

MEASUREMENT OF ELECTROWEAK PRODUCTION OF SAME-SIGN W BOSON PAIRS WITH ATLAS

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ABSTRACT

62 MEASUREMENT OF ELECTROWEAK PRODUCTION OF SAME-SIGN W BOSON PAIRS
 63 WITH ATLAS

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66 This thesis presents two studies of electroweak same-sign $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ scattering with the ATLAS
 67 experiment. The first is a measurement of the fiducial cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV using 36.1 fb^{-1}
 68 of data recorded in 2015 and 2016. The electroweak production is observed with a signal significance
 69 of 6.9σ , and the fiducial cross section is measured to be $\sigma_{\text{meas}}^{\text{fid}} = 2.91^{+0.51}_{-0.47}(\text{stat})^{+0.28}_{-0.29}(\text{sys}) \text{ fb}$. The
 70 second is a study on the future prospects for the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ process at the planned High-Luminosity
 71 LHC, with a projected $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV and 3000 fb^{-1} of data. The expected electroweak production
 72 cross section is determined with a total uncertainty of 6%, and the purely longitudinal scattering
 73 component is extracted with an expected significance of 1.8σ . Additionally, some time is taken to
 74 detail the alignment of the ATLAS Inner Detector subsystems, as good alignment performance is
 75 essential for making high-quality physics measurements.

Contents

77	Acknowledgements	iii
78	Abstract	v
79	Contents	vi
80	List of Tables	x
81	List of Figures	xiii
82	Preface	xix
83	1 Introduction	1
84	2 Theoretical Framework	3
85	2.1 Introduction to the Standard Model	3
86	2.2 Electroweak symmetry breaking and the Higgs boson	6
87	2.3 Electroweak vector boson scattering	9
88	3 LHC and the ATLAS Detector	12
89	3.1 The Large Hadron Collider	12
90	3.2 The ATLAS Detector	12
91	3.2.1 The Inner Detector	12
92	3.2.1.1 Pixel Detector	12
93	3.2.1.2 Semiconductor Tracker	12
94	3.2.1.3 Transition Radiation Tracker	12

95	3.2.2	The Calorimeters	13
96	3.2.2.1	Liquid Argon Calorimeters	13
97	3.2.2.2	Tile Calorimeters	13
98	3.2.3	The Muon Spectrometer	13
99	3.2.4	Particle reconstruction	14
100	3.2.4.1	Track reconstruction	14
101	3.2.4.2	Muon reconstruction	14
102	3.2.4.3	Electron reconstruction	14
103	3.2.4.4	Jet reconstruction	14
104	4	Alignment of the ATLAS Inner Detector	15
105	4.1	The alignment method	16
106	4.1.1	Alignment levels	19
107	4.1.2	Alignment coordinate systems	20
108	4.2	Early 2015 alignment of the ATLAS detector	21
109	4.2.1	June alignment procedure	23
110	4.2.2	Alignment results	24
111	4.2.2.1	Residual distributions from collisions	25
112	4.2.2.2	Track parameter resolution from cosmic rays	29
113	4.2.3	Error scaling	30
114	4.3	Level 2 alignment of the TRT	32
115	4.4	Momentum bias from sagitta deformations	33
116	4.4.1	Sagitta bias monitoring with electron E/p	34
117	4.4.1.1	Measuring $\langle E/p \rangle$	35
118	4.4.1.2	Results in 13TeV data	37
119	5	Measurement of same-sign WW production at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with ATLAS	40
120	5.0.1	Experimental overview of vector boson scattering	40
121	5.0.2	Same-sign $W^\pm W^\pm$ scattering	41
122	5.0.3	Overview of backgrounds	43
123	5.1	Data and Monte Carlo samples	45
124	5.1.1	Monte Carlo samples	46
125	5.2	Object and event selection	48

126	5.2.1	Object selection	48
127	5.2.1.1	Muon candidate selection	48
128	5.2.1.2	Electron candidate selection	49
129	5.2.1.3	Jet candidate selection	51
130	5.2.1.4	Treatment of overlapping objects	51
131	5.2.2	Signal event selection	52
132	5.3	Background estimations	53
133	5.3.1	Estimation of the WZ background	54
134	5.3.2	Estimation of the $V\gamma$ background	55
135	5.3.3	Estimation of backgrounds from charge misidentification	57
136	5.3.3.1	Validation of the charge misidentification estimate	59
137	5.3.4	Estimation of non-prompt backgrounds with the fake-factor method	60
138	5.3.4.1	Overview of the default fake-factor method	61
139	5.3.4.2	The fake-factor with p_T^{cone}	62
140	5.3.4.3	Application of the fake-factor	65
141	5.3.4.4	Systematic uncertainties	67
142	5.3.4.5	Results of the fake-factor	70
143	5.3.4.6	Validation of the fake-factor	72
144	5.3.5	Reduction of WZ background using custom overlap removal	72
145	5.4	Cross section measurement	77
146	5.4.1	Maximum likelihood fit	77
147	5.4.2	Definition of the fiducial volume	79
148	5.4.3	Cross section extraction	80
149	5.5	Summary of uncertainties	81
150	5.5.1	Experimental uncertainties	81
151	5.5.2	Theoretical uncertainties	82
152	5.5.2.1	Uncertainties from EWK-QCD interference	84
153	5.6	Results	85
154	6	Prospects for same-sign WW at the High Luminosity LHC	89
155	6.0.1	Analysis Overview	90
156	6.1	Theoretical motivation	91
157	6.1.1	Experimental sensitivity to longitudinal polarization	91

158	6.2 Monte Carlo samples	92
159	6.3 Background estimations	93
160	6.3.1 Truth-based isolation	94
161	6.4 Object and event selection	95
162	6.4.1 Object selection	95
163	6.4.2 Event selection	95
164	6.5 Selection optimization	96
165	6.5.1 Random grid search algorithm	97
166	6.5.2 Inputs to the optimization	98
167	6.5.3 Results of the optimization	99
168	6.6 Results	100
169	6.6.1 Event yields	100
170	6.6.2 Uncertainties	104
171	6.6.3 Cross section measurement	104
172	6.6.4 Longitudinal scattering significance	105
173	7 Conclusion	109
174	A Additional material on $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ measurement at $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$	110
175	A.1 Impact of experimental uncertainty on MC background estimations	110
176	A.2 Additional signal region plots	112
177	B Additional material on $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ prospects at the HL-LHC	113
178	B.1 Truth isolation	113
179	B.1.1 TRUTH1++ derivations	114
180	B.1.2 Check of truth-based isolation	115
181	B.1.3 Loose isolation working point	115
182	B.2 Plots of other optimization variables	118
183	Bibliography	120

List of Tables

185 4.1	The four alignment levels for each of the detector subsystems. The total number of alignable structures and degrees of freedom (DoF) to be aligned are given for each level.	21
187 4.2	Summary of the highest level of alignment applied to each ID subsystem when deriving the June alignment.	24
189 4.3	Estimated value of the error scaling term b for each subdetector component with the June alignment.	31
191 5.1	Predicted cross sections for EQK and QCD production of diboson processes relevant to VBS at $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ using the SHERPA MC generator. The numbers for the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ process are bolded. Leptons are required to have $p_T \geq 25\text{ GeV}$ and lie within $ \eta \leq 2.5$ with $m_{ll} > 20\text{ GeV}$, and at least two jets are required with $p_T \geq 30\text{ GeV}$ and $ \eta < 4.5$. The VBS contributions are enhanced by requiring the dijet invariant mass $m_{jj} > 500\text{ GeV}$ and dijet separation $\Delta y_{jj} > 2.4$	43
197 5.2	Summary of MC samples used in the analysis.	47
198 5.3	Muon selection criteria. All muons are required to pass the preselection (top), and then either the signal (middle) or loose (bottom) criteria is applied to the preselected electrons.	49
200 5.4	Electron selection criteria. All electrons are required to pass the preselection (top), and then either the signal (middle) or loose (bottom) criteria is applied to the preselected electrons.	50
203 5.5	Jet selection criteria. All jets are required to pass the above selection in order to be used in the analysis.	51
205 5.6	Summary of the overlap removal procedure used in the analysis. If the criteria in the “check” column is met, in the “result” column, the object on the left of the arrow is removed in favor of the object on the right.	52
208 5.7	Summary of trigger requirements for electrons and muons for $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ data collected in 2015 and 2016. At least one of the triggers must be satisfied.	53
210 5.8	The signal event selection.	54
211 5.9	Event yields in the WZ control region before normalization. All lepton flavor channels are combined.	55
213 5.10	Selection criteria for the $V\gamma$ control region.	56
214 5.11	Event yields in the $V\gamma$ control region. The $V\gamma$ scale factor of 1.77 is calculated by scaling up the $Z\gamma$ and $Z+jets$ backgrounds to account for the difference between the data and predicted total background.	57

217	5.12 Selection criteria for the same-sign inclusive validation region.	60
218	5.13 Event selection for the dijet region used for calculating the fake-factor. The selected	
219	lepton can pass either the nominal (signal) or loose selections. In the case of the nominal	
220	leptons, the $p_T > 27$ GeV requirement is replaced with $p_T > 15$ GeV.	66
221	5.14 Values of the fake-factor in each p_T bin and for each individual systematic source.	69
222	5.15 Estimated yields for the fake lepton background. The estimated yield is shown in the first	
223	column together with the statistical uncertainty followed by the systematic uncertainties	
224	from variations of the the fake-factors within their statistical (stat.) and systematic	
225	(syst.) uncertainties. The labels f_e and f_μ indicate the fake-factors for electrons and	
226	muons, respectively.	70
227	5.16 Selection criteria for the same-sign top fakes validation region.	72
228	5.17 Custom OR definition. Leptons must pass this selection in order to be counted for the	
229	trilepton veto.	76
230	5.18 Definition of the fiducial volume.	79
231	5.19 Impact of various systematic effects on the fiducial cross section measurement. The	
232	impact of a given source of uncertainty is computed by performing the fit with the	
233	corresponding nuisance parameter varied up or down by one standard deviation from its	
234	nominal value.	82
235	5.20 List of sources of experimental uncertainties on the reconstruction of physics objects.	83
236	5.21 Impact of experimental uncertainties for the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK processes in all channels.	83
237	5.22 Impact of experimental uncertainties for the WZ process in all channels.	83
238	5.23 The set of generator level cuts used for generating the interference samples with <code>MadGraph</code> .	84
239	5.24 Cross sections for each different $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ production mode (inclusive, EWK only, QCD	
240	only, and interference only) generated using <code>MadGraph</code> . The cross sections are calculated	
241	using a minimal set of generator level cuts from events where the W decays to a muon.	
242	5.25 Table of the data and prediction event yields in the signal region before the fit. Numbers	
243	are shown for the six lepton flavor and charge channels and for all channels combined.	
244	Here the WZ background yields are normalized to the data in the WZ control region. The	
245	background estimations from the fake-factor are included in the “Non-prompt” category,	
246	and backgrounds from $V\gamma$ production and electron charge misidentification are combined	
247	in the “ e/γ conversions” category. Finally, ZZ , VVV , and $t\bar{t} + V$ backgrounds are	
248	combined in the “Other prompt” category.	85
249	5.26 Table of the data and prediction event yields in the signal region after the fit. Numbers	
250	are shown for the six lepton flavor and charge channels and for all channels combined. The	
251	background estimations from the fake-factor are included in the “Non-prompt” category,	
252	and backgrounds from $V\gamma$ production and electron charge misidentification are combined	
253	in the “ e/γ conversions” category. Finally, ZZ , VVV , and $t\bar{t}V$ backgrounds are combined	
254	in the “Other prompt” category.	87
255	6.1 Summary of MC samples used in the analysis.	93
256	6.2 Truth-based isolation requirements for electrons and muons.	94
257	6.3 Summary of the signal event selection.	96
258	6.4 Updates to the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ event selection criteria after optimization. Cuts not listed	
259	remain unchanged from the default selection in Table 6.3.	100
260	6.5 Signal and background event yields using the default event selection for an integrated	
261	luminosity of $\mathcal{L} = 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. Events containing a fake or charge-flipped electron are	
262	removed from their respective sources and combined into a single entry each.	101

263	6.6	Signal and background event yields using the optimized event selection for an integrated luminosity of $\mathcal{L} = 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. Events containing a fake or charge-flipped electron are removed from their respective sources and combined into a single entry each.	102
265	6.7	Summary of estimated experimental and rate uncertainties.	105
267	A.1	Impact of experimental uncertainties for the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ QCD processes in all channels. .	110
268	A.2	Impact of experimental uncertainties for triboson process in all channels.	111
269	A.3	Impact of experimental uncertainties for $t\bar{t}V$ processes in all channels.	111
270	A.4	Impact of experimental uncertainties for the $W\gamma$ process in all channels.	111
271	A.5	Impact of experimental uncertainties for the $Z\gamma$ process in all channels.	111
272	A.6	Impact of experimental uncertainties for the ZZ process in all channels.	112
273	B.1	Event yields prior to applying any form of truth-based isolation criteria.	113
274	B.2	Event yields after applying a test version of the truth-based isolation.	114
275	B.3	Electron and muon isolation requirements for the loose working point.	115
276	B.4	Event yields broken down by sample and by background type using the loose isolation workingpoint. Events contining a fake or charge-flipped electron are removed from their respective sample and added to the “fakes” and “charge flip” rows, respectively. Errors include statistical uncertainty and estimated systematic rate uncertainty based on the background process.	116
281	B.5	Event yields broken down by background type using the tight isolation workingpoint. Events contining a fake or charge-flipped electron are removed from their respective sample and added to the “fakes” and “charge flip” rows, respectively. Errors include statistical uncertainty and estimated systematic rate uncertainty based on the background process.	117

List of Figures

287 2.1	Summary of several Standard Model total and fiducial production cross section measurements compared to the corresponding theoretical predictions calculated at NLO or higher. The dark colored error bar represents the statistical uncertainty, and the light colored error bar represents the full uncertainty (including systematic and luminosity uncertainties). The data/theory ratio, luminosity used and reference for each measurement are also shown.	4
293 2.2	An illustration of the potential term $V(\phi)$ in Equation 2.6 for the cases where $\mu^2 > 0$ (left) and $\mu^2 < 0$ (right). The right-hand plot shows the Higgs potential, or “Mexican hat potential”, with the minimum at $ \phi = \sqrt{-\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda}}$ rather than at $ \phi = 0$ as in the left-hand plot.	7
297 2.3	Feynman diagram of a generic VBS process. The gray circle represents any interaction with two incoming and two outgoing vector bosons, including any of the diagrams shown in Figures 2.4 and 2.5.	9
300 2.4	Leading order $VV \rightarrow VV$ Feynman diagrams involving EWK bosons. From left to right: s -channel, t -channel, u -channel, and the quartic gauge coupling.	9
302 2.5	Leading order $VV \rightarrow VV$ Feynman diagrams involving the exchange of a Higgs boson. From left to right: s -channel, t -channel, and u -channel.	10
304 2.6	Cross sections in nanobarns for five different longitudinally polarized VBS processes as a function of center of mass energy \sqrt{s} . Without a Higgs boson (left), the cross sections grow unbounded with \sqrt{s} . With a 120 GeV Higgs boson (right), the cross sections no longer diverge.	11
308 3.1	General cut-away view of the ATLAS detector.	13
309 4.1	Graphical representation of the effect of a misaligned detector element. The reconstructed particle track (dashed arrow) differs from the actual trajectory of the particle (solid arrow) due to the shift in one of the detector elements. The cyan lines represent the track-to-hit residuals.	16
313 4.2	Graphical representation of the ID alignment chain.	19

314	4.3	A schematic representation of the Inner Detector in the longitudinal plane with the global coordinate system overlaid on top. The Pixel detector and IBL are shown in blue, the SCT in green, and the TRT in red. The local coordinates for each subdetector module are inset on the right.	22
318	4.4	The d_0 distributions with respect to the reconstructed primary vertex using the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.	25
322	4.5	Local x (left) and local y (right) residual distributions of the IBL planar sensors using the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.	26
326	4.6	The mean of the local x (left) and local y (right) residual distributions as a function of the global z position of each IBL module using the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.	27
330	4.7	Local x (left) and local y (right) residual distributions for the Pixel barrel (excluding the IBL) using the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.	27
334	4.8	Local x (left) and local y (right) residual distributions for the Pixel endcaps using the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.	28
338	4.9	Local x residual distributions for the SCT barrel (left) and end-caps (right) using the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.	28
342	4.10	Residual distributions for the TRT barrel (left) and end-caps (right) using the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.	29
346	4.11	Representation of splitting a single cosmic ray track passing through the entire detector (left) into two separate tracks (right).	30
348	4.12	Distribution of the difference in the impact parameter Δd_0 (left) and charge over transverse momentum $\Delta q/p_T$ (right) between the two cosmic ray split tracks. The June (black) and March (green) alignments are compared. The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.	30
352	4.13	Pull distributions in local x (left) and y (right) for the IBL using the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ collision data sample after applying the error scaling.	31
354	4.14	Residual means by straw layer in two TRT ϕ -sectors affected by a tilt misalignment. The tilts in each of the three modules are clearly visible in the red points representing the reconstructed data prior to alignment. After four iterations of L2 alignment, the residual means in the gray points are flat.	32
358	4.15	Two dimensional map of residuals in the first layer of the TRT barrel vs z and ϕ . Each bin represents the mean of a Gaussian fit to the TRT residuals in that bin. The map on the left is after the L3 (wire-by-wire) alignment of the TRT performed in 2010, and the map on the right is after the L2 alignment at the end of 2015. The z -axis for both plots use the same scale.	33

363	4.16 Representation of a curl distortion in the detector. The image shows a cutaway in the transverse plane. The deformation is represented by the red arrows, and the impact on the reconstructed positive (blue) and negative (green) tracks are shown. The dashed lines represent the true particle trajectories, and the solid lines represent the reconstructed trajectories.	34
368	4.17 Geometric definition of the sagitta s in relation to the length of the chord l and the radius r of a circular arc.	35
370	4.18 E/p distributions of electrons and positrons in two different $\eta\phi$ bins of the detector. The left hand plot is taken from a region with no momentum bias where $\langle E/p \rangle^+ = \langle E/p \rangle^-$, while the right hand plot shows an 8% disagreement in $\langle E/p \rangle$ between electrons and positrons.	36
374	4.19 Sagitta bias in the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ data collected by ATLAS in 2016 as a function of η and ϕ for the prompt (left) and reprocessed (right) alignments using the E/p method.	38
376	4.20 Sagitta bias in the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ data collected by ATLAS in 2016 projected along η for the prompt (gray) and reprocessed (blue) alignments using the E/p method.	38
378	4.21 Sagitta bias in the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ data collected by ATLAS in 2017 as a function of η and ϕ in reconstructed electrons (left) and after two iterations of momentum corrections (right) from the E/p method.	38
381	4.22 Sagitta bias in the $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ data collected by ATLAS in 2017 projected along η in reconstructed electrons (gray) and after one (red) and two (blue) iterations of momentum corrections from the E/p method.	39
384	5.1 Tree-level Feynman diagrams for VBS EWK $VVjj$ production including triple gauge couplings involving W and/or Z bosons (top left and top middle), quartic gauge coupling (top right), or the exchange of a Higgs boson (s -channel bottom left and t -channel bottom right). The labels are quarks (q), fermions (f), and gauge bosons ($V = W, Z$).	42
388	5.2 Tree-level Feynman diagrams for non-VBS EWK $VVjj$ production. The labels are quarks (q), fermions (f), and gauge bosons ($V = W, Z$).	42
390	5.3 Tree-level Feynman diagrams for QCD $VVjj$ production. The labels are quarks (q), fermions (f), and gauge bosons ($V = W, Z$).	42
392	5.4 Leading order Feynman diagrams for VBS EWK production of $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events. The leftmost diagram contains a quartic gauge coupling vertex, and the rightmost diagram contains an exchange of a Higgs boson.	44
395	5.5 $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ VBS event topology containing two leptons (1 and 2) with the same electric charge, two neutrinos, and two forward tagging jets (3 and 4) with large rapidity separation Δy	44
398	5.6 Generator level comparisons at $\sqrt{s} = 7\text{TeV}$ of dijet invariant mass (m_{jj} , left) and dijet rapidity (Δy_{jj} , right) in EWK (red) and QCD (blue) $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events with no selection cuts applied.	45
401	5.7 ATLAS event display of a $pp \rightarrow W^+W^+ \rightarrow \mu^+\nu_\mu\mu^+\nu_\mu jj$ event. The muons are represented by the red lines travelling from the ID through the MS, and the forward jets are represented by the blue cones with yellow energy deposits in the calorimeters. The direction of the E_T^{miss} in the transverse plane is indicated by the gray dashed line in the inset image.	46
406	5.8 Leading lepton p_T (left) and η (right) distributions in the WZ control region before normalization. All lepton channels are combined.	55
408	5.9 Trilepton invariant mass m_{lll} distribution in the WZ control region before normalization. All lepton channels are combined.	56

410	5.10 Charge misidentification rates for electrons as a function of $ \eta $ and p_T . Rates are calculated from $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ MC after applying scale factors to approximate the charge mis-ID rates in data.	58
411		
412		
413	5.11 Dilepton invariant mass distribution m_{ll} for the ee channel in the same-sign inclusive VR.	60
414		
415	5.12 p_T distributions for the leading (left) and subleading (right) electron for the ee channel in the same-sign inclusive VR. In these plots, the cut requiring m_{ee} to fall within the Z mass window has been inverted in order to test the modelling away from the Z peak.	61
416		
417	5.13 Δp_T distributions for nominal (blue) and loose (red) muons in simulated $t\bar{t}$ events. Each muon has been matched to a truth-level jet. Both distributions are normalized to unit area.	63
418		
419		
420	5.14 Δp_T distributions for muons (top) and electrons (bottom) in simulated $t\bar{t}$ events. Each lepton has been matched to a truth-level jet, and that truth jet has had its p_T corrected to include all truth muons within a cone of $\Delta R < 0.4$. The nominal leptons are in black. Δp_T is calculated for the loose leptons using p_T (red) and $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ (blue).	64
421		
422		
423	5.15 Distributions of p_T^{cone}/p_T for nominal (black) and loose (red) muons in simulated $t\bar{t}$ events.	65
424		
425	5.16 The measured fake-factor as a function of muon $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$. The error bars represent the statistical uncertainty only.	66
426		
427	5.17 The measured fake-factor as a function of electron $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ in the central ($ \eta < 1.37$, blue) and forward ($ \eta > 1.37$, red) regions of the detector. The error bars represent the statistical uncertainty only.	67
428		
429		
430	5.18 Graphical representation of the fake-factor application using $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$. The value of $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ for the loose lepton is used to “look up” the fake-factor weight which is then applied to the event. The loose lepton’s p_T becomes $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ for the purpose of the fake background estimation.	68
431		
432		
433		
434	5.19 Systematic variations in the fake-factor as a function of muon $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$. The individual fake-factors obtained for each systematic variation are displayed with their statistical uncertainties.	70
435		
436		
437	5.20 Systematic variations in the fake-factor as a function of electron $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ in the central ($ \eta < 1.37$, top) and forward ($ \eta > 1.37$, bottom) regions of the detector. The individual fake-factors obtained for each systematic variation are displayed with their statistical uncertainties.	71
438		
439		
440		
441	5.21 Distributions of the subleading lepton p_T in the same-sign top fakes VR for $\mu^\pm\mu^\pm$ events (top right), $e^\pm e^\pm$ events (top left), $\mu^\pm e^\pm$ events (bottom left), and all events combined (bottom right). All errors are statistical only.	73
442		
443		
444	5.22 Pseudorapidity (η) distributions of truth muons (top) and electrons (bottom) for Sherpa $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ and WZ MC samples. The blue vertical lines represent the allowed η range for each lepton flavor. The numbers correspond to the number of raw MC events that fall within and outside of the allowed η range for each MC sample.	74
445		
446		
447		
448	5.23 Distributions of $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(\mu, j)$ for EWK and QCD $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal (black) and WZ background (teal) for truth-matched third muons in events that pass the trilepton veto. Both distributions are normalized to unit area. The associated efficiency curves are on the right where efficiency is defined as the percentage of total events that would pass a cut on $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(\mu, j)$ at a given value on the x -axis.	74
449		
450		
451		
452		
453	5.24 Distributions of $\Delta R(\mu, j)$ for EWK and QCD $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal (black) and WZ background (teal) for truth-matched third muons in events that pass the trilepton veto. Both distributions are normalized to unit area. The associated efficiency curves are on the right where efficiency is defined as the percentage of total events that would pass a cut on $\Delta R(\mu, j)$ at a given value on the x -axis.	75
454		
455		
456		
457		

458	5.25 Distributions of $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(e, j)$ for EWK and QCD $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal (black) and WZ background (teal) for truth-matched third electrons in events that pass the trilepton veto. Both distributions are normalized to unit area. The associated efficiency curves are on the right where efficiency is defined as the percentage of total events that would pass a cut on $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(e, j)$ at a given value on the x -axis.	75
463	5.26 Two-dimensional plots of $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(\mu, j)$ vs $\Delta R(\mu, j)$ for truth-matched third muons in events that pass the trilepton veto for EWK and QCD $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal (left) and WZ background (right). The blue overlay indicates the area in which the third leptons will pass the custom OR and result in the event failing the trilepton veto.	76
467	5.27 Visual representation of the different kinematic regions relevant to the cross section measurement. The acceptance factor \mathcal{A} converts from the truth level total phase space to the truth level fiducial region, and the efficiency correction \mathcal{C} translates the fiducial region into the reconstruction level signal region.	80
471	5.28 The dijet invariant mass m_{jj} distributions for data and predicted signal and background in the signal region after the fit. The shaded band represents the statistical and systematic uncertainties added in quadrature. Note that the bins have been scaled such that they represent the number of events per 100 GeV in m_{jj} . The background estimations from the fake-factor are included in the “Non-prompt” category, and backgrounds from $V\gamma$ production and electron charge misidentification are combined in the “ e/γ conversions” category. Finally, ZZ , VVV , and $t\bar{t}+V$ backgrounds are combined in the “Other prompt” category.	86
479	5.29 The event yields for data and predicted signal and background in the WZ and low- m_{jj} control regions after the fit. The shaded band represents the statistical and systematic uncertainties added in quadrature. The background estimations from the fake-factor are included in the “Non-prompt” category, and backgrounds from $V\gamma$ production and electron charge misidentification are combined in the “ e/γ conversions” category. Finally, ZZ , VVV , and $t\bar{t}V$ backgrounds are combined in the “Other prompt” category.	86
485	5.30 Comparison of the measured $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK fiducial cross section with theoretical calculations from SHERPA v2.2.2 and POWHEG-BOX v2 . The light orange band represents the total experimental uncertainty on the measured value, and the dark orange hashed band is the statistical uncertainty. For the simulations, the light blue band represents the total theoretical uncertainty, and the dark blue hashed band are the scale uncertainties. The theory predictions do not include the interference between the EWK and QCD production.	88
492	6.1 Comparison of the leading (left) and subleading (right) lepton p_T distributions for purely longitudinal (LL, black) and mixed polarization (LT+TT, cyan) $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events.	91
494	6.2 Comparison of the azimuthal dijet separation ($ \Delta\phi_{jj} $) for purely longitudinal (LL, black) and mixed polarization (LT+TT, cyan) $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events.	92
496	6.3 A visual representation of a two-dimensional rectangular grid (left) and a random grid (right) in variables x and y . The signal events are the black circles, and the red squares are the background events. Each intersection of gray dashed lines represents a cut point to be evaluated by the optimization.	98
500	6.4 Leading (top) and subleading (bottom) jet p_T distributions. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).	101

504	6.5	Lepton-jet centrality distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).	102
505	6.6	p_T distributions for the leading jet using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined.	103
506	6.7	p_T distributions for the subleading jet using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined.	103
507	6.8	p_T distributions for lepton-jet centrality ζ using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined.	104
508	6.9	Projections of the statistical (black), theoretical (blue), systematic (yellow), and total (red) uncertainties on the measured cross section as a function of integrated luminosity using the optimized event selection.	106
509	6.10	Dijet azimuthal separation ($ \Delta\phi_{jj} $) for the low m_{jj} region ($520 < m_{jj} < 1100$ GeV, top) and the high m_{jj} region ($m_{jj} > 1100$ GeV, bottom). The purely longitudinal (LL, gray) is plotted separately from the mixed and transverse (LT+TT, cyan) polarizations.	107
510	6.11	Projections of the expected longitudinal scattering significance as a function of integrated luminosity when considering all sources of uncertainties (black) or only statistical uncertainties (red).	108
511	B.1	Number of truth particles within $\Delta R < 0.4$ of a selected muon or electron using the ATLAS standard TRUTH1 (left) and the custom TRUTH1++ (right) derivations in $t\bar{t}$ simulation. The complete truth record is stored in the TRUTH1++ derivation, and this is best seen in the first bin, where the lepton has no nearby truth particles.	114
512	B.2	Leading lepton p_T distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).	118
513	B.3	Dilepton invariant mass distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).	118
514	B.4	Dijet invariant mass distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).	119

Preface

536 This thesis presents the major highlights of my work with the ATLAS experiment as a graduate
537 student at the University of Pennsylvania from Fall of 2013 until early Spring of 2019.

538 The first step of working on the experiment is to complete a *qualification task* in order to be
539 included on the author list of ATLAS publications. These tasks are an opportunity to contribute
540 to the experiment as a whole, such as maintaining detector hardware or monitoring physics perfor-
541 mance. For my qualification task, I worked with the Inner Detector Alignment group which works
542 to make sure we have accurate knowledge of the locations of each and every sensor in the tracking
543 detector. My qualification task involved investigating a possible momentum bias in the Monte Carlo
544 (MC) simulated data. The MC is supposed to be reconstructed with a perfect detector geometry
545 which should in principle be free of any momentum biases. Ultimately I determined that the size of
546 the biases were small enough to be negligible compared to what is seen in the real data, and that
547 they could be corrected for if necessary.

548 My work with the alignment group would continue for the duration of my time here at Penn. In
549 early 2015, at the start of the LHC’s second data-taking run (Run 2), I assisted with the validation
550 of the first set of alignment constants using $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV proton-proton collision data. At this point
551 I took over the responsibility of alignment of the TRT subdetector. The TRT was aligned to high
552 accuracy in Run 1, and over the course of my time working on alignment, the TRT never required
553 a straw-by-straw alignment; however it did require a module-level alignment at the end of 2015.
554 My final responsibility in the alignment group was monitoring momentum biases using the energy-
555 momentum ratio (E/p) of electrons. For the large data reprocessing, the E/p method served as a
556 cross check to a similar method using Z boson events for monitoring and aligning out momentum
557 biases in the detector. The results from both methods were also used in the uncertainties for the
558 tracking measurements.

559 On the analysis side, I had previous experience in Standard Model (SM) electroweak physics
560 from my time as an undergraduate at Duke University, and it remained a point of interest for
561 me in graduate school. As such, I was happy to work with fellow Penn students on the cross
562 section measurement of SM WZ diboson production with the early $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV ATLAS data.
563 My contribution to the analysis was primarily on the software side, as I maintained and updated
564 the analysis framework. While the WZ measurement is not covered by this thesis, it provided me
565 with invaluable analysis experience in electroweak physics, as well as a detailed understanding of a
566 major background to many diboson processes. The results for this analysis can be found published
567 in Physics Letters B in 2016 [1].

568 The final two analyses I worked on involved the scattering of same-sign W bosons, and they make
569 up the majority of this thesis. The first analysis is a measurement of the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ cross section
570 at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. This measurement along with that of the CMS collaboration represent the first
571 observation of the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ scattering process. My primary contribution to the analysis is in the
572 estimation of the fake lepton background, where we implemented a brand new version of the fake-
573 factor method using particle isolation variables. I also did a preliminary study of the interference
574 between electroweak and strong production of $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events, assisted in the production of data
575 samples for use with the analysis framework, and used my familiarity with the WZ process to
576 optimize the rejection of this background. Ultimately the results of this optimization were not
577 included in the final result; however, it is still covered in the thesis in the hopes that it will be useful
578 for similar analyses in the future. The formal publication for this measurement will likely be coming
579 out within the next few months.

580 The second $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ analysis is a study on the prospects for a measurement of the process at the
581 upgraded High-Luminosity LHC, scheduled to begin operation in 2026. Here my main contribution
582 was an optimization of the event selection using a Random Grid Search algorithm. Through the
583 optimization we expect to take advantage of the higher center of mass energy and greater volume of
584 data and tighten certain selection cuts to increase the strength of the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal. In addition, I
585 once again maintained and updated the analysis framework and produced the group's data samples,
586 and I also developed a truth-based particle isolation criteria in order to reduce contributions from
587 backgrounds involving the top quark. The results of this prospects study will be published as a part
588 of the annual Yellow Report for the High-Luminosity LHC.

589

Will K. DiClemente
Philadelphia, February 2019

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

592 The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN is the most powerful collider experiment in the world.
 593 At the time of its construction, the largest unanswered question in the Standard Model (SM) was
 594 the mechanism behind electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB). As a result, one of the primary
 595 goals of the experiment is to learn as much as possible about this mechanism. Thus far, the LHC
 596 has succeeded in discovering a particle consistent with the long-awaited Higgs boson. In addition,
 597 measurements of many SM processes have been performed for the first time or at better precision
 598 than before thanks to the high collision energy and large volume of data collected by the LHC.

599 Processes involving the scattering of two massive electroweak (EWK) gauge bosons are of par-
 600 ticular interest at the LHC for two main reasons. Firstly, they allow for tests of the self-interactions
 601 predicted by the EWK gauge theory through triple and quartic gauge couplings. While the triple
 602 couplings have been studied by previous experiments as well as at the LHC, the quartic couplings
 603 of the massive gauge bosons have not been accessible previously. Thus, processes involving these
 604 couplings can be measured and compared to the SM predictions for the first time. Secondly, the scat-
 605 tering of two massive gauge bosons is sensitive to the underlying EWSB mechanism. The W^\pm and
 606 Z bosons are given non-zero masses—and consequently a longitudinal polarization mode—through
 607 the Higgs mechanism, and thus their interactions serve as a direct probe of the symmetry breaking
 608 sector.

609 This thesis presents two separate analyses dealing with the scattering of two same-sign W^\pm
 610 bosons with the LHC’s ATLAS experiment. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ process is one of the most sensitive to the
 611 goals above: it has access to the $WWWW$ quartic gauge coupling, production modes that involve the
 612 exchange of a Higgs boson, and relatively low backgrounds. Evidence of EWK $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ production
 613 was first seen by the ATLAS and CMS experiments at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV, however the data set was too

614 small to claim observation of the process. The first analysis covered here is the follow up to the above
615 ATLAS measurement, measuring the EWK fiducial cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with a larger data
616 sample. The second analysis explores the prospects for future measurements of the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ process
617 at the planned High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC). A measurement of the production cross section
618 as well as sensitivity to the purely longitudinal component of the $W^\pm W^\pm$ scattering is presented.

619 In addition to the SM measurements, a part of this thesis is devoted to alignment of the detector
620 components making up ATLAS’s Inner Detector (ID). Precise knowledge of the locations of detector
621 elements is essential for accurate particle track reconstruction, which in turn results in improved
622 resolutions for physics measurements. The ATLAS alignment algorithm determines the positions
623 of each ID sensor through minimizing the distance between reconstructed particle tracks and the
624 sensor hit position. Special emphasis is given to the monitoring of momentum biases that may exist
625 in the ID even after alignment.

626 This first few chapters of this thesis are intended to provide context for the main topics. Chapter 2
627 gives a brief introduction to the Standard Model with a focus on the mechanism of electroweak
628 symmetry breaking and vector boson scattering. The experimental apparatus—the LHC and the
629 ATLAS detector—are detailed in Chapter 3. The next three chapters present the main body of
630 work. Chapter 4 covers the alignment of the ATLAS Inner Detector. Finally, Chapters 5 and
631 6 detail the ATLAS $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ cross section measurement and the $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV
632 HL-LHC $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ prospects study, respectively.

CHAPTER 2

Theoretical Framework

635 This chapter outlines the theoretical groundwork for the rest of the thesis. An overview of the Stan-
 636 dard Model of particle physics (SM) is given in Section 2.1, followed by the electroweak symmetry
 637 breaking mechanism involving the Higgs boson in Section 2.2. Finally, Section 2.3 will go into detail
 638 on the interests of electroweak vector boson scattering (VBS).

639 **2.1 Introduction to the Standard Model**

640 The Standard Model of particle physics serves as a mathematical description of the fundamental
 641 particles of the universe and their interactions. It has been developed over the course of the past
 642 century, incorporating both predictions from theory and results from experiments. All in all, the
 643 SM has proven to be very accurate in describing the particle interactions seen in experiments, as can
 644 be seen in the summary plot of ATLAS standard model measurements through 2018 in Figure 2.1.

645 The SM is a quantum field theory (QFT) [3, 4] in which the fundamental particles are represented
 646 as excited states of their corresponding fields. The spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ fermionic fields give rise to the quarks
 647 and leptons comprising ordinary matter, the spin-1 fields correspond to the electroweak bosons and
 648 the gluon which mediate the electroweak and strong forces, respectively, and finally the scalar Higgs
 649 field is responsible for electroweak symmetry breaking. The excitations and interactions of the fields
 650 are governed by the SM Lagrangian, which is invariant under local transformations of the group
 651 $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$.

652 The first quantum field theory to be developed was quantum electrodynamics (QED) [5], which
 653 describes the electromagnetic interaction. The theory predicts the existence of a $U(1)$ gauge field
 654 that interacts with the electrically charged fermions. This field corresponds to the photon. A key

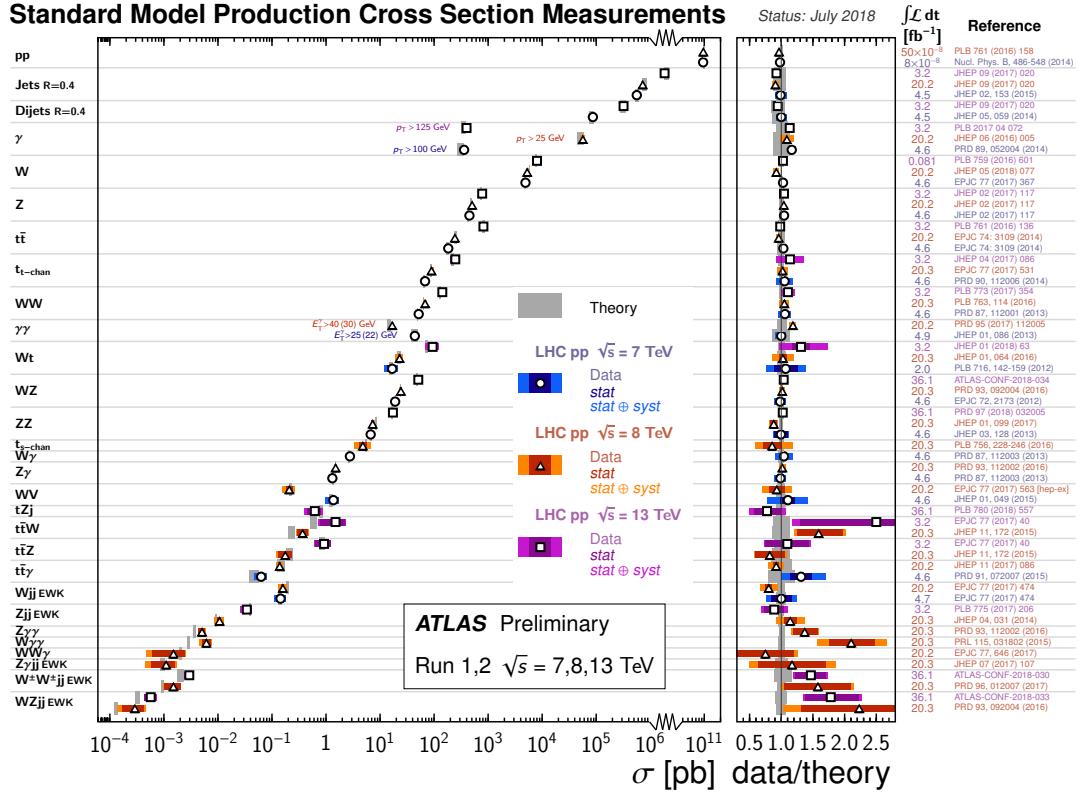


Figure 2.1: Summary of several Standard Model total and fiducial production cross section measurements compared to the corresponding theoretical predictions calculated at NLO or higher. The dark colored error bar represents the statistical uncertainty, and the light colored error bar represents the full uncertainty (including systematic and luminosity uncertainties). The data/theory ratio, luminosity used and reference for each measurement are also shown. [2]

aspect of QED is that it is perturbative. The coupling constant $\alpha = e^2/4\pi$ is small, where e is electrical charge of the field, allowing for the use of perturbation theory in calculations. In this case, calculations can be written as a power series in α , where successive higher order terms contribute less to the final result. The accuracy of perturbative calculations is an essential tool for being able to make predictions from the SM.

