

Search for $t\bar{t}HH$ in the semileptonic decay of the top pair and the Higgs pair decay into b-quarks, using the 2017 data sample

Leônidas Fernandes do Prado,^{1,2} Karim El Morabit,³ Philip Keicher,³ Aurore Savoy-Navarro,¹ Matthias Schröder,³ Jan van der Linden,³ and Michael Waßmer³

¹IRFU - CEA, University Paris-Saclay, DPhP and CNRS/IN2P3, France

²Instituto de Física Teórica – UNESP, São Paulo, Brazil

³Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

E-mail: leonidas.prado@cern.ch, karim.el.morabit@cern.ch,
philip.keicher@kit.edu, aurore.savoy.navarro@cern.ch,
matthias.schroeder@kit.edu, jan.linden@student.kit.edu,
michael.wassmer@cern.ch

Abstract. This note documents the results of the search for the production of a top quark-antiquark pair associated to a pair of Higgs bosons, using the full proton-proton collision data set corresponding to an integrated luminosity of approximately 41.5 fb^{-1} recorded with the CMS experiment at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV collected in 2017. This is the first time this search is performed with real data. The cross-section as predicted by the Standard Model is of 0.775 fb . The candidate $t\bar{t}HH$ events are selected with criteria enhancing the lepton+jets decay channels of the $t\bar{t}$ system and the decay of the double Higgs bosons into two bottom quark-antiquark pairs. Starting from the $t\bar{t}H$ analysis framework with the 2017 data, new developments are introduced to perform the search for this new signal. In order to increase the sensitivity of the search, selected events are split into several categories with different expected signal and background rates. A combined fit of multivariate discriminant templates across all categories to data is performed to extract the result. The best-fit μ value achieved with Asimov data, this specific signature and 2017 luminosity is: $1_{-27.5}^{+31.1}$. The detailed analysis framework developed will serve for the analysis of the overall Run 2 data and could allow extracting a preliminary $t\bar{t}HH$ signal. This work will be carried on with the Run 3 and at the HL-LHC.

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Physics motivations for the $t\bar{t}HH$ search within SM and BSM	4
3	Study of $t\bar{t}HH$ at parton level and interplay with $t\bar{t}H$ and HH production processes	7
4	Data and simulation samples, Trigger, Event reconstruction	11
4.1	Data and simulation samples	11
4.2	Trigger	12
4.3	Event reconstruction	13
5	Event selection	16
6	Analysis strategy	18
6.1	Deep Neural Networks	18
6.2	Final event classification and sensitivity	19
7	Systematics uncertainties and Fit Model Validation	23
7.1	combine Tool	23
7.2	Systematic uncertainties	23
7.3	Fit Results	26
7.3.1	Case 1	27
7.3.2	Case 2	31
7.3.3	Case 3	35
7.3.4	Case 4	39
8	Results and perspectives	43
8.1	Perspectives	43
8.2	Overall Plan for the $t\bar{t}HH$ search: from now to High Luminosity LHC	43
9	Concluding Remarks	46
A	DNN Input Variables	47
A.1	Input Variable Control Plots	49

1 Introduction

This note describes a search, performed for the first time with data at the LHC, for the production of a top quark-antiquark pair associated to a pair of Higgs bosons, using the 2017 dataset in CMS. In order to optimize both the signal extraction while keeping as much as possible of the produced events, this analysis considers the semi-leptonic (lepton + jets) decay of the top quark-antiquark pair and the decay of the double Higgs bosons into two bottom quark-antiquark pairs.

In the semi-leptonic (SL) channel, one of the W bosons decays to an electron or a muon and the corresponding neutrino, while the other W boson decays into two quarks. When the two Higgs boson decay both to bottom quarks, this produces the final state $l\nu q\bar{q}b\bar{b}b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$, where l refers to either an electron or a muon, q is a light flavor jet, and b is a jet from a bottom quark. Therefore, ideally at leading order, SL signal events would therefore contain eight relatively high p_T jets, at least six of which are b-tagged. However because the Level-1 trigger requirements, the detector acceptance, the possible merging of jets, the b-tagging efficiency, the first stage of the selection in this analysis requests only 4 or more jets and 3 or more b-tagged jets. This optimized the overall analysis sensitivity. The present study thus starts with the same event selection as the one used for the 2017 search for the top pair decaying semileptonically ($t\bar{t}H(b\bar{b})$). Furthermore, the $t\bar{t}HH$ (4b's) analysis is guided by the $t\bar{t}H(b\bar{b})$ analysis strategy [1]. The multivariate classifier based on the deep neural network (DNN) strategy developed for the $t\bar{t}H$ analysis with similar decays for the tops and the Higgs boson, is further optimized for the $t\bar{t}HH$ search. All the improvements performed in the 2017 $t\bar{t}H$ analysis with respect to the one done in 2016 are included here (e.g. a better parton-shower uncertainty modelling based on event weights allowing shape variations; the improved b-tagging performance of the DeepCSV algorithm, leading to approximately 5% higher b-tagging efficiency compared to the previously used CSVv2 algorithm together of course with the upgraded pixel detector). New aspects specific to the $t\bar{t}HH$ search have been included in the Fit procedure.

The dominant background contribution is QCD top pair+jets production, including all the corresponding $t\bar{t}$ + jets cases (jets meaning light quark jets or b or c jets) where one or more of the jets is mistagged, and where additional b or c quarks can arise from QCD radiation or loop-induced QCD processes. In addition to the $t\bar{t}$ + bb background here a new case has to be taken into account, namely the $t\bar{t}$ +4 b's. It remains almost irreducible with respect to $t\bar{t}$ +HH (4 b's) with both processes having 6 b quarks in the final state. This is subject to a dedicated study in another Note [2].

Smaller background contributions come from WW+ jets, ZZ + jets, single-top quark, $t\bar{t}$ +ZZ and $t\bar{t}H$ productions. In addition to the primary background arising from top quark pair production with additional b quarks, this analysis is affected by a combinatorial background due to multiple b-quark jets in the final state, with no unambiguous way of reconstructing the invariant mass peak of the Higgs boson. Therefore, and even if the $t\bar{t}HH$ signature is cleaner than the $t\bar{t}H$ (because of the 2 additional b-jets), an optimal sensitivity for this signal extraction, is achieved with multivariate techniques using simultaneously the differential distributions of several experimental variables. In this analysis, we use deep neural networks (DNNs) optimized on MC simulation. But unlike in the $t\bar{t}H$ analysis we do not complement by a discriminant based on the direct evaluation of

45 the leading-order $t\bar{t} + H$ and $t\bar{t} + b\bar{b}$ matrix elements on an event-by-event basis (matrix
46 element method).

47 The analysis proceeds by selecting events with one lepton (either an electron or
48 a muon) and a minimum number of jets and b-tagged jets. The retained events are
49 further categorized based on the jet multiplicity and further event information such as
50 b-tag information into sub-samples with varying signal purity and a different background
51 composition. Categories with low signal purity are useful for constraining background
52 estimates and systematic uncertainties, while categories with higher signal purity pro-
53 vide sensitivity to $t\bar{t} + HH$ production. Backgrounds are modelled using Monte-Carlo
54 (MC) simulated samples corrected to account for known theoretical and experimental
55 deficiencies. The analysis strategy is optimized individually in each channel, similar to
56 the strategy developed with the 2017 $t\bar{t}H$ dataset [1]. In the SL channel, DNNs are
57 employed to perform a multi-classification of an event as either signal or any of five dif-
58 ferent $t\bar{t} + \text{jets}$ background processes. The events are consequently categorized by the
59 jet multiplicity and the most-probable process according to the DNN classification, and
60 the corresponding DNN classifier output is used as final. The differences with the $t\bar{t}H$
61 analysis are described in details in the Sections 4 to 7.

62 In Section 2 the Note describes the Physics motivations for studying this process in
63 terms of the Standard and Beyond Standard Models (SM and BSM) pointing especially
64 the case of the Minimal Composite Higgs Models (MCHM) [3]. Section 3 summarizes the
65 preliminary results of an analysis at parton level, based on MadGraph tools and shows
66 the interplay of the $t\bar{t}HH$ production with $t\bar{t}H$ and HH processes including both gluon
67 fusion and vector boson fusion (VBF). Section 4 presents the data and Monte Carlo
68 samples used for this analysis stressing the triggers that are used. Section 5 summarizes
69 the event selection especially mentioning the main differences with the one used for the
70 $t\bar{t}H$ analysis [1]. Section 6 focuses on the analysis strategy. It details the multivariate
71 analysis performed using Deep Neural Network (DNN) tools and gives the final event
72 classification and sensitivity. Section 7 details the systematics uncertainties with the
73 differences with respect to the $t\bar{t}H$ case and presents the Fit Model Validation.

74 The final results are presented in Section 8 and the Note ends with some final remarks
75 especially on the next steps of this analysis and its short and longer terms perspectives.

2 Physics motivations for the $t\bar{t}HH$ search within SM and BSM

The plot in Figure 1 shows the series of processes that are produced in pp collisions that involve the production of double Higgs with a cross section that spans from few tens of fb's to one or a few fb's. They allow accessing a new region in the exploration of the Higgs sector.

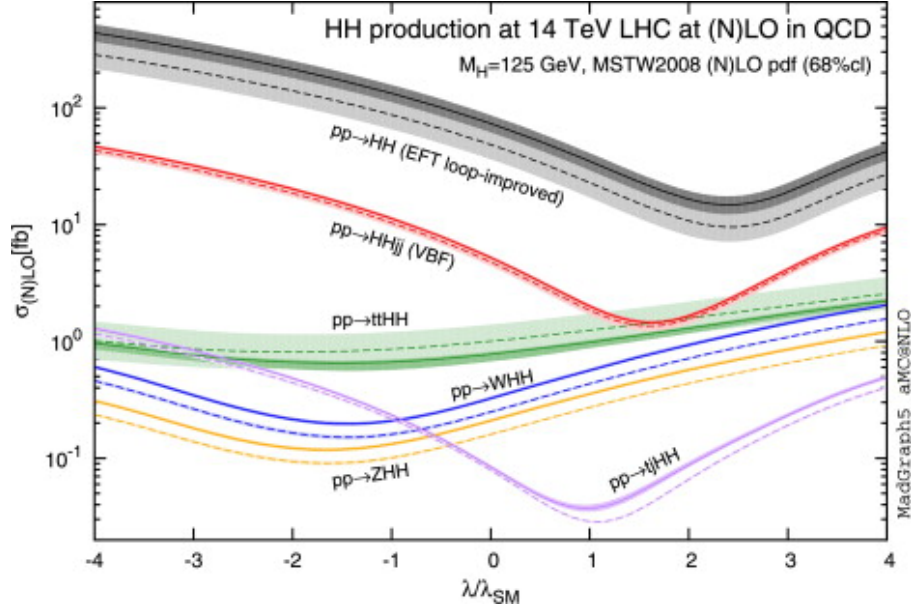


Figure 1. Total cross sections at the LO and NLO in QCD for HH production channels, as a function of the self-interaction coupling λ , taken from Ref [4]. λ is varied for the self-interaction couplings, but the mass of the Higgs boson is fixed to be $m_H = 125$ GeV. The dashed (solid) lines and light-(dark) coloured bands correspond to the LO (NLO) results and to the scale of the PDF uncertainties added linearly. The SM values of the cross-section are obtained at $\lambda/\lambda_{SM} = 1$.

The cross-sections computed at NLO QCD [5] for $t\bar{t}HH$ and compared to the ones of VBF (HH) and $tjHH$ are listed in the Table 1.

\sqrt{s} (TeV)	ZHH	W̄HH	VBF HH	$t\bar{t}HH$	$tjHH$
14	$0.359^{+1.9\%}_{-1.3\%} \pm 1.7\%$	$0.573^{+2.0\%}_{-1.4\%} \pm 1.9\%$	$1.95^{+1.1\%}_{-1.5\%} \pm 2.0\%$	$0.948^{+3.9\%}_{-13.5\%} \pm 3.2\%$	$0.0383^{+5.2\%}_{-3.3\%} \pm 4.7\%$

Table 1. Cross sections computed at NLO QCD for ZHH, W̄HH, VBF HH, $t\bar{t}HH$ and $tjHH$ at 14 TeV center of mass energy.

It is interesting to add the following $t\bar{t}H$ and $t\bar{t}HH$ production cross-sections [5] listed here below to complete the above Table:

- $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H,13 \text{ TeV}}$: 507.1 fb +5.8%-9.2% (QCD scale) \pm 3.6% (PDF + α_s) [5]
- $\sigma_{t\bar{t}H,14 \text{ TeV}}$: 613.7 fb +6.0%-9.2% (QCD scale) \pm 3.5% (PDF + α_s) [5]
- $\sigma_{t\bar{t}HH,13 \text{ TeV}}$: 0.775 fb +1.5%-4.3% (QCD scale) \pm 3.2% (PDF + α_s) [5]

88 • $\sigma_{t\bar{t}HH,14 \text{ TeV}}$: 0.949 fb +1.7%-4.5% (QCD scale) \pm 3.1% (PDF + α_s) [5]

89 The double Higgs production through the direct process or vector boson fusion are cur-
 90 rently under study both in ATLAS and CMS [6, 7]. The aim of our study is to comple-
 91 ment these studies by searching for the double Higgs production in association with a
 92 top anti-top quark pair.

93 In the Standard Model, the mechanisms of production at the Leading Order (LO) in-
 94 cludes the Yukawa Vertex (80% of the total cross-section) and the trilinear Higgs coupling
 95 as shown in Figure 2.

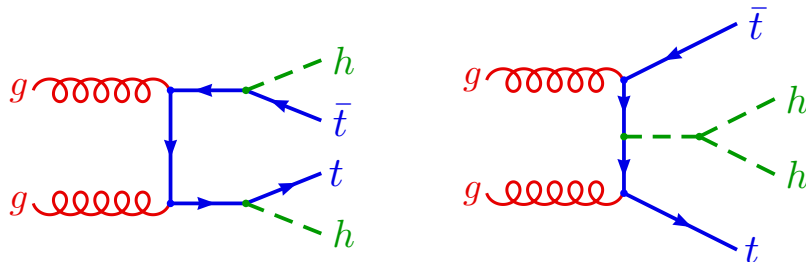


Figure 2. Representative diagrams for the $t\bar{t}HH$ process, illustrating the two distinct physical subprocesses: the Yukawa vertex and the Higgs trilinear self-coupling as expected in the SM.

96 Unlike the $t\bar{t}H$ process, the $t\bar{t}HH$ production process allows accessing to the triple
 97 Higgs coupling at 20% level in the total cross-section. Unlike the double Higgs production
 98 the $t\bar{t}HH$ does not include interference terms in the access to the triple Higgs coupling.
 99 These two facts emphasize the interest of the $t\bar{t}HH$ process in the SM, apart from its
 100 interest per se.

101 The $t\bar{t}HH$ process plays also a remarkable role when searching for beyond the SM
 102 (BSM). Among the theoretical BSM options, this work is especially motivated by the
 103 special features of the $t\bar{t}HH$ process in the framework of the Minimal Composite Higgs
 104 Models (MCHM). Details on the related phenomenological work can be found in the
 105 CERN Yellow report on the perspectives for the HL/HE-LHC [8]. A phenomenological
 106 work is carried with new inputs in the MCHM studied scenarios and addressing new
 107 aspects [3]. We briefly summarize here below the main outcomes of this study of interest
 108 for this analysis.

109 This work considers the production of one or two Higgs bosons in association with a
 110 top anti-top pair in the context of Composite Higgs scenarios. The focus is on MCHMs
 111 based on the symmetry breaking pattern $SO(5) \rightarrow SO(4)$. In the top sector two
 112 possibilities are considered: fermion resonances in the fundamental **5** representation of
 113 $SO(5)$ and in the symmetric **14** representation. It is known that there is considerable
 114 model-dependence associated with the fermion sector of the MCHM, which is of relevance
 115 to this work. In particular, the top sector is expected to play a crucial role given that the
 116 top quark couples most strongly to the Higgs boson. The $t\bar{t}H$ cross section is measured [9,
 117 10], and is consistent with the SM expectation within the present experimental accuracy,
 118 thus still leaving room for deviation from SM.

119 The $t\bar{t}HH$ process has not been yet observed. Such a process is of particular interest
 120 in the present class of models, due to the generic prediction of charge 2/3 vector-like

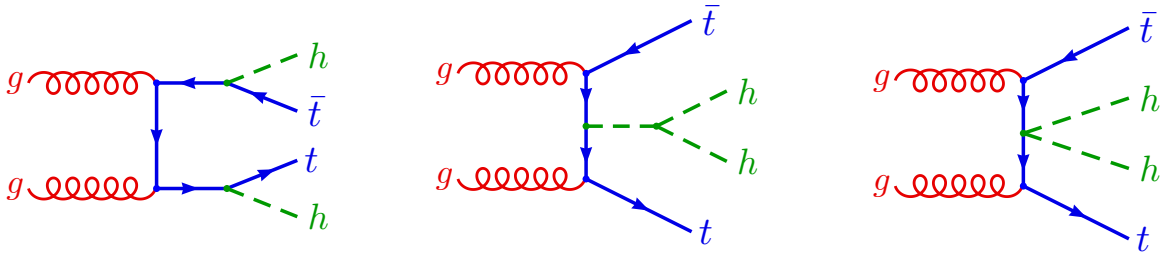


Figure 3. Representative diagrams for the non-resonant $t\bar{t}HH$ process, illustrating the three distinct physical subprocesses: the Yukawa vertex, the Higgs trilinear self-coupling and the “double Higgs” Yukawa vertex arising in composite Higgs scenarios.

121 ”top partners” that can decay in the tH channel, thus leading to the previous final state.
 122 Resonance searches focusing on this decay channel have been presented in [11], and
 123 combined searches that consider the bW , tZ and tH channels already put constraints on
 124 such vector-like resonances [12, 13]

125 The $t\bar{t}HH$ process has a considerable interest in the non-resonant production. This
 126 is important in the regime of heavy resonances and dominates the cross section, being
 127 controlled at LO by the MCHM diagrams of Figure 3, which discards the diagrams related
 128 to the resonant production of $t\bar{t}HH$ (pair production of resonances that decay in the tH
 129 channel). The new diagram on the right of Figure 3 is new in the MCHM, but with
 130 present statistics it is negligible. Furthermore the non-resonant $t\bar{t}HH$ process is closely
 131 connected to the $t\bar{t}H$ process, but would be expected to display larger deviations from
 132 the SM expectation.

133 All the modifications in the $t\bar{t}H$ production due to Higgs compositeness or mixing
 134 with Vector Like Quarks enter only through the top Yukawa coupling, as expressed by
 135 the relation:

$$\sigma_{\text{MCHM}}(t\bar{t}H) = \left(\frac{y_t}{y_t^{\text{SM}}} \right)^2 \sigma_{\text{SM}}(t\bar{t}H) . \quad (2.1)$$

136 Thus there is no modification on kinematical distributions with respect to the SM; only
 137 the total rates are expected to differ with SM and also between MCHM_5 and MCHM_{14} .
 138 Indeed, in the MCHM_5 case, cross section will always be lower than the SM one, while in
 139 MCHM_{14} , the rate can be either lower or higher than the SM. Thus this is a way already
 140 to disregard the MCHM_5 or not. These effects also translate to the non resonant $t\bar{t}HH$
 141 leading to even bigger modifications when compared to the SM rates. If resonances play
 142 an important role, the $t\bar{t}HH$ cross sections get even higher than the SM in both models.

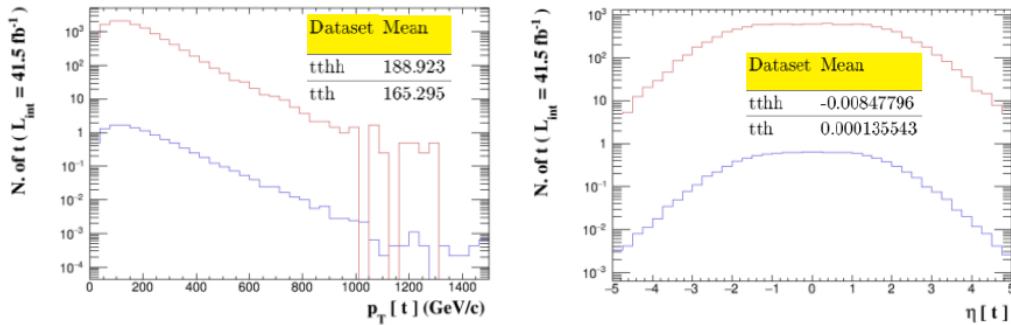


Figure 4. Transverse momentum (p_T) and pseudorapidity (η) of the top-quarks produced in $t\bar{t}H$ (red line) and $t\bar{t}HH$ (blue line) production processes.

3 Study of $t\bar{t}HH$ at parton level and interplay with $t\bar{t}H$ and HH production processes

An exploratory study has been performed on the $t\bar{t}HH$ production process using Madgraph tools. The aim is a preliminary study of this production process at the parton level as well as of the interplay of $t\bar{t}HH$ with $t\bar{t}H$ and HH processes.

In all three processes the Higgs boson(s) are decaying into b-quark pair thus an emphasis in this study is on the b-quarks their similarities and differences between the three cases. In the Madgraph based generation level considered here, all Higgs are decayed into b-quark pairs, the tops are decayed into Wb and the W is not decayed in the first part of this study. A total of 50,000 events are generated for each process and normalized to 41.5 fb^{-1} luminosity and with cross-sections reweighted to the current published values [5]. Thus for the 2017 data corresponding luminosity a total of 10.9 $t\bar{t}HH$ events, 12,256 $t\bar{t}H$ events and 492 HH events are expected. For the overall Run 2 (about 140 fb^{-1}) this will translate into 36.7 $t\bar{t}HH$, 41,345 $t\bar{t}H$ and 1,660 HH events in total expected.

