Energy correlators for the top quark mass

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Seminario di Fisica Teorica, Università di Roma Tre, April 23, 2025

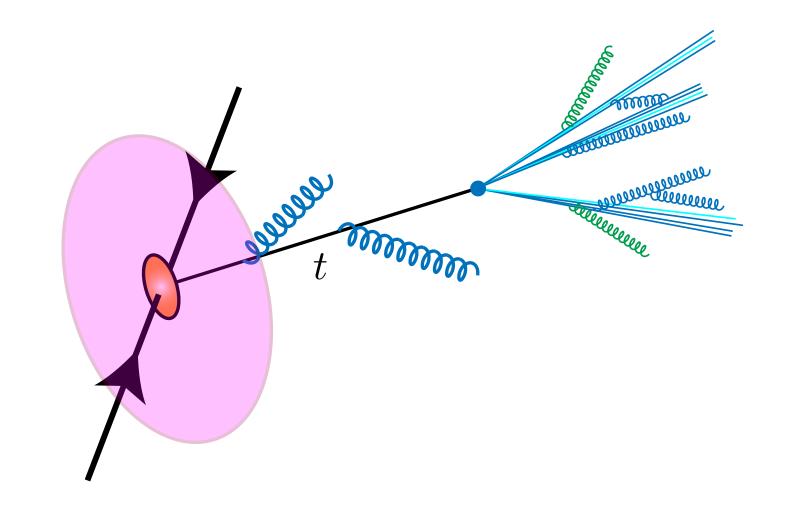
Outline

- * Precision top quark mass extraction from LHC data: a persistent challenge
- * Novel proposal: extract the top mass from correlators of energy flow operators
- * Parton-shower simulations: theoretical robustness and experimental feasibility
- * Summary and outlook

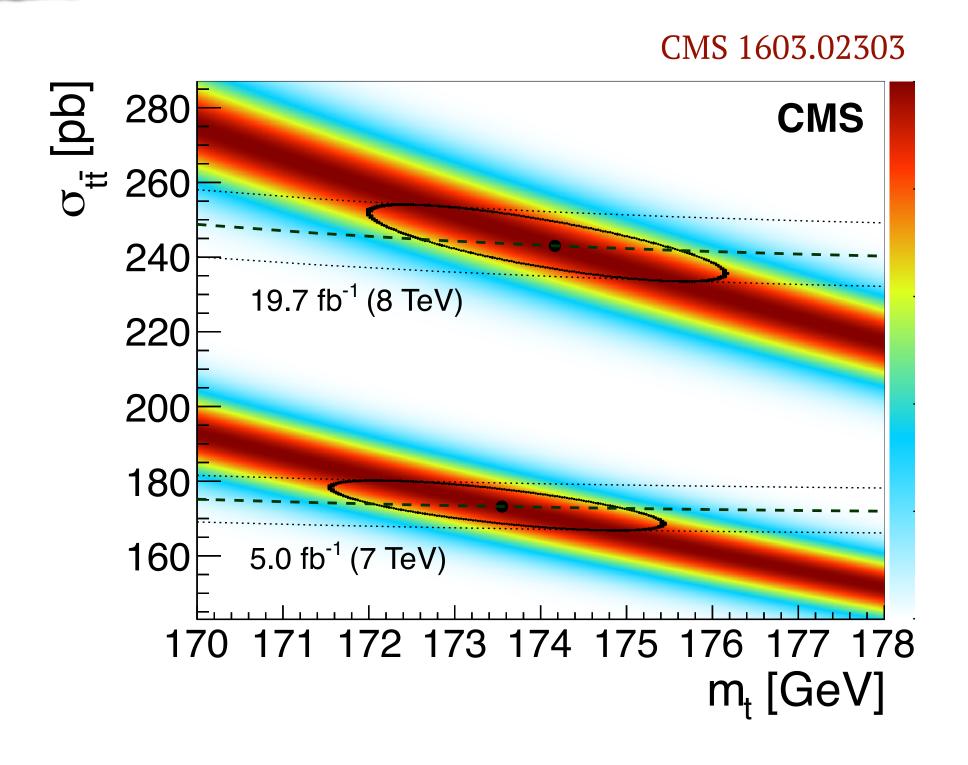
- J. Holguin, I. Moult, A. Pathak, MP, 2201.08393, Phys. Rev. D 107 (2023)
- J. Holguin, I. Moult, A. Pathak, MP, R. Schöfbeck, D. Schwarz, 2311.02157, 2407.12900 (JHEP)

The top quark mass: indirect measurements

- * Top quark mass: SM parameter of fundamental importance in high-energy physics (EW precision tests, vacuum stability,...) High precision at LHC: persistent challenge
- * Extracted by comparing theory vs data for collider observables, whose perturbative calculable contributions are evaluated in a specific renormalization scheme
- ** Good theoretical control for inclusive $t\bar{t}$ cross section (indirect top mass sensitivity, tied to hard interaction) Parton-level results for $\sigma(t\bar{t}+X)$ to NNLO+NNLL accuracy (Czakon, Mitov 1112.5675) used by ATLAS and CMS to extract m_t in the pole-mass scheme



The top quark mass: indirect measurements



$$\Delta m_t^{
m pole} \sim \pm 2\,{
m GeV} \,\,{
m from} \,\,\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$$

ATLAS 1910.08819, CMS 1812.10505

Weakly sensitive to the top mass, strongly affected by PDF uncertainties

Higher sensitivity to the top mass achieved by considering differential distributions as well as $t\bar{t}+{
m jet}$ processes: $\Delta m_t^{
m pole}\sim\pm 1\,{
m GeV}$ atlas 1905.02302, CMS 1904.05237, Cooper-Sarkar et al. 2010.04171 ...

The top quark mass: direct measurements

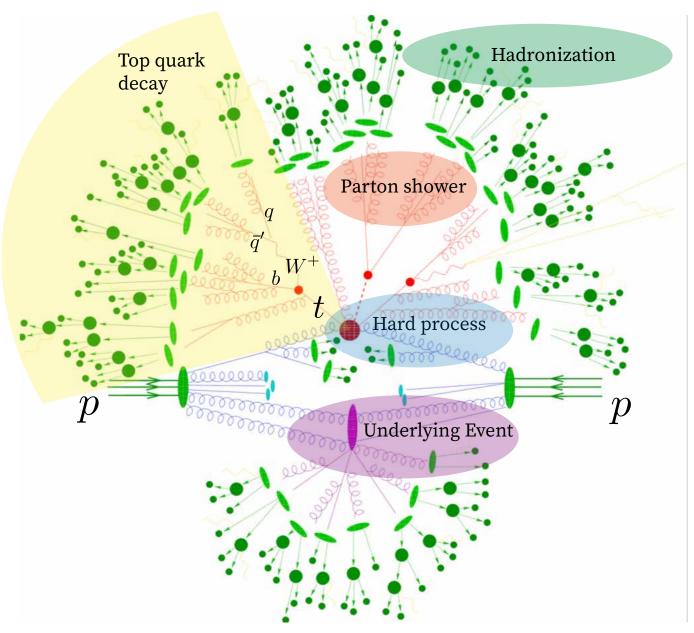
* Analysis of kinematic observables built out of reconstructed top decay products has yielded higher precision:

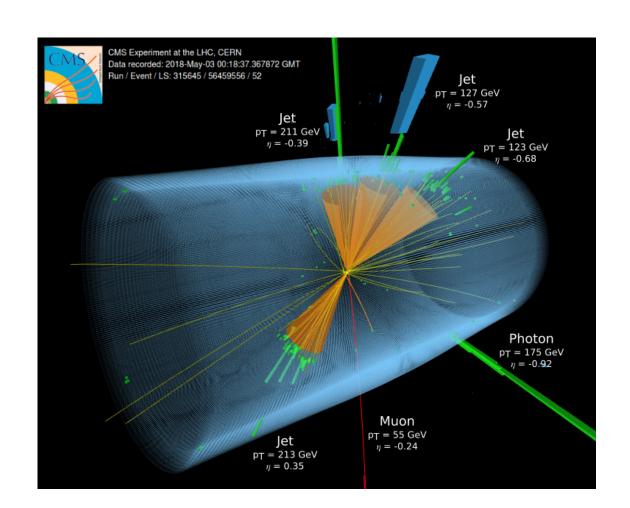
$$m_t^{\rm MC} = 171.77 \pm 0.37 \,{\rm GeV}$$

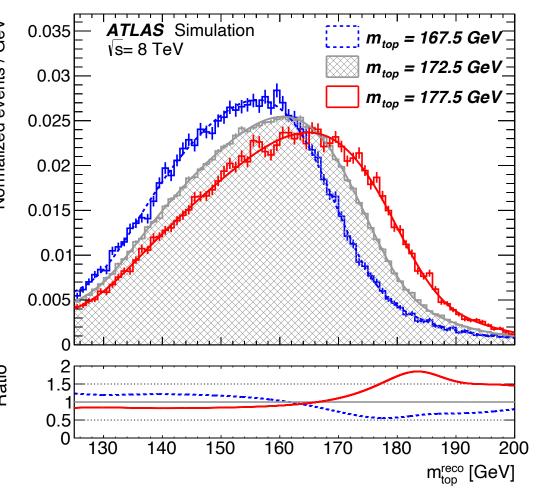
CMS 2302.01967

* Approach relies entirely on parton showers and models of hadronization and UE in Monte Carlo event generators:

Robust theory uncertainty?

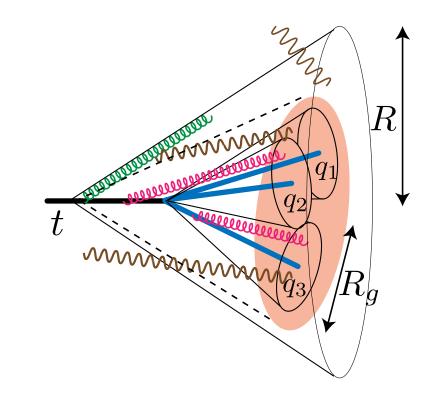


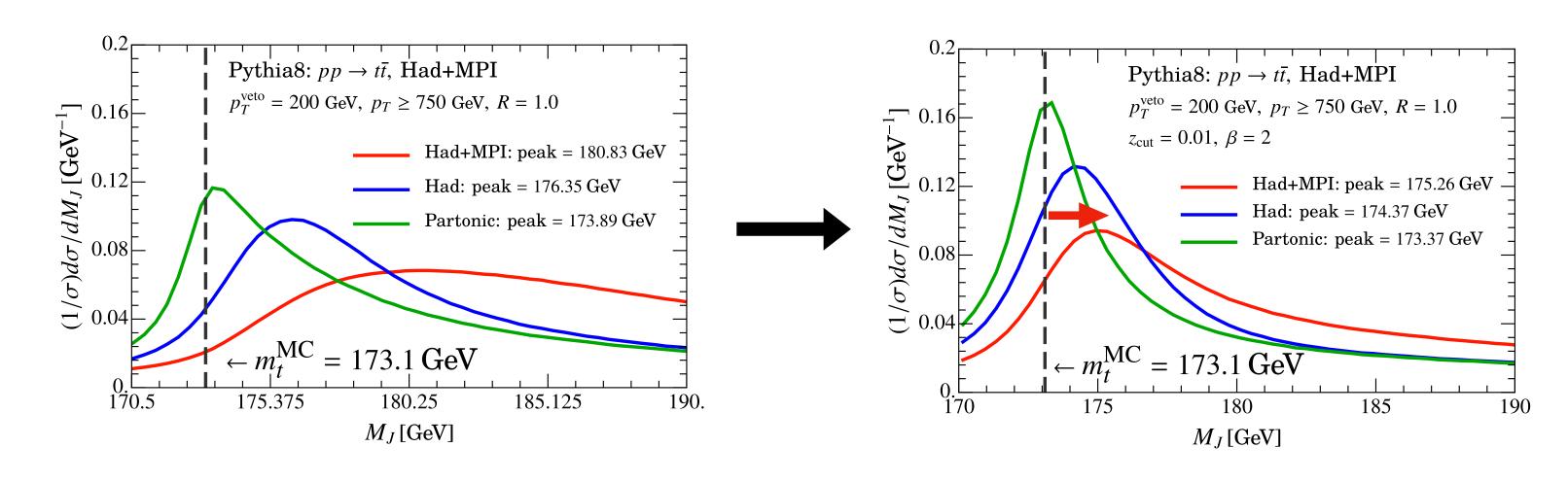




The top quark mass: groomed jet mass

- * Observables in direct measurements exhibit threshold structures, which enhance the sensitivity to m_t but also to soft and collinear radiation as well as hadronization
- * Higher level of theoretical control for the jet mass combined with jet grooming such as soft drop (Larkoski et al. 1402.2657) to mitigate effects from wide-angle soft radiation, UE contamination and hadronization



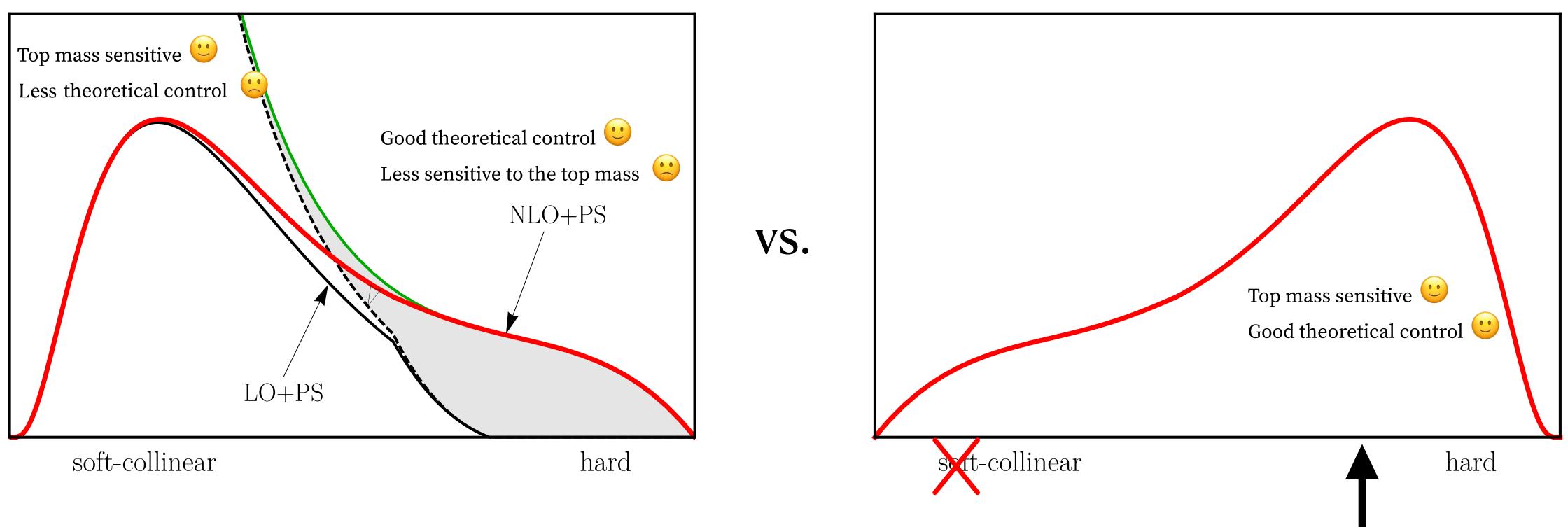


Even after grooming one needs to account for residual O(1 GeV) shifts

Hoang et al. 1708.02586, 1906.11843; Pathak et al. 2012.15568

Observables for the top mass extraction at LHC





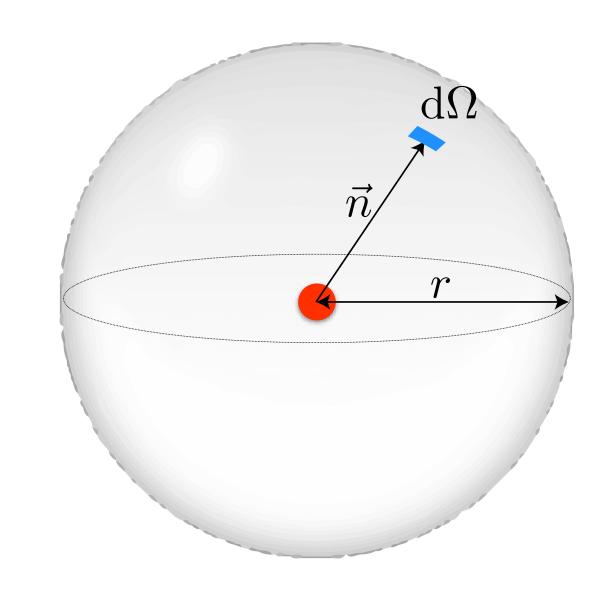
We explore possibility of precision extraction of top quark mass at the LHC from the measurement of energy-weighted angular correlations of boosted top decay products

