

# Theory uncertainties with theory nuisance parameters and $\alpha_S$ from the $Z p_T$

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CERN

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DESY, Hamburg

in collaboration with  
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CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE  
QUANTUM UNIVERSE



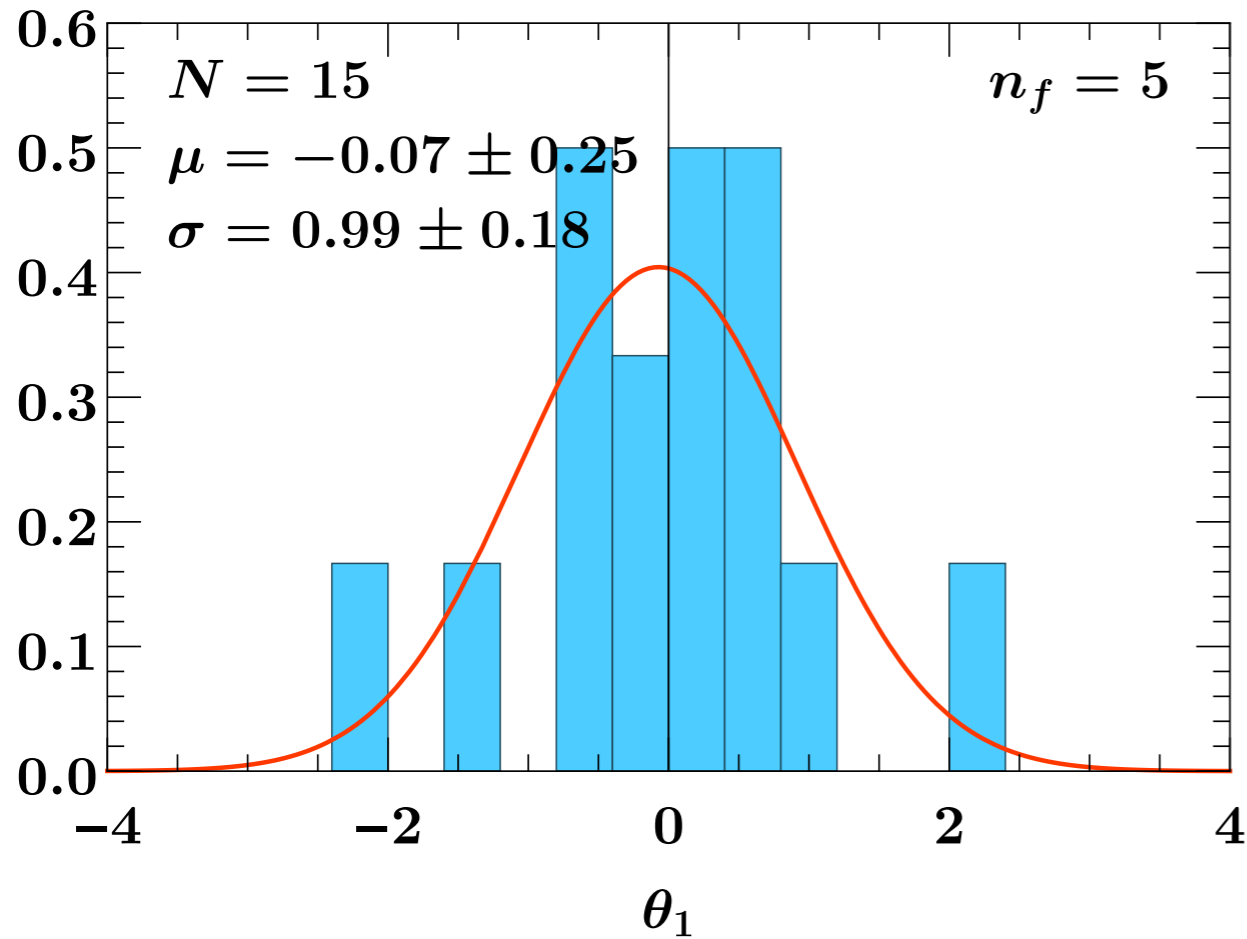
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# TNPs for Boundary Conditions

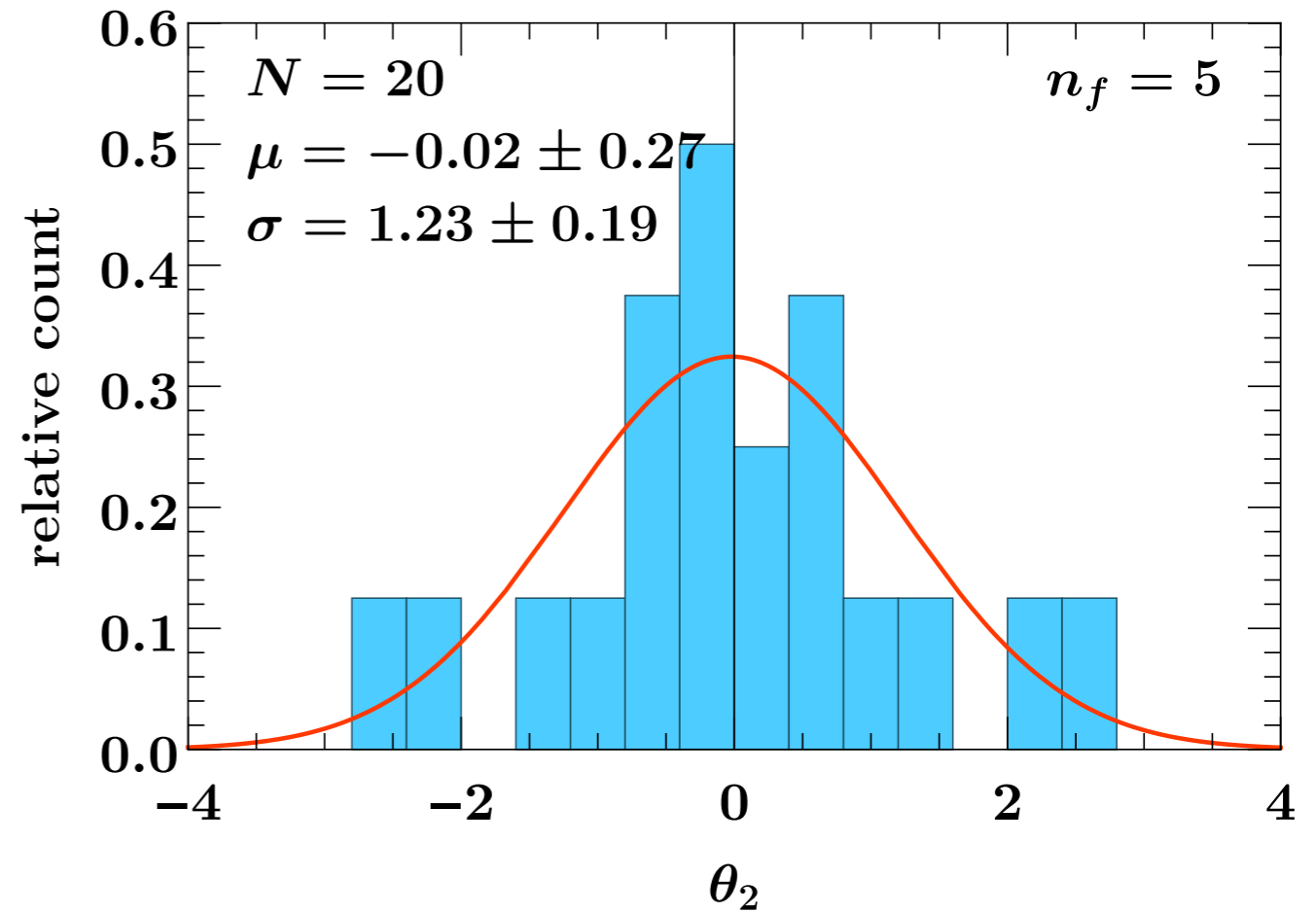
Estimate of  $\theta_n^F(n_f)$  from a generic sample of known and independent series

$$F_n(\theta_n) = 4C_r(4C_A)^{n-1}(n-1)!\theta_n^F(n_f)$$

1 loop



2 loop



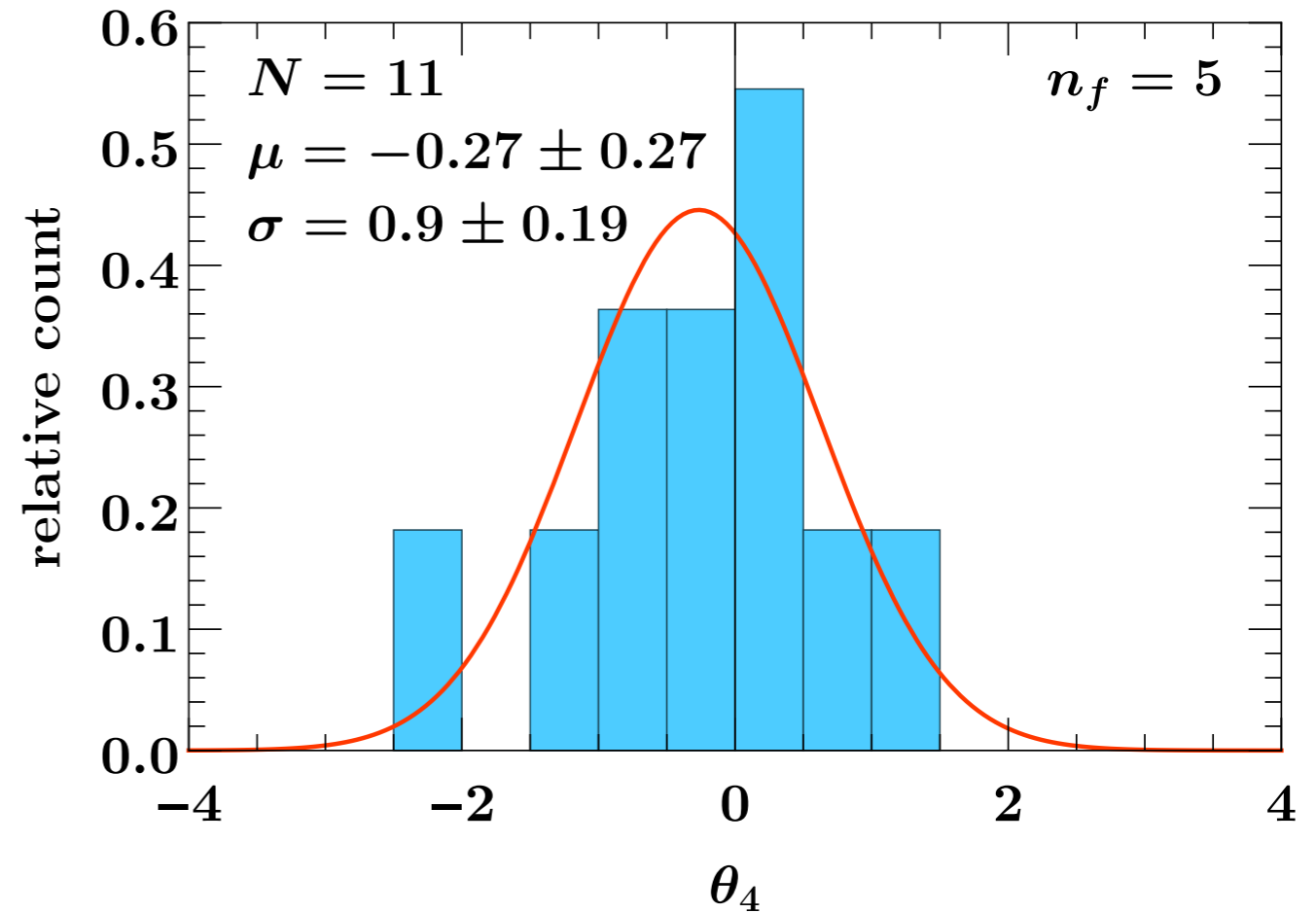
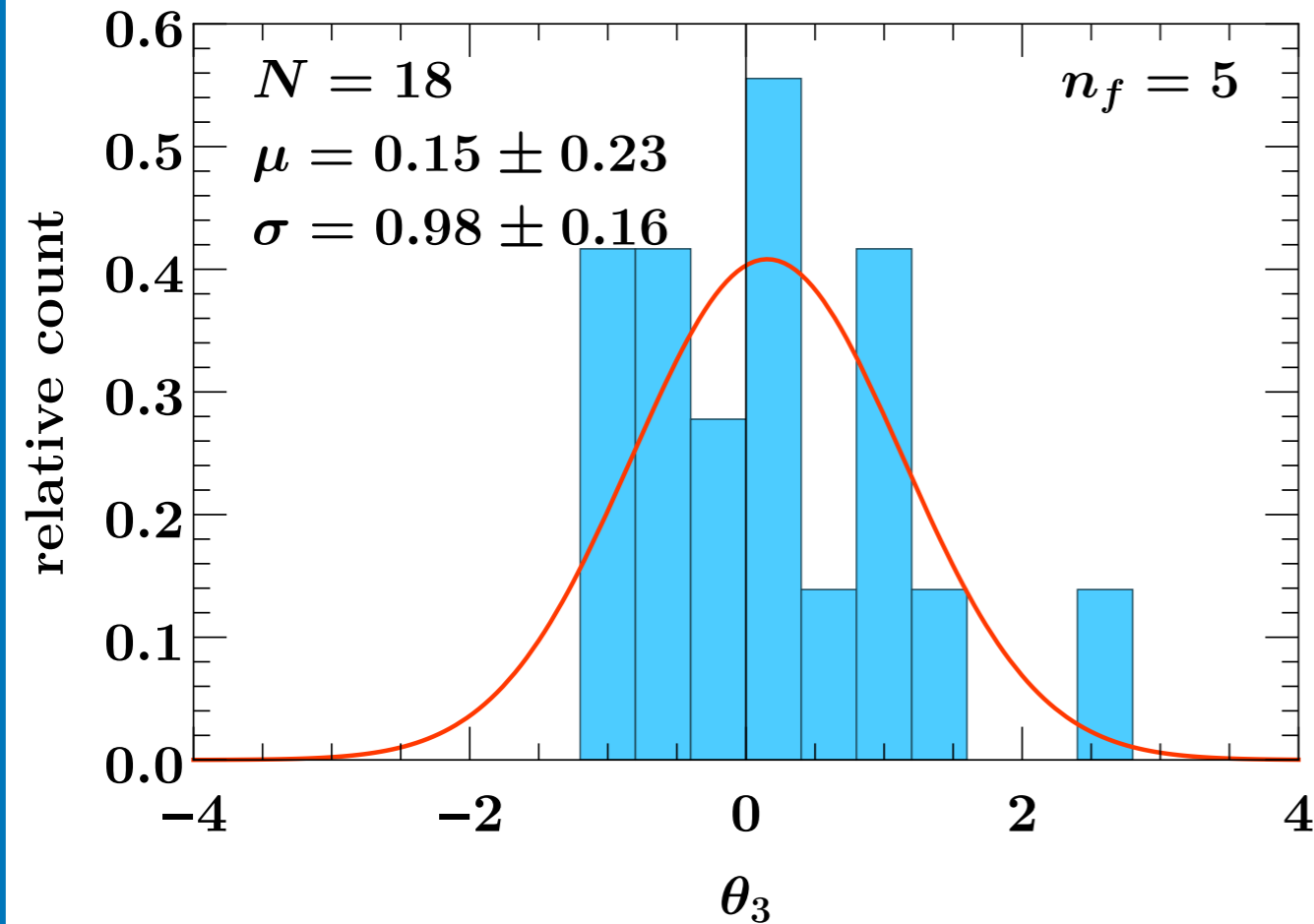
# TNPs for Boundary Conditions