The strong interaction—the theory of quarks and gluons—has also been described using QFT as quantum chromodynamics (QCD). The symmetry group for QCD is $SU(3)$, and its eight generators correspond to the eight differently charged, massless gluons [6]. Unlike in QED, which has positive and negative charges, the strong force has three “colors”. Color charge combined with the non-Abelian nature of $SU(3)$, which allows the gluons to interact with each other, result in the

most well-known property of QCD: color confinement. In order to increase the separation between two color-charged quarks, the amount of energy required increases until it becomes energetically favorable to pair-produce a new quark-antiquark pair, which then bind to the original quarks. The end result of this is that only color-neutral objects exist in isolation. What this means for the strong coupling constant α_s is that its value at the low energies where confinement occurs is large, on the order of $\alpha_s \sim 1$. The consequence of this is that perturbation theory cannot be used to accurately approximate interactions. While this appears at first to be a critical problem for predictions, fortunately it turns out that α_s “runs”, or decreases in magnitude at higher energy [7, 8]. This so-called “asymptotic freedom” allows QCD to be calculated perturbatively [9] at energies accessible by collider experiments including the LHC.

The last gauge field corresponds to the weak interaction. Ultimately, the weak SU(2) and the electromagnetic U(1) mix to form the $SU(2) \times U(1)$ *electroweak* (EWK) interaction [10, 11]. A more detailed description of the mixing will be discussed in conjunction with electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB) in Section 2.2; however, a summary of the resulting EWK interaction is presented here, at the risk of some repeated information to follow. There are three weak isospin bosons arising from the SU(2) group (W_μ^1 , W_μ^2 , and W_μ^3) and one weak hypercharge boson from the U(1) group (B_μ). The W_3 and B bosons mix according to the weak mixing angle θ_W to form the Z boson and the photon according to:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \gamma \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_W & \sin \theta_W \\ -\sin \theta_W & \cos \theta_W \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} B_\mu \\ W_\mu^3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.1)$$

The value of θ_W is not predicted by the SM; it is one example of an experimental input to the theory, measured to be $\sin^2 \theta_W = 0.23153 \pm 0.00016$ [12]. The charged W^\pm bosons are a mixture of the remaining W_μ^1 and W_μ^2 bosons:

$$W^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(W_\mu^1 \mp iW_\mu^2) \quad (2.2)$$

Unlike the photon (and the gluon of QCD), the W^\pm and Z bosons are massive. This means that even though SU(2) is non-Abelian, the range of interaction is short and confinement does not occur. Lastly, the EWK interaction is chiral, only coupling to the left-handed component of the fermion fields.

One final field remains within the SM: the scalar Higgs field. It was originally proposed in the 1960’s to explain the masses of the W^\pm and Z bosons [13, 14, 15] and is the mechanism for the EWSB process. The particle associated with the field is a massive scalar boson, the Higgs boson, which was recently discovered by ATLAS and CMS in 2012 [16, 17] with a mass of 125 GeV.

694 **2.2 Electroweak symmetry breaking and the Higgs boson**

695 The results of electroweak mixing and the implications of the Higgs field have been introduced
 696 in the previous section. If the EWK theory were an unbroken symmetry, the associated W^\pm and
 697 Z bosons would be massless; however, when observed experimentally, they were found to be quite
 698 heavy [18, 19], at around 80 GeV and 91 GeV, respectively [20]. Here, a more detailed explanation
 699 of the Higgs mechanism and how it “spontaneously breaks” the EWK symmetry, resulting in the
 700 three massive bosons (W^\pm and Z) and one massless boson (photon), is presented.

701 To see how the Higgs mechanism results in the massive vector bosons and a massless photon,
 702 consider the following. Beginning with a complex scalar doublet ϕ defined as:

$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 \end{pmatrix} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 + i\phi_2 \\ \phi_3 + i\phi_4 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.3)$$

703 a Lagrangian \mathcal{L} can be written:

$$\mathcal{L} = (\mathcal{D}_\mu \phi)^\dagger (\mathcal{D}^\mu \phi) - \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi - \lambda(\phi^\dagger \phi)^2 \quad (2.4)$$

704 where $\lambda > 0$ and \mathcal{D}_μ is the covariant derivative defined such that \mathcal{L} is invariant under a local
 705 $SU(2) \times U(1)$ gauge transformation:

$$\mathcal{D}_\mu \phi = \left(\partial_\mu + \frac{ig}{2} \tau_a W_\mu^a + \frac{ig'}{2} B_\mu \right) \phi \quad (2.5)$$

706 Here W_μ^a ($a = 1, 2, 3$) are the $SU(2)$ fields with generators τ_a and coupling constant g , and B_μ is the
 707 $U(1)$ field with coupling constant g' .

708 Isolating the potential term of the Lagrangian:

$$V(\phi) = \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi + \lambda(\phi^\dagger \phi)^2 \quad (2.6)$$

709 a choice must be made on the sign of μ^2 , and the case of interest is for $\mu^2 < 0$. This results in
 710 the famous “Mexican hat potential” shown in Figure 2.2, which is minimized along the collection of
 711 points:

$$\phi^\dagger \phi = \frac{1}{2} (\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2 + \phi_3^2 + \phi_4^2) = -\frac{\mu^2}{2\lambda} \quad (2.7)$$

712 This means that the minimum of the potential is not at $\phi = 0$ (as it would be in the case where
 713 $\mu^2 > 0$), but rather at a value:

$$v \equiv \sqrt{-\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda}} \quad (2.8)$$

714 With no loss of generality due to the SU(2) symmetry, $\phi_1 = \phi_2 = \phi_4 = 0$ can be imposed on
 715 Equation 2.7 leaving $\phi_3^2 = v^2$. Finally, the *vacuum expectation value* (VEV) of the field can be
 716 written as:

$$\langle\phi\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.9)$$

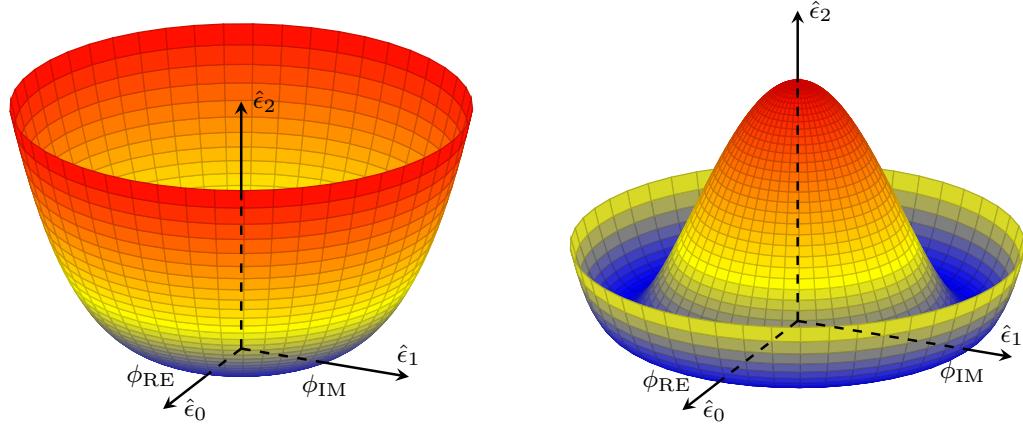


Figure 2.2: An illustration of the potential term $V(\phi)$ in Equation 2.6 for the cases where $\mu^2 > 0$ (left) and $\mu^2 < 0$ (right). The right-hand plot shows the Higgs potential, or ‘Mexican hat potential’, with the minimum at $|\phi| = \sqrt{-\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda}}$ rather than at $|\phi| = 0$ as in the left-hand plot.

717 The VEV can be substituted back into the original Lagrangian in Equation 2.4, and, following
 718 quite a bit of math, a collection of mass terms can be identified:

$$\mathcal{L} \subset \mathcal{L}_M \equiv \frac{1}{8}v^2g^2 \left[(W_\mu^1)^2 + (W_\mu^2)^2 \right] + \frac{1}{8}v^2 \left[g^2(W_\mu^3)^2 - 2gg'W_\mu^3B^\mu + g'^2(B_\mu)^2 \right] \quad (2.10)$$

719 Focusing on the first term for the moment, if Equation 2.2 for the physical W^\pm bosons is substituted
 720 in, the mass term can be seen clearly:

$$M_W^2 W^+ W^- = \left(\frac{1}{2}vg \right)^2 W^+ W^- \quad (2.11)$$

721

$$M_W = \frac{1}{2}vg \quad (2.12)$$

722 With a bit of clever forward-thinking, the second term of Equation 2.10 can be rewritten as:

$$\frac{1}{8}v^2 \left[gW_\mu^3 - g'B_\mu \right]^2 + 0 \left[g'W_\mu^3 - gB_\mu \right]^2 = \frac{1}{2}M_Z^2 Z_\mu^2 + \frac{1}{2}M_A^2 A_\mu^2 \quad (2.13)$$

723 where Z_μ^2 and A_μ^2 represent the physical Z boson and photon, respectively, and are defined as:

$$Z_\mu = \frac{gW_\mu^3 - g'B_\mu}{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}} \quad (2.14)$$

724

$$A_\mu = \frac{g'W_\mu^3 - gB_\mu}{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}} \quad (2.15)$$

725 From this, it can be seen that the photon is massless ($M_A = 0$ in Equation 2.13), and the mass of
726 the Z boson is identified as:

$$M_Z = \frac{1}{2}v\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2} \quad (2.16)$$

727 Lastly, the Higgs field can couple directly to the fermions. Taking the electron as an example,
728 an additional Lagrangian term can be written:

$$\mathcal{L}_e = -G_e[\bar{e}_L\phi e_R + \bar{e}_R\phi^\dagger e_L] \quad (2.17)$$

729 where e_L and e_R are the left-handed doublet and right-handed singlet, respectively, and ϕ is as in
730 Equation 2.3. The symmetry can be spontaneously broken by a perturbation about the VEV:

$$\phi = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + h(x) \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.18)$$

731 which, when substituted into \mathcal{L}_e gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_e &= -\frac{G_e}{\sqrt{2}}v(\bar{e}_L e_R + \bar{e}_R e_L) - \frac{G_e}{\sqrt{2}}(\bar{e}_L e_R + \bar{e}_R e_L)h \\ &= -m_e \bar{e}e - \frac{m_e}{v} \bar{e}eh \end{aligned} \quad (2.19)$$

732 for electron mass $m_e = \frac{G_e v}{\sqrt{2}}$. From the second term, it can be seen that the strength of the Higgs
733 coupling to the electron is proportional to the mass of the electron. The rest of the fermion couplings
734 follow from this example.

735 What is accomplished here is quite remarkable. The weak and electromagnetic interactions have
736 been unified into a single $SU(2) \times U(1)$ interaction, and the physical bosons observed in nature
737 arise as mixtures of the four gauge fields. Three of the four degrees of freedom in the scalar field
738 ϕ of Equation 2.3, are absorbed (or “eaten”) by the W^\pm and Z bosons, and the fourth generates
739 the Higgs boson. Additionally, it is shown that the Higgs couples to fermions in proportion to
740 their mass. From experimental measurements, the value of the VEV has been determined to be
741 $v \approx 246$ GeV [20]. However, it should be noted that the theory does not predict the mass of the
742 Higgs boson or of the fermions; these must all be determined from experiment.

⁷⁴³ **2.3 Electroweak vector boson scattering**

⁷⁴⁴ Due to the non-Abelian nature of the EWK interaction, the associated gauge bosons are allowed
⁷⁴⁵ to self-interact. This results in triple and quartic couplings of gauge bosons (TGCs and QGCs,
⁷⁴⁶ respectively). The SM allowed TGCs are the $WW\gamma$ and WWZ vertices, which can be measured
⁷⁴⁷ experimentally via diboson production or through vector boson fusion (VBF). QGCs predicted by the
⁷⁴⁸ model include $WWZ\gamma$, $WW\gamma\gamma$, $WWZZ$, and $WWWW$ vertices accessible in triboson production
⁷⁴⁹ or via vector boson scattering (VBS)¹ [21]. VBS processes are defined by a $VV \rightarrow VV$ signature,
⁷⁵⁰ where V represents one of the EWK gauge bosons (W^\pm , Z , or γ), as shown in Figure 2.3. The actual
⁷⁵¹ interaction between the incoming and outgoing vector bosons can be mediated by the exchange of
⁷⁵² a virtual V , directly via a QGC (as in Figure 2.4), or by the exchange of a Higgs boson (as in
⁷⁵³ Figure 2.5).

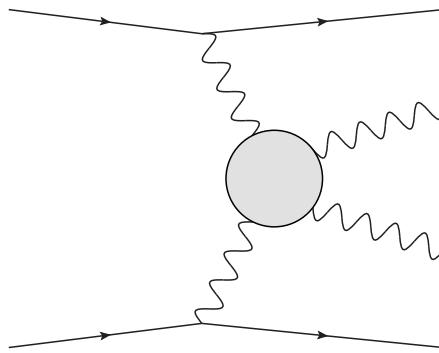


Figure 2.3: Feynman diagram of a generic VBS process. The gray circle represents any interaction with two incoming and two outgoing vector bosons, including any of the diagrams shown in Figures 2.4 and 2.5.

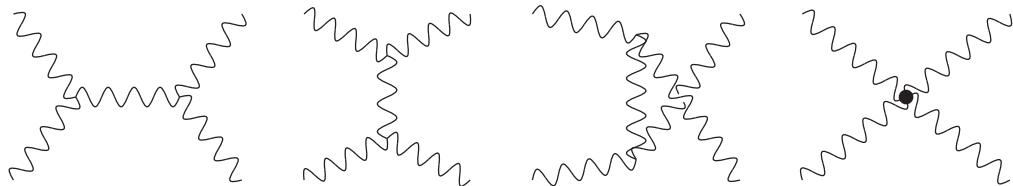


Figure 2.4: Leading order $VV \rightarrow VV$ Feynman diagrams involving EWK bosons. From left to right: s -channel, t -channel, u -channel, and the quartic gauge coupling.

¹Vector boson fusion and scattering typically refer to the s -channel and t -channel exchanges of a vector boson, respectively. Since both deal with a similar $VV \rightarrow VV$ process, for the remainder of this thesis, *vector boson scattering* will refer to both VBF and VBS.

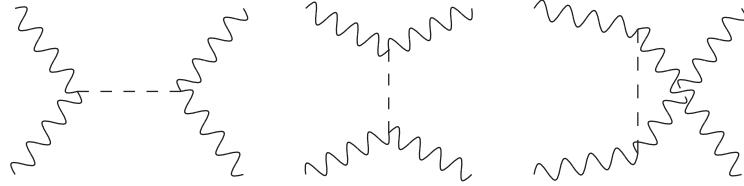


Figure 2.5: Leading order $VV \rightarrow VV$ Feynman diagrams involving the exchange of a Higgs boson. From left to right: s -channel, t -channel, and u -channel.

As detailed in the previous section, the Higgs mechanism produces three Goldstone bosons and a Higgs boson. The Goldstone bosons are then “eaten” by the physical gauge bosons, giving them mass and consequently a longitudinal polarization². In fact, according to the Electroweak Equivalence Theorem, the high-energy interactions of longitudinal gauge bosons can be accurately described by the Goldstone bosons of the EWSB mechanism [22]. Thus, the scattering of the massive gauge bosons are inextricably linked to EWSB.

It turns out that without a light SM Higgs boson, the scattering amplitude of longitudinally polarized vector bosons grows with center-of-mass energy and ultimately violates unitarity above $\sqrt{s} \approx 1.2$ TeV [23, 24]. Writing down the equations for the transverse and longitudinal polarization vectors for a gauge boson of mass M_V [25]:

$$\epsilon_{\pm}^{\mu} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(0, 0, \pm i, 0) \quad (2.20)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_L^{\mu} &= \frac{1}{M_V}(|\vec{p}|, 0, 0, E) \\ &= \frac{p^{\mu}}{M_V} + v^{\mu} \end{aligned} \quad (2.21)$$

where v^{μ} is of the order M_V/E and becomes small in the high energy limit, it can be seen that ϵ_L^{μ} grows with the momentum of the boson p^{μ} . Therefore, the dominant contribution to the VBS process at high energy comes from the longitudinally polarized gauge bosons [26].

The high-energy behavior of longitudinally polarized vector boson scattering can be explored in the case of opposite-sign $W^+W^- \rightarrow W^+W^-$ scattering. In the high-energy limit ($s \gg M_W^2, M_H^2$), the amplitude of W^+W^- scattering without considering the Higgs contributions (the relevant diagrams in Figure 2.4) can be written as [24]:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{gauge}} = -\frac{g^2}{4M_W^2}u + \mathcal{O}\left(\left[\frac{E}{M_W}\right]^0\right) \quad (2.22)$$

²A massless spin-1 boson can have one of two transverse polarization states, while a massive spin-1 boson can also be longitudinally polarized. As a result, only the massive W^{\pm} and Z bosons, and not the massless photon, are sensitive to EWSB.

772 where g is the EWK coupling and u is one of the Mandelstam variables (the others being s and
773 t). The $\mathcal{O}(E^4)$ terms cancel out between the TGC and QGC diagrams [26]. What is left is an
774 amplitude proportional to E^2 that diverges as $E/M_W \rightarrow \infty$. However, the amplitude from the
775 diagrams involving the Higgs boson (the relevant diagrams in Figure 2.5) is:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{Higgs}} = -\frac{g^2}{4M_W^2} \left[\frac{(s - M_W^2)^2}{s - m_H^2} + \frac{(t - M_W^2)^2}{t - M_H^2} \right] \quad (2.23)$$

776 which, in the high-energy limit, reduces to:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{Higgs}} = \frac{g^2}{4M_W^2} u + \mathcal{O}\left(\left[\frac{E}{M_W}\right]^0\right) \quad (2.24)$$

777 Adding the two equations together cancels out the E^2 term and leaves only terms constant in
778 energy. Therefore, with a SM Higgs, the scattering amplitude for longitudinally polarized W bosons
779 no longer diverges. Plots of the cross section of several $VV \rightarrow VV$ scattering processes are shown
780 in Figure 2.6 with and without a SM Higgs boson.

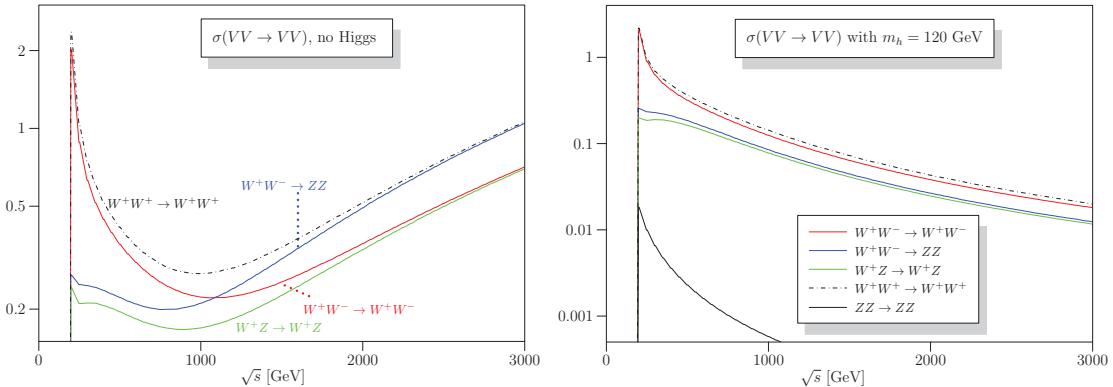


Figure 2.6: Cross sections in nanobarns for five different longitudinally polarized VBS processes as a function of center of mass energy \sqrt{s} . Without a Higgs boson (left), the cross sections grow unbounded with \sqrt{s} . With a 120 GeV Higgs boson (right), the cross sections no longer diverge. Plots taken from [27].

781

CHAPTER 3

782

LHC and the ATLAS Detector

783 **3.1 The Large Hadron Collider**

784 The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [28] is...

785 **3.2 The ATLAS Detector**

786 ATLAS is a general-purpose particle detector...

787 **3.2.1 The Inner Detector**

788 The Inner Detector serves the primary purpose of measuring the trajectories of charged particles...

789 **3.2.1.1 Pixel Detector**

790 The Pixel detector consists of four cylindrical barrel layers and three disk-shaped endcap layers...

791 **3.2.1.2 Semiconductor Tracker**

792 The Semiconductor Tracker uses the same basic technology as the Pixels, but the fundamental unit
793 of silicon is a larger “strip”...

794 **3.2.1.3 Transition Radiation Tracker**

795 The Transition Radiation Tracker is the outermost component of the ID...

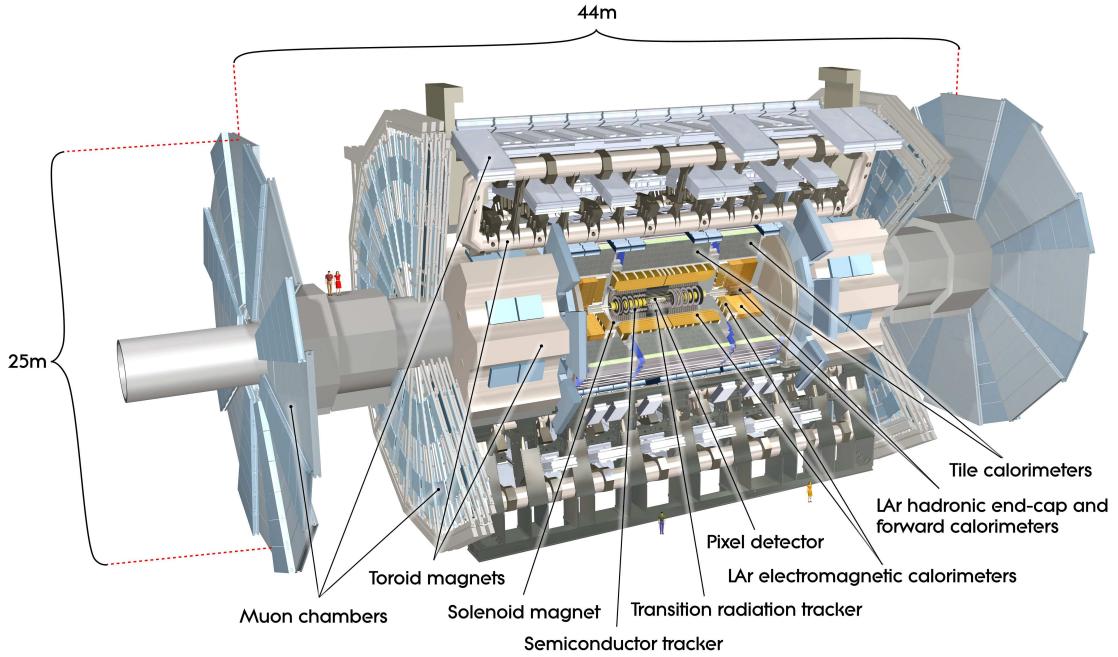


Figure 3.1: General cut-away view of the ATLAS detector [29].

796 3.2.2 The Calorimeters

797 ATLAS includes two types of calorimeter system for measuring electromagnetic and hadronic showers.
 798 These are the Liquid Argon (LAr) calorimeters and the Tile calorimeters. Together, these cover
 799 the region with $|\eta| < 4.9\dots$

800 3.2.2.1 Liquid Argon Calorimeters

801 The Liquid Argon system consists of...

802 3.2.2.2 Tile Calorimeters

803 The Tile calorimeter provides coverage for hadronic showers...

804 3.2.3 The Muon Spectrometer

805 Muon spectrometer stuff.

806 **3.2.4 Particle reconstruction**

807 Particle reconstruction algorithms

808 **3.2.4.1 Track reconstruction**

809 **3.2.4.2 Muon reconstruction**

810 **3.2.4.3 Electron reconstruction**

811 **3.2.4.4 Jet reconstruction**

CHAPTER 4

Alignment of the ATLAS Inner Detector

814 When a charged particle passes through the ATLAS ID, it leaves hits in the sensors along its path.
815 In order to accurately measure the track of the particle, it is necessary to know where these hits
816 occurred as precisely as possible, which in turn requires knowledge of the physical location of the
817 sensor that registered the hit. If one of these sensors is displaced relative to its expected position
818 in the known detector geometry, or *misaligned*, the assumed location of the corresponding hit will
819 not match its actual location, resulting in an incorrect track fit. These misalignments can occur for
820 any number of reasons, including but not limited to elements shifting during maintenance periods
821 or cycles in ATLAS's magnetic field, or small movements during normal detector operations. The
822 effect of a misaligned detector element on the track reconstruction is shown in Figure 4.1.

823 In order to correct the misalignments, the ID alignment procedure is applied to accurately
824 determine the physical position and orientation of each detector element. The baseline accuracy of
825 the alignment is required to be such that the track parameter resolutions are not degraded by more
826 than 20% with respect to those derived from a perfect detector geometry³. This corresponds to a
827 precision of better than $10\mu\text{m}$ in the positioning of the elements of the silicon detectors [30].

828 This chapter outlines the ID alignment procedure, the alignment of the detector during the 2015
829 data taking period, and the steps taken to measure momentum biases in the alignment.

³The so-called *perfect geometry* refers to the description of the ATLAS detector in which every sensor precisely matches its design specifications. The perfect geometry contains no misalignments, and the position of each sensor is known exactly.

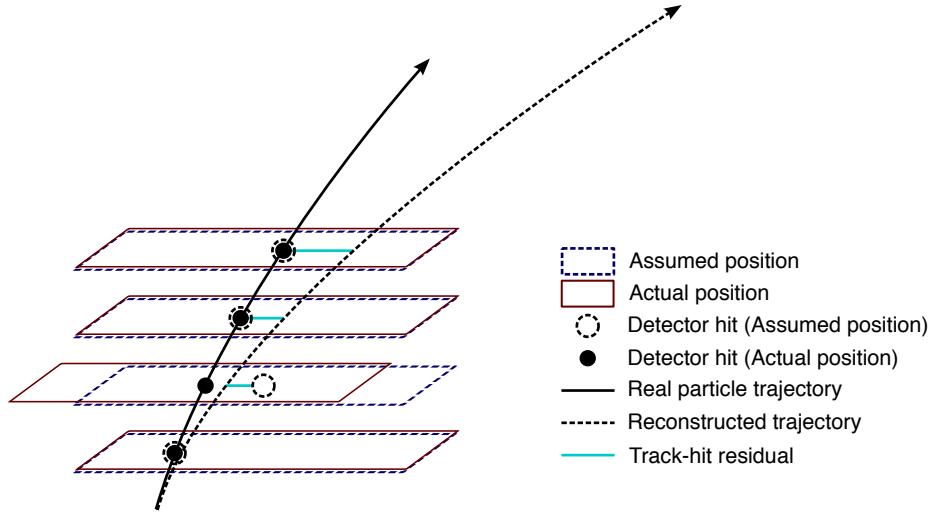


Figure 4.1: Graphical representation of the effect of a misaligned detector element. The reconstructed particle track (dashed arrow) differs from the actual trajectory of the particle (solid arrow) due to the shift in one of the detector elements. The cyan lines represent the track-to-hit residuals.

830 4.1 The alignment method

831 The alignment procedure uses a track-based algorithm that updates the locations of detector ele-
 832 ments in order to minimize the set of track-hit *residuals*. These residuals are defined as the distance
 833 between the fitted track position in a given detector element to the position of the hit recorded by
 834 the same element, and are shown by the cyan lines in Figure 4.1.

835 Tracks in ATLAS are parameterized as five-dimensional vectors [31]:

$$\vec{\tau} = (d_0, z_0, \phi_0, \theta, q/p) \quad (4.1)$$

836 where d_0 and z_0 are the transverse and longitudinal impact parameters with respect to the origin,
 837 ϕ_0 is the azimuthal angle of the track at the point of closest approach to the origin, θ is the polar
 838 angle, and q/p is the charge of the track divided by its momentum. The residual for the i^{th} hit of a
 839 given track can then be written in terms of the track parameters $\vec{\tau}$ and a set of alignment parameters
 840 \vec{a} that describe the hit location [32]:

$$r_i(\vec{\tau}, \vec{a}) = (\vec{m}_i - \vec{e}_i(\vec{\tau}, \vec{a})) \cdot \hat{k} \quad (4.2)$$

841 where \vec{e}_i is the intersection point of the extrapolated track with the sensor, \vec{m}_i is the position of the
 842 associated hit within the sensor, and \hat{k} is the unit vector defining the direction of the measurement
 843 within the sensor. \vec{r} then represents the vector of residuals for the given track.

844 A χ^2 function can be built from the residuals of all collected tracks:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{\text{tracks}} \vec{r}^T V^{-1} \vec{r} \quad (4.3)$$

845 where V is the covariance matrix of the hit measurements. The χ^2 function is then minimized with
 846 respect to the alignment parameters \vec{a} , which contain all degrees of freedom being aligned. The
 847 minimization condition with respect to \vec{a} is:

$$\frac{d\chi^2}{d\vec{a}} = 0 \rightarrow 2 \sum_{\text{tracks}} \left(\frac{d\vec{r}}{d\vec{a}} \right)^T V^{-1} \vec{r} = 0 \quad (4.4)$$

848 This equation can be difficult to solve exactly, so the residual is rewritten as a first order Taylor
 849 expansion:

$$\vec{r} = \vec{r}_0 + \frac{d\vec{r}}{d\vec{a}} \delta\vec{a} \quad (4.5)$$

850 where \vec{r}_0 is dependent on an initial set of track and alignment parameters \vec{r}_0 and \vec{a}_0 , respectively;
 851 the track parameter dependence has also been folded into the total derivative $\frac{d\vec{r}}{d\vec{a}}$. Equation 4.5 can
 852 then be inserted into the minimization condition from Equation 4.4 to give:

$$\left[\sum_{\text{tracks}} \left(\frac{d\vec{r}}{d\vec{a}} \right)^T V^{-1} \left(\frac{d\vec{r}}{d\vec{a}} \right) \right] \delta\vec{a} + \sum_{\text{tracks}} \left(\frac{d\vec{r}}{d\vec{a}} \right)^T V^{-1} \vec{r}_0 = 0 \quad (4.6)$$

853 From this equation, the alignment matrix \mathcal{M}_a and alignment vector $\vec{\nu}_a$ can be defined:

$$\mathcal{M}_a = \sum_{\text{tracks}} \left(\frac{d\vec{r}}{d\vec{a}} \right)^T V^{-1} \left(\frac{d\vec{r}}{d\vec{a}} \right) \quad (4.7)$$

854

$$\vec{\nu}_a = \sum_{\text{tracks}} \left(\frac{d\vec{r}}{d\vec{a}} \right)^T V^{-1} \vec{r}_0 \quad (4.8)$$

855 Finally, the alignment corrections $\delta\vec{a}$ can be solved for by inverting the alignment matrix:

$$\delta\vec{a} = -\mathcal{M}_a^{-1} \vec{\nu}_a \quad (4.9)$$

856 which is a linear system of equations with a number of equations equal to the number of alignment
 857 degrees of freedom [33].

858 Inverting the full matrix and solving the resulting system of equations is referred to as *Global*
 859 χ^2 alignment [32]. This can be useful, as \mathcal{M}_a contains all the correlations between the alignable
 860 structures. However, inverting the matrix is difficult when the number of degrees of freedom becomes
 861 large—as the number of alignable structures increases, so too does the size of the matrix \mathcal{M}_a .
 862 Eventually inverting the matrix becomes too computationally intensive to be practical.

863 This problem is solved by the *Local* χ^2 algorithm [34]. In this case, the alignment matrix is
 864 constructed to be block-diagonal, allowing for it to be inverted even for large numbers of degrees of
 865 freedom. This is achieved by replacing the full derivative in Equation 4.6 with the partial derivative
 866 $\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \vec{a}}$. The new alignment matrix \mathcal{M}'_a and alignment vector $\vec{\nu}'_a$ become:

$$\mathcal{M}_a = \sum_{\text{tracks}} \left(\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \vec{a}} \right)^T V^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \vec{a}} \right) \quad (4.10)$$

$$\vec{\nu}_a = \sum_{\text{tracks}} \left(\frac{\partial \vec{r}}{\partial \vec{a}} \right)^T V^{-1} \vec{r}_0 \quad (4.11)$$

867 Inverting \mathcal{M}'_a is considerably faster and less memory intensive even for large numbers of degrees of
 868 freedom; however, the correlations between the alignable structures is lost.

869 Due to the Taylor expansion used in Equation 4.6, several iterations of the alignment algorithm
 870 may be necessary to converge on a final set of alignment constants. The Local χ^2 alignment typically
 871 requires more iterations due to the loss of the correlation information [35]. In practice, the ATLAS
 872 reconstruction is run over a set of events, and the resulting tracks are fed to the alignment algorithm.
 873 The residuals are calculated, the alignment matrix is built and inverted, and a new set of alignment
 874 constants is obtained. The convergence is checked in two ways:

875 1. Measuring the $\Delta\chi^2$ with respect to the previous iteration. If it is near zero, then the χ^2 is
 876 approaching its minimum.

877 2. Looking at the residual distributions for different alignable structures. A well aligned detector
 878 will have a mean residual of zero with a width approximating the intrinsic resolution of the
 879 detector.

880 If the above checks are satisfied, the process is finished and the final alignment constants are read
 881 out; if not, another iteration is performed. A visual representation of the alignment chain is shown
 882 in Figure 4.2.

883 Since a χ^2 minimization is used to align the detector, if there is a systematic misalignments in
 884 the detector that does not adversely affect the χ^2 , the algorithm will be insensitive to it. These
 885 misalignments are referred to as *weak modes*, and special care is taken to remove them [36]. One
 886 potential impact of weak modes is a bias in the track momentum of reconstructed particles. This
 887 particular effect is the subject of Section 4.4.

888 The detector is aligned both in “real-time” as data is collected and during dedicated offline
 889 alignment campaigns. The real-time alignment is run in ATLAS’s *calibration loop*, which comprises

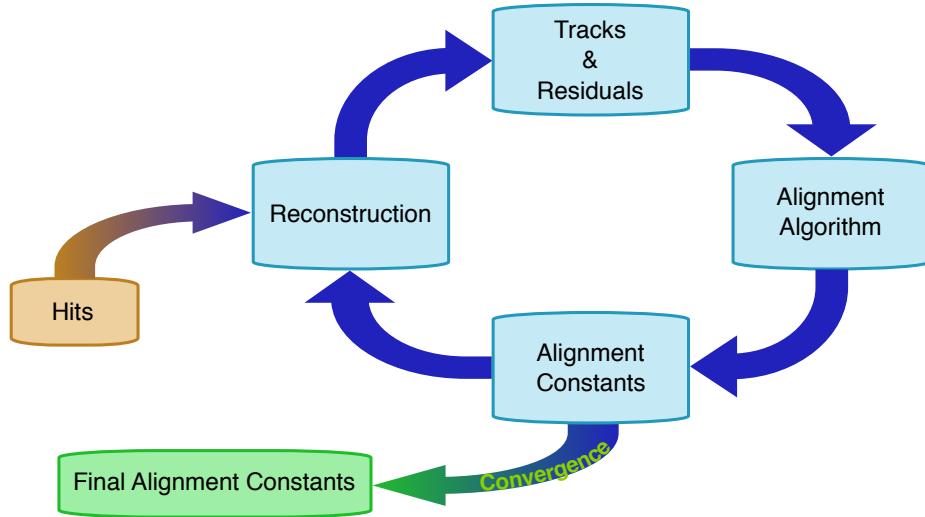


Figure 4.2: Graphical representation of the ID alignment chain.

891 the first stage in the preparation of data for physics analysis. The calibration loop requires the
 892 alignment—as well as various other detector calibrations—to be available within 48 hours for initial
 893 data processing. A fast, coarse-grained alignment⁴ is run on a subset of the available data containing
 894 full tracking information, and the results are propagated to the reconstruction of that particular
 895 run [37]. Due to the time constraints of the calibration loop, a full sensor-by-sensor alignment is not
 896 possible.

897 The more thorough and finely tuned alignments are reserved for the dedicated alignment cam-
 898 paigns. These generally occur early in data taking campaigns, typically once a sufficient amount
 899 of data is collected after a detector shutdown, in order to obtain a good baseline alignment for
 900 use in the remainder of the data collection period. One such alignment campaign, the initial offline
 901 alignment of the ATLAS detector at the beginning of Run 2, is the subject of Section 4.2. Once data
 902 taking is complete, another set of alignment constants is derived for the full set of available data,
 903 and it is typically divided into several “blocks” to account for potential run-by-run misalignments.
 904 The data is then reprocessed using the newly derived detector geometry.

905 4.1.1 Alignment levels

906 The alignment of the detector is performed at several levels of increasing granularity. This adds
 907 flexibility in being able to align only as finely as needed, and it also allows for global, detector-level

⁴The calibration loop runs up to a Level 2 alignment in the silicon detectors, which involves treating each layer of sensors as a single object. The alignment levels are defined in greater detail in Table 4.1.

misalignments to be corrected first before dealing with finer adjustments.

- Level 1 (L1) alignment involves moving entire subdetector components as a single unit, such as the entire Pixel detector, or the SCT barrel. These often have the largest misalignments, but they are easily corrected and do not require large volumes of data to do so.
- Level 2 (L2) alignment treats individual layers in the silicon detectors (modules in the TRT) and end cap disks as individual alignable objects.
- Level 2.7 (L27) alignment was introduced with the addition of the IBL to the ID in Run 2. It involves the stave-by-stave alignment of the IBL and Pixel barrel⁵.
- Level 3 (L3) alignment treats each sensor in the silicon detectors and each straw in the TRT as an individual alignable object. It is the finest grained alignment available but also the most computationally intensive due to the large number of degrees of freedom. The large number of individual detector sensors being aligned also requires the largest amount of statistics.

The different alignment levels are listed in more detail in Table 4.1, including the number of alignable structures and associated degrees of freedom for each detector component.

The implementation of the alignment algorithm in the software is flexible enough to allow each subsystem to be aligned individually at a specified level. Each alignable structure has six degrees of freedom: 3 translations (T_x , T_y , T_z) and 3 rotations (R_x , R_y , R_z)⁶; however individual degrees of freedom may be turned on and off as required. In a typical alignment job, L1 and L2 contain few enough degrees of freedom that the Global χ^2 algorithm can be used, but L3 alignments (which can contain over 36,000 degrees of freedom in the silicon detectors alone) require the Local χ^2 algorithm.

4.1.2 Alignment coordinate systems

The global coordinate system (x , y , z) used by the ID alignment matches that of the ATLAS detector in general. The positions and orientations of individual detector modules of the ID are defined by a right-handed local coordinate system (x' , y' , z') where the origin is defined as the geometrical center of the module. The x' -axis for each silicon module is defined to point along the most sensitive direction of the module, the y' -axis is oriented along the long side of the module, and the z' -axis is

⁵For the purposes of this Chapter, the term “Pixel” will refer to the original three layers of the Pixel detector, and the IBL will be referenced separately.

⁶The TRT is an exception, as the subdetector does not have any resolution along the length of the straw. Therefore, for the barrel, T_z is omitted. Similarly for the straws themselves, only two parameters are defined: translation with respect to the radial direction (T_ϕ) and rotation with respect to the radial axis (R_r for the barrel and R_z for the end-caps) [38].

Level	Description of alignable structure	Structures	DoF
1	IBL detector	1	6
	Whole Pixel detector	1	6
	SCT barrel and 2 end-caps	3	18
	TRT barrel and 2 end-caps (T_z fixed)	3	17
Total:		8	47
2	IBL detector	1	6
	Pixel barrel layers	3	18
	Pixel end-cap disks	2×3	36
	SCT barrel layers	4	24
	SCT end-cap disks	2×9	108
	TRT barrel 32 modules (T_z fixed)	3×32	480
	TRT end-cap wheels	2×40	480
Total:		208	792
2.7	IBL staves	14	84
	Pixel barrel staves	$22+38+52$	672
	Pixel end-cap disks	2×3	18
	Total:		132
3	IBL modules	280	1,680
	Pixel modules	1,744	10,464
	SCT modules	4,088	24,528
	TRT barrel wires (T_ϕ, R_r only)	105,088	210,176
	TRT end-cap wires (T_ϕ, R_Z only)	245,760	491,520
	Total silicon sensors:		6,112
	Total TRT wires:		350,848
Total:		36,672	701,696

Table 4.1: The four alignment levels for each of the detector subsystems. The total number of alignable structures and degrees of freedom (DoF) to be aligned are given for each level.

934 orthogonal to the (x', y') plane. For the TRT straws, the x' -axis is perpendicular to both the wire
 935 and the radial direction, defined from the origin of the global frame to the straw center, the y' -axis
 936 points along the straw, and once again the z' -axis is orthogonal to the (x', y') plane. A depiction of
 937 the global and local coordinate systems for the ID is shown in Figure 4.3.

938 When considering the alignment degrees of freedom listed earlier in Section 4.1.1, grouped collec-
 939 tions of modules, layers, or entire subdetectors use the global coordinate system; individual modules
 940 use their respective local coordinate systems. The translations T_i are with respect to the origin of
 941 the given reference frame, and the rotations R_i are taken about the Cartesian axes.

