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# Search for direct pair production of supersymmetric top quarks decaying to all-hadronic final states in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV

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## Abstract

Results are reported from a search for the pair production of top squarks, the supersymmetric partners of top quarks, in final states with jets and missing transverse momentum. The data sample used in this search was collected by the CMS detector and corresponds to an integrated luminosity of  $18.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of proton-proton collisions at a centre-of-mass energy of 8 TeV produced by the LHC. The search features novel background suppression and prediction methods, including a dedicated top quark pair reconstruction algorithm. The data are found to be in agreement with the predicted backgrounds. Exclusion limits are set in simplified supersymmetry models with the top squark decaying to jets and an undetected neutralino, either through an on-shell top quark or through a bottom quark and chargino. Models with the top squark decaying via an on-shell top quark are excluded for top squark masses up to 755 GeV in the case of neutralino masses below 200 GeV. For decays via a chargino, top squark masses up to 620 GeV are excluded, depending on the masses of the chargino and neutralino.

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\*See Appendix A for the list of collaboration members



## 1 Introduction

The standard model (SM) of particle physics is an extremely powerful framework for the description of the known elementary particles and their interactions. Nevertheless, the existence of dark matter [1–3] inferred from astrophysical observations, together with a wide array of theoretical considerations, all point to the likelihood of physics beyond the SM. New physics could be in the vicinity of the electroweak (EW) scale and accessible to experiments at the CERN LHC [4]. In addition, the recent discovery of a Higgs boson [5–7] at a mass of 125 GeV [8–10] has meant that the hierarchy problem, also known as the ‘fine-tuning’ or ‘naturalness’ problem [11–16], is no longer hypothetical.

A broader theory that can address many of the problems associated with the SM is supersymmetry (SUSY) [17–21], which postulates a symmetry between fermions and bosons. In particular, a SUSY particle (generically referred to as a ‘sparticle’ or ‘superpartner’) is proposed for each SM particle. A sparticle is expected to have the same couplings and quantum numbers as its SM counterpart with the exception of spin, which differs by a half-integer. Spin-1/2 SM fermions (quarks and leptons) are thus paired with spin-0 sfermions (the squarks and sleptons). There is a similar, but slightly more complicated pairing for bosons; SUSY models have extended Higgs sectors that contain neutral and charged higgsinos that mix with the SUSY partners of the neutral and charged EW gauge bosons, respectively. The resulting mixed states are referred to as neutralinos  $\tilde{\chi}^0$  and charginos  $\tilde{\chi}^\pm$ .

Supersymmetry protects the mass of the Higgs boson against divergent quantum corrections associated with virtual SM particles by providing cancellations via the corresponding corrections for virtual superpartners [22–25]. Since no sparticles have been observed to date, they are generally expected to be more massive than their SM counterparts. On the other hand, sparticle masses cannot be arbitrarily large if they are to stabilise the Higgs boson mass without an unnatural level of fine-tuning. This is particularly important for the partners of the third generation SM particles that have large Yukawa couplings to the Higgs boson [26–29]. The top and bottom squarks ( $\tilde{t}$  and  $\tilde{b}$ ), are expected to be among the lightest sparticles and potentially the most accessible at the LHC, especially when all other constraints are taken into consideration [27, 30]. With conservation of R-parity [31, 32], SUSY particles are produced in pairs and the lightest SUSY particle (LSP) is stable. If the lightest weakly interacting neutralino ( $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ ) is the stable LSP, it is a leading candidate for dark matter [33]. Based upon these considerations, it is of particular interest at the LHC to look for evidence of the production of  $\tilde{t}\tilde{t}$  with decay chains of the  $\tilde{t}$  and  $\tilde{t}$  ending in SM particles and LSPs. The latter do not interact with material in the detector and so must have their presence inferred from missing transverse momentum  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$ , which in each event is defined as the projection of the negative vector sum of the momenta of all reconstructed particles onto the plane perpendicular to the beam line. Its magnitude is referred to as  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ .

Within the Simplified Model Spectra framework [34–36] the study presented here considers two broad classes of signals that lead to a  $b\bar{b}q\bar{q}\bar{q}\bar{q} + E_T^{\text{miss}}$  final state via decay modes denoted T2tt and T2bW. These are defined, respectively, as (i)  $\tilde{t}$  decay to an on-shell top quark:  $\tilde{t} \rightarrow t\tilde{\chi}_1^0 \rightarrow bW^+\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ , and (ii)  $\tilde{t}$  decay via a chargino:  $\tilde{t} \rightarrow b\tilde{\chi}^+ \rightarrow bW^+\tilde{\chi}_1^0$ . Figure 1 shows the diagrams representing these two simplified models. The two decay modes are not mutually exclusive, and it is possible for one of the top squarks to decay as in T2tt and the other as in T2bW. However, such a scenario is not considered in the analysis presented here.

With event characteristics of these signals in mind, we have developed a search for pair production of top squarks with decays that result in a pair of LSPs in the final state in addition to

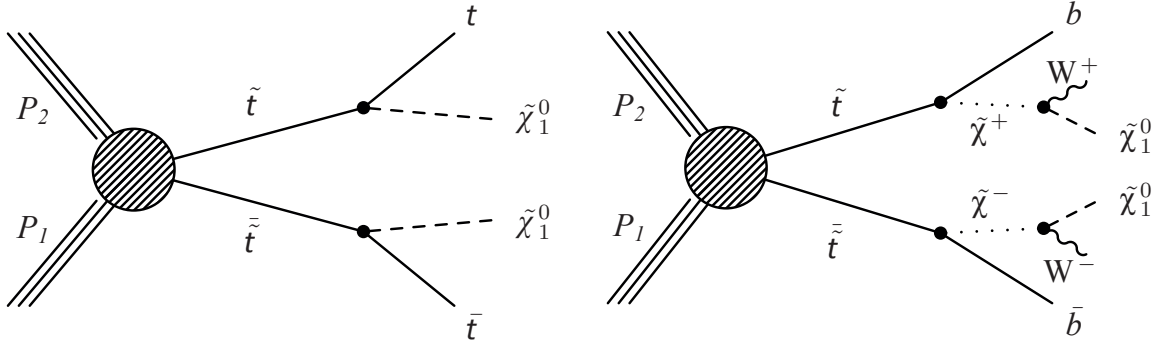


Figure 1: Diagrams representing the two simplified models of direct top squark pair production considered in this study: T2tt with top squark decay via an on-shell top quark (left) and T2bW with top squark decay via a chargino (right).

SM particles. Two selection criteria address the desire to extract a potentially very small signal from a sample dominated by top quark pair events. The first criterion comes from the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  signature associated with the LSPs, which motivates the focus on all-hadronic final states, as this eliminates large sources of SM background events with genuine  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  from neutrinos in leptonic  $W$  decays. The all-hadronic final state with  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  comprises the largest portion of the signal because  $W$  bosons decay predominantly to quarks. For the same reason this final state makes up an even higher proportion of the subset of events with high jet multiplicity including many jets with high transverse momentum,  $p_T$ , that is often required in SUSY searches to eliminate SM backgrounds. The second criterion relies upon the identification of top quark decay products to eliminate such backgrounds as SM production of  $W$  bosons in association with jets. Together, these criteria define a preselection region consisting of events that pass stringent vetoes on the presence of charged leptons, and are required to have large  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , two tagged  $b$  quark jets, and four additional jets from the hadronisation and decay of light quarks.

In spite of these stringent requirements, the low production cross sections of new physics signals mean that they are easily overwhelmed by SM backgrounds. In the case of SUSY, for example, the cross section for the production of top squark pairs with  $m_{\tilde{t}} = 800 \text{ GeV}$  is predicted to be nearly five orders of magnitude smaller than that of top quark pairs [37]. For this reason, this analysis focuses heavily on the development of innovative approaches to background suppression. The relevant SM processes contributing to this analysis fall into four main categories: (i) top quark and  $W$  boson events where the  $W$  decays leptonically, thereby contributing genuine  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , but the lepton is not successfully reconstructed or identified, or it is outside the acceptance of the detector; (ii) invisible decays of the  $Z$  boson when produced in association with jets,  $Z$ +jets with  $Z \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$ ; (iii) QCD multijet production, which, due to its very large rate, can produce events with substantial  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  in the very rare cases of extreme mismeasurements of jet momenta in events with true or mistagged  $b$  jets; and (iv)  $t\bar{t}Z$  production (with  $Z \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$ ), which is an irreducible background to signals with top squark decays via on-shell top quarks. The  $t\bar{t}Z$  process has a small cross section that has been measured by ATLAS and CMS to be  $176_{-52}^{+58} \text{ fb}^{-1}$  [38] and  $242_{-55}^{+65} \text{ fb}^{-1}$  [39], respectively.

The first step in developing the search is the construction of a set of optimised vetoes for all three lepton flavours that reduce SM backgrounds for both signal types. Next, specific features of each signal type are exploited by combining several variables in a multivariate analysis (MVA) based upon Boosted Decision Trees (BDT). For T2tt, a high performance hadronic top quark decay reconstruction algorithm is developed and used to facilitate discrimination of signal from background by using details of top quark kinematics.

Previous searches in the leptonic as well as the hadronic channels place limits on models with  $m_{\tilde{t}} < 750$  GeV for  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} < 100$  GeV and have sensitivity to some models with  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} < 280$  GeV [40, 41]. Previous searches for top and bottom squark pair production at the LHC are presented in Refs. [42–54]. Previous searches at the Tevatron are presented in Refs. [55–62].

This paper is organised as follows: Section 2 describes the CMS detector, while Section 3 discusses event reconstruction, event selection, and Monte Carlo (MC) simulations of signal and background. The top quark pair reconstruction algorithm and lepton vetoes are described in Sections 4 and 5, respectively. The search regions are discussed in Section 6, and the evaluation of backgrounds is presented in Section 7 along with a discussion of the method of MC reweighting. Final results and their interpretations are presented in Section 8, followed by a summary in Section 9.

## 2 CMS detector

The central feature of the CMS apparatus is a superconducting solenoid of 6 m internal diameter, providing a magnetic field of 3.8 T. Within the solenoid volume are a silicon pixel and strip tracker, a lead tungstate crystal electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), and a brass and scintillator hadron calorimeter (HCAL), each composed of a barrel and two endcap sections. Extensive forward calorimetry complements the coverage provided by the barrel and endcap detectors.

The silicon tracker measures charged particles within the range  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . Isolated particles of  $p_T = 100$  GeV emitted with  $|\eta| < 1.4$  have track resolutions of 2.8% in  $p_T$  and 10 (30)  $\mu\text{m}$  in the transverse (longitudinal) impact parameter [63]. The ECAL and HCAL measure energy deposits in the range  $|\eta| < 3$ . Quartz-steel forward calorimeters extend the coverage to  $|\eta| = 5$ . The HCAL, when combined with the ECAL, measures jets with a resolution  $\Delta E/E \approx 100\%/\sqrt{E}[\text{GeV}] \oplus 10\%$  [64]. Muons are measured in the range  $|\eta| < 2.4$ . Matching muons to tracks measured in the silicon tracker results in a relative  $p_T$  resolution for muons with  $20 < p_T < 100$  GeV of 1.3–2.0% in the barrel and better than 6% in the endcaps. The  $p_T$  resolution in the barrel is better than 10% for muons with  $p_T$  up to 1 TeV [65].

The events used in the searches presented here were collected using a two-tiered trigger system: a hardware-based level-1 trigger and a software-based high-level trigger. A more complete description of the CMS detector, together with a definition of the coordinate system used and the relevant kinematic variables, can be found in [66].

## 3 Data sample and event selection

This search uses data corresponding to an integrated luminosity of  $18.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  collected at a centre-of-mass energy of 8 TeV [67]. Events are reconstructed with the CMS particle-flow (PF) algorithm [68, 69]. Each particle is identified as a charged hadron, neutral hadron, photon, muon, or electron by means of an optimised combination of information from the tracker, the calorimeters, and the muon systems. The energy of a photon is obtained from the ECAL measurement, corrected for zero suppression effects. For an electron the energy is determined from a combination of its estimated momentum at the primary interaction vertex as determined by the tracker, the energy of the corresponding ECAL cluster, and the energy sum of all bremsstrahlung photons spatially compatible with originating from the electron track [70]. Muon momentum is obtained from the curvature of the corresponding track. The energy of charged hadrons is determined from a combination of the momentum measured in the tracker and the matching ECAL and HCAL energy deposits, corrected for zero-suppression effects and

for the response function of the calorimeters to hadronic showers. Charged hadrons associated with vertices other than the primary vertex, defined as the pp interaction vertex with the largest sum of charged-track  $p_T^2$  values, are not considered. Finally, the energies of neutral hadrons are obtained from the corresponding corrected ECAL and HCAL energies.

Particles reconstructed with the CMS PF algorithm are clustered into jets by the anti- $k_T$  algorithm [71, 72] with a distance parameter of 0.5 in the  $\eta$ - $\phi$  plane. For a jet, the momentum is determined as the vectorial sum of all associated particle momenta and is found from MC simulated data to be within 5–10% of the true momentum of the generated particle from which the jet originates over the whole  $p_T$  spectrum and detector acceptance. An offset correction determined for each jet via the average  $p_T$  density per unit area and the jet area is applied to jet energies to take into account the contribution from pileup, defined as the additional proton-proton interactions within the same or adjacent bunch crossings [64]. Jet energy corrections are derived from simulated events and are confirmed with in situ measurements of the energy balance in dijet and photon+jet events. Additional selection criteria are applied to each event to remove spurious jet-like features originating from isolated noise patterns in certain HCAL regions [73].

Jets referred to as ‘picky jets’, are the input to the Comprehensively Optimised Resonance Reconstruction ALgorithm (CORRAL) for top quark reconstruction. The picky jet collection is not constrained to any fixed characteristic width or cutoff in reconstruction and is therefore more effective in isolating the clusters of particles associated with the main top decay products, such as the b quark jet and the two jets associated with the W boson decay. This leads to an improvement in the reconstruction of top quark decays with a wide range of Lorentz boosts, as expected in signal events. The CORRAL and picky jet algorithms are described in Section 4.

Jets are identified as originating from the hadronisation of a bottom quark (b-tagged) by means of the CMS combined secondary vertex (CSV) tagger [74, 75]. The standard CMS “tight” operating point for the CSV tagger is used [74], which has approximately 0% b tagging efficiency, 0.1% light flavour jet misidentification rate, and an efficiency of 5% for c quark jets.

Several simulated data samples based on MC event generators are used throughout this analysis. Signal samples are produced using the MADGRAPH (version 5.1.3.30) [76] event generator with CTEQ6L [77] parton distribution functions (PDFs). For both the T2tt and T2bW signals, the top squark mass ( $m_{\tilde{t}}$ ) is varied from 200 to 1000 GeV, while the LSP mass ( $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$ ) is varied from 0 to 700 GeV for T2tt and 0 to 550 GeV for T2bW. The masses are varied in steps of 25 GeV in all cases. For the T2bW sample the chargino mass is defined via the fraction  $x$  applied to the top squark and neutralino masses as follows:  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^\pm} = x m_{\tilde{t}} + (1 - x) m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$ . We consider three fractions for  $x$  : 0.25, 0.50, and 0.75.

Standard model backgrounds are generated with MADGRAPH, POWHEG (version 1.0 r1380) [78–82], PYTHIA (version 6.4.26) [83], or MC@NLO (version 3.41) [84, 85]. The MADGRAPH generator is used for the generation of Z and W bosons accompanied by up to three additional partons as well as for diboson and  $t\bar{t}W$  processes, while the single top quark and  $t\bar{t}$  processes are generated with POWHEG. Multijet QCD events are produced in two samples, one generated with PYTHIA and the other with MADGRAPH. The  $t\bar{t}Z$  background has final states that are extremely similar to those of the signal, making it impossible to define useful data control samples. For this reason, the MC@NLO generator is used, while an additional sample generated with MADGRAPH is employed to calculate a systematic uncertainty in the  $t\bar{t}Z$  yield. The decays of  $\tau$  leptons are simulated with TAUOLA (version 27.121.5) [86].

The PYTHIA generator is subsequently used to perform parton showering for all signal and

background samples, except for the MC@NLO  $t\bar{t}Z$  sample, which uses HERWIG (version 6.520) [87]. The detector response for all background samples is simulated with GEANT4 [88], while the CMS fast simulation package [89] is used for producing signal samples in the grid of mass points described earlier. Detailed cross checks are performed to ensure that the results obtained with the fast simulation are in agreement with those obtained with the GEANT-based, full simulation.

