



Measurement of the top quark mass with the ATLAS detector using $t\bar{t}$ events with a high transverse momentum top quark

Elliot Watton

On behalf of the ATLAS Collaboration

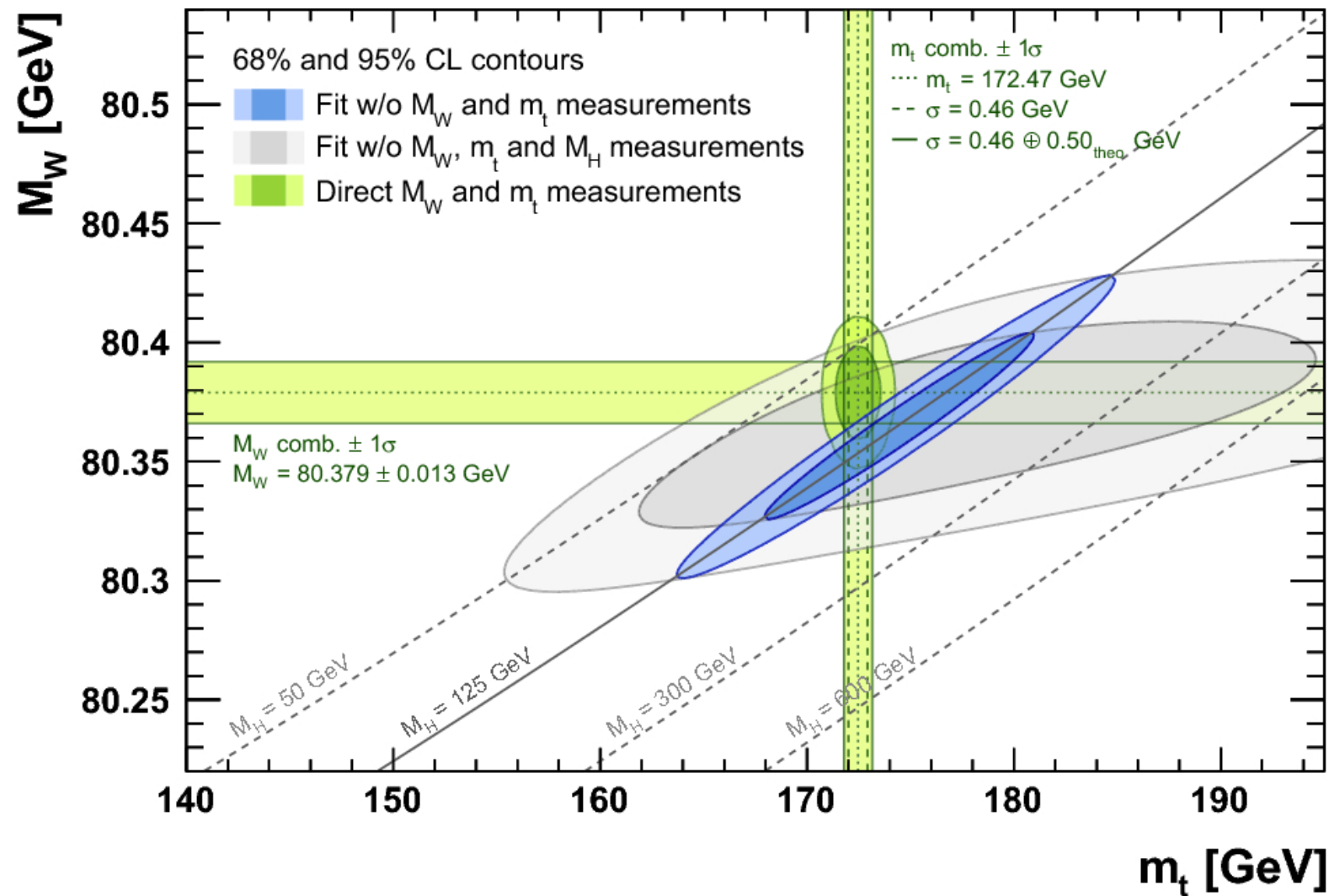
Paper submitted to PLB: [arXiv:2502.18216](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.18216)

29th March 2025

Standard Model

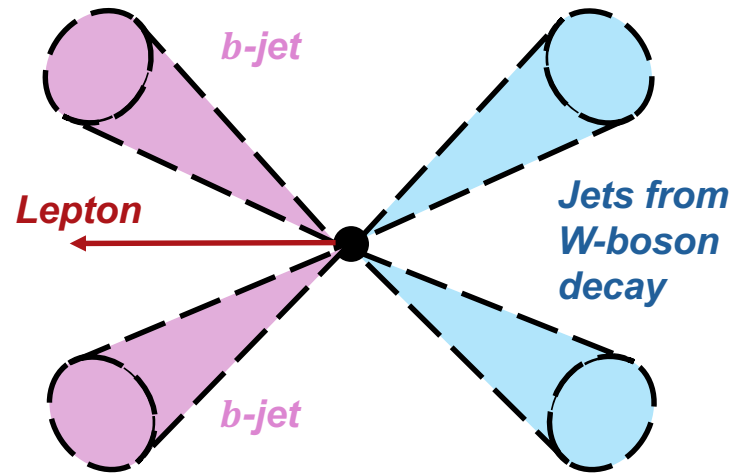
- The top quark mass, m_t , is a very important parameter of the Standard Model.
- m_t affects the dynamics of elementary particles via loop diagrams.
- Precision measurements of m_t provide information for global fits of electroweak parameters.
→ Can assess consistency of SM and probe its extensions.

Taken from: [Eur. Phys. J. C78, 675 \(2018\)](#)

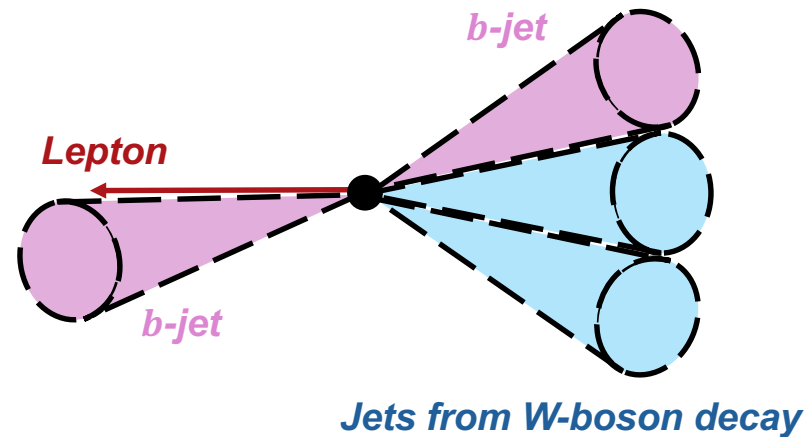


Why use the boosted regime?

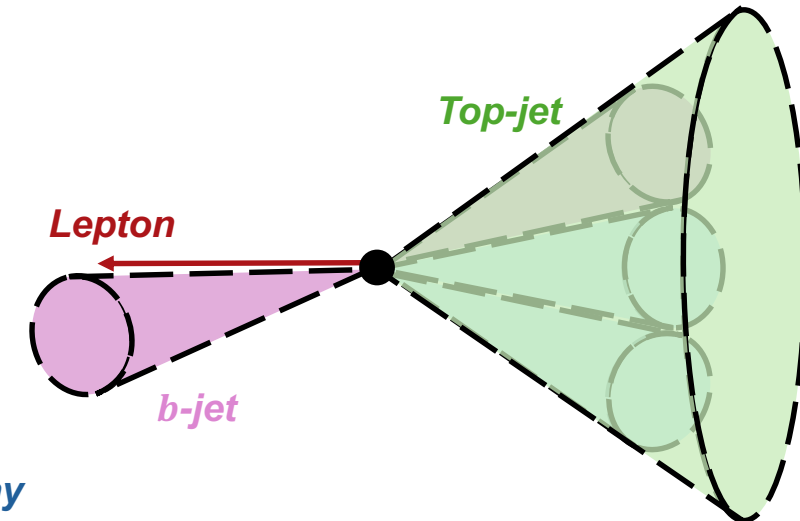
$$t\bar{t} \rightarrow W^+W^-b\bar{b} \rightarrow \ell\nu q\bar{q}'b\bar{b}$$



Resolved scenario



Boosted scenario



Jet reclustering

Advantage

Simplifies the reconstruction of hadronically decaying top quarks compared to the inclusive phase space.

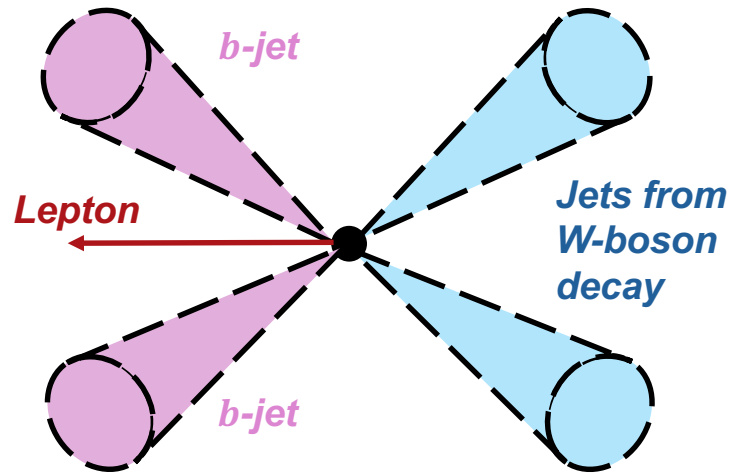
→ Potentially reduces the systematic uncertainties on m_t .

Disadvantage

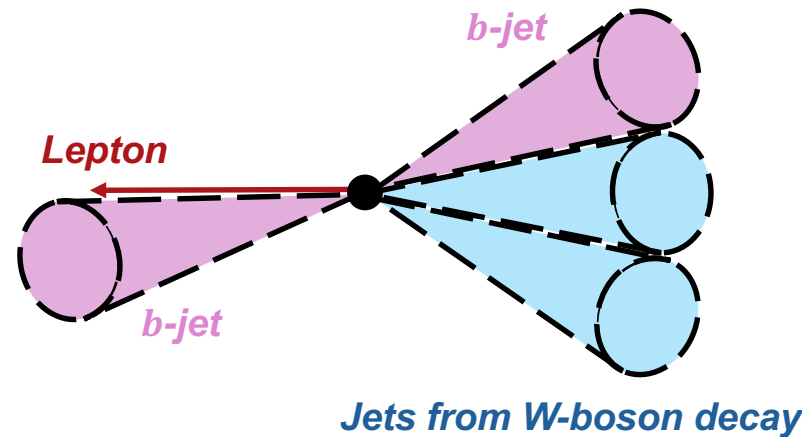
Lower available statistics
(but still systematically limited at the LHC)

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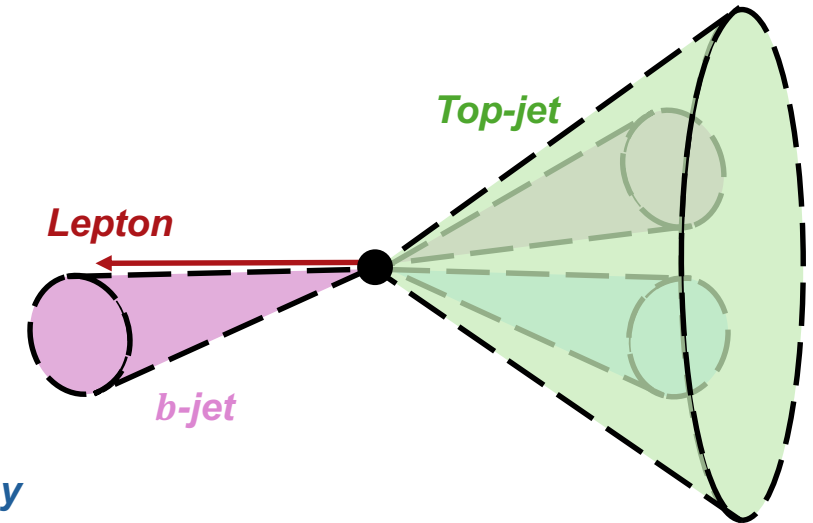
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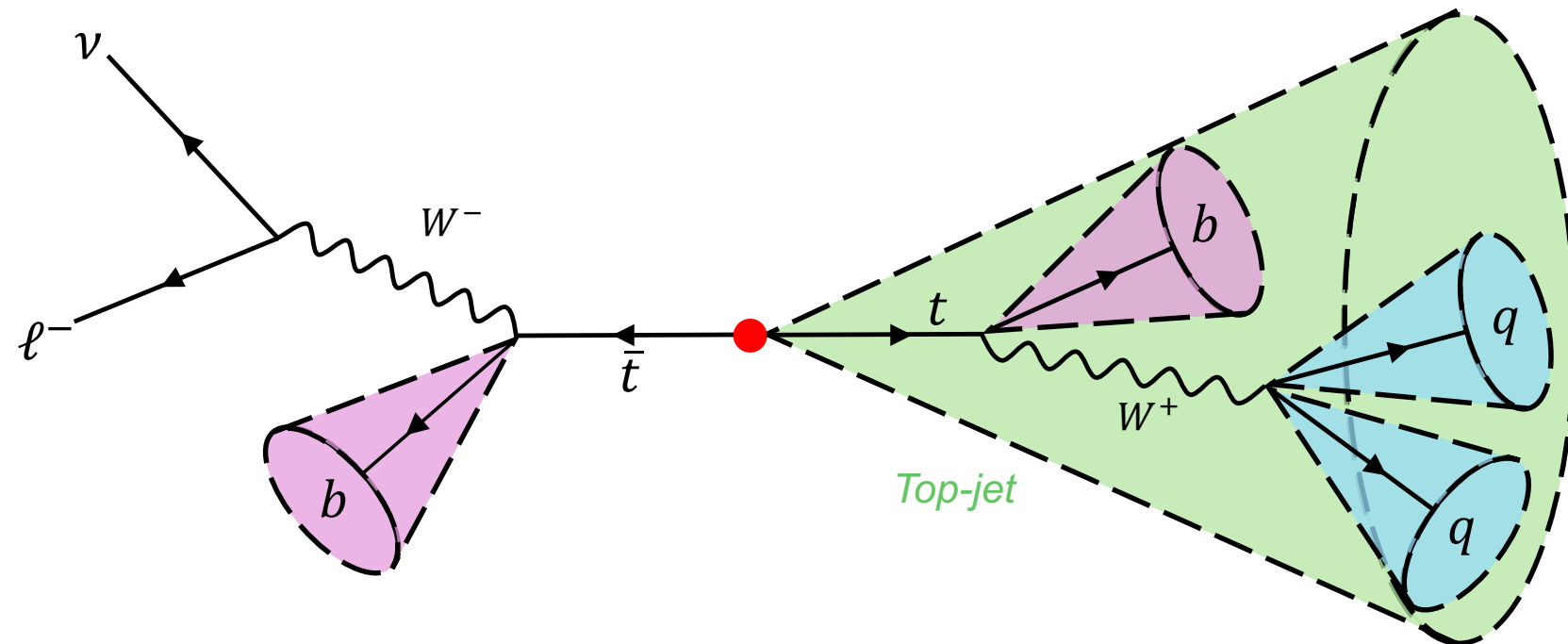
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Dataset

