



aMCfast:

Automation of fast NLO calculations for PDF fits

Juan Rojo

STFC Rutherford Fellow

Rudolf Peierls Center for Theoretical Physics, University of Oxford

arXiv:1406.7693

V. Bertone, R. Frederix, S. Frixione, JR and M. Sutton

ATLAS PDF fit Forum

CERN, 01/07/2014

FAST NLO CALCULATIONS AND PDF ANALYSIS

NLO Calculations in PDF analyses

- (N)NLO QCD calculations are too CPU-time intensive to be used directly into PDF analysis
- The traditional solution, LO supplemented by iterative bin-by-bin K-factors, is not suitable in general to match the precision of LHC data
- In the recent years, various approaches have been proposed to provide fast interfaces to NLO calculations, that can be used directly in PDF analysis, the main ones being:
 - ✓ APPLgrid: interfaced to MCFM and NLOJet++
 - ✓ FastNLO: interfaced to NLOJet++
- Basic strategy: interpolate PDFs in a suitable basis, and precompute the partonic cross-section into a set of grids, reconstructing the final distributions via a fast convolution. The same ideas underlie most x-space PDF evolution codes: HOPPET, QCDNUM, APFEL,
- Main limitations of present tools:
 - * Restricted to a limited number of processes, implementation and debugging of each new process is time consuming
 - * Only QCD corrections, no QED and electroweak corrections available, important for many LHC processes
 - * Only Fixed Order processes, cannot account for Monte Carlo parton shower effects. These are required both to estimate non-perturbative corrections and to account for QCD shower resummation effects

MadGraph5_aMCatNLO

The automated computation of tree-level and next-to-leading order differential cross sections, and their matching to parton shower simulations

J. Alwall^a, R. Frederix^b, S. Frixione^b, V. Hirschi^c, F. Maltoni^d, O. Mattelaer^d,
H.-S. Shao^e, T. Stelzer^f, P. Torrielli^g, M. Zaro^{hi} **arxiv:1405.0301**

<http://amcatnlo.web.cern.ch/amcatnlo/>

- **MadGraph5_aMCatNLO** provides calculations with **NLO accuracy for arbitrary processes**, their matching with **Parton Showers**, and the **merging** of exclusive NLO+PS samples of different multiplicity
- Built upon the **MadGraph** framework, it uses **MadFKS** for subtraction of soft/collinear divergences, **MadLoop** (with CutTools) for the computation of virtual corrections, **MC@NLO** method to match matrix elements with parton showers, and the **FxFx** merging of NLO+PS samples with different multiplicities
- **PDF and scale uncertainties** provided at no extra cost for each run via reweighting
- Ongoing developments include extending **loop corrections to electroweak theory** as well as to **generic renormalizable BSM Lagrangians** (via FeynRules@NLO)

Why we want a fast interface to MG5_aMC?

- MadGraph5_aMCatNLO provides theory predictions with NLO accuracy for arbitrary processes

Available fast interfaces are restricted to a limited number of processes

The implementation of each new process is time consuming and error-prone

A fast interface to MadGraph5_aMCatNLO would allow to include arbitrarily complicated LHC processes into a NLO global PDF fit

- MadGraph5_aMCatNLO provides an automatic matching of NLO events with various parton showers

Available fast interfaces allow only fixed-order computations

NLO+PS computations are not only more accurate, they also provide an exclusive events description, and allow a more direct data/theory comparisons with reduced extrapolations

- MadGraph5_aMCatNLO will soon include not only NLO QCD but also NLO electroweak corrections

QED and electroweak corrections are important to fit TeV scale data, and are not available in form of a fast interface to PDF fits. Also photon-induced effects are sizable for many EW processes

Therefore, a fast interface to MadGraph5_aMCatNLO is of outmost important for global PDF analysis:

- ✓ Increase the number of LHC processes for which fast NLO interfaces are available, and that thus can be used to constrain PDFs.
- ✓ Allow to perform PDF fits with NLO+PS accuracy, study the stability of PDF fits wrt higher order corrections, increase the number of observables that can be used in PDF fits, and eventually provide specific PDF sets for NLO event generators
- ✓ Include consistently electroweak corrections in PDF fits at the matrix element level, and include QED effects that allow to perform a precision determination of the photon PDF from LHC data

AMCFAST: GENERAL STRATEGY

Interpolation Strategy

- The fast interface to **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO**, which we denote by **aMCfast**, is constructed using the routines provided by the **APPLgrid** library
- The key idea is to use a generic **higher-order Lagrange interpolation**

$$F(z) = \sum_{i=0}^s F \left(\left(\left[\frac{z}{\delta} - \frac{s-1}{2} \right] + i \right) \delta \right) I_i^{(s)} \left(\frac{z}{\delta} - \left[\frac{z}{\delta} - \frac{s-1}{2} \right] \right)$$

$$I_i^{(s)}(u) = \frac{(-1)^{s-i}}{i!(s-i)!} \prod_{k=0, k \neq i}^s (u - k)$$

$$[u] \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad u - 1 < [u] \leq u, \quad u \in \mathbb{R}$$

- We want to use this expansion to **compute a generic integral**, defined by the convolution of two terms

$$J = \int_a^b dz S(z) F(z) = \sum_{k=1}^M \Phi_k S(z_k) F(z_k)$$

“Slow” function, CPU-time intensive, to be precomputed only one (ie NLO cmatrix element)

“Fast” function, quick evaluation
To be expanded in Lagrange polynomials (ie PDFs)

Interpolation Strategy

Now we can show that the integral J can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} J &= \sum_{k=1}^M \Phi_k S(z_k) \sum_{j=p_\delta(z_k)}^{s+p_\delta(z_k)} F(j\delta) I_{j-p_\delta(z_k)}^{(s)} \left(\frac{z_k}{\delta} - p_\delta(z_k) \right) \\ &= \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} F(j\delta) G_j, \end{aligned}$$

That is, in terms of the function $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{z})$ evaluated only at a finite subset of **interpolation grid nodes**, weighted by a **factor** that depends on the **node position**, and is by

$$G_j = \sum_{k=1}^M \Phi_k S(z_k) I_{j-p_\delta(z_k)}^{(s)} \left(\frac{z_k}{\delta} - p_\delta(z_k) \right) \Theta(p_\delta(z_k) \leq j \leq s + p_\delta(z_k))$$

The idea of **aMCfast** is to extract the information on the hard-scattering matrix elements from **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO**, use this to fill the **APPLgrid** interpolating grids, and then reconstruct the original distributions a posteriori with arbitrary PDFs and scales.

