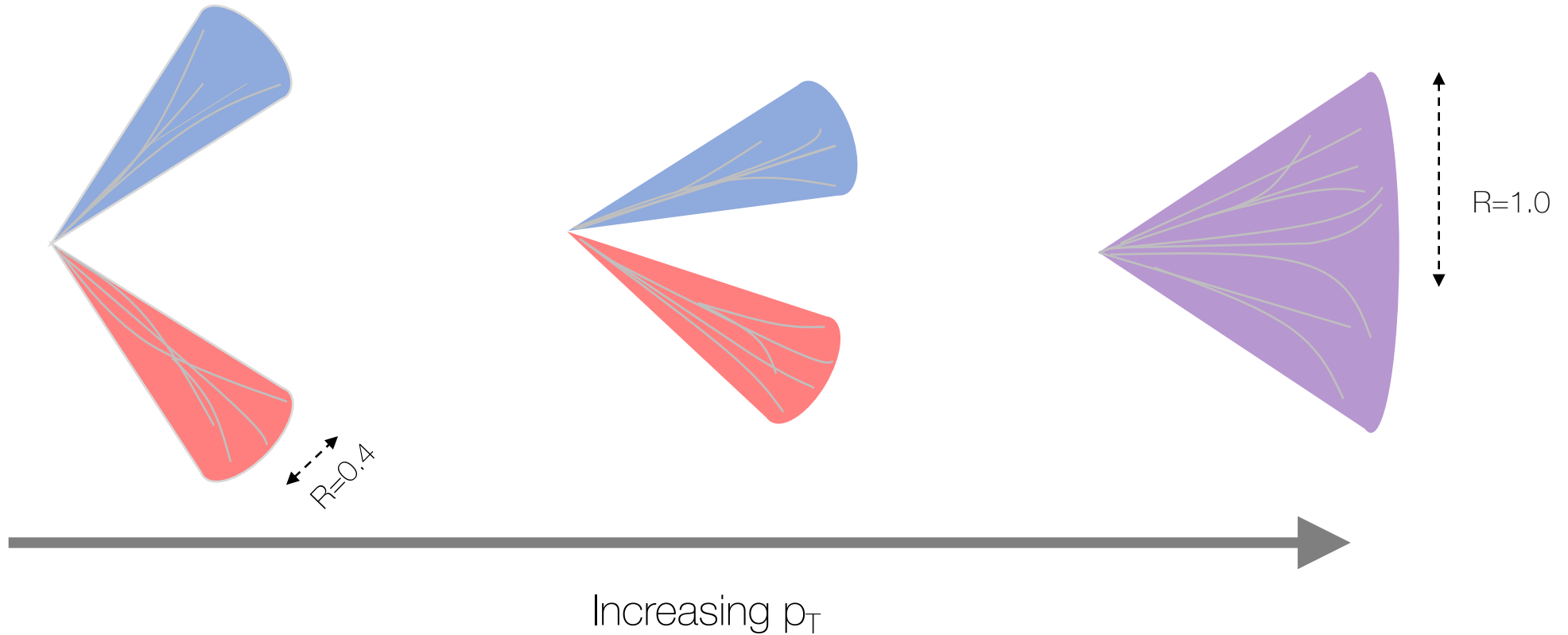


# Boosted $H \rightarrow bb/cc$ Tagging in ATLAS

Jackson Barr  
2025-02-20

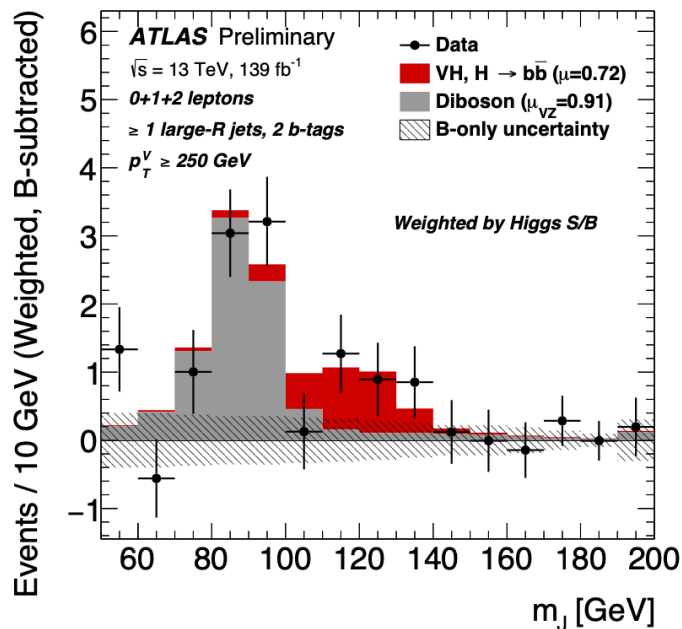
# Boosted Jets



- Standard b-tagging algorithms use  $R=0.4$  anti- $k_T$  jets but as decay products become more collimated at high  $p_T$ , objects can be reconstructed within a  $R=1.0$  jet
- Rule of thumb for two body decay,  $R \approx 2m/p_T$  – Higgs boson decay products are boosted above 250 GeV

# Higgs Tagging

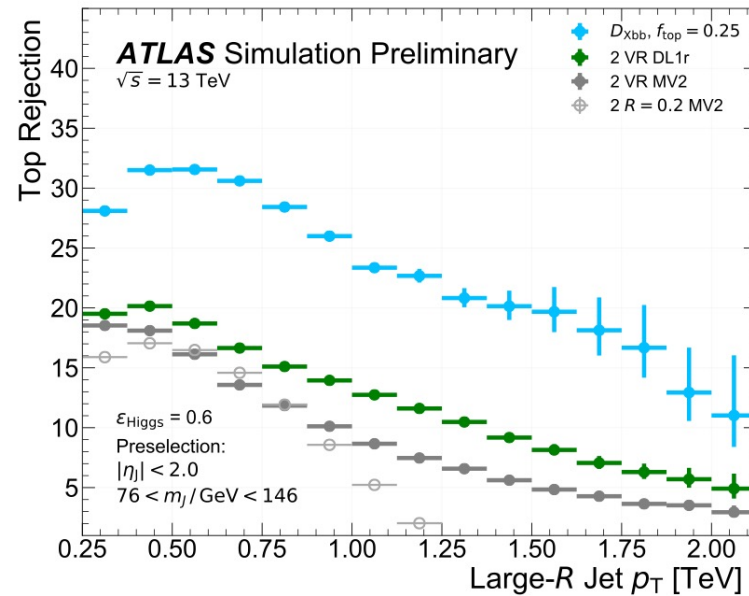
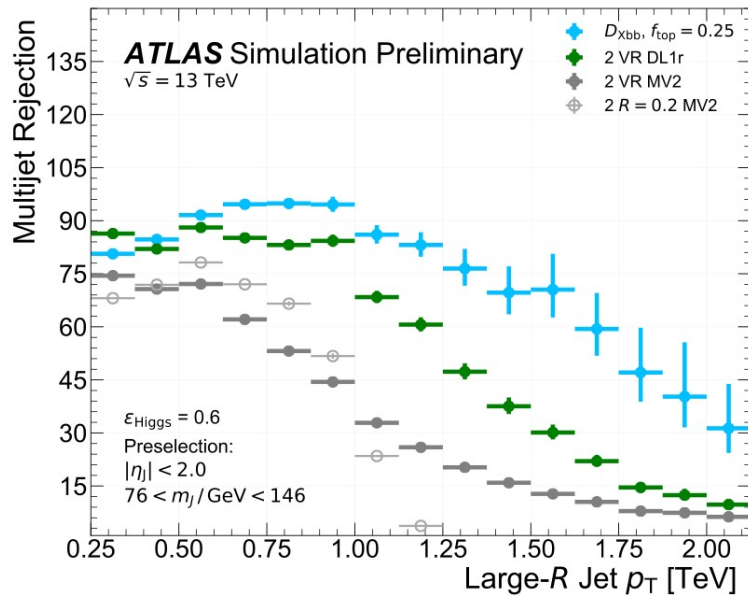
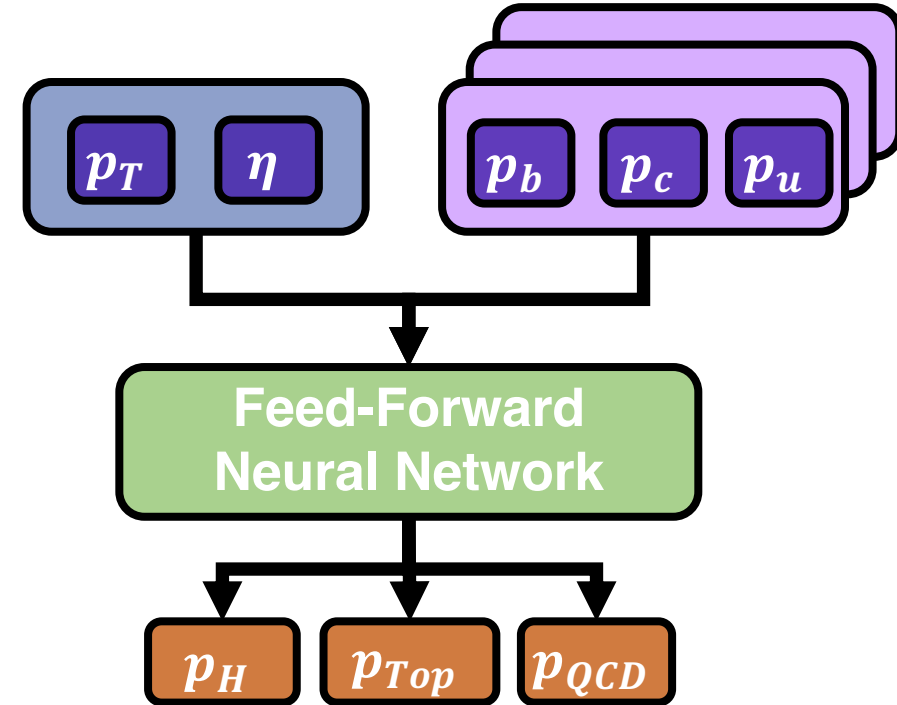
- $H \rightarrow bb$  is the largest branching ratio for the decay of a SM Higgs, boosted  $bb$ -tagging important for precision measurements of the Higgs  $p_T$  spectra or for searches involving high mass resonances
- The boosted regime has also been shown to be very sensitive for  $H \rightarrow cc$  (which still hasn't been observed!)



