

MEASUREMENTS OF THE TOP QUARK MASS AT THE TEVATRON

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The mass of the top quark (m_{top}) is a fundamental parameter of the standard model (SM). Currently, its most precise measurements are performed by the CDF and D0 collaborations at the Fermilab Tevatron $p\bar{p}$ collider at a centre-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV. We review the most recent of those measurements, performed on data samples of up to 8.7 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity. The Tevatron combination using up to 5.8 fb^{-1} of data results in a preliminary world average top quark mass of $m_{\text{top}} = 173.2 \pm 0.9$ GeV. This corresponds to a relative precision of about 0.54%. We conclude with an outlook of anticipated precision the final measurement of m_{top} at the Tevatron.

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1 Introduction

The pair-production of the top quark was discovered in 1995 by the CDF and D0 experiments¹ at the Fermilab Tevatron proton-antiproton collider. Observation of the electroweak production of single top quarks was presented only two years ago². The large top quark mass and the resulting Yukawa coupling of almost unity indicates that the top quark could play a crucial role in electroweak symmetry breaking. Precise measurements of the properties of the top quark provide a crucial test of the consistency of the SM and could hint at physics beyond the SM.

In the following, we review measurements of the top quark mass at the Tevatron, which is a fundamental parameter of the SM. Its precise knowledge, together with the mass of the W boson (m_W), provides an important constraint on the mass of the postulated SM Higgs boson. This is illustrated in the m_{top}, m_W plane in Fig. 1, which includes the recent, most precise measurements of m_W reviewed in Ref.³. Measurements of properties of the top quark other than m_{top} are reviewed in Ref.⁴. The full listing of top quark measurements at the Tevatron can be found in Refs.^{5,6}.

At the Tevatron, top quarks are mostly produced in pairs via the strong interaction. By the end of Tevatron operation, about 10.5 fb^{-1} of integrated luminosity per experiment were recorded by CDF and D0, which corresponds to about 80k produced $t\bar{t}$ pairs. In the framework of the SM, the top quark decays to a W boson and a b quark nearly 100% of the time, resulting in a $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$ final state from top quark pair production. Thus, $t\bar{t}$ events are classified according to the W boson decay channels as “dileptonic”, “all-jets”, or “lepton+jets”. More details on the channels and their experimental challenges can be found in Ref.⁷, while the electroweak production of single top quarks is reviewed in Ref.⁸.

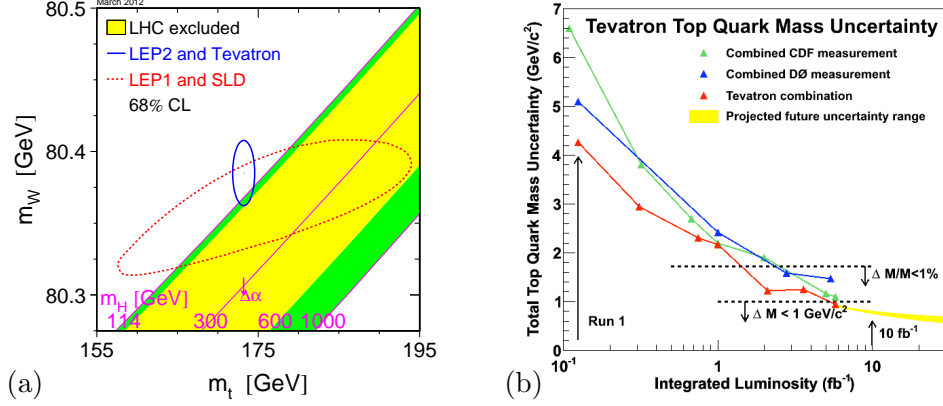


Figure 1: (a) The constraint on mass of the SM Higgs boson from direct m_{top} and m_W measurements in the m_{top}, m_W plane. The red ellipsis indicates the 68% CL contour. (b) The anticipated precision on m_{top} measurements at D0 and the Tevatron combination versus integrated luminosity.

