

The Impact of Topo-Cluster Splitting on Boosted Object Identification in ATLAS

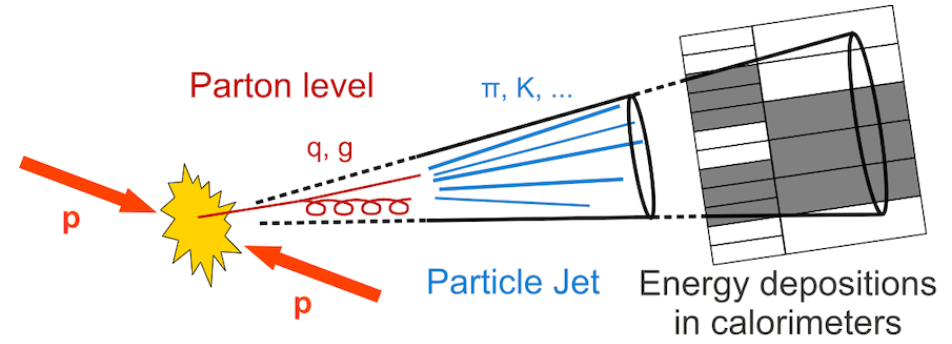
Defense Presentation

Nicolai Weitkemper

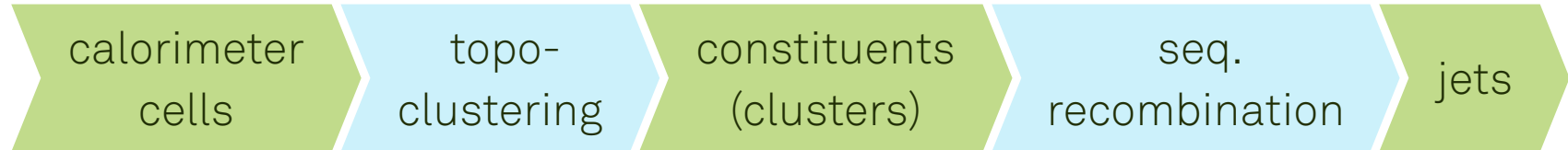
Bologna | September 29, 2025



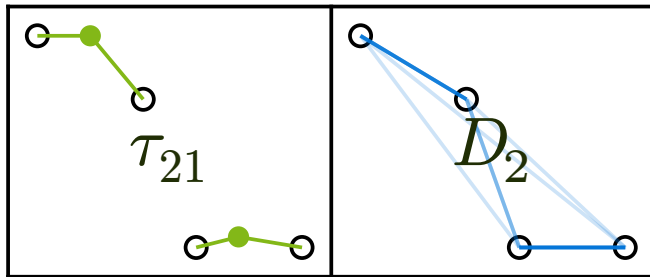
- pp collisions at LHC produce quarks and gluons
- Hadronization $\rightarrow$ collimated sprays of particles called **jets**
- Tools for reconstruction rather than physical objects
- Built from calorimeter and/or track data



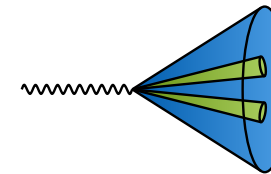
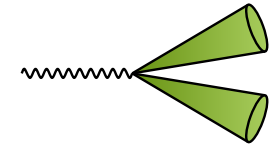
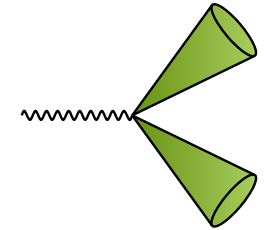
[ATLAS software documentation]



- Decay products of a boosted particle tend to overlap
- **Substructure variables** help identify them:
 - ▶ Operate on jet constituents (here: topo-clusters)
 - ▶ τ_N : p_T -weighted summed distance to subjet axes (determined separately)
 - Ratios $\tau_{21} = \tau_2/\tau_1$ etc.
 - Low $\tau_{21} \rightarrow$ likely 2-prong
 - ▶ D_2 : sensitive to 2-prong like τ_{21} , but independent of subjet axes

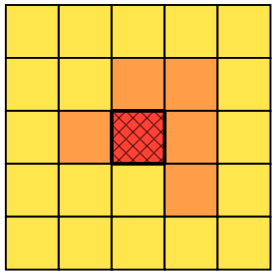


low boost

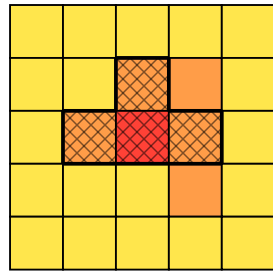


high boost

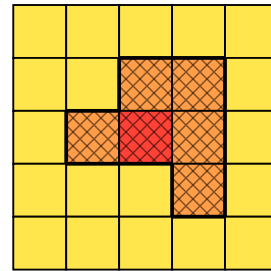
- Intermediate step between cells and jet formation; yields constituents
- Reduces noise (pile-up, electronics)
- Operates on cell significance $\varsigma_{\text{cell}} = \frac{|E_{\text{cell}}|}{\sigma_{\text{cell}}}$



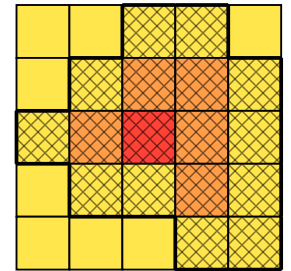
seed cells
($\varsigma \geq 4$)



add growth cells
($\varsigma \geq 2$)

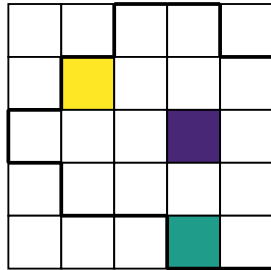


repeat growth
until exhausted

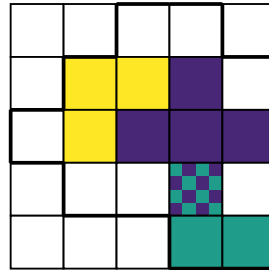


add border cells
($\varsigma \geq 0$)

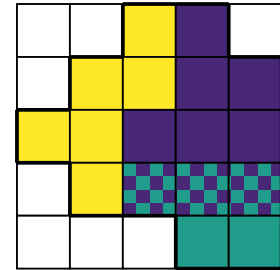
- Split overly large clusters
- Based on re-clustering from **local maxima** that fulfill
 - $E_{\text{cell}} \geq 500 \text{ MeV}$
 - Within specific sampling layers
 - ≥ 4 neighboring cells



seed cells
($E_{\text{cell}} \geq 500 \text{ MeV}$)

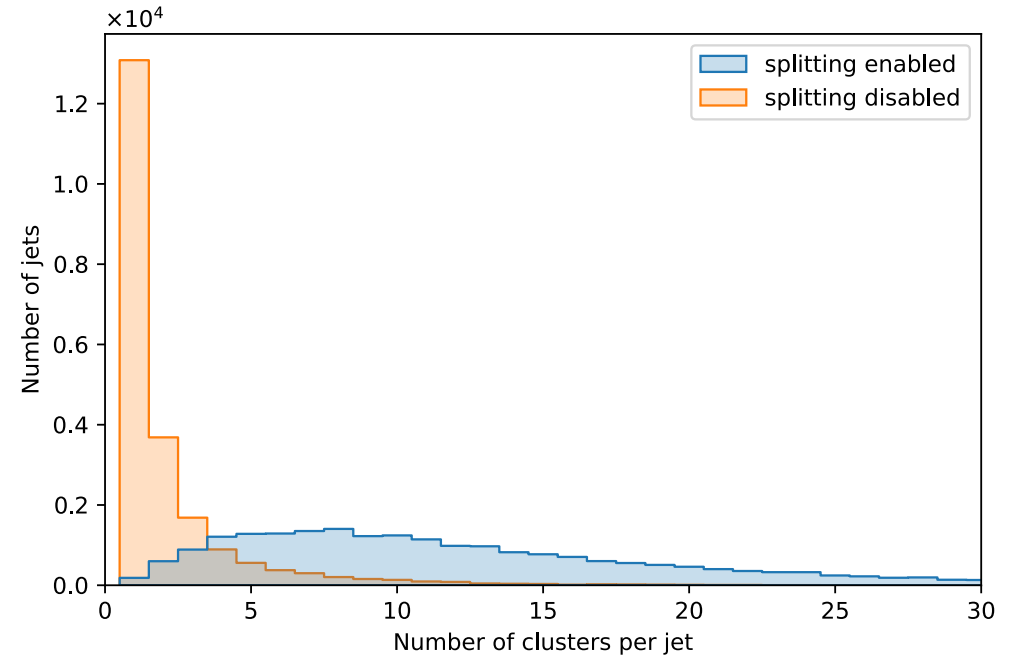
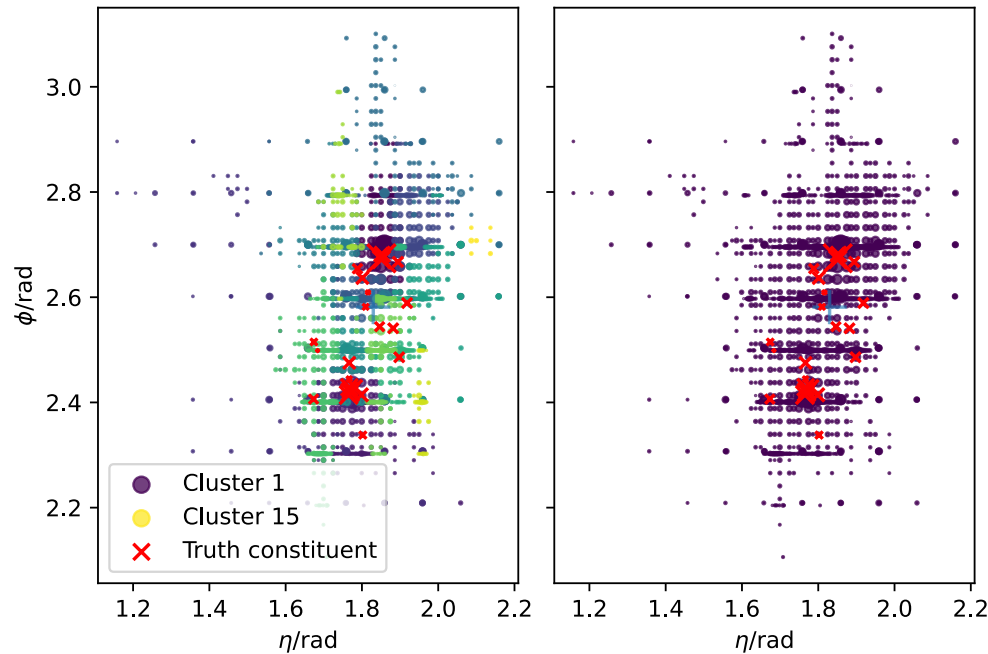