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$$F_n(\theta_n) = 4C_r(4C_A)^{n-1}(n-1)!\theta_n^F(n_f)$$

3 loop

4 loop



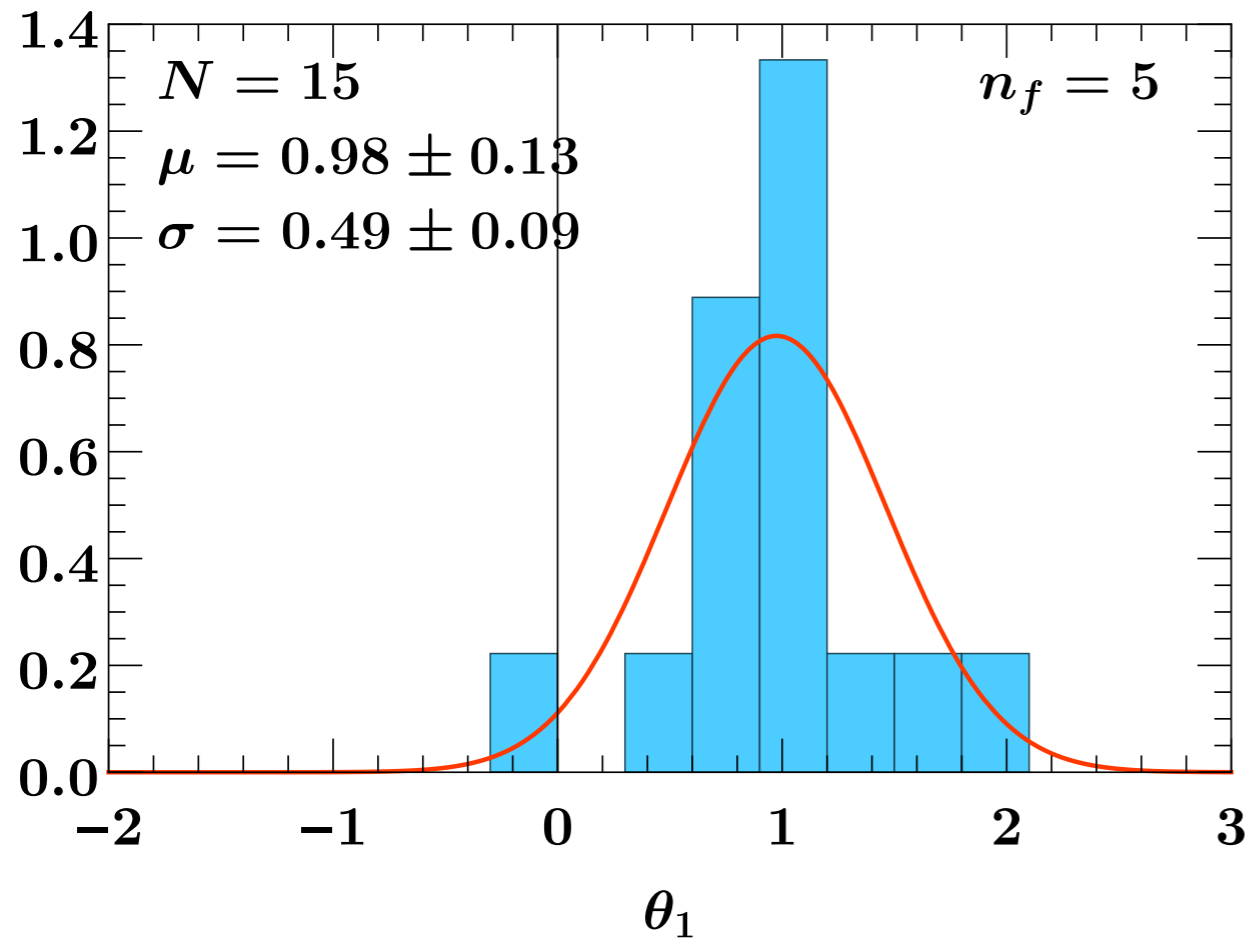
Fit to a Gaussian with  $\mu = 0$  and  $\sigma = 1$  ✓

# TNPs for Anomalous Dimensions

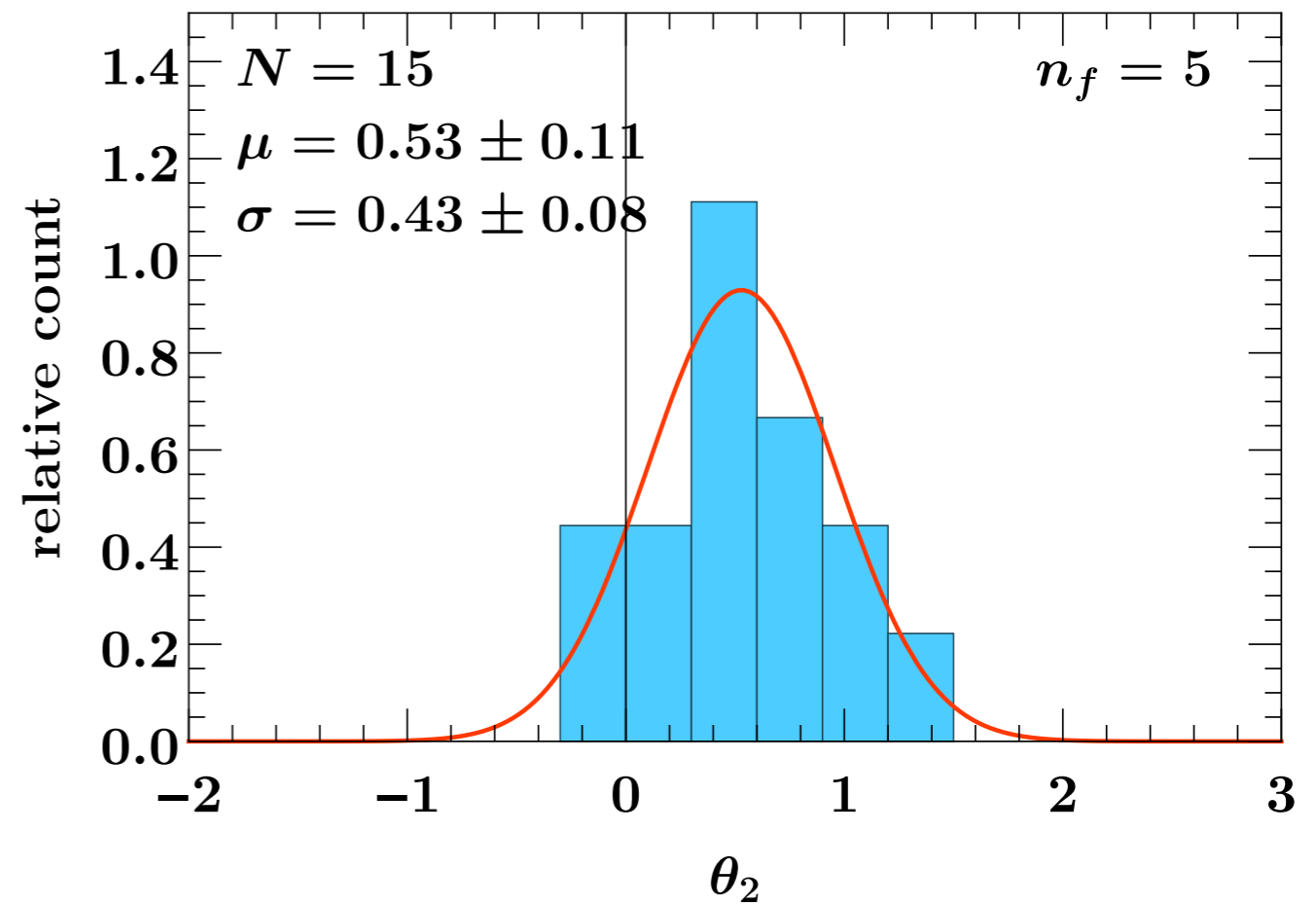
Estimate of  $\theta_n^\gamma(n_f)$  from a generic sample of known and independent series

