

# Precision QCD phenomenology for multi-scale processes at the Large Hadron Collider

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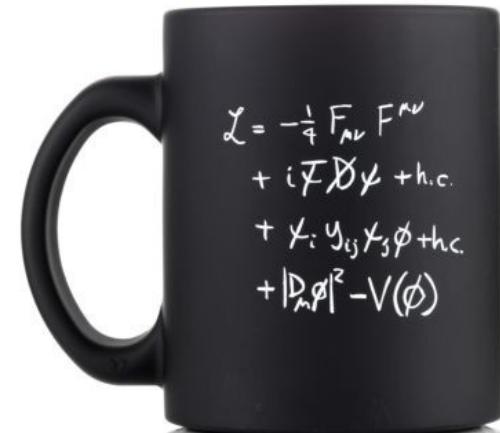
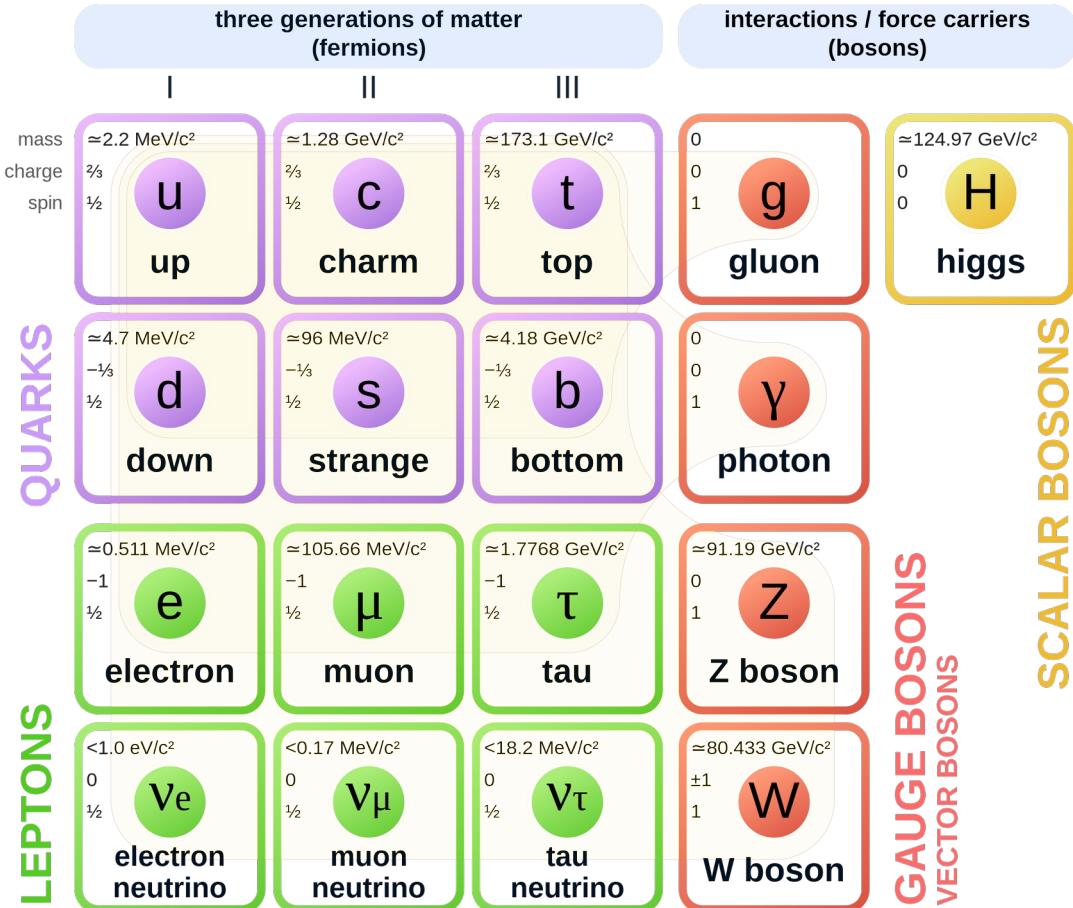


THE HENRYK NIEWODNICZAŃSKI  
INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS  
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Awards:

**Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship 2021**  
**Guido Altarelli Prize 2025**  
**ERC Starting Grant 2025**

# Standard Model of Elementary Particles

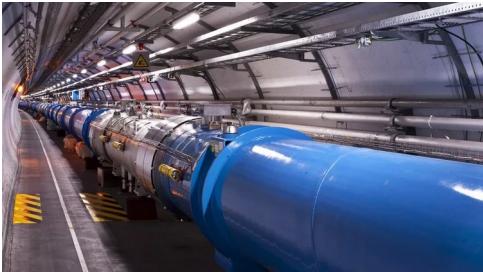


Credit: Wikipedia/CERN

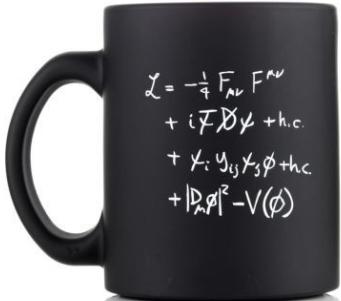
# What are the fundamental building blocks of matter?

## Scattering experiments

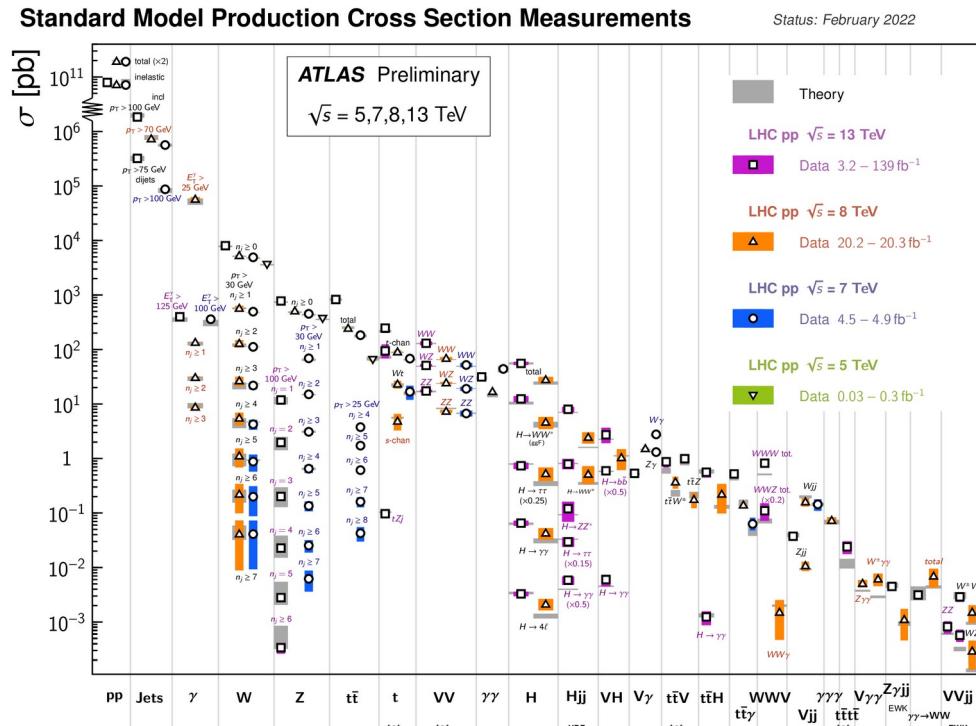
Large Hadron Collider (LHC)



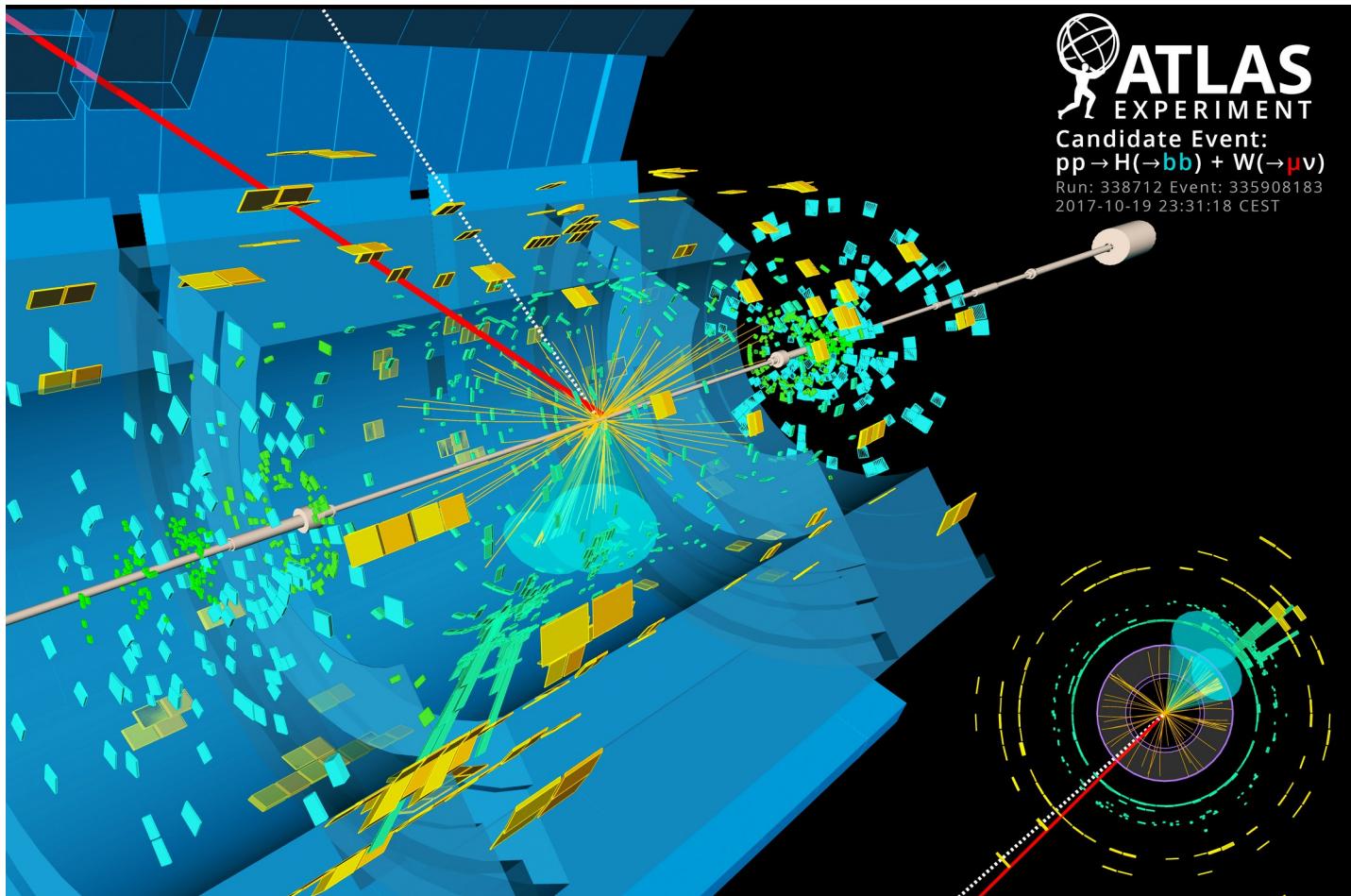
Credit: CERN



Theory/  
Standard Model



# Collision events



# Theory picture of hadron collision events

**Guiding principle: factorization**

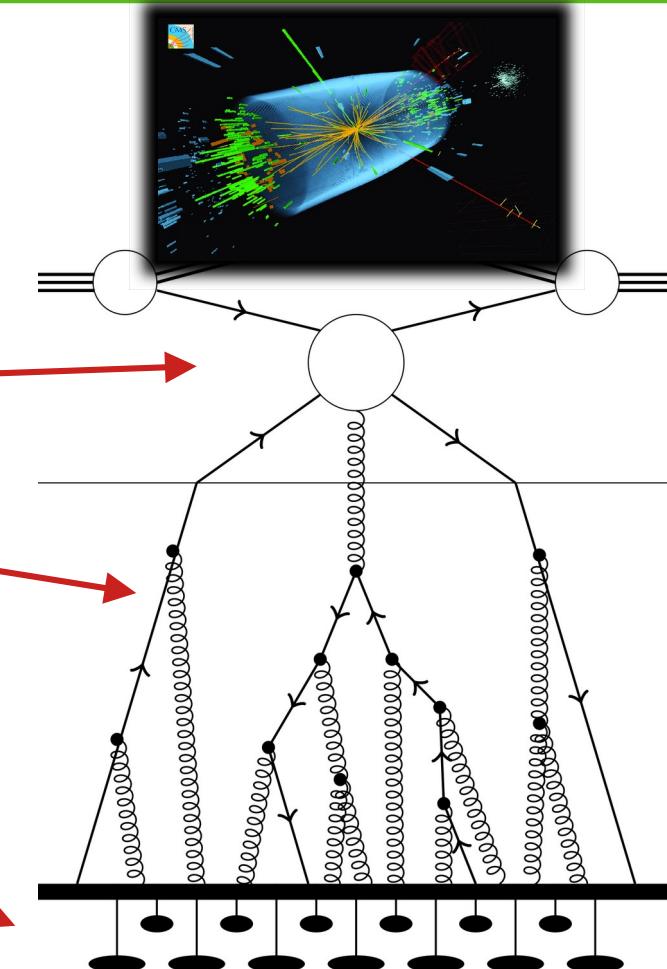
"What you see depends on the energy scale"

In Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD):

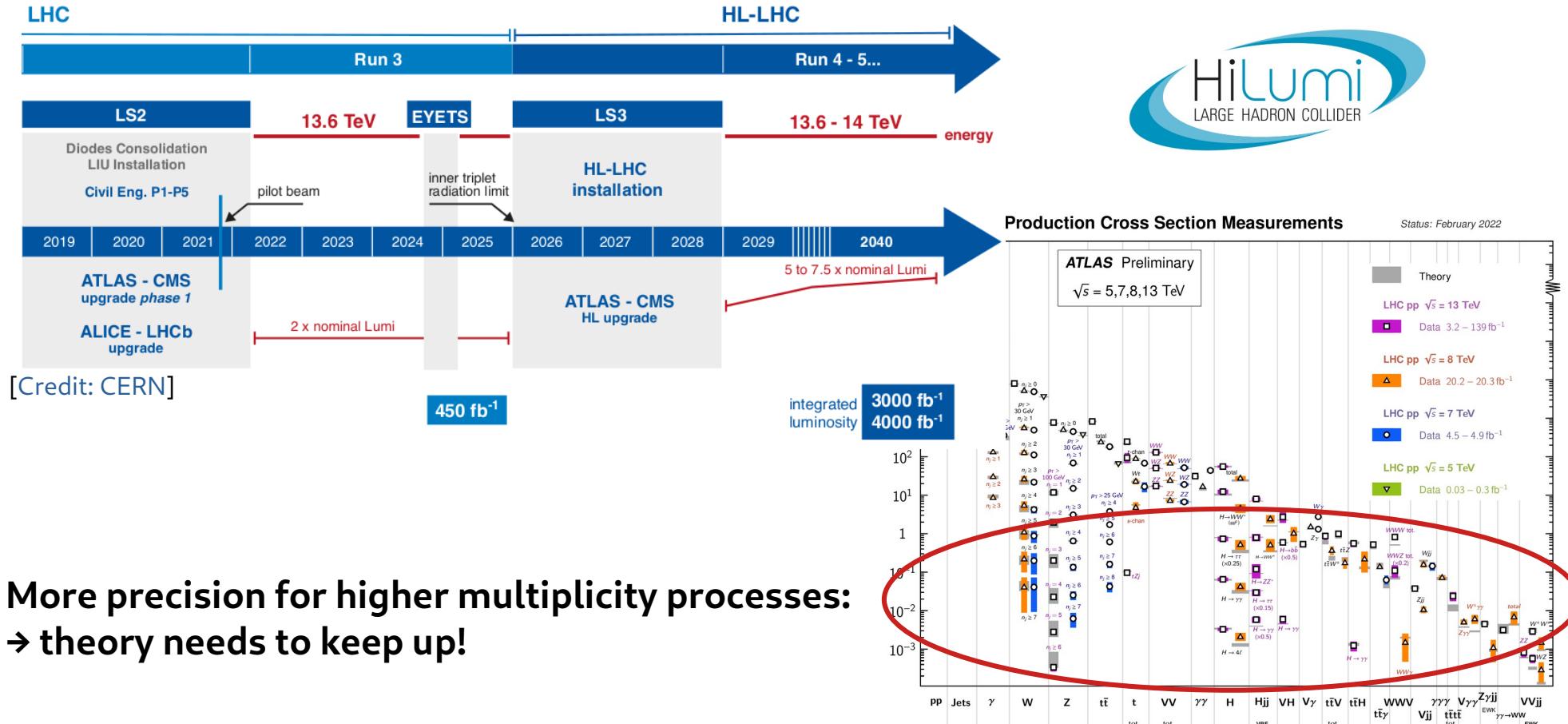
$Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$     **Fixed-order perturbation theory**  
scattering of individual partons

$Q \gtrsim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$     **Parton-shower/Resummation**  
all-order bridge between perturbative  
and non-perturbative physics

$Q \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$     **"Hadronization"/MPI/...**  
non-perturbative physics

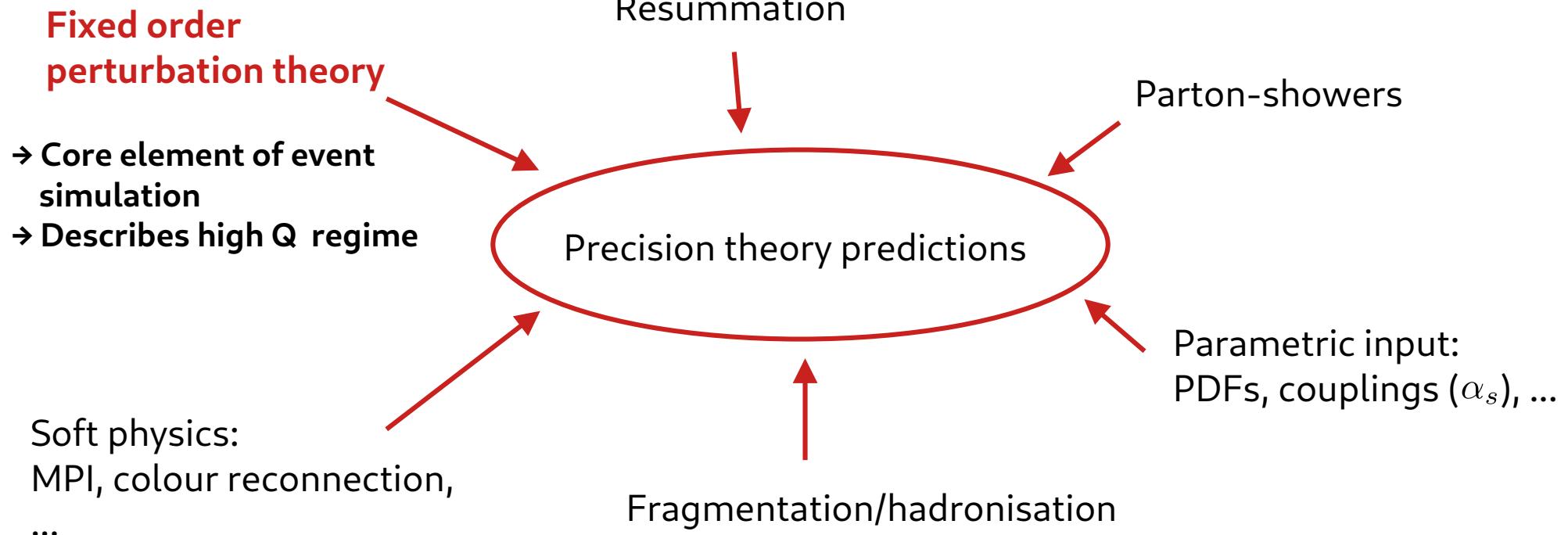


# LHC Precision era and future experiments



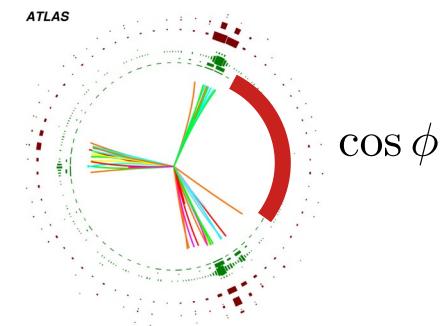
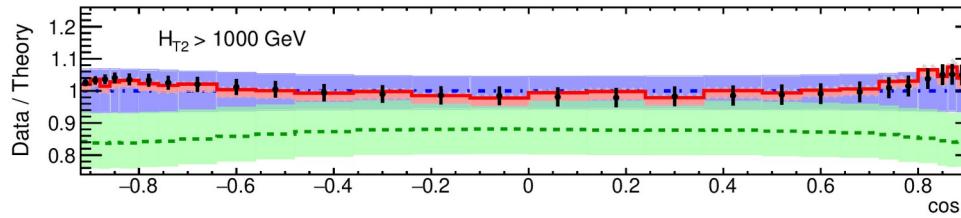
More precision for higher multiplicity processes:  
→ theory needs to keep up!

