



ATLAS flavour-tagging algorithms for the LHC Run 2 pp collision dataset

The ATLAS Collaboration

The flavour-tagging algorithms developed by the ATLAS Collaboration and used to analyse its dataset of $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV pp collisions from Run 2 of the Large Hadron Collider are presented. These new tagging algorithms are based on recurrent and deep neural networks, and their performance is evaluated in simulated collision events. These developments yield considerable improvements over previous jet-flavour identification strategies. At the 77% b -jet identification efficiency operating point, light-jet (charm-jet) rejection factors of 170 (5) are achieved in a sample of simulated Standard Model $t\bar{t}$ events; similarly, at a c -jet identification efficiency of 30%, a light-jet (b -jet) rejection factor of 70 (9) is obtained.

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1 Introduction

The separation of jets containing b - and c -hadrons (b -jets and c -jets, respectively) against jets containing neither b - or c -hadrons (light-flavour jets) is of major importance in many areas of the physics programme of the ATLAS experiment [1] at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [2]. Flavour-tagging has been decisive in observations of the Higgs boson decay into bottom quarks [3] and of its production in association with a top-quark pair [4], and plays a crucial role in a large number of Standard Model (SM) precision measurements, studies of Higgs boson properties, and searches for new phenomena.

The ATLAS Collaboration uses various algorithms to identify b - and c -jets [5], referred to as flavour-tagging algorithms, when analysing data from pp collisions recorded during Run 2 of the LHC (2015–2018) at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. These algorithms exploit the long lifetime, high mass and high decay multiplicity of b - and c -hadrons as well as the properties of heavy-quark fragmentation. Given a lifetime of the order of 1.5 ps ($\langle c\tau \rangle \approx 450 \mu\text{m}$), energetic b -hadrons have a significant mean flight length, $\langle l \rangle = \beta\gamma c\tau$, in the detector before decaying, generally leading to at least one vertex displaced by a few mm from the hard-scatter collision point.

The strategy developed by the ATLAS Collaboration is based on a two-stage approach. Low-level algorithms reconstruct the characteristic features of the heavy-flavour jets via two complementary approaches: one that uses the properties of individual charged-particle tracks (referred to as ‘tracks’) associated with a hadronic jet, and a second which combines the tracks to explicitly reconstruct displaced vertices. Then, in order to maximise performance, the results of low-level algorithms are combined in high-level algorithms consisting of multivariate classifiers. The analysis of the data from Run 2 of the LHC is marked by improvements and retuning of the low-level algorithms [6], first introduced during Run 1, but also by the introduction of new low- and high-level algorithms respectively based on recurrent and deep neural networks. This yields considerable improvements over previous work, which was based on boosted decision trees or likelihood discriminants.

This paper is organised as follows. Section 2 introduces the ATLAS detector. The simulated Monte Carlo events used in this work are described in Section 3. Section 4 contains the description of the objects reconstructed in the detector which are key inputs to flavour-tagging algorithms, while Sections 5 and 6 describe the low- and high-level tagging algorithms respectively. Finally, their performance, evaluated on simulated event samples, is presented in Section 7.

2 The ATLAS detector

The ATLAS detector [1] at the LHC covers nearly the entire solid angle around the collision point. It consists of an inner tracking detector (ID) surrounded by a superconducting solenoid, electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters and a muon spectrometer incorporating three large superconducting toroid magnets.

The ID consists of a high-granularity silicon pixel detector which covers the vertex region and typically provides four measurements per track. The innermost layer, known as the insertable B-layer (IBL) [7], was added in 2014 and provides high-resolution hits at small radius to improve the tracking performance. For a fixed b -jet efficiency, the incorporation of the IBL improves the light-flavour jet rejection of the b -tagging algorithms by up to a factor of four [8]. The silicon pixel detector is followed by a silicon microstrip tracker that typically provides eight measurements from four strip double layers. These silicon detectors are

complemented by a transition radiation tracker (TRT), which enables radially extended track reconstruction up to a pseudorapidity¹ of $|\eta| = 2.0$. The TRT also provides electron identification information based on the fraction of hits (typically 33 in the barrel and up to an average of 38 in the endcaps) above a higher energy-deposit threshold corresponding to transition radiation. The ID is immersed in a 2 T axial magnetic field and provides charged-particle tracking in the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 2.5$.

The calorimeter system covers the pseudorapidity range $|\eta| < 4.9$. Within the region $|\eta| < 3.2$, electromagnetic calorimetry is provided by barrel and endcap high-granularity lead/liquid-argon (LAr) sampling calorimeters, with an additional thin LAr presampler covering $|\eta| < 1.8$ to correct for energy loss in material upstream of the calorimeters. Hadronic calorimetry is provided by a steel/scintillator-tile calorimeter, segmented into three barrel structures within $|\eta| < 1.7$, and two copper/LAr hadronic endcap calorimeters. The solid angle coverage is completed with forward copper/LAr and tungsten/LAr calorimeter modules optimised for electromagnetic and hadronic measurements, respectively.

The muon spectrometer comprises separate trigger and high-precision tracking chambers measuring the deflection of muons in a magnetic field generated by the superconducting air-core toroids. The precision chamber system covers the region $|\eta| < 2.7$ with three layers of monitored drift tubes, complemented by cathode-strip chambers in the forward region. The muon trigger system covers the range $|\eta| < 2.4$ with resistive-plate chambers in the barrel and thin-gap chambers in the endcap regions.

A two-level trigger system [9] is used to select interesting events. The first level of the trigger is implemented in hardware and uses a subset of detector information to reduce the event rate to a design value of at most 100 kHz. It is followed by a software-based trigger that reduces the event rate to a maximum of around 1 kHz for offline storage.

An extensive software suite [10] is used in data simulation, in the reconstruction and analysis of real and simulated data, in detector operations, and in the trigger and data acquisition systems of the experiment.

3 Monte Carlo Samples

The optimisation of the ATLAS Run 2 b -tagging algorithms is performed with jets from a ‘hybrid’ sample composed of a mixture of simulated SM $t\bar{t}$ and high-mass $Z' \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ events. The Z' events do not correspond to a single resonance but have a broad Z' mass spectrum in order to optimise the b -tagging performance at high jet momentum transverse to the beam-line (p_T). The final hybrid sample for training is obtained by mixing all b -jets from the available $t\bar{t}$ events, if the corresponding b -hadron p_T is below 250 GeV, with all jets containing a b -hadron with $p_T > 250$ GeV from the Z' sample. A similar strategy, based on the jet p_T , is applied for c -jets and light-flavour jets. No attempt is made to distinguish quark-initiated jets from gluon-initiated jets in these samples.

The $t\bar{t}$ simulation sample was produced using POWHEG BOX v2 [11–14], which yields matrix elements at next-to-leading order (NLO) in the strong coupling constant α_s for top-quark pair production. The first-gluon-emission cut-off scale parameter h_{damp} was set to $1.5m_t$, with $m_t = 172.5$ GeV used for the top-quark mass. POWHEG BOX was interfaced to PYTHIA 8.230 [15] with the A14 set of tuned parameters [16]

¹ ATLAS uses a right-handed coordinate system with its origin at the nominal interaction point (IP) in the centre of the detector and the z -axis along the beam pipe. The x -axis points from the IP to the centre of the LHC ring, and the y -axis points upwards. Cylindrical coordinates (r, ϕ) are used in the transverse plane, ϕ being the azimuthal angle around the z -axis. The pseudorapidity is defined in terms of the polar angle θ as $\eta = -\ln \tan(\theta/2)$. Angular distance is measured in units of $\Delta R \equiv \sqrt{(\Delta\eta)^2 + (\Delta\phi)^2}$.

and NNPDF3.0_{NNLO} (NNPDF2.3_{LO}) [17, 18] parton distribution functions in the matrix elements (parton shower). This set-up was found to produce the best modelling, out of a number of available generator configurations, of the multiplicity of additional jets and of both the individual top-quark and $t\bar{t}$ system p_T [19, 20]. The $t\bar{t}$ events with at least one leptonic W -boson decay are considered, which ensures that a sufficiently large fraction of b -jets, c -jets, and light-flavour jets are present in the jet population.

To train and to evaluate the performance of the b -tagging algorithms at high jet p_T , a Z' sample was generated using PYTHIA 8.212 with the A14 set of tuned parameters for the underlying event and the leading-order NNPDF2.3_{LO} [18] parton distribution functions. The cross-section of the hard-scattering process was modified by applying an event-by-event weighting factor to broaden the natural width of the resonance. The branching fractions of the decays were set to be one-third each for the $b\bar{b}$, $c\bar{c}$ and light-flavour quark pairs to obtain a sample uniformly populated by jets of each flavour. This results in a fairly flat jet p_T spectrum between 250 GeV and 1.5 TeV for b -jets, c -jets, and light-flavour jets, with the falling tail of the p_T distribution populated to 3 TeV for each flavour.

The EVTGEN [21] package was used to simulate the decay of heavy-flavour hadrons. All simulated events have additional overlaid minimum-bias interactions generated with PYTHIA 8.160 with the A3 set of tuned parameters [22] and NNPDF2.3_{LO} parton distribution functions to simulate pile-up background.² These events are weighted to reproduce the observed distribution of the average number of interactions per bunch crossing in the corresponding data sample. The simulated events were processed through the full ATLAS detector simulation [23] based on GEANT4 [24]. Interactions of b -hadrons with the detector material were not simulated; c -hadrons and τ -leptons are similarly affected. This may result in sub-optimal identification algorithm performance in data for jets with very energetic particles that decay beyond the IBL. ATLAS analyses apply dedicated correction factors and corresponding uncertainties to account for the difference in performance between data and simulation.

4 Key ingredients for flavour-tagging

Jet flavour identification relies upon a number of more fundamental objects reconstructed in the ATLAS detector. The most important of these are charged-particle tracks, primary vertices (PVs), and hadronic jets ('jets'). Limited information about the hadrons contained within hadronic jets from the simulated event's record is also used during algorithm optimisation and performance studies. A short description of each of these key ingredients is given below, and more detailed information is available in Section 3 of Ref. [6].

Charged-particle tracks are reconstructed in the ID [25]. Only tracks with $p_T > 500$ MeV are used in jet flavour tagging, with further selection criteria applied to reject fake and poorly measured tracks [26]. The total tracking efficiency for charged pions with $p_T > 4$ GeV ranges from 90% for $|\eta| < 1$ to 70% in the forward region ($2.3 < |\eta| < 2.5$) of the detector. Additional selection criteria for reconstructed tracks are applied in the low-level b -tagging algorithms described in Section 5 to maintain a high efficiency for charged particles from heavy-flavour hadron decays while rejecting tracks originating from pile-up.

Primary vertex reconstruction [27, 28] on an event-by-event basis is particularly important for b -tagging since it defines the reference point from which track and vertex displacements are computed. Reconstructed PVs are constrained to be within the luminous region of the colliding LHC beams. A longitudinal vertex position resolution of about 30 μm is achieved for events with a high multiplicity of reconstructed tracks,

² Pile-up interactions correspond to additional pp collisions accompanying the hard-scatter pp interaction in proton bunch collisions at the LHC.

while the transverse resolution ranges from 10 to 12 μm , depending on the LHC running conditions that determine the beam-spot size. Flavour tagging requires at least one PV in each event, and the PV with the highest sum of squared transverse momenta of contributing tracks is selected as the primary interaction point or ‘hard-scatter vertex’; all tracks contributing to a vertex are used in the hard-scatter vertex determination – they need not be associated to a hadronic jet. Charged-particle tracks originating from b -hadron decays often have large transverse and longitudinal impact parameters, d_0 and z_0 respectively, where d_0 is the distance of closest approach of the track to the PV in the transverse plane, and z_0 is the longitudinal separation between the PV and the point on the track where d_0 is measured, referred to below as the ‘perigee’.

Hadronic jets are built from ‘particle-flow objects’, which are constructed from signals in the ATLAS calorimeters and ID; particle-flow objects take advantage of the better resolution of particle tracking when low- p_T charged hadrons result in geometrically-matched calorimeter deposits and a charged-particle track [29]. The anti- k_t algorithm with radius parameter $R = 0.4$ [30], implemented in FASTJET [31], is used for jet finding. Jet transverse momenta are further corrected to the corresponding particle-level jet p_T , based on the simulation [32]. Remaining differences between simulated events and observed data are evaluated using in situ techniques, which exploit the transverse momentum balance between a jet and a reference object such as a photon, Z boson, or multi-jet system in data; corrections are applied to simulated jets to bring them in line with data [32]. Jets with $p_T < 20$ GeV or $|\eta| \geq 2.5$ are not considered for jet flavour identification, as low- p_T jets are outside the valid calibration range and high- $|\eta|$ jets are outside the tracking fiducial volume. In order to reduce the number of jets with large energy fractions from pile-up collision vertices, the ‘jet vertex tagger’ (JVT) algorithm is used [33]. The JVT procedure builds a multivariate discriminant for each jet within $|\eta| < 2.4$ based on the ID tracks ghost-associated³ with the jet [34]; in particular, jets with a large fraction of high-momentum tracks from pile-up vertices are less likely to pass the JVT requirement. The JVT efficiency for jets originating from the hard pp scattering is 92% in the simulation, but the rate of pile-up jets with $p_T \geq 60$ GeV is sufficiently small that the JVT requirement is removed above this threshold. The reconstructed jet direction and transverse momentum are especially important inputs to flavour-tagging, as they will determine which charged-particle tracks should be considered for jet flavour identification.

Tracks are matched to jets by setting a maximum allowed angular separation ΔR between the track momenta, defined at the perigee, and the jet axis. Given that the decay products from higher- p_T b -hadrons are more collimated, the ΔR requirement varies as a function of jet p_T , being wider for low- p_T jets (0.45 for jet $p_T = 20$ GeV) and narrower for high- p_T jets (0.26 for jet $p_T = 150$ GeV); if more than one jet fulfils the matching criteria, the closest jet is preferred. The jet axis is also used to assign signed impact parameters to tracks, where the sign is defined to be positive if the track intersects the jet axis in the transverse plane in front of the primary vertex, and negative if the intersection lies behind the primary vertex [5].

The flavour of a jet in simulation is determined by the nature of the hadrons it contains. Jets are labelled as b -jets if at least one weakly decaying b -hadron having $p_T \geq 5$ GeV is found within a cone of size $\Delta R = 0.3$ around the jet axis. If no b -hadrons are found, c -hadrons and then τ -leptons are searched for, based on the same selection criteria. The jets matched to a c -hadron (τ -lepton) are labelled as c -jets (τ -jets). The remaining jets are labelled as light-flavour jets. For jets with more than one heavy-flavour hadron, e.g. from gluon splitting to $b\bar{b}$ or $c\bar{c}$, the procedure above is still followed, and $b\bar{b}$ ($c\bar{c}$) jets will receive a b (c) label.

³ The ghost-association algorithm collects tracks within a jet’s geometric catchment area, taking into account possibly overlapping jet areas and is described in detail in Ref [34].

5 Low-level b -taggers

This section describes the different low-level algorithms used for b -jet identification in the ATLAS Run 2 dataset. These algorithms, designed to reconstruct the characteristic features of b -jets, fall into two broad categories. The first approach, implemented in the IP2D and IP3D algorithms [35] and described in Section 5.1, is inclusive and based on exploiting the large impact parameters of the tracks originating from the b -hadron decays. The new RNNIP [36] algorithm, developed during Run 2 and described in Section 5.2, exploits a recurrent neural network [37] to learn track impact-parameter correlations in order to further improve the jet flavour discrimination. The second approach explicitly reconstructs displaced vertices. The SV1 algorithm [38], discussed in Section 5.3, attempts to reconstruct an inclusive secondary vertex, while the JetFitter algorithm [39], presented in Section 5.4, aims to reconstruct the full b - to c -hadron decay chain.

5.1 Algorithms based on impact parameters

Two impact-parameter-based (IP-based) algorithms, IP2D and IP3D [35], are used by ATLAS. The IP2D tagger makes use of the signed transverse impact parameter significance of tracks to construct a discriminating variable, whereas IP3D uses both the signed transverse and signed longitudinal impact parameter significances⁴ in a two-dimensional template to account for their correlation. The signed transverse and longitudinal impact parameter significances are shown in Figure 1. Probability density functions (pdfs) obtained from reference histograms of the signed transverse and longitudinal impact parameter significances of tracks associated with b -jets, c -jets and light-flavour jets are derived from MC simulation. The pdfs are computed in exclusive categories that depend on the hit multiplicities of the tracks in the different ID layers to increase the discriminating power. In particular, the IBL hit pattern expectations and the second-innermost layer's information are fully exploited to improve the b -tagging performance in LHC Run 2. A set of template pdfs is produced using an equal mix of simulated $t\bar{t}$ and Z' events for track categories with no hits in the first two layers, which are populated by long-lived b -hadrons traversing the first layers before they decay. The $t\bar{t}$ sample is used to populate all remaining categories. The pdfs are used to calculate ratios of the b -jet, c -jet and light-flavour jet probabilities on a per-track basis. Log-likelihood ratio (LLR) discriminants are then defined as the sum of the logarithms of the per-track probability ratios for each jet-flavour hypothesis, e.g. $\sum_{i=1}^N \ln(p_b(S_i)/p_{\text{light}}(S_i))$ for the b -jet and light-flavour jet hypotheses, where N is the number of tracks associated with the jet and $p_b(S_i)$ ($p_{\text{light}}(S_i)$) is the template pdf for the b -jet (light-flavour jet) hypothesis, with S_i the impact parameter significance of the track i . The flavour probabilities of the different tracks contributing to the sum are assumed to be independent of each other. The log-likelihood ratios separating b -jets from light-flavour jets for the IP2D and IP3D b -tagging algorithms are shown in Figure 2. In addition to the LLR separating b -jets from light-flavour jets, two extra LLR discriminants are defined to separate b -jets from c -jets and c -jets from light-flavour jets, respectively. These three likelihood discriminants for both the IP2D and IP3D algorithms are used as inputs to the high-level taggers.

⁴ The impact parameter significance S_i of a track i is defined as the ratio of the track impact parameter to its uncertainty.

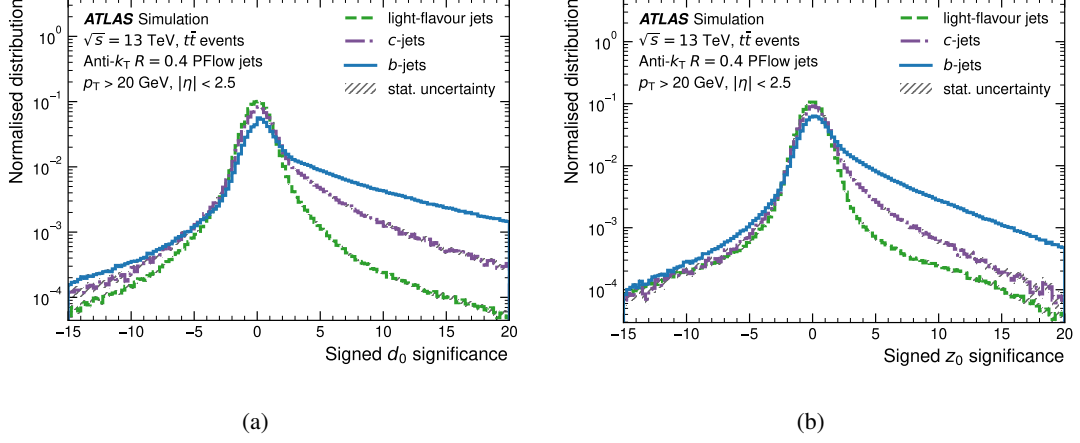


Figure 1: The (a) transverse and (b) longitudinal signed impact parameter significance of tracks for b -jets, c -jets and light-flavour jets in $t\bar{t}$ events. The first (last) bin in the distribution does not account for underflow (overflow).