	bb	WW	$\tau\tau$	ZZ	$\gamma\gamma$
bb	34%				
WW	25%	4.6%			
$\tau\tau$	7.3%	2.7%	0.39%		
ZZ	3.1%	1.1%	0.33%	0.069%	
$\gamma\gamma$	0.26%	0.10%	0.028%	0.012%	0.0005%

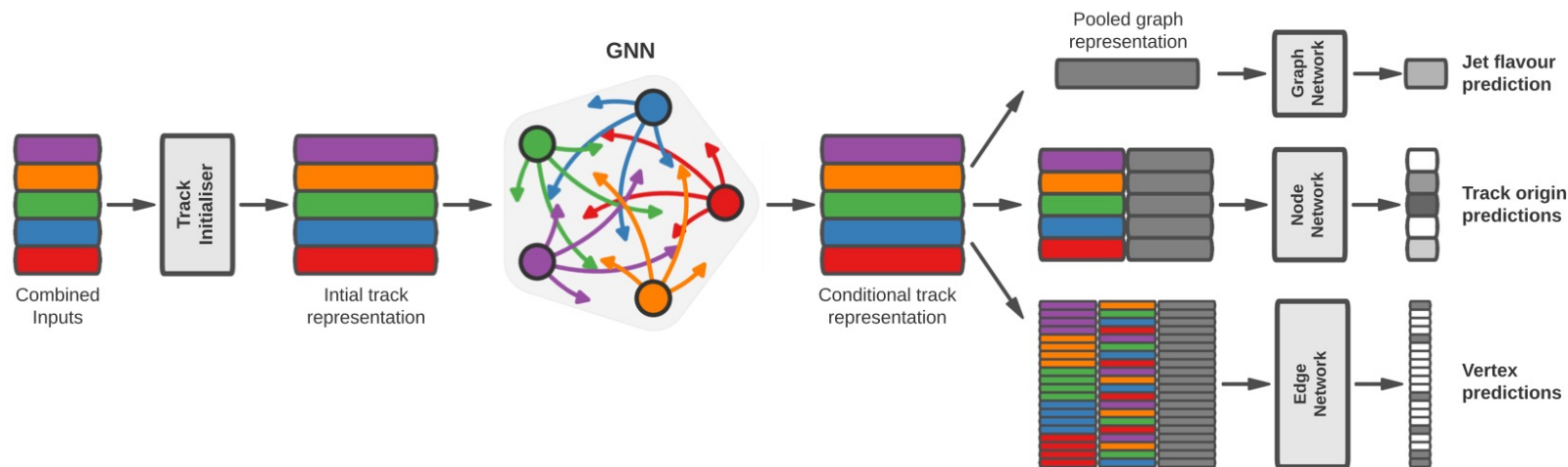
# Previous Approach

- The previous standard b-tagging algorithm used in Run 2 was the DL1r tagger – based upon a recurrent neural network
- The previous [Xbb tagger](#) consisted of a neural network trained on the DL1r outputs of up to three variable radius sub-jets within the large-R jet along with the jet kinematics



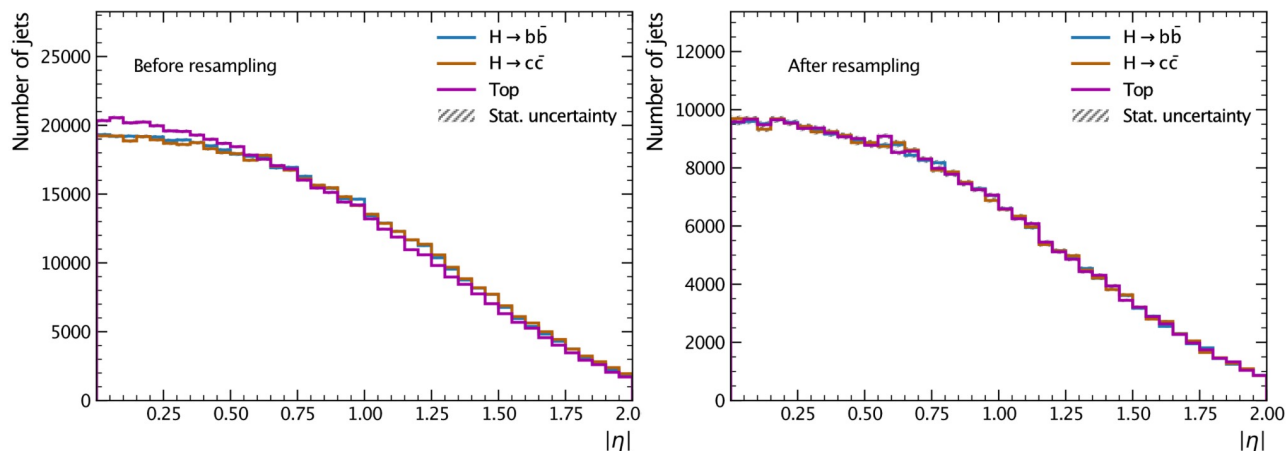
# Current Approach – GN2X

- The previous approach b-tags the sub-jets independently and can only learn correlations between their b-tagging scores – GN2X uses all tracks within the jet
- GN2X is a transformer based model that not only can be used for the identification of boosted Higgs decays but also predicts the origin of the tracks and perform vertex finding
- An important consideration for Higgs tagging is trying to avoid sculpting the background distributions to look like the signal – a Higgs sample with a large decay width is used to give a flatter mass distribution



# Inputs and Samples

- Inputs include the jet  $p_T$ ,  $\eta$  and mass along with track level features – heterogeneous versions of model uses information from particle flow objects and/or kinematics of subjets
- A resampling in the jet kinematics is performed to reduce the effects of any kinematic sculpting
- Trained on  $O(100 \text{ m})$  jets, model with a few million parameters

