

EXPLORING BOOSTED TOP QUARK DECAYS USING RUN 3 DATA COLLECTED BY THE CMS EXPERIMENT

— **Johanna Matthiesen**¹, Johannes Haller¹, Roman Kogler², Daniel Savoie¹ —

¹Universität Hamburg - ²DESY, Hamburg

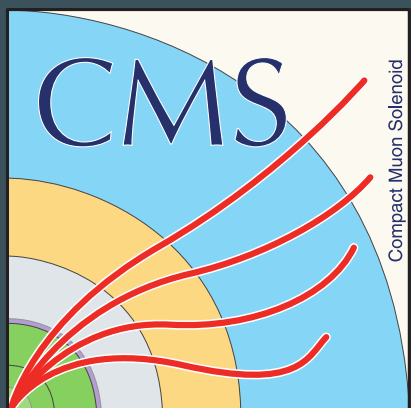


Universität Hamburg
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CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE
QUANTUM UNIVERSE



FSP CMS
Erforschung von
Universum und Materie

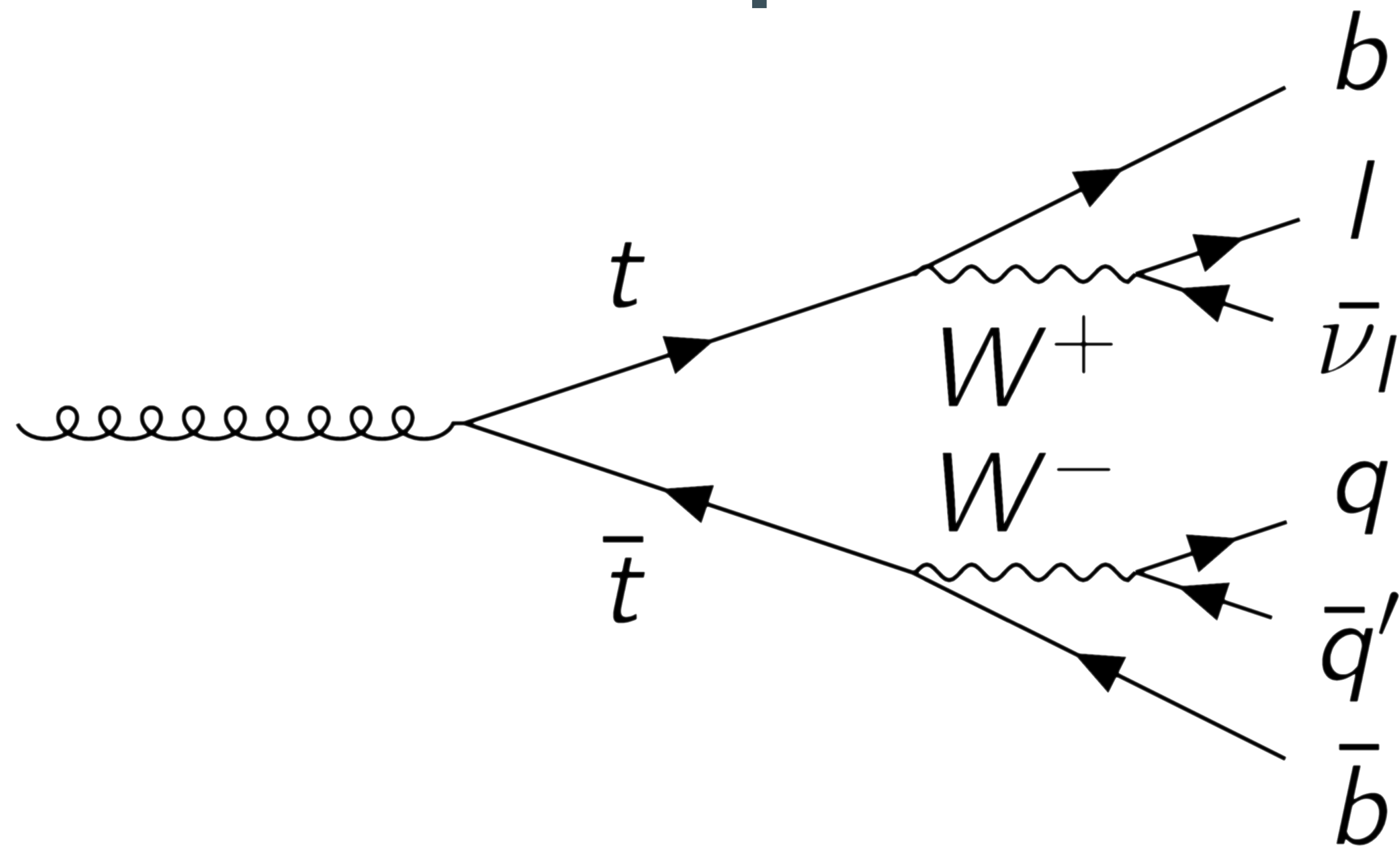


D-CMS MEETING
HAMBURG

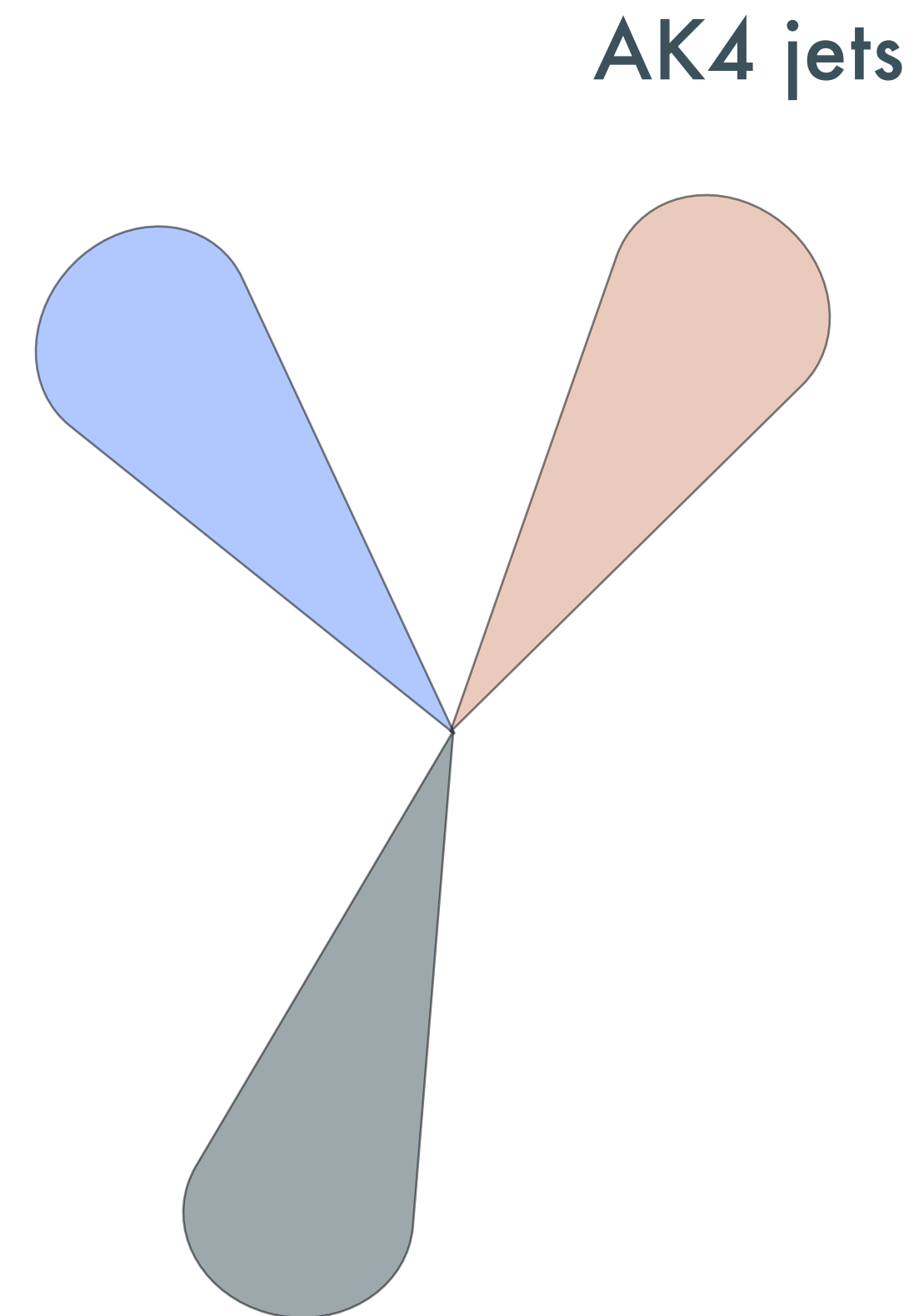
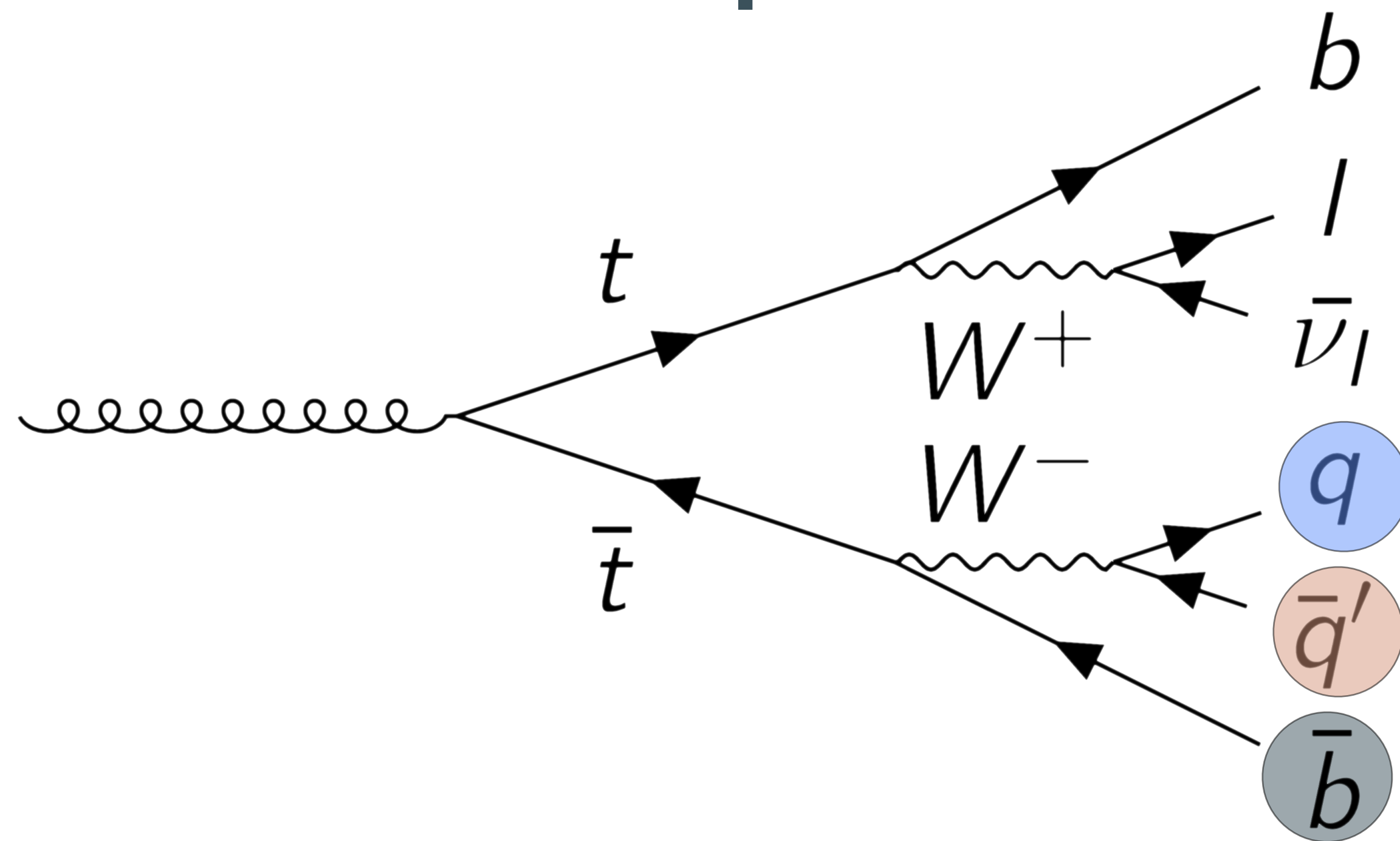
Johanna Matthiesen

18.09.25

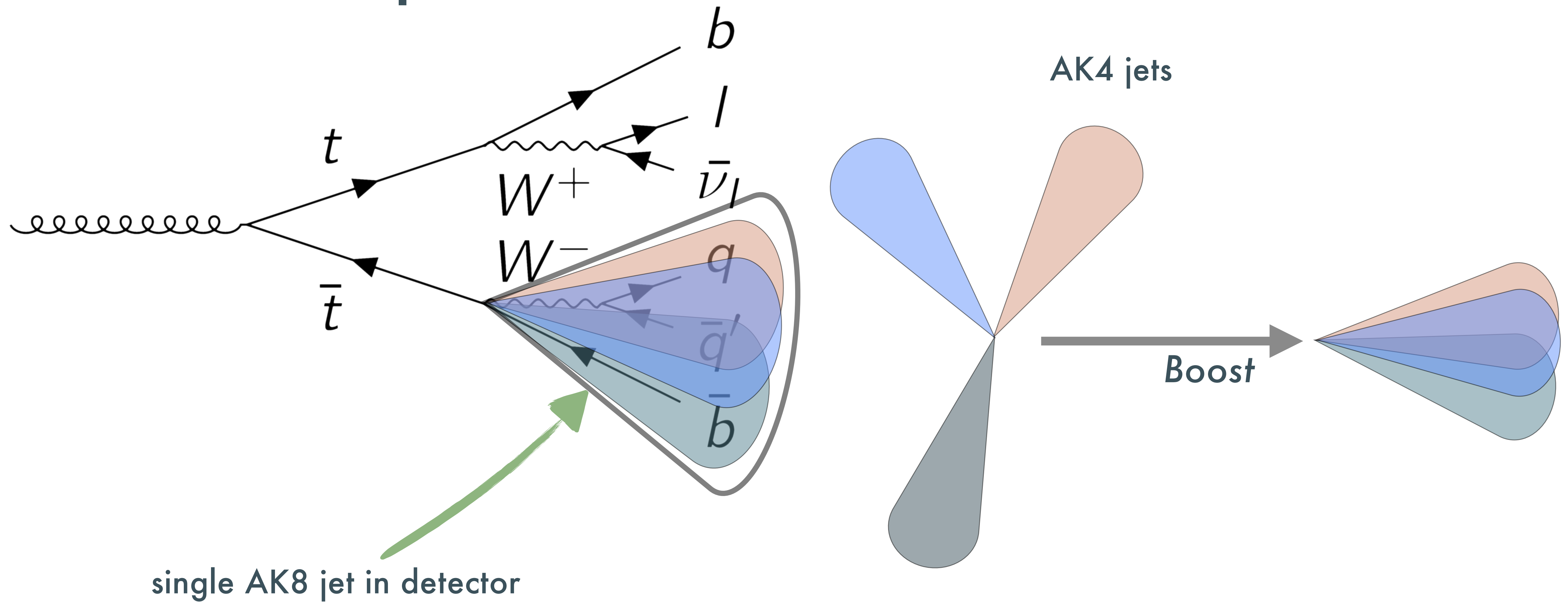
Boosted Top Quarks



Boosted Top Quarks

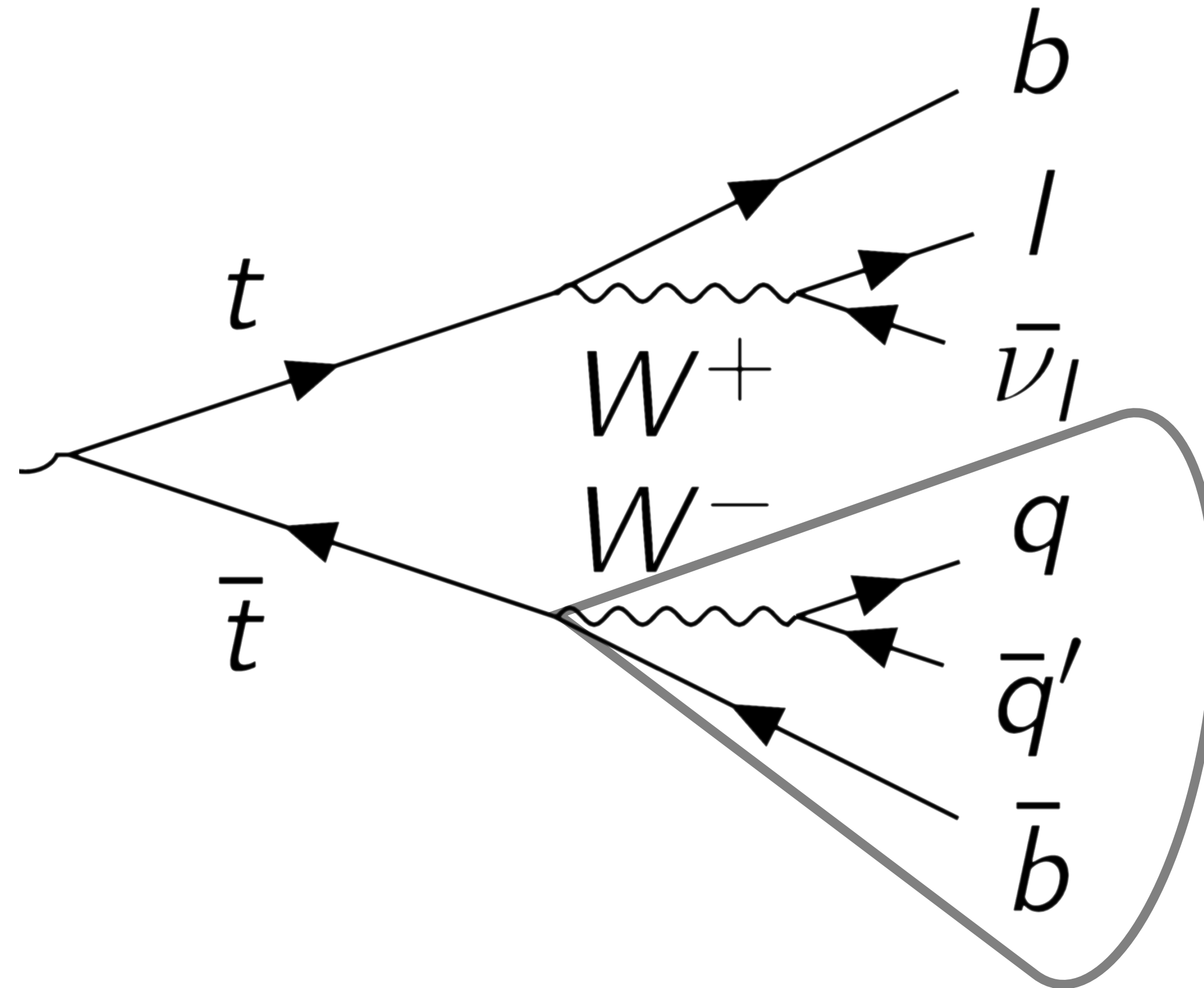


Boosted Top Quarks



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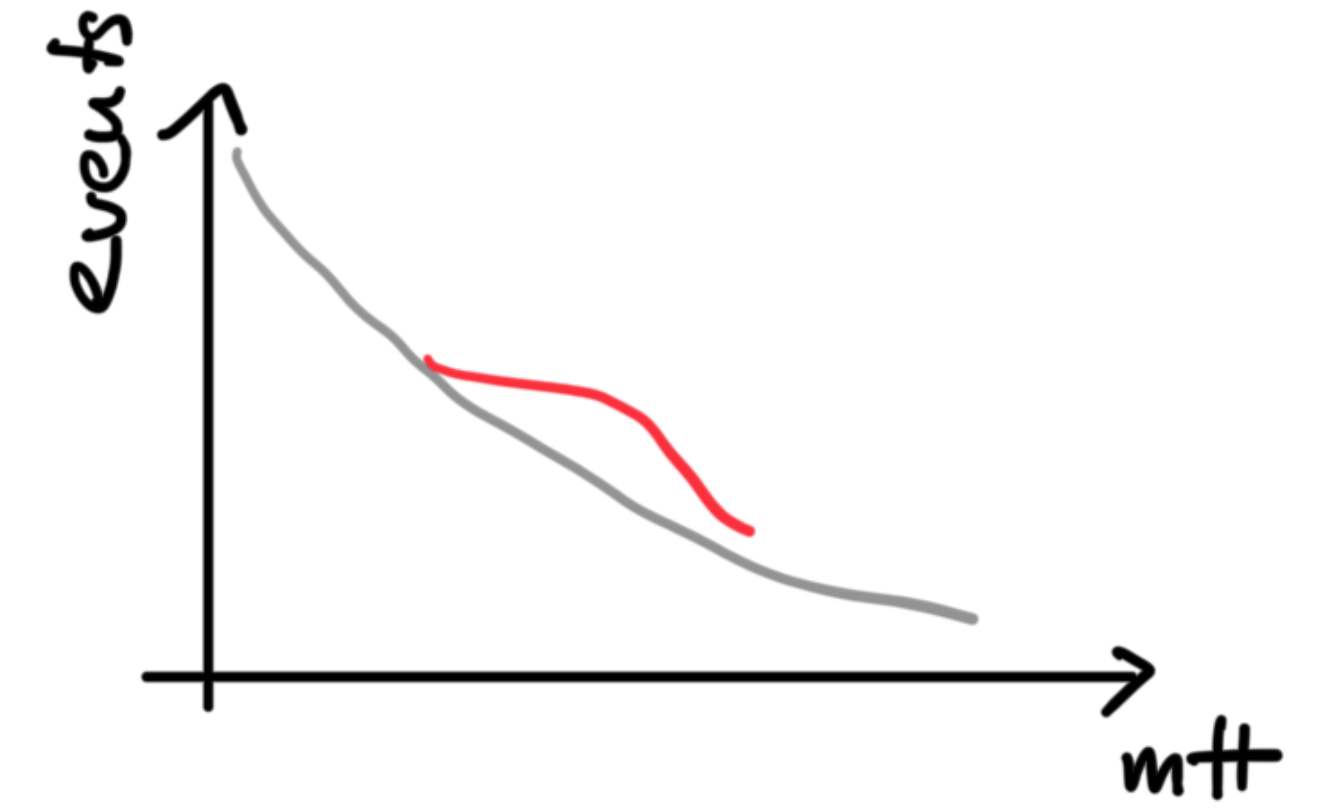
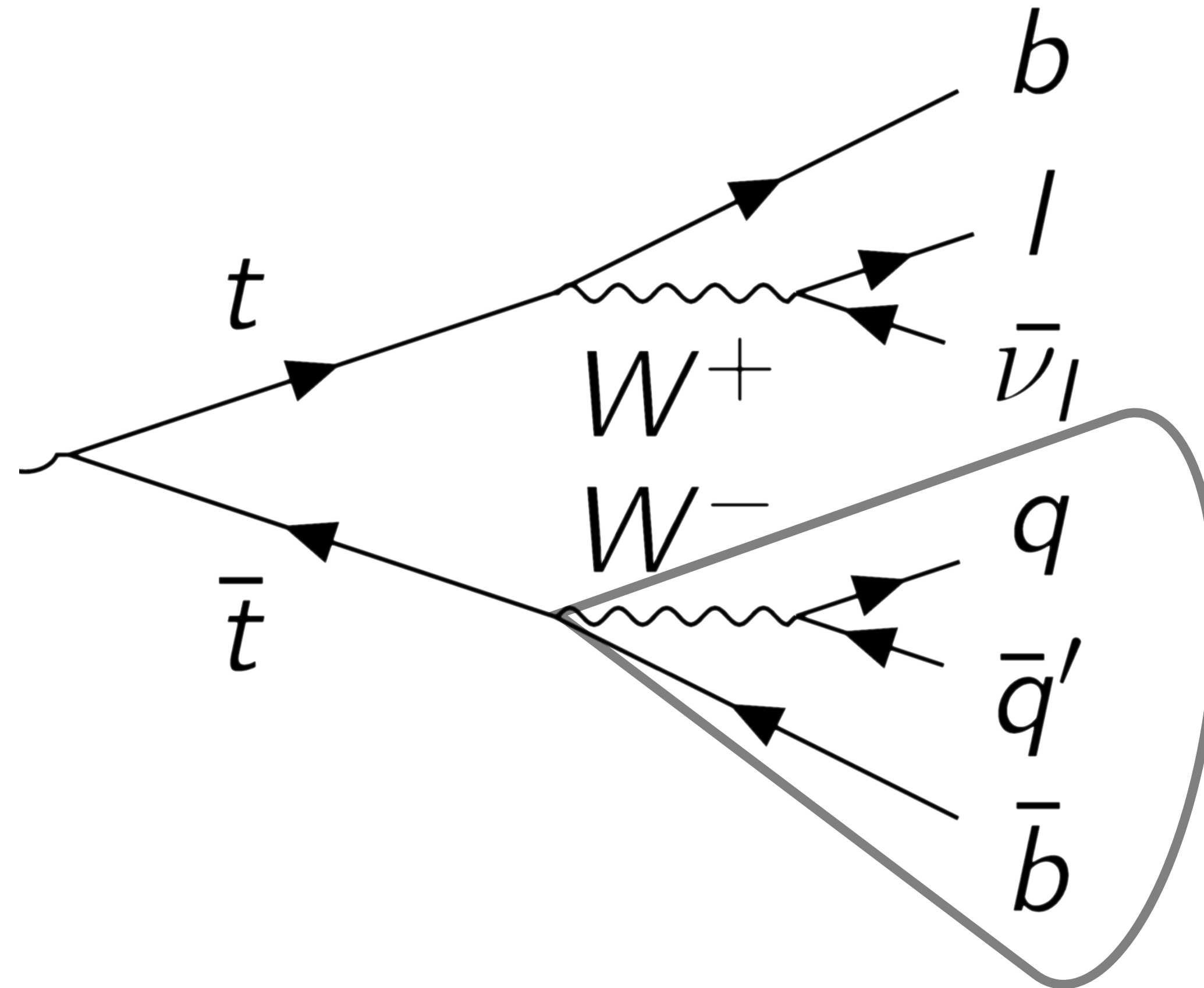
— in BSM signals —



Boosted Top Quarks

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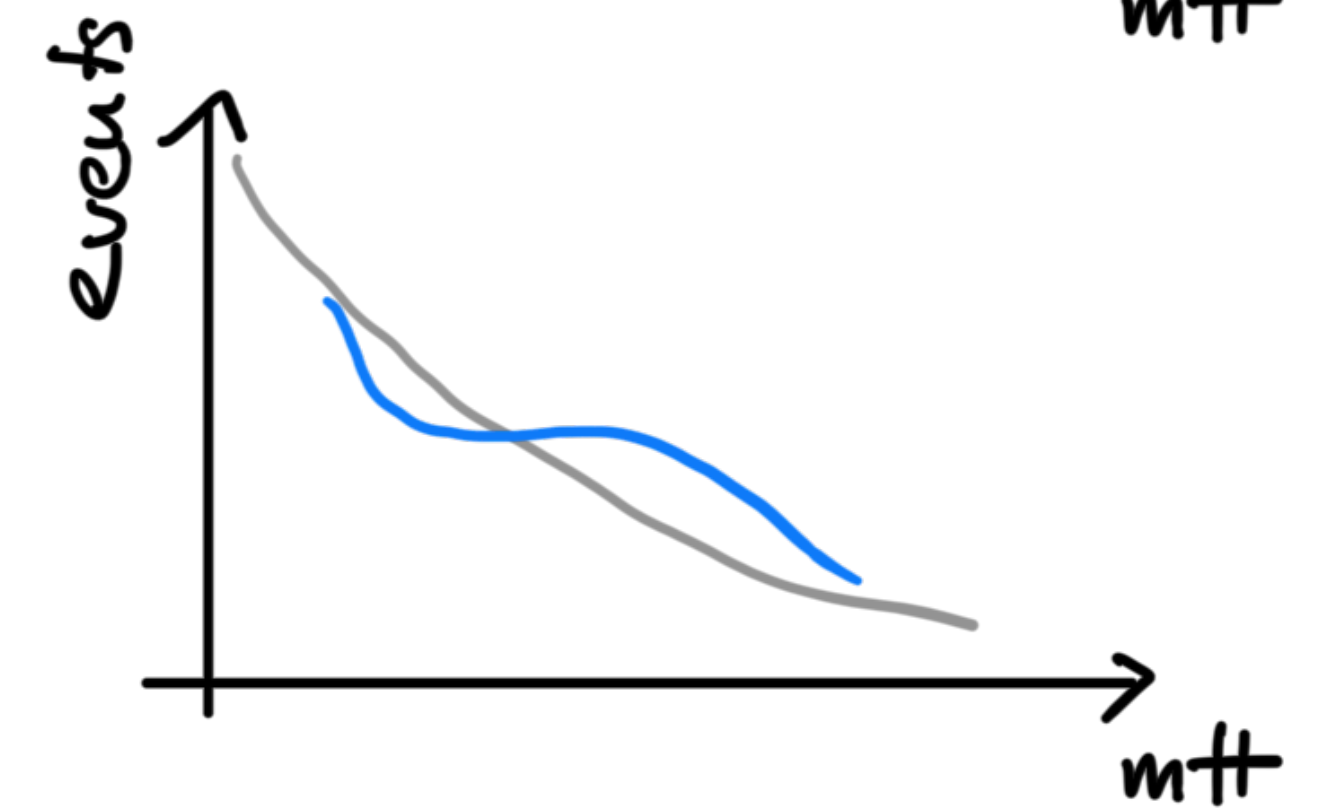
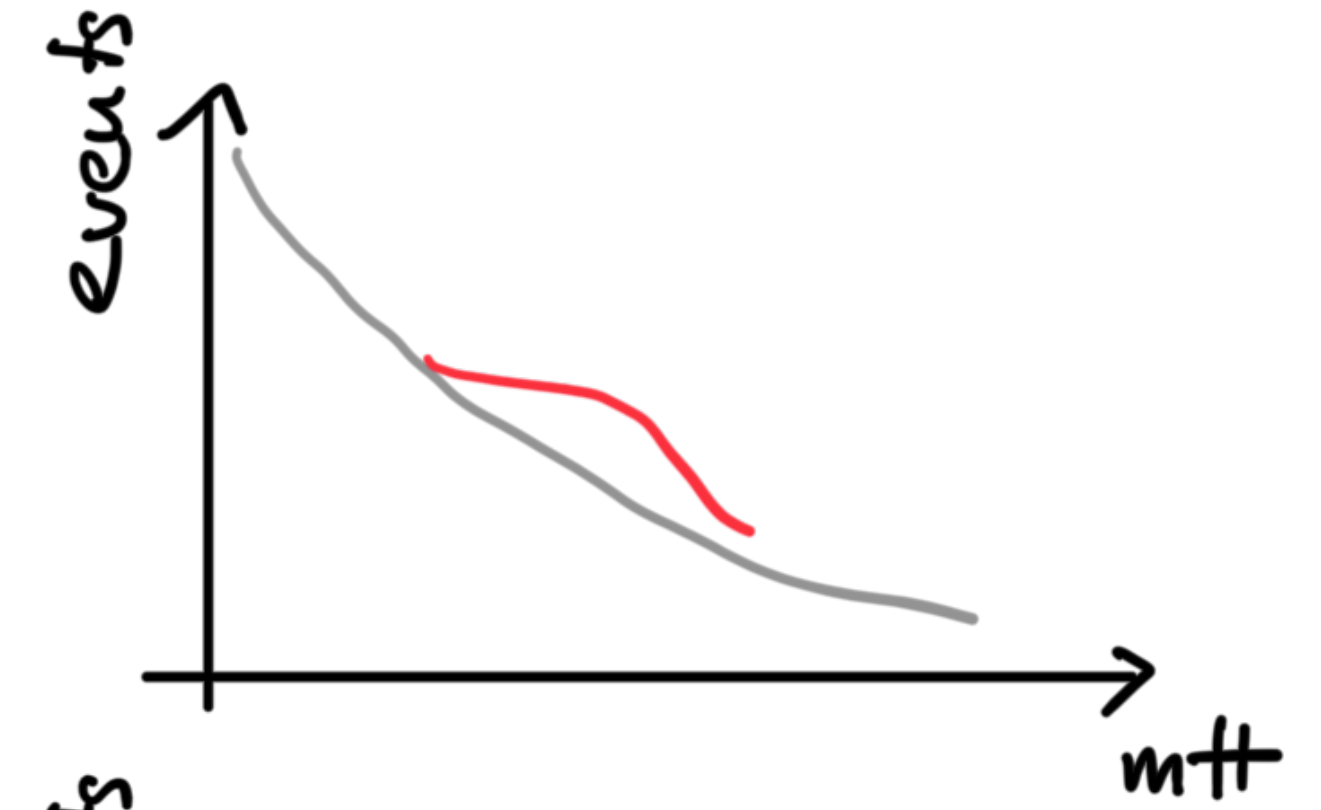
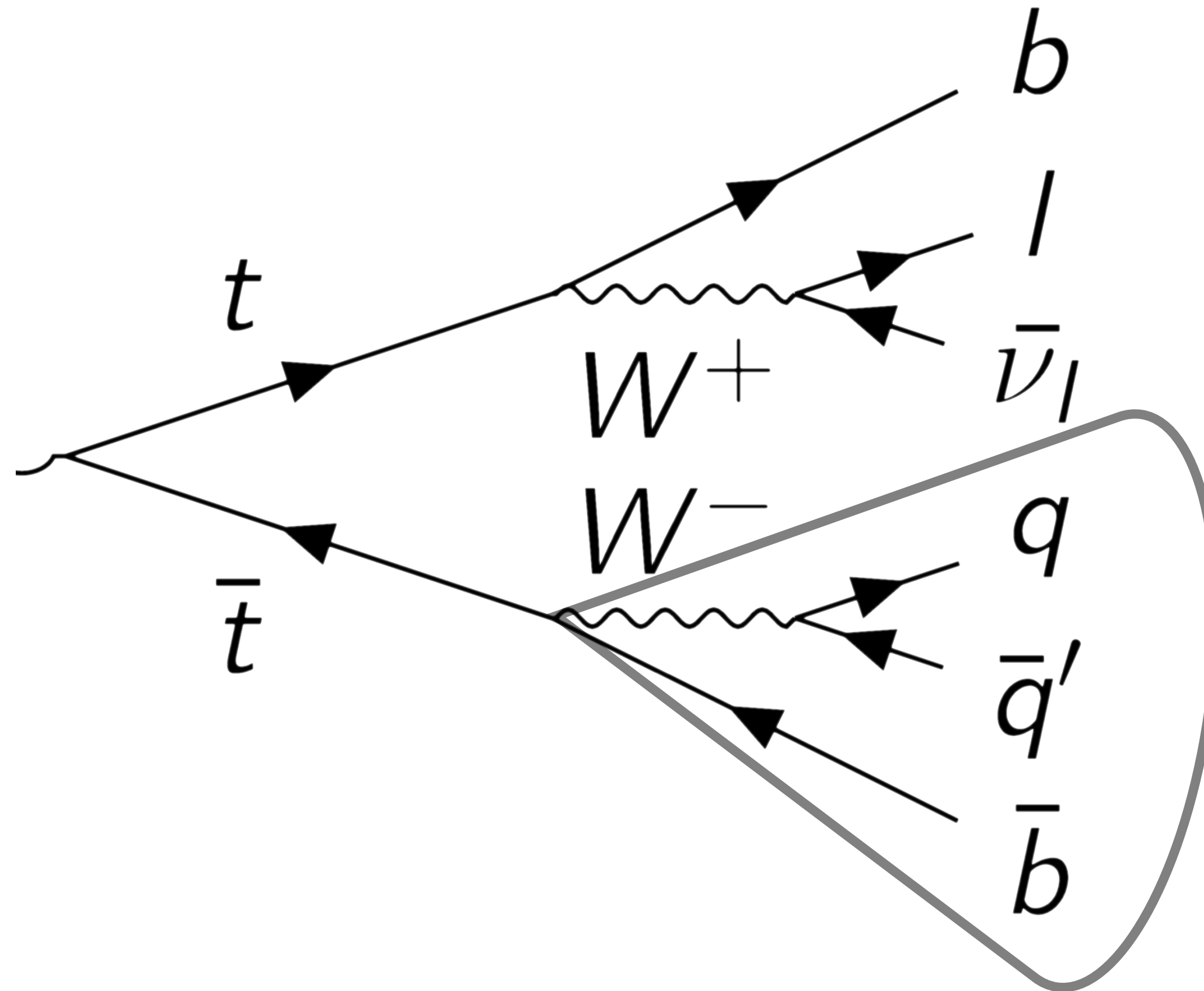
Z'



Boosted Top Quarks

— in BSM signals —

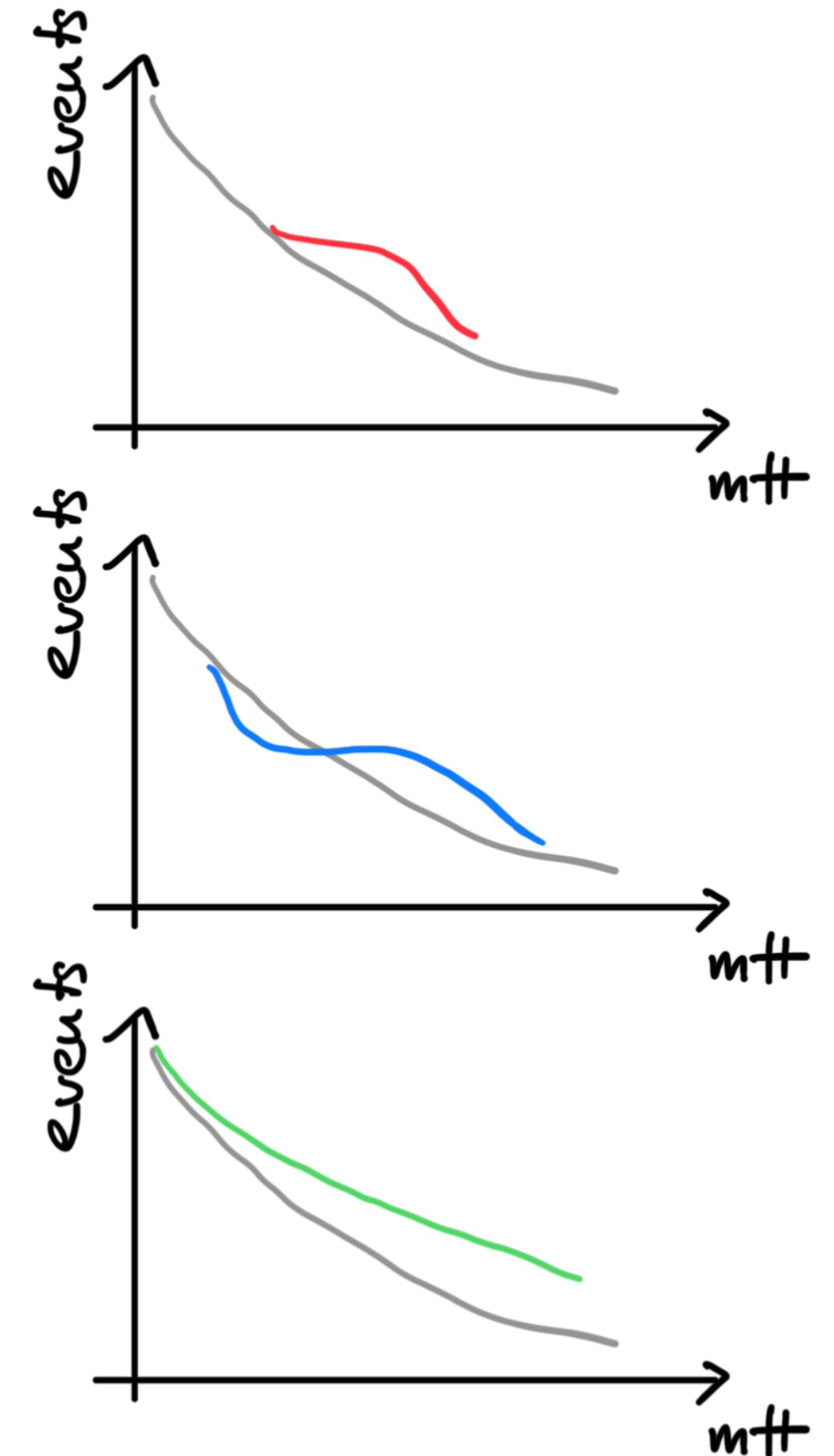
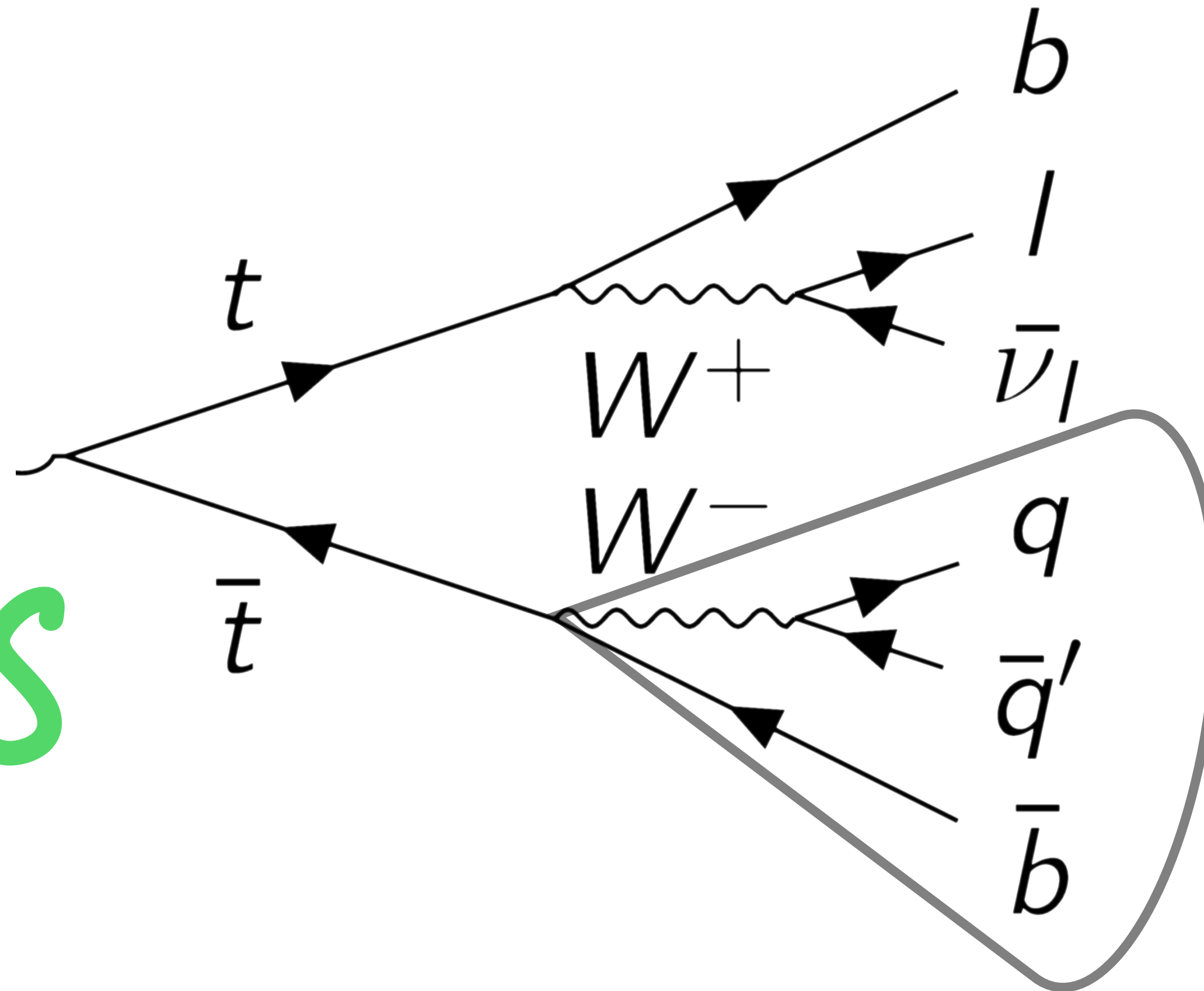
A/H Z'



Boosted Top Quarks

— in BSM signals —

A/H Z'
ALPS



Identifying Boosted Top Quarks

— in CMS —

- different approaches to top tagging:

- ▶ **machine learning** algorithms

DeepAK8, ParticleNet, ...

