

# Data Analysis with ROOT

## Lecture 2: Distributions and statistical tests

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# In this lecture

- Distributions
  - Properties
  - Main distributions
- Point (parameter) estimation
  - Maximum likelihood method
  - Least-squares method
- Interval estimation
  - Errors on the fit parameters
- Goodness-of-fit tests
  - p-value

# Properties of distributions

- **Probability density function** (PDF) =  $f(x)$

- **Expectation**

- Expectation of any random function  $g(x)$ :

$$E(g) = \int g(x) f(x) dX$$

- Expectation of  $x \equiv$  **mean** of the  $f(x) \equiv$  **expected value** of  $x$  :

$$E(x) = \mu = \bar{x} = \langle x \rangle = \int x f(x) dx$$

- **Variance**

$$V(x) = \sigma^2 = E \left[ (x - \mu)^2 \right] = E(x^2) - \mu^2 = \int (x - \mu^2) f(x) dx$$

- $\sigma$  is called the **standard deviation**
- $E(x)$  is a measure of the **location** of the distribution
- $V(x)$  is a measure of the **spread** of the distribution

# Moments

$\mu_n = E(x^n)$  is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  algebraic moment

$V_n = E\{[x^n - E(x)]^n\}$  is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  central moment

$\mu'_n = E(|x^n|)$  is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  absolute moment

$V'_n = E\{|x^n - E(x)|^n\}$  is the  $n^{\text{th}}$  absolute central moment

- **The coefficient of skewness**

*A measure of the skewness of the distribution*

$$\gamma_1 = \frac{V_3}{V_2^{3/2}}$$

- **The coefficient of kurtosis**

*A measure of the "peakedness" of the distribution*

$$\gamma_2 = \frac{V_4}{V_2^2} - 3$$

# Covariances and correlations

- Joint PDF for two random variables =  $f(x, y)$

- The **mean** and the **variance** of  $x$  and  $y$ :

$$\mu_x = E(x) = \iint x f(x, y) dx dy \quad \mu_y = E(y) = \iint y f(x, y) dx dy$$

$$\sigma_x^2 = E[(x - \mu_x)^2] \quad \sigma_y^2 = E[(y - \mu_y)^2]$$

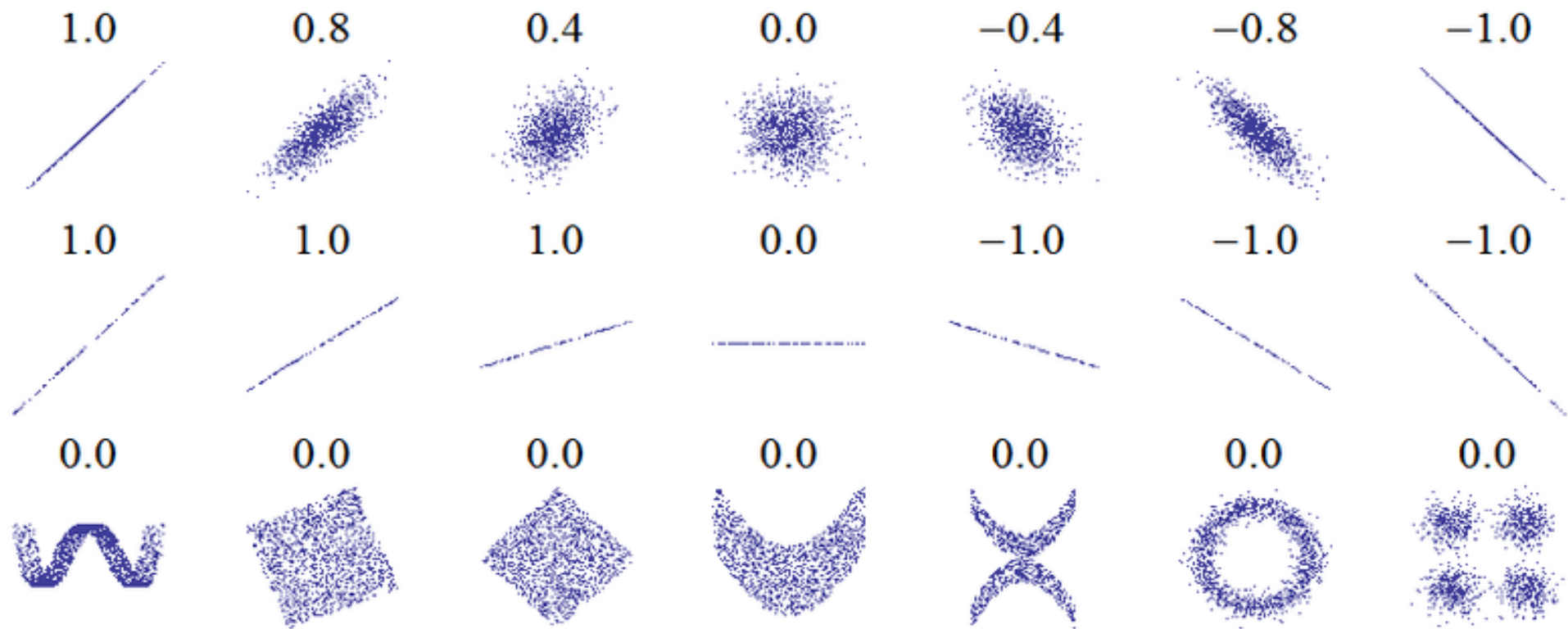
- Covariance**  $\text{cov}(x, y) = E[(x - \mu_x)(y - \mu_y)] = E(xy) - E(x)E(y)$

- Correlation coefficient**  $\text{corr}(x, y) = \rho(x, y) = \rho_{xy} = \frac{\text{cov}(x, y)}{\sigma_x \sigma_y}$

- Covariance/Varianc/Error matrix:**

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} \text{cov}(x, x) & \text{cov}(x, y) \\ \text{cov}(x, y) & \text{cov}(y, y) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_x^2 & \rho_{xy} \sigma_x \sigma_y \\ \rho_{xy} \sigma_x \sigma_y & \sigma_y^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Correlations - illustration



# Binomial distribution

Variable	$r$ , positive integer $\leq N$
Parameters	$N$ , positive integer; $p$ , $0 \leq p \leq 1$
Probability function	$P(r; N, p) = \binom{N}{r} p^r (1-p)^{N-r}$
Mean	$E(r) = Np$
Variance	$V(r) = Np(1-p)$
Usage example	<p>Example – Z decay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <math>p = BR(Z \rightarrow ee) = 3\%</math></li> <li>- <math>P(5; 80, 0.03) = 6\%</math> probability to find exactly 5 <math>ee</math> events out of 80 Z decays</li> </ul>
Comment	$P(r; N, p)$ is a probability of finding exactly $r$ successes in $N$ trials, when probability of success in each single trial is a constant, $p$

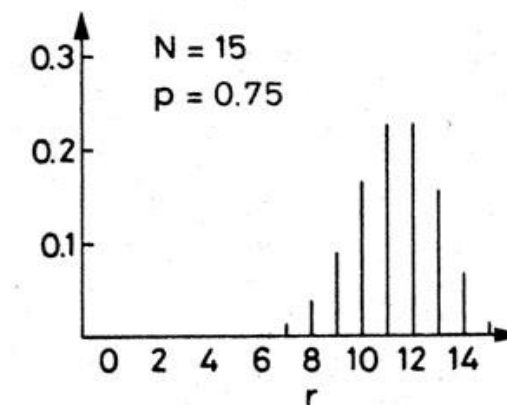
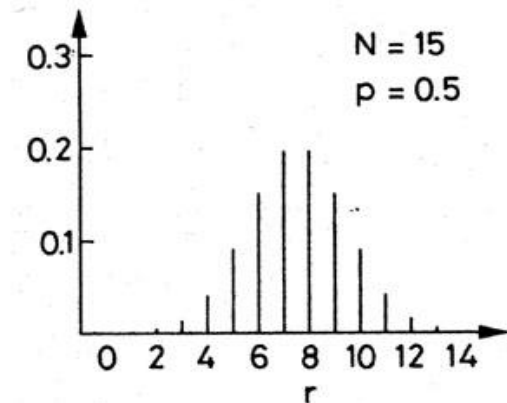
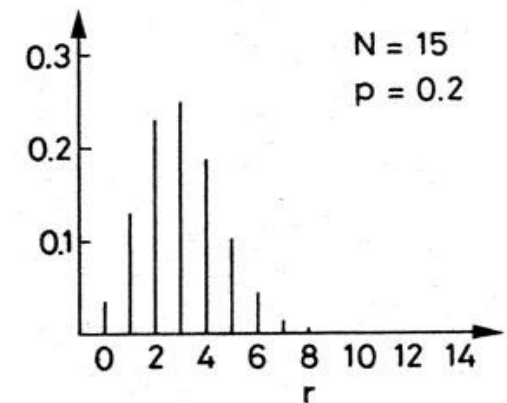


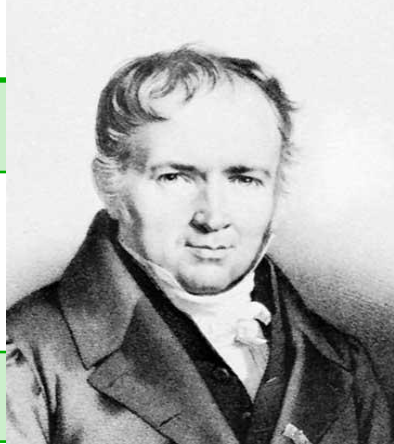
Figure from <http://nedwww.ipac.caltech.edu/level5/Leo/Figures/figure1.jpeg>

# Multinomial distribution

Variable	$r_i, i = 1, \dots, k$ , positive integers $\leq N$
Parameters	$N$ , positive integer $k$ , positive integer $p_i \geq 0, i = 1, \dots, k,$ $\sum_{i=1}^k p_i = 1$
Probability function	$P(r_1, \dots, r_k; N, p_1, \dots, p_k) = \frac{N!}{r_1! \cdots r_k!} p_1^{r_1} \cdots p_k^{r_k}$
Mean	$E(r_i) = Np_i$
Variance	$V(r_i) = Np_i(1-p_i)$
Usage example	Histogram containing $N$ events distributed in $k$ bins, with $r_i$ events in the $i^{th}$ bin
Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multinomial distribution is the generalization of the binomial distribution to the case of more than two possible outcomes of an experiment</li> <li>• When <math>p_i \ll 1</math> (many bins) <math>V(r_i) \sim Np_i = r_i</math></li> </ul>



# Poisson distribution

Variable	$r$ , positive integer	
Parameters	$\mu$ , positive real number	
Probability function	$P(r; \mu) = \frac{\mu^r e^{-\mu}}{r!}$	
Mean	$E(r) = \mu$	
Variance	$V(r) = \mu$	
Usage example	Number of events $r$ collected after integrated luminosity $\int \mathcal{L} dt$ . Expected number of events is $\mu = \sigma \int \mathcal{L} dt$ . $\sigma$ is the cross section.	
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <math>P(r; \mu)</math> expresses the probability of a number of events occurring in a fixed period of time if these events occur with a known average rate and independently of the time since the last event</li><li>• <math>\mu</math> represents expected number of events in a given time interval</li><li>• Time between two successive events is exponentially distributed</li><li>• Poisson distribution is also called Poissonian</li></ul>	

# Poisson distribution

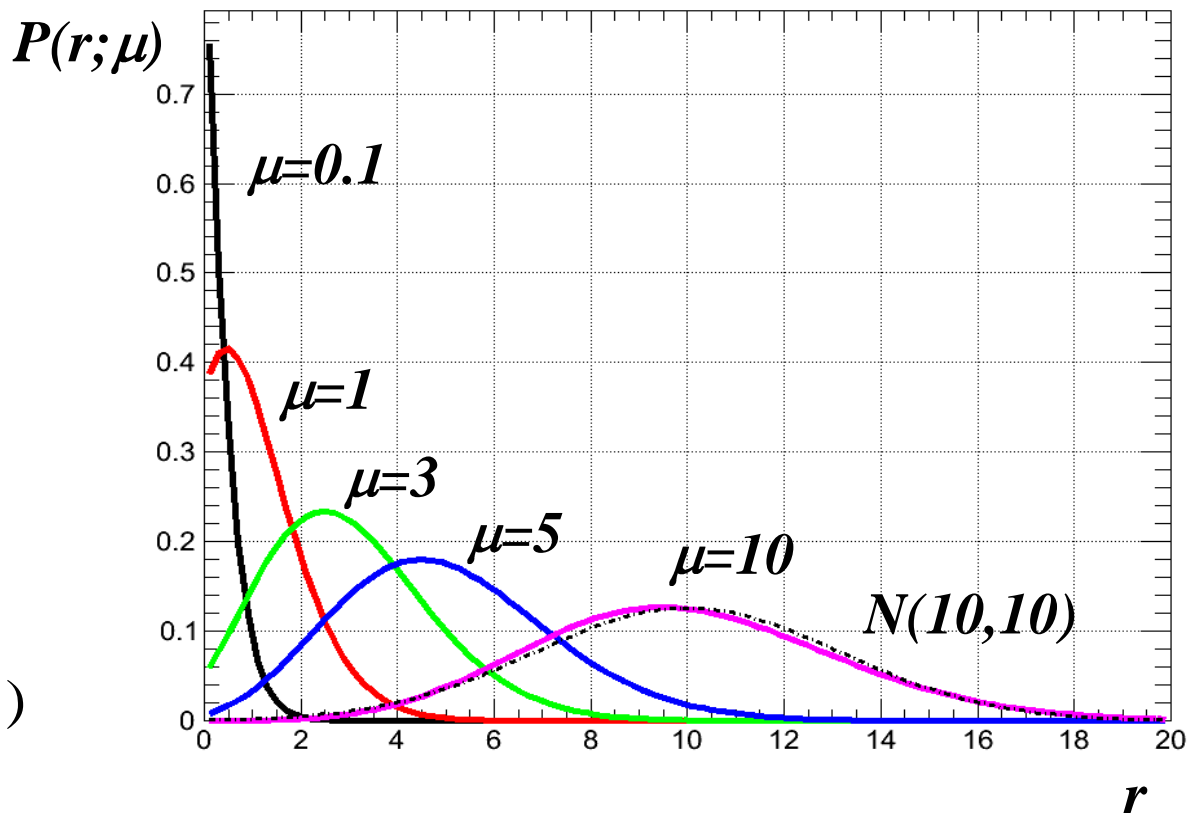
- For a large  $\mu$  Poisson distribution converges towards a Gaussian distribution

$$Pois(r; \mu) \xrightarrow{N \gg} Gauss(r; \mu, \sigma^2 = \mu)$$

- Sum of Poisson** distributed random variables also follows a Poisson distribution whose parameter is sum of the component parameters

