

Search for compressed mass Higgsino production with low-momentum lepton tracks with the CMS experiment

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Abstract

A search for neutral Higgsino particles in final states with large missing transverse momentum and either a lepton-lepton pair or lepton-track pair is presented. The signal scenario considers neutralinos comprising two mass eigenstates differing in mass by small values of approximately 1-5 GeV, where the heavier neutralino decays into the lighter neutralino and two same-flavor leptons. The leptons possess small transverse momentum and thus often fail to be reconstructed. To recover sensitivity, events in which only one of the leptons is reconstructed, while the second lepton is identified as a simple track with the opposite charge, are considered, complementing the case where both leptons are reconstructed. A dedicated isolation method is used, that optimally selects signal leptons, which are often nearly collinear and spoil each other's standard isolation. The custom isolation variable serves to define control regions used to estimate standard model backgrounds for the search. Multivariate discriminants are used to enhance sensitivity at various stages of the selection. The search does not overlap with previous searches in the dilepton final state and probes signal model phase space that has not been explored by previous searches.

The search is designed to analyze the proton-proton collision data collected with the CMS experiment during Run 2 with luminosity of 137 fb^{-1} at a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{ TeV}$. The interpretation is done with a simplified model of compressed mass Higgsinos. The analysis is in the final stages of approval for full unblinding, and for the purpose of this thesis, 10% of the data was unblinded. No new physics has been found, but also no observed limit was able to be set. The full luminosity's potential is realized by calculating the expected limits. Near the LEP limits of $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm} \approx 100\text{ GeV}$, Δm^\pm (Δm^0) down to 0.8 GeV (1.6 GeV) is expected to be excluded. At higher mass splittings between 2 and 2.5 GeV , a chargino mass of up to almost 160 GeV is expected to be excluded. The expected limits improve upon previous searches with similar final states.

ABSTRACT

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Chapter 1

Introduction

In 2012, the last piece of the Standard Model (SM) was discovered at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC): the Higgs boson. However, that does not mean that all mysteries and puzzles were solved. It is known that the SM is flawed, and many extensions attempting to solve known issues with the SM have been proposed. These theories are referred to as Beyond the Standard Model (BSM). One very popular BSM theory is Supersymmetry (SUSY). Some models of SUSY, such as the one considered in the analysis presented in this thesis, provide solutions to some of the problems with the SM, such as the existence of a Dark Matter (DM) candidate and a natural explanation for the hierarchy problem.

A leading candidate for a DM particle is a Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP). SUSY with Higgsino-dominated neutralino Lightest Supersymmetric Particle (LSP) provides such a WIMP candidate. In addition, when the mass splitting between the LSP and the chargino or neutralino above it is small, such a model describes a natural realization of SUSY. These so-called compressed SUSY scenarios can be challenging to probe due to the low momentum of the visible decay products. This search targets compressed scenarios where the mass difference between the two lightest neutralinos is between $1 - 5 \text{ GeV}$. The search considers low-momentum muons that are very close to each other. Since this is a challenging final state, dedicated isolation criterion is developed, and scale factors are studies to compare identification efficiency differences between data and simulation. In addition, machine learning techniques are employed. Data-driven methods are used to estimate the majority of the background processes. The goal of the thesis is to probe the unexplored region of more compressed scenarios left by previous analyses.

In Chapter 2 of the thesis, theoretical background is introduced. The target model is motivated, and the shortcomings of the SM are explained. In Chapter 3, the experimental setup is laid out. In Chapter 4 the search is explored in great detail. At the end of the chapter, the results of both the partial unblinding and the expected limits of the full luminosity are given. The thesis concludes in the summary in Chapter 5.

Chapter 2

Theoretical background

The search presented in this thesis is for a simplified model of a supersymmetric theory. The amount of theoretical background required to fully understand this theory can fill many books, and therefore, this document does not attempt to give an exhaustive description of it. Instead, I attempt to give a brief tour of topics that contribute to the understanding of the subject, which are also of personal interest. In addition, I explore the theoretical motivation for supersymmetry, alongside part of the philosophical discussion that normally accompanies such arguments. Whenever possible, I pick a description of a concept that I find intriguing and inspiring in a way that reminds me of my initial spark and inspiration for pursuing a PhD in physics. Good sources for these topics are [1, 2].

2.1 Principle of Least Action

The earliest formulation of classical mechanics is normally attributed to the works of Sir Isaac Newton from the 17th century, which is also referred to as Newtonian mechanics. It is based on the then-newly developed mathematics of calculus. A central theorem in calculus is Fermat's theorem, which states that if a function has a local extremum at some point and is differentiable there, then the function's derivative at that point must be zero. The equation of motion is given by Newton's second law, which is an ordinary differential equation given by:

$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = \frac{d(m\mathbf{v})}{dt}. \quad (2.1)$$

When the mass m is constant, this is equivalent to the famous formula $\mathbf{F} = m\mathbf{a}$. In modern physics, a more generalized approach is used based on an *action*. It has been developed in the 18th century, and is able to reproduce Newtonian mechanics, but also to generalize to handle Quantum Mechanics (QM), Relativistic Quantum Field Theory (RQFT) and even General Relativity (GR). The development of that principle was carried out by different people at different times, and can be formulated in equivalent manners. In RQFT, it is useful to use a *Lagrangian*; therefore, it will be shown here rather than the *Hamiltonian* formulation. The two formulations are equivalent, however. Given N generalized coordinates $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N)$, a *Lagrangian* of the system is written $L(\mathbf{q}(t), \dot{\mathbf{q}}(t), t)$, where the dot denotes the time derivative, and t is time. In non-relativistic mechanics for a system of particles in the absence of a magnetic field $L = T - V$ where T is the total kinetic energy of the system and V is the potential energy of the system. For other systems, writing a Lagrangian is not straightforward, and we assume for now that it is given. The *action* of the system is a functional of the N generalized coordinates, denoted \mathcal{S} , given by:

$$\mathcal{S}[\mathbf{q}, t_1, t_2] = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} L(\mathbf{q}(t), \dot{\mathbf{q}}(t), t) dt. \quad (2.2)$$

The principle of least action is then:

The path taken by the system between times t_1 and t_2 and configurations q_1 and q_2 is the one for which the action is stationary (no change) to first order.

Mathematically, that is equivalent to requiring $\delta\mathcal{S} = 0$ or:

$$\delta \int_{t_1}^{t_2} L(\mathbf{q}(t), \dot{\mathbf{q}}(t), t) dt = 0. \quad (2.3)$$

The principle of least action has been preceded by earlier ideas in optics, such as that for the path of light reflecting from a mirror, the angle of incidence equals the angle of reflection. The principle of least action is the variational equivalent in the calculus of variations of Fermat's theorem in calculus. It is used in order to find a path that extremizes the Lagrangian. Interestingly enough, Fermat also formulated Fermat's principle, which states that "light travels between two given points along the path of shortest time", which is an earlier example of the principle of least action. Using this principle, one can derive the equations of motion of the system. For a classical system, those would be equivalent to Newton's laws of motion Eq. 2.1. Solving Eq. 2.3, one arrives at Euler–Lagrange equations:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mathbf{q}} - \frac{d}{dt} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{\mathbf{q}}} = 0. \quad (2.4)$$

Solving Euler–Lagrange equations gives the equations of motion of the system. In field theory, an analogous equation is used to calculate the dynamics of a field.

2.2 The Quantum

The main object that is the subject of research in particle physics is, of course, a particle. More precisely, an elementary particle or fundamental particle is a subatomic particle that is not composed of other particles. The electron is an example of such a fundamental particle, which was also the first to be discovered by Thomson in 1897. The descriptions and properties of the particles have radically evolved over time, and so did the mathematical language that is used to describe them. In classical electromagnetism, for example, one can use abstractions such as a point charge, point mass, or the concept of an electron as a point using a Dirac delta function δ in the charge and mass distributions. In quantum mechanics, a wave function $\Psi(\mathbf{x}, t)$ is used, which assigns a complex number to each point \mathbf{x} at each time t . The wave function is governed by the Schrödinger equation [3–5]. The time-dependent Schrödinger equation is:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\Psi(t)\rangle = \hat{H} |\Psi(t)\rangle. \quad (2.5)$$

For a single nonrelativistic particle in one dimension that becomes:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \Psi(x, t) = \left[-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + V(x, t) \right] \Psi(x, t). \quad (2.6)$$

The parameter m is the mass of the particle, and $V(x, t)$ is the potential that represents the environment in which the particle exists. This can be easily generalized to include more than one particle. However, nonrelativistic quantum mechanics has a shortcoming, in that the Schrödinger equation for massive particles has a fixed number of particles governing the state of the system. It is not surprising given the fact that in classical mechanics, and therefore nonrelativistic quantum mechanics by extension, mass is never created nor destroyed. In order

to accommodate the observation that particles are being created and destroyed, a relativistic treatment is needed. That is the goal of RQFT.

But the equivalent of particles does actually arise in nonrelativistic quantum mechanics: when they are massless. In fact, the formalism for creating and destroying massless particles, known as quanta, is generalized from quantum mechanics to RQFT. The quantum arises in the quantum mechanical harmonic oscillator. Classically, a harmonic oscillator is a system that, when displaced from its equilibrium position, experiences a restoring force F proportional to the displacement x :

$$\mathbf{F} = -k\mathbf{x}, \quad (2.7)$$

where k is a positive constant. The potential energy stored in a simple harmonic oscillator at position x is:

$$U = \frac{1}{2}kx^2. \quad (2.8)$$

Writing a Hamiltonian and promoting the observables to operators we get:

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}k\hat{x}^2 = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2\hat{x}^2, \quad (2.9)$$

where m is the particle's mass, k is the force constant, $\omega = \sqrt{k/m}$ is the angular frequency of the oscillator, \hat{x} is the position operator, and \hat{p} is the momentum operator. Solving the time-independent Schrödinger equation gives the energy levels

$$E_n = \hbar\omega\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) = (2n + 1)\frac{\hbar}{2}\omega. \quad (2.10)$$

It is interesting to note that the energies are quantized and equally spaced with discrete energy values of integer-plus-half multiples of $\hbar\omega$.

2.2.1 Annihilation and Creation Operators

We define ladder operators

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{a} &\equiv \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}} \left(\hat{x} + \frac{i\hat{p}}{m\omega_0} \right) \\ \hat{a}^\dagger &\equiv \sqrt{\frac{m\omega}{2\hbar}} \left(\hat{x} - \frac{i\hat{p}}{m\omega_0} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

As can be seen, \hat{a} is not Hermitian. Using $[\hat{x}, \hat{p}] = i\hbar$ it is easy to show that

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] &= 1 \\ \hat{a}\hat{a}^\dagger &= 1 + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

By reversing 2.11 we get

$$\hat{x} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m\omega}} (\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger), \quad \hat{p} = i\sqrt{\frac{\hbar m\omega}{2}} (\hat{a} - \hat{a}^\dagger) \quad (2.13)$$

and the Hemiltonian becomes

$$\hat{H} = \hbar\omega_0 \left(\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \equiv \hbar\omega_0 \left(\hat{N} + \frac{1}{2} \right). \quad (2.14)$$

Finding eigenvalues for \hat{H} becomes finding eigenvalues of the *number operator* $\hat{N} \equiv \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}$, which are

$$\hat{N} |n\rangle = n |n\rangle. \quad (2.15)$$

Operating with the ladder operators on the energy eigenstates gives

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{a}^\dagger |n\rangle &= \sqrt{n+1} |n+1\rangle \\ \hat{a} |n\rangle &= \sqrt{n} |n-1\rangle.\end{aligned}\quad (2.16)$$

It is seen that \hat{a}^\dagger , in essence, appends a single quantum of energy to the oscillator, while \hat{a} removes a quantum. Furthermore, acting with the number operator \hat{N} yields

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{N} \hat{a}^\dagger |n\rangle &= (n+1) \hat{a}^\dagger |n\rangle \\ \hat{N} \hat{a} |n\rangle &= (n-1) \hat{a} |n\rangle.\end{aligned}\quad (2.17)$$

Due to this, \hat{a} is called annihilation operator ("lowering operator"), and \hat{a}^\dagger creation operator ("raising operator"). The two operators together are called ladder operators. In quantum field theory, these operators destroy and create particles, which correspond here to a quanta of energy of $\hbar\omega$.

2.3 Relativistic Quantum Field Theory

In the first quarter of the twentieth century, two of the most successful theories in modern physics were developed: special relativity and quantum mechanics. Special relativity was necessary to solve the incompatibility between Maxwell's equations of electromagnetism and Newtonian mechanics. In addition, experimentally, the null result of the Michelson–Morley experiment demonstrated that the historically hypothesized aether did not exist. Special relativity diverges from classical mechanics at high-velocities. Quantum mechanics, on the other hand, arose gradually from theories that aimed to explain observations that could not be reconciled with classical physics, such as Max Planck's solution to the black-body radiation problem and the correspondence between energy and frequency in Albert Einstein's photoelectric effect. Quantum mechanics differs from classical physics in several aspects: energy, angular momentum, and other quantities of a bound system are restricted to discrete values; objects have characteristics of both particles and waves; and there are limits to how accurately the value of a physical quantity can be predicted prior to its measurement, given a complete set of initial conditions (the uncertainty principle).

Since classical mechanics diverged into two different directions, namely, quantum mechanics and special relativity (which later on developed further into general relativity, but that's beyond the concern here), it was clear that a theory that incorporates both developments is needed. The first effort came from an attempt in creating a quantum mechanical theory of the electromagnetic field. It was also crucial to develop a theory, in which the number of particles changes, in order describe processes such as a β -decay or the emission of a photon by an electron dropping into a quantum state of lower energy in an atom.

Quantum field theory successfully combines classical field theory, special relativity, and quantum mechanics. QFT treats particles as excited states (also called quanta) of their underlying quantum fields, which are more fundamental than the particles. The equation of motion of the particle is determined by minimization of the Lagrangian, a functional of fields associated with the particle. Interactions between particles are described by interaction terms in the Lagrangian involving their corresponding quantum fields. Each interaction can be visually represented by Feynman diagrams according to perturbation theory in quantum mechanics.

2.3.1 Attempts at Relativistic Quantum Mechanics

At first glance, fields are not the only way to try and reconcile quantum mechanics and relativity. A naive attempt [2] could be to take the Schrödinger equation 2.5 and write a Hamiltonian in a relativistic notion $H = \sqrt{\hat{\mathbf{p}}^2 + m^2}$ (taking as usual $\hbar = c = 1$). Plugging it as is into the Schrödinger equation will result in the time derivative outside the square root, while the space derivatives under it, which is not in the spirits of relativity. Squaring the differential operators before applying them to the wave function and collecting terms results in the *Klein-Gordon equation*:

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2 + m^2 \right) \Psi(\mathbf{x}, t) = 0. \quad (2.18)$$

It is second-order in both space and time derivatives, and they appear in a symmetric fashion. The Ψ in the equation is the usual quantum mechanical wave function. There are two problems with sticking to the wave function. The first is that the norm of a state $\langle \Psi, t | \Psi, t \rangle$ is not in general time independent. Thus probability is not conserved. The Klein-Gordon equation obeys relativity, but not quantum mechanics. This specific problem is solved (for spin-one-half particles) by the *Dirac equation*. In its original form written by Dirac [6]:

$$\left(\beta mc^2 + c \sum_{n=1}^3 \alpha_n p_n \right) \Psi(\mathbf{x}, t) = i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} \quad (2.19)$$

where $\Psi(\mathbf{x}, t)$ again is to be interpreted as an ordinary quantum mechanical wave function for the electron of rest mass m with spacetime coordinates x, t . The p_1, p_2, p_3 are the components of the momentum, understood to be the momentum operator in the Schrödinger equation. The new elements in this equation are the four 4×4 matrices $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ and β , and the four-component wave function Ψ . There are four components in Ψ because the evaluation of it at any given point in configuration space is a bispinor. It is interpreted as a superposition of a spin-up electron, a spin-down electron, a spin-up positron, and a spin-down positron. The 4×4 matrices α_k and β are all Hermitian and satisfy:

$$\alpha_i^2 = \beta^2 = I_4, \quad (2.20)$$

and they all mutually anticommute:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_i \alpha_j + \alpha_j \alpha_i &= 0 \quad (i \neq j) \\ \alpha_i \beta + \beta \alpha_i &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.21)$$

It turns out that the Dirac equation is fully consistent with relativity. However, there are some problems. The minimum size of the matrices of 4×4 implies two additional "spin" states. They also imply negative eigenvalues for the Hamiltonian, which indicates that there is no ground state. Dirac postulated his famous *Dirac sea* of electrons to suggest that the negative energy states are all occupied. An electron in the sea could then be excited to a positive energy state, leaving behind a *hole* in the Dirac sea. This hole would appear to have positive charge, and positive energy. Dirac therefore predicted (in 1927) the existence of the positron, a particle with the same mass as the electron, but opposite charge. The positron was found experimentally five years later.

The problem with this solution though, is that we've started by trying to describe a theory of a single half-spin particle, and ended up describing a theory with infinite amount of particles. Even if this is taken to be satisfactory, this theory still cannot describe particles that do not obey Pauli exclusion, such as photons or pions. The problem lies in the difference between the way that nonrelativistic quantum mechanics and special relativity treats space and time.

In special relativity, space and time are treated on equal footing. In nonrelativistic quantum mechanics, however, space is an operator, while time isn't. It turns out that turning time into an operator is a very difficult problem. The approach that proved to be fruitful is to make space a *label*, just as time is, by turning the wave function Ψ into a *field*. Space and time are now labels in a *quantum field* $\varphi(\mathbf{x}, t)$ of operators. Each point in space and time now point to an operator. This allows one to really treat space and time on an equal footing.

2.3.2 Classical Field Theory

After the naive attempts at a relativistic quantum mechanics introduced in Section 2.3.1, two successful and widely used methods of constructing quantum field theories are described in Section 2.3.3. The first is the canonical quantization in Section 2.3.3.1, and the second is the path integrals formalism in Section 2.3.3.2. They involve starting from a classical field theory and quantizing it. In a classical field theory, the equation of motion can be derived from variation of an action $\mathcal{S} = \int dt L$, where L is the Lagrangian, which is the spatial integral of a Lagrangian density \mathcal{L} , so that $L = \int d^3x \mathcal{L}$. The Lagrangian density is a function of one or more fields $\phi(x)$, and their derivatives $\partial_\mu \phi$, so that

$$\mathcal{S} = \int dt L = \int \mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial_\mu \phi) d^4x. \quad (2.22)$$

Following the principle of least action described in Section 2.1, we take the action \mathcal{S} to an extremum and write

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \delta \mathcal{S} \\ &= \int d^4x \left\{ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} \delta \phi + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \delta (\partial_\mu \phi) \right\} \\ &= \int d^4x \left\{ \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} \delta \phi - \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) \delta \phi + \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \delta \phi \right) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.23)$$

The last term can be turned into a surface integral over the boundary of the region of integration. Since $\delta \phi$ vanish on the spatial boundary, the surface term is zero. After rearrangement, we arrive at the Euler-Lagrange equation of motion for a field,

$$\partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} = 0. \quad (2.24)$$

If the Lagrangian contains more than one field, there is one such equation for each. The Hamiltonian of a discrete system can be written as

$$H \equiv \sum p \dot{q} - L, \quad (2.25)$$

where q is a dynamical variable, and $p \equiv \partial L / \partial \dot{q}$ is the conjugate momentum. To generalize to continuous system we define the *momentum density* conjugate to $\phi(\mathbf{x})$ as

$$\pi(\mathbf{x}) \equiv \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}(\mathbf{x})}, \quad (2.26)$$

and the Hamiltonian can be expressed, using the Hamiltonian desnsity \mathcal{H} as:

$$H = \int d^3x [\pi(\mathbf{x}) \dot{\phi}(\mathbf{x}) - \mathcal{L}] \equiv \int d^3x \mathcal{H}. \quad (2.27)$$

As an example, consider the theory of a single real scalar field $\phi(x)$ with the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2. \quad (2.28)$$

Following the usual procedure and applying the Euler-Lagrange equation gives the equation of motion

$$(\partial^\mu \partial_\mu + m^2) \phi = 0, \quad (2.29)$$

which is the well-known Klein-Gordon equation. Here, ϕ is a classical field, and not a wave function, nor a quantum field. The Hamiltonian that results from the procedure described above is

$$H = \int d^3x \left[\frac{1}{2} \pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 \right]. \quad (2.30)$$

2.3.3 Quantization

As described in Section 2.3.2, two methods of constructing quantum field theories are widely used. The first is the canonical quantization in Section 2.3.3.1, and the second is the path integrals formalism in Section 2.3.3.2. The path integrals formalism has an advantage in that it uses the Lagrangian formalism rather than the Hamiltonian. The Lagrangian formalism is explicitly Lorentz invariant, and in general, it is in practice easier to guess the correct form of the Lagrangian of a theory, which naturally enters the path integrals than the Hamiltonian. The advantage of the canonical quantization is that unitarity of the S-matrix is more explicit than in the path integral approach. The methods are described here in a very qualitatively manner. For an explicit mathematical formulation, Ref. [1, 2] are great sources for that.

2.3.3.1 Canonical Quantization

Canonical quantization starts with a classical field theory, and *quantized* by promoting the dynamical variables to operators that obey canonical commutation relations. It can be demonstrated with the example of the Klein-Gordon case, which has the classical Lagrangian 2.28. Promoting the field and momentum density to operators, the commutation relations generalize to:

$$\begin{aligned} [\phi(\mathbf{x}), \pi(\mathbf{y})] &= i\delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}); \\ [\phi(\mathbf{x}), \phi(\mathbf{y})] &= [\pi(\mathbf{x}), \pi(\mathbf{y})] = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.31)$$

Writing the Klein-Gordon equation in Fourier space, one gets:

$$\left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + (|\mathbf{p}|^2 + m^2) \right] \phi(\mathbf{p}, t) = 0. \quad (2.32)$$

This is the same as the equation of motion for a simple harmonic oscillator with the frequency $\omega_{\mathbf{p}} = \sqrt{|\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2|}$. Therefore a similar treatment as in Section 2.2 can be done here. Ladder operators are introduced, only that now each Fourier mode of the field is treated as an independent oscillator with its own a and a^\dagger . The spectrum of the Klein-Gordon Hamiltonian can then be found in the same manner, and can be written as:

$$H = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \omega_{\mathbf{p}} \left(a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger a_{\mathbf{p}} + \frac{1}{2} [a_{\mathbf{p}}, a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger] \right). \quad (2.33)$$

The operator $a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger$ creates a particle with momentum \mathbf{p} and energy $\omega_{\mathbf{p}} = \sqrt{|\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2|}$. The particles follow the proper relativistic energy-momentum relation, and have strictly positive

energy. Since $a_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger$ and $a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger$ commute, two particles are interchangeable. Moreover, since arbitrarily many particles can be produced for a single mode \mathbf{p} , the particles obey *Bose-Einstein statistics*. In a theory of half-integer spin particles, anticommutators are to be used. The next steps in this formalism is to compute correlation functions, and eventually write down the full Feynman rules for the theory, in order to compute cross sections and decay rates.

2.3.3.2 Path Integrals

The path integral formalism is an alternative construction to quantum mechanics developed by Richard Feynman, and is proven to be equivalent to the wave equation of Schrödinger, and the matrix algebra of Heisenberg, Born and Jordan. It is also used as an alternative way to construct quantum field theories, as an alternative to the canonical quantization. Using this formalism, it is easier to compute propagators and derive Feynman rules. It also generalizes better to non-Abelian gauge theories. Moreover, since it uses the Lagrangian, rather than the Hamiltonian, as its fundamental quantity, it explicitly preserves all symmetries of a theory. Using path integrals allows the direct computation of the scattering amplitude of a certain interaction process, rather than the establishment of operators and state spaces.

Suppose we are interested to compute the amplitude for a particle to travel from one point x_a to another x_b in a given time T . The amplitude $U(x_a, x_b, T)$ in the canonical Hamiltonian formalism, using the time evolution operator, is given by

$$U(x_a, x_b, T) = \langle x_b | e^{-iHT/\hbar} | x_a \rangle. \quad (2.34)$$

In the path integral approach, the total time T is divided into N small intervals, and the overall amplitude is the product of the amplitude of evolution within each interval, integrated over all intermediate states. The propagation amplitude becomes:

$$\langle x_b | e^{-iHT/\hbar} | x_a \rangle = U(x_a, x_b, T) = \int \mathcal{D}x(t) e^{iS[x(t)]/\hbar}, \quad (2.35)$$

where $S[x(t)]$ is the classical action, and $\int \mathcal{D}x(t)$ is another way of writing "sum over all paths". This functional formula then allows for the calculation of correlation functions and eventually writing down the full Feynman rules for the theory.

2.3.4 Interactions

The goal of every scientific theory is to make predictions about measurements. In the context of QFT, it is normally one of two generic cases: one incoming particle, for which a decay rate is computed, or two incoming particles, for which a cross section is computed. For this, a recipe for computing a scattering amplitude and converting it into a measurable quantity is needed.

2.3.4.1 The Cross Section and Decay Rate

The *cross section* is the likelihood of any particular final state from the collision of two beams of particles with well-defined momenta. The *cross section*, which has the units of area and is denoted by σ , is proportional to the total number of events (of whatever desired type):

$$\sigma \equiv \frac{\text{Number of scattering events}}{\rho_A l_A \rho_B l_B A} \quad (2.36)$$

where \mathcal{A} are particles at rest with density ρ_A , aimed by particles of type \mathcal{B} with density ρ_B with velocity v , and l_A and l_B are the lengths of the bunches of particles. A is the cross-sectional area common to the two bunches. We get

$$\text{Number of events} = \sigma l_A l_B \int d^2x \rho_A(x) \rho_B(x) \quad (2.37)$$

The *differential cross section* is $d\sigma/(d^3 p_1 \dots d^3 p_n)$ which when integrated over any small $d^3 p_1 \dots d^3 p_n$ gives the cross section for scattering into that region of final-state momentum space. Cross sections are computed for a production of a specific process. The *decay rate* Γ of an unstable particle \mathcal{A} assumed to be at rest into a specified final state is defined as

$$\Gamma \equiv \frac{\text{Number of decays per unit time}}{\text{Number of } \mathcal{A} \text{ particles present}}. \quad (2.38)$$

2.3.4.2 Interacting Fields

The example that was used in previous sections, the Klein-Gordon field, was a free field theory. No interactions and no scattering were involved. In reality, particles do interact and scatter off each other. In order to obtain such interactions, nonlinear terms must be added to the Lagrangian. One example of such an interacting Lagrangian is the "phi-fourth" theory,

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4 \quad (2.39)$$

where λ is a dimensionless *coupling constant*. The goal is to be able to compute scattering amplitudes for an interacting theory, in order to convert them into cross sections. This is generally impossible to solve exactly. Instead it is computed in the framework of *perturbation theory*. It turns out that the perturbation series is quite simple in structure, and can be visualized with the use of *Feynman diagrams*.

2.3.5 Feynman Diagrams

In order to compute cross sections and decay rates, one must compute matrix elements of the S-matrix. The S-matrix gives the probability amplitude for a scattering event between *in* and *out* states. The probability amplitude for producing the final state is simply related to the cross section. Computing the S-matrix elements, or scattering amplitudes, is done differently depending on the quantization scheme, canonical or path integrals. As previously mentioned, the computation is done in a perturbation series. A Feynman diagram is a graphical representation of a perturbative contribution to the transition amplitude or correlation function. In the canonical quantization, a Feynman diagram represents a term in the Wick expansion of the perturbative S-matrix.

The quantization scheme also provides *Feynman rules* in order to compute the value of each Feynman diagram. It involves providing a mathematical expression for a *propagator* for each internal line, or virtual particle. Each diagram then has an amplitude, which is a term in the perturbative expansion. In Figure 2.1, an example of a tree-level diagram representing a process of $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ through a photon γ is shown.

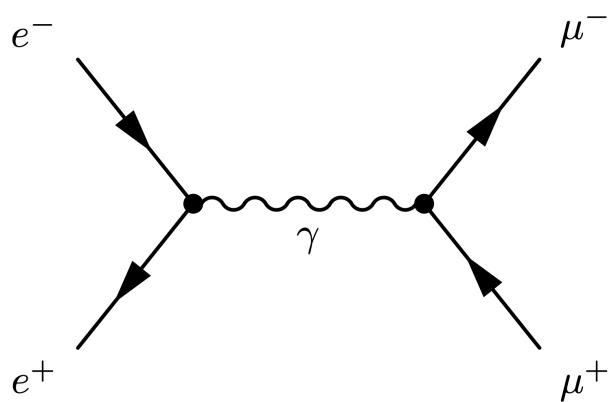


Figure 2.1: Feynman diagram representing the tree-level process of $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$. Electron and positron annihilate each other and produce muon-antimuon pair through a virtual photon.

2.4 Symmetries

In 1964, Richard Feynman gave a series of seven lectures called *The Character of Physical Laws* at Cornell University, as part of the Messenger Lectures series. The lectures were videotaped by the BBC, and are available online alongside their transcripts [7]. It is such a precious piece of history, and I would recommend everyone to watch it, as it is meant for the public audience. It showcases not only Feynman's ability to explain complex ideas and theories, but also his funny and enchanting personality. The fourth lecture in that series is called *Symmetry in Physical Laws*, in which he starts by describing how Weyl defines a symmetry:

So, Weyl said, a thing is symmetrical if there's something that you can do to it, so that after you're finished doing it, it looks the same as it did before. That is the sense in which we say that the laws of physics are symmetrical: that there are things that we can do to the physical laws, or to our way of representing the physical laws, which make no difference and leave everything unchanged in its effects.

Most physicists will probably agree that's what they mean when they say that a physical law is symmetrical. In this chapter, we are concerned with symmetries of laws, rather than symmetries of objects, such as a human face, for example. In modern physics, largely thanks to Noether's theorem, symmetries became fundamental, and they set the foundations of the Standard Model of particle physics. In this chapter, I summarize the reasons why symmetries are so important and what roles they play in the Standard Model. But first, I would like to introduce my favorite physics riddle, which Feynman described, starting at minute 40:04 in the same lecture:

Suppose that we were in telephone conversation with a Martian or an Arcturian, or something. We don't know where he is and we would like to describe things to him. We want to tell him about things. You say, so how's he going to understand the words, well, that's been studied very much by Professor Morrison here. He has pointed out that one way would be to start out and say tick tick two, tick tick tick three, and so on, and pretty soon the guy'd catch onto the numbers. Then—as he understands your number system, then—you can write lots of numbers and you could, for example, write a whole sequence of numbers that represents the weights, the proportional weights, of the different atoms, in succession.

Then say, hydrogen: 1.008, deuterium, and so on and so on. And he would—after he sat down with all those numbers and piddled around a while, would—discover that the mathematical ratios were the same as the ratios of the weights of the elements and, therefore, those names must be for the elements—and so gradually, you could, in talking to him, have a common language, in many ways, common. There are many—now comes the problem.

Suppose that he says, you fellas—after we get familiar with him, he says, "You're very nice; now I'd like to know what you look like." And you start out, "Well, we're about six feet tall." He says, "Six feet, how big is a foot?" "It's very easy," you say; "six feet tall is 170 thousand million hydrogen atoms high." Well, it's not a joke; it's a possible way of describing six feet to someone that has no measure, assuming that we cannot send him any samples, nor can we both look at the same object.

If we have to tell him how big we are; we can do it. That's because the laws of physics are not unchanged under a scale change. We can use that factor, use the properties of the scale to determine—I mean, you can use that fact to determine the scale.

Well, here we've described ourselves after telling six feet tall, and we're so-and-so bilateral on the outside, and we look like this, and there are these prongs sticking out, and all this. And he says, "That's very interesting; what do you look like on the inside?" So we describe the heart and so on, and we say, "Now, put the heart in on the left side."

Now the question is, how can we tell him which side is the left side?

To put it shortly, the riddle is how to communicate the concept of left and right via radio signals to an alien civilization without reference to common sightings. Most physicists attempt to solve this problem by thinking of the right-hand rule in electromagnetism. Unfortunately, that would not work. The correct solution is very unexpected and one of the most surprising results of modern physics. The solution is explained in the section about discrete symmetries 2.4.5.2.

2.4.1 Conservation Laws

A conservation law states that a particular measurable property of an isolated physical system does not change as the system evolves over time. Conservation laws are useful because they describe which processes can or cannot occur in nature. They also allow properties of the motion to be derived without solving the equations of motion. Conservation laws have changed throughout history, and some are a part of one theory but not another. Mass, for example, is conserved in classical mechanics, but not in relativity due to the principle of mass–energy equivalence. However, it is a good approximation when the assumptions of classical mechanics hold, such as low velocities and energies, and large enough objects. Most conservation laws are exact, or absolute, in the sense that they apply to all possible processes. Some conservation laws are partial, in that they hold for some processes but not for others.

In continuum mechanics, the most general form of an exact conservation law is given by a continuity equation. For example, conservation of electric charge q is

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot \mathbf{j}, \quad (2.40)$$

where ρ is the density of q (amount per unit volume), \mathbf{j} is the flux of q (amount crossing a unit area in unit time), and t is time. There are several methods for identifying conservation laws. It can be hypothesized and proved mathematically. In classical mechanics, Hamilton–Jacobi equations provide a method for identifying constants of motion, and so does Poisson's theorem. In QM, an observable quantity Q will be a constant of motion if it commutes with the Hamiltonian, and it does not itself depend explicitly on time. In the context of particle physics, the most powerful theorem invoked in order to study conservation laws is Noether's theorem 2.4.2. It is also this theorem that connects conservation laws to symmetries, which is the topic of this section.

Currently, exact conservation laws that have never been proven to be violated include conservation of mass-energy E , conservation of linear momentum \mathbf{p} , conservation of angular momentum \mathbf{L} , conservation of electric charge, conservation of weak isospin, conservation of color charge, and conservation of CPT parity. Approximate conservation laws, i.e., conservation laws which are approximately true in particular situations, such as low speeds, short time scales, or certain interactions include conservation of mechanical energy, mass, flavor, strangeness, space-parity, charge-parity, time-parity, and CP parity.

2.4.2 Noether's Theorem

In 1915, German-Jewish female mathematician Emmy Noether proved one of the most fundamental theorems of 20th-century modern physics. In the spring of that year, she was

invited by David Hilbert and Felix Klein to join the Göttingen mathematics department, challenging the views of some of his colleagues that a woman should not be allowed to teach at a university. Soon after arriving at Göttingen, she demonstrated her capabilities by proving the theorem now known as Noether's theorem, which shows that a conservation law is associated with any differentiable symmetry of a physical system [8]. That made modern theoretical physicists much more focused on symmetries.

Informally, Noether's theorem can be stated as:

If a system has a continuous symmetry property, then there are corresponding quantities whose values are conserved in time.

In the context of classical field theory, it can be stated as:

To each differentiable symmetry of a local Lagrangian, there corresponds a conserved current.

Previously, we described a symmetry as something that you can do to a system, so that it looks the same as it did before. More formally in this context, a symmetry is the covariance of the form that a physical law takes, where by covariance, we mean the invariance of the form of physical laws under differentiable transformations. That means continuous transformations that leave the equations of motion invariant. Formally, in the context of classical field theories, the theorem can be stated in the language of fields [1]. Consider a continuous transformations on the fields ϕ , which in infinitesimal form can be written

$$\phi(x) \rightarrow \phi'(x) = \phi(x) + \alpha\Delta\phi(x), \quad (2.41)$$

where α is an infinitesimal parameter and $\Delta\phi(x)$ is some deformation of the field configuration. It is considered a symmetry if it leaves the equations of motion invariant. This is ensured either if the action is invariant under the transformation or if it is changed by a surface term. The Lagrangian, therefore, must be invariant under the transformation in Equation 2.41 up to a 4-divergence:

$$\mathcal{L}(x) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(x) + \alpha\partial_\mu\mathcal{J}^\mu(x), \quad (2.42)$$

for some \mathcal{J}^μ . After varying the fields, one finds:

$$\partial_\mu j^\mu = 0, \quad \text{for } j^\mu(x) = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu\phi)}\Delta\phi - \mathcal{J}^\mu. \quad (2.43)$$

This result states that the current $j^\mu(x)$ is conserved. This can also be expressed by saying that the charge

$$Q \equiv \int_{\text{all space}} j^0 d^3x \quad (2.44)$$

is a constant in time.

2.4.3 Groups

We have seen that symmetries lead to conservation laws via Noether's theorem. Intuitively, we stated that symmetries are things that don't change while other things do change. The mathematical description of symmetries is Group Theory [9]. Groups are fundamental in particle physics, since they describe the symmetries which the laws of physics seem to obey. The first example encountered in particle physics is Lorentz covariance, or Lorentz symmetry. It is an equivalence of observation or observational symmetry due to special relativity, implying that the laws of physics stay the same for all observers that are moving with respect to one another within an inertial frame. Mathematically speaking, a physical quantity is said to be Lorentz covariant if it transforms under a given representation of the Lorentz group. In particular, a Lorentz covariant scalar (i.e., the space-time interval) remains the same under Lorentz transformations and is said to be a Lorentz invariant. Another important example is gauge theories. A gauge theory is a type of field theory in which the Lagrangian does not change (is invariant) under local transformations according to certain smooth families of operations (Lie groups).

A *Group*, denoted (G, \star) , is a set of objects, denoted G , and some operation on those objects, denoted \star , subject to the following:

1. For any two elements g_1 and g_2 in G , the element $g_1 \star g_2$ is also in G . This property is called *closure*.
2. For any three elements g_1, g_2 and g_3 in G , the relation $(g_1 \star g_2) \star g_3 = g_1 \star (g_2 \star g_3)$ must hold. This property is called *associativity*.
3. There exists an element of G which we will denote e , that satisfies $e \star g = g \star e = g$ for every element g of G . This property is called *identity*.
4. For every element g of G , there is another element of G which we will denote g^{-1} that satisfies $g^{-1} \star g = g \star g^{-1} = e$. This property is called *inverse*.

A group in which $g_i \star g_j = g_j \star g_i$ is called *abelian*. Otherwise, it is non-abelian. Groups can be *discrete* or *continuous*. We will mainly concern ourselves with continuous groups. It is easy to see that Lorenz transformations and gauge transformation form continuous groups.

A *representation* of a group G on a vector space V over a field K is a group homomorphism from G to $GL(V)$, the general linear group on V . That is, a representation is a map

$$\rho : G \rightarrow GL(V) \tag{2.45}$$

such that

$$\rho(g_1 g_2) = \rho(g_1) \rho(g_2), \quad \text{for all } g_1, g_2 \in G. \tag{2.46}$$

In other words, a representation assigns a matrix to each element of the group, while the operation is represented by regular matrix multiplication and preserves the group multiplication table. A subspace W of V that is invariant under the group action is called a *subrepresentation*. If V has exactly two subrepresentations, namely the zero-dimensional subspace and V itself, then the representation is said to be *irreducible*; if it has a proper subrepresentation of nonzero dimension, the representation is said to be *reducible*.

2.4.3.1 Lie Groups

Symmetries in the SM are usually parameterized by continuous variables. This means that we are no longer talking about g_i 's but about $g(\theta)$. Groups that are parameterized by one or more continuous variables are called *Lie Groups*. In continuously generated groups, there are

elements close to the identity such that a general element can be reached by repeated action of these infinitesimal elements. Any infinitesimal group element g can be written

$$g(\alpha) = 1 + i\alpha^a T^a + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2). \quad (2.47)$$

The set T^a are Hermitian operators called the *generators* of the symmetry group. They obey commutation relations

$$[T^a, T^b] = if^{abc}T^c; \quad (2.48)$$

the numbers f^{abc} are called *structure constants*. The vector space spanned by the generators, with the additional operation of commutation, is called a *Lie Algebra*. The structure constants obey the Jacobi identity

$$f^{ade}f^{bcd} + f^{bde}f^{cad} + f^{cde}f^{abd} = 0. \quad (2.49)$$

If the structure constants are known, the entire group can be determined in any representation desired. A particular set of generators defines a particular representation of a group. Any element of a group in a particular representation can be written as

$$D(\alpha) = e^{i\alpha^a T^a}. \quad (2.50)$$

2.4.4 Gauge Theory

As described before, a gauge theory is a type of field theory in which the Lagrangian is invariant under local transformations according to certain smooth families of operations, which form Lie groups. The groups formed by the gauge transformations are referred to as the symmetry groups or the gauge groups of the theory. For each group generator, there necessarily arises a corresponding field (usually a vector field) called the gauge field. When such a theory is quantized, the quanta of the gauge fields are called gauge bosons. If the symmetry group is non-commutative, then the gauge theory is referred to as a non-abelian gauge theory, with the usual example being the Yang–Mills theory. The SM is a non-abelian gauge theory with the symmetry group $U(1) \times SU(2) \times SU(3)$, which demonstrate the successful central role that gauge theory plays in theories explaining the dynamics of elementary particles.

2.4.4.1 Demonstration: Electrodynamics

The Lagrangian that generates the electron field's Dirac equation is

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi. \quad (2.51)$$

This Lagrangian has a *global symmetry* of

$$\psi \mapsto e^{i\theta}\psi. \quad (2.52)$$

It is global in that it acts on the field in the exact same way at every point in spacetime. The gauge group here is $U(1)$, also known as *the circle group*, the multiplicative group of all complex numbers with absolute value 1, that is, the unit circle in the complex plane or simply the unit complex numbers.

Next we are *gauging the symmetry*. This means that we are making the global symmetry local by making θ depend on spacetime

$$\theta = \theta(x), \quad (2.53)$$

and then try to force the Lagrangian to maintain its invariance under the *local* $U(1)$ transformation. Define a new field A_μ , which transforms under the $U(1)$ transformation $e^{i\theta(x)}$ according to

$$A_\mu \mapsto A_\mu - \frac{1}{q} \partial_\mu \alpha(x). \quad (2.54)$$

A_μ is called the *Gauge Field*. It is introduced by replacing the standard derivative ∂_μ with the *Covariant Derivative*

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + iqA_\mu. \quad (2.55)$$

This results in the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m)\psi = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m - q\gamma^\mu A_\mu)\psi = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi - qj^\mu A_\mu, \quad (2.56)$$

where $j^\mu = \bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\psi$ is the $U(1)$ conserved current. This Lagrangian is invariant under the local $U(1)$ symmetry. Adding an appropriate gauge-invariant kinetic term

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Kinetic}} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \quad (2.57)$$

where

$$F^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{q}[D^\mu, D^\nu] \quad (2.58)$$

and $q = e$ is the constant of proportionality, and D^μ is the covariant derivative. This results in the Lagrangian used as the starting point in quantum electrodynamics

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m)\psi - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}. \quad (2.59)$$

The gauge symmetry $U(1)$ created therefore a theory with electromagnetism. The field A_μ will become the photon upon quantization.

2.4.5 Symmetries of the Standard Model

The symmetries of the SM arise from global spacetime symmetries involving transformations of space and time, and from local gauge symmetries, explained in Section 2.4.4. The fields in the theory then fall into representations of these groups.

2.4.5.1 Poincaré Group

The Poincaré group represents the full spacetime symmetry of special relativity. It is this group that makes the Standard Model a relativistic quantum theory. As a result, all elementary particles fall in representations of this group. The Poincaré group is a ten-dimensional noncompact Lie group, and a semi-direct product of the translations group and the Lorentz group. It includes:

- *translations* (displacements) in time and space (**P**), forming the abelian Lie group of translations on space-time;
- *rotations* in space, forming the non-abelian Lie group of three-dimensional rotations (**J**);
- *boosts*, transformations connecting two uniformly moving bodies (**K**).

The last two symmetries, \mathbf{J} and \mathbf{K} , together make the Lorentz group. The group has 10 generators, which imply by Noether's theorem 10 conservation laws: 1 for the energy, 3 for the momentum, 3 for the angular momentum and 3 for the velocity of the center of mass.

The Lorentz group is the set of all Lorentz transformations. A *Lorentz transformation* is a linear, homogeneous change of coordinates from x^μ to \bar{x}^μ ,

$$\bar{x}^\mu = \Lambda^\mu{}_\nu x^\nu \quad (2.60)$$

that preserves the interval x^2 between x^μ and the origin, where

$$x^2 \equiv x^\mu x_\mu = g_{\mu\nu} x^\mu x^\nu = \mathbf{x}^2 - c^2 t^2. \quad (2.61)$$

This means that the matrix $\Lambda^\mu{}_\nu$ must obey

$$g_{\mu\nu} \Lambda^\mu{}_\rho \Lambda^\nu{}_\sigma = g_{\rho\sigma}, \quad (2.62)$$

where $g_{\mu\nu}$ is the Minkowski metric. The group algebra is defined by the commutation relations of its generators

$$\begin{aligned} [J_i, J_j] &= i\epsilon_{ijk} J_k, \\ [J_i, K_j] &= i\epsilon_{ijk} K_k, \\ [K_i, K_j] &= -i\epsilon_{ijk} J_k, \end{aligned} \quad (2.63)$$

corresponding to the two types of transformation: rotations and boosts. Consider the following linear combinations of the generators:

$$N_i^\pm = \frac{1}{2}(J_i \pm iK_i). \quad (2.64)$$

The resulting commutation relations of these operators are

$$\begin{aligned} [N_i^+, N_j^+] &= i\epsilon_{ijk} N_k^+, \\ [N_i^-, N_j^-] &= i\epsilon_{ijk} N_k^-, \\ [N_i^-, N_j^+] &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.65)$$

Therefore, we see that we have two copies of $SU(2)$. This is a very useful fact, since it shows that any representation of the Lorenz group $SO(1, 3)$ can be specified by the doublet (j, j') , where j corresponds to the $SU(2)$ generated by the N_i^+ 's and j' corresponds to the $SU(2)$ generated by the N_i^- 's. The corresponding representation of the Lorenz group will be made up of $(2j+1)(2j'+1) \times (2j+1)(2j'+1)$ matrices. The four simplest and most often encountered representations are:

$$\begin{aligned} (0, 0) &= \text{Scalar or Singlet} \\ \left(\frac{1}{2}, 0\right) &= \text{Left-handed spinor} \\ \left(0, \frac{1}{2}\right) &= \text{Right-handed spinor} \\ \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right) &= \text{Vector} \end{aligned} \quad (2.66)$$

2.4.5.2 Discrete Symmetries: P, T, C

A theory can possess or be tested against discrete symmetries. In addition to continuous Lorentz transformations, there are two other spacetime operations that are potential symmetries of the Lagrangian: *parity* and *time reversal*. Parity, denoted by P , sends $(t, \mathbf{x}) \rightarrow (t, -\mathbf{x})$, reversing the handedness of space. Time reversal, denoted T , sends $(t, \mathbf{x}) \rightarrow (-t, \mathbf{x})$, interchanging the forward and backward light-cones. A third (non-spacetime) discrete operation is *charge conjugation*, denoted by C . Under this operation, particles and antiparticles are interchanged.