942 4.2 Early 2015 alignment of the ATLAS detector

943 At the end of Run 1, the LHC was shut down for upgrades and maintenance. During this time,
 944 a number of upgrades were performed on the ATLAS detector, including the installation of a new

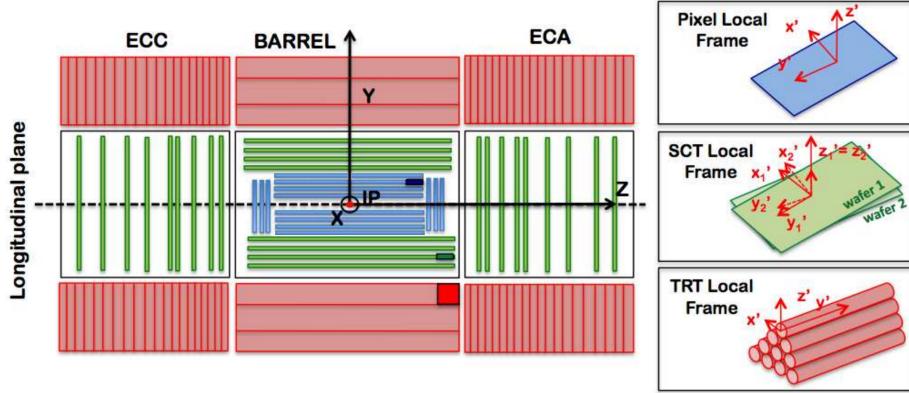


Figure 4.3: A schematic representation of the Inner Detector in the longitudinal plane with the global coordinate system overlaid on top. The Pixel detector and IBL are shown in blue, the SCT in green, and the TRT in red. The local coordinates for each subdetector module are inset on the right. Image taken from [39].

945 innermost layer of the Pixel detector, the Insertable B-Layer (IBL) [40]. TODO: This will certainly
 946 be defined in the detector description, so maybe the citation and abbreviation are not needed These
 947 changes to the ID required some detector components to be removed temporarily, and many elements
 948 shifted relative to each other over the course of the maintenance process. In order to correct for these
 949 large detector movements prior to $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV collision data taking, an alignment was performed
 950 using cosmic ray data collected in early 2015 [39]. This alignment was able to correct for the majority
 951 of the large detector-wide misalignments as well as determine the global position of the IBL at the
 952 micron level.

953 In June of 2015, shortly after the data taking period began, the first track-based alignment of
 954 the refurbished ID was performed using the initial 7.9 pb^{-1} of $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV pp collision data [41].
 955 Starting from the geometry determined by the cosmic ray alignment, referred to hereafter as the
 956 *March alignment*, an improved set of alignment constants (the *June alignment*) was derived from
 957 a data set of approximately 1.4 million selected tracks. For comparison, a MC sample containing
 958 approximately 2.7 million tracks was constructed from dijet events simulated using a perfect detector
 959 geometry; the MC events are reweighted to match the η and p_T distributions found in the data.
 960 Additional validation of the alignment results uses a set of cosmic ray data collected by the detector
 961 during the LHC collisions.

962 **4.2.1 June alignment procedure**

963 The data set used as the input for the alignment contains a subset of physics events used for prompt
964 reconstruction recorded at a rate of 10 Hz. To ensure that only high quality tracks are used for the
965 alignment, each track is required to have transverse momentum $p_T > 3$ GeV, contain at least one
966 hit in the Pixel detector, at least seven hits in the combined silicon detectors, and at least 25 hits
967 in the TRT.

968 A full L3 alignment of the IBL was included in the March alignment; however, a realignment was
969 still necessary. Since cosmic rays used in the March alignment pass through the detector top-down,
970 the staves on the sides of the IBL recorded fewer hits and thus could not be aligned as precisely
971 as those on the top and bottom. Additionally, the IBL was operating at a temperature of -20°C
972 during the cosmic data taking, and it was set to -10°C for collision data taking. This proved to be
973 significant, as it was observed that the IBL staves experience a temperature-dependent, parabolic
974 bowing in the local x' -direction of approximately $-10\mu\text{m}/\text{K}$ [42]. As a result, a full L3 alignment
975 of the IBL was essential in order to correct for the bowing. Due to it being a brand new element of
976 the detector as well as its importance in vertexing and b jet tagging, aligning the IBL sensors with
977 a high degree of precision was one of the main goals of the June alignment.

978 The June alignment was performed in two stages, with the first pass focusing on relative move-
979 ments of the big structures and correcting for the bowing of the IBL. The March alignment corrected
980 for these larger movements as well; however, it was observed during Run 1 that these sort of mis-
981 alignments are introduced by changing conditions in the detector [36], such as in the cooling system
982 or magnet power cycling, which may have occurred between the early cosmic data taking and the
983 first $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV collisions. The silicon detectors were aligned at several different levels and the
984 IBL was aligned at the module level; the TRT detector was kept fixed to act as a global reference
985 frame. The full alignment chain for the first pass consisted of the following steps:

- 986 1. The IBL, Pixel, and SCT detectors were aligned at L1. The SCT barrel was not aligned in
987 T_z in order to constrain global displacements along the z -axis, as the TRT is not sensitive to
988 that degree of freedom.
- 989 2. The IBL, and Pixel barrel and end-caps, and SCT barrel were aligned at L2. The SCT end-caps
990 were aligned at L1.
- 991 3. The IBL and pixel barrel were aligned at L27, using all six degrees of freedom. The Pixel
992 end-cap disks were only aligned in the plane (T_x , T_y , and R_z). The SCT was treated the same

993 as in the previous step.

994 4. The IBL was aligned at L3 using all six degrees of freedom for each module.

995 The primary goal for the second pass was to remove a bias in the transverse impact parameter
 996 d_0 found in the March alignment. In addition to the bias, the resolution of d_0 was also poorer
 997 than expected. In order to correct for this, an additional constraint was passed to the alignment
 998 which added the impact parameter with respect to the beam spot as a pseudo-measurement [43].
 999 With this setup, when the alignment algorithm minimizes the χ^2 , it will take care of the impact
 1000 parameter minimization as well. Only the IBL and Pixel detectors were aligned in the second pass.
 1001 The different alignment stages are listed below, with the beam spot constraint being used in each:

1002 1. The IBL and Pixel detectors were aligned at L2 with the SCT fixed.

1003 2. The IBL was aligned at L27

1004 3. The IBL and Pixel barrel and end-caps were aligned at L3.

1005 The set of alignment constants obtained at the end of the second pass represents the June alignment.

1006 The highest level of alignment each subdetector received over the course of the two passes is listed
 1007 in Table 4.2.

Detector	Highest level of alignment
IBL	L3
Pixel	Barrel
	End-caps
SCT	Barrel
	End-caps
TRT	None

Table 4.2: Summary of the highest level of alignment applied to each ID subsystem when deriving the June alignment.

1008 4.2.2 Alignment results

1009 Alignment quality is primarily assessed by looking at the track-hit residual distributions. If the
 1010 detector is well aligned, the residuals will be Gaussian-distributed with a mean of zero and a width
 1011 approximating the detector's resolution. The residual distributions are constructed from the same
 1012 selection of tracks that were used to perform the alignment, and are the focus of Section 4.2.2.1.
 1013 A second check on the alignment involves observables sensitive to the track parameter resolution.

1014 In this case, cosmic rays are used, making use of a “split track” technique that takes advantage of
 1015 the top-to-bottom cosmic ray trajectory (compared to the center-out trajectory of collision tracks).
 1016 This method and the corresponding tests of the alignment are detailed in Section 4.2.2.2

1017 Additionally, the effect of the beam spot constrained alignment on the impact parameter d_0
 1018 needs to be checked. The d_0 distributions for both the March and June alignments are compared to
 1019 the MC simulation using a perfect geometry in Figure 4.4. In the March alignment, there is a bias
 1020 of $18 \mu\text{m}$ in the mean of the distribution and the width is nearly twice that of the perfect geometry.
 1021 After the second pass of the June alignment, the mean has shifted to $1 \mu\text{m}$ and the distribution has
 1022 narrowed considerably. From this, it appears that the constrained alignment successfully removed
 1023 the d_0 bias.

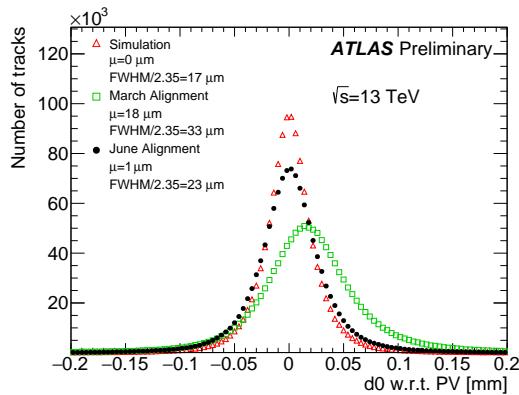


Figure 4.4: The d_0 distributions with respect to the reconstructed primary vertex using the $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.

1024 4.2.2.1 Residual distributions from collisions

1025 As mentioned previously, the primary focus of the June alignment campaign was on the IBL and the
 1026 Pixel detectors. These subdetectors are the closest to the beam line and have the finest resolutions
 1027 within the ID. The residual distributions in local x and y of the IBL planar sensors⁷ are shown in
 1028 Figure 4.5. These and subsequent figures in this section compare the June and March alignments
 1029 to the perfectly-aligned MC simulation. Noticeable improvement in the distribution widths can be

⁷The IBL contains 12 planar sensors in the center of a stave, with four 3D sensors on either end. Only the planar sensors are shown here due to low statistics in the 3D sensors as well as poor MC modeling of these sensors.

seen in both the local x - and y -directions, nearly matching the simulation in local x , which is the most sensitive direction.

Due to the temperature-dependent bowing of the IBL, it is also interesting to look at the means of the residual distributions for each ring of IBL sensors along the beam line, as shown in Figure 4.6. A deformation is clearly visible in the March alignment in both measurement directions, and the shape in the local x -direction is consistent with an average stave bowing due to the different operating temperature of the IBL during the March alignment and the 13 TeV collisions. This feature was nearly eliminated in both directions through the L3 alignment of the IBL sensors.

The local x and y residual distributions for the Pixel detector barrel and end-caps are shown in Figures 4.7 and 4.8. Even though the IBL is not included in the plots of the barrel, some of the noticeable improvement in the more sensitive local x direction is an effect of the improved IBL alignment. Similarly, the relatively broad local y residual distribution in the barrel likely indicates that further refinement of the IBL alignment was needed along that direction. Even so, the June alignment outperforms the March alignment and rivals the simulation in most of the plots.

Similar distributions for the SCT and TRT barrel and end-caps are shown in Figures 4.9 and 4.10, respectively. Much like with the Pixel residuals, there is a reduction in the width of the TRT residuals between the March and June alignments due to the alignment of the other subdetectors improving the quality of the track fit. Even though neither subdetector was aligned at module-level, the residuals indicate that the previous L3 alignment performed in Run 1 did not degrade significantly during the upgrade and maintenance period.

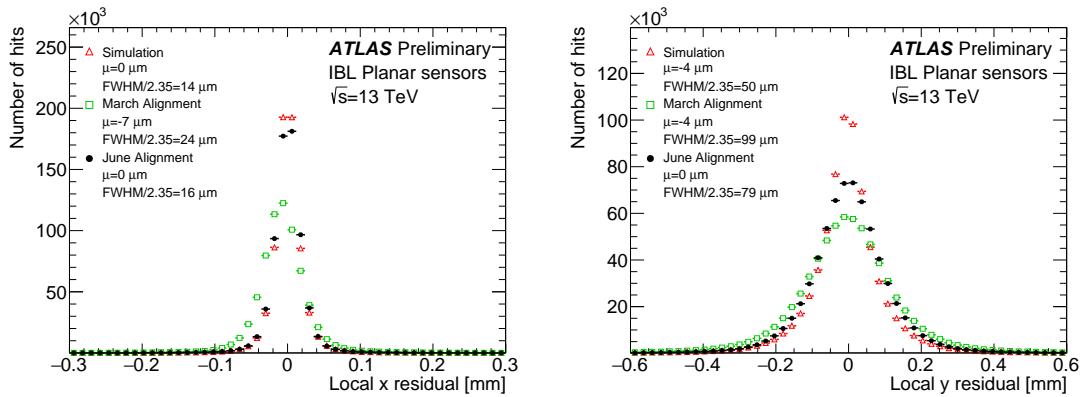


Figure 4.5: Local x (left) and local y (right) residual distributions of the IBL planar sensors using the $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.

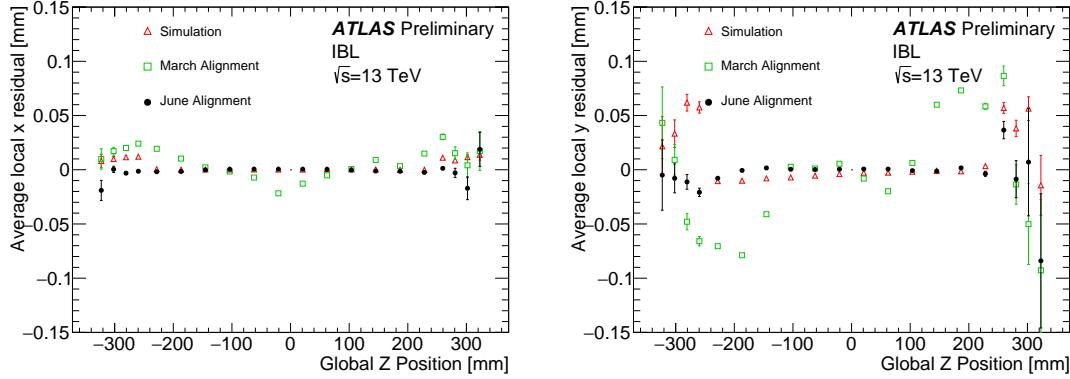


Figure 4.6: The mean of the local x (left) and local y (right) residual distributions as a function of the global z position of each IBL module using the $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red).

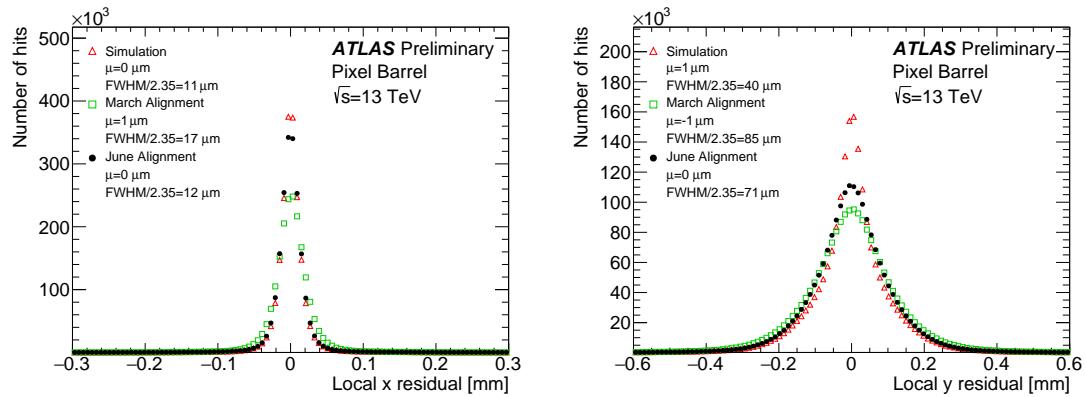


Figure 4.7: Local x (left) and local y (right) residual distributions for the Pixel barrel (excluding the IBL) using the $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.

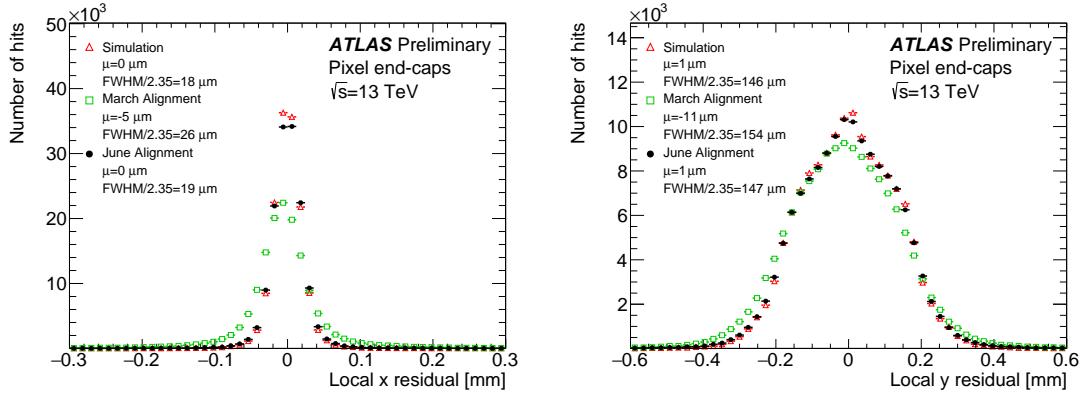


Figure 4.8: Local x (left) and local y (right) residual distributions for the Pixel end-caps using the $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.

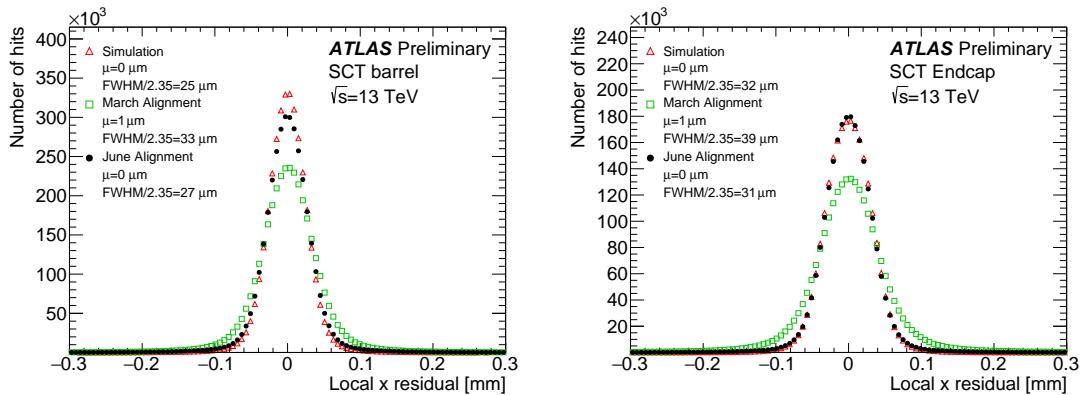


Figure 4.9: Local x residual distributions for the SCT barrel (left) and end-caps (right) using the $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.

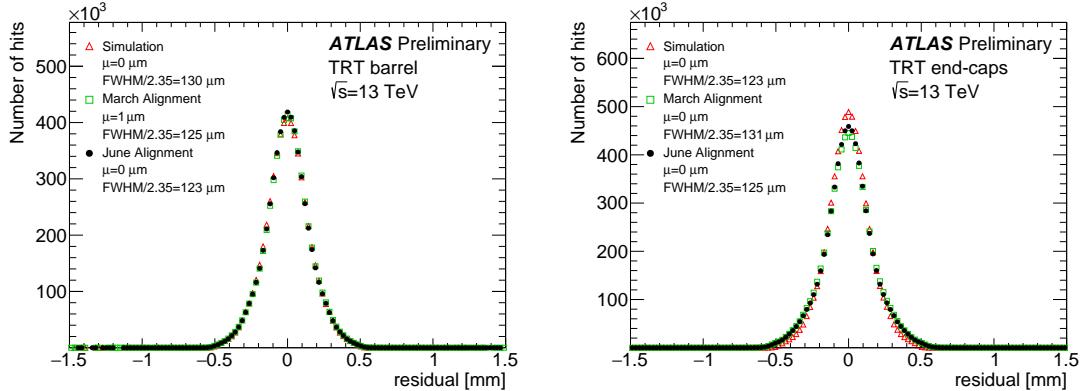


Figure 4.10: Residual distributions for the TRT barrel (left) and end-caps (right) using the $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV collision data sample reconstructed using the June (black) and March (green) alignments. The data is compared to a MC simulation using a perfect detector geometry (red). The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.

1050 4.2.2.2 Track parameter resolution from cosmic rays

1051 Cosmic ray data is very useful as an independent check on the alignment in the barrel of the
 1052 detector. While tracks from $p\bar{p}$ collisions originate within the detector and travel outwards, a cosmic
 1053 ray that passes through the center of the detector leaves a track in both halves of the detector.
 1054 If the cosmic ray is split in half, as in Figure 4.11, then it can be treated as two separate tracks
 1055 each with nearly identical track parameters (some differences arise due to energy loss as the particle
 1056 passes through the detector). The distribution of the difference in a given track parameter $\Delta\tau$ is
 1057 approximately Gaussian with a variance $\sigma^2(\Delta\tau)$. Since both tracks come from the same particle,
 1058 each track individually has a variance equal to $\sigma^2(\Delta\tau)/2$. The resolution of the track parameter is
 1059 then given by the root mean square of the distribution divided by $\sqrt{2}$.

1060 Cosmic rays whose split tracks each had transverse momentum $p_T > 2$ GeV and at least one,
 1061 eight, and 25 hits in the barrels of the Pixel, SCT, and TRT detectors, respectively, were selected to
 1062 measure a collection of track parameters. Figure 4.12 shows the difference in the impact parameter
 1063 Δd_0 and the charge divided by the transverse momentum $\Delta q/p_T$ of the selected split-track cosmic
 1064 rays for both the March and June alignments. Both distributions show a reduction in width in the
 1065 June alignment, corresponding to an improvement in the resolution of each track parameter. The
 1066 Δd_0 plot shows a significant improvement in the June alignment, further validating the removal of
 1067 the bias in the impact parameter.

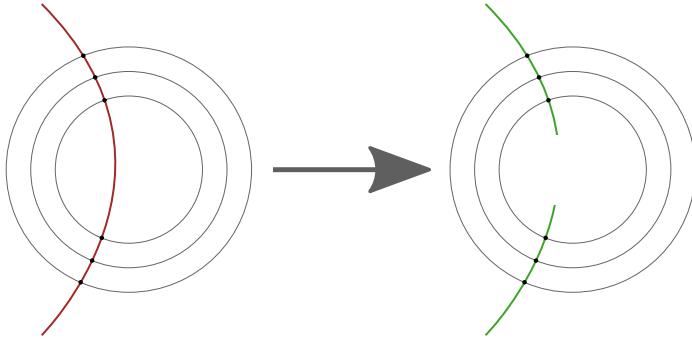


Figure 4.11: Representation of splitting a single cosmic ray track passing through the entire detector (left) into two separate tracks (right).

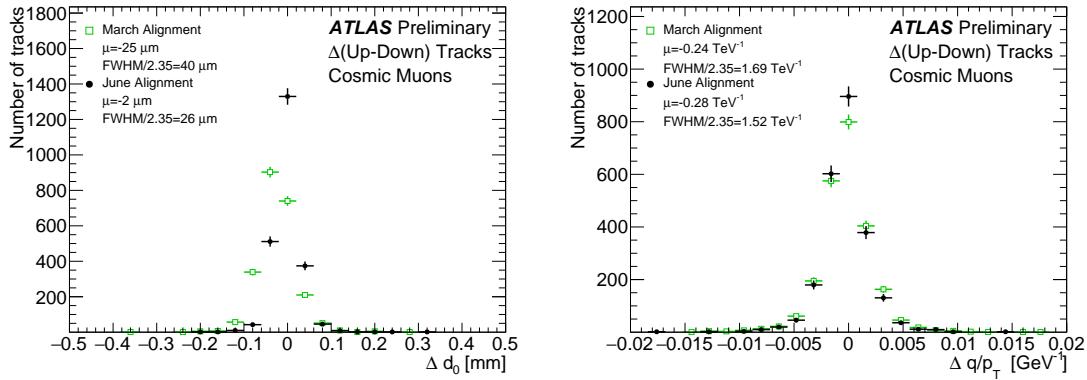


Figure 4.12: Distribution of the difference in the impact parameter Δd_0 (left) and charge over transverse momentum $\Delta q/p_T$ (right) between the two cosmic ray split tracks. The June (black) and March (green) alignments are compared. The distributions are normalized to the same number of entries.

1068 4.2.3 Error scaling

1069 The final step in preparing the new set of June alignment constants deals with the adjustment of
1070 the hit errors, or *error scaling*. Knowledge of the exact position of a hit measurement on a track
1071 is limited by the accuracy with which the sensors' positions are known. Let σ represent the hit
1072 uncertainty used in track fitting, and σ_0 be the detector's intrinsic uncertainty. If $\sigma = \sigma_0$, the pull
1073 of the track-hit residual distributions should form a Gaussian distribution centered at zero with unit
1074 width [33]. In the case of residual misalignment, the pull distributions' standard deviations will
1075 stray from unity. The hit uncertainty can be written as:

$$\sigma = a \cdot \sigma_0 \oplus b \quad (4.12)$$

where a is a scaling factor, and b is a constant term which can be interpreted as a measure of any remaining misalignment of the detector elements. In the June alignment campaign, the value of a was fixed at $a = 1$, and b was evaluated from the residual pull distributions for each subdetector in its sensitive directions.

Once the value of b is determined, pull distributions derived from the new value of σ should have unit width. The error scaling values for each subdetector are listed in Table 4.3, and the pull distributions for the IBL after error scaling are shown in Figure 4.13

Detector	Coordinate	$b(\mu\text{m})$
IBL	x	6.4
	y	43.6
Pixel	x	5.2
	y	28.6
End-caps	x	7.5
	y	0
SCT	Barrel	10.8
	End-caps	8.6
TRT	Barrel	0
	End-caps	0

Table 4.3: Estimated value of the error scaling term b for each subdetector component with the June alignment.

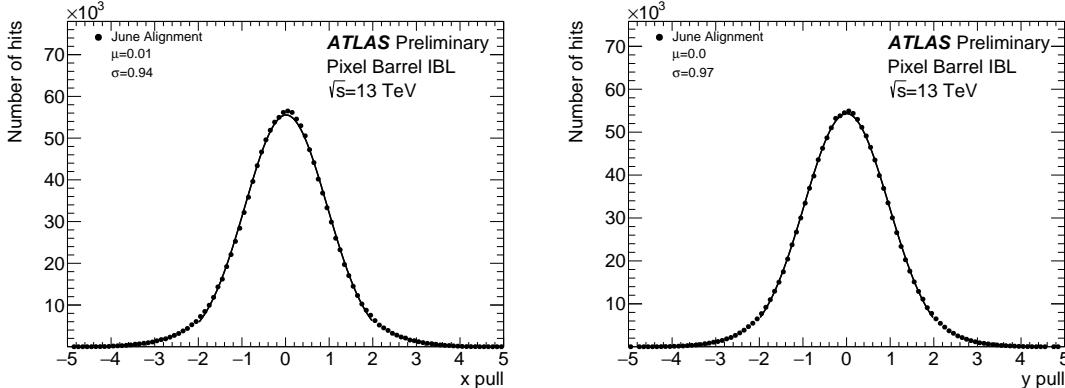


Figure 4.13: Pull distributions in local x (left) and y (right) for the IBL using the $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ collision data sample after applying the error scaling.

1083 **4.3 Level 2 alignment of the TRT**

1084 During validation of the final end-of-year reprocessing of the 2015 data, a misalignment was found in
 1085 the barrel of the TRT detector, as several modules (triangular clusters of straws) showed rotations
 1086 in the local y coordinate. The then-best available constants included a full L3 alignment of the
 1087 silicon detectors and a separate L2 alignment of the TRT. However, not all degrees of freedom were
 1088 enabled when the TRT was aligned. To correct for these tilts, an additional four iterations of L2
 1089 alignment was performed on the TRT enabling all available degrees of freedom (T_x , T_y , R_x , R_y , and
 1090 R_z in the barrel, and T_x , T_y , and R_z for the endcaps). Plots of the residual means from barrel ϕ
 1091 sectors containing modules affected by the tilt misalignment are shown in Figure 4.14 before and
 1092 after the L2 alignment.

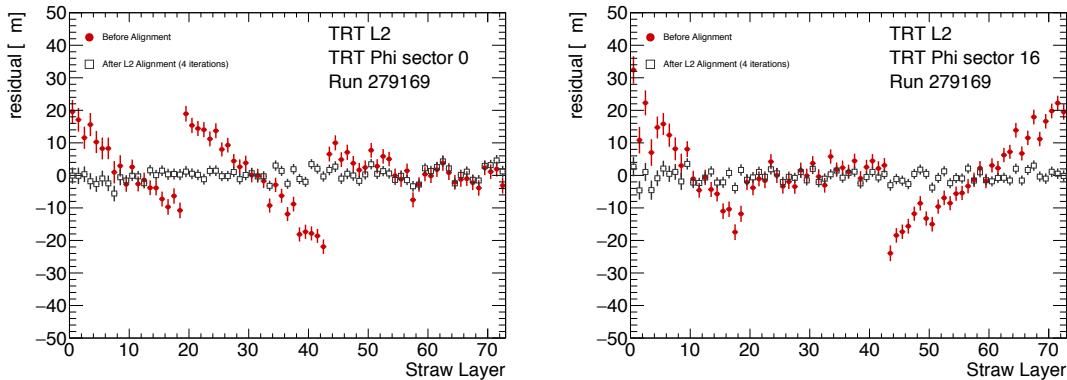


Figure 4.14: Residual means by straw layer in two TRT ϕ -sectors affected by a tilt misalignment. The tilts in each of the three modules are clearly visible in the red points representing the reconstructed data prior to alignment. After four iterations of L2 alignment, the residual means in the gray points are flat.

1093 Following the L2 alignment, some additional time was taken to determine if a full wire-by-wire
 1094 L3 alignment of the TRT was necessary. The TRT was last aligned at L3 during Run 1, but initial
 1095 alignment campaigns in Run 2 did not show signs of misalignment, as can be seen from the residual
 1096 distributions in Figure 4.10. In order to assess the alignment more carefully, two dimensional residual
 1097 maps in ϕ and z were constructed for each layer in the TRT barrel and endcaps using the current
 1098 alignment. These maps were compared to a similar set using the L3 alignment from 2010, from which
 1099 it was determined that the straw-level alignment indeed hadn't degraded and a new L3 alignment
 1100 was not needed. The maps for the first layer of the TRT barrel are shown in Figure 4.15 for both
 1101 sets of alignment constants.

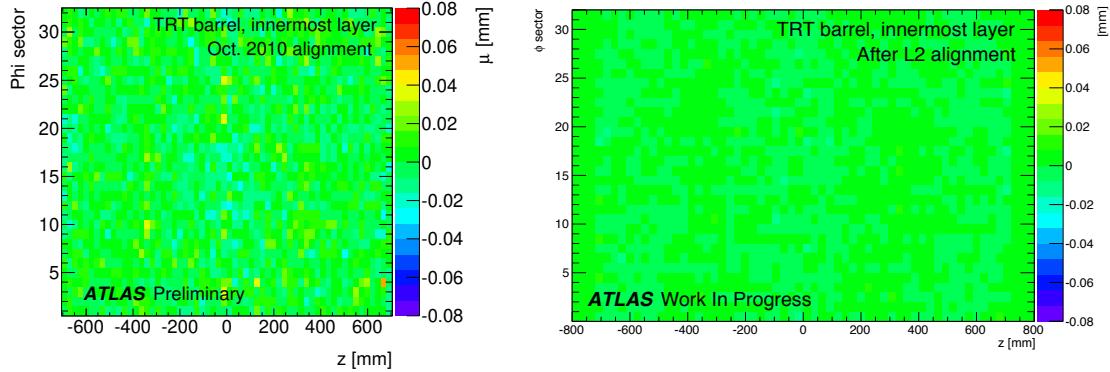


Figure 4.15: Two dimensional map of residuals in the first layer of the TRT barrel vs z and ϕ . Each bin represents the mean of a Gaussian fit to the TRT residuals in that bin. The map on the left is after the L3 (wire-by-wire) alignment of the TRT performed in 2010, and the map on the right is after the L2 alignment at the end of 2015. The z -axis for both plots use the same scale. Left figure taken from [33].

1102 4.4 Momentum bias from sagitta deformations

1103 A variety of weak mode deformations can exist in the detector even after alignment. As mentioned
 1104 previously, these weak modes consist of misalignments which don't affect the χ^2 of the residuals
 1105 and thus are not handled by the basic alignment algorithm. In the presence of a weak mode,
 1106 the description of the detector geometry can still provide efficient and high quality track fits, but
 1107 there may also be systematic biases in one or more track parameters. Several weak modes, their
 1108 impacts on the reconstruction, and the steps taken to eliminate them are detailed in [36, 44]. This
 1109 section focuses specifically on *sagitta* deformations that result in a bias in the reconstructed track
 1110 momentum.

1111 These sagitta distortions consist of detector movements orthogonal to the trajectory of the outgoing
 1112 particle. The effect on the reconstructed track curvature is different for positively and negatively
 1113 charged particles, resulting in a charge-antisymmetric bias. This effect is illustrated in the curl
 1114 deformation shown in Figure 4.16.

1115 In the plane transverse to ATLAS's magnetic field, outgoing particle tracks form circular arcs.
 1116 The sagitta is defined as the distance from the center of this arc to the center of its base, as shown in
 1117 Figure 4.17, and it represents the "amount of bending" in the track. In the case where the sagitta s
 1118 is considerably smaller than the detector radius R_0 , which is a valid assumption when working with

1119 high momentum tracks, the transverse momentum of a particle of charge q can be written as [45]:

$$p_T \propto qB \frac{R_0^2}{8s} \quad (4.13)$$

1120 where B is the strength of the detector's magnetic field. If a sagitta bias is present, the track's
1121 transverse momentum shifts by [44]:

$$q/p_T \rightarrow q/p_T + \delta_s \quad \text{or} \quad p_T \rightarrow p_T \cdot (1 + qp_T\delta_s)^{-1} \quad (4.14)$$

1122 where δ_s is a universal bias parameter that uniquely defines the deformation. Finally, since the
1123 reconstructed polar angle does not change under a sagitta deformation, the longitudinal component
1124 of the momentum scales along with the transverse component, and an equivalent equation can be
1125 written for the total momentum:

$$p \rightarrow p \cdot (1 + qp_T\delta_s)^{-1} \quad (4.15)$$

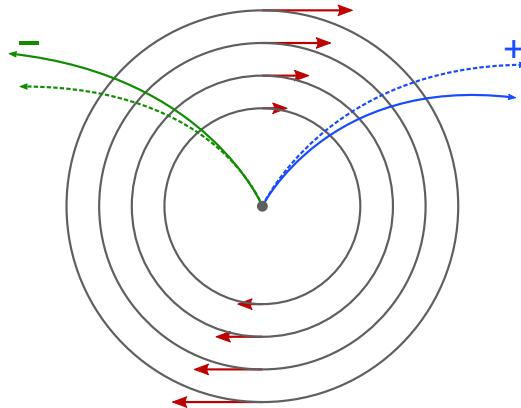


Figure 4.16: Representation of a curl distortion in the detector. The image shows a cutaway in the transverse plane. The deformation is represented by the red arrows, and the impact on the reconstructed positive (blue) and negative (green) tracks are shown. The dashed lines represent the true particle trajectories, and the solid lines represent the reconstructed trajectories.

1126 4.4.1 Sagitta bias monitoring with electron E/p

1127 Since a sagitta bias results in changes in the momentum of particles' tracks as measured by the ID,
1128 they can be identified using independent measurements from other systems in the detector. One
1129 such method involves using the energy-momentum ratio of electrons (E/p). Since the electron's
1130 energy is measured in ATLAS's calorimeter systems, it is not sensitive to any sagitta bias that may
1131 exist in the ID and the corresponding measurement of the track momentum. Under the assumption

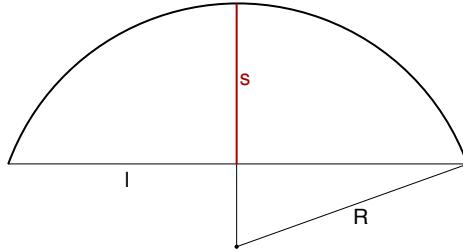


Figure 4.17: Geometric definition of the sagitta s in relation to the length of the chord l and the radius r of a circular arc.

that the calorimeter response is independent of the charge of incoming particles, a charge-dependent momentum bias in the ID will manifest as a difference in the E/p ratio for electrons and positrons.

In the presence of a sagitta bias, the momentum will change according to Equation 4.15 and the average measured $\langle E/p \rangle$ can be written as:

$$\langle E/p \rangle^\pm \rightarrow \langle E/p \rangle^\pm \pm \langle E_T \rangle \delta_s \quad (4.16)$$

where the approximation $p_T \approx E_T$ is used. Assuming that $\langle E/p \rangle^+ = \langle E/p \rangle^-$ in the absence of a bias, the sagitta bias parameter can be written as:

$$\delta_s = \frac{\langle E/p \rangle^+ - \langle E/p \rangle^-}{2\langle E_T \rangle} \quad (4.17)$$

If the kinematic selections for electrons and positrons are identical, the energy scale of the calorimeter will not factor into the $\langle E/p \rangle$ difference; however, it will affect $\langle E_T \rangle$ which would scale the measured δ_s . This is expected to be a small effect, as the energy scale for electrons has been measured at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with uncertainties on the per-mil level across the entire detector [46].

4.4.1.1 Measuring $\langle E/p \rangle$

The E/p ratio is measured using electrons and positrons from $Z \rightarrow e^\pm e^\mp$ events in order to obtain a high purity sample of candidate particles. They are required to pass a basic selection criteria to ensure they are well measured in both the ID and the calorimeters:

• $E_T > 25$ GeV

• $|\eta| < 2.47$, excluding the calorimeter's barrel-to-endcap transition region in $1.37 < |\eta| < 1.52$

• Pass MediumLH identification working point detailed in Section 3.2.4.3

- 1149 ● Pass a selection of quality cuts, including a requirement that the electron be identified using
 1150 cluster information in the calorimeter

 1151 ● The associated track must have at least one hit in the IBL, three in the Pixel detector, and
 1152 five in the SCT detector.

1153 Events with exactly two opposite-charge electrons passing this selection with a dielectron invariant
 1154 mass within 30 GeV of the Z boson mass are then used for the E/p calculation.

1155 Since the size of the sagitta bias δ_s is not expected to be constant across the entire detector,
 1156 a two-dimensional rectangular grid binned in detector η and ϕ is constructed. From the selected
 1157 events, separate distributions of E/p are made for electrons and positrons lying in each bin. Each
 1158 distribution is fit with Crystal Ball function⁸, and the peak of the distribution is taken as the value
 1159 of $\langle E/p \rangle$. If there is no bias on the track momentum in the bin, the peaks for electrons and positrons
 1160 should agree. Example E/p distributions including the Crystal Ball fits are shown in Figure 4.18.

1161 It is important to emphasize that deviations from one in the *ratio* of $\langle E/p \rangle$ for electrons and
 1162 positrons indicates that a momentum bias may be present. The value of $\langle E/p \rangle$ itself is not expected
 1163 to equal one exactly, as the track momentum on average tends to be slightly lower than the energy
 1164 measurement in the calorimeter. This is due to the fact that if the electron were to radiate a photon,
 1165 its momentum would change slightly, while it is likely that both the electron and the emitted photon
 1166 would leave energy deposits near each other in the calorimeter and be reconstructed into the same
 1167 object.

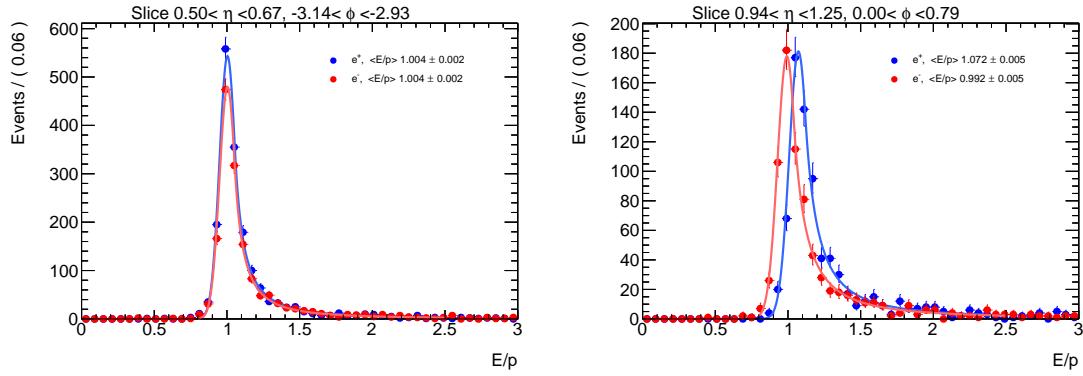


Figure 4.18: E/p distributions of electrons and positrons in two different $\eta\phi$ bins of the detector. The left hand plot is taken from a region with no momentum bias where $\langle E/p \rangle^+ = \langle E/p \rangle^-$, while the right hand plot shows an 8% disagreement in $\langle E/p \rangle$ between electrons and positrons.

⁸The Crystal Ball function is a probability density function consisting of a Gaussian core and a power-law tail.

1168 Once the $\langle E/p \rangle^\pm$ distributions in each $\eta\text{-}\phi$ bin have been extracted from the fits, a two dimensional map of δ_s can be constructed using Equation 4.17. The map gives an overview of sagitta
 1169 biases that may be present in the detector, and can be used by the alignment algorithm to reduce
 1170 the bias in the next iteration. In this case, the tracks fed to the alignment have their momenta
 1171 corrected according to [44]:

$$q/p_{\text{corr}} = q/p_{\text{reco}}(1 - qp_T\delta_s) \quad (4.18)$$

1173 where p_{reco} is the reconstructed momentum of the track. The corrected momentum is then constrained in the alignment.
 1174

1175 4.4.1.2 Results in 13 TeV data

1176 The E/p method has been used to monitor sagitta biases in the detector several times over the
 1177 course of Run 2. During this time, it has primarily served as an independent cross-check to a
 1178 second method using $Z \rightarrow \mu^\pm\mu^\mp$ events [44]. The $Z \rightarrow \mu^\pm\mu^\mp$ method identifies individual track
 1179 momentum biases through shifts in the reconstructed Z mass, which leaves it relatively insensitive
 1180 to global sagitta biases. For this reason, the sagitta bias maps produced using this technique are
 1181 normalized to those from the E/p method before being used to constrain the alignment. The results
 1182 of two implementations of the E/p method are presented here.

