

Highlights on top quark physics with the ATLAS experiment at the LHC.

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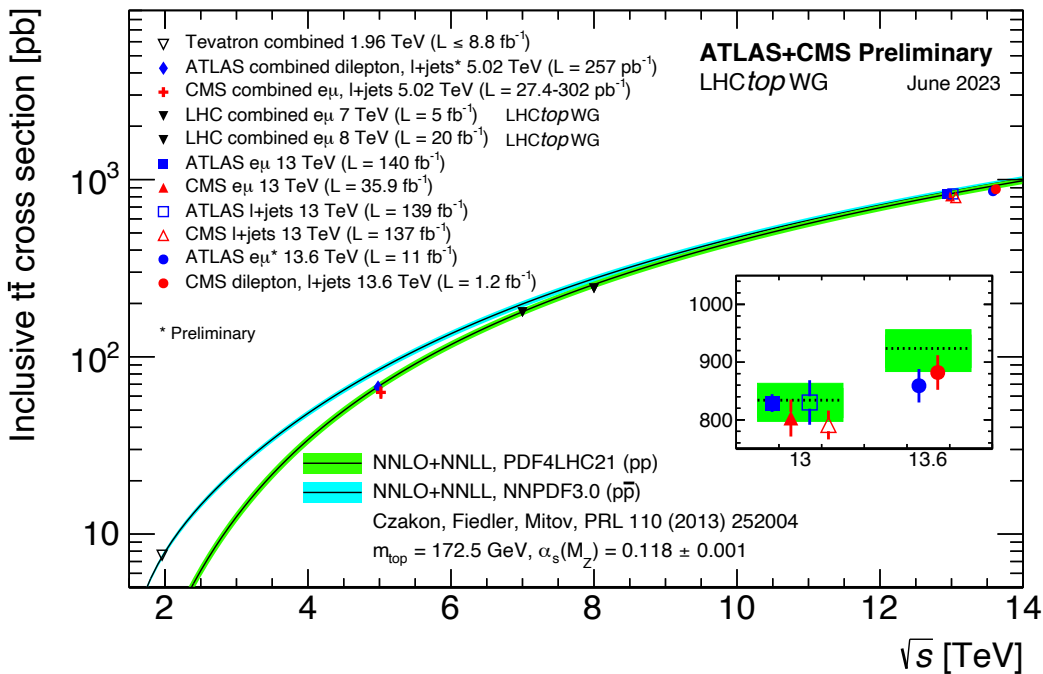


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on behalf of the ATLAS Collaboration
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- Review of most recent highlights of the ATLAS top quark physics program:
 - Selected from <https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/AtlasPublic/TopPublicResults>

ATL-PHYS-PUB-2023-014



- Inclusive and differential $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$
 - Test MC models (QCD NLO + LO PS + hadronization)
 - Boosted top-quark jets.
 - Test NNLO+NNLL theoretical predictions.

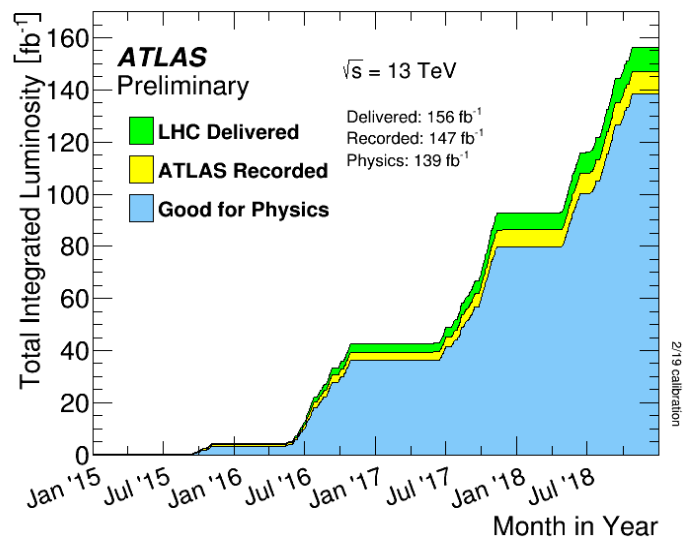
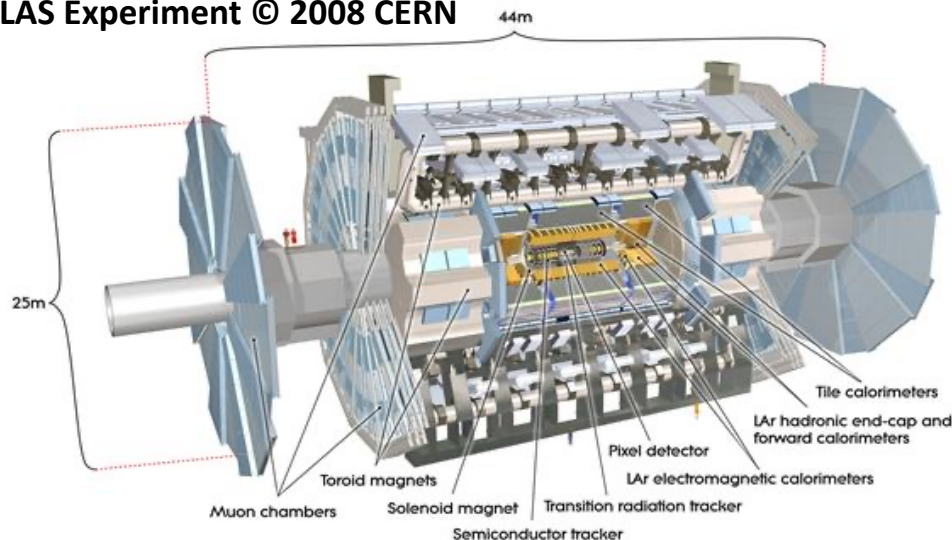
- $\sigma_{t\text{-chan}}$, $\sigma_{\bar{t}\text{-chan}}$
 - Constrain PDFs and CKM matrix
 - Test NNLO+NNLL theoretical predictions.
 - EFT interpretations.

- FCNC: tZq
- Test new physics models:
 - Composite Higgs boson models, models from a warped extra dimension.
 - EFT interpretations.

- Top rare production processes: $tq\gamma$
 - Complete top quark's electroweak couplings.



ATLAS Experiment © 2008 CERN



[arXiv:2212.09379](https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.09379).

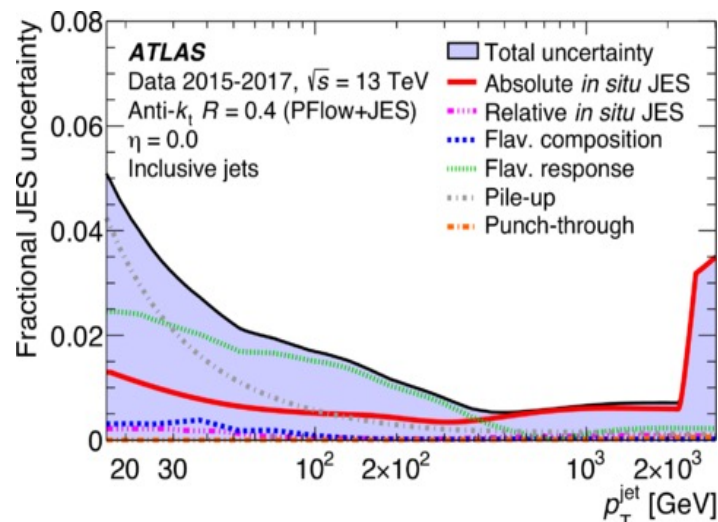
$L_{\text{int}} = 140.1 \pm 1.2 \text{ fb}^{-1}$, 0.83% uncertainty

ATLAS detector:

- Muon spectrometer.
- Calorimeters: electromagnetic and hadronic.
- Inner detector: main tracking system.
- Magnetic system: 2T
- Trigger system:
 - 2 levels: hardware and software based.

