

# Precision measurements in W and Z decays with the ATLAS Experiment

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Lake Louise Winter Institute 2024 -23/02/2024



**ATLAS**  
EXPERIMENT



Università  
di Genova

# The role of W and Z boson physics at LHC

*W and Z boson production is abundant and has clear experimental signature, making them a crucial probe of QCD and EWK physics!*

→ Background for other measurements and searches (BSM, Higgs, top, etc.)

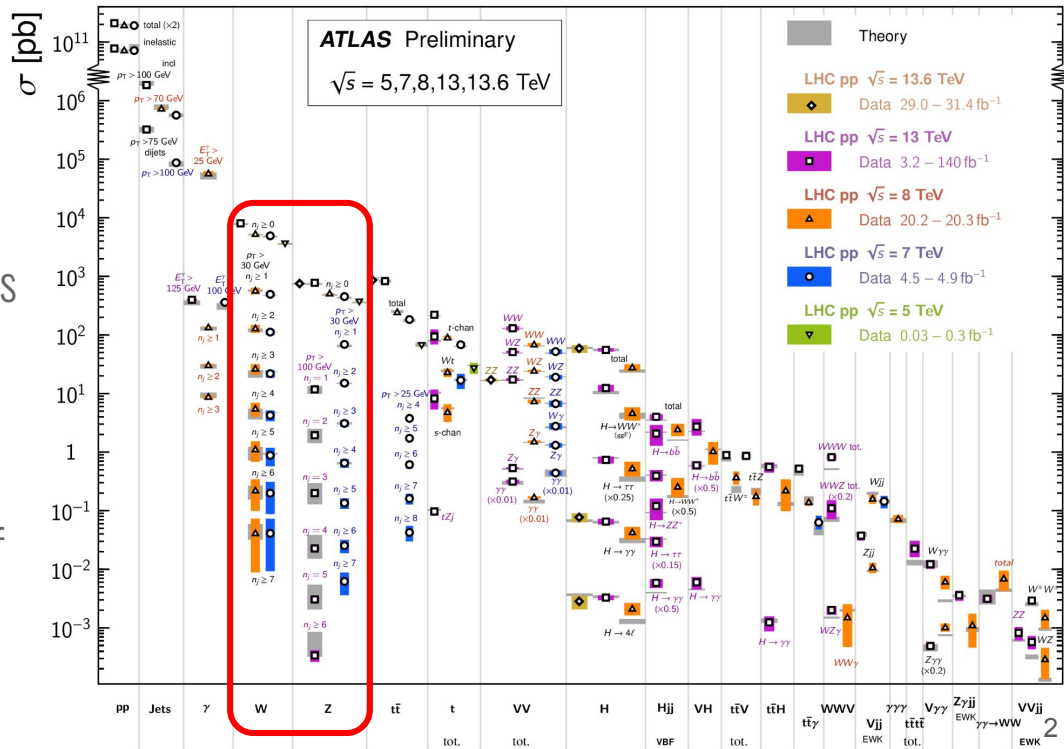
→ Test of state-of-the-art predictions: fixed-order perturbative QCD (pQCD) and MCs

→ Probe of proton structure, sensitivity to Parton Density Functions (PDFs)

→ Ultimate precision for the extraction of fundamental Standard Model constants

Standard Model Production Cross Section Measurements

Status: October 2023

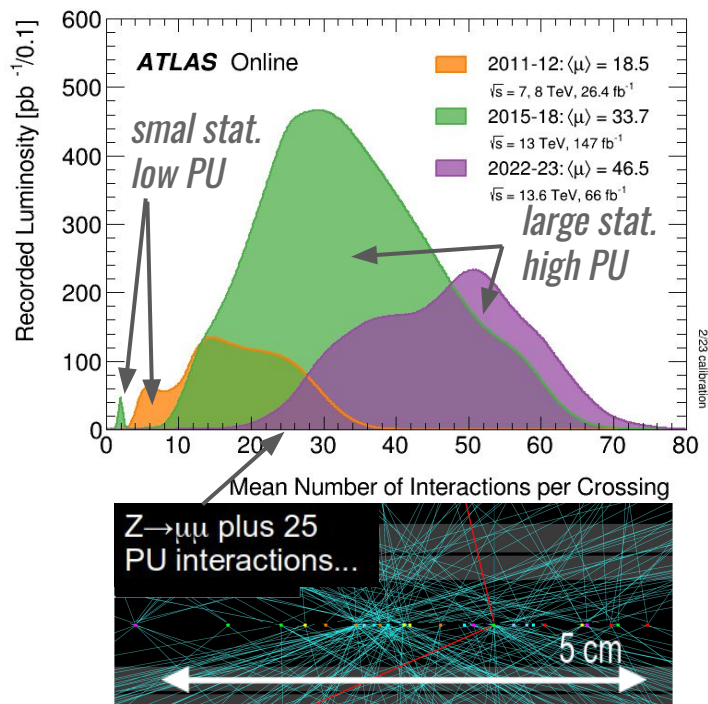


# Precision W and Z physics with the ATLAS data

*The ATLAS analyses presented in this talk:*

- Improved W mass at 7 TeV [[ATLAS-CONF-2023-004](#)]
- W+D measurement at 13 TeV [[PRD 108 \(2023\) 032012](#)]
- W and Z  $p_T$  at 5.02 and 13 TeV [[ATLAS-CONF-2023-028](#)]
- Z  $p_T$  in full phase space at 8 TeV [[arXiv:2309.09318](#)]  
→ measurement tightly related to  $\alpha_s$  measurement [[arXiv:2309.12986](#)], more details about this in [Jon's talk!](#)
- Z invisible width at 13 TeV [[arXiv:2312.02789](#)]
- Search for W exclusive hadron decays [[arXiv:2309.15887](#)]

Ultimate precision may need large statistics *or* clean experimental conditions:  
⇒ *different needs, different datasets!*



# W mass at 7 TeV, improved analysis

The measurement of the SM fundamental parameters is one of the goals of High Energy Physics!



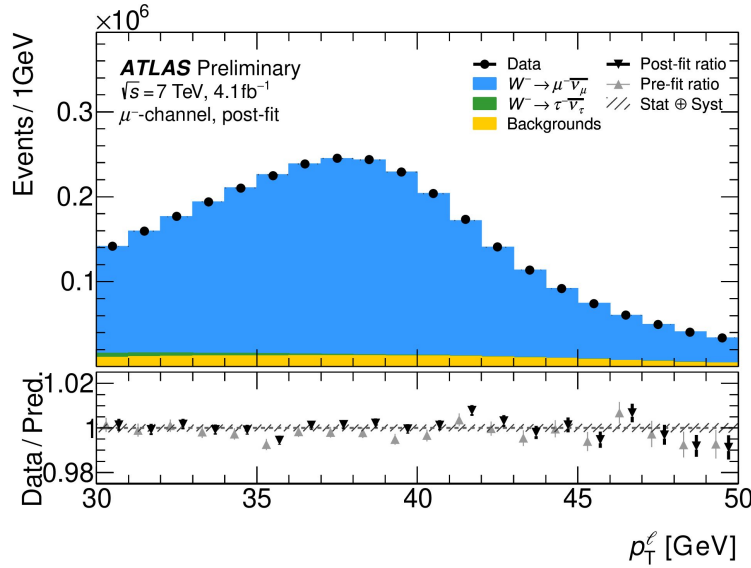
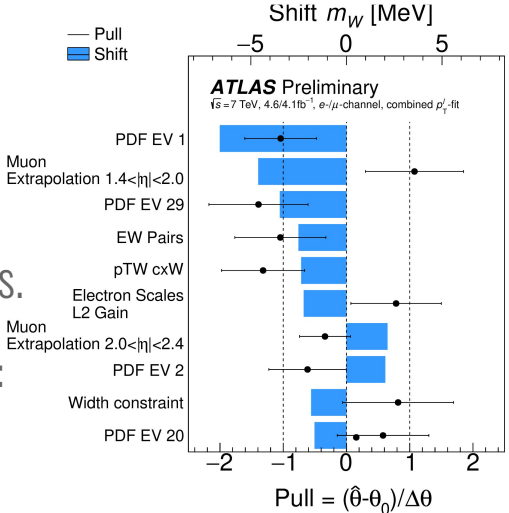
W boson mass linked to  $m_H$  and  $m_t \Rightarrow$  probe SM consistency and BSM through loop corrections

