with the category with the greatest shift, W+jets modeling, in Table ??

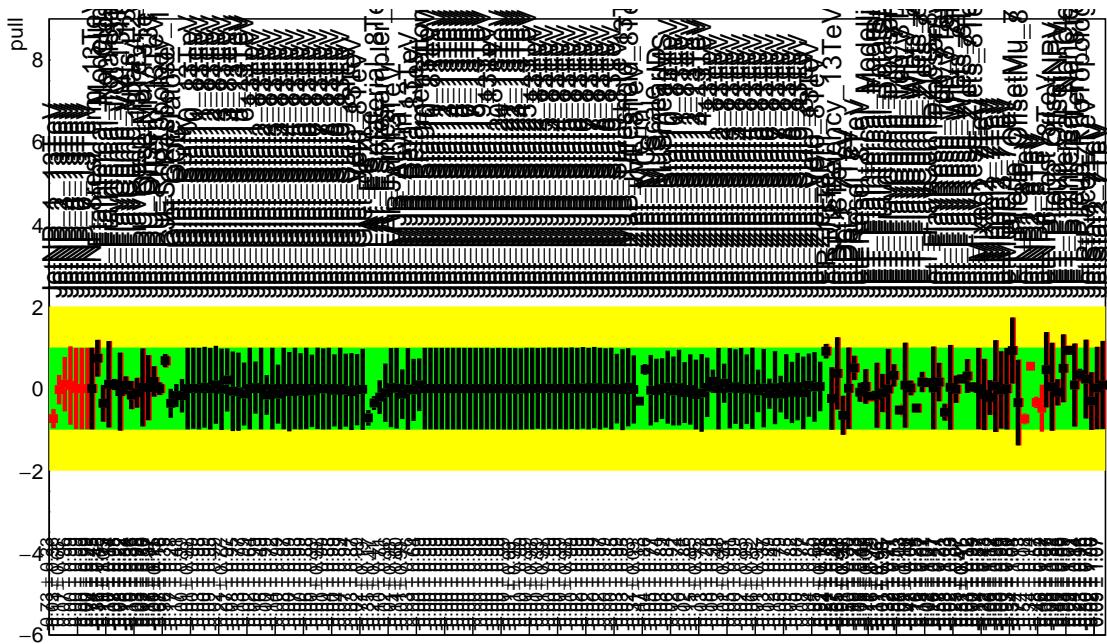


Figure 9.12: Pull Comparisons: jesu---Jet Comb Unfold, **Comb Eff**, **Strong Unfold**, **Strong Eff**

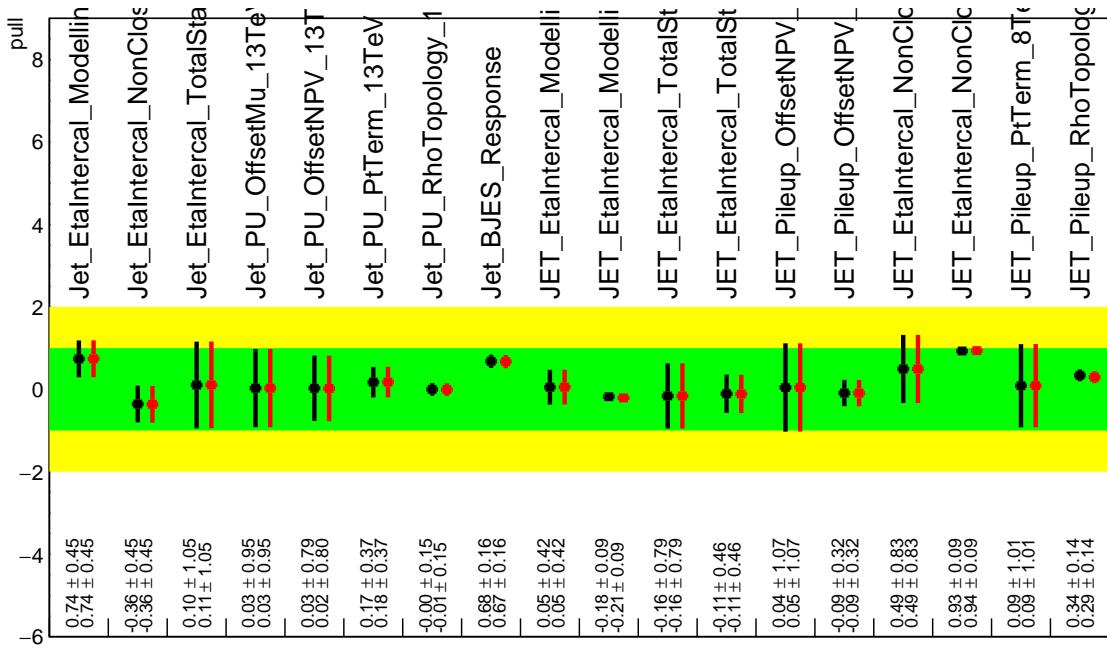


Figure 9.13: Pull Comparisons: jesu---JetMatched Comb Unfold, **Comb Eff**, **Strong Unfold**, **Strong Eff**

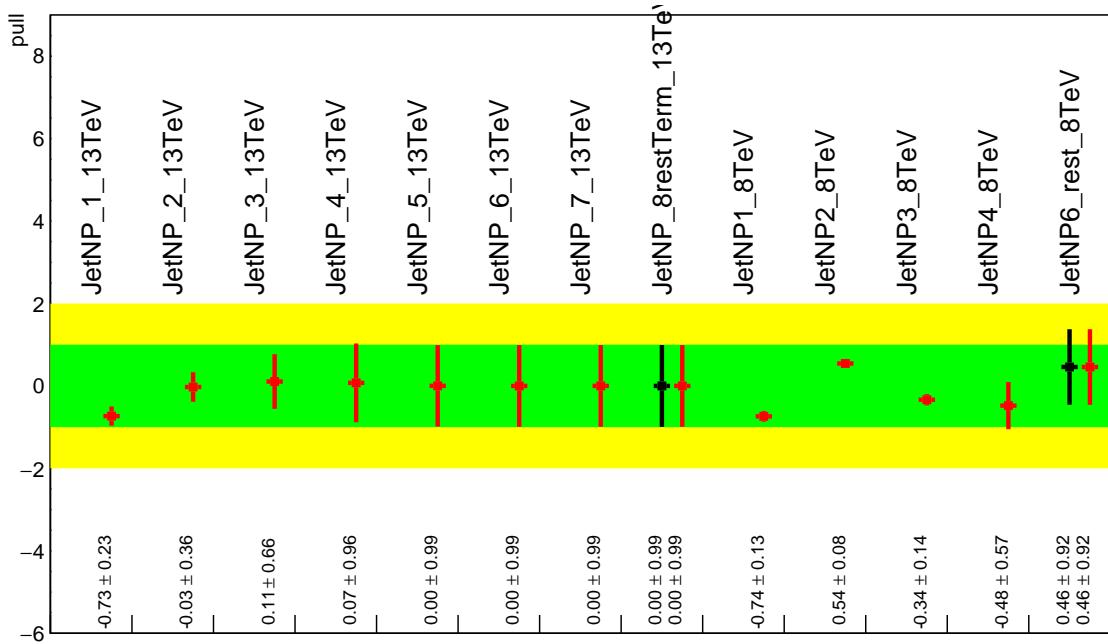


Figure 9.14: Pull Comparisons: jesu---JetEff Comb Unfold, Comb Eff, Strong Unfold, Strong Eff

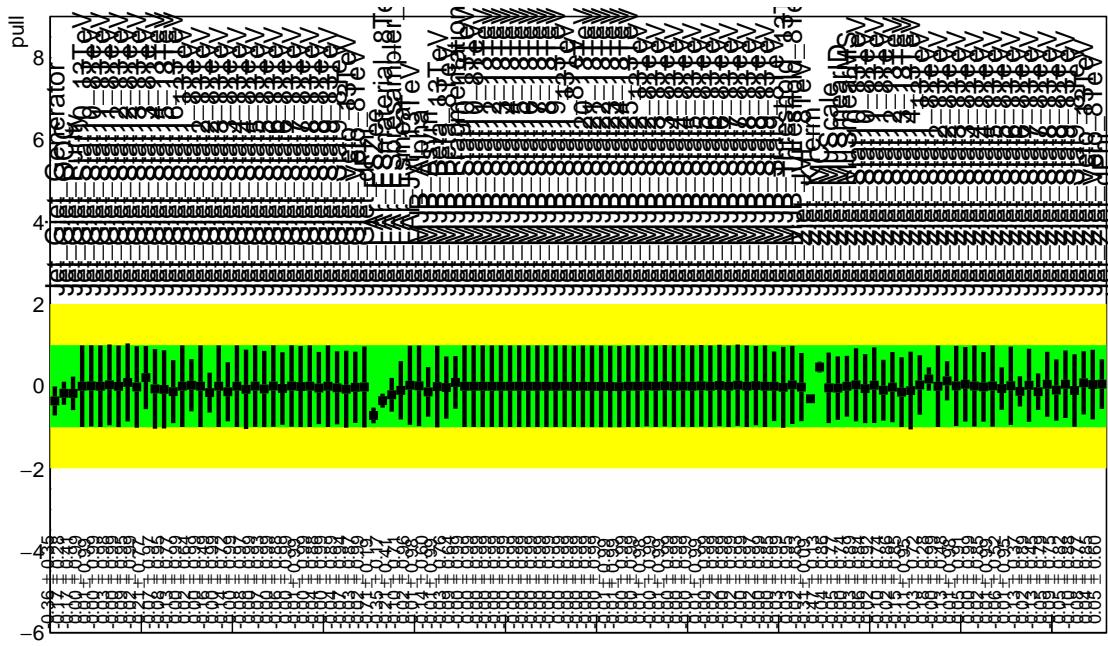


Figure 9.15: Pull Comparisons: jesu---JetUnfold Comb Unfold, Comb Eff, Strong Unfold, Strong Eff

	$ \Delta\mu $	$\sigma$	$ \Delta\sigma $	$\chi^2$
$\rho = -1$	0.0024	0.2448	0.011 (4.3%)	0.95
$\rho = -0.6$	0.0015	0.2493	0.00654 (2.55%)	0.9804
$\rho = -0.3$	0.0008	0.2526	0.00325 (1.27%)	1.0045
$\rho = 0$	—	0.2558	—	1.0298
$\rho = 0.3$	0.0008	0.259	0.0032 (1.25%)	1.0564
$\rho = 0.6$	0.0017	0.2622	0.00636 (2.49%)	1.0844
$\rho = 1$	0.0029	0.2664	0.0105 (4.11%)	1.1242

**Table 9.10:** Run 1 + Run 2 W+jets modeling correlation projections

## FLAVOUR TAGGING

Given that  $c$ -tagging changed significantly between Run 1 and Run2 and that light tagging NP's are very lowly ranked, these sets of NP's are left uncorrelated. Moreover, the change in the physical meaning of the effective  $b$ -tagging NP's means a full correlation of such NP's (insomuch as they exist in each result) is one of limited utility. Hence, it was decided to leave flavour tagging NP's uncorrelated. However, since the meaning of the leading  $b$ -tagging NP's is approximately constant across years and since Run 2  $b$ -tagging NP's are very highly ranked in both the Run 2 only and combined fits, tests correlating these NP's were conducted, the results of which can be seen below. It should be noted that the leading B NP at 8 TeV, `SysBTagB0Effic_Y2012_8TeV`, has an opposite effect on  $t\bar{t}$  normalization than the 7 and 13 TeV NP's, and so must be flipped using a similar strategy as for JES unfolding. Initial studies of flavour tagging correlations did not flip this NP, and so results for this scheme (labeled “Bo 8TeV Not Flipped”) have also been included for comparison.

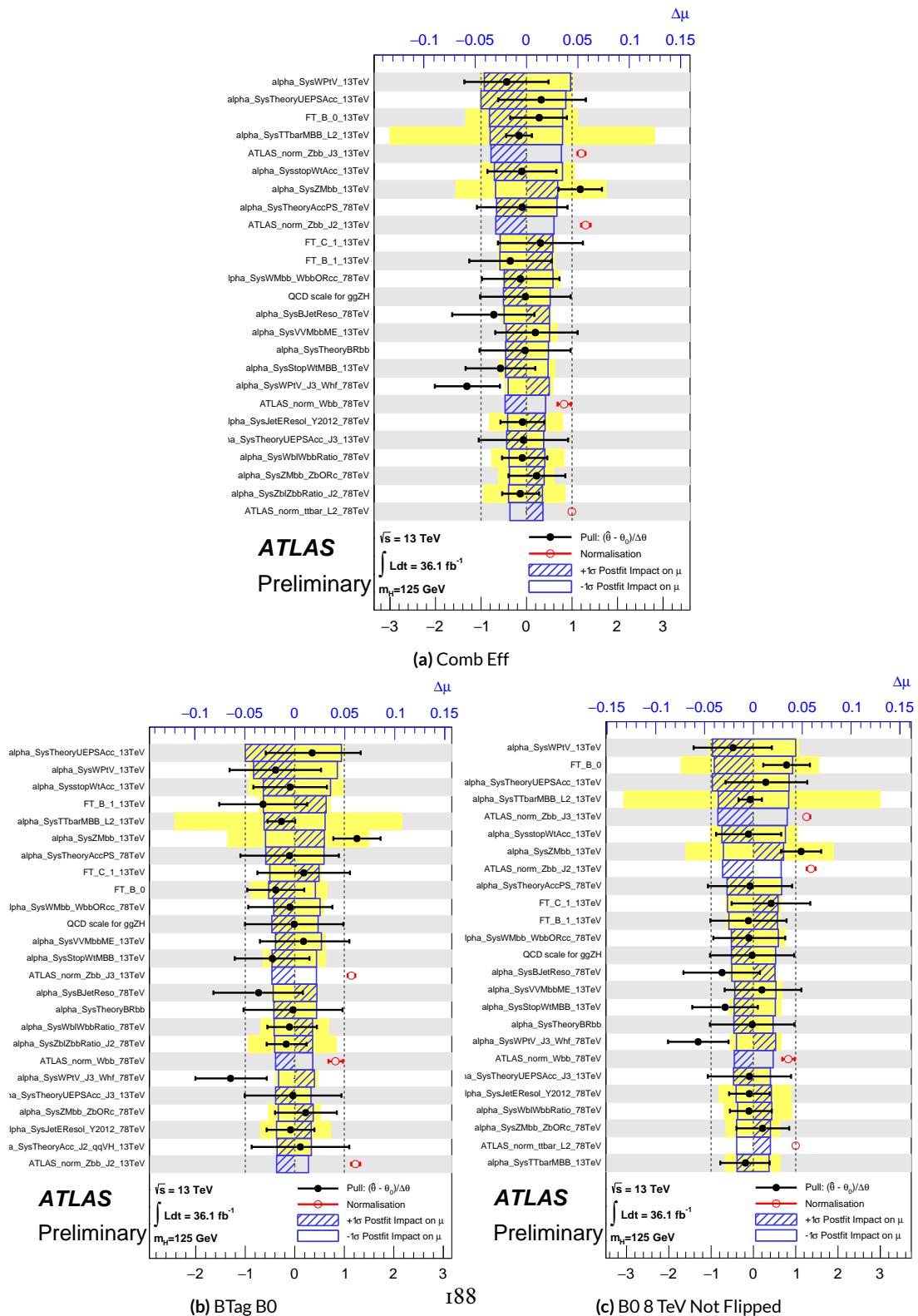
It is clear from these results that correlating the leading effective Eigen NP associated with  $b$ 's can have a noticeable effect on final fit results and that the 8 TeV Bo NP is the most important compo-

	Comb Eff	BTag Bo	Bo 8TeV Not Flipped
Exp. Sig.	3.998	4.127	3.921
Obs. Sig.	3.571	3.859	3.418
Exp. Limit	$0.51^{+0.2}_{-0.143}$	$0.5^{+0.196}_{-0.14}$	$0.517^{+0.202}_{-0.144}$
Obs. Limit	1.37	1.41	1.35

**Table 9.11:** Expected and observed sensitivities for a combination featuring the weak JES scheme, combination with the weak JES scheme + leading  $b$  NP's correlated, and the  $b$  correlation with the 8 TeV NP with sign unflipped.

	Comb Eff	BTag Bo	Bo 8TeV Not Flipped
$ \Delta\hat{\mu} $	—	0.0446	0.0268
$\hat{\mu}$	0.8985	0.9431	0.8717
Total	+0.278 / -0.261	+0.275 / -0.256	+0.282 / -0.263
DataStat	+0.185 / -0.181	+0.180 / -0.177	+0.189 / -0.186
FullSyst	+0.208 / -0.188	+0.207 / -0.186	+0.209 / -0.186
BTag	+0.077 / -0.076	+0.071 / -0.068	+0.079 / -0.075
BTag b	+0.062 / -0.059	+0.055 / -0.049	+0.064 / -0.060

**Table 9.12:** Breakdowns of the impact of different NP sets on total error on  $\hat{m}_H$  for a combination featuring the weak JES scheme and a combination with the weak JES scheme + leading  $b$  NP's correlated.



**Figure 9.16:** NP rankings for a combination featuring the weak JES scheme and a combination with the weak JES scheme + leading  $b$  NP's correlated.

nent of a combined Bo NP. What is less clear is whether there are sufficient grounds for doing so (i.e. does the correspondence of these NP's across years warrant a full correlation).

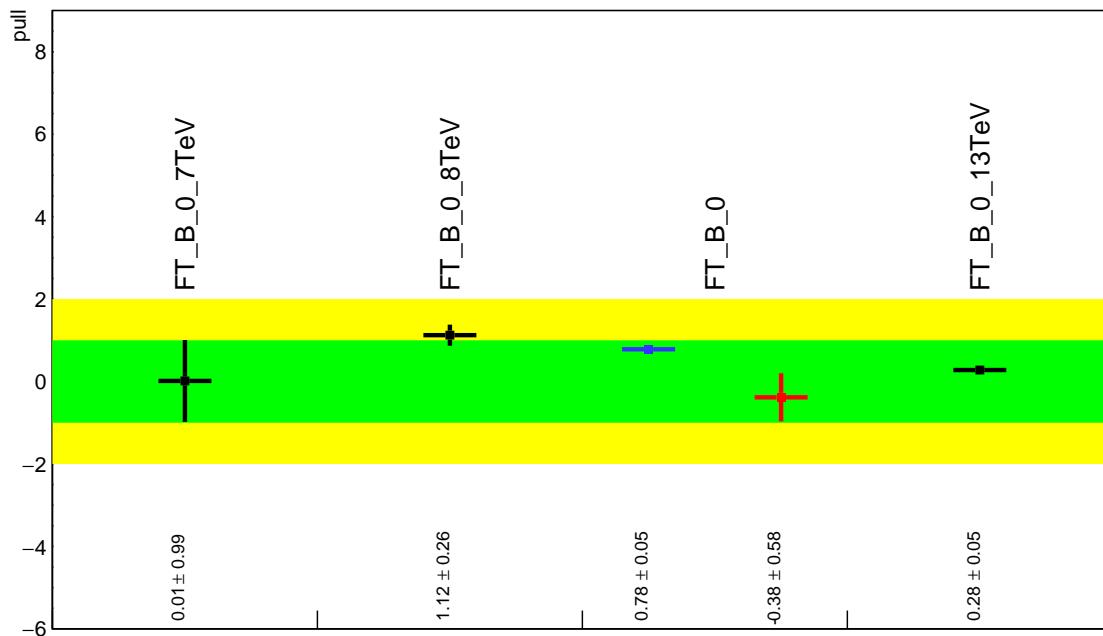
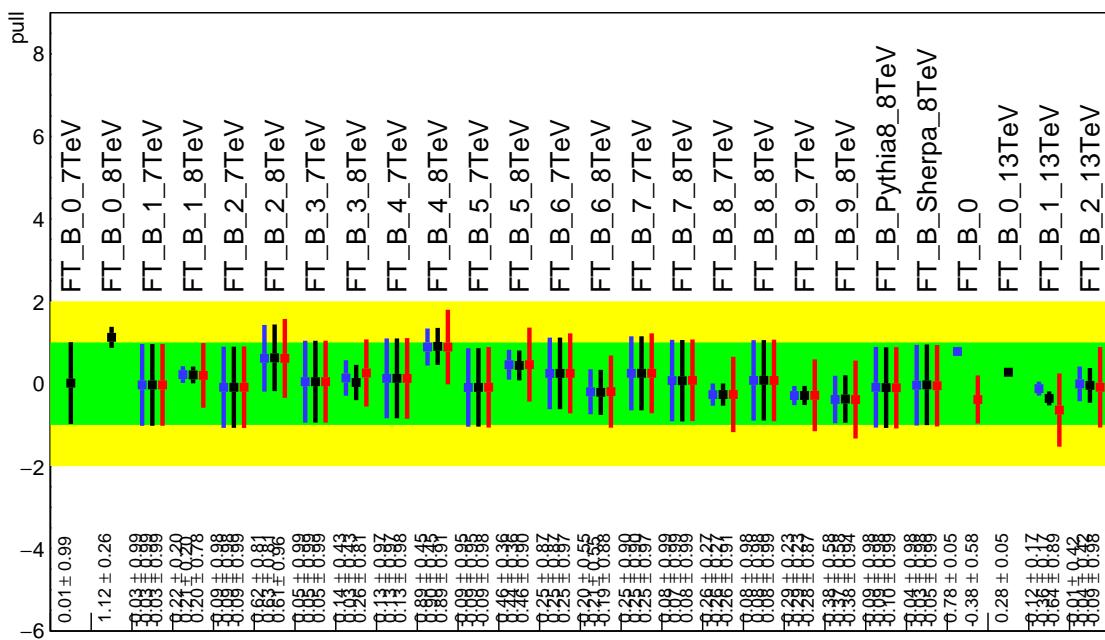


Figure 9.17: Pull Comparisons: btag-b---BTagBO Comb Eff, **BTag BO**



**Figure 9.18:** Pull Comparisons: btag-b---BTagB Comb Eff, **BTag BO**

*If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.*

Conventional Wisdom

# 10

## Conclusions

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID Studying the performance of the Lorentz Invariant and RestFrames variable sets at both a data statistics only context and with the full fit model in the  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  channel of the  $VH(b\bar{b})$  analysis suggests that these variables may offer a potential method for better constraining systematic uncertainties in  $VH(b\bar{b})$  searches as more orthogonal bases in describing the

information in collision events.

The marginally worse performance of the LI and RF variables (7.9% and 6.9%, respectively) with respect to the standard variable at a stats only level illustrates that neither variable set has greater intrinsic descriptive power in the absence of systematics in this closed final state. Hence, any gains from either of these variable sets in a full fit come from improved treatment of systematic uncertainties.

With full systematics, the LI variable set narrows the sensitivity gap somewhat, with lower significances by 6.7% (1.7%) on expected fits to Asimov (data) and by 2.8% on observed significances. The RF variable set outperforms the standard set in expected fits with 3.5% (3.4%) higher significance on Asimov (data), but has an 8.6% lower observed significance, though the observed significances should be viewed in the context of observed  $\hat{\mu}$  values.