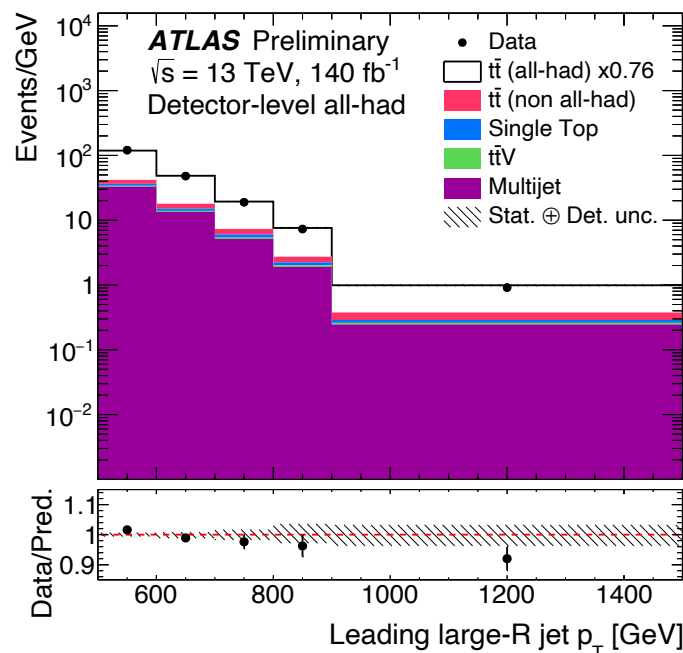
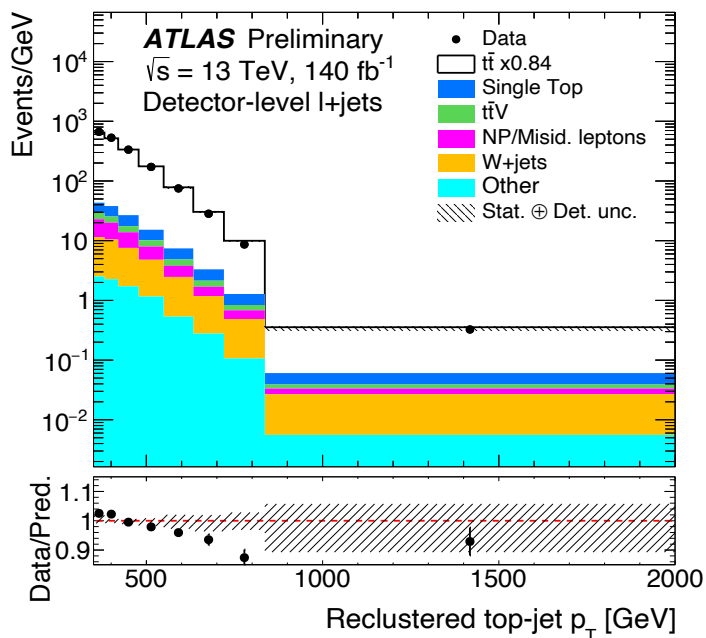
Excellent detector performance.

- Run 2 Data taking efficiency = 94%
- ATLAS pp RUN-2 Data quality fraction = 95.6%
- Precision object performance.
 - Energy scale for central jets $\sim 1\%$ for $p_T \sim 250$ -2000 GeV

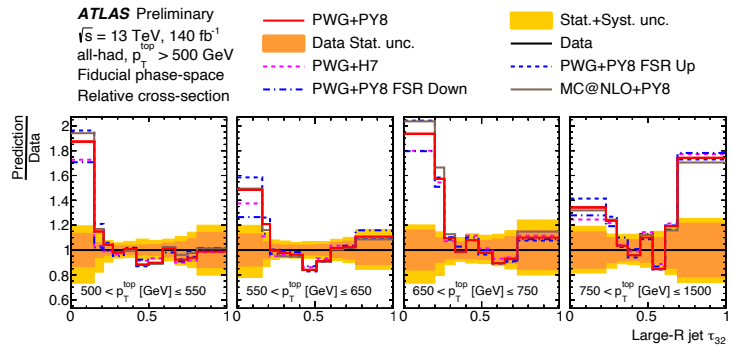
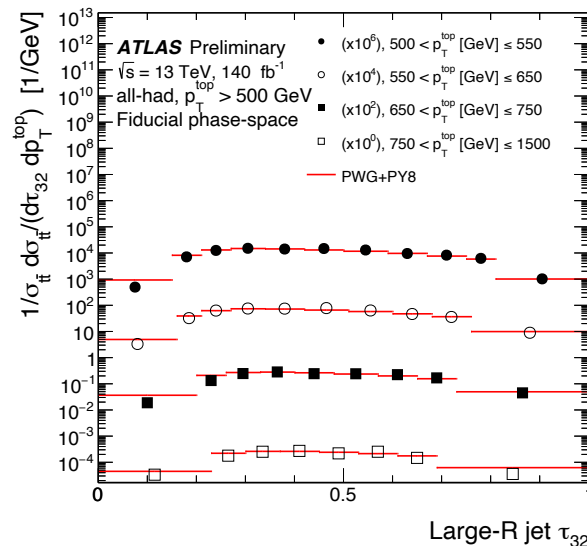
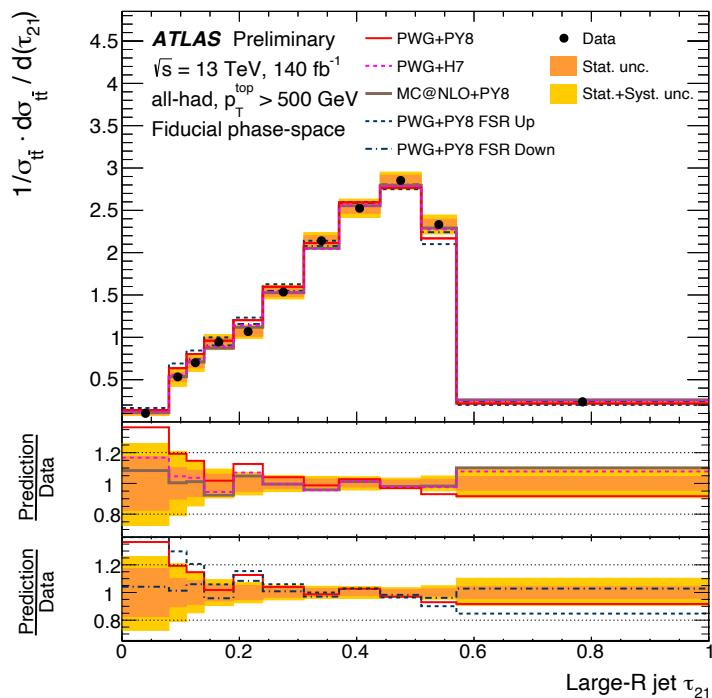


[Eur. Phys. J. C 81 \(2021\) 689](https://arxiv.org/abs/2212.09379)

- **MOTIVATION:**
 - Test MC models (QCD NLO + LO PS + hadronization) to predict the substructure of boosted top-quark jets.
 - Beyond SM effects can modify the top-quark substructure:
 - Heavy particles decaying to top-quark pairs, di-boson resonances, dark matter candidates etc.
- Normalized differential $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ measurements as a function of the substructure variables of the large radius jets.
 - Measurements in fiducial phase-spaces and unfolding detector effects to stable-particle level.
- Two independent channels:
 - L+jets: one single lepton (e/μ), a top-quark jet with $p_{T>} > 350$ GeV, additional jets from b-quark hadronization.
 - Main backgrounds: single top (MC driven) and misidentified leptons (data driven)
 - All-Hadronic: no isolated leptons and two top-quark jets with $p_{T>} > 500$ GeV, 350 GeV.
 - Main background: Multijets (QCD) data driven.



