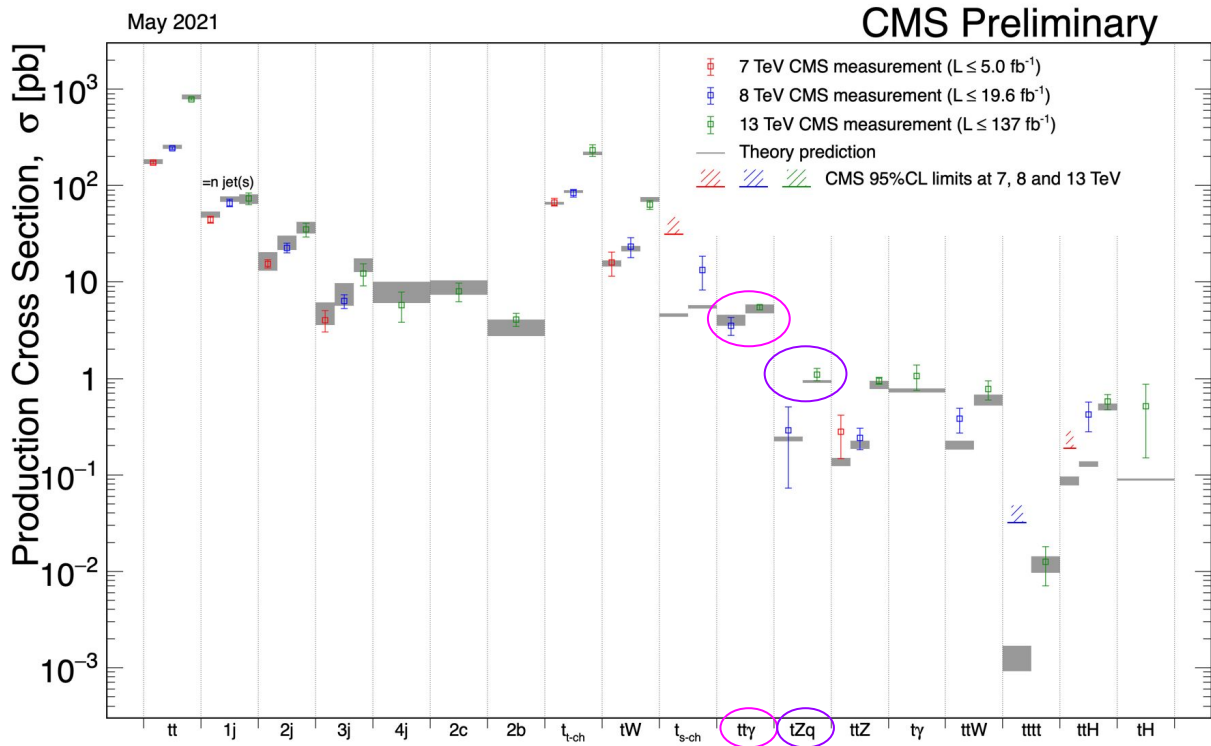


## New $t\bar{t}\gamma$ and $tZq$ measurements in CMS

Luka Lambrecht,  
PhD at Ghent University



EOS equinox meeting,  
09 September 2021



Interesting new results in top quark physics at CMS:

- $tt\gamma$ : top quark pair + photon
- $tZq$ : single top quark + Z boson

For both:

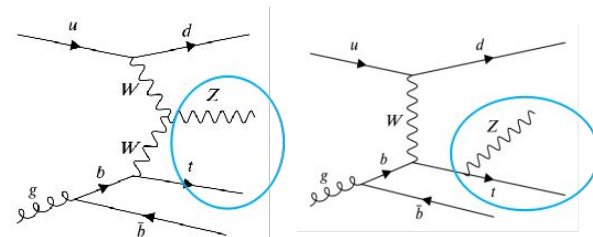
- Improved inclusive cross-section measurement!
- First/improved differential cross-section measurements!

All results at: <http://cern.ch/go/pNj7>

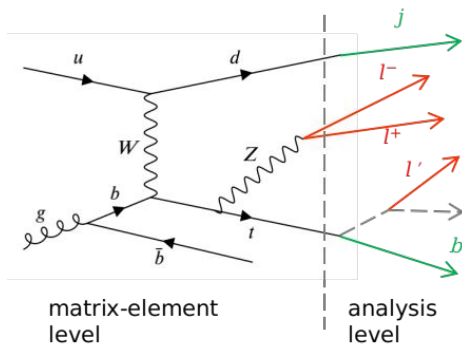
# tZq: introduction

tZq is a probe for new physics:

- sensitive to: **ttZ- and WWZ couplings**, top quark **polarization**, **proton PDFs** via top quark-antiquark ratio.
- impacted by **FCNC** or more generally in the **SMEFT phenomenology** [1].



Earlier tZq measurements by CMS and ATLAS [2-4]: → **precision: ±15%**



- 3 **leptons** (electrons or muons)
  - selection based on **new lepton MVA**.
- ≥ 2 **jets** (pt > 25 GeV, eta < 5), ≥ 1 b-jet.

- **Z boson** candidate: OSSF lepton pair with ... < 15 GeV.
- **top quark** candidate and accompanying b jet: reconstructed analytically.
- **recoiling jet**: leading non-b-tagged jet, tends to be forward.

background from **nonprompt leptons estimated from data** and uncertainty constrained in dedicated nonprompt control region.

multiclass **NN** or **BDT** to distinguish tZq from backgrounds.

# tZq: inclusive results

## Inclusive tZq cross-section:

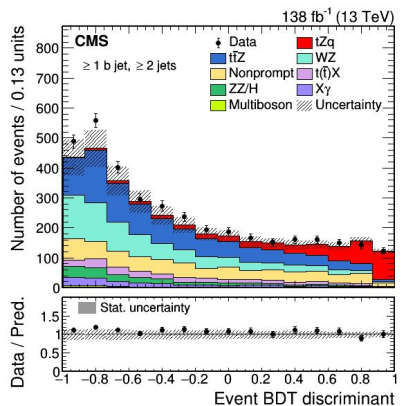
$$\sigma_{tZq} = 87.9^{+7.5}_{-7.3} (\text{stat.})^{+7.3}_{-6.0} (\text{syst.}) \text{ fb}$$

→ total uncertainty of  $\pm 11\%$

## Improvement of about 25%

w.r.t. earlier measurements, due to

- larger data set.
- larger measurement region.
- improved lepton MVA.
- constraining nonprompt background (dominant in earlier measurements).



## Spin asymmetry:

$$A_l = 0.58^{+0.15}_{-0.16} (\text{stat}) \pm 0.06 (\text{syst.})$$

compared to prediction:

$$A_l^{4FS} = 0.437^{+0.004}_{-0.003}$$

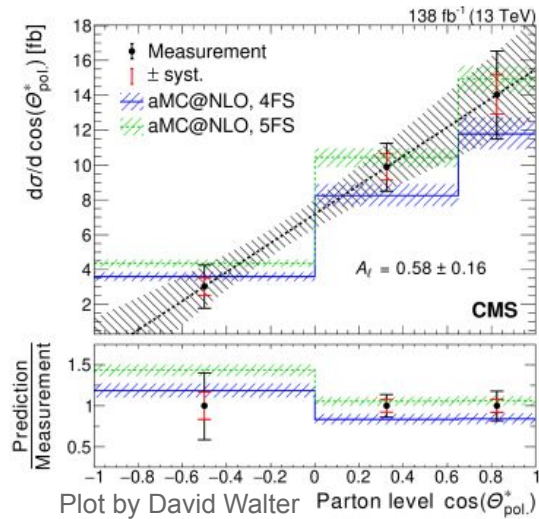
$$A_l^{5FS} = 0.454^{+0.004}_{-0.005}$$

## Partial tZq cross-sections:

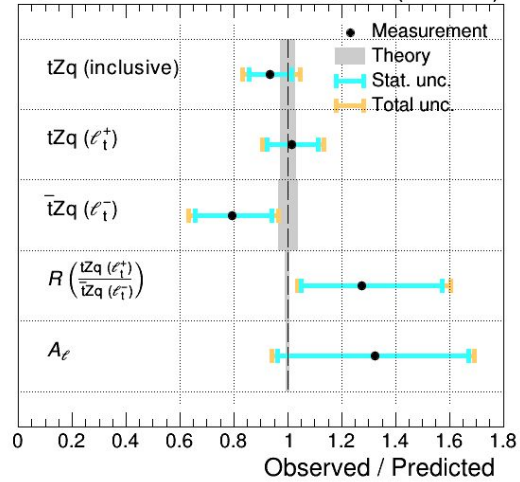
$$\sigma_{tZq}(l_t^+) = 62.2^{+5.9}_{-5.7} (\text{stat})^{+4.4}_{-3.7} (\text{syst.}) \text{ fb}$$

$$\sigma_{tZq}(l_t^-) = 26.1^{+4.8}_{-4.6} (\text{stat.})^{+3.0}_{-2.8} (\text{syst.}) \text{ fb}$$

$$R = 2.37^{+0.56}_{-0.42} (\text{stat.})^{+0.27}_{-0.13} (\text{syst.}) \text{ fb}$$



## CMS 138 fb<sup>-1</sup> (13 TeV)





# tZq: differential results

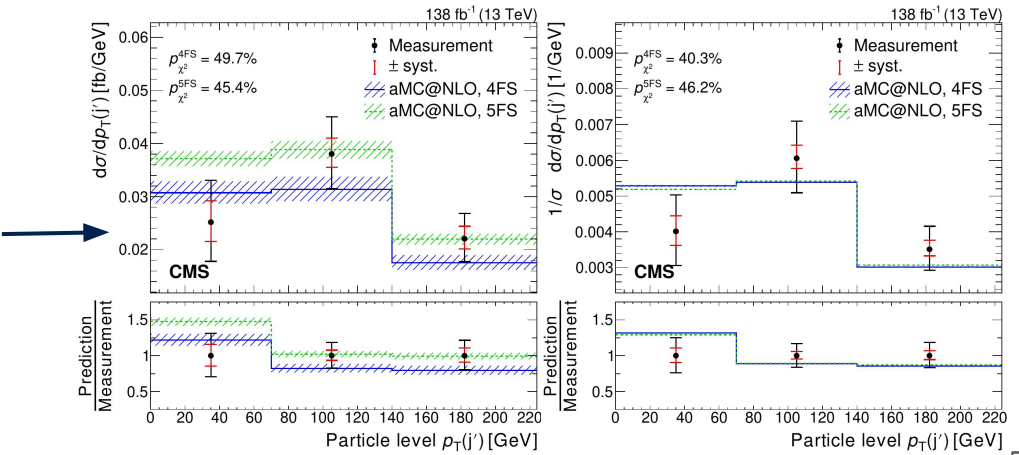
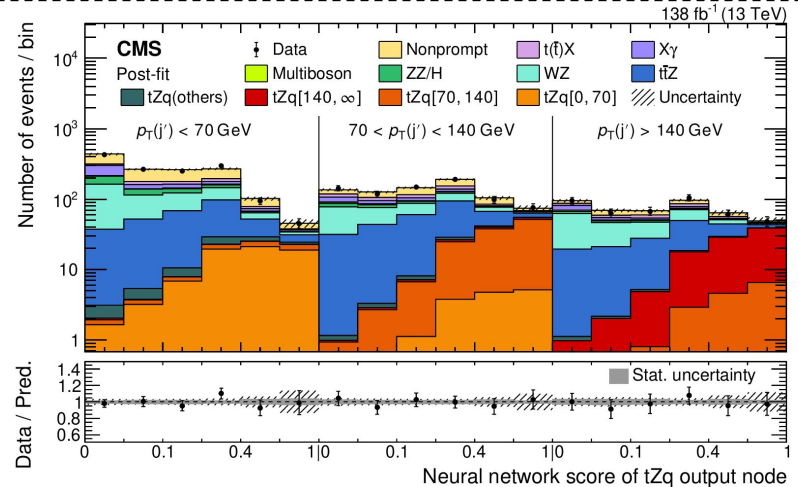
**Goal:** obtain distributions of jet, lepton, Z boson and top quark kinematics with **detector effects removed**.