Experimentally, it is known that the gravitational, electromagnetic, and strong interactions are symmetric with respect to P , C , and T . The weak interactions violate C and P separately but preserve CP and T approximately. But certain rare processes involving neutral K mesons also show CP and T violation. All observations indicate that CPT is a perfect symmetry of Nature.

That brings us to the riddle from the beginning of the chapter. How do we communicate the concept of left and right? The answer lies in parity symmetry. If a force is symmetric under parity, nature does not differentiate between our world and the mirror world. That means we cannot use gravity, electromagnetism, or the strong nuclear force to solve that riddle. The only force that breaks this symmetry is parity. In 1956, the Chinese-American female physicist Chien-Shiung Wu conducted the Wu experiment, which demonstrated that parity was violated by the weak interaction, providing a way to operationally define left and right without reference to the human body. The experiment monitored the decay of cobalt-60 atoms aligned by a uniform magnetic field. This beta decay can be written as:



It has been observed that most of the electrons favored a very specific direction of decay, specifically opposite to that of the nuclear spin. It was later established that parity violation was, in fact, maximal. Since the direction of the spin of the cobalt atoms is known, the favored direction of the electrons will define the direction left. The only catch here is that we've assumed the aliens are made from matter, rather than antimatter. If they build a human being and that human being comes to visit us, we should be careful. Or, in the words of Feynman:

Then when we go finally to meet this man (after he tells us how to build a sufficiently good spaceship), we go to meet this man, and you walk up to him and you put out your right hand to shake hands—if he puts out his right hand, okay, but if he puts out his left hand, watch out, because the two of you will annihilate with each other!

2.4.5.3 Gauge Symmetries

The local $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ gauge symmetry is an internal symmetry that essentially defines the SM. Roughly, the three factors of the gauge symmetry give rise to the three fundamental interactions. The fields fall into different representations of the various symmetry groups of the Standard Model. It has been explained in Section 2.4.4 how gauging a symmetry gives rise to interactions. The electroweak sector is a Yang–Mills gauge theory with the symmetry group $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$, while quantum chromodynamics is a Yang–Mills gauge theory with $SU(3)$ symmetry. The massless gauge bosons of the electroweak $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ mix after spontaneous symmetry breaking to produce the 3 massive weak bosons (W^+ , W^- , and Z) as well as the still-massless photon field. The dynamics of the photon field and its interactions with matter are, in turn, governed by the $U(1)$ gauge theory of quantum electrodynamics.

2.4.5.4 Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking

Spontaneous symmetry breaking is a process by which a physical system in a symmetric state spontaneously ends up in an asymmetric state. It can describe systems where the equations of motion or the Lagrangian obey symmetries, but the lowest-energy vacuum solutions do not exhibit the same symmetry. In the SM, without spontaneous symmetry breaking, all particles would be massless due to the gauge symmetries. The Higgs mechanism provides a spontaneous symmetry breaking mechanism, which is essential to explain the generation mechanism of mass for gauge bosons as well as the fermions. It was developed by Higgs, Brout and Englert in the 1960s [10–14]. Based on work from Sheldon [15] it was later applied to $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ gauge theory by Weinberg and Salam [16–18].

In order to achieve the breaking mechanism, the Higgs field is added to the Standard Model. The Higgs field is a scalar field, with two neutral and two electrically charged components that form a complex doublet of the weak isospin $SU(2)$ symmetry. It has a "Mexican hat-shaped" potential. This shape means that at low energies, the Higgs field in its ground state takes less energy to have a nonzero vacuum expectation value (VEV) than a zero value. This VEV breaks the weak isospin $SU(2)$ symmetry of the electroweak interaction. Then, three components of the Higgs field are "absorbed" by the $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ gauge bosons, to give W^+ , W^- , and Z bosons their mass, while the remaining electrically neutral component either manifests as a Higgs boson, or couples to the fermions via Yukawa couplings, causing them to acquire mass as well.

2.5 The Standard Model

The Standard Model (SM) of particle physics is the most successful theory we have for explaining the fundamental particles and their interactions (electromagnetic, weak, and strong interactions – excluding gravity). Thus far, no fundamental particle beyond the SM has been observed. Its formulation has been finalized in the mid-1970s and was driven by theoretical and experimental particle physicists alike. Important milestones in the development and experimental observations are spread over many decades. In 1954, Yang Chen-Ning and Robert Mills extended the concept of gauge theory from abelian groups to nonabelian groups to provide an explanation for strong interactions [19], as we have seen in Section 2.4.4. In 1957, the Wu experiment demonstrated that parity was not conserved in the weak interaction [20], as was described in 2.4.5.2. In 1961, Glashow combined the electromagnetic and weak interactions [16]. In 1967, Weinberg [17] and Salam [18] incorporated the Higgs mechanism [11–13] into Glashow’s electroweak interaction, giving it its modern form. In 1973, the neutral weak currents caused by Z boson exchange were discovered at CERN [21–23]. In 1983, the W^\pm and Z^0 bosons were discovered experimentally [24]. The top quark was discovered in 1995 by the CDF [25] and DØ [26] experiments at Fermilab. The discovery of the tau neutrino was announced in July 2000 by the DONUT collaboration [27]. In 2012, both CMS [28] and ATLAS [29] at CERN have announced that they observed the Higgs boson, the final fundamental particle predicted by the SM to be experimentally confirmed.

Formally, the mathematical framework of the SM is a relativistic quantum field theory, in which a Lagrangian controls the dynamics and kinematics, as was introduced in Section 2.3. The construction of the SM is done by postulating a set of symmetries of the system, and then by writing down the most general renormalizable Lagrangian from its particle (field) content that obeys these symmetries. As a relativistic quantum field theory, the global Poincaré symmetry is postulated. The local $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ symmetry is an internal symmetry that essentially defines the SM. The symmetries and how gauge invariance gives rise to the gauge bosons were described in Sections 2.4.4 and 2.4.5. The strong force is described by the group $SU(3)$, which acts on the color charge C . The electroweak force is described by the group $SU(2) \times U(1)$ and acts on the weak hypercharge Y and on left-handed fermions, which have a weak isospin $T_3 \neq 0$.

The SM predicts fundamental particles, which are shown in Figure 2.2. They can be categorized in different ways according to their quantum numbers. The matter particles are *fermions*, which have half-integer spin, specifically spin 1/2. They interact with each other through the exchange of gauge bosons, which have spin 1. Only particles that carry the charge associated with an interaction can interact with the gauge bosons. In addition, the SM predicts the Higgs boson, which has spin 0, and is a result of the Higgs field. The Higgs field is responsible for the spontaneous symmetry breaking described in Section 2.4.5.4 and generates the masses of the massive particles in the SM.

2.5.1 Fermions

According to the spin-statistics theorem, fermions respect the Pauli exclusion principle. Each fermion has a corresponding antiparticle. They can be classified further according to how they interact, or equivalently, by the charges they carry. There are six flavored quarks: up (u), down (d), charm (c), strange (s), top (t), bottom (b), and each has a corresponding antiparticle. They are divided into three generations, with each generation being heavier than the previous one. They are further grouped into up-type quarks (u, c, t) and down-type quarks (d, s, b). Quarks carry color charge, and hence interact via the strong interaction. The quarks are strongly bound to one another due to the phenomenon of color confinement. Therefore,

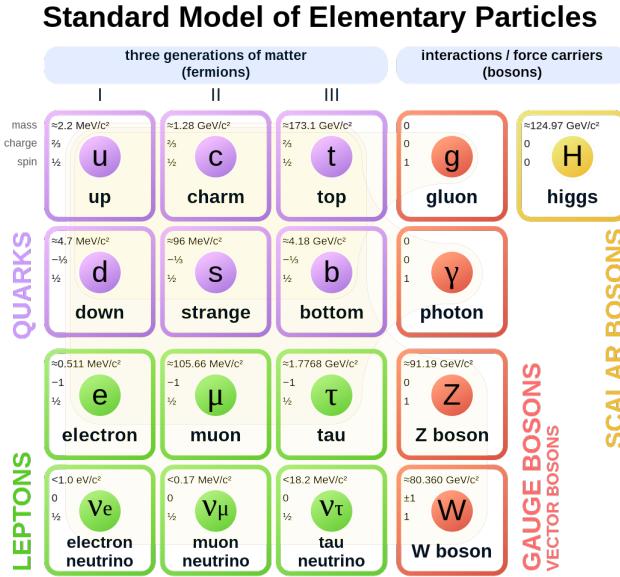


Figure 2.2: Elementary particles of the Standard Model, including the most important quantum numbers.

they form color-neutral composite particles called hadrons, which can contain either a quark and an antiquark (mesons) or three quarks (baryons). Quarks also carry electric charge and weak isospin, allowing them to participate in electromagnetic and weak interactions.

In contrast to quarks, leptons do not carry a color charge and, therefore, do not participate in strong interactions. There are six flavored leptons: the electron (e), the electron neutrino (ν_e), the muon (μ), the muon neutrino (ν_μ), the tau (τ), and the tau neutrino (ν_τ). Each lepton has a corresponding antiparticle. Leptons are also divided into three generations based on their masses. Since each member of a generation has a greater mass than the corresponding particle of any previous generation, the charged particles of the first generation do not decay. That's why all ordinary (baryonic) matter is made up of particles from the first generation.

The SM is a chiral theory, meaning that left-handed and right-handed fermions are treated differently. Under weak isospin $SU(2)$ transformations, the left-handed particles are weak-isospin doublets, whereas the right-handed particles are singlets. That means that all left-handed fermions have a weak isospin of $\pm 1/2$, while the right-handed fermions have a weak isospin of 0. The charged left-handed leptons and the left-handed neutrinos of each generation are arranged as weak isospin doublets. The right-handed charged leptons are singlets. Right-handed neutrinos are not included in the original formulation of the SM. The weak hypercharge of the left-handed leptons is -1, while the right-handed leptons have a weak hypercharge of -2.

2.5.2 Gauge bosons

In the SM, gauge bosons are the force carriers that mediate the strong, weak, and electromagnetic fundamental interactions. The gauge bosons all have a spin of 1. Photons mediate the electromagnetic force between electrically charged particles. The photon is massless and is described well by the theory of quantum electrodynamics. The W^+ , W^- , and Z^0 gauge bosons mediate the weak interactions, and are massive. The weak interactions involving the W^\pm act only on left-handed particles and right-handed antiparticles. The electrically neutral Z^0 boson interacts with both left-handed particles and right-handed antiparticles. Since the W^\pm bosons carry electric charges of +1 and -1, they also couple to the photon. The eight gluons mediate the strong interactions between color-charged particles (the quarks). Gluons are massless, and because they carry color charge themselves, they can interact with each other. The strong

interaction is governed by the theory of Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD). The interactions of the SM are summarized in Figure 2.3.

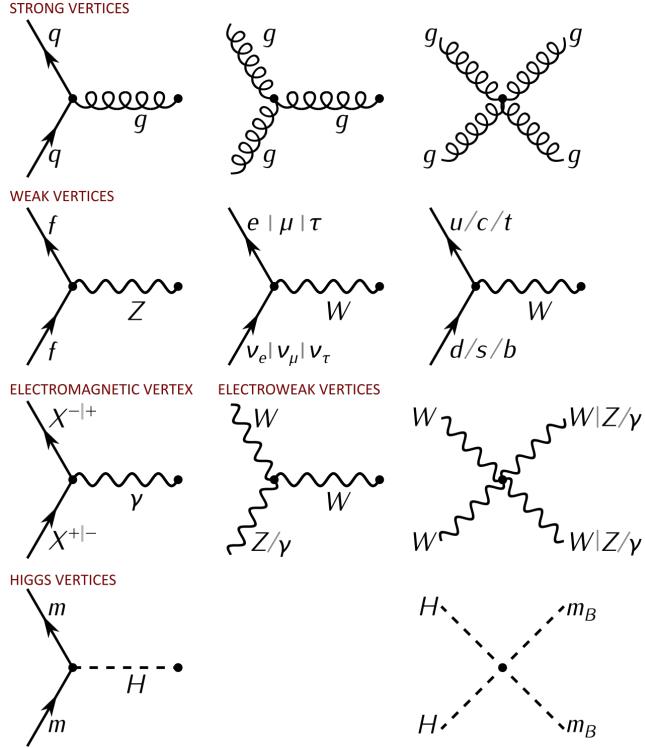


Figure 2.3: Interactions of the Standard Model [30]. Feynman diagrams in the SM are built from combinations of these vertices. q is any quark, g is a gluon, X is any charged particle, γ is a photon, f is any fermion, m is any particle with mass, m_B is any boson with mass.

The combined symmetry group $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ gives rise to four gauge bosons. The symmetry group $U(1)_Y$ gives rise to B , and $SU(2)_L$ gives rise to W^1 , W^2 , and W^3 . The physical bosons γ , W^+ , W^- , and Z^0 are obtained by mixing these states due to the Higgs mechanism and are given by

$$W^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (W^1 \mp iW^2) \quad (2.68)$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} \gamma \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_W & \sin \theta_W \\ -\sin \theta_W & \cos \theta_W \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} B \\ W^3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.69)$$

where θ_W is the mixing angle, or Weinberg angle. The electric charge is determined by the weak isospin and weak hypercharge by

$$Q = T_3 + \frac{Y}{2}. \quad (2.70)$$

Generally speaking, the weak interaction is responsible for processes such as radioactive decay. It has the ability to change flavors. In a neutron decay, for example, a down quark in the neutron emits a W^- boson, thereby changing into an up quark. The W^- boson then decays into an electron and an electron antineutrino. This process is not restricted to quarks within one generation. The probability of a transition from one flavour j quark to another flavour i quark is encoded in the Cabibbo–Kobayashi–Maskawa (CKM) matrix and is proportional to $|V_{ij}|^2$. The three diagonal elements of the matrix are close to unity, which means decay processes within the same generation are favored, whereas the off-diagonal elements are small, especially for mixing with the third generation. The weak force also causes neutrino oscillations due to

mismatch of quantum states of neutrinos when they propagate freely and when they take part in weak interactions. The Pontecorvo–Maki–Nakagawa–Sakata matrix (PMNS matrix) encodes the amplitude of the transitions between mass eigenstates and flavor eigenstates.

The strong interaction is referred to as Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD). QCD describes interactions between quarks mediated by gluons. It is a non-abelian gauge theory, with symmetry group $SU(3)$. The QCD analogue of electric charge is a property called color. Gluons are the force carriers of the theory, just as photons are for the electromagnetic force in quantum electrodynamics. The three kinds of charge in QCD are referred to as *color charge*: red, green, blue, and their anticolors. The strong interaction is responsible for the nuclear force, which binds protons and neutrons in the nucleus. It also binds quarks together to form hadrons, including nucleons.

2.5.3 Higgs Boson

As mentioned in Section 2.4.5.4, the Higgs mechanism is responsible for the spontaneous symmetry breaking of the $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ gauge group, which generates mass for all the massive particles in the SM. The Higgs boson is a consequence of the Higgs field. The mass term arising from the Dirac Lagrangian (for any fermion ψ) is $-m\bar{\psi}\psi$, which is not invariant under the chiral electroweak symmetry. In addition, the W and Z bosons are massive, which is unlike what is predicted without symmetry breaking. To solve these problems, the Higgs mechanism is introduced. In the Standard Model, the Higgs field is a complex scalar field that forms an $SU(2)_L$ doublet:

$$\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.71)$$

where the superscripts + and 0 indicate the electric charge (Q) of the components. The weak hypercharge of both components is 1. The Higgs potential is symmetric with respect to the origin and has a non-trivial minimum. It is given by

$$V(\phi) = \mu^2 |\phi|^2 + \lambda |\phi|^4, \quad (2.72)$$

where $\lambda > 0$, $\mu^2 < 0$. In a unitarity gauge one can set $\phi^+ = 0$ and make ϕ^0 real. Then $\langle \phi^0 \rangle = v$ is the non-vanishing vacuum expectation value of the Higgs field, which spontaneously breaks the symmetry of the electroweak model. It generates the Higgs boson H with the mass

$$m_H = \sqrt{-2\mu^2}. \quad (2.73)$$

The masses of the W and Z bosons are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} m_W &= \frac{1}{2} g v \\ m_Z &= \frac{m_W}{\cos \theta_W}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.74)$$

Self-interaction terms of the Higgs boson are described by the coupling strength λ . The masses of the fermions are generated via the Yukawa couplings.

2.5.4 Shortcomings of the Standard Model

Although the SM is a very successful theory, it falls short of explaining all observations and open questions. It is, therefore, not regarded a *theory of everything*, and it is agreed to be incomplete. Direct experimental evidence not explained in the SM include:

- **Gravity:** The SM does not account for gravity. That is perhaps one of the biggest challenges that physicists of our time face.
- **Neutrino masses:** The phenomenon of neutrino oscillation suggest that the neutrinos have mass [31], in direct contradiction to the initial formulation of the SM which assumed that they have zero mass.
- **Baryon asymmetry:** The SM does not explain the observed imbalance in baryonic matter and antibaryonic matter in the observable universe [32]. The CP violation accounted for in the SM is too small to explain why our universe is made mainly from matter and not almost equal amounts of matter and antimatter.
- **Dark matter and dark energy:** The existence of dark matter is also not explained by the SM [33]. If it unclear yet if it is a particle, or a different kind of phenomenon, but if it is a particle, then the SM needs to be extended. The SM also does not account for the universe's accelerating expansion as possibly described by dark energy.

In addition, the SM is seen by some to possess some conceptual deficiencies, such as:

- **Hierarchy problem:** The Higgs mechanism gives rise to the hierarchy problem if some new physics is present at high energy scales. If that is the case, severe fine tuning of the parameters is required between the bare mass of the Higgs boson, and the enormous loop corrections to the Higgs mass [34]. A further discussion about this problem is given in Section 2.6.2.
- **Ad-hoc-ness:** The SM requires 26 numerical constants whose values are unrelated and arbitrary. It is also unclear why there are three generations of quark and leptons.
- **Unification of forces:** the successful unification of the weak and electromagnetic forces suggest that a further unification with the strong force might be possible. This is referred to as a Grand-Unified-Theory (GUT) theory. In a GUT theory, the coupling strength of the interactions are expected to have the same magnitude at some high energy scale, which is not observed in the SM.

2.6 Supersymmetry

Supersymmetry (SUSY) is a set of theories in which a symmetry that relates fermions and bosons is postulated [1, 33, 35]. That is, a supersymmetry transformation turns a bosonic state into a fermionic state, and vice versa. The interest in SUSY can be traced back to 1967, in which Coleman and Mandula proved a no-go theorem stating that spacetime and internal symmetries can only combine in a trivial way [36]. This means that the charges associated with internal symmetries must always transform as Lorentz scalars. Also, there can be no change of the spin of particles. Fermions cannot change into bosons or vice versa. This was evaded in the 70s by different groups of physicists [37, 38] with the discovery of SUSY. It is done by loosening the restriction on the types of symmetries of a QFT, and in addition to Lie Algebras one can consider graded Lie Algebras whose operators anticommute. The first realistic supersymmetric version of the SM was proposed by Fayet and is known as the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM).

An operator Q that generates transformations between bosonic and fermionic states must be an anti-commuting spinor, with

$$\begin{aligned} Q | \text{Boson} \rangle &= | \text{Fermion} \rangle, \\ Q | \text{Fermion} \rangle &= | \text{Boson} \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (2.75)$$

Since Q is a complex spinor, Q^\dagger is also a symmetry generator. These operators carry spin angular momentum $1/2$, so that SUSY is a spacetime symmetry. It has been demonstrated that the most general possibility of such operators is a collection of spin- $1/2$ operators with the anticommutation relations

$$\left\{ Q_\alpha^i, Q_\beta^{j\dagger} \right\} = 2\delta^{ij}\sigma_{\alpha\beta}^\mu P^\mu, \quad (2.76)$$

with $i, j = 1, \dots, N$. All other anticommutation relations between the Q s and commutation relations between the Q s and P s vanish. In the following, the simplest case $N = 1$ is considered. It is the simplest supersymmetric extension of the Poincaré algebra, or the Super-Poincaré algebra. The index $\alpha = 1, 2$ is the left-handed spinor components of the operator, and P^μ is the total energy-momentum.

The single-particle states of a supersymmetric theory fall into irreducible representations of the supersymmetry algebra, called supermultiplets. Each supermultiplet contains both fermion and boson states, which are known as *superpartners* of each other. The resulting commutation relation

$$[Q, P^2] = [Q_\alpha^\dagger, P^2] = 0 \quad (2.77)$$

implies that particles that are transformed into each other have the same eigenvalues of P^2 , and therefore equal masses. The generators also commute with the generators of gauge transformations. That means that particles and their *superpartners* must also share the same gauge charges.

Since we do not observe a bosonic superpartner to the electron, named *selectron*, with the same mass as the electron, it is clear that supersymmetry must be a spontaneously broken symmetry. The specific mechanism of SUSY breaking is unknown, but usually, further terms that break SUSY explicitly are added by hand to the Lagrangian. However, since naturalness is often described as a motivation for introducing SUSY, it is required that the SUSY breaking terms still provide a solution to the hierarchy problem. This means that the effective Lagrangian contains only "soft" SUSY breaking, meaning that they violate SUSY but contain only mass terms and coupling parameters with a positive mass dimension.

2.6.1 The Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model

The Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) is an extension to the SM that realizes SUSY [35]. It is minimal in regards to the number of new particle states and new interactions. In this extension, each of the known fundamental particles is in either a chiral or gauge supermultiplet, and must have a superpartner with spin differing by 1/2 unit. The names for the spin-0 partners of the quarks and leptons are constructed by prepending an “s”, for scalar. They can therefore be called *squarks* and *sleptons*, or generally *sfermions*. Their symbols normally contain a tilde ($\tilde{\cdot}$). The MSSM contains two Higgs supermultiplets in order to prevent an electroweak gauge anomaly. The generic nomenclature for a spin-1/2 superpartner is to append “-ino” to the name of the SM particle, so the fermionic partners of the Higgs scalars are called *higgsinos*. The vector bosons of the SM clearly reside in gauge supermultiplets. Their fermionic superpartners are generically referred to as *gauginos*. The spin-1/2 superpartners of the electroweak gauge bosons are called *winos* and *binos*. Table 2.6.1 lists the chiral supermultiplets of the MSSM, while Table 2.6.1 lists the gauge supermultiplets of the MSSM.

Table 2.1: Chiral supermultiplets of the MSSM. The spin-0 fields are complex scalars, and the spin-1/2 fields are left-handed two-component Weyl fermions.

Names	spin 0	spin 1/2	$SU(3)_C, SU(2)_L, U(1)_Y$
squarks, quarks	$(\tilde{u}_L \tilde{d}_L)$	$(u_L d_L)$	$(\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2}, \frac{1}{6})$
	\tilde{u}_R^*	u_R^\dagger	$(\bar{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{1}, -\frac{2}{3})$
	\tilde{d}_R^*	d_R^\dagger	$(\bar{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{1}, \frac{1}{3})$
sleptons, leptons	$(\tilde{\nu} \tilde{e}_L)$	(νe_L)	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$
	\tilde{e}_R^*	e_R^\dagger	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}, 1)$
Higgs, higginos	$(H_u^+ H_u^0)$	$(\tilde{H}_u^+ \tilde{H}_u^0)$	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}, +\frac{1}{2})$
	$(H_d^0 H_d^-)$	$(\tilde{H}_d^0 \tilde{H}_d^-)$	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$

Table 2.2: Gauge supermultiplets of the MSSM.

Names	spin 1/2	spin 1	$SU(3)_C, SU(2)_L, U(1)_Y$
gluino, gluon	\tilde{g}	g	$(\mathbf{8}, \mathbf{1}, 0)$
winos, W bosons	$\widetilde{W}^\pm \widetilde{W}^0$	$W^\pm W^0$	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{3}, 0)$
bino, B boson	\widetilde{B}^0	B^0	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}, 0)$

The superpartners listed in Tables 2.6.1 and 2.6.1 are not necessarily the mass eigenstates of the theory. Electroweak symmetry breaking and SUSY breaking can cause mixing between the electroweak gauginos and the higgsinos, and within the various sets of squarks and sleptons and Higgs scalars that have the same electric charge. The gluino cannot mix since it is a color octet fermion and therefore does not have the appropriate quantum numbers to mix with any other particle. The neutral higgsinos, \tilde{H}_u^0 and \tilde{H}_d^0 , and the neutral gauginos, \tilde{B}^0 and \widetilde{W}^0 , mix into four mass eigenstates called *neutralinos*. The charged higgsinos, H_u^+ and H_d^- , and winos, \widetilde{W}^+ and \widetilde{W}^- , mix to form two mass eigenstates with charge ± 1 called *charginos*. The neutralinos are labeled $\tilde{\chi}_1^0, \tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_3^0, \tilde{\chi}_4^0$ in increasing order of mass, and the charginos are labeled $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm, \tilde{\chi}_2^\pm$, also in increasing order of mass. In the gauge-eigenstate basis $(\tilde{B}, \widetilde{W}^0, \tilde{H}_d^0, \tilde{H}_u^0)$, the neutralino

mass matrix is given by:

$$M_N = \begin{pmatrix} M_1 & 0 & -c_\beta s_W m_Z & s_\beta s_W m_Z \\ 0 & M_2 & c_\beta c_W m_Z & -s_\beta c_W m_Z \\ -c_\beta s_W m_Z & c_\beta c_W m_Z & 0 & -\mu \\ s_\beta s_W m_Z & -s_\beta c_W m_Z & -\mu & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.78)$$

where masses M_1 and M_2 are the $U(1)$ and $SU(2)$ gaugino masses, μ is the higgsino mass parameter, and $\tan \beta = v_u/v_d$ is the ratio of the vacuum expectation values of the two neutral Higgs fields which break the electroweak symmetry. Here, $s_\beta = \sin \beta$, $c_\beta = \cos \beta$ and s_W, c_W are the sine and cosine of the electroweak mixing angle θ_W . The mixing of the charged gauginos and charged higgsinos is given by the matrix:

$$M_C = \begin{pmatrix} M_2 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} g v_u \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} g v_d & \mu \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.79)$$

where g is the $SU(2)$ gauge coupling.

A neutralino state can approximate a particular gaugino or higgsino state. If $|M_1|$ and $|M_2|$ are small compared to m_Z and $|\mu|$, then $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ would be nearly a pure photino. If $|M_1|$ and m_Z are small compared to $|M_2|$ and $|\mu|$, then $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ would be nearly a pure bino. If $|M_2|$ and m_Z are small compared to $|M_1|$ and $|\mu|$ then the lightest chargino pair and neutralino would constitute a triplet of roughly mass-degenerate pure winos. Finally, if $|\mu|$ and m_Z are small compared to $|M_1|$ and $|M_2|$, then the lightest chargino pair and neutralino would be nearly pure higgsino states. These cases lead to strikingly different phenomenology.

For reasons such as proton stability, suppression of neutrino masses, and the accidental global $B - L$ symmetry of the SM that is not automatically conserved in a generic supersymmetric extension of the SM, an addition symmetry called R-parity is added to the MSSM. It is defined as

$$R = (-1)^{3(B-L)+2S}, \quad (2.80)$$

where B is baryon number, L is lepton number, and S is the spin. This implies that all the particles of the SM have even R-parity, whereas their corresponding superpartners have odd R-parity. Moreover, R-parity invariance also implies that the lightest supersymmetric particle (LSP) is absolutely stable. Usually, the lightest neutralino is assumed to be the LSP, and it makes an attractive candidate for dark matter. It is often called a WIMP.

There are three principal motivations for the MSSM. We have encountered the first one, and that is that the LSP is a good dark matter candidate [33]. The second motivation is that if the superpartners are near the TeV scale, then measured gauge couplings of the three gauge groups unify at high energies [39]. The third motivation for the MSSM, and also why it was originally proposed, is that it could solve the hierarchy problem [40]. This problem is described further in Section 2.6.2.

Since the MSSM has more than 100 parameters in addition to the SM, it makes phenomenological analysis quite impractical. Therefore, reasonable constraints can be imposed on the MSSM in order to reduce the number of free parameters. Such a selection of assumptions is done in a submodel of the MSSM called the phenomenological MSSM (pMSSM) [41, 42]. The following assumptions define the pMSSM:

- no new source of CP-violation;
- no flavour changing neutral currents;
- first and second generation universality.

These assumption reduce the number of SUSY parameters to 19.

2.6.2 Naturalness

One of the motivations for SUSY, and for the MSSM in particular, is that it is able to solve the hierarchy problem of the Higgs boson's mass. This problem is closely related to fine-tuning and naturalness. The physical principle of *naturalness* was articulated by 't Hooft and states that a small parameter is natural only when a symmetry is gained as it is set to zero [43, 44]. That means that in QFT, if a bare parameter is unnaturally set to zero, radiative corrections lead to a renormalized non-zero value. If a small renormalized value is desired without a symmetry, the bare value has to be fine-tuned.

Mathematically speaking, the problem is related to quantum corrections that the mass of the Higgs boson (squared) receives from the virtual effects of every particle that couples, directly or indirectly, to the Higgs field. For a Dirac fermion f that couples to the Higgs field via a term in the Lagrangian $-\lambda_f H \bar{f} f$, the mass squared of the Higgs boson receives a correction of

$$\Delta m_H^2 = -\frac{|\lambda_f|^2}{8\pi^2} \Lambda_{\text{UV}}^2 + \dots, \quad (2.81)$$

where λ_f is the Yukawa coupling and Λ_{UV} is an ultraviolet momentum cutoff used to regulate the loop integral. Each of the leptons and quarks of the SM contributes such a correction, with the top quark being the largest contribution with $\lambda_f \approx 0.94$ [35]. If the cutoff is of the order of M_P , then the quantum correction is 30 orders of magnitude larger than the required value $m_H^2 \approx -(92.9 \text{ GeV})^2$ without radiative corrections. This, for some physicists, makes it difficult to understand why m_H^2 is so small. In other words, it seems unlikely that such large contributions will add up to a small number, and it is an example of fine-tuning.

If SUSY is present, these large contributions can be avoided by cancellations between fermionic loops and loops from complex scalar particles. For a scalar particle S with mass m_S and a Lagrangian term $-\Lambda_S |H|^2 |S|^2$, the correction is given by

$$\Delta m_H^2 = \frac{\lambda_S}{16\pi^2} [\Lambda_{\text{UV}}^2 - 2m_S^2 \ln(\Lambda_{\text{UV}}/m_S) \dots]. \quad (2.82)$$

Since in the MSSM, each of the quarks and leptons of the SM is accompanied by two complex scalars with $\lambda_S = |\lambda_f|^2$, the Λ_{UV}^2 contributions neatly cancel. While this cancellation is true for unbroken SUSY, broken SUSY scenarios will require some amount of fine-tuning. The amount of fine-tuning in the MSSM can be quantified [45, 46]. If one requires a reasonable amount of fine-tuning, that puts constraints on the phenomenology of the MSSM. A 10% level of fine-tuning will require the existence of one pair of charginos and two neutralinos with a maximum mass of $200 - 300 \text{ GeV}$ [47–50]. In particular, natural SUSY scenarios correspond to a higgsino parameter space of $|\mu| \lesssim 150 - 200 \text{ GeV}$ [51].

Chapter 3

Experimental setup

One of the most useful methods to study the subatomic world of particle physics uses particle colliders. In such machines, particles are accelerated to very high speeds and energies, and smashed into each other. The particles that emerge from the collisions are then measured in a particle detector and then studied and analyzed. At the time of writing this thesis, the world’s largest and highest-energy collider is the LHC located in Geneva, Switzerland, operated by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). For the present work, data from the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment has been analyzed. In this chapter, the LHC is described in Section 3.1, while the CMS experiment is described in Section 3.2.

3.1 The Large Hadron Collider

The LHC [52–54] is a circular hadron collider located at CERN near Geneva. It has been built inside the tunnel of the former Large Electron-Positron Collider (LEP) and has a circumference of about 27 km. Its tunnel is located as deep as 175 metres beneath the France–Switzerland border. The LHC was designed to deliver proton-proton (pp) collisions at a center-of-mass energy of up to $\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV}$ and heavy ion (lead-lead) collisions of up to $\sqrt{s} = 5.5 \text{ TeV}$ per nucleon. During Run 2 of the LHC (2015–2018), the center-of-mass energy of the pp collisions was $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$.

The collider has four crossing points where the accelerated particles collide, as can be seen in the illustration in Figure 3.1. Nine detectors have been constructed at the LHC, located underground in large caverns excavated at the LHC’s intersection points. Two of them, the ATLAS experiment and CMS, are large general-purpose particle detectors. The other detectors have more specialized roles. ATLAS and CMS measure a variety of SM physics, such as Higgs boson and top quark production and look for BSM physics.

Two of the most interesting parameters of a particle collider are the center-of-mass energy of the collisions, and the luminosity. Due to energy conservation, the higher the energy of the collision, the heavier a theoretical particle can be produced. Therefore, in order to probe more massive theoretical particles (such as DM candidates in SUSY), the higher collision energy is necessary. The second parameter is the luminosity. The instantaneous luminosity depends on machine parameters, as was described in Section 2.3.4.1, and is given by

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{dN}{dt}, \quad (3.1)$$

where σ is the corresponding cross section and dN/dt is the rate of particle interactions. The integrated luminosity is given by integrating the instantaneous luminosity over a period of time

$$L = \int \mathcal{L} dt. \quad (3.2)$$

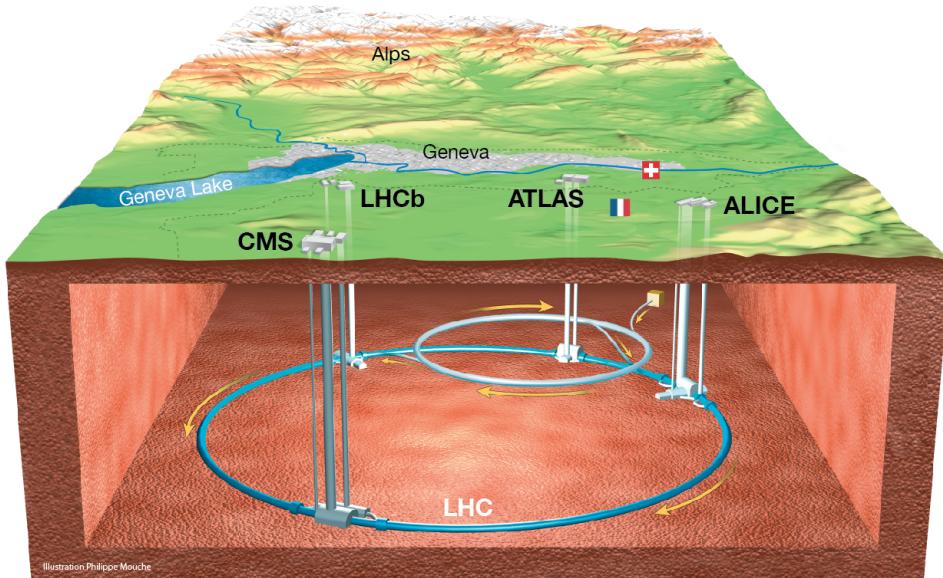


Figure 3.1: The LHC and the four main experiments located at the four interaction regions.

The number of expected events N for a given process can be expressed in terms of the corresponding cross section σ times the integrated luminosity L

$$N = L \cdot \sigma. \quad (3.3)$$

Therefore, for rare processes, i.e., processes with very low cross section σ , access to large enough number of produced events requires higher integrated luminosity L . The integrated luminosity recorded in run 2 in CMS was around 138 fb^{-1} .

3.2 The Compact Muon Solenoid experiment

The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment is one of two large general-purpose particle physics detectors built on the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN in Switzerland and France, as previously mentioned. The CMS apparatus has an overall length of 22 m, a diameter of 15 m, and weighs 14 000 tonnes. The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL), each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections. Forward calorimeters extend the pseudorapidity coverage provided by the barrel and endcap detectors. Muons are measured in gas-ionization detectors embedded in the steel flux-return yoke outside the solenoid. A more detailed description of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found in Ref. [55]. A cutaway diagram of the CMS detector can be seen in Figure 3.2.

Events of interest are selected using a two-tiered trigger system. The first level (L1), composed of custom hardware processors, uses information from the calorimeters and muon detectors to select events at a rate of around 100 kHz within a fixed latency of about $4 \mu\text{s}$ [56]. The second level, known as the high-level trigger (HLT), consists of a farm of processors running a version of the full event reconstruction software optimized for fast processing, and reduces the event rate to around 1 kHz before data storage [57].

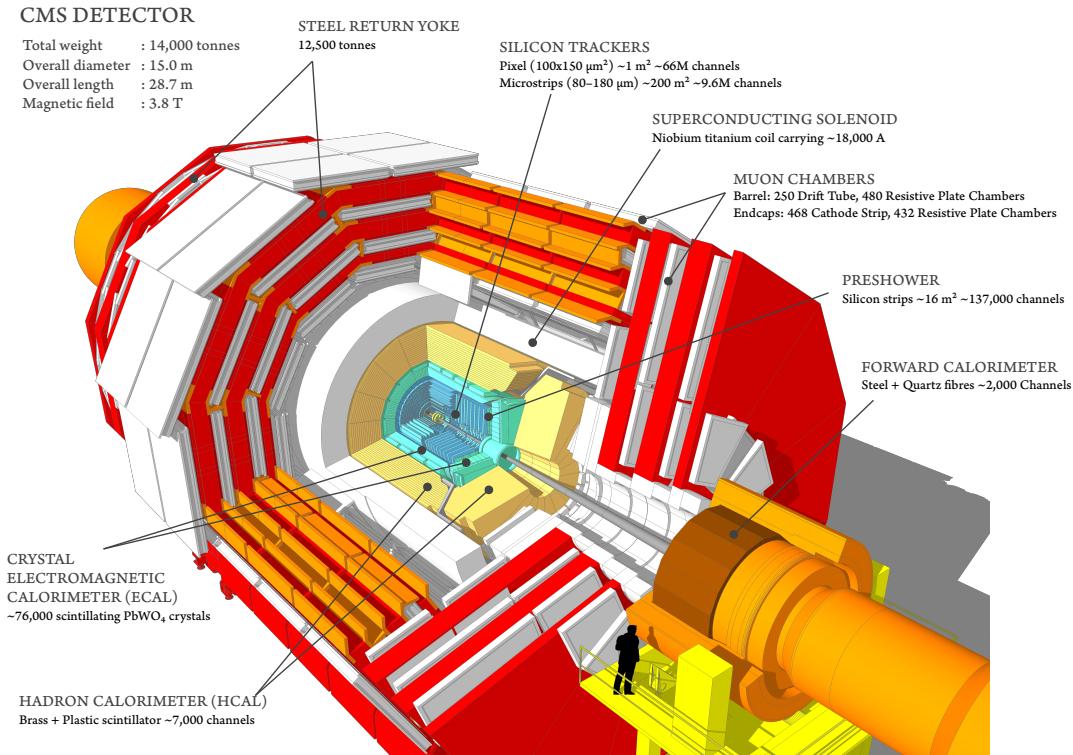


Figure 3.2: A cutaway diagram of the CMS detector.

The global event reconstruction (also called particle-flow event reconstruction [58]) aims to reconstruct and identify each individual particle in an event, with an optimized combination of all subdetector information. In this process, the identification of the particle type (photon, electron, muon, charged hadron, neutral hadron) plays an important role in the determination of the particle direction and energy. Photons (e.g. coming from decays such as $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ or from electron bremsstrahlung) are identified as ECAL energy clusters not linked to the extrapolation of any charged particle trajectory to the ECAL. Electrons (e.g. coming from $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ or $W \rightarrow e\nu_e$) are identified as a charged particle track and potentially many ECAL energy clusters corresponding to this track extrapolation to the ECAL and to possible bremsstrahlung photons emitted along the way through the tracker material. Muons (e.g. from $Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ or $W \rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu$) are identified as tracks in the central tracker consistent with either a track or several hits in the muon system, and associated with calorimeter deposits compatible with the muon hypothesis. Charged hadrons are identified as charged particle tracks neither identified as electrons, nor as muons. Finally, neutral hadrons are identified as HCAL energy clusters not linked to any charged hadron trajectory, or as a combined ECAL and HCAL energy excess with respect to the expected charged hadron energy deposit.

The energy of photons is obtained from the ECAL measurement. The energy of electrons is determined from a combination of the track momentum at the main interaction vertex, the corresponding ECAL cluster energy, and the energy sum of all bremsstrahlung photons attached to the track. The energy of muons is obtained from the corresponding track momentum. The energy of charged hadrons is determined from a combination of the track momentum and the corresponding ECAL and HCAL energies, corrected for the response function of the calorimeters to hadronic showers. Finally, the energy of neutral hadrons is obtained from the corresponding corrected ECAL and HCAL energies.

Jets are reconstructed offline all particle flow objects, clustered using the anti- k_T algorithm [59, 60] with a distance parameter of 0.4. The raw jet energies are then corrected to establish a relative uniform response of the calorimeter in η and a calibrated absolute response

in transverse momentum p_T .

The primary vertex (PV) is taken to be the vertex corresponding to the hardest scattering in the event, evaluated using tracking information alone, as described in Section 9.4.1 of Ref. [61]. The missing transverse momentum vector \vec{p}_T^{miss} is computed as the negative vector sum of the transverse momenta of all the PF candidates in an event, and its magnitude is denoted as p_T^{miss} [62]. The \vec{p}_T^{miss} is modified to account for corrections to the energy scale of the reconstructed jets in the event.

The silicon tracker used in 2016 measured charged particles within the range $|\eta| < 2.5$. For nonisolated particles of $1 < p_T < 10 \text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta| < 1.4$, the track resolutions were typically 1.5% in p_T and 25–90 (45–150) μm in the transverse (longitudinal) impact parameter [63]. At the start of 2017, a new pixel detector was installed [64]; the upgraded tracker measured particles up to $|\eta| < 3.0$ with typical resolutions of 1.5% in p_T and 20–75 μm in the transverse impact parameter [65] for nonisolated particles of $1 < p_T < 10 \text{ GeV}$.

Muons are measured in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.4$, with detection planes made using three technologies: drift tubes, cathode strip chambers, and resistive plate chambers. The single muon trigger efficiency exceeds 90% over the full η range, and the efficiency to reconstruct and identify high momentum muons is greater than 96%. Matching muons to tracks measured in the silicon tracker results in a relative transverse momentum resolution, for muons with p_T up to 100 GeV, of 1% in the barrel and 3% in the endcaps. The p_T resolution in the barrel is better than 7% for muons with p_T up to 1 TeV [66].

The integrated luminosities for the 2016, 2017, and 2018 data-taking years have 1.2–2.5% individual uncertainties [67–69], while the overall uncertainty for the 2016–2018 period is 1.6%.

Chapter 4

Search for compressed Higgsinos with soft lepton tracks

In this chapter, the search for compressed Higgsinos with soft lepton tracks is presented. First, the model considered in this search is introduced and motivated, followed by a description of previous searches conducted for such a signature. The search strategy is then described in a general way to provide an overview of the analysis. Later, the data sets and simulated samples used are listed. The main description of the analysis begins with an exploration of the signal signature and base selection. This is followed by the definition and selection of objects, as well as the event selection and trigger used. Background sources are then identified, and the procedures used to estimate them are described in detail in the subsequent section. Data control plots are presented to compare simulations with the data in control regions. The search bins that constitute the signal regions are described, along with the optimization procedure employed to define them. Sources of systematic uncertainties are estimated for the background estimation methods, followed by validation studies for the background. Data quality aspects are also explored in this chapter. It concludes with the expected results based on the full Run 2 luminosity of 137 fb^{-1} , as well as the observed results obtained from the partial unblinding of 10% of the data collected by CMS at a center-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{ TeV}$.

4.1 Introduction

The minimal supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) has been significantly constrained by searches for new physics carried out by the CMS and ATLAS experiments in Run 2. However, the underlying considerations that motivate these searches remain a significant puzzle. The identity of most of the mass of galaxies, as inferred by observations of galactic rotation as well as by analysis of the CMB, remains unknown. The apparent coincidence known as the large hierarchy problem, whereby the series of $\mathcal{O}(\Lambda^2)$ loop contributions to the mass of the SM Higgs boson vanishes, remains without a demonstrated underlying mechanism to explain the vanishing "naturally." The MSSM, as well as supersymmetry at large, endures as a well-motivated candidate extension of the SM to the extent that theoretical phase space with explanatory power for the issues above remains non-excluded by experimental observations. It is therefore a pertinent exercise to identify any such remaining regions and to design and implement experimental methods to either rule them out or perhaps observe signals indicating their manifestation.

In the MSSM, the SM is extended to contain two Higgs doublets, with supersymmetric partners of the Higgs bosons called Higgsinos. These Higgsinos mix with the gauginos, winos and binos, to form the charginos and neutralinos mass eigenstates, also referred to as electroweakinos, as described in Section 2.6.1. The lightest neutralino, $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$, is assumed to be the lightest SUSY particle (LSP), which is stable due to R-parity conservation. That makes the LSP a good WIMP candidate for DM. In this search, a scenario where the lightest electroweakinos, $\tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm, \tilde{\chi}_1^0$, are dominated by the Higgsino component is considered. The DM candidate in this case is also referred to as a nearly pure higgsino LSP with little-to-no mixing from other states. This corresponds to the condition that the Higgsino mass parameter μ is much smaller than the magnitude of the bino and wino mass parameters M_1 and M_2 , i.e., $|\mu| \ll |M_1|, |M_2|$. This scenario is motivated by naturalness arguments [48, 70]. A hallmark feature of higgsinos is the particle mass spectrum, comprising a 4-fold nearly mass degenerate group of electroweakinos, namely $\tilde{\chi}_{1,2}^0$ and $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$. This mass degeneracy is referred to as a compressed mass spectrum. A careful treatment of radiative corrections is needed to properly account for a large difference between the higgsino mass and the SUSY breaking scale [71], which is the case for such low-mixing scenarios. These calculations establish a lower limit on the mass difference between the LSP and lightest chargino state $\Delta m^\pm = \Delta m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm)$ of around 250 MeV for $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^0) = 100$ GeV, increasing gradually with larger LSP mass. This bound corresponds to the no-mixing limit; any mixing between the higgsino and the wino or bino states gives rise to larger values of Δm^\pm .

The analysis is optimized with respect to the scenario above, under the assumption that the mass difference between the two neutral Higgsino states, $\Delta m^0 = \Delta m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0, \tilde{\chi}_1^0)$, is twice the value of that between the charged and lightest states: $\Delta m^0 = 2\Delta m^\pm$. This is consistent with the limit of large $\tan\beta$. Two production processes dominate the total cross section and are shown in Fig. 4.1. This search targets final states containing two soft (small momenta), same-flavor, opposite-charge leptons and a large magnitude of missing transverse momentum. Since the decay products can have very low momentum, sometimes a lepton is not successfully identified, and a track is used in its place. Experimental constraints in these compressed scenarios are limited by the small momenta of the visible decay products, as well as by small electroweak production cross-sections. The scenario described here is realized as a simplified model, in which particle masses for particles not considered in this model are set to infinity [72].