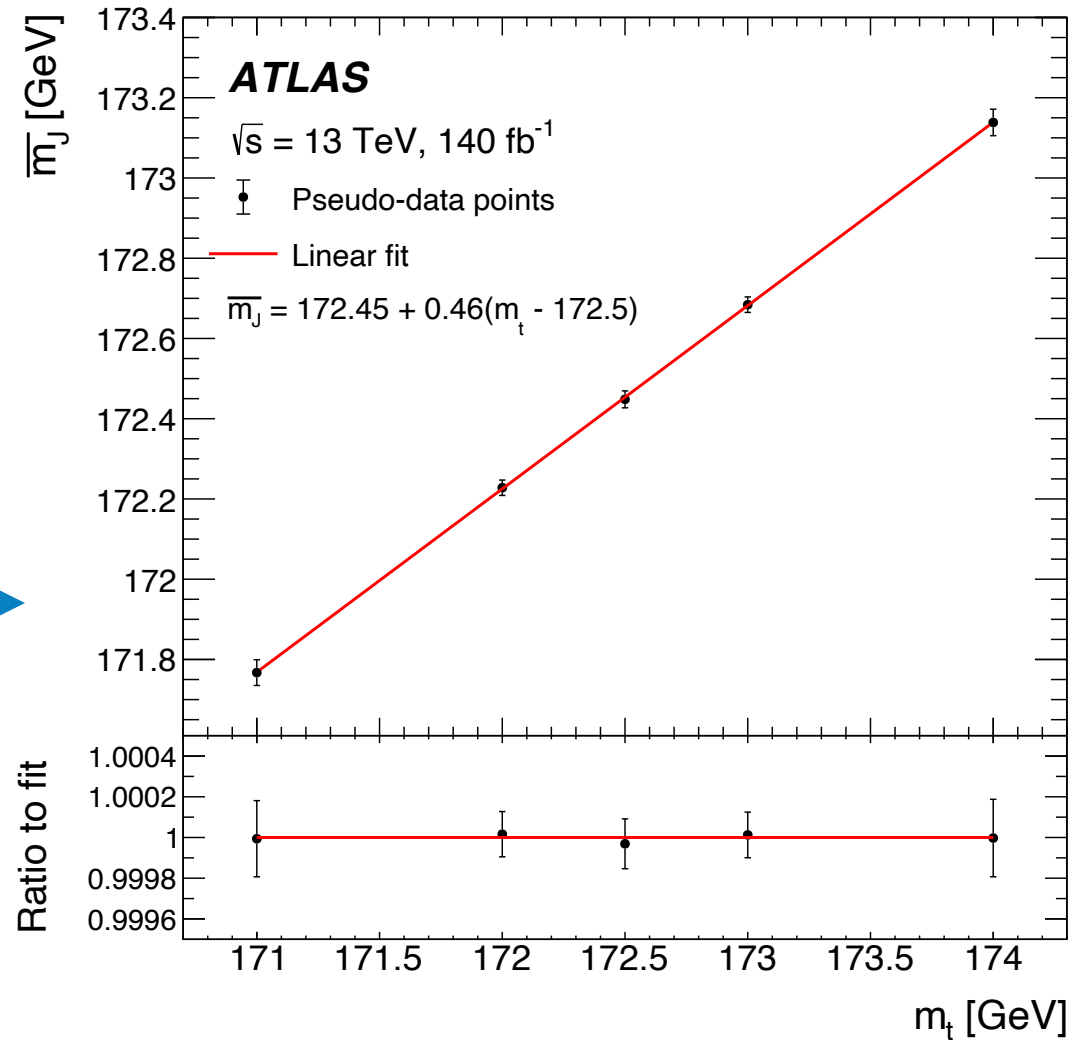
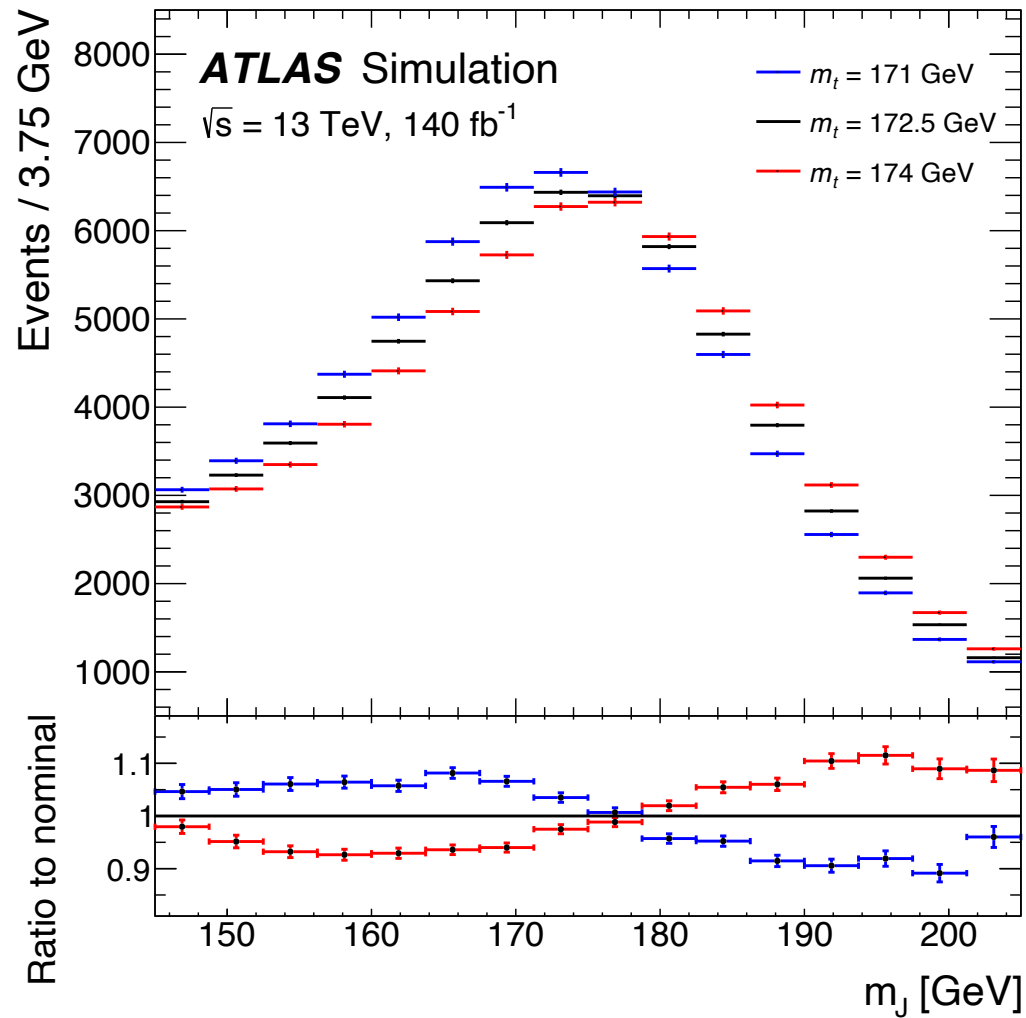
Full Run-2 ATLAS dataset corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 140 fb^{-1} .

Selection

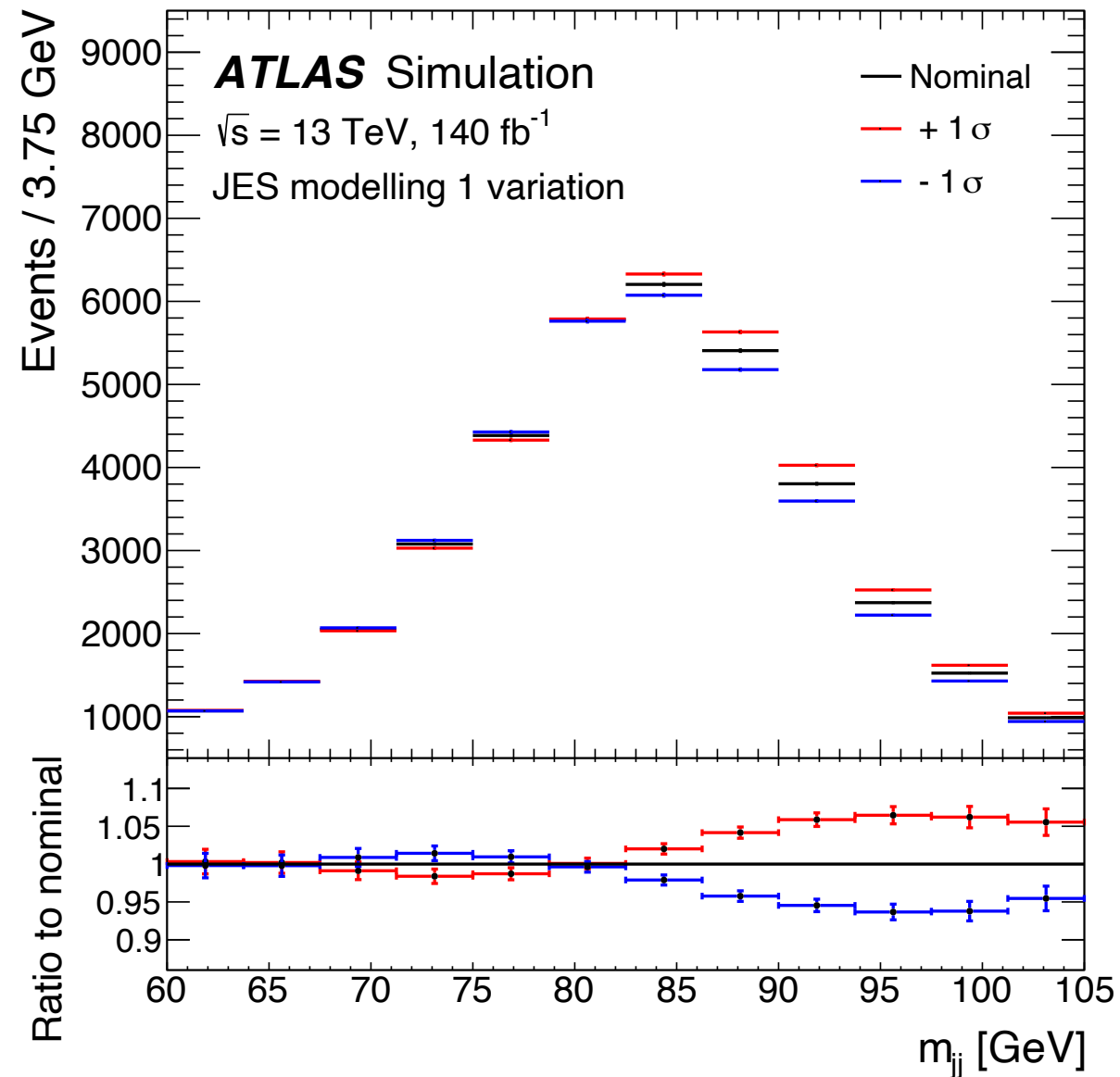
- Every event has at least one “top-jet” with:
 - $p_T > 355 \text{ GeV}$.
 - $120 \text{ GeV} < m_j < 220 \text{ GeV}$.
 - ≥ 2 small-radius jet constituents, where ≥ 1 is b-tagged.
- Need a second b-tagged jet.
- Exactly one lepton (electron or muon).
- $E_T^{\text{miss}} > 20 \text{ GeV}$
and $E_T^{\text{miss}} + m_T^W > 60 \text{ GeV}$.



Top-quark mass sensitivity: Use average top-jet mass, \overline{m}_J , as the m_t sensitive variable.



- Measurement is highly sensitive to uncertainties in the calibration of the energy of the jets.
 - Known as jet energy scale (JES) uncertainties.
- Introduce an observable that is sensitive to variations in the JES, but not m_t .
- Reconstructed W boson mass, m_{jj} , built from two non- b -tagged jets inside the top-jet.
 - The observable is independent of m_t .



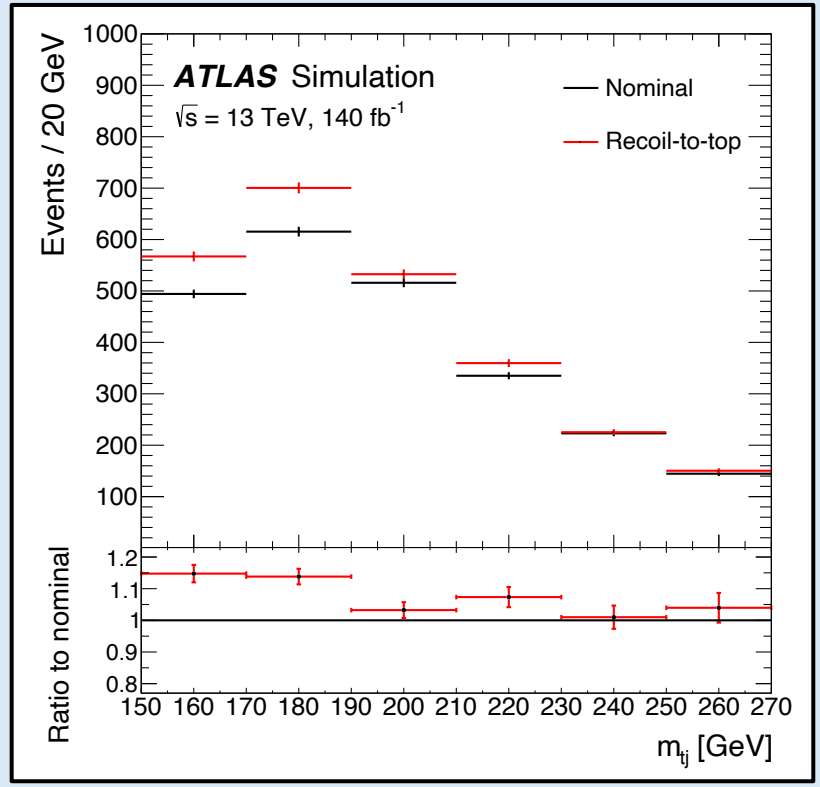
Reducing uncertainties: Recoil

When parton shower creates gluons from the b -quark in the top decay, there is ambiguity in choice of recoiling particle: b -quark or top quark.

Choices change the amount of wide-angle radiation off the b -quark, which changes m_j and the measured m_t .

Additionally, changes the number of events where b -quark is reconstructed as two separate jets.

Introduce another observable to constrain uncertainty: the invariant mass of the semi-leptonically decaying top and the closest additional jet, m_{tj} .



$$L(\overline{m}_J^d, \mathbf{n}_{m_{jj}}, \mathbf{n}_{m_{tj}} | m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \overbrace{G[\overline{m}_J^d | \overline{m}_J(m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \sigma_{\overline{m}_J}]}^{\overline{m}_J} \times \overbrace{\prod_s G(\beta_s | \theta_s, 1)}^{\text{Gaussian NP terms}} \times \overbrace{\prod_j P(n_{m_{jj},i} | v_i(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}))}^{m_{jj}} \times \overbrace{\prod_k P(n_{m_{tj},i} | \rho_k(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}))}^{m_{tj}}$$

$\mu = \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{SM}}$

As \overline{m}_J is a single value and the only part of the fit with m_t dependence \rightarrow NP fit values entirely determined by fitting m_{jj} and m_{tj}

Profile likelihood fit

1D fit

$$L(\overline{m}_J^d, \mathbf{n}_{m_{jj}}, \mathbf{n}_{m_{tj}} | m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = G[\overline{m}_J^d | \overline{m}_J(m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \sigma_{\overline{m}_J}] \times \prod_s G(\beta_s | \theta_s, 1) \times \prod_j P(n_{m_{jj},i} | v_i(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta})) \times \prod_k P(n_{m_{tj},i} | \rho_k(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}))$$

$$\mu = \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{SM}}$$

Expected uncertainty change using **Asimov** data

Source	Uncertainty [GeV]		
	1D fit	2D fit	3D fit
JES	± 1.41	± 0.30	± 0.26
Radiation (ISR and FSR)	± 0.82	± 0.08	± 0.14
Recoil	± 0.10	± 0.36	± 0.08
Total statistical	± 0.11	± 0.27	± 0.25
Total systematic	± 1.66	± 0.57	± 0.44
Total	± 1.66	± 0.63	± 0.51

Significant reductions!