# Precision predictions



# Precision through higher-order perturbation theory

Example: ATLAS  
multi-jet measurements [ATLAS 2301.09351]



$$\text{Cross section} = \text{LO} + \text{NLO} + \text{NNLO} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$$

Theory uncertainty:      Order of magnitude

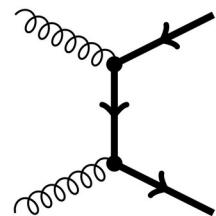
$$\sim (\alpha_s)^1 \quad \sim (\alpha_s)^2$$
$$\mathcal{O}(10\%) \quad \mathcal{O}(1\%)$$

Fixed-order expansion  
in the strong coupling  
 $\alpha_s(m_Z) \approx 0.118$

Experimental precision reaches percent-level already at LHC  
**next-to-next-to-leading order QCD needed on theory side!**

# NNLO QCD in collinear factorization

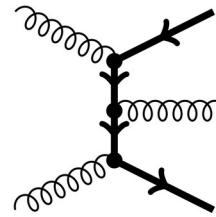
LO



$$\sigma_{h_1 h_2 \rightarrow X} = \sum_{ij} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 dx_1 dx_2 \phi_{i,h_1}(x_1, \mu_F^2) \phi_{j,h_2}(x_2, \mu_F^2) \hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow X}(\alpha_s(\mu_R^2), \mu_R^2, \mu_F^2)$$

Parton distribution functions

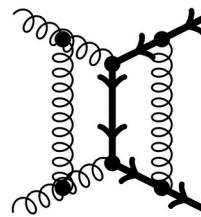
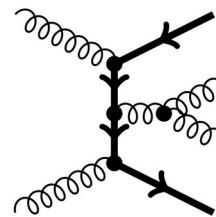
NLO



Partonic cross section:

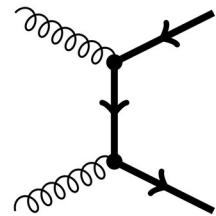
$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow X} = \hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow X}^{(0)} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow X}^{(1)} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow X}^{(2)} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$$

NNLO

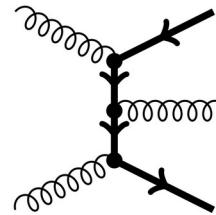


# NNLO QCD challenges: two-loop amplitudes

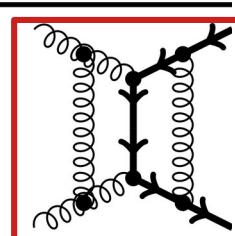
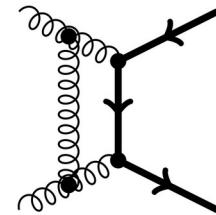
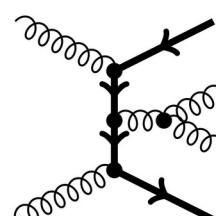
LO



NLO



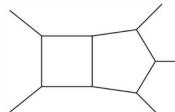
NNLO



How to compute  
**multi-scale two-loop QCD amplitudes?**  
→ fast growing complexity:  
rational and transcendental  
→ deeper understanding of the  
analytical properties  
→ refinement of computational tools

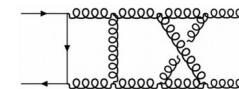
## Two-loop 5-point

[Abreu, Agarwal, Badger, Buccioni, Chawdhry, Chicherin, Czakon, de Laurenties, Febres-Cordero, Gambuti, Gehrmann, Henn, Lo Presti, Manteuffel, Ma, Mitov, Page, Peraro, Poncelet, Schabinger Sotnikov, Tancredi, Zhang,...]



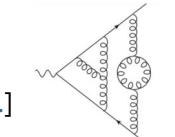
## Three-loop 4-point

[Bargiela, Dobadilla, Canko, Caola, Jakubcik, Gambuti, Gehrmann, Henn, Lim, Mella, Mistleberger, Wasser, Manteuffel, Syrrakow, Smirnov, Trancredi, ...]



## Four-loop 3-point

[Henn, Lee, Manteuffel, Schabinger, Smirnov, Steinhauser,...]



# Overview $2 \rightarrow 3$ massless amplitudes

$$pp \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma$$

**NNLO QCD corrections to three-photon production at the LHC,**  
Chawdhry, Czakon, Mitov, **Poncelet**  
[JHEP 02 (2020) 057]

Also [2010.15834]

Integral representation  
in terms of  
**“Pentagon functions”**  
[2009.07803]

More recently:

$$pp \rightarrow Vjj$$

$$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}j$$

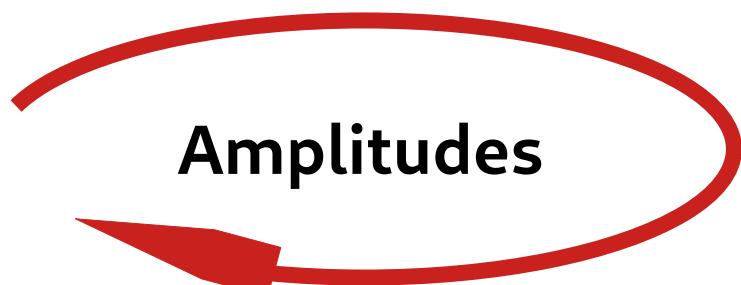
$$pp \rightarrow \gamma\gamma j$$

**Two-loop leading-colour QCD helicity amplitudes  
for two-photon plus jet production at the LHC**  
Chawdhry, Czakon, Mitov, **Poncelet**  
[JHEP 07, 164 (2021)]

Also [2102.01820, 2105.04585]

$$pp \rightarrow jjj$$

[1904.00945]  
[2102.13609]  
[2306.15431]



Amplitudes

$$pp \rightarrow Wb\bar{b}$$

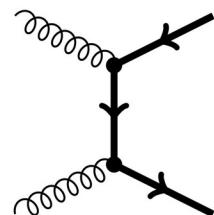
**Next-to-next-to-leading order QCD corrections  
to  $Wbb$  production at the LHC,**  
Hartanto, **Poncelet**, Popescu, Zoia  
[Phys. Rev. D 106, 074016 (2022)]

$$pp \rightarrow \gamma jj$$

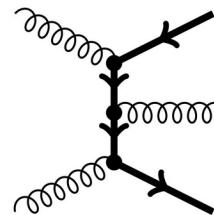
**Isolated photon production in association with a jet  
pair through next-to-next-to-leading order in QCD**  
Badger, Czakon, Hartanto, Moodie, Peraro, **Poncelet**,  
Zoia [JHEP 10, 071 (2023)]

# NNLO QCD challenges: real radiation

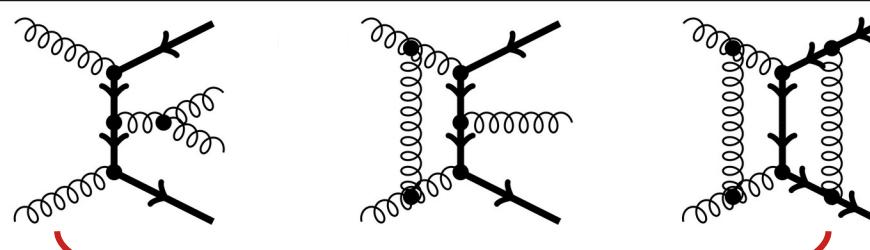
LO



NLO



NNLO



IR-finite cross section

How to achieve **infrared (IR) finite differential** cross sections at NNLO QCD?

~20 years to solve this problem

qT-slicing [Catani'07], N-jettiness slicing  
[Gaunt'15/Boughezal'15], Antenna [Gehrmann'05-'08],  
Colorful [DelDuca'05-'15], Projection [Cacciari'15], Geometric  
[Herzog'18], Unsubtraction [Aguilera-Verdugo'19], Nested  
collinear [Caola'17], Local Analytic [Magnea'18]

A complete NNLO QCD scheme:  
**Sector-improved residue subtraction**

[Czakon et al.'10-'14,'19]

→ Improvements:

(+ first practical test of all NNLO IR limits)

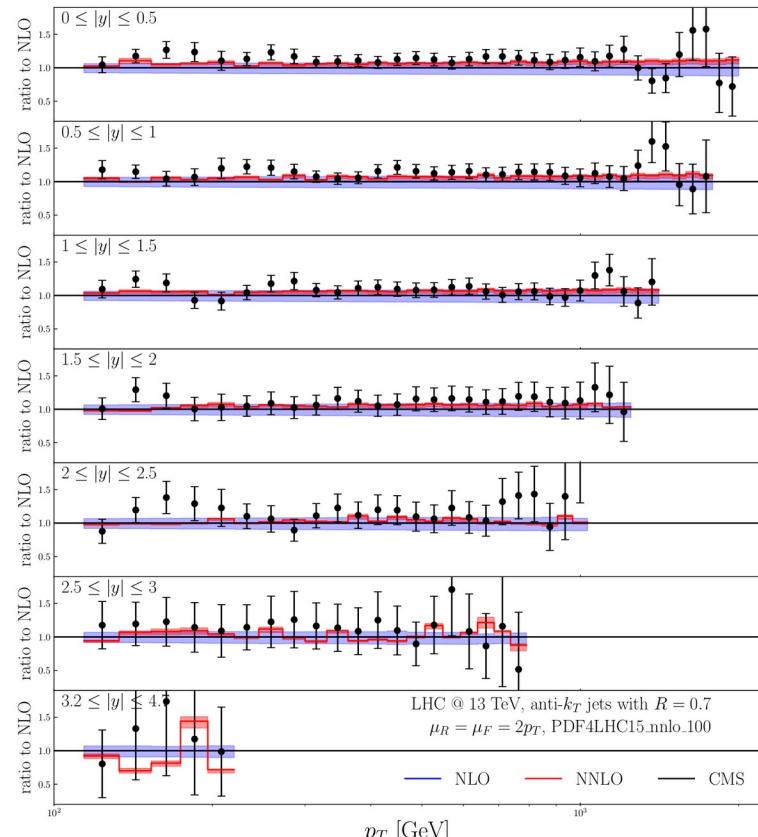
Single-jet inclusive rates with exact color at  $\mathcal{O}(as^4)$   
Czakon, Hameren, Mitov, Poncelet, JHEP 10 (2019), 262

# Minimal sector-improved residue subtraction

**Single-jet inclusive rates with exact color at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$**   
Czakon, Hameren, Mitov, Poncelet, JHEP 10 (2019), 262

Refined formulation of the  
sector-improved residue subtraction

- New phase space parametrisation  
→ minimization of subtraction kinematics  
→ improved computational efficiency/stability
- Improved sector decomposition
- New 4 – dimensional formulation
- First application: inclusive jet production  
→ demonstrates that the **scheme is complete**  
→ no approximations



# The fixed-order NNLO QCD revolution

## Phenomenological applications of the Sector-improved residue subtraction

- Top-quark pair + decays [...Poncelet...'19'20']
- W+jet/ Z+jet [...Poncelet...'20'21'22]
- Inclusive jet production [...Poncelet...'19]
- Three-jet [...Poncelet...'21'23]
- Photon+jet-pair [...Poncelet...'23]
- Photon-pair+jet [...Poncelet...'21]
- Three photon [...Poncelet...'19]
- Higgs [...Poncelet...'24]
- Identified hadrons [...Poncelet...'21'23'24'25]
- Open-bottom [...Poncelet...'24]
- + many collaborations with ATLAS + CMS experiments

- first-evers
- not achieved by any other scheme



Independent works at NNLO QCD:

- Polarised bosons [...Poncelet...'21'25]
- W+2b-jets [...Poncelet...'22]
- Jets at NNLO+NNLL (small-R) [...Poncelet...'25]
- Theory uncertainty models [...Poncelet...'24]

# Overview 2 → 3 cross sections

$pp \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma$

**NNLO QCD corrections to three-photon production at the LHC,**  
Chawdhry, Czakon, Mitov, **Poncelet**  
[JHEP 02 (2020) 057]

also MATRIX [2010.04681]

$pp \rightarrow \gamma\gamma j$

**NNLO QCD corrections to diphoton production with an additional jet at the LHC**  
Chawdhry, Czakon, Mitov, **Poncelet**  
[JHEP 09 (2021) 093]

also NNLOJET [2501.14021]

$pp \rightarrow jjj$

**Next-to-Next-to-Leading Order Study of Three-Jet Production at the LHC**  
Czakon, Mitov, **Poncelet**  
Phys.Rev.Lett. 127 (2021) 15, 152001

$pp \rightarrow \gamma jj$

**Sector-improved residue-subtraction**

**Isolated photon production in association with a jet pair through next-to-next-to-leading order in QCD**  
Badger, Czakon, Hartanto, Moodie, Peraro, **Poncelet**,  
Zoia [JHEP 10, 071 (2023)]

$pp \rightarrow W b\bar{b}$

**Next-to-next-to-leading order QCD corrections to  $W b\bar{b}$  production at the LHC,**  
Hartanto, **Poncelet**, Popescu, Zoia  
[Phys. Rev. D 106, 074016 (2022)]

also NNLOJET (gluons only)  
[2203.13531]

# Multi-jet observables

## Test of pQCD and extraction of strong coupling constant

NLO theory unc. (MHO) > experimental unc.

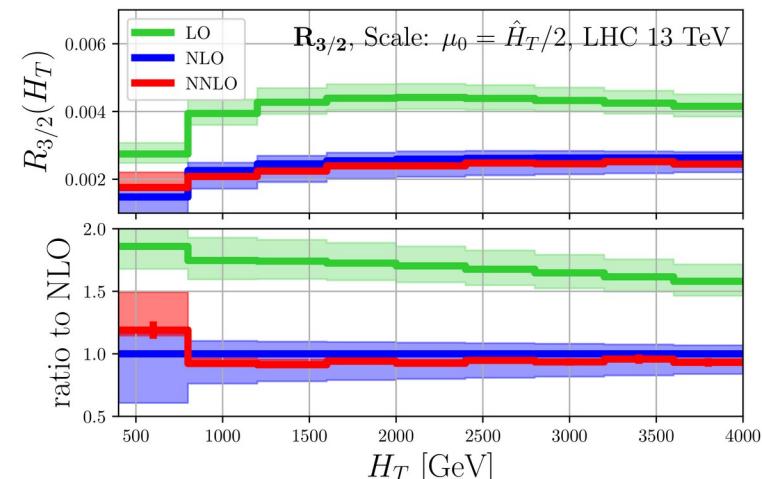
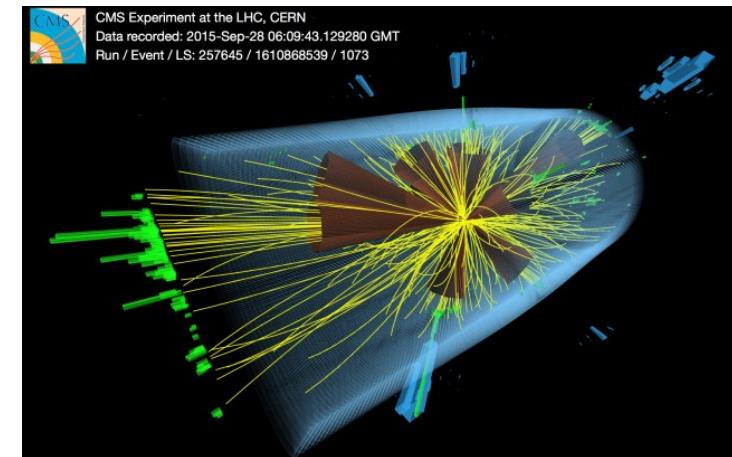
- NNLO QCD needed for precise theory-data comparisons  
→ Restricted to two-jet data [Currie'17+later][Czakon'19]
- New NNLO QCD three-jet → access to more observables
  - Jet ratios

**Next-to-Next-to-Leading Order Study of Three-Jet Production at the LHC**  
Czakon, Mitov, Poncelet [Phys.Rev.Lett. 127 \(2021\) 15, 152001](#)

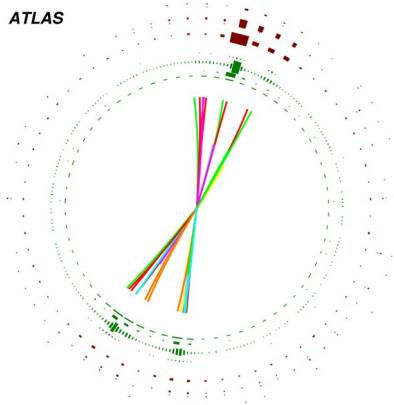
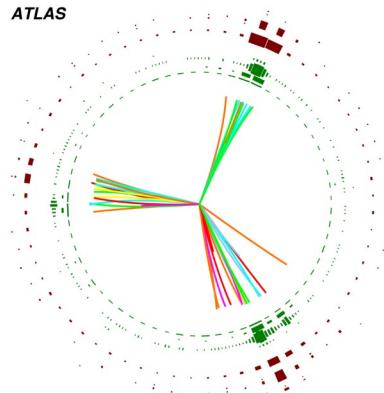
$$R^i(\mu_R, \mu_F, \text{PDF}, \alpha_{S,0}) = \frac{d\sigma_3^i(\mu_R, \mu_F, \text{PDF}, \alpha_{S,0})}{d\sigma_2^i(\mu_R, \mu_F, \text{PDF}, \alpha_{S,0})}$$

- Event shapes

**NNLO QCD corrections to event shapes at the LHC**  
Alvarez, Cantero, Czakon, Llorente, Mitov, Poncelet [JHEP 03 \(2023\) 129](#)



# Encoding QCD dynamics in event shapes



Using (global) event information to separate different regimes of QCD event evolution:

## Energy-energy correlators

$$\frac{1}{\sigma_2} \frac{d\sigma}{d \cos \Delta\phi} = \frac{1}{\sigma_2} \sum_{ij} \int \frac{d\sigma}{dx_{\perp,i} dx_{\perp,j} d \cos \Delta\phi_{ij}} x_{\perp,i} x_{\perp,j} \delta(\cos \Delta\phi - \cos \Delta\phi_{ij}) dx_{\perp,i} dx_{\perp,j} d \cos \Delta\phi_{ij},$$

Separation of energy scales:  $H_{T,2} = p_{T,1} + p_{T,2}$

Ratio to 2-jet:  $R^i(\mu_R, \mu_F, \text{PDF}, \alpha_{S,0}) = \frac{d\sigma_3^i(\mu_R, \mu_F, \text{PDF}, \alpha_{S,0})}{d\sigma_2^i(\mu_R, \mu_F, \text{PDF}, \alpha_{S,0})}$

Here: jets as input → experimentally advantageous  
(better calibrated, smaller non-pert.)

# The transverse energy-energy correlator

$$\frac{1}{\sigma_2} \frac{d\sigma}{d \cos \Delta\phi} = \frac{1}{\sigma_2} \sum_{ij} \int \frac{d\sigma x_{\perp,i} x_{\perp,j}}{dx_{\perp,i} dx_{\perp,j} d \cos \Delta\phi_{ij}} \delta(\cos \Delta\phi - \cos \Delta\phi_{ij}) dx_{\perp,i} dx_{\perp,j} d \cos \Delta\phi_{ij},$$

- Insensitive to soft radiation through energy weighting  $x_{T,i} = E_{T,i} / \sum_j E_{T,j}$
- Event topology separation:
  - Central plateau contain isotropic events
  - To the right: self-correlations, collinear and in-plane splitting
  - To the left: back-to-back

**ATLAS**

Particle-level TEEC

$\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}; 139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

anti- $k_t$  R = 0.4

$p_T > 60 \text{ GeV}$

$|\eta| < 2.4$

$\mu_{R,F} = \hat{\mu}_T$

$\alpha_s(m_Z) = 0.1180$

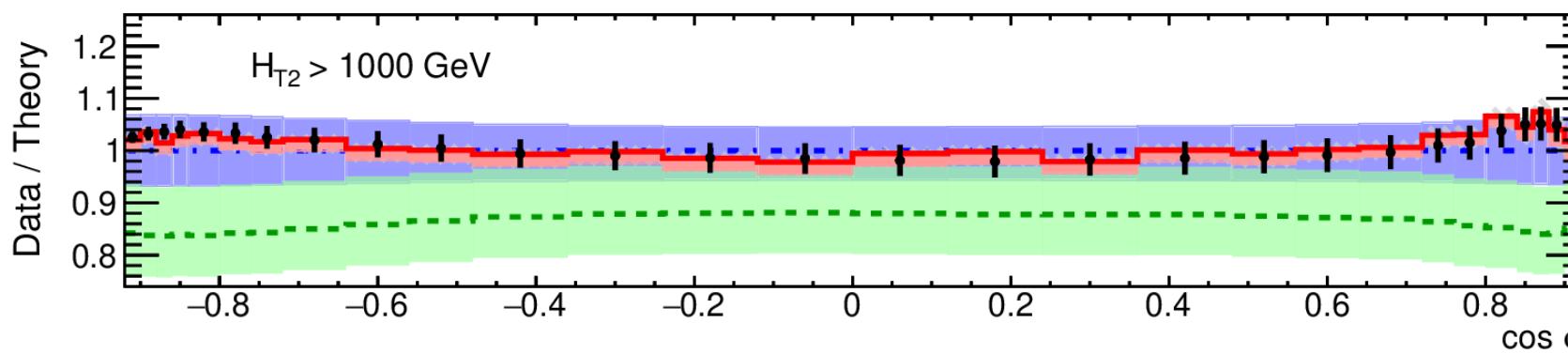
NNPDF 3.0 (NNLO)