Events are selected online by a trigger that requires  $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 80$  GeV and the presence of two central ( $|\eta| < 2.4$ ) jets with  $p_T > 50$  GeV. Offline, a preselection of events common to all search samples used in the analyses has the following requirements:

- There must not be any isolated electrons, muons, or tau leptons in the event. This requirement is intended mainly to suppress backgrounds with genuine  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  that arise from W boson decays.
- There must be  $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 175$  GeV and at least two jets with  $p_T > 70$  GeV in the region  $|\eta| < 2.4$ , where the online selection is fully efficient.
- The azimuthal angular separation between each of the two highest  $p_T$  jets and  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  must satisfy  $|\Delta\phi| > 0.5$ , while for the third leading jet, the requirement is  $|\Delta\phi| > 0.3$ . These criteria suppress rare QCD multijet events with severely mismeasured high- $p_T$  jets.

Baseline selections for the two targeted signal types are then defined by the following additional requirements. The T2tt baseline selection requires one or more b-tagged picky jets with  $p_T > 30$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.4$ , and at least one pair of top quarks reconstructed by the CORRAL algorithm. The T2bW baseline selection requires at least five jets ( $p_T > 30$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.4$ ) of which at least one must be b-tagged. SM background yields, estimated as described in Section 7, and signal yields after the baseline selections are shown in Table 1. The trigger efficiency is measured to be greater than 95% for events passing these baseline selections.

Table 1: Estimated SM background yields as obtained with the methods described in Section 7, and the observed data yields for the T2tt and T2bW baseline selections. The T2bW yield corresponds to the simplified model point with  $m_{\tilde{t}} = 600$  GeV,  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 0$  GeV, and  $x = 0.75$ , and the T2tt yield is for the simplified model point with  $m_{\tilde{t}} = 700$  GeV and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 0$  GeV. The uncertainties listed are statistical only.

	T2tt baseline selection yield	T2bW baseline selection yield
$t\bar{t}$ , W+jets, and single t	$1685 \pm 19$	$1832 \pm 18$
Z+jets	$263.3 \pm 3.7$	$207.5 \pm 3.4$
$t\bar{t}Z$	$28.14 \pm 0.57$	$28.92 \pm 0.57$
QCD multijet	$176 \pm 34$	$175 \pm 33$
All SM backgrounds	$2152 \pm 39$	$2243 \pm 38$
Observed data	2161	2159
T2tt (700/0)	$29.47 \pm 0.17$	—
T2bW (600/0/0.75)	—	$69.26 \pm 0.47$

## 4 Top quark pair reconstruction for the T2tt simplified model

The T2tt and T2bW signal modes involve the same final-state particles but differ in that only T2tt involves the decays of on-shell top quarks. The only SM background with potentially large  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  and a visible component that is identical to that of T2tt is  $t\bar{t}Z$ , with the  $t\bar{t}$  pair decaying

hadronically and the Z boson decaying invisibly to neutrinos. Efficient identification of a pair of hadronically decaying top quarks in events with large  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  provides an important means of suppressing most other backgrounds. As mentioned in the previous section, we developed the CORRAL dedicated top quark reconstruction algorithm for this purpose. Kinematic properties of the top quark candidates reconstructed with CORRAL are exploited to further improve the discrimination of signal from background.

Top quark taggers are typically characterized by high efficiencies for the reconstruction of all-hadronic decays of top quarks that have been Lorentz boosted to sufficiently high momentum for their final state partons and associated showers to form a single collimated jet. Such taggers are not ideal for this analysis because the top quarks from top squark decays can experience a wide range of boosts, and it is not uncommon for one of the top quarks to have a boost that is too low to produce such a coalescence of final-state objects. An additional problem arises with traditional jet algorithms that do not always distinguish two separate clusters of particles whose separation is smaller than their fixed distance parameter or cone radius. In addition, for low- $p_T$  jets and those originating from hadronisation of b quarks, it is not unusual for algorithms with fixed distance metrics to miss some of the particles that should be included in the jet. These issues are addressed by making use of a variable jet-size clustering algorithm that is capable of successfully resolving six jets in the decays of top quark pairs with 30-40% efficiency in moderately boosted events.

The algorithm starts by clustering jets with the Cambridge–Aachen algorithm [90, 91] with a distance parameter of 1.0 in the  $\eta$ - $\phi$  plane to produce what will be referred to as proto-jets. Studies based on MC simulation show that this parameter value is large enough to capture partons down to  $p_T = 20$  GeV originating from top quark decays in most cases of interest. Each proto-jet is then considered for division into a pair of subjets. The N-subjettiness metric [92],  $\tau_N$ , is used to determine the relative compatibility of particles in a proto-jet with a set of “N” jet axes. It is defined as the  $p_T$ -weighted sum of the distances of proto-jet constituents to the nearest jet axis, resulting in lower values when the particles are clustered near jet axes and higher values when they are more widely dispersed. As discussed in Ref. [92], the exclusive two-jet  $k_T$  algorithm [93, 94] can be used to find an initial pair of subjet axes in the proto-jet that approximately minimize the  $\tau_2$  metric. The exclusive two-jet algorithm differs from the inclusive  $k_T$  algorithm in that it does not have a distance parameter. It simply clusters a specified set of particles into exactly two jets. In our case, the axes are varied in the vicinity of the local set until a local minimum in the value of  $\tau_2$  is found. This defines the final set of axes and each particle in the proto-jet is then associated with the closest of the two axes, resulting in two candidate subjets.

An MVA ‘picky’ metric is then used to determine if it is more appropriate to associate the particles with two subjets than with the original proto-jet. The input variables include the  $\tau_1$  and  $\tau_2$  subjettiness metrics, the mass of the proto-jet, the  $(\eta, \phi)$  separation of the two subjets, and a profile of the proto-jet’s energy deposition. An MVA discriminator working point is defined as the threshold value at which the efficiency to correctly split proto-jets into distinct constituent subjets of top quark decays is 95%, while incorrectly splitting fewer than 10% of jets that are already distinct constituents. If the discriminator value doesn’t meet or exceed the threshold, the proto-jet is treated as a single jet and added to the final jet list, otherwise the two subjets enter the proto-jet list to be considered for possible further division. The algorithm runs recursively until there are no remaining proto-jets, yielding a collection of variable-size jet clusters known as ‘picky’ jets.

The efficiency to correctly cluster W bosons (top quarks) into two (three) picky jets satisfying



the basic acceptance requirements of  $p_T > 20$  GeV and  $|\eta| < 2.4$  is shown in Fig. 2 as a function of generated particle  $p_T$  in all-hadronic T2tt events with  $m_{\tilde{t}} = 650$  GeV and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 25$  GeV. In each event the six quarks that originate from all-hadronic decays of the two top quarks are matched to reconstructed picky jets. The matching process uses the decay products of the quarks after hadronization and fragmentation but prior to detector response simulation. The ‘generator-level’ particles are clustered together with the full reconstructed particles used to form the picky jets as described above, but the momentum of each of the generator-level particles is scaled by a very small number so that the picky jet collection is not altered by their inclusion. A quark is then determined to be matched to the picky jet that contains the largest fraction of the quark’s energy if it is greater than 15% of the quark’s total energy. In the case that two or more quarks are associated with the same picky jet, the picky jet is matched to the quark with the largest clustered energy in that jet.

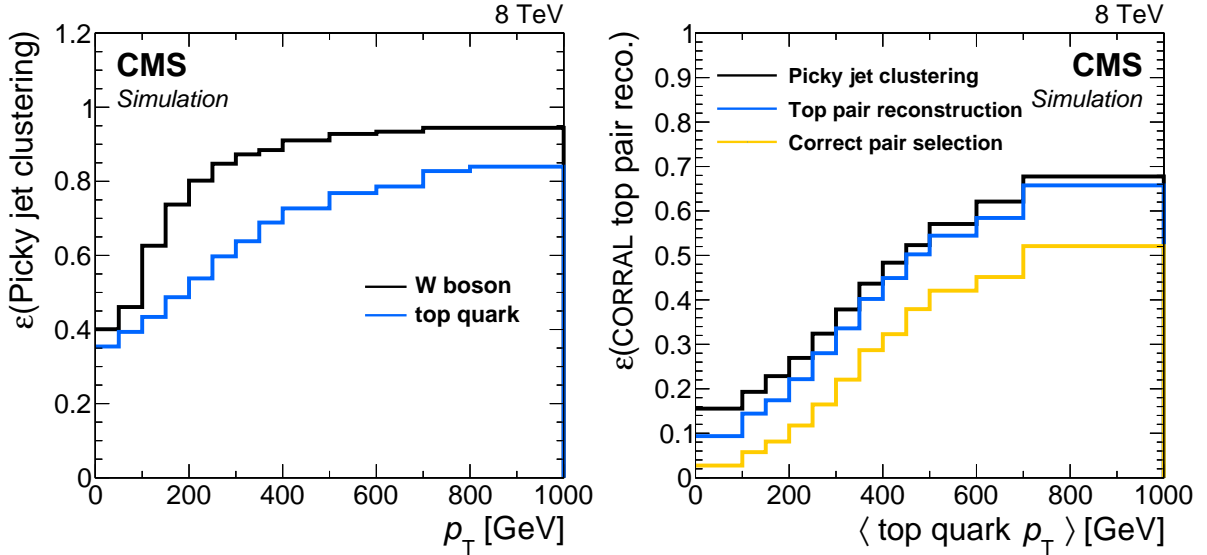


Figure 2: Efficiency as a function of generator level  $p_T$  for picky jet clustering and CORRAL top quark pair reconstruction in all-hadronic T2tt events with  $m_{\tilde{t}} = 650$  GeV and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 25$  GeV. left: The efficiency to correctly cluster each W boson and top quark decay into picky jets as a function of particle  $p_T$ . right: The efficiency at each stage of the CORRAL algorithm to reconstruct a hadronically decaying top quark pair as a function of the average  $p_T$  of the two top quarks. The efficiency to correctly cluster the top quark decays into six picky jets is labeled ‘‘Picky jet clustering’’ and the efficiency to cluster the top quark decays and also reconstruct a top quark pair with these six jets is labelled ‘‘Top pair reconstruction.’’ ‘‘Correct pair selection’’ denotes the efficiency to correctly cluster and reconstruct the top pair decays, and to then correctly select the correct reconstructed top quark pair for use in the analysis.

The energy of each resulting picky jet is corrected for pileup by subtracting the measured energy associated with pileup on a jet-by-jet basis by means of a trimming procedure similar to the one discussed in Ref. [95]. The procedure involves reclustering of the particles associated with the jet into subjets of radius 0.1 in  $\eta$ - $\phi$  and then ordering them by decreasing  $p_T$ . The lowest  $p_T$  subjets are removed one-by-one until the summed momentum and mass of the remaining subjets have minimal differences with the same quantities after subtracting an estimate of the pileup contribution [96]. The reconstructed W boson and top quark masses as a function of the number of reconstructed primary vertices are shown in Fig. 3 in all-hadronic T2tt events with  $m_{\tilde{t}} = 650$  GeV and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 25$  GeV. The reconstructed mass values are seen to have no pileup dependence after the trimming procedure is applied. No additional jet energy scale corrections,

other than those mentioned below, have been derived to remove the remaining 5-10% bias in the reconstructed mass values. The CORRAL algorithm is optimized for the uncorrected top quark and W boson mass values.

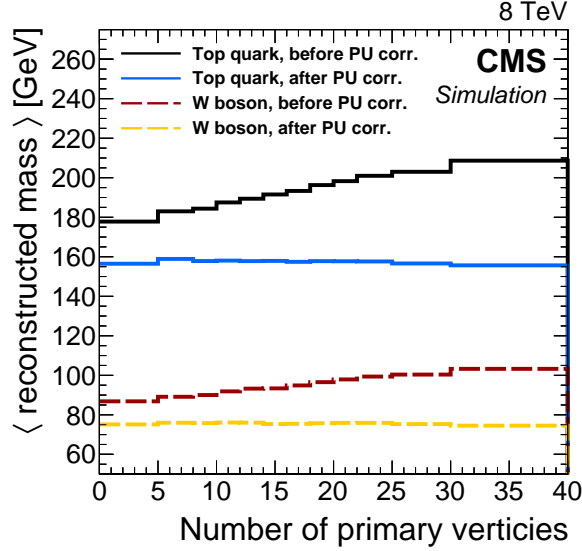


Figure 3: Masses of the top quarks and W bosons reconstructed with picky jets that are matched at particle level in simulation, as discussed in the text, in all-hadronic T2tt events with  $m_{\bar{t}} = 650$  GeV and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 25$  GeV. The labels “before PU corr.” and “after PU corr.” refer to results obtained before and after application of the trimming procedure used to correct for pileup effects.

The  $p_T$  spectra of picky jets in MC data are corrected to match those observed in data in  $t\bar{t}$  and Z+jets control samples by rescaling of individual picky jet  $p_T$  values. The rescaling factors are derived separately for each of the two processes and for the flavour of parton that initiated the jet. They are found to be within 2–3% of unity. Picky jets can also be b-tagged with the CSV algorithm by considering the tracks that have been used in their formation.

A candidate for a hadronically decaying top quark pair is a composite object constructed from six picky jets that passes every step of the CORRAL algorithm, which will now be described. To reduce the number of jet combinations that must be considered, the algorithm involves several stages, with progressively tighter selection criteria at each stage. First, BDTs are trained to discriminate the highest  $p_T$  jet coming from a top quark decay and jets are labeled seed jets if they have an associated discriminator value that exceeds a high efficiency cutoff value. Three-jet top quark candidates are then constructed from all combinations of three jets in the event that include at least one seed jet. High quality top quark candidates are those that pass one of two MVA working points chosen to identify 97–99% of those cases in which the jets are correctly matched to top quark decays and to reject 60–80% of the candidates that are not correctly matched. The most important input variables are the W boson and top quark invariant masses and the picky jet b tagging discriminator value. Other variables such as the angular separations of the jets are included for additional discrimination. A final list of top quark pairs contains all combinations of two high quality top quark candidates with distinct sets of three jets. The final reconstructed top quark pair used in the analysis is the one with the highest discriminator value from a BDT that is trained with variables similar to those used in the candidate selection but also including information on the correlations between the top quark candidates.

The CORRAL algorithm reconstructs at least one top quark pair in every event that has six or

more picky jets. However, CORRAL is not strictly a top quark tagger that must distinguish events with top quarks from events without top quarks. It is designed to reconstruct top quark pairs in data samples that are predominantly made up of top quark events, as is the case for the T2tt part of this analysis. In Fig. 2, the efficiency for correctly resolving the top quark quark pair in T2tt events with  $m_{\bar{t}} = 650$  GeV and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 25$  GeV is shown at each stage of the algorithm. The two hadronic top quark decays are each resolved into three distinct picky jets in 15–70% of events, depending on the boost of the quarks. In nearly all of these events the correct six jets pass the CORRAL jet seeding and top quark candidate selection requirements and are used to form the correct top quark pair among a number of top quark pairs found in the event. The correct reconstructed pair is chosen to be used in the analysis in 30–80% of events, depending on top quark  $p_T$ .

Properties of the reconstructed top quark pairs used in the analysis are compared to true top quark pair quantities in Fig. 4 for events in which the top quark pair is correctly resolved and selected to be used in the analysis and for the events in which the top quark pair is not fully resolved or selected. In the fully resolved and selected case the reconstructed separation in  $\phi$  between the two top quarks agrees with the true separation within 0.1 in over 80% of events. Even in the case of the reconstructed top quark pair not fully resolved or selected, there is reasonable agreement because the top quark pair is constructed with five of the six correct jets in the majority of these events.

The signal discrimination that is achieved by exploiting differences in the kinematics of the reconstructed top quark pairs in simulated signal samples and those in simulated SM background samples is illustrated in both simulation and data in Fig. 5. The left plot shows the minimum separation in the  $\eta$ - $\phi$  plane between any two jets in the reconstructed top quark candidate with the highest discriminator value, labelled  $t_1$ . The separation tends to be smaller in T2tt signal events because the top quarks with the highest discriminator value are more likely to be boosted. Similarly, the right plot shows the distribution for the separation in  $\phi$  between the jet direction and  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  for the jet with the smallest such separation from the sub-leading reconstructed top quark, labelled  $t_2$ . The distribution for the semileptonic  $t\bar{t}$  background, involving  $t\bar{t}$  events in which one W boson decays leptonically, is shifted to low values of  $\Delta\phi$  because the  $t_2$  top quark candidates in  $t\bar{t}$  events typically use the b jet from the leptonically decaying top quark, which is correlated in angle with the  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  from the leptonically decaying W boson.

