

Higgs boson production at the Large Hadron Collider: accurate theoretical predictions at higher orders in QCD

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Outline

① QCD and collider physics

- The strong interactions
- Asymptotic freedom and pQCD
- Factorization in QCD
- Phenomenology at the LHC

② All order perturbative resummation

- Higher order radiative corrections
- Resummation of large logarithmic corrections
- Resummed component, asymptotic and fixed-order

③ HTurbo numerical implementation

- Higgs production at the LHC
- HTurbo numerical implementation
- N^3LL implementation

④ Results & Conclusions

Part I

QCD and collider physics

Introduction

QCD and the strong interactions

- The Standard Model describes fundamental interactions at the TeV scale
- Particles as local excitations of fields with quantum mechanical behavior
- Lagrangian describing the fundamental objects of the theory

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}_q^i (i\gamma^\mu) (D_\mu)_{ij} \psi_q^j - m_q \bar{\psi}_q^i \psi_{qi} - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a\mu\nu}$$

QCD is the theory of the strong interactions \longrightarrow interactions between **quarks and gluons**

Introduction

QCD and the strong interactions

How to explore proton's inner structure?

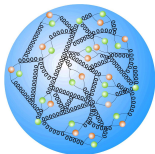


- At different scales, hadrons show different behavior
- From point-like objects to complex internal dynamics
- Scattering experiments (DIS) and hadronic physics (LHC)

"A way of describing high energy collisions is to consider any hadron as a composite object of point-like constituents \rightarrow **partons**" R.Feynman, 1969

QCD and collider physics

Asymptotic freedom and pQCD



- Parton model as LO approximation to QCD
- QCD coupling strength α_s changes with energy
- At high energies the hadron involves extremely complex internal dynamics

QCD is strongly coupled at large distances / low energies \longrightarrow confinement

Non-perturbative physics

QCD and collider physics

Asymptotic freedom and pQCD

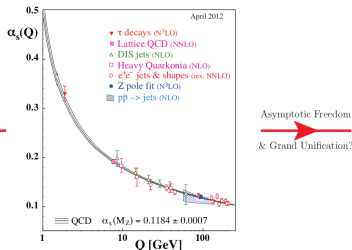
- Running coupling given by Renormalization Group Equation (RGE)

$$\mu \frac{d\alpha_s(\mu)}{d\mu} = \beta(\alpha_s(\mu)) = - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \beta_n \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^{n+1}$$

- Coupling α_s evolves with scale μ as given by RGE \rightarrow LO behavior driven by β_0
- Main difference between QED and QCD
 - $\beta_0^{\text{QED}} < 0 \implies$ strongly coupled at large energies
 - $\beta_0^{\text{QCD}} > 0 \implies$ weakly coupled at large energies

QCD and collider physics

Asymptotic freedom and pQCD



- Running coupling given by Renormalization Group Equation (RGE)

$$\alpha_s(\mu) = \frac{1}{\beta_0 \log\left(\frac{\mu^2}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}\right)}$$

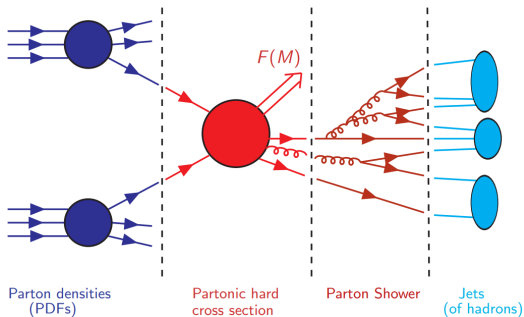
- β_0 LO of the β function, is > 0
- Λ_{QCD} , parameter that defines value of the coupling at large scales

QCD is weakly coupled for $\mu \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \rightarrow$ asymptotically free

Perturbative Quantum Chromodynamics (pQCD)

QCD and collider physics

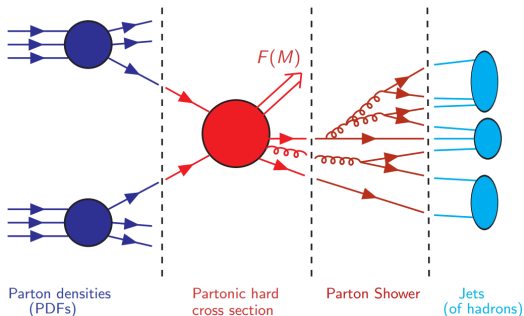
Hadronic processes and factorization



- LHC physics rely on hadronic collisions \longrightarrow pQCD
- Compute **cross section** $\sigma^F \longrightarrow$ probability for a given process

