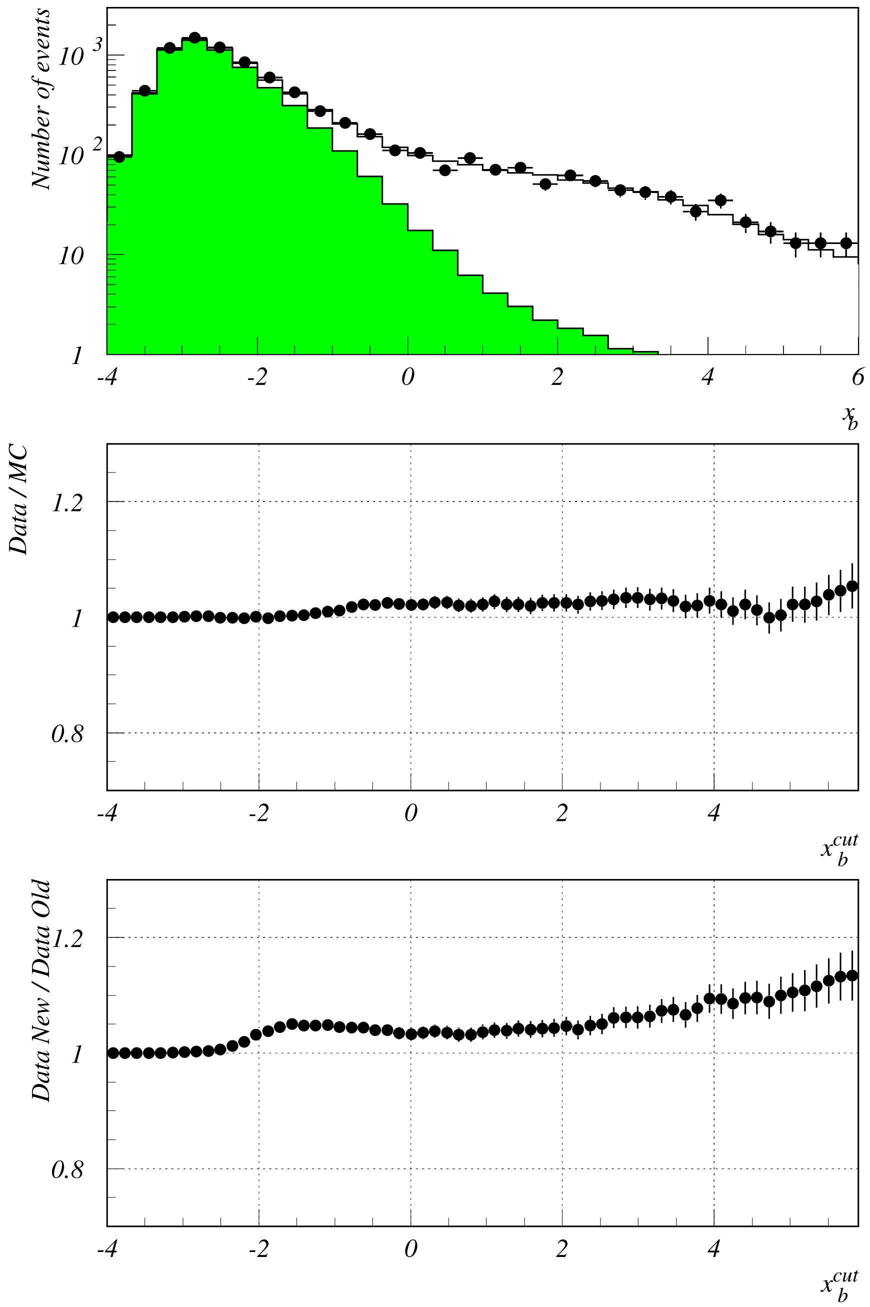

Figure 2: Top: distributions of the combined b-tagging variable x_{b}, in events including radiative return to the Z from 2000 data (dots) and simulation (histogram). The contribution of udsc-quarks is shown as the dark histogram. Middle: ratio of integrated tagging rates in 91 GeV Z data and simulation on application of the selection criterion $x_{\mathrm{b}} > x_{\mathrm{b}}{}^{\mathrm{cut}}$, as a function of the $x_{\mathrm{b}}{}^{\mathrm{cut}}$. Bottom: the ratio of the current rate of tagging of Z events to that used in our previous publication, as a function of the cut value $x_{\mathrm{b}}{}^{\mathrm{cut}}$. Comparison with the previous processing shows that the efficiency for b-tagging has increased by about 5%.