$$\gamma_n(\theta_n) = 2C_r(4C_A)^n \theta_n^\gamma(n_f)$$

2 loop



3 loop



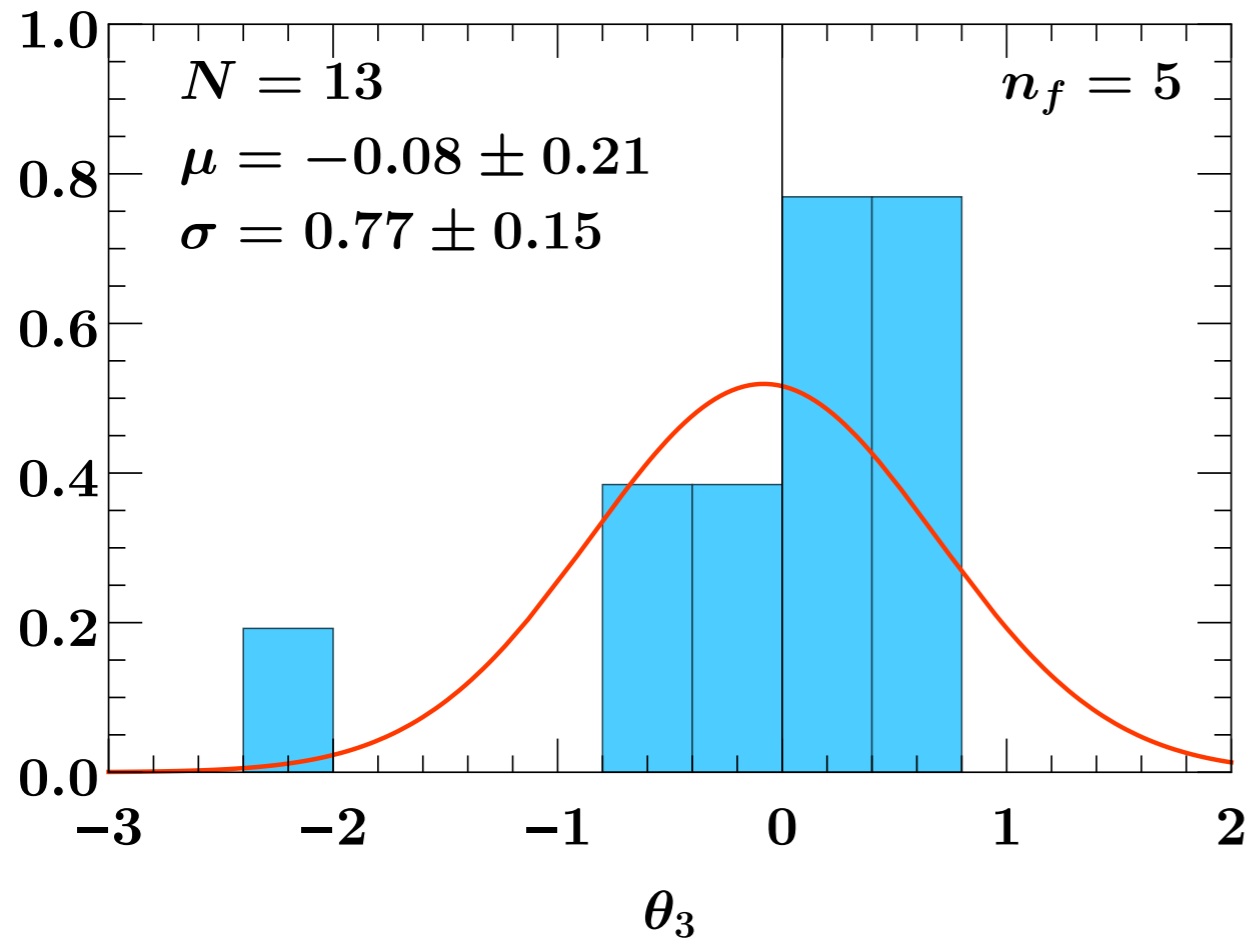


# TNPs for Anomalous Dimensions

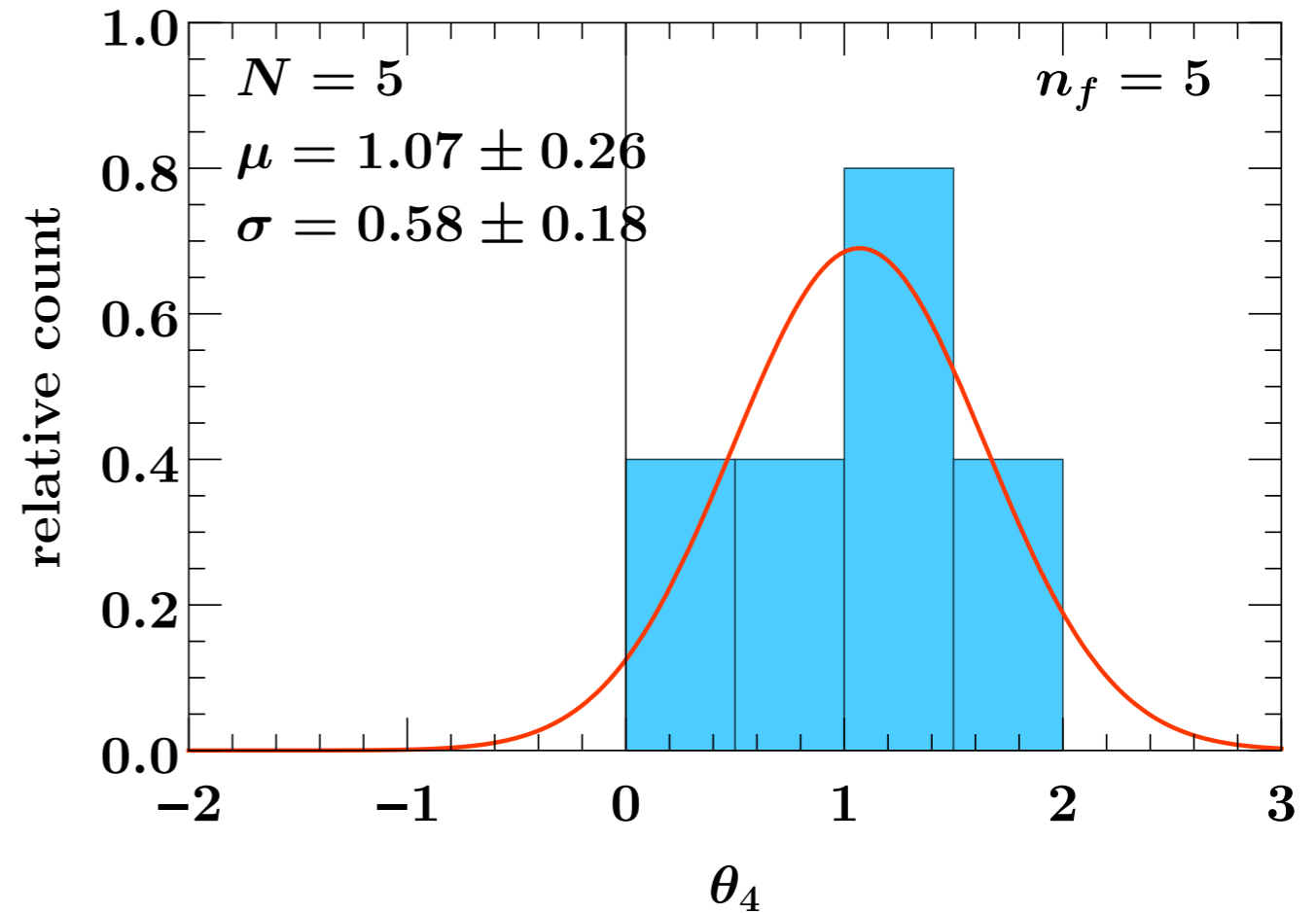
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4 loop



5 loop



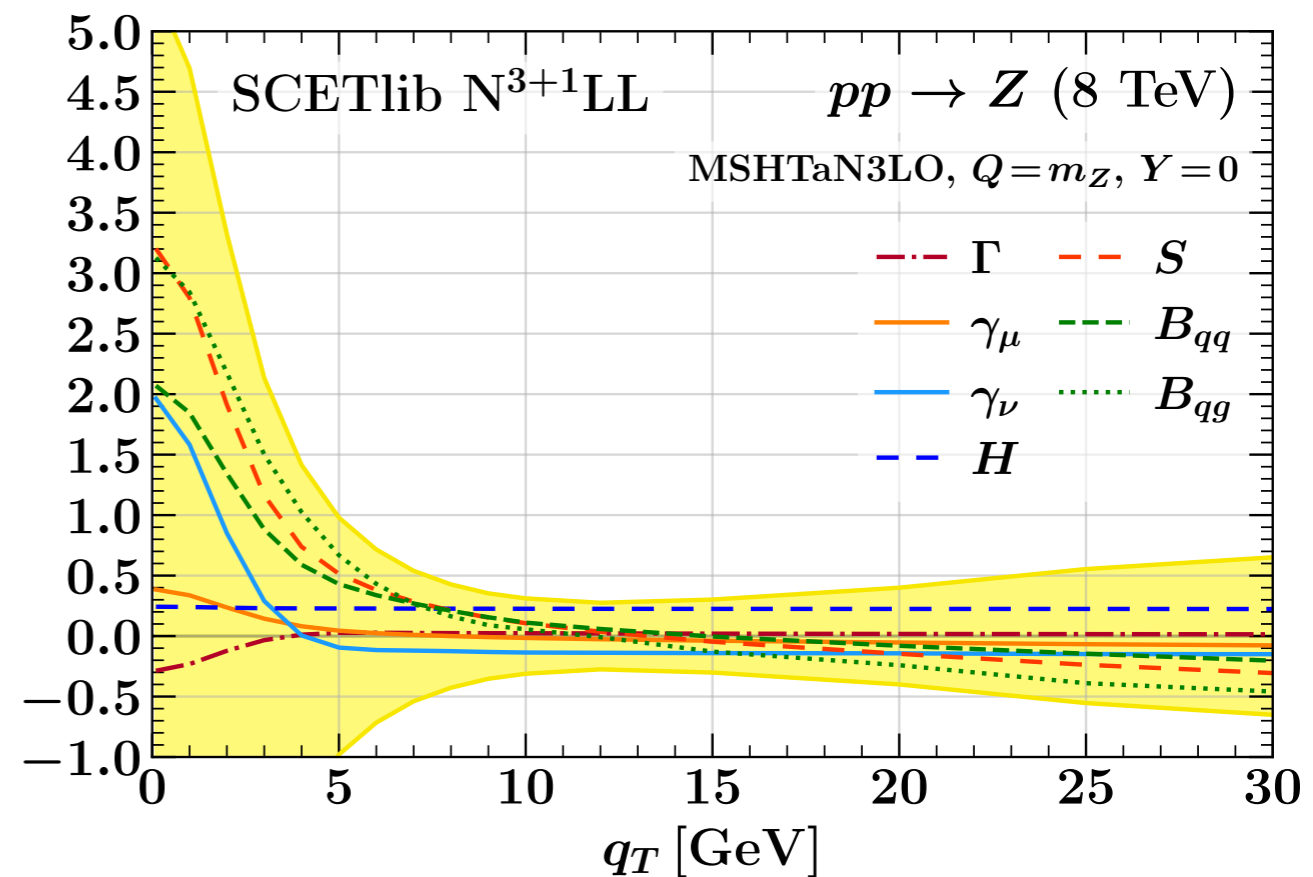
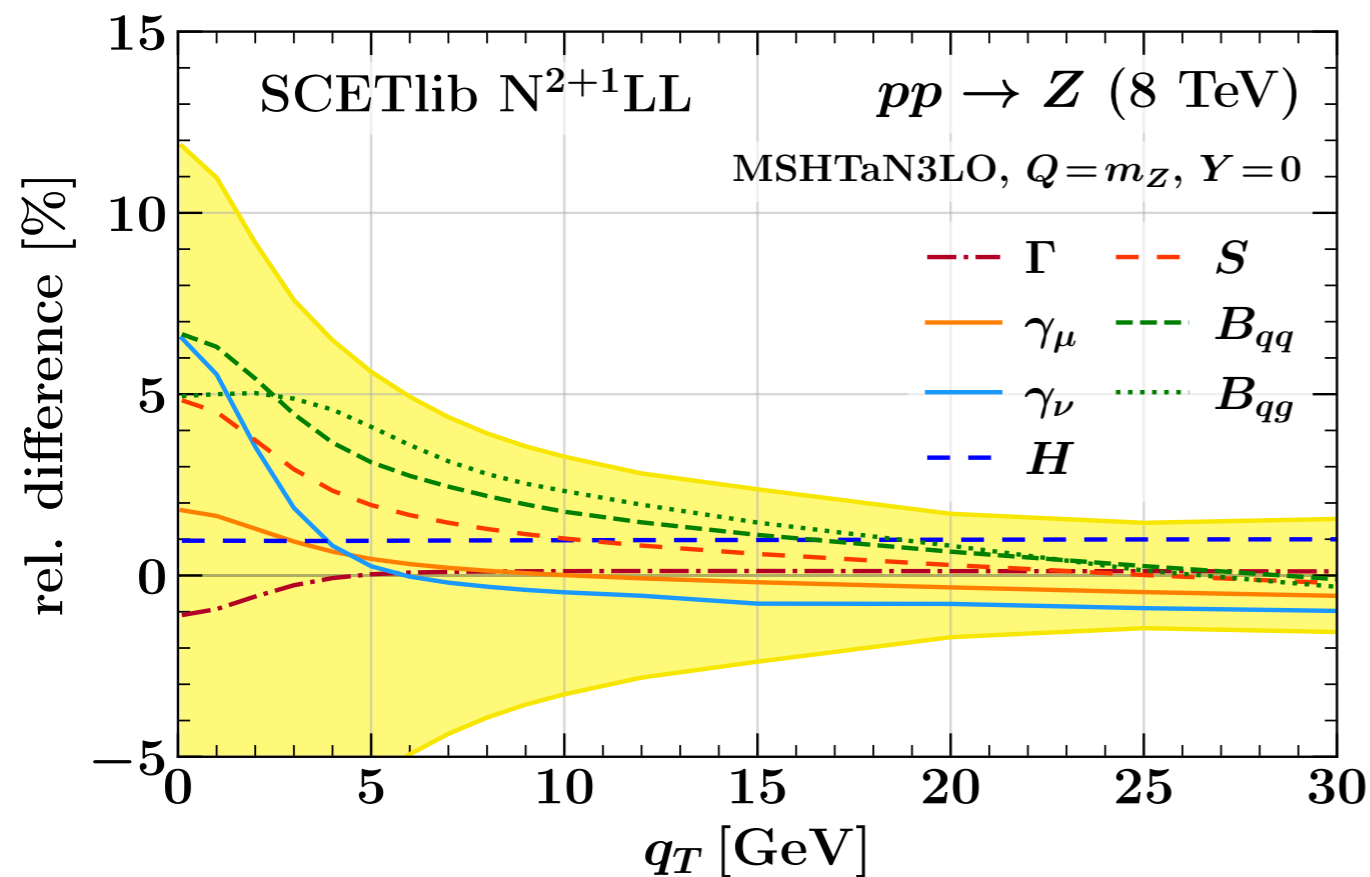
Fit to a Gaussian with  $\mu \neq 0$  and  $\sigma = 0.5$  ✓  
(but using  $\mu = 0$  and  $\sigma = 1$  in what follows for simplicity)