QCD and collider physics

Hadronic processes and factorization

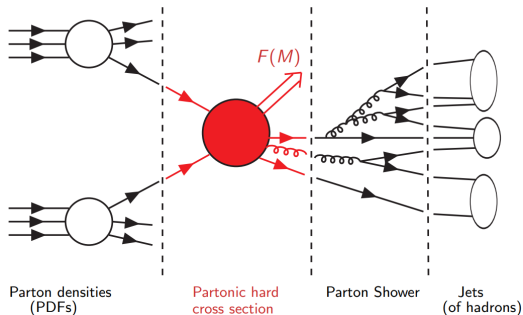


Compute hadronic cross sections is a **hard problem** \longrightarrow **QCD Factorization**

$$\sigma^F(p_1, p_2) = \int_0^1 dx_1 dx_2 f_\alpha(x_1, \mu_F^2) * f_\beta(x_2, \mu_F^2) * \hat{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta}^F(x_1 p_1, x_2 p_2, \alpha_s(\mu_R^2), \mu_F^2)$$

QCD and collider physics

Hadronic processes and factorization

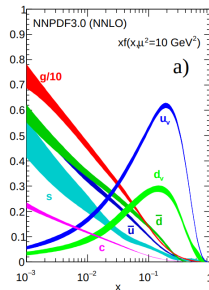


- Parton densities (PDFs) $f_a(x_i, \mu_F^2)$: non perturbative but universal
- Partonic cross section $\hat{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta}^F$: process dependent but computable as perturbative series in α_s

QCD and collider physics

Parton densities

Parton Distribution Functions: probability distribution of finding a particular parton (u , d , ..., g) carrying a fraction x of the proton's momentum



- Each parton has a different PDF $\rightarrow u(x), d(x), \dots, g(x)$
- PDFs can not be predicted and yet can not be measured \rightarrow extracted from data (MSTW, CTEQ, NNPDF collaborations)
- The N3PDF project: Machine Learning for PDFs determination

QCD and collider physics

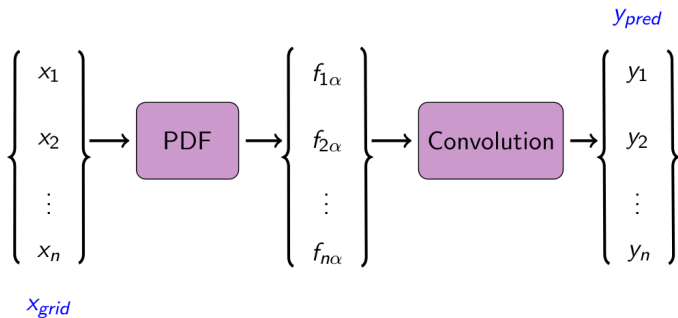
The N3PDF project



- Use TensorFlow and Keras to determine the PDFs with ML fitting models
- See paper by S.Carrazza - J.Cruz-Martinez
"Towards a new generation of parton densities with deep learning models",
Carrazza et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.05075>
- TensorFlow operator implementation → optimize PDF fitting
"Towards hardware acceleration for parton densities estimation",
Urtasun-Elizari et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.10547>

QCD and collider physics

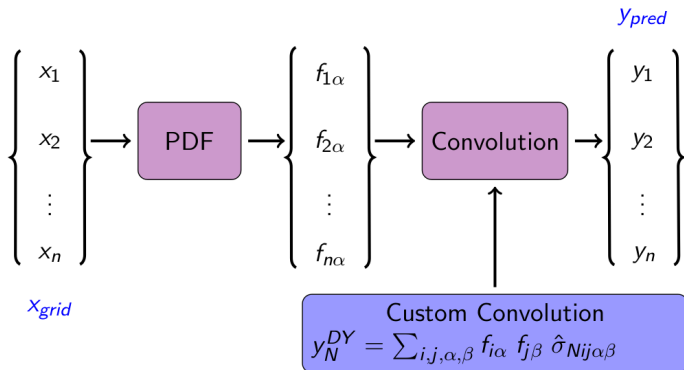
General structure of n3fit



- 1 Build a NN to compute y_{pred} observables from a grid of momentum fractions x_i
- 2 Compute χ^2 loss function by comparing with LHC data
- 3 Update values of PDF through χ^2 minimization \rightarrow **Fit**

