

1 STANDARD MODEL IS BEST MODEL (WORKING TITLE)

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5 Physics and Astronomy

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## Acknowledgements

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27 I'd like to thanks the Ghosts of Penn Students Past for providing me with such an amazing thesis  
28 template.

29

# ABSTRACT

30

STANDARD MODEL IS BEST MODEL (WORKING TITLE)

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William Kennedy DiClemente

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J. Kroll

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This is the abstract text.

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# Contents

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35	<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>iii</b>
36	<b>Abstract</b>	<b>iv</b>
37	<b>Contents</b>	<b>v</b>
38	<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>viii</b>
39	<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>ix</b>
40	<b>Preface</b>	<b>xi</b>
41	<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
42	<b>2 Theoretical Framework</b>	<b>2</b>
43	2.1 Introduction to the Standard Model . . . . .	2
44	2.2 Electroweak Mixing and the Higgs Field . . . . .	2
45	<b>3 LHC and the ATLAS Detector</b>	<b>3</b>
46	3.1 The Large Hadron Collider . . . . .	3
47	3.2 The ATLAS Detector . . . . .	3
48	3.2.1 The Inner Detector . . . . .	3
49	3.2.1.1 Pixel Detector . . . . .	3
50	3.2.1.2 Semiconductor Tracker . . . . .	3
51	3.2.1.3 Transition Radiation Tracker . . . . .	3
52	3.2.2 The Calorimeters . . . . .	4

53	3.2.2.1	Liquid Argon Calorimeters . . . . .	4
54	3.2.2.2	Tile Calorimeters . . . . .	4
55	3.2.3	The Muon Spectrometer . . . . .	4
56	3.2.4	Particle reconstruction . . . . .	5
57	3.2.4.1	Track reconstruction . . . . .	5
58	3.2.4.2	Muon reconstruction . . . . .	5
59	3.2.4.3	Electron reconstruction . . . . .	5
60	3.2.4.4	Jet reconstruction . . . . .	5
61	<b>4</b>	<b>Alignment of the ATLAS Inner Detector</b>	<b>6</b>
62	4.1	Effects of Misalignment . . . . .	6
63	4.2	The Alignment Method . . . . .	6
64	4.3	Momentum Bias Corrections . . . . .	6
65	4.4	Alignment of the IBL . . . . .	7
66	4.5	Alignment Monitoring . . . . .	7
67	<b>5</b>	<b>Measurement of same-sign <math>WW</math> production at <math>\sqrt{s} = 13</math> TeV with ATLAS</b>	<b>8</b>
68	5.1	Analysis Overview . . . . .	8
69	5.1.1	Vector boson scattering signature . . . . .	9
70	5.1.2	Theoretical motivation . . . . .	9
71	5.2	Data and Monte Carlo samples . . . . .	9
72	5.2.1	Monte Carlo samples . . . . .	9
73	5.3	Object and event selection . . . . .	10
74	5.3.1	Object selection . . . . .	10
75	5.3.1.1	Muon candidate selection . . . . .	11
76	5.3.1.2	Electron candidate selection . . . . .	13
77	5.3.1.3	Jet candidate selection . . . . .	13
78	5.3.1.4	Treatment of overlapping objects . . . . .	13
79	5.3.2	Signal event selection . . . . .	15
80	5.4	Background estimations . . . . .	17
81	5.4.1	Reduction of $WZ$ background using custom overlap removal . . . . .	17
82	5.4.2	Fake factor method . . . . .	21
83	5.5	Cross section measurement . . . . .	21

84	5.6 Results . . . . .	21
85	<b>6 Prospects for same-sign <math>WW</math> at the High Luminosity LHC</b>	<b>22</b>
86	6.0.1 Analysis Overview . . . . .	23
87	6.1 Theoretical motivation . . . . .	23
88	6.1.1 Experimental sensitivity to longitudinal polarization . . . . .	24
89	6.2 Monte Carlo samples . . . . .	24
90	6.3 Background estimations . . . . .	27
91	6.3.1 Truth-based isolation . . . . .	27
92	6.4 Object and event selection . . . . .	28
93	6.4.1 Object selection . . . . .	28
94	6.4.2 Event selection . . . . .	29
95	6.5 Selection optimization . . . . .	29
96	6.5.1 Random grid search algorithm . . . . .	29
97	6.5.2 Inputs to the optimization . . . . .	32
98	6.5.3 Results of the optimization . . . . .	33
99	6.6 Results . . . . .	35
100	6.6.1 Event yields . . . . .	35
101	6.6.2 Uncertainties . . . . .	38
102	6.6.3 Cross section measurement . . . . .	40
103	6.6.4 Longitudinal scattering significance . . . . .	40
104	<b>7 Conclusion</b>	<b>44</b>
105	<b>A Additional material on truth isolation</b>	<b>45</b>
106	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>46</b>

---

## List of Tables

---

108	5.1	Summary of MC samples used in the analysis. . . . .	11
109	5.2	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. . . . .	12
110			
111	5.3	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. . . . .	14
112			
113			
114	5.4	. . . . .	14
115	5.5	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. . . . .	15
116			
117			
118	5.6	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. . . . .	16
119			
120	5.7	The signal event selection . . . . .	17
121	5.8	Custom OR definition. Leptons must pass this selection in order to be counted for the triplepton veto. . . . .	20
122			
123	6.1	Summary of MC samples used in the analysis. . . . .	27
124	6.2	Truth-based isolation requirements for electrons and muons. . . . .	28
125	6.3	Summary of the signal event selection. . . . .	30
126	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. . . . .	34
127			
128	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. . . . .	38
129			
130			
131	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. . . . .	38
132			
133			
134	6.7	Summary of estimated experimental and rate uncertainties. . . . .	40
135	A.1	Event yields prior to applying any form of truth-based isolation criteria. . . . .	45
136	A.2	Event yields after applying a test version of the truth-based isolation. . . . .	45



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## List of Figures

---

138	3.1	General cut-away view of the ATLAS detector. . . . .	4
139	5.1	VBS EWK diagrams. <b>TODO: Make own diagrams</b> . . . . .	8
140	5.2	Non-VBS EWK diagrams. <b>TODO: Make own diagrams</b> . . . . .	9
141	5.3	QCD diagrams. <b>TODO: Make own diagrams</b> . . . . .	9
142	5.4	Pseudorapidity ( $\eta$ ) 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 $\eta$ range for each lepton flavor. The numbers correspond to the number of raw MC events that fall within and outside of the allowed $\eta$ range for each MC sample. . . . .	18
143			
144			
145			
146	5.5	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 triplepton 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. . . . .	19
147			
148			
149			
150			
151	5.6	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 triplepton 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. . . . .	19
152			
153			
154			
155			
156	5.7	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 triplepton 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. . . . .	20
157			
158			
159			
160			
161	5.8	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 triplepton 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 triplepton veto. . . . .	21
162			
163			
164			
165	6.1	Comparison of the leading (top) and subleading (bottom) lepton $p_T$ distributions for purely longitudinal (LL, black) and mixed polarization (LT+TT, cyan) $W^\pm W^\pm jj$ events. Plots from [1]. . . . .	25
166			
167			

168	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. Plot from [1]. . . . .	26
169			
170	6.3	A visual representation of a rectangular grid search algorithm. The signal events are the blue triangles, and the red circles are the background events. <b>TODO: replace with own figure</b> . . . . .	31
171			
172			
173	6.4	A visual representation of a random grid search algorithm. The signal events are the blue triangles, and the red circles are the background events. <b>TODO: replace with own figure</b> . . . . .	31
174			
175			
176	6.5	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). <b>TODO: Move to appendix or omit</b> . . . . .	34
177			
178			
179			
180	6.6	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). <b>TODO: Move to appendix or omit</b> . . . . .	35
181			
182			
183			
184	6.7	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). . . . .	36
185			
186			
187			
188	6.8	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). <b>TODO: Move to appendix or omit</b> . . . . .	37
189			
190			
191			
192	6.9	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). . . . .	37
193			
194			
195	6.10	$p_T$ distributions for the leading jet using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined. . . . .	39
196			
197	6.11	$p_T$ distributions for the subleading jet using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined. . . . .	39
198			
199	6.12	$p_T$ distributions for lepton-jet centrality $\zeta$ using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined. . . . .	39
200			
201	6.13	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. . . . .	41
202			
203			
204	6.14	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. . . .	42
205			
206			
207	6.15	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). . . . .	43
208			
209			

210

---

# Preface

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211 This is the preface. It's optional, but it's nice to give some context for the reader and stuff.

212

Will K. DiClemente  
Philadelphia, February 2019

213

# CHAPTER 1

214

## Introduction

215 The Standard Model (SM)<sup>1</sup> has been remarkably successful...

---

<sup>1</sup>Here's a footnote.

216

## CHAPTER 2

217

---

# Theoretical Framework

---

218 (Some example introductory text for this chapter)...

### 219 **2.1 Introduction to the Standard Model**

220 Modern particle physics is generally interpreted in terms of the Standard Model (SM). This is a  
221 quantum field theory which encapsulates our understanding of the electromagnetic, weak, and strong  
222 interactions...

### 223 **2.2 Electroweak Mixing and the Higgs Field**

224 When the theory of the electroweak interaction was first developed [2, 3], the  $W$  and  $Z$  bosons were  
225 predicted to be massless (a typical mass term in the Lagrangian would violate the  $SU(2)$  symmetry).  
226 However, these were experimentally observed to have masses...

227

## CHAPTER 3

228

---

# LHC and the ATLAS Detector

---

229

### 3.1 The Large Hadron Collider

230

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [4] is...

231

### 3.2 The ATLAS Detector

232

ATLAS is a general-purpose particle detector...

233

#### 3.2.1 The Inner Detector

234

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

235

##### 3.2.1.1 Pixel Detector

236

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

237

##### 3.2.1.2 Semiconductor Tracker

238

The Semiconductor Tracker uses the same basic technology as the Pixels, but the fundamental unit

239

of silicon is a larger “strip”...