1183 1. The first follows the end-of-year reprocessing of the entire ATLAS 2016 data set. Two sets of
 1184 alignment constants are compared: the *prompt* alignment, which was derived shortly after each
 1185 run was recorded, and the *reprocessed* alignment. The maps of the sagitta bias comparing the
 1186 two alignments calculated using the E/p method are shown in Figure 4.19, and the comparison
 1187 of the η projection of each map is shown in Figure 4.20.

1188 2. The second uses the 2017 data after reprocessing, and compares the effects of multiple it-
 1189 erations of the method. In each iteration, the momenta of the electrons and positrons are
 1190 corrected based on Equation 4.15 using the value of δ_s computed in the previous iteration,
 1191 and a new sagitta bias map is calculated. If the method is indeed characterizing the sagitta
 1192 biases correctly, the corrections should converge quickly. The initial sagitta bias map is com-
 1193 pared to the map after two such iterations in Figure 4.21, and the sagitta bias projected along
 1194 η for each iteration is shown in Figure 4.22. Indeed, after just two iterations, δ_s is consistent
 1195 with zero in nearly all bins.

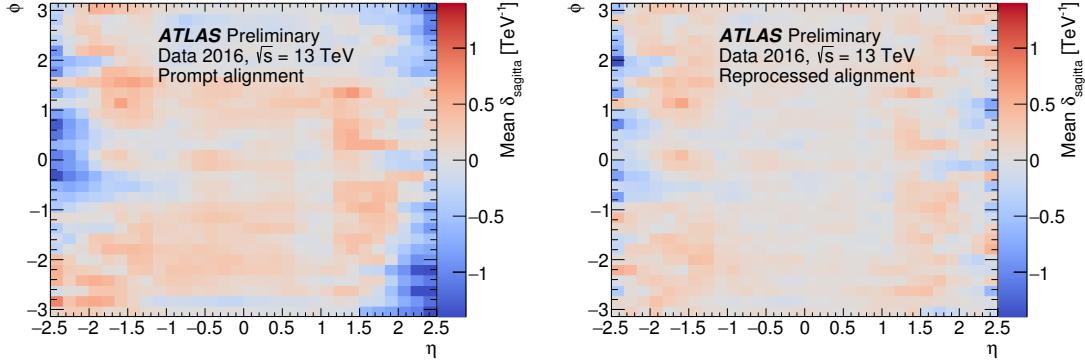


Figure 4.19: Sagitta bias in the $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV data collected by ATLAS in 2016 as a function of η and ϕ for the prompt (left) and reprocessed (right) alignments using the E/p method.

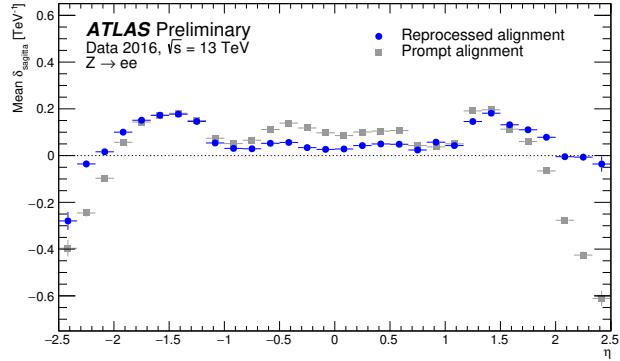


Figure 4.20: Sagitta bias in the $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV data collected by ATLAS in 2016 projected along η for the prompt (gray) and reprocessed (blue) alignments using the E/p method.

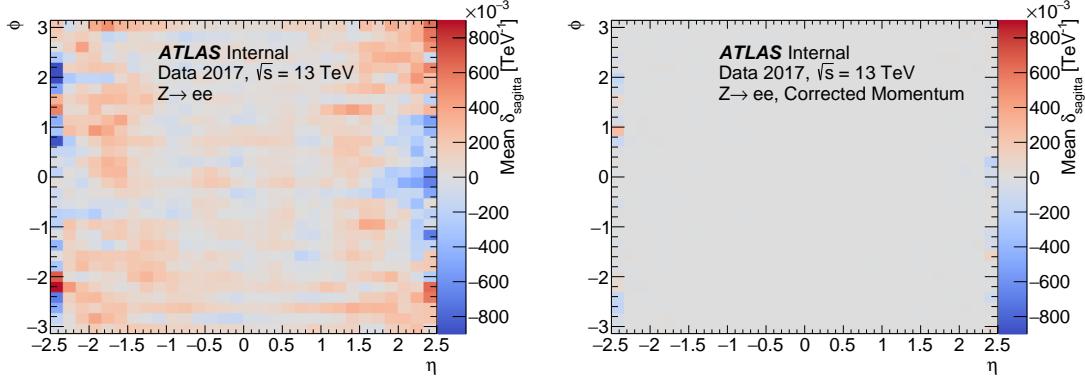


Figure 4.21: Sagitta bias in the $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV data collected by ATLAS in 2017 as a function of η and ϕ in reconstructed electrons (left) and after two iterations of momentum corrections (right) from the E/p method.

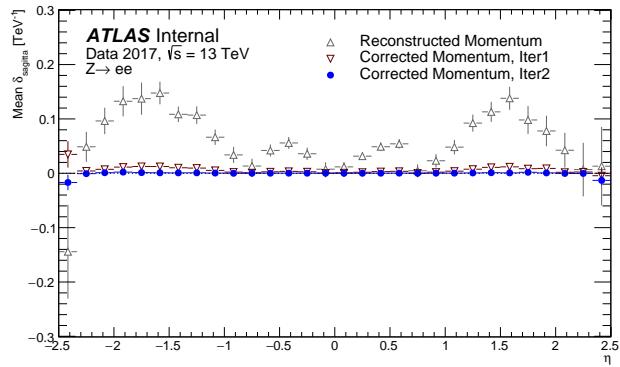


Figure 4.22: Sagitta bias in the $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ data collected by ATLAS in 2017 projected along η in reconstructed electrons (gray) and after one (red) and two (blue) iterations of momentum corrections from the E/p method.

CHAPTER 5

Measurement of same-sign WW production at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with ATLAS

1199 Production of same-sign W boson pairs is a particularly interesting SM process. When produced
 1200 via vector boson scattering (VBS), $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ is sensitive to the electroweak symmetry breaking
 1201 (EWSB) mechanism as well as potential Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) physics processes.
 1202 $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events can be produced via electroweak-mediated (EWK) diagrams, of which VBS is a
 1203 subset, or QCD-mediated diagrams. The biggest advantage of same-sign $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ over other VBS
 1204 processes lies in its ratio of electroweak (EWK) to QCD production cross sections. Despite the
 1205 opposite-sign $W^\pm W^\mp$ having a larger total cross section, its EWK-mediated diagrams are much
 1206 smaller than its QCD-mediated diagrams, while for same-sign $W^\pm W^\pm$ the EWK production is
 1207 considerably larger. This makes $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ one of the premier channels for studying VBS at the
 1208 LHC.

1209 The first evidence of electroweak (EWK) $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ production was seen by the ATLAS and CMS
 1210 experiments at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV with excesses of 3.6σ [47] and 2.0σ [48] over backgrounds, respectively.
 1211 More recently, ATLAS and CMS have both observed the EWK process at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV with
 1212 significances of 6.9σ [49] and 5.5σ [50], respectively. The ATLAS $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV observation and
 1213 cross section measurement of EWK-produced $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ is presented in this chapter [49, 51].

1214 5.0.1 Experimental overview of vector boson scattering

1215 VBS processes are very important to understand due to their sensitivity to the EWSB mechanism.
 1216 As explained in Section 2.3, in the absence of a light SM Higgs boson, the scattering amplitude of
 1217 longitudinally polarized vector bosons grows with center-of-mass energy. However, once the Higgs

1218 is introduced, the divergences cancel and the cross section no longer grows unbounded.

1219 With the discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012 [16, 17], the EWSB mechanism can now be directly
 1220 studied. Due to the potential exchange of a Higgs boson in the VBS diagrams ($W^\pm W^\pm jj$ itself does
 1221 not contain an s -channel Higgs exchange), VBS processes are directly sensitive to properties of the
 1222 Higgs. For example, the high-mass tail in the VV scattering system allows an approximation of the
 1223 effective coupling strength of the Higgs to vector bosons that is independent of any assumptions
 1224 on the Higgs width [52]. Additionally, the center of mass energy dependence of the VV scattering
 1225 can reveal whether the Higgs boson unitarizes the longitudinal scattering amplitude fully or only
 1226 partially [53].

1227 VBS events are characterized by two quarks from the colliding protons each radiating a vector
 1228 boson which then scatter and decay in the detector. The incoming quarks carry a large amount of
 1229 momentum and only deflect a small amount upon emitting the vector boson; as a result, they often
 1230 enter the calorimeters very close to the beam line. Ignoring the decay products of the scattered
 1231 bosons for now, these VBS events result in a final state of two vector bosons (V) and two jets (j)
 1232 at high pseudorapidities (called *forward jets* or *tag jets*) from the outgoing quarks. The shorthand
 1233 $VVjj$ is used to represent this final state.

1234 $VVjj$ events can be produced via two different physical processes. The first involves purely
 1235 electroweak interactions in the tree-level diagrams, of order $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{EWK}}) = 6$ in the electroweak coupling
 1236 constant, and will be referred to as *EWK production*. This can be further broken down into VBS
 1237 and non-VBS events. In the VBS EWK production, the scattering occurs via triple or quartic gauge
 1238 couplings, as well as the exchange of a Higgs boson. The non-VBS EWK production contains the
 1239 same final state of two vector bosons and two outgoing quarks, but the bosons do not scatter. Due to
 1240 gauge invariance, it is not possible to separate the VBS from the non-VBS productions [54]; therefore,
 1241 both are included in the signal generation and are indistinguishable from one another. The second
 1242 process involves a mix of the EWK and strong interactions, of order $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s) = 2 \otimes \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{EWK}}) = 4$, and
 1243 will be referred to as *QCD production*. The tree-level Feynman diagrams for VBS EWK, non-VBS
 1244 EWK, and QCD $VVjj$ production are found in Figures 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3, respectively.

1245 5.0.2 Same-sign $W^\pm W^\pm$ scattering

1246 Same-sign $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ scattering is considered to be one of the best channels for studying VBS at the
 1247 LHC due to its favorable ratio of EWK to QCD production [52]. Since the VBS diagrams (which are
 1248 a subset of the total EWK production) are the primary source of interest for an analysis, the QCD

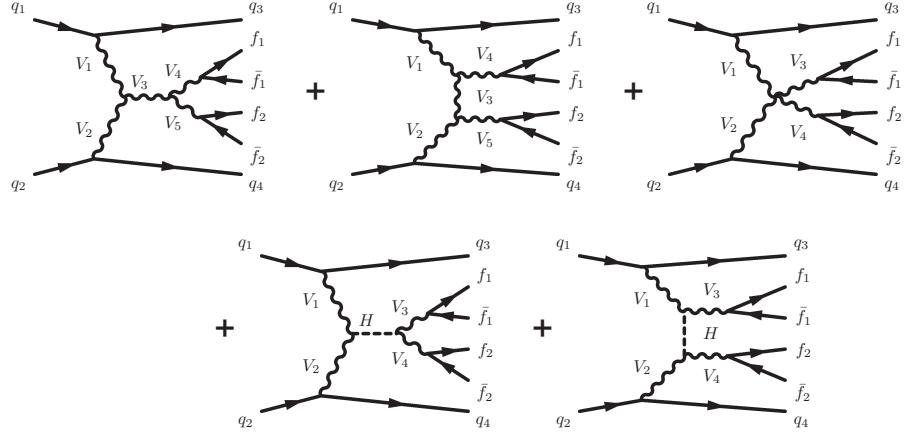


Figure 5.1: Tree-level Feynman diagrams for VBS EWK $VVjj$ production including triple gauge couplings involving W and/or Z bosons (top left and top middle), quartic gauge coupling (top right), or the exchange of a Higgs boson (s -channel bottom left and t -channel bottom right). The labels are quarks (q), fermions (f), and gauge bosons ($V = W, Z$).

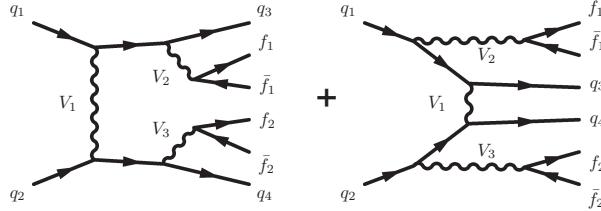


Figure 5.2: Tree-level Feynman diagrams for non-VBS EWK $VVjj$ production. The labels are quarks (q), fermions (f), and gauge bosons ($V = W, Z$).

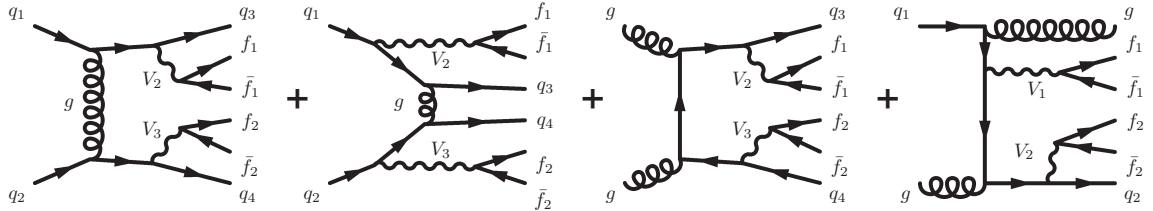


Figure 5.3: Tree-level Feynman diagrams for QCD $VVjj$ production. The labels are quarks (q), fermions (f), and gauge bosons ($V = W, Z$).

1249 production would be considered a background in an analysis. Therefore a higher EWK-to-QCD
 1250 ratio results in increased sensitivity to VBS. EWK and QCD cross sections at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV for
 1251 six leptonic $VVjj$ final states were calculated using the **SHERPA** MC generator in a VBS-enriched
 1252 fiducial phase space in [55]. Despite its relatively low total cross section compared to some other
 1253 $VVjj$ processes, the EWK-to-QCD ratio for $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ is 10-20 times higher than for other processes
 1254 after applying VBS-enhancing selection criteria.

Final state	Process	σ_{EWK} [fb]	σ_{QCD} [fb]	$\sigma_{\text{EWK}}/\sigma_{\text{QCD}}$
$l^\pm l^\mp l^\pm l^\mp jj$	ZZ	0.098	0.100	0.98
$l^\pm l^\pm l^\mp \nu jj$	$W^\pm Z$	2.34	4.38	0.53
$l^\pm l^\mp \nu \nu jj$	$W^\pm W^\mp, ZZ$	12.3	21.8	0.56
$l^\pm l^\pm \nu \nu jj$	$W^\pm W^\pm$	3.97	0.346	11.47
$l^\pm \nu \nu \nu jj$	$W^\pm Z$	7.64	15.5	0.49
$\nu \nu \nu \nu jj$	ZZ	1.68	1.38	1.22

Table 5.1: Predicted cross sections for EQK and QCD production of diboson processes relevant to VBS at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV using the **SHERPA** MC generator. The numbers for the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ process are bolded. Leptons are required to have $p_T \geq 25$ GeV and lie within $|\eta| \leq 2.5$ with $m_l > 20$ GeV, and at least two jets are required with $p_T \geq 30$ GeV and $|\eta| < 4.5$. The VBS contributions are enhanced by requiring the dijet invariant mass $m_{jj} > 500$ GeV and dijet separation $\Delta y_{jj} > 2.4$. Numbers taken from [55].

1255 This analysis studies $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ scattering where both W bosons decay leptonically to $e\nu$ or $\mu\nu$ ⁹.
 1256 The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ VBS final state consists of two leptons with the same electric charge, two neutrinos,
 1257 and two high energy forward jets with a large invariant mass. Tree-level Feynman diagrams of VBS
 1258 $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ production can be found in Figure 5.4 and a visual representation of the VBS topology
 1259 can be found in Figure 5.5.

1260 The two tag jets in the characteristic VBS signature also serve as a powerful tool to suppress
 1261 the QCD production mode. In EWK events, the two jets tend to have much higher separation and
 1262 a larger combined invariant mass than the two leading jets in a QCD event. The two plots shown
 1263 in Figure 5.6 highlight the differences in these dijet quantities between the two production modes.
 1264 Finally, an ATLAS event display of a real $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ candidate event is shown in Figure 5.7.

1265 5.0.3 Overview of backgrounds

1266 In addition to QCD production of $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events, there are several other processes with a final
 1267 state of two same-sign leptons, two neutrinos, and two jets. However, due to the ± 2 final state charge,

⁹Throughout the rest of this chapter, unless stated otherwise, l denotes either electrons (e) or muons (μ), and ν denotes a neutrino. Additionally, e , μ , and ν with no charge or anti-particle designation refer interchangeably to either the particle or anti-particle.

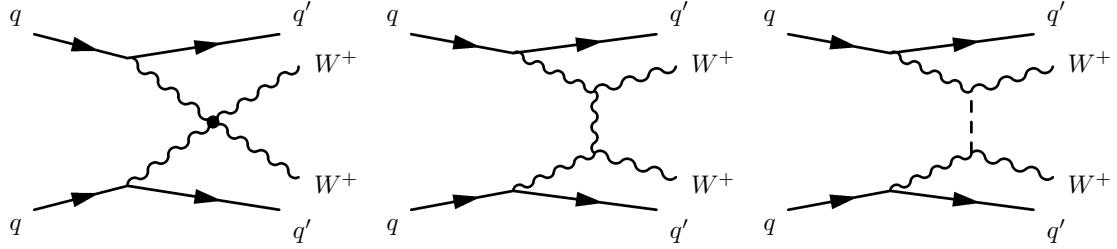


Figure 5.4: Leading order Feynman diagrams for VBS EWK production of $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events. The leftmost diagram contains a quartic gauge coupling vertex, and the rightmost diagram contains an exchange of a Higgs boson.

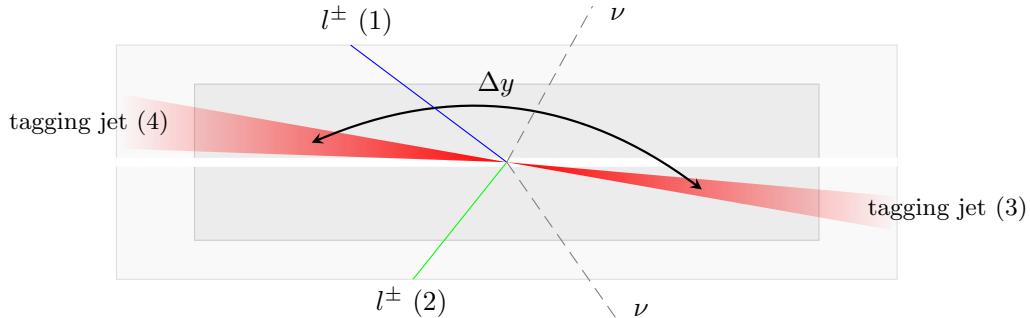


Figure 5.5: $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ VBS event topology containing two leptons (1 and 2) with the same electric charge, two neutrinos, and two forward tagging jets (3 and 4) with large rapidity separation Δy .

1268 there is a considerable reduction in SM backgrounds (such as Z boson events) when compared to
 1269 an analysis like opposite-sign $W^\pm W^\mp jj$.

1270 One of the largest sources of background involves processes with prompt leptons¹⁰. These are
 1271 events that contain two leptons with the same electric charge and one or more additional leptons that
 1272 are “lost”, either by failing the selection criteria or falling outside of the detector’s acceptance. The
 1273 number of processes that can contribute is limited by the requirement of same-sign leptons, and as a
 1274 result this background is dominated by multi-boson processes, with the largest contribution coming
 1275 from WZ events and smaller contributions from ZZ and $t\bar{t} + V$ events. Triboson events where one
 1276 boson decays hadronically also contribute to this background; however, the jets are generally softer
 1277 and more central than in a typical VBS event, and the cuts applied on the forward jets suppress
 1278 these contributions.

¹⁰Prompt leptons are those that are produced in the primary collision and are a direct decay product of the process of interest. Non-prompt leptons originate from some secondary process, such as a b -hadron decay, or are jets that get mis-reconstructed as a lepton.

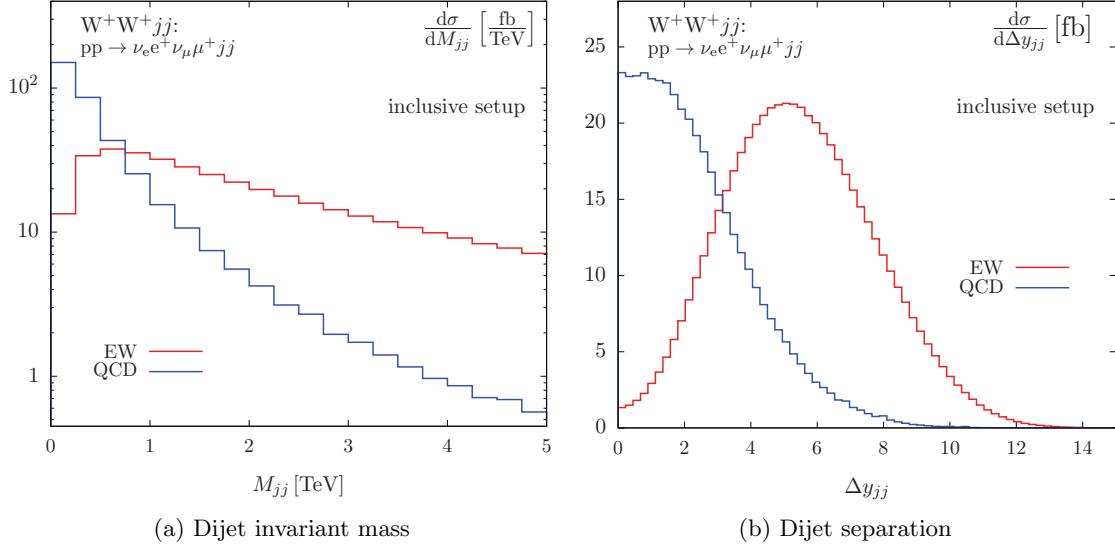


Figure 5.6: Generator level comparisons at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV of dijet invariant mass (M_{jj} , left) and dijet rapidity (Δy_{jj} , right) in EWK (red) and QCD (blue) $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events with no selection cuts applied. Plots taken from [56].

1279 The other dominant background comes from non-prompt, or “fake”, leptons. Here one or more
 1280 leptons originate from the decay of another particle unrelated to the signal process, such as a heavy-
 1281 flavor decay or photon conversion, or come from a jet that is misidentified as a lepton. This back-
 1282 ground is mostly made up of events from $t\bar{t}$ and $W+jets$ processes, with a much smaller contribution
 1283 from conversions in $V\gamma$ events.

1284 Finally, opposite-sign lepton pairs can enter the signal region if one of the leptons is reconstructed
 1285 with the wrong charge (called *charge misidentification*¹¹). In practice, this only affects events with
 1286 electrons, as the charge misidentification rate for muons is negligible [57]. This is a major background
 1287 in events with two electrons, but it is a much smaller contribution for events with one electron and
 1288 one muon.

1289 5.1 Data and Monte Carlo samples

1290 This analysis uses 36.1 fb^{-1} of $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV proton-proton collisions recorded by ATLAS during
 1291 the 2015 and 2016 data taking periods. The uncertainty in the combined integrated luminosity is
 1292 2.1%. It is derived following a methodology similar to that detailed in [58] and using the LUCID-2

¹¹Charge misidentification is also referred to interchangeably as *charge mis-ID* and *charge flip*.

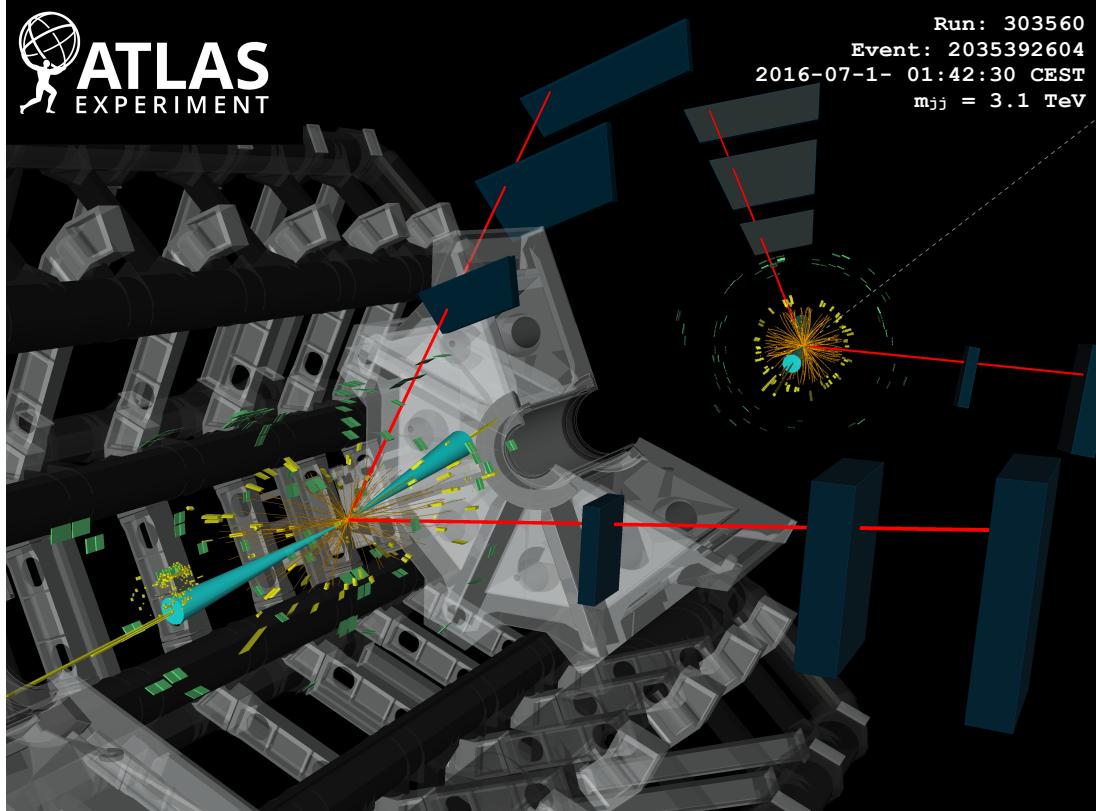


Figure 5.7: ATLAS event display of a $pp \rightarrow W^+W^+ \rightarrow \mu^+\nu_\mu\mu^+\nu_\mu jj$ event. The muons are represented by the red lines travelling from the ID through the MS, and the forward jets are represented by the blue cones with yellow energy deposits in the calorimeters. The direction of the E_T^{miss} in the transverse plane is indicated by the gray dashed line in the inset image. Event display taken from [49].

1293 detector for the baseline luminosity measurements [59] from calibration of the luminosity scale using
 1294 x - y beam-separation scans.

1295 5.1.1 Monte Carlo samples

1296 A number of Monte Carlo (MC) simulations are employed to model signal and background processes.
 1297 In order to model the real collision data as closely as possible, each MC sample has been passed
 1298 through a full simulation of the ATLAS detector in GEANT4 [60, 61], and events have been recon-
 1299 structed using the same algorithms as the data. The simulation reproduces as closely as possible
 1300 the momentum resolutions and calorimeter responses of the detector, and also includes the effects
 1301 of pileup by including soft QCD interactions using PYTHIA v8.1 [62]. The MC samples used in this

Process	Generator	Comments
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (EWK)	SHERPA v2.2.2	Signal sample
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (EWK)	POWHEG-BOX v2	Systematics sample
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (QCD)	SHERPA v2.2.2	
Diboson	SHERPA v2.2.2	Both bosons decay leptonically ($llll$, $ll\nu\nu$, $l\nu\nu\nu$)
	SHERPA v2.2.1	One boson decays leptonically, the other hadronically
Triboson	SHERPA v2.1.1	
$W+jets$	SHERPA v2.2.1	
$Z+jets$	Madgraph5_aMC@NLO	
$V\gamma$	SHERPA v2.1.1	
$V\gamma jj$ (EWK)	SHERPA v2.2.4	
$t\bar{t}V$	Madgraph5_aMC@NLO	
$t\bar{t}$	POWHEG-BOX v2	
Single top	POWHEG-BOX v1	EWK t -, s -, & Wt -channels

Table 5.2: Summary of MC samples used in the analysis.

analysis are detailed in this section and summarized in Table 5.2.

The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ samples are modeled using SHERPA v2.2.2 [63, 64, 65] with the NNPDF3.0 PDF set [66]. The EWK signal samples were generated by fixing the electroweak coupling constant to $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_W) = 6$, and a QCD background sample was also generated with $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_W) = 4$. SHERPA includes up to one parton at next-to-leading order (NLO) and up to three at leading order (LO) in the strong coupling constant α_s . A second $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK sample was generated using POWHEG-BOX v2 [67] with the NNPDF3.0 PDF set and at NLO accuracy. This sample is only used for systematic studies, as POWHEG-BOX does not include resonant triboson contributions in its matrix element, which are non-negligible at NLO [68].

Diboson processes (VV where $V = W, Z$) are simulated with SHERPA v2.2.2 for mixed hadronic and leptonic decays and SHERPA v2.2.1 for fully leptonic decays of the bosons. Similarly, triboson (VVV) and $V\gamma$ processes are simulated using SHERPA v2.1.1 with up to one parton at NLO and up to three at LO. $W+jets$ processes are simulated with SHERPA v2.2.1 with up to two partons at NLO and four at LO. All the above SHERPA samples use the NNPDF3.0 PDF set and SHERPA's own parton showering. The $Z+jets$ events are generated with Madgraph5_aMC@NLO [69] at LO and interfaced with PYTHIA v8.1 for parton showering.

$t\bar{t}$ events are generated using POWHEG-BOX v2 with the CT10 PDF set [70]. $t\bar{t}V$ samples are generated at NLO with Madgraph5_aMC@NLO and the NNPDF3.0 PDF set interfaced with PYTHIA v8 for parton showering. Finally, single top events are generated with POWHEG-BOX v1 and the CT10f4 PDF set interfaced with PYTHIA v6 [71] for parton showering.

1322 5.2 Object and event selection

1323 This section details the selection criteria for objects used in the analysis as well as the selection for
 1324 signal events.

1325 5.2.1 Object selection

1326 Muons, electrons, and jets all must pass strict selection requirements to ensure that only high quality,
 1327 well measured objects are used. For leptons, a baseline selection is defined (called the *preselection*),
 1328 which all leptons must pass in order to be considered for the analysis. This preselection is an
 1329 intentionally loose set of criteria designed to have high acceptance in order to reject backgrounds
 1330 with additional leptons (i.e. $WZ \rightarrow 3l\nu jj$). Signal leptons are then required to satisfy a much
 1331 tighter *signal selection* aimed at suppressing backgrounds from non-prompt or fake leptons. A third
 1332 set of lepton selection criteria, the *loose selection*, defines a sample enriched in non-prompt leptons,
 1333 and it is used in the fake-factor method for estimating the non-prompt background, discussed in
 1334 detail in Section 5.3.4. Jets are only required to pass one set of selection criteria. These selections
 1335 are detailed in the following sections and summarized in Table 5.3 for muons, Table 5.4 for electrons,
 1336 and Table 5.5 for jets.

1337 5.2.1.1 Muon candidate selection

1338 Cuts on muon p_T serve to reject low momentum leptons from background processes and additional
 1339 collisions from pileup events. Preselected muons must have transverse momentum $p_T > 6$ GeV, and
 1340 the signal muons must pass $p_T > 27$ GeV. The p_T requirement for loose muons is lower than for
 1341 signal muons, at $p_T > 15$ GeV, for reasons that are discussed in Section 5.3.4.3. Muons are required
 1342 to fall within the detector's η acceptance: $|\eta| < 2.7$ for preselected muons, which is tightened to
 1343 $|\eta| < 2.5$ for the signal muons.

1344 Cuts on the transverse and longitudinal impact parameters are applied to ensure that the can-
 1345 didate muon originated from the primary particle interaction and not some other source, such as a
 1346 heavy flavor decay. The preselection and the loose selection both have relaxed requirements on the
 1347 transverse impact parameter significance (d_0/σ_{d_0}) than the signal selection; all three have the same
 1348 requirement on the transverse impact parameter ($|z_0 \times \sin \theta|$).

1349 Finally, the muon candidates are required to pass a particle identification and an isolation criteria
 1350 as defined in [72]. The methods used in constructing the identification and isolation working points
 1351 are described in more detail in Section 3.2.4.2. The muon identification serves to select prompt

1352 muons with high efficiency and well measured momenta. This analysis uses two different working
 1353 points: **Loose** for preselected muons and **Medium** for loose and signal muons, where **Medium** muons
 1354 are a tighter subset of those that pass the **Loose** requirement. Muon isolation is a measurement
 1355 of detector activity around the muon candidate, and it is measured with both track-based and
 1356 calorimeter-based variables. The isolation working point used for the signal muons, **Gradient**, is
 1357 defined such that there is 90% or better background rejection efficiency for 25 GeV muons, and 99%
 1358 efficiency at 60 GeV. There is no minimum isolation requirement for preselected or loose muons.
 1359 Loose muons are additionally required to fail one or both of the signal transverse impact parameter
 1360 cut and signal isolation requirement.

Muon preselection	
Momentum cut	$p_T > 6$ GeV
Angular acceptance	$ \eta < 2.7$
Longitudinal impact parameter	$ z_0 \times \sin \theta < 0.5$ mm
Transverse impact parameter	$d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 10$
Particle identification	Loose

Muon signal selection	
Momentum cut	$p_T > 27$ GeV
Angular acceptance	$ \eta < 2.5$
Longitudinal impact parameter	$ z_0 \times \sin \theta < 0.5$ mm
Transverse impact parameter	$d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 3$
Particle identification	Medium
Particle isolation	Gradient

Muon loose selection	
Momentum cut	$p_T > 15$ GeV
Angular acceptance	$ \eta < 2.5$
Longitudinal impact parameter	$ z_0 \times \sin \theta < 0.5$ mm
Transverse impact parameter	$d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 10$
Particle identification	Medium
Fail signal transverse impact parameter and/or isolation cuts	

Table 5.3: Muon selection criteria. All muons are required to pass the preselection (top), and then either the signal (middle) or loose (bottom) criteria is applied to the preselected electrons.

1361 5.2.1.2 Electron candidate selection

1362 The electron candidate selections are very similar to those for muons. The p_T cut starts at $p_T >$
 1363 6 GeV for the preselection, increases to $p_T > 20$ GeV for loose electrons, and finally to $p_T > 27$ GeV

for signal electrons. The $|\eta|$ cut for electrons requires $|\eta| < 2.47$ for all electrons, with the region $1.37 \leq |\eta| \leq 1.52$ removed from loose and signal electrons. This is where the electromagnetic calorimeter transitions from the barrel to the endcaps and is not fully instrumented. Both the transverse and longitudinal impact parameter cuts are the same for all electron selections.

The electron particle identification uses a multivariate likelihood technique (LH) [73] detailed in Section 3.2.4.3. Preselected electrons must pass the `LooseLH` working point with an additional requirement that there be a reconstructed track hit in the first layer of the pixel detector (a so-called B -layer hit). The LH requirement for the loose and signal electrons increases in tightness using `MediumLH` and `TightLH` electrons, respectively. As for isolation, the `Gradient` working point is required for signal electrons only. The loose electrons must fail one or both of the signal identification and isolation requirements.

Electron preselection	
Momentum cut	$p_T > 6$ GeV
Angular acceptance	$ \eta < 2.47$
Longitudinal impact parameter	$ z_0 \times \sin \theta < 0.5$ mm
Transverse impact parameter	$d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 5$
Particle identification	<code>LooseLH</code> + B -layer hit

Electron signal selection	
Momentum cut	$p_T > 27$ GeV
Angular acceptance	$ \eta < 2.47$, excluding $1.37 \leq \eta \leq 1.52$
Longitudinal impact parameter	$ z_0 \times \sin \theta < 0.5$ mm
Transverse impact parameter	$d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 5$
Particle identification	<code>TightLH</code>
Particle isolation	<code>Gradient</code>

Electron loose selection	
Momentum cut	$p_T > 20$ GeV
Angular acceptance	$ \eta < 2.47$, excluding $1.37 \leq \eta \leq 1.52$
Longitudinal impact parameter	$ z_0 \times \sin \theta < 0.5$ mm
Transverse impact parameter	$d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 5$
Particle identification	<code>MediumLH</code>
Fail signal identification and/or isolation cuts	

Table 5.4: Electron selection criteria. All electrons are required to pass the preselection (top), and then either the signal (middle) or loose (bottom) criteria is applied to the preselected electrons.

1375 **5.2.1.3 Jet candidate selection**

1376 The final objects that need to pass selection are jets. Jets are clustered using the anti- k_t algo-
 1377 rithm [74] within a radius of $\Delta R = 0.4$. The jets are then calibrated using E_T - and η -dependent
 1378 correction factors that are trained using MC simulations [75]. The calibrated jets are required to have
 1379 $p_T > 30$ GeV if they lie in the forward regions of the detector ($2.4 < |\eta| < 4.5$) and $p_T > 25$ GeV in
 1380 the central region ($|\eta| \leq 2.4$). In order to suppress pileup jets, the so-called jet-vertex-tagger (JVT)
 1381 discriminant associates a jet with the primary interaction vertex [76]; central jets with $p_T > 60$ GeV
 1382 are required to pass the `Medium` JVT working point, which corresponds to an average efficiency
 1383 of over 92%. Finally, the jets are required to be separated from the selected leptons by at least
 1384 $\Delta R(j, l) > 0.3$.

Jet selection	
Momentum cut	$p_T > 30$ GeV for $2.4 < \eta < 4.5$ $p_T > 60$ GeV for $ \eta < 2.4$
JVT cut	<code>Medium</code>
Jet-lepton separation	$\Delta R(j, l) > 0.3$

Table 5.5: Jet selection criteria. All jets are required to pass the above selection in order to be used in the analysis.

1385 **5.2.1.4 Treatment of overlapping objects**

1386 In the event that one or more objects are reconstructed very close to each other, there is the possibility
 1387 for double-counting if both originated from the same object. The procedure by which this ambiguity
 1388 is resolved is called *overlap removal* (OR). The standard ATLAS recommendation for OR [77, 78]
 1389 is implemented in this analysis and is summarized in Table 5.6.

1390 Since electrons leave a shower in the EM calorimeter, every electron has a jet associated with
 1391 it. Therefore, any jets close to an electron (within $\Delta R(e, j) < 0.2$) are rejected due to the high
 1392 probability that they are the same object. On the other hand, when jets and electrons overlap
 1393 within a larger radius of $0.2 < \Delta R(e, j) < 0.4$, it is likely that the electron and jet both are part of
 1394 a heavy-flavor decay, and the electron is rejected.

1395 High energy muons can produce photons via bremsstrahlung radiation or collinear final state
 1396 radiation which result in nearby energy deposits in the calorimeters. Non-prompt muons from
 1397 hadronic decays produce a similar signature; however, in this case the jet has a higher track multi-
 1398 plicity in the ID. It is possible to address both cases simultaneously by rejecting the jet when the ID

1399 track multiplicity is less than three—and otherwise rejecting the muon—for jets and muons within
 1400 $\Delta R(\mu, j) < 0.4$.

1401 In addition to the case above where muon bremsstrahlung results in a nearby reconstructed jet,
 1402 the ID track from the muon and the calorimeter energy deposit can lead to it being reconstructed
 1403 as an electron. In this case, if both a muon and an electron share a track in the ID, the muon is
 1404 kept and the electron is rejected, unless the muon is calorimeter-tagged¹², in which case the muon
 1405 is removed in favor of the electron.

Overlap	Check	Result (remove → keep)
Electron & Jet	$\Delta R(e, j) < 0.2$	Jet → Electron
	$0.2 < \Delta R(e, j) < 0.4$	Electron → Jet
Muon & Jet	$\Delta R(\mu, j) < 0.4$ and Jet N_{ID} tracks < 3	Jet → Muon
	$\Delta R(\mu, j) < 0.4$ and Jet N_{ID} tracks ≥ 3	Muon → Jet
Electron & Muon	Shared ID track	Electron → Muon
	Shared ID track & muon is calo-tagged	Muon → Electron

Table 5.6: Summary of the overlap removal procedure used in the analysis. If the criteria in the “check” column is met, in the “result” column, the object on the left of the arrow is removed in favor of the object on the right.

1406 5.2.2 Signal event selection

1407 After the objects have been selected, cuts are applied on a per-event level to select $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal
 1408 events. The event selection is summarized in Table 5.8.

1409 The initial event selection chooses events that pass one or more of the trigger requirements listed
 1410 in Table 5.7. At least one signal lepton is “matched” to a passed trigger in order to ensure that
 1411 it was indeed a signal lepton that fired the trigger. A collection of *event cleaning* cuts must also
 1412 be passed in order to remove events collected during periods in which one or more components of
 1413 the detector was not operating optimally. Finally, the events are required to contain at least one
 1414 interaction vertex. An event can have multiple reconstructed vertices from additional proton-proton
 1415 collisions that occurred in the same bunch crossing. In this case, the *primary vertex* is determined
 1416 by choosing the vertex with the largest sum of the p_T^2 of its associated tracks.

