

How much room is there for discoveries?

**Maeve Madigan
Heidelberg University**



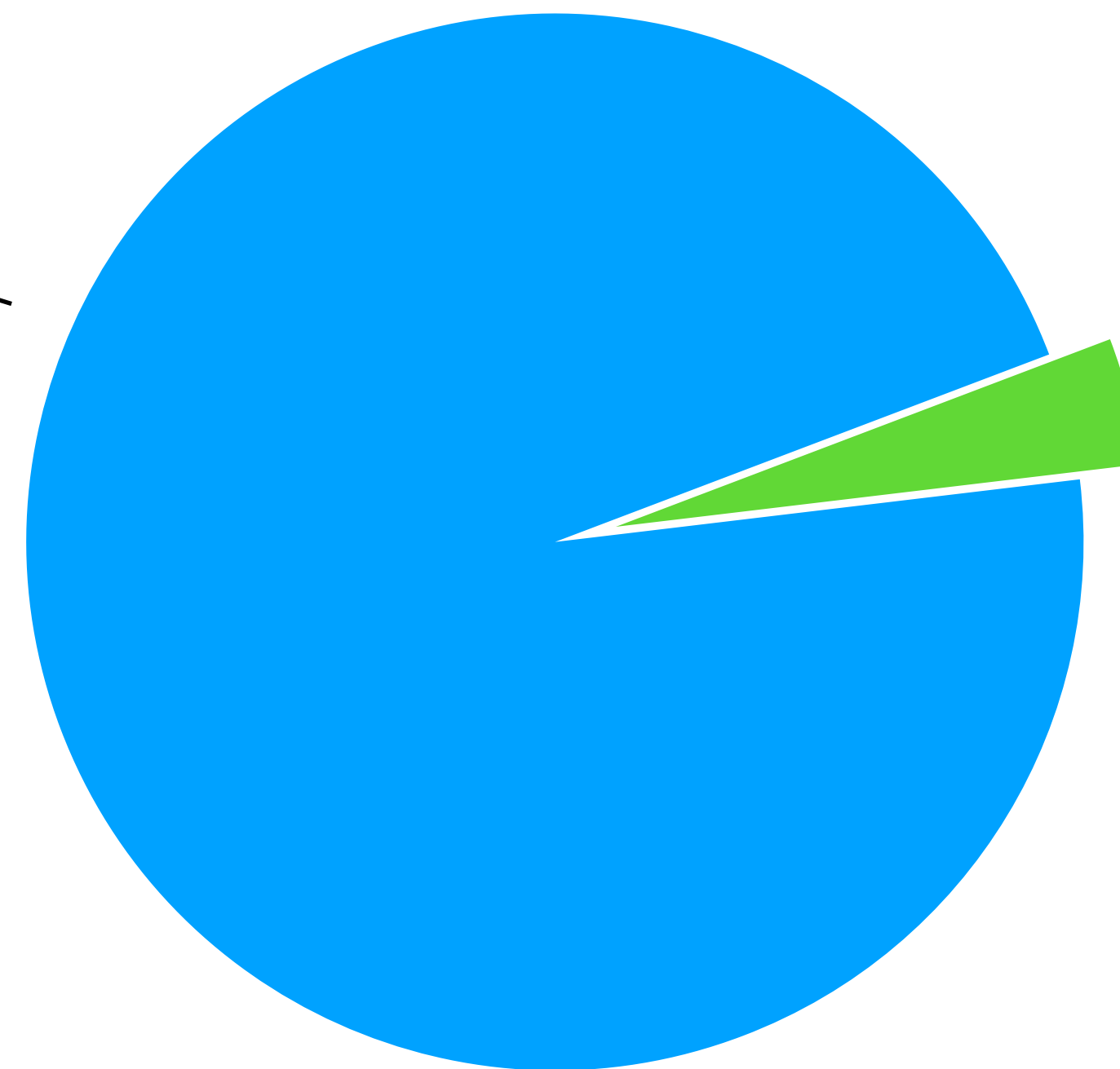
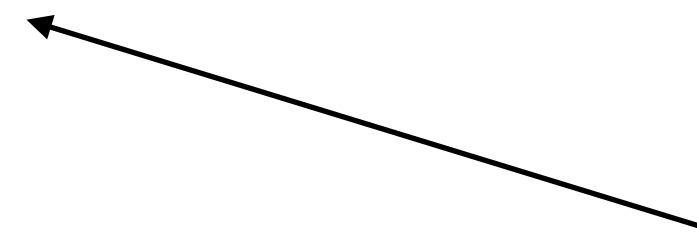
**UNIVERSITÄT
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SEIT 1386

CKM 2023

An abstract graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several overlapping, semi-transparent bars of different colors (green, orange, purple, pink) that increase in height from left to right, resembling a bar chart or a staircase.

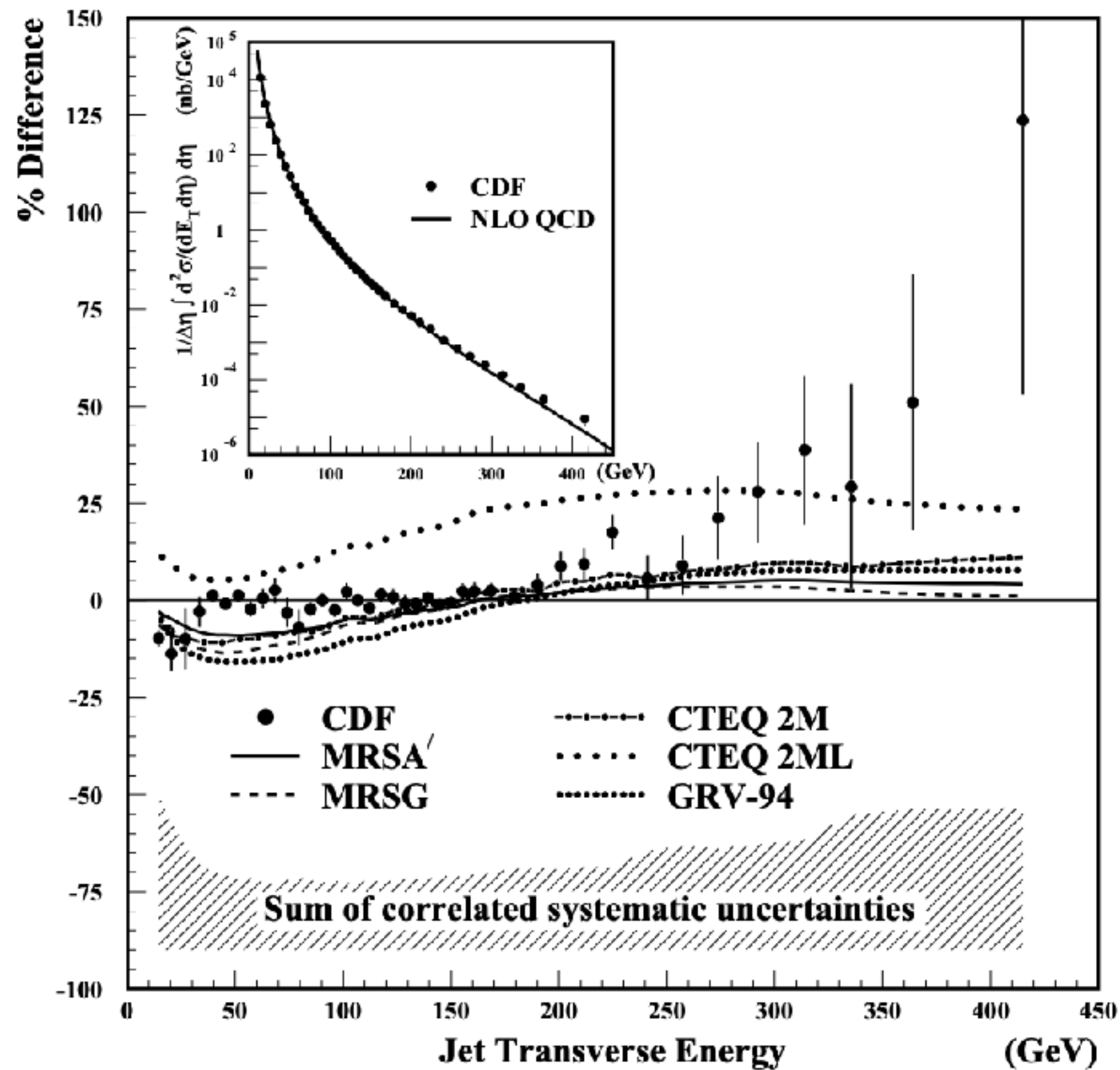
How much room is there for discoveries?

room for discoveries



this talk





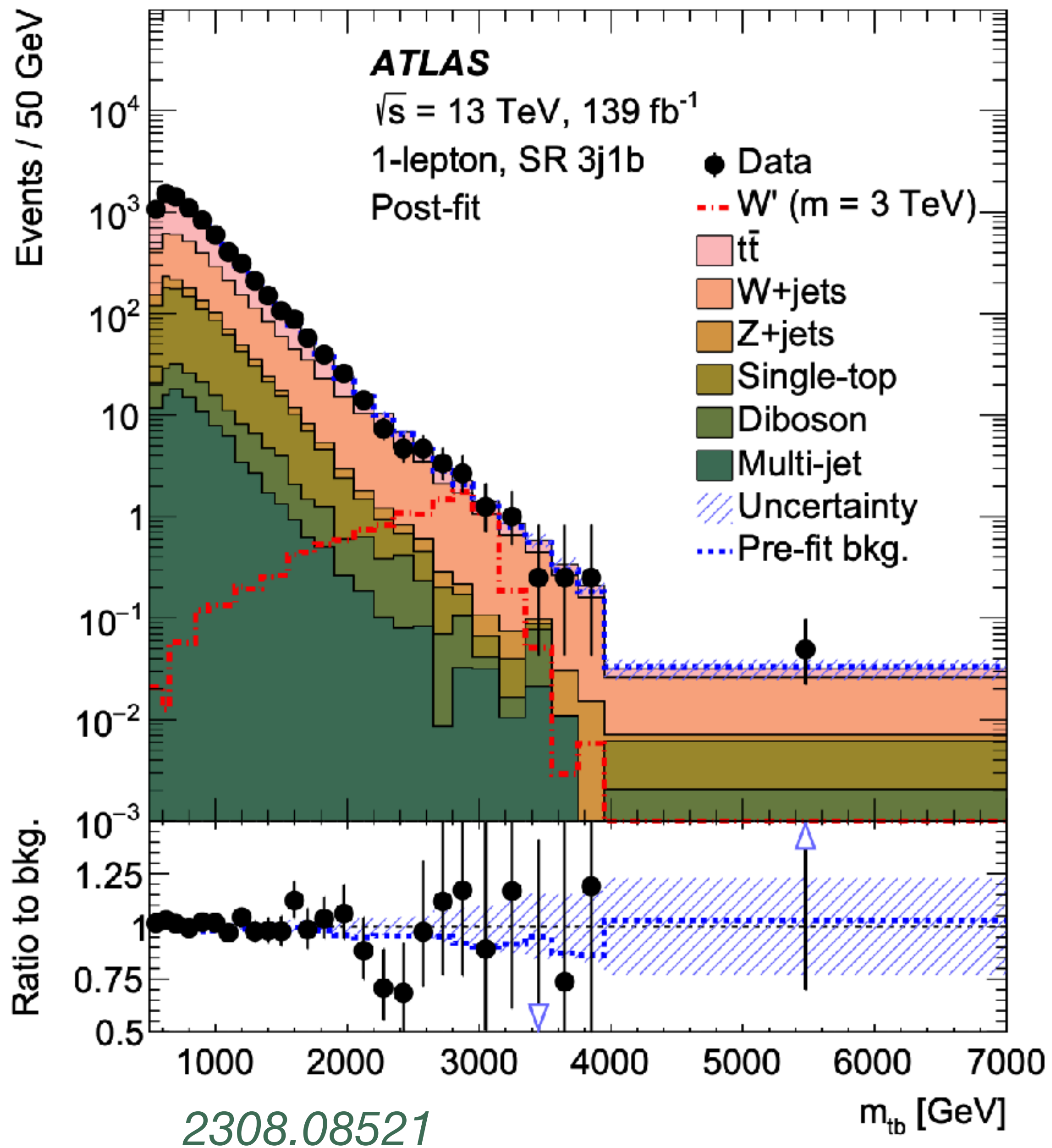
[hep-ex/9601008](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ex/9601008)

CDF collaboration measured a deviation at high transverse momentum

However, this was not new physics

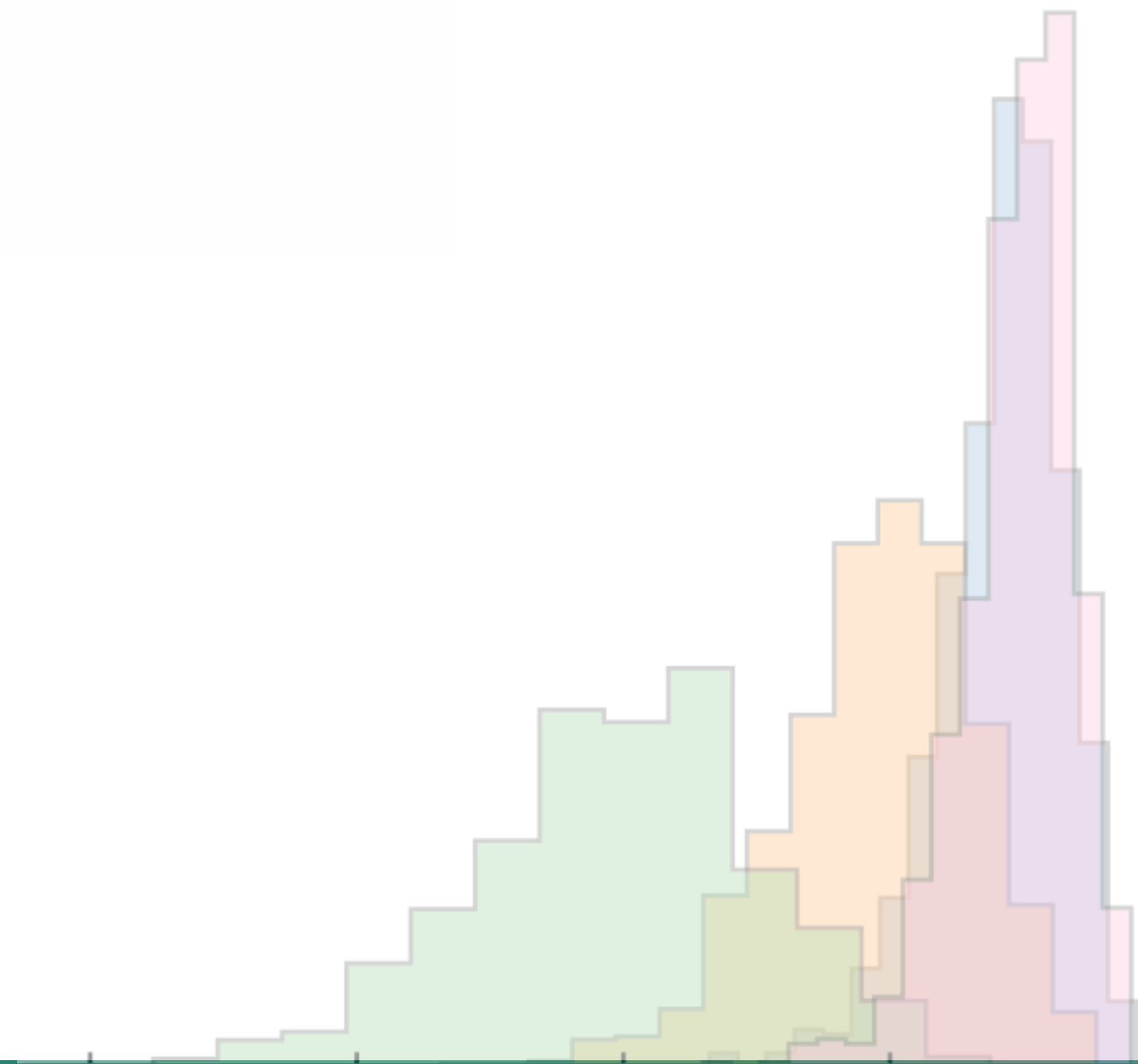
- deviation went away with improvements to large-x gluon PDFs

What if no new physics is observed...



...because it has been absorbed by the PDFs?

PDF-EFT Interplay



PDF-EFT Interplay

Wilson coefficients: c
PDF parameters: θ

Parton distribution function fits

Wilson coefficients are kept fixed:

$$\sigma(\bar{c}, \theta) = f_1(\theta) \otimes f_2(\theta) \otimes \hat{\sigma}(\bar{c})$$

SMEFT Fits and BSM searches

PDF parameters are fixed:

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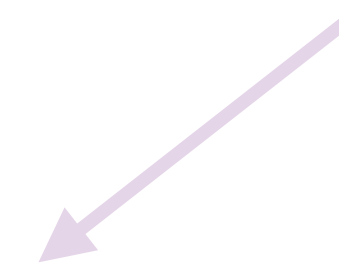
Typically PDF fits assume the SM:
 $\bar{c} = 0$

SMEFT Fits and BSM searches

PDF parameters are fixed:

$$\sigma(c, \bar{\theta}) = f_1(\bar{\theta}) \otimes f_2(\bar{\theta}) \otimes \hat{\sigma}(c)$$

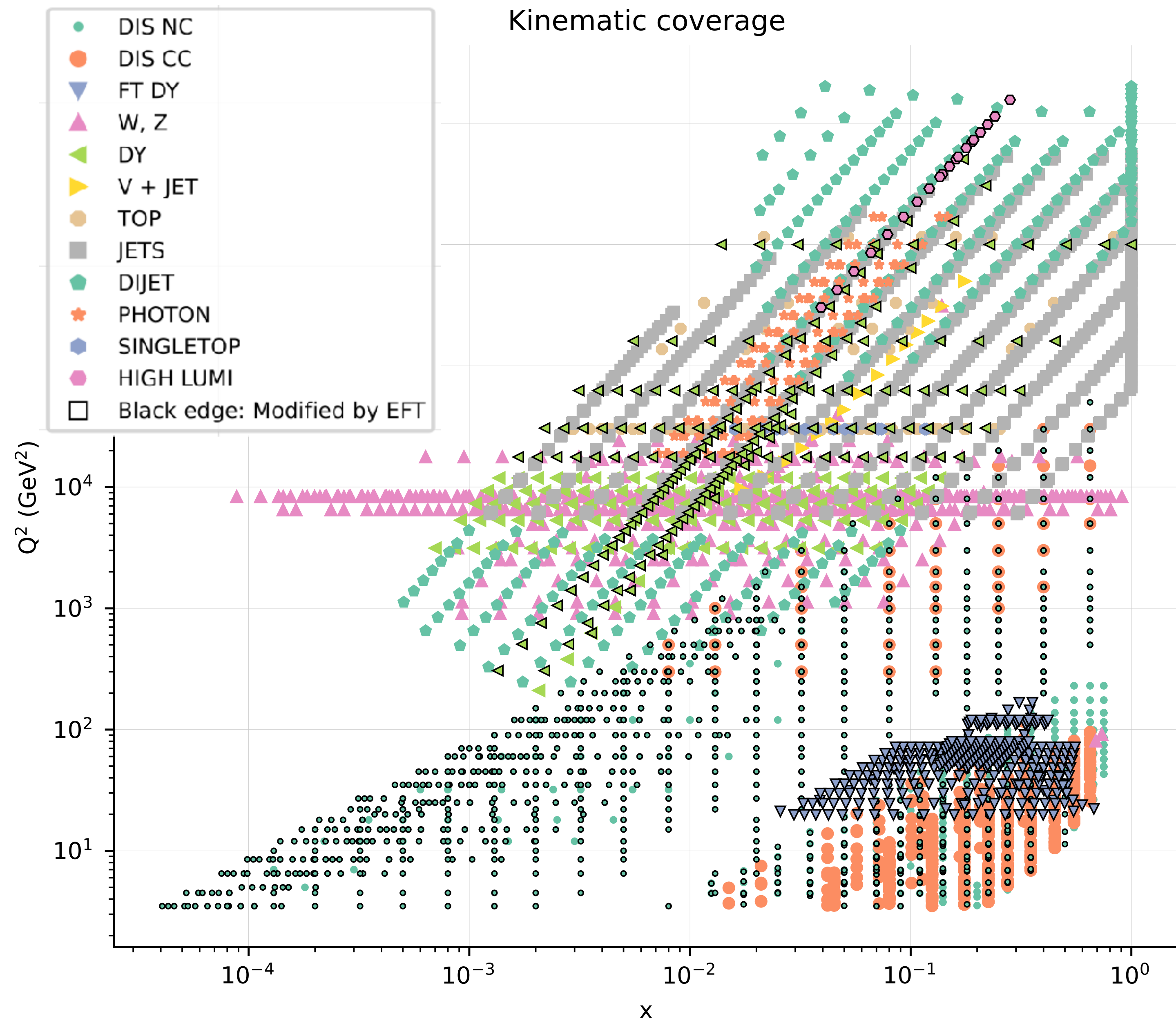
PDFs used in SMEFT fits rely on SM assumptions



Data overlap

Often the data used in PDF fits are also used in EFT fits.