Moreover, the LI and RF variable sets generally perform better in the context of the error on  $\mu$ . The LI fit is comparable to the standard set on Asimov data and has a 7.5% lower total systematics error on  $\hat{\mu}$  on observed data, while the RF fit is lower in both cases, with systematics error being 6.5% (16%) lower on Asimov (observed) data. A summary of performance metrics in this document may be found in Table 10.1.

These figures of merit suggest that both the LI and RF variables are more orthogonal than the standard variable set used in the fiducial analysis. Moreover, the RF variable set does seem to consistently perform better than the LI set. Furthermore, both variable sets have straightforward extensions to the one lepton channel in the  $VH(b\bar{b})$  analysis, and the RF set has a straightforward extension to the zero lepton channel as well. The magnitude of any gain from the more sophisticated

	Standard	LI	RF
$\hat{\mu}$	$1.75^{+0.24}_{-0.23}$ (stat.) $^{+0.34}_{-0.28}$ (syst.)	$1.65^{+0.24}_{-0.23}$ (stat.) $^{+0.34}_{-0.28}$ (syst.)	$1.50^{+0.24}_{-0.23}$ (stat.) $^{+0.34}_{-0.28}$ (syst.)
Asi. $\Delta err(\mu)$	—	< 1%, +4.6%	-6.5%, -2.2%
Obs. $\Delta err(\hat{\mu})$	—	-7.5%, -3.7%	-16%, -8.8%
Stat only sig.	4.78	4.39 (-7.9%)	4.44 (-6.9%)
Exp. (Asi.) sig.	2.06	1.92 (-6.7%)	2.13 (+3.5%)
Exp. (data) sig.	1.76	1.73 (-1.7%)	1.80 (+3.4%)
Obs. (data) sig.	2.87	2.79 (-2.8%)	2.62 (-8.6%)

**Table 10.1:** Summary of performance figures for the standard, LI, and RF variable sets. In the case of the latter two, % differences are given where relevant. Differences in errors on  $\mu$  are on full systematics and total error, respectively.

treatment of  $E_T^{miss}$  in these extensions is beyond the scope of these studies, but the performance in this closed final state do suggest that there is some value to be had in these non-standard descriptions independent of these considerations.

*If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.*

Conventional Wisdom

A

## Micromegas Trigger Processor Simulation

IN ORDER TO PRESERVE key physics functionality by maintaining the ability to trigger on low  $p_T$  muons, the Phase I Upgrade to ATLAS includes a New Small Wheel (NSW) that will supply muon track segments to the Level 1 trigger. These NSW trigger segments will combine segments from the sTGC and Micromegas (MM) trigger processors (TP). This note will focus in particular on the algo-

rithm for the MMTP, described in detail with initial studies in<sup>88</sup>. The goal of this note is to describe the MMTP algorithm performance under a variety of algorithm settings with both nominal and misaligned chamber positions, as well as addressing a number of performance issues.

This note is organized as follows: the algorithm and its outputs are briefly described in Section A.1; Monte Carlo samples used are in Section B.1; nominal algorithm performance and certain quantities of interest are described in Section A.3; algorithm performance under misalignment, misalignment corrections, and corrected performance are shown in Section A.8; and conclusions are presented in Section A.16.

## A.1 ALGORITHM OVERVIEW

The MMTP algorithm is shown schematically in Figure A.1, taken from<sup>88</sup>, where a more detailed description may be found. The algorithm begins by reading in hits, which are converted to slopes. These slopes are calculated under the assumption that the hit originates from the IP; slopes calculated under this assumption are denoted by a superscript  $g$  for global in order to distinguish them from local slopes calculated using only hits in the wedge. In the algorithm simulation, events are screened at truth level to make sure they pass certain requirements. The track's truth-level coordinates must place it with the wedge since some generated tracks do not reach the wedge. These hits are stored in a buffer two bunch crossings (BCs) in time deep that separates the wedge into so-called "slope-roads." If any given slope-road has sufficient hits to pass what is known as a coincidence threshold, a fit proceeds. A coincidence threshold is a requirement for an event expressed as  $aX+bUV$ , which means that an slope-road must have at least  $a$  hits in horizontal (X) planes and at

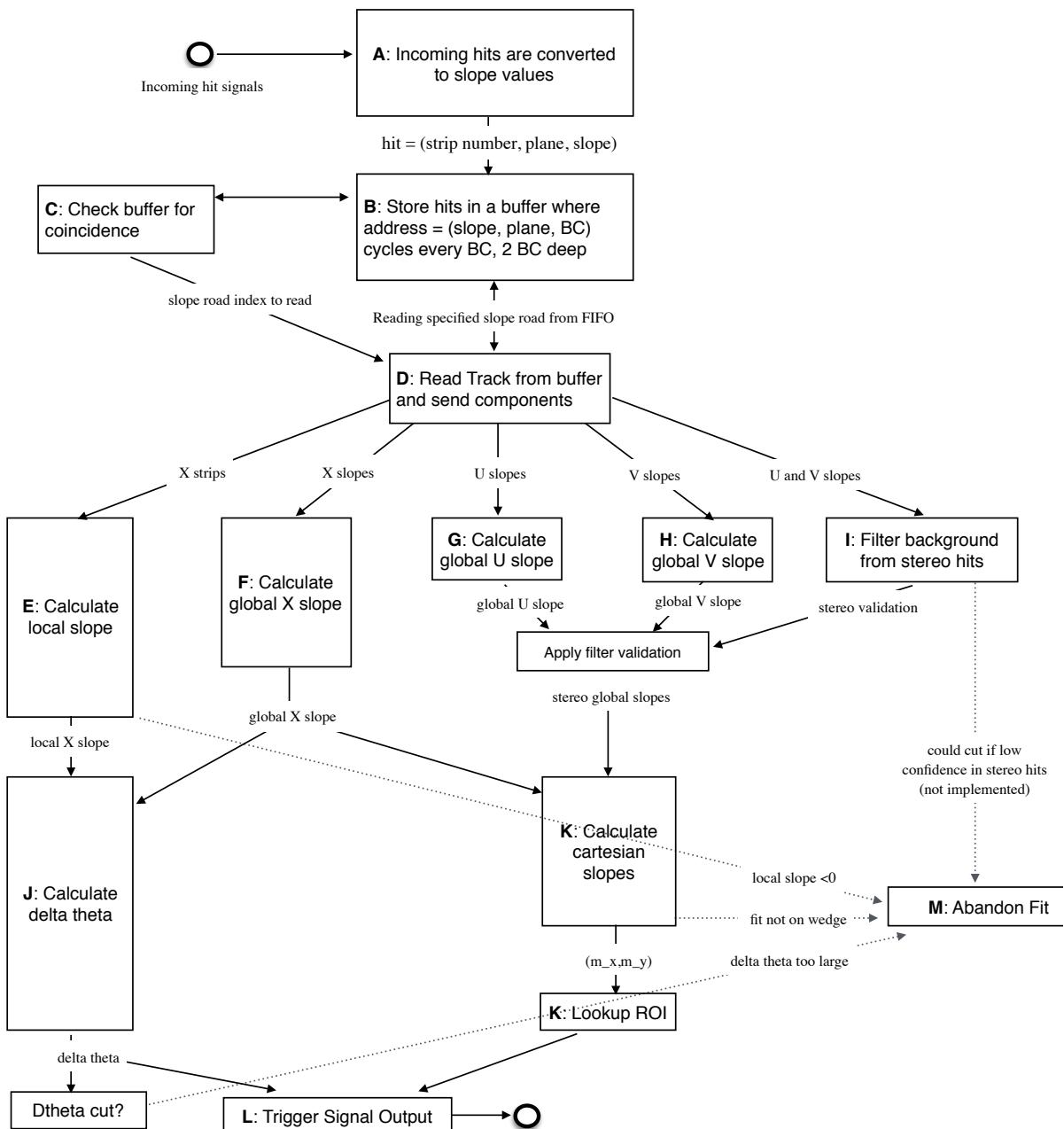


Figure A.1: A flow chart describing the algorithm steps, taken from<sup>88</sup>.

least  $b$  hits in stereo (U or V (corresponding to positive and negative stereo rotations)) planes. For coincidence thresholds with a  $2X$  hit requirement there is the extra requirement that, in the case of only  $2X$  hits, one be on each quadruplet in order to ensure an adequate lever arm for the  $\Delta\theta$  calculation. Note that less stringent (lower hit) coincidence thresholds are inclusive; i.e. a slope-road passing a  $4X+4UV$  cut automatically passes  $2X+1UV$ . The coincidence threshold, size of the slope-roads (denoted  $b$ ), and the number of slope-roads into which each horizontal and stereo hits get written centered upon their nominal value are configurable parameters of the algorithm.

An individual hit's slope is calculated as shown in Equation A.1, where  $y_{base}$  is the local  $y$  coordinate (orthogonal to the beamline and direction of the horizontal strips) of a station's base,  $w_{str}$  is the strip pitch,  $n_{str}$  is the hit's strip number, and  $z_{plane}$  is the location of the hit's plane along the beamline.

$$M_{hit} = \frac{y}{z} = \frac{y_{base}}{z_{plane}} + \frac{w_{str}}{z_{plane}} \times n_{str} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

In the fit, individual hit slopes in a slope-road are used to calculate global slopes associated with each plane type, which are averages (e.g.  $M_X^{\ell}$  for the average slope of horizontal planes). These in turn are used to calculate the three composite slopes: slopes associated with the horizontal ( $m_x$ ) and vertical coordinates ( $m_y$ ) and the local slope of hits in the horizontal planes ( $M_X^l$ ), all of which are shown in Equation A.4. Note that the expression for  $M_X^l$  differs but is equivalent to the expression given in <sup>88</sup>. This is due to a procedural change in the algorithm. The local X slope is expressed in <sup>88</sup> as:

$$M_X^{local} = A_k \sum_i y_i z_i - B_k \sum_i y_i, \quad B_k = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i z_i A_k = \bar{z} A_k \quad (\text{A.2})$$

Procedurally, this entails doing the sums over  $y_i$  and  $y_i z_i$ , multiplying the sums by  $A_k$ ,  $B_k$ , and then subtracting both of these numbers,  $\mathcal{O}(10^3)$ , to get local slopes,  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-1})$ , while requiring precision on these numbers on the order of  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-3})$ . This requires precision in the sums  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-7})$ , and with 32 bit fixed point numbers, there are deviations with respect to the floating point calculations at the level of  $\mathcal{O}(10^{-5})$ , which is enough to introduce a significant bias in the  $\Delta\theta$  calculation.

In order to prevent these errors, we do the subtraction first

$$M_X^{local} = A_k \sum_i y_i z_i - B_k \sum_i y_i = A_k \sum_i (y_i z_i - y_i \bar{z}) = B_k \sum_i y_i \left( \frac{z_i}{\bar{z}} - 1 \right) \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Thus, we change the order of operations and store  $1/\bar{z}$  instead of  $A_k$  in addition to  $B_k$ . We also change the units of  $y_i$  and  $z_i$  in the calculation by dividing the millimeter lengths by 8192.\* With these changes, a 32 bit fixed point based algorithm has essentially identical performance to that of an algorithm based on the usual C++ 32 floating point numbers. Future work includes converting the 32 bit fixed point arithmetic to 16 bit where possible in the algorithm. While introducing 16 bit numbers uniformly might seem preferable, since simple 16-bit operations in the firmware can be done in a single clock tick, and a larger number of bits increases the algorithm latency, some numbers in the algorithm will require a larger number of bits, in particular in the local slope calculation, which is the single calculation in the algorithm requiring the largest numeric range.

In Equation A.4,  $\theta_{st}$  is the stereo angle of 1.5 degrees; the sums are over relevant planes;  $\bar{z}$  is the average position in  $z$  of the horizontal planes; and  $y_i$  and  $z_i$  in the local slope expression refer to the  $y$

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\*Chosen since it is a perfect power of 2 and of order the length scale of  $z$  in millimeters

and  $z$  coordinates of hits in X planes.

$$m_x = \frac{1}{2} \cot \theta_{st} (\mathcal{M}_U^g - \mathcal{M}_V^g), \quad m_y = \mathcal{M}_X^g, \quad M_X^l = \frac{\bar{z}}{\sum_i z_i^2 - 1/n (\sum_i z_i)^2} \sum_i y_i \left( \frac{z_i}{\bar{z}} - 1 \right) \quad (\text{A.4})$$

From these composite slopes, the familiar expressions for the fit quantities  $\theta$  (the zenith),  $\phi$  (the azimuth<sup>†</sup>), and  $\Delta\theta$  (the difference in  $\theta$  between the direction of the segment extrapolated back to the interaction point and its direction when entering the detector region; the following is an approximation) may be calculated, as noted in<sup>88</sup>:

$$\theta = \arctan \left( \sqrt{m_x^2 + m_y^2} \right), \quad \phi = \arctan \left( \frac{m_x}{m_y} \right), \quad \Delta\theta = \frac{M_X^l - \mathcal{M}_X^g}{1 + M_X^l \mathcal{M}_X^g} \quad (\text{A.5})$$

Looking at Equations A.4 and A.5, the dependence of fit quantities on input hit information becomes clear.  $\Delta\theta$  relies exclusively on information from the horizontal (X) planes. Both  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  rely on both horizontal and stereo slope information. However, the sum in quadrature of  $m_x$  and  $m_y$  in the arctangent for  $\theta$  means that  $\theta$  is less sensitive to errors in stereo hit information than  $\phi$ . Given that  $\theta_{st}$  is small,  $\cot \theta_{st}$  is large ( $\sim 38$ ), so  $m_x$  multiplies small differences in  $\mathcal{M}_U$  and  $\mathcal{M}_V$ , where  $m_y$  is simply an average over slopes. This means that while errors in horizontal hit information will affect all three fit quantities, comparable errors in stereo hits will have a proportionately larger effect on  $\theta$  and particularly on  $\phi$ . The  $\Delta\theta$  cut after step J in Figure A.1 has been implemented, requiring all fits to have  $|\Delta\theta| < 16$  mrad. This requirement ensures good quality fits but also slightly reduces

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<sup>†</sup>Defined with respect to the center ( $y$ ) axis and *not* the axis of the strips ( $x$ ) as is sometimes typical, so a hit along the center of the wedge has  $\phi = 0$

algorithm efficiency.

### A.2 MONTE CARLO SAMPLES

The Monte Carlo (MC) samples used for these studies were generated in Athena release 20.1.0.2 using simulation layout ATLAS-R2-2015-01-01-00 with muon GeoModel override version MuonSpectrometer-R.07.00-NSW and modifications to have two modules per multiplet and xxuvuvxx geometry with a stereo angle of 1.5 degrees. Muons of a single  $p_T$  were generated around the nominal IP with a smearing of 50 mm along the beam line and 0.015 mm orthogonal to it; these muons were pointed toward a single, large sector of the NSW. Each event consists of one muon fired towards the single NSW wedge separated by effectively infinite time from other events.

### A.3 NOMINAL PERFORMANCE

In order to evaluate algorithm performance, a number of quantities are evaluated, including the fit quantities  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\Delta\theta$  as well as algorithm efficiency. Unless otherwise stated, that algorithm is run with a 4X+4UV coincidence threshold, slope-road size of 0.0009, an X tolerance of two slope-roads (i.e. hits in horizontal planes are written into the two slope-roads closest to the hits' value), a UV tolerance of four slope-roads<sup>‡</sup>, and a charge threshold requirement on hits of 1 (measured in units of electron charge) for a sample of 30 000 events with a muon  $p_T$  of 100 GeV. Samples were also generated for  $p_T$  values of 10 GeV, 20 GeV, 30 GeV, 50 GeV, and 200 GeV, which were used in some

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<sup>‡</sup>The larger tolerance on stereo hits takes into account the particulars of the  $m_x$  calculation mentioned in Section A.1.

of the following studies.

#### A.4 FIT QUANTITIES

In order to evaluate the performance of the algorithm’s fit quantities  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\Delta\theta$ , fit values are compared to truth-level MC values. The residual of the three fit quantities,  $\theta_{fit} - \theta_{tru}$ ,  $\phi_{fit} - \phi_{tru}$ , and  $\Delta\theta_{fit} - \Delta\theta_{tru}$ , are recorded for every fitted track. The distributions of these quantities, in particular their biases and standard deviations, are then used to evaluate performance. In most cases, following<sup>88</sup>, the mean and standard deviation of a  $3\sigma$  Gaussian fit are quoted, as they capture the main features of the algorithm and generally behave like the raw mean and rms. Nevertheless, discussion of the raw quantities will be included when their behavior deviates markedly from that of the  $3\sigma$  fit quantities.

The truth-level quantities used in residual distribution are taken from information in the MC. These come directly from the MC for  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\Delta\theta$ . These quantities, along with the geometry of the (large) wedge, are then in turn used to calculate truth-level values for any intermediate quantities used in the algorithm.  $m_{x,tru}$ , for instance, is given by  $\tan \theta_{tru} \sin \phi_{tru}$ .

Residual distributions for fit quantities under the previously described default settings of the algorithm are shown in Figure A.2. Both the  $\theta_{fit} - \theta_{tru}$  and  $\Delta\theta_{fit} - \Delta\theta_{tru}$  distributions feature a mostly Gaussian shape with more pronounced tails. The mean bias for these distributions is negligible at under one tenth of a milliradian, and the fitted (raw) rms values are 0.349 (0.614) mrad for  $\theta$  and 1.03 (2.55) mrad for  $\Delta\theta$ . The case of the  $\phi_{fit} - \phi_{tru}$  distribution is less straightforward, with both the shape and bias arising from the xxuvuvxx geometry and relatively large extent of one of the two

$\eta$ -stations, as explained in Appendix B of<sup>86</sup>. The fitted (raw) rms for the  $\phi$  distribution is 8.67 (16.6) mrad.

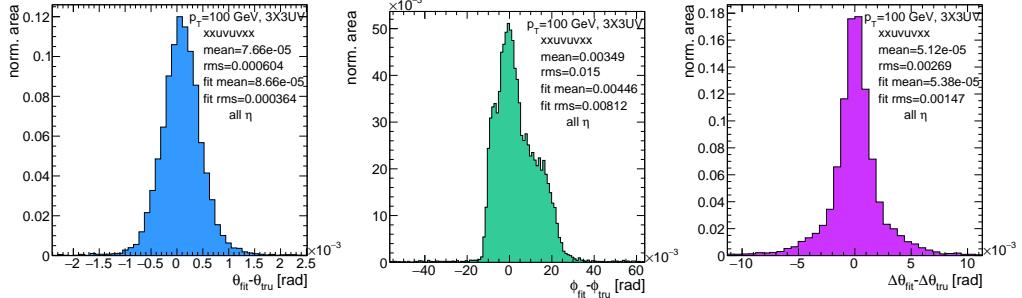
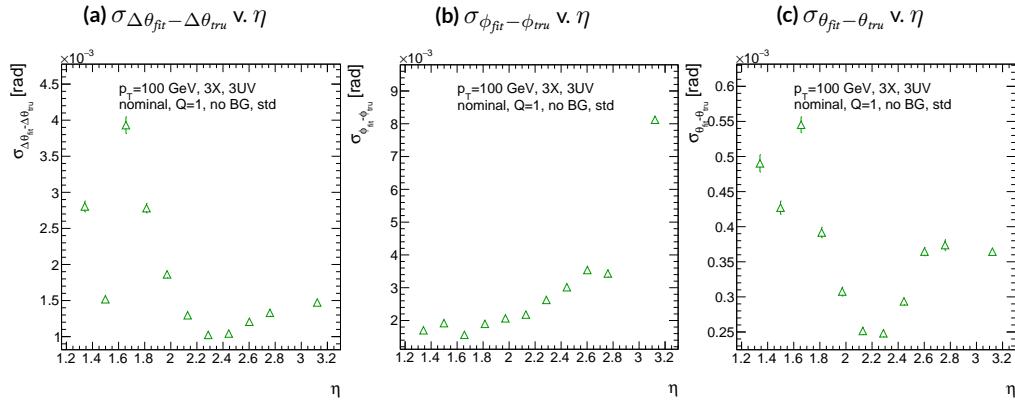


Figure A.2: Nominal residual plots;  $\theta, \phi, \Delta\theta$  for  $p_T = 100 \text{ GeV}$  muons

Both increasing muon  $p_T$  and increasing muon  $\eta$  for a fixed  $p_T$  imply increasing muon energy. As muons become more energetic, two effects compete in affecting the quality of fit. On the one hand, higher energy muons are deflected less by the ATLAS magnetic field, which should tend to improve the quality of the fit, since the fitted  $\theta$  (upon which  $\Delta\theta$  also relies) and  $\phi$  values are calculated under the infinite momentum muon (straight track) assumption. However, as muon energy increases, the likelihood that the muon will create additional secondaries increases, which creates extra hits that degrade the quality of the fit. While the geometry of the multiplet is such that there is very good resolution in the direction orthogonal to the horizontal strip direction, the shallow stereo angle of 1.5 degrees means that early hits caused by secondaries can have an outsize impact on  $m_x$ .  $\Delta\theta$ , which does not rely upon stereo information should feel the effect of secondaries the least and benefit from straighter tracks the most and hence benefit from higher muon energies;  $\phi$ , relying upon stereo information the most, would be most susceptible to secondaries and benefit the least from straighter

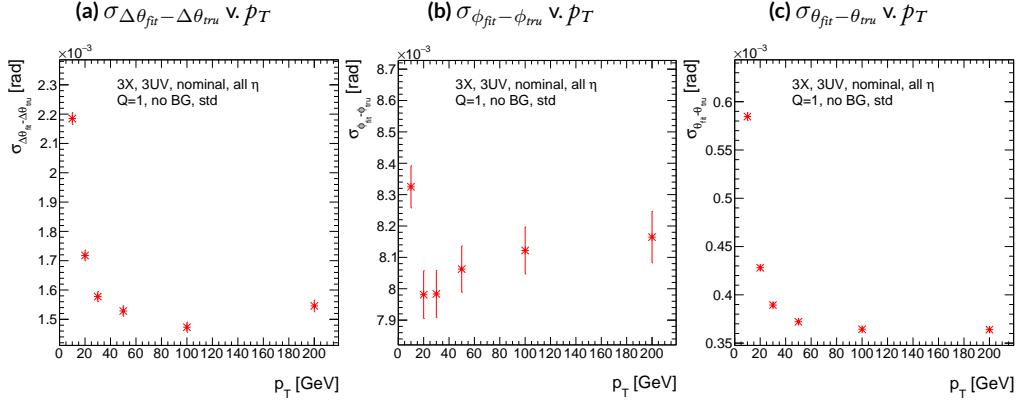
tracks and hence least likely to benefit from higher muon energy;  $\theta$  relies upon both horizontal and vertical slope information, though small errors are less likely to seriously affect the calculation, so the two effects are most likely to be in conflict for this fit quantity.