Energy flow operators and correlators

* Energy flow operator:

$$\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}) = \int_0^\infty dt \lim_{r \to \infty} r^2 n^i T_{0i}(t, r\vec{n})$$

$$\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}) \simeq \int_0^\infty dt \left(\text{Energy flux through d}\Omega \right)$$



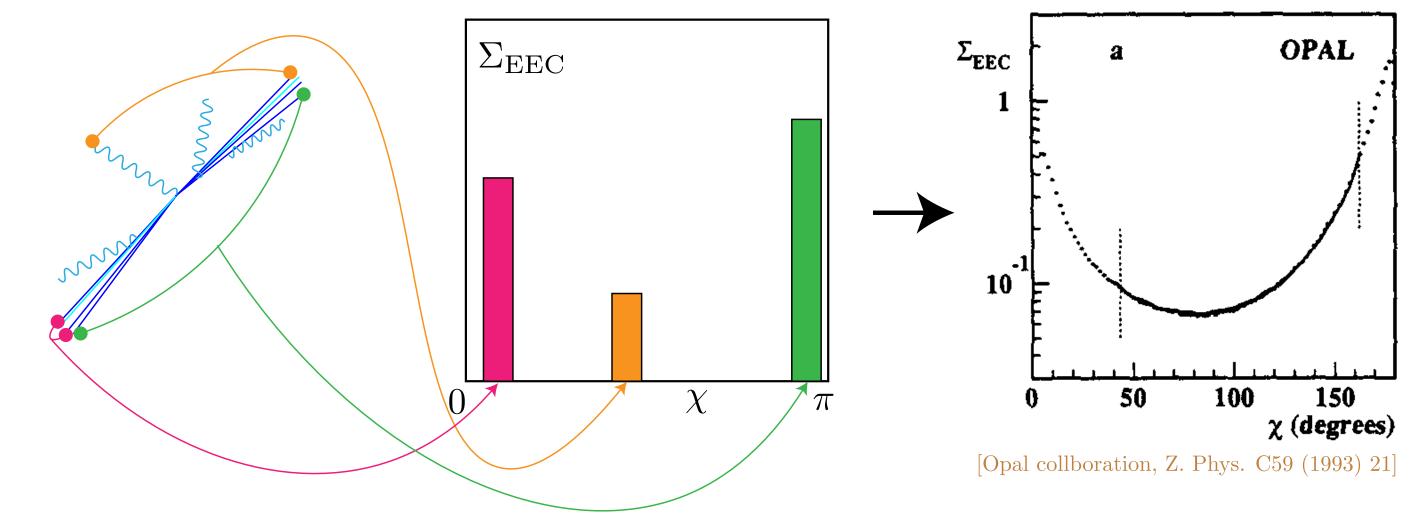
* N-point correlators of energy flow operators $\langle \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_1)\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_2)\dots\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_N)\rangle$ related to cross sections where the contributions from final-state particles are weighted by the eigenvalues of the energy flow operators in the various directions

Two-point energy correlator in ete-collisions

$$\langle \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_1)\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_2)\rangle = \sum_{ij} \int \frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma_{ij}}{\mathrm{d}^2\vec{n}_i \mathrm{d}^2\vec{n}_j} \underbrace{E_i E_j \delta^2(\vec{n}_1 - \vec{n}_i) \delta^2(\vec{n}_2 - \vec{n}_j)}_{\text{two-particle inclusive QCD cross section}} \underbrace{\text{Basham et al. PRL 41 (1978)}}_{\text{Basham et al. PRL 41 (1978)}}$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\Sigma}{\mathrm{d}\cos\chi} = \int \mathrm{d}^2 n_1 \mathrm{d}^2 n_2 \, \delta(\vec{n}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_2 - \cos\chi) \frac{\langle \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_1)\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_2) \rangle}{Q^2}$$

At variance with standard event shapes, each event (collection of final state particles) contributes to multiple bins:

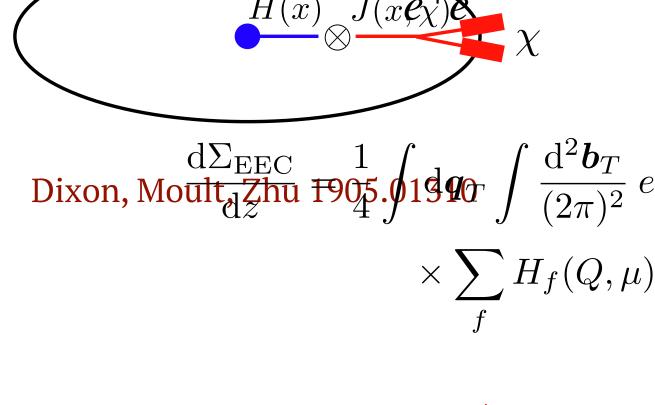


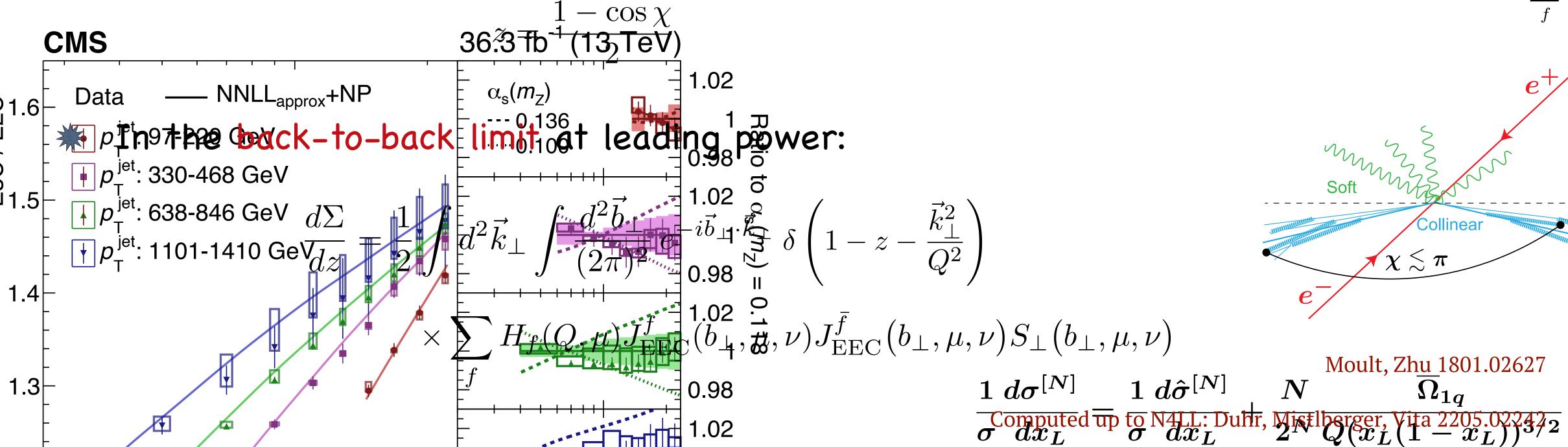
Factorization theorems for energy correlators in ete- χ

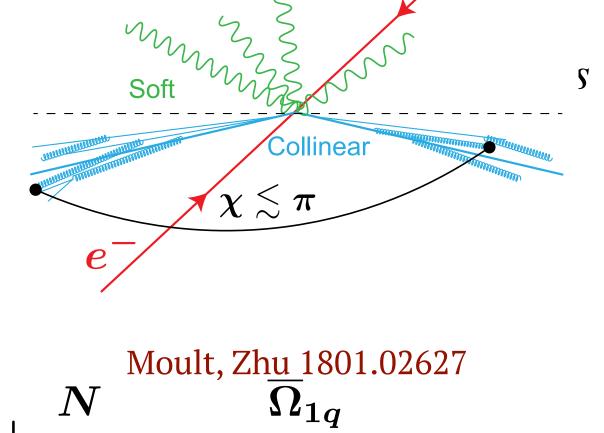
* In the collinear limit at leading power:

$$\Sigma \left(z, \ln \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \mu\right) = \int_0^1 \mathrm{d}x \, x^2 \vec{J}_{\mathrm{EEC}} \left(\ln \frac{z x^2 Q^2}{\mu^2}, \mu\right) \cdot \vec{H} \left(x, \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \mu\right) \qquad \text{Dixon, Moult_dzhu 1905.} \text{ of } \frac{\mathrm{d}^2 \mathbf{b}_T}{(2\pi)^2} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{d}x \cdot \mathbf{d}$$

10







Energy correlators for jet substructure

* In recent years growing efforts to rethink jet substructure using energy correlators: insights from CFT and light-ray OPE

Chen et al. 2004.11381, Hofman and Maldacena 0803.1467, Belitsky et al. 1309.0769, 1309.1424, Kravchuk and Simmons-Duffin 1805.00098

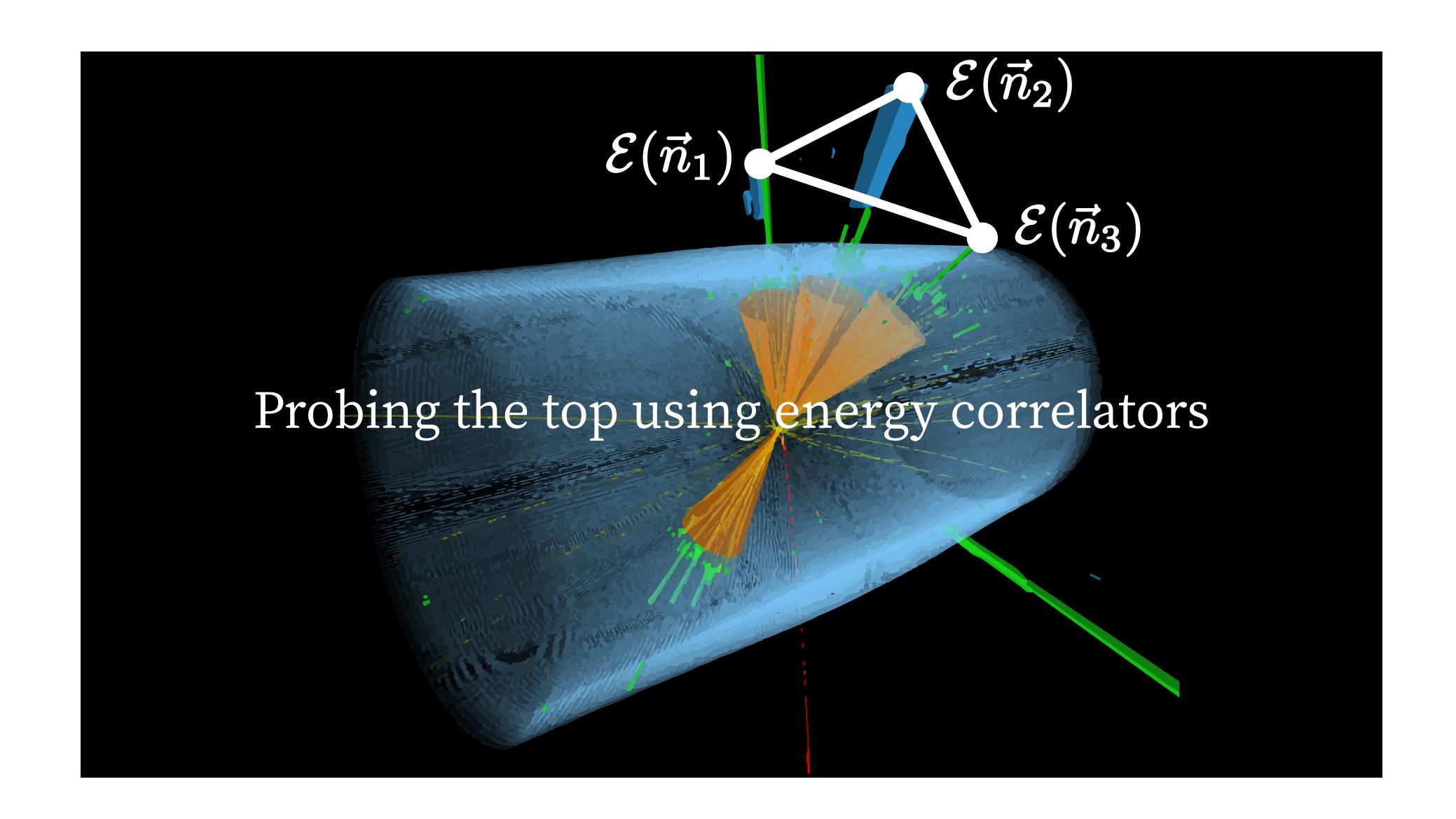
* Energy weighting naturally suppresses soft radiation without grooming and enables novel precision calculations of LHC observables to get access to detailed scaling and shape information about the energy distribution within jets

Measured by CMS (2402.13864), RHIC (2309.05761) and ALICE (2409.12687) experiments

* Can be readily computed for track-based measurements to exploit the fine angular resolution of tracking detectors: energy weights get simply rescaled by moments of

track functions (Chang et al. 1303.6637, 1306.6630)

Li et al. 2108.01674, Jaarsma et al. 2201.05166, ATLAS 2502.02062



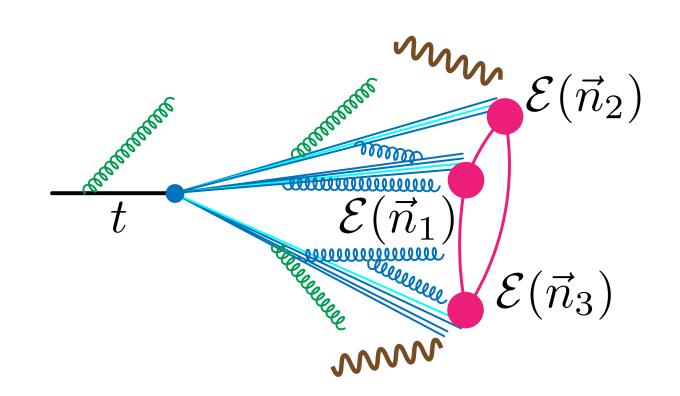
EEEC sensitivity to the top mass

Holguin, Moult, Pathak, MP 2201.08393

** Consider $e^+e^- \to t\bar t + X$ where t decays hadronically. The measurement operator is inclusive on top decay products:

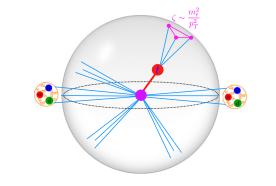
$$\widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{(n)}(\zeta_{12}, \zeta_{23}, \zeta_{31}) = \sum_{i,j,k} \frac{E_i^n E_j^n E_k^n}{Q^{3n}} \delta\left(\zeta_{12} - \hat{\zeta}_{ij}\right) \delta\left(\zeta_{23} - \hat{\zeta}_{ik}\right) \delta\left(\zeta_{31} - \hat{\zeta}_{jk}\right)$$

$$\widehat{\zeta}_{ij} = (1 - \cos\theta_{ij})/2$$



* At LO, for a boosted top, the distribution in $\zeta_{12}+\zeta_{23}+\zeta_{31}$ has a peak whose location is proportional to m_t^2/Q^2 . The variance can be reduced by constraining the the shape of the energy flow (most simply achieved by requiring $\zeta_{12}\approx\zeta_{23}\approx\zeta_{31}$)

EEEC sensitivity to the top mass



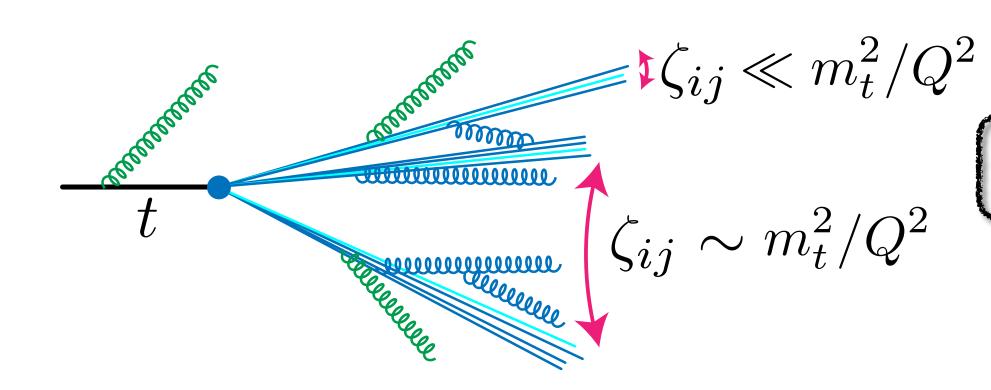
Holguin, Moult, Pathak, MP 2201.08393

The key object in our first analysis where $\delta\zeta$ is asymmetry cut (shape parameter):

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\Sigma(\delta\zeta)}{\mathrm{d}Q\mathrm{d}\zeta} = \int \mathrm{d}\zeta_{12}\mathrm{d}\zeta_{23}\mathrm{d}\zeta_{31} \int \mathrm{d}\sigma \widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{\Delta}^{(n)}(\zeta_{12}, \zeta_{23}, \zeta_{31}, \zeta, \delta\zeta)$$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{\Delta}^{(n)}(\zeta_{12},\zeta_{23},\zeta_{31},\zeta,\delta\zeta) = \sum_{i,j,k} \frac{E_i^n E_j^n E_k^n}{Q^{3n}} \delta\left(\zeta_{12} - \hat{\zeta}_{ij}\right) \delta\left(\zeta_{23} - \hat{\zeta}_{ik}\right) \delta\left(\zeta_{31} - \hat{\zeta}_{jk}\right)$$

$$\times \delta(3\zeta - \zeta_{12} - \zeta_{23} - \zeta_{31}) \prod_{l,m,n \in \{1,2,3\}} \Theta(\delta\zeta - |\zeta_{lm} - \zeta_{mn}|)$$

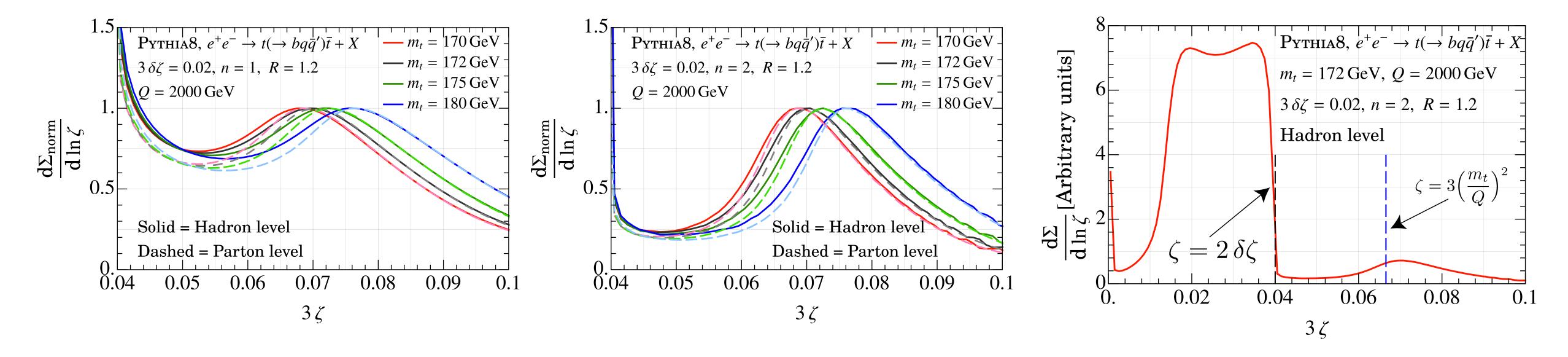


3-body hard kinematics: $\zeta_{\mathrm{peak}} pprox 3 m_t^2/Q^2$

Top mass from EEEC in e+e- collisions (PYTHIA8)

Holguin, Moult, Pathak, MP 2201.08393

* Excellent sensitivity to the top mass (distributions normalized to peak heights):

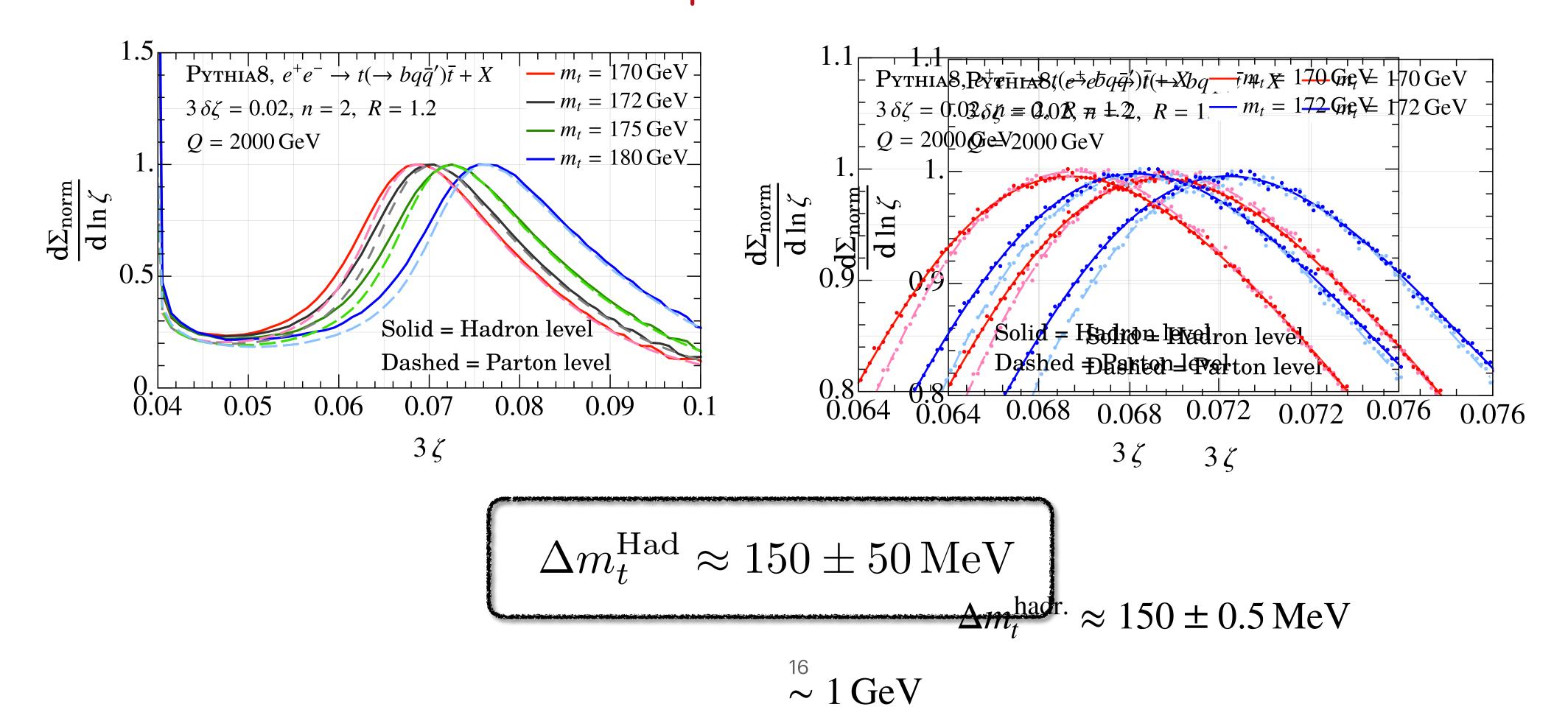


- * Peak position dominantly determined by the LO hard process
- # For $\zeta < 2\delta\zeta$ large contribution from collinear splittings

Top mass from EEEC in ete-collisions: hadronization

Non-perturbative effects in ECs are governed by an additive power law (Korchemsky, Sterman NPB 555, 1999)

Hadronization has a small effect on the peak of the normalized distribution:



The case of pp collisions

Holguin, Moult, Pathak, MP 2201.08393

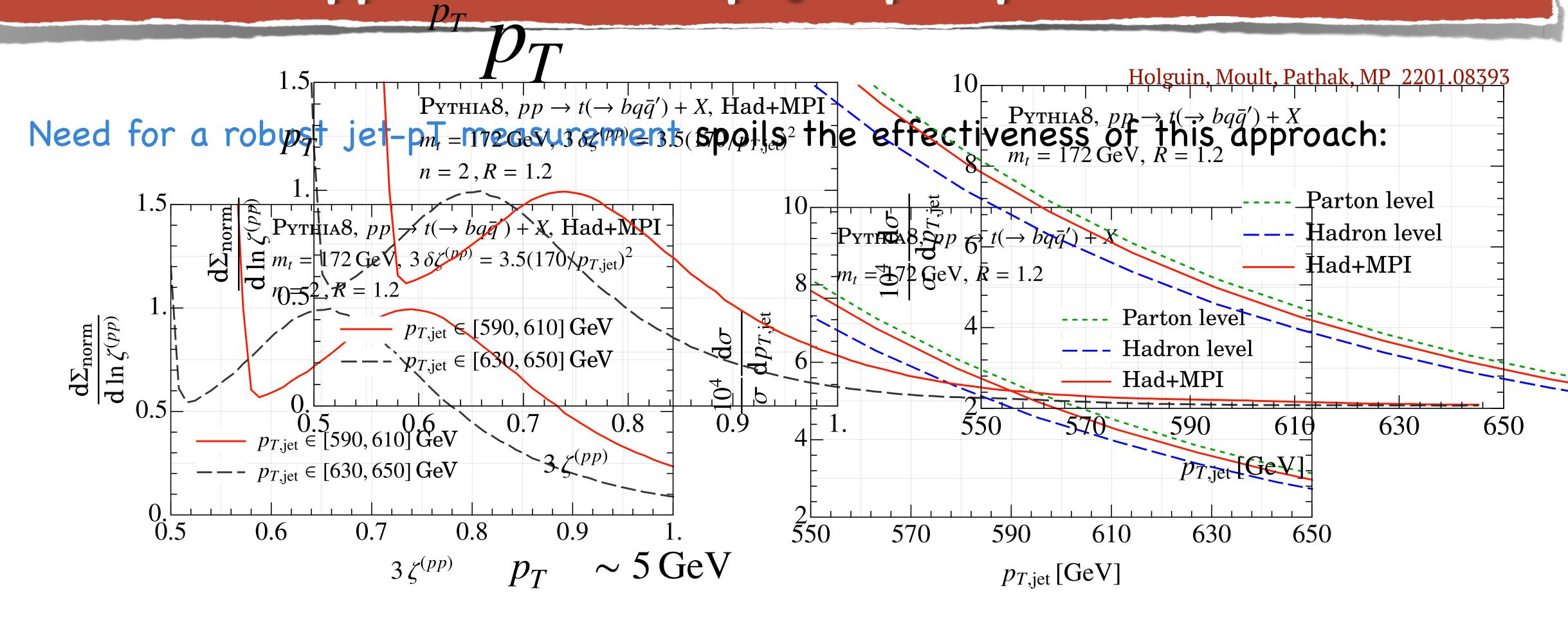
* Measurement operator on a boosted top quark jet:

$$\widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{(pp)}^{(n)}(\zeta_{12}, \zeta_{23}, \zeta_{31}) = \sum_{i,j,k \in jet} \frac{(p_{T,i})^n (p_{T,j})^n (p_{T,k})^n}{(p_{T,jet})^{3n}} \delta\left(\zeta_{12} - \hat{\zeta}_{ij}^{(pp)}\right) \delta\left(\zeta_{23} - \hat{\zeta}_{ik}^{(pp)}\right) \delta\left(\zeta_{31} - \hat{\zeta}_{jk}^{(pp)}\right)$$

$$\hat{\zeta}_{ij}^{(pp)} = \Delta R_{ij}^2 = \Delta \eta_{ij}^2 + \Delta \phi_{ij}^2$$

- * The peak from hard kinematics is now at $\zeta_{\rm peak}^{(pp)} \approx 3 m_t^2/p_{T,t}^2$
- lpha Performed a proof-of-concept analysis to show how a precise characterization of the top-jet pT-spectrum would enable a precision top mass extraction from $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}_{(pp),\triangle}^{(n)}$