Given the automated nature of **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO**, this is a task that needs to be performed only once, and then it will be valid for a generic process

Short-distance cross-sections

In the **FKS subtraction formalism**, a generic 2 → n short distance cross-section is given by

$$d\sigma^{(\text{NLO})} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ d\sigma^{(\text{NLO},\alpha)} \right\}_{\alpha=E,S,C,SC},$$
$$d\sigma^{(\text{NLO},\alpha)} = f_1(x_1^{(\alpha)}, \mu_F^{(\alpha)}) f_2(x_2^{(\alpha)}, \mu_F^{(\alpha)}) W^{(\alpha)} d\chi_{Bj} d\chi_{n+1}$$

with the contribution of the **fully resolved event** (E) and of the **soft** (S), **collinear** (C) and **soft-collinear** (SC) counterevents

The information on **partonic matrix-elements**, including scale dependence, is encoded in the functions:

$$W^{(\alpha)} = g_S^{2b+2}(\mu_R^{(\alpha)}) \left[\widehat{W}_0^{(\alpha)} + \widehat{W}_F^{(\alpha)} \log\left(\frac{\mu_F^{(\alpha)}}{Q}\right)^2 + \widehat{W}_R^{(\alpha)} \log\left(\frac{\mu_R^{(\alpha)}}{Q}\right)^2 \right]$$
$$+ g_S^{2b}(\mu_R^{(\alpha)}) \widehat{W}_B \delta_{\alpha S},$$

where the various pieces are the **Born**, the **scale independent NLO term**, and the terms which encode the **renormalization and factorization scale dependences** of the NLO calculation

In **aMCfast**, the information on the **event-by-event W weights** is extracted and used to fill the **APPLgrid** interpolation grids

Short-distance cross-sections

⦿ Skipping technicalities (see paper for full details), we can finally write the **four components of the FKS cross-section** in terms of **PDFs and strong coupling** evaluated only **at the grid nodes**, and grid weight factors which encode **all dependence on matrix elements**, and that need to be computed only once

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{O,0}^{(h)} &= \sum_{j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4} f_1(j_1 \delta_1, j_3 \delta_3) f_2(j_2 \delta_2, j_3 \delta_3) g_S^{2b+2}(j_4 \delta_4) G_{j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4}^{(h,0)}, \\ \sigma_{O,F}^{(h)} &= \sum_{j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4} f_1(j_1 \delta_1, j_3 \delta_3) f_2(j_2 \delta_2, j_3 \delta_3) g_S^{2b+2}(j_4 \delta_4) \log \left(\frac{j_3 \delta_3}{Q} \right)^2 G_{j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4}^{(h,F)}, \\ \sigma_{O,R}^{(h)} &= \sum_{j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4} f_1(j_1 \delta_1, j_3 \delta_3) f_2(j_2 \delta_2, j_3 \delta_3) g_S^{2b+2}(j_4 \delta_4) \log \left(\frac{j_4 \delta_4}{Q} \right)^2 G_{j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4}^{(h,R)}, \\ \sigma_{O,B}^{(h)} &= \sum_{j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4} f_1(j_1 \delta_1, j_3 \delta_3) f_2(j_2 \delta_2, j_3 \delta_3) g_S^{2b}(j_4 \delta_4) G_{j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4}^{(h,B)},\end{aligned}$$

⦿ As opposed to other NLO calculations, in the FKS formalism we require **four independent interpolation grids** rather than two, to account for the most general possible scale variations

Scale variations

Once the APPLgrid interpolating grids have been produced with **aMCfast**, we can recompute the **original kinematical distributions** for arbitrary PDFs, scales and value of α_S

We assume that scales vary wrt the central value by a **constant factor** in all phase space

$$\mu_F = \xi_F \mu, \quad \mu_R = \xi_R \mu$$

We end up with the following final expressions in terms of PDFs in the grid and node weight factors:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{O,0}^{(h)} &= \sum_{j_1, j_2, j_3} \sum_{l=1}^{n_l} \widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{(l)}(j_1 \delta_y, j_2 \delta_y, j_3 \delta_\tau) \hat{g}_S^{2b+2}(j_3 \delta_\tau) G_{j_1 j_2 j_3}^{(h,0,l)}, \\ \sigma_{O,F}^{(h)} &= \sum_{j_1, j_2, j_3} \sum_{l=1}^{n_l} \widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{(l)}(j_1 \delta_y, j_2 \delta_y, j_3 \delta_\tau) \hat{g}_S^{2b+2}(j_3 \delta_\tau) \log \xi_F^2 G_{j_1 j_2 j_3}^{(h,F,l)}, \\ \sigma_{O,R}^{(h)} &= \sum_{j_1, j_2, j_3} \sum_{l=1}^{n_l} \widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{(l)}(j_1 \delta_y, j_2 \delta_y, j_3 \delta_\tau) \hat{g}_S^{2b+2}(j_3 \delta_\tau) \log \xi_R^2 G_{j_1 j_2 j_3}^{(h,R,l)}, \\ \sigma_{O,B}^{(h)} &= \sum_{j_1, j_2, j_3} \sum_{l=1}^{n_l} \widehat{\mathcal{F}}^{(l)}(j_1 \delta_y, j_2 \delta_y, j_3 \delta_\tau) \hat{g}_S^{2b}(j_3 \delta_\tau) G_{j_1 j_2 j_3}^{(h,B,l)}, \end{aligned}$$

This is a different approach for scale variations as compared to the default **APPLgrid** method, which requires using an external code, **HOPPET**, and is valid only in the **limit of very high statistics**

The **aMCfast** method is **fully generic**, valid on a **event-by-event** basis and completely stand-alone. Also, if needed, it can be generalized to more complex choices of scale variations

AMCFAST: VALIDATION

aMCfast validation

☪ For all the processes we have explicitly tested, the **aMCfast+APPLgrid interface** to **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO** has an accuracy well below the permille level, more than enough for any phenomenological application (and could be further increased by using a finer grid)

☪ This is the case both for the central scale, dynamically chosen on an event-by-event basis, and for **arbitrary scale variations**. In the examples I show we have used **H_T as central scale**