← ~70% improvement to precision!

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Profile likelihood fit

2D fit

$$L(\overline{m}_J^d, \mathbf{n}_{m_{jj}}, \mathbf{n}_{m_{tj}} | m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = G[\overline{m}_J^d | \overline{m}_J(m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \sigma_{\overline{m}_J}] \times \prod_s G(\beta_s | \theta_s, 1) \times \prod_j P(n_{m_{jj},i} | v_i(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta})) \times \prod_k P(n_{m_{tj},i} | \rho_k(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}))$$

\overline{m}_J Gaussian NP terms m_{jj} m_{tj}

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Profile likelihood fit

3D fit

$$L(\overline{m}_J^d, \mathbf{n}_{m_{jj}}, \mathbf{n}_{m_{tj}} | m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = G[\overline{m}_J^d | \overline{m}_J(m_t, \mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}), \sigma_{\overline{m}_J}] \times \prod_s G(\beta_s | \theta_s, 1) \times \prod_j P(n_{m_{jj},i} | v_i(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta})) \times \prod_k P(n_{m_{tj},i} | \rho_k(\mu, \boldsymbol{\theta}))$$

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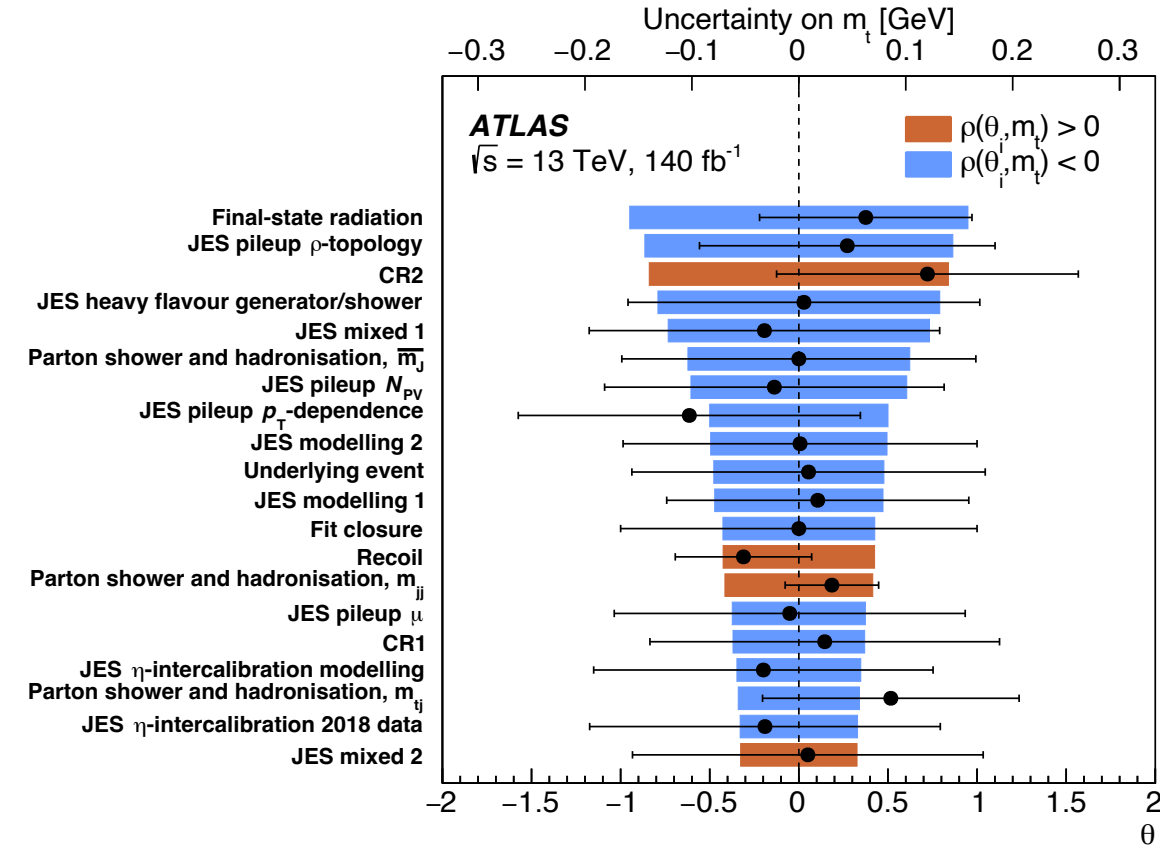
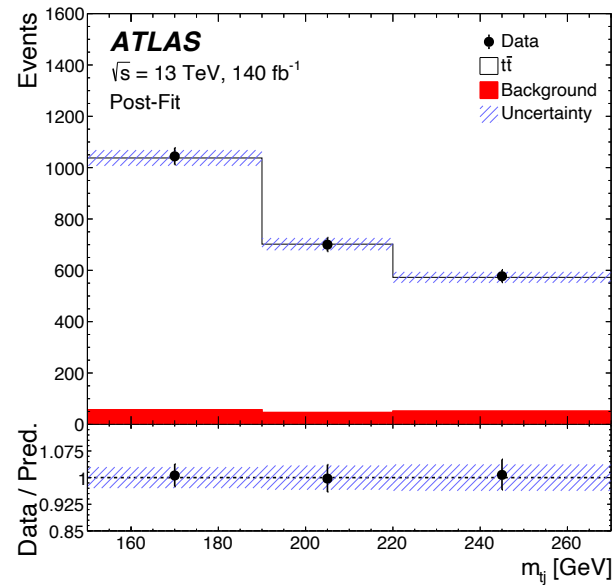
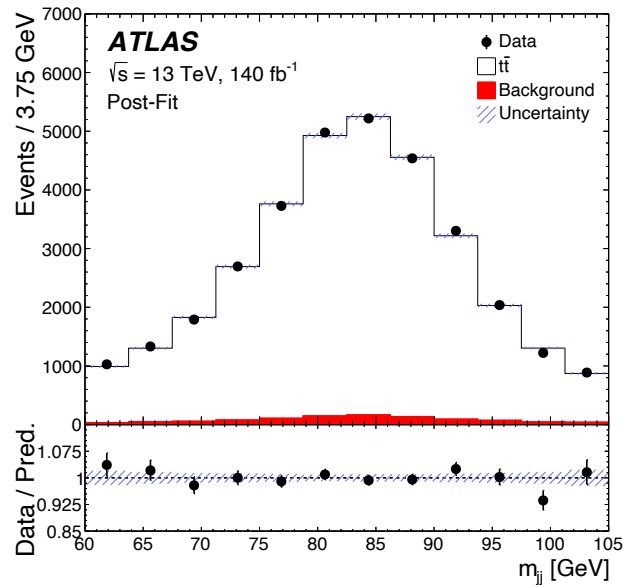
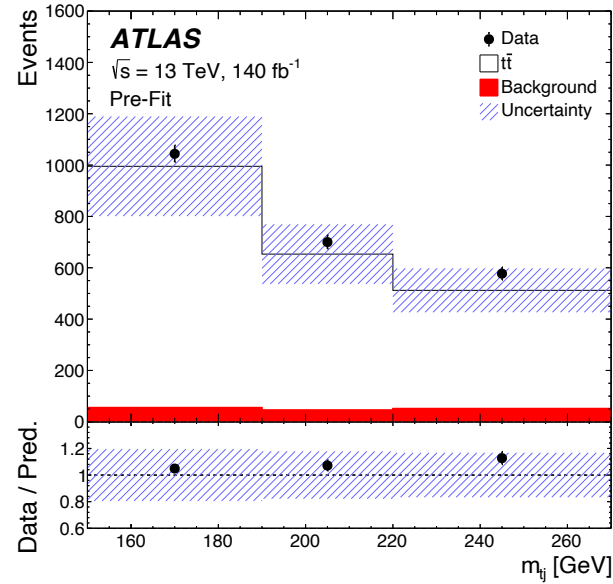
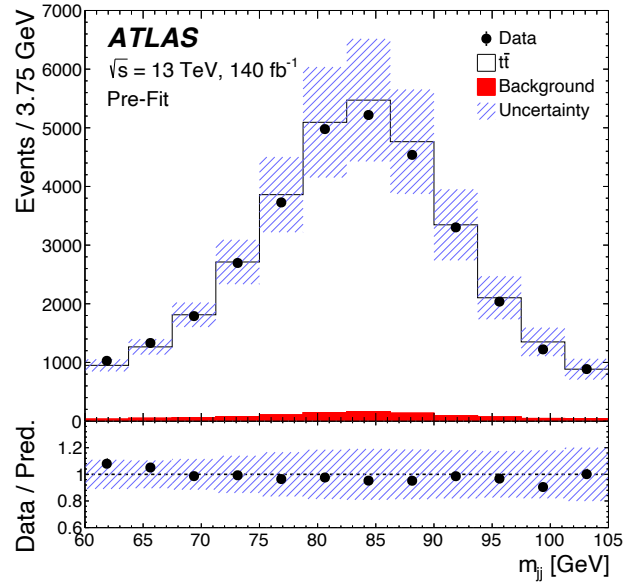
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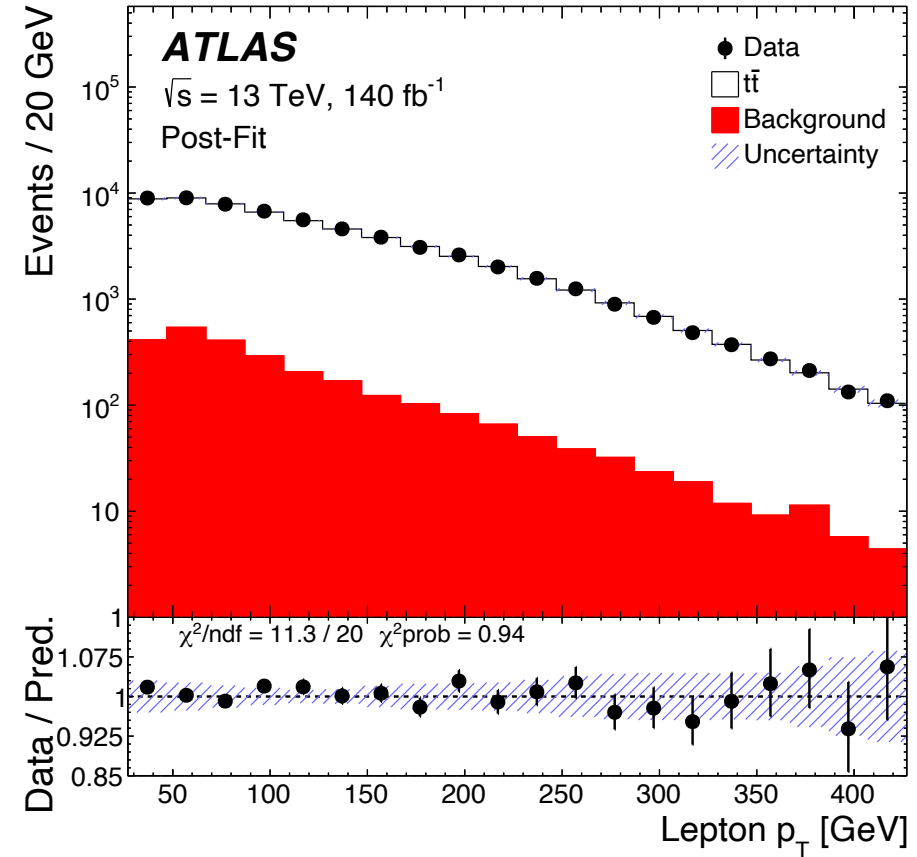
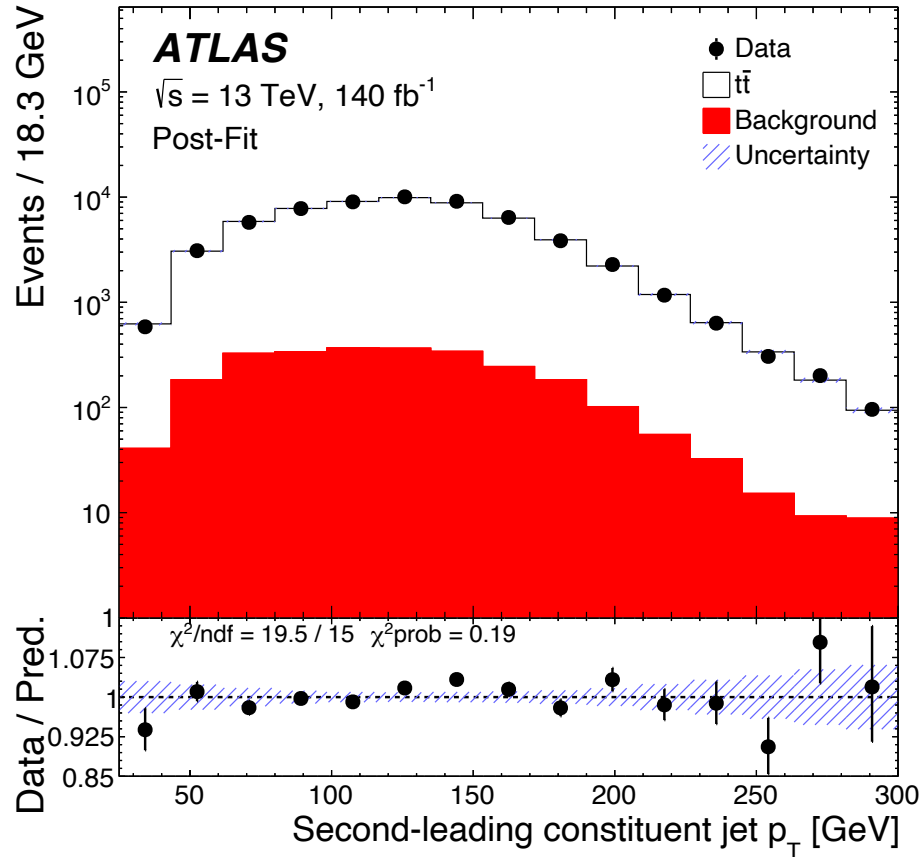
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Constrained model



To validate the constrained model, apply it to other observables in the sample.