$$X_i \sim Pois(r; \mu_i)$$


$$Y = \sum_i X_i \sim Pois(r; \sum_i \mu_i)$$



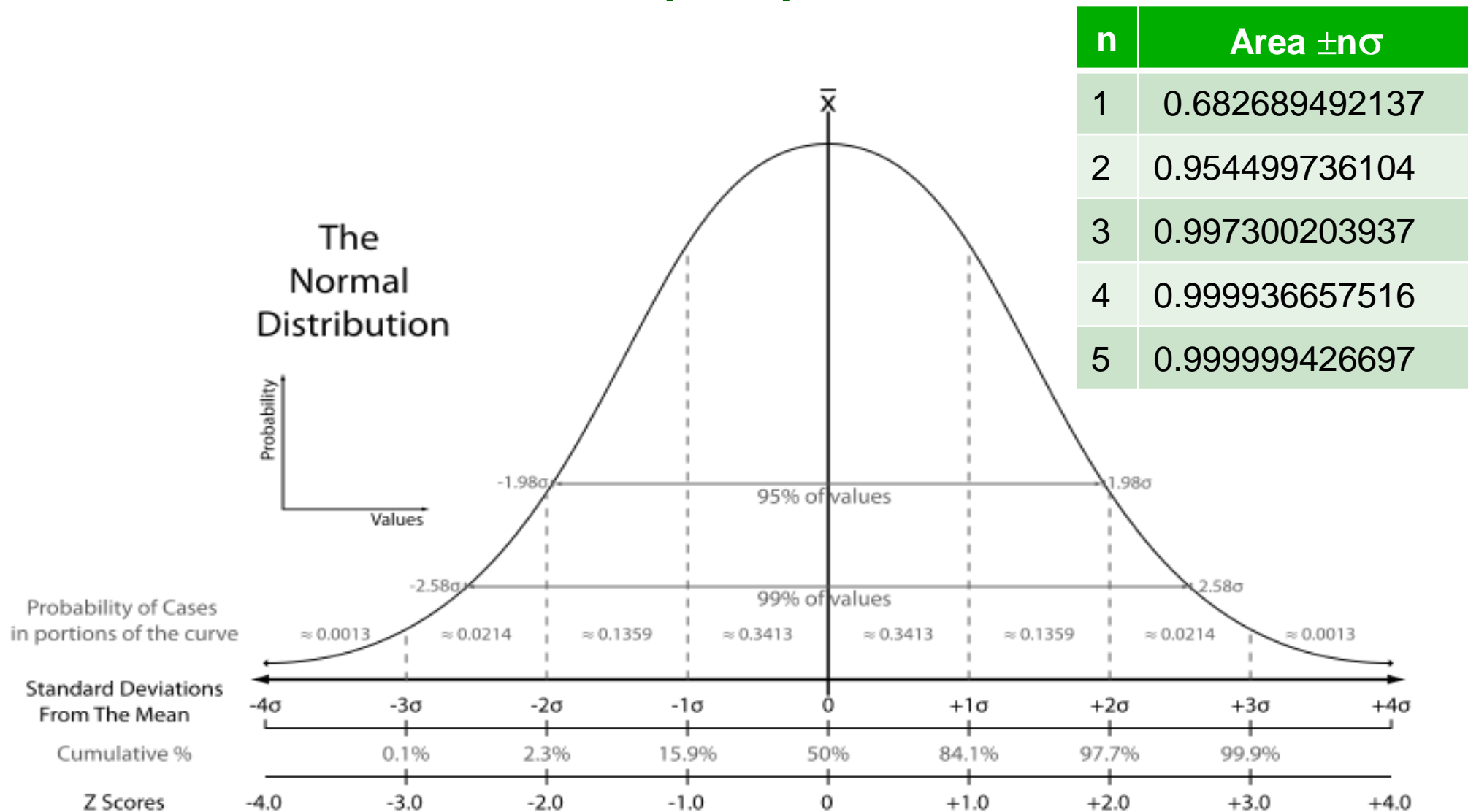
- F.g. When combining signal ( $s$ ) and background ( $b$ )

$$P(r; s, b) \sim Pois(r; s + b)$$

# Normal or Gaussian distribution

Variable	$x$ , positive real number	 Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855)
Parameters	$\mu$ , real number $\sigma$ , real number	
Probability density function	$f(x) = N(\mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(x-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right]$	
Mean	$E(x) = \mu$	
Variance	$V(x) = \sigma^2$	
Cumulative distribution	$F(x) = \Phi\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right); \quad \phi(Z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^Z e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} dx$	
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The most important distribution in statistics</li><li>• The half-width at half-height is <math>1.176\sigma</math></li><li>• <math>N(0, 1)</math> is called <i>standard</i> Normal density</li><li>• Any linear combination of the <math>x_i</math> is also Normal</li></ul>	

# Gaussian – some properties



# Why is Gauss Normal?

## ● Central limit theorem:

If we have a set of  $N$  independent variables  $x_i$ , each from a distribution with mean  $\mu_i$  and variance  $\sigma_i^2$ , then the distribution of the sum  $X = \sum x_i$

a) has a mean  $\langle X \rangle = \sum \mu_i$ ,

b) has a variance  $V(X) = \sum \sigma_i^2$ ,

c) becomes Gaussian as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

● Therefore, no matter what the distributions of original variables may have been, their sum will be Gaussian in a large  $N$  limit

● Example: measurements errors

● Example (adopted from Barlow):

*"Human heights are well described by a Gaussian distribution, as many other anatomical measurements, as these are due to the combined effects of many genetic and environmental factors."*

# More than two variables

- Let's say that each event measure three quantities A, B and C
- We then have three random variables  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$
- Vector of measurements is now a matrix:

Event	A	B	C
1	$x_1$	$y_1$	$z_1$
2	$x_2$	$y_2$	$z_2$
...	...	...	...
N	$x_N$	$y_N$	$z_N$
Mean→	$\mu_x$	$\mu_y$	$\mu_z$

- Introducing new notation

$$(x, y, z) \rightarrow (x_{(1)}, x_{(2)}, x_{(3)}) = \vec{x} = \mathbf{x}$$

$$(\mu_x, \mu_y, \mu_z) \rightarrow (\mu_{(1)}, \mu_{(2)}, \mu_{(3)}) = \vec{\mu} = \boldsymbol{\mu}$$

- In case of  $m$  variables  $\mathbf{x} = (x_{(1)}, x_{(2)}, \dots, x_{(m)})$
- Please note: this multivariate vector  $\mathbf{x}$  is a vector of  $m$  variables for one event, while in the case of one variable  $x$  is a vector of values of one variable for  $N$  events

# Multivariate Gaussian

- Multivariate Gaussian for the vector  $\mathbf{x} = (x_{(1)}, x_{(2)}, \dots, x_{(m)})$

$$f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, V) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2} |V|^{1/2}} \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T V^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right]$$

- $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  are column vectors, while  $\mathbf{x}^T$  and  $\boldsymbol{\mu}^T$  are row vectors

$$\mu_{(i)} = E(x_{(i)}) \quad V_{ij} = \text{cov}[x_{(i)}, x_{(j)}]$$

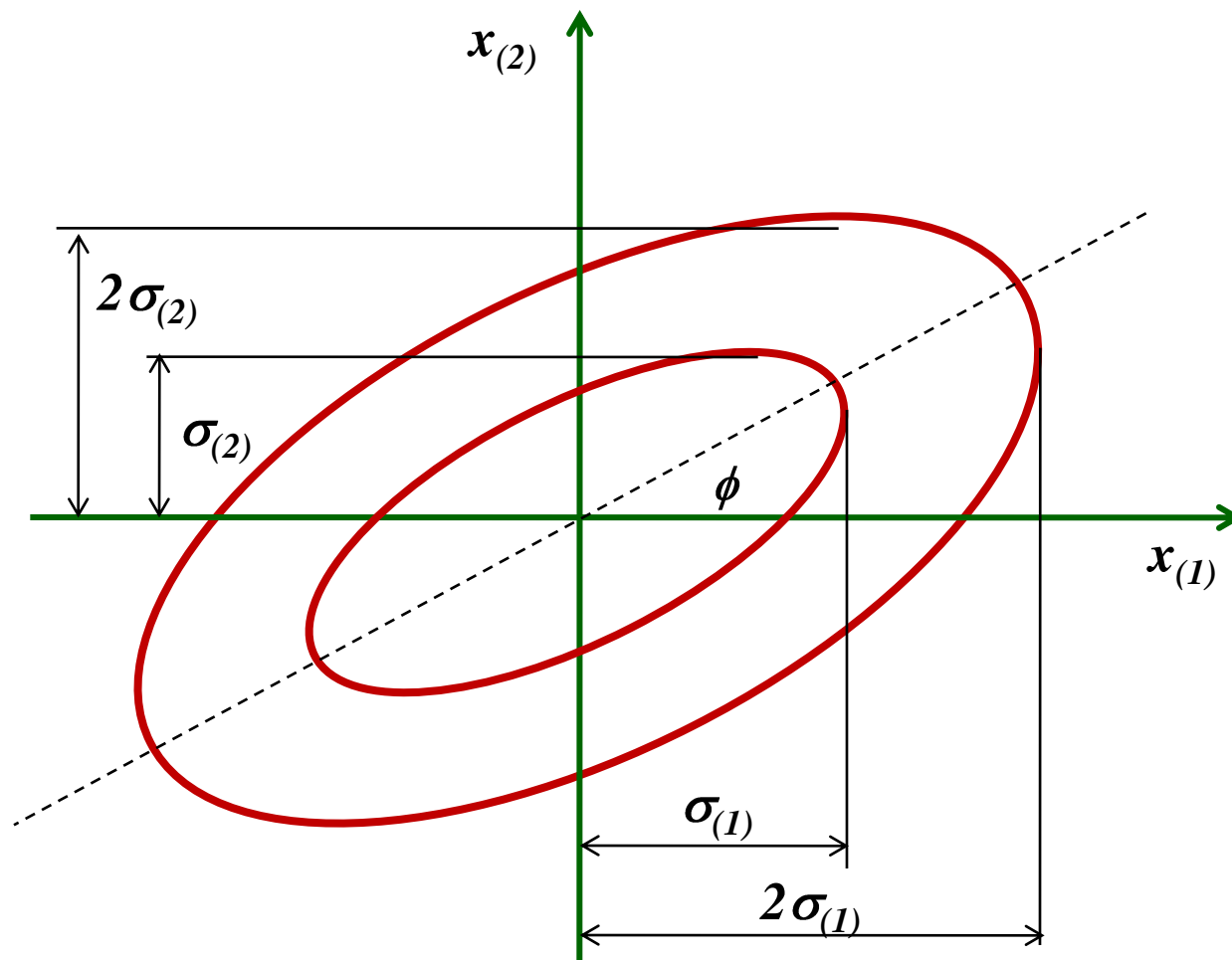
- Case of two variables ( $m = 2$ )

$$f(x_{(1)}, x_{(2)}; \mu_{(1)}, \mu_{(2)}, \sigma_{(1)}, \sigma_{(2)}) =$$

$$\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_{(1)}\sigma_{(2)}\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \times \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} x_{(1)} - \mu_{(1)} & x_{(2)} - \mu_{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{(1)}^2 & \rho\sigma_{(1)}\sigma_{(2)} \\ \rho\sigma_{(1)}\sigma_{(2)} & \sigma_{(2)}^2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} x_{(1)} - \mu_{(1)} \\ x_{(2)} - \mu_{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \right\} =$$

$$\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_{(1)}\sigma_{(2)}\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \times \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2(1-\rho^2)} \left[ \left( \frac{x_{(1)} - \mu_{(1)}}{\sigma_{(1)}} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{x_{(2)} - \mu_{(2)}}{\sigma_{(2)}} \right)^2 - 2\rho \left( \frac{x_{(1)} - \mu_{(1)}}{\sigma_{(1)}} \right) \left( \frac{x_{(2)} - \mu_{(2)}}{\sigma_{(2)}} \right) \right] \right\}$$

# 2D Gaussian: iso-probability curves



	$P_{1D}$	$P_{2D}$
$1\sigma$	0.6827	0.3934
$2\sigma$	0.9545	0.8647
$3\sigma$	0.9973	0.9889
$1.515\sigma$		0.6827
$2.486\sigma$		0.9545
$3.439\sigma$		0.9973

**Remember (roughly)  
these values, we'll use  
them later in errors  
estimates!**

$\phi$  is a measure of the correlation (more details later)

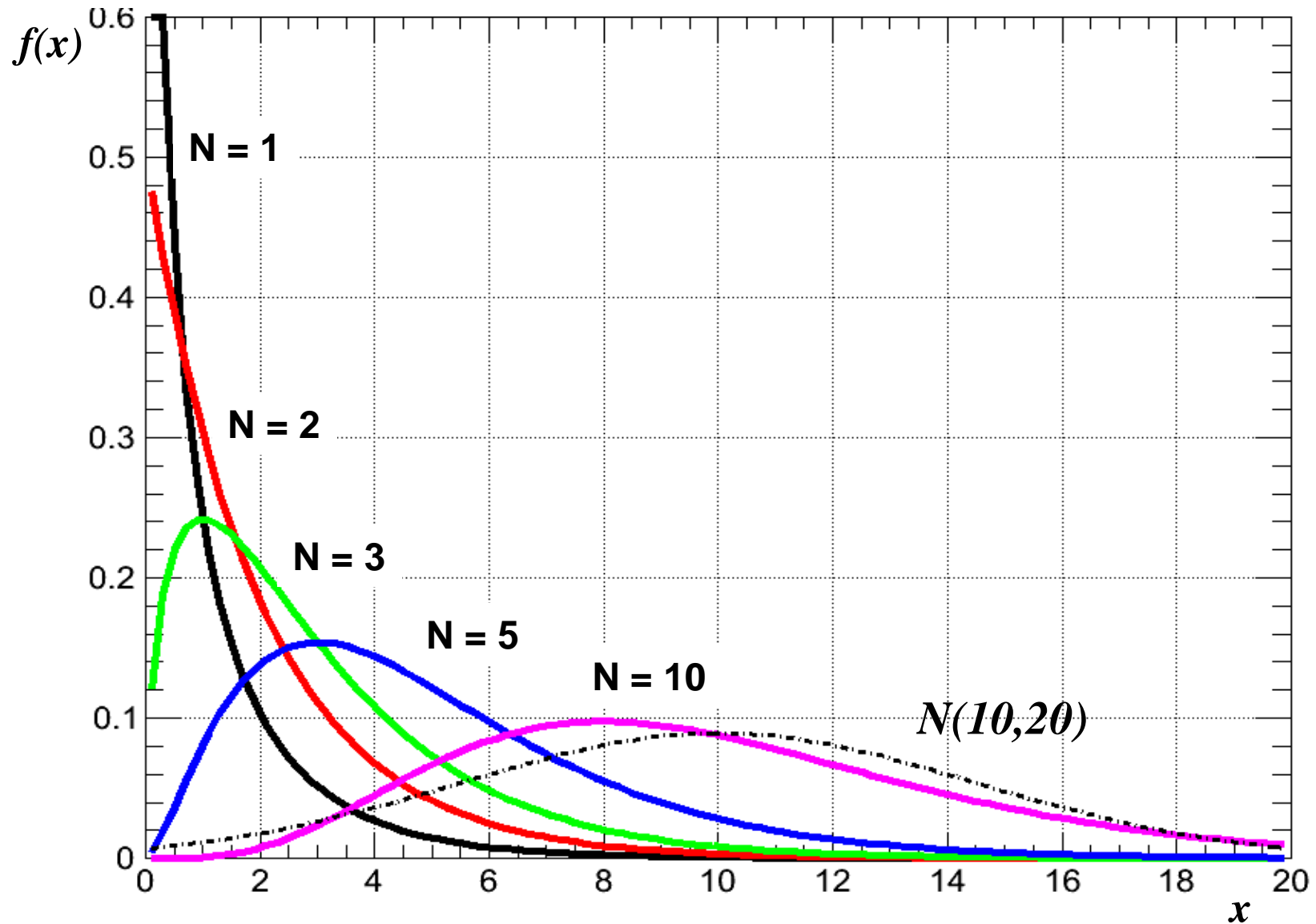
Adopted from L. Lista



# Chi-square distribution

Variable	$x$ , positive real number
Parameters	$N$ , positive integer (number of “degrees of freedom”)
Probability function	$f(x) = \left( \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{x}{2} \right)^{\frac{N}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{x}{2}} \right) / \Gamma\left(\frac{N}{2}\right)$
Mean	$E(x) = N$
Variance	$V(x) = 2N$
Usage example	Chi-square test for goodness of fit
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If <math>x_i</math> are <math>k</math> independent, normally distributed random variables with mean 0 and variance, then the random variable <math>Q = \sum x_i^2</math> is distributed according to the chi-square distribution with <math>k</math> degrees of freedom</li><li>• The chi-square distribution is a special case of the gamma distribution.</li></ul>

# Chi-square distribution



# Some other distributions

## ● Student's $t$ -distribution

- Used for hypothesis testing
- First published in 1908 by W. S. Gosset, while he worked at a Guinness Brewery, under the pseudonym *Student*)