JINST 15 (2020) P06005 CMS-DP-2020-002

- ▶ **cut based** using jet substructure techniques

N-subjettiness ratio (τ_{32}) & soft drop mass (m_{SD})

CMS-DP-2025-010

N-subjettiness

$$\tau_N = \frac{1}{d_0} \sum_k p_{T,k} \min(\Delta R_{1,k}, \Delta R_{2,k}, \dots, \Delta R_{N,k})$$

JHEP 1103:015,2011 - [arXiv:1011.2268](https://arxiv.org/abs/1011.2268)

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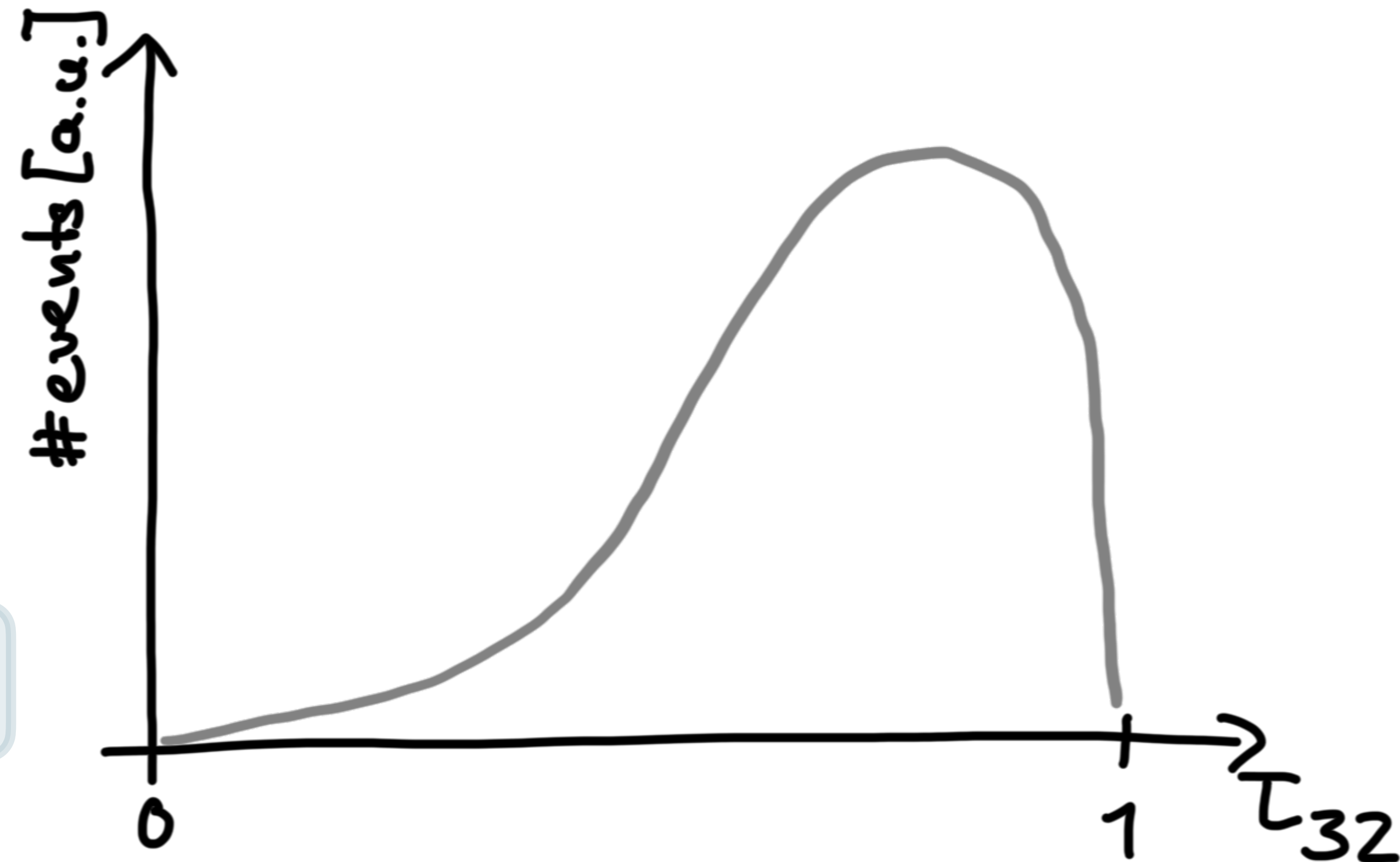
CMS-DP-2025-010

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$$\tau_{32} := \tau_3 / \tau_2$$



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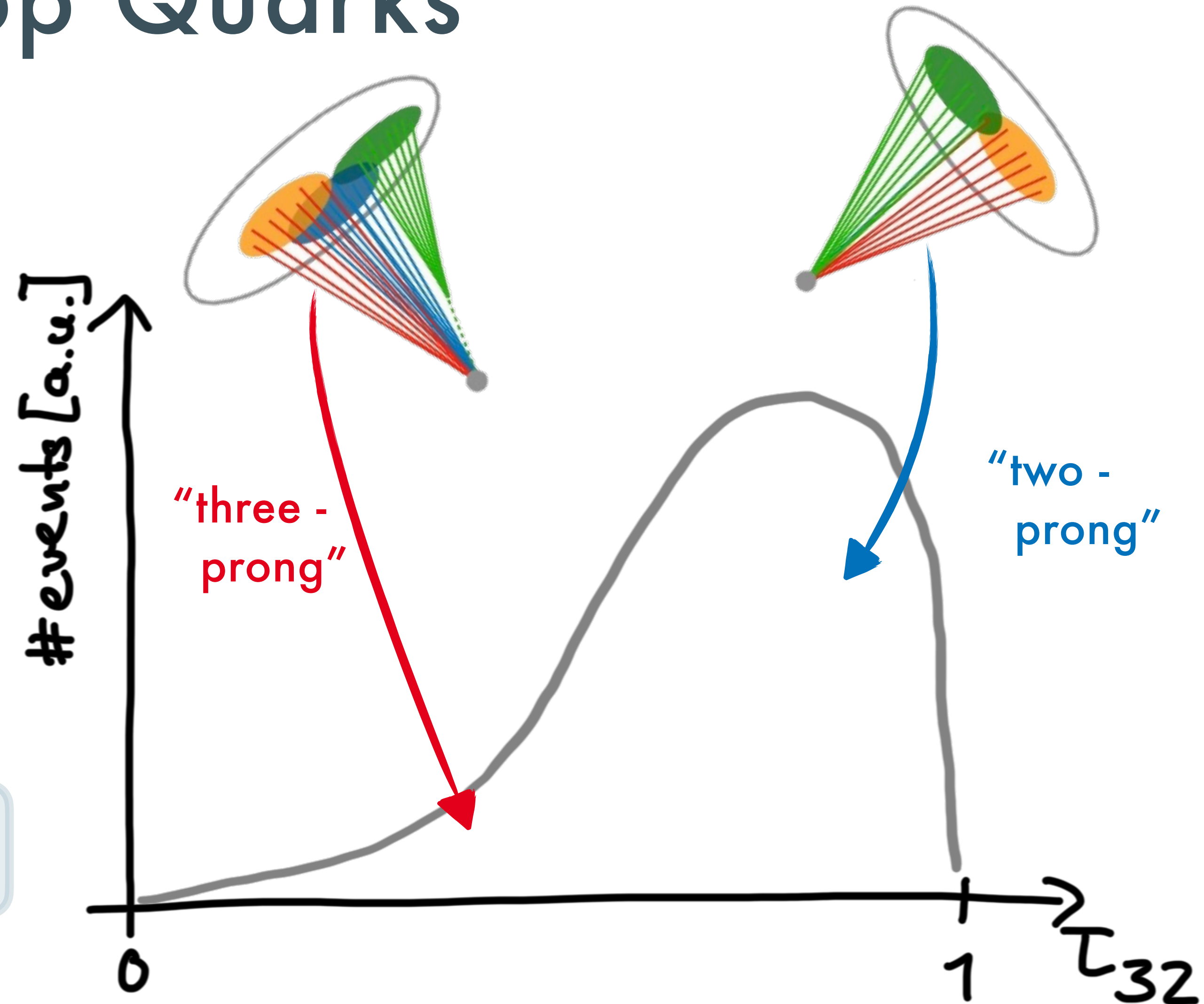
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CMS-DP-2025-010

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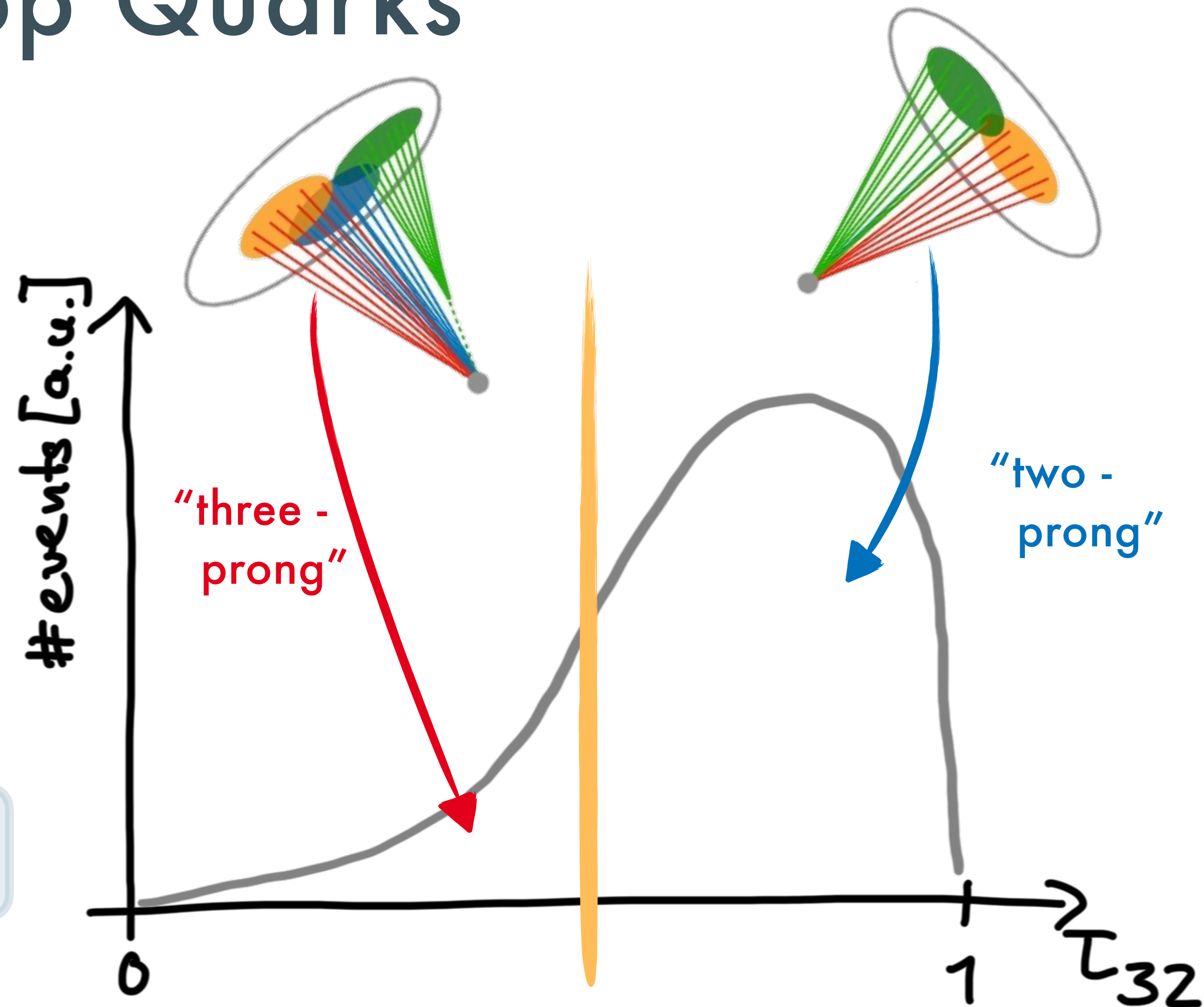
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CMS-DP-2025-010

N-subjettiness

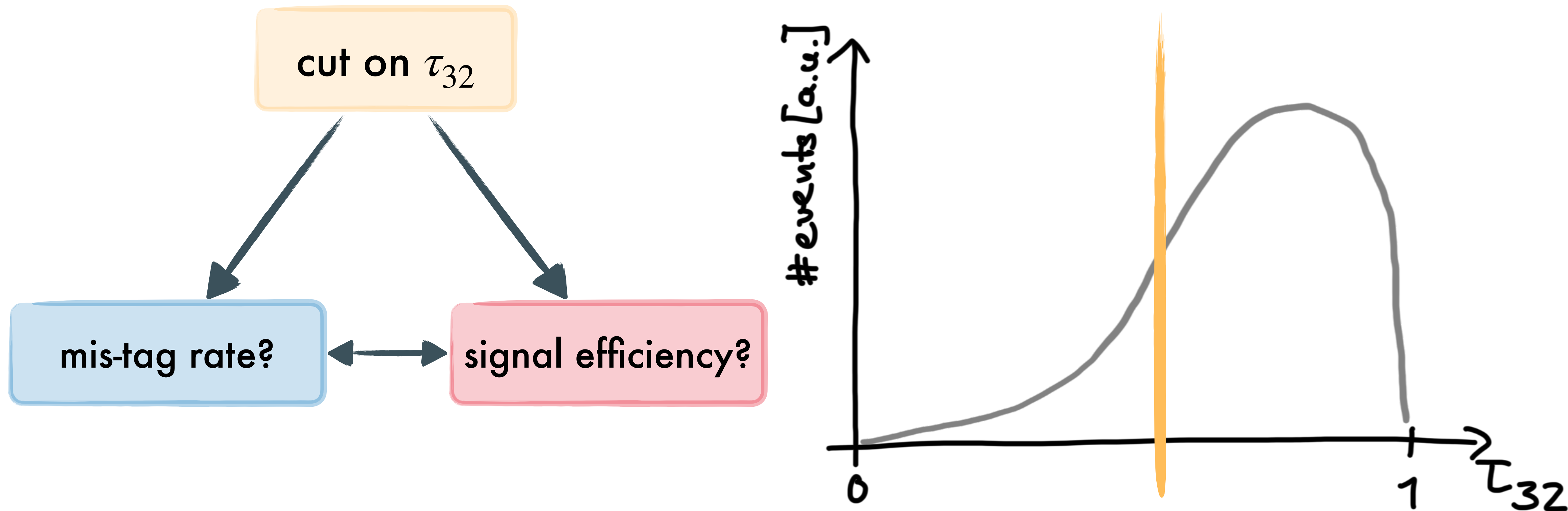
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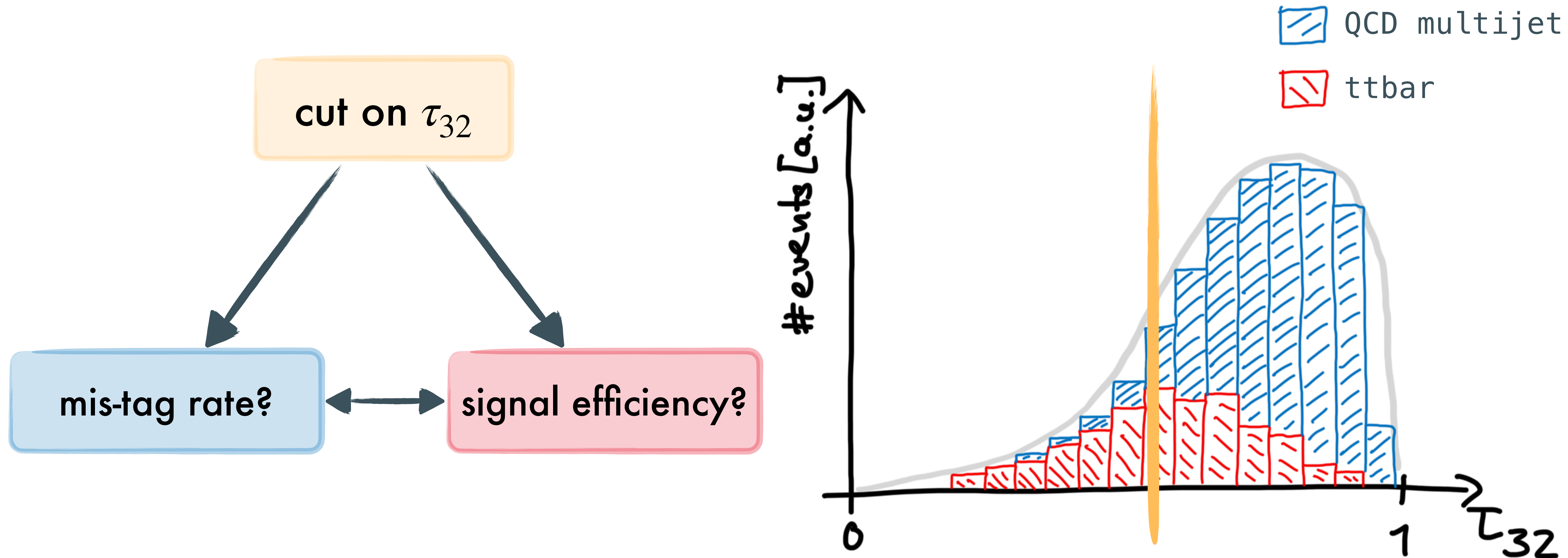
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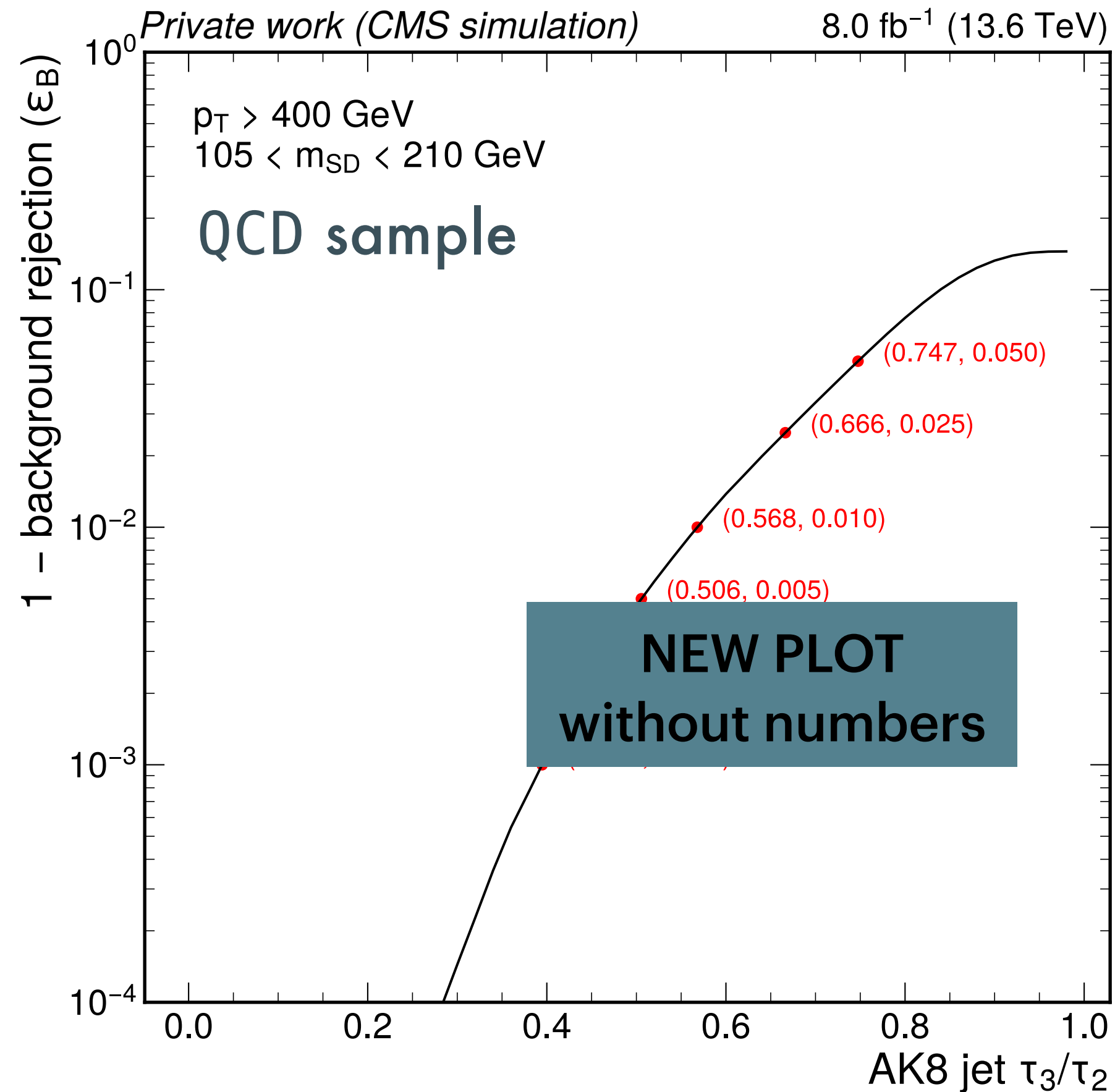
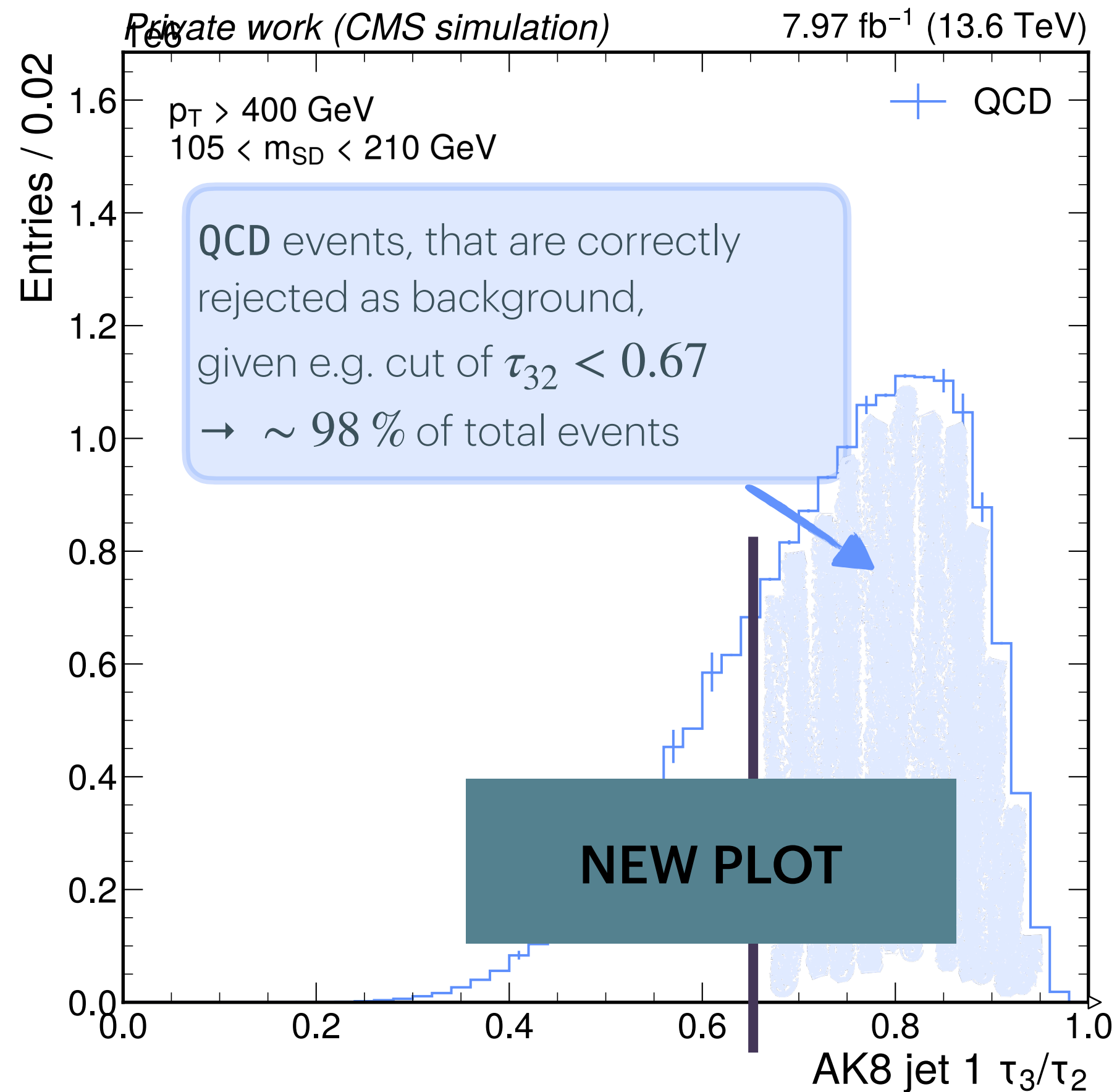
Separating *Signal* From *Background*



Separating *Signal* From *Background*



Mis-Tag Rate

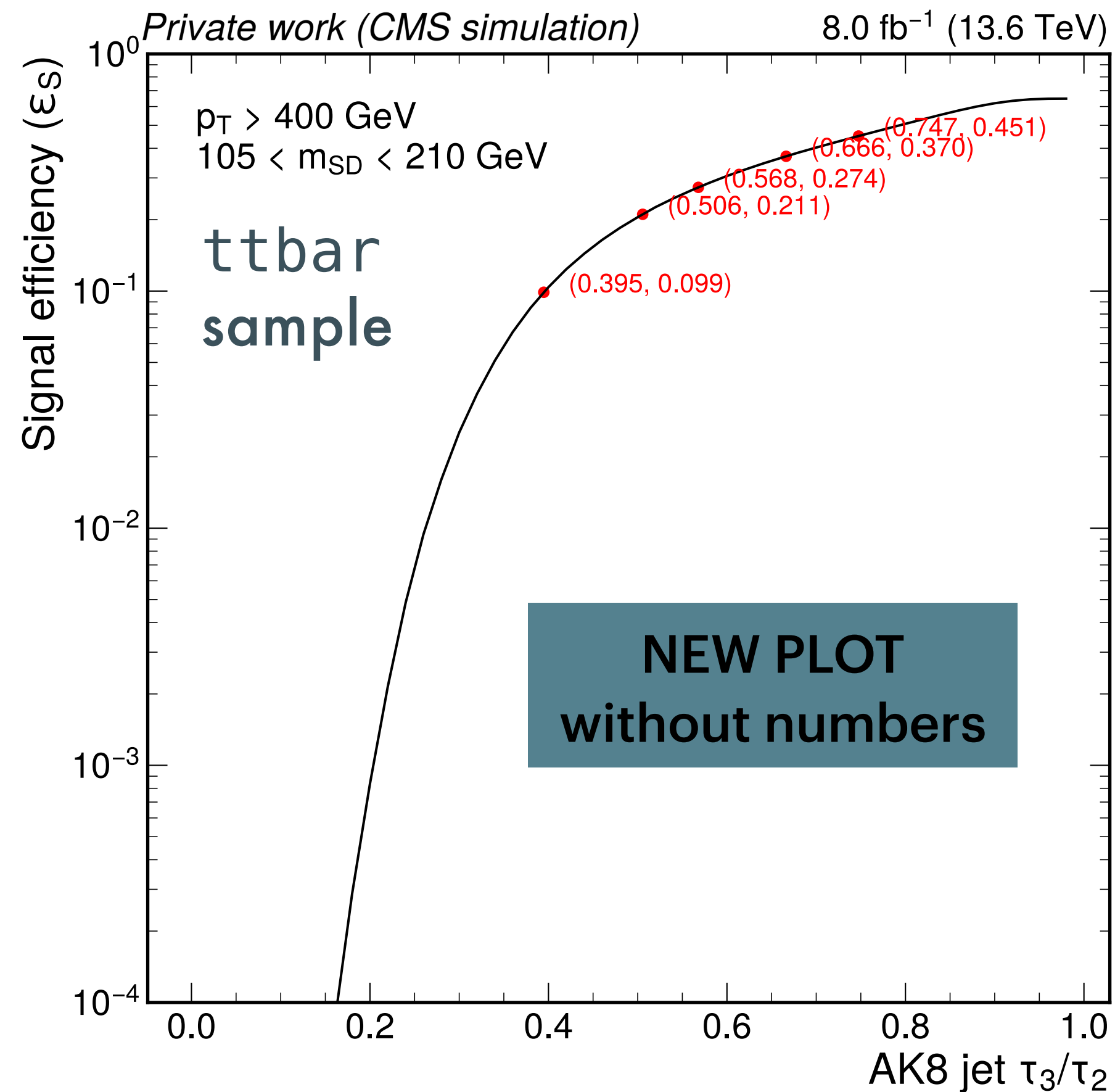
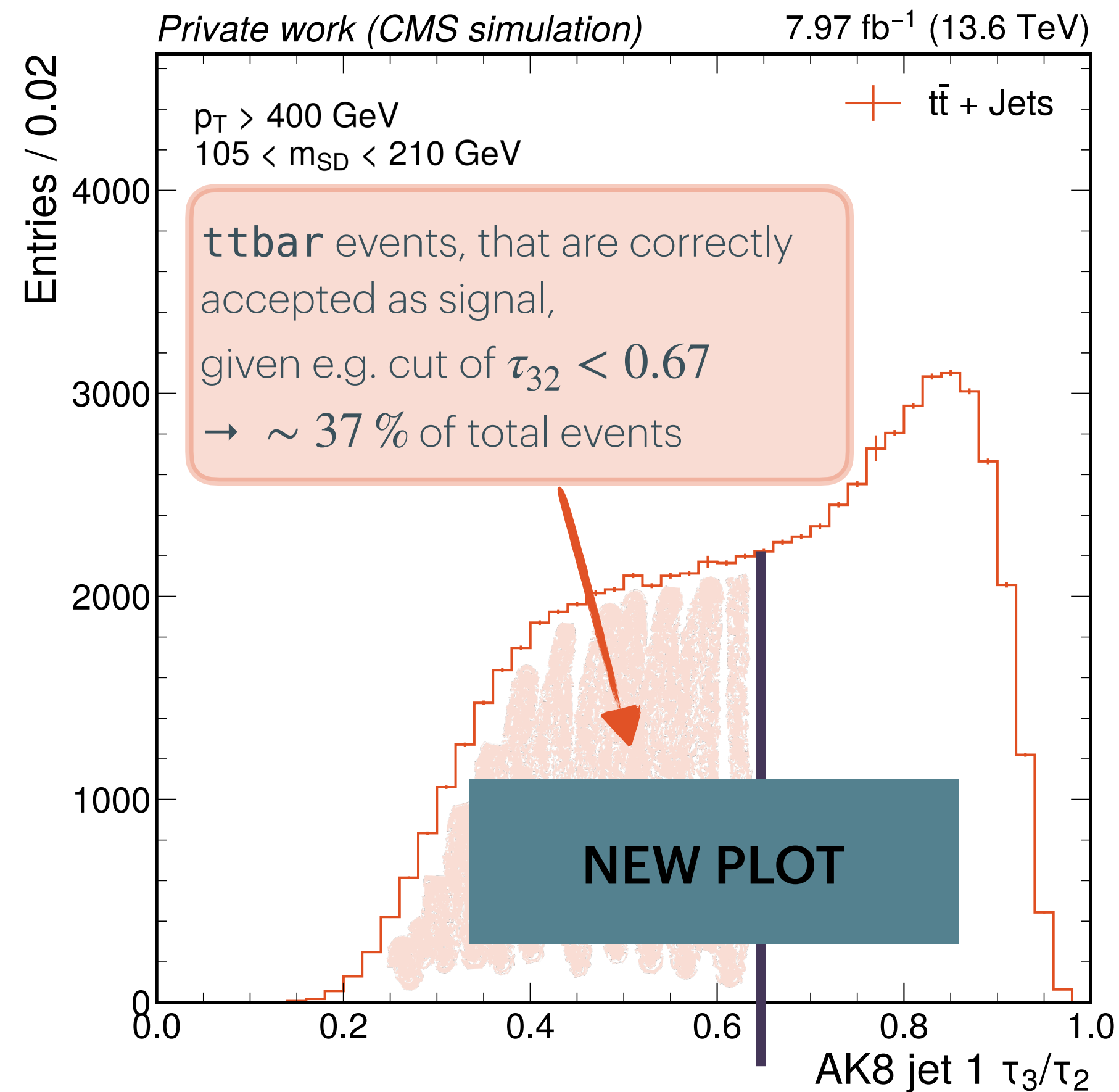


number of QCD events with a FatJet passing selection AND (incorrectly) tagged as a top jet given the τ_{32} cut

total number of events in QCD dataset

•

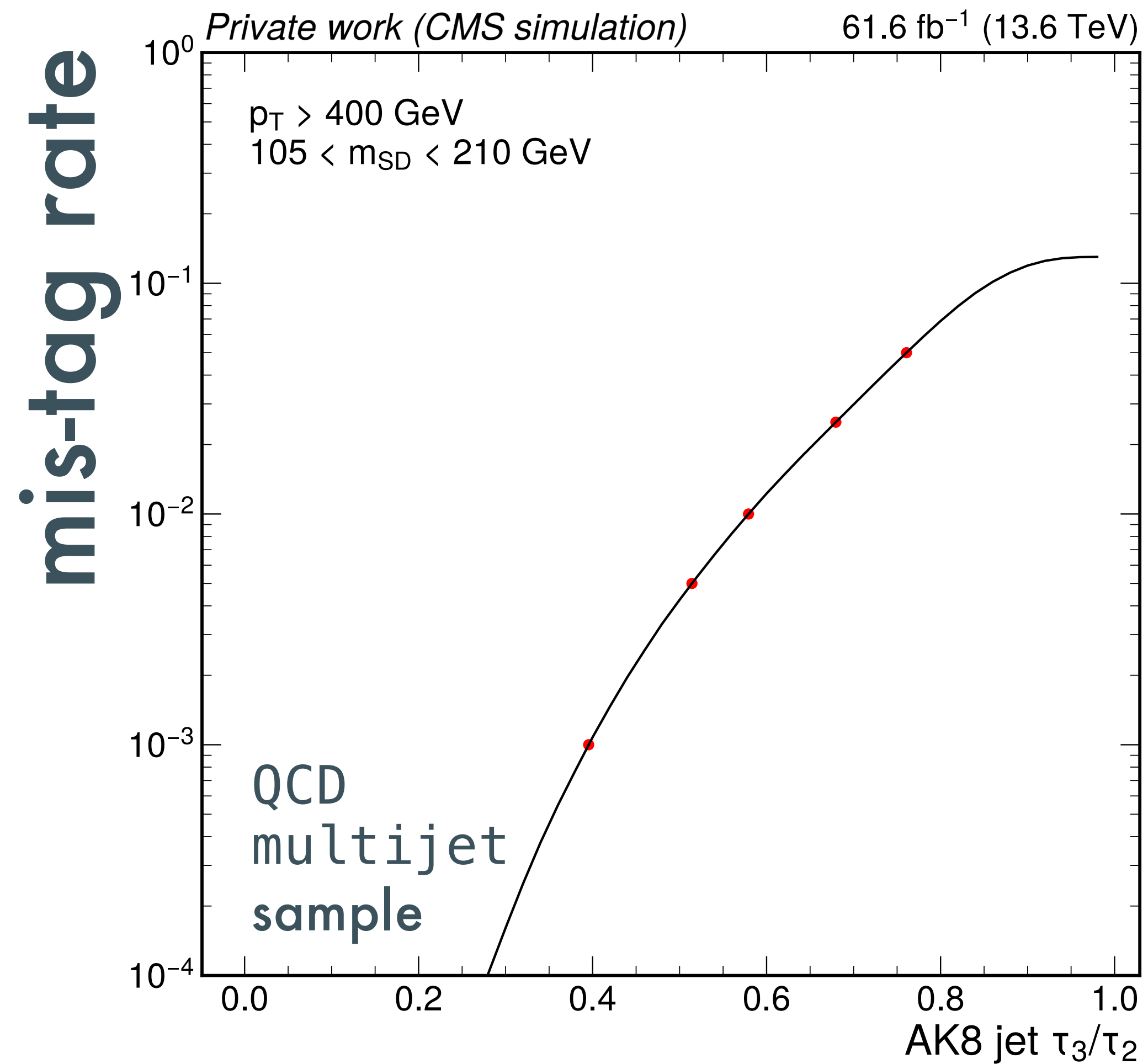
Signal Efficiency



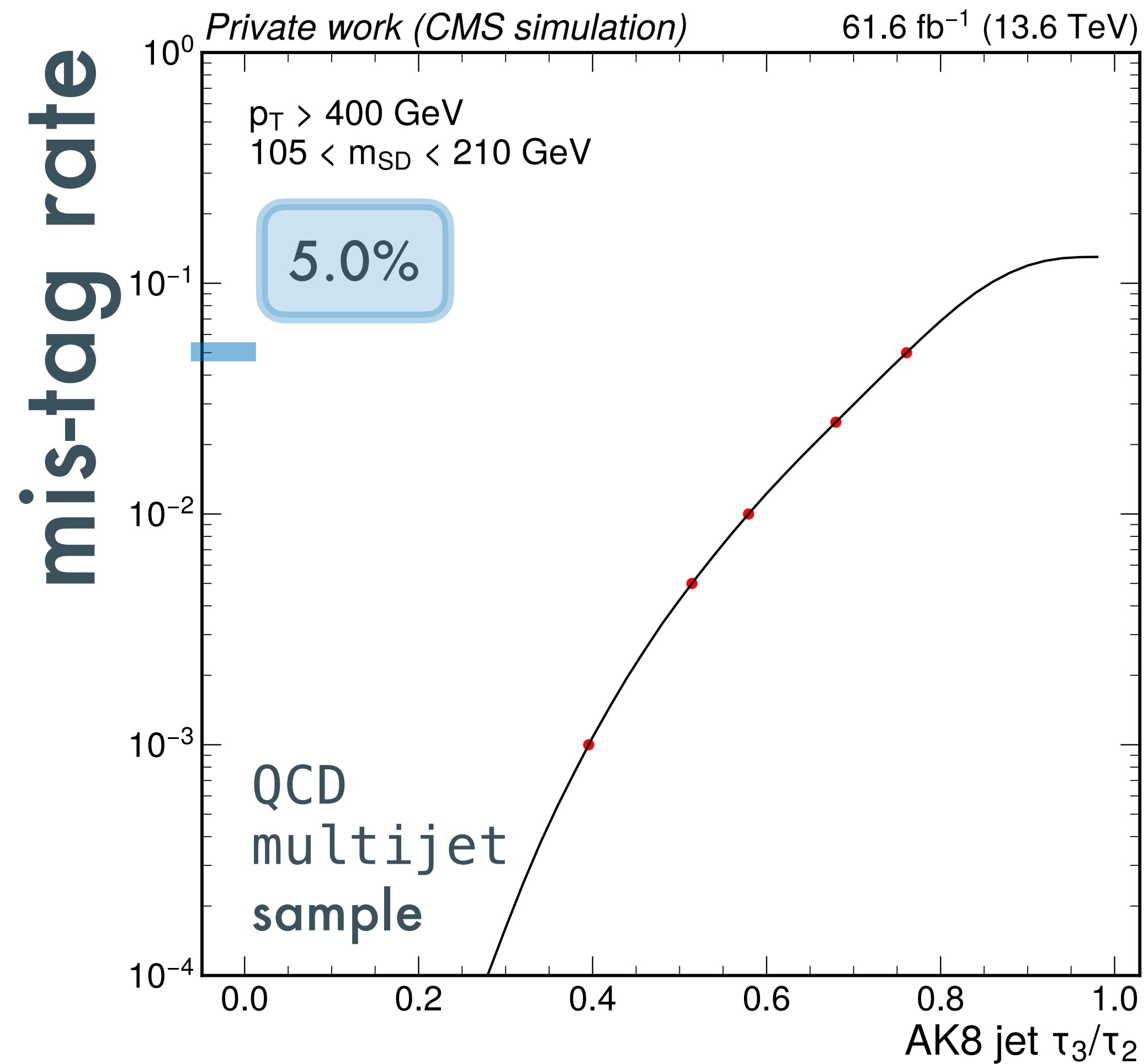
number of $\text{t}\bar{\text{t}}\text{bar}$ events with a FatJet passing selection AND (correctly) tagged as a top jet given the τ_{32} cut