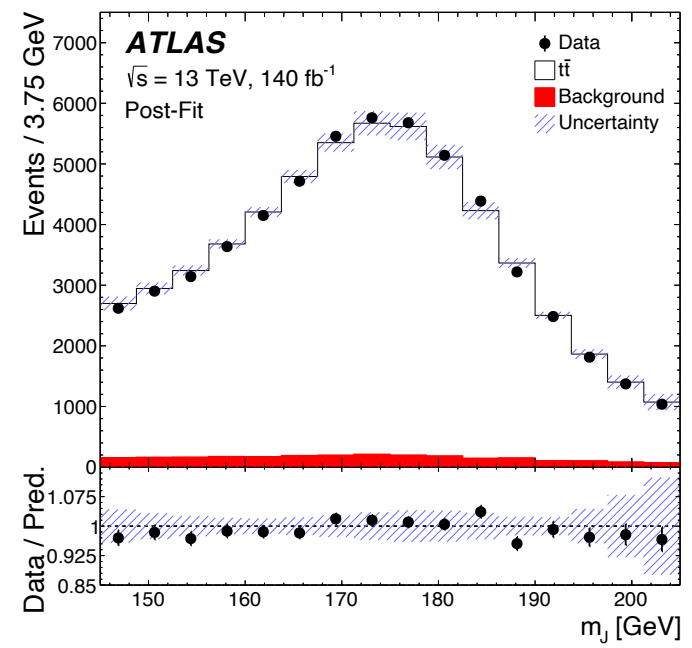
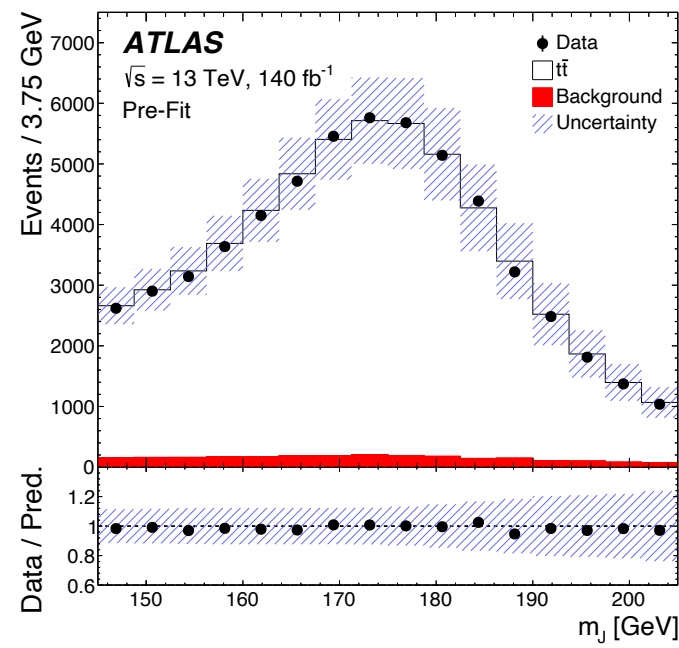
Can also do reliable χ^2 test when the correlations with m_{jj} and m_{tj} are low.



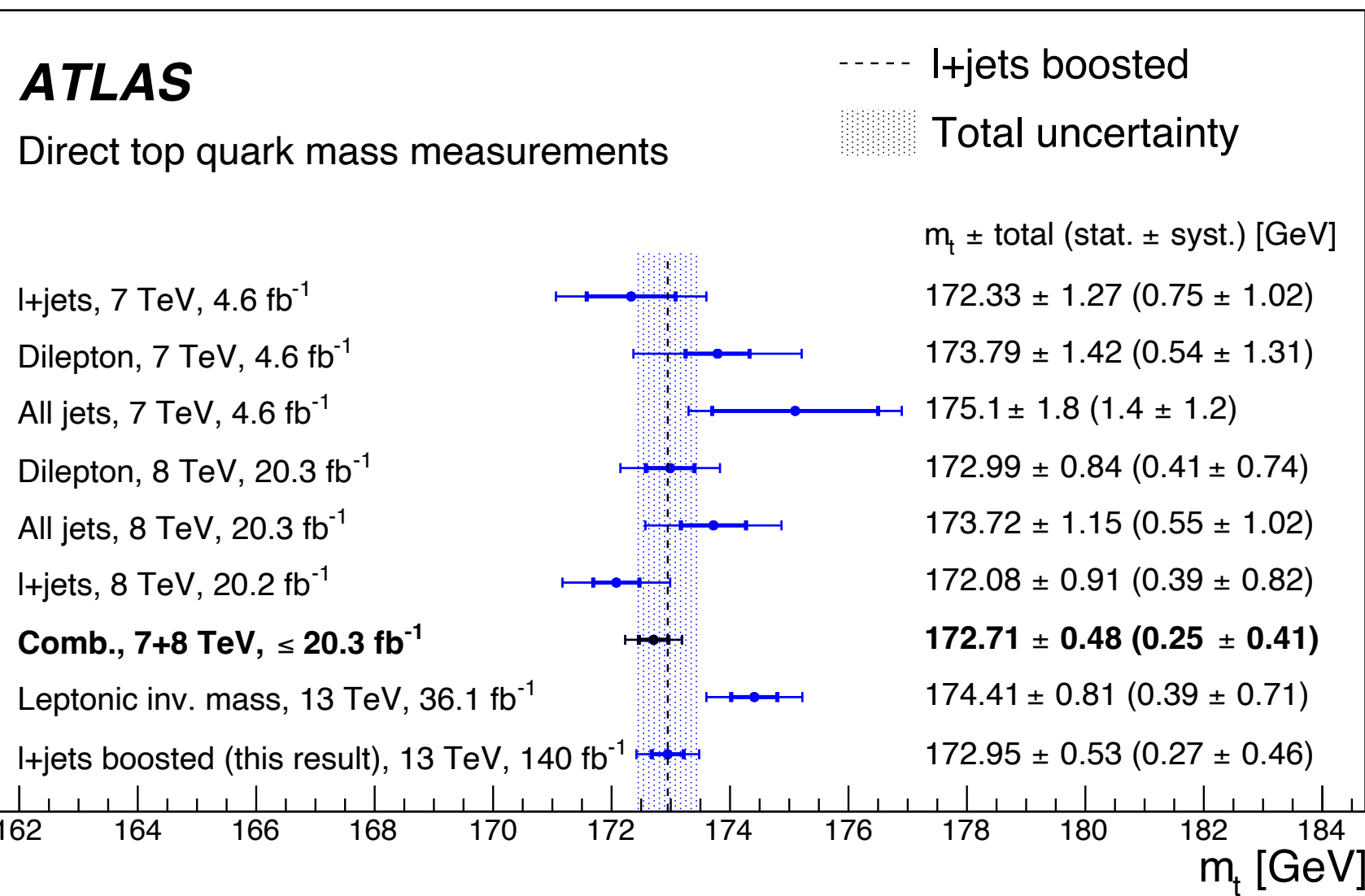
Checked that m_t result is independent of lepton flavour, data-taking period, number of constituent jets.

$m_t = 172.95 \pm 0.53 \text{ GeV}$

The most precise m_t measurement from ATLAS in a single channel!

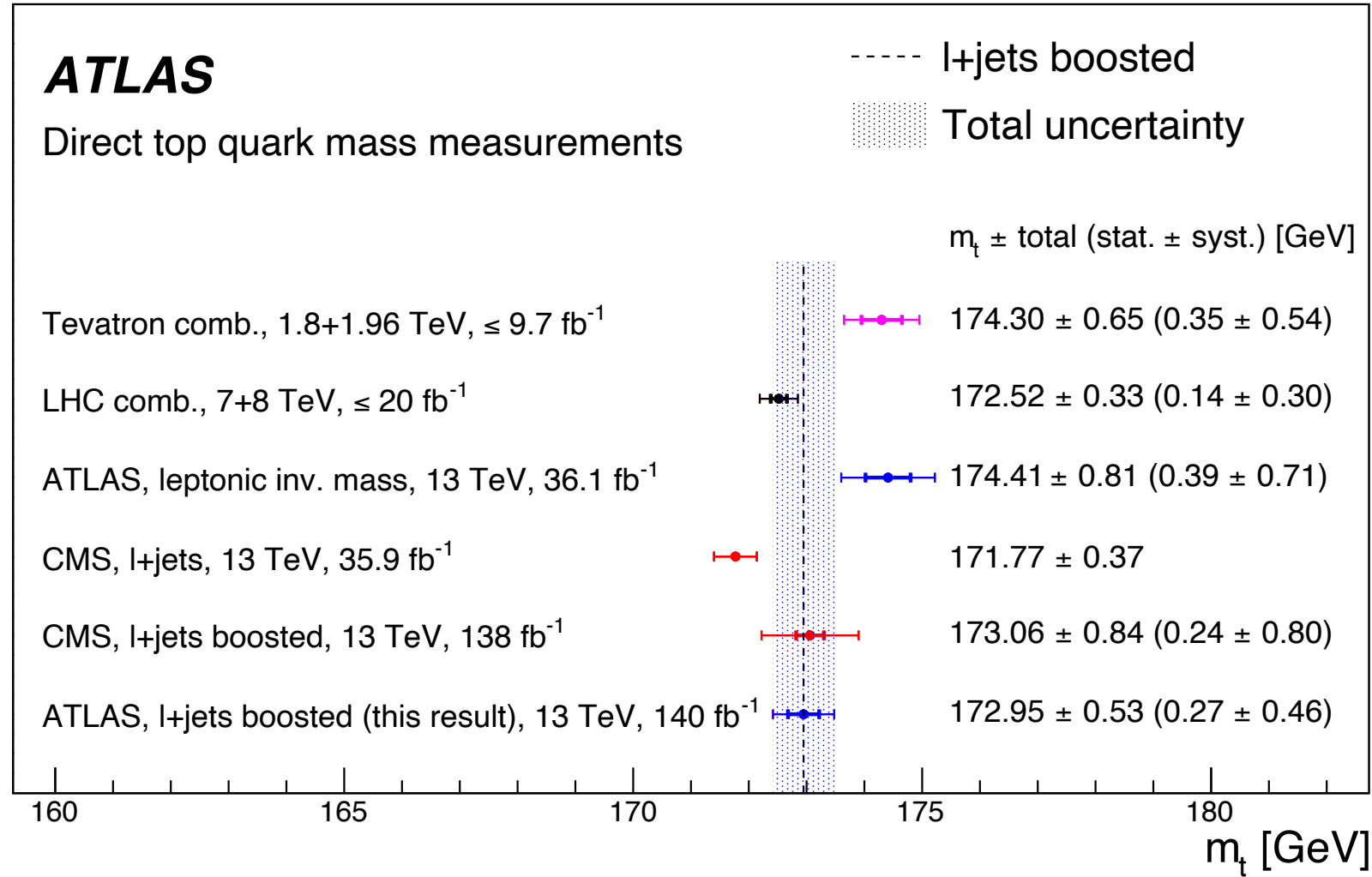


Source	Uncertainty [GeV]
Jets	± 0.33
$t\bar{t}$ modelling	± 0.29
Other experimental sources	± 0.12
Background modelling	± 0.05
Total statistical	± 0.27
Total systematic	± 0.46
Total	± 0.53



Run-1
Run-1 combination
This result

Measurement is in very good agreement and almost as precise as ATLAS Run 1 combination.



This result {

- Measurement is more precise than the Tevatron combination.
- Measurement is more precise than boosted measurement from CMS.

$$m_t = 172.95 \pm 0.53 \text{ GeV}$$

The most precise m_t measurement from ATLAS in a single channel!

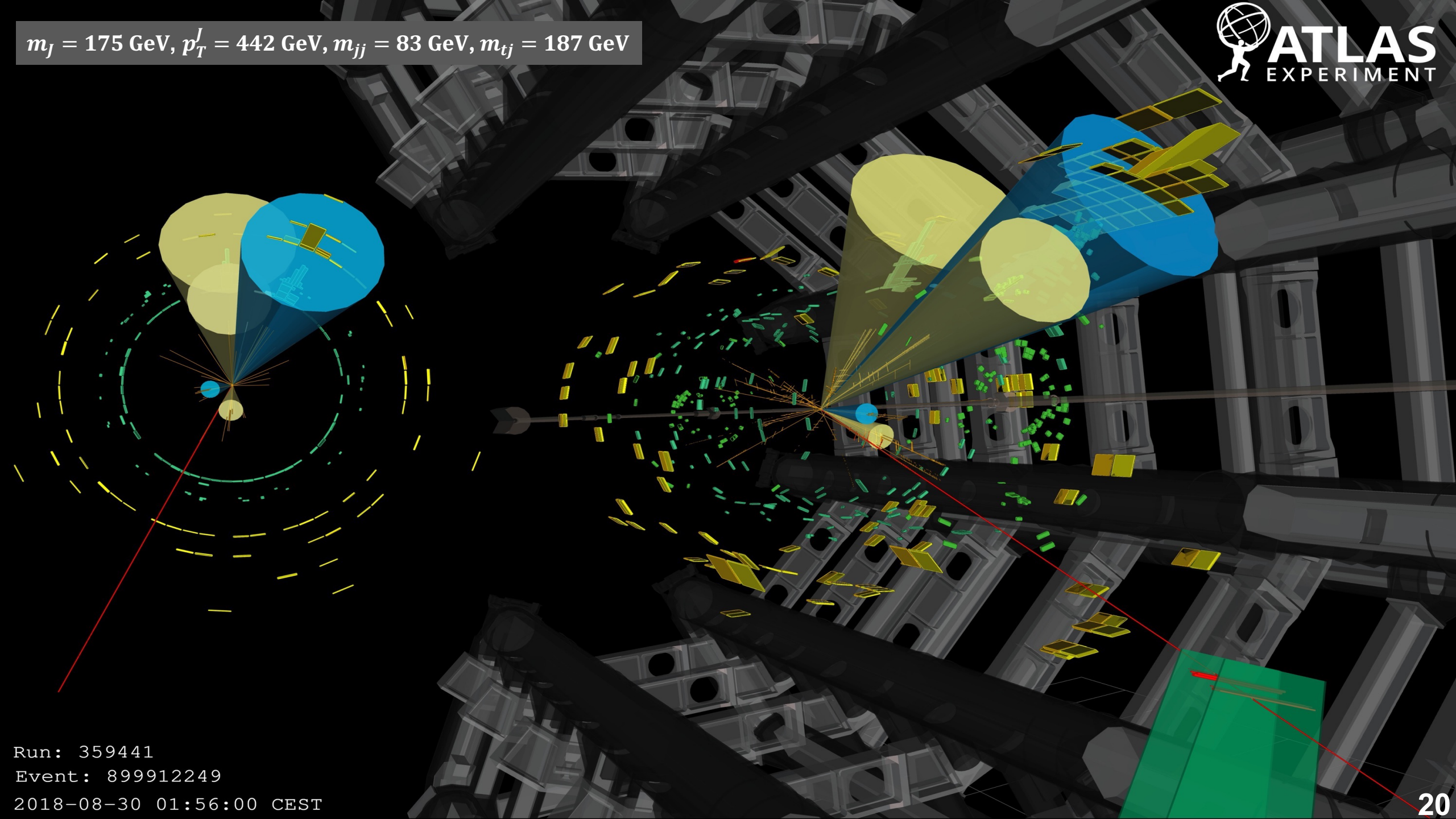
- Achieved goal of making precise m_t measurement.
- This is thanks to a combination of aspects including the boosted selection and profile likelihood fit strategy.
- Uncertainty includes a 0.27 GeV statistical component...
 - Potential for improvement given Run-3 data and the expected output of HL-LHC.