grow to cells within
original cluster

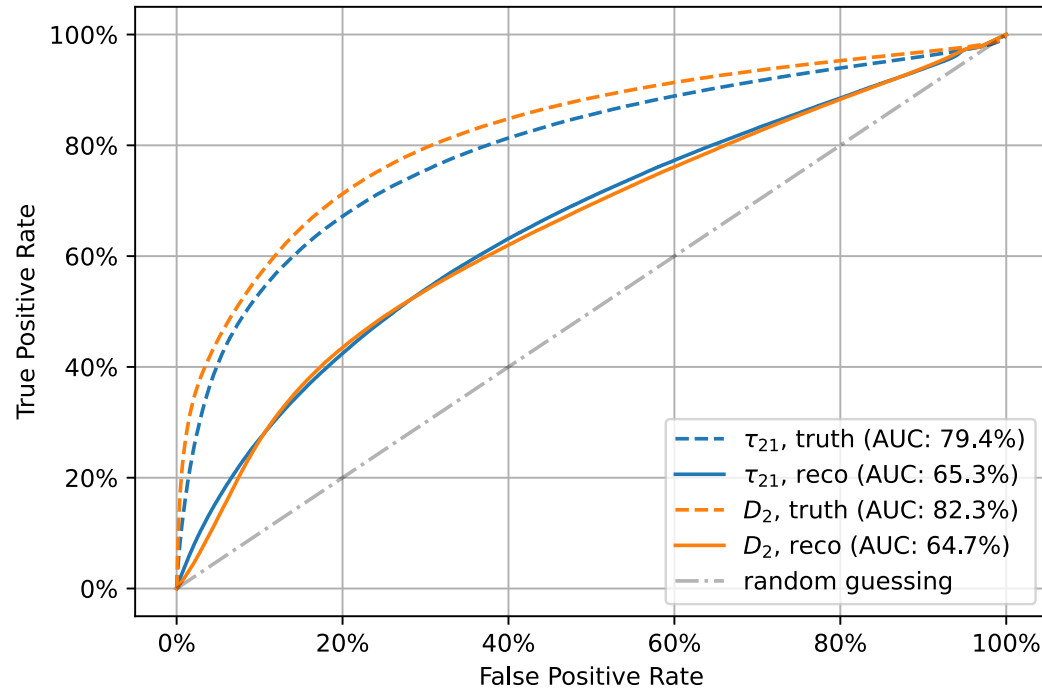


repeat growth
until exhausted

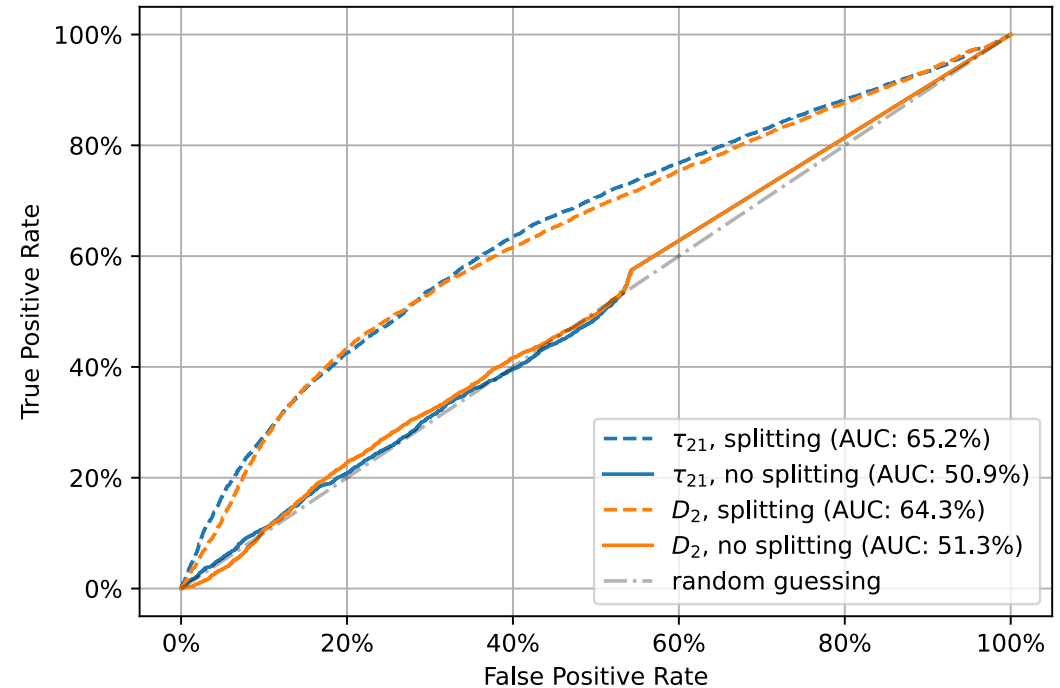
- Clusters grow overly large without splitting
- But substructure variables operate on clusters (not cells)
→ Loss of information



- ROC curves for W' (2-prong) vs. background (no prongs / 1-prong) classification
- Performance: truth $\gg$ reco $\gg$ reco without splitting

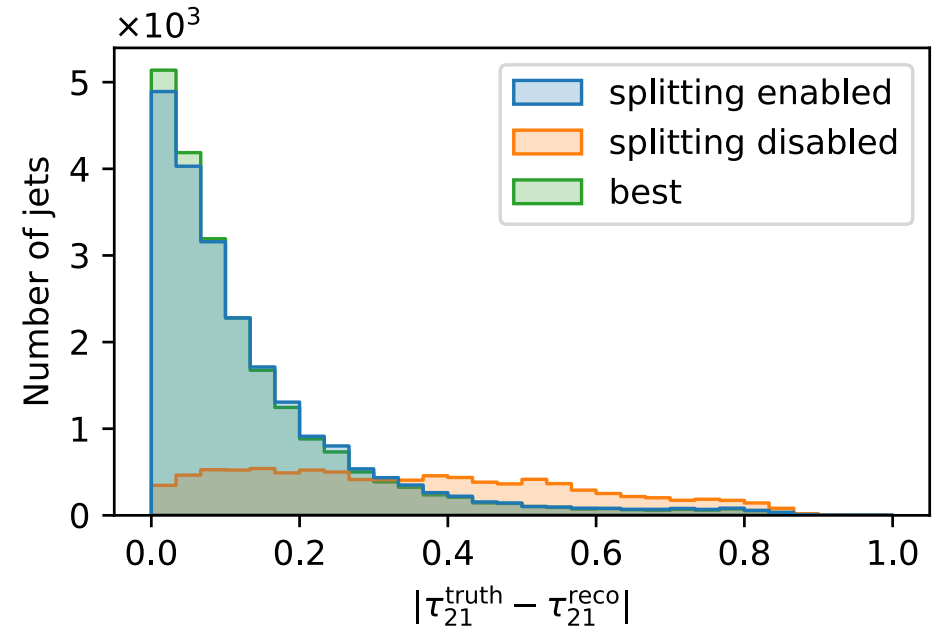


truth vs. reconstructed

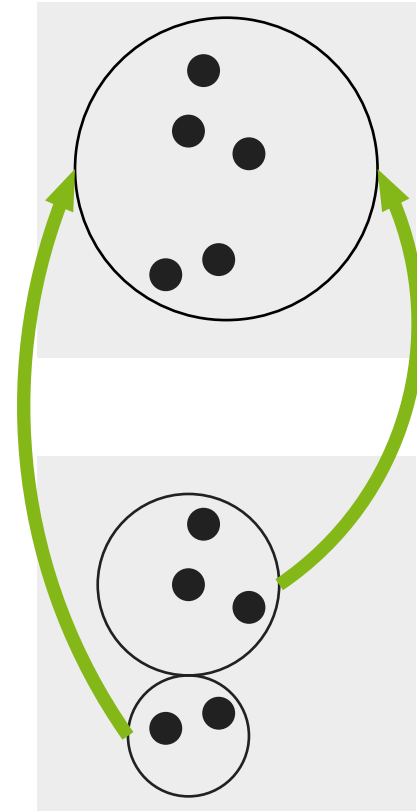


splitting vs. no splitting

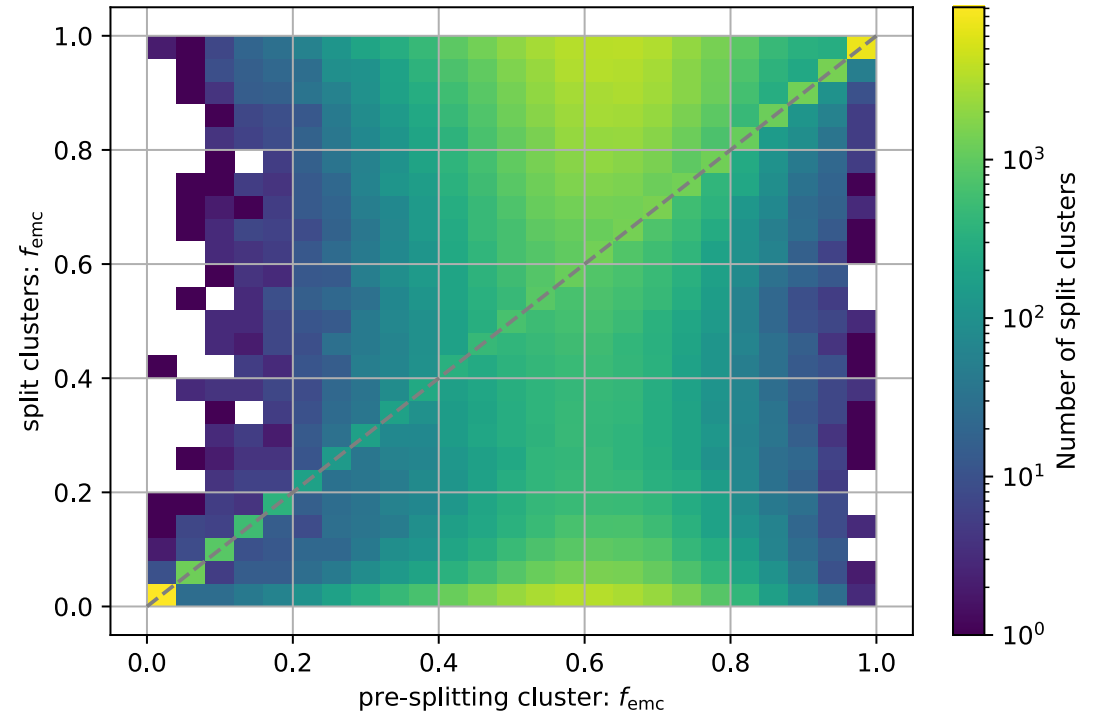
- Compare to **theoretical** optimum:
 - Always choose the option (splitting enabled/disabled) closest to truth
- Splitting disabled is better 8 % of the time for τ_{21}
 - $< 5\%$ for D_2 and τ_{32}



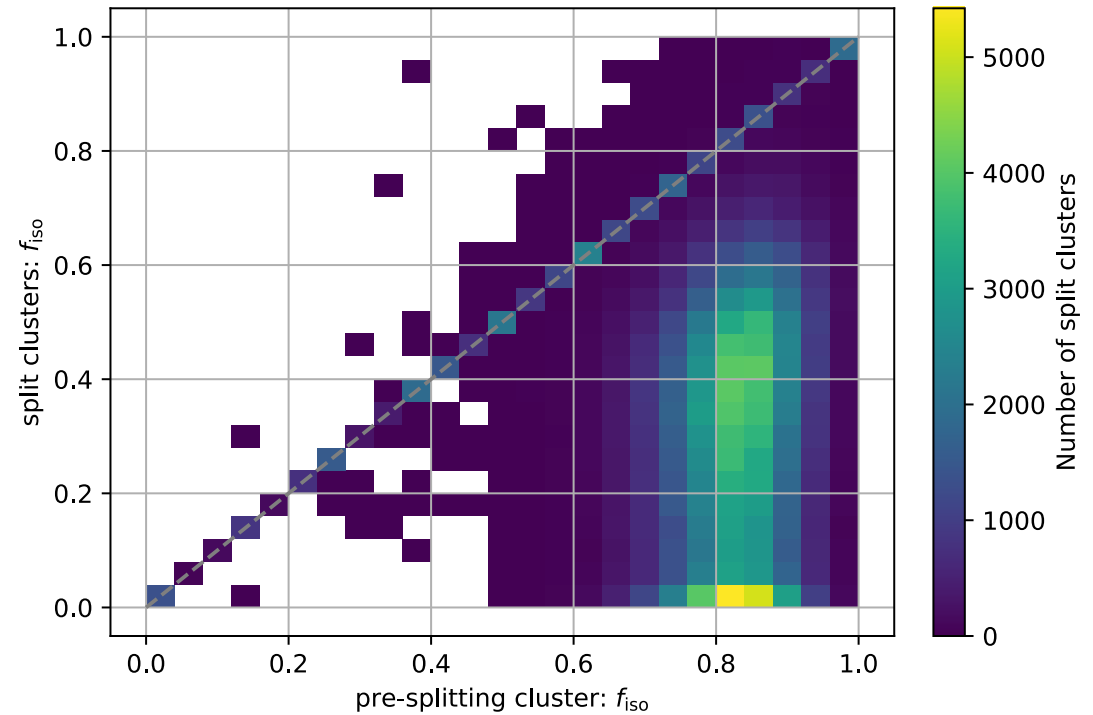
- Motivation:
 - Compare individual clusters before/after splitting, not just overall trends
 - Verify expectations about splitting effects
 - Find variables that might guide future splitting optimizations
- Approach:
 - Check $\text{cells}_{\text{post-splitting},j} \subseteq \text{cells}_{\text{pre-splitting},i}$
- Issues:
 - Often no direct comparison to truth
 - One-to-many matching
 - Hidden correlations (e.g. cluster size)



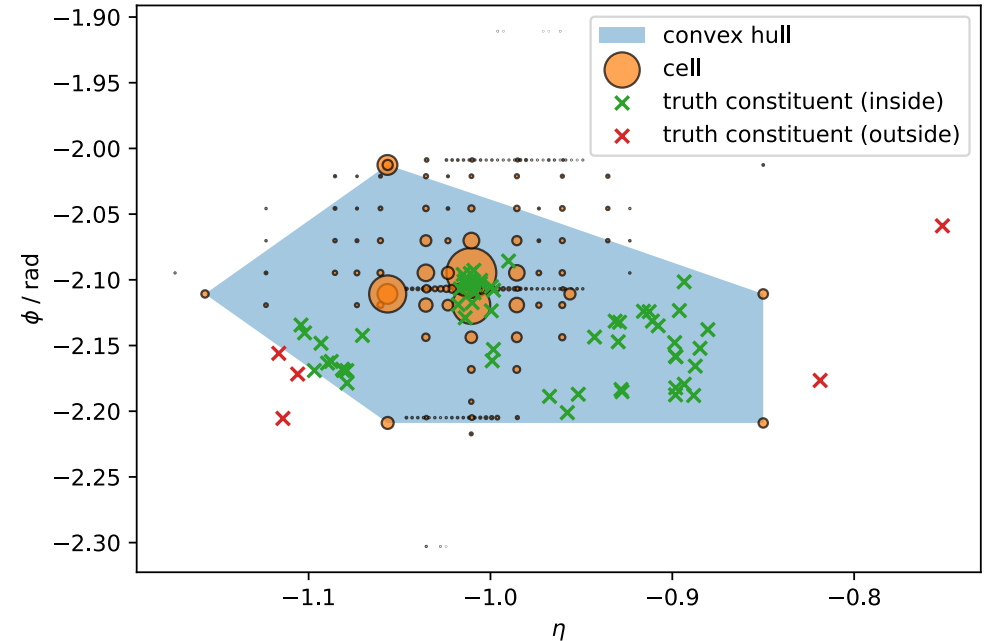
- f_{emc} : fraction of energy in EM calorimeter
- Diagonal: not split (before = after)
- (0, 0) and (1, 1): already fully within hadronic / EM clusters
- Top/bottom high-density regions
→ Splitting makes “clearer cut” between sampling layers



