

Recent ATLAS jet measurements and PDF studies

Ota Zaplatílek ¹

On behalf of the ATLAS experiment

¹CTU in Prague (CZ)

EMMI workshop,
Darmstadt, Germany,
July 6-10, 2026



Co-funded by
the European Union



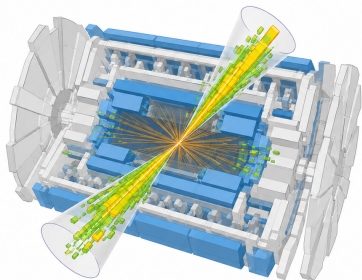
Ministry of Education,
Youth and Sports
of the Czech Republic



Motivation for jet physics at the LHC

Jets as probes of QCD

- QCD-dominated proton–proton collisions at the LHC
- Jets as direct probes of perturbative QCD over a wide kinematic range
- Precision QCD challenges:
 - Higher-order corrections
 - Scale and PDF dependence
 - Resummation and non-perturbative effects
- Precision QCD measurements constrain:
 - PDFs and α_s
 - SMEFT and new physics models



Precise jet measurements provide stringent tests of QCD, constrain α_s , and the gluon PDF at high Bjorken- x

Recent improvements of the ATLAS JES calibration

Jet Energy Scale (JES) calibration combines simulation-based techniques with in-situ measurements.

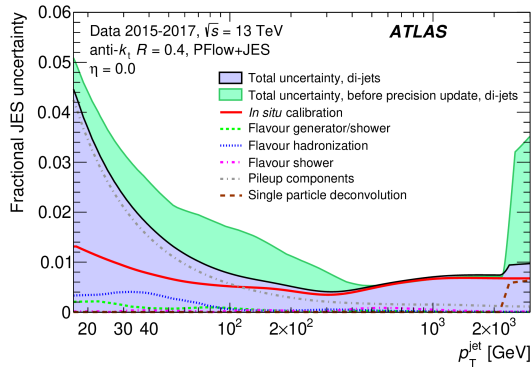
Recent improvements:

- Jet flavour response decomposition

Jet flavour uncertainty decomposed into **matrix-element**, **parton-shower** and **hadronisation** components using dedicated MC comparisons, replacing the previous Pythia-Herwig++ comparison.

- Single Particle Deconvolution

Full Run-2 $W \rightarrow \tau(\rightarrow \pi\nu)\nu$ events extend the in-situ charged-pion response measurement up to ~ 300 GeV, improving the calibration of multi-TeV jets.



Jet measurements now achieve **1% JES precision** for $p_T > 100$ GeV.

Reduced JES uncertainties enable precision jet measurements and increase sensitivity to PDFs and α_s

ATLAS jet cross-section ratios measurement

Publication links:

- ([STDM-2020-04](#))
- ([Phys. Rev. D 110, 072019 \(2024\)](#))

Unfolded multi-differential differential measurements:

- $(H_{T,2}, N_{\text{jets}}, p_{T,3}), (p_T^{\text{N incl}}, N_{\text{jets}}, p_{T,3})$
- $(m_{\text{jj}}, N_{\text{jets}}), (m_{\text{jj, max}}, N_{\text{jets}})$
- $(\Delta y_{\text{jj}}, N_{\text{jets}}), (\Delta y_{\text{jj, max}}, N_{\text{jets}})$

Used for jet cross-section ratio definition:

$$R_{mn}(X) = \frac{\sigma(N_{\text{jets}} \geq m; X)}{\sigma(N_{\text{jets}} \geq n; X)}$$

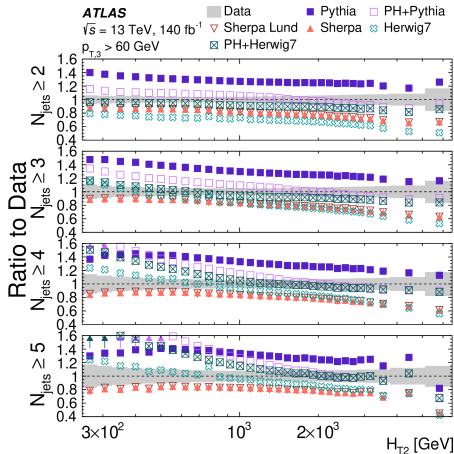
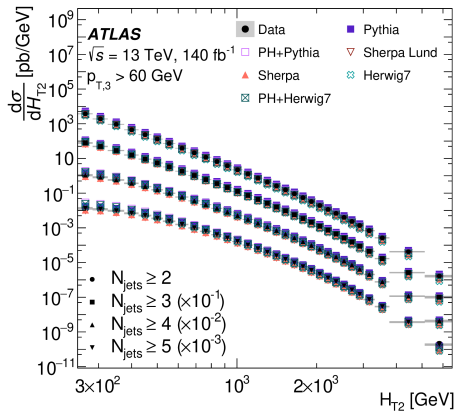
Dataset

- LHC Full Run2 dataset 2015-2018
- pp collisions, 13 TeV, 140 fb^{-1} , 0.83% luminosity unc.

Reconstruction

- Anti- k_t $R = 0.4$ particle flow jets:
- $|y| < 4.5$, $p_T > 60 \text{ GeV}$
- $H_{T,2} = p_{T,1} + p_{T,2} \geq 250 \text{ GeV}$

Multi-differential jet cross-section



- No single MC describes data well across all $H_{T,2} = p_{T,1} + p_{T,2}$ regions and jet multiplicity N_{jets}