QCD and collider physics

Operator implementation in TF

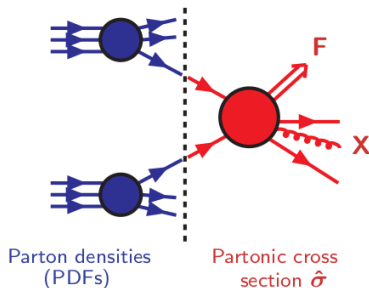


- 1 TF relies in symbolic computation \rightarrow High memory usage
- 2 Implement C++ operator replacing the convolution
- 3 [Urtasun-Elizari et al.] ref. at [1910.07049](#)

QCD and collider physics

Partonic cross section and pQCD

- Born cross section is the leading-order (LO) term of the perturbative series
- $\sigma^{(1)}, \sigma^{(2)}, \sigma^{(3)}$ are the NLO, NNLO, N³LO corrections



$$\hat{\sigma} = \sigma^{\text{Born}} \left(1 + \alpha_s \sigma^{(1)} + \alpha_s^2 \sigma^{(2)} + \alpha_s^3 \sigma^{(3)} + \dots \right)$$

Lower order predictions strongly depend on the auxiliary / unphysical scales

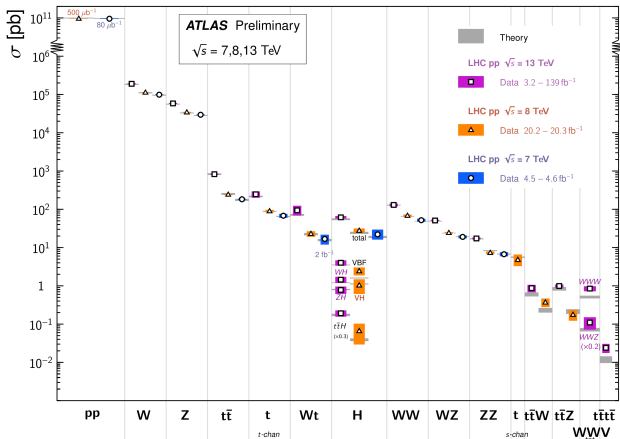
Need higher order corrections to increase theoretical accuracy!

QCD and collider physics

LHC phenomenology

Standard Model Total Production Cross Section Measurements

Status: July 2021



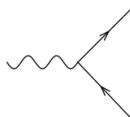
Part II

All order resummation

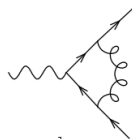
Resummation in QCD

Higher order corrections - need for resummation

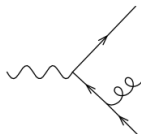
- 1 Calculation of higher order corrections is **not an easy task** due to **infrared (IR) soft and collinear singularities**
- 2 Final state singularities **cancel** by combining real and virtual contributions \rightarrow KLN theorem
- 3 Initial state collinear singularities **factorized** inside the PDFs



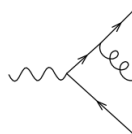
a



b



c



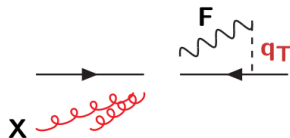
d

Complete cancellation only works in inclusive final states!

Resummation in QCD

q_\perp resummation

- Describing exclusive final states
- Study the differential q_\perp distribution
 $h_1(p_1) + h_2(p_2) \longrightarrow F(M, q_\perp) + X$



$$\int_0^{Q_\perp^2} dq_\perp^2 \frac{d\hat{\sigma}}{dq_\perp^2} \sim c_0 + \alpha_s(c_{12}L^2 + c_{11}L + c_{10}) + \dots, \quad \text{where} \quad L = \ln(M^2/q_\perp^2)$$

$\alpha_s L^2$	$\alpha_s L$	\dots	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$
$\alpha_s^2 L^4$	$\alpha_s^2 L^3$	\dots	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$
\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots
$\alpha_s^n L^{2n}$	$\alpha_s^n L^{2n-1}$	\dots	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^n)$
dominant logs	\dots	\dots	\dots

Truncated fixed-order predictions \rightarrow enhanced $\alpha_s^n \ln^m(M^2/q_\perp^2)$ appear