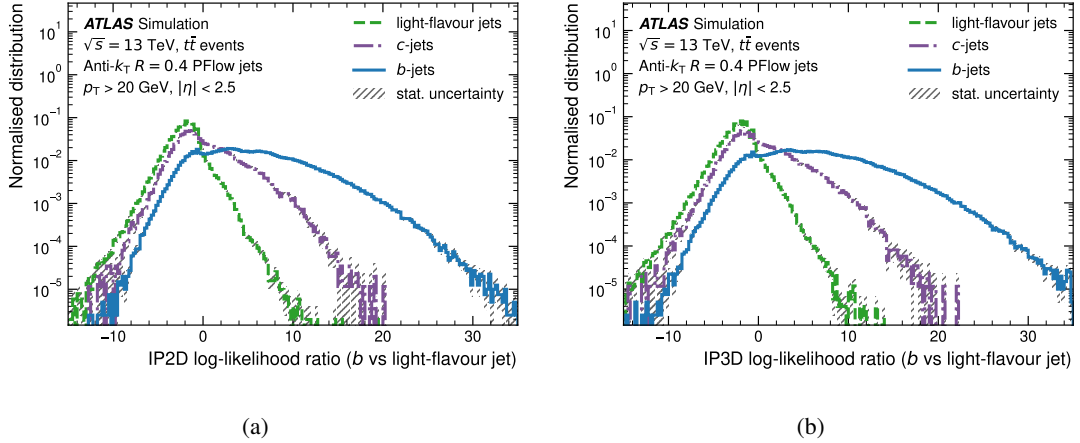


Figure 2: The log-likelihood ratio for the (a) IP2D and (b) IP3D b -tagging algorithms for b -jets, c -jets and light-flavour jets in $t\bar{t}$ events. The log-likelihood ratio shown here is computed as the ratio of the b -jet to light-flavour jet hypothesis probabilities. Jets with no tracks are not included in the plot, but assigned a large negative value. The first (last) bin in the distribution does not account for underflow (overflow).

5.2 Track-based recurrent neural network tagger

In the case of a b -hadron decay, several charged particles can emerge from the secondary (or tertiary) decay vertex with large impact parameters. The impact parameters of these hadron-decay tracks are intrinsically correlated: if one track is found with a large impact parameter then finding a second track with a large impact parameter is more likely. If no displaced decay is present, as in light-flavour jets, then such a correlation for large impact parameter significance is not expected. The baseline IP-based b -tagging algorithms, described in Section 5.1 uses likelihood templates to compute per-flavour conditional likelihoods. Due to the large event sample needed to compute such templates and therefore the difficulty in exploiting more input variables as additional histogram axes, IP-based b -tagging algorithms assume that the properties of each track in a jet are independent of all other tracks, which limits their ability to fully model the properties of b -jets. Recurrent neural networks (RNN) can be used to overcome this challenge by directly learning sequential dependencies between the variables in sequences of arbitrary length, as is the case for the tracks in a jet. For each selected track, the lifetime-correlated signed transverse (S_{d_0}) and longitudinal (S_{z_0}) impact parameter significances, the fraction of transverse momentum carried by the track relative to the jet p_T (p_T^{frac}), the angular distance between the track and the jet-axis ($\Delta R(\text{track}, \text{jet-axis})$) and the hit multiplicity of the track in the different ID layers are fed into the network [36]. The tracks are ordered by the $|S_{d_0}|$ values to form a sequence emphasising the particular importance this kinematic feature. This sequence is then passed to the neural network cells as a vector of the ordered-track features. During the training, the b -jet and c -jet p_T spectra are separately reweighted to the light-flavour jet spectrum so as to prevent the RNN from learning to discriminate directly from sample- and flavour-specific momentum distributions. The outputs provided by the network correspond to the b -jet, c -jet, and light-flavour jet probabilities. Figure 3 shows a schematic of the network architecture used for this algorithm, known as RNNIP.

The outputs of the RNN are combined into the b -tagging discriminant function as defined as:

$$D_{\text{RNNIP}} = \ln \left(\frac{p_b}{f_c \cdot p_c + (1 - f_c) p_{\text{light}}} \right),$$

where p_b , p_c and p_{light} are the three jet-flavour probabilities, and f_c denotes the c -jet fraction. The relative importance of c -jet and light-flavour-jet rejection can be changed by varying f_c . In this paper an optimised c -jet fraction of 0.07 is used in order to evaluate the performance of the RNNIP b -tagging algorithm in $t\bar{t}$ and $Z' \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ events. This value is chosen as a compromise to ensure good rejection factors for both c -jets and light-flavour jets in a large b -tagging efficiency range. The distribution of the RNNIP b -tagging discriminant for b -jets, c -jets and light-flavour jets in the baseline $t\bar{t}$ simulated events is shown in Figure 4.

5.3 Secondary-vertex-tagging algorithm

The secondary-vertex-tagging algorithm, SV1 [38], reconstructs a single displaced secondary vertex in a jet. The reconstruction starts by identifying the possible two-track vertices built with all tracks associated with the jet, while rejecting any tracks making two-track vertices compatible with K_S^0 or Λ decays, photon conversions or hadronic interactions with the detector material. The SV1 algorithm runs iteratively on all tracks contributing to the selected two-track vertices, trying to fit one secondary vertex. In each iteration, the track-to-vertex matching is evaluated using a χ^2 test. The track with the largest χ^2 is removed and the vertex fit is repeated until an acceptable vertex χ^2 and a vertex invariant mass less than 6 GeV are obtained. With this approach, the decay products from b - and c -hadrons are typically assigned to a single

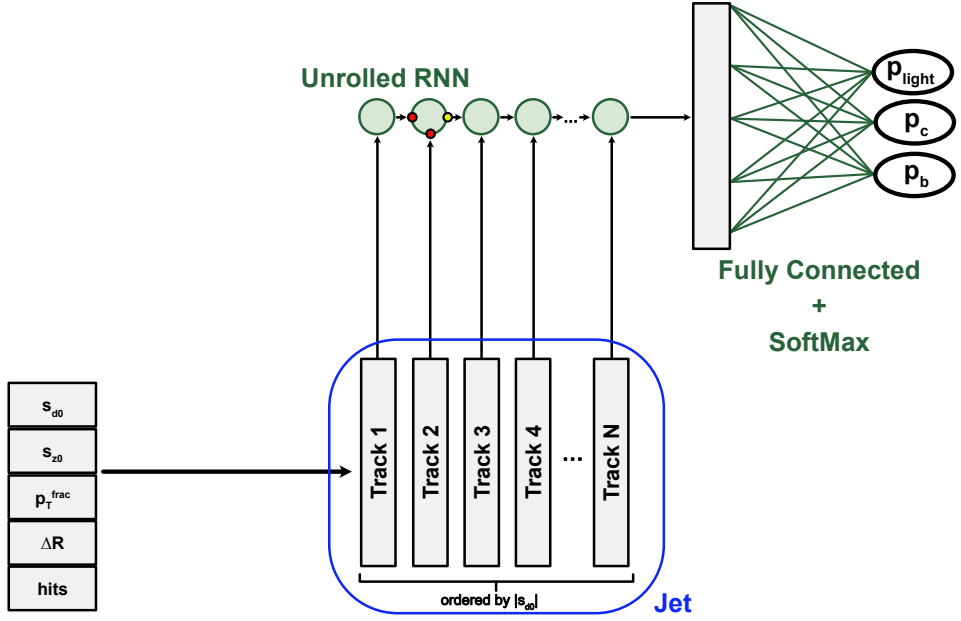


Figure 3: Schematic drawing of the RNNIP neural network architecture. The S_{d_0} and S_{z_0} input variables correspond to the lifetime-correlated signed transverse and longitudinal impact parameter significances, while p_T^{frac} and ΔR represent the fraction of transverse momentum carried by the track relative to the jet and the angular distance between the track and the jet axis, respectively.

common secondary vertex. The SV1 algorithm also benefits from several improvements [38] introduced during Run 2, and resulting in increased pile-up rejection and an overall enhancement of the performance at high jet p_T . Among the various algorithm improvements, additional track-cleaning requirements based on silicon detector hit multiplicity are applied to jets in the high-pseudorapidity region ($|\eta| \geq 1.5$) in order to improve the quality of the selected tracks. The fake-vertex rate is also better controlled by limiting the algorithm to only consider the 25 highest- p_T tracks in the jets. Finally, eight discriminating variables, including the jet p_T and η , the number of tracks associated with the SV1 vertex, the invariant mass of the secondary vertex, its energy fraction (defined as the total energy of all the tracks associated with the secondary vertex divided by the energy of all the tracks associated with the jet), and the three-dimensional decay length significance, are used as inputs to the high-level taggers. Six of these variables are illustrated in Figure 5.

In order to quantify the flavour-tagging performance of the SV1 algorithm, a simple feed-forward neural network was trained by exclusively using the outputs of the algorithm and the p_T and η of the input jets. The network was trained in the same way as the main high-level tagger and on identical training samples, as explained in Section 6. This new low-level tagger, defined only to illustrate the performance of SV1 relative to other algorithms described in this paper, is referred to as SVKine.

5.4 Topological multi-vertex finding algorithm

The topological multi-vertex finding algorithm, JetFitter [39], exploits the topological structure of weak b - and c -hadron decays inside the jet and tries to reconstruct the full b -hadron decay chain. A modified Kalman filter [40] is used to find a common line on which the primary, b - and c -hadron decay

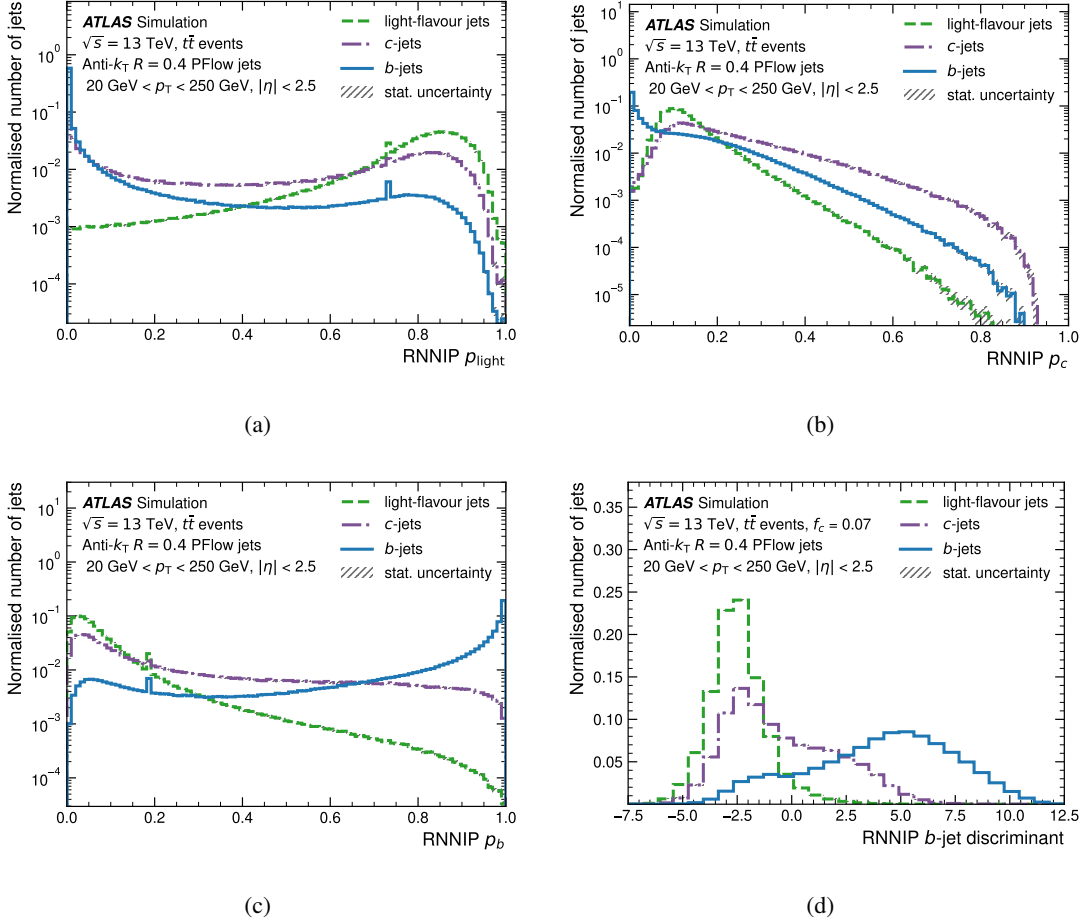


Figure 4: Distributions of the outputs of the RNNIP b -tagging algorithm for b -jets, c -jets and light-flavour jets in the baseline $t\bar{t}$ simulated events: (a) p_{light} , (b) p_c , (c) p_b , and (d) the RNNIP b -tagging discriminant. The spikes at $p_{\text{light}} \approx 0.73$ and $p_b \approx 0.18$ originate from jets with no tracks. The location of these spikes is determined by the probability that a jet of a given flavour has no associated tracks: since light-flavour jets are more likely than b -jets to contain no tracks, $p_{\text{light}} > p_b$ in such cases. The corresponding spike at $p_c \approx 0.09$ is not easily visible since it occurs within a steeply falling or rising region of the p_c distribution.

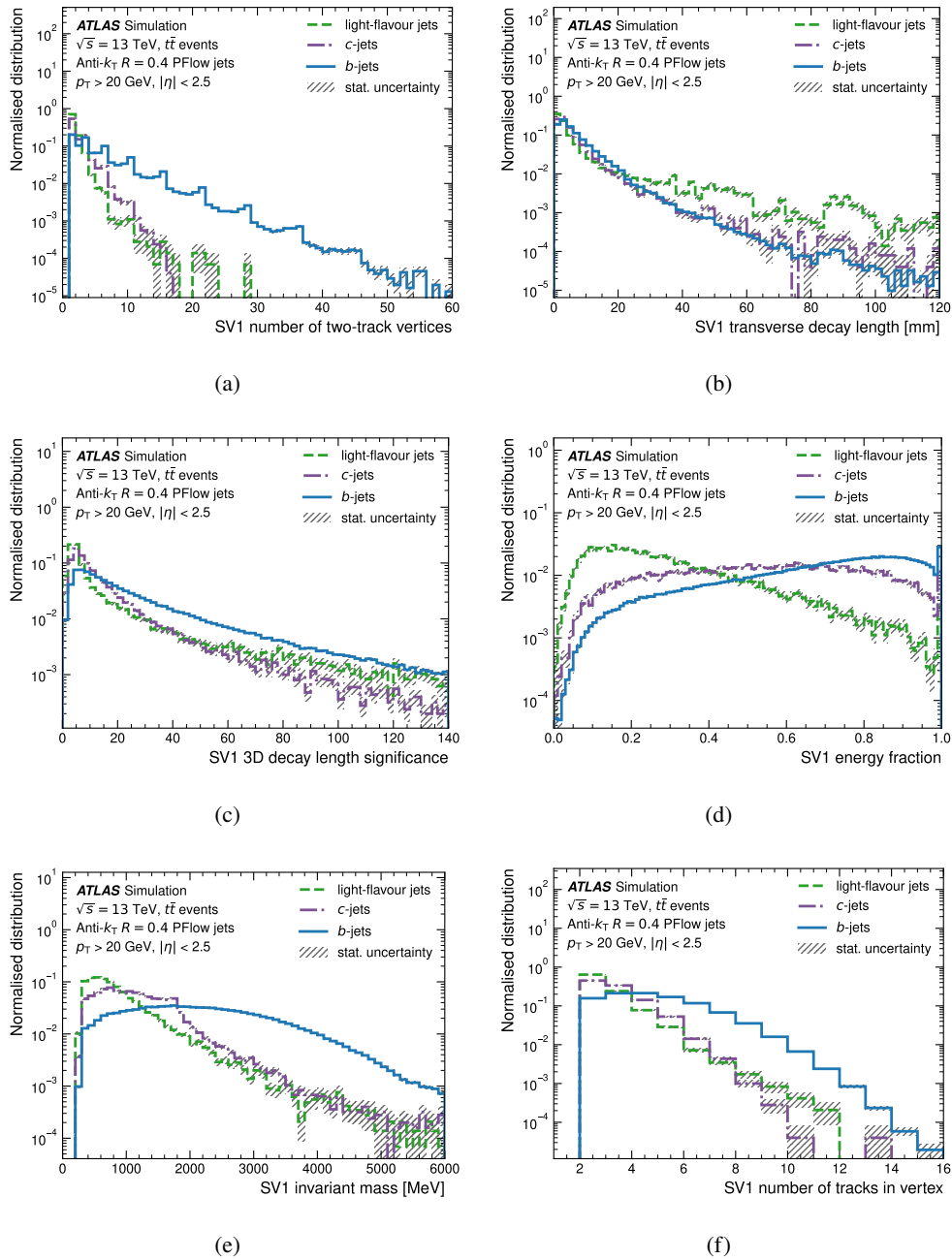


Figure 5: Properties of secondary vertices reconstructed by the SV1 algorithm for b -jets, c -jets and light-flavour jets in the baseline $t\bar{t}$ simulated events: (a) the number of two-track vertices reconstructed within the jet, (b) the transverse decay length, (c) the 3D decay length significance defined as the significance of the distance between the primary vertex and displaced vertex, (d) the energy fraction, defined as the energy of the tracks in the displaced vertex relative to the energy of all tracks reconstructed within the jet, (e) the invariant mass and (f) the number of tracks associated with the vertex. The increased rate of light-flavour jets at high transverse decay length values is due to residual interactions with detector material. The jumps in the frequency of reconstructed two-track vertices (a) originates from combinatorics. Expecting $(N \cdot (N - 1))/2$ possible track pairs created from a set of N tracks, this number is reduced due to track selection criteria, resulting in low-side tails on each spike. The first (last) bin in the distribution does not account for underflow (overflow).

vertices lie, approximating the b -hadron flight path as well as the vertex positions. With this approach, it is possible to resolve the b - or c -hadron decay vertex even if only a single track is attached to it. The `JetFitter` algorithm also benefits from several improvements [39] introduced during Run 2. These include a reoptimisation of the track selection to better mitigate the effect of pile-up tracks, an improvement in the rejection of interactions with detector material, and the introduction of a vertex-mass-dependent selection during the decay chain fit to increase the efficiency for tertiary vertex reconstruction. Eight discriminating variables, including the track multiplicity at the `JetFitter` displaced vertices, the invariant mass of tracks associated with these vertices, their energy fraction and their average three-dimensional decay length significance, are used as inputs to the high-level taggers. Six of these variables are illustrated in Figure 6. Finally, the discrimination of c -jets from b -jets and light-flavour jets is further improved by more specifically exploiting jets for which only a single secondary vertex is reconstructed with intermediate charged decay multiplicity and comparable decay distance to b -hadrons in jets. A set of nine additional variables [35], among which the number, the invariant mass and the energy of the tracks associated with the secondary vertex as well as their rapidity, computed with respect to the jet axis and the vector defined between the primary and secondary vertices, are used as inputs to the high-level b -tagging algorithms.