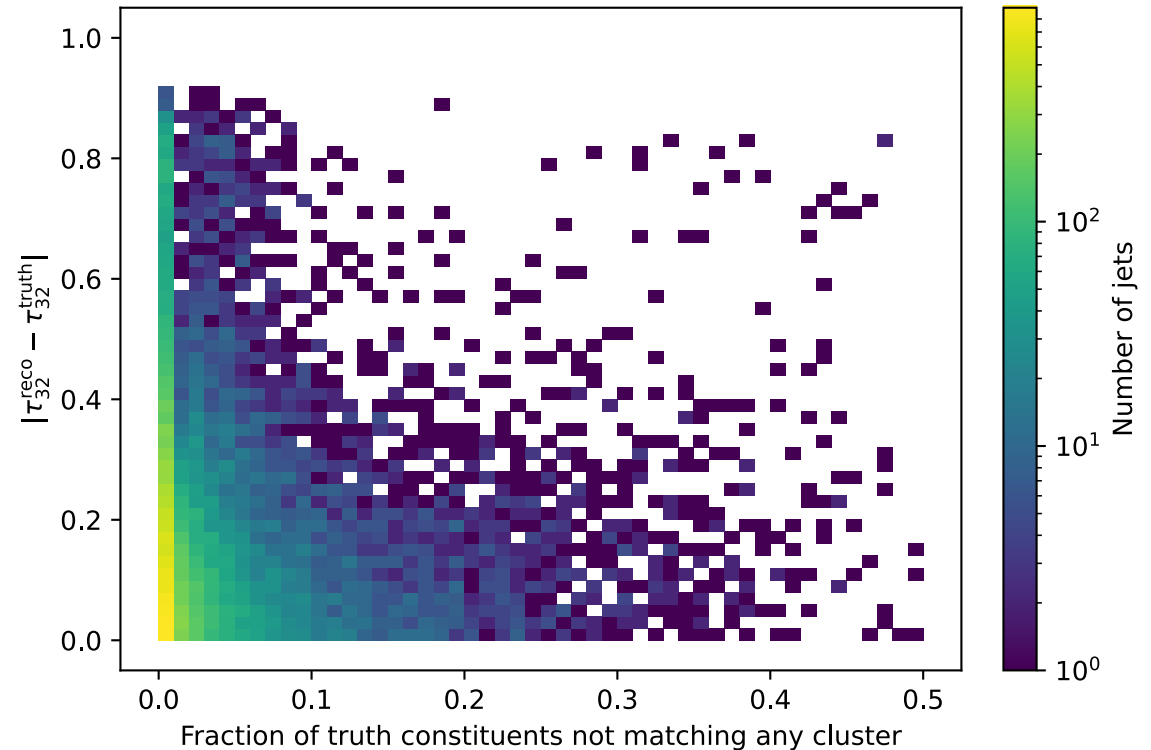
- f_{iso} : fraction of adjacent cells that are not part of another cluster
- Relevant for calibration: Is energy lost or within another cluster?
- Pre-splitting isolation always ≈ 0.8
- Strong reduction in isolation after splitting



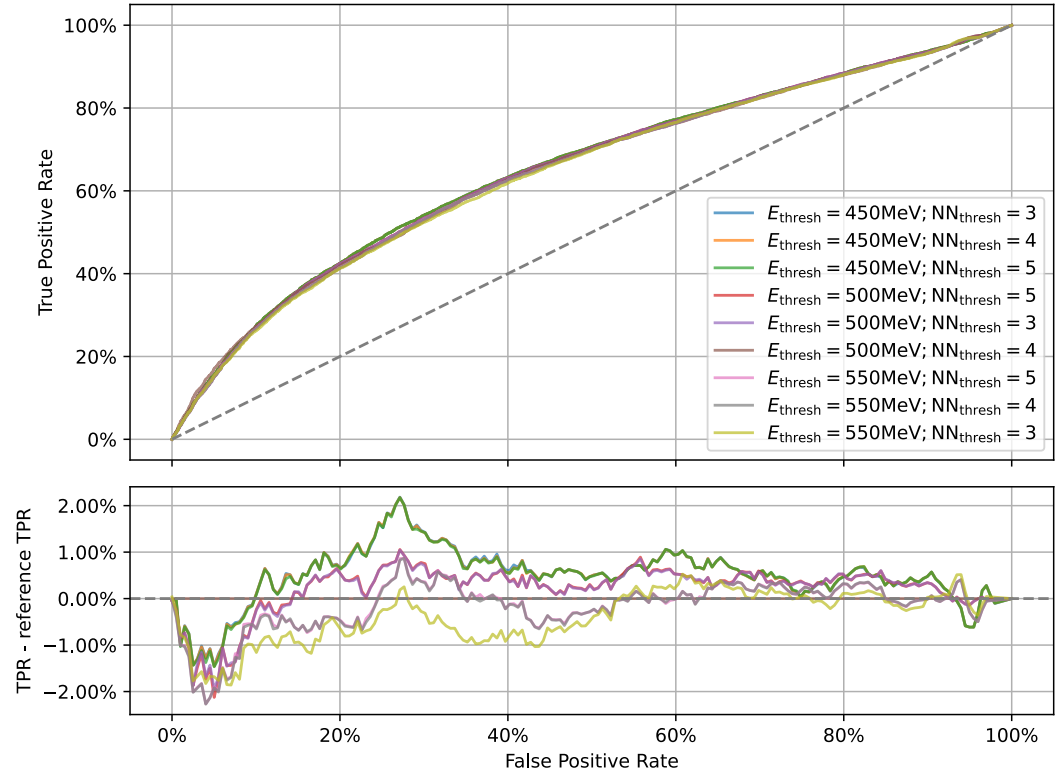
- MC gives access to truth constituents
- What is different for clusters with few/many matched constituents?
- How well do clusters capture truth constituents?
- Can cluster features help identify clusters that align well with truth constituents?
- → Match truth constituents to clusters using different methods:
 - ▶ Convex hull (shown)
 - ▶ Nearest-neighbor search per sampling layer



- Most truth constituents match with at least one cluster
 - Slight overestimation due to convexity assumption
- Less matches $\Rightarrow$ higher error
 - Diminishing effect of low- E truth constituents
 - Hidden correlation (higher- E jet $\rightarrow$ more irrelevant truth constituents)

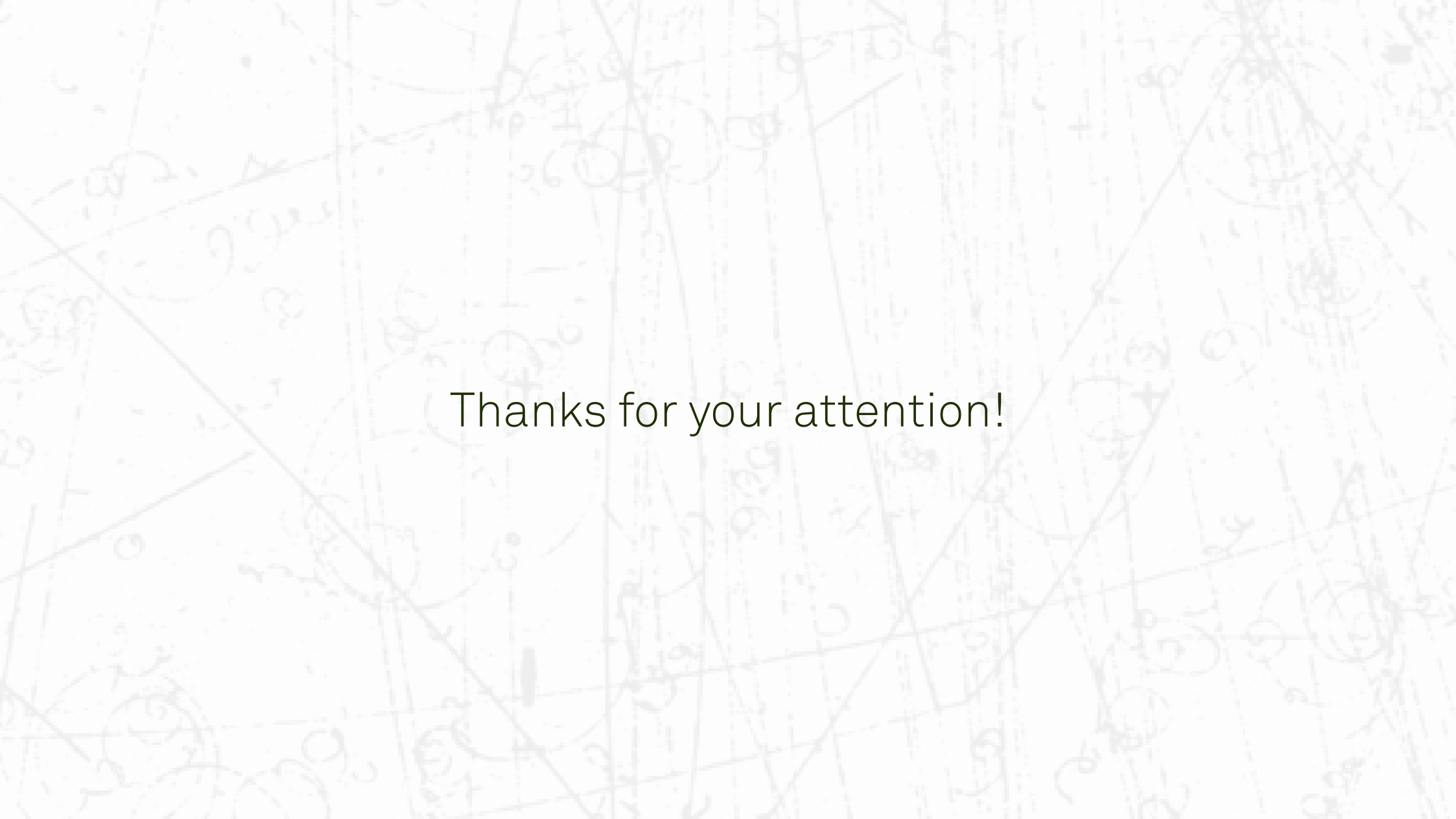


- Grid search of splitting parameters:
 - ▶ Minimum neighbors of seed cell:
(3, 4, 5)
 - ▶ Minimum energy of seed cell:
(400, 500, 600) MeV
- Differences in ROC-AUC of up to 1.4 %
- Inconsistent trend between substructure variables
- Future directions:
 - ▶ Larger variations
 - ▶ Other parameters (e.g. sampling layers)