1417 Events are then required to contain exactly two signal leptons with the same electric charge.
 1418 The dilepton pair must have a combined invariant mass of $m_{ll} \geq 20$ GeV in order to suppress low
 1419 mass Drell-Yan backgrounds. Two additional selections are applied to events in the ee-channel:

¹²A calorimeter-tagged (CT) muon is a muon that is identified by matching an ID track to a calorimeter energy deposit. CT muons have relatively low reconstruction efficiency compared to those measured by the MS, but can be used to recover acceptance in regions of the detector where the MS does not have full coverage [72].

	2015 data	2016 data
Electrons	$p_T > 24$ GeV and Medium ID	$p_T > 26$ GeV and Tight ID and Loose isolation
	$p_T > 60$ GeV and Medium ID	$p_T > 60$ GeV and Medium ID
	$p_T > 120$ GeV and Loose ID	$p_T > 140$ GeV and Loose ID
Muons	$p_T > 20$ GeV and Loose isolation $p_T > 50$ GeV	$p_T > 26$ GeV and Medium isolation $p_T > 50$ GeV

Table 5.7: Summary of trigger requirements for electrons and muons for $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV data collected in 2015 and 2016. At least one of the triggers must be satisfied.

1420 both electrons are required to have $|\eta| < 1.37$ with an invariant mass at least 15 GeV away from
 1421 the Z -boson mass to reduce events where one electron is reconstructed with the wrong charge (this
 1422 background will be discussed in more detail in Section 5.3.3). To suppress backgrounds from final
 1423 states with more than two leptons, such as WZ or ZZ , events with more than two leptons passing
 1424 the preselection are vetoed.

1425 Missing transverse energy (E_T^{miss}) represents any particles that escape the detector without being
 1426 measured, such as neutrinos, and it is defined as the magnitude of the vector sum of transverse
 1427 momenta of all reconstructed objects. It can be difficult to calculate accurately, as it involves
 1428 measurements from all subsystems within the detector, and it is sensitive to any corrections that
 1429 may be applied to the reconstructed physics objects [79]. These corrections, including the momentum
 1430 smearing for muons, energy scale and smearing for electrons, and jet calibrations, are propagated
 1431 to the E_T^{miss} calculation. Events are required to contain $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 30$ GeV in order to account for the
 1432 two neutrinos from the W boson decays.

1433 At least two jets are required. The leading and subleading jets must have $p_T > 65$ GeV and
 1434 $p_T > 35$ GeV, respectively, and are referred to as the *tagging jets*. Events are vetoed if they contain
 1435 one or more jets that have been tagged as a b -jet to suppress backgrounds from heavy flavor decays
 1436 (especially top quark events). The b -tagging algorithm used by ATLAS is a boosted decision tree
 1437 (BDT) called MV2c10, and this analysis uses a working point with 85% efficiency [80].

1438 Finally, cuts are applied on the VBS signature outlined in Section 5.0.2. The tagging jets are
 1439 required to have a dijet invariant mass $m_{jj} > 200$ GeV and be separated in rapidity by $|\Delta y_{jj}| > 2.0$.
 1440 This preferentially selects the VBS EWK events over the QCD-produced $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events.

1441 5.3 Background estimations

1442 The major sources of background events are summarized in Section 5.0.3, and the methods used to
 1443 estimate them are detailed in this section. Prompt backgrounds from ZZ and $t\bar{t} + V$ are estimated

Event selection	
Event preselection	Pass at least one trigger with a matched lepton Pass event cleaning At least one reconstructed vertex
Lepton selection	Exactly two leptons passing signal selection Both signal leptons with the same electric charge $ \eta < 1.37$ and $ M_{ee} - M_Z > 15$ GeV (ee-channel only) Veto events with more than two preselected leptons
Missing transverse energy	$E_T^{\text{miss}} \geq 30$ GeV
Jet selection	At least two jets Leading jet $p_T > 65$ GeV Subleading jet $p_T > 35$ GeV $m_{jj} > 200$ GeV $N_{b\text{-jet}} = 0$ $ \Delta y_{jj} > 2.0$

Table 5.8: The signal event selection.

1444 directly from MC simulations. The shape of the WZ and $V\gamma$ backgrounds are taken from MC, and
 1445 the predicted yeilds are normalized to the data predictions in dedicated control regions, as outlined
 1446 in Sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2, respectively. Opposite sign events with a charge misidentified electron
 1447 are estimated by a data-driven background method which is summarized in Section 5.3.3. Finally, a
 1448 *fake-factor* method is used to estimate the contributions from non-prompt backgrounds and is the
 1449 subject of Section 5.3.4.

1450 5.3.1 Estimation of the WZ background

1451 The dominant background involving prompt leptons comes from $WZ + \text{jets}$ events. The contribution
 1452 is estimated from MC simulation and normalized to data in a control region enriched in WZ events.
 1453 This region is defined by the same event selection as the signal region in Table 5.8, with the following
 1454 changes applied to increase the purity of the WZ process:

- 1455 • The third lepton veto is inverted, requiring a third lepton with $p_T > 15$ GeV
- 1456 • Two of the leptons must make a same-flavor opposite-sign pair. If more than one pair exists,
 1457 the one with m_{ll} closest to the Z boson mass is chosen.
- 1458 • The trilepton invariant mass is required to be $m_{lll} > 106$ GeV to reduce contributions from
 1459 $Z\gamma$ and $Z + \text{jets}$

Once the event yields in the control region are calculated, they are propagated to the final signal region fit, detailed in Section 5.4.1, in a single bin combining all the lepton channels. The systematic uncertainties of the WZ background are also calculated at this time. The event yields for the WZ control region are listed in Table 5.9, and distributions of the leading lepton p_T and η as well as trilepton invariant mass m_{lll} are found in Figures 5.9 and 5.8, respectively.

Event yields in the WZ control region	
WZ	197.9 ± 1.4
ZZ	14.1 ± 0.3
Triboson	1.26 ± 0.1
top	10.8 ± 1.1
$Z\gamma$	3.1 ± 1.1
$Z+jets$	2.5 ± 1.4
Total prediction	229.7 ± 2.5
Data	201 ± 14.2

Table 5.9: Event yields in the WZ control region before normalization. All lepton flavor channels are combined.

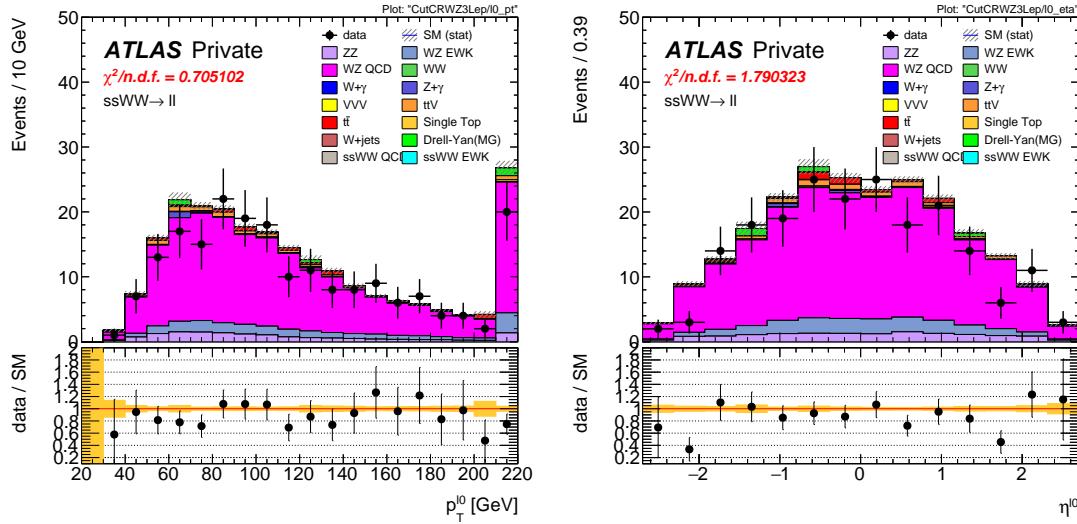


Figure 5.8: Leading lepton p_T (left) and η (right) distributions in the WZ control region before normalization. All lepton channels are combined.

5.3.2 Estimation of the $V\gamma$ background

Events from $V\gamma$ processes can pass selection if the photon converts into an e^+e^- pair and one of the electrons passes the selection criteria. The background is estimated from MC simulations which are

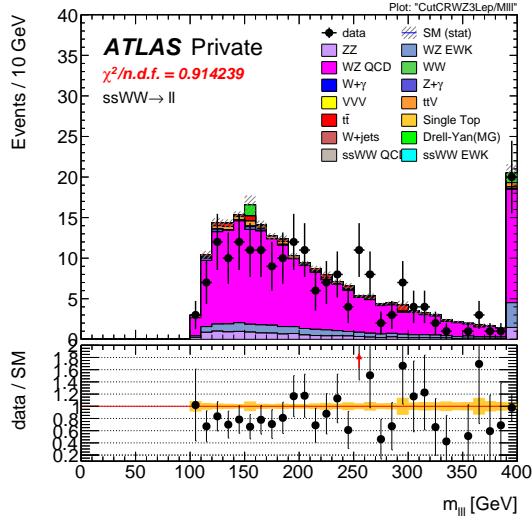


Figure 5.9: Trilepton invariant mass m_{lll} distribution in the WZ control region before normalization. All lepton channels are combined.

then scaled by a normalization factor calculated from a control region enriched in $Z(\mu^+\mu^-)\gamma$ events. This control region selects two opposite-sign muons and an additional electron that is assumed to come from the photon conversion. The full event selection is detailed in Table 5.10.

$V\gamma$ control region
Exactly two muons with $p_T > 27$ GeV and $p_T > 20$ GeV
Exactly one additional electron with $p_T > 15$ GeV
Remove overlap between $Z+jets$ and $Z\gamma$
Di-muon + photon invariant mass $75 < M_{\mu\mu\gamma} < 100$ GeV
$E_T^{\text{miss}} < 30$ GeV

Table 5.10: Selection criteria for the $V\gamma$ control region.

The $Z\gamma$ MC samples available do not cover the full range of p_T^γ and $\Delta R(\gamma, l)$; thus, additional Drell-Yan samples ($Z+jets$) are used to fill out the phase space. Overlap between the two samples are removed based to avoid double counting. Events with final state photons are checked at truth level¹³ to ensure that the photon did not originate from a hadronic decay. Cuts on $p_T^\gamma > 10$ GeV and $\Delta R(\gamma, l) > 0.1$ are then applied at generator level, and $Z\gamma$ events that fail this additional selection and $Z+jets$ events that pass it are removed.

The normalization factor is calculated directly from the event yields in the $V\gamma$ control region

¹³Truth particles are the particles produced directly by the MC generator before being passed through the full detector simulation, at which point they are considered *reconstruction-level* (or *reco-level*) particles.

rather than in the signal fit, as is done for the WZ background. The event yields are listed in Table 5.11, and the normalization factor is determined to be 1.77. No MC events from $Z\gamma$ processes survive the full event selection; thus, the scaling is only applied to the $W\gamma$ background in the signal region. A systematic uncertainty of 44% is assigned to the background based off of the uncertainties in the calculation of the normalization factor.

Event yields in the $V\gamma$ control region	
$Z\gamma$	24.6 ± 3.3
$Z+jets$	3.0 ± 1.5
diboson + triboson	6.7 ± 0.3
top	1.5 ± 0.5
Total prediction	35.8 ± 3.7
Data	57 ± 7.6

Table 5.11: Event yields in the $V\gamma$ control region. The $V\gamma$ scale factor of 1.77 is calculated by scaling up the $Z\gamma$ and $Z+jets$ backgrounds to account for the difference between the data and predicted total background.

5.3.3 Estimation of backgrounds from charge misidentification

If an electron's charge is mis-reconstructed, it can lead to a real opposite-sign lepton pair passing the same-sign requirement in the event selection. There are two primary reasons this can occur:

1. An electron emits a photon via bremsstrahlung which then converts into an electron-positron pair, and the conversion track with the wrong electric charge is matched to the original electron. This is the dominant process leading to charge flip, and it is highly dependent on the electron η due to the different amount of detector material the electron passes through.
2. The curvature of the electron's track is mis-measured, resulting in the wrong charge being assigned. This process is dependent on the momentum of the electron, as its track becomes more straight as the momentum of the electron increases.

In order to estimate this background, the rate at which an electron's charge is misidentified is calculated from $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ MC simulation. It is known that the MC does not perfectly model the material effects leading to charge flip; as a result, scale factors are applied to the MC in order for it to better reflect the real performance. These scale factors are obtained from the ratio of charge mis-ID rates in data and uncorrected MC in [51] following the method outlined in [81]. Once the scale factors are applied, the charge misidentification rate ε can be extracted by comparing the

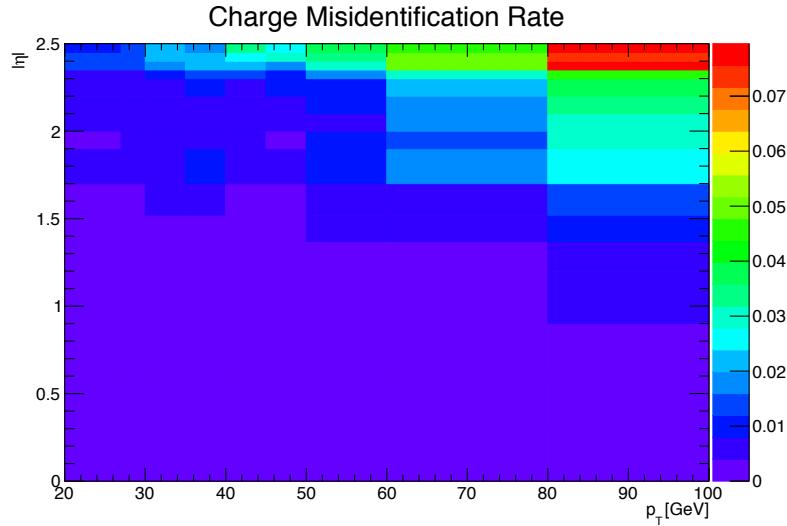


Figure 5.10: Charge misidentification rates for electrons as a function of $|\eta|$ and p_{T} . Rates are calculated from $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ MC after applying scale factors to approximate the charge mis-ID rates in data.

1499 electron's reconstructed charge with the charge of its truth particle:

$$\varepsilon(\eta, p_{\text{T}}) = \frac{N_{\text{wrong charge}}}{N_{\text{prompt electrons}}} \quad (5.1)$$

1500 The charge mis-ID rate is calculated in bins of electron $|\eta|$ and p_{T} , and it varies from below 0.1%
 1501 in the central region of the detector up to 8% in the forward regions for high p_{T} (above 90 GeV)
 1502 electrons. A two-dimensional plot of ε can be found in Figure 5.10.

1503 Given the charge flip rate $\varepsilon(\eta, p_{\text{T}})$, the rate at which an electron has its charge correctly recon-
 1504 structed is $(1 - \varepsilon)$. Thus there are three possible combinations of charge identification, assuming a
 1505 two-electron event:

- 1506 1. Both electrons are reconstructed correctly: $(1 - \varepsilon)^2$
- 1507 2. Both electrons are mis-reconstructed: ε^2
- 1508 3. Only one electron is mis-reconstructed: $2\varepsilon(1 - \varepsilon)$

1509 In order to estimate the size of the background from charge misidentification, opposite-sign events
 1510 are selected using the default event selection for a given signal or control region with the same-sign
 1511 requirement inverted. These events are then weighted by the probability for one of the electrons to

1512 be reconstructed with the wrong charge:

$$\omega = \frac{\varepsilon_1(1 - \varepsilon_2) + \varepsilon_2(1 - \varepsilon_1)}{(1 - \varepsilon_1)(1 - \varepsilon_2) + \varepsilon_1\varepsilon_2} \quad (5.2)$$

1513 where the subscripts 1 and 2 refer to the leading and subleading electrons, respectively, and ε_i is a
 1514 function of the η and p_T of the i^{th} electron. In the case of an event with only one electron and one
 1515 muon, Equation 5.2 simplifies:

$$\omega = \frac{\varepsilon}{1 - \varepsilon} \quad (5.3)$$

1516 This method assumes that there is little contamination from fake electrons in the opposite-sign
 1517 sample, and this has been verified with MC simulation.

1518 Additionally, charge-flipped electrons tend to be reconstructed with lower energy when compared
 1519 to electrons with the correct charge. This is due to energy loss from the material interactions that
 1520 can cause the charge to be misidentified in the first place. A correction factor is calculated from
 1521 MC simulations, comparing the p_T of the truth electron to its reconstructed counterpart:

$$\alpha = \frac{\left(\frac{p_T^{\text{reco}}}{p_T^{\text{truth}}} - 1\right)_{\text{correct charge}}}{\left(\frac{p_T^{\text{reco}}}{p_T^{\text{truth}}} - 1\right)_{\text{wrong charge}}} \quad (5.4)$$

1522 The correction is then applied to the p_T of the charge-flipped electron via

$$p_T = p_T^0 / (1 + \alpha) + dE \quad (5.5)$$

1523 where p_T^0 is the uncorrected p_T of the electron and dE is a gaussian smearing factor centered at zero
 1524 with a width related to the energy resolution. Since which electron is mis-reconstructed is never
 1525 determined in this method, in the case of a two-electron event, the energy correction is applied
 1526 randomly to one of the two electrons based on the probabilities for them to be charge-flipped. This
 1527 also determines the overall sign of the event; the charge of the electron that does not receive the
 1528 correction is taken to be the charge for both.

1529 Systematic uncertainties on the charge mis-ID rates are calculated by generating two additional
 1530 sets of rates with the uncertainties on the scale factors varied up and down. The size of the esti-
 1531 mated charge flip background without the energy correction applied is also taken as a systematic
 1532 uncertainty. These systematic uncertainties are estimated to be approximately $\pm 15\%$.

1533 5.3.3.1 Validation of the charge misidentification estimate

1534 The performance of the charge misidentification estimation is tested in the same-sign inclusive
 1535 validation region (VR), defined in Table 5.12. For ee events, the mass of the dilepton pair is required

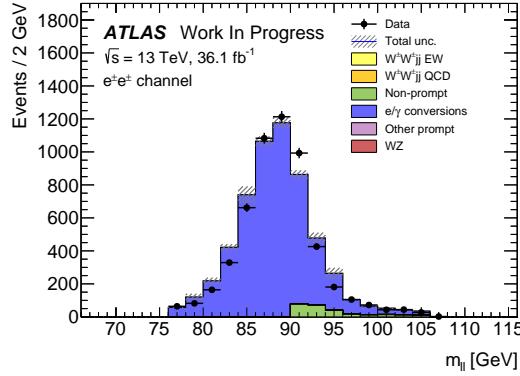


Figure 5.11: Dilepton invariant mass distribution m_{ll} for the ee channel in the same-sign inclusive VR.

1536 to lie within 15 GeV of the Z boson mass to increase the purity of the charge flip background.
 1537 $t\bar{t}$ production, which can contribute to both the charge mis-ID and fake lepton backgrounds, is
 1538 suppressed by the b -jet veto. The di-electron invariant mass is shown in Figure 5.11, and distributions
 1539 of the leading and subleading electron p_T in the ee -channel are shown in Figure 5.12 with the Z
 1540 mass cut inverted. Agreement between data and prediction is seen within the total statistical and
 1541 systematic uncertainties in the VR.

Same-sign inclusive VR
Exactly 2 same-sign signal leptons
$p_T > 27$ GeV for both leptons
$m_{ll} > 20$ GeV
$ m_{ee} - m_Z > 15$ GeV ($e^\pm e^\pm$ -channel only)
$N_{b\text{-jet}} = 0$

Table 5.12: Selection criteria for the same-sign inclusive validation region.

1542 5.3.4 Estimation of non-prompt backgrounds with the fake-factor method

1543 Events with one prompt lepton produced in association with hadronic jets can pass the event selection
 1544 if a jet is misidentified as a charged lepton or if a non-prompt lepton from the decay of a heavy
 1545 flavor particle (such as b - and c -hadrons) passes the signal lepton criteria. These misidentified jets
 1546 and non-prompt leptons are collectively referred to as *fake leptons*, or simply *fakes*. The rate at
 1547 which a fake lepton is misidentified is generally not modelled well enough by the MC to accurately
 1548 estimate their contributions directly from simulation. Therefore, a data-driven technique called the

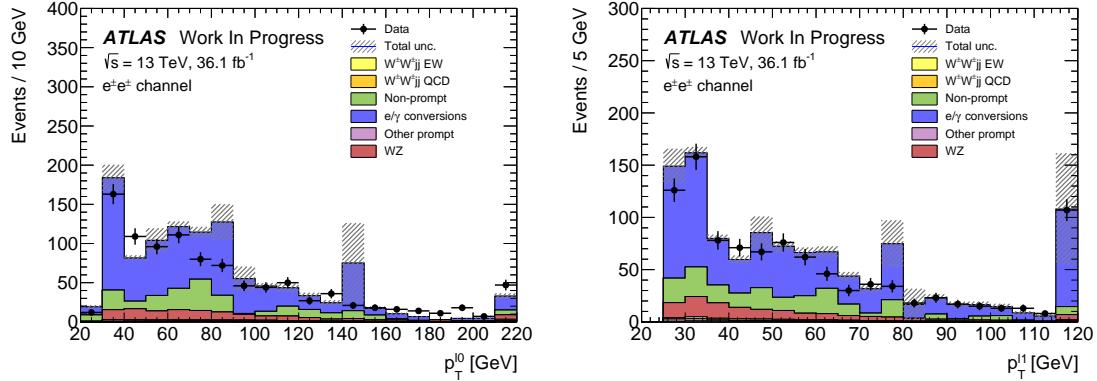


Figure 5.12: p_T distributions for the leading (left) and subleading (right) electron for the ee channel in the same-sign inclusive VR. In these plots, the cut requiring m_{ee} to fall within the Z mass window has been inverted in order to test the modelling away from the Z peak.

1549 *fake-factor* is used to estimate the size and shape of background processes from fake leptons. In
 1550 this analysis, a new modification to the fake-factor is used involving the particle isolation variables;
 1551 the method is outlined in the context of the *default* fake-factor in Section 5.3.4.1, and the modified
 1552 fake-factor is outlined in Section 5.3.4.2.

1553 5.3.4.1 Overview of the default fake-factor method

1554 The goal of the fake-factor method is to measure the fake rate from real collision events in a region
 1555 enriched in fake leptons and use it to estimate the size of the fake lepton background in a chosen
 1556 signal or control region. This is done by creating two samples using different lepton definitions:

- 1557 1. The *nominal* sample is made up of leptons passing the signal selection.
- 1558 2. The *loose* sample is made up of leptons that fail the signal selection while still passing a
 1559 loosened set of criteria. This sample is enriched in fake leptons and is orthogonal to the set of
 1560 signal leptons.

1561 Using the sets of nominal and loose leptons, a fake-factor f can be calculated in a region enriched
 1562 in processes that are prone to producing fake leptons:

$$f = \frac{N_{\text{nominal}}}{N_{\text{loose}}} \quad (5.6)$$

1563 Since the fake rate is not expected to be constant over the entire phase space, the fake-factor can
 1564 be divided into bins:

$$f(b) = \frac{N_{\text{nominal}}(b)}{N_{\text{loose}}(b)} \quad (5.7)$$

1565 where b represents the bin number. In this analysis, the fake-factor is binned in lepton p_T .

1566 In order to estimate the fake background contribution in a given signal or control region, the
 1567 fake-factor is applied to a second control region with a selection identical to the region of interest
 1568 except one of the leptons required to satisfy the loose criteria. The region for which the background
 1569 is estimated contains two nominal leptons and is referred to as *nominal+nominal* (NN), and the
 1570 associated control region where the fake-factor is applied contains one nominal and one loose lepton
 1571 and is referred to as *nominal+loose* (NL). The fake background in a NN region can then be
 1572 calculated as:

$$N_{NN}^{\text{fake bkg.}} = \sum_b f(b) N_{NL}(b) \quad (5.8)$$

1573 Backgrounds containing two prompt leptons can also enter the NL region if one of the leptons
 1574 passes the nominal selection and the other passes the loose selection. Since the fake-factor method
 1575 estimates the fake background by scaling the amount of non-prompt events in the NL region, if these
 1576 prompt contributions are not removed, they will be included in the scaling and the background
 1577 will be overpredicted. The final estimate of the fake background becomes:

$$N_{NN}^{\text{fake bkg.}} = \sum_b f(b) (N_{NL}(b) - N_{NL}^{\text{prompt}}(b)) \quad (5.9)$$

1578 5.3.4.2 The fake-factor with p_T^{cone}

1579 When a jet produces a non-prompt lepton, that lepton only carries a fraction of the underlying jet's
 1580 total momentum. Due to the isolation cut applied to the nominal leptons, they typically carry a
 1581 much larger percentage of the underlying jet momentum than the loose leptons. Since the isolation
 1582 essentially sets a limit on the amount of detector activity allowed around the lepton, if other nearby
 1583 particles carried a significant amount of momentum, the lepton would likely fail this cut.

1584 This discrepancy in the underlying jet momentum fraction can cause problems in the calculation
 1585 of the fake-factor f . Consider the case where two separate events have jets of identical momentum,
 1586 but one produces a non-prompt lepton that passes the nominal selection, and the other produces a
 1587 non-prompt lepton that passes the loose selection. The loose lepton on average will have lower p_T
 1588 than the nominal lepton despite both originating from jets with the same momentum. This can be
 1589 seen explicitly when comparing the p_T of a muon to its associated truth jet:

$$\Delta p_T(\mu, j) = \frac{p_T(j) - p_T(\mu)}{p_T(j) + p_T(\mu)} \quad (5.10)$$

1590 Since muons are not included in the jet reconstruction algorithm, Δp_T approximates the momentum
 1591 of the muon compared to the rest of the jet. For muons that carry more than 50% of the jet's

momentum, Δp_T will be negative and vice-versa. The Δp_T distributions for nominal and loose muons in $t\bar{t}$ MC events is shown Figure 5.13, where a 50 GeV jet on average corresponds to a 35 GeV nominal muon and a 20 GeV loose muon¹⁴.

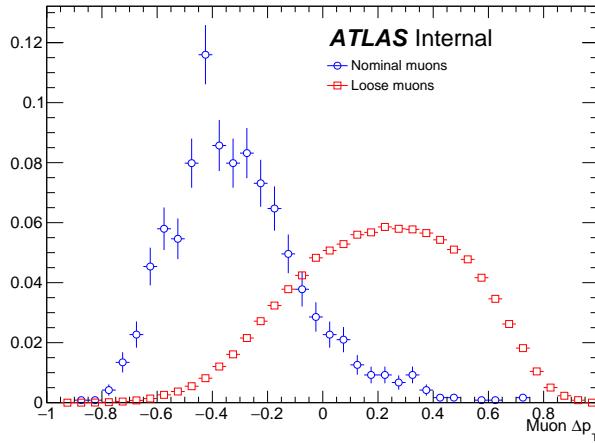


Figure 5.13: Δp_T distributions for nominal (blue) and loose (red) muons in simulated $t\bar{t}$ events. Each muon has been matched to a truth-level jet. Both distributions are normalized to unit area.

Since the default fake-factor defined in Equation 5.7 is binned in lepton p_T , within a given bin, the underlying jet p_T spectrum can differ substantially between the numerator and the denominator. Additionally, these differences can vary depending on the process producing the non-prompt leptons or on the specific kinematic selections of the signal or control regions where the fake-factor is applied.

Fortunately, the majority of the jet momentum not carried by the non-prompt lepton (excluding neutrinos) can be recovered using isolation variables. A track-based isolation is chosen, referred to as p_T^{cone} , and it contains the sum of the p_T of all particle tracks originating from the primary vertex within a cone of $\Delta R < 0.3$ around the lepton. Thus, the sample of loose leptons in the denominator of the fake-factor calculation is binned in $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ rather than simply lepton p_T . Adding the isolation cone greatly reduces the difference in the fraction of the underlying jet momentum carried by the nominal and loose leptons. To check this, a new Δp_T is calculated between a lepton and its matched truth jet, where the truth jet p_T has been corrected to include all muons within a cone of $\Delta R < 0.4$:

$$p_T(j) = p_T(j_{\text{truth}}) + \sum_{\Delta R < 0.4} p_T(\mu_{\text{truth}}) \quad (5.11)$$

¹⁴To better illustrate the point, here the muon is added back into the jet p_T , and the corresponding muon p_T is obtained via $\Delta p_T(\mu, j) = \frac{(p_T(j) - p_T\mu) - p_T(\mu)}{(p_T(j) - p_T\mu) + p_T(\mu)} = \frac{p_T(j) - 2p_T(\mu)}{p_T(j)}$.

1608 The Δp_T distributions comparing p_T and $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ for nominal and loose leptons using the corrected
 1609 jet p_T are found in Figure 5.14, and better agreement is seen between the numerator (nominal) and
 1610 denominator (loose with $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$) distributions.

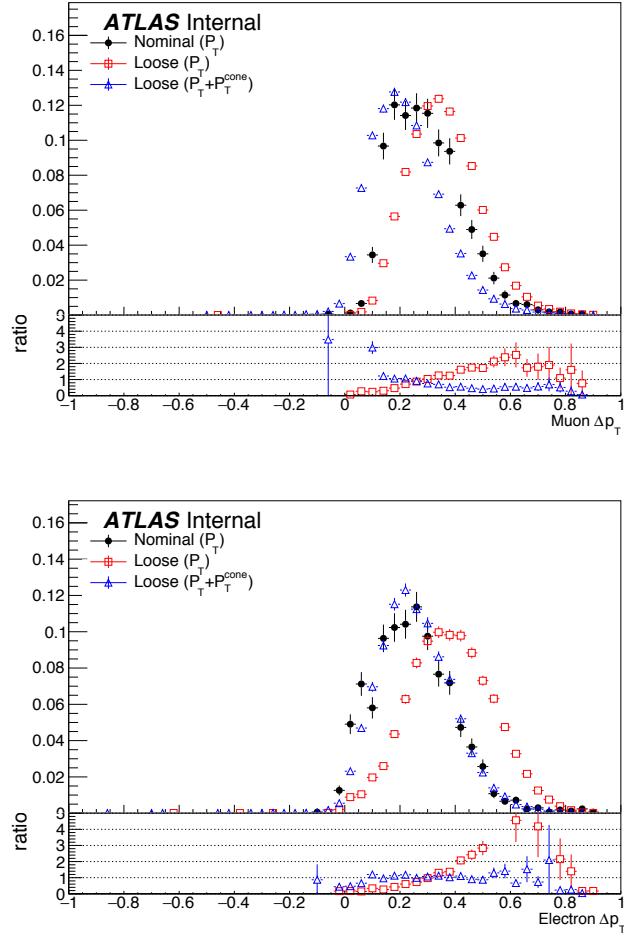


Figure 5.14: Δp_T distributions for muons (top) and electrons (bottom) in simulated $t\bar{t}$ events. Each lepton has been matched to a truth-level jet, and that truth jet has had its p_T corrected to include all truth muons within a cone of $\Delta R < 0.4$. The nominal leptons are in black. Δp_T is calculated for the loose leptons using p_T (red) and $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ (blue).

1611 The numerator remains binned in lepton p_T , due to the fact that it is meant to mirror the signal
 1612 region as closely as possible, and the signal lepton selection does not use $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$. The impact of
 1613 this is expected to be negligible due to the p_T^{cone} isolation being small for signal leptons, as shown

for muons in Figure 5.15. Finally, the fake-factor f becomes:

$$f(b) = \frac{N_{\text{nominal}}(b(p_T))}{N_{\text{loose}}(b(p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}))} \quad (5.12)$$

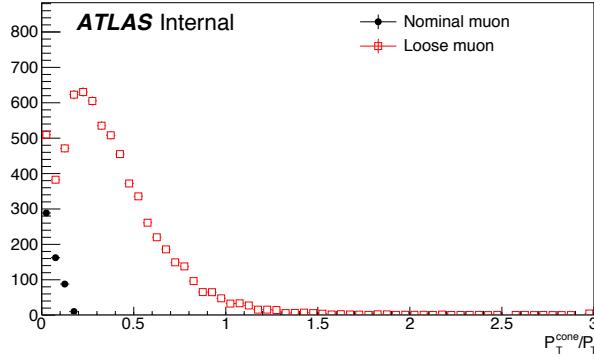


Figure 5.15: Distributions of p_T^{cone}/p_T for nominal (black) and loose (red) muons in simulated $t\bar{t}$ events.

5.3.4.3 Application of the fake-factor

The fake-factor itself is measured from a sample of events passing a dijet selection requiring exactly one lepton (either passing the nominal or loose selections) and at least one jet. The leading jet must also be b -tagged and approximately back-to-back with the lepton in order to enhance non-prompt lepton contributions while reducing contributions from processes involving W and Z bosons. W boson events are further suppressed by requiring the sum of the E_T^{miss} and the transverse mass of the lepton to be less than 50 GeV. The full event selection for the dijet region is summarized in Table 5.13.

The numerator sample is constructed from dijet events in which the lepton passes the nominal (signal) selection and is binned in the lepton p_T . Similarly, the denominator sample is made up of the remaining dijet events where the lepton passes the loose selection and is binned in the lepton $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$. The nominal and loose leptons pass the signal selection¹⁵ and loose selection, respectively, defined earlier in Table 5.3 for muons and Table 5.4 for electrons. Backgrounds from $W+\text{jets}$, $Z+\text{jets}$, $t\bar{t}$, and single top processes are estimated from MC simulations requiring one lepton to be prompt using the truth information; these contributions are subtracted from the dijet data. The

¹⁵The $p_T > 27$ GeV cut in the signal lepton selection is dropped in favor of the $p_T > 15$ GeV requirement in the dijet selection.

Dijet event selection
Event preselection
Exactly one lepton with $p_T > 15$ GeV
$N_{\text{jet}} > 0$
Leading jet is b -tagged
$p_T^{\text{lead. jet}} > 25$ GeV
$p_T^{\text{lead. jet}} > 30$ GeV if $ \eta_j > 2.5$
$ \Delta\phi(l, \text{lead. jet}) > 2.8$
$m_T(l, E_T^{\text{miss}}) + E_T^{\text{miss}} < 50$ GeV

Table 5.13: Event selection for the dijet region used for calculating the fake-factor. The selected lepton can pass either the nominal (signal) or loose selections. In the case of the nominal leptons, the $p_T > 27$ GeV requirement is replaced with $p_T > 15$ GeV.

1630 fake-factor is then calculated using Equation 5.12 for muons and for central and forward electrons
 1631 separately. The muon fake-factor is shown in Figure 5.16, and the two electron fake-factors are shown
 1632 in Figure 5.17. The numerical values of the fake-factors, including their systematic uncertainties
 1633 which will be discussed in Section 5.3.4.4, are listed in Table 5.14.

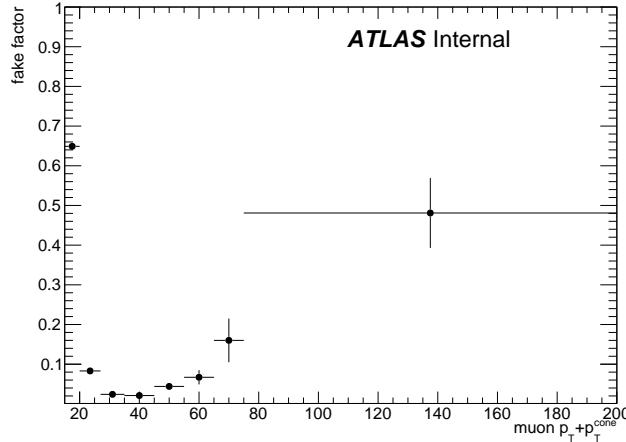


Figure 5.16: The measured fake-factor as a function of muon $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$. The error bars represent the statistical uncertainty only.

1634 In order to properly account for the denominator being binned in $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$, special care needs
 1635 to be taken when estimating the fake background from the NL regions. For the purposes of the
 1636 fake-factor calculation, it is perhaps more intuitive to consider a loose *object* with $p_T = p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$
 1637 instead of simply a loose *lepton*, as the lepton and the underlying jet are treated as a whole with this
 1638 method. When the lepton p_T cuts required by a particular signal or control region are applied to

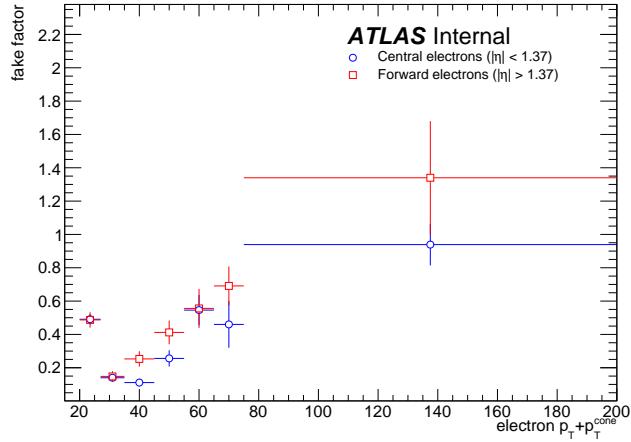


Figure 5.17: The measured fake-factor as a function of electron $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ in the central ($|\eta| < 1.37$, blue) and forward ($|\eta| > 1.37$, red) regions of the detector. The error bars represent the statistical uncertainty only.

nominal and loose leptons, the cut is applied to the p_T of the nominal lepton and to the $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ of the loose object. Similarly, when looking up the fake-factor weight for a given NL event, the value taken from the bin corresponding to the $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ of the loose object. Finally, when applying the weight to the event, $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ is assigned as the p_T of the loose object. Figure 5.18 contains a graphical representation of this procedure.

Finally, it should be noted that the addition of p_T^{cone} to the loose object may cause the loose leptons in the denominator sample to migrate into higher bins. This results in an overall decrease in the number of loose objects in the lower $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ bins due to there not being additional leptons at lower p_T to replace them. Since the fake-factor is a ratio of the number of events in a bin, this effect causes the first few bins of the fake-factor to increase, as can be seen clearly in Figure 5.16. However, the signal and control regions (and their corresponding NL regions) contain a $p_T > 27$ GeV cut that prevents these migrations from negatively impacting the fake estimation.

5.3.4.4 Systematic uncertainties

Four sources of systematic uncertainty are considered: the dijet event selection, the prompt background subtraction, the jet flavor composition, and residual dependence on the underlying jet p_T spectrum. In order to measure the impact of these systematics, new fake-factors are computed with each of the systematic variations and the differences from the nominal values are taken as the

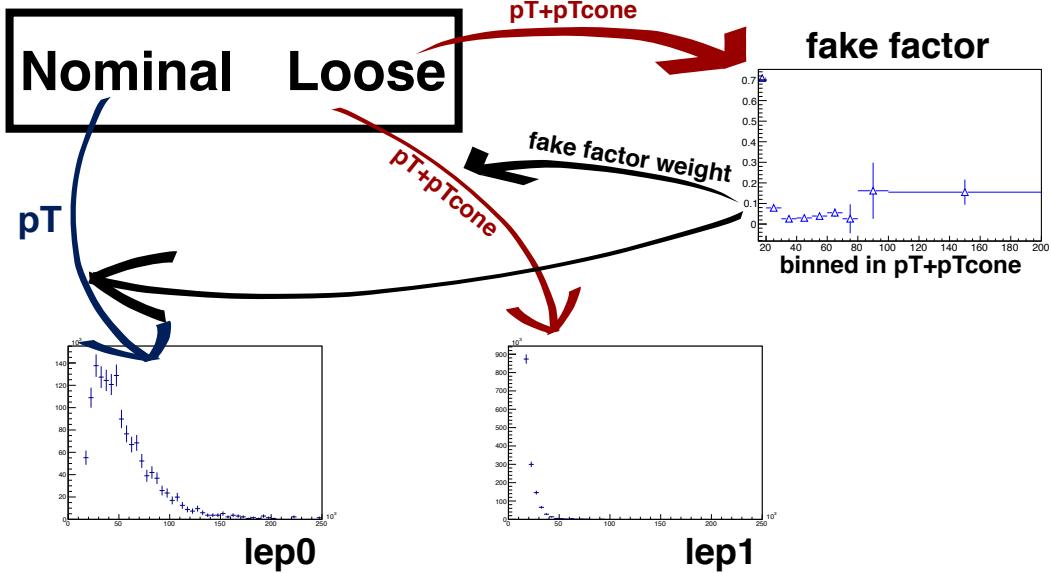


Figure 5.18: Graphical representation of the fake-factor application using $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$. The value of $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ for the loose lepton is used to “look up” the fake-factor weight which is then applied to the event. The loose lepton’s p_T becomes $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ for the purpose of the fake background estimation.

1656 uncertainty.