# Application of TNPs to $Z p_T$ spectrum

Nomenclature:  $N^{n+1}LL$

$N^{n+1}LL$  resummation + highest-order boundary conditions/anomalous dim. as TNPs

- » Varying each  $\theta_i$  independently
- » Add in quadrature for the total uncertainty
- » For the beams  $B_{qj}: f_n = (0 \pm 1.5) \times f_n^{\text{true}}$ , DGLAP splitting functions not varied



# Asimov test fitting $\alpha_S(m_Z)$ from $Z p_T$

Play with TNPs to study the expected uncertainty/sensitivity on  $\alpha_S$  on toy data (**Asimov test**)

➤ Very precise **ATLAS** measurement at  $\sqrt{S} = 8$  TeV: [arXiv 2309.09318 and 2309.12986]

based on  $N^3\text{LO}+N^4\text{LLa}$  theoretical predictions from **DYTurbo**;

$$\alpha_S(m_Z) = 0.1183 \pm 0.0009$$

In units of  $10^{-3}$

|                               |            |       |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|
| Experimental uncertainty      | $\pm 0.44$ |       |
| PDF uncertainty               | $\pm 0.51$ |       |
| Scale variation uncertainties | $\pm 0.42$ |       |
| Matching to fixed order       | 0          | -0.08 |
| Non-perturbative model        | +0.12      | -0.20 |
| Flavour model                 | +0.40      | -0.29 |
| QED ISR                       | $\pm 0.14$ |       |
| $N^4\text{LL}$ approximation  | $\pm 0.04$ |       |
| Total                         | +0.91      | -0.88 |

# Asimov test fitting $\alpha_S(m_Z)$ from $Z p_T$

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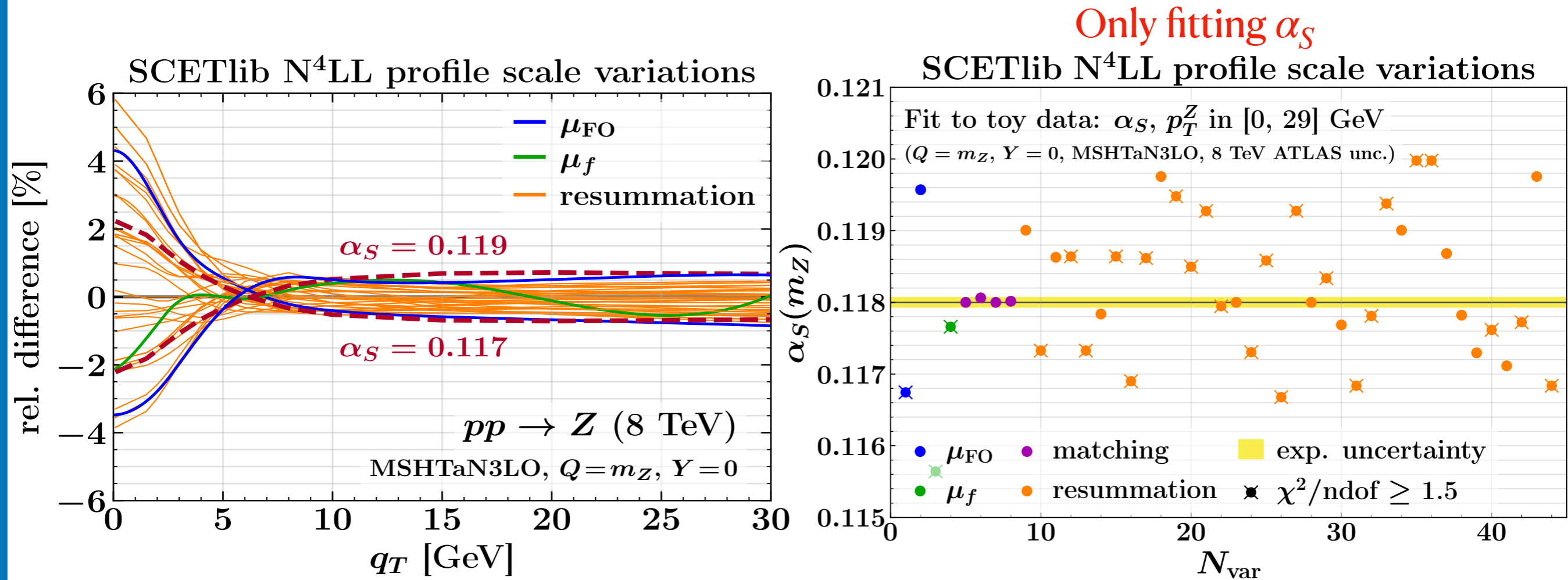
## Our theory inputs:

- SCETlib only resummed contribution  
[default central scales and variations, no mass corrections and nonsingular power corrections]

## Our toy data:

- Data defined as central theory prediction  
[ $\alpha_S(m_Z) = 0.118$ , fixed nonp. params, MSHT20aN3LO PDF set]
- Only 9  $q_T$  points in [0,29] GeV by ATLAS binning  
[fixed  $Q = m_Z$  and  $Y = 0$  just for simplicity]
- Using ATLAS exp. uncertainties and correlations, integrated over  $|Y| < 1.6$ ;

# Asimov fit result for scale variations



Shape of scale (theory) variation, within the band, strongly effects the result;  
uncertainty  $\sim \pm 1$  (in units of  $10^{-3}$ ), where 1 means  $0.118 \rightarrow 0.117$  or  $0.119$

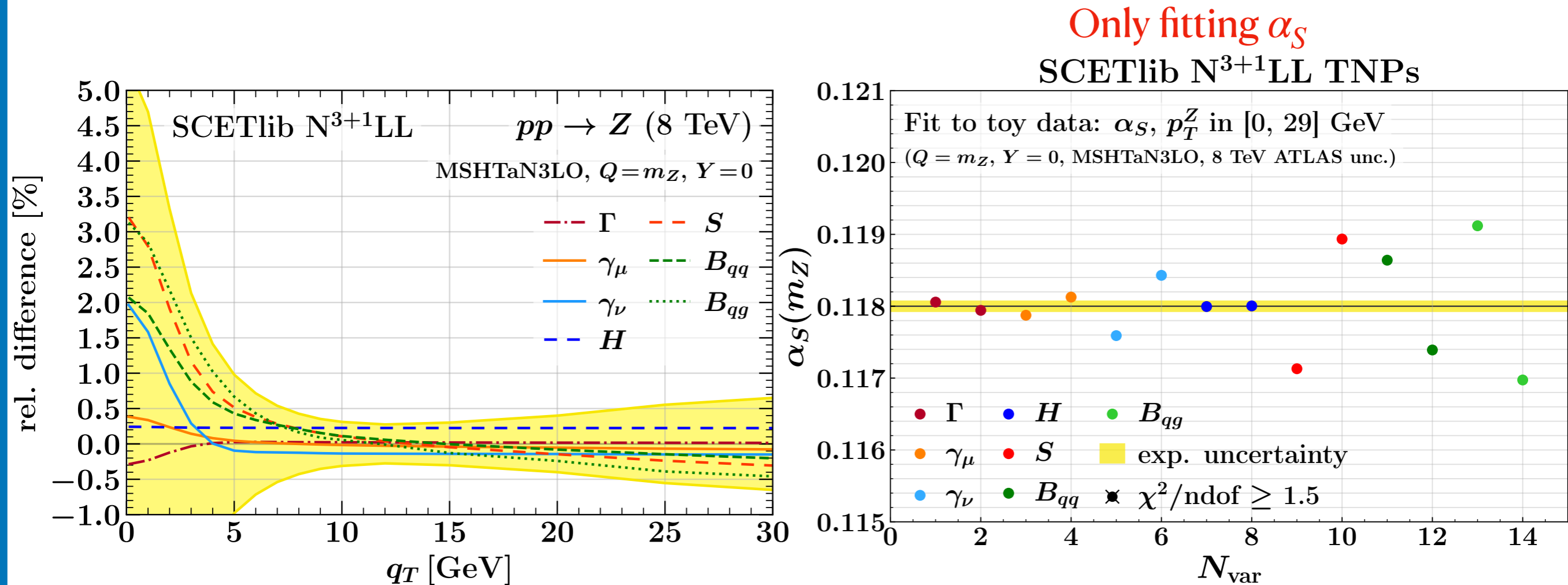
Sum in quadrature:  $\Delta_{\text{total}} = \sqrt{\Delta_{\text{FO}}^2 + \Delta_{\text{resum}}^2 + \Delta_{\text{match}}^2} \sim 2.6$  [neglecting  $\mu_f$ ]

Envelope:  $\Delta_{\text{total}} \sim 2.1$

scale variations are not sufficient!

\* uncertainties in units of  $10^{-3}$

# Asimov fit result for TNPs



Repeat fit for each TNP variation, using TNPs at  $N^{3+1}$ LL;  
still does not let the fit decide what to do with  $\alpha_S$  (moving the theory or  $\alpha_S$  directly?)

TNPs correctly account for their correlations  $\Rightarrow$  sum in quadrature:  $\Delta_{\text{total}} = 1.6$

\* uncertainties in units of  $10^{-3}$

# Playing with the Asimov fit and TNPs

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**Scanning:** vary one TNP at a time and re-fit  $\alpha_S$

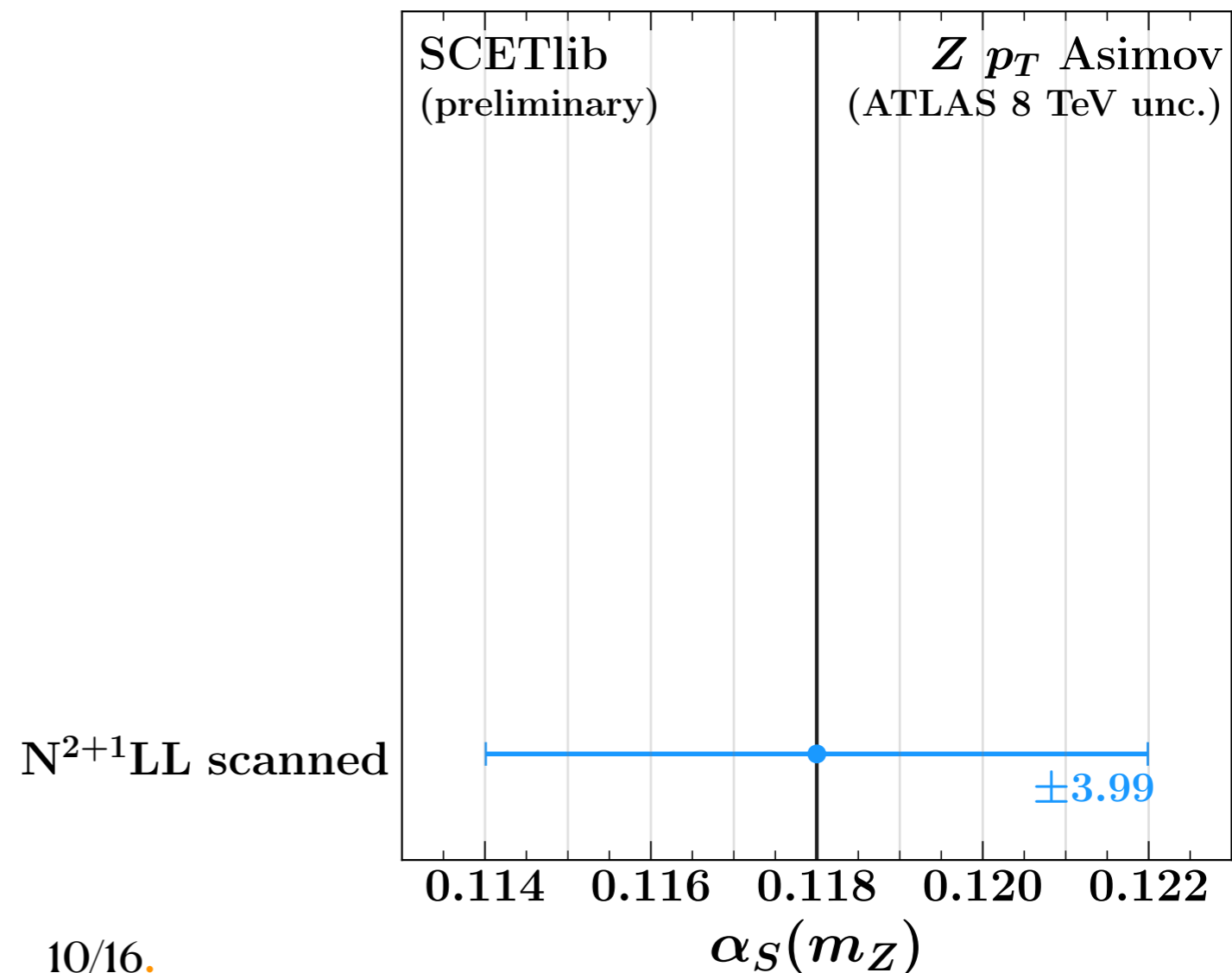
**Profiling:** fitting  $\alpha_S$  *together* with all TNPs (allow the fit to decide what to do)