Resummation in QCD

q_\perp resummation

- Catani - Bozzi - de Florian - Grazzini (CBFG) formalism (*)
"Transverse-momentum resummation and the spectrum of the Higgs boson at the LHC",
Bozzi et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0508068>
- Separate partonic q_\perp distribution as follows:

$$\frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{ab}}{dq_\perp^2} = \left[\frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(\text{res.})}}{dq_\perp^2} \right]_{\text{l.a.}} + \left[\frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(\text{fin.})}}{dq_\perp^2} \right]_{\text{f.o.}}, \quad \text{such that}$$

$$\int_0^{q_\perp^2} dq_\perp^2 \frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(\text{res.})}}{dq_\perp^2} \sim \sum \alpha_s^n \log^m \left(\frac{M^2}{q_\perp^2} \right) \quad \text{for } q_\perp \rightarrow 0$$

$$\lim_{q_\perp \rightarrow 0} \int_0^{q_\perp^2} dq_\perp^2 \frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(\text{fin.})}}{dq_\perp^2} = 0$$

Resummed and finite components can be matched (LL+LO, NLL+NLO, NNLO+NNLL, ...) to have uniform accuracy in a wide range of q_\perp

Resummation in QCD

Resummed component

Resummation holds in impact parameter space b

$$\frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(\text{res.})}}{dq_{\perp}^2} = \frac{M^2}{\hat{s}} \int db \frac{b}{2} J_0(bq_{\perp}) \mathcal{W}_{ab}(b, M)$$

with \mathcal{W}_{ab} also expressed in Mellin space (with respect to $z = M^2/\hat{s}$)

$$\mathcal{W}_N(b, M) = \mathcal{H}_N(\alpha_s) \times \exp\{\mathcal{G}_N(\alpha_s, L)\} \quad \text{being} \quad L \equiv \log(M^2 b^2)$$

- Large logarithms exponentiated in the universal Sudakov form factor $\mathcal{G}_N(\alpha_s, L)$
- Constant (b-independent) terms factorized in the process dependent hard factor $\mathcal{H}_N(\alpha_s)$

Resummation in QCD

Extend formalism to N³LL

Sudakov factor \mathcal{G}_N and hard coefficient \mathcal{H}_N can be expanded as perturbative series in α_s

$$\mathcal{G}_N(\alpha_s, L) = L g^{(1)}(\alpha_s L) + g^{(2)}(\alpha_s L) + \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} g^{(3)}(\alpha_s L) + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right)^2 g^{(4)}(\alpha_s L) + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{H}_N(\alpha_s) = 1 + \alpha_s \mathcal{H}^{(1)} + \alpha_s^2 \mathcal{H}^{(2)} + \alpha_s^3 \mathcal{H}^{(3)} + \dots$$

For each new order implement a factor of \mathcal{G}_N and Hard \mathcal{H}_N

$$\text{LL}(\sim \alpha_s^n L^{n+1}) : g^{(1)}, \hat{\sigma}^{(0)}$$

$$\text{NLL}(\sim \alpha_s^n L^n) : g^{(2)}, \mathcal{H}^{(1)}$$

$$\text{NNLL}(\sim \alpha_s^n L^{n-1}) : g^{(3)}, \mathcal{H}^{(2)}$$

$$\text{N}^3\text{LL}(\sim \alpha_s^n L^{n-2}) : g^{(4)}, \mathcal{H}^{(3)}$$

- Implement CBFGR resummation in C++ code
- Extend the formalism up to **N³LO+N³LL** accuracy!

Part III

HTurbo numerical implementation

HTurbo

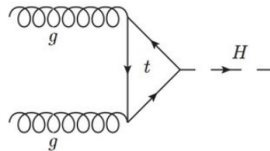
Resummation for Higgs differential distribution

- Fast and accurate predictions for Higgs boson production cross section
- Predictions for differential cross section $d\sigma^H/dq_\perp^2$
- Numerical implementation of resummed and finite components

$$d\sigma_{(N)\text{NLL}+(N)\text{LO}}^H = d\sigma_{(N)\text{NLL}}^{(\text{res.})} - d\sigma_{(N)\text{LO}}^{(\text{asy.})} + d\sigma_{(N)\text{LO}}^{(\text{f.o.})}$$

$$d\sigma_{(N)\text{NLL}}^{(\text{res.})} = \hat{\sigma}_{\text{LO}}^H \times \mathcal{H}_{(N)\text{LO}} \times \exp \mathcal{G}_{(N)\text{NLL}}$$

$$d\sigma_{(N)\text{LO}}^{(\text{asy.})} = \hat{\sigma}_{\text{LO}}^H \times \Sigma_{(N)\text{LO}}$$