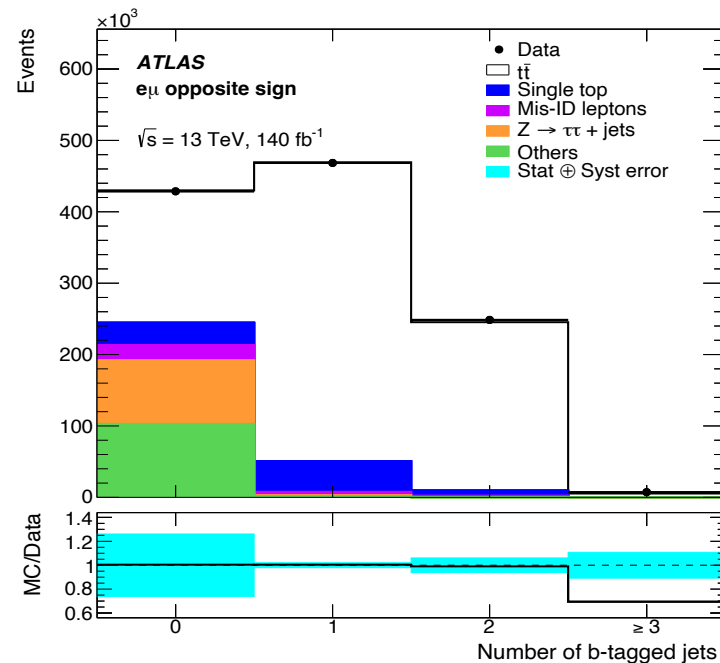
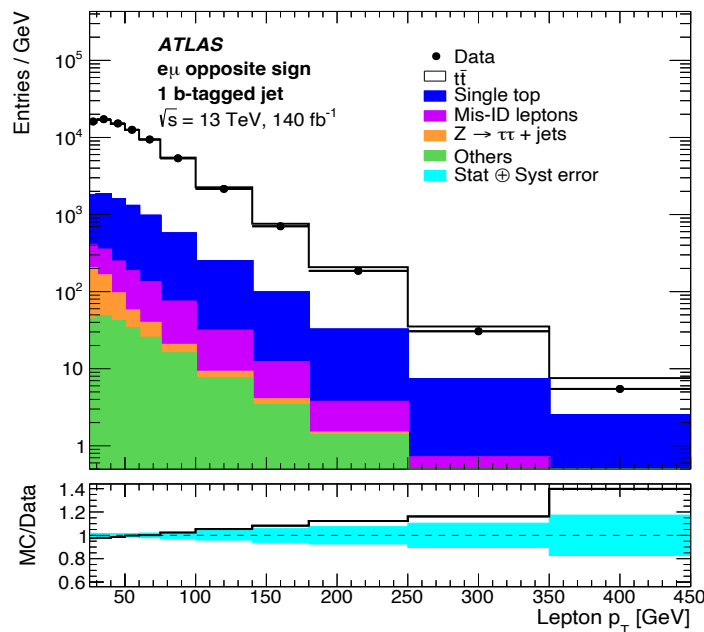
- Measurements of energy-flow and variables sensitive to the 3-body structure of the top quark jets:
 - Angularities, Energy Correlation Functions, N-subjettiness.
- Nominal Powheg+Pythia8 MC: τ_{21} , ECF2 and D_2 well described. τ_{32} , τ_3 , C_3 , p_T dispersion, poorly described.
- Description of 3-body like substructure improves with: aMC@NLO+Pythia8, nominal FSR Up and PWG+herwig.



- SYSTEMATICS: From 5% till 40% in low and high bins.
- Signal modeling: FSR, PS and hadronization model
- Detector-level: JES/JER

• CONCLUSIONS: Need for improvements in models used to predict the substructure of boosted top-quark jets.

- All differential cross section measurement in fiducial region: $|\eta_\ell| < 2.5$ and $|p_\ell^T| < 27(25)$ GeV
 - Total cross section measurement also measured inclusively.
- Opposite-sign charge electron-muon ($e\mu$) pairs. $N_{\text{b-jets}}=1,2$.
 - Main backgrounds: single top and misidentified leptons.
 - Same-sign $e\mu$ pairs for misidentified lepton background estimation.



- Cross sections together with combined selection and b-tagging efficiencies from a log-likelihood fit solving two equations:

- $G_{e\mu}^i \rightarrow$ reconstruction efficiencies from simulation.
- $C_b^i \rightarrow$ b-tagging correlation coefficients from simulation.

$$N_1^i = \mathcal{L}\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^i G_{e\mu}^i 2\epsilon_b^i (1 - \epsilon_b^i C_b^i) + N_{1,\text{bkg}}^i$$

$$N_2^i = \mathcal{L}\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^i G_{e\mu}^i (\epsilon_b^i)^2 C_b^i + N_{2,\text{bkg}}^i$$

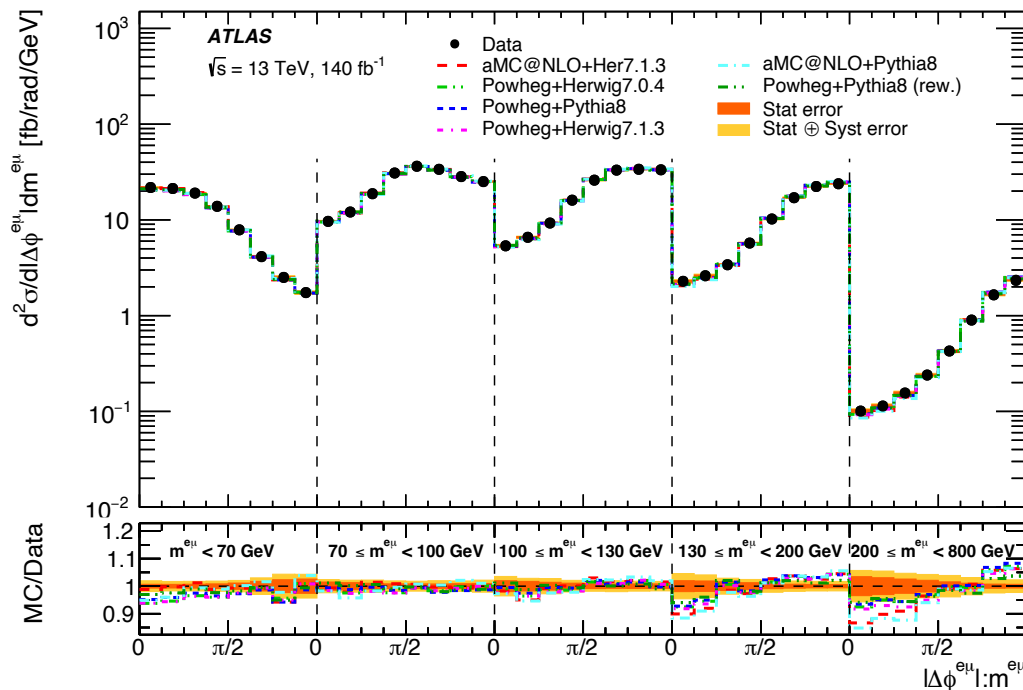
- Differential cross-section measured as a function of several lepton kinematic variables:
 - p_T^ℓ , $|\eta^\ell|$, $m^{e\mu}$, $p_T^{e\mu}$, $|y^{e\mu}|$, $E^e + E^\mu$, $p_T^e + p_T^\mu$ and $|\Delta\phi^{e\mu}|$
 - Luminosity uncertainty dominant in all bins.
 - Systematic uncertainties: modeling of signal and background processes and lepton reconstruction.
 - Statistical uncertainties important at increasing p_T , E , $M \rightarrow$ overtaken by interference $t\bar{t}/Wt$

CONCLUSIONS:

- No model can describe all measured distributions.
- Most precise measurement to date: inclusive $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$

$$A_{e\mu} = N_{e\mu}^{t\bar{t},fiducial} / N_{t\bar{t}} = (1.2708 \pm 0.0004)\%$$

$$\Delta\sigma_{t\bar{t}}/\sigma_{t\bar{t}} [\%] = 1.8$$



$$\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{inclusive} = 829 \pm 1(stat) \pm 13(syst) \pm 8(lumi) \pm 2(beam) pb$$

Excellent agreement

$$NNLO+NNLL: \sigma_{t\bar{t},pred} = 832_{-29}^{+20}(scale)_{-23}^{+23}(m_{top})_{-35}^{+35}(PDF + \alpha_s) pb$$