Jet ratio cross-section

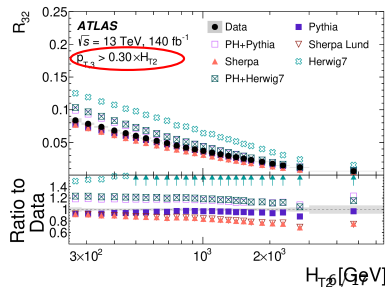
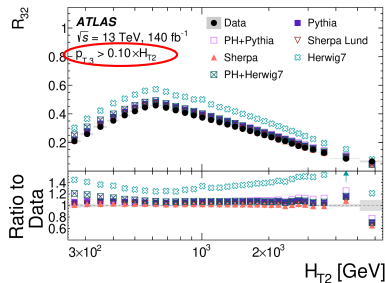
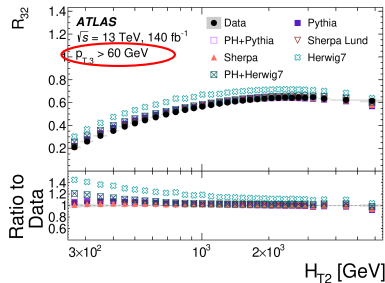
Jet cross-section ratio evaluated using the distributions for inclusive jet multiplicity N_{jets}

$$R_{32} = \frac{\sigma(3 \text{ jets})}{\sigma(2 \text{ jets})}, \quad R_{42} = \frac{\sigma(4 \text{ jets})}{\sigma(2 \text{ jets})}, \quad R_{43} = \frac{\sigma(4 \text{ jets})}{\sigma(3 \text{ jets})}, \quad R_{54} = \frac{\sigma(5 \text{ jets})}{\sigma(4 \text{ jets})}$$

R_{xy} ratio:

- Reduce correlated syst. unc.
- Reduce sensitivity to Jet Energy Scale (JES)
- Reduce sensitivity to Parton Distribution Functions (PDF)

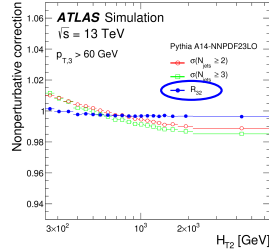
- R_{32} sensitive for α_s extraction
- R_{43} , R_{42} , R_{54} - for first time - as reference for future theoretical developments
- R_{32} and other jet cross-section ratios in several bins of $p_T, 3$ to probe resummation effects



Advanced pQCD predictions

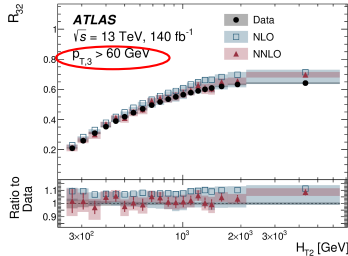
NLO and NNLO pQCD prediction

- Fixed-order NLO pQCD(NLOJET++)
- Fixed-order NNLO pQCD (Czakon, Mitov, Poncelet, Phys. Rev. Lett. 127 (2021) 152001)
 - $N_F = 5$, $\mu_R = \mu_F = \hat{H}_T$
 - MSHT20 PDF set, $\alpha_s = 0.118$

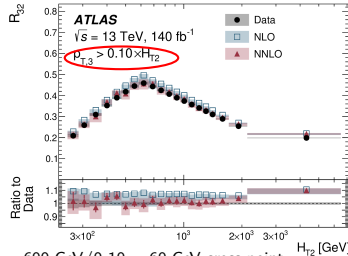


Non-perturbative corrections

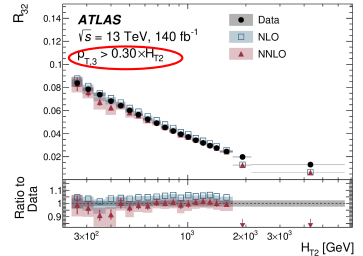
- Parton $\rightarrow$ Particle level prediction
- Bin-by-bin correction factor for hadronization and underlying event tune
- Pythia ATLAS A14NNPDF3.1 and Monash tunes



Increasing R_{32} since probability of emitting the 3rd jet increases with energy scale of the event



600 GeV/0.10 = 60 GeV cross point, back-to-back jet configuration at high scales, the 3rd jet very close to/captured by (sub)leading jet



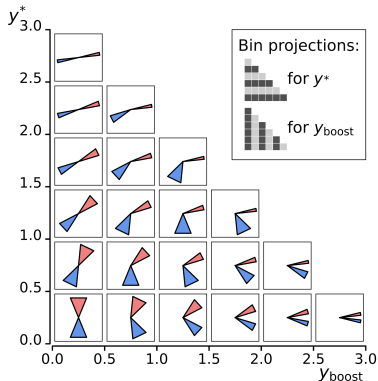
R_{32} decreasing due to steeply falling third-jet $p_{T,3}$ spectra

Inclusive dijet cross-section measurement

- Inclusive dijet measurement for $\sigma(p + p \rightarrow \text{jet} + \text{jet} + X)$, 140 fb^{-1} at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$
- Unfolded double-differential cross-sections in (m_{jj}, y^*) and $(m_{jj}, y_{\text{boost}})$

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dm_{jj} dy^*} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d^2\sigma}{dm_{jj} dy_{\text{boost}}}$$

$$m_{jj}^2 = (P_1 + P_2)^2, \quad y^* = \frac{1}{2}|y_1 - y_2|, \quad y_{\text{boost}} = \frac{1}{2}|y_1 + y_2|$$



m_{jj} :

- hard scale of the dijet system:

$$m_{jj}^2 \sim 2 p_{T,1}^2 \cosh^2(y^*)$$

y^* :

- central vs. forward topology
- related to the scattering angle:

$$\tanh(y^*) = \cos(\theta^*)$$

y_{boost} :

- low-boost vs. high-boost topology
- sensitive to asymmetric parton momentum fractions:

$$y_{\text{boost}} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{x_1}{x_2} \right)$$

Experimental uncertainties

Experimental uncertainties

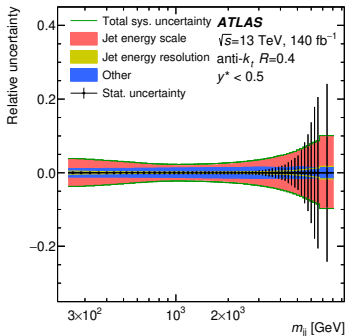
- Jet energy scale (**JES**)
- Jet energy resolution (**JER**)
- Unfolding bias, luminosity
- Deactivated Tile modules

Treatment

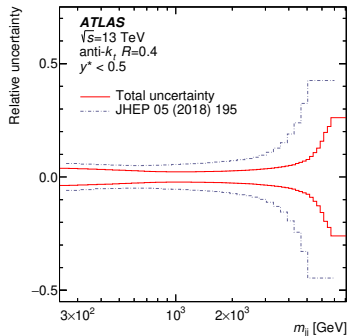
- 1172 JES components
- 34 JER components
- Full propagation through unfolding

Impact

- $\times 2-3$ reduction
- precision-level NNLO comparison
- improved high- x PDF sensitivity



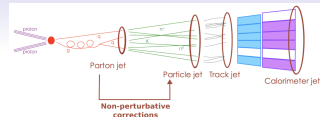
Total uncertainty in representative (m_{jj}, y^*) bin; JES dominates over most of the phase space.