**Method:** **maximum likelihood based unfolding**.

- Split signal sample into generator bins (colours),
- Split signal region in corresponding detector bins.
- Perform simultaneous fit on MVA output for all signals / signal regions.

**Results:**

- Observe **good agreement** between measurement and prediction.
- Compared to **both 4FS and 5FS prediction**.  
→no clear preference with current amount of data.
- Other variables: see public note (see conclusion) or backup!



## This analysis contains:

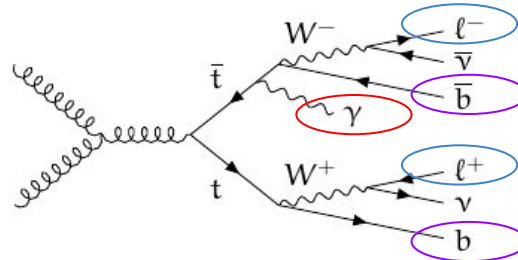
- full RunII data
- Inclusive and differential  $t\bar{t}\gamma$  cross section measurement in the dilepton channel (all 3 channels: ee, e $\mu$ ,  $\mu\mu$ )
- EFT interpretation + combination with  $\ell$ +jets EFT result

## Motivation:

- Probe top-photon coupling ~ constrain EFT operators  $c_{tZ}$  and  $c_{tZI}$
- stepping stone towards further measurements, e.g.  $t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$  and its ratio to  $t\bar{t}\gamma$

## Event selection:

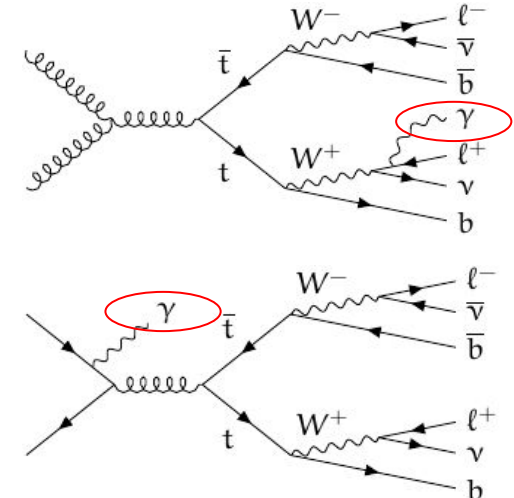
Variable	Requirement
$p_T^{\text{leading}}(\ell)$	> 25 GeV
$p_T^{\text{trailing}}(\ell)$	> 15 GeV
$N_{\text{leptons}}$	= 2
Charge sum of the leptons	= 0
$p_T(\gamma)$	> 20 GeV
$N_\gamma$	= 1
$N_\gamma$ looser ID	= 1
$N_b$	$\geq 1$
$m_{\ell\ell}$	> 20 GeV
$ m_{\ell\ell} - m_Z $	> 15 GeV (SF channels)
$ m_{\ell\ell\gamma} - m_Z $	> 15 GeV (SF channels)



## Signal definition:

$t\bar{t}$  production in fully leptonic decay mode + photon radiated from

- initial-state particles,
- top quarks,
- their decay products.



# $t\bar{t}\gamma$ : backgrounds

## Backgrounds with prompt photon:

- $Z\gamma$
- Single- $t+\gamma$  (single top samples)
- Other+ $\gamma$  (e.g. multi-boson,  $W$ +jets,  $t\bar{t}H$ ,  $t\bar{t}t$ )

→ estimated using simulation.

prompt: match gen photon with leptonic/boson/quark origin.

## Backgrounds with nonprompt photon:

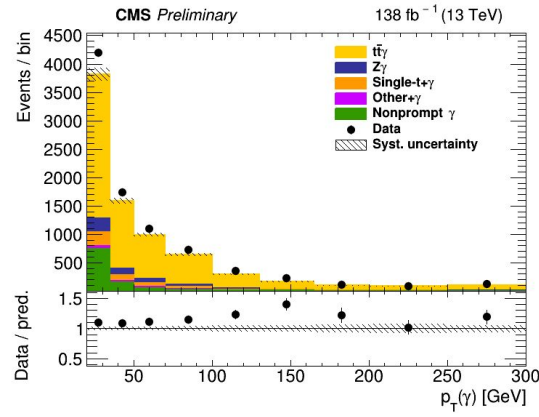
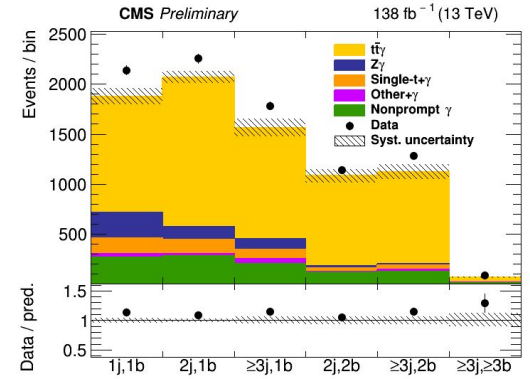
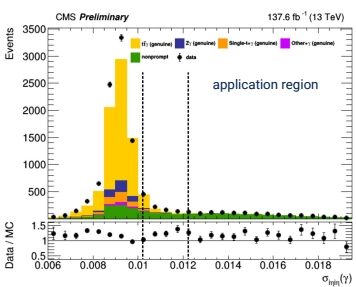
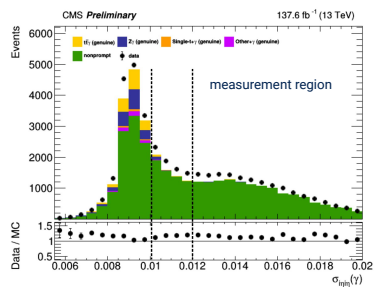
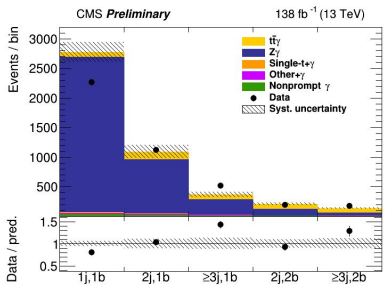
- basically all... (mostly  $DY$  and  $t\bar{t}$ )

→ estimated from data, together ~9% of signal region.

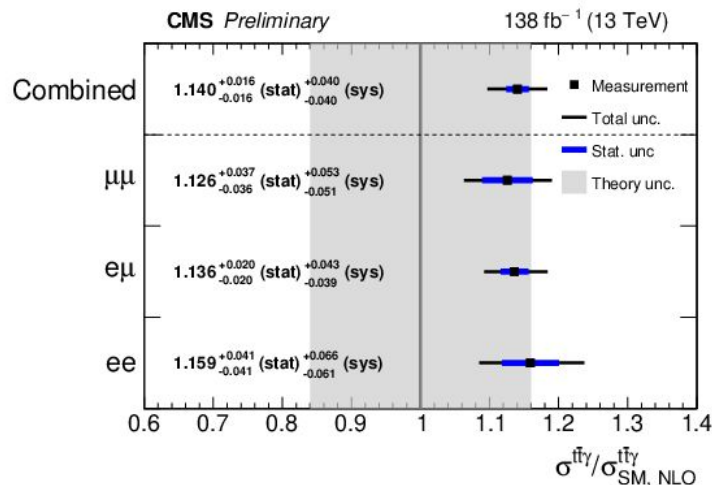
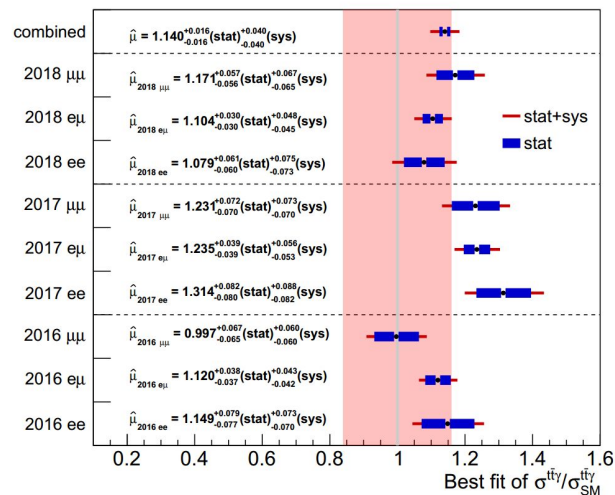
nonprompt: radiated by mesons, faked by jets or electrons, or from pileup.

$Z\gamma$  mismodeling observed, derived corrections in dedicated control region!

Nonprompt background estimated with ABCD method.



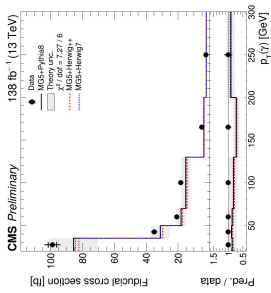
- Binned maximum likelihood fit.
- Fit to  $\text{photon } p_T$  distribution, in 3 channels, histograms kept separate between years.
- Observed results:
  - Signal strength  $> 1$ , but within the current theoretical uncertainties.
  - Total experimental uncertainty  $< 4\%$ , most precise measurement to date.
  - Experimental uncertainty  $\ll$  theoretical uncertainty.
  - Consistent between channels and years.



