

Analysis **Methods & Techniques** for the **ATLAS** Experiment

Higgs Hunting 2025
July 16

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on behalf of the **ATLAS Collaboration**

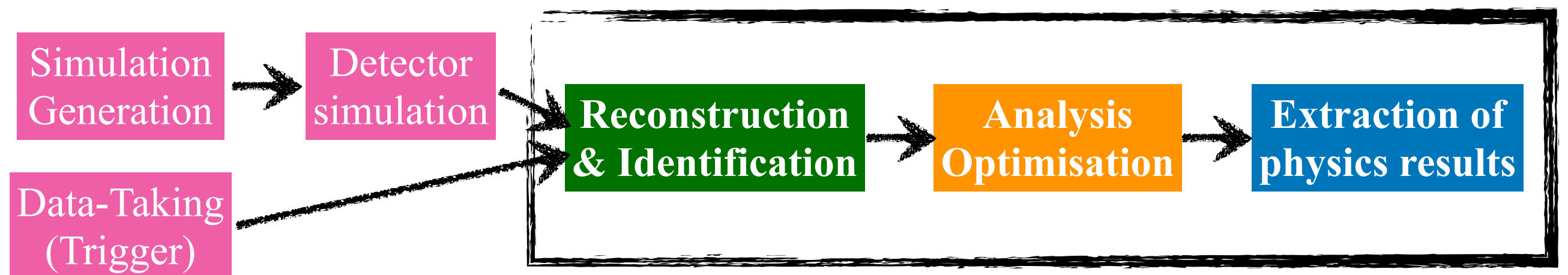


Brookhaven
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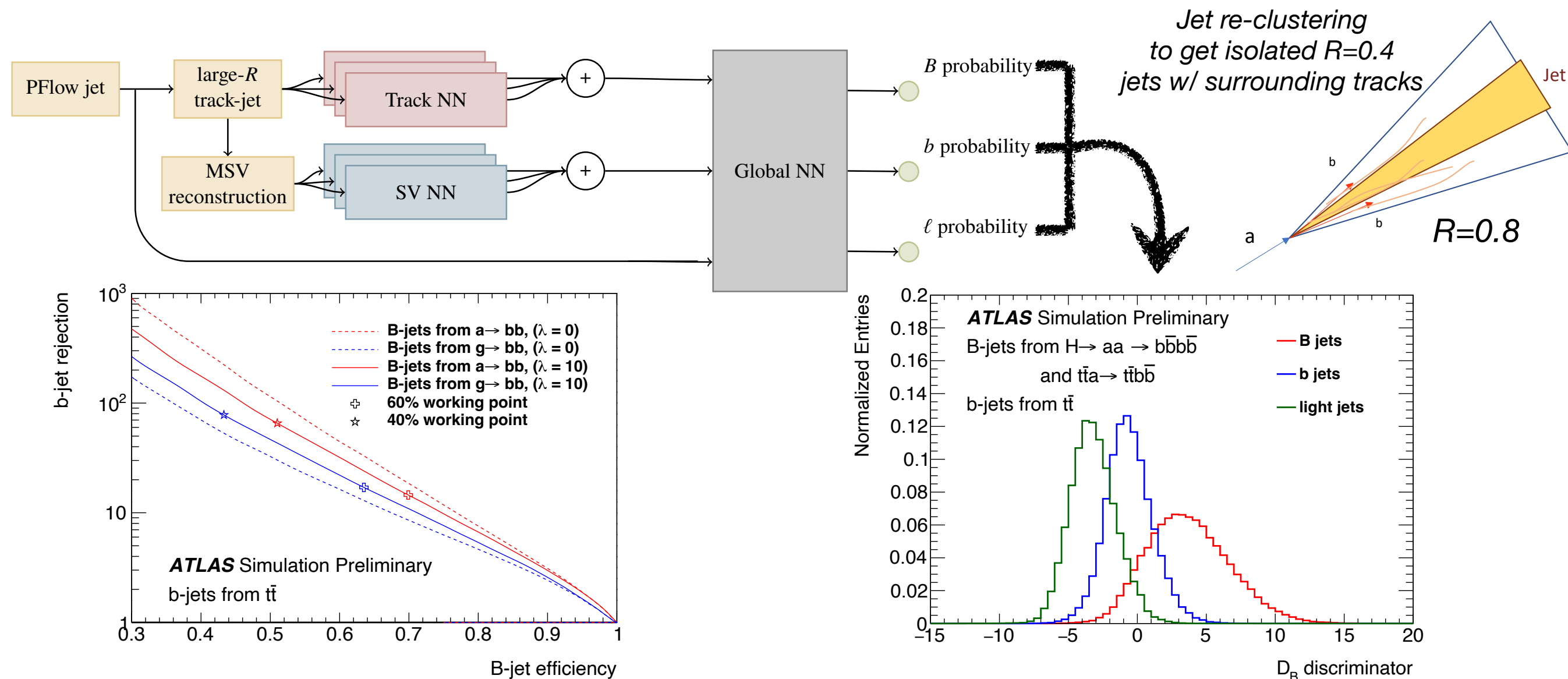


Introduction & Overview

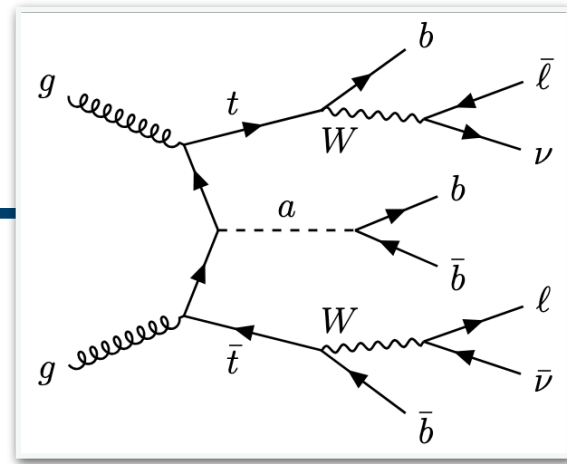
- Breakthrough innovations in methods, tools & techniques allow for striking improvements in LHC physics reach
 - Often come with proportionate challenges
 - Focus on methods & techniques exploited by most recent (B)SM Higgs analyses published by ATLAS:
 - **Reconstruction & identification of b , bb & $\tau\tau$ topologies**
 - **Dedicated event-reconstruction algorithms**
 - **Weakly supervised anomaly detection**
 - **Neural Simulation-Based Inference (NSBI) for parameter estimation**
- ... and applications to real physics-cases!



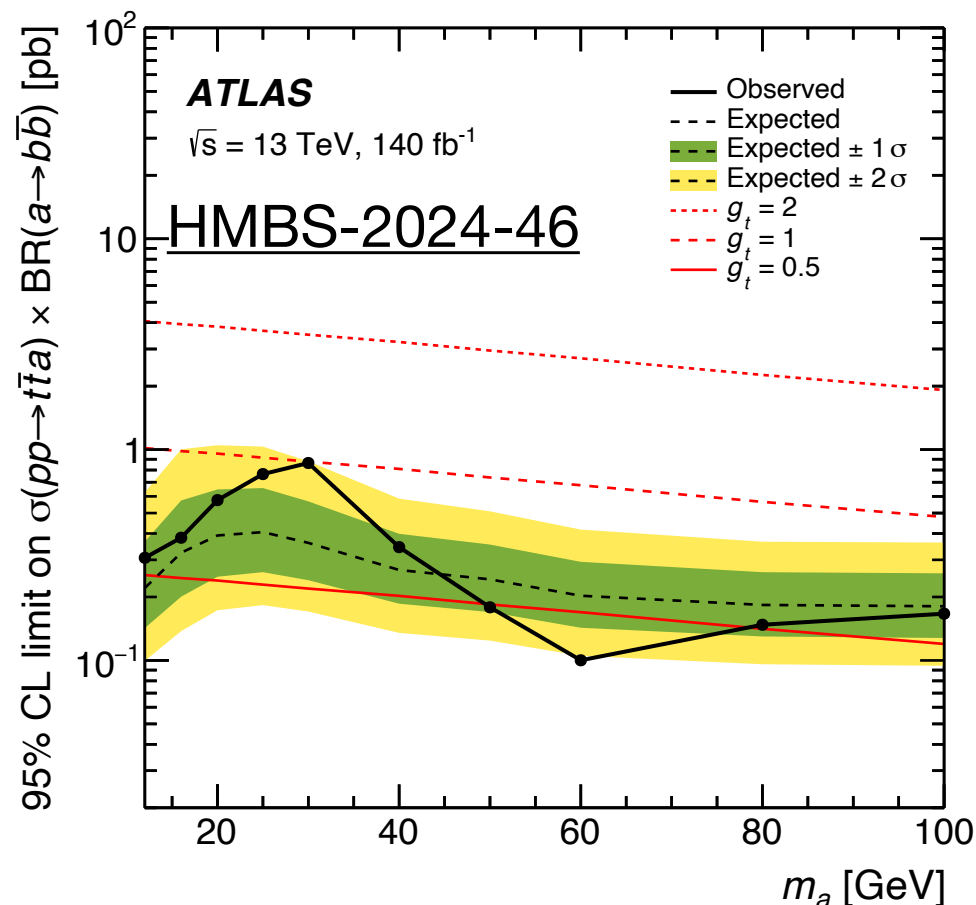
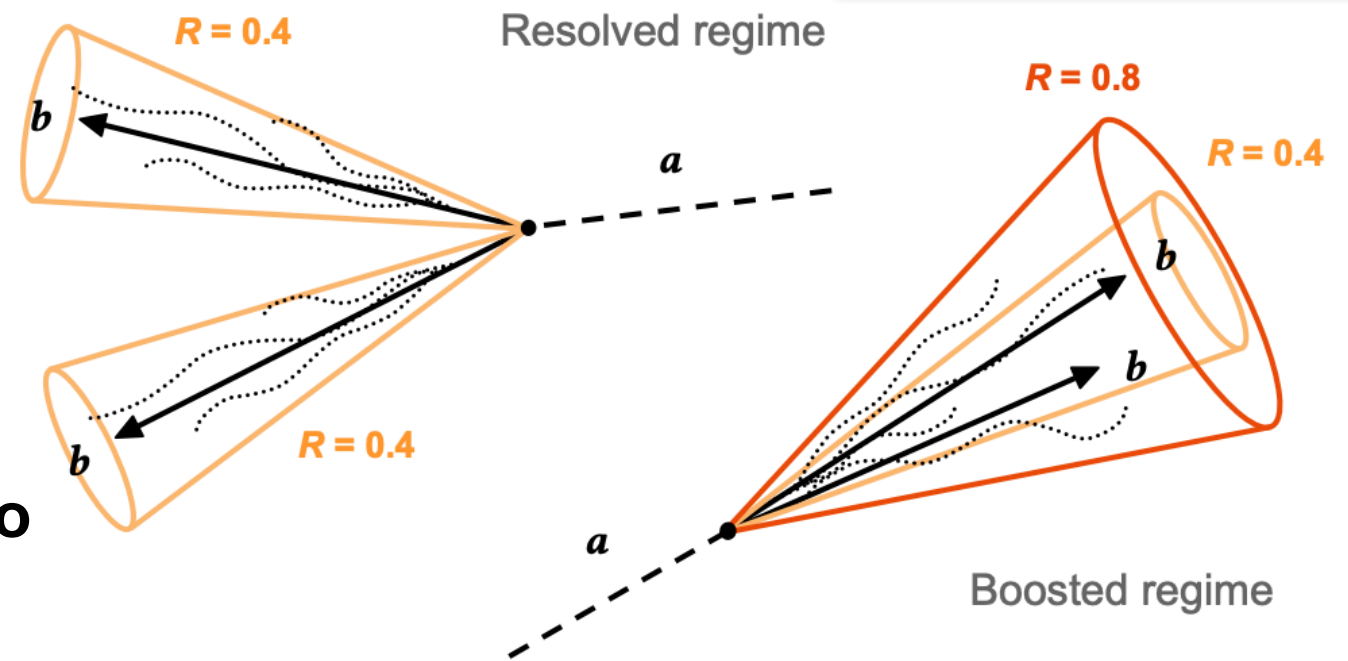
- **Deep-set $X \rightarrow bb$ Tagger**: general-purpose **low-mass/ p_T double- b tagging algorithm**
- Specialised for jets $20 < p_T < 200$ GeV: surrounding displaced tracks + multiple secondary vertices (MSV)
- **Domain-adversarial training**: remove different response on color singlets & octets
- Used in multiple new ATLAS BSM Higgs searches



Search for New Pseudoscalar: $tt/tW+a(\rightarrow bb)$

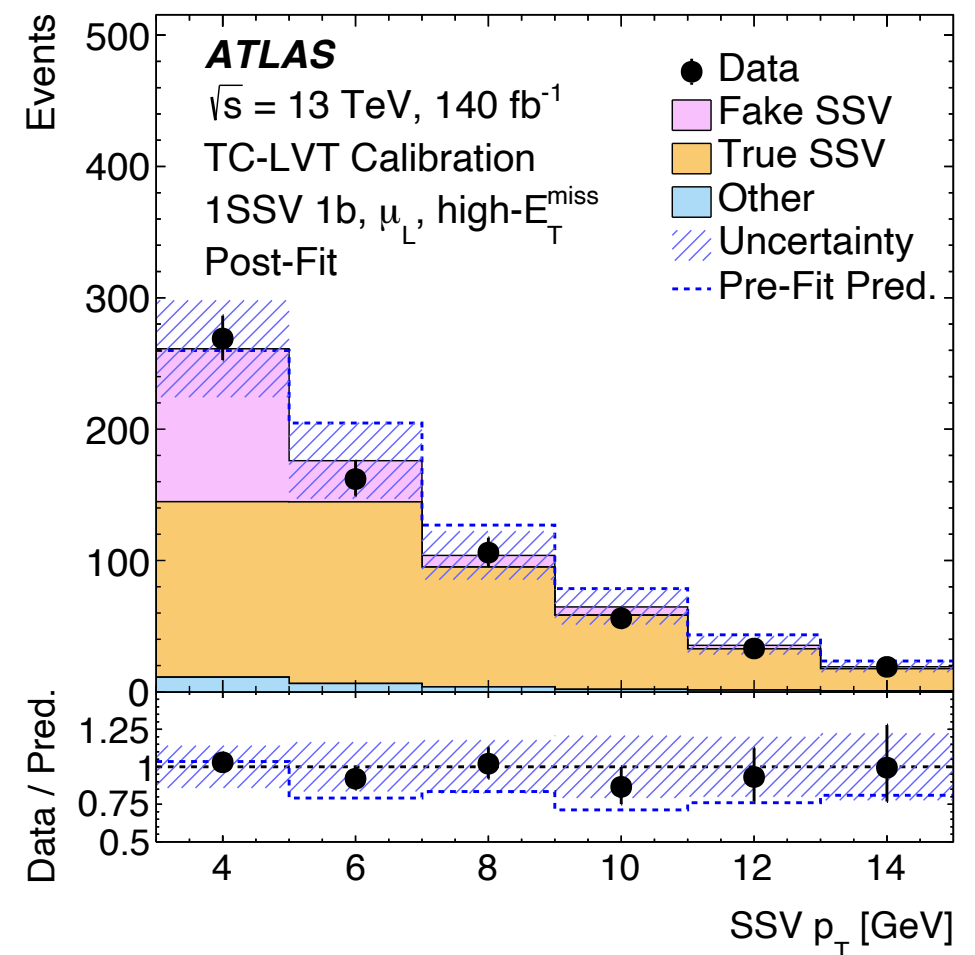
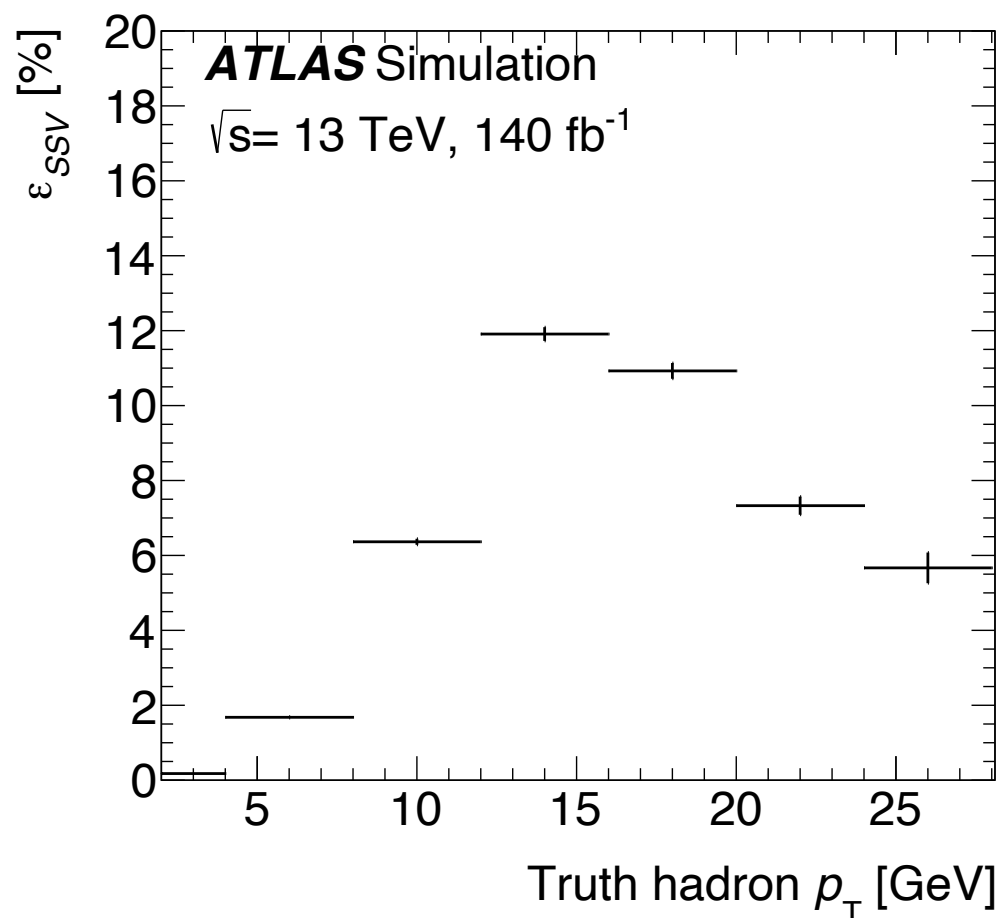
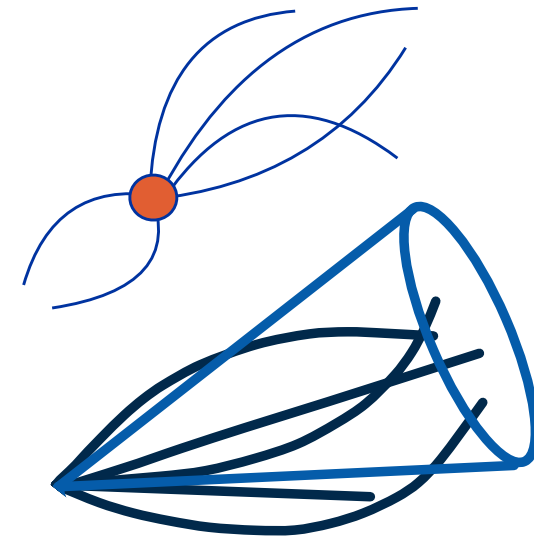