Compared to the previous ATLAS dijet measurement, the total experimental uncertainty is reduced by a factor of 2–3.

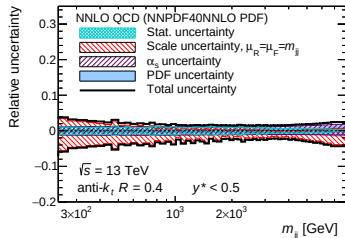
Particle-level theory prediction

$$\sigma_{\text{theory}}^{\text{particle}} = \sigma_{\text{pQCD}}^{\text{parton}} \otimes \text{EW correction} \otimes \text{NP correction}$$



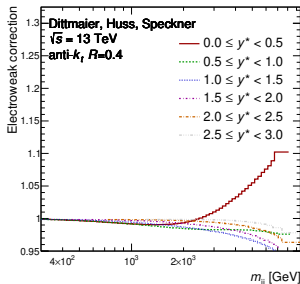
pQCD

- NNLOJET
- NNLO QCD, full colour
- parton level
- $\mu_R = \mu_F = m_{jj}$
- Scale, PDF, α_s , stat. unc.
- PDF: CT, MSHT, NNPDF, ATLASPDF



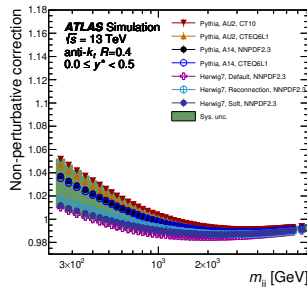
Electroweak correction

- $W^\pm, Z, \gamma$ contributions
- tree and 1-loop level
- NLO precision for $2 \rightarrow 2$
- up to $\sim 10\%$ effect at high m_{jj}
- strong dependence on y^*

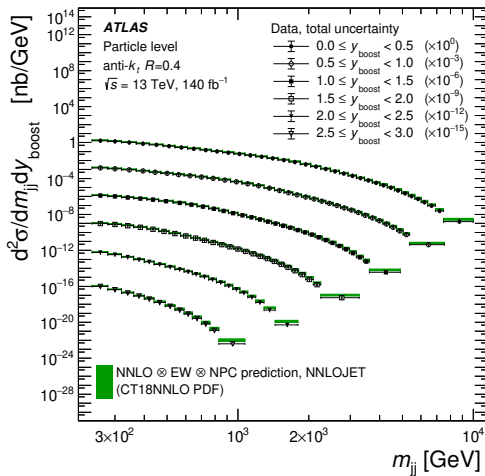
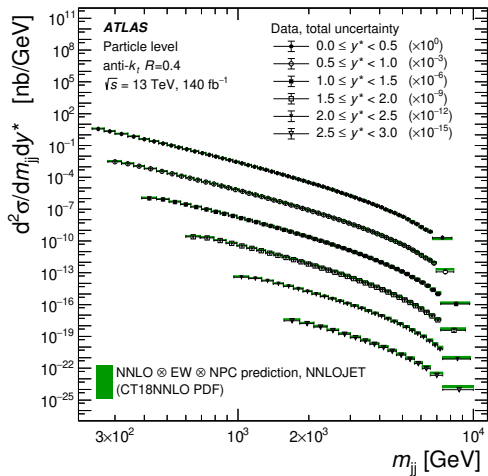


Non-perturbative correction

- Parton $\rightarrow$ particle level
- Multiple LO MC generators
- different HAD, PDF, UE
- On/off both HAD and MPI
- Pythia A14 as correction
- Envelope as uncertainty



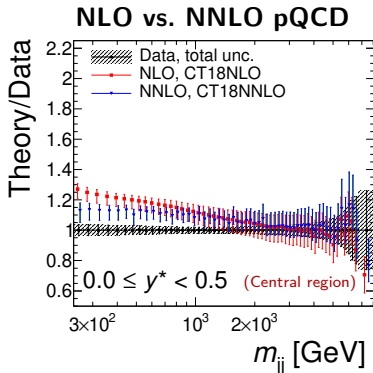
Results: inclusive dijet cross-sections



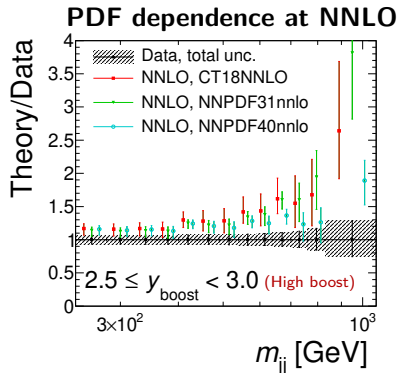
Comparison to NNLO QCD $\otimes$ EW $\otimes$ NP predictions at particle level

- First ATLAS measurement of $(m_{jj}, y_{\text{boost}})$
- Stringent test of QCD predictions over a wide kinematic range

Results: theory-to-data comparison



- Theory generally above data
- NNLO improves description at high m_{jj}
- Low- m_{jj} region sensitive to scale choice



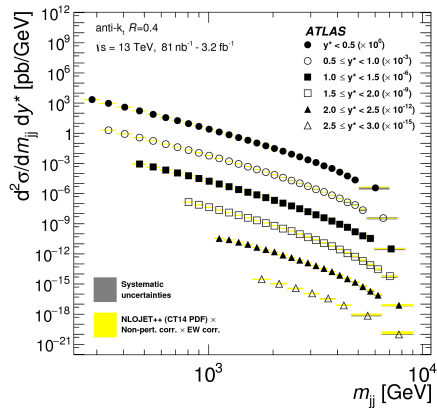
- Sensitivity to PDFs and α_s
 - Clear PDF dependence
 - Best qualitative agreement from NNPDF4.0
- χ^2/ndf