Extraction of  $m_W$  using  $W \rightarrow l\nu$  & templates of  $p_T^{lep}$  and  $m_T^W$

Improved re-analysis of 4.6 fb<sup>-1</sup> dataset of [\[EPJC 78 \(2018\) 110\]](#)

→ Use of profile likelihood fit:  
28 categories, ~500 nuisance pars.

→ Large effect of PDF set update:  
*moved from CT10 to newer CT18*



# W mass at 7 TeV, improved analysis

Strong reduction of uncertainties due to PDF and modelling of QCD effects w.r.t. first publication:

*It was ~9 MeV!*

*It was ~8 MeV!*

| Obs.       | Mean [MeV] | Elec. Unc. | PDF Unc. | Muon Unc. | EW Unc. | PS & $A_i$ Unc. | Bkg. Unc. | $\Gamma_W$ Unc. | MC stat. Unc. | Lumi Unc. | Recoil Unc. | Total sys. | Data stat. | Total Unc. |
|------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| $p_T^\ell$ | 80360.1    | 8.0        | 7.7      | 7.0       | 6.0     | 4.7             | 2.4       | 2.0             | 1.9           | 1.2       | 0.6         | 15.5       | 4.9        | 16.3       |
| $m_T$      | 80382.2    | 9.2        | 14.6     | 9.8       | 5.9     | 10.3            | 6.0       | 7.0             | 2.4           | 1.8       | 11.7        | 24.4       | 6.7        | 25.3       |

Final combined measurement using  $p_T^{\text{lep}}$  and  $m_T^W$  :

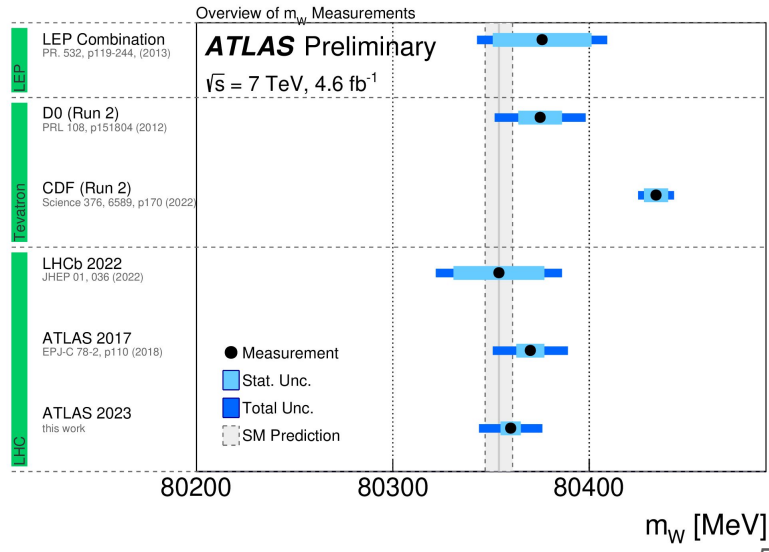
$$m_W = 80360 \pm 5(\text{stat.}) \pm 15(\text{syst.}) = 80360 \pm 16 \text{ MeV}$$

15% syst. reduction, now dominated by experimental sources

$m_W$  central value shifted by ~10 MeV, close to SM prediction

Update CONF → paper very very close! (including  $\Gamma_W$ )

*Could we do better on newer datasets??*



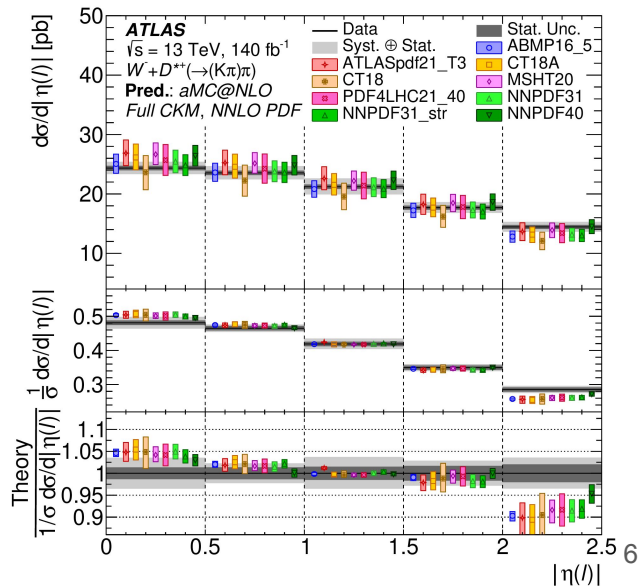
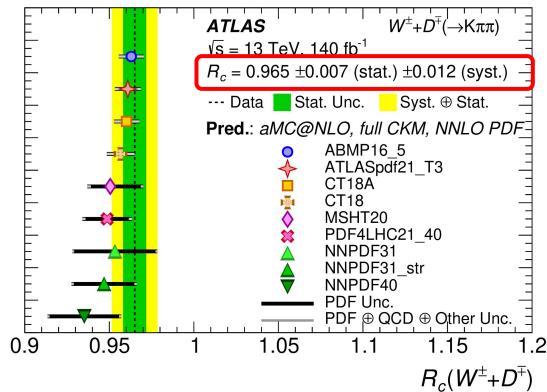
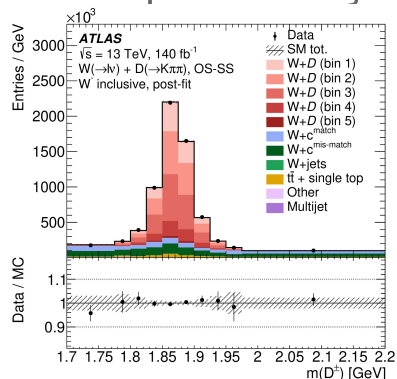
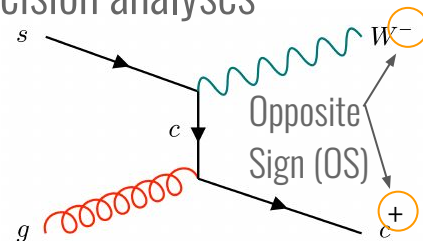
# Measurement W boson plus D-mesons

Improved knowledge of proton PDF is crucial to progress further in many precision analyses

This is possible only thanks to additional dedicated precision measurements!

