

Measurement of observables sensitive to  
colour reconnection in  $t\bar{t}$  events with the ATLAS  
detector at  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$

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# Content

## Theoretical context

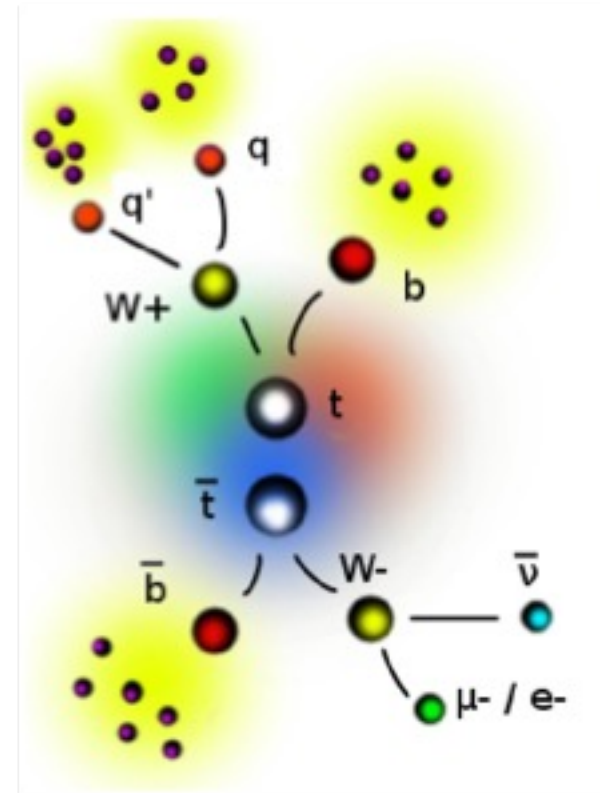
- The top-quark
- Colour reconnection modelling
- Sensitive observables

## Analysis

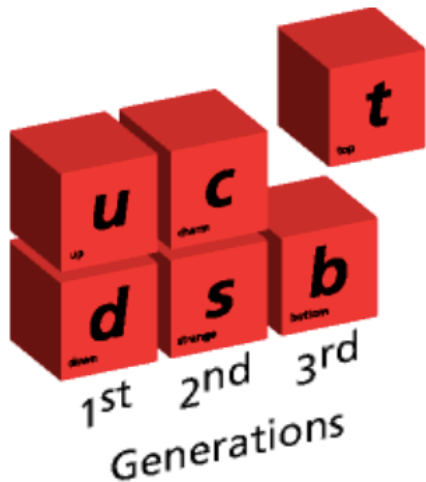
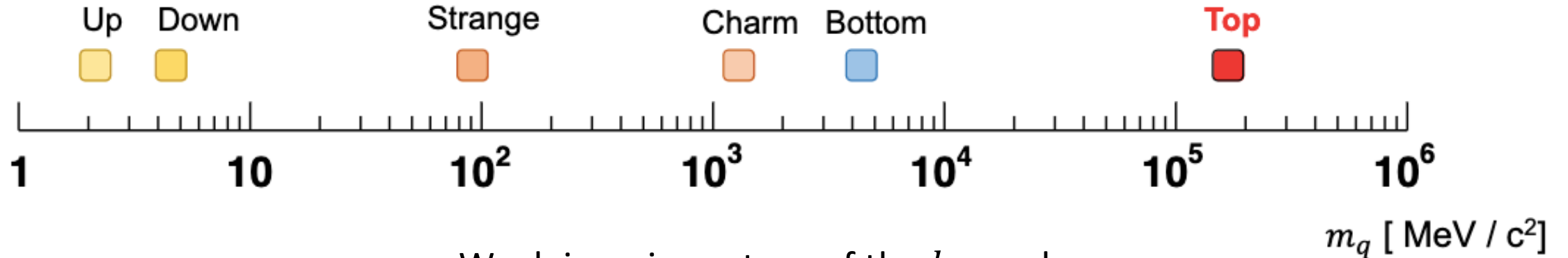
- Event selection and Background estimation
- Unfolding the sensitive observables
- Estimate systematic uncertainties

## Results

- Compare unfolded data to MC predictions



# The top quark

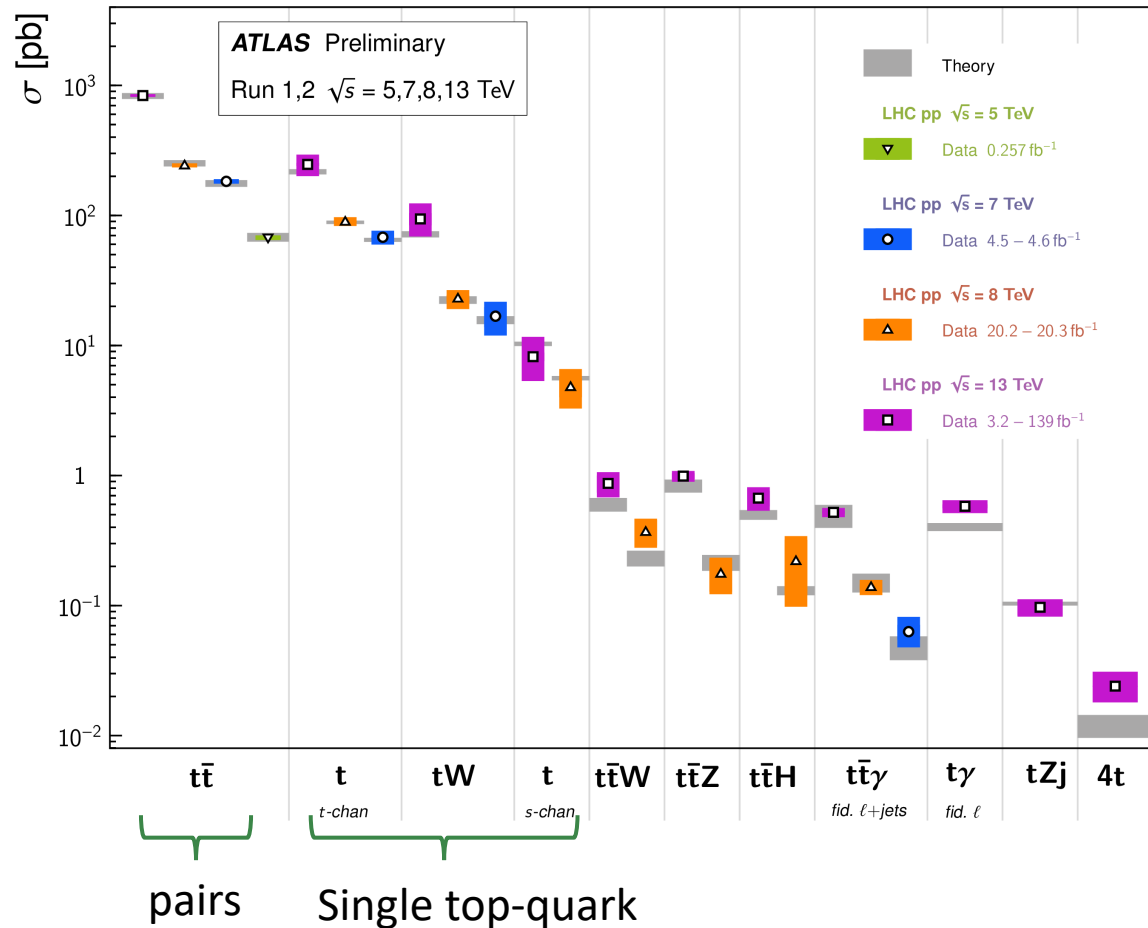


- Weak-isospin partner of the  $b$ -quark
- Electric charge:  $+ 2/3 e$
- Spin:  $1/2$
- The heaviest elementary particle  $m_t = 172.69 \pm 0.48 \text{ GeV}$
- Very short lifetime  $\tau \approx 0.5 \times 10^{-24} \text{ s}$   
⇒ decay before forming hadron
- Large Yukawa coupling to the Higgs boson  $y_t \sim 1$   
⇒ connection to EW symmetry breaking

# Top-quark processes

Top Quark Production Cross Section Measurements

Status: November 2022

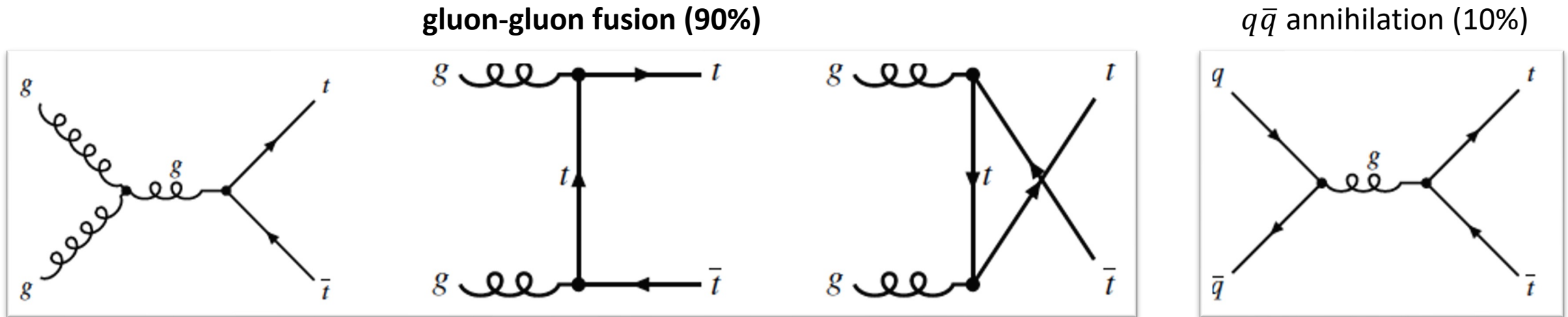


- Dominant production: in **pairs** via the strong interaction
- Very high production rate at the LHC  
 $\Rightarrow$  Produced more than **100M** pairs during Run 2  
 $(N = L \sigma = 139 \text{ fb}^{-1} \cdot 832 \text{ pb} \approx 116 \text{ M})$



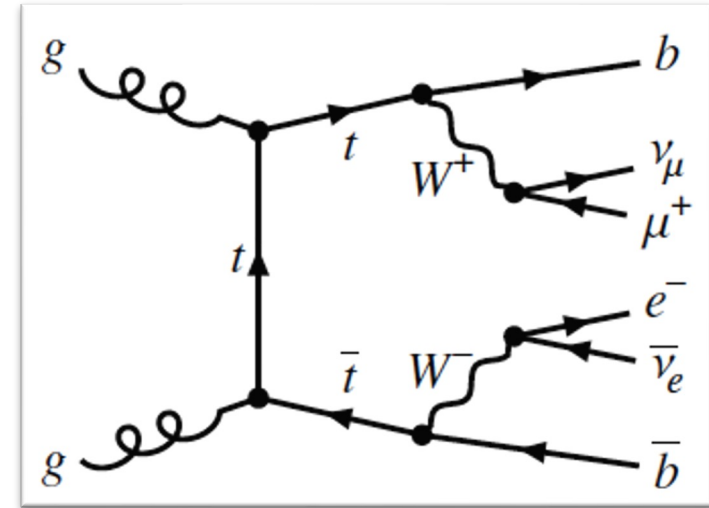
# Top-quark pair production

- At LO, produced either by gluon-gluon fusion or quark-antiquark annihilation
- **Mainly via gluon-gluon fusion at the LHC (90%)**



# Top-quark pair decay

- top-quark decay via the weak interaction
- Since  $V_{tb} \approx 1$ ,  $\mathcal{B}(t \rightarrow Wb) \approx 100\%$
- $t\bar{t}$  has three decay channels, defined by the decay mode of the  $W$ -boson from the top-quark



Channel	Branching ratio
Dilepton	10.5 %
lepton+jets	43.8%
All-hadronic	45.7%

- **Measurement in the dilepton channel**
  - highest signal-to-background ratio
  - small branching ratio is not a limitation, as we have a large dataset

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one important uncertainty is colour-reconnection

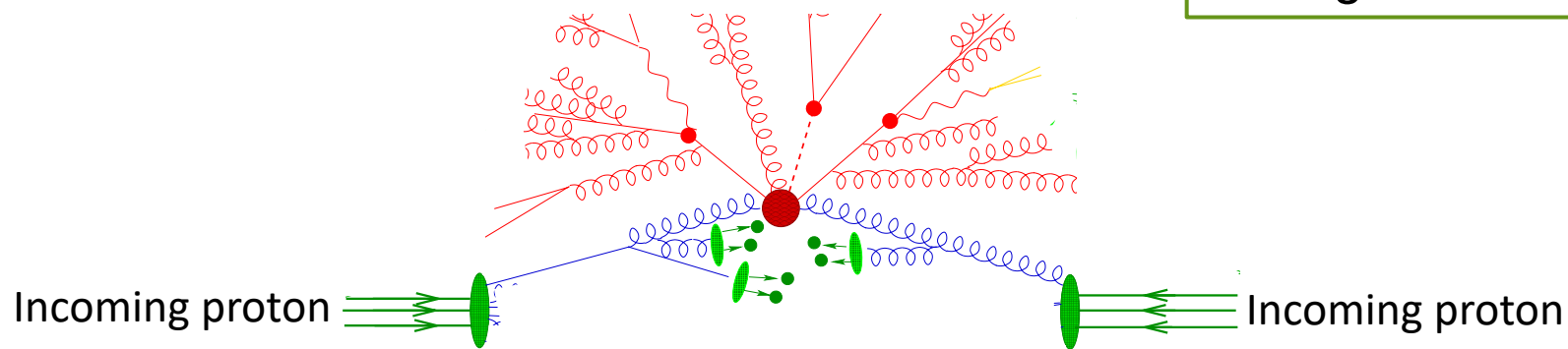
What is colour reconnection?