240

##### 3.2.1.3 Transition Radiation Tracker

241

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

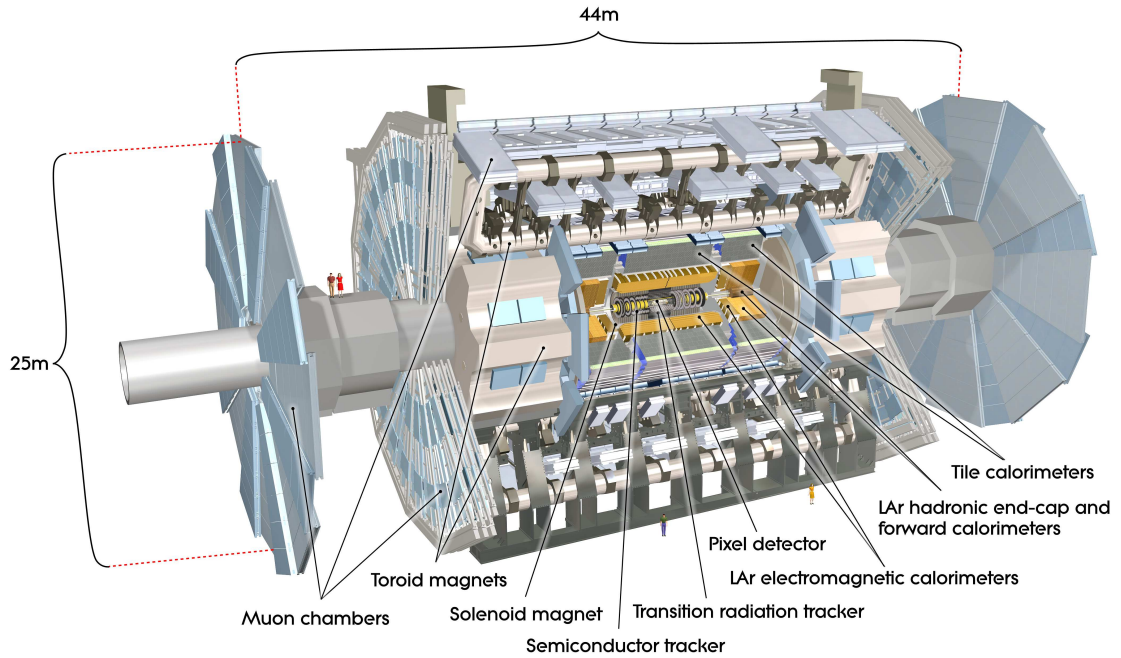


Figure 3.1: General cut-away view of the ATLAS detector [5].

### 3.2.2 The Calorimeters

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

#### 3.2.2.1 Liquid Argon Calorimeters

The Liquid Argon system consists of...

#### 3.2.2.2 Tile Calorimeters

The Tile calorimeter provides coverage for hadronic showers...

### 3.2.3 The Muon Spectrometer

Muon spectrometer stuff.

---

252 **3.2.4 Particle reconstruction**

253 Particle reconstruction algorithms

254 **3.2.4.1 Track reconstruction**

255 **3.2.4.2 Muon reconstruction**

256 **3.2.4.3 Electron reconstruction**

257 **3.2.4.4 Jet reconstruction**



---

## Alignment of the ATLAS Inner Detector

---

260 In order for the subdetectors of the ID to operate at their designed precisions, it is essential that  
261 the locations of the sensors be known as precisely as possible. Differences between the expected and  
262 actual positions of a sensor can result in displaced particle hits and degrade track reconstruction  
263 quality. These misalignments can occur for any number of reasons, including but not limited to  
264 elements shifting during maintenance periods or cycles in ATLAS's magnetic field, or simply small  
265 movements during normal detector operations. Since it is not practical to physically realign hundreds  
266 of thousands of detector elements to  $\mu\text{m}$  precision by hand, an iterative track-based alignment  
267 algorithm is used to determine the physical positions and orientations of these elements [6]. The  
268 effects of misalignments and the steps taken to correct and monitor them are detailed in this chapter.

### 269 4.1 Effects of Misalignment

270 Hello world!

### 271 4.2 The Alignment Method

272 Hello world!

### 273 4.3 Momentum Bias Corrections

274 Hello world!

---

275 **4.4 Alignment of the IBL**

276 Hello world!

277 **4.5 Alignment Monitoring**

278 Hello world!

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

Production of same-sign  $W$  boson pairs is a particularly interesting SM process, especially when produced via vector boson scattering (VBS). The VBS  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  process is particularly sensitive to the electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB) mechanism as well as potential “beyond the Standard Model” (BSM) physics. The first evidence of electroweak (EWK)  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  production was seen by the ATLAS and CMS experiments at  $\sqrt{s} = 8$  TeV with excesses of  $3.6\sigma$  [7] and  $2.0\sigma$  [8] over backgrounds, respectively. More recently, ATLAS and CMS have both observed the EWK process at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV with significances of  $6.9\sigma$  [9] and  $5.5\sigma$  [10], respectively. The analysis presented in this chapter is based off of the ATLAS  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV observation and cross section measurement of EWK  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  production [9, 11].

## 5.1 Analysis Overview

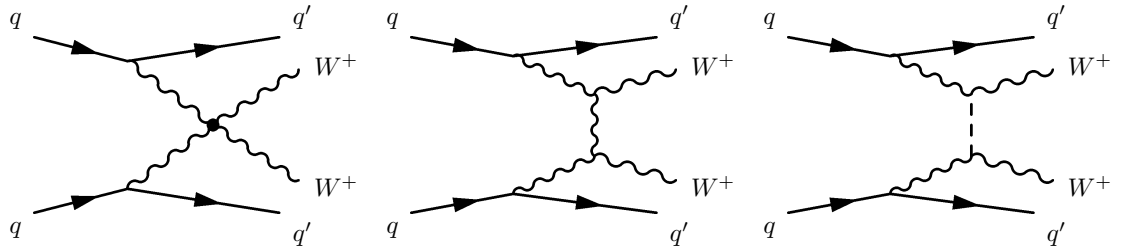
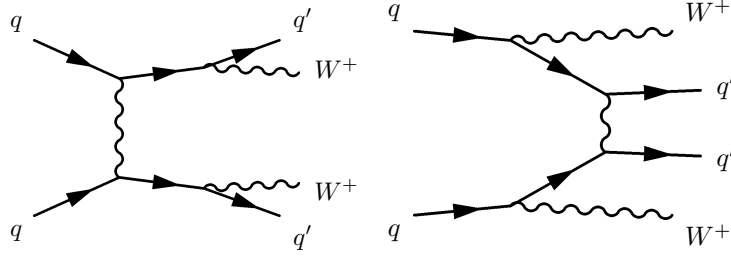
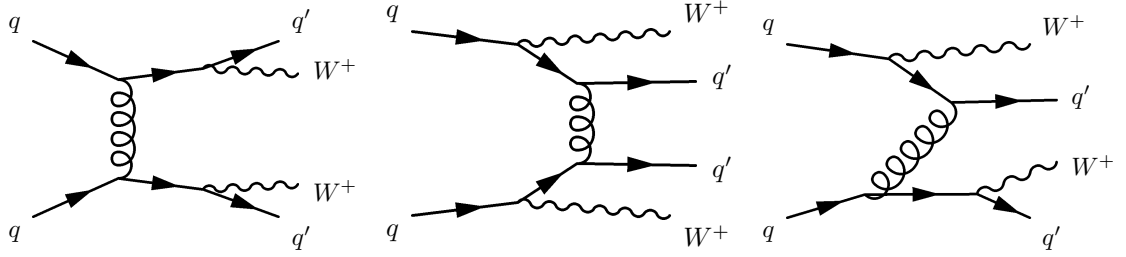


Figure 5.1: VBS EWK diagrams. **TODO: Make own diagrams**

Figure 5.2: Non-VBS EWK diagrams. **TODO: Make own diagrams**Figure 5.3: QCD diagrams. **TODO: Make own diagrams**

### 292 5.1.1 Vector boson scattering signature

### 293 5.1.2 Theoretical motivation

294 Hello world!

## 295 5.2 Data and Monte Carlo samples

296 This analysis uses  $36.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV proton-proton collision data recorded by ATLAS  
 297 during 2015 and 2016. The uncertainty in the combined integrated luminosity is 2.1%. It is derived  
 298 following a methodology similar to that detailed in [12] and using the LUCID-2 detector for the  
 299 baseline luminosity measurements [13] from calibration of the luminosity scale using  $x$ - $y$  beam-  
 300 separation scans.

### 301 5.2.1 Monte Carlo samples

302 A number of Monte Carlo (MC) simulations are employed to model signal and background pro-  
 303 cesses. In order to model the real collision data as closely as possible, each MC has been run through  
 304 a full simulation of the ATLAS detector [14] in GEANT4 [15], and events have been reconstructed

using the same algorithms as the data. The simulation reproduces as closely as possible the momentum resolutions and calorimeter responses of the detector, and also includes the effects of pileup by including soft QCD interactions using PYTHIA v8.1 [16]. The MC samples used in this analysis are detailed in this section and summarized in Table 5.1.

The  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  samples are modeled using SHERPA v2.2.2 [17, 18, 19] with the NNPDF3.0 PDF set [20]. The EWK signal samples are 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  $\alpha_s$ . A second  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  EWK sample is generated using POWHEG-BOX v2 [21] 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 [22].

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 SHERPA2.2.1 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 [23] 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 [24].  $t\bar{t}V$  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 PYTHIA6 [25] for parton showering.

### 5.3 Object and event selection

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

#### 5.3.1 Object selection

Muons, electrons, and jets all must pass strict selection requirements to ensure that only high quality, well measured objects are used. For leptons, a baseline selection is defined (called the *preselection*), which all leptons must pass in order to be considered for the analysis. This preselection is an

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 ( $llll$ , $lll\nu$ , $ll\nu\nu$ )
	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 5.1: Summary of MC samples used in the analysis.

intentionally loose set of criteria in order to have high acceptance for rejecting backgrounds with additional leptons (i.e.  $WZ \rightarrow 3l\nu jj$ ). Signal leptons are then required to satisfy a much tighter *signal selection* aimed at suppressing backgrounds from non-prompt or fake leptons. A third set of lepton selection criteria, the *loose selection*, defines a sample enriched in non-prompt leptons, and it is used in the fake factor method for estimating the non-prompt background, discussed in detail in Section 5.4.2. Jets are only required to pass one set of selection criteria. These selections are detailed in the following sections and summarized in Table 5.2 for muons, Table 5.3 for electrons, and Table 5.4 for jets.

#### 5.3.1.1 Muon candidate selection

Cuts on muon  $p_T$  serve to reject low momentum leptons from background processes and additional collisions from pileup events. Preselected muons must have  $p_T > 6$  GeV and signal muons  $p_T > 27$  GeV. The  $p_T$  requirement for loose muons is lower than for signal muons,  $p_T > 15$  GeV, for reasons that are discussed in Section 5.4.2. **TODO: reference proper subsection when it's done** Muons are required to fall within the detector's  $\eta$  acceptance:  $|\eta| < 2.7$  for preselected muons, which is tightened to  $|\eta| < 2.5$  for the signal muons.

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

Finally, the muon candidates are required to pass a particle identification and an isolation criteria as defined in [26]. The methods used in constructing the identification and isolation workingpoints are described in more detail in Section 3.2.4.2. The muon identification serves to select prompt muons with high efficiency and well measured momenta. This analysis uses two different workingpoints, **Loose** for preselected muons and **Medium** for loose and signal muons, where **Medium** muons are a tighter subset of those that pass the **Loose** requirement. Muon isolation is a measurement of detector activity around the muon candidate, and it is measured with both track-based and calorimeter-based variables. The isolation workingpoint used for the signal muons, **Gradient**, is defined such that there is 90% or better background rejection efficiency for 25 GeV muons, and 99% efficiency at 60 GeV. There is no minimum isolation requirement for preselected or loose muons. Loose muons are additionally required to fail one or both of the signal transverse impact parameter 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	<b>Loose</b>

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	<b>Medium</b>
Particle isolation	<b>Gradient</b>

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	<b>Medium</b>
Fail signal transverse impact parameter and/or isolation cuts	

Table 5.2: 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.