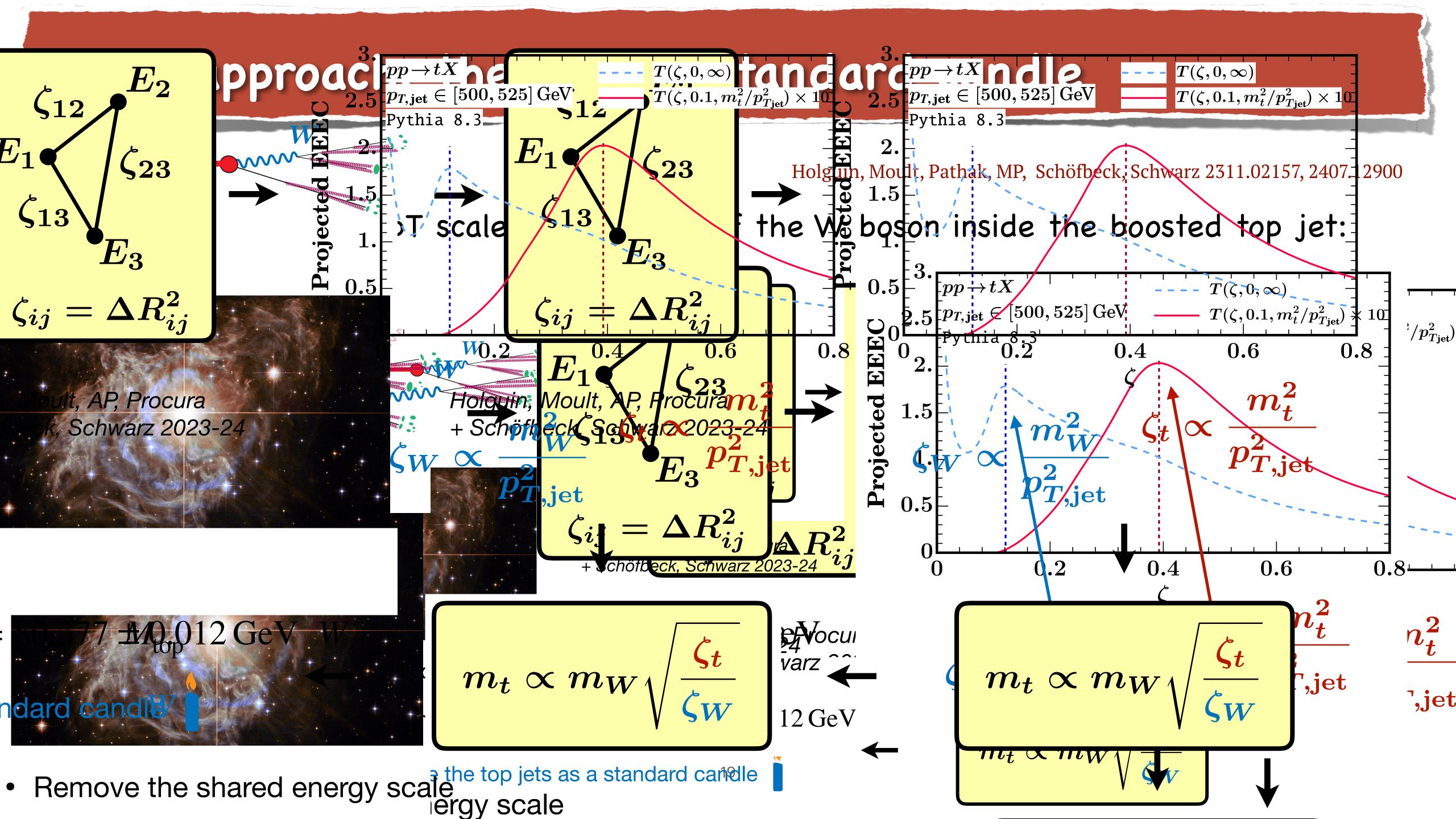
The case of pp collisions: top-jet pT-spectrum



Shifts due to hadronization and UE in the jet pT-spectrum induce ~ 1 GeV shifts in the top mass extracted, from the peak position

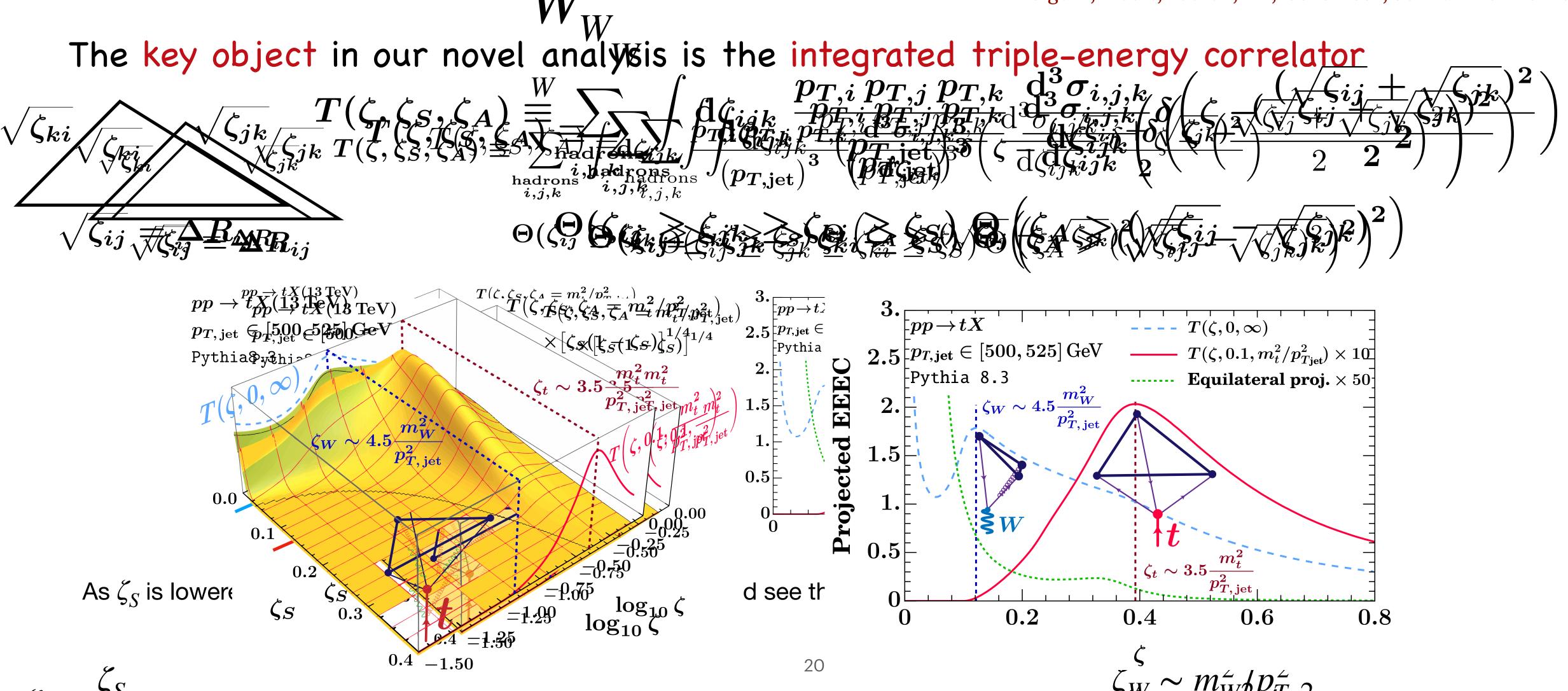
$$p_T \sim 1 \, \text{GeV}$$

$$\zeta_t \sim m_t^2/p_{T,\text{iet}}^2$$



Novel approach: the W as a standard candle

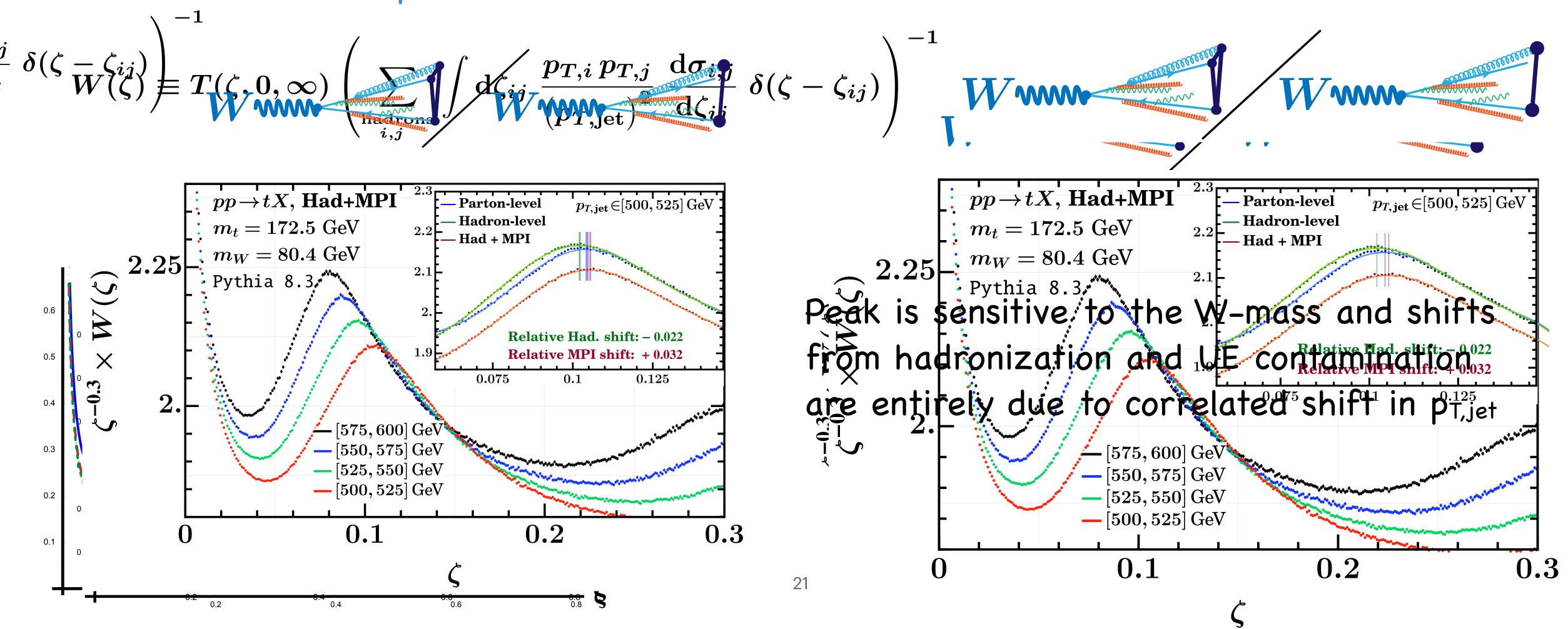
Holguin, Moult, Pathak, MP, Schöfbeck, Schwarz 2311.02157



The standard candle mervable

Holguin, Moult, Pathak, MP, Schöfbeck, Schwarz 2311.02157

To extract the W imprint we consider the ratio



Top mass extraction: a feasibility study

Holguin, Moult, Pathak, MP, Schöfbeck, Schwarz 2407.12900

We exploit the high degree of correlation between top and W imprints. For large boosts:

$$m_{t} = m_{W} \left[C(\alpha_{s}, R) \sqrt{\frac{\zeta_{t}}{\zeta_{W}}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m_{W}}{p_{T, \text{jet}}}, \frac{m_{t}}{m_{t}}\right) \right]^{T(\zeta)} \qquad W(\zeta)$$

where C is governed by relative W boost, $\underset{p_T}{\text{top}} [400,600]$ and depends on the jet radius R.

For now, we extract C from parton-level simulations averaging over $p_{T, \text{jet}} \in [400, 600] \, \text{GeV}$

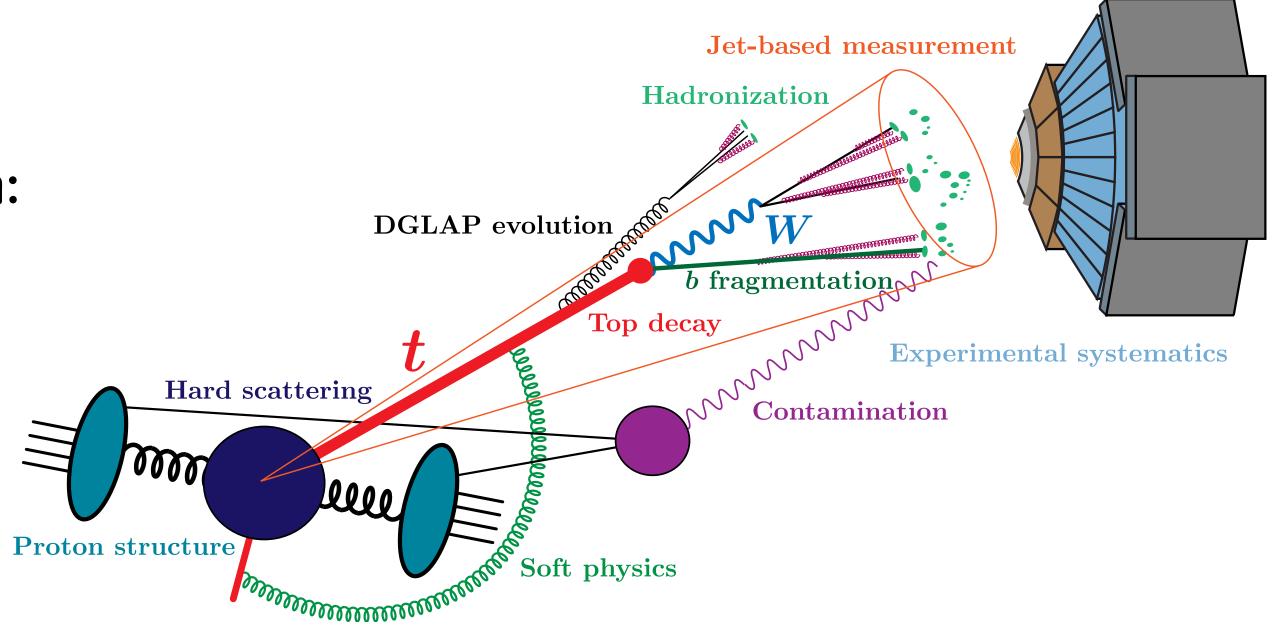
(Different event generators employ different approximations to description of top decay)

Shower	R = 0.8	R = 1.0	R = 1.2	R = 1.5
Pythia 8.3	1.076 ± 0.001	1.085 ± 0.001	1.094 ± 0.001	1.101 ± 0.001
Vincia 2.3	1.082 ± 0.001	1.087 ± 0.001	1.095 ± 0.001	1.103 ± 0.001
Herwig 7.3 Dipole	1.080 ± 0.001	1.087 ± 0.001	1.095 ± 0.001	1.101 ± 0.001
	1.094 ± 0.001			

Top mass extraction: a feasibility study

Checklist for a precision top mass extraction:

- * robustness against hadronization and UE
- * vastly dominant perturbative effects
- * negligible power suppressed effects
- * resilience to experimental systematics