Several plots are shown here stressing some characteristics of the Higgses and tops and overall jettiness of these different types of events: Figure 4 shows the transverse momentum (p_T) and the pseudorapidity (η) of the top-quarks produced in $t\bar{t}H$ and $t\bar{t}HH$ production processes. There are some small difference between the mean p_T values between the tops as produced in $t\bar{t}HH$ with respect to those produced in $t\bar{t}H$; in the $t\bar{t}HH$ case the mean p_T value is slightly larger than the one in $t\bar{t}H$. The η distributions indicate that the top quarks produced in $t\bar{t}HH$ are slightly more central than the tops produced in $t\bar{t}H$ (as expected because of their larger p_T). Figure 5 shows the transverse momentum (p_T) and the pseudorapidity (η) of the b-quarks produced both in the Higgs and the top decays, going from the b-quark with the highest momentum to the one with the second and third lowest momentum. The mean p_T of each b-quark produced in $t\bar{t}HH$ (4b's) is higher than the ones of the b-quark produced in $t\bar{t}H$ (2b's) and HH (4b's). Two additional b-quarks are produced in $t\bar{t}HH$ with a lower p_T and consequently a larger spread in pseudorapidity. Figure 6 shows the transverse momentum (p_T) and the pseudorapidity (η) of the b-quarks produced from the Higgs and top decays but separating

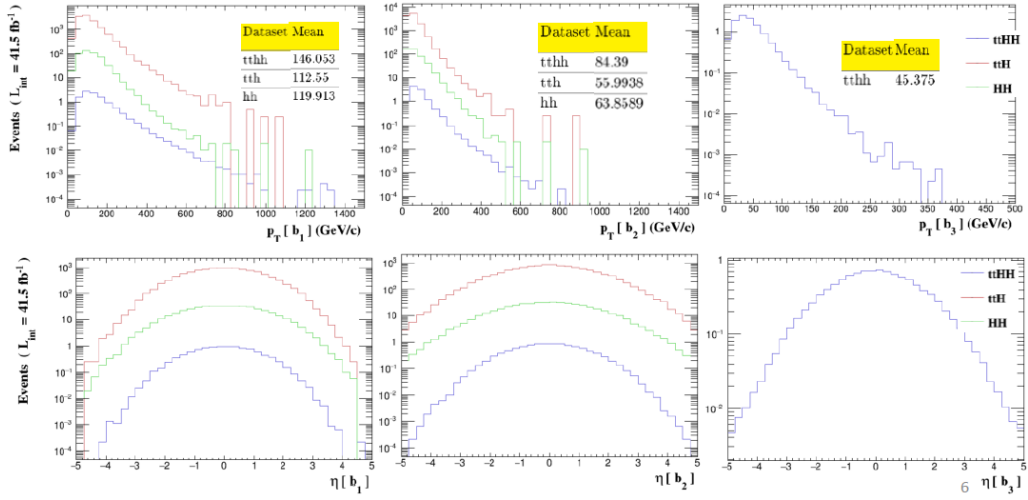


Figure 5. Transverse momentum (p_T) (top distributions) and pseudorapidity (η) (bottom distributions) of the b-quarks produced in $t\bar{t}H$ (red line), $t\bar{t}HH$ (blue line) and HH (green line) production processes. It includes the b-quarks from the top and from the Higgs decays.

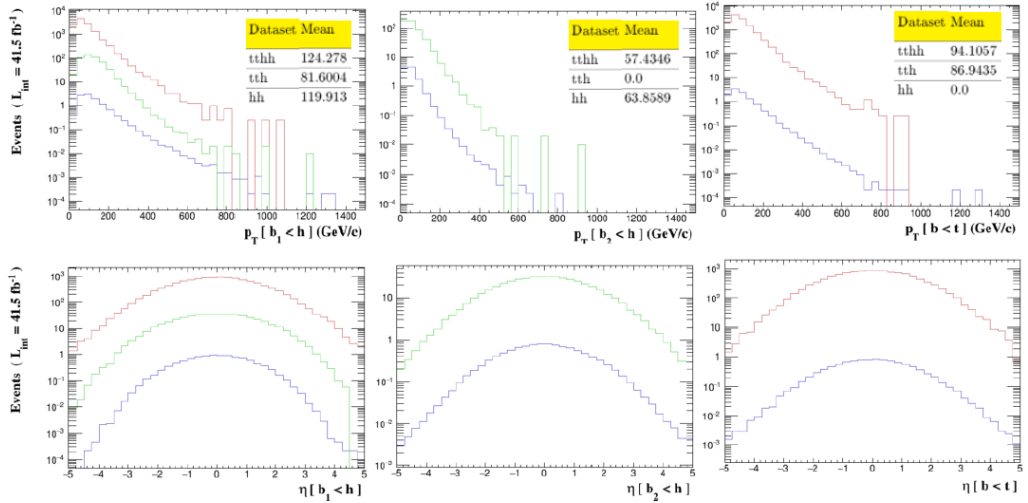


Figure 6. Transverse momentum (p_T) (top distributions) and pseudorapidity (η) (bottom distributions) of the highest and second highest p_T b-quarks produced in the Higgs decays of $t\bar{t}H$ (red line), $t\bar{t}HH$ (blue line) and HH (green line) production processes are shown in the left and middle plots. The corresponding plots for the b-quarks from the top decays are on left.

172 those coming from the Higgs from those coming from the top and going from the b-quark
 173 with the highest momentum to the one with the second and third highest momentum.
 174 The features are similar to the ones of Figure 5; in addition, the mean p_T of the b-quarks
 175 produced in the top decay are smaller than the highest p_T of the b-quarks
 176 produced in the Higgs decay. Figure 7 shows the scalar sum (H_T) of the transverse energy of all the
 177 final-state jets. There is no hadronization here, jets are made of individual quarks only.

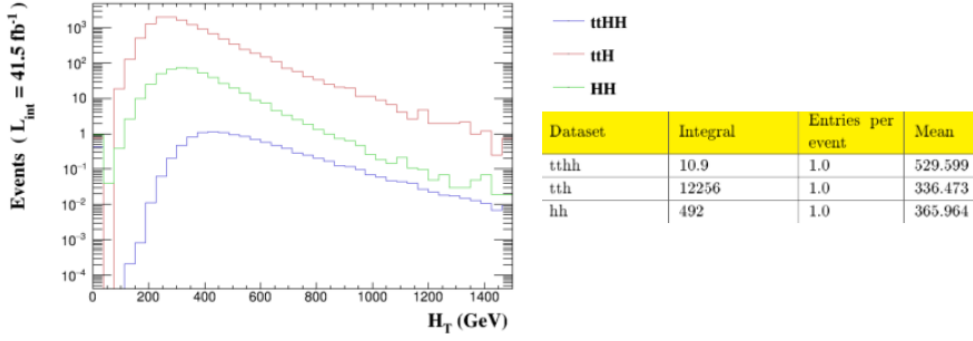


Figure 7. Scalar Sum (H_T) distribution for the $t\bar{t}H$ (red), HH (green) and $t\bar{t}HH$ (blue) processes.

178 There are only b-quarks as the W is not decayed. As expected and as reflected in the
 179 Figure 7, the $t\bar{t}HH$ process has the highest jet activity. Table 2 summarizes the tests
 180 performed on the effect of selection cuts on the main characteristics of the signature of
 181 these events, at the parton level. For this study the W 's are decayed. One of the W is
 182 decayed into 2 quarks whereas the other one is decayed into a lepton (electron or muon)
 183 and the corresponding neutrinos. This is because in this present analysis we only consider
 184 the semi-leptonic decay of the top-paires. The cut on the transverse momentum (p_T) of
 185 the electron resp. the muon is of 30 GeV resp. 29 GeV, the pseudorapidity (η) of the
 186 jets and leptons is ± 2.4 and the cut on the total transverse energy if set at 20 GeV.
 187 A test in varying the cut on the p_T of the jets from 20 to 30 GeV show some effect but
 188 the Level 1 trigger condition imposed to stay at a minimum value of 30 GeV. From this
 189 preliminary study, at the level of MadGraph generator and that includes a comparison
 190 between the $t\bar{t}HH$, $t\bar{t}H$ and HH processes with a special emphasis on the b-quarks, the
 191 main observations are:

- 192 • The $t\bar{t}HH$ events have more jet activity as expected.
- 193 • The highest p_T b-quark coming from the Higgs has a higher p_T in $t\bar{t}HH$ process
 194 than in $t\bar{t}H$ or HH processes.
- 195 • The second highest p_T b-quark coming from the Higgs has a lower p_T and higher
 196 spread in pseudorapidity in $t\bar{t}HH$ process when compared to the HH process.
- 197 • The cuts on jet p_T and η reject more events than the other considered cuts; The
 198 process $t\bar{t}HH$ has a percentage of rejection of the same order than the one of $t\bar{t}H$
 199 and HH processes.

200 This study gives a first hint in this new process we are searching for and its interplay
 201 with the two other complementary processes: $t\bar{t}H$ and HH production.

	Events Accepted		
	ttHH	ttH	HH
ETA (jets)	71%	67%	71%
PT(jets)>30	33%	30%	54%
PT(b-jets only)>30	51%	58%	54%
ETA (leptons)	95%	92%	-
PT (leptons)	77%	73%	-
MET	80%	90%	-
ETA(jets)&&PT(jets)>20	49% (58%)	46% (58%)	59% (59%)
ETA(jets)&&PT(jets)>25	38% (50%)	35% (51%)	50% (50%)
ETA(jets)&&PT(jets)>30	30% (42%)	24% (44%)	42% (42%)
ETA(jets)&&ETA(leptons)	68%	63%	71%
ETA(jets)&&PT(leptons)	56%	49%	71%
ETA(jets)&&MET	53%	61%	71%

Table 2. Summary of the effect of the different selection cuts (mainly due to the Level 1 trigger conditions) for the three processes. The value in parenthesis shows the % of the remaining events if jets were b-jets only.

4 Data and simulation samples, Trigger, Event reconstruction

The main features of the data and simulation samples, the triggers and the event reconstruction used in this analysis, similar in some way to the one developed for the $t\bar{t}H(bb)$ search [1, 14] are reviewed, stressing the main differences.

4.1 Data and simulation samples

The data samples are those corresponding to the semi-leptonic case only in [1, 14]. These data sets collected during the 2017 LHC Run at 13 TeV are listed in the Table 3 derived directly from Table 1 of [14]. They are provided by the single lepton Level 1 trigger stream.

From these data sets, certified runs are selected by applying the certified good-run lists as given in [15]. The total integrated luminosity corresponds to $L = 41.5 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. The

Sample	Run Range
/SingleElectron/Run2017B-31Mar2018-v1	297046–299329
/SingleElectron/Run2017C-31Mar2018-v1	299368–302029
/SingleElectron/Run2017D-31Mar2018-v1	302030–303434
/SingleElectron/Run2017E-31Mar2018-v1	303824–304797
/SingleElectron/Run2017F-31Mar2018-v1	305040–306462
/SingleMuon/Run2017B-31Mar2018-v1	297046–299329
/SingleMuon/Run2017C-31Mar2018-v1	299368–302029
/SingleMuon/Run2017D-31Mar2018-v1	302030–303434
/SingleMuon/Run2017E-31Mar2018-v1	303824–304797
/SingleMuon/Run2017F-31Mar2018-v1	305040–306462

Table 3. Collision data samples used in the analysis.

signal and background events are modeled using MC event samples from the “RunI130 IFall17” MC campaign. The main difference here is of course the $t\bar{t}HH$ data that are specially simulated within the Standard Model framework for this analysis. The samples are listed in Table 4 (both MC simulated signal and backgrounds). It has been also requested the production of a sample of 10 M $t\bar{t}ZZ$ simulated data (still to be done). This will be indeed important for the extension of this analysis to the overall Run 2 and after.

The events are generated at next-to-leading order of perturbation theory (NLO) with POWHEG (v. 2) [16] or MADGRAPH5 aMC@NLO (v.2.4.2) [17], or at leading order (LO) with PYTHIA, depending on the process. The value of the Higgs boson mass is assumed to be 125 GeV, while the top quark mass value is set to 172.5 GeV.

The proton structure is described by the parton distribution functions (PDF) NNPDF3.1 [18]. Parton showering and hadronization are simulated with PYTHIA (v. 8.230) [19]

226 and the parameters for the underlying event description correspond to the CP5 tune
 227 derived in Ref. [20] based on the work described in Ref. [21] for all signal and back-
 228 ground processes. In case of the POWHEG sample the damping parameter (hdamp)
 229 has been turned on with a value $\text{hdamp} = 237.9 \text{ GeV}$. For comparison with the observed
 230 distributions, the events in the simulated samples are normalized to the same integrated
 231 luminosity of the data sample, according to their predicted cross sections.

232 All samples are reconstructed with the same CMSSW version 94X as the data sam-
 233 ples listed above. The pileup (PU) distribution in all MC samples is reweighted individu-
 234 ally, using the standard procedure in CMS, so that the MC PU distribution matches the
 235 one expected for data.

236 The $t\bar{t}$ background samples are listed in Table 4; as in [1] we separate $t\bar{t}$ events
 237 into different classes based on the flavor of the additional jets that do not come from
 238 the top quark decays in the event. The flavour of those additional jets is determined
 239 using the CMS “GenHFHadronMatcher” tool. This tool identifies heavy-flavor (bottom,
 240 charm) jets at generator level and finds originating partons to which they correspond.
 241 We consider generator-level jets with $p_T > 20 \text{ GeV}$ and $\text{abs}(\eta) < 2.4$. Based on their
 242 flavour, we distinguish:

- 243 • $t\bar{t} + b\bar{b}$: event has at least two extra bottom jets, each of which originates from
 244 one or more overlapping b hadrons.
- 245 • $t\bar{t} + b$: event has only one extra bottom jet which originates from a single b hadron.
- 246 • $t\bar{t} + 2b$: event has only one extra bottom jet which originates from two or more
 247 overlapping b hadrons.
- 248 • $t\bar{t} + c\bar{c}$: event has at least one extra charm jet which originates from one or more
 249 overlapping c hadrons.
- 250 • $t\bar{t} + \text{LF}^1$: event does not belong to any of the above classes.

251 This study takes into account only the $t\bar{t} + \text{jets}$ background which is by far the dominant
 252 one because of the very small signal we are looking for.

253 A special case is the contribution of the $t\bar{t} + 4b$'s component of this background. A
 254 dedicated work and analysis Note is underway to estimate as precisely as possible this
 255 background and the current status is shown in [2]. The last `ttbb.Powheg_Openloops`
 256 simulated file (see Table 4) is especially used for this study. Note that the smaller
 257 backgrounds as those taken into account for the $t\bar{t}H$ analysis (W, Z+jets, $t\bar{t}W$, $t\bar{t}Z$,
 258 single top, Diboson) are not considered at this stage in this analysis because still too low
 259 statistics.

260 4.2 Trigger

261 This analysis considers only the semi-leptonic decay of the top pair thus only of
 262 interest here are the single lepton channels. The events are therefore selected based
 263 on single lepton Level-1 triggers, which require either one electron or one muon. This

¹Light Flavor

Sample	MiniAOD events	Selected events
/TTHHTo4b_5f_LO_TuneCP5_13TeV_madgraph_pythia8/ RunIIFall17MiniAODv2-PU2017_12Apr2018_94X_mc2017_realistic_v14-v1/	9,800,000	781,129
/ttHTobb_M125_TuneCP5_13TeV-powheg-pythia8/ RunIIFall17MiniAODv2-PU2017_12Apr2018_new_pmx_94X_mc2017_realistic_v14-v1/	8,000,000	239,246
/TTToSemiLeptonic_TuneCP5_PSweights_13TeV-powheg-pythia8/ RunIIFall17MiniAODv2-PU2017_12Apr2018_94X_mc2017_realistic_v14-v2/	110,014,744	584,123
/TTToSemiLeptonic_TuneCP5_13TeV-powheg-pythia8/ RunIIFall17MiniAODv2-PU2017_12Apr2018_new_pmx_94X_mc2017_realistic_v14-v1/	43,732,445	232,264
/TTbb_Powheg_Openloops/asaibel-RunIIFall17MiniAODv2-PU2017_12Apr2018_ new_pmx_94X_mc2017_realistic_v14-v1-18783c0a07109245951450a1a4f55409/	5,311,500	212,226

Table 4. Signal and Background Simulation samples used in the analysis.

264 translates at the HLT into the samples of events contained in the HLT files listed in Table
265 5. The single-lepton trigger performance in MC simulation has been adjusted based on
266 the performance in data. The trigger efficiency in data and MC are evaluated, and a
267 scale factor (SF), which is the ratio of efficiency in data to that in MC, is applied to MC
events in single-electron and single-muon event selection.

Channel	Trigger Name	Run2017 Era
μ	HLT_IsoMu24_eta2p1_v*	B–D
	HLT_IsoMu27_v*	B–F
e	HLT_Ele35_WPTight_Gsf_v*	B–F
	HLT_Ele28_eta2p1_WPTight_Gsf_HT150_v*	B–F

Table 5. List of the triggers used in the single-lepton channels.

268

269 4.3 Event reconstruction

270 The software used for ntupling, baseline selection and also selecting the single lepton
271 events are the same used in the $t\bar{t}H(\bar{b}b)$ analysis [1, 14]. The MC simulation and data
272 samples are the same and a new $t\bar{t}HH$ MC simulation sample was requested in the same
273 conditions.

274 The analysis is performed with the CMSSW_9_4_10 version and the global tags
275 used are listed in Table 6, and are used in order to obtain the detector and calibration
conditions.

data	94X_dataRun2_v6
MC	94X_mc2017_realistic_v14

Table 6. Global tags used for data and simulation.

276

277 Event cleaning is performed by requiring that data and MC events must contain at
278 least one primary vertex (PV) passing the selection, with additional event cleaning using
279 missing transverse energy (MET) filters:

- 280 • the number of degrees of freedom used to find the PV must be larger than 4,
- 281 • the absolute value of the z -coordinate of the PV must be smaller than 24 cm,
- 282 • the absolute value of the ρ -coordinate of the PV must be smaller than 2 cm,
- 283 • the PV must not be identified as fake.

284 Effects from additional pp interactions in the same bunch crossings (PU) are mod-
 285 elled in simulation by adding simulated minimum-bias events to all simulated processes.
 286 The PU present in the MC samples does not exactly describe the PU in data. The
 287 differences in the distribution of reconstructed primary vertices in MC is corrected by
 288 reweighting simulated events to match the PU distribution in data.

289 Electrons and muons are classified into three types. One definition is designated for
 290 the single lepton channel while the other two define leading and sub-leading leptons in
 291 the di-lepton channel. The latter is also applied in the semileptonic channel in order to
 292 veto extra leptons.

293 Both lepton candidates are required to pass the cuts on the kinematic variables of
 294 p_T and η and they have to be sufficiently isolated from nearby jet activity, following the
 295 respective relative isolation definition for muons and electrons within a cone of $\Delta R = 0.4$
 296 for muons and 0.3 for electrons (see [14]). Tables 7 and 8 summarize the muon and
 electron identification requirements.

	muon ID for single muon channel	leading muon ID for dilepton channel	sub-leading muon ID for dilepton channel
p_T [GeV] >	29	25	15
$ \eta <$	2.4	2.4	2.4
$\text{Iso}^\mu/p_T <$	0.15	0.25	0.25

Table 7. Summary of muon identification requirements.

	electron ID for single electron channel	leading electron ID for dilepton channel	sub-leading electron ID for dilepton channel
p_T [GeV] >	30	25	15
$ \eta <$	2.4	2.4	2.4
$\text{Iso}^e/p_T <$	0.06	0.06	0.06

Table 8. Summary of electron identification requirements.

297 Dedicated scale factors are applied to the MC events in order to improve the agree-
 298 ment with the data, following the recommendations of the EGamma POG [22] for elec-
 299 trons and Muon POG [23] for muons.

300 Jets are reconstructed with the particle flow algorithm based on reconstructed par-
 301 ticle candidates clustered with the anti-kt algorithm with cone size of $\Delta R = 0.4$ (AK4).
 302

303 The tracks of the particles in the cluster which are associated with non-primary vertices
 304 are subtracted to mitigate the impact of pile-up collisions (CHS²).

305 First, in order to increase purity, standard selection criteria (‘Jet ID’) [24] are ap-
 306 plied.

307 To suppress jets originating from pileup events, loose pileup jet removal is applied
 308 following the recommendations by the JME POG [25]. In addition, if any charged lepton
 309 passing the selection criteria described above is found within the distance of 0.4 in $\eta - \phi$
 310 space from a jet, then the jet is removed from the analysis.

311 Prior to the final cuts on the jet kinematics, the jet energies are calibrated with
 312 L1, L2 and L3 scale factors (JEC). L2L3Residual corrections are applied on top to real
 313 data while jet energy smearing is performed on MC samples by considering the difference
 314 in p_T between the reconstructed and its associated generated jet. The deployed JEC
 315 corresponds to the set in the global tags listed in Tab. 6 and the JER correction factors
 316 are as in [26], following the JME POG recommendations.

The requirements on the jet kinematics are listed in Table 9.

	single-lepton channel	dilepton channel	
	jets	leading 2 jets	further jets
min p_T [GeV]	30	30	20
max $ \eta $	2.4	2.4	2.4

Table 9. Jet kinematic selection requirements.

317

318 We use the DeepCSV [27] b-tagging discriminator to identify jets that originate from
 319 b-quark decays (referred to as b-tagged jets). Jets are defined to be b-tagged if their b-
 320 tagging discriminator is larger than 0.4941 (medium working point). Differences in the
 321 b-tagging efficiency and mis-tag rate between data and simulated events are taken into
 322 account via weights. The same framework and DeepCSV version used in the $t\bar{t}H(b\bar{b})$
 323 analysis is used and described in [14].

324 In addition a L1 prefiring correction is also taken into account by using event weights.
 325 No modification from the $t\bar{t}H$ analysis was done in this respect as well and all distributions
 326 are scaled by the appropriate scale factors.

²Charged Hadron Subtraction

327 **5 Event selection**

328 The n-tupling program, used to select the semi-leptonic decay for top pairs and
 329 double Higgs decay into b-quarks is the same as the one used in the $t\bar{t}H(b\bar{b})$ analysis
 330 as shown in Table 10. On top of this selection, events are required to have a missing
 331 transverse energy of at least 20 GeV and an extra b tagged jet is required leading to at
 332 least 3 b tagged jets with the DeepCSV b-tagging discriminator at the medium working
 point (DeepCSV > 0.4941).

	SL channel
Number of leptons	1
p_T of leptons (e/μ) [GeV]	> 30/29
p_T of additional leptons [GeV]	< 15
$ \eta $ of leptons	< 2.4
Number of jets	≥ 4
p_T of jets [GeV]	> 30
$ \eta $ of jets	< 2.4
Number of b tagged jets	≥ 2

Table 10. Baseline event selection criteria in the single-lepton channel.