	(m_{jj}, y^*)	$(m_{jj}, y_{\text{boost}})$
CT18NNLO	341/237	179/160
NNPDF40NNLO	359/237	181/160
ATLASPdf21 T3	291/237	162/160

Comparison to previous measurements

- First ATLAS measurement of $(m_{jj}, y_{\text{boost}})$
- 40 $\times$ larger dataset with improved detector reconstruction
- $\times 2\text{--}3$ reduction of experimental uncertainties
- First comparison to full-colour NNLO pQCD
- Increased sensitivity to PDFs and α_s

	This ATLAS [?]	Previous ATLAS [?]
Observable	(m_{jj}, y^*) $(m_{jj}, y_{\text{boost}})$	(m_{jj}, y^*)
Dataset	13 TeV 140 fb ⁻¹ particle-flow	13 TeV 3.2 fb ⁻¹ topological
Jets	$R = 0.4$	$R = 0.4, 0.6$
pQCD theory	NNLO full colour $\mu_R = \mu_F = m_{jj}$	NLO leading colour $\mu_R = \mu_F = p_{T,1} e^{0.3y^*}$
Particle level	muons and neutrinos excluded	muons and neutrinos included
Precision	$\times 2\text{--}3$ better	baseline
# bins	237+160	146



Previous ATLAS dijet measurement
(STDM-2016-03)

ATLAS PDF programme: ATLASpdf2X

ATLASpdf21: Determination of proton PDFs using precision ATLAS measurements

- HERA DIS data provide the baseline PDF determination
- Complementary PDF constraints from ATLAS precision measurements
 - W/Z , V +jets, isolated photons, inclusive jets, $t\bar{t}$
 - NNLO pQCD theory
 - 21-parameter PDF parametrisation at $Q_0^2 = 1.9 \text{ GeV}^2$
 - $u_v, d_v, \bar{u}, \bar{d}, (s + \bar{s}), g$
 - PDF complexity determined using χ^2 saturation test,
 - HERA-style χ^2 fit
 - correlated systematics via nuisance parameters

HERA DIS



W/Z production
 V +jets
isolated photons
inclusive jets
 $t\bar{t}$ production



ATLASpdf21

ATLAS Collaboration,
EPJC 82 (2022) 438

The next-generation **ATLASpdf26** fit is currently under preparation.

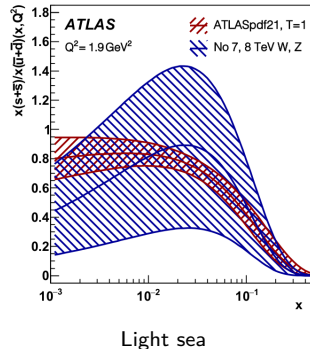
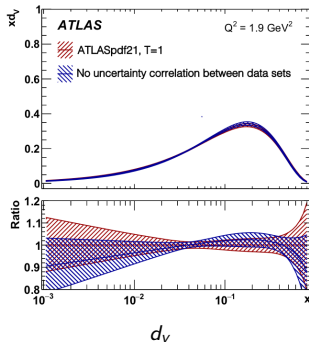
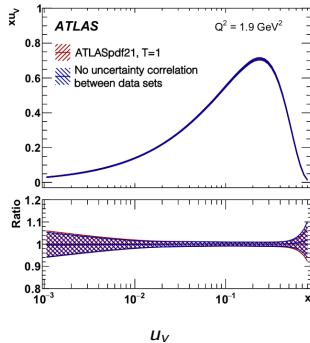
ATLASpdf21: light-quark constraints and correlations

Valence quarks

- HERA $\rightarrow$ strong constraint on u_v
- ATLAS $\rightarrow$ improved constraint on d_v
- Correlated uncertainties important for d_v

Light-quark sea

- W/Z and V +jets
- Strange-quark content: $R_s = x(s + \bar{s})/(\bar{u} + \bar{d})$
- Light-sea asymmetry: $x(\bar{d} - \bar{u})$

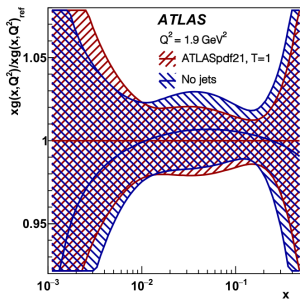


ATLAS measurements provide complementary constraints on d_v and the light-quark sea.

ATLASpdf21: gluon PDF constraints

Inclusive jets

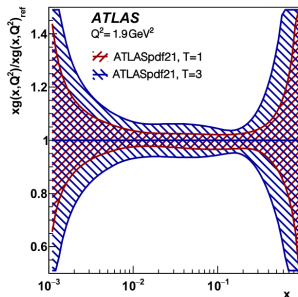
- Improve g PDF at medium/high- x
- Reduce PDF uncertainty



Impact of inclusive jets

PDF uncertainties

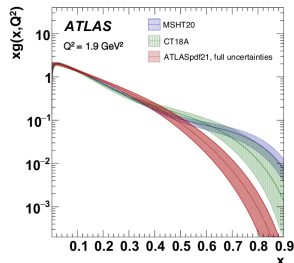
- $\Delta\chi^2 = \chi^2 - \chi^2_{\text{min}}$
- T1: $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$
- T3: $\Delta\chi^2 = 9$



T1 (red) vs. T3 (blue)

Global PDFs

- Agreement at medium- x
- Sizeable differences at high- x
- Run-2 jets/dijets will probe the high- x region



Comparison with CT18A and MSHT20

The next-generation **ATLASpdf26** fit will include the full Run-2 inclusive dijet measurement.