# $t\bar{t}\gamma$ : differential results

**Goal:** obtain distributions of photon, lepton and jet kinematics with detector effects removed.

**Method:** explicit response matrix inversion.



Response matrix, containing

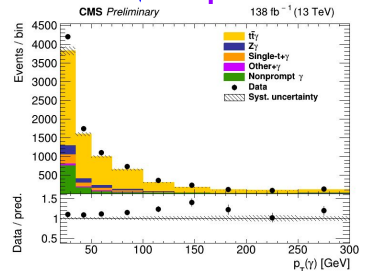
- detector inefficiencies,
- resolution effects, ...

true distribution

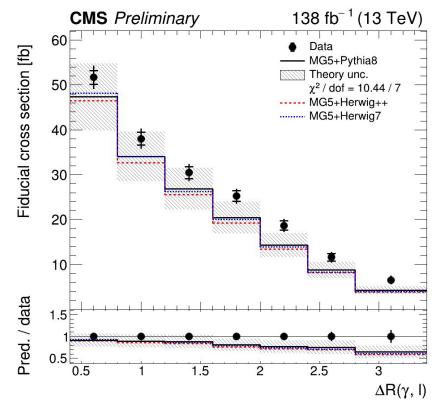
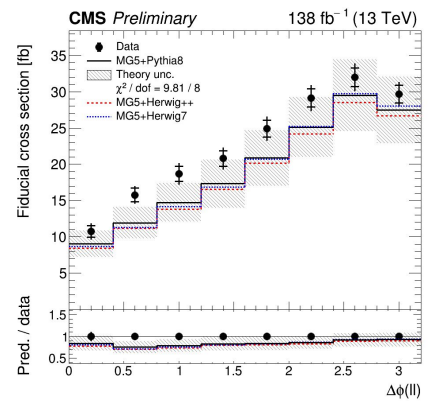
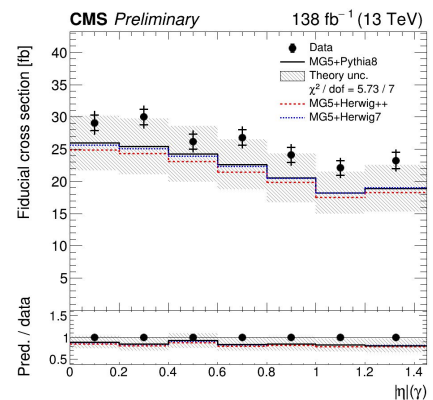
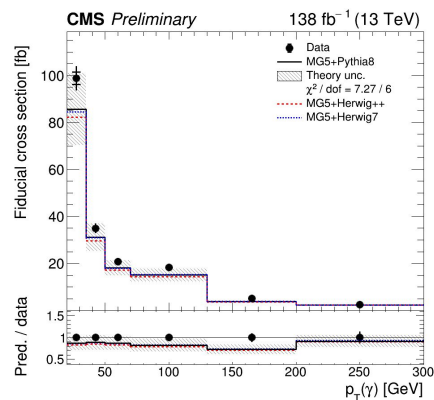
measurement

unfolding

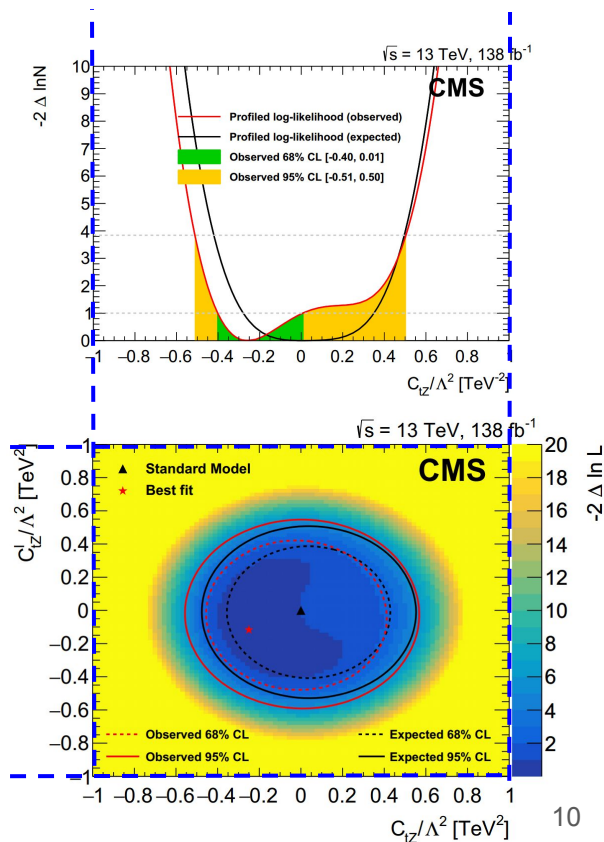
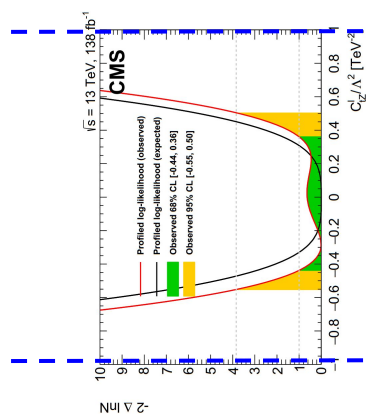
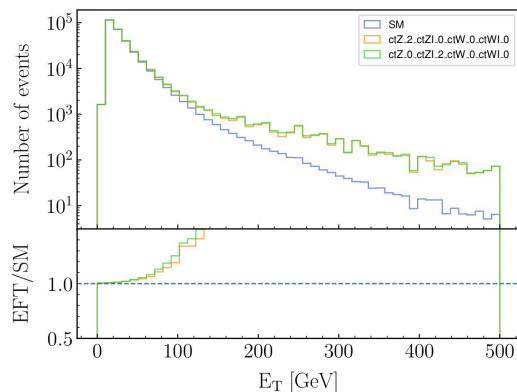
measured distribution

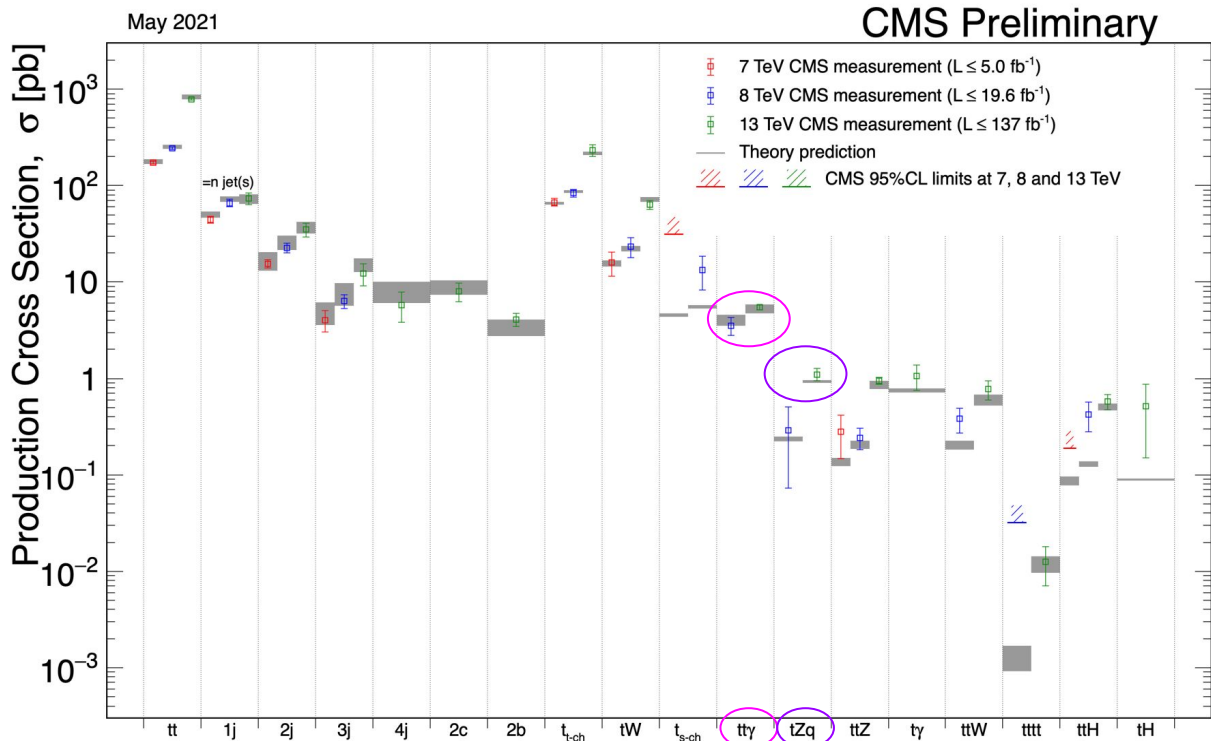


## Results:



- Modeling operator effects using gen-sample reweighting.
- Constraints from **profile likelihood scan** based fit
- Limits obtained using **differential photon  $p_T$**  information.
  - great signal-to-background separation towards tails
  - EFT effects affect mostly the tails  $\sim$  top radiated photons
- Relevant operators:  $c_{tZ}$  &  $c_{tZI}$
- Observed results:
  - SM result is contained within 68% confidence intervals.
  - Both in 2D fit as in 1D projections.
  - No clear indication of new physics yet...





All results at: <http://cern.ch/go/pNj7>

Most precise measurements of  $tt\gamma$  and  $tZq$  up to now.

Both inclusive and differential.

Important pieces in testing the full experimentally accessible range of SM predictions.

All results consistent with SM expectations.

Both papers in review process...

Links to preliminary results:  
[tZq PAS CDS record](#) (publicly available)  
[ttg CAD](#) (CMS internal only)

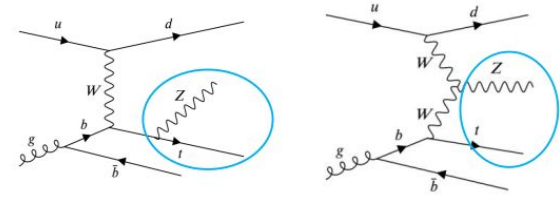
Backup: tZq



# Inclusive and differential $tZq$ (TOP-20-010)

$tZq$  is a probe for [new physics](#):

- sensitive to  $tZ$ - and  $WWZ$  couplings.
- sensitive to top quark polarization.
- sensitive to [proton PDFs](#) via top quark-antiquark ratio.
- impacted by [FCNC](#) or more generally in the [SMEFT](#) phenomenology [1].