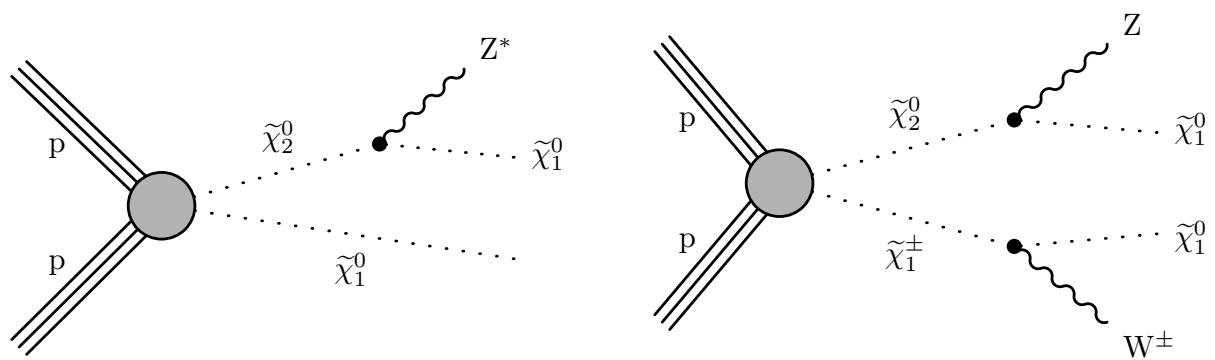


Figure 4.1: Production and decay of electroweakinos in the higgsino simplified model through $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0$ (left) and $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ (right).

4.2 Previous searches

Since Higgsinos provide solutions to puzzles and shortcomings in the SM, there have been numerous attempts to discover them at the LHC and previous colliders. These searches have led to exclusion limits on the available parameter space, as no supersymmetric particle has been found to date. Given the various possible final states or signatures associated with Higgsino production, it is more productive to focus on searches that share similar phase space and final states with the present study. Specifically, searches of interest involve final states with leptons resulting from the prompt decay of electroweakinos.

Constraints on these compressed scenarios were first established at LEP [73–78]. The lower bounds on direct chargino production from these results correspond to $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm) > 103.5$ GeV for $\Delta m(\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm, \tilde{\chi}_1^0) > 3$ GeV and $m(\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm) > 92.4$ GeV for smaller mass differences. At the LHC, similar searches have been conducted by both ATLAS and CMS. A search similar to the one presented in this thesis, has been performed at ATLAS [79] using run 2 data. It targets either two identified same-flavour opposite-charge leptons (muons or electrons), or one identified lepton and one track matching to a non-identified lepton. In that analysis, muons are required to have transverse momentum $p_T > 3$ GeV, while tracks are required to have $p_T > 1$ GeV. The angular separation between the muons or between a muon and a track must satisfy $\Delta R_{\mu\mu} > 0.05$. The exclusion contour for the Higgsino production scenario in that analysis is shown in Figure 4.2 on the left. Masses of $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ below 193 GeV are excluded for mass splittings of 9.3 GeV. At the LEP bounds on $m(\tilde{\chi}_2^0)$, mass splittings from 2.4 GeV to 55 GeV are excluded. The two lepton final state search has been statistically combined with a three lepton final state search at ATLAS [80] to produce the exclusion contour shown in Figure 4.2 (right). This combination extends the limits for mass splittings Δm up to 60 GeV. In the compressed region, limits extend down to $\Delta m = 2$ GeV.

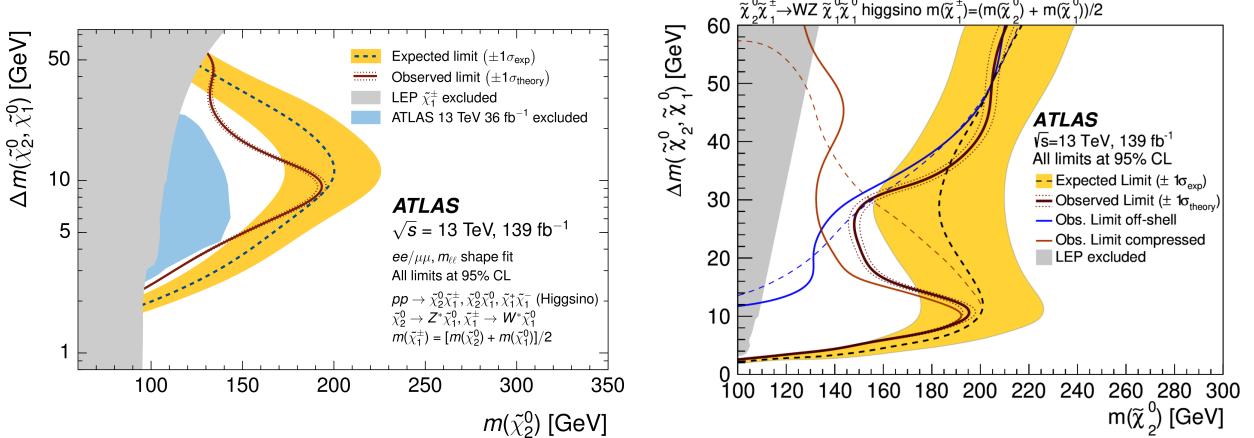


Figure 4.2: ATLAS higgsino production exclusion limits for the two lepton final state (left) and combined results for two and three lepton final state (right).

At CMS, a search for supersymmetry in final states with two or three soft leptons and missing transverse momentum has been conducted using full run 2 data [81]. This analysis is referred to as SOS, which stands for Soft Opposite-Sign, indicating the final state with two soft opposite-sign same-flavor leptons. Special attention has been given to ensure that the analysis presented in this thesis is orthogonal to the SOS analysis, allowing for a potential future statistical combination. As a result, there is no event overlap between the SOS analysis and the analysis presented in this thesis.

The SOS analysis sets a lower threshold on the transverse momentum of muons, requiring $p_T > 3.5$ GeV. Additionally, it mandates a minimum angular separation between the leptons,

with $\Delta R > 0.3$. Section 4.5 provides a detailed exploration of how the analysis presented in this thesis modifies the SOS selection to achieve orthogonality.

In the higgsino simplified model, excluded masses reach up to 205 GeV for a mass splitting Δm of 7.5 GeV, and 150 GeV for a highly compressed scenario with Δm of 3 GeV. The analysis presented in this thesis aims to extend these exclusion limits.

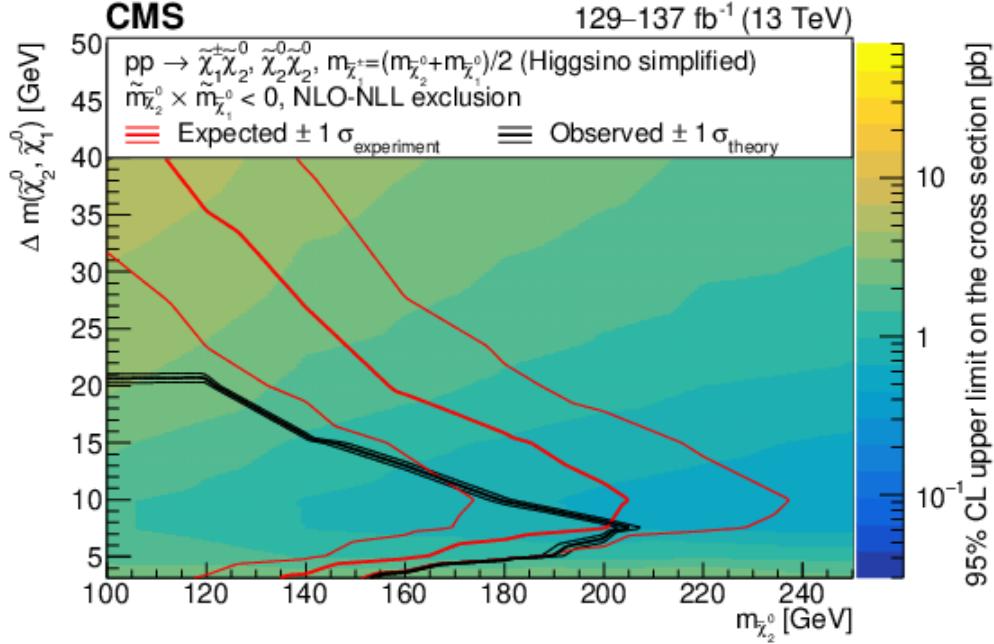


Figure 4.3: CMS higgsino production exclusion limits for the SOS analysis of final states with two or three soft leptons in a higgsino simplified model.

4.3 Search strategy

The search details are described in depth in the upcoming sections. However, it is useful to have a very quick overview of the strategy so that it is easier to follow. This analysis targets the two leptons resulting from the decay of the $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$. Those are opposite-charge, same-flavor leptons $\ell^+\ell^-$ resulting from the $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ that decays into a $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ and a Z^* , i.e., $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$. If there is a $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$ present, such as in the production of $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$, it is assumed to either decay hadronically or that the resulting lepton is not identified. The invariant mass of the two leptons resulting from the decay has a unique shape due to the limited allowed phase space of the 3-body decay and is restricted to the mass difference between $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ and $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$, that is, Δm . Therefore, the $m_{\ell\ell}$ distribution is expected to have an edge at Δm . The presence of two $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ in the final state, lead to high E_T^{miss} in the event, which leads to the use of triggers based on missing transverse energy. Typical for such topographies, an ISR jet is also required for increased sensitivity.

The analysis has three channels corresponding to two physical final states: two identified muons, one identified muon and one track, and one identified electron and one track. The channels with one identified lepton and one track result from one of the leptons not being identified due to the low identification efficiency for low momentum objects. There is no channel corresponding to two identified electrons, as it has already been analyzed in the SOS paper [81]. All channels utilize a BDT to select the signal and reject SM background. The BDT discriminator outputs are also used to define the signal regions for signal extraction and limit settings, as well as control regions for background estimation purposes. The identified lepton plus track channels utilize an additional object-level BDT discriminator to select a track among the collection of tracks in an event, which hopefully corresponds to the non-identified lepton. The key points of each channel are summarized in the sections below.

4.3.1 Final state with two identified muons

- **Defining objects:** two identified opposite-charge muons.
- **Signal regions:** using bins in an event BDT score of $\text{BDT} > 0$.
- **Background estimation:** isolated background arising from leptonic decays of $\tau\tau$ is estimated using MC, and non-isolated background is estimated using dedicated isolation sideband CR in data.

4.3.2 Final state with one identified lepton and one track

- **Defining objects:** one identified lepton (muon or electron) and one opposite charge track having maximum track picking BDT score.
- **Signal regions:** using bins in an event BDT score of $\text{BDT} > 0$.
- **Background estimation:** using same-sign CR in data.

4.4 Data sets and simulated samples

This section provides details about the simulated samples and data samples used in the analysis. Simulation is used both for the signal, as well as for SM processes.

4.4.1 Standard Model simulated samples

Simulation of SM events is used for BDT training, closure tests, and to aid in general understanding. Simulated FullSim Drell-Yan (DY) samples are also utilized to estimate the $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ background and derive a transfer factor for the background between a $Z \rightarrow \tau\tau$ -enriched Control Region (CR) and the Signal Region (SR).

Most SM processes including QCD, leptonic W decays, top-antitop quark decays and Drell-Yan processes were simulated using MADGRAPH5_aMC@NLO [82] and PYTHIA 8 [83], while single-top and leptonic WW diboson processes were simulated using POWHEG BOX [84]. Several CMSSW releases were used to process the SM Monte Carlo (MC) samples. The 2016 samples were reconstructed mainly in 9_4_X (RunIISummer16MiniAODv3). The 2017 MC samples were reconstructed in a 9_4_X (RunIIFall17MiniAODv2) release while the 2018 were reconstructed in a 10_2_X release. These samples use full CMS detector simulation, which is performed using the GEANT4 toolkit [85].

4.4.2 Signal simulated samples

Signal events corresponding to the 2016, 2017, and 2018 data taking periods are simulated with the PYTHIA 8.205 event generator at LO with the CUETP8M1 tune, based on the NNPDF2.3LO [86] parton distribution function (PDF). All production processes are generated simultaneously using the PYTHIA option for inclusive production (`susy:all = on`), which includes all possible processes and not only those indicated in Figure 4.1. The relative rates of each process is proportional to its corresponding LO cross section. The total cross section is subsequently re-weighted to match the cross section computed with NLO plus next-to-leading-log (NLL) precision in the limit of mass-degenerate higgsino $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$, $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$, and $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ with all the other sparticles assumed to be heavy and decoupled.

Generated events are subsequently processed with the CMS fast detector simulation program FastSim [87, 88], which yields results that are generally consistent with those from GEANT4. For each model point, $5 \cdot 10^5$ events have been generated in the grid represented in Figure 4.4. To achieve higher statistical precision for the same computing requirements, only the subset of events passing a generator-level event filter consisting of the requirement $H_T > 180$ GeV has been simulated using FastSim. H_T is computed as the scalar sum of the p_T of generator-level AK4 jets with $p_T > 30$ GeV and $\eta < 5.0$.

The lifetimes of the electroweakinos are determined from phase space using the spectrum generator package SUSYHIT [89]. A scan is performed in the dimensions of Δm^\pm and the higgsino mass.

The dominant decay of the chargino in such models is to hadrons, most often a single soft pion, via an off-shell W boson; we assume a branching fraction of 100%. The Z^* is assumed to decay primarily to hadrons, with a branching fraction to leptons of 10%.

4.4.3 Collected data samples

We analyze the 13 TeV dataset collected during 2016, 2017, and 2018 with the CMS detector. For 2016 and 2017 we used the `17Jul2018 re-reco` and `31Mar2018 re-reco` versions, respectively, while for 2018 we used we used the `17Sep2018 re-reco` for periods A-C and a combination of the `22Jan2019 re-prompt reco` and the `prompt-reco` datasets for period D.

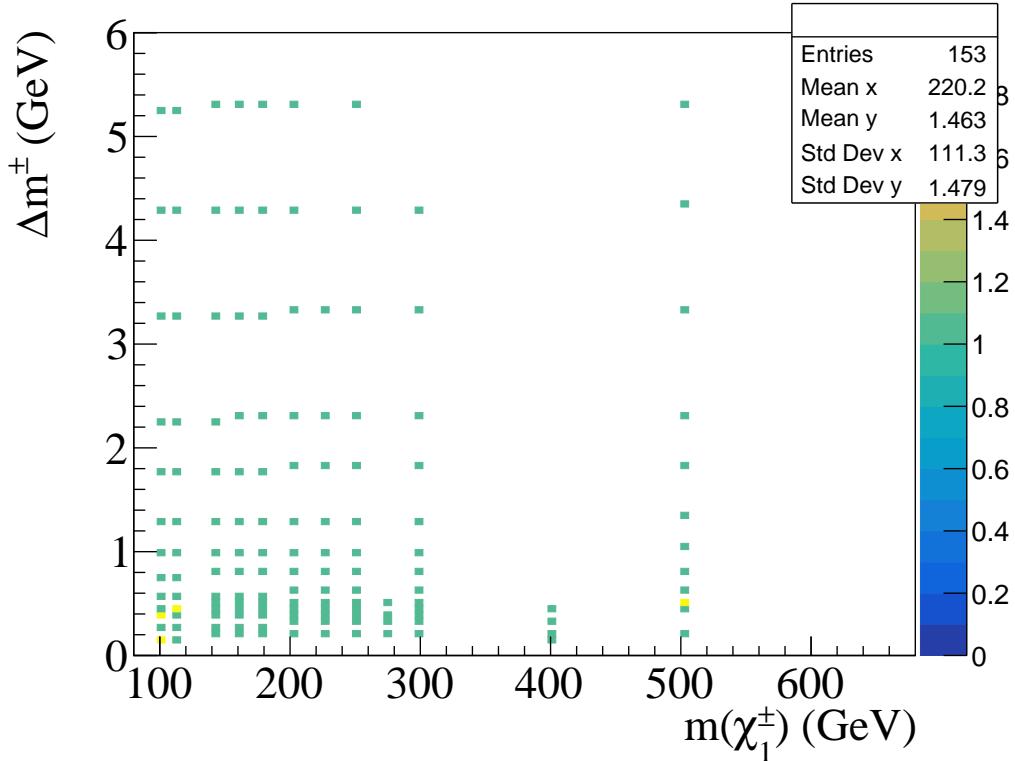


Figure 4.4: Distribution of the grid of model points chosen for simulation.

Table 4.1 lists the integrated luminosities for the primary datasets used, split up by data-taking period, for each of the years. The data set is measured to correspond to 137.2 fb^{-1} using the BRIL Work Suite [90].

Table 4.1: Data sets collected from three years of data-taking. All $\int \mathcal{L} dt$ are listed in fb^{-1} and are calculated using the BRIL Work Suite [90].

2016 Data set	—	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total
MET	—	5.82	2.62	4.29	3.92	3.14	7.65	8.74	36.17
SingleElectron	—	5.81	2.62	4.29	4.06	3.13	7.64	8.73	36.27
2017 Data set	—	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total
MET	—	4.57	8.91	2.42	10.36	15.13	—	—	41.39
SingleElectron	—	4.70	9.26	4.43	10.02	13.03	—	—	41.44
2018 Data set	A	B	C	D	—	—	—	—	Total
MET	14.01	5.06	6.72	32.65	—	—	—	—	58.43

4.5 Signal signature and base selection

To develop an effective analysis strategy, the signal kinematics are studied and exploited. The production and decay of electroweakinos give rise to unique event characteristics that can be leveraged to differentiate the signal from the SM background. Distributions of key observables from signal and background processes are compared in order to define a preselection or set of base cuts that retains the maximum signal while rejecting as much background as possible. All the following distributions of key observables were generated by weighting the simulated data to the Run II luminosity of $\mathcal{L} = 135 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ and requiring at least one jet in the event with $p_T \geq 30 \text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta| < 2.4$. Discussion is provided for each event property, and the incorporation of additional selection criteria is specified building toward the base selection.

4.5.1 Missing transverse energy

A driving factor for most searches for DM at the LHC is the presence of a DM candidate in the final state. The identity and properties of the particle (or particles in the case of multiple DM candidates) vary, but they do have much in common. In this SUSY search, the DM candidate is the LSP, assumed to be a neutralino. A neutral particle that does not interact electromagnetically or via the strong force (i.e., is colorless) will not be detected and will leave traces in the form of a transverse momentum imbalance, which is referred to as E_T^{miss} (missing transverse energy or missing transverse momentum). Because of R-parity conservation, the signal contains two DM candidates in the final state, which are the LSPs, the neutralinos $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$. Therefore, a considerable magnitude of E_T^{miss} is expected in the signal. As described in Section 4.6.4, a suitable proxy for the E_T^{miss} is the missing transverse hadronic energy, or H_T^{miss} , which is highly correlated with E_T^{miss} , but better suited to the definition of lepton isolation and its use in the background estimation methods. Both E_T^{miss} and H_T^{miss} observables are examined in Figure 4.5.

As expected, E_T^{miss} and H_T^{miss} are largely unaffected by the different choices for Δm , while the higgsino parameter μ affects the distributions mainly through its falling production cross section as a function of the higgsino parameter μ . The region of interest in order to be efficient with respect to the triggers is located at $H_T^{\text{miss}} \geq 220 \text{ GeV}$, as discussed in Section 4.8. Although this is a harsh and inefficient cut, it becomes apparent when examining the SM background in both regions of $H_T^{\text{miss}} < 220 \text{ GeV}$ and $H_T^{\text{miss}} \geq 220 \text{ GeV}$ to conclude that most of the sensitivity comes from the $H_T^{\text{miss}} \geq 220 \text{ GeV}$ region, as the production of real H_T^{miss} (or E_T^{miss}) results from the production of neutrinos in the event. These are much less common than Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) events that dominate the $H_T^{\text{miss}} < 220 \text{ GeV}$ region.

4.5.2 Jets and hardronic activity

As mentioned in the previous section, signal events tend to have small momentum imbalance. In order to induce significant missing transverse energy, some additional activity must take place within the events, and this most often comes in the form of one or more Initial State Radiation (ISR) jets. An ISR jet is created when one of the incoming protons emits radiation (such as a quark or a gluon) before the interaction. If a jet with sufficiently high p_T is emitted, the remainder of the interaction is recoiled against this jet and imparts momentum onto the system of invisible particles in the opposite direction. As a result, the boosted neutralinos $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ give rise to higher H_T^{miss} . As described in Section 4.6.5, the jets are required to have $p_T \geq 30 \text{ GeV}$ and be located within the tracker acceptance ($|\eta| < 2.4$). At least one such jet is required in each event. The distributions of the number of jets and the leading jet p_T are displayed in Figure 4.6.

The signal signature rarely includes a b-jet, that is, a jet resulting from the hadronization of a bottom quark. However, standard model top quark pair production leads to a large numbers

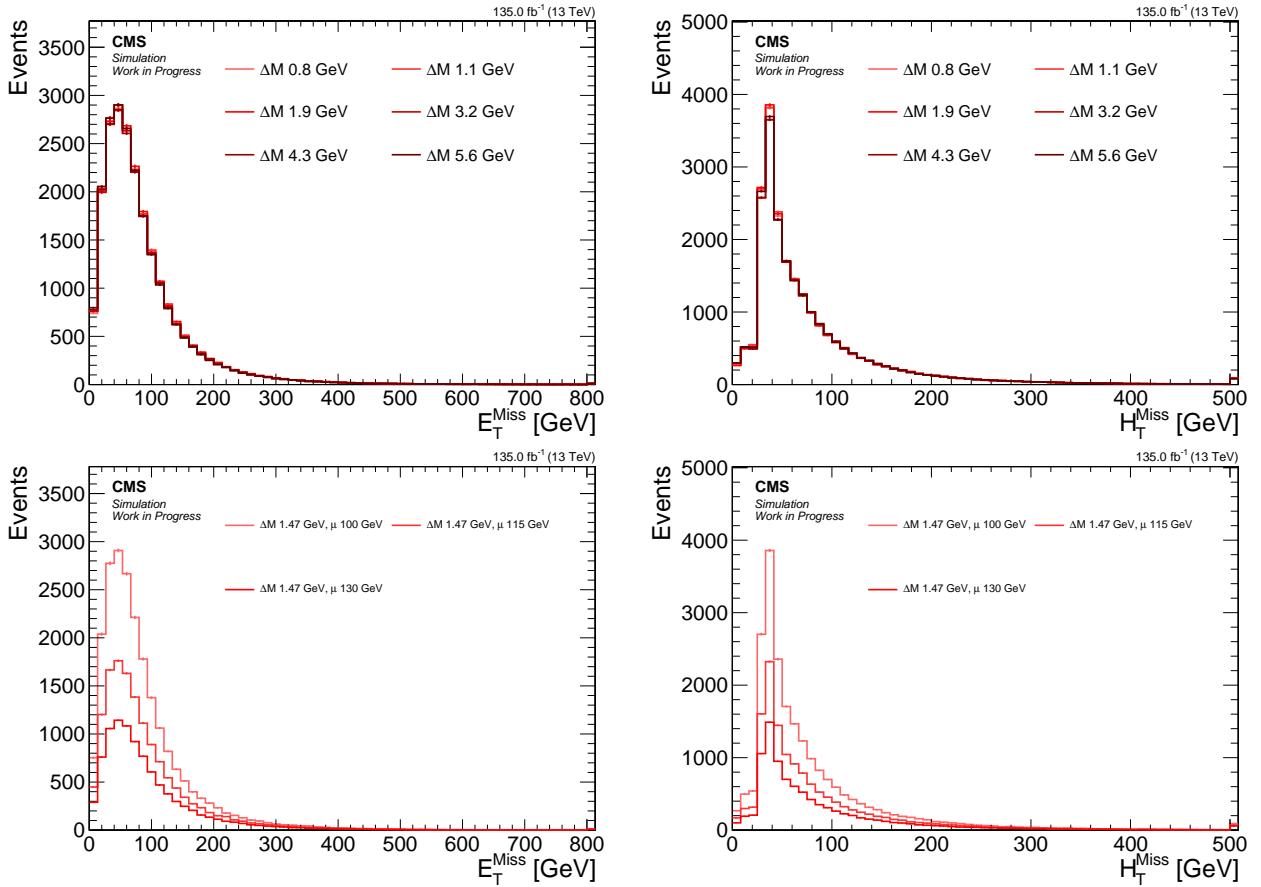


Figure 4.5: Signal distributions of E_T^{miss} (left) and H_T^{miss} (right) comparing various Δm with a fixed higgsino parameter $\mu = 100$ GeV (upper), and comparing various μ with fixed $\Delta m = 1.47$ GeV (lower).

of events with significant missing transverse energy and two or more b-jets. To reject this background, events are vetoed if a b-jet is identified in the event. As described in Section 4.6.5, the DEEPCSV bottom flavor tagging discriminant with a medium working point is used. The multiplicity of b-tagged jets is shown in Figure 4.7, where the choice of number of b-tagged jets equals to zero appears well-justified.

As an ISR jet is required in the event, it is expected that the E_T^{miss} and the H_T^{miss} will be directed in the opposite direction of the jet, or at an azimuthal angle close to π . This feature is not as clearly observed in events with multiple jets in the SM background, such as those arising from QCD, where the missing transverse energy tends to align with the leading or sub-leading jet. To reduce the QCD background, a requirement of $\min \Delta\phi(\vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}}, \vec{j}) > 0.4$ is imposed.

4.5.3 Base selection

The section is recapped by summarizing the base selection of the analysis. The base selection, also known interchangeably as the preselection, is applied to all analysis categories. It is listed in Table 4.5.3.

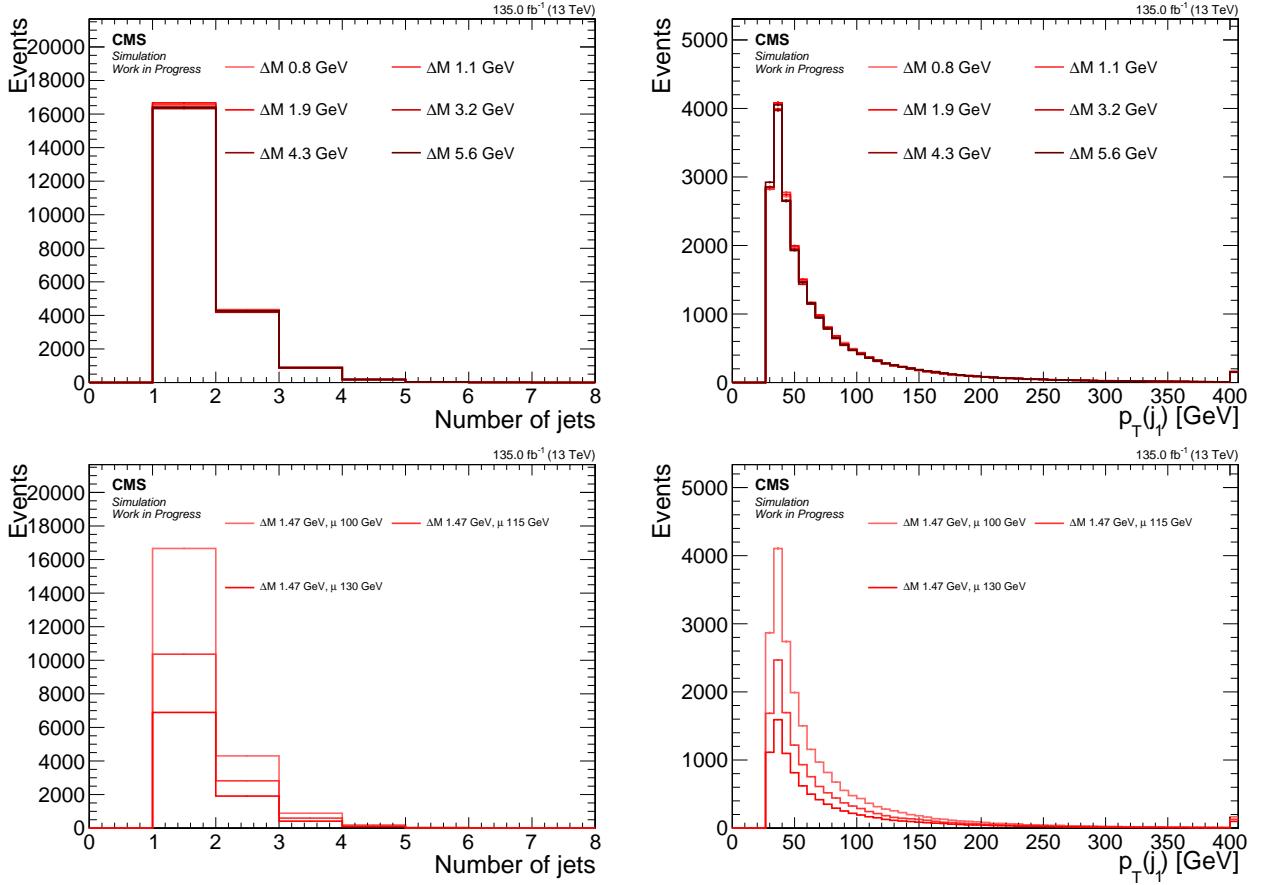


Figure 4.6: Signal distributions of *number of jets* (left) and *leading jet p_T* (right) comparing various Δm with a fixed higgsino parameter $\mu = 100$ GeV (upper), and comparing various μ with fixed $\Delta m = 1.47$ GeV (lower).

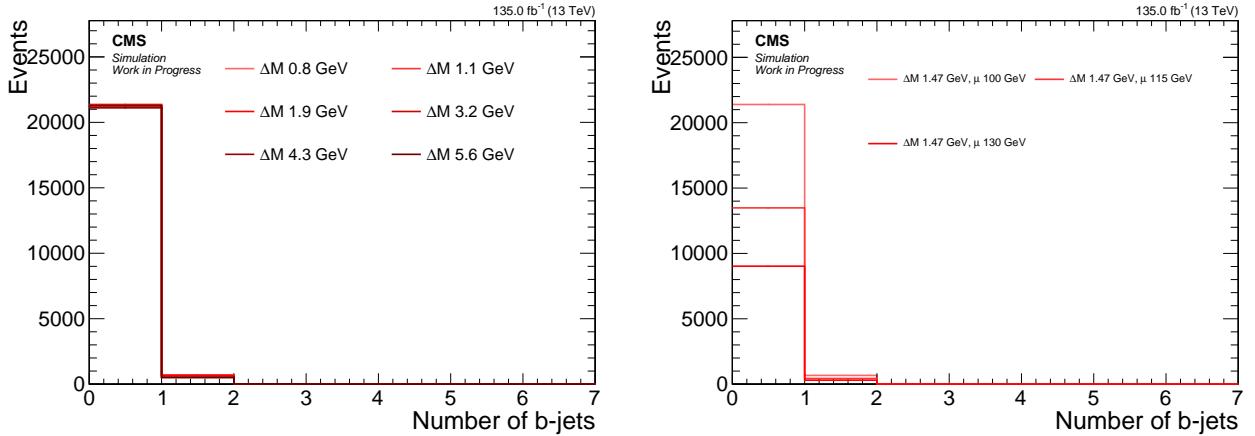


Figure 4.7: Signal distributions of *number of b-tagged jets* comparing various Δm with a fixed higgsino parameter $\mu = 100$ GeV (left), and comparing various μ with fixed $\Delta m = 1.47$ GeV (right).

Table 4.2: The preselection criteria, which are applied to all analysis categories.

Variable	Value
$H_T^{\text{miss}} [\text{GeV}]$	> 220
$N_{\text{jets}} (p_T \geq 30 \text{ GeV} \text{ and } \eta < 2.4)$	≥ 1
$N_{\text{b-jets}} (p_T \geq 30 \text{ GeV} \text{ and } \eta < 2.4)$	$= 0$
$\min \Delta\phi (\vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}}, \vec{j})$	> 0.4

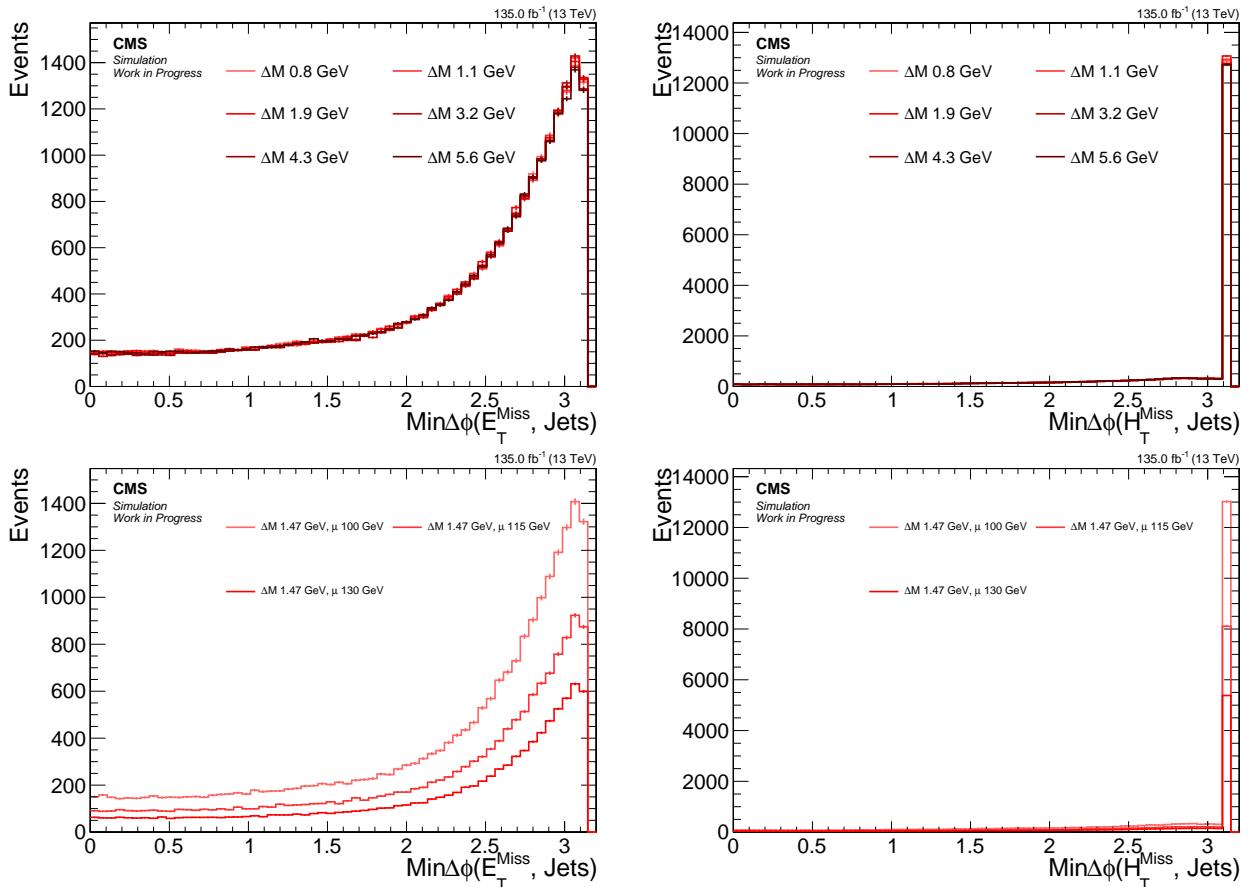


Figure 4.8: Signal distributions of $\text{min} \Delta\phi(\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}}, \vec{j})$ (left) and $\text{min} \Delta\phi(\vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}}, \vec{j})$ (right) comparing various Δm with a fixed higgsino parameter $\mu = 100 \text{ GeV}$ (upper), and comparing various μ with fixed $\Delta m = 1.47 \text{ GeV}$ (lower).

4.5.4 Lepton kinematics

The hadronic component of signal events has been the focus up until this point. However, the dilepton system contains the most distinctive features of the signal. To fully understand the unique phase space of the dilepton system, generator level distributions are examined first, followed by an exploration of the effects of reconstruction on those observables. Since the dimuon category is the most sensitive and because the logic applies analogously to the two-electron final state, the electron category is excluded from the following sections. The lepton kinematics change dramatically as a function of Δm . In contrast, the higgsino parameter μ effects almost only the overall normalization due to the different production cross section. Therefore, the higgsino parameter is set to $\mu = 100$ GeV in the following sections, with the Δm varied.

4.5.4.1 Lepton η and transverse momentum p_T

The signal acceptance and sensitivity are significantly impacted by the thresholds of the transverse momentum p_T distribution of the muons that make it through the reconstruction and identification. The selection applied to the muons in this analysis is described in Section 4.6.2 and referred to as the *analysis selection*. This section aims to examine the importance of the p_T on the signal and its dilepton kinematic distributions.

The generator level distribution of p_T , or the so-called *truth* distributions, which do not exhibit any detector or reconstruction features, are examined first. The distribution of reconstructed p_T is then compared with the generator level distribution in Figure 4.9.

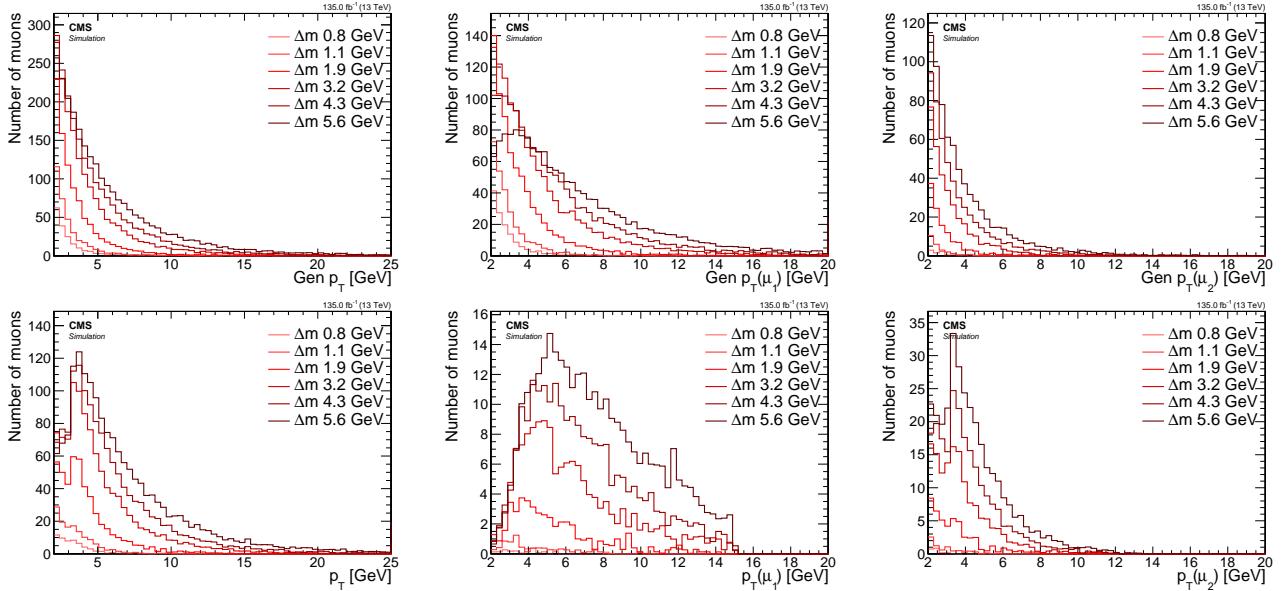


Figure 4.9: Signal p_T distributions for inclusive (left), leading muon μ_1 (middle), subleading muon μ_2 (right) at generator level (top) and reconstruction level passing analysis selection (bottom).

When comparing the generator level and reconstruction level inclusive p_T distributions, it becomes apparent that a reshaping occurs around 3 GeV. A significant proportion of the generated muons with $p_T < 3$ GeV are lost in the reconstruction process. The subleading muon p_T distribution at the reconstruction level has a camel shape, whereby the efficiency drops below a p_T of 3 GeV to about half its maximum value and is only partially regained at $p_T > 3$ GeV. This effect is due to the detector geometry and is more clearly visible when splitting the p_T distribution into a barrel ($|\eta| < 1.2$) and encaps ($|\eta| \geq 1.2$) portions, as shown in Figure 4.10.

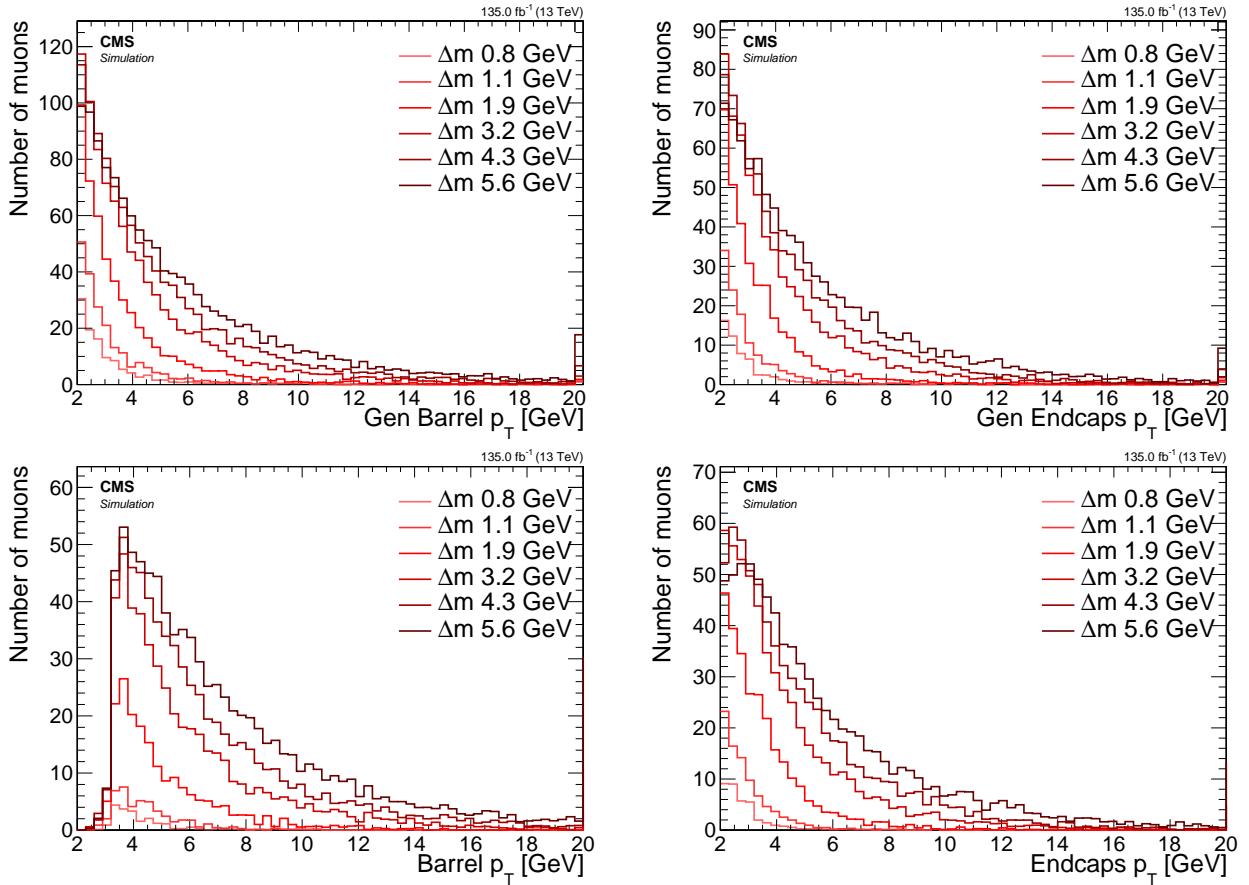


Figure 4.10: Signal inclusive p_T distributions for barrel $|\eta| < 1.2$ (left) and endcaps $|\eta| \geq 1.2$ (right) at generator level (top) and reconstruction level passing analysis selection (bottom).

When comparing the generator level distribution of the barrel muons on the top left with its reconstructed counterpart on the bottom left, Figure 4.10 shows that the barrel, shown on the left, is almost completely unable to reconstruct muons with $p_T < 3$ GeV, while the endcaps, shown on the right, are able to do so. As demonstrated in the upcoming sections on $m_{\ell\ell}$ and ΔR (see 4.5.4.2 and 4.5.4.3), the relationship between these observables has consequences for the reshaping of kinematic distributions, as well as for signal acceptance in general. Access to low Δm signal points is crucially dependent on the low p_T region of $2 \leq p_T \leq 3.5$ GeV, which is mainly achieved with the help of the muon chamber endcaps, as can be seen here.

Since the barrel and endcaps are separated by different regions of η , $|\eta| < 1.2$ for barrel and $|\eta| \geq 1.2$ for endcaps, the muon η distributions merit further examination as well. They can be seen at Figure 4.11. The dimuon analysis channel only selects muons within the tracker range of $|\eta| < 2.4$. This is why the muons with $|\eta| > 2.4$ are not present in the reconstruction plots on the bottom. It can be seen that the main effect of going from the inclusive $|\eta|$ at the generator level to the reconstructed counterpart is the flattening of the distribution due to the loss of muons with $|\eta| < 1.2$ in the barrel for muons with $p_T < 3$ GeV.

With the understanding of the reconstruction effects on the p_T and η distributions of the muons, an examination of other kinematic variables of the dilepton system is now possible.

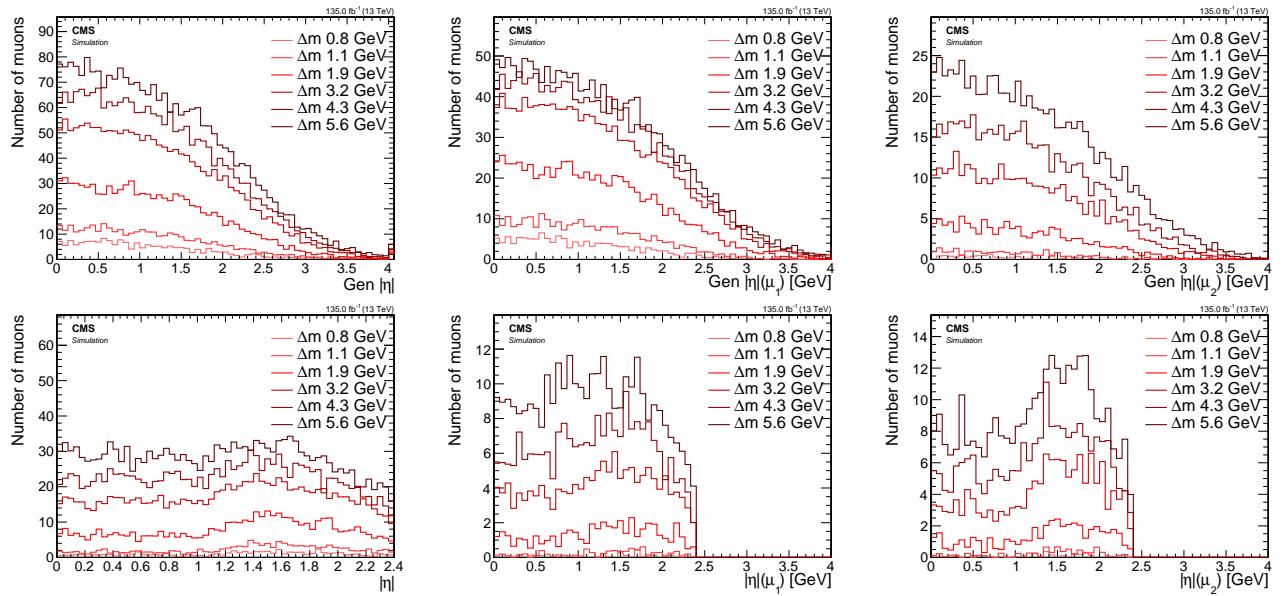


Figure 4.11: Signal $|\eta|$ distributions for inclusive (left), leading muon μ_1 (middle), subleading muon μ_2 (right) at generator level (top) and reconstruction level passing analysis selection (bottom).