— Data

— LO

— NLO

— NNLO

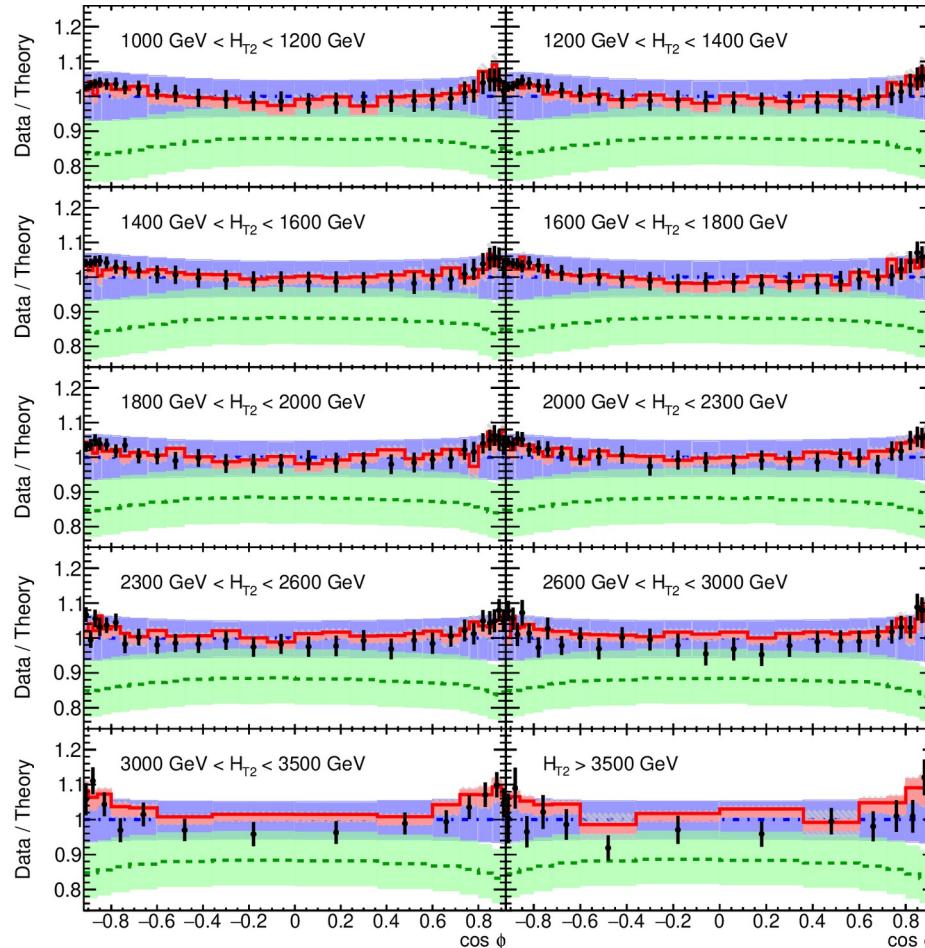


[ATLAS 2301.09351]

**Predictions:**

NNLO QCD corrections to event shapes at the LHC  
Alvarez, Cantero, Czakon, Llorente, Mitov, Poncelet JHEP 03 (2023) 129

# Double differential TEEC



[ATLAS 2301.09351]

**ATLAS**

Particle-level TEEC

$\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}; 139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

$\text{anti-}k_t R = 0.4$

$p_T > 60 \text{ GeV}$

$|\eta| < 2.4$

$$\mu_{R,F} = \hat{\mu}_T$$

$$\alpha_s(m_Z) = 0.1180$$

NNPDF 3.0 (NNLO)

— Data

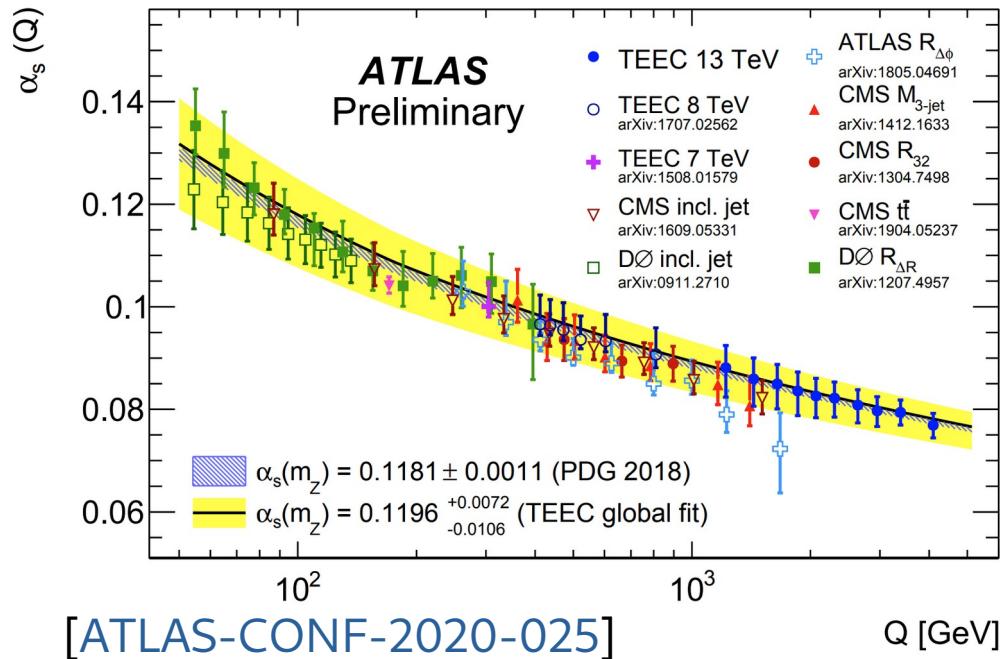
— LO

— NLO

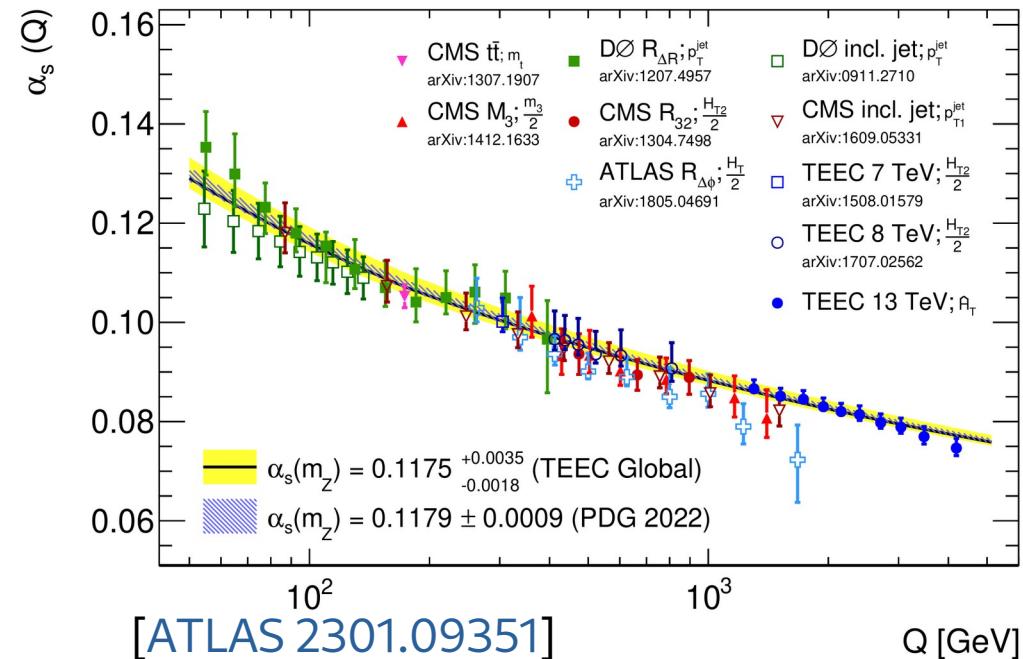
— NNLO

# Running of $\alpha_s$

## NLO QCD



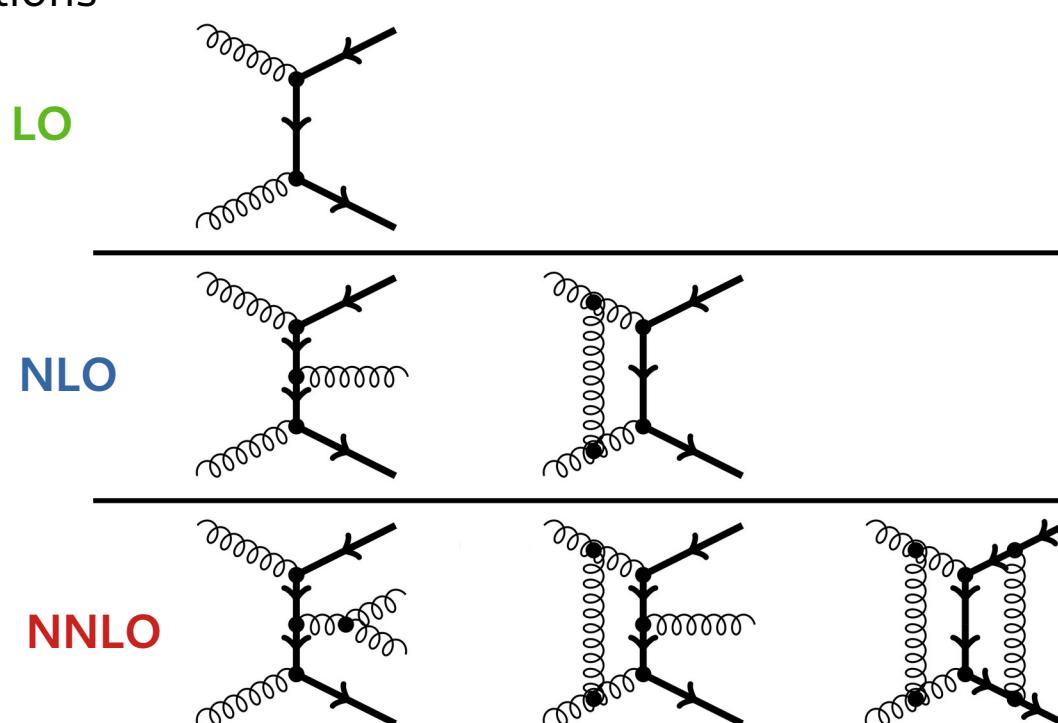
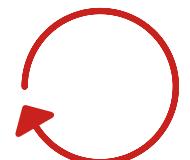
## NNLO QCD



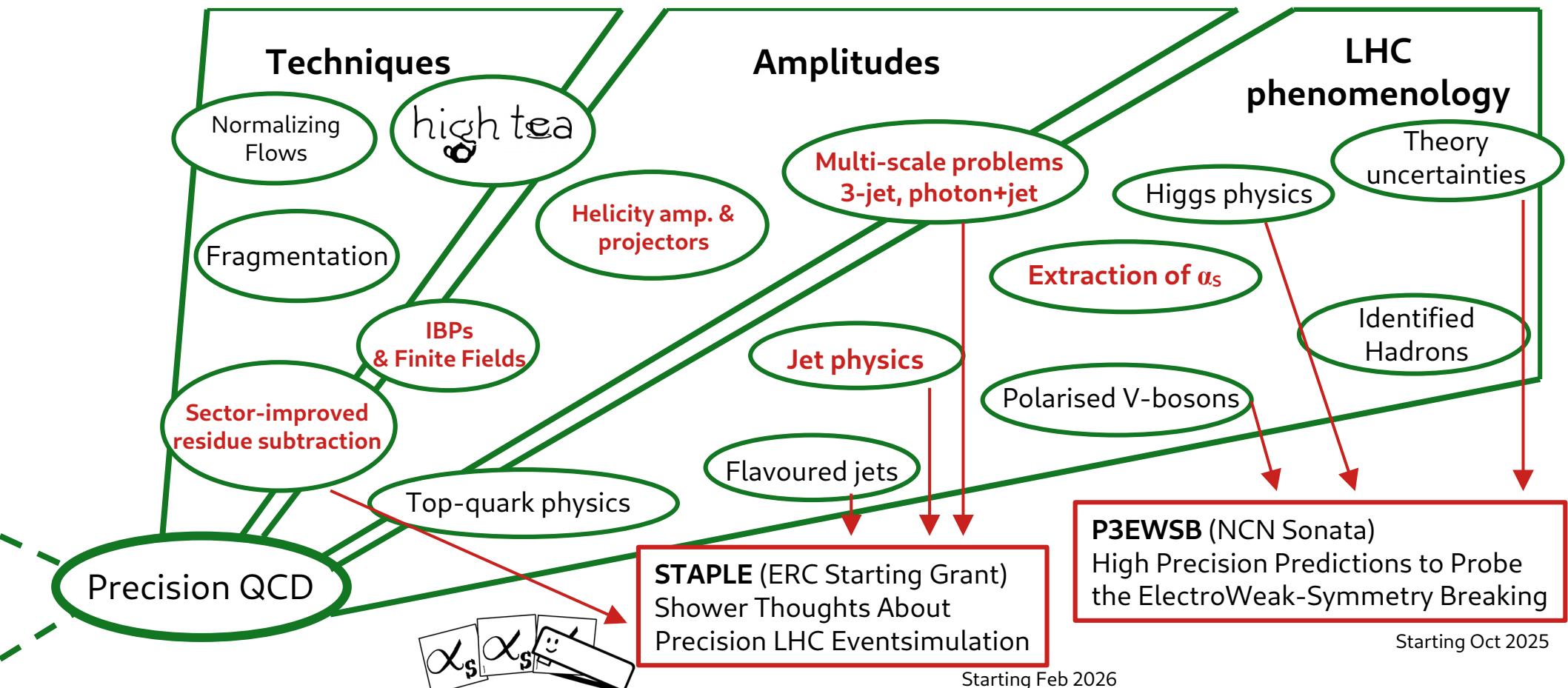
# Summary

Higher-order (NNLO) QCD corrections are an important corner stone of LHC phenomenology

- Underpins SM phenomenological applications
  - Precision tests
  - Measuring SM parameters (PDFs, masses + couplings, FF)
- General NNLO QCD scheme  
+  
five-point two-loop amplitudes
- Precision predictions for multi-scale processes



Pioneering research on higher-order calculations on multi-scale processes, including the first computations of next-to-next-to-leading order corrections in Quantum Chromodynamics to all massless two-to-three processes relevant at the Large Hadron Collider.



# Backup

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# Next-to-leading order case

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(1)} = \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^R + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^V + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^C$$

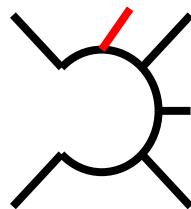


## KLN theorem

sum is finite for sufficiently inclusive observables  
and regularization scheme independent

Each term separately infrared (IR) divergent:

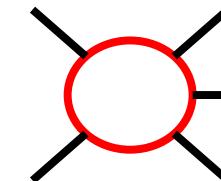
Real corrections:



$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^R = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+1} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \right\rangle F_{n+1}$$

Phase space integration over unresolved configurations

Virtual corrections:



$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^V = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_n 2\text{Re} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_n^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)} \right\rangle F_n$$

Integration over loop-momentum  
(UV divergences cured by renormalization)

# IR singularities in real radiation

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^R = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+1} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \right\rangle F_{n+1}$$



$$\sim \int_0 dE d\theta \frac{1}{E(1 - \cos \theta)} f(E, \cos(\theta))$$

Finite function

Divergent

Regularization in Conventional Dimensional Regularization (CDR)  $d = 4 - 2\epsilon$

$$\rightarrow \int_0 dE d\theta \frac{1}{E^{1-2\epsilon}(1 - \cos \theta)^{1-\epsilon}} f(E, \cos(\theta)) \sim \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} + \dots$$

Cancellation against similar divergences in

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^V = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_n 2\text{Re} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_n^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)} \right\rangle F_n$$

# How to extract these poles? Slicing and Subtraction

Central idea: Divergences arise from infrared (IR, soft/collinear) limits → Factorization!

## Slicing

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^R &= \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int_{\delta(\Phi) \geq \delta_c} d\Phi_{n+1} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \right\rangle F_{n+1} + \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int_{\delta(\Phi) < \delta_c} d\Phi_{n+1} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \right\rangle F_{n+1} \\ &\approx \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int_{\delta(\Phi) \geq \delta_c} d\Phi_{n+1} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \right\rangle F_{n+1} + \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_n \tilde{M}(\delta_c) F_n + \mathcal{O}(\delta_c)\end{aligned}$$

$$\dots + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^V = \text{finite}$$

## Subtraction

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^R &= \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int \left( d\Phi_{n+1} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \right\rangle F_{n+1} - d\tilde{\Phi}_{n+1} \mathcal{S} F_n \right) + \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\tilde{\Phi}_{n+1} \mathcal{S} F_n \\ &\quad \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\tilde{\Phi}_{n+1} \mathcal{S} F_n = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int \underline{d\Phi_n d\Phi_1} \mathcal{S} F_n\end{aligned}$$

Phase space factorization  
→ momentum mappings

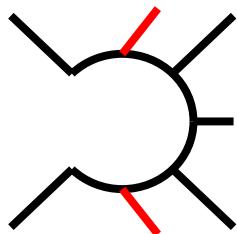
Most popular  
NLO QCD schemes:  
CS [[hep-ph/9605323](#)],  
FKS [[hep-ph/9512328](#)]

→ Basis of modern  
event simulation

# Partonic cross section beyond NLO

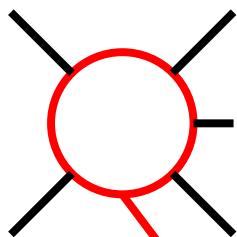
---

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(2)} = \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{VV}} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{RV}} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{RR}} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{C2}} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{C1}}$$



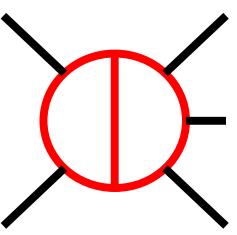
Real-Real

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{RR}} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+2} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} \right\rangle F_{n+2}$$



Real-Virtual

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{RV}} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+1} 2\text{Re} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(1)} \right\rangle F_{n+1}$$



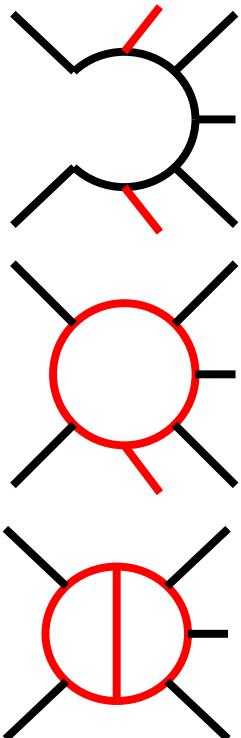
Virtual-Virtual

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{VV}} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_n \left( 2\text{Re} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_n^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_n^{(2)} \right\rangle + \left\langle \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)} \right\rangle \right) F_n$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{C2}} = (\text{double convolution}) F_n \quad \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{C1}} = (\text{single convolution}) F_{n+1}$$

# Partonic cross section beyond NLO

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(2)} = \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{VV}} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{RV}} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{RR}} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{C2}} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{C1}}$$



Real-Real

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{RR}} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+2} \left\langle M_{n+2}^{(0)} \middle| M_{n+2}^{(0)} \right\rangle F_{n+2}$$

Technically substantially more complicated!

Main bottlenecks:

- Real - real  $\rightarrow$  overlapping singularities  
Many possible limits  $\rightarrow$  good organization principle needed
- Real - virtual  $\rightarrow$  stable matrix elements
- Virtual - virtual  $\rightarrow$  complicated case-by-case analytic treatment

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{C2}} = (\text{double convolution}) F_n$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{C1}} = (\text{single convolution}) F_{n+1}$$

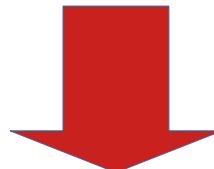
# Sector decomposition I

---

Considering working in CDR:

- Virtuals are usually done in this regularization:  $\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{VV} = \sum_{i=-4}^0 c_i \epsilon^i + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$
- Can we write the real radiation as such expansion?

- Difficult integrals, analytical impractical (except very simple observables)!
- Numerics not possible, integrals are divergent →  $\epsilon$ -poles!



How to extract these poles? → Sector decomposition!