The interplay of these effects on the residual standard deviations can be seen in their dependences on  $\eta$  (Figure A.3; note that the final point in each of these plots is the rms of the distribution overall  $\eta$ ) and  $p_T$  (Figure A.4). For  $p_T = 100$  GeV muons,  $\Delta\theta$  performance increases with  $\eta$  (energy), and  $\phi$  performance decreases, as expected;<sup>§</sup> for  $\theta$ , the two effects appear to compete, with performance first increasing with  $\eta$  until the effects of secondaries begins to dominate. Integrated over all  $\eta$ , the effects are less clearly delineated. Both  $\Delta\theta$  and  $\theta$  performance increases with increasing  $p_T$ , suggesting straighter tracks with increasing energy are the dominant effect for these quantities, while  $\phi$  performance appears to improve and then deteriorate (the slight improvement at high  $p_T$  is due to the addition of the  $\Delta\theta$  cut into the algorithm, which filters out very poor quality fits).



**Figure A.3:** The rms distributions of  $\Delta\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\theta$  as a function of  $\eta$  for  $p_T = 100$  GeV; the final point in each plot is the rms obtained from a fit obtained from a fit to the full distribution including all  $\eta$  bins.

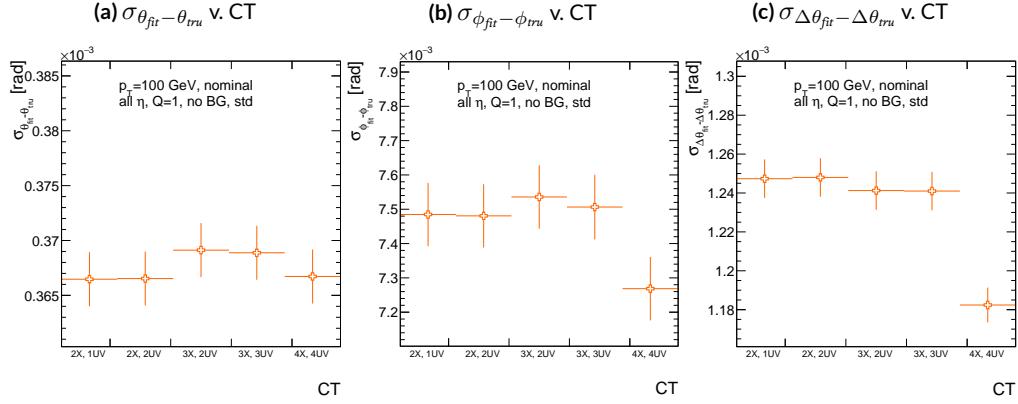
<sup>§</sup>The much worse overall performance for  $\phi$  is due to the  $\eta$  dependent bias and other effects



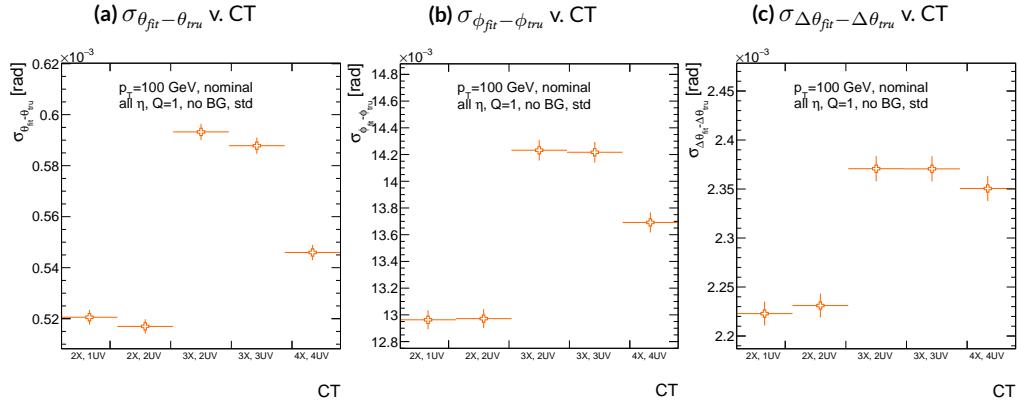
**Figure A.4:** The rms distributions of  $\Delta\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\theta$  as a function of  $p_T$ .

The rms of the three benchmark quantities as a function of algorithm set (i.e. slope-road) coincidence threshold are shown in Figure A.5 using Gaussian fits and in Figure A.6 for the raw quantities. The fitted  $\sigma$ 's for  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  are fairly stable across coincidence threshold.  $\Delta\theta$ , on the other hand, performs better particularly for the most stringent coincidence threshold; this is a result of the fact that additional information for more hits greatly improves the quality of the local slope fit calculation. The raw rms is a different story. Naïvely, one would expect the performance to get better with more stringent coincidence threshold, but this is not the case in Figure A.6. As the coincidence threshold gets more stringent, fewer and fewer tracks are allowed to be fit. When moving from 2X hits to 3X hits, the tracks that get vetoed populate the tails of the distribution outside the  $3\sigma$  fit range but are not in the very extremes of the distribution. While tracks with 2X hits are of lower quality than those with 3 and 4 X hits, tracks with the very worst fit values pass even the most stringent coincidence threshold requirements (e.g. as a result of many hits arising from a shower of secondaries). This is best illustrated when comparing the 2X+1UV  $\Delta\theta$  residual distribution with the 4X+4UV

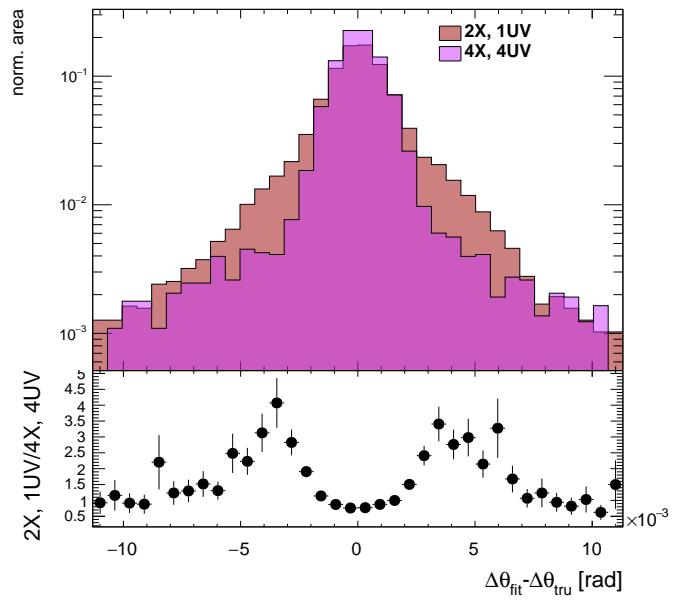
distribution in Figure A.7. As both the overlayed normalized curves and ratio distribution show, while the most central regions are fairly similar, the  $zX+iUV$  distribution is much more prominent in the tails but not the extreme tails, which means that, though the overall  $zX+iUV$  raw rms goes down, the overall quality of algorithm fits is worse.



**Figure A.5:** The fitted rms of residual distributions for  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\Delta\theta$  as a function of coincidence threshold for  $p_T = 100$  GeV.



**Figure A.6:** The raw rms of residual distributions for  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\Delta\theta$  as a function of coincidence threshold for  $p_T = 100$  GeV.

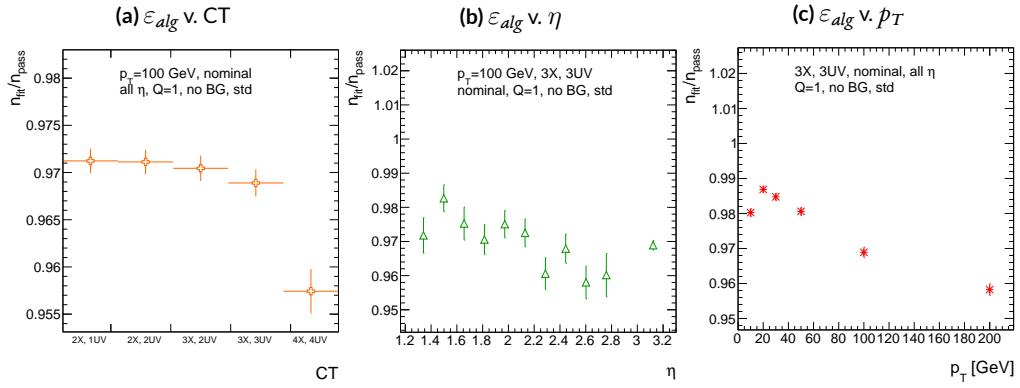


**Figure A.7:** Nominal  $\Delta\theta$  residual distribution for  $p_T = 100$  GeV muons with coincidence thresholds  $2X+1\text{UV}$  and  $4X+4\text{UV}$  normalized to the same area and plotted together (top) as well as the ratio of the  $2X+1\text{UV}$  distribution and the  $4X+4\text{UV}$  per bin.

## A.5 EFFICIENCIES

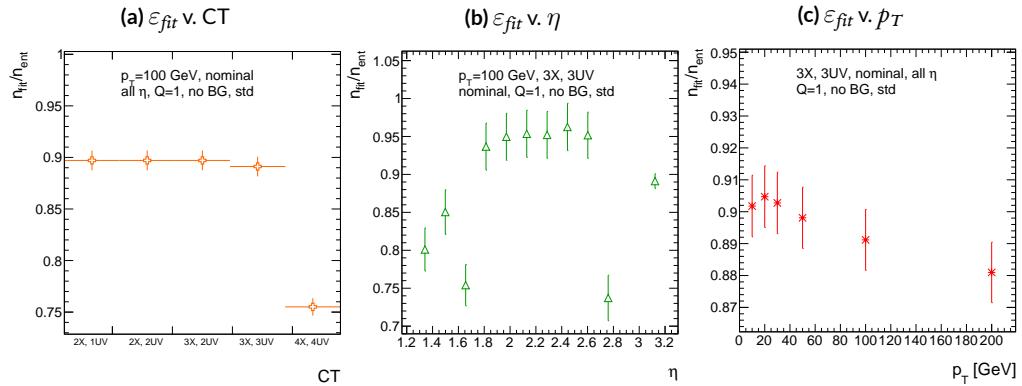
Two general efficiencies have been formulated to study the performance of the MMTP algorithm.

The first, denoted  $\varepsilon_{alg}$ , is the fraction of tracks that pass some (slope-road) coincidence threshold configuration that are successfully fit. An event that passes a slope-road coincidence but does not fit fails because some of the hits included are of sufficiently poor quality to throw off the fit. This efficiency answers the question of how often the algorithm performs fits when technically possible, giving a measure of overall algorithm performance for a given configuration. For example,  $\varepsilon = 95\%$  for  $3X+2UV$  means that 95% of tracks that produce at least  $3X$  hits and  $2UV$  hits in at least one slope-road will be successfully fitted 95% of the time. The performance of this efficiency as a function of coincidence threshold,  $\eta$  (with the final point once again being the efficiency integrated over all  $\eta$ ), and  $p_T$  is shown in Figure A.8.  $\varepsilon_{alg}$  is fairly constant in  $\eta$  and decreases with increased  $p_T$ , which can be attributed to the increased likelihood of secondaries introducing lower quality hits that cause the fit to fail.



**Figure A.8:**  $\varepsilon_{alg}$  and as a function of coincidence threshold,  $\eta$  (final point is  $\varepsilon_{alg}$  integrated over all  $\eta$ ), and  $p_T$ .

The second efficiency type, denoted  $\varepsilon_{fit}$ , is the fraction of tracks that enter the wedge whose fits (if any) satisfy a given coincidence threshold. This efficiency can be used to help establish an optimal coincidence threshold setting in the algorithm, balancing the improved overall fit quality of higher thresholds with the greater number of fits for lower thresholds. Hence, an  $\varepsilon_{fit}$  of 95% at 3X+2UV means that 95% of tracks entering the wedge are fit and that these fits include at least 3X and 2UV hits.  $\varepsilon_{fit}$  as a function of coincidence threshold is shown in Figure A.9 (a), which shows that the majority of fits having at most 3X+3UV hits. That there is a marked drop to 4X+4UV is not surprising, as there is a substantial population outside the 4X+4UV bin in Figure A.10. The behavior of  $\varepsilon_{fit}$  with  $\eta$  in Figure A.9 (b) (with the final point once again being the efficiency integrated over all  $\eta$ ) is much more varied, with geometric effects of detector acceptance coming into play. The performance of  $\varepsilon_{fit}$  as a function of  $p_T$ , shown in Figure A.9 (c), is similar to that of  $\varepsilon_{alg}$  coincidence threshold, again consistent with the effects of secondaries at higher energies.



**Figure A.9:**  $\varepsilon_{fit}$  and as a function of coincidence threshold,  $\eta$  (final point is  $\varepsilon_{fit}$  integrated over all  $\eta$ ), and  $p_T$ .

In order to better understand efficiency behavior with coincidence threshold, the distribution

of highest slope-road coincidence thresholds in events is shown in Figure A.10, with the 0,0 bin containing events that did not meet requirements for the minimum  $2X+1UV$  coincidence threshold for a fit to occur. That the efficiency is lower at higher coincidence threshold suggests that most of the fits that fail have high hit multiplicity (i.e. a similar number fails in each of the coincidence threshold bins in Figure A.8 (a)), which is consistent with the interpretation that the primary source of fit failures is bad hits originating from secondaries created by higher energy muons.

**Figure A.10:** The distribution of highest slope-road coincidence thresholds in events; the 0,0 bin is the number of events passing selection requirements that fail to form the minimum  $2X+1UV$  coincidence threshold necessary for a fit.

## A.6 INCOHERENT BACKGROUND

The default slope-road size and tolerances associated with horizontal and stereo hits used in the above studies were configured to optimize algorithm performance, similar to studies in<sup>88</sup>. In order to evaluate algorithm performance under conditions with more limited resources, as might be expected at run-time, additional studies were conducted with the slope-road size and hit tolerances set equivalent to the sensitive area of a single VMM chip<sup>¶</sup> both with and without generation of incoherent background.

Incoherent background is generated based on the assumption that the intensity only varies as a function of the distance from a point to the beamline,  $r$ . The number of hits per unit area per unit time as a function of  $r$  is given in Equation A.6 and taken from<sup>88</sup>.

$$I = I_0 (r/r_0)^{-2.125} \quad (\text{A.6})$$

where  $r_0 = 1000$  mm and  $I_0 = 0.141$  kHz/mm<sup>2</sup>

Background generation happens per event as follows:

1. Determine the total number of hits to be generated in this event according to a Poisson distribution
2. Assign a time to hits uniformly in  $[t_{\text{start}} - t_{\text{VMM}}, t_{\text{end}}]$  where start and end are for the event clock and  $t_{\text{VMM}}$  is the VMM chip deadtime (100 ns)
3. Assign a plane to hits uniformly
4. Assign a  $\phi$  value to hits uniformly

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<sup>¶</sup>One VMM is assumed to cover 64 MM strips at 0.445 mm each.

5. Assign an  $r$  to hits according to Equation A.6
6. Calculate hit information according to these values.

The expectation value for the Poisson distribution is determined by integrating Equation A.6 over the surface area of the wedge to get the total hit rate for the wedge,  $\Gamma$ , and then multiplying this by the length of the time window over which hits may be generated. With  $H = 982$  mm,  $b_t = 3665$  mm, and  $\theta_w = 33\pi/180$ , we find<sup>||</sup>:

$$\Gamma = 2I_0 r_o^{2.125} \int_0^{\theta_w/2} d\phi \int_{H \sec \phi}^{(H+b_t) \sec \phi} r dr r^{-2.125} = 98.6657 \text{ MHz} \quad (\text{A.7})$$

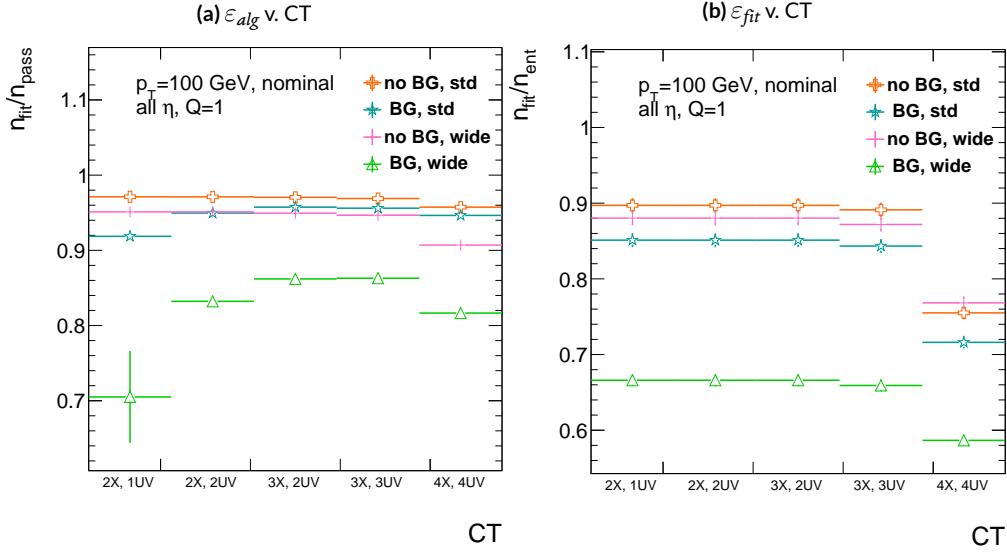
In this case, we have taken the nominal values of the MM sector geometry for  $H$  (wedge base),  $b_t$  (the wedge height), and  $\theta_w$  (the wedge opening angle).

The effects of incoherent background and larger slope road size are summarized in Figure A.11 for efficiencies and in Figure A.13 and Table A.1 for residual fit quantities.

Figure A.11 show the effect of both wider slope-roads and the introduction of background on efficiencies. The introduction of wider slope-roads increases the chance that an early errant hit (either from secondaries/ionization or background) will be introduced into the fit, and the presence of incoherent background greatly increases the number of such errant hits. Both wider slope-roads and background drive down the number of fits (numerator) in both efficiencies, and background can artificially inflate the denominator of  $\varepsilon_{alg}$ , a reco-level, slope-road coincidence threshold. The shape of the  $\varepsilon_{fit}$  versus coincidence threshold distributions remains fairly constant with each complicating

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<sup>||</sup>Using Mathematica and the extra factor of  $r$  from the volume element



**Figure A.11:** The algorithm and total efficiencies as a function of coincidence threshold for different background settings and slope-road sizes (standard and wide (one slope road as 1 VMM chip)).

factor (standard, wider slope-roads, background, both wider slope-roads and background), suggesting many muons will simply not be fit with any number of hits;  $\epsilon_{fit}$  does not take into account the coincidence threshold of tracks that are not fit, so the effect appears uniform across coincidence threshold. The effects seen for  $\epsilon_{alg}$ , which are not uniform across coincidence threshold can be better understood when examining the distribution of event highest coincidence thresholds, shown for wide slope-roads both without and with background in Figure A.12. Take, for example the  $2X+1UV$  case. The  $2X+1UV$  bin in particular has a marked increase when background is introduced. No new, good tracks are introduced between the no background and background cases, so the increase is entirely due to bad, background hits; hence, these events do not (and should not) fit, causing the particularly pronounced drop in this bin between these two cases in Figure A.11.



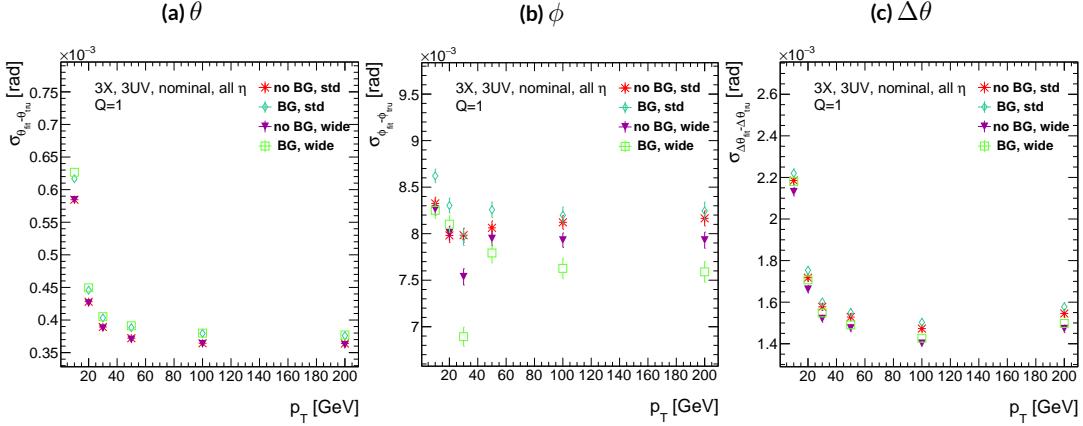
**Figure A.12:** The distribution of highest slope-road coincidence thresholds in events for the algorithm with wide slope-roads (width of 1 VMM) both without (a) and with (b) incoherent background; the 0,0 bin is the number of events passing selection requirements that fail to form the minimum  $2X+1UV$  coincidence threshold necessary for a fit.

The effect of increasing slope-road size and incoherent background on fit quantity residual rms values as a function of  $p_T$  is shown in Figure A.13. As the figure shows, the fitted rms values are fairly robust against increased slope-road size and background. This does not hold for all of the raw rms values, however, as shown in Table A.1. Just as with the efficiencies, the introduction of background has a larger effect than that of increased slope-road size, which does not seem to have an overly large impact on any of the fit quantities on its own. While  $\Delta\theta$  remains robust to both increased slope-road size and background (likely due to the  $\Delta\theta$  cut of 16 mrad built into the algorithm),  $\theta$  shows some degradation in performance, and the  $\phi$  residual raw rms shows a very large increase upon the introduction of background. Nevertheless, the contrasting behavior of the fitted and raw rms values suggests that tracks that drive up the raw rms values already had very poor fit quality even before the introduction of background, so the impact on fit quantities should remain fairly limited.