- Exploring both resolved & merged bb topologies in $tt/tW+a(\rightarrow bb)$ 2ℓ channel
 - Std resolved (DL1r) & merged (DeXTer) flavour taggers combined**
- Extensive & combined usage of ML techniques
 - Event reconstruction combines two BDTs, one for $t \rightarrow j\ell$ & one for $a \rightarrow jj$ reco**

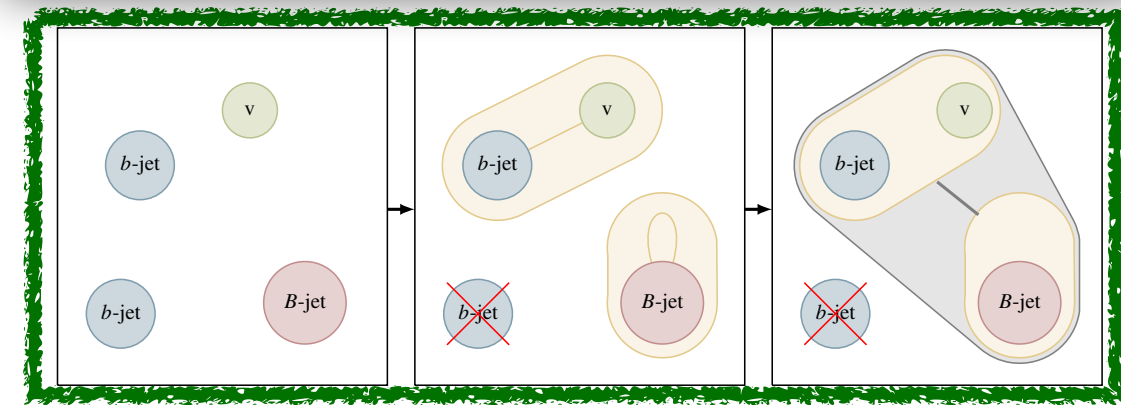
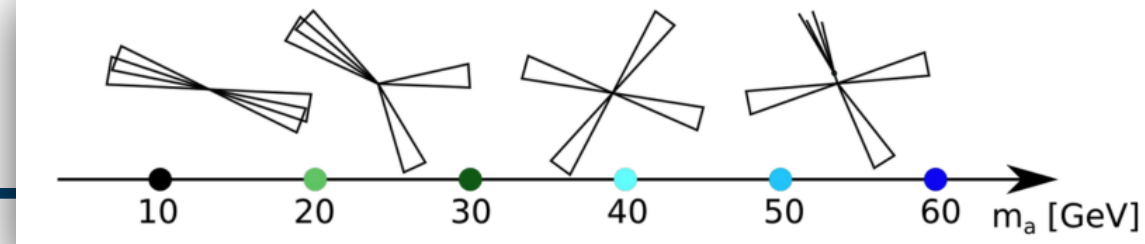


- Split into 4 SRs, based on small- (b) & large-R (B) tagged-jet multiplicity
- One mass-parameterised deep NN per SR, exploited as fit observable**
- No excess found, competitive limits excluding $12 < m_a < 100 \text{ GeV}$ for a coupling $g_t=1$

- Dedicated b -tagging algorithm to identify low- p_T (5-20 GeV) B-hadrons outside of jets, by reconstructing their **soft secondary vertices**
- **T**rack-**C**luster based **L**ow- p_T **V**ertex **T**agger
 - Based on std vertexing techniques, retuned & applied outside jets
 - Reconstruct displaced soft secondary vertices from seed tracks
 - Dedicated **calibration** on $t\bar{t}$ events

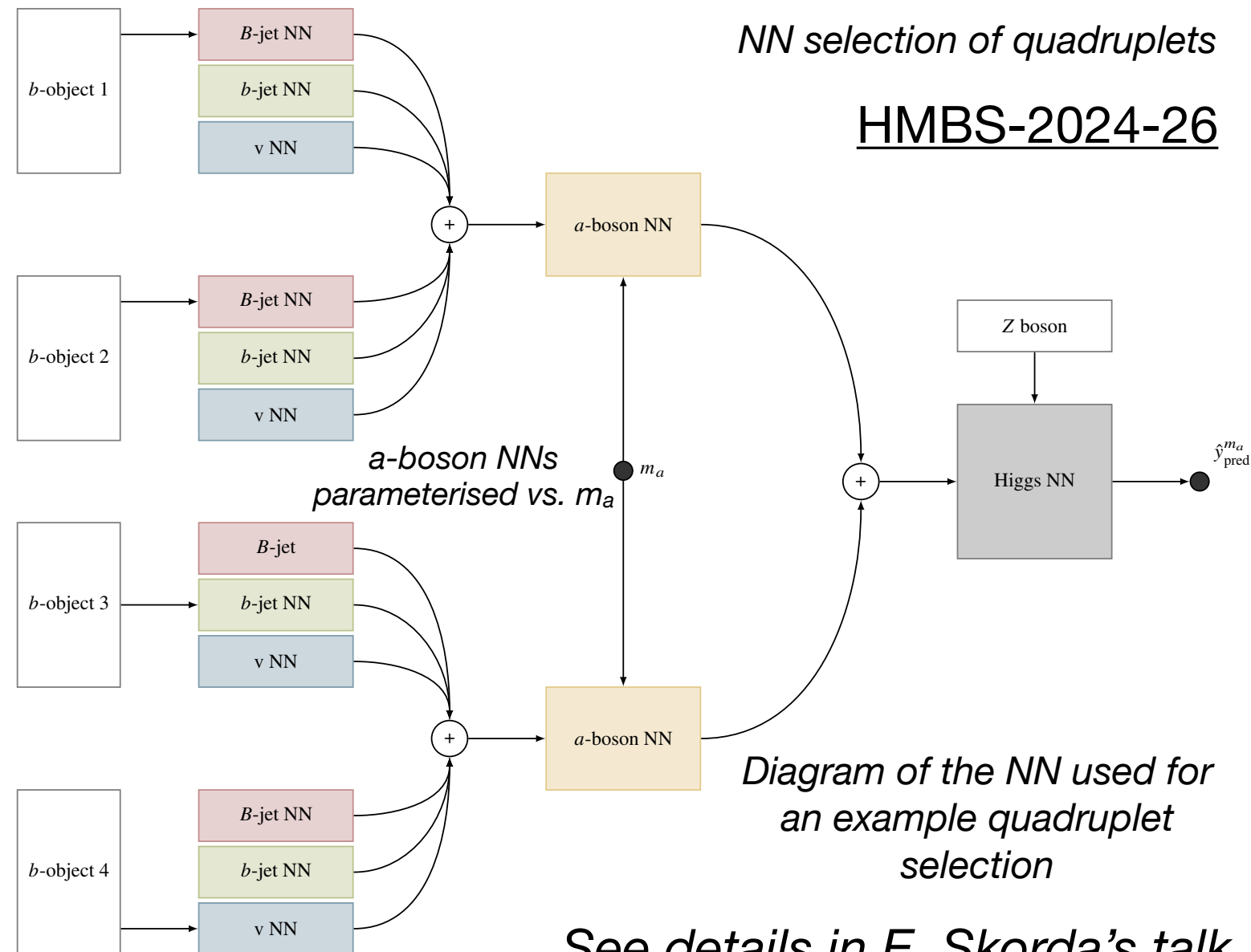


Search for $Z(\rightarrow \ell\ell/\nu\nu)H(\rightarrow 4b/6b)$



NN selection of quadruplets

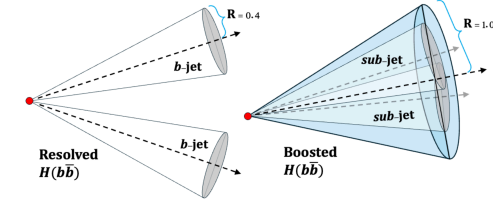
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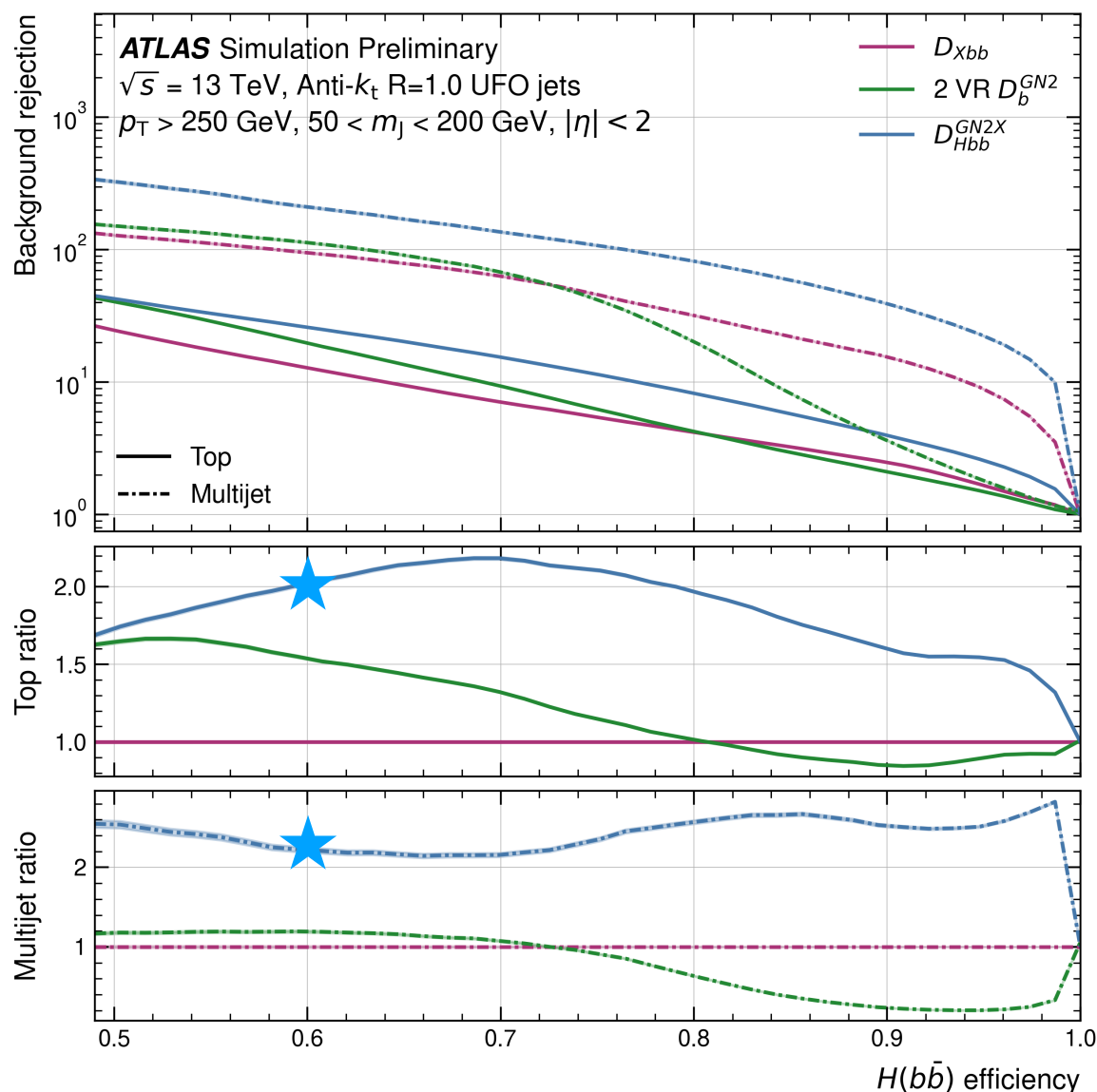
See details in E. Skorda's talk

- Search for $H \rightarrow aa/a_1a_2 \rightarrow 4b/6b$ for $12 < m_a < 60$ GeV with $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell/\nu\nu$
- Improves previous searches by means of **3 different tagging algs**:
 - Resolved jets (DL1r)
 - Low-mass merged jets (DeXTer)
 - **Soft secondary vertices (TC-LVT)**
- Strategies for different signatures:
 - $2\ell\ 4b$: **NN for jet-parton pairing** + BDT
 - $2\ell\ 6b$: BDTs for partially reco events
 - $0\ell\ 4b$: Cut-&-count
- No significant excess above SM bkg-only expectation

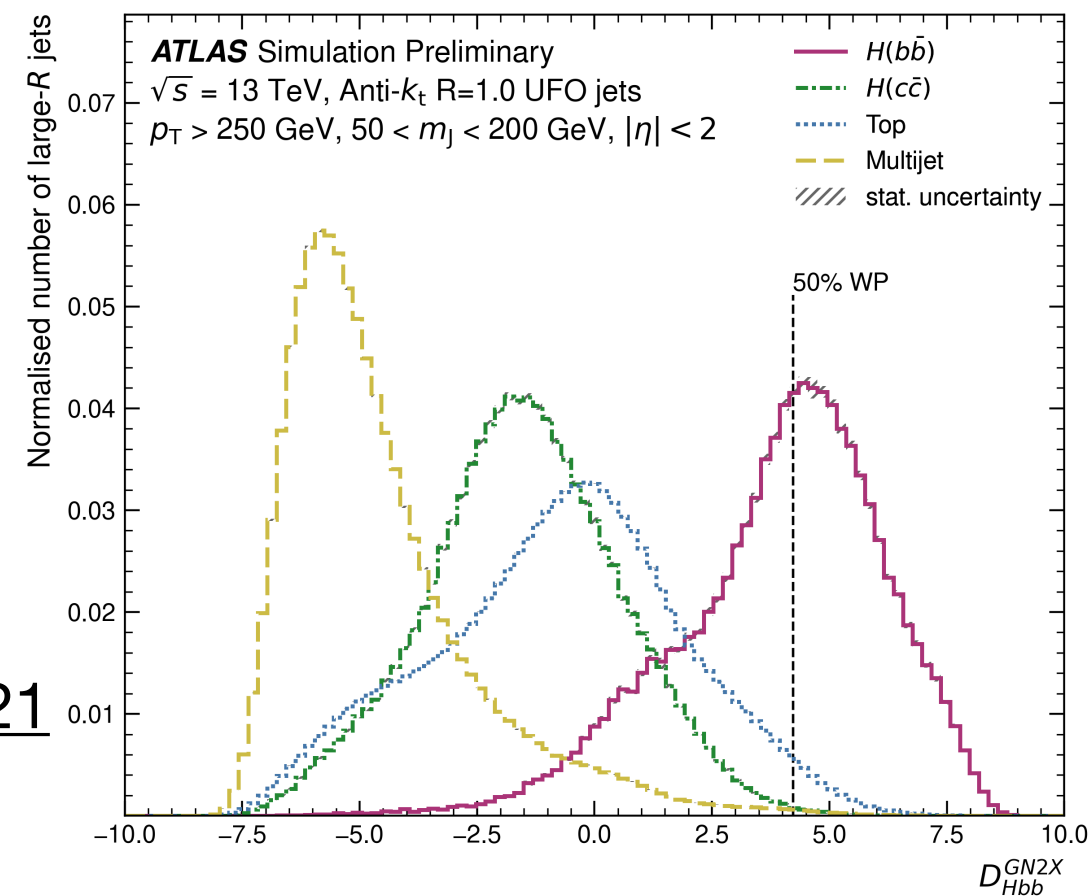
GN2X $H(bb/cc)$ at High Momentum



- **GN2X: transformer-based $X \rightarrow bb$ tagger** exploiting full info from tracks within large-R jet
- Trained on mass-decorrelated samples to discriminate **boosted $H \rightarrow bb$, $H \rightarrow cc$, had top & QCD jets**