- 1657 1. In order to estimate uncertainties due to the dijet selection, the cut on $M_T + E_T^{\text{miss}}$ is varied
- 1658 by ± 5 GeV, the jet-lepton separation $\Delta\phi(l, j)$ by ± 0.1 , and the jet p_T cut by $+5$ GeV.
- 1659 2. To estimate the systematic uncertainty on the prompt background subtraction, the MC pre-
- 1660 diction in a $W+\text{jets}$ control region is compared to data. The discrepancy between data and
- 1661 MC is found to be approximately 10% [51]. Therefore, the prompt background used for the
- 1662 subtraction is scaled up and down by $\pm 10\%$.
- 1663 3. The difference in the jet flavor composition between the dijet events and the events in the
- 1664 NL regions can affect the accuracy of the fake background estimation. The dijet sample is
- 1665 dominated by light jets, while the NL regions tend to be dominated by heavy flavor from $t\bar{t}$.
- 1666 To account for this, the fake-factor is computed with a b -jet veto.
- 1667 4. To measure any residual dependence on the underlying jet p_T spectrum, the leading jet p_T
- 1668 distribution is reweighted to match the p_T spectrum of truth jets that produce fake leptons
- 1669 in MC simulations. This results in an increase in the number of nominal and loose leptons at
- 1670 high momentum [51].

fake-factor	p_T [15, 20]	p_T [20, 27]	p_T [27, 35]	p_T [35, 45]	p_T [45, 55]	p_T [55, 65]	p_T [65, 75]	p_T [75, 200]
nominal	0.649 ± 0.007	0.083 ± 0.002	0.024 ± 0.002	0.021 ± 0.003	0.044 ± 0.007	0.067 ± 0.018	0.160 ± 0.055	0.481 ± 0.088
MT+MET	0.649 ± 0.007	0.082 ± 0.002	0.082 ± 0.002	0.020 ± 0.003	0.045 ± 0.007	0.068 ± 0.018	0.207 ± 0.062	0.523 ± 0.086
$\Delta\phi(\ell, j)$	0.645 ± 0.008	0.083 ± 0.003	0.024 ± 0.002	0.021 ± 0.004	0.045 ± 0.008	0.064 ± 0.021	0.064 ± 0.058	0.438 ± 0.092
Jet p_T	0.650 ± 0.007	0.083 ± 0.002	0.024 ± 0.002	0.021 ± 0.003	0.045 ± 0.007	0.069 ± 0.018	0.159 ± 0.018	0.481 ± 0.088
$N_{b\text{-jet}} = 0$	0.724 ± 0.003	0.094 ± 0.001	0.035 ± 0.001	0.025 ± 0.002	0.022 ± 0.004	0.060 ± 0.015	0.026 ± 0.053	0.044 ± 0.134
Bkg. subtraction	0.648 ± 0.007	0.083 ± 0.002	0.024 ± 0.002	0.019 ± 0.003	0.037 ± 0.007	0.044 ± 0.019	0.096 ± 0.062	0.370 ± 0.082
Jet p_T Reweighting	0.539 ± 0.077	0.093 ± 0.007	0.025 ± 0.004	0.043 ± 0.019	0.063 ± 0.014	0.085 ± 0.025	0.141 ± 0.110	1.962 ± 0.492

(a) fake-factor for muons.

fake-factor	p_T [20, 27]	p_T [27, 35]	p_T [35, 45]	p_T [45, 55]	p_T [55, 65]	p_T [65, 75]	p_T [75, 200]
nominal	0.491 ± 0.031	0.140 ± 0.020	0.111 ± 0.023	0.256 ± 0.049	0.546 ± 0.091	0.460 ± 0.140	0.939 ± 0.125
MT+MET	0.493 ± 0.030	0.138 ± 0.019	0.115 ± 0.022	0.261 ± 0.045	0.559 ± 0.084	0.656 ± 0.091	0.802 ± 0.016
$\Delta\phi(\ell, j)$	0.488 ± 0.032	0.137 ± 0.020	0.110 ± 0.025	0.283 ± 0.053	0.503 ± 0.097	0.351 ± 0.149	1.117 ± 0.255
Jet p_T	0.489 ± 0.035	0.134 ± 0.021	0.105 ± 0.025	0.224 ± 0.048	0.593 ± 0.093	0.356 ± 0.144	0.928 ± 0.177
$N_{b\text{-jet}} = 0$	0.506 ± 0.029	0.140 ± 0.018	0.111 ± 0.022	0.260 ± 0.046	0.545 ± 0.084	0.546 ± 0.120	0.882 ± 0.103
Bkg. subtraction	0.493 ± 0.032	0.146 ± 0.021	0.115 ± 0.024	0.259 ± 0.049	0.550 ± 0.091	0.460 ± 0.140	0.939 ± 0.125
$N_{b\text{-jet}} = 0$	0.387 ± 0.009	0.130 ± 0.008	0.321 ± 0.012	0.473 ± 0.015	0.716 ± 0.180	0.716 ± 0.180	0.716 ± 0.180
Bkg. subtraction	0.488 ± 0.031	0.138 ± 0.020	0.106 ± 0.023	0.248 ± 0.049	0.529 ± 0.092	0.434 ± 0.143	0.888 ± 0.115
Jet p_T Reweighting	0.493 ± 0.031	0.142 ± 0.020	0.115 ± 0.023	0.264 ± 0.049	0.563 ± 0.090	0.485 ± 0.136	0.989 ± 0.132

(b) fake-factor for central electrons ($|\eta| < 1.37$).

fake-factor	p_T [20, 27]	p_T [27, 35]	p_T [35, 45]	p_T [45, 55]	p_T [55, 65]	p_T [65, 75]	p_T [75, 200]
nominal	0.487 ± 0.046	0.148 ± 0.031	0.253 ± 0.046	0.412 ± 0.071	0.556 ± 0.117	0.691 ± 0.117	1.340 ± 0.340
MT+MET	0.483 ± 0.045	0.152 ± 0.031	0.241 ± 0.043	0.443 ± 0.070	0.565 ± 0.106	0.668 ± 0.117	1.075 ± 0.189
$\Delta\phi(\ell, j)$	0.495 ± 0.047	0.156 ± 0.033	0.271 ± 0.052	0.364 ± 0.074	0.664 ± 0.107	0.749 ± 0.056	0.885 ± 0.084
Jet p_T	0.471 ± 0.051	0.158 ± 0.035	0.247 ± 0.051	0.474 ± 0.085	0.283 ± 0.107	0.546 ± 0.149	1.189 ± 0.266
$N_{b\text{-jet}} = 0$	0.478 ± 0.042	0.170 ± 0.031	0.274 ± 0.046	0.389 ± 0.066	0.645 ± 0.104	0.757 ± 0.102	1.319 ± 0.326
Bkg. subtraction	0.523 ± 0.048	0.149 ± 0.033	0.235 ± 0.045	0.429 ± 0.073	0.555 ± 0.117	0.691 ± 0.117	1.340 ± 0.340
$N_{b\text{-jet}} = 0$	0.525 ± 0.011	0.234 ± 0.013	0.644 ± 0.016	0.710 ± 0.014	0.274 ± 0.316	0.274 ± 0.316	0.274 ± 0.316
Bkg. subtraction	0.484 ± 0.046	0.146 ± 0.031	0.248 ± 0.046	0.406 ± 0.071	0.545 ± 0.118	0.676 ± 0.118	1.317 ± 0.337
Jet p_T Reweighting	0.328 ± 0.068	0.124 ± 0.048	0.297 ± 0.100	0.234 ± 0.061	0.680 ± 0.092	0.452 ± 0.138	2.385 ± 1.729

(c) fake-factor for forward electrons ($1.37 < |\eta|$).Table 5.14: Values of the fake-factor in each p_T bin and for each individual systematic source.

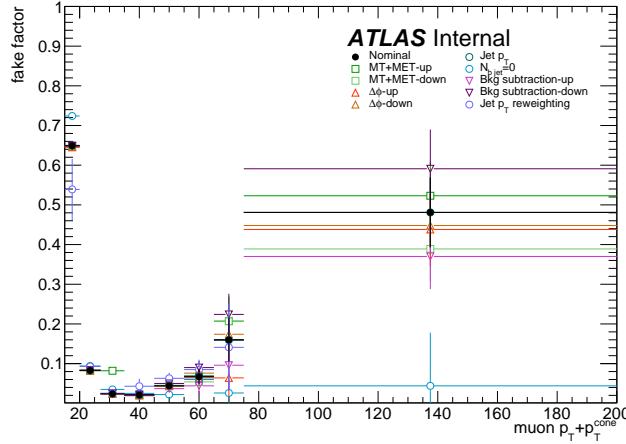


Figure 5.19: Systematic variations in the fake-factor as a function of muon $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$. The individual fake-factors obtained for each systematic variation are displayed with their statistical uncertainties.

1671 5.3.4.5 Results of the fake-factor

1672 The fake background contribution in the signal region is estimated by applying the fake-factors
 1673 to the equivalent NL region using Equation 5.9, where the fake-factor used corresponds to the
 1674 flavor of the loose lepton in the event. As usual, the prompt background is subtracted from the
 1675 NL events using MC simulation. Charge misidentification is handled using the same method as
 1676 in Section 5.3.3, with an additional set of charge flip rates calculated for loose leptons. The fake
 1677 background yields in the signal region are listed in Table 5.15. An overall uncertainty of 50% is
 1678 assigned to the fake background estimation in $\mu^\pm\mu^\pm$ events, and between 40% to 90% for $e^\pm e^\pm$ and
 1679 $\mu^\pm e^\pm$ events, including both statistical and systematic effects.

	estimated yield	f_e stat. up	f_e stat. dn	f_e syst. up	f_e syst. dn	f_μ stat. up	f_μ stat. dn	f_μ syst. up	f_μ syst. dn
$e^\pm e^\pm$	11.42 ± 3.13	1.69	-1.69	1.67	-5.56	—	—	—	—
$\mu^\pm\mu^\pm$	4.82 ± 0.77	—	—	—	—	0.65	-0.65	3.64	-0.61
$\mu^\pm e^\pm$	37.08 ± 5.16	4.90	-4.90	5.59	-14.34	1.39	-1.39	16.10	-1.98

Table 5.15: Estimated yields for the fake lepton background. The estimated yield is shown in the first column together with the statistical uncertainty followed by the systematic uncertainties from variations of the the fake-factors within their statistical (stat.) and systematic (syst.) uncertainties. The labels f_e and f_μ indicate the fake-factors for electrons and muons, respectively.

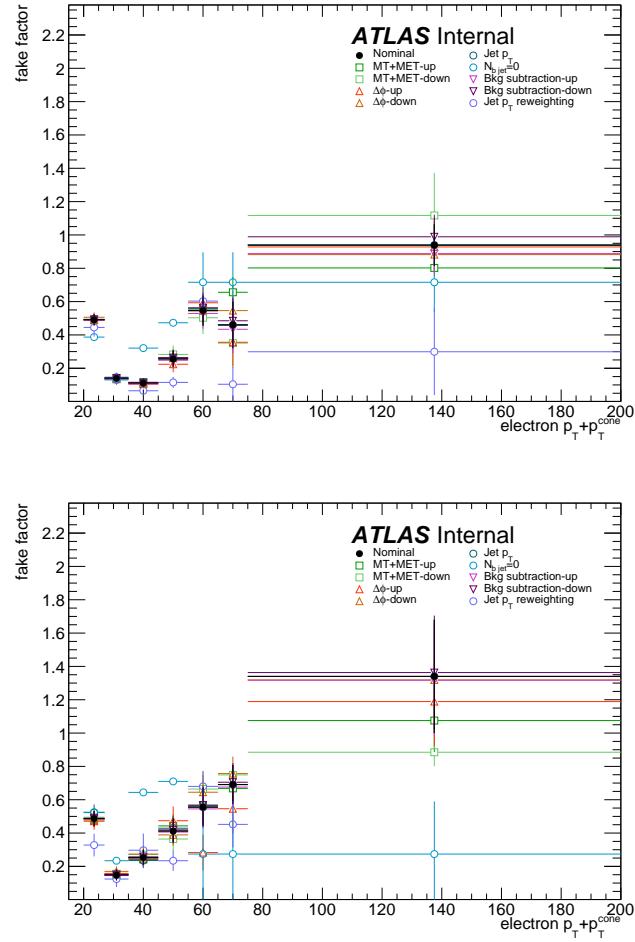


Figure 5.20: Systematic variations in the fake-factor as a function of electron $p_T + p_T^{\text{cone}}$ in the central ($|\eta| < 1.37$, top) and forward ($|\eta| > 1.37$, bottom) regions of the detector. The individual fake-factors obtained for each systematic variation are displayed with their statistical uncertainties.

1680 **5.3.4.6 Validation of the fake-factor**

1681 The accuracy of the fake-factor method is tested in several validation regions, the most sensitive
 1682 of which is the same-sign top fakes VR (SS top VR), defined in Table 5.16. This region inverts
 1683 the signal region's b -jet veto to accept events with exactly one b -jet. Due to this requirement, the
 1684 dominant source of events comes from the $t\bar{t}$ process where a b -jet fakes an isolated lepton. The
 1685 distribution of the subleading lepton p_T in this VR is shown in Figure 5.21 for all lepton flavor
 1686 combinations. There is good agreement between the data and the prediction, even when only taking
 1687 into account the statistical uncertainty and not the large systematic uncertainties assigned to the
 1688 fake estimation.

Same-sign top fakes VR
Exactly 2 same-sign signal leptons
$p_T > 27$ GeV for both leptons
$m_{ll} > 20$ GeV
$ m_{ee} - m_Z > 15$ GeV ($e^\pm e^\pm$ -channel only)
$N_{b\text{-jet}} = 1$
$N_{\text{jet}} \geq 2$
Leading jet $p_T > 65$ GeV
Subleading jet $p_T > 35$ GeV

Table 5.16: Selection criteria for the same-sign top fakes validation region.

1689 **5.3.5 Reduction of WZ background using custom overlap removal**

1690 The dominant source of prompt background in this analysis comes from WZ events where both
 1691 bosons decay leptonically. Traditionally, the background is dealt with by imposing a veto on any
 1692 event with a third lepton passing some loose identification criteria (the so-called *trilepton veto*).
 1693 In the case of this analysis, if one or more leptons in addition to the two signal leptons pass the
 1694 preselection criteria, the event is rejected. However, WZ events can still enter the signal region if
 1695 one of the leptons fails the preselection or falls outside of the detector's acceptance.

1696 In order to understand the sources of WZ events that are not removed by the trilepton veto, a
 1697 study was performed on truth-level leptons in $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ and WZ MC samples. Events with three
 1698 truth leptons were selected, and each was matched to its reconstruction-level partner by finding the
 1699 closest $\Delta R(\text{truth}, \text{reco})$ and $\Delta p_T(\text{truth}, \text{reco})$ match. For events surviving the trilepton veto, the
 1700 two signal leptons were removed, and the remaining leptons represent real leptons that failed to
 1701 be selected for the veto. Between 40-50% of these leptons fall outside of the eta acceptance of the

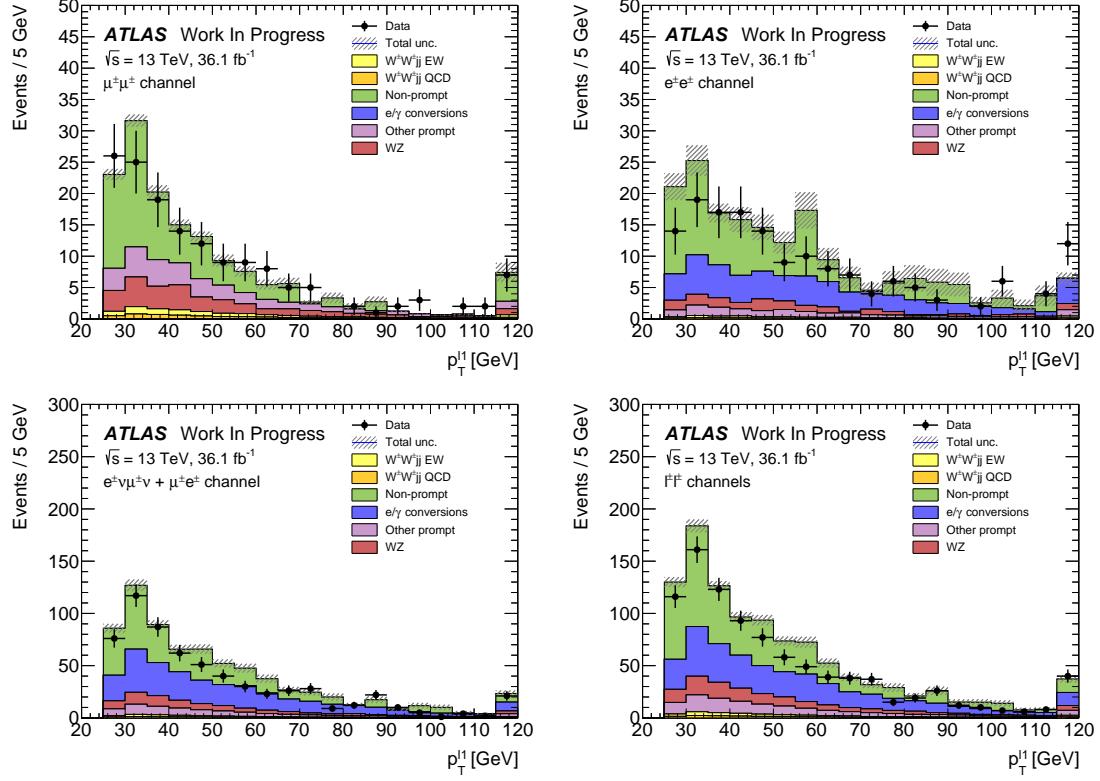


Figure 5.21: Distributions of the subleading lepton p_T in the same-sign top fakes VR for $\mu^\pm\mu^\pm$ events (top right), $e^\pm e^\pm$ events (top left), $\mu^\pm e^\pm$ events (bottom left), and all events combined (bottom right). All errors are statistical only.

analysis (see Figure 5.22) and are unrecoverable. The second largest source of leptons failing the preselection is the OR, defined in Section 5.2.1.4. The standard OR procedure appears to be too aggressive in removing leptons in favor of jets, causing many three lepton events to “lose” their third lepton and pass the trilepton veto. Therefore a *custom OR* is investigated which would replace the standard OR in the preselection and allow for better WZ rejection by removing fewer third leptons.

In order to construct this custom OR, a new quantity is defined between a lepton (l) and a nearby jet (j)

$$p_{T,\text{ratio}}(l, j) = \frac{p_{T,l}}{p_{T,j}} \quad (5.13)$$

which, along with $\Delta R(l, j)$, will make up the custom OR criteria. The idea behind including $p_{T,\text{ratio}}$ is to be able to preferentially remove background leptons originating from jets (i.e. those that carry a low percentage of the total jet momentum) instead of removing *any* lepton near a jet. The distributions of $p_{T,\text{ratio}}$ and the associated efficiency curves for muons and electrons can be found

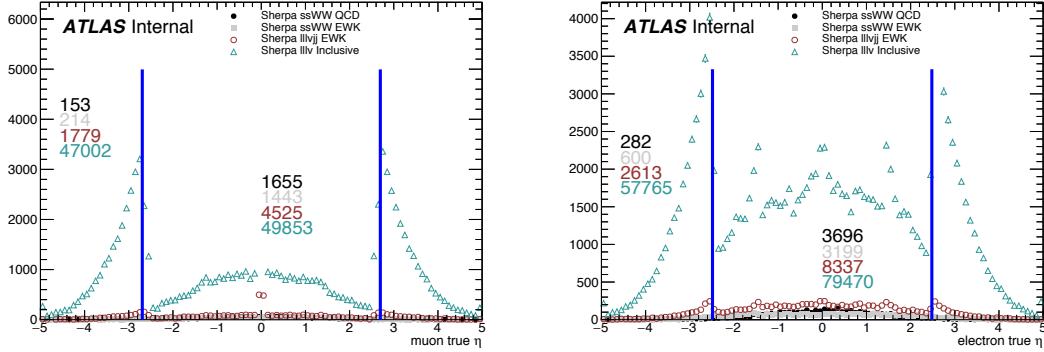


Figure 5.22: Pseudorapidity (η) distributions of truth muons (top) and electrons (bottom) for Sherpa $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ and WZ MC samples. The blue vertical lines represent the allowed η range for each lepton flavor. The numbers correspond to the number of raw MC events that fall within and outside of the allowed η range for each MC sample.

in Figures 5.23 and 5.25, respectively, and the distributions for $\Delta R(\mu, j)$ for muons can be found in Figure 5.24. Since all electrons have an associated jet in the calorimeters, the $\Delta R(e, j)$ variable is not a good quantity to use for this custom OR.

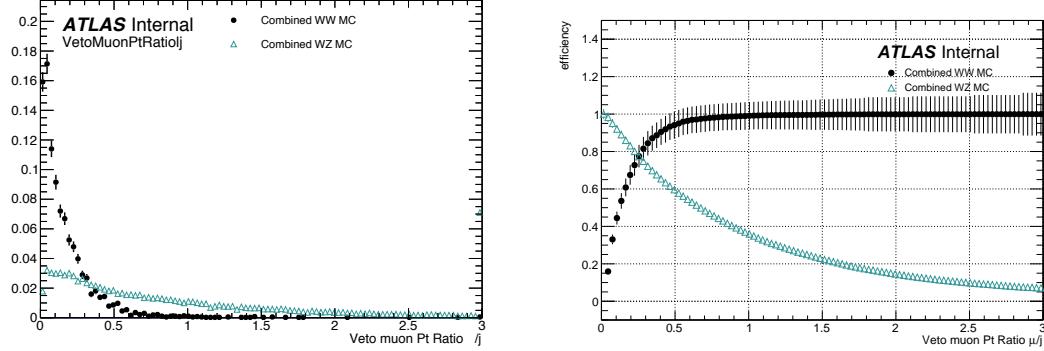


Figure 5.23: Distributions of $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(\mu, j)$ for EWK and QCD $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal (black) and WZ background (teal) for truth-matched third muons in events that pass the trilepton veto. Both distributions are normalized to unit area. The associated efficiency curves are on the right where efficiency is defined as the percentage of total events that would pass a cut on $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(\mu, j)$ at a given value on the x -axis.

A working point for the Custom OR was chosen by requiring 90% signal retention for muons and 90% background rejection for electrons. The cut on electrons was allowed to be much tighter because the number of signal events with a third electron is considerably smaller than for muons. It should be emphasized that the signal events present in Figures 5.23-5.25 do not represent the full

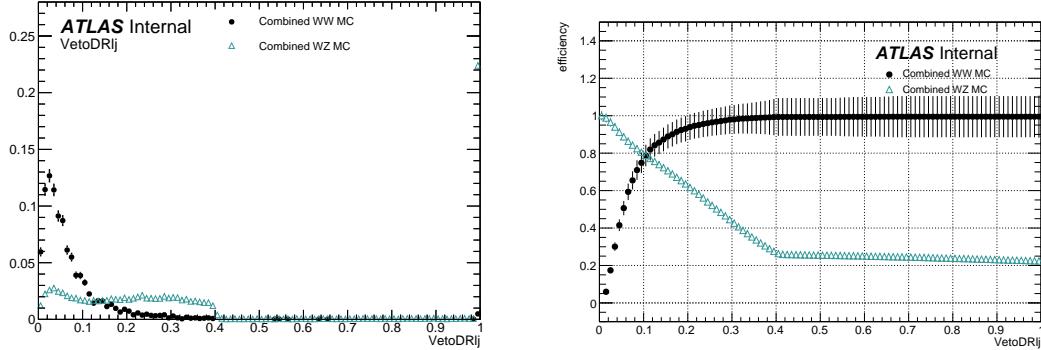


Figure 5.24: Distributions of $\Delta R(\mu, j)$ for EWK and QCD $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal (black) and WZ background (teal) for truth-matched third muons in events that pass the trilepton veto. Both distributions are normalized to unit area. The associated efficiency curves are on the right where efficiency is defined as the percentage of total events that would pass a cut on $\Delta R(\mu, j)$ at a given value on the x -axis.

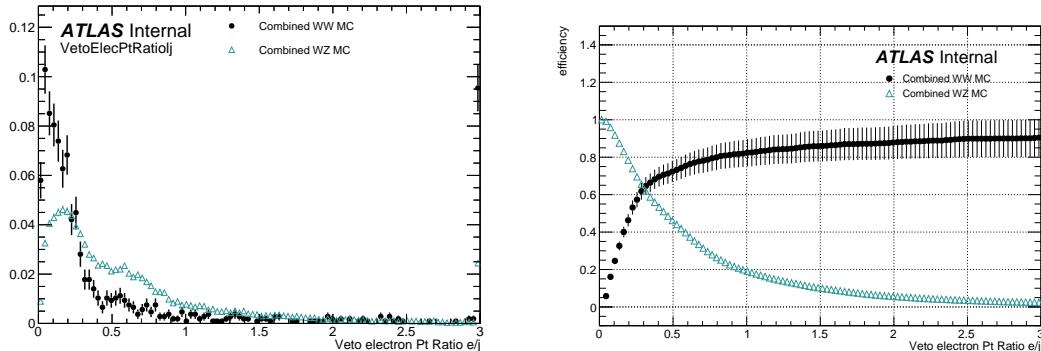


Figure 5.25: Distributions of $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(e, j)$ for EWK and QCD $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal (black) and WZ background (teal) for truth-matched third electrons in events that pass the trilepton veto. Both distributions are normalized to unit area. The associated efficiency curves are on the right where efficiency is defined as the percentage of total events that would pass a cut on $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(e, j)$ at a given value on the x -axis.

set of signal events, but only those with a real third lepton (which must come from some source other than the signal $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ process). For muons, a logical ‘or’ of $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(\mu, j)$ and $\Delta R(\mu, j)$ is used to maximize the third lepton acceptance due to correlations between the quantities, as shown in Figure 5.26; for electrons, only a cut on $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(e, j)$ is used. The Custom OR working point is defined in Table 5.17.

Custom OR Definition	
Muons	$p_{T,\text{ratio}}(\mu, j) > 0.40$ or $\Delta R(\mu, j) > 0.15$
Electrons	$p_{T,\text{ratio}}(e, j) > 0.18$

Table 5.17: Custom OR definition. Leptons must pass this selection in order to be counted for the trilepton veto.

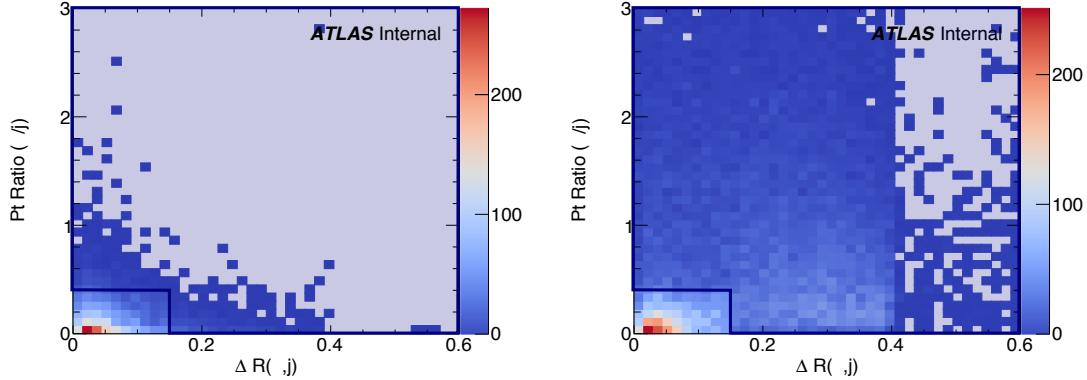


Figure 5.26: Two-dimensional plots of $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(\mu, j)$ vs $\Delta R(\mu, j)$ for truth-matched third muons in events that pass the trilepton veto for EWK and QCD $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal (left) and WZ background (right). The blue overlay indicates the area in which the third leptons will pass the custom OR and result in the event failing the trilepton veto.

Initial tests of the performance of the Custom OR yielded promising results, with approximately 20% reduction in WZ background compared to less than 2% signal loss in the signal region. Unfortunately, due to differences between the primary analysis framework and the one used for testing, in practice the gains in WZ rejection were not nearly as substantial, and ultimately the Custom OR was not included in the final analysis. However, it is still a potentially useful tool for improving background rejection based on lepton counting in analyses with overly aggressive OR procedures.

1731 **5.4 Cross section measurement**

1732 The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK cross section is extracted from the signal region using a maximum-likelihood
 1733 fit applied simultaneously to four m_{jj} bins in the signal region as well as to the low- m_{jj} and WZ
 1734 control regions. For the fit and cross section extraction, the signal region is defined as in Table 5.8
 1735 with the dijet invariant mass requirement raised to $m_{jj} > 500$ GeV. The low- m_{jj} region is defined
 1736 to mirror the signal region exactly with the dijet invariant mass inverted to $200 < m_{jj} < 500$ GeV,
 1737 and the WZ control region is defined previously in Section 5.3.1.

1738 The signal and low- m_{jj} regions are split into six channels based on the flavor and charge of
 1739 the dilepton pair: $\mu^+\mu^+$, $\mu^-\mu^-$, μ^+e^+ , μ^-e^- , e^+e^+ , and e^-e^- . This split by charge increases the
 1740 sensitivity of the measurement due to the W^+/W^- charge asymmetry at hadron colliders favoring
 1741 the production of W^+ bosons [82]. Since the signal events contain two W bosons, the signal strength
 1742 compared to charge-symmetric backgrounds is much greater in the $++$ channels for both charges
 1743 combined. The WZ control region is included in the fit as a single bin ($l^\pm l^\mp l^\pm$).

1744 The maximum likelihood fit and cross section extractions are outlined in Sections 5.4.1 and
 1745 5.4.3, respectively. The results of the cross section measurement and of the analysis as a whole are
 1746 presented in Section 5.6.

1747 **5.4.1 Maximum likelihood fit**

1748 The number of predicted signal events in each channel c and m_{jj} bin b can be calculated from the SM
 1749 predicted total production cross section $\sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{tot}}$ scaled by the total integrated luminosity \mathcal{L} , the signal
 1750 acceptance \mathcal{A} , and the efficiency corrections $\mathcal{C}(\theta)$. Here θ represents the set of nuisance parameters
 1751 that parameterize the effects of each systematic uncertainty on the signal and background expec-
 1752 tations. The acceptance and efficiency corrections will be covered in more detail in Section 5.4.2.
 1753

$$N_{cb}^{\text{sig}}(\theta) = \sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{tot}} \mathcal{A}_b \mathcal{C}_b(\theta) \mathcal{L} \quad (5.14)$$

1754 A signal strength parameter μ is defined as the ratio of the measured cross section to the SM
 1755 predicted cross section. The expected number of events in a given channel and bin can then be
 1756 expressed as the sum of the estimated background ($N_{cb}^{\text{bkg}}(\theta)$) and the number of predicted signal
 1757 events scaled by μ :

$$\begin{aligned} N_{cb}^{\text{exp}}(\theta) &= \mu N_{cb}^{\text{sig}}(\theta) + N_{cb}^{\text{bkg}}(\theta) \\ &= \mu \sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{tot}} \mathcal{A}_b \mathcal{C}_b(\theta) \mathcal{L} + N_{cb}^{\text{bkg}}(\theta) \end{aligned} \quad (5.15)$$

1758 The nuisance parameters are constrained by Gaussian probability distribution functions, and
 1759 the normalization of the WZ background mentioned in Section 5.3.1 is included in the fit as a free
 1760 parameter. The expected yields for signal and background processes are adjusted by the set of
 1761 nuisance parameters within the constraints of the systematic uncertainties. The yields after the fit
 1762 correspond to the value that best matches the observed data.

1763 The number of events per channel and bin after the fit can be written as a sum of the predicted
 1764 event yields for each sample s :

$$\nu_{cb}(\phi, \theta, \gamma_{cb}) = \gamma_{cb} \sum_s [\eta_{cs}(\theta) \phi_{cs}(\theta) \lambda] h_{cbs}(\theta) \quad (5.16)$$

1765 In this equation, the fitted number of events in a given channel and bin is obtained by weighting
 1766 the histogram of predicted yields h_{cbs} by the product of a given luminosity λ and any normalization
 1767 factors ϕ_{cs} that may be given for each channel and sample. The input histogram and the normal-
 1768 ization factors may depend on the nuisance parameters θ taking into account sources of systematic
 1769 uncertainty. Uncertainties on the normalization factors $\eta_{cs}(\theta)$ are also included. Finally, bin-by-bin
 1770 scale factors γ_{cb} are included to parameterize the statistical uncertainties of the MC predictions.

1771 The binned likelihood function is given by a product of Gaussian functions for the luminosity
 1772 and for the background uncertainties and a product of Poisson functions for the number of observed
 1773 events in each bin and channel:

$$L(\mu|\theta) = \mathcal{G}(\mathcal{L}|\theta_{\mathcal{L}}, \sigma_{\mathcal{L}}) \cdot \prod_c \prod_b \mathcal{P}(N_{cb}^{\text{meas.}}|\nu_{cb}(\mu)) \prod_p \mathcal{G}(\theta_p^0|\theta_p) \quad (5.17)$$

1774 where \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{P} are the Gaussian and Poisson functions, respectively. As before, \mathcal{L} represents the
 1775 integrated luminosity with uncertainty $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}$ and associated nuisance parameter $\theta_{\mathcal{L}}$. The number of
 1776 measured events in a given bin and channel is represented by $N_{cb}^{\text{meas.}}$, and $\nu_{cb}(\mu)$ is the predicted
 1777 number of events defined in Equation 5.16 expressed as a function of the signal strength μ . Finally,
 1778 the set of nuisance parameters θ and any auxiliary measurements used to constrain them (θ^0) are
 1779 multiplied for each parameter p .

1780 The profile likelihood ratio is defined as

$$q_{\mu} = -2 \ln \frac{L(\mu, \hat{\theta}_{\mu})}{L(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\theta})} \quad (5.18)$$

1781 where $\hat{\mu}$ and $\hat{\theta}$ are the unconditional maximum likelihood estimates, and $\hat{\theta}$ is the conditional maxi-
 1782 mum likelihood estimate for a given value of μ . The fitted signal strength $\hat{\mu}$ is obtained by maximiz-
 1783 ing the likelihood function with respect to all parameters. The compatibility of the observed data

1784 with the background-only hypothesis can then be calculated by setting $\mu = 0$. Observation of the
 1785 $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK process is claimed if the data is found to be inconsistent with the background-only
 1786 hypothesis by more than 5σ .

1787 **5.4.2 Definition of the fiducial volume**

1788 Before extracting the cross section, it is necessary to define the fiducial volume, or the phase space
 1789 of measureable events. It is a subset of the total phase space defined by selection requirements
 1790 designed to mirror those applied in the analysis as closely as possible. The selection criteria for the
 1791 fiducial volume are listed in Table 5.18.

Fiducial region selection	
Lepton selection	Two prompt leptons (e, μ) $p_T > 27$ GeV and $ \eta < 2.5$ for both leptons Both leptons with the same electric charge Dilepton invariant mass $m_{ll} > 20$ GeV Dilepton separation $\Delta R(ll) > 0.3$
Missing transverse energy	Two neutrino system with $p_T^{\nu\nu} > 30$ GeV
Jet selection	At least two jets Leading jet $p_T > 65$ GeV Subleading jet $p_T > 35$ GeV Leading and subleading jet $ \eta < 4.5$ Jet-lepton separation $\Delta R(l, j) > 0.3$ Dijet invariant mass $m_{jj} > 500$ GeV Dijet separation $\Delta y_{jj} > 2.0$

Table 5.18: Definition of the fiducial volume.

1792 In MC simulations the total phase space is generated, providing the total theoretical cross section
 1793 $\sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{tot}}$ and the total number of signal events $\mathcal{N}_{\text{sig}}^{\text{tot}}$ ¹⁶. After applying the fiducial selection at truth
 1794 level, the total number of signal events in the fiducial region $\mathcal{N}_{\text{sig}}^{\text{fid}}$ is obtained. An acceptance factor
 1795 \mathcal{A} is used to represent the efficiency of events falling inside the fiducial region at truth level:

$$\mathcal{A} = \frac{\mathcal{N}_{\text{sig}}^{\text{fid}}}{\mathcal{N}_{\text{sig}}^{\text{tot}}} \quad (5.19)$$

1796 A correction factor \mathcal{C} is also necessary to translate from the truth level fiducial volume to the
 1797 reconstruction level signal region and is defined in terms of the number of reconstruction level MC
 1798 events in the signal region $N_{\text{sig}, \text{MC}}^{\text{SR}}$:

$$\mathcal{C} = \frac{N_{\text{sig}, \text{MC}}^{\text{SR}}}{\mathcal{N}_{\text{sig}}^{\text{fid}}} \quad (5.20)$$

¹⁶For the purpose of clarity, the number of events at truth level is represented by a script \mathcal{N} , and the number of events at reconstruction level uses a regular N .

1799 Since the fit is binned in m_{jj} , the acceptance and efficiency correction factors must be as well.
 1800 Therefore, \mathcal{A}_i and \mathcal{C}_{ij} are written in terms of truth m_{jj} bins i and reconstruction m_{jj} bins j . A
 1801 graphical representation of these regions and the use of the acceptance and correction factors can
 1802 be seen in Figure 5.27.

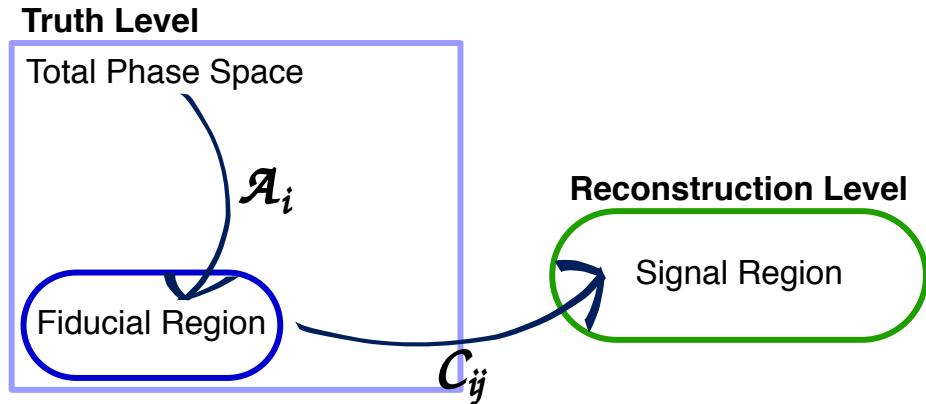


Figure 5.27: Visual representation of the different kinematic regions relevant to the cross section measurement. The acceptance factor \mathcal{A} converts from the truth level total phase space to the truth level fiducial region, and the efficiency correction \mathcal{C} translates the fiducial region into the reconstruction level signal region.

1803 5.4.3 Cross section extraction

1804 The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK fiducial cross section is measured using the signal strength parameter μ that is
 1805 determined by the maximum likelihood fit. This parameter is dependent on the nuisance parameters
 1806 θ and can be written explicitly in terms of the measured and theoretical cross sections as:

$$\mu(\theta) = \frac{\sigma_{\text{meas}}^{\text{SR}}}{\sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{SR}}} \quad (5.21)$$

1807 In the simple case with only one bin, the equation for the total number of expected events in the
 1808 signal region first introduced in Equation 5.15 can be written as:

$$N_{\text{exp}}^{\text{SR}}(\theta) = \mu(\theta) \cdot \sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{tot}} \cdot \mathcal{L} \cdot \mathcal{A} \cdot \mathcal{C}(\theta) + N_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{SR}}(\theta) \quad (5.22)$$

1809 with the non-binned versions of \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{C} defined in Equations 5.19 and 5.20, respectively.

1810 If the measured fiducial cross section is written as:

$$\sigma_{\text{meas}}^{\text{fid}} = \mu \cdot \mathcal{A} \cdot \sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{tot}} \quad (5.23)$$

1811 then Equation 5.22 can be rearranged to read:

$$\sigma_{\text{meas}}^{\text{fid}} = \frac{N_{\text{exp}}^{\text{SR}}(\theta) - N_{\text{bkg}}^{\text{SR}}(\theta)}{\mathcal{L} \cdot \mathcal{C}(\theta)} \quad (5.24)$$

1812 The measured fiducial cross section can finally be rewritten in terms of $\hat{\mu}$, which is the best estimator
1813 of the signal strength as extracted from the fit:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\text{meas}}^{\text{fid}} &= \hat{\mu}(\theta) \cdot \sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{tot}} \cdot \mathcal{A} \\ &= \hat{\mu}(\theta) \cdot \sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{fid}} \end{aligned} \quad (5.25)$$

1814 In practice, however, the cross section is not extracted from a single bin, and Equation 5.22
1815 becomes:

$$N_{\text{exp}}^{\text{SR}}(\theta) = \mu(\theta) \cdot \sigma_{\text{theo}}^{\text{tot}} \cdot \mathcal{L} \cdot \sum_i \mathcal{A}_i \cdot \sum_j \mathcal{C}_{ij} + \sum_j N_{\text{bkg},j}^{\text{SR}}(\theta) \quad (5.26)$$

1816 for a single channel in truth and reconstruction level m_{jj} bins i and j , respectively, where the binned
1817 versions of \mathcal{A}_i and \mathcal{C}_{ij} are used. This equation can be extended to include all the analysis channels
1818 by increasing the number of bins i and j . Additionally, it can be shown that Equation 5.25 holds
1819 for this more complex case as well [51], provided care is taken to ensure that all the uncertainties
1820 are handled properly.

1821 5.5 Summary of uncertainties

1822 Systematic uncertainties enter the final fit as nuisance parameters which can impact the estimated
1823 signal and background yields and the shapes of the m_{jj} distributions. These uncertainties can arise
1824 from the experimental methods or from the theoretical calculations used in the analysis. This section
1825 summarizes the systematic uncertainties; the experimental uncertainties are detailed in Section 5.5.1,
1826 and the theoretical uncertainties are covered in Section 5.5.2. The impacts of the systematic uncer-
1827 tainties on the final cross section measurement are summarized in Table 5.19.

