

Status of the global electroweak fit with Gfitter in the light of new precision measurements

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We present results from the global electroweak fit to precision measurements in the Standard Model (SM). The fit uses the latest theoretical calculations for observables on the Z pole and the W boson mass, yielding precise SM predictions for the effective weak mixing angle and the masses of the W and Higgs bosons, as well as the top quark. We study the impact of the latest measurements on the fit and provide comparisons of the resulting predictions for individual observables with recent measurements.

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1. Introduction

Electroweak precision data from LEP and SLD [1, 2], together with precise measurements at low energy [3], and direct measurements of the parameters of the Standard Model (SM) by the Tevatron and LHC experiments, can be used to test the internal consistency of the theory. In the past, the electroweak (EW) fit was able to predict the masses of the top quark m_t and the Higgs boson M_H . With their discoveries, the EW sector of the SM is complete and the fit is overconstrained. This allows for consistency tests with unprecedented precision. An integral part of these tests are calculations which match or exceed the experimental measurements in precision. In the last years, the full two-loop EW contributions for Z boson production and decay have been calculated [4, 5]. These calculations conclude a long effort in theoretical physics, which have resulted in theoretical uncertainties smaller than the experimental ones in all observables entering the EW fit. Comparisons between measurements and predictions of key observables like the mass of the W boson M_W and the fermionic effective EW mixing angle $\sin^2\theta_{\text{eff}}^f$ allow for concise statements about the validity of the SM and can show shortcomings of the theory.

In this contribution, we update our previous results [6, 7] with new measurements of M_W , m_t , and $\sin^2\theta_{\text{eff}}^\ell$. In particular, we investigate the effect of the most recent M_W measurement by the CDF Collaboration [8].

2. Measurements and calculations

Since our previous results [7], new measurements of M_W have been performed by the LHCb [9] and CDF [8] Collaborations. LHCb reports a value of 80354 ± 32 MeV, which is in agreement with the LEP average [2] of 80376 ± 33 MeV and has a comparable uncertainty. The value obtained by CDF using the full Tevatron Run II dataset is 80433.5 ± 9.4 MeV, which is the most precise single measurement to date. However, it disagrees by about 2.7 standard deviations (σ) with the second most precise measurement by ATLAS, $M_W = 80370 \pm 21$ MeV [10]. The exact size of the disagreement depends on the assumed correlations between these measurements, where 2.7σ is the minimum deviation obtained for no correlations. Since the LEP, LHCb and ATLAS measurements agree within 1σ of their uncertainties, we build an M_W average from these three. We do not consider an older measurement by the D0 Collaboration, because effects from the signal modelling and parton distribution functions (PDFs) studied by the LHC EW Working Group [11] in the context of the CDF measurement could affect this measurement as well. The resulting average is $M_W = 80369 \pm 16$ MeV with a χ^2 of 0.28 for 2 degrees of freedom (dof). This average is compared to the individual measurements in Figure 1 (left). The result is robust against changes in the correlations of the modelling uncertainties of the ATLAS and LHCb measurements. It is smaller by 10 MeV than the value of M_W used in our previous fit. Our average disagrees with the CDF Run II value by 3.5 to 4σ , which corresponds to p values between $5 \cdot 10^{-4}$ and $5 \cdot 10^{-5}$, where the range reflects different choices of correlations.

For m_t , we use the same combination of ATLAS and CMS measurements as in our previous fit [7], which results in $m_t = 172.47 \pm 0.46$ GeV. We add an uncertainty of 0.5 GeV in m_t to account for a potential ambiguity when translating the measured value into the top quark pole mass.