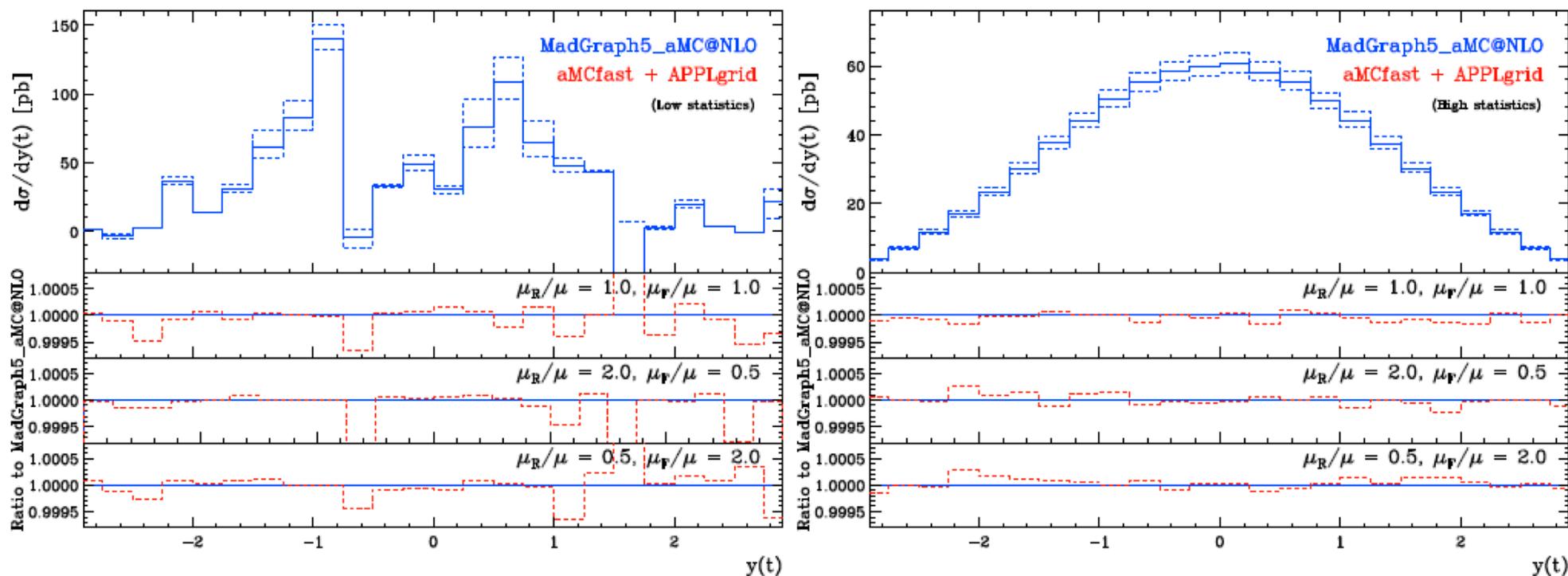
☪ The aMCfast interpolation is correct on a event-by-event basis: the **original MadGraph5_aMC@NLO distributions** are successfully reproduced even in very low statistics runs (of course useful only for validation purposes)

☪ We use **NNPDF2.3/2.1 as input PDFs**, with the number of active flavors consistent with the process under consideration

APPLgrid settings

Parameter	value	Parameter	value
κ	5	Λ	0.250 GeV
(x_{\min}, x_{\max})	$(2 \cdot 10^{-7}, 1)$	(μ_{\min}, μ_{\max})	(10,3162) GeV
N_y	50	N_τ	30
s_y	3	s_τ	3

Top-quark pair production

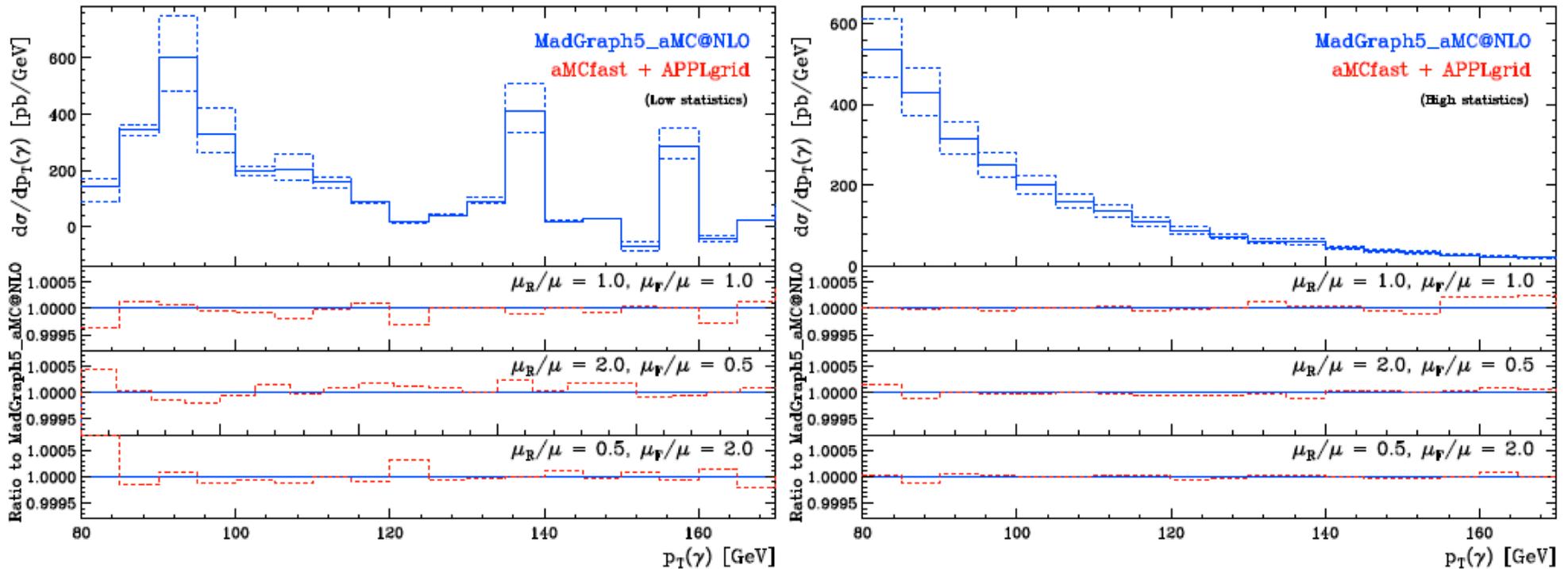


```
MG5_aMC> import model loop_sm-no_b_mass
MG5_aMC> define p = g u d s c b u~ d~ s~ c~ b~
MG5_aMC> generate p p > t t~ [QCD]
```