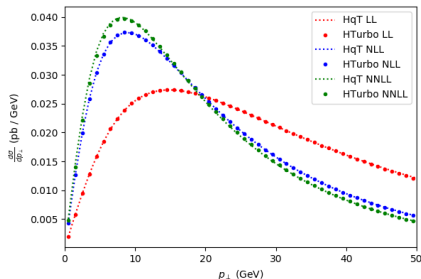


- LO process is just $gg \rightarrow H$, but NLO and beyond require $gg \rightarrow H + \text{jet!}$

HTurbo

Predictions for Higgs q_{\perp} distribution

- q_{\perp} resummation implemented in numerical codes **HqT**, **HRes**, **HNNLO** [Catani, de Florian, Ferrera, Grazzini, Tommasini]
- Higher order accuracy require **high computation times**
- NNLL predictions can take more than 48h **just for 1 PDF set and 1 μ_R, μ_F value** \rightarrow need for **fast numerical implementations**



Codes producing fast and accurate predictions are needed for precision era of the LHC (High Luminosity LHC, from 80 - 140 fb^{-1} to **2000 fb^{-1}** !)

HTurbo

Starting point: DYTurbo

Numerical code **DYTurbo** [Camarda et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.07049>], fast and precise q_\perp resummation and several improvements for Drell-Yan ($h_1 h_2 \rightarrow V + X \rightarrow l^+ l^- + X$)

First goal: set up a numerical code for Higgs boson production starting from **DYTurbo**

- Set LO amplitude $gg \rightarrow H$
- Set Sudakov and Hard coefficients for resummed component
- Set Σ coefficients for asymptotic term
- Implement MC producing the LO and NLO H+jet cross sections
- Compare with **HRes** and **HqT**

Final goal: extend theoretical accuracy up to $N^3\text{LL}+N^3\text{LO}$

Optimized reimplementations of **HqT**, **HRes** and **HNNLO** for q_T -resummation

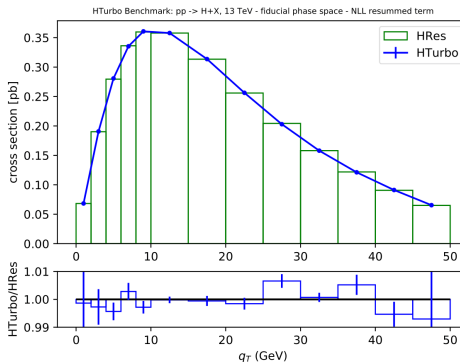
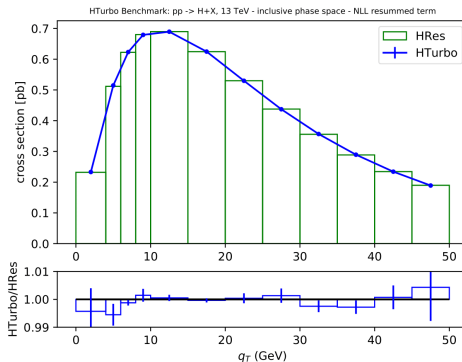
- **C++** structure with **Fortran** interfaces → Multi-threading
- Optimization in the integration routines / integral transforms
 - Factorize boson and decay kinematics
 - Gauss-Legendre quadrature rules (1-dim.)
 - Vegas/Cuhre through **Cuba** (multi-dim.)

Benchmark comparison with **HRes**, **HNNLO** - numerical and speed performance

- "Higgs boson production at the LHC: fast and precise predictions in QCD at higher orders", Urtasun-Elizari et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.10343>

Results

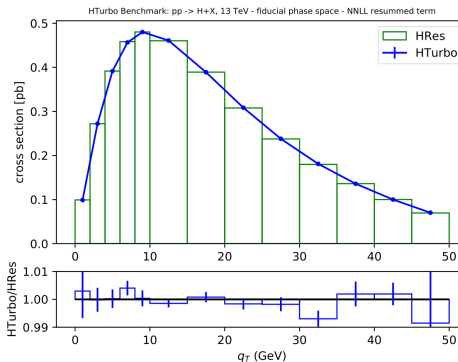
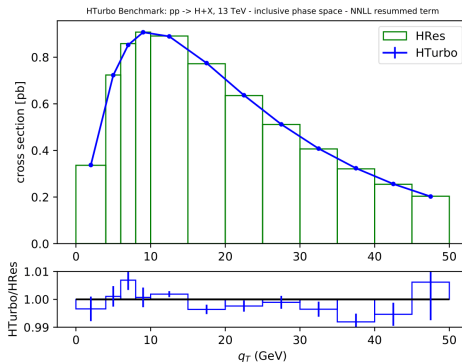
Comparison HTurbo and HRes - NLL resummed