Backup



$m_J = 175 \text{ GeV}$, $p_T^J = 442 \text{ GeV}$, $m_{jj} = 83 \text{ GeV}$, $m_{tj} = 187 \text{ GeV}$



Run: 359441
Event: 899912249
2018-08-30 01:56:00 CEST

Object	Selection criteria	
Leptons	Exactly 1 lepton in event	
	<u>Electrons</u>	<u>Muons</u>
	$p_T > 27 \text{ GeV}$	$p_T > 27 \text{ GeV}$
	$ \eta < 1.37 \text{ or } 1.52 < \eta < 2.47$	$ \eta < 2.5$
Small- R jets ($R = 0.4$)	$p_T > 26 \text{ GeV}$	
	$ \eta < 2.5$	
b -tagged jets ($R = 0.4$)	DL1r multivariate tagger at 77% efficiency	
	≥ 1 b -tagged jet is constituent of top-jet	
	≥ 1 b -tagged jet near lepton: $\Delta R(\ell, b) < 2.0$	
Hadronic top-jet (t , $R = 1.0$) ($R = 0.4$ jets as input)	≥ 1 top-tagged large- R jet candidate	
	$p_T > 355 \text{ GeV}$	
	$ \eta < 2.0$	
	$120 \text{ GeV} < m_{\text{top-jet}} < 220 \text{ GeV}$	
	≥ 2 small- R jet constituents	
	≥ 1 b -tagged jet constituent	
E_T^{miss} & m_T^W	$E_T^{\text{miss}} > 20 \text{ GeV}$	
	$E_T^{\text{miss}} + m_T^W > 60 \text{ GeV}$	
Electron isolation	$\Delta R(e, t) > 1.0$	
m_{lb}	$m_{lb} < 180 \text{ GeV}$	

Additional used to build fit observables

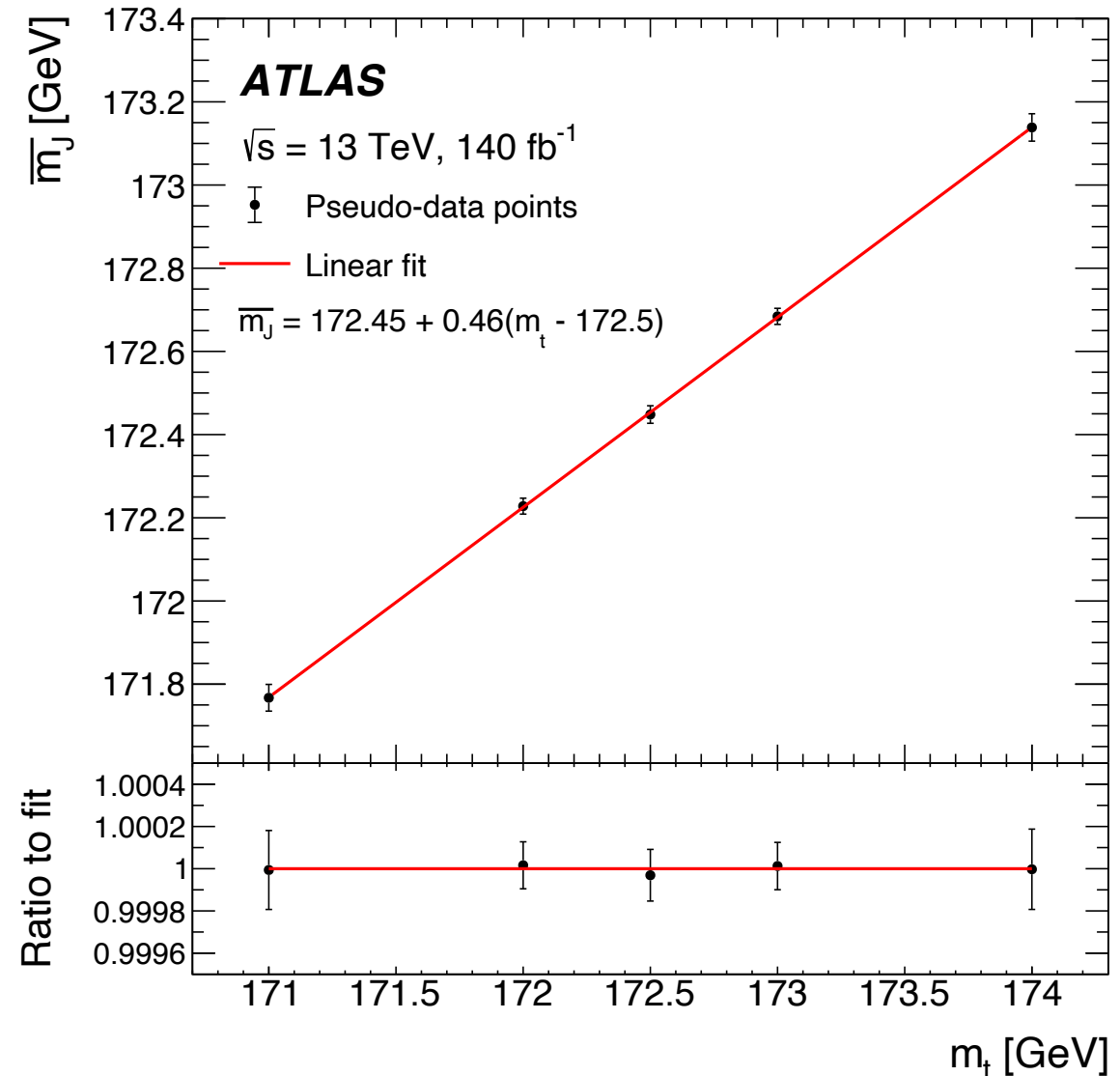
Selection	Additional criteria
\overline{m}_J selection	$145 \text{ GeV} < m_J < 205 \text{ GeV}$
m_{jj} selection	Number of constituent jets in top-jet ≥ 3 Number of not b -tagged constituent jets in top-jet ≥ 2 $60 \text{ GeV} < m_{jj} < 105 \text{ GeV}$
m_{tj} selection	$\Delta R(t, j) < 0.5$ $150 \text{ GeV} < m_{tj} < 270 \text{ GeV}$

Process	$145 < m_J < 205 \text{ GeV}$	$60 < m_{jj} < 105 \text{ GeV}$	$150 < m_{tj} < 270 \text{ GeV}$
$t\bar{t}$	65000 ± 9500	38100 ± 5800	2340 ± 430
Single-top	1000 ± 170	400 ± 130	50 ± 9
$t\bar{t}X$	700 ± 130	360 ± 67	54 ± 10
Multijet	400 ± 260	170 ± 110	23 ± 15
W + jets	250 ± 100	59 ± 22	21 ± 9
Z + jets	49 ± 24	10 ± 5	5 ± 3
Diboson	22 ± 11	5 ± 3	2 ± 1
Total prediction	67400 ± 9500	39100 ± 5800	2500 ± 430
Data	57459	32722	2312

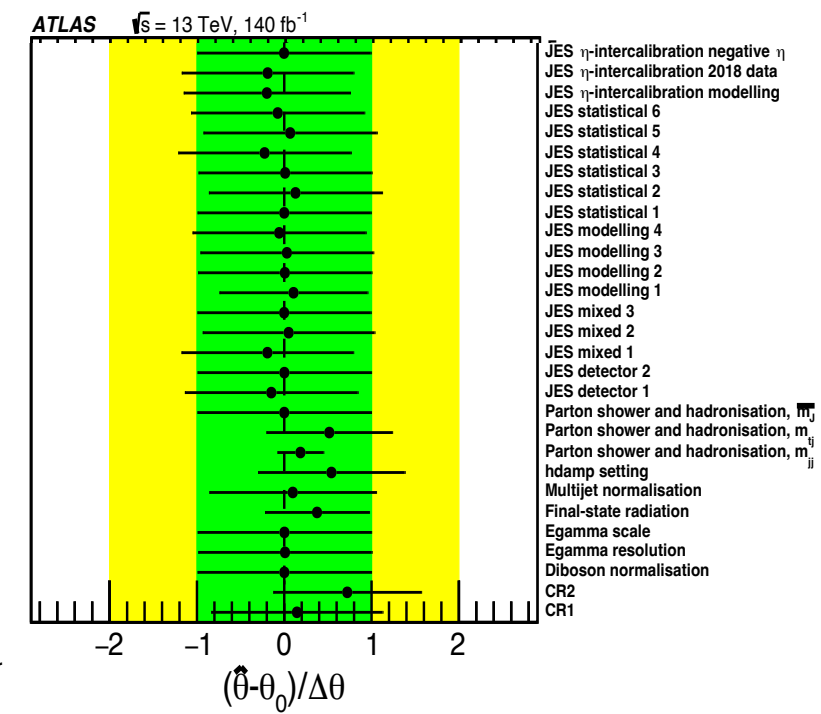
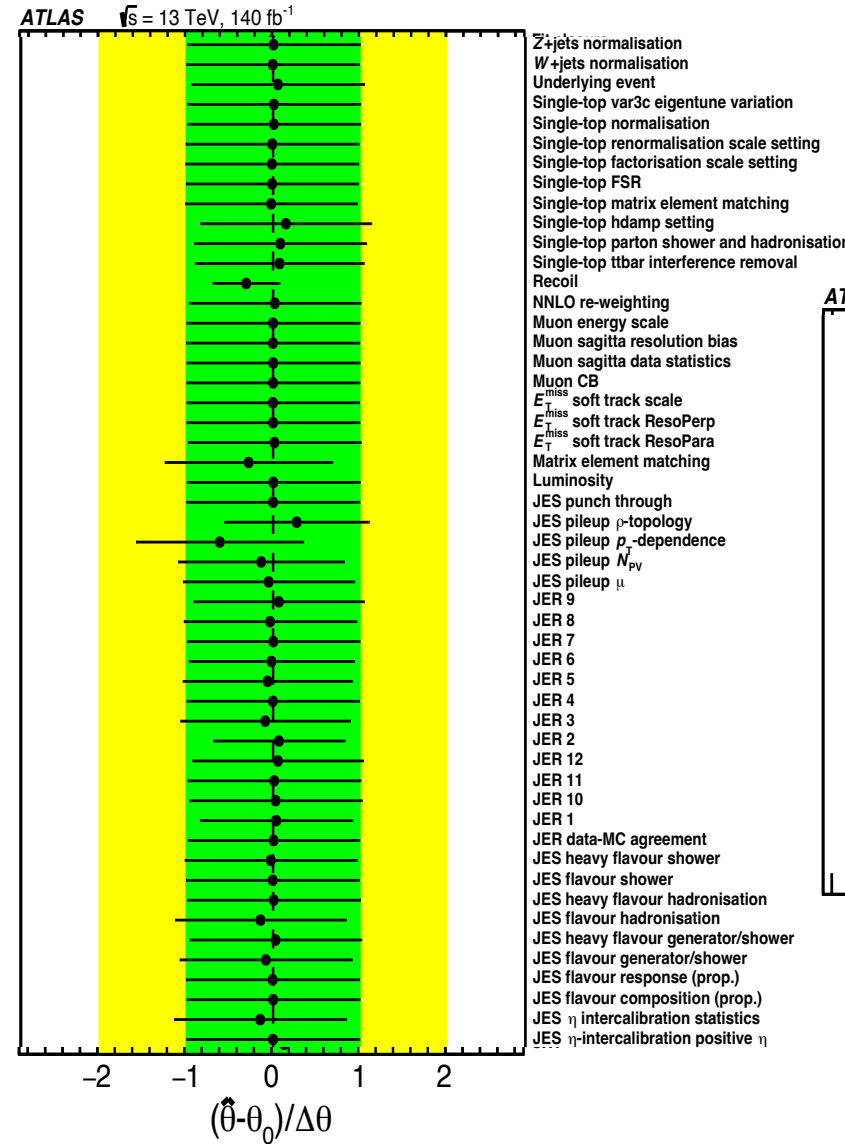
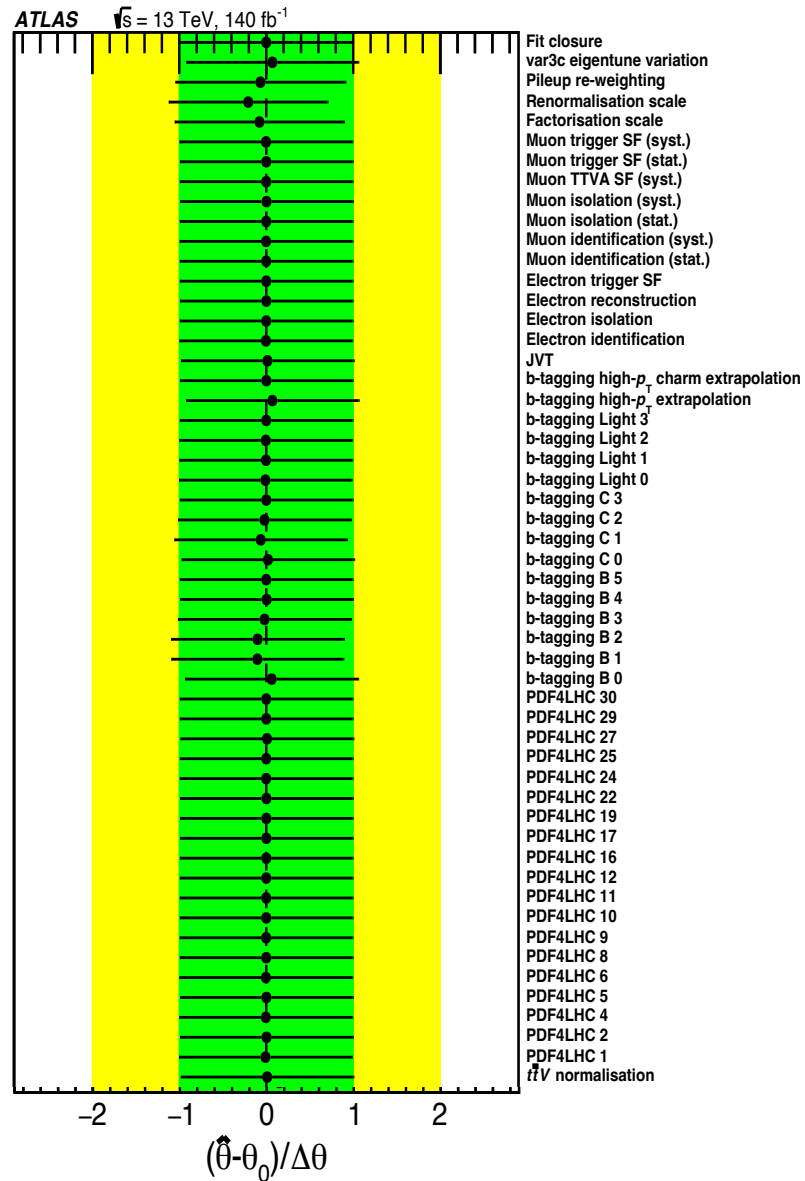
- Uncertainties include impact of all systematics.
- Offset between data and total prediction is expected from previous measurement of $t\bar{t}$ differential cross-section using similar events ([JHEP 06 \(2022\) 063](#)).

$$\overline{m}_j(m_t, \mu, \theta) = A + B(m_t - 172.5) + C(\mu - 1) + \sum_s \theta_s \Delta_s$$