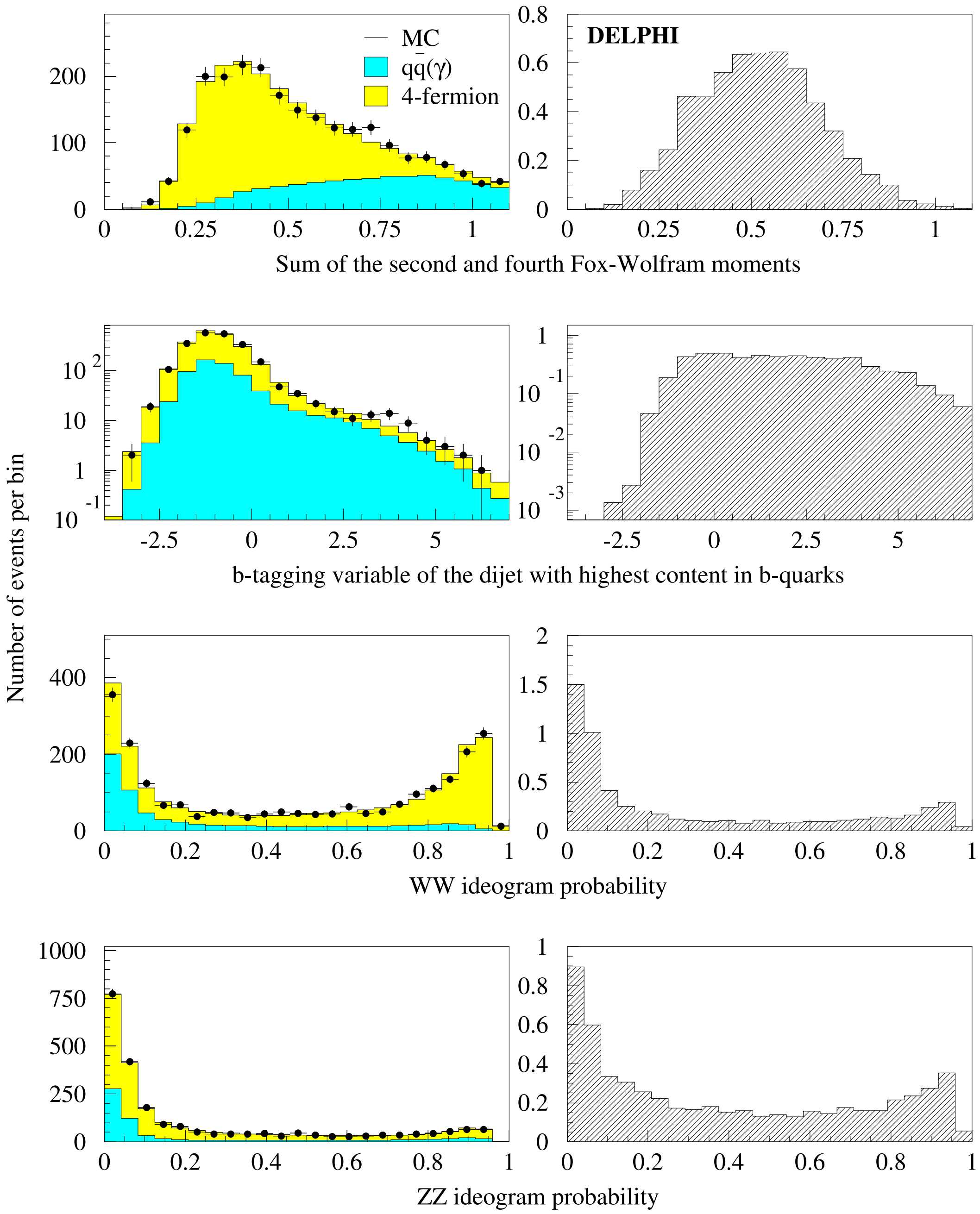

Figure 16: $Hq\bar{q}$ channel: distributions of four analysis variables, as described in the text, at preselection level. Data from the year 2000 (dots) are compared with SM background process expectations (left-hand side histograms). The expected distributions for a 115 GeV/c^2 Higgs signal are shown in the right-hand side histogram.