1828 5.5.1 Experimental uncertainties

1829 Experimental uncertainties include detector effects as well as uncertainties on the background es-
1830 timation methods. Sources of systematic uncertainty on the measurement of physics objects are
1831 listed in Table 5.20, grouped by the relevant object type. For backgrounds estimated from MC
1832 simulations, variations in these sources of uncertainty are propagated through the analysis to obtain
1833 the corresponding uncertainties on the event yields. Additional experimental uncertainties include

Source	Impact [%]
Reconstruction	± 4.0
Electrons	± 0.5
Muons	± 1.2
Jets and E_T^{miss}	± 2.8
b -tagging	± 2.0
Pileup	± 1.5
Background	± 5.0
Misid. leptons	± 3.9
Charge misrec.	± 0.3
WZ	± 1.3
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ QCD	± 2.8
Other	± 0.8
Signal	± 3.6
Interference	± 1.0
EW Corrections	± 1.3
Shower, Scale, PDF & α_s	± 3.2
Total	± 7.4

Table 5.19: Impact of various systematic effects on the fiducial cross section measurement. The impact of a given source of uncertainty is computed by performing the fit with the corresponding nuisance parameter varied up or down by one standard deviation from its nominal value.

1834 the integrated luminosity, the photon conversion rate from Section 5.3.2, and the data driven charge
 1835 misidentification and fake lepton background estimations from Sections 5.3.3 and 5.3.4.5, respec-
 1836 tively.

1837 The largest sources of experimental uncertainty on the MC estimations come from the jet-related
 1838 uncertainties and the b -tagging efficiency, while the largest uncertainty on the background estimation
 1839 comes from the fake-factor. The effects of the uncertainties on the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal and the
 1840 dominant MC estimated background, WZ , are listed in Tables 5.21 and 5.22, respectively. Since
 1841 the overall contributions from other processes estimated with MC are small, the uncertainties on
 1842 these backgrounds have a lesser impact on the final measurement; these tables can be found in
 1843 Appendix A.1.

1844 5.5.2 Theoretical uncertainties

1845 It is also necessary to consider uncertainties on the theoretical predictions in the fiducial region. They
 1846 include the choice of PDF set, the value of the strong coupling constant α_s , the renormalization
 1847 scale μ_R , the factorization scale μ_F , and the parton showering. The size of these uncertainties
 1848 are measured by generating new samples with variations in a chosen parameters and comparing

Experimental uncertainties	
Electrons	Energy resolution
	Energy scale
	Identification efficiency
	Isolation efficiency
	Reconstruction efficiency
	Trigger efficiency
Muons	Energy scale
	Identification efficiency
	Inner detector track resolution
	Muon spectrometer resolution
	Trigger efficiency
E_T^{miss}	Resolution
	Scale
Jets	Energy resolution
	Energy scale
	JVT cut efficiency
	b -tagging efficiency
	Jets from pileup

Table 5.20: List of sources of experimental uncertainties on the reconstruction of physics objects.

$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK	$e^\pm e^\pm$ % Yield	$\mu^\pm e^\pm$ % Yield	$\mu^\pm \mu^\pm$ % Yield
Jet-related Uncertainties	2.28	2.22	2.28
b -tagging efficiency	1.81	1.76	1.74
Pile-up	0.48	0.97	2.42
Trigger efficiency	0.02	0.08	0.47
Lepton reconstruction/ID	1.45	1.14	1.83
MET reconstruction	0.26	0.17	0.21

Table 5.21: Impact of experimental uncertainties for the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK processes in all channels.

WZ	$e^\pm e^\pm$ % Yield	$\mu^\pm e^\pm$ % Yield	$\mu^\pm \mu^\pm$ % Yield
Jet-related Uncertainties	9.58	5.03	8.45
b -tagging efficiency	2.49	2.23	2.40
Pile-up	2.99	3.49	3.33
Trigger efficiency	0.03	0.09	0.43
Lepton reconstruction/ID	1.52	1.24	3.07
MET reconstruction	0.93	0.79	1.63

Table 5.22: Impact of experimental uncertainties for the WZ process in all channels.

them to samples using the nominal choice of the parameter. Internal variations on the PDF sets and using a different set entirely results in a relative uncertainty of up to 2.25% on the nominal sample. The impact from varying α_s is very small, on the order of < 0.01%. The factorization and renormalization scales are independently varied between 0.5-2.0 from their nominal values of 1.0. This results in relative uncertainties on the prediction of up to 15%. Finally, varying the parameters in the parton showering results in up to 8% uncertainty.

5.5.2.1 Uncertainties from EWK-QCD interference

As mentioned in Section 5.0.1, $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ production consists of both EWK processes. The two production modes cannot be naively separated due to cross terms in the matrix element calculation. These cross terms are referred to as *interference* terms. Since the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK production is the focus of the analysis, and the signal region is designed to preferentially select those events, it is important to measure the size of the EWK-QCD interference contributions.

The interference effects are estimated using the `MadGraph` MC generator, as it has a feature that allows direct modelling of the interference term. This allows four samples to be generated:

1. Inclusive: All available diagrams are used in the matrix element calculation
2. EWK only: Only EWK diagrams ($\mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{EWK}}) = 4$) are used
3. QCD only: Only QCD diagrams ($\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s) = 2 \otimes \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{EWK}}) = 2$) are used
4. Interference: Only the interference terms are used

A minimal set of generator level cuts, listed in Table 5.23, is applied in order to avoid biasing the sample towards either production mode. The cross sections for each of the four channels can be found in Table 5.24. The size of the interference is found to be approximately 6% of the total cross section and is taken as a systematic uncertainty.

Generator level cuts
$\Delta\eta_{jj} < 10$
Jet $p_T > 20$ GeV
$M_{jj} > 10$ GeV

Table 5.23: The set of generator level cuts used for generating the interference samples with `MadGraph`.

Sample	σ (fb)
Inclusive	3.646 ± 0.0012
EWK only	2.132 ± 0.0005
QCD only	1.371 ± 0.0008
Interference	0.227 ± 0.0002

Table 5.24: Cross sections for each different $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ production mode (inclusive, EWK only, QCD only, and interference only) generated using `MadGraph`. The cross sections are calculated using a minimal set of generator level cuts from events where the W decays to a muon.

1871 5.6 Results

1872 After running the full analysis chain, the event yields in the signal region, low- m_{jj} control region,
 1873 and WZ control region as well as associated nuisance parameters representing the uncertainties are
 1874 passed to the maximum likelihood fit. From this fit, the normalization factor for the WZ control
 1875 region μ_{WZ} and the signal strength parameter in the signal region μ_{obs} are determined, and the
 1876 predicted yields in each input bin have been shifted according to the process detailed in Section 5.4.1.

1877 The WZ normalization factor is measured to be:

$$\mu_{WZ} = 0.88^{+0.07}_{-0.07}(\text{stat})^{+0.31}_{-0.21}(\text{theory})^{+0.22}_{-0.11}(\text{sys}) \quad (5.27)$$

1878 and is constrained primarily by the number of data events in the WZ control region. The observed
 1879 signal strength of $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK production, defined in Equation 5.21, is extracted from the fit
 1880 and measured with respect to the prediction of the `SHERPA v2.2.2` MC generator:

$$\mu_{\text{obs}} = 1.45^{+0.25}_{-0.24}(\text{stat})^{+0.06}_{-0.08}(\text{theory})^{+0.27}_{-0.22}(\text{sys}) \quad (5.28)$$

1881 This corresponds to a rejection of the background-only hypothesis with a significance of 6.9σ .

1882 The observed number of data events are compared to the predicted signal and background yields
 1883 in the signal region in Table 5.25 before applying the fit and in Table 5.26 after the fit. 122 candidate
 1884 events are observed compared to a prediction of 60 signal and 69 background events.

1885 The m_{jj} distributions for data and prediction are shown in Figure 5.28 after the fit, and the
 1886 fitted event yields in the low- m_{jj} and WZ control regions are shown in Figure 5.29. Additional
 1887 distributions can be found in Appendix A.

1888 The last ingredient necessary to measure the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK cross section is the theory predicted
 1889 cross section in the fiducial region defined in Table 5.18. `SHERPA v2.2.2` is used for the calculation,
 1890 and the cross section in the total generator phase space is 40.81 ± 0.05 fb, and the fiducial cross section
 1891 is 2.01 ± 0.02 fb. This corresponds to an acceptance factor of $\mathcal{A} = 0.0493 \pm 0.0002$. Uncertainties on

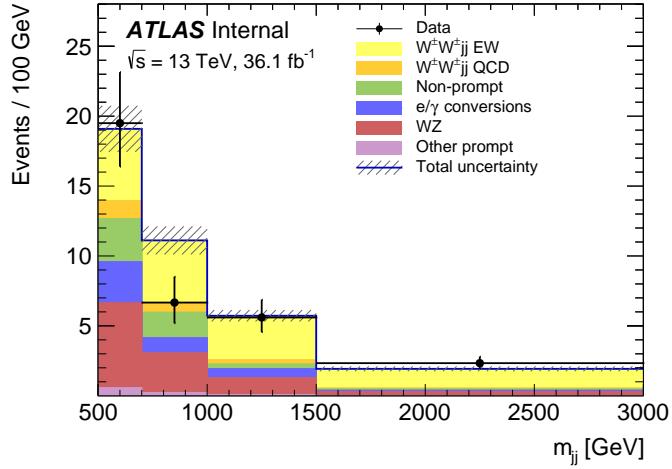


Figure 5.28: The dijet invariant mass m_{jj} distributions for data and predicted signal and background in the signal region after the fit. The shaded band represents the statistical and systematic uncertainties added in quadrature. Note that the bins have been scaled such that they represent the number of events per 100 GeV in m_{jj} . The background estimations from the fake-factor are included in the “Non-prompt” category, and backgrounds from $V\gamma$ production and electron charge misidentification are combined in the “ e/γ conversions” category. Finally, ZZ , VVV , and $t\bar{t} + V$ backgrounds are combined in the “Other prompt” category.

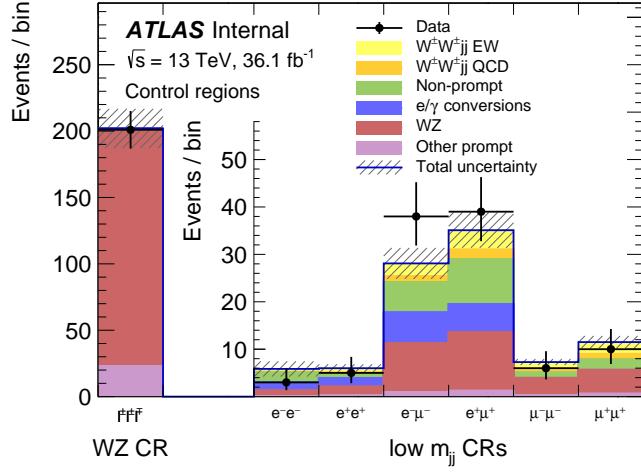


Figure 5.29: The event yields for data and predicted signal and background in the WZ and low- m_{jj} control regions after the fit. The shaded band represents the statistical and systematic uncertainties added in quadrature. The background estimations from the fake-factor are included in the “Non-prompt” category, and backgrounds from $V\gamma$ production and electron charge misidentification are combined in the “ e/γ conversions” category. Finally, ZZ , VVV , and $t\bar{t}V$ backgrounds are combined in the “Other prompt” category.

	e^+e^+	e^-e^-	μ^+e^+	μ^-e^-	$\mu^+\mu^+$	$\mu^-\mu^-$	combined
WZ	1.9 ± 0.6	1.3 ± 0.4	14 ± 4	8.9 ± 2.6	5.5 ± 1.6	3.6 ± 1.1	35 ± 10
Non-prompt	4.1 ± 2.3	2.3 ± 1.7	9 ± 5	6 ± 4	0.57 ± 0.15	0.67 ± 0.25	23 ± 10
e/γ conversions	1.74 ± 0.29	1.8 ± 0.4	6.1 ± 1.6	3.7 ± 0.8	—	—	13.4 ± 2.5
Other prompt	0.17 ± 0.05	0.14 ± 0.04	0.90 ± 0.19	0.60 ± 0.14	0.36 ± 0.10	0.19 ± 0.05	2.4 ± 0.5
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ QCD	0.38 ± 0.13	0.16 ± 0.05	3.0 ± 1.0	1.2 ± 0.4	1.8 ± 0.6	0.76 ± 0.25	7.3 ± 2.5
Expected background	8.2 ± 2.4	5.7 ± 1.8	33 ± 7	21 ± 5	8.2 ± 1.8	5.3 ± 1.2	81 ± 14
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK	3.8 ± 0.6	1.49 ± 0.22	16.5 ± 2.5	6.5 ± 1.0	9.1 ± 1.4	3.5 ± 0.5	41 ± 6
Data	10	4	44	28	25	11	122

Table 5.25: Table of the data and prediction event yields in the signal region before the fit. Numbers are shown for the six lepton flavor and charge channels and for all channels combined. Here the WZ background yields are normalized to the data in the WZ control region. The background estimations from the fake-factor are included in the “Non-prompt” category, and backgrounds from $V\gamma$ production and electron charge misidentification are combined in the “ e/γ conversions” category. Finally, ZZ , VVV , and $t\bar{t} + V$ backgrounds are combined in the “Other prompt” category.

	e^+e^+	e^-e^-	μ^+e^+	μ^-e^-	$\mu^+\mu^+$	$\mu^-\mu^-$	combined
WZ	1.49 ± 0.30	1.10 ± 0.26	11.7 ± 1.7	8.0 ± 1.3	5.0 ± 0.6	3.5 ± 0.6	31 ± 4
Non-prompt	2.2 ± 1.3	1.2 ± 0.7	5.7 ± 2.8	4.5 ± 1.8	0.57 ± 0.06	0.65 ± 0.14	15 ± 6
e/γ conversions	1.6 ± 0.4	1.6 ± 0.5	6.3 ± 1.6	4.3 ± 1.1	—	—	13.8 ± 2.9
Other prompt	0.16 ± 0.04	0.14 ± 0.04	0.90 ± 0.19	0.63 ± 0.13	0.39 ± 0.09	0.22 ± 0.05	2.4 ± 0.5
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ QCD	0.35 ± 0.13	0.15 ± 0.05	2.9 ± 1.0	1.2 ± 0.4	1.8 ± 0.6	0.76 ± 0.25	7.2 ± 2.4
Expected background	5.8 ± 1.5	4.1 ± 1.1	27 ± 4	18.7 ± 2.6	7.7 ± 0.8	5.1 ± 0.6	69 ± 7
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK	5.6 ± 1.0	2.2 ± 0.4	24 ± 5	9.4 ± 1.8	13.5 ± 2.5	5.2 ± 1.0	60 ± 11
Data	10	4	44	28	25	11	122

Table 5.26: Table of the data and prediction event yields in the signal region after the fit. Numbers are shown for the six lepton flavor and charge channels and for all channels combined. The background estimations from the fake-factor are included in the “Non-prompt” category, and backgrounds from $V\gamma$ production and electron charge misidentification are combined in the “ e/γ conversions” category. Finally, ZZ , VVV , and $t\bar{t}V$ backgrounds are combined in the “Other prompt” category.

1892 the simulation are estimated using variations of the scale, parton shower, and PDF set. The final
 1893 prediction used in the cross section measurement including uncertainties from Section 5.5.2 is:

$$\sigma_{\text{SHERPA}}^{\text{fid}} = 2.01 \pm 0.02(\text{stat}) \begin{array}{l} +0.29 \\ -0.23 \end{array} (\text{scale}) \begin{array}{l} +0.16 \\ -0.02 \end{array} (\text{parton shower}) \begin{array}{l} +0.05 \\ -0.03 \end{array} (\text{PDF}) \text{ fb} \quad (5.29)$$

1894 Combining this **SHERPA** prediction with the measured signal strength μ_{obs} from Equation 5.28,
 1895 the measured fiducial cross section $\sigma_{\text{meas}}^{\text{fid}}$ can be calculated using Equation 5.25:

$$\sigma_{\text{meas}}^{\text{fid}} = 2.91 \begin{array}{l} +0.51 \\ -0.47 \end{array} (\text{stat}) \begin{array}{l} +0.12 \\ -0.16 \end{array} (\text{theory}) \begin{array}{l} +0.24 \\ -0.23 \end{array} (\text{sys}) \begin{array}{l} +0.08 \\ -0.06 \end{array} (\text{luminosity}) \text{ fb} \quad (5.30)$$

1896 A plot comparing the measured fiducial cross section to two theoretical calculations is shown in
 1897 Figure 5.30. The measured value is compared to the **SHERPA v2.2.2** prediction used to calculate
 1898 μ_{obs} as well as to **POWHEG-BOX v2**. As mentioned in Section 5.1.1, this **POWHEG** sample does not
 1899 include the resonant triboson diagrams and is only used here for a visual comparison.

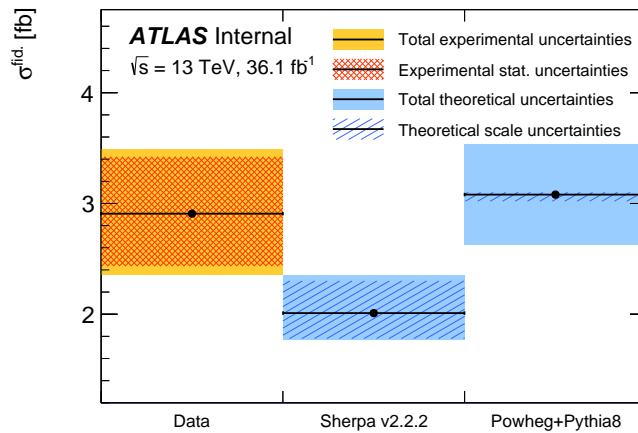


Figure 5.30: Comparison of the measured $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK fiducial cross section with theoretical calculations from **SHERPA v2.2.2** and **POWHEG-BOX v2**. The light orange band represents the total experimental uncertainty on the measured value, and the dark orange hashed band is the statistical uncertainty. For the simulations, the light blue band represents the total theoretical uncertainty, and the dark blue hashed band are the scale uncertainties. The theory predictions do not include the interference between the EWK and QCD production.

1900

CHAPTER 6

1901

Prospects for same-sign WW at the High Luminosity LHC

1902

1903 On December 3, 2018, Run 2 of the LHC officially ended, and the collider was shut down to begin
1904 the first of two scheduled extended maintenance periods [83]. During these two long shutdowns,
1905 the Phase-I and Phase-II upgrades of the LHC and ATLAS will occur in order to prepare for the
1906 High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) which is scheduled to begin operation in 2026 [84].

1907 The HL-LHC is planned to run at a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV with an instantaneous
1908 luminosity of $\mathcal{L} = 5 \times 10^{34}$ cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ with up to 200 collisions per beam-crossing. Over the course
1909 of operation, the HL-LHC is expected to collect a total integrated luminosity of $\mathcal{L} = 3000$ fb $^{-1}$ by
1910 2035 [85].

1911 These run conditions will be much harsher than what ATLAS has experienced so far, and there
1912 are several upgrades planned to adapt the detector to the high luminosity environment. Most
1913 notably, the entire ID will be replaced with an all-silicon tracker which will extend the coverage
1914 from $|\eta| \leq 2.7$ up to $|\eta| \leq 4.0$. This will allow for forward particle tracks to be reconstructed, which
1915 can in turn be matched to clusters in the calorimeters for use in electron identification or forward
1916 jet tagging [86].

1917 The upgraded detector, the higher beam energy, and the increased volume of data to be col-
1918 lected provides the opportunity to measure rare processes to a much higher precision than what
1919 is possible with the current LCH dataset. Same-sign $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ production is one such process.
1920 With greater statistics, the accuracy of the cross section measurement can be improved over the
1921 13 TeV analysis detailed in Chapter 5, and it also will allow for more detailed physics studies, such
1922 as measuring the polarization state of the scattered W bosons. A measurement of the cross section

of longitudinally polarized $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ scattering is one of the most enticing extensions of the existing $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ measurements due to its sensitivity to the EWSB mechanism [87], and it is expected to be measurable for the first time at the HL-LHC. The analysis detailed in this chapter is based off of the 2018 ATLAS HL-LHC $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ prospects study [88] which extends upon the results of the previous year’s study [89].

6.0.1 Analysis Overview

The experimental signature of interest is identical to the 13 TeV analysis (see Chapter 5): two prompt leptons (either electrons or muons) with the same electric charge, missing transverse energy, and two high energy forward jets. These jets are again required to have a large angular separation and a high combined invariant mass to preferentially select EWK-produced $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events.

Background processes are not expected to change with respect to the 13 TeV analysis and are summarized here. The dominant source of prompt background comes from $WZ+jets$ events where both bosons decay leptonically. If the lepton from the Z -decay with opposite charge from the W falls outside of the detector acceptance or is not identified, the remaining two leptons will form a same-sign pair, and the event may pass the signal lepton criteria. To a much lesser extent, $ZZ+jets$ events can enter the signal region this way provided two leptons are “lost”. Other prompt sources include $t\bar{t}+V$ and multiple parton interactions, however both contributions are small. Overall, prompt backgrounds are expected to contribute less than in current analyses due to the addition of forward tracking in the upgraded ATLAS detector reducing the probability of leptons falling outside the detector acceptance. Jets mis-reconstructed as leptons or leptons from hadronic decays (such as $t\bar{t}$ and $W+jets$ production) comprise the non-prompt lepton background. Lastly, events with two prompt, opposite-charge electrons can appear as a same-sign event provided one of the electrons is mis-reconstructed and assigned the wrong charge.

In this analysis, the EWK production of $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ is studied in the context of the planned HL-LHC run conditions and upgraded ATLAS detector. An optimized event selection (referred to as the *optimized selection*) is also explored in an effort to gain increased signal significance over the *default selection*. The cross section of the inclusive EWK production is measured for both the default and optimized selections, and the extraction of the expected longitudinal scattering significance is measured with the optimized selection.

1952 6.1 Theoretical motivation

1953 The motivation for studying the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ process as well as VBS in general has been established
 1954 previously in Sections 2.3 and 5.0.1. Since only the longitudinally polarized vector bosons that is
 1955 sensitive to the EWSB mechanism, a direct measurement of this cross section will be very useful for
 1956 understanding how the Higgs unitarizes the scattering amplitude [87].

1957 6.1.1 Experimental sensitivity to longitudinal polarization

1958 There are three possible polarization states for a massive vector boson: two transverse (+ or -)
 1959 and one longitudinal (0). Therefore, in a system with two W bosons, the overall polarization can be
 1960 purely longitudinal (00), purely transverse (++, --, and +-), or mixed (+0 and -0). The three
 1961 combinations will be referred to as *LL*, *TT*, and *LT* respectively.

1962 In order extract the longitudinal scattering component, it is necessary to find variables that can
 1963 help distinguish the LL from the TT and LT events. Several were studied, and those with the best
 1964 discriminating power between the different polarization states are the leading and subleading lepton
 1965 transverse momenta as well as the azimuthal separation of the two VBS jets $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$. Both leptons
 1966 in LL events tend to be softer than the TT and LT events (see Figure 6.1), which motivates keeping
 1967 cuts on the lepton p_T as low as possible in the event selection. In the case of the dijet separation, LL
 1968 events prefer the tag jets to be back-to-back (see Figure 6.2). $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$ is passed to a binned likelihood
 1969 fit to extract the longitudinal scattering significance.

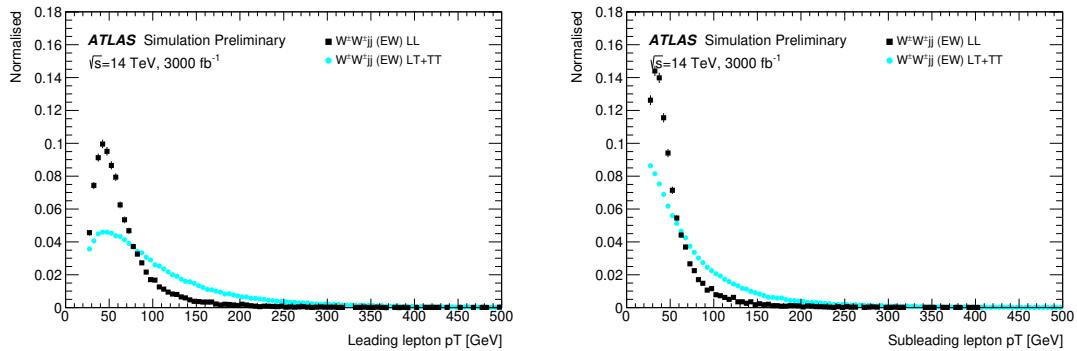


Figure 6.1: Comparison of the leading (left) and subleading (right) lepton p_T distributions for purely longitudinal (LL, black) and mixed polarization (LT+TT, cyan) $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events.

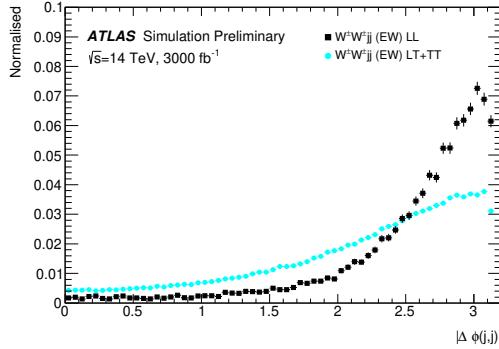


Figure 6.2: Comparison of the azimuthal dijet separation ($|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$) for purely longitudinal (LL, black) and mixed polarization (LT+TT, cyan) $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events.

1970 6.2 Monte Carlo samples

1971 As this is a prospects study for a future collider, all signal and background processes are modeled
 1972 using MC simulations. The samples are generated at the expected HL-LHC center of mass energy
 1973 $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV, and the event yields are scaled to the anticipated integrated luminosity of $\mathcal{L} =$
 1974 3000 fb^{-1} . The MC samples used in the analysis are generated at particle-level and have not been
 1975 run through the full simulation of the ATLAS detector. Instead, smearing functions derived from
 1976 a GEANT4 simulation of the upgraded ATLAS detector are used to estimate detector effects such as
 1977 momentum resolution. In addition, pileup events are fully simulated. The MC samples used in this
 1978 analysis are summarized in Table 6.1.

1979 The signal sample consists of both VBS and non-VBS electroweak (EWK) $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ production,
 1980 and it is simulated with the `Madgraph5_aMC@NLO` generator using the NNPDF3.0 PDF set and in-
 1981 terfaced with PYTHIA v8 [90] for hadronization and parton showering. To study the longitudinal
 1982 polarization more directly, two additional `Madgraph5_aMC@NLO` $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ samples are used: one
 1983 containing only the longitudinal contribution (LL) and a second containing the transverse (TT) and
 1984 mixed (LT) contributions.

1985 There are many other processes that can produce the same final state as the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ and must
 1986 also be accounted for using MC simulations. WZ events are generated using `SHERPA v2.2.0`, which
 1987 includes up to one parton at NLO in the strong coupling constant and up to three additional partons
 1988 at LO. Both EWK and QCD production are included in these samples. ZZ and triboson VVV
 1989 ($V = W, Z$) events are generated using `SHERPA v2.2.2` with up to two additional partons in the
 1990 final state. For the triboson backgrounds, the bosons can decay leptonically or hadronically. $W+jets$

Process	Generator	Comments
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (EWK)	Madgraph5_aMC@NLO	Signal sample
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (QCD)	Madgraph5_aMC@NLO	
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (LL)	Madgraph5_aMC@NLO	Pure longitudinal polarization sample
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (TT+LT)	Madgraph5_aMC@NLO	Mixed and transverse polarization sample
Diboson	SHERPA v2.2.0	WZ events
	SHERPA v2.2.2	ZZ events
Triboson	SHERPA v2.2.2	
$W+jets$	Madgraph5_aMC@NLO	
$Z+jets$	POWHEG-BOX v2	
$t\bar{t}$	POWHEG-BOX	
Single top	POWHEG-BOS	

Table 6.1: Summary of MC samples used in the analysis.

1991 backgrounds are generated for electron, muon, and tau final states at LO with `Madgraph5_aMC@NLO`
 1992 and the `NNPDF3.0` PDF set with showering from `PYTHIA v8`. $Z+jets$ events are produced using
 1993 `POWHEG-BOX v2` and the `CT10` PDF set interfaced with `PYTHIA v8`. Finally, $t\bar{t}$ and single-top events
 1994 are generated using `POWHEG-BOX` with showering from `PYTHIA v6`.

1995 6.3 Background estimations

1996 In this analysis, all background contributions are estimated using MC simulations. Backgrounds
 1997 from electron charge misidentification and fake electrons from jets, which are traditionally estimated
 1998 using data-driven techniques, are instead estimated using a set of parameterization functions applied
 1999 to the MC. These functions calculate the probability that an electron is assigned the wrong charge or
 2000 a jet is mis-reconstructed as an electron parameterized by the p_T and η of the respective electron or
 2001 jet. The probabilities are derived from studies on expected electron performance with the upgraded
 2002 ATLAS detector [91].

2003 Processes involving two W or Z bosons are grouped together as *diboson* backgrounds, with the
 2004 exception of $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events produced via QCD interactions, which are kept separate. Similarly,
 2005 all backgrounds with three vector bosons are combined and labeled as *triboson*. Any $W+jets$ or top
 2006 events that pass selection and do not contain a fake electron, as well as any $Z+jets$ events without an
 2007 electron identified as having its charge misidentified are combined as *other non-prompt* backgrounds.

2008 **6.3.1 Truth-based isolation**

2009 The canonical isolation variables used in ATLAS analyses require detailed information from many
 2010 detector subsystems including particle tracks and calorimeter responses. Since the MC samples used
 2011 in this analysis have not been run through a full detector simulation, it is not possible to reproduce
 2012 the official isolation variables. For truth-level analysis, this is generally not a serious concern, as
 2013 high- p_T signal leptons tend to be well isolated to begin with. However, isolation is one of the
 2014 most powerful tools for rejecting leptons from non-prompt sources, such as top events, which are
 2015 produced in association with additional nearby particles from b and c hadron decays. It was seen in
 2016 the early stages of this analysis that without any sort of isolation requirement, contributions from
 2017 top backgrounds (including single top, $t\bar{t}$ and $t\bar{t} + V$) were more than an order of magnitude higher
 2018 than expected.

2019 As a result, it is necessary to find one or more quantities that are comparable to the isolation
 2020 information that is available in fully-simulated samples. Analogues to track- and calorimeter-based
 2021 isolation are constructed by summing the momentum and energy, respectively, of stable truth parti-
 2022 cles with $p_T > 1$ GeV within a specified radius of each signal lepton. For the track-based isolation,
 2023 only charged truth particles are used; both charged and neutral particles (excluding neutrinos) are
 2024 included for the calorimeter-based isolation. Ultimately, a set of isolation cuts are chosen that are
 2025 similar to those recommended by ATLAS for Run 2 analyses. The truth-based isolation requirements
 2026 are listed in Table 6.2.

	Electron Isolation	Muon Isolation
Track-based isolation cone size	$\Delta R < 0.2$	$\Delta R < 0.3$
Track-based isolation requirement	$\sum p_T/p_T^e < 0.06$	$\sum p_T/p_T^\mu < 0.04$
Calorimeter-based isolation cone size	$\Delta R < 0.2$	$\Delta R < 0.2$
Calorimeter-based isolation requirement	$\sum E_T/p_T^e < 0.06$	$\sum E_T/p_T^\mu < 0.15$

Table 6.2: Truth-based isolation requirements for electrons and muons.

2027 With no cut on truth-based isolation, 83% of the total background consists of top events without
 2028 including contributions to the fake electron background. The isolation requirement reduces the top
 2029 background by over 99%, and the percentage of the total background from top events is reduced to
 2030 2%. Additional studies on the truth-based isolation as well as full event yields with and without the
 2031 isolation requirement can be found in Appendix B.1.

2032 **6.4 Object and event selection**

2033 The majority of the default object and event selections were determined in the preceeding $W^\pm W^\pm jj$
 2034 HL-LHC prospects study [89], which focused on the impact of the upgraded detector's forward
 2035 tracking capabilities. Several different combinations of lepton and jet η ranges were tested, and the
 2036 results are used in this study.

2037 **6.4.1 Object selection**

2038 Electrons and muons are preselected to have $p_T > 7$ and 6 GeV, respectively, and lie within $|\eta| \leq 4.0$.
 2039 The likelihood of a given lepton to pass the trigger and identification requirements is estimated by
 2040 calculating an efficiency dependent on the p_T and η of the lepton. The leptons are also required to
 2041 pass the isolation criteria detailed in Table 6.2. Jets that have been tagged as a fake electron by the
 2042 functions described in Section 6.3 are treated as electrons for the purpose of the object selection and
 2043 are subject to the same criteria. In order to be considered a signal lepton, the transverse momentum
 2044 requirement is raised to $p_T > 25$ GeV. The two highest p_T leptons passing this selection are chosen
 2045 to be the leading and subleading signal leptons.

2046 Jets are clustered using the anti- k_t algorithm from final-state particles within a radius of $\Delta R =$
 2047 0.4 (excluding muons and neutrinos). All jets are required to have $p_T > 30$ GeV and lie within $|\eta| <$
 2048 4.5 ; in order to suppress jets from pileup interactions, jets outside of $|\eta| \geq 3.8$ must pass an higher
 2049 momentum cut of $p_T > 70$ GeV. Jets overlapping a preselected electron within $\Delta R(e, j) < 0.05$ are
 2050 removed in order to prevent double counting. The two highest p_T jets are defined as the leading
 2051 and subleading tag jets.

2052 **6.4.2 Event selection**

2053 The default event selection is summarized in Table 6.3 and described here. Exactly two signal
 2054 leptons are required with the same electric charge and separated from each other by $\Delta R(ll) > 0.3$.
 2055 In order to suppress contributions from Drell-Yan backgrounds, the two signal leptons must have
 2056 an invariant mass m_{ll} greater than 20 GeV. Additionally, if both signal leptons are electrons, their
 2057 mass must be at least 10 GeV away from the Z -boson mass in order to reduce background from
 2058 Z -boson decays¹⁷. The event is required to have at least 40 GeV of missing transverse energy (E_T^{miss})

¹⁷The electron charge misidentification rate in the upgraded ATLAS detector is estimated to be high enough that contributions from $Z \rightarrow ee$ backgrounds are non-negligible.

Selection requirement	Selection value
Lepton kinematics	$p_T > 25 \text{ GeV}$ $ \eta \leq 4.0$
Jet kinematics	$p_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$ for $ \eta \leq 4.5$ $p_T > 70 \text{ GeV}$ for $ \eta > 3.8$
Dilepton charge	Exactly two signal leptons with same charge
Dilepton separation	$\Delta R_{l,l} \geq 0.3$
Dilepton mass	$m_{ll} > 20 \text{ GeV}$
Z boson veto	$ m_{ee} - m_Z > 10 \text{ GeV}$ (ee -channel only)
E_T^{miss}	$E_T^{\text{miss}} > 40 \text{ GeV}$
Jet selection	At least two jets with $\Delta R_{l,j} > 0.3$
b jet veto	$N_{\text{b-jet}} = 0$
Dijet separation	$\Delta \eta_{jj} > 2.5$
Trilepton veto	No additional preselected leptons
Dijet mass	$m_{jj} > 500 \text{ GeV}$
Lepton-jet centrality	$\zeta > 0$

Table 6.3: Summary of the signal event selection.

2059 to account for the two final-state neutrinos. Events with additional preselected leptons are vetoed,
 2060 which greatly reduces WZ and ZZ backgrounds.

2061 Each event must have at least two jets, and both tag jets are required to not overlap with the
 2062 signal leptons. Events with one or more b -jets are vetoed to suppress backgrounds from heavy-flavor
 2063 decays. In order to preferentially select EWK production, the tag jets are required to have a large
 2064 separation between them and a large invariant mass. Finally, a cut on the lepton centrality¹⁸, ζ ,
 2065 defined in Equation 6.1 further enhances the EWK $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ signal.

$$\zeta = \min[\min(\eta_{\ell 1}, \eta_{\ell 2}) - \min(\eta_{j 1}, \eta_{j 2}), \max(\eta_{j 1}, \eta_{j 2}) - \max(\eta_{\ell 1}, \eta_{\ell 2})] \quad (6.1)$$

2066

2067 6.5 Selection optimization

2068 The default event selection is optimized in order to improve the strength of the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK
 2069 signal. The expectation is that the increased detector acceptance from the forward tracking combined
 2070 with an increase in center of mass energy and much higher integrated luminosity will allow tighter
 2071 selection cuts without jeopardizing signal statistics.

¹⁸ ζ is a measurement of whether the two signal leptons lie between the two tagging jets in η , as is preferred by the VBS topology.

2072 **6.5.1 Random grid search algorithm**

2073 The chosen method for optimizing the event selection is a cut-based algorithm known as the Random
 2074 Grid Search (RGS) [92]. Consider a simple case of two variables x and y chosen to differentiate signal
 2075 from background. In order to be considered a signal event, a given event would be required to pass
 2076 a set of selection criteria, called a *cut point*: $c = \{x > x_c, y > y_c\}$. A simple method to choose the
 2077 optimal cut point (i.e. the “best” values of the cuts x_c and y_c) would be to construct an $n \times m$
 2078 rectangular grid in x and y consisting of points $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_m)$, as Figure 6.3a. One
 2079 can then choose a cut point $c_k = \{x > x_i, y > y_j\}$ that maximizes the signal significance as given
 2080 by a chosen metric. This would be considered a *rectangular grid search*.

2081 While effective in principle, a rectangular grid search comes with two major drawbacks:

- 2082 1. The algorithm scales exponentially as the number of variables to be optimized increases, as
 2083 this is effectively increasing the dimensionality of the grid. In the simple case of a square grid
 2084 with N bins per variable v , the number of cut points to be evaluated grows as N^v .
- 2085 2. Signal and background samples are rarely evenly distributed over the entire grid, resulting
 2086 in many cut points being sub-optimal and evaluating them would be a waste of computing
 2087 resources.

2088 To combat these limitations, the RGS algorithm constructs a grid of cut points directly from
 2089 the signal sample itself. In the two-dimensional example, this means that the variables x_i and y_j
 2090 making up the cut point $c_k = \{x > x_i, y > y_j\}$ take their values directly from a given signal event.
 2091 This has the benefit of creating a *random grid* of cut points that is biased towards regions of high
 2092 signal concentration by construction. This reduces the need for exponentially increasing numbers of
 2093 cut points while ensuring that computing resources are not wasted in regions with few to no signal
 2094 events. An example of a two-dimensional random grid is shown in Figure 6.3b.

2095 Once the random grid of cut points is constructed, the optimal cut point can be chosen using any
 2096 number of metrics, such as signal to background ratio. For the purpose of the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ upgrade
 2097 study, the optimal cut point is chosen to be the one that maximizes the signal significance Z as
 2098 defined in Equation 6.2 [93]:

$$Z = \sqrt{2 \left[(s + b) \ln \left(\frac{s + b}{b_0} \right) + b_0 - s - b \right] + \frac{(b - b_0)^2}{\sigma_b^2}} \quad (6.2)$$

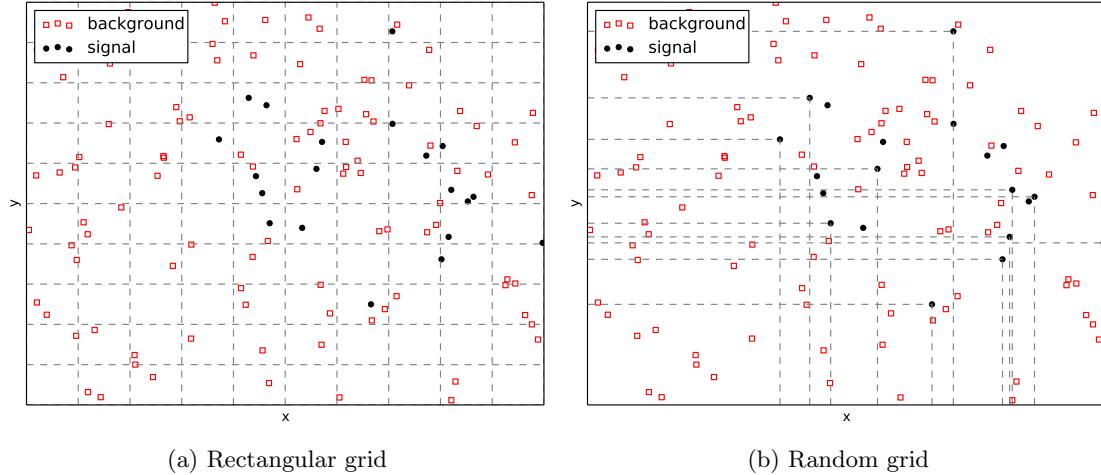


Figure 6.3: A visual representation of a two-dimensional rectangular grid (left) and a random grid (right) in variables x and y . The signal events are the black circles, and the background events. Each intersection of gray dashed lines represents a cut point to be evaluated by the optimization.

2099 where s and b are the number of signal and background events, respectively, σ_b is the total uncertainty
 2100 on the background, and b_0 is defined as:

$$b_0 = \frac{1}{2} \left(b - \sigma_b^2 + \sqrt{(b - \sigma_b^2)^2 + 4(s + b)\sigma_b^2} \right) \quad (6.3)$$

2101 In the case where the background is known precisely (i.e. $\sigma_b = 0$), Equation 6.2 simplifies to

$$Z = \sqrt{2 \left(b \left[(1 + s/b) \ln(1 + s/b) - s/b \right] \right)} \quad (6.4)$$

2102 which further reduces to the familiar $Z = s/\sqrt{b}$ for the case when $s \ll b$.