**Divide and conquer** the phase space:

$$1 = \sum_{i,j} \left[ \sum_k \mathcal{S}_{ij,k} + \sum_{k,l} \mathcal{S}_{i,k;j,l} \right] \quad \longrightarrow \quad \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{\text{RR}} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+2} \sum_{i,j} \left[ \sum_k \mathcal{S}_{ij,k} + \sum_{k,l} \mathcal{S}_{i,k;j,l} \right] \langle \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} | \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} \rangle F_{n+2}$$

# Sector decomposition II

---

Divide and conquer the phase space

- Each  $\mathcal{S}_{i,k}$  (NLO),  $\mathcal{S}_{ij,k}/\mathcal{S}_{i,k;j,l}$  (NNLO) has simpler divergences:

- Soft limits of partons i and j
- Collinear w.r.t partons k (and l) of partons i and j

$$\mathcal{S}_{i,k} = \frac{1}{D_1 d_{i,k}} \quad D_1 = \sum_{ik} \frac{1}{d_{i,k}} \quad d_{i,k} = \frac{E_i}{\sqrt{s}} (1 - \cos \theta_{ik})$$

- Parametrization w.r.t. reference parton makes divergences explicit

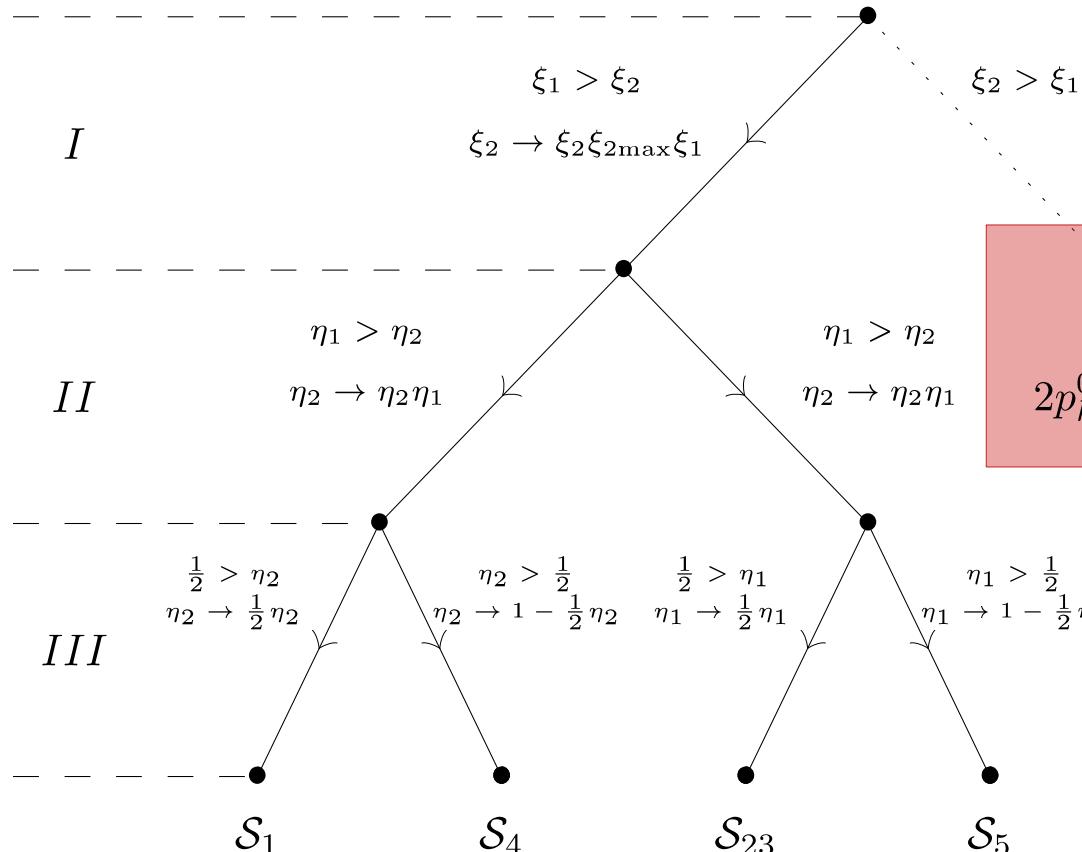
$$\hat{\eta}_i = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos \theta_{ik}) \in [0, 1] \quad \hat{\xi}_i = \frac{u_i^0}{u_{\max}^0} \in [0, 1]$$

- Example: Splitting function

$$\sim \frac{1}{s_{ik}} P(z) \quad s_{ik} = (p_i + p_k)^2 = 2p_k^0 u_{\max}^0 \xi_i \eta_i \sim \frac{1}{\eta_i \xi_i}$$

# Sector decomposition II – triple collinear factorization

Three particle invariant does not factorize trivially:



Double soft factorization:

$$\theta(u_i^0 - u_j^0) + \theta(u_i^0 - u_j^0)$$

$$(p_k + u_i + u_j)^2 = \\ 2p_k^0 (\xi_i \eta_i u_{\max}^{0,i} + \xi_j \eta_j u_{\max}^{0,j} + \xi_i \xi_j \frac{u_{\max}^{0,i} u_{\max}^{0,j}}{p_k^0} \angle(u_i, u_j))$$

[Czakon'10,Caola'17]

# Sector decomposition III

Factorized singular limits in each sector:

$$\frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+2} \mathcal{S}_{kl,m} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} \right\rangle F_{n+2} = \sum_{\text{sub-sec.}} \int d\Phi_n \prod dx_i \underbrace{x_i^{-1-b_i\epsilon}}_{\text{singular}} d\tilde{\mu}(\{x_i\}) \underbrace{\prod x_i^{a_i+1} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+2} | \mathcal{M}_{n+2} \right\rangle F_{n+2}}_{\text{regular}}$$
$$x_i \in \{\eta_1, \xi_1, \eta_2, \xi_2\}$$

Regularization of divergences:

$$x^{-1-b\epsilon} = \underbrace{\frac{-1}{b\epsilon}}_{\text{pole term}} + \underbrace{[x^{-1-b\epsilon}]_+}_{\text{reg. + sub.}}$$

$$\int_0^1 dx [x^{-1-b\epsilon}]_+ f(x) = \int_0^1 \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x^{1+b\epsilon}}$$

# Finite NNLO cross section

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{RR} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+2} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} \right\rangle F_{n+2}$$

$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{C1} = (\text{single convolution}) F_{n+1}$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{RV} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+1} 2\text{Re} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(1)} \right\rangle F_{n+1}$$

$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{C2} = (\text{double convolution}) F_n$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{VV} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_n \left( 2\text{Re} \left\langle \mathcal{M}_n^{(0)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_n^{(2)} \right\rangle + \left\langle \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)} \middle| \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)} \right\rangle \right) F_n$$



sector decomposition and master formula

$$x^{-1-b\epsilon} = \underbrace{\frac{-1}{b\epsilon}}_{\text{pole term}} + \underbrace{[x^{-1-b\epsilon}]_+}_{\text{reg. + sub.}}$$

$$(\sigma_F^{RR}, \sigma_{SU}^{RR}, \sigma_{DU}^{RR}) \quad (\sigma_F^{RV}, \sigma_{SU}^{RV}, \sigma_{DU}^{RV}) \quad (\sigma_F^{VV}, \sigma_{DU}^{VV}, \sigma_{FR}^{VV}) \quad (\sigma_{SU}^{C1}, \sigma_{DU}^{C1}) \quad (\sigma_{DU}^{C2}, \sigma_{FR}^{C2})$$



re-arrangement of terms  $\rightarrow$  4-dim. formulation [Czakon'14, Czakon'19]

$$\underline{(\sigma_F^{RR})} \quad \underline{(\sigma_F^{RV})} \quad \underline{(\sigma_F^{VV})} \quad \underline{(\sigma_{SU}^{RR}, \sigma_{SU}^{RV}, \sigma_{SU}^{C1})} \quad \underline{(\sigma_{DU}^{RR}, \sigma_{DU}^{RV}, \sigma_{DU}^{VV}, \sigma_{DU}^{C1}, \sigma_{DU}^{C2})} \quad \underline{(\sigma_{FR}^{RV}, \sigma_{FR}^{VV}, \sigma_{FR}^{C2})}$$

separately finite:  $\epsilon$  poles cancel

# Improved phase space generation

---

Phase space cut and differential observable introduce

*mis-binning*: mismatch between kinematics in subtraction terms

→ leads to increased variance of the integrand

→ slow Monte Carlo convergence

New phase space parametrization [[Czakon'19](#)]:

Minimization of # of different subtraction kinematics in each sector

# Improved phase space generation

New phase space parametrization:

Minimization of # of different subtraction kinematics in each sector

Mapping from  $n+2$  to  $n$  particle phase space:

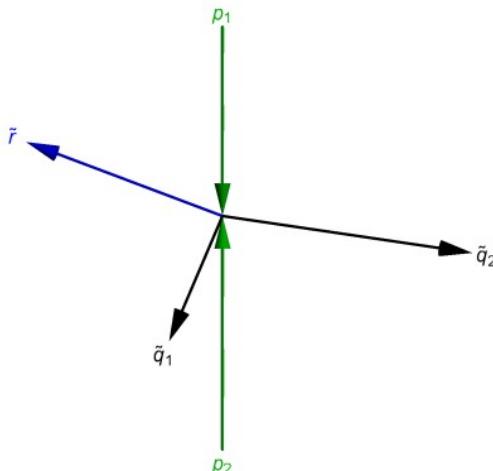
$$\{P, r_j, u_k\} \rightarrow \{\tilde{P}, \tilde{r}_j\}$$

Requirements:

- Keep direction of reference  $r$  fixed
- Invertible for fixed  $u_i$ :  $\{\tilde{P}, \tilde{r}_j, u_k\} \rightarrow \{P, r_j, u_k\}$
- Preserve Born invariant mass:  $q^2 = \tilde{q}^2, \tilde{q} = \tilde{P} - \sum_{j=1}^{n_{fr}} \tilde{r}_j$

Main steps:

- Generate Born configuration
- Generate unresolved partons  $u_i$
- Rescale reference momentum  $r = x\tilde{r}$
- Boost non-reference momenta of the Born configuration



# Improved phase space generation

New phase space parametrization:

Minimization of # of different subtraction kinematics in each sector

Mapping from  $n+2$  to  $n$  particle phase space:

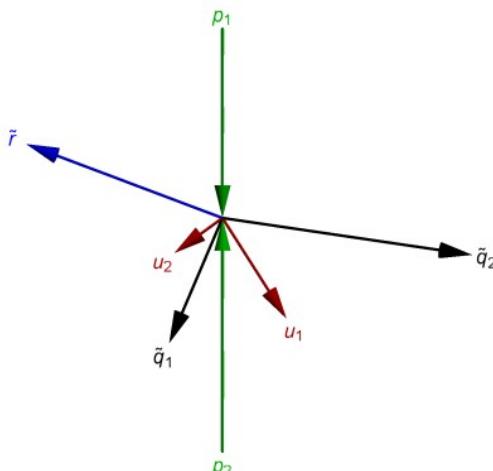
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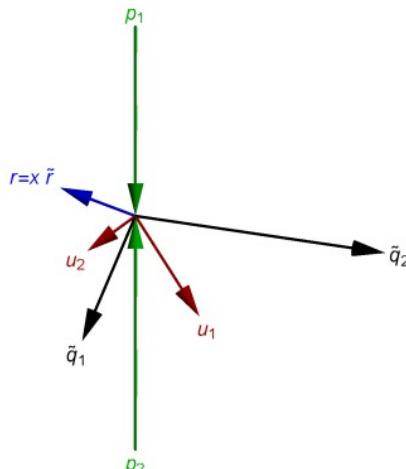
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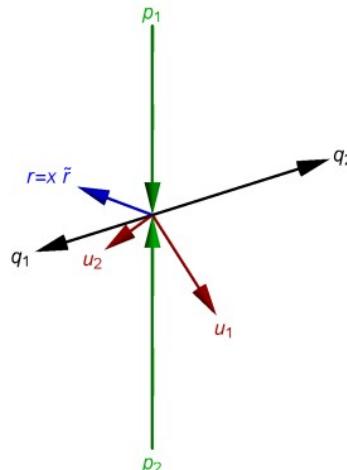
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Main steps:

- Generate Born configuration
- Generate unresolved partons  $u_i$
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- Boost non-reference momenta of the Born configuration



# $t'HV$ corrections

Observables: Implemented by infrared safe measurement function (MF)  $F_m$

Infrared property in STRIPPER context:

- $\{x_i\} \rightarrow 0 \leftrightarrow$  single unresolved limit  
 $\Rightarrow F_{n+2} \rightarrow F_{n+1}$
- $\{x_i\} \rightarrow 0 \leftrightarrow$  double unresolved limit  
 $\Rightarrow F_{n+2} \rightarrow F_n$   
 $\Rightarrow F_{n+1} \rightarrow F_n$

Tool for new formulation in the ' $t'$  Hooft Veltman scheme:

## Parameterized MF $F_{n+1}^\alpha$

- $F_n^\alpha \equiv 0$  for  $\alpha \neq 0$   
(NLO MF)
- 'arbitrary'  $F_n^0$   
(NNLO MF)
- $\alpha \neq 0 \Rightarrow$  DU = 0 and SU separately finite

Example:  $F_{n+1}^\alpha = F_{n+1} \Theta_\alpha(\{\alpha_i\})$   
with  $\Theta_\alpha = 0$  if some  $\alpha_i < \alpha$

# $t'HV$ corrections

---

$$\sigma_{SU} = \sigma_{SU}^{RR} + \sigma_{SU}^{RV} + \sigma_{SU}^{C1} \quad \text{where} \quad \sigma_{SU}^c = \int d\Phi_{n+1} (I_{n+1}^c F_{n+1} + I_n^c F_n)$$

NLO measurement function ( $\alpha \neq 0$ ):

$$\int d\Phi_{n+1} (I_{n+1}^{RR} + I_{n+1}^{RV} + I_{n+1}^{C1}) F_{n+1}^\alpha = \text{finite in 4 dim.}$$

All divergences cancel in  $d$ -dimensions:

$$\sum_c \int d\Phi_{n+1} \left[ \frac{I_{n+1}^{c,(-2)}}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{I_{n+1}^{c,(-1)}}{\epsilon} \right] F_{n+1}^\alpha \equiv \sum_c \mathcal{I}^c = 0$$

# t'HV corrections

$$\sigma_{SU} = \sigma_{SU}^{RR} + \sigma_{SU}^{RV} + \sigma_{SU}^{C1} \underbrace{-\mathcal{I}^{RR} - \mathcal{I}^{RV} - \mathcal{I}^{C1}}_{=0}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{SU}^c - \mathcal{I}^c &= \int d\Phi_{n+1} \left\{ \left[ \frac{I_{n+1}^{c,(-2)}}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{I_{n+1}^{c,(-1)}}{\epsilon} + I_{n+1}^{c,(0)} \right] F_{n+1} + \left[ \frac{I_n^{c,(-2)}}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{I_n^{c,(-1)}}{\epsilon} + I_n^{c,(0)} \right] F_n \right\} \\ &\quad - \int d\Phi_{n+1} \left[ \frac{I_{n+1}^{c,(-2)}}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{I_{n+1}^{c,(-1)}}{\epsilon} \right] F_{n+1} \Theta_\alpha(\{\alpha_i\}) \\ &= \int d\Phi_{n+1} \left[ \frac{I_{n+1}^{c,(-2)} F_{n+1} + I_n^{c,(-2)} F_n}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{I_{n+1}^{c,(-1)} F_{n+1} + I_n^{c,(-1)} F_n}{\epsilon} \right] (1 - \Theta_\alpha(\{\alpha_i\})) \\ &\quad + \int d\Phi_{n+1} \left[ I_{n+1}^{c,(0)} F_{n+1} + I_n^{c,(0)} F_n \right] + \int d\Phi_{n+1} \left[ \frac{I_n^{c,(-2)}}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{I_n^{c,(-1)}}{\epsilon} \right] F_n \Theta_\alpha(\{\alpha_i\}) \end{aligned}$$

$$=: \underbrace{Z^c(\alpha)}_{\text{integrable, zero volume for } \alpha \rightarrow 0} + \underbrace{C^c}_{\text{no divergencies}} + \underbrace{N^c(\alpha)}_{\text{only } F_n \rightarrow \text{DU}}$$

# t'HV corrections

Looks like slicing, but it is slicing *only* for divergences  
→ no actual slicing parameter in result

Powerlog-expansion:

$$N^c(\alpha) = \sum_{k=0}^{\ell_{\max}} \ln^k(\alpha) N_k^c(\alpha)$$

- all  $N_k^c(\alpha)$  regular in  $\alpha$
- start expression independent of  $\alpha \Rightarrow$  all logs cancel
- only  $N_0^c(0)$  relevant

Putting parts together:

$$\sigma_{SU} - \sum_c N_0^c(0) \text{ and } \sigma_{DU} + \sum_c N_0^c(0)$$

are finite in 4 dimension



SU contribution:  $\sigma_{SU} - \sum_c N_0^c = \sum_c C^c$   
original expression  $\sigma_{SU}$  in 4-dim  
without poles, no further  $\epsilon$  pole cancellation

# C++ framework

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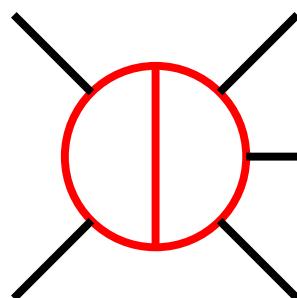
- Formulation allows efficient algorithmic implementation → STRIPPER
- **High degree of automation:**
  - Partonic processes (taking into account all symmetries)
  - Sectors and subtraction terms
  - Interfaces to Matrix-element providers + O(100) hardcoded:  
AvH, OpenLoops, Recola, NJET, HardCoded
    - In practice: Only **two-loop matrix** elements required
- **Broad range of applications** through additional facilities:
  - Narrow-Width & Double-Pole Approximation
  - Fragmentation
  - Polarised intermediate massive bosons
  - (Partial) Unweighting → Event generation for **HighTEA**
  - Interfaces: FastNLO, FastJet

## Two-loop five-point amplitudes

---

Massless:

- [Chawdry'19'20'21] ( $3A+2j, 2A+3j$ )
- [Abreu'20'21] ( $3A+2j, 5j$ )
- [Agarwal'21] ( $2A+3j$ )
- [Badger'21'23] ( $5j, gggAA, jjjjA$ )



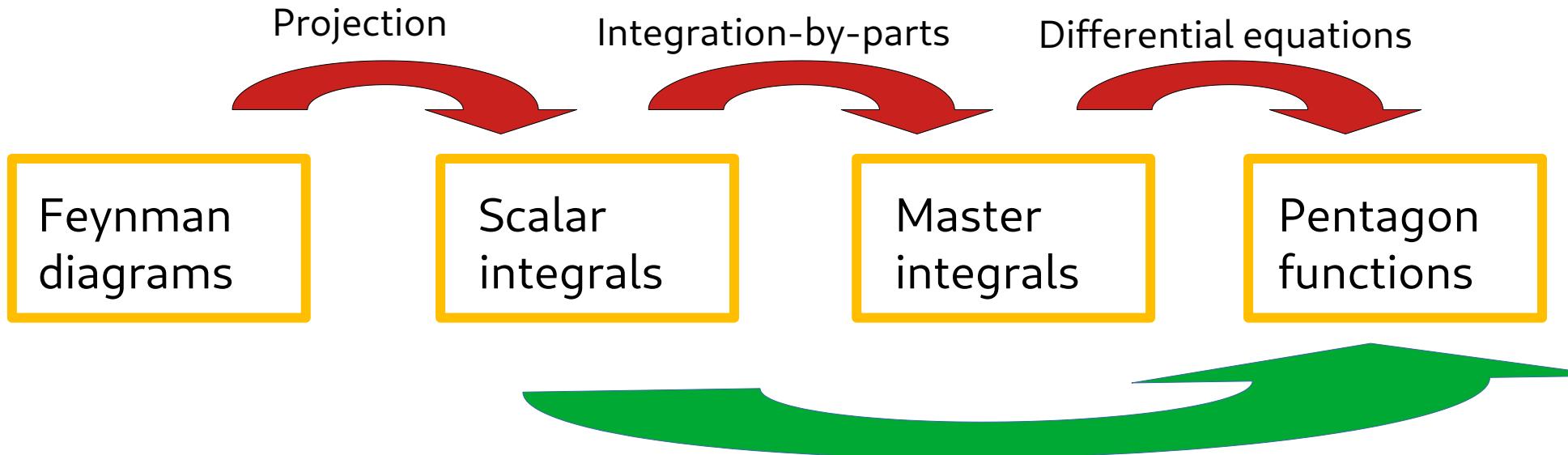
1 external mass:

- [Abreu'21] ( $W+4j$ )
- [Badger'21'22] ( $Hqqgg, W4q, Wajjj$ )
- [Hartanto'22] ( $W4q$ )

# Overview

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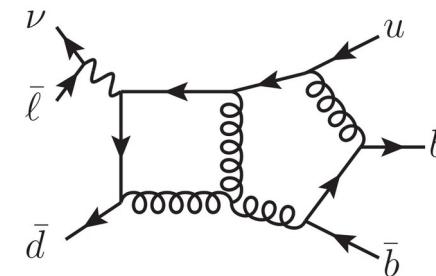
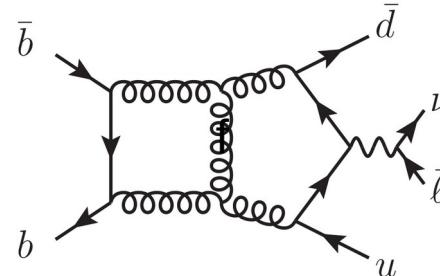
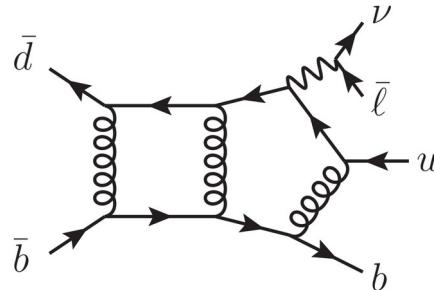
Old school approach:



Automated framework using finite fields  
to avoid expression swell based on  
FiniteFlow [Peraro'19]

# Projection to scalar integrals

Generate diagrams (contributing to leading-colour) with QGRAF



Factorizing decay:  $A_6^{(L)} = A_5^{(L)\mu} D_\mu P$        $M_6^{2(L)} = \sum_{\text{spin}} A_6^{(0)*} A_6^{(L)} = M_5^{(L)\mu\nu} D_{\mu\nu} |P|^2$

Projection on scalar functions (FORM+Mathematica):  
→ anti-commuting  $\gamma_5$  + Larin prescription

$$M_5^{(L)\mu\nu} = \sum_{i=1}^{16} a_i^{(L)} v_i^{\mu\nu}$$



$$a_i^{(L)} = a_i^{(L),\text{even}} + \text{tr}_5 a_i^{(L),\text{odd}}$$

$$a_i^{(L),p} = \sum_i c_{j,i}(\{p\}, \epsilon) \mathcal{I}(\{p\}, \epsilon)$$

# Integration-By-Parts reduction

---

$$a_i^{(L),p} = \sum_i c_{j,i}(\{p\}, \epsilon) \mathcal{I}(\{p\}, \epsilon)$$

→ prohibitively large number of integrals

$$\mathcal{I}_i(\{p\}, \epsilon) \equiv \mathcal{I}(\vec{n}_i, \{p\}, \epsilon) = \int \frac{d^d k_1}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{d^d k_2}{(2\pi)^d} \prod_{k=1}^{11} D_k^{-n_{i,k}}(\{p\}, \{k\})$$