total number of events in $\text{t}\bar{\text{t}}\text{bar}$ dataset

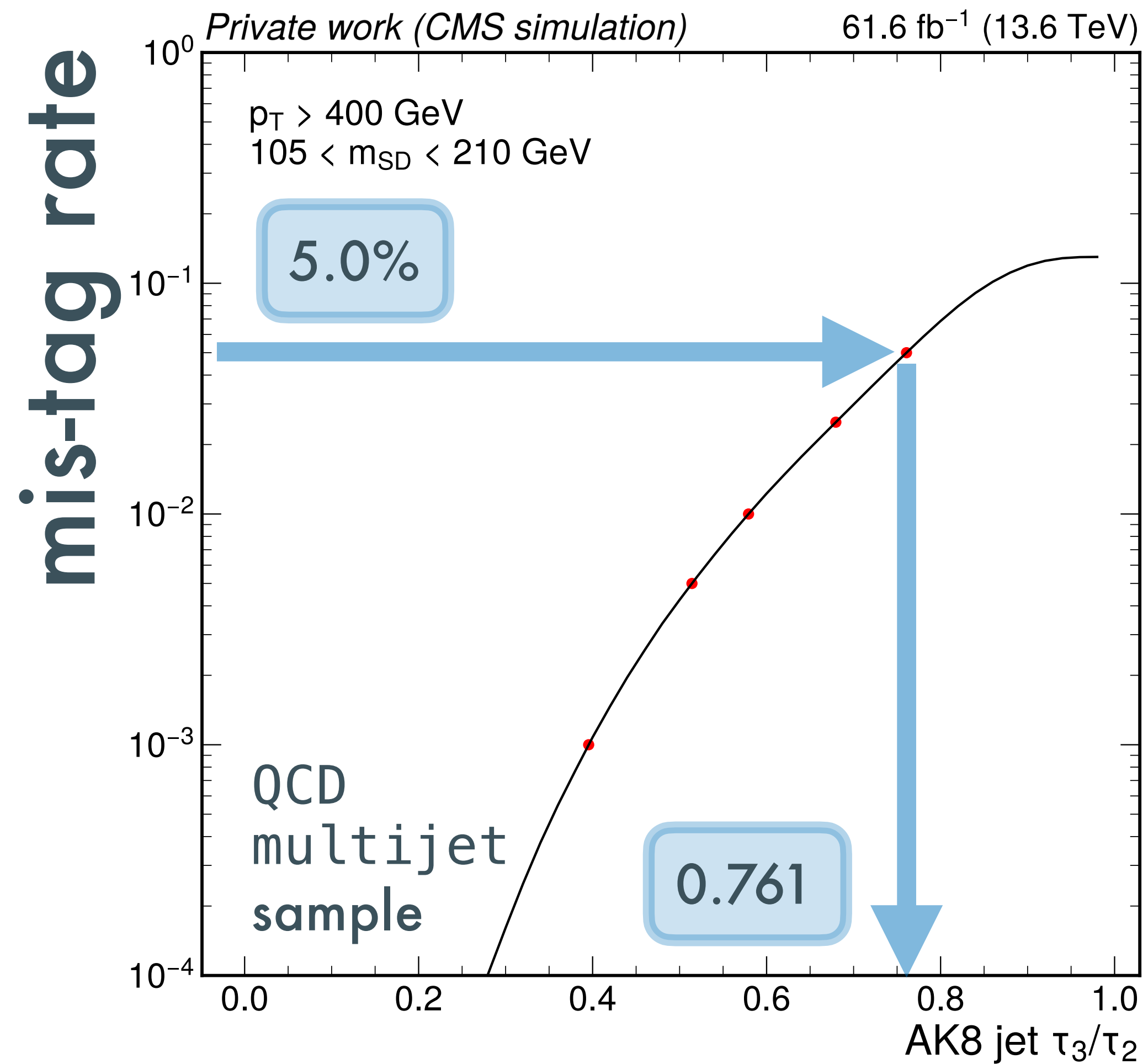
Working Points in One Slide



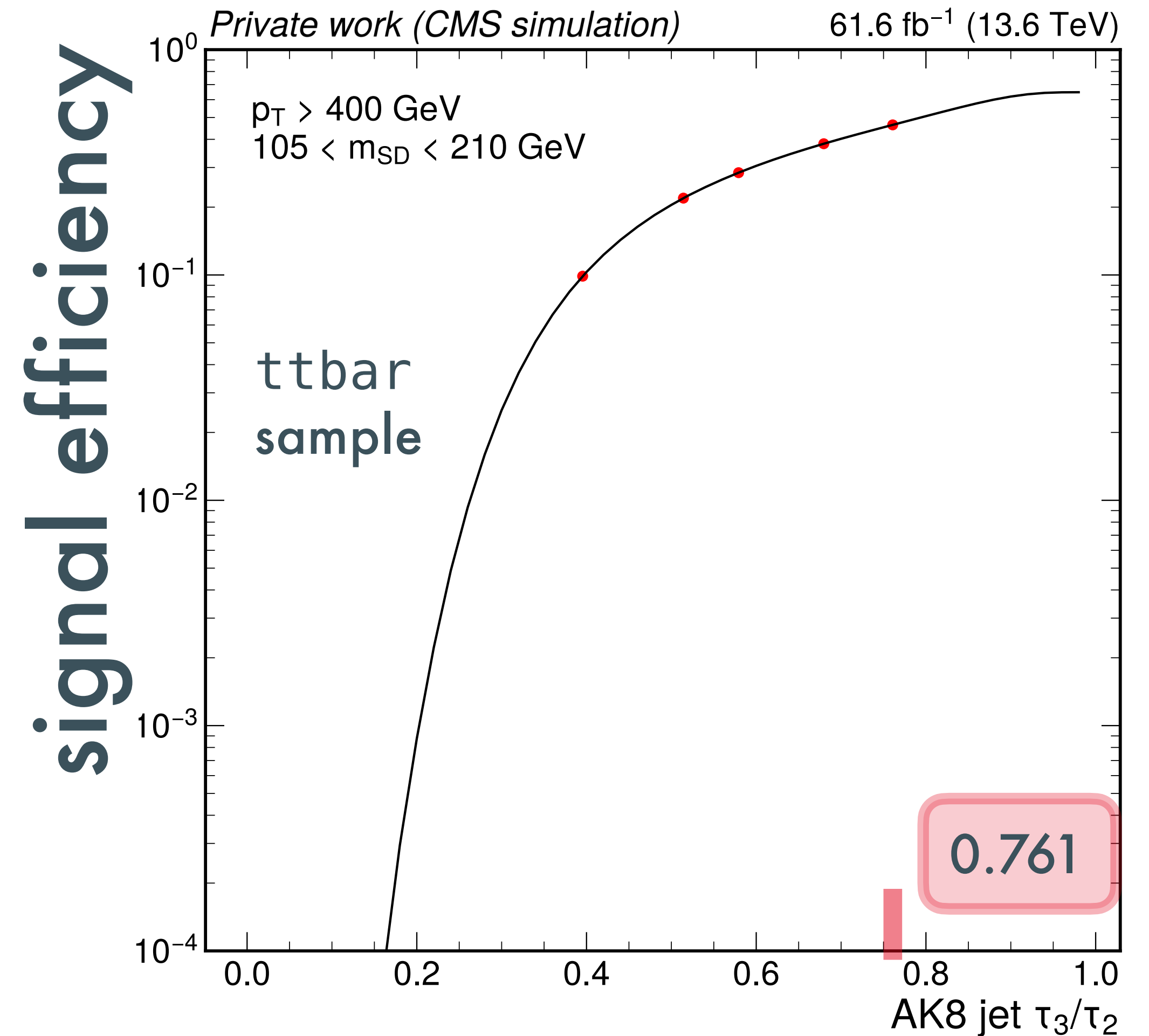
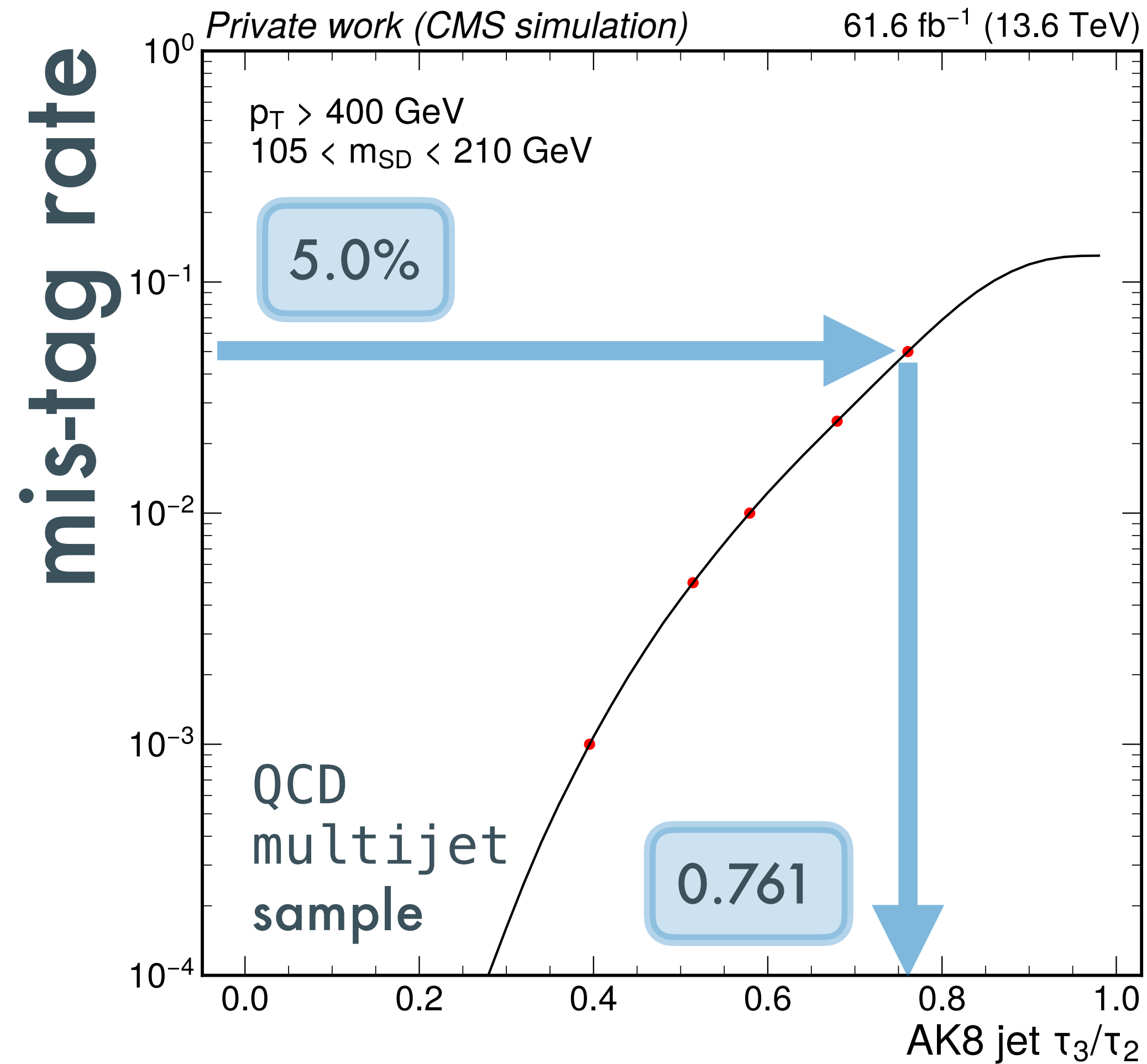
Working Points in One Slide



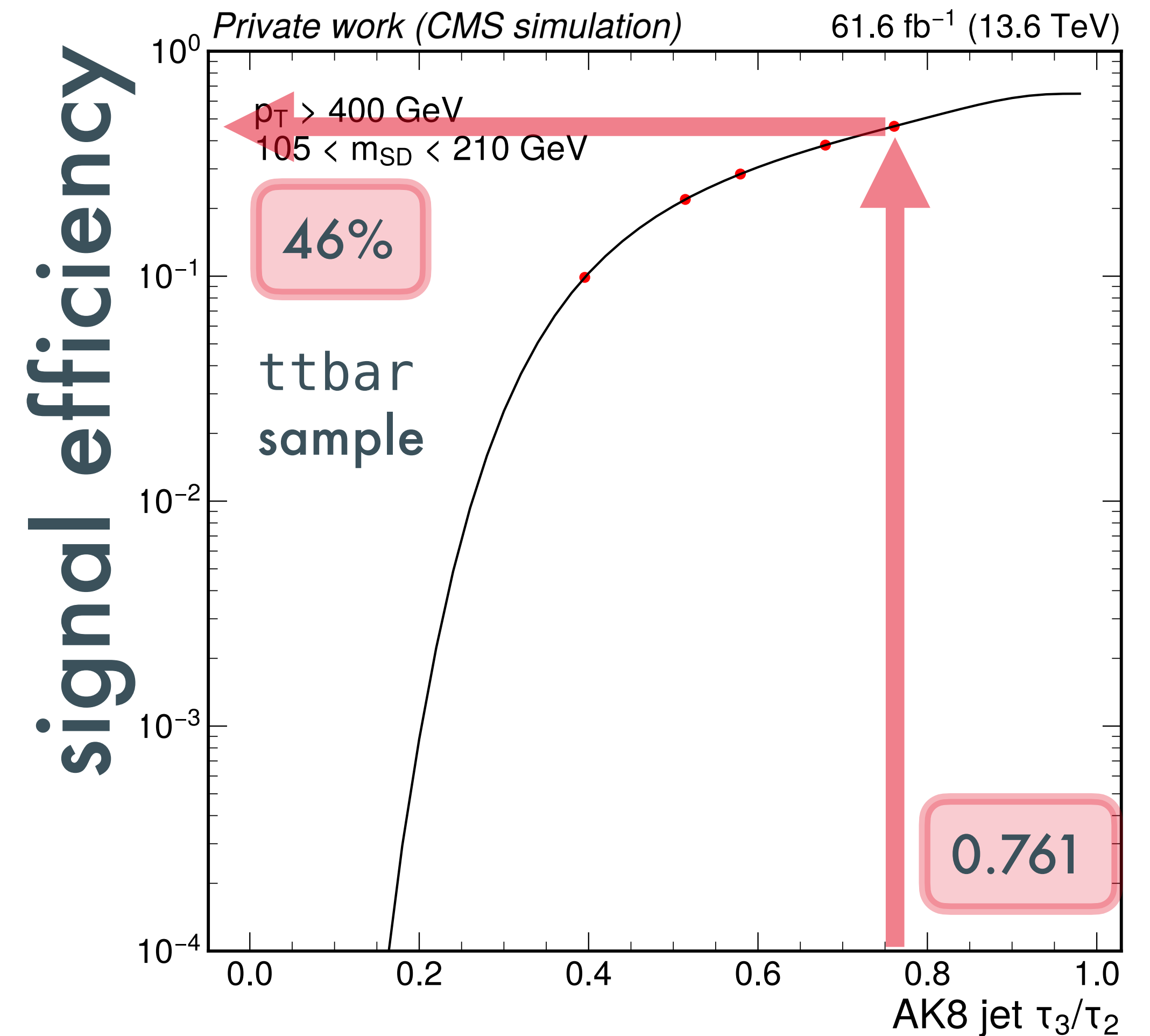
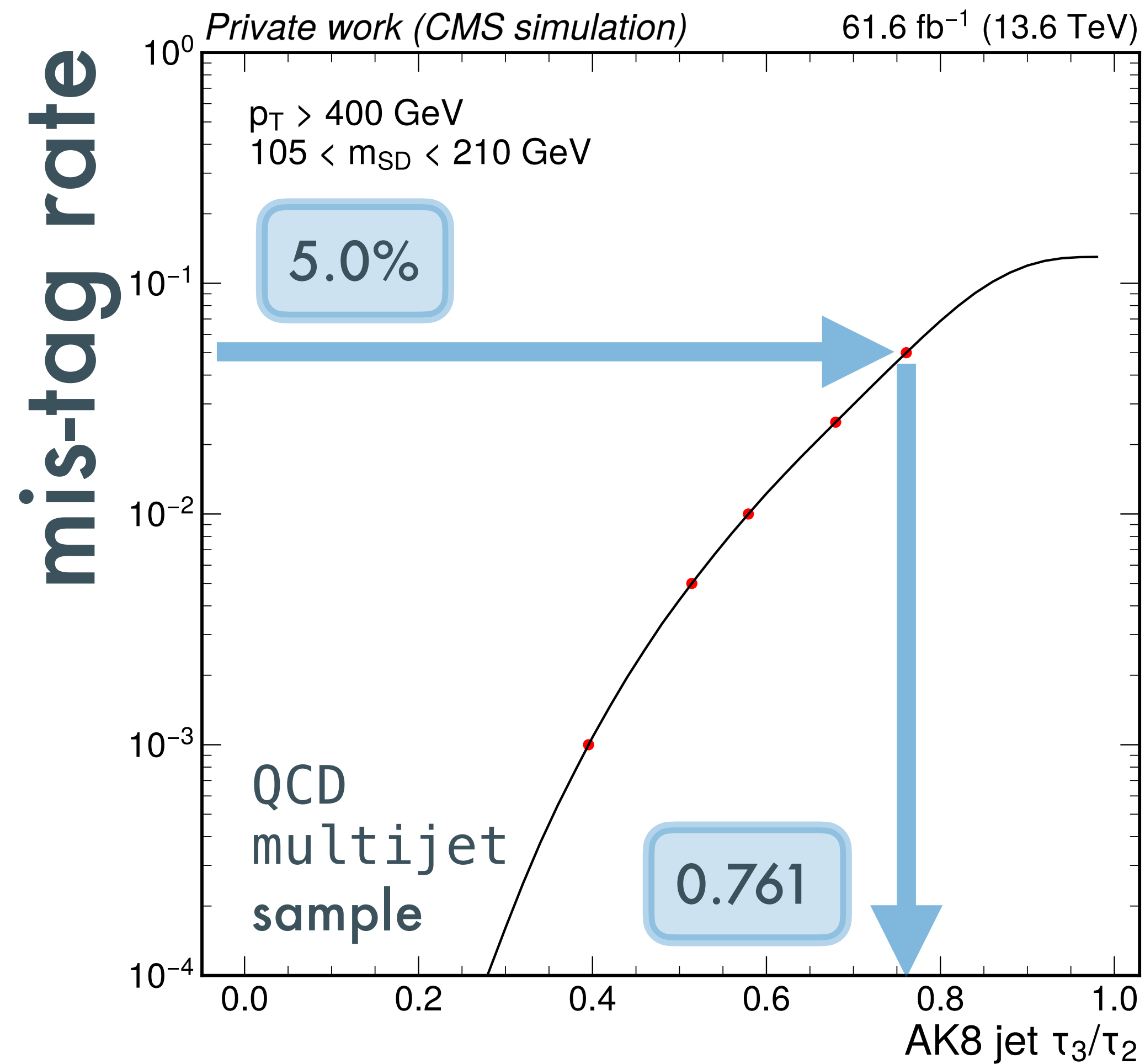
Working Points in One Slide



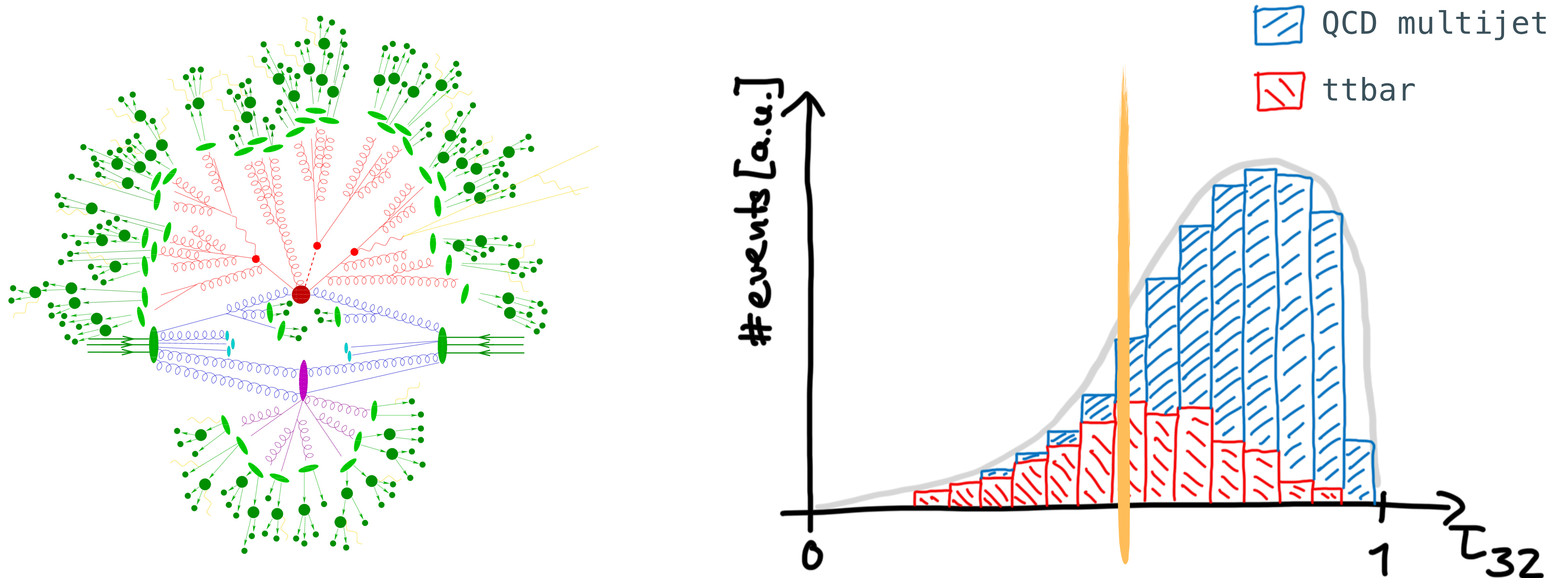
Working Points in One Slide



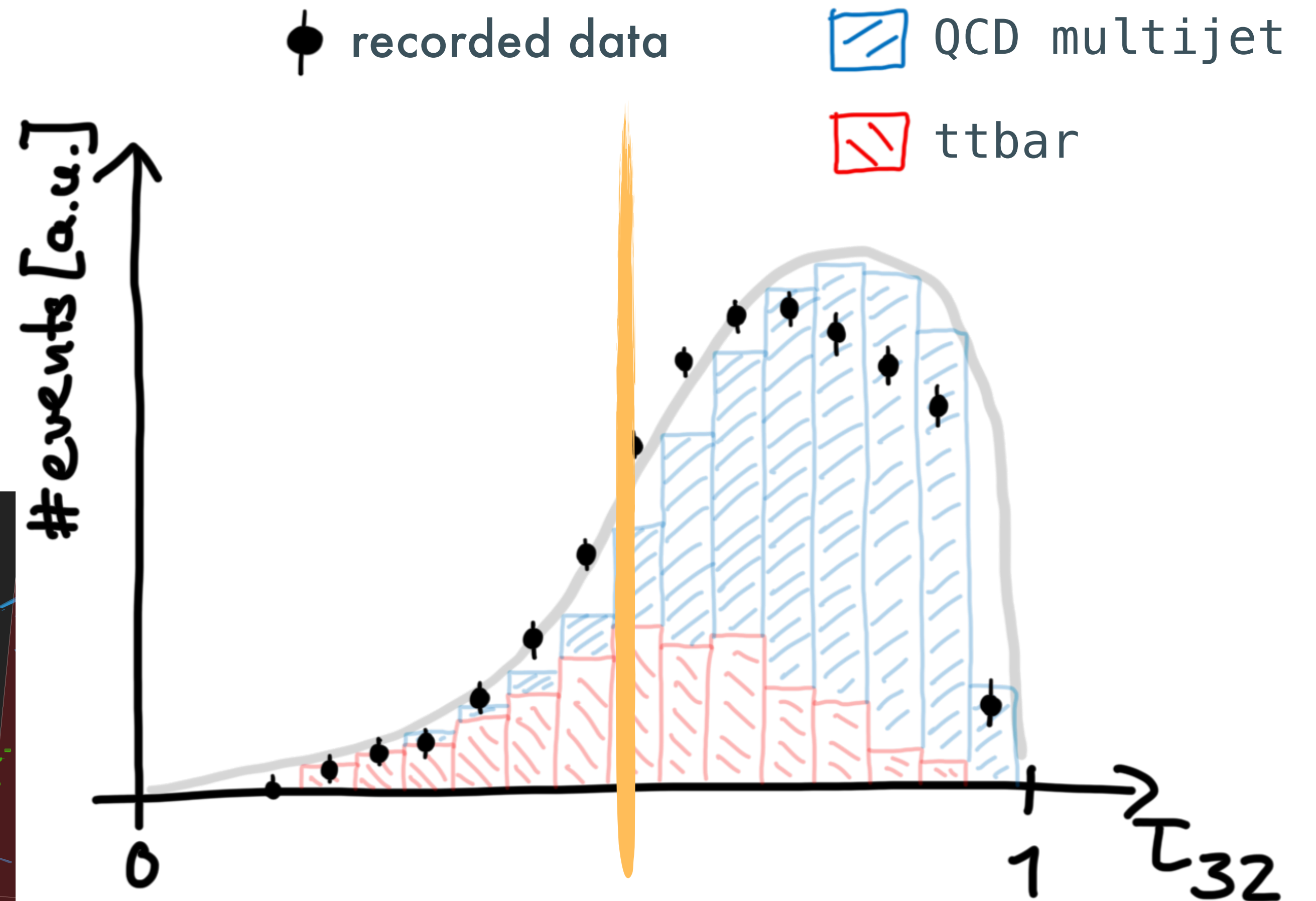
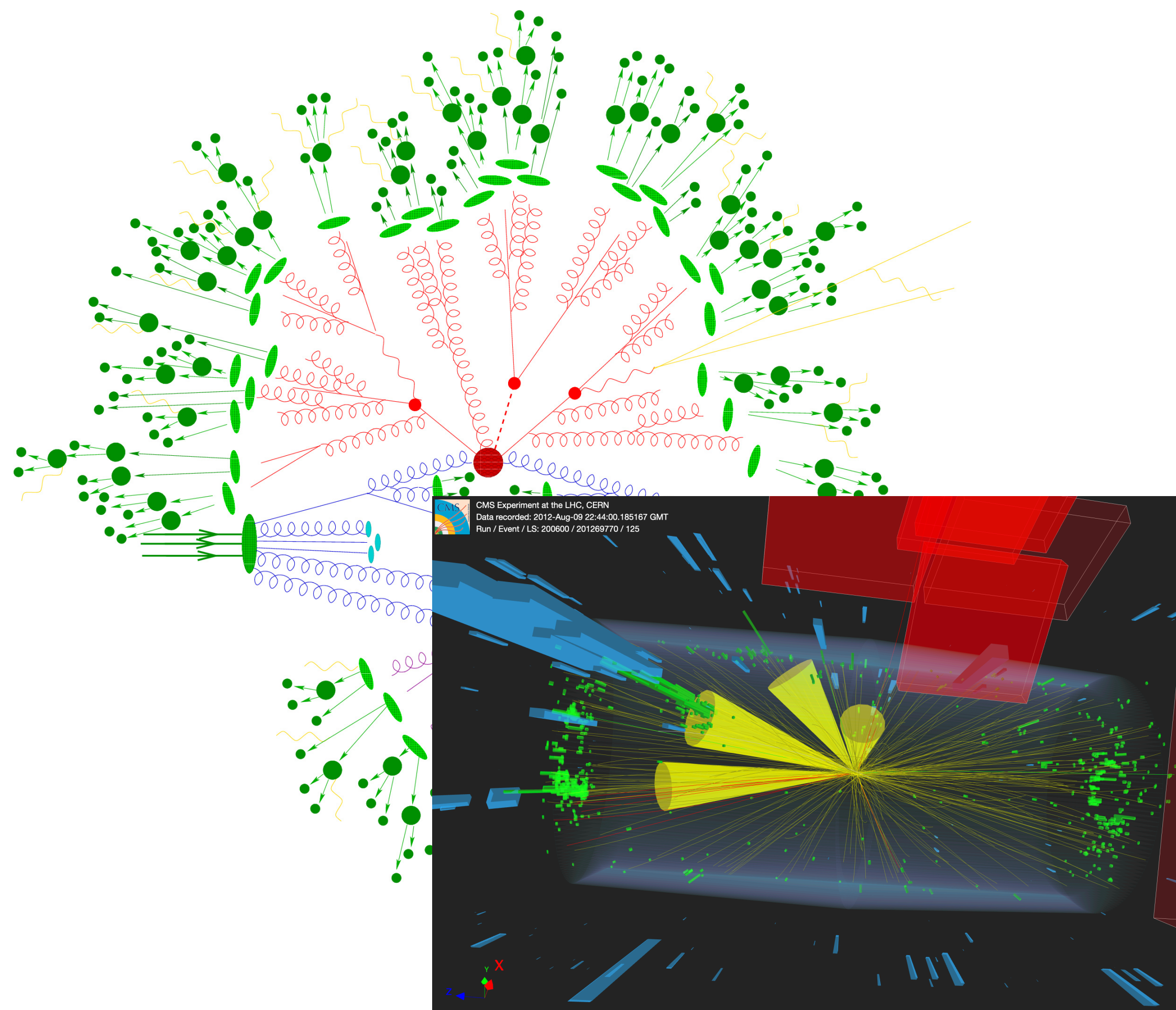
Working Points in One Slide



Jet Substructure in Recorded Data



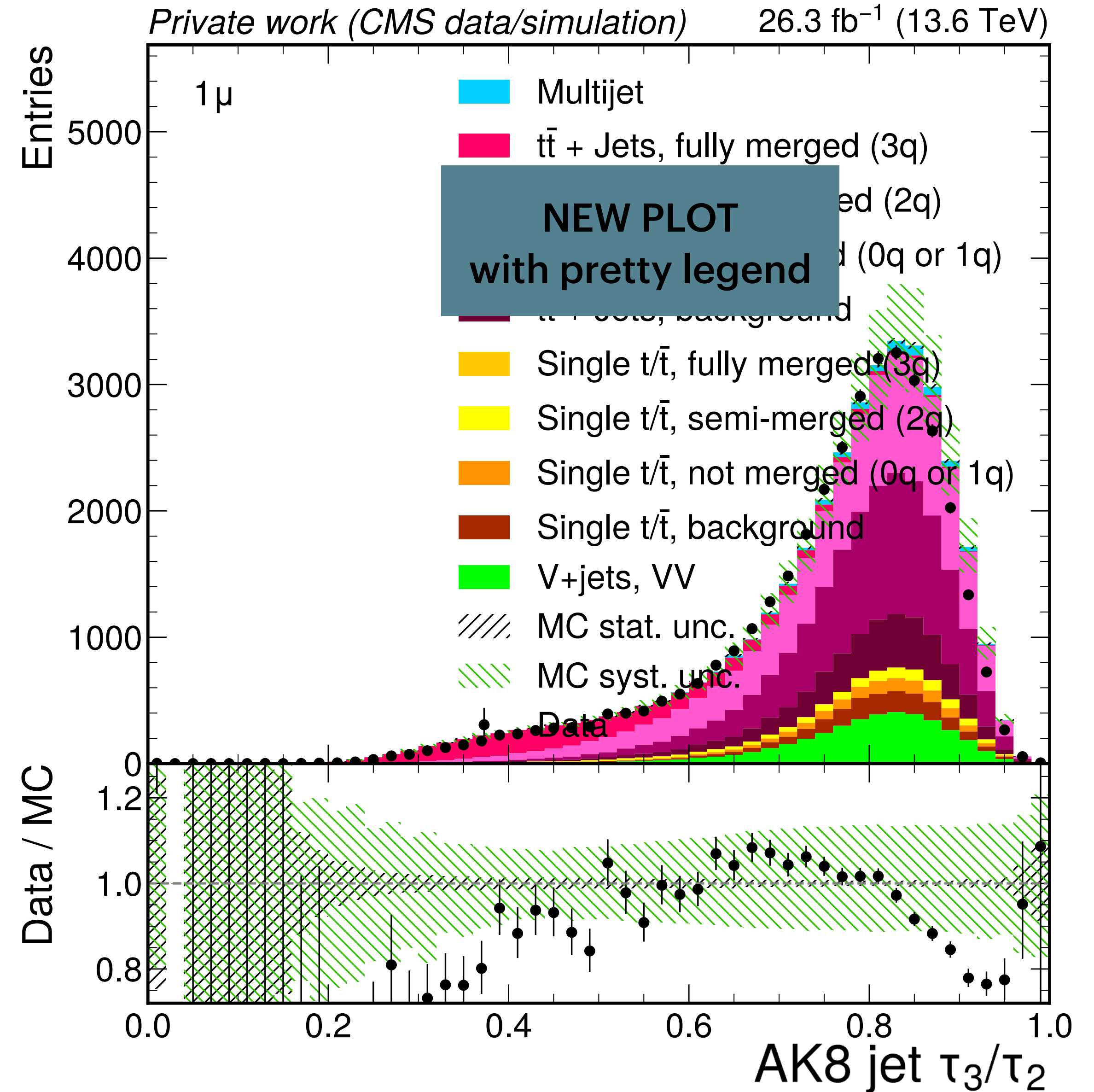
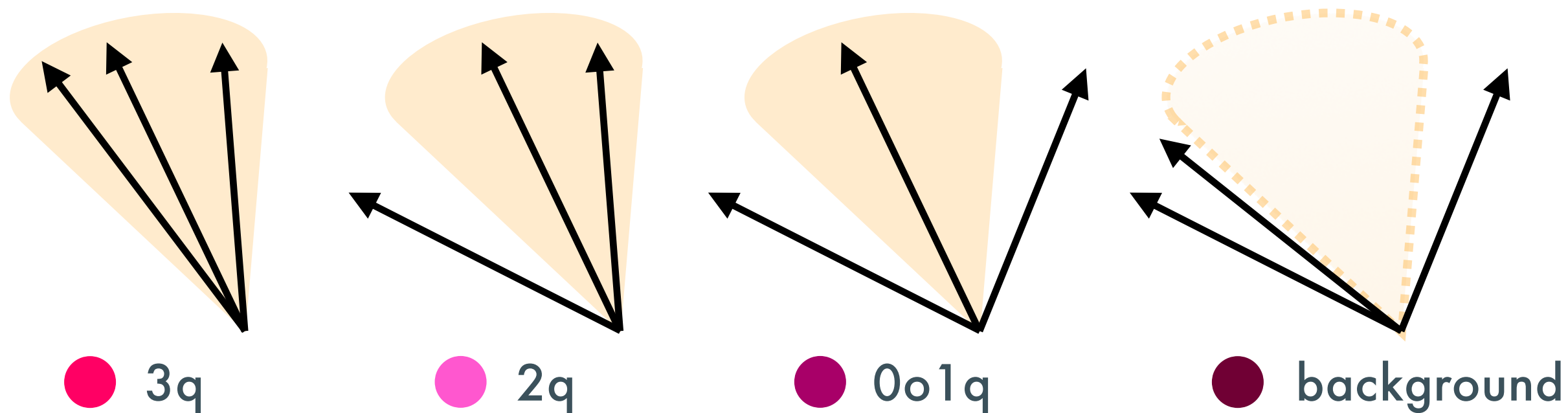
Jet Substructure in Recorded Data