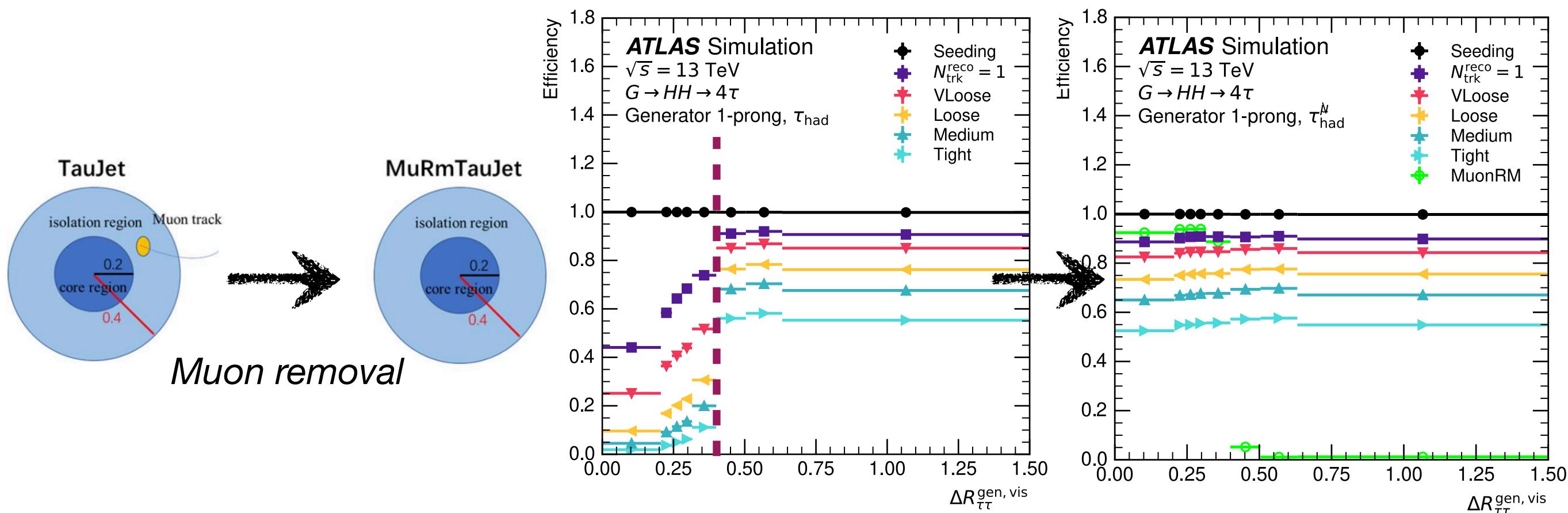


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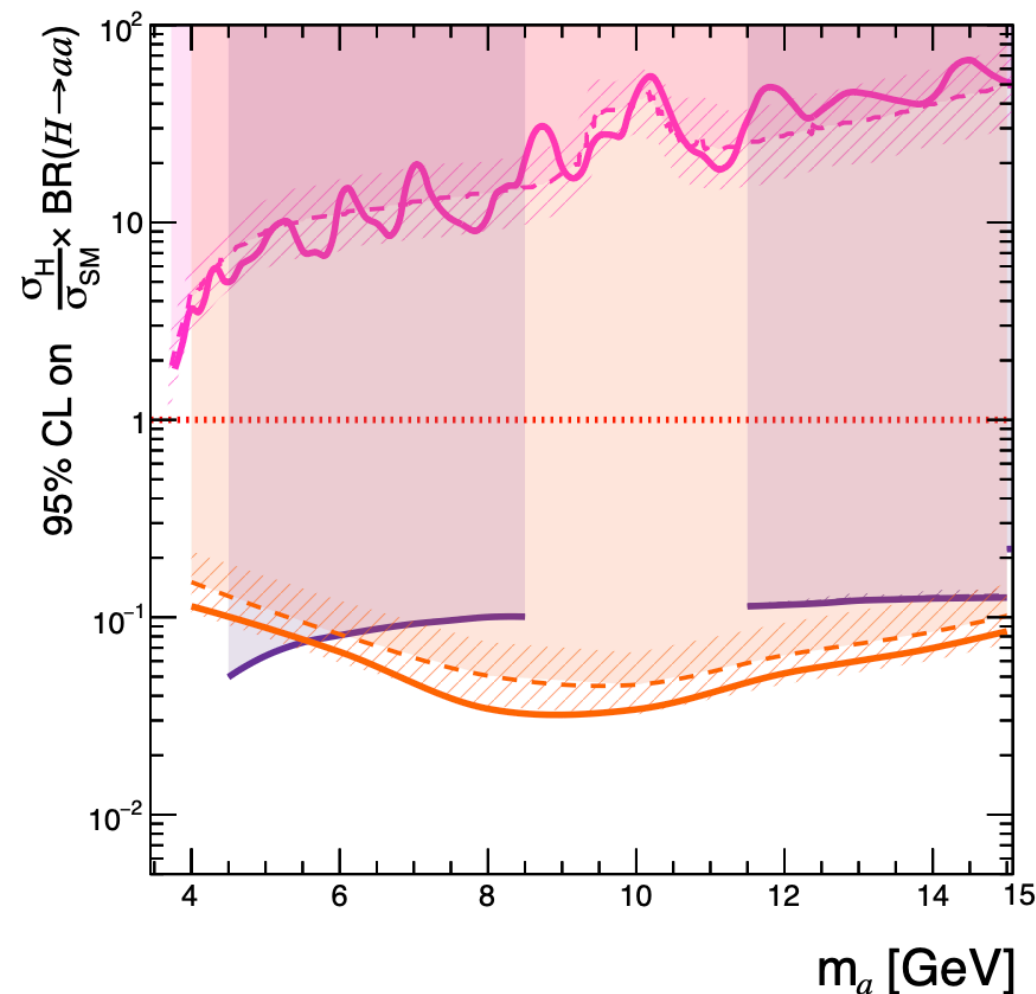
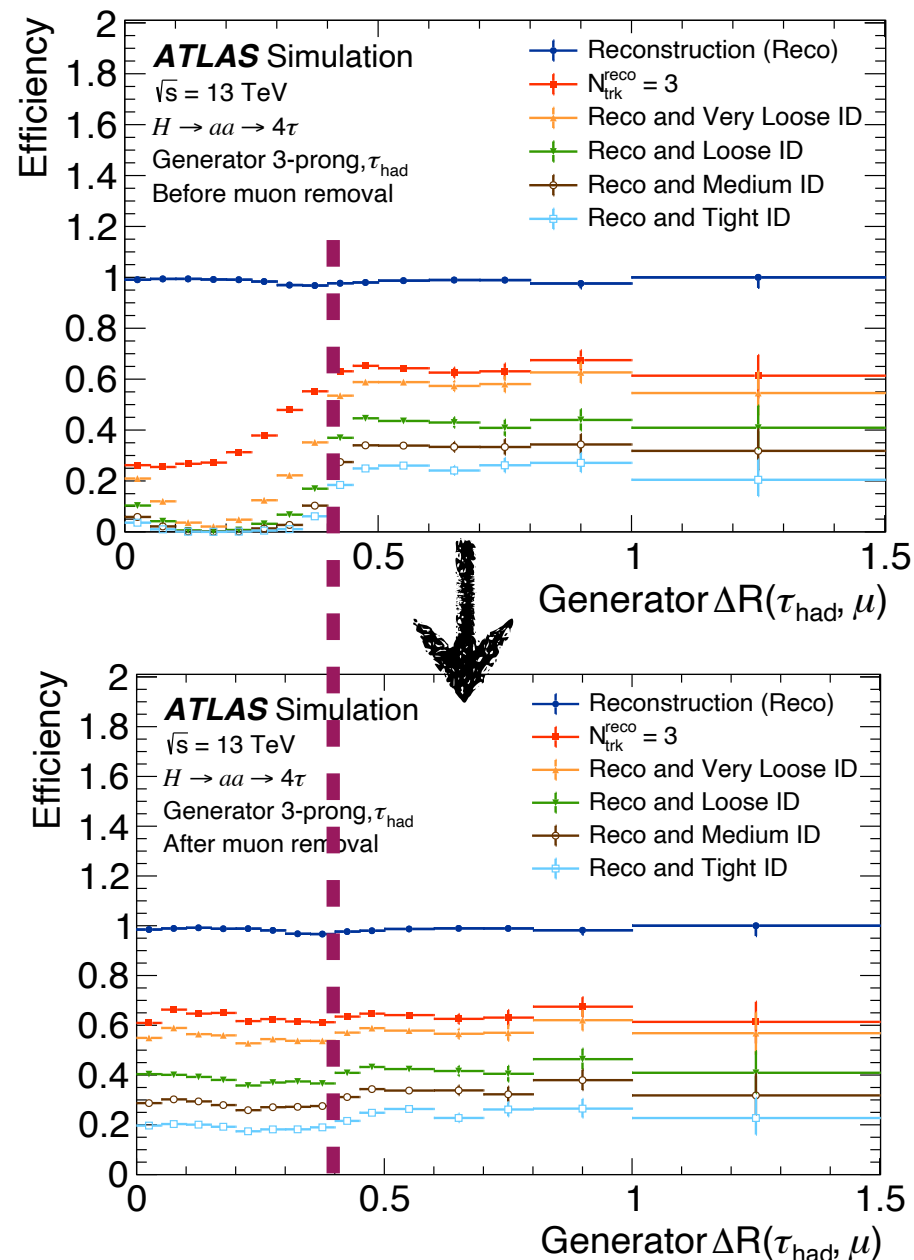


- At **60[50]% $H \rightarrow bb[cc]$ efficiency** **>2[3-5]** better top, QCD [**and $H \rightarrow bb$**] rejection wrt standard tagging
- **Boost high- p_T measurements/searches for $H \rightarrow bb$ & $HH \rightarrow 4b$ (e.g. VBF $HH \rightarrow 4b$ & κ_{2V})**

- Standard τ_{had} reco based off anti- k_t $R=0.4$ topological calo-cluster jets
 - Identification through RNN exploiting info from tracks & calo energy clusters
- When decay products overlap, sub-optimal τ_{had} reco & identification
- μ leave tracks in ID & MS: identification independent of isolation
- Both ID tracks & calo clusters associated with μ removed from τ_{had}
- τ identification RNN input variables recalculated after μ removal
 - **Performance fully recovered**, stability observed & validation on data performed



- Model-independent search for $\tau_\mu \tau_{\text{had}}$ ($\sim 23\%$ of $\tau\tau$, low bkg) resonance
 - Focus on $4 < m_a < 15$ GeV
 - **First boosted low-mass 4τ search at ATLAS**, both SS & OS $\mu\mu$ pairs considered
- **μ - τ removal technique** implemented to resolve merged di- τ identification
- No excess found: **stringent 95% CL upper limits** set



ATLAS

Run 1: $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV
 Run 2: $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

2HDM+S Type-III, $\tan\beta = 5$

--- expected $\pm 1\sigma$
 — observed

Run 1 20.3 fb $^{-1}$ $H \rightarrow aa \rightarrow \mu\mu\tau\tau$
 PRD 92 (2015) 052002

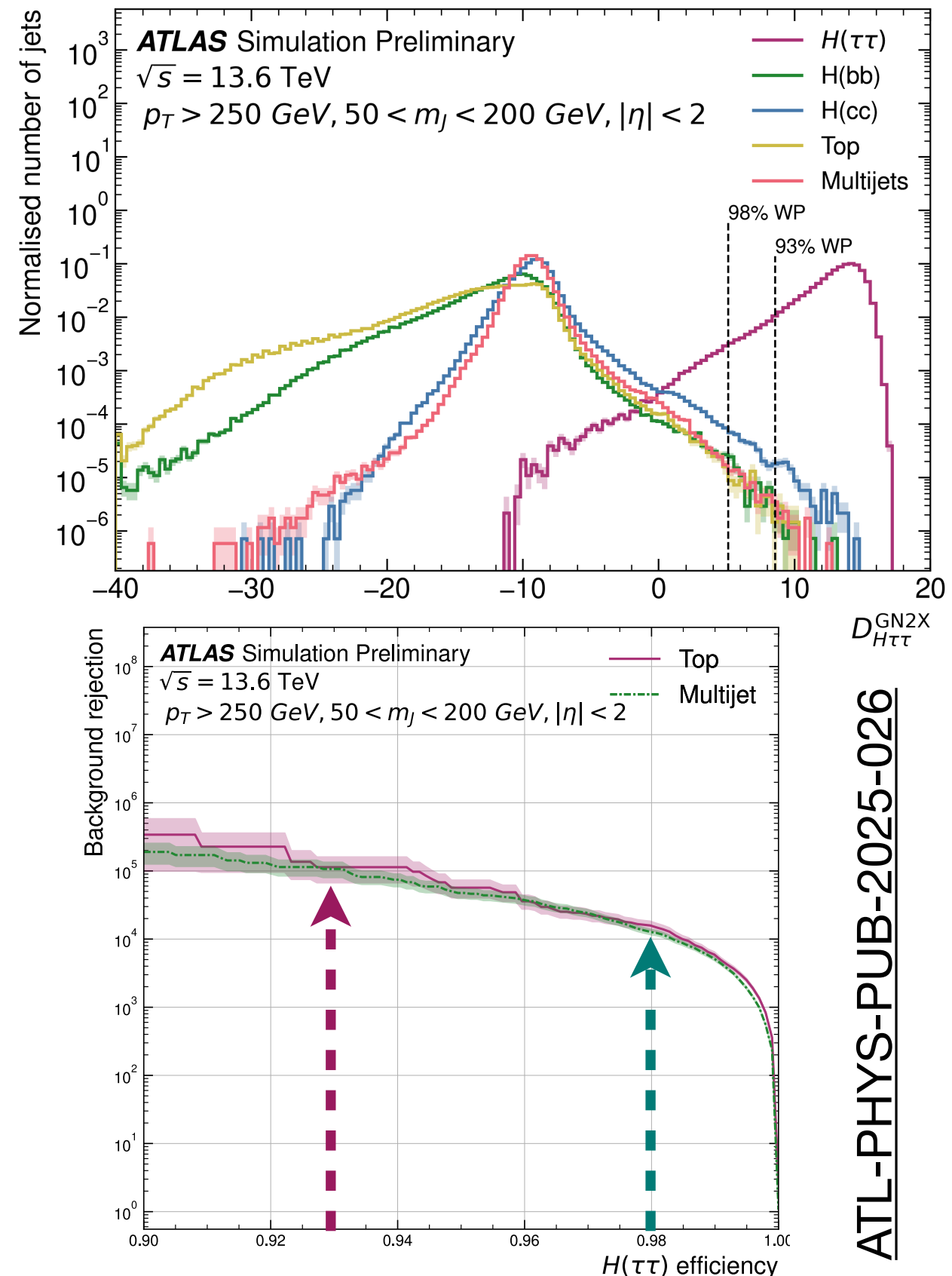
Run 2 139 fb $^{-1}$ $H \rightarrow aa \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu\mu$
 JHEP 03 (2022) 041

Run 2 140 fb $^{-1}$ $H \rightarrow aa \rightarrow \tau\tau\tau\tau$

See details in E. Skorda's talk

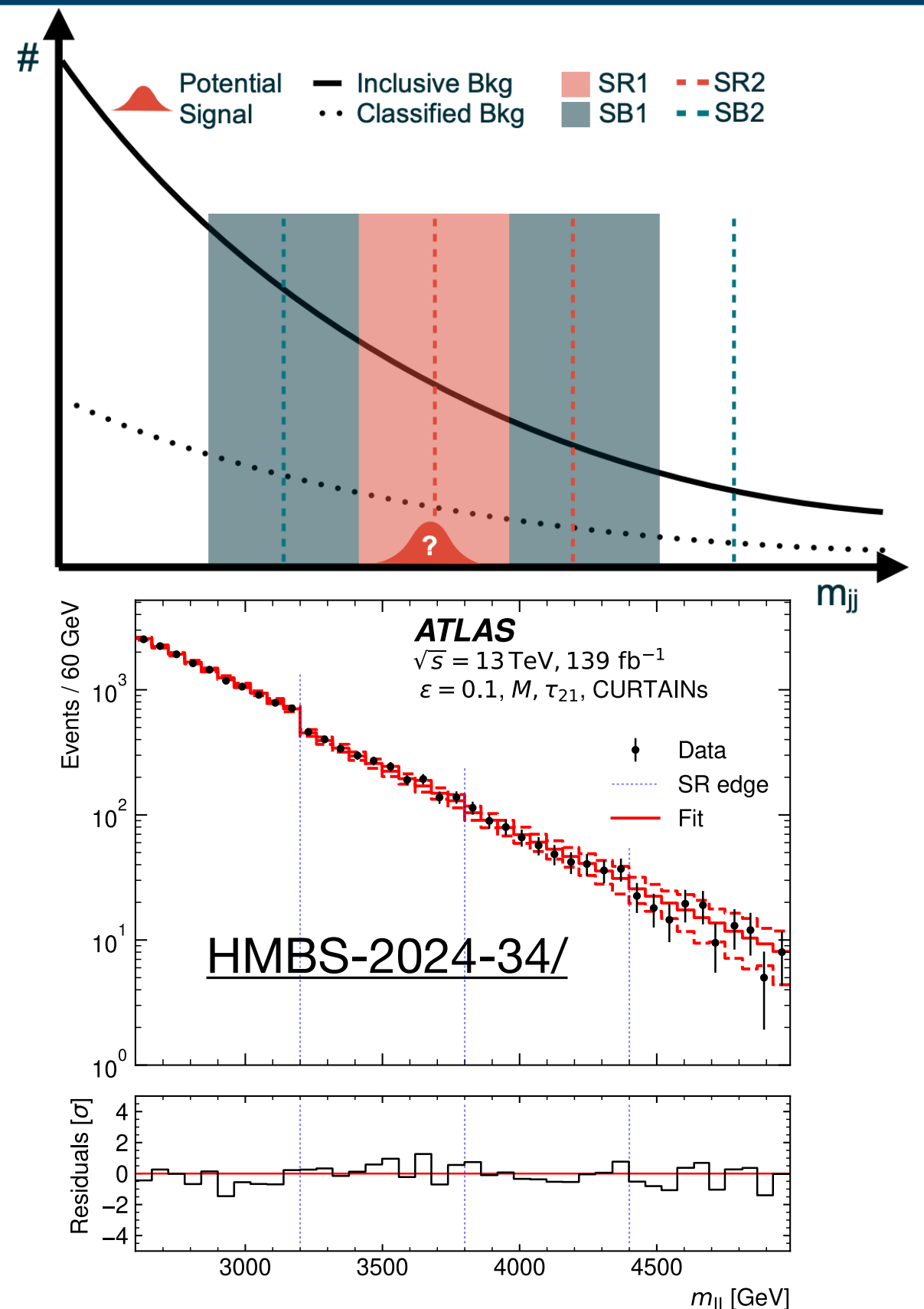
GN2X $\tau\tau$ for Merged $\tau_{\text{had}}\tau_{\text{had}}$ at High Momentum