- W + charmed mesons as probe s-quark PDF
- Strong background suppression using D-meson recon. and OS-SS charge correlation
- Differential measurement in  $p_T^{\text{lep}}$  and  $\eta^{\text{lep}}$
- Comparison with different PDFs
- Constraints for future global fits
- $R_c$  sensitive to s-sbar symmetry:

$$R_c^\pm = \frac{\sigma_{fid}^{OS-SS}(W^+D^{*-})}{\sigma_{fid}^{OS-SS}(W^-D^{*+})}$$



# W and Z $p_T$ measurement at 5.02 and 13 TeV, low PU

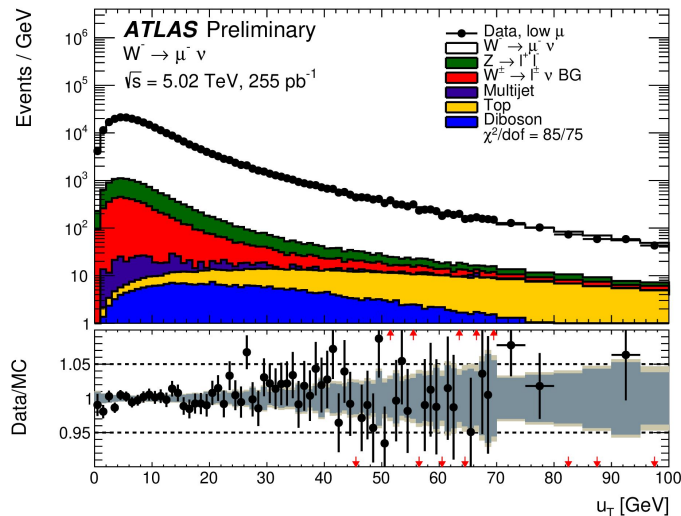
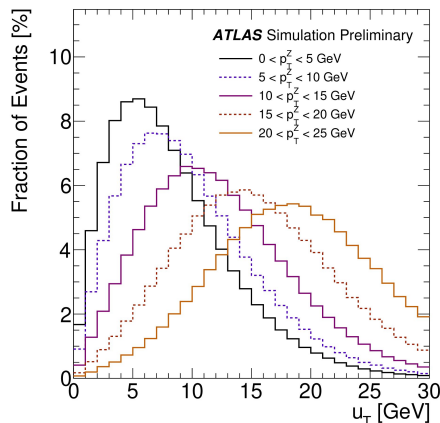
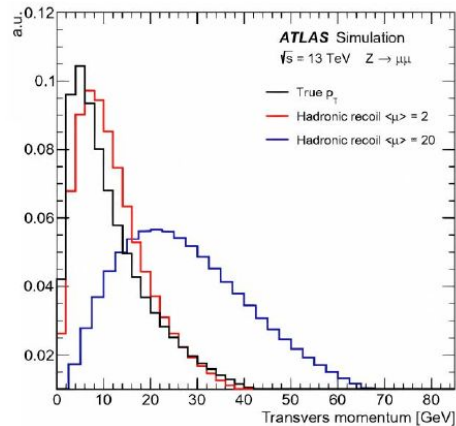
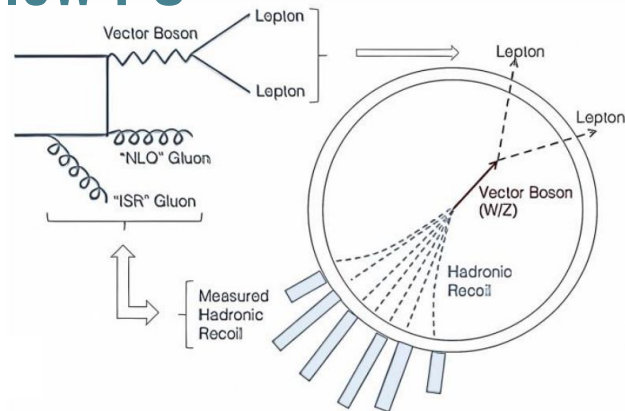
Precision measurements also crucial to test and better understand QCD

→ W and Z  $p_T$  spectra sensitive to pQCD and non-perturbative effects,  $p_T^V$  description below  $\sim 30$  GeV also important for  $m_W$

→ Hadronic recoil,  $u_T$ , of the event for  $p_T^W$  measurement

→ Low pile-up for good  $u_T$  resolution, use  $Z \rightarrow ll$  for calibration

→ Use of dedicated low- $\mu$  5.02 and 13 TeV datasets!

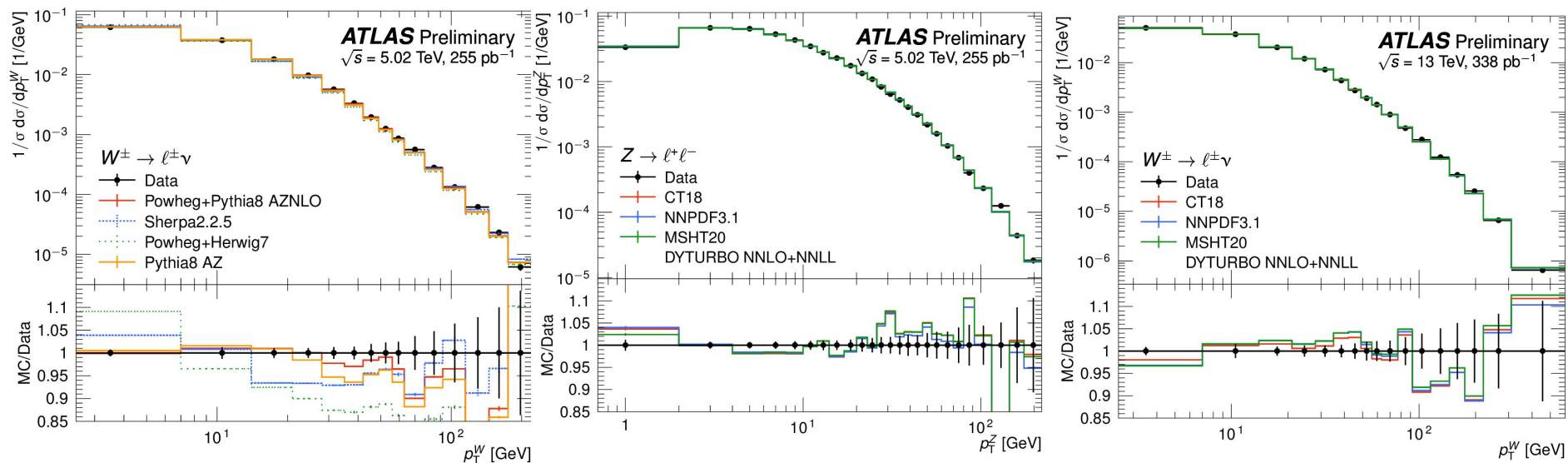


# W and Z $p_T$ measurement at 5.02 and 13 TeV, low PU

Iterative Bayesian Unfolding to correct for detector effects  $\rightarrow$  good resolution crucial at low  $p_T^V$

Measurement of differential cross section and ratios compared to many MC and pQCD predictions

Large differences between MCs, good description from resummed predictions (NNLO+NNLL)



*Data also used for further validation of AZNLO tune, used for  $m_W$  measurement!*