# Proton-proton collision at high energies

Incoming proton 

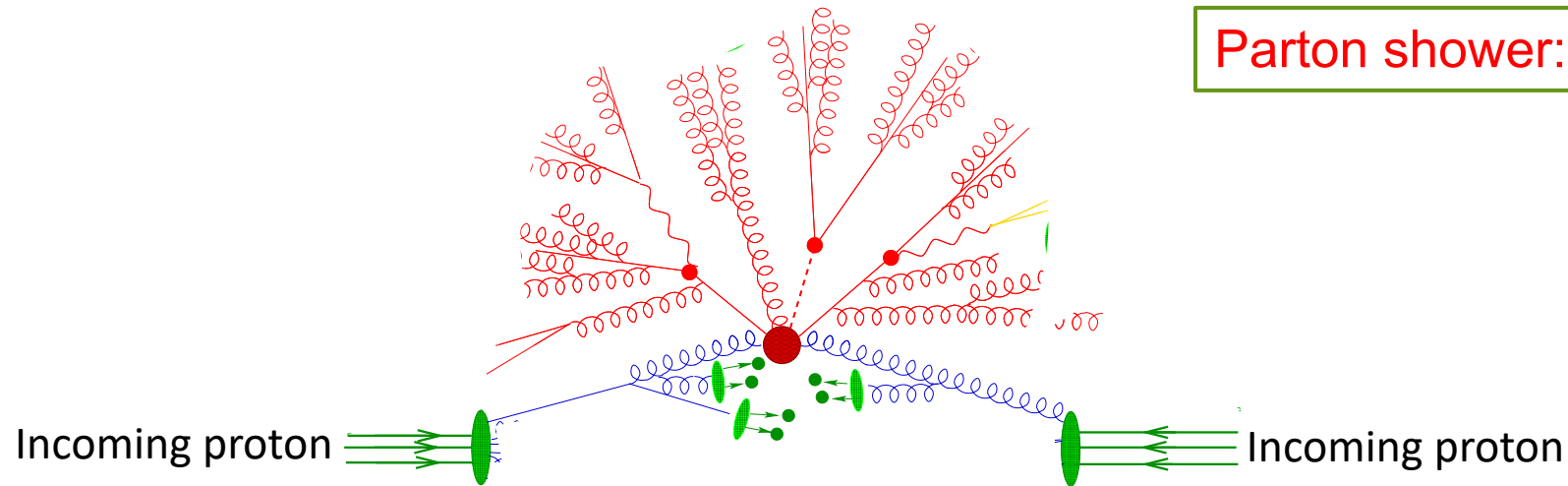
 Incoming proton

# Proton-proton collision at high energies



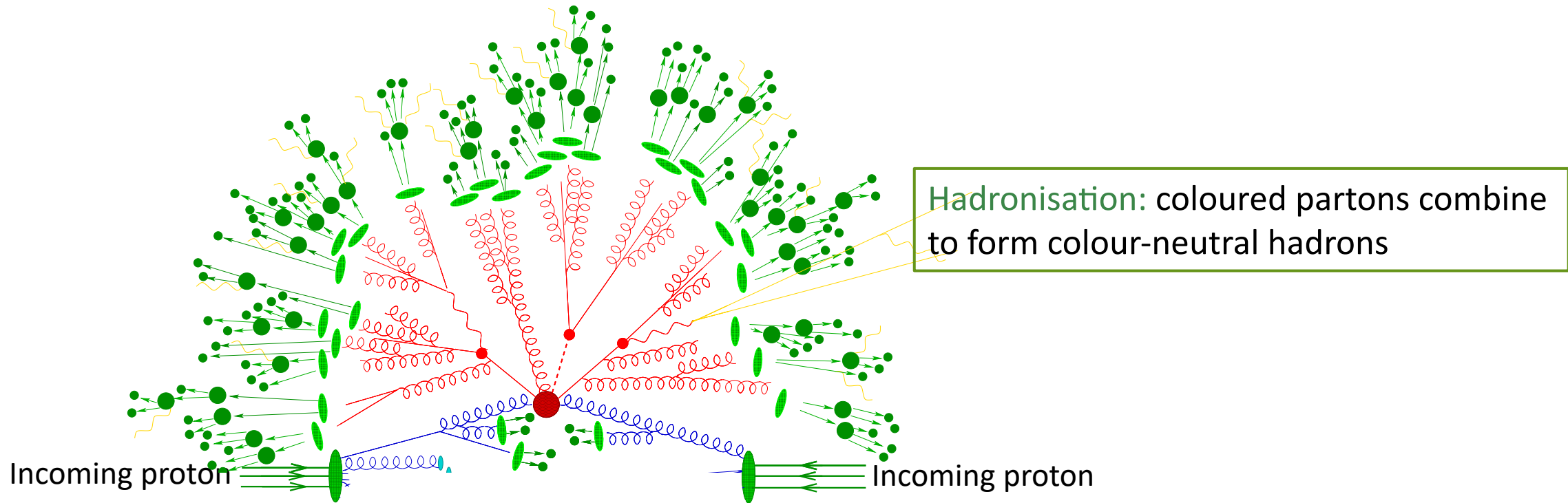
**Hard partonic interaction:** two partons with the highest momentum fraction interact.

# Proton-proton collision at high energies

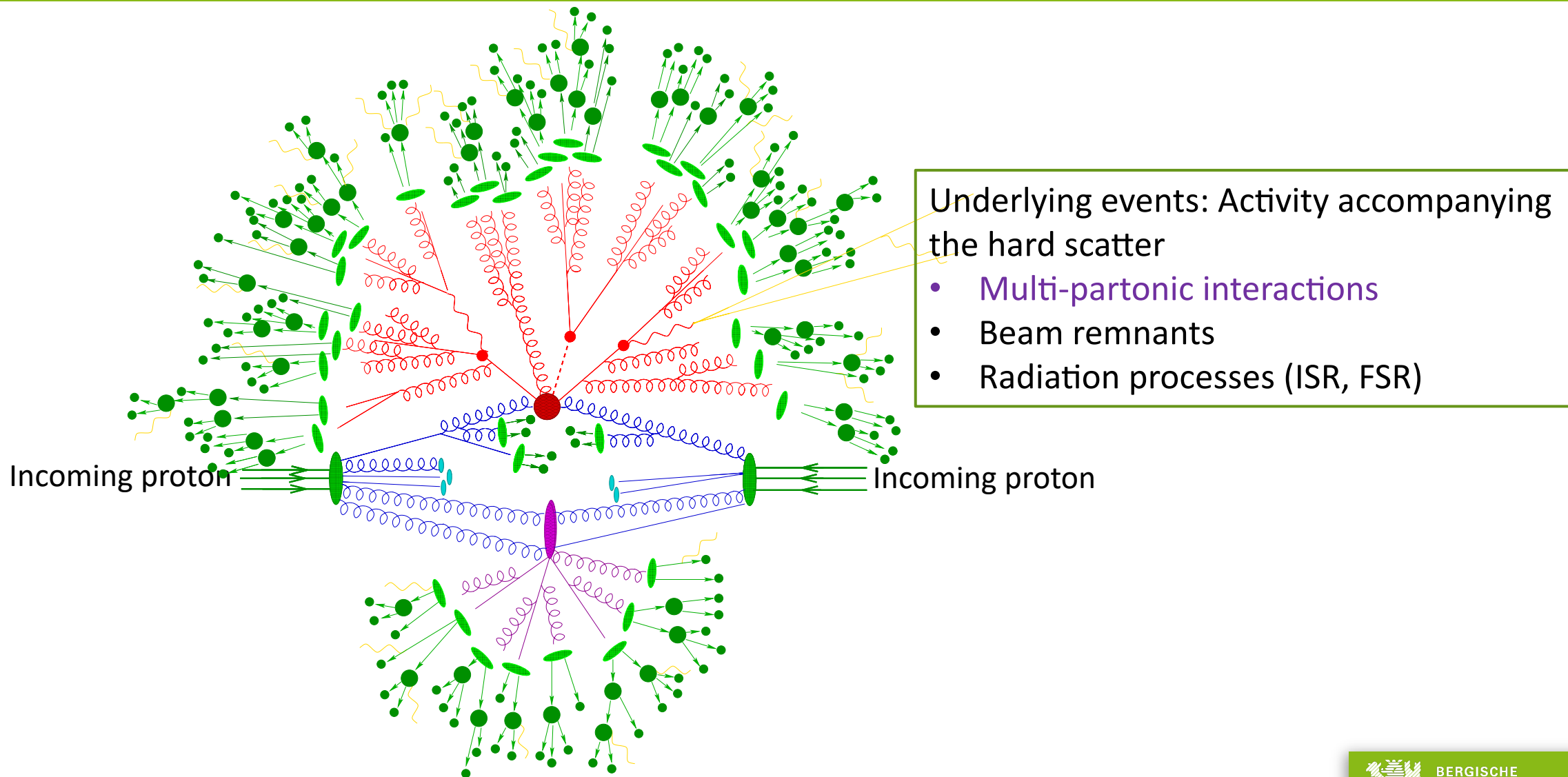


**Parton shower:** quark and gluons radiation

# Proton-proton collision at high energies

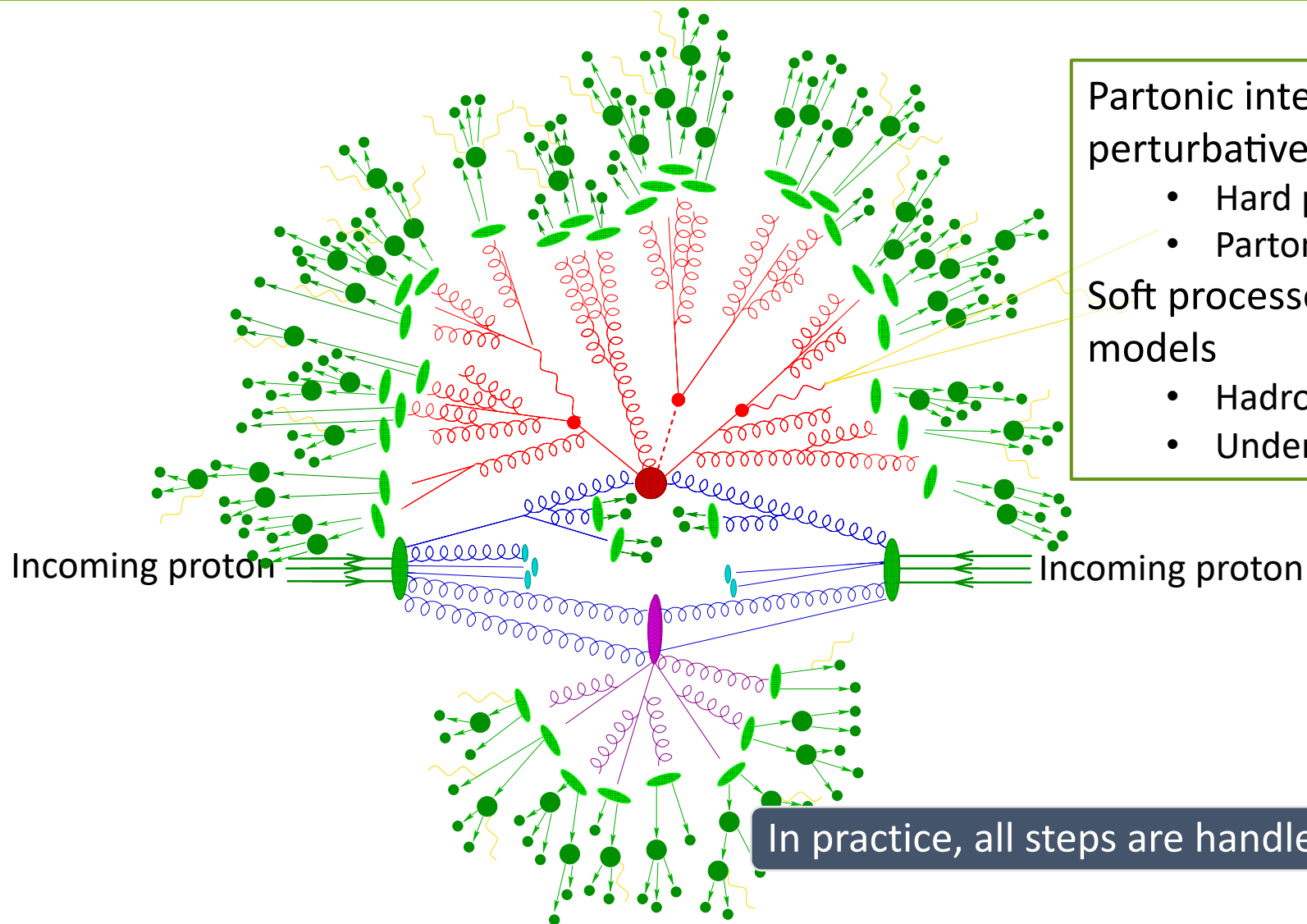


# Proton-proton collision at high energies





# Proton-proton collision at high energies



Partonic interactions are calculable in perturbative QCD:

- Hard process
- Parton shower

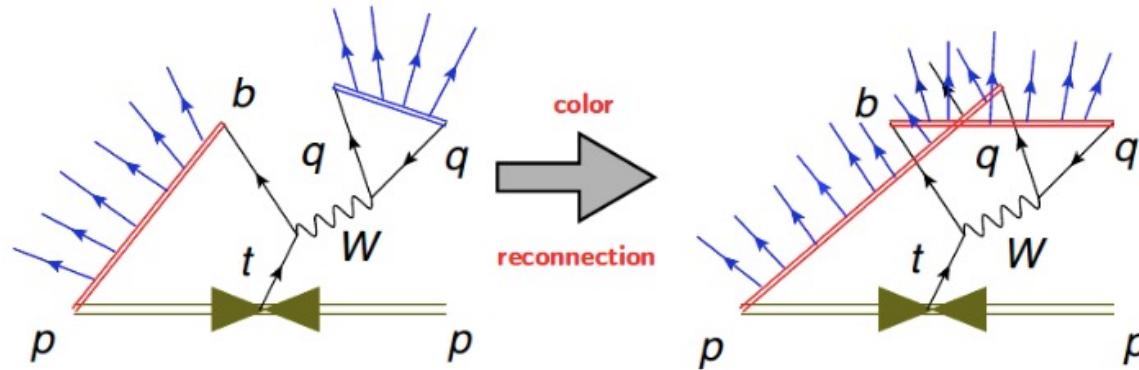
Soft processes rely on phenomenological models

- Hadronisation and decay
- Underlying events

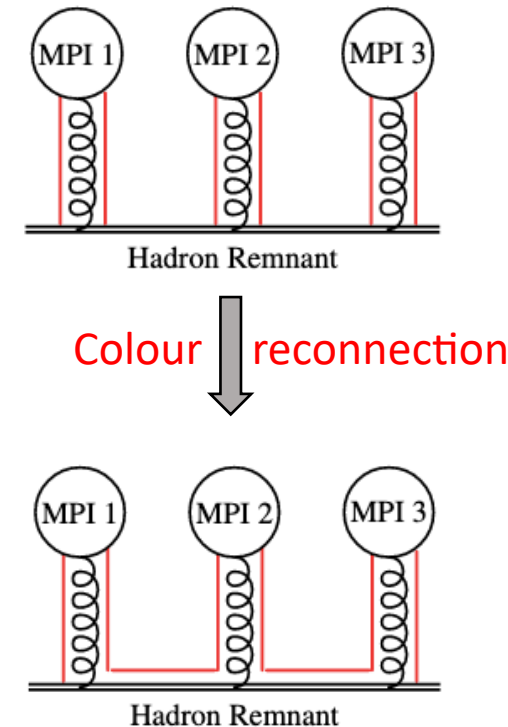
In practice, all steps are handled by Monte Carlo simulations

# Colour reconnection (CR)

Mechanism of **reassigning colour connections** between partons during hadronisation