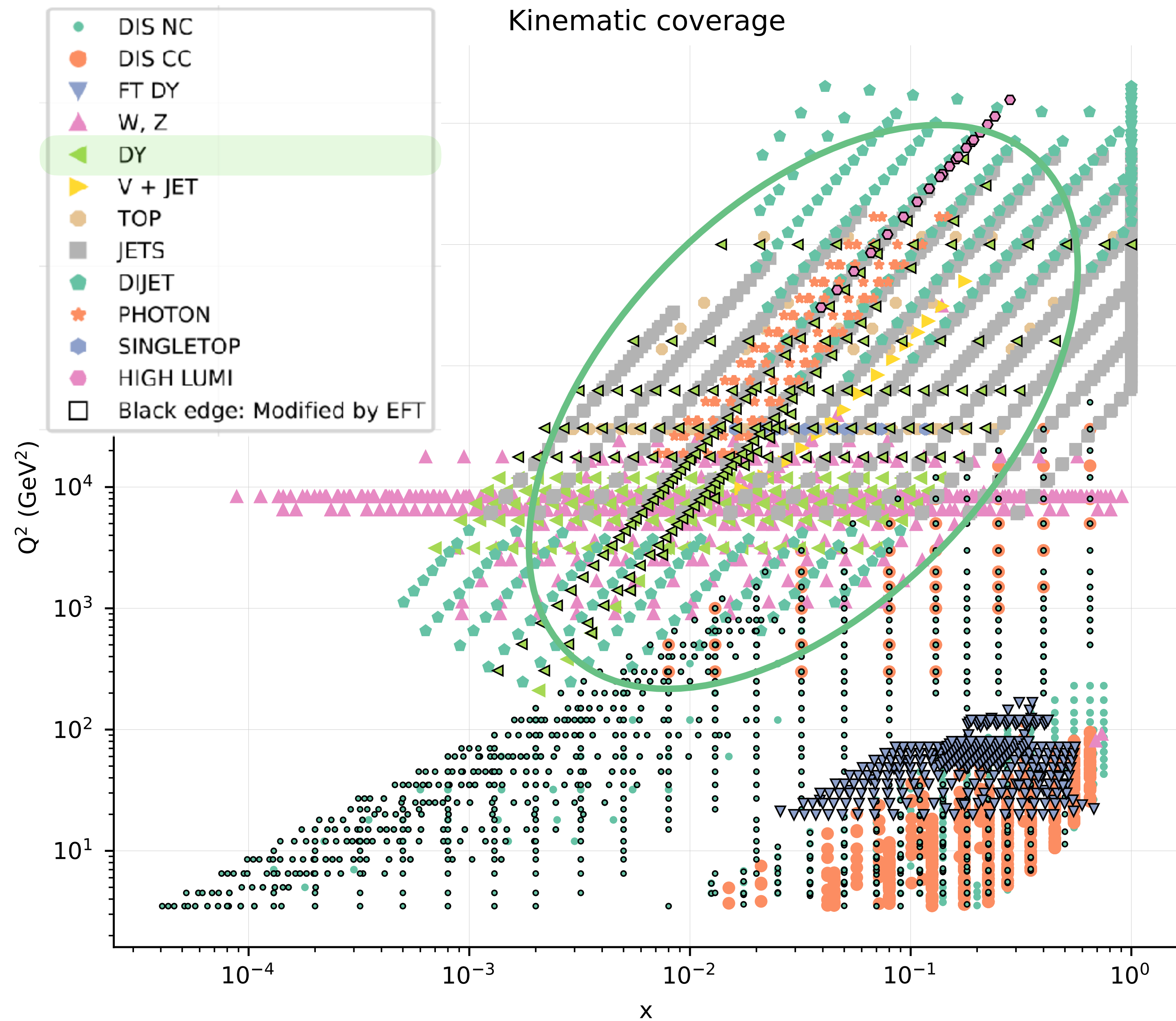
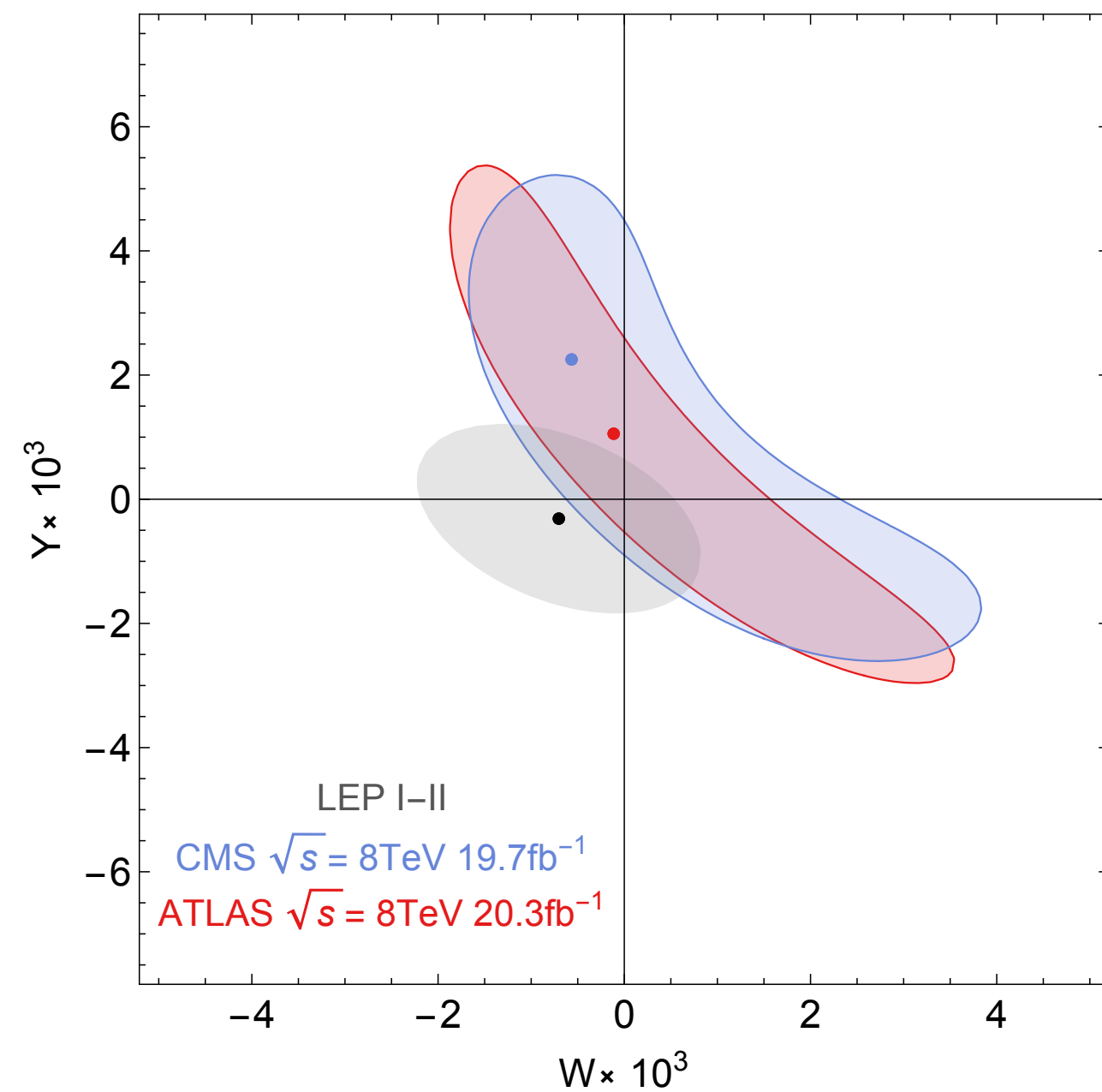
This overlap will grow as we continue to take a global approach to constraining the SMEFT.



Data included in our study

Data overlap

- ▶ e.g. High-mass Drell-Yan data used to fit the SMEFT 4-fermion operators in *Farina et. al* 1609.08157



Data included in our study

Understanding PDF-EFT Interplay

Simultaneous PDF-EFT determinations:

- Deep Inelastic Scattering data
Carrazza et al.: PRL 123 (2019) 13, 132001
- DIS + high-mass Drell-Yan tails
Greljo et. al 2104.02723
- Top quark data
Kassabov et. al: 2303.06159
See also 2201.06586, 2211.01094

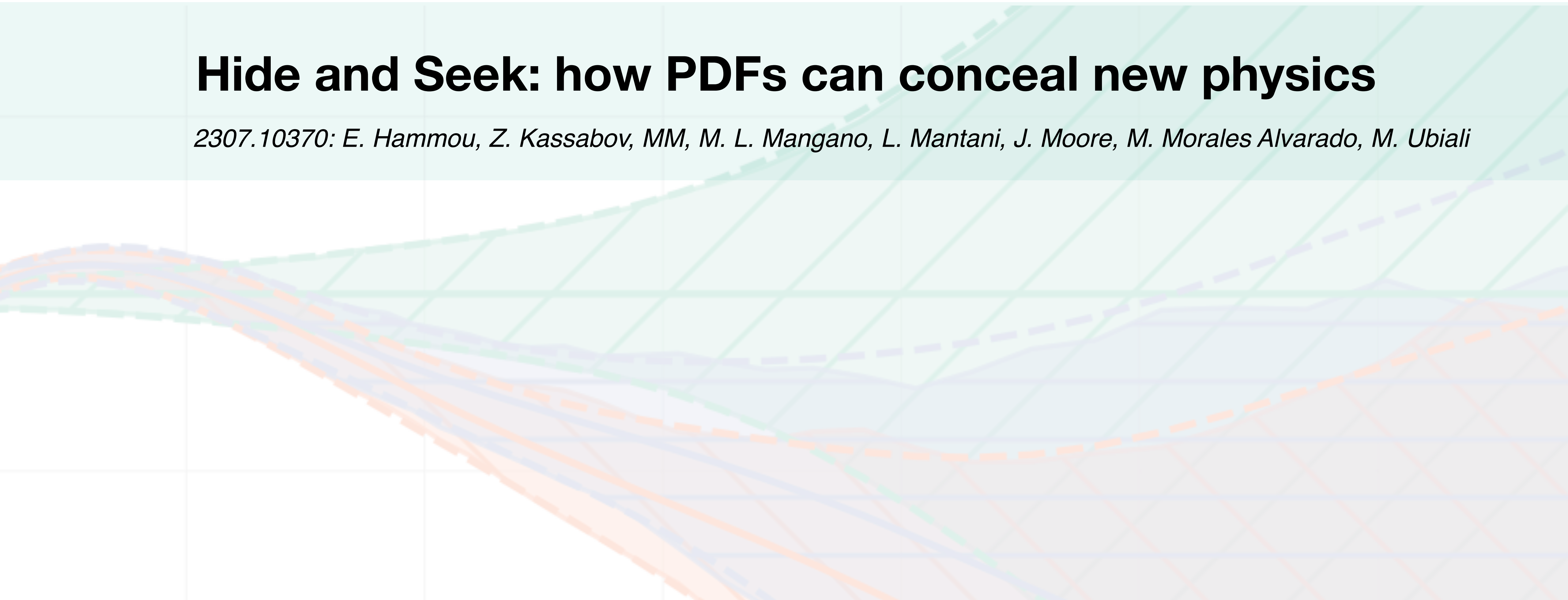
Contaminated PDF fits:

What are the consequences of performing a SM PDF fit in the presence of new physics?



Hide and Seek: how PDFs can conceal new physics

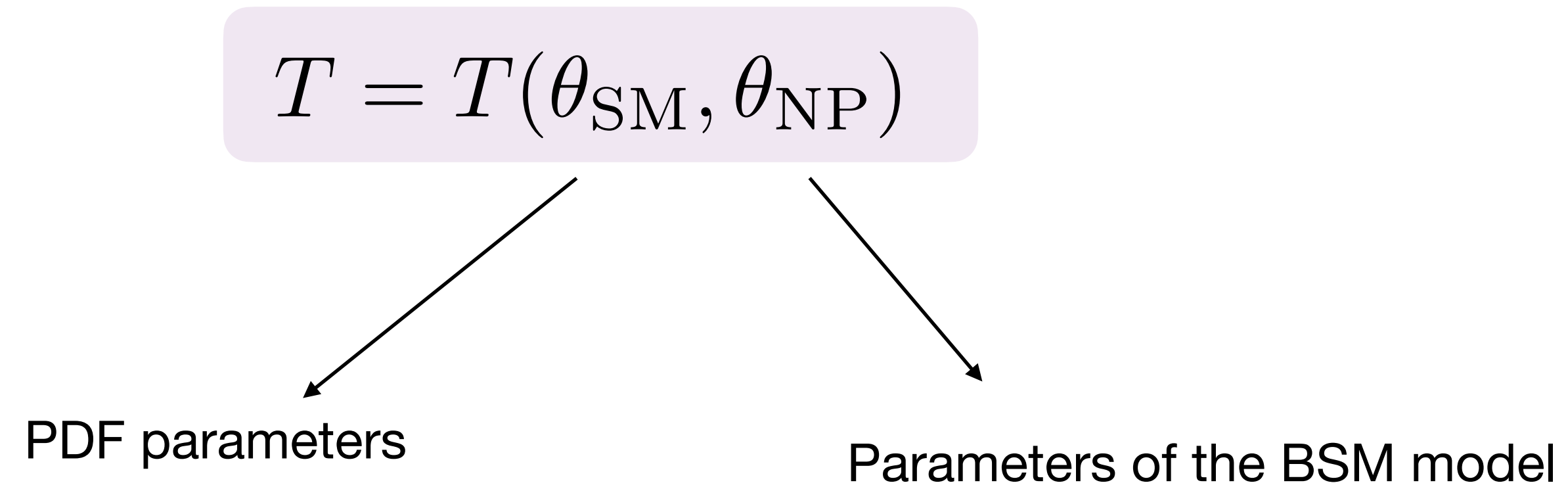
2307.10370: E. Hammou, Z. Kassabov, MM, M. L. Mangano, L. Mantani, J. Moore, M. Morales Alvarado, M. Ubiali



Contaminated PDFs

closely follows the *closure test methodology* developed by NNPDF, 1410.8849

Assume that we know the **true underlying law of nature**: SM + UV model



Contaminated PDFs

closely follows the *closure test methodology* developed by NNPDF, 1410.8849

Assume that we know the true underlying law of nature: SM + UV model

$$T = T(\theta_{\text{SM}}, \theta_{\text{NP}})$$

Generate Monte Carlo pseudodata according to this underlying law:

$$D \sim \mathcal{N}(T(\theta_{\text{SM}}, \theta_{\text{NP}}), \Sigma)$$

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Perform a PDF fit: **fit only the SM parameters** θ_{SM} using the NNPDF4.0 methodology

2109.02653

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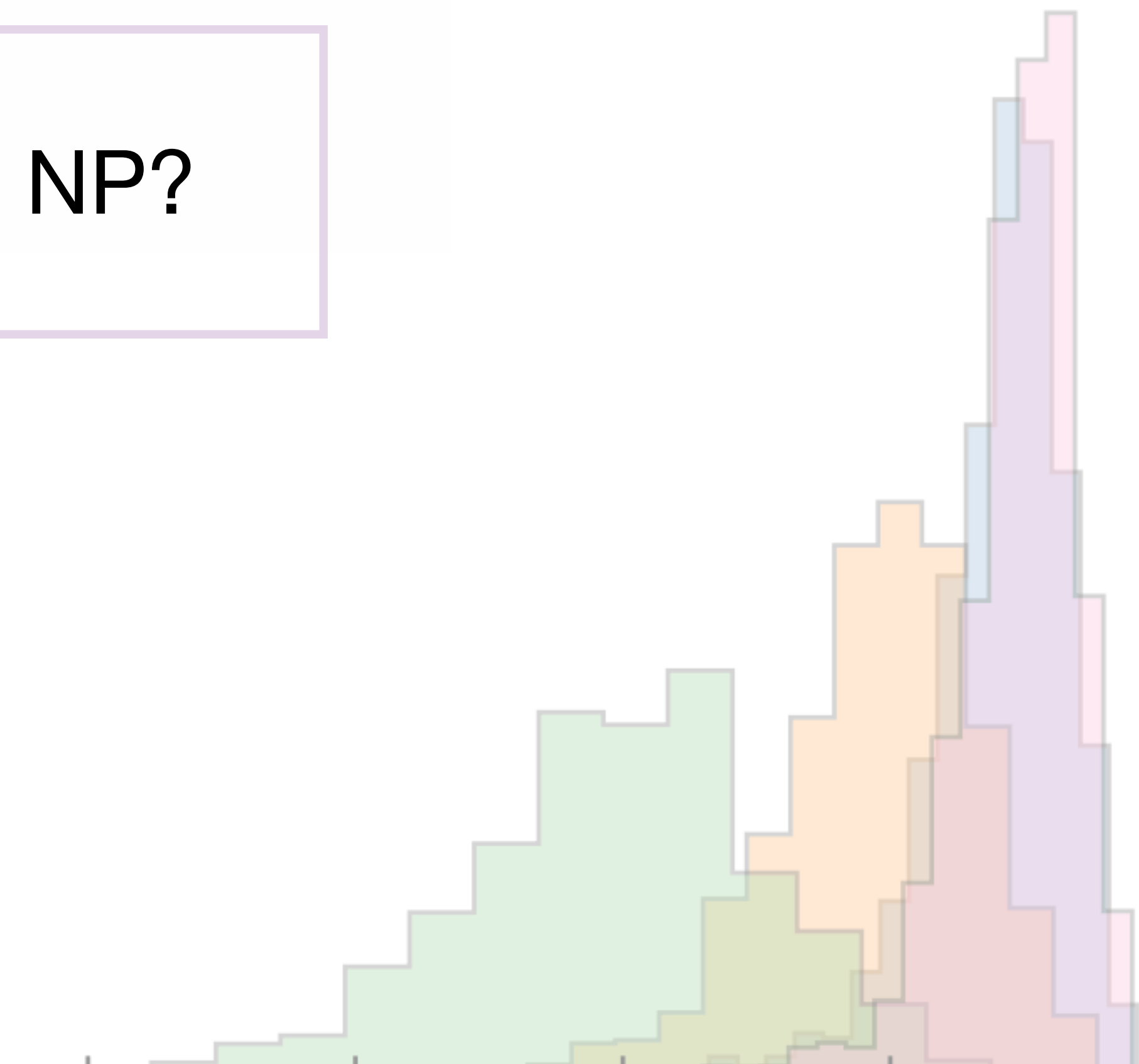
$$D \sim \mathcal{N}(T(\theta_{\text{SM}}, \theta_{\text{NP}}), \Sigma)$$

Perform a PDF fit: fit only the SM parameters θ_{SM} using the NNPDF4.0 methodology

2109.02653

PDF has **absorbed new physics** if the fit quality is good $n_\sigma = \frac{\chi^2 - 1}{\sigma_{\chi^2}} < 2$

Can PDFs be contaminated by NP?