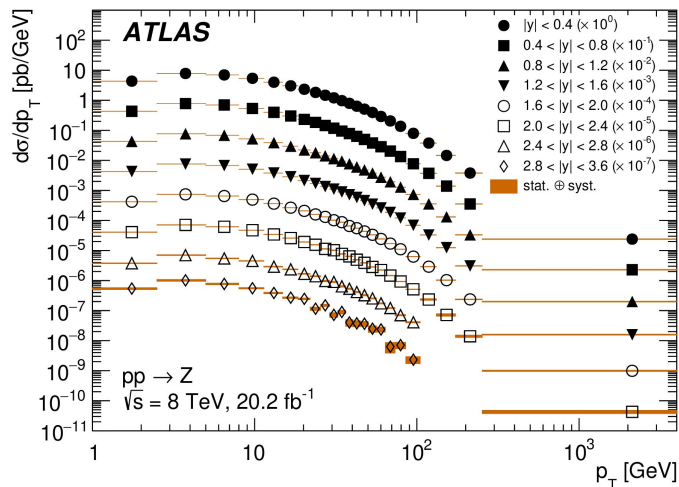


# Z double differential in full phase space at 8 TeV

Also another recent precision measurement focusing on Z boson  $p_T$ , and also  $|y|$

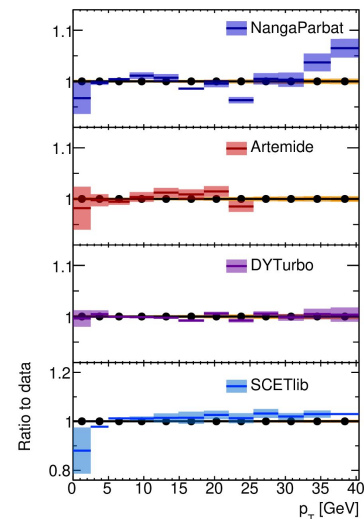
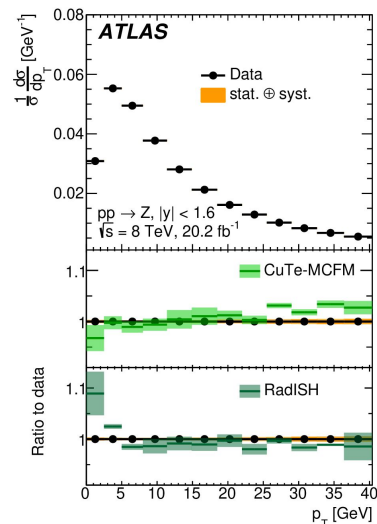
→ Analysis derived from [[JHEP08 \(2016\) 159](#)], 20.2 fb<sup>-1</sup> dataset, 15.3 M Z→ll events, using profile likelihood fit of truth-to-reco templates obtained in full lepton phase space

→ First time double differential measurement at Z pole of  $\frac{d^2\sigma}{dp_T dy}$ , with  $|y| < 3.6$  thanks forward lep.



→ Comparing to most accurate predictions:  
**N<sup>4</sup>LLa+N<sup>3</sup>LO pQCD**

→ Very stringent test:  
**Agreement at ~% level**

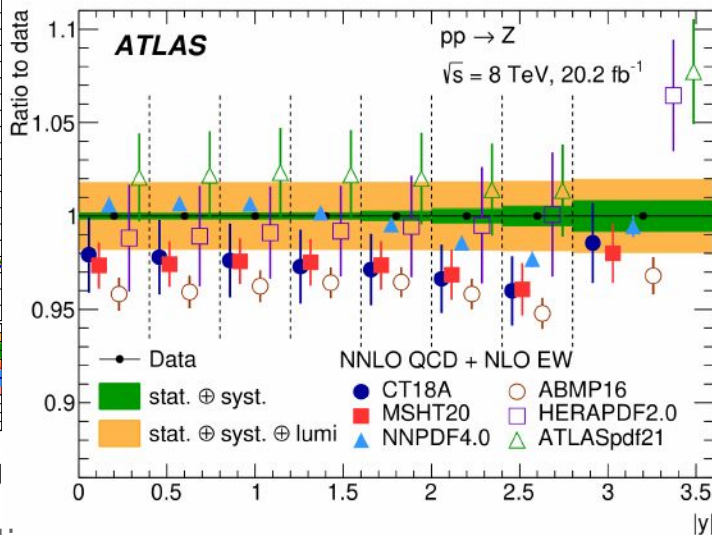
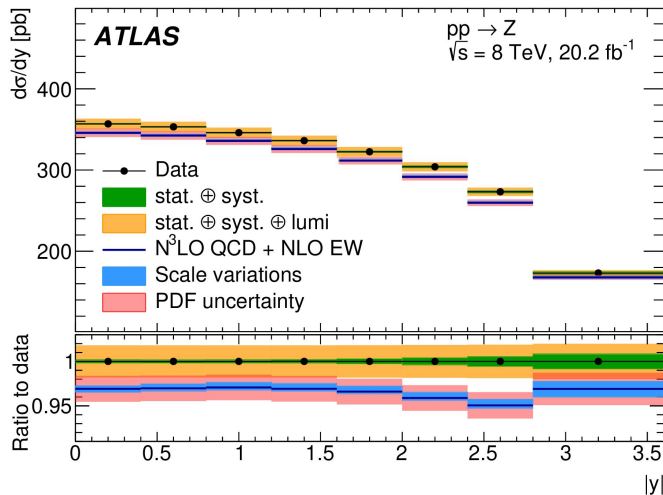


# Z double differential in full phase space at 8 TeV

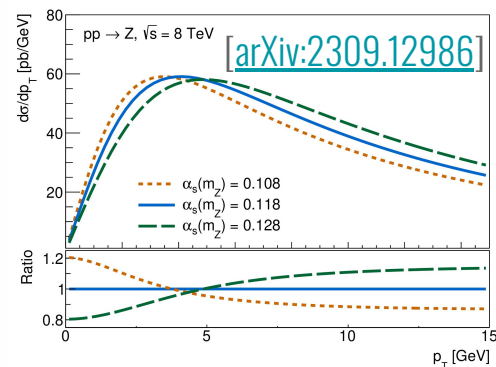
Impressive precision: level of 0.2-0.5%, plus global normalization uncertainty of 1.8% from lumi:

$$\sigma_Z = 1055.3 \pm 0.7 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 2.2 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 19.0 \text{ (lumi.) pb}$$

Use of N<sup>3</sup>LO predictions allows comparison with variety of PDF sets with tiny scale uncertainties



Z p<sub>T</sub> spectrum sensitive to α<sub>s</sub>!



More about this in [Jon's talk!](#)

NB: -0.8% flat vs |y| from NLO EW corrections

# Z invisible width at 13 TeV

Submitted to PLB in December!  
[\[arXiv:2312.02789\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2312.02789)

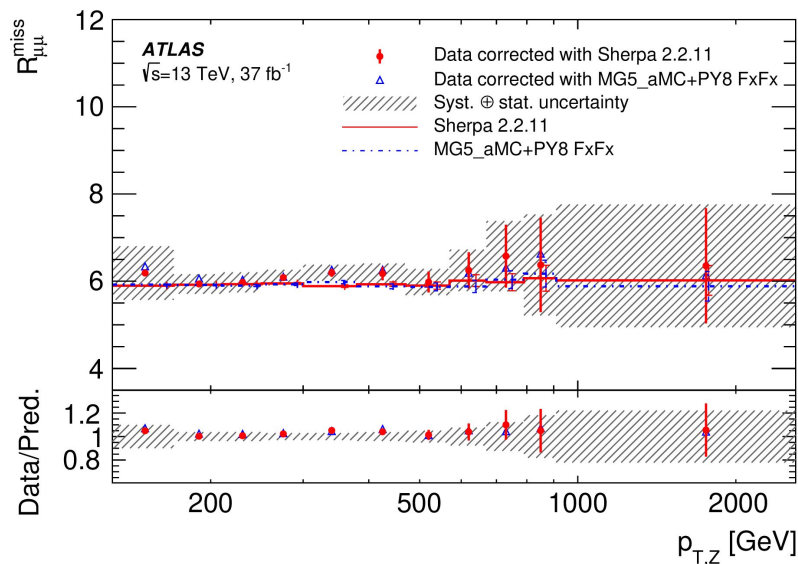
Very recent measurement, *also using*  $Z p_T$ , and testing 3  $\nu$  generation in SM