Similarly to the SV1 algorithm, the flavour-tagging performance of `JetFitter` is assessed from a simple feed-forward neural network trained by exclusively using the outputs of `JetFitter` and the input jets' p_T and η . This training was performed in the same way as for the main high-level tagger and on identical training samples, as explained in Section 6. This new low-level tagger, defined only to illustrate the performance of `JetFitter` relative to other algorithms described in this paper, is referred to as `JFKine`.

6 High-level flavour-taggers, the DL1 series

To maximise the flavour-tagging performance for Run 2, the output quantities of the low-level algorithms are combined using deep-learning classifiers, based on fully connected multi-layer feed-forward neural networks (NN) [41], forming the so-called DL1 algorithm series.

These algorithms are trained with a hybrid training sample, for which 70% of the jets in the sample are from $t\bar{t}$ events and the remaining 30% are from $Z' \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ events, using TensorFlow [42] with the Keras [42] front-end and the Adam optimiser [43]. The DL1 algorithm, introduced at the beginning of Run 2 in Ref. [6], exploits as input the IP2D, IP3D, SV1 and `JetFitter` algorithm outputs, while the DL1r algorithm also includes the jet RNNIP output probabilities.

The level of correlation between the different low-level algorithm outputs varies as a function of the jet flavour and the kinematic range. In general, large correlations between the IP2D, IP3D, SV1 and `JetFitter` algorithms are observed for heavy-flavour jets. However, these correlations are significantly reduced in the case of light-flavour jets. In addition, such correlations are further reduced in high- p_T regimes. On the other hand, the RNNIP algorithm contributes a set of input variables which are not strongly correlated. The DL1r algorithm training exploits these correlation differences to reach the best tagging performance.

In addition, the kinematic properties of the jets, namely p_T and $|\eta|$, are included in the training in order to take advantage of the correlations with the other input variables. However, to avoid differences between the kinematic distributions of signal and background jets being used to discriminate between the different jet flavours, the input training dataset is resampled. The resampling procedure ensures that jets in the training sample are uniformly distributed in jet p_T and η for each flavour class. No kinematic resampling is applied

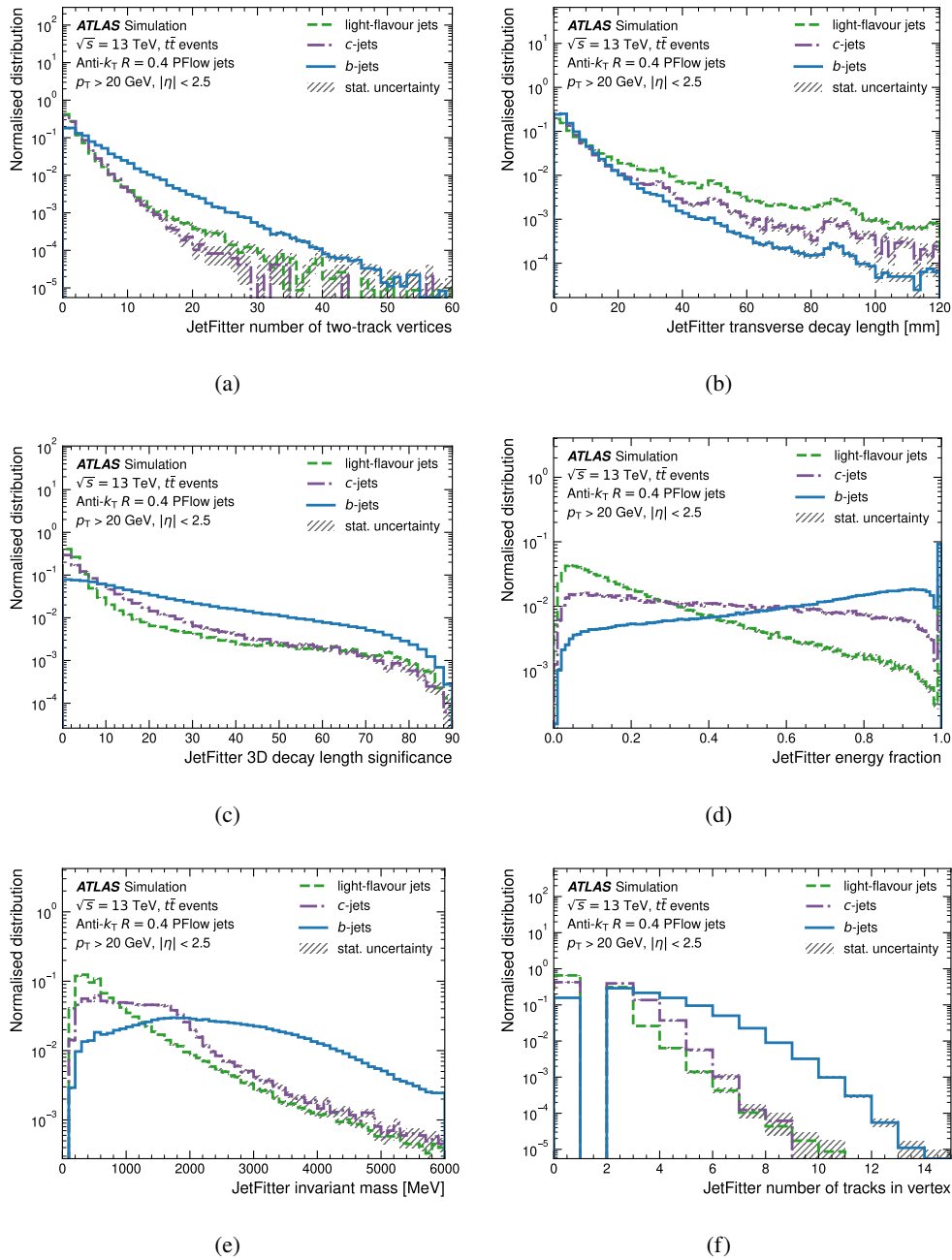


Figure 6: Properties of secondary vertices reconstructed by the JetFitter algorithm for b -jets, c -jets and light-flavour jets in the baseline $t\bar{t}$ simulated events: (a) the number of two-track vertices reconstructed within the jet, (b) the transverse decay length, (c) the average 3D decay length significance, defined as the significance of the average distance between the primary vertex and displaced vertices, (d) the energy fraction, defined as the energy of the tracks in the displaced vertex relative to the energy of all tracks reconstructed within the jet, (e) the invariant mass and (f) the number of tracks associated with the vertex of at least two tracks. The increased rate of light-flavour jets at high transverse decay length values is due to residual interactions with detector material. Expecting jumps in the frequency of reconstructed two-track vertices originating from combinatorics as in the case of SV1, the $(N \cdot (N - 1))/2$ possible track pairs created from a set of N tracks is reduced due to track selection criteria, resulting in a smooth distribution. The first (last) bin in the distribution does not account for underflow (overflow).

at the evaluation stage of the algorithms. Table 1 presents a detailed list of input variables used by each algorithm.

Table 1: Input variables used by the SVKine and JFKine, DL1 and DL1r algorithms.

Input	Variable	Description	SVKine	JFKine	DL1	DL1r
Kinematics	p_T	Jet p_T	✓	✓	✓	✓
	η	Jet $ \eta $	✓	✓	✓	✓
IP2D, IP3D	$\log(P_b/P_{\text{light}})$	Likelihood ratio of the b -jet to light-flavour jet hypotheses			✓	✓
	$\log(P_b/P_c)$	Likelihood ratio of the b -jet to c -jet hypotheses			✓	✓
	$\log(P_c/P_{\text{light}})$	Likelihood ratio of the c -jet to light-flavour jet hypotheses			✓	✓
RNNIP	P_b	b -jet probability				✓
	P_c	c -jet probability				✓
	P_{light}	light-flavour jet probability				✓
SV1	$m(\text{SV})$	Invariant mass of tracks at the secondary vertex assuming pion mass	✓		✓	✓
	$f_E(\text{SV})$	Jet energy fraction of the tracks associated with the secondary vertex	✓		✓	✓
	$N_{\text{TrkAtVtx}}(\text{SV})$	Number of tracks used in the secondary vertex	✓		✓	✓
	$N_{2\text{TrkVtx}}(\text{SV})$	Number of two-track vertex candidates	✓		✓	✓
	$L_{xy}(\text{SV})$	Transverse distance between the primary and secondary vertices	✓		✓	✓
	$L_{xyz}(\text{SV})$	Distance between the primary and secondary vertices	✓		✓	✓
	$S_{xyz}(\text{SV})$	Distance between the primary and secondary vertices divided by its uncertainty	✓		✓	✓
	$\Delta R(\vec{p}_{\text{jet}}, \vec{p}_{\text{vtx}})(\text{SV})$	ΔR between the jet axis and the direction of the secondary vertex relative to the primary vertex.	✓		✓	✓
JetFitter	$m(\text{JF})$	Invariant mass of tracks from displaced vertices		✓	✓	✓
	$f_E(\text{JF})$	Jet energy fraction of the tracks associated with the displaced vertices		✓	✓	✓
	$\Delta R(\vec{p}_{\text{jet}}, \vec{p}_{\text{vtx}})(\text{JF})$	ΔR between the jet axis and the vectorial sum of momenta of all tracks attached to displaced vertices		✓	✓	✓
	$S_{xyz}(\text{JF})$	Significance of the average distance between PV and displaced vertices		✓	✓	✓
	$N_{\text{TrkAtVtx}}(\text{JF})$	Number of tracks from multi-prong displaced vertices		✓	✓	✓
	$N_{2\text{TrkVtx}}(\text{JF})$	Number of two-track vertex candidates (prior to decay chain fit)		✓	✓	✓
	$N_{1\text{-trk vertices}}(\text{JF})$	Number of single-prong displaced vertices		✓	✓	✓
	$N_{\geq 2\text{-trk vertices}}(\text{JF})$	Number of multi-prong displaced vertices		✓	✓	✓
	$L_{xyz}(2^{\text{nd}})(\text{JF})$	Distance of 2 nd vertex from PV		✓	✓	✓
	$L_{xy}(2^{\text{nd}})(\text{JF})$	Transverse displacement of the 2 nd vertex		✓	✓	✓
	$m_{\text{Trk}}(2^{\text{nd}})(\text{JF})$	Invariant mass of tracks associated with the 2 nd vertex		✓	✓	✓
	$E(2^{\text{nd}})(\text{JF})$	Energy of the tracks associated with the 2 nd vertex		✓	✓	✓
	$f_E(2^{\text{nd}})(\text{JF})$	Jet energy fraction of the tracks associated with the 2 nd vertex		✓	✓	✓
	$N_{\text{TrkAtVtx}}(2^{\text{nd}})(\text{JF})$	Number of tracks associated with the 2 nd vertex		✓	✓	✓
$\eta_{\text{trk}}^{\text{min,max,avg}}(2^{\text{nd}})(\text{JF})$	Min., max. and avg. pseudorapidity of tracks at the 2 nd vertex		✓	✓	✓	

The DL1r NN has a multidimensional output corresponding to the probabilities for a jet to be a b -jet, a c -jet or a light-flavour jet. The use of a multi-class network architecture provides the algorithm with a smaller memory footprint than the previous ATLAS MV2c10 algorithm [6] based on boosted decision trees (BDTs). The topology of the network consists of a mixture of fully connected hidden layers. The DL1r algorithm parameters, listed in Table 2, include the architecture of the NN, the number of training epochs, the learning rates and training batch size. Each of these parameters is optimised in order to maximise the b -tagging performance. Batch normalisation [44] is added by default since it is found to improve the performance.

Training with multiple output nodes offers additional flexibility when constructing the final output discriminant by combining the b -jet, c -jet and light-flavour jet probabilities. Since all flavours are treated equally during training, the trained network can be used for both b -jet and c -jet tagging. The final DL1r

Table 2: List of optimised hyperparameters used in the DL1r flavour-tagging algorithms.

Hyperparameter	Value
Number of input variables	31
Number of hidden layers	8
Number of nodes [per layer]	[256, 128, 60, 48, 36, 24, 12, 6]
Learning rate	0.01
Training batch size	15 000
Activation function	ReLU
Number of training epochs	200
Free (trainable) parameters	59 275
Fixed parameters	1 140
Training sample size	22 M jets

b -tagging discriminant is defined as:

$$D_{\text{DL1r}} = \ln \left(\frac{p_b}{f_c \cdot p_c + (1 - f_c) \cdot p_{\text{light}}} \right),$$

where p_b , p_c and p_{light} represent respectively the b -jet, c -jet and light-flavour jet probabilities, and f_c denotes the effective c -jet fraction in the background hypothesis. Using this approach, the c -jet fraction in the background can be chosen a posteriori in order to optimise the performance of the algorithm at physics analysis level. In this paper, an optimised c -jet fraction of 0.018 is used to evaluate the performance of the DL1r b -tagging algorithm in simulated $t\bar{t}$ and $Z' \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ events. This value is chosen as a compromise to ensure good rejection factors for both c -jet and light-flavour jets in a large b -tagging efficiency range across a number of analyses. In particular, the ATLAS measurements of VH , $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ production [45] and $t\bar{t}H$, $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ production [46] were considered in this optimisation.

Similarly, the DL1r c -tagging discriminant is defined as:

$$D_{\text{DL1r}}^c = \ln \left(\frac{p_c}{f_b \cdot p_b + (1 - f_b) \cdot p_{\text{light}}} \right), \quad (1)$$

where f_b represents the effective b -jet fraction in the background training sample. A b -jet fraction of 0.2 is used to evaluate the performance of the DL1r c -tagging algorithm in this paper in simulated $t\bar{t}$ and $Z' \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ events. Larger than the f_c fraction presented above, the f_b fraction is chosen here to maximise the b -jet rejection factor at the given c -tagging efficiency rates of 20% and 30%. The output probabilities of the DL1r b -tagging algorithms for b -jets, c -jets and light-flavour jets in the baseline $t\bar{t}$ simulated events are shown in Figures 7(a)–(c); the corresponding b -tagging and c -tagging discriminants are also shown in Figures 7(d) and 7(e).

7 Flavour-tagging performance

The performance of a flavour-tagging algorithm is characterised by the probability or efficiency of correctly tagging a signal jet, ε , and the probability of mistakenly identifying a background jet, referred to as the mis-tag rate. In this paper, the performance of the algorithms is quantified in terms of background-jet rejection factors, defined as $1/\varepsilon$ for background jets.

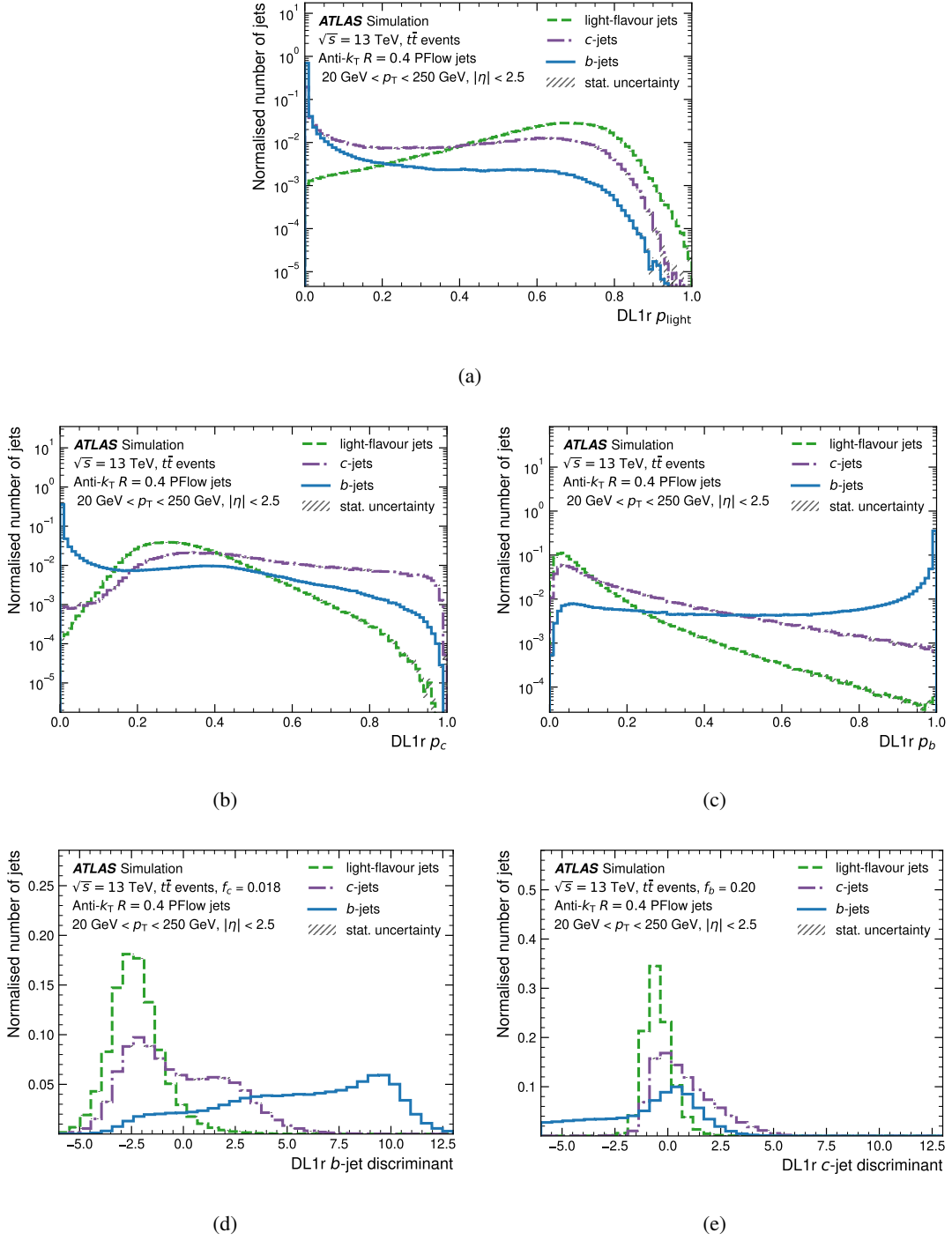


Figure 7: Distributions of the outputs of the DL1r b -tagging algorithm for b -jets, c -jets and light-flavour jets in $t\bar{t}$ simulated events: (a) p_{light} , (b) p_c , (c) p_b , (d) D_{DL1r}^b , and (e) D_{DL1r}^c .

7.1 b -tagging performance

When analysis of LHC data requires the identification of b -jets, the tagging efficiency of a given requirement on the b -tagging discriminant is denoted by ε_b , and the charm-jet and light-flavour jet rejection factors are $1/\varepsilon_c$ and $1/\varepsilon_{\text{light}}$, respectively. Many ATLAS analyses of Run 2 LHC data use a requirement on the DL1r discriminant, or bins built from several such requirements, that do not vary with jet kinematics. These are referred to as ‘fixed-cut operating points’, and they are labelled according to their inclusive efficiency for the population of b -jets present in the $t\bar{t}$ sample used to train DL1r; for example, the DL1r discriminant value for which 77% of the b -jets in a $t\bar{t}$ sample have a higher score is called the ‘77% operating point’.