- Useful to constrain the **gluon PDF**
- For this process, we have the contribution from 7 independent PDF luminosities. **Lumis determined automatically at run time**
- Excellent agreement with original distributions both at low and at high statistics

l	n_{rs}	(r, s)
1	1	(g, g)
2	5	(\bar{b}, g) (\bar{c}, g) (\bar{s}, g) (\bar{u}, g) (\bar{d}, g)
3	5	(d, g) (u, g) (s, g) (c, g) (b, g)
4	5	(g, \bar{b}) (g, \bar{c}) (g, \bar{s}) (g, \bar{u}) (g, \bar{d})
5	5	(g, d) (g, u) (g, s) (g, c) (g, b)
6	5	(d, \bar{d}) (u, \bar{u}) (s, \bar{s}) (c, \bar{c}) (b, \bar{b})
7	5	(\bar{b}, b) (\bar{c}, c) (\bar{s}, s) (\bar{u}, u) (\bar{d}, d)

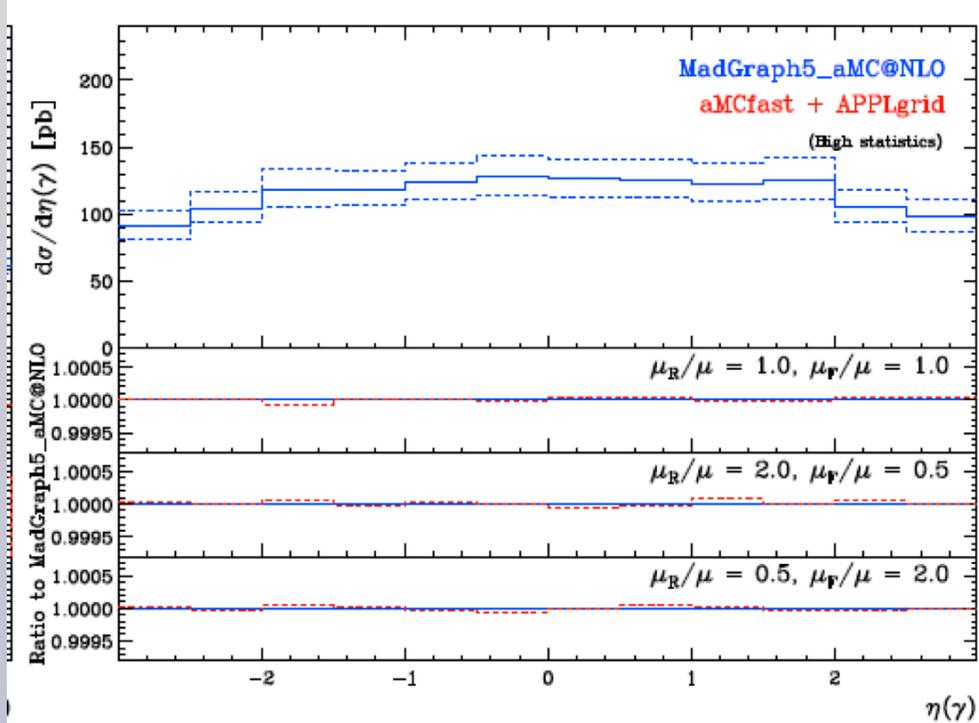
Photon+jet production



```
MG5_aMC> define j = g u d s c b u~ d~ s~ c~ b~
MG5_aMC> generate p p > a j [QCD]
```

- Could have PDF discrimination power if experimental measurements are precise enough
- Same generation commands as before, adding the correct jet definition for a 5-flavor scheme
- Again, **excellent agreement** for all distributions and choices of scales
- Uses the **Frixione isolation criterion** to remove the fragmentation component
- Generation-level cuts and analysis parameters (including isolation) **accessible from the run card**

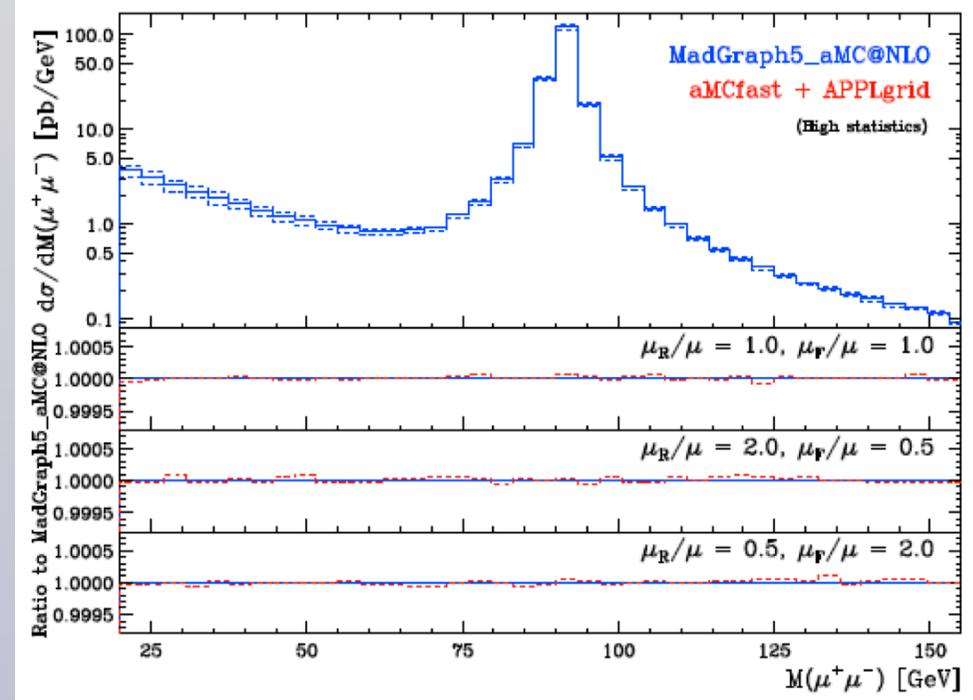
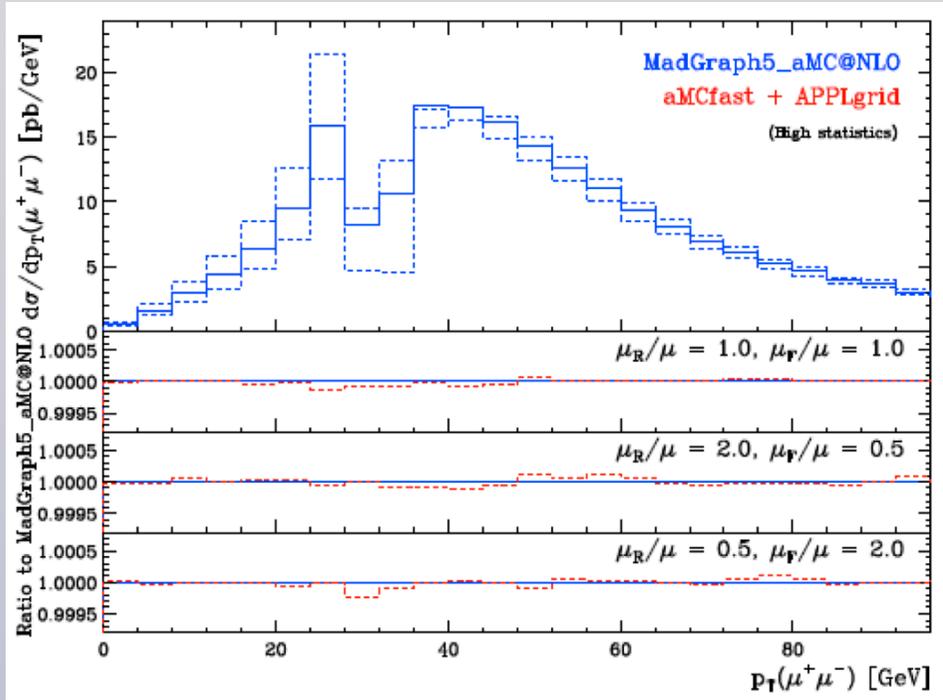
Photon+jet production