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**Scanning:** vary one TNP at a time and re-fit  $\alpha_S$

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➤ data = central [ $\alpha_S(m_Z) = 0.118$ ]  $N^{2+1}LL$  theory prediction against  $N^{2+1}LL$  model



\* uncertainties in units of  $10^{-3}$

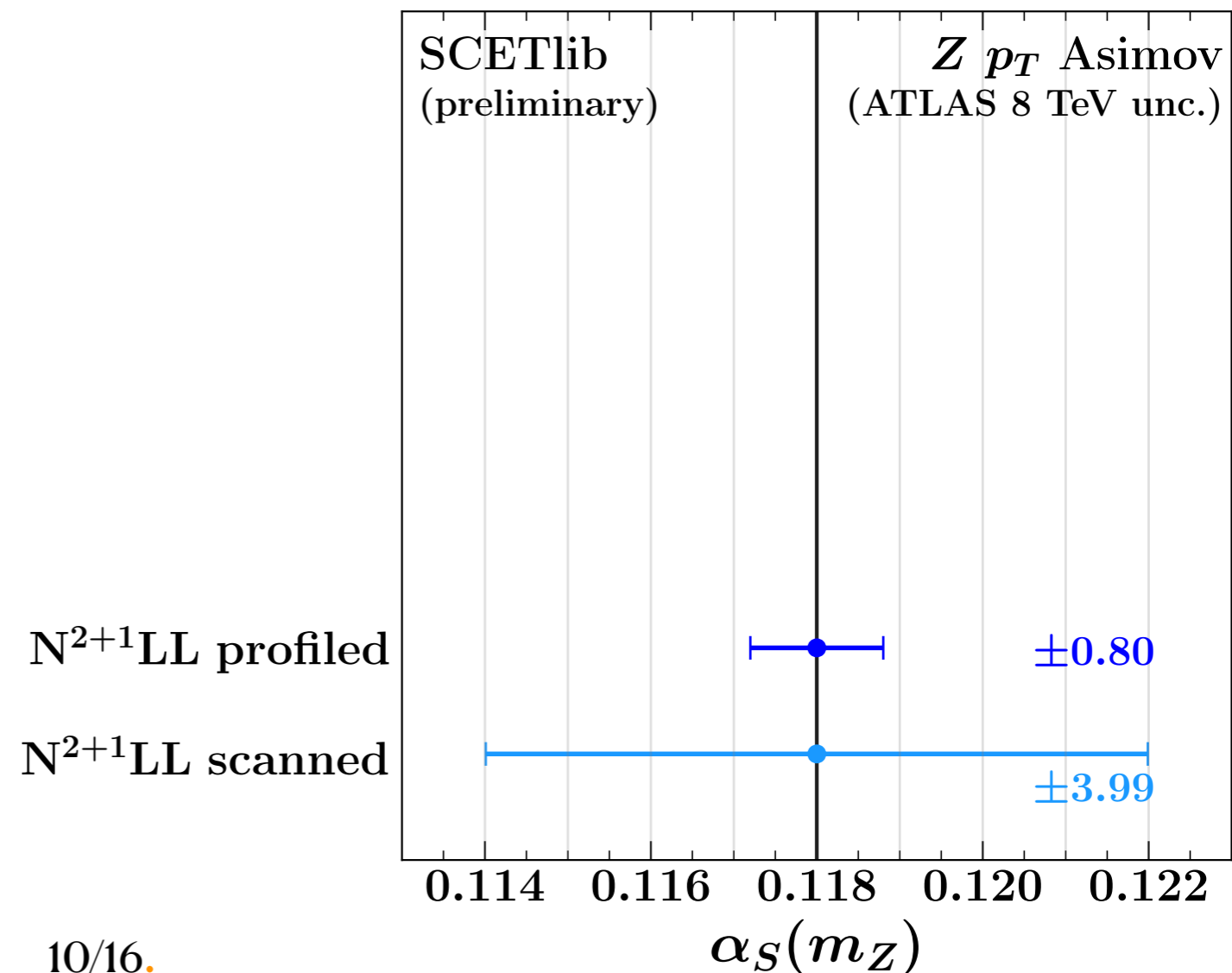


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**Profiling:** fitting  $\alpha_S$  together with all TNPs (allow the fit to decide what to do)

- data = central [ $\alpha_S(m_Z) = 0.118$ ]  $N^{2+1}$ LL theory prediction against  $N^{2+1}$ LL model
- data = central  $N^{3+1}$ LL theory prediction against  $N^{2+1}$ LL model

This test is very interesting:  
simulation of what will happen using  
the real data for the fit