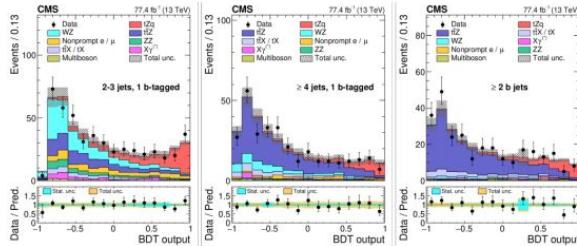


Earlier  $tZq$  measurements:

First evidence with 2016 data [2]

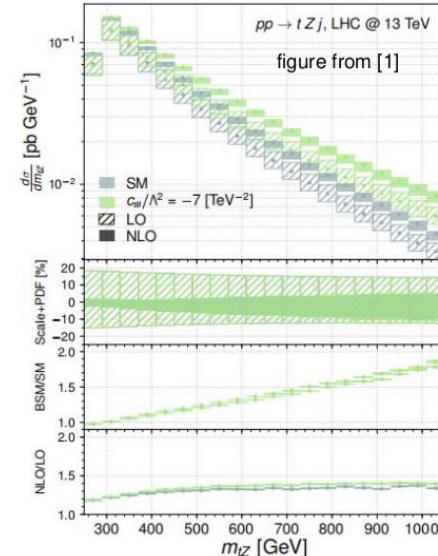
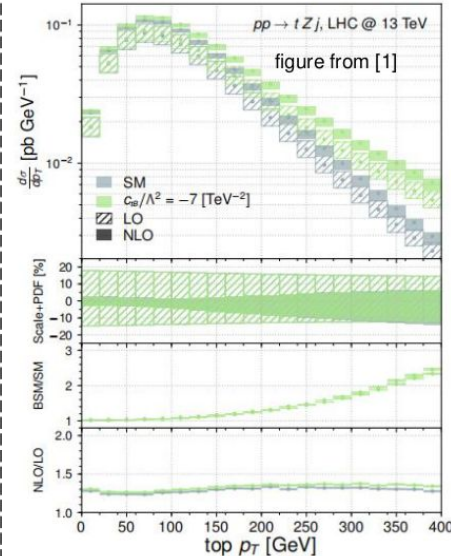
First observation with 2016+2017 data [3]

→ precision:  $\pm 14\text{-}15\%$

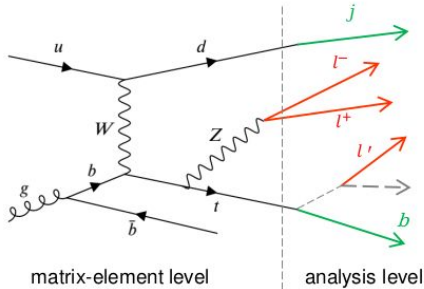


Observation at ATLAS with full Run II dataset [4]

→ precision:  $\pm 15\%$



# Inclusive and differential tZq (TOP-20-010)

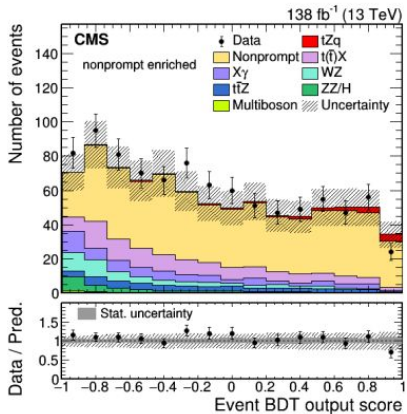


- 3 leptons (electrons or muons)
  - selection based on [new lepton MVA](#).
- 1 OSSF pair compatible with Z boson mass within 15 GeV.
- $\geq 2$  jets ( $p_T > 25$  GeV,  $|\eta| < 5$ ).
- $< 4$  central jets ( $|\eta| < 2.4$  (2016) /  $< 2.5$  (2017/2018)) (only in differential).
- $\geq 1$  b-jet (medium [deepFlavor](#) working point, central).

- Z boson candidate:
  - OSSF lepton pair with  $|m_Z - m_{ll}| < 15$  GeV.
- top quark candidate and accompanying b jet
  - reconstructed analytically using W boson and top quark mass constraints.
- recoiling jet
  - non b-tagged jet with highest  $p_T$ .
  - tends to be emitted in forward region of the detector.

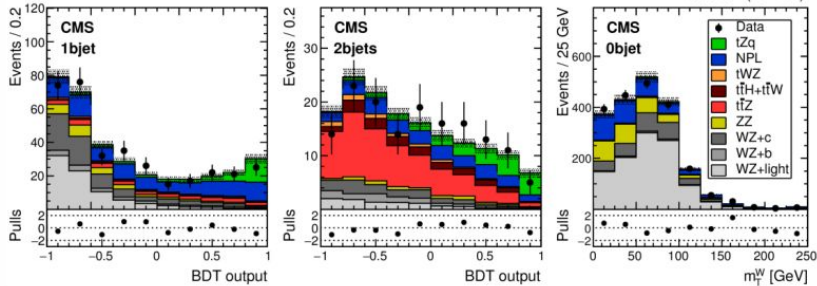
- background from nonprompt leptons estimated from data and uncertainty constrained in dedicated nonprompt control region.

- discriminating features based on presence of a hard forward jet, presence of at least one b-jet, charge asymmetry of the top quark etc.
- combined into MVA (multiclass NN or BDT) to distinguish tZq from WZ, ttZ and others.



# Inclusive and differential tZq (TOP-20-010)

First evidence with 2016 data [1]:

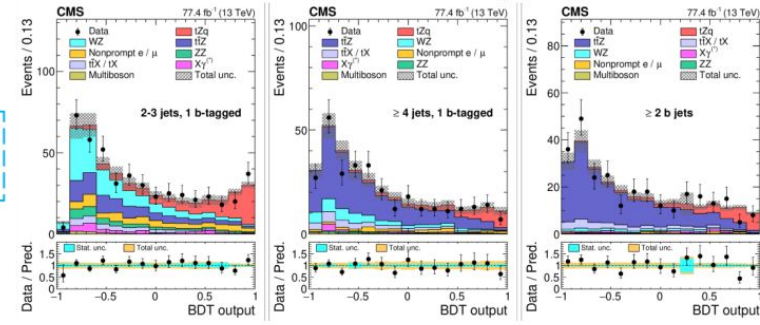


Standard model prediction:  
 $\sigma_{tZq}^{SM} = 94.2^{+1.9}_{-1.8}$  (scale)  $\pm 2.5$  (PDF) fb [1]

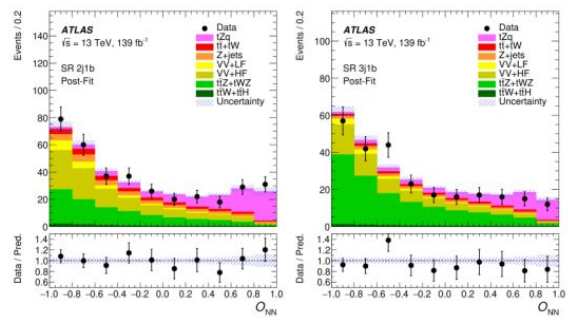
$\sigma_{tZq} = 123^{+33}_{-31}$  (stat.)  $^{+29}_{-23}$  (syst.) fb  
 significance = 3.7 (obs.) / 3.1 (exp.)

$\sigma_{tZq} = 111 \pm 13$  (stat.)  $^{+11}_{-9}$  (syst.) fb ( $\rightarrow$  precision:  $\pm 14-15\%$ )  
 significance = 8.2 (obs.) / 7.7 (exp.)

First observation with 2016+2017 data [2]:



Observation at ATLAS with full Run II dataset [3]:



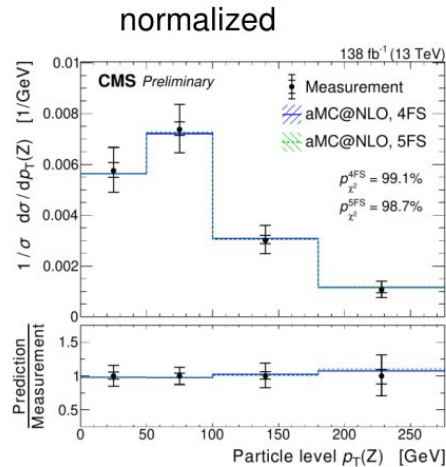
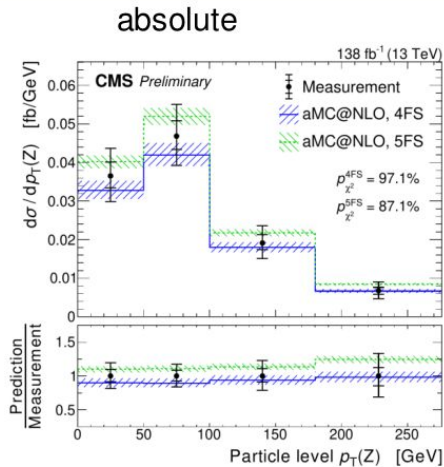
$\sigma_{tZq} = 97 \pm 13$  (stat.)  $\pm 7$  (syst.) fb ( $\rightarrow$  precision:  $\pm 15\%$ )

Significance  $\gg 5\sigma \rightarrow$  observation has been established.  
 Next challenges: improve precision on  $\sigma_{tZq}$ .  
 perform first differential measurement.

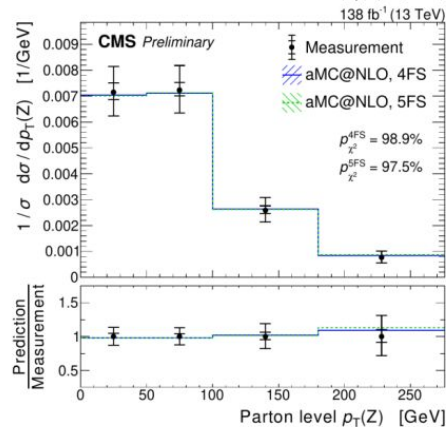
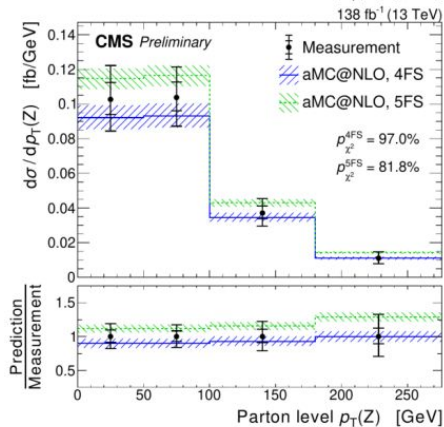


# Inclusive and differential tZq (TOP-20-010)

particle level



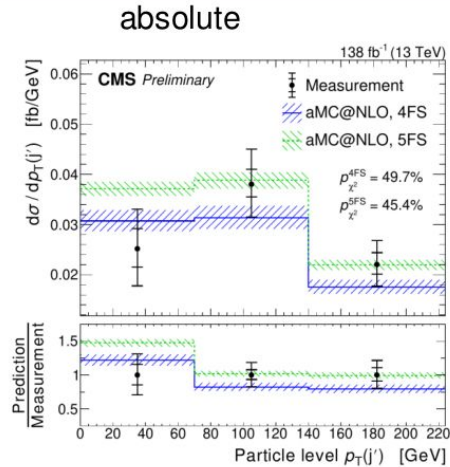
parton level



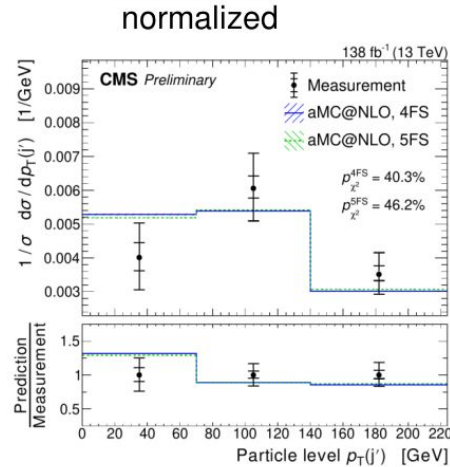
- In general, observe good agreement between measurement and prediction.
- Compared to both 4FS and 5FS prediction.
- Uncertainties down to 15% for purely leptonic observables, down to 25% for observables including jets.