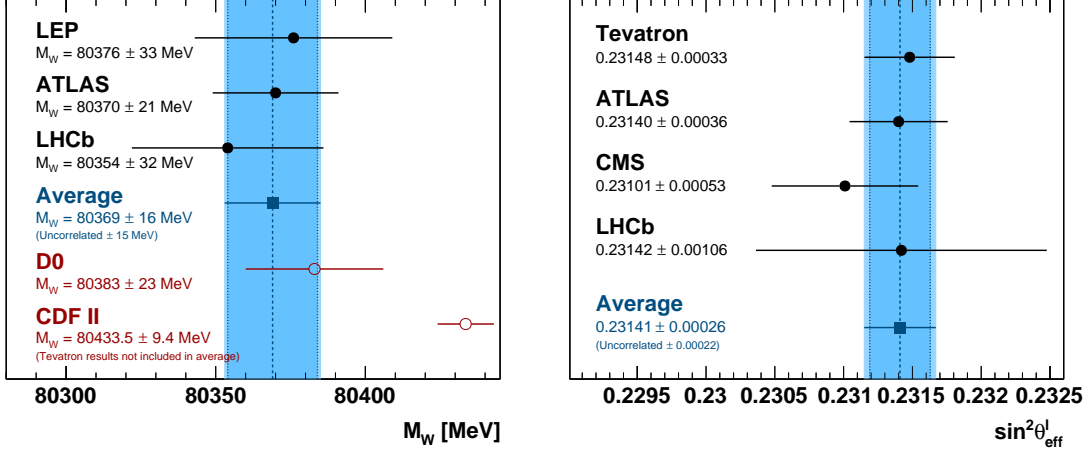


Figure 1: Individual measurements and combination of the W boson mass (left) and $\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^l$ (right). The red measurements by the D0 and CDF Collaborations are not included in the combination of M_W .

For $\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^l$, we include the direct measurement by the LEP Collaborations [1] and a combination from measurements at hadron colliders. The combination is made from the measurements by ATLAS [12], CMS [13], LHCb [14], and the combined value from CDF and D0 [15]. We correlate the PDF uncertainties fully between the ATLAS and CMS measurements, and we assume a correlation of 50% between the Tevatron and ATLAS/CMS PDF uncertainties, as well as between LHCb and ATLAS/CMS. In addition, we use a correlation of 30% between the Tevatron and LHCb PDF uncertainties. The resulting value is $\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^l = 0.23141 \pm 0.00026$, shown in Figure 1 (right). The combination shows good compatibility of the individual measurements with $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 0.74/3$, resulting in a p value of 0.86.

Besides electroweak precision data from LEP and SLD [1], other experimental inputs to the fit are the hadronic contribution to the electromagnetic coupling strength [3], M_H [16] and the masses of the c and b quarks [17].

An integral part of the EW fit are precise calculations. The theoretical higher-order calculations used here are the same as in our previous publication [7]. Most notably, we use the two-loop EW contributions for Z boson production and decay [4], where we leave the inclusion of the latest calculations of bosonic contributions [5] to future work. For $\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^f$, we use the parametrisation of Ref. [4], and the prediction of M_W is obtained from Ref. [18]. The width of the W boson is known up to one-loop order in the EW interaction, where we use the parametrisation given in Ref. [19]. Theoretical uncertainties reflect the size of unknown higher order contributions. Since these are difficult to estimate, a reliable consistency test of the SM is only obtained if the theoretical uncertainties are small compared to the experimental uncertainties. We introduce a free parameter for each theoretical uncertainty in the EW fit, and find that the impact of these parameters is small.

3. Results of the electroweak fit

The fit converges on a minimum χ^2 value of 16.62 for 15 dof, corresponding to a p value of 0.34. The individual deviations of the input values from the predictions at the best-fit point given in units of

the measurement uncertainty (pull values), are shown in Figure 2. The largest contribution to the χ^2 originates from the forward-backward asymmetry from b quarks, A_{FB}^b , which shows a deviation of 2.4σ from the SM prediction. The leptonic left-right asymmetry A_ℓ from SLD has a deviation of -2.1σ . These two effects are unchanged with respect to our previous results. The best-fit value of the strong coupling strength at the mass of the Z boson, $\alpha_s(M_Z^2)$, is 0.1198 ± 0.0029 . In Figure 2, this is compared to the PDG value of 0.1179 ± 0.0009 [17], which does not enter the fit, resulting in a pull value of 2.1.

The mass of the W boson shows a pull value of -0.8 , which has decreased with respect to our previous result, where it was -1.5 . The reason for the better agreement with the prediction is the smaller value of M_W from our new combination. When not including M_W in the fit, we obtain a prediction of $M_W = 80354 \pm 7 \text{ MeV}$, with an uncertainty about half as large as the uncertainty in our M_W combination. A comparison between the measured values and this prediction is shown in Figure 3 (left). The disagreement between the M_W prediction and the CDF Run II value is 6.8σ . It becomes larger when using the most recent CMS measurement of m_t [20] as input to the fit, shown as green band.

We find good agreement between the measurements and predictions of $\sin^2\theta_{\text{eff}}^\ell$, with pull values of -0.7 and 0.5 . The fit prefers a value of m_t which is close to the input value, where we find a best-fit value of $172.67 \pm 0.65 \text{ GeV}$. When not including m_t in the fit, we obtain a prediction of $m_t = 175.15^{+2.37}_{-2.39} \text{ GeV}$, which is compatible with the direct measurements. If we assume perfect knowledge of M_W with a negligible uncertainty, the prediction of m_t has an uncertainty of 0.9 GeV , emphasising the importance of precise M_W measurements. In Figure 3 (right), we compare the m_t prediction with direct measurements. Also shown is the prediction when using the CDF Run II M_W measurement instead of our combined value in the fit, resulting in $m_t = 184.2 \pm 1.7 \text{ GeV}$.