## 5 Rejection of isolated leptons

Searches for top and bottom squarks in data samples containing leptons have been the subject of previous searches that are among those referenced in the introduction. This analysis uses independent data samples with no identified leptons for the final signal searches. The main backgrounds for this analysis nevertheless arise from semileptonic  $t\bar{t}$  events with lost or misidentified leptons. Sensitivity to signal is therefore improved by identifying and rejecting events with charged leptons originating from prompt W boson decays as efficiently as possible. On the other hand, signal events often contain identified charged leptons that do not arise from W boson decays. These include leptons from decays of hadrons, or charged hadrons that have been misidentified as charged leptons. It is advantageous to not reject these events in order to achieve high signal efficiency. In events with  $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 175$  GeV and five or more jets, the standard CMS lepton identification algorithms operating at their tightest working points can identify semileptonic  $t\bar{t}$  events with efficiencies of 54% and 60% for final states involving electrons and muons, respectively. This analysis makes use of MVA techniques to achieve higher

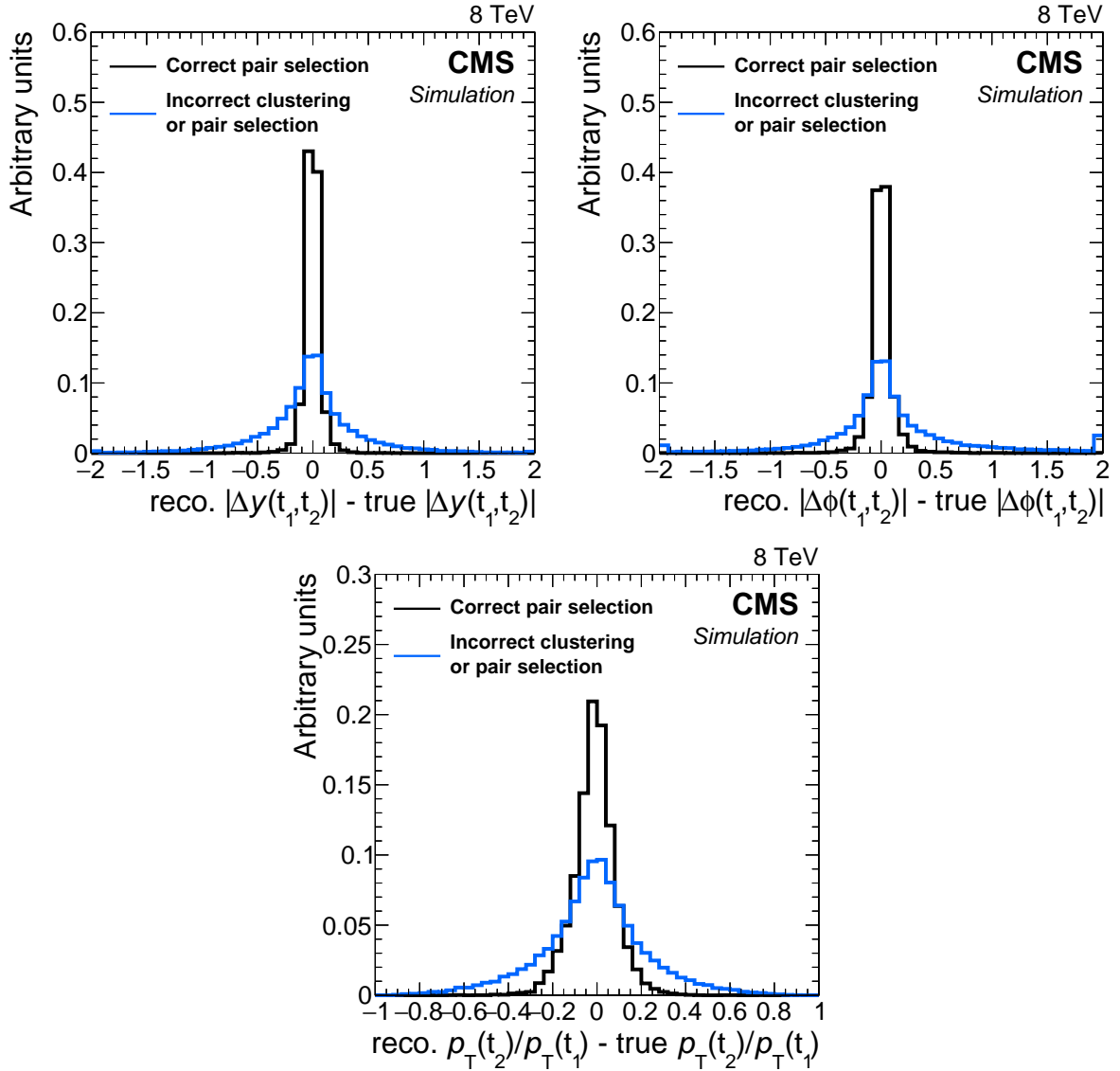


Figure 4: Properties of the reconstructed top quark pair used in the analysis are compared to their true properties in all-hadronic T2tt events with  $m_{\bar{t}} = 650 \text{ GeV}$  and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 25 \text{ GeV}$ . The label “Correct pair selection” corresponds to events in which the two top quark decays are each resolved into three distinct picky jets and these jets are used to reconstruct the two top quarks. The label “Incorrect clustering or pair selection” is used for all other events. The top two figures show comparisons of the angular separation between the two top quarks in rapidity,  $y \equiv -(1/2) \ln[(E + p_z)/(E - p_z)]$ , and azimuthal angle  $\phi$ . The bottom figure compares the relative  $p_T$  of the two top quarks. In all cases,  $t_1$  refers to the top quark with the highest  $p_T$ .

efficiencies for the identification and rejection of semileptonic  $t\bar{t}$  events, while retaining high signal efficiency.

The MVAs used here combine a number of moderately discriminating quantities into a single metric that can be used for electron and muon identification. Electrons and muons must have  $p_T > 5 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $|\eta| < 2.4$ , and are required to satisfy the conditions for the loose working point of the standard CMS identification algorithms [65, 70], for which the efficiencies for electrons and muons in the tracker acceptance are above 90%. The discriminating variables used in the training of the muon identification BDT are the  $p_T$  of the muon, its track impact parameter

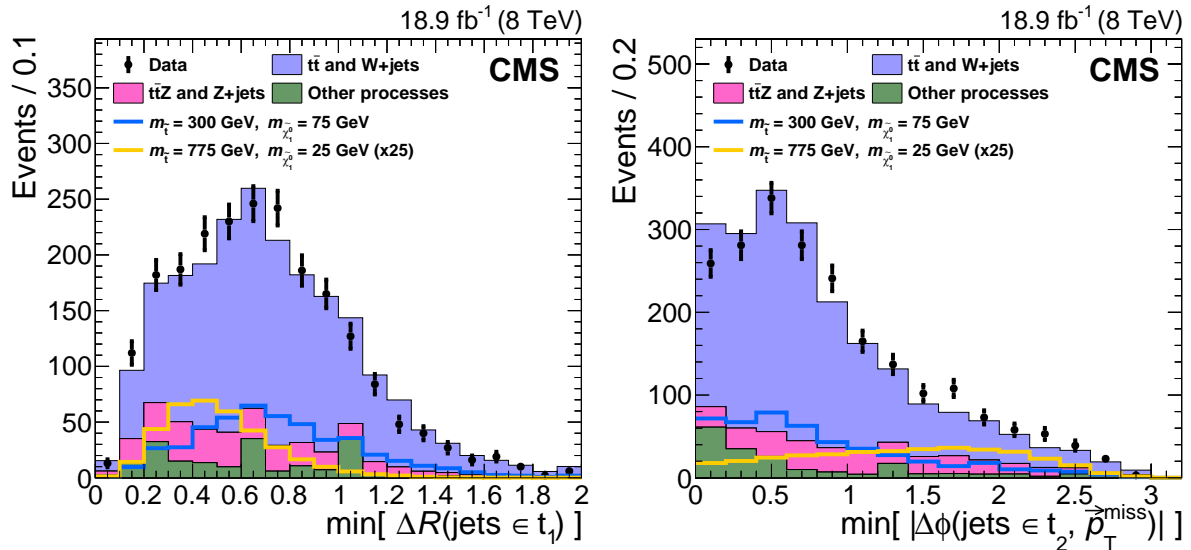


Figure 5: Distributions of properties of reconstructed top quark pairs for data together with signal and background MC data samples after the baseline selection for two choices of  $m_{\tilde{t}}$  and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$ . For the case  $m_{\tilde{t}} = 775$  GeV,  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 25$  GeV the expected signal is multiplied by a factor of 25. The left plot shows the minimum separation in the  $\eta$ - $\phi$  plane between any two jets in the leading reconstructed top quark, defined as the one with the highest discriminator value, while the right plot shows the separation in  $\phi$  between  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the jet in the sub-leading reconstructed top quark for which this separation is the smallest.

information, relative isolation in terms of charged and neutral particles, and the properties of the jet nearest to the muon. Isolation in terms of charged and neutral hadrons is defined by means of separate sums of the  $p_T$  of charged and neutral PF particles, respectively, in a region near to the lepton, divided by the lepton  $p_T$ . The properties of the nearest jet that are used include the separation from the lepton in the  $\eta$ - $\phi$  plane, the momentum of the lepton relative to the jet axis, and the CSV b tagging discriminator value for the jet. For electron identification, the variables include all of those used for the muon, plus several electron-specific variables that are used in the standard CMS electron identification MVA [70].

The BDTs are trained using simulated event samples with electrons or muons. In particular, single-lepton  $t\bar{t}$  events are the source of prompt leptons, while electrons or muons in all-hadronic  $t\bar{t}$  events are used for non-prompt leptons. The leftplot in Fig. 6 shows the selection efficiency, by lepton type, for non-prompt leptons as a function of that for prompt leptons in the BDT training samples. The curves are obtained by varying the cutoff on the corresponding BDT discriminator value above which events are accepted. In this analysis, the discriminator values that are chosen have efficiencies of 98% for events with electrons and muons from W boson decays that pass the preselection requirements, while incorrectly selecting no more than 5% of all-hadronic  $t\bar{t}$  events. The latter gives some indication of the expected loss of all-hadronic top squark signal events. Upon including reconstruction and acceptance inefficiencies, these requirements eliminate 80% of single-electron and single-muon  $t\bar{t}$  events with  $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 175$  GeV and five or more jets.

A similar approach is used to identify hadronically decaying tau leptons originating from semileptonic  $t\bar{t}$  decays. The  $\tau$  identification algorithm focuses on decays involving a single charged hadron in conjunction with neutral hadrons because the majority of hadronic  $\tau$  decays are to final states of this type, which are often referred to as ‘one-prong’ decays. No attempt

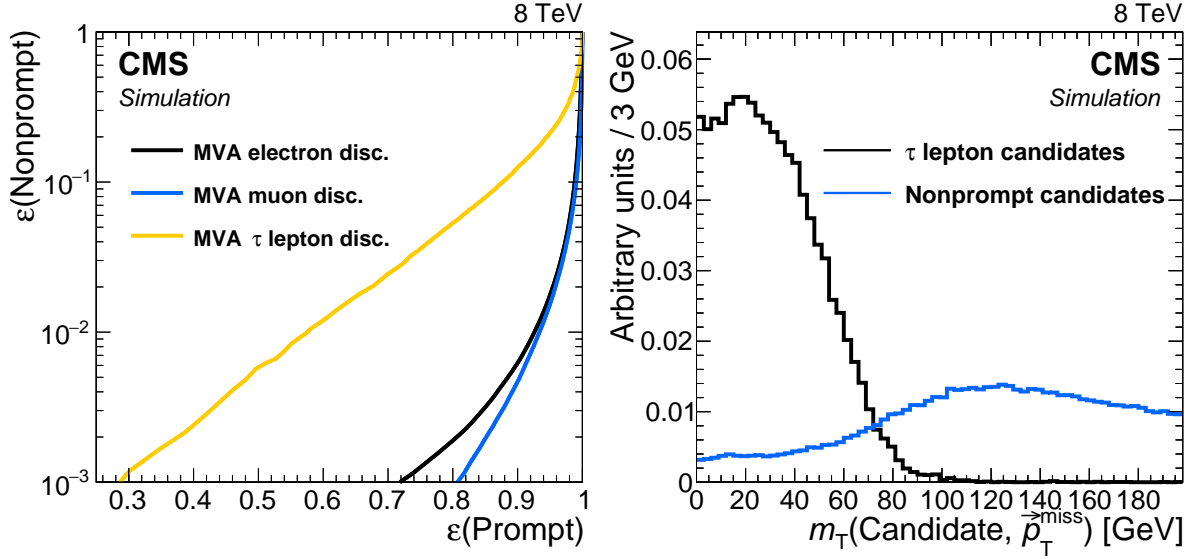


Figure 6: left: Selection efficiency for non-prompt leptons versus that for prompt leptons. The curves are produced by varying BDT discriminator values for electrons, muons, and taus. Prompt leptons are those matched to lepton candidates in semileptonic  $t\bar{t}$  events whereas non-prompt leptons are those that are matched to lepton candidates in all-hadronic  $t\bar{t}$  in the case of electrons and muons, or all-hadronic T2tt signal events in the case of  $\tau$  leptons. right: The  $m_T$  calculated from  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the momentum of the visible  $\tau$  lepton decay products, for  $\tau$  lepton candidates matched to  $\tau$  lepton decays in semileptonic  $t\bar{t}$  events, and all  $\tau$  lepton candidates in a simulated all-hadronic T2tt signal sample ( $m_{\bar{t}} = 620 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 40 \text{ GeV}$ ).

is made to specifically reconstruct the sub-dominant ‘three-prong’ decays. A  $\tau$  candidate is thus defined by a track and a nearby electromagnetic cluster produced by the photons from  $\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  decay, if present, in order to include more of the visible energy from the  $\tau$  lepton decay. Since every charged particle with  $p_T > 5 \text{ GeV}$  and  $|\eta| < 2.4$  could be considered to be a  $\tau$  candidate, we reduce the pool of candidates by using the transverse mass,  $m_T$ , calculated from  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the momentum of each candidate. As seen in the rightplot in Fig. 6, the  $m_T$  distribution for genuine  $\tau$  candidates has an endpoint at the mass of the W boson, reflecting the fact that the neutrinos associated with W boson and  $\tau$  lepton decays are the largest source of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  in these events. The background candidates do not have this constraint, and so each  $\tau$  candidate is required to have  $m_T < 68 \text{ GeV}$ .

The variables used in a BDT discriminator for the identification of the  $\tau$  candidate are the track  $p_T$ ,  $|\eta|$ , and distance of closest approach to the primary vertex, as well as the isolation quantities and general properties of the jet in which the  $\tau$  candidate is contained. The isolation variables include the separate sums of the transverse momenta of charged and neutral PF particles, in cones of radii 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, and 0.4 centered on the candidate, and the distance between the candidate and the nearest track. The jet variables used are the separation in the  $\eta$ - $\phi$  plane between the track and the jet axis, and the b tagging discriminator value for the jet. This BDT is trained with hadronically decaying  $\tau$  candidates originating from semileptonic  $t\bar{t}$  decays in MC simulation for prompt candidates, while all  $\tau$  candidates in all-hadronic T2tt events with  $m_{\bar{t}} = 620 \text{ GeV}$  and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} = 40 \text{ GeV}$  are used for the non-prompt candidates. The samples produced with these T2tt mass parameters are not included in the final array of T2tt samples used in the later stages of this analysis. The T2bW baseline selection is applied to all events in order to have training samples whose kinematic selection criteria are consistent with those used to select the data samples used for the searches. The  $m_T$  cutoff value and the BDT discriminator value are

chosen to keep losses below 10% in the all-hadronic signal samples targeted by this analysis. The efficiency for correctly selecting the background of semileptonic  $t\bar{t}$  events with hadronically decaying tau leptons is 65%. This efficiency is defined relative to events for which the  $\tau$  lepton decay products include at least one reconstructed charged particle with  $p_T > 5$  GeV.

The efficiencies for selecting leptons in simulation are corrected to match those measured in data after applying the T2bW baseline selection criteria. The multiplicative correction factors applied to the simulated electron and muon selection efficiencies for this purpose are  $0.95 \pm 0.03$  and  $1.01 \pm 0.03$ , respectively. The corrections to the simulated  $\tau$  selection efficiency are  $1.30 \pm 0.10$  for  $\tau$  candidates with  $p_T < 10$  GeV and  $0.98 \pm 0.04$  for all other candidates.

## 6 Search regions

As discussed above, this analysis makes use of MVA techniques based on BDTs to achieve sensitivity to direct production of top squark pairs in the all-hadronic final states of the T2tt and T2bW simplified models in the presence of three main classes of much more copiously produced SM backgrounds. The signal space of the T2tt simplified model is parameterised by the masses of the top squark and the neutralino. The T2bW simplified model also includes an intermediate chargino, and is therefore parameterised by three masses. For each model, a large set of simulated event samples is prepared, corresponding to a grid of mass points in two dimensions for T2tt, and in three dimensions for T2bW. A large set of moderately to strongly discriminating variables, discussed in more detail below, is input to each BDT to yield a single discriminator value ranging between  $-1.0$  and  $+1.0$  for each event considered. Events with values closer to 1 ( $-1$ ) are more like signal (background).