- Extension of GN2X to tag $H(\tau\tau)$
- Covers $\tau_{\text{had}}\tau_{\text{had}}$ use-case, with large BR
- Discriminant shows **significant top & MJ rejection** within $250 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 1.5 \text{ TeV}$ & $50 < m_J < 200 \text{ GeV}$
 - $\text{rej} \sim 10^4$ for $\epsilon = 98\%$
 - $\text{rej} \sim 10^5$ for $\epsilon = 93\%$
- Provides us with **unprecedented identification of merged $X \rightarrow \tau_{\text{had}}\tau_{\text{had}}$ topologies**
 - Expect **significant improvements in sensitivity of $\tau_{\text{had}}\tau_{\text{had}}$ channels to high p_T^H measurements/new resonant mass searches**



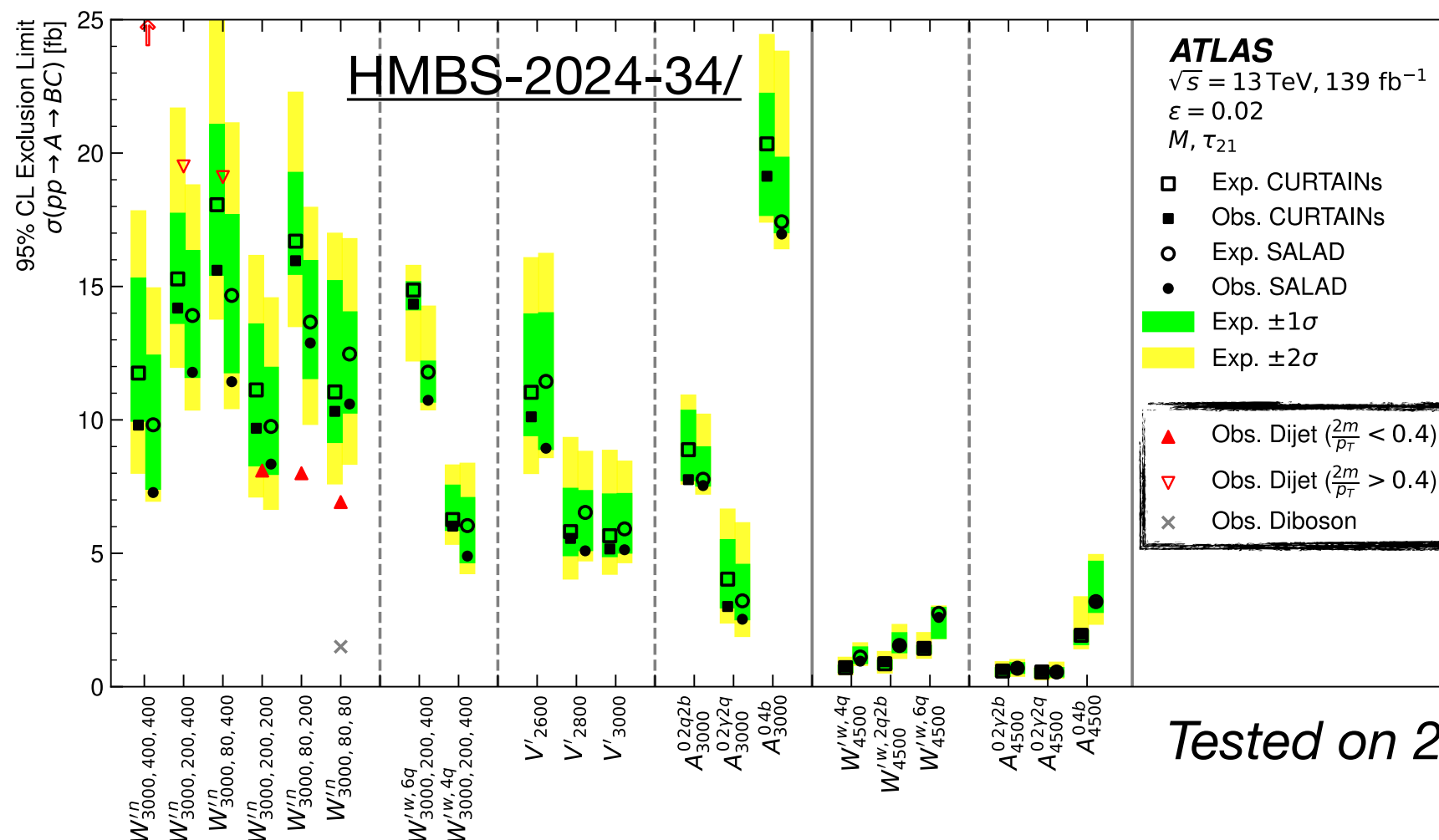
Weakly Supervised Anomaly Detection for Light Di-Jet Resonance

- # BSM models \gg # dedicated searches
 - Agnostic searches may fill gap
- Classification Without Labels (**CWoLa**) paradigm & high-dimensional interpolation
- Compare **two NN methods** (SALAD & CURTAINS) to estimate bkg from SBs into SR
- **Generate reference Sample** from $p(x|m_{JJ})$ for $m_{JJ} \in \text{SR}$
 - Features $x = \{m_J, \tau_{21}, \tau_{32}\}$, varying smoothly with m_{JJ}
- **Weakly supervised Anomaly Detection** to search for narrow resonance in di-jet events
 - Model-agnostic analysis *flagging* regions containing BSM signal for thorough studies



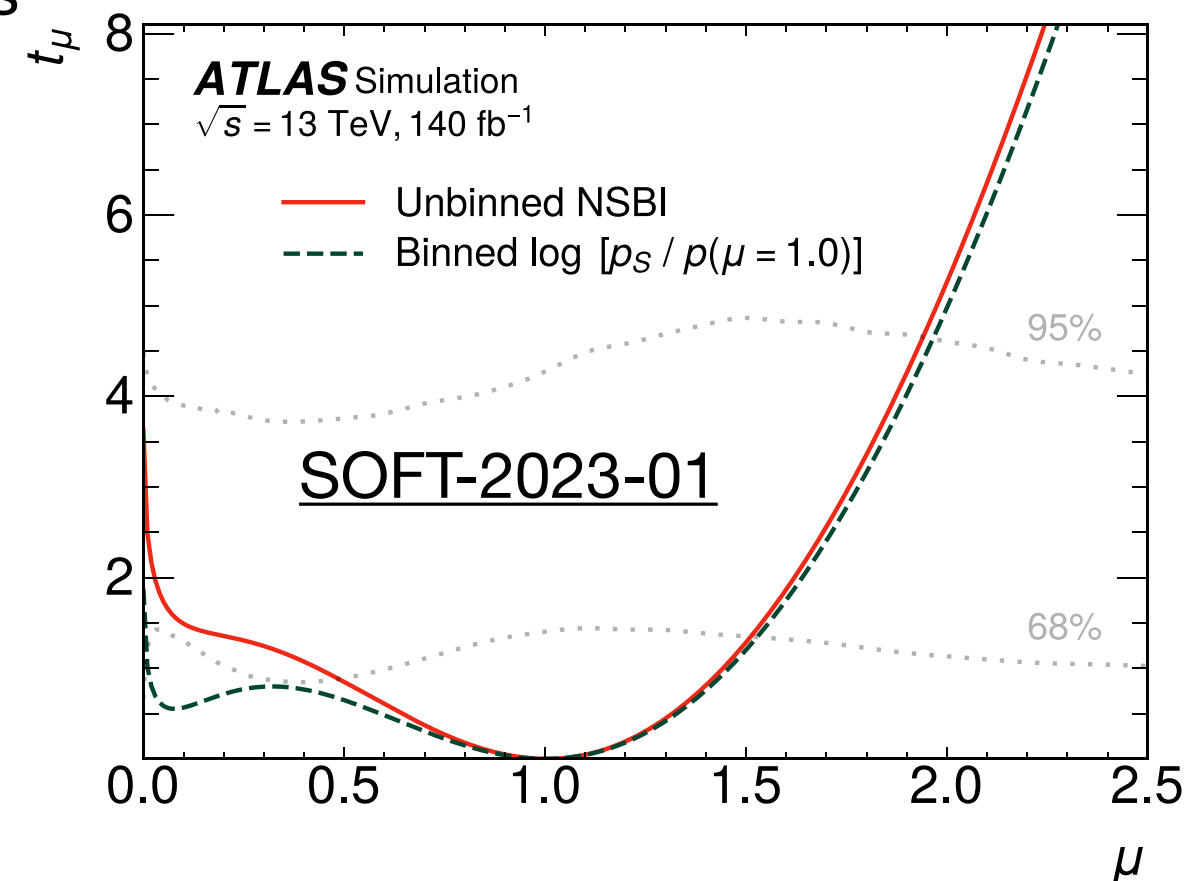
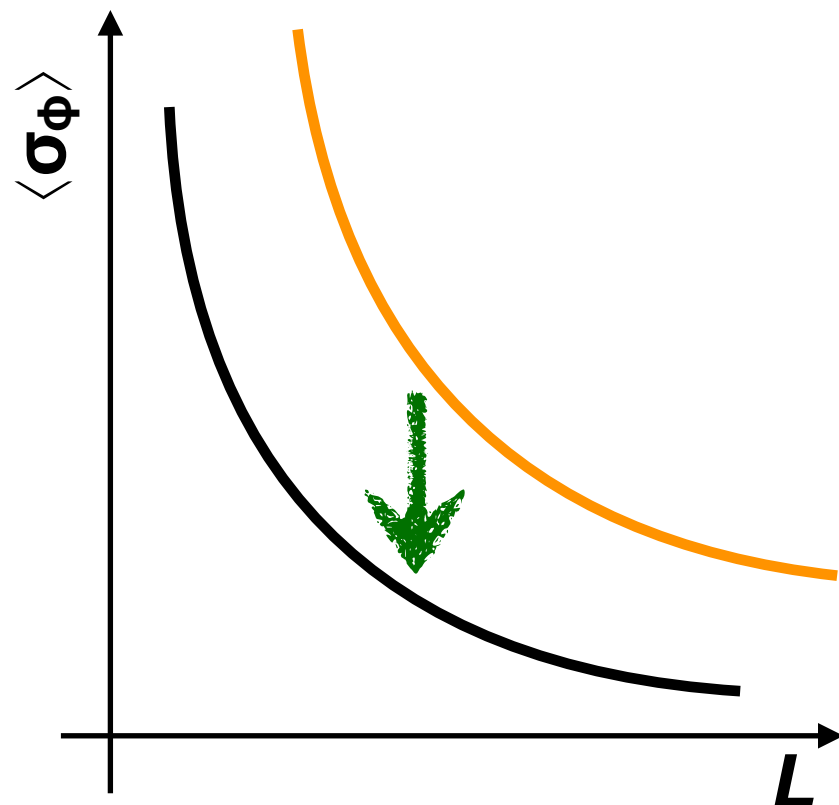
Weakly Supervised Anomaly Detection for Light Di-Jet Resonance

- Analysis methodology:
 - **Three subsets of $\{m_J, \tau_{21}, \tau_{32}\}$** : outputs of bkg estimate & inputs to classifier
 - Train Weakly Supervised classifier SR **data** vs **reference**: selection to increase S/B
 - **Extended bump hunt** with 6 (3x2 jets) features
 - **All analysis steps (Weakly Supervised class incl.) repeated for 7 diff SR/SBs**
- m_{JJ} spectrum between 2.6 & 5.0 TeV in steps of 300 GeV → no excess → **limits**



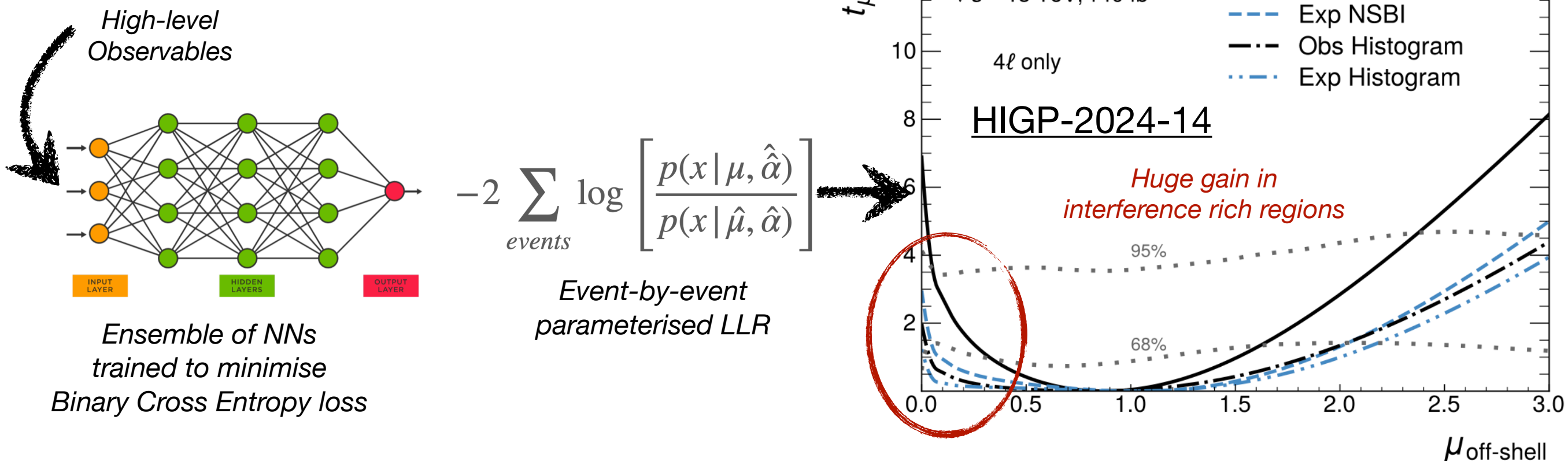
Neural Simulation-Based Inference (NSBI)

- Set of observations $\{x\}$ sensitive to a parameter ϕ
- Given a simulator $\phi \rightarrow p(\{x\})$ & a prior $p(\phi)$, posterior over ϕ : $\{x\} \rightarrow p(\phi)$
- **Variance of posterior scaling as $\sim 1/|\{x\}| \sim 1/L$**
- A lossy function applied to $\{x\}$ (e.g. binning) brings loss in constraining power
 - Same $1/L$ scaling, **constant offset generally worse**
- Better per-event use of x brings improved results
- **Neural Simulation-Based Inference (NSBI)** gives arbitrarily good approximation of true $\{x\} \rightarrow p(\phi) \rightarrow$ best sensitivity of analysis strategies based on $\{x\}$
- ATLAS building expertise for “real-life” applications



NSBI Application: Off-Shell $H \rightarrow ZZ^*$ (Γ_H)

- Higgs boson production in the $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ decay channel on full Run-2 dataset (140 fb^{-1})
- Data analysed with NSBI strategy
 - **NNs used to estimate per-event contribution to likelihood ratio (LLR)** between different hypotheses: maximal sensitivity throughout parameter space
- Combined with $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 2\ell 2\nu$ decay channel
- **Evidence** for off-shell Higgs production
- **$\sim 13\%$ relative improvement in 95% CL upper limit on Γ_H** , as compared to standard histogram analysis



Conclusion

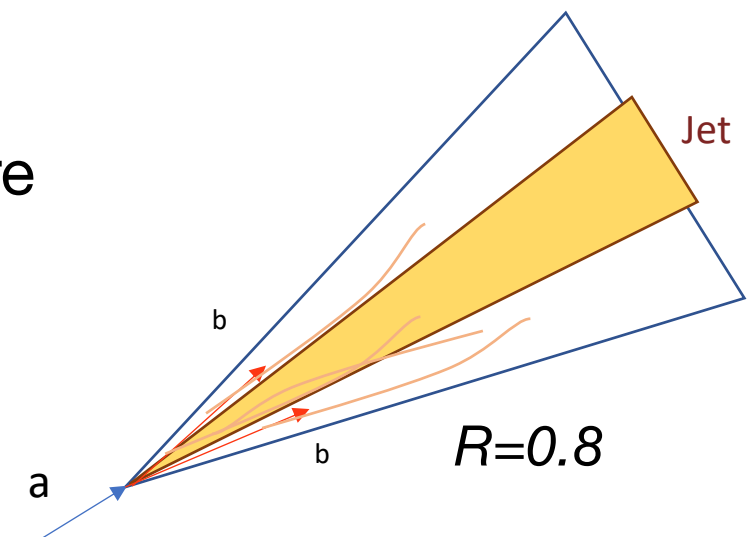
- **Many new methods & techniques** developed within **ATLAS** Experiment
 - Some already helped us push our knowledge boundaries, some will soon!
- Discussed most recent developments & their applications to “real” physics cases
 - **Wide use of ML**: transformers, DNN, CWoLA, weakly supervised NN...
 - Dedicated object reconstruction & identification for **extension of analysis search/reach range**
 - Optimisation of analyses with **complex & mixed topologies**
 - ML-driven improvements in **better per-event use of observables** to extract physics results
- Stay tuned for more analysis methods to come!