4.5.4.2 Invariant mass $m_{\ell\ell}$

The invariant mass of the two leptons resulting from the decay of the $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ has a unique shape due to the limited allowed phase space of the 3-body decay. As the $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ decays into $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ and $\ell^+\ell^-$ through a Z^* , the allowed phase space of the dilepton pair is restricted to the mass difference between $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ and $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$, that is, Δm . Therefore, the $m_{\ell\ell}$ distribution is expected to have an edge at Δm . Distributions of the generator level invariant mass can be seen in Figure 4.12.

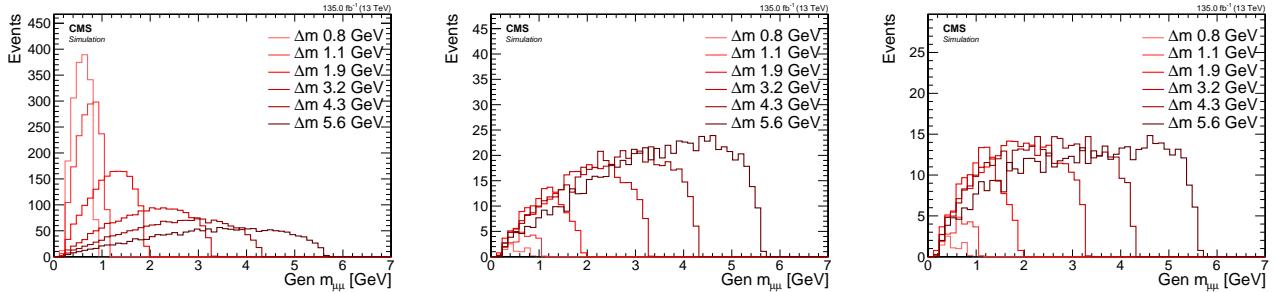


Figure 4.12: Signal generator level $m_{\ell\ell}$ distributions with no cuts (left), with $p_T(\mu_i) > 2$ GeV, $i = 1, 2$ (middle) and with the SOS orthogonality condition: $p_T(\mu_i) > 2$ GeV, $p_T(\mu_2) \leq 3.5$ GeV or $\Delta R \leq 0.3$ (right).

The inclusive distribution of the invariant mass of the muons $m_{\mu\mu}$ is shown on the left. The edge of the $m_{\mu\mu}$ distribution for each signal point is located right at the corresponding Δm . However, when the muons p_T is required to be $p_T \geq 2$ GeV, the shape of the distribution shifts, due to the lower efficiency for small Δm values, as depicted in the middle plot. Lastly, the effect of orthogonalizing phase space to the SOS analysis is demonstrated in the rightmost plot. The effect is strongest in high Δm and quite subtle in low Δm .

To explain the reshaping that occurs to the $m_{\mu\mu}$ distribution, the relationship between the p_T of the muons and the invariant mass is examined. One signal with low Δm of 1.13 GeV and one with high Δm of 5.63 GeV are selected for this analysis. The distributions are shown in Figure 4.13, leading muon denoted μ_1 while subleading muon is denoted μ_2 .

Earlier, it was established that the invariant mass distribution has an edge at Δm , and the value of Δm can be read from these plots. Another interesting feature is a lower edge in the Δm distribution at around ~ 0.2 GeV, which is due to each muon having a mass of around ~ 0.1 GeV. It is now clear that by requiring both muons to have $p_T \geq 2$ GeV, a significant portion of the signal is lost. This effect becomes particularly substantial for the low $\Delta m = 1.13$ GeV (top row). The magnitude of this effect is quantified by a cutflow, shown in Table 4.5.4.2, where each row represents a cut, and its efficiency is calculated by dividing the number of events passing the cut by the number of events in the previous line. The first line the number of events with exactly 2 muons at the generator level with at least one jet with $p_T \geq 30$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$. The event number is weighted to Run II luminosity of $\mathcal{L} = 135 \text{ fb}^{-1}$.

Table 4.3: Generator level efficiency on muons selections

Cut	Weighted number of events	Efficiency	
	$\Delta m = 1.13 \text{ GeV}$ $\Delta m = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$	$\Delta m = 1.13 \text{ GeV}$	$\Delta m = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$
Baseline	1710.7 1743.9	-	-
$p_T \geq 2 \text{ GeV}$	24.7 724.9	0.015	0.41
SOS orthogonality	24.7 490.6	1	0.68

Table 4.5.4.2 shows that for the low Δm of 1.13 GeV, the acceptance of the signal is significantly reduced by the $p_T \geq 2$ GeV cut, with only 1.5% of the signal remaining. In contrast, the

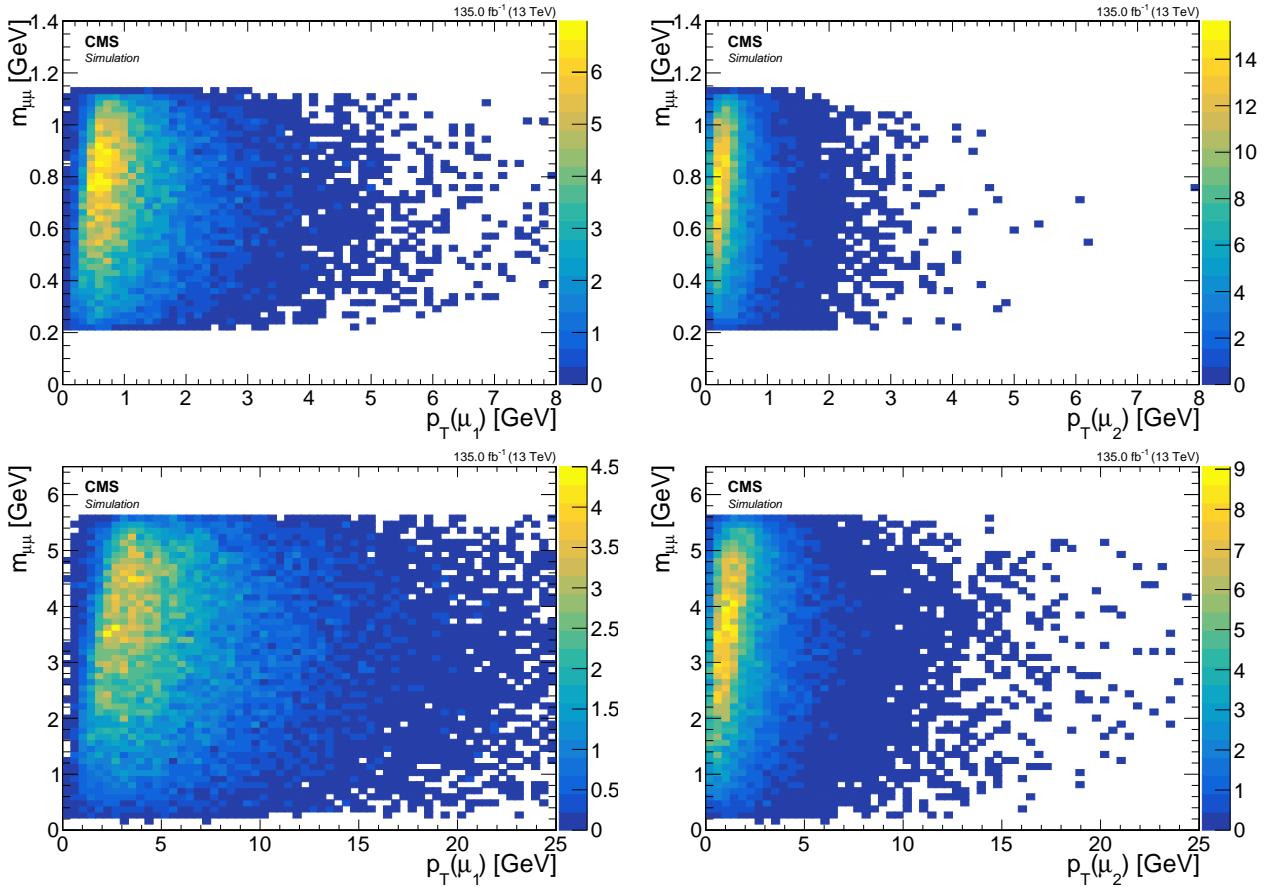


Figure 4.13: Signal $m_{\mu\mu}$ vs. p_T for leading lepton μ_1 (left) and subleading lepton μ_2 (right) for $\Delta m = 1.13 \text{ GeV}$ (top) and $\Delta m = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$ (bottom).

orthogonality condition of requiring $p_T(\mu_2) \leq 3.5 \text{ GeV}$ or $\Delta R(\ell\ell) \leq 0.3$ does not affect it any further. The situation is different for the high Δm of 5.63 GeV , where the p_T cut rejects more than half of the signal and the SOS orthogonality condition rejects an additional two thirds.

It has been established that the p_T thresholds affect the $m_{\ell\ell}$ distribution due to the relationship between the two variables. Next, it is investigated how the reconstruction discussed in Section 4.5.4.1 impacts the $m_{\mu\mu}$ distribution. The distributions of the reconstructed $m_{\mu\mu}$ can be seen in Figure 4.14. Comparing these distributions to the two right plots in Figure 4.12 not only are fewer events surviving the reconstruction, but also some Δm model points are peaking between 1 GeV to 2 GeV with the SOS orthogonality condition applied.

4.5.4.3 Lepton separation ΔR

The lepton separation is defined by the equation $\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$, where η represents the pseudorapidity and ϕ is the azimuthal angle measured in radians. The value of ΔR is significant in this analysis because the produced leptons tend to be located in close proximity to each other and therefore are not easily isolated according to standard definitions. Special attention is given to ensuring that the collimated nature of the leptons can be used to differentiate signal leptons from the non-isolated leptons in the SM background. It is worth noting that, for the purposes of orthogonality, the requirement of $\Delta R(\ell\ell) > 0.3$ utilized in previous SOS analysis [81] is reverted.

Similar to the invariant mass discussed in Section 4.5.4.2, we examine the distributions of ΔR for various Δm options with different cuts applied to observe their effect. The left plot of Figure 4.15 shows that roughly the same number of events are produced for all Δm model

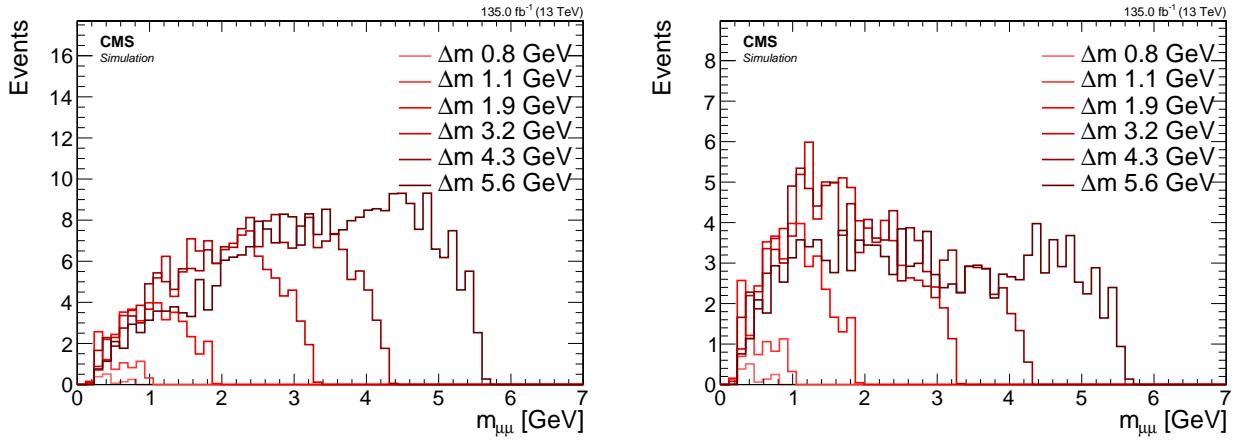


Figure 4.14: Distributions of reconstructed $m_{\mu\mu}$ in signal events with analysis selection (left) and the additional SOS orthogonality condition (right).

points. However, when applying a cut of $p_T(\mu) > 2 \text{ GeV}$, a hierarchy of Δm points emerges, with fewer events as Δm becomes smaller (middle plot). The spike on the right plot is due to the SOS orthogonality condition, which requires $\Delta R(\ell\ell) \leq 0.3$ as one of two conditions that must be satisfied.

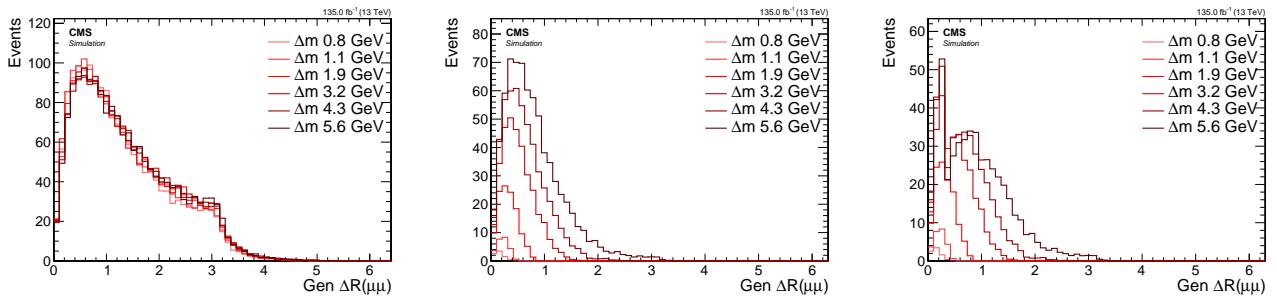


Figure 4.15: Signal generator level ΔR distributions with no cuts (left), with $p_T(\mu_i) > 2 \text{ GeV}$, $i = 1, 2$ (middle) and with SOS orthogonality condition $p_T(\mu_1) > 2 \text{ GeV}$, $p_T(\mu_2) \leq 3.5 \text{ GeV}$ or $\Delta R \leq 0.3$ (right).

To understand the shaping and hierarchy formation due to the p_T cut, the p_T of the muons is plotted vs. $\Delta R(\ell\ell)$ in Figure 4.16. Requiring $p_T(\mu_2) \geq 2 \text{ GeV}$ for $\Delta m = 1.13 \text{ GeV}$ limits the range of $\Delta R(\mu\mu)$ to less than 0.4, while leaving a large range exceeding 3 for the $\Delta m = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$ model point. To gain access and sensitivity to the low Δm model points, allowing small $\Delta R(\ell\ell)$ values, less than 0.3 is necessary, even before considering the reconstruction efficiency of the leptons. In the next sections, the study of reconstructed leptons and the isolation criteria will enable the retention of signal points with highly-columnated lepton pairs, as further explored in Section 4.6.7.

As seen in Section 4.5.4.2 for $m_{\mu\mu}$, reconstruction has an effect on both the shape and overall count of events. The effects on the $\Delta R(\mu\mu)$ distributions are investigated in Figure 4.17.

Comparing Figure 4.17 and Figure 4.15, the main effect of the reconstruction on the $\Delta R(\mu\mu)$ is the overall normalization, which is due to reconstruction efficiency.

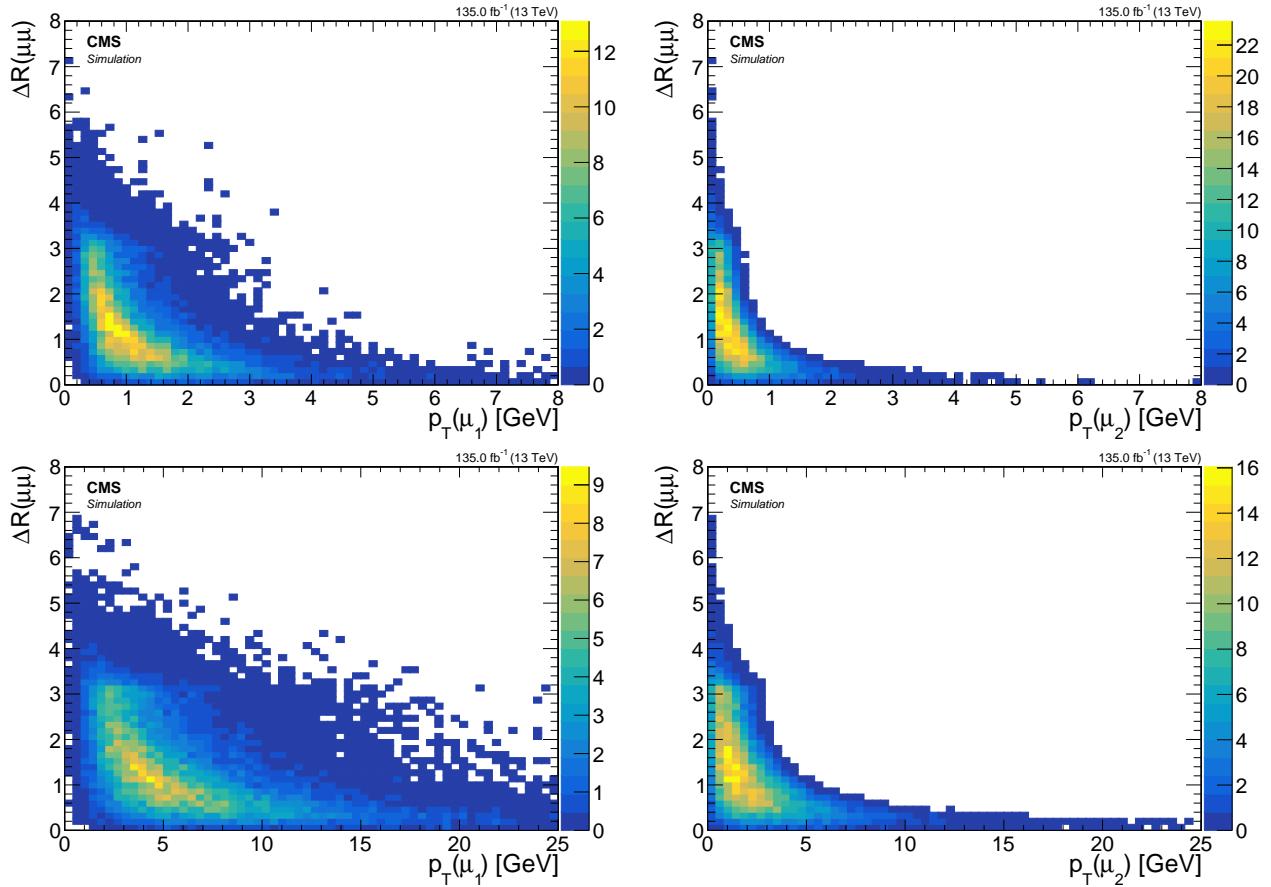


Figure 4.16: Event distributions in the plane of $\Delta R(\mu\mu)$ vs. p_T for leading lepton μ_1 (left) and subleading lepton μ_2 (right) for signal models with $\Delta m = 1.13 \text{ GeV}$ (top) and $\Delta m = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$ (bottom).

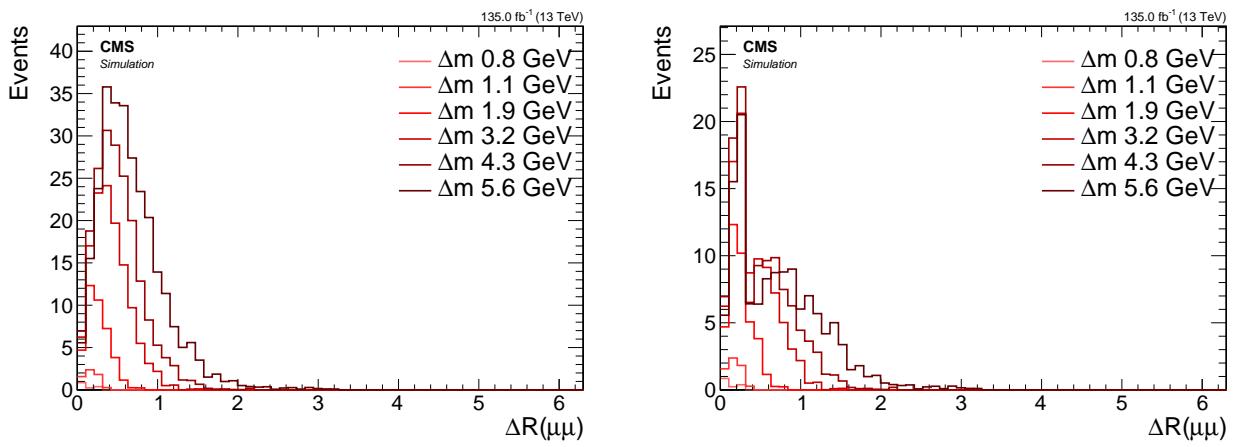


Figure 4.17: Distributions of the reconstructed $\Delta R(\mu\mu)$ with preselection applied (left) and the additional SOS orthogonality condition (right).

4.5.5 Main drivers of sensitivity

The above studies reveal the main drivers of the sensitivity to different model points of this analysis, and may inform future analysis strategies that expand on the current work. This section has not explicitly included SM background in the plots, making it hard to conclude what effects changing the cuts to E_T^{miss} or other event level observables might have. However, it is very clear from examining the dilepton kinematics that for low Δm model points, regions with low p_T and ΔR contain the bulk of the signal events. Another driver of the sensitivity at all Δm model points is the luminosity, since the production cross section drops as a function of the higgsino mass parameter μ .

The next sections will explore how to lower the threshold on the muon transverse momentum and deal with collimated leptons that might pose a challenge in regards to the isolation criterion.

4.6 Object definition and selection

The signal signature was studied in Section 4.5. In this section, a set of object selection criteria is devised to obtain a sample that is as pure as possible with respect to the signal leptons, while still retaining as much signal as possible. As discussed in Section 4.3, the focus is on selecting opposite-charge, same-flavor leptons $\ell^+ \ell^-$ resulting from the $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ that decays into a $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ and a Z^* , i.e., $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$. Two choices of Δm^0 are presented in the following section: a relatively high Δm^0 of $\Delta m^0 = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$ and a low Δm^0 of $\Delta m^0 = 1.92 \text{ GeV}$, but not so low as to prevent enough electrons from surviving the initial reconstruction p_T threshold of 5 GeV. The higgsino parameter is fixed at $\mu = 100 \text{ GeV}$.

In Section 4.5, the base selection required at least one jet in the event with $p_T \geq 30 \text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta| < 2.4$, without any other selection. However, unlike in that section, objects are not weighted to any luminosity in this section, as the focus is on the proportion between object types. Two types of reconstructed leptons are differentiated: those originating from the targeted decay $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$, shown in blue, and those that do not, referred to as *other*, shown in yellow. Signal leptons are marked as such by matching a reconstructed lepton to a generator level lepton, which has been confirmed to have the $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ as its parent. Leptons marked as *other* may have been misreconstructed, misidentified, or may be a result of the hadronisation process in a jet (such as the ISR jet). The goal is to select as many blue leptons as possible while rejecting as many yellow ones as possible.

In the following sections, the term *efficiency* refers to the proportion of signal leptons passing a selection, divided by the initial number of signal leptons, and the term *purity* refers to the proportion of signal leptons (blue) to the sum of the signal leptons and *other* leptons (yellow). The goal is to find selection criteria with high efficiency and high purity. However, these two quantities can sometimes compete with each other, requiring compromises.

4.6.1 Electrons

The electrons are subject to an initial lower threshold on the reconstructed p_T 5 GeV, and are reconstructed using a loose working point (WP), as described in Section ???. The first distribution of interest regarding the electrons is their angular separation from the leading jet in the event, denoted as $\Delta R(j_1, e)$. The distributions are shown in Figure 4.18. Two key features are apparent. The first has already been discussed in Section 4.5, which is that probing lower Δm necessitates access to low p_T leptons. The threshold of $p_T \geq 5 \text{ GeV}$ on the electrons leads to reduced signal acceptance. This is evident from the difference between the high and low Δm cases. The second interesting feature is that the signal electrons are predominantly located outside the leading jet. This is because the leading jet is typically an ISR jet, which boosts the $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \tilde{\chi}_1^0$ system away from it, causing them to be back-to-back. Thus, a cut of $\Delta R(j_1, e) > 0.4$ is made to account for this.

Distributions of electron p_T are examined by applying the $\Delta R(j_1, e) > 0.4$ cut. It is observed that the p_T distribution depends strongly on the Δm , as previously seen for muons in Section 4.5.4.1. Thus, a choice must be made regarding which Δm to prioritize, and the lower Δm case is chosen for increased sensitivity. However, the two choices are compared in Figure 4.19. As expected, the p_T distribution of the electrons falls more rapidly for the low Δm case. It is observed that there are very few electrons surviving above 15 GeV. Therefore, a cut of $p_T < 15 \text{ GeV}$ is chosen. The η distribution is seen in Figure 4.20, after the previous cuts to gain a better understanding of where most of the non-signal electrons originate from. For the $\Delta m = 1.92 \text{ GeV}$ case, it can be clearly seen that the endcaps of the electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL) are performing worse compared to the barrel ($|\eta| < 1.48$). The transition is easily noticeable through a sharp drop in purity at the transition. This effect is most pronounced for

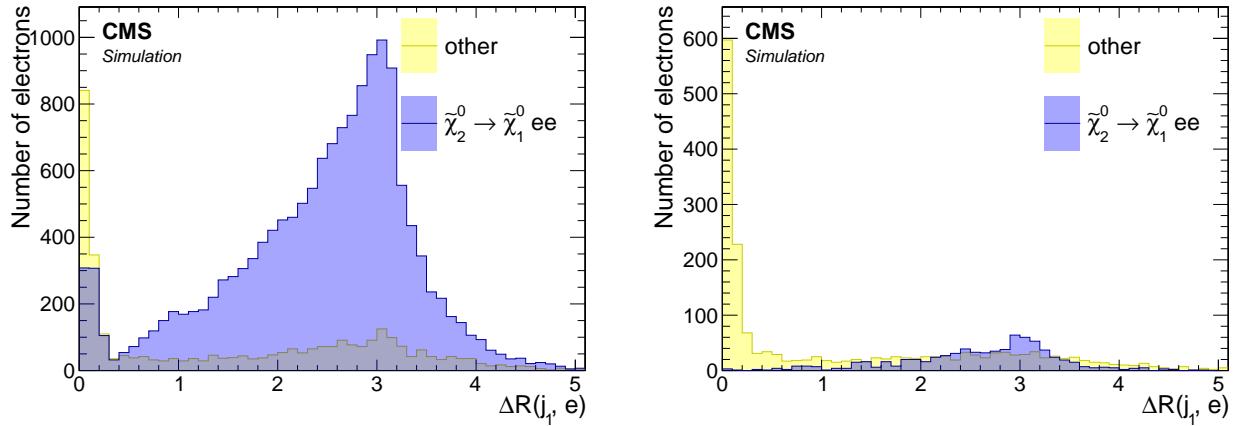


Figure 4.18: Angular separation between reconstructed electrons with loose ID and the leading jet $\Delta R(j_1, e)$ for $\Delta m = 5.63$ GeV (left) and $\Delta m = 1.92$ GeV (right).

low- p_T electrons.

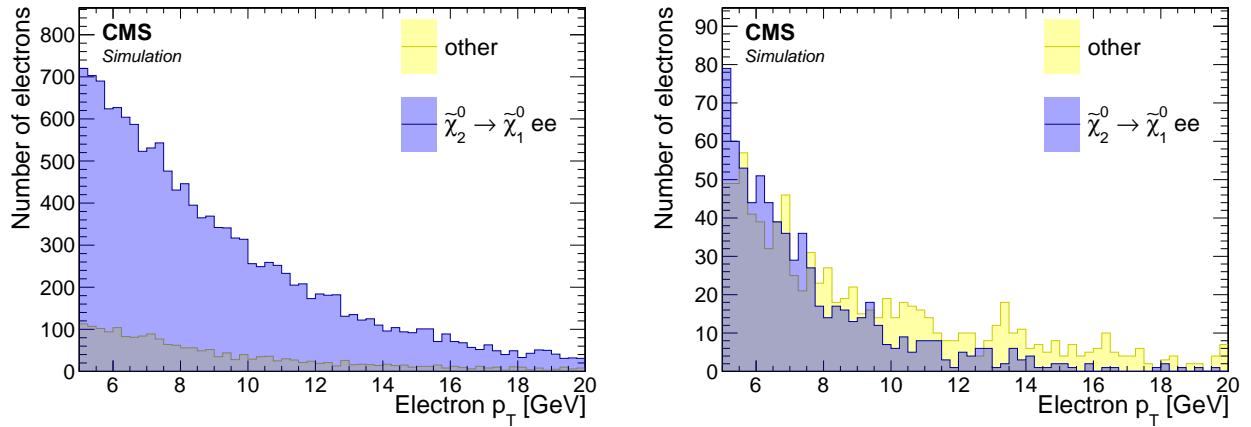


Figure 4.19: Distribution of reconstructed electron p_T with loose ID for $\Delta m = 5.63$ GeV (left) and $\Delta m = 1.92$ GeV (right). A cut of $\Delta R(j_1, e) > 0.4$ is applied.

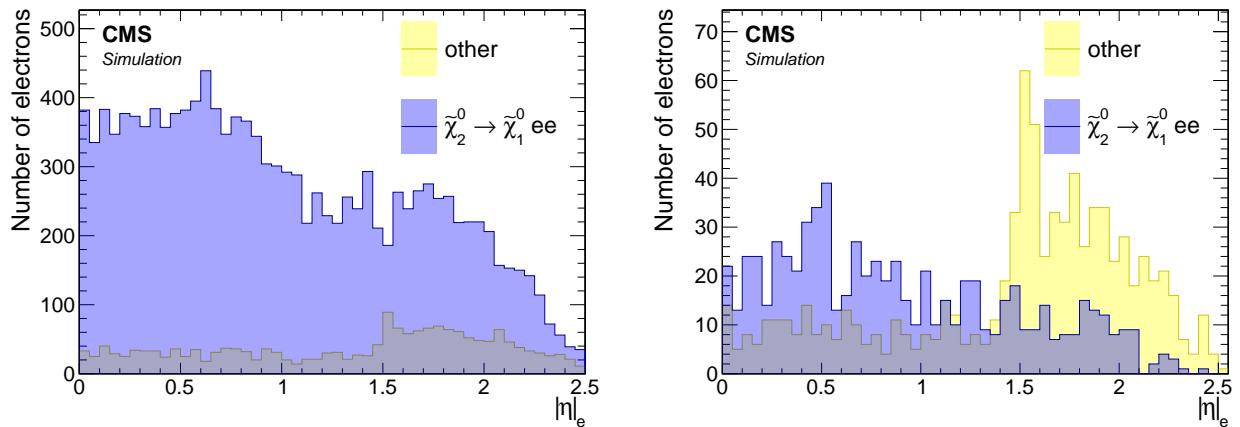


Figure 4.20: Distributions of $|\eta|$ of reconstructed electrons with loose ID for $\Delta m = 5.63$ GeV (left) and $\Delta m = 1.92$ GeV (right). Cuts of $\Delta R(j_1, e) > 0.4$ and $p_T < 15$ GeV are applied.

To determine whether a tighter WP for the electron-identification is beneficial, the effects of requiring either a Medium or a Tight WP are investigated. The WP previously used in

the distributions is the loose WP. Two bins labeled *fail* and *pass* indicate the frequency with which the electron fails or passes the identification criteria of Medium or Tight WPs. These bins are shown in Figure 4.21. A considerable fraction of non-signal electrons are rejected in the low Δm case by picking either a Medium or Tight WP, but a significant number of signal electrons are also lost. Therefore, using these selections is not very efficient and results in low signal acceptance. The decision is made to use a loose WP for the electrons, and instead rely on isolation to achieve higher purity.

The effect of isolation on the purity of the electrons is also examined. The jet-based isolation is discussed in detail in Section 4.6.7, but for the sake of completeness, its effect on the purity of the electrons is also shown here. The custom jet-based isolation is compared with the standard definition of lepton isolation, which does not take into account the possibility that two electrons can be produced with a small angle of separation (small ΔR), as is the case for signal models with small Δm . The isolation distributions are shown in Figure 4.22.

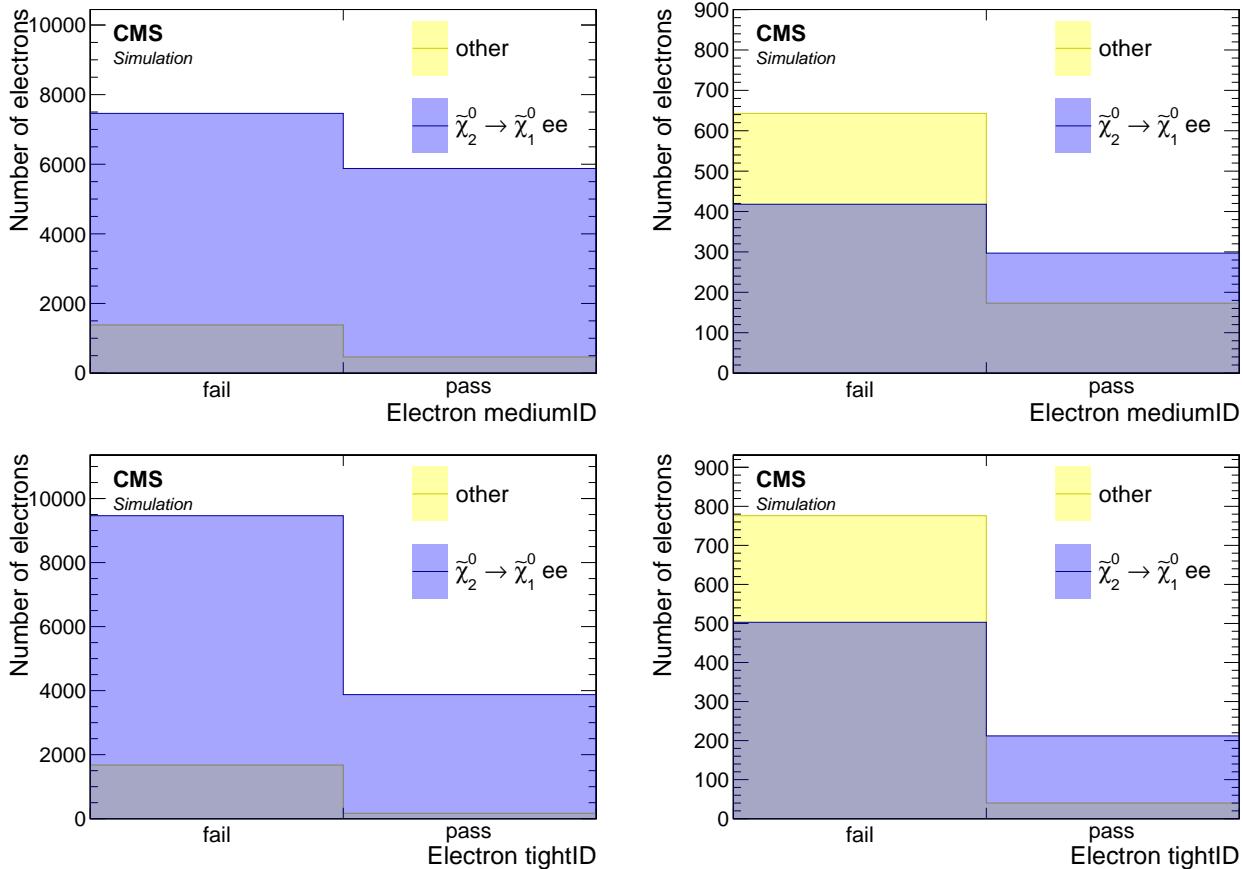


Figure 4.21: Medium (top) and Tight (bottom) ID WPs distributions of reconstructed electrons for $\Delta m = 5.63$ GeV (left) and $\Delta m = 1.92$ GeV (right). Cuts of $\Delta R(j_1, e) > 0.4$ and $p_T < 15$ GeV are applied to the electrons.

The standard lepton isolation is not efficient for both Δm cases, while the custom jet-isolation performs well in terms of signal electron efficiency and successfully rejects a considerable amount of non-signal electrons. This results in a purer sample of electrons, and thus the choice of custom jet-isolation is concluded to be favorable. The effect of this choice on the η distribution is also examined in Figure 4.23, concluding the selection of electrons. The custom jet-isolation optimally purifies the electron sample while retaining a high signal efficiency, compared to distributions in Figure 4.20.

In summary, the following is the full set of selection criteria the analysis electrons:

- $5 < p_T < 15$ GeV;

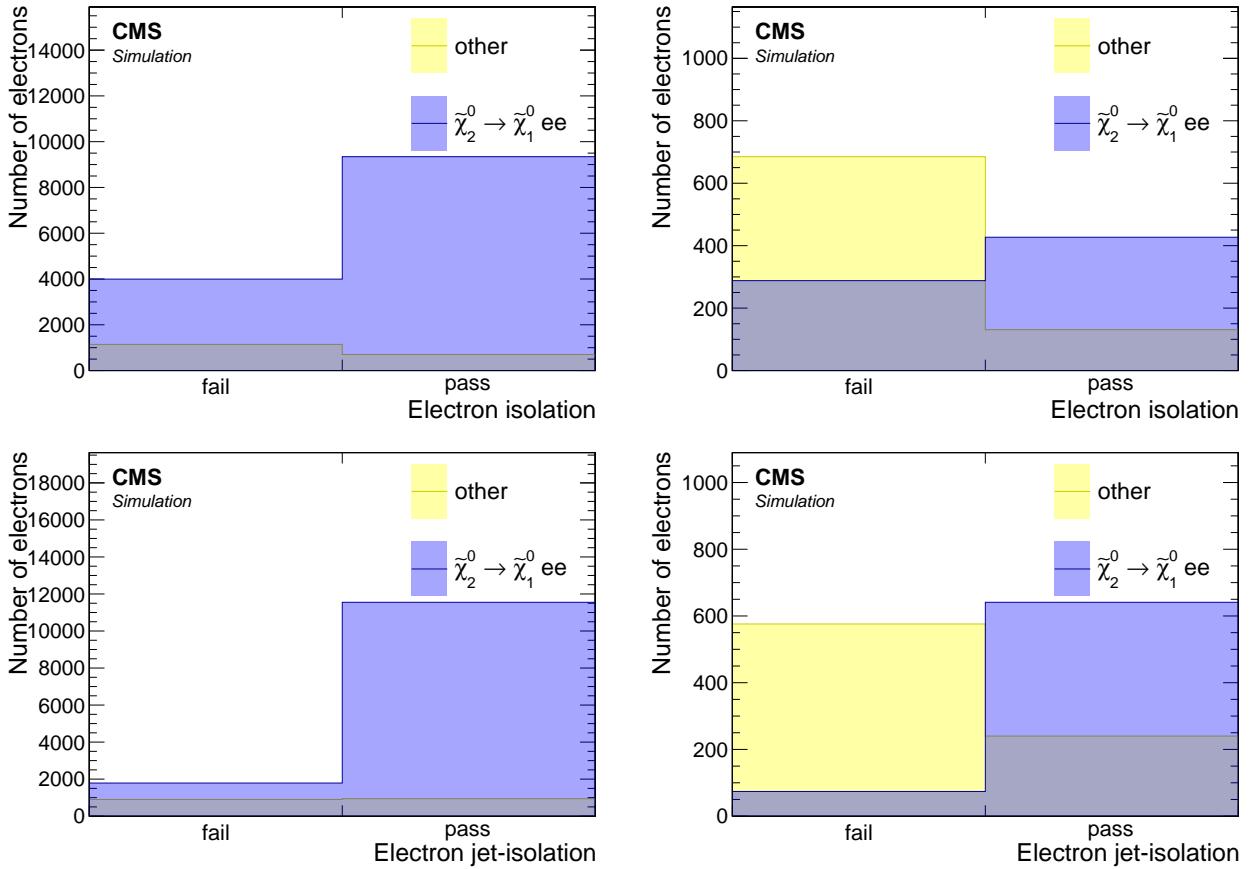


Figure 4.22: Standard isolation (top) and custom jet-isolation (bottom) distributions of reconstructed electrons with loose ID for $\Delta m = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$ (left) and $\Delta m = 1.92 \text{ GeV}$ (right). Cuts of $\Delta R(j_1, e) > 0.4$ and $p_T < 15 \text{ GeV}$ are applied.

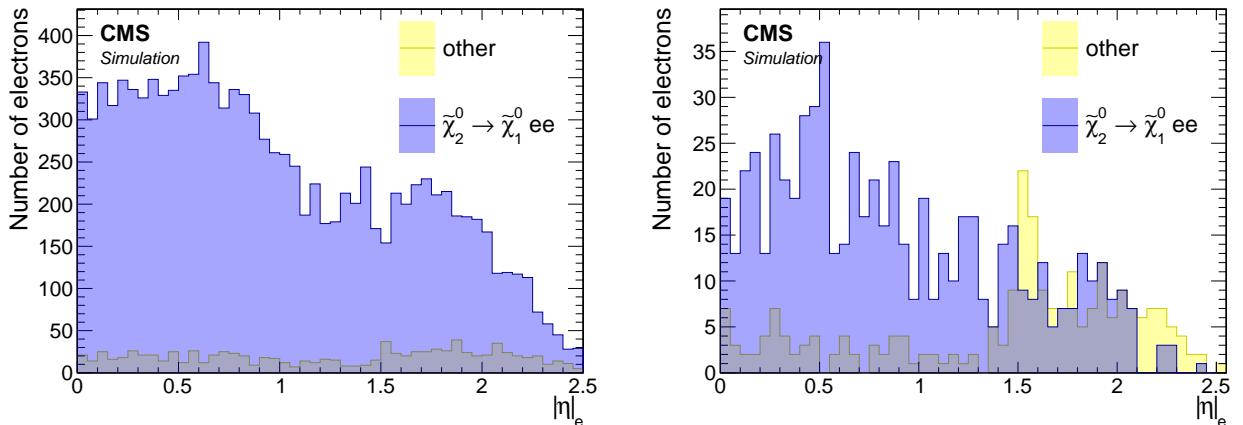


Figure 4.23: $|\eta|$ distribution of reconstructed electrons with loose ID passing jet-isolation for $\Delta m = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$ (left) and $\Delta m = 1.92 \text{ GeV}$ (right). Cuts of $\Delta R(j_1, e) > 0.4$ and $p_T < 15 \text{ GeV}$ are applied.

- $|\eta| < 2.5$;
- $\Delta R(j_1, e) > 0.4$;
- loose ID WP;
- pass jet-isolation.

4.6.2 Muons

The p_T threshold for reconstructed muons is significantly lower than that of electrons, making this channel particularly promising in terms of signal acceptance for low Δm models. As was the case for electrons, the initial WP choice for reconstructed muons is loose (more information in ??), and an analogous procedure is now followed for muons. The angular separation of muons from the leading jet in the event, $\Delta R(j_1, \mu)$, is the first distribution examined. As shown in Figure 4.10, the muon endcaps are capable of reconstructing muons with $p_T < 3$ GeV while the barrel is not. Therefore, a split view of barrel and endcaps is shown in Figure 4.24. Because the endcaps accept muons with lower p_T than the barrel, and because of the generally higher occupancy of tracks in the forward region, the purity in the endcaps is much lower than that in the barrel. The selection developed here attempts to further purify the somewhat contaminated barrel muon sample. Muons with $\Delta R(j_1, \mu) > 0.4$ are selected as in the electrons case, and this selection will apply for the rest of the section.

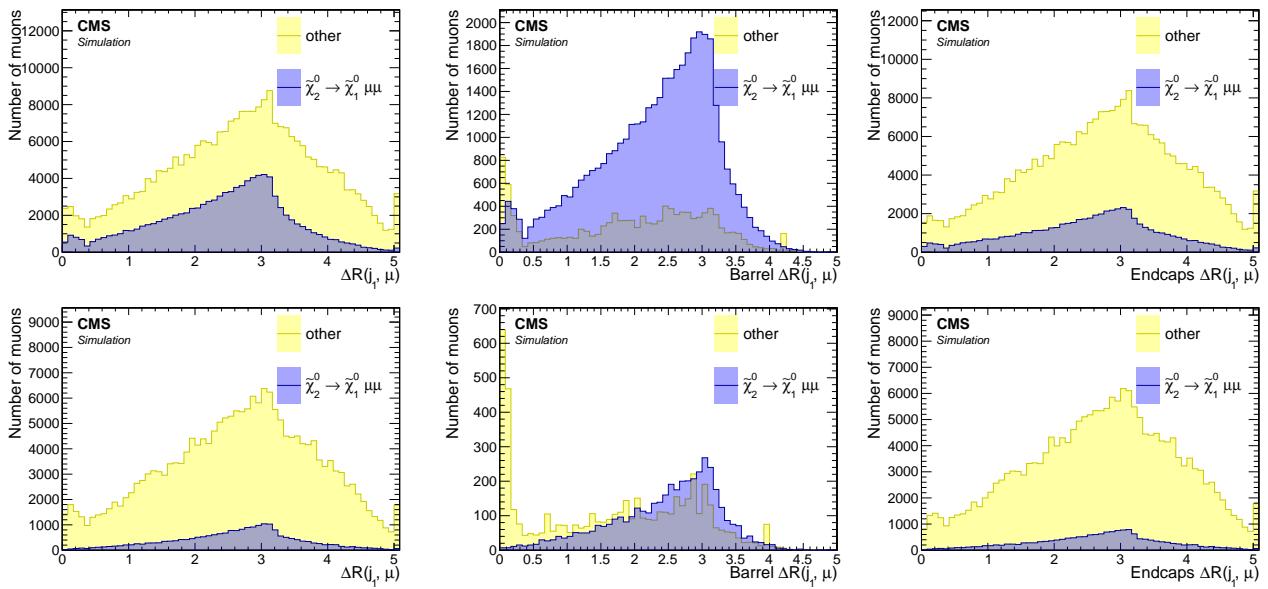


Figure 4.24: Angular separation between reconstructed muons with loose ID and the leading jet $\Delta R(j_1, \mu)$ for $\Delta m = 5.63$ GeV (top) and $\Delta m = 1.92$ GeV (bottom) in the inclusive case (left), barrel (middle) and endcaps (right).