## ● Beta distribution

- Used in Bayesian statistics

## ● Gamma distribution

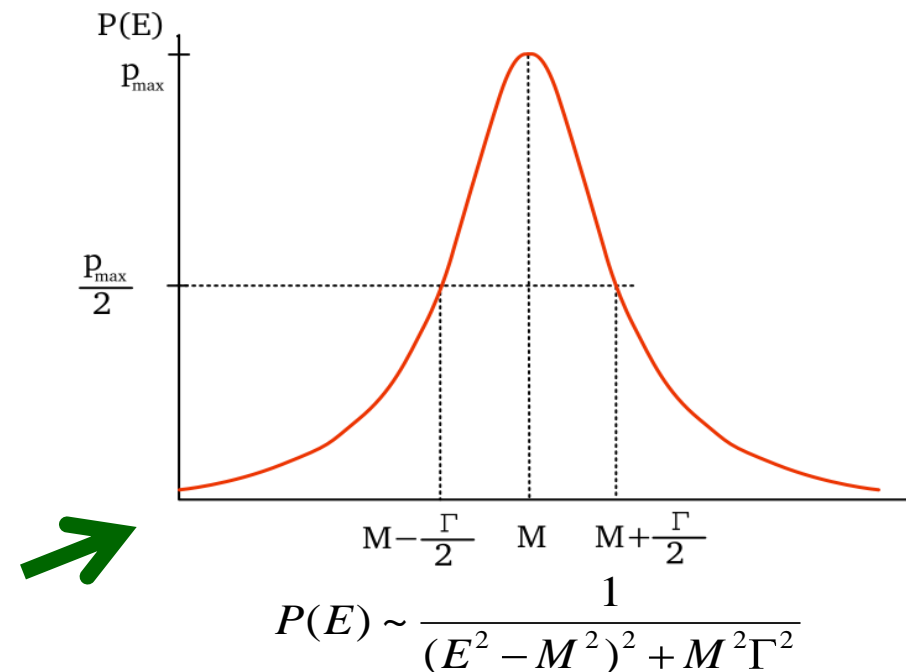
- Probability model for waiting time

## ● Cauchy or Lorentz or Breit-Wigner distribution

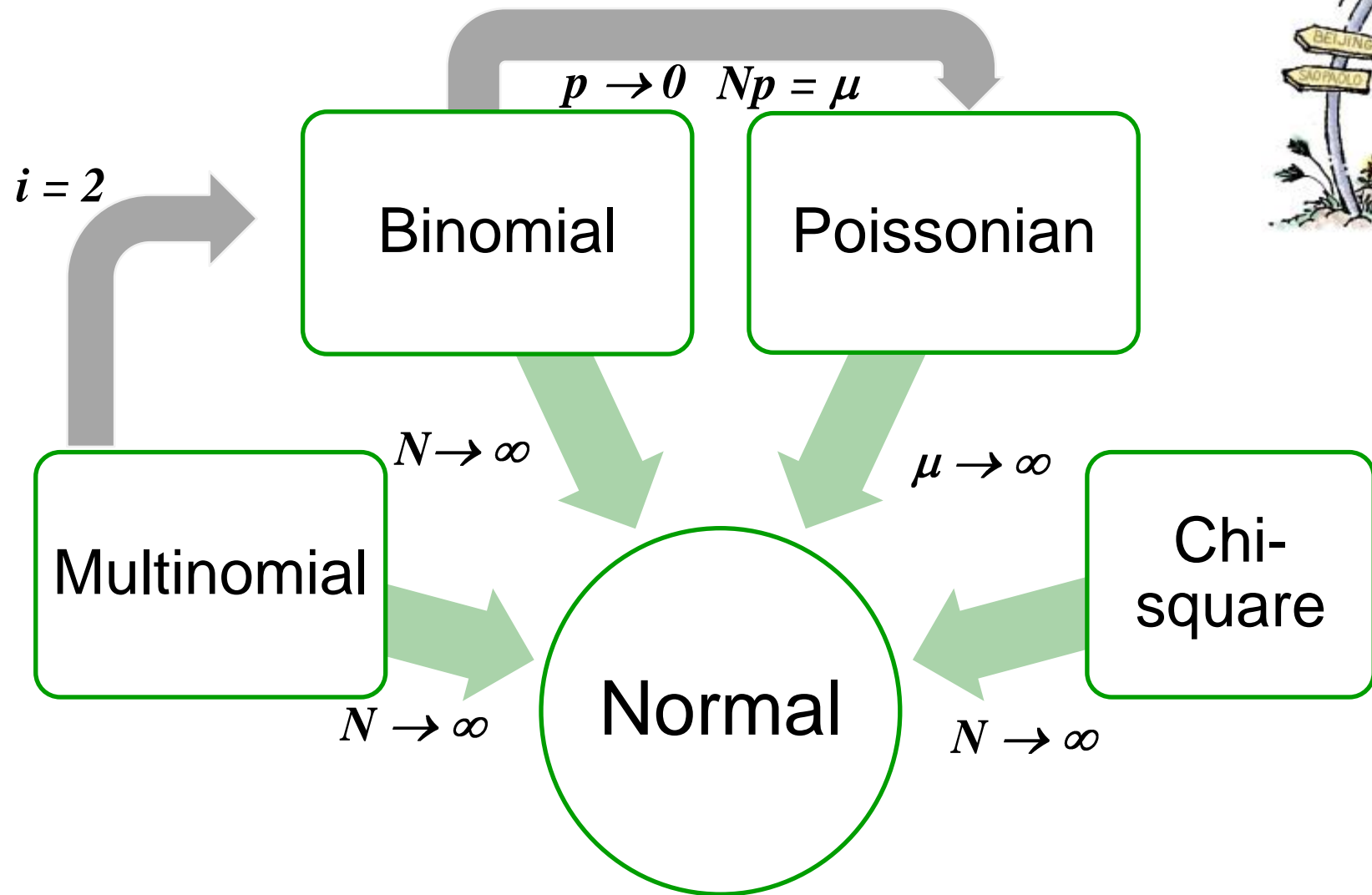
- A solution to the differential equation describing a **resonance**
- Energy distribution of a resonance

## ● Log-Normal distribution

- Used when including systematic errors in the analysis
- If  $x$  is Log-Normally distributed, then  $\log(x)$  is Normally distributed



# All roads lead to Rome



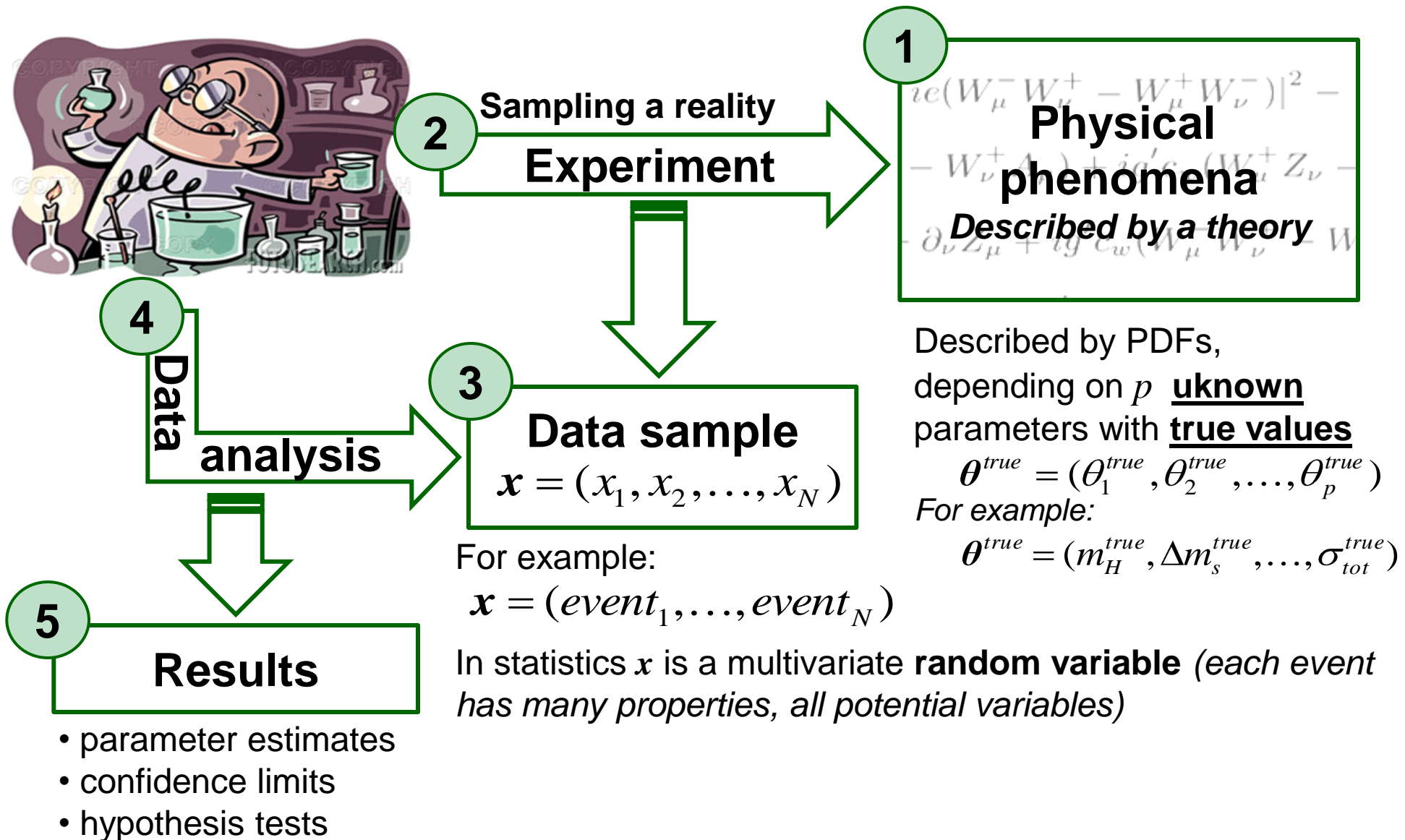
# From ROOT User Guide

- All the probability density functions are defined in the header file `Math/DistFunc.h` and are part of the `MathCore` libraries.

```
double ROOT::Math::beta_pdf(double x,double a, double b);
double ROOT::Math::binomial_pdf(unsigned int k,double p,unsigned int n);
double ROOT::Math::breitwigner_pdf(double x,double gamma,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::cauchy_pdf(double x,double b=1,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::chisquared_pdf(double x,double r,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::exponential_pdf(double x,double lambda,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::fdistribution_pdf(double x,double n,double m,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::gamma_pdf(double x,double alpha,double theta,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::gaussian_pdf(double x,double sigma,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::landau_pdf(double x,double s,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::lognormal_pdf(double x,double m,double s,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::normal_pdf(double x,double sigma,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::poisson_pdf(unsigned int n,double mu);
double ROOT::Math::tdistribution_pdf(double x,double r,double x0=0);
double ROOT::Math::uniform_pdf(double x,double a,double b,double x0=0);
```

- Some PDFs exist also in the namespace **TMath**

# General picture



# Physicists and statisticians

## ● Example: histogram fitting

### Physicists

1. Determining the “best fit” parameters of a curve



2. Determining the errors on the parameters



3. Judging the goodness of a fit

### Statisticians

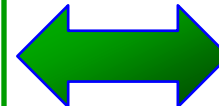
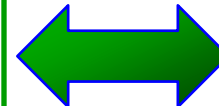
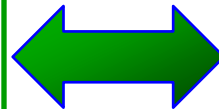
1. Point estimation



2. Confidence interval estimation



3. Goodness-of-fit testing



Adopted from [Baker, Cousins, 1984]

# Likelihood function

- Assume that observations (events) are independent
  - With PDF depending on parameters  $\theta$ :  $f(x_i; \theta)$
- The probability that all  $N$  events will happen, i.e. the PDF of  $x$  is, by independence, a product of all single events PDFs

$$P(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = P(x_1, \dots, x_N; \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^N f(x_i; \theta)$$

- When the variable  $x$  is replaced by the observed data  $x^0$ , then  $P$  is no longer a PDF
- It is usual to denote it by  $L$  and call  $L(X^0; \theta)$  the **likelihood function**
  - Which is now a function of  $\theta$  only

$$L(\theta) = P(X^0; \theta)$$

- Often in the literature, and through this lectures, it's convenient to keep  $X$  as a variable and continue to use notation  $L(X; \theta)$



# Statistic

- Be careful: **statistic** is not statistic**S**!
- Any new random variable (f.g.  $T$ ), defined as a function of a measured sample  $x$  is called a **statistic**

$$T = T(x_1, \dots, x_N)$$

- For example, the sample mean

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i$$

is a statistic!

- A statistic used to estimate a parameter is called an **estimator**
  - For instance, the **sample mean** is a statistic and an estimator for the **population mean**, which is an unknown parameter
  - **Estimator** is a function of the data
  - **Estimate**, a value of estimator, is our “best” guess for the true value of parameter
- Some other examples of statistics: sample median, variance, standard deviation, quartiles, percentiles, t-statistics, chi-square statistics, kurtosis, skewness etc.

# Properties of a good estimator

## Consistent

- Estimate converges to the true value as amount of data increases

$$\hat{\theta} \xrightarrow{N \text{ increases}} \theta^{true}$$

## Unbiased

- Bias is the difference between expected value of the estimator and the true value of the parameter

$$b = E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta^{true} = 0$$

## Efficient

- Cramér-Rao bound for the minimum of the variance of estimator:
- Estimator is efficient when its variance reaches the lower bound

$$V(\hat{\theta}) = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{\partial b}{\partial \theta}\right)^2}{E\left[\underbrace{\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sum_i \ln f(x_i; \theta)\right)}_{\text{Fisher information}}\right]}$$

## Robust

- Insensitive to departures from assumptions in the PDF

# How to find a good estimator?

## The Method of Moments

- Giving consistent and asymptotically unbiased estimators
- But are not as efficient as the maximum likelihood estimates
- Not covered in this lecture

## The Maximum Likelihood Method

- Also giving consistent and asymptotically unbiased estimators
- Widely used in practice

## The Least Squares Method (Chi-Square)

- Giving consistent estimator
- Linear chi-square estimator is unbiased
- Frequently used in histogram fitting

# Some good estimators

- Suppose we have
  - a set of  $N$  independent measurements  $x_i$ ,
  - assumed to be unbiased measurements of some quantity  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$

## 1. If both $\mu$ and $\sigma$ are unknown

$$\hat{\mu} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i \quad \widehat{\sigma^2} = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \hat{\mu})^2 \quad V(\hat{\mu}) = \frac{\widehat{\sigma^2}}{N}$$

2. If only  $\sigma$  is known  $\rightarrow$  no difference for  $\hat{\mu}$

3. If only  $\mu$  is known  $\rightarrow$   $\widehat{\sigma^2} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2$

4. If all  $x_i$  have different  $\sigma_i$

$$\hat{\mu} = \frac{1}{w} \sum_{i=1}^N w_i x_i \quad w_i = \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2} \quad w = \sum_i w_i \quad \sqrt{V(\hat{\mu})} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{w}}$$

# Estimators in ROOT - values

Mean	RMS (it's actually $\sigma$ , name RMS is historic)
$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i \pm \frac{RMS}{\sqrt{N}}$	$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu) \pm \frac{RMS}{\sqrt{2N}}$
Skewness	Kurtosis
$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^3 / \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \right)^{3/2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{6}{N}}$	$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^4 / \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \right)^2 - 3 \pm \sqrt{\frac{24}{N}}$

- Total number of events N is only in the currently defined range
- From the ROOT Reference Manual

*"Note that the mean value/RMS is computed using the bins in the currently defined range (see [TAxis::SetRange](#)). By default the range includes all bins from 1 to nbins included, excluding underflows and overflows. To force the underflows and overflows in the computation, one must call the static function [TH1::StatOverflows\(kTRUE\)](#) before filling the histogram."*