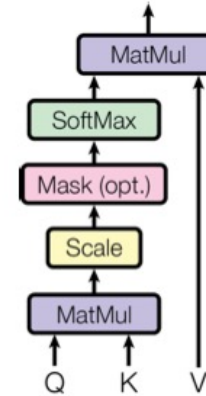


Jet Input	Description
$p_T$	Large- $R$ jet transverse momentum
$\eta$	Signed large- $R$ jet pseudorapidity
mass	Large- $R$ jet mass
Track Input	Description
$q/p$	Track charge divided by momentum (measure of curvature)
$d\eta$	Pseudorapidity of track relative to the large- $R$ jet $\eta$
$d\phi$	Azimuthal angle of the track, relative to the large- $R$ jet $\phi$
$d_0$	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 $\theta$
$\sigma(\phi)$	Uncertainty on track azimuthal angle $\phi$
$s(d_0)$	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 subjet track is associated to (GN2X + Subjets only)
Subjet Input	Description (Used only in GN2X + Subjets)
$p_T$	Subjet transverse momentum
$\eta$	Subjet signed pseudorapidity
mass	Subjet mass
energy	Subjet energy
$d\eta$	Pseudorapidity of subjet relative to the large- $R$ jet $\eta$
$d\phi$	Azimuthal angle of subjet relative to the large- $R$ jet $\phi$
GN2 $p_b$	$b$ -jet probability of subjet tagged using GN2
GN2 $p_c$	$c$ -jet probability of subjet tagged using GN2
GN2 $p_u$	light flavour jet probability of subjet 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 $\eta$
$d\phi$	Azimuthal angle of flow constituent relative to the large- $R$ jet $\phi$

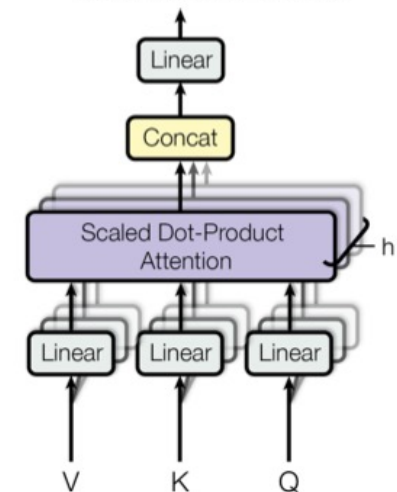
# Transformer Models

- Transformers are a model architecture that arose from the field of Natural Language Processing (NLP) – architecture used by LLMs like ChatGPT
- The key to the transformer architecture is the Attention Mechanism – calculates the pairwise “relevance” between all input objects
- Each object is then updated by an attention weighted sum of all other objects
- Attention mechanism is a useful inductive bias for this task, tracks originating from a common vertex, or have parent-daughter relationship should have high attention weights, fake tracks and pileup tracks should have lower weights with real PV tracks

Scaled Dot-Product Attention



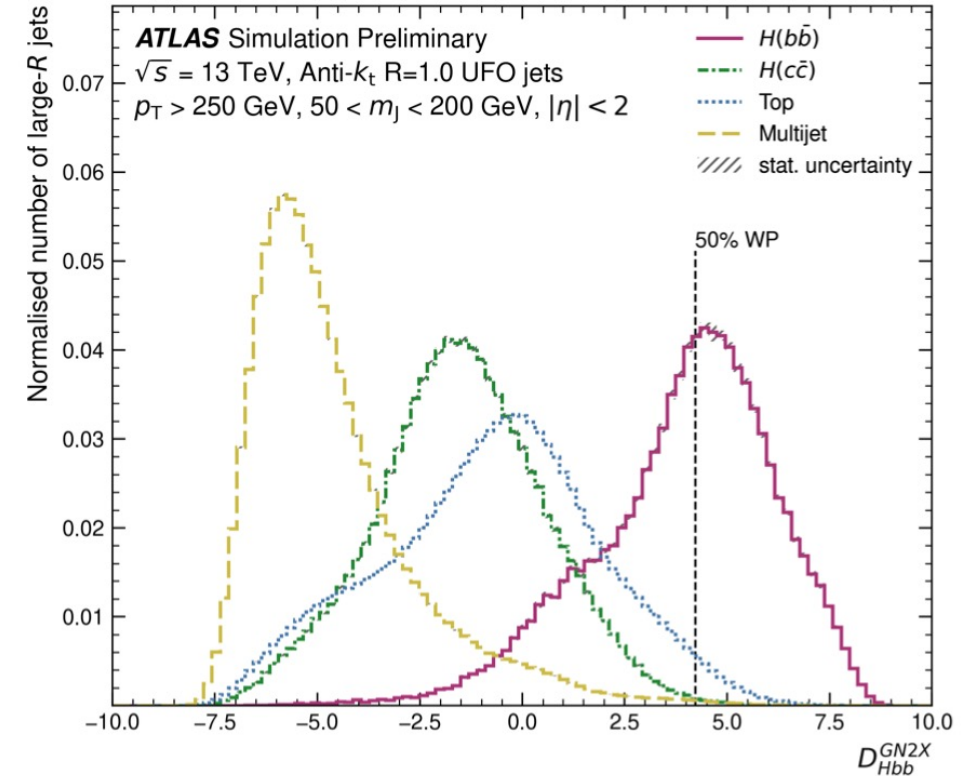
Multi-Head Attention



# GN2X Outputs

- GN2X adds a  $H \rightarrow cc$  output class in addition to the  $H \rightarrow bb$ , top and QCD classes from the previous tagger
- A discriminant score is built using a weighted log likelihood ratio
- Auxiliary task outputs are a per track probability score for each type of track and a list of vertices

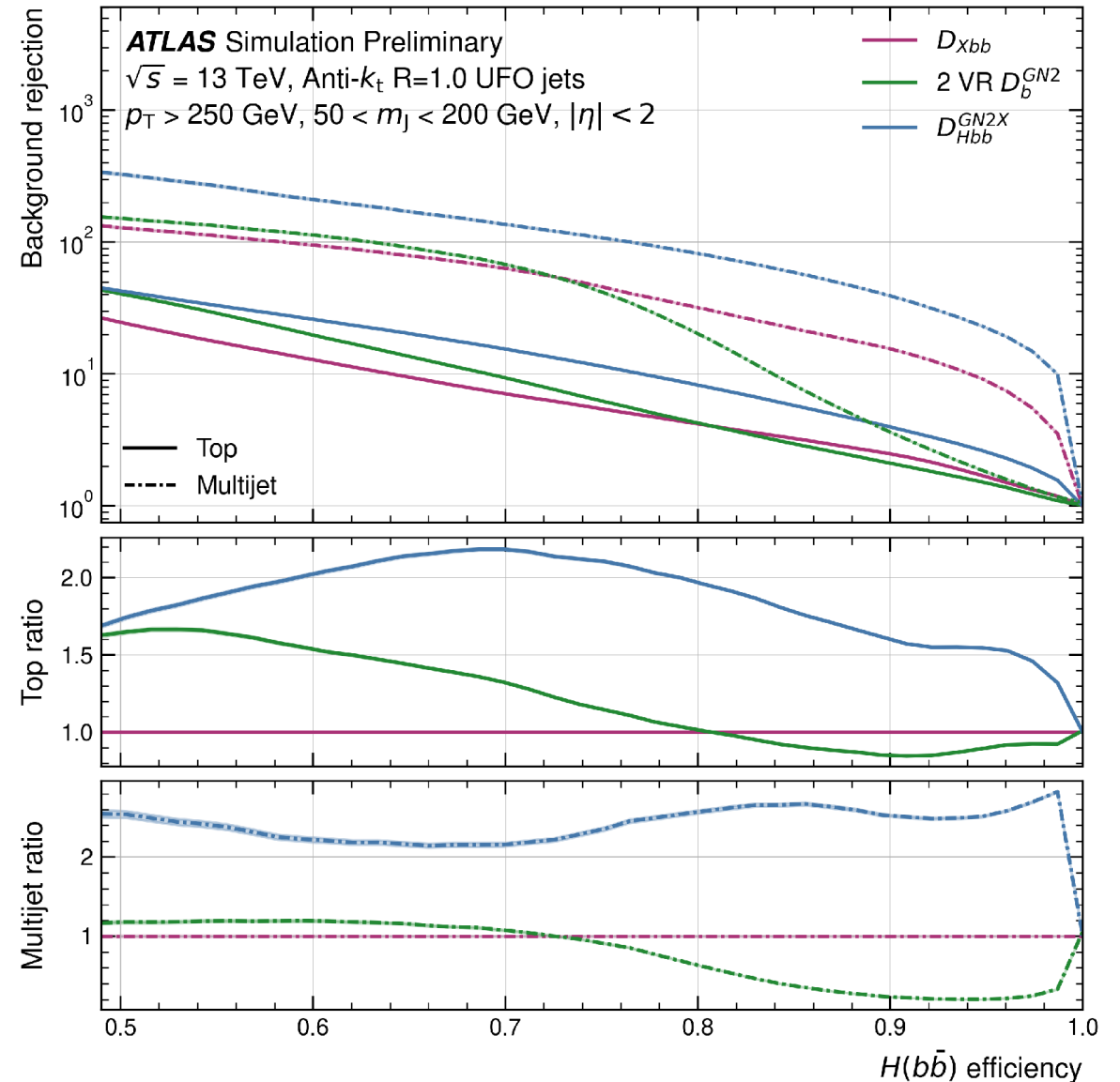
$$D_{Hbb}^{GN2X} = \ln \left( \frac{p_{Hbb}}{f_{Hcc} \cdot p_{Hcc} + f_{top} \cdot p_{top} + (1 - f_{Hcc} - f_{top}) \cdot p_{QCD}} \right)$$