### 5.3.1.2 Electron candidate selection

The electron candidate selections are very similar to those for muons. The  $p_T$  cut starts at  $p_T > 6$  GeV for the preselection, increases to  $p_T > 15$  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 region 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) [27] detailed in Section 3.2.4.3. Preselected electrons must pass the loosest LH workingpoint **LooseLH** 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 the tightness of the identification using **MediumLH** and **TightLH**, respectively. As for isolation, the **Gradient** workingpoint is required for signal electrons only. The loose electrons must fail one or both of the signal identification and isolation requirements.

### 5.3.1.3 Jet candidate selection

The final objects that need to pass selection are jets. Jets are clustered using the anti- $k_t$  algorithm [28] within a radius of  $\Delta R = 0.4$ . The jets are then calibrated using  $E_T$ - and  $\eta$ -dependent correction factors that are trained using MC simulations [29]. These calibrated jets are then required to have  $p_T > 30$  GeV if they lie in the forward regions of the detector ( $2.4 < |\eta| < 4.5$ ) and  $p_T > 25$  GeV in the central region ( $|\eta| \leq 2.4$ ). In order to suppress pileup jets, the so-called jet-vertex-tagger (JVT) discriminant associates a jet with the primary interaction vertex [30]; central jets with  $p_T > 60$  GeV are required to pass the **Medium** JVT workingpoint, which corresponds to an average efficiency of over 92%. Finally, the jets are required to be separated by selected prompt leptons by at least  $\Delta R(j, l) > 0.3$ .

### 5.3.1.4 Treatment of overlapping objects

In the event that one or more objects are reconstructed very close to each other, there is the possibility for double-counting if both originated from the same object. The procedure by which this ambiguity is resolved is called *overlap removal* (OR). The standard ATLAS recommendation for OR is implemented in this analysis [31, 32] and is summarized in Table 5.5.



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	<b>LooseLH</b> + $B$ -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	<b>TightLH</b>
Particle isolation	<b>Gradient</b>

Electron loose selection	
Momentum cut	$p_T > 15$ 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	<b>MediumLH</b>
Fail signal identification and/or isolation cuts	

Table 5.3: 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.

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

Table 5.4:

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

High energy muons can produce photons via bremsstrahlung radiation or collinear final state radiation which results in a nearby energy deposit in the calorimeters. Non-prompt muons from hadronic decays produce a similar signature; however, in this case the jet has a higher track multiplicity in the ID. It is possible to address both cases by rejecting the jet when the ID track multiplicity is less than three and otherwise rejecting the muon for jets and muons within  $\Delta R(\mu, j) < 0.4$ .

In addition to the case above where muon bremsstrahlung results in a nearby reconstructed jet, the ID track from the muon and the calorimeter energy deposit can lead to it being reconstructed as an electron. In this case, if both a muon and an electron share a track in the ID, the muon is kept and the electron is rejected, unless the muon is calorimeter-tagged<sup>2</sup>, in which case the muon is removed in favor of the electron.

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

Table 5.5: 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.

### 5.3.2 Signal event selection

After the objects have been selected, cuts are applied on a per-event level to select  $W^{\pm}W^{\pm}jj$  signal events. The event selection is summarized in Table 5.7 and is detailed in this section. It includes the results of an optimization performed using a multidimensional grid scan.

The initial event selection begins by choosing events that pass one or more of the trigger requirements listed in Table 5.6. At least one signal lepton is “matched” to a passed trigger in order

<sup>2</sup>A 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 [26].

to ensure that it was indeed a signal lepton that fired the trigger. A collection of *event cleaning* cuts must also be passed in order to remove events collected during periods in which one or more components of the detector was not operating optimally. Finally, the events are required to contain at least one interaction vertex. An event can have multiple reconstructed vertices from additional proton-proton collisions that occurred in the same bunch crossing. In this case, the *primary vertex* is determined by choosing the vertex with the largest sum of the  $p_T^2$  of its associated tracks.

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

Table 5.6: 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.

Events are then required to contain exactly two signal leptons with the same electric charge. The dilepton pair must have a combined invariant mass of  $m_{ll} \geq 20$  GeV in order to suppress low mass Drell-Yan backgrounds. Two additional selections are applied to events in the  $ee$ -channel: both electrons are required to have  $|\eta| < 1.37$  with an invariant mass at least 15 GeV away from the  $Z$ -boson mass to reduce events where one electron is reconstructed with the wrong charge (this background will be discussed in more detail in Section 5.4 **TODO: Replace with proper subsection once it's written**). To suppress backgrounds from events with more than two leptons, events with more than two leptons passing the preselection are vetoed.

Missing transverse energy ( $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ ) represents any particles that escape the detector without being measured, such as neutrinos, and is defined as the magnitude of the vector sum of transverse momenta of all reconstructed objects. It can be difficult to calculate accurately, as it involves measurements from all subsystems within the detector, and it is sensitive to any corrections that may be applied to the reconstructed physics objects [33]. These corrections, including the momentum smearing for muons, energy scale and smearing for electrons, and jet calibrations, are propagated to the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  calculation. Events are required to contain  $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 30$  GeV in order to account for the two neutrinos from the  $W$  boson decays.

At least two jets are required. The leading and subleading jets must have  $p_T > 65$  GeV and  $p_T > 35$  GeV, respectively, and are referred to as the *tagging jets*. Events are vetoed if they contain one or more jets that have been tagged as a  $b$ -jet to suppress backgrounds from heavy flavor decays

(especially top quark events). The  $b$ -tagging algorithm used by ATLAS is a boosted decision tree (BDT) called MV2c10, and this analysis uses a workingpoint with 85% efficiency [34].

Finally, cuts are applied on the VBS signature outlined in Section 5.1. The tagging jets are required to have a dijet invariant mass  $m_{jj} > 200$  GeV and be separated in rapidity by  $|\Delta y_{jj}| > 2.0$ . This preferentially selects the VBS EWK events over the QCD-produced  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  events.

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
	$b$ -jet veto
	$ \Delta y_{jj}  > 2.0$

Table 5.7: The signal event selection

## 5.4 Background estimations

Hello world!

### 5.4.1 Reduction of $WZ$ background using custom overlap removal

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

In order to understand the sources of  $WZ$  events that are not removed by the *trilepton veto*, a study was performed on truth-level leptons<sup>3</sup> on  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  and  $WZ$  MC samples. Events with three

<sup>3</sup>Truth 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.

truth leptons were selected, and each was matched to its reconstruction-level partner by finding the closest  $\Delta R(\text{truth}, \text{reco})$  and  $\Delta p_{T, \text{truth}, \text{reco}}$  match. For events surviving the trilepton veto, the two signal leptons were removed, and the remaining leptons represent real leptons that failed to be selected for the veto. Between 40-50% of these leptons fell outside of the eta acceptance of the analysis (see Figure 5.4) and were unrecoverable. The second largest source of leptons failing the preselection was the OR, defined in Section 5.3.1.4. The standard OF procedure appeared 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* was investigated which would replace the standard OR in the preselection and allow for better  $WZ$  rejection by removing fewer third leptons.

TODO: Mention how the extra leptons in the  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  are background leptons since there are only 2 from the main decay

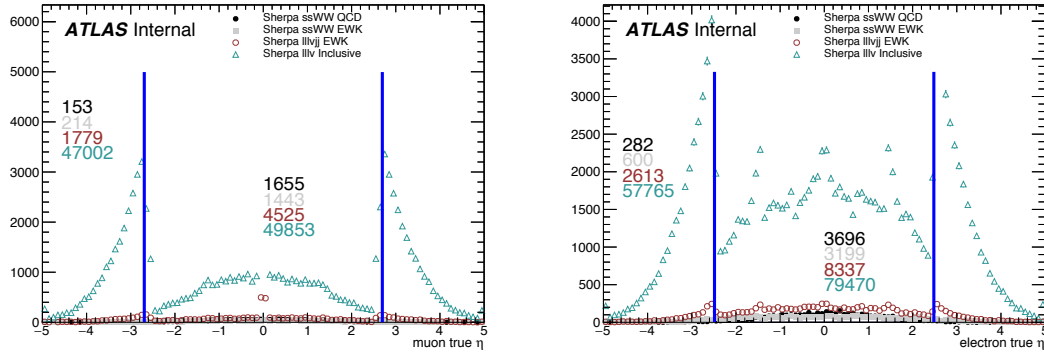


Figure 5.4: Pseudorapidity ( $\eta$ ) distributions of truth muons (top) and electrons (bottom) for Sherpa  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  and  $WZ$  MC samples. The blue vertical lines represent the allowed  $\eta$  range for each lepton flavor. The numbers correspond to the number of raw MC events that fall within and outside of the allowed  $\eta$  range for each MC sample.

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

$$p_{T, \text{ratio}}(l, j) = \frac{p_{Tl}}{p_{Tj}} \quad (5.1)$$

which, along with  $\Delta R(l, j)$ , will allow for more third leptons to pass the preselection. 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 to jet. The distributions of  $p_{T, \text{ratio}}$  and the associated efficiency curves for muons and

476 electrons can be found in Figures 5.5 and 5.7, respectively, and the distributions for  $\Delta R(\mu, j)$  for  
 477 muons can be found in Figure 5.6. Since all electrons have an associated jet in the calorimeters, the  
 478  $\Delta R(e, j)$  variable is not a good quantity to use for this custom OR.

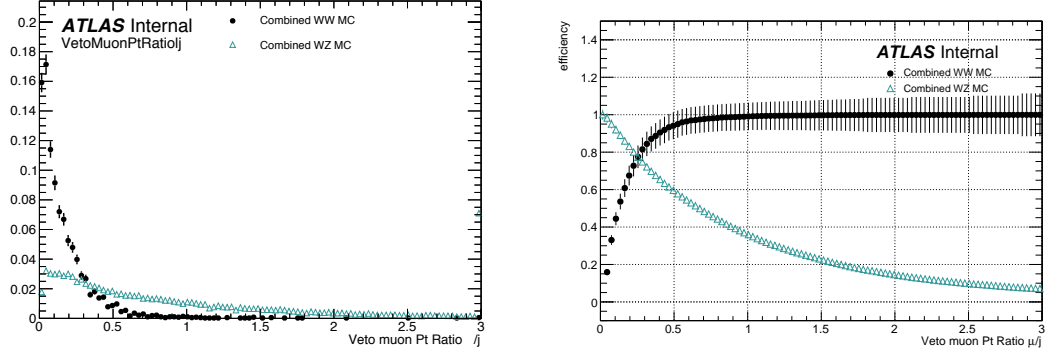


Figure 5.5: Distributions of  $p_{T,ratio}(\mu, j)$  for EWK and QCD  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  signal (black) and  $WZ$  background (teal) for truth-matched third muons in events that pass the triplepton veto. Both distributions are normalized to unit area. The associated efficiency curves are on the right where efficiency is defined as the percentage of total events that would pass a cut on  $p_{T,ratio}(\mu, j)$  at a given value on the  $x$ -axis.