data constraining TNPs a lot,  
reducing the uncertainty on  $\alpha_S$

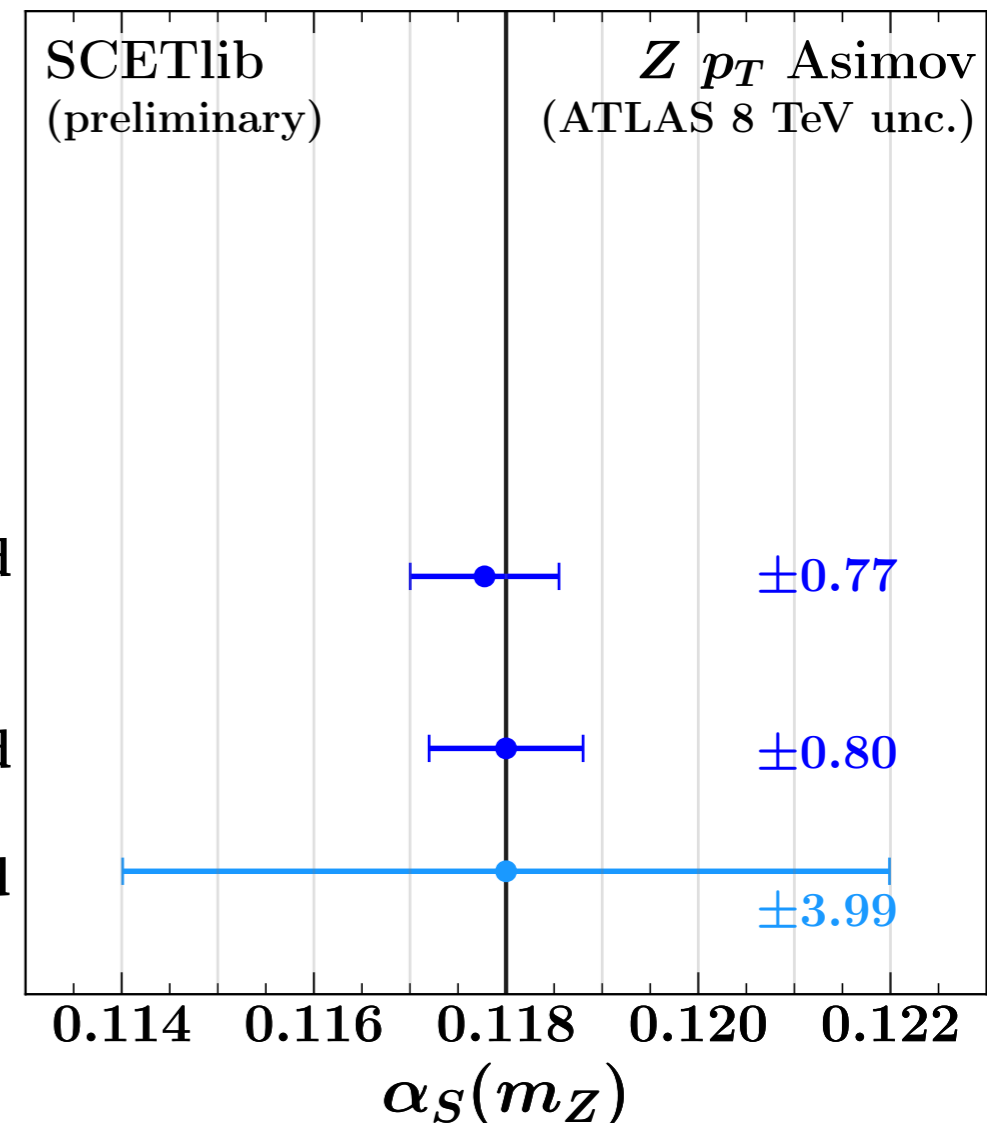


**$N^{2+1}$ LL order may not be enough!**

$N^{2+1}$ LL profiled  
against  $N^{3+1}$ LL

$N^{2+1}$ LL profiled

$N^{2+1}$ LL scanned



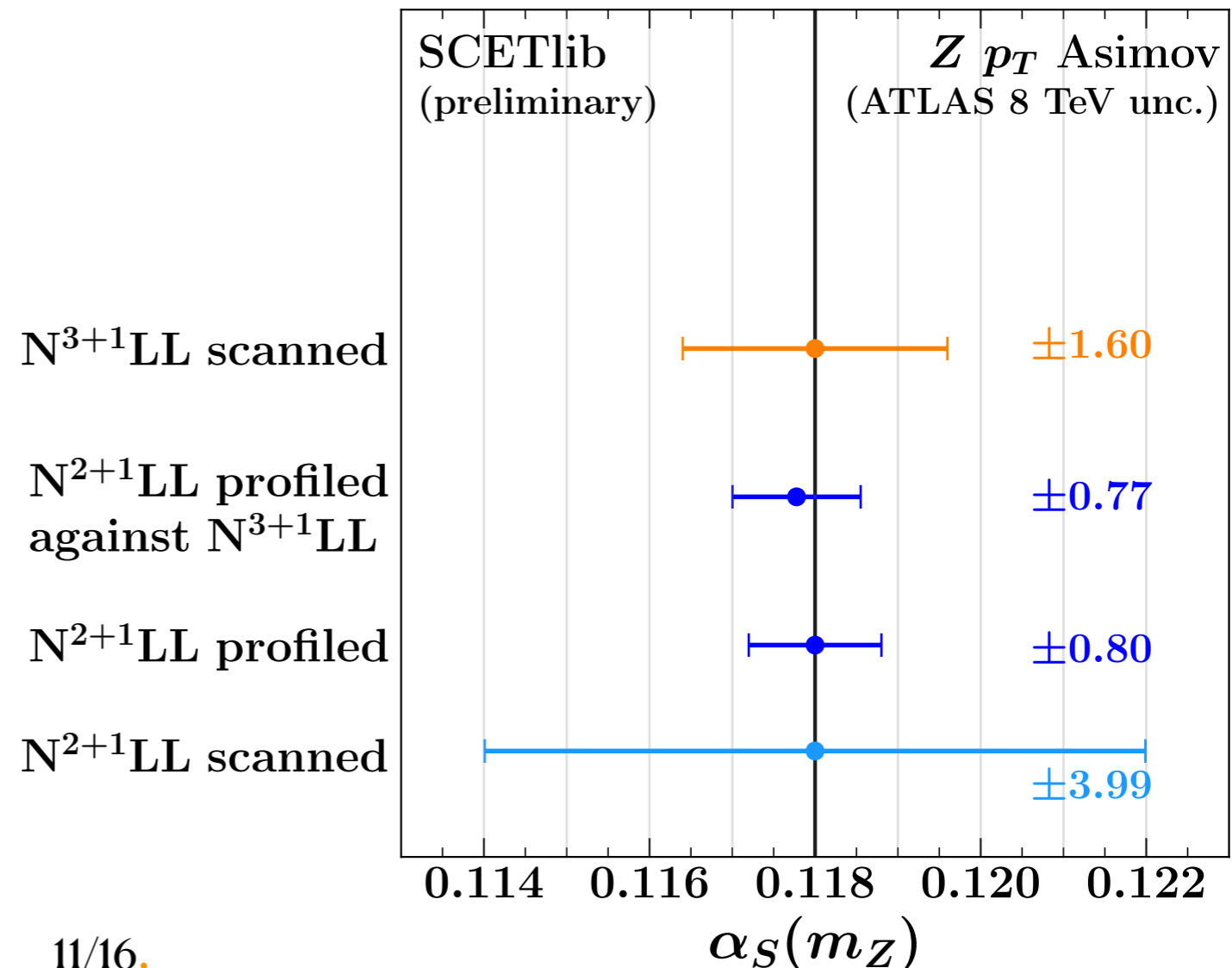
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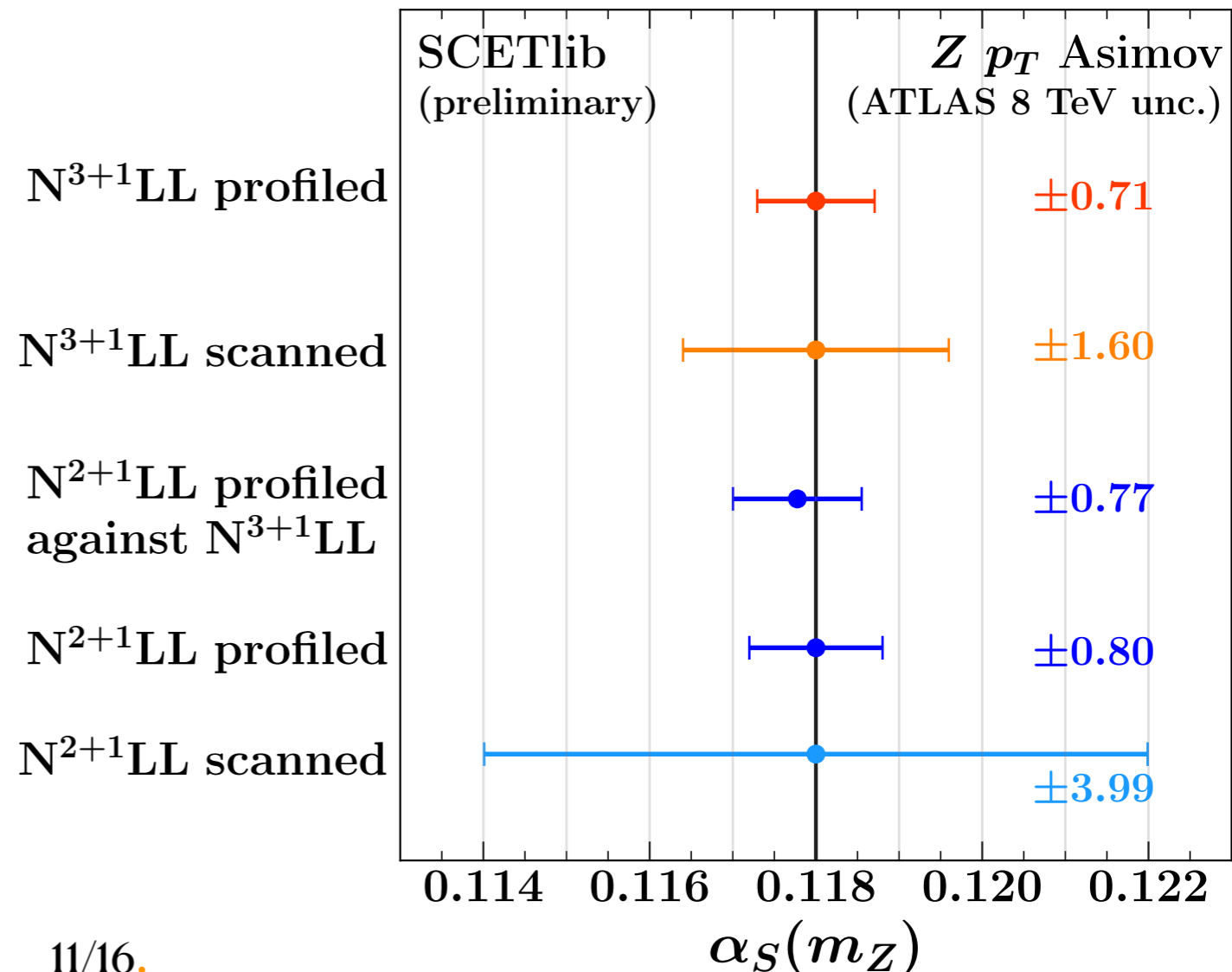
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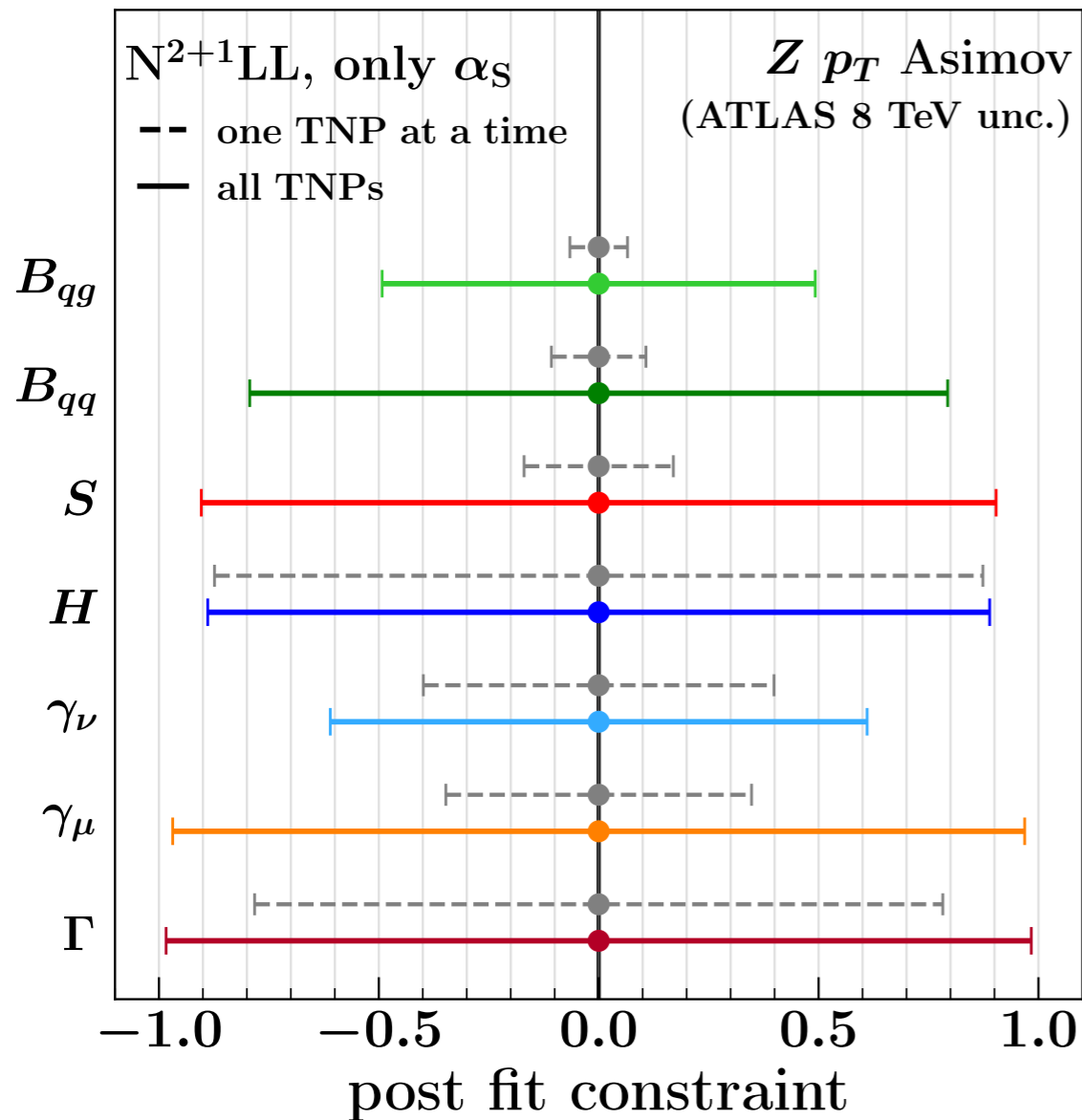
Profiling constraints the TNPs allowing data to reduce the theory uncertainty!