Summary

Recent ATLAS jet measurements

- Full Run-2 ATLAS data enable precision QCD studies with jets
- Jet cross-section ratios provide complementary probes of higher-order QCD and α_s

Inclusive dijet cross-section measurement

- First ATLAS measurement of the double-differential $(m_{jj}, y_{\text{boost}})$ cross-section
- First comparison to full-colour NNLO pQCD predictions
- Strong sensitivity to PDFs, particularly the high- x gluon distribution

Towards future ATLAS PDF fits

- ATLASpdf21 demonstrates the constraining power of ATLAS precision measurements
- New Run-2 inclusive jet and dijet measurements provide an excellent basis for next-generation ATLAS PDF determinations

Thank you for your attention!

Back-up

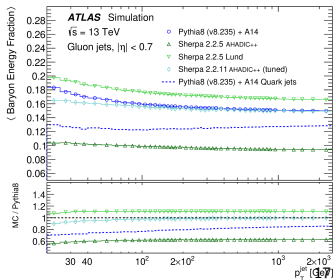
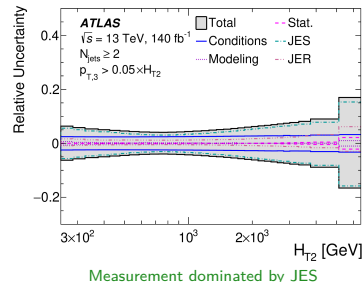
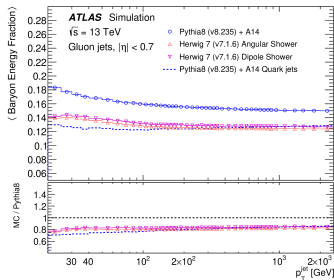
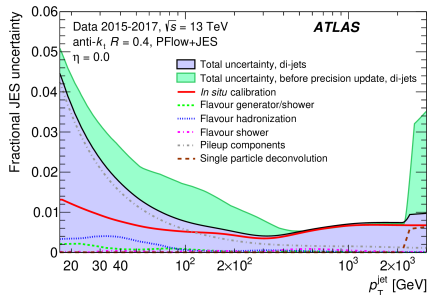
JES and JER

- JES and JER as series of simulation-based techniques and in-situ measurements
- Jet-flavor response:
 - Jet-flavor response as relative jet energy response for simulated quark-and gluon-initiated jets varied between different MC generators
 - Jet flavor response reduced from leading source uncertainty to completely subdominant effect.
- Extrapolation of single hadron response measurements to jets
 - Updated response to electromagnetic shower ([JINST 14 \(2019\) P12006](#))
 - Updated response to high- p_T pions up to 250 GeV, extracted from in situ measurement using $W \rightarrow \tau(\pi\nu)\nu$ events replacing previous test-beam measurement
 - Extrapolation with updated alternative Geant4 physics lists and detector geometry

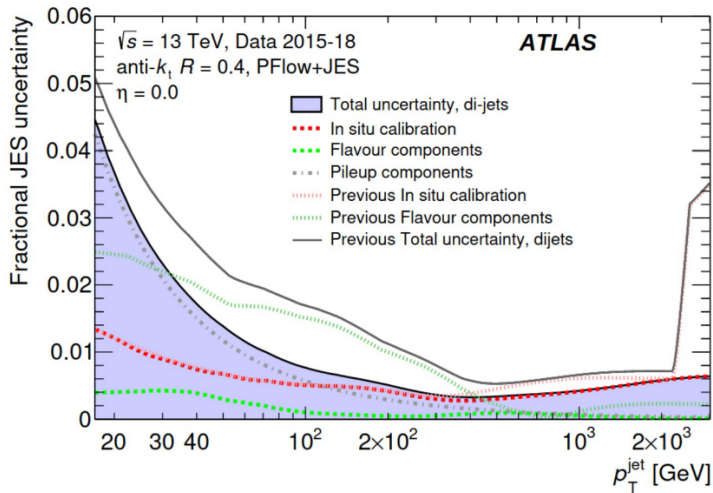
Break through with improved experimental systematic uncertainties

Dramatic improvement of Jet Energy Scale (JES) uncertainty due to:

- Improved Single Particle Deconvolution with for high p_T jets, reduced by **factor 3**
- Improved Jet Flavor Response Decomposition for low and middle p_T jet, reduced by **factor 2**
 - Flavor generator/shower: Pythia8 vs. Sherpa 2.2.5, both with Lund
 - Flavor hadronization: Sherpa 2.2.11 (AHADIC cluster-based had.) vs. Sherpa 2.2.2.5 (Lund had.)
 - Flavor shower: Herwig 7.1. with angle-ordered and dipole PS

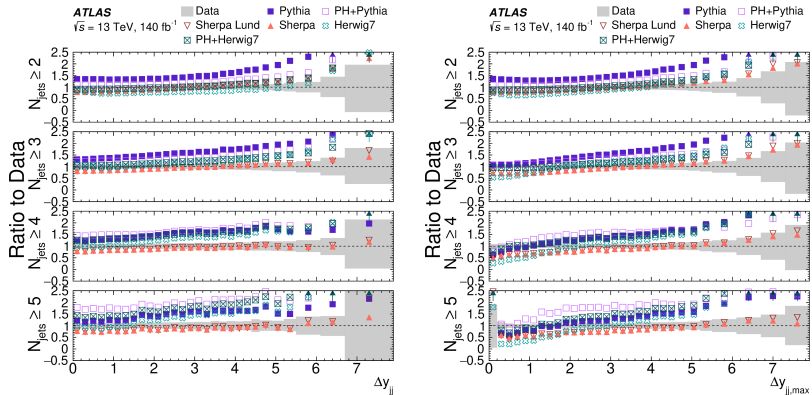


JES and effect of updated jet flavor response



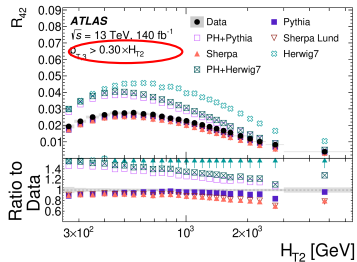
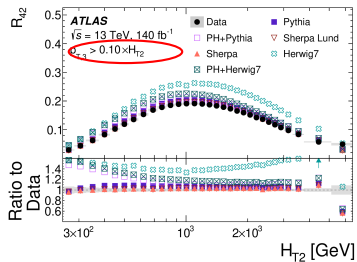
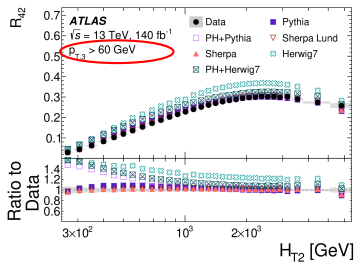
[Link to talk of Antti Pirttikoski](#)