BACKUP

DeXTer: Specialised Flavour Tagging

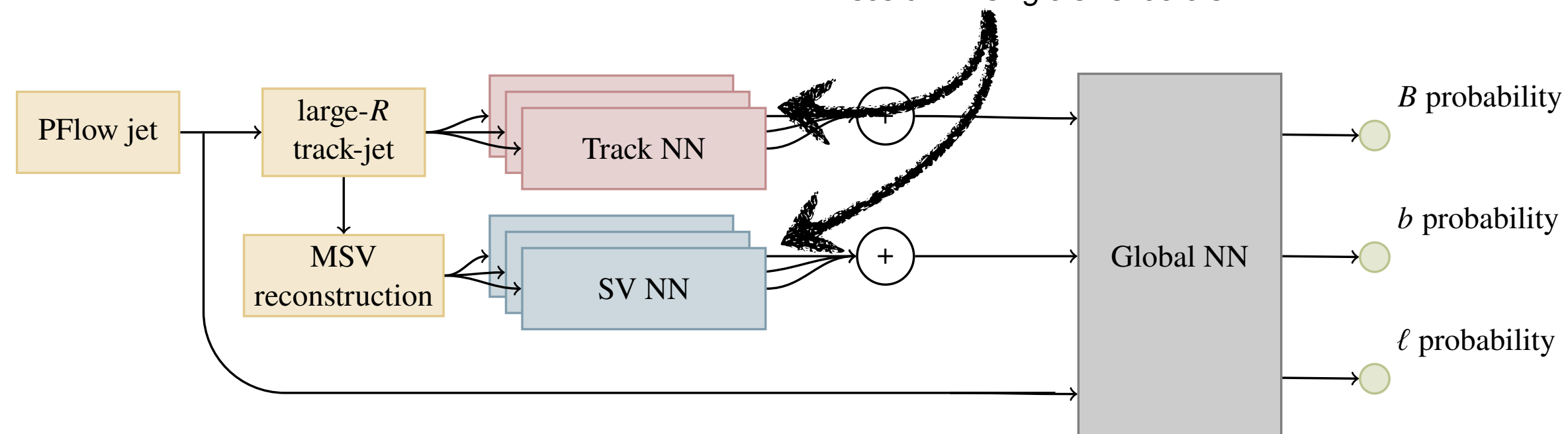
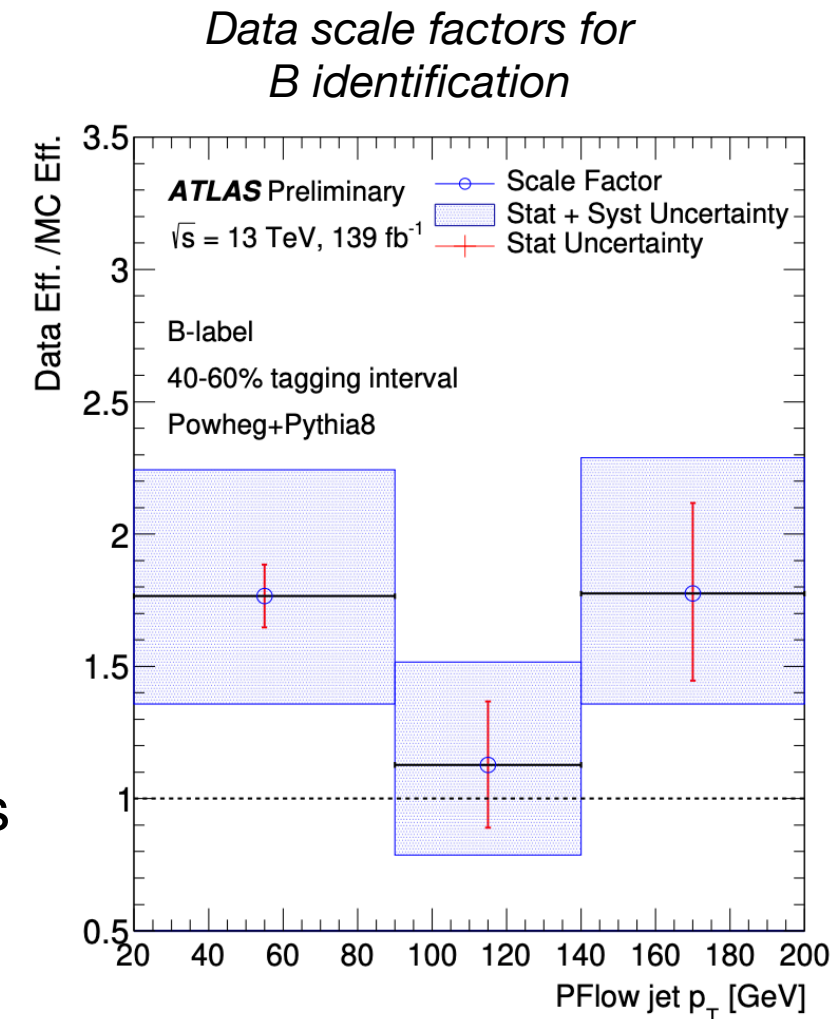
- DeXTer: capture particles from fragmentation or decay of heavy-flavoured hadrons from **multiple partons**
 - **Extended collection of tracks** to a reconstructed jet by clustering all PFlow jets & ID tracks matched to jets through ghost-association
 - **Re-clustering with anti- kt algorithm with $R=0.8$**
- **Combines TC-LVT**, to identify collection of tracks that may have >0 secondary vertices, & Multiple Secondary Vertex Finder (**MSVF**), to build all two-track proto-vertices consistent with (non-background) displaced tracks
- **Two track sub-jets** are reconstructed with **exclusive- kt algorithm**
 - Define fly direction of 2 sub-jets from bb
- **Jet, track & SV kinematics** fed as input to DeXTer architecture
(see next slide)

*Jet re-clustering
to get isolated $R=0.4$
jets w/ surrounding tracks*

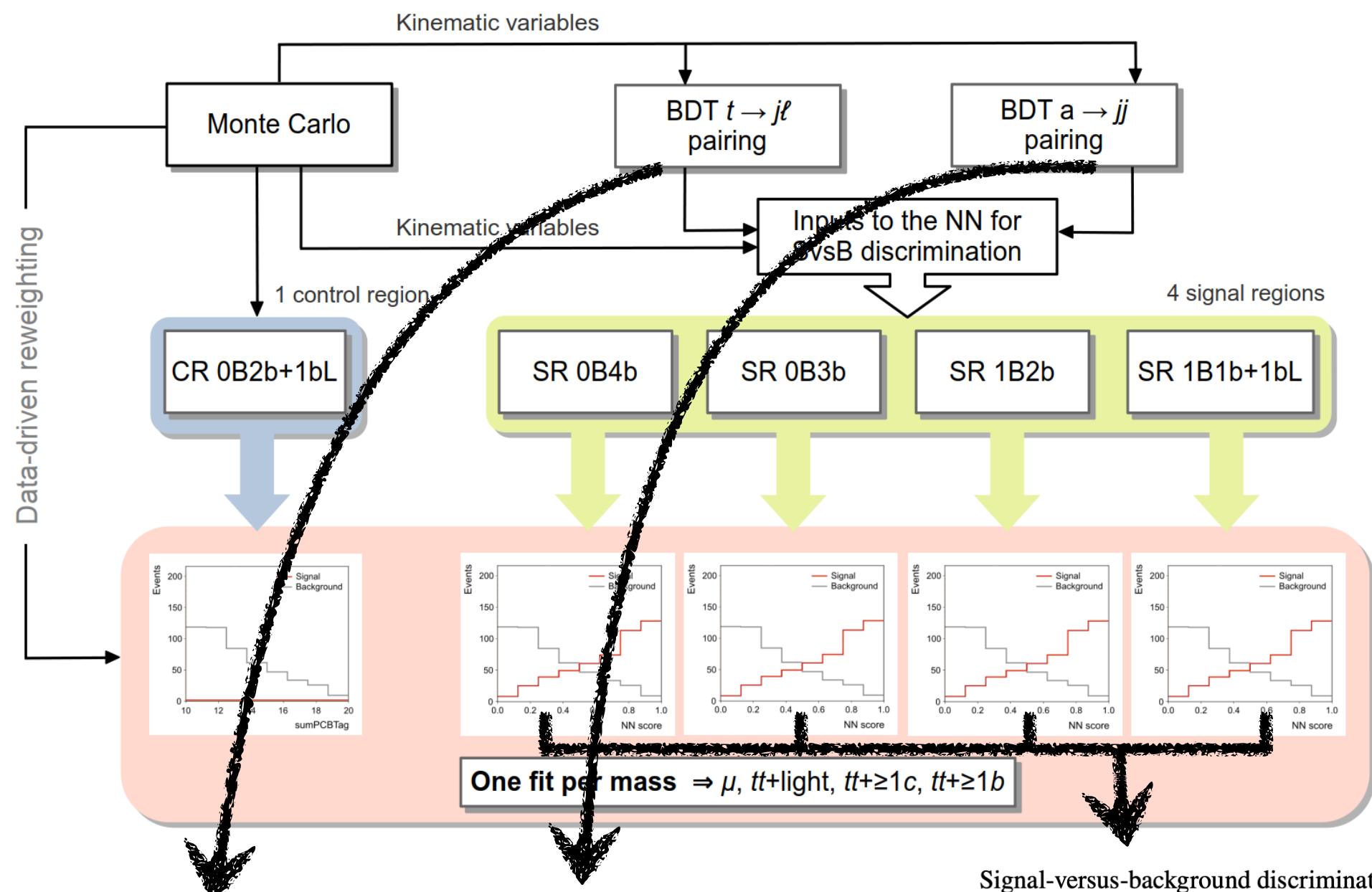


- Two **feature-extracting feed-forward NNs** used for track & SV observables
- **Final feed-forward global NN** used to interpret each output as a probability for each flavour
- Feature NNs: 2 hidden layers with 100 neurons & output layer with 128 features
- 256 features input to global NN with 3 hidden layers
- Only calibration sample available is $g \rightarrow bb$, B events mix of $g \rightarrow bb$ & $a \rightarrow bb$
 - **Colour-charge adversarial NN** in back-propagation gradients
- **Calibration on Z & tt events**

Adversarial backpropagation gradient minimises diff in singlets vs. octets



Search for New Pseudoscalar: *$tt/tW+a(\rightarrow bb)$*



| Top quark/antiquark reconstruction BDT | |
|--|---|
| Object | Variables |
| Full event | $N_{\text{jets}}, N_{b\text{-jets}}$ |
| Lepton (tag, aux.) | p_T, η |
| Jet (tag, aux.) | $p_T, \eta, \text{PC } b\text{-tag, jet index}$ |
| lj pair (tag, aux.) | $m, p_T, \eta, \Delta R$ |
| $t\bar{t}$ pair | $m, p_T, \eta, \Delta R, \Delta\phi$ |
| jj pair | ΔR |

| Pseudoscalar reconstruction BDT | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Object | Variables |
| Full event | $N_{\text{jets}}, N_{b\text{-jets}}, \text{sumPCBTag}$ |
| Jet (1st, 2nd) | $p_T, \eta, \text{PC } b\text{-tag, jet index}$ |
| jj pair | $m, p_T, \eta, E, \phi, \Delta R$ |

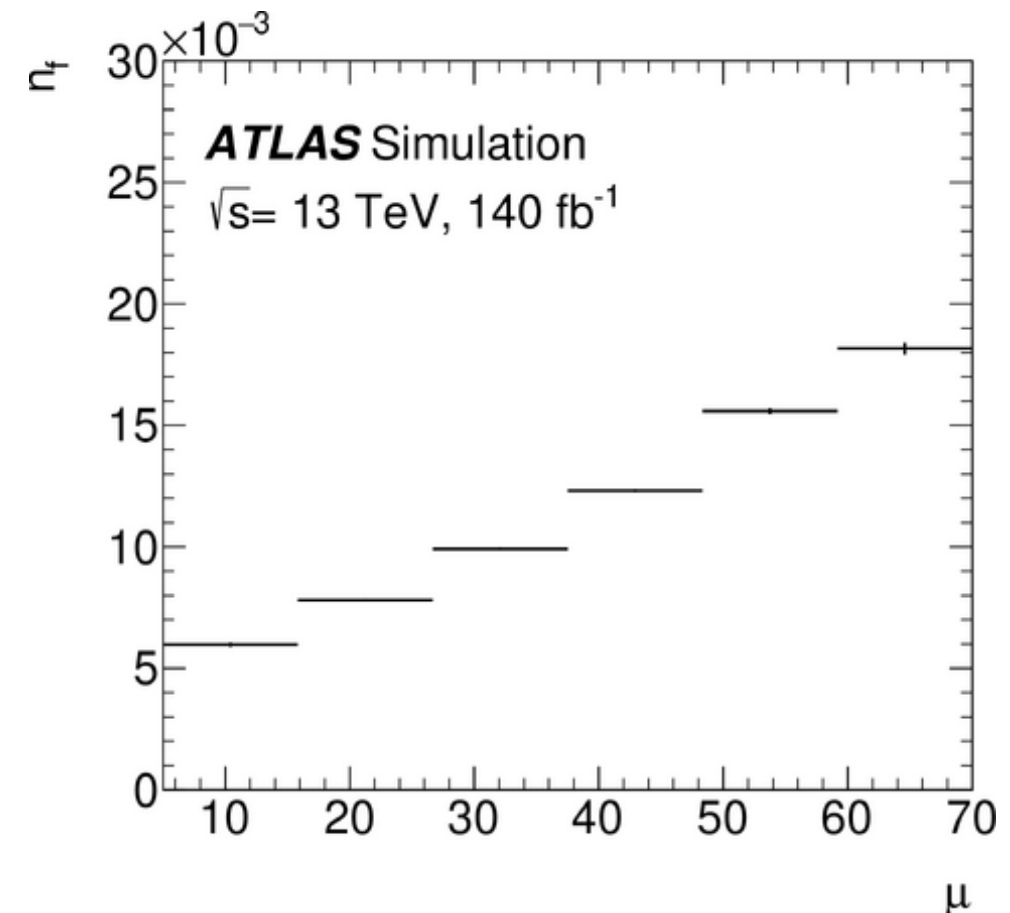
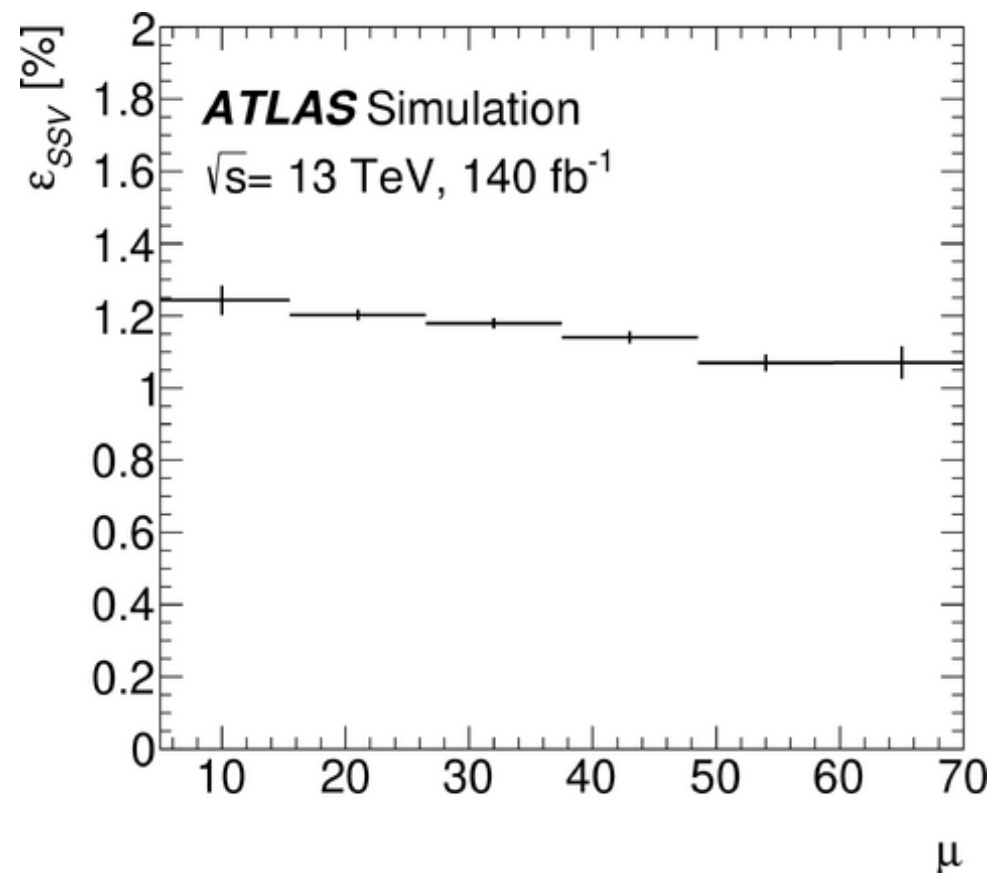
| Signal-versus-background discrimination NN | |
|--|---|
| Object | Variables |
| Full event | $N_{\text{jets}}, H_T^{\text{jets}}, E_T^{\text{miss}}$ |
| BDT $t \rightarrow lj$ | Score, $p_T^{lj}, \Delta R_{lj}, \Delta\eta_{lj}, \Delta\phi_{lj}, \text{jet index}$ |
| BDT $a \rightarrow jj$ | Score, $p_T^{jj}, \eta_{jj}, m_{jj}, \Delta R_{jj}, \Delta\eta_{jj}, \Delta\phi_{jj}, \text{jet index}$ |
| Leptons | $\Delta R_{ll}, \Delta\eta_{ll}, \Delta\phi_{ll}, \Delta\phi_{E_T^{\text{miss}}, l}, \Delta R_{ll, bb}, \Delta R_{ll, B}, \Delta R_{ll, b}$ |
| Large- R jets | $p_T, \eta, m, \Delta R_{Bb}, \Delta\phi_{E_T^{\text{miss}}, B}$ |
| Small- R jets | $p_T^{bb}, m_{bb}, m_{bbb}, m_{bbbb}, \Delta R_{bb}, \Delta\eta_{bb}, \Delta\phi_{bb}, \Delta\phi_{E_T^{\text{miss}}, b}$ |
| | $p_T, \eta, \text{PC } b\text{-tag}$ |