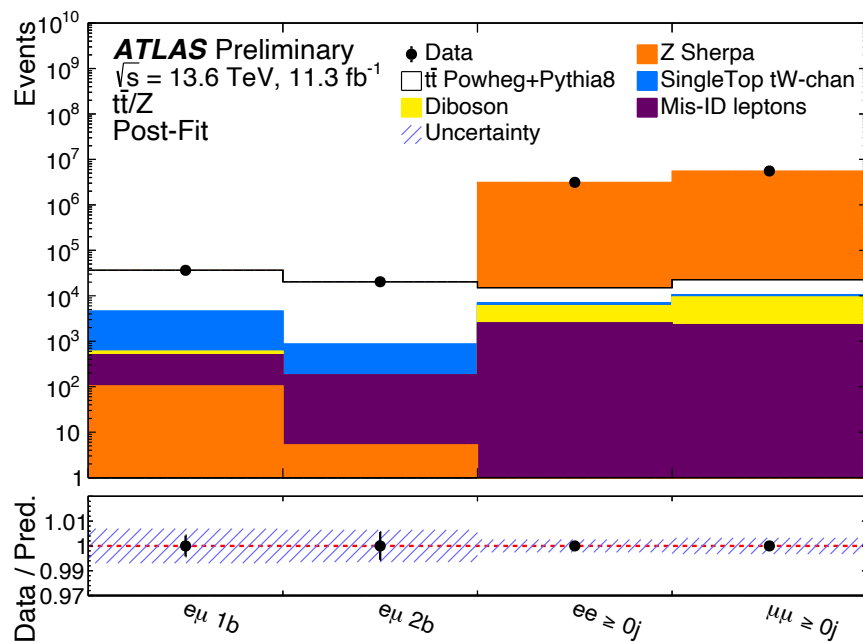
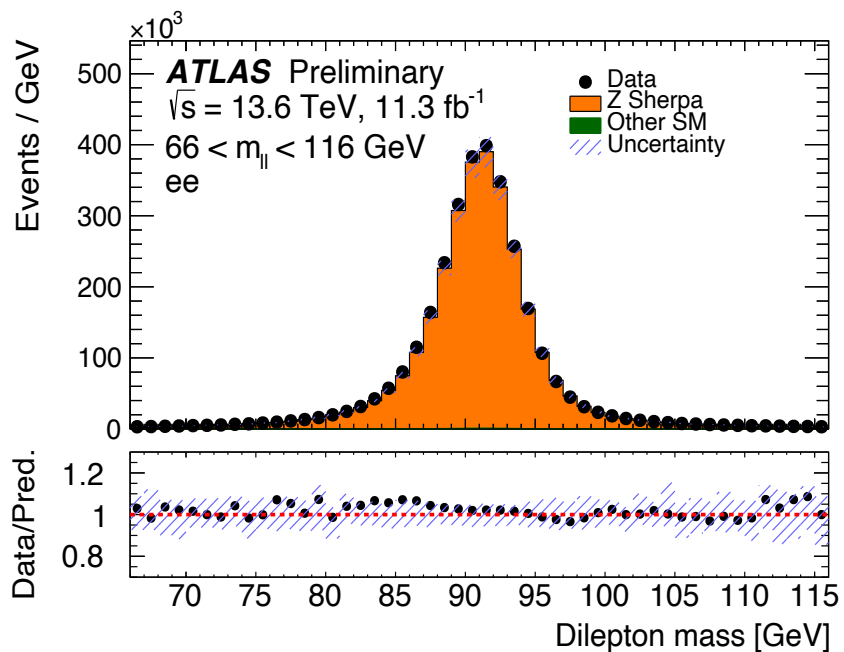


MOTIVATION:

- An increase of $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ by about 12% is expected from 13 TeV and 13.6 TeV.
- The ratio $R_{t\bar{t}/Z}$ has a significant sensitivity to the gluon-to-quark PDF.

Analysis strategy:

- $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$: Opposite-sign electron-muon pairs selected: $N_{1(2)}$ events with 1(2) b-tagged jets.
- $\sigma_{Z \rightarrow \ell\ell}^{fid.}$: same flavor pairs (ee/ $\mu\mu$) with opposite electric charge, $p_T^\ell > 27$ GeV, $|\eta^\ell| < 2.5$ and $66 < M_{\ell\ell} < 116$ GeV



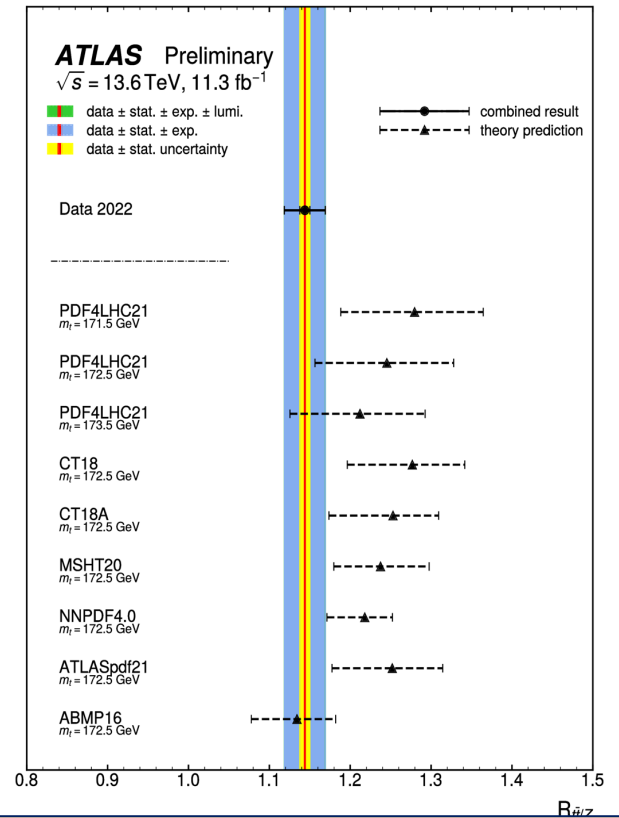
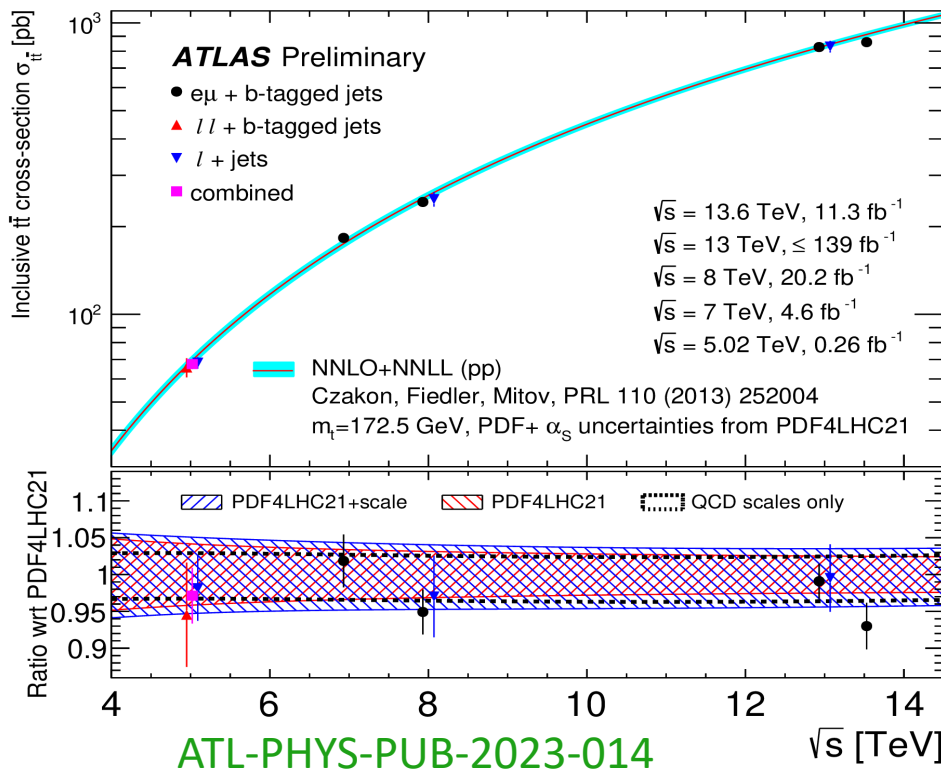
Profile-likelihood technique with ee/ $\mu\mu$ /e μ events:

- First fit: free parameters $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$, $\sigma_{Z \rightarrow \ell\ell}^{fid.}$ and ϵ_b ,
- Second fit: $R_{t\bar{t}/Z}$, $\sigma_{Z \rightarrow \ell\ell}^{fid.}$ and ϵ_b .