Since there are potentially significant differences in the kinematic characteristics of signal samples at different points in the mass grids described above, it is not known a priori what is the minimum number of distinct BDTs that are needed to achieve the near optimal coverage of the signal spaces. To this end, a minimum number of BDTs that provides sufficient coverage of each signal space is selected from a larger superset that includes BDTs that are each uniquely trained on grid points separated by  $\approx 100$  GeV in top squark mass and  $\approx 50$  GeV in neutralino mass for both signal types. For T2bW, there are also 3 different values of chargino mass that are considered, corresponding to  $x = 0.25, 0.5,$  and  $0.75$ . Sensitivity to signal is probed by varying discriminator thresholds from 0.5 to 1.0 in steps of 0.01. Ultimately it is determined that four BDTs for T2tt and five for T2bW are adequate to cover the largest possible parameter space with near optimal signal sensitivity. Each BDT tends to cover a specific portion of signal space, referred to as a search region. The optimisation of the overall search does not depend strongly on the specific signal points that are used to train individual BDTs. Moreover, adding more regions is found to not increase the sensitivity of the analysis. Table 2 lists the search regions for both signal types, the mass parameter points used to train each BDT, and the optimal BDT discriminator cutoffs that are used to define the final samples. Figure 7 displays the most sensitive search regions in T2tt and selected T2bW mass planes. The colour plotted in any given partition of the plane corresponds to the search region BDT with the strongest expected limit on the signal production cross section.

For the T2tt search a total of 24 variables are used. They can be divided into variables that do or do not rely upon top quark pair reconstruction by the CORRAL algorithm. The latter include  $m_T$  calculated with  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the  $\vec{p}_T$  of the b-tagged picky jet that's closest to  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  in  $\phi$ , a quark-gluon jet discrimination variable,  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , and jet multiplicity. Two additional variables provide a measure of the centrality of the event activity. They are the  $\eta$  of the peak in jet activity, as obtained by a kernel density estimate [97, 98], and the  $\Delta\eta$  between two peaks in jet

activity. Another variable counts the number of unique combinations of jets that can form reconstructed top quark pairs. The remaining seventeen variables are all built with information pertaining to the candidate top quark pair obtained from CORRAL. The invariant mass of the top quark pair and the relative  $p_T$  of the two reconstructed top quarks are used to take into account correlations between the two top quark candidates that generally differ for signal and background. The degree of boost or collimation of each top quark candidate is measured with three variables, including the minimum cone size in the  $\eta$ - $\phi$  plane that contains all of the reconstructed particles from the top quark decay. Two variables use the CORRAL discriminator value for each of the two top quarks as a measure of the quality of the reconstruction. Two other variables measure the angular correlation with  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  for the lower-quality member of the top quark pair. The last eight variables are the  $p_T$  values for the six jets in the top quark pair and two CSV b jet discriminator values that each correspond to the highest b tagging discriminator value obtained for the three jets that make up each of the two top quark candidates.

There are 14 variables used to train the BDTs that target the T2bW final state, half of which are the same or very similar to those used for the T2tt final state. Four of these are commonly used to distinguish SM background from SUSY signals. They are  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , jet multiplicity, multiplicity of jets passing the CSV b tagger medium working point, and the azimuthal separation of the third-leading jet from  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$ . Variables that are sensitive to correlations between b jets and the rest of the event are the invariant mass formed with the two highest  $p_T$  b-tagged jets;  $m_T$  formed with  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the nearest b-tagged jet; and the standard deviation of the separation in pseudorapidity between the b-tagged jet with the highest  $p_T$  and all other jets in the event. Three additional variables are used to suppress SM background by exploiting the higher probability for jets in SM events to originate from gluons. Three other variables make use of jet kinematics, the most important of which is the scalar sum over  $p_T$  of jets whose transverse momenta are within  $\pi/2$  of the direction of  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$ , (i.e.  $\Delta\phi(\vec{p}_T^{\text{jet}}, \vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}) < \pi/2$ ) divided by the corresponding sum for all jets that do not meet this criterion. The final variable is the invariant mass for a pair of nearby jets that have the highest vector sum  $p_T$  among all jet-pair combinations. This choice is found in simulation to have a high probability to correspond to the decay of a W boson. This variable is useful in the suppression of Z+jets.

Table 2: Search regions for the T2tt and T2bW channels. The table lists the SUSY particle masses used for the training of the BDTs, the cutoff on the BDT output, and the efficiency for the signal to pass the BDT selection relative to the baseline selection. The event counts of the T2bW discriminator training samples are limited and so four nearby mass points were used. They are the four combinations of the two  $\tilde{t}$  and two  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  masses listed. The signal efficiency in each row of the table is then that of the worst case of the four, which in every case is the point with the largest  $m_{\tilde{t}}$  and smallest  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  values of those indicated.

Search region	$m_{\tilde{t}}$ [GeV]	$m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$ [GeV]	$x$	Cutoff	Signal efficiency [%]
T2tt_LM	300	25	—	0.79	8
T2tt_MM	425	75	—	0.83	16
T2tt_HM	550	25	—	0.92	25
T2tt_VHM	675	250	—	0.95	19
T2bW_LX	550 & 575	175 & 200	0.25	0.94	25
T2bW_LM	350 & 375	75 & 100	0.75	0.73	10
T2bW_MXHM	550 & 575	125 & 150	0.50	0.92	14
T2bW_HXHM	400 & 425	25 & 50	0.75	0.82	10
T2bW_VHM	550 & 575	25 & 50	0.75	0.93	12



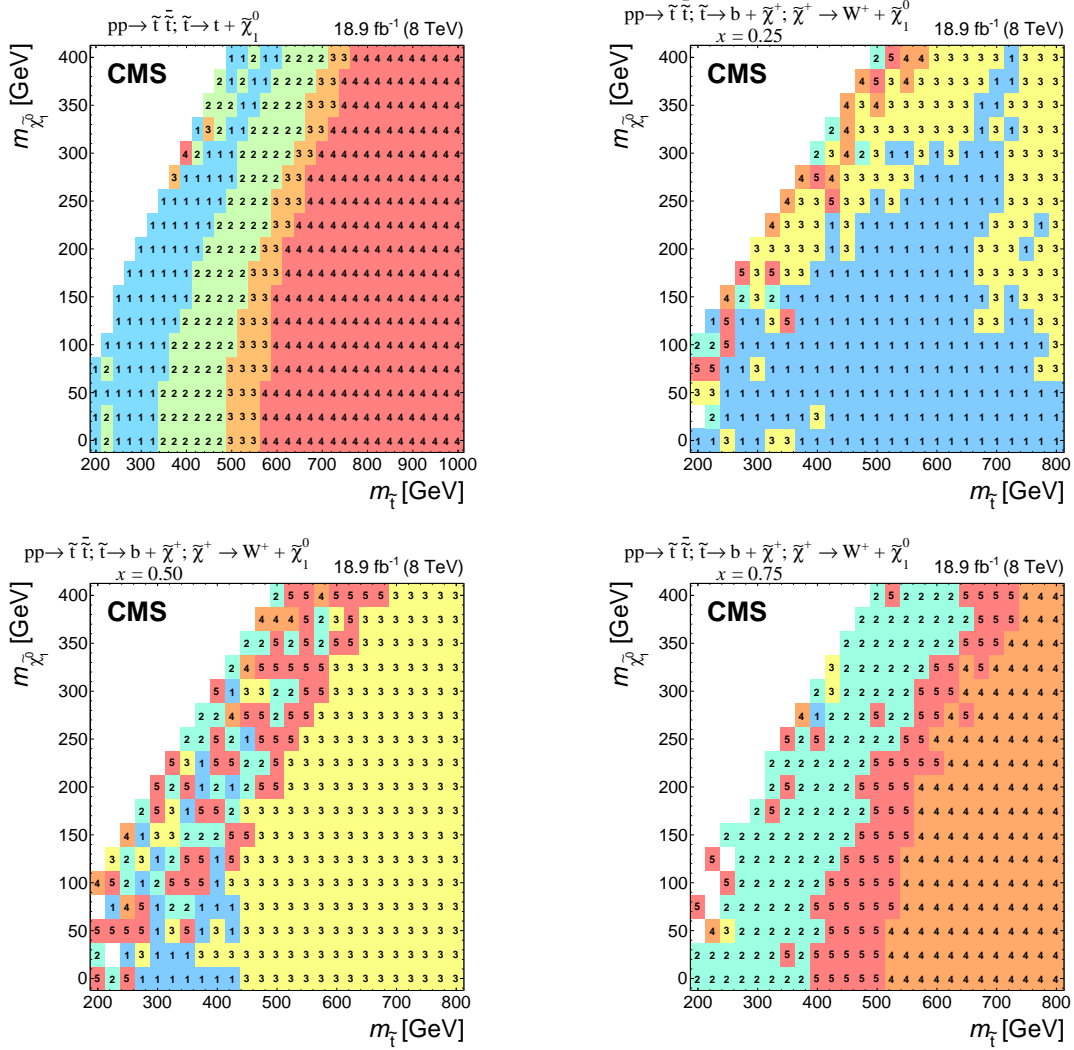


Figure 7: Search regions providing the most stringent limits in the  $m_{\tilde{\tau}}-m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  plane in the T2tt signal topology (top left) and the T2bW signal topologies for mass splitting parameter values  $x = 0.25, 0.50, 0.75$ . The T2tt\_LM, T2tt\_MM, T2tt\_HM, and T2tt\_VHM search regions are numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively. The T2bW\_LX, T2bW\_LM, T2bW\_MXHM, T2bW\_VHM, and T2bW\_HXHM search regions are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 respectively. In regions with  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  similar to  $m_{\tilde{\tau}}$ , the different search regions can have similar sensitivity, which leads to the fluctuations in choice of search regions in neighboring bins that is seen in some areas.

## 7 Estimation of SM backgrounds

We divide the important SM backgrounds into three classes. The first class, referred to as EW backgrounds, includes semileptonic and dileptonic decays of  $t\bar{t}$ ,  $W$ +jets, and  $Z$ +jets with  $Z \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$ . The second class of backgrounds originates from high- $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  QCD multijet processes, and the third arises from associated production of  $t\bar{t}Z$  with  $Z \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}$  and both top quarks decaying to hadrons. The latter produces a final state that is extremely similar to that of the signal but is fortunately very rare.

The estimation of the EW and QCD multijet backgrounds is based on MC samples in which the events have been reweighted by scale factors with values that are generally within a few percent of unity. As discussed in Section 7.1, the scale factors are extracted from data-MC com-

comparisons in control regions. The reweighting of the events assures that the simulation samples match data samples with regard to distributions of quantities that are relevant to the selection of events in the signal regions. However, it is important to note that the reweighted MC samples are not used directly to estimate backgrounds in the signal region. Rather, the search region yields and uncertainties are estimated by comparing the reweighted MC samples to data in background-specific control regions that differ from the search regions only in that they are obtained with selection criteria that simultaneously increase the purity of a single background and reduce any potential signal contamination. In the case of the EW backgrounds the control regions are selected by requiring one or more isolated leptons, while for the QCD multijet background it is selected by requiring  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  to be aligned with one of the leading jets.

The  $t\bar{t}Z$  background is estimated directly from a sample of next-to-leading-order (NLO) MC simulation events generated with MC@NLO. This procedure is motivated by the fact that  $t\bar{t}Z$  has a much lower cross section than other SM processes, making it impossible to define control regions that are sufficiently well-populated to enable the extraction of scale factors. The single top quark process is also estimated directly from simulated events, in this case generated with POWHEG, and found to make negligible contribution to the signal regions.

### 7.1 EW and QCD background estimates with MC reweighting

This analysis uses MC samples as the basis for the estimation of SM backgrounds in signal regions. These simulations have been extensively tested and tuned in CMS since the start of LHC data taking in 2009. As a result, they accurately reproduce effects related to the detailed geometry and material content of the apparatus, as well as those related to physics processes such as initial-state and final-state radiation. Nevertheless, the MC samples are not assumed to be perfect and display discrepancies with data in some kinematic regions. The comparisons between data and MC simulation in this analysis are performed in control regions that satisfy many, but not all, of the selection criteria used to define the signal regions. These comparisons result in the scale factors that are applied to the MC simulation, as described below, to reduce the observed discrepancies. The corrected simulation samples are then used together with data in relevant control regions to obtain the final estimates of the SM backgrounds.

The scale factors fall into two conceptually different categories. The first category involves effects associated with detector modelling and object reconstruction that are manifested as discrepancies in jet and  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  energy scales and resolutions, lepton and b jet reconstruction efficiencies, and trigger efficiencies. The second category corresponds to discrepancies associated with theoretical modelling of the physics processes as represented by differential cross sections in collision events. The scale factors in this category are estimated separately for each SM background process. The main sources of discrepancy here are finite order approximations in matrix element calculations and phenomenological models for parton showering and hadronisation. Scale factors are parameterised as a function of generator-level quantities controlling post-simulation event characteristics relevant to the final selection criteria used in the analysis. The scale factors are derived by comparing distributions of variables after full reconstruction that are particularly sensitive to these generator-level quantities, as seen in comparisons of MC with data. D'Agostini unfolding with up to four iterations [99], implemented with RooUnfold [100], is used to determine the correct normalization of the generator-level quantities such that the distributions agree after full reconstruction. The scale factors are defined as the ratio of the corrected values of generator-level quantities to their original values. The MC events are reweighted by these scale factors, thereby eliminating any observed discrepancies with data. The scale factors are generally found to be close to unity as a result of the high quality of the MC simulation. The inclusive kinematic scale factors lead to no more than 10% shifts in any

regions of the distributions of  $H_T$  and number of jets that are relevant to this analysis.

### 7.1.1 Detector modelling and object reconstruction effects

The detector modelling and object reconstruction scale factors are grouped into the following categories: lepton identification efficiency, jet flavour, jet  $p_T$ , and  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$ .

For the lepton identification efficiency, the event yields of simulated data passing the lepton vetoes in the search regions are corrected by scale factors as described in Section 5. Similarly, in the control regions defined by the presence of a single lepton as described in Section 7.1.2, scale factors are applied to the simulated electron and muon reconstruction, identification, and trigger efficiencies. These scale factors are measured by applying a “tag-and-probe” technique to the pairs of leptons coming from Z boson decays [65, 70, 101].

Identification of jet types, via b tagging and gluon-jet discrimination, is important for the CORRAL top reconstruction algorithm and the signal discriminator used in the T2tt search. Both use the CSV b tagging algorithm output values directly rather than setting a particular cutoff value as is done for standard CMS loose, medium, and tight working points [74]. It is therefore important that the CSV discriminator output distributions in simulated event samples match those seen in corresponding data samples. To this end, the CSV discriminator output of each picky jet is corrected so that the CSV output distributions for simulated  $t\bar{t}$  and Z+jets event samples match those observed in semileptonic  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$  control samples, respectively. Similarly, the quark-gluon likelihood discriminator distribution is corrected to match data. The jet energy scale is corrected as described in Section 3, and the simulated picky jet  $p_T$  spectrum is corrected as described in Section 4.

The rejection of SM backgrounds in this analysis is very much dependent on the measurement of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  and its resolution, which is not modelled perfectly in simulation. Corrections are therefore applied to MC simulated samples of EW and QCD multijet processes in order to obtain good agreement with data in search region variables that depend on the correlation of event activity with  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . There are three separate corrections [102] applied for EW processes that are derived from a control sample of Z+jets events with  $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$  where, by conservation of energy and momentum, the reconstructed Z boson provides an accurate measure of the energy associated with all other activity in the event as measured in the transverse plane. Sources of genuine  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  such as neutrinos in these events, are rare and have a negligible effect on the derived corrections. The corrections are based upon comparisons of data to simulation in  $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$  control samples in which  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is decomposed into components parallel and perpendicular to the direction of the Z boson  $p_T$ . The components and their resolutions are then investigated as a function of a variety of quantities to look for systematic trends and biases that can then be corrected. In this way, an  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  scale correction of order 1% is obtained as a function of both the boson  $p_T$  and the distribution of hadronic energy in the event relative to the energy of the boson. The second and third corrections involve an increase in the jet resolution by 9% and smearing of the reconstructed  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  by approximately 4.5 GeV. The measured  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  resolution in simulation matches that found in the data control regions after these corrections are applied.

For the EW backgrounds the  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  corrections are parameterised in such a way that the corrected MC samples are consistent with data in  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ -related quantities, such as the reconstructed W boson  $m_T$ . In contrast, for the discrimination between QCD multijet events and SUSY signal events, the angular correlations between  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the  $p_T$  of leading jets in the event are the most important variables. Corrections are therefore obtained expressly for this background process with the QCD multijet data control sample described in Section 7.1.4. The

corrected simulation samples result in a good match to the angular correlations between  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the leading jets in data.