	No BG, std	No BG, wide	BG, std	BG, wide
$\theta$	0.364 (0.604)	0.363 (0.542)	0.379 (0.886)	0.380 (1.07)
$\phi$	8.12 (15.0)	7.93 (13.2)	8.20 (24.6)	7.63 (24.8)
$\Delta\theta$	1.47 (2.69)	1.40 (2.66)	1.50 (2.89)	1.43 (2.90)

**Table A.1:** The fitted (absolute)  $\sigma$  of fit quantity residuals in mrad under different algorithm settings.

As Table A.1 shows, rms values appear to be robust to an increase in slope-road size. Nevertheless, though the fitted  $\sigma$  residual values are also fairly robust to the introduction of background, the



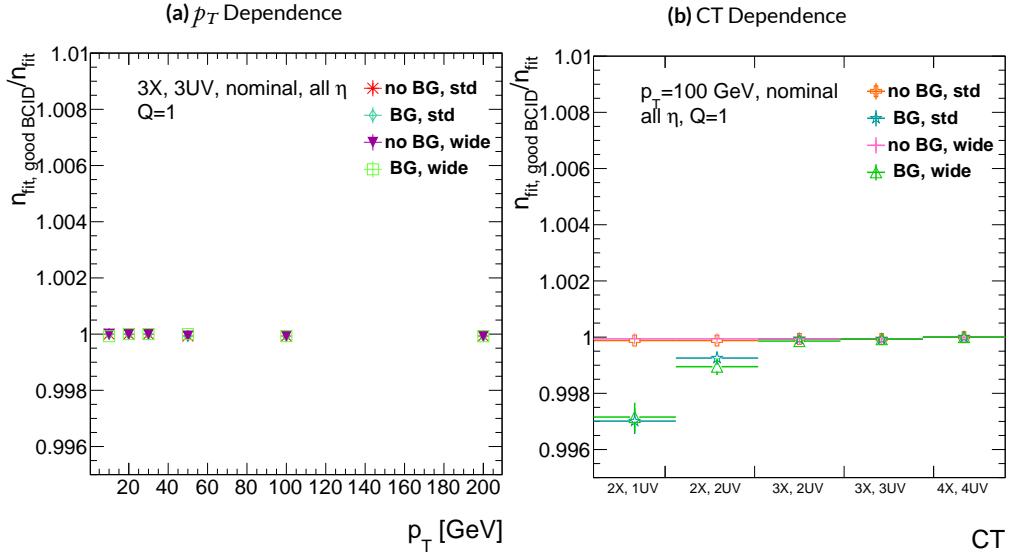
**Figure A.13:** The three fit quantity residual rms values as a function of  $p_T$  for different background settings and slope-road sizes (standard and wide (one slope road as 1 VMM chip)).

raw rms values are not. While the raw  $\Delta\theta$  rms stays stable, both  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  suffer noticeable degradation, which suggests that the introduction of background has a detrimental effect on horizontal slope residual (i.e. on stereo strips in particular). This level of degradation is likely acceptable for  $\theta$ , though further steps may need to be taken to address  $\phi$ .

### A.6.1 BCID

A fitted track's BCID is determined by the most common BCID associated with its hits. Concerns were raised that this might cause incorrect BCID association for fitted tracks. In order to address this, the rate of successful BCID association for fitted tracks was recorded. Figure A.14 shows the dependence of this success rate as a function of  $p_T$  and coincidence threshold in the different background and resource conditions used in the previous section. The successful BCID identification rate is always over 99.5%, demonstrating that this issue is not a concern with the state-of-the-art detector

simulation.



**Figure A.14:** The rate of good BCID association based majority hit BCID as a function of  $p_T$  and coincidence threshold.

## A.7 CHARGE THRESHOLD

The MMTP uses the first hits registered passing a charge threshold requirement given in units of electron charge. In principle, it would be beneficial to be able to use any hits that are registered regardless of deposited charge, but in the high rate environment envisioned for the NSW, this requirement might need to be raised. Nominal algorithm settings have this charge threshold requirement set to 1, and studies were conducted on algorithm performance for charge threshold values of 0, 1, and 2. Efficiencies as a function of coincidence threshold for different charge thresholds are shown in Figure A.15. Increasing the charge threshold lowers both efficiencies, particularly at high coincidence threshold, which suggests that energetic muons with secondaries create both very many hits

and hits with higher charge. While the shapes of the fit quantity distributions as a function of  $p_T$  in Figure A.16 are fairly constant across charge threshold, performance is not.  $\theta$  and  $\Delta\theta$  show some improvement with higher charge threshold, particularly at low  $p_T$ , suggesting that resolution improves in the vertical direction, but  $\phi$  shows degradation at higher charge threshold, which is a symptom of more highly charged particles experiencing greater bending in the ATLAS magnetic field in the  $\phi$  direction.

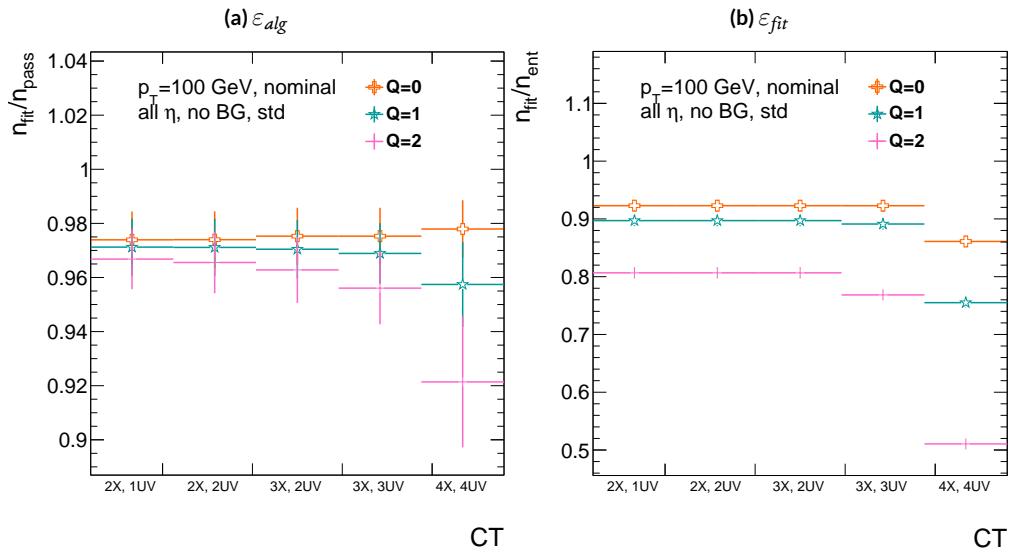
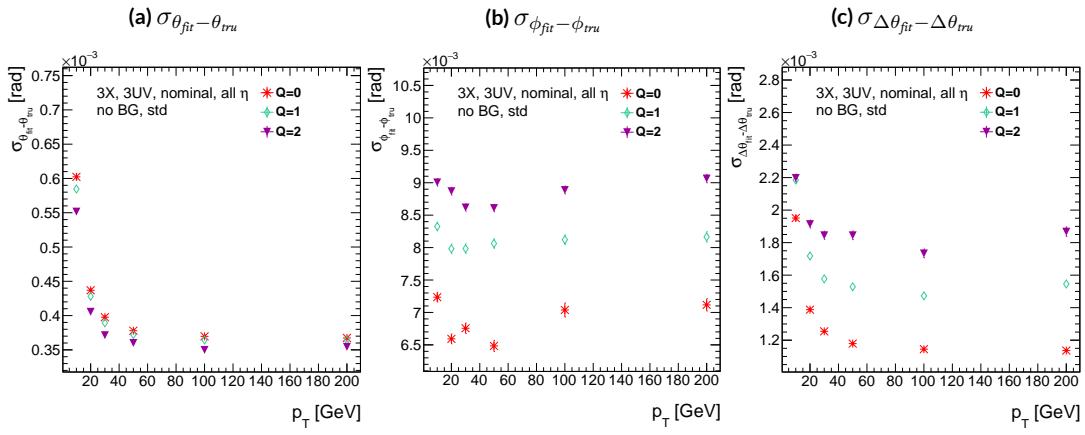


Figure A.15: The efficiencies as a function of coincidence threshold for charge thresholds 0, 1, and 2.



**Figure A.16:** The fit quantity residual rms values as a function of  $p_T$  for charge thresholds of 0, 1, and 2.

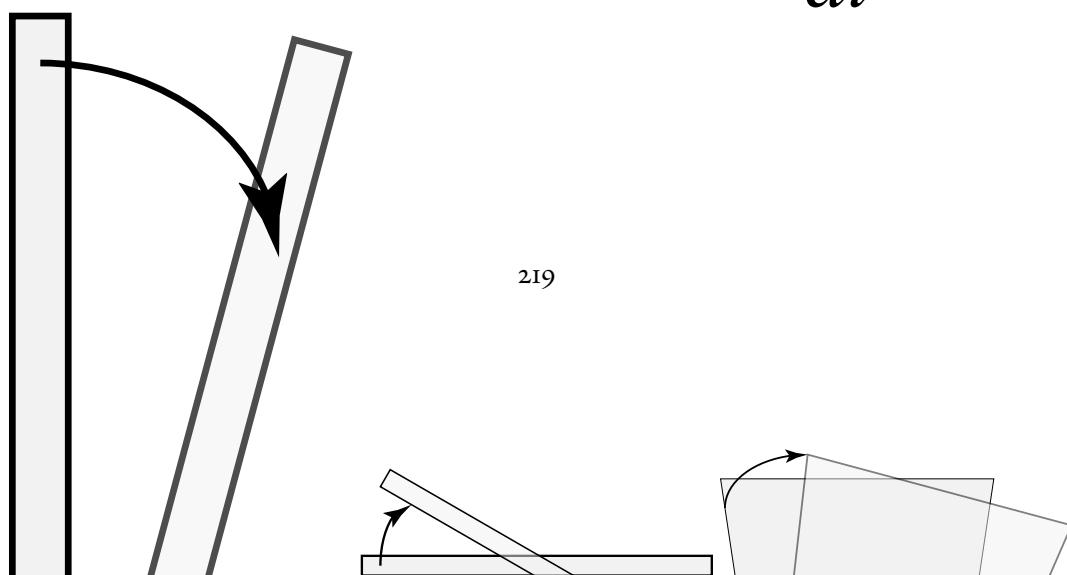
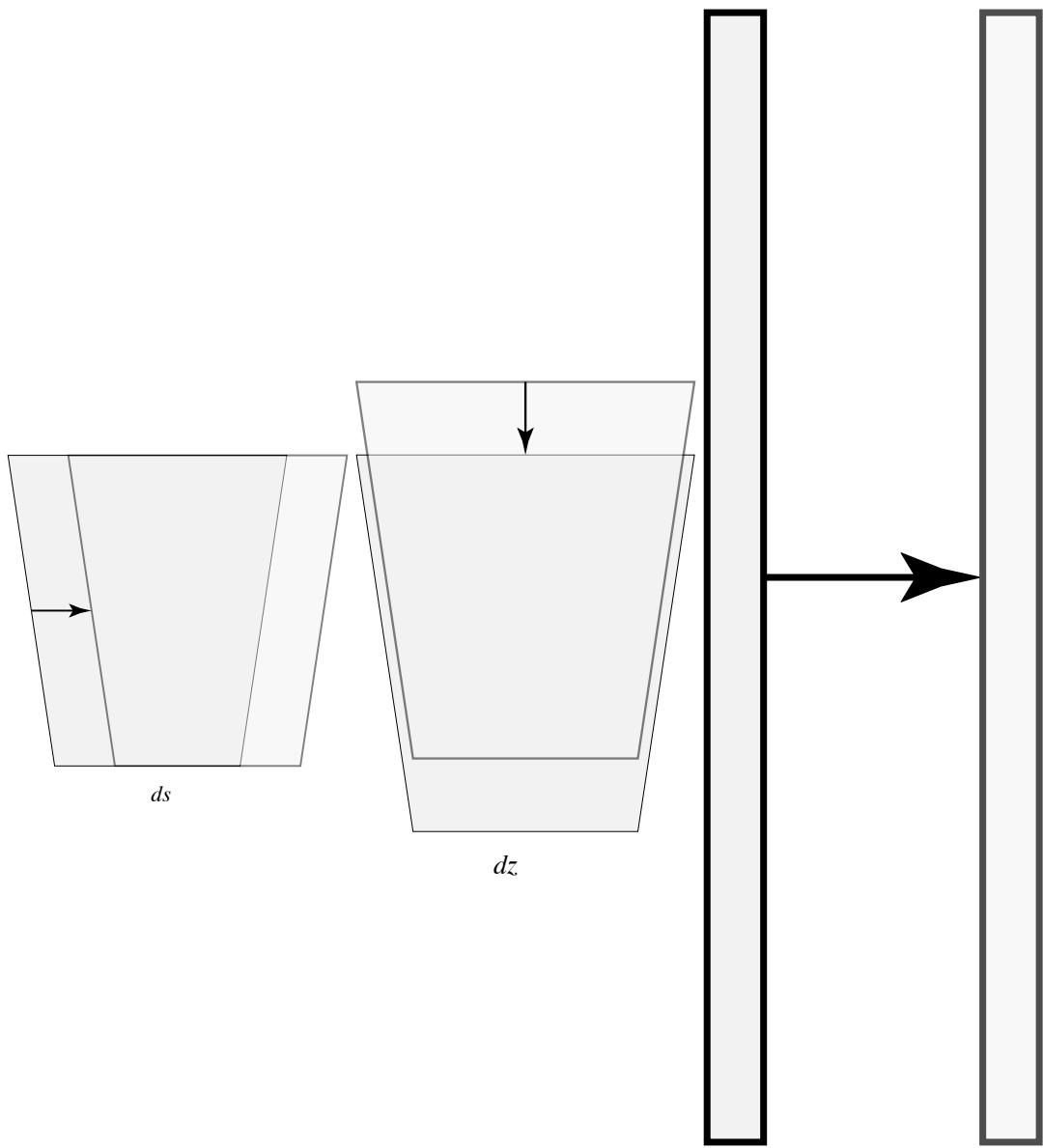
## A.8 MISALIGNMENTS AND CORRECTIONS

The performance of the trigger algorithm under misalignment has been studied for each of the six alignment quantities (three translations and three rotations all along the principal axes) described in<sup>3</sup> and<sup>2</sup>, whose convention we will follow here. For the simulated wedge studied here the local coordinates described in<sup>2</sup> are taken to be centered at the center of the base of the wedge<sup>\*\*</sup>, the local  $t$  axis corresponds to the axis of the beam line, the local  $z$  axis corresponds to the direction orthogonal to both the beam line and the horizontal strips, and the local  $s$  axis completes the right-handed coordinate system. The rotation angles  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  correspond to rotations around the local  $t$ ,  $z$ , and  $s$  axes, respectively. Note that the local  $s$ ,  $z$ , and  $-t$ , axes correspond to the usual global  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  axes. Misalignments were studied in twenty evenly spaced increments from nominal positions to misalignments of 1.5 mrad for the rotations (-1.5 mrad to +1.5 mrad for the  $\gamma$  case), and of 5 mm (a roughly corresponding linear shift) for the translations. In all cases, the front quadruplet is misaligned while the rear quadruplet remains in its nominal position. While only the front quadruplet of a single wedge is misaligned, the framework for misalignment presented below could be used to study generic local and global misalignments. The six misalignments are schematically represented in Figure A.17.

Chamber misalignments manifest themselves as altered strips in algorithm input. In order to simulate the effects of misalignment, the change in the local  $y$  coordinate—the distance from the

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<sup>\*\*</sup>Not, as is sometimes the case, the centroid position for simplicity's sake, as the agreed upon geometry of the detector changed several times while studies were in progress; any transformation in a centroid-origin coordinate system can of course be formed by a combination of the six transformations examined.



bottom wedge center in the direction perpendicular to both the beamline and the strip direction—is calculated for a track coming straight from the interaction point defined by the truth-level  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  angles for generic misalignment. This displacement in  $y$  is then added to input hit information and the algorithm is then run normally.

To understand how this displacement is calculated, some notation first needs to be described.

**Table A.2:** A summary of notation used in this section: note that non-AMDB notation is used in this section.

Symbol	Definition
$s_x, s_y, s_z, \vec{s}$	Position of the muon hit in ATLAS global coordinates; the infinite momentum muon track
$\hat{n}$	Vector normal to the plane; taken to be $\hat{z}$ (the beamline) in the nominal case
$\mathcal{O}_{IP}^{g,l}$	Position of the interaction point in ATLAS global ( $g$ ) or wedge local ( $l$ ) coordinates
$\mathcal{O}_{base}^{g,l}$	Position of the plane base in ATLAS global ( $g$ ) or wedge local ( $l$ ) coordinates; $(0, y_{base}, z_{pl})$ ( $(0, 0, 0)$ ) for the nominal case in global (local) coordinates
$\vec{\zeta}$	$\vec{s} - \vec{\mathcal{O}}_{base}$
primed quant.	quantities after misalignment

Generically speaking, a hit is the intersection of a line (the muon track) with a plane (the individual plane in the multiplet). We assume the muon moves in a straight line defined by the origin and the truth-level  $\theta_{pos}$  and  $\phi_{pos}$  (i.e. the infinite momentum limit) and that the MM plane is rigid and defined by a point, which we take to be the center of the bottom edge of the plane, and a normal vector, which we take to be the  $z$  axis in the nominal case.

The coordinate axes  $x, y, z$  axes used here correspond to the usual AMDB  $s, z, -t$  axes. Since the direction does not really matter when studying misalignment or corrections thereof, the major

difference is the choice of origin.

The muon track we denote<sup>††</sup>  $\vec{s}$ , the bottom point of the plane  $\vec{\mathcal{O}}_{base}$ , and the normal vector  $\hat{n}$ .

The muon track will always be given as (the wedge gets moved, not the muon):

$$\vec{s} = \mathcal{O}_{IP} + k\hat{s} \quad (\text{A.8})$$

$$\hat{s} = \sin \theta_{pos} \sin \phi_{pos} \hat{x} + \sin \theta_{pos} \cos \phi_{pos} \hat{y} + \cos \theta_{pos} \hat{z} \quad (\text{A.9})$$

$$\vec{s} = k\hat{s} = \frac{z_{pl}}{\cos \theta_{pos}} \hat{s} = z_{pl} (\tan \theta \sin \phi \hat{x} + \tan \theta \cos \phi \hat{y} + \hat{z}) \quad (\text{A.10})$$

where  $k \in \mathbb{R}$ , along with the unit vector  $\hat{s}$ , defines the point where the track intersects the wedge.

Rotations are done before translations, according to the order prescribed in the AMDB guide for chamber alignment, so the axes the principal axes of the plane are rotated according to the following matrix (where  $s$ ,  $c$ , and  $t$  are the obvious trigonometric substitutions)

$$\begin{aligned} & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c\gamma & -s\gamma \\ 0 & s\gamma & c\gamma \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\beta & 0 & s\beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s\beta & 0 & c\beta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\alpha & -s\alpha & 0 \\ s\alpha & c\alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c\gamma & -s\gamma \\ 0 & s\gamma & c\gamma \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c\alpha c\beta & -s\alpha c\beta & s\beta \\ s\alpha & c\alpha & 0 \\ -c\alpha s\beta & s\alpha s\beta & c\beta \end{pmatrix} \\ & = \boxed{\begin{pmatrix} c\alpha c\beta & -s\alpha c\beta & s\beta \\ s\alpha c\gamma + c\alpha s\beta s\gamma & c\alpha c\gamma - s\alpha s\beta s\gamma & -c\beta s\gamma \\ s\alpha s\gamma - c\alpha s\beta c\gamma & c\alpha s\gamma + s\alpha s\beta c\gamma & c\beta c\gamma \end{pmatrix}} = \mathcal{A} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.11})$$

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<sup>††</sup>Recall  $\phi_{pos}$  is defined with respect to the  $y$  axis instead of the  $x$  axis, as might otherwise be typical.

The thing that matters is what the new strip hit is—i.e. what the new  $y$  value is since this, along with a plane number, is all that is fed into the algorithm. To find this, we must solve for the new point of intersection with the rotated plane and then apply the effects of translations. The path connecting the base of the wedge with the intersection of the muon track will always be orthogonal to the normal vector of the plane. Our quantities after misalignment, denoted by primed quantities, will look like

$$\mathcal{O}_{base} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{base} + ds\hat{x} + dz\hat{y} + dt\hat{z} = \mathcal{O}'_{base}, \quad \hat{n} \rightarrow A\hat{n} = A\hat{z} = \hat{z}', \quad \vec{s} \rightarrow k'\hat{s} + \mathcal{O}_{IP} = \vec{s}' \quad (\text{A.12})$$

so, moving to explicit, global coordinates in the last line so we can do the computation (relying on the fact that any vector in the wedge, namely  $\vec{\zeta} = \vec{s} - \mathcal{O}$  the local coordinates of the interaction point, is necessarily orthogonal to  $\hat{n}$ ):

$$o = \hat{n} \cdot (\vec{\mathcal{O}}_{base} - \vec{s}) \rightarrow o = A\hat{z}' \cdot (\vec{\mathcal{O}}'_{base} - (k'\hat{s} + \vec{\mathcal{O}}_{IP})) \quad (\text{A.13})$$

$$\rightarrow k' = \frac{s\beta\vec{\mathcal{O}}'_{base-IP,x} - c\beta s\gamma\vec{\mathcal{O}}'_{base-IP,y} + c\beta c\gamma\vec{\mathcal{O}}'_{base-IP,z}}{\hat{s} \cdot \hat{z}'} \quad (\text{A.14})$$

$$= \frac{s\beta ds - c\beta s\gamma(y_{base} + dz) + c\beta c\gamma(z_{pl} + dt)}{s\beta s\theta s\phi - c\beta s\gamma s\theta c\phi + c\beta c\gamma c\theta} \quad (\text{A.15})$$

To find our new  $y$  coordinate, we need to evaluate  $s'_y = \hat{y}' \cdot k'\vec{s}$  to find the final correction of:

$$\Delta y = \vec{\zeta}' \cdot \hat{y}' - \vec{\zeta} \cdot \hat{y} = (k'\hat{s} - \vec{\mathcal{O}}'_{base}) \cdot \hat{y}' - (s_y - y_{base}) \quad (\text{A.16})$$

The correction will be plane dependent since (denoting the stereo angle  $\omega$ ):

$$\hat{y}_x = \hat{y} \rightarrow \hat{y}'_x = -s\alpha c\beta \hat{x} + (c\alpha c\gamma - s\alpha s\beta s\gamma) \hat{y} + (c\alpha s\gamma + s\alpha s\beta c\gamma) \hat{z}$$

(A.17)

and

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{y}_{U,V} = & \pm s\omega \hat{x}' + c\omega \hat{y}'_{U,V} = [\pm c\alpha c\beta s\omega - s\alpha c\beta c\omega] \hat{x} + [\pm (s\alpha c\gamma + c\alpha s\beta s\gamma) s\omega \\ & + (c\alpha c\gamma - s\alpha s\beta s\gamma) c\omega] \hat{y} + [\pm (s\alpha s\gamma - c\alpha s\beta c\gamma) s\omega + (c\alpha s\gamma + s\alpha s\beta c\gamma) c\omega] \hat{z} \end{aligned}$$

### A.8.1 INDIVIDUAL CASES

Currently we only study the cases where one misalignment parameter is not zero. We examine these in detail below, calculating the most pertinent quantities in the misalignment calculation,  $k'/k$  and the new horizontal and stereo  $y$  axes. Before setting out, we simplify the expressions for the transformed  $\hat{y}'$ 's, removing any terms with the product of two sines of misalignment angles, which will be

zero.<sup>††</sup>

$$\hat{y}'_x = -s\alpha c\beta \hat{x} + c\alpha c\gamma \hat{y} + c\alpha s\gamma \hat{z} \quad (\text{A.19})$$

$$\hat{y}'_{u,v} = [\pm c\alpha c\beta s\omega - s\alpha c\beta c\omega] \hat{x} + [\pm s\alpha c\gamma s\omega + c\alpha c\gamma c\omega] \hat{y} + [\mp c\alpha s\beta c\gamma s\omega + c\alpha s\gamma c\omega] \hat{z} \quad (\text{A.20})$$

If the translations are zero,

$$k' = \frac{-c\beta s\gamma y_{base} + c\beta c\gamma z_{pl}}{s\beta s\theta s\phi - c\beta s\gamma s\theta c\phi + c\beta c\gamma c\theta}, \quad k'/k = \frac{-c\beta s\gamma y_{base}/z_{pl} + c\beta c\gamma}{s\beta t\theta s\phi - c\beta s\gamma t\theta c\phi + c\beta c\gamma} \quad (\text{A.21})$$

### A.8.2 $ds \neq 0$

$k'/k = 1$  (the point of intersection does not move closer or further from the IP), and only the stereo planes are affected. Note that only relevant term in Equation A.16, for the stereo strip  $\hat{y}$  for  $\vec{\mathcal{O}}'_{base} = ds\hat{x}$  is:

$$\pm \sin \omega ds \approx \pm 0.0261ds \quad (\text{A.22})$$

meaning that a displacement in  $x$  of 17 mm, more than three times the range of misalignments studied, would be necessary for a shift in the stereo planes corresponding to one strip width.