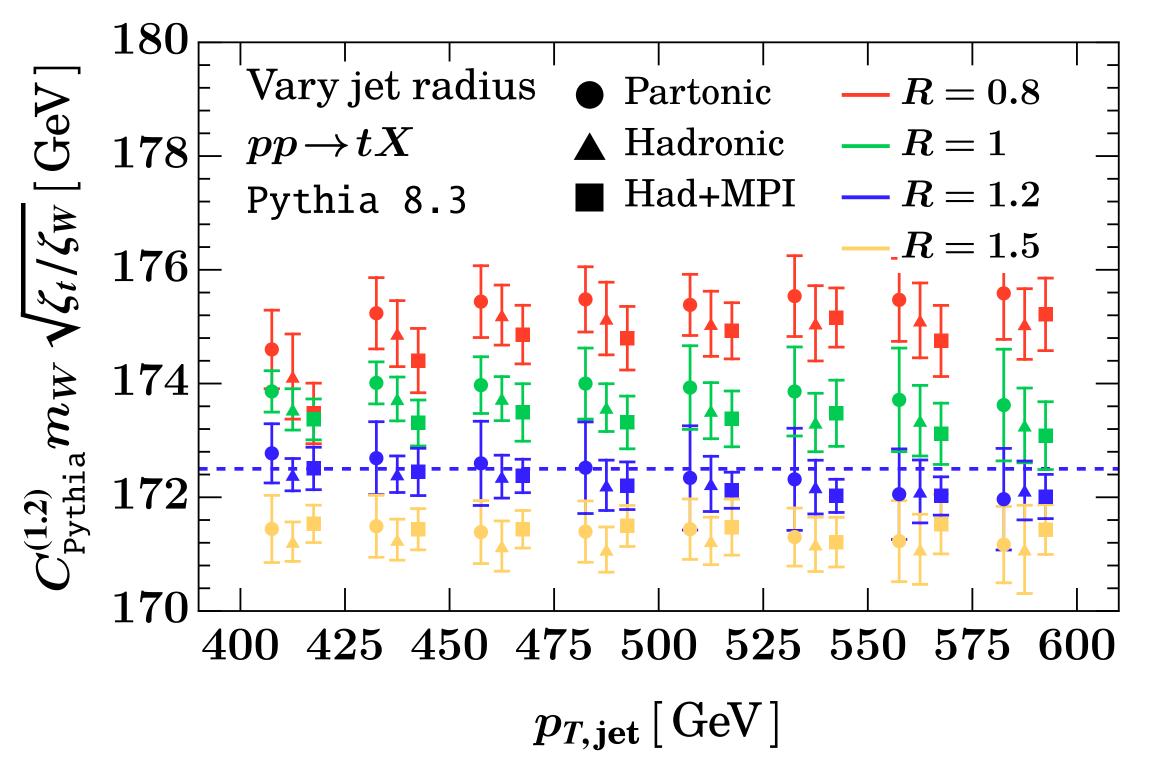


feasibility study using MC event generators

Holguin, Moult, Pathak, MP, Schöfbeck, Schwarz 2407.12900

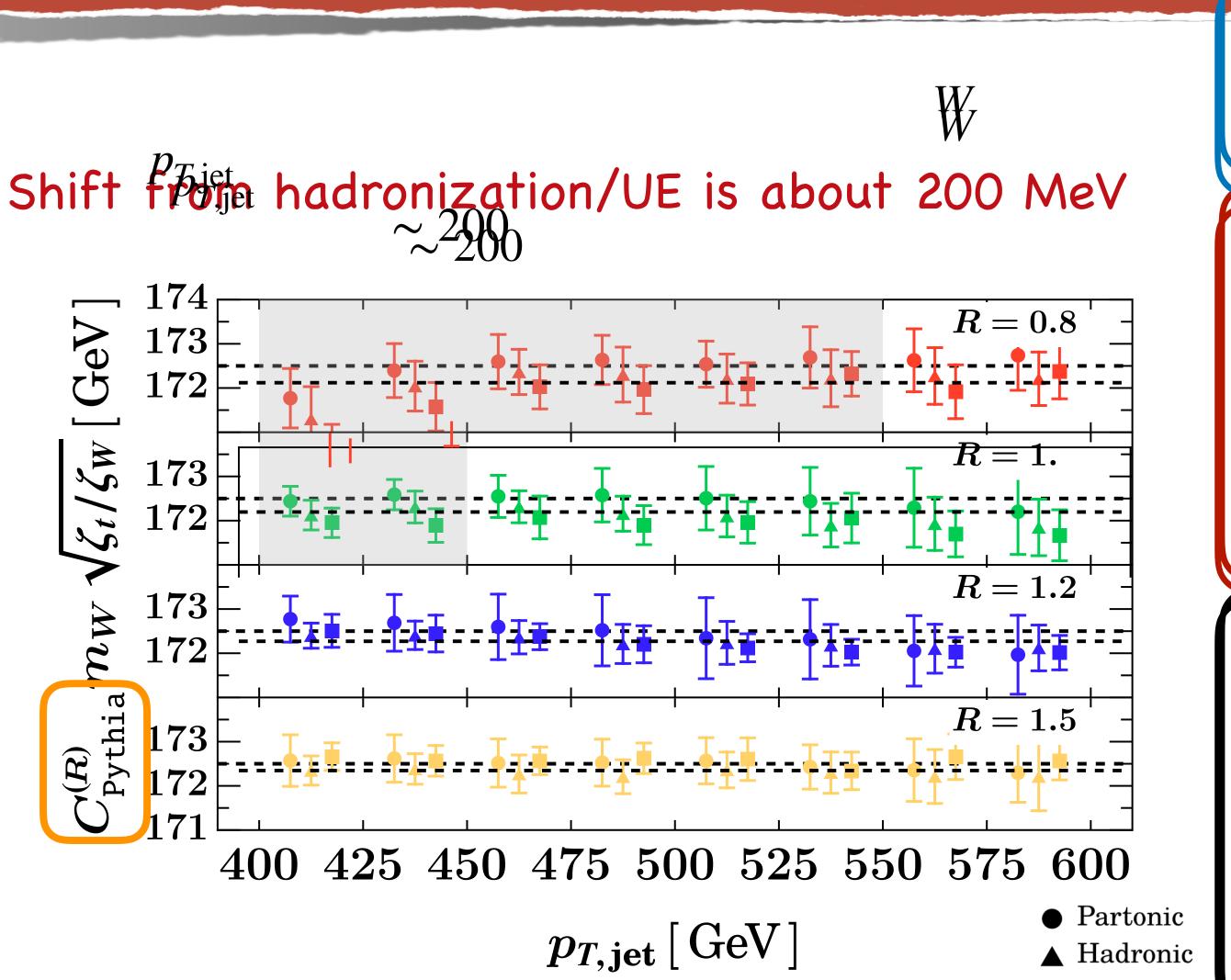
Jet radius dependence

Varying R impacts both perturbative and nonperturbative jet features but the effect on the extracted top mass is dominantly perturbative



Production me	Production mechanism:	
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 Hard scatteri 	 Hard scattering corrections 	
Jet substructu	Jet substructure:	
 Jet radius de 	 Jet radius dependence 	
 Hadronization 	 Hadronization effects 	
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 Wide angle s 	 Wide angle soft physics 	
Perturbative	 Perturbative uncertainty 	
Experimental f	Experimental feasibility:	
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 Constituent ε 	 Constituent energy scale 	
 Track efficien 	Track efficiency	
Heavy flavor	Heavy flavor dependence	

Jet radius dependence



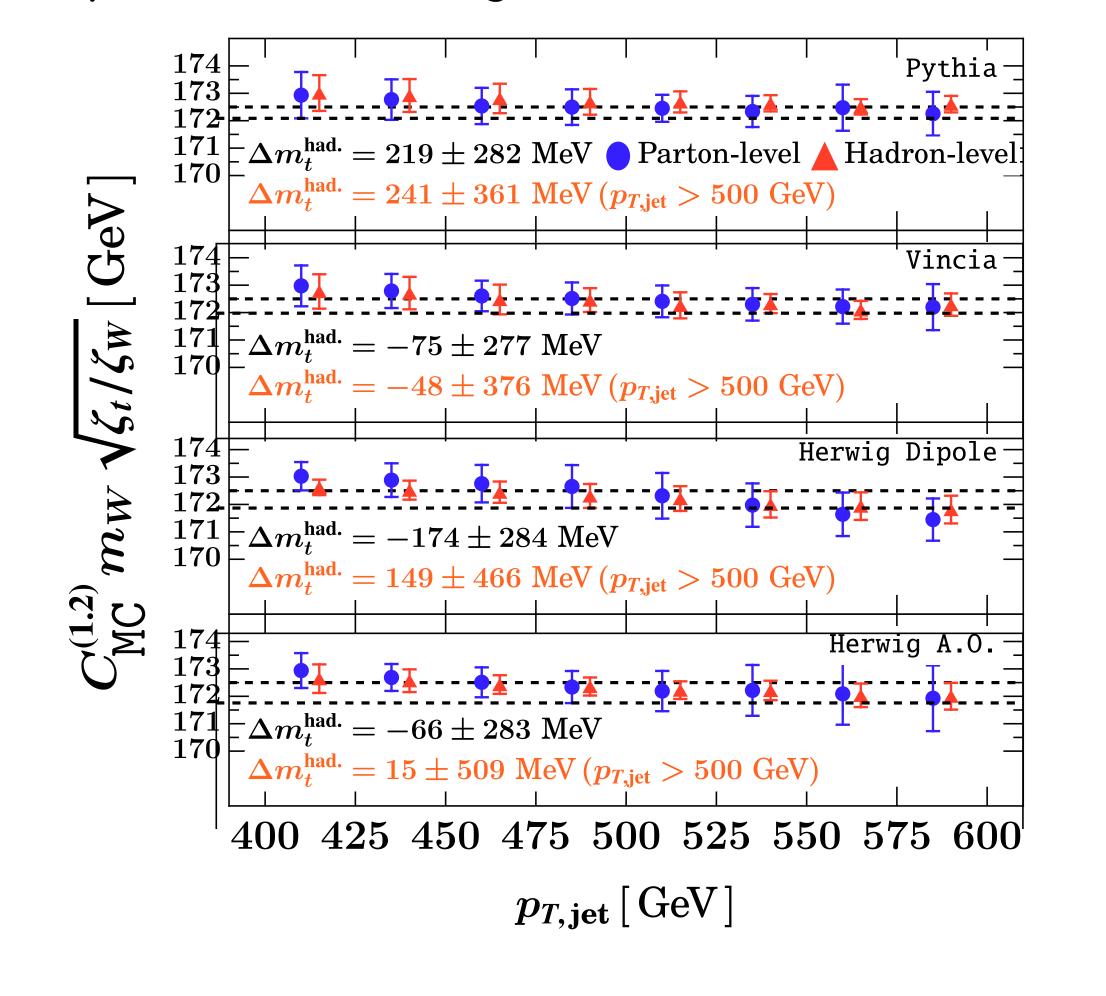
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■ Had+MPI

Hadronization effects

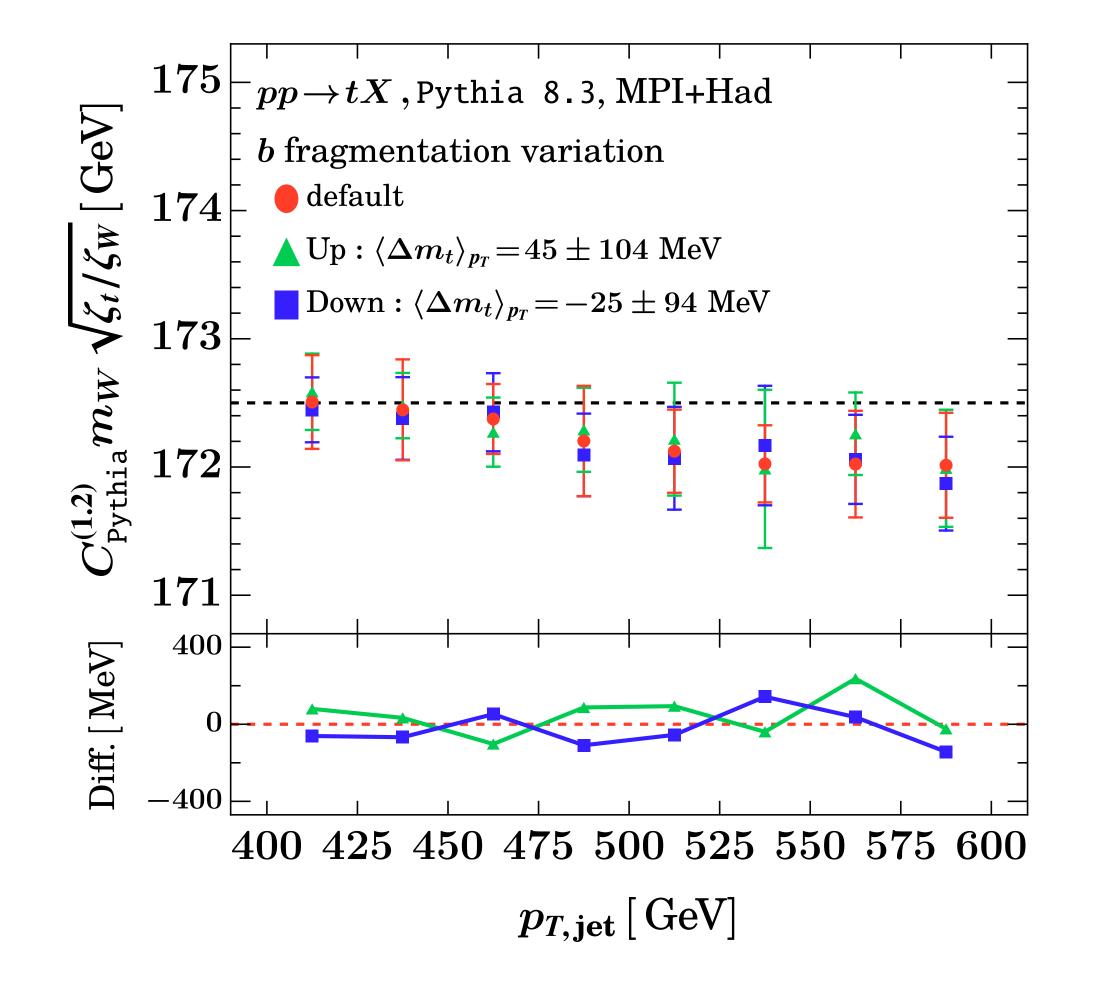
Small sensitivity to hadronization corrections in all parton shower generators



P	roduction mechanism:	
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•	 Jet radius dependence 	
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	Track efficiency	
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b-quark fragmentation modelling