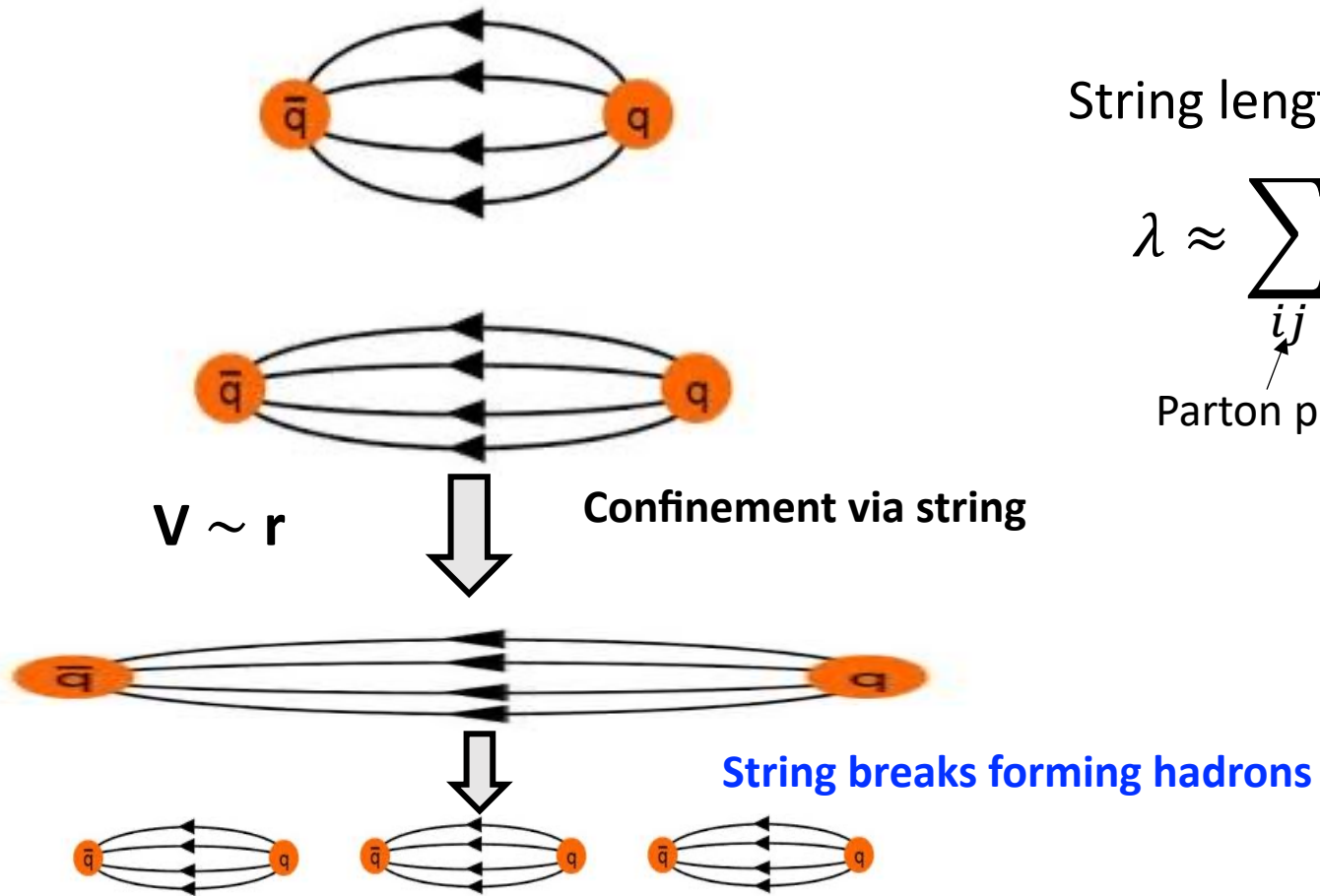


- In the leading colour (LC) approximation (before CR):
  - Each MPI is viewed as separate from all other systems in colour space
  - No strings stretched between different MPI systems
- CR allows different MPI systems to be colour-connected to each other (MPI hadronise collectively)
  - **Total colour charge reduced** w.r.t. LC approximation



# Overview of CR models in PYTHIA 8

Based on reconstructing a colour potential that minimise the total string length



String length measure:

$$\lambda \approx \sum_{ij} \ln \left( 1 + \frac{m_{ij}^2}{m_0^2} \right)$$

Parton pairs

typical hadronic mass scale

**Longer string  $\rightarrow$  more hadrons**

# Overview of CR models in PYTHIA 8

## MPI-based model (CRO)

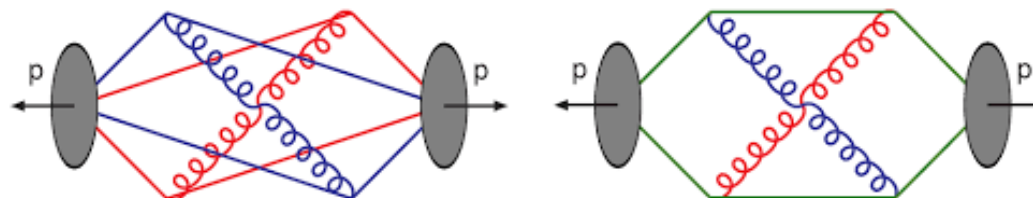
1. Starting from lowest  $p_T$  interaction calculate **reconnection probability**

$$P_{\text{rec}}(p_T) = \frac{(R_{\text{rec}} p_{T0})^2}{(R_{\text{rec}} p_{T0})^2 + p_T^2}$$

CR range      Soft dampening scale

$p_T \downarrow \Rightarrow P_{\text{rec}} \uparrow$   
softer systems easier to reconnect

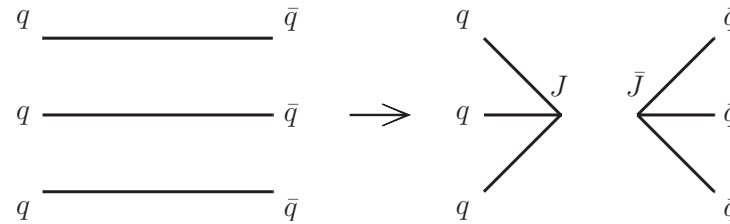
2. Iterate (1) for all interactions; if  $P_{\text{rec}} > \alpha \in [0,1]$  do reconnection  
→ stochastic
3. Move gluons from softer interactions to high  $p_T$  dipole that minimizes the increase in  $\lambda$



# Overview of CR models in PYTHIA 8

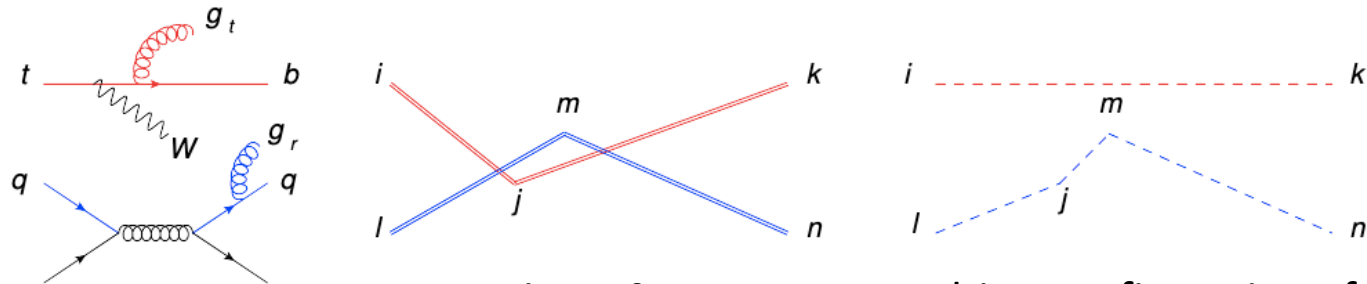
- QCD-based (CR1):

- is a more complete treatment of the QCD multiplet structure
- includes reconnections of dipoles, which can produce structures of three (anti-)colour indices (**junctions**) → Improves description of baryon production
- based on string minimization



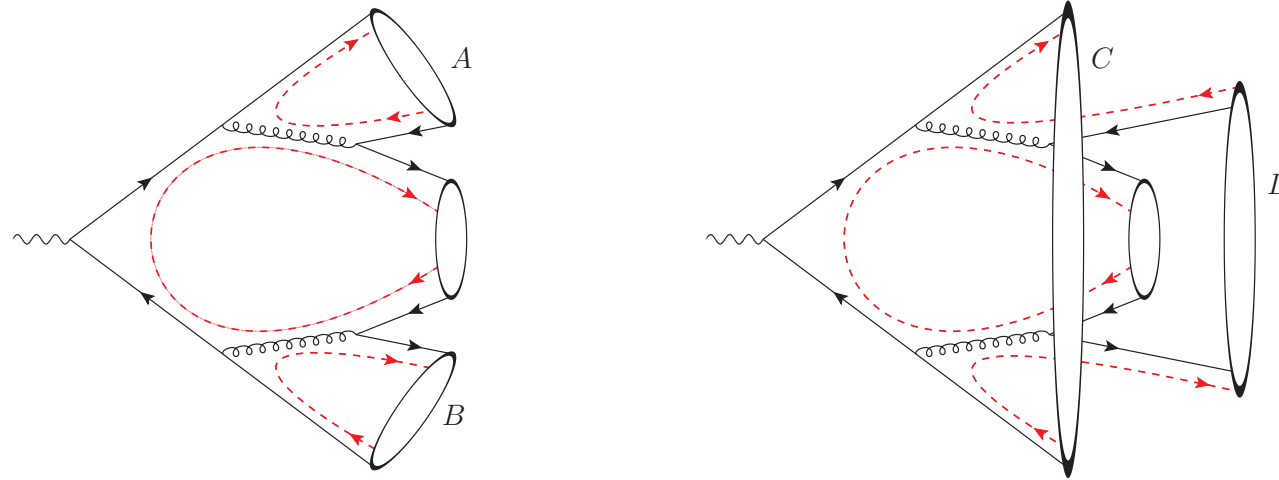
- Gluon-move (CR2):

- only gluons are considered for reconnection, no quarks reconnection
- each gluon reconnect to all MPI systems (not only the ones for softer MPIs)
- As QCD-based model, also based on the minimization of string length



original configuration    resulting configuration after moving the gluon

# The default CR model in Herwig 7

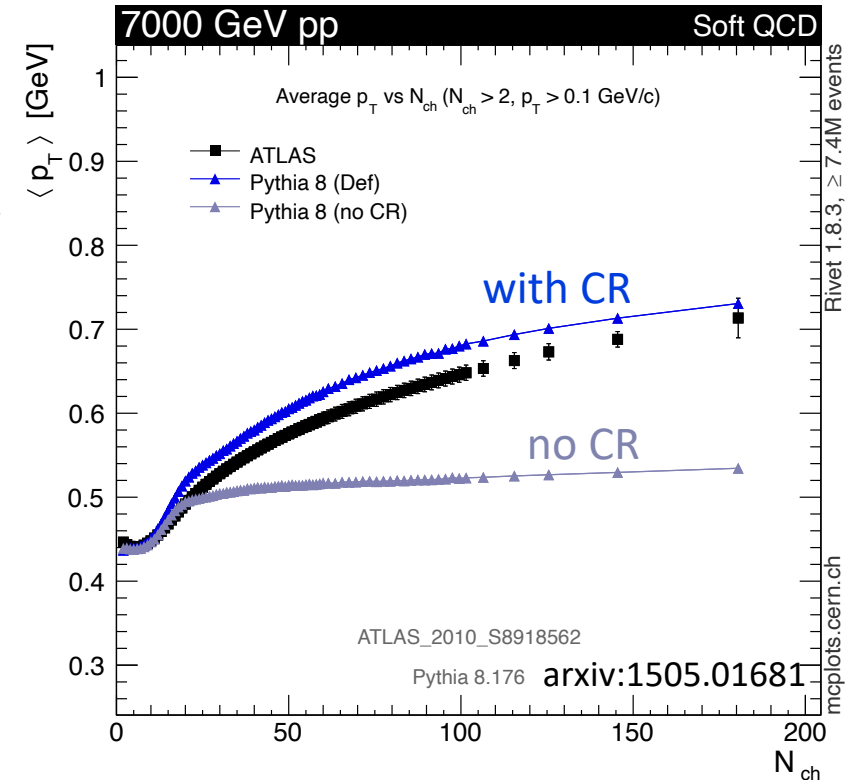


- Iterating over quarks in all clusters, try reconnection
- Select reconnection which minimises  $m_C + m_D$  if  $m_C + m_D < m_A + m_B$
- Accept reconnection with probability  $P_{\text{reco}}$

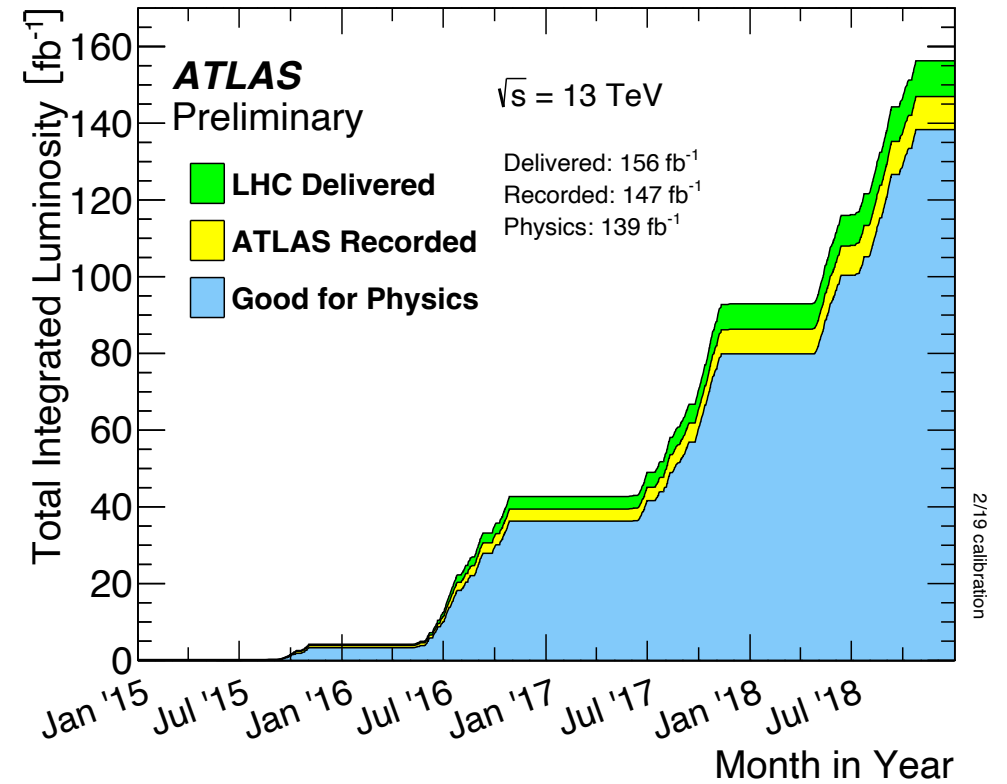
# Why do we need colour reconnection?