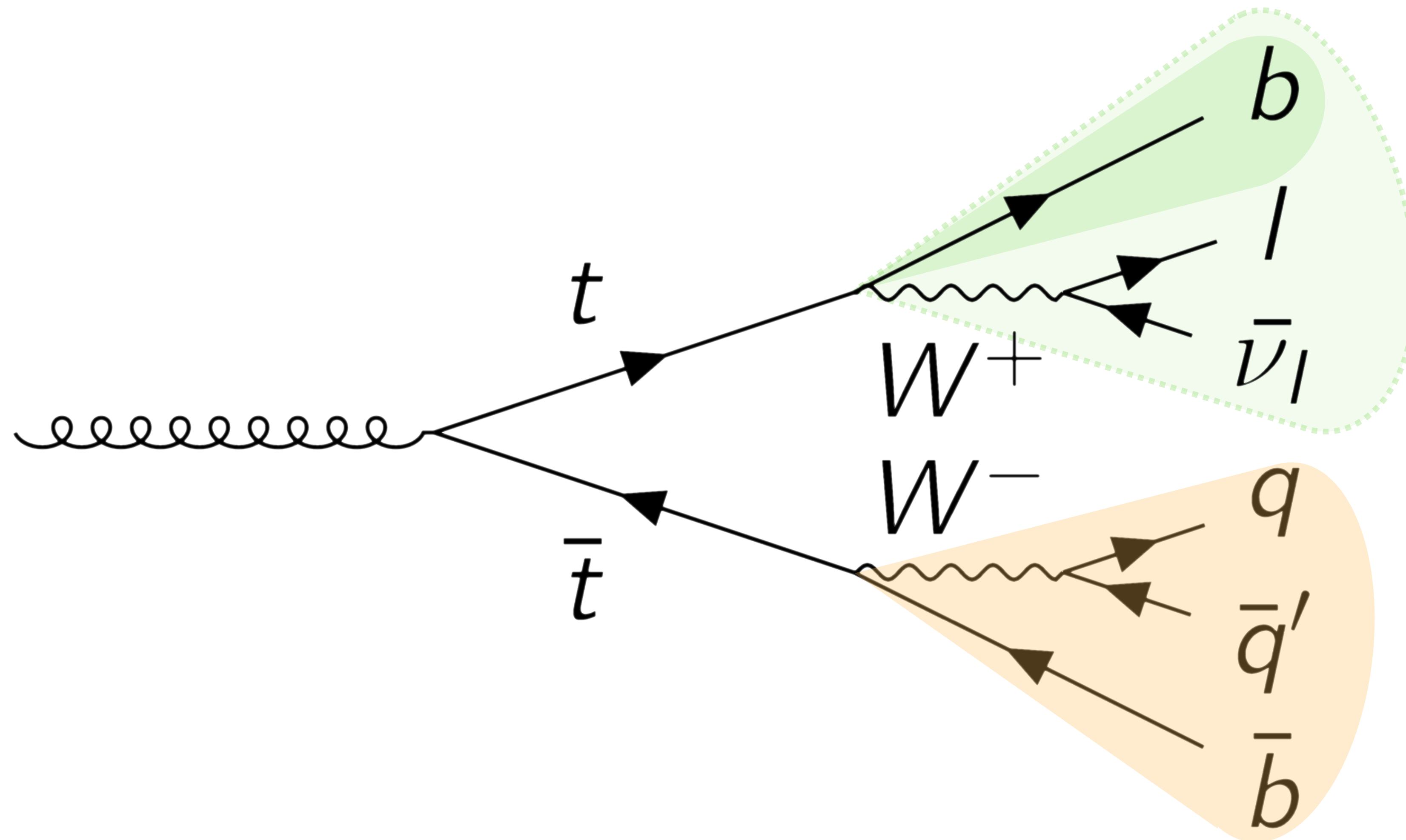
Scale Factors

— to correct MC simulation —

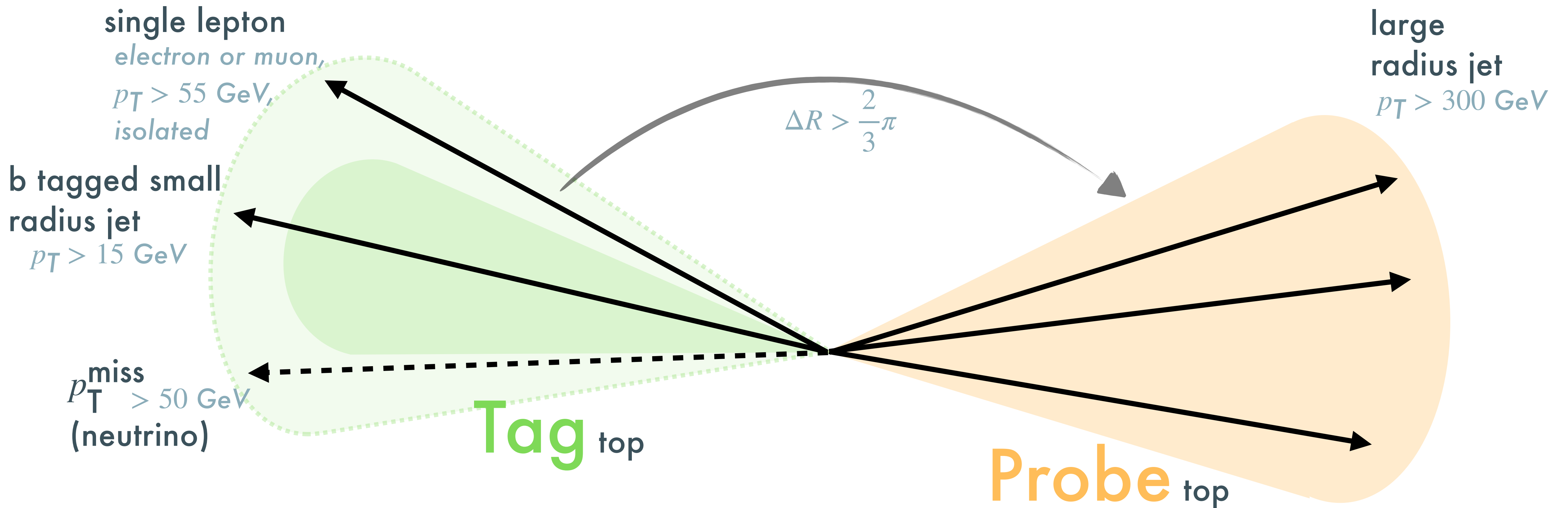
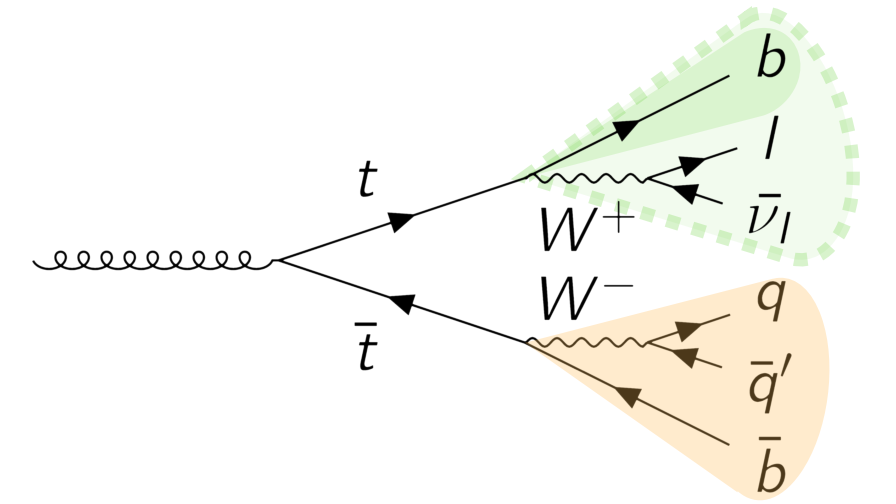
- derive correction factors for each
 - ▶ data taking era
 - ▶ working point
 - ▶ p_T bin of large-radius jet (AK8 jet)
 - ▶ merge scenario of top quark decay products



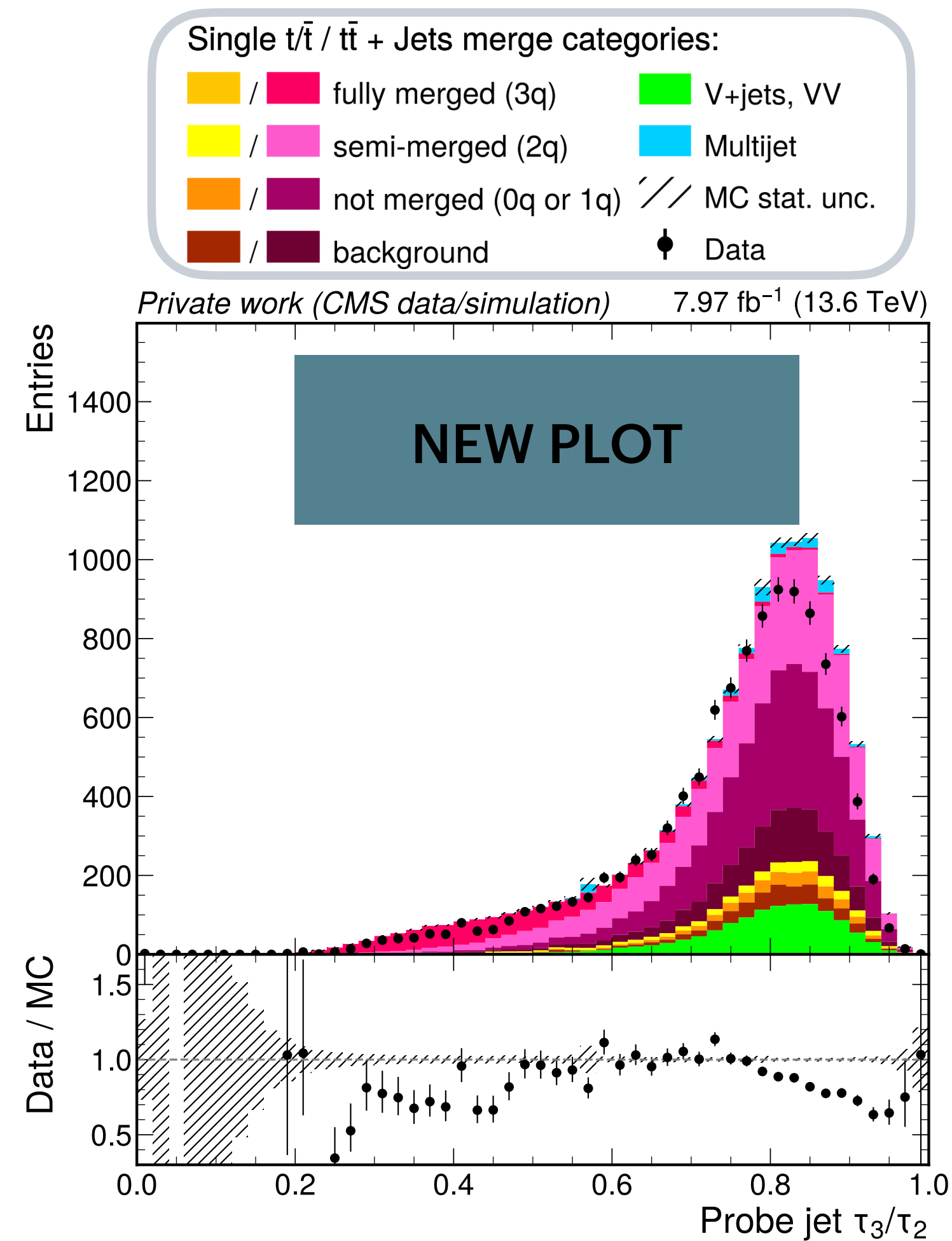
Tag and Probe Method With $t\bar{t}$ Pairs



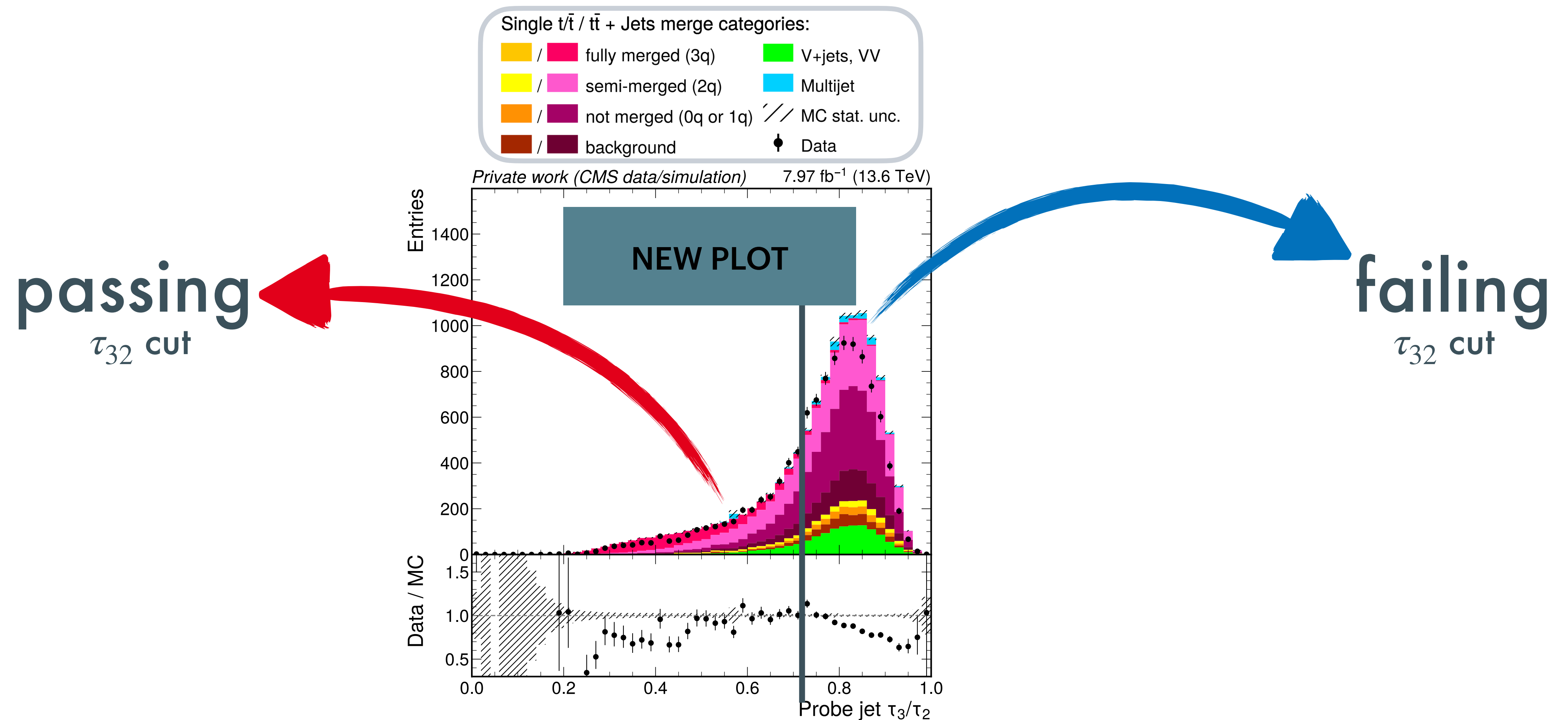
Tag and Probe Method With $t\bar{t}$ Pairs



Probe Jet: τ_{32}



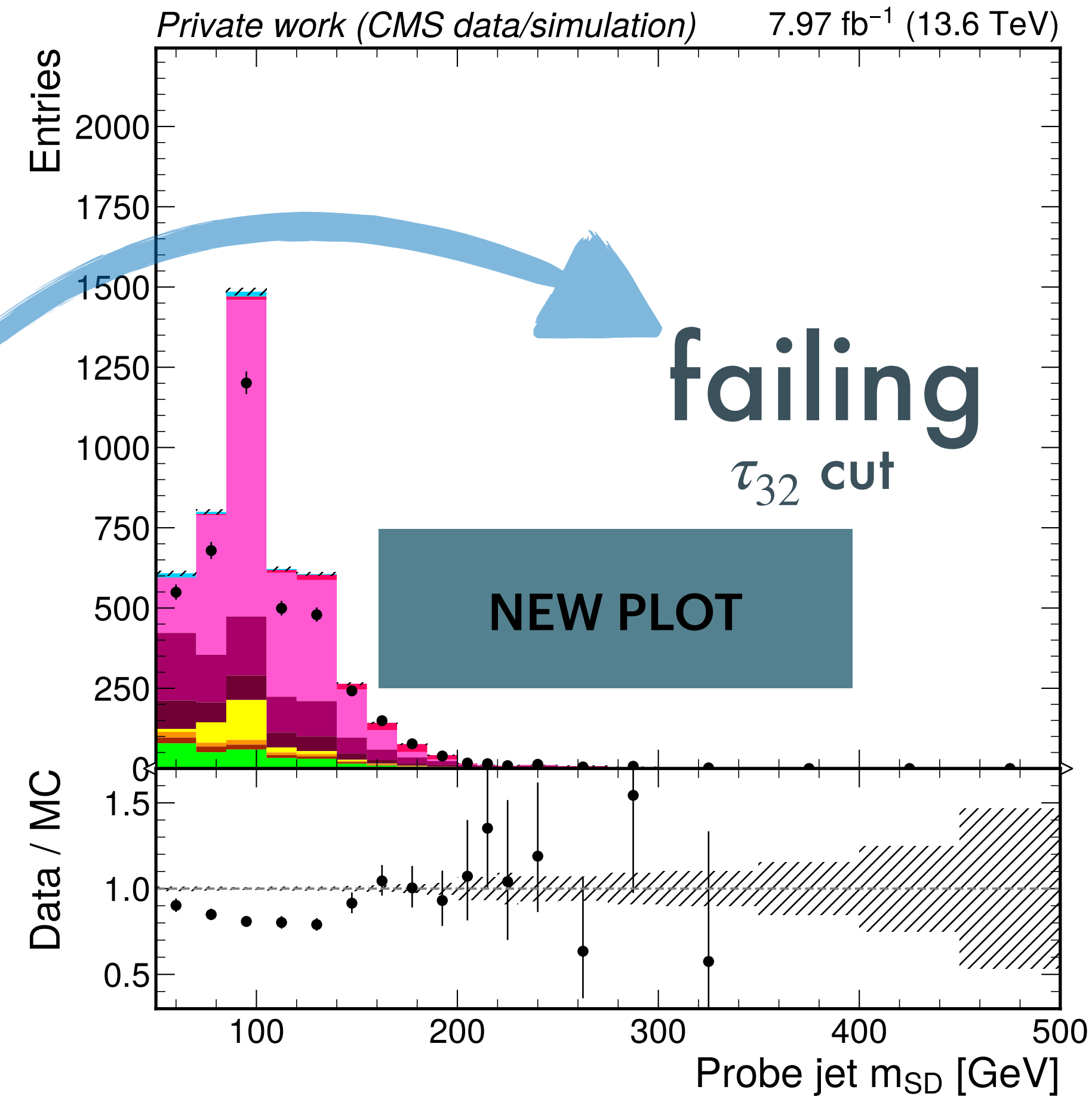
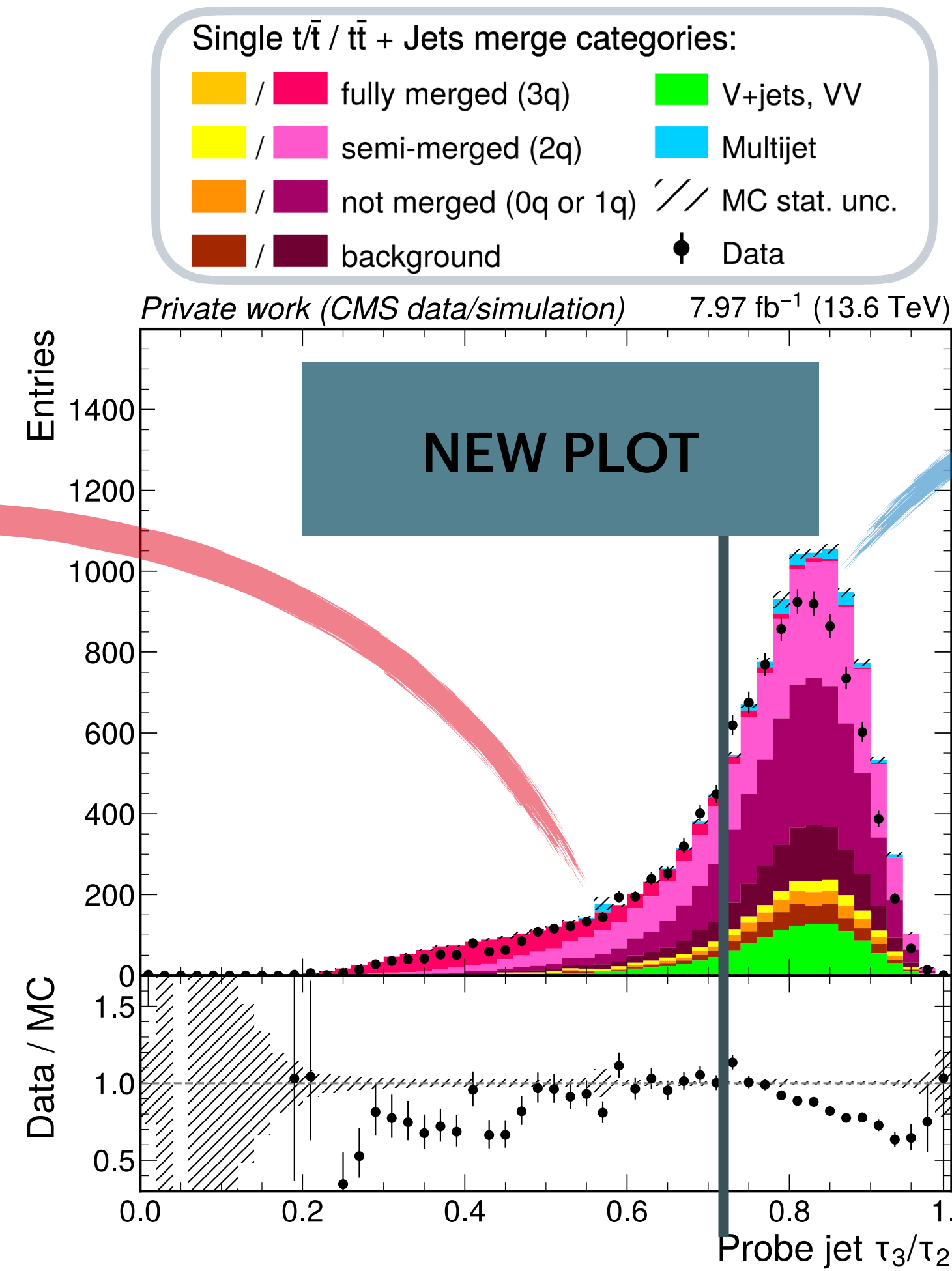
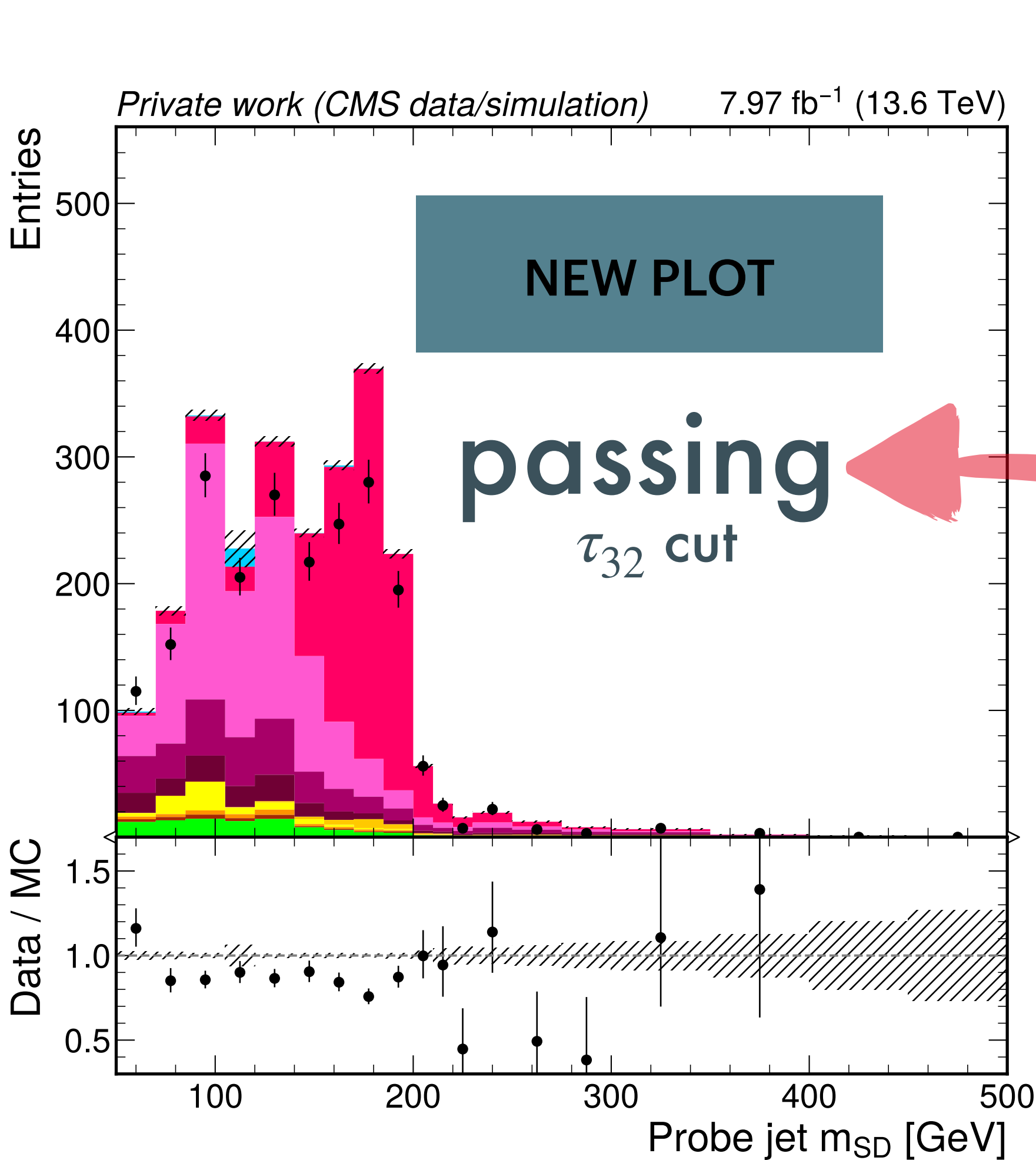
Probe Jet: τ_{32}



Probe Jet: τ_{32} and m_{SD}

soft drop criterion $\frac{\min(p_{T1}, p_{T2})}{p_{T1} + p_{T2}} > z_{\text{cut}} \cdot \left(\frac{\Delta R_{12}}{R_0}\right)^\beta$

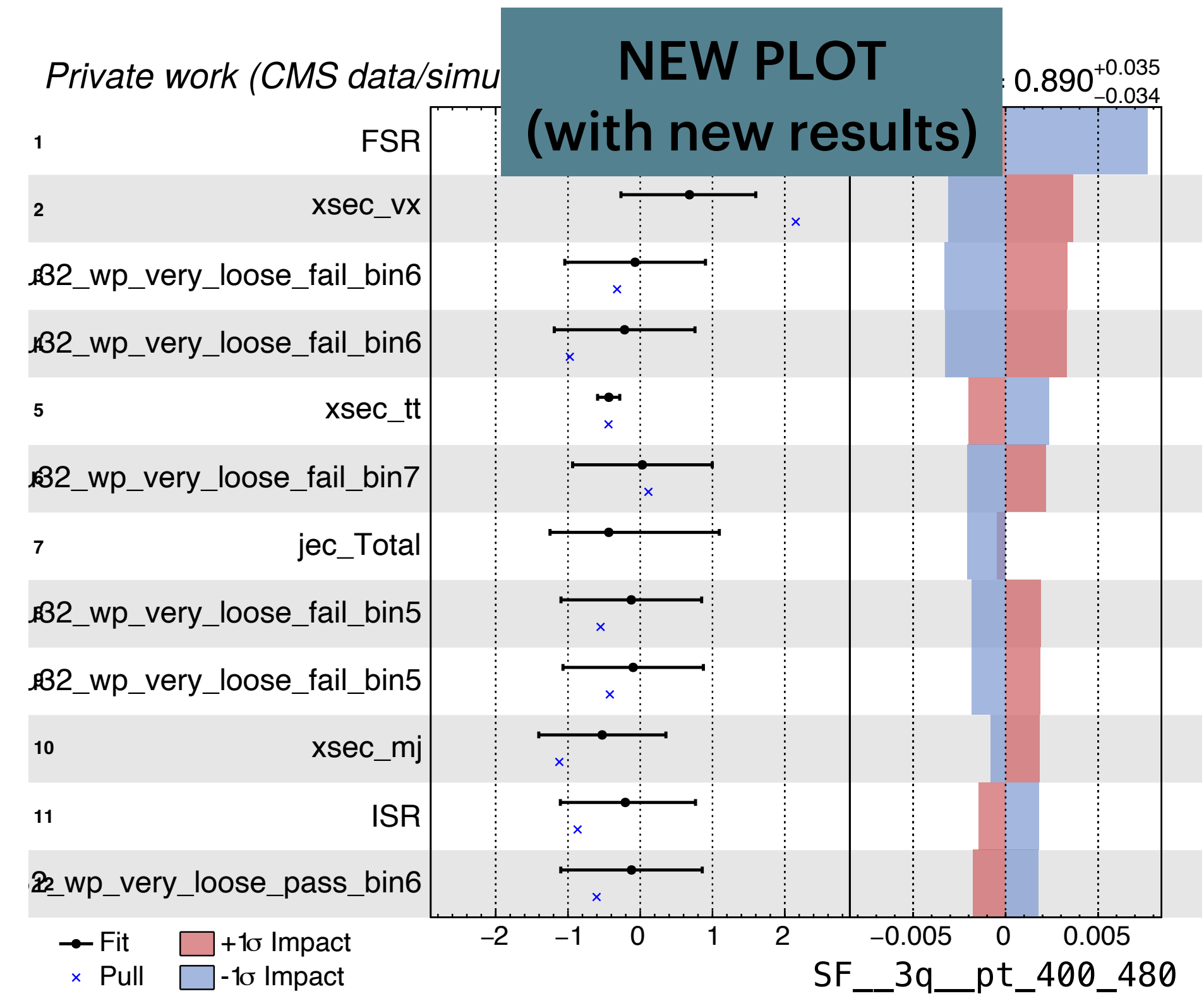
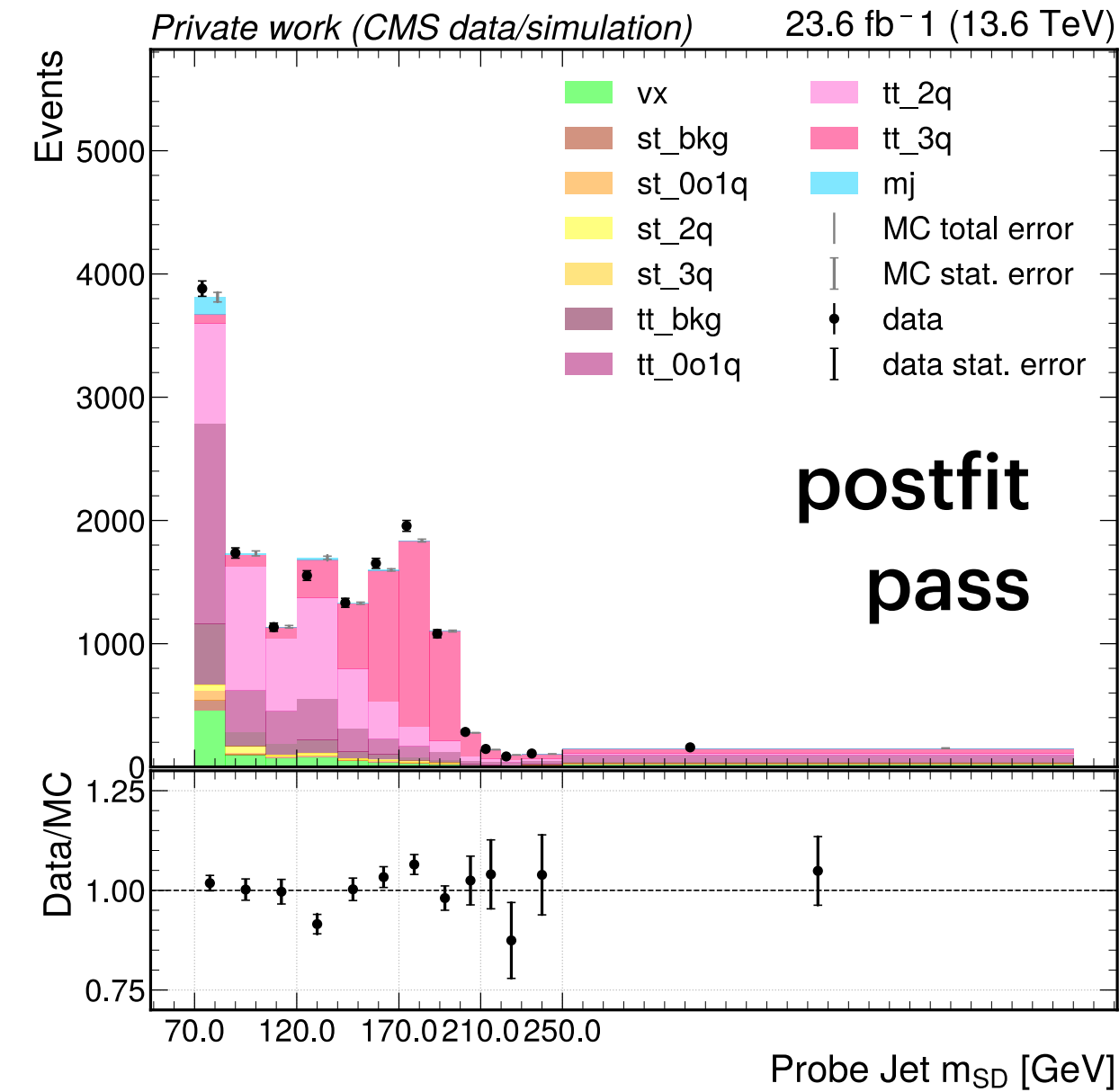
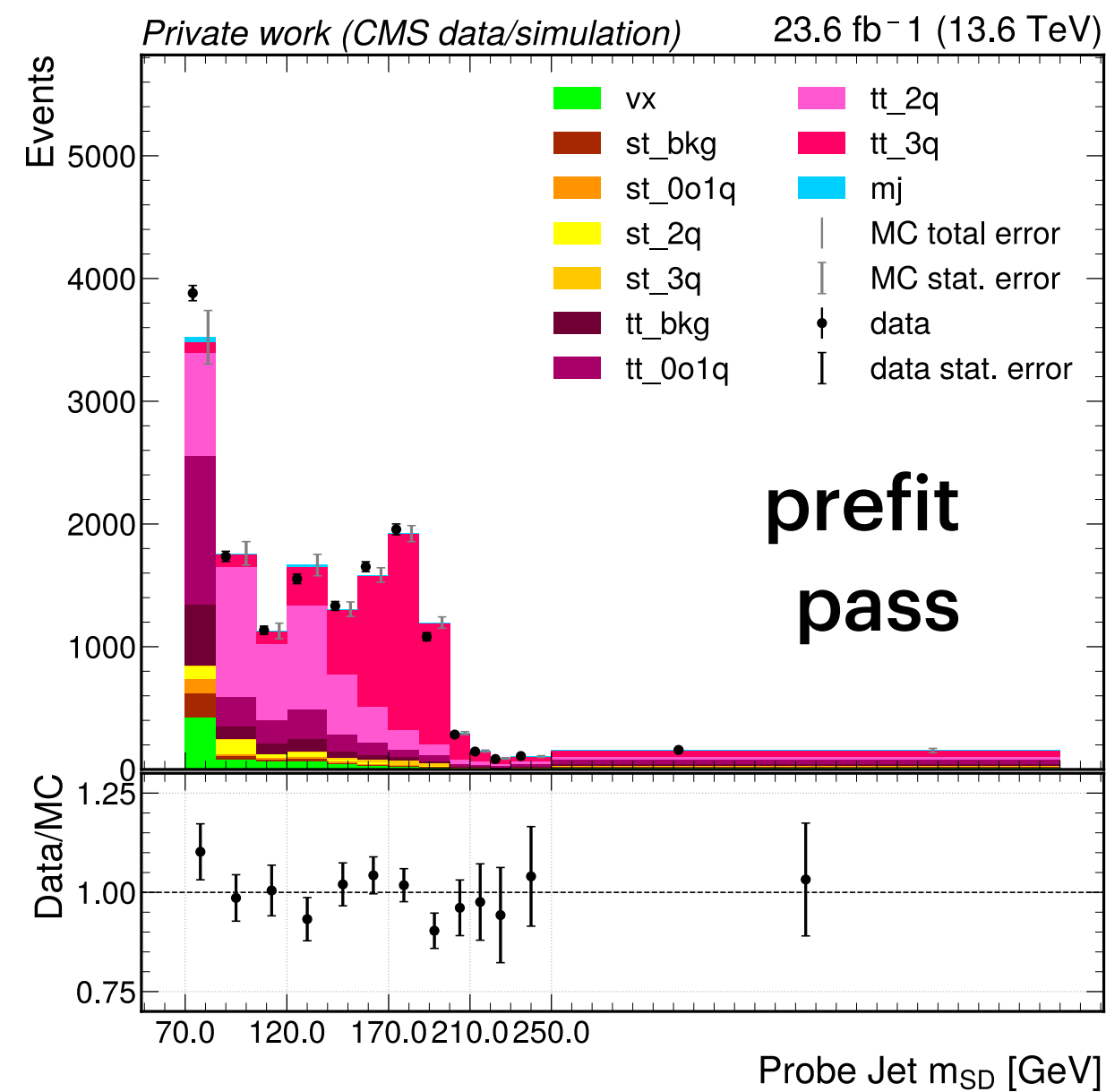
JHEP 1405 (2014) 146 - arXiv:1402.2657



SF Derivation

— simultaneous fit for merge categories and p_T of probe jet —

- constraint: $N_{\text{total}} = N_{\text{pass}} + N_{\text{fail}} = \text{const}$
- syst. uncertainties considered, FSR largest impact