Differential  $Z p_T$  ratio of  $Z$ +jets cross section using  $37 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ :

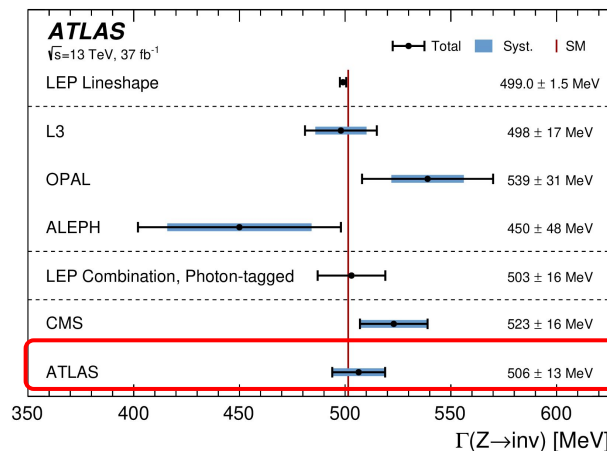
→ recoil based final state, i.e.  $E_T^{\text{miss}}$  from  $Z \rightarrow \nu\nu$

→ lepton final state from  $Z \rightarrow ee$  or  $Z \rightarrow \nu\nu$

$$R_{p_{T,Z}}^{\text{miss}} = \frac{\frac{d\sigma(Z \rightarrow \text{inv} + j)}{dp_{T,Z}}}{\frac{d\sigma(Z \rightarrow ll + j)}{dp_{T,Z}}} = \frac{\Gamma(Z \rightarrow \text{inv})}{\Gamma(Z \rightarrow ll)}$$



## Most precise recoil-based result!



May improve further with better lepton calibration & full Run 2!

# Search for exclusive W hadronic decays

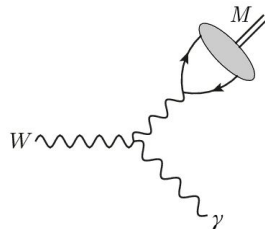
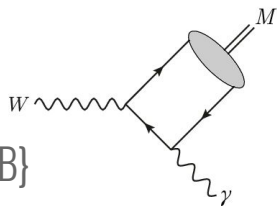
Submitted to PRL in September!  
[\[arXiv:2309.15887\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2309.15887)

Closing with also a recent precision analysis that is actually a search!

*SM forbids LO*

$$W \rightarrow M\gamma$$

$$M = \{\pi, K, \rho, D, D_s, B\}$$



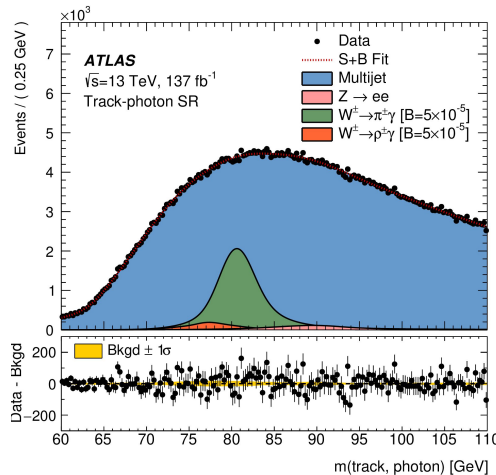
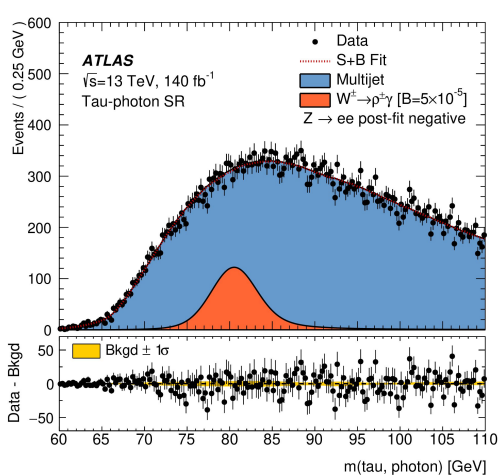
*Radiative decays are extremely rare, with BR predictions between  $10^{-7}$  and  $10^{-9}$ :*

→ probe W coupling to quark generations

→ test QCD factorization, possible BSM window

→ may allow new W-mass measurement method

Special trigger for  $W \rightarrow \pi/K\gamma$ , use  $\tau$  recon. for  $W \rightarrow \rho\gamma$



*Most stringent limits to date!*

| Branching fraction                     | 95% CL upper limits       |                           |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|  | Expected $\times 10^{-6}$ | Observed $\times 10^{-6}$ |
| $B(W^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \gamma)$  | $1.2^{+0.5}_{-0.3}$       | 1.9                       |
| $B(W^\pm \rightarrow K^\pm \gamma)$    | $1.1^{+0.4}_{-0.3}$       | 1.7                       |
| $B(W^\pm \rightarrow \rho^\pm \gamma)$ | $6.0^{+2.3}_{-1.7}$       | 5.2                       |

# Conclusions and prospects

Have shown the power and the variety of precision physics measurements using W & Z

Multiple datasets allowed the ATLAS experiment to deliver a variety of results

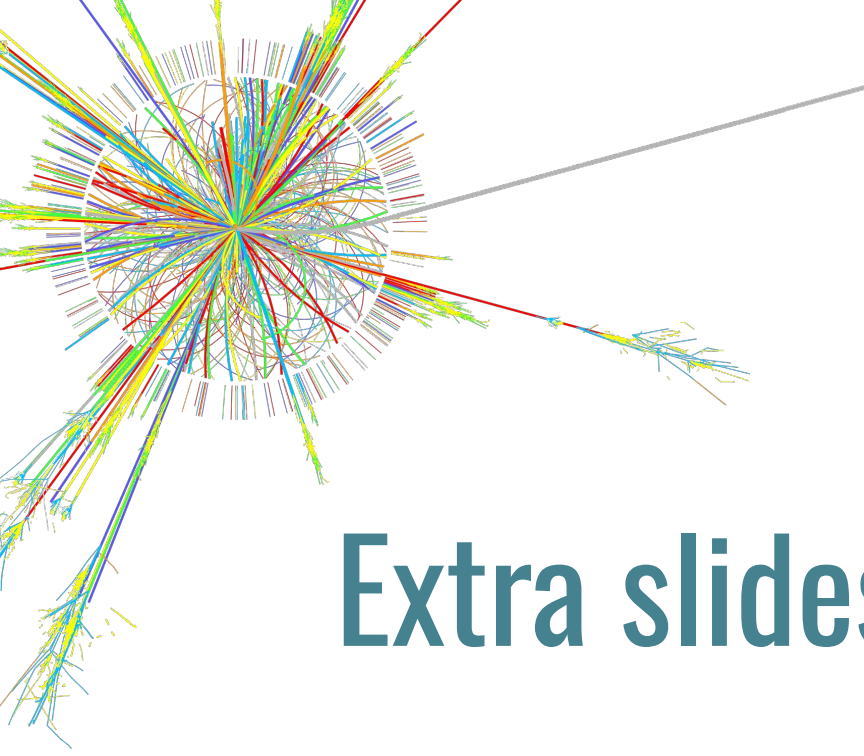
Current measurements are foundation for improvement of future results