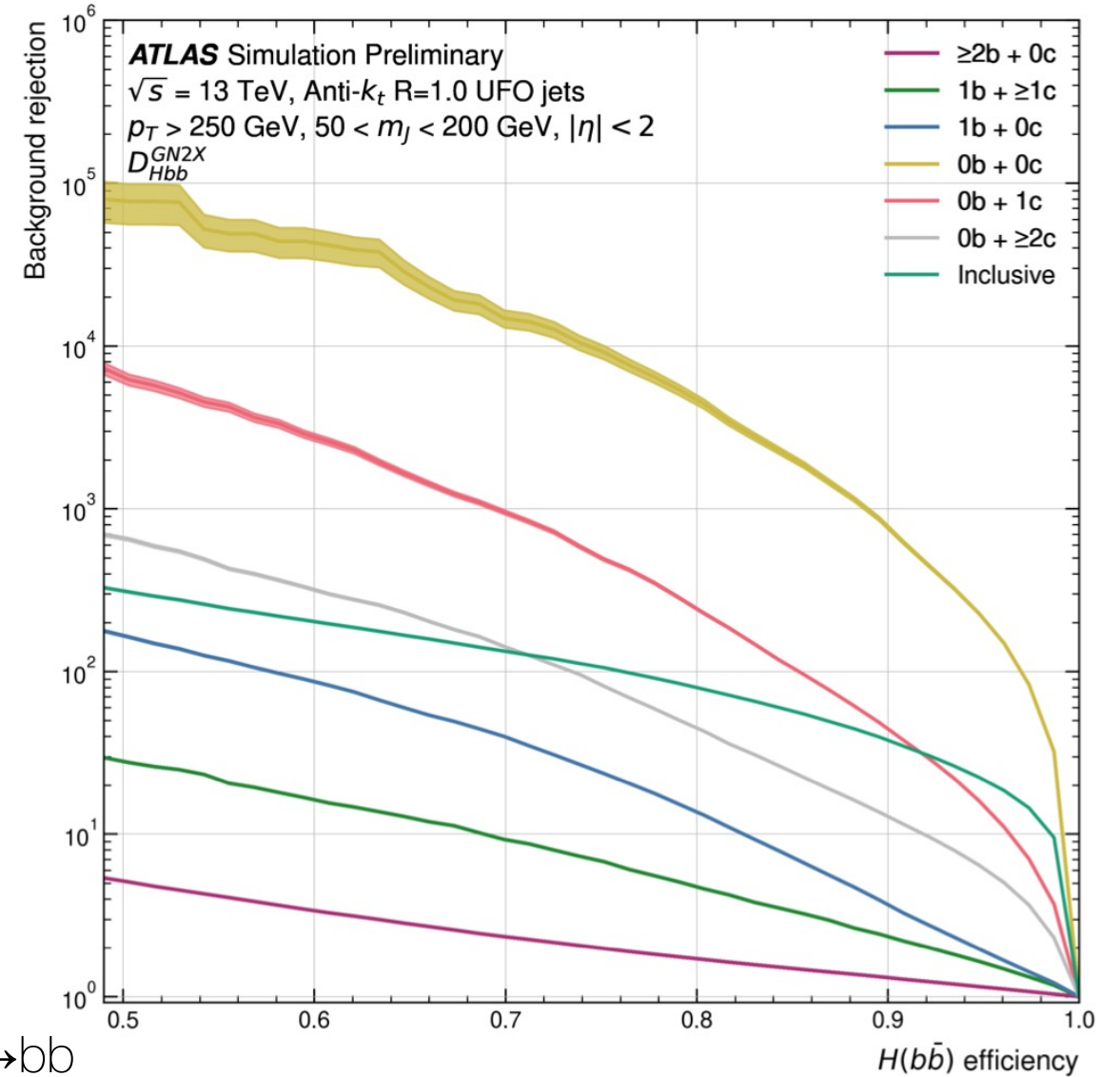
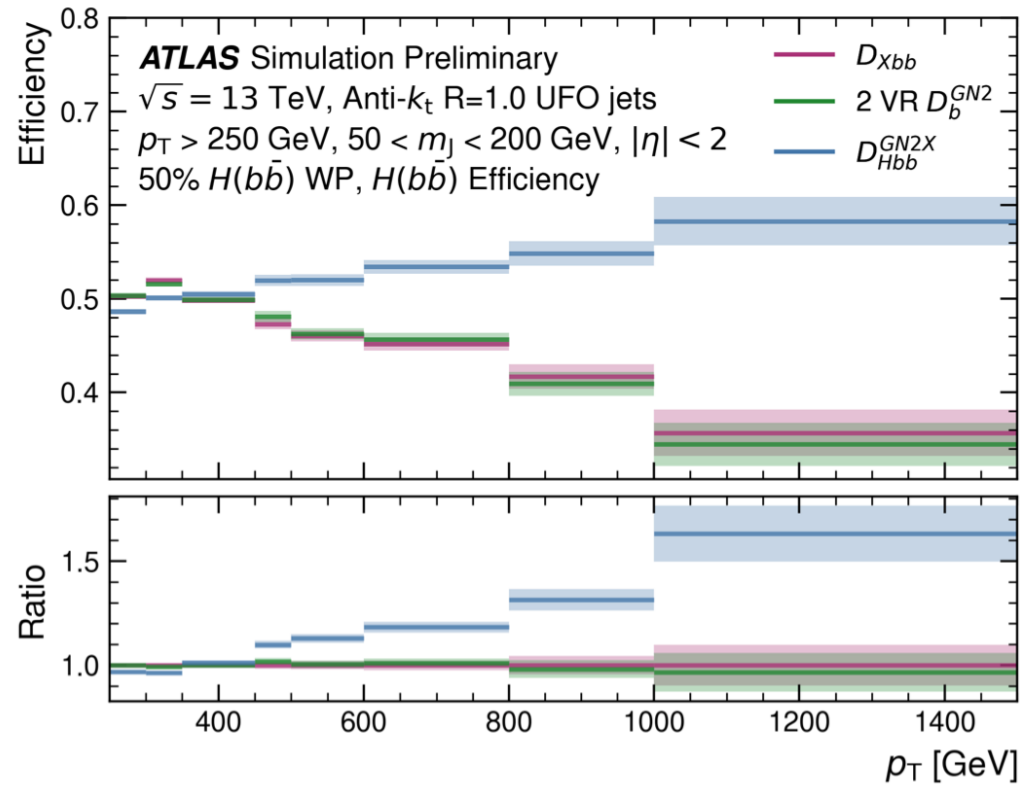


# H → bb Performance

- GN2X significantly improves in top and QCD rejection over the previous Xbb tagger, more than doubling QCD rejection for all signal efficiencies
- Performance compared to tagging two subjects with GN2 independently to show how much training on all constituents in the jet inclusively brings over a subject-based approach