- Explains the rising trend of  $\langle p_T \rangle$  vs.  $n_{ch}$   
↳ CR is needed to describe the data
- It can shed light in the quest for precise SM measurements, such as the top-quark mass:
  - top-quark decays take place right in the middle of the showering/hadronization region
  - so quarks (and gluons) produced in the decay are subject to CR
  - $t \rightarrow bu\bar{d}$ , b for sure is colour-connected somewhere else, giving mass ambiguities
- CR is one of the dominant systematics in  $m_{top}$  measurements (up to 400 MeV)

prescription to estimate this uncertainty is not well defined  
⇒ In Pythia 8, there are currently more than 15 CR models

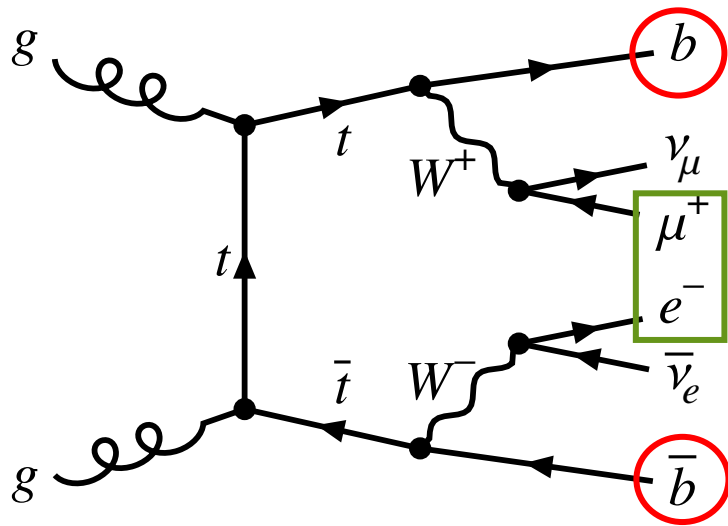


# Analysis





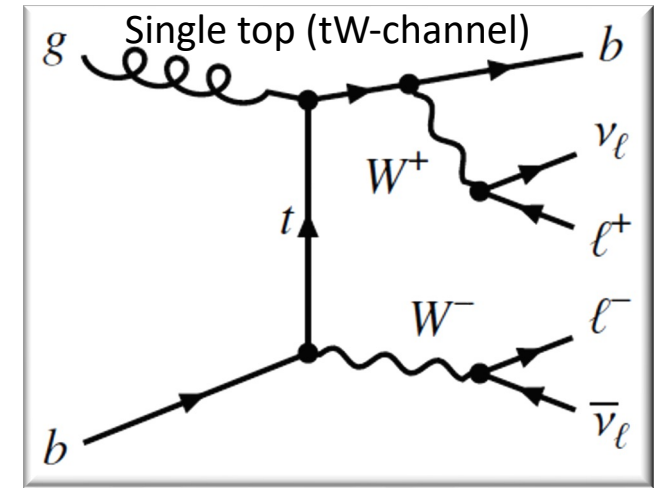
# Event selection



- Full Run 2 data,  $\int L dt = 139 fb^{-1}$
- Select  $t\bar{t}$  dilepton channel:
  - $e^\pm$  and  $\mu^\mp$ ,  $p_T > 25$  GeV
  - 2 or 3 jets,  $p_T > 25$  GeV
  - 2 b-tags @ 70% efficiency working point
  - $m_{\ell\ell} > 15$  GeV

# Backgrounds to $t\bar{t}$ events

- Single top,  $t\bar{t}V$ ,  $Z$  +jets and diboson
  - Expected number of events calculated using their theoretical cross-sections
- Fake lepton background
  - At least one of the leptons is wrongly reconstructed as prompt
    - An electron from photon conversion ( $e \rightarrow \gamma \rightarrow e$ )
    - $e$  or  $\mu$  from the decay of a bottom or charm hadron
  - estimated with partial data driven approach using  $e^\pm\mu^\pm$  same (charge) sign control region

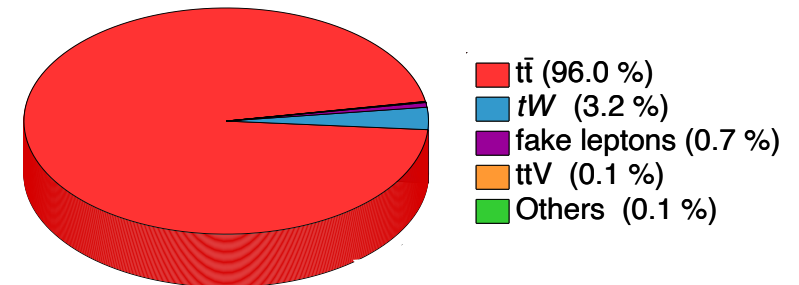


$$N^{\text{fake}} = R \cdot (N^{\text{data,SS}} - N^{\text{prompt,SS}})$$

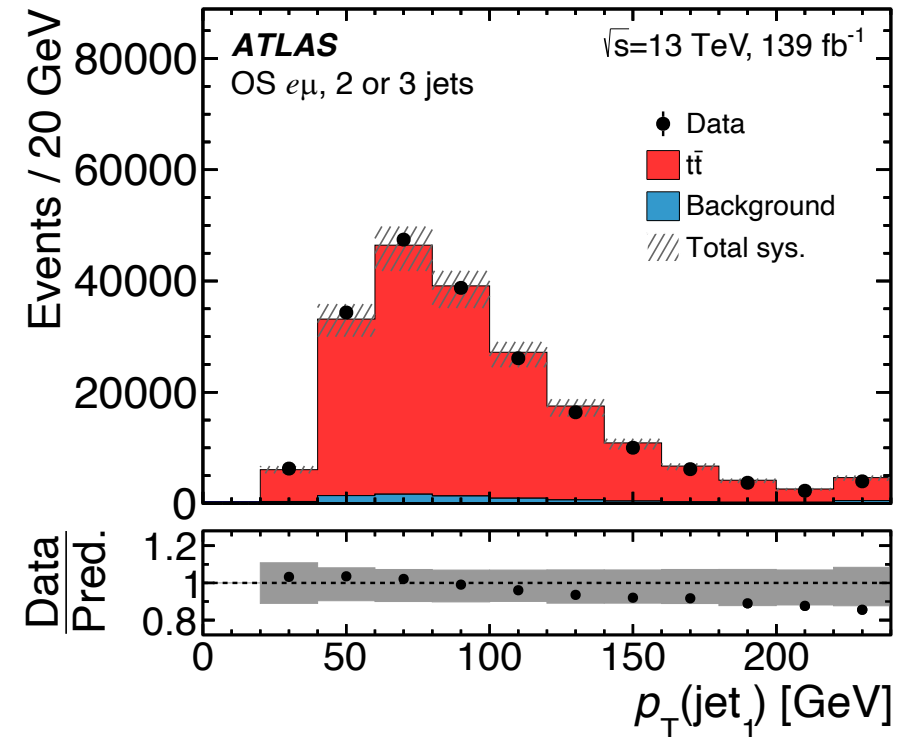
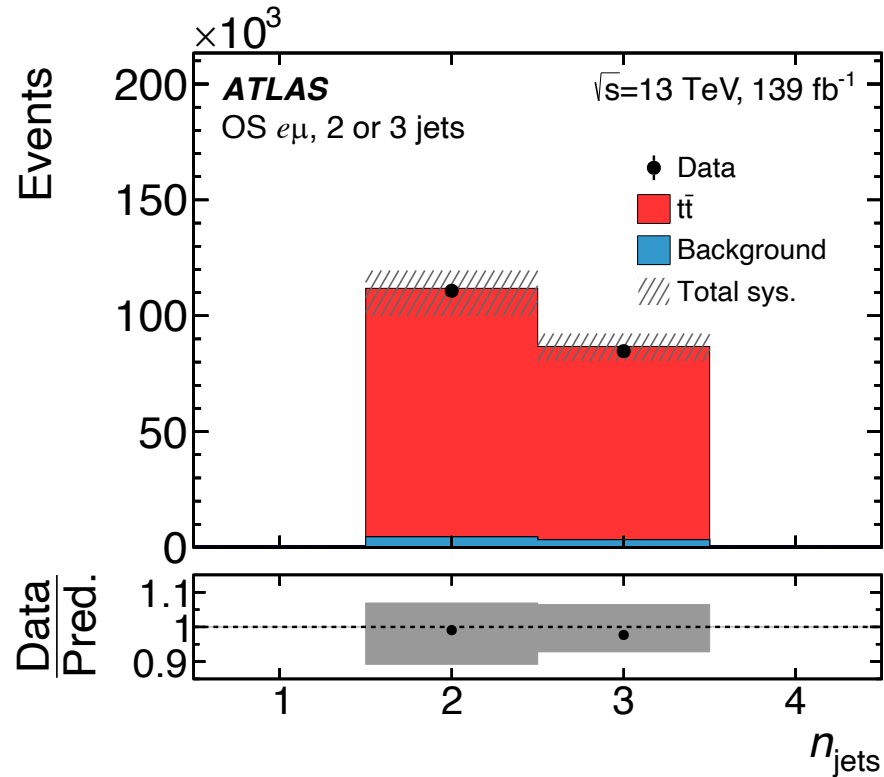
Ratio of OS-to-SS events  
with fake leptons

Observed same-sign  
events

Predicted same-sign events  
with prompt leptons



# Data-MC comparison plots



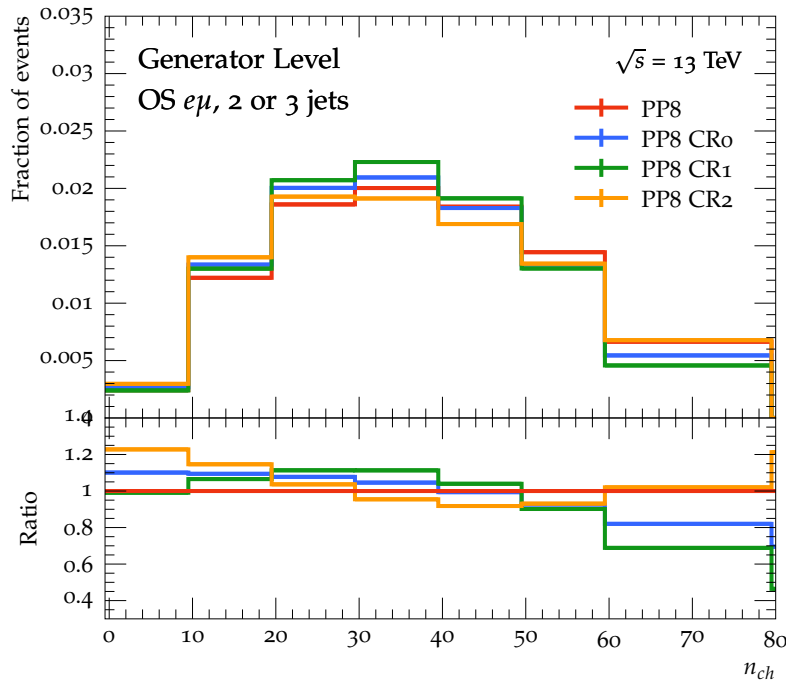
- Uncertainty band includes MC statistical, theoretical and systematics uncertainties
- MC describes the data well and deviations are covered by uncertainties

➤ Backgrounds to  $t\bar{t}$  events **COMPLETED**

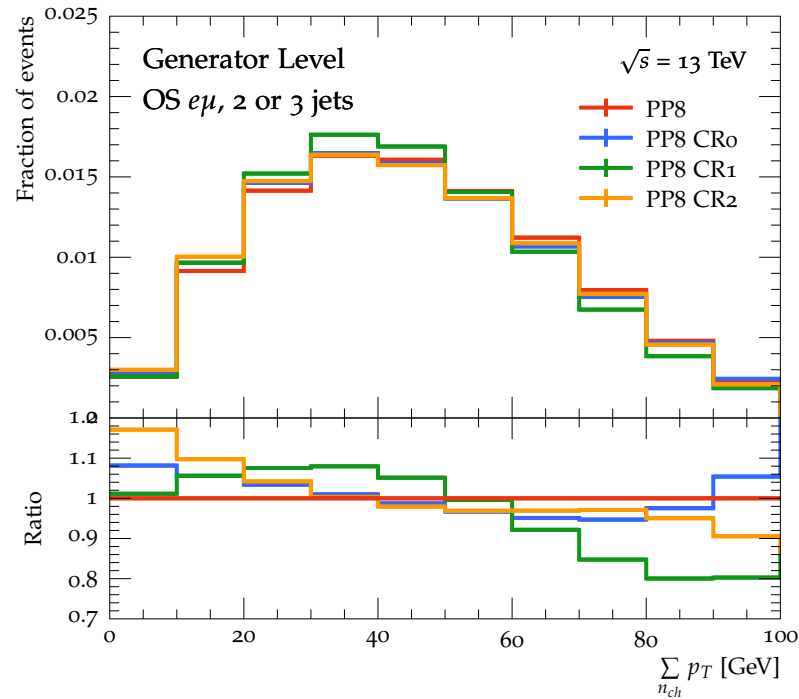
# Sensitive observables

CR0-CR2: tuned to ATLAS data  
[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2017-008](#)

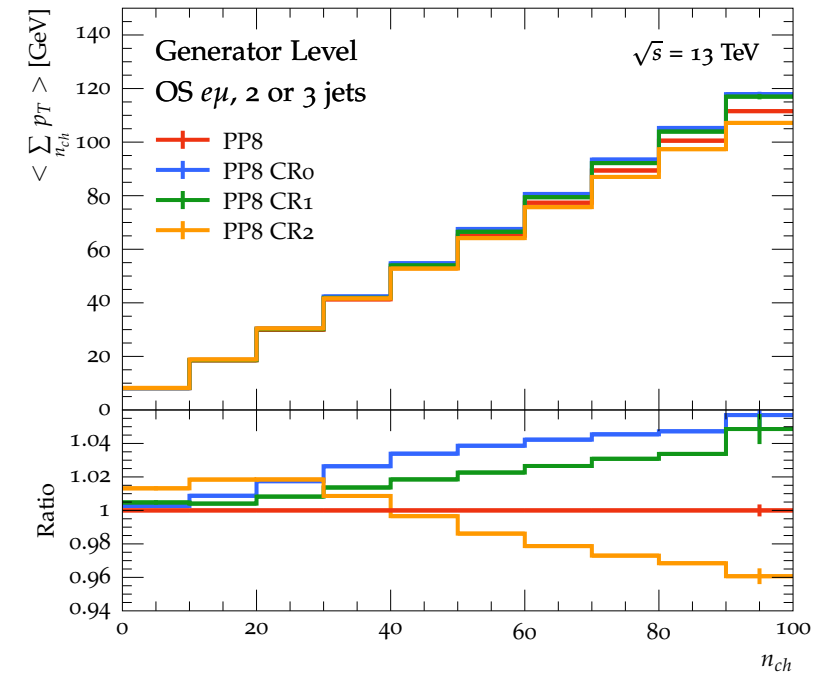
## Charged particles multiplicity



## Scalar sum of transverse momentum



## $\sum n_{ch} p_T$ as a function of $n_{ch}$



The observables use tracks outside jets because tracks inside jets does not contribute significantly to the discrimination power between CR models.