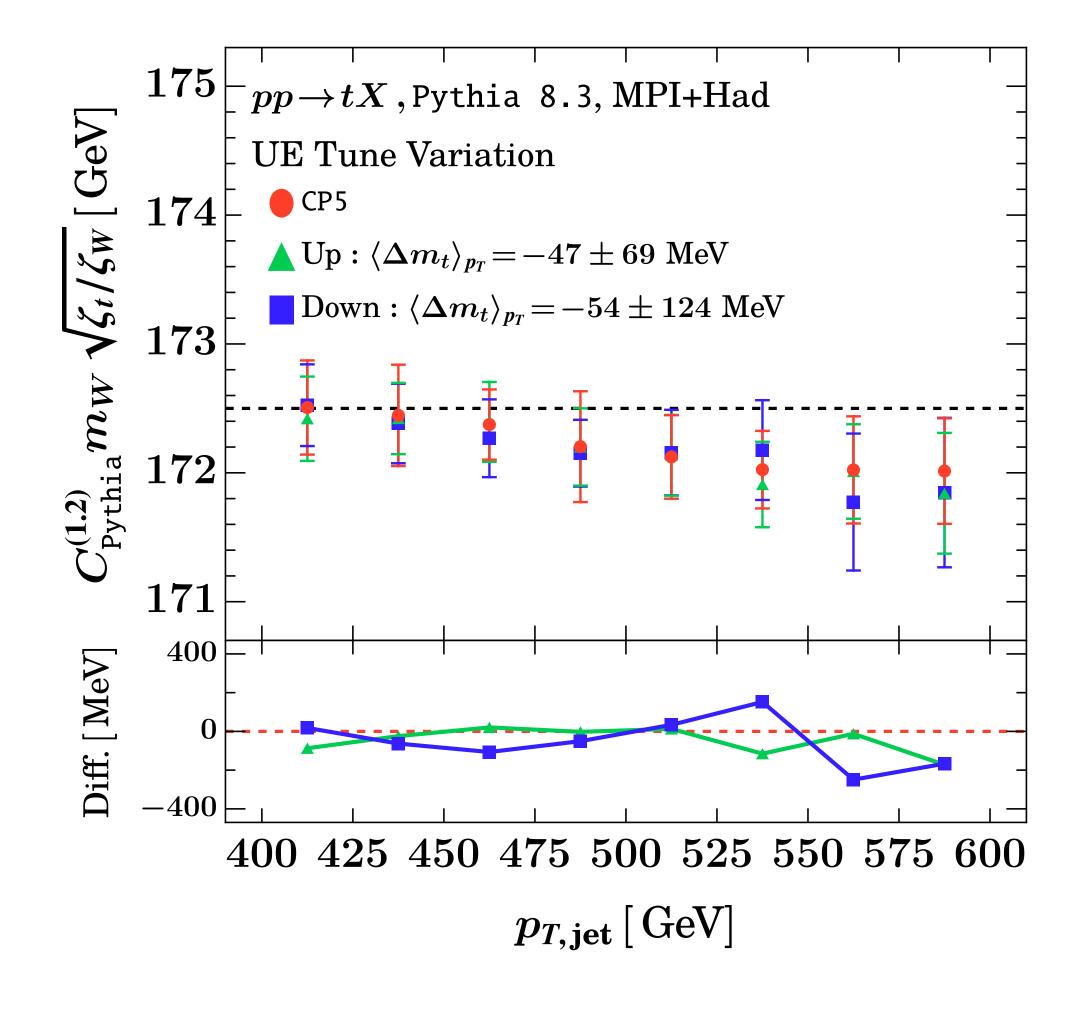
Negligible impact from b-quark hadronization models



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Underlying event contamination

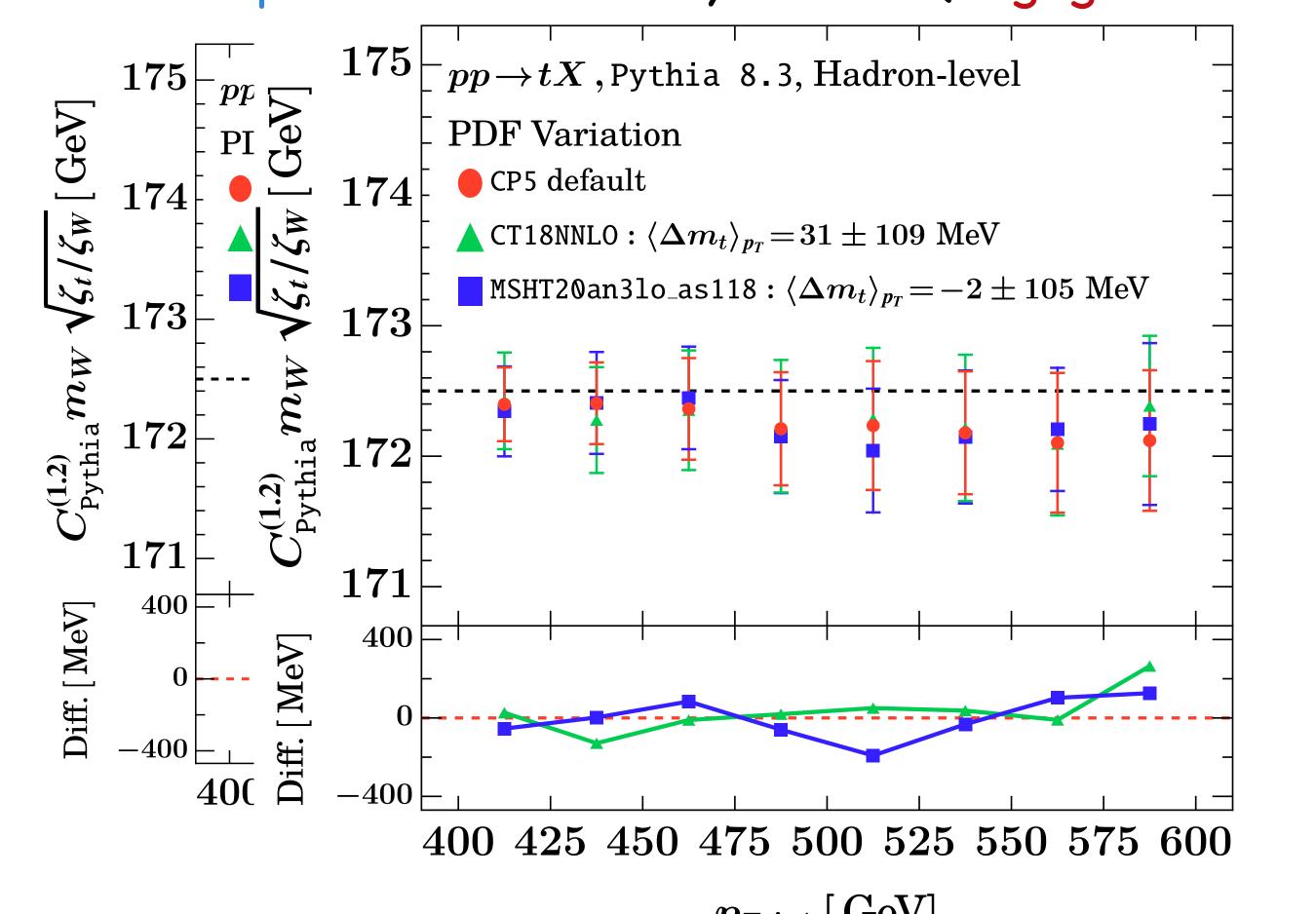
Negligible impact from UE tune variations



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PDF variations

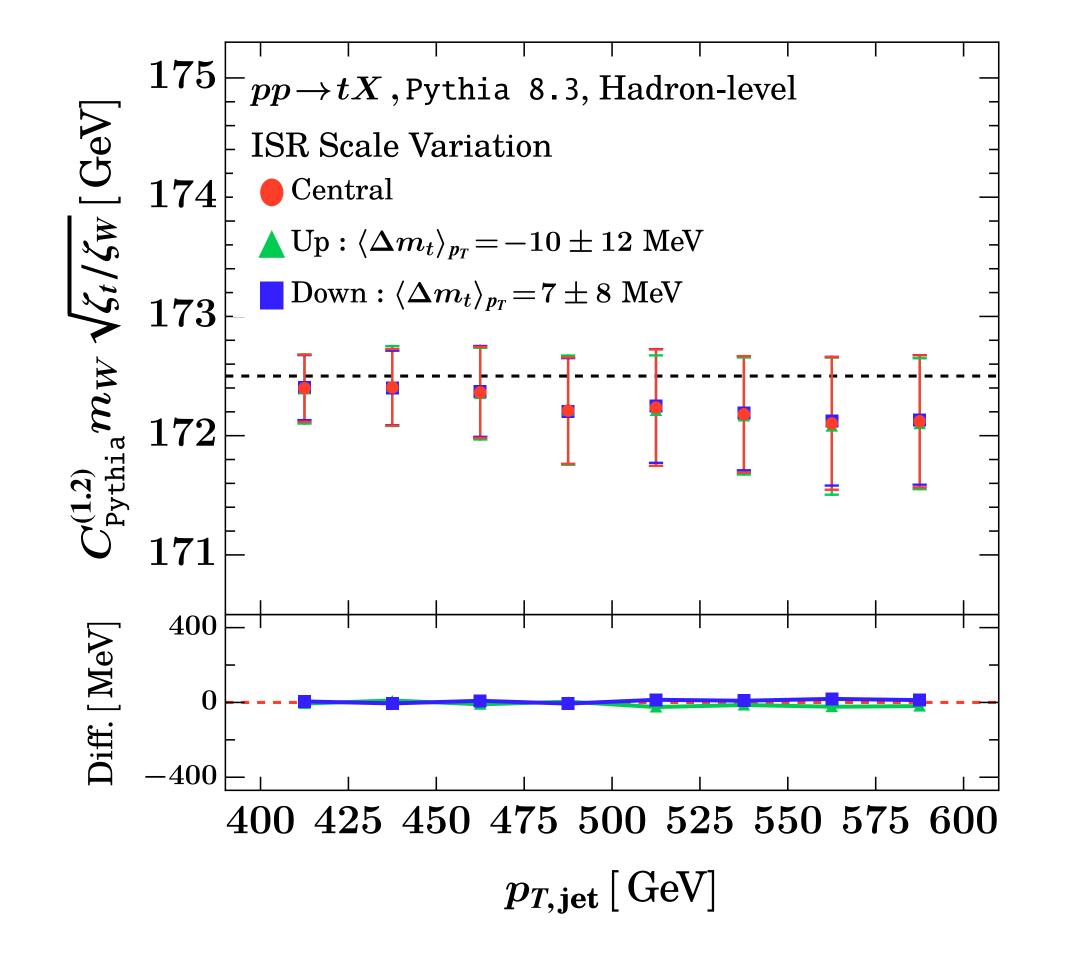
Variations in PDFs lead to significant shifts and induce substantial uncertainties in $p_{T, \rm jet}$ distribution but the ratio of the peaks is extremely robust (negligible shifts)



Produ **Production mechanism:** PDF PDF uncertainty ns Hard Hard scattering corrections Jet su Jet substructure: Jet radius dependence Hadronization effects Had Impact of underlying event nt Imp Wide angle soft physics Wid Perturbative uncertainty Pert **Experimental feasibility:** Experi Statistical sensitivity Stat! Jet energy scale Jet (Constituent energy scale Con Track efficiency Trac Heavy flavor dependence Heavy flavor pependence

Hard scattering corrections

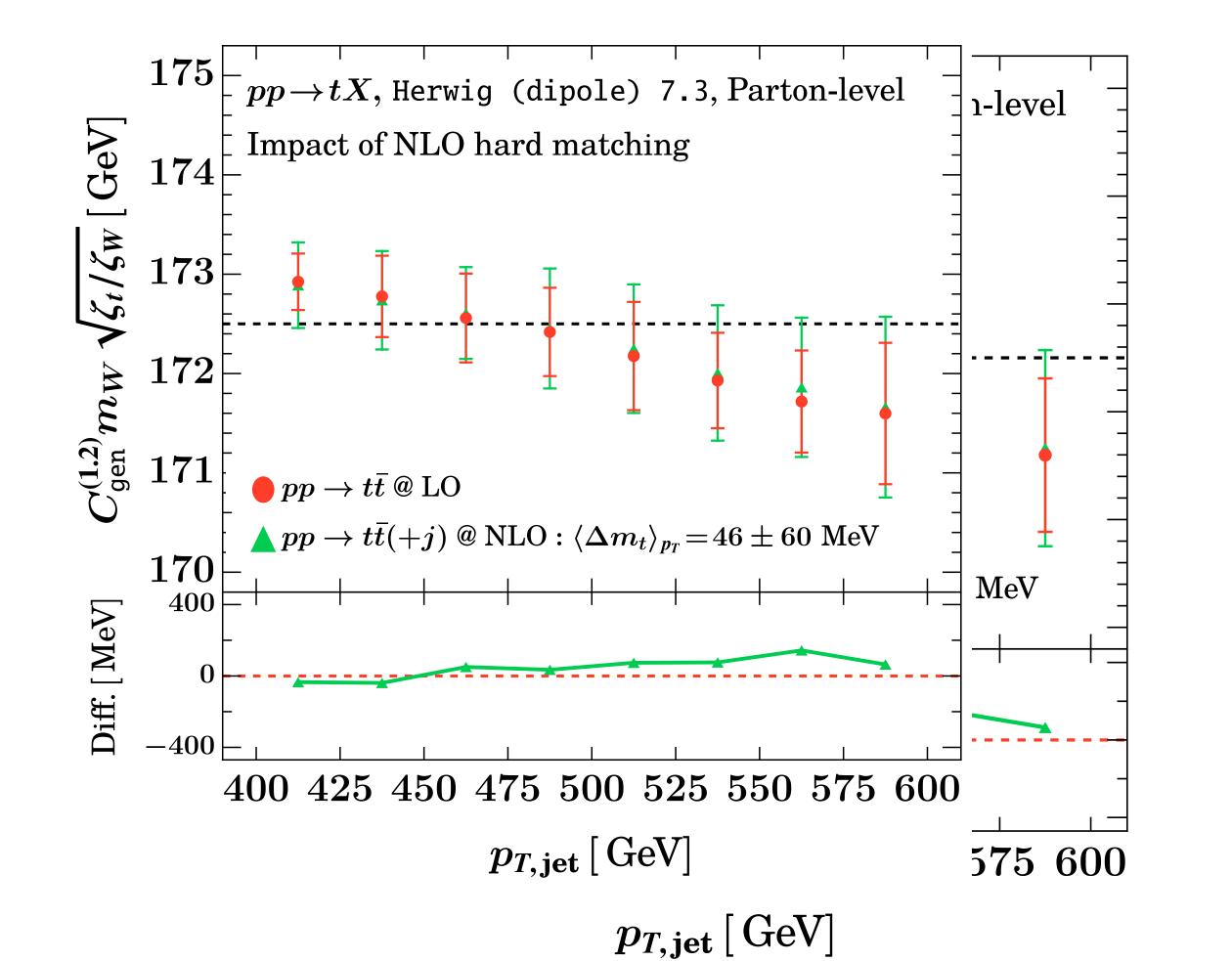
Variations in the physics at the hard scale through scale variations of ISR: negligible impact