Process	Total number of selected events
$t\bar{t} + LF$	360,877
$t\bar{t} + c\bar{c}$	94,235
$t\bar{t} + b$	58,473
$t\bar{t} + 2b$	27,875
$t\bar{t} + b\bar{b}$	42,663
Total $t\bar{t}$	584,123
$t\bar{t}H$	239,246
$t\bar{t}HH$	390,663

Table 11. Number of selected events used for fitting (see section 7). The baseline selection of table 10 is applied together with requiring ≥ 3 b-tagged jets.

333
 334 Tables 11 and 12 show the selected number of events used for the DNN modeling and
 335 the fitting steps of the analysis. A higher number of b-tagged jets and a higher DeepCSV
 336 b-tagging discriminator value didn't work because of too few events left for this analysis.

Process	Total number of selected events
$t\bar{t} + \text{LF}$	143,490
$t\bar{t} + c\bar{c}$	37,291
$t\bar{t} + b$	23,409
$t\bar{t} + 2b$	11,056
$t\bar{t} + b\bar{b}$	17,018
Total $t\bar{t}$	232,264
$t\bar{t}HH$	390,466

Table 12. Number of selected events used for DNN modeling (see section 6). The baseline selection of table 10 is applied together with requiring ≥ 3 b-tagged jets.

	(≥ 4 jets, ≥ 3 b-tags)
nodes per hidden layer	3×100
loss function	cross-entropy
dropout percentage	0.5
L2 regularization	10^{-5}
batchsize	5000
optimizer	ADAM(10^{-4})
activation function	ELU
last activation	softmax
earlystopping percentage	2%
earlystopping min epochs	50

Table 13. Hyperparameters of the neural network.

6 Analysis strategy

The strategy followed in this analysis is based on Deep Neural Network tools allowing an optimized event classification and analysis sensitivity.

6.1 Deep Neural Networks

The $t\bar{t}H$ (SL, Higgs to $b\bar{b}$) analysis [1, 14], based on a Deep Neural Network (DNN) strategy developed for the 2016 analysis [28] with an architecture optimized for the 2017 data, leads to an overall higher sensitivity than a jet and b-tag multiplicity based categorisation. This is why this analysis has chosen to use the 2017 data DNN framework further optimized for this $t\bar{t}HH$ analysis. Following the event selection described in Section 5, a DNN is used as a classifier in order to separate signal ($t\bar{t}HH$) events and each of the five $t\bar{t}$ + jets background processes $t\bar{t} + b\bar{b}$, $t\bar{t} + 2b$, $t\bar{t} + b$, $t\bar{t} + c\bar{c}$, or $t\bar{t} + LF$. Each of these six categories are implemented as output nodes in the DNN modeling. Thus the DNN is used to categorize events into the most probable process and further construct the final discriminants that will be used for the final fit.

The DNN architecture and implementation did not change from what was described in the $t\bar{t}H$ analysis [14]. It is implemented in Keras as a feedforward neural network with three hidden layers of 100 nodes each. The cost function that is minimised during the training is the categorical cross entropy. The network architecture is listed in Table 13.

Each of the training samples is further split into a subset “training” for the actual training (60%) and an independent subset “test” for immediate cross-validation and hyperparameter optimisation (20%) as well as a further independent subset “validation” (20%), which is used to study the performance of the DNNs.

Table 12 shows the selected events to be used for DNN training, and are independent from the events listed in Table 11.

The input variables used by the DNN are listed in Appendix A. These variables are related to kinematic properties of individual objects, event shape and the b tagging discriminant. A first training of the DNN is performed using all the variables listed in Appendix A, but the final model contains only the 20 most important variables ranked

365 by weight. The performance of the model in this last case when compared to the one
 366 containing all variables is similar within 1%. Table 14 shows the top 20 variables for this
 367 analysis.

H_1	$\Delta\eta_{b,b}^{avg}$
$\Delta R_{lep,b}^{min}$	pt_j^{avg}/E_j^{avg}
$\Sigma_j(d - d_j^{avg})^2$	$m_{b,b}^{min}\Delta R$
$N_b(loose)$	BLR
$pt(jet1)$	d_j^{avg}
d_3	$(m^2)_b^{avg}$
d_b^{avg}	$N_b(medium)$
$\Delta\eta_{j,j}^{avg}$	d_4
H_T^b	BLR^{trans}
H_T	m_b^{avg}

Table 14. Top 20 ranked Input Variables for this analysis, defined in Appendix A.

368 Different jet categorization was also studied. Unlike the $t\bar{t}H$ analysis, separating
 369 events by jet multiplicity gave a worse performance, because of having very few $t\bar{t}HH$
 370 events in categories such as (4 jets, ≥ 3 b-tags) or (5 jets, ≥ 3 b-tags). On the other
 371 hand, categories with higher jet multiplicity have more $t\bar{t}HH$ events, but there is no gain
 372 in performance when compared to the category we use, a single (≥ 4 jets, ≥ 3 b-tags)
 373 category. Different categories containing combination of jet multiplicities also either do
 374 not affect performance or lead to a worse performance. A study on changing the event
 375 selection by the number of b tags also lead to a decrease in performance because of few
 376 events surviving, and the same applies for changing the b tagging working point from
 377 medium to tight. The event selection by b tagging was kept the same and the number
 378 of b tagged jets passing the loose, medium or tight working points were included in the
 379 DNN as input variables. It was also checked the effect of adding $t\bar{t}H$ as an output node
 380 in the DNN, but this lead to a drop in performance of about 10% in the $t\bar{t}HH$ node.

381 Figure 8 shows the final confusion matrix which shows a classification efficiency of
 382 71.6%, which is quite high thanks to the two additional b quarks when compared to
 383 $t\bar{t}H(bb)$. Figure 8 also shows the loss function of this model.

384 Figure 9 shows the events classified in each output node and events plotted are a
 385 sub-sample of the events used during training. These distributions show the difference in
 386 shape obtained for the $t\bar{t}HH$ event distribution when compared to the $t\bar{t}$ background. The
 387 final discriminants, constructed with this trained DNN model and the bigger sub-sample
 388 of events used for the fitting part of the analysis is discussed in the next section.

389 6.2 Final event classification and sensitivity

390 After training the DNN model, the events of Table 11 are used for constructing the
 391 final discriminant distributions that will be used for fitting. The background nodes are
 392 listed in Figure 10. The signal nodes are presented for different cases in Section 7, each of
 393 these cases containing different bin widths and/or different set of systematic uncertainties.

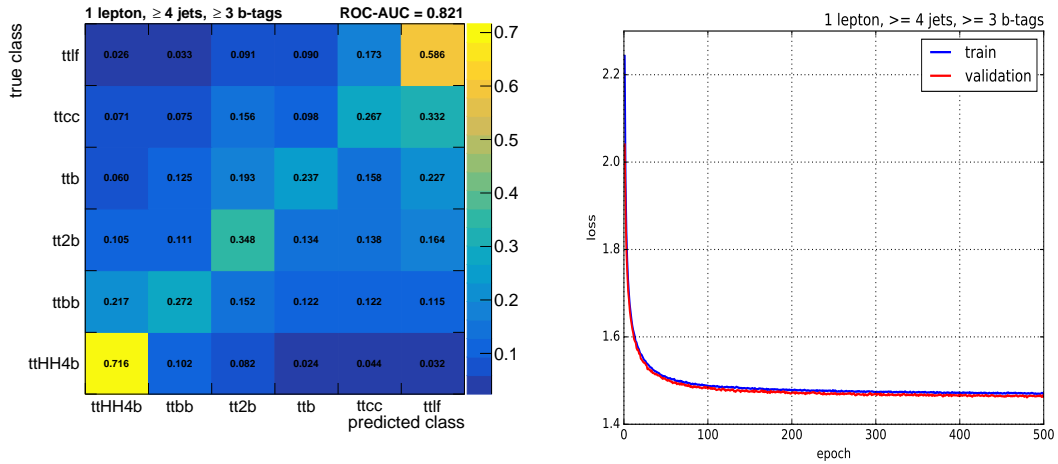


Figure 8. Confusion matrix and loss function for the trained DNN model

394 The background nodes presented here are the same for all cases and contain all shape
 395 systematic uncertainties (see Section 7) added in quadrature.

396 The binning of these background nodes was chosen to have at least 30 expected
 397 background events in each bin. The fit results does not change too much if the number of
 398 bins is reduced. Here we choose to keep more bins to retain the distribution shapes which
 399 could be useful for the next steps of the analysis (using full Run 2 data) and beyond, but
 400 for the current work the shape of the distributions on the background nodes does not
 401 influence much the results of the shape analysis presented in Section 7.

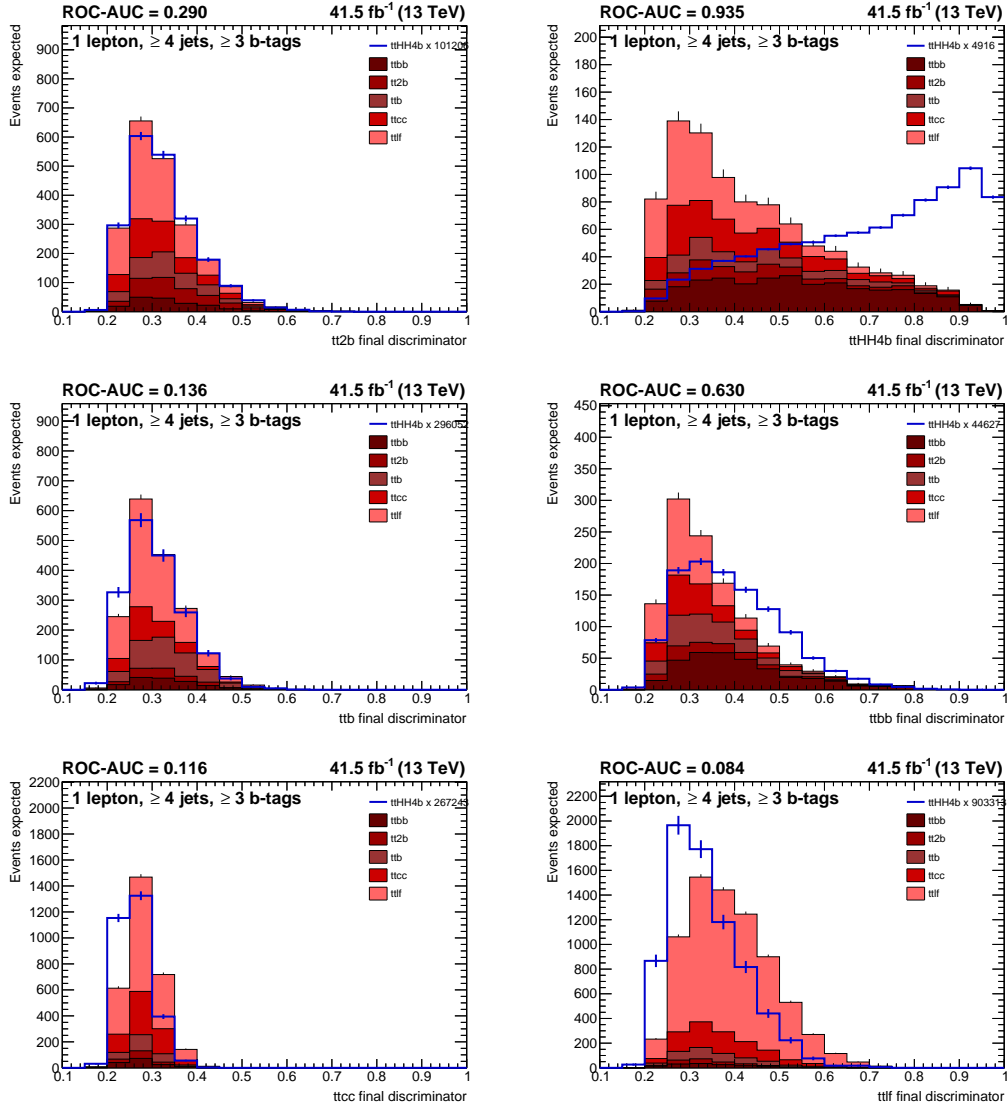


Figure 9. Comparison of the DNN discriminant distributions expected for the signal and background processes, constructed with a subset of 20% of the events listed in Table 12 and normalized to 41.5 fb^{-1} luminosity.

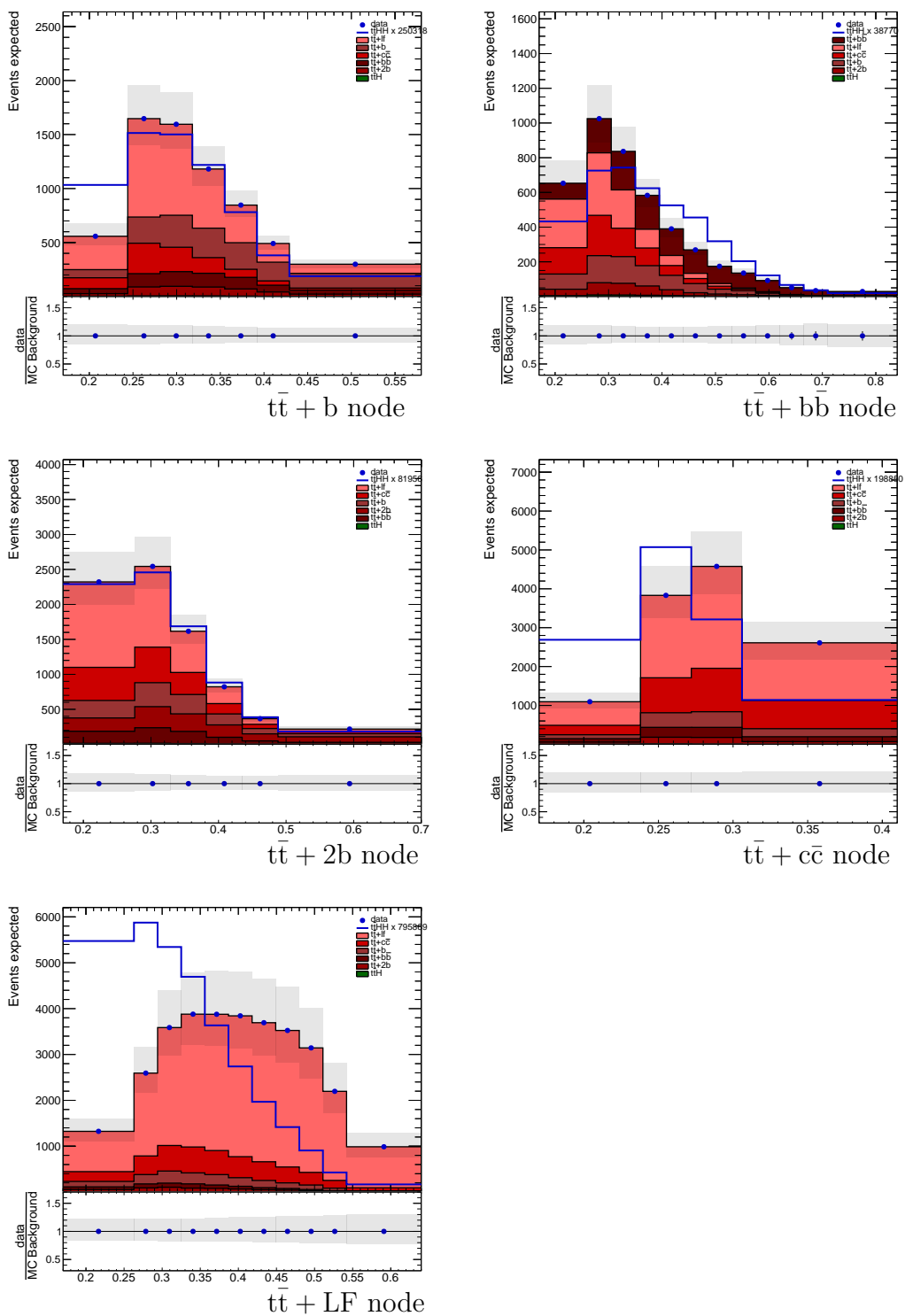


Figure 10. Final discriminant distributions, for all the background nodes, constructed with signal and background processes listed in Table 11 and normalized to 41.5 fb^{-1} luminosity. Data presented here is Asimov data.

402 7 Systematics uncertainties and Fit Model Validation

403 After having the trained DNN model and constructing the discriminants with events
404 of Table 11, this section shows how the systematics uncertainties are included in the
405 analysis for the fitting to (Asimov) data. The discriminants used for the fitting part were
406 already presented in Figure 10, showing the common background nodes for the different
407 cases to be presented here. The final discriminators for the signal node will be presented
408 in this section and is different for each studied case.

409 7.1 combine Tool

410 All fits and statistical analyses are performed with the Higgs combine tool version
411 v8.0.1 in the CMSSW_10_2_13 environment.

412 7.2 Systematic uncertainties

413 The systematic effects considered in this analysis of the 2017 dataset are described
414 in Table 15. Each rate systematic was added at the datacard level, while for shape
415 systematics, varied templates with up/down variation are generated. For JER and JES
416 systematics, the full analysis is redone starting from the ntuple creation, and events are
417 fed to the trained DNN for creating the final discriminants. The rate inclusive cross
418 section uncertainties are summarized in Table 16. This is a similar Table of systematics
419 uncertainties than for $t\bar{t}H(b\bar{b})$ except adding of course $t\bar{t}HH$ and not including the smaller
420 background processes (see Section 4.1), not yet considered in this analysis because still
421 too low data rate.

Source	Type	Remarks
Integrated luminosity	rate	Signal and all backgrounds
Lepton identification/isolation	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
Trigger efficiency	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
Trigger prefiring correction	rate	Signal and all backgrounds
Pileup	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
Jet energy scale	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
Jet energy resolution	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
b tag hf fraction	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
b tag hf stats (linear)	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
b tag hf stats (quadratic)	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
b tag lf fraction	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
b tag lf stats (linear)	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
b tag lf stats (quadratic)	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
b tag charm (linear)	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
b tag charm (quadratic)	shape	Signal and all backgrounds
Renorm./fact. scales ($t\bar{t}H$)	rate	Scale uncertainty of NLO $t\bar{t}H$ prediction
Renorm./fact. scales ($t\bar{t}$)	rate	Scale uncertainty of NNLO $t\bar{t}$ prediction
Renorm./fact. scales ($t\bar{t}HH$)	rate	Scale uncertainty of NLO $t\bar{t}HH$ prediction
$t\bar{t}$ + HF cross sections	rate	Additional 50% rate uncertainty of $t\bar{t}$ + HF predictions
PDF (gg)	rate	PDF uncertainty for gg initiated processes except $t\bar{t}H$ and $t\bar{t}HH$
PDF (gg $t\bar{t}H$)	rate	PDF uncertainty for $t\bar{t}H$
PDF (gg $t\bar{t}HH$)	rate	PDF uncertainty for $t\bar{t}HH$
PDF shape variations ($t\bar{t}H$, $t\bar{t}HH$, $t\bar{t}$)	shape	Based on the NNPDF replicas, same for $t\bar{t}H$, $t\bar{t}HH$ and additional jet flavours
μ_R scale ($t\bar{t}$)	shape	Renormalisation scale uncertainty of the $t\bar{t}$ ME generator (POWHEG), same for additional jet flavours
μ_F scale ($t\bar{t}$)	shape	Factorisation scale uncertainty of the $t\bar{t}$ ME generator (POWHEG), same for additional jet flavours
PS scale: ISR ($t\bar{t}$)	shape	Initial state radiation uncertainty of the PS (for $t\bar{t}$ events), same for additional jet flavours
PS scale: FSR ($t\bar{t}$)	shape	Final state radiation uncertainty of the PS (for $t\bar{t}$ events), same for additional jet flavours
Bin-by-bin event count	shape	Statistical uncertainty of the signal and background prediction due to the limited sample size

Table 15. Systematic uncertainties considered in this analysis.

Process	PDF			Renorm./fact. scales		
	$gg_{t\bar{t}H}$	$gg_{t\bar{t}HH}$	gg	$t\bar{t}$	$t\bar{t}H$	$t\bar{t}HH$
$t\bar{t}H$	3.6%				-9.2%/+5.8%	
$t\bar{t}HH$		3.2%				-4.3%/+1.5%
$t\bar{t}+\text{jets}$			4%	-4%/+2%		

Table 16. Inclusive cross section (rate) uncertainties used in the analysis. Note that an extra 50% rate uncertainty is assigned separately to each of the four considered $t\bar{t} + \text{HF}$ processes.

422 7.3 Fit Results

423 The fitting is performed in different cases that differ in the binning of the discrimi-
424 nant histograms and/or in the set of systematics that are included. Each case is presented
425 separately in the following sections and the best case for the present analysis is chosen
426 and presented in Section 8. The background nodes, presented in Figure 10, are the same
427 in all cases and include five of the six discriminators used for the fitting, each including
428 $t\bar{t}HH$, $t\bar{t} + LF$, $t\bar{t} + c\bar{c}$, $t\bar{t} + b\bar{b}$, $t\bar{t} + 2b$, $t\bar{t} + b$ and $t\bar{t}H$. All bins have at least 30 expected
429 background events. The analysis is not too sensitive to the shape of distributions in these
430 background nodes, but they were kept in this analysis. In the full Run 2 analysis this
431 study will be redone. For the signal nodes, each case is treated differently and in the next
432 sections the discriminants are presented.

433 **7.3.1 Case 1**

434 This case considers at least 1 expected background event in each bin of the signal
 435 node. Figure 11 shows this choice of binning. The shape systematics are also included
 436 in these plots and added in quadrature. Data points are Asimov data. JES systematics
 437 are split into the different sources. Each difference JES systematic up/down variation is
 438 produced by redoing the ntuples and performing the DNN classification again for each
 439 varied template and the final discriminant is then produced.

440 A fit is performed and results are obtained for the signal strength $\mu = \sigma/\sigma_{SM}$.
 441 Summarized in Table 17 are a case with no systematics on the top row and with all
 442 systematics on the bottom row. The analysis for this 2017 luminosity is dominated by
 443 statistics. This complete systematics framework will be used and indeed more relevant in
 444 the future studies involving full Run 2 and the upcoming Run 3 and also High Luminosity
 445 LHC (HL LHC). The middle row shows a result excluding the “bin-by-bin statistics”
 446 systematics. This exclusion is performed because in a preliminary extrapolation of this
 447 result to higher luminosity (see Section 8) using the combine tool. This is needed to
 448 avoid a conflict at the technical level with this tool.