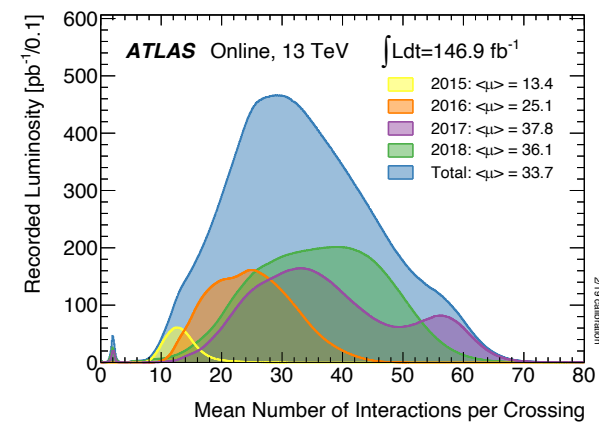




# Backgrounds to primary hard-scatter tracks

Colour reconnection in  $t\bar{t}$  events

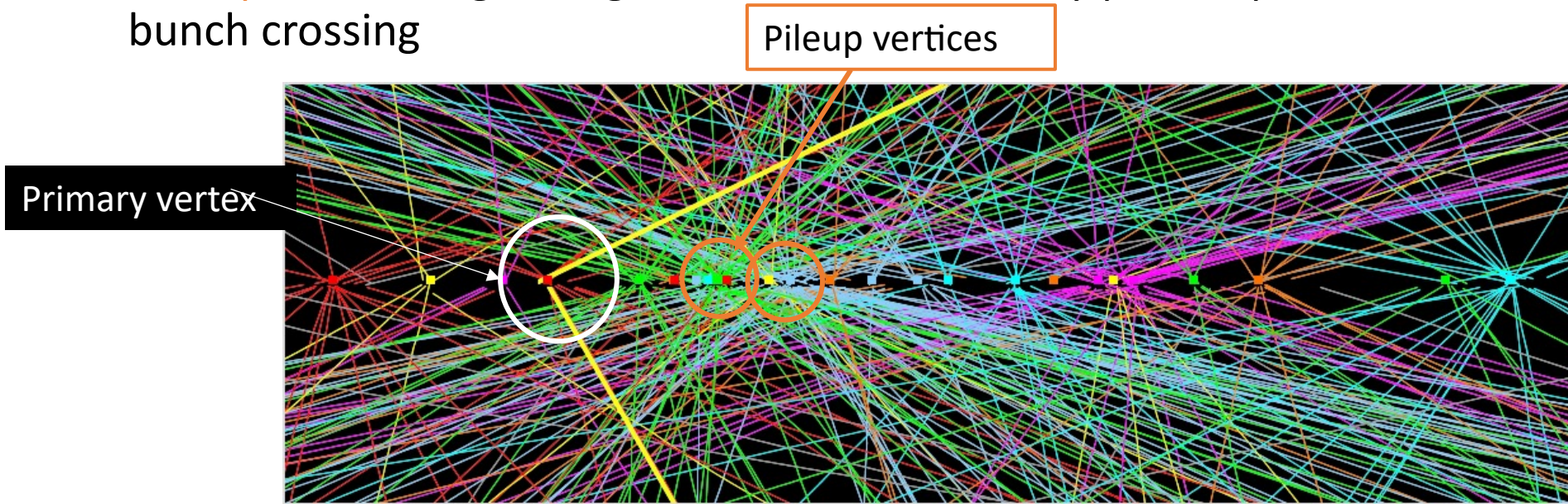
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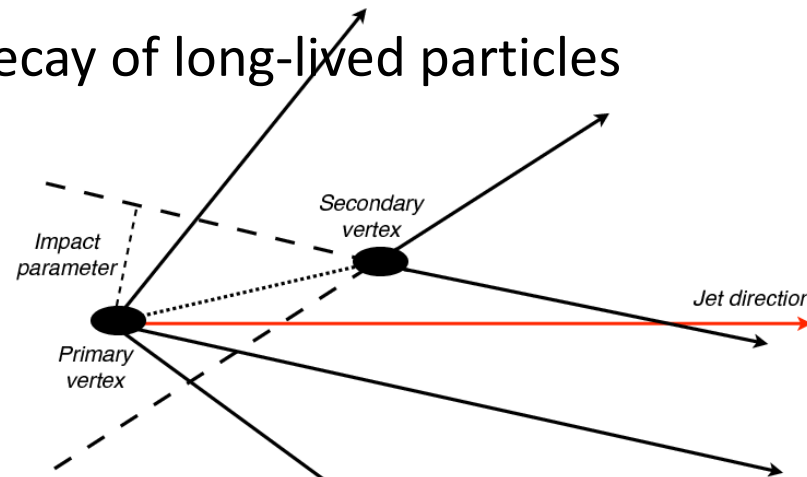


# Backgrounds to primary hard-scatter tracks

1. **Pile-up** tracks, originating from additional nearby proton-proton collisions at the same bunch crossing



2. Secondary tracks, decay of long-lived particles

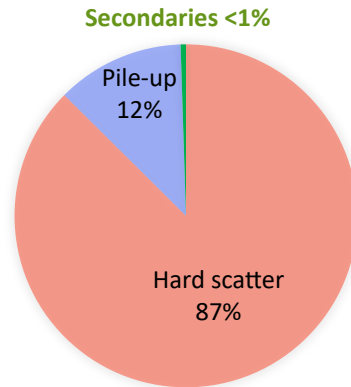


Colour reconnection in  $t\bar{t}$  events

# Pile-up background estimation

Even after these requirements tracks are still diluted with pileup and secondary tracks

- we can not subtract the MC prediction directly from data, as MC does not perfectly model collision data
  - therefore, we have devised a method which gives a closure in MC
  - then, we subtract this contribution from data in a **stochastic** way after **correcting for Data-MC mismodelling**



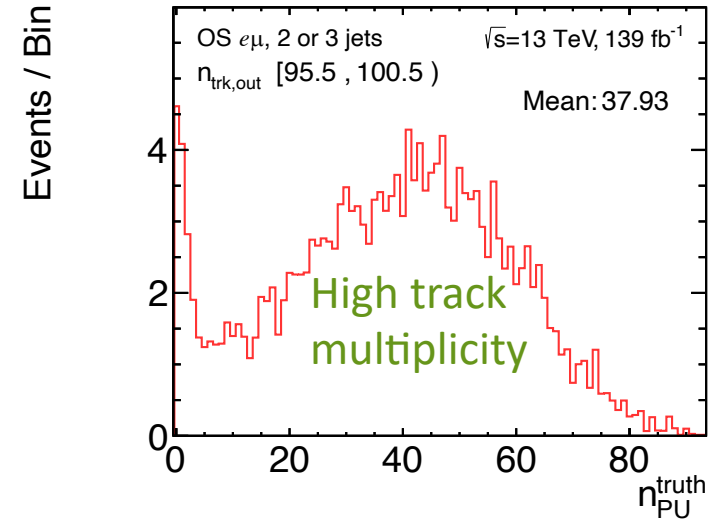
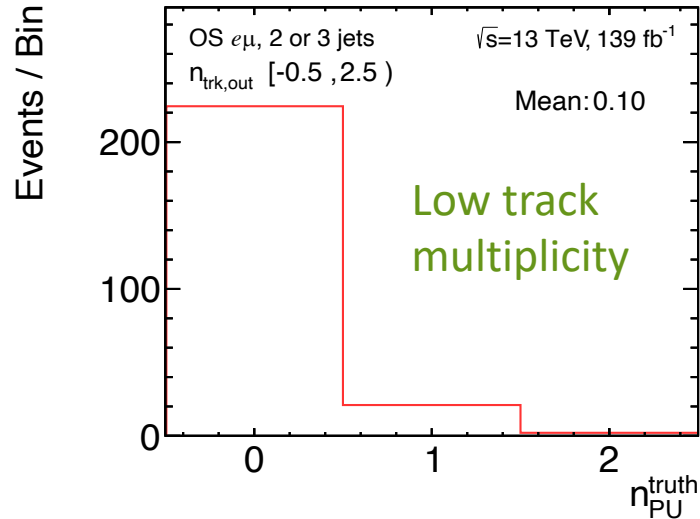
$$n_{\text{trk,prim}} = n_{\text{trk,out}} - C_{\text{PU}}(\mu, n_{\text{trk,out}}) \cdot n_{\text{PU}} - C_{\text{sec}} \cdot n_{\text{sec}}$$

The equation is annotated with boxes and arrows:

- $n_{\text{trk,prim}}$  is labeled "# of primary tracks" (green box).
- $n_{\text{trk,out}}$  is labeled "# of selected tracks" (green box).
- $C_{\text{PU}}(\mu, n_{\text{trk,out}})$  is labeled "Scale factor (pile-up)" (orange box).
- $n_{\text{PU}}$  is labeled "# of pile-up tracks (stochastically)" (blue box).
- $C_{\text{sec}}$  is labeled "Scale factor (secondaries)" (orange box).
- $n_{\text{sec}}$  is labeled "# of secondary tracks (stochastically)" (blue box).

# Estimate $n_{\text{PU}}$

- From simulation, create templates of  $n_{\text{PU}}^{\text{truth}}$  in bins of track multiplicity

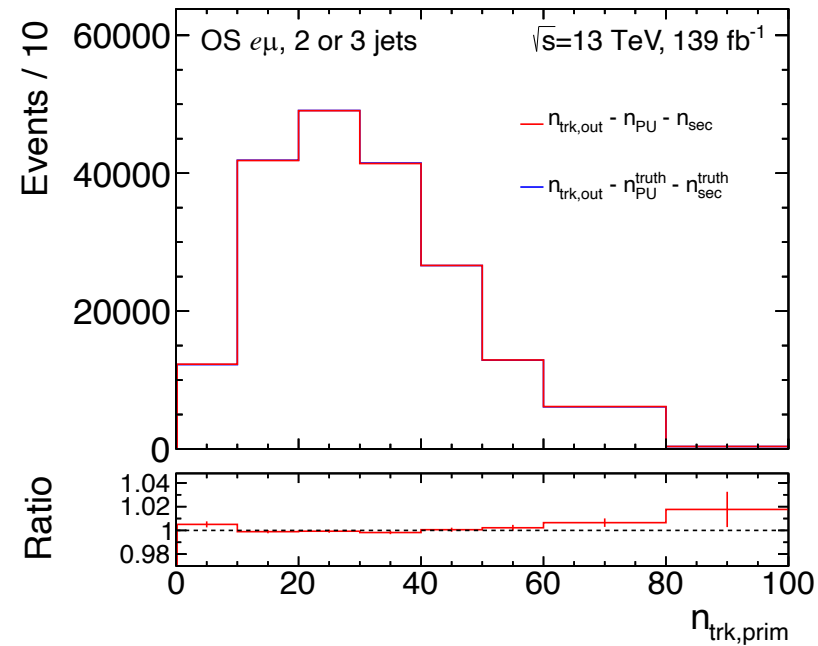


- For data event, with a known track multiplicity  
 $\Rightarrow$  draw a **random number** from the template of  $n_{\text{PU}}^{\text{truth}}$  correspond to the given multiplicity



# Closure test

- Compare the **estimated** hard-scatter track multiplicity with the **true** one

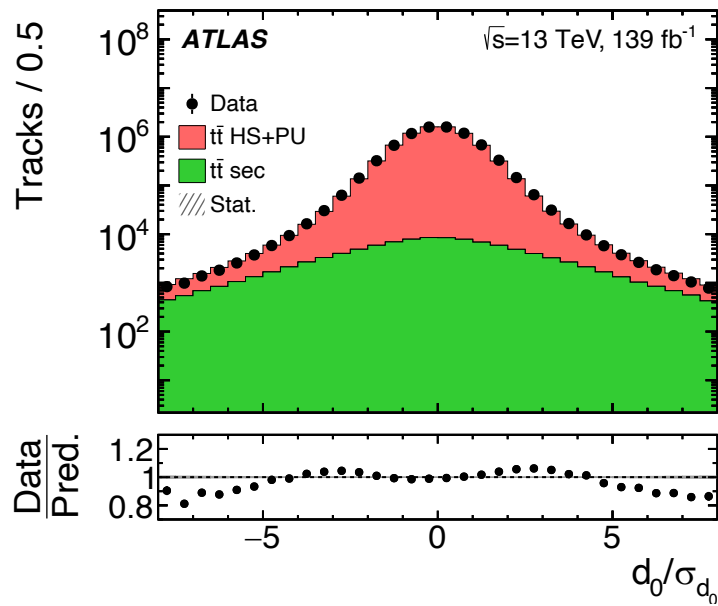


- Non-closure is  $< 2\%$ , which is taken as an uncertainty

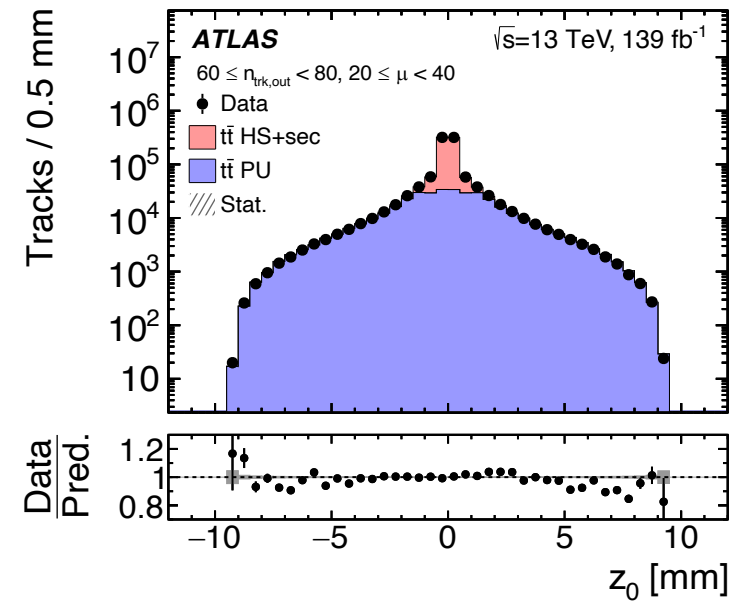
# Scale factors estimation

$\mu$ : number of interactions per bunch crossing

- Perform a binned maximum-likelihood fit to data
  - $C_{sec}$ : Secondary tracks scale factor  $\rightarrow d_0/\sigma_{d_0}$
  - $C_{PU}(n_{trk,out}, \mu)$ : Pile-up scale factor  $\rightarrow z_0$



$$C_{sec} = 2.34 \pm 0.02$$



# $C_{\text{PU}}(n_{\text{trk,out}}, \mu)$

Table 3: Summary of the estimated pile-up scale factors  $c_{\text{PU}}$ , parametrised in  $\mu$  and  $n_{\text{trk,out}}$ . All values have a statistical precision of 0.01.

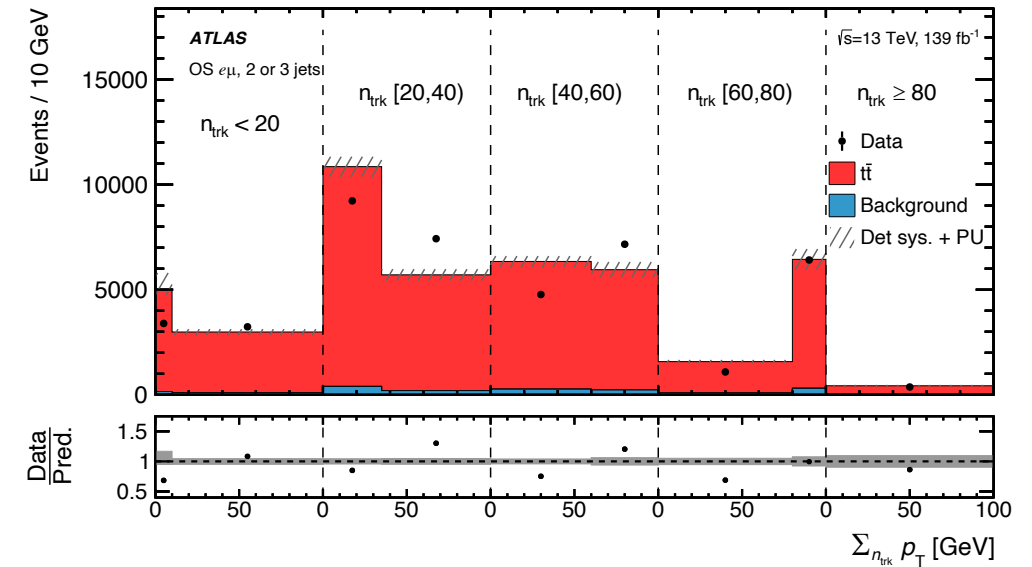
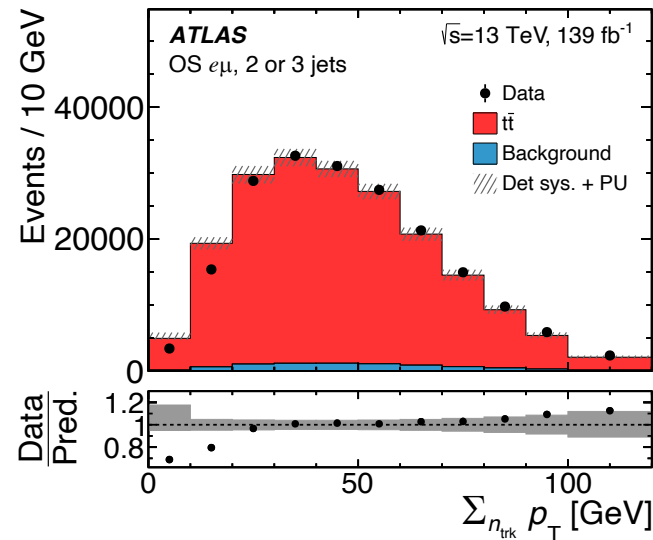
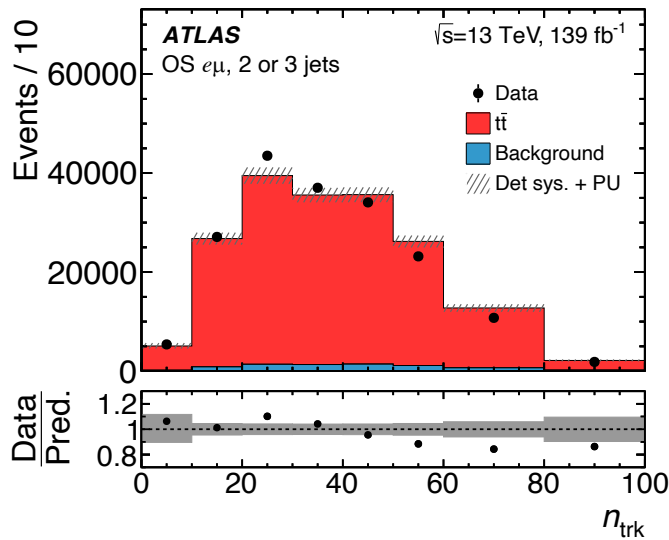
Region	$n_{\text{trk,out}} < 20$	$20 \leq n_{\text{trk,out}} < 40$	$40 \leq n_{\text{trk,out}} < 60$	$60 \leq n_{\text{trk,out}} < 80$	$80 \leq n_{\text{trk,out}} \leq 100$
$\mu < 20$	0.91	1.04	0.97	1.05	1.08
$20 \leq \mu < 40$	0.91	1.08	1.08	1.07	1.11
$\mu \geq 40$	0.95	1.15	1.23	1.27	1.36