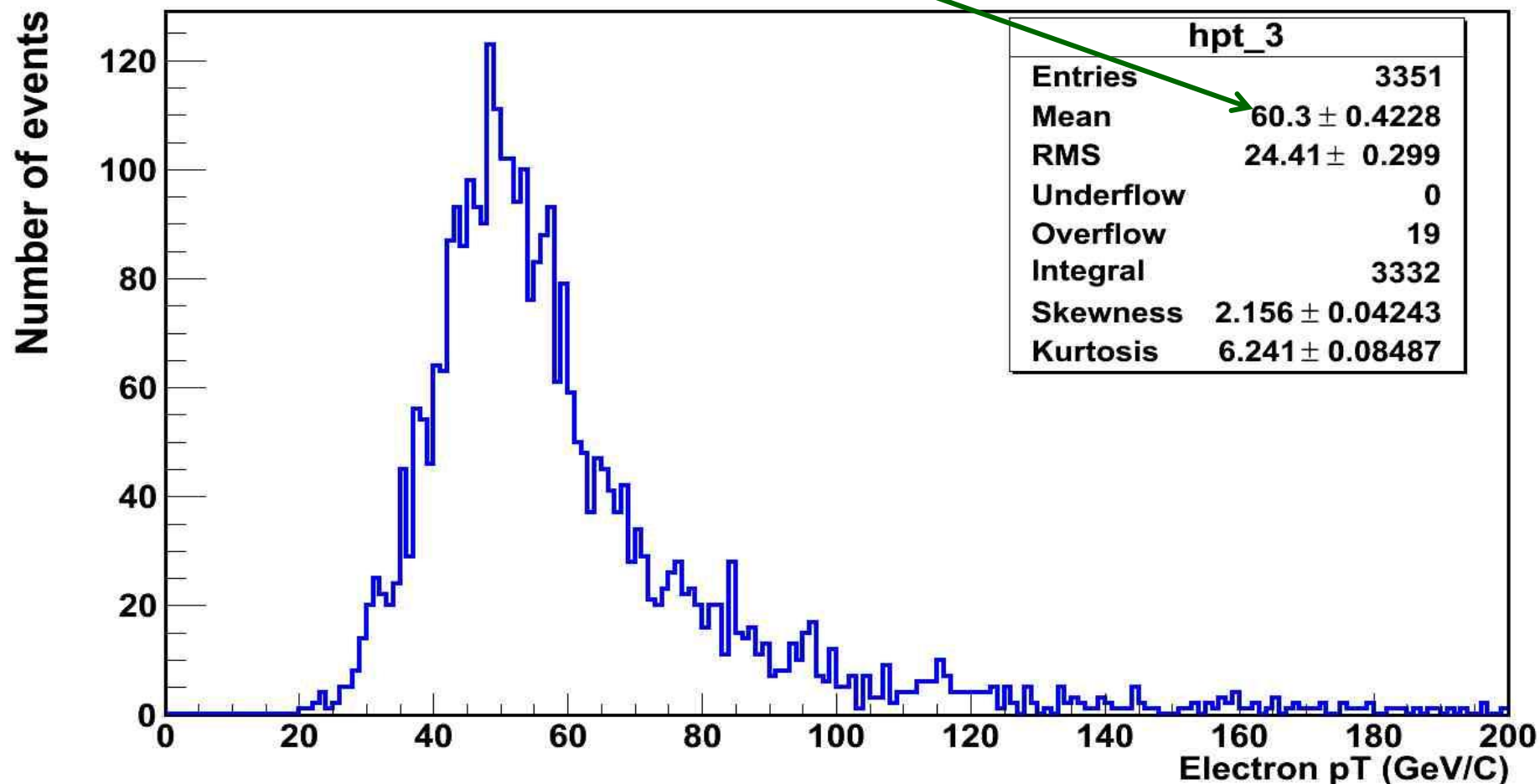
# Estimators in ROOT - display

- Estimators display in the statistic box
  - Drawn by default; can be eliminated by `TH1::SetStats(kFALSE)`
- `gStyle->SetOptStat(mode)` allows to select the type of displayed information
  - `mode = ksiourmen` (default = 000001111)

n = 1	the name of histogram is printed
e = 1	the number of entries
m = 1	the mean value
m = 2	the mean and mean error values
r = 1	the root mean square (RMS)
r = 2	the RMS and RMS error
u = 1	the number of underflows
o = 1	the number of overflows
i = 1	the integral of bins
s = 1	the skewness
s = 2	the skewness and the skewness error
k = 1	the kurtosis
k = 2	the kurtosis and the kurtosis error

# Estimators in ROOT - example

Notice influence of the tail on the mean value



# Maximum likelihood method

- Reminder: the probability that all  $N$  independent events will happen is given by the **likelihood function**

$$L(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \prod_{i=1}^N f(x_i; \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- The principle of maximum likelihood (ML) says:

**The maximum likelihood estimator  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$  is the value of  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  for which the likelihood is a maximum!**

- In words of R. J. Barlow: *"You determine the value of  $\theta$  that makes the probability of the actual results obtained,  $\{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$ , as large as it can possible be."*
- In practice it's easier to maximize the **log-likelihood function**

$$\ln L(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ln f(x_i; \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

- For  $p$  parameters we get a set of  $p$  likelihood equations

$$\frac{\partial \ln L(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \theta_j} = 0, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots, p$$

- It is often more convenient the **minimize  $-\ln L$  or  $-2\ln L$** 
  - Minimization with MINUIT/MIGRAD or FUMILI in ROOT



# Maximum Likelihood - comments

- ML estimator is **consistent**
- ML estimate is approximately **unbiased** and **efficient** for large samples
  - Still usefull for small samples, but with extra care!
- ML estimate is **invariant**
  - A transformation of parameter won't change the answer
- ML estimate is not the most likely value of parameter; it is the estimate that makes your data most likely!
- What was presented up to now is sometimes called **unbinned maximum likelihood**
- **Binned maximum likelihood**: when data are organized in bins
  - See "ML fit of a histogram" later on
- Extra care to be taken when the best value of parameters are near imposed limits
- ML has many advantages, but a few drawbacks too
  - F.g. goodness-of-fit for ML is non-trivial issue, still open and debated

# Reminder

## ● Example: histogram fitting

### Physicists

1. Determining the “best fit” parameters of a curve

2. Determining the errors on the parameters

3. Judging the goodness of a fit

### Statisticians

1. Point estimation

2. Confidence interval estimation

3. Goodness-of-fit testing

Adopted from [Baker, Cousins, 1984]

# Errors on the ML estimates (1/4)

- How to obtain errors on the parameters estimated by the ML?

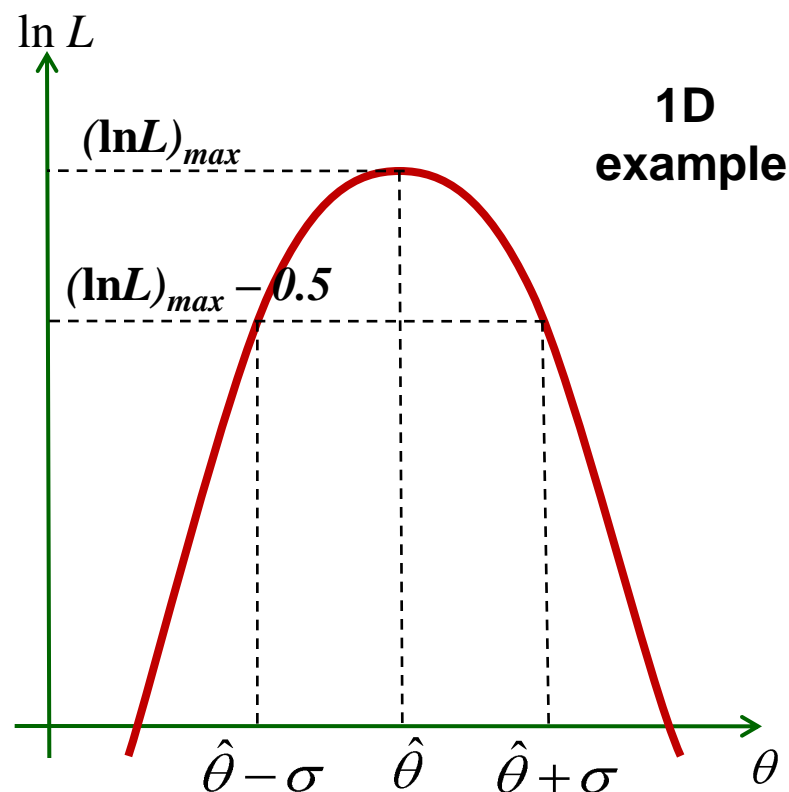
- Option 1: **Matrix inversion**

- Covariance matrix is minus the inverse of the matrix of second derivatives
- Done with MINUIT/HESSE in ROOT

$$\text{cov}^{-1}(\theta_i, \theta_j) = - \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \theta_i \partial \theta_j} \bigg|_{\theta = \hat{\theta}}$$

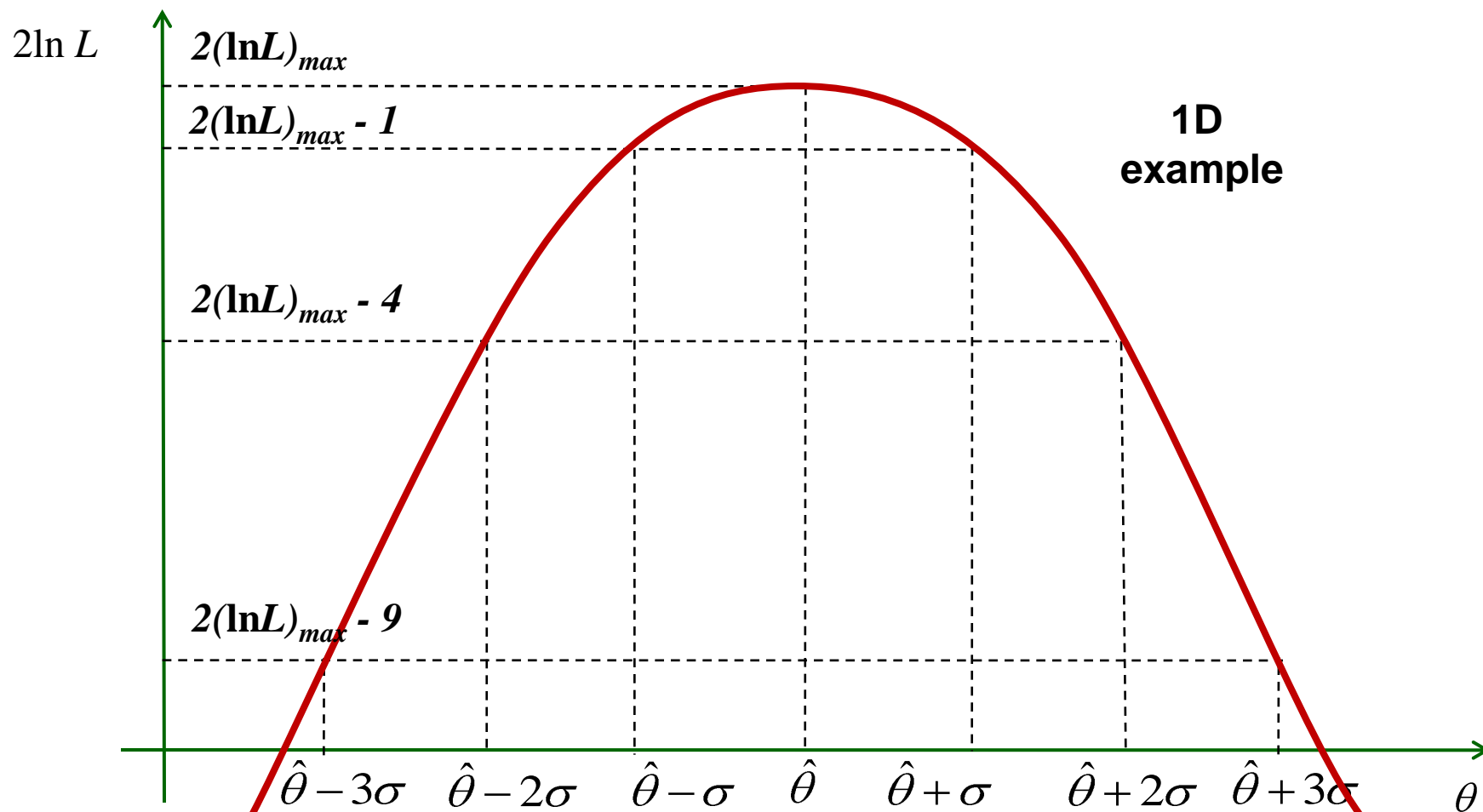
- Option 2: **Log – likelihood curve**

- In the large N limits the likelihood function is Gaussian and the log-likelihood is parabola
- By definition  $(\ln L)_{\max} = \ln L(\hat{\theta})$
- $\pm 1\sigma$  limits on  $\theta$  are those values of  $\theta$  for which  $\ln L$  falls by 0.5 from its maximum value  $L_{\max}$
- For  $\pm 2\sigma$  ( $\pm 3\sigma$ ) limits  $\ln L$  falls by 2 (4.5)
- Done with MINUIT/MINOS in ROOT



# Errors on the ML estimates (2/4)

- The same, but now maximizing  $2\ln L$



# Errors on the ML estimates (3/4)

## Asymmetric example

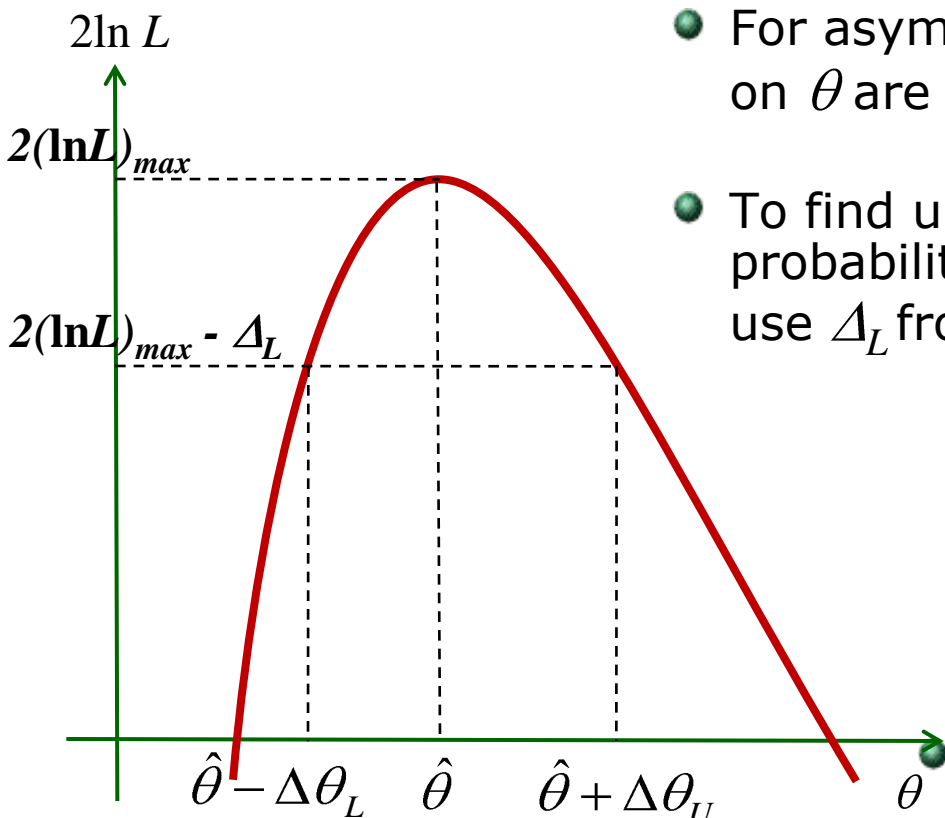
- For finite samples and/or non-linear problems  $\ln L$  is not necessarily parabolic nor symmetric
- Confidence intervals can still be extracted from the  $\ln L$  curve

- For asymmetric  $\ln L$  curve **upper** and **lower** limits on  $\theta$  are not the same

$$\theta = \hat{\theta}_{-\Delta\theta_L}^{+\Delta\theta_U}$$

- To find upper and lower limits with a certain probability content ( $\beta$ ) of the confidence region  $\rightarrow$  use  $\Delta_L$  from the table:

$\Delta_L$	$\beta$ (%)
1	68.27
4	95.45
9	99.73



1D example

ROOT uses **Minuit/MINOS** to extract limits (errors) in this way

# Errors on the ML estimates (4/4)

- **2D example: Standard error ellipse**

- For more information see f.g. PDG

- This is so called the **plane tangent** method

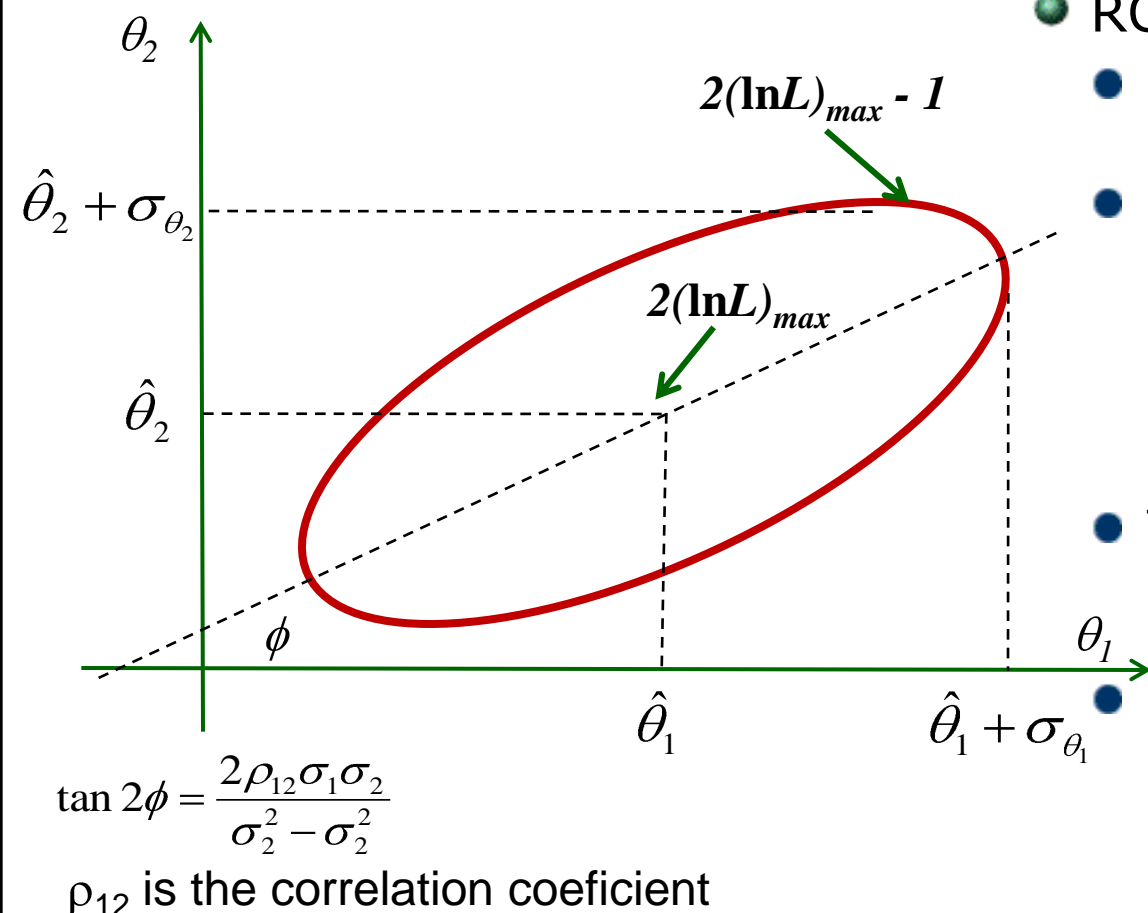
- ROOT uses **Minuit/MINOS**

- Works well also with non-regular iso-probability curves
  - Upper and lower limits for parameter  $\theta_i$  are those values of  $\theta_i$  for which

with  $\Delta_{L,j} = \max[2 \ln L] = 2(\ln L)_{\max} - \Delta_L$  from the table on the slide before

- This is OK when interested in errors for only **one** parameter, regardless all others

- Case of **simultaneous errors** estimate for more parameters → later in this lecture



# Example – ML fit of a histogram (1/2)

- Suppose one has

- N events in a histogram with  $k$  bins
- $n_i$  in the  $i^{th}$  bin  $\rightarrow$  vector of data  $\mathbf{n} = (n_1, \dots, n_k)$
- Expected number of events in each bin depend on unknown parameters  $\theta$ ,  $\mathbf{v}(\theta) = (v_1, \dots, v_k)$
- Given  $v_i$  probability to have  $n_i$  is  $f(n_i; v_i)$ 
  - Usually probability is Poissonian:

$$f(n_i; v_i) = \frac{v_i^{n_i} e^{-v_i}}{n_i!}$$

- The likelihood function is

$$L(\mathbf{n}; \mathbf{v}) = \prod_i \frac{v_i^{n_i} e^{-v_i}}{n_i!}$$

- To find best estimate of  $\theta$  we have to maximize  $\ln L(\mathbf{n}; \mathbf{v})$  based on the contents of the bins

# Example – ML fit of a histogram (2/2)

- It can be shown that this procedure is equivalent to maximizing the **likelihood ratio**

$$\lambda(\theta) = \frac{L(\mathbf{n}; \mathbf{v}(\theta))}{L(\mathbf{n}; \mathbf{m})} \approx \frac{L(\mathbf{n}; \mathbf{v}(\theta))}{L(\mathbf{n}; \mathbf{n})}$$

- Where  $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \dots, m_k)$  are true (unknown) values of  $\mathbf{n}$
- Best bin-to-bin model independent maximum likelihood estimate of  $\mathbf{m}$  is actually  $\mathbf{n}$
- Maximizing  $\lambda(\theta)$  is equivalent to **minimizing**
$$-2 \ln \lambda(\theta) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ v_i(\theta) - n_i + n_i \ln \frac{n_i}{v_i(\theta)} \right]$$
  - Which is now much easier to implement than maximizing  $\ln L(\mathbf{n}; \mathbf{v})$
- In case where  $n_i = 0$ , last term in eq. above is zero



# Extended maximum likelihood

- In the usual maximum likelihood method
  - Parameter relevant to the **shapes** of distributions are determined
  - Absolute **normalization** is **equal** to the **observed** number of events
- If we want to **estimate** the **absolute normalization** the so called **“Extended maximum likelihood method”** is used
- Example: From the vector of measurements  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_N)$  we want to estimate number of signal events ( $s$ ), number of background events ( $b$ ) and a vector of parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_p)$
- Likelihood function is

$$L(\mathbf{x}; s, b, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{(s+b)^N e^{-(s+b)}}{N!} \prod_{i=1}^N \left( \frac{s}{s+b} P_s(x_i; \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \frac{b}{s+b} P_b(x_i; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right)$$

- To obtain  $s$ ,  $b$  and  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  we maximize (or minimize  $-2\ln L$ )

$$\ln L(\mathbf{x}; s, b, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = -s - b + \sum_{i=1}^N \ln \left( \frac{s}{s+b} P_s(x_i; \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \frac{b}{s+b} P_b(x_i; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right) - \ln(N!) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Constant} \\ \swarrow \end{array}$$

# Least squares method

- Suppose we have
  - A set of precisely known values  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_N)$ 
    - For example histograms bins
  - At each  $x_i$ 
    - a measured value  $y_i$ 
      - For example number of events in the given histogram bin
    - corresponding error on measured value  $\sigma_i$
    - predicted value of measurement that depends on parameters  $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_p)$  we want to estimate:  $F(x_i; \theta)$
  - Suppose that measurements are independent
- To find best estimate of  $\theta$  we minimize the suitably weighted sum of squared differences between measured and predicted values → so called “**least squares**” or “**chi-square**”

$$\chi^2(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - F(x_i; \theta))^2}{\sigma_i^2}$$

# Choice of measurement errors

- If  $y_i$  are Gaussian distributed with variances  $\sigma_i$

$$\chi^2(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - F(x_i; \theta))^2}{\sigma_i^2} = -2 \ln L(\theta) + \text{constant}$$

Minimizing chi-square  $\chi^2$



Maximizing log-likelihood  $\ln L$

*or minimizing  $-2 \ln L$*

- If  $y_i$  are Poissonian distributed two choices

- Reminder first: for Poissonian **variance = mean value** ( $\sigma^2 = \mu$ )
- So called **Pearson's chi-square** (or "**chi-square**")

$$\chi^2(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - F(x_i; \theta))^2}{F(x_i; \theta)}$$

- But now  $\sigma_i$  depends on  $\theta$  which complicates the minimization

- So called **Neyman's chi-square** (or "**modified chi-square**")

$$\chi^2(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(y_i - F(x_i; \theta))^2}{y_i}$$

- Minimization simpler
- Easier to combine data with different basic accuracies
- Problem with  $y_i = 0$ 
  - For example in ROOT this bin ignored
  - For small samples better use ML

# Finding parameters and errors

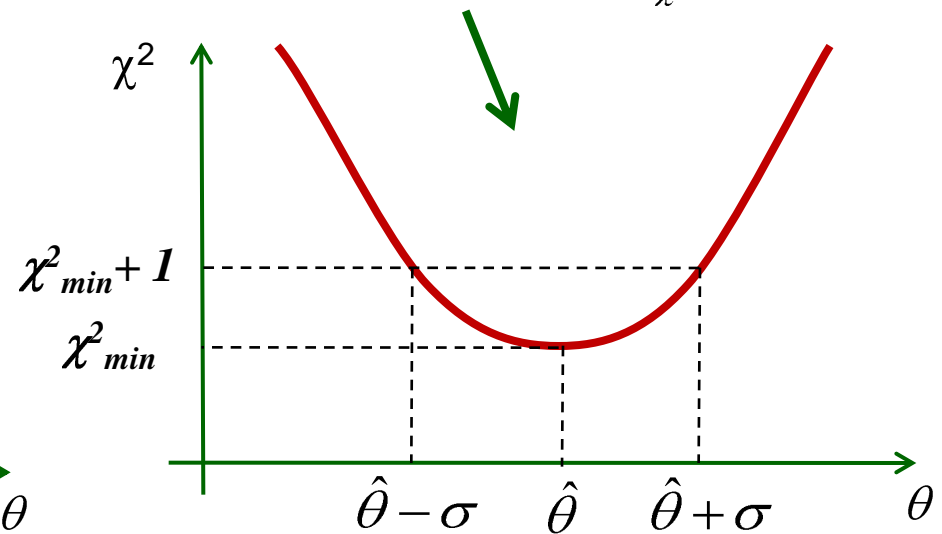
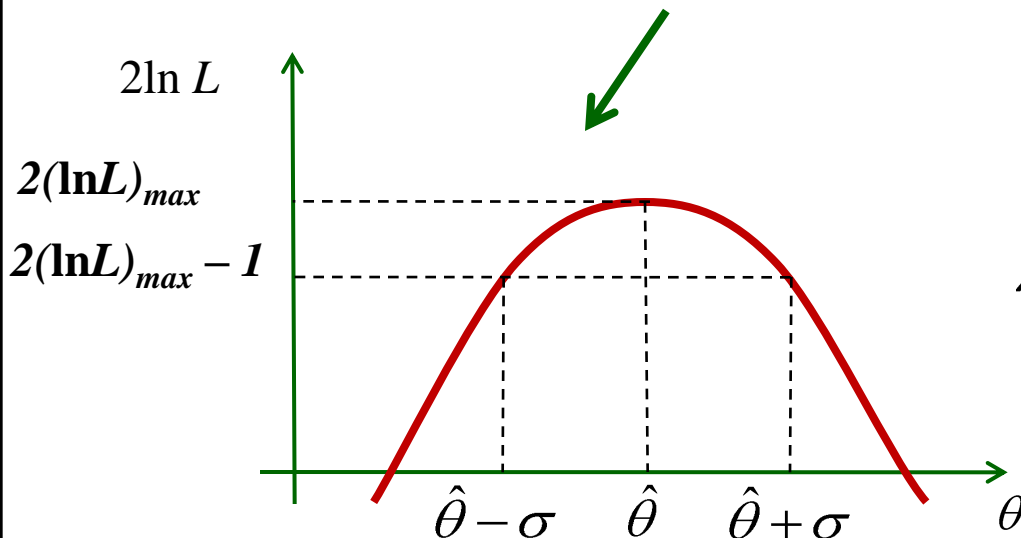
- **The best values** of parameters  $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_p)$  are found by solving  $p$  equations

$$\frac{\partial \chi^2(\theta)}{\partial \theta_i} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, p$$

- **Errors** (or limits) on parameters are found in the equivalent way as for the ML method

- Matrix inversion
- Shape of  $\chi^2$  around its minimum value

$$\text{Prob}(2 \ln L \geq 2 \ln L_{\max} - \Delta_L) \Leftrightarrow \text{Prob}(\chi^2 \leq \chi_{\min}^2 + \Delta_{\chi^2})$$



# Multiparameters errors

- When interested in simultaneous error estimation on more than one parameter, then the probability content (coverage probability) of the constant  $-2\ln L$  or  $\chi^2$  contours is much smaller then in 1D case
- Example (recall 2D Gaussians probabilities):
 

	$\Delta_L / \Delta_{\chi^2}$	$P_{1D}$	$P_{2D}$
$1\sigma$	1	0.68	0.39
$2\sigma$	4	0.96	0.86
- Therefore, to increase the coverage probability we have to increase  $\Delta_L$  or  $\Delta_{\chi^2}$  → see the values in the table (from PDG)

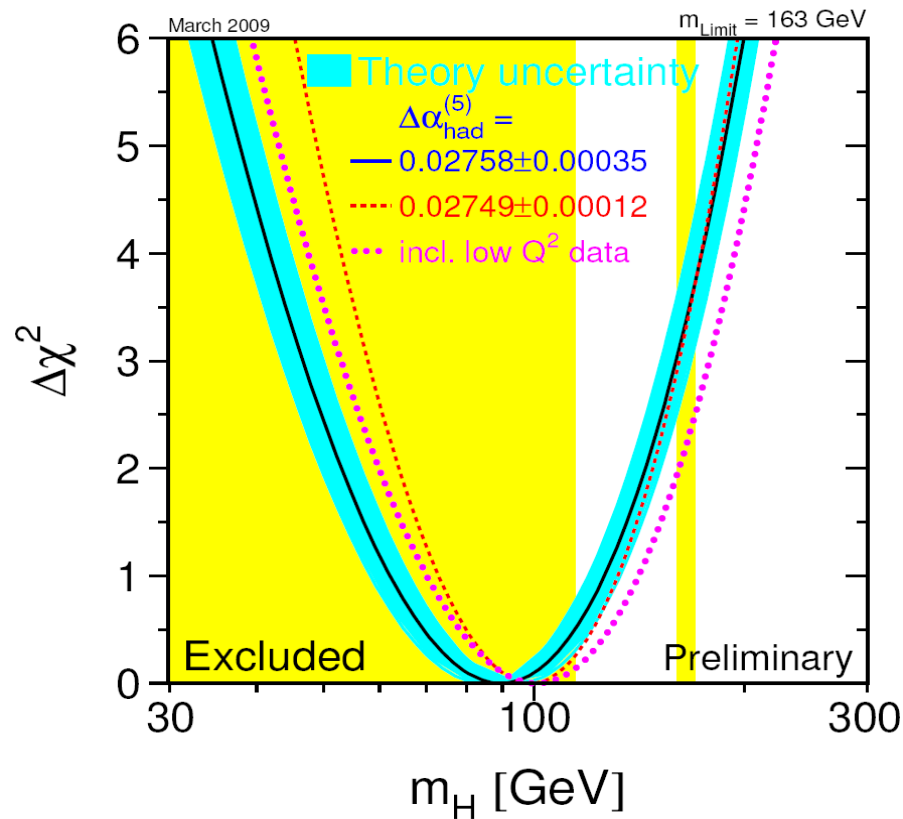
**Table 32.2:**  $\Delta\chi^2$  or  $2\Delta\ln L$  corresponding to a coverage probability  $1 - \alpha$  in the large data sample limit, for joint estimation of  $m$  parameters.