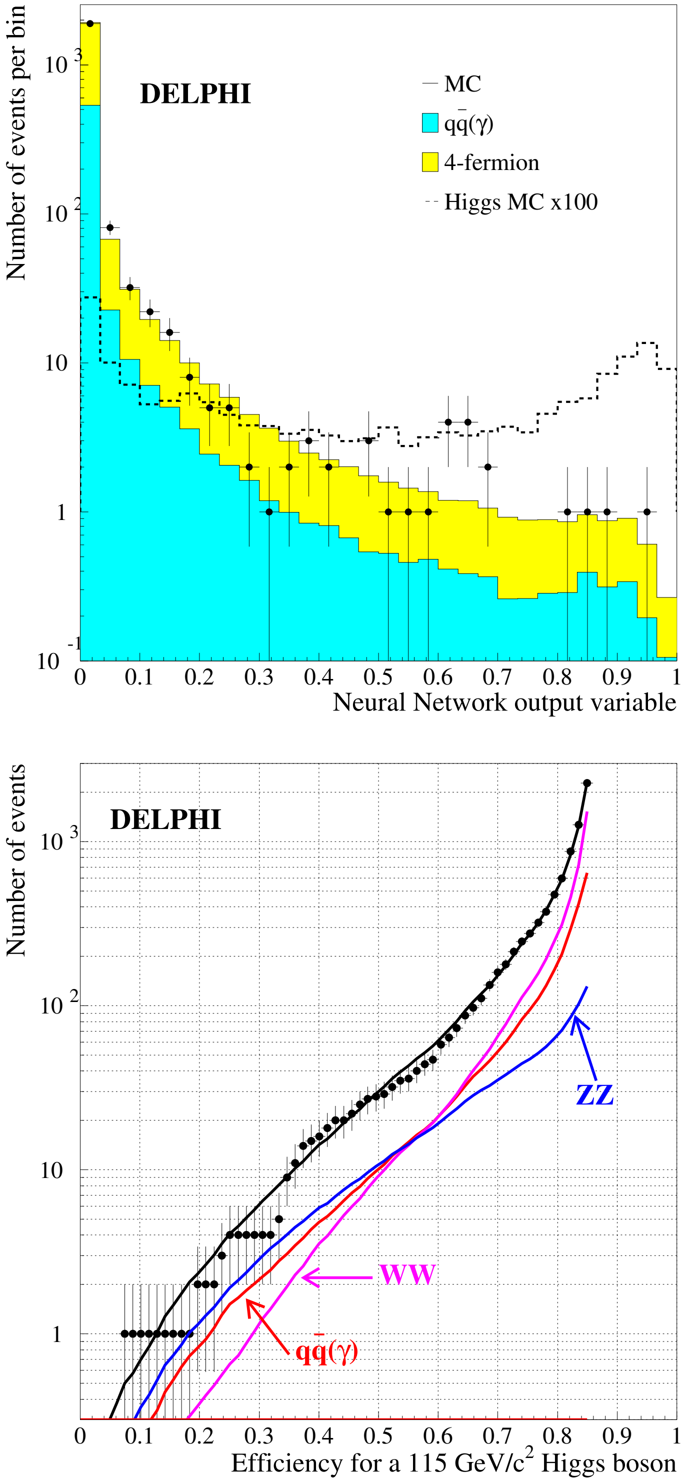

Figure 17: H$q\bar{q}$ channel: Top: the distribution of the neutral network variable used to select Higgs candidates in the 2000 data. The signal expectation is shown for a 115 GeV/c^2 Higgs, normalised to 100 times the expected rate. The dots represent the data. Bottom: curve of the expected SM background rate in the 2000 data as a function of the efficiency for a 115 GeV/c^2 Higgs signal when varying the cut on the neural network variable. The different background contributions are shown separately. The dots represent the data.