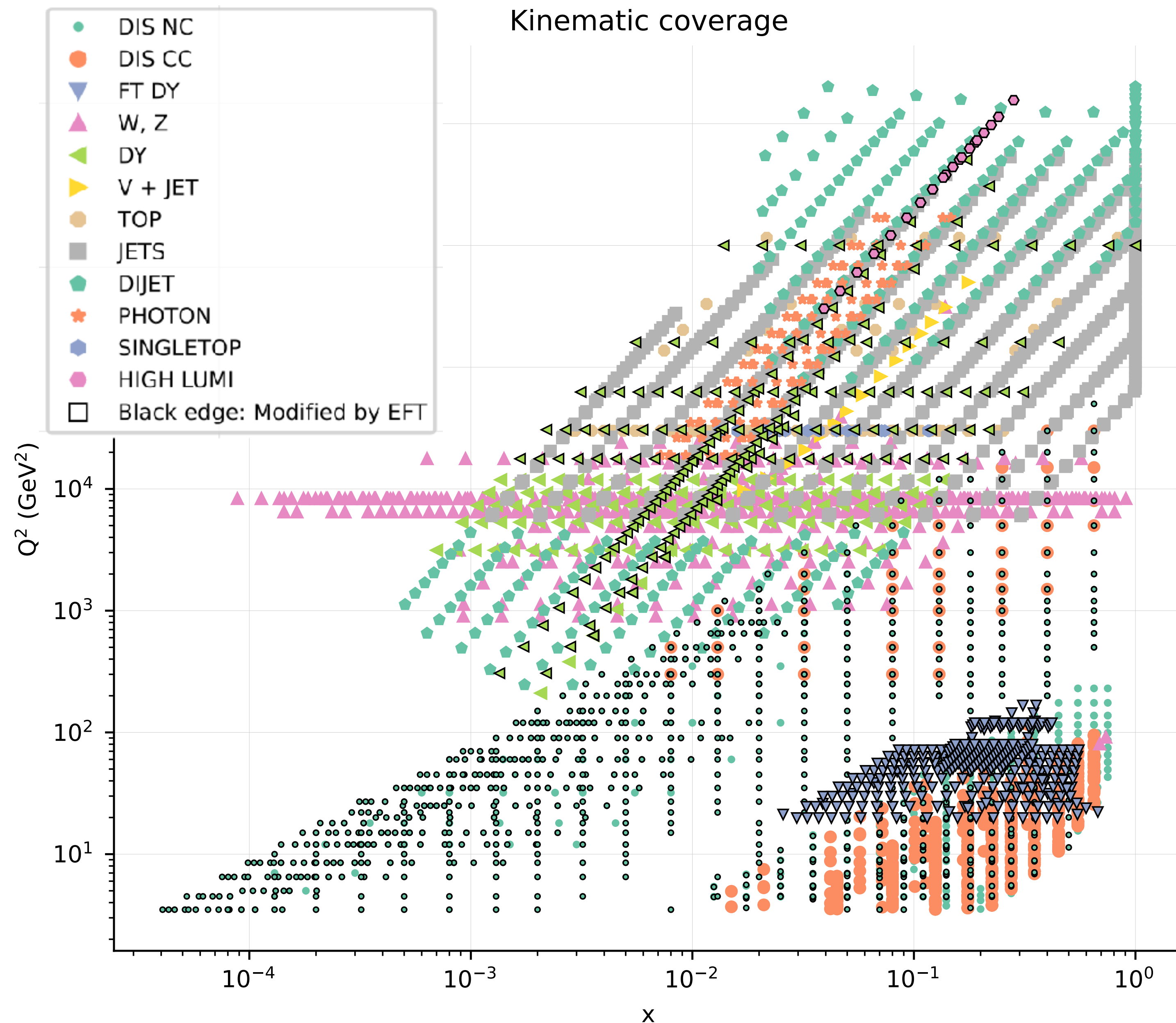
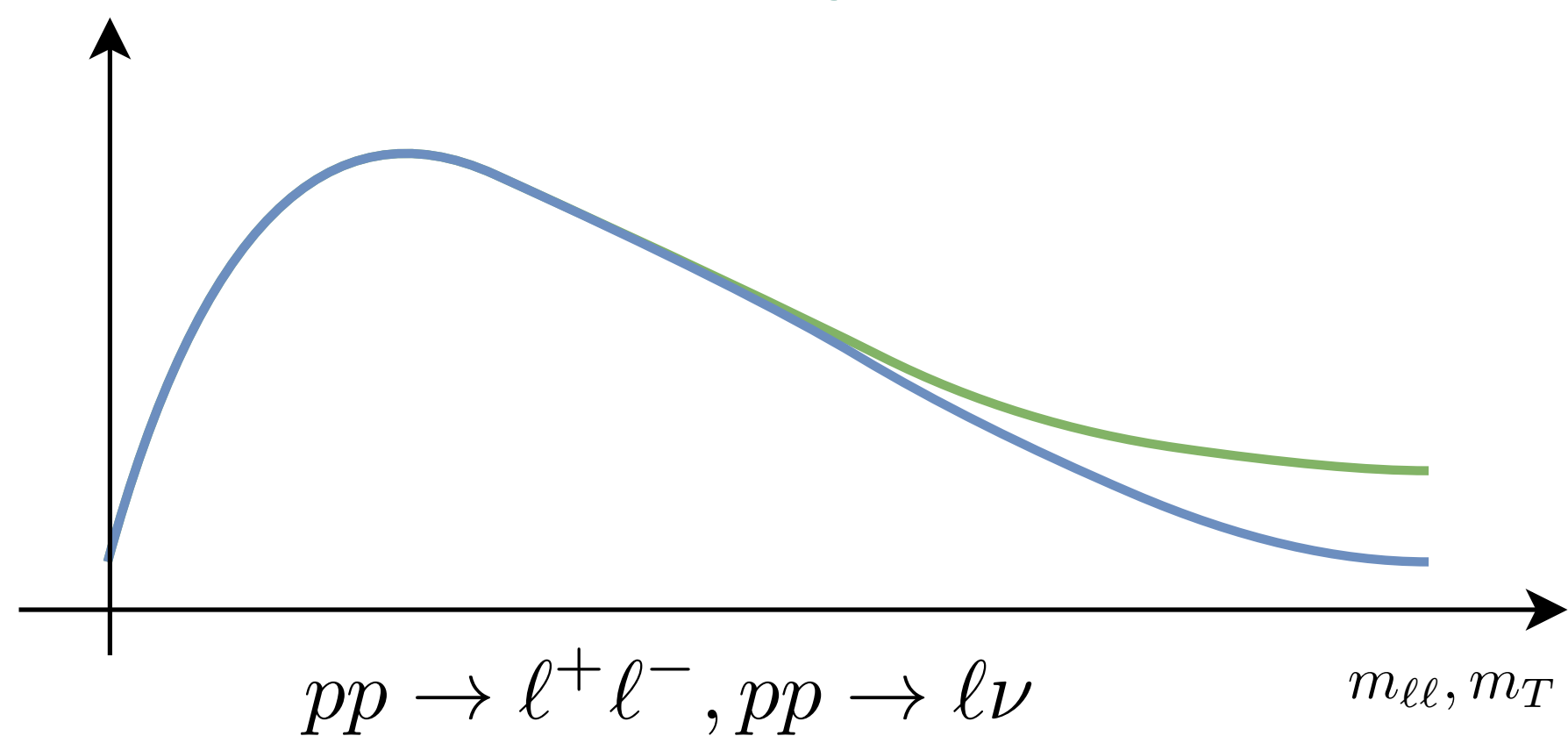
Data

- We generate MC pseudodata for all datasets included in NNPDF 4.0

2109.02653

- Additionally, we include **HL-LHC** projections for neutral current and charged current DY

as in Greljo et. al 2104.02723



BSM scenario: W'

See 2307.10370 for a flavour universal Z' scenario

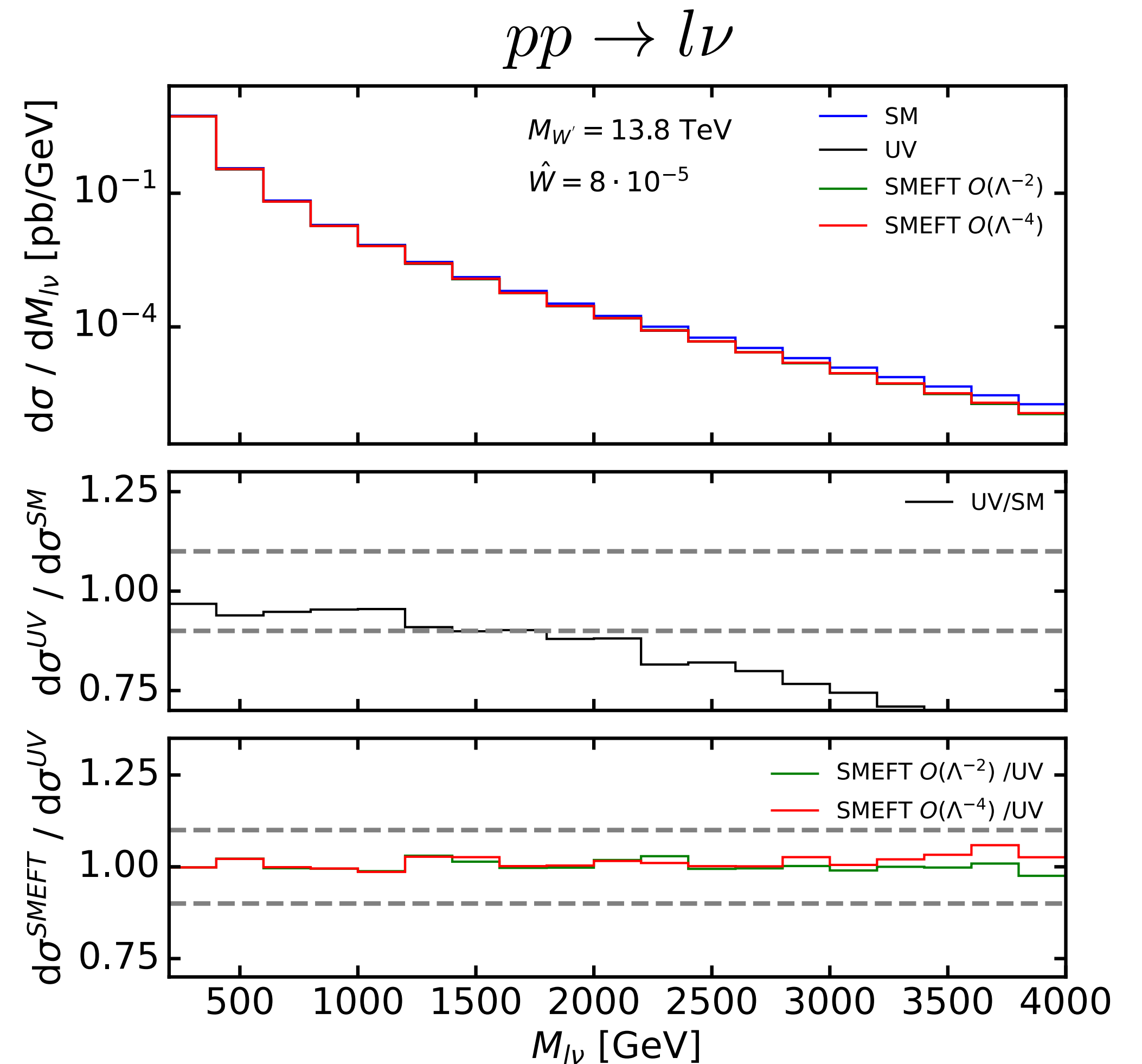
• Flavour universal W'

EFT approximation

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}}^{W'} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} - \frac{g^2 \hat{W}}{2m_{W'}^2} J_L^\mu J_{L,\mu}$$

$$J_L^\mu = \sum_{f_L} \bar{f}_L T^a \gamma^\mu f_L$$

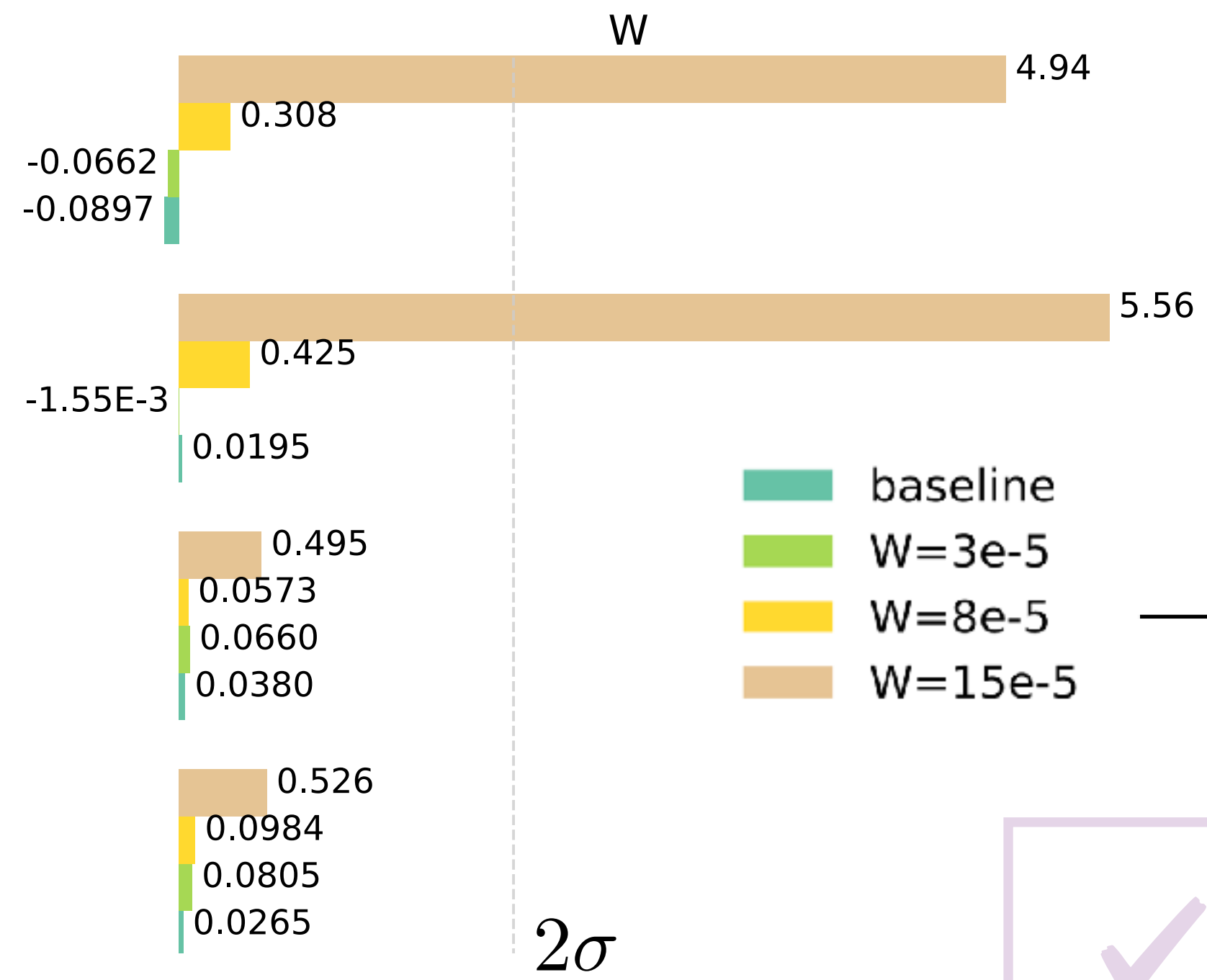
• Impacts NC and CC DY



Do our contaminated fits pass the selection criteria?

$$n_\sigma = \frac{\chi^2 - 1}{\sigma_{\chi^2}}$$

HL-LHC HM DY 14 TeV - charged current - muon channel
 HL-LHC HM DY 14 TeV - charged current - electron channel
 HL-LHC HM DY 14 TeV - neutral current - muon channel
 HL-LHC HM DY 14 TeV - neutral current - electron channel