$(1 - \alpha) \text{ (%)}$	$m = 1$	$m = 2$	$m = 3$
68.27	1.00	2.30	3.53
90.	2.71	4.61	6.25
95.	3.84	5.99	7.82
95.45	4.00	6.18	8.03
99.	6.63	9.21	11.34
99.73	9.00	11.83	14.16

ROOT `Tminuit::Contour` draws contours of constant  $-2\ln L$  or  $\chi^2$  with a given probability coverage use

# Example

## higgs boson mass constraints from Electroweak precision tests

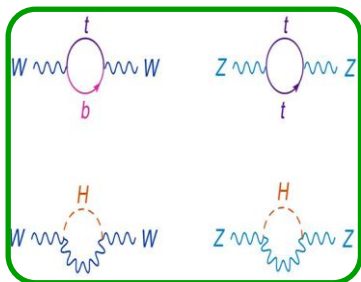


# Method



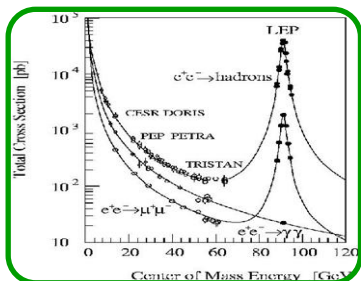
## Step 1 – Very precise measurements of SM

- Measure SM parameters extremely well
- $\alpha$ ,  $M_Z$ ,  $G_F$
- $\mu$  lifetime,  $(g-2)_e$ , LEP ...



## Step 2 – Predictions (assuming Higgs boson)

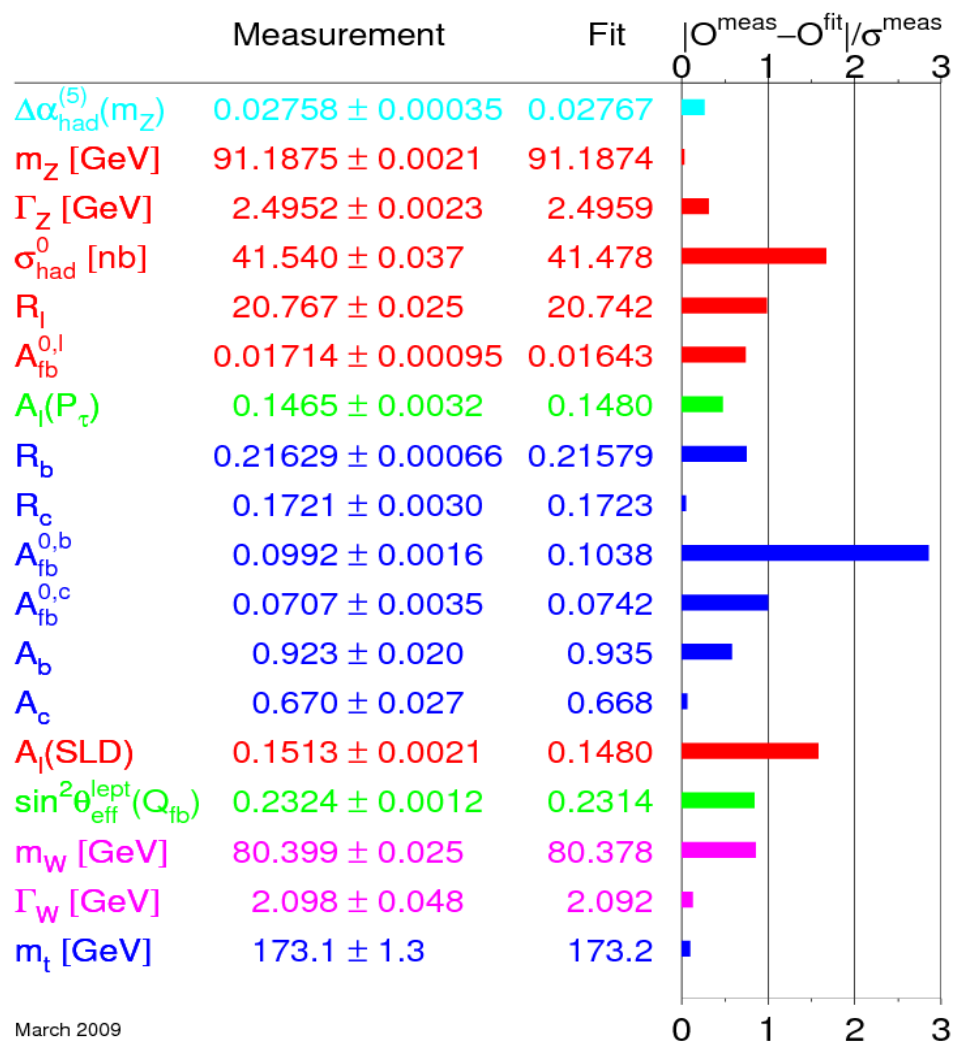
- Calculate quantum corrections to other observables
  - $m_W$ ,  $A_{LR}$ ,  $\sin^2\theta_W$  ...
- Depending on  $\alpha$ ,  $M_Z$ ,  $G_F$ , but also on  $m_t$ ,  $m_H$  ...



## Step 3 – Precise electroweak measurements

- Measure very precisely observables from Step 2
- @ SLC, LEP, Tevatron ...

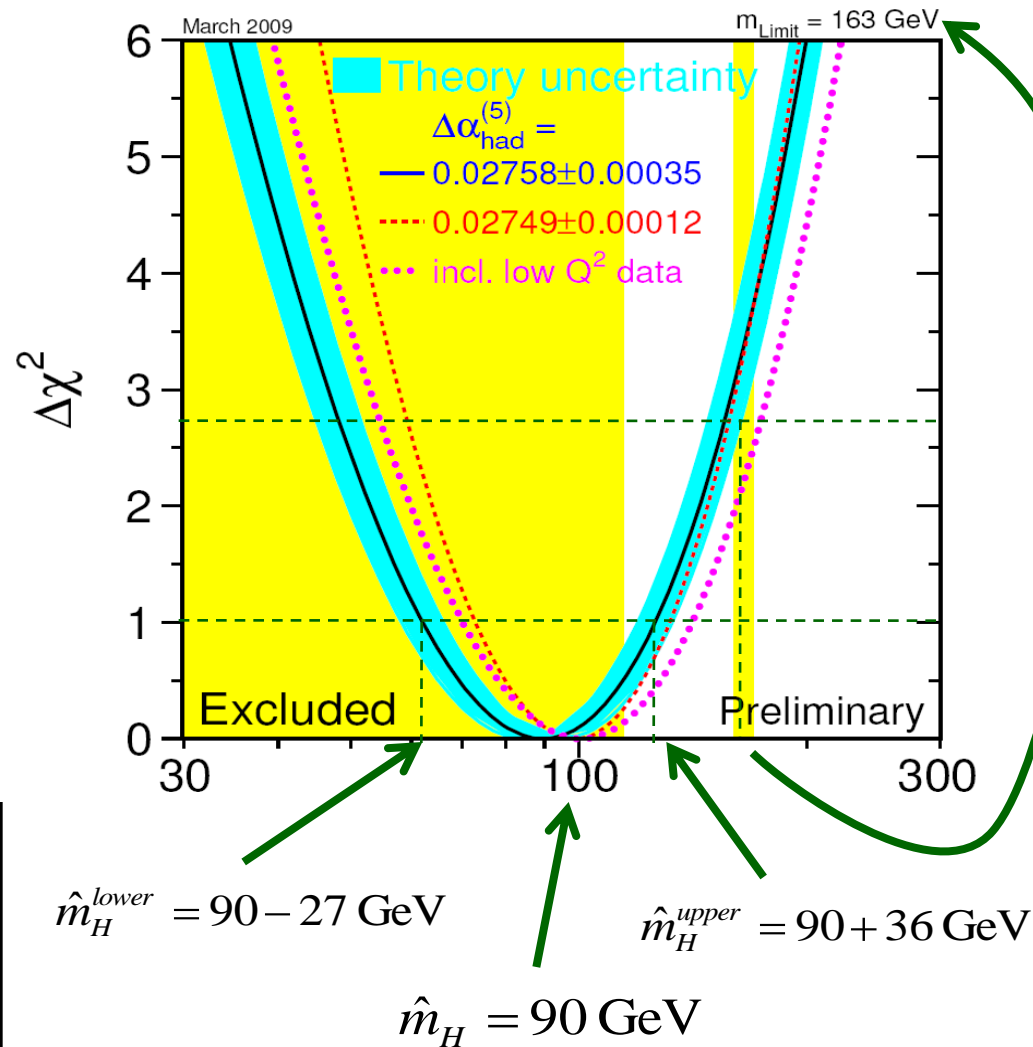
# Results from step 2 and 3



March 2009



# The best fit



## From the LEP Electroweak Working group:

- “The preferred value for its mass, corresponding to the minimum of the curve, is at 90 GeV, with an experimental uncertainty of +36 and -27 GeV (at 68 percent confidence level derived from  $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$  for the black line, thus not taking the theoretical uncertainty shown as the blue band into account).”
- “The precision electroweak measurements tell us that the mass of the Standard-Model Higgs boson is lower than about 163 GeV (one-sided 95 percent confidence level upper limit derived from  $\Delta\chi^2 = 2.7$  for the blue band, thus including both the experimental and the theoretical uncertainty).”

# Reminder

## ● Example: histogram fitting

### Physicists

1. Determining the “best fit” parameters of a curve



2. Determining the errors on the parameters



3. Judging the goodness of a fit

### Statisticians

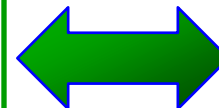
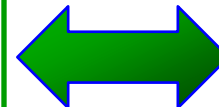
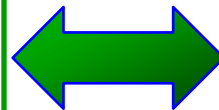
1. Point estimation



2. Confidence interval estimation



3. Goodness-of-fit testing



Adopted from [Baker, Cousins, 1984]

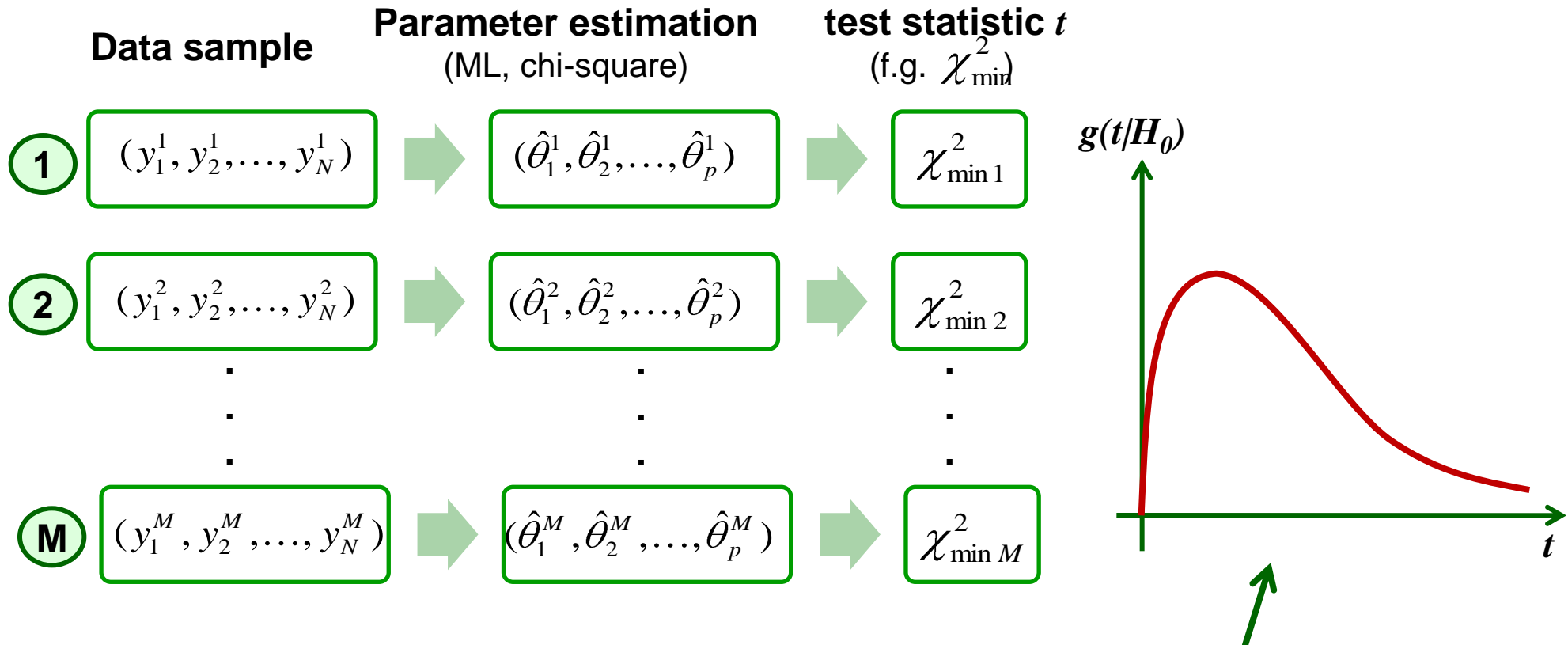
# Goodnes-of-fit tests

- We are now interested in this kind of questions
  - Is the fit good or not?
  - How **significant** is discrepancy between data and obtained functional form?
  - How well does the vector of measurements in the histogram  $\mathbf{n} = (n_1, \dots, n_k)$  compare with predicted values  $\boldsymbol{\nu} = E[\mathbf{n}] = (\nu_1, \dots, \nu_k)$ ?
- These questions can be answered with a **goodnes-of-fit test**
  - Which is itself a part of a so called HYPOTHESIS TESTING (more in Lecture 3)
- So called **NULL hypothesis**  $H_0$  is:

*The functional form (or predicted values) describes well our data!*
- The form (i.e. the parameters that form depends on) is found by one of the methods for parameter estimation (moments, ML, chi-square)
- We are now looking for a **statistic**  $t$  (usually a single number) whose value reflects an agreement between the data and the hypothesis
  - The most commonly used statistic is the  $\chi^2_{\min}$

# Distribution of the test statistic $t$

- **Imagine** we have many ( $M$ ) experiments (i.e. data samples) trying to test the null hypothesis  $H_0$



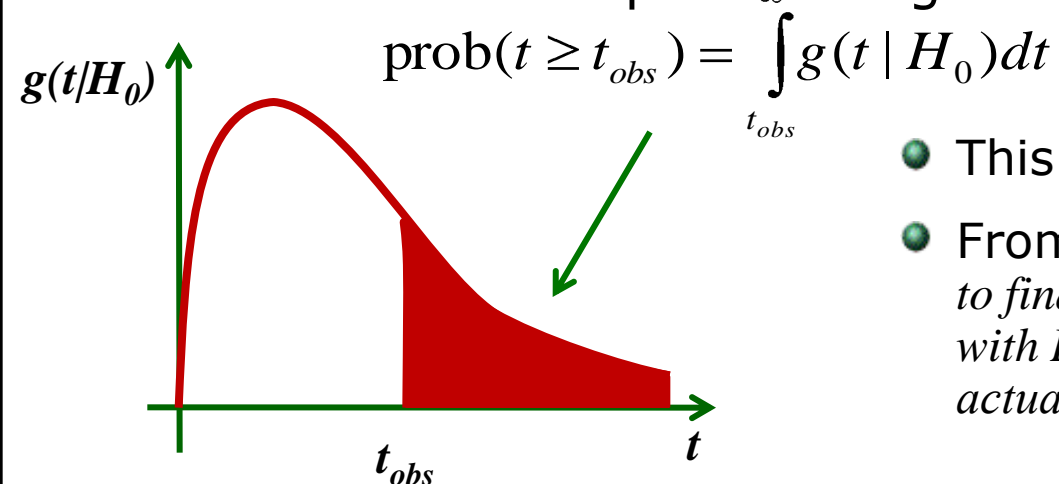
- We **would** then obtain a probability distribution function (PDF) of the test statistics, giving the  $H_0$  is true,  $g(t/H_0)$

# $p$ -value

- But (unfortunately) we usually have only one experiment ☹!
- Let's say the value of test statistic for our experiment is  $t_{obs}$
- And let's suppose that large value of  $t$  suggest larger discrepancy of the  $H_0$  with observed data (usually the case)
- Now, having  $g(t/H_0)$  we can for example answer to the question