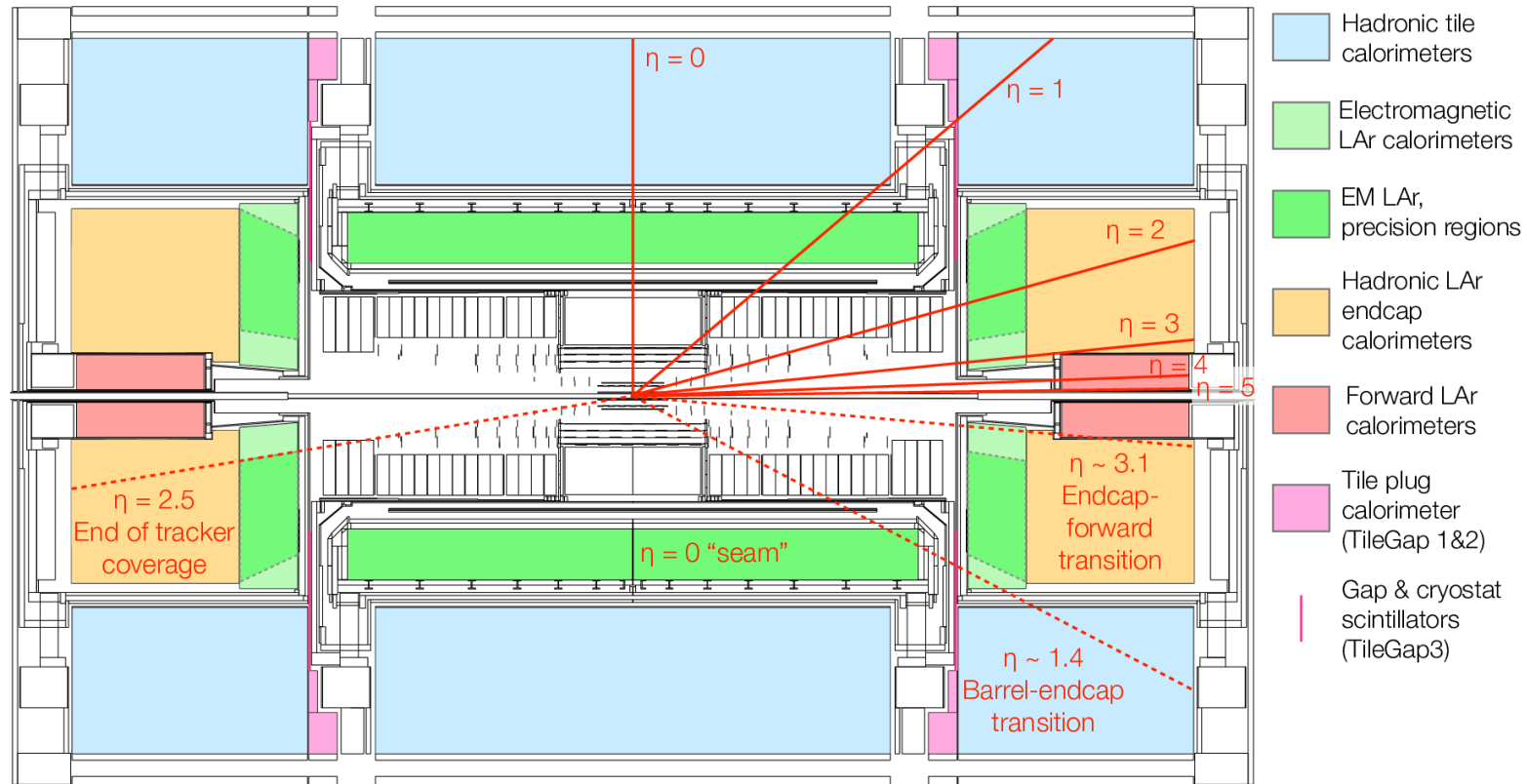


ROC curves for τ_{21}^{reco}

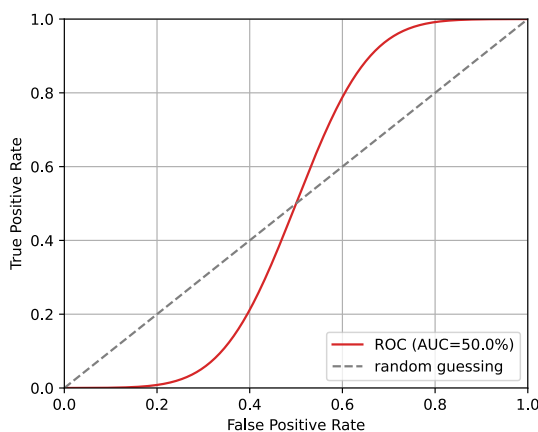
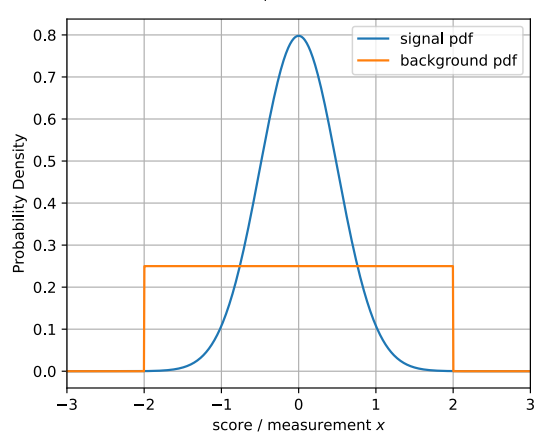
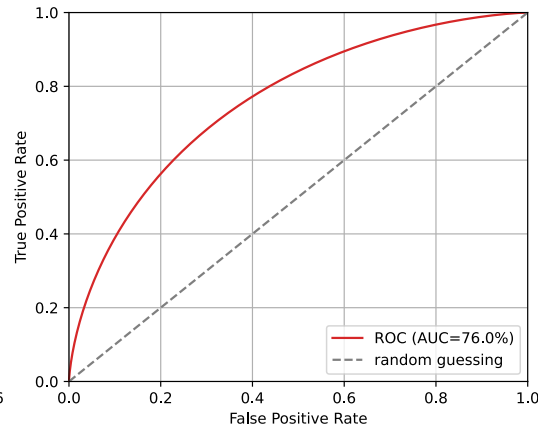
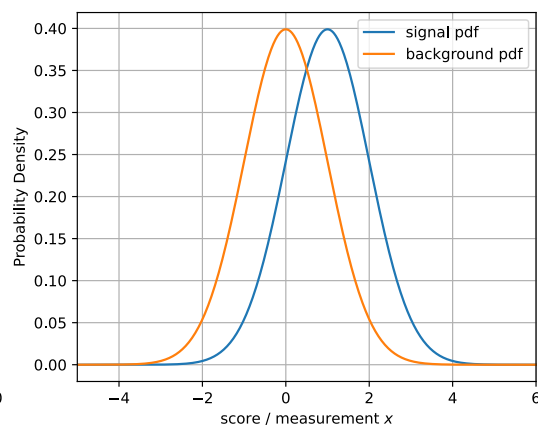
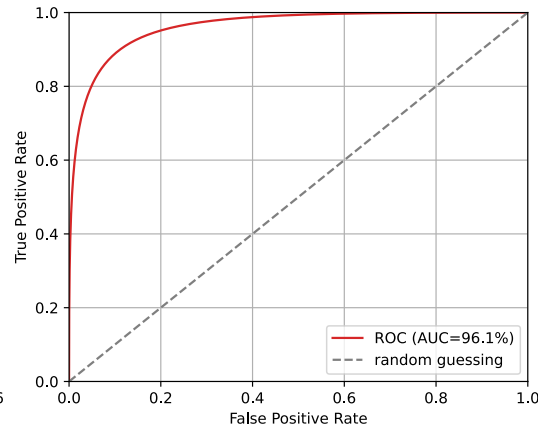
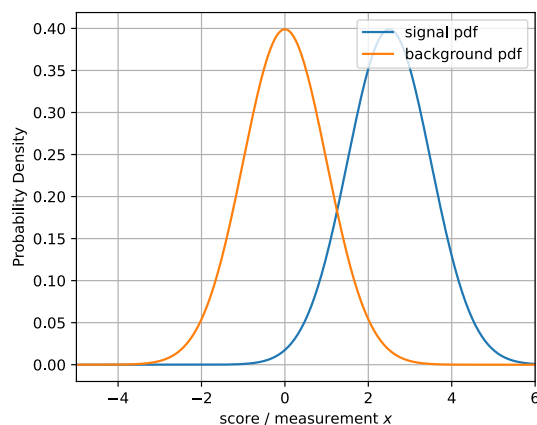
- Topo-cluster splitting is essential for boosted object identification
- Splitting parameters have limited impact on performance
- More fundamental changes to the algorithm needed for meaningful improvements
- Ideas for future work:
 - ▶ Tighter integration with Athena (the ATLAS software framework)
 - ▶ Clearer definition of “optimal” splitting
 - ▶ Application to more recent jet algorithms (UFOs instead of LCTopo)
 - ▶ ML methods to guide or replace splitting

The background of the slide is a light gray color with a complex, abstract pattern. This pattern consists of numerous thin, intersecting lines and faint, overlapping geometric shapes, including circles, triangles, and polygons, creating a textured, almost architectural feel.

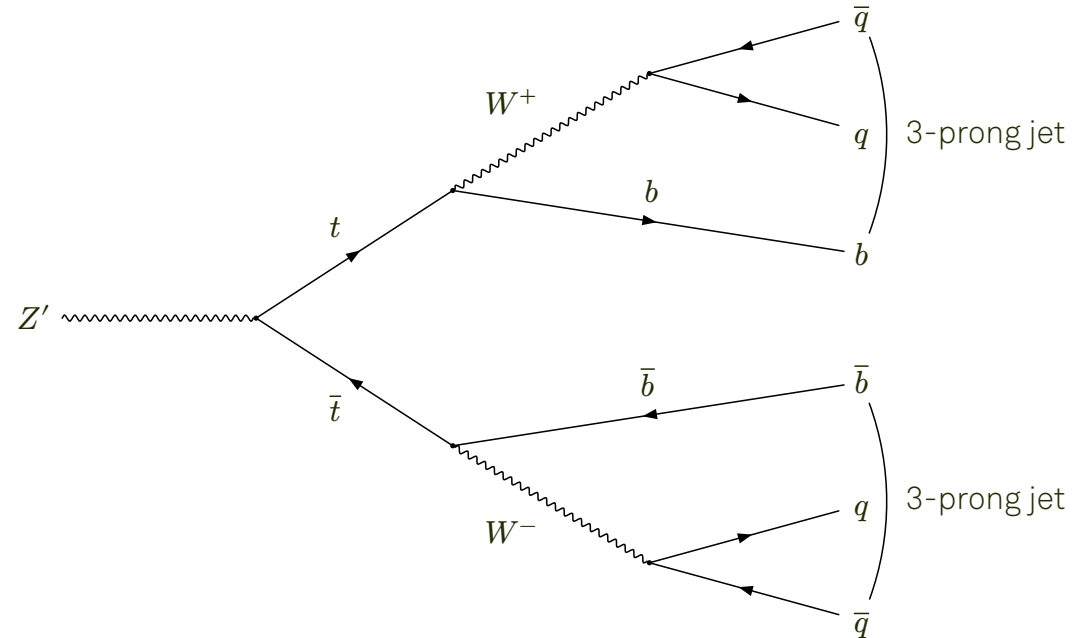
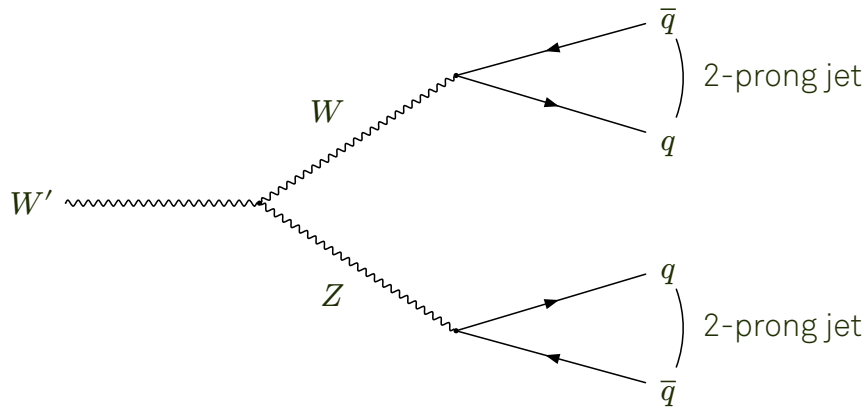
Thanks for your attention!