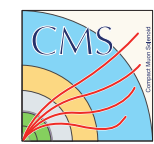
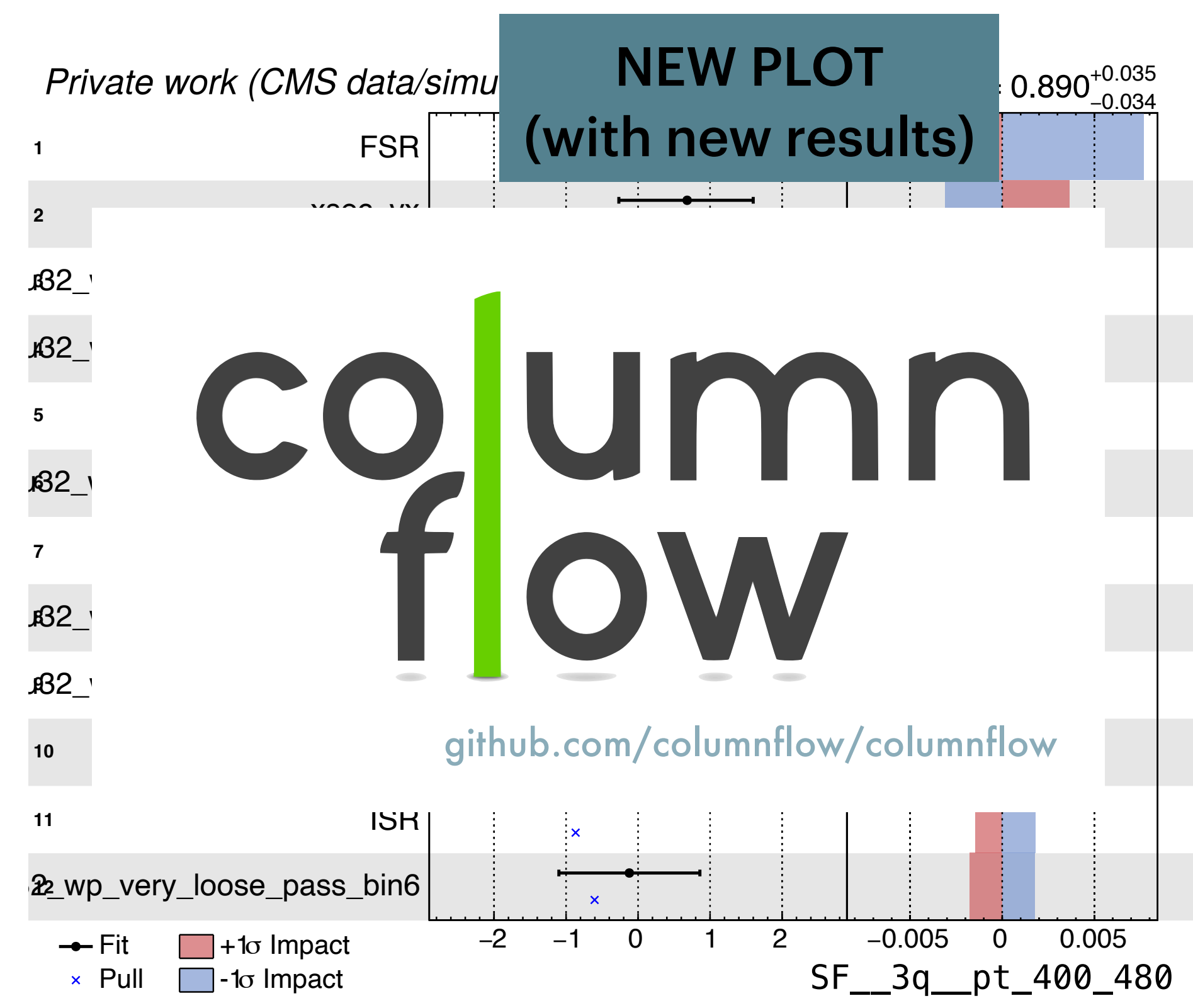
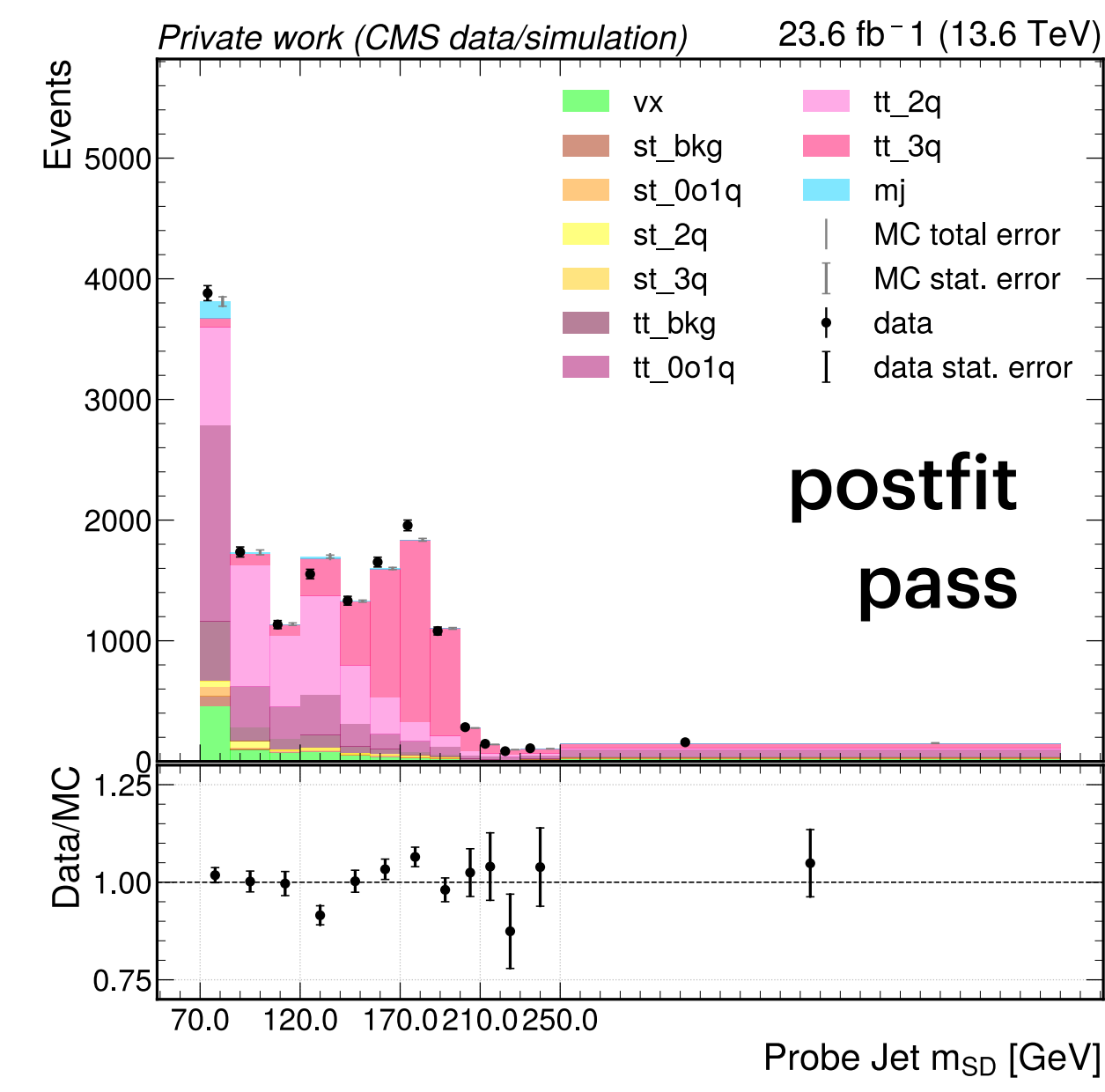
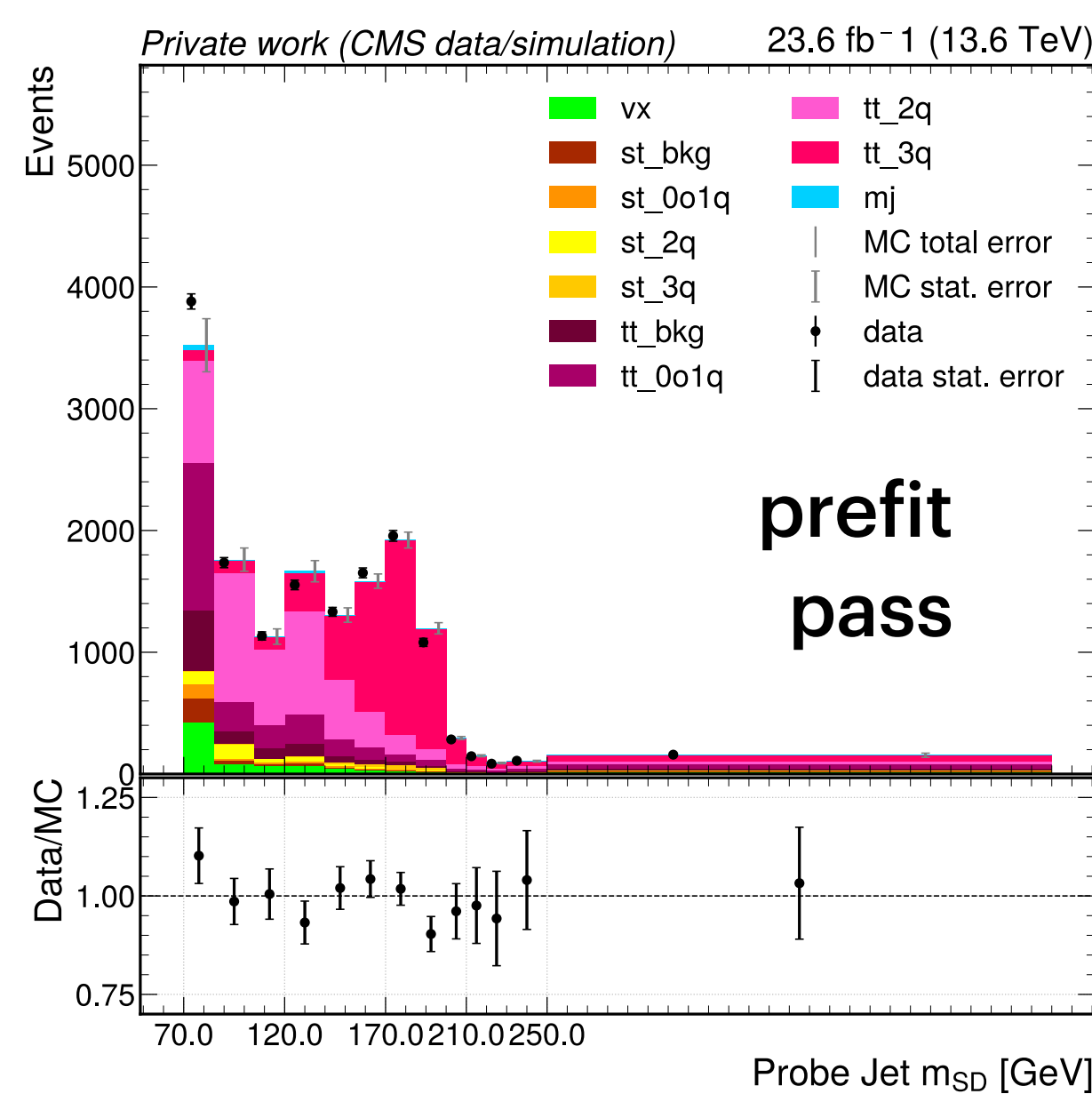


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Quick and automated derivation of SF essential to be used in analyses.



Analysis Strategy

— searching for Z' bosons —

I. Selection

$t\bar{t}$ events with lepton+jets
final state objects

III. Event Classification

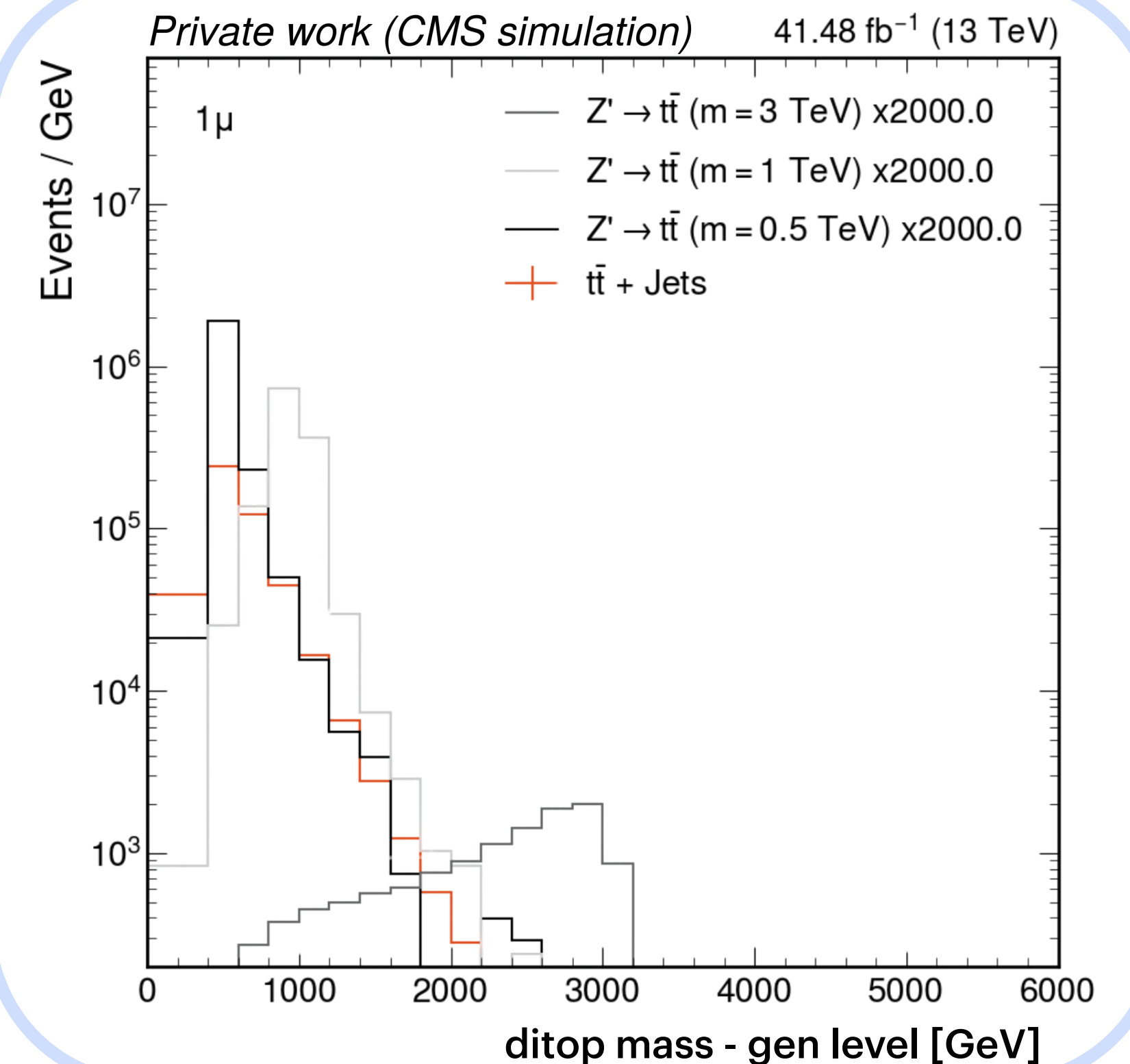
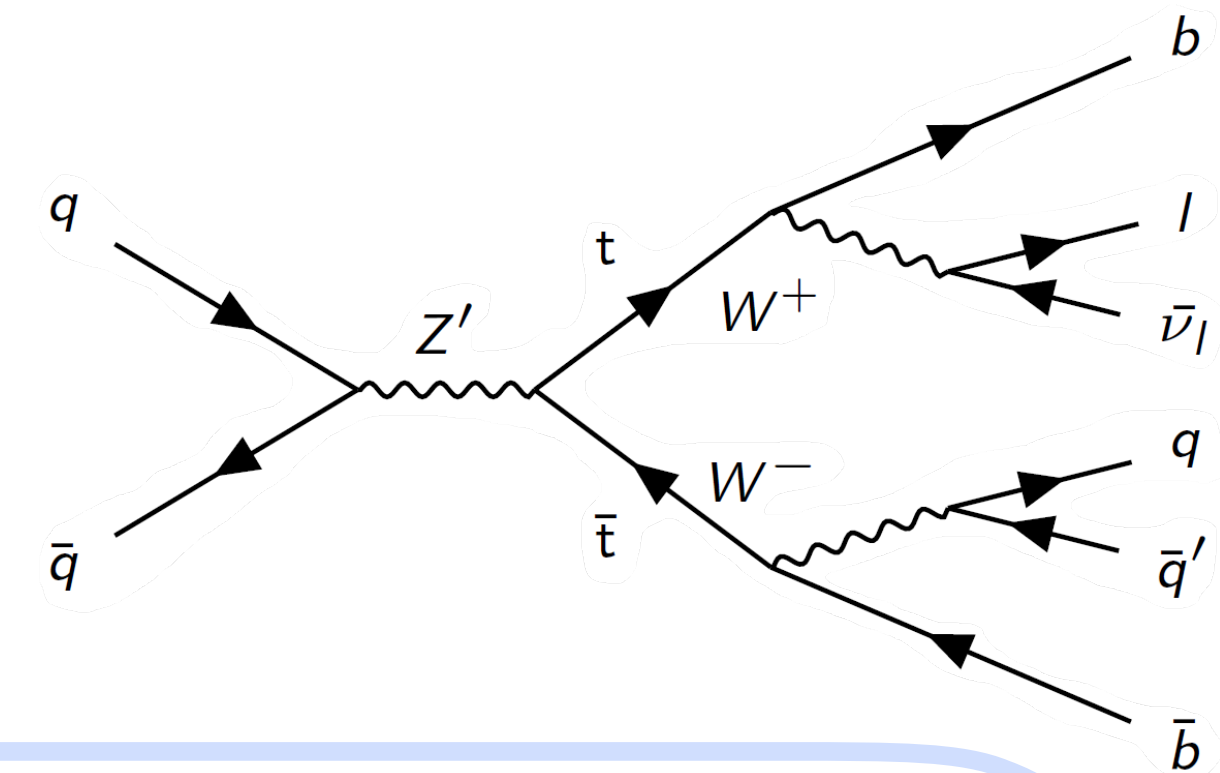
using machine learning

II. Reconstruction

kinematics of the $t\bar{t}$ system

IV. Statistical Analysis

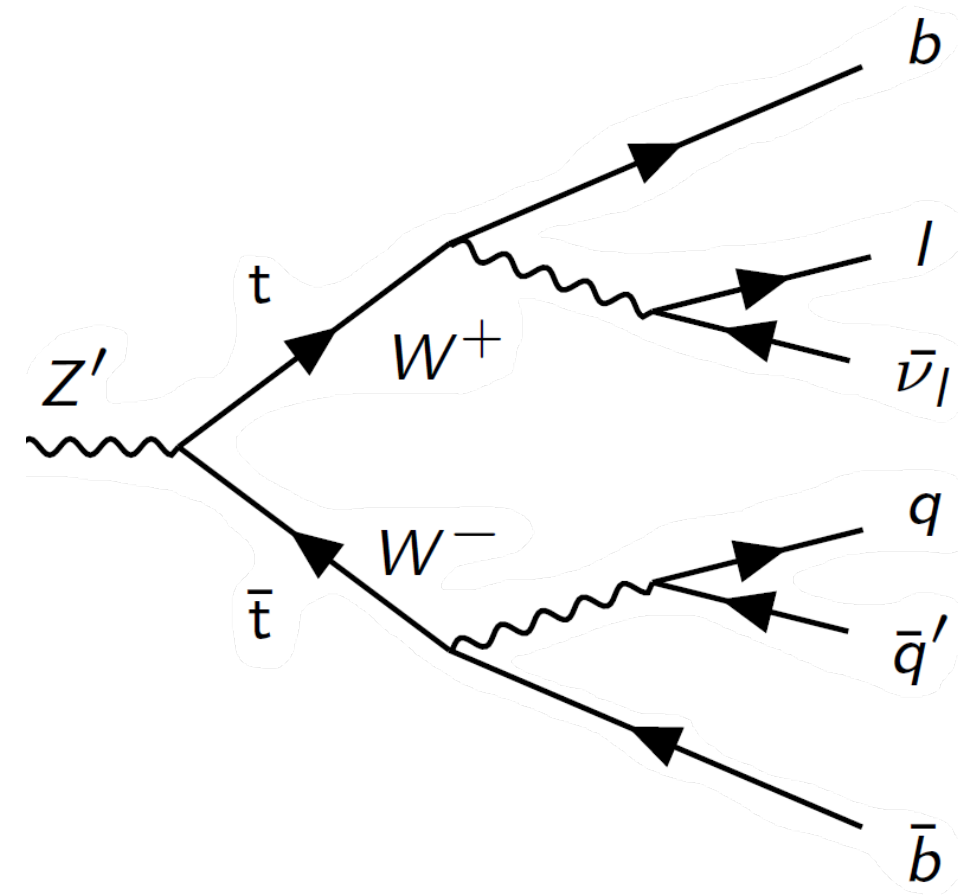
bump hunt or set limits



Search for New Physics Effects ...

calibrate events/objects

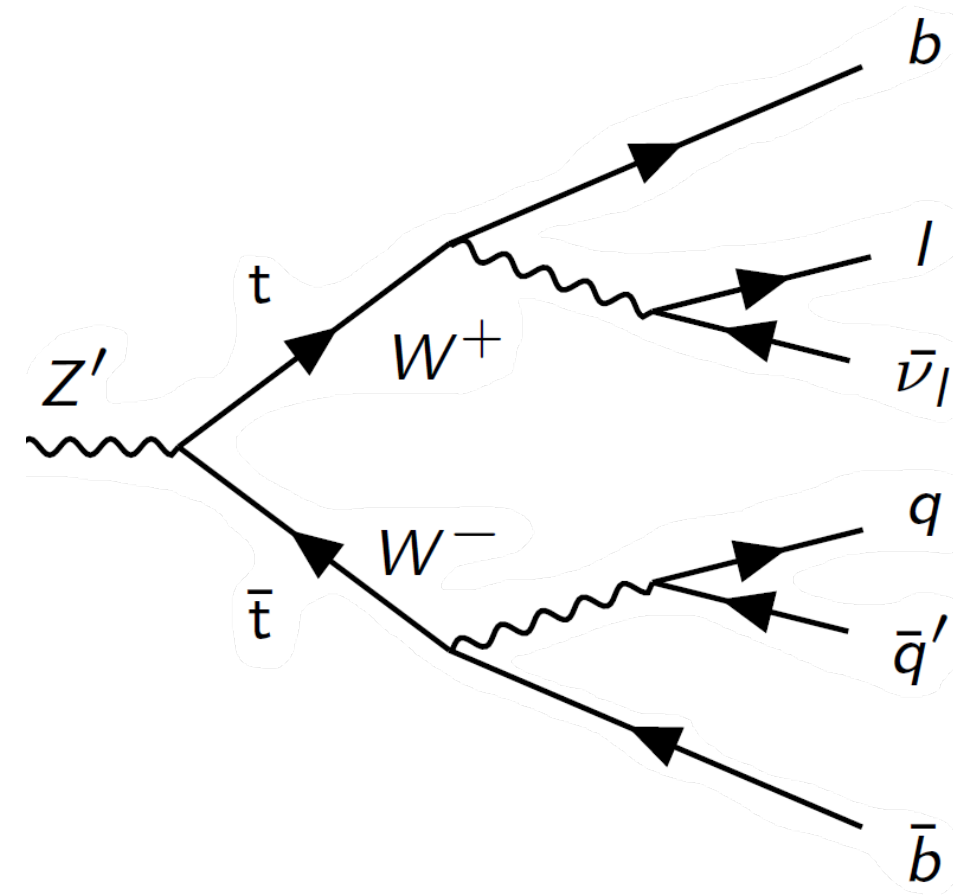
select events



Search for New Physics Effects ...

calibrate events/objects

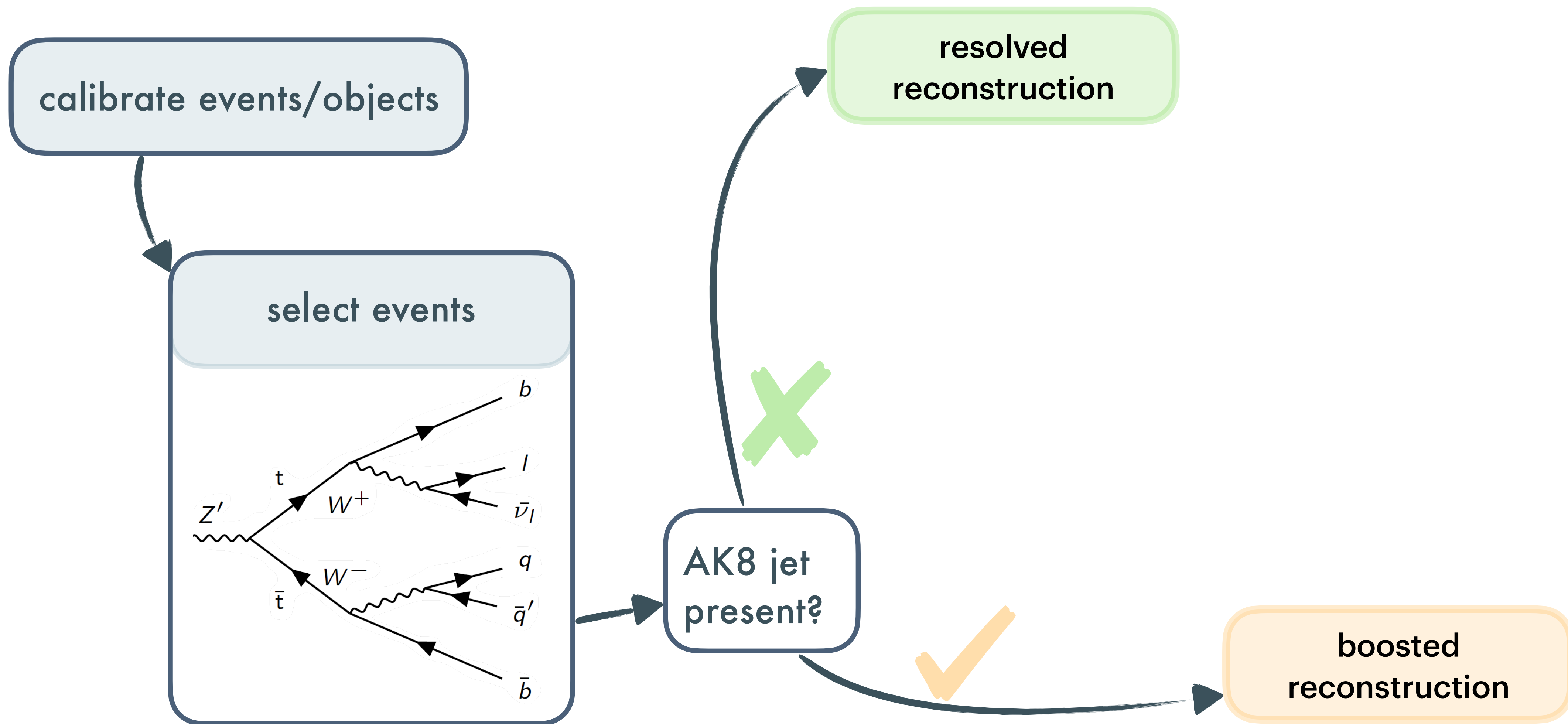
select events



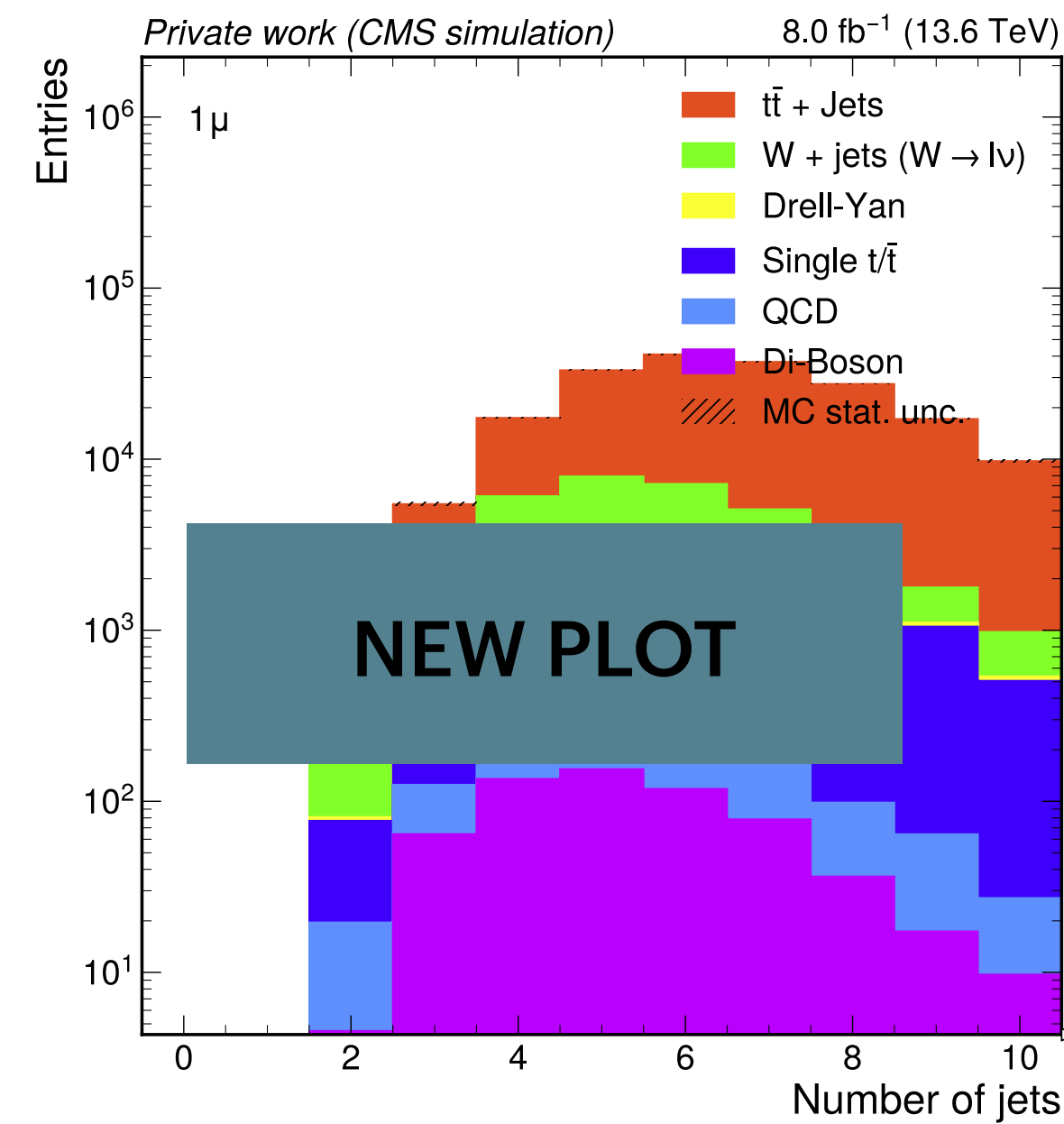
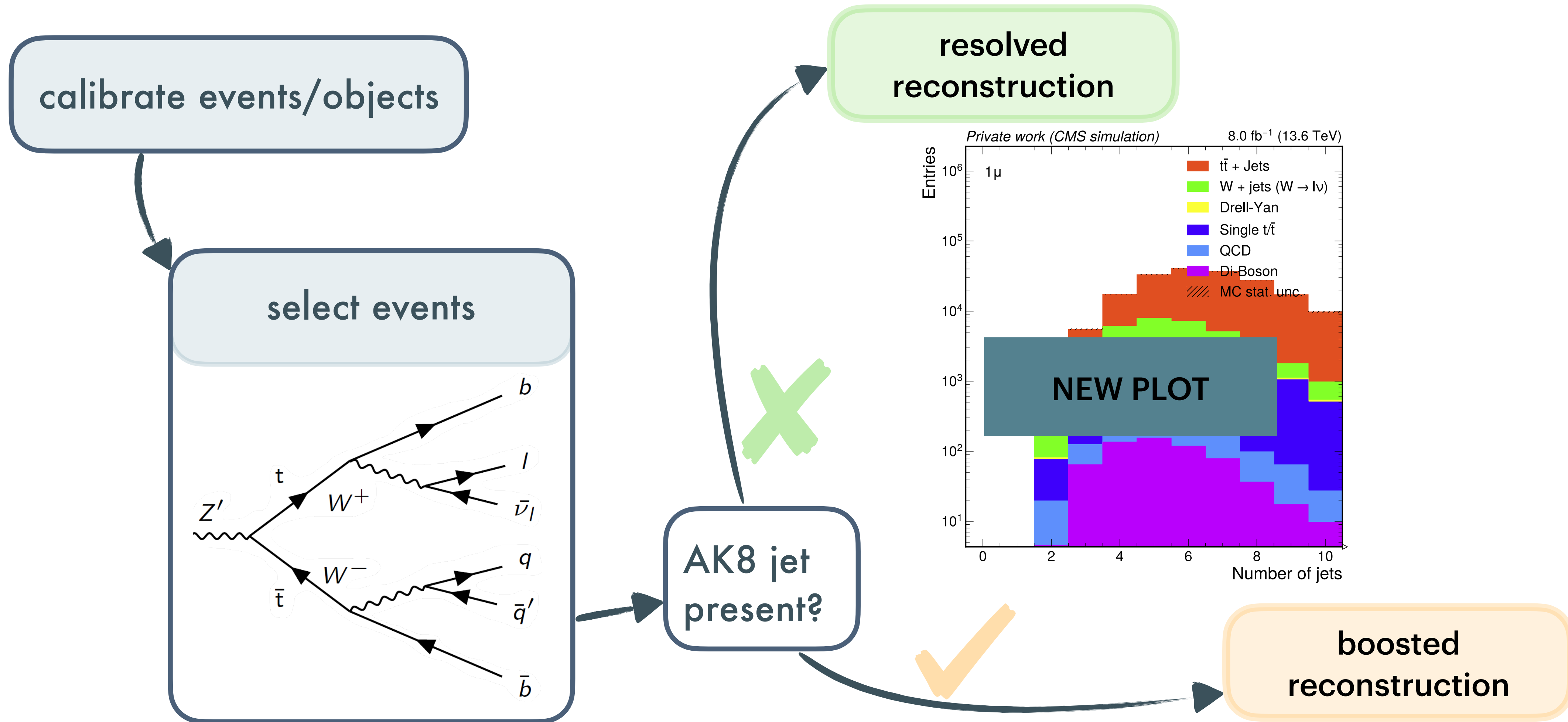
AK8 jet
present?

boosted
reconstruction

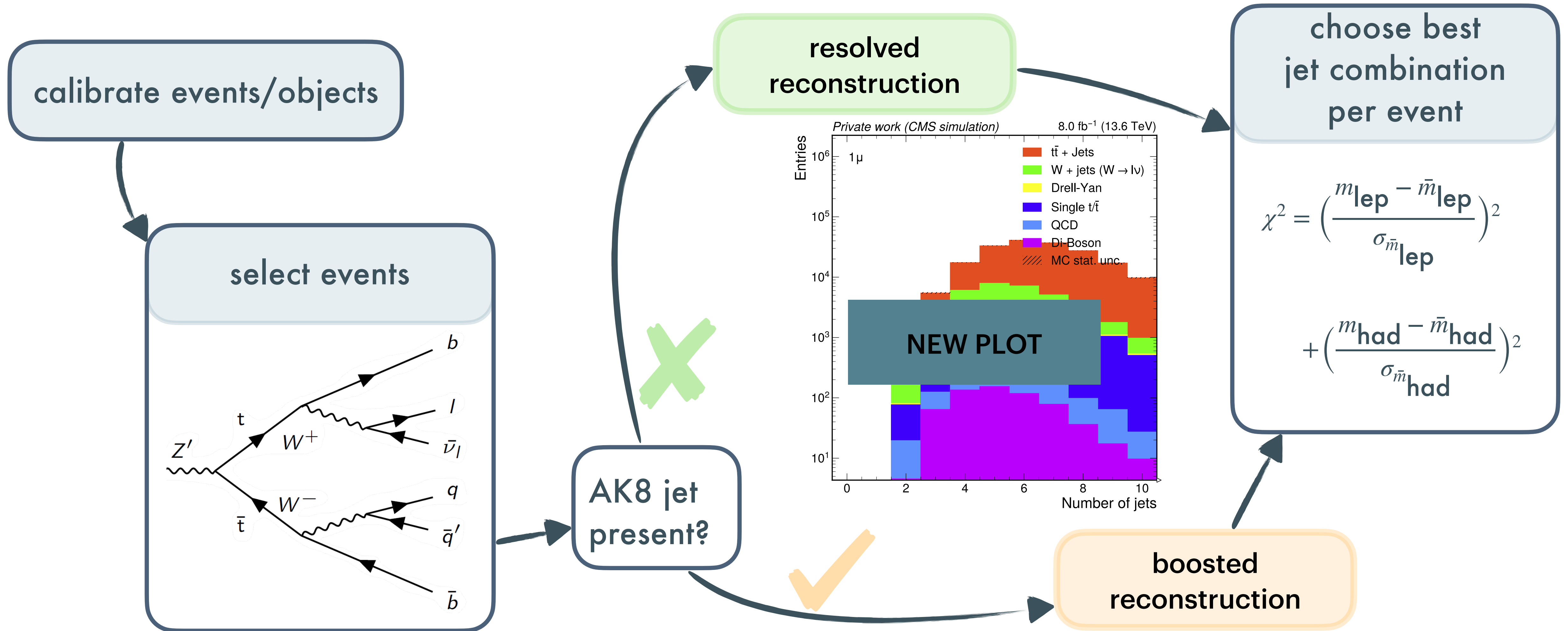
Search for New Physics Effects ...



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Search for New Physics Effects ...



... In the Ditop Mass Spectrum

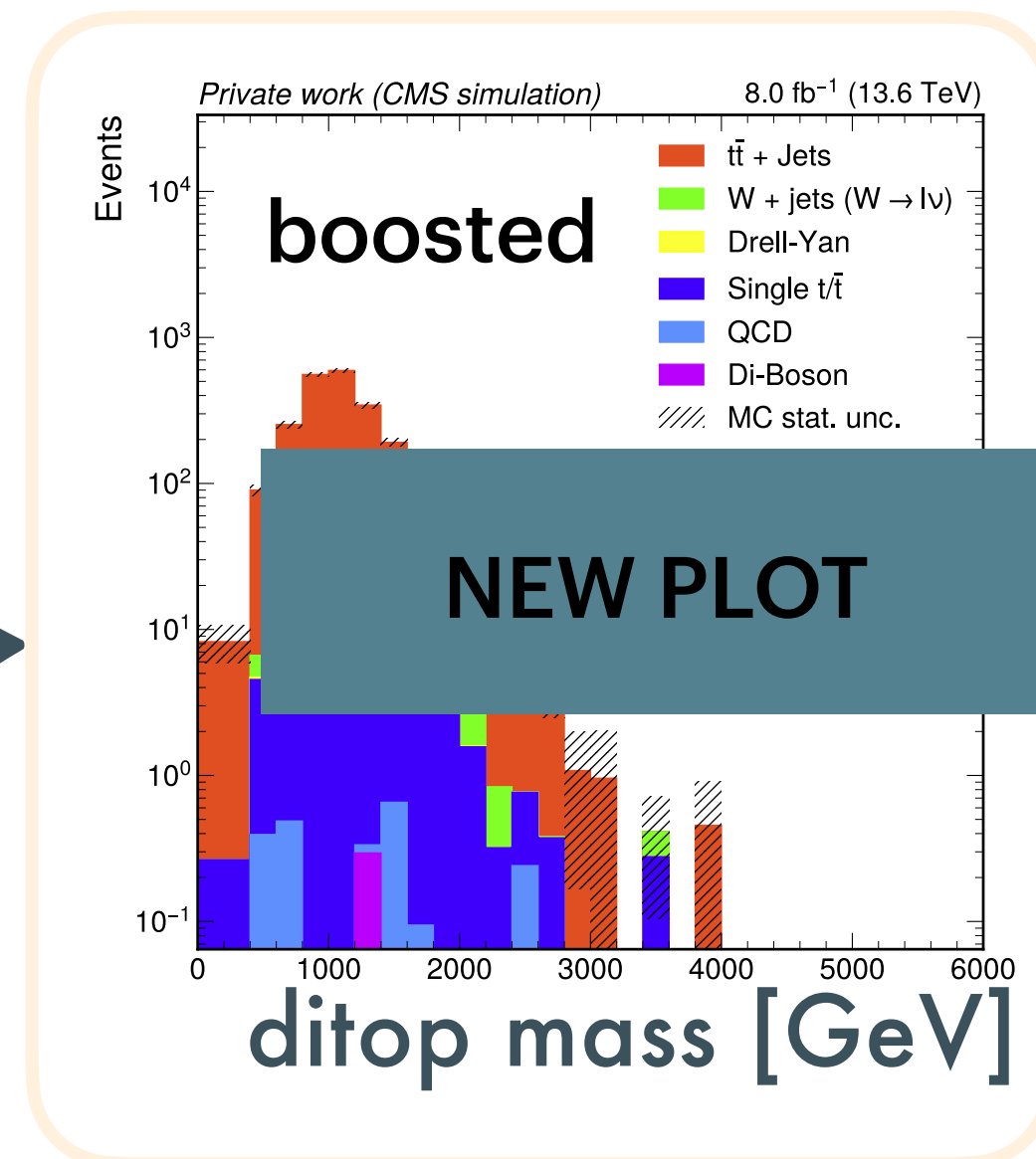
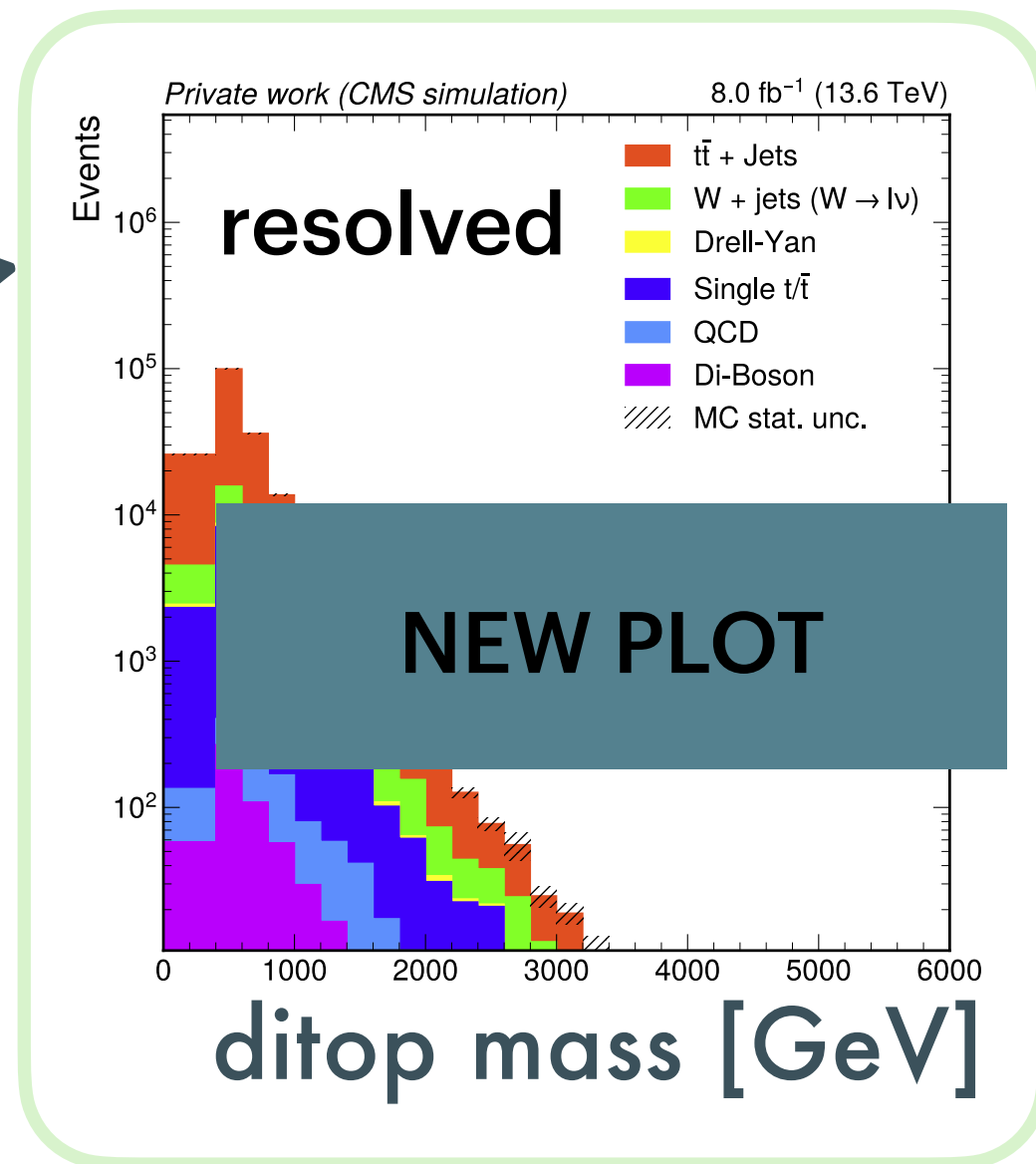
$$\chi^2 < 30$$