Crucial aspects of fundamental physics rely on them: test state-of-the-art predictions, understand the proton structure, knowledge of SM constants and mechanics, test BSM

Expect even more updates in the coming weeks  $\Rightarrow$  *stay tuned!*

[\[Standard Model Physics ATLAS\]](#)

*Thank you for your attention!*



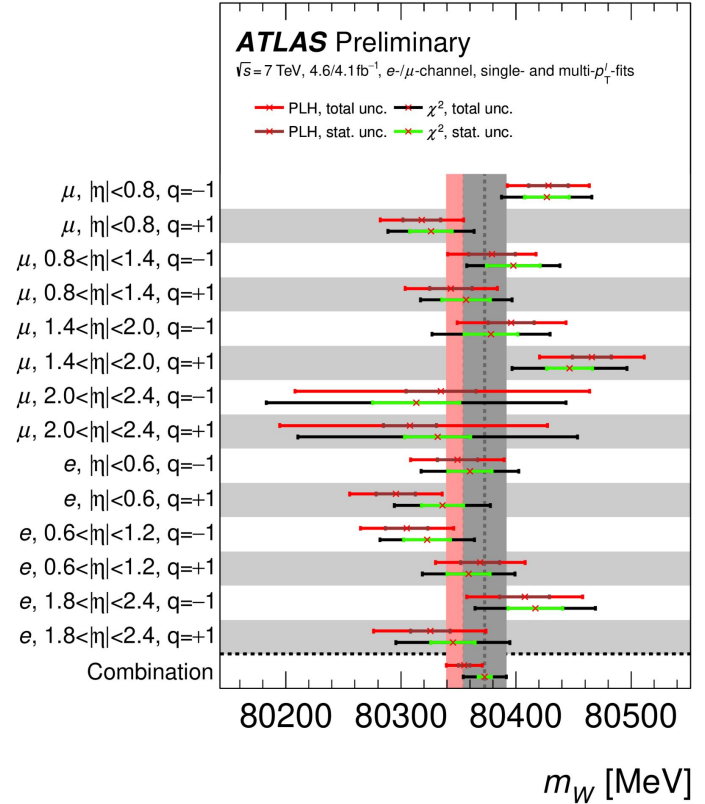
# Extra slides & Backup Material

# W-mass reanalysis

$$L(\mu, \vec{\theta} | \vec{n}) = \prod_i \prod_i \text{Poisson}(n_{ji} | \nu_{ji}(\mu, \vec{\theta})) \cdot \text{Gauss}(\vec{\theta})$$

$$\nu_{ji}(\mu, \vec{\theta}) = \Phi \times \left[ S_{ji}^{\text{nom}} + \mu \times (S_{ji}^{\mu} - S_{ji}^{\text{nom}}) \right] + \sum_s \theta_s \times (S_{ji}^s - S_{ji}^{\text{nom}}) \\ + B_{ji}^{\text{nom}} + \sum_b \theta_b \times (B_{ji}^b - B_{ji}^{\text{nom}}),$$

| PDF-Set  | $p_T^{\ell}$ [MeV]        | $m_T$ [MeV]               | combined [MeV]            |
|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| CT10     | $80355.6^{+15.8}_{-15.7}$ | $80378.1^{+24.4}_{-24.8}$ | $80355.8^{+15.7}_{-15.7}$ |
| CT14     | $80358.0^{+16.3}_{-16.3}$ | $80388.8^{+25.2}_{-25.5}$ | $80358.4^{+16.3}_{-16.3}$ |
| CT18     | $80360.1^{+16.3}_{-16.3}$ | $80382.2^{+25.3}_{-25.3}$ | $80360.4^{+16.3}_{-16.3}$ |
| MMHT2014 | $80360.3^{+15.9}_{-15.9}$ | $80386.2^{+23.9}_{-24.4}$ | $80361.0^{+15.9}_{-15.9}$ |
| MSHT20   | $80358.9^{+13.0}_{-16.3}$ | $80379.4^{+24.6}_{-25.1}$ | $80356.3^{+14.6}_{-14.6}$ |
| NNPDF3.1 | $80344.7^{+15.6}_{-15.5}$ | $80354.3^{+23.6}_{-23.7}$ | $80345.0^{+15.5}_{-15.5}$ |
| NNPDF4.0 | $80342.2^{+15.3}_{-15.3}$ | $80354.3^{+22.3}_{-22.4}$ | $80342.9^{+15.3}_{-15.3}$ |



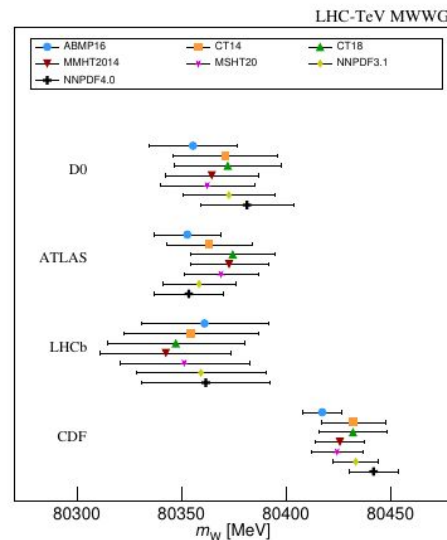
# W-mass combination and take-over considerations

But... W-mass measurements combination: [[arXiv:2308.09417](https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.09417)]

Very low uncertainty CDF measurement:  
[\[Science 376 \(6589\)\(2022\)170\]](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1211170)

| Source                   | Uncertainty |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Lepton energy scale      | 3.0         |
| Lepton energy resolution | 1.2         |
| Recoil energy scale      | 1.2         |
| Recoil energy resolution | 1.8         |
| Lepton efficiency        | 0.4         |
| Lepton removal           | 1.2         |
| Backgrounds              | 3.3         |
| $p_T^Z$ model            | 1.8         |
| $p_T^W / p_T^Z$ model    | 1.3         |
| Parton distributions     | 3.9         |
| QED radiation            | 2.7         |
| W boson statistics       | 6.4         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>9.4</b>  |

**Abstract.** The compatibility of  $W$ -boson mass measurements performed by the ATLAS, LHCb, CDF, and D0 experiments is studied using a coherent framework with theory uncertainty correlations. The measurements are combined using a number of recent sets of parton distribution functions (PDF), and are further combined with the average value of measurements from the Large Electron-Positron collider. The considered PDF sets generally have a low compatibility with a suite of global rapidity-sensitive Drell-Yan measurements. The most compatible set is CT18 due to its larger uncertainties. A combination of all  $m_W$  measurements yields a value of  $m_W = 80394.6 \pm 11.5$  MeV with the CT18 set, but has a probability of compatibility of 0.5% and is therefore disfavoured. Combinations are performed removing each measurement individually, and a 91% probability of compatibility is obtained when the CDF measurement is removed. The corresponding value of the  $W$  boson mass is  $80369.2 \pm 13.3$  MeV, which differs by  $3.6\sigma$  from the CDF value determined using the same PDF set.