Distributions of muon p_T are examined having applied the previous cut of $\Delta R(j_1, \mu) > 0.4$. As seen in Section 4.5.4.1, the p_T distribution depends strongly on Δm . The p_T distributions seen in Figure 4.25 suggest a cut identical to the electron case of $p_T < 15$ GeV. It is worth mentioning that the p_T of the muons are included as input to the multivariate classifier employed at a later stage, which can effectively cut tighter on the p_T dynamically and in concert with cutting on other variables. The actual maximum value of the p_T of the muons will depend on the Boosted Decision Tree (BDT) cut being used to define the signal region. p_T of the muons will depend on the BDT cut being used to define the signal region. The feature discussed earlier, whereby the endcaps are capable of reconstructing muons with lower p_T and therefore have worse purity than the barrel, is reiterated here. It is important to stress that the worse purity is due to a much higher efficiency, and as long as the muons can be purified further, it is not necessarily a bad thing. The rate of the non-signal muons in the region of $p_T < 2$ GeV, is seen to diverge rapidly, and the ratio of signal muons to non-signal muons is very low in that region. Therefore, an additional cut of $p_T > 2$ GeV is adopted. To evaluate the effect of this cut, the $|\eta|$ distribution before and after the p_T cut, is shown in Figure 4.26.

The impact of choosing an alternate WP, namely Medium or Tight, is examined in Fig-

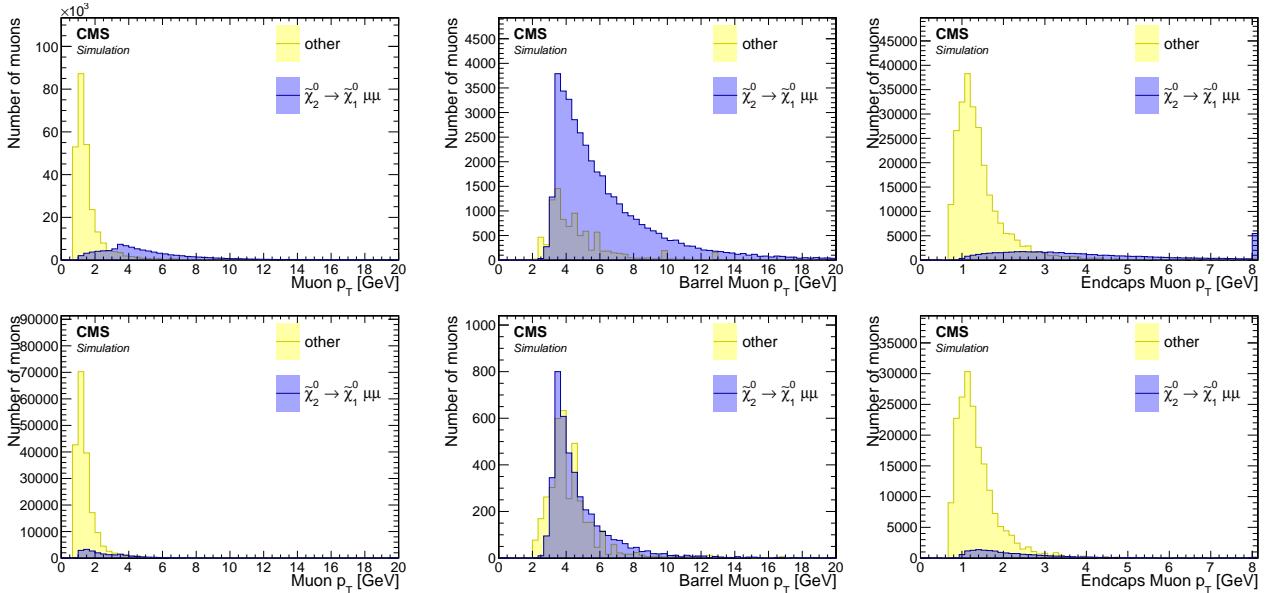


Figure 4.25: Distribution in signal events of the p_T of reconstructed muons with loose ID for $\Delta m = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$ (top) and $\Delta m = 1.92 \text{ GeV}$ (bottom) in the inclusive case (left), barrel (middle) and endcaps (right). Cuts of $\Delta R(j_1, \mu) > 0.4$ and $p_T < 15 \text{ GeV}$ are applied.

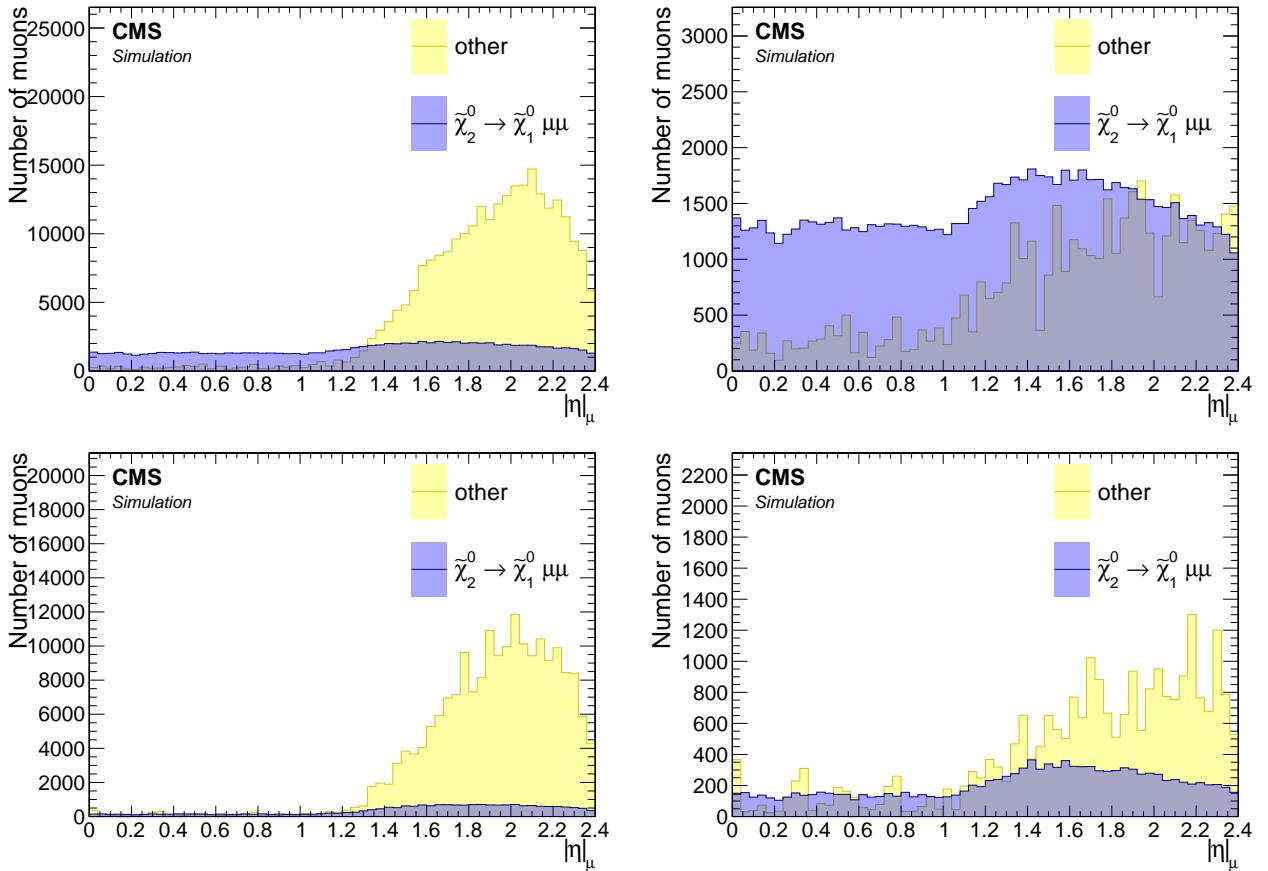


Figure 4.26: Distribution in signal events of the $|\eta|$ of reconstructed muons with loose ID for $\Delta m = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$ (top) and $\Delta m = 1.92 \text{ GeV}$ (bottom) without (left) and with (right) $p_T > 2 \text{ GeV}$ cut. A cut of $\Delta R(j_1, \mu) > 0.4$ is also applied.

ures 4.27 and 4.28, respectively. Two bins labeled *fail* and *pass* are plotted, which correspond to whether the muon passes or fails the identification criteria of a Medium or Tight WPs. The

Medium WP is seen to be highly performant in purifying the muon sample. The Tight WP on the other hand leads to a significant number of wanted signal-muons being lost without a significant gain in purity. Therefore, the Medium ID WP is chosen.

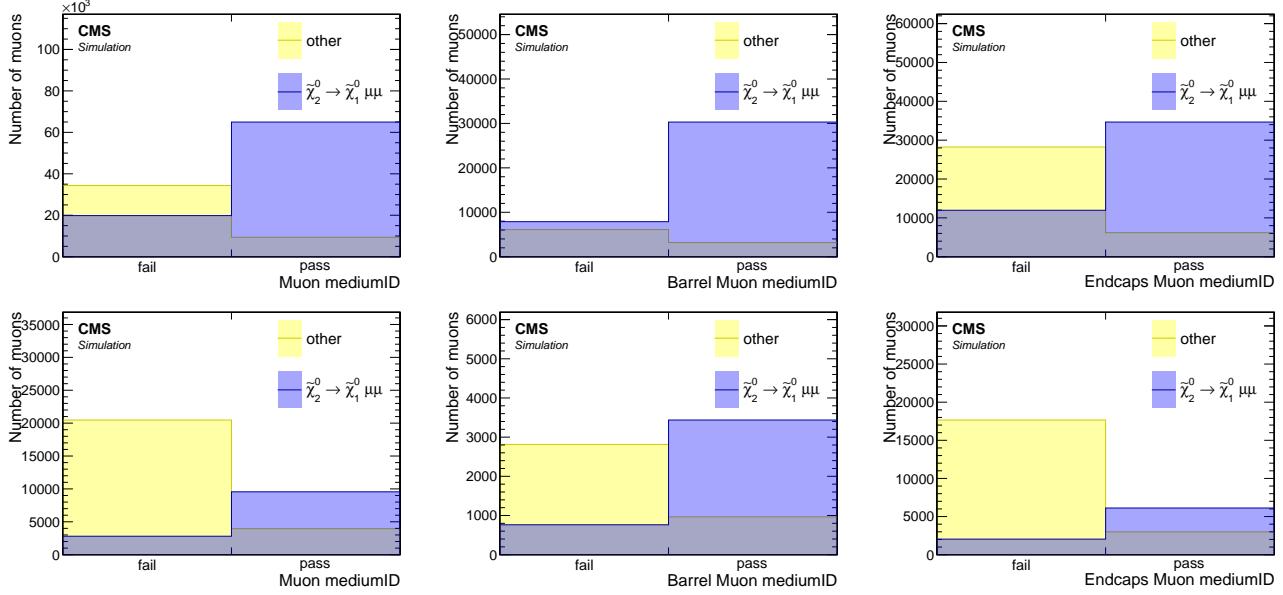


Figure 4.27: Medium ID WP distributions of reconstructed muons for $\Delta m = 5.63$ GeV (top) and $\Delta m = 1.92$ GeV (bottom) in the inclusive p_T case (left), barrel (middle) and endcaps (right). Cuts of $\Delta R(j_1, \mu) > 0.4$, $p_T > 2$ GeV and $p_T < 15$ GeV are applied.

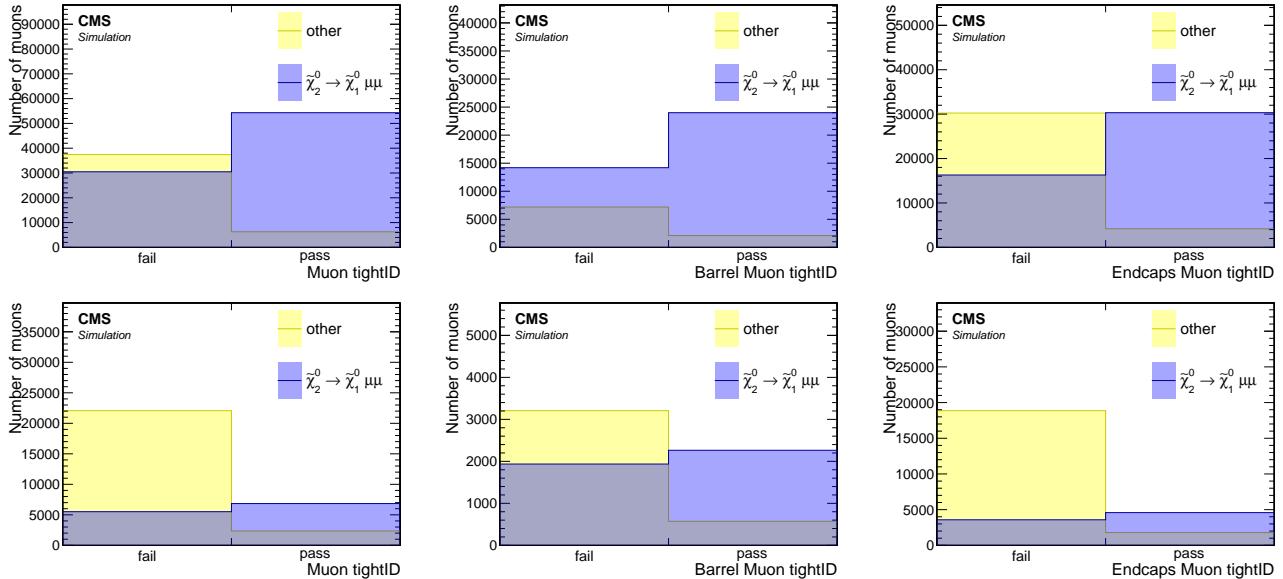


Figure 4.28: Tight ID WP distributions of reconstructed muons for $\Delta m = 5.63$ GeV (top) and $\Delta m = 1.92$ GeV (bottom) in the inclusive p_T case (left), barrel (middle) and endcaps (right). Cuts of $\Delta R(j_1, \mu) > 0.4$, $p_T > 2$ GeV and $p_T < 15$ GeV are applied.

The custom jet-isolation was designed to reject SM background while retaining signal, as the effects of the custom jet-based isolation, as described in Section 4.6.7, on signal muons is examined in this purity study. Figure 4.29 shows that a small price is paid by requiring the isolation. However, as will be seen in Section 4.6.7, the sensitivity is increased by rejecting a significant portion of SM background via the isolation criterion.

In summary, the following is the full set of selection criteria of the analysis muons:

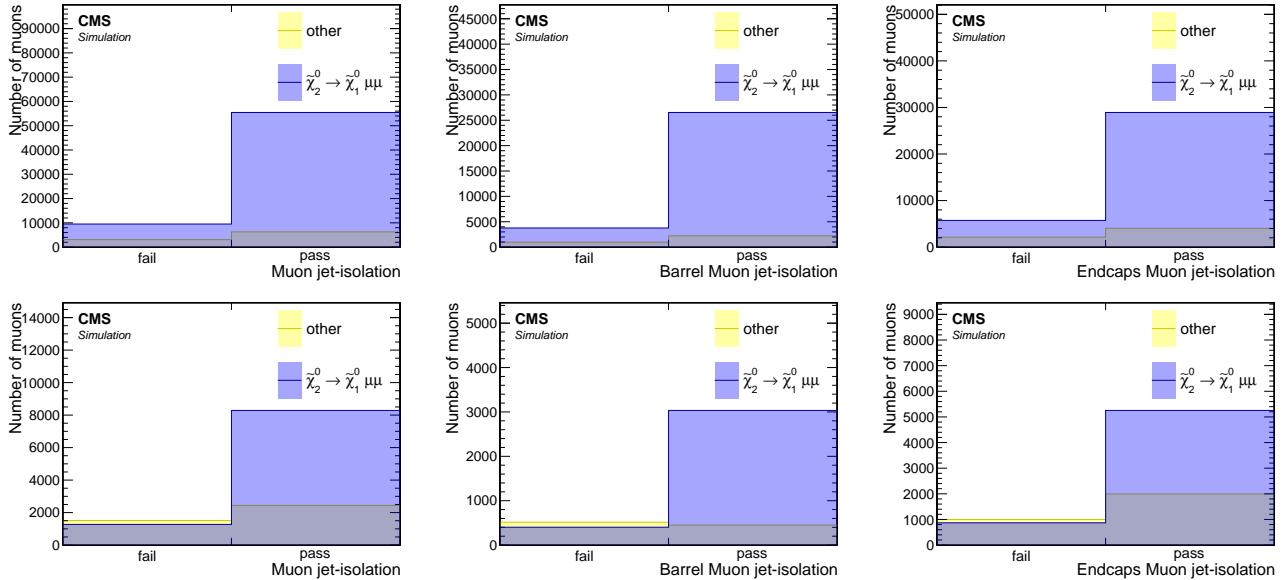


Figure 4.29: Distributions of the jet-based lepton isolation of reconstructed muons with Medium ID for $\Delta m = 5.63 \text{ GeV}$ (top) and $\Delta m = 1.92 \text{ GeV}$ (bottom) in the inclusive p_T case (left), barrel (middle) and endcaps (right). Cuts of $\Delta R(\gamma_1, \mu) > 0.4$, $p_T > 2 \text{ GeV}$ and $p_T < 15 \text{ GeV}$ are applied.

- $2 < p_T < 15 \text{ GeV}$;
- $|\eta| < 2.4$;
- $\Delta R(\gamma_1, \mu) > 0.4$;
- Medium ID WP;
- pass jet-isolation.

4.6.3 Scale factors

In Sections 4.6.1 and 4.6.2, the selection applied to electrons and muons was studied, and a choice was made regarding the identification working point used to draw conclusions about the identification efficiency of the leptons. However, relying solely on Monte Carlo (MC) can introduce systematic errors due to imperfections in modeling both the data and the detector response. Therefore, evaluating the level of consistency between data and MC is important. To this end, the lepton efficiency is studied in data and MC, where *efficiency* refers to the fraction of produced leptons that are reconstructed, selected and identified as such:

$$\varepsilon_\ell = \frac{N_\ell(\text{reconstructed, selected, and identified})}{N_\ell(\text{produced})} \quad (4.1)$$

In MC, the number of produced leptons is simply the number of generated leptons. However, in data, the efficiency must be measured in another way. Once the efficiency has been measured both in simulation and data, a correction factor called the Scale Factor (SF) can be applied as weights to the simulation to correct for discrepancies that may arise. Scale factors are defined as the ratio between the efficiency in data and the efficiency in simulation:

$$\text{SF}_\ell = \frac{\varepsilon_\ell^{\text{Data}}}{\varepsilon_\ell^{\text{MC}}} \quad (4.2)$$

The SFs are applied as weights for each lepton that passes the object selection in the event. The scale factors for loose-ID electrons in the relevant p_T range have been centrally measured by the corresponding working group and are applied to the selected electrons. Scale factors for needed (Medium) ID muons with $p_T \geq 2 \text{ GeV}$ were computed centrally by the Muon Physics Object Group (POG). However, as mentioned in [91, 92], the scale factors were computed by requiring $\Delta R > 0.5$, which excludes the key phase space that drives the sensitivity, as discussed in Section 4.5.4.3. Therefore, it is necessary to evaluate any potential ΔR dependence. To this end, the efficiency in different ΔR regions is extracted from an analysis of J/ψ decays.

To measure the lepton efficiency in data, tag and probe method is employed. This method often makes use of a known mass resonance such as Z , J/ψ or Υ to select particles using very loose selection criteria on one of the objects (the probe). The efficiency of applying one or more selection criteria is then computed as the fraction of probe particles that satisfy this criteria. The mass resonance results in the formation of a peaking structure in the invariant mass of the tag and probe system, from which the number of total and passing probe particles can be extracted via a sideband fit. To measure the efficiency of the analysis muons, muon/track pairs are selected with an invariant mass near the J/ψ mass. The muon is labeled as the ‘tag’ and the track as a ‘probe’. The tag muon is selected with a very tight selection resulting in high certainty that the object corresponds to a real produced muon. The probe (inner tracker track) corresponds to a very inclusive object, with no selection corresponding to the muon ID applied to it, a loose selection but constrained to be consistent with a product of a J/ψ . The background contribution, originating from random tracks as well as fake muons, is removed by simultaneous fit of a smoothly falling background and the shape of the J/ψ . The probes are then subjected to the requirement that the track be matched within $\Delta R < 0.01$ of an analysis muon. The efficiency in question is written as:

$$\varepsilon_\mu = \frac{N_\mu^{\text{Matched}}}{N_t} \quad (4.3)$$

The selection applied on the objects corresponding to the numerator and denominator are summarized in Table 4.6.3. This study was conducted for the year 2016. The 2016 samples listed in Section 4.4.1 are used for MC. To ensure the independence of the tagged muon from

the triggered object, a single electron trigger is used for data. The corresponding data set is measured to be 36.02 fb^{-1} using the BRIL Work Suite [90]. The following trigger paths are utilized:

- HLT_Ele27_WPTight_Gsf_v*,
- HLT_Ele27_eta2p1_WP Loose_Gsf_v*,
- HLT_Ele32_WPTight_Gsf_v*,
- HLT_Ele35_WPTight_Gsf_v*.

An offline loose ID electron with $p_T > 27 \text{ GeV}$ is then selected. The requirements to select a tag and probe pair are defined in Table 4.6.3.

Table 4.4: Selection criteria for tags and probes

Tag	Probe
Medium ID muon	isolated track
$p_T \geq 5 \text{ GeV}$	$2 \leq p_T \leq 20 \text{ GeV}$ ($p_T \geq 3 \text{ GeV}$ for barrel)
$ \eta < 2.4$	opposite-sign in invariant mass window $[2.5, 3.5] \text{ GeV}$

A fit is performed in an invariant mass window around the J/ψ peak of $[2.5, 3.5] \text{ GeV}$. The signal PDF is modelled using a double-sided Crystal Ball function, and the continuum is modelled with a 6th order polynomial. The fit is repeated twice, where the denominator is based on probe tracks, and the numerator uses those tracks that have been matched to Medium ID muons. The ΔR range has been split into three, and the $|\eta|$ of the muons has been divided into barrel ($|\eta| < 1.2$) and endcaps ($1.2 < |\eta| < 2.4$). Fits to the MC are shown in Figure 4.30 for the barrel and Figure 4.31 for the endcaps. Fits to the data are shown in Figure 4.32 for the barrel and Figure 4.33 for the endcaps.

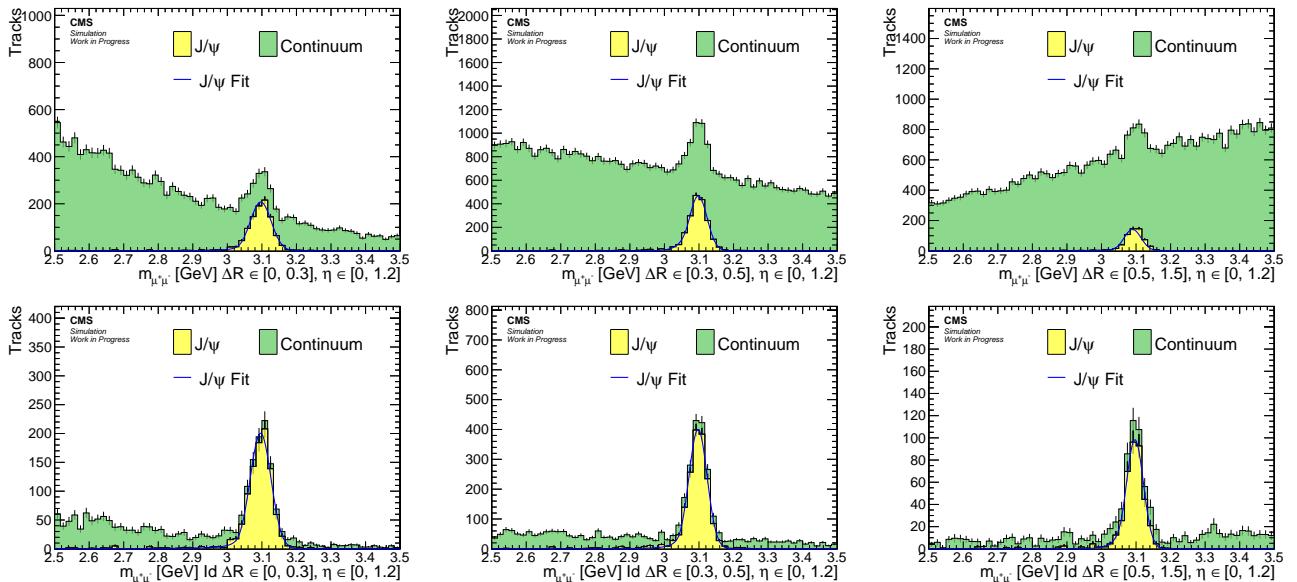


Figure 4.30: Fits to the tag and probe invariant mass for muons in the barrel region based on MC. Results are shown for denominator (top) and numerator (bottom) for $0 < \Delta R < 0.3$ (left), $0.3 < \Delta R < 0.5$ (center), $0.5 < \Delta R < 1.5$ (right).

The efficiency and corresponding scale factors are shown in Figure 4.34. The scale factors are statistically consistent with unity and show no discernible ΔR dependence. A similar study

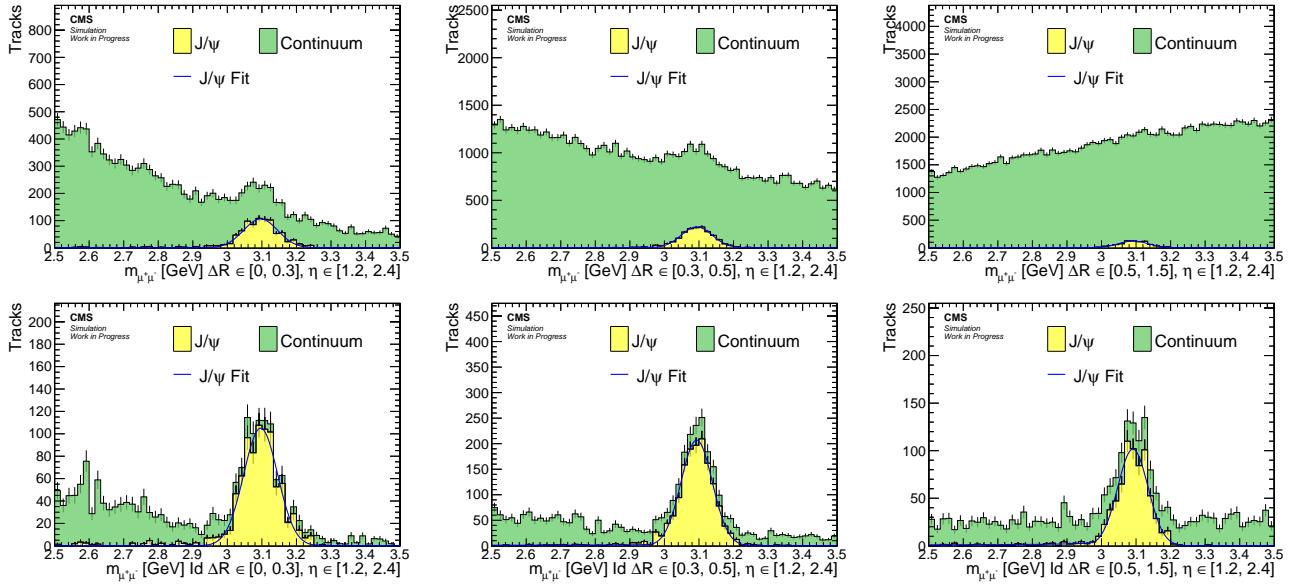


Figure 4.31: Fits to the tag and probe invariant mass for muons in the endcaps region based on MC. Results are shown for denominator (top) and numerator (bottom) for $0 < \Delta R < 0.3$ (left), $0.3 < \Delta R < 0.5$ (center), $0.5 < \Delta R < 1.5$ (right).

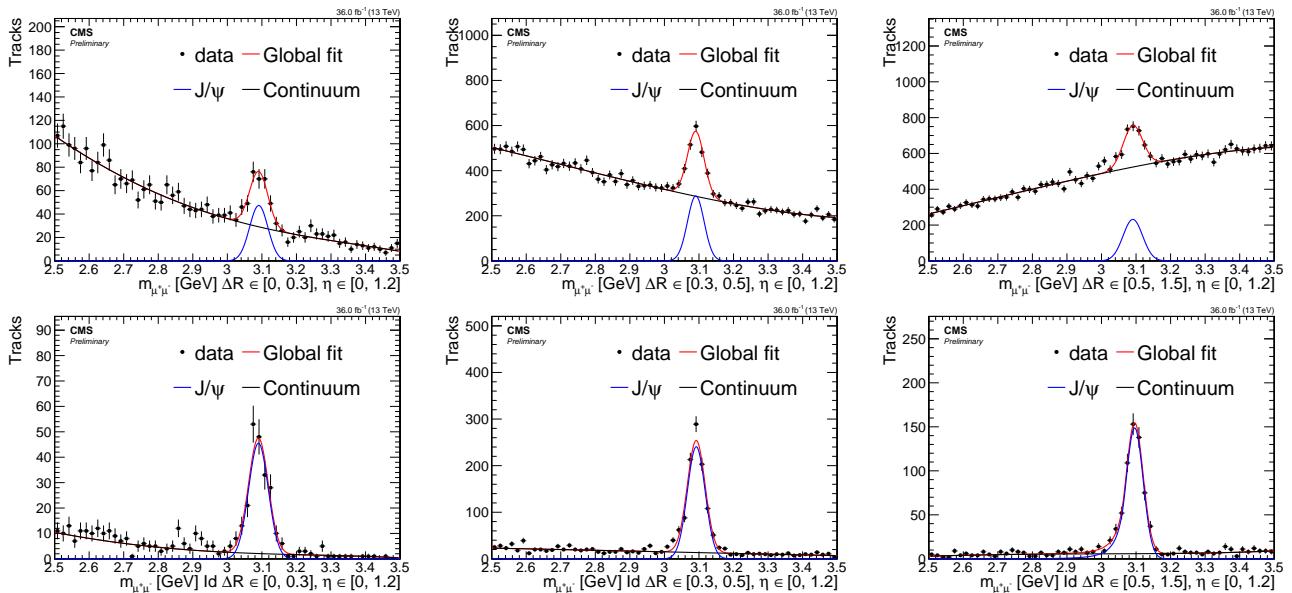


Figure 4.32: Fits to the tag and probe invariant mass for muons in the barrel region based on data. Results are shown for denominator (top) and numerator (bottom) for $0 < \Delta R < 0.3$ (left), $0.3 < \Delta R < 0.5$ (center), $0.5 < \Delta R < 1.5$ (right).

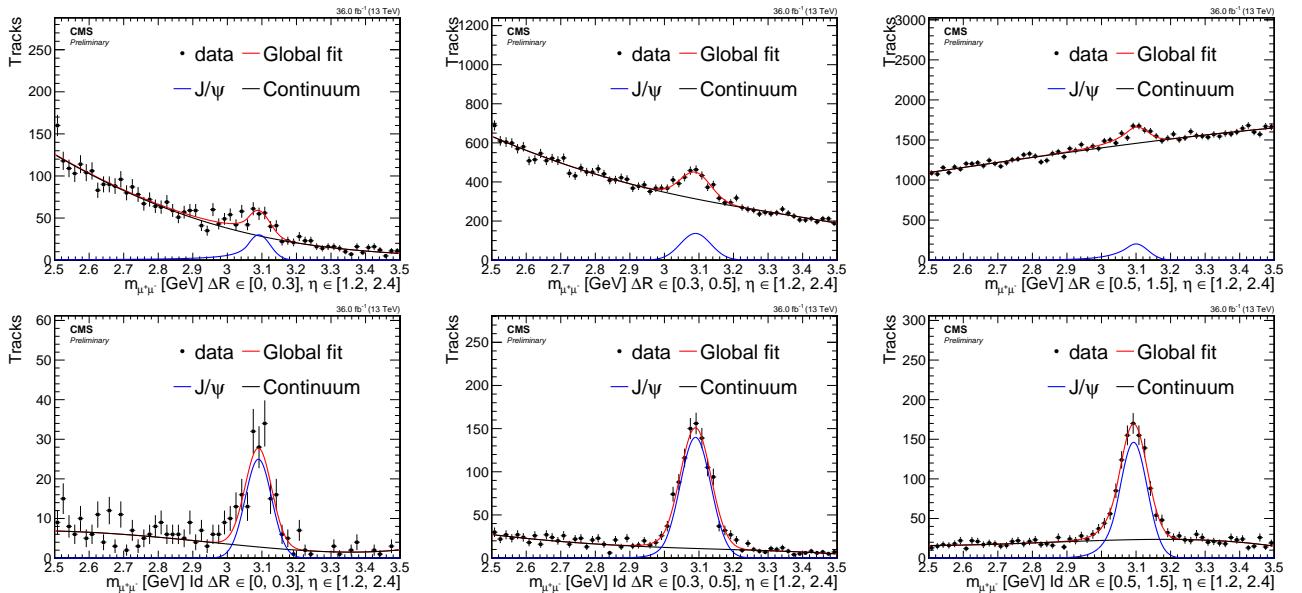


Figure 4.33: Fits to the tag and probe invariant mass for muons in the endcaps region based on data. Results are shown for denominator (top) and numerator (bottom) for $0 < \Delta R < 0.3$ (left), $0.3 < \Delta R < 0.5$ (center), $0.5 < \Delta R < 1.5$ (right).

was carried out based on 2017 and 2018 data and MC [93], and no ΔR dependence was observed either. As a result of these studies, the recommendation from the POG is to use the calculated scale factors provided by them with an additional systematic uncertainty of 1% for muons with $p_T < 20$ GeV.

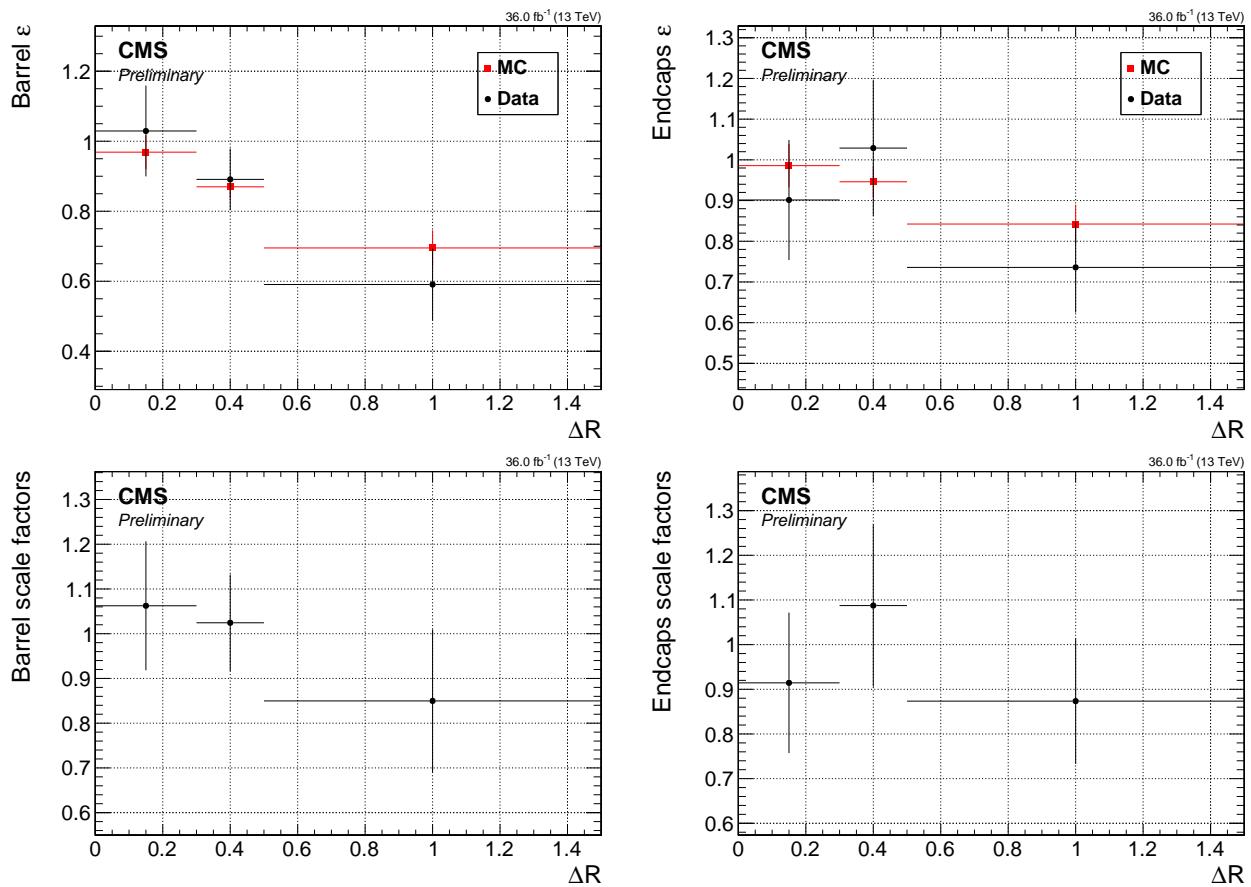


Figure 4.34: Efficiencies (top) and scale factors (bottom) for barrel muons (left) and endcaps muons (right).

4.6.4 Missing transverse energy

The importance of the missing transverse momentum (or energy) in this analysis has been discussed in Section 4.5.1. Two standard measures of the momentum imbalance in the events are \vec{E}_T^{miss} (or \vec{p}_T^{miss} by a different symbol) and \vec{H}_T^{miss} . \vec{E}_T^{miss} is defined as:

$$\vec{E}_T^{\text{miss}} = \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}} = - \sum_i \vec{p}_T(i), \quad (4.4)$$

where the summation is done on all particle flow candidates. Therefore, the missing transverse energy serves as a measure of particles that evade detection, such as weakly interacting neutral particles. Mismeasurements of visible particles and additional energy deposits from sources such as Pile-Up (PU), jet energy response and detector noise can affect this observable, so it undergoes further correction to mitigate these effects. The correction process considers jets with p_T greater than 10 GeV. Full details of the corrections can be found in [94].

An alternative measurement to the missing transverse momentum is \vec{H}_T^{miss} , which is sometimes referred to as *missing hardronic activity*. Instead of considering all particle flow candidates in the sum, this measurement only takes into account jets with p_T greater than 30 GeV and $|\eta|$ less than 5, and is defined as:

$$\vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}} = - \sum_i^{\text{jets}} \vec{p}_T(i). \quad (4.5)$$

The observable \vec{H}_T^{miss} is favored over \vec{E}_T^{miss} in this analysis because the jet-based isolation, defined in Section 4.6.7, uses jets with p_T greater than 30 GeV, while a sideband is defined using the range of $p_T \in [15, 30]$ GeV of jets, which is then used for the estimation of the jetty background in Section 4.9.2.1. Both observables, \vec{E}_T^{miss} and \vec{H}_T^{miss} , have equivalent scalar quantities, E_T^{miss} and H_T^{miss} respectively, which can be obtained by taking the magnitude of their vectorial counterpart.

4.6.5 Jets

Jets used in the analysis are reconstructed by clustering the Particle Flow (PF) candidates using FASTJET with the anti- k_T algorithm [95] with a size parameter of 0.4. Tagging of b -jets is performed using the multivariate technique DEEPCSV with a Medium WP, also known as the Combined Secondary Vertex (CSV) algorithm [96]. Jets are required to have a transverse momentum $p_T > 30$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$.

4.6.6 Tracks and multivariate selection

The leptons $\ell^+ \ell^-$ produced in the decay $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$ tend to have very low transverse momentum p_T . It was shown in Section ?? that the identification and reconstruction efficiency of the muons worsens with lower p_T . Therefore, the aim of the exclusive track category is to recover lost leptons that were not reconstructed or identified. As seen in Section ??, the tracking efficiency for the p_T ranges used in this analysis is well above 99%, allowing the recovery of some of the tracks that correspond to the missing leptons.

To identify which track corresponds to the target lepton in a given signal event, a BDT classifier is trained. Four separate BDTs are trained, corresponding to each lepton flavor (muon or electron) and each phase of the tracker (Phase 0 for 2016, and Phase 1 for 2017-2018). All BDTs use a common structure of 200 trees with a maximum depth of 3, and are trained with AdaBoost and GiniIndex separation using the TMVA package [97]. The package's default values are used for all other parameters. Tracks from a dedicated FASTSIM signal simulations described in Section 4.4.2 are used for training. A broad range of simulated higgsino parameter μ (or the mass of $\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$) is considered, but only the range of Δm that this analysis targets. For Phase 0, Δm^0 is chosen from the range $[0.3, 4.3]$ GeV and μ from $[100 - 130]$ GeV, while for Phase 1, Δm^\pm is chosen from $[0.3 - 4.6]$ GeV and μ from $[100 - 500]$ GeV. Signal events are split into signal tracks and background tracks, with signal tracks originating from leptons from the decay $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$ while background tracks do not match to the leptons. The samples for muons contain 9408 (10964) signal tracks and 99996 (151380) background tracks for Phase 0 (Phase 1). For electrons the samples contain 2364 (2288) signal tracks and 104065 (159713) background tracks for Phase 0 (Phase 1). The training samples are then tested against independent samples of equal size. Distributions of the classifier score for signal and background categories with the test samples overlayed onto the training samples can be seen in Figure 4.36.

Pre-selection is applied to all tracks in the collection obtained by the standard track reconstruction sequences. This pre-selection ensures that only properly-reconstructed, isolated, and prompt tracks are considered. The selected tracks must also have trajectories passing through the region near the primary vertex (PV) with the largest sum of charged-tracks, jets, and missing energy values. The full set of track pre-selection criteria are

- $p_T > 1.9$ GeV;
- $|\eta| < 2.4$;
- $\text{track iso}_{\text{rel}} < 0.1$, using $\Delta R(\text{track, other tracks}) < 0.3$;
- $d_{xy}(\text{track, PV}) < 0.02$ cm w.r.t the PV;
- $d_z(\text{track, PV}) < 0.02$ cm w.r.t the PV
- no match to an electron or muon within a cone of size 0.01.

For the training, a set of 10 variables, listed in decreasing order of their importance ranking in Table 4.6.6 (in the muon case of Phase 0) is used.

Figure 4.35 shows the distribution of input variables, where signal tracks are shown in blue and background tracks in red.

The classifier output score for the 4 BDTs is displayed in Figure 4.36, where the test distributions are superimposed on the training sample. No obvious over-training is observed. The ROC curves are plotted in Figure 4.37, where the red point indicates the efficiency of the signal and background tracks of the minimum BDT cut, which is taken to be 0.0. Good separation between signal tracks and fake tracks is obtained, as evidenced by the relatively high

Table 4.5: Input variables to the in-signal track selecting classifier.

Rank	Variable	Description
1	$\Delta R(t, \ell)$	t is the track and ℓ the lepton
2	$ \Delta\eta(t, \ell) $	
3	$p_T(\ell)$	
4	$ \Delta\phi(t, \vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}}) $	
5	$ \Delta\eta(t, j_1) $	j_1 is the leading jet
6	$ \Delta\phi(t, \ell) $	
7	$ \eta(t) $	
8	$ \eta(\ell) $	
9	$\Delta R(\ell, j_1)$	
10	$m_{t\ell}$	invariant mass

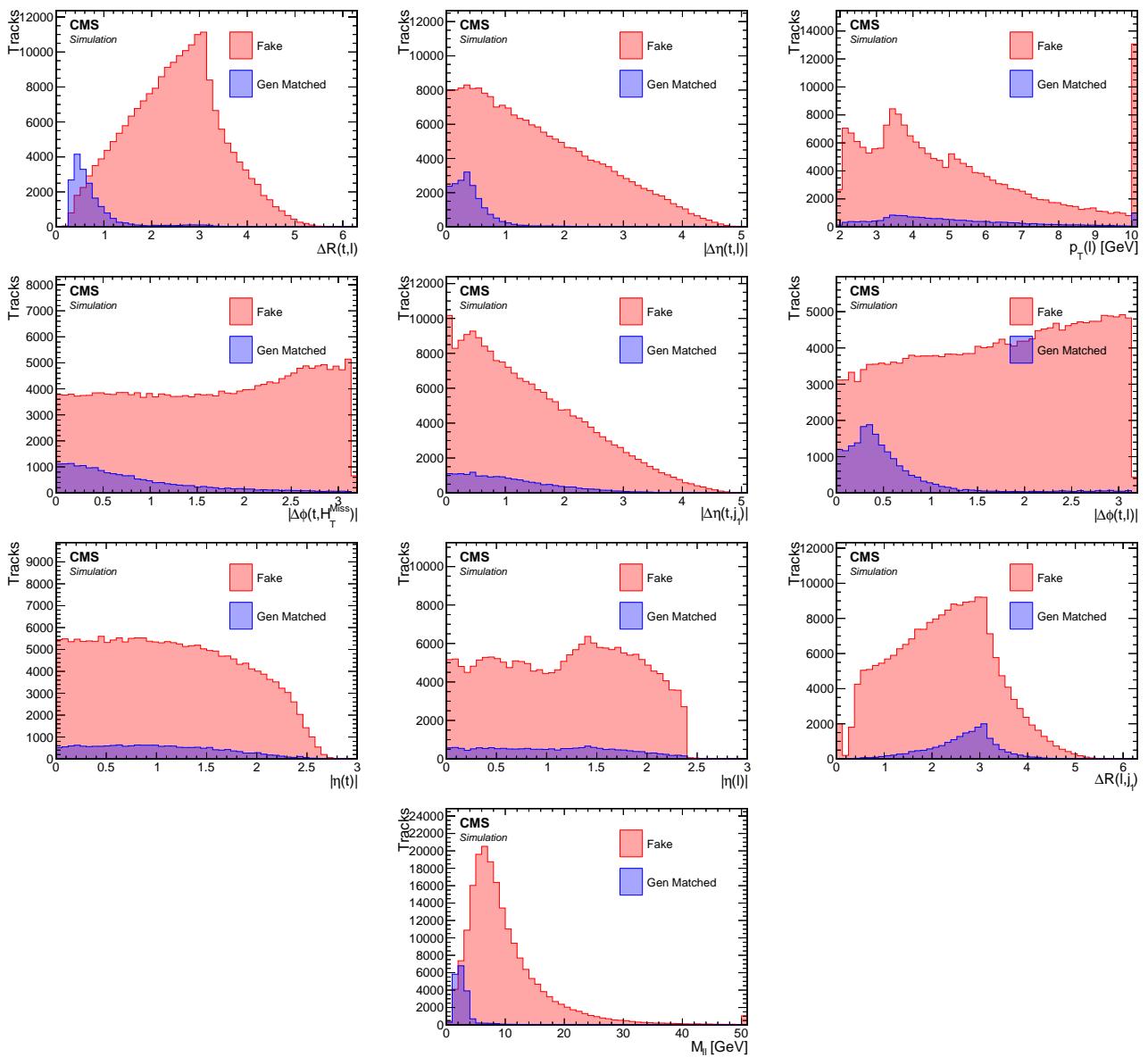


Figure 4.35: Distributions of the inputs to the track BDT in the muon exclusive track category. Fake category refers to tracks not originating from target leptons.

signal efficiency of over 90% (86%) for muons (electrons) and background rejection of around 86% (76%) for muons (electrons).