$$N_1 = L\sigma_{t\bar{t}}\epsilon_{e\mu}2\epsilon_b(1 - C_b\epsilon_b) + N_1^{bkg},$$

$$N_2 = L\sigma_{t\bar{t}}\epsilon_{e\mu}C_b\epsilon_b^2 + N_2^{bkg},$$





$\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{inclusive} = 859 \pm 4(stat) \pm 22(syst) \pm 19(lumi)pb$
 $\sigma_{Z \rightarrow \ell\ell}^{fid.} = 751 \pm 0.3(stat) \pm 15(syst) \pm 17(lumi)pb$
 $\epsilon_b = 0.548 \pm 0.002(stat) \pm 0.004(syst) \pm 0.001(lumi)$
 $R_{t\bar{t}/Z} = 1.144 \pm 0.006(stat) \pm 0.022(syst) \pm 0.003(lumi)pb$

$\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{theory} = 924_{-40}^{+32} (scale + PDF)pb$
 $\sigma_{Z \rightarrow \ell\ell}^{fid.theory} = 741 \pm 15(scale + PDF)pb$
 $\epsilon_b = 0.545$
 $R_{t\bar{t}/Z} = 1.245 \pm 0.076(scale + PDF)pb$
PDF set: PDF4LHC21

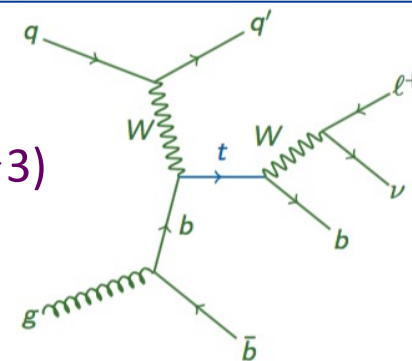
- New Run 3 $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ measurement slightly lower than SM predictions, compatible within 1.3 σ $\Delta\sigma_{t\bar{t}}/\sigma_{t\bar{t}} [\%]=3.4$
- $\sigma_{Z \rightarrow \ell\ell}^{fid.}$ agrees within 1 σ and $R_{t\bar{t}/Z}$ different level of compatibility depending on the PDF set.



t-channel signature:

- 1 isolated and high- p_T lepton.
- 1 high- p_T and forward $|\eta|$ jet (light jet).
- 1 high- p_T and central $|\eta|$ jet (b-jet).
- Missing transverse momentum from the neutrino.

t-channel: LO 4FS ($2 \rightarrow 3$)

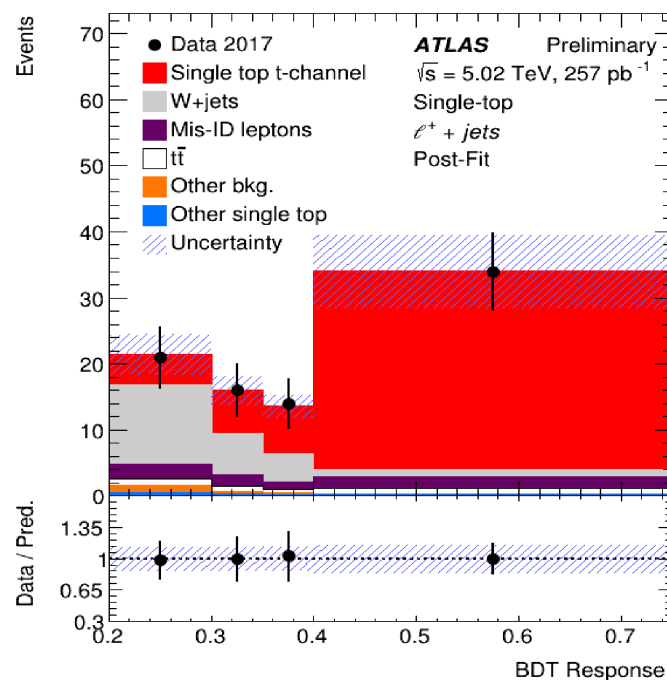


MOTIVATION:

- Studies of unitarity of CKM matrix.
- Test higher-order corrections in QCD theoretical predictions.
- Constrains on PDFs.

Analysis strategy:

- BDT to enhance signal to background separation.
 - H_T most discriminant variable.
- Profile maximum-likelihood fit on observed BDT distribution in two samples: $\ell^+ \ell^-$
- Main backgrounds: W+jets, misidentified leptons.
- Main systematics: signal modelling and mis-ID lepton background

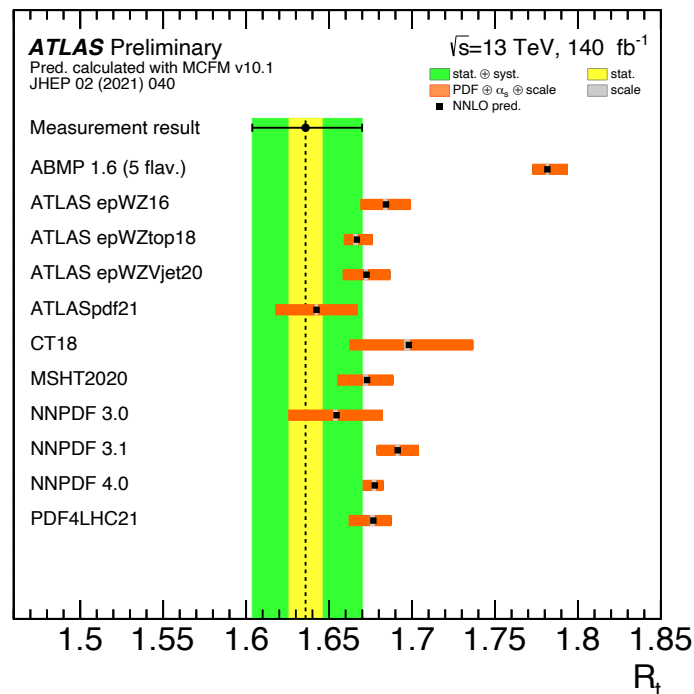
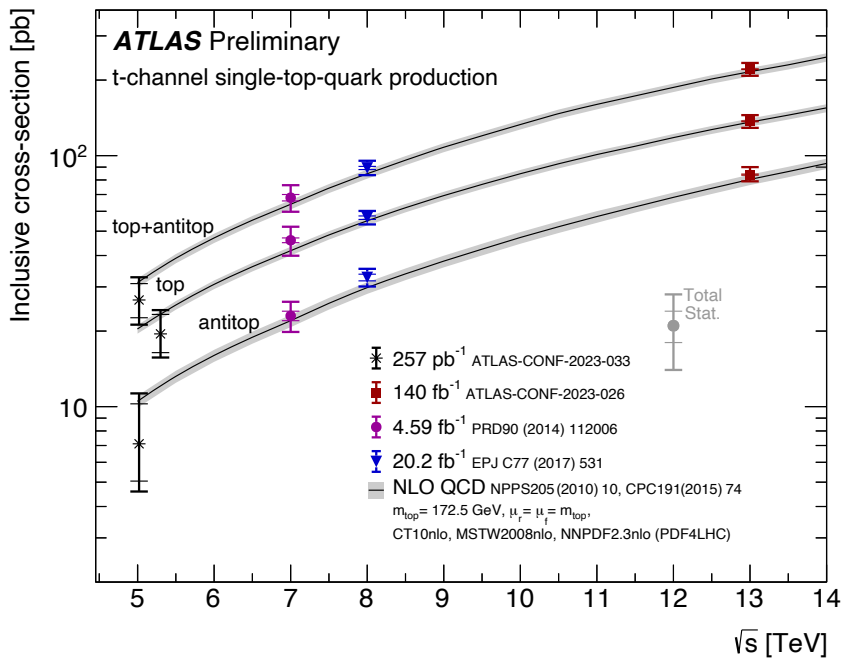


$$\sqrt{s} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}: \sigma(tq) = 19.5^{+3.8}_{-3.1}(\text{stat})^{+2.9}_{-2.2}(\text{syst}) \text{ pb} \quad \sigma(\bar{t}q) = 7.1^{+3.2}_{-2.1}(\text{stat})^{+2.8}_{-1.5}(\text{syst}) \text{ pb}$$

$$\sigma(tq + \bar{t}q) = 26.6^{+4.3}_{-4.0}(\text{stat})^{+4.4}_{-3.6}(\text{syst}) \text{ pb} \quad \delta\sigma(tq + \bar{t}q)/\sigma(tq + \bar{t}q)[\%] = 22$$

$$R_t = \sigma(tq)/\sigma(\bar{t}q) = 2.74^{+1.44}_{-0.83}(\text{stat})^{+2.8}_{-1.5}(\text{syst})$$

- Similar measurement as 5.02 TeV, but NN instead of BDT.
- Very different background composition w.r.t 5.02 TeV: $t\bar{t}$ and W +HF are dominant.
- Main systematics: signal modelling, b-tagging and multijet background.