NEW PLOT

NEW PLOT

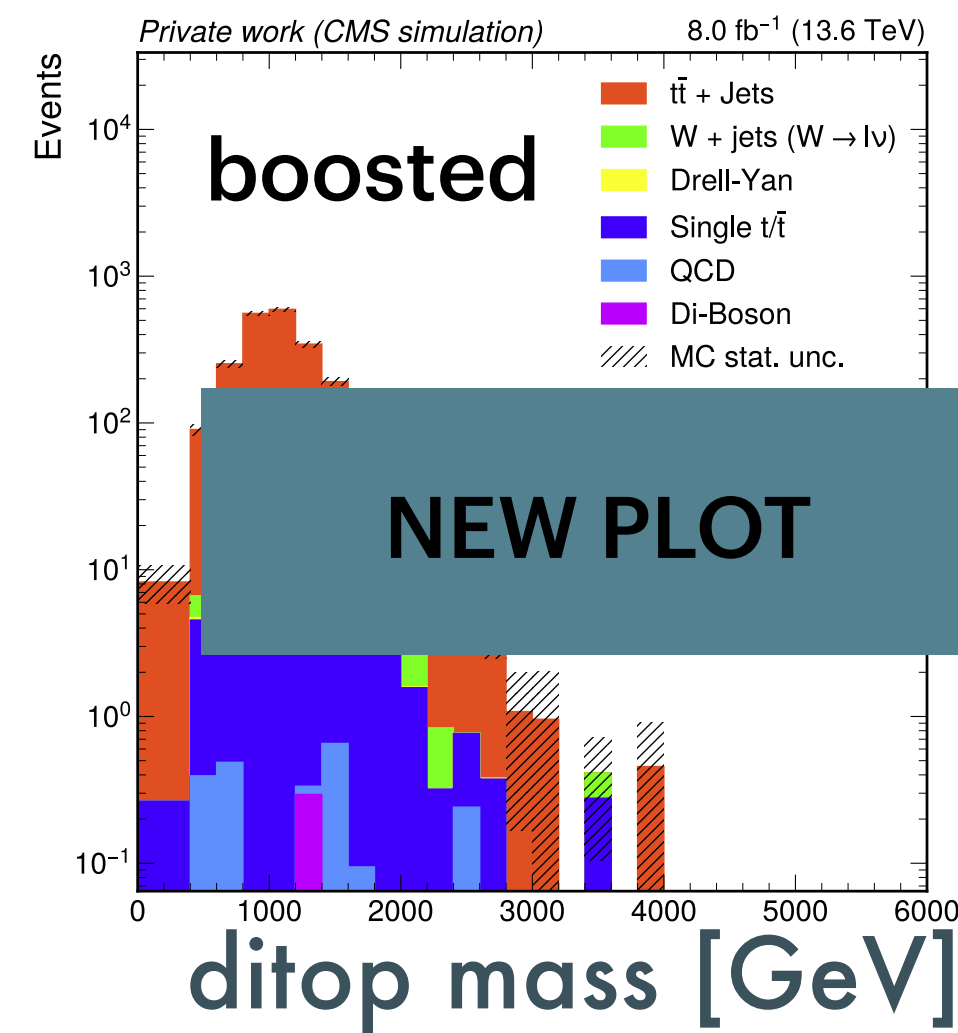
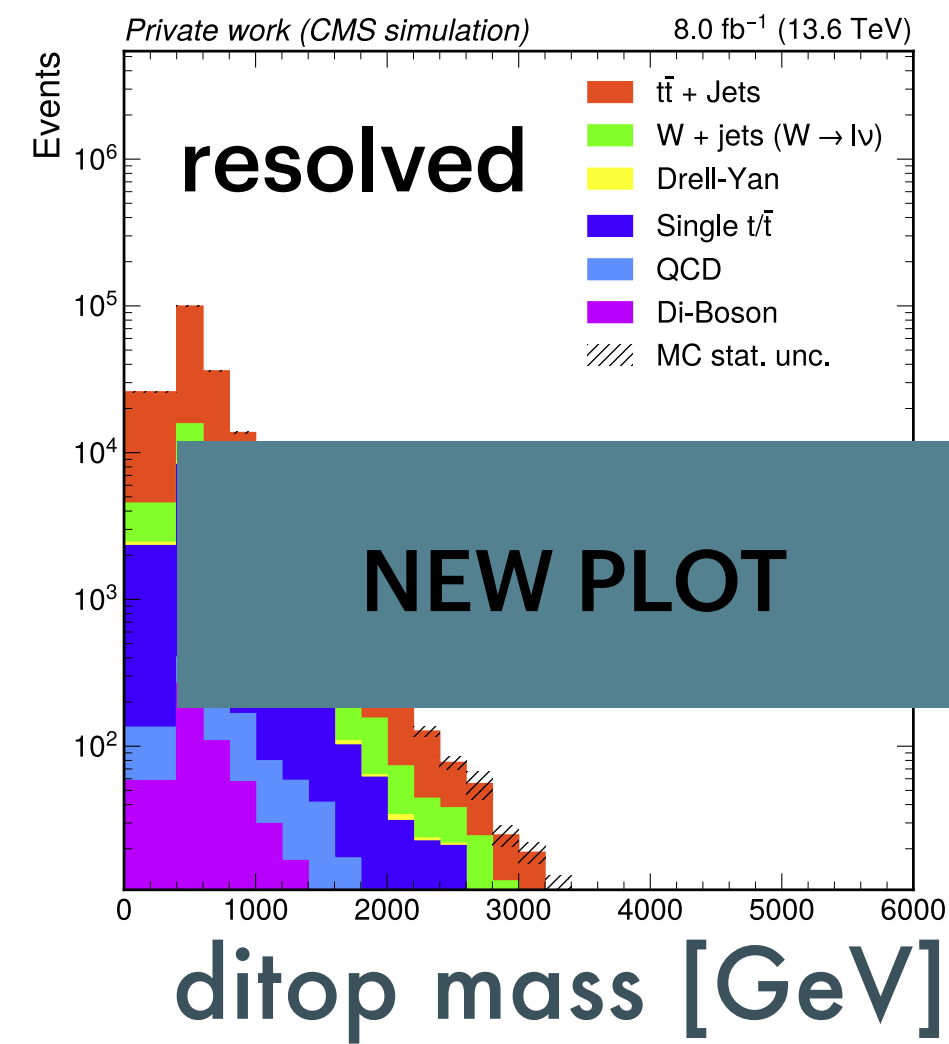
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$$\chi^2 < 30$$

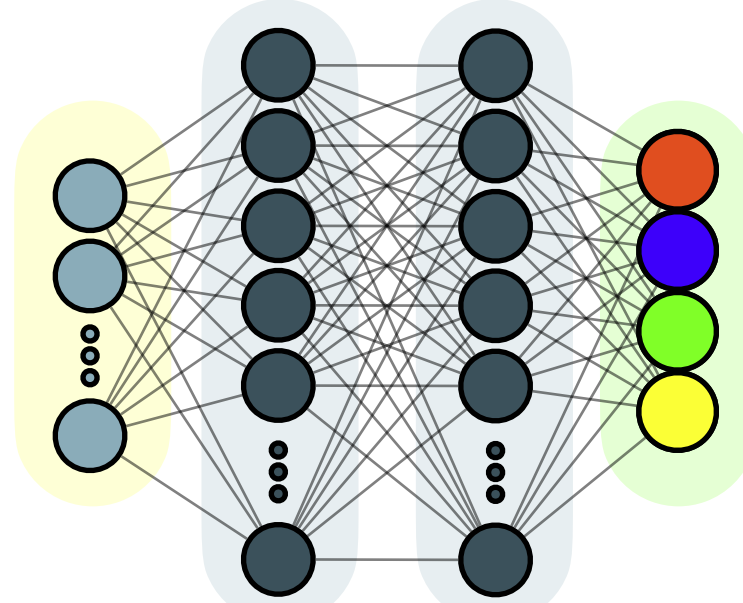


... In the Ditop Mass Spectrum

$$\chi^2 < 30$$



DNN for event classification

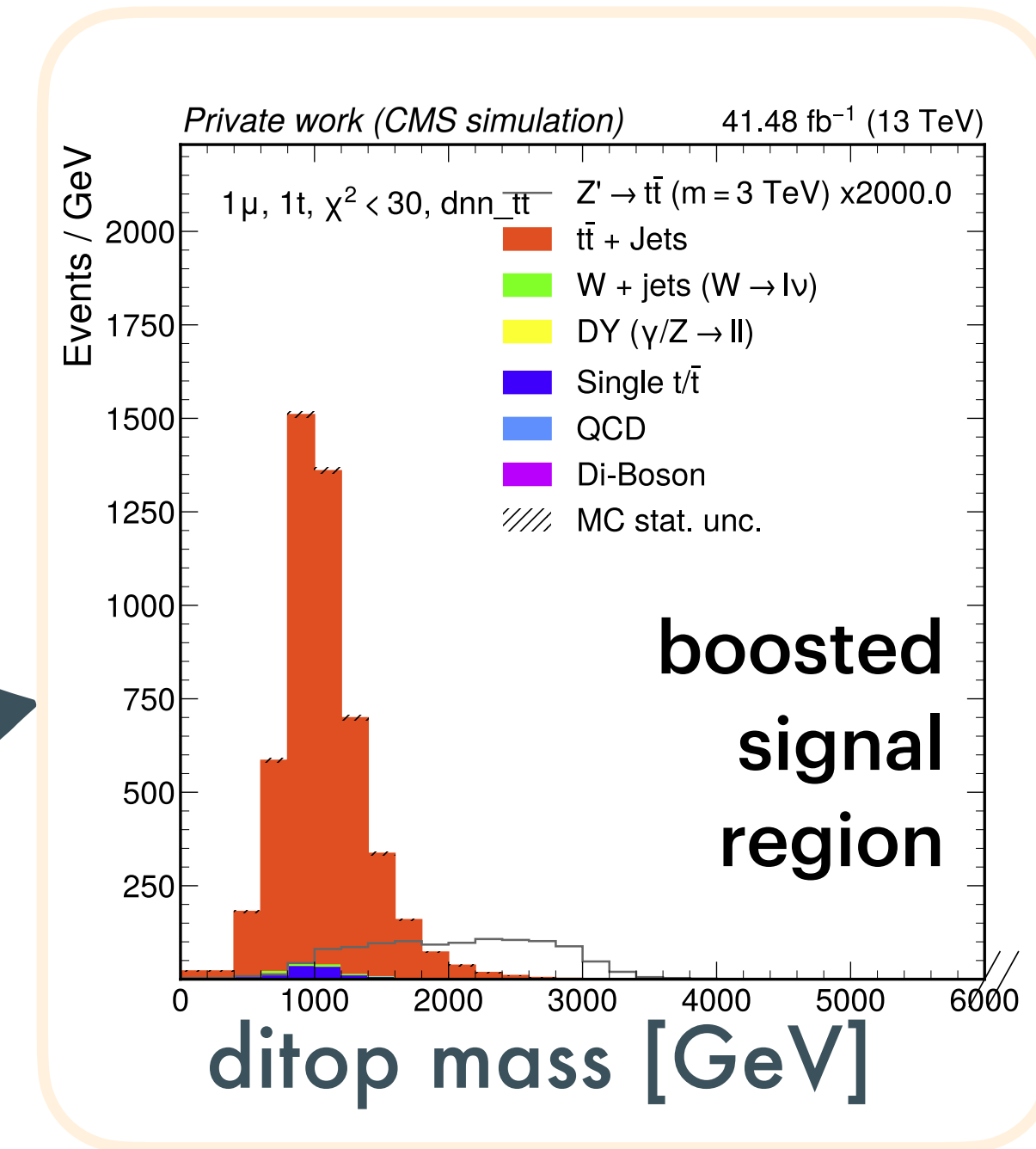
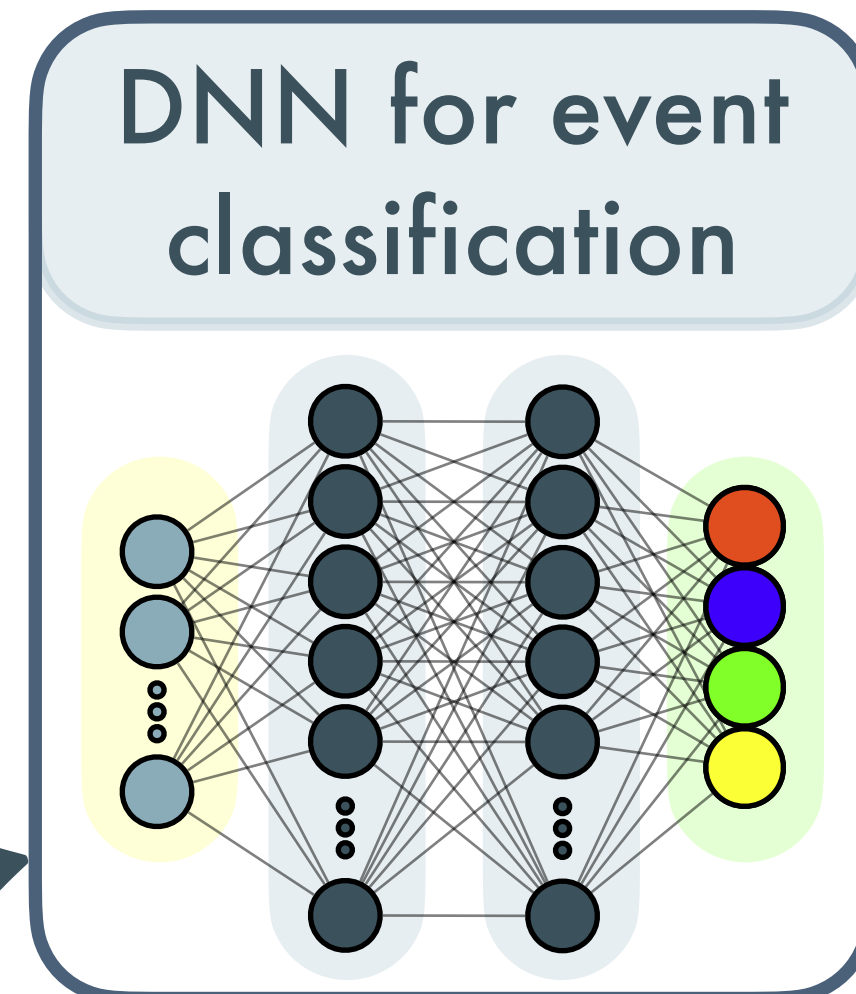
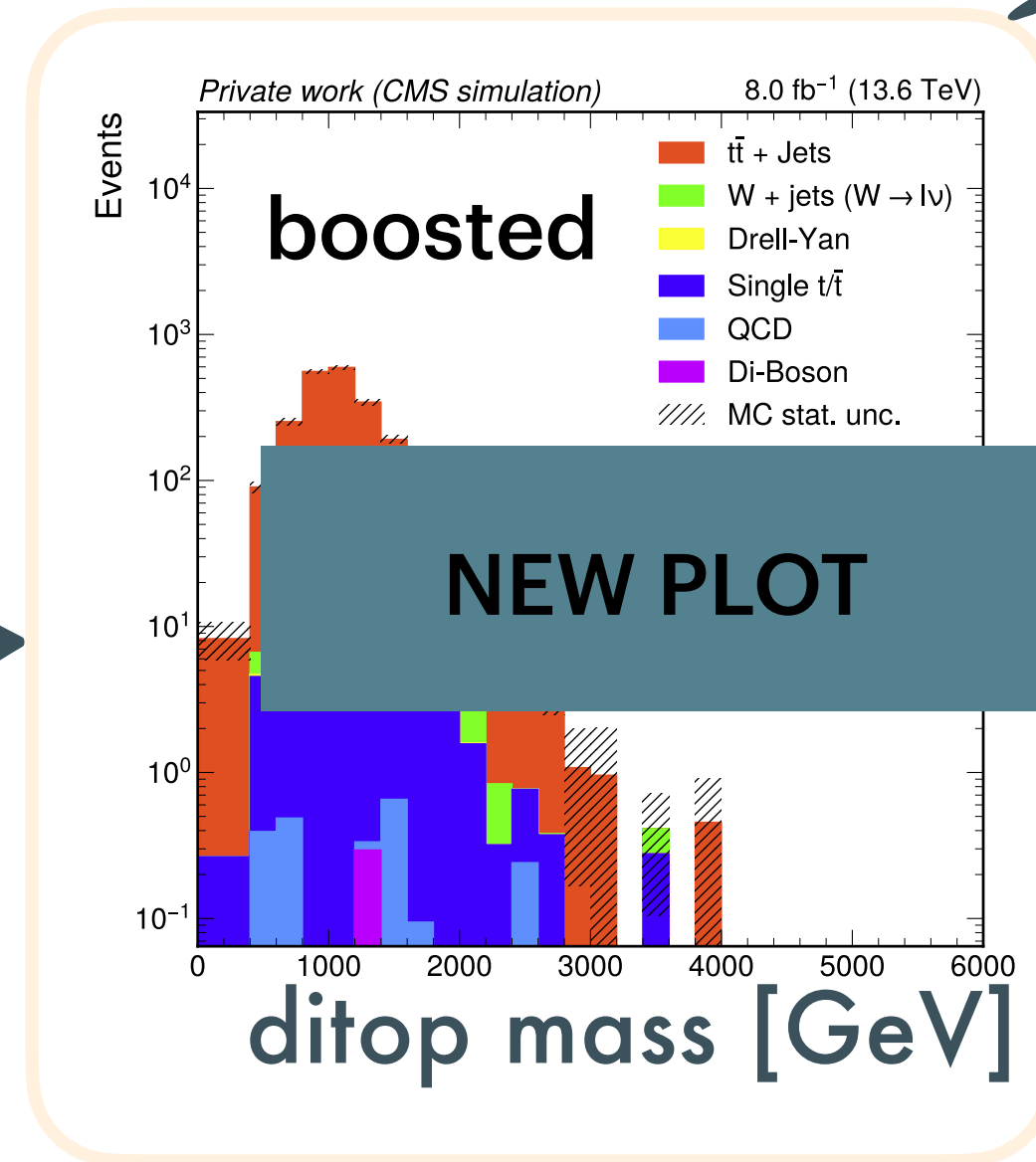
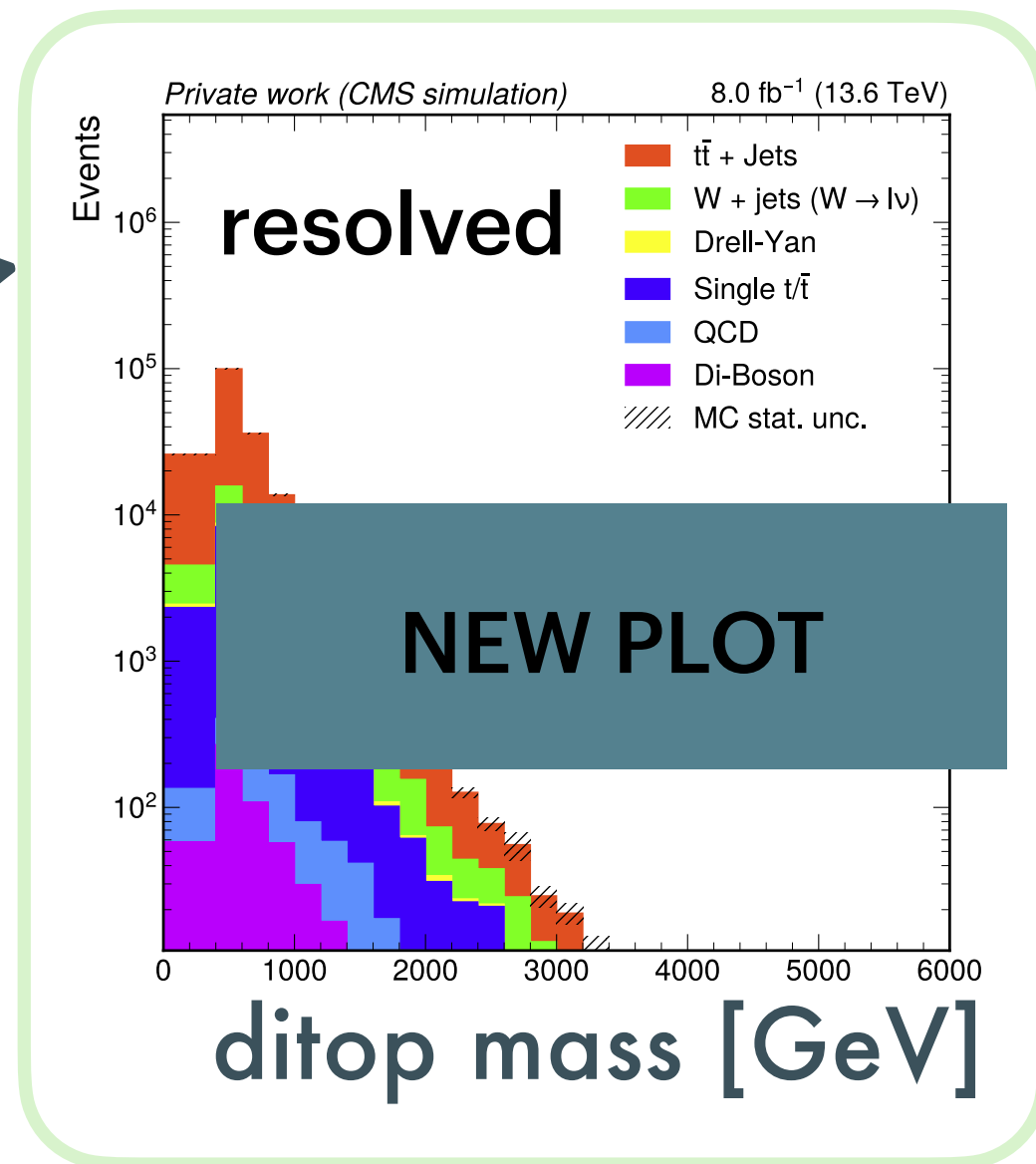


selected events

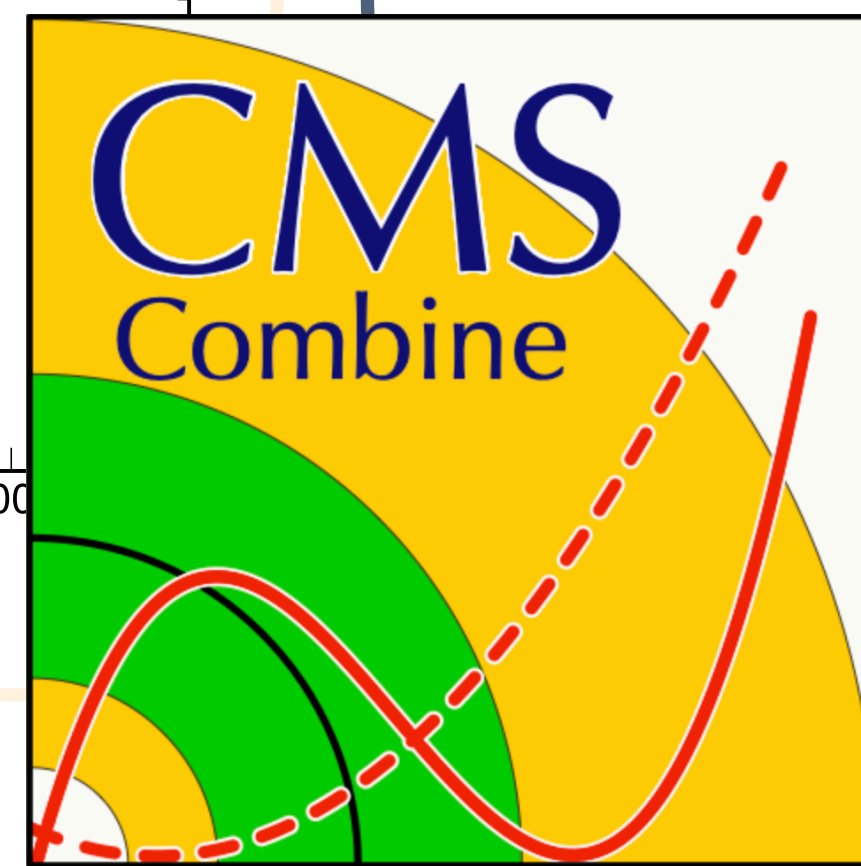
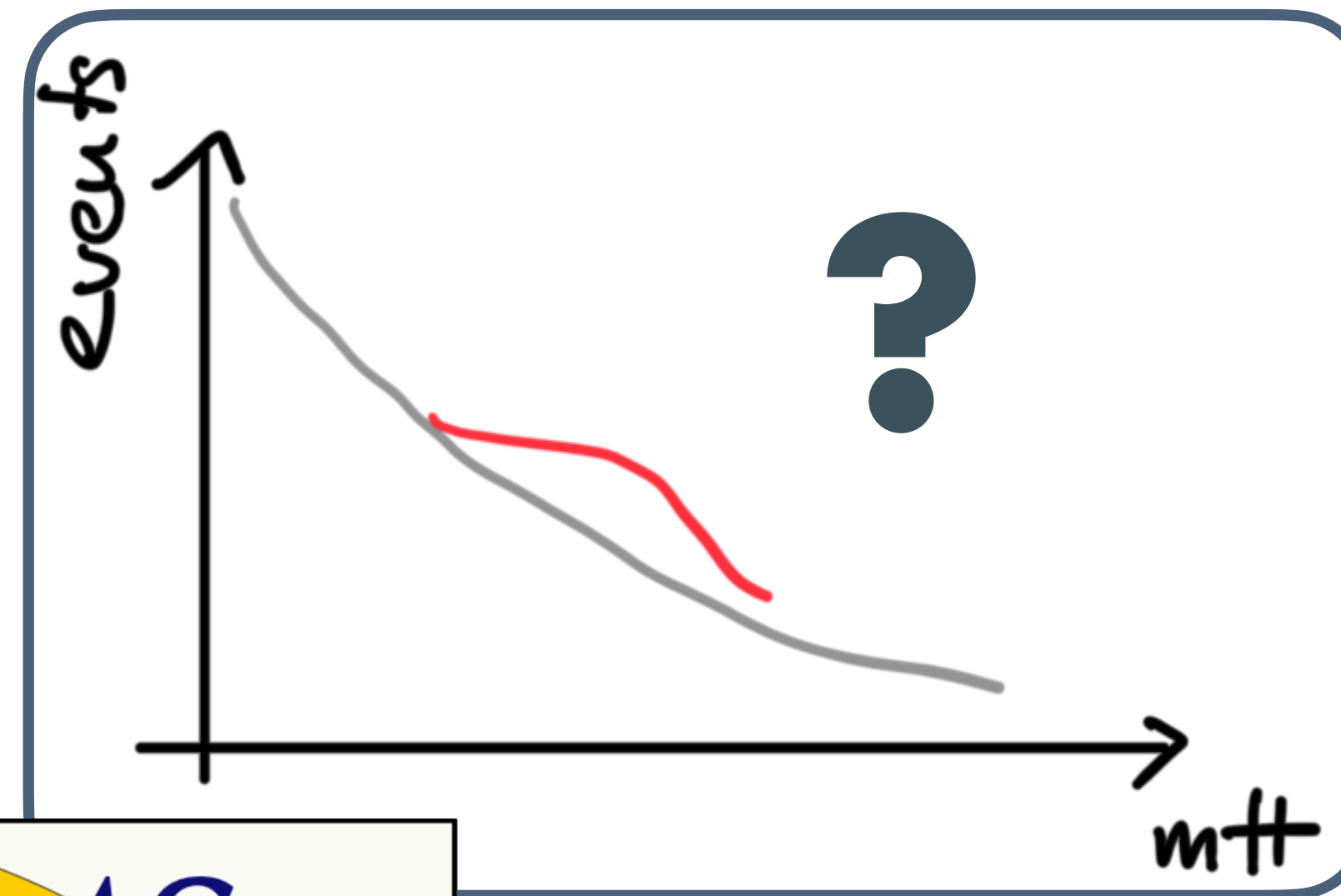
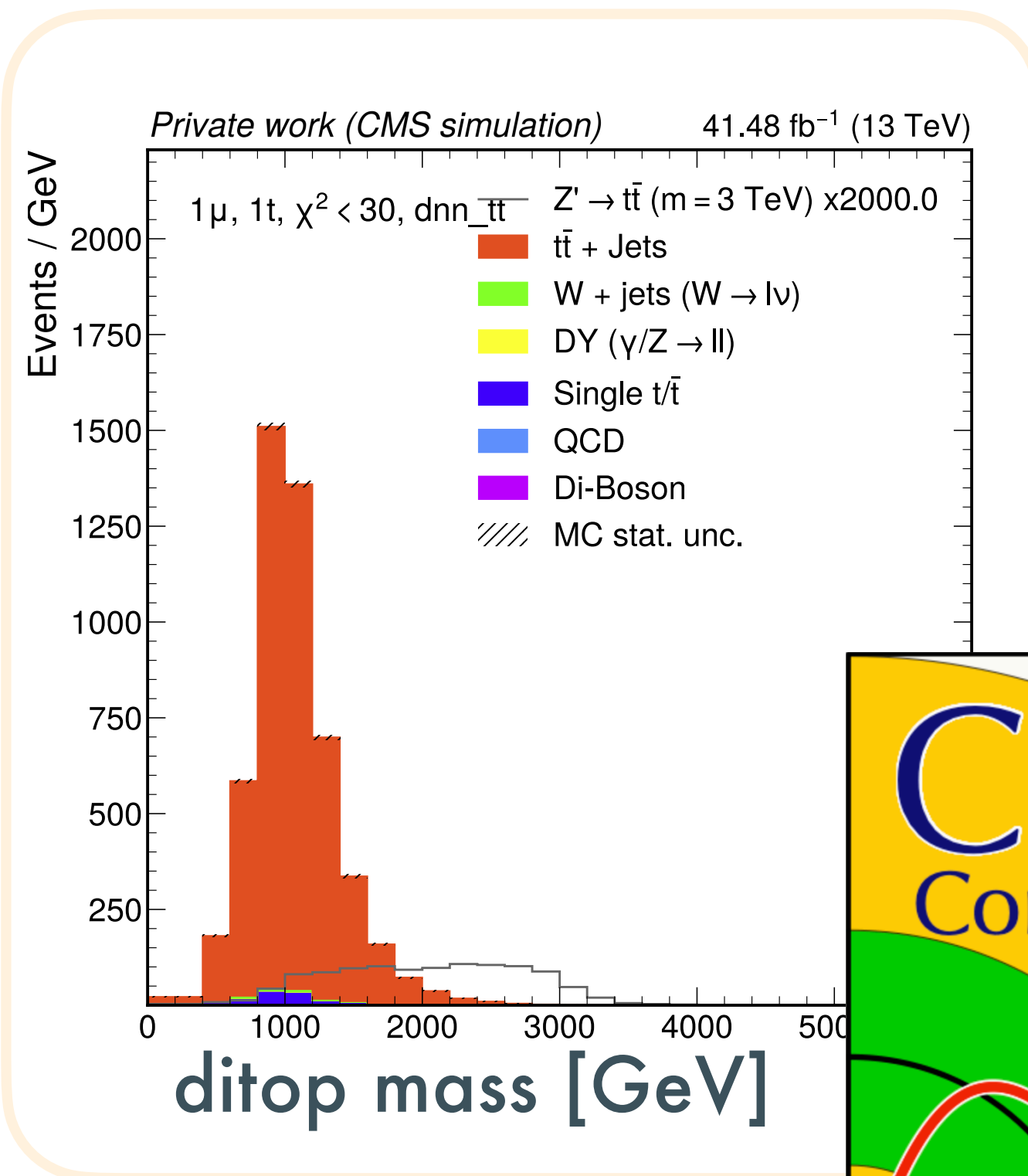
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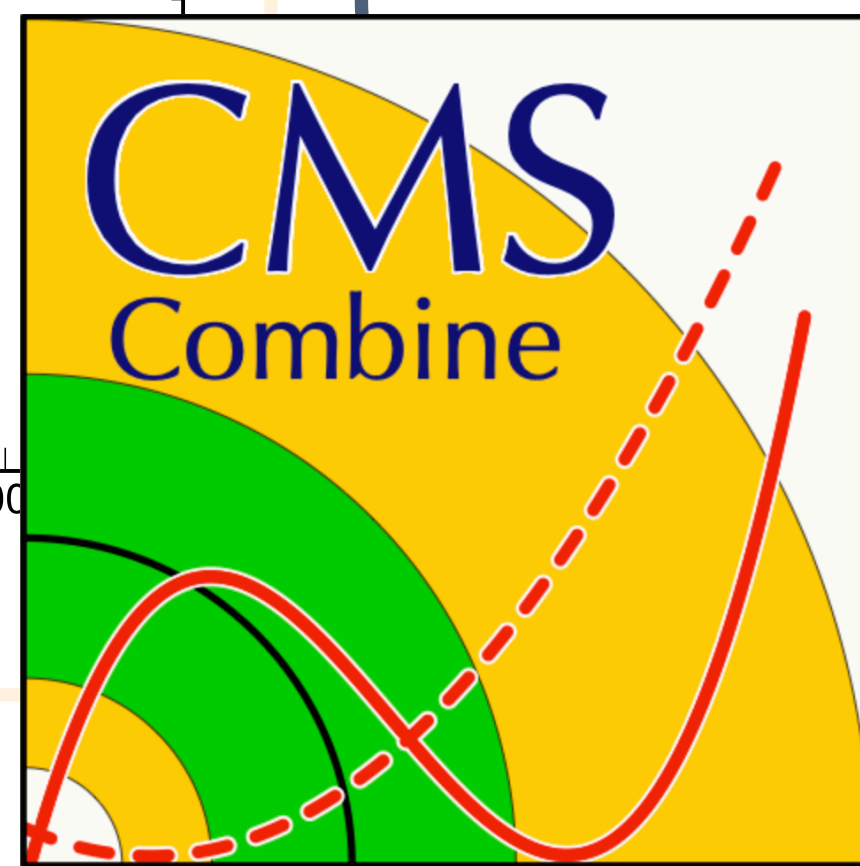
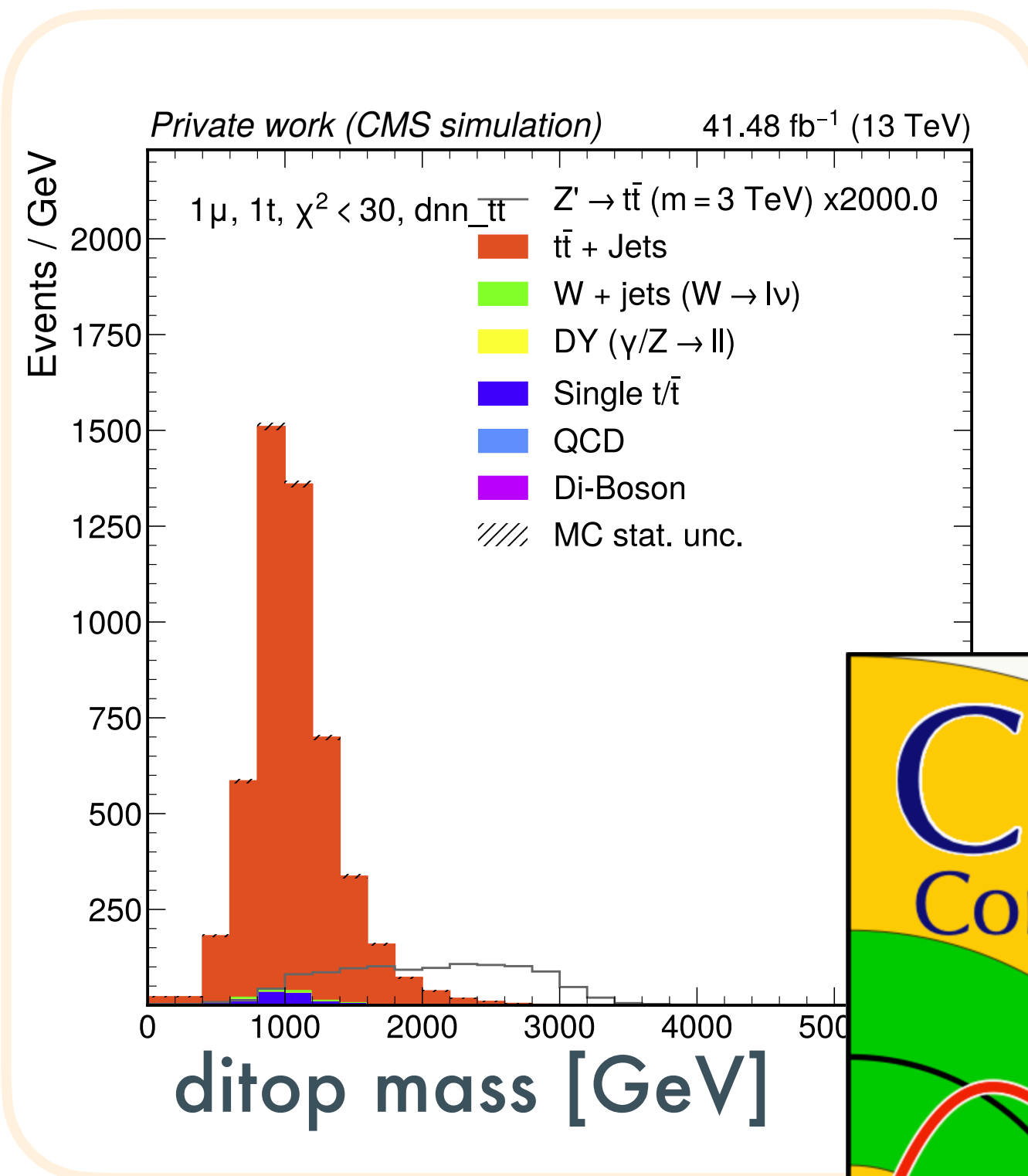
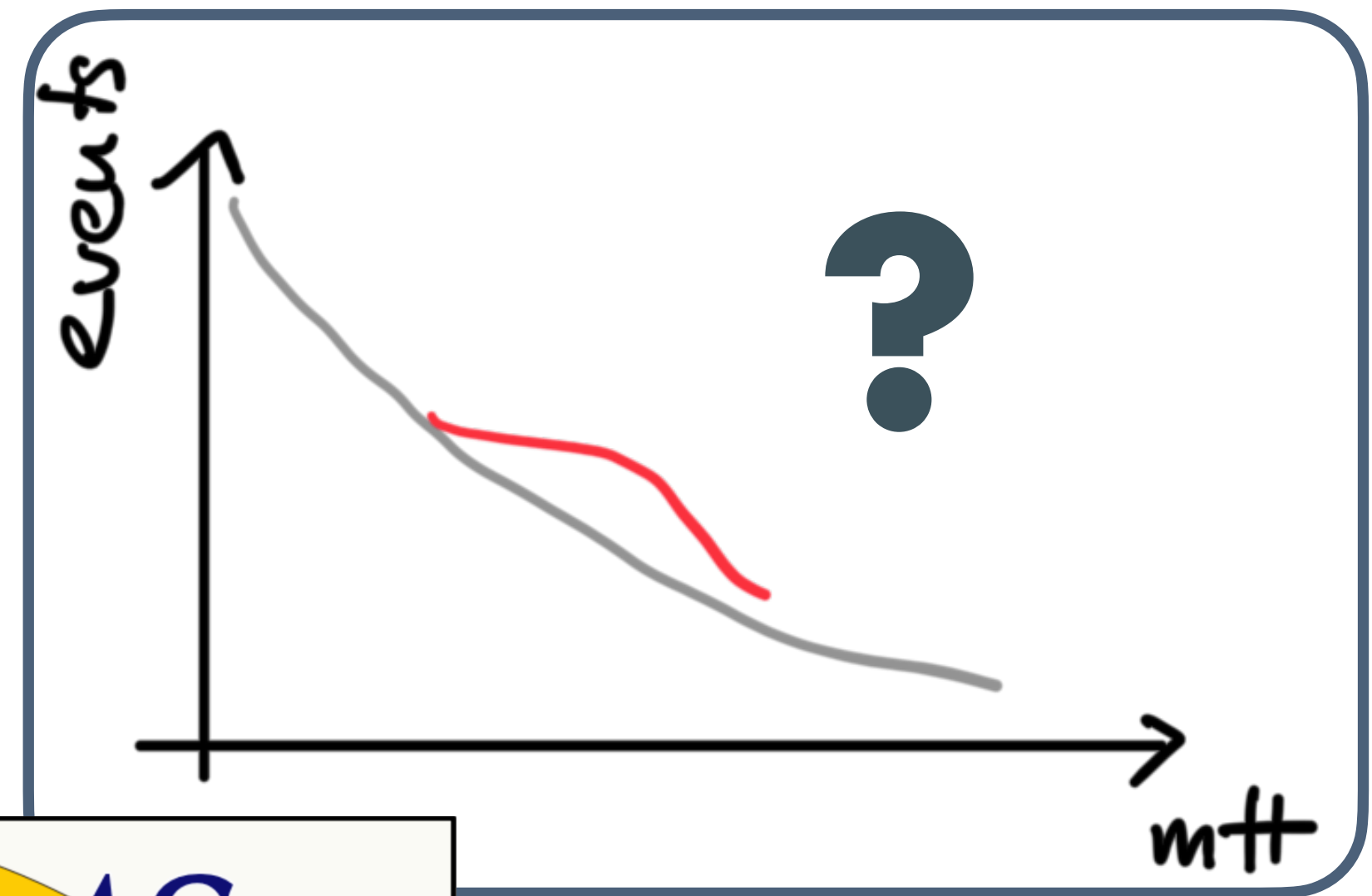
Statistical Analysis