2103 6.5.2 Inputs to the optimization

2104 In order to train the RGS, signal and background samples are prepared from events passing the
 2105 event selection outlined in Table 6.3 up through the b -jet veto. The signal sample is chosen to be
 2106 the longitudinally polarized $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK events, and the transverse and mixed polarizations
 2107 are treated as background along with $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events from QCD interactions and the traditional
 2108 backgrounds listed in Section 6.3. Splitting the inclusive $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK events by polarization
 2109 allows the optimization to favor the longitudinally polarized events as much as possible, even though
 2110 they both contribute to the EWK signal.

2111 The following variables are chosen for optimization:

- 2112 • Leading lepton p_T
- 2113 • Dilepton invariant mass (m_{ll})
- 2114 • Leading and subleading jet p_T
- 2115 • Dijet invariant mass (m_{jj})
- 2116 • Lepton-jet centrality (ζ)

2117 Subleading lepton p_T is omitted as it is desirable to keep the cut value as low as possible due
 2118 to its sensitivity to the longitudinal polarization (as discussed in Section 6.1.1); despite this, the
 2119 leading lepton p_T is still allowed to be optimized as it can have strong background rejection power.
 2120 Additionally, the dijet separation $\Delta\eta_{jj}$ was included in early studies of the optimization, however it
 2121 was dropped due to the cut value being motivated by well-studied differences between EWK- and
 2122 QCD-produced $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events (as in Figure 5.6b).

2123 Two additional constraints were imposed when selecting the optimal cut point:

- 2124 1. At least 1000 signal events must survive in order to prevent the optimization from being too
 2125 aggressive and unnecessarily reducing signal statistics.
- 2126 2. The dijet invariant mass may only vary within a 50 GeV range of the default value (from
 2127 450–550 GeV) due to the cut being physically motivated by the VBS event topology described
 2128 in Section 5.0.2.

2129 Lastly, the signal significance is calculated without taking into account the uncertainty of the
 2130 background using Equation 6.4. This is due to the fact that the statistical uncertainties of the fake
 2131 electron and charge misidentification backgrounds are quite large, owing to poor MC statistics in a
 2132 few of the samples. If Equation 6.2 were used instead, the optimization would cut unreasonably
 2133 hard against these backgrounds. Since Monte Carlo statistics is not expected to be a limiting factor
 2134 when this analysis is performed at the HL-LHC, it is more realistic to simply ignore these large
 2135 statistical uncertainties for the purpose of the optimization.

2136 6.5.3 Results of the optimization

2137 Ultimately, the random grid is constructed from over 38,000 LL-polarized $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events in the
 2138 six variables listed above. After applying the constraints, the optimal cut point reduces the total
 2139 background from 9900 to 2310 while reducing the signal from 3489 to 2958. This corresponds to

2140 an increase in signal significance from $Z = 33.26$ to $Z = 52.63$ as calculated by Equation 6.4. The
 2141 updates to the event selection are listed in Table 6.4.

2142 The large reduction in the background is primarily a result of increasing the leading and sub-
 2143 leading jet p_T from 30 GeV to 90 GeV and 45 GeV, respectively. As can be seen in Figure 6.4,
 2144 this increase removes a significant portion of the backgrounds from jets faking electrons and charge
 2145 mis-ID. Additionally, the loosening of the lepton-jet centrality cut ζ allows more signal events to
 2146 survive the event selection (see Figure 6.5). Other changes to the event selection are minor and
 2147 do not individually have a large impact on the signal or background yields; similar distributions of
 2148 these variables are shown in Appendix B.2.

2149 The full event yields after optimization as well as the cross section measurement are detailed
 2150 alongside those using the default selection in Section 6.6.

Selection requirement	Selection value
Lepton kinematics	$p_T > 28$ GeV (leading lepton only)
Jet kinematics	$p_T > 90$ GeV (leading jet) $p_T > 45$ GeV (subleading jet)
Dilepton mass	$m_{ll} > 28$ GeV
Dijet mass	$m_{jj} > 520$ GeV
Lepton-jet centrality	$\zeta > -0.5$

Table 6.4: Updates to the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ event selection criteria after optimization. Cuts not listed remain unchanged from the default selection in Table 6.3.

2151 6.6 Results

2152 6.6.1 Event yields

2153 After applying the full event selection, the analysis is broken down into four channels based off of
 2154 the flavor of the signal leptons: $\mu\mu$, ee , μe , and $e\mu$. The full signal and background event yields are
 2155 shown in Table 6.5 for each channel separately and combined using the default event selection. 3489
 2156 EWK $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events are expected compared to 9900 background events. The dominant sources
 2157 of background are jets faking electrons followed by charge misidentification and diboson processes.
 2158 Triboson events, QCD $W^\pm W^\pm jj$, and other non-prompt sources make up approximately 5% of the
 2159 total background combined.

2160 The event yields for the optimized selection detailed in Section 6.5.3 are listed in Table 6.6. After
 2161 optimization, 2958 signal events and just 2310 background events are expected. Diboson events are
 2162 now the primary source of background, as the optimization greatly reduces the fake and charge

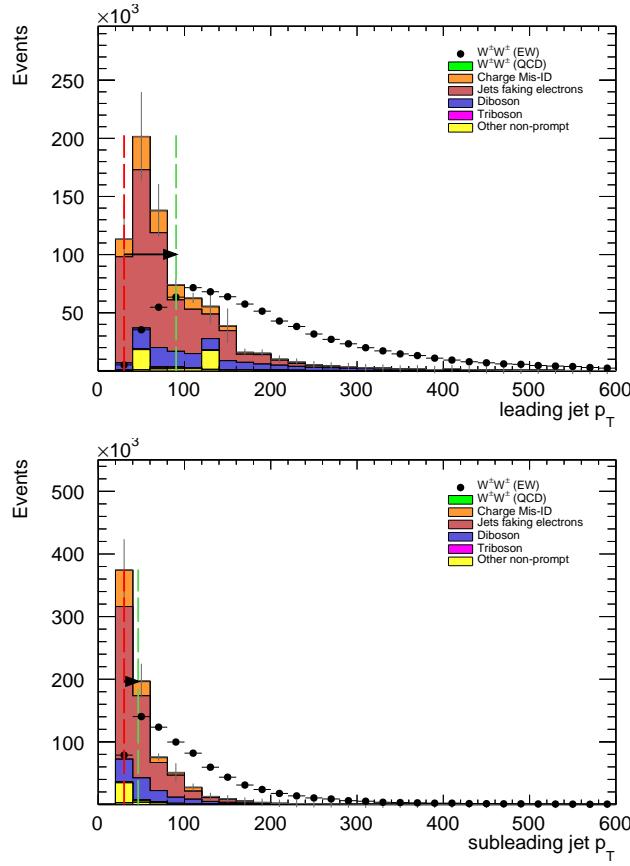


Figure 6.4: Leading (top) and subleading (bottom) jet p_T distributions. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).

	All channels	$\mu\mu$	ee	μe	$e\mu$
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (QCD)	206.4	91.1	22.8	38.4	54.1
Charge Misidentification	2300	0.0	2100	90	160
Jets faking electrons	5000	0.0	3400	1200	340
$WZ + ZZ$	2040	500	438	423	680
Tribosons	115	47	15.4	21.6	31.2
Other non-prompt	210	110	20	60	27
Total Background	9900	750	6000	1900	1290
Signal $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (EWK)	3489	1435	432	679	944

Table 6.5: Signal and background event yields using the default event selection for an integrated luminosity of $\mathcal{L} = 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. Events containing a fake or charge-flipped electron are removed from their respective sources and combined into a single entry each.

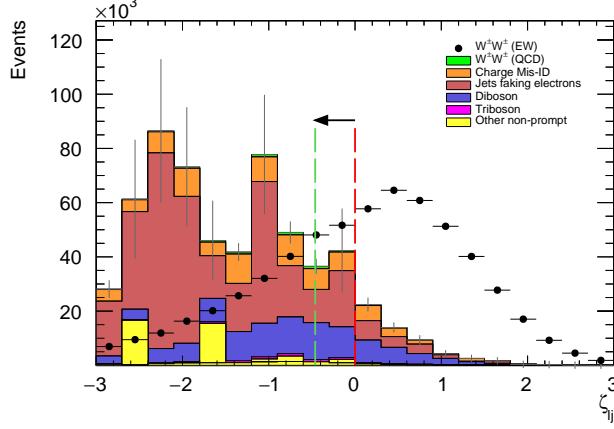


Figure 6.5: Lepton-jet centrality distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).

mis-ID contributions. As discussed earlier, the increase in the leading and subleading jet p_T cuts as well as the loosening of the centrality cut are most responsible for the changes in the signal and background yields; distributions of these quantities using the default and the optimized event selections can be found in Figures 6.6, 6.7, and 6.8, respectively.

	All channels	$\mu\mu$	ee	μe	$e\mu$
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (QCD)	168.7	74.6	19.7	32.2	42.2
Charge Misidentification	200	0.0	11	30	160
Jets faking electrons	460	0.0	130	260	70
$WZ + ZZ$	1286	322	289	271	404
Tribosons	76	30.1	9.6	15.1	21.6
Other non-prompt	120	29	16.6	50	19
Total Background	2310	455	480	660	710
Signal $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (EWK)	2958	1228	380	589	761

Table 6.6: Signal and background event yields using the optimized event selection for an integrated luminosity of $\mathcal{L} = 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. Events containing a fake or charge-flipped electron are removed from their respective sources and combined into a single entry each.

It is important to note, however, that the MC sample used to estimate $Z+jets$ events suffers from poor statistics which results in large per-event weights once scaled to $\mathcal{L} = 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. This sample contributes heavily to the fake and charge misidentification backgrounds, and a handful of these events being cut out by the optimization is largely responsible for the dramatic reduction of the corresponding backgrounds. As a result, the optimized results presented here are likely overly optimistic. However, given proper MC statistics, it is still expected that this optimization will

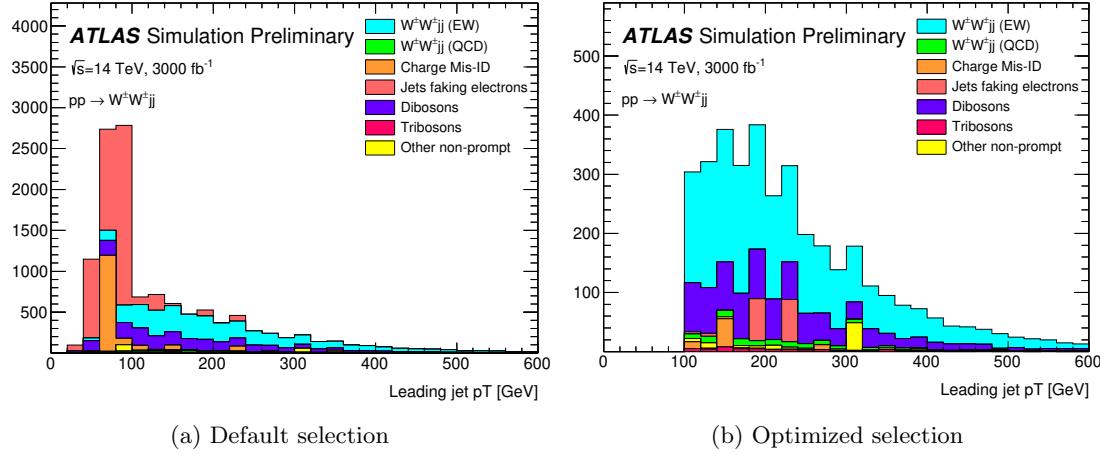


Figure 6.6: p_T distributions for the leading jet using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined.

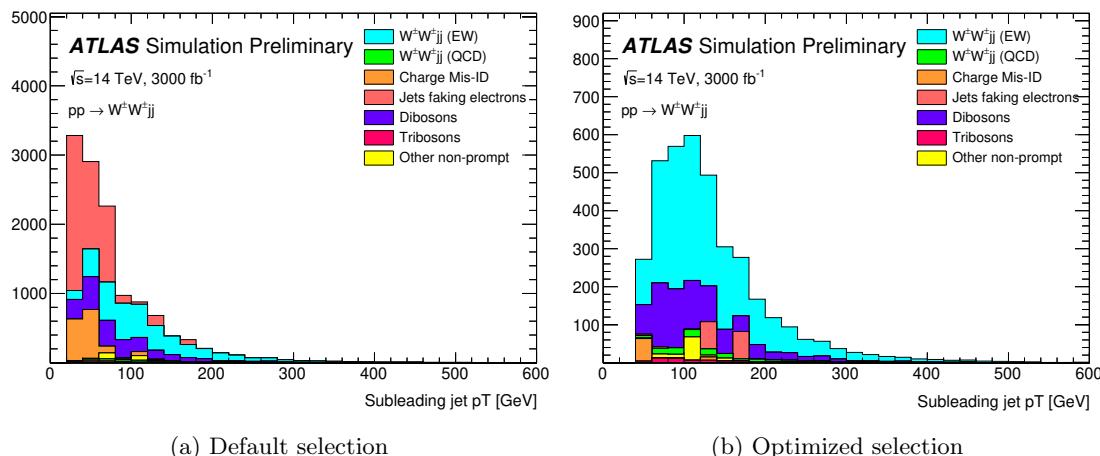


Figure 6.7: p_T distributions for the subleading jet using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined.

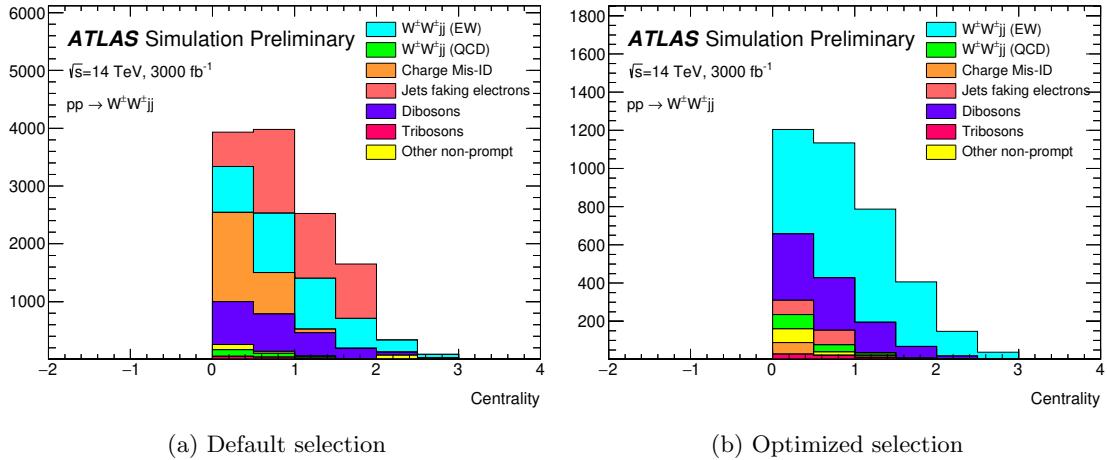


Figure 6.8: p_T distributions for lepton-jet centrality ζ using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined.

outperform the default selection.

6.6.2 Uncertainties

The uncertainties considered for the analysis are summarized in Table 6.7. Values for experimental systematics on the trigger efficiency, lepton and jet reconstruction, and flavor tagging are taken directly from the 13 TeV analysis [49]. The rate uncertainties for the background processes are halved from the 13 TeV values according to ATLAS recommendations. The uncertainty on the fake electron estimation is also halved from the 13 TeV analysis. Finally, a conservative estimate of the uncertainty on the charge flip background is used as the electron charge mis-ID rate due to material interactions is difficult to predict at this stage.

6.6.3 Cross section measurement

The cross section is calculated using the same method as in the 13 TeV analysis, detailed in Section 5.4. Unlike the previous analysis, however, eight lepton channels are used here instead of six. The μe and $e\mu$ channels remain separated in addition to the $\mu\mu$ and ee channels, and each lepton flavor channel is further split by charge (i.e. $\mu\mu \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^+ + \mu^-\mu^-$), as this increases the sensitivity of the analysis. Each channel's m_{jj} distribution is combined in a profile likelihood fit to extract the EWK $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ production cross section. Using the default event selection, the expected cross

Source	Uncertainty (%)
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (EWK)	3
Luminosity	1
Trigger efficiency	0.5
Lepton reconstruction and identification	1.8
Jets	2.3
Flavor tagging	1.8
Jets faking electrons	20
Charge misidentification	25
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (QCD)	20
Top	15
Diboson	10
Triboson	15

Table 6.7: Summary of estimated experimental and rate uncertainties.

2189 section calculated to be:

$$\sigma_{W^\pm W^\pm jj}^{\text{expected}} = 16.89 \pm 0.36 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.53 \text{ (theory)} \pm 0.84 \text{ (syst)} \text{ fb} \quad (6.5)$$

2190 and with the optimized event selection:

$$\sigma_{W^\pm W^\pm jj}^{\text{expected}} = 16.94 \pm 0.36 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.53 \text{ (theory)} \pm 0.78 \text{ (syst)} \text{ fb} \quad (6.6)$$

2191 The optimized selection should not change the measured value of the cross section, and indeed both
 2192 are consistent with within uncertainties. The systematic uncertainty is reduced by approximately
 2193 7% with the optimized selection. The total uncertainty on the cross section measurement is approx-
 2194 imately 6%, compared to approximately 20% on the measured fiducial cross section of the 13 TeV
 2195 analysis reported in Equation 5.30.

2196 Projections of each uncertainty type and the total uncertainty on the cross section as a function of
 2197 integrated luminosity are shown in Figure 6.9. The predictions are made by scaling the event yields
 2198 by different luminosity values and re-running the fitting procedure. As the integrated luminosity
 2199 increases past $\mathcal{L} > 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$, the statistical uncertainty continues to reduce; however, the total
 2200 uncertainty becomes limited by the systematics. Additionally, the total uncertainty is expected to
 2201 reduce by less than a percent as the integrated luminosity increases past the planned 3000 fb^{-1} .

2202 6.6.4 Longitudinal scattering significance

2203 The longitudinal scattering significance is extracted in much the same way as the cross section, this
 2204 time using a binned likelihood fit on the $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$ distribution. In order to increase sensitivity, the

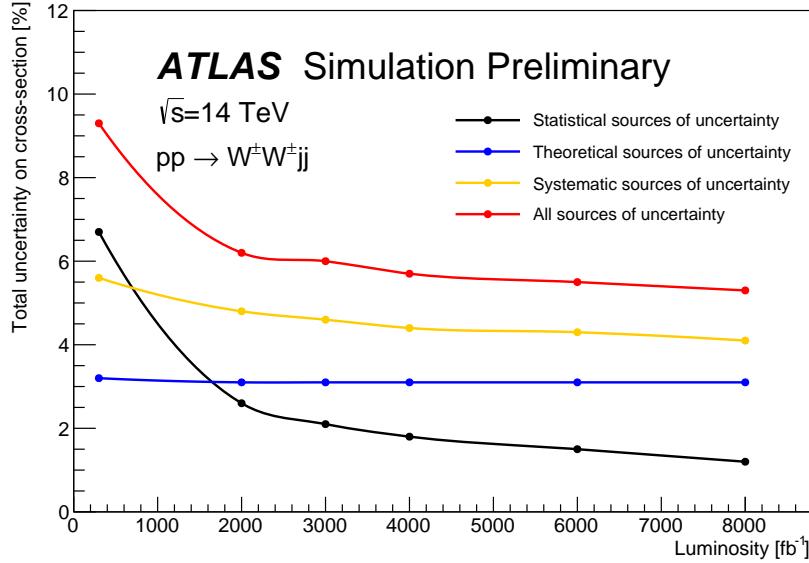


Figure 6.9: Projections of the statistical (black), theoretical (blue), systematic (yellow), and total (red) uncertainties on the measured cross section as a function of integrated luminosity using the optimized event selection.

2205 $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$ distribution is split into two bins in m_{jj} , and an additional cut on the pseudorapidity of the
 2206 subleading lepton is applied ($|\eta| < 2.5$) to reduce background contributions from fake electrons and
 2207 charge flip. The $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$ distributions used in the fit are shown in Figure 6.10. Due to limited statistics
 2208 in the LL events, the four lepton flavor channels are not split by charge. The expected significance
 2209 of the $W_L^\pm W_L^\pm jj$ process is 1.8σ with a precision of 47% on the measurement. Projections of the
 2210 expected significance as a function of integrated luminosity is shown in Figure 6.11.

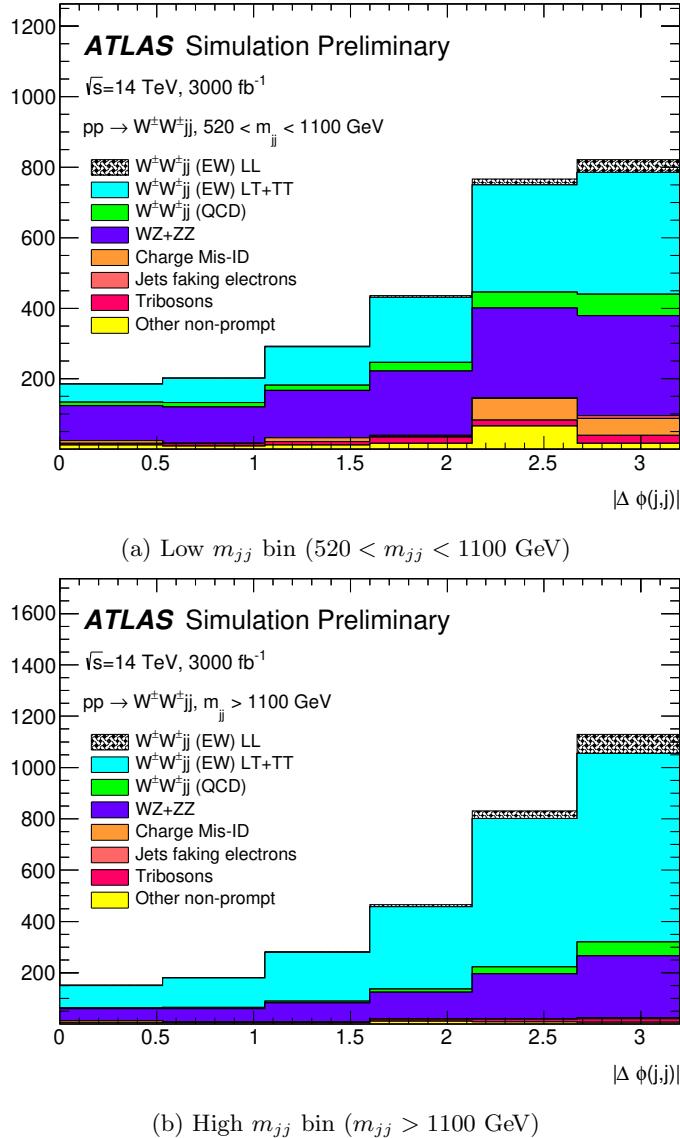


Figure 6.10: Dijet azimuthal separation ($|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$) for the low m_{jj} region ($520 < m_{jj} < 1100$ GeV, top) and the high m_{jj} region ($m_{jj} > 1100$ GeV, bottom). The purely longitudinal (LL, gray) is plotted separately from the mixed and transverse (LT+TT, cyan) polarizations.

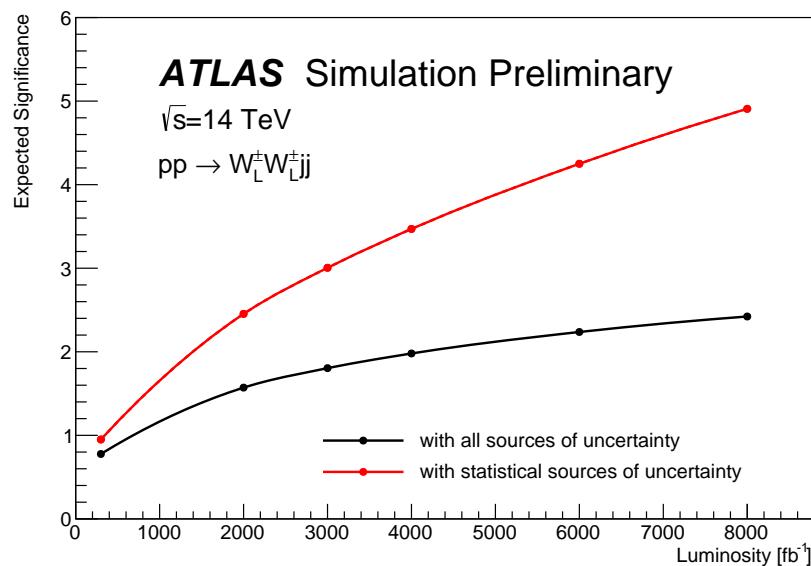


Figure 6.11: Projections of the expected longitudinal scattering significance as a function of integrated luminosity when considering all sources of uncertainties (black) or only statistical uncertainties (red).

2211

CHAPTER 7

2212

Conclusion

2213 Here's where you wrap it up.

2214

APPENDIX A

2215

2216

Additional material on $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ measurement at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

2217

A.1 Impact of experimental uncertainty on MC background estimations

2218 Tables A.1-A.6 contain the impact of experimental systematic uncertainties for the remaining back-
 2219 grounds estimated from MC simulation. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal and WZ background sys-
 2220 tematics are listed in the main body of the document, in Tables 5.21 and 5.22, respectively. While the
 2221 percentage of the contributions for some systematics appear large, the size of these backgrounds are
 2222 quite small compared to the total background.

$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ QCD	ee % Yield	$e\mu$ % Yield	$\mu\mu$ % Yield
Jet-related Uncertainties	3.41	3.04	2.85
b-tagging efficiency	2.56	2.48	2.48
Pile-up	4.99	0.45	0.33
Trigger efficiency	0.02	0.08	0.41
Lepton reconstruction/ID	1.62	1.19	1.89
MET reconstruction	0.41	0.22	0.34

Table A.1: Impact of experimental uncertainties for the $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ QCD processes in all channels.

Triboson	ee % Yield	$e\mu$ % Yield	$\mu\mu$ % Yield
Jet-related Uncertainties	13.09	13.39	16.85
b-tagging efficiency	2.96	3.77	4.95
Pile-up	19.37	24.66	6.87
Trigger efficiency	0.02	0.07	0.47
Lepton reconstruction/ID	1.66	1.27	2.48
MET reconstruction	0.00	0.46	0.00

Table A.2: Impact of experimental uncertainties for triboson process in all channels.

$t\bar{t}V$	ee % Yield	$e\mu$ % Yield	$\mu\mu$ % Yield
Jet-related Uncertainties	17.65	11.97	14.27
b-tagging efficiency	15.02	9.04	13.83
Pile-up	8.73	10.69	4.18
Trigger efficiency	0.03	0.08	0.39
Lepton reconstruction/ID	2.57	3.27	2.66
MET reconstruction	1.75	4.16	1.62

Table A.3: Impact of experimental uncertainties for $t\bar{t}V$ processes in all channels.

$W\gamma$	ee % Yield	$e\mu$ % Yield	$\mu\mu$ % Yield
Jet-related Uncertainties	7.05	33.36	—
b-tagging efficiency	1.97	2.94	—
Pile-up	4.11	14.17	—
Trigger efficiency	0.01	0.14	—
Lepton reconstruction/ID	1.40	1.13	—
MET reconstruction	0.00	0.00	—

Table A.4: Impact of experimental uncertainties for the $W\gamma$ process in all channels.

$Z\gamma$	ee % Yield	$e\mu$ % Yield	$\mu\mu$ % Yield
Jet-related Uncertainties	16.22	370.44	—
b-tagging efficiency	1.08	3.10	—
Pile-up	12.57	11.51	—
Trigger efficiency	0.02	0.07	—
Lepton reconstruction/ID	1.26	22.01	—
MET reconstruction	0.00	0.00	—

Table A.5: Impact of experimental uncertainties for the $Z\gamma$ process in all channels.

ZZ	ee % Yield	$e\mu$ % Yield	$\mu\mu$ % Yield
Jet-related Uncertainties	15.71	15.76	35.18
b-tagging efficiency	2.23	2.35	2.89
Pile-up	1.22	3.20	4.58
Trigger efficiency	0.03	0.10	0.36
Lepton reconstruction/ID	3.59	3.10	5.70
MET reconstruction	4.84	3.26	3.24

Table A.6: Impact of experimental uncertainties for the ZZ process in all channels.

2223 **A.2 Additional signal region plots**

2224

APPENDIX B

2225

2226

Additional material on $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ prospects at the HL-LHC

2227

B.1 Truth isolation

As mentioned in Section 6.3.1, the size of the background contribution from top processes are much larger than expected when no isolation is applied. The event yields using an earlier version of the event selection with no truth-based isolation requirement are listed in Table B.1. Here, top events make up nearly 90% of the total background, and the contributions from fake and charge-flipped electrons are also large. The event yields using the same event selection with the truth-based isolation included are shown in Figure B.2. When comparing the two tables, the considerable reduction in the top background can be clearly seen.

yields by type	all channels	$\mu\mu$	ee	μe	$e\mu$
signal	4011	1583.2	531.7	793.1	1103.1
ww qcd	252.6	105.8	30.4	48	68.4
charge flip	2528.4	0.0	2075.4	255.1	197.8
fakes	7135.4	0.0	4675.1	1904.3	555.9
diboson	2370.4	581.2	491.8	517.9	779.6
triboson	125.5	49.1	17.8	24.6	34.1
top	90150.5	26618	15301.6	25277.9	22953.1
z+jets	241.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	241.2
w+jets	31.4	3.9	7.6	13.2	6.7
total bkg	102803.9	27354	22592	28027.8	24830.1
signal	4011	1583.2	531.7	793.1	1103.1

Table B.1: Event yields prior to applying any form of truth-based isolation criteria.

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2235

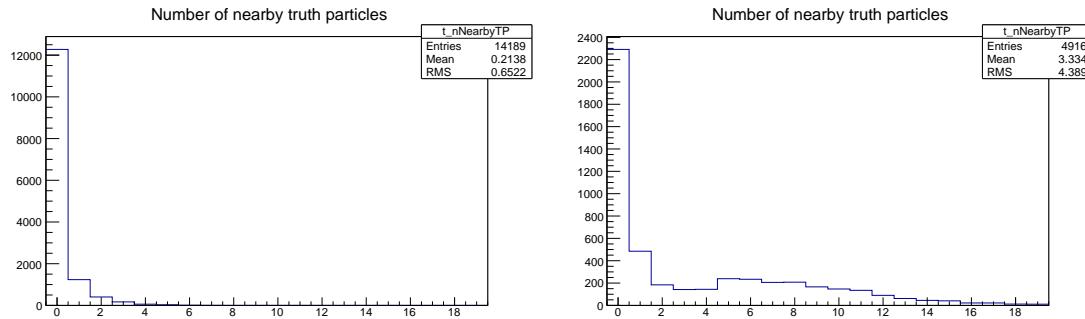
TODO: Add tables for tight vs loose working point, information on the necessity of TRUTH1++

yields by type	all channels	$\mu\mu$	ee	μe	$e\mu$
signal	3470.5	1427.3	428.8	675.8	938.7
ww qcd	205.8	90.8	22.7	38.3	54
charge flip	2398.3	0.0	2104.6	95.8	197.9
fakes	4309.7	0.0	3390.6	750.8	168.3
diboson	1552.4	311.3	355.6	346.8	538.7
triboson	115	46.8	15.4	21.6	31.2
top	156.9	42.3	14.8	76.6	23.3
$z+jets$	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
$w+jets$	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
total bkg	8738.1	491.3	5903.7	1329.8	1013.4
signal	3470.5	1427.3	428.8	675.8	938.7

Table B.2: Event yields after applying a test version of the truth-based isolation.

2236 **B.1.1 TRUTH1++ derivations**

2237 The ATLAS standard TRUTH1 derivations used for this analysis contain a slimmed truth particle
 2238 container in order to reduce the file size. As a result, many of the truth particles that would be
 2239 included in the isolation variables are missing, and the truth-based isolation will not accurately
 2240 model the reconstruction-level isolation variables. In order to recover the performance of the truth-
 2241 based isolation in the top MC samples (where it is most needed), a custom derivation was produced
 2242 privately that duplicated the default TRUTH1 data structure but includes the full truth particle
 2243 record. The reduced size of the truth particle information in the TRUTH1 derivation compared to the
 2244 TRUTH1++ derivation is shown in Figure B.1.

Figure B.1: Number of truth particles within $\Delta R < 0.4$ of a selected muon or electron using the ATLAS standard TRUTH1 (left) and the custom TRUTH1++ (right) derivations in $t\bar{t}$ simulation. The complete truth record is stored in the TRUTH1++ derivation, and this is best seen in the first bin, where the lepton has no nearby truth particles.

2245 B.1.2 Check of truth-based isolation

2246 Since the isolation variables are constructed from truth particles, there is an expectation that the
 2247 efficiency of the isolation selection will be higher than what would be seen in the full simulation.
 2248 In order to test this, a truth-level 13 TeV $t\bar{t}$ MC sample was run through a selection altered to
 2249 mimic the 13 TeV $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ measurement as closely as possible. The results were compared to the
 2250 $t\bar{t}$ background in the 13 TeV analysis extrapolated to 14 TeV and 3000 fb^{-1} , and the truth-based
 2251 isolation reduces the expected events by a factor of approximately 4. However, the statistics in the
 2252 13 TeV truth-level sample are low, and it is therefore difficult to measure precisely how much the
 2253 truth-based isolation overperforms.

2254 B.1.3 Loose isolation working point

2255 As another check on the truth-based isolation, a second isolation working point was constructed
 2256 to match the official ATLAS Fixed Cut Loose isolation working point. The definition of this loose
 2257 isolation are found in Table B.3.

2258 The primary impact of loosening the isolation is a substantial increase in the non-prompt back-
 2259 round from top processes, and a moderate increase in the charge mis-ID and fake backgrounds.
 2260 Backgrounds from prompt leptons only did not see major changes. As a result, the tight working
 2261 point is chosen for the analysis. The event yields by sample and by background type using the
 2262 loose working point are in Table B.4, and Table B.5 has the numbers using the tight working point
 2263 (defined in Table 6.2) for comparison.

	Electron Isolation	Muon Isolation
Track-based isolation cone size	$\Delta R < 0.2$	$\Delta R < 0.3$
Track-based isolation requirement	$\sum p_T/p_T^e < 0.15$	$\sum p_T/p_T^\mu < 0.15$
Calorimeter-based isolation cone size	$\Delta R < 0.2$	$\Delta R < 0.2$
Calorimeter-based isolation requirement	$\sum E_T/p_T^e < 0.2$	$\sum E_T/p_T^\mu < 0.3$

Table B.3: Electron and muon isolation requirements for the loose working point.

run number	all channels			mm			ee			me			em		
	events	stat	sys	events	stat	sys	events	stat	sys	events	stat	sys	events	stat	sys
signal	3783.21	22.08	0.00	1524.99	15.00	0.00	484.74	7.01	0.00	740.76	9.01	0.00	1032.72	11.50	0.00
ww qcd	223.95	3.54	44.79	97.17	2.51	19.43	25.51	1.03	5.10	42.23	1.40	8.45	59.04	1.80	11.81
charge flip	3025.40	1276.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2615.30	1267.89	0.00	197.20	87.94	0.00	212.90	121.63	0.00
fakes	5315.55	1775.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3524.24	1694.39	0.00	1356.74	450.60	0.00	434.57	282.33	0.00
diboson	2195.61	38.10	219.58	548.72	18.54	54.87	451.27	18.29	45.14	470.61	15.71	47.07	725.01	22.95	72.50
triboson	117.43	5.90	17.62	47.55	4.32	7.13	15.83	1.94	2.37	22.11	2.18	3.32	31.94	2.76	4.80
top	554.63	218.75	83.21	229.26	135.53	34.40	61.15	38.23	9.18	232.30	167.28	34.85	31.92	6.43	4.78
z+jets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
w+jets	1.21	0.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00
total bkg	11433.78	2198.44	239.70	922.70	136.88	67.99	6693.30	2116.67	46.41	2322.38	488.89	59.27	1495.40	308.36	73.77
signal	3783.21	22.08	0.00	1524.99	15.00	0.00	484.74	7.01	0.00	740.76	9.01	0.00	1032.72	11.50	0.00

Table B.4: Event yields broken down by sample and by background type using the loose isolation workingpoint. Events containing a fake or charge-flipped electron are removed from their respective sample and added to the ‘fakes’ and ‘charge flip’ rows, respectively. Errors include statistical uncertainty and estimated systematic rate uncertainty based on the background process.

run number	all channels			mm			ee			me			em		
	events	stat	sys	events	stat	sys	events	stat	sys	events	stat	sys	events	stat	sys
signal	3489.49	21.23	0.00	1434.85	14.55	0.00	431.75	6.61	0.00	679.09	8.63	0.00	943.8	11.00	0.00
ww qcd	206.42	3.41	41.28	91.12	2.43	18.22	22.84	0.98	4.57	38.37	1.34	7.67	54.09	1.72	10.82
charge flip	2335.73	1163.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2087.78	1159.5	0.00	90.37	33.32	0.00	157.58	90.02	0.00
fakes	4979.27	1756.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3406.20	1705.03	0.00	1230.80	362.15	0.00	342.27	216.54	0.00
diboson	2039.94	36.93	204.00	499.69	18.04	49.97	437.60	14.12	43.76	422.90	14.18	42.29	679.75	25.25	67.98
triboson	115.03	5.87	17.29	46.84	4.31	7.03	15.40	1.94	2.32	21.55	2.17	3.24	31.24	2.74	4.70
top	211.74	84.14	31.76	107.96	71.12	16.20	19.58	3.76	2.93	57.21	44.47	8.58	26.99	5.40	4.05
z+jets	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
w+jets	0.30	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00
total bkg	9888.43	2108.87	211.25	745.61	73.54	56.04	5898.40	2061.99	44.16	1861.48	366.67	43.95	1291.94	235.95	69.11
signal	3489.49	21.23	0.00	1434.85	14.55	0.00	431.75	6.61	0.00	679.09	8.63	0.00	943.80	11.00	0.00

Table B.5: Event yields broken down by background type using the tight isolation workingpoint. Events containing a fake or charge-flipped electron are removed from their respective sample and added to the “fakes” and “charge flip” rows, respectively. Errors include statistical uncertainty and estimated systematic rate uncertainty based on the background process.

²²⁶⁴ **B.2 Plots of other optimization variables**

²²⁶⁵ Plots of the remaining optimization variables not shown in Section 6.5.3 are presented here for
²²⁶⁶ reference. Figures B.2, B.3, and B.4 compare signal and background distributions for the default
²²⁶⁷ and optimized cuts. None of these cuts change by much in the optimized selection and their impacts
²²⁶⁸ on the overall event selection is minimal.

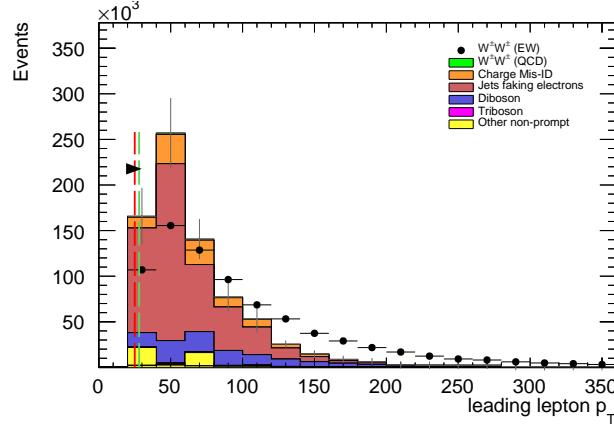


Figure B.2: Leading lepton p_T distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).

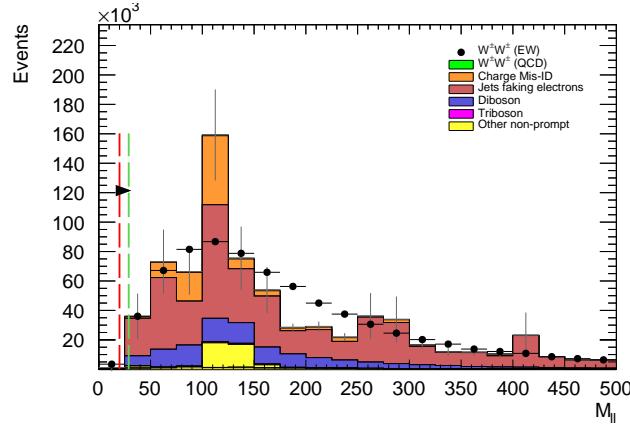


Figure B.3: Dilepton invariant mass distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).

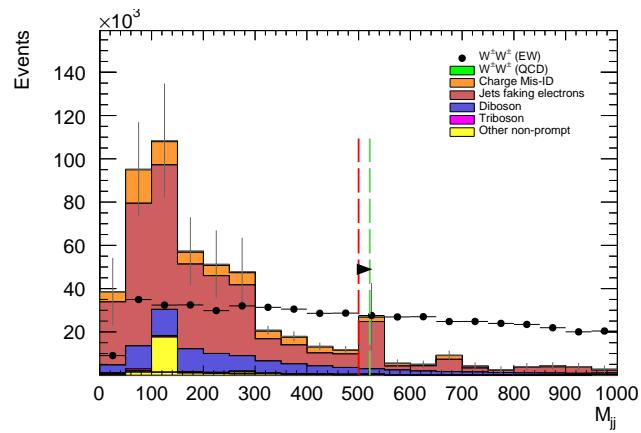


Figure B.4: Dijet invariant mass distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).

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