TC-LVT: “Jet-less” Flavour Tagging

TC-LVT: “Jet-less” Flavour Tagging

| Seed track | Cluster tracks | Vertex |
|--|---|--|
| $ d_0/\sigma(d_0) > 0.5$ $p_T > 1.5 \text{ GeV}$ | $ d_0/\sigma(d_0) > 1.5$ $\Delta R_{\text{seed}}^{\text{track}} < 0.75$ $d_{\text{seed}}^{\text{track}} < 0.25 \text{ mm}$ | $600 \text{ MeV} < m_{\text{vtx}} < 6 \text{ GeV}$ $p_T^{\text{vtx}} > 3 \text{ GeV}$ |

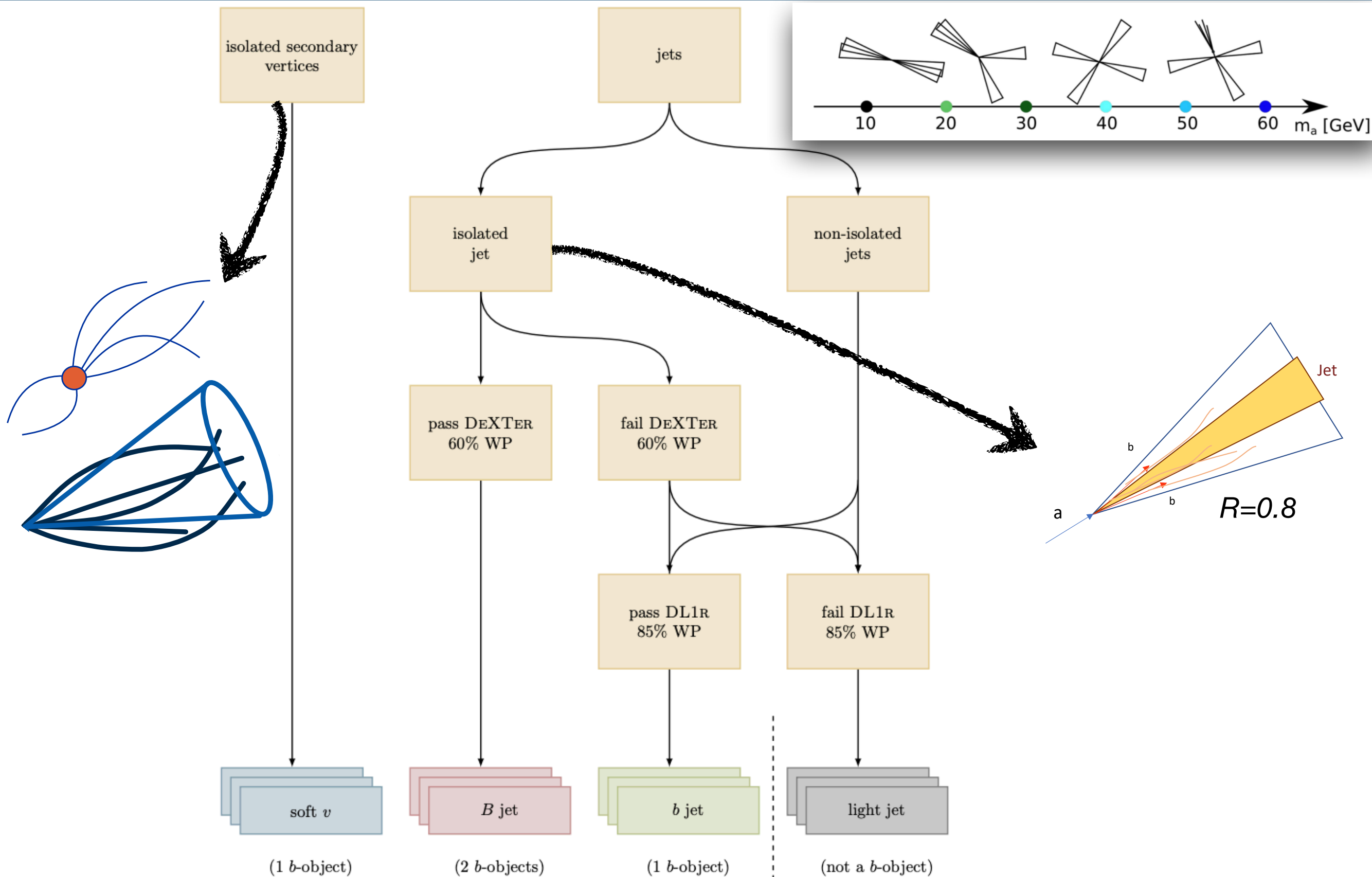
- TC-LVT inputs: seed, cluster tracks & vertices
 - Seed tracks -> cluster of tracks built around seed tracks by adding **additional high-displacement tracks**
 - For each identified cluster, SSVF executed on all tracks within $\Delta R=0.4$ of vector sum of momenta of all tracks in cluster -> tracks inputs to **vertex fitter to get one SV**
- **Stable SSV efficiency** & non-negligible dependence of average number of fake SSVs per event as a function of average number of interactions per bunch crossing (μ)



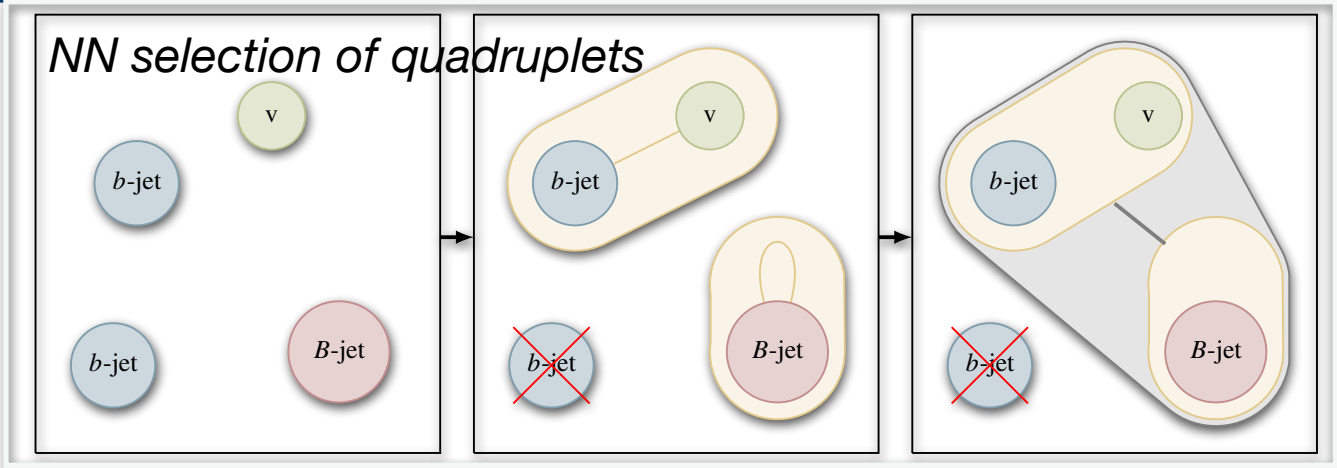
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Search for

$$Z(\rightarrow \ell\ell/\nu\nu)H(\rightarrow 4b/6b)$$

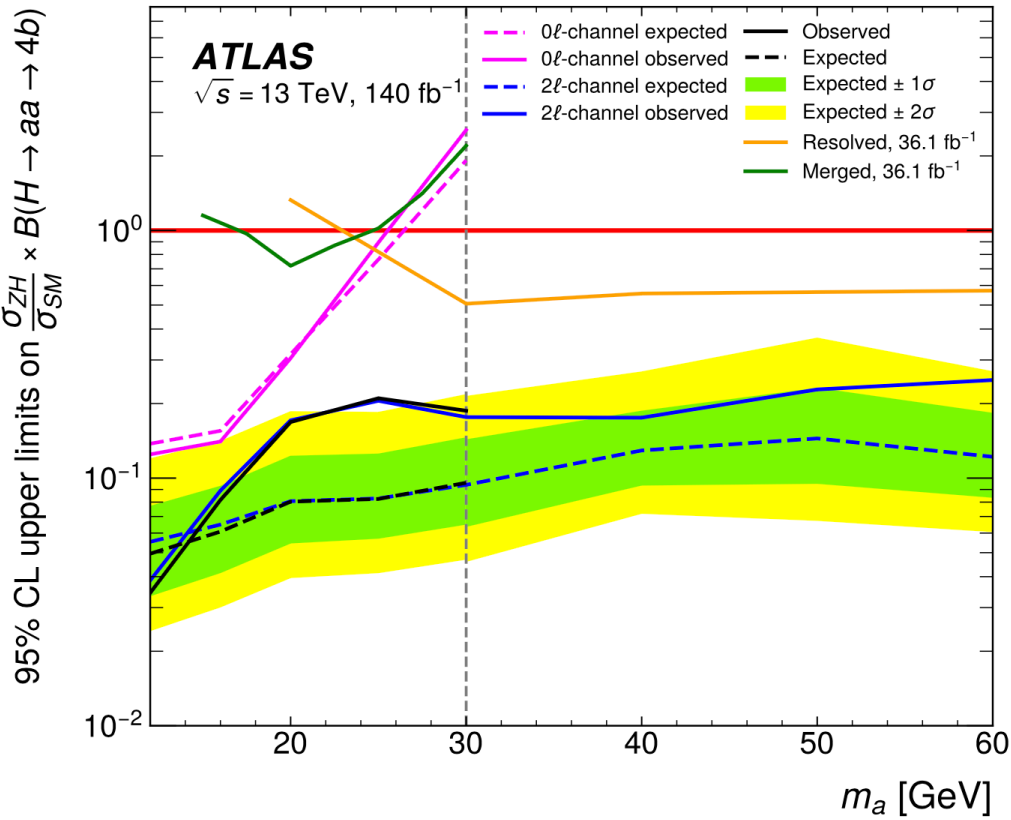


- Quadruplet selection NN in $2\ell\ 4b$
 - Select best combination of four b -objects to reconstruct decay chain $H\rightarrow 2a/a_1a_2\rightarrow 4b$
- Different encoder NNs for different b -objects
- Fully connected encoders for b -jets, B -jets, & soft vertices
- Encoded info used in pair of deep NNs, ensuring invariance under b & bb permutations
- NN built from up to 5 objects with ≤ 1 soft vertices
- Accuracy of associating b -partons to b -objects ranges from 60% to 98%

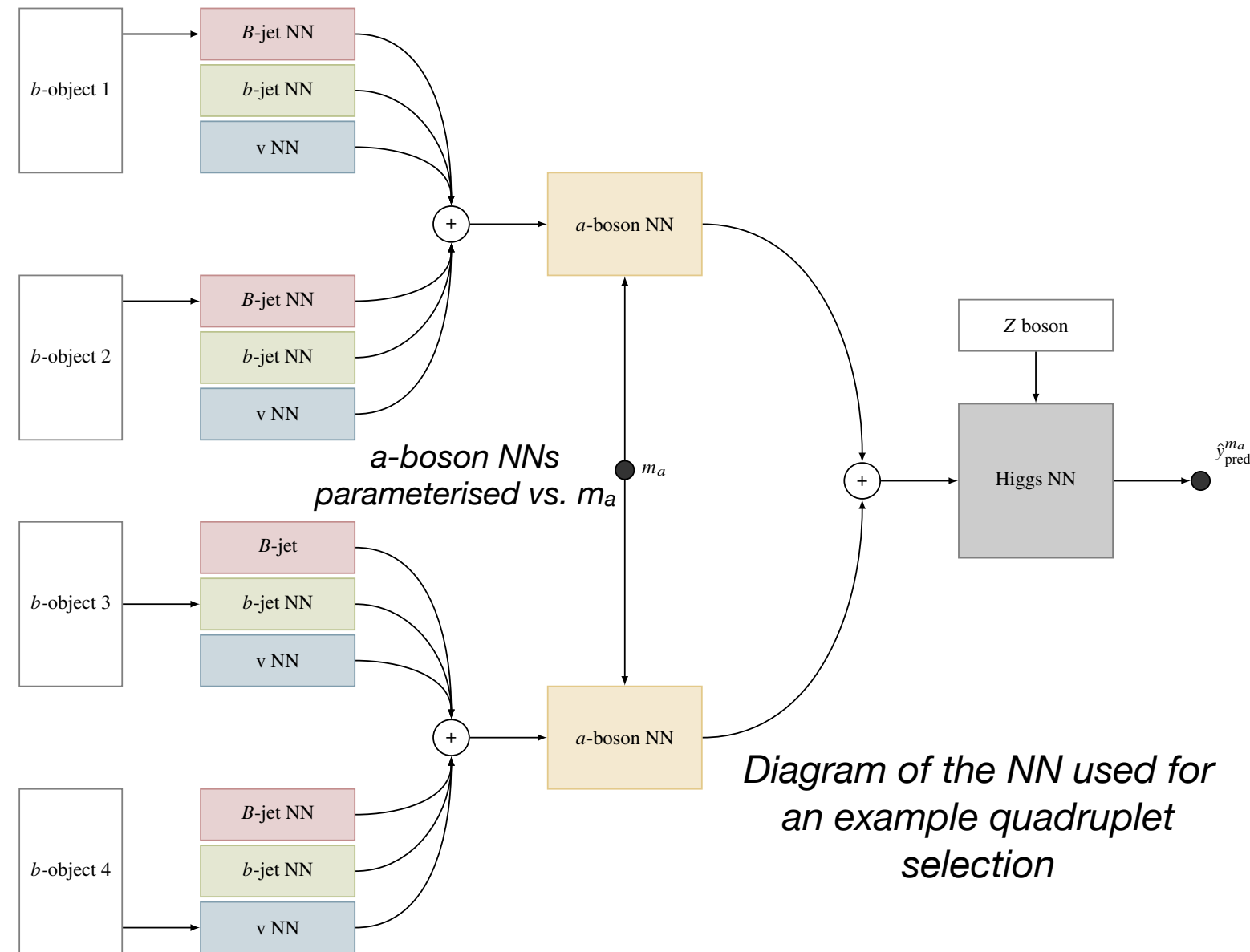


Quadruplets NN inputs

| Feature | Description |
|---------------------------|---|
| DEXTER-tagged B -jet | |
| $p_T(B)$ | Jet transverse momentum |
| m_B | Track jet mass |
| $\eta(B)$ | Jet pseudorapidity |
| $\phi(B)$ | Jet azimuthal angle |
| B_l or B_t | Satisfies loose or tight DEXTER requirement |
| DL1R-tagged b -jet | |
| $p_T(b)$ | Jet transverse momentum |
| m_b | Jet mass |
| $\eta(b)$ | Jet pseudorapidity |
| $\phi(b)$ | Jet azimuthal angle |
| PC score | The pseudo-continuous DL1R score |
| Soft secondary vertex v | |
| m_v | Track mass of the secondary vertex |
| $p_T(v)$ | Secondary vertex transverse momentum |
| $\eta(v)$ | Secondary vertex pseudorapidity |
| $\phi(v)$ | Secondary vertex azimuthal angle |
| L_{3D} | Decay length relative to the PV |
| S_{L3D} | Decay length significance |
| Z boson candidate | |
| $p_T(Z)$ | Z boson candidate transverse momentum |
| $\eta(Z)$ | Z boson candidate pseudorapidity |
| $\phi(Z)$ | Z boson candidate azimuthal angle |
| $m_{\ell\ell}$ | Z boson candidate mass |