CMS Combine

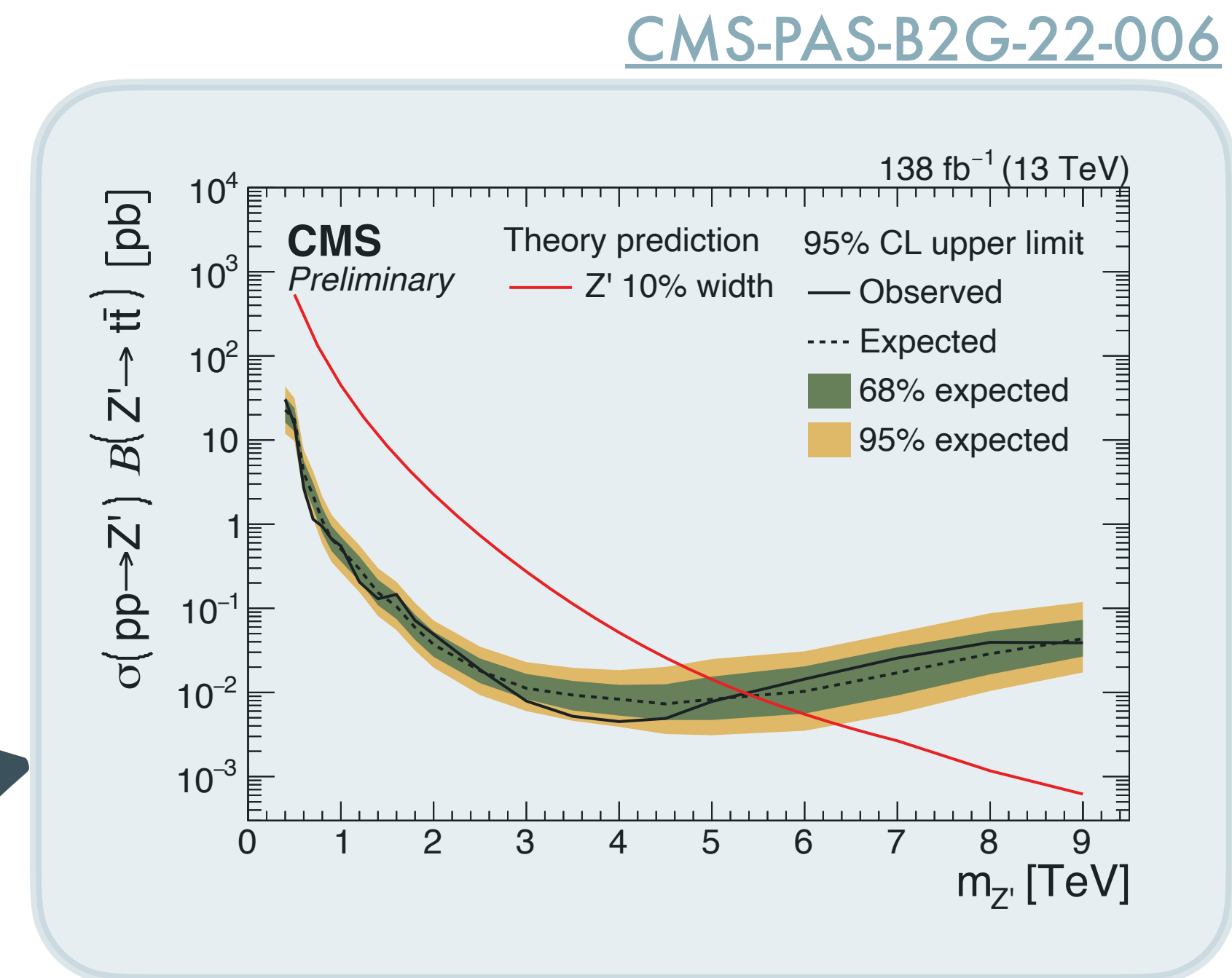
Comput.Softw.Big Sci. 8 (2024) 1, 19 - arXiv:2404.06614

Statistical Analysis



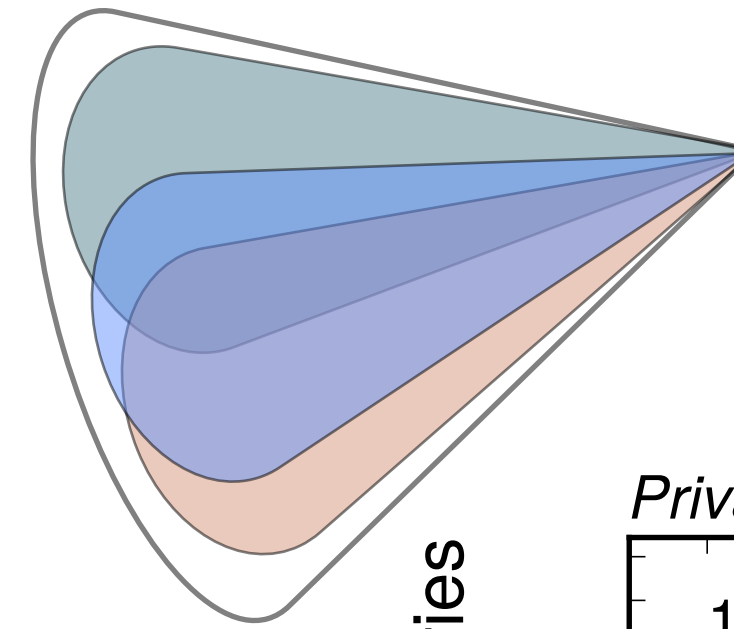
CMS Combine

Comput.Softw.Big Sci. 8 (2024) 1, 19 - arXiv:2404.06614



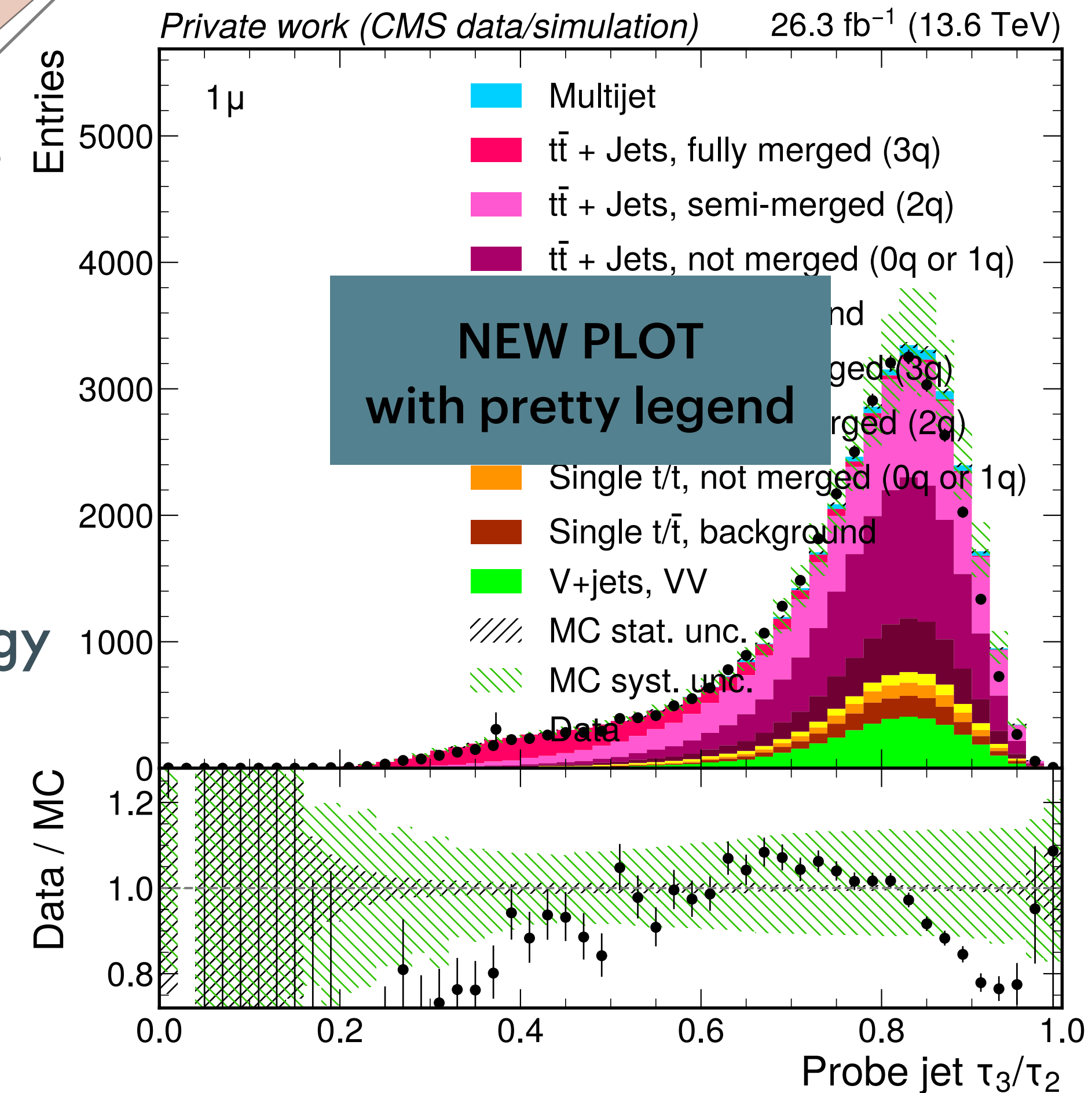
improve limits found
in Run 2 analysis

Summary



column
flow

- identification of boosted objects essential step in many analyses
- **boosted top quarks** as potential window to BSM physics
here: heavy Z/Higgs bosons, non resonant $t\bar{t}$ production
 - Run 2 search public under [CMS-PAS-B2G-22-006](#)
 - Run 3 search to use more data and improved analysis strategy
- **cut based top tagging algorithm** using jet substructure and soft drop mass as baseline for top tagging
 - derived working points and scale factors

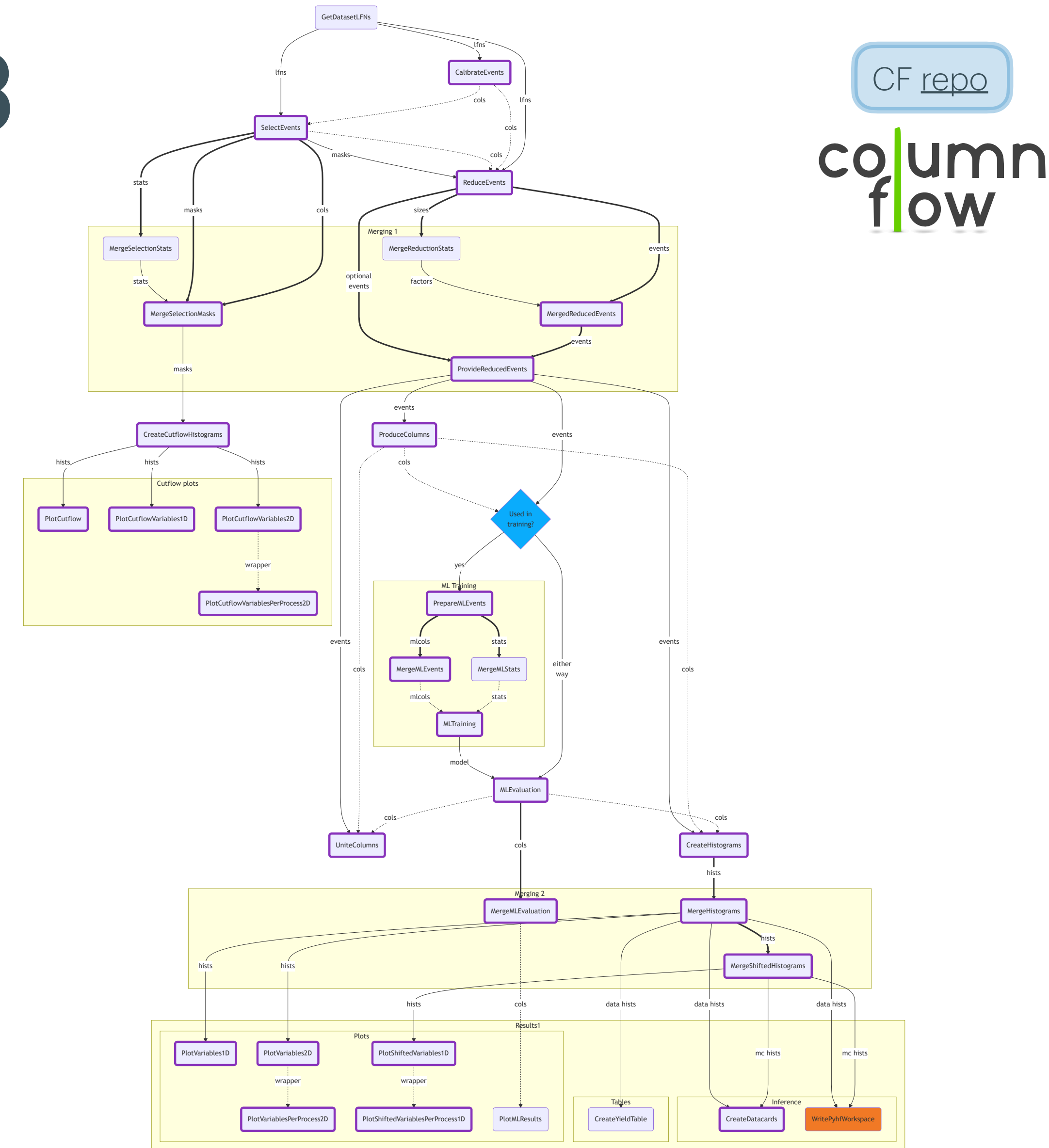


BACKUP

New Framework for Run 3

— columnar-based analysis with columnflow (CF) —

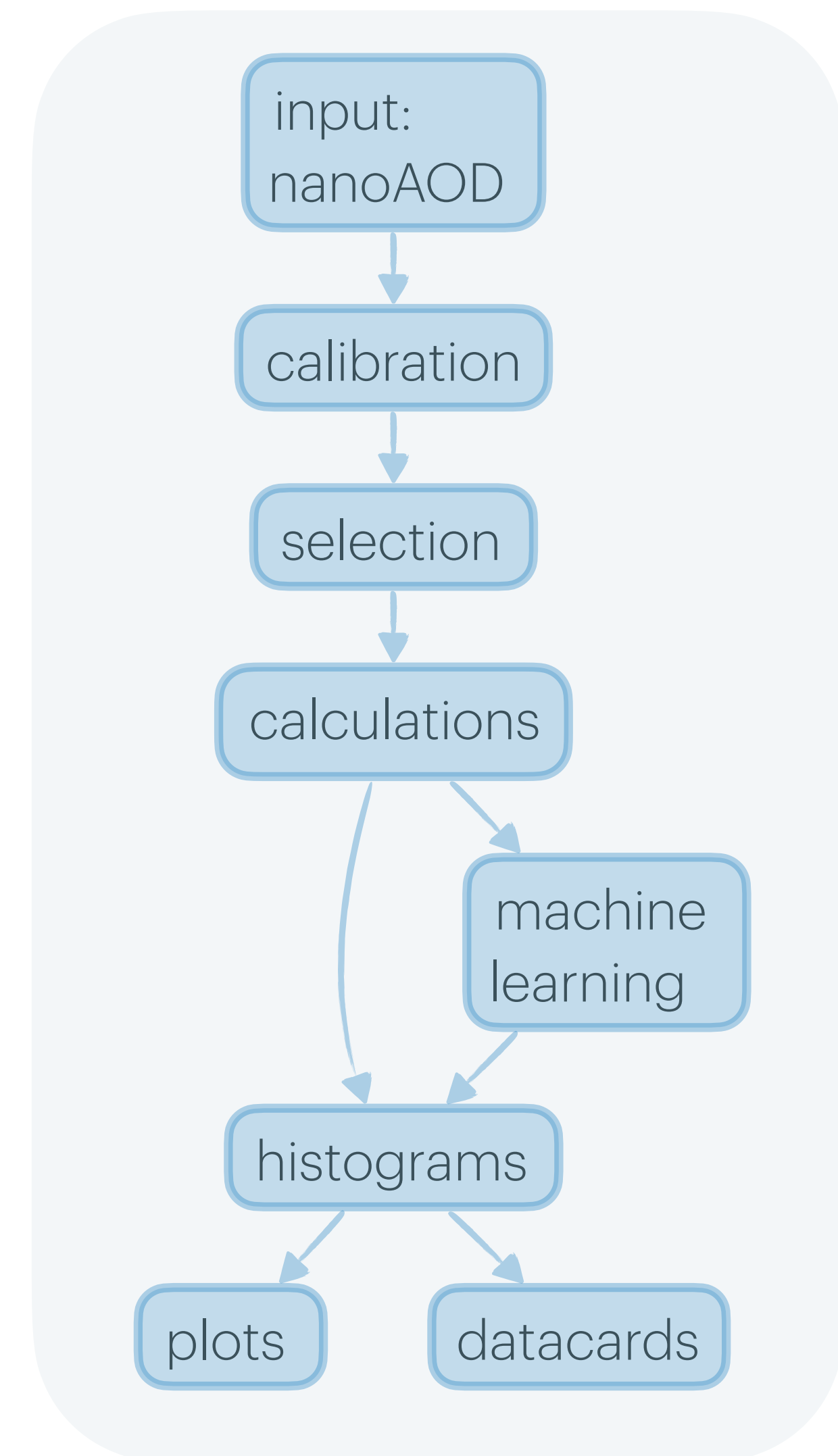
- new framework in development in CMS
- advantages:
 - ▶ columnar analysis
 - ▶ fully orchestrated with intermediate outputs
 - ▶ Python-based
- single command triggers complete workflow
 - ▶ very quick turnaround time



New Framework for Run 3

— columnar-based analysis with columnflow (CF) —

- new framework in development in CMS
- advantages:
 - ▶ columnar analysis
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CF [repo](#)
column
flow

Procedure and Selection

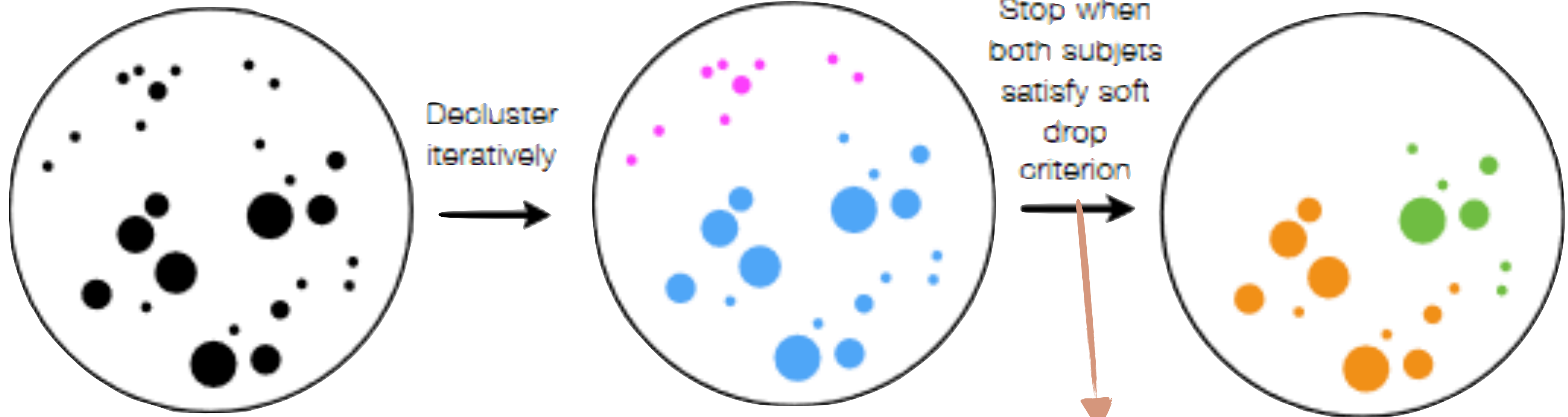
— for WP derivation —

1. Set mis-tag rates defining the WP:
 - 0.1% → very tight
 - 0.5% → tight
 - 1.0% → medium
 - 2.5% → loose
 - 5.0% → very loose
 2. Plot mis-tag rate and determine cut values on τ_{32}
 3. Plot signal efficiency and determine signal efficiency for these cut values/WP
- select FatJet (AK8 jet) with
 - $|\eta| < 2.4$
 - $p_T > 400 \text{ GeV}$
→ boosted regime
 - in $t\bar{t}$ bar sample to determine signal efficiency:
uniquely matched to parton-level top quark
 - additional softdrop mass constraint:
 $105 < m_{SD} < 210 \text{ GeV}$
→ window around top mass

m_{SD} Of FatJets

Soft Drop

image credit: J. Dolen
from [cms-opendata-workshop](https://cms-opendata-workshop.github.io/)



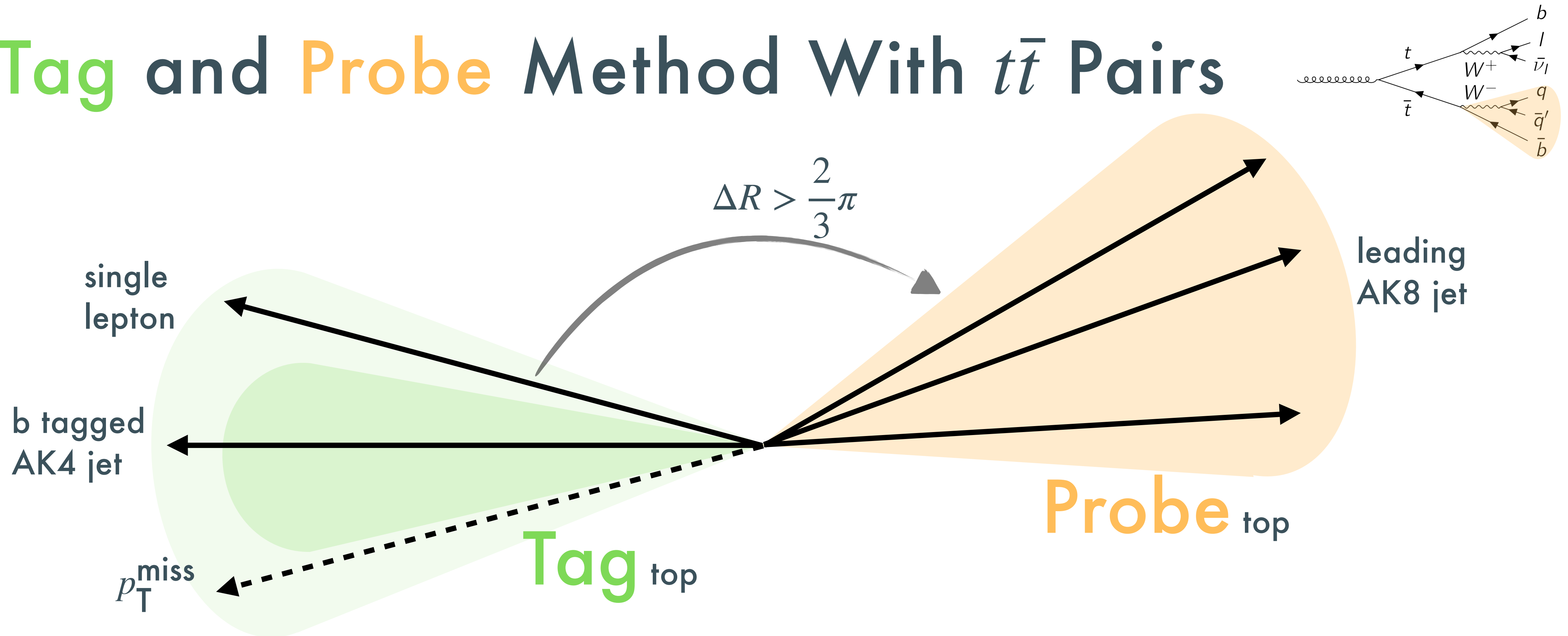
$$\frac{\min(p_{T1}, p_{T2})}{p_{T1} + p_{T2}} > z_{\text{cut}} \cdot \left(\frac{\Delta R_{12}}{R_0} \right)^\beta$$

$$\beta = 0$$

$$z_{\text{cut}} = 0.1$$

→ fails for wide-angle soft radiation

Tag and Probe Method With $t\bar{t}$ Pairs

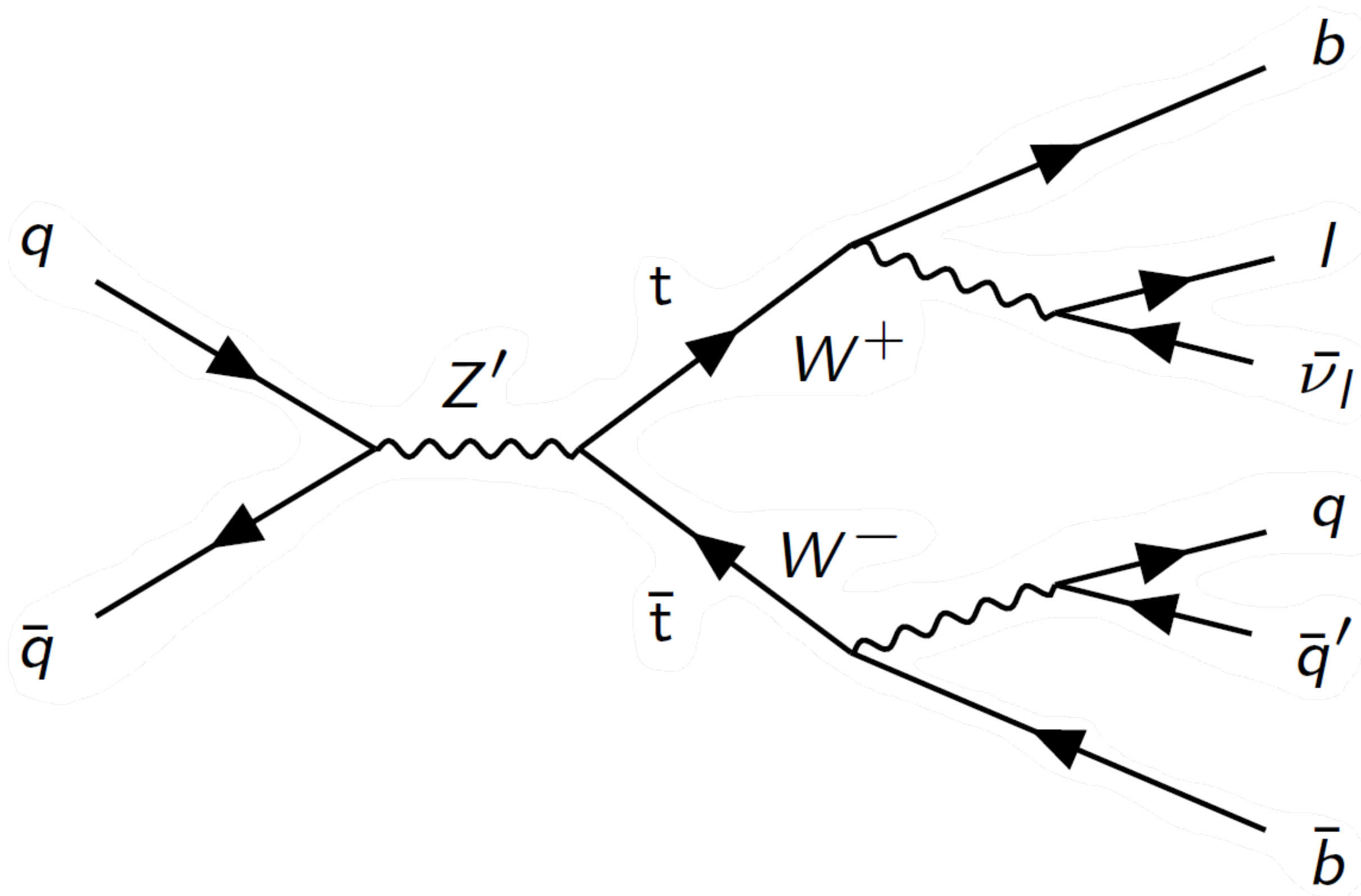


- single lepton
- $p_{T, \text{lep}} > 55 \text{ GeV}$
- b-tagged AK4 jet close to lepton
- $p_{T, \text{AK4}} > 15 \text{ GeV}$
- $p_T^{\text{miss}} > 50 \text{ GeV}$
- $p_T(W_{\text{lep}}) > 150 \text{ GeV}$
- $p_{T, \text{AK8}} > 300 \text{ GeV}$
- jet-lepton 2D isolation

Baseline Selection

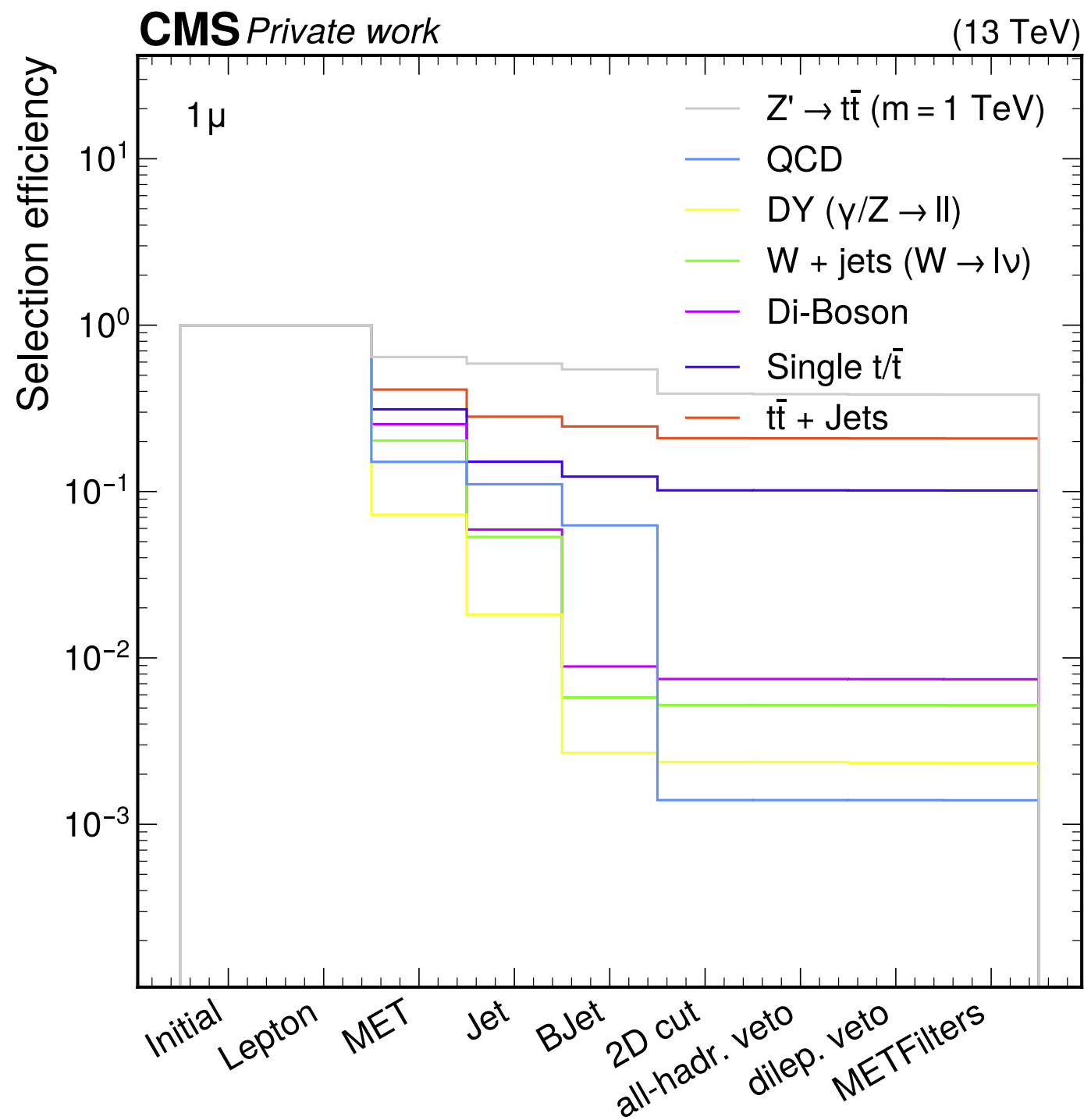
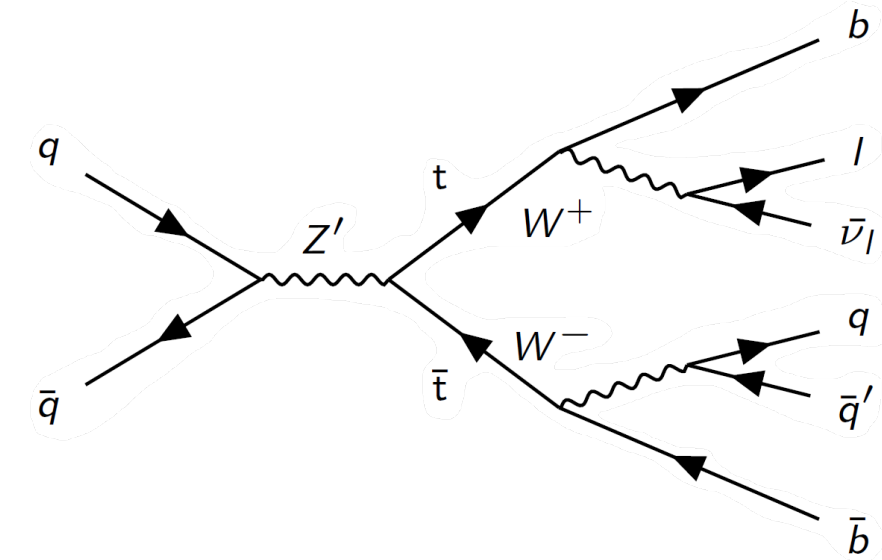
— in numbers —

muon/electron channel

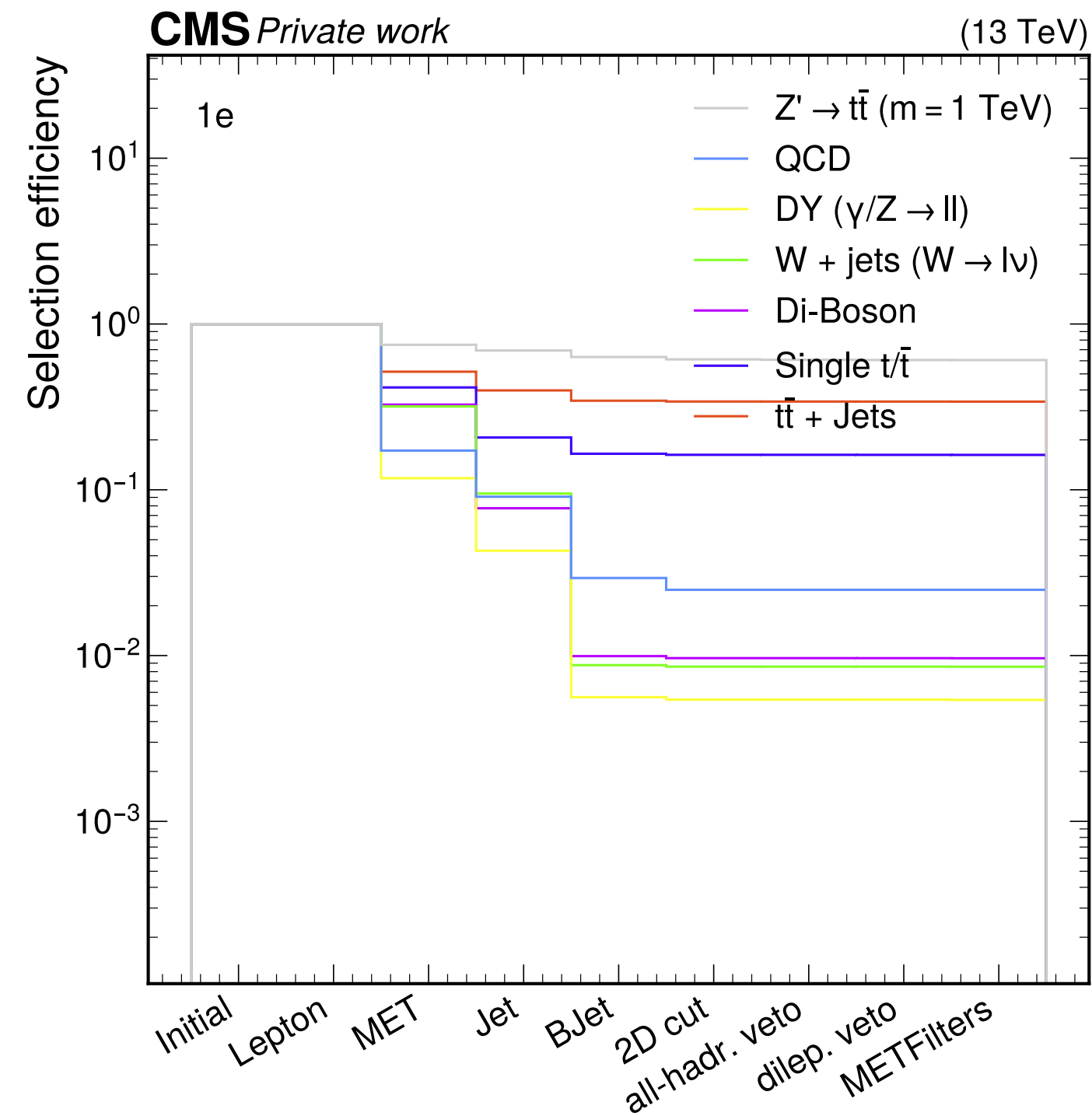


- lepton selection:
 - single muon/electron trigger
 - low p_T : $30/35 < p_T < 55/120$ GeV and isolation
 - high p_T : $p_T > 55/120$ GeV and 2D isolation
 - $|\eta^{\mu/e}| < 2.4$
- $p_T^{\text{miss}} > 70/60$ GeV
- at least two jets with $|\eta| < 2.5$ and:
 - $p_T^{\text{jet1}} > 50/50$ GeV
 - $p_T^{\text{jet2}} > 50/40$ GeV
 - at least one b-tagged jet