- Due to the complexity of this process, here we have **33 independent PDF luminosities**
- Determined at run time, this information is **completely transparent to the user**

l	n_{rs}	(r, s)						
1	2	(g, u)	(g, c)					
2	6	(\bar{b}, u)	(\bar{b}, c)	(\bar{s}, u)	(\bar{s}, c)	(\bar{d}, u)	(\bar{d}, c)	
3	6	(d, u)	(d, c)	(s, u)	(s, c)	(b, u)	(b, c)	
4	2	(\bar{c}, c)	(\bar{u}, u)					
5	2	(u, u)	(c, c)					
6	2	(\bar{c}, u)	(\bar{u}, c)					
7	2	(u, c)	(c, u)					
8	1	(g, g)						
9	3	(g, d)	(g, s)	(g, b)				
10	3	(\bar{b}, b)	(\bar{s}, s)	(\bar{d}, d)				
11	3	(d, d)	(s, s)	(b, b)				
12	6	(\bar{c}, d)	(\bar{c}, s)	(\bar{c}, b)	(\bar{u}, d)	(\bar{u}, s)	(\bar{u}, b)	
13	6	(u, d)	(u, s)	(u, b)	(c, d)	(c, s)	(c, b)	
14	6	(\bar{b}, d)	(\bar{b}, s)	(\bar{s}, d)	(\bar{s}, b)	(\bar{d}, s)	(\bar{d}, b)	
15	6	(d, s)	(d, b)	(s, d)	(s, b)	(b, d)	(b, s)	
16	2	(g, \bar{c})	(g, \bar{u})					
17	6	(\bar{b}, \bar{c})	(\bar{b}, \bar{u})	(\bar{s}, \bar{c})	(\bar{s}, \bar{u})	(\bar{d}, \bar{c})	(\bar{d}, \bar{u})	
18	6	(d, \bar{c})	(d, \bar{u})	(s, \bar{c})	(s, \bar{u})	(b, \bar{c})	(b, \bar{u})	
19	2	(\bar{c}, \bar{c})	(\bar{u}, \bar{u})					
20	2	(u, \bar{u})	(c, \bar{c})					
21	2	(\bar{c}, \bar{u})	(\bar{u}, \bar{c})					
22	2	(u, \bar{c})	(c, \bar{u})					
23	3	(g, \bar{b})	(g, \bar{s})	(g, \bar{d})				
24	3	(\bar{b}, \bar{b})	(\bar{s}, \bar{s})	(\bar{d}, \bar{d})				
25	3	(d, \bar{d})	(s, \bar{s})	(b, \bar{b})				
26	6	(\bar{c}, \bar{b})	(\bar{c}, \bar{s})	(\bar{c}, \bar{d})	(\bar{u}, \bar{b})	(\bar{u}, \bar{s})	(\bar{u}, \bar{d})	
27	6	(u, \bar{b})	(u, \bar{s})	(u, \bar{d})	(c, \bar{b})	(c, \bar{s})	(c, \bar{d})	
28	6	(\bar{b}, \bar{s})	(\bar{b}, \bar{d})	(\bar{s}, \bar{b})	(\bar{s}, \bar{d})	(\bar{d}, \bar{b})	(\bar{d}, \bar{s})	
29	6	(d, \bar{b})	(d, \bar{s})	(s, \bar{b})	(s, \bar{d})	(b, \bar{s})	(b, \bar{d})	
30	2	(u, g)	(c, g)					
31	3	(d, g)	(s, g)	(b, g)				
32	2	(\bar{c}, g)	(\bar{u}, g)					
33	3	(\bar{b}, g)	(\bar{s}, g)	(\bar{d}, g)				

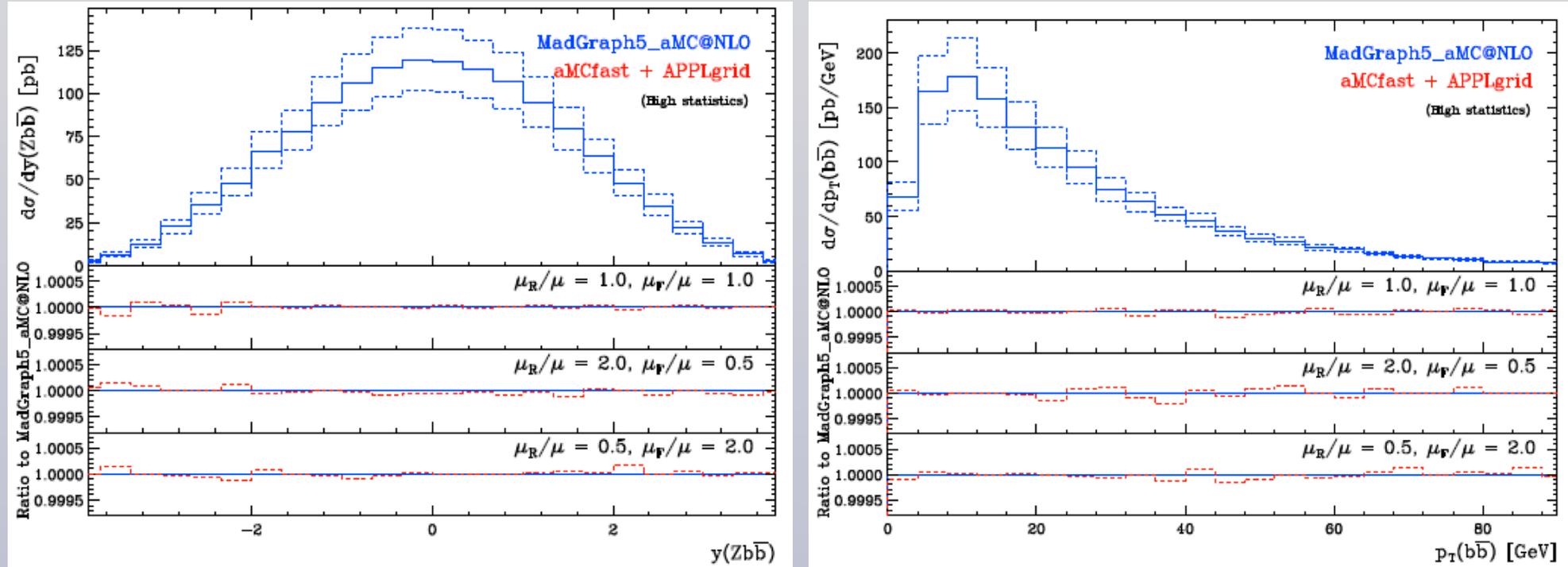
dilepton+jet production



```
MG5_aMC> generate p p > mu+ mu- j [QCD]
```