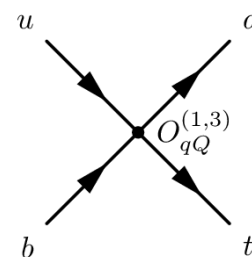


$$\sqrt{s} = 13\text{ TeV}: \sigma(tq) = 137 \pm 8\text{ pb} \quad \sigma(\bar{t}q) = 84^{+6}_{-5}\text{ pb}$$

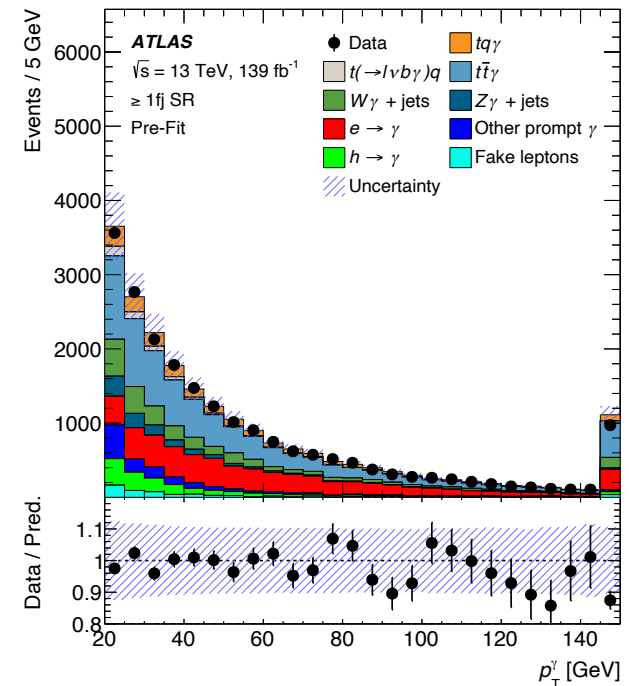
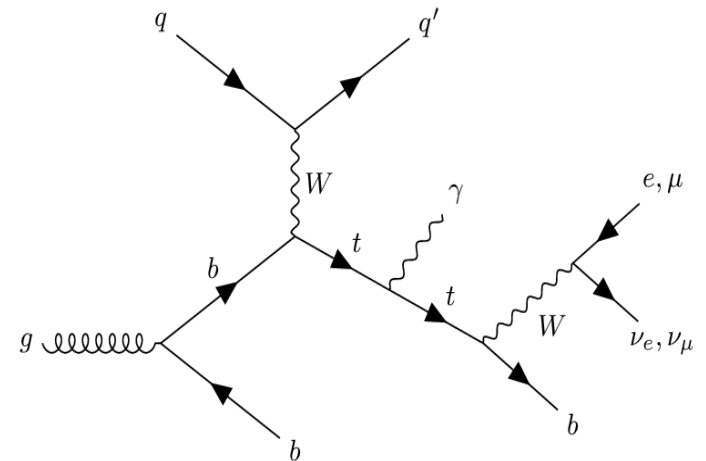
$$\sigma(tq + \bar{t}q) = 221 \pm 13\text{ pb}, \delta\sigma(tq + \bar{t}q)/\sigma(tq + \bar{t}q)[\%] = 5\%$$

$$R_t = \sigma(tq)/\sigma(\bar{t}q) = 1.636^{+0.036}_{-0.034}$$

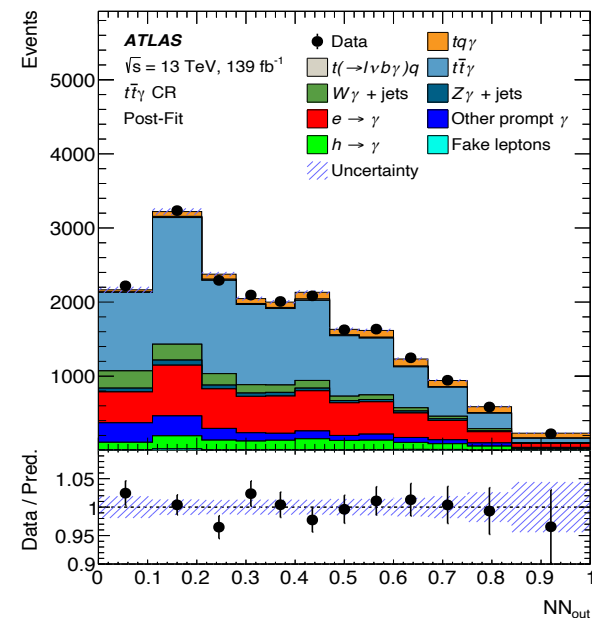
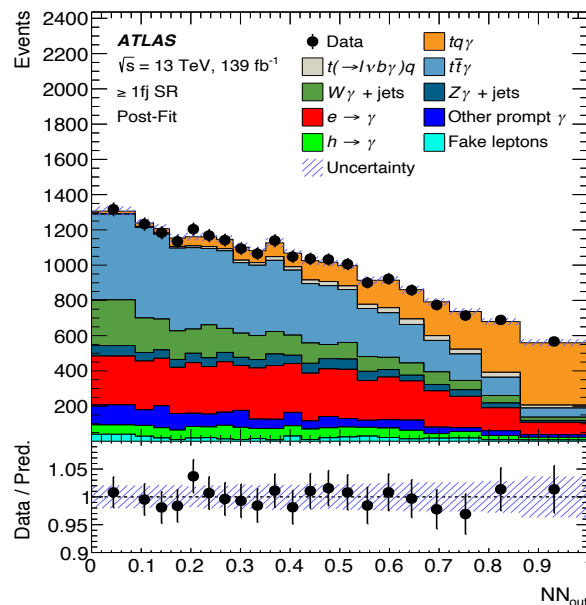
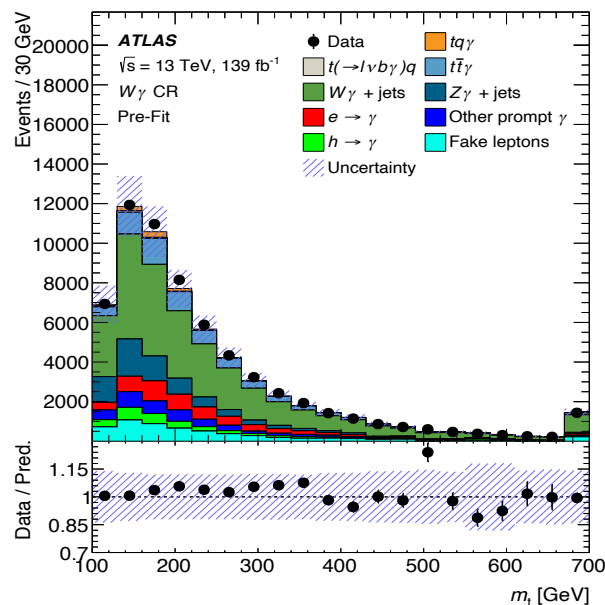
EFT: Limits to the strength of a 4-quark operator: $-0.25 < C_{qQ}^{(1,3)} < 0.12$



- MOTIVATION:** Complete top quark's electroweak couplings probed so far with observed processes:
 - Top pair production $t\bar{t}(H, W, Z, \gamma)$ and single top $t(W, Z)$.
 - Constraining non-resonant contributions from physics beyond the SM parameterized with SMEFT.
 - Most recent analysis: [JHEP 02 \(2022\) 032](#) and [JHEP 02 \(2020\) 131](#).
- $\sigma_{tq\gamma}$ measured in fiducial phase space at parton level
 - Excluding $t(\rightarrow \ell\nu b\gamma)q$.
 - Signature: t-channel production with a photon.
 - High $p_T(e/\mu)$ + high $p_T \gamma$ + E_{miss}^T + one tight b-jet
 - Two SR: with zero and one forward jet.
 - Modelled with MadGraph5_AMC@NLO
 - Main backgrounds:
 - Prompt photons: $t\bar{t}\gamma$ and $W\gamma$:
 - MC estimate normalized to data in CRs
 - CR($t\bar{t}\gamma$: additional loose b-jet)
 - CR($W\gamma$: additional loose b-jet, no tight b-jets)
 - Fake photons: $(e/\text{hadron} \rightarrow \gamma)$
 - MC estimate adjusted with data-driven methods.