### 7.1.2 Corrections to the theoretical modelling of EW background processes

The kinematic distributions of simulated EW processes are validated and corrected with data control samples with charged leptons in the final state. Depending on the process under study, these samples are dominated by  $t\bar{t}$ , W+jets, or Z+jets events. Based on the physically reasonable assumption that the kinematics of the rest of the event should be largely independent of the boson decay(s) in these processes, the control samples are used in conjunction with corresponding MC samples to extract scale factors that are then applied to MC samples in the search regions to estimate background contributions.

The simulated event kinematics of  $t\bar{t}$ , Z+jets, and W+jets processes are corrected by a series of scale factors that are parameterised by generator-level quantities. Three different control samples, each specific to a given process as noted above, and each with one or two well identified isolated leptons, are used to derive these scale factors. The  $t\bar{t}$  control sample is selected by requiring exactly one muon and at least three jets, one or two of which are b-tagged. These criteria are very effective in eliminating other types of backgrounds. The selection of the W+jets control sample includes exactly one muon, no b-tagged jets in order to reduce  $t\bar{t}$  contamination, and  $m_T > 40$  GeV, formed with the muon  $\vec{p}_T$  and  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$ , in order to reduce QCD multijet contamination. The Z+jets control region is defined by the requirement of exactly two muons or electrons with an invariant mass in the range  $80 < m_{\ell\ell} < 100$  GeV, to be consistent with the mass of the Z boson, and no b-tagged jets. Finally, two additional Z+jets and W+jets control samples, used to correct the production of radiated b jets, are formed by removing the b jet veto in the definitions of the standard control regions.

The scale factors are extracted as functions of the  $p_T$  of the boson in the case of W+jets and Z+jets or of the momenta of the top quarks in the case of  $t\bar{t}$ . They also depend on the multiplicity and flavour of radiated jets as well as  $H_T$ , the scalar sum of jet  $p_T$ . Because the control samples have finite sizes, the scale factors are organised into subsets that are derived and used sequentially. That is, prior to each derivation step, the scale factors extracted in the previous derivation steps are applied. For example, scale factors for correcting the  $t\bar{t}$  jet multiplicity and  $H_T$  spectra are obtained and applied prior to calculating those used to correct the production of Z bosons in conjunction with heavy-flavour jets, since as much as 60% of the events in the Z control sample are  $t\bar{t}$  events.

### 7.1.3 Estimation of EW background

The corrections to the MC event samples based on scale factors, as discussed above, results in an agreement of MC and data distributions that is typically within 10% for all control samples, including samples that were not used to extract the scale factors. This level of agreement is also found for distributions of many kinematic variables for which no corrections were explicitly applied. There are a few regions in which kinematic distributions disagree at the level of 20%, but these disagreements have been found to have a negligible impact on the search region predictions. A bootstrapping procedure is used [103] to take into account statistical uncertainties in the derived scale factors for distributions of kinematic quantities and their correlations.

After correcting MC simulation samples for detector, reconstruction, and kinematic discrepancies, a closure correction and its uncertainty are measured, where closure is defined as the largest residual data-MC difference seen in a number of kinematic distributions. To this end, data-MC comparisons are performed in a variety of leptonic control regions for which the kine-

matic distributions under study are as similar as possible to those in the search regions as seen for MC samples that pass the signal selection criteria. The leptonic control samples used for the closure tests are obtained by applying the full set of baseline requirements, with the exception of the lepton vetoes. The  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$ +jets control samples consist of events in which exactly one charged lepton has been identified. The charged lepton is removed from the list of physics objects in the event, leading to an additional component of  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  that simulates the case in which the charged lepton has not been correctly reconstructed as would happen should it fall into an un-instrumented region of the apparatus. The  $Z$ +jets control sample is defined by the requirement that there be exactly two oppositely charged leptons of the same flavour, having an invariant mass consistent with that of the  $Z$  boson. The charged leptons are then removed from the event, altering the  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  to simulate the case in which the  $Z$  boson decays to neutrinos.

Comparisons of the BDT discriminator outputs for data and corrected MC simulation for  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$ +jets control samples, after removal of the single identified charged lepton in each event, are shown in Figs. 8 and 9, with the first ten bins in each plot covering the full BDT discriminator range. The closure is quantified by comparing the predicted event counts in MC simulation to those found in data in a ‘validation region’, defined as the region containing the events with a single lepton that pass all of the final signal selection criteria after the lepton is removed, and in two control regions that extend the final search region to lower BDT discriminator values. The latter are defined by doubling and tripling the difference between unity and the discriminator cutoff value used for the final search region. These two additional regions are needed because the search region is statistically limited in some cases. The results for the signal region and the two extended regions are shown in the last three bins in Figs. 8 and 9, for the four T2 $t\bar{t}$  and five T2 $bW$  BDT discriminators, respectively. In every case the differences seen in the event counts for data and MC simulation in the extended regions are statistically compatible with the difference seen in the search region. Therefore, the data over simulation ratio in the first extended region is used as a correction for any potential residual bias in the event counts obtained with MC samples in which the events pass all of the signal region selection criteria, now including the lepton veto requirements. The uncertainty in the correction is taken to be the statistical uncertainty in the data over simulation ratio in the last bin, which we have referred to as the validation region. This choice assures that the uncertainty covers any potential unknown differences between the search region and the first extended search region. For the four separate T2 $t\bar{t}$  search regions, the largest correction is 35% in the very-high-mass region, with the closure uncertainties ranging from 8% in the low-mass region to 31% in the very-high-mass region. For the five separate T2 $bW$  search regions, the largest correction is 21%, and the uncertainties in the corrections range from 10% to 33%.

The simulated data are similarly compared to data in the  $Z$ +jets control sample in Figs. 10 and 11. No statistically significant lack of closure is observed for any of the T2 $t\bar{t}$  and T2 $bW$  search regions. However, the small sample size makes it impossible to probe comparisons near to the search regions. An uncertainty is therefore obtained by measuring the largest data-MC discrepancy for each individual MVA input variable in the kinematic phase space of the search regions. This is defined for each input variable and search region as the ratio of event yields in data relative to MC simulation after reweighting both distributions. The weights that are used come from MC simulated distributions of the input variables after applying the MVA discriminator cutoff that is used for the search region. The distributions are normalised to unit area and the normalised bin contents are the final weights. The weights are applied to binned events in both samples before taking the data/MC ratio in the control region where we measure the uncertainty. The uncertainty in the  $Z$ +jets background prediction is then taken to be the difference with respect to unity of this ratio for the variable with the largest degree of nonclosure,

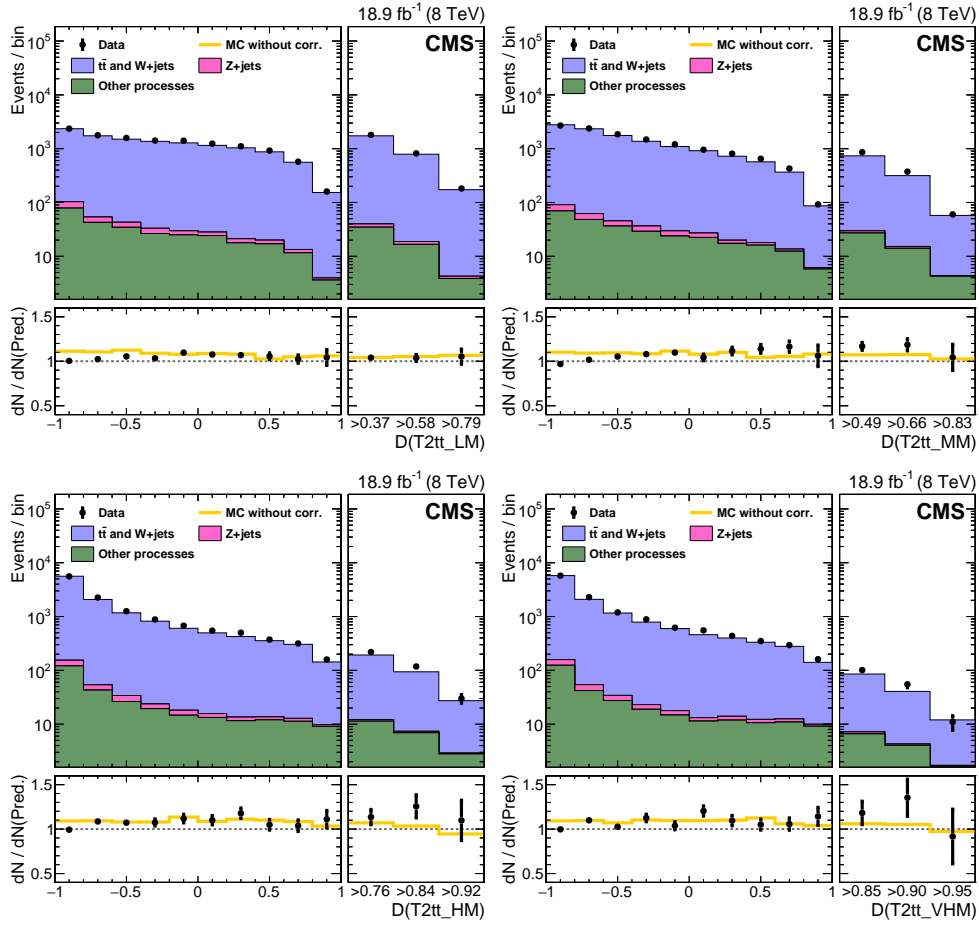


Figure 8: Comparisons of BDT discriminator ( $D$ ) outputs for data and corrected MC simulation for the  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$ +jets single-lepton control samples, with leptons removed, for the four  $T2tt$  validation regions. The three bins at the far right in each plot are used to validate the MC performance in the signal region and its two extensions. The points with error bars represent the event yields in data. The histogram labelled “MC without corr.” in the bottom pane of each figure plots the ratio whose numerator is the total MC event count before corrections and whose denominator is the event count for the corrected MC shown in the upper pane. The other histograms indicate the contributions of the various background processes.

defined as  $|(Data/MC) - 1|/\sigma$  where  $\sigma$  is the statistical uncertainty in the ratio. This closure test is repeated with successively tighter MVA discriminator cutoffs to check if the extracted closure uncertainty has any potential systematic trend related to discriminator cutoff. No significant trend is observed. The nonclosure is therefore measured for an MVA discriminator value greater than or equal to 0.0 ( $-0.5$ ) for  $T2tt$  ( $T2bW$ ) search regions. These cutoff values are the highest ones for which the magnitude of the statistical uncertainty is smaller than the measured level of nonclosure. The uncertainties are found to range between 16% and 39%.

As an independent check of the  $Z$ +jets and  $W$ +jets processes, a second control sample is studied. This sample is collected with an  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  trigger and all lepton vetoes are applied. Discrepancies of roughly 5% in the event counts relative to those predicted are observed for both the  $Z$ +jets and  $W$ +jets processes. The full magnitude of this discrepancy is taken as an additional uncertainty in the event counts for these background processes. After applying the closure corrections to the MC simulated data in samples selected with the full set of preselection criteria, no statistically significant discrepancies are observed in any bins of discriminator value for any

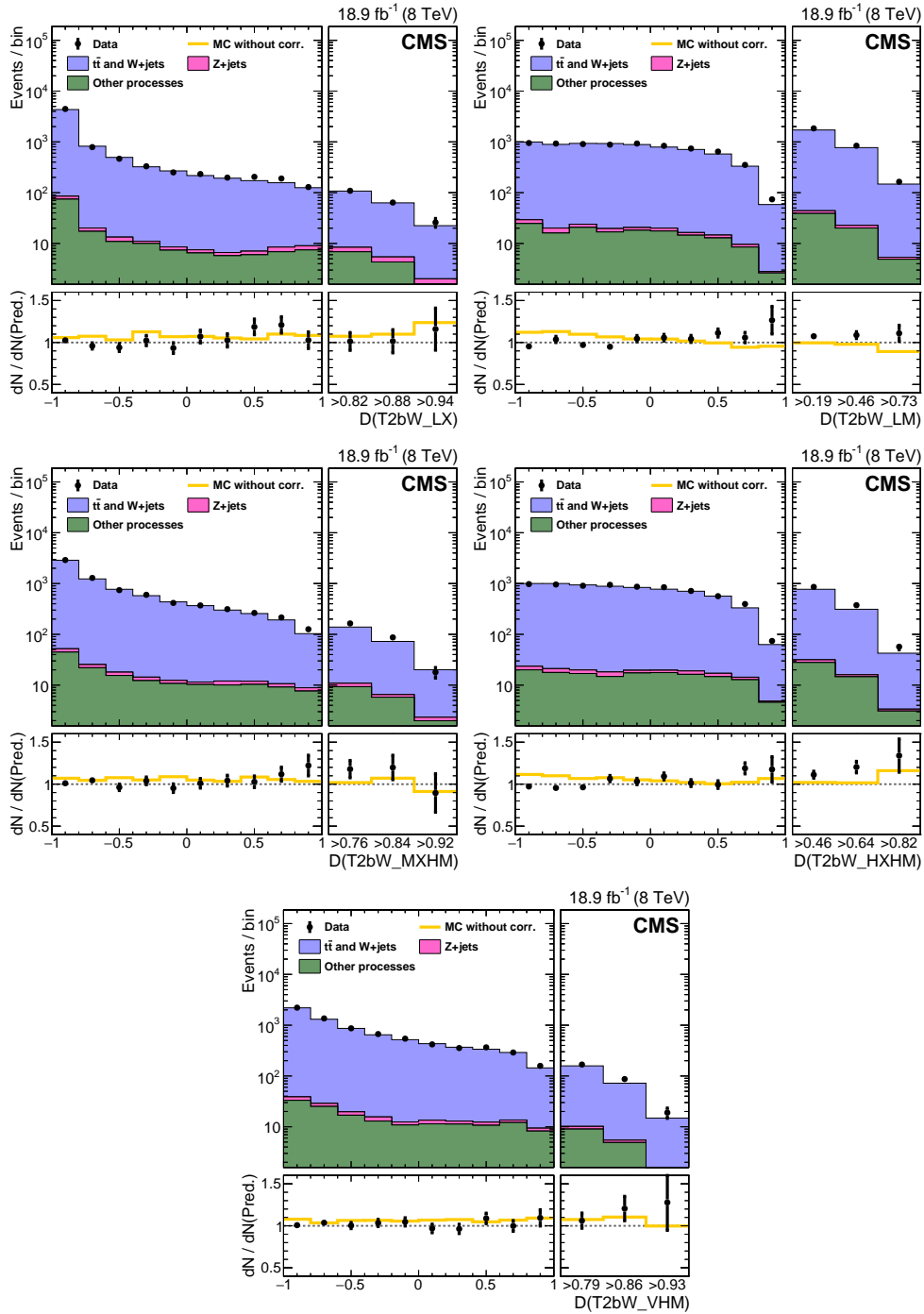


Figure 9: Comparisons of BDT discriminator ( $D$ ) outputs for data and corrected MC simulation for the  $t\bar{t}$  and  $W$ +jets single-lepton control samples, with leptons removed, for the five T2bW validation regions. The three bins at the far right in each plot are used to validate the MC performance in the signal region and its two extensions. The points with error bars represent the event yields in data. The histogram labelled “MC without corr.” in the bottom pane of each figure plots the ratio whose numerator is the total MC event count before corrections and whose denominator is the event count for the corrected MC shown in the upper pane. The other histograms indicate the contributions of the various background processes.