- Cross section for fully inclusive (LHS) and fiducial (RHS) phase space ✓
- CM energy $\sqrt{s} = 13$ GeV and PDF set NNPDF31_nlo_as_0118 PDF set

Results

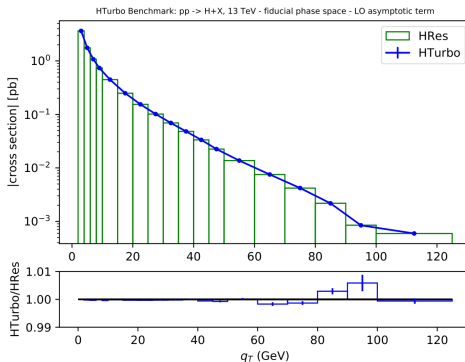
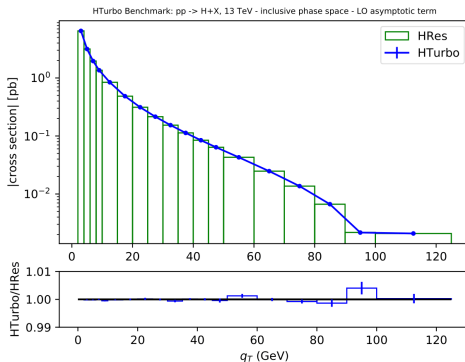
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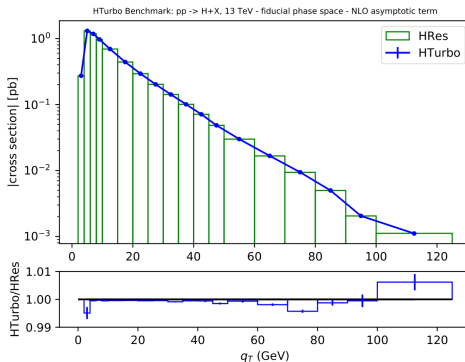
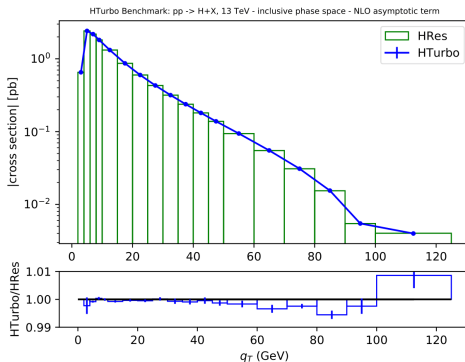
Comparison HTurbo and HRes - LO asymptotic



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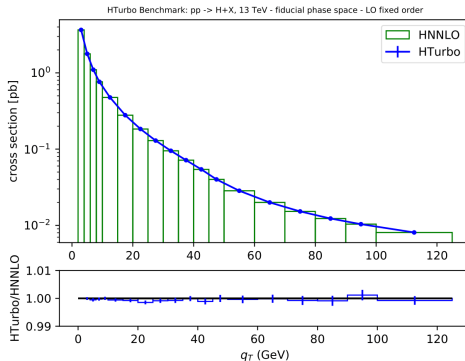
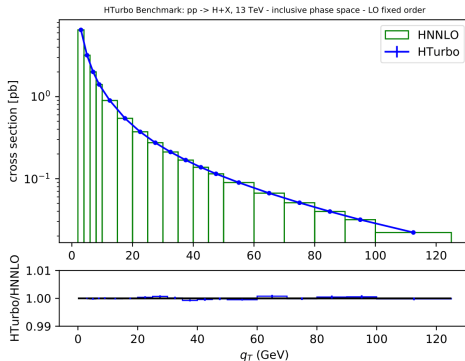
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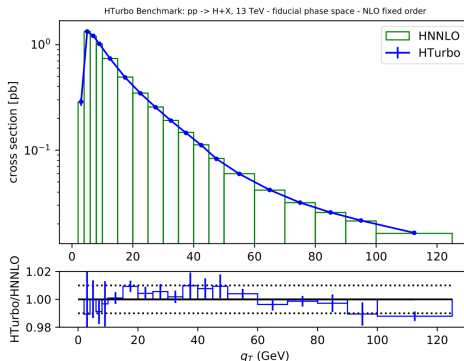
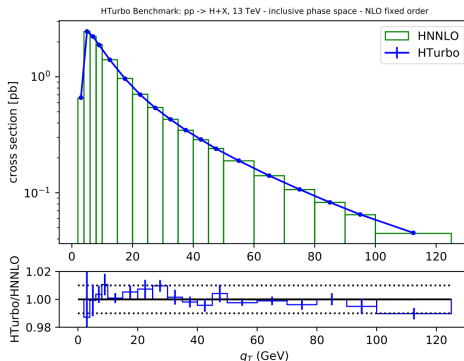
Comparison HTurbo and HRes - LO fixed-order