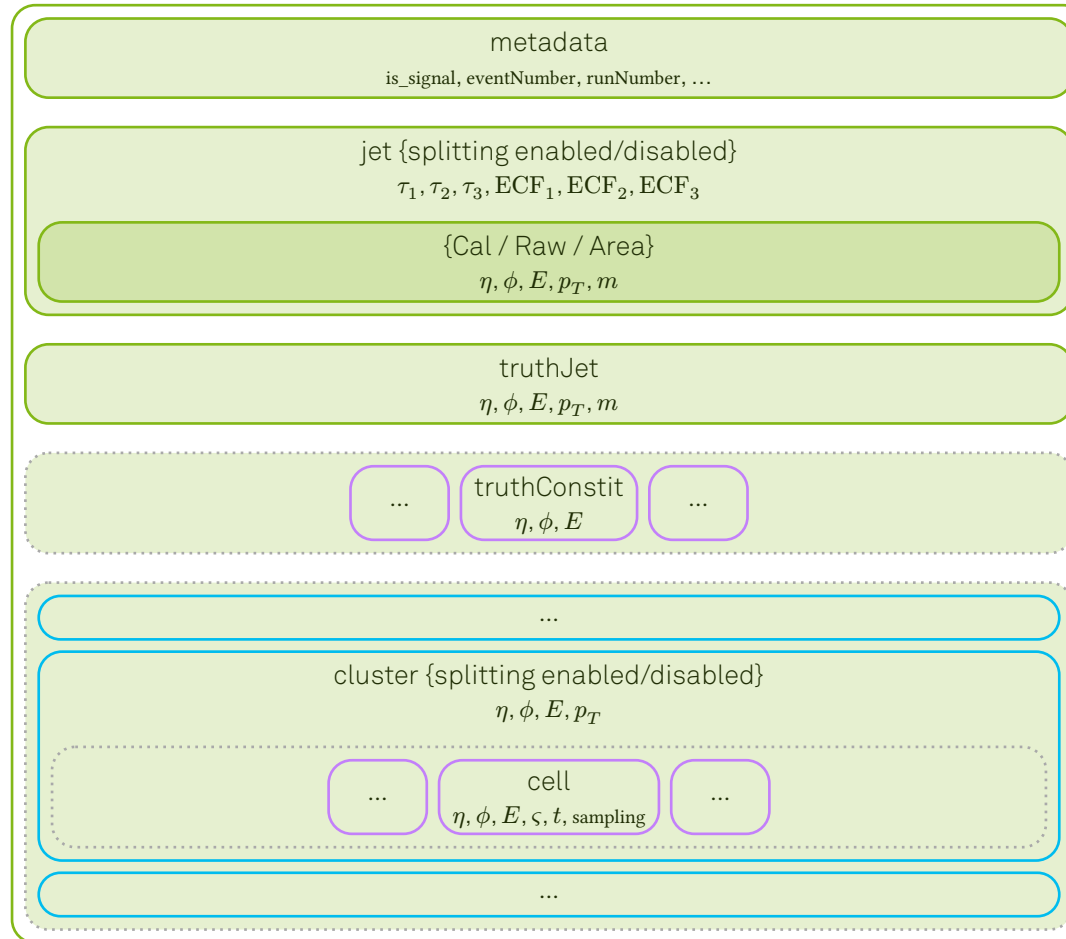


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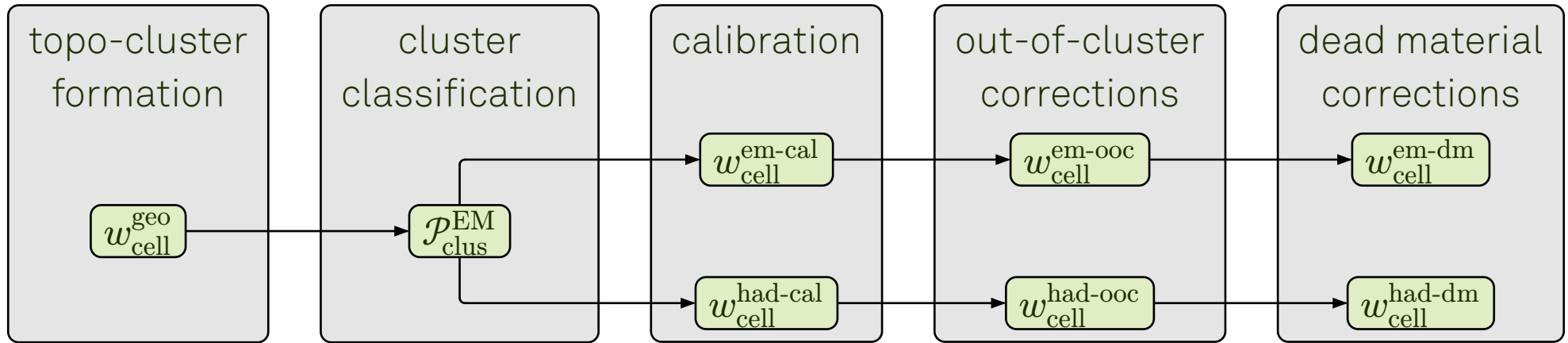


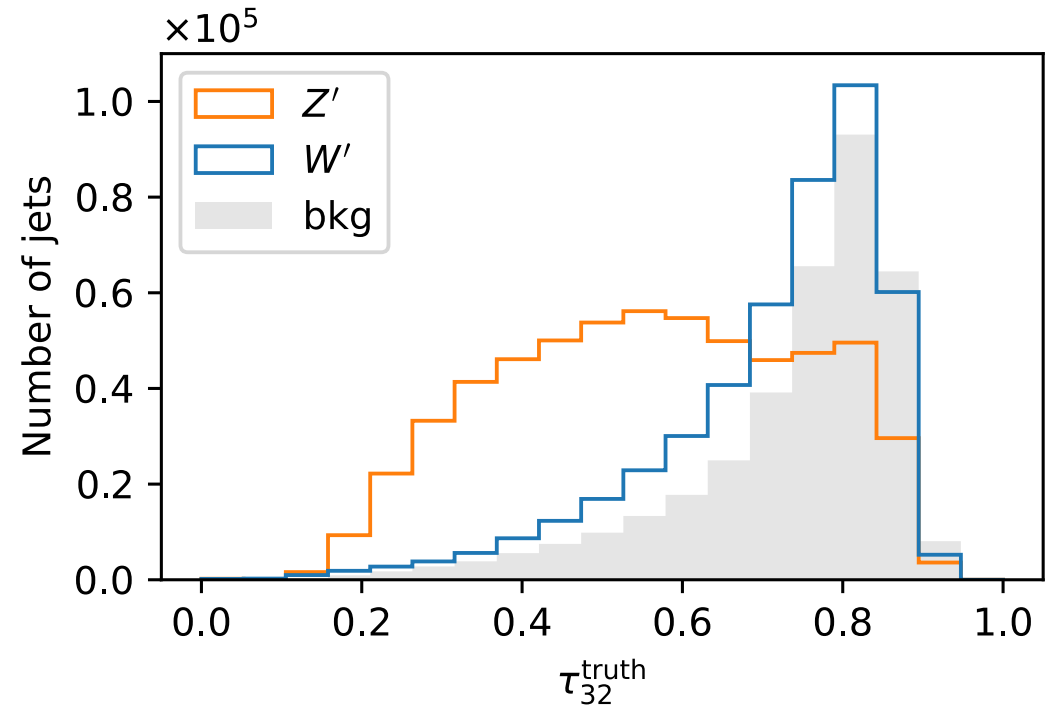
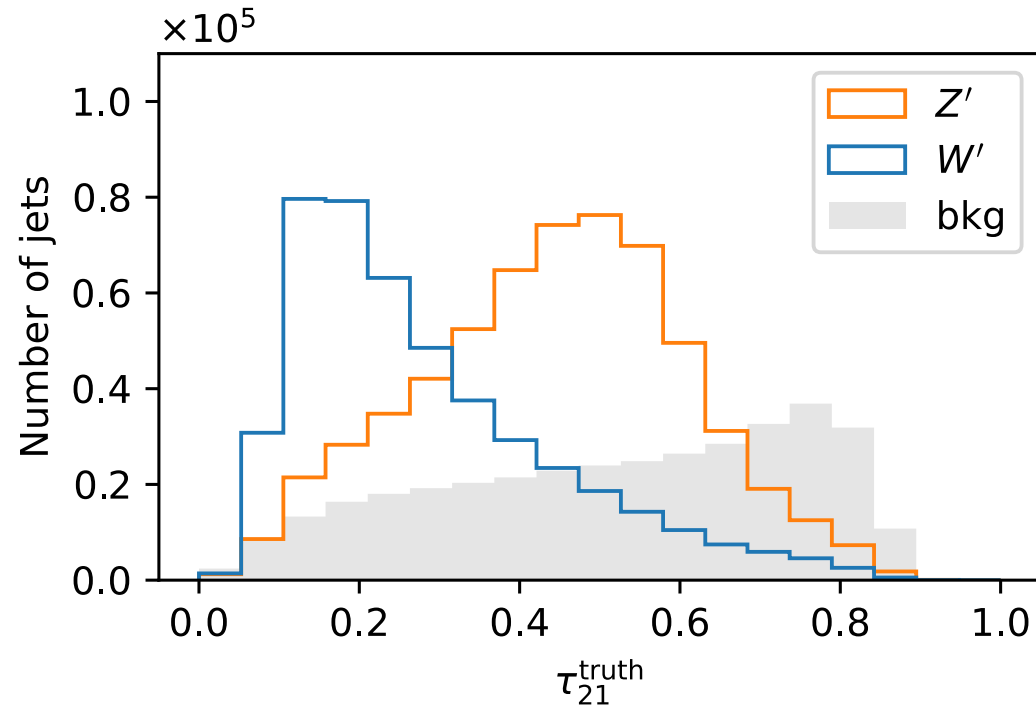
- hypothetical heavy W' , Z' + QCD dijets used in this analysis as a benchmark
- $m_{W'/Z'} = 2 \text{ TeV}$

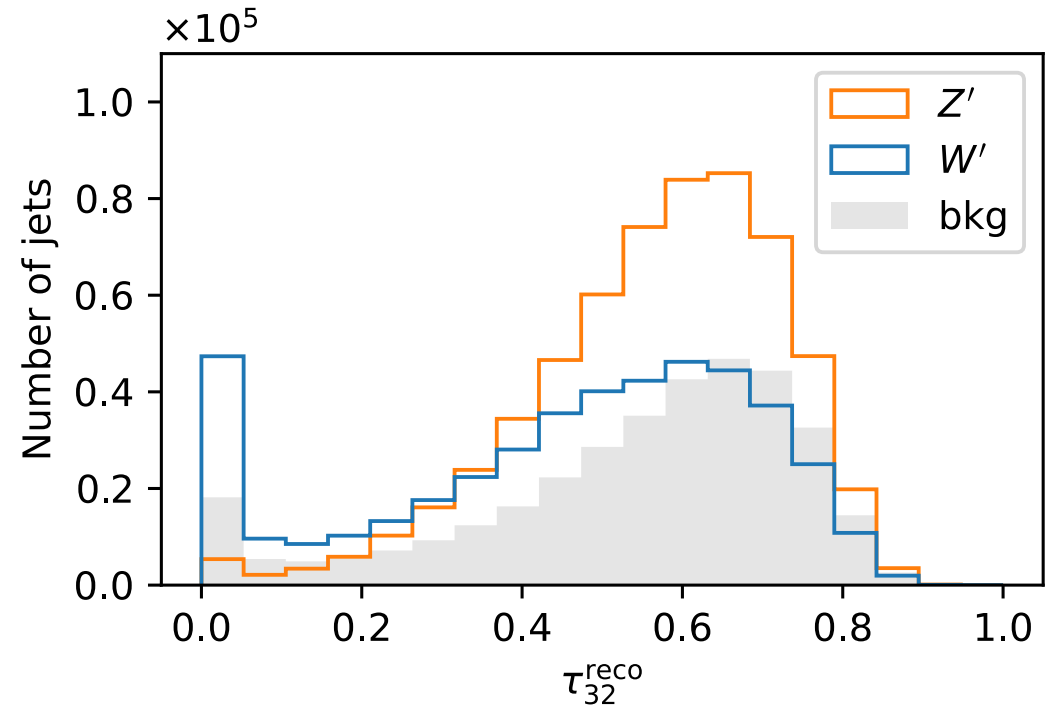
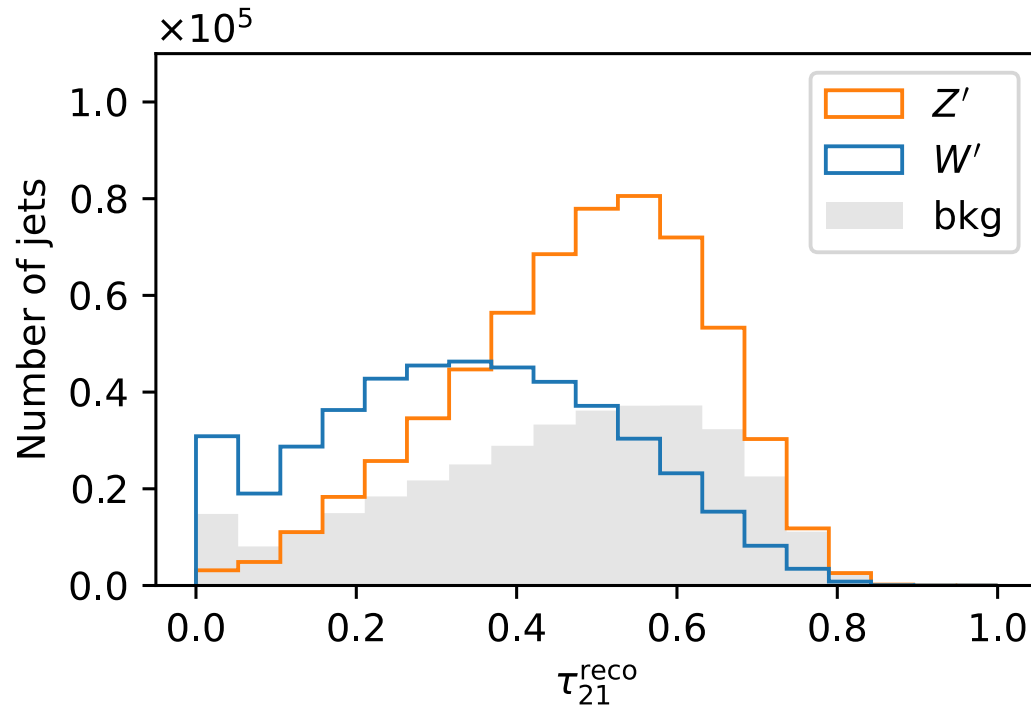