- Useful to constrain the **gluon** and the **antiquarks**
- Feature around $p_T = 30$ GeV understood from perturbative instability in fNLO calculation, requires resummation
- Ratios of this process with W +jets could provide important information on **quark flavor separation**

Zbb production

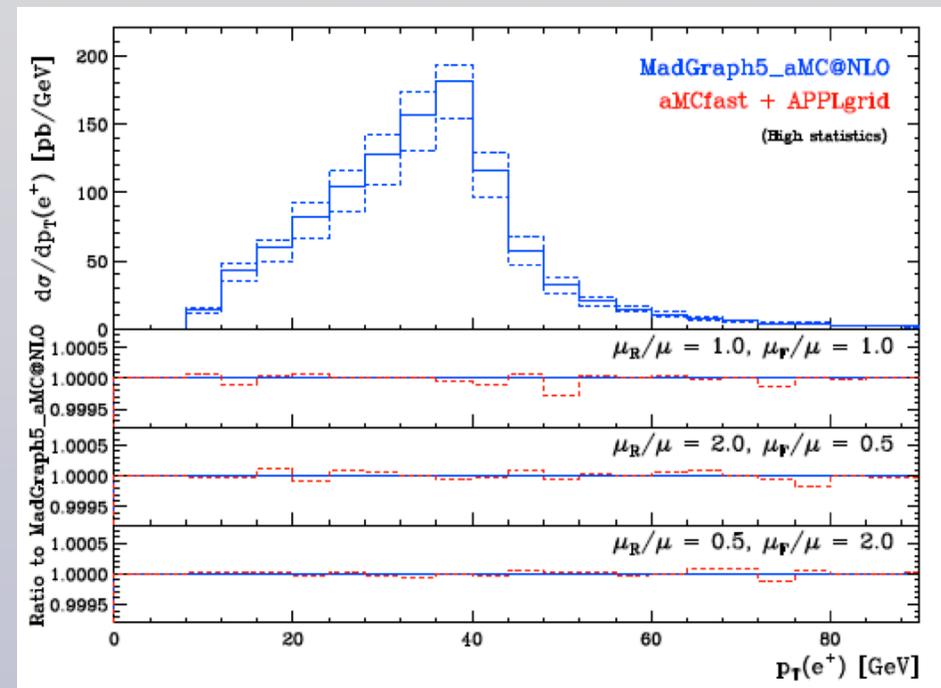
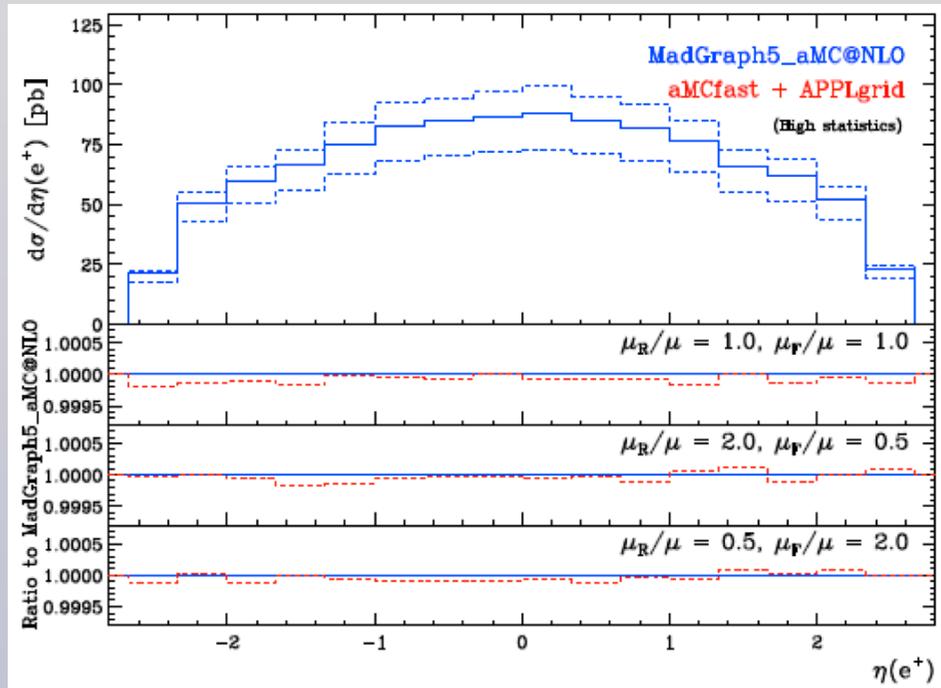


MG5_aMC> generate p p > z b b~ [QCD]

- Example of a quite complicated final state that benefits from the complete automation of fast NLO calculations in aMCfast
- Calculation needs to be performed in a scheme with massive b quark
- In this case we have 13 independent PDF lumis

l	n_{rs}	(r, s)
1	1	(g, g)
2	2	(\bar{s}, g) (\bar{d}, g)
3	2	(d, g) (s, g)
4	2	(\bar{c}, g) (\bar{u}, g)
5	2	(u, g) (c, g)
6	2	(g, \bar{s}) (g, \bar{d})
7	2	(g, d) (g, s)
8	2	(g, \bar{c}) (g, \bar{u})
9	2	(g, u) (g, c)
10	2	(u, \bar{u}) (c, \bar{c})
11	2	(d, \bar{d}) (s, \bar{s})
12	2	(\bar{c}, c) (\bar{u}, u)
13	2	(\bar{s}, s) (\bar{d}, d)