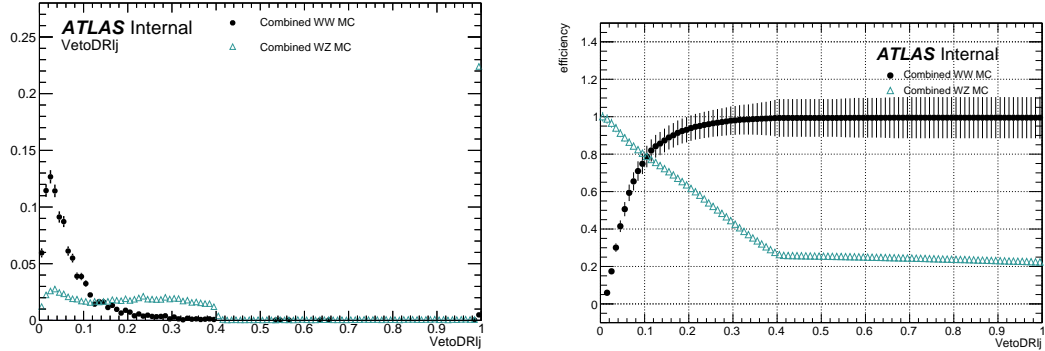


Figure 5.6: Distributions of  $\Delta R(\mu, j)$  for EWK and QCD  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  signal (black) and  $WZ$  background (teal) for truth-matched third muons in events that pass the triplepton veto. Both distributions are normalized to unit area. The associated efficiency curves are on the right where 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.

479 A workingpoint for the Custom OR was chosen by requiring 90% signal retention for muons  
 480 and 90% background rejection for electrons. The cut on electrons was allowed to be much tighter

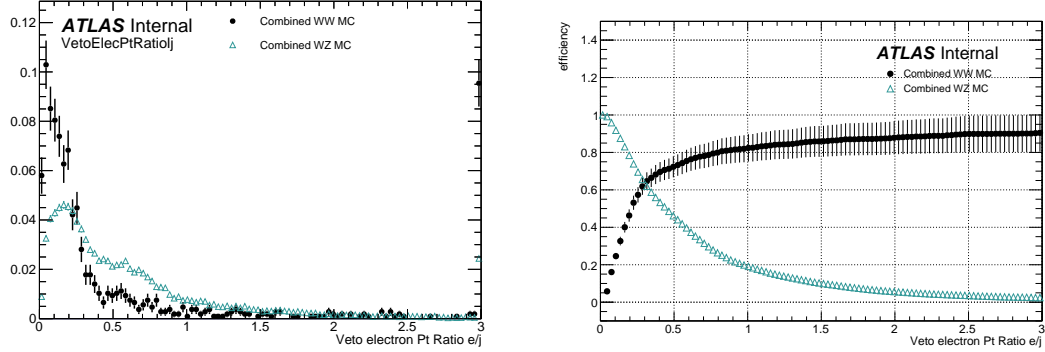


Figure 5.7: Distributions of  $p_{T,ratio}(e, j)$  for EWK and QCD  $W^{\pm}W^{\pm}jj$  signal (black) and  $WZ$  background (teal) for truth-matched third electrons in events that pass the trilepton veto. Both distributions are normalized to unit area. The associated efficiency curves are on the right where efficiency is defined as the percentage of total events that would pass a cut on  $p_{T,ratio}(e, j)$  at a given value on the  $x$ -axis.

because the number of signal events with a third electron is considerably smaller than for muons. It should be re-emphasized the signal events that are present in Figures 5.5-5.7 do not represent the full 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, an or of  $p_{T,ratio}(\mu, j)$  and  $\Delta R(\mu, j)$  is used to maximize the third lepton acceptance due to correlations between the quantities, as shown in Figure 5.8; for electrons, only a cut on  $p_{T,ratio}(e, j)$  is used. The Custom OR workingpoint is outlined in Table 5.8.

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

Table 5.8: Custom OR definition. Leptons must pass this selection in order to be counted for the trilepton veto.

Tests of the performance of the Custom OR looked promising, 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 dropped from the final analysis. However, it is still a potentially useful tool for improving background rejection via lepton number vetoes in analyses with overly aggressive OR procedures.

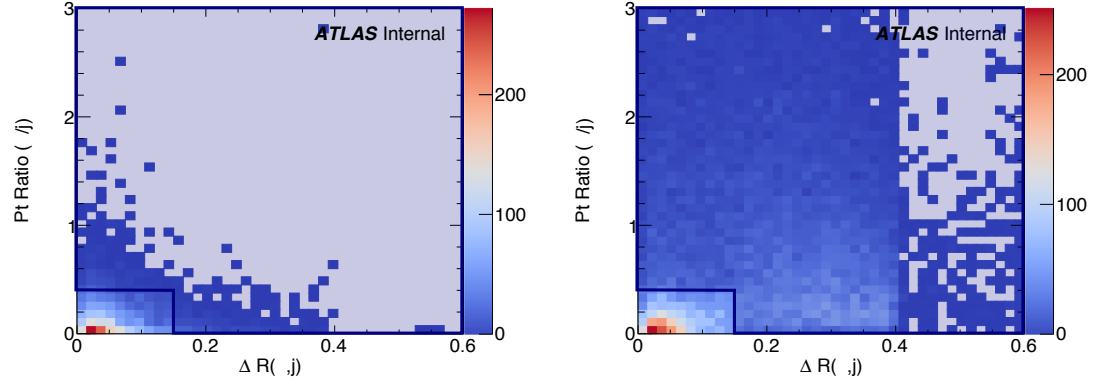


Figure 5.8: Two-dimensional plots of  $p_{T,\text{ratio}}(\mu, j)$  vs  $\Delta R(\mu, j)$  for truth-matched third muons in events that pass the triplepton veto for EWK and QCD  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  signal (left) and  $WZ$  background (right). The blue overlay indicates the area in which the third leptons will pass the custom OR and result in the event failing the triplepton veto.

#### 5.4.2 Fake factor method

fake factor method

### 5.5 Cross section measurement

Hello world!

### 5.6 Results

Results



## CHAPTER 6

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# Prospects for same-sign $WW$ at the High Luminosity LHC

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On December 3, 2018, Run 2 of the LHC officially ended, and the collider was shut down to begin the first of two scheduled extended maintenance periods [35]. During these two long shutdowns, the Phase-I and Phase-II upgrades of the LHC and ATLAS will occur in order to prepare for the High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) which is scheduled to begin operation in 2026 [36].

The HL-LHC is planned to run at a center-of-mass energy of  $\sqrt{s} = 14$  TeV with an instantaneous luminosity of  $\mathcal{L} = 5 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  with up to 200 collisions per beam-crossing. Over the course of operation, the HL-LHC is expected to collect a total integrated luminosity of  $\mathcal{L} = 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  by 2035 [37].

These run conditions are much harsher than what ATLAS has experienced so far, and as a result there are several planned upgrades to the detector. Most notably, the entire ID will be replaced with an all-silicon tracker which will extend the coverage from  $|\eta| \leq 2.7$  up to  $|\eta| \leq 4.0$ . This will allow for reconstruction of charged particle tracks which can in turn be matched to clusters in the calorimeters for electron identification or forward jet tagging [38].

The upgraded detector combined with the higher beam energy and the considerable increase in integrated luminosity means that many analyses with low signal statistics in Run 2 have the potential to be greatly improved with the HL-LHC. While the ATLAS 13 TeV  $W^{\pm}W^{\pm}jj$  cross section measurement certainly did not suffer greatly from low statistics **TODO: -reword-**, the accuracy of the measurement can still be improved at the HL-LHC. Of particular interest is the longitudinal polarization of the  $W$  bosons due to its sensitivity to electroweak symmetry breaking [39].

The analysis detailed in this chapter is based off of the 2018 public ATLAS  $W^{\pm}W^{\pm}jj$  prospects

study [40] which is itself an extension of the 2017 ATLAS study [41]. **TODO: mention CMS's study + yellow report?**

### 6.0.1 Analysis Overview

The experimental signature of interest here is identical to the 13 TeV analysis detailed in Chapter 5: two prompt leptons (electrons or muons) with the same charge, missing transverse energy, and two jets. Once again the two leading jets are required to have a large angular separation and a high combined invariant mass to preferentially select EWK VBS production over QCD  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  events.

Background processes that can mimic the signal are again similar to the 13 TeV analysis. The dominant source of prompt background 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 remainder could appear to be a  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  signal event. To a lesser extent,  $ZZ$ +jets events can enter the signal region in much the same way provided two leptons are “lost”. Other prompt sources include  $t\bar{t} + V$  and multiple parton interactions, however these processes do not contribute much. The upgrades to the ATLAS detector are expected to reduce the size of these prompt contributions due in large part to the increased detector acceptance from the forward tracking. 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 contribute provided one of the electrons is mis-reconstructed as 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 longitudinal scattering significance is measured with the optimized selection.

## 6.1 Theoretical motivation

The theoretical motivation for studying the ssWW process is detailed in Section 5.1.2. The particular interest in polarization is the potential for the scattering amplitude of longitudinally polarized weak bosons to diverge linearly as the center of mass energy increases, ultimately violating unitarity around 1 TeV [42]. In the Standard Model, the Higgs boson cancels these divergences. However, as

the Higgs is recently discovered it is still extremely to study the mechanism of electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB), and the longitudinal scattering of  $W$  bosons is expected to be one of the most sensitive tests of EWSB [39].

### 6.1.1 Experimental sensitivity to longitudinal polarization

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

In order to extract the longitudinal scattering component, it is necessary to find variables that distinguish the  $LL$  from the  $TT$  and  $LT$ . Several variables were studied, and those with the best discriminating power between the polarizations were the leading and subleading lepton  $p_T$  as well as the azimuthal separation ( $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$ ) of the two VBS jets. The  $LL$  events preferred lower  $p_T$  for both signal leptons (see Figure 6.1), which motivates keeping these two cuts as low as possible in the event selection in order to preserve as much longitudinal polarization as possible. In the case of  $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$ , the  $LL$  events generally had a larger dijet separation (see Figure 6.2), and this variable is used in a binned likelihood fit to extract the longitudinal scattering significance.