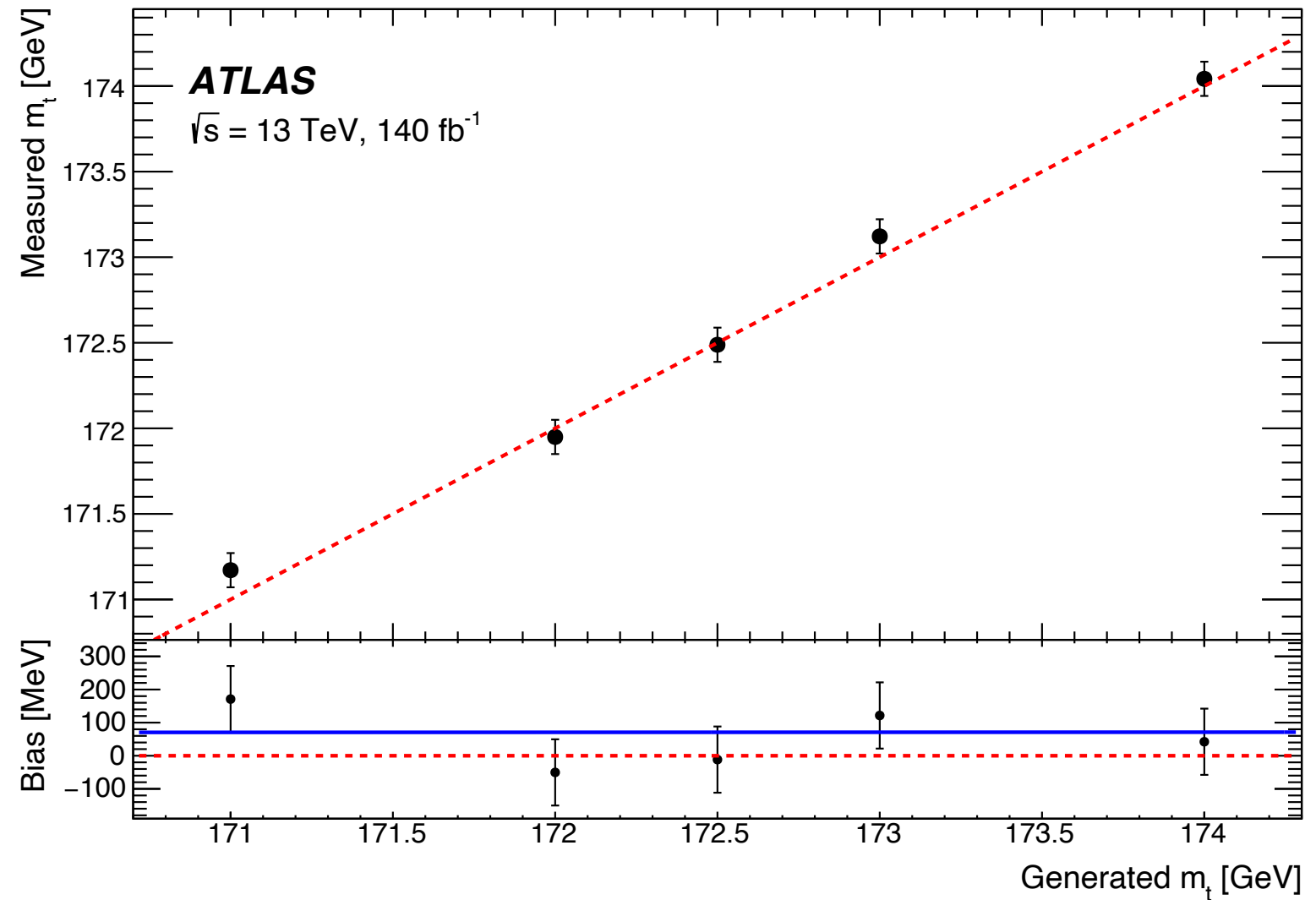
- $\mu = \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{SM}}$,
- θ is the set of NPs,
- Δ_s is the impact of a 1σ change in NP s on \overline{m}_j ,
- A , B , and C , are constants found from the simulation,
- Note that $C = 0$ for zero background.
- We find:
 - $A = (172.45 \pm 0.01) \text{ GeV}$,
 - $B = (0.46 \pm 0.02) \text{ GeV}^{-1}$,
 - $C = 0.02 \text{ GeV}$.



Nuisance parameter fitted values



- The uncertainty bars on each point show the uncertainty from MC statistics.
- The dashed red line shows perfect linearity.
- The lower panel shows the bias (measured m_t minus true m_t) and the blue line shows a linear fit to the points (excluding $m_t = 172.5$ GeV).
- The linearity test is performed by injecting pseudo-data into the fit.
- Each pseudo-data sample is treated as data and the fit is performed.



- Systematic uncertainties evaluated by extracting the correlation between each nuisance parameter and the m_t using the profile likelihood fit's covariance matrix.
- Categories of uncertainties are built by summing in quadrature the effect of all nuisance parameters in the category.
- Total statistical uncertainty is found via:

$$\sigma_{\text{stat}}^2 = \sigma_{\text{total}}^2 - \sum_i \sigma_{\text{syst},i}^2$$

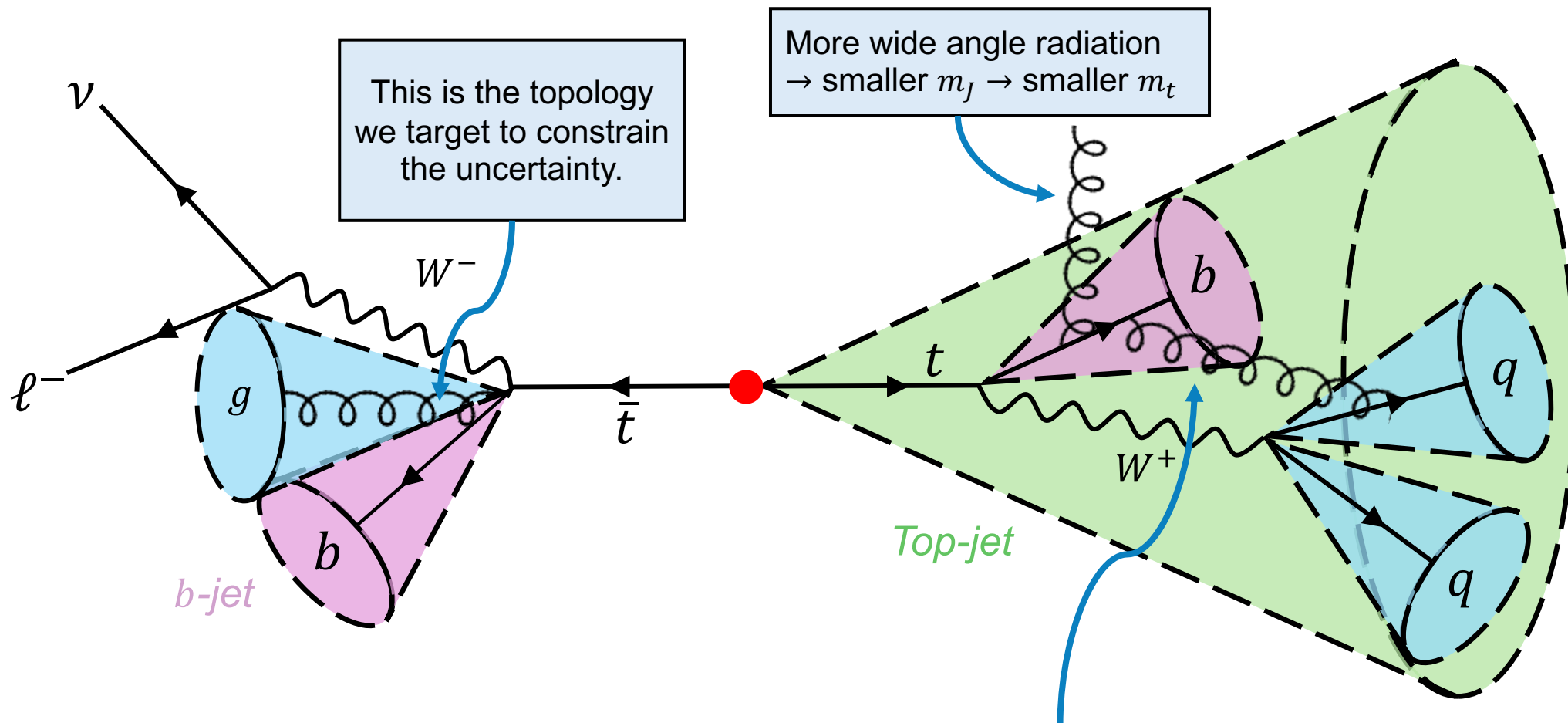
- For more details, see [EPJC 84 \(2024\) 6, 593](#)

- Table refers to the expected uncertainties obtained using Asimov fit with $m_t = 172.5$ GeV and $\mu = 1$.
- 1D fit = fit to \overline{m}_J
- 2D fit = fit to $\overline{m}_J + m_{jj}$
- 3D fit = fit to $\overline{m}_J + m_{jj} + m_{tj}$
- The size of the uncertainty reflects both the post-fit uncertainty on the NP and the correlation between the NP and m_t , and these correlations change between the different fit setups.

Source	Uncertainty [GeV]		
	1D fit	2D fit	3D fit
JES	± 1.41	± 0.30	± 0.26
Colour reconnection (CR1 and CR2)	± 0.05	± 0.18	± 0.15
Radiation (ISR and FSR)	± 0.82	± 0.08	± 0.14
JES heavy flavour	± 0.08	± 0.15	± 0.14
Parton shower and hadronisation model	± 0.10	± 0.10	± 0.13
JER	± 0.14	± 0.09	± 0.10
MC statistics	< 0.01	± 0.09	± 0.09
Underlying event	± 0.07	± 0.07	± 0.08
Recoil	± 0.10	± 0.36	± 0.08
Fit closure	< 0.01	± 0.07	± 0.07
Background modelling	± 0.05	± 0.05	± 0.05
Matrix element matching ($p_T^{\text{hard}} = 1$)	± 0.05	± 0.02	± 0.05
b -tagging	± 0.02	± 0.04	± 0.04
E_T^{miss}	± 0.01	± 0.01	± 0.02
Higher-order corrections	± 0.02	± 0.03	± 0.01
Pileup	± 0.15	± 0.02	± 0.01
JVT	± 0.01	± 0.01	± 0.01
PDF	± 0.01	± 0.01	± 0.01
Luminosity	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01
Leptons	< 0.01	< 0.01	± 0.01
Total statistical	± 0.11	± 0.27	± 0.25
Total systematic	± 1.66	± 0.57	± 0.44
Total	± 1.66	± 0.63	± 0.51

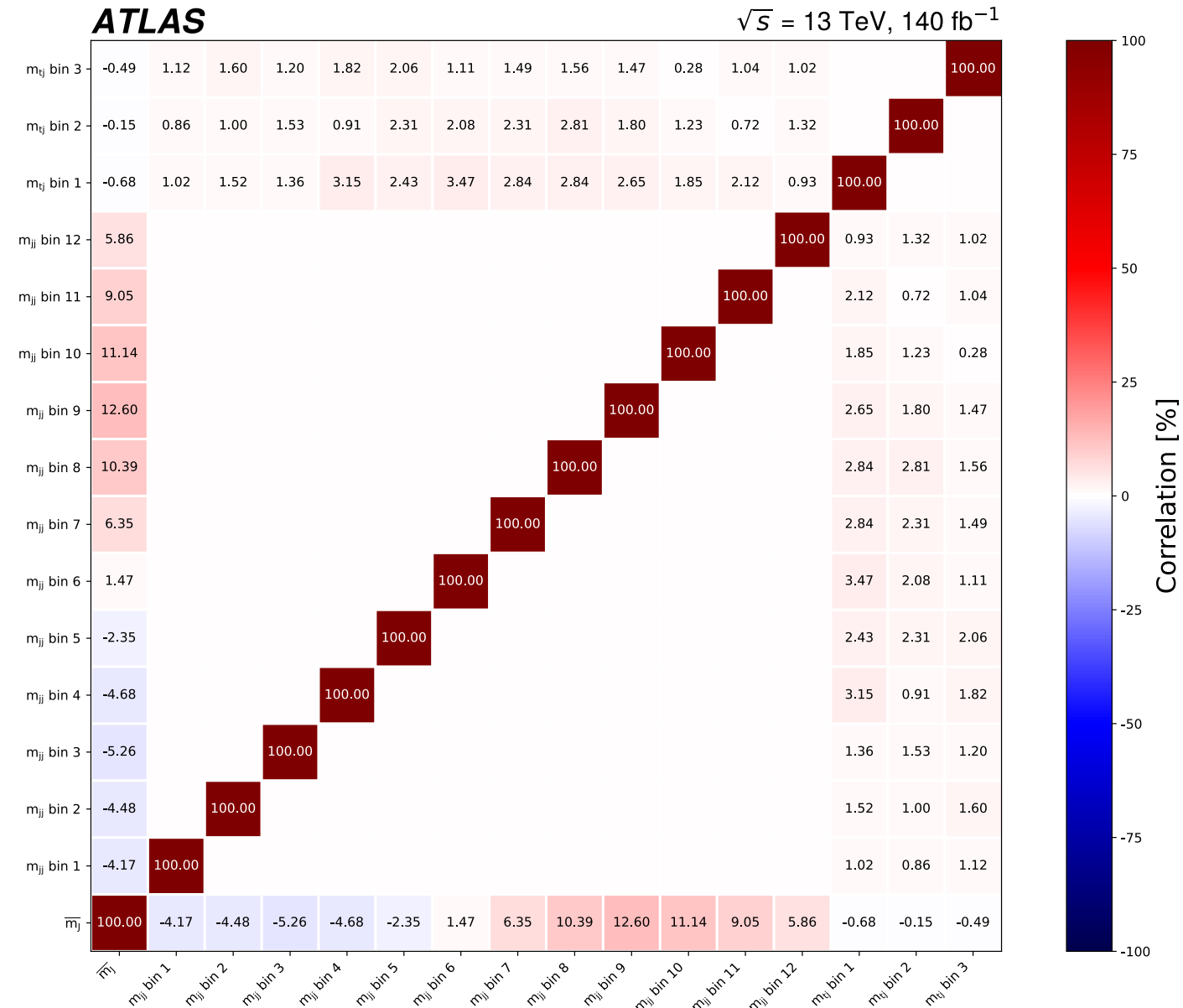
Source	Uncertainty [GeV]
JES	± 0.29
Radiation (ISR and FSR)	± 0.17
Colour reconnection (CR1 and CR2)	± 0.15
JES heavy flavour	± 0.14
Parton shower and hadronisation model	± 0.14
JER	± 0.10
MC statistics	± 0.08
Underlying event	± 0.08
Recoil	± 0.07
Fit closure	± 0.07
Background modelling	± 0.05
Matrix element matching ($p_T^{\text{hard}} = 1$)	± 0.04
b -tagging	± 0.04
Higher-order corrections	± 0.02
E_T^{miss}	± 0.02
Pileup	± 0.01
JVT	± 0.01
PDF	± 0.01
Leptons	± 0.01
Luminosity	< 0.01
Total statistical	± 0.27
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Why does recoil uncertainty increase for 2D fit?