**What is the probability to obtain the value of  $t$  equal or greater than the value  $t_{obs}$  we observed?**

- The answer is simple an integral of the  $g(t/H_0)$ :

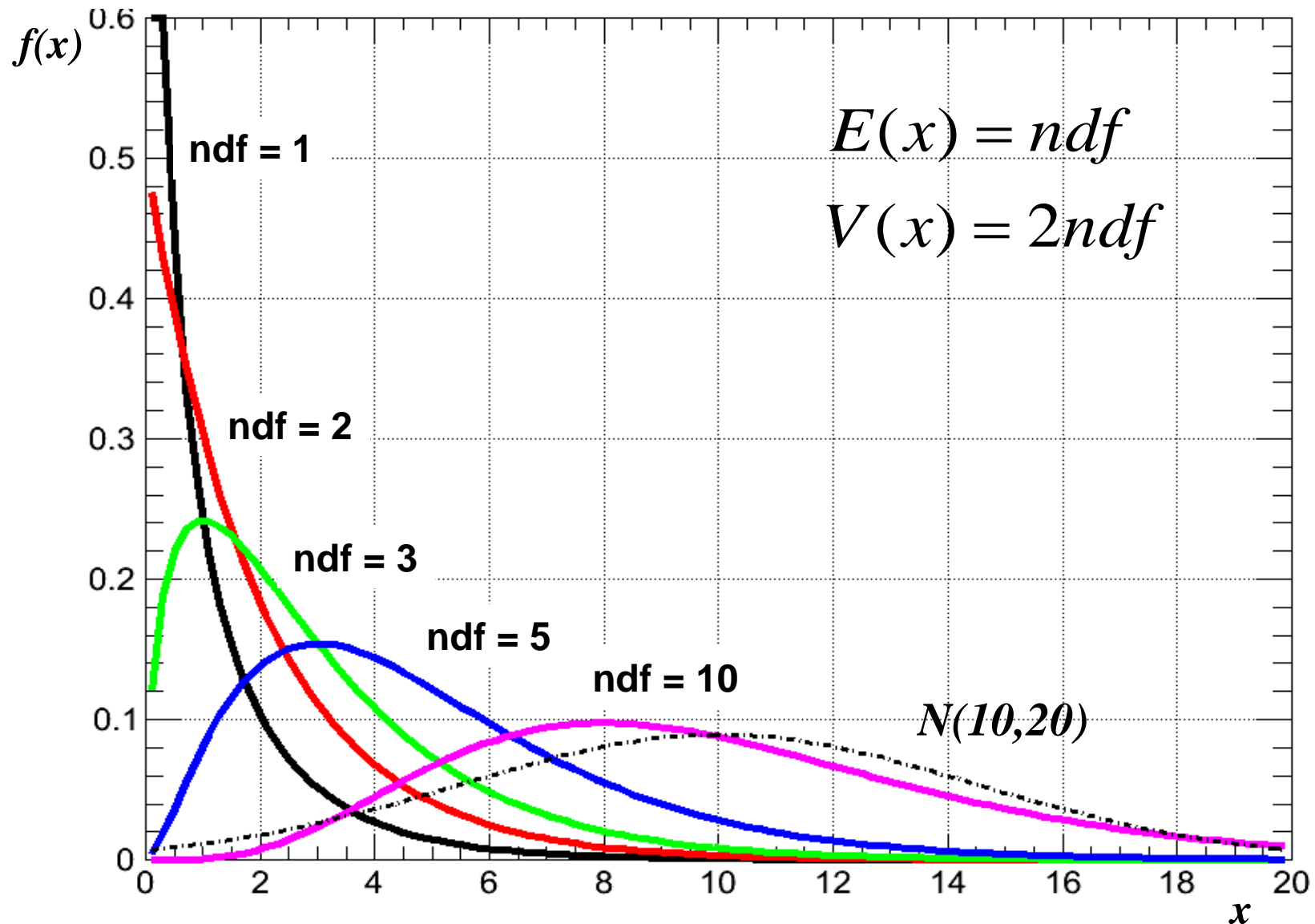


- This probability is so called **p-value**
- From PDG: “... *p-value is defined as the probability to find  $t$  in the region of equal and lesser compatibility with  $H_0$  than the level of compatibility observed with actual data ...*”

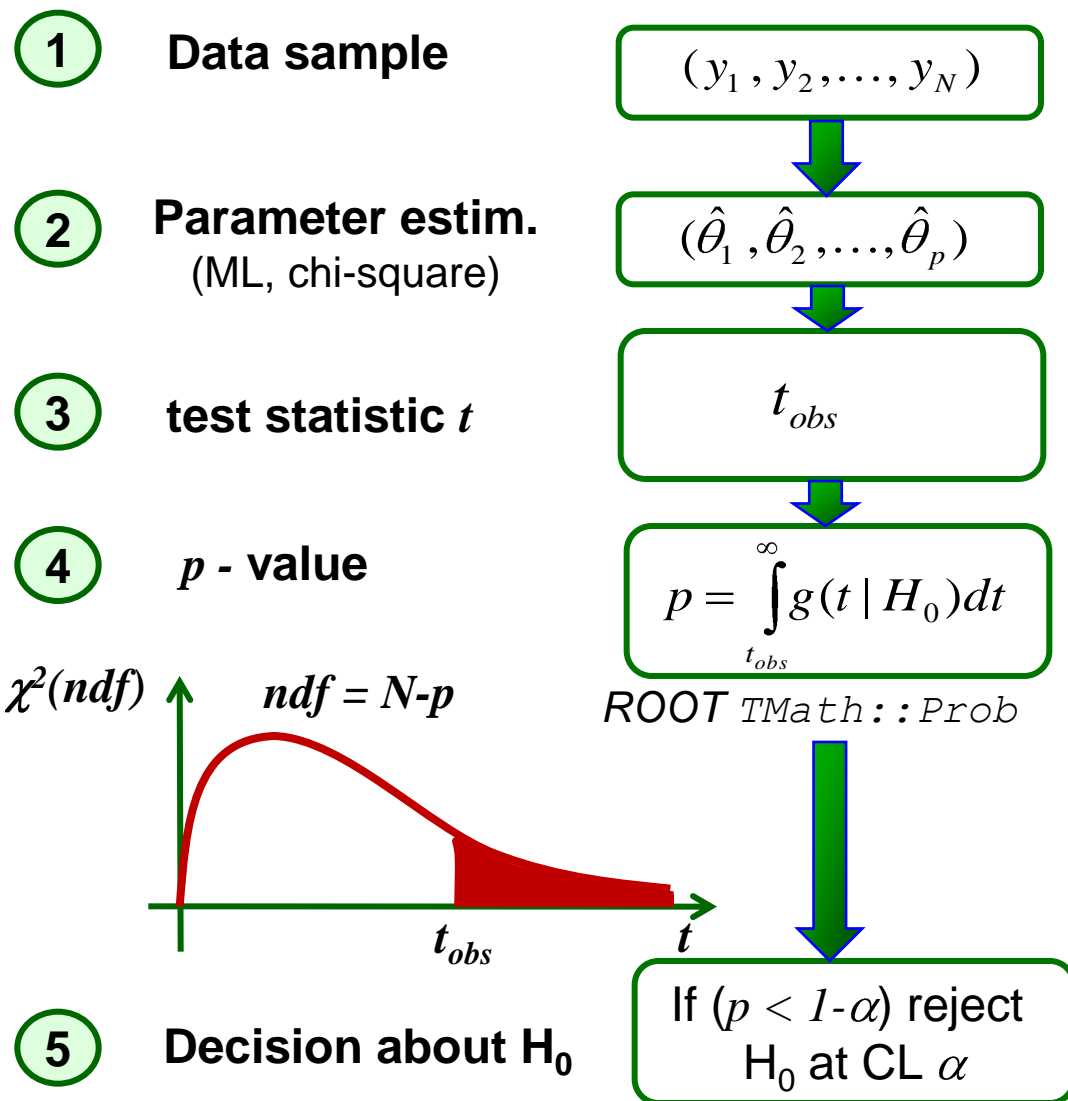
# $\chi^2(\text{ndf})$ distribution

- Well, this is all nice, but: as we don't have so many experiments, how do we get the PDF for the test statistics,  $g(t/H_0)$ ?
- For once, it turns out that we are 'lucky': most commonly used statistics for GOF testing are distributed as a  $\chi^2$  distribution!
  - That's actually the reason why they are so often used ☺
  - For example: when fitting histograms with  $N$  bins, with the function depending on  $p$  parameters, then the  $\chi^2_{\text{obt}}$  obtained in the fit, is distributed according to the  $\chi^2(N-p)$  function
    - $(N-p)$  is called **number of degrees of freedom (ndf)**
- If we are not so 'lucky' than we can use so called "**Toy Monte Carlo**" to generate  $g(t/H_0)$  from assumed distribution (describing the null hypothesis)
  - We "just" generate Monte Carlo experiments, find  $t$  for each of them and make a distribution  $g(t/H_0)$
  - We can even directly study the properties of the estimators (like bias, variance) as we can construct their distributions from MC experiments

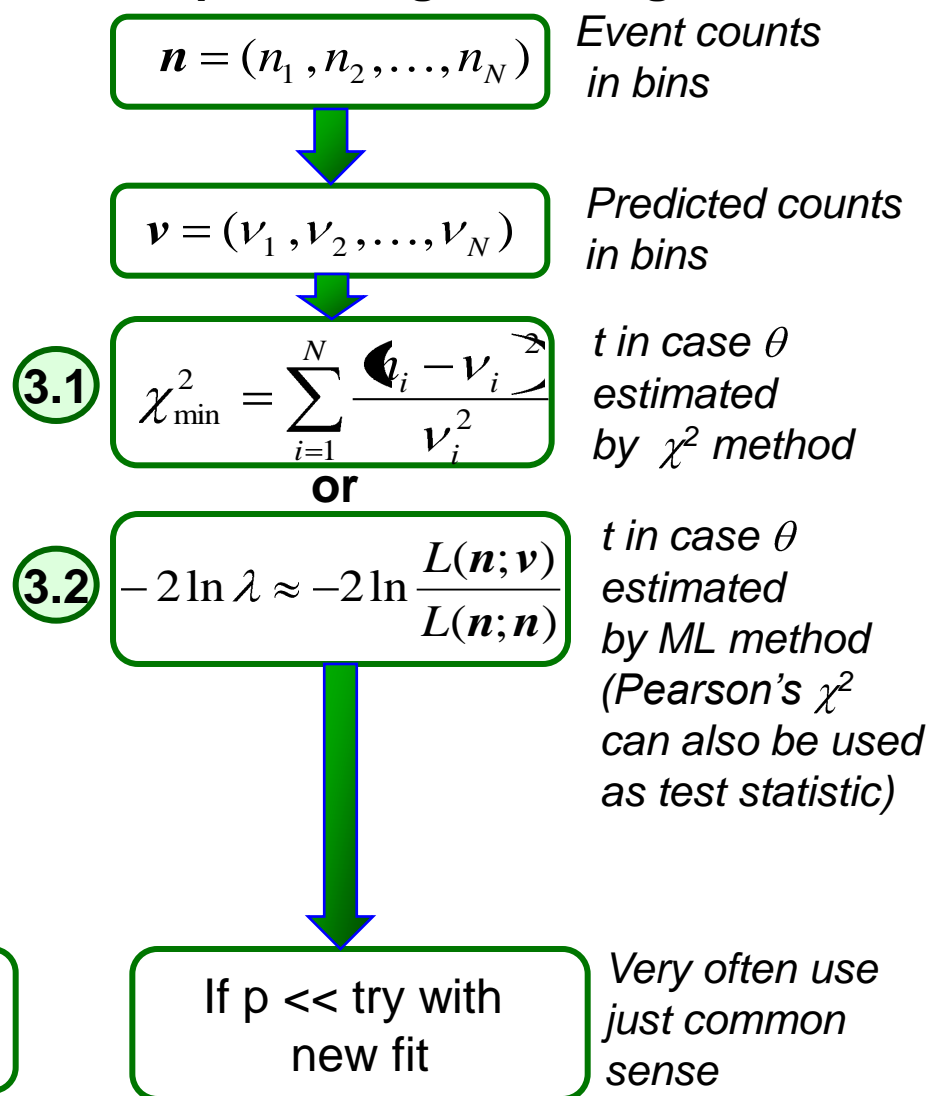
# Reminder - $\chi^2$ distribution



# GOF - overview



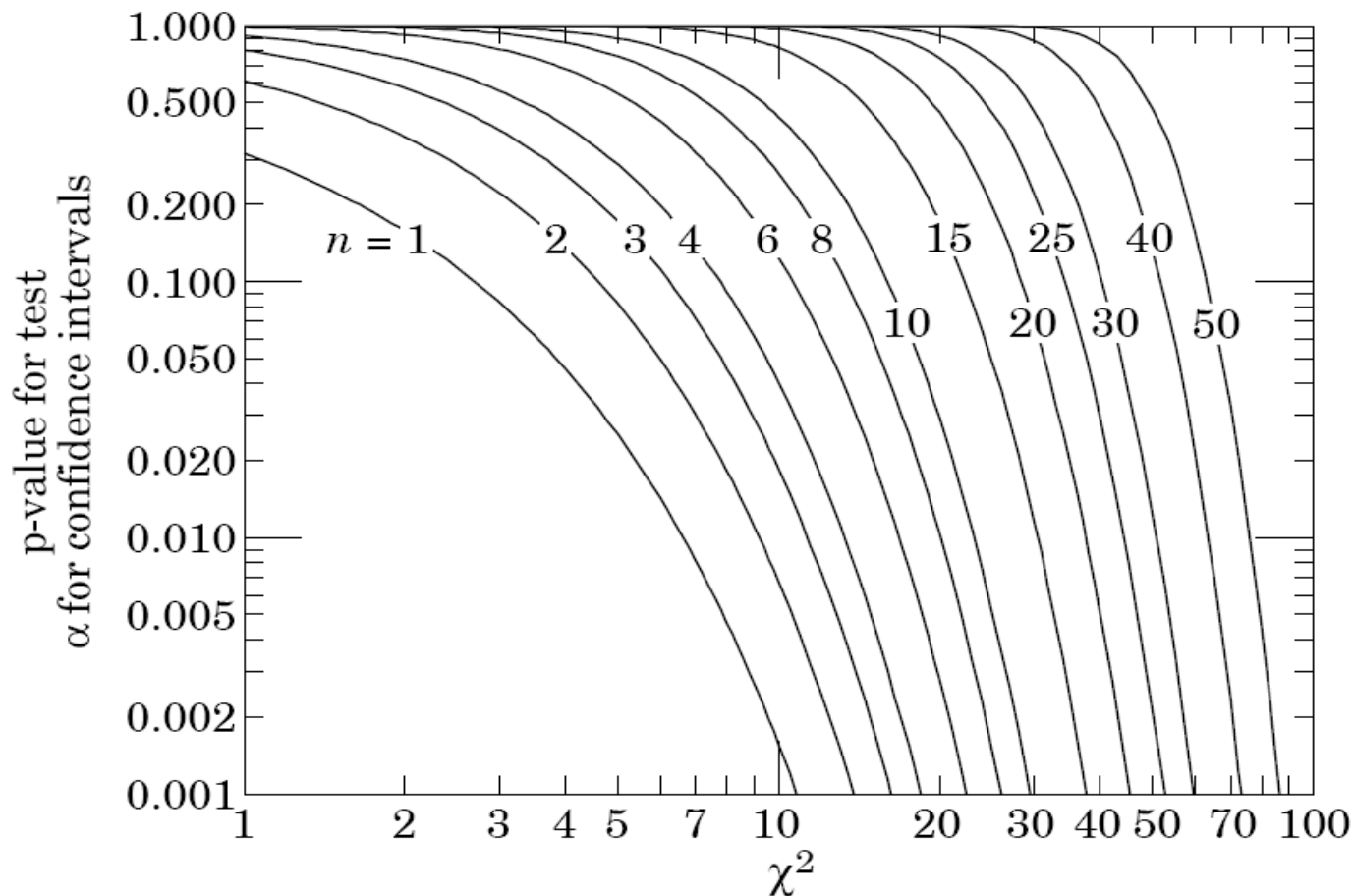
## Example: histogram fitting



In theory  $\alpha$  is predefined (f.g. 95%); in practice  $p$ -value is converted to  $z$ -value (f.g. significance = 5), see lecture 3