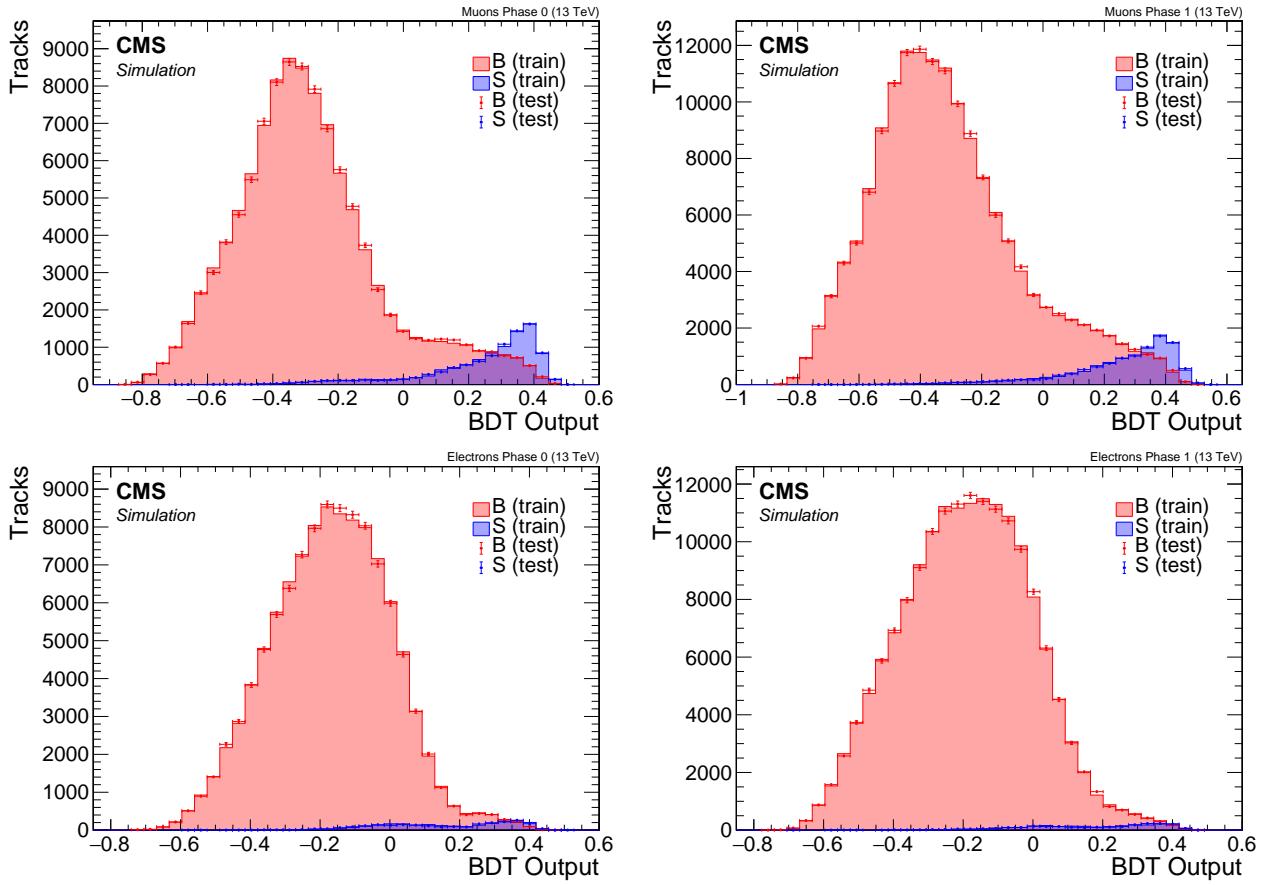


Figure 4.36: Track BDT output plots for Muons (top) and Electrons (bottom) in Phase 0 (left) and Phase 1 (right). Blue shows signal tracks, while Red are fake tracks. Test sample overlay on top of training sample.

The track with the maximum BDT score is selected as the signal candidate track. Only events with a track with a score greater than 0.0, corresponding to the red dot in the ROC curves shown in Figure 4.37, are considered.

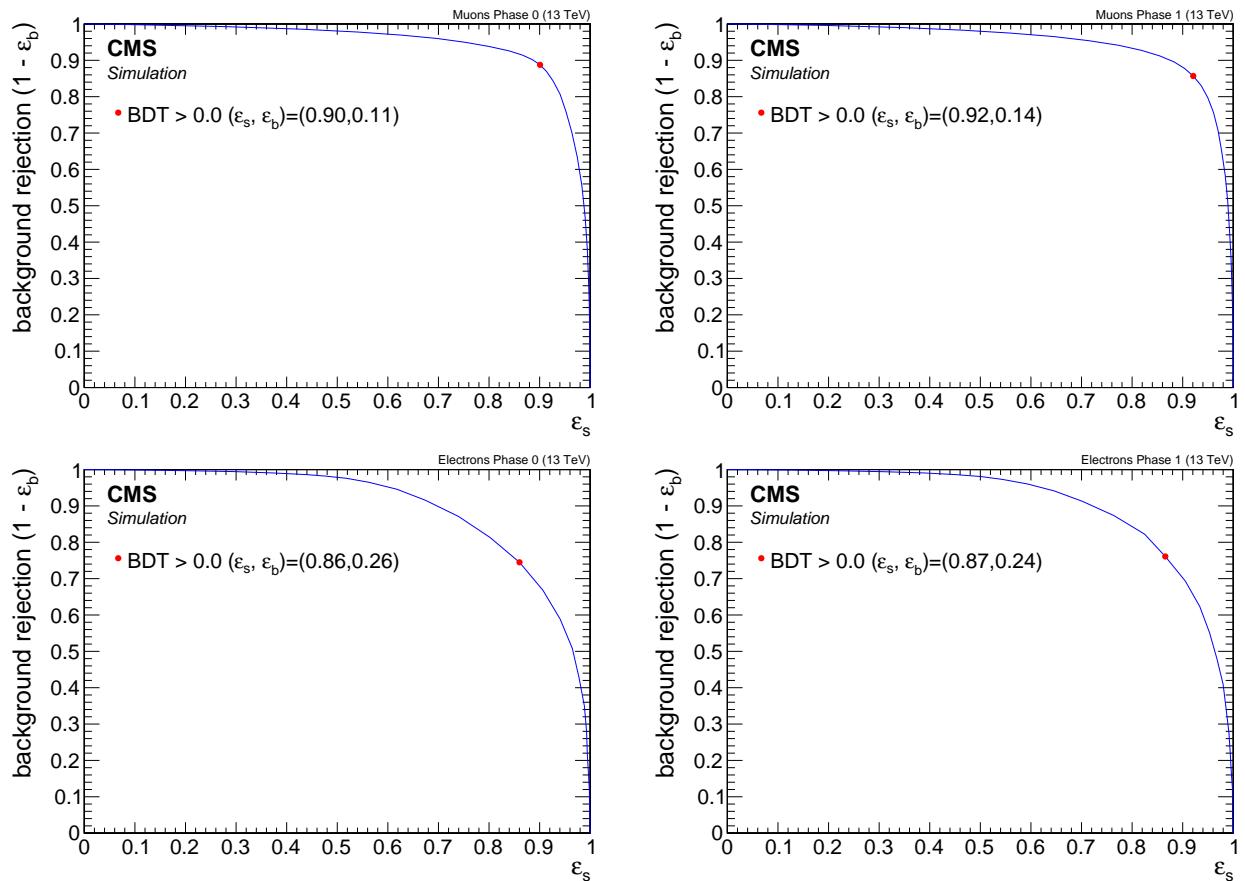


Figure 4.37: Track BDT ROC curves for muons (top) and electrons (bottom) in Phase 0 (left) and Phase 1 (right). The minimum threshold on the classifier score is indicated by the red dot.

4.6.7 Isolation

The leptons produced from the neutralino decay $\tilde{\chi}_2^0 \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_1^0 \ell^+ \ell^-$ are typically clean and isolated, with very little hadronic activity in their vicinity. This is because the only jets in the event come from initial state radiation, which boosts the produced electroweakinos in the opposite direction. Therefore, the leptons originating from those electroweakinos will not propagate collinear to these jets. The characteristic signal event topology can be exploited to distinguish signal events from background originating from SM processes. At CMS, various standard isolation criteria are used. The three most widely used isolation criteria are track relative isolation [98], PF relative isolation (RelIso), which was first described in [99], and a modified version referred to as relative mini-isolation (miniRelIso), described in [100].

Track relative isolation is defined as the p_T sum of all tracks around a given track (or lepton) within an angular separation ΔR of 0.3:

$$\text{Track relative isolation}_{\ell} = \frac{\sum_{\substack{\text{tracks from PV} \\ \text{in } \Delta R < 0.3}} p_T}{p_T(\ell)}. \quad (4.6)$$

Since only tracks are summed, only charged particles are taken into account. Another widely used isolation is the relative isolation which uses a cone size of 0.4 and defined as:

$$\text{RelIso}_{\ell} = \frac{\sum_{\substack{\text{charged} \\ \text{hadrons} \\ \text{from PV}}} p_T + \max \left(0, \sum_{\substack{\text{neutral} \\ \text{hadrons}}} E_T + \sum_{\text{photons}} E_T - 0.5 \cdot \sum_{\substack{\text{charged} \\ \text{hadrons} \\ \text{from PU}}} p_T \right)}{p_T(\ell)}. \quad (4.7)$$

The last term in the definition is a correction for PU effects. A lepton is considered to be isolated if its RelIso value is small. A variant of the relative isolation is the so-called mini relative isolation (miniRelIso), which differs from the standard relative isolation in that its cone size is dependent on the p_T of the lepton, as follows:

$$\Delta R = \begin{cases} 0.2 & p_T(\ell) \leq 50 \text{ GeV} \\ \frac{10 \text{ GeV}}{p_T(\ell)} & p_T(\ell) \in (50 \text{ GeV}, 200 \text{ GeV}) \\ 0.05 & p_T(\ell) \geq 200 \text{ GeV} \end{cases}. \quad (4.8)$$

The variable size cone allows for the recovery of efficiency when leptons are produced in the decay chain of a boosted object. In such cases, when the boost is large, the lepton is likely to overlap with another lepton produced at a common decay vertex, failing a standard isolation cut. The parameters are tuned to, and thus well-suited to, leptons from the decay of on-shell W and Z bosons, but are not suitable for low-mass resonances.

The drawback of standard isolation criteria in the case of this analysis's signal, the leptons can compromise each other's isolation. As shown in Section 4.5.4.3, access to low Δm model-points requires including the $\Delta R < 0.3$ phasespace region. Requiring any of the standard isolation criteria will thus result in rejecting valuable signal events. An alternative isolation criterion is proposed to help retain some of the desired phasespace while rejecting the majority of the standard model background. This alternative isolation proves to be useful not only for optimally selecting leptons, but also for defining a sideband control region needed for the jetty background estimation, as described in Section 4.9.2.1. The steps to construct the alternative *jet-based isolation* are described algorithmically below.

1. Subtract the vector 4-momenta of candidate leptons of a given flavor from any reconstructed jet ΔR smaller than 0.4

2. The lepton is said to pass isolation if it does not lie within $\Delta R < r$ of any *lepton-corrected* jet with $p_T > p$.
3. Lepton is said to fail isolation for background estimation if it fails *jet-based isolation*, and the nearest uncorrected jet has $15 < p_T < 30 \text{ GeV}$ (see 4.9.2.1 for use of such lepton)

The main idea behind defining jet-isolation is to reject leptons with hadronic activity around them while not losing a lepton that is close to another lepton of the same flavor. The process described introduces two free parameters: the p_T threshold of the lepton-corrected jets that cause a lepton's isolation to fail (p), and the cone size (r), which determines how close a corrected jet is allowed to be to a lepton. To choose the thresholds for these parameters, a scan is performed ranging over $p \in [0, 20] \text{ GeV}$ and $r \in [0.4, 0.6]$. For each step in the scan, the full analysis is performed, including the background estimation procedure which makes use of the jet-based isolation, and various performance criteria are extracted to inform the choice of optimum r and p . The criteria of interest include signal efficiency (which should be high), background efficiency (which should be low), signal contamination in control-regions (ideally low), jetty-background transfer factor (ideally less than 1), and lastly, the significance, which is computed taking into account transfer factor error on the background (which should be maximized). The scan is carried out for muons using 2016 MC and data, and the results are shown in Tables 4.6.7- 4.6.7.

Table 4.6: Signal efficiency for the jet-based isolation scan for the dimuon channel, based on 2016 MC samples.

	r				
	0.4	0.45	0.5	0.55	0.6
0	0.38	0.37	0.36	0.35	0.35
1	0.39	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.36
5	0.65	0.64	0.63	0.62	0.60
6	0.71	0.70	0.69	0.67	0.66
7	0.77	0.76	0.74	0.73	0.72
8	0.82	0.82	0.80	0.78	0.77
9	0.87	0.86	0.85	0.84	0.82
10	0.89	0.89	0.87	0.86	0.85
10.5	0.90	0.90	0.89	0.88	0.87
11	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.90	0.89
11.5	0.93	0.92	0.91	0.91	0.90
12	0.94	0.93	0.92	0.91	0.90
12.5	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.92	0.91
13	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.93	0.93
15	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	0.97
20	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99

From Table 4.6.7, it is evident that the transfer factor of the jetty background estimation method increases with larger p and with smaller r . A transfer factor that is less than unity is preferred in order to ensure a high likelihood of well-populated control regions, and choices that do not meet this criterion are excluded. After taking into account all factors, the values $(p, r) = (10 \text{ GeV}, 0.6)$ are selected for muons and $(p, r) = (10 \text{ GeV}, 0.5)$ for electrons.

Table 4.7: Background efficiency for the jet-based isolation scan for the dimuon channel, based on 2016 MC samples.

	r					
	0.4	0.45	0.5	0.55	0.6	
0	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	
1	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.06	
5	0.12	0.12	0.10	0.09	0.09	
6	0.15	0.14	0.12	0.11	0.11	
7	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.14	0.12	
8	0.20	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.15	
p	9	0.25	0.23	0.19	0.18	0.17
	10	0.26	0.25	0.22	0.19	0.18
	10.5	0.27	0.24	0.23	0.20	0.19
	11	0.29	0.26	0.24	0.22	0.20
	11.5	0.28	0.27	0.24	0.23	0.21
	12	0.29	0.27	0.26	0.24	0.23
	12.5	0.31	0.28	0.26	0.26	0.23
	13	0.33	0.29	0.27	0.27	0.24
	15	0.36	0.33	0.30	0.29	0.26
	20	0.45	0.41	0.39	0.36	0.37

Table 4.8: Transfer factor for the jet-based isolation scan for the dimuon channel, based on 2016 MC samples.

	r					
	0.4	0.45	0.5	0.55	0.6	
0	0.19	0.16	0.13	0.13	0.13	
1	0.18	0.16	0.14	0.13	0.13	
5	0.31	0.30	0.26	0.23	0.22	
6	0.43	0.36	0.32	0.30	0.29	
7	0.55	0.48	0.44	0.40	0.34	
8	0.68	0.58	0.52	0.52	0.46	
p	9	0.83	0.78	0.65	0.58	0.54
	10	0.99	0.93	0.76	0.67	0.62
	10.5	1.07	0.95	0.85	0.74	0.66
	11	1.19	1.10	0.93	0.85	0.73
	11.5	1.24	1.19	0.96	0.91	0.79
	12	1.34	1.29	1.09	0.99	0.91
	12.5	1.55	1.35	1.21	1.10	0.95
	13	1.70	1.46	1.27	1.23	1.09
	15	2.39	2.17	1.80	1.63	1.42
	20	6.12	5.86	4.82	4.13	3.86

Table 4.9: Significance $s/\sqrt{b + \epsilon_b^2}$ for the jet-based isolation scan for the dimuon channel, based on 2016 MC samples.

		r				
		0.4	0.45	0.5	0.55	0.6
p	0	4.29	6.08	6.13	5.89	5.46
	1	4.92	5.18	6.34	5.33	5.84
	5	6.44	5.27	6.20	8.63	5.98
	6	4.72	5.06	6.22	6.99	7.92
	7	4.83	6.55	5.09	5.63	6.28
	8	3.80	5.48	4.60	5.24	4.61
	9	3.60	4.43	5.66	6.25	4.60
	10	3.37	4.08	5.57	4.78	0.23
	10.5	3.72	4.03	4.90	4.48	4.17
	11	3.05	3.51	4.37	4.98	5.41
	11.5	3.21	3.21	3.84	3.54	4.65
	12	3.48	3.51	3.80	3.30	3.54
	12.5	2.79	3.19	2.82	3.36	4.60
	13	3.16	2.68	3.59	6.60	3.50
	15	4.46	3.19	3.06	3.64	3.85
	20	7.21	1.46	1.60	8.10	2.09

4.7 Event selection

As discussed in Section 4.3, three event categories are used in this analysis: the dimuon category and an exclusive track category for each lepton flavor (muon and electron). The preselection is summarized in Section 4.7.1, followed by the selection that defines each category in Section 4.7.2. Finally, the multivariate selection for each category is discussed in Section 4.7.3.

4.7.1 Preselection

In Section 4.5.3, the preselection criteria that apply to all categories was defined. This section reiterates the reasons for this selection as well as describes other event-level selection.

- $H_T^{\text{miss}} \geq 220 \text{ GeV}$ and $E_T^{\text{miss}} \geq 140 \text{ GeV}$ cuts are intended to boost sensitivity by rejecting SM background and to operate in the acceptance regime of the MET trigger, as described in Section 4.8. These cuts are especially efficient in rejecting QCD background, which does not produce real E_T^{miss} . Any E_T^{miss} apparent in QCD is due to jet energy miss-measurements. The harder cut on H_T^{miss} is made instead of E_T^{miss} because H_T^{miss} sums jets with $p_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$ and is blind to objects with $p_T < 30 \text{ GeV}$. Background estimation relies on jets with p_T in the range of $[15, 30] \text{ GeV}$, so H_T^{miss} avoids introducing bias in the data-driven background estimation methods.
- $N_{\text{jets}} (p_T \geq 30 \text{ GeV} \text{ and } |\eta| < 2.4) \geq 1$. At least one jet is required in the event because such an ISR jet gives a boost to the produced neutralino, thus increasing the missing transverse energy and the sensitivity of the analysis.
- $N_{\text{b-jets}} (p_T \geq 30 \text{ GeV} \text{ and } |\eta| < 2.4) = 0$. Any event with b-tagged jet is vetoed since our signal does not contain real b-tagged jets. This veto is efficient in rejecting background from $t\bar{t}$, in which the b quarks arise from a t quark decay.
- $\min \Delta\phi (\vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}}, \vec{j}) > 0.4$. Requiring an ISR jet in the event leads to the expectation that the H_T^{miss} should point in the opposite direction of the jet or at an angle close to π . Events with multiple jets in the SM background, such as those arising from QCD, will not exhibit such a feature. Therefore, this cut reduces the QCD background.
- veto events with isolated loose-ID lepton having $p_T \geq 30 \text{ GeV}$. Lepton can be either muon or electron.
- $0.4 < m_{\ell\ell} < 12 \text{ GeV}$. The signal resides in an invariant mass window with an edge at the mass difference between $\tilde{\chi}_2^0$ and $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$. This is a relatively loose cut that is expected to be further tightened by the boosted decision tree.

The object level selection was described in detail in Section 4.6. For the sake of completeness it is reiterated. The electrons in the analysis require are required to pass the following selection (also described in Section 4.6.1):

- $5 \leq p_T \leq 15 \text{ GeV}$;
- $|\eta| < 2.5$;
- pass jet isolation;
- loose ID.

The muons in the analysis are required to pass the following selection (see also Section 4.6.2):

- $2 \leq p_T \leq 15 \text{ GeV}$;
- $|\eta| < 2.4$;
- pass jet isolation;
- medium ID.

4.7.2 Category selection

The analysis includes three main categories: the dilepton category and an exclusive track category for each lepton flavor. The dilepton category requires two fully-identified leptons, both of which are muons. In contrast, the exclusive track category includes a single lepton and a track that has not been identified as a lepton. Both electrons and muons are accepted as the single lepton in the exclusive track category. The selection criteria for the dilepton category are described in Section 4.7.2.1, while those for the exclusive track category are detailed in Section 4.7.2.2.

4.7.2.1 Dilepton selection

In the dilepton category, two reconstructed and identified muons are required. Events in the dilepton category must satisfy the preselection and the baseline selection, as well as the following criteria:

- $N_\mu = 2$ - opposite-charge satisfying the analysis muon selection;
- $p_T(\mu_2) \leq 3.5 \text{ GeV}$ or $\Delta R(\mu_1, \mu_2) < 0.3$. This requirement ensures the analysis is orthogonal, that is, non-overlapping in terms of event content, with the previously published soft lepton analysis [81];
- Event BDT score $\text{BDT} > 0$. This is the main method of selecting signal events while rejecting the SM background. Details are given in Section 4.7.3;
- $\Delta R(\mu_{1,2}, j_1) > 0.4$, where j_1 is the leading jet. The leptons should not be inside the ISR jet;
- ω , ρ^0 and J/ψ invariant mass vetoes. $m_{\ell\ell} \notin [0.75, 0.81] \text{ GeV}$, $m_{\ell\ell} \notin [3, 3.2] \text{ GeV}$.

4.7.2.2 Exclusive track selection

The exclusive track category requires one reconstructed and identified lepton, which can be either an electron or a muon, and an exclusive track, meaning a track that is not identified as a lepton. The track with the highest track BDT score, as described in Section 4.6.6, is picked as the signal lepton candidate. Events in this category must satisfy the preselection and the baseline selection, as well as the following criteria:

- $N_\ell = 1$ lepton passing the analysis muon or electron selection;
- maximum track picking BDT score > 0 , as discussed in 4.6.6;
- event level BDT score > 0 . This is the main method of selecting signal events while rejecting the SM background. , as discussed in Section 4.7.3;
- $\Delta R(\ell, j_1) > 0.4$, where j_1 is the highest-pT jet. The lepton should not be inside the ISR jet.

4.7.3 Binary event classifier

This analysis employs a multivariate classifier to select signal events while optimally rejecting SM background events. The classifier algorithm is a BDT, and its output score is used to define Signal Regions (SRs) as well as CRs. For the dimuon category, one BDT is trained, while for the exclusive track category, a BDT is trained for each lepton flavor and for the two phases of the tracker detector (Phase 0 and Phase 1), resulting in a total of five BDTs.

All BDTs are based on the same architecture, making use of 120 trees with a maximum depth of 3. The BDT training is performed with AdaBoost and GiniIndex separation. The BDTs are trained and evaluated using the TMVA package [97].

For training, signal events are taken from the dedicated samples used to train the track-picking BDT for the exclusive track category, listed in Section 4.4.2 for the signal, and SM samples listed in Section 4.4.1 for the background. For the exclusive track category, MC from 2016 and 2017 are used to represent Phase 0 and Phase 1 of the tracker, respectively. For the dimuon category, only 2017 MC is used to represent both phases, with an added systematic uncertainty resulting from this choice.

For the signal the same broad range of higgsino parameter μ ($\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm$) is used as was considered for the track-picking BDT training sample, but only the range of Δm targeted by the analysis. For Phase 0, Δm^0 is selected in the range of [0.3, 4.3] GeV and μ is selected in the range [100,130] GeV. For Phase 1, Δm^\pm is selected in the range of [0.3-4.6] GeV and μ is selected in the range of [100-500] GeV. The preselection and baseline selection is applied to the events included in the training, as well as a subset of the selection criteria listed in Section 4.7.2.1 and Section 4.7.2.2 as follows:

- $N_\mu = 2(1)$ opposite-charge passing the muons selection for the dimuon category (for the exclusive track category);
- $\Delta R(\ell, \text{leading jet}) > 0.4$;
- track picking BDT score > 0 for the exclusive track category.

The training was conducted without using MC weights to avoid possible overtraining issues. This choice does not compromise the performance of the BDT because the kinematics of low- p_T leptons are similar across most SM background production processes. When examining the distributions of input variables in the following sections, this fact must be taken into account. The distributions are plotted without MC weights and with signal events taken from a pool of different parameter values as described above. Therefore, the ROC curves cannot be understood as a simple signal efficiency versus background rejection. Each BDT output working point results in a different signal efficiency depending on the signal parameter values. As will be seen later, one does not use a single value of BDT with a simple cut and count. Instead, the Signal Regions (SRs) are binned according to BDT output values. Therefore, the ROC curve is plotted with a default cut of 0.0 for the sake of completeness. To fully estimate the power of the training, one needs to consider the significance when each signal point has been properly weighted together with the background processes from the SM.

4.7.3.1 Dimuon category

The training samples for the dimuon category contain 4350 signal events and 21842 background events. The BDT evaluated in statistically independent samples of the same size in order to identify any overtraining. The distributions of the testing samples superimposed on the training samples, as well as the ROC curve, are shown in Figure 4.38. No significant overtraining is

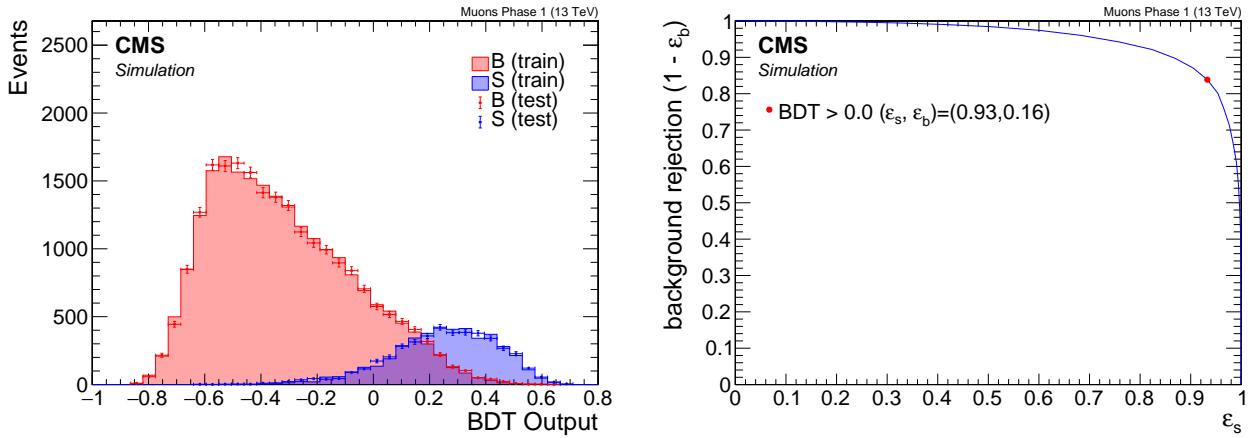


Figure 4.38: Dimuon BDT output (left) and ROC curve (right).

Table 4.10: Dimuon BDT input variables ranked in order of importance, as reported in the TMVA performance summary table.

Rank	Variable	Description
1	$m_{\ell\ell}$	invariant mass
2	$p_T(\ell_1)$	leading lepton p_T
3	H_T^{miss}	
4	H_T	
5	$\Delta R(\ell\ell)$	
6	$\min \Delta\phi \left(\vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}}, \vec{j} \right)$	
7	$p_T(\vec{\ell}_1 + \vec{\ell}_2)$	dilepton p_T
8	$p_T(\text{leading jet})$	
9	$p_T(\ell_2)$	subleading lepton p_T
10	$\eta(\ell_1)$	leading lepton η
11	$m_T(\ell_1)$	leading lepton transverse mass
12	$\left \Delta\phi \left(\ell_2, \vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}} \right) \right $	
13	$\left \Delta\phi \left(\ell_1, \vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}} \right) \right $	
14	$ \Delta\phi(\ell\ell) $	
15	N_{jets}	Number of jets
16	$\eta(\text{leading jet})$	
17	$ \Delta\eta(\ell\ell) $	
18	$m_{\tau\tau}$	collinear approximation of $m_{\tau\tau}$

observed. The BDT takes 18 variables as input, listed in Table 4.7.3.1 in decreasing order of importance ranking.

Distributions of the input variables to the BDT are shown in Figure 4.39.

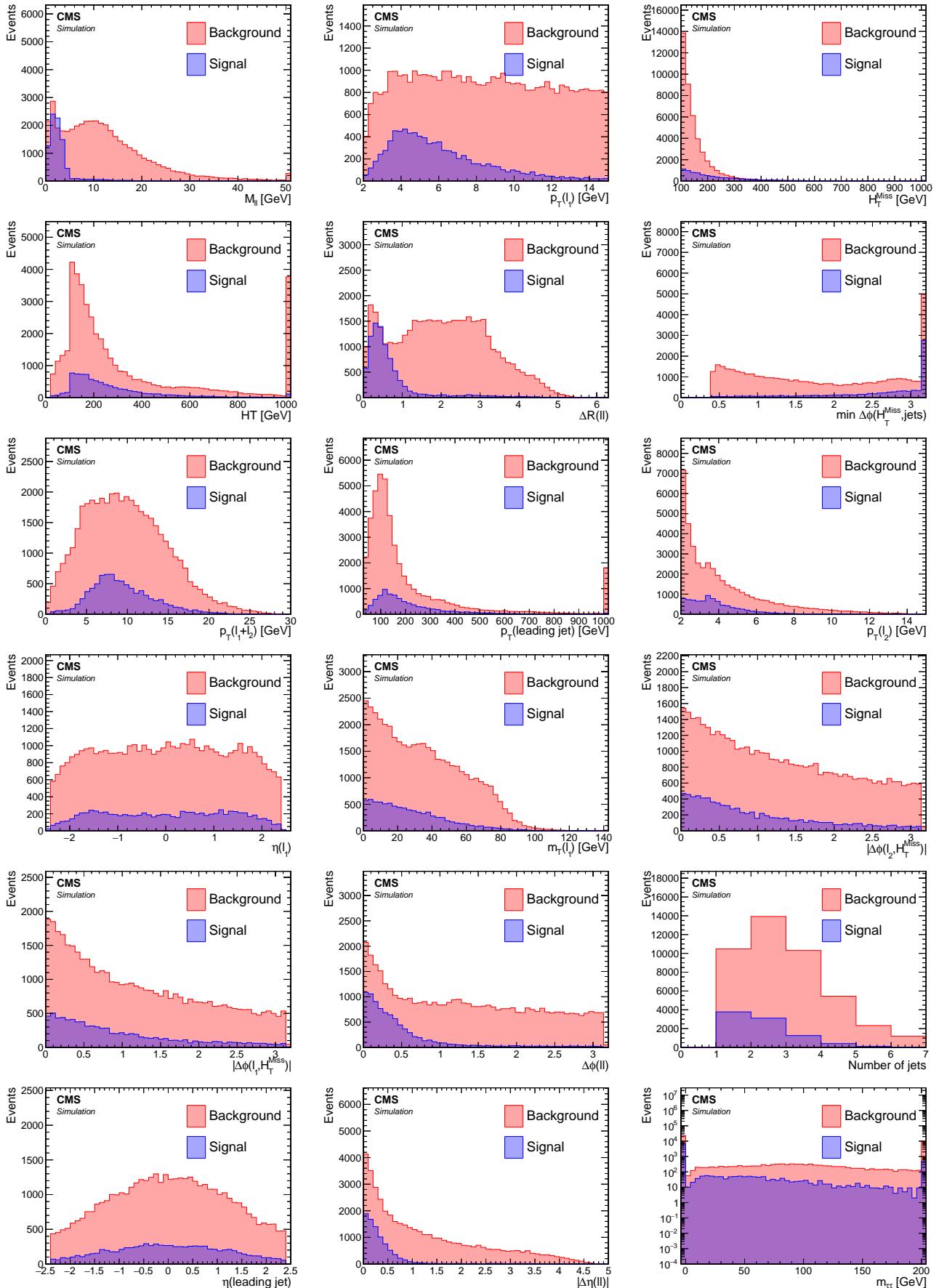


Figure 4.39: Dimuon BDT training input variables. The plots are ordered by importance ranking.

4.7.3.2 Exclusive track category

The training samples for Phase 0 for the exclusive category contain 7863 (1750) signal events and 55765 (29135) background events for muons (electrons). For Phase 1, the exclusive category contain 5266 (1332) signal events and 51308 (31149) background events for muons (electrons). The distributions of the testing samples superimposed on the training samples are shown in Figure 4.40. The ROC curves are seen in Figure 4.41. No over training is observed.

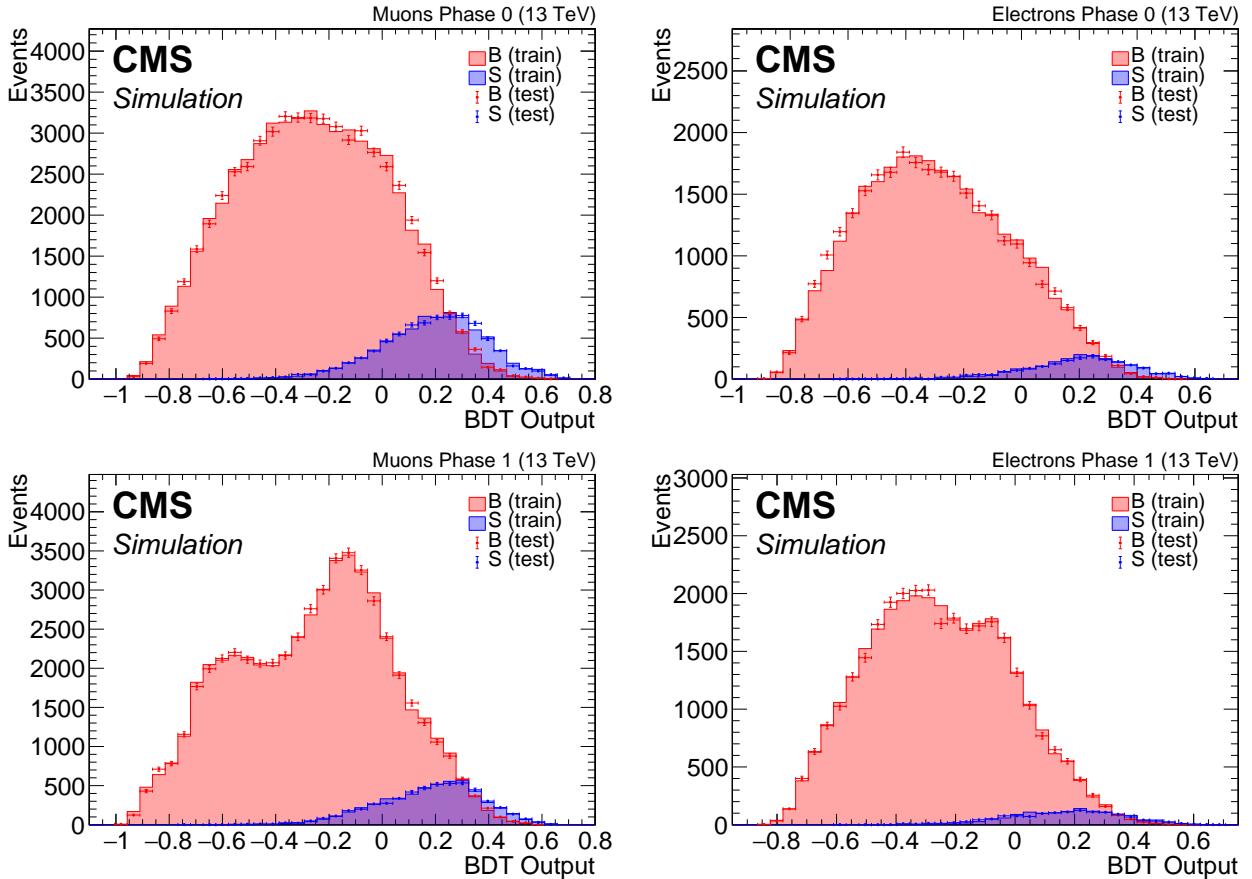


Figure 4.40: Exclusive track category BDT output in Phase 0 (top) and Phase 1 (bottom) for muons (left) and electrons (right).

The training uses 18 different variables listed in Table 4.7.3.2 in decreasing order of importance ranking. Since the ranking is slightly different in the four trainings, the order in the case of the muons of phase 1 is chosen to be listed here. The fully identified lepton is denoted as ℓ and the non-identified lepton track as t .

Distributions of the input variables to the BDT training can be seen in Figure 4.42. As mentioned before, the signal is taken from a pool of a range of model points, and events are not weighted to any luminosity or cross section in order to avoid over training. In the following sections we fully weighted distributions will be shown in order to asses the performance of the training for different model points and to understand the different components of the standard model background and how to estimate it properly.

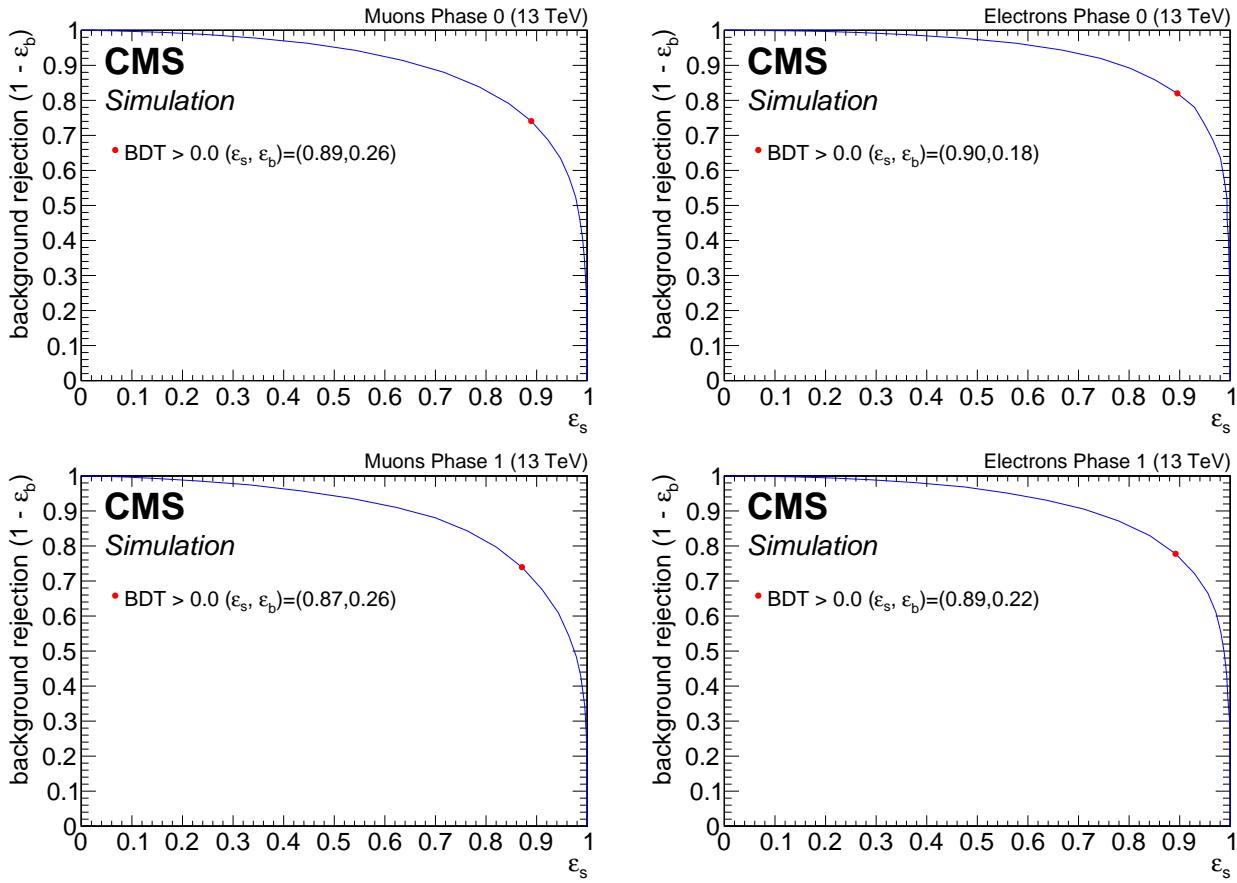


Figure 4.41: Exclusive track category ROC curves in Phase 0 (top) and Phase 1 (bottom) for muons (left) and electrons (right)

Table 4.11: Exclusive track BDT input variables

Rank	Variable	Description
1	$p_T(\ell)$	lepton p_T
2	H_T	
3	H_T^{miss}	
4	$\min \Delta\phi \left(\vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}}, \vec{j} \right)$	
5	$p_T(\text{leading jet})$	
6	N_{jets}	Number of jets
7	track BDT output	
8	$\eta(t)$	
9	$p_T(t)$	track p_T
10	$\eta(\text{leading jet})$	
11	$m_{\ell\ell}$	invariant mass
12	$\eta(\ell)$	
13	$m_T(\ell)$	lepton transverse mass
14	$\Delta R(\ell, t)$	
15	$\phi(\ell)$	
16	$\phi(t)$	
17	$ \Delta\phi(\ell, t) $	
18	$ \Delta\eta(\ell, t) $	

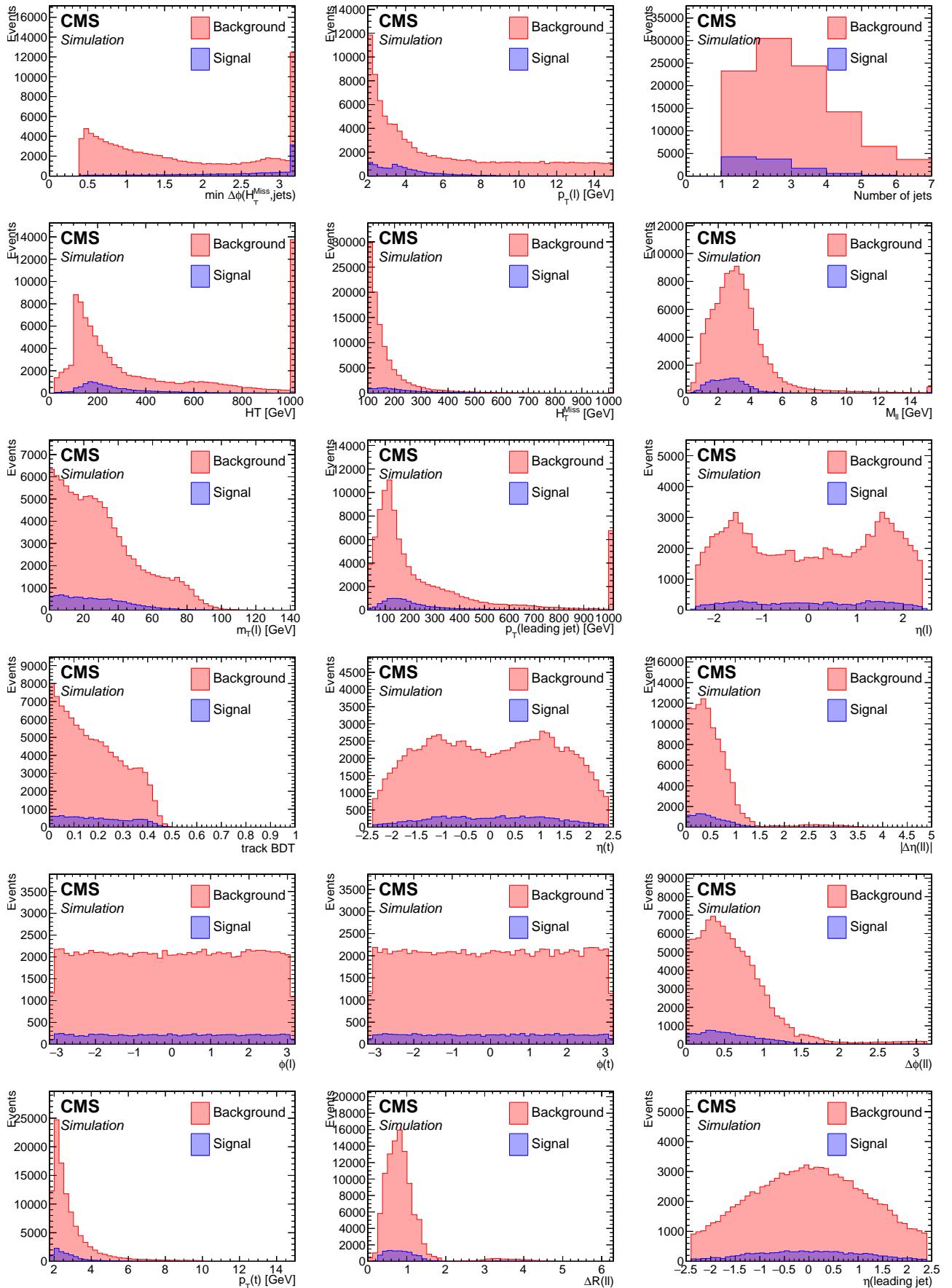


Figure 4.42: Exclusive track BDT training input variables. The plots are ordered by importance ranking.

4.8 Trigger

Events in the SR, as well as events in all CRs, were collected using a set of triggers based on missing transverse energy E_T^{miss} (or MET) and missing hadronic transverse momentum H_T^{miss} (or MHT), denoted by the HLT paths

- HLT_PFMETX_PFMHTX_IDTight_v* ($X=90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140$) and
- HLT_PFMETNoMuX_PFMHTNoMuX_IDTight_v* ($X=90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140$).

Here, X indicates the threshold applied to the online E_T^{miss} and H_T^{miss} , as calculated by the PF algorithm; the asterisks indicate that more than one version of the same trigger may have been used. During periods of higher instantaneous luminosity, trigger paths with lower thresholds became prescaled to reduce the event rate; in such cases, the search relies on the higher-threshold triggers, which remained un-prescaled throughout all data-taking periods. To compensate for losses in efficiency associated with the higher trigger thresholds, a set of back-up triggers was used when the low-threshold $E_T^{\text{miss}}-H_T^{\text{miss}}$ triggers became prescaled:

- HLT_PFMETX_PFMHTX_IDTight_PFHT60_v* ($X=100, 110, 120, 130, 140$),
- HLT_PFMETNoMuX_PFMHTNoMuX_IDTight_PFHT60_v* ($X=100, 110, 120, 130, 140$),
- HLT_PFMET120_PFMHT120_IDTight_HFCleaned_v*,
- HLT_PFMET120_PFMHT120_IDTight_PFHT60_HFCleaned_v*, and
- HLT_PFMETNoMu120_PFMHTNoMu120_IDTight_HFCleaned_v*.