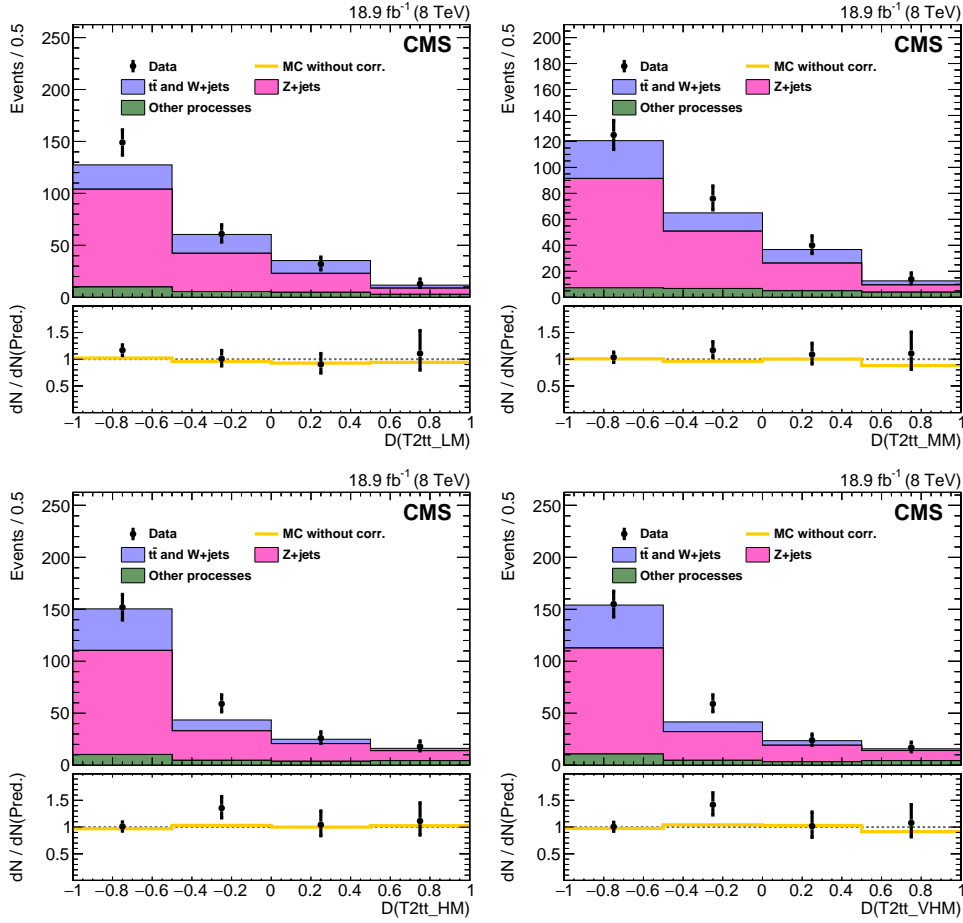


Figure 10: Comparisons of BDT discriminator ( $D$ ) outputs for data and corrected MC simulation for the Z+jets dilepton control samples, with leptons removed. All four T2tt validation regions are plotted. The points with error bars represent the event yields in data. The histogram labelled “MC without corr.” in the bottom pane of each figure plots the ratio whose numerator is the total MC event count before corrections and whose denominator is the event count for the corrected MC shown in the upper pane. The other histograms provide the contributions of the various background processes.

search region.

While the simulated efficiencies for selecting electrons and muons are relatively well-matched to what is seen in data, the efficiency for selecting  $\tau$  leptons is observed to be significantly higher in simulation than in data for high values of some of the T2bW search region discriminators. To address this, a correction and associated uncertainty are determined by means of a control region that is safe from signal contamination. The discrepancy is traced to a mismodelling of  $m_T$ , which, as discussed in Section 5, is used for a preselection requirement of the tau veto. The mismodelling of  $m_T$  is due to the angular component of  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and is uncorrelated with its magnitude. A control sample is defined by applying the search region discriminator selection to the full preselection sample after having replaced the magnitude of  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  for each event with a value that is randomly selected from the distribution of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  values obtained for the search region in MC simulation. A  $\tau$  lepton veto efficiency is then obtained separately in data and simulation by taking the ratio of the number of events that pass the full set of signal region selection criteria but fail the  $\tau$  lepton veto to the total number of events that pass the selection criteria prior to applying the  $\tau$  lepton veto. The ratio of the  $\tau$  lepton efficiency in data to



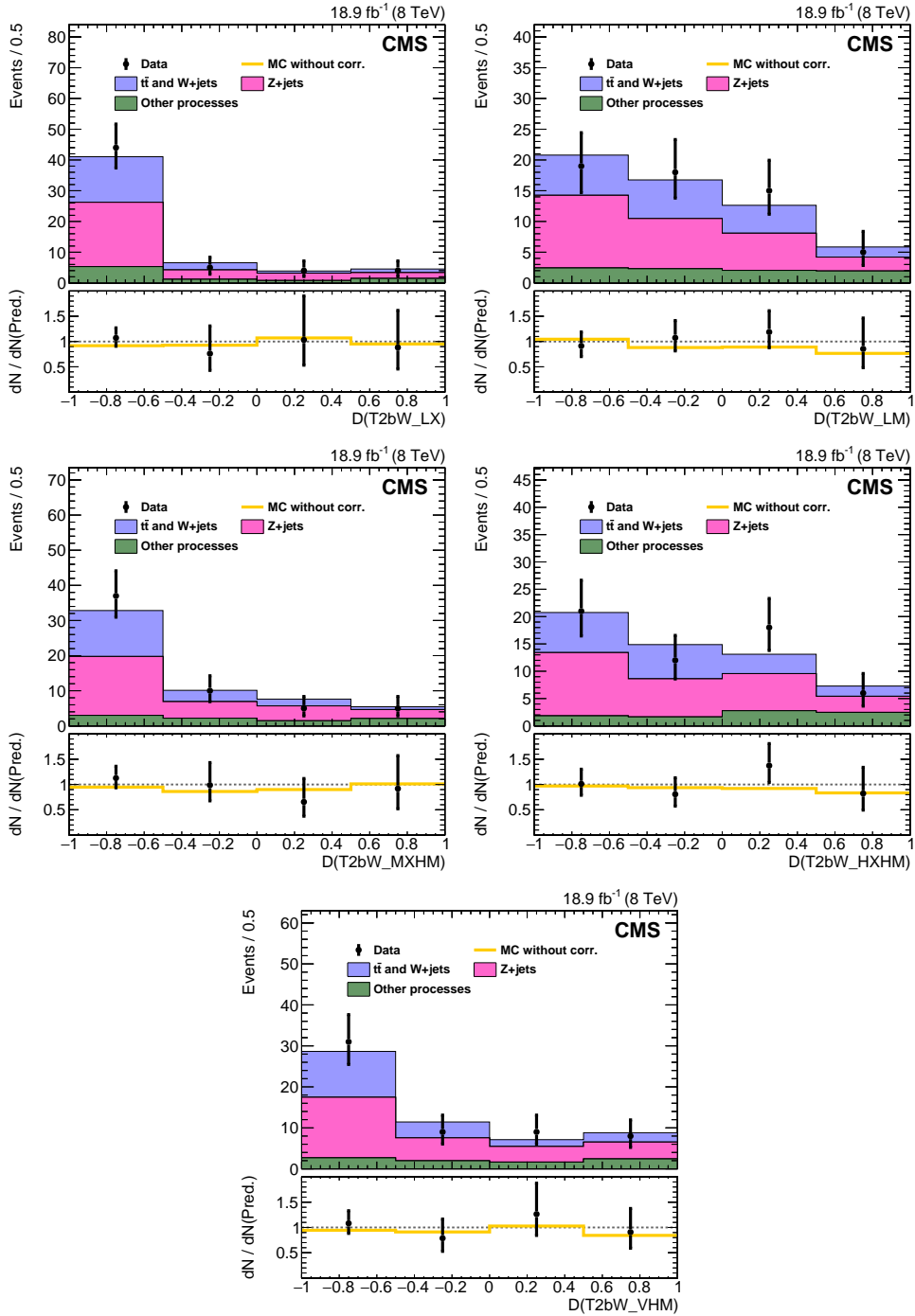


Figure 11: Comparisons of BDT discriminator ( $D$ ) outputs for data and corrected MC simulation for the Z+jets dilepton control samples, with leptons removed. All five T2bW validation regions are plotted. The points with error bars represent the event yields in data. The histogram labelled “MC without corr.” in the bottom pane of each figure plots the ratio whose numerator is the total MC event count before corrections and whose denominator is the event count for the corrected MC shown in the upper pane. The other histograms provide the contributions of the various background processes.

the efficiency in simulation is then used to correct the efficiency for the simulated background samples with  $\tau$  leptons from  $W$  boson decays in the signal region. This correction reduces the data-MC discrepancy to a level that is not statistically significant and decreases the simulated  $\tau$  lepton efficiency by a maximum of 29% in all cases considered, with an uncertainty of 13%.

The predictions in all search regions together with a breakdown of the various contributions to their uncertainties are provided in Tables 3 and 4. In addition to the previously defined uncertainties and the lepton veto uncertainties (Section 5), a 50% systematic uncertainty for MC modelling is assigned to the single top quark process due to the absence of closure control regions that would enable kinematic scale factors to be determined for this background. Additionally, for the cases in which there are no simulated single top quark events entering a search region, an upper bound on the single top quark contribution is established by multiplying the ratio of the single top quark to  $t\bar{t}$  event yields in the preselection region by the  $t\bar{t}$  yield in the search region.

#### 7.1.4 Estimation of the QCD multijet background

Kinematic distributions in MC samples of QCD multijet processes are compared to those in data control samples collected with an  $H_T$  trigger. The same method of deriving a series of scale factors parameterised by generator-level quantities that was used in the estimation of the EW processes is applied here, but distributions of different quantities are used. In particular, the jet  $p_T$  spectrum and angular correlations among jets in the event are the quantities that provide the most power in the identification of QCD background. We also consider the distributions of quantities related to heavy-flavour production and the relative momenta of jets in the event. After all corrections are applied, good closure is obtained: discrepancies between data and simulation are less than 10% in distributions used to determine reweighting scale factors.

The one quantity that does, however, require special consideration is  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ . Most of the QCD multijet background is eliminated by high- $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  requirements. The events that are not eliminated are mainly coming from the extreme tails of very broad distributions associated with two mechanisms. Namely, in order to produce large  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , a QCD multijet event must either involve production of a heavy-flavour hadron that decays leptonically, or it must be subject to severe mismeasurement of jet momenta.

The simulation of these sources of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ , particularly for the rare cases in which the events survive all selection requirements for the search regions, is not well understood, and it is difficult to study these mechanisms directly in data. This means that the QCD multijet background cannot be estimated precisely and so a reliable upper bound is found instead. This is sufficient because the QCD multijet contribution is small compared to other backgrounds. To this end, simulation samples having sources of large  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  are compared with  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ -triggered data in control regions to obtain scale factors and associated uncertainties that are used to reweight simulated events. The resulting weights are then applied to simulation samples in the signal region. Additional systematic uncertainties are applied to cover the uncertainties in the extrapolations of these corrections into the search regions.

The control regions used to derive scale factors are selected to have high  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  and low jet multiplicity. Additionally,  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is required to be aligned with one of the jets to a degree that is consistent with expectations for either of the two sources of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  discussed above. The jet with which  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  is aligned is referred to as the probe jet in such events. The negative vector sum of momenta of all jets in the event, other than the probe jet, provides an alternative estimate of the probe jet momentum, since  $p_T$  is conserved, within uncertainties, in the absence of other severe mismeasurements. The recoil response, defined as the ratio of the momenta of

Table 3: Estimated contributions and uncertainties for the SM backgrounds in the T2tt search regions. The  $t\bar{t}$ , W+jets, Z+jets, and QCD multijet background estimates make use of MC simulated samples that have been weighted by scale factors obtained from data-MC comparisons as discussed in the text. The  $t\bar{t}Z$  background is estimated directly from simulation, with uncertainties assigned for sources of MC mismodelling. The single top quark background yield is estimated to be negligible in all search regions and is not shown.

	T2tt_LM	T2tt_MM	T2tt_HM	T2tt_VHM
$t\bar{t}$ and W+jets prediction	19.8	8.64	3.21	1.00
MC statistical uncertainty	1.43	1.18	0.77	0.45
MVA lepton sel. scale factors	2.46	0.78	0.29	0.13
Kinematics reweighting	0.28	0.22	0.13	0.05
Closure ( $1\ell$ control region)	1.52	1.10	0.59	0.23
Closure ( $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ region)	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Total uncertainty (yield)	3.24	1.81	1.02	0.53
Total uncertainty (%)	16.4	20.9	31.7	52.8
Z+jets prediction	0.69	2.30	1.92	0.59
MC statistical uncertainty	0.18	0.32	0.26	0.14
Kinematics reweighting	0.08	0.38	0.54	0.18
Closure ( $Z \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$ control region)	0.11	0.74	0.57	0.15
Closure ( $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ region)	0.03	0.12	0.10	0.03
Total uncertainty (yield)	0.23	0.90	0.84	0.28
Total uncertainty (%)	33.5	38.9	43.8	46.4
$t\bar{t}Z$ prediction	1.34	2.66	1.62	0.99
MC statistical uncertainty	0.11	0.18	0.15	0.11
MC simulation	0.10	0.42	0.24	0.26
MC normalisation	0.42	0.82	0.50	0.31
Kinematic closure	0.21	0.85	0.49	0.31
Total uncertainty (yield)	0.49	1.27	0.75	0.52
Total uncertainty (%)	36.6	47.7	46.6	52.3
QCD multijet prediction	0.33	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
MC statistical uncertainty	$\pm 0.27$	$\pm 0.01$	$\pm 0.01$	$\pm 0.01$
MVA discriminator shape	$\pm 0.16$	$\pm 0.01$	$\pm 0.01$	$\pm 0.01$
$\Delta\phi$ shape upper and lower bounds	+1.48, -0.33	+0.22, -0.01	+0.07, -0.01	+0.01
Low luminosity bins upper bound	—	+0.11	+0.02	+0.02
Integrated uncertainty band ( $\mu$ )	0.91	0.17	0.04	0.01
Integrated uncertainty band ( $\sigma$ )	0.58	0.07	0.02	0.01

Table 4: Estimated contributions and uncertainties for the SM backgrounds in the T2bW search regions. The  $t\bar{t}$ , W+jets, Z+jets, and QCD multijet background estimates make use of MC simulated samples that have been weighted by scale factors obtained from data-MC comparisons as discussed in the text. The  $t\bar{t}Z$  background is estimated directly from simulation, with uncertainties assigned for sources of MC mismodelling. The single top quark background yield is estimated to negligible in all search regions and is not shown.

	T2bW_LX	T2bW_LM	T2bW_MXHM	T2bW_HXHM	T2bW_VHM
$t\bar{t}$ and W+jets prediction	6.41	30.4	3.37	12.0	2.00
MC statistical uncertainty	0.84	1.65	0.59	1.22	0.42
MVA lepton sel. scale factors	1.03	2.24	0.56	1.57	0.35
Kinematics reweighting	0.20	0.44	0.14	0.26	0.12
Closure ( $1\ell$ control region)	1.59	2.78	0.65	2.00	0.54
Closure ( $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ region)	0.05	0.08	0.02	0.10	0.01
Total uncertainty (yield)	2.08	3.96	1.05	2.83	0.78
Total uncertainty (%)	32.5	13.0	31.1	23.6	39.1
Z+jets prediction	1.88	4.57	1.66	1.77	1.24
MC statistical uncertainty	0.23	0.46	0.24	0.26	0.21
Kinematics reweighting	0.51	0.62	0.46	0.36	0.38
Closure ( $Z \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$ control region)	0.73	1.46	0.50	0.57	0.31
Closure ( $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ region)	0.09	0.23	0.08	0.09	0.06
Total uncertainty (yield)	0.93	1.67	0.72	0.73	0.54
Total uncertainty (%)	49.3	36.6	43.6	41.0	43.4
$t\bar{t}Z$ prediction	0.59	2.46	0.83	1.72	0.62
MC statistical uncertainty	0.07	0.15	0.09	0.14	0.08
MC simulation	0.02	0.10	0.10	0.17	0.02
MC normalisation	0.18	0.76	0.26	0.53	0.19
Kinematic closure	0.23	0.79	0.25	0.55	0.20
Total uncertainty (yield)	0.30	1.11	0.39	0.79	0.29
Total uncertainty (%)	51.2	45.1	46.3	46.3	47.4
QCD multijet prediction	0.51	0.07	0.10	<0.01	<0.01
MC statistical uncertainty	$\pm 0.21$	$\pm 0.06$	$\pm 0.08$	$\pm 0.01$	$\pm 0.01$
MVA discriminator shape	$\pm 0.17$	$\pm 0.06$	$\pm 0.08$	$\pm 0.01$	$\pm 0.01$
$\Delta\phi$ shape upper and lower bounds	+0.58, -0.21	+0.54, -0.07	+0.07, -0.10	+0.01, -0.01	+0.01
Low luminosity bins upper bound	+0.01	+0.11	+0.03	+0.02	+0.01
Integrated uncertainty band ( $\mu$ )	0.71	0.36	0.10	0.01	0.01
Integrated uncertainty band ( $\sigma$ )	0.35	0.19	0.12	0.01	0.01

the probe jet to that for the rest of the activity in the event, ( $p_{T,\text{probe}}/p_{T,\text{recoil}}$ ), is a very good estimator for the true response of the probe jet, ( $p_{T,\text{probe}}/p_{T,\text{true}}$ ), in the tails of the distribution, where mismeasurement of the probe jet momentum dominates over the mismeasurement of the recoil momentum. It is therefore used to derive separate scale factors for the jet resolution, parameterised by jet  $p_T$ , for each of the two sources of  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$ .

The central values of the QCD background predictions are taken to be the MC simulation yields in the signal regions after applying all of the corrections defined above. The various statistical and systematic uncertainties are highly asymmetric and in many cases non-Gaussian. Therefore, in each search region an MC integration procedure is used to properly combine the uncertainties. As expected from the central limit theorem, the combination of uncertainties can be approximated by a Gaussian distribution, the parameters of which, in addition to the breakdown of their uncertainties, are listed in Tables 3 and 4.