→ $\hat{W} = 8 \cdot 10^{-5}, M_{W'} \approx 14 \text{ TeV}$

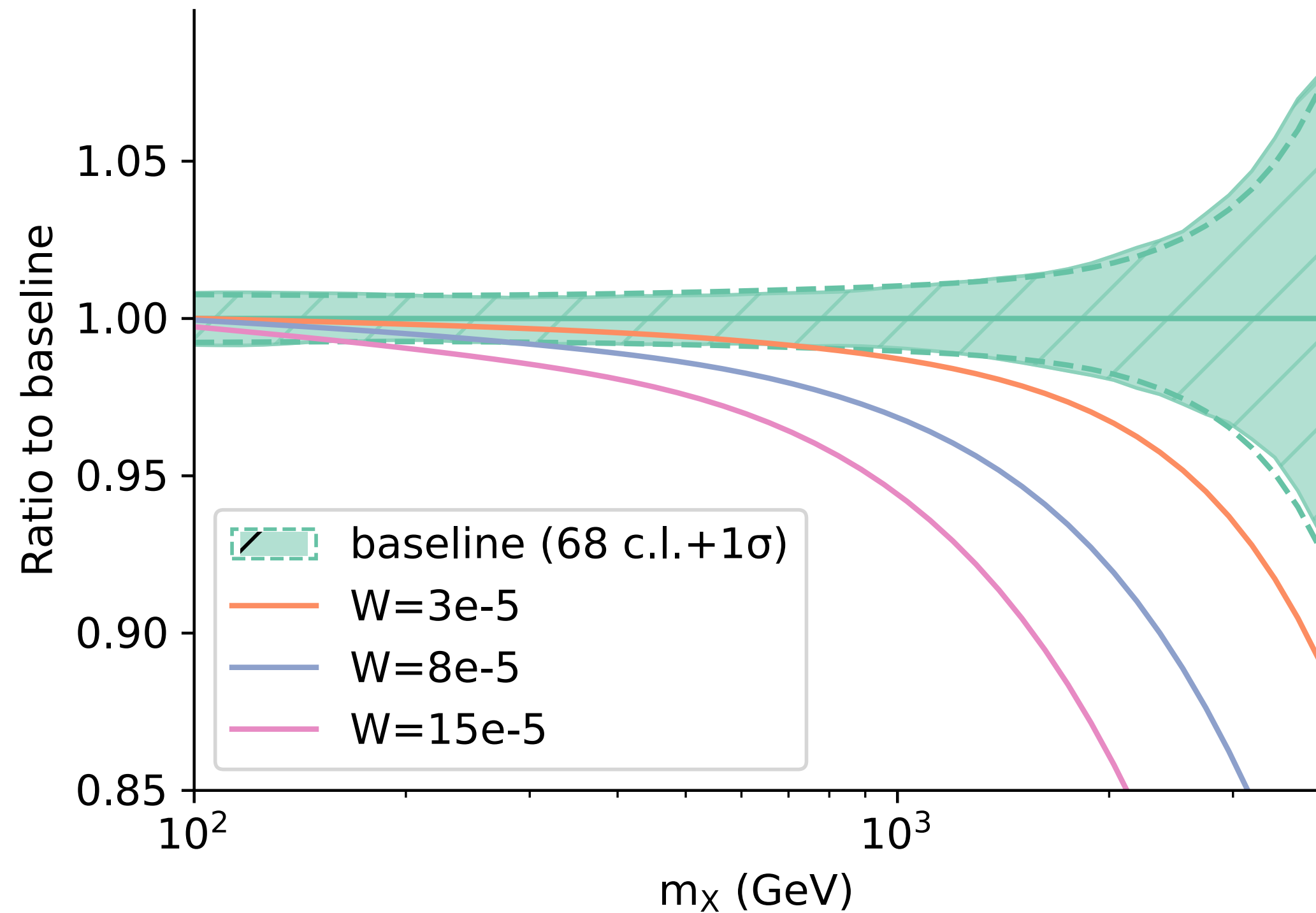
✓ **Yes: PDFs absorb new physics**

W'-contaminated PDFs

Data: 'true' PDF \otimes SM + W'
 Theory: contaminated PDF \otimes SM

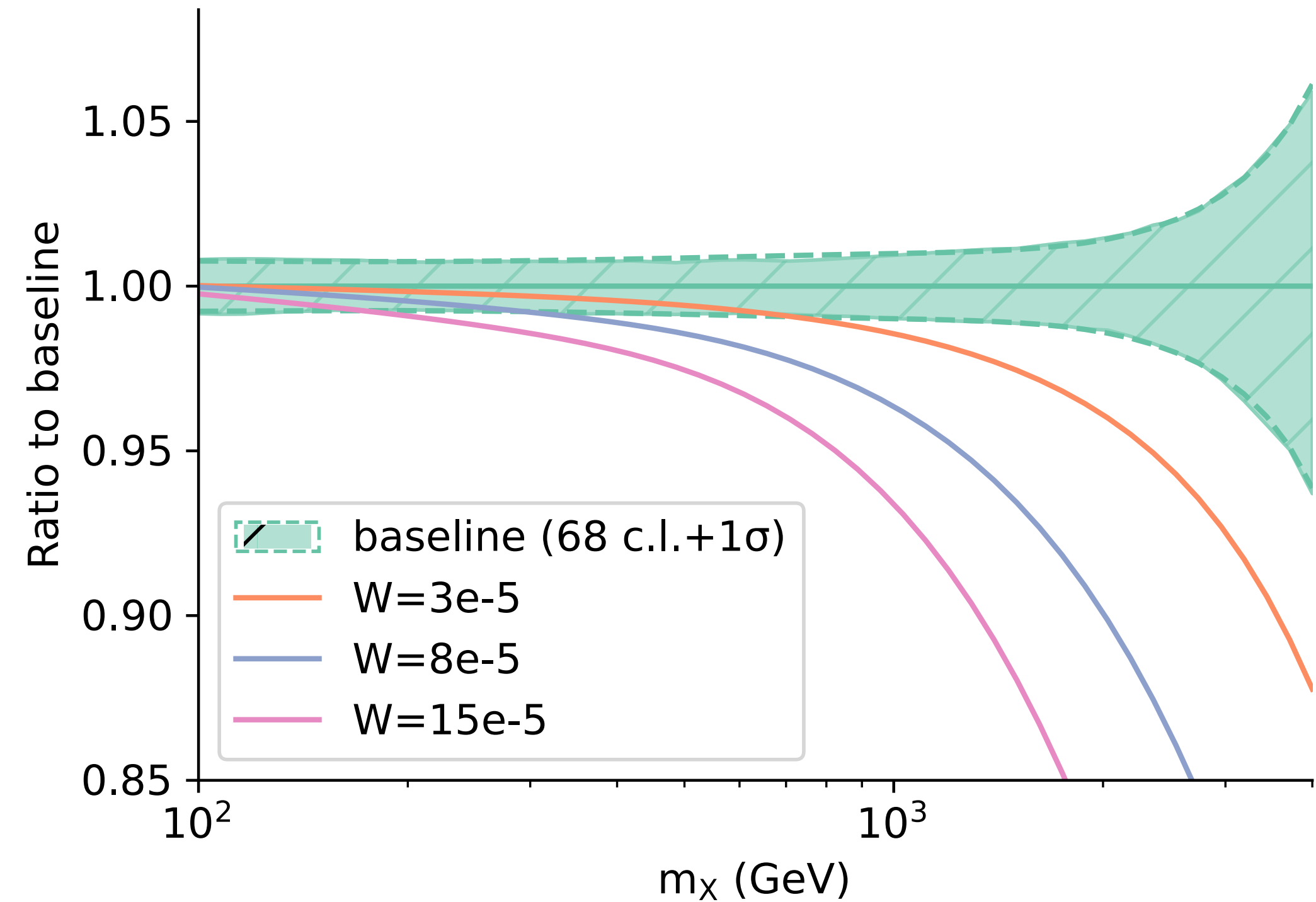
NC DY

$u\bar{u} + d\bar{d}$ luminosity
 $\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV}$ $\|y\| < 2.5$



CC DY

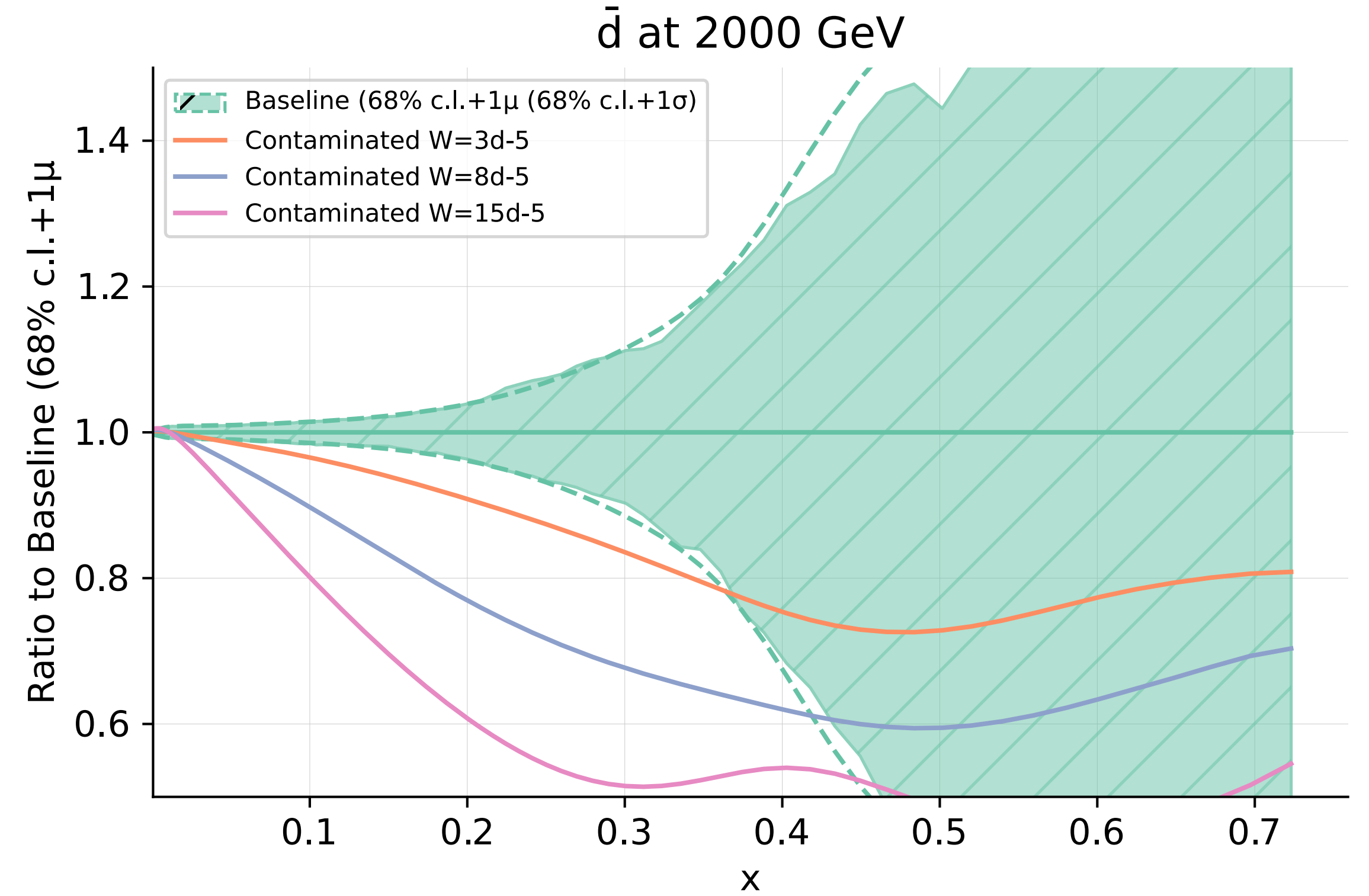
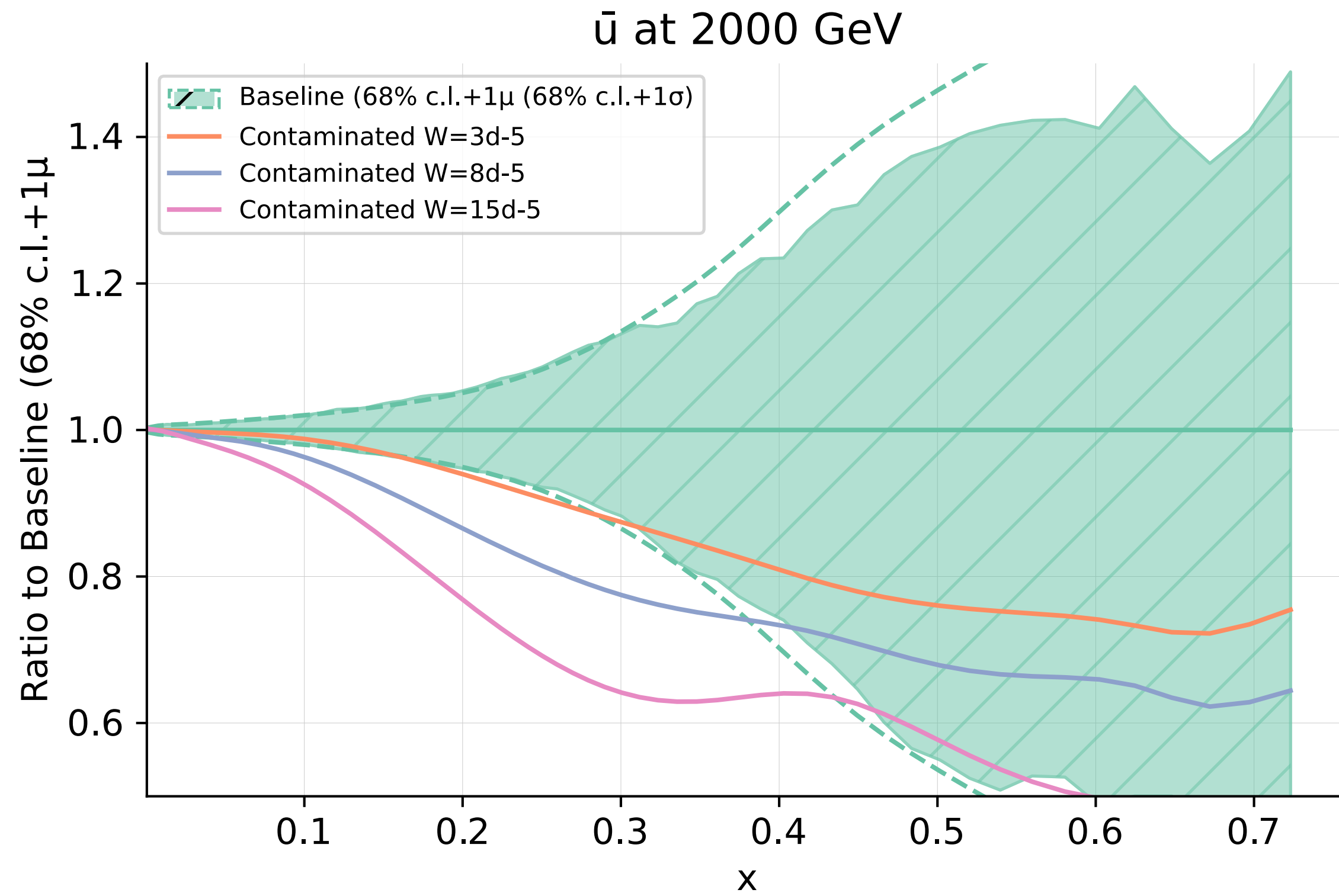
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Fewer constraints on the **large-x antiquark PDFs** allow freedom to shift away from the baseline

W'-contaminated PDFs

Data: 'true' PDF \otimes SM + W'
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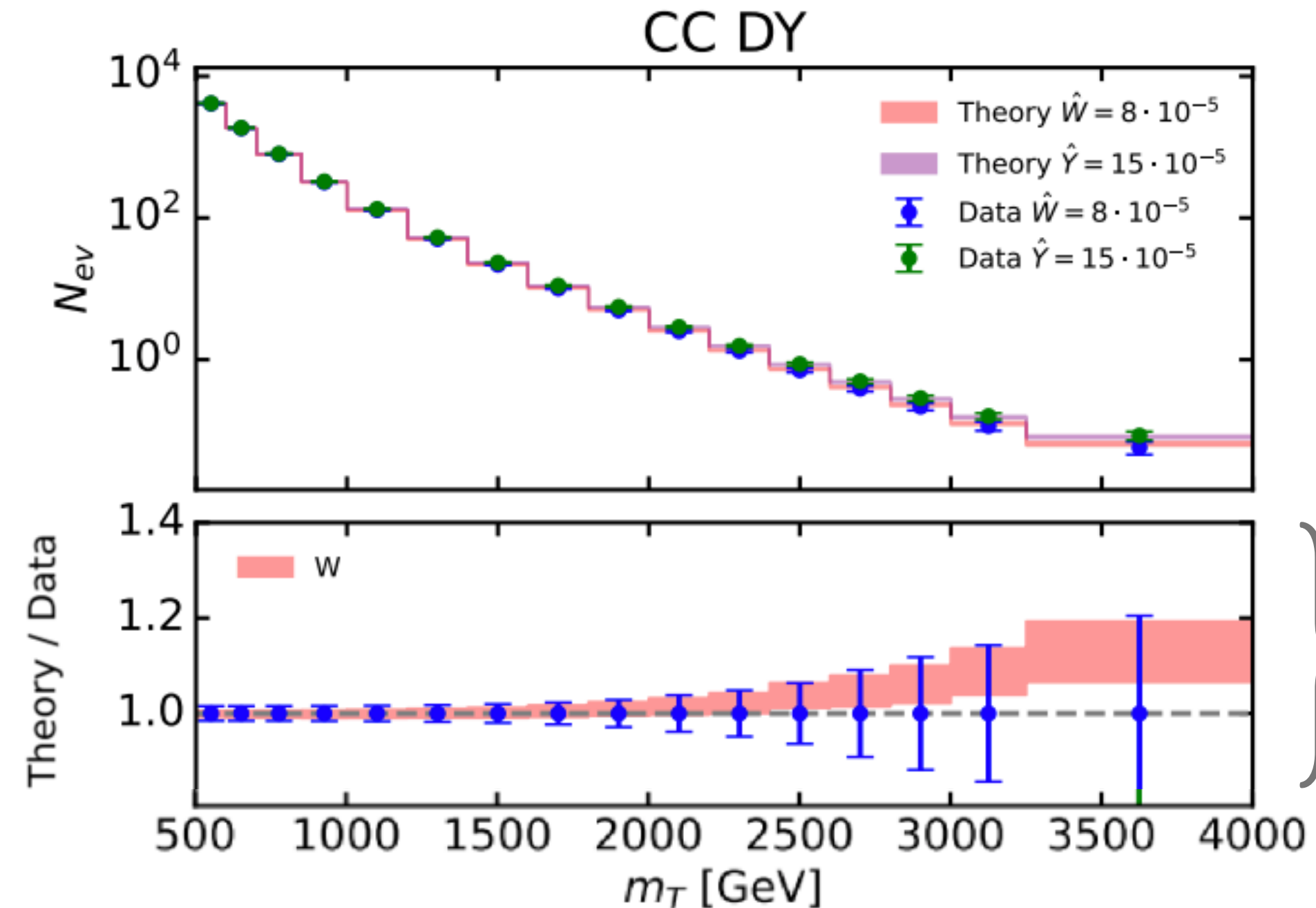
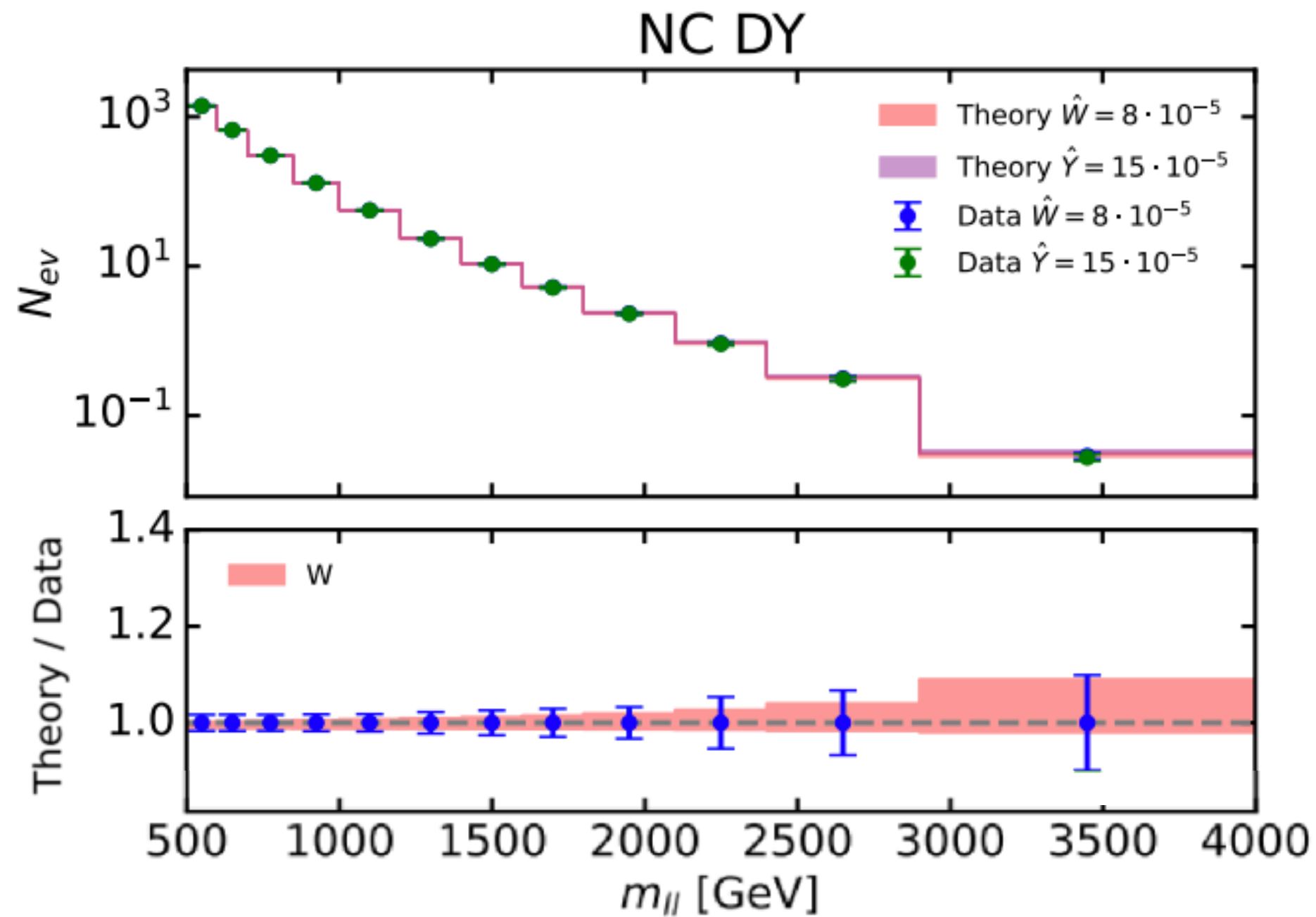
Fewer constraints on the **large-x antiquark PDFs** allow freedom to shift away from the baseline