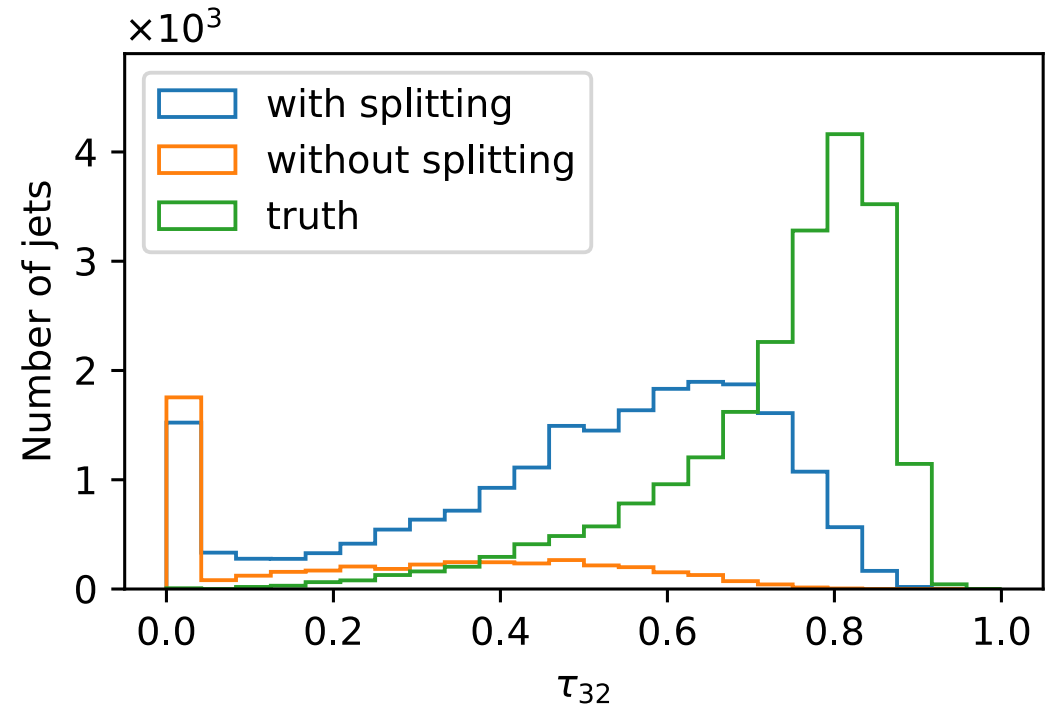
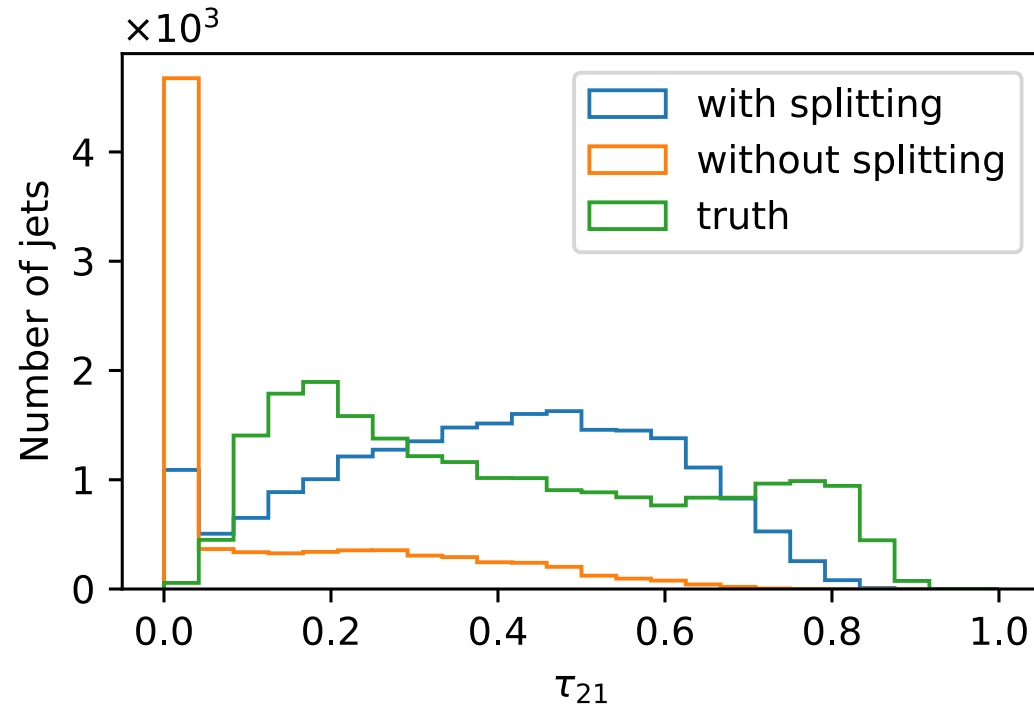


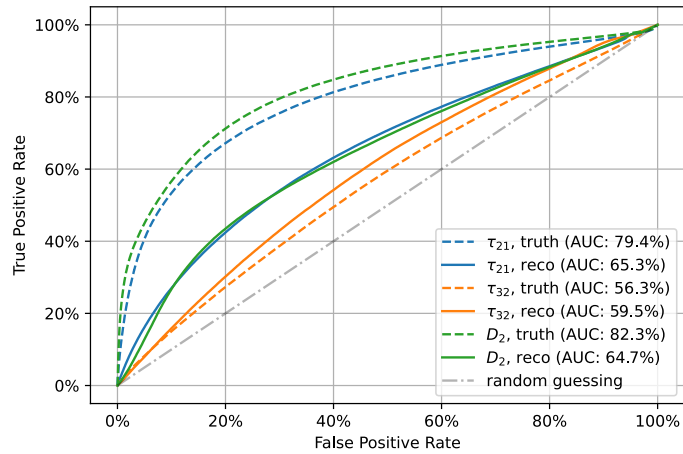
- Local Cell Weighting (LCW) calibration scheme applied to all clusters



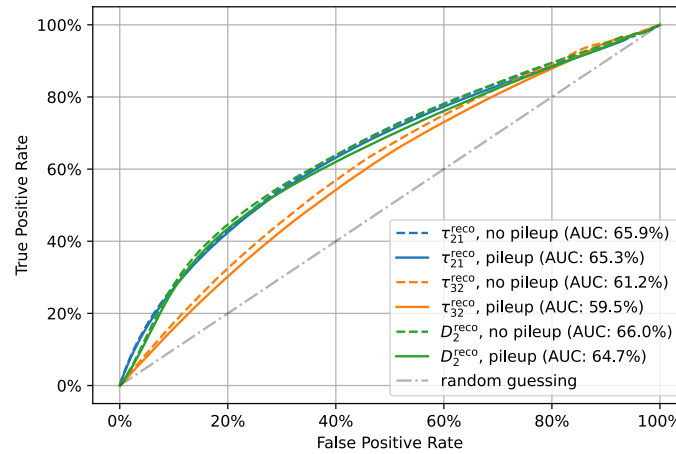




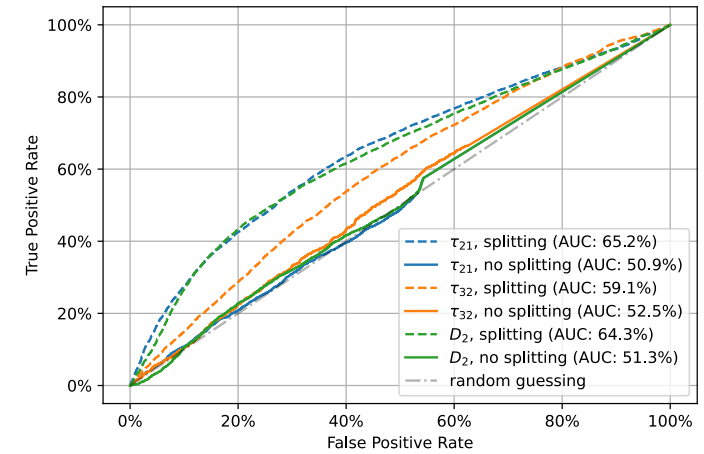




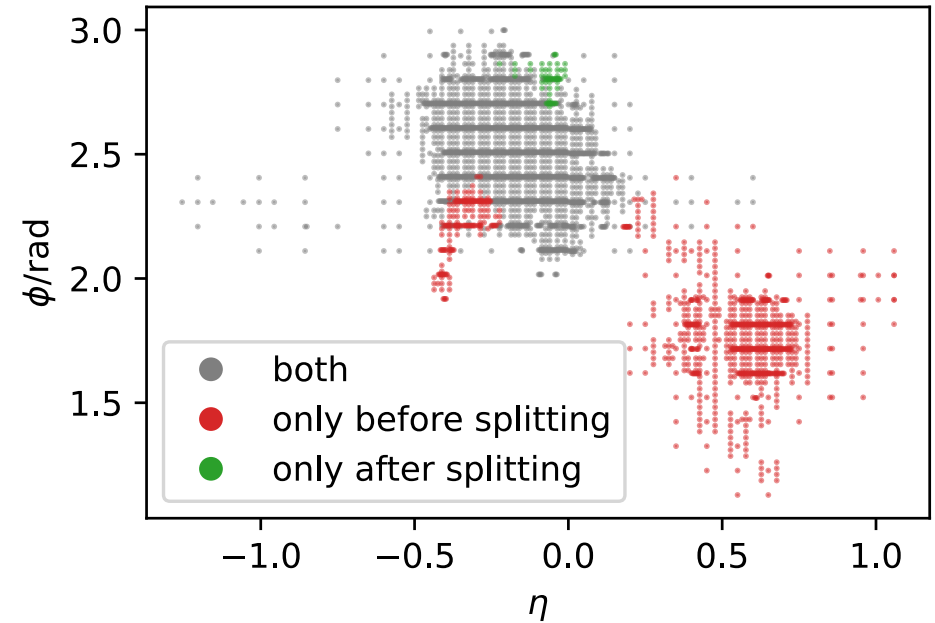
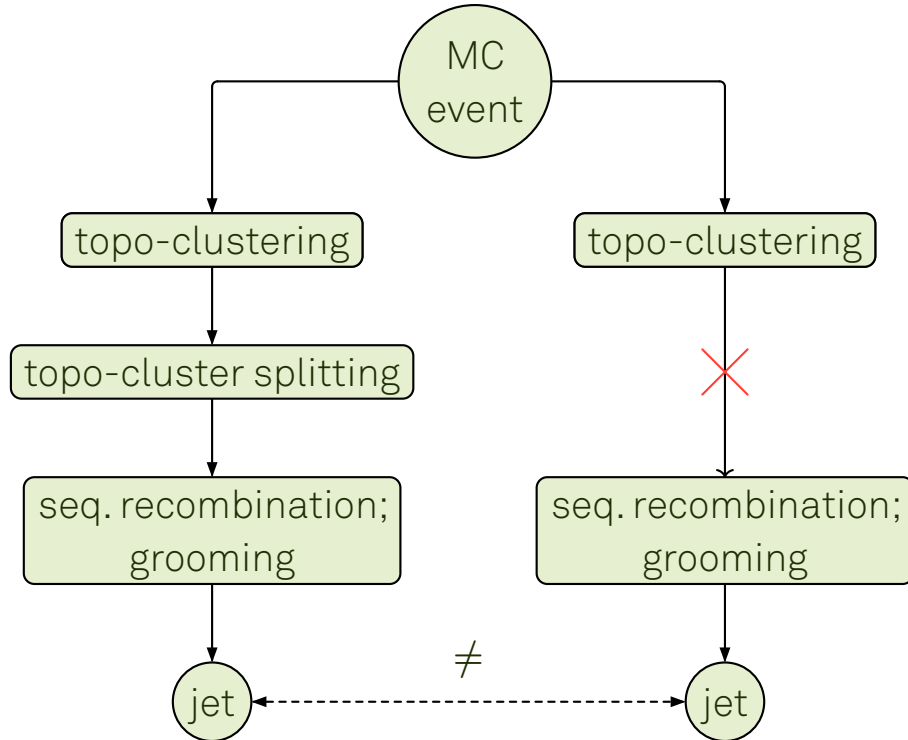
truth vs. reco



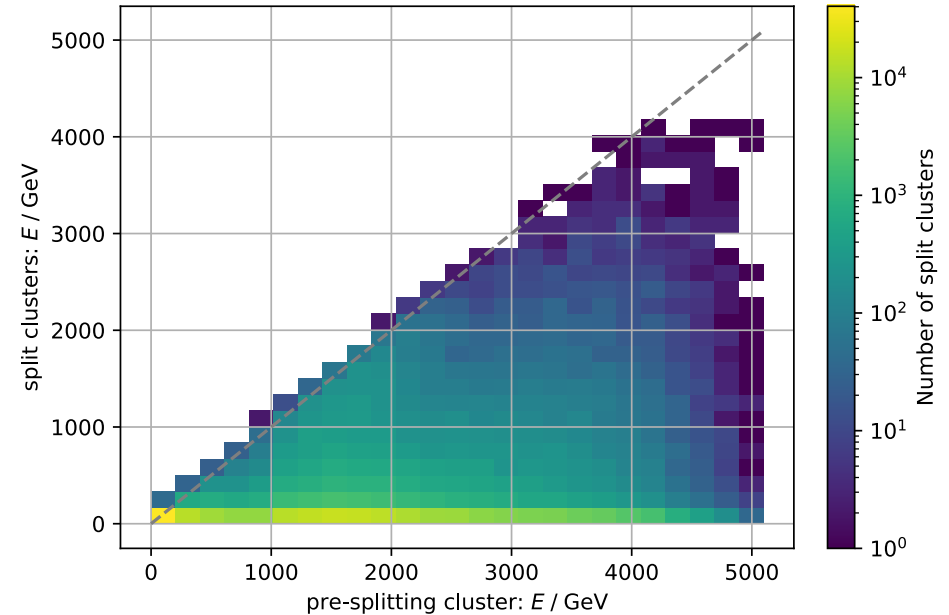
pile-up vs. no pile-up



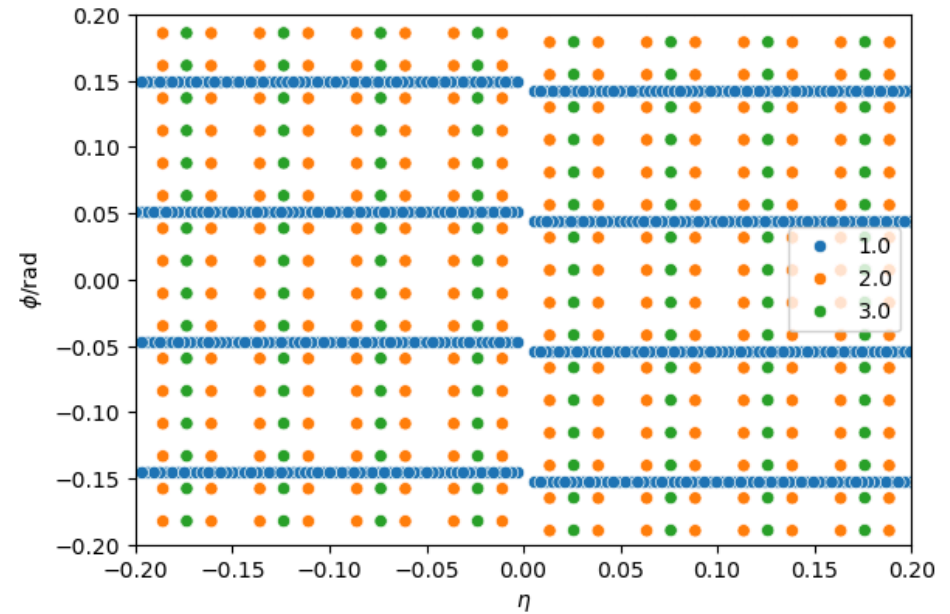
splitting vs. no splitting



- concept: for each pre-splitting value, histogrammize all post-splitting values
- E : cluster energy
- always below diagonal:
splitting reduces energy per cluster
- high counts at the bottom:
many low-energy clusters created