Figures 8 and 9 show the light-flavour jet and c -jet rejection factors as a function of ε_b for a variety of low- and high-level b -taggers. At high-efficiency operating points, RNNIP provides the best rejection among the low-level taggers, while at low efficiency the secondary-vertex finders SVKine and JFKine achieve the highest background rejection. DL1r substantially outperforms all low-level taggers across the ε_b range: the low-level algorithms exploit different jet properties, and combining these produces large gains. DL1r also exceeds the performance of the BDT-based MV2c10 tagger and the DL1 tagger [6].

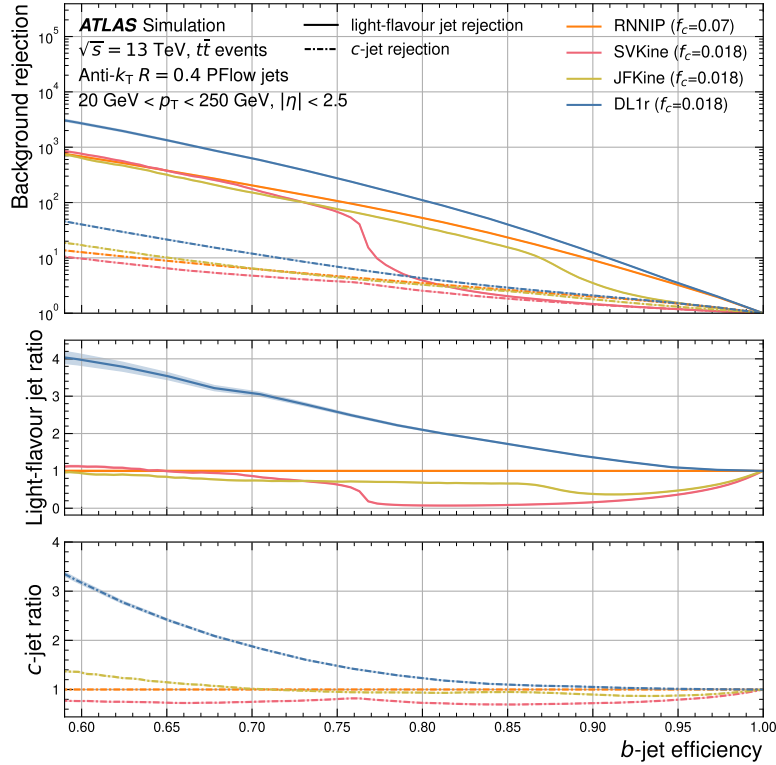


Figure 8: The light-flavour jet and c -jet rejection factors as a function of ε_b for DL1r as well as the low-level b -taggers RNNIP, SVKine, and JFKine. The statistical uncertainties of the rejection factors are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands. The lower two panels show the ratio of the light-flavour jet rejection and the c -jet rejection of the algorithms to RNNIP. SV1 and JetFitter have secondary-vertex-finding efficiencies of approximately 80% and 90%, respectively; this causes the rapid growth in light-flavour jet rejection around these values of ε_b for SVKine and JFKine.

It is also important to gauge the b -tagging performance across a broad p_T range, because the ATLAS physics programme relies on excellent background rejection in a variety of situations, depending on the

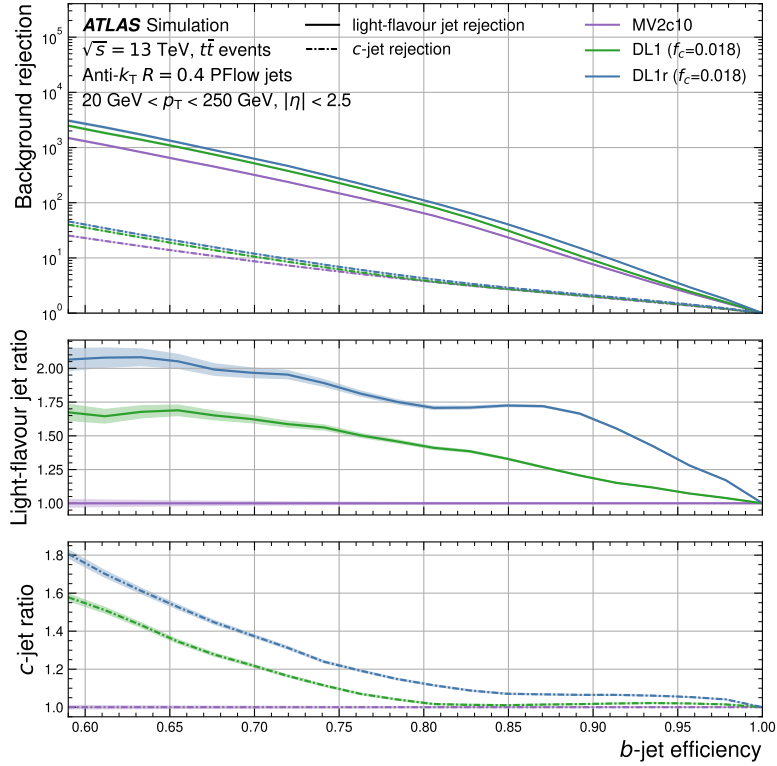


Figure 9: The light-flavour jet and c -jet rejection factors as a function of ε_b for the high-level b -taggers MV2c10, DL1, and DL1r. The lower two panels show the ratio of the light-flavour jet rejection and the c -jet rejection of the algorithms to MV2c10. The statistical uncertainties of the rejection factors are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands.

needs of a given analysis of the LHC data. In Figure 10, the background rejection achieved at a fixed b -tagging efficiency of 77% is shown in bins of jet p_T ; this fixed-efficiency is obtained by choosing the appropriate b -tagging discriminant requirement in each p_T bin.

Figures 11 and 12 show the ε_b values and background rejection factors for jets from simulated SM $t\bar{t}$ and flattened Z' samples, respectively, in bins of jet p_T ; several high-level b -taggers are compared at the 77% operating point. DL1r performs significantly better than previous ATLAS b -taggers across a broad range of jet p_T , although some common patterns are worth noting: (1) the around $p_T \approx 175$ GeV and falls with p_T above this point, and (2) the light-flavour jet rejection falls until about 1 TeV, above which it is approximately constant. However, while MV2c10 maintains a nearly flat c -jet rejection versus jet p_T , the DL1 and DL1r rejection factors improve with p_T . The enhanced performance for highly energetic jets has yielded substantially stronger tests of the Standard Model with the ATLAS data. For example, recent searches for new resonances decaying into $b\bar{b}$ pairs using the DL1r b -tagger achieved about a factor of 3 stronger limits on new narrow resonances decaying into $b\bar{b}$ than predicted via luminosity-scaling of previous results using MV2c10 [47].

Similarly, the b -tagging efficiencies and background-jet rejection factors vary with the jet pseudorapidity η , in large part due to the poorer track d_0 and z_0 resolutions at high $|\eta|$ [48]. Figure 13 shows ε_b and the background-jet rejection as a function of jet η . The b -tagging efficiency and c -jet mis-tag rates are higher for all compared high-level taggers in the central region than at high $|\eta|$, in part due to inefficiency

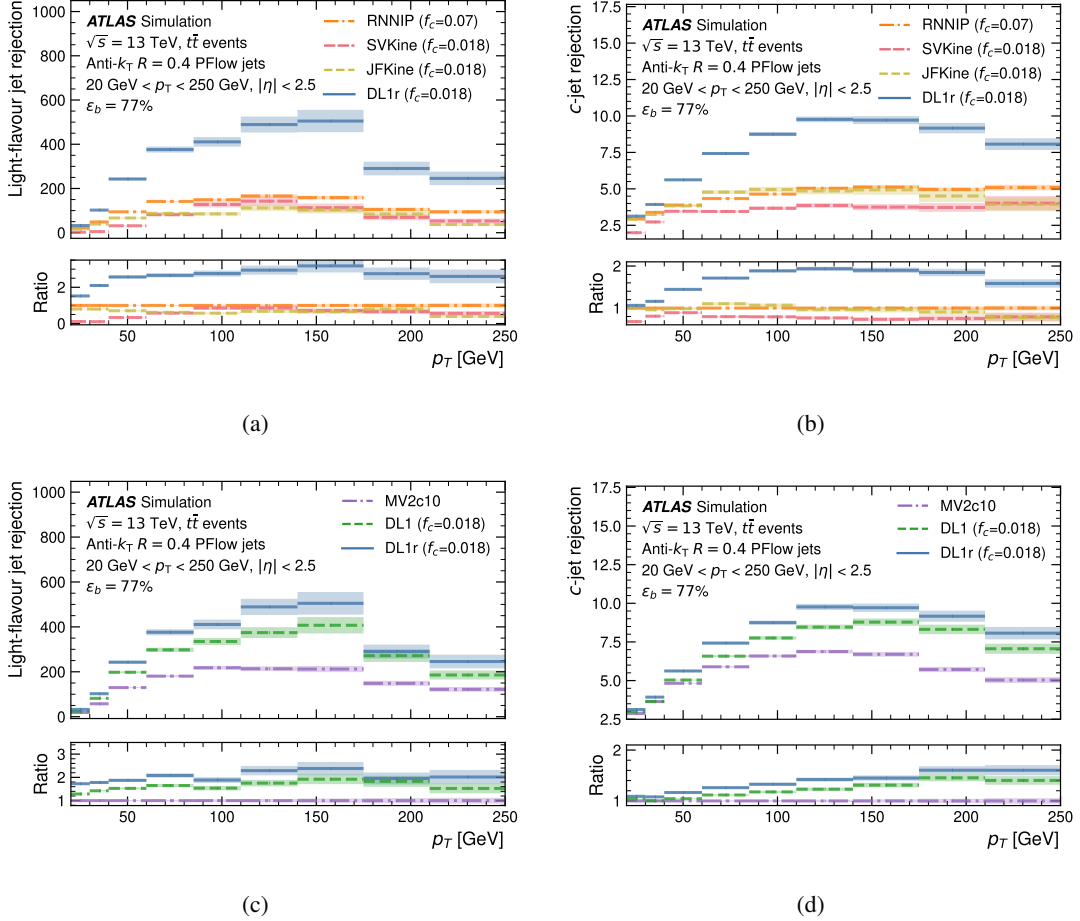
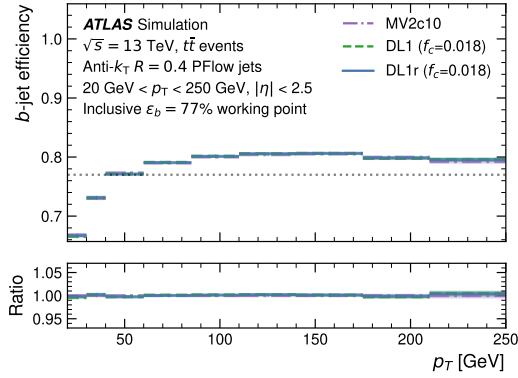
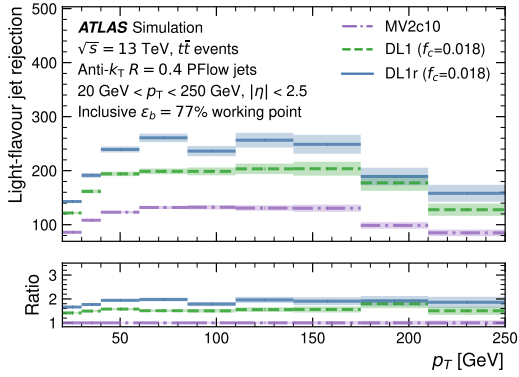


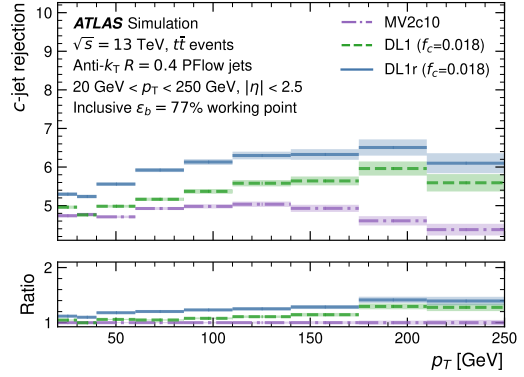
Figure 10: The light-flavour jet and c -jet rejection factors at a fixed b -tagging efficiency ε_b as a function of jet p_T . In each bin, the b -tagging efficiency is set to 77%, and the resulting background rejection is shown. (a) shows the light-flavour jet rejection for several low-level tagging algorithms and DL1r, (b) shows the c -jet rejection for the same taggers. (c) and (d) show light-flavour jet and c -jet rejection, respectively, for the DL1r, DL1, and MV2c10 high-level taggers. The lower panels of (a) and (b) show the ratio of each algorithm's background rejection to that of RNNIP; the lower panels of (c) and (d) show the corresponding ratios to MV2c10. The statistical uncertainties of the efficiencies and rejection factors are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands. The drop in light-flavour jet rejection at $p_T \sim 175$ GeV $\sim m_{\text{top}}$ is due to the overlap of decay products from boosted top-quark decays.



(a)

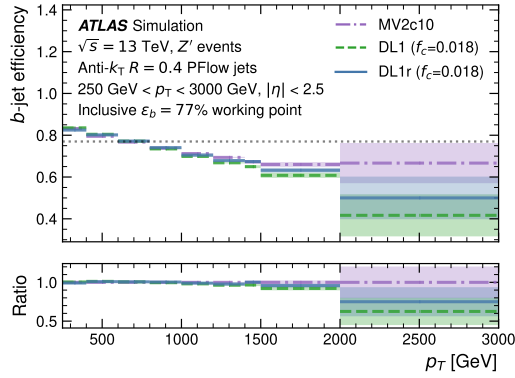


(b)

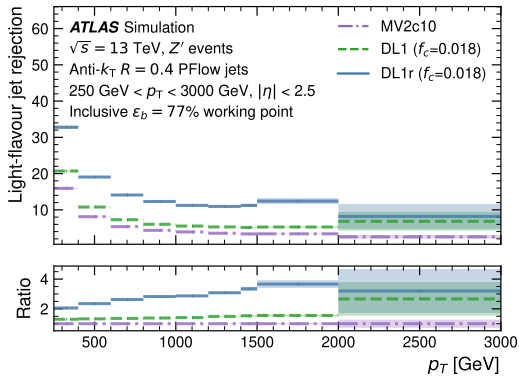


(c)

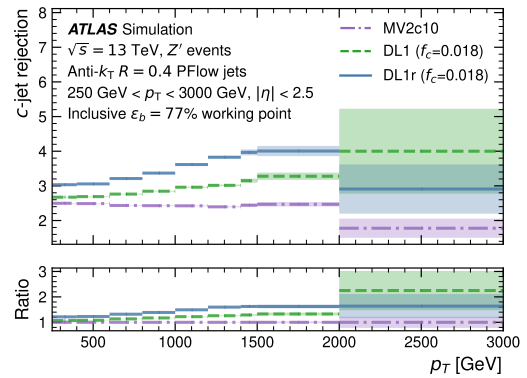
Figure 11: The b -tagging efficiency, ϵ_b , and background-jet rejection factors for several high-level b -taggers, including DL1r, as a function of jet p_T , evaluated using simulated $t\bar{t}$ events. (a) shows ϵ_b , (b) shows the light-flavour jet rejection, and (c) shows the c -jet rejection, all for a range of jet p_T bins at the inclusive 77% efficiency operating point, commonly used in ATLAS analyses of LHC Run 2 pp collision data. The lower panels show the ratio of each algorithm's performance to that of MV2c10. The statistical uncertainties of the efficiencies and rejection factors are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 12: The b -tagging efficiency, ϵ_b , and background-jet rejection factors for several high-level b -taggers, including DL1r, as a function of jet p_T , evaluated using simulated Z' events, which mostly provide high- p_T jets. (a) shows ϵ_b , (b) shows the light-flavour jet rejection, and (c) shows the c -jet rejection, all for a wide range of jet p_T bins at the inclusive 77% efficiency operating point, commonly used in ATLAS analyses of LHC Run 2 pp collision data. The lower panels show the ratio of each algorithm's performance to that of MV2c10. The statistical uncertainties of the efficiencies and rejection factors are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands.

of secondary-vertexing in the forward region [38, 39]. The light-flavour jet rejection performance also deteriorates for more forward jets. However, DL1r consistently outperforms DL1 and MV2c10 across jet η ranges.

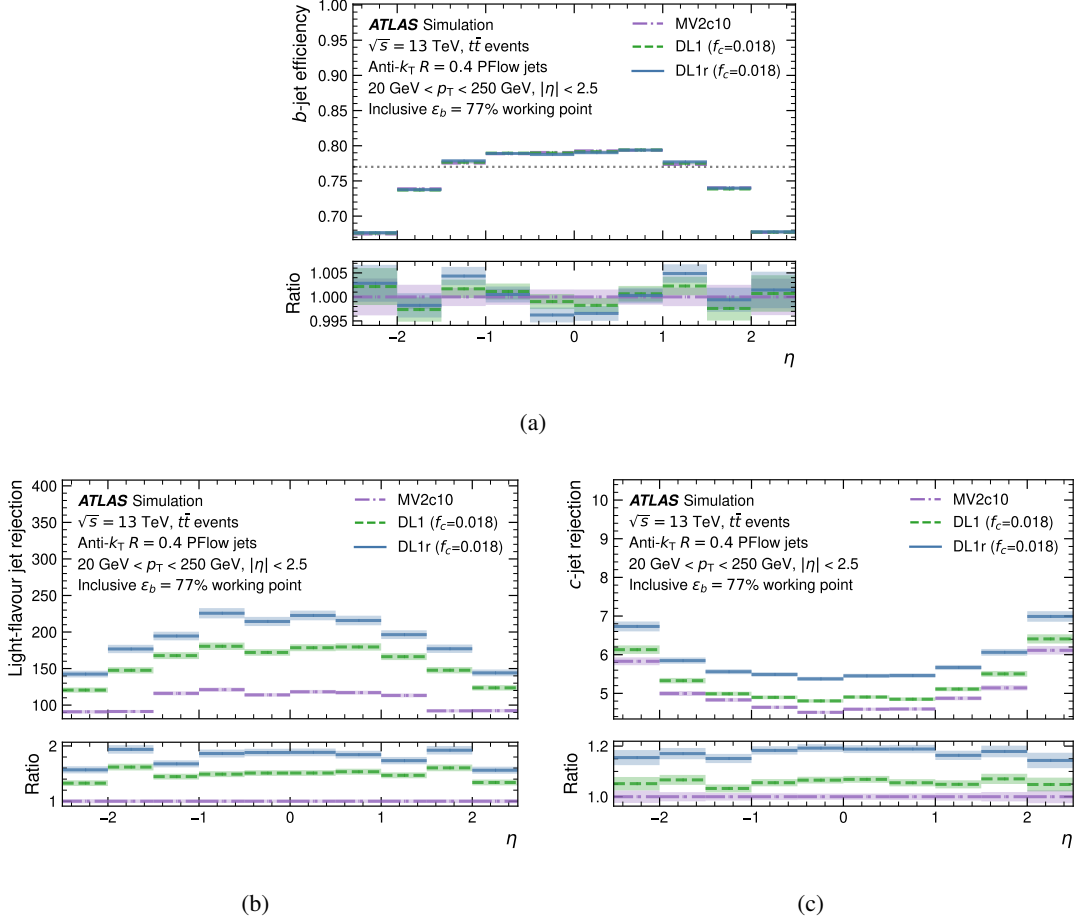
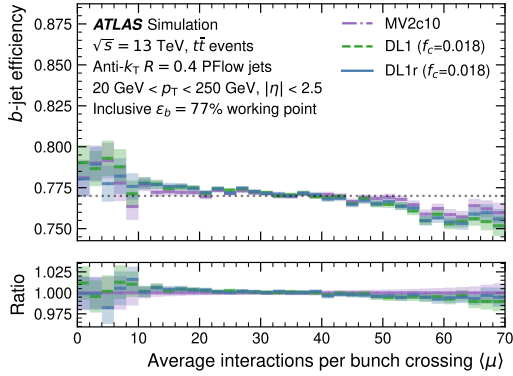


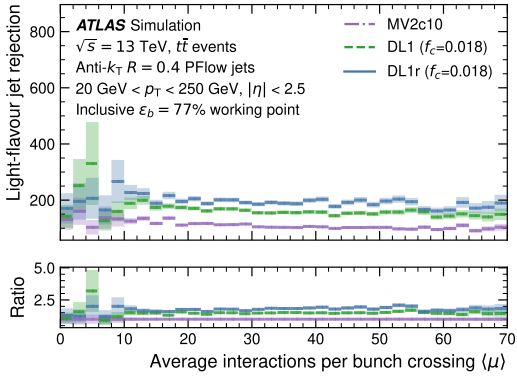
Figure 13: The b -tagging efficiency, ε_b , and background-jet rejection factors for several high-level b -taggers, including DL1r, as a function of jet η . (a) shows ε_b , (b) shows the light-flavour jet rejection, and (c) shows the c -jet rejection, all at the inclusive 77% efficiency operating point, commonly used in ATLAS analyses of LHC Run 2 pp collision data. The lower panels show the ratio of each algorithm’s performance to that of MV2c10. The statistical uncertainties of the efficiencies and rejection factors are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands.