Integration-By-Parts identities connect different integrals → system of equations  
→ only a small number of independent “master” integrals

$$0 = \int \frac{d^d k_1}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{d^d k_2}{(2\pi)^d} l_\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial l^\mu} \prod_{k=1}^{11} D_k^{-n_{i,k}}(\{p\}, \{k\}) \quad \text{with} \quad l \in \{p\} \cap \{k\}$$

LiteRed (+ Finite Fields)



$$a_i^{(L),p} = \sum_i d_{j,i}(\{p\}, \epsilon) \text{MI}(\{p\}, \epsilon)$$

# Master integrals & finite remainder

Differential Equations:  $d\vec{\text{MI}} = dA(\{p\}, \epsilon)\vec{\text{MI}}$

[Remiddi, 97]

[Gehrmann, Remiddi, 99]

[Henn, 13]

Canonical basis:  $d\vec{\text{MI}} = \epsilon d\tilde{A}(\{p\})\vec{\text{MI}}$

Simple iterative solution



$$\text{MI}_i = \sum_w \epsilon^w \tilde{\text{MI}}_i^w \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{\text{MI}}_i^w = \sum_j c_{i,j} m_j$$

Chen-iterated integrals

"Pentagon"-functions

[Chicherin, Sotnikov, 20]

[Chicherin, Sotnikov, Zoia, 21]

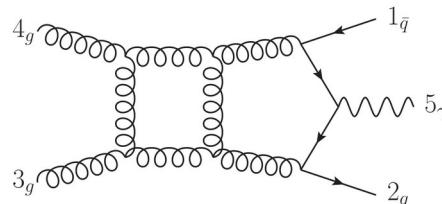
Putting everything together (and removing of IR poles):

$$f_i^{(L),p} = a_i^{(L),p} - \text{poles}$$

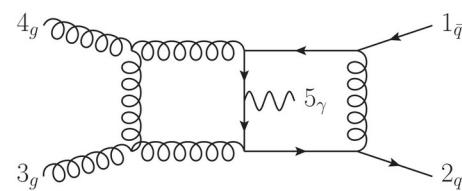
$$f_i^{(L),p} = \sum_j c_{i,j}(\{p\}) m_j + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$$

# Reconstruction of Amplitudes

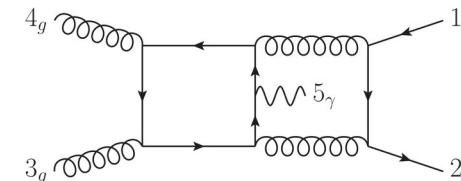
[Badger'21]



$$A_{34;q}^{(2),N_c^2}, A_{\delta;q}^{(2),N_c}$$



$$A_{34;q}^{(2),1}, A_{\delta;q}^{(2),N_c}, A_{\delta;q}^{(2),1/N_c}$$



$$A_{34;l}^{(2),N_c}, A_{34;l}^{(2),1/N_c}, A_{\delta;l}^{(2),1/N_c^2}$$

## New optimizations

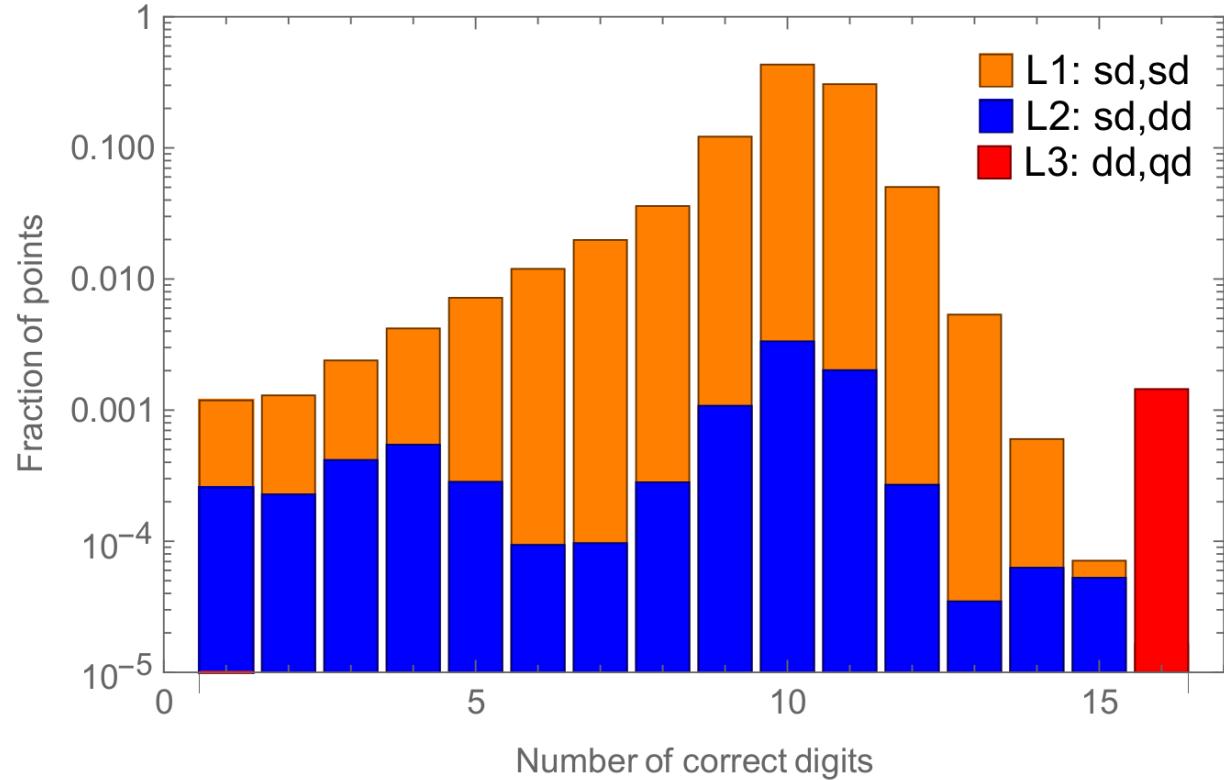
- Syzygy's to simplify IBPs
- Exploitation of Q-linear relations
- Denominator Ansaetze
- On-the-fly partial fractioning

amplitude	helicity	original	stage 1	stage 2	stage 3	stage 4
$A_{34;q}^{(2),1}$	- + + - +	94/91	74/71	74/0	22/18	22/0
$A_{34;q}^{(2),1}$	- + - + +	93/89	90/86	90/0	24/14	18/0
$A_{34;q}^{(2),1/N_c^2}$	- + + - +	90/88	73/71	73/0	23/18	22/0
$A_{34;q}^{(2),1/N_c^2}$	- + - + +	90/86	86/82	86/0	24/14	19/0
$A_{34;l}^{(2),1/N_c}$	- + - + +	89/82	74/67	73/0	27/14	20/0
$A_{34;l}^{(2),1/N_c}$	- + + - +	85/81	61/58	60/0	27/18	20/0
$A_{34;q}^{(2),N_c^2}$	- + - + +	58/55	54/51	53/0	20/16	20/0

Massive reduction of complexity

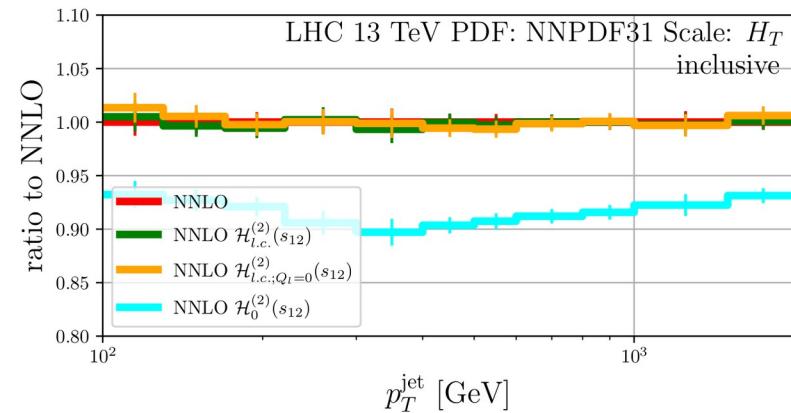
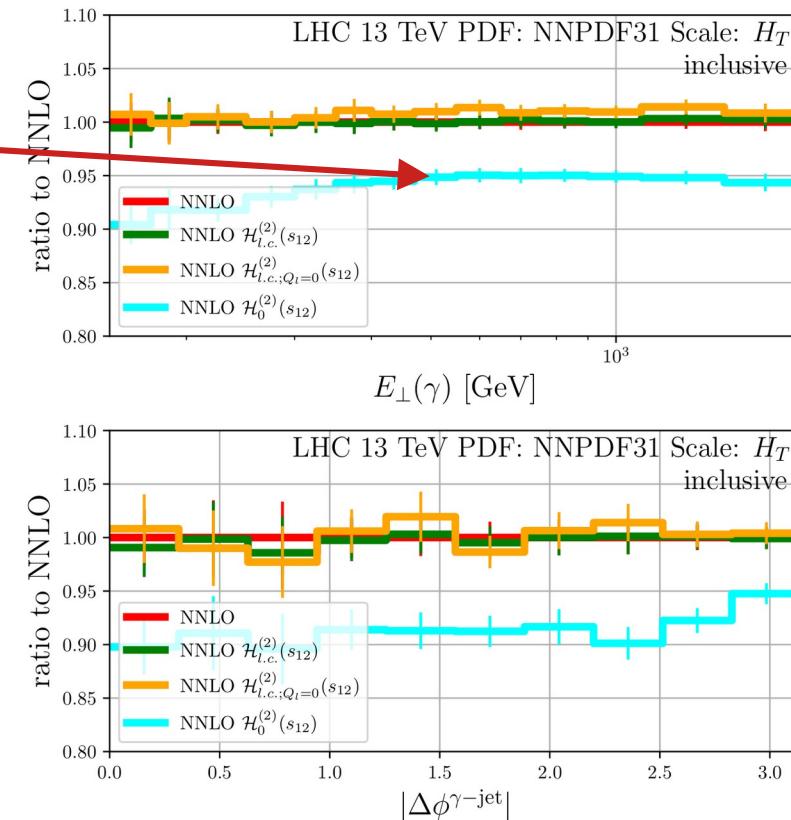
# Two-loop matrix element stability

- Stable evaluation requires high floating point precision for rational functions
- In rarer cases higher precision “Pentagon” functions necessary
- 2.2 million events needed  
→ fast evaluation essential

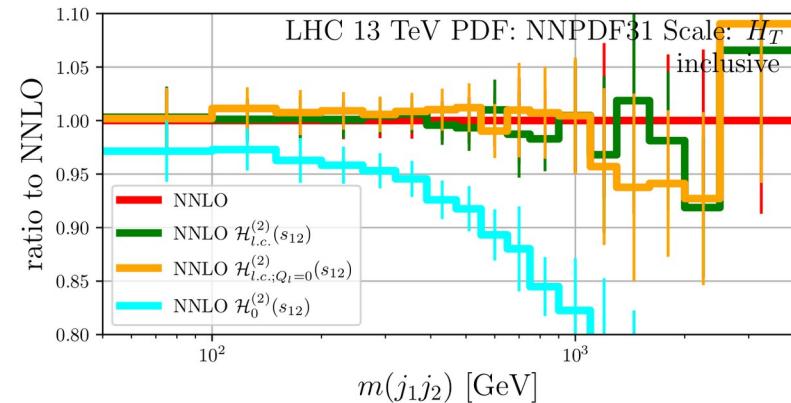
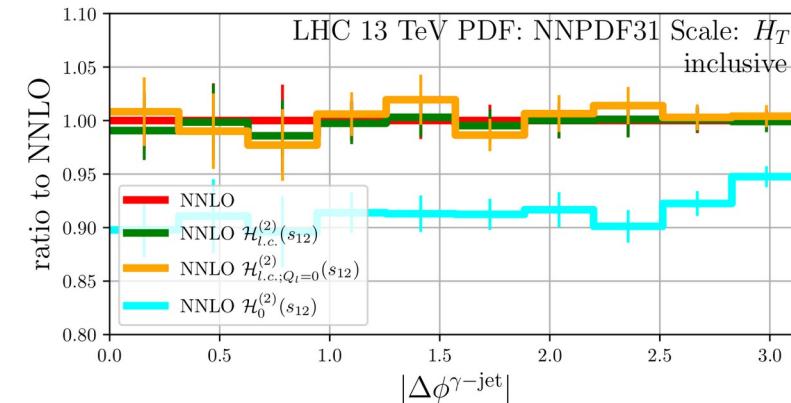


# Quality of leading colour the approximation

Two-loop contribution  
~ 5-10%  
wrt. full NNLO  
(scheme dep.)



"Leading colour"  
Approximation  
"Error" =  $O(\sim 1\%)$   
wrt full NNLO



# Slicing and Subtraction

---

## Slicing

- Conceptually simple
- Recycling of lower computations
- Non-local cancellations/power-corrections  
→ computationally expensive

## NNLO QCD schemes

qT-slicing [[Catani'07](#)],  
N-jettiness slicing [[Gaunt'15/Boughezal'15](#)]

## Subtraction

- Conceptually more difficult
- Local subtraction → efficient
- Better numerical stability
- Choices:
  - Momentum mapping
  - Subtraction terms
  - Numerics vs. analytic

Antenna [[Gehrmann'05-'08](#)],  
Colorful [[DelDuca'05-'15](#)],  
**Sector-improved residue subtraction** [[Czakon'10-'14'19](#)]  
Projection [[Cacciari'15](#)],  
Nested collinear [[Caola'17](#)],  
Geometric [[Herzog'18](#)],  
Unsubtraction [[Aguilera-Verdugo'19](#)],  
...

# Theory picture of hadron collision events

**Guiding principle: factorization**

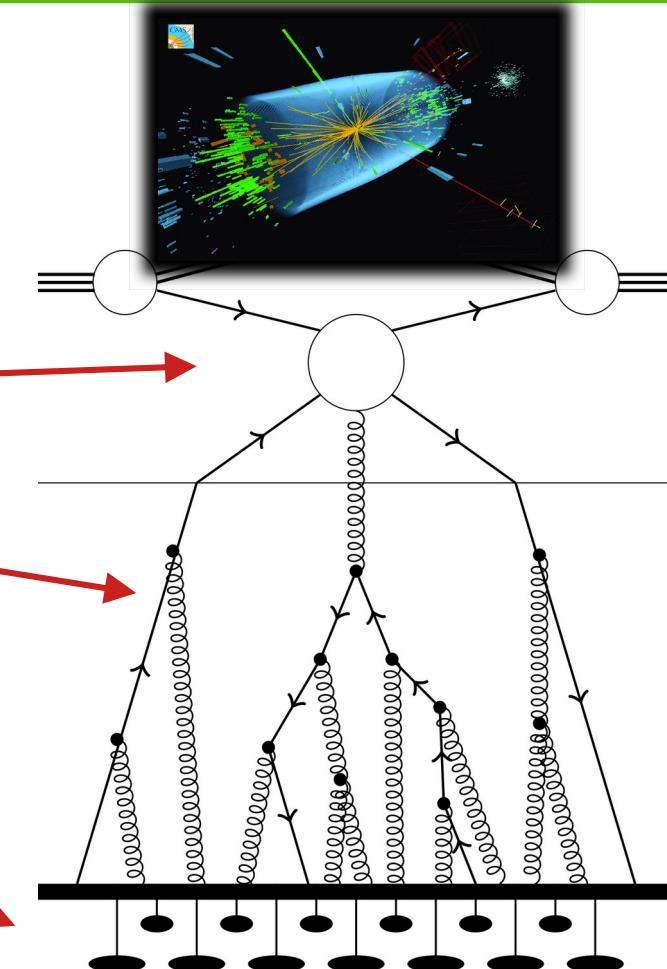
"What you see depends on the energy scale"

In Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD):

$Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  **Fixed-order perturbation theory**  
scattering of individual partons

$Q \gtrsim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  **Parton-shower/Resummation**  
all-order bridge between perturbative  
and non-perturbative physics

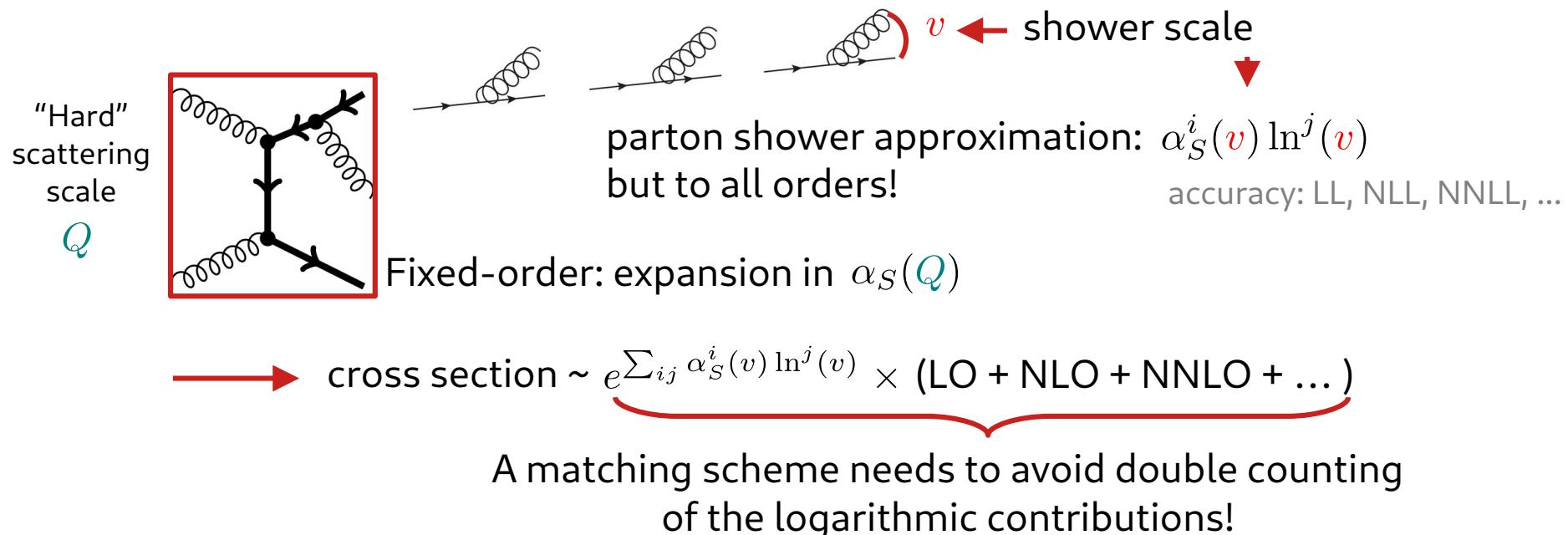
$Q \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  **"Hadronization"/MPI/...**  
non-perturbative physics



# Fixed-order matching to parton-showers

## The challenge

Combine fixed-order with parton shower evolution  
while **preserving** the precision/accuracy of both!



# Matching parton showers

**At NLO QCD a solved problem → a breakthrough for LHC phenomenology**

Local matching NLO+PS: MC@NLO, Powheg, Nagy-Soper, ...

(core of event generators Madgraph\_aMC@NLO, Sherpa, Powheg+Pythia, Herwig)

**>80% of all exp. LHC papers  
cite at least one these!**

**Core idea: using subtractions schemes to construct showers & matching**  
(subtraction terms  $\leftrightarrow$  parton shower kernels)

This is the **big challenge** at NNLO QCD for the theory community!