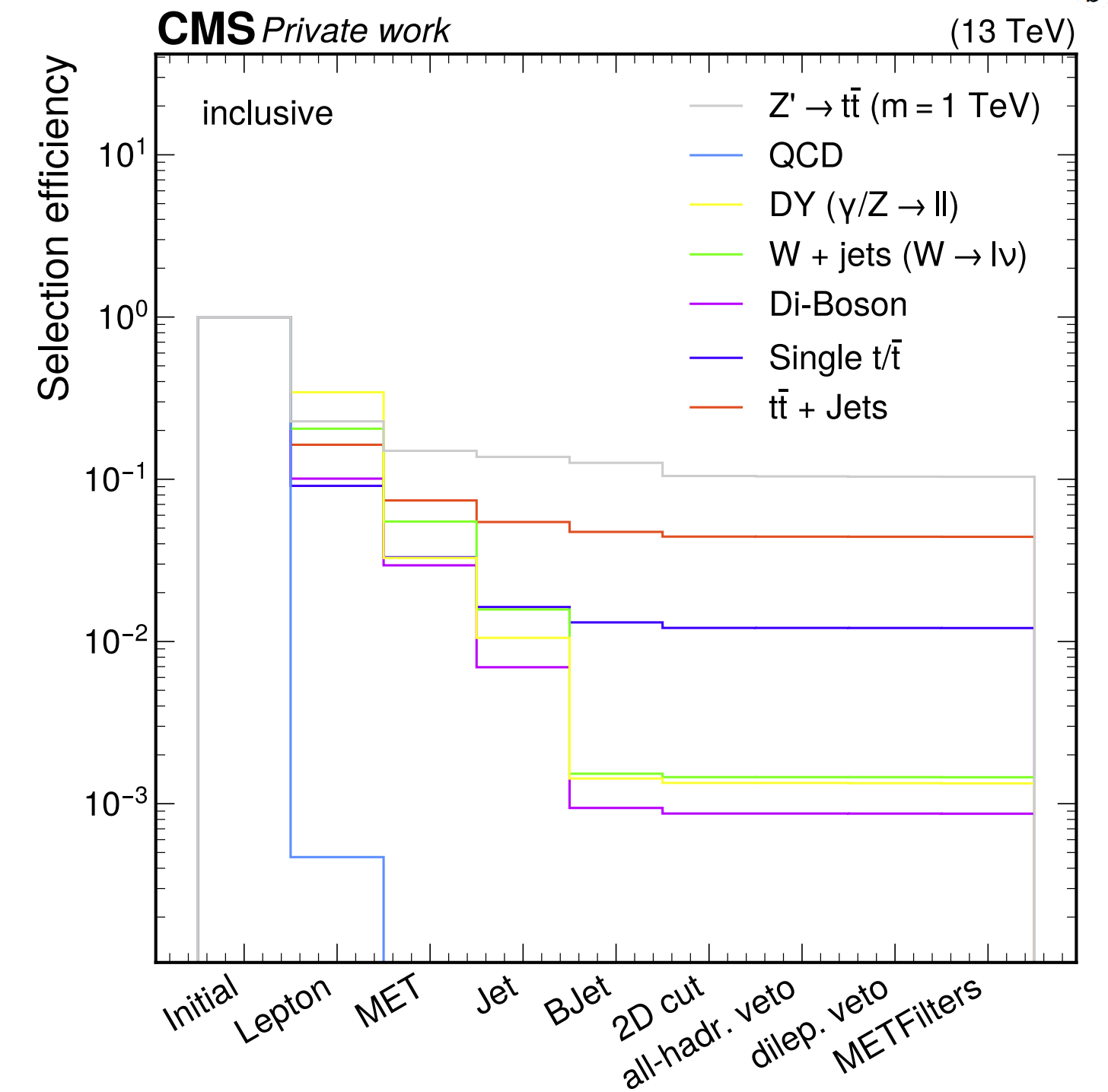
Selection Efficiencies



muon channel



electron channel

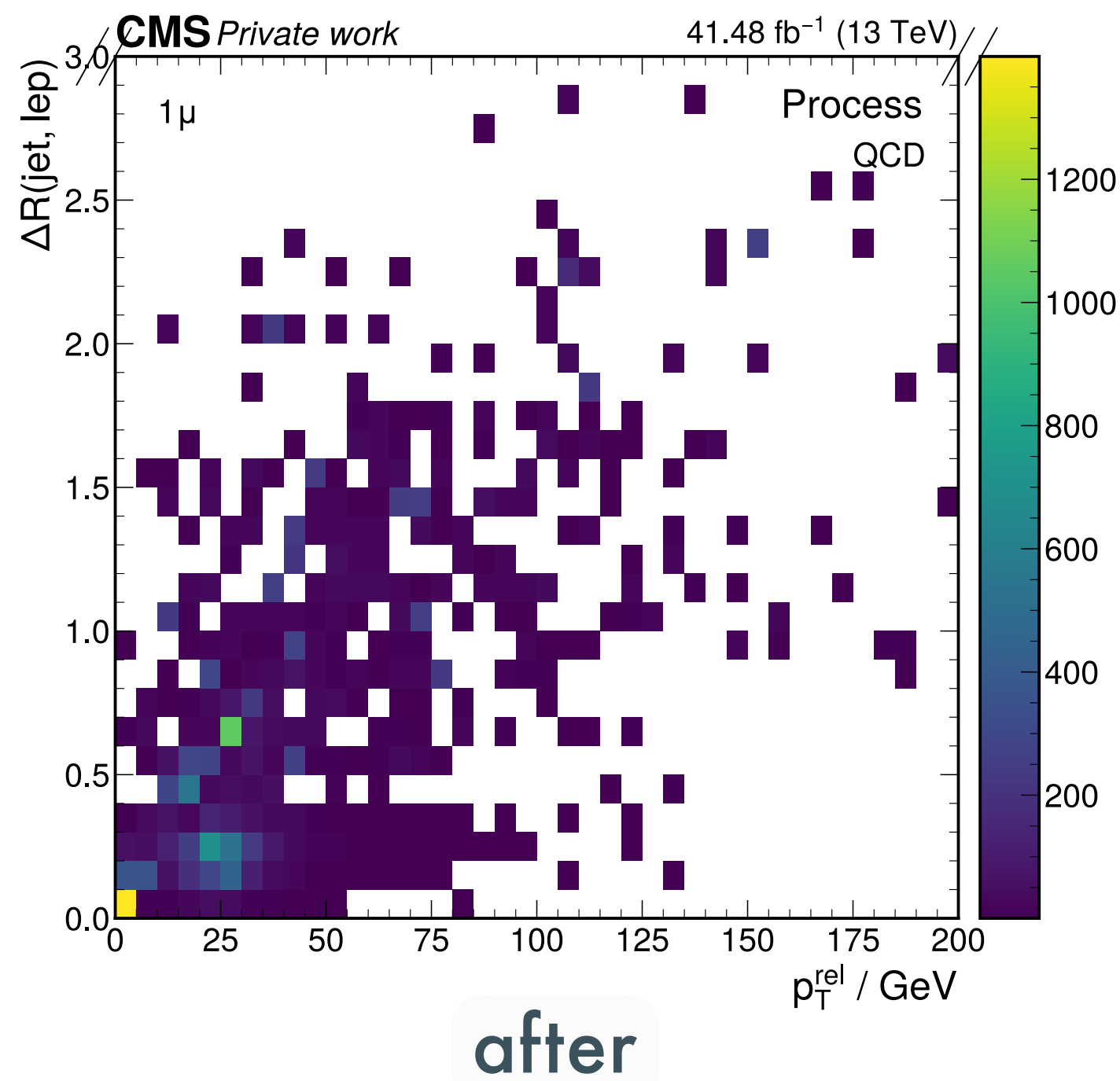
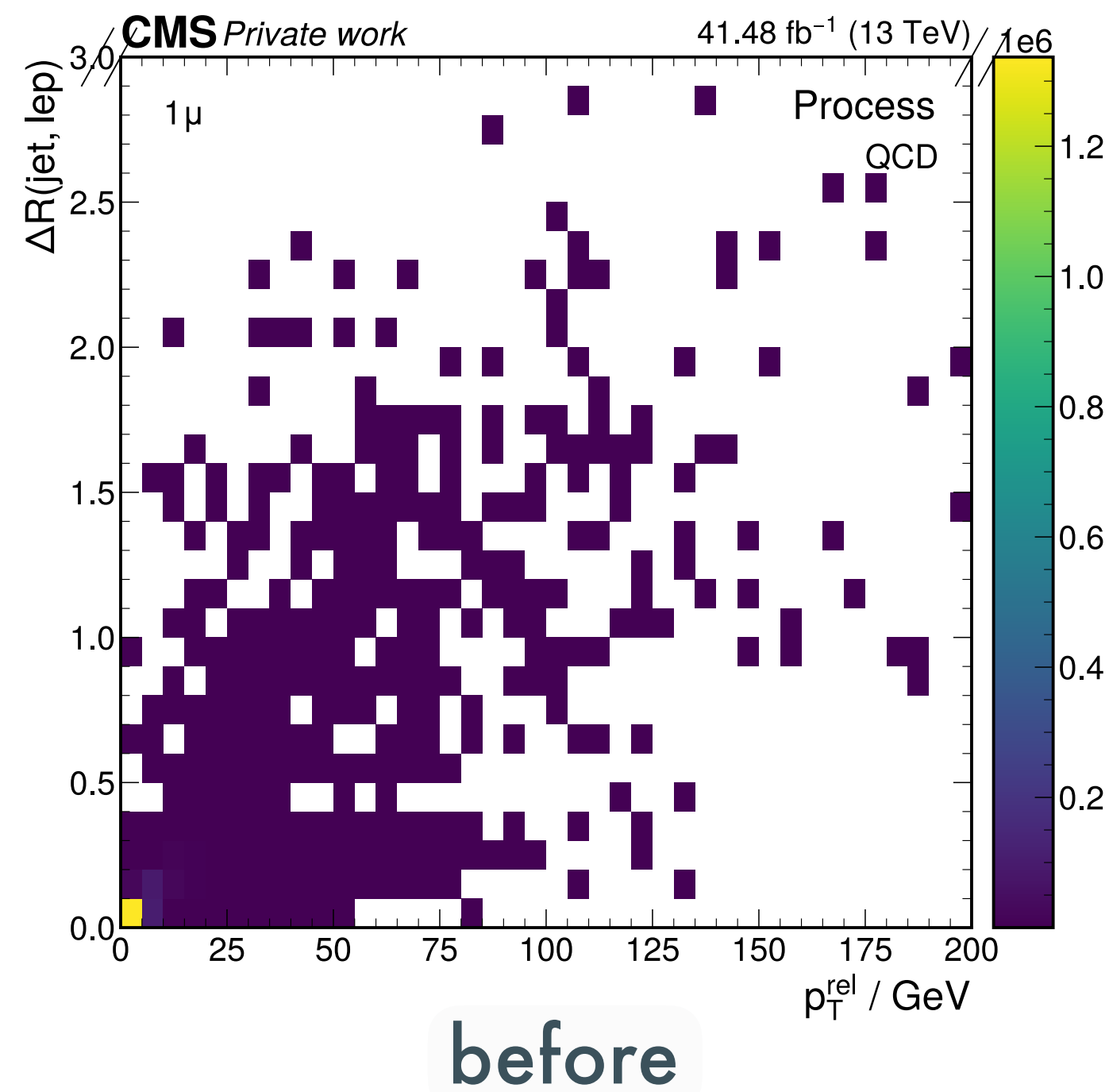
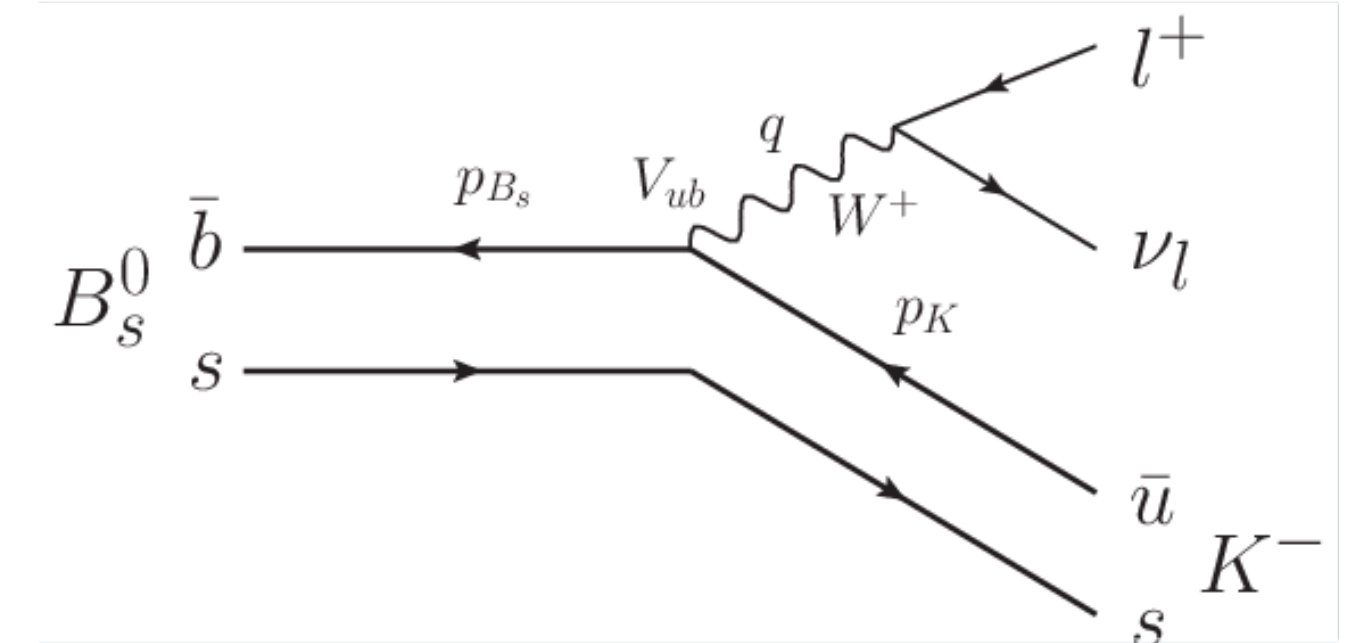


inclusive channel

Jet-Lepton 2D Cut

— filtering leptonic B meson decays —

$$\Delta R_{\min}(\text{lep}, \text{jet}) > 0.4 \text{ or } p_{\text{T}, \text{rel}}(\text{lep}, \text{jet}) > 25 \text{ GeV}$$



- note different color scale!
- 2D cut only in high p_{T} regime of lepton
 - contribution of low p_{T} contributions in first bin
- reduces QCD background

Merge Category Algorithm

— process_ids producer—

Process	Decay mode	# of merged quarks	Subprocess
tt	semi-leptonic	3	tt_3q
		2	tt_2q
		1 or 0	tt_1o0q
	dileptonic or fully hadronic	any	tt_bkg
st	hadronic	3	st_3q
		2	st_2q
		1 or 0	st_1o0q

Process	Top decay	Assoc. W decay	# of merged quarks	Subprocess
st_tW	leptonic	hadronic	3	st_bkg*
			2	st_2q
			1 or 0	st_1o0q
st_tW	leptonic	leptonic	any	st_bkg
st_other	leptonic	--	any	st_bkg

process ID set per event from gen level info:

1. Check if **st** or **tt**.
2. Check if **bkg**:
no probejet
OR top decay merged into probejet not hadronic
OR associated b quark and both associated W
decay products merge into probejet
3. Check if **3q** or **2q**:
not **bkg**
AND exactly 3/2 quarks merged into probejet
4. Check if **0o1q**:
not **bkg**
AND 0 or 1 quarks are merged into probejet

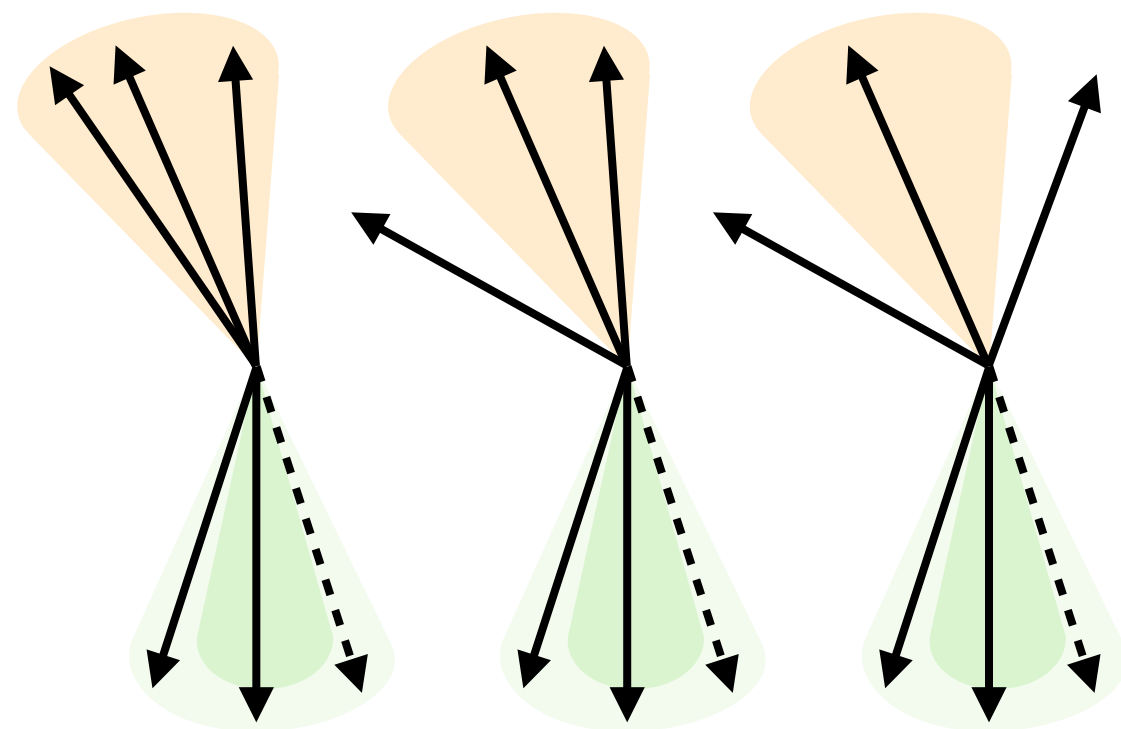
Combine Physics Model

- with seesaw condition, keeping N_{total} constant
- SF_{pass} as parameter-of-interest, determining SF_{fail}
- one fit per combination of year/era and WP
 - ▶ simultaneous fit for **merge categories** and **p_T bins** of probe jet:

Seesaw Condition

$$N_{\text{total}} = N_{\text{pass}} + N_{\text{fail}} = \text{const}$$

$$SF_{\text{fail}} = (1 - SF_{\text{pass}}) \cdot \frac{N_{\text{pass}}^{\text{prefit}}}{N_{\text{fail}}^{\text{prefit}}} + 1$$



$SF_3q/2q/0o1q_22_pt_300_400$
 $SF_3q/2q/0o1q_22_pt_400_480$
 $SF_3q/2q/0o1q_22_pt_480_600$
 $SF_3q/2q/0o1q_22_pt_600_inf$

} → 12 scale factors

Main Uncertainties

— in Run 2 —

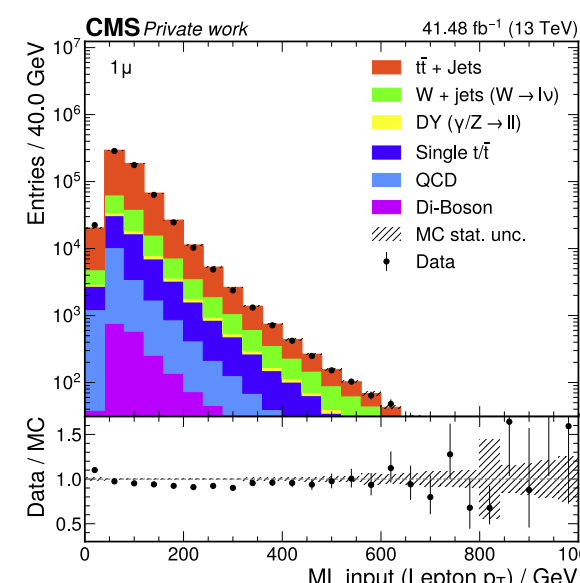
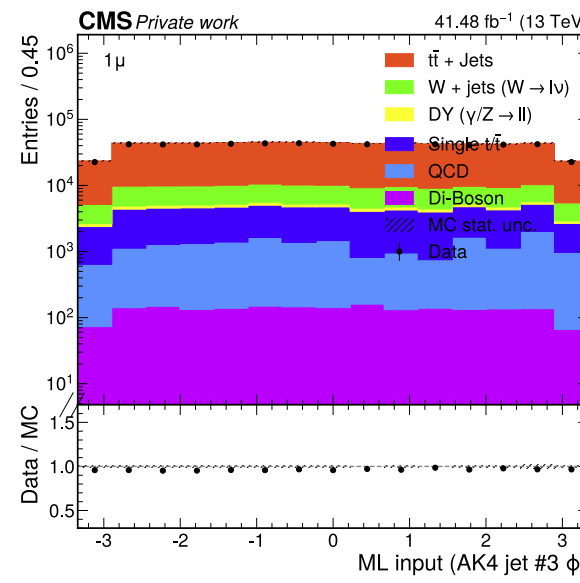
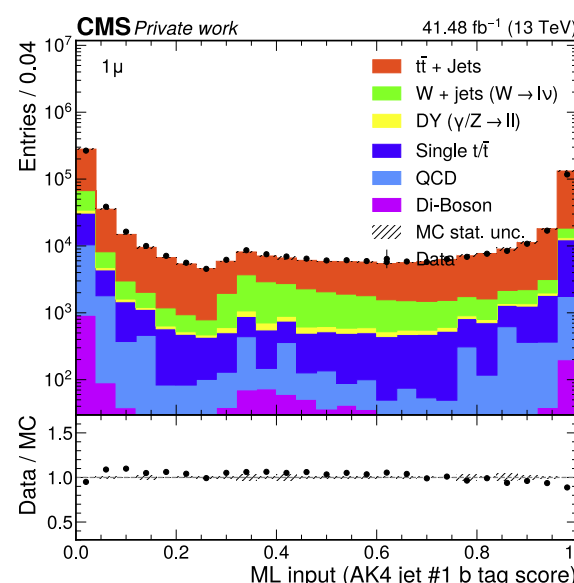
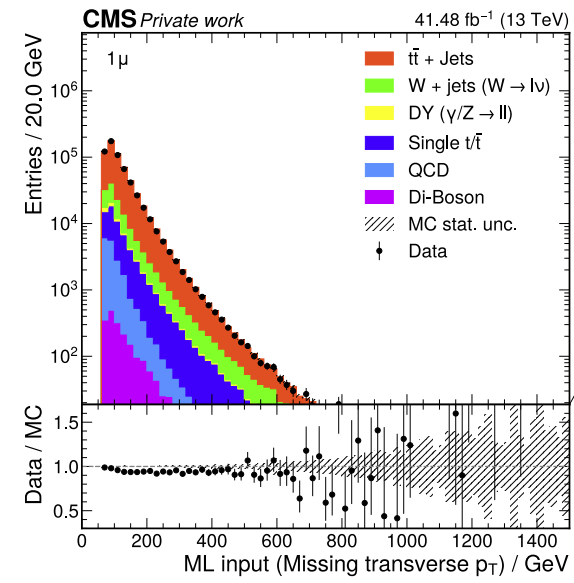
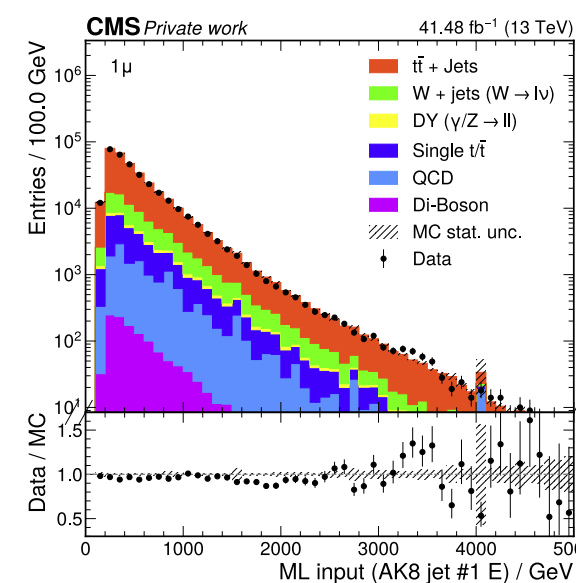
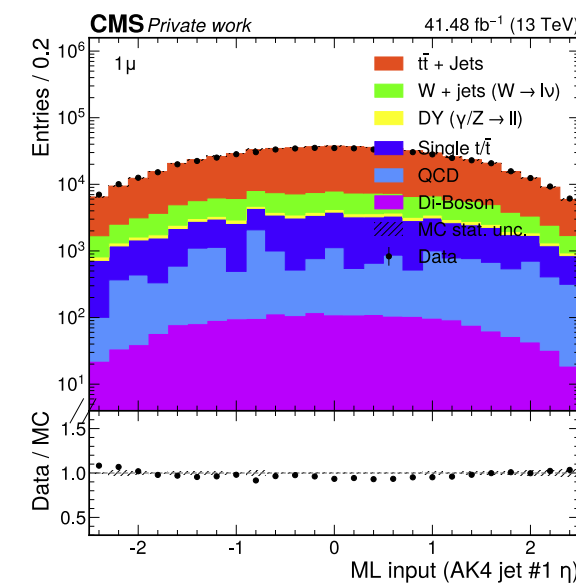
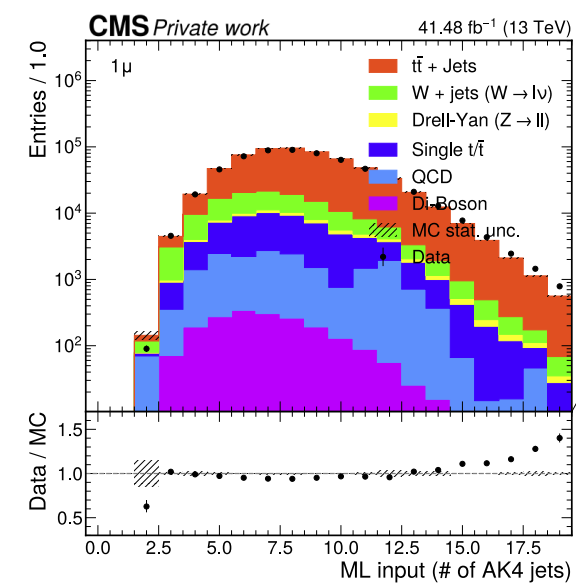
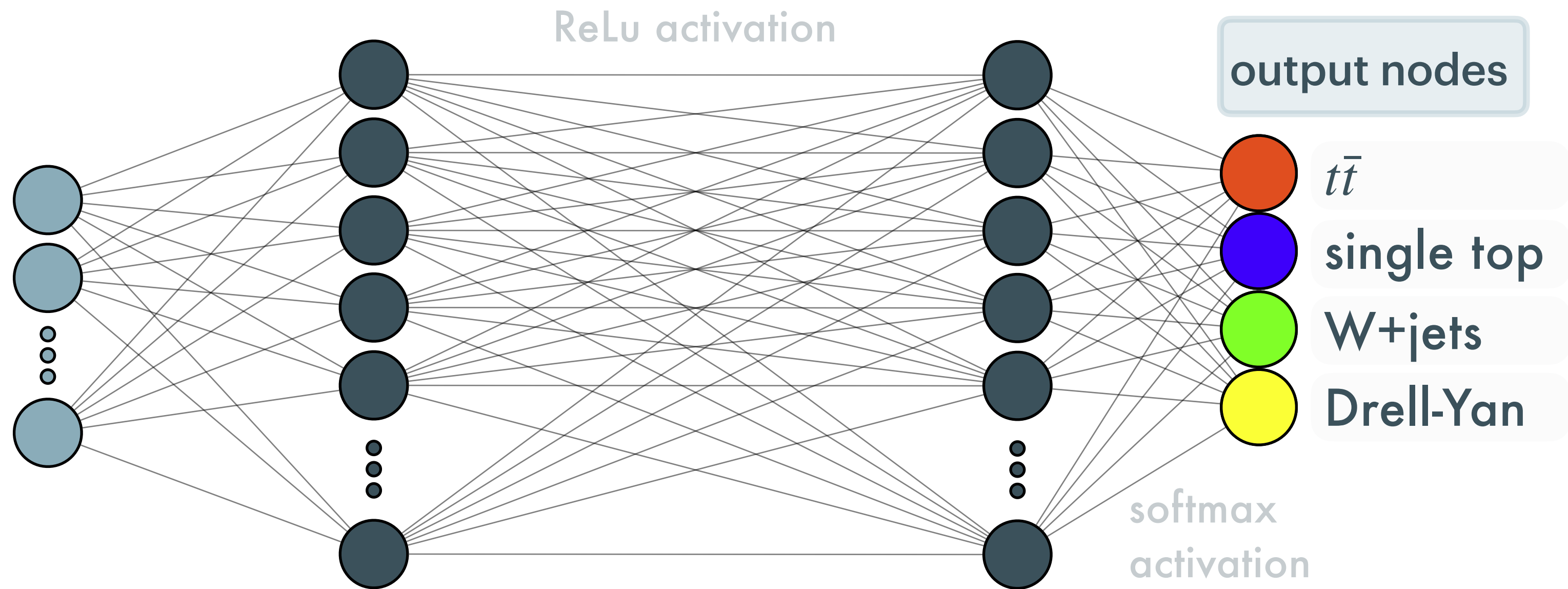
- checked Run 2 impacts (JMAR Meeting 06.06.23) and wrote down five highest for each SF in each pT bin:
 - FSR q2qgMuR/g2ggMuR/x2xgMuR available in Nano as PSWeight, not split (single NP)
 - xsec tt/st/mj/vx already used in v8 fit
 - scale tt/st available in Nano as LHEScaleWeight
 - toppt B available
 - JES all unc. sources available from central json
 - PU available (minbias_xs)
 - btagging to be investigated

DNN for Event Classification

— network architecture —

59 input features:

- jet multiplicities
- kinematic properties of objects (MET, jets, lepton)

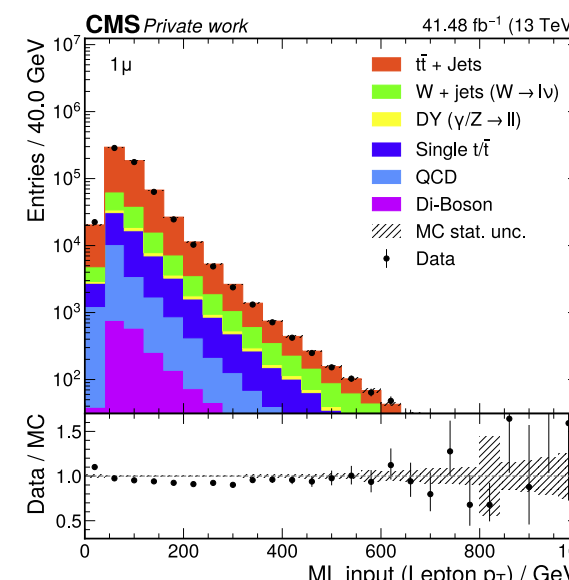
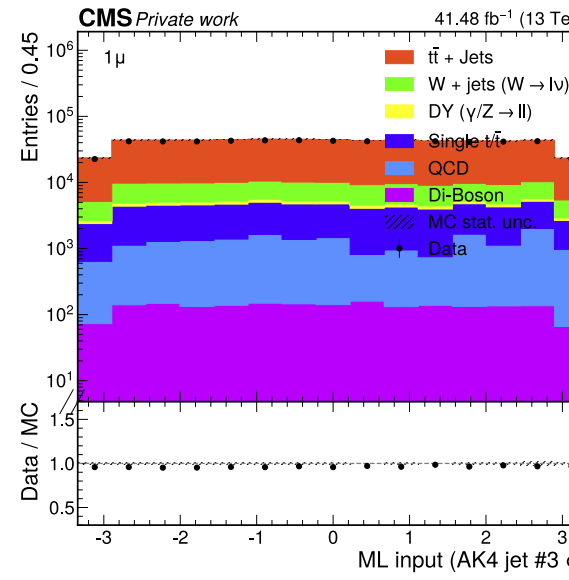
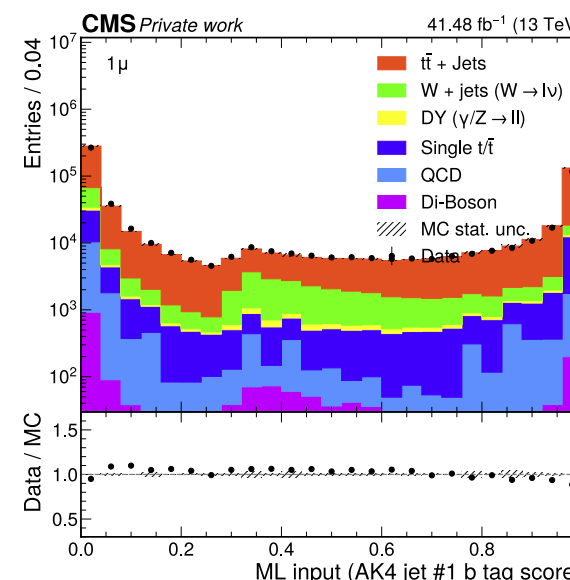
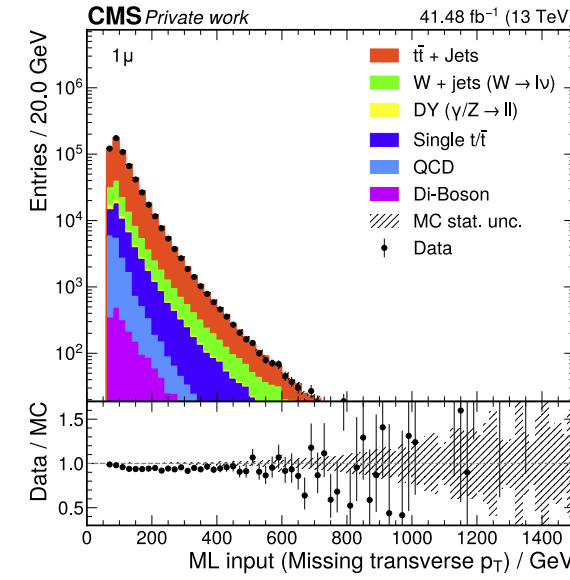
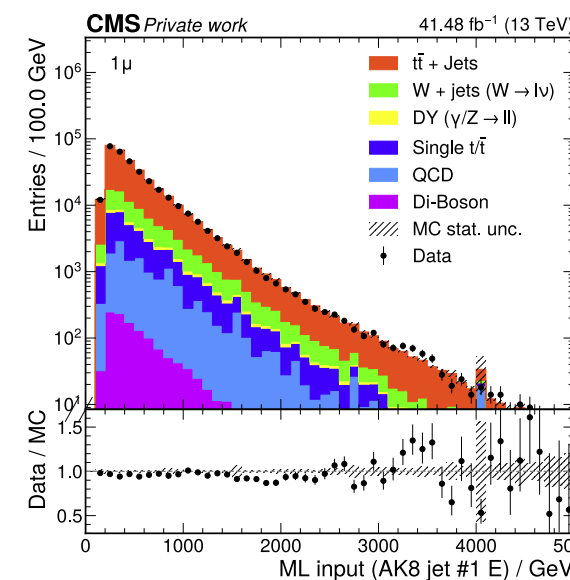
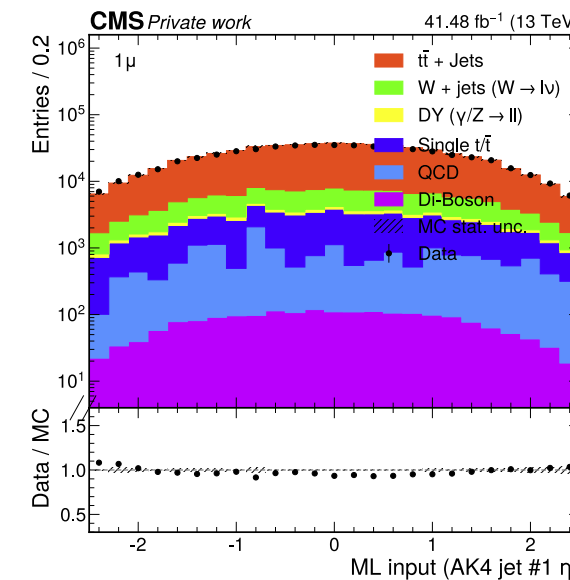
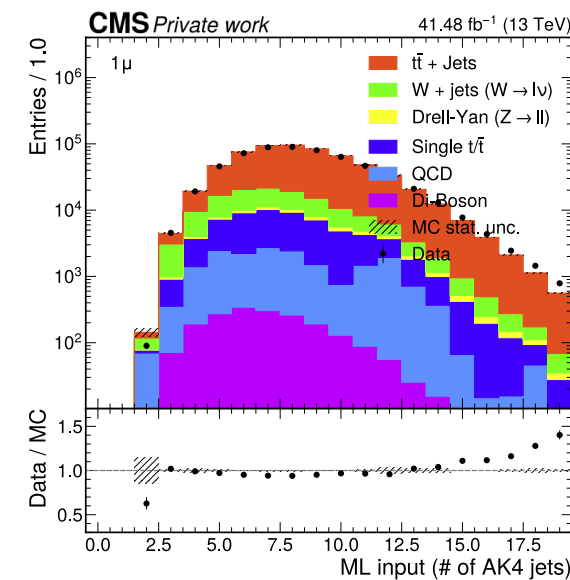
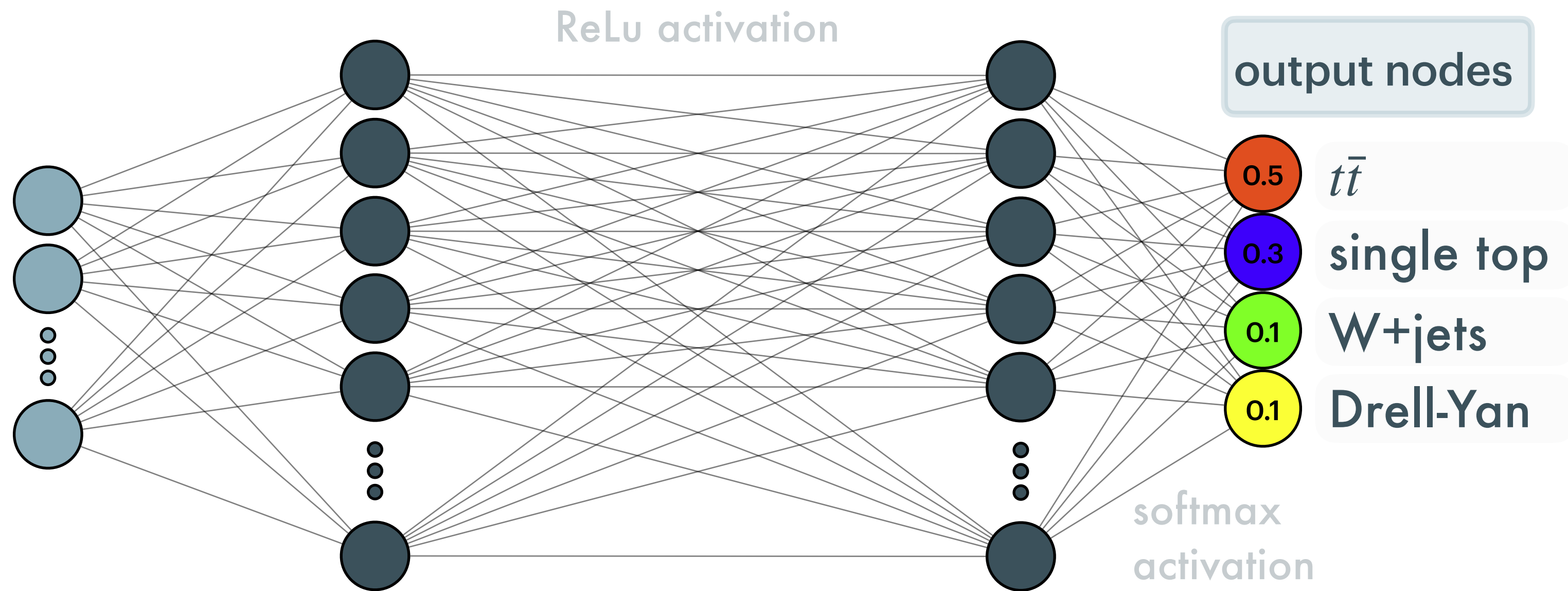


DNN for Event Classification

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DNN Parameter

59 input features

jet multiplicity	5 AK4 jets	3 AK8 jets	lepton	MET
N_{AK4}	E	E	E	p_T
N_{AK8}	p_T	p_T	p_T	ϕ
	η	η	η	
	ϕ	ϕ	ϕ	
	mass	softdrop mass		
	b-tag score	τ_{21}		
		τ_{32}		

model hyperparameters

- AdamOptimizer
- ReLu activation for hidden layers
- softmax activation for output layers
- batchsize = 32768
- drop out rate = 0.5
- epochs $\leq$ 500
- folds = 5
- learning rate = 0.0005
- validation fraction = 0.25