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<sup>††</sup>If only one misalignment parameter is non-zero, then two or more sines will contain at least one term will contain  $\sin \omega = \omega$ .

### A.8.3 $dz \neq 0$

$k'/k = 1$  (the point of intersection does not move closer or further from the IP). This case is the trivial one (cf. Equation A.16 with  $\vec{\phi}'_{base} = dz\hat{y}$ ).  $y$  just gets moved in the opposite direction as the wedge. Correction is an additive constant.

### A.8.4 $dt \neq 0$

$k'/k = (z_{pl} + dt) / z_{pl}$ .  $y$  gets modified by a simple scale factor. Correct by storing changing definitions of plane positions in algorithm to match the misaligned values.

### A.8.5 $\alpha \neq 0$

$k'/k = 1$  and

$$\hat{y}'_x = -s\alpha\hat{x} + c\alpha\hat{y} \quad (\text{A.23})$$

$$\hat{y}'_{U,V} = [\pm c\alpha s\omega - s\alpha c\omega] \hat{x} + [\pm s\alpha s\omega + c\omega] \hat{y} \quad (\text{A.24})$$

### A.8.6 $\beta \neq 0$

We have  $k'/k = (1 + \tan \beta \tan \theta \sin \phi)^{-1}$ , and

$$\hat{y}'_x = \hat{y} \quad (\text{A.25})$$

$$\hat{y}'_{U,V} = \hat{y} \pm (c\beta\hat{x} - s\beta\hat{z}) s\omega \quad (\text{A.26})$$

### A.8.7 $\gamma \neq 0$

$$k'/k = \frac{1 - \tan \gamma \frac{y_{base}}{z_{pl}}}{1 - \tan \gamma \tan \theta \cos \phi} \quad (\text{A.27})$$

$$\hat{y}'_x = c\gamma \hat{y} + s\gamma \hat{z} \quad (\text{A.28})$$

$$\hat{y}'_{U,V} = \pm s\omega \hat{x} + c\omega \hat{y} - s\gamma c\omega \hat{z} \quad (\text{A.29})$$

In order to evaluate algorithm performance under misalignment and corrections for misalignment, the absolute means and relative resolutions of the fit quantities  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\Delta\theta$  are measured as a function of misalignment. In the following, results will only be shown for which the effects of misalignment are significant. “Significant,” for misalignments of 1 mm (0.3 mrad) for translations (rotations) means more than a 5% degradation in rms and/or bias shifts in  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\Delta\theta$  of 0.01 mrad, 1 mrad, and 0.1 mrad, respectively.

While corrections are typically done on a case-by-base basis, they fall under two general categories, analytic and simulation based. Analytic corrections rely upon specific knowledge of the misalignment, with each case being handled separately; as such, the additional resources required, both extra constants and operations, if any, vary accordingly. Simulation based corrections are all done in the same manner. The algorithm is run over a training MC sample (same setup but with  $p_T = 200$  GeV instead of the normal 100 GeV sample so as not to overtrain the corrections), and the mean biases for  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ , and  $\Delta\theta$  are saved for different, equally spaced regions in the  $\eta - \phi$  plane over the wedge based on the fitted  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  values. Currently, these values are saved for 10  $\eta$  and 10  $\phi$  bins (100  $\eta, \phi$

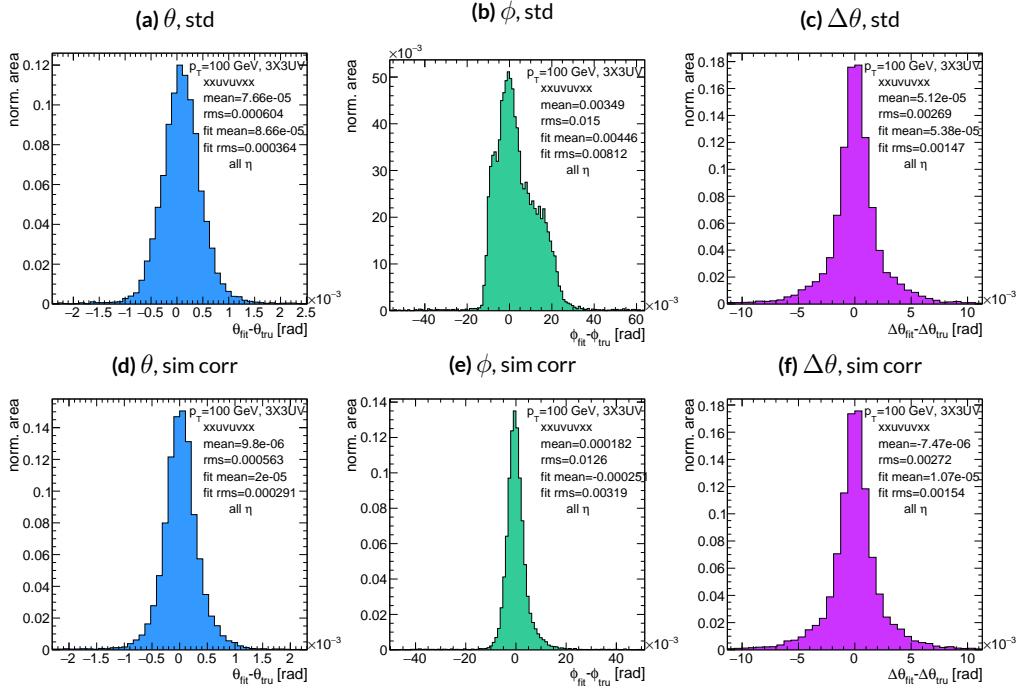
**Table A.3:** A summary of corrections with additional constants/operations (written as  $n_{const}c/n_{ops}\text{op}$ ;  $n_X$  is the number of X hits in a fit) necessary for analytic corrections. Yes means a correction exists but might not entirely remove misalignment effects, while yes+ means a quality of correction is only limited by knowledge of misalignment and memory

	$\Delta s$	$\Delta z$	$\Delta t$	$\gamma_s$	$\beta_z$	$\alpha_t$
Analytic Resources	yes+ 11c/2op	yes+ oc/oop	yes+ oc/oop	yes 56c/1op	no —	yes 400c/2n <sub>X</sub> op, 32c/12n <sub>X</sub> op
Simulation	yes+	no	no	no	yes+	yes+

bins total), with the number of bins in each direction being a configurable parameter. When the algorithm runs with simulation based correction, this table of constant corrections is saved in a LUT before runtime, and corrections are added to final fit quantities based on the (uncorrected)  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  fit values. With the settings mentioned, this is 300 extra constants ( $10\eta\text{-bins} \times 10\phi\text{-bins} \times 3$  fit quantities) and two extra operations (a lookup and addition for each quantity done in parallel). The simulation correction can, in principle, also be applied to the algorithm in nominal conditions with non-trivial improvements, as detailed below in Section A.9. Depending on the misalignment case in question, different approaches work better. A summary of correction methods, including resources necessary for the individual analytic cases, is shown in Table A.3.

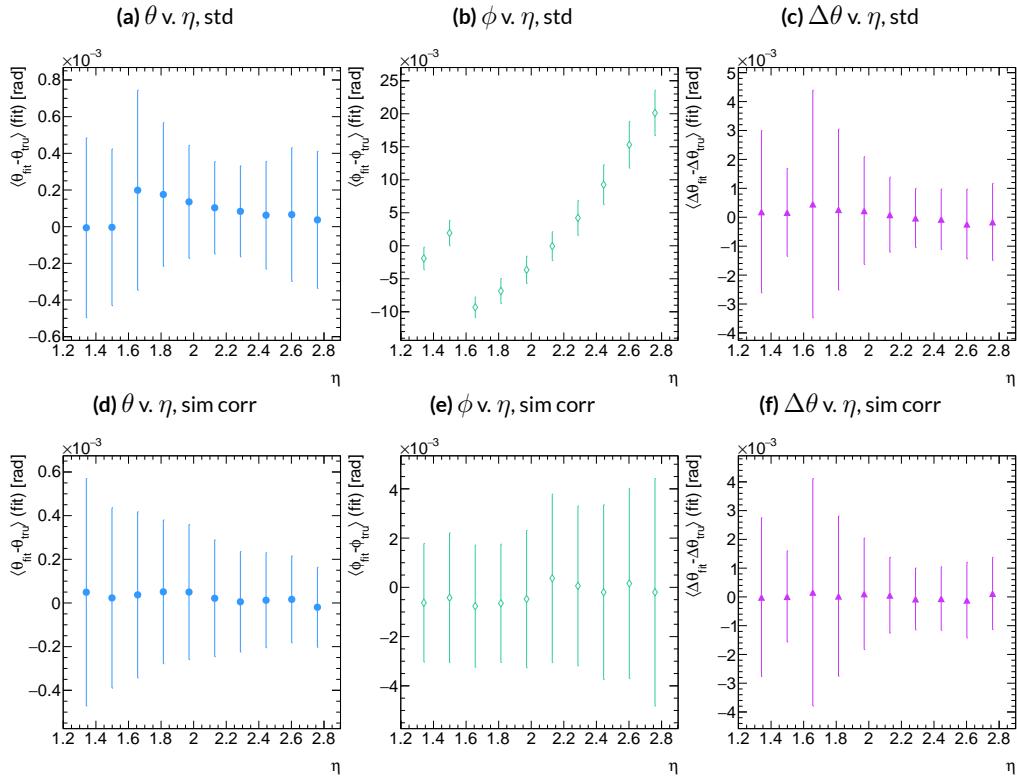
## A.9 SIMULATION CORRECTION OF THE ALGORITHM UNDER NOMINAL CONDITIONS

In addition to using simulation based correction to counter the effects of several classes of misalignment, the correction can be applied at to the algorithm under nominal conditions. The main effect of this correction is to mitigate the effects of the bias in stereo strips. As such, the correction has a larger effect on quantities that rely on the aggregate slope  $m_y$ , as can be seen in in Figure A.18, improving  $\sigma_{\theta_{fit}-\theta_{tru}}$  resolution by about 25%, and reducing  $\sigma_{\phi_{fit}-\phi_{tru}}$  by over 50% and restoring a largely Gaussian shape. The slight, apparent degradation in  $\Delta\theta$  is due to a more mild version of the effect seen in Figure A.7.



**Figure A.18:** Nominal residual plots for both uncorrected and simulation corrected cases;  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\Delta\theta$  for  $p_T = 100$  GeV muons

As can be seen in Figure A.19, the simulation based correction also removes the  $\eta$  dependence to fit quantity resolution distributions, as expected. One consequence of this is that simulation-based corrections applied to the misalignment cases below will restore performance to the “sim” and not the “std” distributions of Figure A.18. Hence, when making comparisons between simulation corrected curves and the nominal performance point, simulation-corrected distributions of benchmark quantities versus misalignment will often look generally better.



**Figure A.19:** Nominal residual plots as a function of  $\eta$  with points as means and error bars as rms values in each  $\eta$  bin for the angles  $\theta, \phi, \Delta\theta$  for  $p_T = 100$  GeV muons in the uncorrected and simulation corrected cases.

That the improvements from a simulation-based correction improve performance of the algo-

rithm in nominal conditions most for the quantities that depend most on stereo information ( $\phi$  and  $\theta$ ) and remove the  $\eta$  dependence of fit quantity resolutions suggests that there could, in principle, be analytic corrections that could be applied to the nominal algorithm. One possible solution is to introduce an additional set of constants, having the  $y_{base}$  depend on the strip number, similar to the  $\gamma_s$  correction for  $z_{plane}$  described in Section A.13, which would add a lookup per hit and  $8 \times n_{bins,y}$  extra constants that would be optimized as the  $\gamma_s$  correction was.

$$M_{hit} = \frac{\gamma}{z} = \frac{y_{base}}{z_{plane}} (n_{str}) + \frac{w_{str}}{z_{plane}} n_{str} \quad (\text{A.30})$$

The simulation correction residual rms values suggest a limit on the quality of such a correction and could perhaps be implemented generically on their own regardless of misalignment for rms values on fit quantities of 0.291 mrad for  $\theta$ , 3.19 mrad for  $\phi$ , and 1.54 for  $\Delta\theta$ , which represent a 20% improvement for  $\theta$ , a 62% improvement for  $\phi$ , and a slight degradation in  $\Delta\theta$  of 4.7%, again owing to an effect similar to the one in A.7.

## A.10 TRANSLATION MISALIGNMENTS ALONG THE HORIZONTAL STRIP DIRECTION ( $\Delta s$ )

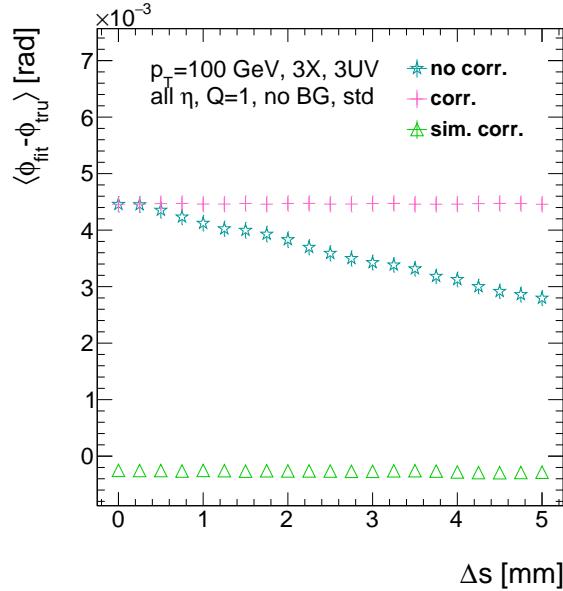
A translation in  $s$  (i.e. along the direction of a horizontal strip) only affects the stereo strips, and, since the stereo angle is small, a very large misalignment is necessary for effects to be noticeable (a misalignment of roughly 17 mm corresponds to one strip's misalignment in the stereo planes). The only quantity to show any meaningful deviation with misalignments with translations in  $s$  is the  $\phi$  residual bias (a change of 0.4 mrad at  $\Delta s = 1$  mm), as can be seen in the uncorrected curve of Figure A.20.

A translation in  $s$  induces a constant shift in the calculated horizontal slope,  $m_x$  in Equation A.4. This constant shift should only depend on which stereo planes included in a fit are misaligned and how misaligned they are. Hence, the correction to  $m_x$ , for a sum over misaligned stereo planes  $i$ , with their individual misalignments in  $s$  and plane positions in  $z$  is:

$$\Delta m_x = \frac{1}{N_{\text{stereo}}} \sum_{i, \text{misal stereo}} \frac{\Delta s_i}{z_{i, \text{plane}}} \quad (\text{A.31})$$

Given prior knowledge of misalignment, these corrections to  $m_x$  can be performed ahead of time and saved in a lookup table (LUT), similar to the LUT used for constants in the X local slope ( $M_x^l$ ) calculation. The added overhead of this analytic correction is hence eleven constants in memory, a lookup, and one addition. The correction perfectly corrects the effects of misalignment, as can be seen in Figure A.20. The simulation based correction described above can also be used to correct for  $\Delta s$  misalignments, with the results of that correction also shown in Figure A.20. The apparent

discrepancy between the simulated and analytic correction is a natural consequence of the fact that the simulation correction, as previously mentioned, restores the  $\phi$  residual distribution to an overall more Gaussian shape.



**Figure A.20:** The mean of the  $\phi$  residual as a function of misalignment for the uncorrected case and the analytic and simulation correction cases.

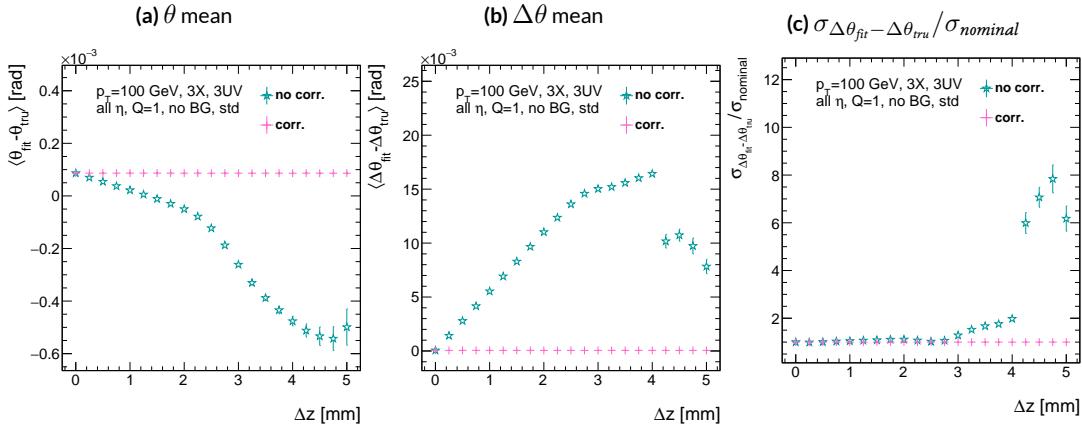
## A.II TRANSLATION MISALIGNMENTS ORTHOGONAL TO THE BEAMLINE AND HORIZONTAL STRIP DIRECTION ( $\Delta z$ )

A translation in AMDB  $z$ , the direction orthogonal to both the beamline and the horizontal strip direction, corresponds to a translation in the  $y$  of Equation A.1, affecting all slope calculations. This has a large impact on the  $\theta$  residual bias and both the bias and rms of  $\Delta\theta$  residual, as can be seen in Figures A.21 (a)–(c). The marked degradation and non-linear behavior in performance at very high levels of misalignments is a result of low statistics; there are fewer fits at high level of misalignments since for  $\Delta z \gtrsim 3$  mm, most fits will fail the  $\Delta\theta$  cut. The  $\theta$  bias shifts by about 0.075 mrad at  $\Delta z = 1$  mm, and  $\Delta\theta$  shifts by about 5 mrad for the same level of misalignment. While the fitted rms of the  $\Delta\theta$  residual remains fairly stable for  $\Delta z < 1$  mm or so, between  $\Delta z = 2$  mm and  $\Delta z = 3$  mm, the rms increases by 15% before the  $\Delta\theta$  cut issue mentioned above intervenes.

Fortunately, these misalignments are straightforward to correct with knowledge of the misalignment. The only modification necessary for this correction is to change the definitions of  $y_{base}$  in Equation A.1 for the individual hit slope addressing. This is done before runtime and adds no overhead to the algorithm, and the correction quality is only limited by knowledge of the misalignment. The results of this correction are also shown in Figures A.21 (a)–(c) and restore nominal performance.

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Since  $\Delta\theta = \frac{M_x^l - M_x^r}{1 + M_x^l M_x^r}$  and  $M_x^l = B_k \sum y_i (z/\bar{z} - 1)$ , a shift  $\Delta y$  translates (with typical slope values of  $\sim 0.3$ ) to  $5B_k (z_1 + z_2)/\bar{z}$  (with  $B_k$  in units of inverse mm); set equal to 16 mrad ( $\Delta\theta$  is centered at zero), this corresponds to  $\Delta y = 2.7$  mm

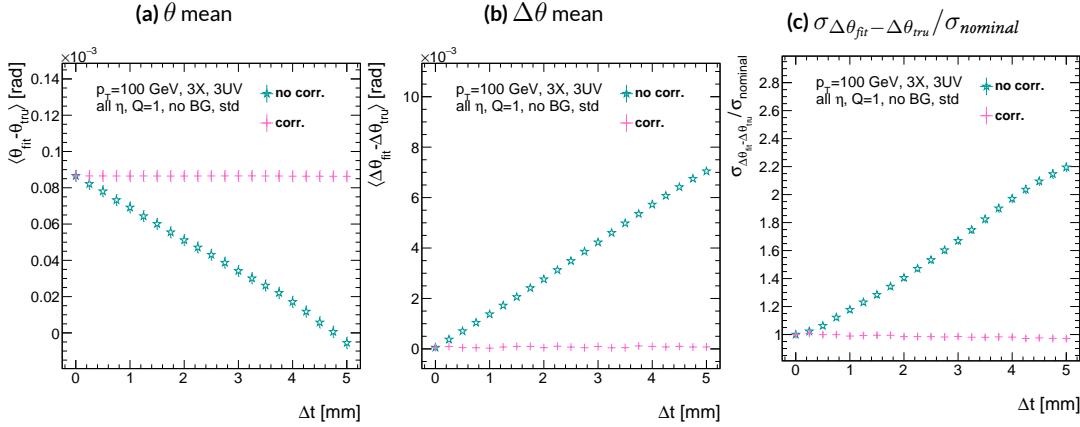


**Figure A.21:** The affected quantities of  $\Delta z$  misalignments:  $\theta$  bias,  $\Delta\theta$  bias, and  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit} - \Delta\theta_{true}} / \sigma_{nominal}$  for both the misaligned and corrected cases.

## A.12 TRANSLATION MISALIGNMENTS PARALLEL TO THE BEAMLINE ( $\Delta t$ )

The effects of misalignment due to translations in  $t$  are very similar to those due to translations in  $z$  without the complication of the  $\Delta\theta$  cut, affecting the  $z$  instead of the  $y$  coordinate that enters into hit slope calculations. Again,  $\theta$  bias,  $\Delta\theta$  bias, and  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{true}}$  are the primarily affected quantities. For  $\Delta t = 1$  mm,  $\theta$  bias shifts by about 0.02 mrad,  $\Delta\theta$  bias shifts by just under 2 mrad, and  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{true}}$  degrades by about 20%. The correction for this misalignment once again costs no overhead and consists of changing stored constants in the algorithm, in this case the positions along the beamline of the misaligned planes, with results similarly limited by knowledge of the misalignment. The slight improvement with correction to  $\Delta\theta$  rms is due to the real effect of a larger lever arm. Both the misaligned and corrected distributions of affected quantities of interest are shown in

Figure A.22.