- ANALYSIS STRATEGY:** Profile-likelihood fit simultaneously in 2 SR and 2 CR:
 - NN outputs in $0f_j(\geq 1f_j)$ SRs and $t\bar{t}\gamma$ CR.
 - Inclusive event yields in $W\gamma$ CR.
- Main uncertainties: $\pm 5.5\%$ $t\bar{t}\gamma$ modeling, $\pm 3.5\%$ MC statistics for backgrounds, $\pm 1.9\%$ ($t(\rightarrow \ell\nu b\gamma)q$) $\pm 2.4\%$ ($t\bar{t}$)

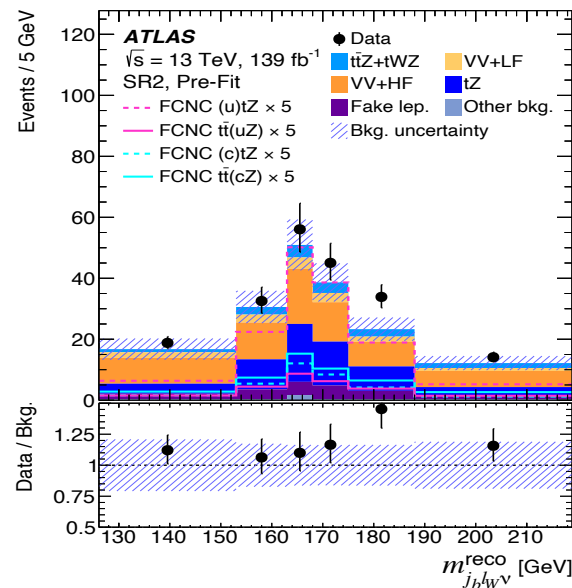
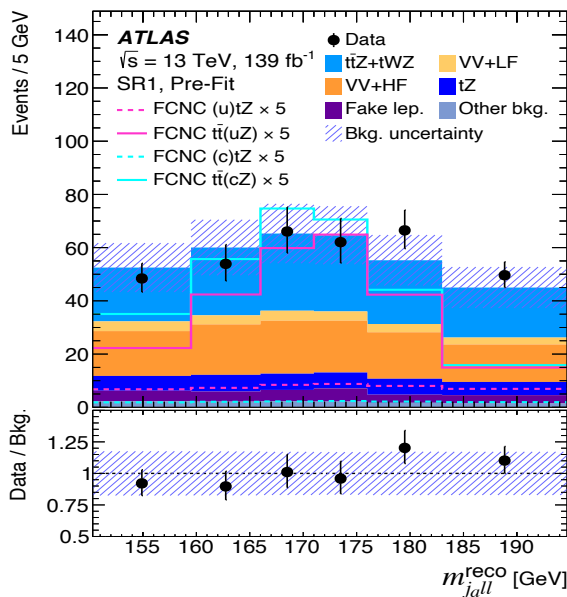
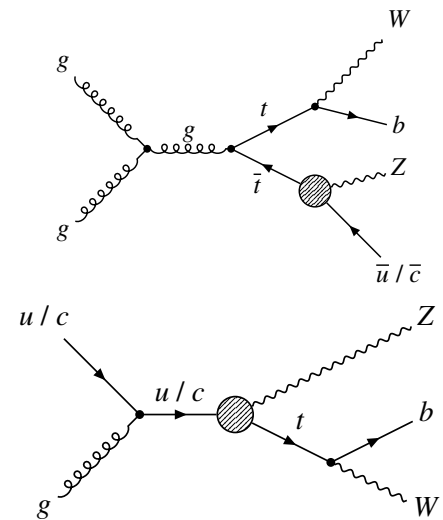


- Observed(expected) significance of $tq\gamma$ signal: 9.3σ (6.8σ):**
 - First experimental evidence by CMS: 4.4σ observed (3σ expected)
 - Both experiments measured 30%-40% higher cross sections.

Fiducial ($\gamma, p_{T>20} \text{ GeV}$) parton level $\sigma_{tq\gamma} \times \mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow \ell\nu b) = 688 \pm 23(\text{stat.})_{-71}^{+75}(\text{syst.}) \text{ fb}$

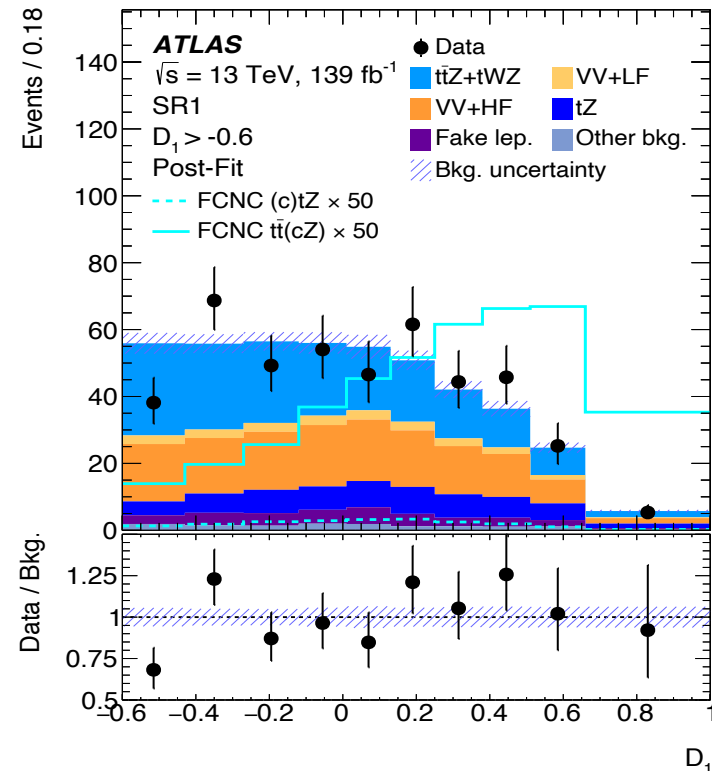
In agreement with SM NLO prediction: $\sigma_{tq\gamma} \times \mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow \ell\nu b) = 515_{-42}^{+36} \text{ fb}$

- FCNC tZq highly suppressed in the SM by the GIM mechanism, order 10^{-14}
- Beyond SM extensions: up to order 10^{-4}
 - Quark-singlet model ([Phys. Rev. D 67 \(2003\) 035003](#))
 - 2HDM ([Phys. Rev. D 55 \(1997\) 3156](#))
- Main backgrounds: di-boson, $t\bar{t}Z$ and tZ production.
- Final states with 3 leptons (e/μ) or 1 OSSF pair with $|m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z| < 15$ GeV:
 - SR1 (at least 2 jets, at least 1 b-jet)
 - Top pair production with $t \rightarrow Zq$: sensitive to both FCNC tZu and tZc
 - SR2 (1 b-jet, up to one additional jet)
 - FCNC in s-cannel single top production: $gq \rightarrow tZ$ more sensitive to tZu
- Kinematics of top quark candidates reconstructed by minimizing χ^2 functions with mass constraints.