449 Impacts and pulls are shown in Figures 12 and 13. These figures show the systematics
 450 ranked by impacts and the JES systematics are the highest ranked, as well as being one-
 sided in $\Delta\mu$ (Δr in the Figure).

No systematics	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-17.0}^{+23.2}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	49.8
		Expected (68% CL range)	[34.2,73.0]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[24.9,102.6]
All systematics (excluding bin-by-bin statistics)	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-20.2}^{+26.4}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	58.3
		Expected (68% CL range)	[39.5,87.5]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[28.2,126.7]
All systematics	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-21.6}^{+27.3}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	61.0
		Expected (68% CL range)	[40.8,90.3]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[29.3,130.9]

Table 17. Fit Results for Case 1

451

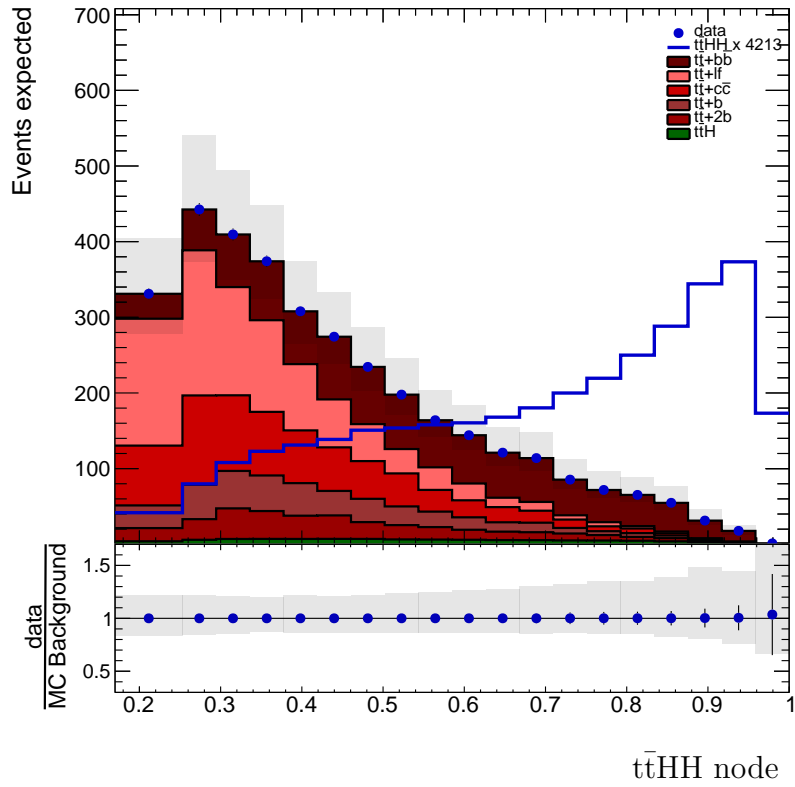


Figure 11. Final discriminant distribution for the signal node, constructed with signal and background processes listed in Table 11 and normalized to 41.5 fb^{-1} luminosity. Data presented here is Asimov data.

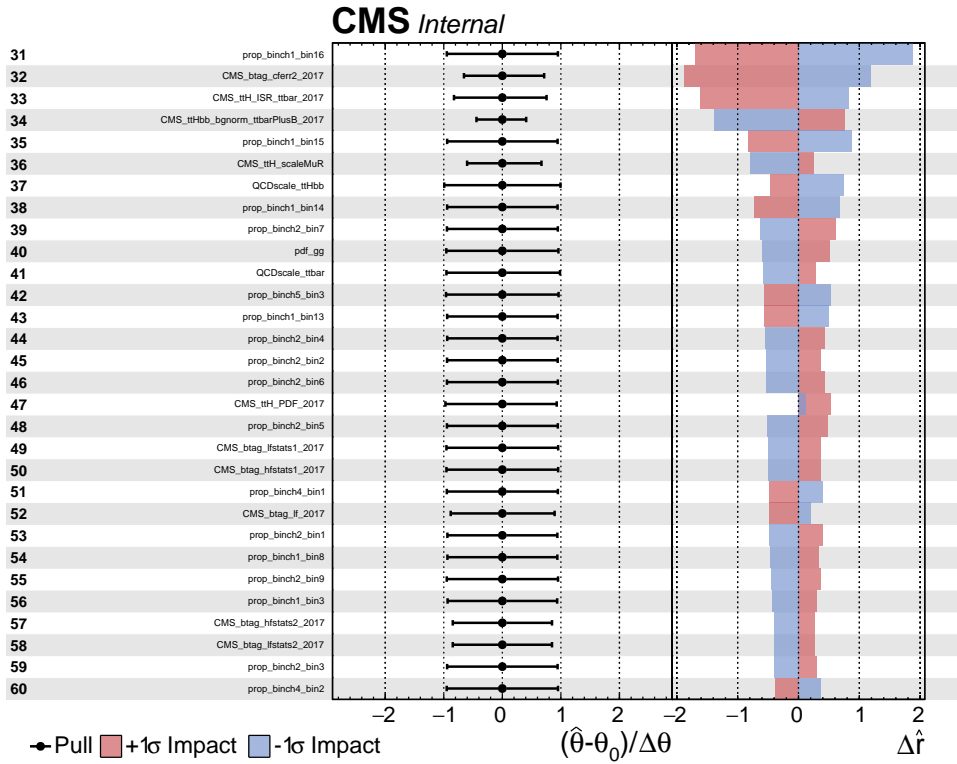
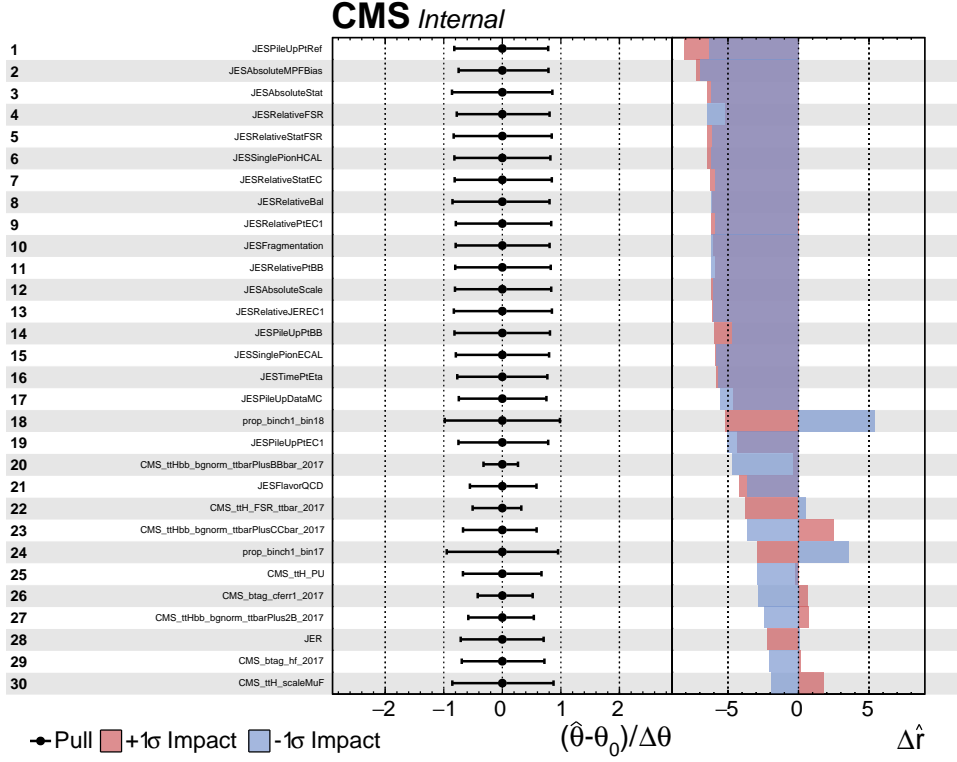


Figure 12. Nuisance parameter pulls and impacts, sorted by the largest impact, obtained from a fit to Asimov data corresponding to the 2017 dataset for the 110 nuisance parameters ranked highest in impact. Continued in Figure 13.

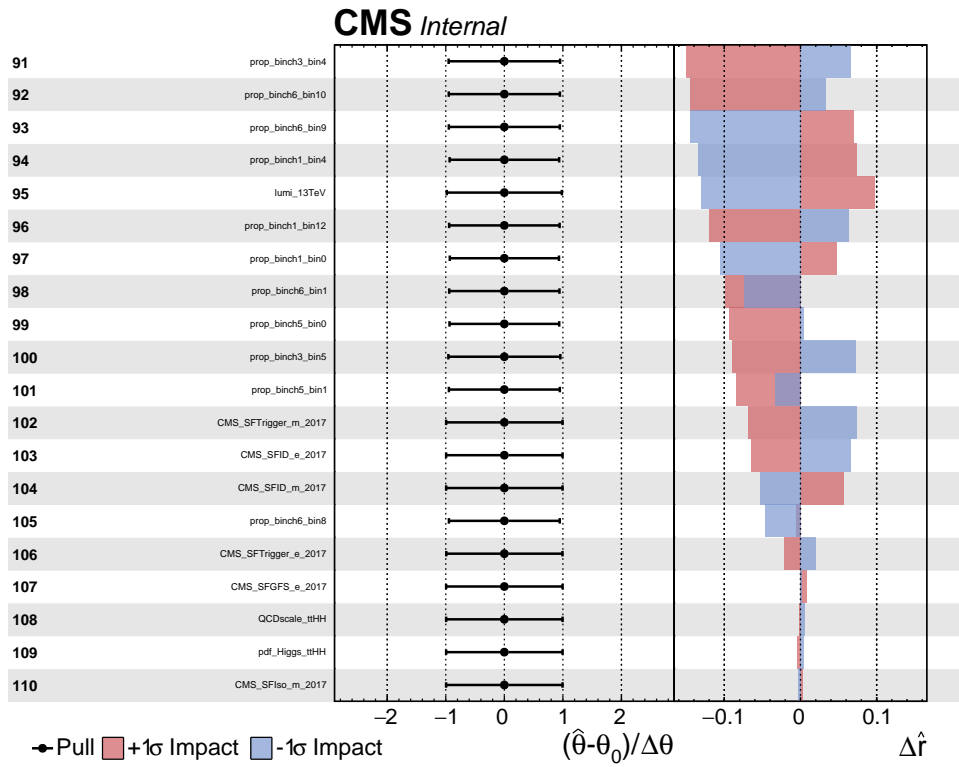
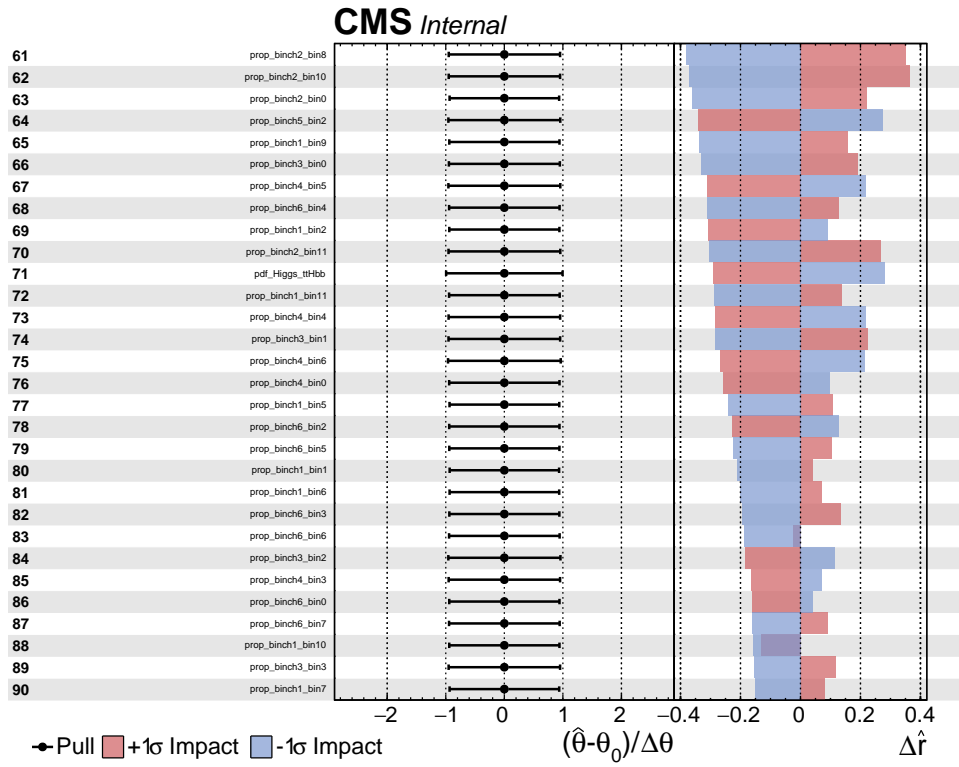


Figure 13. Continued from Figure 12

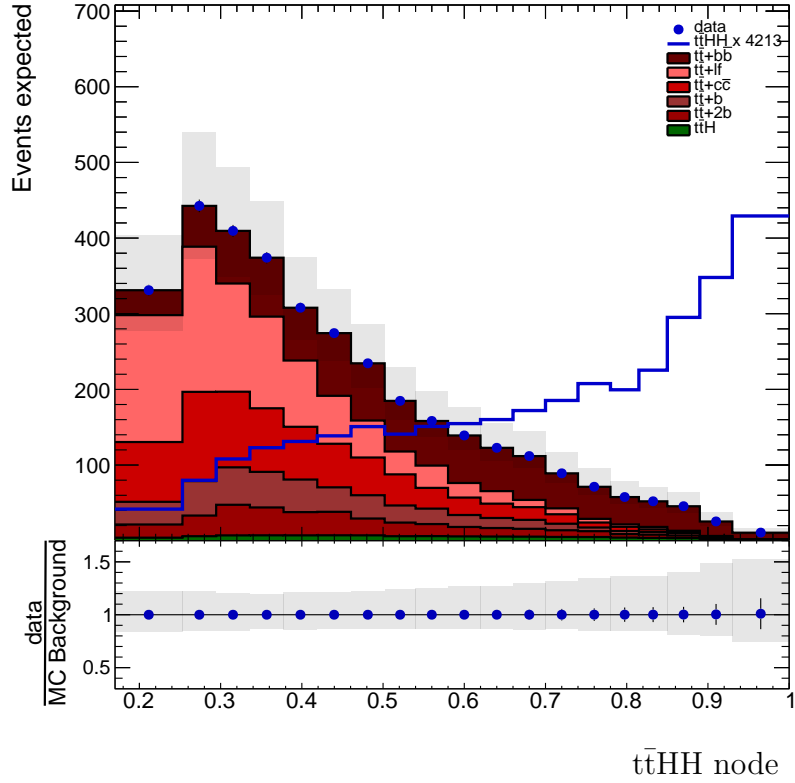


Figure 14. Final discriminant distribution for the signal node, constructed with signal and background processes listed in Table 11 and normalized to 41.5 fb^{-1} luminosity. Data presented here is Asimov data.

452 7.3.2 Case 2

453 This case considers at least 10 expected background events in each bin of the signal.
 454 Figure 14 shows this choice of binning. The shape systematics are also included in these
 455 plots and added in quadrature. Data points is Asimov data. JES systematics are split
 456 into the different sources and the varied templated are obtained in the same way explained
 457 for Case 1.

458 A fit is the performed and results are obtained for the signal strength μ and sum-
 459 marized in Table 18 in the same way done for Case 1. Impacts and pulls are shown in
 460 Figures 15 and 16. These figures show the systematics ranked by impacts and the JES
 461 systematics are the highest ranked, as well as being one-sided in $\Delta\mu$ (Δr in the Figure),
 462 similar to Case 1.

No systematics	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-23.7}^{+26.5}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	54.5
		Expected (68% CL range)	[38.3,78.2]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[28.3,107.9]
All systematics (excluding bin-by-bin statistics)	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-29.7}^{+31.3}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	65.5
		Expected (68% CL range)	[45.5,95.5]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[33.5,135.6]
All systematics	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-31.5}^{+32.7}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	67.9
		Expected (68% CL range)	[47.4,99.1]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[35.0,139.8]

Table 18. Asimov Results for Case 2.

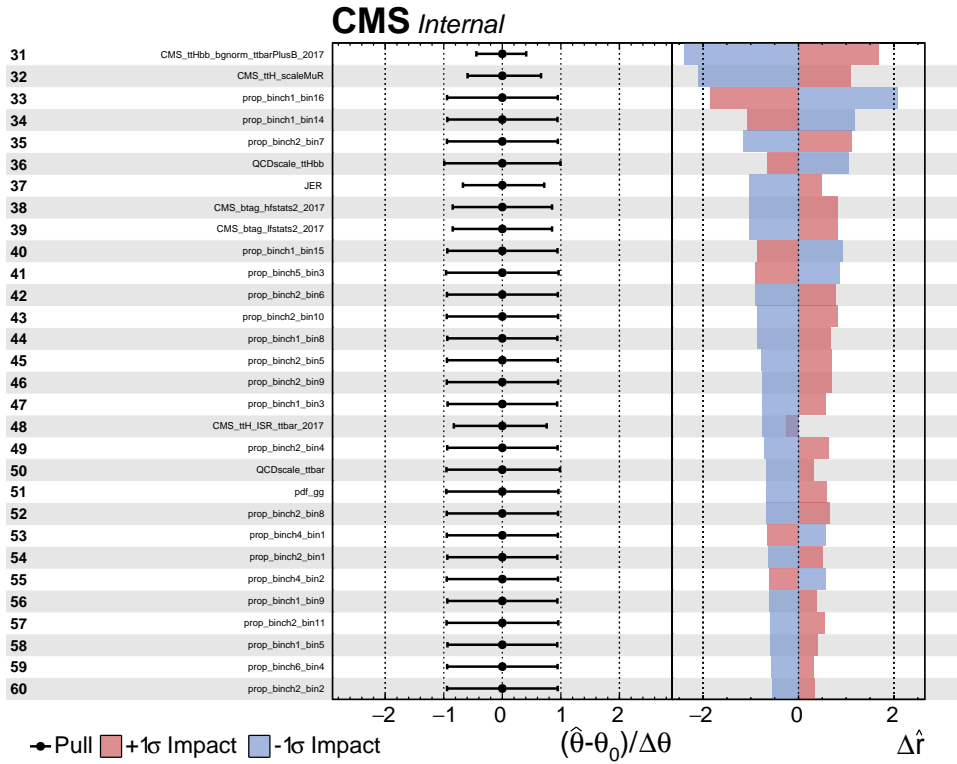
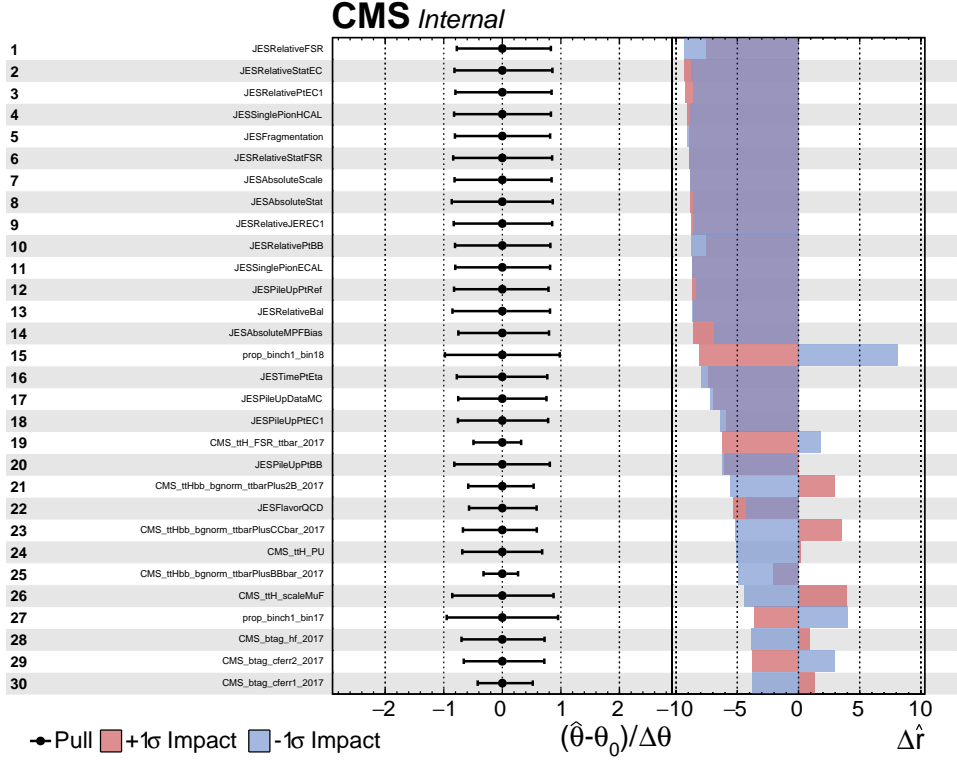


Figure 15. Nuisance parameter pulls and impacts, sorted by the largest impact, obtained from a fit to Asimov data corresponding to the 2017 dataset for the 110 nuisance parameters ranked highest in impact. Continued in Figure 16.