- different pitches in depending on sampling layer (color)
- different pitches in η and ϕ
- “ η strips” for $\text{sampling} = 1$
- “seam” at $\eta = 0$

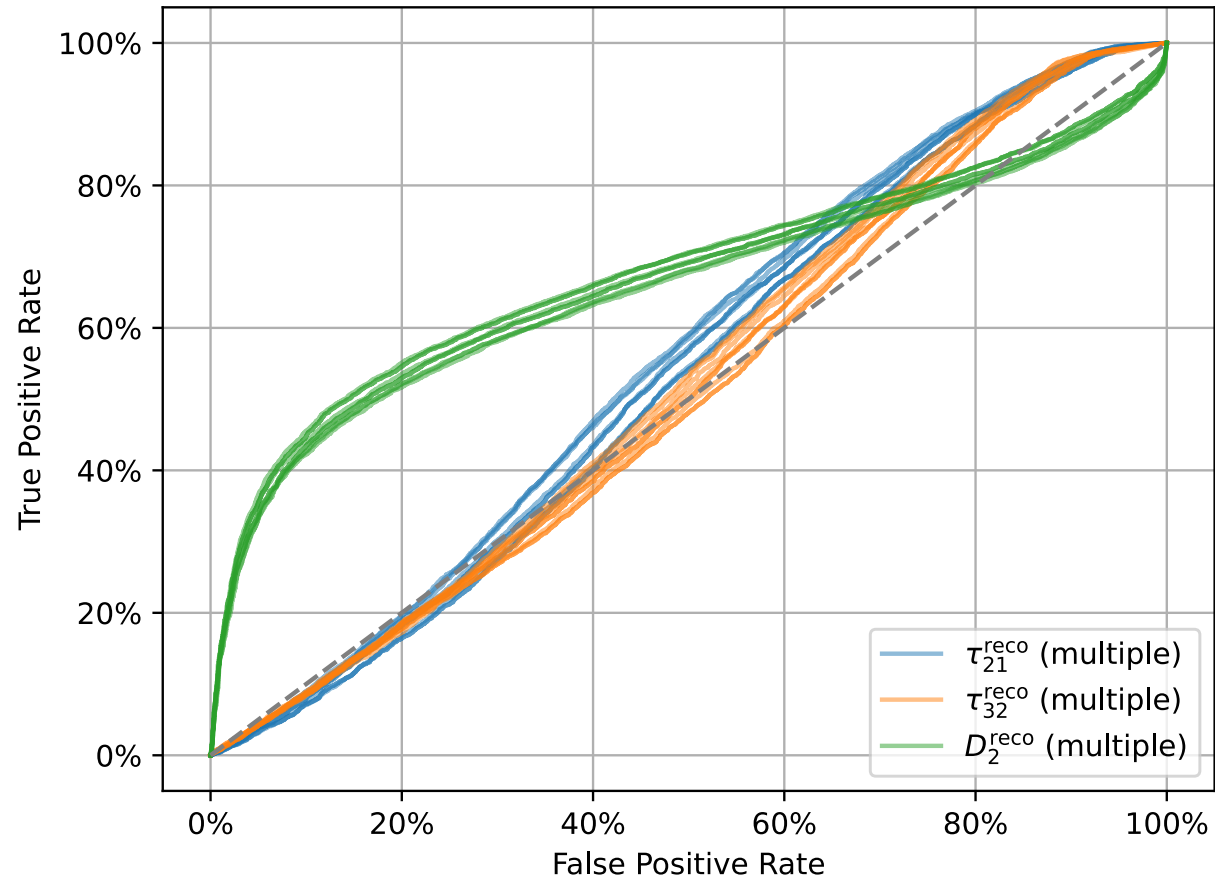


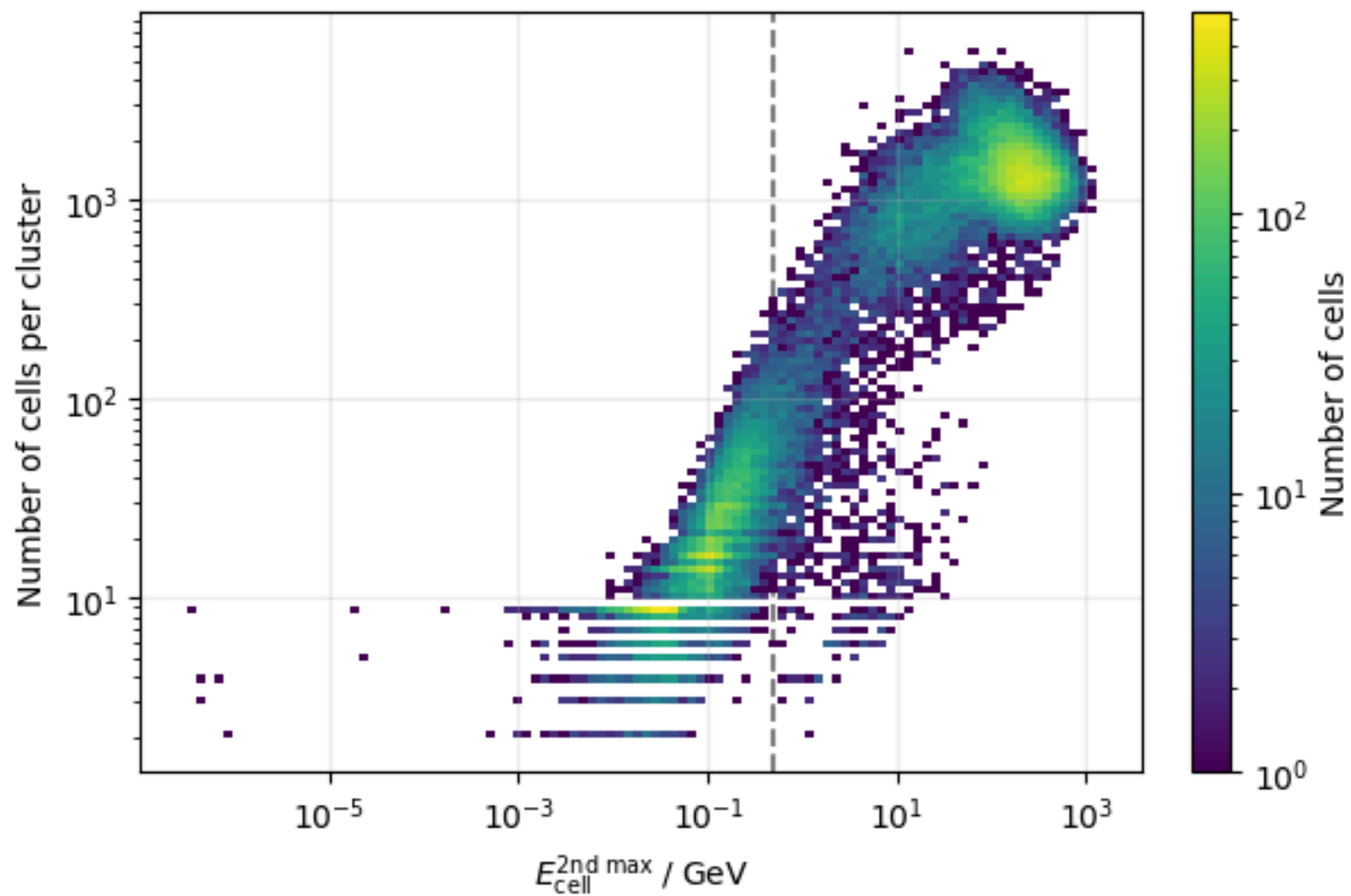
- W' / dijet background discrimination
- τ_{21} and D_2 given for reference

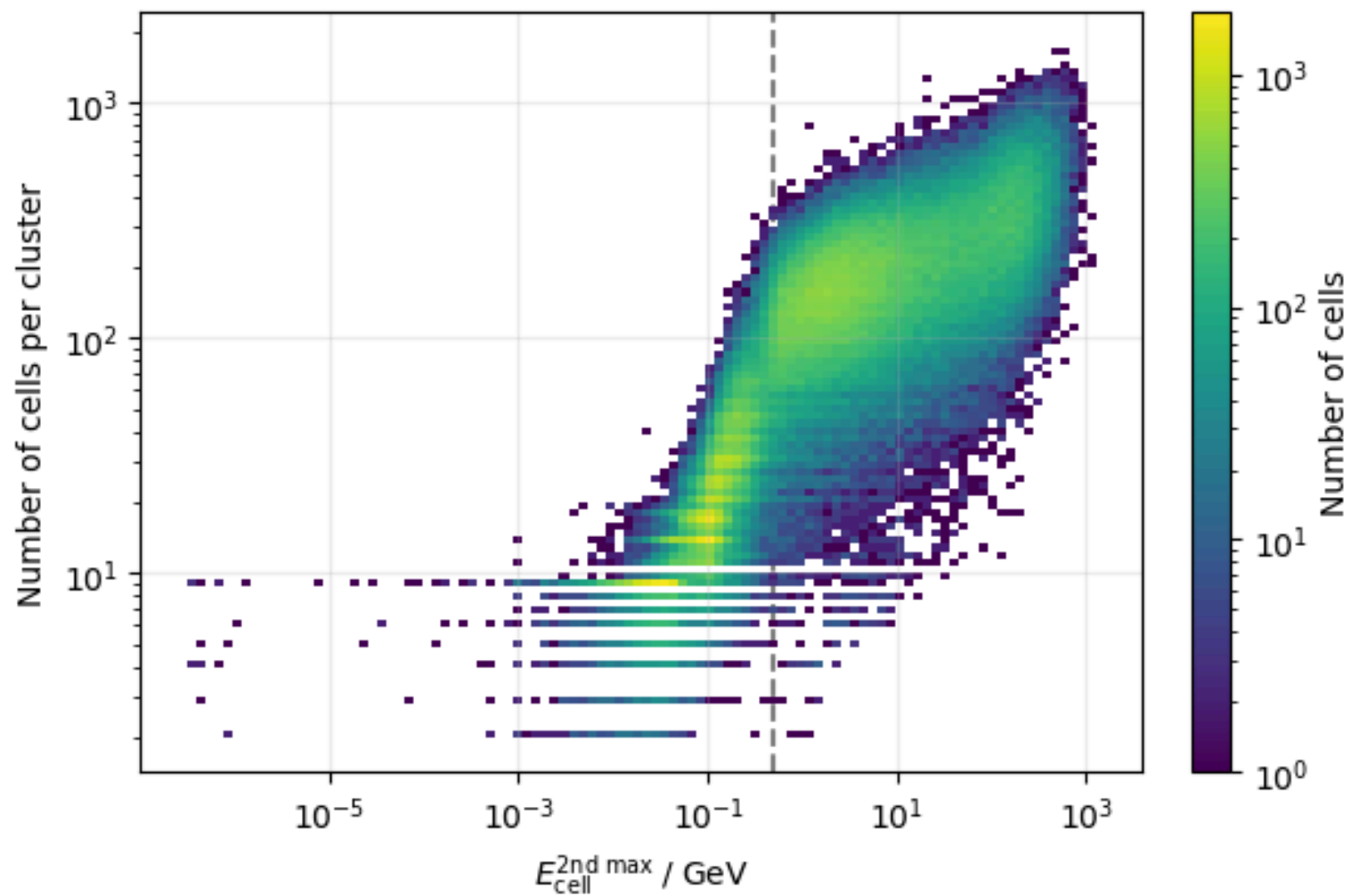
$E_{\text{thresh}} / \text{ MeV}$	$\text{NN}_{\text{thresh}}$	$\text{AUC}(\tau_{21}^{\text{reco}})$	$\text{AUC}(\tau_{32}^{\text{reco}})$	$\text{AUC}(D_2^{\text{reco}})$	$\Delta\text{AUC}(\tau_{21}^{\text{reco}})$	$\Delta\text{AUC}(\tau_{32}^{\text{reco}})$	$\Delta\text{AUC}(D_2^{\text{reco}})$	$\langle\Delta\text{AUC}\rangle$
550	4	0.646	0.589	0.653	−0.001	−0.003	+0.008	0.001
550	5	0.646	0.589	0.653	−0.001	−0.004	+0.008	0.001
550	3	0.644	0.589	0.654	−0.003	−0.003	+0.009	0.000
500	4	0.647	0.593	0.644	+0.000	+0.000	+0.000	0.000
500	3	0.649	0.584	0.649	+0.002	−0.008	+0.004	−0.000
500	5	0.649	0.584	0.649	+0.002	−0.008	+0.004	−0.000
450	4	0.652	0.582	0.643	+0.004	−0.010	−0.001	−0.002
450	3	0.652	0.582	0.643	+0.004	−0.010	−0.001	−0.002
450	5	0.652	0.582	0.643	+0.004	−0.010	−0.001	−0.002