W production in association with charm quarks



```
MG5_aMC> import model loop_sm-c_mass
MG5_aMC> define p = g u d s u~ d~ s~
MG5_aMC> generate p p > e+ ve c~ [QCD]
```

- Crucial experimental data to constrain the **strange PDF**
- Illustrates that **resonance decays** can be trivially included in aMCfast
- Any **theoretical refinement** of the original MadGraph5_aMC@NLO calculation, such as the use of complex mass scheme to account for finite widths of resonances, **translates automatically into aMCfast**

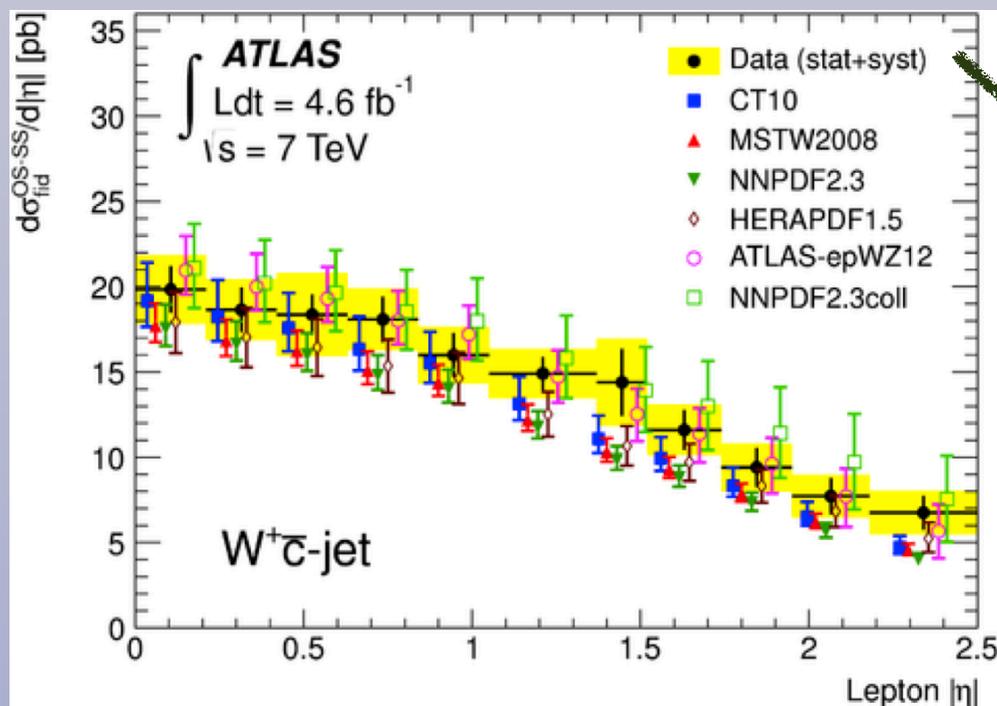
PHENOMENOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS

Just some representative examples

Huge range of interesting pheno applications to be explored

Consistent estimate of non-perturbative corrections

- ☉ Estimating **non-perturbative corrections**, for instance due to hadronization or underlying event, is required to unfold measurements from hadron level to parton level
- ☉ With **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO**, one should generate the same process in NLO and NLO+PS, with identical settings, and extract consistently the **bin-by-bin correction due to NP effects**
- ☉ Of course, this is only possible in kinematic regions where the effects of **perturbative resummation from the parton shower** are small
- ☉ This could be applied to the **ATLAS W+charm data**
 - ☑ Run MadGraph5_aMC@NLO at fNLO with **aMCfast activated**, generate the APPLgrid tables corresponding to your measurement
 - ☑ Re-run MadGraph5_aMC@NLO in the NLO+PS mode in identical settings
 - ☑ In the PDF fit, use the **fast NLO grid** calculation supplemented with the **parton-to-hadron correction**



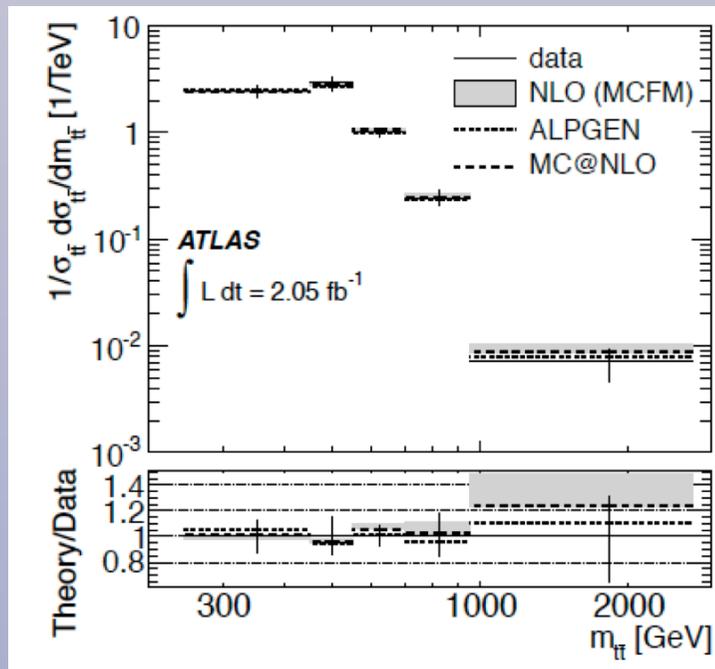
Can be included now in PDF fit thanks to MadGraph5_aMC@NLO and the aMCfast interface

Top quark data with finite width effects

- Top quark data provides useful constraints on the **large-x gluon PDF**
- Studies so far use total cross-sections, now moving towards including **top quark differential distributions** in PDF fits
- Thanks to **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO + aMCfast**, one should be able to include in the PDF fit fully differential distributions including **finite width effects of the top quark**, for example, in the fully leptonic final state

```
MG5_aMC> generate p p > l+ vl b l- vl~ b~ [QCD]
```