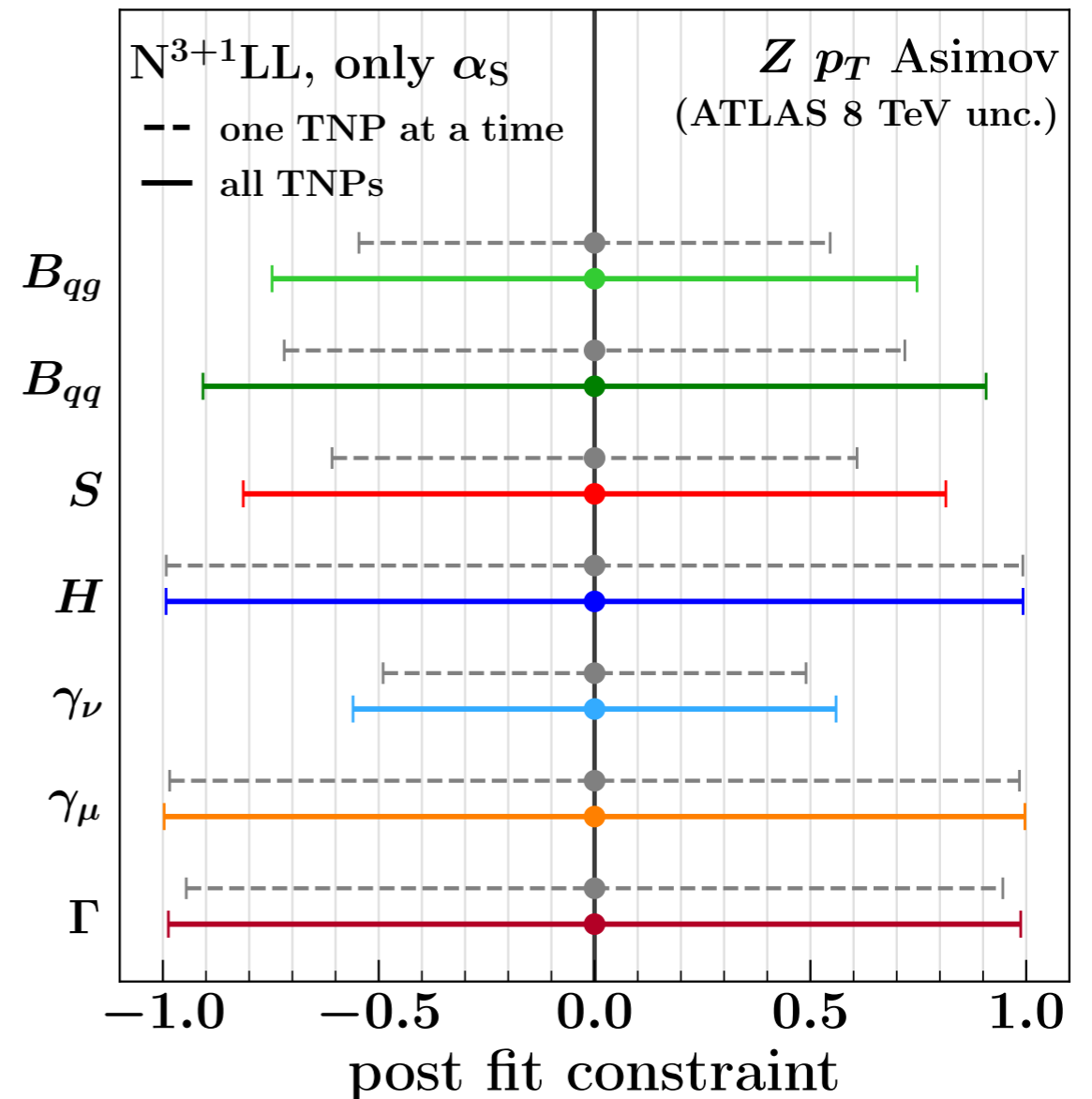
\* uncertainties in units of  $10^{-3}$

# Constraints on TNPs

SCETlib



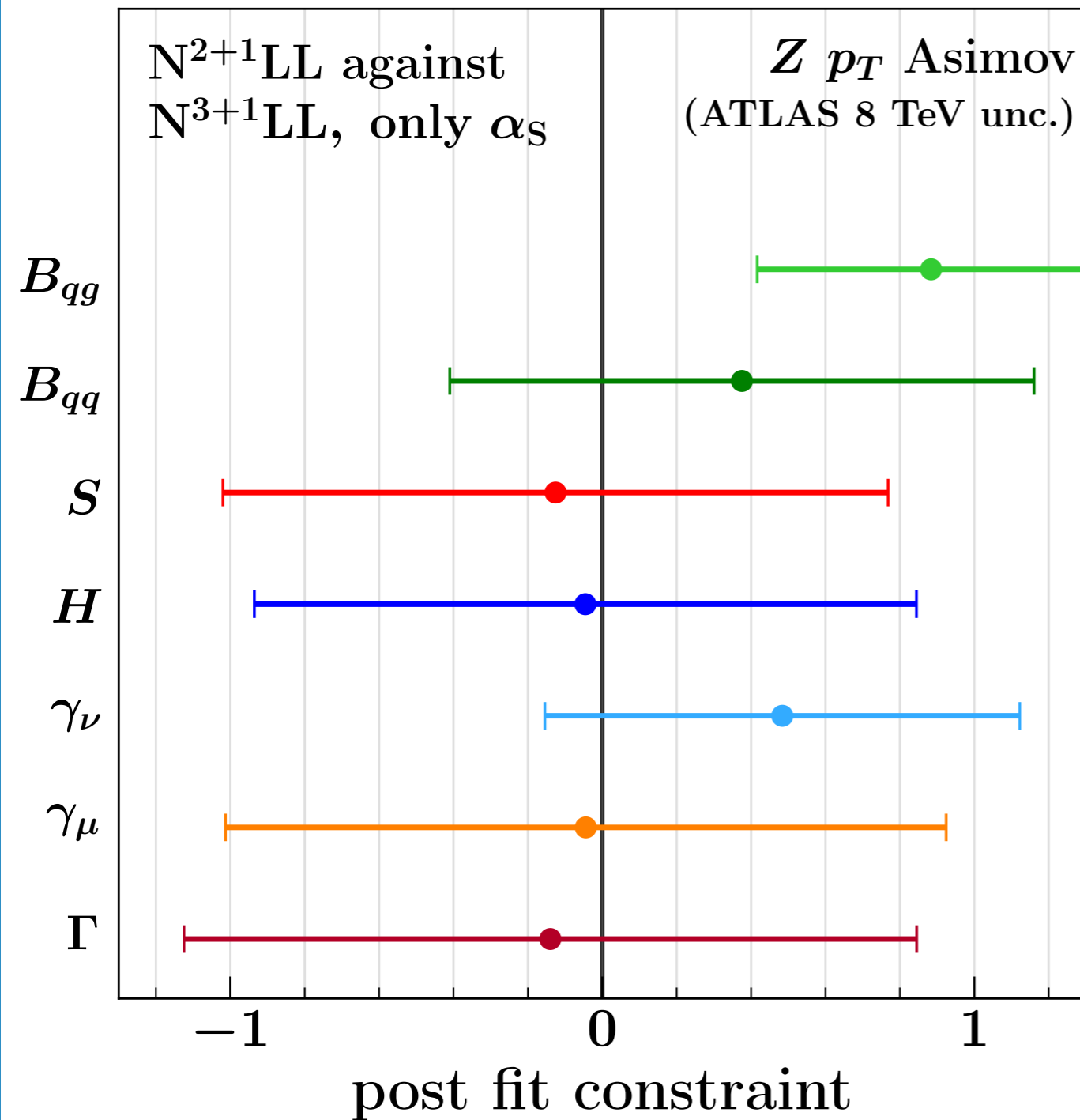
SCETlib



- $N^{2+1}$ LL: TNPs much more constrained than at  $N^{3+1}$ LL
- If TNPs get strongly constrained, the next order becomes relevant for the uncertainty correlations!

# Constraints on TNPs

SCETlib

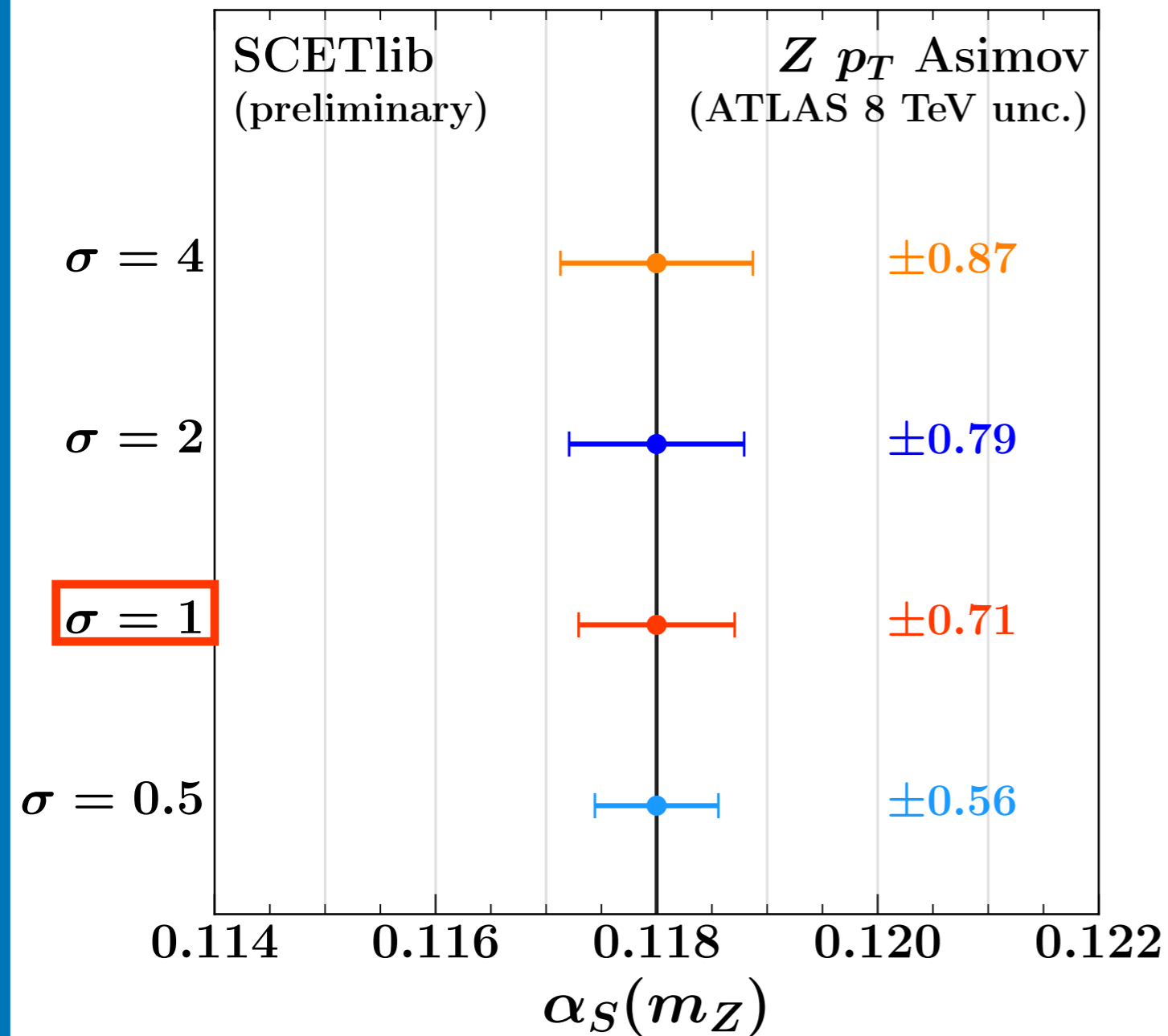


data = central  $N^{3+1}\text{LL}$  theory prediction  
against  $N^{2+1}\text{LL}$  theory model

As expected, some TNPs are strongly pulled  
this is another indication that  
 $N^{2+1}\text{LL}$  is just not enough

# Different constraints on TNPs

Using now  $\mu = 0$  but  $\sigma = 0.5, 1, 2, 4$ :

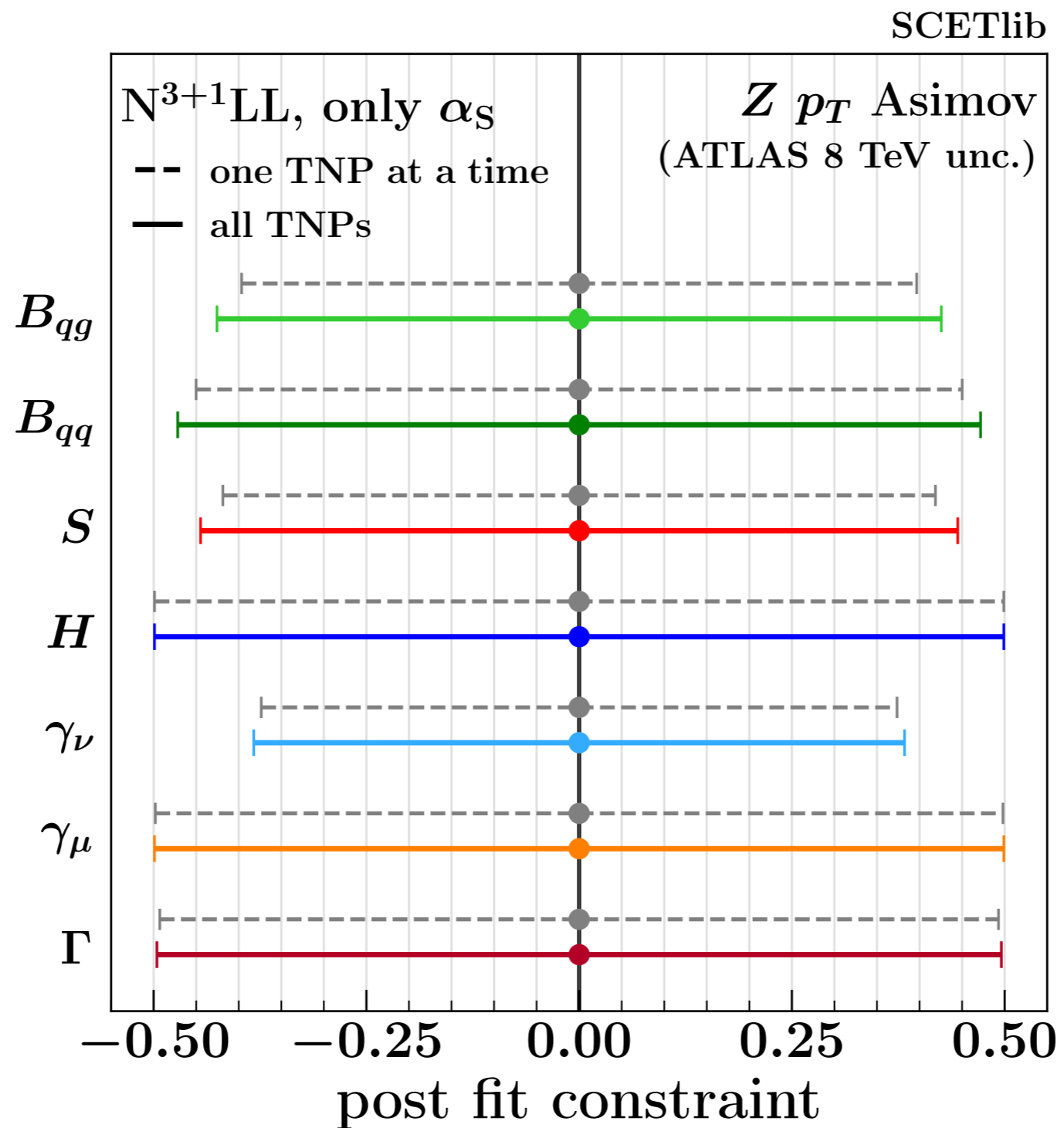


➤ Similar increase in the uncertainties when relaxing the TNPs constraint

➤ Further reducing the uncertainty worth it!  
[exp. uncertainty ~ theo. uncertainty]