Two shape uncertainties are assigned to the QCD multijet estimation in each search region. The

first is a systematic uncertainty associated with the search region MVA discriminator distribution. It is obtained from a comparison of the distribution in MC simulation to that in data for a sample of events passing baseline selection criteria, with the exception of the requirements on the angular separation between the leading jets and  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$ . Dropping these criteria leads to a significant increase in the contribution of QCD multijet events to the final sample relative to all other backgrounds or signal. A second systematic uncertainty is obtained from the same samples by comparing the MC distribution of the angle between  $\vec{p}_T^{\text{miss}}$  and the leading jets to that for data for a variety of discriminator cutoffs. The distributions are found to differ increasingly with rising b-tagged jet multiplicity. The bias is eliminated by smearing the  $\phi$  values of the  $\vec{p}_T$  of b jets with a Gaussian having a standard deviation of about 0.02. The upper bound on the QCD background is then obtained by increasing the width of the Gaussian until there is a larger number of MC events predicted to pass the selection criteria than is observed in data. The upper bounds found in this way are different for different search regions as a result of variations in statistics and contributions of other SM processes. The values of the Gaussian width that are found to cover all cases are 0.07 in the case of T2tt and 0.05 in the case of T2bW.

Finally, the QCD multijet simulated data are generated in discrete bins of  $H_T$  in the case of MADGRAPH and in bins of quark and gluon  $p_T$  in the case of PYTHIA. The effective integrated luminosity for some of the samples in particular bins can be much smaller than the  $18.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of integrated luminosity collected in proton-proton collision data. A systematic uncertainty is therefore applied to each QCD background prediction to cover a possible underprediction that could be the result of a lack of events in these highly weighted bins.

## 7.2 Estimation of the $t\bar{t}Z$ background

Standard model  $t\bar{t}Z$  production is a rare process ( $\sigma \sim 0.2 \text{ pb}$ ) that becomes an important background in CORRAL-based search regions for the T2tt signal model where general  $t\bar{t}$  backgrounds have been greatly suppressed. Its contribution to the final signal sample is predicted with simulated  $t\bar{t}Z$  events created by the MC@NLO event generator with parton showering by HERWIG. There are no sufficiently populated and uncontaminated data control regions in which to perform careful studies of this rare SM process. The simulated data are studied instead, making use of variations in the parameters that control the generation and parton showering to establish systematic uncertainties in the estimated event counts in the signal regions. In addition, the relative difference in yields between the default MC@NLO sample and a separate MADGRAPH sample, with parton showering by PYTHIA, is used to estimate a systematic uncertainty associated with MC generators. This uncertainty ranges between 3% and 26% depending on the search region.

The uncertainty in the  $t\bar{t}Z$  production cross section is estimated from a data control sample with three reconstructed charged leptons drawn from a larger event sample that has been collected with a set of dilepton triggers used for multilepton SUSY searches [104]. The two charged leptons picked up by these triggers most often originate from the decay of a Z boson and are thus oppositely charged, same-flavour leptons. The third lepton can arise via the semileptonic decay of a W coming from the decay of a top quark in  $t\bar{t}Z$  events. The selection of events for this control sample thus includes the requirement that two of the reconstructed leptons must be consistent with the expectations for leptons from Z boson decay in flavour, charge, and the invariant mass of the pair. In order to reduce the contamination from other SM backgrounds, events are also required to have at least three or more jets, at least six picky jets, and one or more b-jets tagged with the medium CSV working point [74] in order to increase the relative contribution of the  $t\bar{t}Z$  process.

With a contribution of approximately 10%, diboson production is a leading SM process in this region after  $t\bar{t}Z$ . Thus, a diboson-enriched control region is established that makes use of the same selection criteria as that described above for the  $t\bar{t}Z$  control region, except that the  $b$  tagging requirement is inverted to form a corresponding  $b$ -tag veto. This sample is used to normalise the overall diboson process in MC simulation to that observed in data in regions where it dominates over the  $t\bar{t}Z$  process.

The  $t\bar{t}Z$  and the diboson processes in the enriched control regions described above have estimated event yields that are statistically consistent with the event yields predicted by simulation samples. In view of this, the data-MC scale factors are taken to have central value of unity, and no correction is applied. The statistical uncertainty in the  $t\bar{t}Z$  scale factor is 31%. This is adopted as a systematic uncertainty in the estimated yield of this background source.

A final systematic uncertainty takes into account differences observed between the kinematic distributions in MC simulation and data. To this end, we make use of the closure uncertainties in the  $W$ +jets (including  $t\bar{t}$ ) and  $Z$ +jets background predictions that have been derived in the lepton control regions as necessitated by the lack of an appropriate  $t\bar{t}Z$  data control sample. The maximum estimated uncertainty found for either of the two processes is taken to be the uncertainty in the modelling of the kinematics for the  $t\bar{t}Z$  process. This uncertainty ranges between 16% and 39%, depending on the signal sample. The  $t\bar{t}Z$  prediction and all of its associated uncertainties are listed in Tables 3 and 4.

## 8 Results and interpretation

The predicted distributions for discriminator values for the various independent T2 $t\bar{t}$  and T2 $bW$  searches described earlier are shown in Figs. 12 and 13. Event yields in data are plotted with their statistical uncertainties and compared to the SM background predictions. The latter are represented by the coloured histograms in the upper pane. Error bars on the ratios of the observed to predicted event yields in the bottom pane include only statistical uncertainties. The filled band in the lower pane of each plot represents the relative systematic uncertainty in the background predictions. A vertical dashed red line near the right edge in the lower pane of each plot marks the MVA discriminator value that is used to define the lower boundary of the search region. Note that these figures are for illustrative purposes only. The uncertainties in the more inclusive regions shown in these figures do not receive the detailed treatment that is given to the calculation of uncertainties in the final search region yields. In particular, the filled band uses the uncertainty in the  $Z$ +jets background as the closure uncertainty in the  $t\bar{t}$  plus  $W$ +jets background, scaled by the ratio of the  $Z$ +jets to  $t\bar{t}$  plus  $W$ +jets uncertainties in the search region where these uncertainties have been carefully determined. In addition, a fixed 50% uncertainty is used for the QCD multijet yields, while the systematic uncertainty in the single top quark process and statistical uncertainty in kinematic scale factors are not included.

The line in the lower pane of each plot in Figures 12 and 13 labeled “MC (without corr.)” represents the sum of the MC contributions, relative to the prediction, prior to weighting by the corrective scale factors discussed in the preceding sections. There are no statistically significant differences observed upon comparing the data with the uncorrected (or corrected) MC samples. Figures 14 and 15 provide a completely equivalent set of plots to those just described, but in this case, no lepton vetoes have been included in the selection of events. The event yields therefore are much higher in these cases. These data are used to provide a useful cross-check of the  $t\bar{t}$  plus  $W$ +jets kinematic closure test. They also allow for a check of the agreement in event kinematics between MC simulation and data, without any potential biases that might arise in association with the application of the lepton vetoes to the MC data. Data and simulation agree

within  $\pm 20\%$  for all search regions.

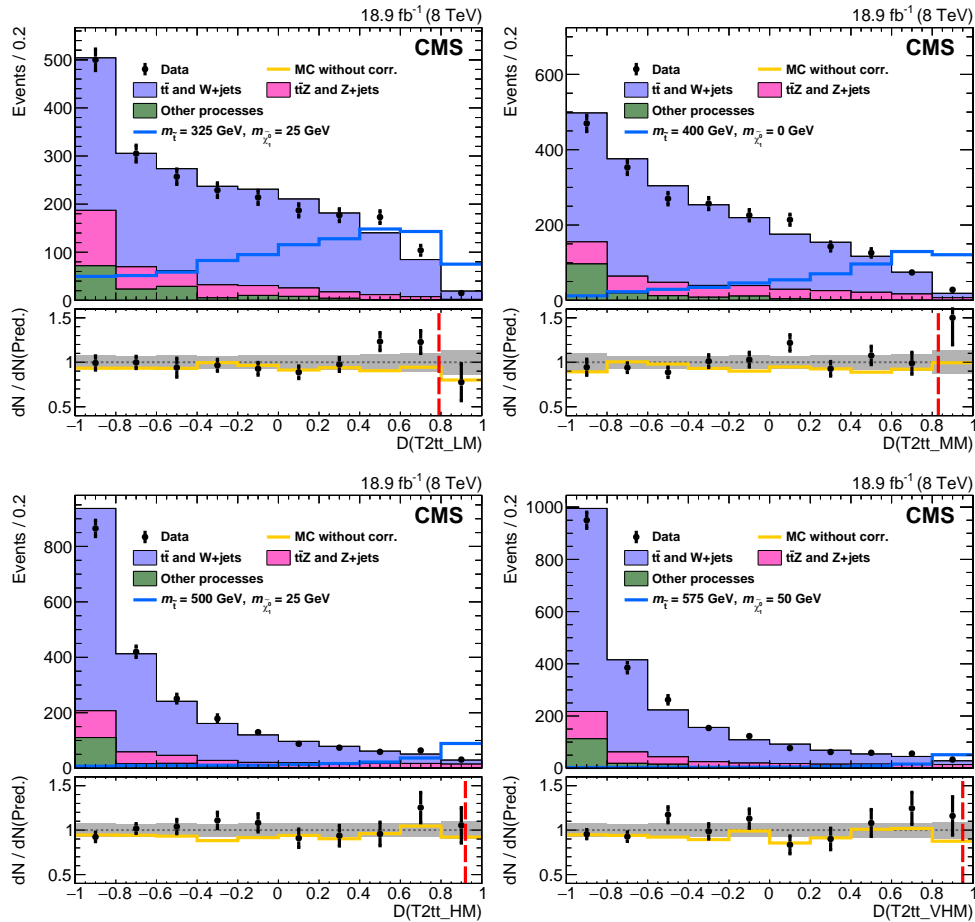


Figure 12: Observed and predicted event yields for each T2tt search region discriminator (D). The bottom pane of each plot shows the ratio of observed to predicted yields where the error bars on data points only include the statistical uncertainties in the data and MC event yields. The filled bands represent the relative systematic uncertainties in the predictions.

The predicted and observed yields in the T2tt and T2bW search regions are summarized in Tables 5 and 6. No statistically significant excess in data is observed. We therefore use these results to set upper bounds on the production cross sections for the T2tt and T2bW families of signal models.

Table 5: Predicted and observed data yields in the T2tt search regions. The uncertainties in the background predictions are the combined systematic and statistical uncertainties.

	Search region yield			
	T2tt_LM	T2tt_MM	T2tt_HM	T2tt_VHM
$t\bar{t}$ , W+jets, and single t	$19.8 \pm 3.2$	$8.64 \pm 1.81$	$3.21 \pm 1.02$	$1.00 \pm 0.53$
Z+jets	$0.69 \pm 0.23$	$2.30 \pm 0.90$	$1.92 \pm 0.84$	$0.59 \pm 0.28$
$t\bar{t}Z$	$1.34 \pm 0.49$	$2.66 \pm 1.27$	$1.62 \pm 0.75$	$0.99 \pm 0.52$
QCD multijet	$0.91 \pm 0.58$	$0.17 \pm 0.07$	$0.04 \pm 0.02$	$0.01 \pm 0.01$
All SM backgrounds	$22.7 \pm 3.3$	$13.8 \pm 2.4$	$6.8 \pm 1.5$	$2.6 \pm 0.8$
Observed data	16	18	7	2

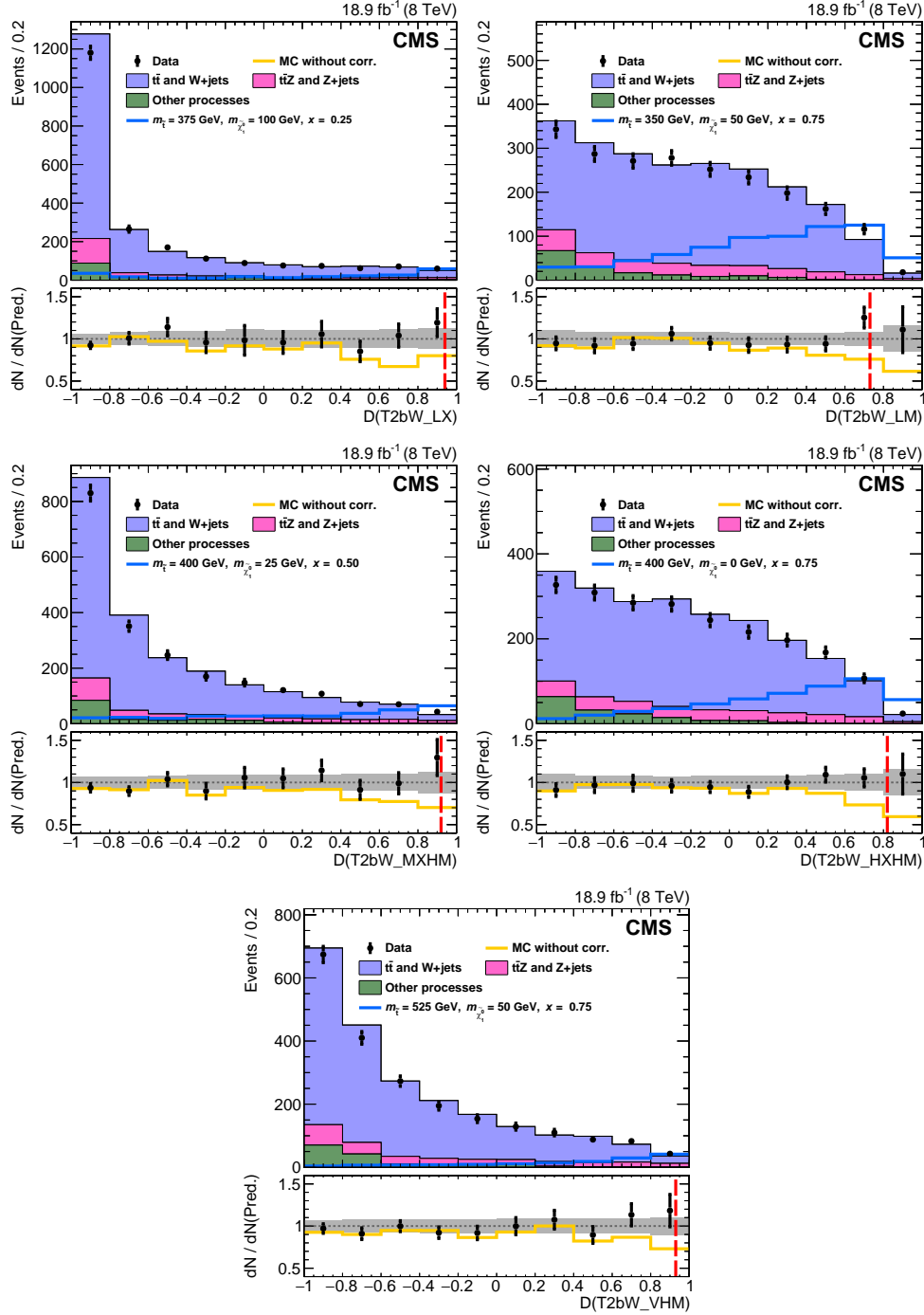


Figure 13: Observed and predicted event yields for each T2bW search region discriminator (D). The bottom pane of each plot shows the ratio of observed to predicted yields where the error bars on data points only include the statistical uncertainties in the data and MC event yields. The filled bands represent the relative systematic uncertainties in the predictions.