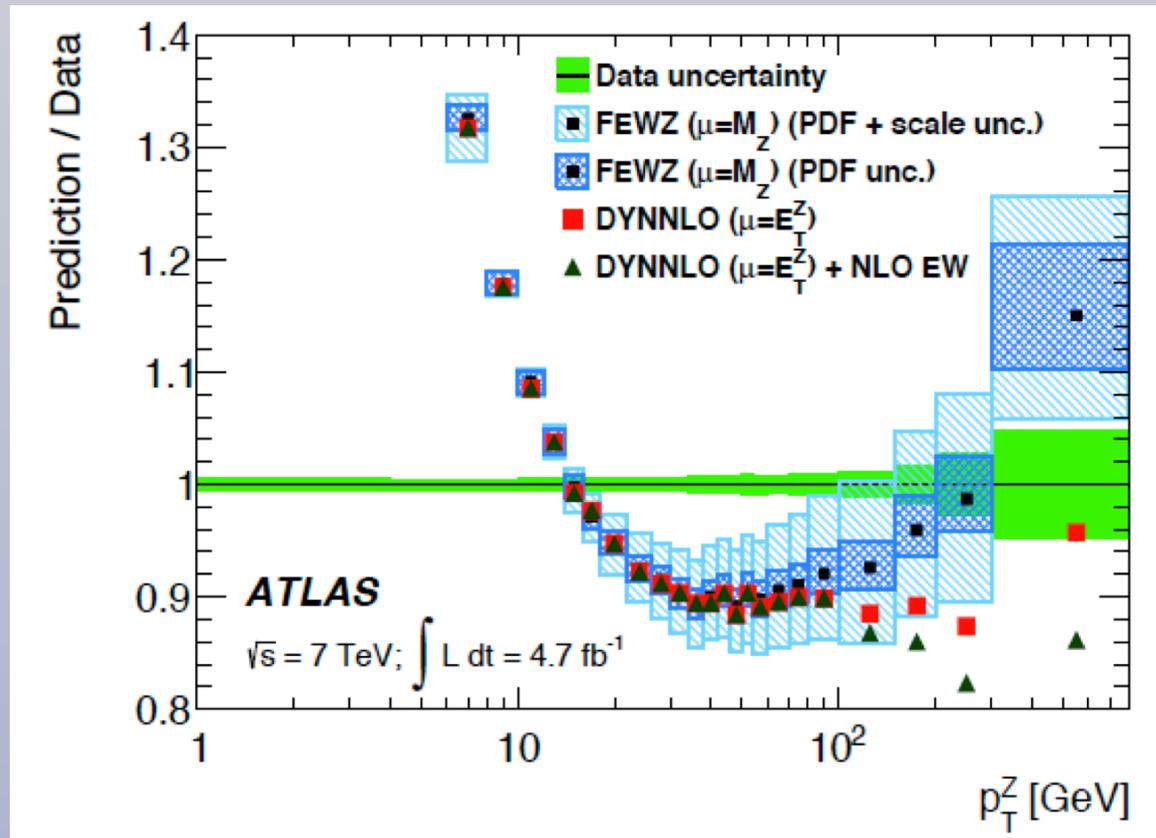
- Once the full NNLO calculation is available, **correct exclusive NLO calculation with a suitable K-factor** (which has very reduced PDF sensitivity)
- With the same method as for W+charm, estimating uncertainties due to shower and non-perturbative effects becomes an easy task



PS Absolute distributions have greatly improved PDF constraining power as compared to normalized distributions

Z+jet data for PDF constraints

- The transverse momentum distribution of the Z boson is very useful to **constrain PDFs**, both gluons and antiquarks, and can be measured very precisely in terms of **leptonic variables only**
- It is crucial to identify the region of validity of fixed order QCD, and this can be studied for example running **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO** at fixed order and then matched to parton showers
- **NLO electroweak** and mixed QCD/EW corrections are important at the **highest pt**, will become available in a future release of **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO** and therefore also in **aMCfast**



OUTLOOK and DELIVERY

Beyond NLO QCD

- The **automation of fast NLO QCD calculations needed in PDF fits for arbitrary processes** can be considered now as **fully completed**
- Next step is to extend the **aMCfast** interface to **NLO+PS calculations**.
- While there are no conceptual problems, extra technical work is required to **extend the NLO+PS reweighting format propagating all the information** that allow to fill APPLgrids starting from showered events, and modify **LHEF/HepMC** formats
- In parallel, once the mixed QCD/EW expansion becomes available in **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO**, we will generalize **aMCfast** to processes with **both QCD and QED/EWK corrections**
- Again, no conceptual obstructions here, the generalization of the **aMCfast** formulae to a mixed expansions are trivial
- From the phenomenology point of view, once **aMCfast** with QCD/EW corrections is available it should be possible to use it to provide stringent constraints to the **photon PDF** using LHC data sensitive to **photon-initiated contributions**, and use QCD+EW corrections to fit high-ET data like jets, high mass tt, high-mass DY etc where NLO electroweak corrections are substantial

Delivery

- **aMCfast** will be made available in the next days in its **HepForge** website
- It also requires the use of the latest **APPLgrid** release

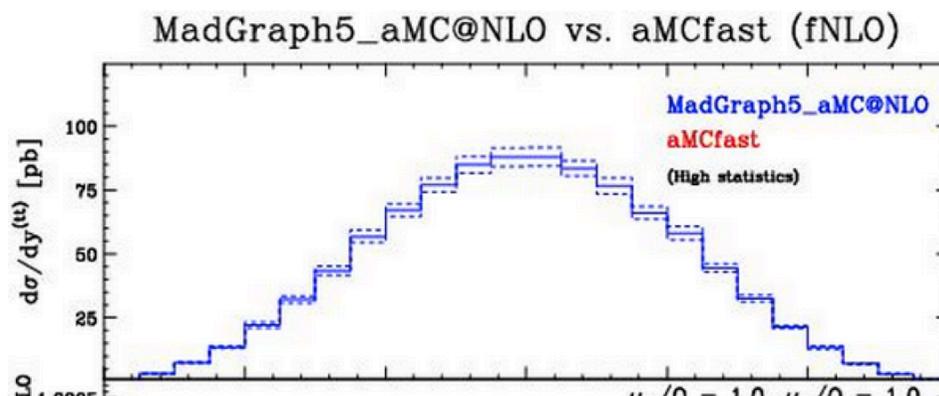
aMCfast - A fast interface between **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO** and **APPLgrid**

- [aMCfast Home](#)
- [Download and installation](#)
- [Analysis files](#)
- [Precomputed grids](#)
- [Contact](#)

aMCfast is an *automated interface* which bridges the automated cross section calculator **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO** with the fast interpolator **APPLgrid**.

The chain **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO** – **aMCfast** – **APPLgrid** will allow one to include, in a straightforward manner, any present or future LHC measurement in an NLO global PDF analysis.

Here is an example of the accuracy provided by **aMCfast**:



- The version of **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO** with the complete **MCfast** functionalities will be made available in one of the future releases
- In the meantime, a development version of **MadGraph5_aMC@NLO** with these functionalities is available from the authors upon request