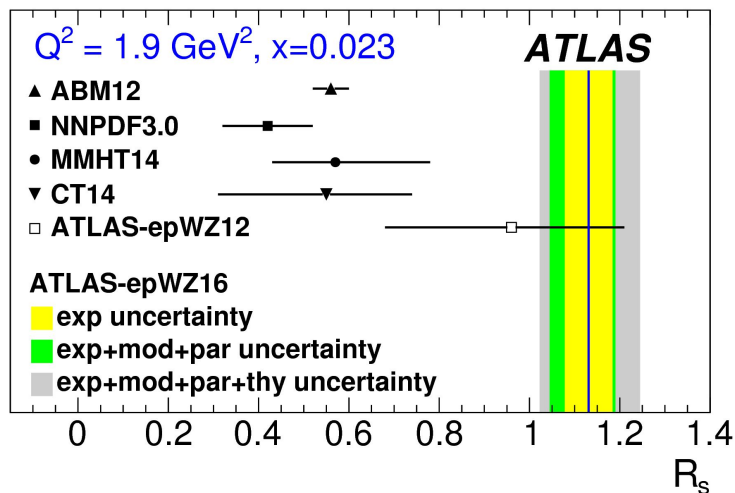




# W+c comparison and proton strangeness

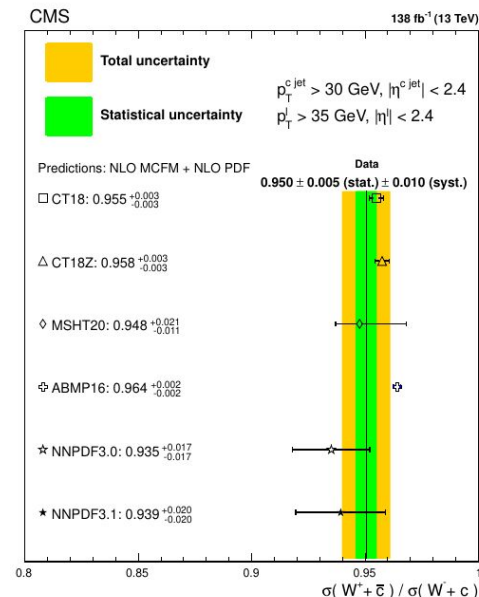
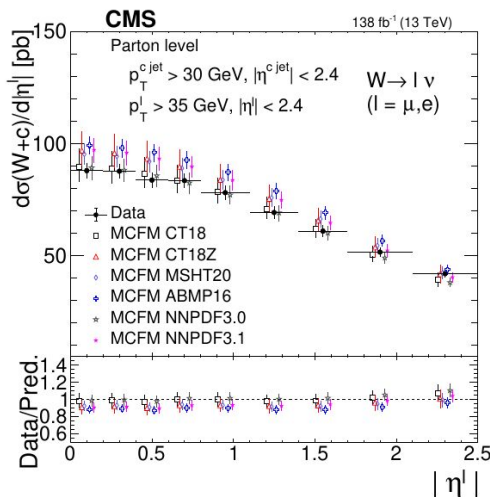
CMS

Measurement of the inclusive W and Z cross sections in the electron and muon decay channels in pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV with the ATLAS detector [[PRD 85 \(2012\) 072004](#)]

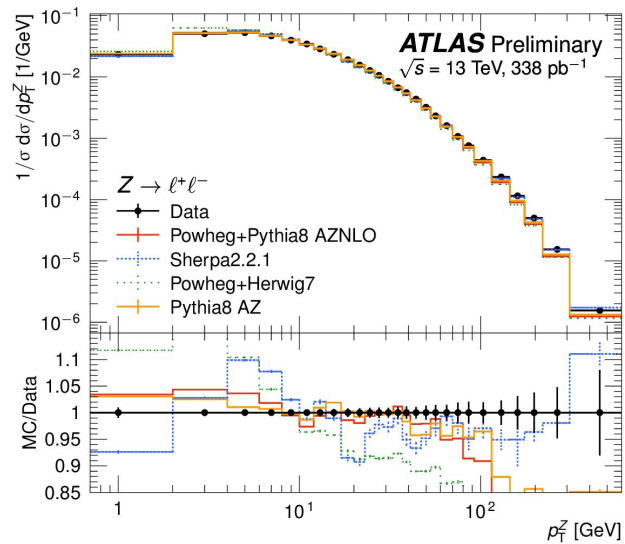
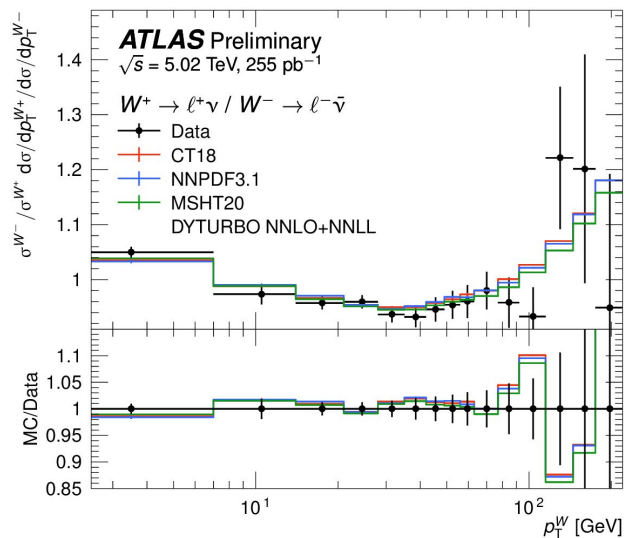
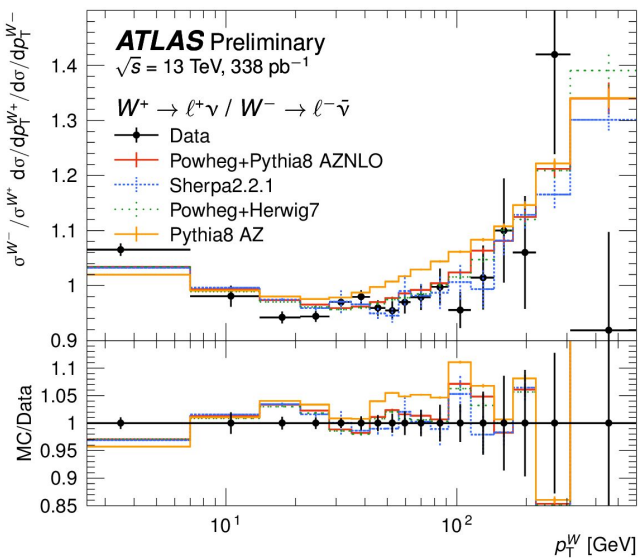


Measurement of the production cross section for a W boson in association with a charm quark in proton-proton collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV

[[arXiv:2308.02285](#)]

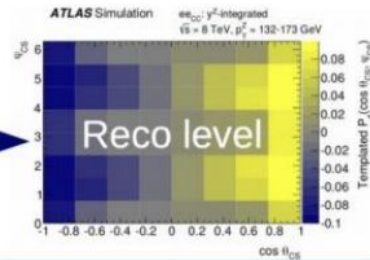
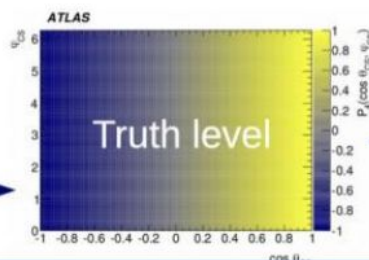