The logical OR of all of the above trigger paths was taken as the online criterion for selecting events throughout the three years of data-taking. The efficiency of the trigger decision is estimated in a single-electron CR collected the single-electron trigger path

- HLT_Ele27_WPTight_Gsf_v*.

The efficiency is estimated as

$$\epsilon = \frac{n_{\text{ev}}(\text{passing } E_T^{\text{miss}}-H_T^{\text{miss}} \text{ trigger in reference sample})}{n_{\text{ev}}(\text{reference sample})}, \quad (4.9)$$

where the reference sample corresponds to events passing the electron trigger and additionally required to have an offline electron with $p_T > 30$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.4$ passing the Medium WP. The efficiency is shown as a function of offline analysis observables H_T^{miss} and N_{jets} in Figure 4.43.

The trigger efficiency has been studied previously, e.g., in SUS-19-006 [101], the efficiency measured in the SingleElectron datastream is consistent with the efficiency corresponding to SUSY signal events. The efficiency is applied as event weights extracted from the binned efficiency shown in Figure 4.43.

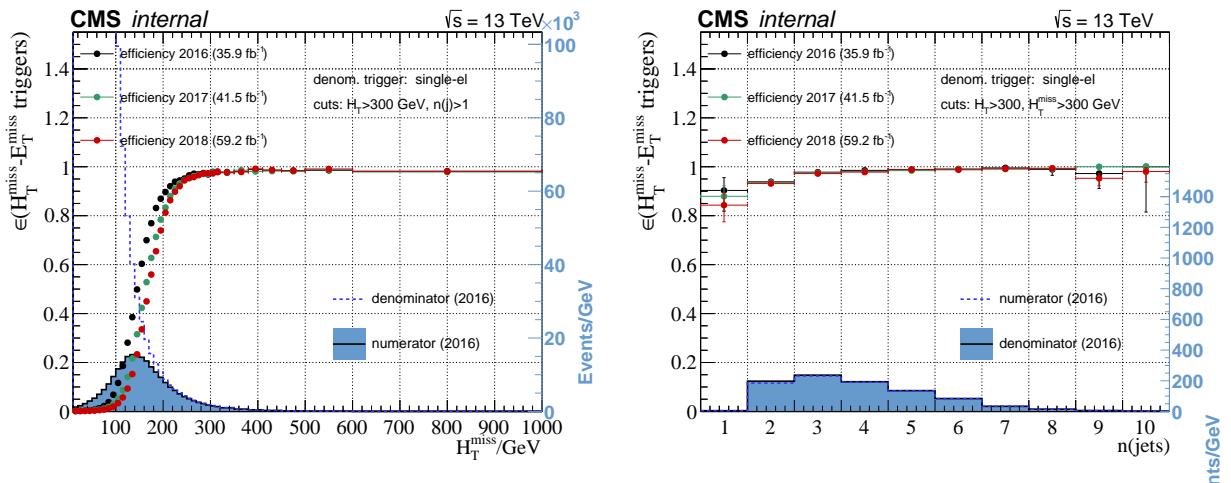


Figure 4.43: The efficiency of the set of $E_T^{\text{miss}} - H_T^{\text{miss}}$ cross triggers measured in a single-electron control region, shown for H_T^{miss} (left) and number of jets (right). The jet multiplicity is shown for $H_T^{\text{miss}} > 300 \text{ GeV}$ to account for the trigger turn-on.

4.9 Characterization and estimation of the Standard Model backgrounds

Backgrounds arising from SM processes as well as fake or spurious tracks and leptons present a practical challenge for the analysis, given the unique low-momentum phase space of the selected objects. The characterization of the SM backgrounds is examined in Section 4.9.1, while the methods for estimating the background rates in the signal region is described in Section 4.9.2.

4.9.1 Characterization of the Standard Model backgrounds

Processes which contribute to event counts in the signal region, but which are not attributed to the signal process, are referred to as backgrounds. Backgrounds can arise due to SM processes with final states closely resembling the signal, or due to detector effects and mismeasurements. In the current analysis, an example of a background in the dimuon category that arises from truly similar physics is Drell-Yan. In a Drell-Yan process, opposite-charge same-flavor dilepton pairs are produced from an off-shell Z^* or γ^* . An example of a background process that is due to mismeasurement is the production of a W in association with jets, where one lepton comes from the leptonic decay of the W, and another lepton is due to either mismeasurement, i.e., a fake lepton, or as part of a hadronization process. A comprehensive set of the SM processes has been studied with MC samples, along with descriptions, is given below. The processes are ordered according to their contribution in the SRs of the dimuon category.

- **W in association with jets.** In this SM process, a W boson is produced alongside jets and decays leptonically into a lepton and a neutrino. It can be represented symbolically as $W + \text{jets} \rightarrow \ell\nu$. There are several reasons why this process is a background in this analysis. First, since a neutrino is present in the final state, there can be significant real missing transverse momentum. Second, the very low transverse momentum p_T threshold of the analysis muons allows a considerable rate of either a fake misidentified lepton or a low- p_T lepton originating from a hadronization process to pass the analysis selection.
- **Z in association with jets.** In this SM process, there is a production of a Z boson alongside jets, decaying into two neutrinos. It can be written schematically as $Z + \text{jets} \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$. The two neutrinos in this process contribute to true missing transverse momentum in the event. The lepton and track candidates can either be fake, or come from either a decay of a meson produced in the hadronization process.
- **Drell-Yan process.** DY events occur when a quark from one proton and an antiquark from the other proton annihilate, creating a virtual photon or Z boson that decays into a pair of oppositely-charged leptons. When two electrons are produced via $Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$ or two muons via $Z \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$, true missing transverse momentum is not part of the production. Therefore, a relatively high E_T^{miss} cut, as used in this analysis, is successful in suppressing these types of backgrounds. However, in the production of two taus via $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$, each tau can decay into a muon alongside two neutrinos, i.e., $\tau \rightarrow \mu\bar{\nu}_\mu\nu_\tau$, producing real missing transverse momentum in the event alongside two real leptons, which then become a background to this analysis.
- **Ditop.** When two top quarks are produced, $t\bar{t}$, each top decays to a W boson and a b quark, with a branching fraction close to 100%. The W boson can decay to a charged lepton and a neutrino, contributing to real missing transverse momentum and, given the general abundance of low- p_T tracks and fake leptons, can satisfy the dimuon or track+muon selection. Despite the b-tagged jet veto applied as a component of the baseline selection, a non-negligible rate of $t\bar{t}$ events persists in the signal region.

- **Diboson and rare processes.** In the plots presented in the following section, diboson processes (VV) is distinguished from higher-order productions such as three bosons, which are collectively referred to as *rare*. The ways in which they can be selected in the SRs are similar to the single boson case. However, the higher-order multiplicity events have much lower production cross sections, and are therefore almost negligible in this analysis.
- **QCD production.** Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) comprises events arising from the production and radiation of quarks and gluons followed by their hadronization and showering into highly columnar sprays of particles known as jets. QCD events contain no real E_T^{miss} . Most E_T^{miss} present in a QCD event is due to the mismeasurement of jet energy. The relatively high E_T^{miss} cut, in combination with requiring $\min \Delta\phi(\vec{H}_T^{\text{miss}}, \vec{j}) > 0.4$, eliminates almost all QCD background. Accounted for using the jetty-background method in Section 4.9.2.1.
- **Resonances.** Resonances are composite particles, namely mesons or baryons, which can later decay into leptons. The largest contribution in this category comes from the J/ψ , which has a mass of 3.1 GeV and a relatively high cross section. To reduce this background, invariant mass vetoes for the ω , ρ^0 , and J/ψ are applied in the ranges of $m_{\ell\ell} \in [0.75, 0.81]$ GeV and $m_{\ell\ell} \in [3, 3.2]$ GeV.

To gain an understanding of the proportion of each background process, luminosity-weighted MC distributions of key observables are examined in the baseline region, including that of the BDT classifier score as well as of a few important inputs to the BDT. Data taking conditions based on the year 2017 are assumed for this composition study.

4.9.1.1 Dimuon category

The cross-section and luminosity weighted distribution of the BDT output is shown in Figure 4.44 for the dimuon category. Six SR bins are defined in the range of the BDT output score greater than 0, and labeled by numbers ordered in increasing sensitivity. The largest backgrounds in the dimuon channel are $t\bar{t}$, $Z + \text{jets} \rightarrow \nu\nu$, and $W + \text{jets} \rightarrow \ell\nu$, with a small contribution from Drell-Yan processes mainly due to $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$. Figure 4.45 shows the top ten input observables to the BDT ranked by importance for the training.

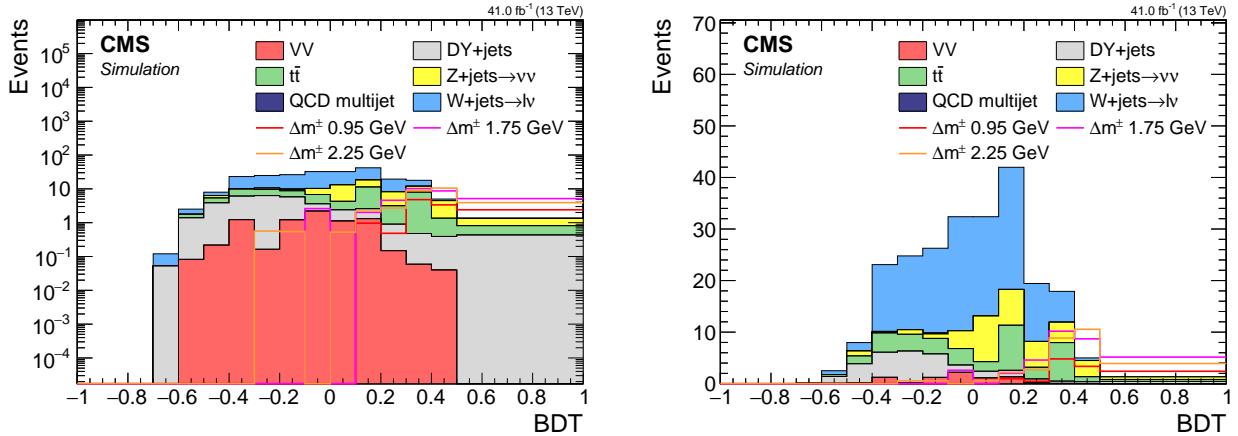


Figure 4.44: Dimuon 2017 simulation BDT score in log scale (left) and linear scale (right).

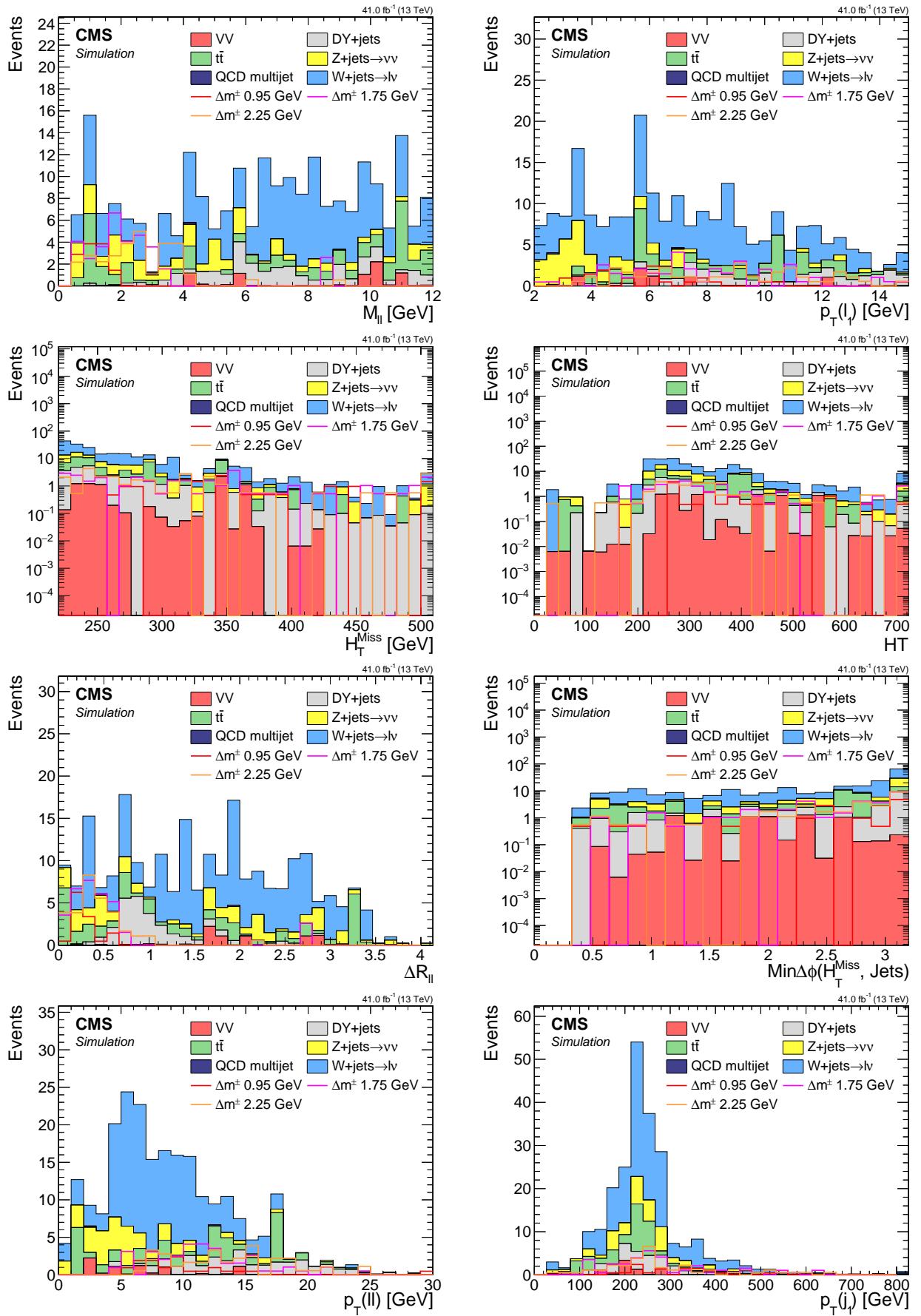


Figure 4.45: Dimuon 2017 simulation BDT inputs for the top 10 ranked observables.

4.9.1.2 Exclusive track category

As described before, there are four BDTs in the exclusive track category, one for each of the two lepton flavors and each of two pixel tracker phases. The distribution of the muon+track category is shown in Figure 4.46. Figure 4.47 shows the top eight input observables to the BDT, ranked by importance for the classifier. It is weighted to 2017 luminosity and uses 2017 simulated data. A few signal points are to indicate the signal-like regions of phase space.

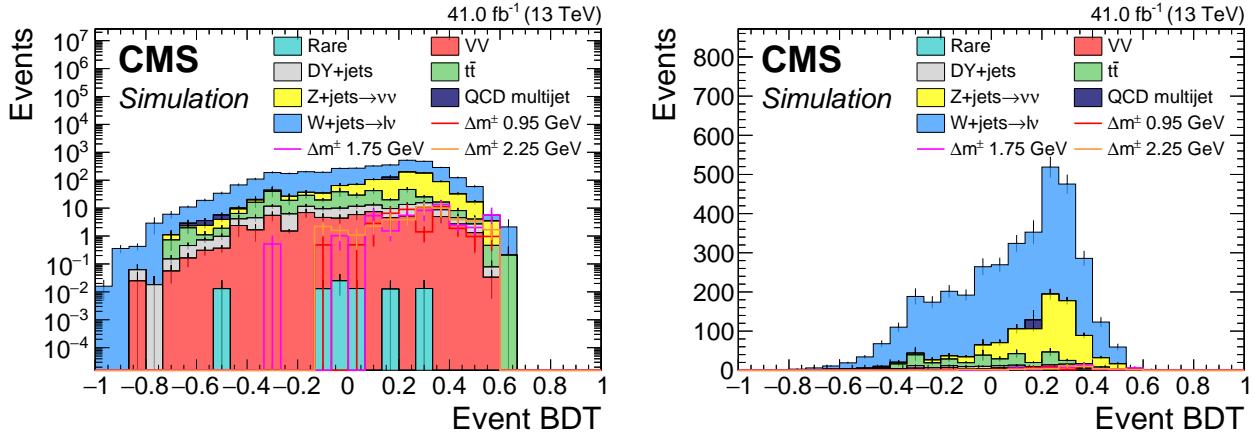


Figure 4.46: track+muon category 2017 simulation BDT output in log scale (left) and linear scale (right).

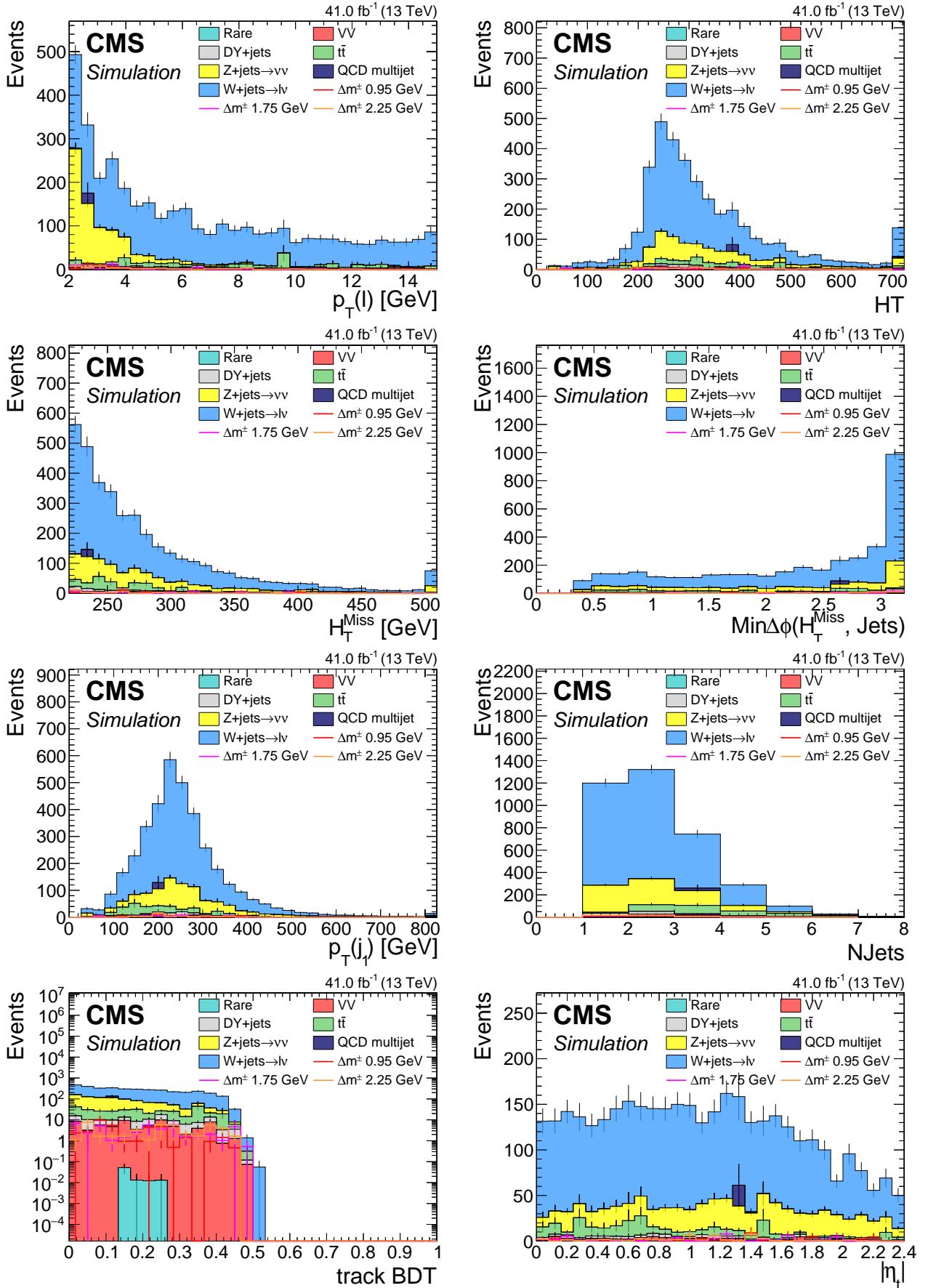


Figure 4.47: Exclusive track plus muon 2017 simulation BDT inputs for the top 8 ranked observables.

4.9.2 Estimation of the Standard Model backgrounds

Accurately predicting the event counts for the Standard Model background is one of the central challenges of the analysis. A widely used method for predicting background counts is MC simulation. MC are weighted to account for production cross-sections and luminosity, and additional correction factors and weights may apply to account for measurement errors, discrepancies between data, and other factors.

Using simulation to estimate the Standard Model background has limitations and disadvantages that can be specific to a given analysis, and depend on the background process under consideration as well as on the observables used in the analysis. The main limitation of simulation is its imperfection. Simulation can never precisely simulate real data due to several factors. Theoretical uncertainties, such as uncertainties on cross sections or branching fractions, can lead to incorrect production rates or normalization. To remedy such effects, simulation is often reweighted using one or more weights derived from a dedicated CR. Another challenging limitation of simulation is its likely misrepresentation of the delicate details of a detector's geometry and response, as well as real-time data-taking conditions which may have varied dynamically throughout a given Run. Some objects and regions of phase space are more prone to discrepancies than others. Using simulation is a reliable method for predicting backgrounds, in which the physics involved has been shown to replicate real data after applying correction factors. In this analysis, the isolated background resulting from the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$ process is estimated using simulation. However, due to the imperfect modeling of jets in MC, the non-isolated background is modeled using a data-driven method.

A significant challenge arises from the soft nature of the leptons, with low transverse momentum (p_T) and low invariant mass of the order of a few GeV. The sources of background for such events in the standard model include low- p_T resonances produced in hadronization processes, and events where one of the leptons or exclusive tracks is misidentified as one of the signal leptons. These leptons or tracks are often in close proximity to jets in the event. The analysis uses two strategies to estimate this type of background, depending on whether two identified leptons are present, as in the dimuon category, or only one, as in the exclusive track category. The jetty background estimation for the dimuon category is described in Section 4.9.2.1, while the exclusive track background estimation is described in Section 4.9.2.3. As described earlier, a small portion of the background, namely $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$, corresponds to isolated leptons which more closely resemble signal, and the method for estimating this background is described in Section 4.9.2.2.

4.9.2.1 Jetty background estimation

As discussed in Section 4.6, the leptons in the signal are well isolated. The isolation criterion developed for this analysis is the jet-based isolation described in Section 4.6.7. This customized isolation is also a key part of the background estimation, which is described in this section. This background estimation method applies only to the dimuon category, and its estimated contribution is the largest among the two background processes. It is a *data-driven* background estimation method, meaning that the real data, rather than simulation, are used to estimate this background. The name *non-isolated jetty background* refers to the background in which one or both of the leptons are produced in association with jets and are typically in the angular vicinity of a jet. Most of these leptons are rejected by the jet-isolation criteria, but some do manage to pass the isolation if produced far enough from a jet.

This method uses a sideband CR defined by inverting the isolation criteria required for the SR to extract a template that is consistent with the shape of the classifier distribution for the jetty background in the SR. Separate normalization CR, defined in the negative BDT score region, is used to correct for the different production rates of jetty background in the sideband and main band.

The SR is defined by taking BDT output greater than 0, and therefore, by definition, the region with less than 0 becomes a CR. The template extraction region is referred to as the *isolation sideband*. The region defining the SR with the nominal isolation criteria applied is referred to as the isolation *main band*. The SRs are then bins in the isolation *main band* with BDT output greater than zero. The events in the *isolation sideband* are used to predict the jetty-background in the *main band*. The *normalization region* is taken to be in the CR with $\text{BDT} < 0$, and can also be referred to as the *BDT sideband* or, more elaborately, the *BDT normalization sideband*. Of course though, a *sideband* is still a type of CR.

Lepton candidates in the isolation sideband are by definition within an angular distance ΔR of 0.6 from a lepton-corrected jet. Any jet causing the lepton to fail the jet-based isolation is required to have an original transverse momentum, i.e., transverse momentum before the lepton momentum subtraction, satisfying $15 < p_T < 30 \text{ GeV}$. The upper bound of 30 GeV is chosen because this is the lower bound on the analysis jets, effectively decorrelating the isolation observable from the H_T^{miss} and the number of jets in the event. In the absence of such of an upper bound, a bias in the isolation sideband could, for example, be introduced because requiring a lepton to fail jet-based isolation would require the presence of an additional analysis jet, which is not the case in the main band. The BDT is also not sensitive to these softer jets, and so the shape of the classifier score distribution in the sideband should be unaffected by the isolation requirement, resulting in consistent shapes between the main band and the sideband.

The main assumption underpinning the use of the isolation sideband is that, in the jetty background, the leptons are not isolated but are created in association with jets. Most of them are produced inside the jets, with a distribution that falls off as a function of the angular distance ΔR to jet. By selecting leptons inside the cone around the soft jet, events are picked up that have similar behavior to events where the leptons are outside of those cones. The rate of lepton production inside jets differs from those outside jets, but much about the object and event kinematics is well-matched between the sideband and main band, and only a normalisation correction factor must be applied to bring the two shapes into statistical agreement. The normalisation factor is derived by taking the ratio between the event count in the main band and that in the isolation sideband in the normalisation CR, defined in the region with BDT score less than 0. The event counts in the sideband are then scaled by the normalisation factor to make up the prediction. The prediction in the SR then becomes:

$$\hat{N}_{\text{jetty}}^{\text{SR}} = \frac{N_{\text{main band}}^{\text{norm CR}}}{N_{\text{sideband}}^{\text{norm CR}}} \cdot N_{\text{sideband}}^{\text{SR}}, \quad (4.10)$$

where the transfer factor is:

$$\hat{T}F_{\text{jetty}} = \frac{N_{\text{main band}}^{\text{norm CR}}}{N_{\text{sideband}}^{\text{norm CR}}}. \quad (4.11)$$

The transfer factors are listed in Table 4.12.1.

To test the assumption that the isolation sideband, i.e., events with at least one of the leptons failing the jet isolation criterion, correctly predicts the shape of the main band in the signal region, a shape comparison is performed in simulation. This shape comparison, also known as a *closure test*, is carried out by evaluating the consistency of the ratio between the predicted and direct MC values with unity. A normalization factor is computed to correctly normalize the isolation sideband. This is ultimately the same procedure carried out on data to derive the data-driven predictions. This section presents the Phase 1 closure test, carried out using 2017 MC. An additional correction has been carried out in the case of Phase 0, which is discussed in Section 4.12.

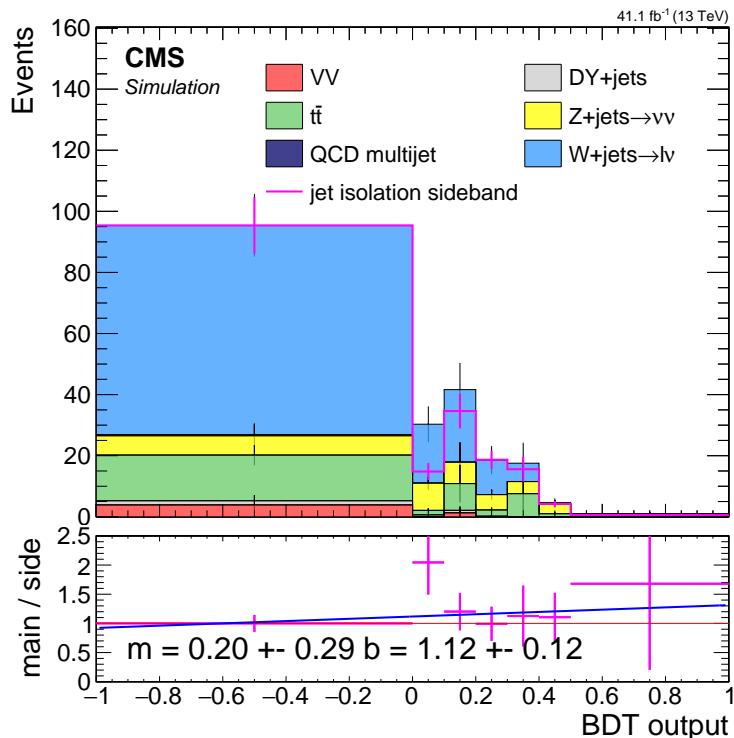


Figure 4.48: Event distributions comprising the Phase 1 jetty background closure test. The stack represents simulation in the isolation main band, $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$ not included, while the pink line represents simulation in the isolation sideband scaled by the normalisation correction factor $\hat{T}F_{\text{jetty}}$. The lower panel shows the ratio between the isolation main band and sideband. A line fit of the ratio is performed and the parameters of the slope m and interception point b with their respective errors are printed.

Figure 4.48 shows the results of the jetty background closure test. The overall shapes are compatible, and the trend line is statistically compatible with a horizontal line at unity, and most bins are statistically consistent with 1. The trend line indicates there is no need for additional correction, but the uncertainty in the trend line constitutes the basis of a systematic uncertainty in the shape of the isolation sideband template. The full list of transfer factors with the associated uncertainties can be found in Section 4.12.1, while the special treatment of the 2016 case is discussed in Section 4.12.2.

4.9.2.2 Ditaū Drell-Yann background estimation

A small amount of background arising from $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$ is also present in the SR, which is the only identified background not accounted for by the jetty method. Since the leptons resulting from the leptonic decay $\tau \rightarrow \mu\bar{\nu}_\mu\nu_\tau$ are isolated, it requires an alternative background estimation method.

The $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$ background is estimated using MC simulation weighted according to a data-to-MC correction factor computed in a dedicated CR that is relatively pure in $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$ background. This control region is constructed by placing requirements on the observable $m_{\tau\tau}$, explained below. If the taus could be fully reconstructed, their system invariant mass $m_{\tau\tau}$ would peak around the Z mass. The Z resonance could then be used as the desired CR rich in ditaū background. However, since leptonic taus are not directly reconstructed, an alternative approach must be formulated.

A widely used method for the reconstruction of the invariant mass $m_{\tau\tau}$ is the *collinear approximation*. First described in [102], it has been used in ATLAS [103] and CMS [104]. In this approximation, it is assumed that each τ produced from Z/γ^* is highly energetic, such that its decay products are collinear, and that the source of missing transverse momentum is the neutrinos. If both τ -leptons are sufficiently boosted, the neutrinos from each τ decay are collinear with the visible lepton momentum. The visible daughter-lepton momentum is used together with \vec{E}_T^{miss} to reconstruct the τ -lepton pair and calculate the invariant mass. Depending on the details of the approximation, one can arrive at a strictly positive distribution for $m_{\tau\tau}$, as in [105], or one that also has negative values as in [106, 107]. The negative values correspond to events where \vec{E}_T^{miss} points more than 90 degrees in ϕ from one of the leptons, which is not consistent with the topology of boosted ditaū events, and thus it is useful to reject negative values in order to purify the CR. The collinear approximation breaks down when the τ s are back-to-back. However, since in the analysis presented in this thesis requires a high- p_T jet and large E_T^{miss} , he considered event topology yields results in sensible values. The signal, as well as other SM processes, are expected to have a smooth and relatively flat distribution in $m_{\tau\tau}$, while events arising due to $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$ are expected to peak around the Z boson mass.

To illuminate the logic behind this observable, the following is a derivation of $m_{\tau\tau}$ approximation. The invariant mass is defined as:

$$m_{\tau\tau}^2 = (p_{\tau_1} + p_{\tau_2})^2. \quad (4.12)$$

Assuming that the τ -pair is boosted and the fully leptonic decay products are fully collinear to the τ -leptons, it follows that the transverse momentum of each neutrino pair is proportional to the corresponding τ_i 's transverse momentum by a scale factor ξ_i :

$$\vec{p}_T^{\nu_i} = \xi_i \vec{p}_T^{\tau_i}. \quad (4.13)$$

Since by assumption, all of the missing transverse momentum is due to the neutrinos, and therefore it follows that

$$\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}} = \xi_1 \vec{p}_T^{\tau_1} + \xi_2 \vec{p}_T^{\tau_2}. \quad (4.14)$$

Solving the above two equations 4.14 for the two parameters ξ_1 and ξ_2 for each event, the solution becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_1 &= \frac{\vec{p}_{T_x}^{\text{miss}} \cdot \vec{p}_y^{\ell_2} - \vec{p}_{T_y}^{\text{miss}} \cdot \vec{p}_x^{\ell_2}}{\vec{p}_x^{\ell_1} \cdot \vec{p}_y^{\ell_2} - \vec{p}_x^{\ell_2} \cdot \vec{p}_y^{\ell_1}}, \\ \xi_2 &= \frac{\vec{p}_{T_y}^{\text{miss}} \cdot \vec{p}_x^{\ell_1} - \vec{p}_{T_x}^{\text{miss}} \cdot \vec{p}_y^{\ell_1}}{\vec{p}_x^{\ell_1} \cdot \vec{p}_y^{\ell_2} - \vec{p}_x^{\ell_2} \cdot \vec{p}_y^{\ell_1}}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.15)$$

Equation 4.12 is expanded based on the assumption that the τ 's are boosted and that the four-momenta of the τ s is $p_{\tau_i} = (1 + \xi_i)p_{\ell_i}$:

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\tau\tau}^2 &= (p_{\tau_1} + p_{\tau_2})^2 \\ &= ((1 + \xi_1)p_{\ell_1} + (1 + \xi_2)p_{\ell_2})^2 \\ &= 2m_\tau^2 + 2(1 + \xi_1)(1 + \xi_2)p_{\ell_1} \cdot p_{\ell_2} \\ &\approx 2(1 + \xi_1)(1 + \xi_2)p_{\ell_1} \cdot p_{\ell_2}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.16)$$

This can be negative if one of the ξ_i satisfy $\xi_i < -1$. This can happen if the missing transverse momentum vector nearly opposite to a lepton's \vec{p}_T and also $p_T^{\text{miss}} > p_T^\ell$. This can easily happen in non-DY processes, such as WW+jets, when a neutrino and a lepton (possibly coming from different decay legs) are nearly back-to-back. Therefore, the final definition of $m_{\tau\tau}$ is

$$m_{\tau\tau} = \text{sign}(m_{\tau\tau}^2) \sqrt{|m_{\tau\tau}^2|}. \quad (4.17)$$

The CR constructed to constrain the $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$ background should have high purity, and thus minimal contamination from SUSY signal and other processes. Figure 4.44 shows that the region of $\text{BDT} < 0$ has negligible signal contamination, and is therefore used as a starting point to build the $\tau\tau$ CR. Figure 4.49 displays the $m_{\tau\tau}$ distributions for the $\tau\tau$ MC in red and the rest of the standard model backgrounds in the stack. The results for the two tracker phases are presented side by side. A clear peak in the $\tau\tau$ background is observed around the mass of the Z boson. A window around the Z boson's mass of [40, 130] GeV is chosen to achieve high purity of about 75% in both phases. Contamination from other backgrounds is removed by first predicting the jetty background count using the data-driven method described in Section 4.9.2.1, and subtracting those counts from the data counts in the $\tau\tau$ dedicated CR. The ratio of data to MC is extracted from this region, with the result 1.2 ± 0.46 (0.29 ± 0.26), which has a relative error of 38% (90%) for Phase 0 (Phase 1).

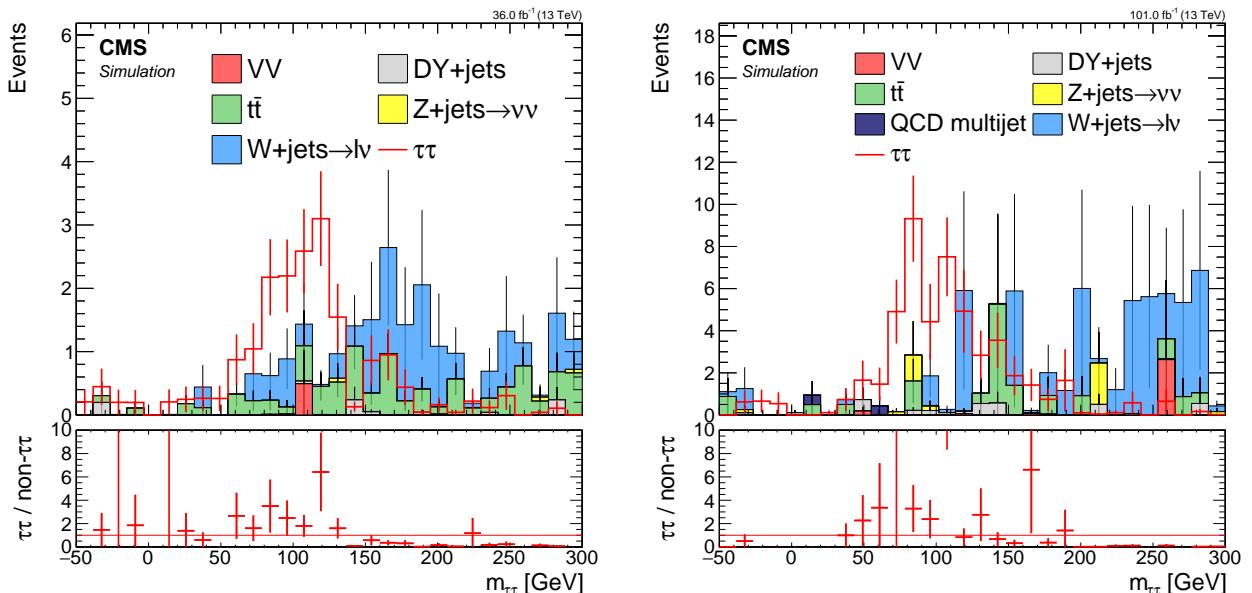


Figure 4.49: Ditàu invariant mass $m_{\tau\tau}$ distributions for phase 0 2016 simulation (left) and phase 1 2017 simulation weighted to luminosity of 2017-2018 data taking period (right). The red line corresponds to $\tau\tau$ simulation, and the stack represents the rest of the standard model background simulation. No overflow bins are plotted in order to clearly show the resonance peak.

4.9.2.3 Exclusive track background estimation

The exclusive track category uses four separate BDTs, one for each lepton flavor, and for each phase. However, the background estimation method is the same for all of them.

The exclusive track category requires one identified lepton according to the selection listed in Sections 4.6.1 and 4.6.2, and one track selected by a procedure described fully in Section 4.6.6. The track is chosen with the highest BDT score among all tracks in each event using the track-picking BDT that was trained to pick up the track that corresponds to the non-identified lepton in the signal event. The chance of selecting a track/lepton pair corresponding to the decay of a single resonant particle is vanishingly small. It is highly likely that the track corresponds to an unrelated charged hadron or is a fake track, meaning a fluke in the tracking pattern recognition procedure.

To devise a reliable background estimation procedure for the exclusive track category, a symmetry is exploited relating to the charge of tracks in the background. The nominal selection requires tracks with opposite charge to the identified lepton, but given that the track is produced independently from the lepton, events with a track of the same charge have otherwise practically indistinguishable characteristics from events with opposite charge pairs. Both the overall rate as well as the shape of the BDT output are generally equivalent, making it an excellent proxy to the true background.

A CR is defined by selecting events with a same-charge lepton-track pair rather than an opposite-charge pair as in the SR. The normalization is fixed by calculating a normalization factor as the ratio between the opposite-charge and same-charge event count in a dedicated normalization sideband CR satisfying $\text{BDT} < 0$, and applying it to the same-charge event count in the SRs satisfying $\text{BDT} > 0$. In order to test the independence assumption and to demonstrate the correct shape and normalization prediction, a closure test is performed using MC data. Figure 4.50 shows the results of the closure tests for muons and electrons for both tracker phases. In each plot, the stack represents SM background for the nominal (opposite-charge) analysis selection lepton-track pair (oc), while the orange line represents the same-charge lepton-track pair (sc). In the ratio panel, which shows the ratio between the opposite-charge to same-charge backgrounds for each bin, the shapes of the nominal and sc backgrounds are seen to be consistent.

After establishing that the method can be used to correctly predict the background, a data-driven normalization factor is computed as the ratio between opposite-charge to same-charge data event count in the CR of $\text{BDT} < 0$. The final prediction in the SRs then becomes the same-charge data event count in the SR multiplied by the normalization factor.

The computed normalization factor for phase 0 (2016) is 1.12 ± 0.044 (1.037 ± 0.05) for muons (electrons), and for phase 1 (2017-2018) is 1.066 ± 0.024 (1.049 ± 0.03) for muons (electrons). The relative errors on the normalization factors are between 2% to 5%.

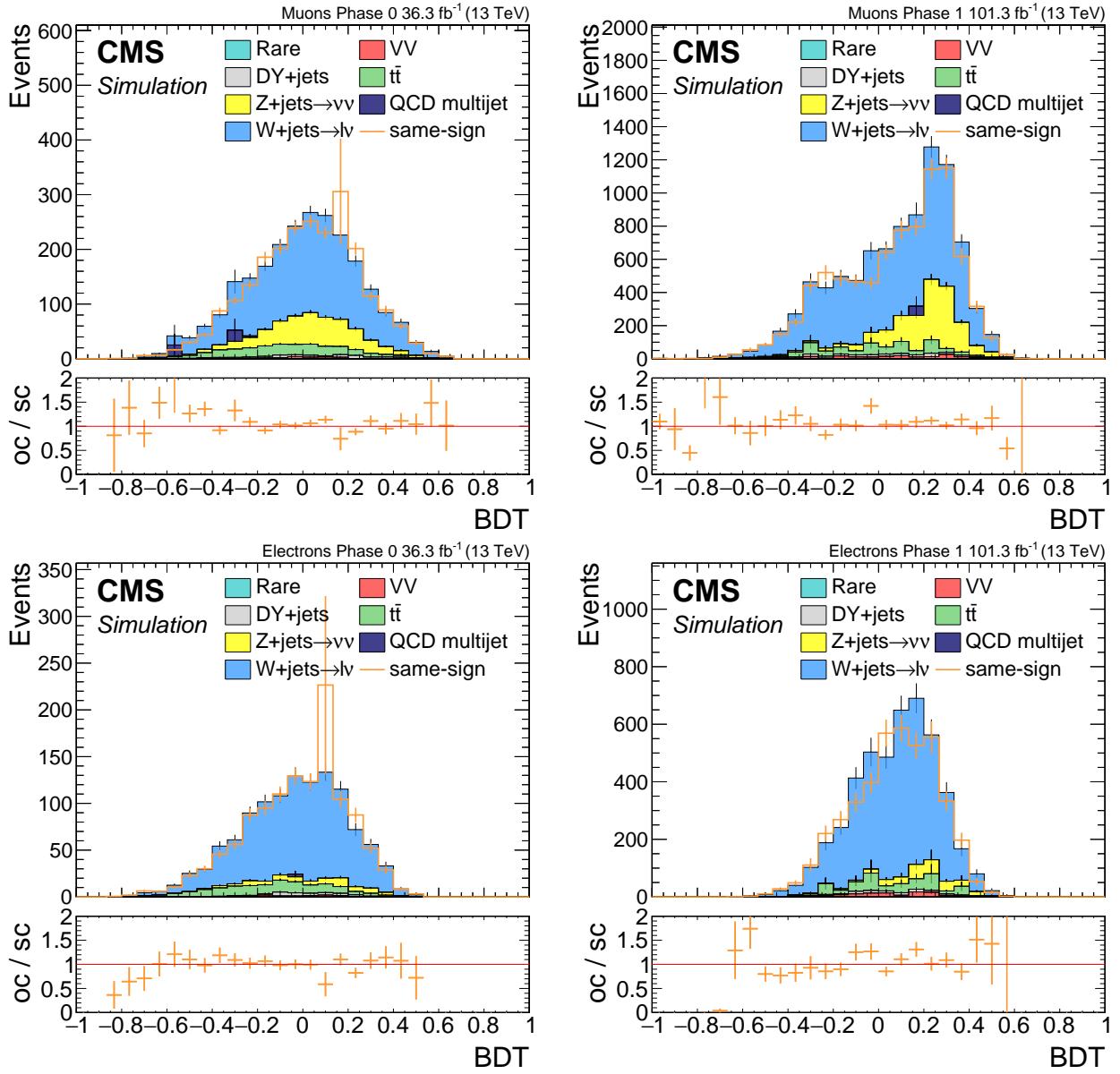


Figure 4.50: Distributions constituting the closure tests for the exclusive track background for the muon+track (top) and electron+track (bottom) for Phase 0 (left) and Phase 1 (right). The stacked histograms represent the SM background for OC pairs, while the orange line is the distribution for SC pairs noramlized according to the method. The lower panel shows the ratio between opposite-charge and same-charge counts for each bin. All uncertainties shown are statistical.

4.10 Data control region plots

MC simulation is used in a number of ways in the analysis, including to train the BDTs and to gain understanding of the composition of the background, and to test the logic of the background methods (closure tests). It is therefore useful to compare distributions of key observables in data and MC to verify that the simulation does not significantly diverge from the data. To avoid unblinding the data in sensitive regions, are made in various CRs known to be devoid of signal.

A useful validation CR is the region obtained by selecting events with an event-based classifier score less than 0. In the following study, this region is examined for the dimuon category. A focus is made on the Phase 1 data set because it is host to the various data quality issues that are further addressed in Section 4.13. The comparison is shown in Figure 4.51. Generally good agreement between data and simulation can be observed in the ratio panel.