2 Direct measurements of the top quark mass in $\ell + \text{jets}$ final states

D0's most precise measurement of m_{top} is performed in $\ell + 4\text{jets}$ final state using the so-called *matrix element* (ME) method in 3.6 fb^{-1} of data¹⁰. This technique was pioneered by DØ in Run I of the Tevatron⁹, and it calculates the probability that a given event, characterised by a set of measured observables x , comes from the $t\bar{t}$ production given an m_{top} hypothesis, or from a background process: $\mathcal{P}_{\text{evt}}(x) \propto f\mathcal{P}_{\text{sig}}(x, m_{\text{top}}) + (1-f)\mathcal{P}_{\text{bgr}}$. The dependence on m_{top} is explicitly introduced by calculating \mathcal{P}_{sig} using the differential cross section $d\sigma(y, m_{\text{top}}) \propto |\mathcal{M}_{t\bar{t}}|^2(m_{\text{top}})$, where $\mathcal{M}_{t\bar{t}}$ is the leading order (LO) matrix element for $t\bar{t}$ production:

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{sig}}(x, m_{\text{top}}, k_{\text{JES}}) = \frac{1}{\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\text{observed}}} \cdot \int W(x, y, k_{\text{JES}}) d\sigma(y, m_{\text{top}}).$$

Since $d\sigma(y, m_{\text{top}})$ is defined for a set of parton-level observables y , the transfer function $W(x, y, k_{\text{JES}})$ is used to map them to the reconstruction-level set x . This accounts for detector resolutions and acceptance cuts, and introduces explicitly the dependence on the jet energy scale (JES) via an overall scaling factor k_{JES} . The uncertainty on the JES, which is almost fully correlated with m_{top} , is around 2% or larger. Therefore, an *in situ* calibration is performed by requiring that the mass of the dijet system assigned to the parton pair from the hadronically decaying W boson be $m_{jj} = 80.4 \text{ GeV}$. Thus, m_{top} and k_{JES} are extracted simultaneously. This reduces the uncertainty from the JES to about 0.5%, decreasing with the number of selected $t\bar{t}$ events. The measurement is performed in events with four jets, resulting in 24 possible jet-parton assignments. All 24 are summed over, weighted according to the consistency of a given assignment with the b -tagging information. \mathcal{P}_{bgr} is calculated using the VECBOS matrix element for $W + 4$ jets production. Generally, the ME technique offers a superior statistical sensitivity as it uses the full topological and kinematic information in the event in form of 4-vectors. The drawback of this method is the high computational demand.

D0 measures $m_{\text{top}} = 174.9 \pm 0.8$ (stat) ± 0.8 (JES) ± 1.0 (syst) GeV, corresponding to a relative uncertainty of 0.9%. The dominant systematic uncertainties are from modeling of underlying event activity and hadronisation, as well as the colour reconnection effects. On the detector modeling side, differential uncertainties on the JES which are compatible with the overall k_{JES} value from *in situ* calibration, and the difference between the JES for light and b -quark jets are dominant. This picture is representative for all m_{top} measurements in $\ell + \text{jets}$ final states shown here.

CDF employs the ME technique similar to that used at D0 to measure m_{top} on a dataset corresponding to 5.6 fb^{-1} and finds $m_{\text{top}} = 173.0 \pm 0.7$ (stat) ± 0.6 (JES) ± 0.9 (syst) GeV¹¹.

Most notable differences from the D0 measurement are: (i) background events present in the data sample are accounted for on *average* rather than on an event-by-event basis using a likelihood based on a neural network output, (ii) the contribution of “mismeasured” signal events, where one of the jets cannot be matched to a parton, is reduced with a cut on the aforementioned likelihood.

Currently, the world’s best single measurement of m_{top} is performed by CDF in $\ell + \text{jets}$ final states using the so-called *template* method to analyse the full dataset of 8.7 fb^{-1} ¹². The basic idea of the template method is to construct “templates”, i.e. distributions in a set of variables x , which are sensitive to m_{top} , for different mass hypotheses, and extract m_{top} by matching them to the distribution found in data, e.g. via a maximum likelihood fit. CDF minimises a χ^2 -like function to kinematically reconstruct the event for jet-parton assignments consistent with the b -tagging information. To extract m_{top} and calibrate the JES *in-situ*, three-dimensional templates are defined in (i) the fitted m_{top} of the best jet-parton assignment, (ii) the fitted m_{top} of the second-best assignment, and (iii) the fitted invariant mass of the dijet system from the hadronically decaying W boson. CDF finds $m_{\text{top}} = 172.9 \pm 0.7 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.8 \text{ (syst)} \text{ GeV}$.