What is the impact on observables?



Impact on Drell-Yan

Data: 'true' PDF \otimes SM + W
 Theory: contaminated PDF \otimes SM



Excellent data-theory agreement

- The data appears to agree well with the SM
- **The shift in the PDFs compensates the NP effects**
- The effects of NP are completely missed

Impact on EW processes

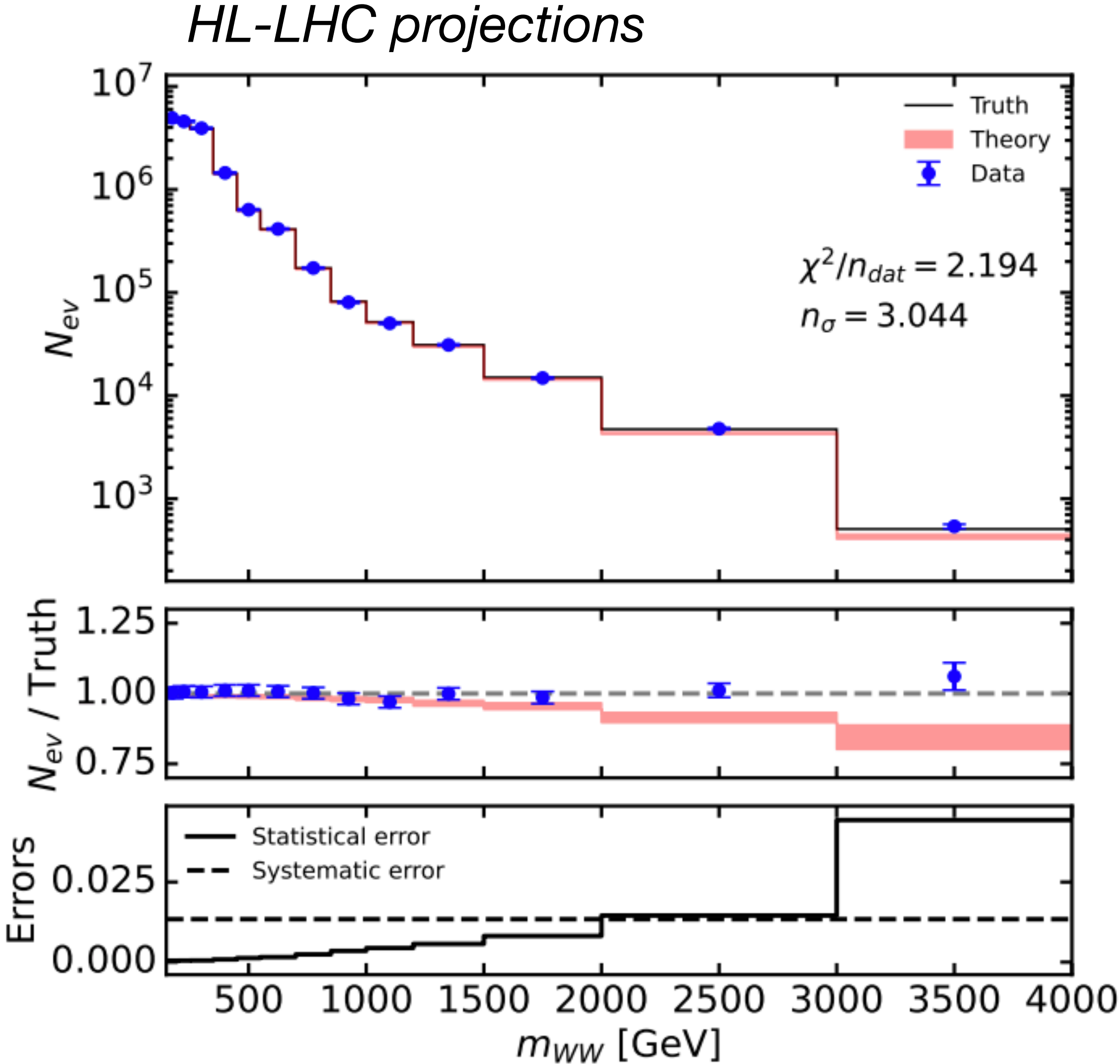
The PDF then causes **spurious NP effects** in other observables e.g.

$$q\bar{q} \rightarrow W^+W^-$$

- Data appears to disagree with SM at 3σ
- However, W^+W^- is unaffected by W' model:

the deviation is in the PDF

Data: 'true' PDF \otimes SM
 Theory: contaminated PDF \otimes SM



Impact on EW processes

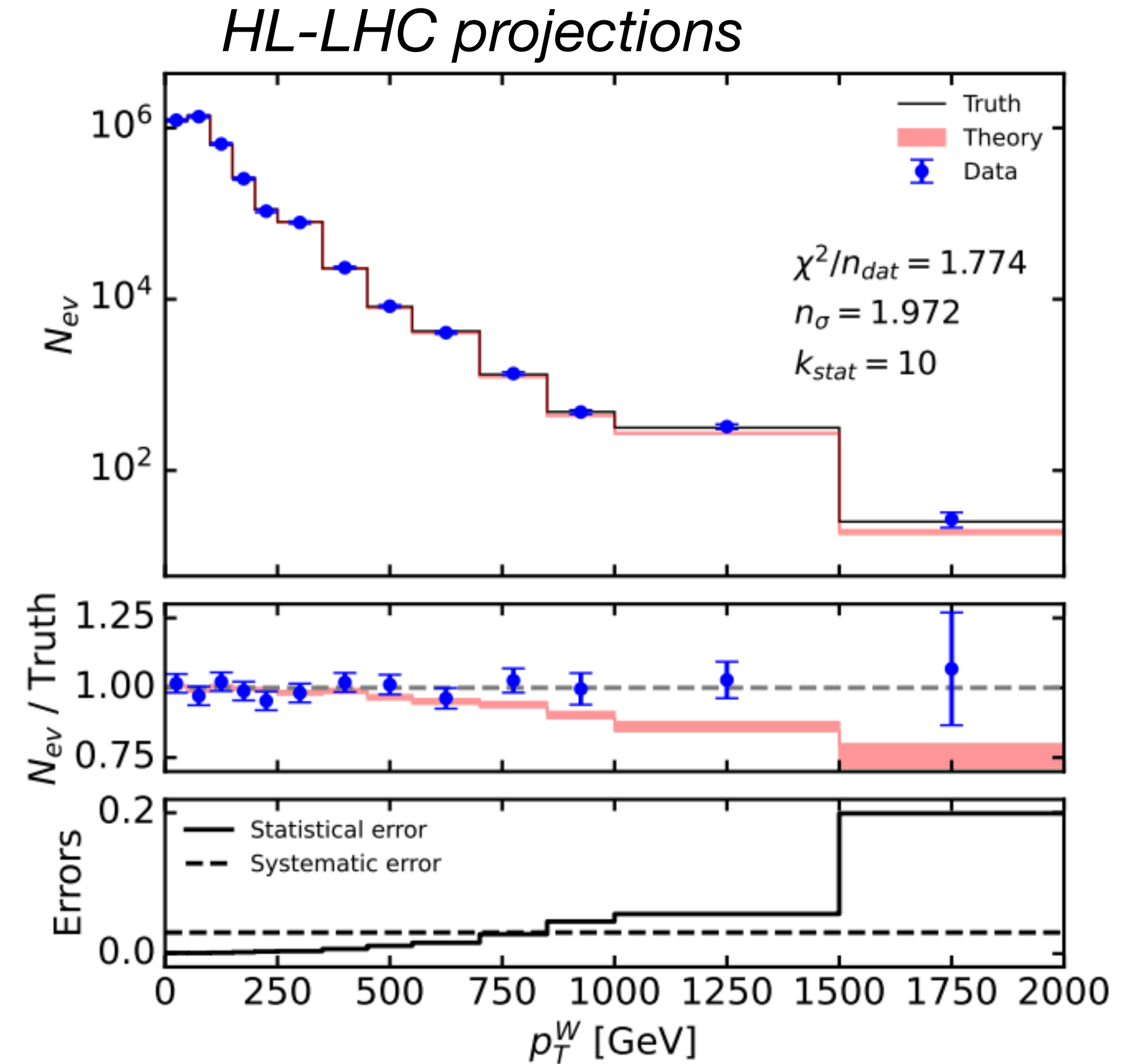
The PDF then causes **spurious NP effects** in other observables e.g.

$$q\bar{q} \rightarrow WH$$

- Data appears to disagree with SM at 2σ
- However, WH is unaffected by W' model:

the deviation is in the PDF

Data: 'true' PDF \otimes SM
 Theory: contaminated PDF \otimes SM



statistics improved by a factor of 10

Can we disentangle the effect of NP from PDFs?



Disentangling new physics effects post-fit

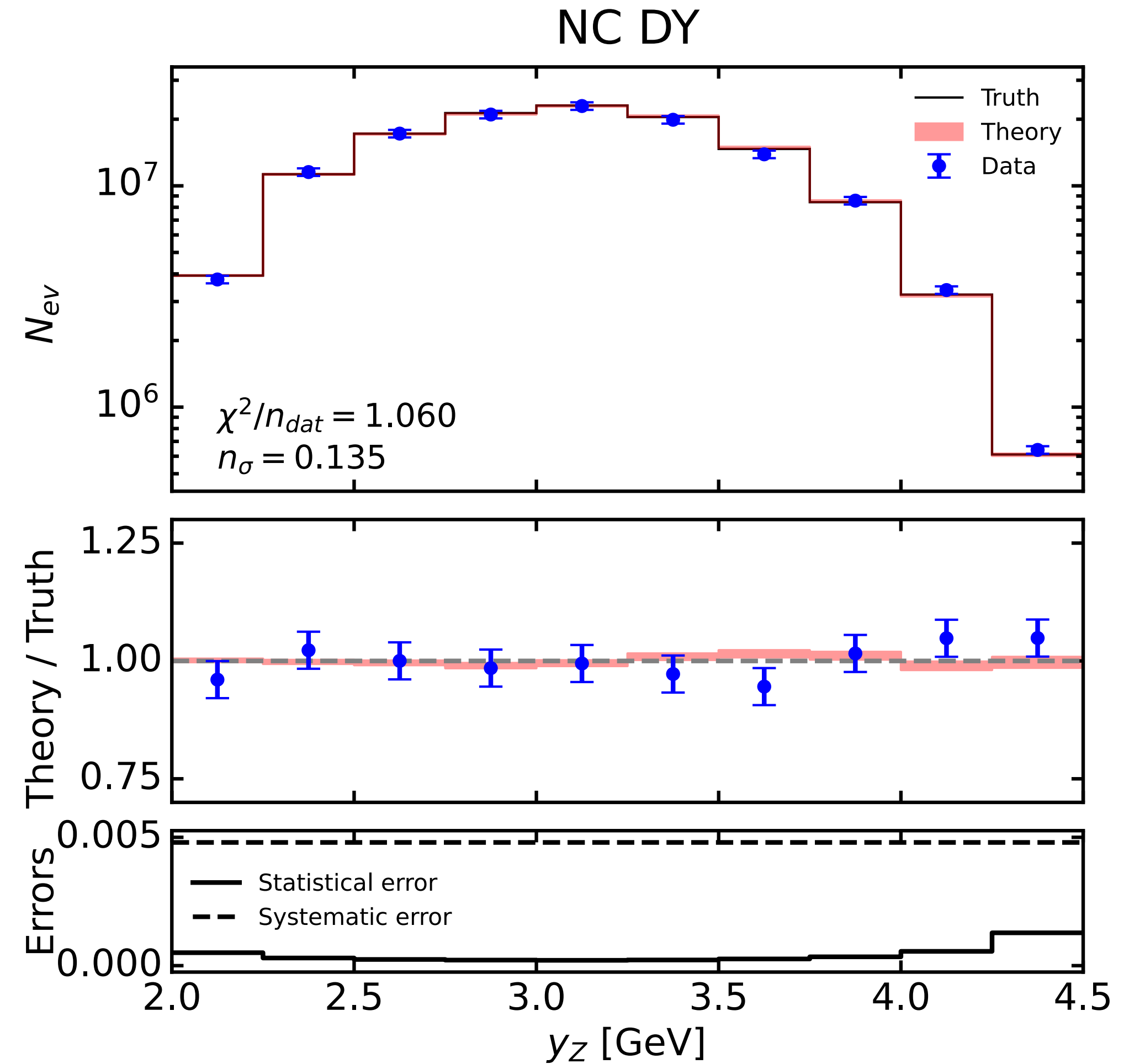
see 2307.10370 for other disentangling strategies

HL-LHC projections for **forward Z production** at LHCb:

$$60 < m_{\ell\ell} < 120 \text{ GeV} \quad p_T^\ell > 20 \text{ GeV}$$
$$2 < |y_Z| < 4.5$$

However no discrepancy between data and theory is observed
▶ PDF-EFT interplay is not disentangled