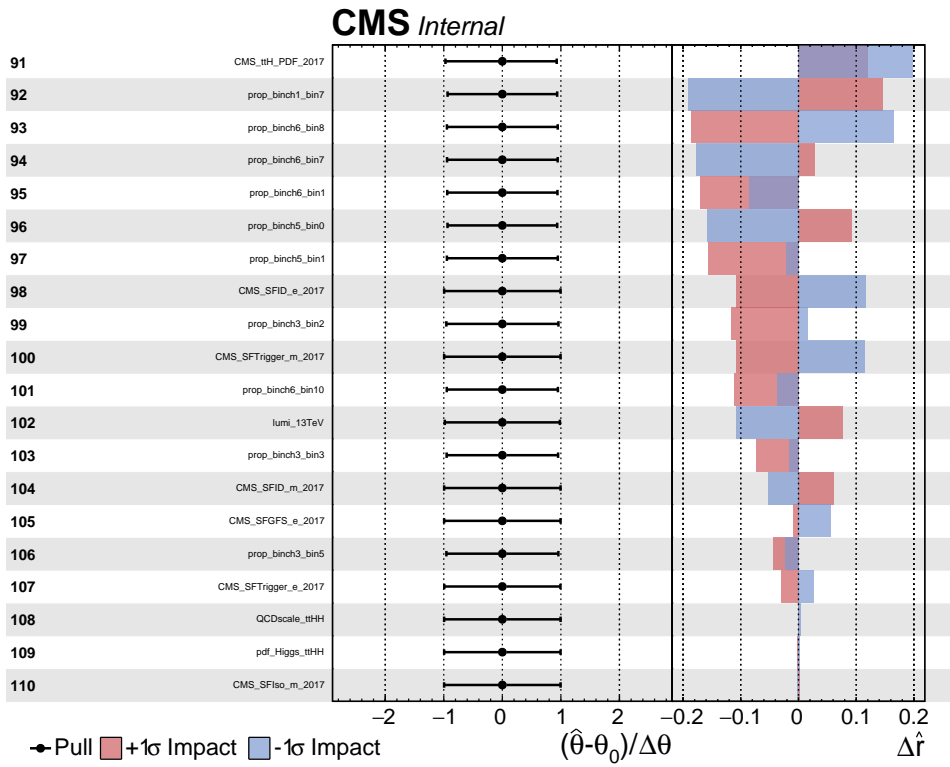
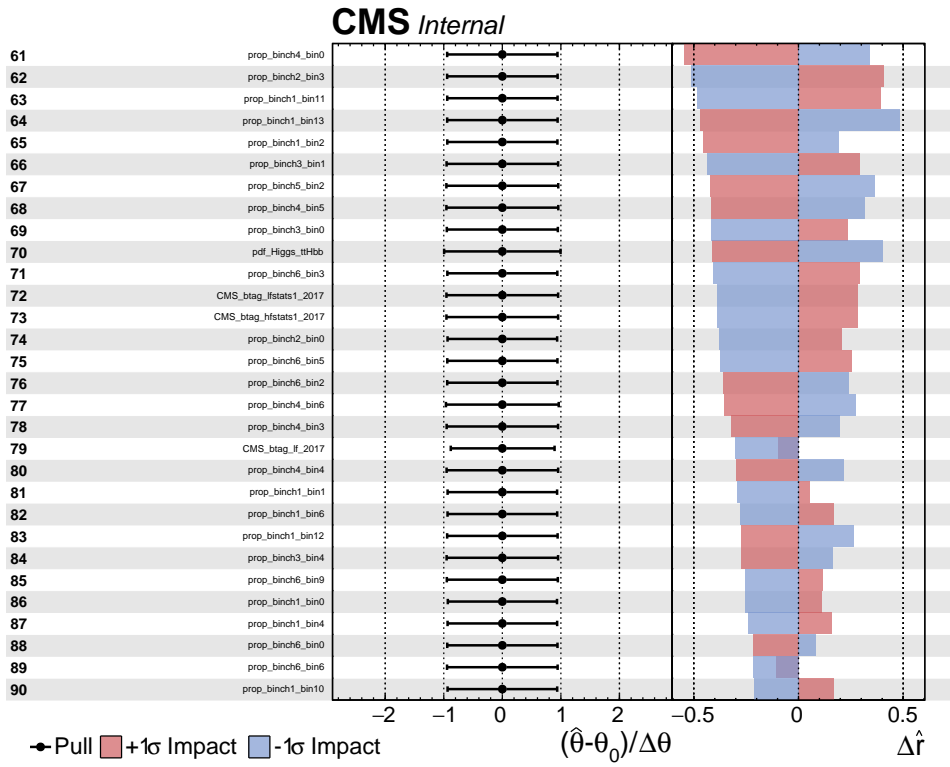


Figure 16. Continued from Figure 15

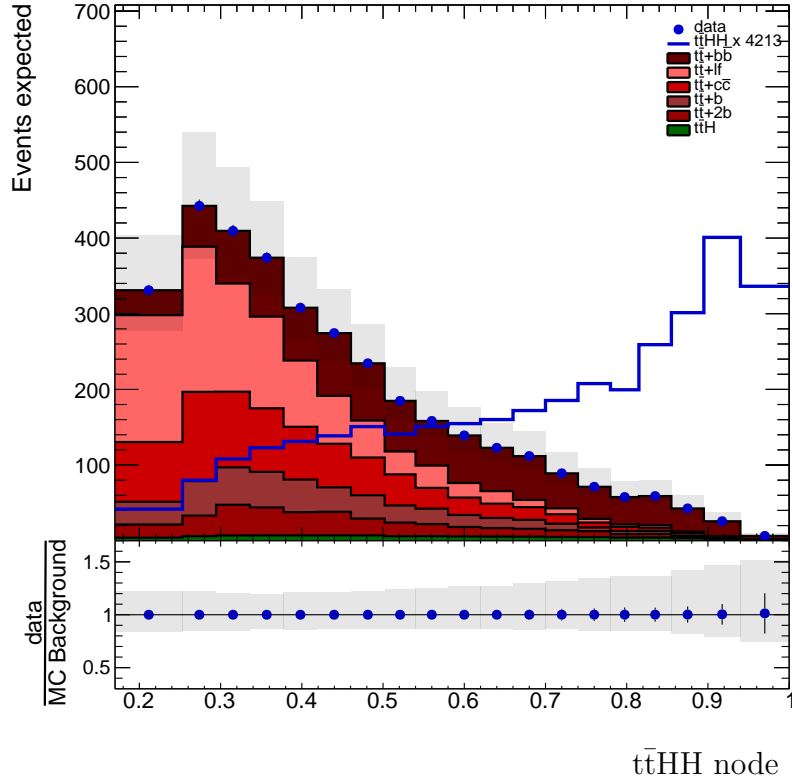


Figure 17. Final discriminant distribution for the signal node, constructed with signal and background processes listed in Table 11 and normalized to 41.5 fb^{-1} luminosity. Data presented here is Asimov data.

463 7.3.3 Case 3

464 This case considers at least 6 expected background events in each bin of the signal
 465 node, in between Cases 1 and 2. Figure 17 shows this choice of binning. The shape
 466 systematics are also included in these plots and added in quadrature. Data points is
 467 Asimov data. JES systematics are split into the different sources and the varied templates
 468 are obtained in the same way explained for Cases 1 and 2.

469 A fit is the performed and results are obtained for the signal strength μ and summa-
 470 rized in Table 19 in the same way done for Cases 1 and 2. Impacts and pulls are shown
 471 in Figures 18 and 19. These figures show the systematics ranked by impacts and the JES
 472 systematics are the highest ranked, as well as being one-sided in $\Delta\mu$ (Δr in the Figure),
 473 similar to Cases 1 and 2.

No systematics	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-22.4}^{+25.6}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	53.3
		Expected (68% CL range)	[37.1,76.6]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[27.5,106.3]
All systematics (excluding bin-by-bin statistics)	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-27.5}^{+29.8}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	63.0
		Expected (68% CL range)	[43.6,92.9]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[32.0,132.2]
All systematics	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-29.1}^{+31.1}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	65.5
		Expected (68% CL range)	[45.4,96.1]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[33.3,136.7]

Table 19. Asimov Results for Case 3

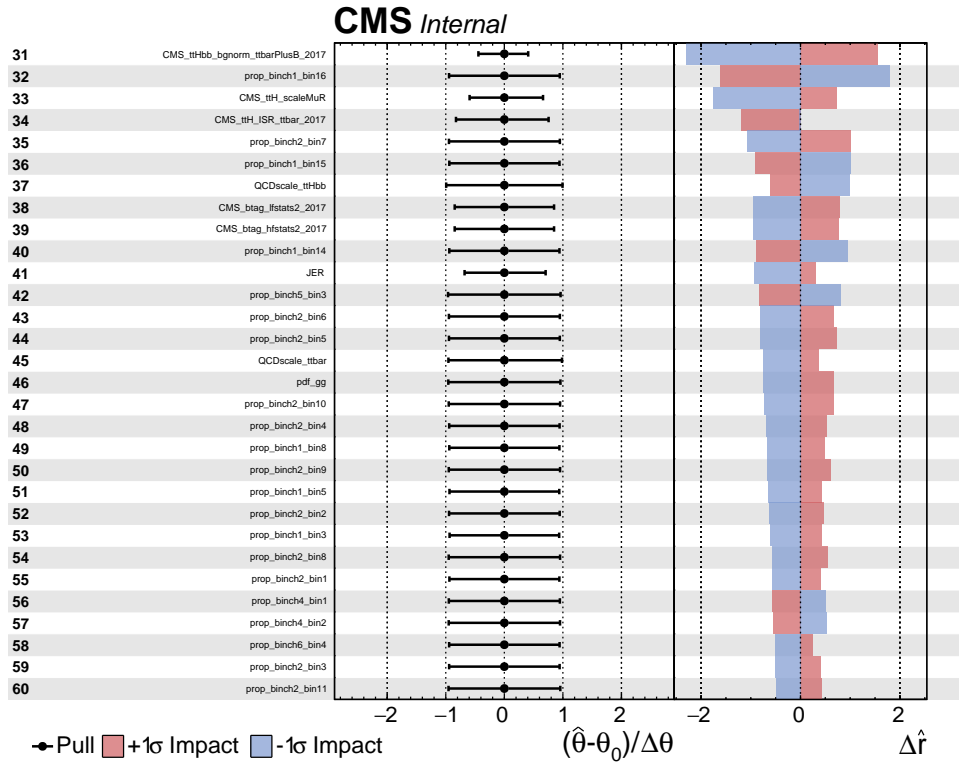
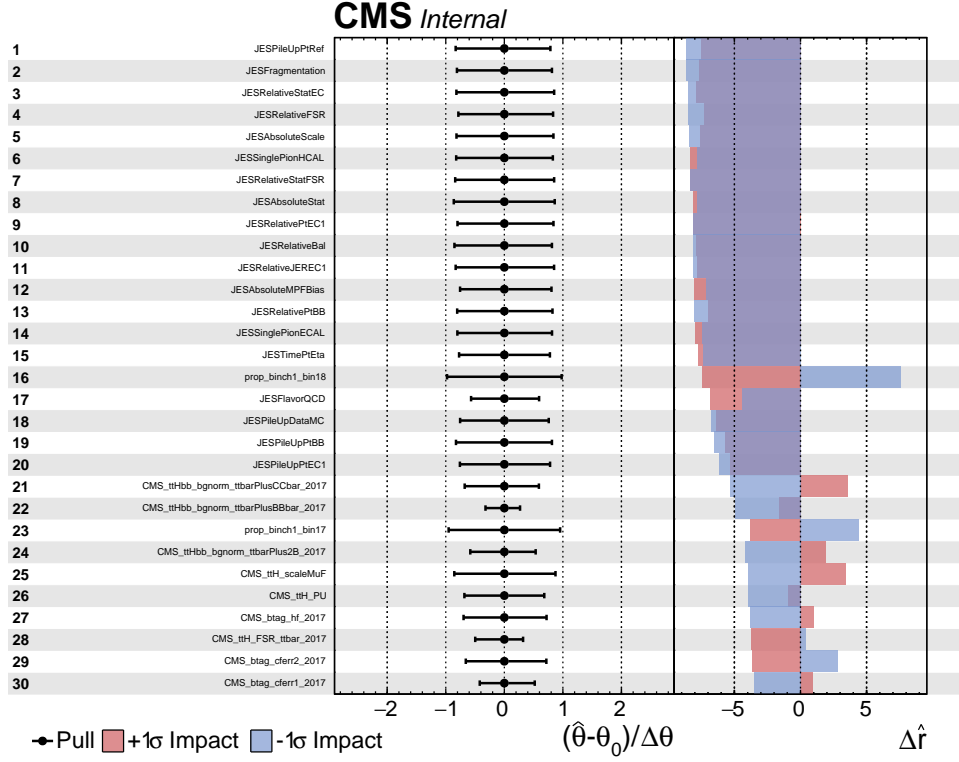


Figure 18. Nuisance parameter pulls and impacts, sorted by the largest impact, obtained from a fit to Asimov data corresponding to the 2017 dataset for the 110 nuisance parameters ranked highest in impact. Continued in Figure 19.

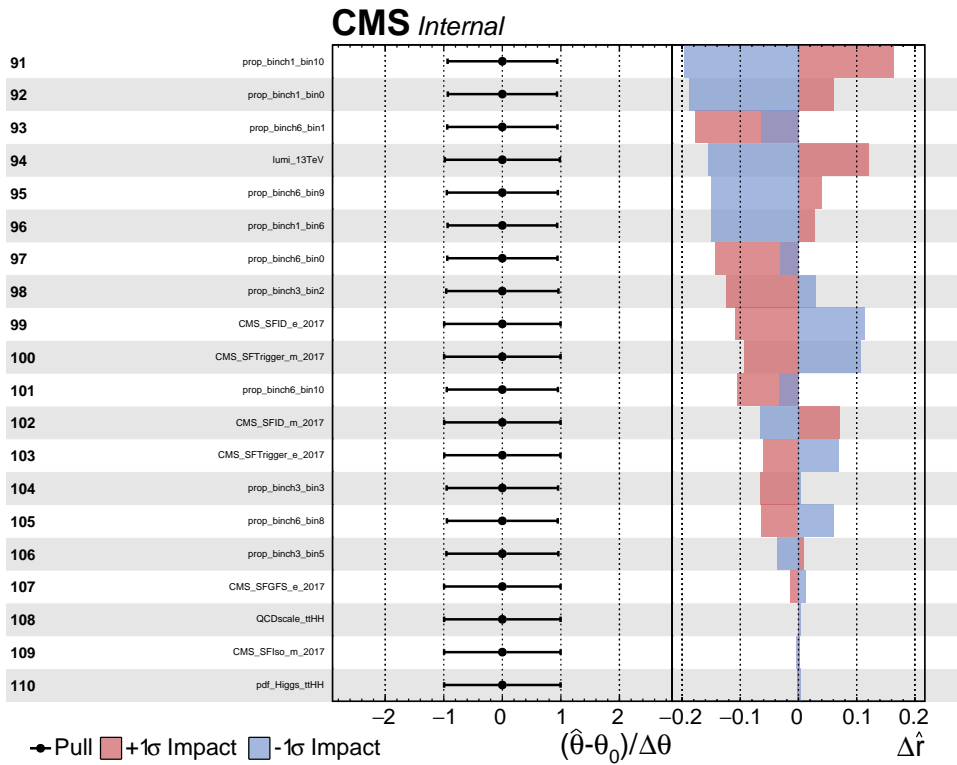
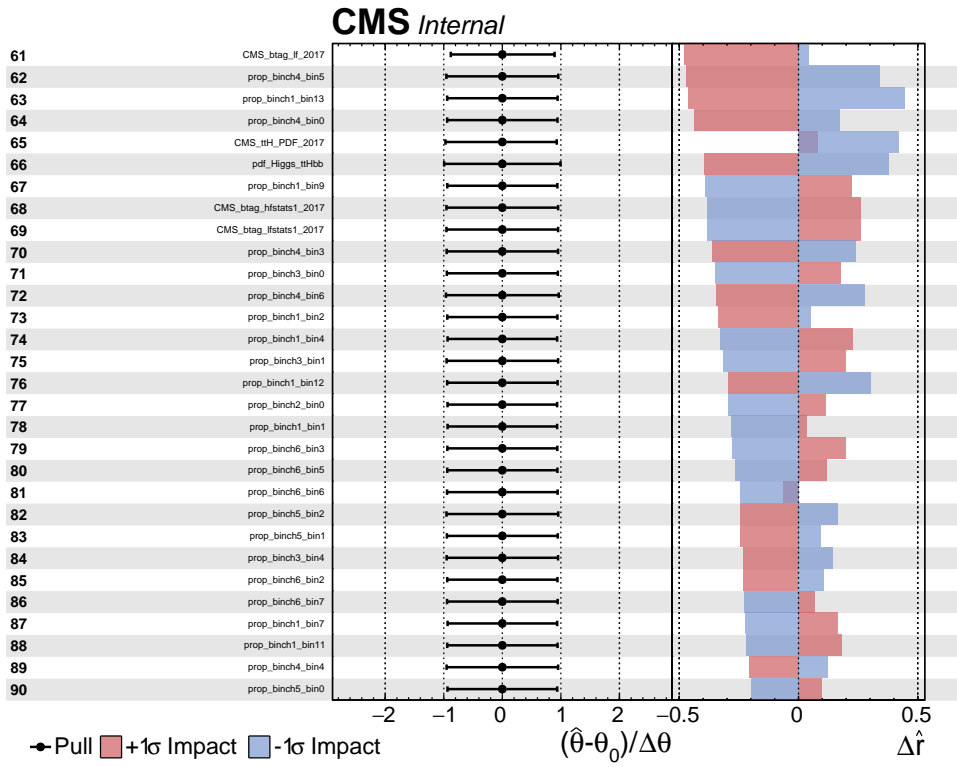


Figure 19. Continued from Figure 18

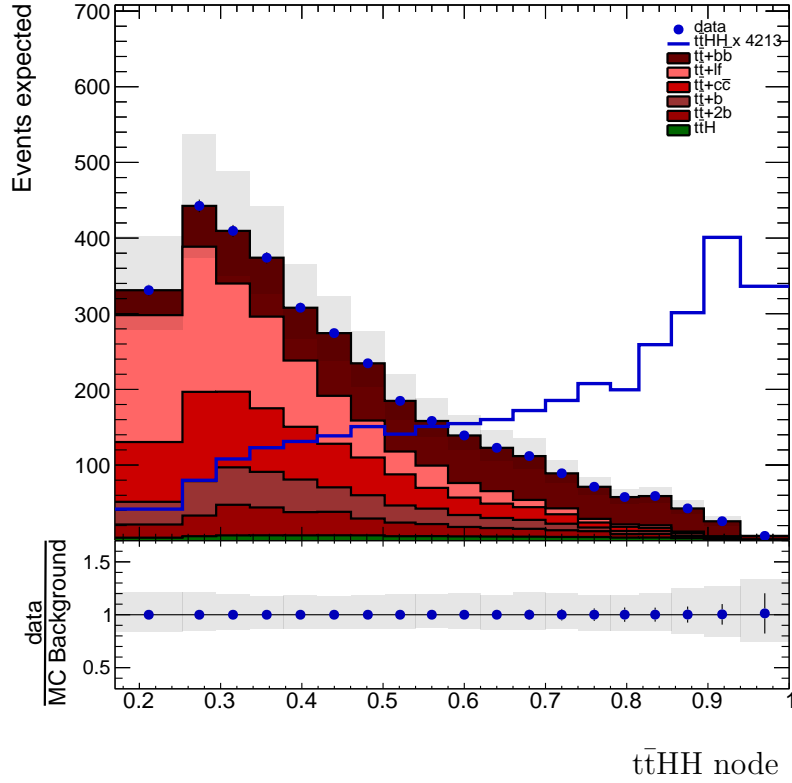


Figure 20. Final discriminant distribution for the signal node, constructed with signal and background processes listed in Table 11 and normalized to 41.5 fb^{-1} luminosity. Data presented here is Asimov data.

474 7.3.4 Case 4

475 This case considers at least 6 expected background events in each bin of the signal
 476 node, in between Cases 1 and 2, thus the exact same binning of Case 3. Figure 20 shows
 477 this choice of binning. The shape systematics are also included in these plots and added in
 478 quadrature. Data points is Asimov data. JES systematics are not split into the different
 479 sources. In this case there is only one inclusive JES systematic but the varied templates
 480 are obtained in the same way as in the previous cases. In this case, even if there is a
 481 different set of systematic uncertainties plotted in the discriminant distributions for the
 482 background nodes, no difference in the plots of Figure 10 is observed and we keep this
 483 same figure to represent all cases.

484 A fit is the performed and results are obtained for the signal strength μ and sum-
 485 marized in Table 20 in the same way done for Cases 1, 2, 3. Impacts and pulls are shown
 486 in Figures 21 and 22. These figures show the systematics ranked by impacts and JES
 487 becomes a little more constraining now by looking at the pulls, but it is not the most
 488 constraining uncertainty. In terms of impacts it goes from 1^{st} to 27^{th} highest impact on
 489 the list and the one sided effect on $\Delta\mu$ disappears. More on this will be discussed in
 490 Section 8.

No systematics	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-22.4}^{+25.6}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	53.3
		Expected (68% CL range)	[37.1,76.6]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[27.5,106.3]
All systematics (excluding bin-by-bin statistics)	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-25.7}^{+29.8}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	63.0
		Expected (68% CL range)	[43.6,92.9]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[32.0,132.2]
All systematics	Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-27.5}^{+31.1}$
	95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	65.5
		Expected (68% CL range)	[45.4,96.1]
		Expected (95% CL range)	[33.3,136.7]

Table 20. Asimov Results. Same as Case 3 with inclusive JES systematic.