## 6.2 Monte Carlo samples

As no real HL-LHC data will be available for many years, all processes in this prospects study must be simulated using Monte Carlo (MC) generators. Signal and background processes were generated at  $\sqrt{s} = 14$  TeV, and the event yields scaled to the anticipated HL-LHC integrated luminosity of  $\mathcal{L} = 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ . The MC samples used in the analysis are generated at particle-level and have not been run through the typical full simulation of the ATLAS detector. Smearing functions derived from a GEANT4 simulation of the upgraded ATLAS detector [15] are used to estimate detector effects such as momentum resolution. In addition, pileup events are fully simulated. The MC samples used in this analysis are summarized in Table 6.1.

The signal sample consists of both VBS and non-VBS electroweak (EWK)  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  production, and it is simulated with the Madgraph5\_aMC@NLO generator [23] using the NNPDF3.0 PDF set [20] and interfaced with PYTHIA v8 [43] for hadronization and parton showering. To study the longitudinal polarization more directly, two additional Madgraph5\_aMC@NLO  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  samples are used: one

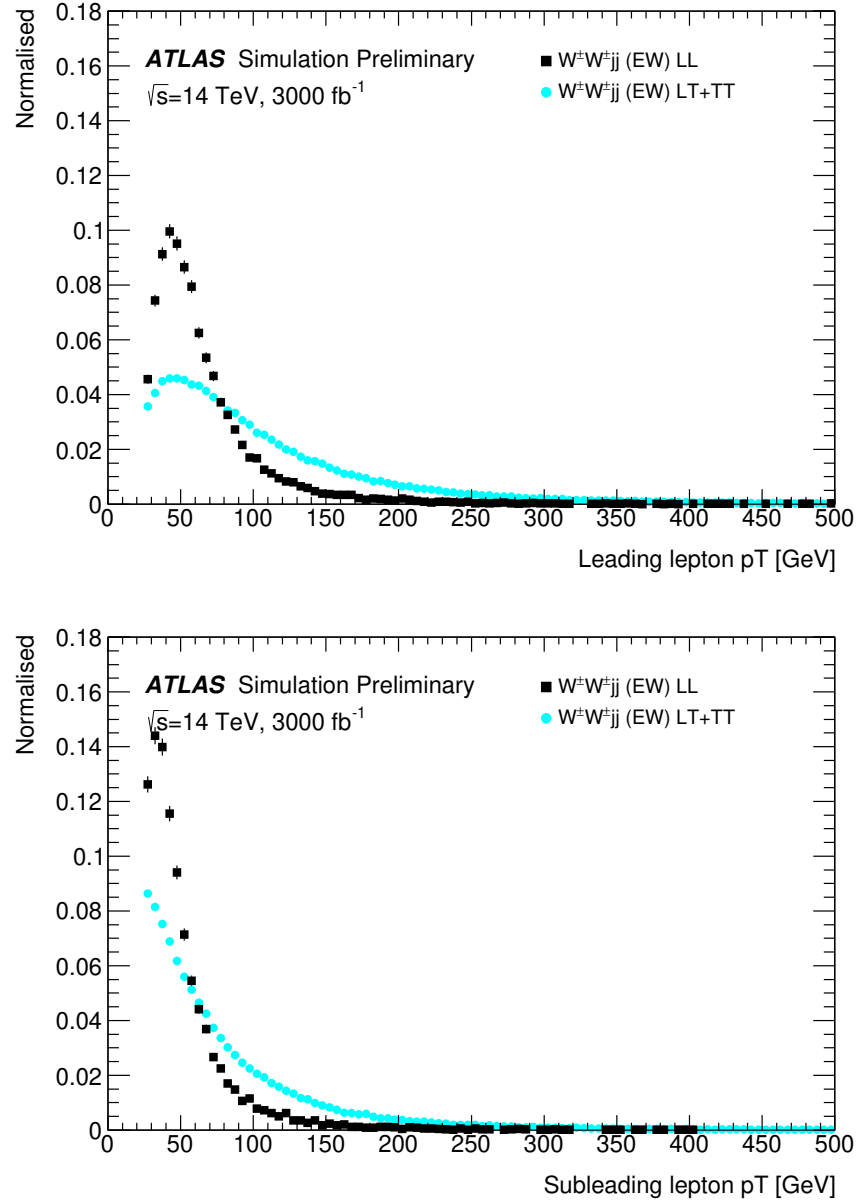


Figure 6.1: Comparison of the leading (top) and subleading (bottom) lepton  $p_T$  distributions for purely longitudinal (LL, black) and mixed polarization (LT+TT, cyan)  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  events. Plots from [1].

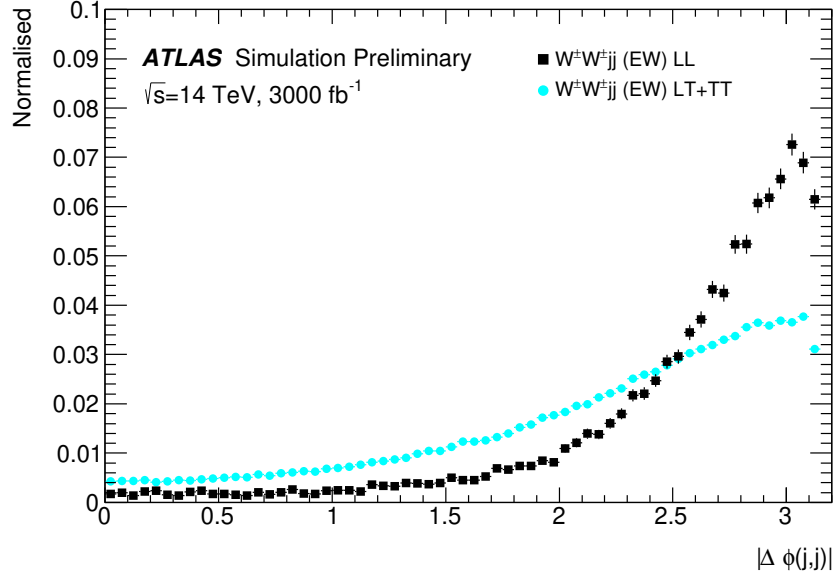


Figure 6.2: Comparison of the azimuthal dijet separation ( $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$ ) for purely longitudinal (LL, black) and mixed polarization (LT+TT, cyan)  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  events. Plot from [1].

582 containing only the longitudinal contribution (LL) and a second containing the transverse (TT) and  
 583 mixed (LT) contributions.

584 There are many other processes that can produce the same final state as the  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  and  
 585 must also be accounted for using MC simulations.  $WZ$  events are generated using **SHERPA v2.2.0**  
 586 [17, 18, 19], which includes up to one parton at NLO in the strong coupling constant  $\alpha_s$  and up  
 587 to three additional partons at LO. Both EWK and QCD production are included in these samples.  
 588  $ZZ$  and triboson  $VVV$  ( $V = W, Z$ ) events are generated using **SHERPA v2.2.2** with up to two  
 589 additional partons in the final state. For the triboson backgrounds, the bosons can decay leptonically  
 590 or hadronically.  $W$ +jets backgrounds are generated for electron, muon, and tau final states are  
 591 generated at LO with **Madgraph5\_aMC@NLO** and the **NNPDF3.0** set with showering from **PYTHIA v8**.  
 592  $Z$ +jets events are generated using **POWHEG-BOX v2** [21] and the **CT10** PDF set [24] interfaced with  
 593 **PYTHIA v8**. Finally,  $t\bar{t}$  and single-top events are generated using **POWHEG-BOX** with showering from  
 594 **PYTHIA v6**.

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	
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (TT+LT)	Madgraph5_aMC@NLO	
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.

### 6.3 Background estimations

In this analysis, all background contributinos are estimated using MC simulations. Backgrounds such as electron charge misidentification and fake electrons from jets—which are traditionally estimated using data-driven techniques—are estimated using a set of parameterization functions applied to the MC. These functions calculate the probability that an electron is assigned the wrong charge or a jet is mis-reconstructed as an electron parameterized by the  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  of the electron or jet. The probabilities are derived from studies on expected electron performance with the upgraded ATLAS detector [44].

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

#### 6.3.1 Truth-based isolation

Since the MC samples used in this analysis have not been run through a full detector simulation, they lack any kind of particle isolation variables (since they require, for example, information on the calorimeter response). Generally, this is not a large concern, as at truth-level, high  $p_T$  signal leptons tend to be well isolated to begin with. However, isolation is one of the most powerful tools for rejecting leptons from non-prompt sources such as top events, which are produced in association with additional nearby particles from  $b$  and  $c$  quark decays. In the absence of any sort of isolation

requirement, contributions from top backgrounds (including single top,  $t\bar{t}$  and  $t\bar{t} + V$ ) were more than an order of magnitude higher than expected.

As a result, it was necessary to create an analogue to the isolation information that is available in fully-simulated samples. Track- and calorimeter-based isolation variables were constructed by summing the momentum and energy, respectively, of stable truth particles with  $p_T > 1$  GeV within a specified radius of each signal lepton. For the track-based isolation, only charged truth particles were used; both charged and neutral particles (excluding neutrinos) were included for the calorimeter-based isolation. Ultimately, a set of isolation cuts were chosen that are similar to those recommended by ATLAS for Run 2 analyses. The truth-based isolation requirements 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.

The truth-based isolation requirement reduced the top background by over 99% and reduced the contribution of top events to the total background from 83% to 2%. Additional details on the truth-based isolation studies are presented in Appendix A.

## 6.4 Object and event selection

### 6.4.1 Object selection

Electrons and muons are preselected to have  $p_T > 7$  and 6 GeV, respectively, and  $|\eta| \leq 4.0$ . The likelihood of a given lepton to pass the trigger or identification requirements is estimated by estimating an efficiency dependent on the  $p_T$  and  $\eta$  of the lepton. The leptons are also required to pass the isolation criteria detailed in Table 6.2. Jets that have been tagged as a fake electron by the functions described earlier in Section 6.3 are treated as electrons for the purpose of the object selection and are subject to the same criteria. In order to be considered a signal lepton, an additional requirement of  $p_T > 25$  GeV is applied on top of the preselection. The two highest  $p_T$  leptons passing this selection are chosen to be the leading and subleading signal leptons.

Jets are clustered using the anti- $k_t$  algorithm [28] from final-state particles within a radius of  $\Delta R = 0.4$  (excluding muons and neutrinos). Jets are required to have  $p_T > 30$  GeV and lie within  $|\eta| < 4.5$ , with an additional cut of  $p_T > 70$  GeV for jets above  $|\eta| \geq 3.8$  in order to suppress

640 jets from pileup interactions. Jets overlapping with a preselected electron within  $\Delta R_{e,j} < 0.05$  are  
 641 removed in order to prevent double counting. The two highest  $p_T$  jets are defined as the leading  
 642 and subleading *tag jets*.