# Inclusive and differential tZq (TOP-20-010)

particle level



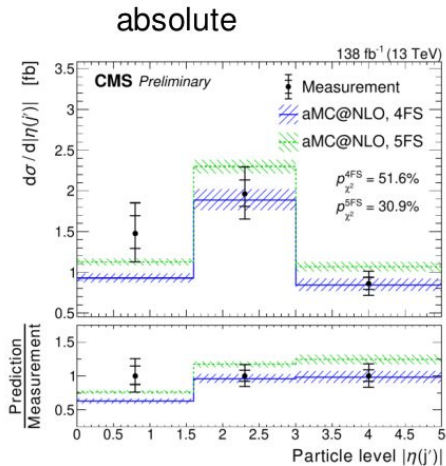
parton level



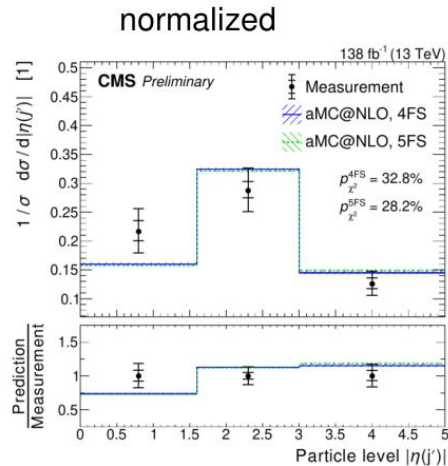
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# Inclusive and differential tZq (TOP-20-010)

particle level



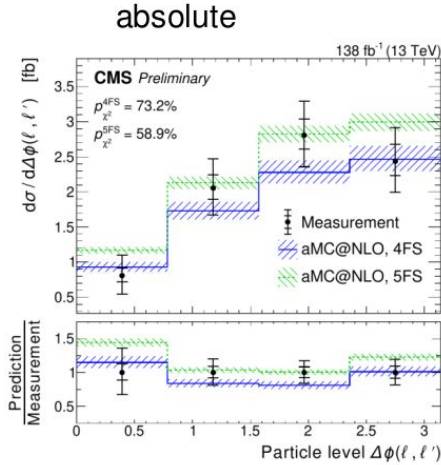
parton level



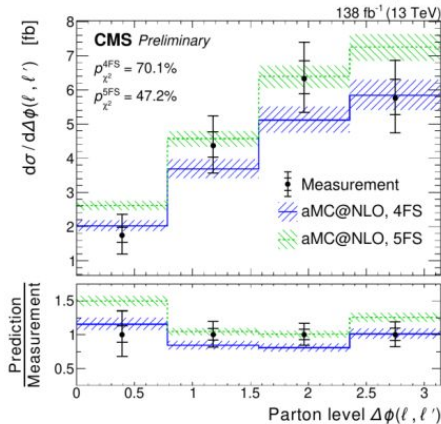
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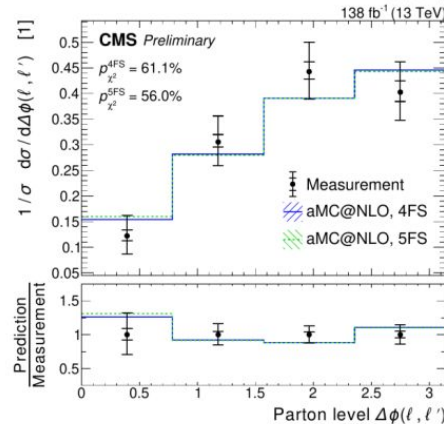
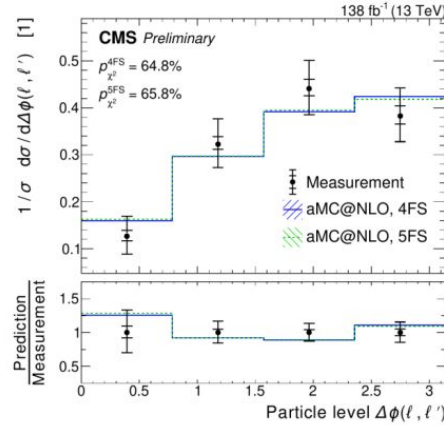
particle level



parton level



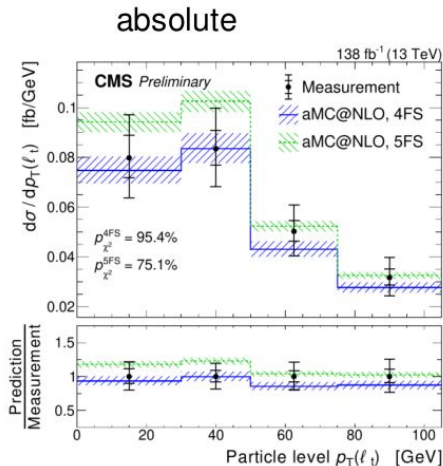
normalized



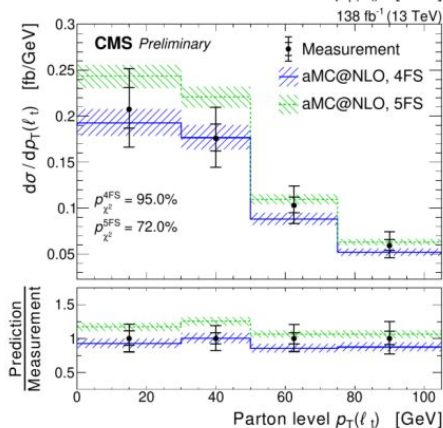
- In general, **observe good agreement** between measurement and prediction.
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# Inclusive and differential tZq (TOP-20-010)

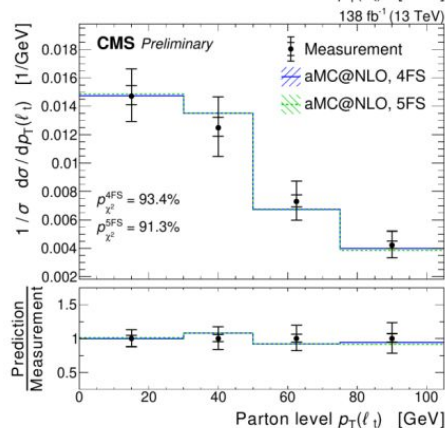
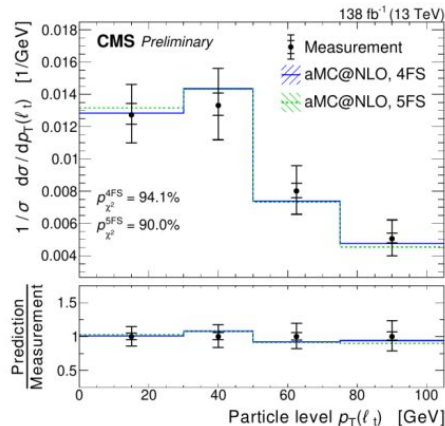
particle level



parton level



normalized

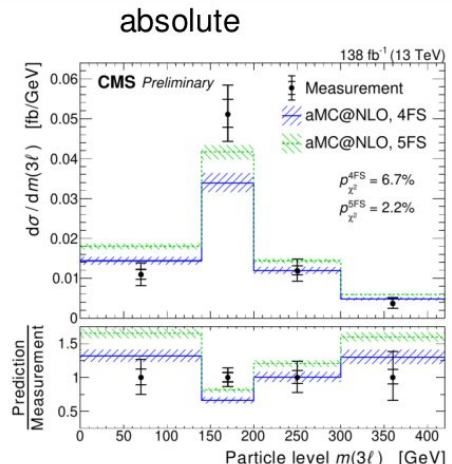


- In general, **observe good agreement** between measurement and prediction.
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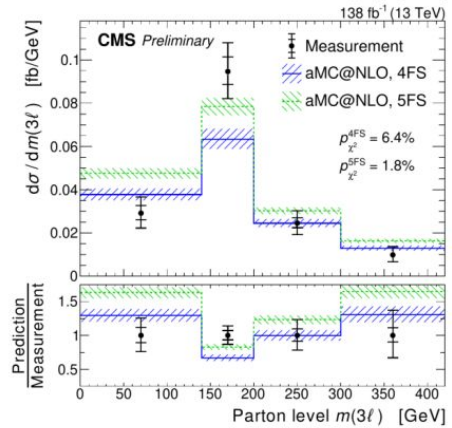


# Inclusive and differential tZq (TOP-20-010)

particle level



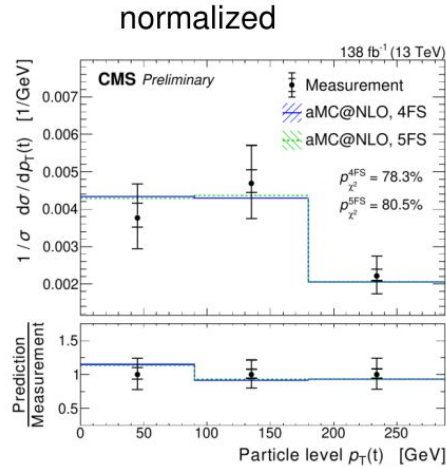
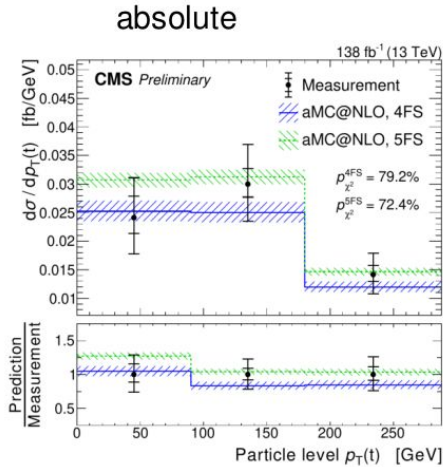
parton level



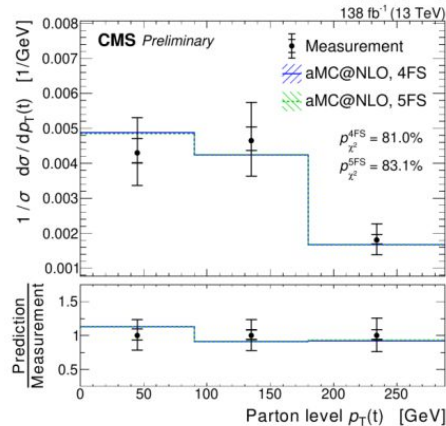
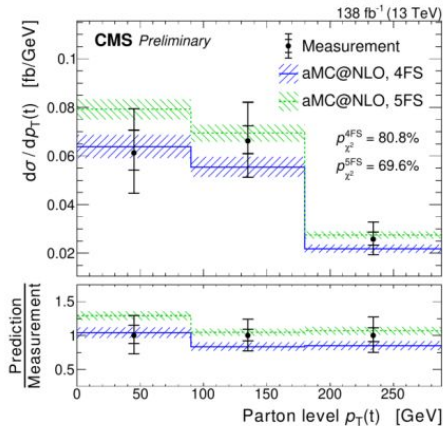
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# Inclusive and differential tZq (TOP-20-010)

particle level



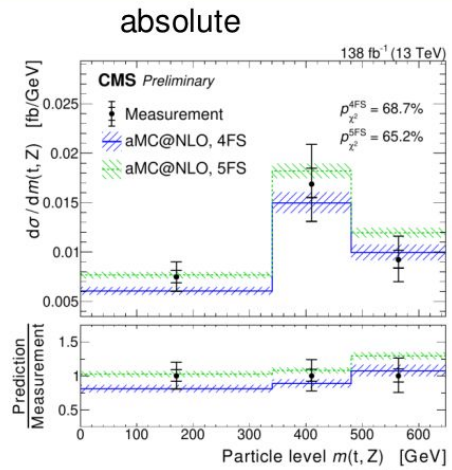
parton level



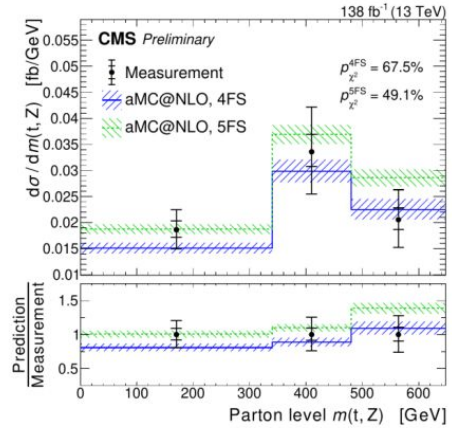
- In general, **observe good agreement** between measurement and prediction.
- Compared to both 4FS and 5FS prediction.
- Uncertainties down to 15% for purely leptonic observables, down to 25% for observables including jets.