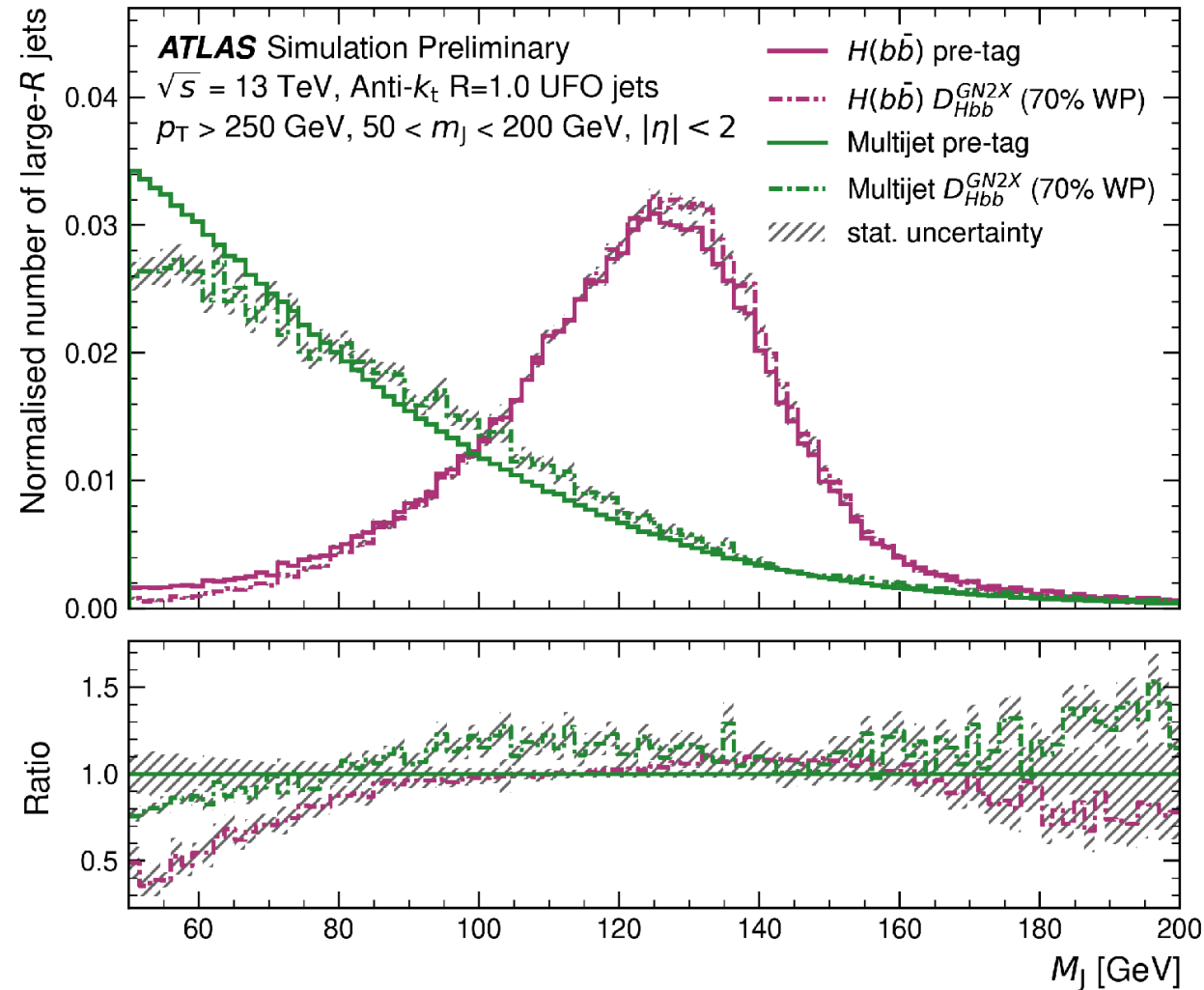
# H → bb Performance



- Post-tag sample composition dominated by real b-hadrons within QCD jets – improving H → bb vs g → bb discrimination vital for further improvements

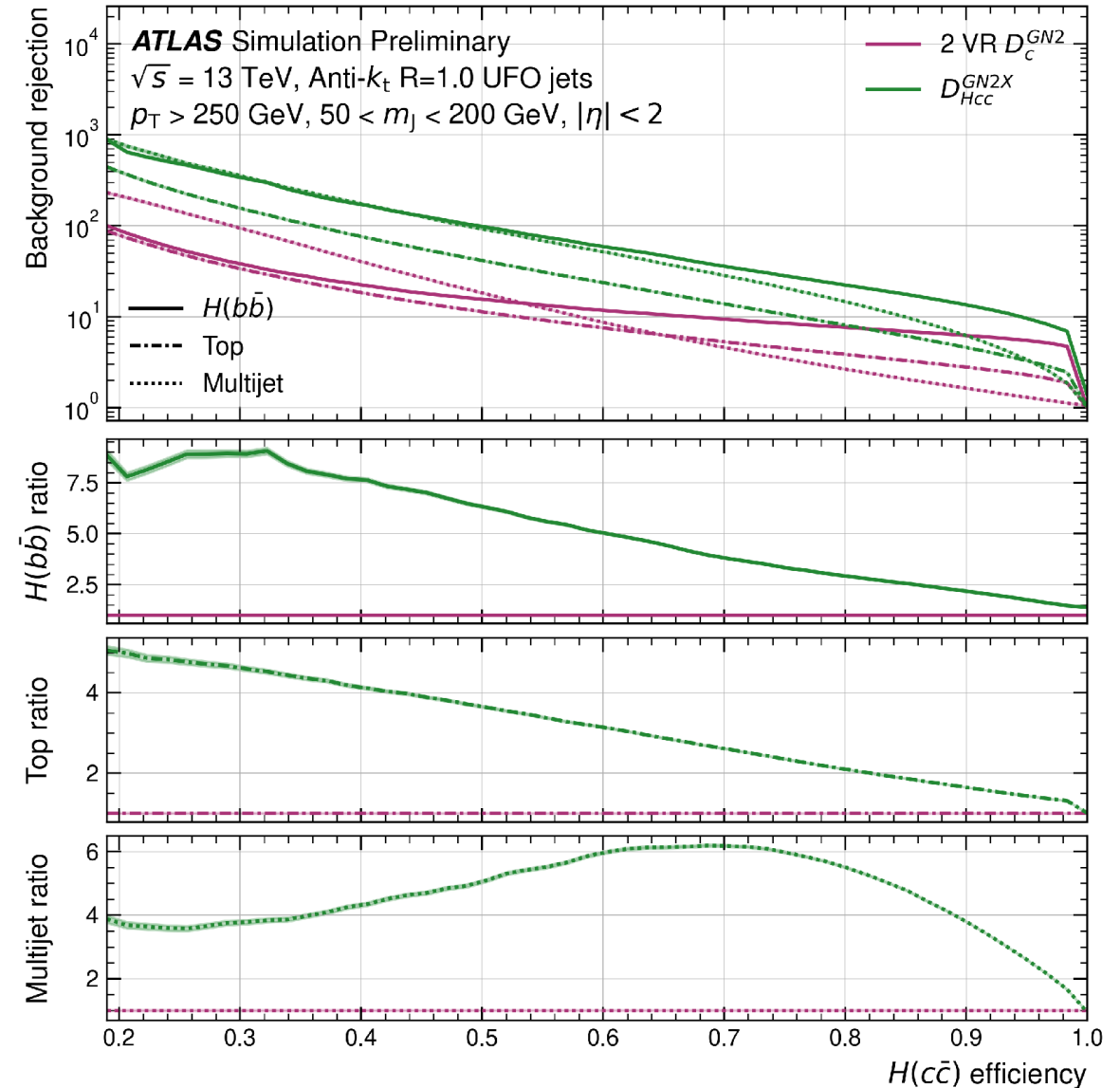
# Mass Sculpting

- Jet mass distributions of the QCD background are compared pre- and post-tagging to evaluate the amount of mass sculpting present
- No localised peak at 125 GeV but there is still some residual mass sculpting – mostly a product of changing flavour fractions pre- and post-tag