### 643 6.4.2 Event selection

644 The default event selection is summarized in Table 6.3 and described here. Exactly two signal leptons  
 645 are required with the same electric charge and separated from each other by 0.3 in  $\Delta R$ . In order to  
 646 suppress contributions from Drell-Yan backgrounds, the two signal leptons must have an invariant  
 647 mass  $m_{ll}$  greater than 20 GeV. Additionally, if both signal leptons are electrons, their mass must  
 648 be at least 10 GeV from the  $Z$ -boson mass in order to reduce background from  $Z$ -boson decays<sup>4</sup>.  
 649 The event is required to have at least 40 GeV of missing transverse energy ( $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ ) to account for  
 650 the two neutrinos from the  $W$  decays. Events with additional preselected leptons are vetoed, which  
 651 greatly reduces  $WZ$  and  $ZZ$  backgrounds. Both tag jets are required to not overlap with the signal  
 652 leptons, and there is a veto on events with one or more  $b$ -jets. In order to preferentially select  
 653 VBS production, the tag jets are also required to have a large separation between them and a large  
 654 invariant mass. Finally, a cut on the lepton centrality,  $\zeta$ , defined in Equation 6.1 enhances the EWK  
 655  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  signal.

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

## 656 6.5 Selection optimization

657 As mentioned earlier, the HL-LHC will feature forward tracking, an increase in center of mass energy,  
 658 and a higher integrated luminosity. Therefore, this study is an excellent time to see if there are new  
 659 optimizations to the signal event selection that can improve the signal to background ratio.

### 660 6.5.1 Random grid search algorithm

661 The chosen method for optimizing the event selection is a cut-based algorithm known as the Random  
 662 Grid Search (RGS) [45]. Consider a simple case of two variables  $x$  and  $y$  chosen to differentiate the  
 663 signal from the background. In order to be considered a signal event, a given event would be required  
 664 to pass a *cut point*  $c = \{x > x_c, y > y_c\}$ . A simple method to choose the optimal cut point (i.e. the

---

<sup>4</sup>The electron charge mis-ID rate is 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)
$E_T^{\text{miss}}$	$E_T^{\text{miss}} > 40 \text{ GeV}$
Jet selection	At least two jets with $\Delta R_{l,j} > 0.3$
$b$ jet veto	$N_{b\text{-jet}} = 0$
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.

“best” values of the cuts  $x_c$  and  $y_c$ ) would be to construct an  $n \times m$  rectangular grid in  $x$  and  $y$  consisting of points  $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_n, y_m)$ , as in Figure 6.3. One can then choose a cut point  $c_k = \{x > x_i, y > y_j\}$  that maximizes the signal significance as measured by a chosen metric. This would be considered a *regular* or *rectangular* grid search.

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

1. The algorithm does not scale well as the number of variables to be optimized—the dimensionality of the grid—increases. In the case of a square grid with  $N$  bins per variable  $v$ , the number of cut points to be evaluated grows as  $N^v$ .
2. Signal and background samples are rarely evenly distributed over the entire grid, resulting in many cut points being sub-optimal and evaluating them would be a waste of computing resources.

To combat these limitations, the RGS algorithm constructs a grid of cut points directly from the signal sample itself. In the two-dimensional example, this means that the variables  $x_i$  and  $y_j$  making up the cut point  $c_k = \{x > x_i, y > y_j\}$  take their values directly from a given signal event. This has the benefit of creating a *random grid* of cut points that is by construction biased towards regions of high signal concentration. This reduces the need for exponentially increasing numbers of cut points while ensuring that computing resources are not wasted in regions with few to no signal events. An example of the the two-dimensional random grid is shown in Figure 6.4.

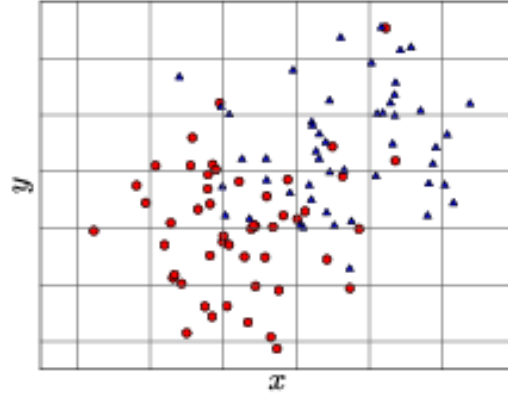


Figure 6.3: A visual representation of a rectangular grid search algorithm. The signal events are the blue triangles, and the red circles are the background events. **TODO: replace with own figure**

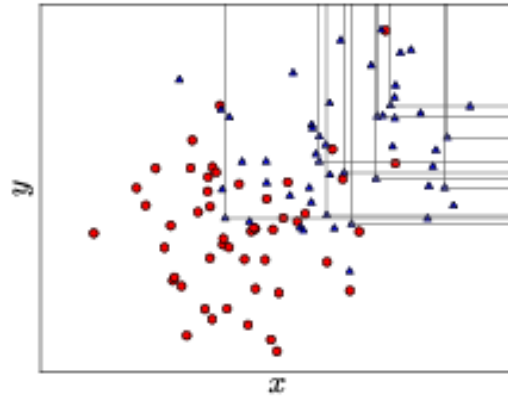


Figure 6.4: A visual representation of a random grid search algorithm. The signal events are the blue triangles, and the red circles are the background events. **TODO: replace with own figure**

Once the random grid of cut points is constructed, the optimal cut point can be chosen using whatever metric the analyzer chooses, such as signal to background ratio. For the purpose of the  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  upgrade study, the optimal cut point is the one that maximizes the signal significance  $Z$  defined as in Equation 6.2 [46].

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

where  $s$  and  $b$  are the number of signal and background events, respectively,  $\sigma_b$  is the total uncertainty on the background, and  $b_0$  is defined as:

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

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

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

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

### 6.5.2 Inputs to the optimization

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

The following variables were chosen for optimization:

- Leading lepton  $p_T$
- Dilepton invariant mass ( $m_{ll}$ )
- Leading and subleading jet  $p_T$
- Dijet invariant mass ( $m_{jj}$ )
- Lepton-jet centrality ( $\zeta$ )

Subleading lepton  $p_T$  was omitted as it is desirable to keep the cut value as low as possible due to its sensitivity to the longitudinal polarization (as discussed in Section 6.1.1). Additionally, the dijet separation  $\Delta\eta_{jj}$  was included in the optimization originally, however it was dropped from the list due to the cut value being motivated by differences between EWK and QCD produced  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  events.

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

1. At least 1000 signal events must survive in order to prevent the optimization from being too aggressive and unnecessarily reducing signal statistics.
2. The dijet invariant mass may only vary within a 50 GeV range of the default value (from 450 – 550 GeV) due to the cut being physically motivated by the VBS event topology (**TODO: reference where this is discussed in the 13 TeV section**).

Lastly, the decision was made to use calculate the signal significance without taking into account the uncertainty of the background using Equation 6.4. This was due to the fact that the statistical uncertainties of the fake electron and charge-misID backgrounds were quite large, and if Equation 6.2 were used instead, the optimization would cut unreasonably hard against these backgrounds. Since Monte Carlo statistics is not expected to be a limiting factor when this analysis is performed at the HL-LHC, it is more realistic to simply ignore these large statistical uncertainties for the purpose of the selection optimization.

### 6.5.3 Results of the optimization

Ultimately, the random grid was constructed from over 38,000 LL-polarized  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  events in the variables listed above. After applying the constraints, an optimal cut point was chosen which reduced the total background from 9900 to 2310 while reducing the signal from 3489 to 2958. This corresponds to an increase in signal significance from  $Z = 33.26$  to  $Z = 52.63$  as calculated by Equation 6.4. The updates to the event selection are listed in Table 6.4.

The large reduction in the background is primarily a result of the increase in the leading and subleading jet  $p_T$  from 30 GeV to 90 GeV and 45 GeV, respectively. As can be seen in Figure 6.7, this increase removes a significant portion of the backgrounds from jets faking electrons and charge mis-ID. Additionally, the loosening of the lepton-jet centrality cut  $\zeta$  allows more signal events to survive the event selection (see Figure 6.9). Other changes to the event selection are minor and do not individually have a large impact on the signal or background yields.

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

736 **TODO:** It's a bit awkward to reference the results of the default/optimized before they're prop-  
 737 erly presented. Maybe move the sections around? not sure...

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.

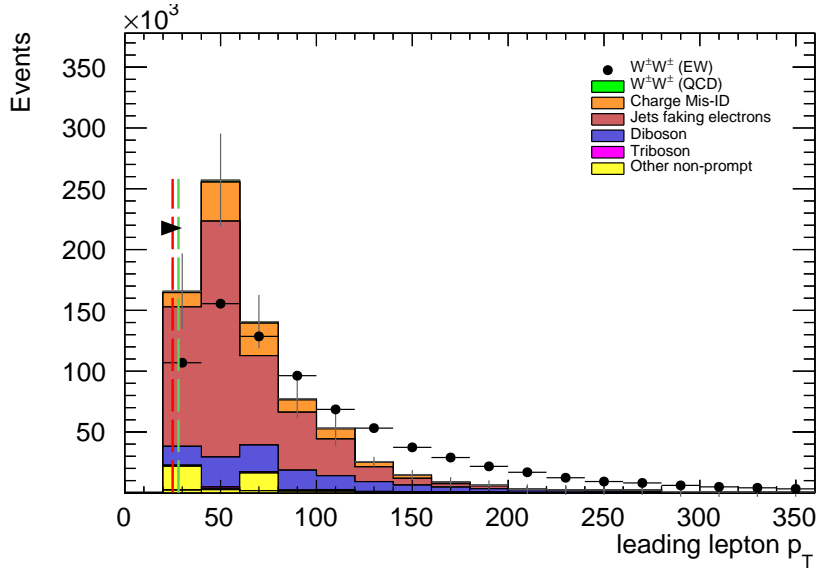


Figure 6.5: Leading lepton  $p_T$  distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram). **TODO:** Move to appendix or omit

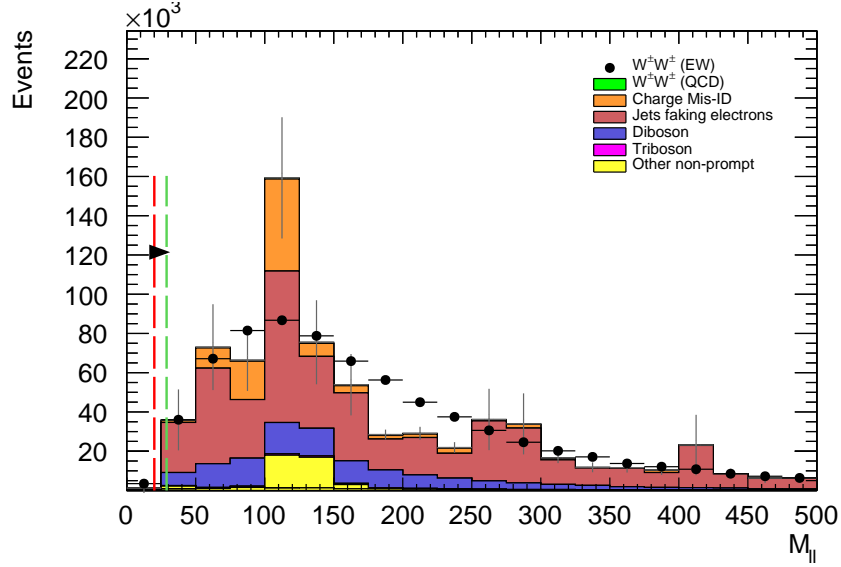


Figure 6.6: Dilepton invariant mass distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).  
 TODO: Move to appendix or omit