The ATLAS flavour-tagging algorithms are stable versus the number of pile-up interactions accompanying the hard-scatter collisions, as shown in Figure 14. While there is a small slope in the b -tagging efficiency versus the average number of interactions per bunch crossing $\langle\mu\rangle$, ε_b only changes by about 2% over the range $10 < \langle\mu\rangle < 70$ for the inclusive 77% efficiency operating point. The light-flavour jet and c -jet rejection factors also show little dependence on $\langle\mu\rangle$.

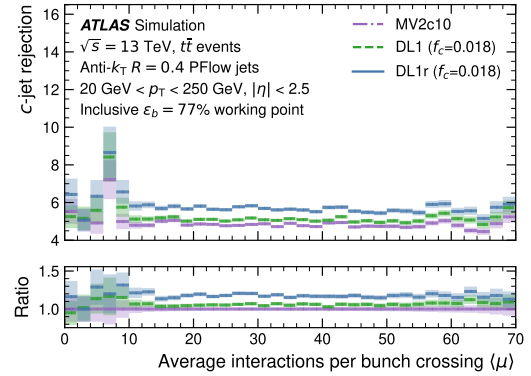
The 60%, 70%, 77%, and 85% operating points are commonly used in ATLAS physics analyses interpreting the LHC Run 2 pp dataset [6]. Figure 15 shows the b -tagging efficiency and background-jet rejection factors versus jet p_T for DL1r at these commonly used operating points. It is worth noting that relatively small changes in b -tagging efficiency operating point of the order of 10% result in very different background



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 14: The b -tagging efficiency, ε_b , and background-jet rejection factors for several high-level b -taggers, including DL1r, as a function of the average instantaneous luminosity $\langle\mu\rangle$. (a) shows ε_b , (b) shows the light-flavour jet rejection, and (c) shows the c -jet rejection, all for a wide range of jet p_T bins at the inclusive 77% efficiency operating point, commonly used in ATLAS analyses of LHC Run 2 pp collision data. The lower panels show the ratio of each algorithm's performance to that of MV2c10. The statistical uncertainties of the efficiencies and rejection factors are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands.

rejection factors, which range from ~ 10 to $\sim 10^3$ for light-flavour jets and from ~ 3 to ~ 40 for charm jets.

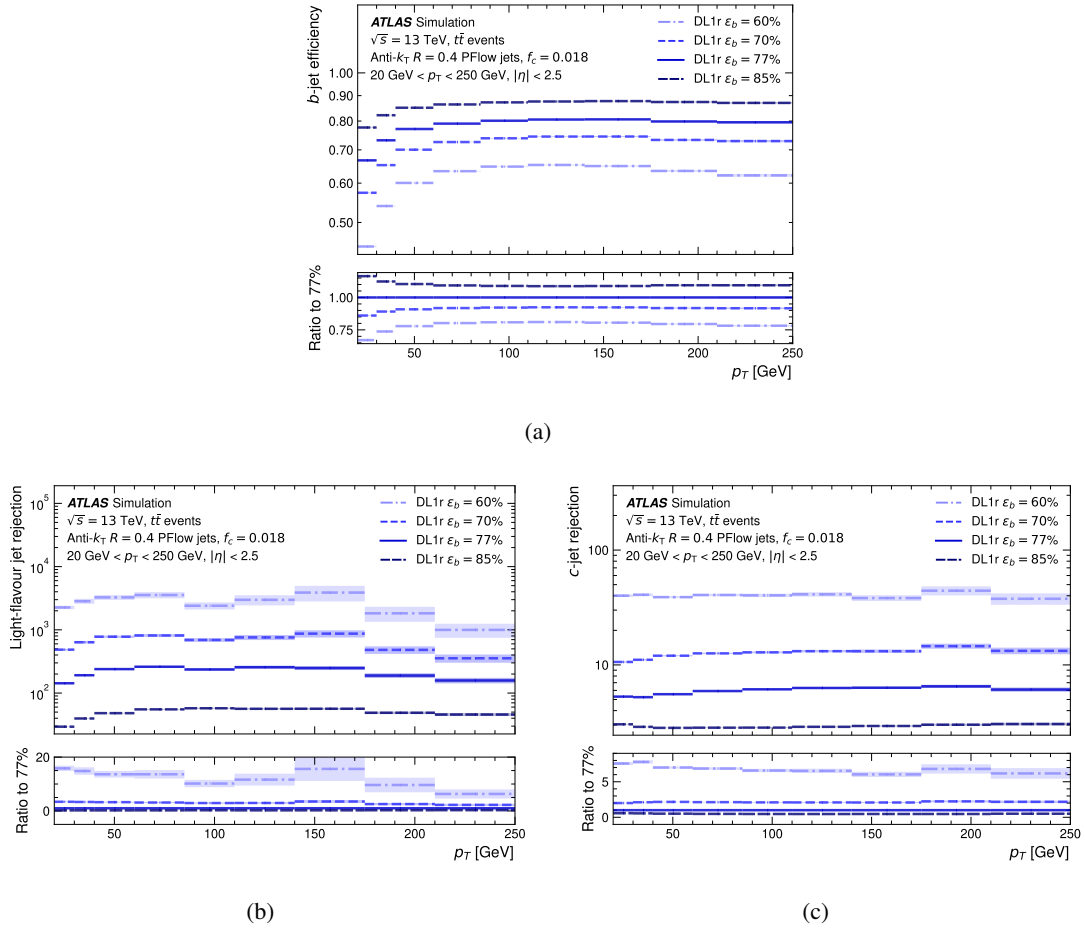


Figure 15: The b -tagging efficiency ϵ_b and background-jet rejection factors for several operating points as a function of jet p_T . (a) shows the DL1r ϵ_b , (b) shows the light-flavour jet rejection, and (c) shows the c -jet rejection, all for a wide range of jet p_T bins and for efficiency operating points commonly used in ATLAS analyses of LHC Run 2 pp data. The lower panels show the ratio of each operating point's performance to that of the 70% operating point. The statistical uncertainties of the efficiency (rejection) are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands.

7.2 Charm-tagging performance

A growing number of ATLAS analyses of LHC data require identification of c -jets in order to probe physics processes involving final-state charm quarks. For example, the search for Higgs boson decays into charm quarks aims to obtain direct evidence of the charm-quark Yukawa coupling parameter by examining a sample of events with two c -tagged jets [49]. An algorithm's performance is indicated by its b -jet and light-flavour jet rejection factors, $1/\epsilon_b$ and $1/\epsilon_{\text{light}}$, at a given charm-tagging efficiency, ϵ_c . Due to charmed hadrons having shorter lifetimes and smaller masses than b -hadrons, the identification of charm jets is challenging, and the efficiency of the optimal operating point tends to be much lower than for b -tagging.

Figure 16 presents the b -jet and light-flavour jet rejection factors as a function of the c -tagging efficiency,

evaluated in a population of jets taken from a sample of simulated $t\bar{t}$ events. Figure 17 shows the light-flavour jet and b -jet rejection factors attained by the DL1 and DL1r algorithms for a fixed charm-tagging efficiency, again evaluated in jets from a $t\bar{t}$ sample. These ‘iso-efficiency’ curves are obtained by varying the parameter f_b used to define the c -tagging discriminant introduced in Eq. (1).

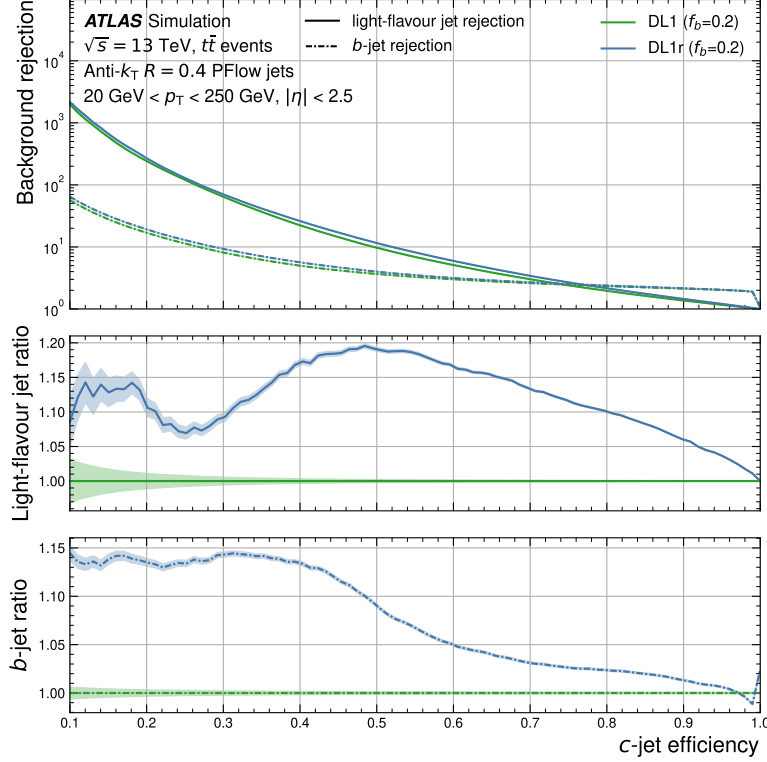


Figure 16: The light-flavour jet and b -jet rejection factors as a function of c -jet efficiency for DL1 and DL1r. The lower two panels show the DL1r-to-DL1 ratios of the light-flavour jet rejection and the c -jet rejection. The statistical uncertainties of the rejection are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands.

7.3 MC generator dependence

A variety of MC event generators are used in ATLAS analyses to model various production processes at the LHC. PYTHIA [15], HERWIG [50], and SHERPA [51] are commonly used parton-shower and hadronisation programs that describe the structure and composition of hadronic jets. ATLAS PYTHIA and HERWIG MC samples also utilise the EVTGEN package to simulate the decay chains of b - and c -hadrons. The choice of parton-shower generator, hadronisation model, and hadron-decay model affects the predicted performance of the ATLAS flavour-taggers. Tagging efficiencies and mis-tag rates have been studied using various MC generator versions, settings, and tuned parameter values [52]. These effects are taken into account by applying generator-specific corrections to the simulation.

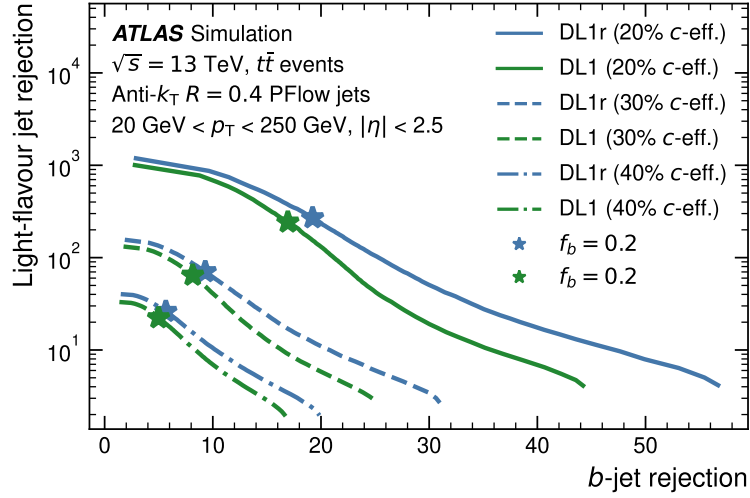


Figure 17: The light-flavour jet rejection as a function of b -jet rejection for inclusive 20%, 30%, and 40% c -jet efficiency operating points for the DL1 and DL1r high-level c -taggers. Each point on a curve corresponds to a particular choice of f_b , the b -jet background fraction in the log-likelihood ratio that defines the tagging discriminant; the star symbols indicate the $f_b = 0.2$ point.

7.4 Overtraining checks

In order to correct the tagging rates of jets in simulation, corresponding rates are measured in data through a variety of procedures [6, 53–56], reaching a precision as good as 1% in b -tagging efficiency for b -jets with $p_T \sim 100$ GeV; the most precise measurement of the c -jet (light-flavour jet) mis-tag rate has uncertainties of approximately 5% (15%). Efficiencies and mis-tag rates in simulation are adjusted via per-jet weights or ‘scale factors’ such that they reflect the performance measured in data. However, $t\bar{t}$ MC events used to train the RNNIP and DL1r algorithms are also used in the efficiency measurements and in physics analyses utilising flavour-tagging. For the calibration procedure to result in a properly corrected simulation, the DL1r performance on the ‘training’ sample, used to optimise the tagging algorithms, and a ‘validation’ sample, comprising MC events not contained in the training sample, must be consistent to within the uncertainty associated with the corresponding data-based measurement.

Figure 18 shows the background rejection factors versus the b -tagging efficiency separately for the training and validation samples of $t\bar{t}$ events. Figure 19 presents background rejection factors and b -tagging efficiency versus the jet p_T , and the expected performance in the training and validation samples is again compared. No discrepancy is observed that is significant relative to the precision of efficiency measurements, indicating that it is safe to re-use the events used in DL1r training in physics analyses.

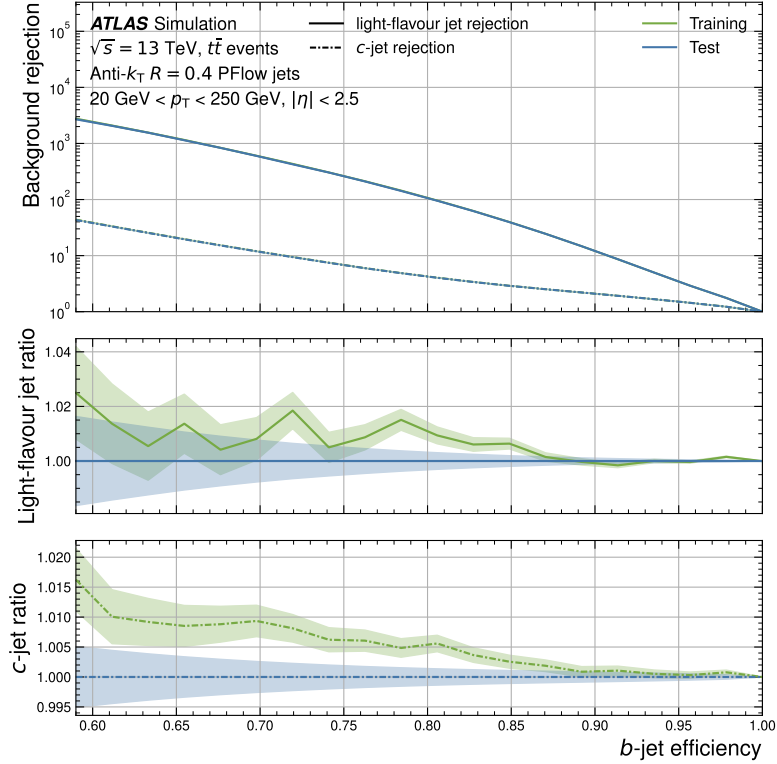


Figure 18: A comparison of the c -jet and light-flavour jet background rejection factors versus the b -tagging efficiency for training and validation samples for the DL1r b -tagging algorithm. The training sample contains events used to optimise the DL1r algorithm, while the validation sample comprises a statistically distinct set of events that were not used during training. Efficiencies and rejection factors are both derived separately for each sample. The lower two panels show the ratios of training sample to validation sample light-flavour jet rejection and c -jet rejection for DL1r. The statistical uncertainties of the rejection are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands. No difference in performance is observed above the 2% level, which is below the precision of the calibration measurements for these quantities.