- Cross section for fully inclusive (LHS) and fiducial (RHS) phase space ✓
- CM energy $\sqrt{s} = 13$ GeV and PDF set NNPDF31_nlo_as_0118 PDF set

Results

Comparison HTurbo and HRes - NLO fixed-order



- Cross section for fully inclusive (LHS) and fiducial (RHS) phase space ✓
- CM energy $\sqrt{s} = 13$ GeV and PDF set NNPDF31_nnlo_as_0118 PDF set

Results

Speed performance

Test time performance in machine with 3.50 GHz Intel Xeon CPUs:

- HRes NLL resummed \rightarrow 0.5h with 1% uncertainty
- HTurbo NLL resummed (without multi-threading) \rightarrow 20s with 0.001% uncertainty
- HRes NNLL resummed \rightarrow 48h with 1% uncertainty
- HTurbo NNLL resummed (without multi-threading) \rightarrow 5' with 0.01% uncertainty
- Improvement of two orders of magnitude in the time performance
- Improvement of three orders of magnitude in numerical precision

Results

N³LL implementation

Sudakov factor \mathcal{G}_N and hard coefficient \mathcal{H}_N can be expanded as perturbative series in α_s

$$\mathcal{G}_N(\alpha_s, L) = L g^{(1)}(\alpha_s L) + g^{(2)}(\alpha_s L) + \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} g^{(3)}(\alpha_s L) + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right)^2 g^{(4)}(\alpha_s L) + \dots$$

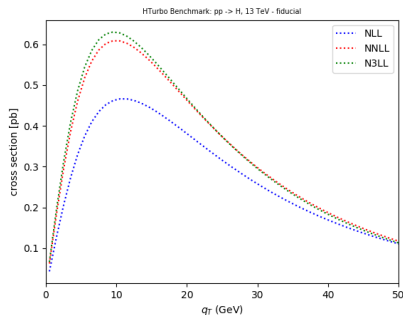
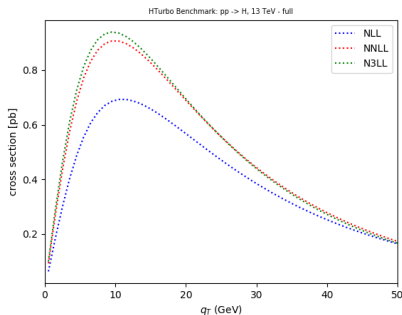
$$\mathcal{H}_N(\alpha_s) = 1 + \alpha_s \mathcal{H}^{(1)} + \alpha_s^2 \mathcal{H}^{(2)} + \alpha_s^2 \mathcal{H}^{(3)} + \dots$$

For each new order implement a new factor of \mathcal{G}_N and Hard \mathcal{H}_N

- Extend the formalism up to **N³LO+N³LL** accuracy!
- Implementation of N³LL factors following
 - "Anomalous dimension for transverse-momentum resummation",
Li - Zhu, <https://arxiv.org/abs/1604.01404>,
 - "Cusp and collinear anomalous dimensions in four-loop QCD",
Von Manteuffel et al., <https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.04617>

Results

N³LL implementation



- Cross section for fully inclusive (LHS) and fiducial (RHS) phase space ✓
- Implementation of N³LL factors following [\[Li - Zhu, 1604.01404\]](#), [\[Von Manteuffel et al., 2002.04617\]](#)
- First implementation of resummed Higgs cross section at N³LL accuracy!