- Backgrounds to primary-hard scatter tracks also



# Reconstruction-level observables

- All background contributions are estimated



But, Data distributions are distorted by detector effects and they differ from their true value

**ACTION NEEDED**

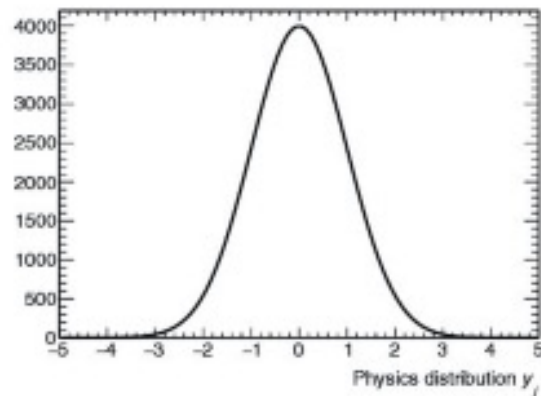
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# How to correct for detector effects?

# Unfolding

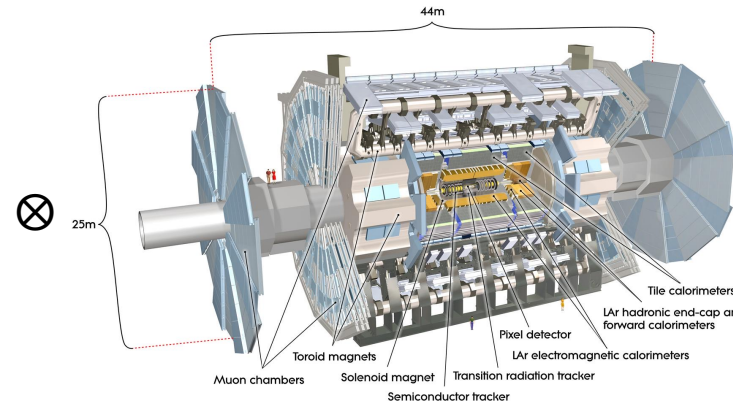
- Procedure to correct for detector effects (finite resolution, and limited efficiency and acceptance)

Truth (particle-level)  $\otimes$



Physics distribution  $y_i$   
(particle-level)

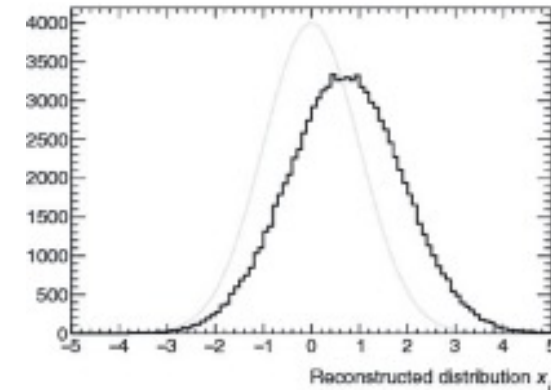
Detector effect



Detector response

=

Observed data



=

Reconstructed distribution  $x_i$   
(detector-level)

Unfolding



# Extraction of the differential cross-section

$$\frac{d\sigma_{t\bar{t}}}{dX^i} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{L} \cdot \Delta X^i \cdot \epsilon_{\text{eff}}^i} \cdot \sum_j R_{ij}^{-1} \cdot f_{\text{acc}}^j \cdot \left( \underbrace{N_{\text{obs}}^j - N_{\text{bkg}}^j}_{\text{DATA}}$$

↑  
TRUTH

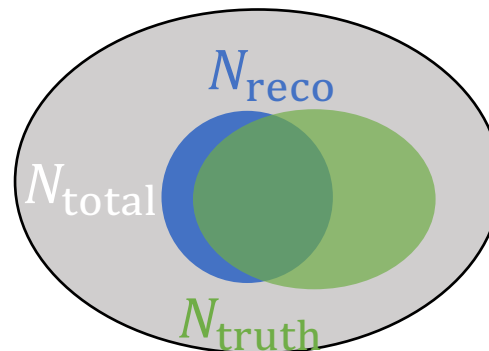
1. Subtract background events from data



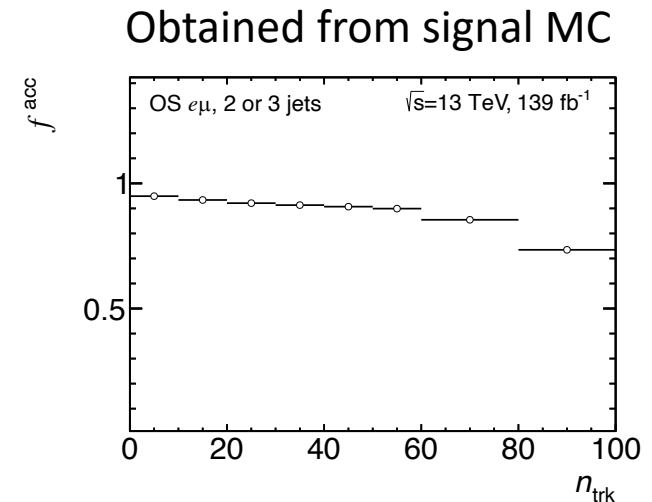
# Extraction of the differential cross-section

$$\frac{d\sigma_{t\bar{t}}}{dX^i} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{L} \cdot \Delta X^i \cdot \epsilon_{\text{eff}}^i} \cdot \sum_j R_{ij}^{-1} \cdot \underline{f_{\text{acc}}^j} \cdot (N_{\text{obs}}^j - N_{\text{bkg}}^j)$$

1. Subtract background events
2.  $f_{\text{acc}}^j$ : correct for  $t\bar{t}$  events that fall outside the fiducial acceptance



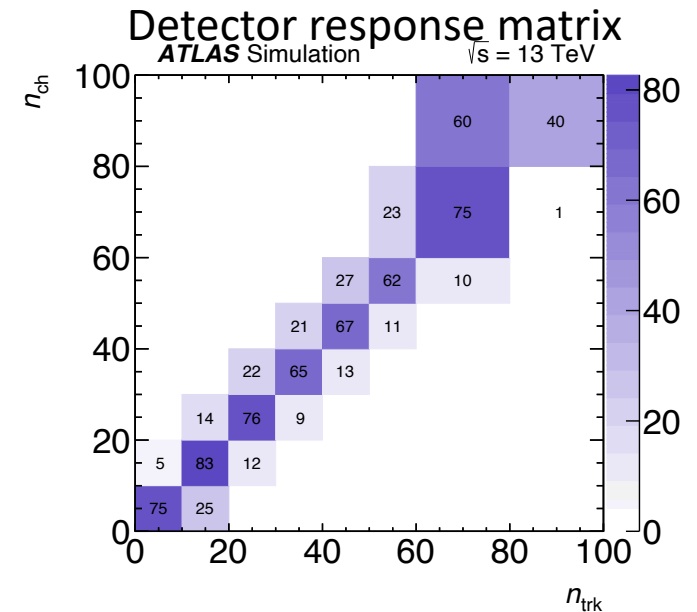
Colour reconnection in  $t\bar{t}$  events



# Extraction of the differential cross-section

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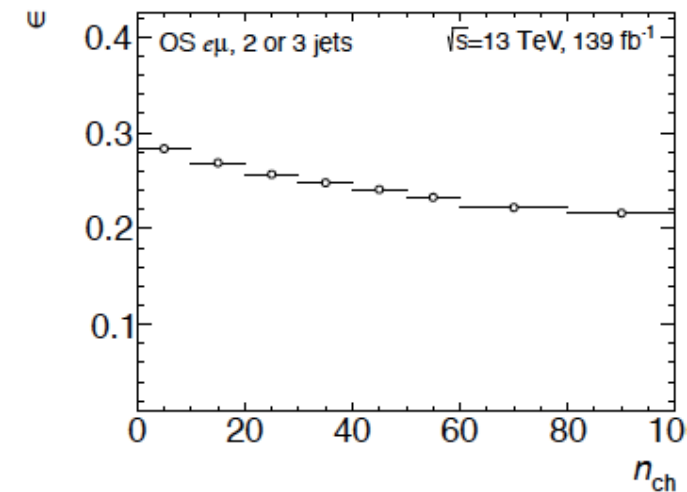
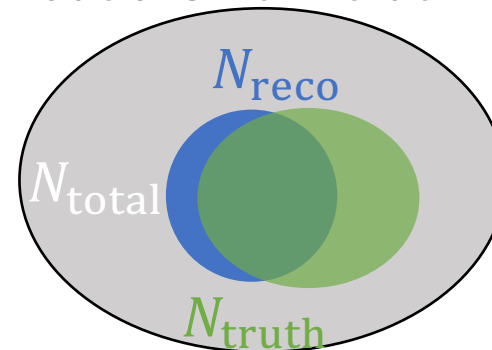
1. Subtract background events
2. Correct for events that are in the reco-level but aren't in truth
3. Remove the detector effects  
⇒ using the **Iterative Bayesian Unfolding method**



# Extraction of the differential cross-section

$$\frac{d\sigma_{t\bar{t}}}{dX^i} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{L} \cdot \Delta X^i \cdot \epsilon_{\text{eff}}^i} \cdot \sum_j R_{ij}^{-1} \cdot f_{\text{acc}}^j \cdot (N_{\text{obs}}^j - N_{\text{bkg}}^j)$$

1. Subtract background events
2. Correct for events that are in the reco-level but aren't in truth
3. Remove the detector effects
4. Extrapolate to the truth phase-space



# Extraction of the differential cross-section

$$\frac{d\sigma_{t\bar{t}}}{dX^i} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{L} \cdot \Delta X^i \cdot \epsilon_{\text{eff}}^i} \cdot \sum_j R_{ij}^{-1} \cdot f_{\text{acc}}^j \cdot (N_{\text{obs}}^j - N_{\text{bkg}}^j)$$

Integrated luminosity      Bin width

1. Subtract background events
2. Correct for events that are in the reco-level but aren't in truth
3. Remove the detector effects
4. Extrapolate to the truth phase-space
5. Convert event count to cross-section

# Unfolding validation test – Stress test

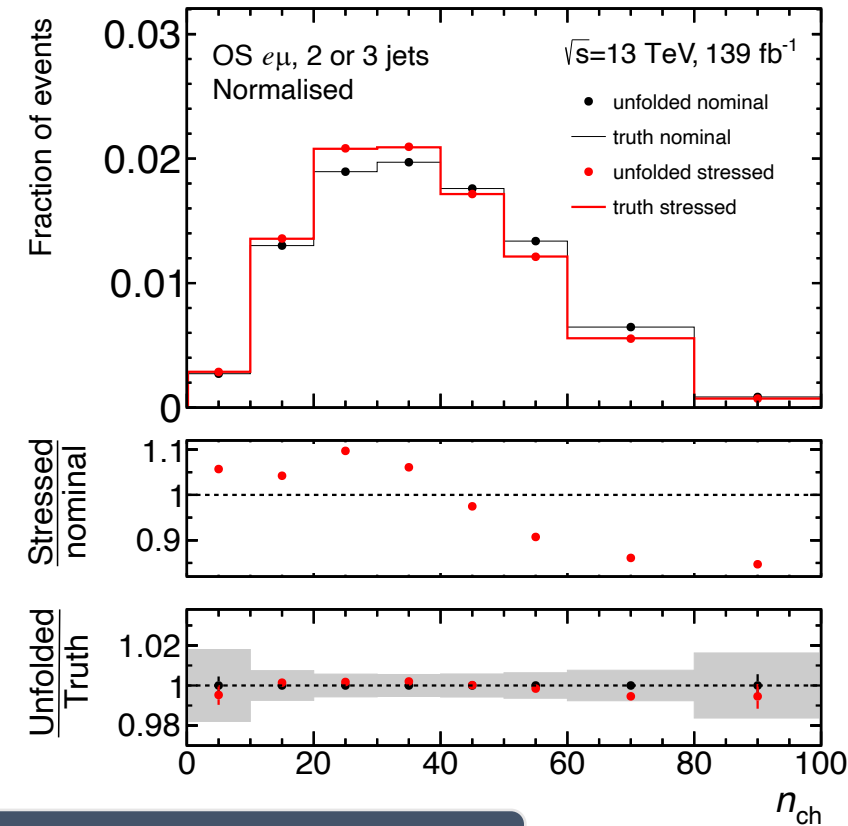
- Aims to verify that the IBU able to recover a truth distribution different from the predicted  
↳ ability to maintain unexpected features in the data

## Procedure:

- re-weight the truth distribution
- unfold the corresponding reweighted reco. using nominal migration matrix

## Reweighting function:

- Data-driven reweighting  $\left(\frac{\text{Data} - \text{bkg}}{\text{signal}}\right)$