# H → cc Performance

- As  $H \rightarrow cc$  is a new addition, the only baseline we can compare to is the c-tagging of the subjects independently
- Larger improvement over baseline compared to the b-tagging case!
- Identification of c-hadrons more challenging than b-hadrons e.g. a 1% QCD mist-tag efficiency corresponds to a ~75%  $H \rightarrow bb$  efficiency, but only a ~50%  $H \rightarrow cc$  efficiency

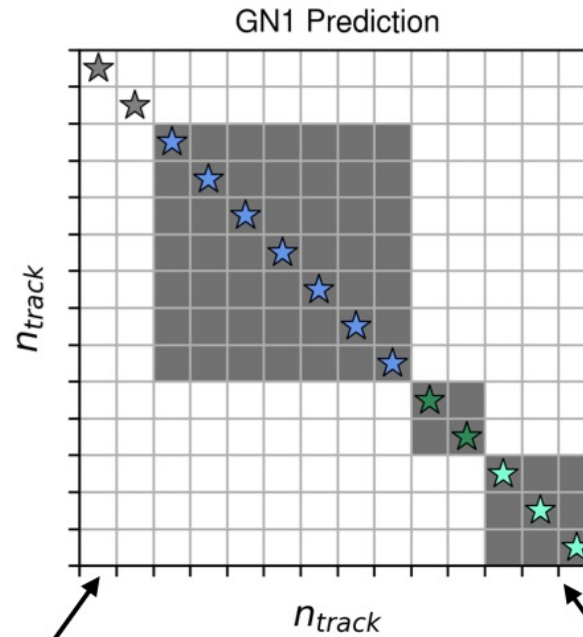
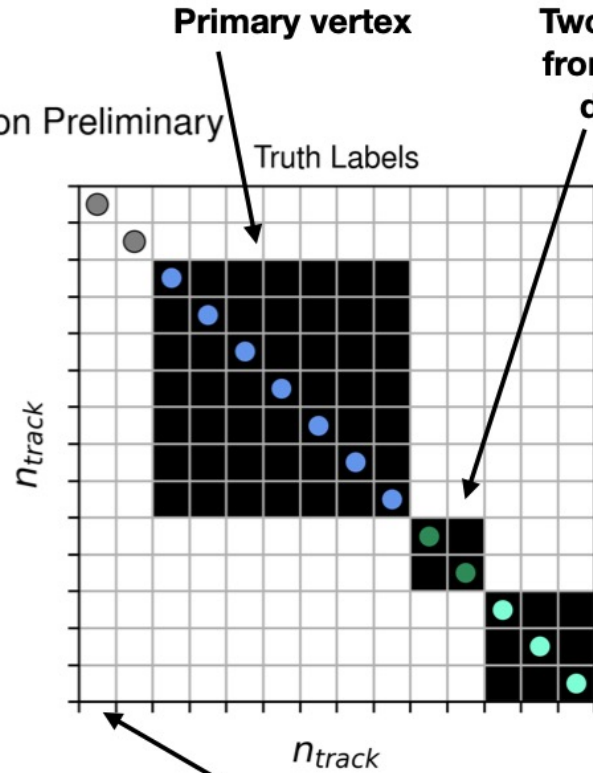


# Auxiliary Tasks

GN1 successfully predicts jet flavour

ATLAS Simulation Preliminary  
 $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$   
 $t\bar{t}$  jets

Truth  $b$ -jet  
 $p_T = 134.1 \text{ GeV}$   
 $\rho_b = 0.995$   
 $\rho_c = 0.005$   
 $\rho_u = 0.000$



GN1 vertex and origin prediction is perfect

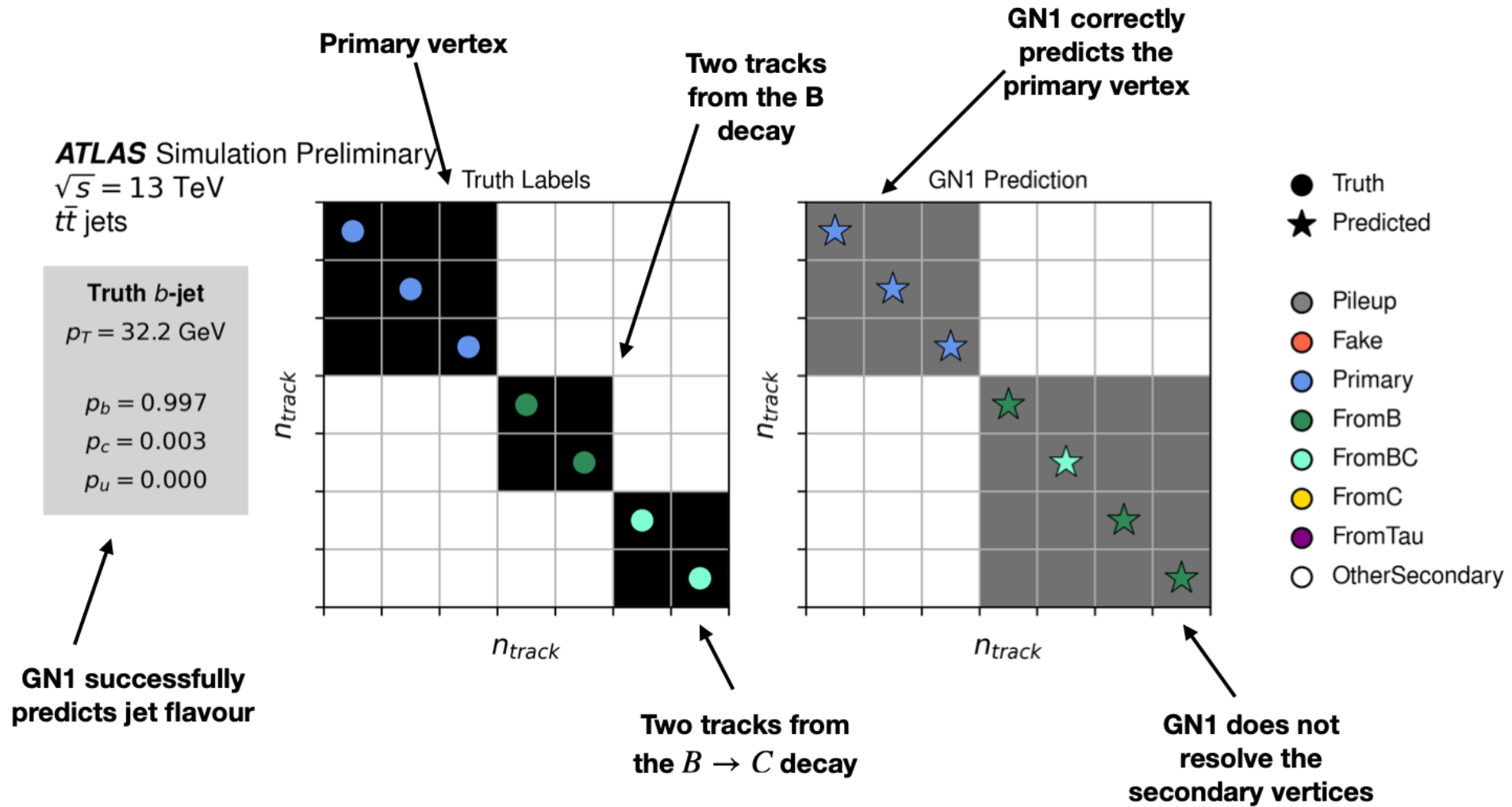
- Truth
- ★ Predicted
- Pileup
- Fake
- Primary
- FromB
- FromBC
- FromC
- FromTau
- OtherSecondary