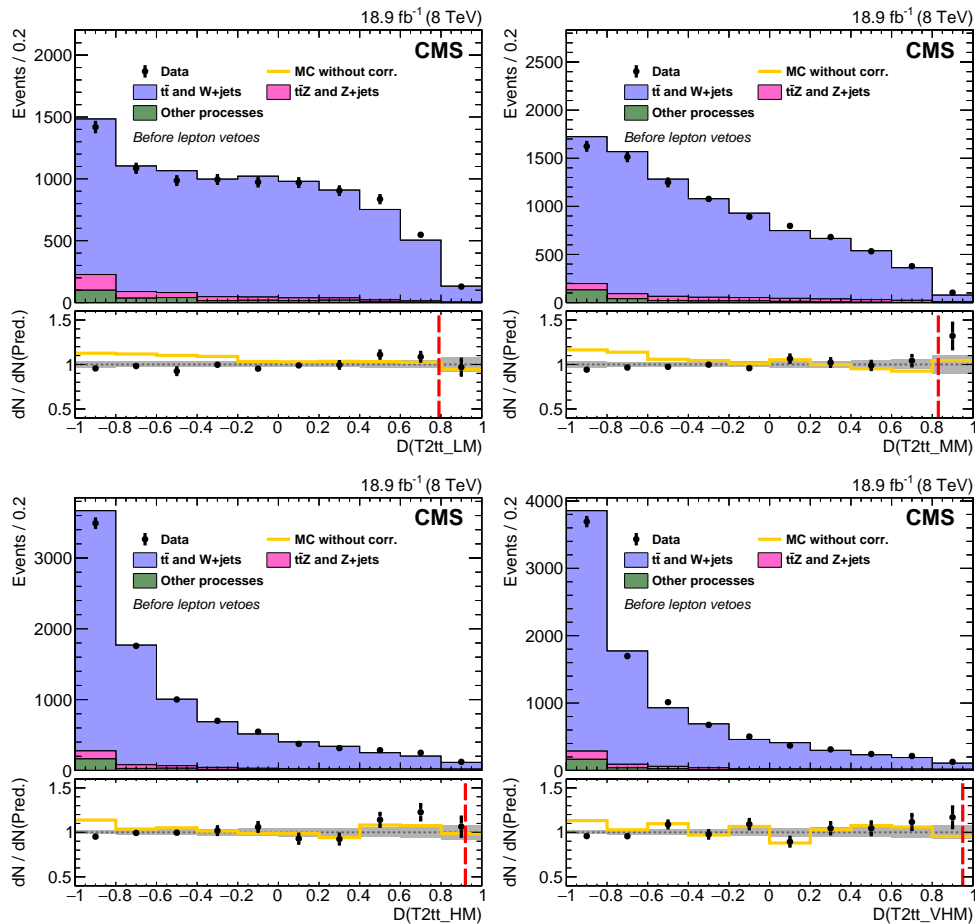


Figure 14: Observed and predicted event yields for each T2tt search region discriminator (D) before lepton vetoes are applied, which are used for the cross-checks discussed in the text. The bottom pane of each plot shows the ratio of observed to predicted yields where the error bars on data points only include the statistical uncertainties in the data and MC event yields. The filled bands represent the relative systematic uncertainties in the predictions.

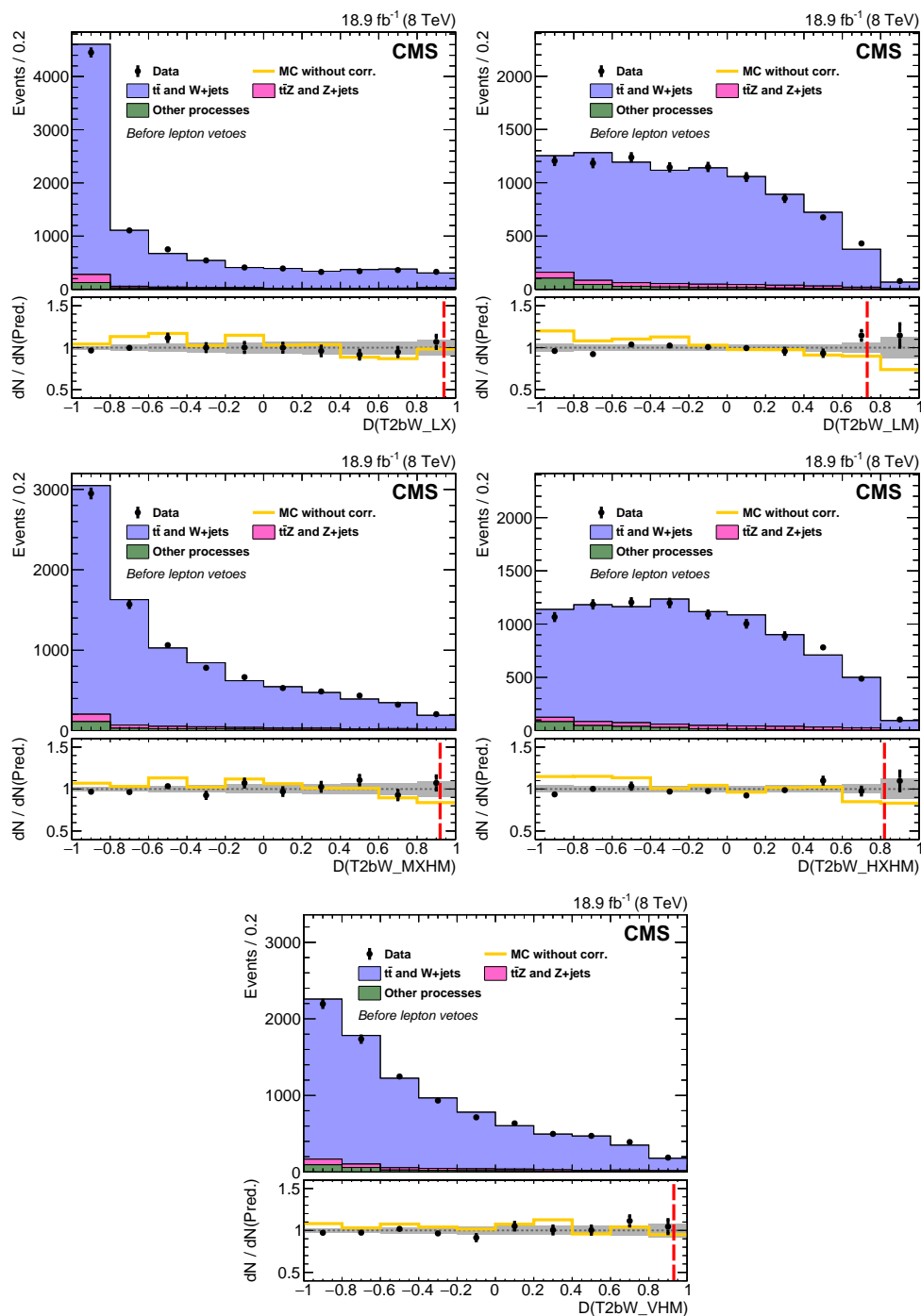


Figure 15: Observed and predicted event yields for each T2bW search region discriminator (D) before lepton vetoes are applied, which are used for the cross-checks discussed in the text. The bottom pane of each plot shows the ratio of observed to predicted yields where the error bars on data points only include the statistical uncertainties in the data and MC event yields. The filled bands represent the relative systematic uncertainties in the predictions.

Table 6: Predicted and observed data yields in the T2bW search regions. The uncertainties in the background predictions are the combined systematic and statistical uncertainties.

	Search region yield				
	T2bW_LX	T2bW_LM	T2bW_MXHM	T2bW_HXHM	T2bW_VHM
$t\bar{t}$ , W+jets, and single t	$6.41 \pm 2.08$	$30.4 \pm 4.0$	$3.41 \pm 1.05$	$12.1 \pm 2.8$	$2.00 \pm 0.78$
Z+jets	$1.88 \pm 0.93$	$4.57 \pm 1.67$	$1.66 \pm 0.72$	$1.77 \pm 0.73$	$1.24 \pm 0.54$
$t\bar{t}Z$	$0.59 \pm 0.30$	$2.46 \pm 1.11$	$0.83 \pm 0.39$	$1.72 \pm 0.79$	$0.62 \pm 0.29$
QCD multijet	$0.71 \pm 0.35$	$0.36 \pm 0.19$	$0.10 \pm 0.12$	$0.01 \pm 0.01$	$0.01 \pm 0.01$
All SM backgrounds	$9.6 \pm 2.3$	$37.7 \pm 4.4$	$6.0 \pm 1.3$	$15.6 \pm 3.0$	$3.9 \pm 1.0$
Observed data	12	47	6	14	4

The signal yields and their corresponding efficiencies are estimated by applying the event selection criteria to simulated data samples. Systematic uncertainties in the signal selection efficiencies are assessed as a function of the  $\tilde{t}$  and  $\tilde{\chi}_1^0$  masses, and as a function of the mass splitting parameter  $x$  in the case of the T2bW signal. The uncertainty in the jet energy scale (JES) has the largest impact on signal yield, followed by the b tagging efficiency uncertainty. The uncertainty associated with the parton distribution functions is evaluated by following the recommendation of the PDF4LHC group [105–109]. Uncertainties in the jet energy resolution, initial-state radiation, and integrated luminosity [67] are also included. For the T2tt channel, we assign three additional uncertainties. The first accounts for the difference observed in the performance of the CORRAL algorithm between the standard CMS full and fast detector simulations. This difference decreases with increasing top quark  $p_T$  and so depends on the difference between  $m_{\tilde{t}}$  and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$ , reaching 20% for cases where  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  is close to  $m_{\tilde{t}}$ . The other two uncertainties each have a magnitude of 5% and cover the differences observed in parton shower (PS) algorithms (PYTHIA versus HERWIG) and top quark reconstruction efficiencies in data vs. simulation. Table 7 lists the magnitude of each systematic uncertainty in signal points for which this search has sensitivity. For T2tt, the total systematic uncertainty is less than 15% for  $m_{\tilde{t}} - m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} > 300$  GeV.

Table 7: Summary of the systematic uncertainties in the signal selection efficiencies. The uncertainties can depend on signal topology, mass values, and search region. The quoted value ranges capture the variations associated with these dependencies. In all cases, the upper bound corresponds to the region in which  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  is close to  $m_{\tilde{t}}$ .

Systematics source	Magnitude [%]
b tagging	5–10
Jet energy scale	5–20
Jet energy resolution	<5
Initial-state radiation	1–20
Parton distribution functions	1–15
Integrated luminosity	2.6
CORRAL FastSim (T2tt)	1–20
CORRAL dependence on PS (T2tt)	5
CORRAL reconstruction (T2tt)	5

In the absence of any observed significant excesses of events over predicted backgrounds in the various search regions, the modified frequentist  $CL_S$  method [110–112] with a one-sided profile likelihood ratio test statistic is used to define 95% confidence level (CL) upper limits on the production cross section for both the T2tt and T2bW simplified models as a function of the masses of the SUSY particles involved. Statistical uncertainties related to the observed numbers

of events are modelled as Poisson distributions. Systematic uncertainties in the background predictions are assumed to be multiplicative and are modelled with log-normal distributions.

For each choice of SUSY particle masses, the search region with the highest expected sensitivity (Fig. 7) is chosen to calculate an upper limit for the production cross section. The expected and observed upper limits in the production cross section for both the T2tt and T2bW topologies in the  $m_{\tilde{t}} - m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  plane are displayed in Fig.16. For the T2tt topology this search is sensitive to models with  $m_{\tilde{t}} < 775$  GeV, or 755 GeV when conservatively subtracting one standard deviation of the theoretical uncertainty, and provides the most stringent limit to date on this simplified model for  $m_{\tilde{t}} > 600$  GeV. Sensitivity extends to models with  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} < 290$  GeV and this search is especially sensitive to the case of large  $m_{\tilde{t}}$  and low  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  for which events typically have both large  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  and a high CORRAL top pair reconstruction efficiency. On the contrary, the analysis has no sensitivity to models with  $m_{\tilde{t}} - m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} < 200$  GeV despite the large cross section of some signal scenarios.

This search is considerably less sensitive to the T2bW topology because that model does not feature on-shell top quark decays. The sensitivity in this case extends to scenarios with  $m_{\tilde{t}} < 650$  GeV, with the strongest results for large  $x$  models for which  $m_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm}$  is closer to  $m_{\tilde{t}}$  than  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$ , resulting in a harder  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  spectrum. For scenarios with  $x = 0.25$  the search has less sensitivity to models with  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} \approx 0$  GeV than to those with moderate  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$ . In such cases the difference between  $m_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm}$  and  $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  is near the mass of the W boson and the signal has a low efficiency to pass the baseline selection's jet-multiplicity criterion.

## 9 Summary

We report a search for the direct pair production of top squarks in an all-hadronic final state containing jets and large missing transverse momentum. Two decay channels for the top squarks are considered. In the first channel, each top squark decays to a top quark and a neutralino, whereas in the second channel they each decay to a bottom quark and a chargino, with the chargino subsequently decaying to a W boson and a neutralino. A dedicated top quark pair reconstruction algorithm provides efficient identification of hadronically decaying top quarks. The search is carried out in several search regions based on the output of multivariate discriminators, where the standard model background yield is estimated with corrected simulation samples and validated in data control regions. The observed yields are statistically compatible with the standard model estimates and are used to restrict the allowed parameter space for these two signal topologies. The search is particularly sensitive to the production of top squarks that decay via an on-shell top quark. For models predicting such decays, a 95% CL lower limit of 755 GeV is found for the top squark mass when the neutralino is lighter than 200 GeV, extending the current limits on these models by 50–100 GeV. In models with top squarks that decay via a chargino, scenarios with a top squark mass up to 620 GeV are excluded.

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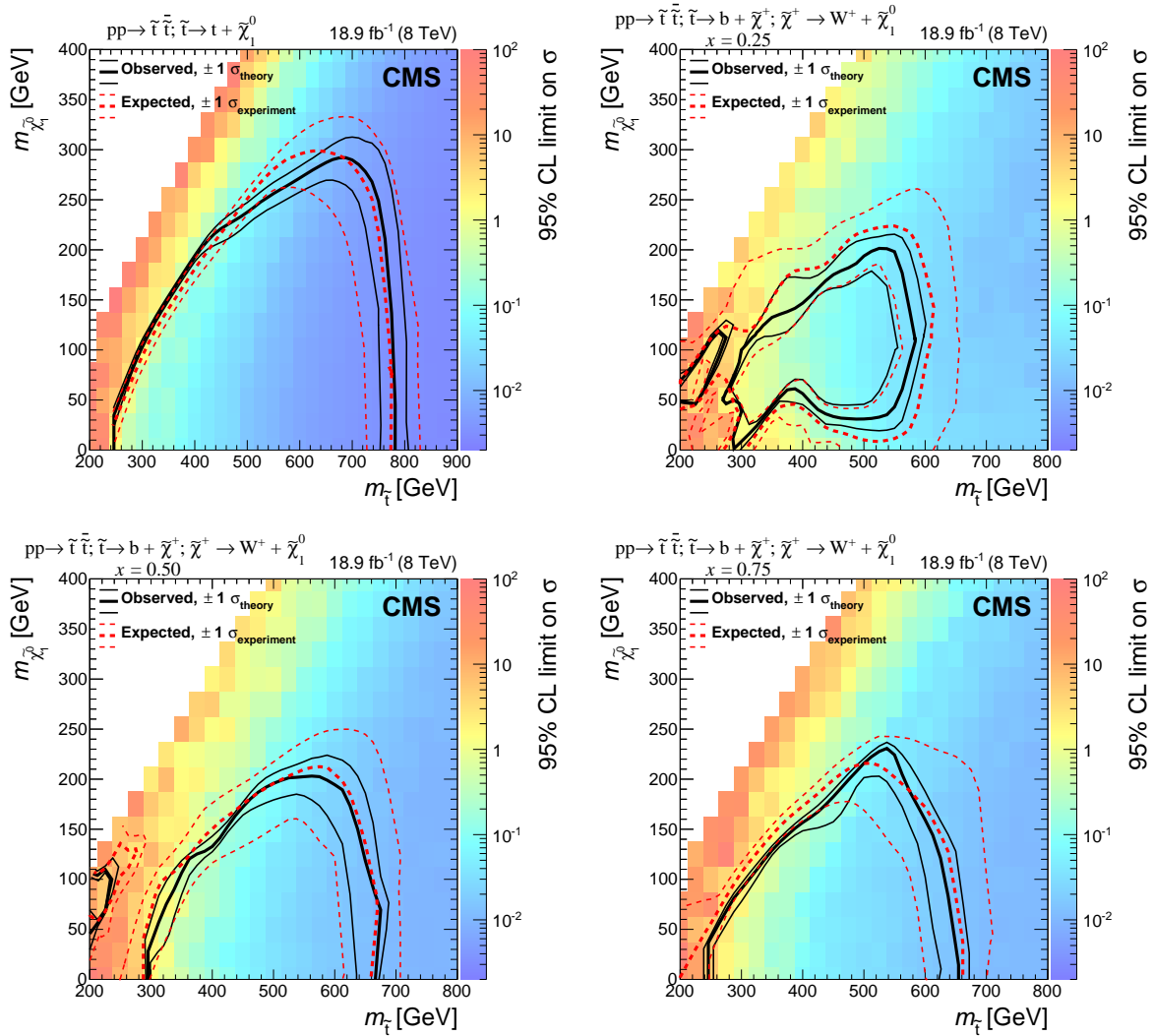


Figure 16: Observed and expected 95% CL limits on the  $\tilde{t}\tilde{t}$  production cross section and exclusion areas in the  $m_{\tilde{t}} - m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$  plane for the T2tt (top left) and T2bW signal topologies (with  $x=0.25, 0.50, 0.75$ ). In the rare cases in which a statistical fluctuation leads to zero signal events for a particular set of masses, the limit is taken to be the average of the limits obtained for the neighboring bins.

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