## 6.6 Results

### 6.6.1 Event yields

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

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

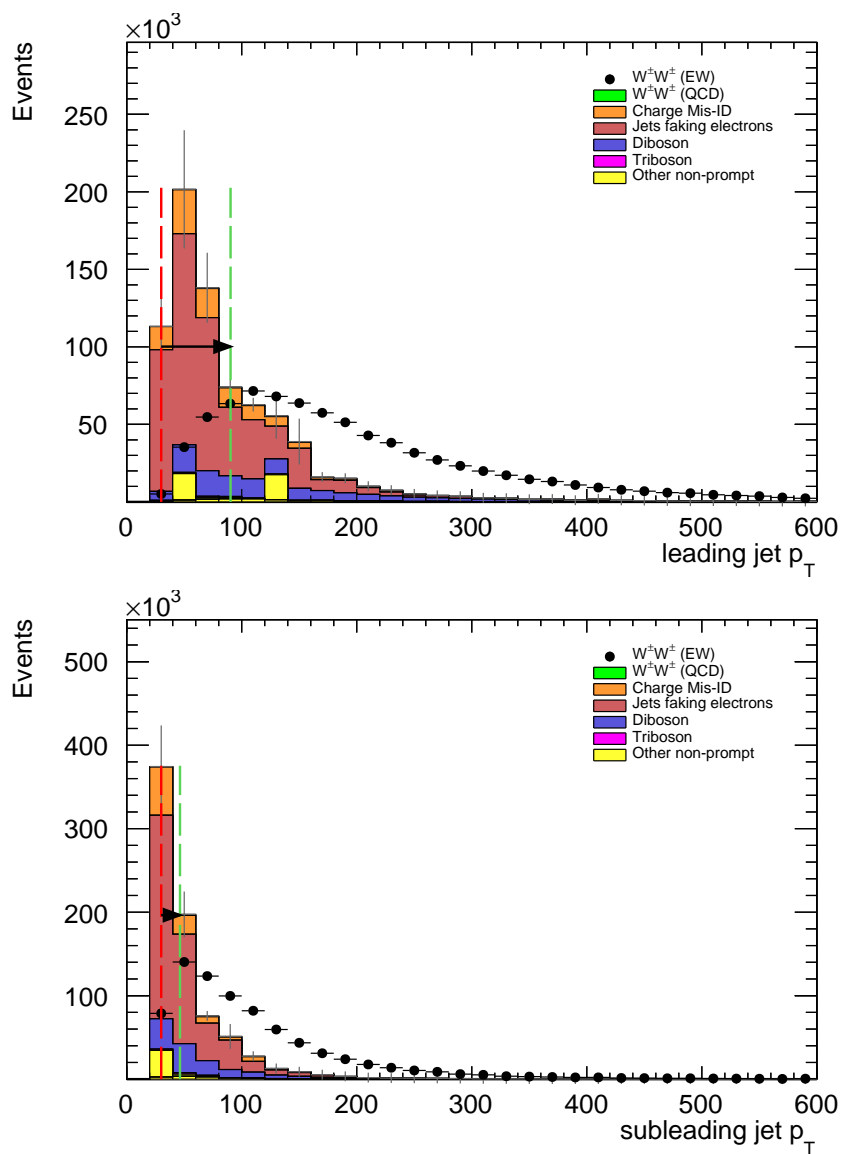


Figure 6.7: Leading (top) and subleading (bottom) jet  $p_T$  distributions. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).

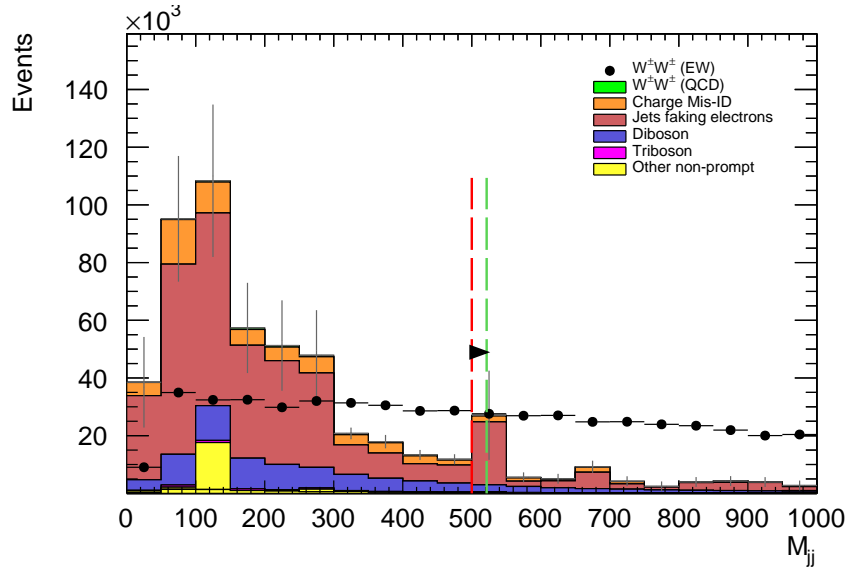


Figure 6.8: Dijet invariant mass distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram). **TODO:** Move to appendix or omit

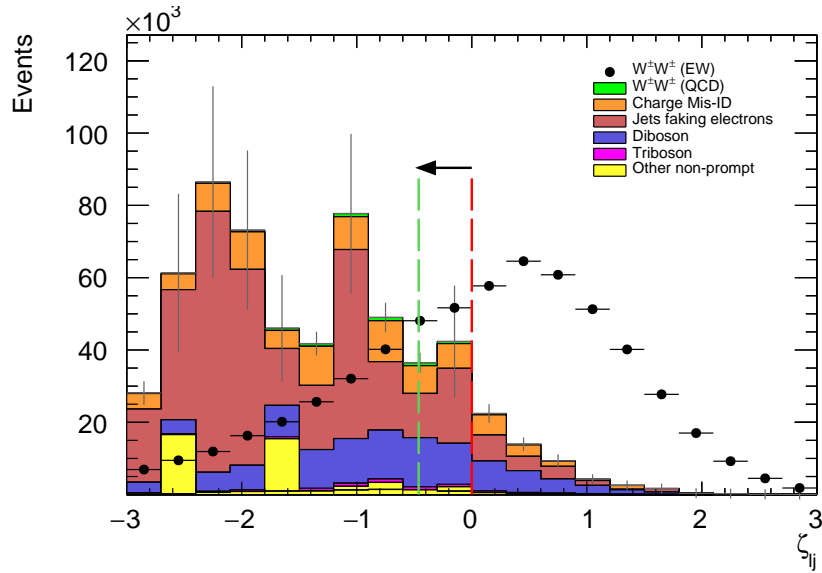


Figure 6.9: Lepton-jet centrality distribution. The default and optimized cuts are represented by the red and green dashed lines, respectively. The  $W^\pm W^\pm jj$  EWK signal (black points) is normalized to the same area as the sum of the backgrounds (colored histogram).



	All channels	$\mu\mu$	$ee$	$\mu e$	$e\mu$
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (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.

event selections can be found in Figures 6.10, 6.11, and 6.12, respectively.

	All channels	$\mu\mu$	$ee$	$\mu e$	$e\mu$
$W^\pm W^\pm jj$ (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 contributes has a large effect on the dramatic reduction of these backgrounds. As a result, these particular optimized results are likely overly optimistic. However, given proper MC statistics, it is still expected that the optimization will outperform the default selection.

### 6.6.2 Uncertainties

**TODO: Ask for details on how some of these uncertainties were calculated – specifically the fakes and charge mis-ID** 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

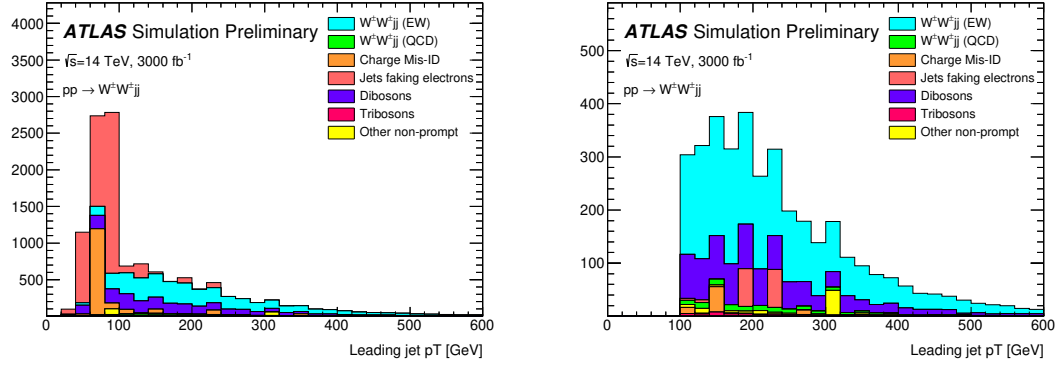


Figure 6.10:  $p_T$  distributions for the leading jet using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined.

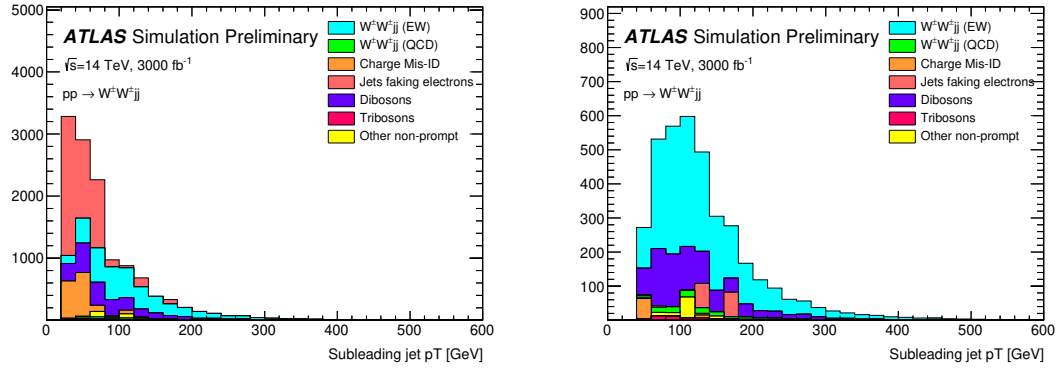


Figure 6.11:  $p_T$  distributions for the subleading jet using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined.