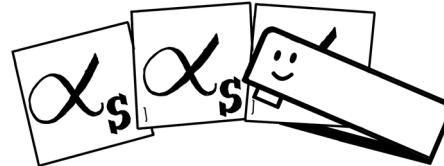
Some NNLO+PS matching approaches appeared recently but are either

- non-local → resummation/slicing based (for example: MiNNLOPS, Geneva)  
→ limited generality
- or work only for simple cases like  $e^+e^- \rightarrow$  jets (for example: Vincia)  
→ work only where NNLO is known analytically

**No scheme so far is based on a general local subtraction.**

**A general matching scheme at NNLO would be the next big breakthrough for precision collider physics!**

This is what I want to achieve with  
**STAPLE!**



Funded by  
the European Union

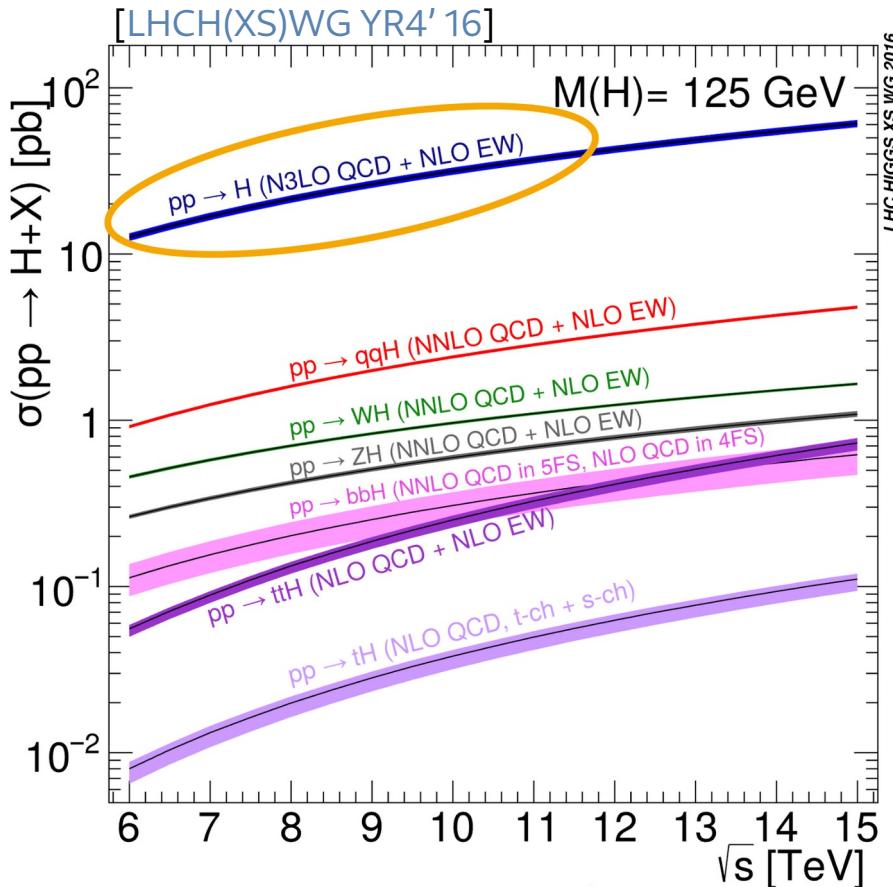


European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

Two core aspects:

- 1) **preserving the precision/accuracy** of the fixed-order & parton shower
- 2) achieving a parton shower with **high logarithmic accuracy**

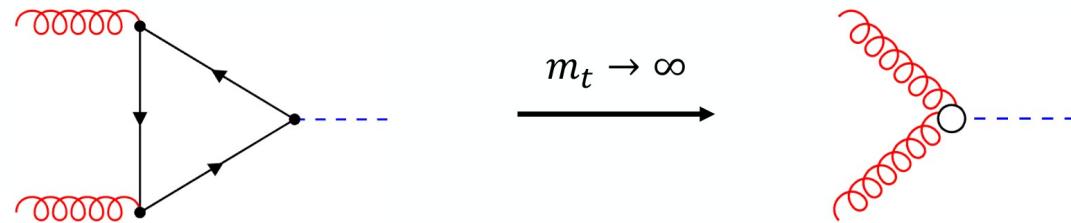
# Higgs-production at hadron colliders



- Higgs production is dominated through gluon-fusion
- Experimental measurement
$$\sigma_{gg \rightarrow H}^{\text{exp.}} = 47.1 \pm 3.8 \text{ pb}$$
 [CMS'22]
- HL LHC expects 2 % uncertainty
- Theory predictions need to keep up  
→ Higher-order predictions crucial!

# HTL and HEFT

**Heavy Top Limit (HTL or EFT):**



$$\sigma_{gg \rightarrow H} = \sigma_{gg \rightarrow H}^{\text{HTL}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m_H^2}{m_t^2}\right) \quad \text{for} \quad m_t \rightarrow \infty$$

**Higgs Effective Field Theory (HEFT or rEFT):**  $\sigma_{\text{HEFT}}^{\text{N}^n\text{LO}} = \frac{\sigma^{\text{LO}}}{\sigma_{\text{HTL}}^{\text{LO}}} \sigma_{\text{HTL}}^{\text{N}^n\text{LO}} \approx 1.064 \times \sigma_{\text{HTL}}^{\text{N}^n\text{LO}}$

captures some of the top-quark mass effects for inclusive observables.  
At higher loop-order questionable → needs full computation.  
How to deal with other quark mass effects?

# Precision predictions for Higgs production in gluon-fusion

[LHC(H)XS)WG YR4'16]

Immense community effort to achieve precise theory predictions

$$\sigma = 48.58 \text{ pb}^{+2.22 \text{ pb} (+4.56\%)}_{-3.27 \text{ pb} (-6.72\%)} (\text{theory}) \pm 1.56 \text{ pb} (3.20\%) (\text{PDF} + \alpha_s).$$

48.58 pb =	16.00 pb	(+32.9%)	(LO, rEFT)	[Georgi, Glashow, Machacek, Nanopoulos'78]
	+ 20.84 pb	(+42.9%)	(NLO, rEFT)	[Dawson '91][Djouadi, Spira Zerwas '91]
	- 2.05 pb	(-4.2%)	(( $t, b, c$ ), exact NLO)	[Graudenz, Spira, Zerwas '93]
	+ 9.56 pb	(+19.7%)	(NNLO, rEFT)	[Ravindran, Smith, Van Neerven '02] [Harlander, Kilgore '02][Anastasiou, Melnikov '02]
	+ 0.34 pb	(+0.7%)	(NNLO, $1/m_t$ )	[Harlander, Ozeren'09][Pak, Rogal, Steinhauser'10] [Harlander, Mantler, Marzani, Ozeren '10]
	+ 2.40 pb	(+4.9%)	(EW, QCD-EW)	[Aglietti, Bonciani, Degrassi, Vicini'04] [Actis, Passarino, Sturm, Uccirati'08] [Anastasiou, Boughezal, Petriello'09]
	+ 1.49 pb	(+3.1%)	( $N^3LO$ , rEFT)	[Anastasiou, Duhr, Dulat, Herzog, Mistlberger'15]

# Remaining theory uncertainties

[LHC(H)XS)WG YR4' 16]

N4LO approximation  
[Das, Moch, Vogt '20]

aN3LO PDFs  
[MSHT'22,NNPDF'24]

Exact top-mass dependence  
through NNLO QCD  
[Czakon, Harlander, Klappert, Niggetiedt'21]

Input parameters

$\delta(\text{scale})$	$\delta(\text{trunc})$	$\delta(\text{PDF-TH})$	$\delta(\text{EW})$	$\delta(t, b, c)$	$\delta(1/m_t)$
+0.10 pb -1.15 pb	$\pm 0.18$ pb	$\pm 0.56$ pb	$\pm 0.49$ pb	$\pm 0.40$ pb	$\pm 0.49$ pb
+0.21% -2.37%	$\pm 0.37\%$	$\pm 1.16\%$	$\pm 1\%$	$\pm 0.83\%$	$\pm 1\%$

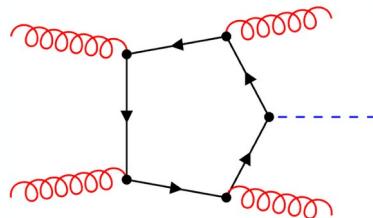
N3LO HEFT  
[Mistlberger'18]

Improved QCD-EW predictions  
[Bonetti, Melnikov, Trancredi'18] [Anastasiou et al '19]  
[Bonetti et al. '20][Bechetti et al. '21] [Bonetti, Panzer, Trancredi '22]

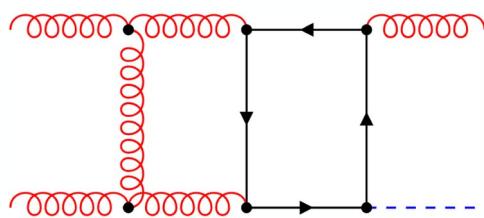
**Bottom-top-interference**  
[Czakon, Eschment, Niggetiedt,  
Poncelet, Schellenberger,  
Phys.Rev.Lett. 132 (2024) 21,  
211902, JHEP 10 (2024) 210, EurekAlert]

# Bottom-top interference effects through NNLO QCD

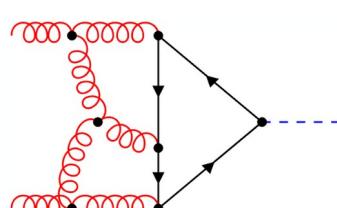
Double real (one-loop)



Real virtual (two-loop)



Double virtual (three-loop)



Renorm. scheme	$\overline{\text{MS}}$	on-shell
$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$	-1.11	-1.98
LO	$-1.11^{+0.28}_{-0.43}$	$-1.98^{+0.38}_{-0.53}$
$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$	-0.65	-0.44
NLO	$-1.76^{+0.27}_{-0.28}$	$-2.42^{+0.19}_{-0.12}$
$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$	+0.02	+0.43
NNLO	$-1.74(2)^{+0.13}_{-0.03}$	$-1.99(2)^{+0.29}_{-0.15}$

Renormalisation scheme  
independence at NNLO

Pure top-quark mass effects

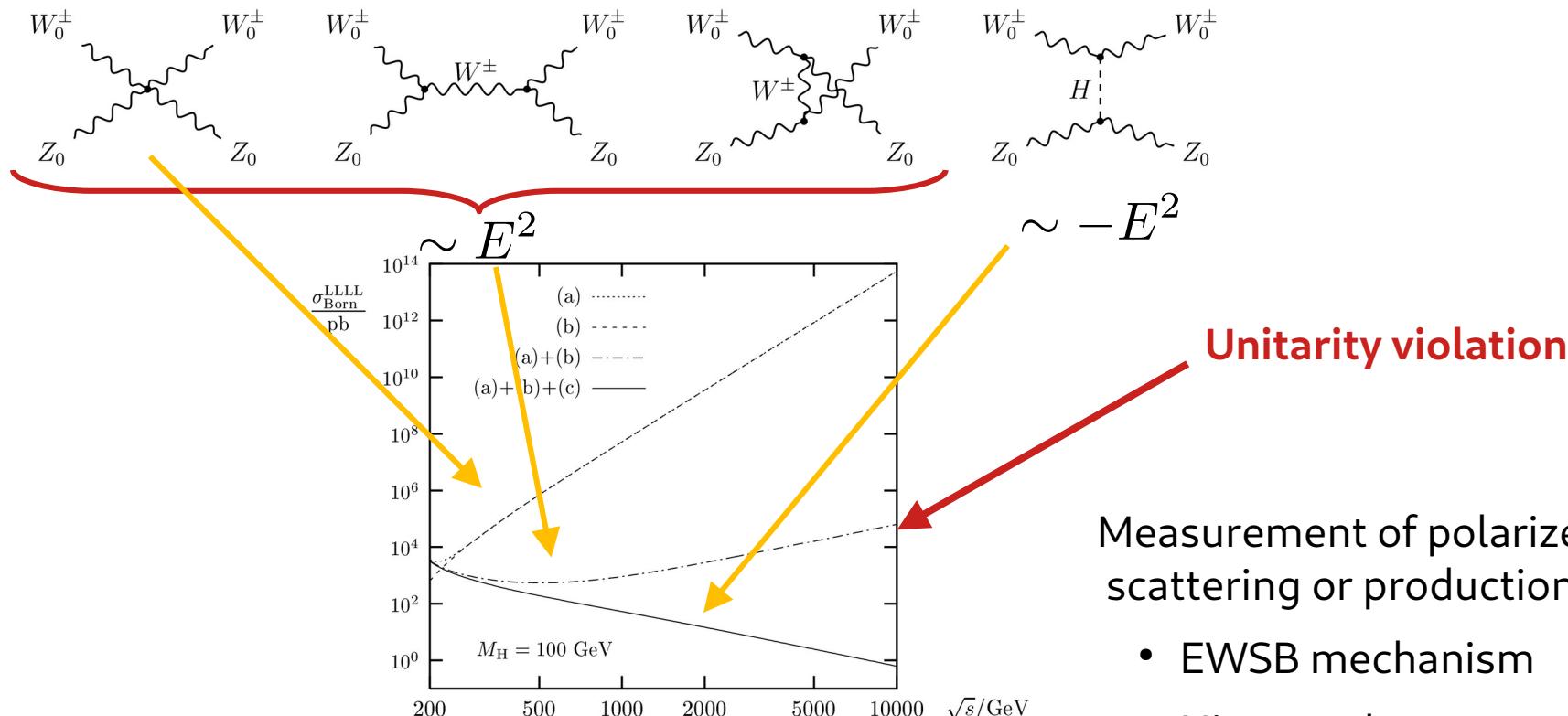
Order	$\sigma_{\text{HEFT}}$ [pb]	$(\sigma_t - \sigma_{\text{HEFT}})$ [pb]
$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$	+16.30	-
LO	$16.30^{+4.36}_{-3.10}$	-
$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$	+21.14	-0.303
NLO	$37.44^{+8.42}_{-6.29}$	$-0.303^{+0.10}_{-0.17}$
$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$	+9.72	+0.147(1)
NNLO	$47.16^{+4.21}_{-4.77}$	$-0.156(1)^{+0.13}_{-0.03}$

Bottom-top interference  
larger than top mass effect

Other ways to probe the Higgs? → Polarised bosons!

---

# Longitudinal Vector-Boson-Scattering (VBS)



Radiative corrections to  $W^+ W^- \rightarrow W^+ W^-$  in the electroweak standard model  
A. Denner, T. Hahn hep-ph/9711302

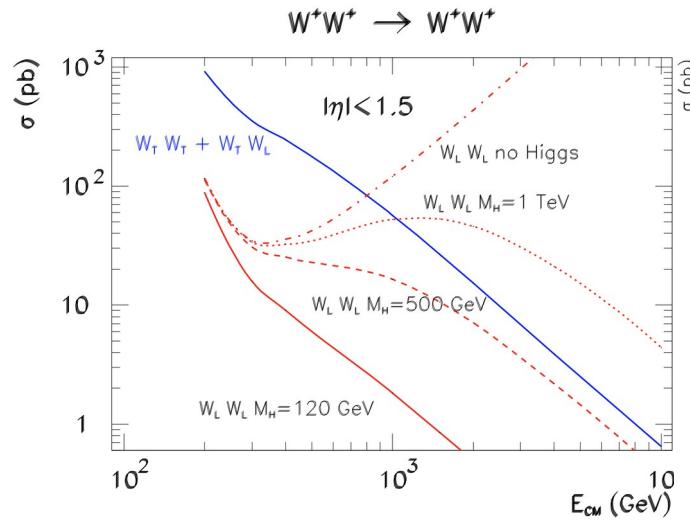
Measurement of polarized boson scattering or production probes:

- EWSB mechanism
- Higgs and gauge sector
- New physics models

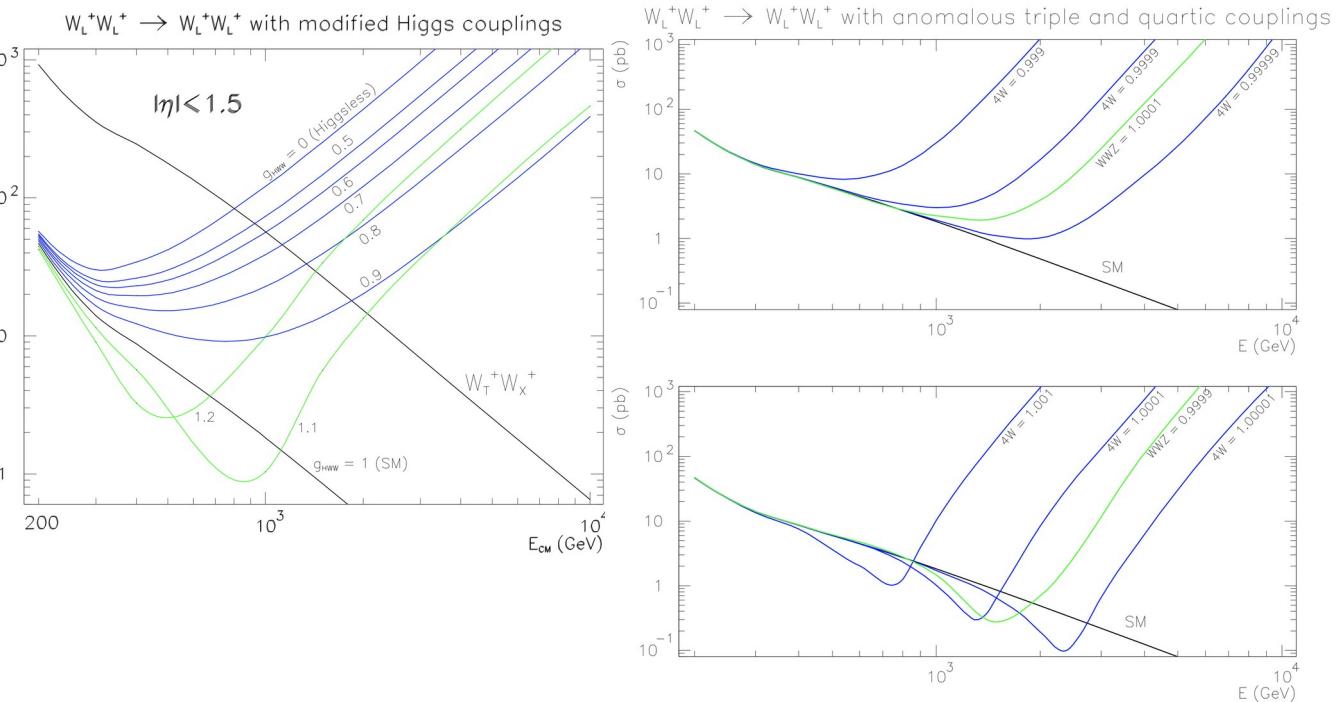
# Longitudinal Vector-Boson-Scattering (VBS)

The Higgs boson and the physics of WW scattering before and after Higgs discovery  
M. Szleper 1412.8367

Sensitivity to the Higgs mass

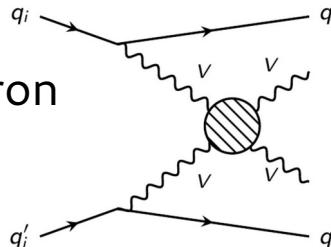


Modified HW, VV, VVV couplings

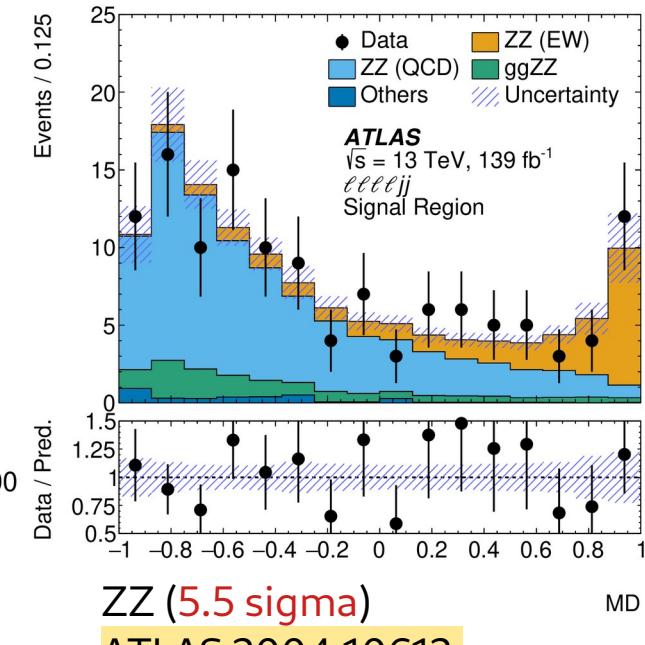
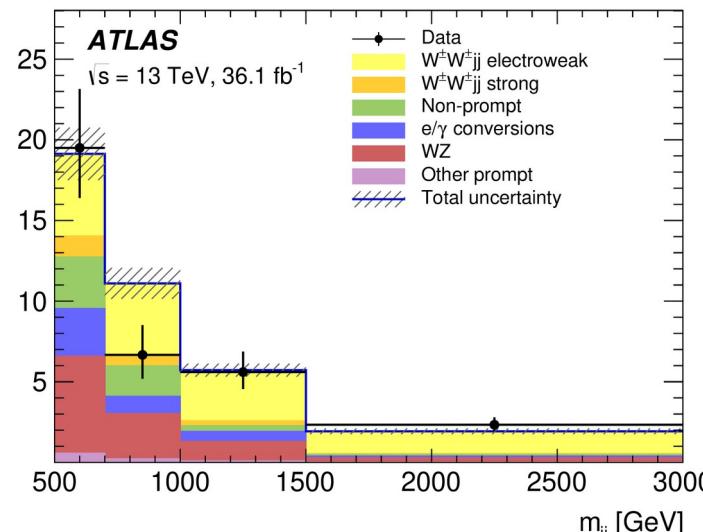
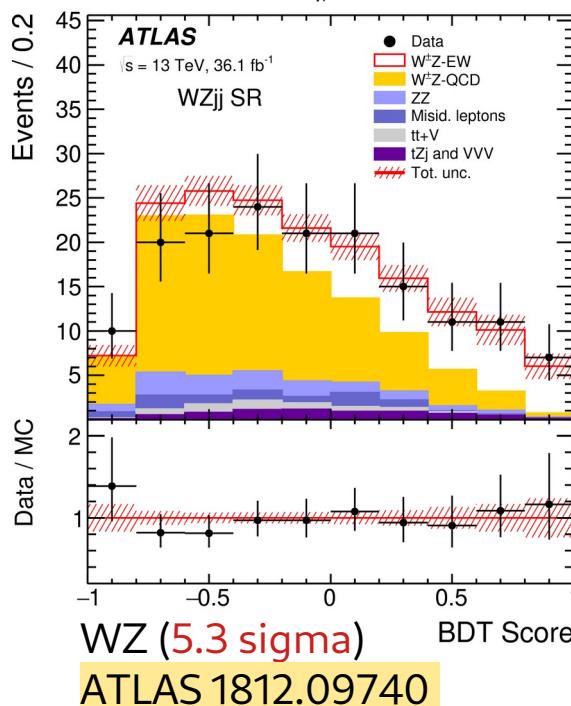


# VBS at hadron colliders

VBS at hadron  
colliders

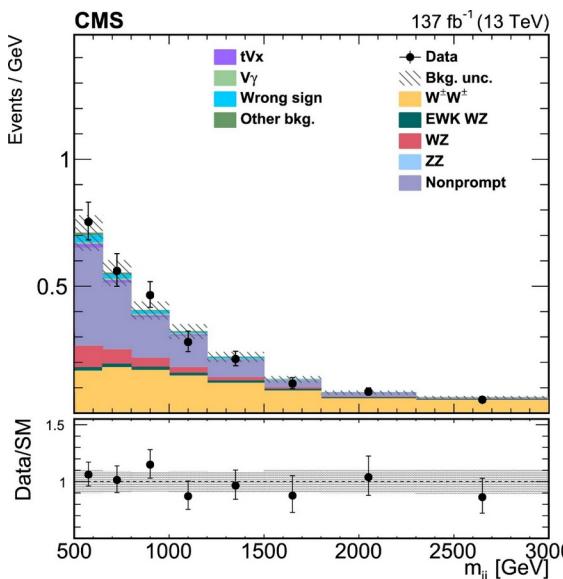
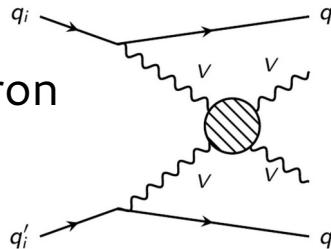


Separate from background processes through VBS topology  
→ a rare process, but observed.