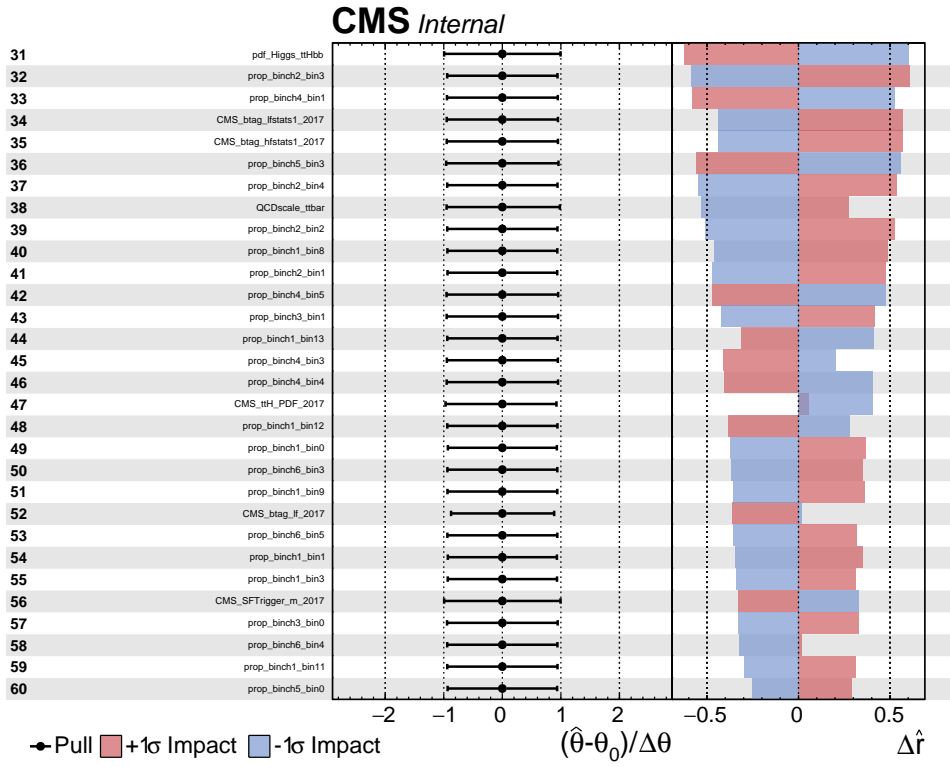
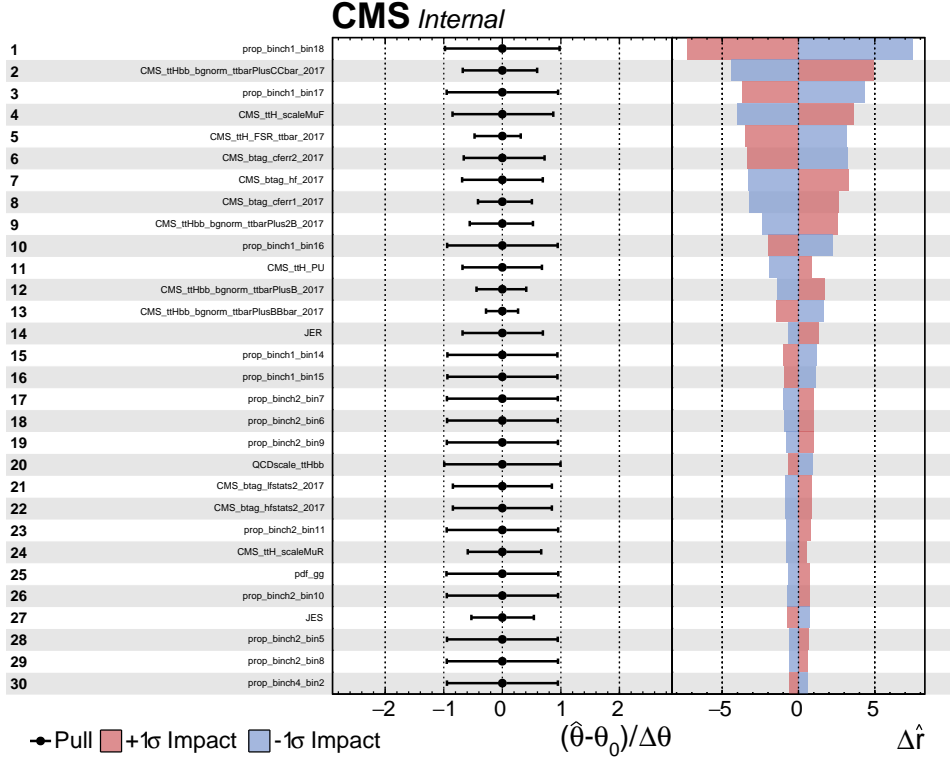


Figure 21. Nuisance parameter pulls and impacts, sorted by the largest impact, obtained from a fit to Asimov data corresponding to the 2017 dataset for the 110 nuisance parameters ranked highest in impact. Continued in Figure 22.

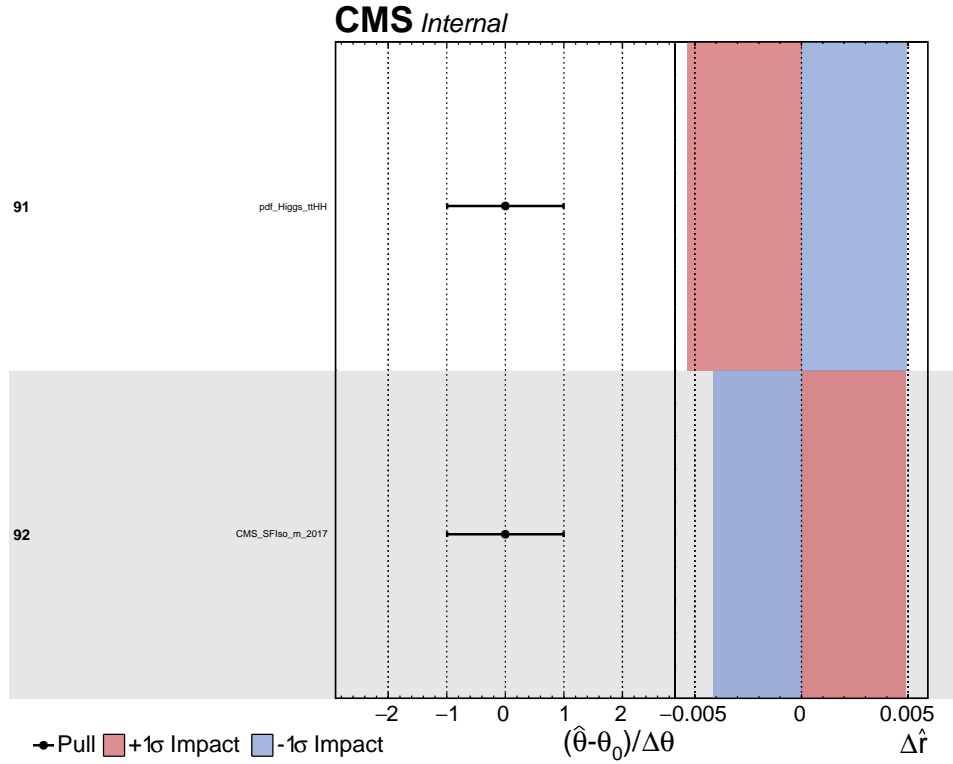
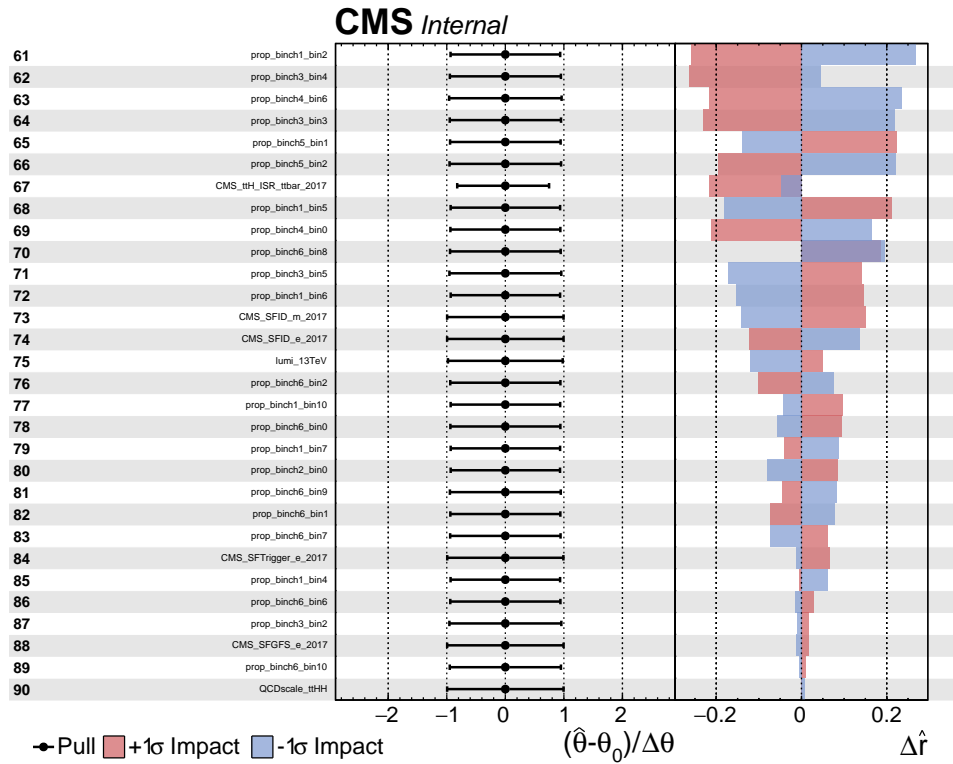


Figure 22. Continued from Figure 21

491 8 Results and perspectives

492 Case 4 from Section 7 is chosen as the final result. It keeps 6 events in the last signal
 493 bin, as in Case 3, but the scale uncertainty is included in an inclusive JES systematic.
 494 It does not consider the individual sources as in Cases 1 to 3. This looks reasonable
 495 for this analysis as it is dominated by statistical uncertainties and the inclusive JES
 496 systematic, although more constraining than when considering the individual sources,
 497 is not too constraining (see Figure 21). This avoids the one sided JES uncertainties of
 498 Cases 1 to 3. The JES uncertainty, when considered as individual sources, show a very
 499 small, and in some cases no difference, in the plots of nominal shapes when compared to
 500 up/sown variations.

501 The analysis, is dominated by statistics. However, the most constraining systematics
 502 are: b tag charm (linear), PS scale: FSR($t\bar{t}$), addition al 50 % rate uncertainty on $t\bar{t} + b\bar{b}$
 503 and $t\bar{t} + b$ cross section, which be seen in the nuisance parameter plots of Figure 21 and
 504 22.

505 Table 21 summarizes the final result obtained for this analysis. It is worth men-
 506 tioning that these results are not too different from the results obtained on cases 1 to 3.

Best fit (μ)	Observed (Asimov)	$1_{-27.5}^{+31.1}$
95% CL upper limits on μ	Expected (Median)	65.5
	Expected (68% CL range)	[45.4,96.1]
	Expected (95% CL range)	[33.3,136.7]

Table 21. Final result after fitting to Asimov data including all systematic uncertainties. This is Case 4 of Section 7.

507

508 8.1 Perspectives

509 In this section, the following Tables summarizes a first estimate on the μ -parameter
 510 2017-Run results. This takes into account only the $t\bar{t}$ (SL)HH(4b's) signature for the
 511 overall Run 2 (Lumi \times 3) and for Run 3 (Lumi \times 10). Run 3 is computed at 13 TeV
 512 center of mass energy instead of 14 TeV in this first estimate. This first estimate will
 513 be further developed in the upcoming full Run 2 and Run 3 analysis. A number of
 514 improvements besides the increase in luminosity will be included in these new analyses, for
 515 instance the new b-tagging, the improved $t\bar{t}$ -background, especially $t\bar{t} + 4b$ and hopefully
 516 larger statistics on $t\bar{t}$ overall background, including $t\bar{t}H$ and also the splitting of the JES
 517 systematic into the different sources.

518 Tables 22, 23, 24 and 25 represent the Cases 1, 2, 3, 4 of Section 7.3 respectively.
 519 There is not so much different in the results of the different cases.

520 8.2 Overall Plan for the $t\bar{t}HH$ search: from now to High Luminosity LHC

521 At the dawn of Run 3 and HL-LHC it is important to stress the interest of the $t\bar{t}HH$
 522 analysis and to carry on the current exploratory study i.e. $t\bar{t}$ (SL)HH(4b) first on the

Luminosity	Best-fit μ	95% CL limits on μ		
		Expected		
		Median	68% CL Range	95% CL Range
41.5	$1_{-20.2}^{+26.4}$	58.3	[39.4,87.5]	[28.2,126.7]
41.5*3	$1_{-13.5}^{+14.8}$	31.6	[21.7,46.9]	[15.8,67.1]
41.5*10	$1_{-8.2}^{+9.1}$	16.8	[11.7,24.5]	[8.7,34.6]

Table 22. Luminosity Scaling for Case 1.

Luminosity	Best-fit μ	95% CL limits on μ		
		Expected		
		Median	68% CL Range	95% CL Range
41.5	$1_{-29.7}^{+31.3}$	65.5	[45.5,95.5]	[33.5,135.6]
41.5*3	$1_{-18.9}^{+18.4}$	37.6	[26.6,54.1]	[19.7,75.3]
41.5*10	$1_{-11.4}^{+10.5}$	21.2	[15.1,30.1]	[11.3,41.3]

Table 23. Luminosity Scaling for Case 2

Luminosity	Best-fit μ	95% CL limits on μ		
		Expected		
		Median	68% CL Range	95% CL Range
41.5	$1_{-27.5}^{+29.8}$	63.0	[43.6,92.9]	[32.0,132.2]
41.5*3	$1_{-17.6}^{+17.4}$	35.9	[25.2,52.0]	[18.6,72.8]
41.5*10	$1_{-10.7}^{+10.0}$	20.2	[14.3,28.8]	[10.7,39.6]

Table 24. Luminosity Scaling for Case 3

Luminosity	Best-fit μ	95% CL limits on μ		
		Expected		
		Median	68% CL Range	95% CL Range
41.5	$1_{-25.7}^{+29.8}$	63.0	[43.6,92.9]	[32.0,132.2]
41.5*3	$1_{-18.6}^{+19.6}$	40.3	[28.4,58.1]	[21.1,80.9]
41.5*10	$1_{-13.2}^{+13.7}$	27.8	[19.8,39.6]	[14.7,54.5]

Table 25. Luminosity scaling for Case 4

523 overall Run 2 and also to include the other top pair decay channels with Run 2 data
524 and pursue with Run 3 and HL-LHC Here below the preliminary workplan and expected
525 main outcomes is presented:

- 526 – With $O(40)$ total events in the 2017 Run period, the signature under study is $t\bar{t}$
527 (SL)HH(4b) where it is expected $O(5)$ events). Results are being documented in
528 this present analysis Note. It is the first time this data analysis is achieved.

- 529 – With $O(140)$ total events for all All Run 2, the signature $t\bar{t}$ (SL)HH(4b) has $O(18)$
530 events) expected. In this case the 2017 analysis will be redone with Run 2; It starts
531 now with Run 2 $t\bar{t}H(b\bar{b})$ frame including New DNN cat. with $t\bar{t}H$ bkgd and $t\bar{t} + 4b$;
532 Fit eval. considering the effect of $t\bar{t}Z$ and $t\bar{t}ZZ$ and results by Summer 2020. All $t\bar{t}$
533 signatures ($O(50)$ events)) is expected to start by March 2020 and results ready by
534 Spring 2021 (at least with all hadronic case).

- 535 – With $O(400)$ (14TeV) total events for Run 3, all signatures are to be considered
536 with $t\bar{t} + 4b$ @NLO background. Here it is expected a first evidence for the $t\bar{t}HH$
537 process and a possible observation of a deviation from SM.

- 538 – With $O(4000)$ total events (14 TeV) for HL LHC, all signatures are expected to be
539 studied with $t\bar{t} + 4b$ @NLO and new $t\bar{t}H$, $t\bar{t}Z$, $t\bar{t}ZZ$ backgrounds included. Here
540 an evidence of the $t\bar{t}HH$ process is expected as well as a deviation from SM. If
541 increased, it will reject some MCHM scenarios. The study will be combined with
542 heavy resonance search. The triple H search with complementary inputs to double
543 Higgs will be addressed..

544 **9 Concluding Remarks**

545 **Acknowledgments**

546 This work was supported by the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) under
547 Grants No. 2016/01343-7, No. 2013/01907-0, No. 2015/26624-6 and No. 2018/11505-0
548 and by Science Without Borders/CAPES for UNESP-SPRACE under the Grant No.
549 88887.116917/2016-00.

A DNN Input Variables

Table 26. Input variables used in the DNNs (Continued in Table 27.)

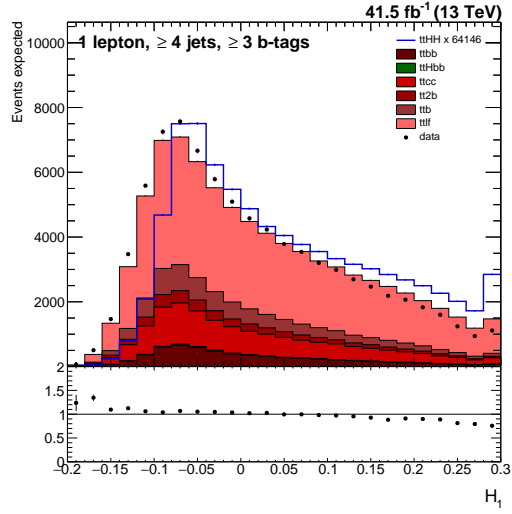
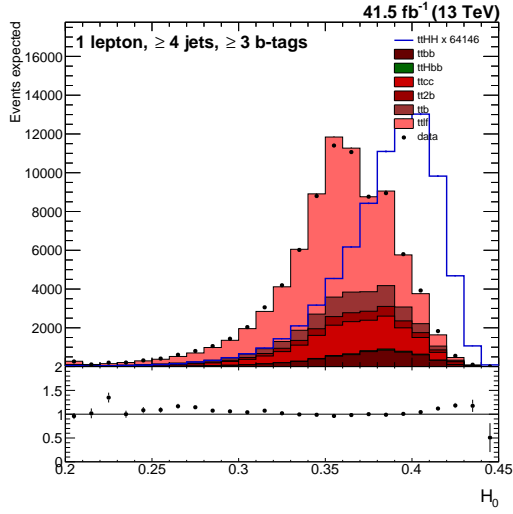
Variable	Definition
BLR	likelihood ratio discriminating between events with 4 b-quark jets and 2 b-quark jets
$\text{BLR}^{\text{trans}}$	$\ln[\text{BLR}/(1 - \text{BLR})]$
p_{T} (jet 1)	p_{T} of the 1 st jet, ranked in jet p_{T}
p_{T} (jet 2)	p_{T} of the 2 nd jet, ranked in jet p_{T}
p_{T} (jet 3)	p_{T} of the 3 rd jet, ranked in jet p_{T}
p_{T} (jet 4)	p_{T} of the 4 th jet, ranked in jet p_{T}
H_{T}^{b}	scalar sum of p_{T} of b-tagged jets
H_{T}	scalar sum of p_{T} of all jets
$N_{\text{b}}^{\text{loose}}$	number of b-tagged jets with DeepCSV > 0.1522
$N_{\text{b}}^{\text{medium}}$	number of b-tagged jets with DeepCSV > 0.4941
$N_{\text{b}}^{\text{tight}}$	number of b-tagged jets with DeepCSV > 0.8001
N_{jets}	number of jets
d(jet 1)	b-tagging discriminant value of 1 st jet, ranked in jet p_{T}
d(jet 2)	b-tagging discriminant value of 2 nd jet, ranked in jet p_{T}
d(jet 3)	b-tagging discriminant value of 3 rd jet, ranked in jet p_{T}
d(jet 4)	b-tagging discriminant value of 4 th jet, ranked in jet p_{T}
d_1	1 st highest b-tagging discriminant value of all jets
d_2	2 nd highest b-tagging discriminant value of all jets
d_3	3 rd highest b-tagging discriminant value of all jets
d_4	4 th highest b-tagging discriminant value of all jets
d_j^{avg}	average b-tagging discriminant value of all jets
$d_{\text{b}}^{\text{avg}}$	average b-tagging discriminant value of all b-tagged jets
$d_{\text{b}}^{\text{min}}$	minimal b-tagging discriminant value of all b-tagged jets
d_j^{min}	minimal b-tagging discriminant value of all jets
$\frac{1}{N_{\text{b}}} \sum_{\text{b}}^{N_{\text{b}}} (d - d_{\text{b}}^{\text{avg}})^2$	squared difference between the b-tagged discriminant value of a b-tagged jet and the average b-tagging discriminant value of all b-tagged jets, averaged over all b-tagged jets
$\frac{1}{N_{\text{j}}} \sum_{\text{j}}^{N_{\text{j}}} (d - d_j^{\text{avg}})^2$	squared difference between the b-tagged discriminant value of a jet and the average b-tagging discriminant value of all jets, averaged over all jets

Table 27. Continued from Table 26.

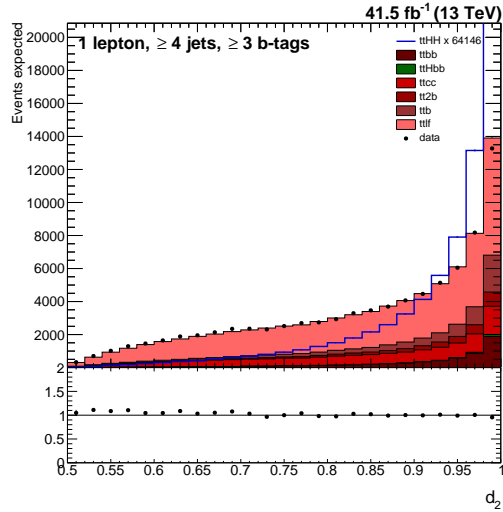
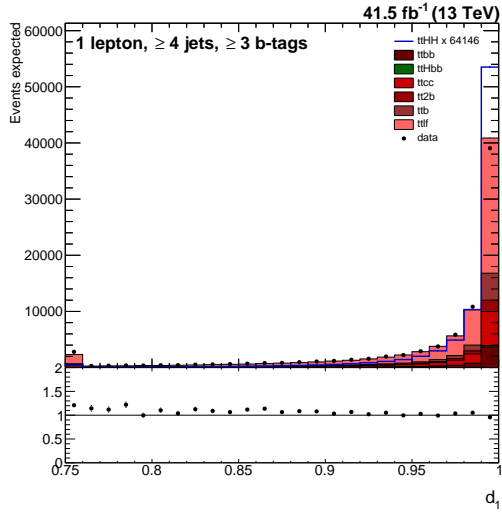
Variable	Definition
m_j^{avg}	average mass of all jets
$m_{b,b}^{\text{closest to 125}}$	mass of pair of b-tagged jets closest to 125 GeV
$m_{\text{lep},b}^{\text{min}\Delta R}$	mass of pair of lepton and b-tagged jet closest in ΔR
$m_{j,j}^{\text{min}\Delta R}$	mass of pair of jets closest in ΔR
$m_{b,b}^{\text{min}\Delta R}$	mass of pair of b-tagged jets closest in ΔR
$m_{\text{lep},j}^{\text{min}\Delta R}$	mass of pair of lepton and jet closest in ΔR
m_b^{avg}	average mass of all b-tagged jets
$(m^2)_b^{\text{avg}}$	average squared mass of all b-tagged jets
$\Delta R_{b,b}^{\text{avg}}$	average ΔR between b-tagged jets
$\Delta R_{j,j}^{\text{avg}}$	average ΔR between two jets
$\Delta R_{j,j}^{\text{min}}$	minimal ΔR between any two jets
$\Delta R_{b,b}^{\text{min}}$	minimal ΔR between any two b-tagged jets
$\Delta R_{\text{lep},b}^{\text{min}}$	minimal ΔR between lepton and b-tagged jet
$\Delta R_{\text{lep},j}^{\text{min}}$	minimal ΔR between lepton and jet
$\Delta \eta_{j,j}^{\text{avg}}$	average $\Delta \eta$ between any two jets
$\Delta \eta_{b,b}^{\text{avg}}$	average $\Delta \eta$ between any two b-tagged jets
$\Delta \eta_{b,b}^{\text{max}}$	largest $\Delta \eta$ between any two b-tagged jets
$p_{Tj}^{\text{avg}}/E_j^{\text{avg}}$	average jet p_T over average jet E of all jets
H_0	0th Fox–Wolfram moment [29] computed with all jets
H_1	1st Fox–Wolfram moment [29] computed with all jets

551 **A.1 Input Variable Control Plots**

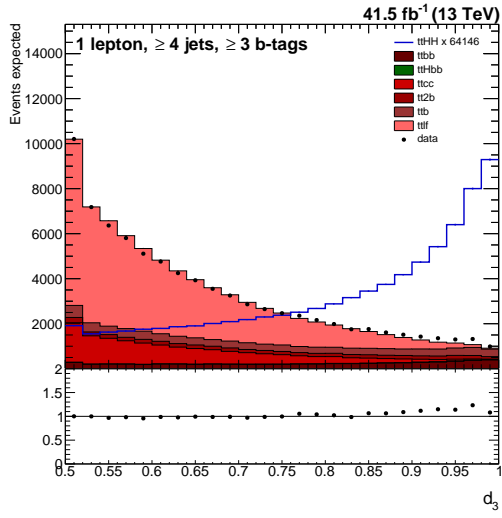
552 Data/MC comparisons of the observables used as inputs to DNN used to produce
 553 the final discriminants before the fit to data. Each of the expected backgrounds is nor-
 554 malized to the corresponding SM cross section.