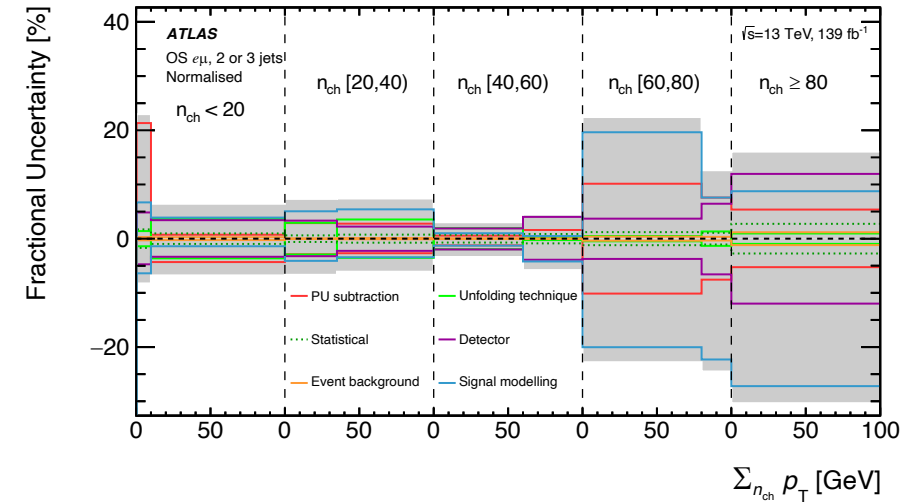
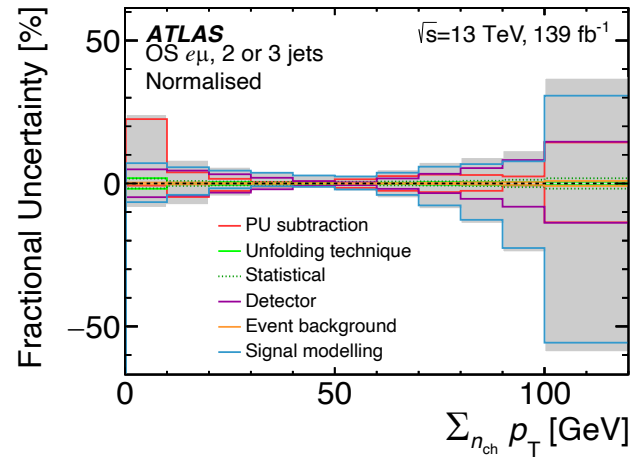
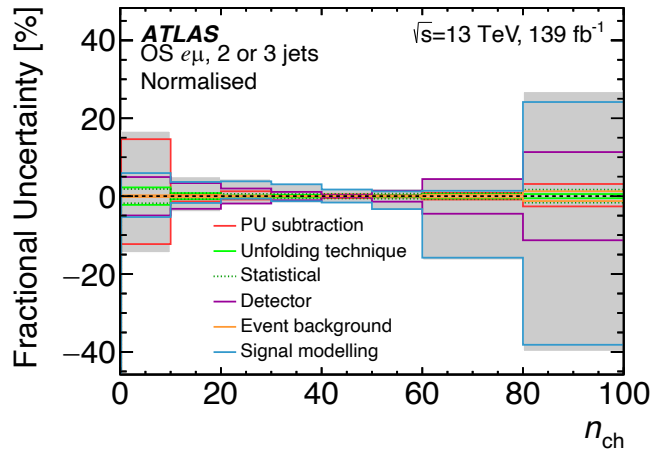
Any (non-closure) deviation between the unfolded and the truth is taken as uncertainty

# Systematic uncertainties

- Experimental uncertainties, related to objects reconstruction (tracks, jets, ..)
  - The varied prediction is unfolded
  - Uncertainty is the relative difference of the unfolded systematic variation w.r.t nominal unfolded distribution
- Signal modelling uncertainties:
  - Parton shower (Powheg+Herwig713 vs. Powheg+Pythia 8)
  - Colour reconnection
  - Uncertainty is the difference between the unfolded and the particle-level distribution of the systematic variation
- Background modelling uncertainties
  - Event-based backgrounds
  - Track-based backgrounds
- Unfolding techniques

# Systematic uncertainties

- Dominant uncertainties:
  - pile-up tracks background estimation
  - Signal Modelling uncertainties



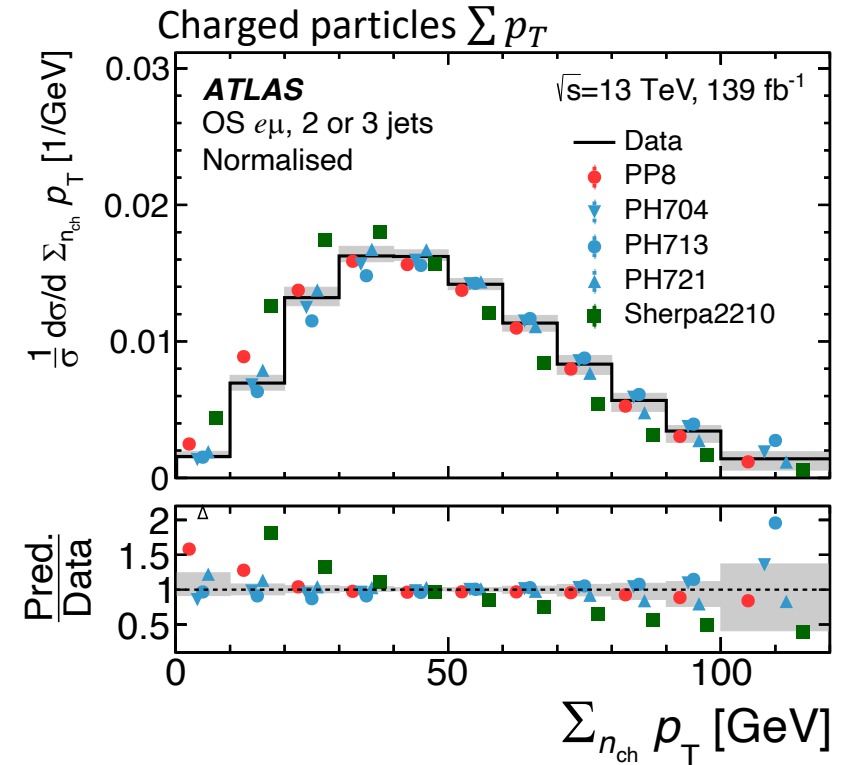
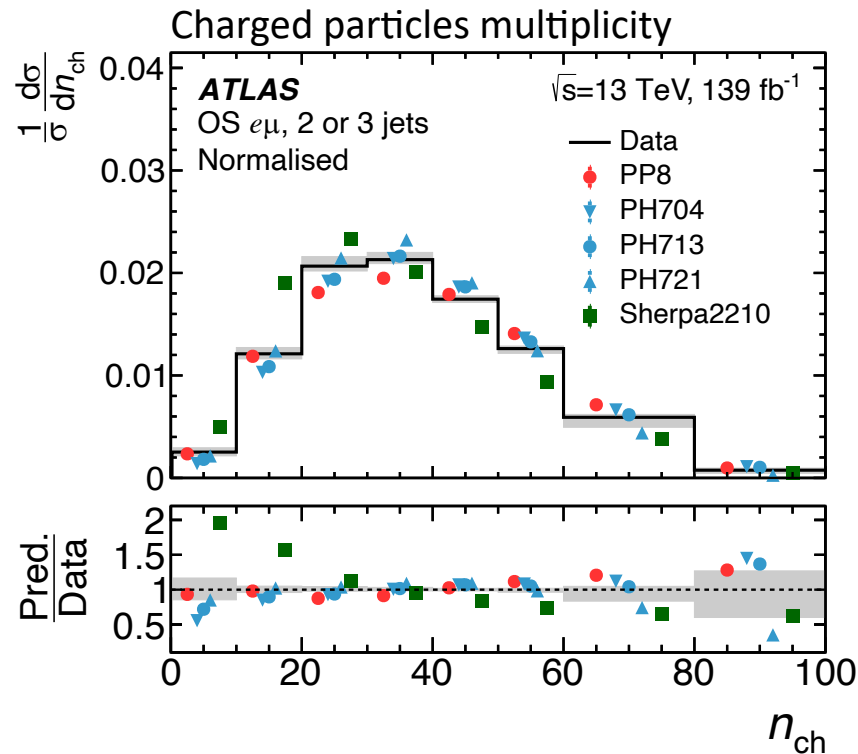
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# Results and Summary



# Results (1)

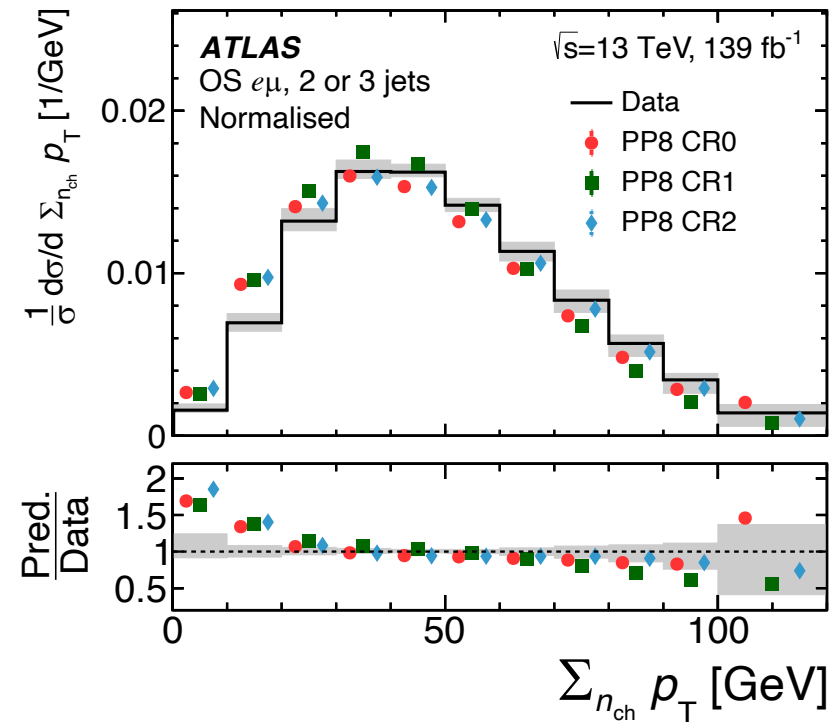
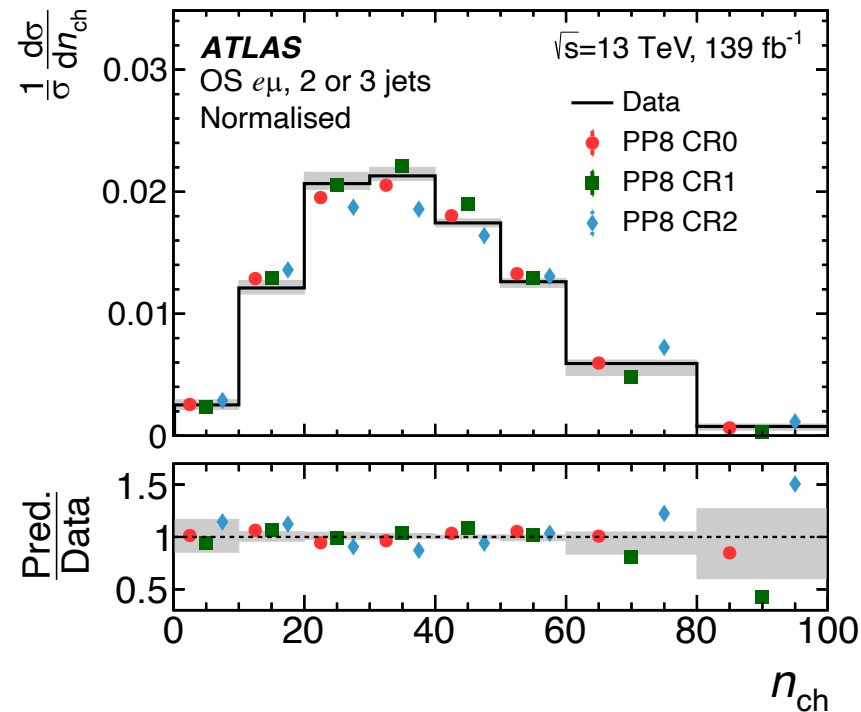
- Measured distributions are compared to the prediction from **different generators**



- Measured data **disagree** with the predictions from **Sherpa 2**, which does not include CR effects
- The  $n_{\text{ch}}$  is approximately equally well described by Pythia 8 and Herwig 7
- The  $\sum_{n_{\text{ch}}} p_T$  has a better agreement with Herwig 7, especially in  $\sum_{n_{\text{ch}}} p_T < 20 \text{ GeV}$

# Results (2)

- Measured distributions are compared to the prediction from different CR models in PYTHIA 8

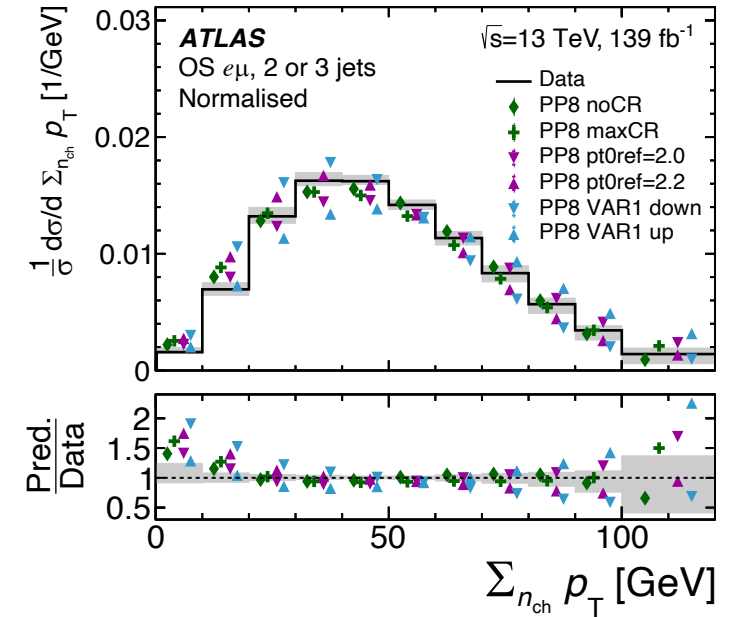
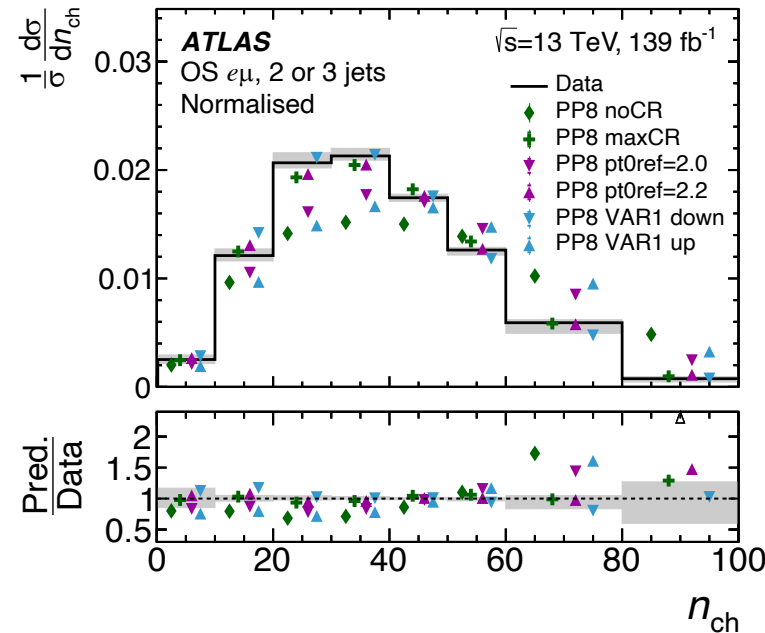


- The  $n_{ch}$  is best described by the CR0 (MPI-based) model
- Similar to the nominal PP8 A14 tune, none of the models can describe  $\sum n_{ch} p_T < 20$  GeV well

# Results (3)

## Comparison with CR and UE parameters variation in Pythia 8

variation	Varied parameter
noCR	$R_{\text{range}} = 0$ (default 1.71)
maxCR	$R_{\text{range}} = 10$
Var1 down	MPI $\alpha_s = 0.121$ and $R_{\text{range}} = 1.69$ (default MPI $\alpha_s = 0.126$ )
Var1 up	MPI $\alpha_s = 0.131$ and $R_{\text{range}} = 1.73$



- noCR does not describe the data
- Maximal probability still compatible with the measurement
- Clear sensitivity to pt0ref and Var1 → future tuning both parameter should be included