Multi-differential jet cross-section

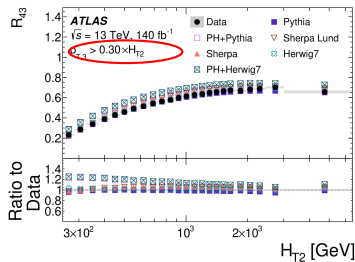
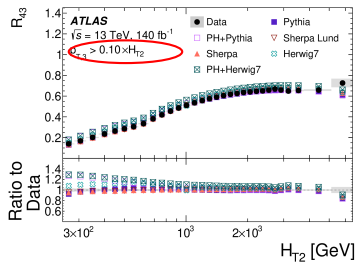
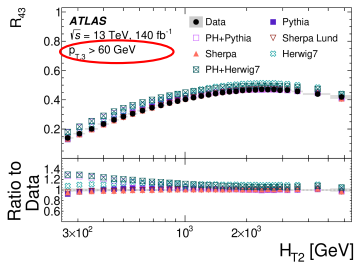


- Increasing discrepancies for vector boson-scattering (VBS) and fusion (VBF) phase-space with large y_{jj} , $y_{jj, \text{max}}$,
 - y_{jj} as invariant dijet mass of the two leading jets
 - $y_{jj, \text{max}}$ as maximal invariant mass in the event of any two combined jets

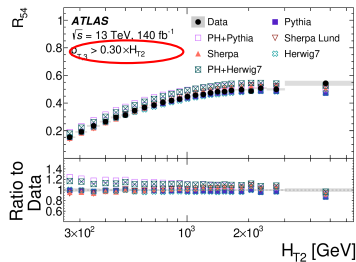
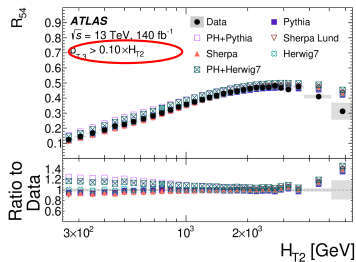
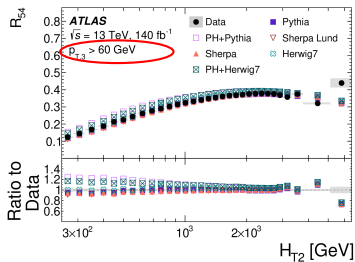
Jet cross-section ratio R_{42}



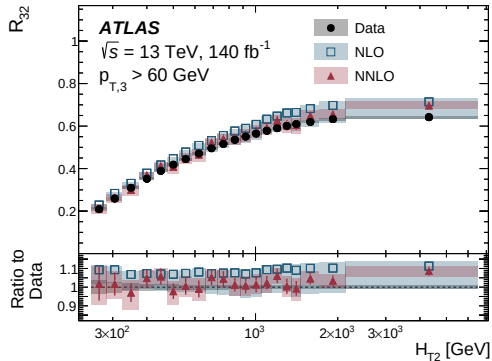
Jet cross-section ratio R_{43}



Jet cross-section ratio R_{54}

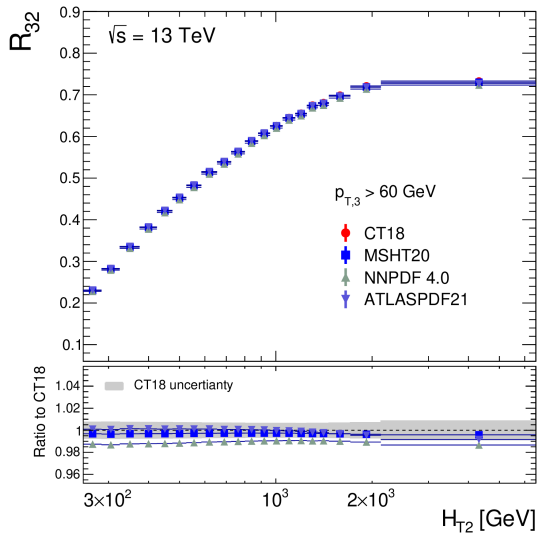


χ^2 table for R_{32}

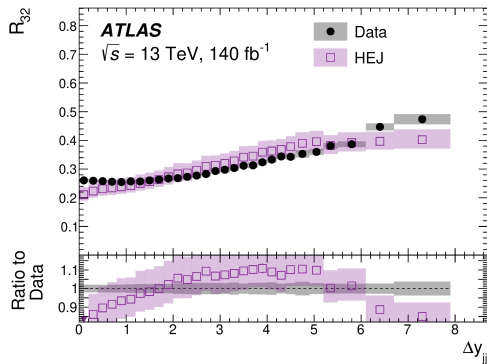
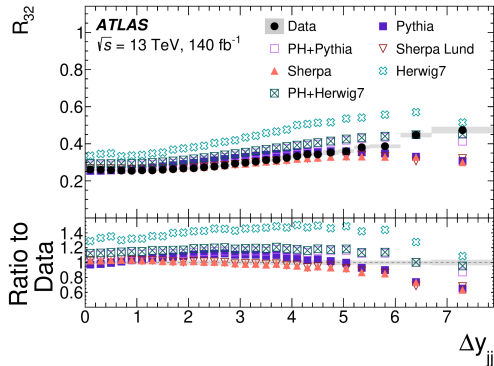


	$\chi^2/d.o.f.$	
	NLO	NNLO
$p_{T,3} > 60 \text{ GeV}$	0.48	0.36
$p_{T,3} > 0.05 \times H_{T2}$	0.55	0.32
$p_{T,3} > 0.10 \times H_{T2}$	1.05	0.24
$p_{T,3} > 0.20 \times H_{T2}$	1.11	0.30
$p_{T,3} > 0.30 \times H_{T2}$	9.24	5.49