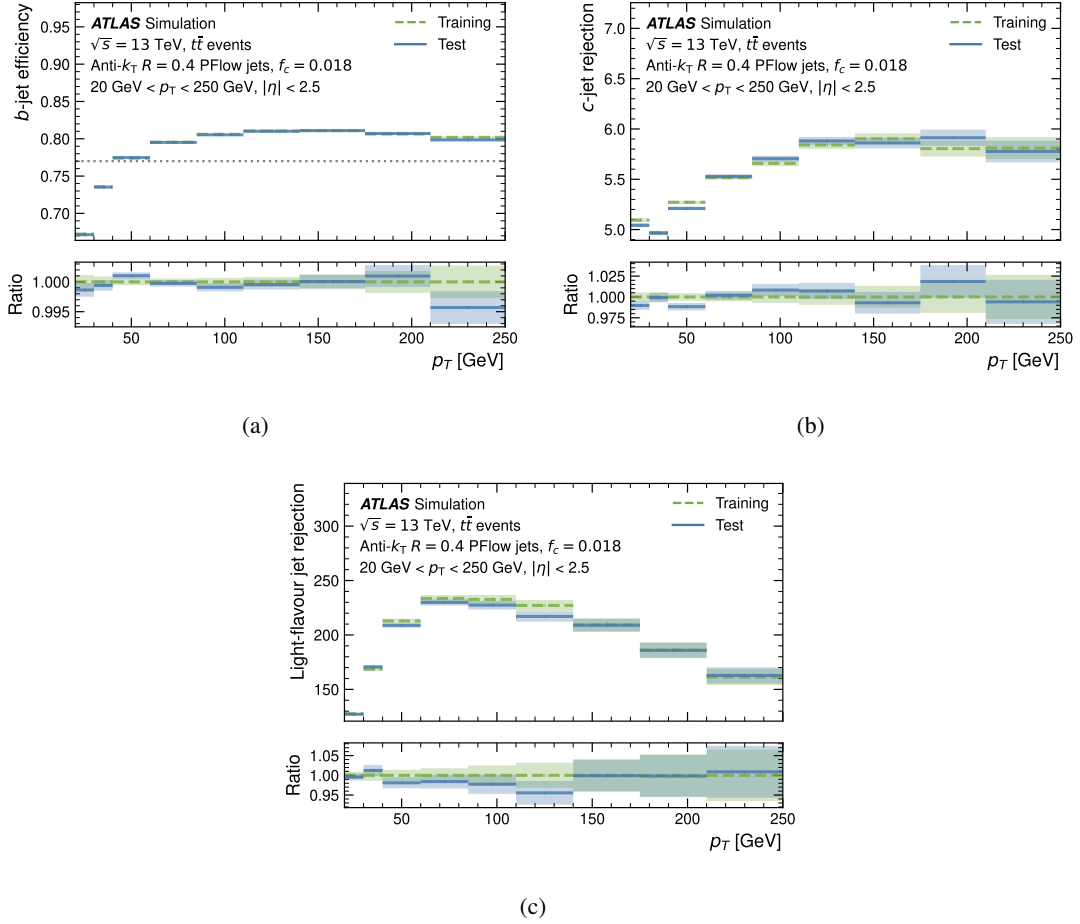


Figure 19: A comparison of performance in jet p_T bins between the training and validation $t\bar{t}$ samples for DL1r. The training sample contains events used to optimise the DL1r algorithm, while the validation sample comprises a statistically distinct set of events that were not used during training. The (a) b -tagging efficiency, (b) c -jet rejection and (c) light-flavour jet rejection are shown for a broad p_T range at the inclusive 77% efficiency operating point, commonly used in ATLAS analyses of LHC Run 2 pp data. This operating point is derived using the combined training and validation samples. The lower panels show the ratio of training sample performance to validation sample performance. No statistically significant difference in performance is observed at the level of the precision of data-based efficiency measurements, which is $\sim 1\%$ for b -jets, $\sim 5\%$ for c -jets, and $\sim 15\%$ for light-flavour jets. The statistical uncertainties of the efficiency (rejection) are calculated using binomial uncertainties and are indicated as coloured bands.

8 Conclusion

Several flavour-tagging algorithms are used to identify jets containing heavy-flavour hadrons in data recorded by the ATLAS experiment during Run 2 of the LHC. The recent ATLAS strategy combines the results of low-level algorithms (IP2D, IP3D, SV1, JetFitter and RNNIP) into high-level algorithms based on the DL1r feed-forward neural network classifier. The low-level algorithms either exploit the large impact parameters of tracks left by heavy-flavour hadron decay products or attempt to directly reconstruct their decay vertices. Large increases in background-jet rejection are obtained by the DL1r algorithms compared to each individual low-level algorithm and to previous tagging algorithms, illustrating the high complementarity of the low-level inputs. In a sample of simulated Standard Model $t\bar{t}$ events, light-flavour jet (charm-jet) rejection factors of 170 (5) are achieved at a b -jet identification efficiency of 77%; similarly, at a c -jet efficiency of 30%, the obtained light-flavour jet (b -jet) rejection factor is 70 (9).

Acknowledgements

We thank CERN for the very successful operation of the LHC, as well as the support staff from our institutions without whom ATLAS could not be operated efficiently.

We acknowledge the support of ANPCyT, Argentina; YerPhI, Armenia; ARC, Australia; BMWFW and FWF, Austria; ANAS, Azerbaijan; CNPq and FAPESP, Brazil; NSERC, NRC and CFI, Canada; CERN; ANID, Chile; CAS, MOST and NSFC, China; Minciencias, Colombia; MEYS CR, Czech Republic; DNRF and DNSRC, Denmark; IN2P3-CNRS and CEA-DRF/IRFU, France; SRNSFG, Georgia; BMBF, HGF and MPG, Germany; GSRI, Greece; RGC and Hong Kong SAR, China; ISF and Benoziyo Center, Israel; INFN, Italy; MEXT and JSPS, Japan; CNRST, Morocco; NWO, Netherlands; RCN, Norway; MEiN, Poland; FCT, Portugal; MNE/IFA, Romania; MESTD, Serbia; MSSR, Slovakia; ARRS and MIZŠ, Slovenia; DSI/NRF, South Africa; MICINN, Spain; SRC and Wallenberg Foundation, Sweden; SERI, SNSF and Cantons of Bern and Geneva, Switzerland; MOST, Taiwan; TENMAK, Türkiye; STFC, United Kingdom; DOE and NSF, United States of America. In addition, individual groups and members have received support from BCKDF, CANARIE, Compute Canada and CRC, Canada; PRIMUS 21/SCI/017 and UNCE SCI/013, Czech Republic; COST, ERC, ERDF, Horizon 2020 and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, European Union; Investissements d’Avenir Labex, Investissements d’Avenir Idex and ANR, France; DFG and AvH Foundation, Germany; Herakleitos, Thales and Aristeia programmes co-financed by EU-ESF and the Greek NSRF, Greece; BSF-NSF and MINERVA, Israel; Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, Norway; NCN and NAWA, Poland; La Caixa Banking Foundation, CERCA Programme Generalitat de Catalunya and PROMETEO and GenT Programmes Generalitat Valenciana, Spain; Göran Gustafssons Stiftelse, Sweden; The Royal Society and Leverhulme Trust, United Kingdom.

The crucial computing support from all WLCG partners is acknowledged gratefully, in particular from CERN, the ATLAS Tier-1 facilities at TRIUMF (Canada), NDGF (Denmark, Norway, Sweden), CC-IN2P3 (France), KIT/GridKA (Germany), INFN-CNAF (Italy), NL-T1 (Netherlands), PIC (Spain), ASGC (Taiwan), RAL (UK) and BNL (USA), the Tier-2 facilities worldwide and large non-WLCG resource providers. Major contributors of computing resources are listed in Ref. [57].

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M. Benoit ²⁹, J.R. Bensinger ²⁶, S. Bentvelsen ¹¹⁴, L. Beresford ³⁶, M. Beretta ⁵³,
E. Bergeaas Kuutmann ¹⁶¹, N. Berger ⁴, B. Bergmann ¹³², J. Beringer ^{17a}, S. Berlendis ⁷,
G. Bernardi ⁵, C. Bernius ¹⁴³, F.U. Bernlochner ²⁴, T. Berry ⁹⁵, P. Berta ¹³³, A. Berthold ⁵⁰,
I.A. Bertram ⁹¹, S. Bethke ¹¹⁰, A. Betti ^{75a,75b}, A.J. Bevan ⁹⁴, M. Bhamjee ^{33c}, S. Bhatta ¹⁴⁵,
D.S. Bhattacharya ¹⁶⁶, P. Bhattarai ²⁶, V.S. Bhopatkar ¹²¹, R. Bi ^{29,an}, R.M. Bianchi ¹²⁹,
O. Biebel ¹⁰⁹, R. Bielski ¹²³, M. Biglietti ^{77a}, T.R.V. Billoud ¹³², M. Bindi ⁵⁵, A. Bingul ^{21b},
C. Bini ^{75a,75b}, A. Biondini ⁹², C.J. Birch-sykes ¹⁰¹, G.A. Bird ^{20,134}, M. Birman ¹⁶⁹,
M. Biros ¹³³, T. Bisanz ³⁶, E. Bisceglie ^{43b,43a}, D. Biswas ^{170,m}, A. Bitadze ¹⁰¹, K. Bjørke ¹²⁵,
I. Bloch ⁴⁸, C. Blocker ²⁶, A. Blue ⁵⁹, U. Blumenschein ⁹⁴, J. Blumenthal ¹⁰⁰, G.J. Bobbink ¹¹⁴,
V.S. Bobrovnikov ³⁷, M. Boehler ⁵⁴, D. Bogavac ³⁶, A.G. Bogdanchikov ³⁷, C. Bohm ^{47a},
V. Boisvert ⁹⁵, P. Bokan ⁴⁸, T. Bold ^{85a}, M. Bomben ⁵, M. Bona ⁹⁴, M. Boonekamp ¹³⁵,
C.D. Booth ⁹⁵, A.G. Borbély ⁵⁹, H.M. Borecka-Bielska ¹⁰⁸, L.S. Borgna ⁹⁶, G. Borissov ⁹¹,
D. Bortoletto ¹²⁶, D. Boscherini ^{23b}, M. Bosman ¹³, J.D. Bossio Sola ³⁶, K. Bouaouda ^{35a},
N. Bouchhar ¹⁶³, J. Boudreau ¹²⁹, E.V. Bouhova-Thacker ⁹¹, D. Boumediene ⁴⁰, R. Bouquet ⁵,
A. Boveia ¹¹⁹, J. Boyd ³⁶, D. Boye ²⁹, I.R. Boyko ³⁸, J. Bracinik ²⁰, N. Brahimi ^{62d},
G. Brandt ¹⁷¹, O. Brandt ³², F. Braren ⁴⁸, B. Brau ¹⁰³, J.E. Brau ¹²³, K. Brendlinger ⁴⁸,
R. Brenner ¹⁶⁹, L. Brenner ¹¹⁴, R. Brenner ¹⁶¹, S. Bressler ¹⁶⁹, D. Britton ⁵⁹, D. Britzger ¹¹⁰,
I. Brock ²⁴, G. Brooijmans ⁴¹, W.K. Brooks ^{137f}, E. Brost ²⁹, T.L. Bruckler ¹²⁶,
P.A. Bruckman de Renstrom ⁸⁶, B. Brüers ⁴⁸, D. Bruncko ^{28b,*}, A. Bruni ^{23b}, G. Bruni ^{23b},
M. Bruschi ^{23b}, N. Bruscinò ^{75a,75b}, T. Buanes ¹⁶, Q. Buat ¹³⁸, P. Buchholz ¹⁴¹,
A.G. Buckley ⁵⁹, I.A. Budagov ^{38,*}, M.K. Bugge ¹²⁵, O. Bulekov ³⁷, B.A. Bullard ¹⁴³,
S. Burdin ⁹², C.D. Burgard ⁴⁹, A.M. Burger ⁴⁰, B. Burghgrave ⁸, J.T.P. Burr ³², C.D. Burton ¹¹,
J.C. Burzynski ¹⁴², E.L. Busch ⁴¹, V. Büscher ¹⁰⁰, P.J. Bussey ⁵⁹, J.M. Butler ²⁵, C.M. Buttar ⁵⁹,
J.M. Butterworth ⁹⁶, W. Buttinger ¹³⁴, C.J. Buxo Vazquez ¹⁰⁷, A.R. Buzykaev ³⁷, G. Cabras ^{23b},
S. Cabrera Urbán ¹⁶³, D. Caforio ⁵⁸, H. Cai ¹²⁹, Y. Cai ^{14a,14d}, V.M.M. Cairo ³⁶, O. Cakir ^{3a},
N. Calace ³⁶, P. Calafiura ^{17a}, G. Calderini ¹²⁷, P. Calfayan ⁶⁸, G. Callea ⁵⁹, L.P. Caloba ^{82b},
D. Calvet ⁴⁰, S. Calvet ⁴⁰, T.P. Calvet ¹⁰², M. Calvetti ^{74a,74b}, R. Camacho Toro ¹²⁷,
S. Camarda ³⁶, D. Camarero Munoz ²⁶, P. Camarri ^{76a,76b}, M.T. Camerlingo ^{72a,72b},
D. Cameron ¹²⁵, C. Camincher ¹⁶⁵, M. Campanelli ⁹⁶, A. Camplani ⁴², V. Canale ^{72a,72b},
A. Canesse ¹⁰⁴, M. Cano Bret ⁸⁰, J. Cantero ¹⁶³, Y. Cao ¹⁶², F. Capocasa ²⁶, M. Capua ^{43b,43a},
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M. Carnesale ^{75a,75b}, S. Caron ¹¹³, E. Carquin ^{137f}, S. Carrá ^{71a,71b}, G. Carratta ^{23b,23a},
F. Carrio Argos ^{33g}, J.W.S. Carter ¹⁵⁵, T.M. Carter ⁵², M.P. Casado ^{13,j}, A.F. Casha ¹⁵⁵,
E.G. Castiglia ¹⁷², F.L. Castillo ^{63a}, L. Castillo Garcia ¹³, V. Castillo Gimenez ¹⁶³,
N.F. Castro ^{130a,130e}, A. Catinaccio ³⁶, J.R. Catmore ¹²⁵, V. Cavaliere ²⁹, N. Cavalli ^{23b,23a},
V. Cavasinni ^{74a,74b}, E. Celebi ^{21a}, F. Celli ¹²⁶, M.S. Centonze ^{70a,70b}, K. Cerny ¹²²,
A.S. Cerqueira ^{82a}, A. Cerri ¹⁴⁶, L. Cerrito ^{76a,76b}, F. Cerutti ^{17a}, A. Cervelli ^{23b}, S.A. Cetin ^{21d},
Z. Chadi ^{35a}, D. Chakraborty ¹¹⁵, M. Chala ^{130f}, J. Chan ¹⁷⁰, W.Y. Chan ¹⁵³, J.D. Chapman ³²,
B. Chargeishvili ^{149b}, D.G. Charlton ²⁰, T.P. Charman ⁹⁴, M. Chatterjee ¹⁹, S. Chekanov ⁶,
S.V. Chekulaev ^{156a}, G.A. Chelkov ^{38,a}, A. Chen ¹⁰⁶, B. Chen ¹⁵¹, B. Chen ¹⁶⁵, H. Chen ^{14c},
H. Chen ²⁹, J. Chen ^{62c}, J. Chen ¹⁴², S. Chen ¹⁵³, S.J. Chen ^{14c}, X. Chen ^{62c}, X. Chen ^{14b,aj},
Y. Chen ^{62a}, C.L. Cheng ¹⁷⁰, H.C. Cheng ^{64a}, S. Cheong ¹⁴³, A. Cheplakov ³⁸,
E. Cheremushkina ⁴⁸, E. Cherepanova ¹¹⁴, R. Cherkaoui El Moursli ^{35e}, E. Cheu ⁷, K. Cheung ⁶⁵,
L. Chevalier ¹³⁵, V. Chiarella ⁵³, G. Chiarelli ^{74a}, N. Chiedde ¹⁰², G. Chiodini ^{70a},
A.S. Chisholm ²⁰, A. Chitan ^{27b}, M. Chitishvili ¹⁶³, Y.H. Chiu ¹⁶⁵, M.V. Chizhov ³⁸, K. Choi ¹¹,
A.R. Chomont ^{75a,75b}, Y. Chou ¹⁰³, E.Y.S. Chow ¹¹⁴, T. Chowdhury ^{33g}, L.D. Christopher ^{33g},

K.L. Chu^{64a}, M.C. Chu^{64a}, X. Chu^{14a,14d}, J. Chudoba¹³¹, J.J. Chwastowski⁸⁶, D. Cieri¹¹⁰,
 K.M. Ciesla^{85a}, V. Cindro⁹³, A. Ciocio^{17a}, F. Cirotto^{72a,72b}, Z.H. Citron^{169,n}, M. Citterio^{71a},
 D.A. Ciubotaru^{27b}, B.M. Ciungu¹⁵⁵, A. Clark⁵⁶, P.J. Clark⁵², J.M. Clavijo Columbie⁴⁸,
 S.E. Clawson¹⁰¹, C. Clement^{47a,47b}, J. Clercx⁴⁸, L. Clissa^{23b,23a}, Y. Coadou¹⁰²,
 M. Cobal^{69a,69c}, A. Cocco^{57b}, R.F. Coelho Barrue^{130a}, R. Coelho Lopes De Sa¹⁰³,
 S. Coelli^{71a}, H. Cohen¹⁵¹, A.E.C. Coimbra^{71a,71b}, B. Cole⁴¹, J. Collot⁶⁰,
 P. Conde Muiño^{130a,130g}, M.P. Connell^{33c}, S.H. Connell^{33c}, I.A. Connelly⁵⁹, E.I. Conroy¹²⁶,
 F. Conventi^{72a,al}, H.G. Cooke²⁰, A.M. Cooper-Sarkar¹²⁶, F. Cormier¹⁶⁴, L.D. Corpe³⁶,
 M. Corradi^{75a,75b}, E.E. Corrigan⁹⁸, F. Corriveau^{104,aa}, A. Cortes-Gonzalez¹⁸, M.J. Costa¹⁶³,
 F. Costanza⁴, D. Costanzo¹³⁹, B.M. Cote¹¹⁹, G. Cowan⁹⁵, J.W. Cowley³², K. Cranmer¹¹⁷,
 S. Crépe-Renaudin⁶⁰, F. Crescioli¹²⁷, M. Cristinziani¹⁴¹, M. Cristoforetti^{78a,78b,d}, V. Croft¹⁵⁸,
 G. Crosetti^{43b,43a}, A. Cueto³⁶, T. Cuhadar Donszelmann¹⁶⁰, H. Cui^{14a,14d}, Z. Cui⁷,
 W.R. Cunningham⁵⁹, F. Curcio^{43b,43a}, P. Czodrowski³⁶, M.M. Czurylo^{63b},
 M.J. Da Cunha Sargedas De Sousa^{62a}, J.V. Da Fonseca Pinto^{82b}, C. Da Via¹⁰¹, W. Dabrowski^{85a},
 T. Dado⁴⁹, S. Dahbi^{33g}, T. Dai¹⁰⁶, C. Dallapiccola¹⁰³, M. Dam⁴², G. D'amen²⁹,
 V. D'Amico¹⁰⁹, J. Damp¹⁰⁰, J.R. Dandoy¹²⁸, M.F. Daneri³⁰, M. Danninger¹⁴², V. Dao³⁶,
 G. Darbo^{57b}, S. Darmora⁶, S.J. Das^{29,an}, S. D'Auria^{71a,71b}, C. David^{156b}, T. Davidek¹³³,
 D.R. Davis⁵¹, B. Davis-Purcell³⁴, I. Dawson⁹⁴, K. De⁸, R. De Asmundis^{72a},
 M. De Beurs¹¹⁴, N. De Biase⁴⁸, S. De Castro^{23b,23a}, N. De Groot¹¹³, P. de Jong¹¹⁴,
 H. De la Torre¹⁰⁷, A. De Maria^{14c}, A. De Salvo^{75a}, U. De Sanctis^{76a,76b}, A. De Santo¹⁴⁶,
 J.B. De Vivie De Regie⁶⁰, D.V. Dedovich³⁸, J. Degens¹¹⁴, A.M. Deiana⁴⁴, F. Del Corso^{23b,23a},
 J. Del Peso⁹⁹, F. Del Rio^{63a}, F. Deliot¹³⁵, C.M. Delitzsch⁴⁹, M. Della Pietra^{72a,72b},
 D. Della Volpe⁵⁶, A. Dell'Acqua³⁶, L. Dell'Asta^{71a,71b}, M. Delmastro⁴, P.A. Delsart⁶⁰,
 S. Demers¹⁷², M. Demichev³⁸, S.P. Denisov³⁷, L. D'Eramo¹¹⁵, D. Derendarz⁸⁶,
 F. Derue¹²⁷, P. Dervan⁹², K. Desch²⁴, K. Dette¹⁵⁵, C. Deutsch²⁴, F.A. Di Bello^{57b,57a},
 A. Di Ciaccio^{76a,76b}, L. Di Ciaccio⁴, A. Di Domenico^{75a,75b}, C. Di Donato^{72a,72b},
 A. Di Girolamo³⁶, G. Di Gregorio⁵, A. Di Luca^{78a,78b}, B. Di Micco^{77a,77b}, R. Di Nardo^{77a,77b},
 C. Diaconu¹⁰², F.A. Dias¹¹⁴, T. Dias Do Vale¹⁴², M.A. Diaz^{137a,137b}, F.G. Diaz Capriles²⁴,
 M. Didenko¹⁶³, E.B. Diehl¹⁰⁶, L. Diehl⁵⁴, S. Díez Cornell⁴⁸, C. Díez Pardos¹⁴¹,
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 F. Dittus³⁶, F. Djama¹⁰², T. Djobava^{149b}, J.I. Djuvsland¹⁶, C. Doglioni^{101,98}, J. Dolejsi¹³³,
 Z. Dolezal¹³³, M. Donadelli^{82c}, B. Dong¹⁰⁷, J. Donini⁴⁰, A. D'Onofrio^{77a,77b},
 M. D'Onofrio⁹², J. Dopke¹³⁴, A. Doria^{72a}, M.T. Dova⁹⁰, A.T. Doyle⁵⁹, M.A. Draguet¹²⁶,
 E. Drechsler¹⁴², E. Dreyer¹⁶⁹, I. Drivas-koulouris¹⁰, A.S. Drobac¹⁵⁸, M. Drozdova⁵⁶,
 D. Du^{62a}, T.A. du Pree¹¹⁴, F. Dubinin³⁷, M. Dubovsky^{28a}, E. Duchovni¹⁶⁹, G. Duckeck¹⁰⁹,
 O.A. Ducu^{27b}, D. Duda¹¹⁰, A. Dudarev³⁶, M. D'uffizi¹⁰¹, L. Dufлот⁶⁶, M. Dührssen³⁶,
 C. Dülsen¹⁷¹, A.E. Dumitriu^{27b}, M. Dunford^{63a}, S. Dungs⁴⁹, K. Dunne^{47a,47b},
 A. Duperrin¹⁰², H. Duran Yildiz^{3a}, M. Düren⁵⁸, A. Durglishvili^{149b}, B.L. Dwyer¹¹⁵,
 G.I. Dyckes^{17a}, M. Dyndal^{85a}, S. Dysch¹⁰¹, B.S. Dziedzic⁸⁶, Z.O. Earnshaw¹⁴⁶,
 B. Eckerova^{28a}, S. Eggebrecht⁵⁵, M.G. Eggleston⁵¹, E. Egidio Purcino De Souza¹²⁷,
 L.F. Ehrke⁵⁶, G. Eigen¹⁶, K. Einsweiler^{17a}, T. Ekelof¹⁶¹, P.A. Ekman⁹⁸, Y. El Ghazali^{35b},
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 Y. Enari¹⁵³, I. Ene^{17a}, S. Epari¹³, J. Erdmann^{49,ah}, A. Ereditato¹⁹, P.A. Erland⁸⁶,
 M. Errenst¹⁷¹, M. Escalier⁶⁶, C. Escobar¹⁶³, E. Etzion¹⁵¹, G. Evans^{130a}, H. Evans⁶⁸,
 M.O. Evans¹⁴⁶, A. Ezhilov³⁷, S. Ezzarqtouni^{35a}, F. Fabbri⁵⁹, L. Fabbri^{23b,23a}, G. Facini⁹⁶,
 V. Fadeyev¹³⁶, R.M. Fakhrutdinov³⁷, S. Falciano^{75a}, L.F. Falda Ulhoa Coelho³⁶, P.J. Falke²⁴,