Data: 'true' PDF \otimes SM
Theory: contaminated PDF \otimes SM



Disentangling new physics effects post-fit

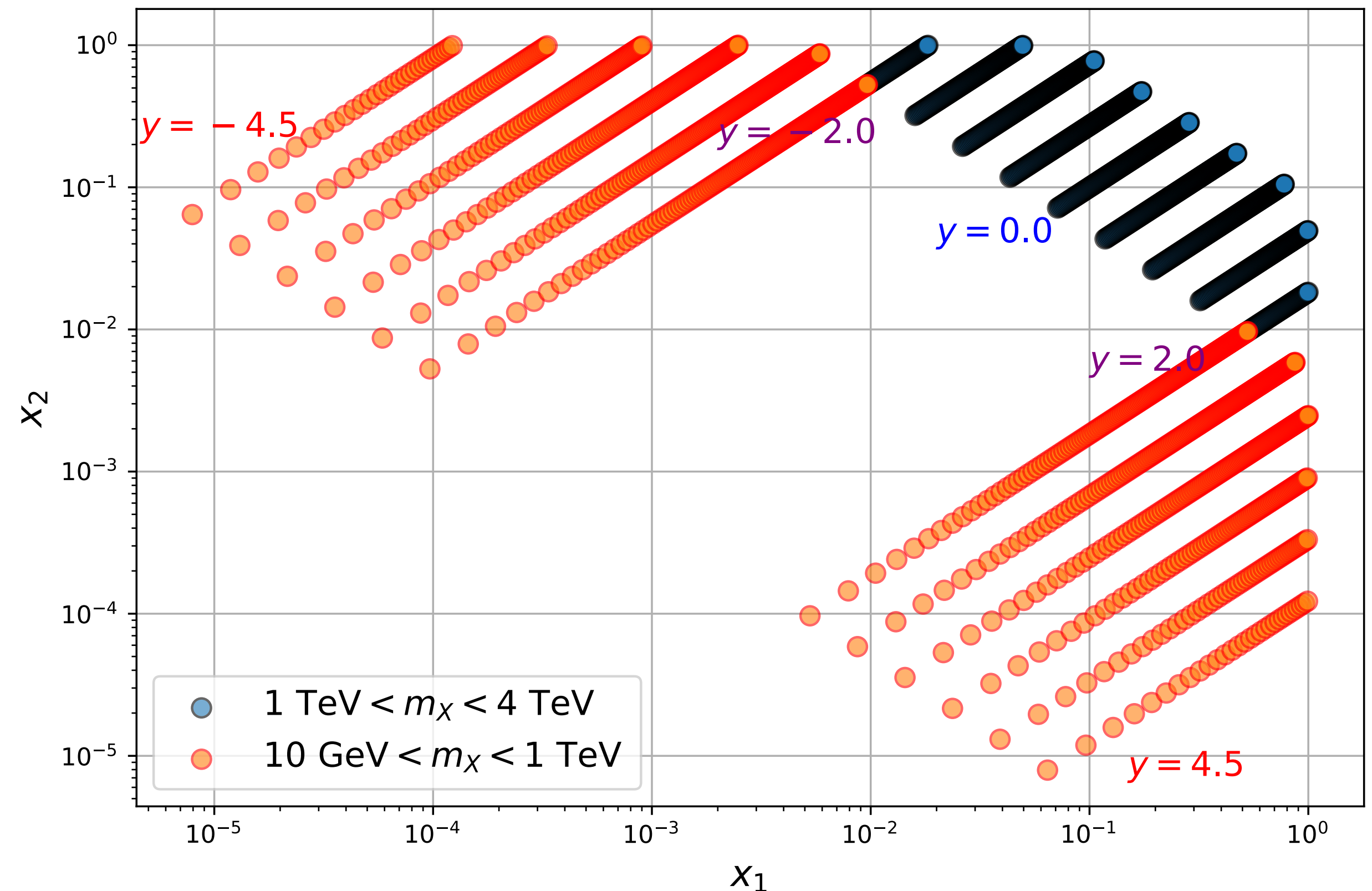
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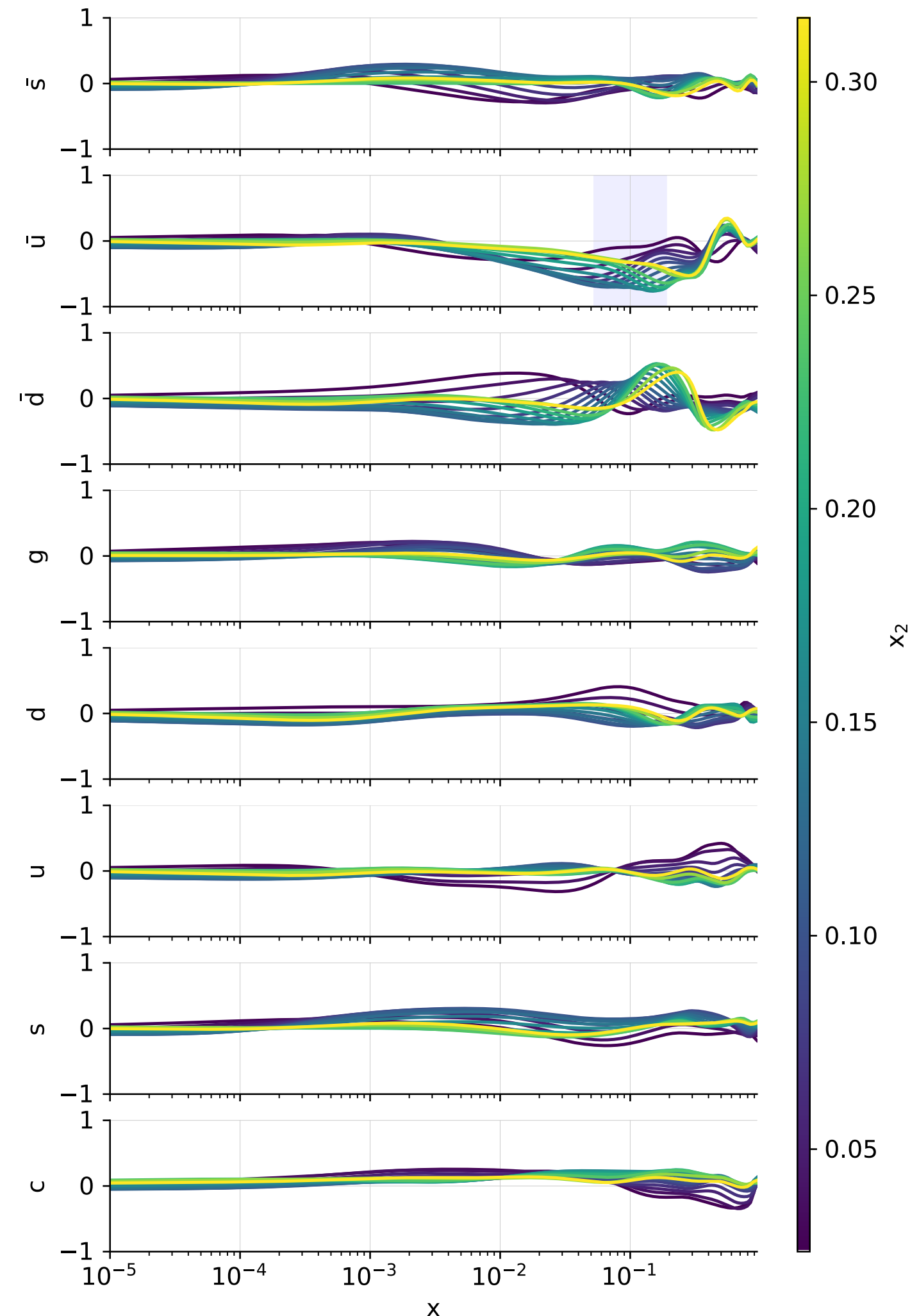
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Disentangling new physics effects post-fit

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DYE 866 $\sigma_{DY}^d/\sigma_{DY}^p$
[Baseline fit]



Fewer constraints on the **large-x antiquark PDFs** allow freedom to shift away from the baseline

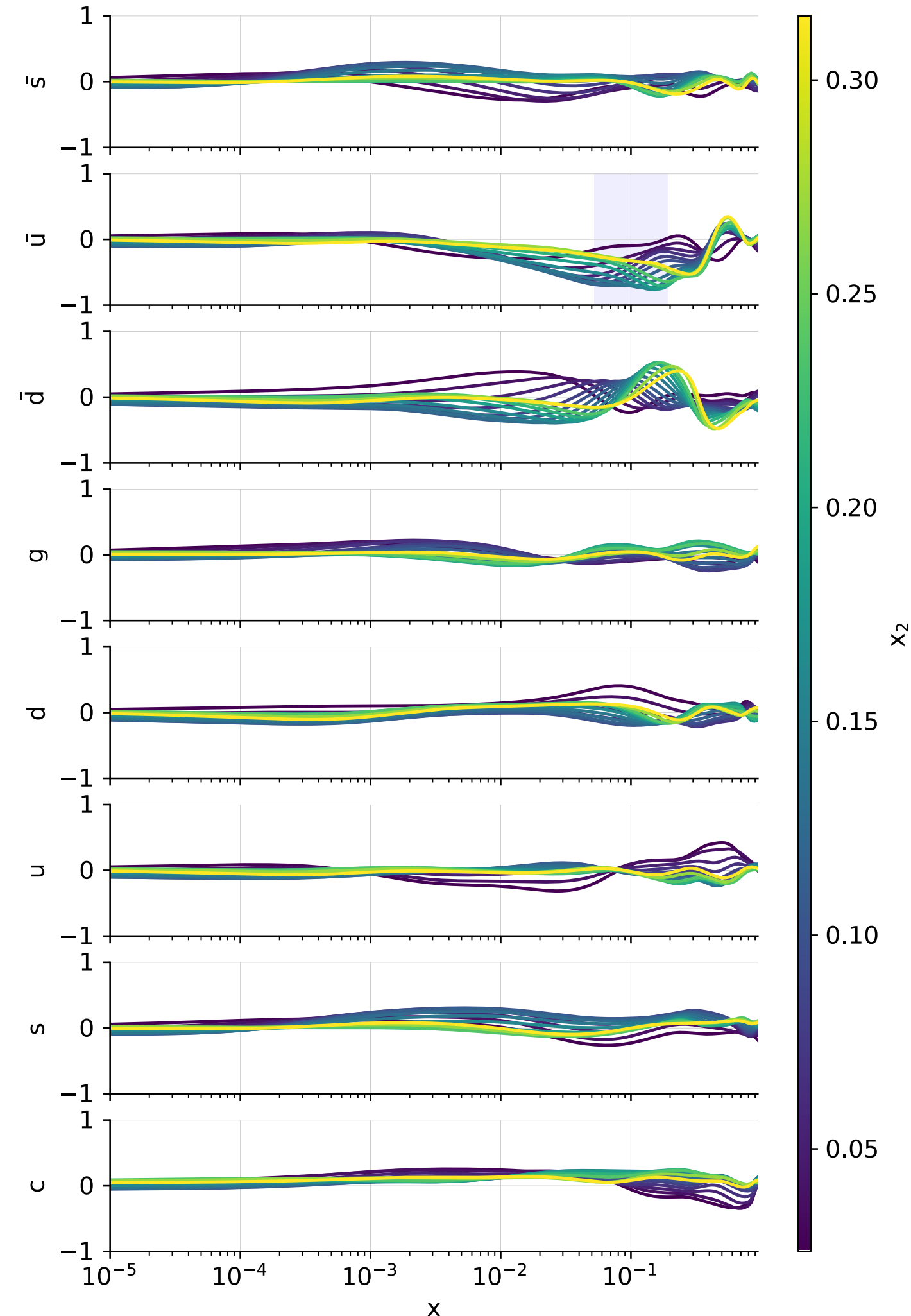
Low- Q^2 measurements sensitive to large-x antiquarks may help
➔ independent of NP effects

e.g. NuSea collaboration fixed target DY [hep-ex/0103030]

Disentangling new physics effects post-fit

see 2307.10370 for other disentangling strategies

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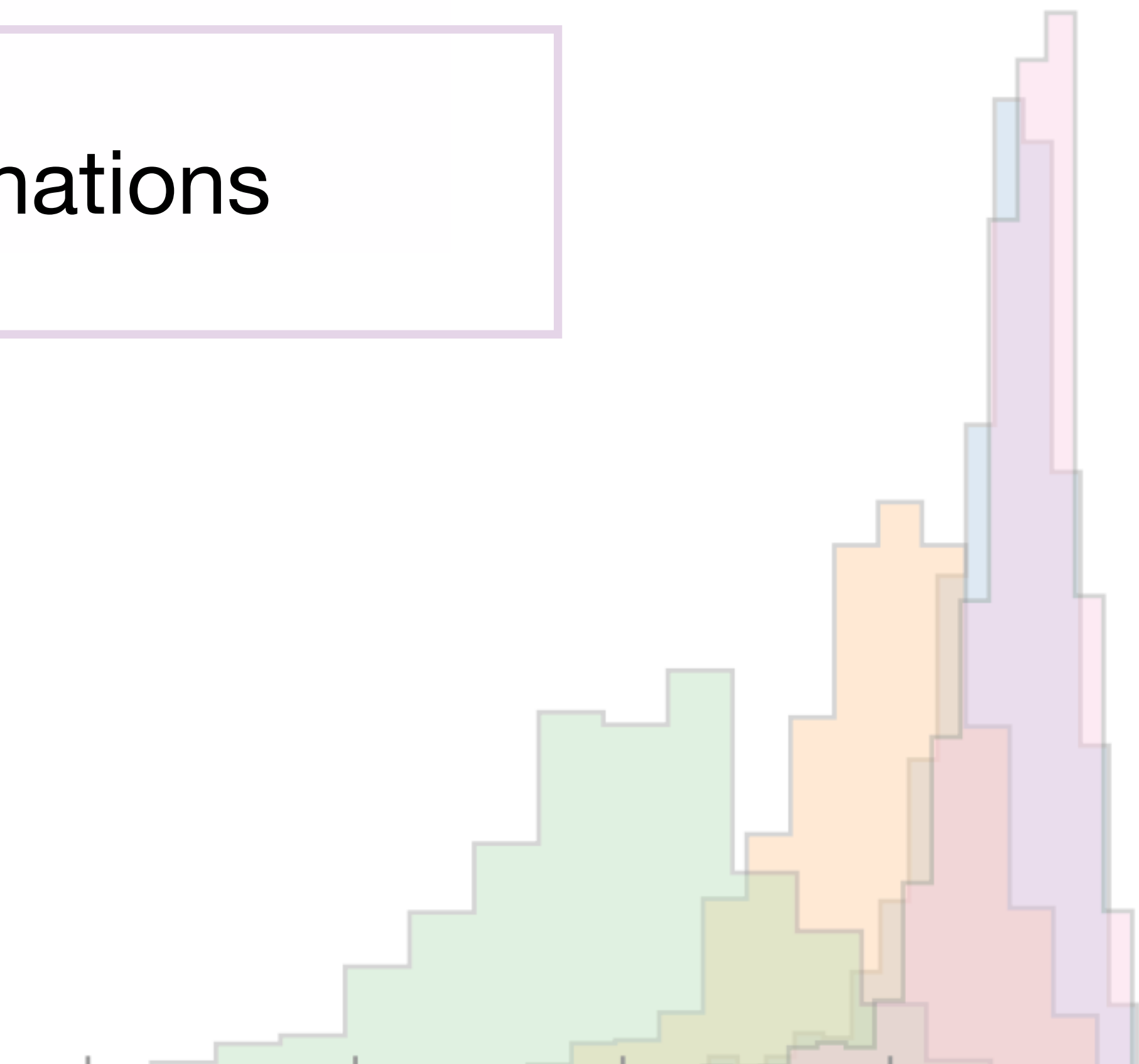
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➔ independent of NP effects

e.g. NuSea collaboration fixed target DY [hep-ex/0103030]

However:

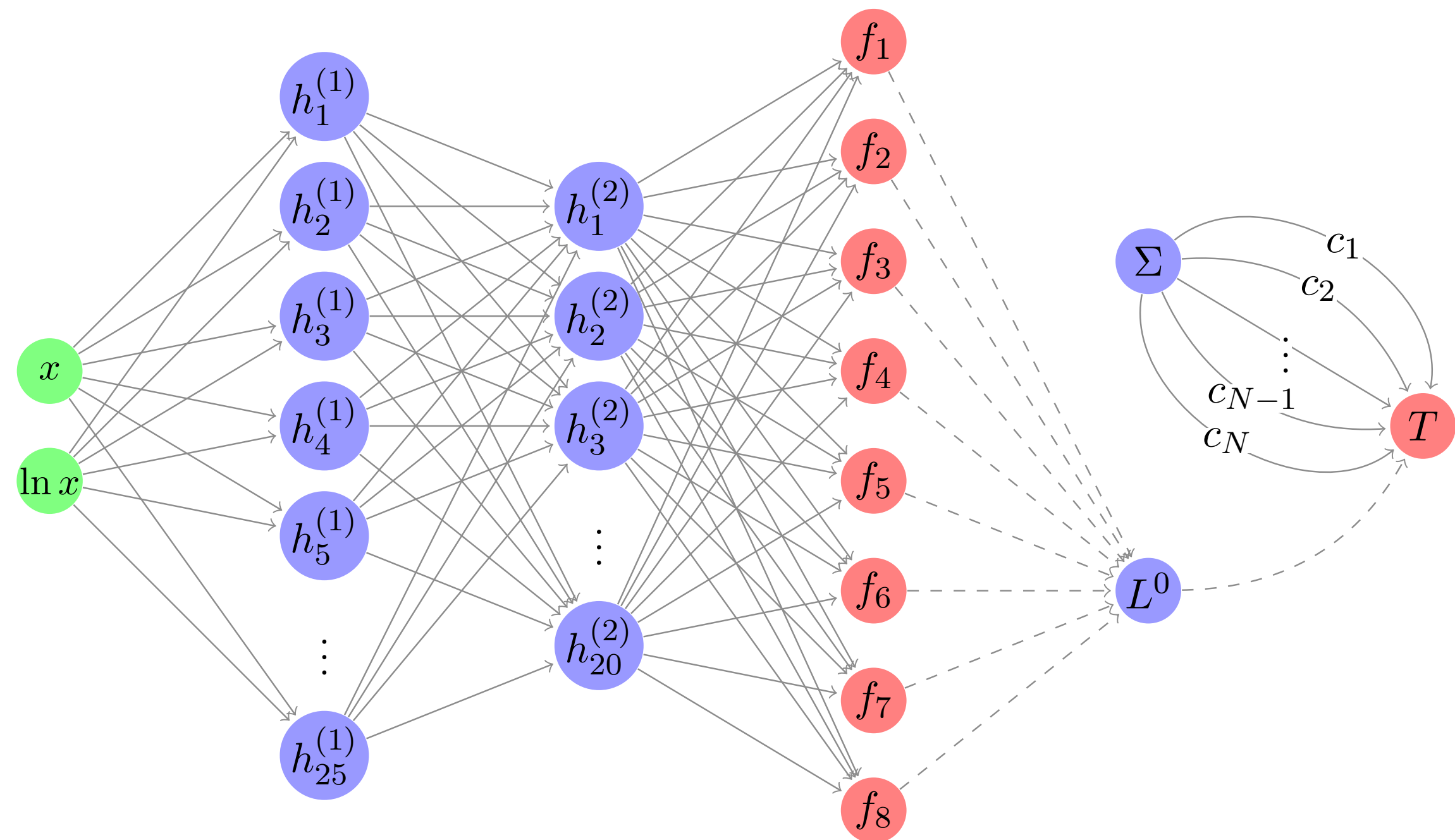
- data currently included in the fit is not precise enough to disentangle this effect
- Future low-energy measurements, e.g. **the EIC programme**, will provide crucial inputs to PDF fits

Simultaneous PDF-EFT Determinations



Simultaneous fit of PDFs and SMEFT with simuNET

S. Iranipour, M. Ubiali, 2201.07240
public code release coming soon



Fast and efficient **simultaneous determinations** of PDFs and Wilson coefficients