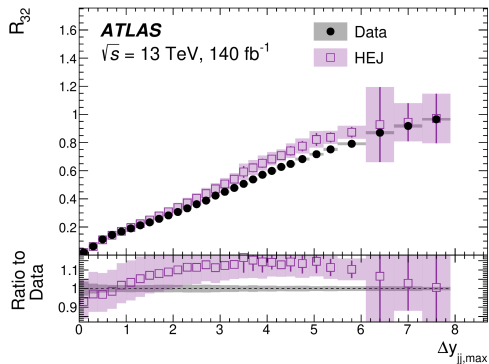
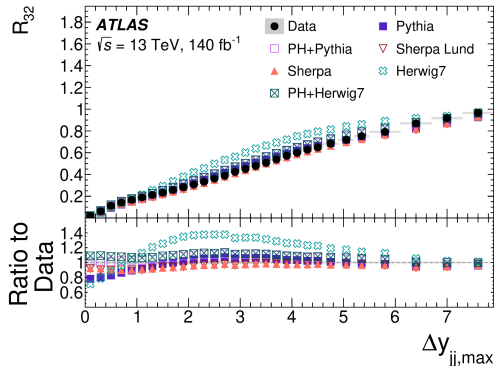
Reduced sensitivity to pdf



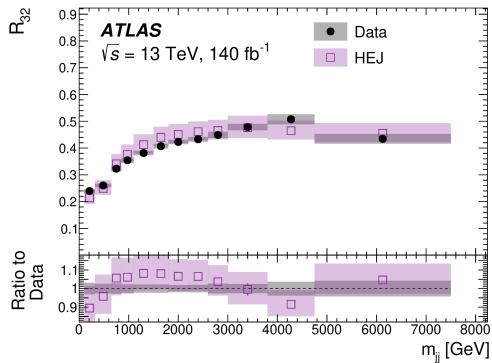
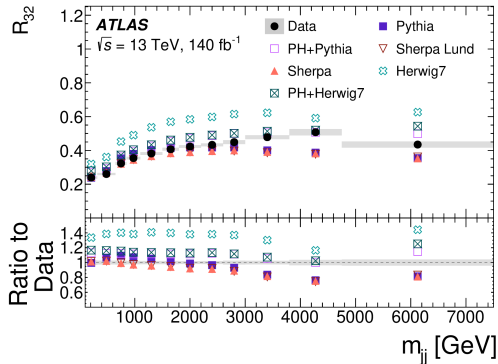
HEJ with resummation of logarithmic correction



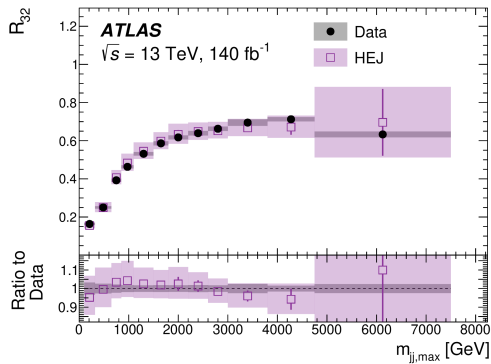
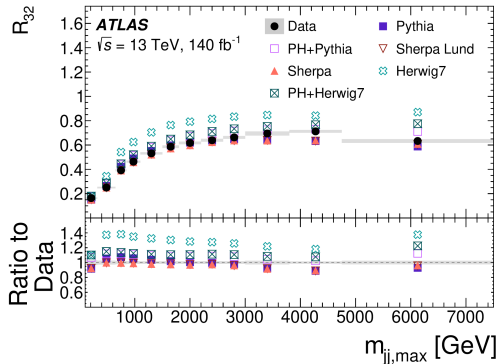
HEJ with resummation of logarithmic correction



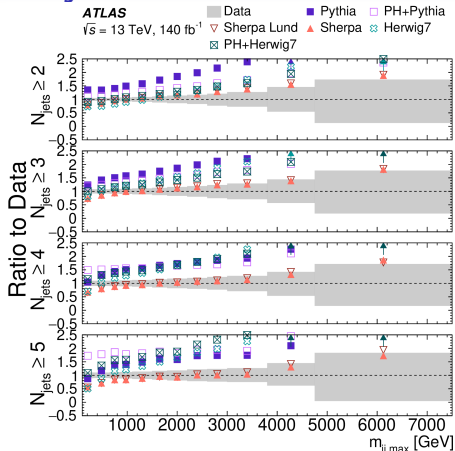
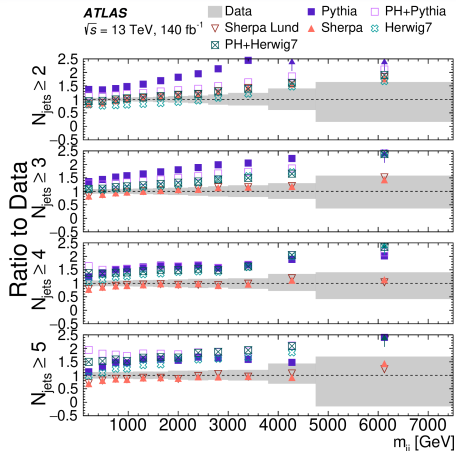
HEJ with resummation of logarithmic correction



HEJ with resummation of logarithmic correction



Multi-differential jet cross-section



- Increasing discrepancies for vector boson-scattering (VBS) and vector-boson fusion (VBF) phase-space with large $m_{jj,\text{max}}$ and $\Delta y_{jj,\text{max}}$
 - m_{jj} as dijet invariant mass of the two leading jets (dominated by high p_T jets)
 - $m_{jj,\text{max}}$ as dijet invariant mass of any pair of jets in the event that maximize m_{jj} (dominated forward jets with large angles between the two)