Summary & Conclusions

- ① Accurate predictions are needed towards the precision era of the LHC
- ② Resummation is needed for describing differential distributions
- ③ Fast numerical implementation are needed towards the precision era of the LHC
- ④ Developing a novel numerical code, **HTurbo**, which implements q_\perp resummation for Higgs boson production
- ⑤ HTurbo is **faster than any of the existing codes**
- ⑥ HTurbo contains the **first implementation of resummation at N^3LL accuracy!**
- ⑦ Next steps:
 - Add full **N^3LO+N^3LL** prediction
 - Perform phenomenological studies comparing with LHC data

Thank you!



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 740006.

Back up

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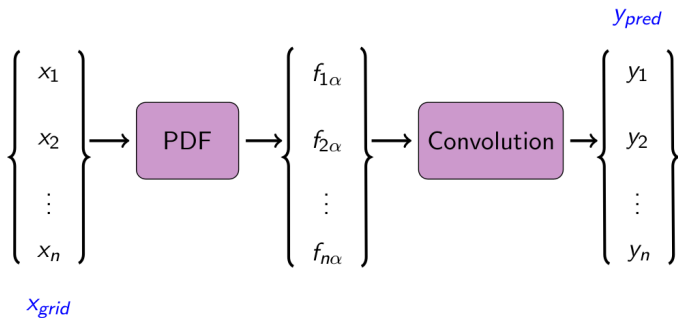
General structure of n3fit



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Back up

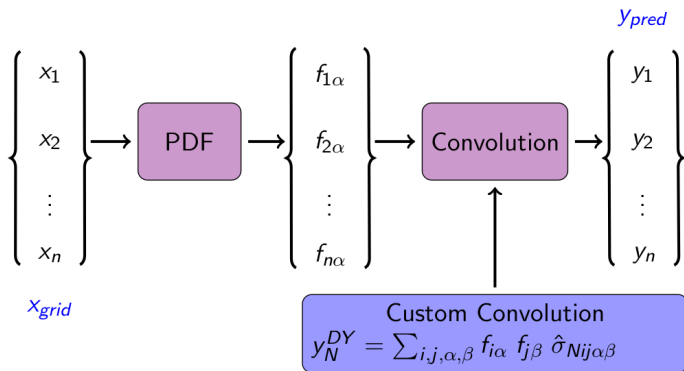
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- 2 Compute loss function by comparing with LHC data
- 3 Update values of PDF \rightarrow Fit

Back up

Operator implementation



- 1 TF relies in symbolic computation \rightarrow High memory usage
- 2 Implement C++ operator replacing the convolution

Back up

Benchmark DIS

DIS only:

	TensorFlow	Custom	Ratio
Convolution	1.9207904	1.9207904	1.0000000
	2.4611666	2.4611664	0.9999999
	1.3516952	1.3516952	1.0000000
Gradient	1.8794115	1.8794115	1.0000000
	1.505316	1.505316	1.0000000
	2.866085	2.866085	1.0000000

Back up

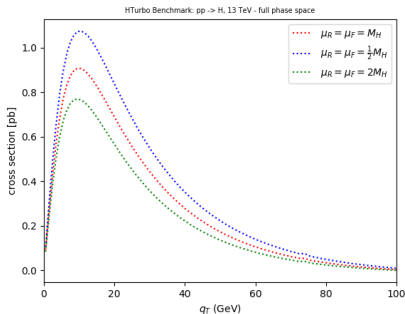
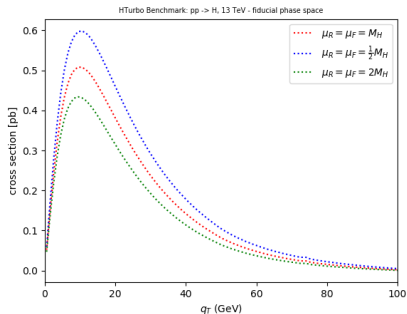
Benchmark hadronic

DY-like only:

	TensorFlow	Custom	Ratio
Convolution	8.142365	8.142366	1.0000001
	8.947762	8.947762	1.0000000
	7.4513326	7.4513316	0.9999999
Gradient	18.525095	18.525095	1.0000000
	19.182995	19.182993	0.9999999
	19.551006	19.551004	0.9999999

Results

N³LL implementation



Estimate theory uncertainty:

- i) by performing scale variations on μ_R , μ_F
- ii) by comparing the last two contributions in the perturbative expansion