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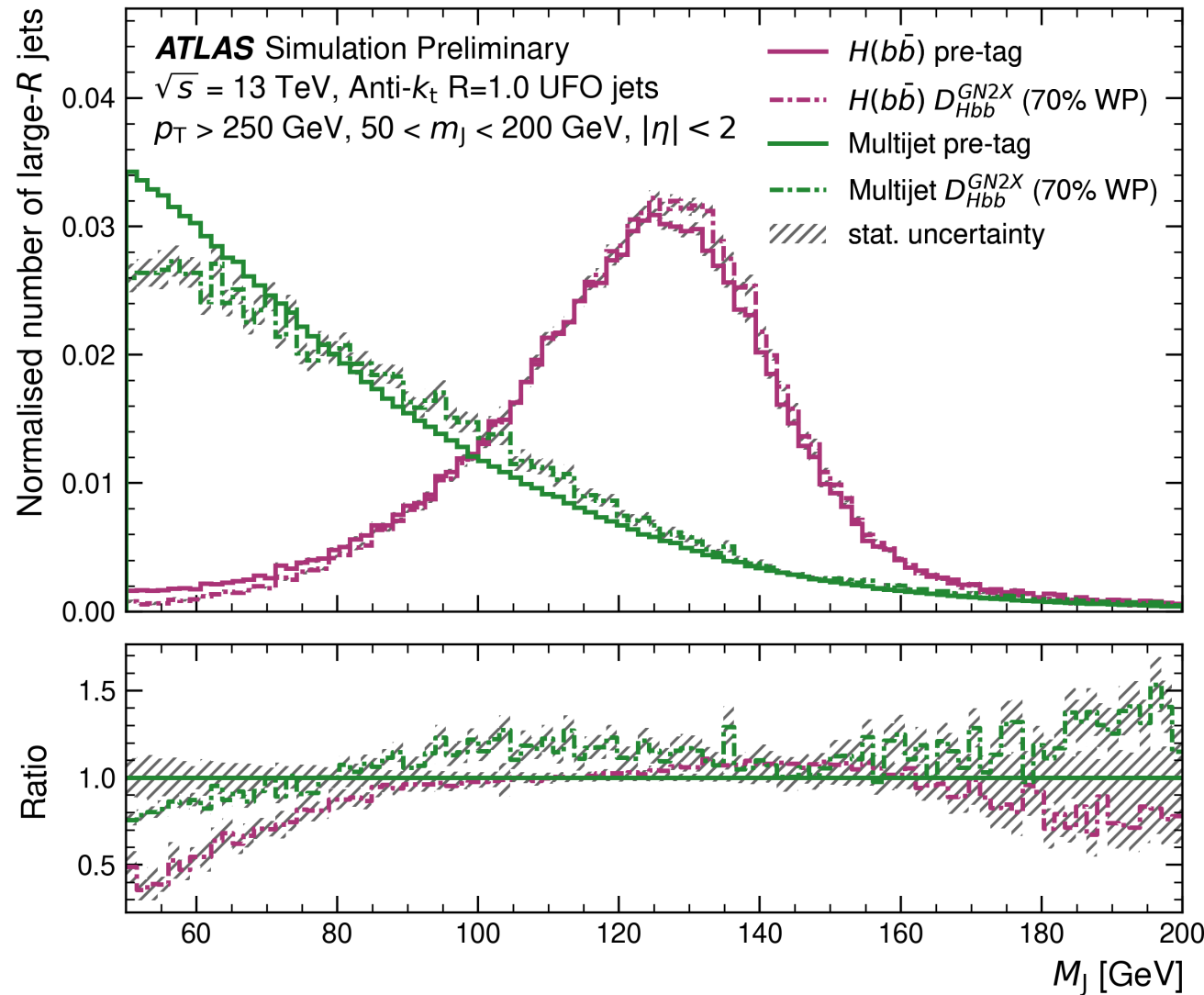


GN2X $H(bb/cc)$

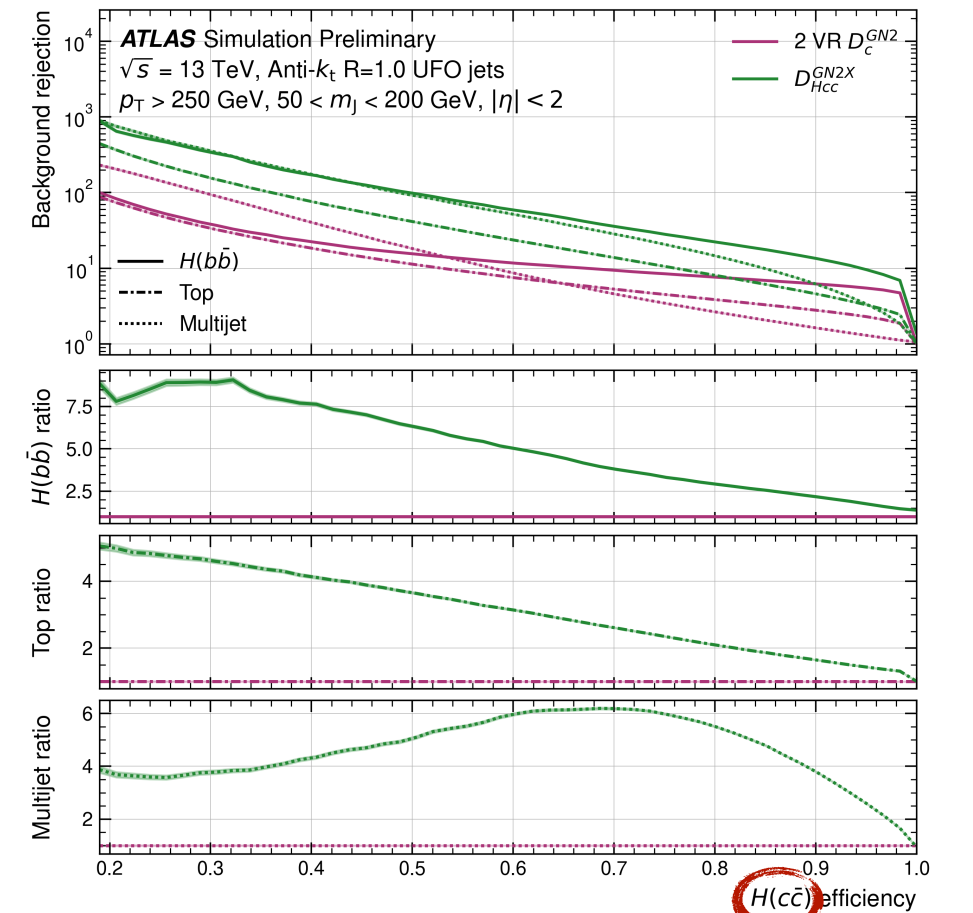
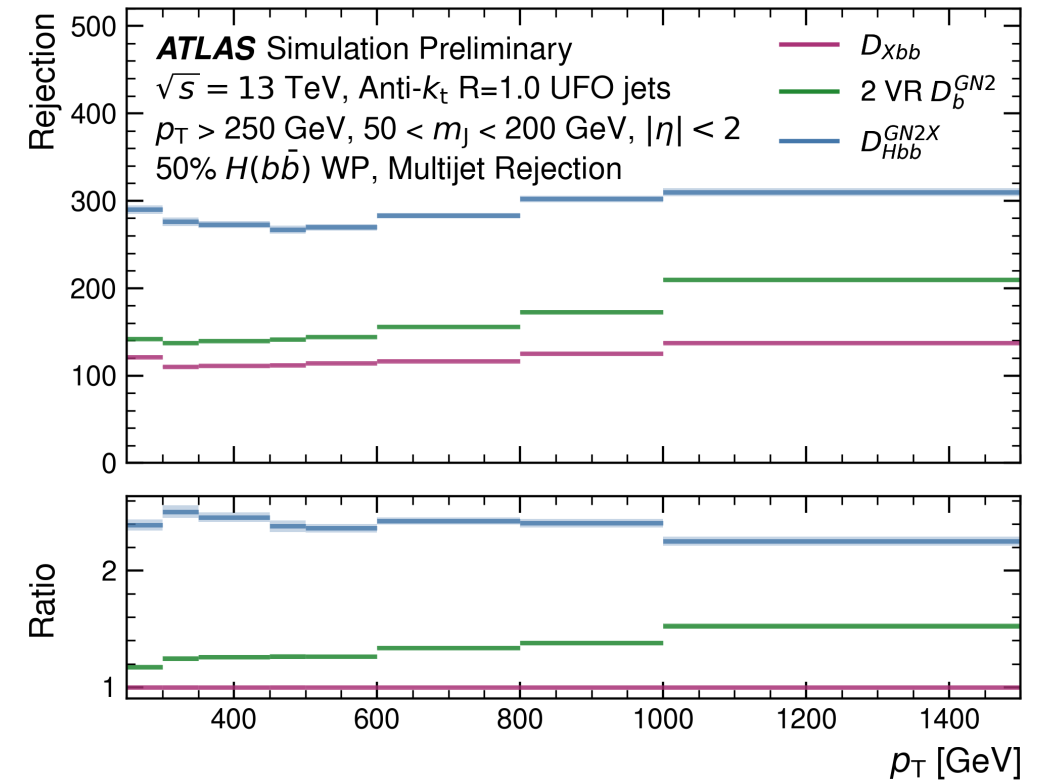
**Tagging at High
Momentum**

- Inputs: up to 100 tracks associated with jet
 - Two models with extra info: either kinematic and b -tagging info of variable- R track jets or Unified Flow Object (UFO) constituents
- Transformer network architecture
- Jet & track inputs concatenated: combined jet-track sequence vectors fed into per-track initialiser network
- Track representations fed into Transformer Encoder
 - 6 encoders with 4 attention heads
- Output representation of each track combined to form global representation of jet

| Jet Input | Description |
|----------------------|---|
| p_T | Large- R jet transverse momentum |
| η | Signed large- R jet pseudorapidity |
| mass | Large- R jet mass |
| Track Input | Description |
| q/p | Track charge divided by momentum (measure of curvature) |
| $d\eta$ | Pseudorapidity of track relative to the large- R jet η |
| $d\phi$ | Azimuthal angle of the track, relative to the large- R jet ϕ |
| d_0 | Closest distance from track to primary vertex (PV) in the transverse plane |
| $z_0 \sin \theta$ | Closest distance from track to PV in the longitudinal plane |
| $\sigma(q/p)$ | Uncertainty on q/p |
| $\sigma(\theta)$ | Uncertainty on track polar angle θ |
| $\sigma(\phi)$ | Uncertainty on track azimuthal angle ϕ |
| $s(d_0)$ | Lifetime signed transverse IP significance |
| $s(z_0 \sin \theta)$ | Lifetime signed longitudinal IP significance |
| nPixHits | Number of pixel hits |
| nSCTHits | Number of SCT hits |
| nIBLHits | Number of IBL hits |
| nBLHits | Number of B-layer hits |
| nIBLShared | Number of shared IBL hits |
| nIBLSplit | Number of split IBL hits |
| nPixShared | Number of shared pixel hits |
| nPixSplit | Number of split pixel hits |
| nSCTShared | Number of shared SCT hits |
| subjIndex | Integer label of which subset track is associated to (GN2X + Subjects only) |
| Subject Input | Description (Used only in GN2X + Subjects) |
| p_T | Subject transverse momentum |
| η | Subject signed pseudorapidity |
| mass | Subject mass |
| energy | Subject energy |
| $d\eta$ | Pseudorapidity of subject relative to the large- R jet η |
| $d\phi$ | Azimuthal angle of subject relative to the large- R jet ϕ |
| GN2 p_b | b -jet probability of subject tagged using GN2 |
| GN2 p_c | c -jet probability of subject tagged using GN2 |
| GN2 p_u | light flavour jet probability of subject tagged using GN2 |
| Flow Input | Description (Used only in GN2X + Flow) |
| p_T | Transverse momentum of flow constituent |
| energy | Energy of flow constituent |
| $d\eta$ | Pseudorapidity of flow constituent relative to the large- R jet η |
| $d\phi$ | Azimuthal angle of flow constituent relative to the large- R jet ϕ |

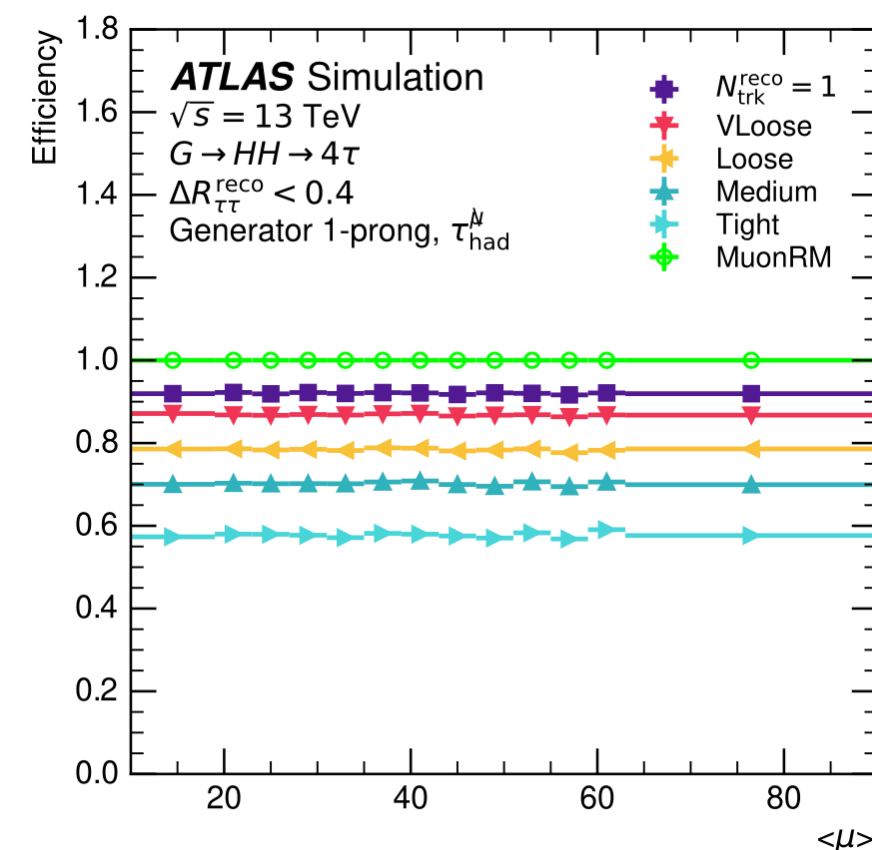
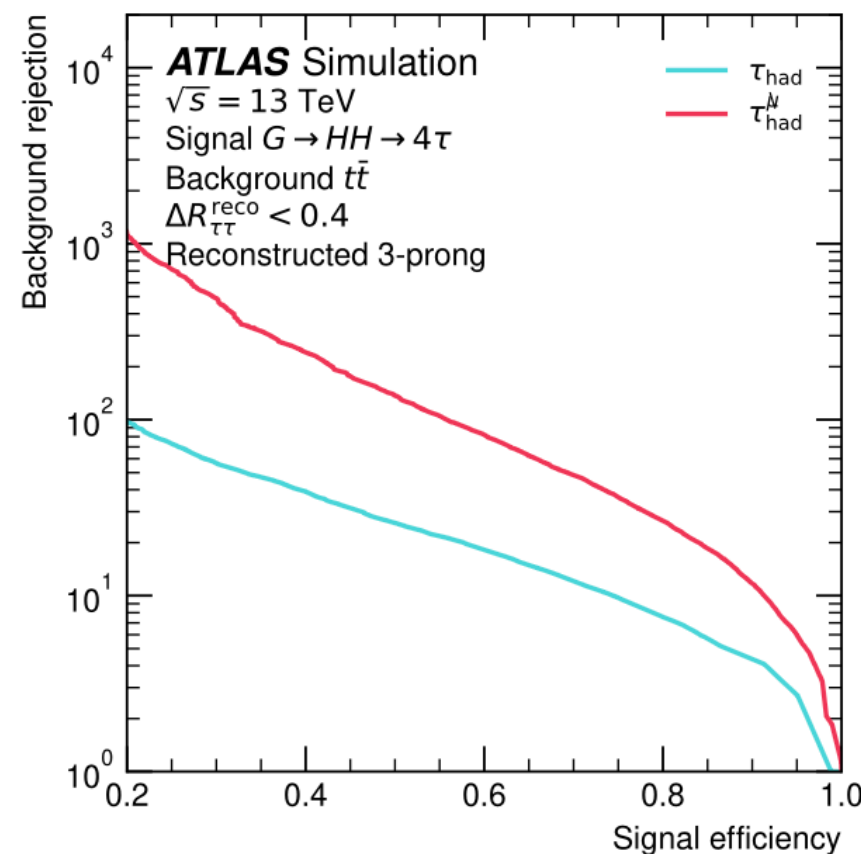
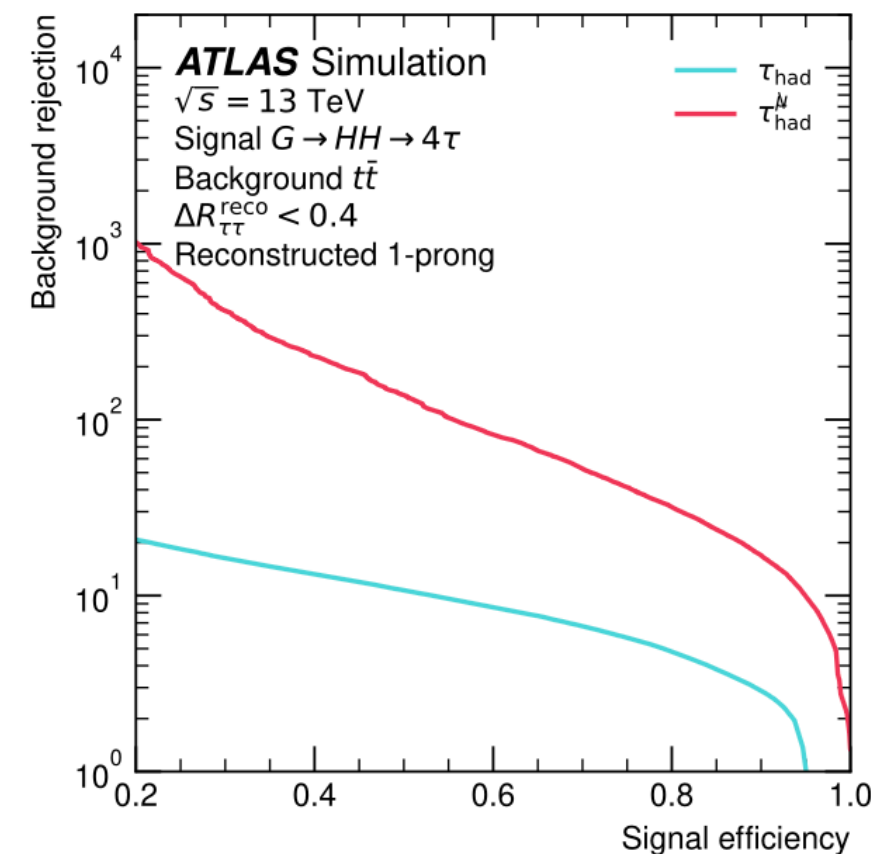
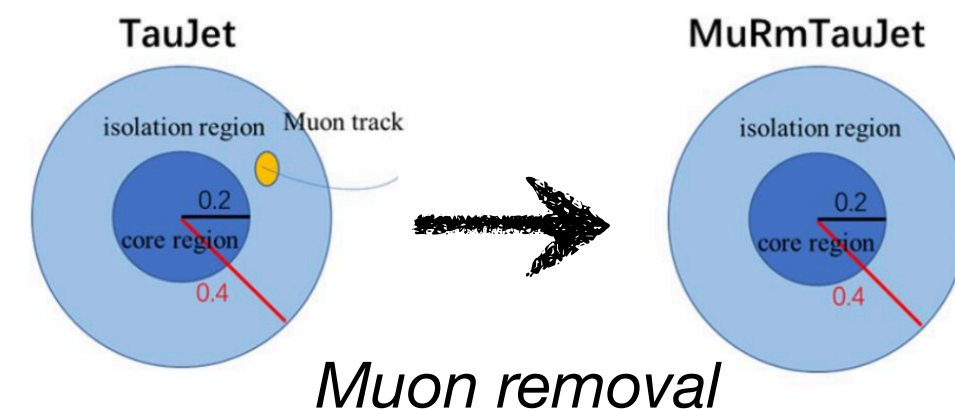