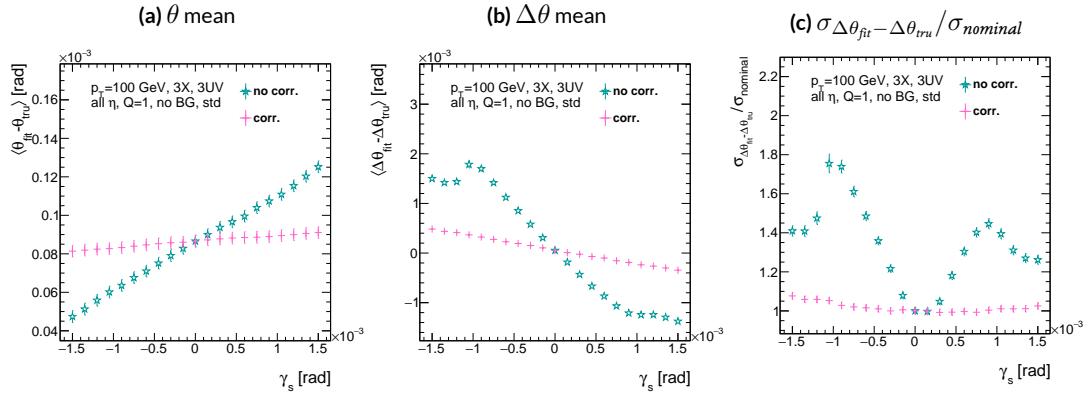
**Figure A.22:** The affected quantities of  $\Delta t$  misalignments:  $\theta$  bias,  $\Delta\theta$  bias, and  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{true}} / \sigma_{nominal}$  for both the misaligned and corrected cases.

### A.13 CHAMBER TILTS TOWARDS AND AWAY FROM THE IP ( $\gamma_s$ ROTATION)

Chamber misalignment due to rotations around the  $s$  axis act effectively like a translation in  $t$  that depends on strip number. These rotations tilt misaligned chambers away from (towards) the IP for positive (negative) values of  $\gamma_s$ . Since, unlike for the other two rotation cases that will be studied, positive and negative rotation values are not symmetric, this misalignment is studied for both positive and negative  $\gamma_s$  values. The divergent effect at the tails is a result of a large population of fits not having fit quantities within the cores, and so not appearing in the fit rms. Once again, affected quantities of interest  $\theta$  bias,  $\Delta\theta$  bias, and  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{tru}}$ . The effects of misalignment can be seen in Figures A.23 (a)–(c). The relationship between biases and  $\gamma_s$  is roughly linear with  $\Delta\gamma_s = 0.3$  mrad (the angular scale corresponding to linear shifts of  $\sim 1$  mm) corresponding to  $0.005$  mrad ( $0.12$  mrad) for  $\theta$  ( $\Delta\theta$ ). For  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{tru}}$ , degradation is not symmetric. For negative (positive)  $\gamma_s$ , with the quadruplet tilted towards (away from) the IP, slope-roads are artificially expanded (shrunk), decreasing (increasing) the granularity of the trigger, explaining the asymmetry in Figure A.23 (c), with the degradation being a  $10\%$  ( $25\%$ ) effect for  $\gamma_s$  of  $+(-)0.3$  mrad.

Corrections are less simple in this case. In principle, corrections of the same accuracy of the translations could be calculated per strip, but the overhead of one correction per strip (many thousands of constants) is prohibitive. Instead, each plane was divided into eight equal segments with a  $t$  value ( $z$  in the slope calculation) assigned to strips in each region to correct for the misalignment. This amounts to 56 extra constants and a 2D instead of a 1D LUT for  $z$  positions while the algorithm runs. The corrected distributions can also be seen in Figures A.23 (a)–(c). The corrections, while not

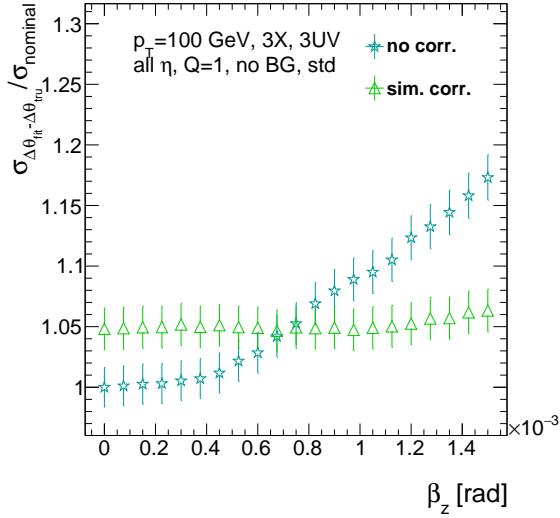
as effective as for the simple translation cases, are still very effective with the quoted misalignment values for bias shifts down to 0.001 mrad (0.25 mrad) for  $\theta$  ( $\Delta\theta$ ) and no more than a 2% degradation in  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{tru}}$  for  $|\gamma_s| = 0.3$  mrad.



**Figure A.23:** The noticeable effects of rotations in the  $s$  axis and the behavior of these quantities ( $\theta$  and  $\Delta\theta$  bias shifts and  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{tru}} / \sigma_{nominal}$ ) with and without misalignment correction.

### A.14 ROTATION MISALIGNMENTS AROUND THE WEDGE VERTICAL AXIS ( $\beta_z$ )

While misalignments coming from rotations around the  $z$  axis (the direction orthogonal to both the beamline and the horizontal strip direction) foreshorten the strips as seen from the IP and add a deviation in  $t$ , the long lever arm largely washes out any effects of this misalignment. Only the  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{tru}}$  is noticeably affected, though only at severe misalignments, with only about a 1% degradation in performance at  $\beta_z = 0.3$  mrad (corresponding to a linear shift of  $\sim 1$  mm). A simulation based correction works well to cancel out the effects of this misalignment, and the  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{tru}}$  as a function of misalignment with and without corrections are shown in Figure A.24. The apparent 2% effect in the simulation corrected curve is a result of a more mild version of the effect shown in Figure A.7.

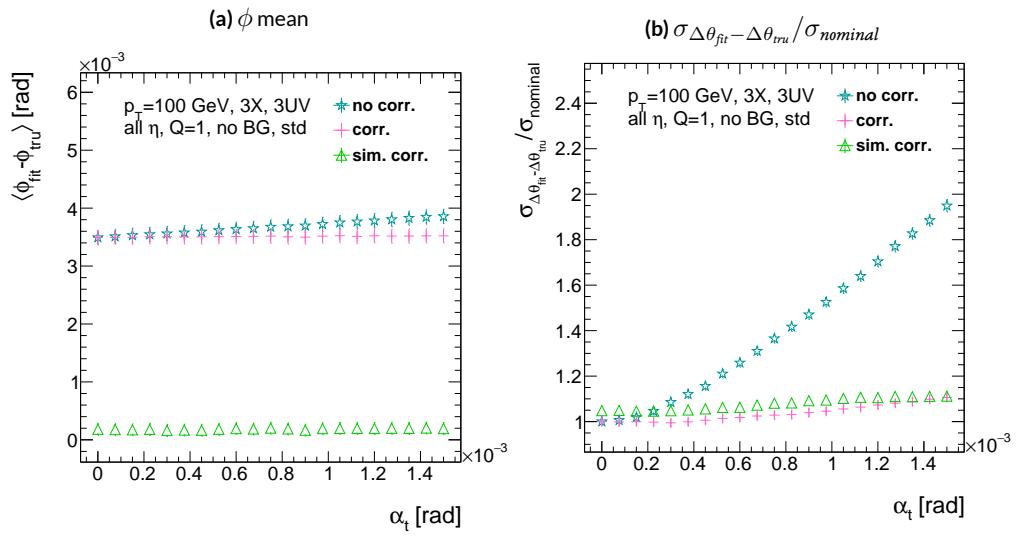


**Figure A.24:** The effects of rotations in the  $z$  axis on  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{tru}}/\sigma_{nominal}$  a function of  $\beta_z$  both with and without misalignment corrections.

### A.15 ROTATION MISALIGNMENTS AROUND THE AXIS PARALLEL TO THE BEAMLINE ( $\alpha_t$ )

Misalignments arising from rotations around the  $t$  axis (parallel to the beamline at the center of the base of the wedge) are essentially rotations in the  $\phi$  direction. The quantities of interest most affected are the  $\phi$  bias and  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{tru}}$ , as shown in Figures A.25 (a) and (b), respectively, and correspond to a shift in  $\phi$  bias of 0.2 mrad and a 10% degradation in  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit}-\Delta\theta_{tru}}$  for  $\alpha_t = 0.3$  mrad (corresponding to a linear shift of  $\sim 1$  mm). The raw instead of fitted mean  $\phi$  biases is used in Figure A.25 (a) to better illustrate the effect of misalignment.

Since the effect of misalignment is dependent on horizontal (along the strip direction,  $\hat{s}$ ) in addition to vertical information, corrections cannot be applied before a fit takes place. The  $\phi$  bias shift is uniform over the entire wedge, so a constant additive correction to  $\phi$  based on the level of misalignment can be applied to all fits depending on how many misaligned stereo planes enter in the fit.  $\Delta\theta$  is less straightforward, but corrections to the  $y$  and  $z$  information used in the local slope calculation in Equation A.4 can be applied once  $\theta_{fit}$  and  $\phi_{fit}$  are known. These corrections are calculated ahead of time in bins of uniform  $\eta$  and  $\phi$  as with the simulation corrections using the same framework as the misalignment calculation. The results of both types of correction can be seen in Figure A.22. The apparent discrepancy between the simulation and analytic corrections in the  $\phi$  bias happens for the same reason as in the  $\Delta s$  misalignment correction cases, as simulation correction restores a more Gaussian shape to the  $\phi$  residual distribution opposed to the uncorrected nominal case, as discussed in Section A.9.



**Figure A.25:** The effects of rotation misalignments around the  $t$  axis for  $\phi$  bias and  $\sigma_{\Delta\theta_{fit} - \Delta\theta_{true}} / \sigma_{nominal}$  as a function of misalignment. The uncorrected and both the analytic and simulation correction cases are shown.

## A.16 CONCLUSION

The algorithm for Micromegas detectors in the NSW Trigger Processor performs well in a variety of conditions and has proven robust to a number of effects to deliver measurements on muon tracks of the three angles  $\theta$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\Delta\theta$ . Under nominal conditions, the rms values for the residuals of these quantities are 0.364 mrad for  $\theta$ , 8.12 mrad for  $\phi$ , and 1.47 mrad for  $\Delta\theta$ . Algorithm performance was found to be largely independent of the charge threshold setting, and a hit majority BCID association was found to provide proper timing information over 99.7% even in the most relaxed settings (2X+1UV coincidence threshold requirement+wide slope-road+background). The introduction of wide slope-roads to better mimic potentially limited algorithm resources at run time and the introduction of incoherent background was found to have a manageable effect on fit quantity residual rms values and on total algorithm efficiency for sufficiently stringent coincidence threshold. The effects of the three translation and three rotation misalignments specified by AMDB convention were studied, and correction methods for each of the six cases was developed. Simulation-based corrections were found to improve nominal algorithm performance to residual rms value of 0.291 mrad for  $\theta$ , 3.19 mrad for  $\phi$ , and 1.54 for  $\Delta\theta$ , which represent improvements of 20%, 62%, and -4.7%, respectively. Misalignment corrections were found to restore nominal performance for all but the rotation around the  $s$  axis, and a summary of tolerances may be found in Table A.4.

**Table A.4:** A summary of levels of misalignment corresponding to a 10% degradation in any residual rms or, for biases shifts of, 0.01 mrad for  $\theta$ , 1 mrad for  $\phi$ , and 0.25 mrad for  $\Delta\theta$  for both the uncorrected and corrected cases;  $> 5$  mm and  $> 1.5$  mrad mean that such a degradation does not occur for the range of misalignment studied. Most affected quantity in parentheses.

	No Correction	Correction
$\Delta s$	4 mm ( $\phi$ bias)	$> 5$ mm
$\Delta z$	0.25 mm ( $\Delta\theta$ )	$> 5$ mm
$\Delta t$	0.25 mm ( $\Delta\theta$ )	$> 5$ mm
$\gamma_s$	0.15 mrad ( $\Delta\theta$ bias)	0.75 mrad
$\beta_z$	0.9 mrad ( $\Delta\theta$ rms)	$> 1.5$ mrad
$\alpha_t$	0.375 mrad ( $\Delta\theta$ rms)	$> 1.5$ mrad

*If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.*

Conventional Wisdom

# B

## Telescoping Jets

ANOTHER APPROACH TO IMPROVING  $ZH \rightarrow \ell\ell b\bar{b}$  is the use of telescoping jets<sup>85</sup>, which harnesses the power of multiple event interpretations. The use of multiple event interpretations was originally developed with non-deterministic jet algorithms like the Q-jets (“quantum” jets) algorithm<sup>2</sup>. When a traditional or “classical” algorithm, such as the Cambridge-Aachen<sup>2</sup> and anti- $k_t$ <sup>2</sup> algorithms, is

applied to an event, it produces one set of jets for that event, i.e. a single interpretation of that event. With multiple event interpretations, each event is instead given an ensemble of interpretations. In the case of Q-jets, this ensemble is created through a non-deterministic clustering process for an anti- $k_t$  jet algorithm. With telescoping jets, multiple jet cone radii (the characteristic size parameter,  $R$ ) around a set of points in the pseudorapidity-azimuth ( $\eta - \phi$ ) plane are used to generate a series of jet collections. Instead of an event passing or not-passing a given set of cuts, a fraction (called the cut-weight,  $z$ ) of interpretations will pass these cuts. This cut-weight allows for enhanced background suppression and increased significance of observed quantities for a given data set, as detailed in Ref.<sup>?</sup>. The telescoping jets algorithm provides the benefits of multiple event interpretations without the significant computational overhead of a non-deterministic algorithm like the Q-jets algorithm, and its multiple cone sizes are particularly suited to studying processes like associated production, which suffers from a pronounced low tail in the dijet invariant mass distribution due to final state radiation (FSR) “leaking” outside the relatively narrow jets used for object reconstruction.

## B.I MONTE CARLO SIMULATION

The MC simulated samples used in this study are the same as in Ref.<sup>?</sup>. The signal sample used is generated in PYTHIA8<sup>?</sup> with the CTEQ6L1 parton distributions functions (PDFs) and AU2 tune<sup>???</sup> for the  $ZH$  process with  $m_H = 125$  GeV (henceforth,  $ZH_{125}$ ). The primary background processes examined in this study were  $Z + \text{jets}$  with massive  $b$  and  $c$  quarks. These samples are generated with version 1.4.1 of the SHERPA generator<sup>?</sup>. Additionally,  $t\bar{t}$  production and di-boson ( $ZZ$ ) production processes were studied in validation. The  $t\bar{t}$  samples are generated by the Powheg gen-

erator<sup>??</sup>, using CT10 PDFs, interfaced with PYTHIA6, and the ZZ samples are generated with the HERWIG<sup>?</sup> generator using the CTEQ6L1 PDFs and the AUET2 tune<sup>??</sup>.

## B.2 JET RECONSTRUCTION AND CALIBRATION

In order to construct telescoping jets, jet axes must first be found around which to “telescope.” In the reconstructed-level analysis, the anti- $k_t$  algorithm with  $R = 0.4$  is used to reconstruct jets from topological clusters in the calorimeters. The four vectors of these anti- $k_t$  algorithm with  $R = 0.4$  jets are calibrated to match truth information obtained from simulation and validated in data. To take into account the effect of pile-up interactions, jet energies are corrected using a jet-area based technique<sup>?</sup>, and each jet with  $p_T < 50$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.4$  is subject to a requirement that at least 50% of the scalar sum of the  $p_T$  of tracks matched to this jet be composed of tracks also associated with the primary vertex. Jet energies are also calibrated using  $p_T$  and  $\eta$ -dependent correction factors<sup>?</sup>. Furthermore, at least two jets must have  $|\eta| < 2.5$  in order to be  $b$ -tagged. The MV1 algorithm<sup>?????</sup> is used for  $b$ -tagging. Once jets are reconstructed and  $b$ -tag weights have been calculated, the two hardest,  $b$ -tagged jets are used as the telescoping jet axes. Additional details can be found in Ref.<sup>?</sup>.

After the telescoping jet axes have been established, telescoping jets are constructed using topological clusters in the calorimeters at a variety of jet cone sizes. Including the original anti- $k_t$  jets used for the  $R = 0.4$  case, twelve total sets of jets of cone sizes ranging from  $R = 0.4\text{--}1.5$  are constructed, with each successive size having a radius 0.1 larger than the preceding set. For each jet axis, telescoping jets consist of any topological cluster lying within  $R$  of the axis. In the event of overlap, clusters are assigned to the closer jet axis. If a given cluster is equidistant from the two jet axes, the cluster

is assigned to whichever jet axis is associated with the anti- $k_t$  jet with higher  $p_T$ . Calibration for the telescoping jets is conducted using corrections for anti- $k_t$  calorimeter topological cluster jets; the  $R = 0.4$  corrections are used for telescoping  $R = 0.5$ , and the  $R = 0.6$  corrections are used for telescoping  $R \geq 0.6$  (cf. Sec. B.4). The telescoping cone jets ( $R \geq 0.5$ ) at reconstructed level are trimmed using Cambridge-Aachen jets with  $R = 0.3$  and  $f_{cut} = 0.05$  with respect to the untrimmed jet  $p_T$ <sup>2</sup>. Since these jets are trimmed, the active area correction is not applied. In the event a  $Z$  candidate electron falls within  $R$  of the axis of a telescoping jet, its 4-momentum is subtracted from that of the jet vectorially.

A similar process is used to construct telescoping jets in the truth-level analysis below. Instead of the two hardest  $b$ -tagged anti- $k_t$  with  $R = 0.4$  jets reconstructed with calorimeter topological clusters, the two hardest truth  $b$ -jets in an event are used. Instead of making a cut on  $b$ -tagging weight to  $b$ -tag, truth jets are examined to see whether a  $b$ -hadron with  $p_T > 5$  GeV is contained within  $\Delta R < 0.4$  of the jet axis; the presence of a  $b$ -hadron is used to  $b$ -tag truth-level jets. These two jets again provide the jets for the  $R = 0.4$  case and the axes around which telescoping takes place. Stable truth particles, not including muons and neutrinos, are used in place of calorimeter topological clusters.  $Z$  candidate electron-telescoping jet overlap removal is performed at truth level, too. Missing  $E_T$  is calculated using the vector sum of the four momenta of stable truth-level neutrinos. Since there are no pileup particles stored at truth level, truth-level telescoping jets are not trimmed.

### B.3 EVENT RECONSTRUCTION AND SELECTION

Events are selected on the basis of a combination of leptonic, jet, and missing  $E_T$  requirements, which are outlined in Table B.1. Leptons are categorized by three sets of increasingly stringent quality requirements, which include lower limits on  $E_T$ , upper limits on  $|\eta|$ , impact-parameter requirements, and track-based isolation criteria. The requirements differ for electrons<sup>?</sup> and muons<sup>?</sup>. Events are selected with a combination of single lepton, dielectron, and dimuon requirements. Each event must contain at least one lepton passing medium requirements and at least one other lepton passing loose requirements. These leptons are used to create a dilepton invariant mass cut to ensure the presence of a  $Z$  boson and suppress multijet backgrounds.

Event selection requirements are also imposed on the anti- $k_t$  with  $R = 0.4$  jets. There must be at least two  $b$ -tagged jets in a given event. The  $p_T$  of the harder  $b$ -tagged jet must be at least 45 GeV, and the second  $b$ -tagged jet must have  $p_T$  of at least 20 GeV. There are further topological cuts on the separation of the two jets  $\Delta R(b, \bar{b})$ , the distance between the two jets in the  $(\eta, \phi)$  plane, according to the transverse momentum of the  $Z$  boson,  $p_T^Z$ . These are shown in Table B.2.

The truth-level analysis has the same missing  $E_T$ , jet  $p_T$ ,  $m_{ll}$ , and additional topological selection criteria, but the use of truth-level information simplifies the other requirements. Instead of lepton quality requirements,  $Z$  boson candidate leptons' statuses and MC record barcodes are checked to ensure the leptons are stable.

In the jet calibration validation, the reconstructed level analysis lepton and  $m_{ll}$  requirements are imposed, but neither the missing  $E_T$  nor the jet selection requirements are applied so as not to bias

the validation.

**Table B.1:** A summary of basic event selection requirements. Truth-level  $b$ -tagging is done with truth-level information.

Requirement	Reconstructed	Truth	Validation
Leptons	1 medium + 1 loose lepton	2 produced by $Z$ boson	1 medium + 1 loose lepton
$b$ -jet	2 $b$ -tags	2 $b$ -jets	—
$p_T$ jet 1 (jet 2)		$> 45$ GeV ( $> 20$ ) GeV	—
Missing $E_T$		$E_T^{\text{miss}} < 60$ GeV	—
$Z$ boson		$83 < m_{ll} < 99$ GeV	

**Table B.2:** Topological requirements of the event selection.

$p_T^Z$ [GeV]	$\Delta R(b, b)$
0–90	0.7–3.4
90–120	0.7–3.0
120–160	0.7–2.3
160–200	0.7–1.8
$> 200$	$< 1.4$

#### B.4 VALIDATION OF JET CALIBRATION

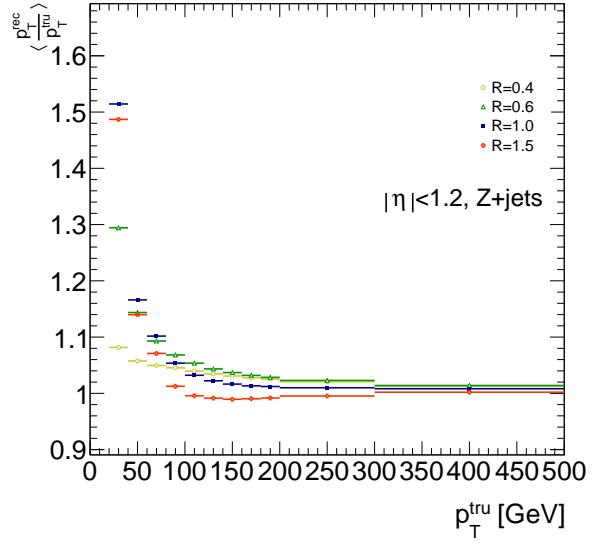
In order to validate the jet energy scale and resolution of jets constructed with this telescoping-jets algorithm, values of  $p_T^{\text{rec}}/p_T^{\text{true}}$  are studied for each value of  $R$  for the  $Z$ +jets MC sample. In a given event, all jets, not just the two hardest  $b$ -tagged jets, are telescoped. These jets are constructed in the same way as in the reconstructed and truth-level analyses; reconstructed-level jets are made from calorimeter topological clusters within  $R$  of the anti- $k_t$  with  $R = 0.4$  jet axes and then trimmed, and

truth-level jets are made from stable truth particles within  $R$  of the anti- $k_t$  with  $R = 0.4$  jet axes.