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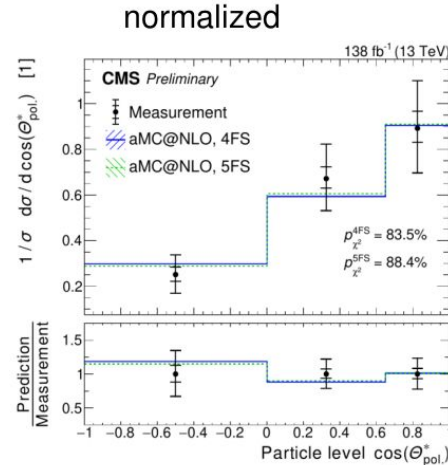
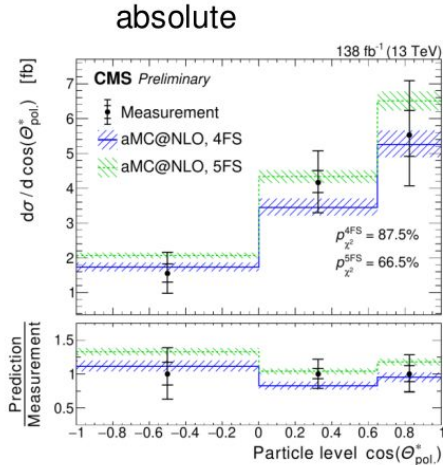
parton level



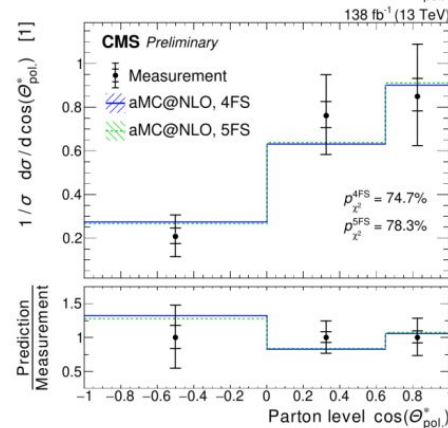
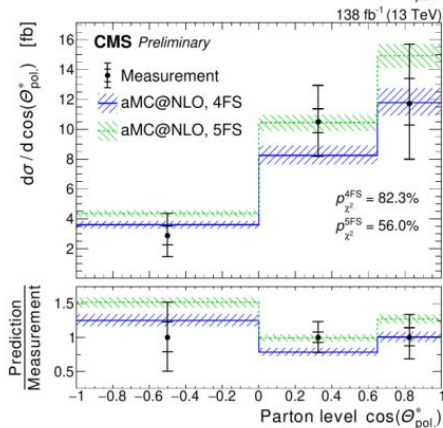
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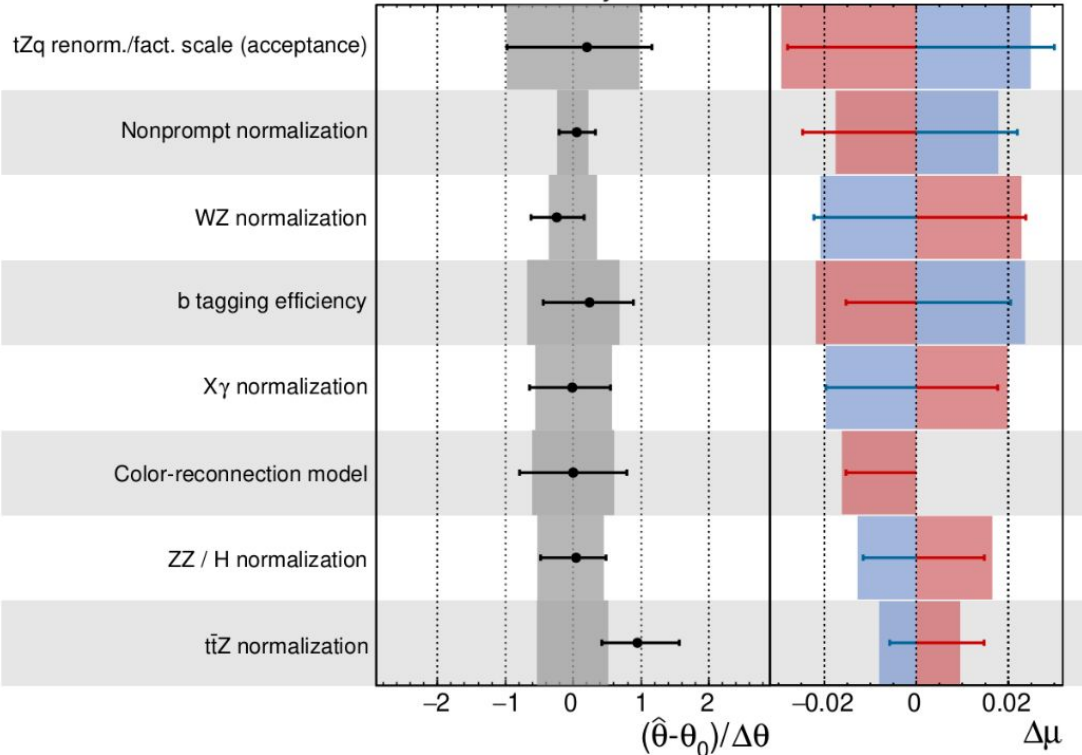
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# Inclusive and differential tZq (TOP-20-010)

- Fit constraint (obs.)    — +1 $\sigma$  impact (obs.)    — -1 $\sigma$  impact (obs.)
- Fit constraint (exp.)    ■ +1 $\sigma$  impact (exp.)    ■ -1 $\sigma$  impact (exp.)

**CMS** Preliminary



“Summary of the dominant systematic uncertainties affecting the inclusive tZq cross section measurement. The left column lists the sources of systematic uncertainty, treated as nuisance parameters in the fit, in order of importance. In the middle column, the black points with the horizontal bars show for each source the difference between the observed best-fit value ( $\hat{\theta}$ ) and the nominal value ( $\theta_{\perp}$ ), divided by the expected standard deviation ( $\Delta\theta$ ). The right column plots the change in the tZq signal strength  $\mu$  if a nuisance parameter is varied one standard deviation up (red), or down (blue). The gray, red and blue bands display the same quantity as their corresponding markers, but using a simulated data set where all nuisance parameters are set to their expected values.”

Backup:  $tt\gamma$

CMS result:

Fiducial cross section:

$$174.4 \pm 6.1 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 2.5 \text{ (stat.)}$$

Signal strength:

$$1.140 \pm 0.040 \text{ (syst.)} \pm 0.016 \text{ (stat.)}$$

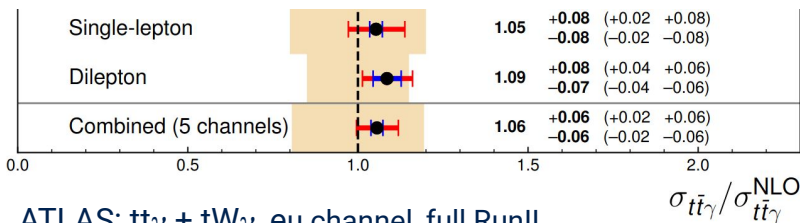
ATLAS results:

ATLAS:  $t\bar{t}\gamma$ , leptonic final states, 2015 + 2016 data

$$\sigma_{\text{fid}}^{\text{SL}} = 521 \pm 9 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 41 \text{ (sys.) fb and}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{fid}}^{\text{DL}} = 69 \pm 3 \text{ (stat.)} \pm 4 \text{ (sys.) fb,}$$

particle level



ATLAS:  $t\bar{t}\gamma + tW\gamma$ ,  $e\mu$  channel, full RunII

$$\sigma_{\text{fid}}(t\bar{t}\gamma) = 39.6^{+2.7}_{-2.3} \text{ fb} \text{ (= 6.3% total rel unc.)}$$

parton level

comparison to of systematic uncertainties:

Source	ATLAS	CMS
signal modeling	3.8%	1.7%
bkg. modeling	2.1%	1.5%
photons	1.9%	0.9%
luminosity	1.8%	1.7%
jets	1.6%	1.3%
pilup	1.3%	0.6%
leptons	1.1%	1.1%
MC statistics	0.4%	0.9%
MET	0.2%	-
prefiring	-	0.3%
Total	6.3%	3.6%

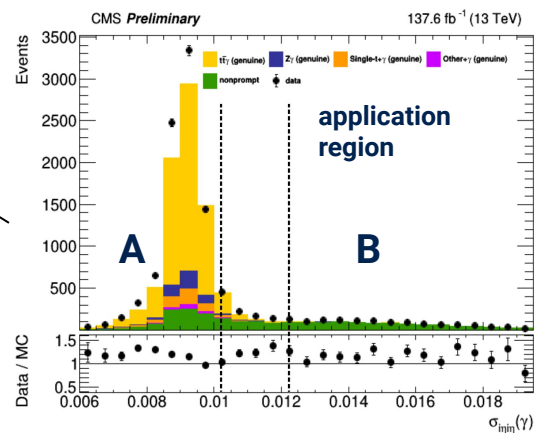
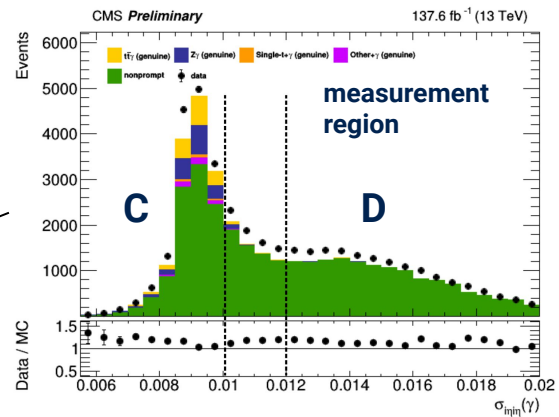
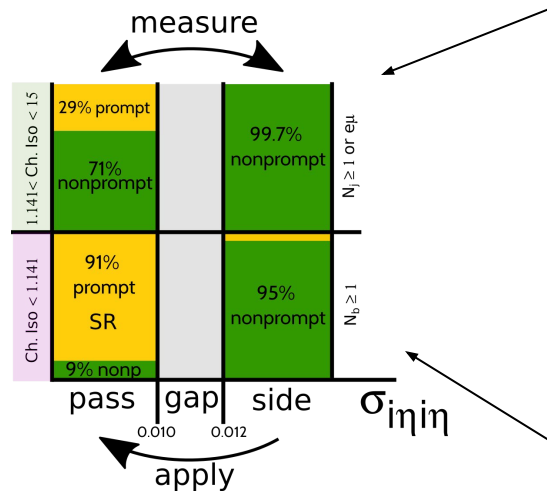
ATLAS paper: [arxiv:2007.06946](https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.06946)