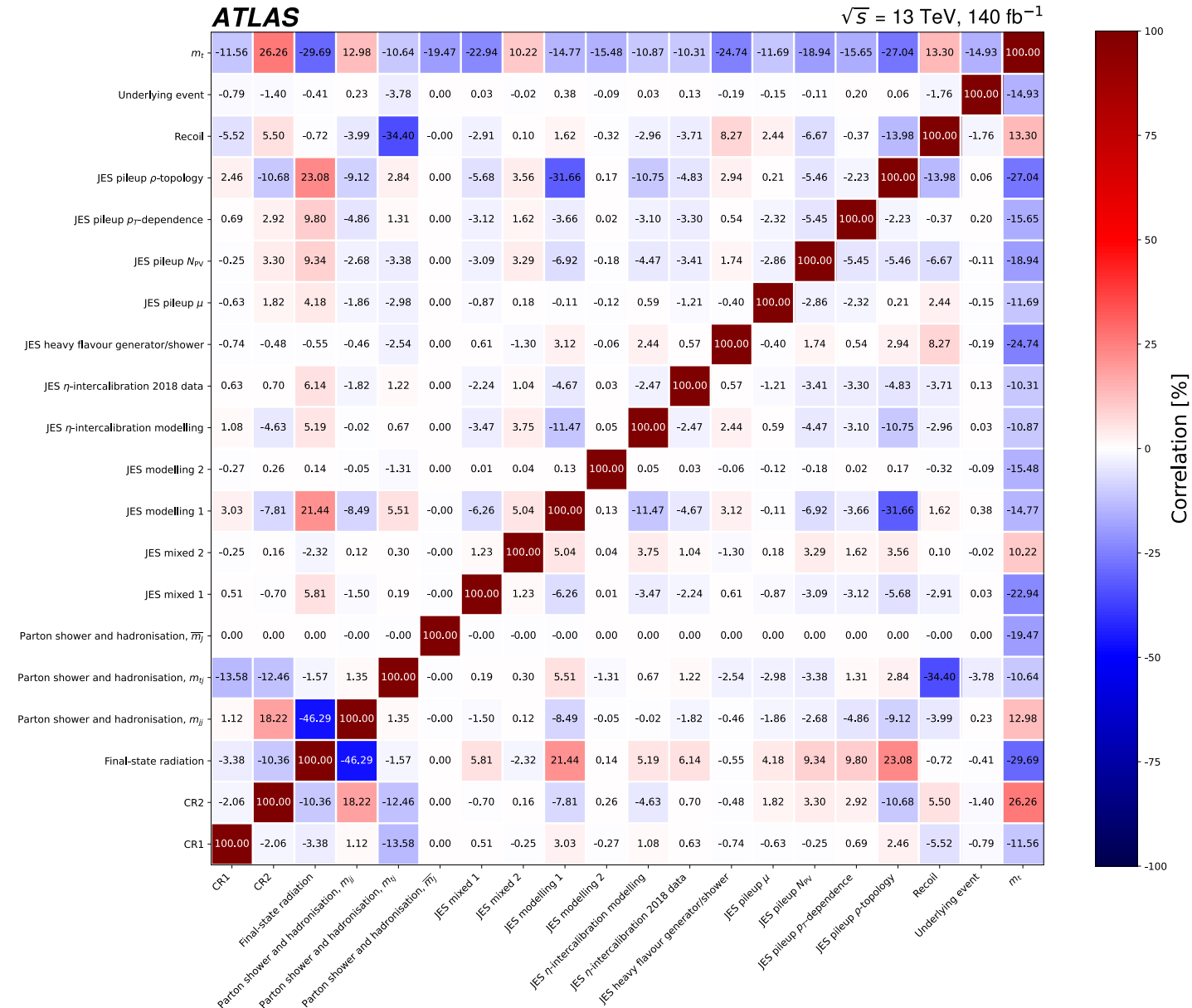
- More wide angle radiation \rightarrow more cases where radiation enters other jets \rightarrow larger m_{jj} .
- Recoil change leads to larger m_{jj} for same effect that lowers m_J .
- This is opposite to the expected impact of the JES (larger m_{jj} and m_J).

- Statistical correlations between the observables used in the profile likelihood fit.
- The correlations were estimated using pseudo-experiments from the expected signal and background distributions.
- Bins with no entry are bins where the correlation is zero by definition.

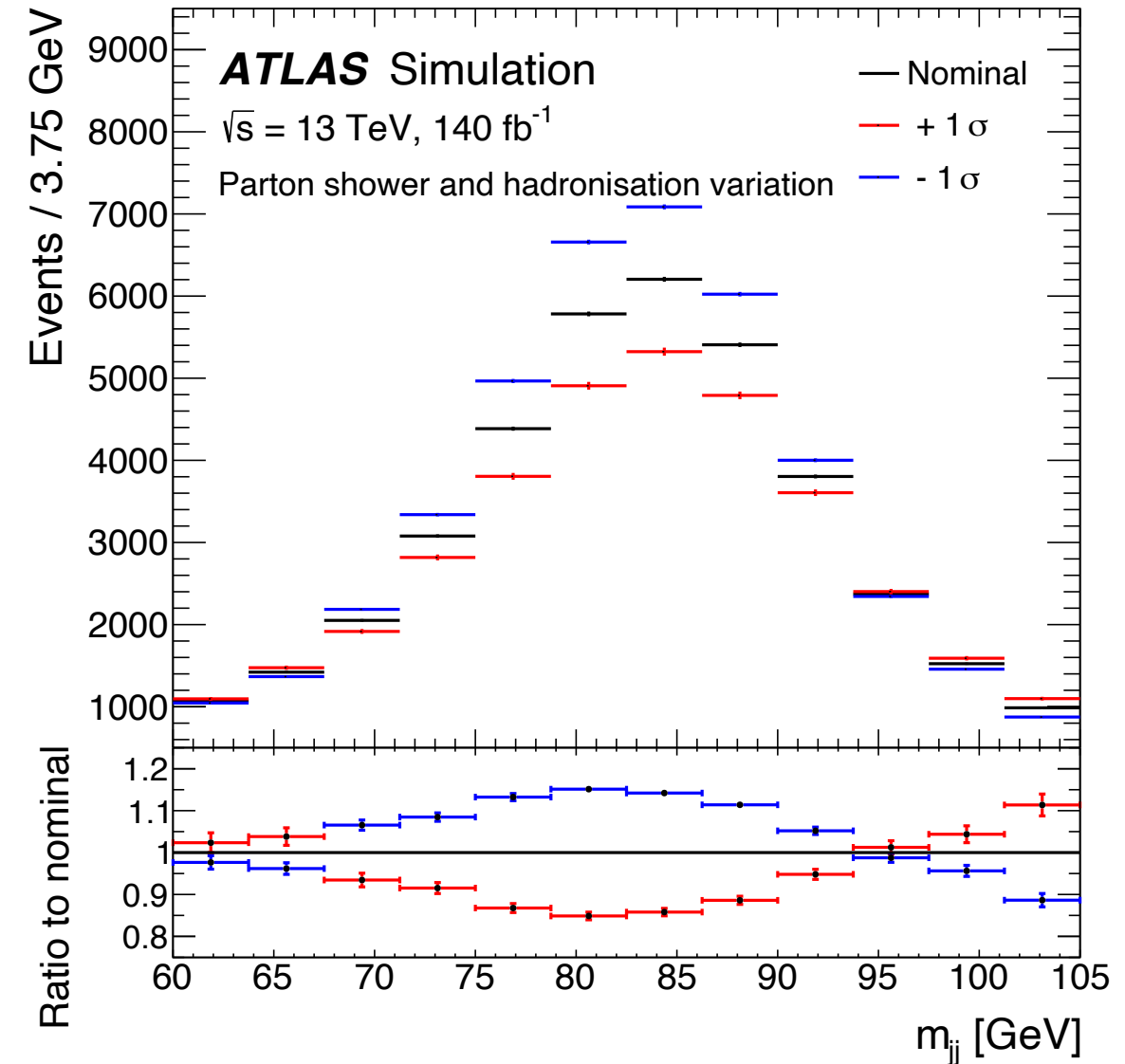
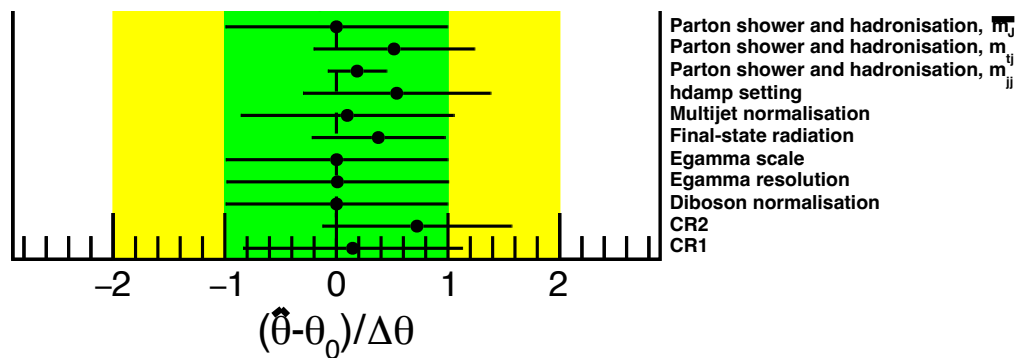


Fit parameter correlations

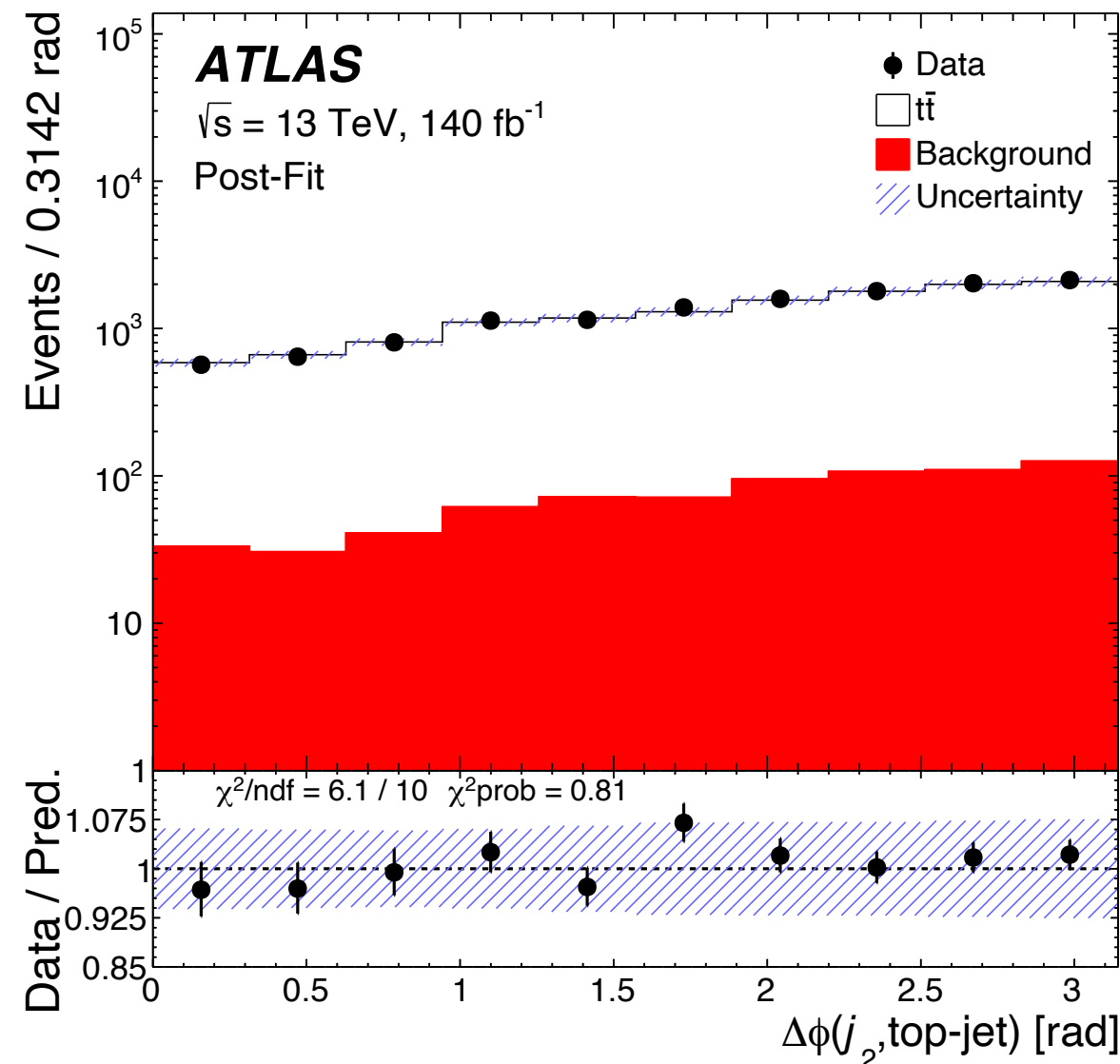
- Post-fit correlation matrix for nuisance parameters with absolute correlations with m_t of at least 10%.
- The first row and last column display the correlation of each nuisance parameter with m_t .

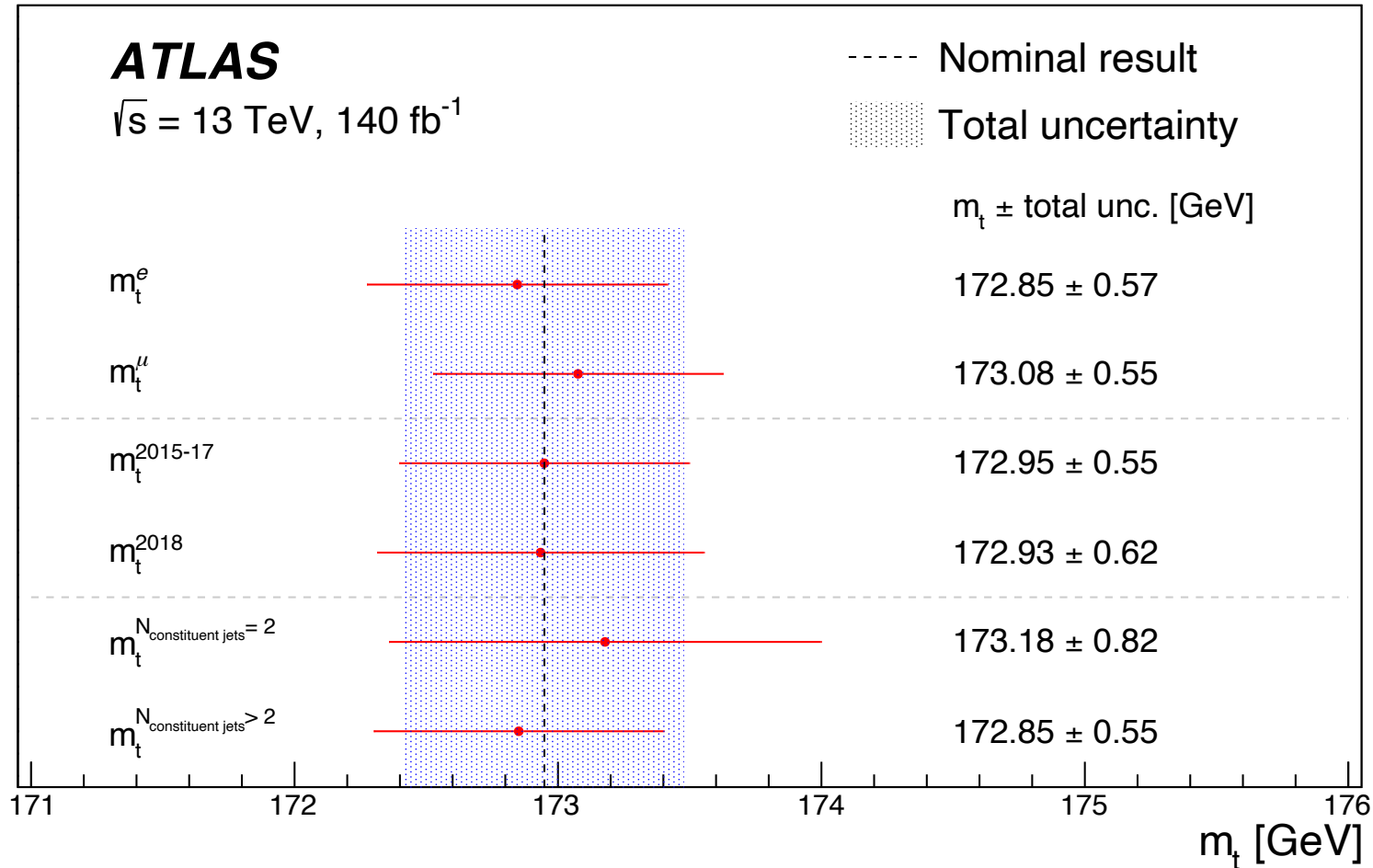


- Parton shower and hadronisation uncertainty assessed by Powheg+Pythia8 vs Powheg+Herwig7.
 - Covers many physics effects in the simulation.
- Get a large constraint from our m_{jj} distribution.
- Decided it was not safe to propagate constraint from m_{jj} to m_{tj} and \overline{m}_J .
- This uncertainty is now decorrelated between all observables (larger final m_t uncertainty).
- Central value shifts by 0.06 GeV if NP are correlated.