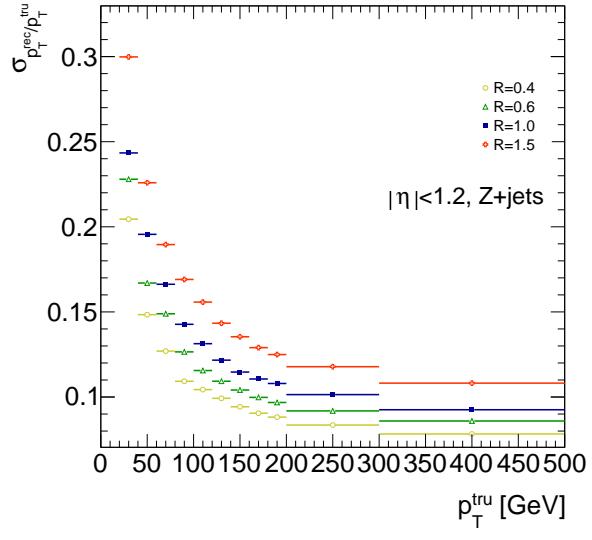
The reconstructed and truth-level telescoping jet ensembles are matched according to the separation in the  $(\eta, \phi)$  plane of their corresponding anti- $k_t$  with  $R = 0.4$  jets used as seeds. Only jets with  $|\eta| < 1.2$  are examined here, and the results of studies on the  $ZH_{125}$ ,  $ZZ$ , and  $t\bar{t}$  samples, as well as over other  $|\eta|$  ranges, are outlined in <sup>85</sup>. Any reconstructed jets not within  $\Delta R = 0.3$  of a truth jet are discarded. In the event that multiple reconstructed jets are the same distance away from a given truth jet, the reconstructed jet with the highest  $p_T$  gets matched. Matching is retained for all  $R$  values (i.e. telescoping seeds are matched, and telescoping jets are assumed to match if the anti- $k_t$  jets from which their seeds are derived match).

Once anti- $k_t$  with  $R = 0.4$  reconstructed and truth jets are matched, response functions are created by generating a series of distributions of  $p_T^{rec}/p_T^{tru}$  in 20 GeV bins of  $p_T^{tru}$  from 20–200 GeV, one bin for 200–300 GeV, and one bin for 300–500 GeV for each  $R$ , with bins chosen for purposes of statistics. Ensembles with  $p_T^{tru} < 20$  GeV are ignored since no calibration exists for jets with transverse momentum below this value. The values of  $\langle p_T^{rec}/p_T^{tru} \rangle$  in each  $p_T^{tru}$  bin are calculated by doing a two sigma gaussian fit on the distribution of  $p_T^{rec}/p_T^{tru}$  in that bin and taking the mean of that fit, and the error on the mean is taken from the error of this parameter in the fit. The resolutions are the values of the square root of the variance on this fit. As the total response distributions in Figure B.1 show, performance is best for low  $R$  values and high values of  $p_T^{tru}$ . Figure B.1 shows the  $R = 0.4$  (antik $_t$ ) case to show a baseline for performance,  $R = 0.6$  to show the deviations with “correct” calibrations, and  $R = 1.0, 1.5$  to show how big those deviations get with larger  $R$  jets. The resolutions,  $\sigma_{p_T^{rec}/p_T^{tru}}$ , as a function of  $p_T^{tru}$  are shown in Figure B.1(b). For  $p_T^{tru} > 60$  GeV, response is fairly

consistent over various  $R$  values. Resolution, as might naïvely be expected, is worse for increasingly larger values of  $R$ . For  $p_T^{true} < 60$  GeV, resolution degrades, and response degrades in particular for increasing  $R$ ; this is likely a result from residual pileup effects.



(a)



(b)

**Figure B.1:** The mean and resolution of  $p_T^{rec}/p_T^{tru}$  for the background  $Z+jets$  sample for  $|\eta| < 1.2$  and for  $R = 0.4, 0.6, 1.0$ , and  $1.5$  in  $20 \text{ GeV}$  bins of  $p_T^{tru}$  for  $20-200 \text{ GeV}$ , one bin for  $200-300 \text{ GeV}$ , and one bin for  $300-500 \text{ GeV}$ , with bins chosen for purposes of statistics.

## B.5 TRUTH-LEVEL ANALYSIS

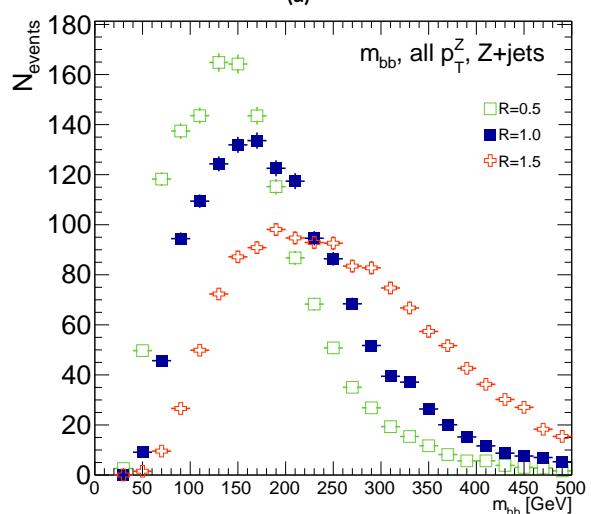
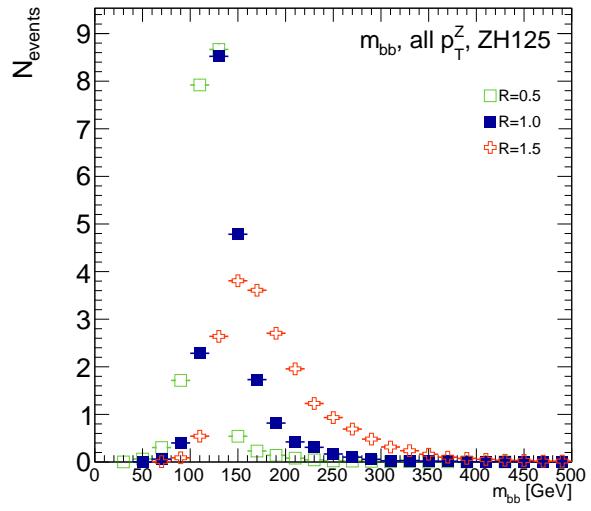
To understand the limits and sources of any potential improvements, a truth-level analysis was conducted on MC samples with a  $ZH_{125}$  signal sample and a  $Z+jets$  background sample. Distributions for the dijet invariant mass,  $m_{bb}$ , were made for each telescoping radius.\* Both signal and background samples develop more pronounced tails in the high  $m_{bb}$  region as  $R$  increases, as shown in Figure B.2.  $N_{events}$  is normalized to expected values in data.

One way to take advantage of this information is to make a cut on  $m_{bb}$  for two different radii. This is graphically depicted in Figure B.3 for the optimized combination of  $m_{bb,R=0.9}$  (telescoping cone jets constructed as outlined in Sec. B.2) vs.  $m_{bb,R=0.4}$  (anti- $k_t$  jets). At truth-level, the majority of events in the signal  $ZH_{125}$  sample are concentrated in relatively narrow region of parameter space, where this is certainly not the case for the more diffuse  $Z+jets$  background sample.

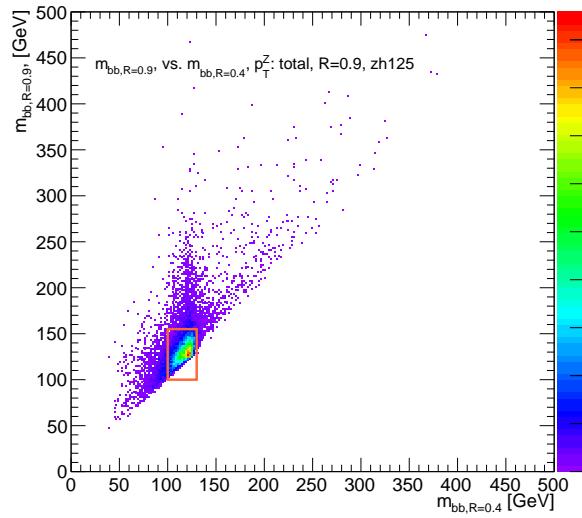
Another way to take advantage of multiple event interpretations is to make use of an event's cut-weight, denoted  $z$  and defined as the fraction of interpretations in a given event that pass a certain set of cuts (in this note, a cut on  $m_{bb}$ ). The distribution of cut-weights for a sample of events is denoted  $\rho(z)$ . To enhance the significance of a cut-based analysis, events can be weighted by the cut-weight or any function  $t(z)$  of the cut-weight. Weighting events by  $t(z)$  modifies the usual  $S/\delta B$  formula used to calculate significances. In this note,  $\delta B$  is based on Poissonian statistics and is taken as  $0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + N_B}$ , where  $N_B$  is the number of background events.

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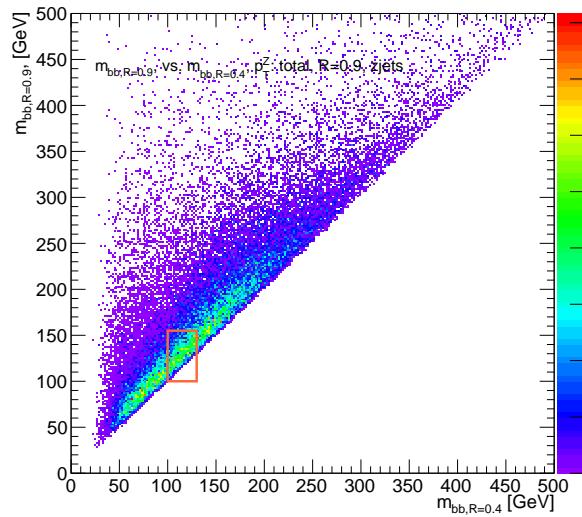
\*Distributions for  $m_{bb}$  at truth and reconstructed level for all telescoping radii studied may be found in Appendix ??



**Figure B.2:** The  $m_{bb}$  distribution for the telescoping jets with  $R = 0.5, 1.0$ , and  $1.5$  truth-level jets is shown for the signal and background samples in (a) and (b), respectively.



(a)



(b)

**Figure B.3:** The 2D distribution of  $m_{bb,R=0.9}$  vs.  $m_{bb,R=0.4}$  is shown for signal and background truth-level samples in (a) and (b), respectively. The region chosen for the double  $m_{bb}$  cut is outlined in orange.

## B.6 ERRORS ON TELESCOPING SIGNIFICANCES

Significances of measurements are quoted in units of expected background fluctuations, schematically,  $S/\delta B$ . For counting experiments with high numbers of events, we can use Gaussian statistics and express this as  $S/\sqrt{B}$ , which we here denote as  $\mathcal{S}$ . However, with lower statistics, it becomes more appropriate to use Poissonian statistics, and

$$\mathcal{S}_{gaus} = \frac{S}{\sqrt{B}} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{pois} = \frac{S}{0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + B}} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

where  $0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + B}$  is the characteristic upward fluctuation expected in a Poissonian data set using the Pearson chi-square test<sup>[117](#)</sup>.

## B.7 COUNTING

The significance is given as above, where  $S = N_S$  and  $B = N_B$ . That is, the signal and background are just the number of events in signal and background that pass some cuts. The error for the Gaussian case is the standard:

$$\Delta \mathcal{S}_{gaus} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{B}} \Delta S \oplus \frac{S}{2B^{3/2}} \Delta B \quad (\text{B.2})$$

The error for the Poissonian case is:

$$\Delta \mathcal{S}_{pois} = \frac{1}{0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + B}} \Delta S \oplus \frac{S}{2(0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + B})^2 \sqrt{0.25 + B}} \Delta B \quad (\text{B.3})$$

where  $\oplus$  denotes addition in quadrature, and  $\Delta S(B)$  is the error on signal (background).

## B.8 MULTIPLE EVENT INTERPRETATIONS

Using multiple event interpretations changes the formulae used in with simple counting. That is,  $S$  is not necessarily merely  $N_S$ , the number of events passing some signal cuts, and similarly for  $B$  and  $N_B$ . Using an event weighting by some function of the cut-weight,  $z$ , denoted  $t(z)$ ,  $S = N_S \langle t \rangle_{\rho_S}$  and  $B = N_B \langle t^2 \rangle_{\rho_B}$ . So

$$\mathcal{S}_{t,gaus} = \frac{N_S \langle t \rangle_{\rho_S}}{\sqrt{N_B \langle t^2 \rangle_{\rho_B}}} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{t,pois} = \frac{N_S \langle t \rangle_{\rho_S}}{0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + N_B \langle t^2 \rangle_{\rho_B}}} = \frac{N_S \int_0^1 dz t(z) \rho_S(z)}{0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + N_B \int_0^1 dz t^2(z) \rho_B(z)}} \quad (\text{B.4})$$

For histograms, everything is done bin-wise. The notation used below is as follows:  $\rho_i$  is the value of  $\rho(z)$  at bin  $i$  (where the bins run from 0 to  $n_{tel}$ , where  $n_{tel}$  is the total number of telescoping radii).  $t_i = t_i(\rho_{S,i}, \rho_{B,i}, i/n_{tel})$  is the value of  $t(z)$  at bin  $i$ , which can depend, in principle, on  $\rho_{S,i}$ ,  $\rho_{B,i}$ , and  $i/n_{tel}$  (the last of which is  $z$  in bin  $i$ ). Explicitly,

$$N = \sum_{i=0}^{n_{tel}} \rho_i, \quad \int_0^1 dz t(z) \rho_S(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{n_{tel}} t_i \rho_{S,i}, \quad \int_0^1 dz t^2(z) \rho_B(z) = \sum_{i=0}^{n_{tel}} t_i^2 \rho_{B,i}$$

For the calculations that follow, let  $\xi = \sum_{i=0}^{n_{tel}} t_i \rho_{S,i}$ ,  $\psi = 0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + N_B \sum_{i=0}^{n_{tel}} t_i^2 \rho_{B,i}}$ ,  $\partial_S = \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho_{S,i}}$  (and similarly for  $B$ ), so  $\mathcal{S}_t = N_S \xi / \psi$

Some partial derivatives:

$$\partial_S N_S = 1, \quad \partial_{B,i} N_B = 1$$

$$\partial_S \xi = t_i + (\partial_S t_i) \rho_{S,i}, \quad \partial_B \xi = (\partial_B t_i) \rho_{B,i}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_S \psi &= \frac{N_B t_i (\partial_S t_i) \rho_{B,i}}{\sqrt{0.25 + N_B \sum_{i=0}^{n_{tel}} t_i^2 \rho_{B,i}}}, & \partial_B \psi &= \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n_{tel}} t_i^2 \rho_{B,i} + N_B (t_i^2 + 2t_i (\partial_B t_i) \rho_{B,i})}{2 \sqrt{0.25 + N_B \sum_{i=0}^{n_{tel}} t_i^2 \rho_{B,i}}} \\ \partial_S \mathcal{S}_t &= \frac{\xi}{\psi} + \frac{N_S}{\psi} \partial_S \xi - \frac{N_S \xi}{\psi^2} \partial_S \psi, & \partial_B \mathcal{S}_t &= N_S \left( \frac{1}{\psi} \partial_B \xi - \frac{\xi}{\psi^2} \partial_B \psi \right)\end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\Delta \mathcal{S}_{t,i} = \left[ \frac{\xi}{\psi} + \frac{N_S}{\psi} \partial_S \xi - \frac{N_S \xi}{\psi^2} \partial_S \psi \right] \Delta \rho_{S,i} \oplus N_S \left[ \frac{1}{\psi} \partial_B \xi - \frac{\xi}{\psi^2} \partial_B \psi \right] \Delta \rho_{B,i} \quad (\text{B.5})$$

and the total error is given by the sum in quadrature over all bins  $i$  of  $\Delta \mathcal{S}_{t,i}$ .

$$\text{B.9} \quad t(z) = z$$

With  $t(z) = z$ ,  $t_i = i/n_{tel}$ , so  $\partial_S t_i = \partial_B t_i = 0$ . So:

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_S \psi &= \partial_B \xi = 0 \\ \partial_S \xi &= \frac{i}{n_{tel}} \\ \partial_B \psi &= \frac{\sum_i i^2 \rho_{B,i} + N_B t^2}{n_{tel} \sqrt{n_{tel}^2 + N_B \sum_i i^2 \rho_{B,i}}}\end{aligned}$$

so  $\Delta\mathcal{S}_{z,i}$  reduces to

$$\Delta\mathcal{S}_{t,i} = \left[ \frac{\xi + N_S t_i}{\psi} \right] \Delta\rho_{S,i} \oplus \left[ \frac{N_S \xi}{\psi^2} \partial_B \psi \right] \Delta\rho_{B,i} \quad (\text{B.6})$$

$$\text{B.10} \quad t(z) = \rho_S(z) / \rho_B(z)$$

With the likelihood optimized<sup>†</sup>  $t^*(z) = \rho_S(z) / \rho_B(z)$ ,  $t_i = \rho_{S,i} / \rho_{B,i}$ , so  $\partial_S t_i = 1 / \rho_{B,i}$  and

$\partial_B t_i = -\rho_{S,i} / \rho_{B,i}^2$ . So:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_S \xi &= 2 \frac{\rho_{S,i}}{\rho_{B,i}} = 2t_i \\ \partial_B \xi &= -\frac{\rho_{S,i}}{\rho_{B,i}} = -t_i \\ \partial_S \psi &= \frac{N_B t_i}{\sqrt{0.25 + N_B \sum_i \rho_{S,i}^2 / \rho_{B,i}}} \\ \partial_B \psi &= \frac{\sum_i \rho_{S,i}^2 / \rho_{B,i} - N_B (\rho_{S,i} / \rho_{B,i})^2}{\sqrt{1 + 4N_B \sum_i \rho_{S,i}^2 / \rho_{B,i}}} \end{aligned}$$

simplifying somewhat the terms in the per bin error in Equation B.6.

The new significance figure using multiple event interpretations becomes, with  $\rho_S$  and  $\rho_B$  denoting the cut-weight distributions in signal and background, respectively

$$\frac{S}{\delta B} = \frac{N_S \langle t \rangle_{\rho_S}}{0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + N_B \langle t^2 \rangle_{\rho_B}}} \quad (\text{B.7})$$

---

<sup>†</sup>for the Gaussian statistics case

Of particular interest is the likelihood optimized  $t(z)$ ,<sup>‡</sup>  $t^*(z) = \rho_S(z)/\rho_B(z)$ .  $m_{bb}$  windows are chosen separately for each scheme studied to maximize total significances and are summarized in

Table B.3.

$$\left(\frac{S}{\delta B}\right)_z = \frac{N_S \epsilon_S}{0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + N_B (\epsilon_B^2 + \sigma_B^2)}} \quad (B.8)$$

$$\left(\frac{S}{\delta B}\right)_{t^*(z)} = \frac{N_S \int_0^1 dz \frac{\rho_S^2(z)}{\rho_B(z)}}{0.5 + \sqrt{0.25 + N_B \int_0^1 dz \frac{\rho_S^2(z)}{\rho_B(z)}}} \quad (B.9)$$

where  $\epsilon_{S,B}$  are the means of  $\rho_{S,B}(z)$  and  $\sigma_B^2$  is the variance of  $\rho_B(z)$ . Further details can be found in Refs.<sup>83</sup> and Appendix B.6.

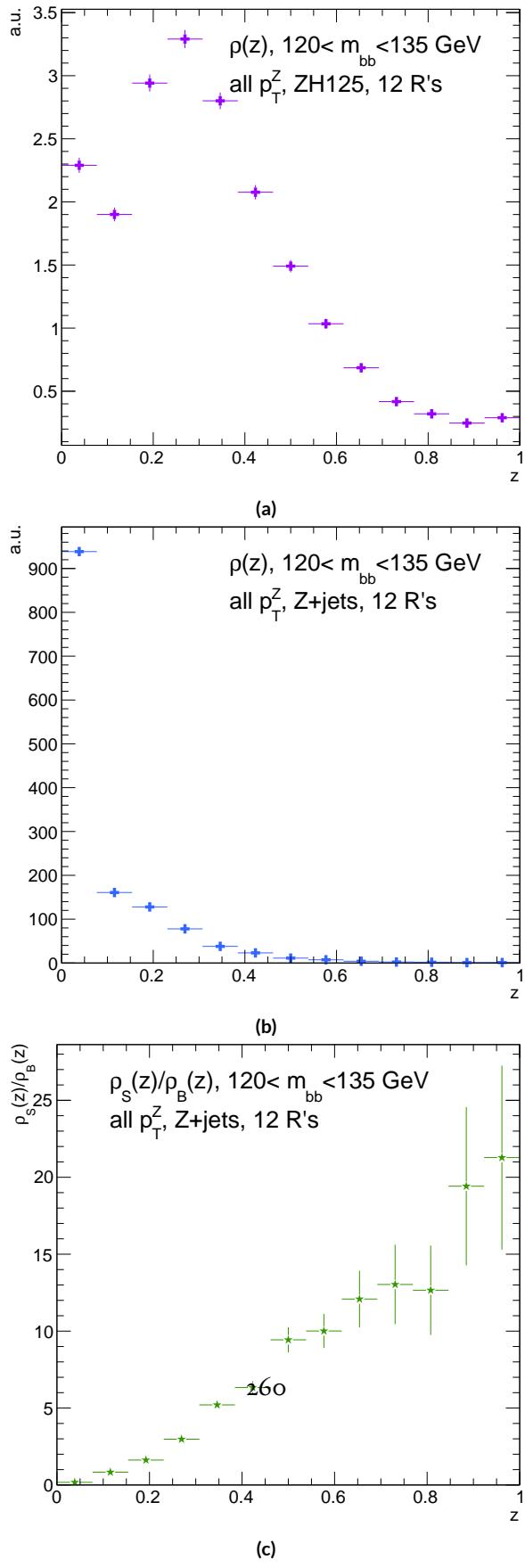
**Table B.3:**  $m_{bb}$  windows studied. These windows were chosen to optimize significances over all  $p_T^Z$ .