Places PDF parameters and Wilson coefficients on the same footing

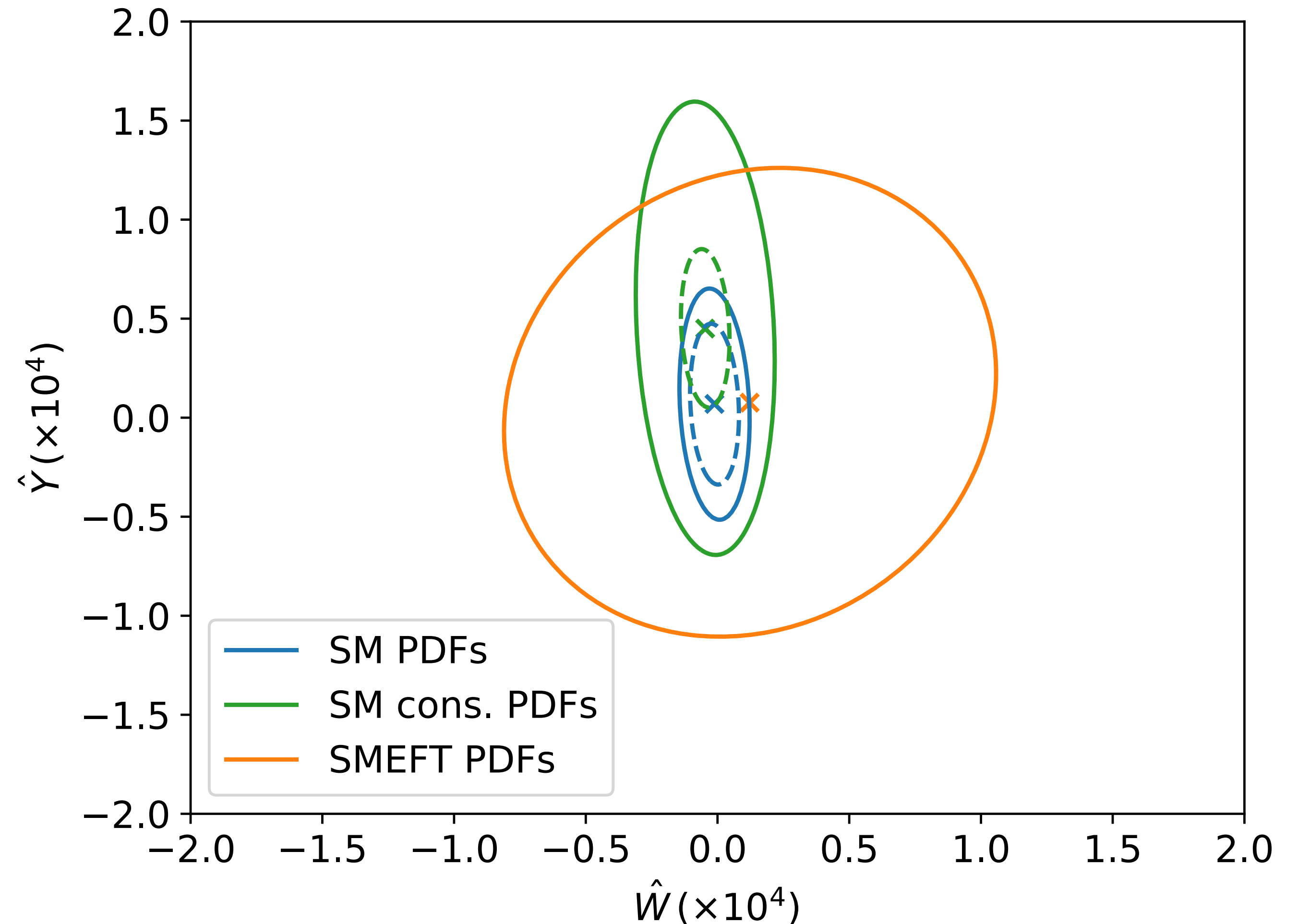
some examples: \longrightarrow

Simultaneous fit of PDFs and SMEFT in high mass DY

Greljo et. al 2104.02723

Including **HL-LHC projections** for NC and CC Drell-Yan:

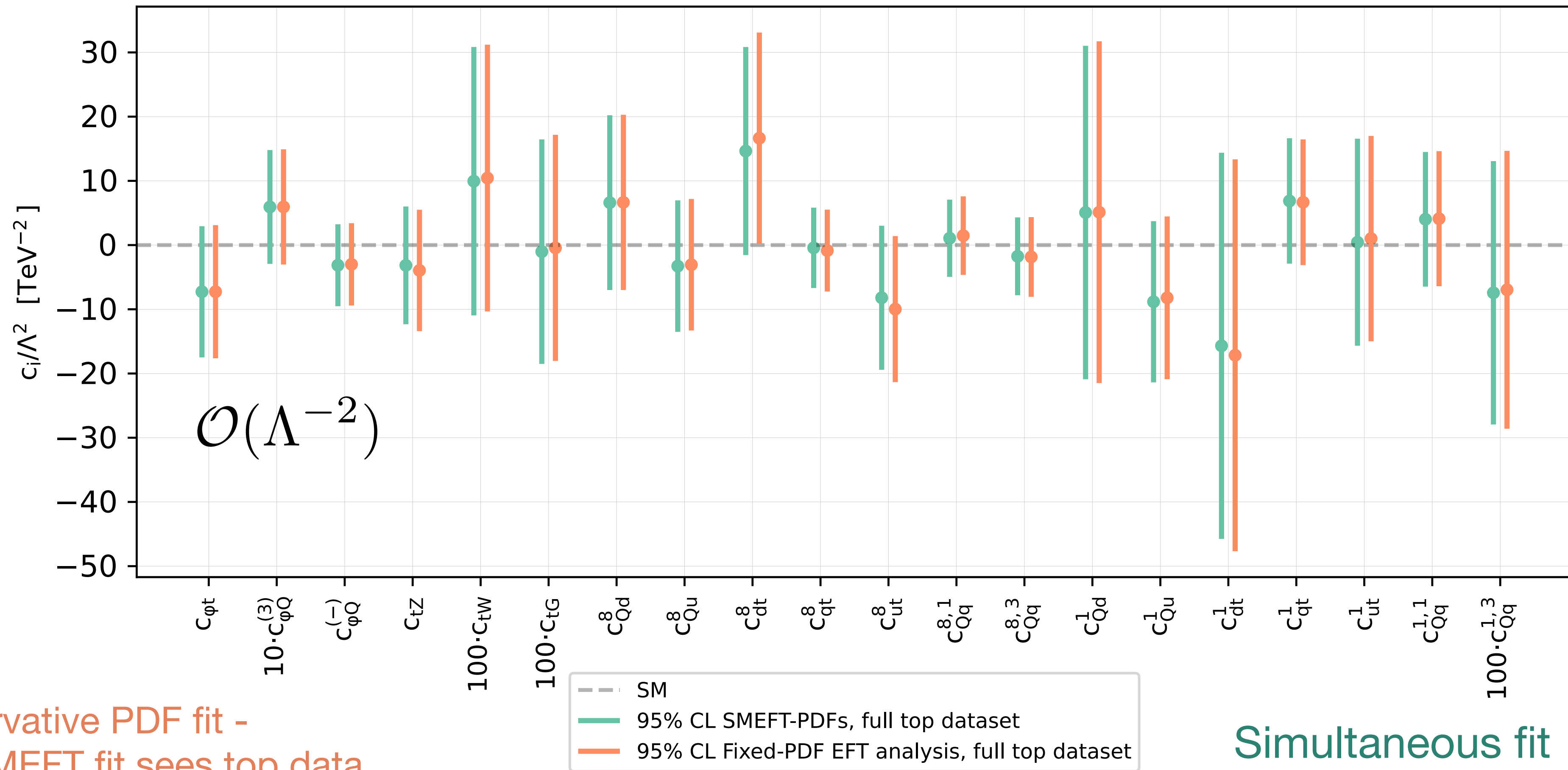
Neglecting PDF-EFT interplay leads to a significant overestimate of the EFT constraints.



Simultaneous fit of PDFs and SMEFT in the top sector

Z. Kassabov et. al , 2303.06159

Including **top quark data** from LHC Run II:



Conservative PDF fit -
only SMEFT fit sees top data

Conclusions

Discovering new physics will rely on an unbiased and accurate understanding of the parton distribution functions

- Parton distribution functions have the potential to **conceal new physics**:
 - Contaminated PDFs may translate signs of new physics into Higgs+EW processes
 - Disentangling post-fit is not guaranteed: future low-energy precision measurements of high-x antiquarks, e.g. from the EIC, will provide crucial inputs to future PDF fits
- Tools to investigate contaminated PDF fits in other BSM scenarios are publicly available:
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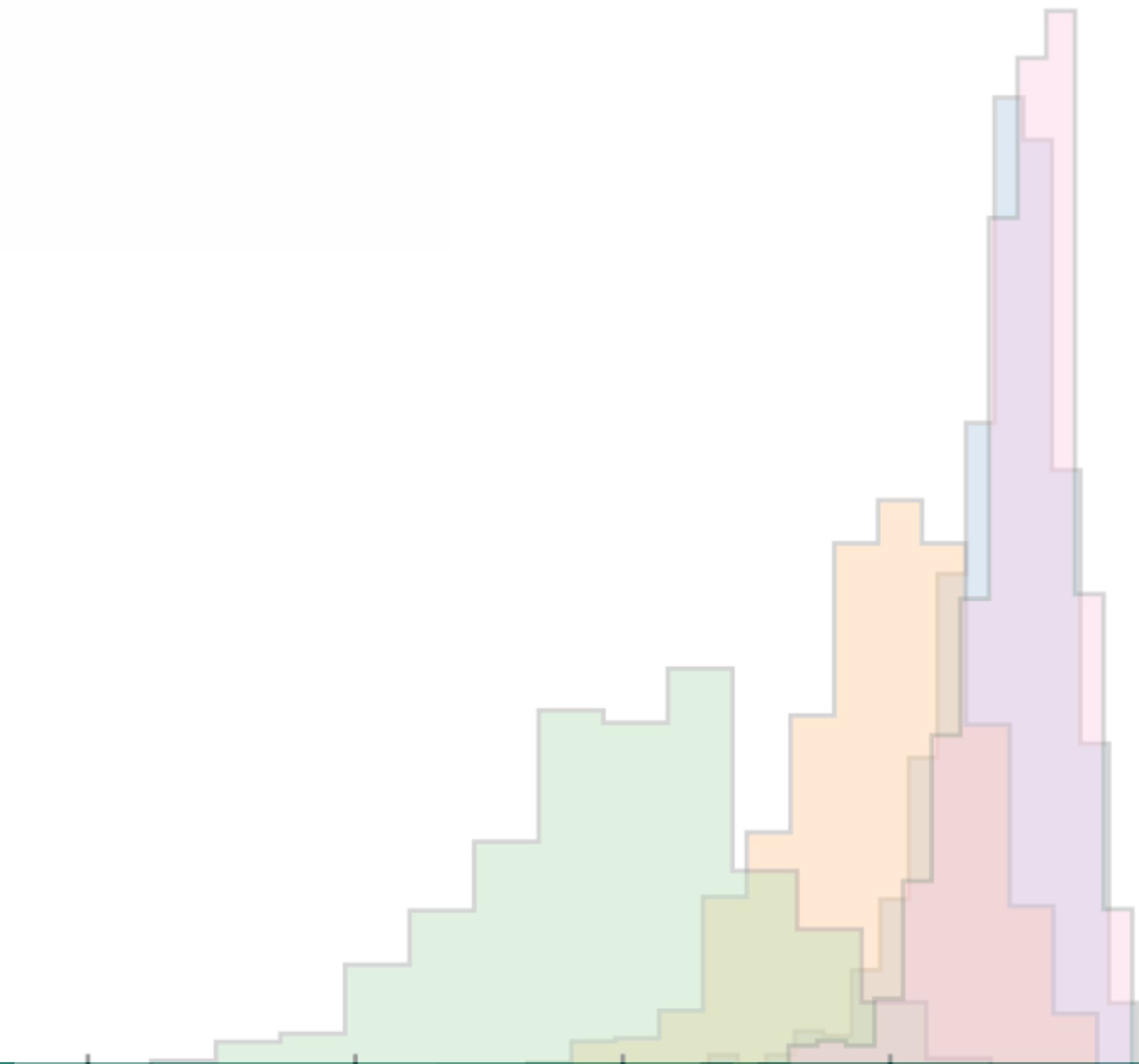
Conclusions

Thank you for listening!

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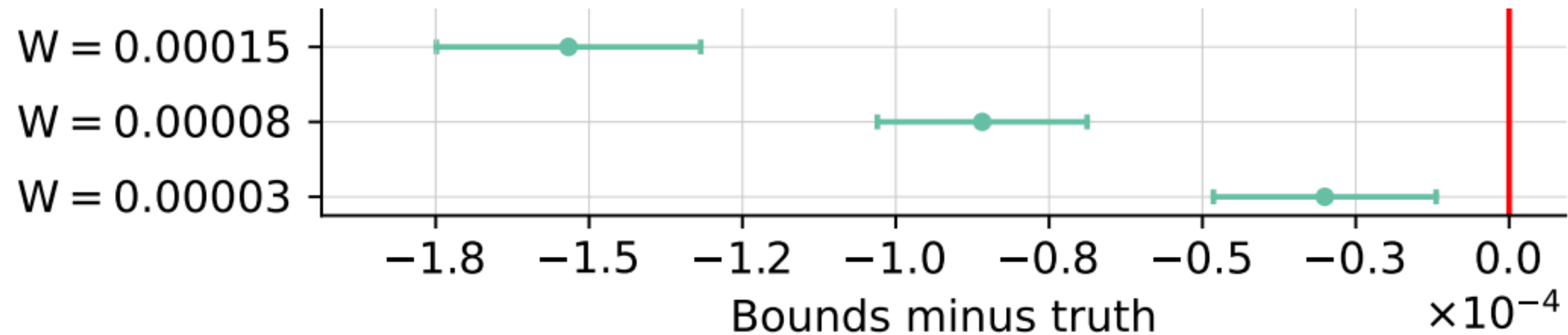
Backup



Impact on DY of W' -contaminated PDFs

The high-mass DY data **appears** to agree well with the SM

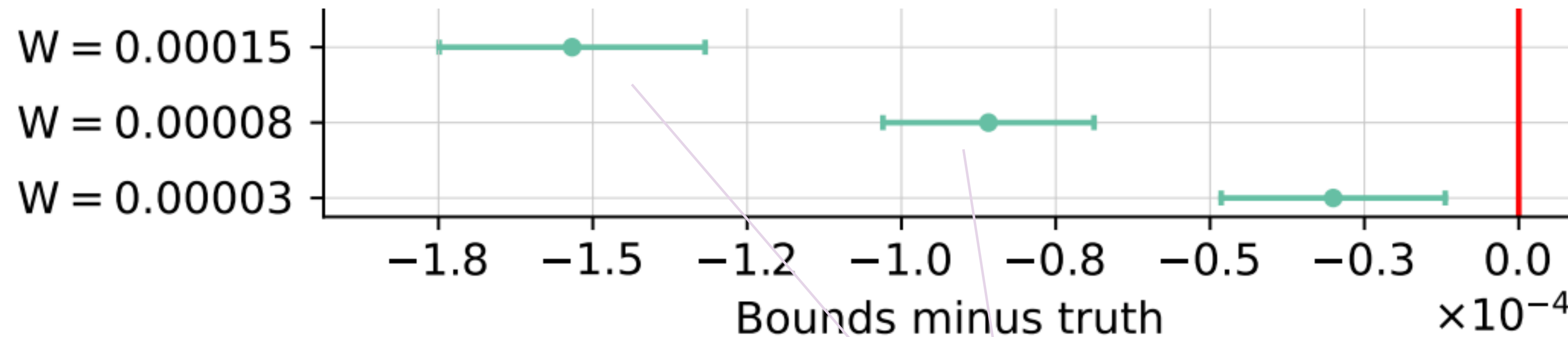
This leads to constraints on the W' which **miss the truth**:



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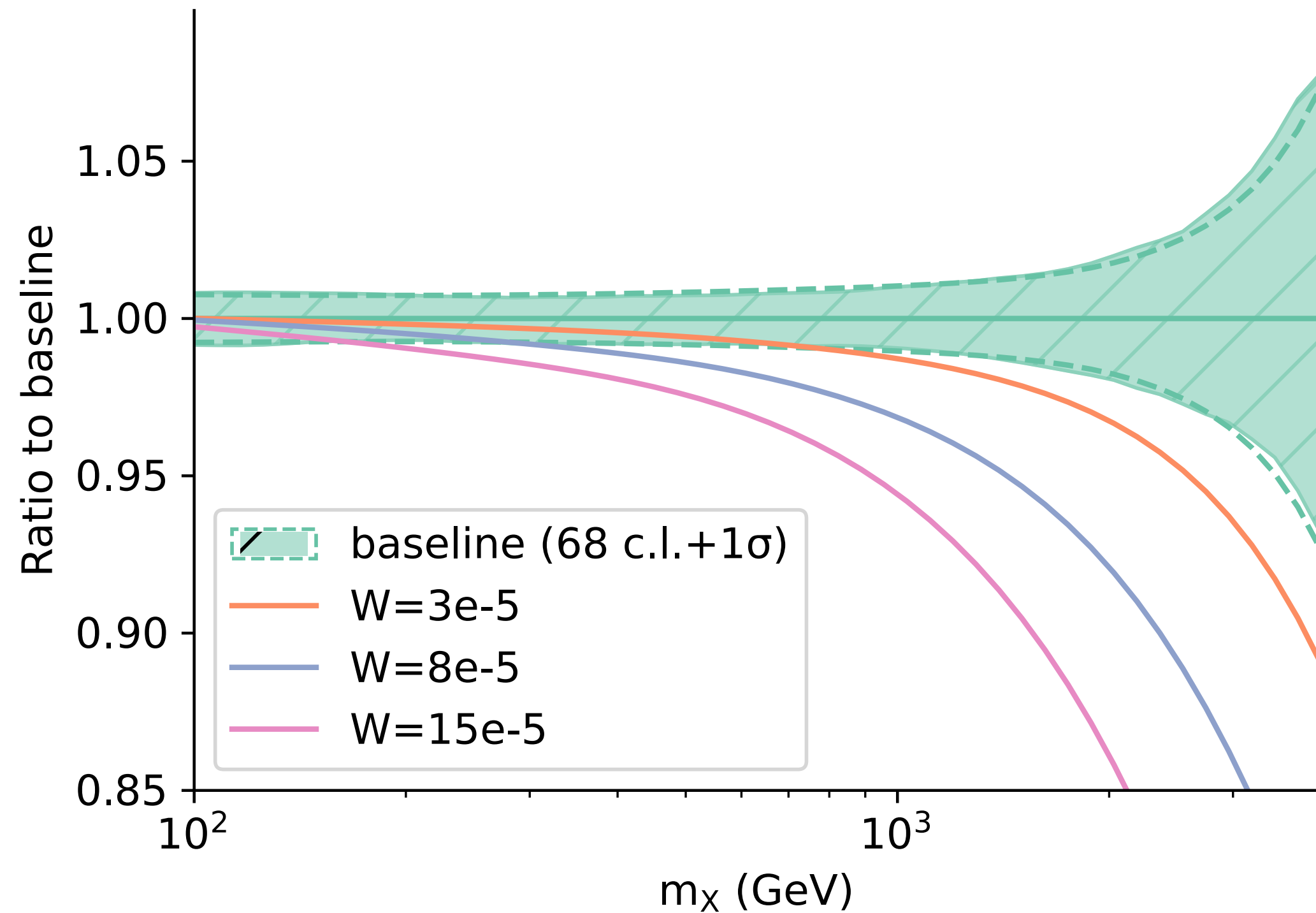
constraints miss the truth by $> 2\sigma$