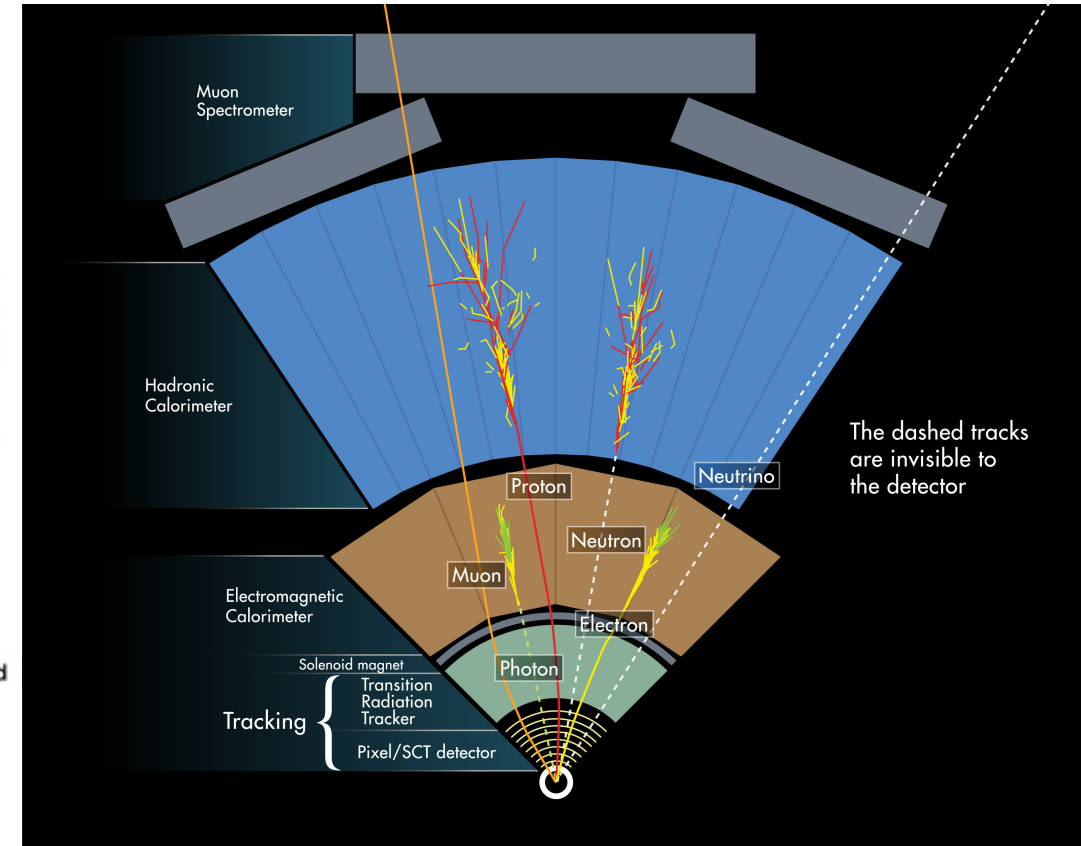
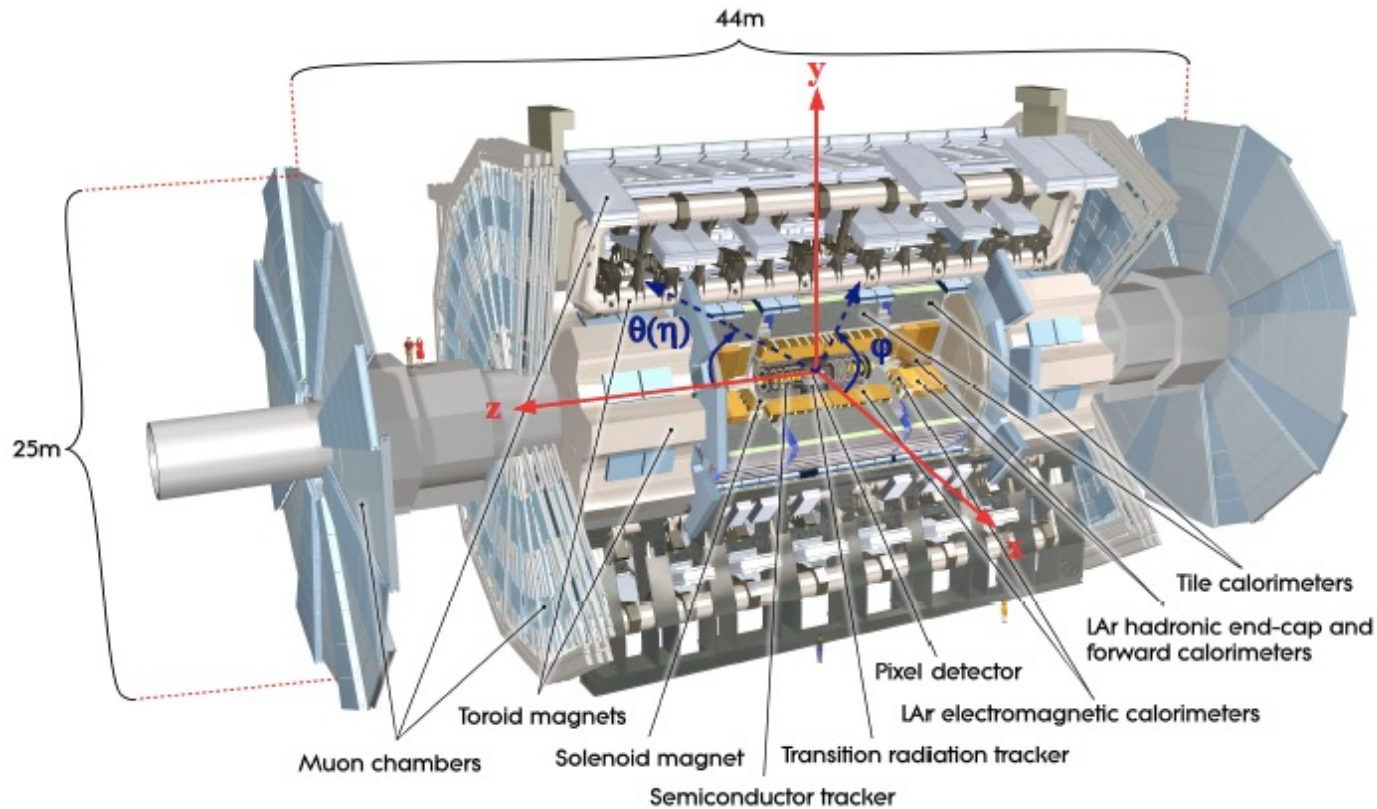
# Summary

## Three observables sensitive to colour reconnection are measured in $t\bar{t}$ events

- charged particle multiplicity ( $n_{ch}$ )
  - scalar sum of charged-particles transverse momenta ( $\sum n_{ch} p_T$ )
  - $\sum n_{ch} p_T$  in bins of  $n_{ch}$
  - Dominant uncertainties are signal modelling:
    - Track-background subtraction (low  $n_{ch}$ )
    - Parton shower (mainly tail)
- Paper is accepted by EPJC journal and available as preprint on arXiv [arXiv:2209.07874](https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.07874)
- The result can be used as input for future **tuning** of MC (CR and MPI parameters)

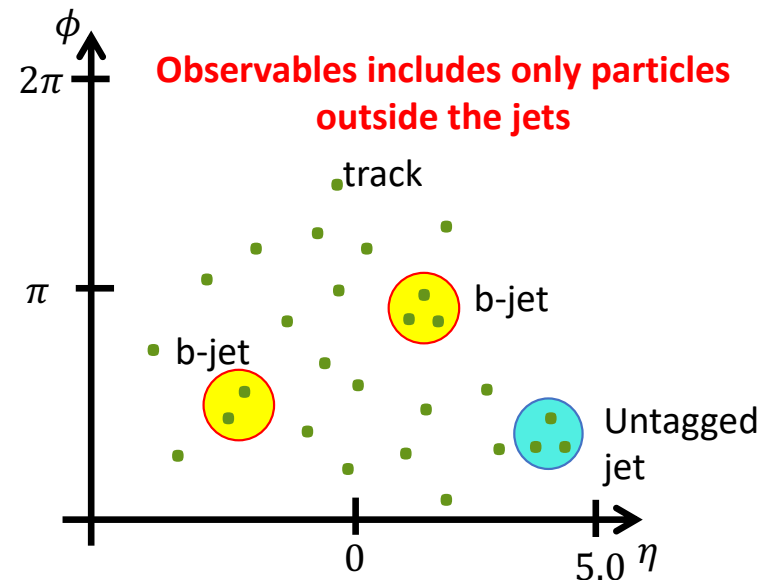


# Backup



# Backup: tracks selection

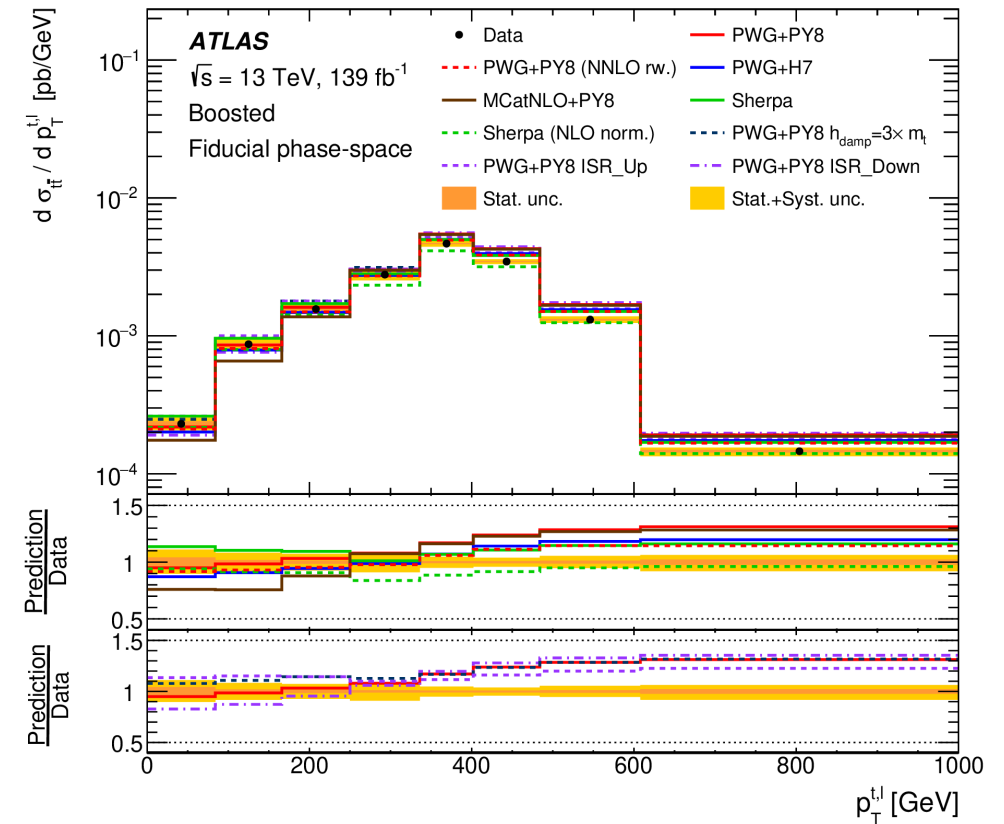
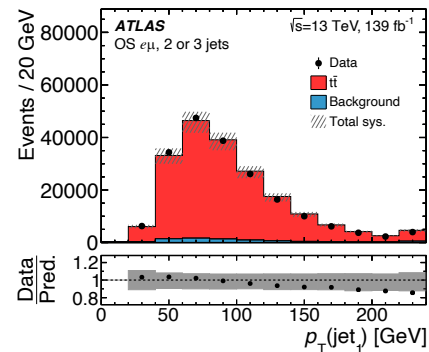
- $p_T > 500 \text{ MeV}$
- $|\eta| < 2.5$
- 9 (11) silicon hits for  $|\eta| < 1.65$  ( $|\eta| > 1.65$ )
- 1 IBL or B-layer hit
  - IBL: is the innermost layer of ATLAS pixel detectors



- Additional cuts:
  - $\Delta R(\text{track}, \text{jet}) > 0.4$
  - $\Delta R(\text{track}, \text{lep}) > 0.01$
  - $|d_0| < 0.5 \text{ mm}$
  - $|z_0 \cdot \sin(\theta)| < 0.5 \text{ mm w.r.t. PV}$

# Backup: $p_T$ ( $\text{jet}_1$ ) miss-modelling

- In agreement with previous cross-section measurements by ATLAS and CMS
- Consistently observed a softer top-quark  $p_T$  spectrum (and related distributions)
- This discrepancy is at least partially due to **missing NNLO corrections**





# Backup - Overview of CR models in Pythia8

## Parameters summary

Table 9.1: Definition, parameter range and tuned value for the A14, CR0, CR1, and CR2 models in PYTHIA 8 [79]. The parameters that are not defined for a particular model are left blank.

Parameter	description	A14 / Default (range)	CR0	CR1	CR2
MPI:pT0Ref	MPI $p_T$ dampening	2.09 (0.5-10)	2.15	1.89	2.21
MPI:expPow	Exponent of matter overlap function	1.85 (0.4-10)	1.81	2.10	1.63
CR:range	CR strength	1.71 (1.0-10)	2.92	–	–
CR:m0	Mass parameter used in the $\lambda$ measure	0.3 (0.1-5)	–	2.17	–
CR:junctionCorrection	Correction to m0 for junctions	1.2 (0.01-10)	–	9.33	–
CR:m2Lambda	$m_\lambda^2$ used in the $\lambda$ measure	1.0 (0.25-16)	–	–	6.73
CR:fracGluon	Fraction of gluons that undergo a CR	1.0 (0-1)	–	–	0.93

# Backup - Overview of CR models in Pythia8

## MPI-based model (CR0)

reconnection probability

$$P_{\text{rec}}(p_T) = \frac{(R_{\text{rec}} p_{T0})^2}{(R_{\text{rec}} p_{T0})^2 + p_T^2}$$

CR range      Soft dampening scale

MPIs are calculated by using the pQCD cross section  
- this diverges for small transverse momenta  
- Solution: Introduction of a "smooth dampening" scale

- $p_{T0}$  regularises the partonic cross-section to avoid divergence at low  $p_T$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dp_T^2} \sim \frac{\alpha_S^2(p_T^2)}{p_T^4} \rightarrow \frac{\alpha_S^2(p_{T,0}^2 + p_T^2)}{(p_{T,0}^2 + p_T^2)^2}$$

$$p_{T0} = p_{T0}^{\text{ref}} \left( \frac{E_{\text{CM}}}{E_{\text{CM}}^{\text{ref}}} \right)^{E_{\text{CM}}^{\text{pow}}}$$

- $p_{T0}^{\text{ref}}$  is the value of  $p_{T0}$  at a reference energy  $E_{\text{CM}}^{\text{ref}}$
- $E_{\text{CM}}^{\text{pow}}$  is a tunable parameter

- use Bayes theorem recursively and use our truth distribution as a prior

$$P(\text{Parameter}|\text{Data}) = \frac{P(\text{Data}|\text{Parameter}) P(\text{Parameter})}{P(\text{Data})}$$

response matrix

prior truth pdf, taken from nominal MC to speed convergence

posterior truth pdf

observed pdf

# Iterations optimisation

- With higher iterations, the negative correlations increases
  - correlations are expected to go from positive to negative it is expected to have a minimum

$$\rho_i = \sqrt{1 - \left( \text{Cov}_{ii} \cdot \text{Cov}_{ii}^{-1} \right)^{-1}}, \quad \rho_{\text{avg}} = \frac{1}{N_b} \sum_{i=1}^{N_b} \rho_i$$