The fit predicts $M_H = 100^{+25}_{-21} \text{ GeV}$, which agrees with the measured value within 1σ . When replacing our combined value of M_W with the CDF Run II M_W measurement, the fit predicts M_H to be $42.3^{+10.2}_{-8.7} \text{ GeV}$. When removing all observables sensitive to M_H from the fit except for the CDF Run II M_W measurement, we find $M_H < 47 \text{ GeV}$ at 95% confidence level.

In general, when performing the full EW fit with the CDF Run II M_W measurement as input instead of our combined M_W , the fit results in a minimum $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 62.6/15$, which corresponds to a p value of $8.9 \cdot 10^{-8}$. The largest pulls are observed in M_W , A_{FB}^b and m_t , with values of -5.5 , 2.4 and 2.8 , respectively.

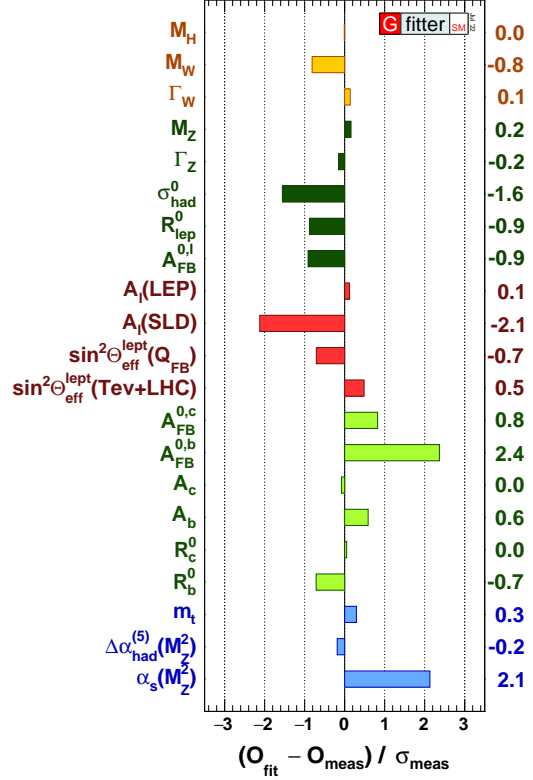


Figure 2: Pull values of the fit, defined as deviations between measurements and predictions evaluated at the best-fit point, divided by the experimental uncertainties.

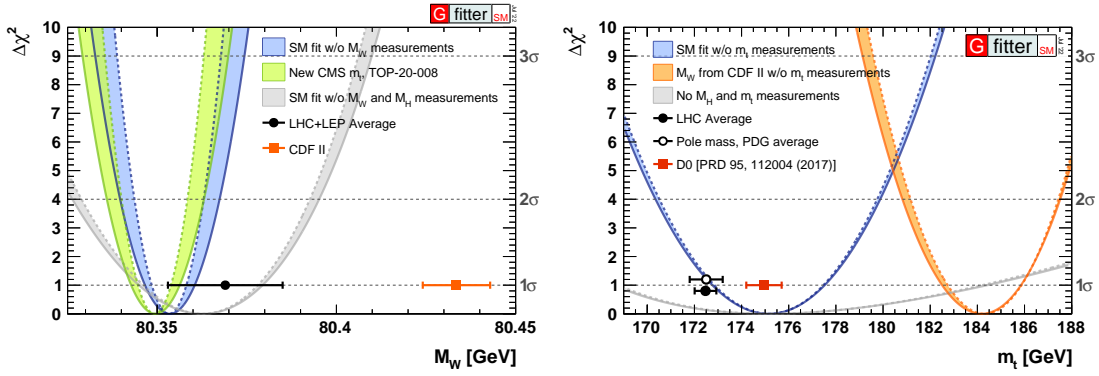


Figure 3: Results of the EW fit: Change in the negative log-likelihood function from its minimum ($\Delta\chi^2$), as a function of M_W (left) and m_t (right). The direct measurements of are excluded from the respective fits in these scans.

4. Summary

We have presented the latest results of the global electroweak fit with Gfitter. The electroweak sector of the standard model of particle physics is tested to high precision, and it is found to be internally consistent with a p value of 0.34. Naive combinations of M_W and $\sin^2\theta_{\text{eff}}^\ell$ from the LEP, Tevatron and LHC experiments agree well with the SM predictions. We have shown that the new M_W measurement by the CDF Collaboration can not be incorporated in the SM fit without introducing large tensions.

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