W'-contaminated PDFs

Data: 'true' PDF \otimes SM + W'
 Theory: contaminated PDF \otimes SM

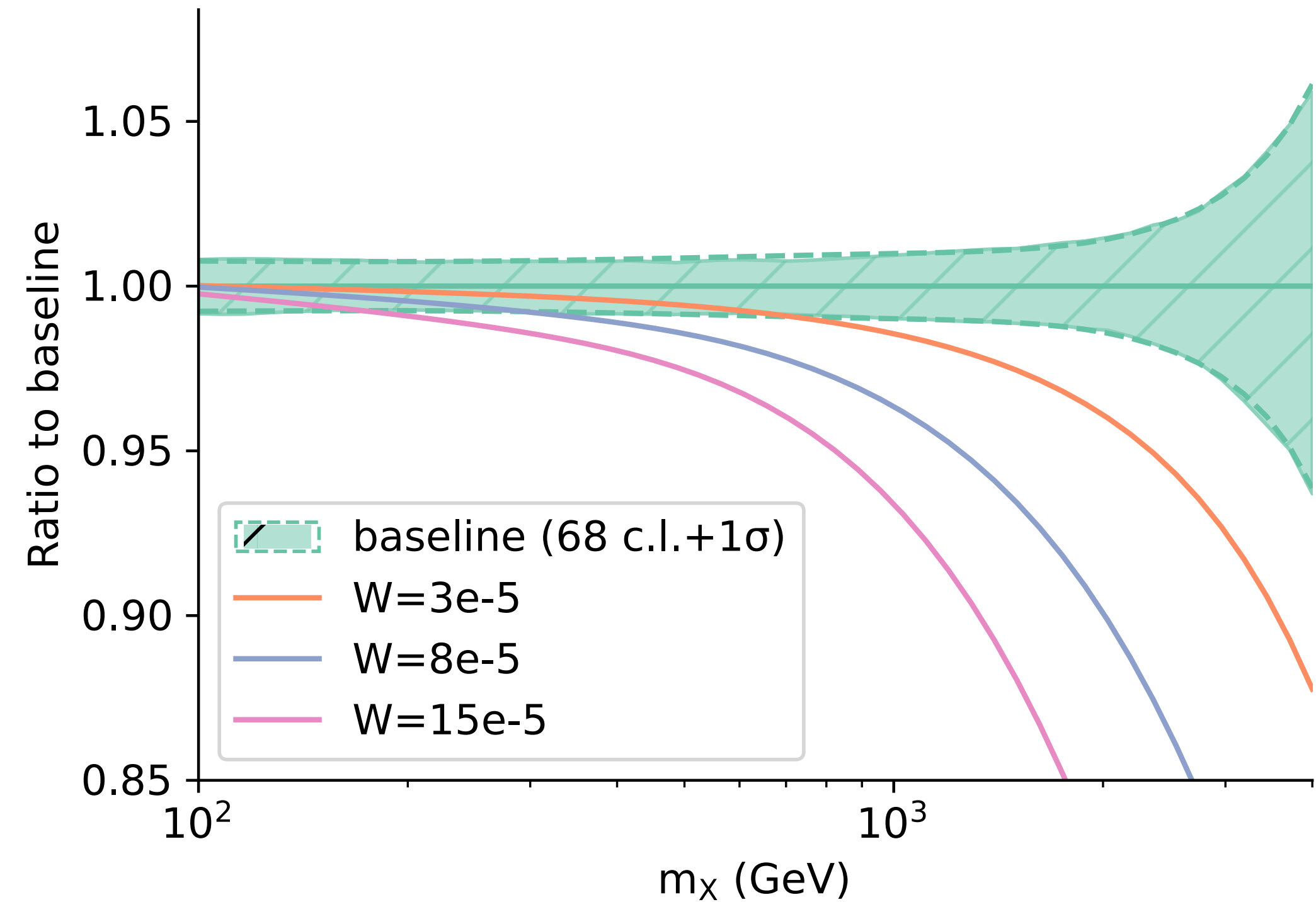
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$u\bar{u} + d\bar{d}$ luminosity
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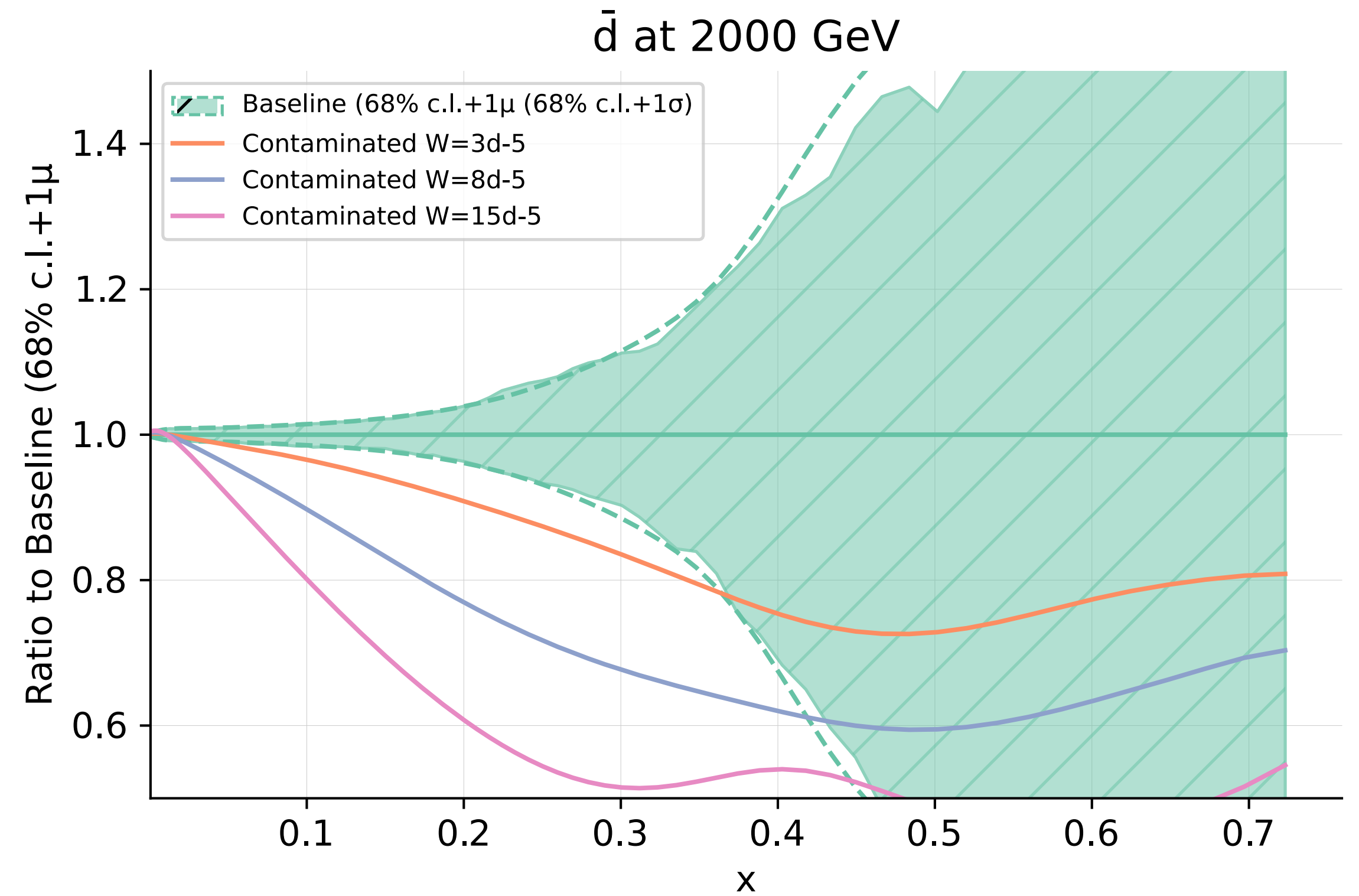
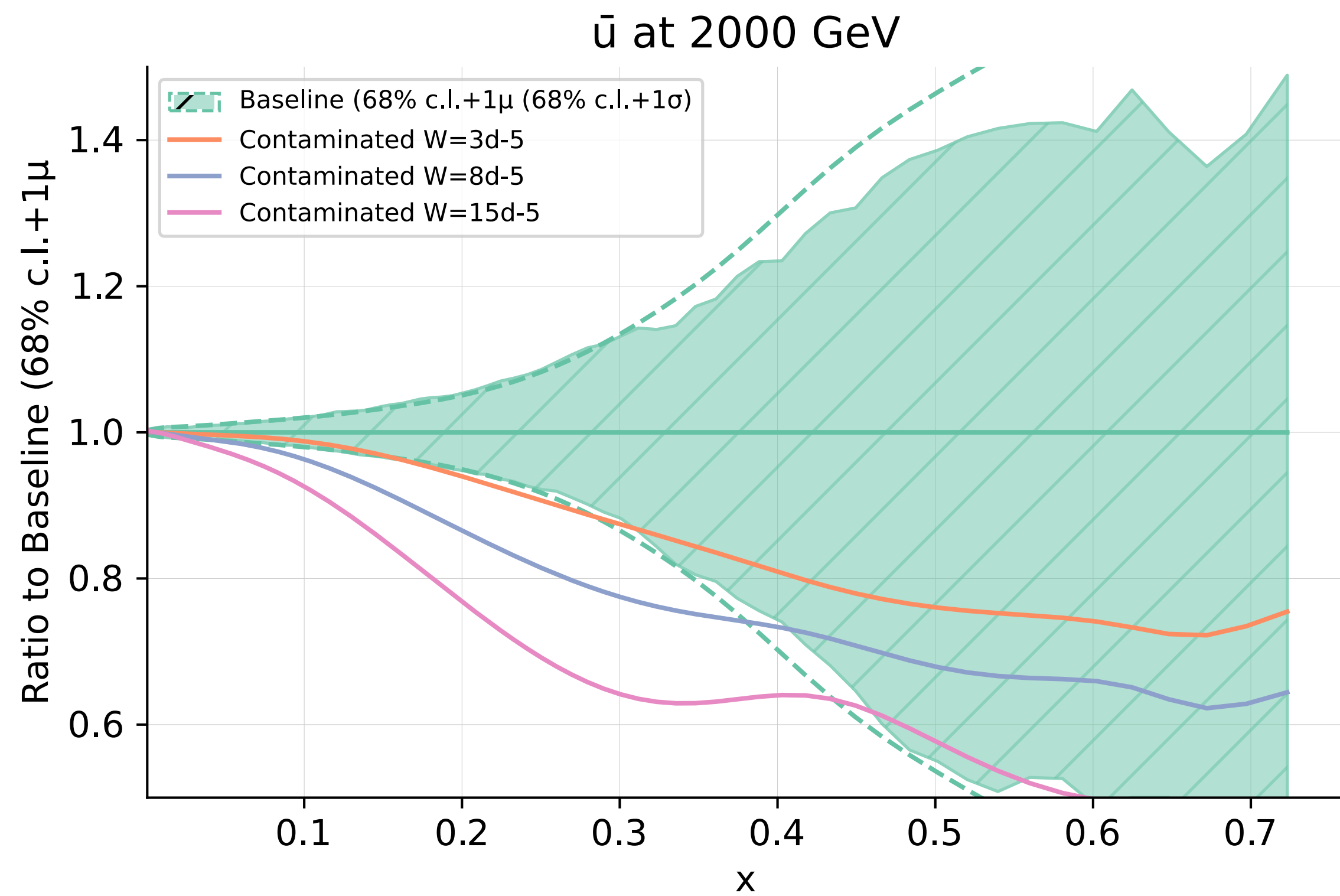
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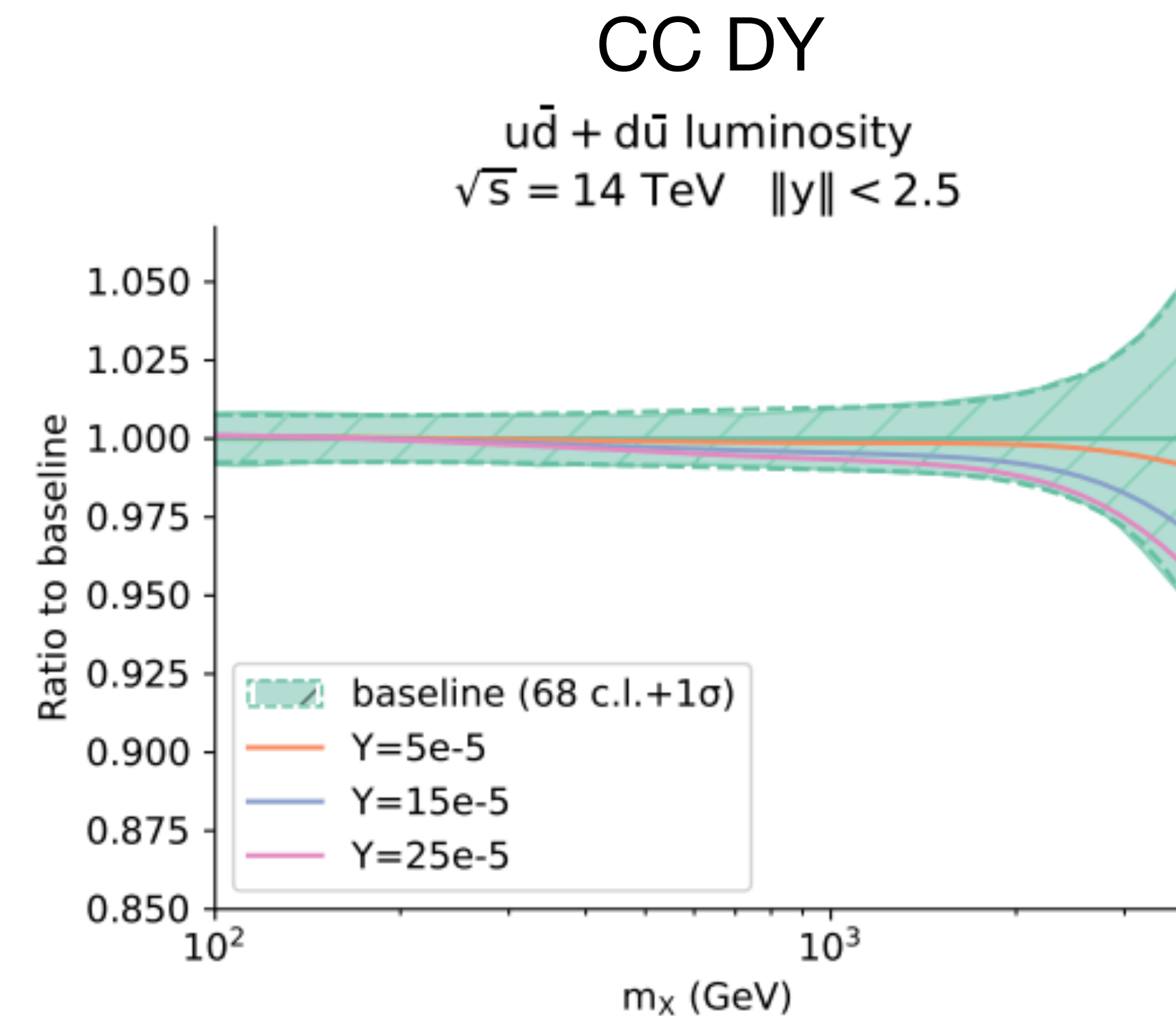
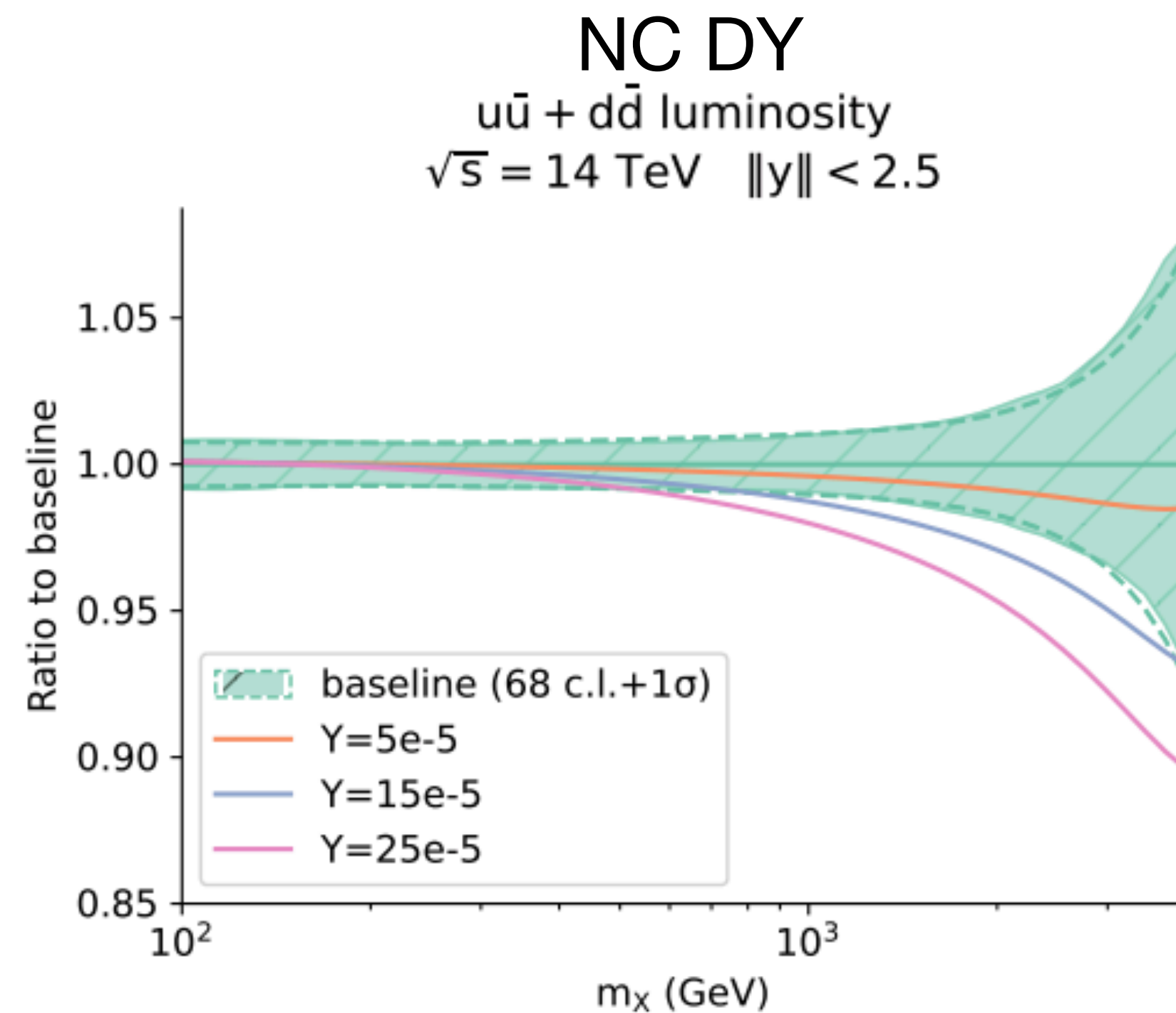
Fewer constraints on the **large-x antiquark PDFs** allow freedom to shift away from the baseline

W'-contaminated PDFs



Z'-contaminated PDFs

Data: 'true' PDF \otimes SM + Z'
Theory: contaminated PDF \otimes SM



Charged current DY is not impacted by the Z' model

- ➔ CC DY data constrains the large-x quark and antiquark PDFs to be SM-like
- ➔ PDFs cannot shift enough to absorb NP effects in neutral current DY

Z'-contaminated PDFs

Data: 'true' PDF \otimes SM + Z'
 Theory: contaminated PDF \otimes SM