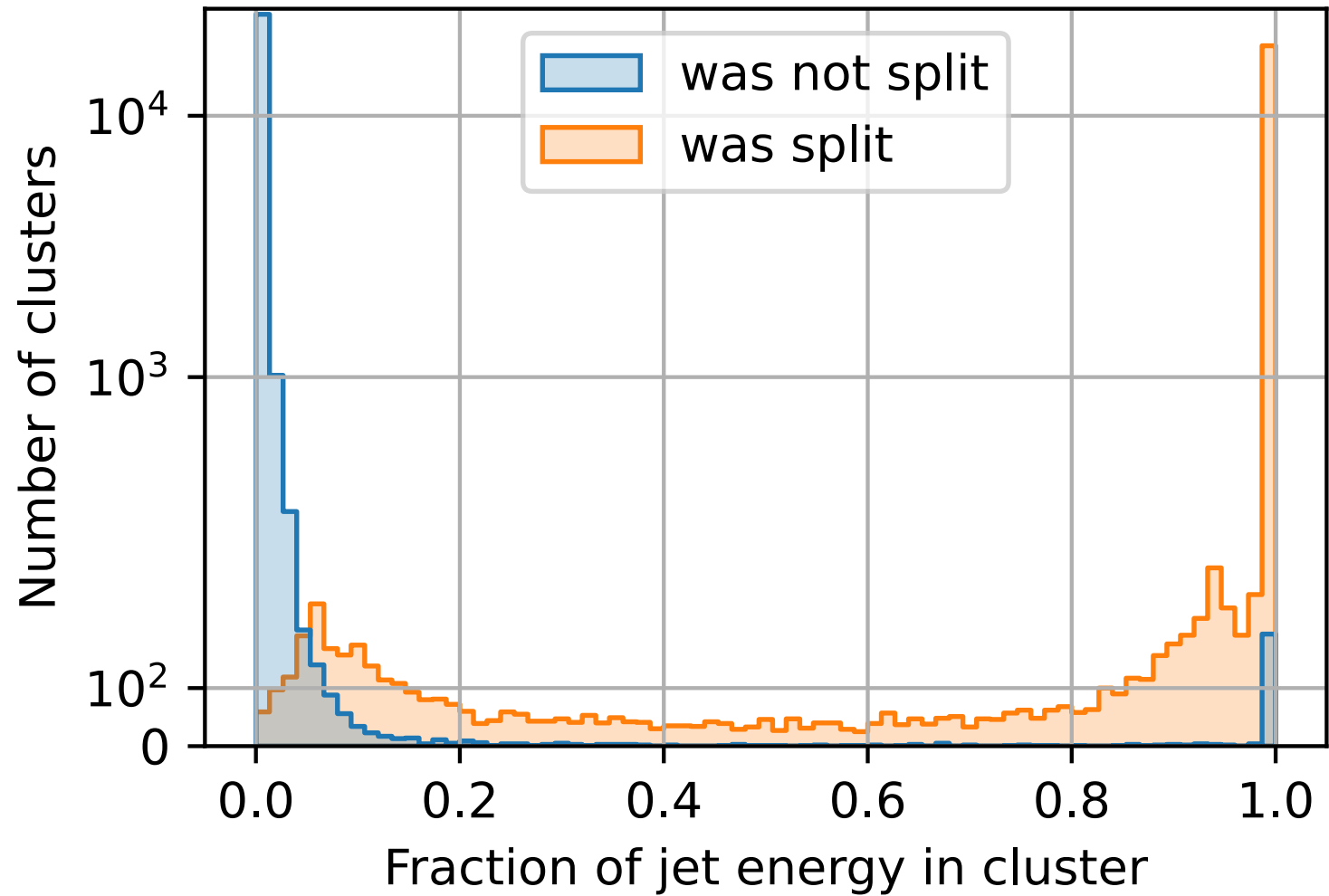
- Z' / dijet background discrimination
- τ_{21} and D_2 given for reference

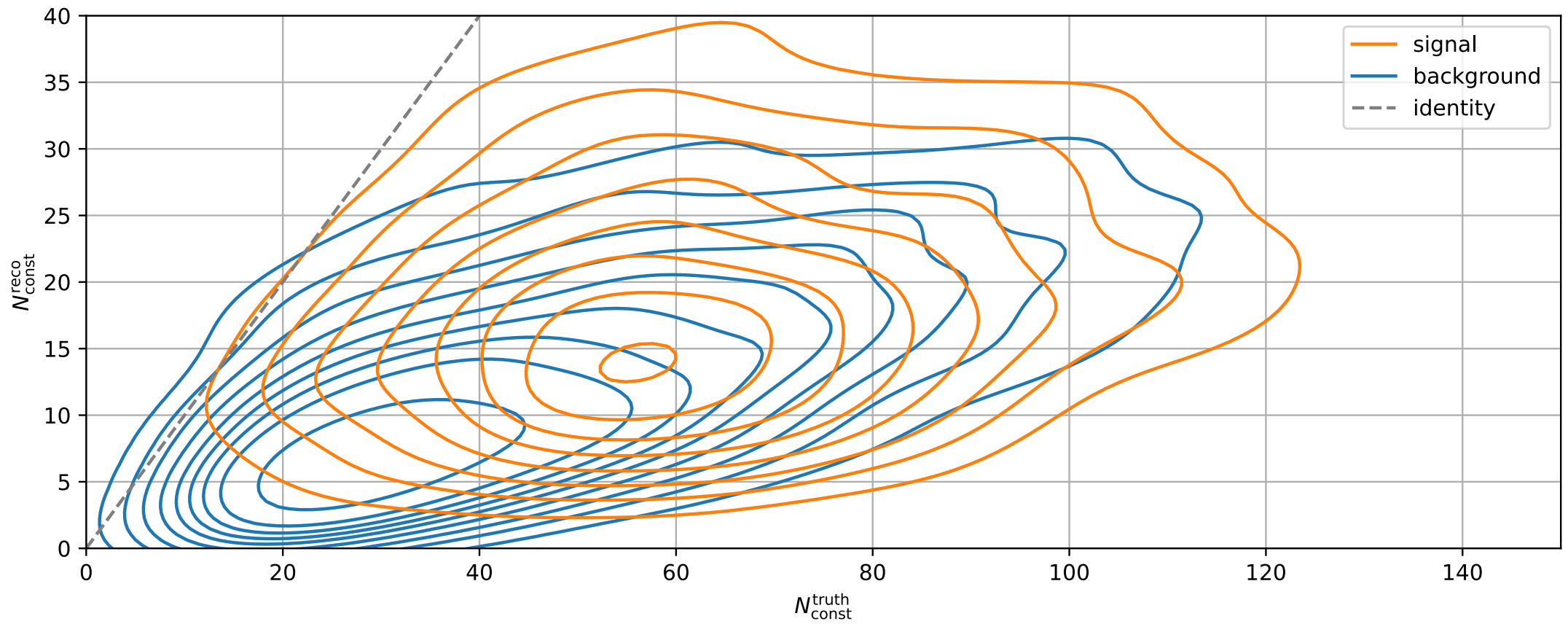
$E_{\text{thresh}} / \text{MeV}$	$\text{NN}_{\text{thresh}}$	$\text{AUC}(\tau_{21}^{\text{reco}})$	$\text{AUC}(\tau_{32}^{\text{reco}})$	$\text{AUC}(D_2^{\text{reco}})$	$\Delta\text{AUC}(\tau_{21}^{\text{reco}})$	$\Delta\text{AUC}(\tau_{32}^{\text{reco}})$	$\Delta\text{AUC}(D_2^{\text{reco}})$	$\langle\Delta\text{AUC}\rangle$
550	4	0.557	0.531	0.656	+0.014	+0.012	−0.010	0.005
550	5	0.552	0.528	0.657	+0.009	+0.009	−0.009	0.003
550	3	0.555	0.523	0.654	+0.012	+0.004	−0.012	0.001
500	4	0.542	0.519	0.667	+0.000	+0.000	+0.000	0.000
500	5	0.541	0.517	0.666	−0.001	−0.001	−0.000	−0.001
500	3	0.541	0.517	0.666	−0.001	−0.001	−0.001	−0.001
450	4	0.526	0.507	0.680	−0.016	−0.011	+0.013	−0.004
450	5	0.524	0.504	0.678	−0.018	−0.014	+0.011	−0.007
450	3	0.524	0.504	0.678	−0.018	−0.014	+0.011	−0.007

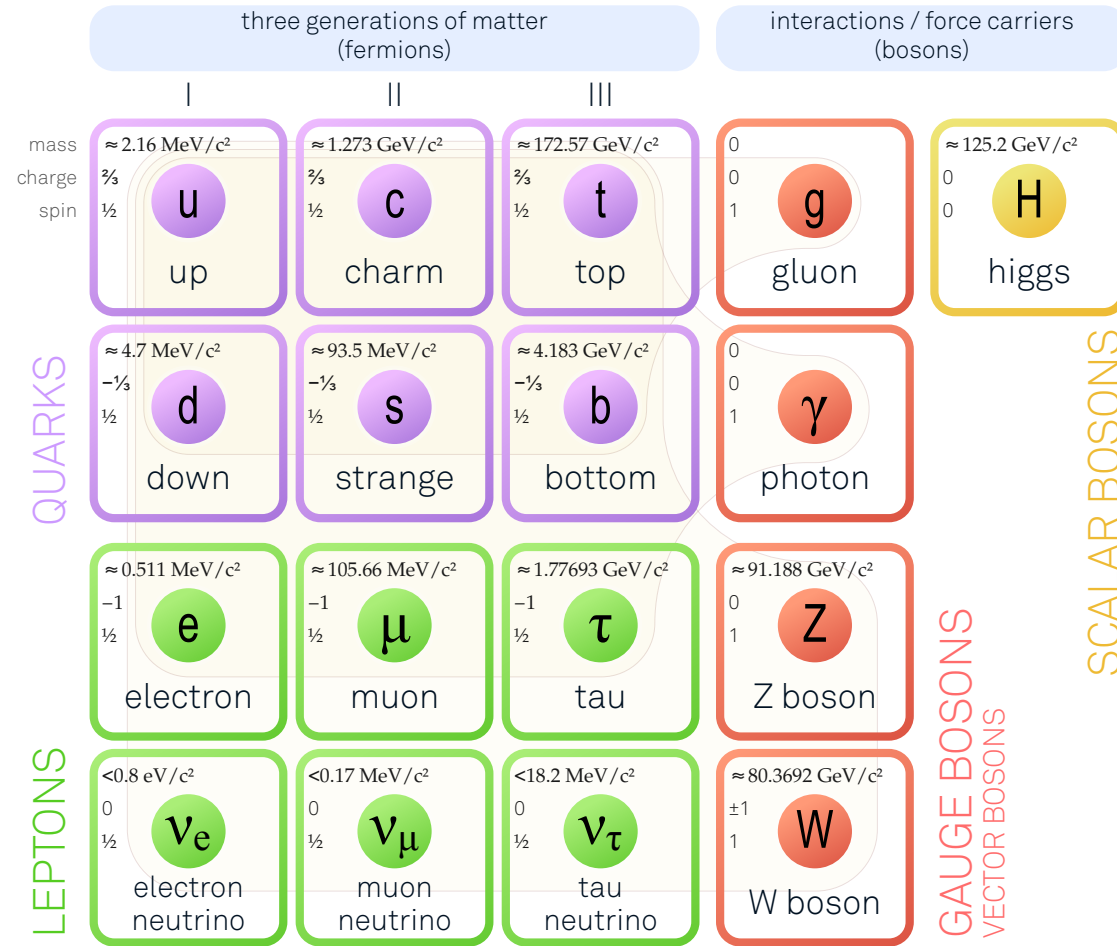












Link 