$t\bar{t}\gamma + tW\gamma$  measurement in  $e\mu$  only, full RunII

# Nonprompt background estimation

- Parametrized ABCD method: relaxing  $\sigma_{\eta\eta}$  and Charged Iso. cuts from photon ID
- Ratio used: # passing  $\sigma_{\eta\eta}$  cut / # falling in sideband (leaving a gap)
  - coarse binning in photon  $p_T$  and  $\eta$
- Measurement region:
  - $N_j \geq 1$  in SF channels, no jet cut in  $e\mu$
  - $1.141 < \text{Ch. Iso} < 15$

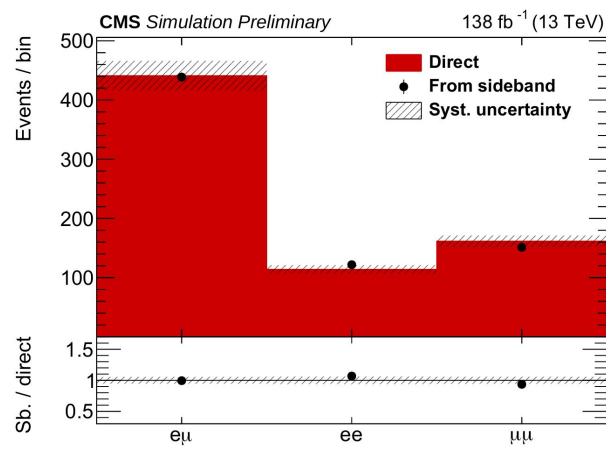
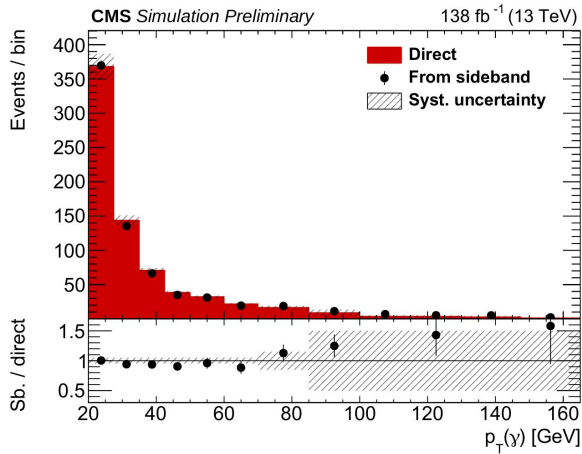
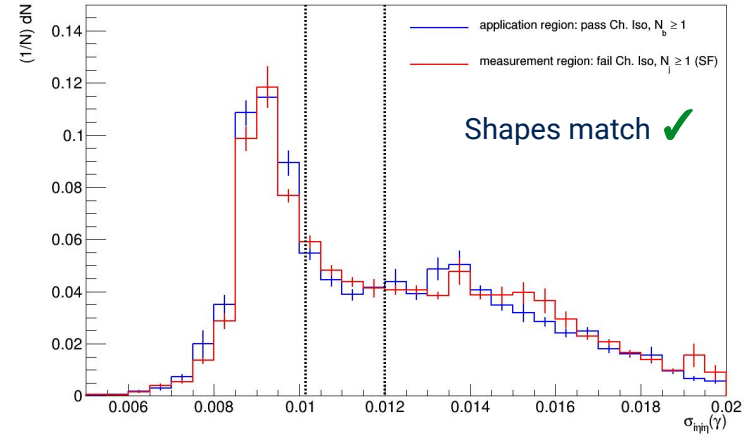
→ nonprompt photon dominated, from  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  &  $DY$





# Nonprompt background estimation: closure test

- MC based closure test: measure in  $t\bar{t}$  & DY (dominate C & D regions)
- Apply + check closure in  $t\bar{t}$  (dominates application region)
- check performed in 3 years combined
- checked channels,  $N_j/N_b$  distributions + all kinematic distributions used in unfolding
- overall great closure, except overprediction towards high photon  $p_T$
- systematics assigned: 5% flat + 50% for  $p_T > 80$  GeV (separately)
- in analysis/fits: statistical uncertainty  $\sim$  data stats sideband

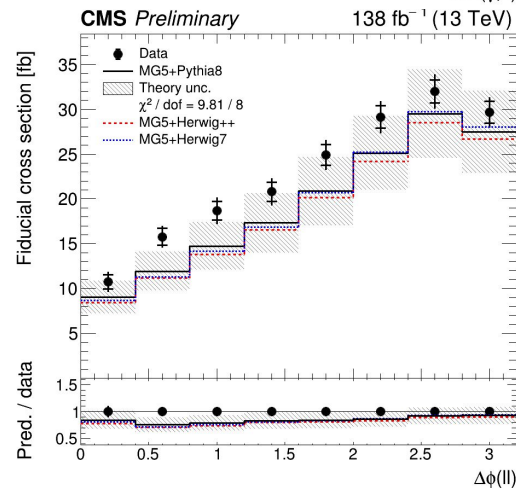
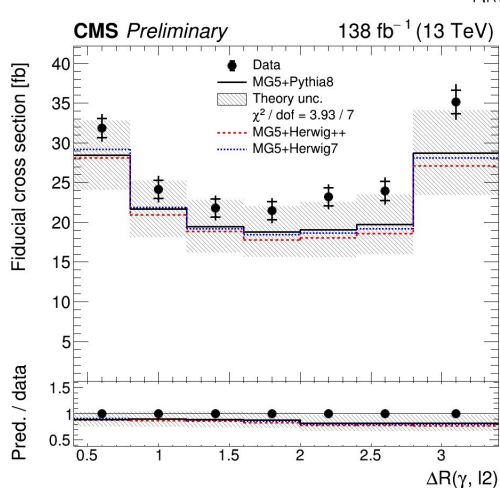
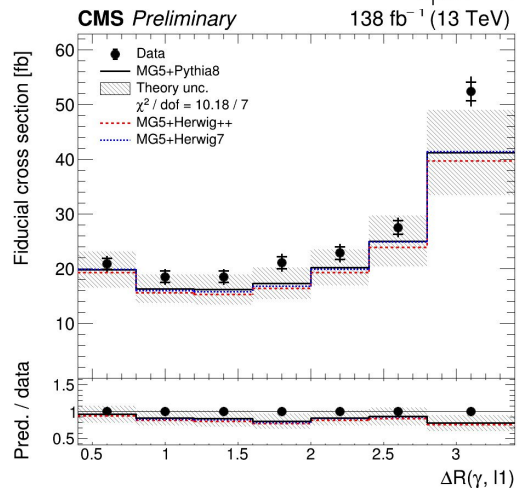
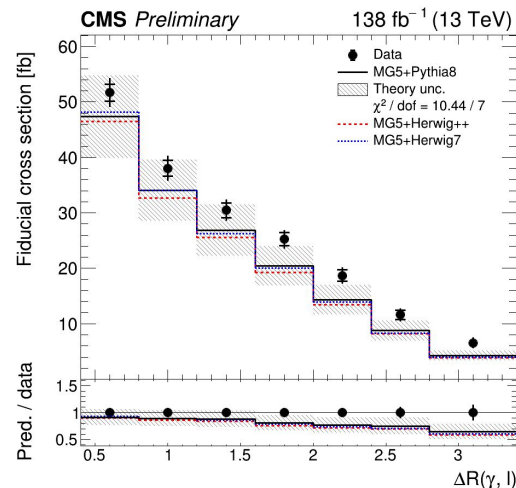
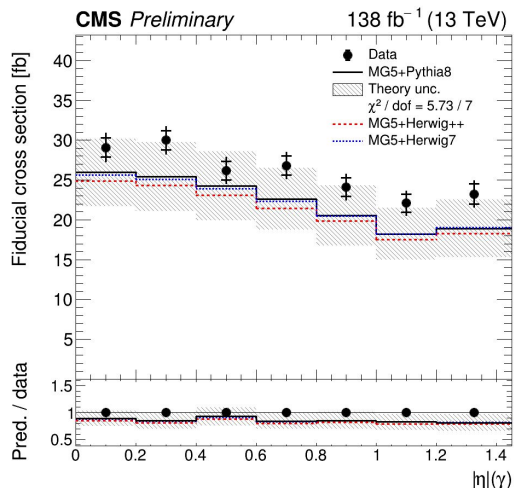
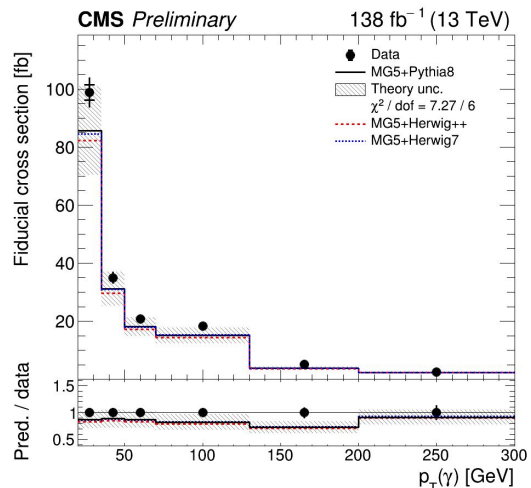