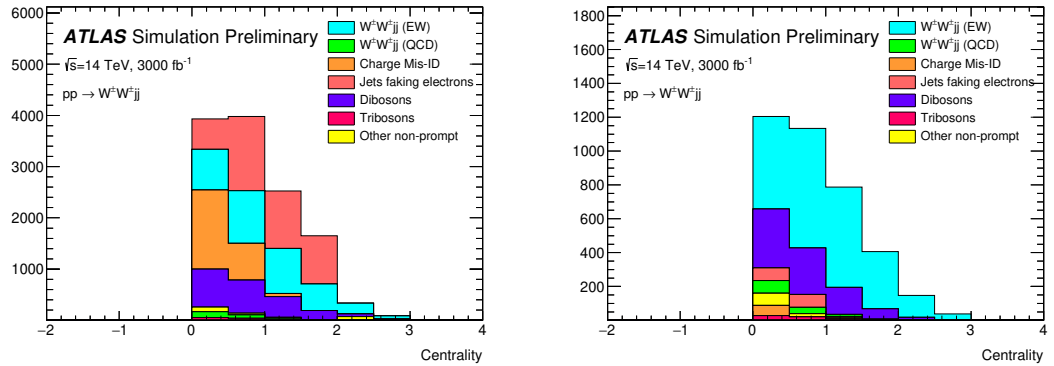


Figure 6.12:  $p_T$  distributions for lepton-jet centrality  $\zeta$  using the default (left) and optimized (right) event selections for all channels combined.

are taken directly from the 13 TeV analysis **TODO: (cite or reference?)**. The rate uncertainties for the background processes are halved from the 13 TeV values.

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.

### 6.6.3 Cross section measurement

The cross section is calculated using the same method as in the 13 TeV analysis, detailed in Chapter 5. **TODO: update from chapter reference to subsection reference (once it's written)**... Once again, each of the four lepton flavor channels 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. The expected cross section calculated using the default event selection is:

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

The expected cross section calculated using the optimized event selection is:

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

The optimized selection should not change the measured value of the cross section, and indeed both are consistent within uncertainties. The systematic uncertainty is reduced by approximately 7% with the optimized selection. Projections of the total uncertainty on the cross section as a function of integrated luminosity made by **TODO: how was this made?** is shown in Figure 6.13.

### 6.6.4 Longitudinal scattering significance

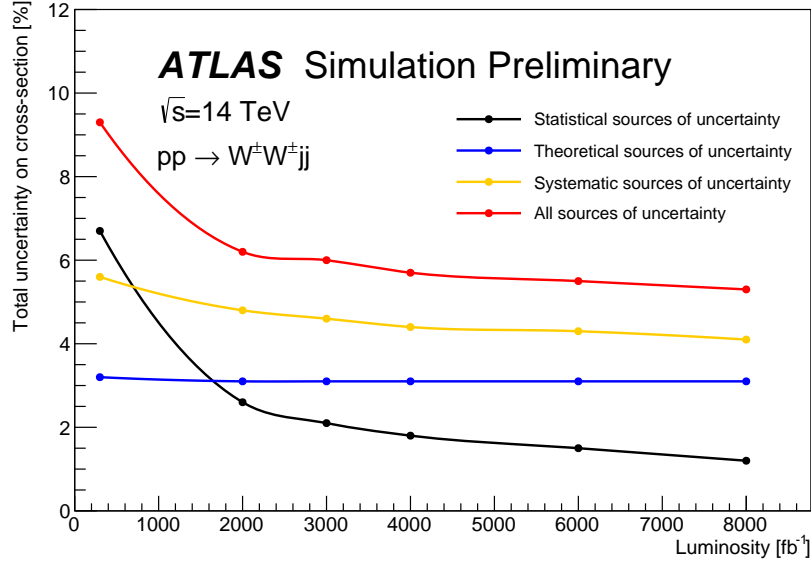


Figure 6.13: Projections of the statistical (black), theoretical (blue), systematic (yellow), and total (red) uncertainties on the measured cross section as a function of integrated luminosity using the optimized event selection.

780 **TODO: get some details on how this was all done...** The longitudinal scattering significance is  
 781 extracted from the  $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$  distribution using a simultaneous binned likelihood fit. In order to increase  
 782 sensitivity, the  $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$  distribution was split into two bins in  $m_{jj}$ , and an additional cut on the  
 783 pseudorapidity of the subleading lepton was applied ( $|\eta| < 2.5$ ) to reduce background from fake and  
 784 charge misidentification. The  $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$  distributions used in the fit are shown in Figure 6.14. Due to  
 785 limited statistics, the four lepton flavor channels were not split by charge. The expected significance  
 786 of the  $W_L^\pm W_L^\pm jj$  process is  $1.8\sigma$  with a precision of 47% on the measurement. Projections of the  
 787 expected significance as a function of integrated luminosity is shown in Figure 6.15.

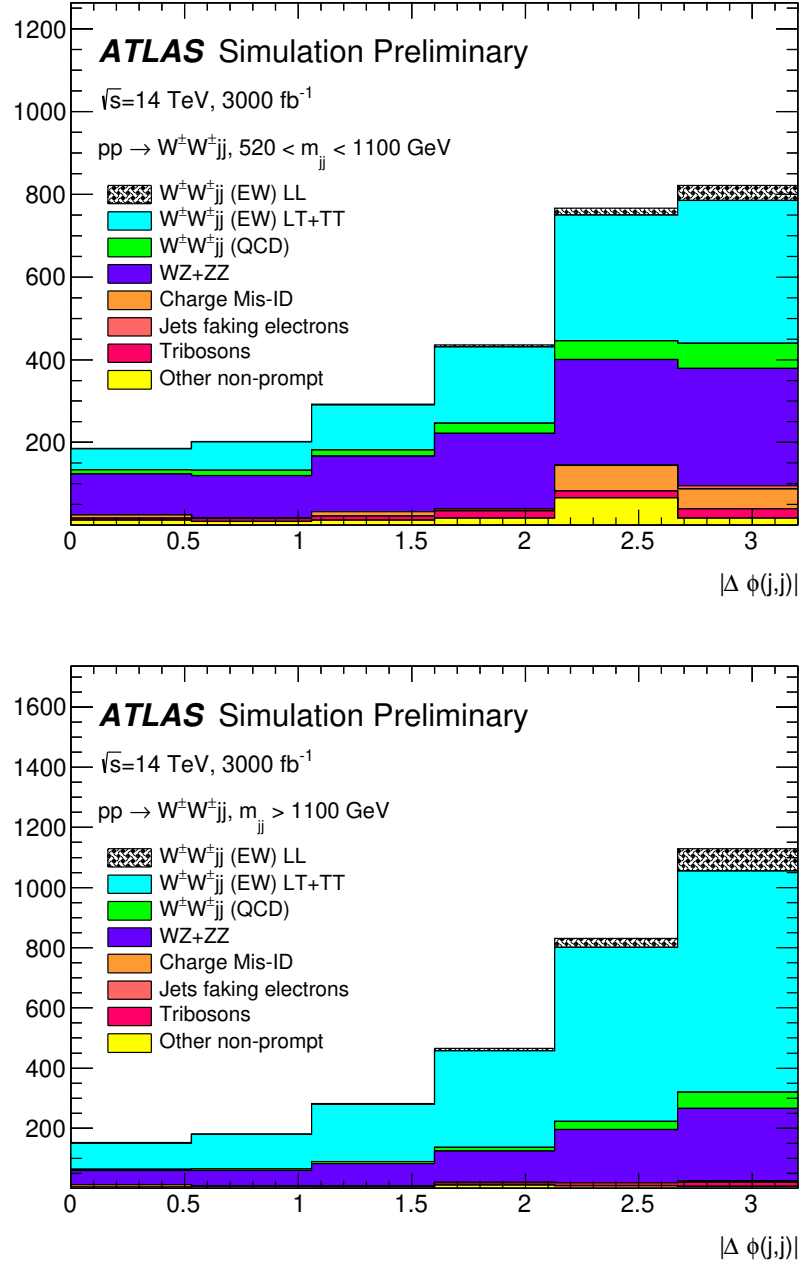


Figure 6.14: Dijet azimuthal separation ( $|\Delta\phi_{jj}|$ ) for the low  $m_{jj}$  region ( $520 < m_{jj} < 1100$  GeV, top) and the high  $m_{jj}$  region ( $m_{jj} > 1100$  GeV, bottom). The purely longitudinal (LL, gray) is plotted separately from the mixed and transverse (LT+TT, cyan) polarizations.

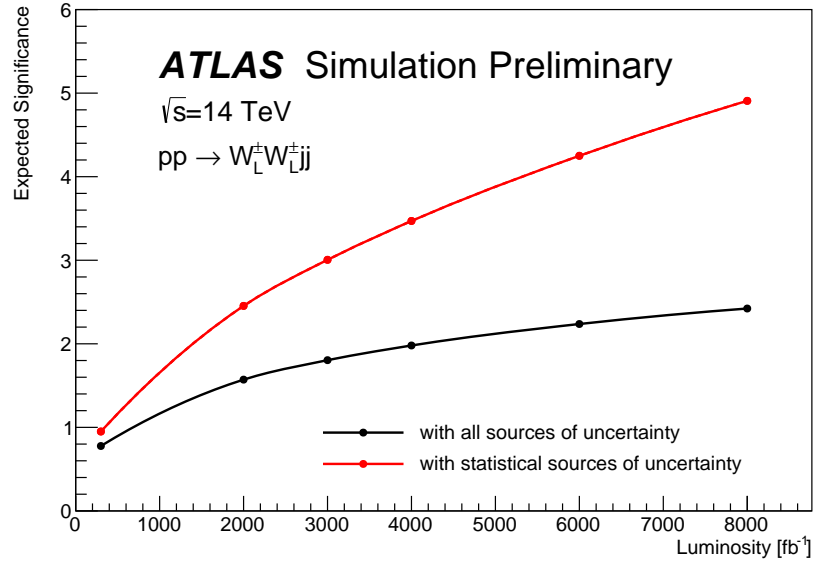


Figure 6.15: Projections of the expected longitudinal scattering significance as a function of integrated luminosity when considering all sources of uncertainties (black) or only statistical uncertainties (red).

788

# CHAPTER 7

789

## Conclusion

790 Here’s where you wrap it up.

791 **Looking Ahead**

792

793 Here’s an example of how to have an “informal subsection”.

## Additional material on truth isolation

yields by type	all channels	$\mu\mu$	$ee$	$\mu e$	$e\mu$
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 A.1: Event yields prior to applying any form of truth-based isolation criteria.

yields by type	all channels	$\mu\mu$	$ee$	$\mu e$	$e\mu$
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 A.2: Event yields after applying a test version of the truth-based isolation.



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