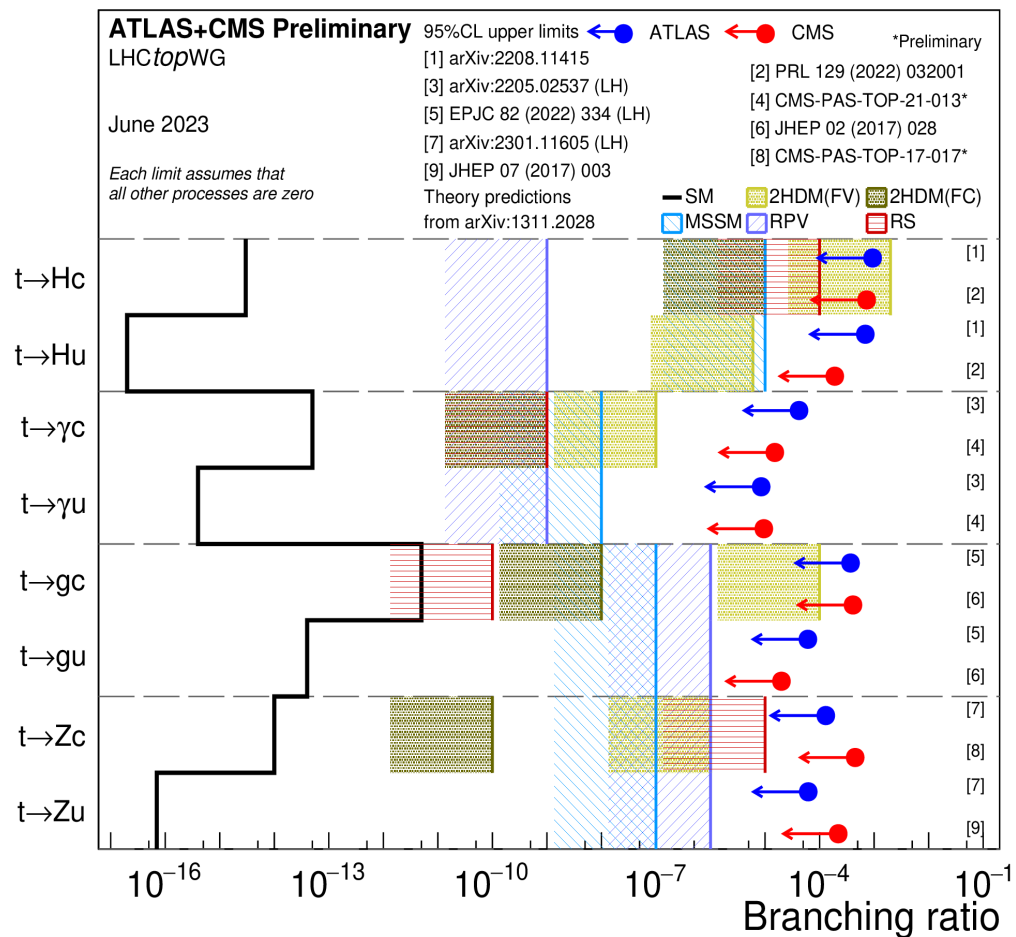


- Simultaneous binned profile likelihood fit to the data in SRs and CRs.
 - Binned distributions of two GBDT discriminants.
- Main systematics:
 - SM tZ background normalization and diboson modelling uncertainties.

Observable	Vertex	Coupling	Observed	Expected
SRs+CRs				
$\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow Zq)$	tZu	LH	6.2×10^{-5}	$4.9^{+2.1}_{-1.4} \times 10^{-5}$
$\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow Zq)$	tZu	RH	6.6×10^{-5}	$5.1^{+2.1}_{-1.4} \times 10^{-5}$
$\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow Zq)$	tZc	LH	13×10^{-5}	$11^{+5}_{-3} \times 10^{-5}$
$\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow Zq)$	tZc	RH	12×10^{-5}	$10^{+4}_{-3} \times 10^{-5}$
$ C_{uW}^{(13)*} $ and $ C_{uB}^{(13)*} $	tZu	LH	0.15	$0.13^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$
$ C_{uW}^{(31)} $ and $ C_{uB}^{(31)} $	tZu	RH	0.16	$0.14^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$
$ C_{uW}^{(23)*} $ and $ C_{uB}^{(23)*} $	tZc	LH	0.22	$0.20^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$
$ C_{uW}^{(32)} $ and $ C_{uB}^{(32)} $	tZc	RH	0.21	$0.19^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$
SR1+CRs				
$\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow Zq)$	tZu	LH	9.7×10^{-5}	$8.6^{+3.6}_{-2.4} \times 10^{-5}$
$\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow Zq)$	tZu	RH	9.5×10^{-5}	$8.2^{+3.4}_{-2.3} \times 10^{-5}$
SR2+CRs				
$\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow Zq)$	tZu	LH	7.8×10^{-5}	$6.1^{+2.7}_{-1.7} \times 10^{-5}$
$\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow Zq)$	tZu	RH	9.0×10^{-5}	$6.6^{+2.9}_{-1.8} \times 10^{-5}$



- Current limits entering in the sensitivity region to FCNC models from a warped extra dimension: **order 10^{-5}**
 - K. Agashe et al. [Phys. Rev. D 75 \(2007\) 015002](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0608208)



K. Agashe et al., [arXiv:1311.2028](https://arxiv.org/abs/1311.2028)

Process	SM	2HDM(FV)	2HDM(FC)	MSSM	RPV	RS
$t \rightarrow Zu$	7×10^{-17}	–	–	$\leq 10^{-7}$	$\leq 10^{-6}$	–
$t \rightarrow Zc$	1×10^{-14}	$\leq 10^{-6}$	$\leq 10^{-10}$	$\leq 10^{-7}$	$\leq 10^{-6}$	$\leq 10^{-5}$
$t \rightarrow gu$	4×10^{-14}	–	–	$\leq 10^{-7}$	$\leq 10^{-6}$	–
$t \rightarrow gc$	5×10^{-12}	$\leq 10^{-4}$	$\leq 10^{-8}$	$\leq 10^{-7}$	$\leq 10^{-6}$	$\leq 10^{-10}$
$t \rightarrow \gamma u$	4×10^{-16}	–	–	$\leq 10^{-8}$	$\leq 10^{-9}$	–
$t \rightarrow \gamma c$	5×10^{-14}	$\leq 10^{-7}$	$\leq 10^{-9}$	$\leq 10^{-8}$	$\leq 10^{-9}$	$\leq 10^{-9}$
$t \rightarrow hu$	2×10^{-17}	6×10^{-6}	–	$\leq 10^{-5}$	$\leq 10^{-9}$	–
$t \rightarrow hc$	3×10^{-15}	2×10^{-3}	$\leq 10^{-5}$	$\leq 10^{-5}$	$\leq 10^{-9}$	$\leq 10^{-4}$

arXiv:2301.11605	Observed	Expected
$t \rightarrow Zc$	$13(L)/12(R) \times 10^{-5}$	$11^{+5}_{-3}(L)/10^{+4}_{-3}(R) \times 10^{-5}$
$t \rightarrow Zu$	$6.2(L)/6.6(R) \times 10^{-5}$	$4.9^{+2.1}_{-1.4}(L)/5.1^{+2.1}_{-1.4}(R) \times 10^{-5}$

- The large top quark samples in the LHC Run 2 datasets have allowed new measurements of $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ and the observation of new rare top production processes.
 - Most precise inclusive $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ measurement to date with $\Delta\sigma_{t\bar{t}}/\sigma_{t\bar{t}} [\%]=1.8$ in agreement with the NNLO+NNLL prediction.
 - No MC model can described all measured differential distributions.
 - Normalized differential $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ measurements as a function of jet substructure variables indicate the need for improvements in models used to predict the substructure of boosted top-quark jets.
 - New early Run 3 $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ measurement in agreement with the prediction at 13.6 TeV, current precision limited by luminosity uncertainty and lepton efficiency uncertainties.

$$\Delta\sigma_{t\bar{t}}/\sigma_{t\bar{t}} [\%]=3.4$$
 - Observation of $tq\gamma$ with observed(expected) significance : 9.3σ (6.8σ).
- Recent searches have explored FCNC top-quark interactions tZq .
 - Multivariate methods and targeting not only FCNC decays but also FCNC production modes have allowed improving previous LHC limits.
 - Data in good agreement with the SM expectation: no evidence of an FCNC signal.

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