S. Falke ³⁶, J. Faltova ¹³³, Y. Fan ^{14a}, Y. Fang ^{14a,14d}, G. Fanourakis ⁴⁶, M. Fanti ^{71a,71b},
 M. Faraj ^{69a,69b}, Z. Farazpay ⁹⁷, A. Farbin ⁸, A. Farilla ^{77a}, T. Farooque ¹⁰⁷, S.M. Farrington ⁵²,
 F. Fassi ^{35e}, D. Fassouliotis ⁹, M. Faucci Giannelli ^{76a,76b}, W.J. Fawcett ³², L. Fayard ⁶⁶,
 P. Federicova ¹³¹, O.L. Fedin ^{37,a}, G. Fedotov ³⁷, M. Feickert ¹⁷⁰, L. Feligioni ¹⁰², A. Fell ¹³⁹,
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 L. Ferencz ⁴⁸, R.A.M. Ferguson ⁹¹, J. Ferrando ⁴⁸, A. Ferrari ¹⁶¹, P. Ferrari ^{114,113},
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 F. Filthaut ¹¹³, M.C.N. Fiolhais ^{130a,130c,c}, L. Fiorini ¹⁶³, F. Fischer ¹⁴¹, W.C. Fisher ¹⁰⁷,
 T. Fitschen ¹⁰¹, I. Fleck ¹⁴¹, P. Fleischmann ¹⁰⁶, T. Flick ¹⁷¹, L. Flores ¹²⁸, M. Flores ^{33d,ag},
 L.R. Flores Castillo ^{64a}, F.M. Follega ^{78a,78b}, N. Fomin ¹⁶, J.H. Foo ¹⁵⁵, B.C. Forland ⁶⁸,
 A. Formica ¹³⁵, A.C. Forti ¹⁰¹, E. Fortin ¹⁰², A.W. Fortman ⁶¹, M.G. Foti ^{17a}, L. Fountas ^{9,k},
 D. Fournier ⁶⁶, H. Fox ⁹¹, P. Francavilla ^{74a,74b}, S. Francescato ⁶¹, S. Franchellucci ⁵⁶,
 M. Franchini ^{23b,23a}, S. Franchino ^{63a}, D. Francis ³⁶, L. Franco ¹¹³, L. Franconi ¹⁹, M. Franklin ⁶¹,
 G. Frattari ²⁶, A.C. Freegard ⁹⁴, P.M. Freeman ²⁰, W.S. Freund ^{82b}, N. Fritzsche ⁵⁰, A. Froch ⁵⁴,
 D. Froidevaux ³⁶, J.A. Frost ¹²⁶, Y. Fu ^{62a}, M. Fujimoto ¹¹⁸, E. Fullana Torregrosa ^{163,*},
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 K.K. Gan ¹¹⁹, S. Ganguly ¹⁵³, J. Gao ^{62a}, Y. Gao ⁵², F.M. Garay Walls ^{137a,137b}, B. Garcia ^{29,an},
 C. García ¹⁶³, J.E. García Navarro ¹⁶³, M. Garcia-Sciveres ^{17a}, R.W. Gardner ³⁹, D. Garg ⁸⁰,
 R.B. Garg ^{143,r}, C.A. Garner ¹⁵⁵, V. Garonne ²⁹, S.J. Gasiorowski ¹³⁸, P. Gaspar ^{82b},
 G. Gaudio ^{73a}, V. Gautam ¹³, P. Gauzzi ^{75a,75b}, I.L. Gavrilenko ³⁷, A. Gavrilyuk ³⁷, C. Gay ¹⁶⁴,
 G. Gaycken ⁴⁸, E.N. Gazis ¹⁰, A.A. Geanta ^{27b,27e}, C.M. Gee ¹³⁶, J. Geisen ⁹⁸, C. Gemme ^{57b},
 M.H. Genest ⁶⁰, S. Gentile ^{75a,75b}, S. George ⁹⁵, W.F. George ²⁰, T. Gerialis ⁴⁶, L.O. Gerlach ⁵⁵,
 P. Gessinger-Befurt ³⁶, M. Ghasemi Bostanabad ¹⁶⁵, M. Ghneimat ¹⁴¹, K. Ghorbanian ⁹⁴,
 A. Ghosal ¹⁴¹, A. Ghosh ¹⁶⁰, A. Ghosh ⁷, B. Giacobbe ^{23b}, S. Giagu ^{75a,75b}, P. Giannetti ^{74a},
 A. Giannini ^{62a}, S.M. Gibson ⁹⁵, M. Gignac ¹³⁶, D.T. Gil ^{85b}, A.K. Gilbert ^{85a}, B.J. Gilbert ⁴¹,
 D. Gillberg ³⁴, G. Gilles ¹¹⁴, N.E.K. Gillwald ⁴⁸, L. Ginabat ¹²⁷, D.M. Gingrich ^{2,ak},
 M.P. Giordani ^{69a,69c}, P.F. Giraud ¹³⁵, G. Giugliarelli ^{69a,69c}, D. Giugni ^{71a}, F. Giuli ³⁶,
 I. Gkialas ^{9,k}, L.K. Gladilin ³⁷, C. Glasman ⁹⁹, G.R. Gledhill ¹²³, M. Glisic ¹²³, I. Gnesi ^{43b,g},
 Y. Go ^{29,an}, M. Goblirsch-Kolb ²⁶, B. Gocke ⁴⁹, D. Godin ¹⁰⁸, B. Gokturk ^{21a}, S. Goldfarb ¹⁰⁵,
 T. Golling ⁵⁶, M.G.D. Gololo ^{33g}, D. Golubkov ³⁷, J.P. Gombas ¹⁰⁷, A. Gomes ^{130a,130b},
 G. Gomes Da Silva ¹⁴¹, A.J. Gomez Delegido ¹⁶³, R. Goncalves Gama ⁵⁵, R. Gonçalves ^{130a,130c},
 G. Gonella ¹²³, L. Gonella ²⁰, A. Gongadze ³⁸, F. Gonnella ²⁰, J.L. Gonski ⁴¹,
 R.Y. González Andana ⁵², S. González de la Hoz ¹⁶³, S. Gonzalez Fernandez ¹³,
 R. Gonzalez Lopez ⁹², C. Gonzalez Renteria ^{17a}, R. Gonzalez Suarez ¹⁶¹, S. Gonzalez-Sevilla ⁵⁶,
 G.R. Gonzalvo Rodriguez ¹⁶³, L. Goossens ³⁶, N.A. Gorasia ²⁰, P.A. Gorbounov ³⁷, B. Gorini ³⁶,
 E. Gorini ^{70a,70b}, A. Gorišek ⁹³, A.T. Goshaw ⁵¹, M.I. Gostkin ³⁸, C.A. Gottardo ³⁶,
 M. Goughri ^{35b}, V. Goumarre ⁴⁸, A.G. Goussiou ¹³⁸, N. Govender ^{33c}, C. Goy ⁴,
 I. Grabowska-Bold ^{85a}, K. Graham ³⁴, E. Gramstad ¹²⁵, S. Grancagnolo ¹⁸, M. Grandi ¹⁴⁶,
 V. Gratchev ^{37,*}, P.M. Gravila ^{27f}, F.G. Gravili ^{70a,70b}, H.M. Gray ^{17a}, M. Greco ^{70a,70b},
 C. Grefe ²⁴, I.M. Gregor ⁴⁸, P. Grenier ¹⁴³, C. Grieco ¹³, A.A. Grillo ¹³⁶, K. Grimm ^{31,o},
 S. Grinstein ^{13,w}, J.-F. Grivaz ⁶⁶, E. Gross ¹⁶⁹, J. Grosse-Knetter ⁵⁵, C. Grud ¹⁰⁶, A. Grummer ¹¹²,
 J.C. Grundy ¹²⁶, L. Guan ¹⁰⁶, W. Guan ¹⁷⁰, C. Gubbels ¹⁶⁴, J.G.R. Guerrero Rojas ¹⁶³,
 G. Guerrieri ^{69a,69b}, F. Guescini ¹¹⁰, D. Guest ¹⁸, R. Gugel ¹⁰⁰, J.A.M. Guhit ¹⁰⁶, A. Guida ⁴⁸,
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 P. Gutierrez ¹²⁰, L.F. Gutierrez Zagazeta ¹²⁸, C. Gutschow ⁹⁶, C. Guyot ¹³⁵, C. Gwenlan ¹²⁶,

C.B. Gwilliam [id](#)⁹², E.S. Haaland [id](#)¹²⁵, A. Haas [id](#)¹¹⁷, M. Habedank [id](#)⁴⁸, C. Haber [id](#)^{17a},
 H.K. Hadavand [id](#)⁸, A. Hadeef [id](#)¹⁰⁰, S. Hadzic [id](#)¹¹⁰, E.H. Haines [id](#)⁹⁶, M. Haleem [id](#)¹⁶⁶, J. Haley [id](#)¹²¹,
 J.J. Hall [id](#)¹³⁹, G.D. Hallewell [id](#)¹⁰², L. Halser [id](#)¹⁹, K. Hamano [id](#)¹⁶⁵, H. Hamdaoui [id](#)^{35e}, M. Hamer [id](#)²⁴,
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













































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M. Wielers ¹³⁴, C. Wiglesworth ⁴², L.A.M. Wiik-Fuchs ⁵⁴, D.J. Wilbern¹²⁰, H.G. Wilkens ³⁶, D.M. Williams ⁴¹, H.H. Williams¹²⁸, S. Williams ³², S. Willocq ¹⁰³, P.J. Windischhofer ¹²⁶, F. Winklmeier ¹²³, B.T. Winter ⁵⁴, J.K. Winter ¹⁰¹, M. Wittgen¹⁴³, M. Wobisch ⁹⁷, R. Wölker ¹²⁶, J. Wollrath¹⁶⁰, M.W. Wolter ⁸⁶, H. Wolters ^{130a,130c}, V.W.S. Wong ¹⁶⁴, A.F. Wongel ⁴⁸, S.D. Worm ⁴⁸, B.K. Wosiek ⁸⁶, K.W. Woźniak ⁸⁶, K. Wraight ⁵⁹, J. Wu ^{14a,14d}, M. Wu ^{64a}, M. Wu ¹¹³, S.L. Wu ¹⁷⁰, X. Wu ⁵⁶, Y. Wu ^{62a}, Z. Wu ^{135,62a}, J. Wuerzinger ¹²⁶, T.R. Wyatt ¹⁰¹, B.M. Wynne ⁵², S. Xella ⁴², L. Xia ^{14c}, M. Xia ^{14b}, J. Xiang ^{64c}, X. Xiao ¹⁰⁶, M. Xie ^{62a}, X. Xie ^{62a}, S. Xin ^{14a,14d}, J. Xiong ^{17a}, I. Xiotidis¹⁴⁶, D. Xu ^{14a}, H. Xu^{62a}, H. Xu ^{62a}, L. Xu ^{62a}, R. Xu ¹²⁸, T. Xu ¹⁰⁶, W. Xu ¹⁰⁶, Y. Xu ^{14b}, Z. Xu ^{62b}, Z. Xu ^{14a}, B. Yabsley ¹⁴⁷, S. Yacoob ^{33a}, N. Yamaguchi ⁸⁹, Y. Yamaguchi ¹⁵⁴, H. Yamauchi ¹⁵⁷, T. Yamazaki ^{17a}, Y. Yamazaki ⁸⁴, J. Yan ^{62c}, S. Yan ¹²⁶, Z. Yan ²⁵, H.J. Yang ^{62c,62d}, H.T. Yang ^{62a}, S. Yang ^{62a}, T. Yang ^{64c}, X. Yang ^{62a}, X. Yang ^{14a}, Y. Yang ⁴⁴, Z. Yang ^{62a,106}, W.-M. Yao ^{17a}, Y.C. Yap ⁴⁸, H. Ye ^{14c}, H. Ye ⁵⁵, J. Ye ⁴⁴, S. Ye ²⁹, X. Ye ^{62a}, Y. Yeh ⁹⁶, I. Yeletsikh ³⁸, B.K. Yeo ^{17a}, M.R. Yexley ⁹¹, P. Yin ⁴¹, K. Yorita ¹⁶⁸, S. Younas ^{27b}, C.J.S. Young ⁵⁴, C. Young ¹⁴³, M. Yuan ¹⁰⁶, R. Yuan ^{62b,1}, L. Yue ⁹⁶, X. Yue ^{63a}, M. Zaazoua ^{35e}, B. Zabinski ⁸⁶, E. Zaid⁵², T. Zakareishvili ^{149b}, N. Zakharchuk ³⁴, S. Zambito ⁵⁶, J.A. Zamora Saa ^{137d,137b}, J. Zang ¹⁵³, D. Zanzi ⁵⁴, O. Zaplatilek ¹³², S.V. Zeibner ⁴⁹, C. Zeitnitz ¹⁷¹, J.C. Zeng ¹⁶², D.T. Zenger Jr ²⁶, O. Zenin ³⁷, T. Ženiš ^{28a}, S. Zenz ⁹⁴, S. Zerradi ^{35a}, D. Zerwas ⁶⁶, M. Zhai ^{14a,14d}, B. Zhang ^{14c}, D.F. Zhang ¹³⁹, J. Zhang ^{62b}, J. Zhang ⁶, K. Zhang ^{14a,14d}, L. Zhang ^{14c}, P. Zhang ^{14a,14d}, R. Zhang ¹⁷⁰, S. Zhang ¹⁰⁶, T. Zhang ¹⁵³, X. Zhang ^{62c}, X. Zhang ^{62b}, Y. Zhang ^{62c,5}, Z. Zhang ^{17a}, Z. Zhang ⁶⁶, H. Zhao ¹³⁸, P. Zhao ⁵¹, T. Zhao ^{62b}, Y. Zhao ¹³⁶, Z. Zhao ^{62a}, A. Zhemchugov ³⁸, X. Zheng ^{62a}, Z. Zheng ¹⁴³, D. Zhong ¹⁶², B. Zhou¹⁰⁶, C. Zhou ¹⁷⁰, H. Zhou ⁷, N. Zhou ^{62c}, Y. Zhou⁷, C.G. Zhu ^{62b}, C. Zhu ^{14a,14d}, H.L. Zhu ^{62a}, H. Zhu ^{14a}, J. Zhu ¹⁰⁶, Y. Zhu ^{62c}, Y. Zhu ^{62a}, X. Zhuang ^{14a}, K. Zhukov ³⁷, V. Zhulanov ³⁷, N.I. Zimine ³⁸, J. Zinsser ^{63b}, M. Ziolkowski ¹⁴¹, L. Živković ¹⁵, A. Zoccoli ^{23b,23a}, K. Zoch ⁵⁶, T.G. Zorbas ¹³⁹, O. Zormpa ⁴⁶, W. Zou ⁴¹, L. Zwalinski ³⁶.

¹Department of Physics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide; Australia.

²Department of Physics, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB; Canada.

³(^a)Department of Physics, Ankara University, Ankara; (^b)Division of Physics, TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Ankara; Türkiye.

⁴LAPP, Université Savoie Mont Blanc, CNRS/IN2P3, Annecy; France.

⁵APC, Université Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris; France.

⁶High Energy Physics Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne IL; United States of America.

⁷Department of Physics, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ; United States of America.

⁸Department of Physics, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington TX; United States of America.