# W and Z $p_T$ at 5.02 and 13 TeV, low PU



# Z p<sub>T</sub> at 8 TeV, angular coefficients, full phase space

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dp_T^Z dy^Z dm^Z d\cos\theta d\phi} = \frac{3}{16\pi} \frac{d\sigma^{U+L}}{dp_T^Z dy^Z dm^Z} \left\{ (1 + \cos^2\theta) + \frac{1}{2} A_0 (1 - 3\cos^2\theta) + A_1 \sin 2\theta \cos\phi + \frac{1}{2} A_2 \sin^2\theta \cos 2\phi + A_3 \sin\theta \cos\phi + A_4 \cos\theta + A_5 \sin^2\theta \sin 2\phi + A_6 \sin 2\theta \sin\phi + A_7 \sin\theta \sin\phi \right\}$$



## Expected Yield

Reco (p<sub>T</sub><sup>Z</sup>, y<sup>Z</sup>, m<sup>Z</sup>, cosθ, φ) bin

$$N_{\text{exp}}^n(A, \sigma, \theta) = \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{N_{\text{bins}}^{\text{ana}}} \mathcal{L}\sigma_j \left[ t_{8j}^n(\beta) + \sum_{i=0}^7 A_{ij} t_{ij}^n(\beta) \right] \right\} \gamma^n + \sum_{B}^{\text{bkg}} T_B^n(\beta)$$

Truth (p<sub>T</sub><sup>Z</sup>, y<sup>Z</sup>, m<sup>Z</sup>) bin
Cross section
Angular coefficient
Templated polynomial
Background template

## Likelihood

$$\mathcal{L}(A, \sigma, \theta | N_{\text{obs}}) = \prod_n^{N_{\text{bins}}^{\text{ana}}} \{ P(N_{\text{obs}}^n | N_{\text{exp}}^n(A, \sigma, \theta)) P(N_{\text{eff}}^n | \gamma^n N_{\text{eff}}^n) \} \prod_m^M G(0 | \beta^m, 1)$$

2

# Z double differential, full phase space, 8 TeV: more predictions

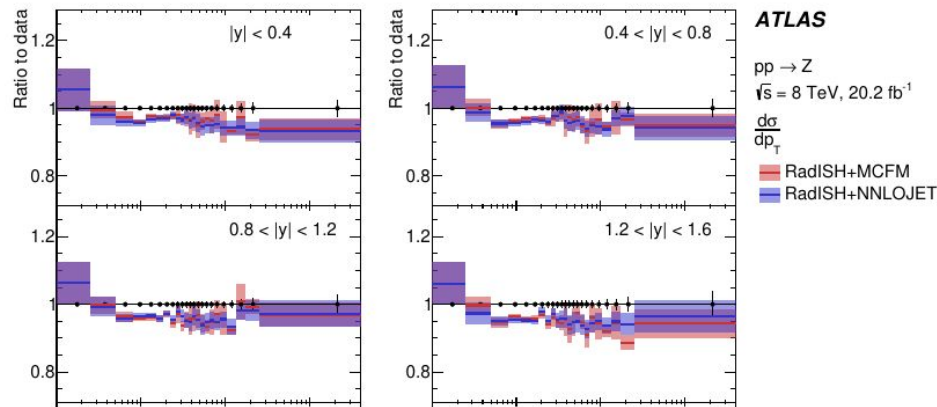
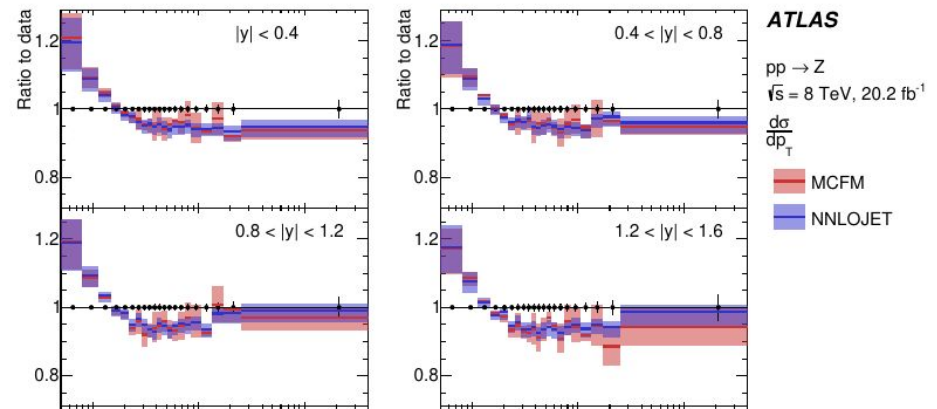


Table 4: Compatibility test between  $\frac{d\sigma}{dy}$  measurements and predictions obtained from DYTurbo using different PDF sets. Based on the total uncertainties in the measurements and on the PDF uncertainties in the predictions shown in Figs. 19 and 20, the  $\chi^2$  per degree of freedom (d.o.f.) and corresponding p-values are shown for each PDF set (the uncertainties from CT18A have been rescaled from 95% to 68% confidence level). Also shown is the pull on the integrated luminosity in units of its total uncertainty of 1.8%.

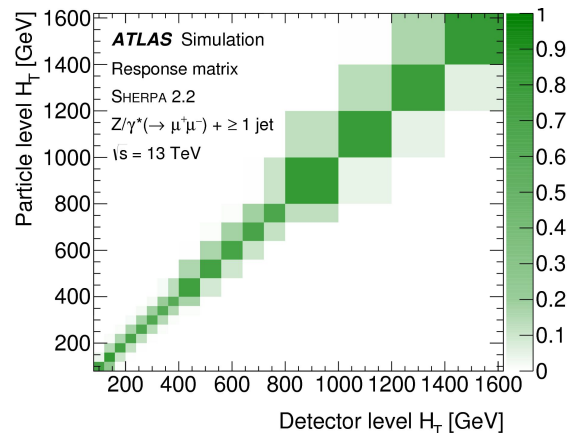
| PDF set                       | Total $\chi^2$ / d.o.f. | $\chi^2$ p-value | Pull on luminosity |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| MSHT20aN <sup>3</sup> LO [58] | 13/8                    | 0.11             | $1.2 \pm 0.6$      |
| CT18A [59]                    | 12/8                    | 0.17             | $0.9 \pm 0.7$      |
| MSHT20 [60]                   | 10/8                    | 0.26             | $0.9 \pm 0.6$      |
| NNPDF4.0 [61]                 | 30/8                    | 0.0002           | $0.0 \pm 0.2$      |
| ABMP16 [62, 63]               | 30/8                    | 0.0002           | $1.8 \pm 0.4$      |
| HERAPDF2.0 [64]               | 22/8                    | 0.005            | $-1.3 \pm 0.8$     |
| ATLASpdf21 [65]               | 20/8                    | 0.01             | $-1.1 \pm 0.8$     |

# Iterative Unfolding with Bayesian method

Response matrix accounts for migrations using MC simulation:

$$M_{ij} = M(R_i | T_j)$$

Conditional probability that the effect  $R_i$  is produced by the cause  $T_j$



**How to extract “*prediction-unbiased*” probability using iterative Bayesian unfolding:**

- Bayes theorem:

$$M(T_i | R_j) = M(R_j | T_i) P_0(T_i) / \text{Sum}_i M(R_j | T_i) P_0(T_i)$$

- Particle level MC used as initial prior,  $P_0(T_j)$ , to determine a first estimate of the unfolded data distribution:

$$T_j = \text{Sum}_i M(T_j | R_i) R_i$$

- In each further iteration the estimator of the unfolded distribution from previous iteration is used as a new prior