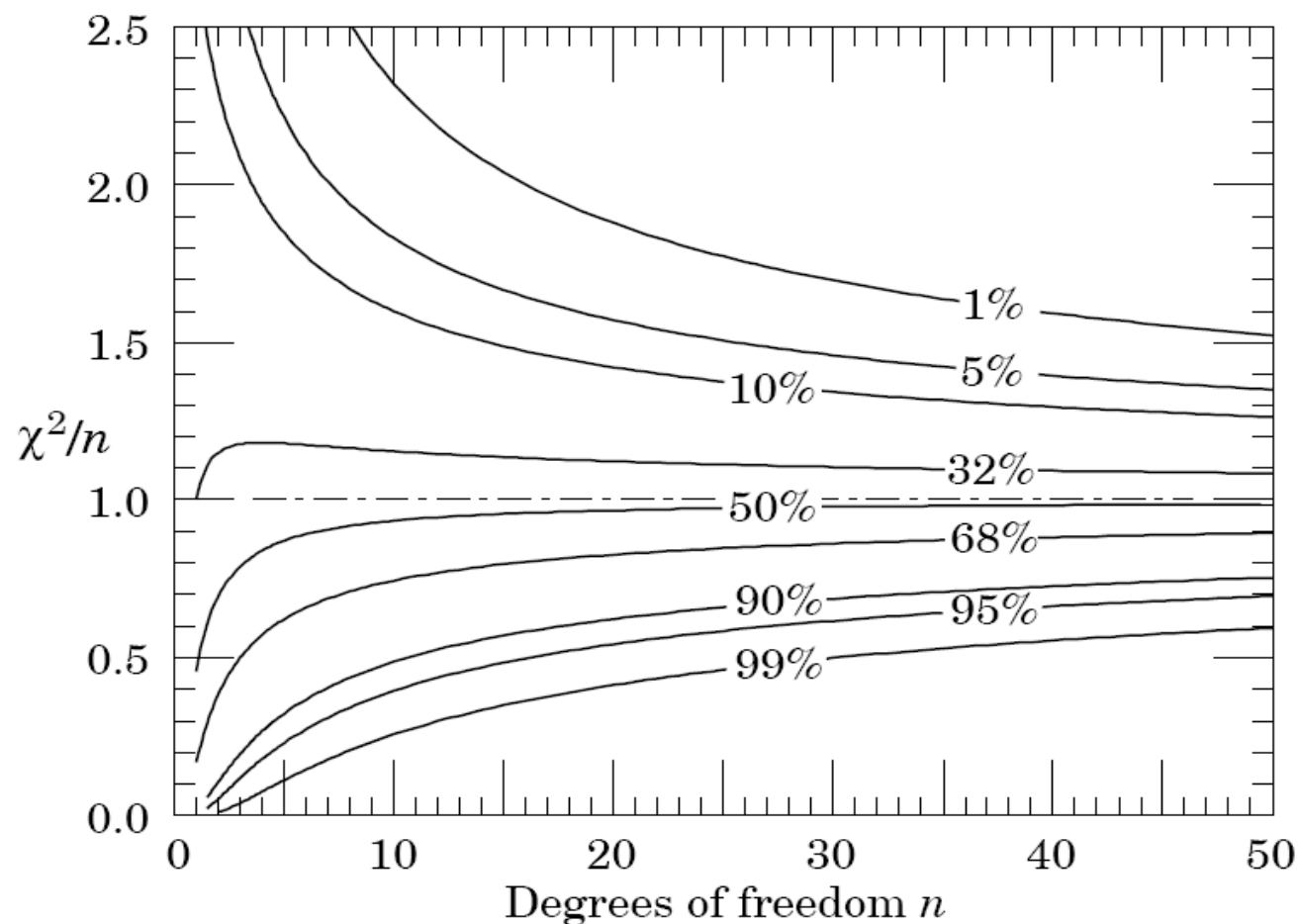


# p-values from PDG



**Figure 32.1:** One minus the  $\chi^2$  cumulative distribution,  $1 - F(\chi^2; n)$ , for  $n$  degrees of freedom. This gives the  $p$ -value for the  $\chi^2$  goodness-of-fit test as well as one minus the coverage probability for confidence regions (see Sec. 32.3.2.4).

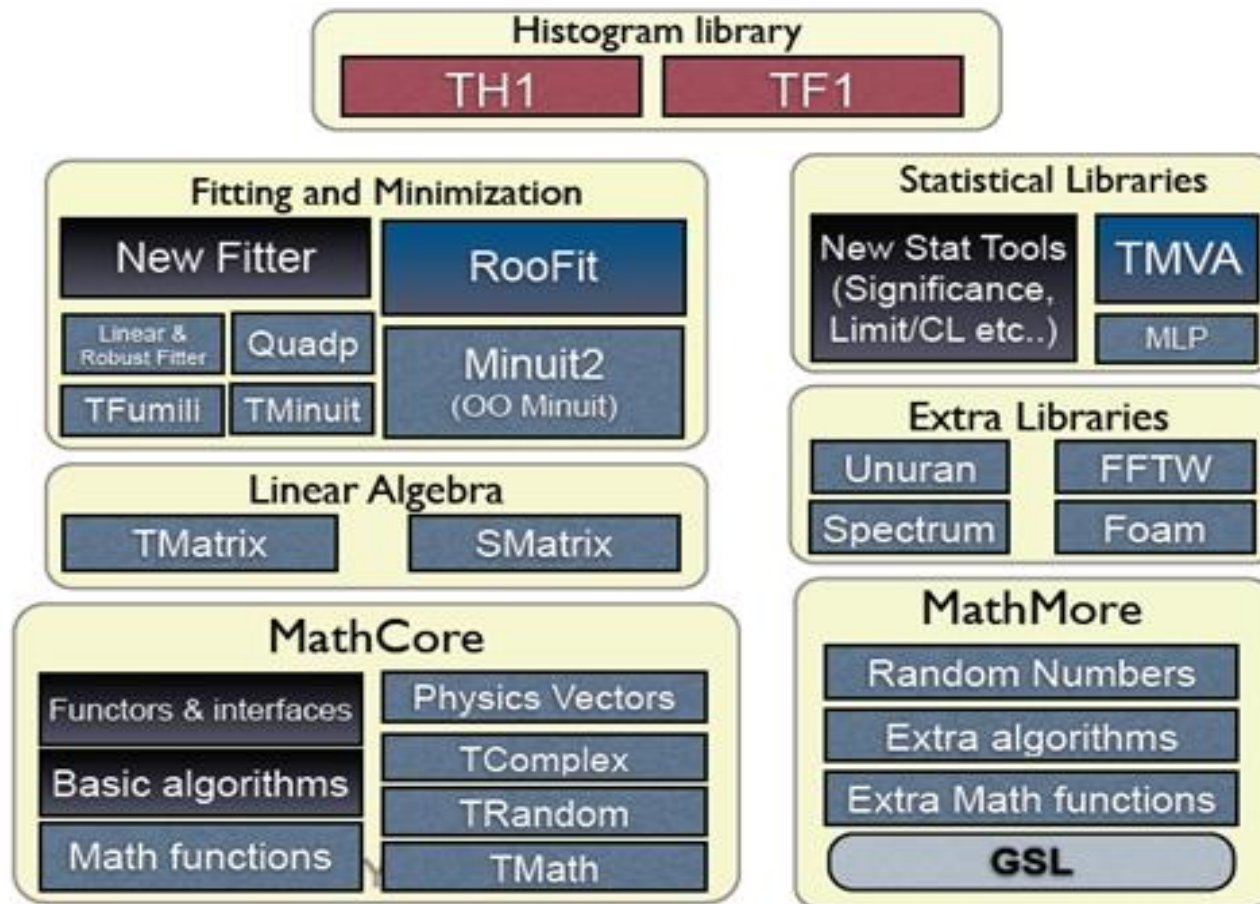
# $\chi^2/\text{ndf}$ from PDG



**Figure 32.2:** The ‘reduced’  $\chi^2$ , equal to  $\chi^2/n$ , for  $n$  degrees of freedom. The curves show as a function of  $n$  the  $\chi^2/n$  that corresponds to a given  $p$ -value.

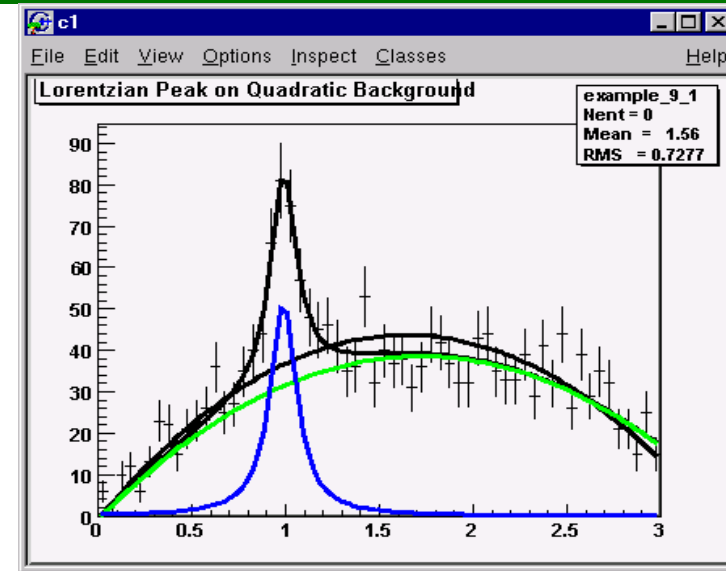
# Math libraries in ROOT

- From ROOT Users's Guide



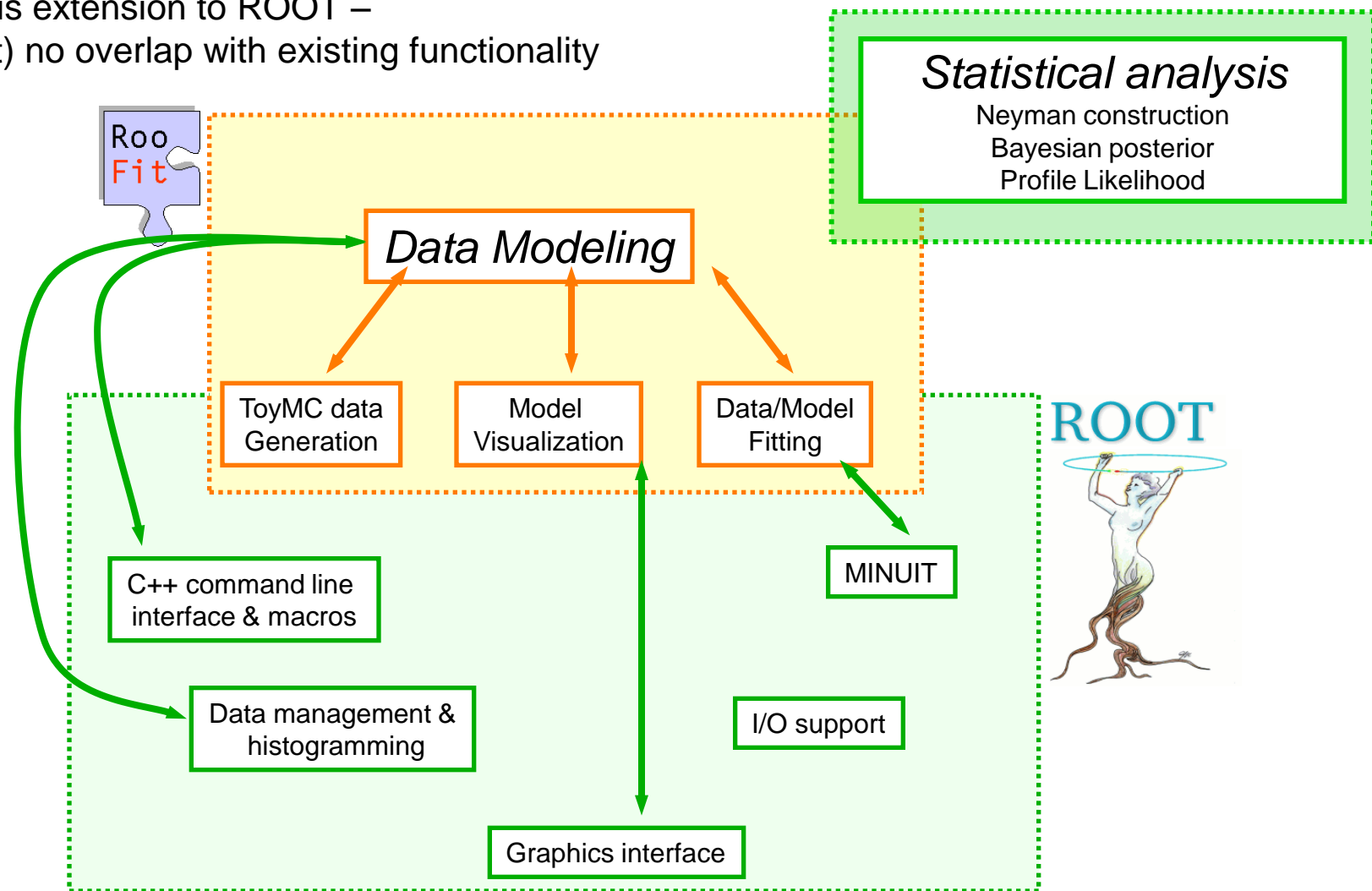
# Fitting in ROOT

- “Classical” ROOT – fitting directly data classes (Graphs, Histograms, Trees)
  - For introduction see ROOT lectures
- Many options exist
  - Binned fits (`TH1::Fit`, `Tgraph::Fit`)
    - Default: Least-squares
    - Maximum likelihood fits (`h.Fit(..., "L")` , or `"LL"`)
  - Unbinned likelihood fit (`TTree::UnbinnedFit`)
  - Fit with predefined or user-defined function
  - Fixing and setting parameters' bounds
  - Fitting sub ranges
  - Combining functions
  - Choice of minimization methods (`Minuit(2)` , `Fumili(2)`)
- Recent improvements: new Fit Panel and improved fitting system
  - For more information see talk by [L. Moneta at ACAT 2008](#)
- More on “understanding errors in fits” in excercises



# ROOT, RooFit & RooStats

RooFit is extension to ROOT –  
(Almost) no overlap with existing functionality



This slide and more details at W. Verkerke, [French school of statistics 2008](#) / more details also in excercises

# References for lectures 1 and 2 (1/2)

- F. James, *Statistical Methods in Experimental Physics*, World Scientific 2006
- R. J. Barlow, *Statistics – A guide to the Use of Statistical Methods in Physical Sciences*, Wiley 1999
- G. Cowan, *Statistical Data Analysis*, Oxford Univ. Press, 1998
- D. S. Sivia, *Data Analysis – A Bayesian Tutorial*, Oxford University Press, 2008
- L. Lyons, *Statistics for nuclear and particle physicists*, Cambridge University Press 1992
- PDG, *The Review of Particle Physics*, C. Amsler et al., Physics Letters **B667**, 1 (2008), <http://pdg.lbl.gov/>
  - Chapter 31: *Probability*
  - Chapter 32: *Statistics*
  - Chapter 33: *Monte Carlo Techniques*
  - And references therein

# References for lectures 1 and 2 (1/2)

- S. Baker and R. D. Cousins, *Clarification of the use of chi-square and likelihood functions in fits to histograms*, Nucl.Instrum.Meth.221:437-442,1984.
- ROOT Users Guide 5.24, <http://root.cern.ch/drupal/content/users-guide>
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- M. Liendl, *Experiment Simulation*, CERN School of Computing 2006
- M. Liendl, A. Heikkinen, *Experiment Simulation*, CERN School of Computing 2008