$$D_{Hbb(cc)}^{GN2X} = \ln \left(\frac{p_{Hbb}}{f_{Hcc} \cdot p_{Hcc} + f_{top} \cdot p_{top} + (1 - f_{Hcc} - f_{top}) \cdot p_{QCD}} \right)$$



τ Reco with μ - τ Removal in $\tau\tau \rightarrow \mu\nu_\mu\nu_\tau \text{ had} + \nu_\tau$

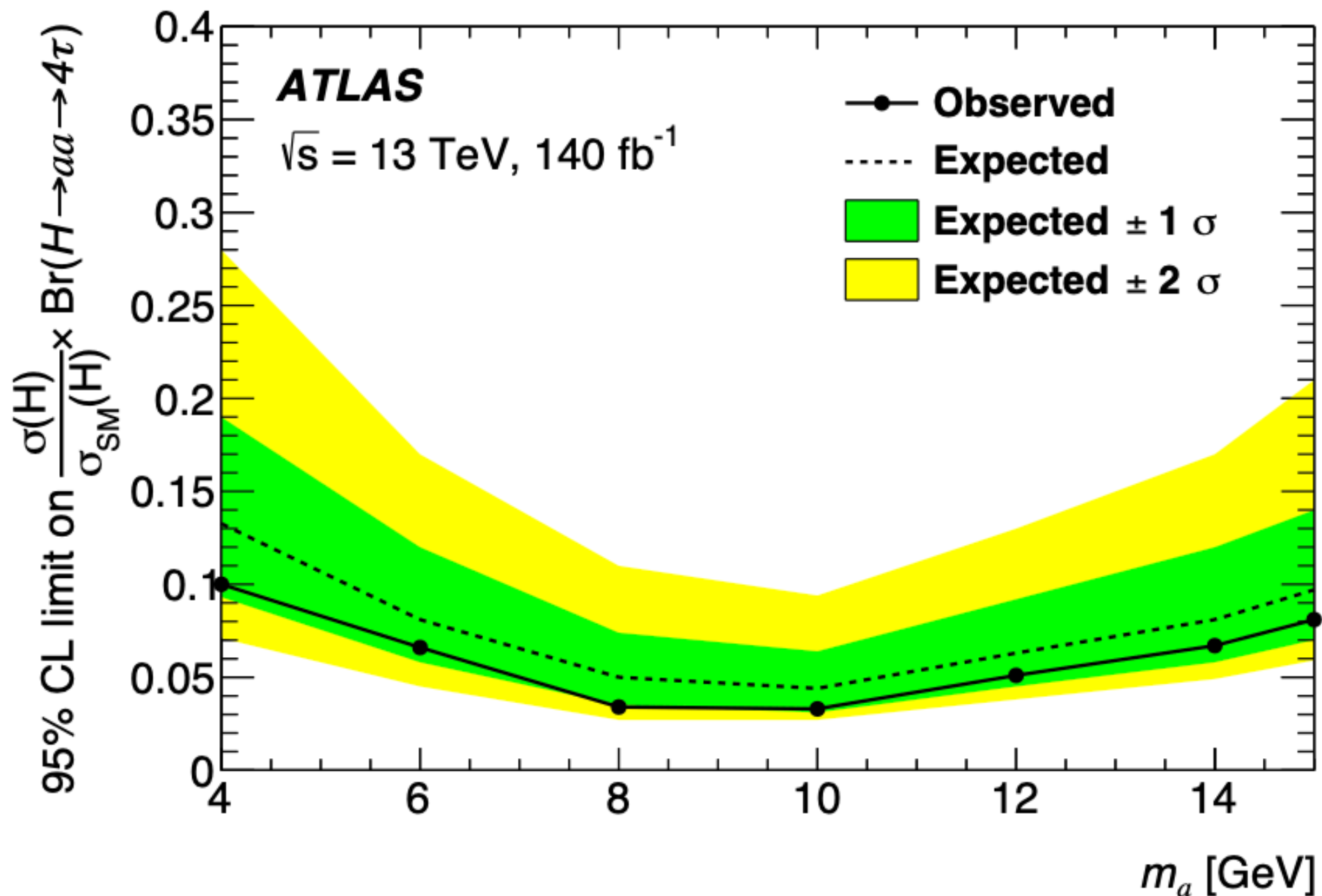
- Stability of performance vs. average pile-up
- An order of magnitude gain in rejection of “fake” τ



| | Observable | 1-prong | 3-prong |
|-------------------|---|---------|---------|
| Track inputs | $p_{\text{T}}^{\text{seed jet}}$ | • | • |
| | $p_{\text{T}}^{\text{track}}$ | • | • |
| | $\Delta\eta^{\text{track}}$ | • | • |
| | $\Delta\phi^{\text{track}}$ | • | • |
| | $ d_0^{\text{track}} $ | • | • |
| | $ z_0^{\text{track}} \sin \theta $ | • | • |
| | $N_{\text{IBL hits}}$ | • | • |
| | $N_{\text{Pixel hits}}$ | • | • |
| | $N_{\text{SCT hits}}$ | • | • |
| Cluster inputs | $p_{\text{T}}^{\text{jet seed}}$ | • | • |
| | $E_{\text{T}}^{\text{cluster}}$ | • | • |
| | $\Delta\eta^{\text{cluster}}$ | • | • |
| | $\Delta\phi^{\text{cluster}}$ | • | • |
| | λ_{cluster} | • | • |
| | $\langle \lambda_{\text{cluster}}^2 \rangle$ | • | • |
| | $\langle r_{\text{cluster}}^2 \rangle$ | • | • |
| High-level inputs | $p_{\text{T}}^{\text{uncalibrated}}$ | • | • |
| | f_{cent} | • | • |
| | $f_{\text{leadtrack}}^{-1}$ | • | • |
| | ΔR_{max} | • | • |
| | $ S_{\text{leadtrack}} $ | • | |
| | $S_{\text{T}}^{\text{flight}}$ | | • |
| | $f_{\text{track}}^{\text{track}}$ | • | • |
| | $f_{\text{iso}}^{\text{EM}}$ | • | • |
| | $f_{\text{track}}^{\text{EM+track}}$ | • | • |
| | $p_{\text{T}}^{\text{EM+track}}/p_{\text{T}}$ | • | • |
| | $m^{\text{EM+track}}$ | • | • |
| | m^{track} | | • |

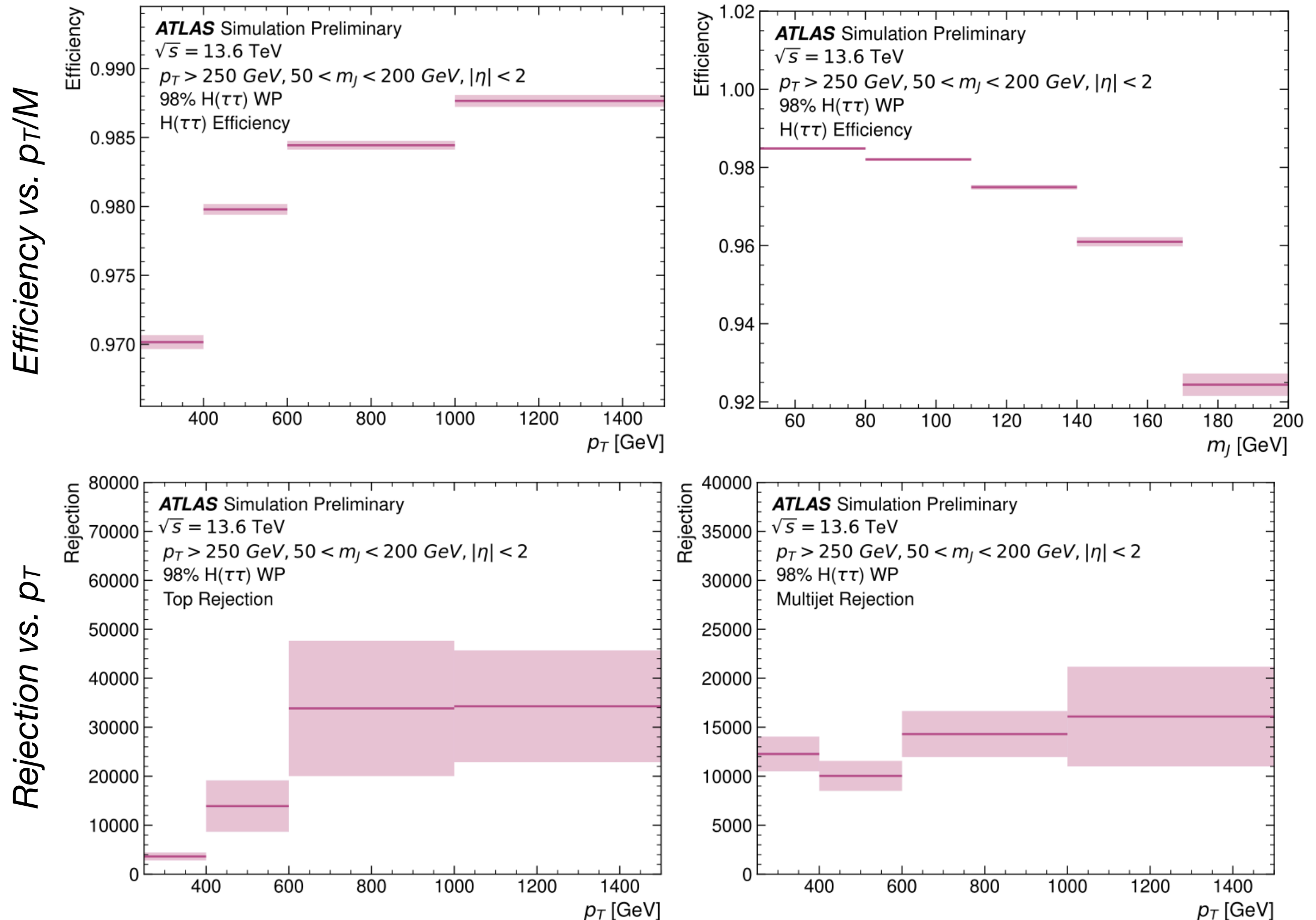
Search for Merged

$H \rightarrow aa \rightarrow \tau_{\mu} \tau_{\text{had}} \tau_{\mu} \tau_{\text{had}}$



GN2X $\tau\tau$ for Merged $\tau_{\text{had}}\tau_{\text{had}}$ at High Momentum

GN2X $\tau\tau$ for Merged $\tau_{\text{had}}\tau_{\text{had}}$ at High Momentum



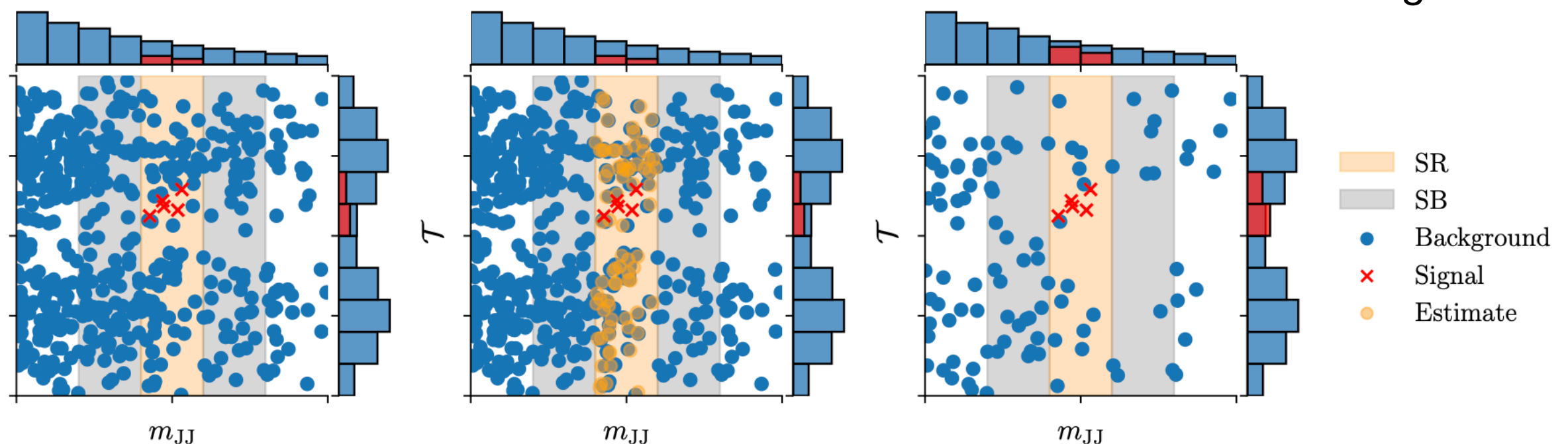
Weakly Supervised Anomaly Detection for Light Di-Jet Resonance

- Di-jet mass sidebands (SBs) used for interpolation into SR when forming reference data sample: two methods explored
- Simulation Assisted Likelihood-free Anomaly Detection (SALAD)
 - Di-jet mass **conditional reweighting** function trained in SBs to corrects simulation in SR
- Constructing unobserved regions by transforming adjacent intervals (CURTAINS)
 - Di-jet mass **conditional morphing** function trained in SBs to correct SBs data to look like data in SR
 - Both approaches correct for correlations between M_{JJ} & classifier features

Weakly Supervised Anomaly Detection for Light Di-Jet Resonance

HMBS-2024-34/

- **Weakly supervised classifier** trained to distinguish between data & estimated background distribution in SR
 - Following **CWoLa** paradigm, NN to approximate optimal classifier between a potential signal & background (signal-depleted template)
 - **Five-fold cross validation** of training: each NN not applied to data used for its training
- **Cut on classifier** to enhance S/B
- Fit: smoothly falling function fit to SB bins until χ^2 p-value > 5% first, post-hoc non-closure corrections & 95% CLs limits from intersection of limit curves on 20 different signal models



NSBI Application:

Off-Shell $H \rightarrow ZZ^*$ (Γ_H)

- NN classifiers can be used to discriminate between two hypotheses
- Train a classifier to estimate a decision function $s(x_i)$ separating signal from background events using balanced class weights \rightarrow compute $r(x_i|S,B)$ \rightarrow scaled to constructed LLR
- Application to off-shell $H \rightarrow ZZ^*$ accounts for S-to-B interference, introducing a non-linearity in signal strength
- Architecture: feed-forward dense network with 5 hidden layers 1000 nodes each
 - Output layer with a single node and a sigmoid activation
- Improved Γ_H results

$$s(x_i) = \frac{p(x_i|S)}{p(x_i|B) + p(x_i|S)}$$



Per-event probability density ratio

$$r(x_i|S,B) = \frac{p(x_i|S)}{p(x_i|B)} = \frac{s(x_i)}{1 - s(x_i)}$$



Likelihood Ratio

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p(x_i|\mu)}{p(x_i|\mu=0)} &= \frac{1}{(\mu\nu_S + \nu_B)} \frac{\mu\nu_S p(x_i|S) + \nu_B p(x_i|B)}{p(x_i|B)} \\ &= \frac{1}{(\mu\nu_S + \nu_B)} (\mu\nu_S r(x_i|S,B) + \nu_B), \end{aligned}$$