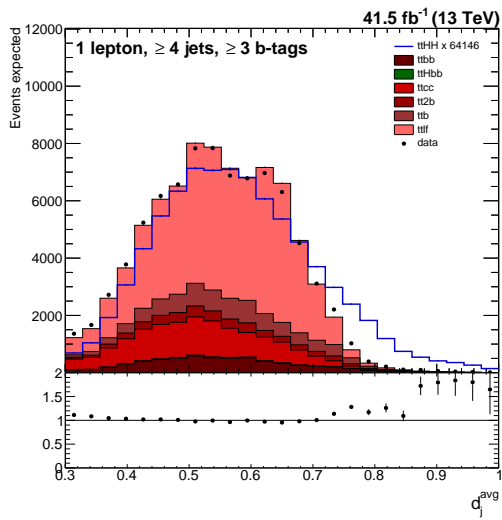
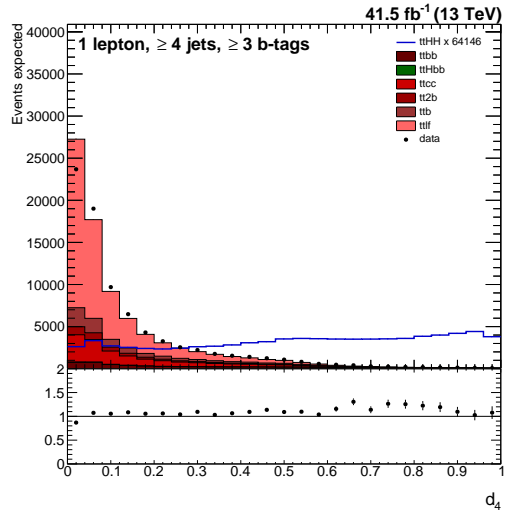
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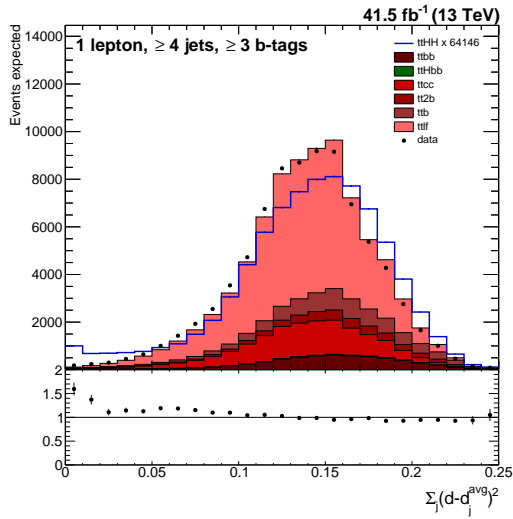
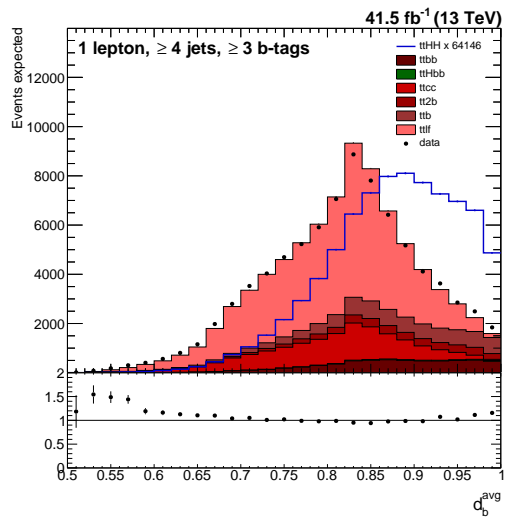
556



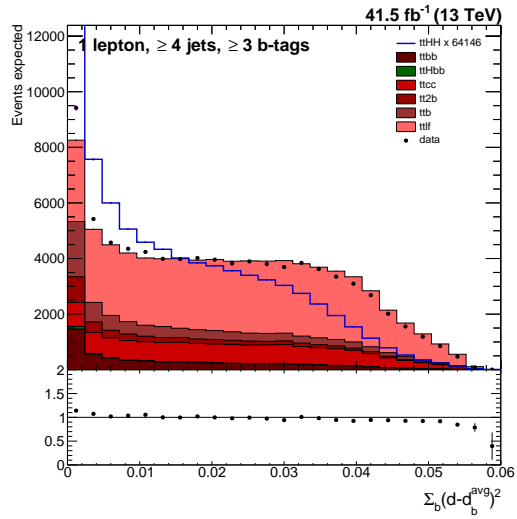
557

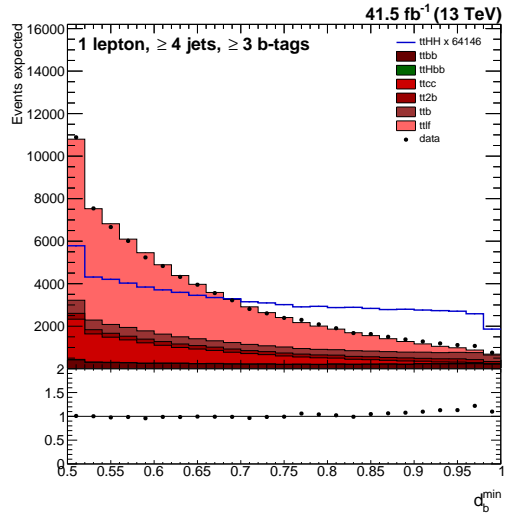
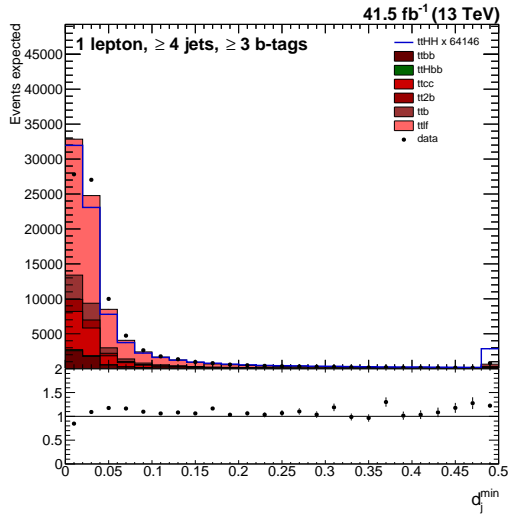


558

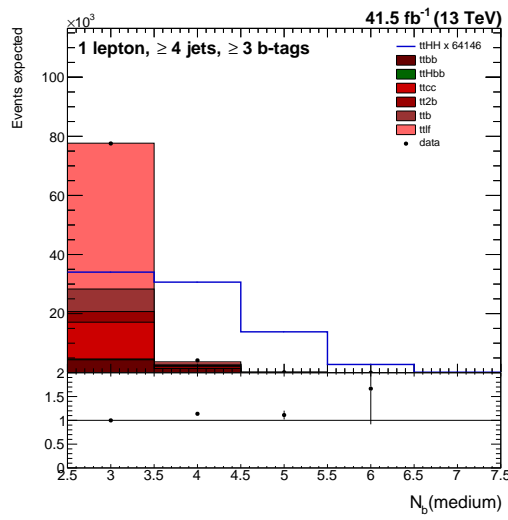
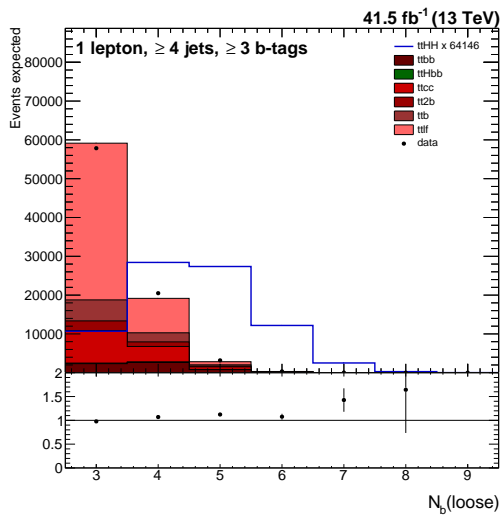


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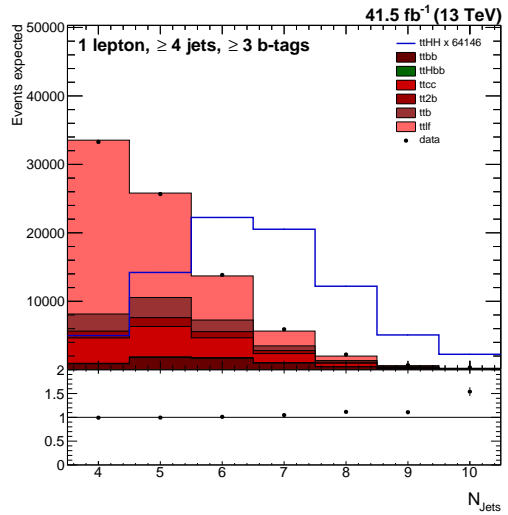
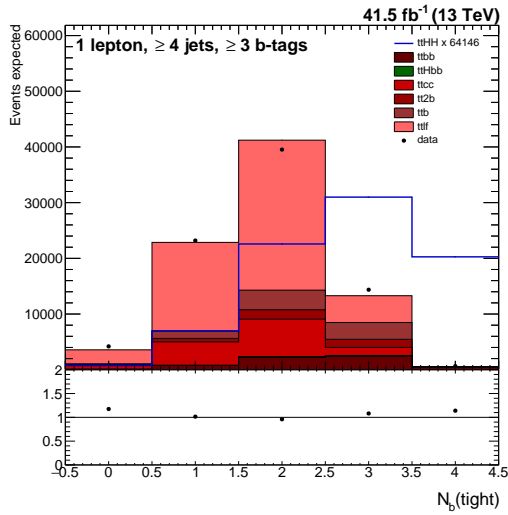




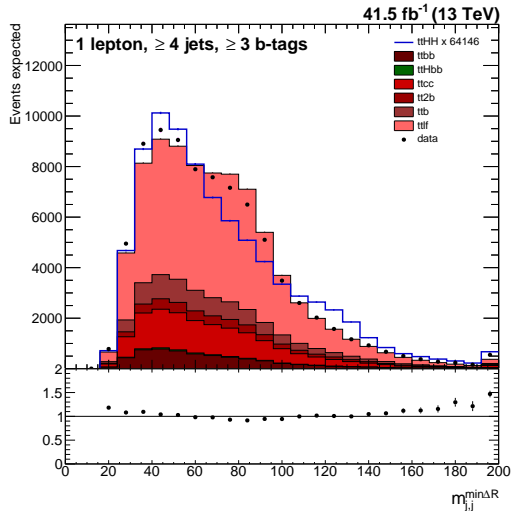
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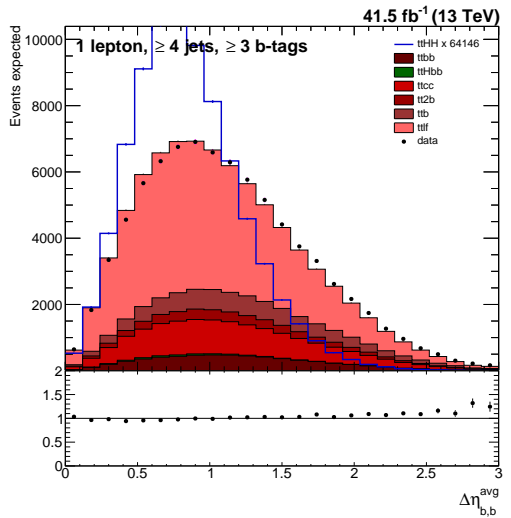
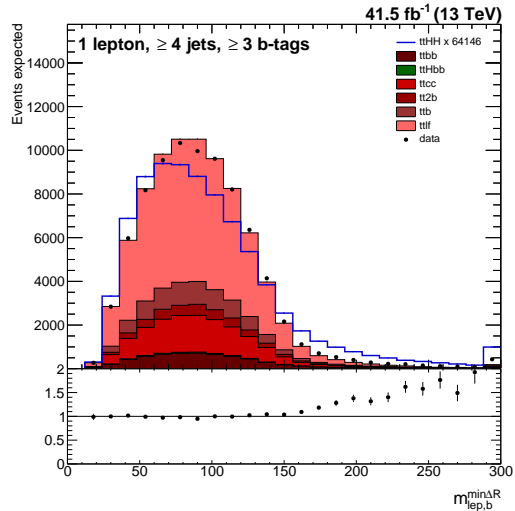
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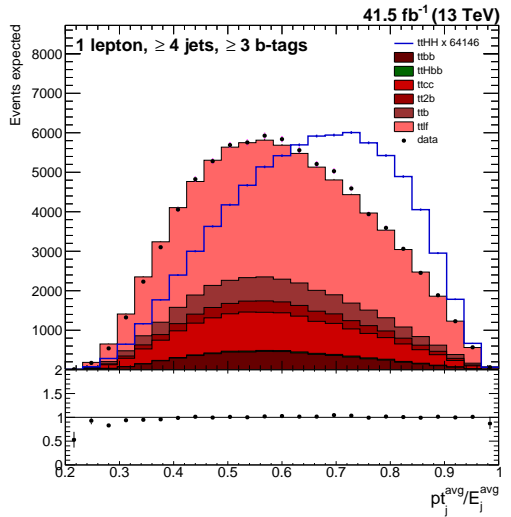
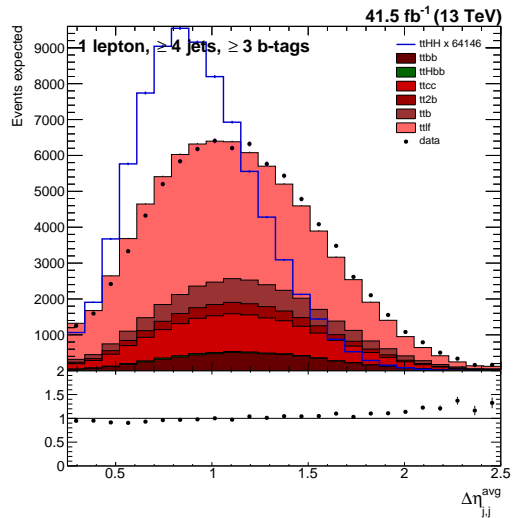
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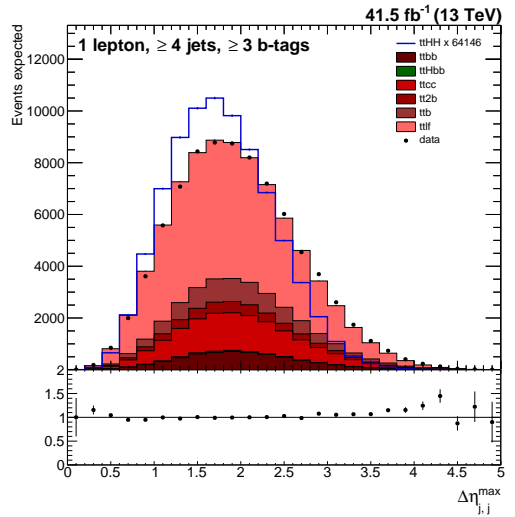
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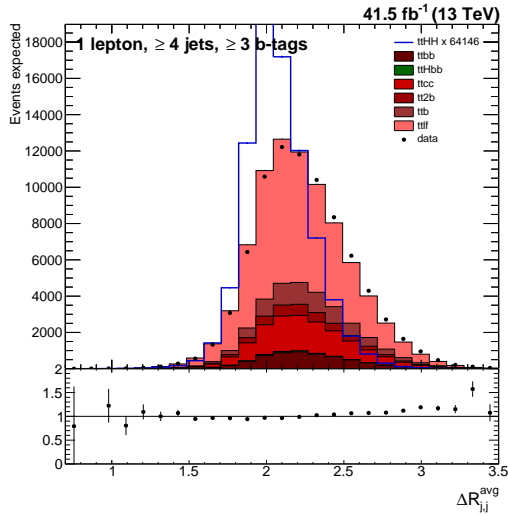


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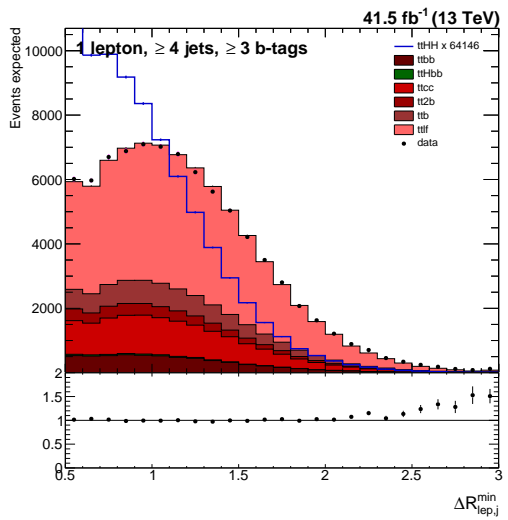
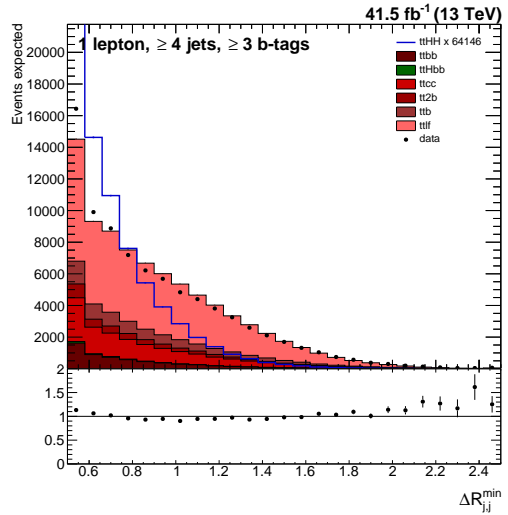


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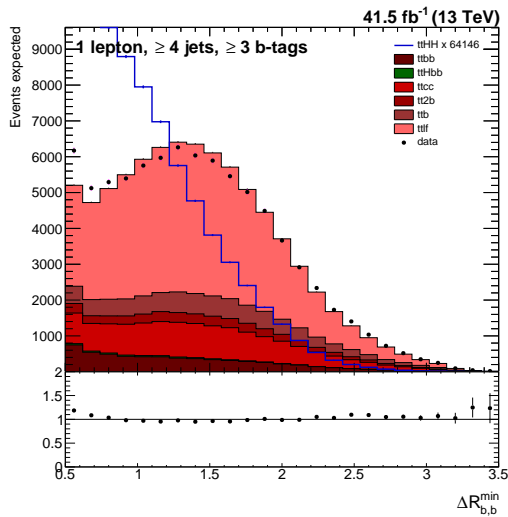
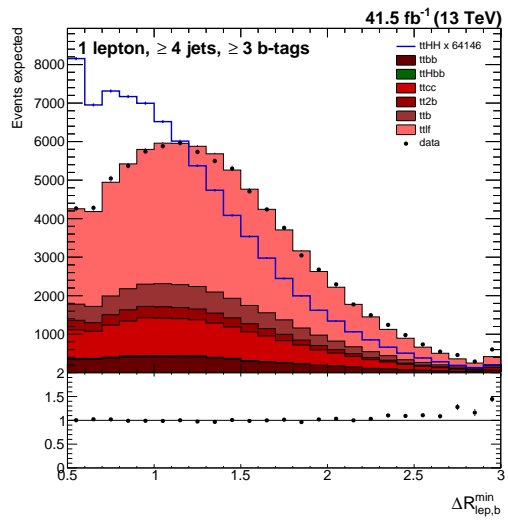




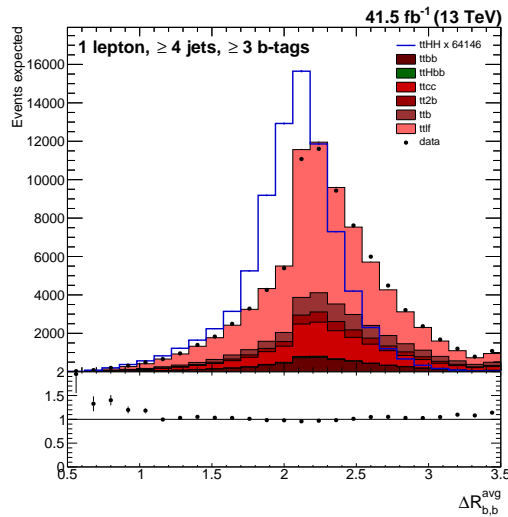
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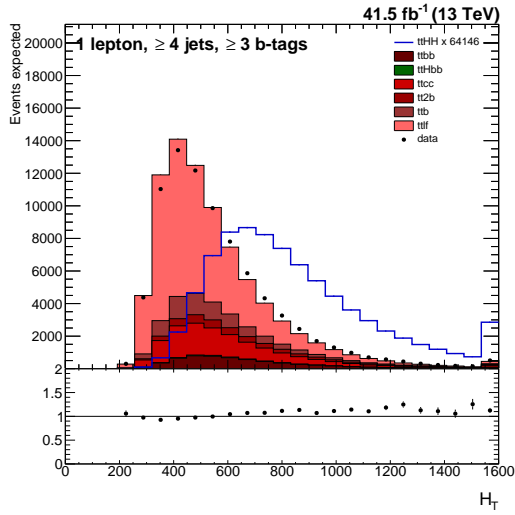