- To validate the constrained model, apply it to other observables in the sample.
- Can also do reliable χ^2 test when the correlations with m_{jj} and m_{tj} are low.
- This observable is sensitive to parton shower effects.

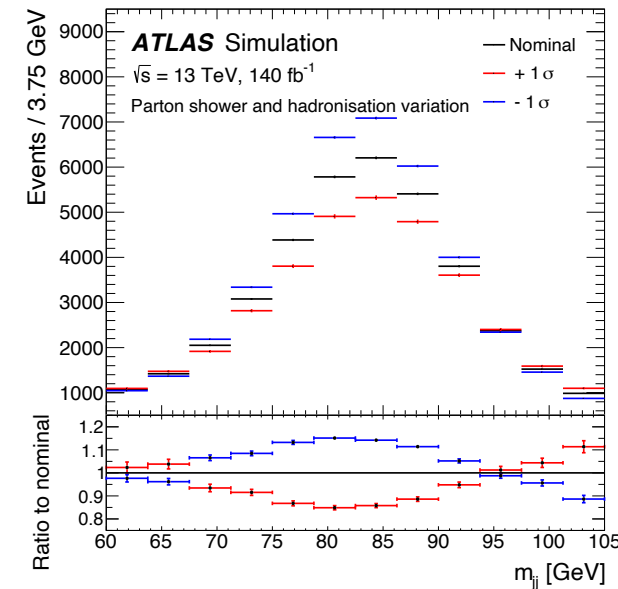
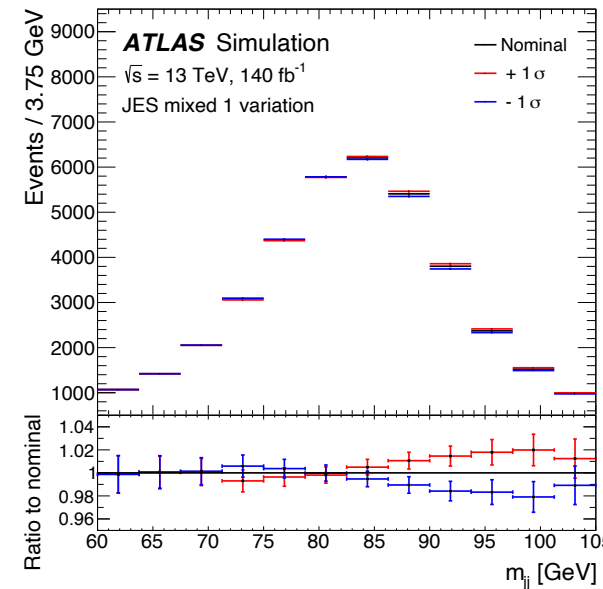
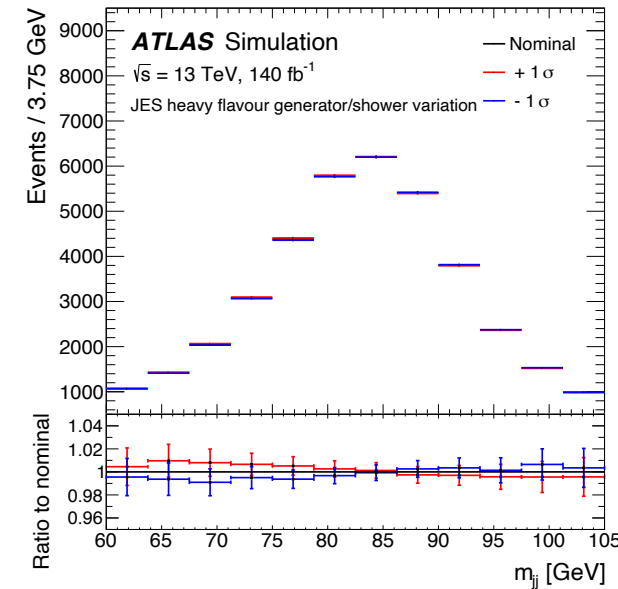
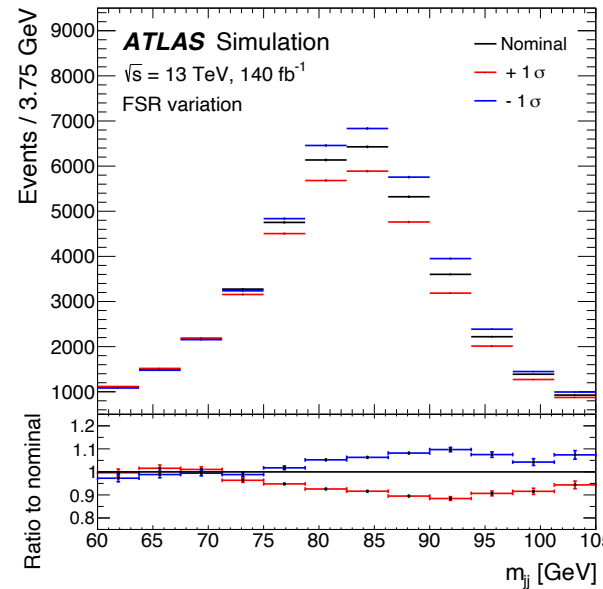




- In each of the fits, there is one free parameter for the top quark mass for each section of the dataset.
- The correlation between the top-quark mass parameters are: 0.73 for lepton flavour splitting, 0.64 for data-taking period splitting, 0.30 for number of constituent jets splitting.

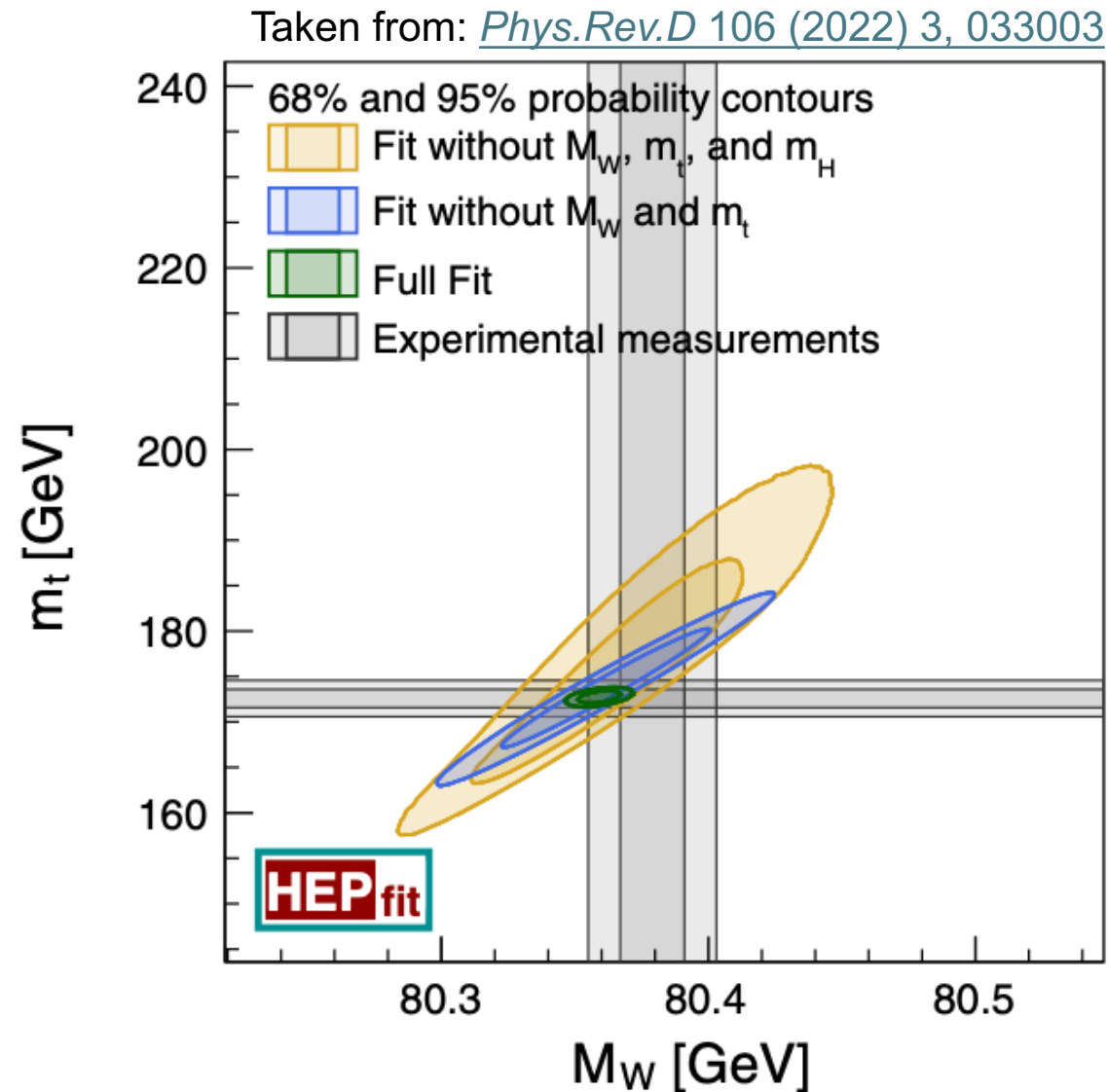
Some systematic impacts on m_{jj}

- The comparison between the m_{jj} distribution expected for the nominal $t\bar{t}$ simulation and the $t\bar{t}$ simulation where specific uncertainties are varied to $\pm 1\sigma$.
- The error bars show the statistical uncertainty in the MC samples.



A more recent global fit

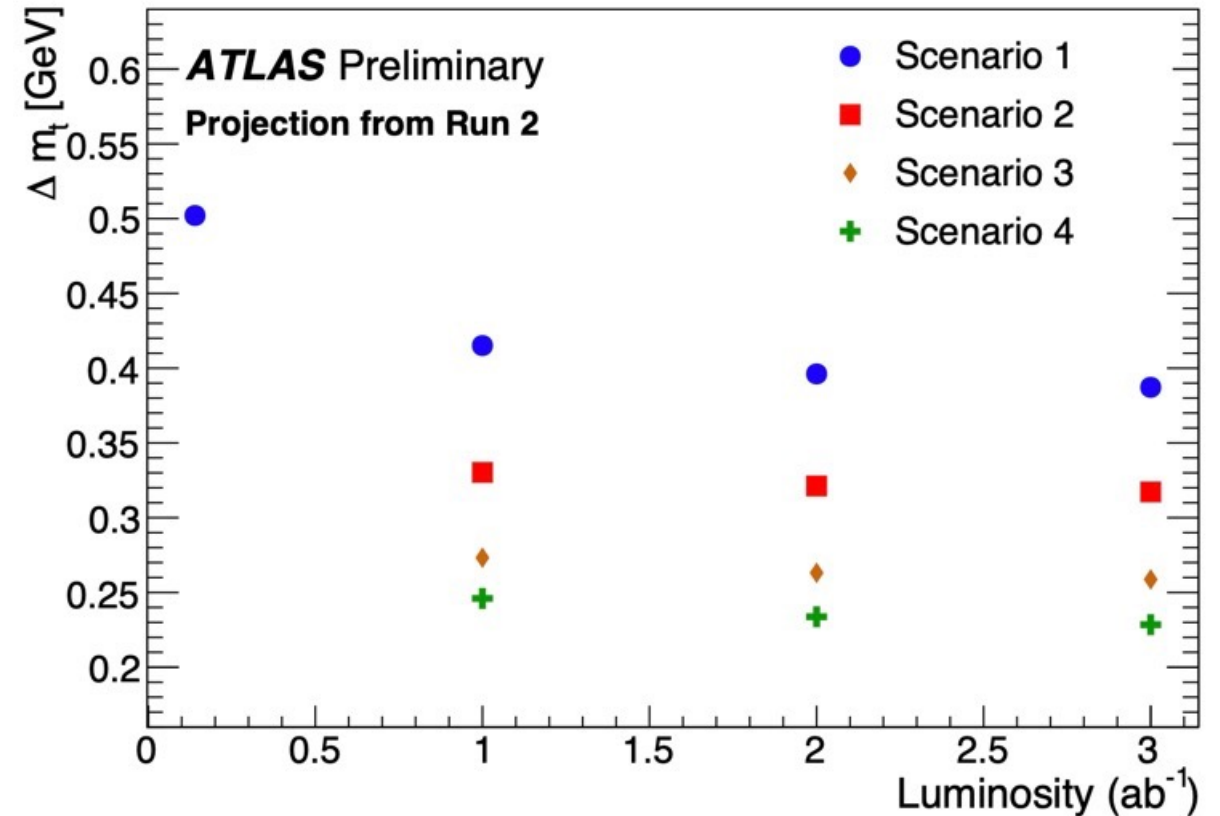
- $m_t = 172.58 \pm 0.45$ GeV
- $m_W = 80.379 \pm 0.012$ GeV



- Given European strategy update, we looked at the precision at HL-LHC.
- Improvements in the JES can also be expected in future:
 - Techniques to reduce pileup uncertainties in [EPJC 83 \(2023\) 761](#).
 - Improved JES uncertainty from single-particle measurements in [arXiv:2407.15627](#).

- **Scenario 1:** Only improvement from data and simulation statistics.
- **Scenario 2:** Scenario 1 + improvements in JES uncertainties apart from JES flavour.
- **Scenario 3:** Scenario 2 + reduction in $t\bar{t}$ modelling uncertainties by factor of two.
- **Scenario 4:** Scenario 3 + reduction in JES flavour uncertainties by factor of two.

Taken from [ATL-PHYS-PUB-2025-009](#)



Luminosity	Δm_t [GeV]			
	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
1 ab^{-1}	0.42	0.33	0.27	0.25
2 ab^{-1}	0.40	0.32	0.26	0.23
3 ab^{-1}	0.39	0.32	0.26	0.23

Interpretation problem

- The top quark mass is a renormalisation-scheme-dependent parameter in perturbative QFT [1].
- The MC generators in measurement use has the mass defined in the pole scheme.
 - Top quark mass is defined as position of the pole in the top quark propagator.
- However, parton shower and hadronisation models use approximations, requiring free parameters to be fixed by tuning MCs to data.
 - Can achieve good data description but physical meaning of top quark mass becomes uncontrolled, $m_t^{\text{MC}} \sim m_t^{\text{pole}}$ within 0.5 GeV precision.

Studies

Precise identification of m_t used in MC simulations within a field-theoretic mass scheme is still an on-going study:

- For a coherent branching parton shower algorithm, the evolution for massive quarks implies that the generator quark mass corresponds to a cutoff-dependent short-distance mass scheme and is therefore **not** the pole mass [2].
- Boosted regime could (in future) offer possibility to connect to hadron-level calculations where the top quark mass is unambiguously defined [3].

[1] A. H. Hoang, *What is the top quark mass?*, [Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 70 \(2020\) 225](#)

[2] ATLAS Collaboration, “Towards a precise interpretation for the top quark mass parameter in ATLAS Monte Carlo samples”, [ATL-PHYS-PUB-2021-034](#), 2021

[3] B. Dehnadi, A. H. Hoang, O. L. Jin and V. Mateu, *Top quark mass calibration for Monte Carlo event generators—an update*, [JHEP 12 \(2023\) 065](#)