# Different constraints on TNPs

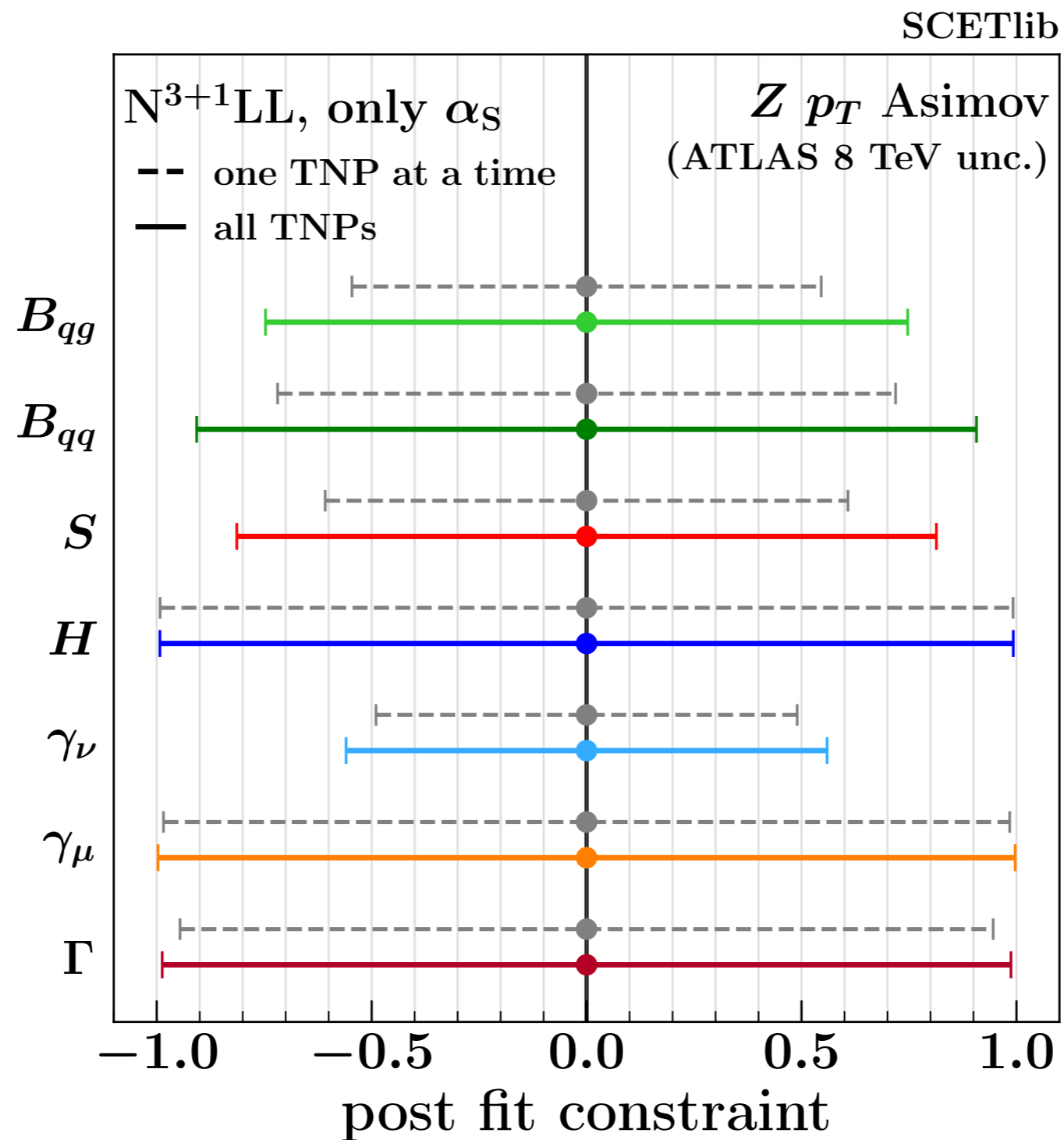
Using now  $\mu = 0$  but  $\sigma = 0.5$ :





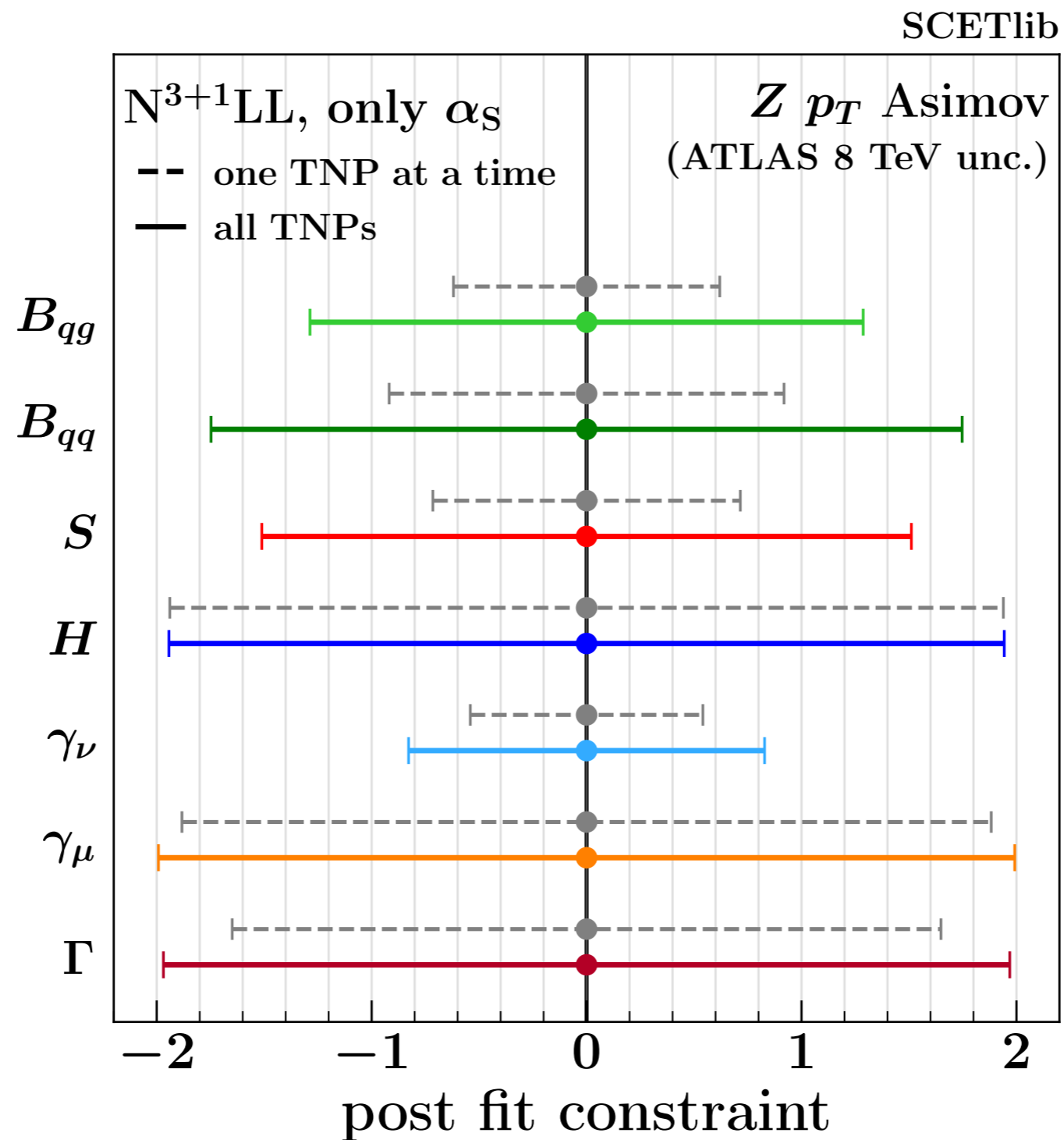
# Different constraints on TNPs

Using now  $\mu = 0$  but  $\sigma = 1$ :



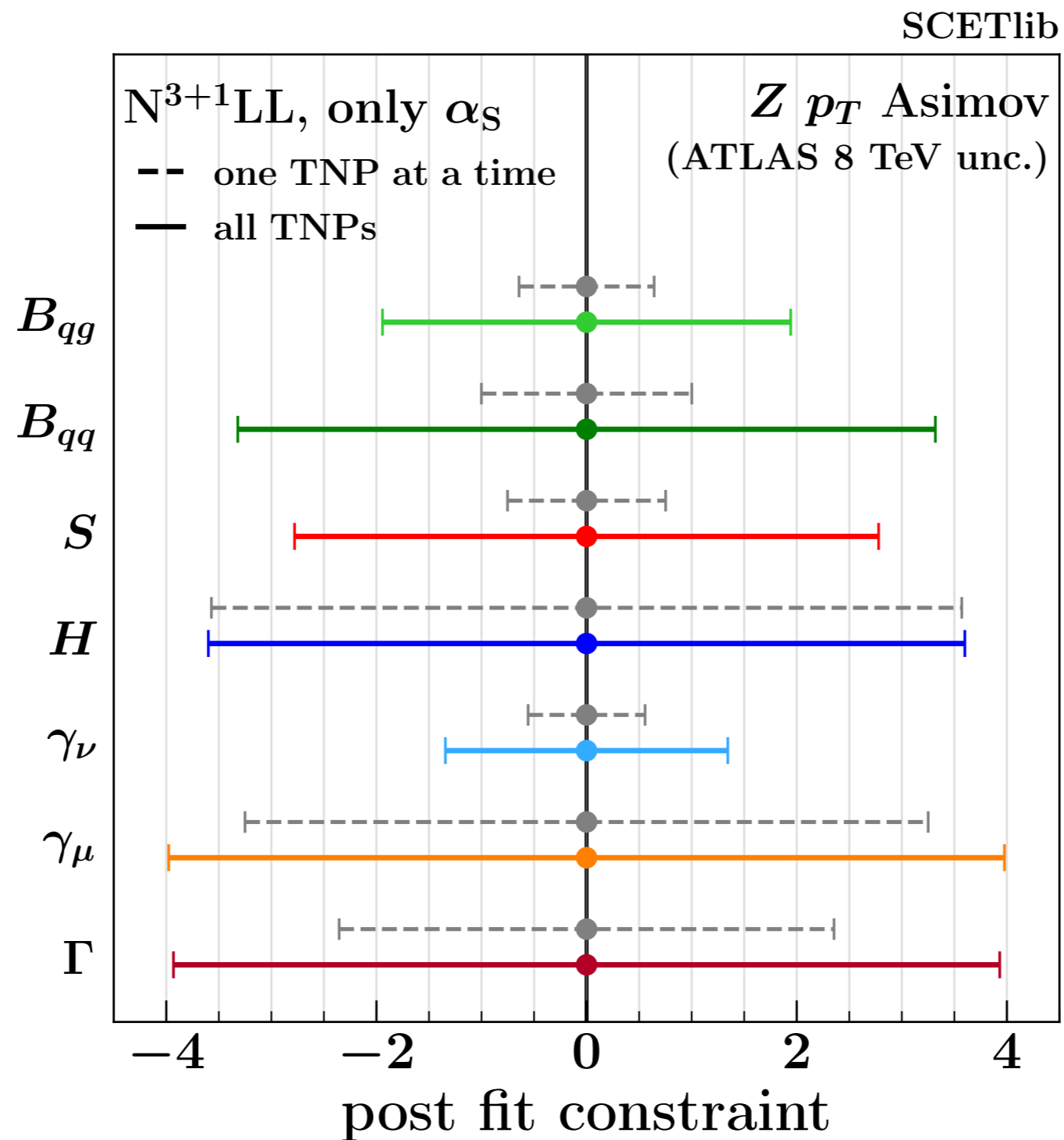
# Different constraints on TNPs

Using now  $\mu = 0$  but  $\sigma = 2$ :



# Different constraints on TNPs

Using now  $\mu = 0$  but  $\sigma = 4$ :



# Summary

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Need for theoretical predictions with reliable uncertainties including correlations for interpretation of LHC precision measurements:

**Theory Nuisance Parameters** perfect candidate

- » include correct correlations across the  $p_T$  spectrum
- » can be constrained by data reducing theory uncertainty
- » value of  $\sigma$  doesn't really matter once profiling and exp. uncertainty sufficiently small
- » so far work as advertised for Asimov tests

# Acknowledgments

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**European Research Council**

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