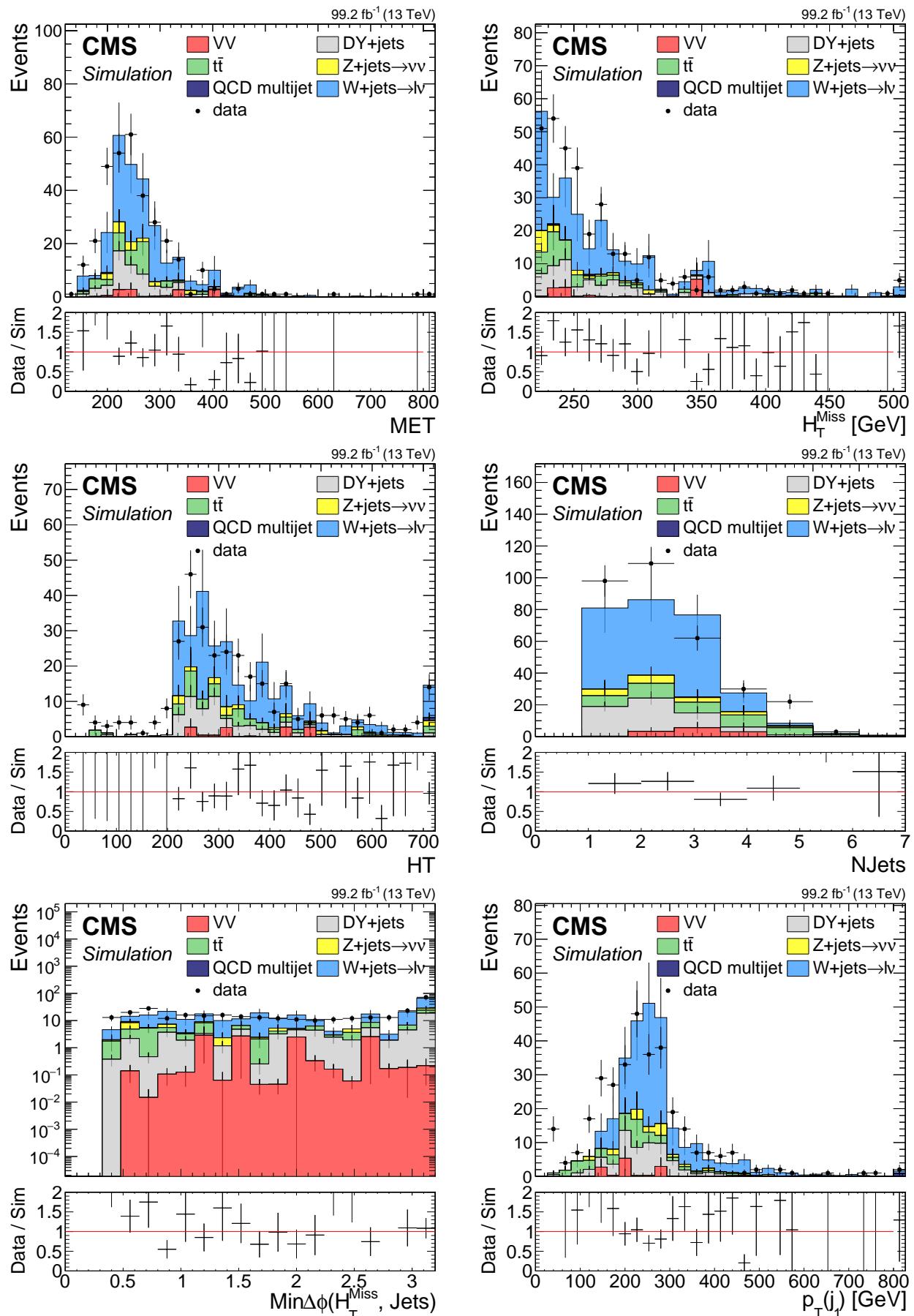
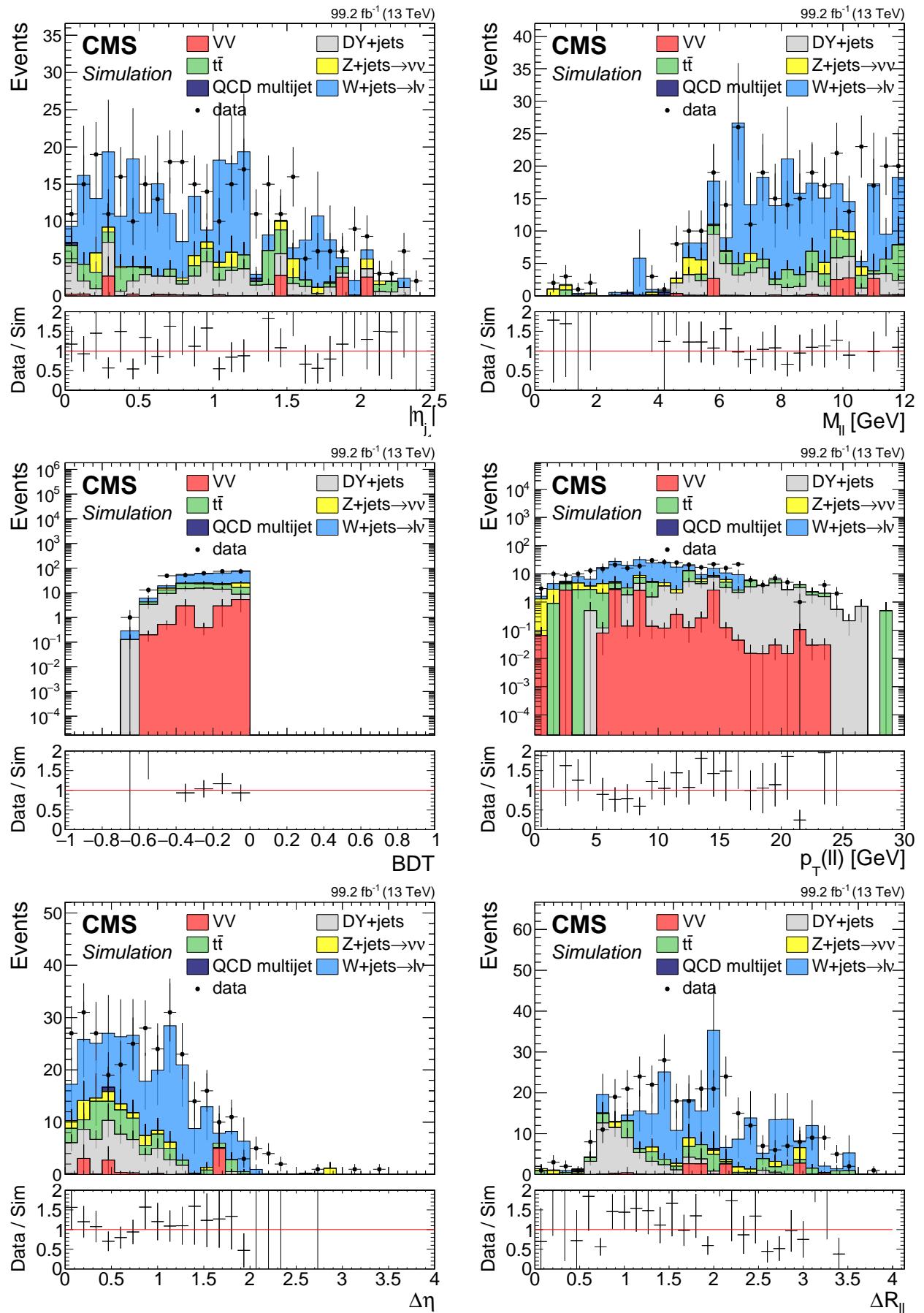


Figure 4.51: Data control region plots for dimuon category in phase 1.



4.11 Optimization of search bins

The signal region is split into various search bins in the range of the event BDT classifier output greater than zero. The final likelihood fit is performed using all of the bins simultaneously, and this approach is a type of *shape analysis*. The significance is computed in each bin, and the individual significance values are then combined to yield single significance value for a given signal hypothesis.

As a general rule of thumb, the signal purity increases as a function of the BDT output score. This means that the most significant bin is likely to be to the right end of the distribution. Finding an ideal choice of bin boundaries can be challenging because the distributions are not smooth, but are made up of event counts with potential statistical fluctuations. The first step in defining the SRs is defining the rightmost division that becomes the left edge of the most sensitive bin, stretching all the way up to the maximum BDT output value of 1. To choose this bin boundary, a scan is performed over all possible lower thresholds on the BDT score in the considered range, employing a step size ε . In each step i , a significance is computed for a bin of size $i \cdot \varepsilon$, i.e., in the interval $[1 - i \cdot \varepsilon, 1]$. One can then pick the left bin by taking the maximum of the series of values resulting in the previous step.

Three open points regarding the binning optimisation warrant further elaboration. The first is the choice of measure for estimating the significance. Since the final significance, combination, and exclusion limit are calculated using the CLs method with asymptotic limits, and is somewhat intractable for a study like this [108], a simple estimate is employed at this stage, which is reviewed in [109, 110] and referred to as the Z-value. The Z-value is related to the p -value by specifying the corresponding number of standard deviations in a one-tailed test of a Gaussian (normal) variate:

$$Z = \Phi^{-1}(1 - p) = -\Phi^{-1}(p). \quad (4.18)$$

Given the number of signal events count \hat{s} , background events count \hat{b} and its corresponding error $\delta\hat{b}$, an estimator for the significance is given by

$$Z = \frac{\hat{s}}{\sqrt{\hat{b} + \delta\hat{b}^2}}. \quad (4.19)$$

The background event count is estimated using the data-driven methods described in 4.9.2. They all involve counting events in a sideband and multiplying them by a transfer factor computed in a control region:

$$\hat{b} = N_{\text{sideband}}^{\text{SR}} \cdot \text{TF}, \quad (4.20)$$

where the transfer factor TF is given by

$$\text{TF} = \frac{N_{\text{main band}}^{\text{CR}}}{N_{\text{sideband}}^{\text{CR}}}. \quad (4.21)$$

The error propagation formula yields

$$\left(\frac{\delta\hat{b}}{\hat{b}} \right)^2 = \left(\frac{\delta N_{\text{sideband}}^{\text{SR}}}{N_{\text{sideband}}^{\text{SR}}} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\delta \text{TF}}{\text{TF}} \right)^2, \quad (4.22)$$

which results in

$$\delta\hat{b}^2 = \hat{b}^2 \left[\left(\frac{\delta N_{\text{sideband}}^{\text{SR}}}{N_{\text{sideband}}^{\text{SR}}} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\delta \text{TF}}{\text{TF}} \right)^2 \right]. \quad (4.23)$$

The second point that needs to be addressed is the choice of which signal point or points to optimize. Each model point yields a different signal event count \hat{s} and therefore produces

different significance values. To select the optimal bin boundaries, a range of signal model points is considered along the edge of the exclusion limit and thus yield to the strongest limit contours.

The third and final point concerns the choice of step size ε . If ε is too small, there will be steps where no events are encountered in either the signal or the background due to the finite statistics. Therefore, encountered background event causes a discrete jump in the significance, an artificial effect that can lead to overtraining. It will produce meaningfully different results given a statistically independent set of events. To avoid overtraining, a relatively large step size of $\varepsilon = 0.05$ was chosen to balance the need for sufficient statistics for all steps in the scan with the benefits of higher granularity.

After the most significant bin has been fixed, the remaining BDT range from 0 to the low edge of the tightest bin is divided equally in order to increase sensitivity, particularly to models with small Δm . For the dimuon category, the bin width is chosen as 0.1, while for the exclusive track categories, it is 0.05. The final signal regions are listed in Table 4.11.

Table 4.12: Signal Regions

Category	Flavor	Phase	SR	Signal Regions
Dilepton	Muon	all	6	[0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 1]
Exclusive Track	Muon	0	13	[0, 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, ⋯, 0.5, 0.55, 0.6, 1]
Exclusive Track	Muon	1	12	[0, 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, ⋯, 0.5, 0.55, 1]
Exclusive Track	Electron	all	11	[0, 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, ⋯, 0.5, 1]

4.12 Systematic uncertainties

The measured and predicted observables have uncertainty associated with them, and this must be taken into account in the interpretation of the data. Sources of uncertainty can be experimental in nature, such as uncertainty in the reconstruction efficiency of muons, or theoretical, such as uncertainty in a cross section. Typically, uncertainty that decreases automatically as the number of events increases is statistical, whereas uncertainty that persists after increasing the statistics is referred to as systematic uncertainty. It could well be that a statistical uncertainty in one study becomes a systematic uncertainty in another.

As mentioned, there are uncertainties associated with theoretical calculations and simulation mismodeling (both for FASTSIM and FULLSIM), among other factors. This analysis follows all the recommendations listed by the CMS SUSY Physics Analysis Group (PAG) [111], which includes the study of muon scale factors described in Section 4.6.3. In this section, only the systematic uncertainties that are unique to this analysis are introduced, aside from the muon scale factors. The systematic uncertainties in this analysis are primarily due to the background estimation methods used.

4.12.1 Data driven transfer factors

Data-driven background estimations are used in both the dimuon category, to estimate the jetty non-isolated background, and in the exclusive track background. They involve computing a transfer factor in a dedicated CR of $\text{BDT} < 0$ and applying it in the SRs. The transfer factors are computed as the ratio between the data counts in the main band and the sideband. In the dimuon category, the sideband is the isolation sideband, as described in Section 4.9.2.1, and for the exclusive track category, the sideband is the same-charge sideband, as described in Section 4.9.2.3. These transfer factors have an associated uncertainty due to the statistics in the CR. Table 4.12.1 lists all transfer factors and their associated uncertainties.

Table 4.13: Transfer factors and their associated uncertainties.

Method	Flavor	Phase	Transfer Factor	Uncertainty	Relative uncertainty
Jetty	Muon	0	0.548	0.078	14.2%
Jetty	Muon	1	0.533	0.039	7.3%
$\tau\tau$	Muon	0	0.518	0.411	79%
$\tau\tau$	Muon	1	0.283	0.26	91.8%
Exclusive Track	Muon	0	1.12	0.044	3.9%
Exclusive Track	Muon	1	1.066	0.024	2.2%
Exclusive Track	Electron	0	1.037	0.05	4.8%
Exclusive Track	Electron	1	1.049	0.03	2.8%

4.12.2 Uncertainty in jetty background template

In the section about the background estimation methods, it is explained that the data-driven methods rely on the assumption that the shape of the background in a sideband is the same as in the main band and, therefore, require only a normalization factor to correctly predict the background. The exclusive track category closure plots in Figure 4.50 show no trend, and neither does the Phase 1 closure plot of the jetty background in Figure 4.48. This is also supported by the line fit performed in the ratio panel, which is statistically consistent with a flat line intersecting 1.

In the dimuon category, only one BDT is trained using 2017 simulation, but evaluated for phase 0 (2016) as well. This introduces a slight trend when a line is fit in the ratio panel of the

closure plot in Figure 4.52. The line fit is then used to introduce weights that are applied in an event-by-event manner with the value of the line for the specific BDT value of the event. On the right side of Figure 4.52, one can see the closure plot after said weights have been applied, and it is clear that the trend has been successfully eliminated.

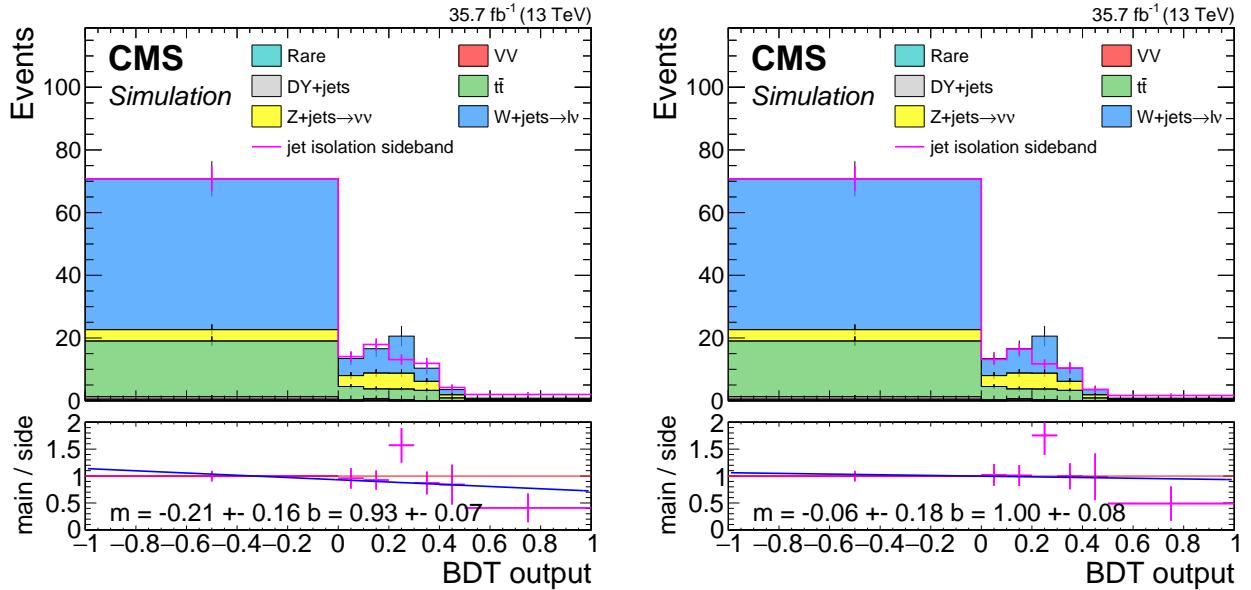


Figure 4.52: Distributions of dimuon 2016 jetty background comprising the closure test with (right) and without (left) fit line weights. The stack represents simulation in the main isolation band excluding $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$, while the pink line represents simulation in the isolation sideband. The isolation sideband is normalized to match the isolation in the CR of $\text{BDT} < 0$. The ratio panel shows the ratio between the isolatoion main band and sideband. A line fit of the ratio is performed and the parameters of the slope m and interception point b with their respective errors are stamped. In the plot on the right, the line fit weights obtained from the fit on the left plot have been applied.

In addition to the TF uncertainty estimates listed in Table 4.12.1, shape uncertainty based on the line fits are also taken into account. For Phase 1, since the closure plot line fit did not show any trend, the nominal values are taken without applying the line weights. For 2016, the nominal values are taken after the line weights were applied, i.e., from the right plot in Figure 4.52. The alternative prediction, which is fed into the combine tool as the shape systematic uncertainty, is for 2017 the histogram with the line weights applied, and for 2016, since the weights were already applied as the nominal value, the weights of the fit line with the slope varied by 1σ are applied ($m = -0.21 - 0.16 = -0.37$).

4.12.3 Uncertainty in $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \tau^-\tau^+$ background

The last background estimation method to consider is the $\tau\tau$, which uses simulation normalized to data in a CR, as explained in Section 4.9.2.2. For background methods that use simulation rather than data, normally a list of uncertainties associated with simulation uncertainties have to be applied. However, as could be seen in Figure 4.53, this background is non-existent in the most sensitive bin, and is very small in the rest of the bins. Therefore, the already very large uncertainties on this background (79%-92%) are dominant enough that all other uncertainties can be safely neglected.

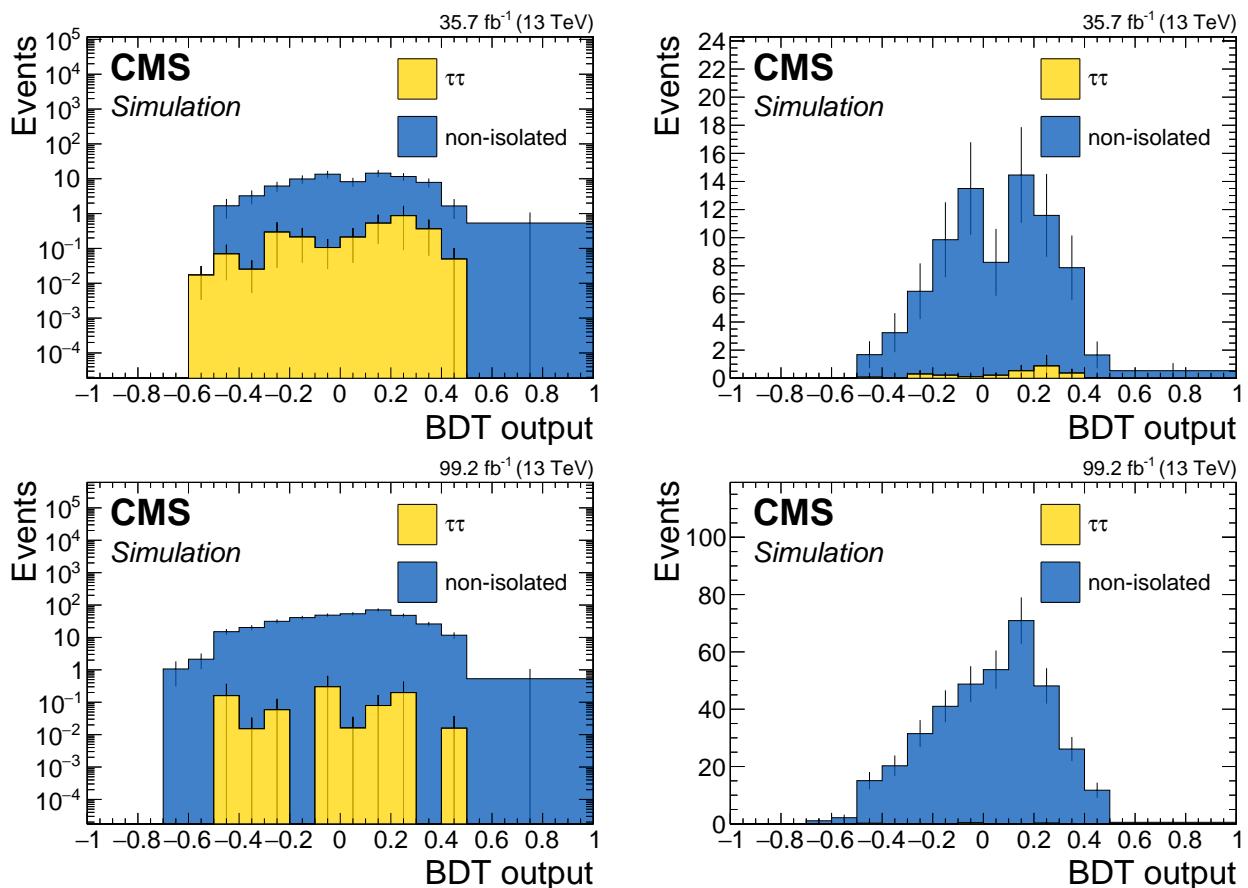


Figure 4.53: Dimuon full background prediction for phase 0 (top) and phase 1 (bottom) both in log scale (left) and linear scale (right). Blue represents the data-driven jetty non-isolated background, while yellow is the $\tau\tau$ background.

4.13 Data quality aspects and background validation

During the Run 2 data taking period, there have been a few detector issues that require some special care. Following the central recommendations, three issues are handled here, namely, L1 prefire rate in 2016 and 2017, ECAL Endcap (EE) noise in 2017, and the HE minus side (HEM) failure in 2018. In the process of dealing with these issues, the jetty background method is also validated in data for selected affected run periods.

4.13.1 L1 prefire issue in 2016 and 2017 data

The L1 prefire issue in 2016 and 2017 occurred due to an ECAL timing error, which was propagated to the L1 trigger primitives. This issue occurred because the trigger system used data from the previous bunch crossing rather than the current one to determine whether an event should be triggered. Events with significant ECAL energy in the region $2.5 < |\eta| < 3$ are affected in 2016 and 2017 data. This can lead to inefficiency and was studied for signal MC samples, as it can potentially lower the signal event count. Prefiring weights were derived and applied to signal and checked against the unweighted events, and no significant effect was observed. Results in the data were also checked with and without the prefiring weights for the most affected period of 2017 by looking at closure plots in a same-charge CR. This serves both to validate that the prefire issue does not affect this analysis and to act as a data validation for the jetty background. Plots can be seen in Section 4.13.4.

4.13.2 EE noise in 2017 data

In 2017 data, an observed excess of fake p_T^{miss} compared to simulation was caused by increased noise in low- p_T jets. Additional noise in the ECAL endcaps in data was identified as the cause of this effect. To deal with this issue, the recommendation is to recalculate p_T^{miss} , excluding jets in the affected phase space. This was done centrally in the process of creating the samples used in this analysis.

4.13.3 HEM failure in 2018 data

Following the power interruptions generated by false fire alarms on Saturday, June 30th, negative endcap Hadron Calorimeter (HCAL) sectors HEM15 and HEM16 could no longer be operated until the end of the 2018 run. The affected $\eta - \phi$ region is $-3.0 < \eta < -1.3$ and $-1.57 < \phi < -0.87$. The first regular physics run affected is 319077. Data and simulation vetoes for objects in the affected region are applied. Same-sign validation plots are made pre-HEM and post-HEM in order to see their effects. The results of these tests are satisfactory and do not imply the need for an additional correction or assessment of additional uncertainty.

4.13.4 Validation in same-sign CR

Figure 4.54 shows the comparison between the predicted and observed background in the same-sign CR. These results serve both as test of the background methods as well as a cross check of the analysis with regards to the data taking issues mentioned above. The results are provided for different data taking periods to check the effects of the data taking issues. The same-sign CR has been selected because it is rich in the primary backgrounds relevant for the search, and because it is devoid of signal events. Overall, good shape agreement is demonstrated between the main band and the isolation sideband.

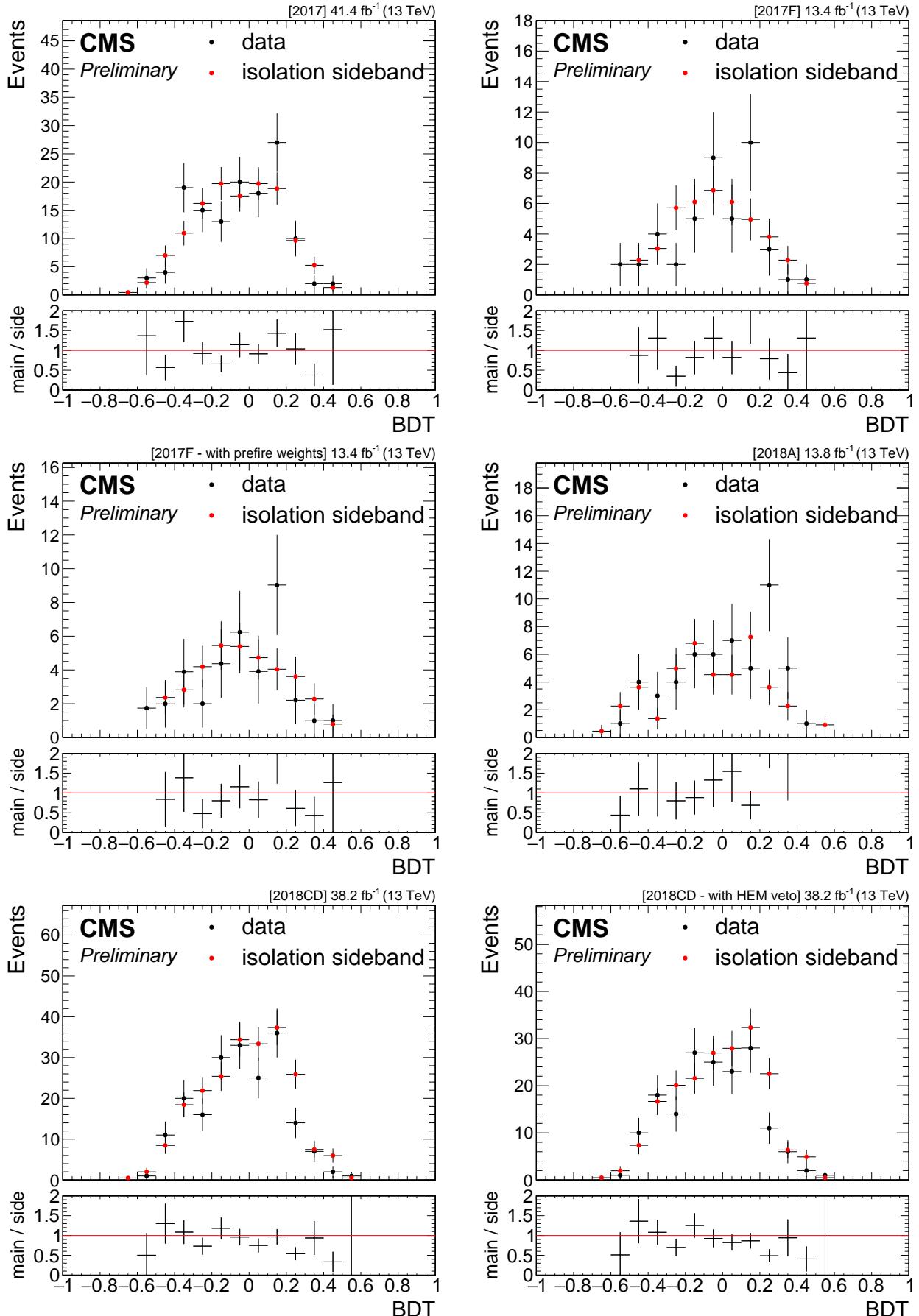


Figure 4.54: Data same sign control validation plots. Black dots show same sign data in the main band, while red dots show same sign data in the isolation side band, normalized in the $BDT < 0$ region. Ratio panel shows the ratio between them. Going line by line from left to right, the corresponding plots are shown: 2017 data taking period, 2017F data taking period, 2017F data taking period with prefire weights, 2018A data taking period (pre HEM), 2018CD data taking period (post HEM), 2018CD data taking period with HEM veto (post HEM).

4.14 Results and interpretation

At the time of writing this thesis, the search presented here is in the final stages of approval by a committee at CERN. Therefore, instead of unblinding the full Run 2 luminosity, 10% of the luminosity is unblinded in the following section. The results section will be divided into two parts. Section 4.14.1 presents the expected limits of the full Run 2 luminosity without observed data, which allows for a comparison of the sensitivity of this search to previous searches. Section 4.14.2 presents the observed and predicted counts for the 10% Run 2 luminosity alongside the calculated limits.

The results are interpreted in terms of the compressed Higgsino simplified model described in Section 4.1. The calculation of both expected and observed limits has been done using the Higgs combination tool [108]. It utilizes the standard CL_s technique [112, 113] to compute the limits at the 95% Confidence Level (CL).

The limits are shown in the plane of $\Delta m^\pm - m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm}$. As described in Section 4.1, $\Delta m^0 = 2\Delta m^\pm$. The area inside the curves is excluded, while the color-coded z-axis shows the upper limits on the cross section. The green line shows the minimum Δm^\pm allowed by the theoretical calculation which takes into account radiative corrections, as described in [71].

4.14.1 Expected limits for Run 2

The expected limits for the full Run 2 luminosity are shown in Figure 4.55. The top row displays the exclusive track plus lepton categories, with the electron on the left and the muon on the right. It can be observed that these categories do not have exclusive power on their own but rather establish upper limits on the cross section. When combined with the dimuon category, they slightly enhance the expected limits, as evident from the comparison of the two plots in the middle row.

The plot on the left in the middle row shows the expected limits set by the dimuon category, while the plot on the right shows the combination of the three categories. Near the LEP limits, Δm^\pm (Δm^0) down to 0.8 GeV (1.6 GeV) is expected to be excluded. In the mass splitting range of 2 to 2.5 GeV, a chargino mass of up to almost 160 GeV is expected to be excluded. This analysis is anticipated to exclude mass splittings below the previous exclusion limits set at CMS in the SOS analysis. Additionally, it shows a slight improvement over the ATLAS results presented in Section 4.2, where a Δm^0 exclusion down to 2 GeV was achieved.

The last plot in the bottom line illustrates the expected exclusion limits when the SOS orthogonality requirement is relaxed. It demonstrates the potential of the analysis without the constraints of orthogonality. As observed, while it does not provide improvement in the highly compressed region around 1 GeV, it does extend the expected limit in the less compressed region, excluding chargino masses above 170 GeV.

4.14.2 Partially unblinded results

In order to perform the unblinding of 10% of the data, the data-driven background estimation utilizes the full Run 2 luminosity scaled down by 0.1, while the data is taken from 1 out of every 10 events. The data and background predictions are displayed in Figure 4.56. The results are presented for the muon plus track category in the first row, the electron plus track category in the middle row, and the dimuon category in the bottom row. The largest excess is observed in the right-most bin of the dimuon category in Phase 0. This excess corresponds to 1.4σ and is interpreted as being in agreement with the SM.

Since the results suggest no deviation from the SM, observed and expected limits are presented in Figure 4.57. As anticipated, the significantly reduced luminosity approved for un-

blinding has greatly diminished the expected exclusion. Furthermore, due to the small excess observed in the data compared to the expected count, it was not possible to establish an observed limit.

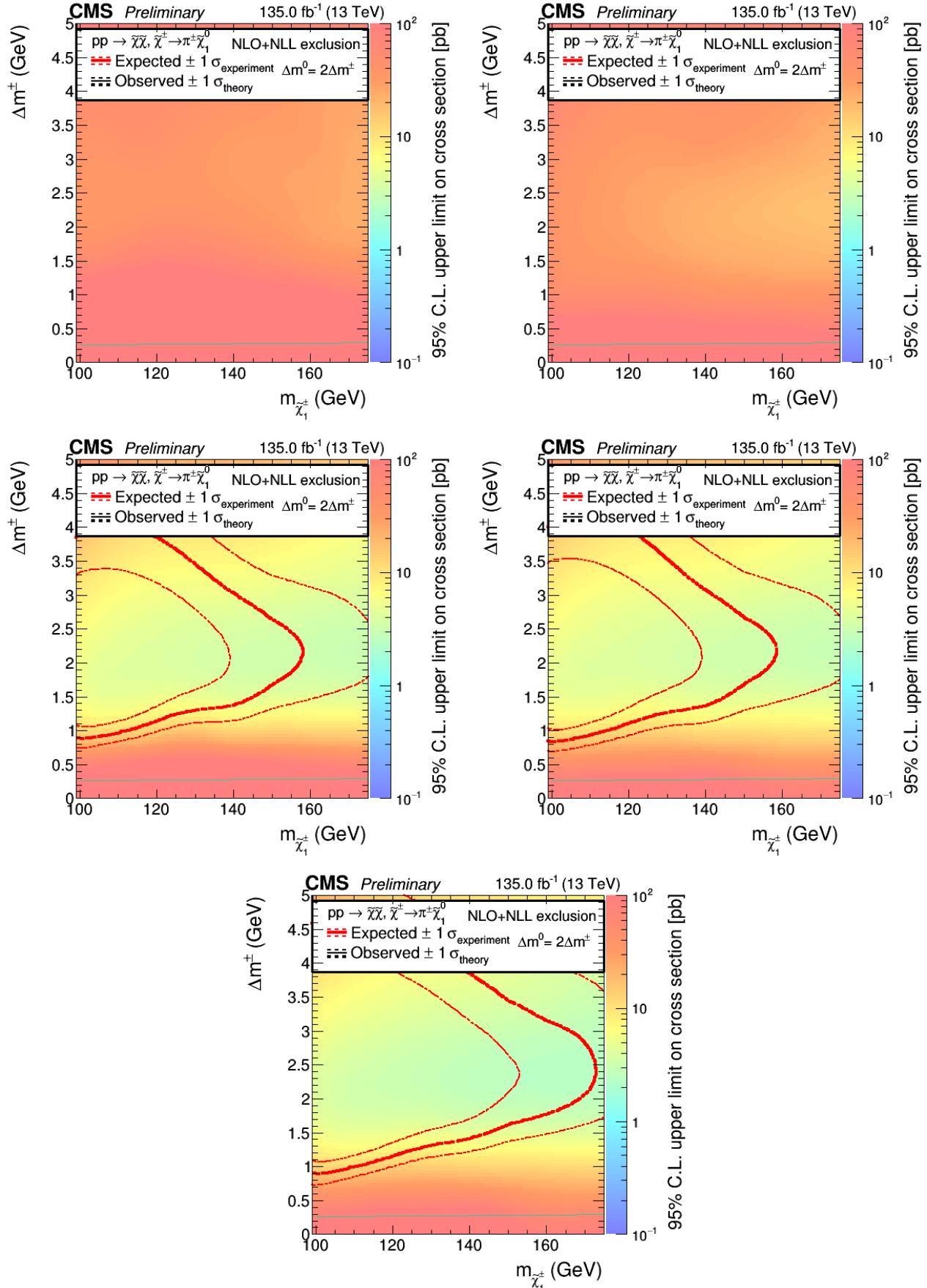


Figure 4.55: Expected limits for full run 2 luminosity. Top row shows limits for exclusive track plus electron (muon) on the left (right). The middle row shows limits for the dimuon category (left) and the combined limits for all categories (right). The bottom row shows the combined limits for all categories for the relaxed condition without SOS orthogonality.

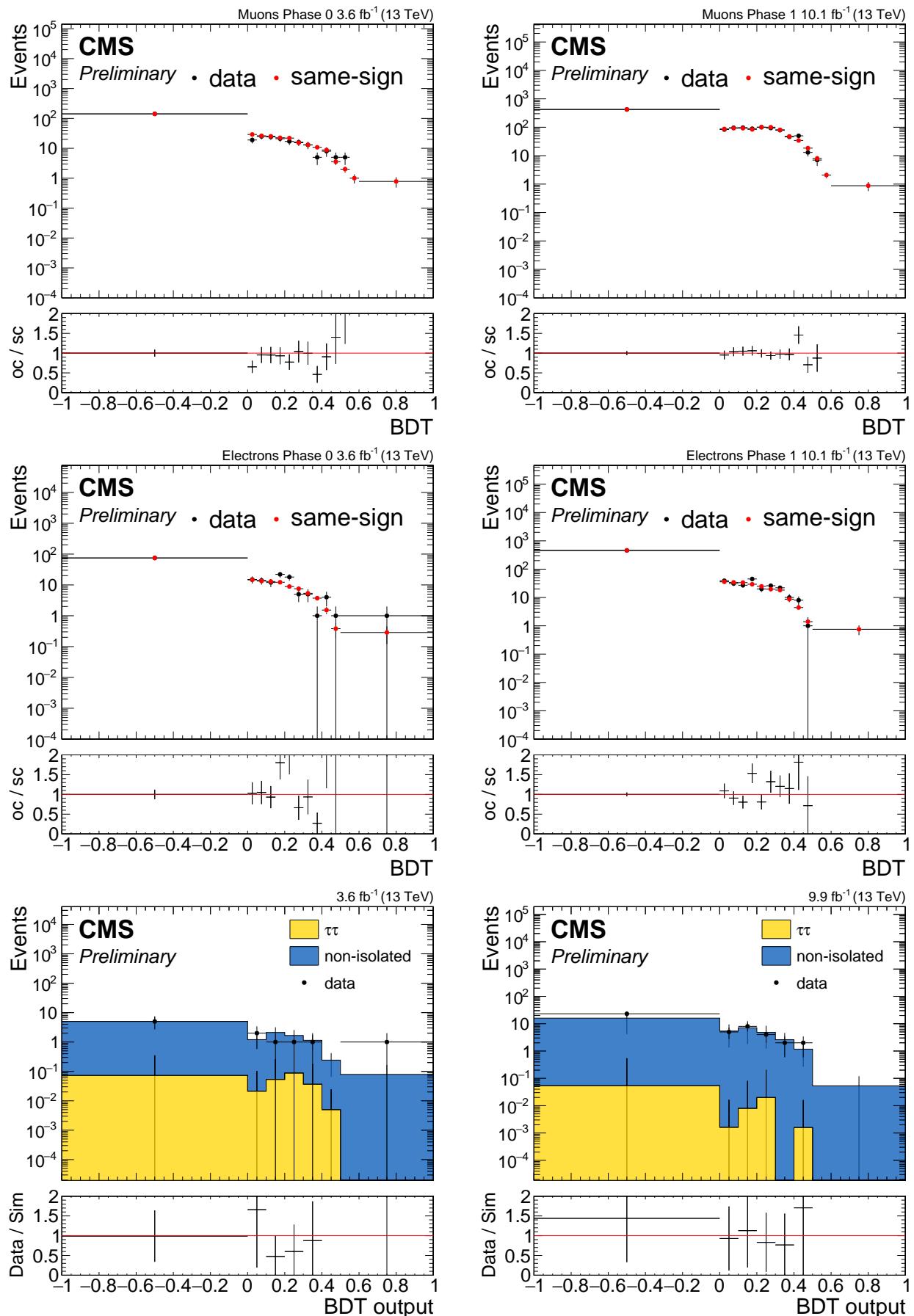


Figure 4.56: Partially unblinded results using 10% of run 2 luminosity. Top row shows muon plus track for phase 0 (left) and phase 1 (right). Middle row shows electron plus track for phase 0 (left) and phase 1 (right). Bottom row shows the dimuon category for phase 0 (left) and phase 1 (right).

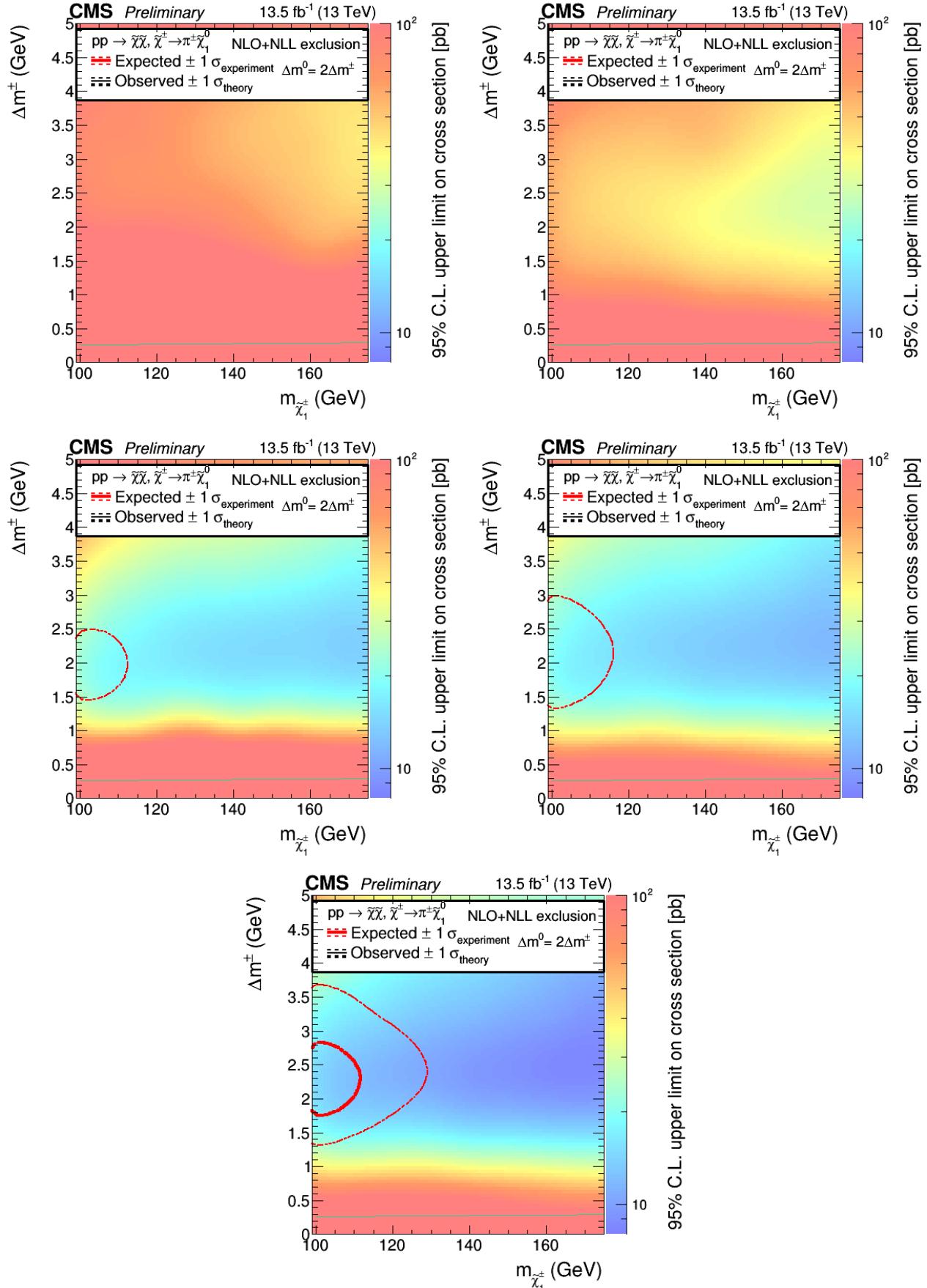


Figure 4.57: Expected and observed limits for 10% luminosity of run 2. Top row shows limits for exclusive track plus electron (muon) on the left (right). The middle row shows limits for the dimuon category (left) and the combined limits for all categories (right). The bottom row shows the combined limits for all categories for the relaxed condition without SOS orthogonality.

Chapter 5

Summary

This thesis presents a search for compressed mass Higgsino production with low-momentum lepton tracks using the CMS experiment. The goal is to either discover a signature, indicating the end of the search for a dark matter candidate, or to expand upon previous exclusion limits. The proposed dark matter candidate is a Higgsino neutralino, which is interpreted within this search as part of a simplified model. This model is highly motivated as it not only offers a suitable WIMP dark matter candidate but also serves as a natural extension of the SM through SUSY.

The analysis presented in this work aims to utilize the complete Run 2 dataset collected by CMS during the data-taking years of 2016-2018. Therefore, special attention has been given to studying the two phases of the tracker and the challenges associated with each data-taking period. The background estimation method predominantly relies on a data-driven approach, with simulation only being utilized for minor isolated background contributions. This search focuses on a unique phase space characterized by low transverse momentum muons that are in proximity to each other, an unexplored region in previous searches. It is within this distinctive phase space that the search achieves its highest sensitivity. Moreover, the inclusion of track plus lepton categories in this search extends the limits of the analysis. To account for the usage of low-momentum muons, a comprehensive study comparing the identification efficiency between simulation and data has been conducted to derive scale factors. Additionally, a dedicated isolation method has been employed, which optimally selects signal leptons that are often nearly collinear and consequently affect each other's standard isolation. Furthermore, the utilization of multivariate discriminants enhances the sensitivity of the analysis.

This search is currently in the final stages of approval by the relevant committee at CMS. As a result, only a partial unblinding of 10% of the data was permitted. In this fraction of the data, no new physics phenomena were observed, and no definitive limits could be set. However, it is anticipated that this situation will change once the full dataset collected during Run 2 is unblinded. To gauge the potential of the search, expected limits have been calculated for the entire run 2 luminosity. The computed expected limits demonstrate that this search has the capability to explore lower values of Δm compared to previous searches with similar final states.

In conclusion, this search showcases its capability to extend beyond previous limits and explore more compressed scenarios. With the forthcoming unblinding of the complete dataset, there is hope that either a significant discovery will be made or the expected limits will be fully realized.

Chapter 6

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Lastly, I want to thank Benjamin the elephant, who has supported me emotionally through very hopeless times.

Acronyms

ATLAS A Toroidal LHC Apparatus. 96

BDT Boosted Decision Tree. 59, 69, 71, 78–80, 82, 88, 89, 91, 98, 100, 105, 106

CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research. 31

CMS Compact Muon Solenoid. 31, 73, 96, 105

CR Control Region. 79, 85, 93, 94, 96–98, 100, 105, 106, 108

CSV Combined Secondary Vertex. 68

DM Dark Matter. 43

ECAL electromagnetic calorimeter. 55, 108

HCAL Hadron Calorimeter. 108

ISR Initial State Radiation. 43, 44, 55, 77, 78

LHC Large Hadron Collider. 1, 31

LSP Lightest Supersymmetric Particle. 43

MC Monte Carlo. 63, 64, 66, 74, 79, 93, 95, 96

MSSM Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model. 27, 28

PAG Physics Analysis Group. 105

PF Particle Flow. 68, 73, 85

POG Physics Object Group. 63, 66

PU Pile-Up. 68, 73

QCD Quantum Chromodynamics. 43, 44, 77, 88

SF Scale Factor. 63

SM Standard Model. 1, 43, 44, 51, 54, 61, 73, 77–79, 87

SOS Soft-Opposite-Sign. 50–53

SR Signal Region. 79, 85, 87, 88, 94, 98, 103, 105

SUSY Supersymmetry. 27, 43, 105

WIMP Weakly Interacting Massive Particle. 29

WP working point. 55–62, 68, 131

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