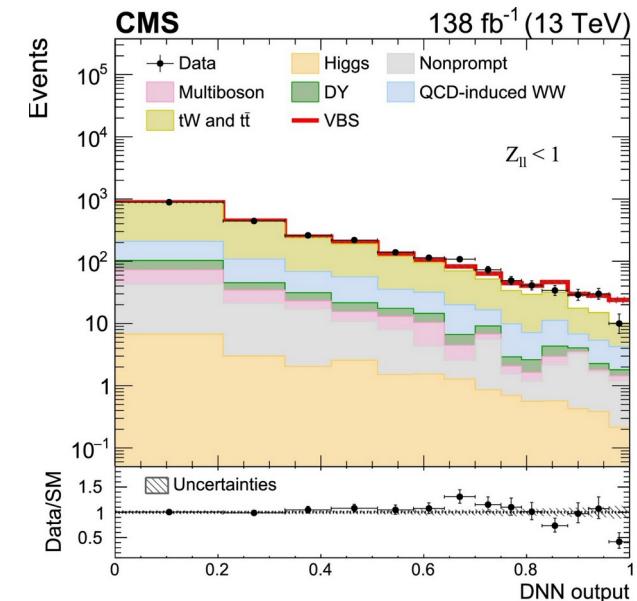
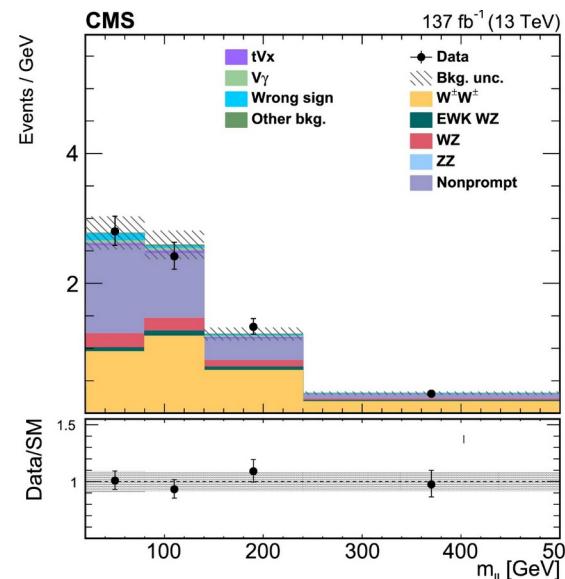
# VBS at hadron colliders

VBS at hadron  
colliders



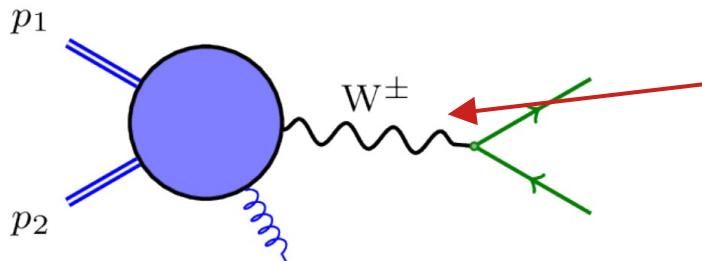
WZ (6.8 sigma) + W+W+/W-W- (diff. xsec)  
CMS 2005.01173

Separate from background processes through VBS topology  
→ a rare process, but observed.



W+W- (5.6 sigma)  
CMS 2205.05711

# Polarised boson production



$$\left( -g^{\mu\nu} + \frac{k^\mu k^\nu}{k^2} \right) \rightarrow \sum_\lambda \epsilon_\lambda^{*\mu} \epsilon_\lambda^\nu$$
$$\lambda = +/-/L$$

Can we extract  
the longitudinal  
component?

## Measurements of longitudinal polarisation fractions:

Measurement of the Polarization of W Bosons with Large Transverse Momenta in W+Jets Events at the LHC,

CMS 1104.3829

Measurement of the polarisation of W bosons produced with large transverse momentum in pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s}=7$  TeV with the ATLAS experiment,

ATLAS 1203.2165

Measurement of WZ production cross sections and gauge boson polarisation in pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV with the ATLAS detector,

ATLAS 1902.05759

Measurement of the inclusive and differential WZ production cross sections, polarization angles, and triple gauge couplings in pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV,  
CMS 2110.11231

Observation of gauge boson joint-polarisation states in WZ production from pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV with the ATLAS detector

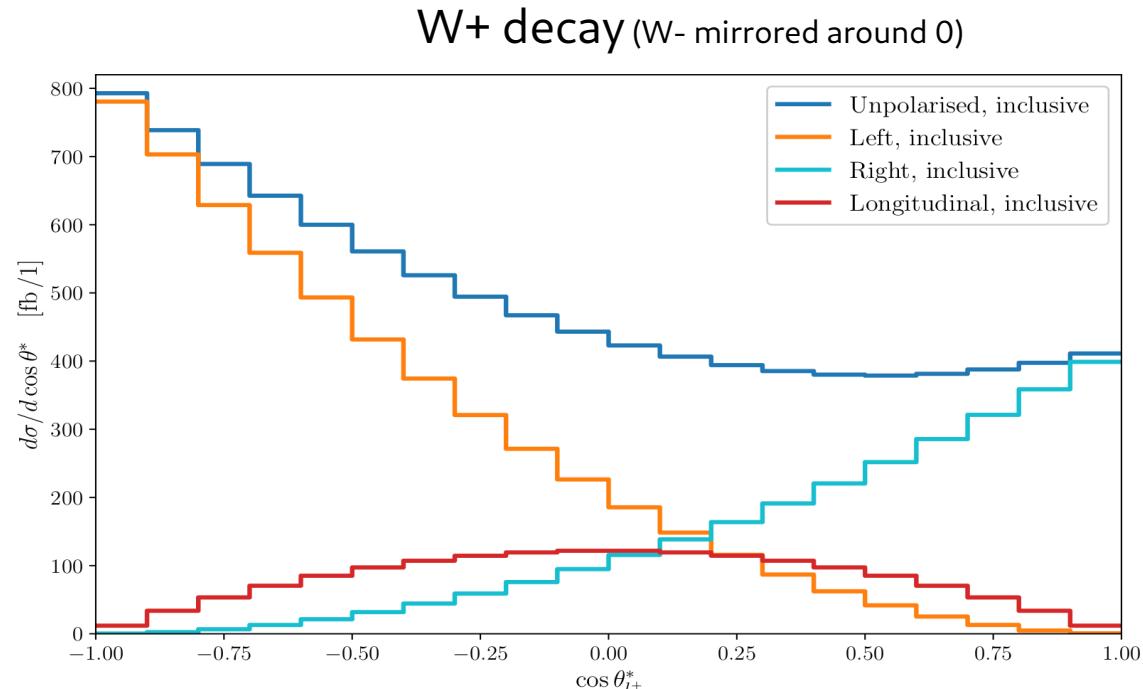
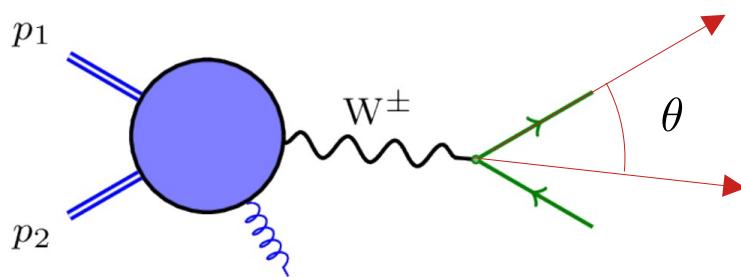
ATLAS 2211.09435

Evidence of pair production of longitudinally polarised vector bosons and study of CP properties in  $Z Z \rightarrow 4\ell$  events with the ATLAS detector at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV  
ATLAS 2310.04350

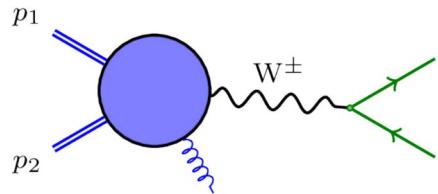
Studies of the Energy Dependence of Diboson Polarization Fractions and the Radiation-Amplitude-Zero Effect in WZ Production with the ATLAS Detector  
ATLAS 2402.16365

# How to measure polarized bosons?

- We can't measure boson polarization directly.
- Luckily decay products can be used as a "polarimeter":



# Polarized cross sections



On-shell bosons:  
(DPA or NWA)  $\left( -g^{\mu\nu} + \frac{k^\mu k^\nu}{k^2} \right) \rightarrow \sum_\lambda \epsilon_\lambda^{*\mu} \epsilon_\lambda^\nu$

$$M = \mathbf{P}_\mu \cdot \frac{-g_{\mu\nu} + \frac{k^\mu k^\nu}{k^2}}{k^2 - M_V^2 + iM_V\Gamma_V} \cdot \mathbf{D}_\nu$$

$$|M|^2 = \underbrace{\sum_\lambda |M_\lambda|^2}_{\rightarrow \text{polarised x-sections}} + \underbrace{\sum_{\lambda \neq \lambda'} M_\lambda^* M_{\lambda'}}_{\text{Interferences}}$$

$\rightarrow$  polarised x-sections      Interferences

Create samples of fixed polarisation:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dX} = f_L \frac{d\sigma_L}{dX} + f_R \frac{d\sigma_R}{dX} + f_0 \frac{d\sigma_0}{dX} \left( + f_{int.} \frac{d\sigma_{int.}}{dX} \right)$$

and fit  $f_L, f_R, f_0$  to measured  $\frac{d\sigma^{exp.}}{dX}$

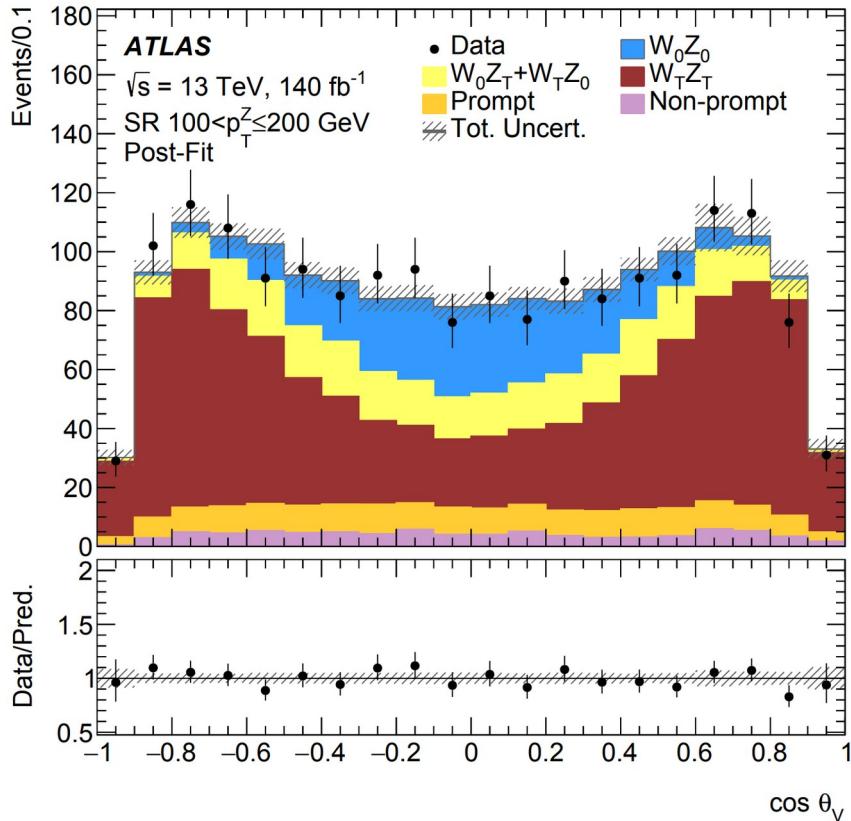
# Polarized cross sections

---

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dX} = f_L \frac{d\sigma_L}{dX} + f_R \frac{d\sigma_R}{dX} + f_0 \frac{d\sigma_0}{dX} \left( + f_{int.} \frac{d\sigma_{int.}}{dX} \right)$$

- Interferences can be handled
- Does not rely on extrapolations to the full phase space  
 $X$  can be any observable  $\rightarrow$  lab frame observables
- $\frac{d\sigma_i}{dX}$  can be systematically improved

# Example polarisation measurement in ATLAS



Studies of the Energy Dependence of Diboson Polarization Fractions and  
the Radiation-Amplitude-Zero Effect in  $WZ$  Production with the ATLAS  
Detector, ATLAS 2402.16365

	Measurement	
	$100 < p_T^Z \leq 200 \text{ GeV}$	$p_T^Z > 200 \text{ GeV}$
$f_{00}$	$0.19 \pm^{0.03}_{0.03} \text{ (stat)} \pm^{0.02}_{0.02} \text{ (syst)}$	$0.13 \pm^{0.09}_{0.08} \text{ (stat)} \pm^{0.02}_{0.02} \text{ (syst)}$
$f_{0T+T0}$	$0.18 \pm^{0.07}_{0.08} \text{ (stat)} \pm^{0.05}_{0.06} \text{ (syst)}$	$0.23 \pm^{0.17}_{0.18} \text{ (stat)} \pm^{0.06}_{0.10} \text{ (syst)}$
$f_{TT}$	$0.63 \pm^{0.05}_{0.05} \text{ (stat)} \pm^{0.04}_{0.04} \text{ (syst)}$	$0.64 \pm^{0.12}_{0.12} \text{ (stat)} \pm^{0.06}_{0.06} \text{ (syst)}$
$f_{00}$ obs (exp) sig.	$5.2 (4.3) \sigma$	$1.6 (2.5) \sigma$

	Prediction	
	$100 < p_T^Z \leq 200 \text{ GeV}$	$p_T^Z > 200 \text{ GeV}$
$f_{00}$	$0.152 \pm 0.006$	$0.234 \pm 0.007$
$f_{0T}$	$0.120 \pm 0.002$	$0.062 \pm 0.002$
$f_{T0}$	$0.109 \pm 0.001$	$0.058 \pm 0.001$
$f_{TT}$	$0.619 \pm 0.007$	$0.646 \pm 0.008$

# Polarized cross sections

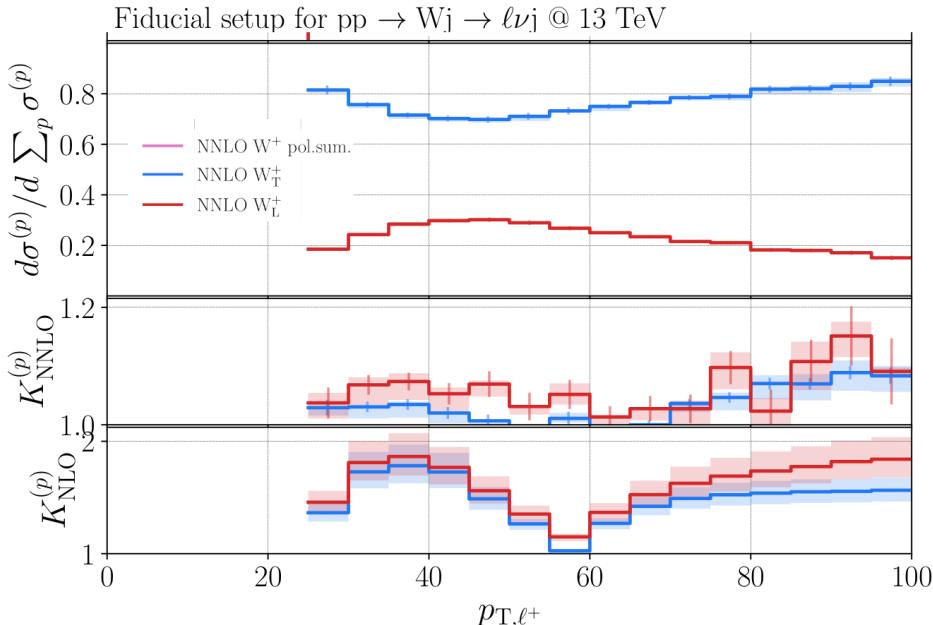
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dX} = f_L \frac{d\sigma_L}{dX} + f_R \frac{d\sigma_R}{dX} + f_0 \frac{d\sigma_0}{dX} \left( + f_{int.} \frac{d\sigma_{int.}}{dX} \right)$$

- Interferences can be handled
- Does not rely on extrapolations to the full phase space  
 $X$  can be any observable  $\rightarrow$  lab frame observables
- $\frac{d\sigma_i}{dX}$  can be systematically improved



Higher-order QCD/EW corrections + PS  
to minimize uncertainties from missing higher orders (scale uncertainties)

# Why do we need higher-order corrections?



## Important observation:

Inclusive K-factors are not enough

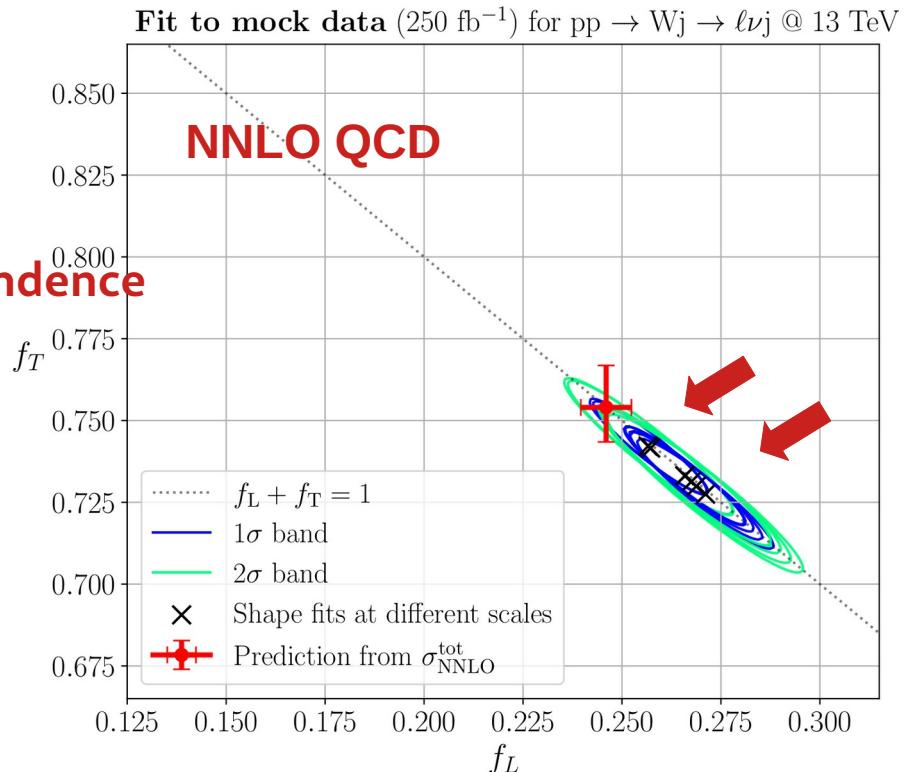
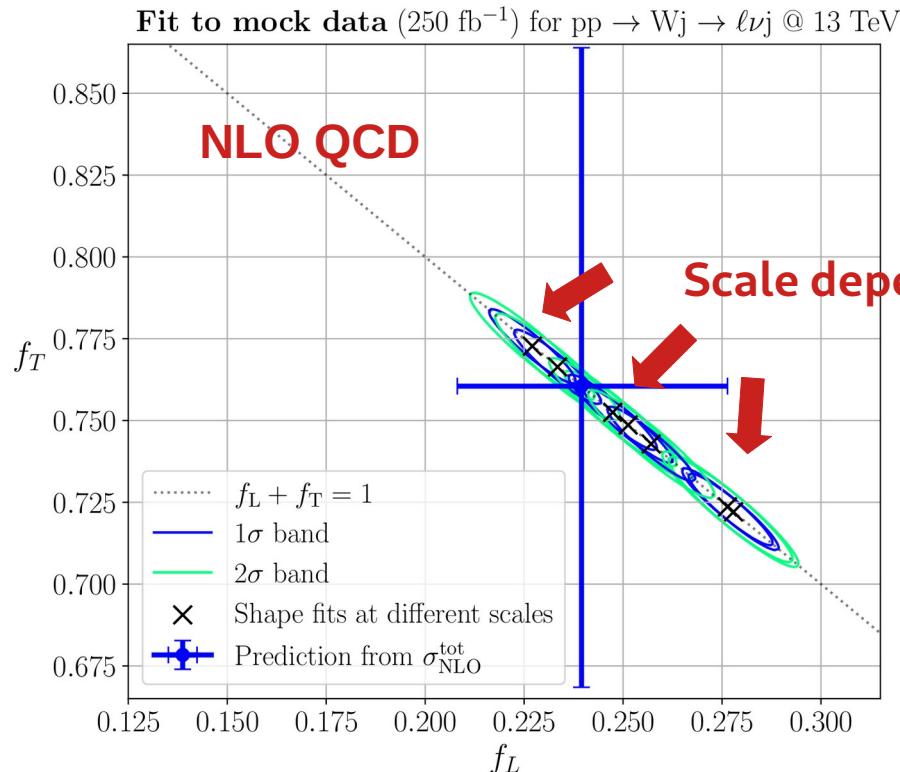
- 1) Differential polarization fraction have shapes
- 2) Higher-order corrections dependent on polarization! Just using unpolarized K-factor would lead to distortion of spectrum.
- 3) NNLO QCD needed to reach percent-level scale-dependence → MHOU