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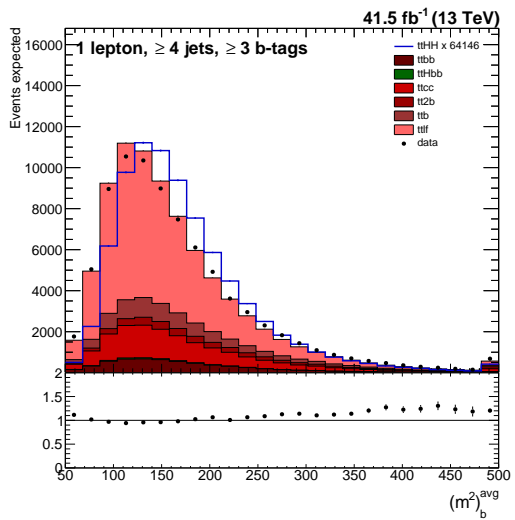
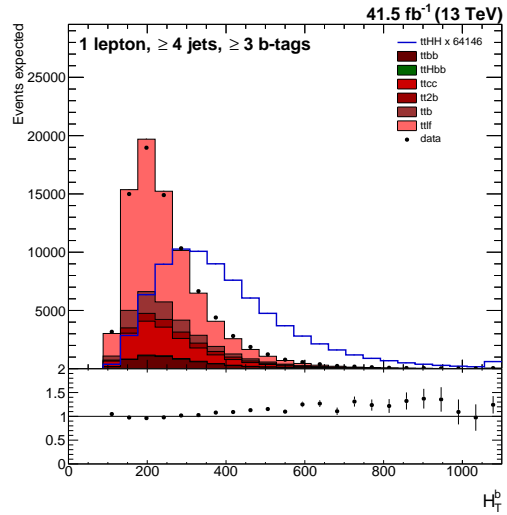


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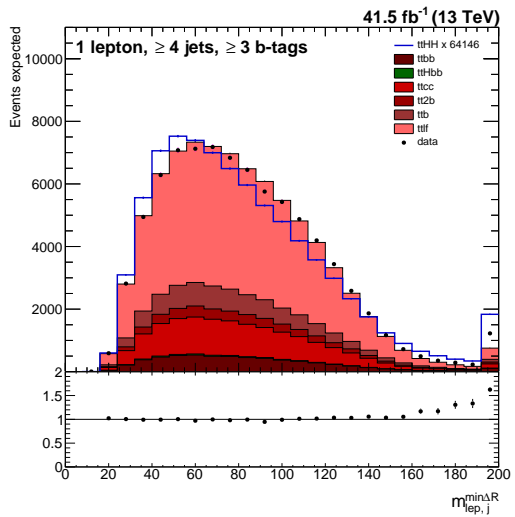
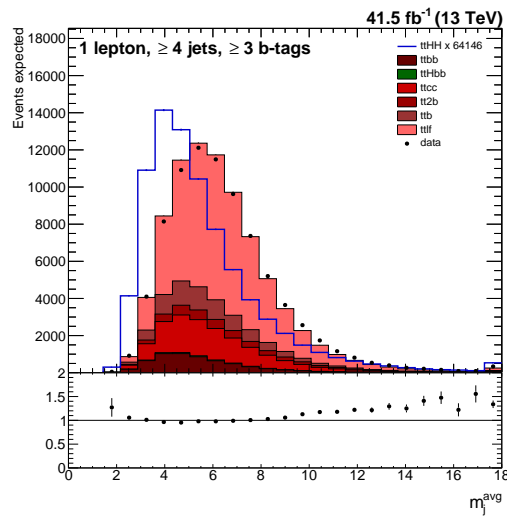




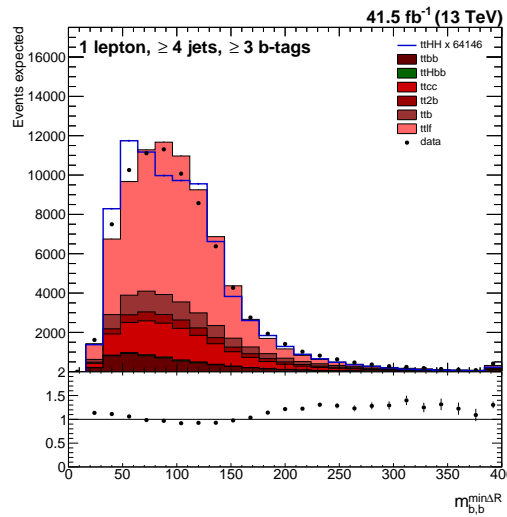
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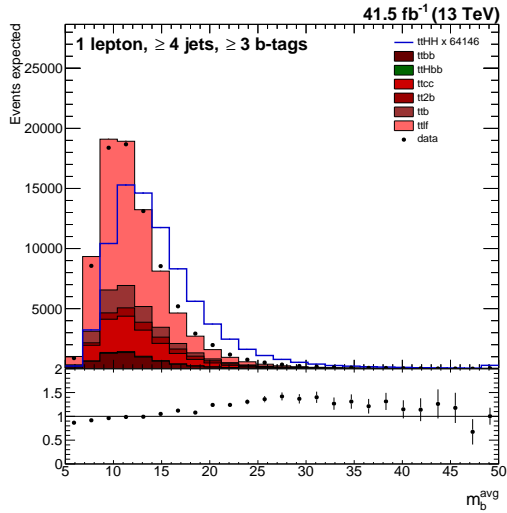


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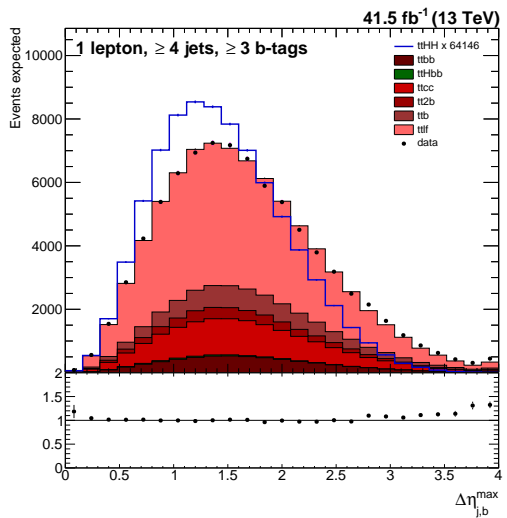
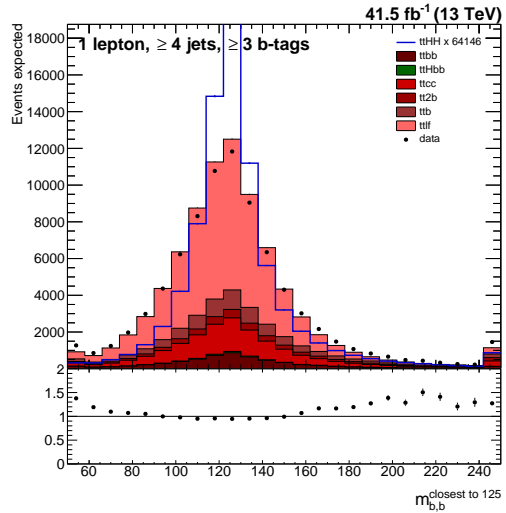


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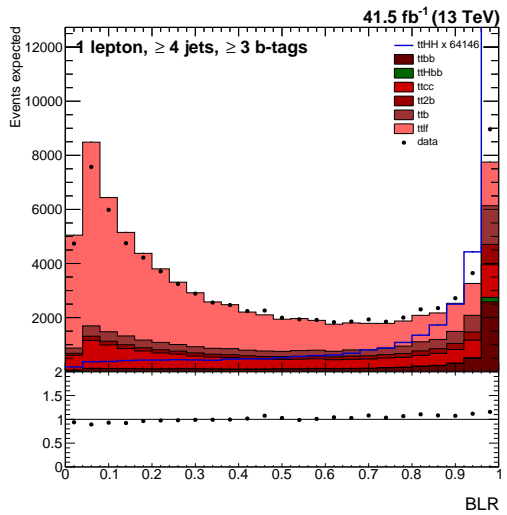
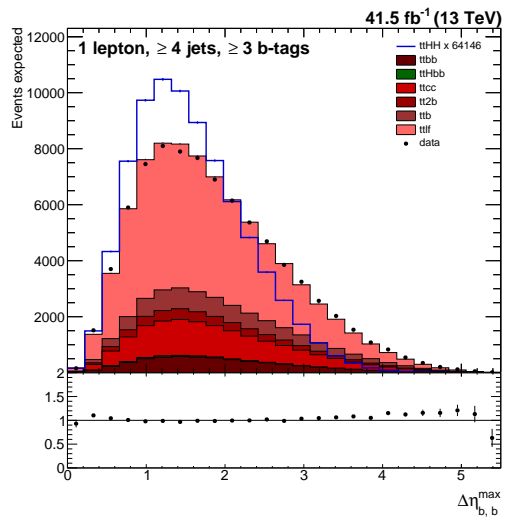




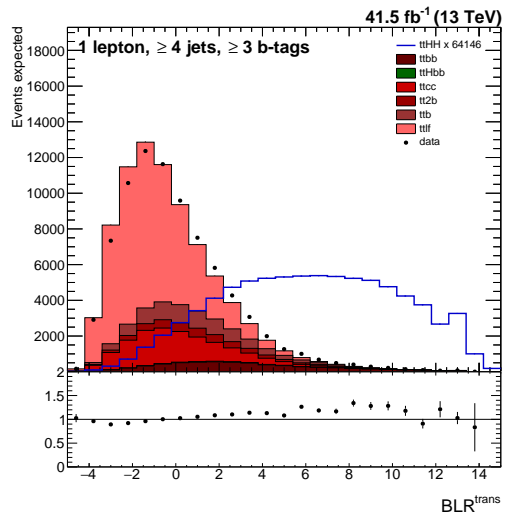
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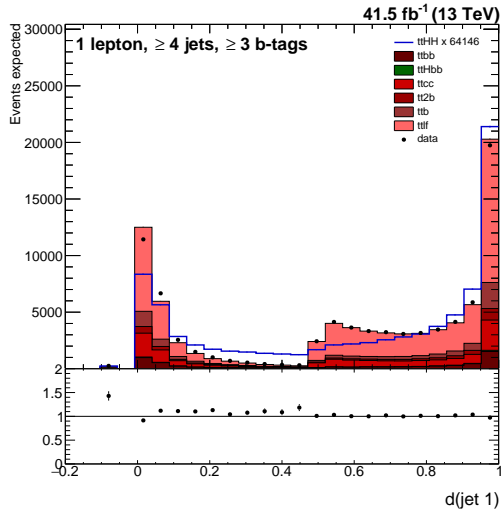


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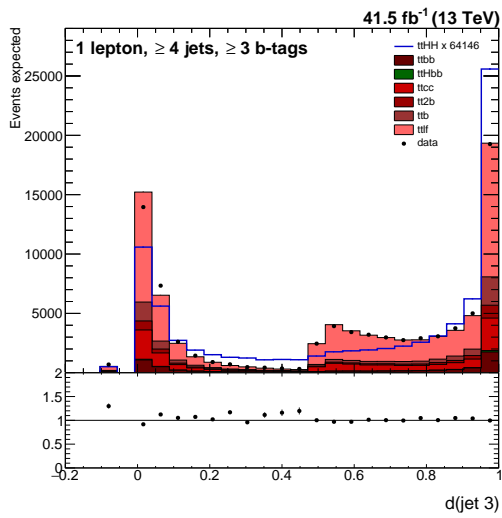
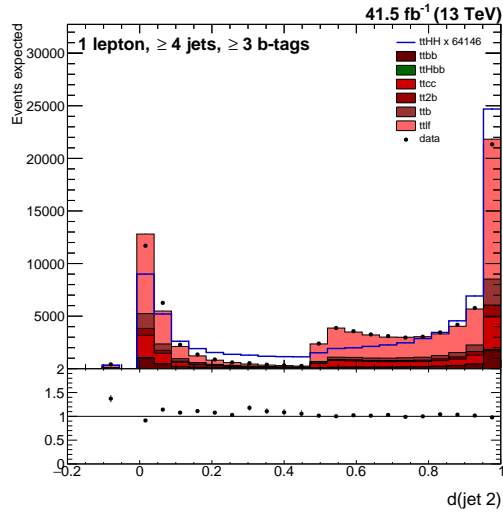


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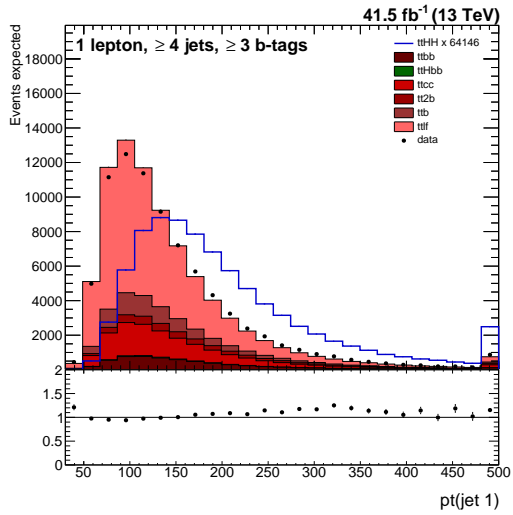
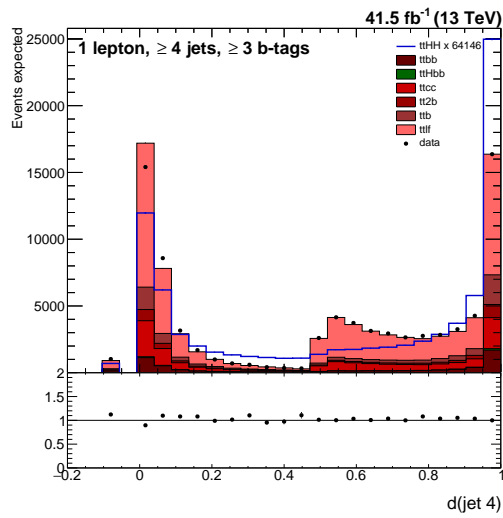




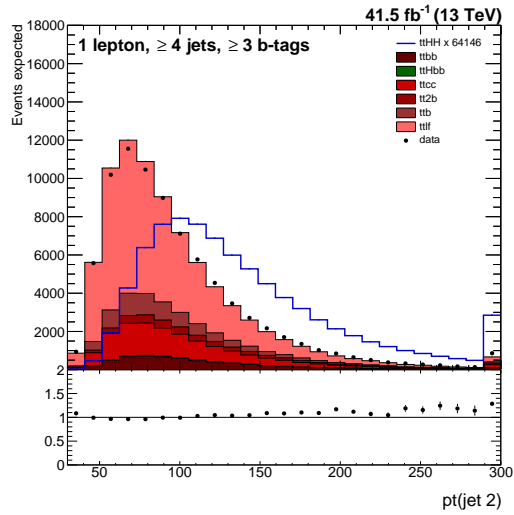
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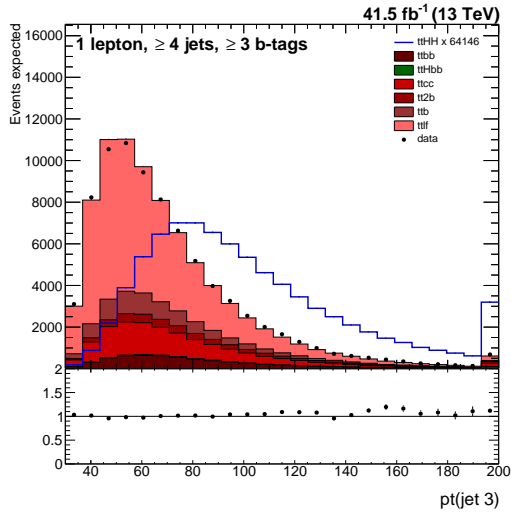


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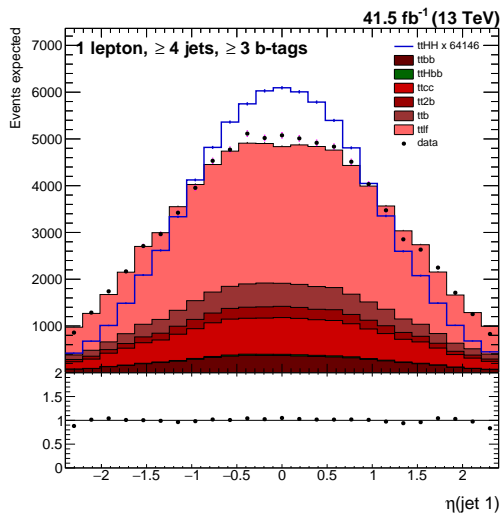
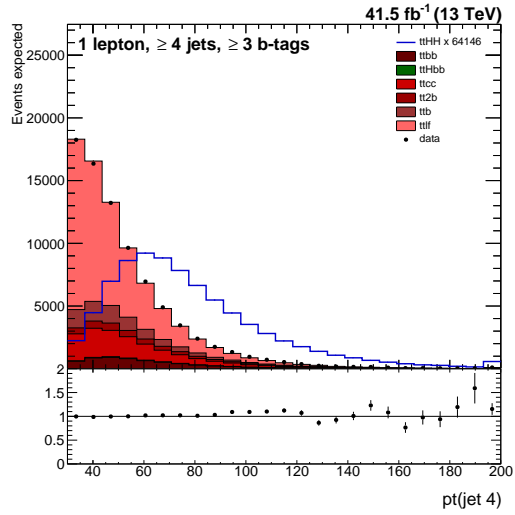


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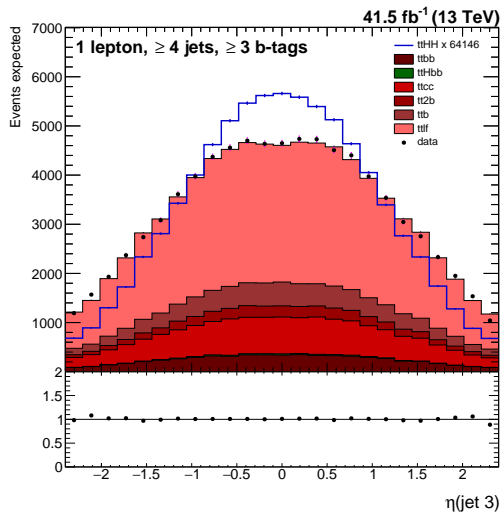
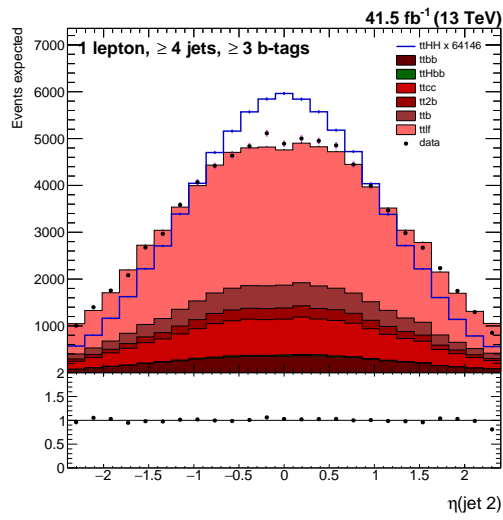




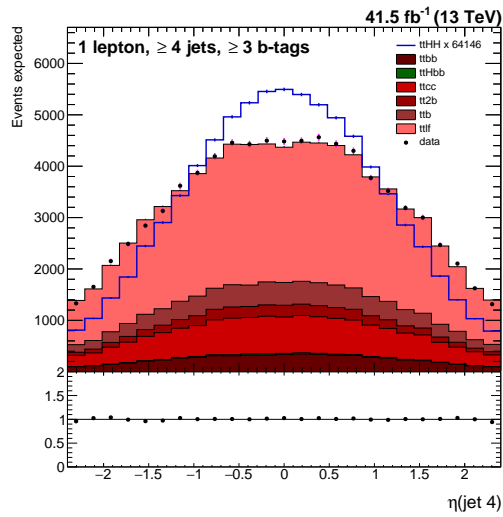
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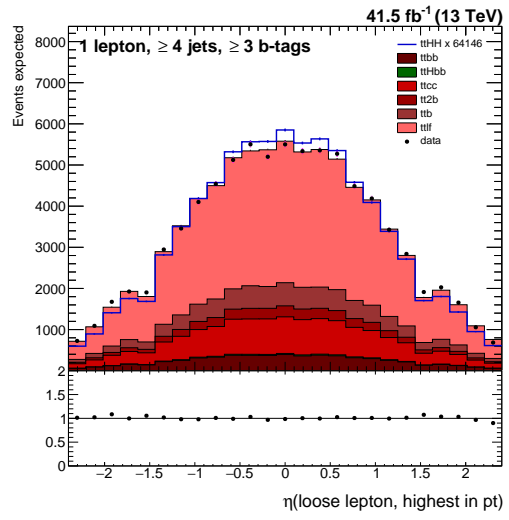
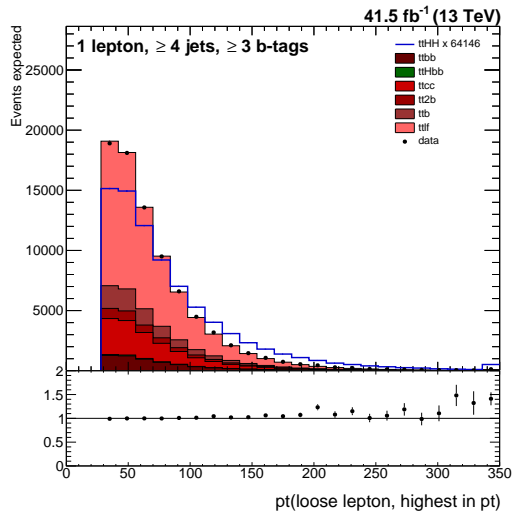


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