First track

Three tracks from the  $B \rightarrow C$  decay

Example vertexing performance from previous GN1 model

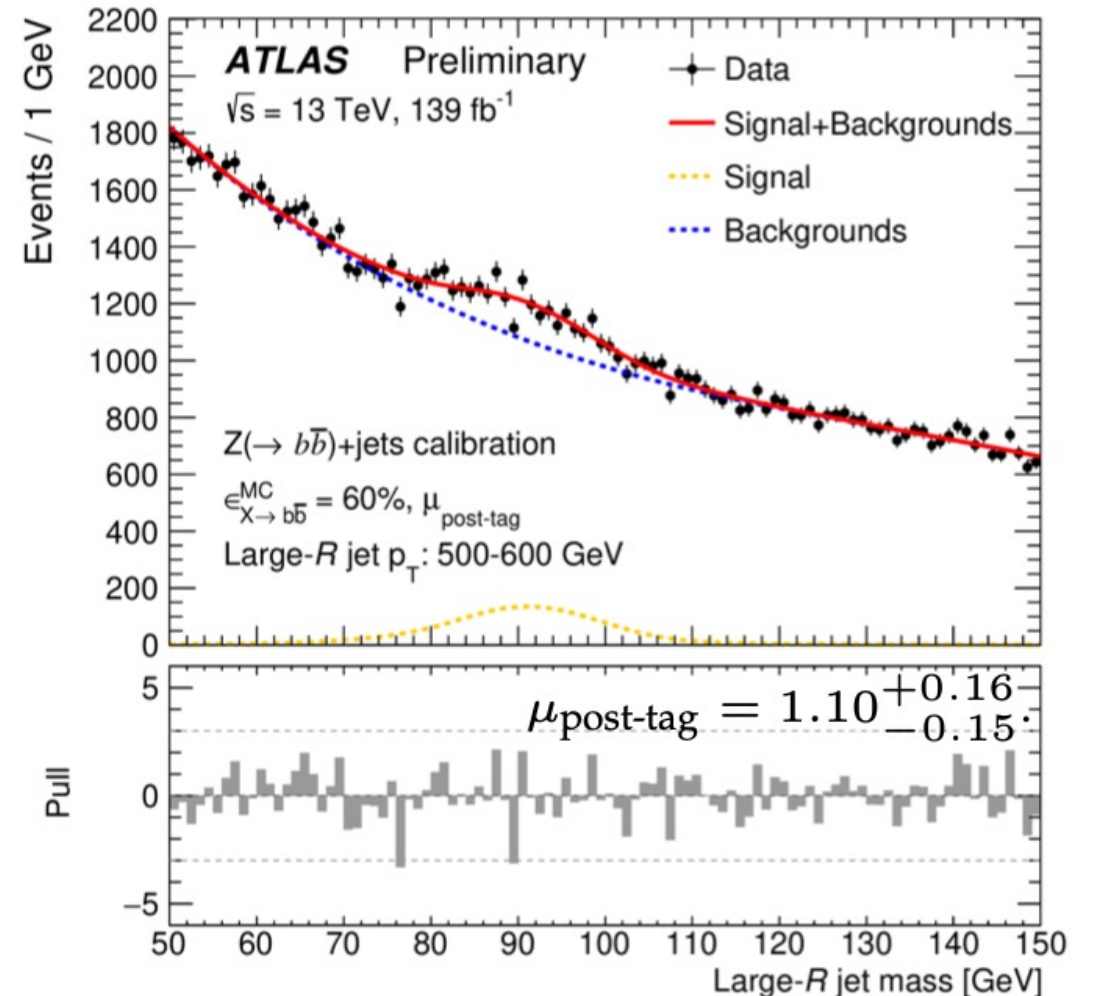
# Auxiliary Tasks



# Signal Calibration

- MC performance is nice but at the end of the day data is what matters
- Tagger is ~mass agnostic, therefore we assume that we can use a  $Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  standard candle as our signal proxy in the calibration
- Alternate calibration approach using  $g \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  has also been explored as well

$$SF = \frac{\epsilon_{\text{data}}}{\epsilon_{\text{MC}}} = \frac{\frac{N_{\text{data passed}}}{N_{\text{data total}}}}{\frac{N_{\text{MC passed}}}{N_{\text{MC total}}}} = \frac{\frac{N_{\text{data passed}}}{N_{\text{MC passed}}}}{\frac{N_{\text{data total}}}{N_{\text{MC total}}}} = \frac{\mu_{\text{post-tag}}}{\mu_{\text{pre-tag}}}$$



# Where to Next?\*

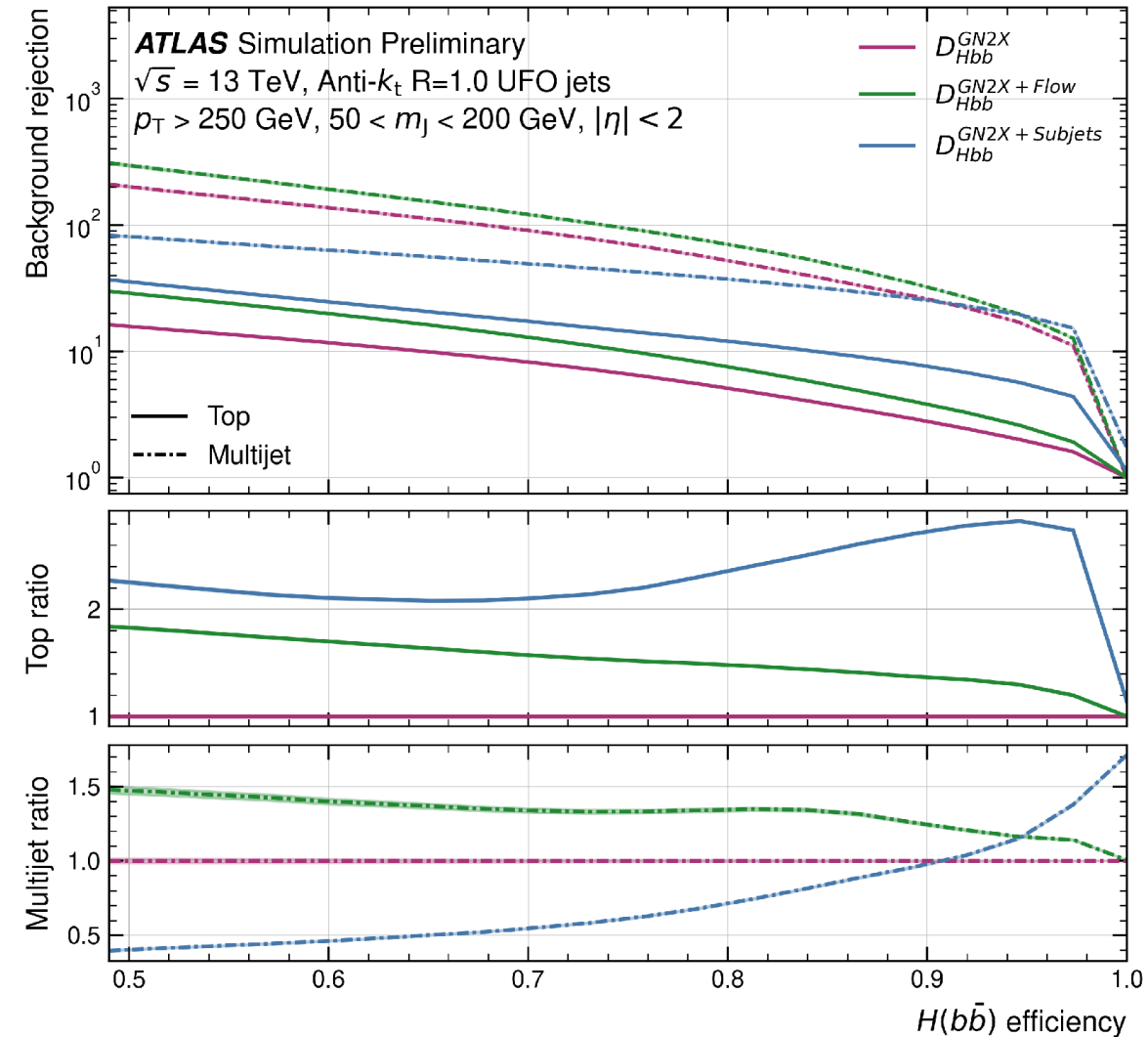
\*As much as I'm allowed to say that is ;)