Conclusion and highlights

Multi-differential cross-section measurements for multijet QCD

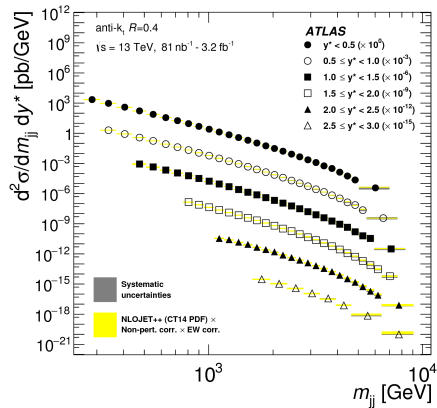
- Significant benefits from improved experimental JES uncertainties
- MC and pQCD predictions tested against data using energy-scale related ($H_{T,2}$) and angular related (Δy) variables
- Novel way to indirectly test vector-boson scattering/fusion interaction with forward jets and probe logarithmic contribution and resummation effects
- R_{32} for the first time at 13 TeV, pp collisions + α_s extraction ongoing
- R_{42}, R_{43}, R_{54} for the first time, now experimentally accessible with LHC Full Run 2 dataset, as reference for future MC and theory developments, HEP data and Rivet routine available

Thank you for your attention.

Comparison to previous measurements

- First ATLAS measurement of $(m_{jj}, y_{\text{boost}})$
- 40 $\times$ larger dataset with improved detector reconstruction
- $\times 2\text{--}3$ reduction of experimental uncertainties
- First comparison to full-colour NNLO pQCD
- Increased sensitivity to PDFs and α_s

	This ATLAS [?]	Previous ATLAS [?]
Observable	(m_{jj}, y^*) $(m_{jj}, y_{\text{boost}})$	(m_{jj}, y^*)
Dataset	13 TeV 140 fb $^{-1}$ particle-flow	13 TeV 3.2 fb $^{-1}$ topological
Jets	$R = 0.4$	$R = 0.4, 0.6$
pQCD theory	NNLO full colour $\mu_R = \mu_F = m_{jj}$	NLO leading colour $\mu_R = \mu_F = p_{T,1} e^{0.3y^*}$
Particle level	muons and neutrinos excluded	muons and neutrinos included
Precision	$\times 2\text{--}3$ better	baseline
# bins	237+160	146



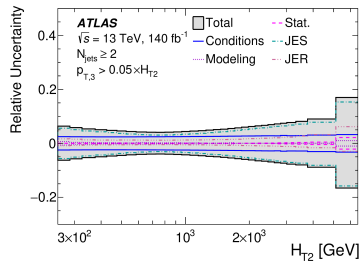
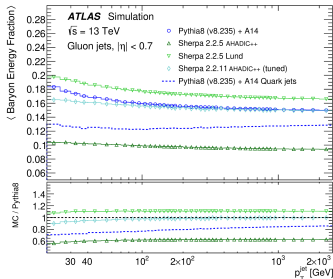
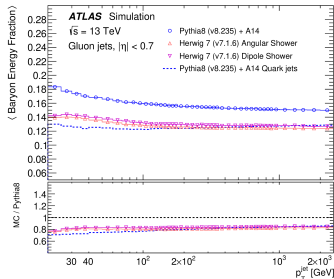
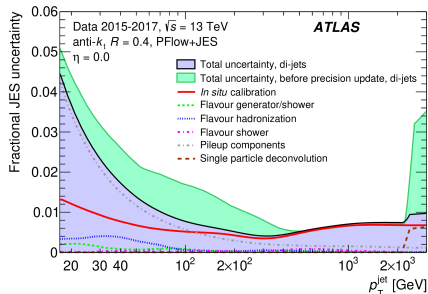
Previous ATLAS dijet measurement
(STDM-2016-03)

Breakthrough in JES experimental systematic uncertainties

Jet Energy Scale (JES) and Jet Energy Resolution (JER) based on series of simulation-based techniques and in-situ measurements

Dramatic improvements of JES uncertainty in 2024:

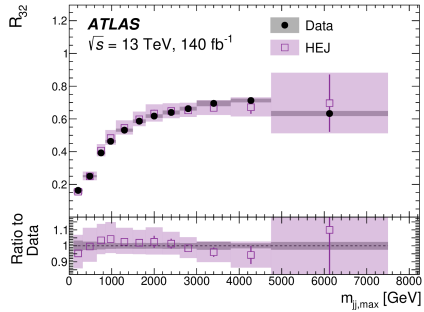
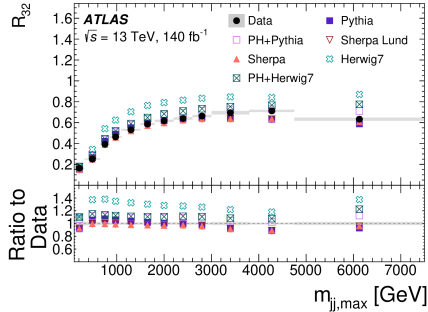
- Improved Jet Flavor Response Decomposition for low and middle p_T jet, reduced by **factor 2**
- Improved Single Particle Deconvolution with $W \rightarrow \tau(\rightarrow \pi\nu)\nu$ for high p_T jets, reduced by **factor 3**
- Both cross-sections and jet cross-section ratios still dominated by JES



Advanced pQCD predictions - HEJ

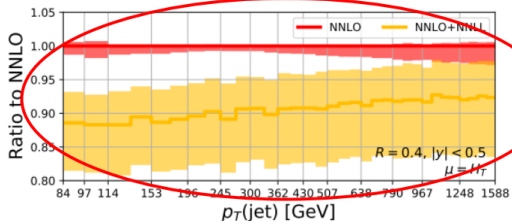
High Energy Jet framework (HEJ)

- Resummation of logarithmic corrections and matching in high energy limit, relevant for large rapidity differences and large invariant mass
 - $\mu_R = \mu_F = \hat{H}_T/2$
 - NNPDF3.1NLO PDF set, $\alpha_s = 0.118$



- HEJ improves R_{32} modeling for m_{jj} , $m_{jj, \max}$ and $\Delta y_{jj, \max}$

5. μ_R , μ_F , and resummation effects



On the left, NNLL resummation effects can modify the cross-section by approximately -10% , derived for incl. jets with $\mu_R = \mu_F = H_T$,
T. Generet et al., arXiv:2604.25490.

No results for dijets so far.