# Systematic uncertainties

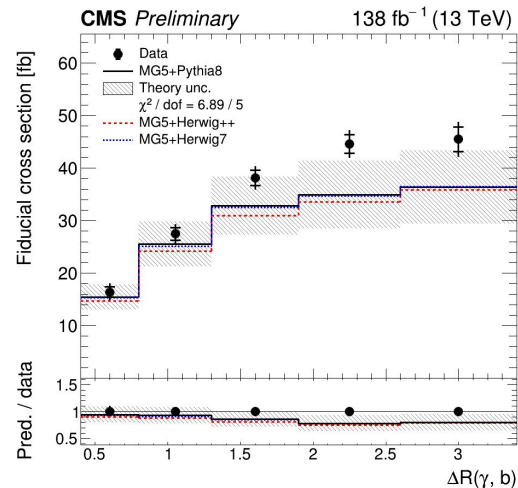
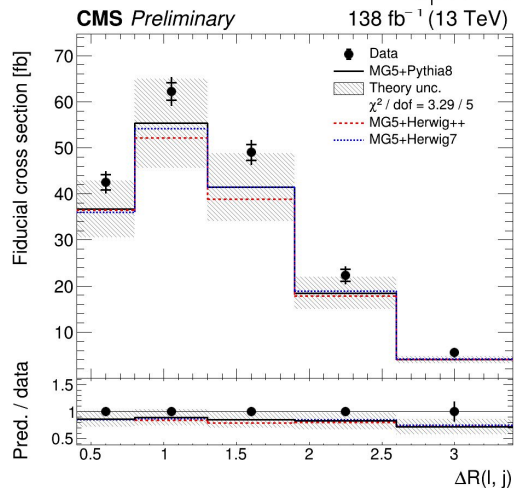
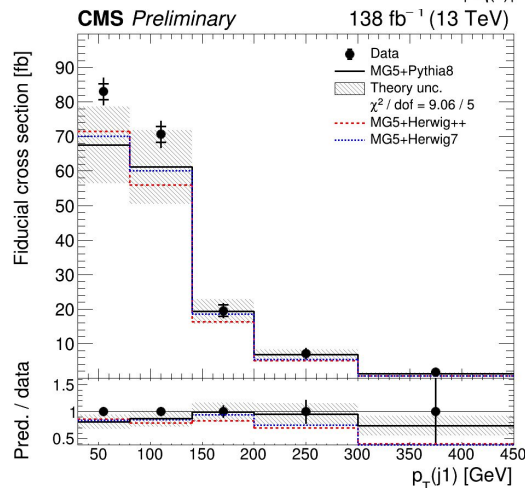
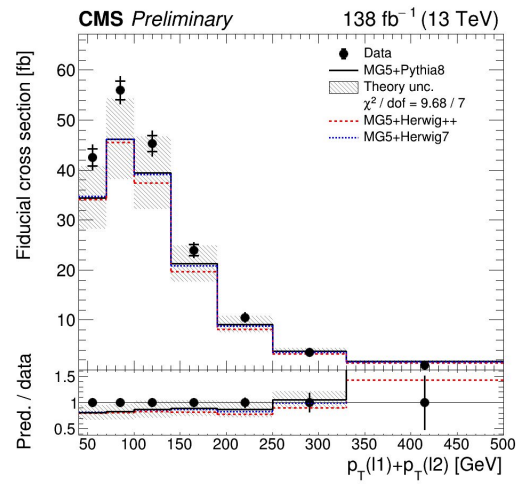
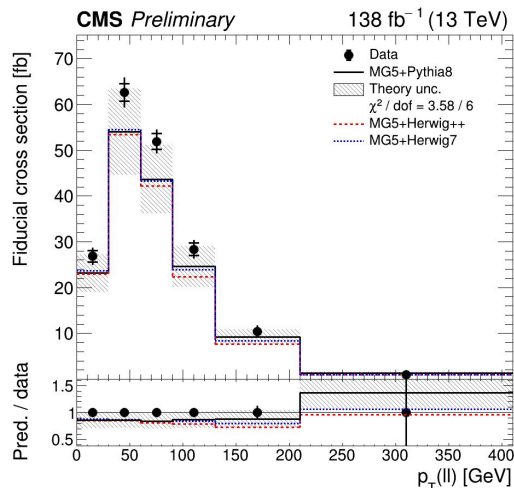
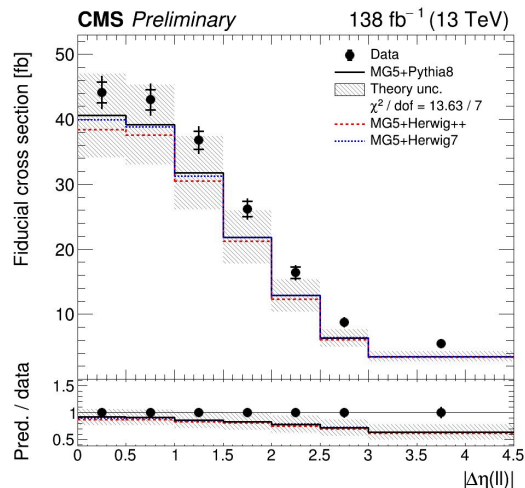
- Normalization uncertainties:
  - $Z\gamma$ : 1.5%
  - Single- $t+\gamma$ : 10%
  - Other+ $\gamma$ : 30%
- JEC: simplified/grouped splitting
- lumi: recent update implements, full correlation pattern (table shows simplified summary)
- renormalization and factorization scale: envelope evaluated pre-fit

	Source	Correlation	Uncertainty [%]	
			Pre-fit range	Postfit
Experimental	Integrated luminosity	~	1.3–3.2	1.7
	Pileup	✓	0.1–1.4	0.6
	Trigger efficiency	×	0.6–1.7	0.6
	Electron selection efficiency	~	1.0–1.3	1.1
	Muon selection efficiency	~	0.3–0.5	0.5
	Photon selection efficiency	~	0.4–3.7	0.9
	Jet energy scale	~	0.1–1.3	0.5
	Jet energy resolution	✓	0.0–0.6	<0.1
	b tagging efficiency	~	0.9–1.4	1.1
	L1 prefiring	✓	0.0–0.8	0.3
Theoretical	Choice in $\mu_R$ and $\mu_F$	✓	0.3–3.5	1.5
	PDF choice	✓	0.3–4.5	0.2
	PS modelling: ISR & FSR scale	✓	0.3–3.5	1.2
	PS modelling: colour reconnection	✓	0.0–8.4	0.2
	PS modelling: b fragmentation	✓	0.0–2.2	0.6
	Underlying event tune	✓	0.5	0.5
Background	$Z\gamma$ correction & normalization	✓	0.0–0.2	<0.1
	$t\gamma$ normalization	✓	0.0–0.9	0.8
	other+ $\gamma$ normalization	✓	0.3–1.0	0.8
	Nonprompt $\gamma$ normalization	✓	0.0–1.8	0.9
	MC statistics	×	1.5–7.6	0.9
	Total systematic uncertainty			3.6
	Statistical uncertainty			1.4
	Total uncertainty			3.9

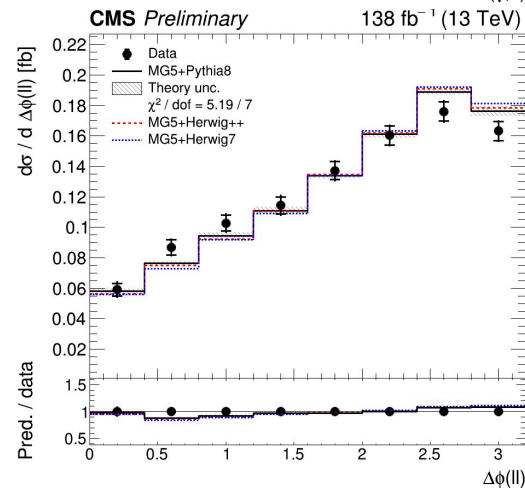
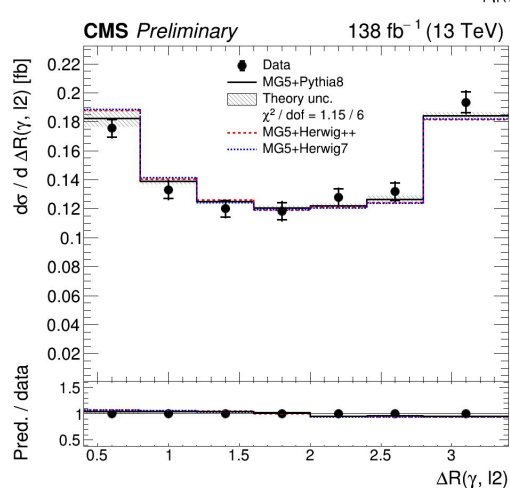
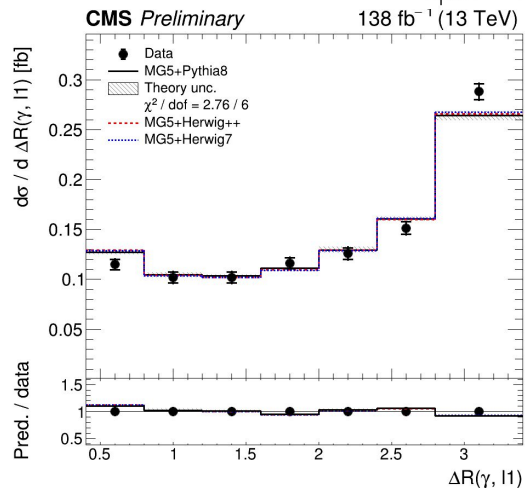
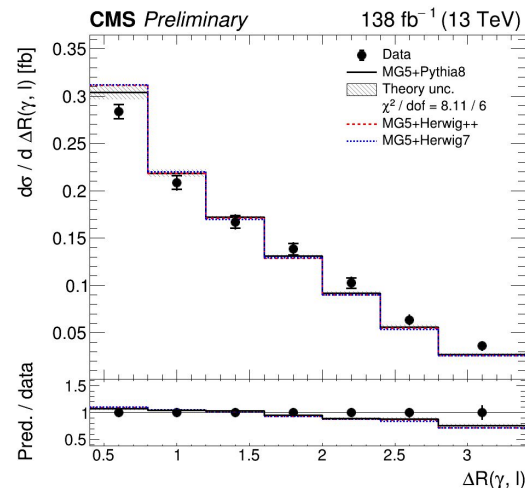
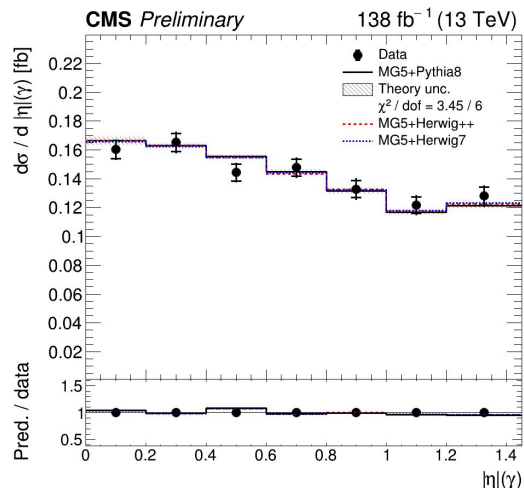
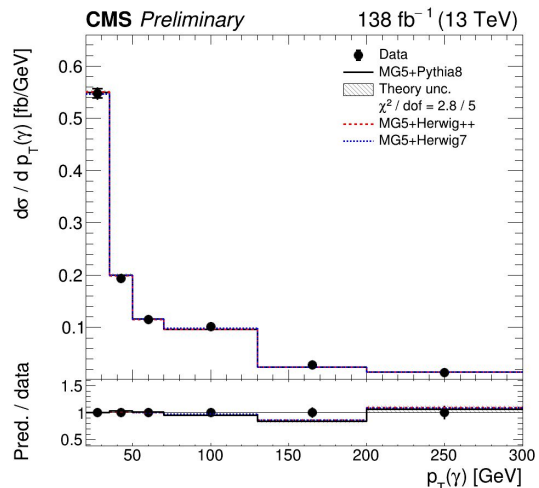
# differential results (1)



# differential results (2)



# normalized differential results (1)



# normalized differential results (2)