3 Direct measurement of the top quark mass in all-hadronic final states

The third most statistically significant contribution to the current Tevatron average of m_{top} comes from a measurement in $6 \leq N_{\text{jets}} \leq 8$ final states by CDF using 5.8 fb^{-1} of data ¹³. The main challenge is the high level of the background contribution from QCD multijet production: the $S : B$ ratio is about 1 : 1200 after a multijet trigger requirement. Therefore, a discrimination variable \mathcal{D}_{NN} is constructed with a multilayered NN. Beyond typical kinematic and topological variables like \cancel{p}_{T} , also jet shape variables like the second moment in η and ϕ which provide discrimination between quark and gluon jets, are used as inputs. To enhance the purity of the sample and to reduce the number of combinatoric possibilities, b tagging is applied. For each jet-parton assignment, a χ^2 is constructed which accounts for: the consistency of the two dijet pairs with the reconstructed m_W , the consistency of the $j j b$ combinations with the reconstructed m_{top} , and the consistency of the individual fitted jet momenta with the measured ones, within experimental resolutions. The final sample for top mass extraction is defined by $\mathcal{D}_{\text{NN}} > 0.97$ (0.84) for events with 1 (≥ 2) b tags, yielding a signal to background ratio of 1 : 3 (1 : 1). The measured value is $m_{\text{top}} = 172.5 \pm 1.4 \text{ (stat)} \pm 1.4 \text{ (syst)} \text{ GeV}$. Beyond systematic uncertainties relevant in $\ell + \text{jets}$ final states, potential biases from the data-driven background model pose a notable contribution to the total uncertainty.

4 Direct measurement of the top quark mass in dilepton final states

The world’s most precise measurement of m_{top} in dilepton final states is performed by D0 using 4.7 fb^{-1} of data ¹⁴. Leaving m_{top} as a free parameter, dilepton final states are kinematically underconstrained by one degree of freedom, and the so-called neutrino weighting algorithm is applied for kinematic reconstruction. It postulates distributions in rapidities of the neutrino and the antineutrino, and calculates a weight, which depends on the consistency of the reconstructed $\vec{p}_{\text{T}}^{\nu\bar{\nu}} \equiv \vec{p}_{\text{T}}^{\nu} + \vec{p}_{\text{T}}^{\bar{\nu}}$ with the measured missing transverse momentum \cancel{p}_{T} vector, versus m_{top} . D0 uses the first and second moment of this weight distribution to define templates and extract m_{top} . To reduce the systematic uncertainty, the *in situ* JES calibration in $\ell + \text{jets}$ final states derived in Ref. ¹⁰ is applied, accounting for differences in jet multiplicity, luminosity, and detector ageing. After calibration and all corrections, $m_{\text{top}} = 174.0 \pm 2.4 \text{ (stat)} \pm 1.4 \text{ (syst)} \text{ GeV}$ is found.

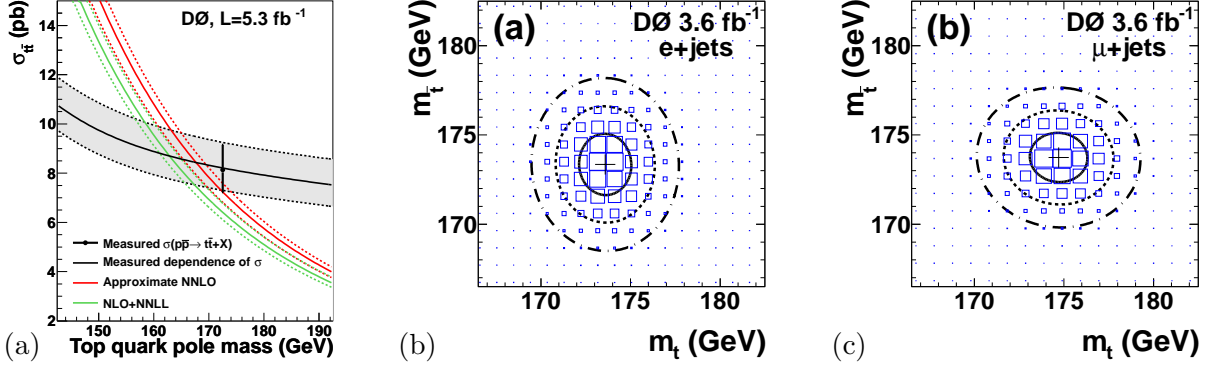


Figure 2: (a) $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ measured by D0 using 5.3 fb^{-1} (black line) and theoretical NLO+NNLL¹⁶ (green solid line) and approximate NNLO¹⁷ (red solid line) predictions as a function of $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{pole}}$, assuming $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{MC}} = m_{\text{top}}^{\text{pole}}$. The gray band corresponds to the total uncertainty on measured $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$. The dashed lines indicate theoretical uncertainties from the choice of scales and parton distribution functions. (b) m_t and $m_{\bar{t}}$ measured by D0 directly and independently using 3.6 fb^{-1} in $e + \text{jets}$ final states. The solid, dashed, and dash-dotted lines represent the 1, 2, and 3 SD contours. (c) same as (b) but for $\mu + \text{jets}$.