Analysis Type	$S/\delta B$ Type	Optimal $m_{bb}$ Window
Reconstructed	$\text{anti-}k_t R = 0.4$ $t(z) = z$ $t(z) = \rho_S(z)/\rho_B(z)$ $\text{anti-}k_t R = 0.4$ , telescoping $R = 0.6$	$90-140 \text{ GeV}$ $110-155 \text{ GeV}$ $110-155 \text{ GeV}$ $95-140 \text{ GeV} (R = 0.4), 105-160 \text{ GeV} (R = 0.6)$
Truth	$\text{anti-}k_t R = 0.4$ $t(z) = z$ $t(z) = \rho_S(z)/\rho_B(z)$ $\text{anti-}k_t R = 0.4$ , telescoping $R = 0.9$	$100-130 \text{ GeV}$ $115-140 \text{ GeV}$ $120-135 \text{ GeV}$ $100-130 \text{ GeV} (R = 0.4), 100-155 \text{ GeV} (R = 0.9)$

The truth-level distributions  $\rho_S(z)$ ,  $\rho_B(z)$ , and  $\rho_S(z)/\rho_B(z)$  are shown for the  $m_{bb}$  window that optimizes  $(S/\delta B)_{t^*(z)}$  in Figure B.4, and significance improvements as a function of  $p_T^Z$  are summarized in Figure B.5. Uncertainties in Figures B.5 and B.9 are statistical uncertainties. JES systematics

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<sup>‡</sup>Derived under the assumption of Gaussian statistics in Ref<sup>2</sup>



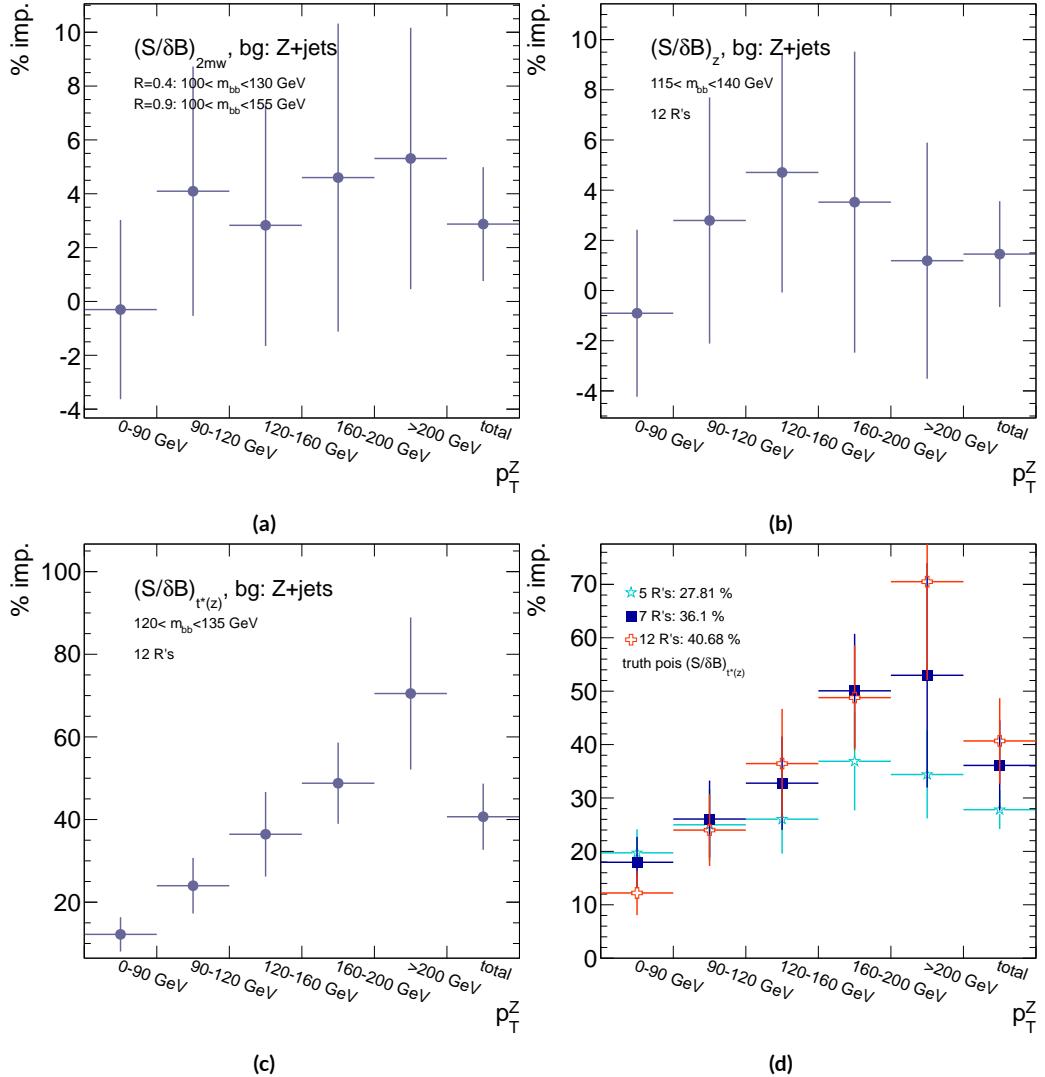
**Figure B.4:** Truth-level  $\rho(z)$  distributions for the  $m_{bb}$  window optimizing  $(S/\delta B)_{t^*(z)} \cdot \rho_S(z)$  for the signal  $ZH125$  sample is shown in (a), and  $\rho_B(z)$  for the background  $Z+jets$  sample is shown in (b). The distribution of  $\rho_S(z) / \rho_B(z)$

will need to be evaluated for different  $R$ 's, as modeling uncertainties is an outstanding issue, but these systematics will likely be strongly correlated for the different  $R$ 's and are not anticipated to be a very large contribution to total uncertainties. While the two dimensional  $m_{bb}$  cut and  $t(z) = z$  schemes only showed marginal improvement at truth level at 2.87%<sup>§</sup> and 1.45%, respectively, the likelihood optimized  $t^*(z)$  showed a more substantial 40.7% improvement overall, with a steady increase in improvement with increasing  $p_T^Z$ . Figure B.5 (d) summarizes the improvements with respect to  $p_T^Z$  for the  $t^*(z)$  event weight for five, seven, and twelve telescoping radii (interpretations) per event. Improvements increase with a greater number of interpretations and are more pronounced at higher  $p_T^Z$  for this scheme.<sup>¶</sup> The optimal  $120 < m_{bb} < 135$  GeV window for  $t^*(z)$  case is among the smallest studied. The benefits of this window's narrowness are suggested in Figure B.4. While the background cut-weight distribution,  $\rho_B(z)$  in Figure B.4 (b) behaves as one might with a marked peak at  $z = 0$ , the signal  $\rho_S(z)$  distribution peaks at a relatively modest  $z = 0.3$ , which indicates that much of the gain at truth level comes from background rejection. This is possible at truth level since there is both truth-level information available and no smearing and since  $\rho_S/\rho_B$  is the relevant quantity (as shown in Figure B.4 (c)).

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<sup>§</sup>The limited improvement is provably due to the simplified treatment of the 2D case; better performance with a more sophisticated treatment has been observed in Ref.<sup>?</sup>.

<sup>¶</sup>This is not the case for the  $z$  event weight, which is more thoroughly treated in Section ??.



**Figure B.5:** A summary of the improvements for different truth-level telescoping jet cuts and weights is shown in bins of  $p_T^Z$ . The final bin is the total improvement over all  $p_T^Z$ . Shown are improvements for the 2D  $m_{bb}$  cut (a),  $t(z) = z$  (b),  $t(z) = t^*(z)$  with 12 radii (c), and  $t(z) = t^*(z)$  for various radii (d).

## B.II RECONSTRUCTED-LEVEL ANALYSIS

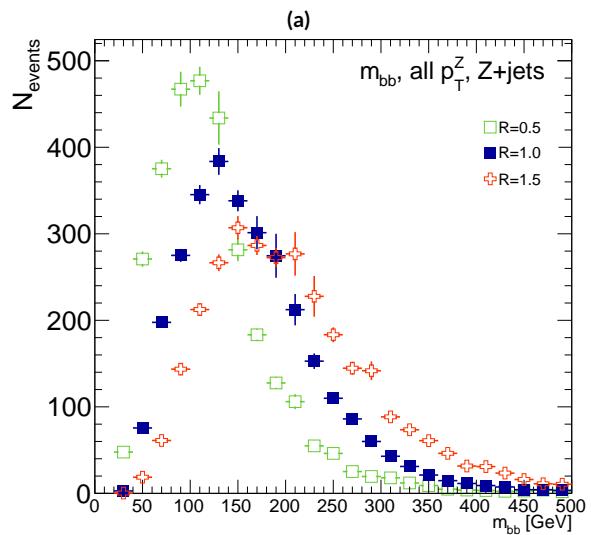
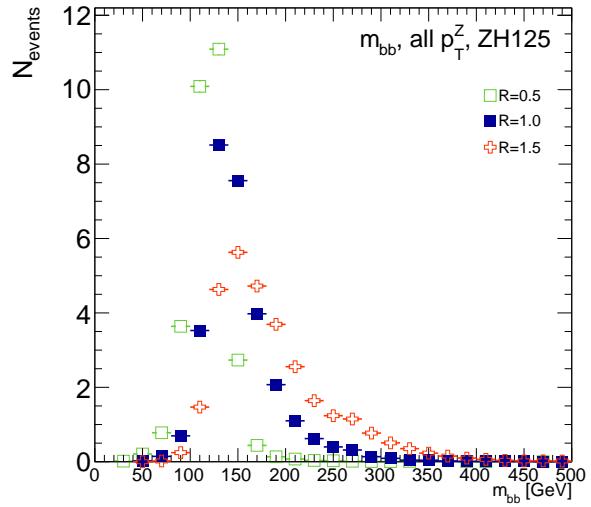
At reconstructed level, the same overall effect of introducing a high tail in  $m_{bb}$  distributions with increasing  $R$  is evident in comparing Figures B.2 and B.6. The optimal  $m_{bb}$  windows, however, grow larger, due to the lack of truth-level information.

Total significance gains at reconstructed level for the two dimensional  $m_{bb}$  cut and the  $t(z) = z$  case are similar, at 2.87% and 1.45%, respectively. The optimal two-dimensional  $m_{bb}$  cut at reconstructed level is  $95 < m_{bb,R=0.4} < 140$  GeV,  $105 < m_{bb,R=0.6} < 160$  GeV. Just as at truth level, the  $R = 0.4$   $m_{bb}$  cut is comparable to the optimal single  $R = 0.4$   $m_{bb}$  cut, and the second  $m_{bb}$  cut is at similar values (cf. Table B.3 and Figures B.3 and B.7). However, the optimal second telescoping radius is markedly smaller at  $R = 0.6$  versus the optimal truth-level second radius of  $R = 0.9$ , which suggests that effects like pileup at reconstructed level obscure correlations between the  $R = 0.4$  interpretations and limit the usefulness of larger  $R$  interpretations in this particular scheme. The  $t(z) = z$  case has a wider optimal window and yields about half the improvement it does at truth level.<sup>||</sup>

The optimal  $m_{bb}$  window for the  $t^*(z)$  case is also markedly wider at reconstructed level, at  $110 < m_{bb} < 155$  GeV in comparison to the truth-level optimal  $120 < m_{bb} < 135$  GeV. The  $\rho(z)$  distributions for the signal  $ZH_{125}$  and background  $Z + \text{jets}$  as well as the  $\rho_S(z) / \rho_B(z)$  in this window are shown in Figure B.8. Compared with the truth-level distributions in Figure B.4, both the signal and background optimal  $\rho(z)$  distributions have higher values at higher  $z$ . The peak in  $\rho_S(z)$  at

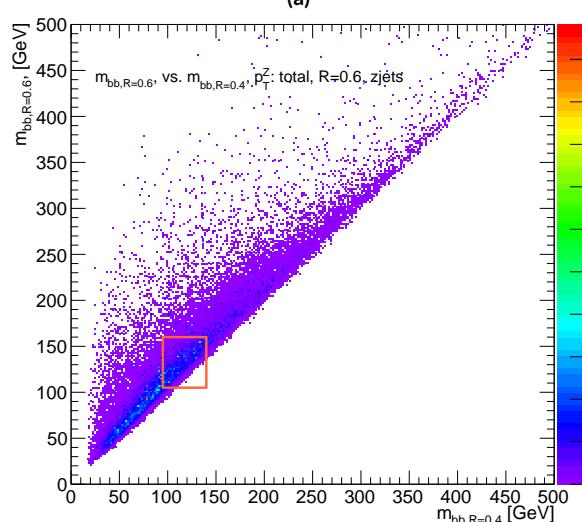
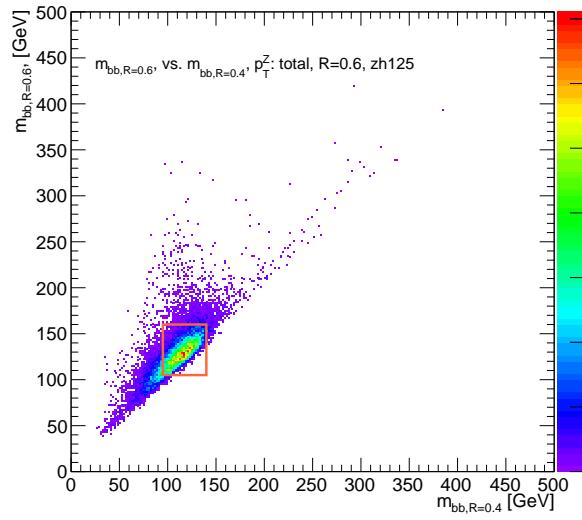
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<sup>||</sup>A fuller treatment of this scheme is given in Section ??.

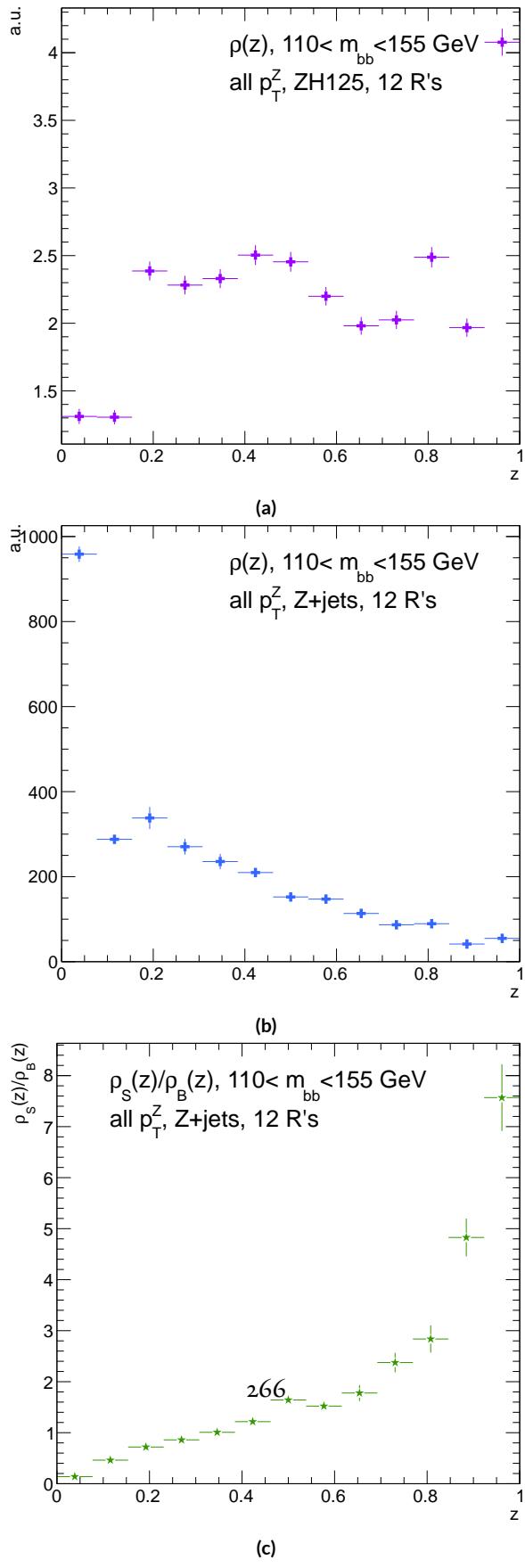


(b)

**Figure B.6:** The  $m_{bb}$  distribution for the telescoping jets with  $R = 0.5$ ,  $R = 1.0$ , and  $R = 1.5$  reconstructed-level jets is shown for the signal and background samples in (a) and (b), respectively.



**Figure B.7:** The 2D distribution of  $m_{bb,R=0.8}$  vs.  $m_{bb,R=0.4}$  is shown for signal and background reconstructed-level samples in (a) and (b), respectively. The region chosen for the double  $m_{bb}$  cut is outlined in orange.

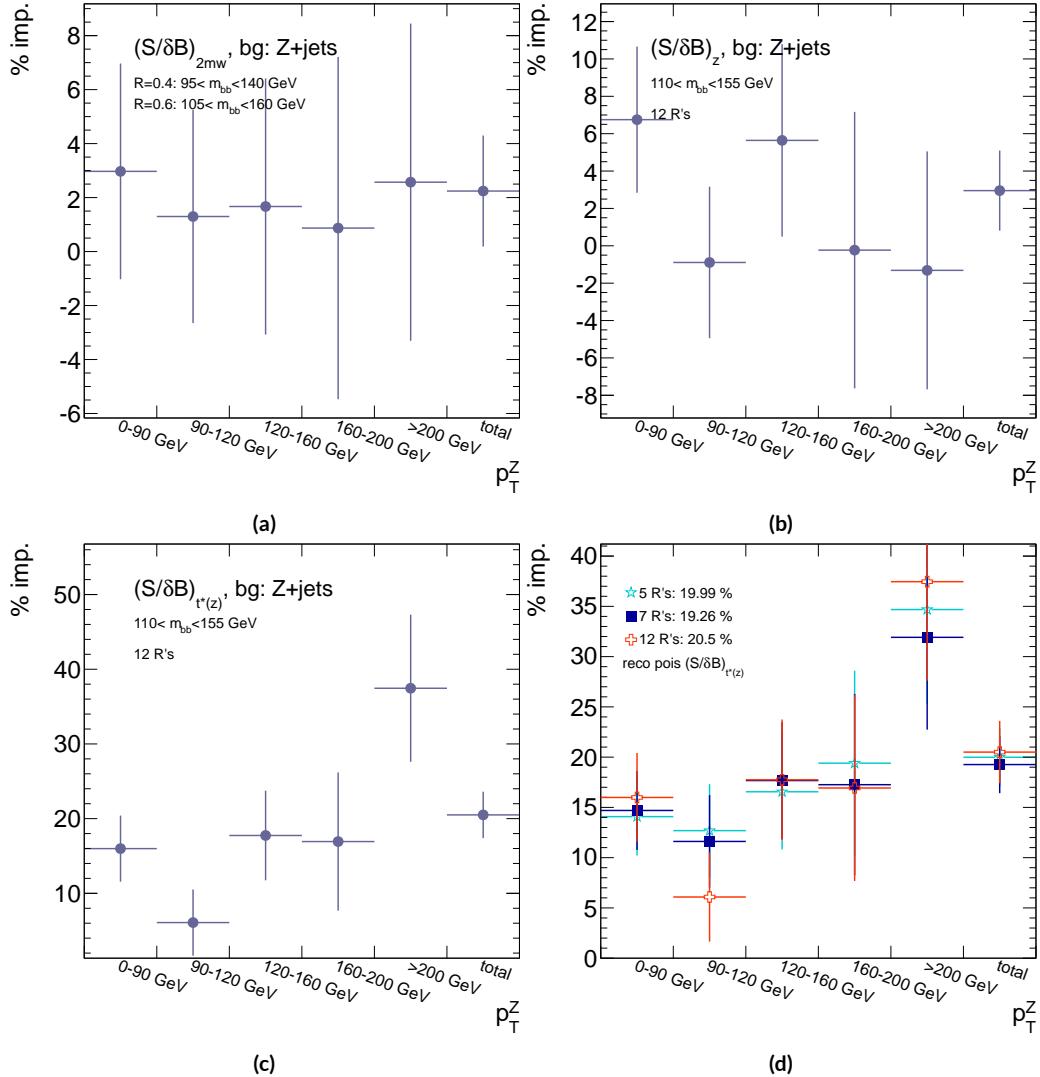


**Figure B.8:** Reconstructed-level  $\rho(z)$  distributions for the  $m_{bb}$  window optimizing  $(S/\delta B)_{t^*(z)} \cdot \rho_S(z)$  for the signal  $Z\text{H}125$  sample is shown in (a), and  $\rho_B(z)$  for the background  $Z\text{+jets}$  sample is shown in (b). The distribution of  $\rho_s(z)/\rho_B(z)$  for these samples is shown in (c).

$z = 1$  suggests that at reconstructed level, maximizing the number of more “signal-like” events is the key to optimizing significances, as opposed to the optimal, background suppressing  $\rho(z)$  distributions at truth level. The use of a greater number of interpretations per event (telescoping radii) does appear to result in overall greater improvement as at truth level, as twelve radii performed better than five, but this is less clear at reconstructed level, as shown in Figure B.9 (d). The improvement at reconstructed level using an event weight of  $t^*(z)$  is 20.5%, just over half the improvement at truth level but still quite significant. Summaries of improvements as a function of  $p_T^Z$  for all three cases studied and for the  $t^*(z)$  case for different numbers of telescoping radii are shown in Figure B.9.

**Table B.4:** A summary of significances for different weighting schemes and cuts and for reconstructed and truth jets for a luminosity of  $20.3 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ .

Type	0–90 GeV	90–120 GeV	120–160 GeV	160–200 GeV	> 200 GeV	total
anti- $k_t$ , $R = 0.4_{rec}$	0.47492	0.28214	0.28339	0.25748	0.37337	0.76887
anti- $k_t$ , $R = 0.4_{tru}$	0.57414	0.30655	0.37309	0.35042	0.53569	0.98619
$2 m_{bb,rec}$	0.48903	0.2858	0.28812	0.25972	0.38297	0.78611
$2 m_{bb,tru}$	0.5724	0.3191	0.38364	0.36655	0.56414	1.0145
$z_{rec}$	0.50698	0.27962	0.29937	0.25688	0.36846	0.79158
$z_{tru}$	0.56894	0.31511	0.39065	0.36277	0.54206	1.0005
$t^*(z)_{rec}$	0.55085	0.29931	0.33367	0.30107	0.51321	0.92649
$t^*(z)_{tru}$	0.64425	0.38008	0.50904	0.5214	0.91337	1.3873



**Figure B.9:** A summary of the improvements for different reconstructed-level telescoping jet cuts and weights is shown in bins of  $p_T^Z$ . The final bin is the total improvement over all  $p_T^Z$ . Shown are improvements for the 2D  $m_{bb}$  cut (a),  $t(z) = z$  (b),  $t(z) = t^*(z)$  with 12 radii (c), and  $t(z) = t^*(z)$  for various radii (d).

## B.12 CONCLUSIONS AND PROSPECTS

The use of telescoping jets to provide multiple event interpretations shows promise as an avenue to increase significances in the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  search in ATLAS and make an observation in the systematics-limited environment of early Run 2. A preliminary study using the telescoping jets algorithm with 12 telescoping radii to build 12 event interpretations on 2012 Monte Carlo based on the full, cut-based Run 1 analysis yielded a 20.5% improvement in  $S/\delta B$  over using anti- $k_t$  with  $R = 0.4$  alone at reconstructed level using a likelihood maximized event weighting to study the  $ZH \rightarrow llb\bar{b}$  process. The jets used in this note at reconstructed level were trimmed in order to guarantee reasonable resolution in the large- $R$  interpretations. The algorithm, in particular, showed discriminating power at high  $p_T^Z$ , so better performance can be expected in Run 2 with a higher  $\sqrt{s}$  and higher numbers of events with large  $p_T^Z$ . Additionally, the many simplifying assumptions regarding jet calibration and the relatively basic use of information<sup>\*\*</sup> from multiple invariant masses in this note suggest that even further improvements than those quoted are possible. While this note did not explore the correlations between multiple event interpretations and the variables used in the BDT of the latest multivariate version of the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  analysis<sup>70</sup>, new phenomenological studies suggest that such correlations are not strong<sup>3</sup>. The corresponding reconstructed-level study, using a BDT, is left for future work. Also left for future work are better understanding the effects of jet trimming and which interpretations are the most useful.

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<sup>\*\*</sup>For examples of more sophisticated treatments compared to the treatment in this note, see Ref<sup>3</sup>.

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