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Hard scattering corrections

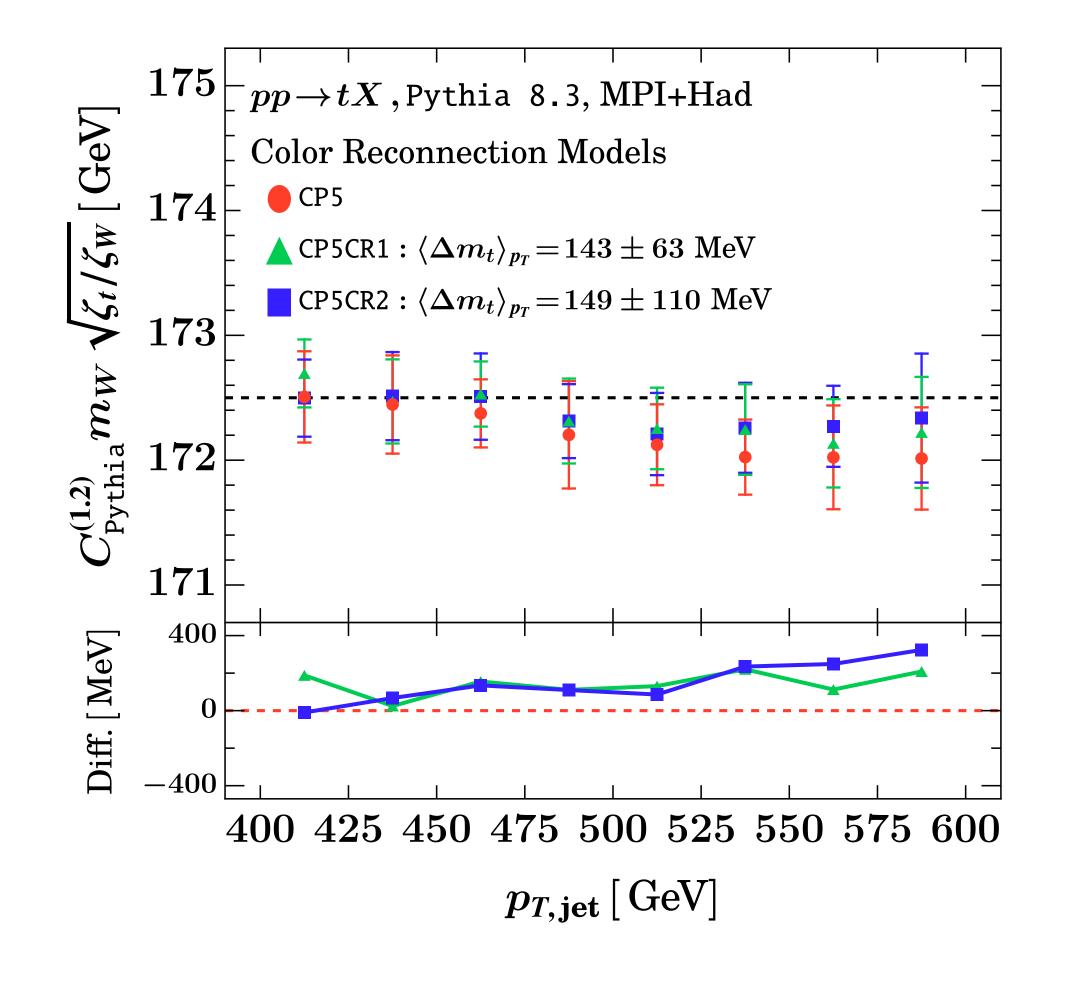
Variations in the physics at the hard scale through NLO matching \bar{t} #o $jt\bar{t}$ + j process: negligible impact



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Wide-angle soft physics

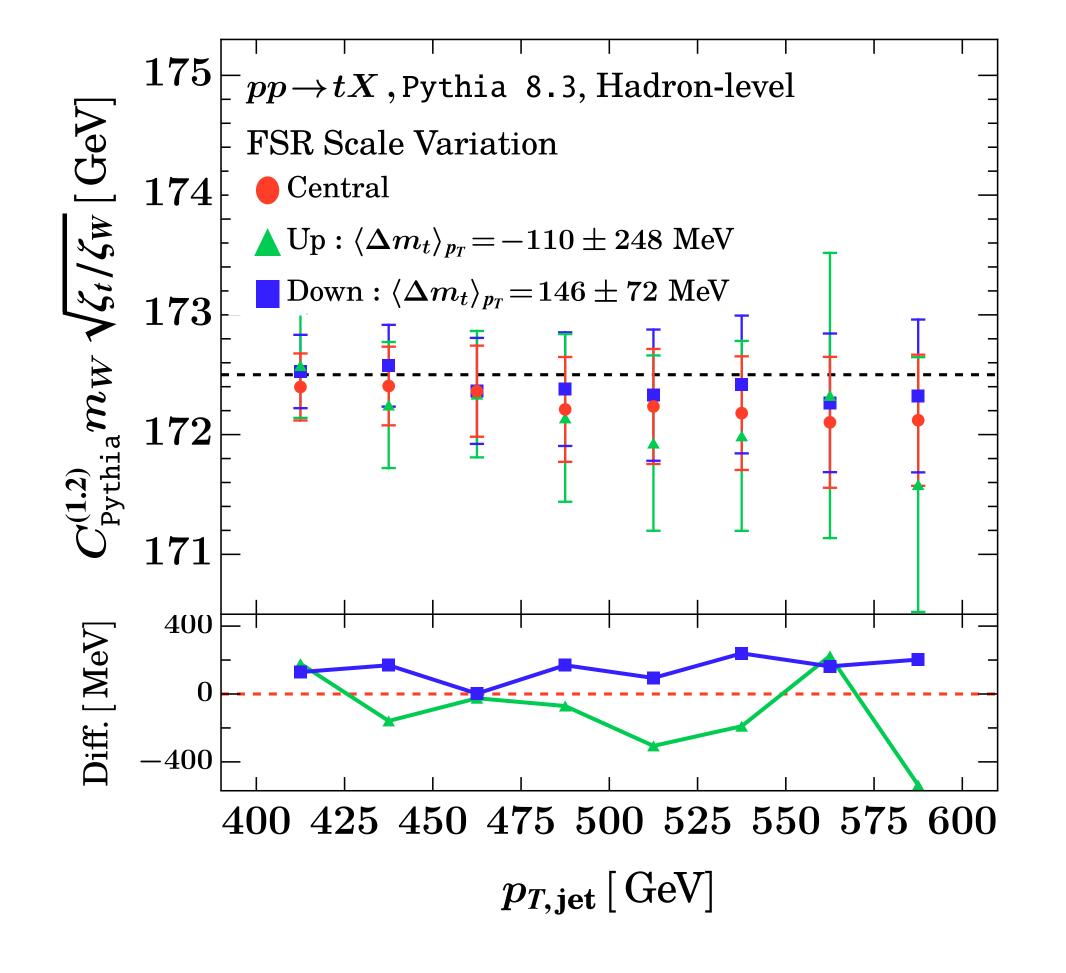
Models of color reconnection probe wide-angle soft physics at non-perturbative scales: small impact



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• He	Heavy flavor dependence		
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Shower uncertainty: FSR scale variation

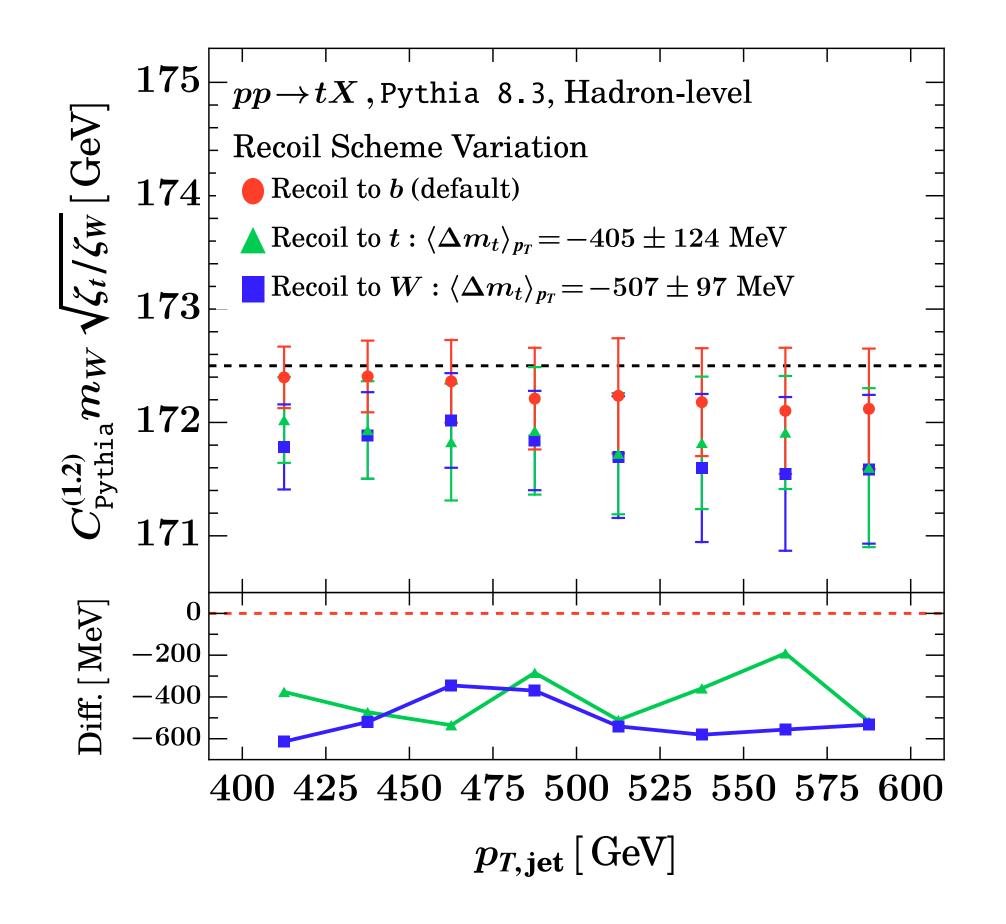
Results from LL showers + LO description of the top decay: small impact from FSR scale variation



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Shower uncertainty: top jet recoil schemes

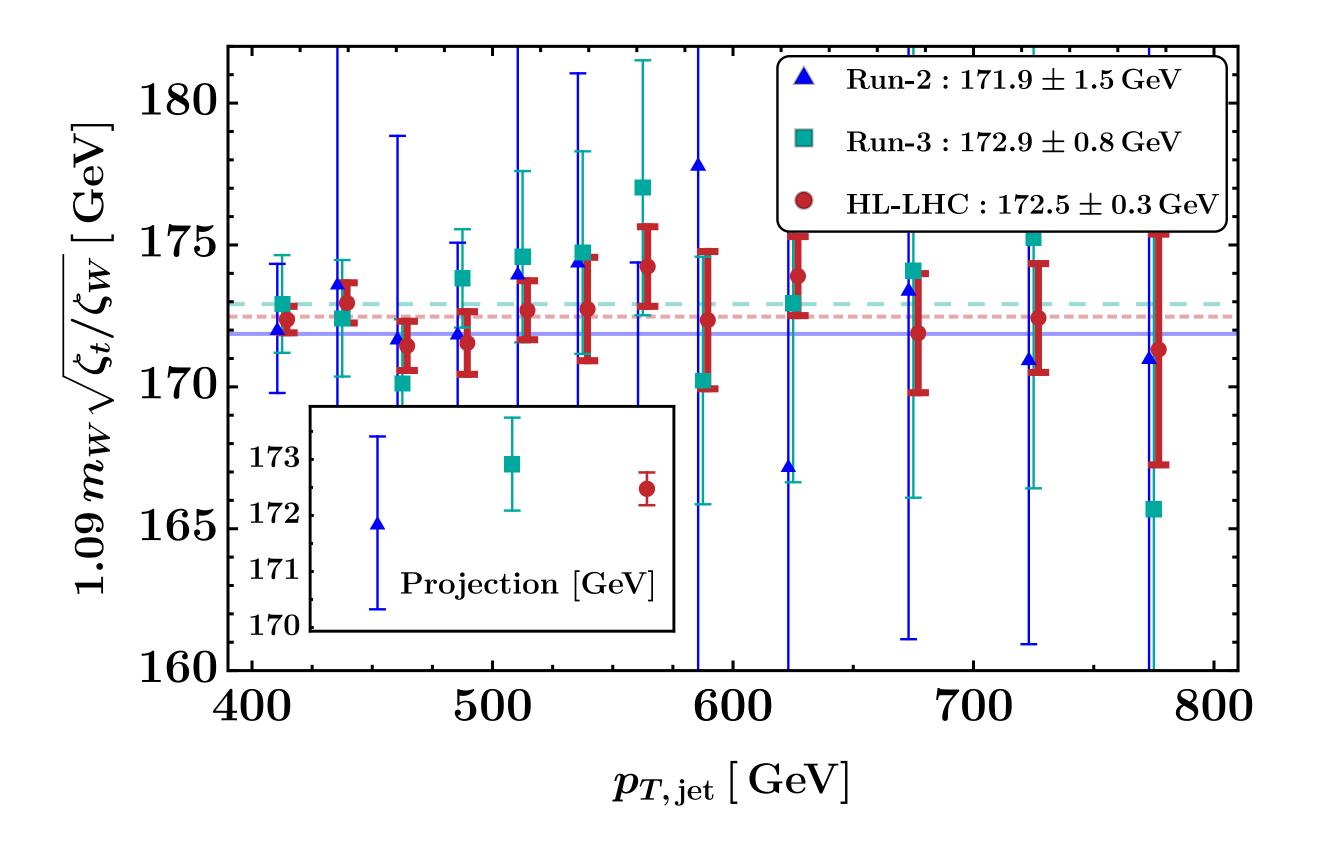
Top jet recoil schemes model NLO top-decay effects in parton showers: perturbative component dominates and significantly affects the top mass



Production mechanism: Produc PDF uncertainty PDF Hard scattering corrections Hard Jet substructure: Jet suk Jet radius dependence • Jet ra Hadronization effects Hadr Impact of underlying event Impa Wide angle soft physics Wide Perturbative uncertainty Pertu **Experimental feasibility:** Experii Statistical sensitivity Statis Jet energy scale Jet e Constituent energy scale Cons Track efficiency Track Heavy flavor dependence Heavy navor dependence

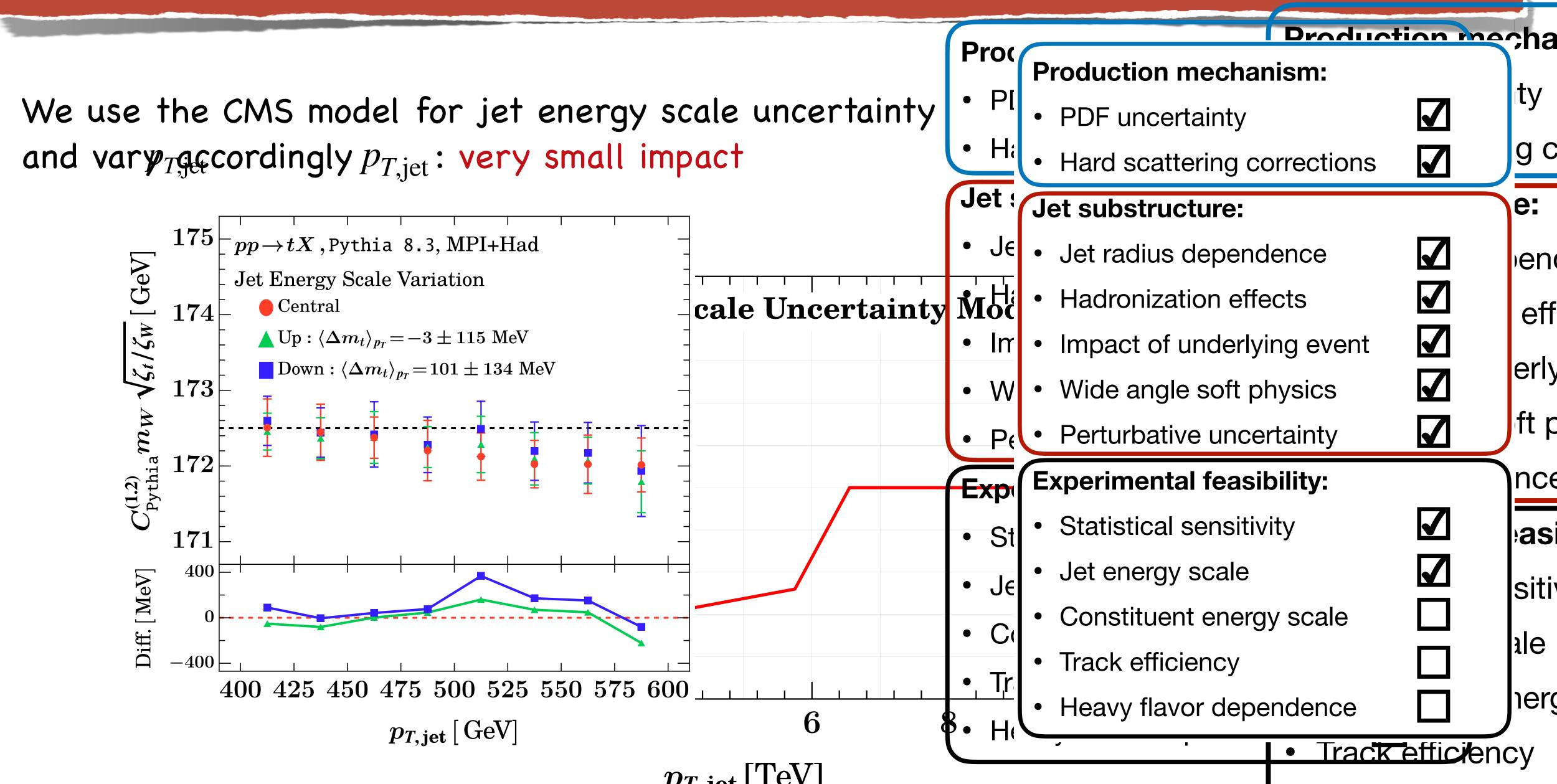
Experimental feasibility: statistics at the Little mechanism:

The measurement is statistically feasible at the LHC



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• 7	Track efficiency	
• +	Heavy flavor dependence	

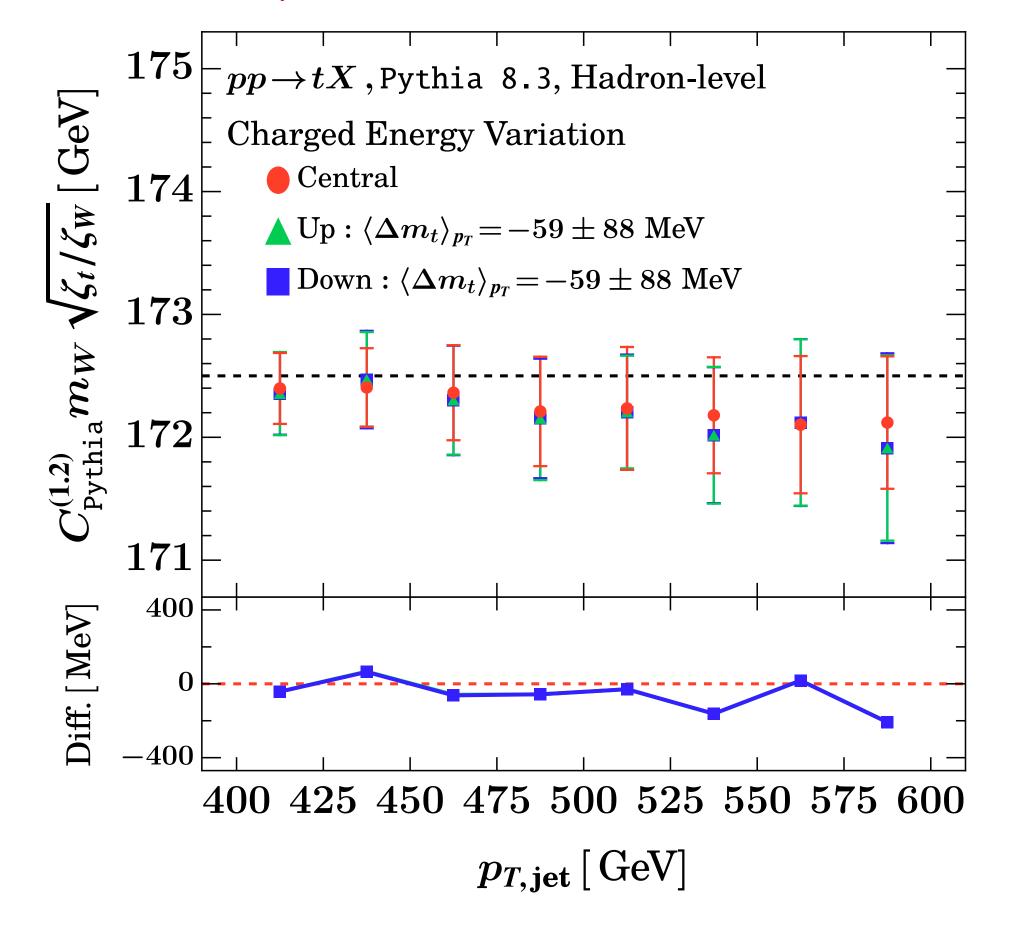
Experimental feasibility: jet energy scale



Experimental feasibility: constituent energy scale

37

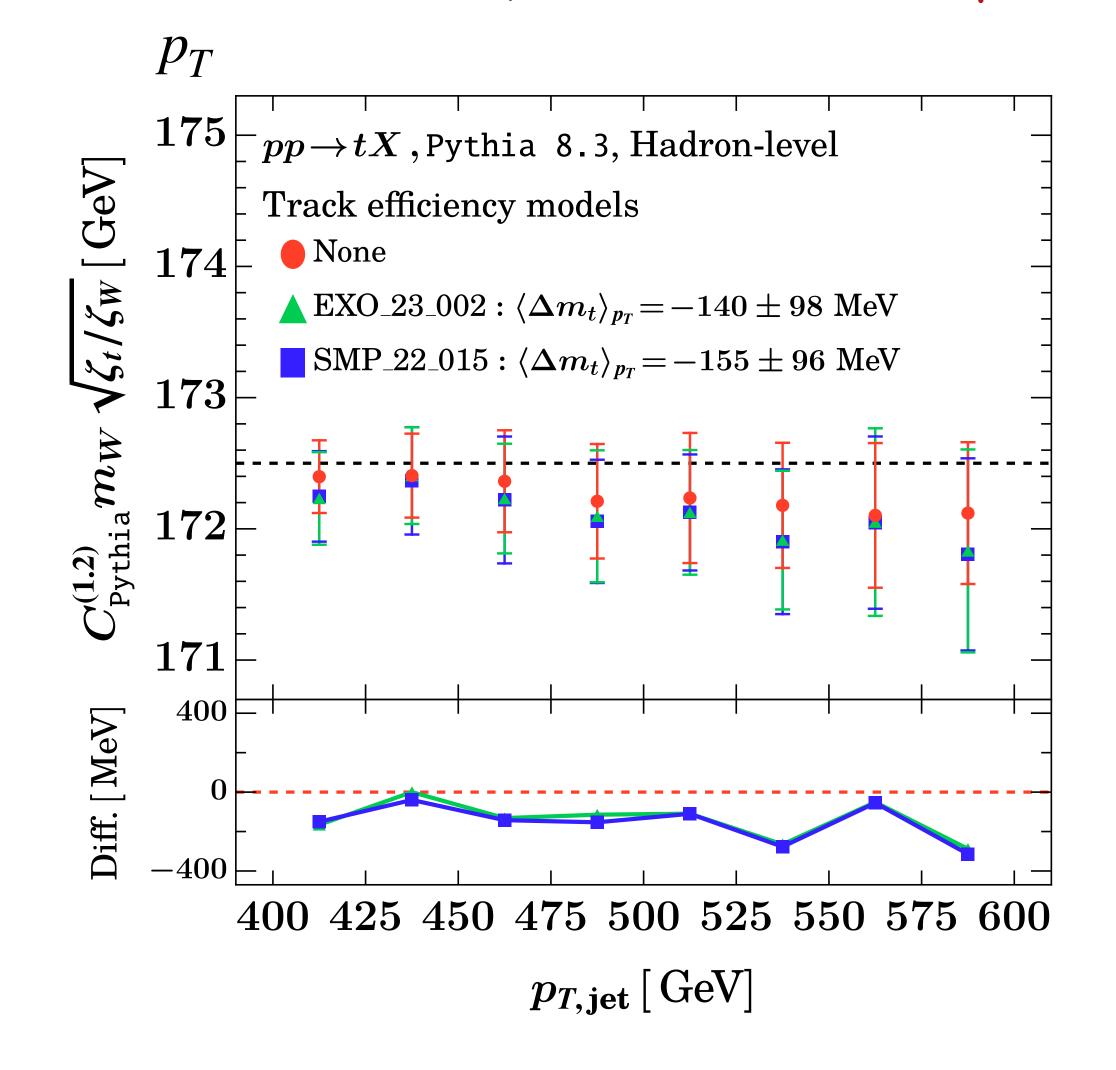
Effects of varying the momenta of the jet constituents (1% for charged, 3% for photons and 5% for neutrals): very small impact



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Produ	Production mechanism:	
• PDI	i Di dilecitality	
• Har	 Hard scattering corrections 	
Jet sı	Jet substructure:	
• Jet	 Jet radius dependence 	
• Hac	 Hadronization effects 	
• Imp	 Impact of underlying event 	
• Wic	 Wide angle soft physics 	
• Per	Perturbative uncertainty	
Exper	Experimental feasibility:	
Sta	 Statistical sensitivity 	√
• Jet	 Jet energy scale 	
	 Constituent energy scale 	
• Cor	Track efficiency	
• Trac	Heavy flavor dependence	
Hea	vy navoi dependence	

Experimental feasibility: track efficiency

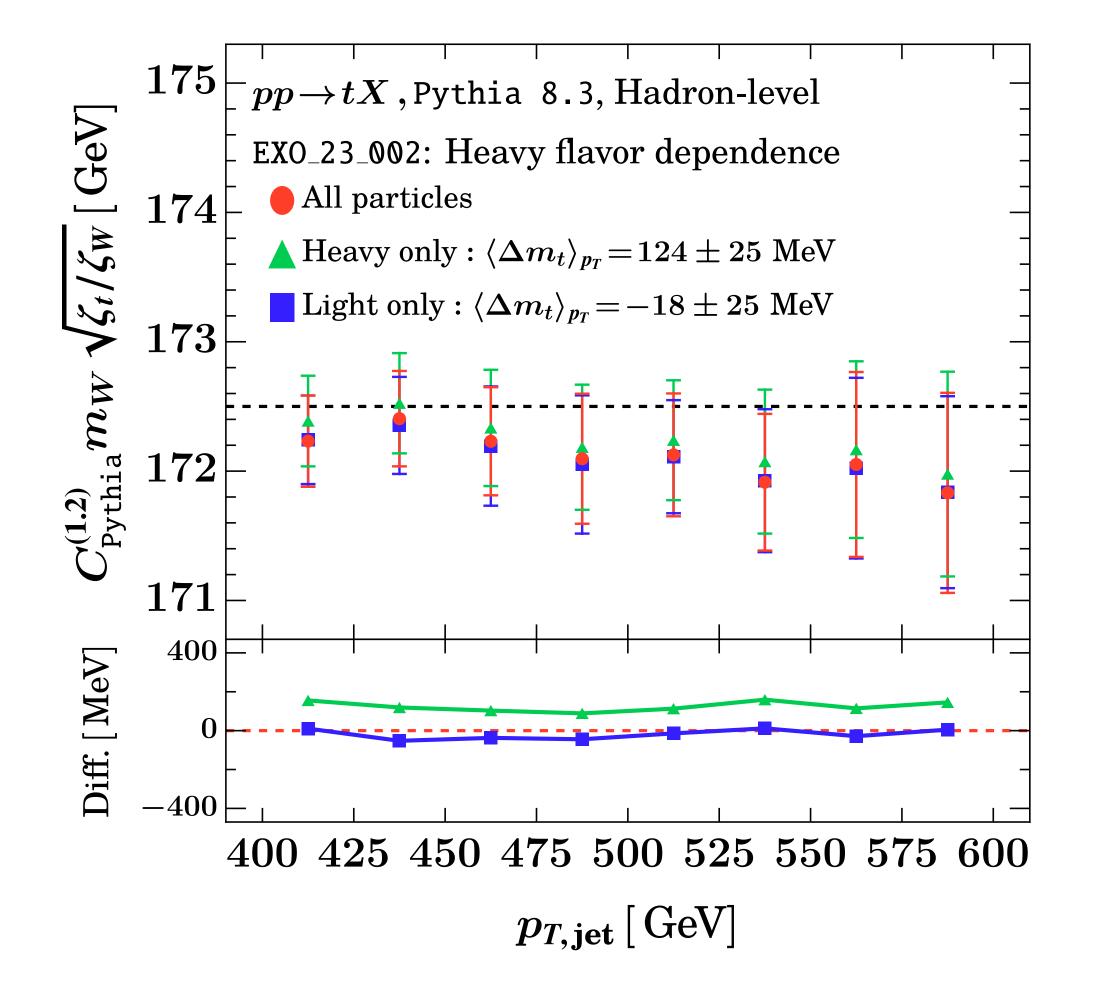
CMS track efficiency models: small impact



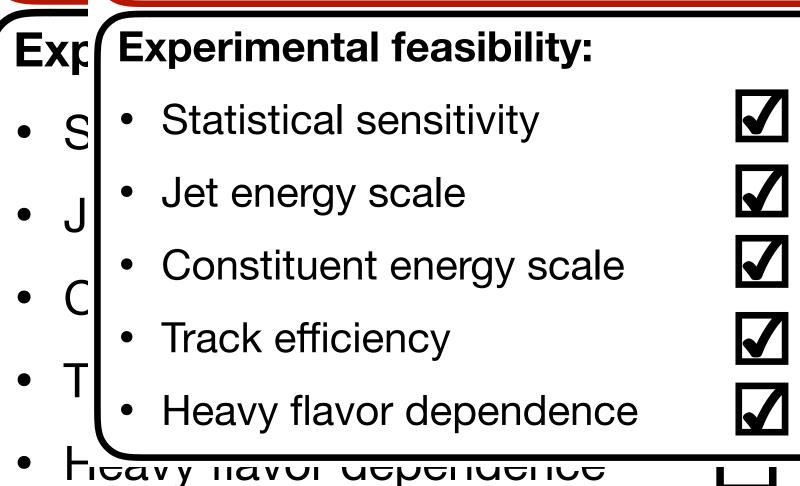
Production mechanism:		
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	Production mechanism:	
	 PDF uncertainty 	
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• †	 Jet radius dependence 	
•	 Hadronization effects 	
• \	 Impact of underlying event 	
, г	 Wide angle soft physics 	
	 Perturbative uncertainty 	
Ex	Experimental feasibility:	
• (Statistical sensitivity 	
• (Jet energy scale 	
• (Constituent energy scale 	
• 7	Track efficiency	
 	Heavy flavor dependence	
•	J	

Experimental feasibility: heavy flavor dependence

CMS models for different jet response between jets originated by a light quark vs b-quark: small effect



Production mechanism: **Production mechanism:** PDF uncertainty Hard scattering corrections Jet Jet substructure: Jet radius dependence Hadronization effects Impact of underlying event Wide angle soft physics Perturbative uncertainty **Exp(Experimental feasibility:**



Summary and outlook

- * Triple energy correlators measured on boosted top jets: enhanced top-mass sensitivity dominated by hard kinematics (perturbatively calculable effects)
- * By exploiting both top and W imprints in the triple energy correlator, high level of resilience against soft radiation effects, underlying event contamination and hadronization. Theoretical robustness and experimental feasibility
- * Our MC-based analysis motivates novel precision calculations of energy correlators on top decays and further exploration of the experimental measurement.

 Goal: a novel, theoretically clean, precision extraction of the top mass in a well-defined short-distance scheme based on energy correlators measured on boosted top jets at LHC