5 Measurement of m_{top} from the $t\bar{t}$ production cross-section

The $t\bar{t}$ production cross section ($\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$) is correlated to m_{top} . This can be used to extract m_{top} by comparing the measured $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ to the most complete to-date, fully inclusive theoretical predictions, assuming the validity of the SM. Such calculations offer the advantage of using mass definitions in well-defined renormalisation schemes like $m_{\text{top}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ or $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{pole}}$. In contrast, the main methods using kinematic fits utilise the mass definition in MC generators $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{MC}}$, which cannot be translated into $m_{\text{top}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ or $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{pole}}$ in a straightforward way. D0 uses 5.3 fb^{-1} of data to measure $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ and extracts m_{top} ¹⁵ using theoretical calculations for $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ like the next-to-leading order (NLO) calculation with next-to-leading logarithmic (NLL) terms resummed to all orders¹⁶, an approximate NNLO calculation¹⁷, and others. For this, a correction is derived to account for the weak dependence of $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$ on $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{MC}}$. The results for $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{pole}}$ are presented in Fig. 2, and can be summarised as follows: $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{pole}} = 163.0^{+5.1}_{-4.6} \text{ GeV}$ and $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{pole}} = 167.5^{+5.2}_{-4.7} \text{ GeV}$ for Ref. ¹⁶ and ¹⁷, respectively. The effect from interpreting $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{MC}}$ as $m_{\text{top}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ or $m_{\text{top}}^{\text{pole}}$ is found to be about 3 GeV.

6 Measurements of the mass difference between the t and \bar{t} quarks

The invariance under CPT transformations is a fundamental property of the SM. $m_{\text{particle}} \neq m_{\text{antiparticle}}$ would constitute a violation of CPT , and has been tested extensively in the charged lepton sector. Given its short decay time, the top quark offers a possibility to test $m_t = m_{\bar{t}}$ at the %-level, which is unique in the quark sector. D0 applies the ME technique to measure m_t and $m_{\bar{t}}$ directly and independently using 3.6 fb^{-1} of data, and finds $\Delta m \equiv m_t - m_{\bar{t}} = 0.8 \pm 1.8 \text{ GeV}$ ¹⁸, in agreement with the SM prediction. The results are illustrated in Fig. 2. With 0.5 GeV, the systematic uncertainty on Δm is much smaller than that on m_{top} due to cancellations in the difference, and is dominated by the uncertainty on the difference in calorimeter response to b and \bar{b} quark jets. CDF uses a template-based method and a kinematic reconstruction similar to that in Ref. ¹² to measure Δm directly given the constraint $\frac{m_t + m_{\bar{t}}}{2} \equiv 172.5 \text{ GeV}$ from 8.7 fb^{-1} of data, and finds $\Delta m = -2.0 \pm 1.3 \text{ GeV}$ ¹⁹.

7 Tevatron combination and outlook

Currently, the world's most precise measurements of m_{top} are performed by CDF and D0 collaborations in $\ell + \text{jets}$ final states. The preliminary Tevatron combination using up to 5.8 fb^{-1}

of data results in $m_{\text{top}} = 173.2 \pm 0.9$ GeV²⁰, corresponding to a relative uncertainty of 0.54%.

With about 10.5 fb⁻¹ recorded, the precision on m_{top} is expected to further improve, especially at D0, where only 3.6 fb⁻¹ are used in the flagship measurement in $\ell + \text{jets}$ final states. This applies not only to the statistical uncertainty, but also to several systematic uncertainties due to the limited size of calibration samples, like e.g. some components of the JES. Moreover, efforts are underway to better understand systematic uncertainties from the modeling of $t\bar{t}$ signal, in particular the dominating uncertainty from different hadronisation and underlying event models. We look forward to exciting updates of m_{top} measurements presented here.

With uncertainties approaching $\mathcal{O}(\text{GeV})$ at the LHC²¹, we strongly advocate to start preparations towards the first world-wide combination of the measurements of the top quark mass including ATLAS and CMS results.

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