⁹Physics Department, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens; Greece.

¹⁰Physics Department, National Technical University of Athens, Zografou; Greece.

¹¹Department of Physics, University of Texas at Austin, Austin TX; United States of America.

¹²Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku; Azerbaijan.

¹³Institut de Física d'Altes Energies (IFAE), Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Barcelona; Spain.

¹⁴(^a)Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing; (^b)Physics Department, Tsinghua University, Beijing; (^c)Department of Physics, Nanjing University, Nanjing; (^d)University of Chinese Academy of Science (UCAS), Beijing; China.

¹⁵Institute of Physics, University of Belgrade, Belgrade; Serbia.

¹⁶Department for Physics and Technology, University of Bergen, Bergen; Norway.

- ^{17(a)}Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley CA;^(b)University of California, Berkeley CA; United States of America.
- ¹⁸Institut für Physik, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin; Germany.
- ¹⁹Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics and Laboratory for High Energy Physics, University of Bern, Bern; Switzerland.
- ²⁰School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Birmingham, Birmingham; United Kingdom.
- ^{21(a)}Department of Physics, Bogazici University, Istanbul;^(b)Department of Physics Engineering, Gaziantep University, Gaziantep;^(c)Department of Physics, Istanbul University, Istanbul;^(d)Istinye University, Sariyer, Istanbul; Türkiye.
- ^{22(a)}Facultad de Ciencias y Centro de Investigaciones, Universidad Antonio Nariño, Bogotá;^(b)Departamento de Física, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá; Colombia.
- ^{23(a)}Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia A. Righi, Università di Bologna, Bologna;^(b)INFN Sezione di Bologna; Italy.
- ²⁴Physikalisches Institut, Universität Bonn, Bonn; Germany.
- ²⁵Department of Physics, Boston University, Boston MA; United States of America.
- ²⁶Department of Physics, Brandeis University, Waltham MA; United States of America.
- ^{27(a)}Transilvania University of Brasov, Brasov;^(b)Horia Hulubei National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Bucharest;^(c)Department of Physics, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Iasi;^(d)National Institute for Research and Development of Isotopic and Molecular Technologies, Physics Department, Cluj-Napoca;^(e)University Politehnica Bucharest, Bucharest;^(f)West University in Timisoara, Timisoara;^(g)Faculty of Physics, University of Bucharest, Bucharest; Romania.
- ^{28(a)}Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava;^(b)Department of Subnuclear Physics, Institute of Experimental Physics of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Kosice; Slovak Republic.
- ²⁹Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton NY; United States of America.
- ³⁰Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Departamento de Física, y CONICET, Instituto de Física de Buenos Aires (IFIBA), Buenos Aires; Argentina.
- ³¹California State University, CA; United States of America.
- ³²Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge, Cambridge; United Kingdom.
- ^{33(a)}Department of Physics, University of Cape Town, Cape Town;^(b)iThemba Labs, Western Cape;^(c)Department of Mechanical Engineering Science, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg;^(d)National Institute of Physics, University of the Philippines Diliman (Philippines);^(e)University of South Africa, Department of Physics, Pretoria;^(f)University of Zululand, KwaDlangezwa;^(g)School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg; South Africa.
- ³⁴Department of Physics, Carleton University, Ottawa ON; Canada.
- ^{35(a)}Faculté des Sciences Ain Chock, Réseau Universitaire de Physique des Hautes Energies - Université Hassan II, Casablanca;^(b)Faculté des Sciences, Université Ibn-Tofail, Kénitra;^(c)Faculté des Sciences Semlalia, Université Cadi Ayyad, LPHEA-Marrakech;^(d)LPMR, Faculté des Sciences, Université Mohamed Premier, Oujda;^(e)Faculté des sciences, Université Mohammed V, Rabat;^(f)Institute of Applied Physics, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Ben Guerir; Morocco.
- ³⁶CERN, Geneva; Switzerland.
- ³⁷Affiliated with an institute covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN.
- ³⁸Affiliated with an international laboratory covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN.
- ³⁹Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago IL; United States of America.
- ⁴⁰LPC, Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS/IN2P3, Clermont-Ferrand; France.
- ⁴¹Nevis Laboratory, Columbia University, Irvington NY; United States of America.
- ⁴²Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen; Denmark.

- ^{43(a)}Dipartimento di Fisica, Università della Calabria, Rende; ^(b)INFN Gruppo Collegato di Cosenza, Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati; Italy.
- ⁴⁴Physics Department, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX; United States of America.
- ⁴⁵Physics Department, University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson TX; United States of America.
- ⁴⁶National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos", Agia Paraskevi; Greece.
- ^{47(a)}Department of Physics, Stockholm University; ^(b)Oskar Klein Centre, Stockholm; Sweden.
- ⁴⁸Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Hamburg and Zeuthen; Germany.
- ⁴⁹Fakultät Physik, Technische Universität Dortmund, Dortmund; Germany.
- ⁵⁰Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, Technische Universität Dresden, Dresden; Germany.
- ⁵¹Department of Physics, Duke University, Durham NC; United States of America.
- ⁵²SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh; United Kingdom.
- ⁵³INFN e Laboratori Nazionali di Frascati, Frascati; Italy.
- ⁵⁴Physikalisches Institut, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Freiburg; Germany.
- ⁵⁵II. Physikalisches Institut, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen; Germany.
- ⁵⁶Département de Physique Nucléaire et Corpusculaire, Université de Genève, Genève; Switzerland.
- ^{57(a)}Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Genova, Genova; ^(b)INFN Sezione di Genova; Italy.
- ⁵⁸II. Physikalisches Institut, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Giessen; Germany.
- ⁵⁹SUPA - School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow; United Kingdom.
- ⁶⁰LPSC, Université Grenoble Alpes, CNRS/IN2P3, Grenoble INP, Grenoble; France.
- ⁶¹Laboratory for Particle Physics and Cosmology, Harvard University, Cambridge MA; United States of America.
- ^{62(a)}Department of Modern Physics and State Key Laboratory of Particle Detection and Electronics, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei; ^(b)Institute of Frontier and Interdisciplinary Science and Key Laboratory of Particle Physics and Particle Irradiation (MOE), Shandong University, Qingdao; ^(c)School of Physics and Astronomy, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Key Laboratory for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (MOE), SKLPPC, Shanghai; ^(d)Tsung-Dao Lee Institute, Shanghai; China.
- ^{63(a)}Kirchhoff-Institut für Physik, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; ^(b)Physikalisches Institut, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg; Germany.
- ^{64(a)}Department of Physics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong; ^(b)Department of Physics, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong; ^(c)Department of Physics and Institute for Advanced Study, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong; China.
- ⁶⁵Department of Physics, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu; Taiwan.
- ⁶⁶IJCLab, Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS/IN2P3, 91405, Orsay; France.
- ⁶⁷Centro Nacional de Microelectrónica (IMB-CNM-CSIC), Barcelona; Spain.
- ⁶⁸Department of Physics, Indiana University, Bloomington IN; United States of America.
- ^{69(a)}INFN Gruppo Collegato di Udine, Sezione di Trieste, Udine; ^(b)ICTP, Trieste; ^(c)Dipartimento Politecnico di Ingegneria e Architettura, Università di Udine, Udine; Italy.
- ^{70(a)}INFN Sezione di Lecce; ^(b)Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università del Salento, Lecce; Italy.
- ^{71(a)}INFN Sezione di Milano; ^(b)Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Milano, Milano; Italy.
- ^{72(a)}INFN Sezione di Napoli; ^(b)Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Napoli, Napoli; Italy.
- ^{73(a)}INFN Sezione di Pavia; ^(b)Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pavia, Pavia; Italy.
- ^{74(a)}INFN Sezione di Pisa; ^(b)Dipartimento di Fisica E. Fermi, Università di Pisa, Pisa; Italy.
- ^{75(a)}INFN Sezione di Roma; ^(b)Dipartimento di Fisica, Sapienza Università di Roma, Roma; Italy.
- ^{76(a)}INFN Sezione di Roma Tor Vergata; ^(b)Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Roma; Italy.
- ^{77(a)}INFN Sezione di Roma Tre; ^(b)Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università Roma Tre, Roma; Italy.

- ^{78(a)}INFN-TIFPA;^(b)Università degli Studi di Trento, Trento; Italy.
- ⁷⁹Universität Innsbruck, Department of Astro and Particle Physics, Innsbruck; Austria.
- ⁸⁰University of Iowa, Iowa City IA; United States of America.
- ⁸¹Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames IA; United States of America.
- ^{82(a)}Departamento de Engenharia Elétrica, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora (UFJF), Juiz de Fora;^(b)Universidade Federal do Rio De Janeiro COPPE/EE/IF, Rio de Janeiro;^(c)Instituto de Física, Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo;^(d)Rio de Janeiro State University, Rio de Janeiro; Brazil.
- ⁸³KEK, High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Tsukuba; Japan.
- ⁸⁴Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, Kobe; Japan.
- ^{85(a)}AGH University of Krakow, Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, Krakow;^(b)Marian Smoluchowski Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University, Krakow; Poland.
- ⁸⁶Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow; Poland.
- ⁸⁷Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto; Japan.
- ⁸⁸Kyoto University of Education, Kyoto; Japan.
- ⁸⁹Research Center for Advanced Particle Physics and Department of Physics, Kyushu University, Fukuoka ; Japan.
- ⁹⁰Instituto de Física La Plata, Universidad Nacional de La Plata and CONICET, La Plata; Argentina.
- ⁹¹Physics Department, Lancaster University, Lancaster; United Kingdom.
- ⁹²Oliver Lodge Laboratory, University of Liverpool, Liverpool; United Kingdom.
- ⁹³Department of Experimental Particle Physics, Jožef Stefan Institute and Department of Physics, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana; Slovenia.
- ⁹⁴School of Physics and Astronomy, Queen Mary University of London, London; United Kingdom.
- ⁹⁵Department of Physics, Royal Holloway University of London, Egham; United Kingdom.
- ⁹⁶Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London; United Kingdom.
- ⁹⁷Louisiana Tech University, Ruston LA; United States of America.
- ⁹⁸Fysiska institutionen, Lunds universitet, Lund; Sweden.
- ⁹⁹Departamento de Física Teórica C-15 and CIAFF, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid; Spain.
- ¹⁰⁰Institut für Physik, Universität Mainz, Mainz; Germany.
- ¹⁰¹School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester; United Kingdom.
- ¹⁰²CPPM, Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS/IN2P3, Marseille; France.
- ¹⁰³Department of Physics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA; United States of America.
- ¹⁰⁴Department of Physics, McGill University, Montreal QC; Canada.
- ¹⁰⁵School of Physics, University of Melbourne, Victoria; Australia.
- ¹⁰⁶Department of Physics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI; United States of America.
- ¹⁰⁷Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI; United States of America.
- ¹⁰⁸Group of Particle Physics, University of Montreal, Montreal QC; Canada.
- ¹⁰⁹Fakultät für Physik, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München; Germany.
- ¹¹⁰Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), München; Germany.
- ¹¹¹Graduate School of Science and Kobayashi-Maskawa Institute, Nagoya University, Nagoya; Japan.
- ¹¹²Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM; United States of America.
- ¹¹³Institute for Mathematics, Astrophysics and Particle Physics, Radboud University/Nikhef, Nijmegen; Netherlands.
- ¹¹⁴Nikhef National Institute for Subatomic Physics and University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam; Netherlands.
- ¹¹⁵Department of Physics, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL; United States of America.

^{116(a)}New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi;^(b)University of Sharjah, Sharjah; United Arab Emirates.

¹¹⁷Department of Physics, New York University, New York NY; United States of America.

¹¹⁸Ochanomizu University, Otsuka, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo; Japan.

¹¹⁹Ohio State University, Columbus OH; United States of America.

¹²⁰Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK; United States of America.

¹²¹Department of Physics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater OK; United States of America.

¹²²Palacký University, Joint Laboratory of Optics, Olomouc; Czech Republic.

¹²³Institute for Fundamental Science, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR; United States of America.

¹²⁴Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Osaka; Japan.

¹²⁵Department of Physics, University of Oslo, Oslo; Norway.

¹²⁶Department of Physics, Oxford University, Oxford; United Kingdom.

¹²⁷LPNHE, Sorbonne Université, Université Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris; France.

¹²⁸Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA; United States of America.

¹²⁹Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA; United States of America.

^{130(a)}Laboratório de Instrumentação e Física Experimental de Partículas - LIP, Lisboa;^(b)Departamento de Física, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa;^(c)Departamento de Física, Universidade de Coimbra, Coimbra;^(d)Centro de Física Nuclear da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa;^(e)Departamento de Física, Universidade do Minho, Braga;^(f)Departamento de Física Teórica y del Cosmos, Universidad de Granada, Granada (Spain);^(g)Departamento de Física, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa; Portugal.

¹³¹Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague; Czech Republic.

¹³²Czech Technical University in Prague, Prague; Czech Republic.

¹³³Charles University, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Prague; Czech Republic.

¹³⁴Particle Physics Department, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Didcot; United Kingdom.

¹³⁵IRFU, CEA, Université Paris-Saclay, Gif-sur-Yvette; France.

¹³⁶Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz CA; United States of America.

^{137(a)}Departamento de Física, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago;^(b)Millennium Institute for Subatomic physics at high energy frontier (SAPHIR), Santiago;^(c)Instituto de Investigación Multidisciplinario en Ciencia y Tecnología, y Departamento de Física, Universidad de La Serena;^(d)Universidad Andres Bello, Department of Physics, Santiago;^(e)Instituto de Alta Investigación, Universidad de Tarapacá, Arica;^(f)Departamento de Física, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Valparaíso; Chile.

¹³⁸Department of Physics, University of Washington, Seattle WA; United States of America.

¹³⁹Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sheffield, Sheffield; United Kingdom.

¹⁴⁰Department of Physics, Shinshu University, Nagano; Japan.

¹⁴¹Department Physik, Universität Siegen, Siegen; Germany.

¹⁴²Department of Physics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC; Canada.

¹⁴³SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford CA; United States of America.

¹⁴⁴Department of Physics, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm; Sweden.

¹⁴⁵Departments of Physics and Astronomy, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook NY; United States of America.

¹⁴⁶Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton; United Kingdom.

¹⁴⁷School of Physics, University of Sydney, Sydney; Australia.

- ¹⁴⁸Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taipei; Taiwan.
- ¹⁴⁹^(a)E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi;^(b)High Energy Physics Institute, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi;^(c)University of Georgia, Tbilisi; Georgia.
- ¹⁵⁰Department of Physics, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa; Israel.
- ¹⁵¹Raymond and Beverly Sackler School of Physics and Astronomy, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv; Israel.
- ¹⁵²Department of Physics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki; Greece.
- ¹⁵³International Center for Elementary Particle Physics and Department of Physics, University of Tokyo, Tokyo; Japan.
- ¹⁵⁴Department of Physics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo; Japan.
- ¹⁵⁵Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto ON; Canada.
- ¹⁵⁶^(a)TRIUMF, Vancouver BC;^(b)Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Toronto ON; Canada.
- ¹⁵⁷Division of Physics and Tomonaga Center for the History of the Universe, Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba; Japan.
- ¹⁵⁸Department of Physics and Astronomy, Tufts University, Medford MA; United States of America.
- ¹⁵⁹United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain; United Arab Emirates.
- ¹⁶⁰Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine, Irvine CA; United States of America.
- ¹⁶¹Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Uppsala, Uppsala; Sweden.
- ¹⁶²Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana IL; United States of America.
- ¹⁶³Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC), Centro Mixto Universidad de Valencia - CSIC, Valencia; Spain.
- ¹⁶⁴Department of Physics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC; Canada.
- ¹⁶⁵Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Victoria, Victoria BC; Canada.
- ¹⁶⁶Fakultät für Physik und Astronomie, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Würzburg; Germany.
- ¹⁶⁷Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Coventry; United Kingdom.
- ¹⁶⁸Waseda University, Tokyo; Japan.
- ¹⁶⁹Department of Particle Physics and Astrophysics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot; Israel.
- ¹⁷⁰Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI; United States of America.
- ¹⁷¹Fakultät für Mathematik und Naturwissenschaften, Fachgruppe Physik, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal; Germany.
- ¹⁷²Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven CT; United States of America.
- ^a Also Affiliated with an institute covered by a cooperation agreement with CERN.
- ^b Also at An-Najah National University, Nablus; Palestine.
- ^c Also at Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York, New York NY; United States of America.
- ^d Also at Bruno Kessler Foundation, Trento; Italy.
- ^e Also at Center for High Energy Physics, Peking University; China.
- ^f Also at Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation (CIRI-AUTH), Thessaloniki ; Greece.
- ^g Also at Centro Studi e Ricerche Enrico Fermi; Italy.
- ^h Also at CERN, Geneva; Switzerland.
- ⁱ Also at Département de Physique Nucléaire et Corpusculaire, Université de Genève, Genève; Switzerland.
- ^j Also at Departament de Física de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona; Spain.
- ^k Also at Department of Financial and Management Engineering, University of the Aegean, Chios; Greece.
- ^l Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI; United States of America.
- ^m Also at Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY; United States of America.

- ⁿ Also at Department of Physics, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva; Israel.
- ^o Also at Department of Physics, California State University, East Bay; United States of America.
- ^p Also at Department of Physics, California State University, Sacramento; United States of America.
- ^q Also at Department of Physics, King's College London, London; United Kingdom.
- ^r Also at Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford CA; United States of America.
- ^s Also at Department of Physics, University of Fribourg, Fribourg; Switzerland.
- ^t Also at Department of Physics, University of Thessaly; Greece.
- ^u Also at Department of Physics, Westmont College, Santa Barbara; United States of America.
- ^v Also at Hellenic Open University, Patras; Greece.
- ^w Also at Institutio Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avancats, ICREA, Barcelona; Spain.
- ^x Also at Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg; Germany.
- ^y Also at Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy (INRNE) of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia; Bulgaria.
- ^z Also at Institute of Applied Physics, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Ben Guerir; Morocco.
- ^{aa} Also at Institute of Particle Physics (IPP); Canada.
- ^{ab} Also at Institute of Physics and Technology, Ulaanbaatar; Mongolia.
- ^{ac} Also at Institute of Physics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Baku; Azerbaijan.
- ^{ad} Also at Institute of Theoretical Physics, Ilia State University, Tbilisi; Georgia.
- ^{ae} Also at L2IT, Université de Toulouse, CNRS/IN2P3, UPS, Toulouse; France.
- ^{af} Also at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore; United States of America.
- ^{ag} Also at National Institute of Physics, University of the Philippines Diliman (Philippines); Philippines.
- ^{ah} Also at RWTH Aachen University, III. Physikalisches Institut A, Aachen; Germany.
- ^{ai} Also at Technical University of Munich, Munich; Germany.
- ^{aj} Also at The Collaborative Innovation Center of Quantum Matter (CICQM), Beijing; China.
- ^{ak} Also at TRIUMF, Vancouver BC; Canada.
- ^{al} Also at Università di Napoli Parthenope, Napoli; Italy.
- ^{am} Also at University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS), Beijing; China.
- ^{an} Also at University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Physics, Colorado; United States of America.
- ^{ao} Also at Washington College, Maryland; United States of America.
- ^{ap} Also at Yeditepe University, Physics Department, Istanbul; Türkiye.
- * Deceased