# Heterogenous Inputs

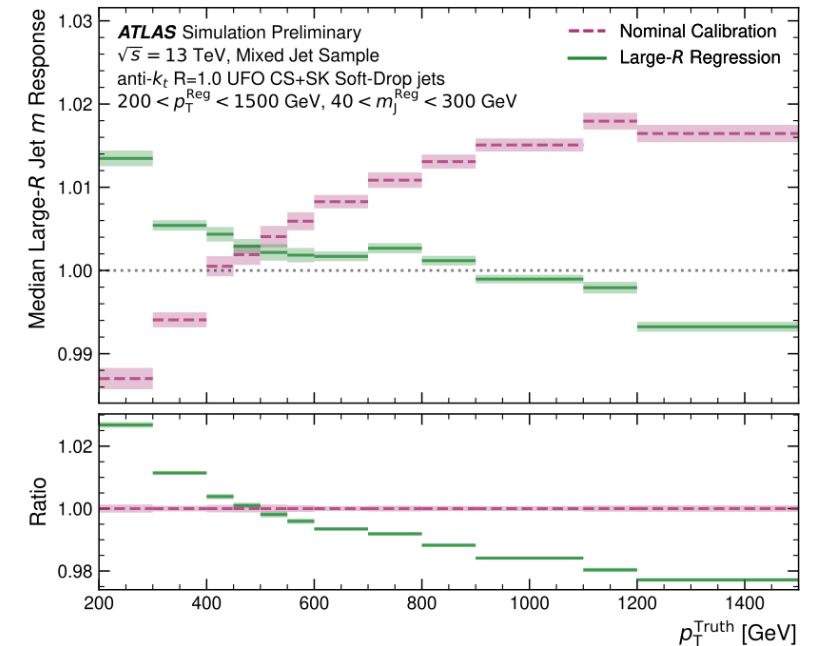
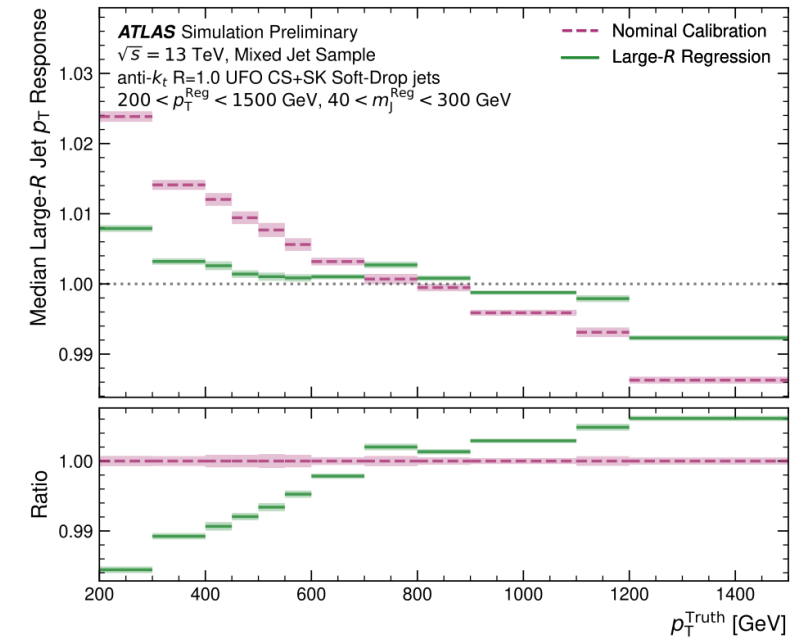
or how ATLAS finally learned pflow is pretty cool for flavour tagging

- Transformers seem here to stay for a while so after doing the easy step of switching to them, how do we further improve as architecture improvements become more minor?
- Two types of approach: put more into our models or try getting more out
- An example of the first is the inclusion of neutral [PFlow constituents](#)
- Neutral constituent information leads to a further ~50% improvement in QCD rejection

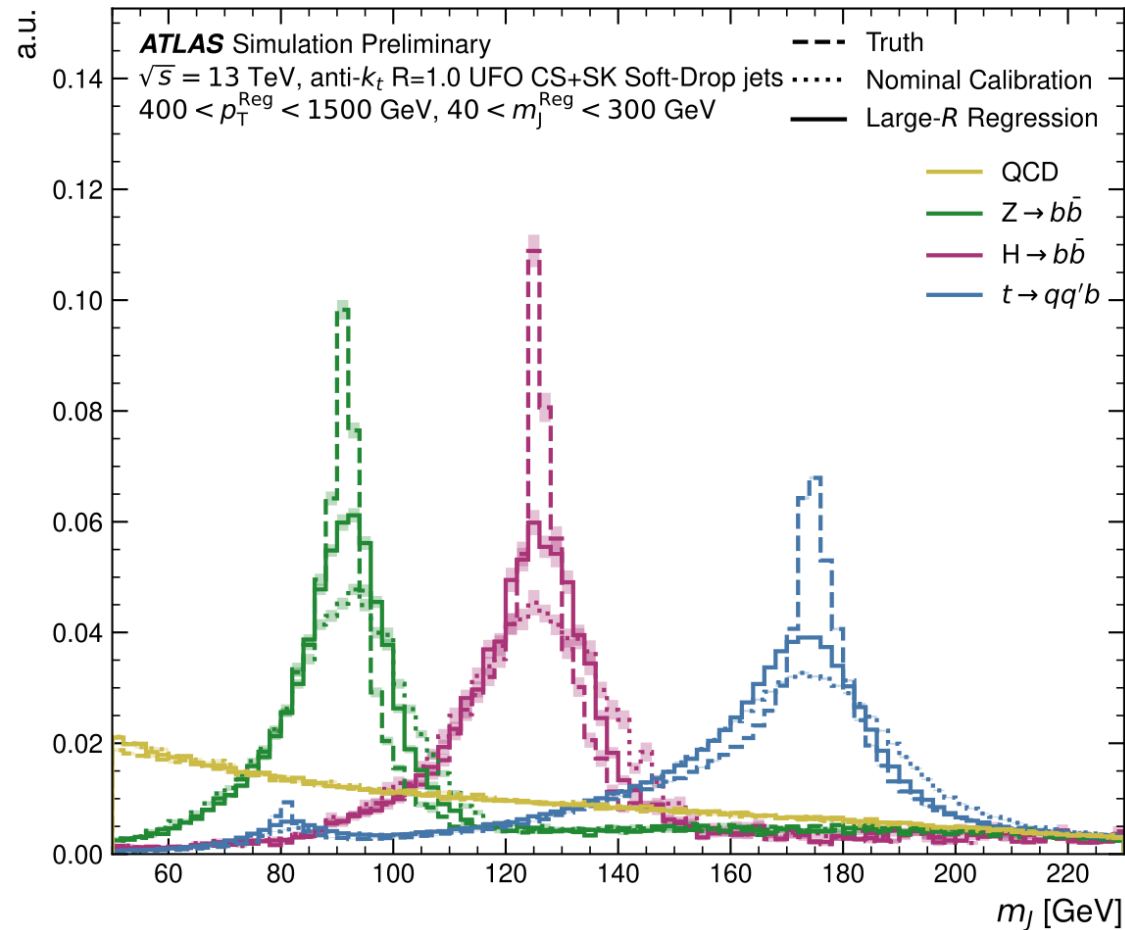


# Jet Regression - Response

- We exploit the unique characteristics of b-hadron decays for flavour tagging e.g. displaced tracks, high mass secondary vertices, semi-leptonic decays
- These features also affect the jet mass and  $p_T$  and so a dedicated mass and  $p_T$  calibration for jets containing b-hadrons is desirable
- A [recent result](#) used the GN2 architecture for this task in both small-R and large-R jets
- Improvements in both the  $p_T$  and mass responses (difference between truth and reconstructed) are seen across a wide  $p_T$  range



# Jet Regression - Resolution



- In addition to reducing the bias in the jet response, the dedicated b-jet regression leads to much sharper resolutions
- Performance tested across a range of physics processes with improvements observed everywhere

# Summary

- In recent years there's been a lot of effort to harmonise our efforts in single and double b-tagging – we now use the same model architectures and frameworks to train them
- There is a lot of interesting physics that can be done with these models from diHiggs searches to the measurement of the Higgs to second generation quark couplings
- Lots of ongoing further developments being done to further extend the performance and applicability of these taggers to a wider range of signatures
- Expect to see GN2X used in some of the early Run 3 results for those analyses!

**Thanks for Listening!**