Polarised  $W+j$  production at the LHC: a study at NNLO QCD accuracy,  
Pellen, Poncelet, Popescu 2109.14336

# W+jet: mock-data fit

Fit to mock-data (based on NNLO QCD and 250  $\text{fb}^{-1}$  stats):  
→ extreme case to see effect of scale dependence reduction

Observable:  $\cos(\ell, j_1)$



# COMETA polarisation study



Precise Standard-Model predictions for polarised Z-boson pair production and decay at the LHC

Costanza Carrivale,<sup>a</sup> Roberto Covarelli,<sup>b</sup> Ansgar Denner,<sup>c</sup> Dongshuo Du,<sup>d</sup> Christoph Haitz,<sup>c</sup> Mareen Hoppe,<sup>e</sup> Martina Javurkova,<sup>f</sup> Duc Ninh Le,<sup>g</sup> Jakob Linder,<sup>h</sup> Rafael Coelho Lopes de Sa,<sup>f</sup> Olivier Mattelaer,<sup>i</sup> Susmita Mondal,<sup>j</sup> Giacomo Ortona,<sup>k</sup> Giovanni Pelliccioli,<sup>k,l</sup> Rene Poncelet,<sup>l,1</sup> Karolos Potamianos,<sup>m</sup> Richard Ruiz,<sup>l</sup> Marek Schönherr,<sup>n</sup> Frank Siegert,<sup>e</sup> Lailin Xu,<sup>d</sup> Xingyu Wu,<sup>d</sup> Giulia Zanderighi<sup>h</sup>

## Validation/comparisons of MC codes

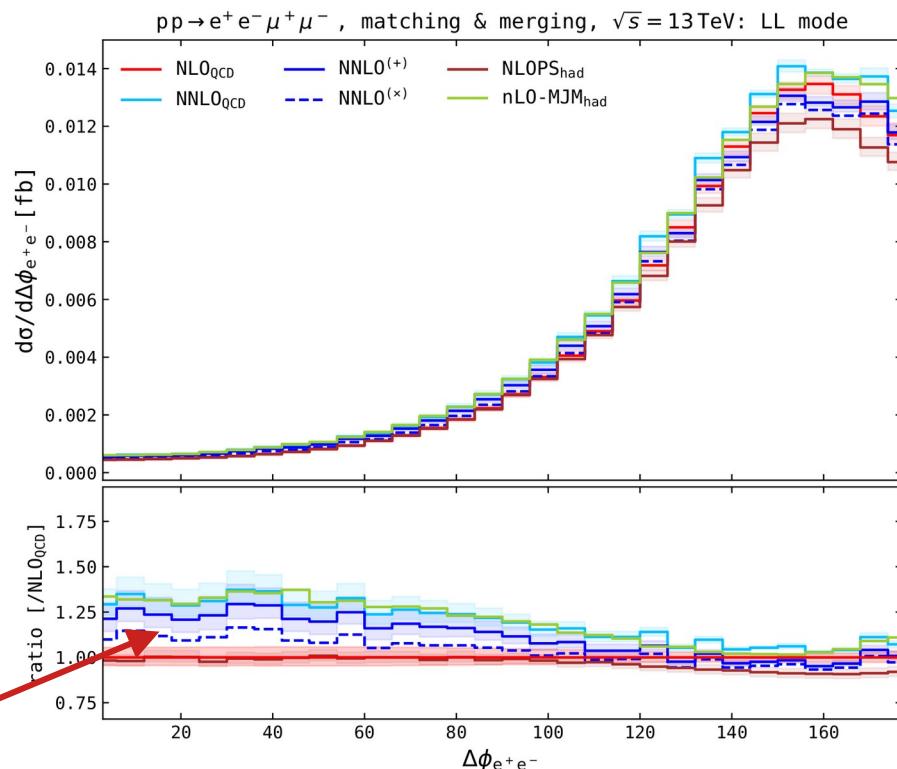
Fixed order:

BBMC, Mocanlo, MulBos, Stripper

Event generators:

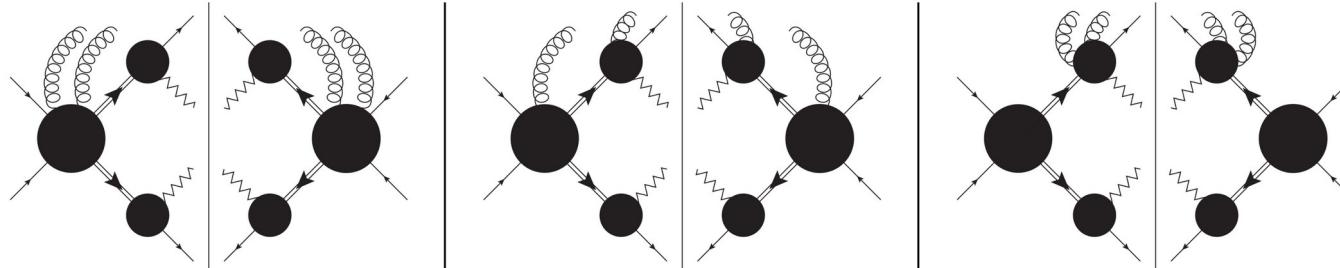
MadGraph, Sherpa, Powheg+Pythia

Largest QCD corrections come from the modelling of hard radiation (recoil)  
→ not captured by PS



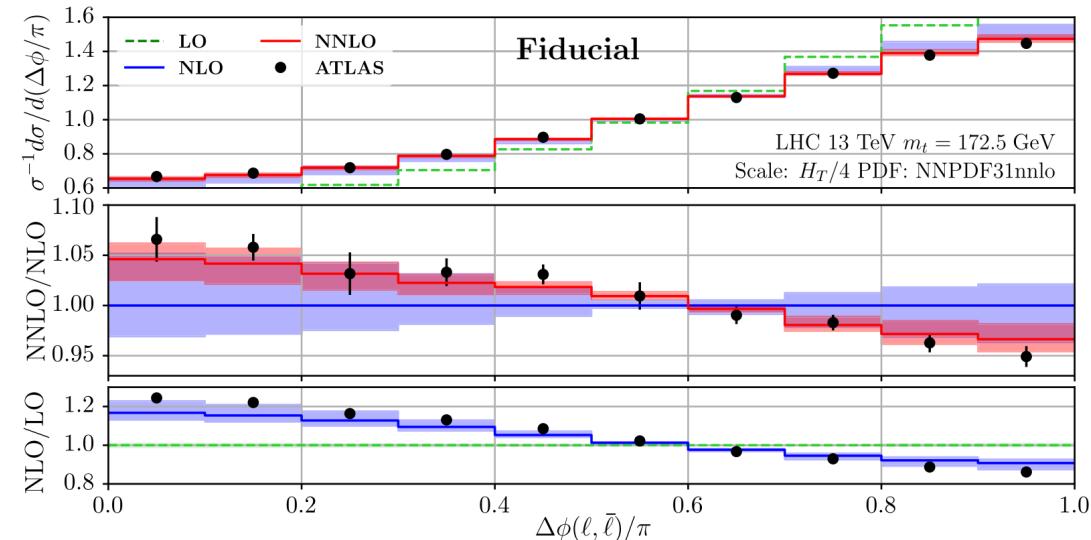
# Spin-correlations in top-quark pair production

This is not really a surprise...



Hard recoil in top-quark pair production  
and decay causes significant shape effects!

[Behring, Czakon, Mitov, Papanastasiou, Poncelet PRL 123 (2019) 8 082001]



[High Precision Predictions to Probe the ElectroWeak-Symmetry Breaking]

Funded under SONATA 20 UMO-2024/55/D/ST2/00934



More holistic analysis of NNLO QCD corrections to spin-observables

→ more **polarised LHC processes**: top-quark production, Higgs-strahlung, ...

→ impact on **quantum information observables**

*which are typically based of angular correlations*

→ implementation in **HighTEA** for easy access



<https://www.precision.hep.phy.cam.ac.uk/hightea>



## Comprehensive Multiboson Experiment-Theory Action

- WG1 - Theoretical framework, precision calculations and simulation
- WG2 - Technological innovation in data analysis
- WG3 - Experimental Measurements
- WG4 - Management and Event Organization
- WG5 - Inclusiveness and Outreach

Further information:

<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22130/> and <https://cometa.web.cern.ch/>

# Polarised nLO+PS: SHERPA

Polarised cross sections for vector boson production with SHERPA  
Hoppe, Schönherr, Siegert 2310.14803

- New bookkeeping of boson polarizations in SHERPA for LO MEs
- Approximate NLO corrections: nLO+PS
  - Reals+matching are treated exact
  - loop matrix elements unpolarised
- Comparison with multi-jet merged calculations

## Comparison with literature

- nLO+PS approximation in fair agreement with full NLO  
→ good for polarization fractions

$W^+Z$	$\sigma^{NLO}$ [fb]	Fraction [%]	K-factor	$\sigma_{SHERPA}^{nLO+PS}$ [fb]	Fraction [%]	K-factor
full	35.27(1)		1.81	33.80(4)		
unpol	34.63(1)	100	1.81	33.457(26)	100	1.79
Laboratory frame						
L-U	8.160(2)	23.563(9)	1.93	7.962(5)	23.796(25)	1.91
T-U	26.394(9)	76.217(34)	1.78	25.432(21)	76.01(9)	1.75
int	0.066(10) (diff)	0.191(29)	2.00	0.064(7)	0.191(22)	2.40(40)
U-L	9.550(4)	27.577(14)	1.73	9.275(16)	27.72(5)	1.72
U-T	25.052(8)	72.342(31)	1.83	24.156(18)	72.20(8)	1.81
int	0.028(10) (diff)	0.081(29)	-0.49	0.026(7)	0.079(22)	-0.471(34)

# Polarized VV @ (N)NLO QCD / NLO EW

Fiducial polarization observables in hadronic WZ production: A next-to-leading order QCD+EW study,

Baglio, Le Duc 1810.11034

Anomalous triple gauge boson couplings in ZZ production at the LHC and the role of Z boson polarizations,

Rahama, Singh 1810.11657

Polarization observables in WZ production at the 13 TeV LHC: Inclusive case,

Baglio, Le Duc 1910.13746

Unravelling the anomalous gauge boson couplings in ZW+- production at the LHC and the role of spin-1 polarizations,

Rahama, Singh 1911.03111

Polarized electroweak bosons in W+W- production at the LHC including NLO QCD effects,

Denner, Pelliccioli 2006.14867

NLO QCD predictions for doubly-polarized WZ production at the LHC,

Denner, Pelliccioli 2010.07149

NNLO QCD study of polarised W+W- production at the LHC,

Poncelet, Popescu 2102.13583

NLO EW and QCD corrections to polarized ZZ production in the four-charged-lepton channel at the LHC,

Denner, Pelliccioli 2107.06579

Breaking down the entire spectrum of spin correlations of a pair of particles involving fermions and gauge bosons,

Rahama, Singh 2109.09345

Doubly-polarized WZ hadronic cross sections at NLO QCD+EW accuracy,

Duc Ninh Le, Baglio 2203.01470

Doubly-polarized WZ hadronic production at NLO QCD+EW: Calculation method and further results

Duc Ninh Le, Baglio, Dao 2208.09232

NLO QCD corrections to polarised di-boson production in semi-leptonic final states

Denner, Haitz, Pelliccioli 2211.09040

Polarised cross sections for vector boson production with SHERPA

Hoppe, Schönherr, Siegert 2310.14803

Polarised-boson pairs at the LHC with NLOPS accuracy

Pelliccioli, Zanderighi 2311.05220

NLO EW corrections to polarised W+W- production and decay at the LHC

Denner, Haitz, Pelliccioli 2311.16031

NLO electroweak corrections to doubly-polarized W+W- production at the LHC

Thi Nhung Dao, Duc Ninh 2311.17027

Polarized ZZ pairs in gluon fusion and vector boson fusion at the LHC

Javurkova, Ruiz, Coelho, Sandesara 2401.17365

# Other polarized cross section calculations

---

- Polarised VBS (so far LO):

**W boson polarization in vector boson scattering at the LHC,**

Ballestrero, Maina, Pelliccioli 1710.09339

**Polarized vector boson scattering in the fully leptonic WZ and ZZ channels at the LHC,**

Ballestrero, Maina, Pelliccioli 1907.04722

**Automated predictions from polarized matrix elements**

Buarque Franzosi, Mattelaer, Ruiz, Shil 1912.01725

**Different polarization definitions in same-sign WW scattering at the LHC,**

Ballestrero, Maina, Pelliccioli 2007.07133

- Single boson production

**Left-Handed W Bosons at the LHC,**

Z. Bern et. al. 1103.5445

**Electroweak gauge boson polarisation at the LHC,**

Stirling, Vryonidou 1204.6427

**What Does the CMS Measurement of W-polarization Tell Us about the Underlying Theory of the Coupling of W-Bosons to Matter?,**

Belyaev, Ross 1303.3297

**Polarised W+j production at the LHC: a study at NNLO QCD accuracy,**

Pellen, Poncelet, Popescu 2109.14336

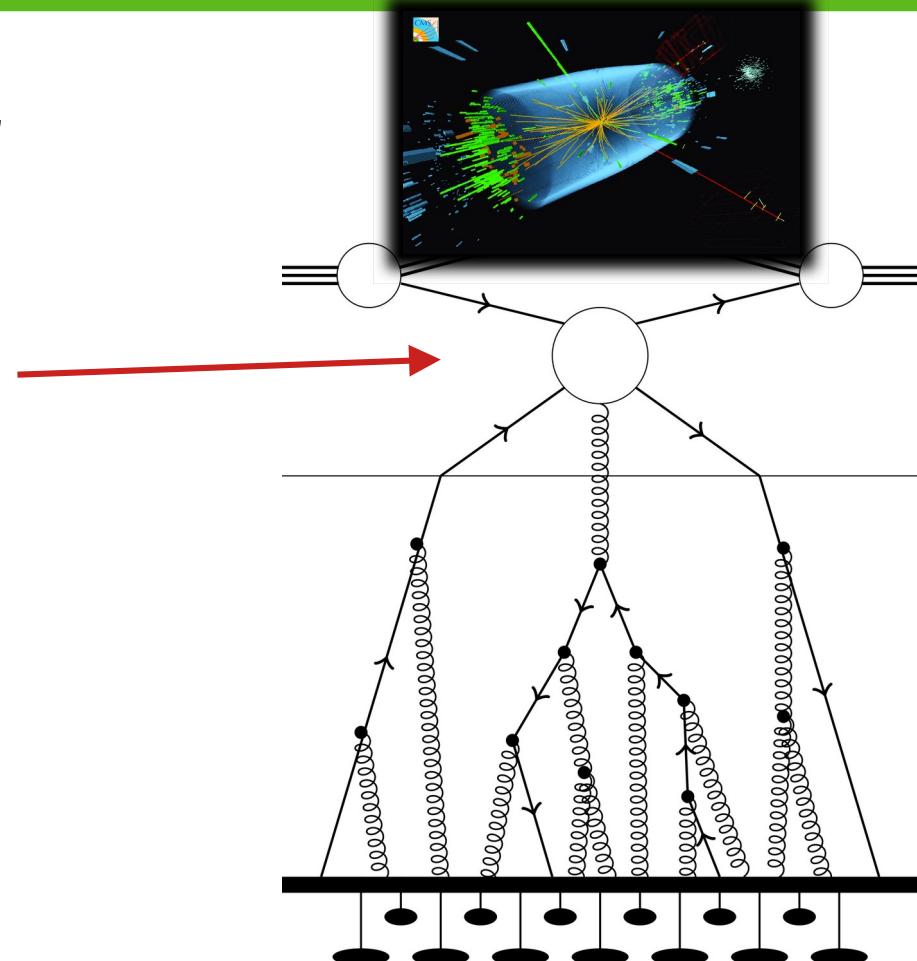
# Beyond fixed-order perturbation theory

**Guiding principle: factorization**

"What you see depends on the energy scale"

In Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD):

$Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$     **Fixed-order perturbation theory**  
scattering of individual partons



# Beyond fixed-order perturbation theory

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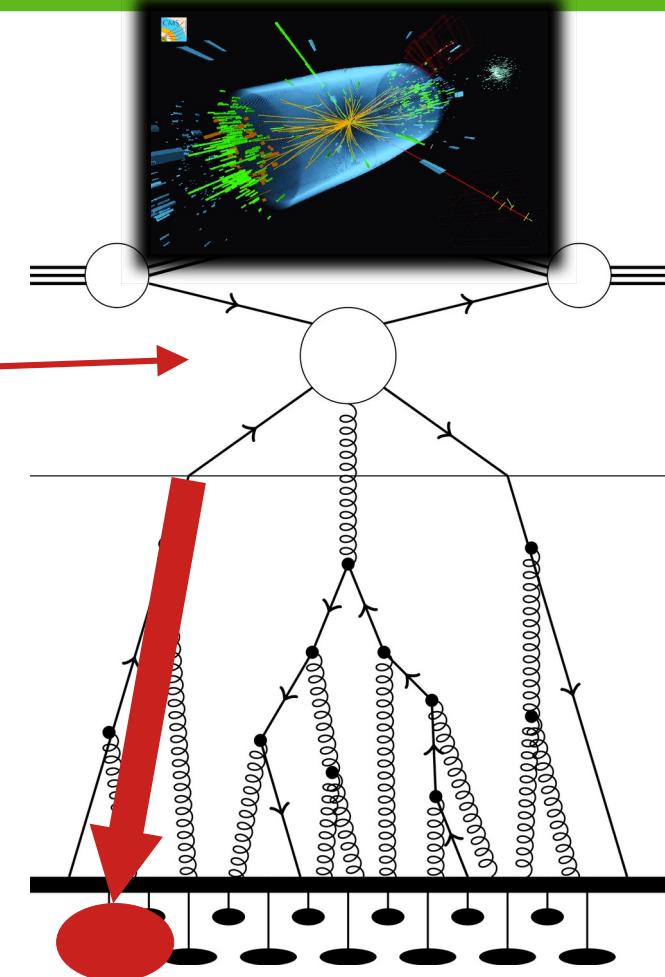
Parton to identified object transition "**Fragmentation**"

→ Resummation of collinear logs through 'DGLAP'

→ Non perturbative fragmentation functions

Example: B-hadrons in e+e-

$$\frac{d\sigma_B(m_b, z)}{dz} = \sum_i \left\{ \frac{d\sigma_i(\mu_{Fr}, z)}{dz} \otimes D_{i \rightarrow B}(\mu_{Fr}, m_b, z) \right\}(z) + \mathcal{O}(m_b^2)$$



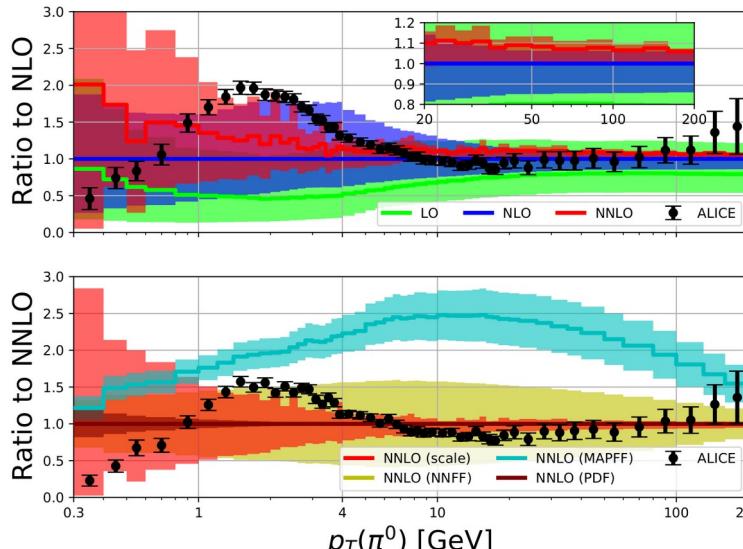
# Identified hadrons

Inclusion of fragmentation through NNLO QCD:

[Czakon, Generet, Mitov, Poncelet]

- B-hadrons in top-decays [2210.06078, 2102.08267]
- Open-bottom [2411.09684] → accepted in PRL
- Identified hadrons [2503.11489] → accepted in PRL

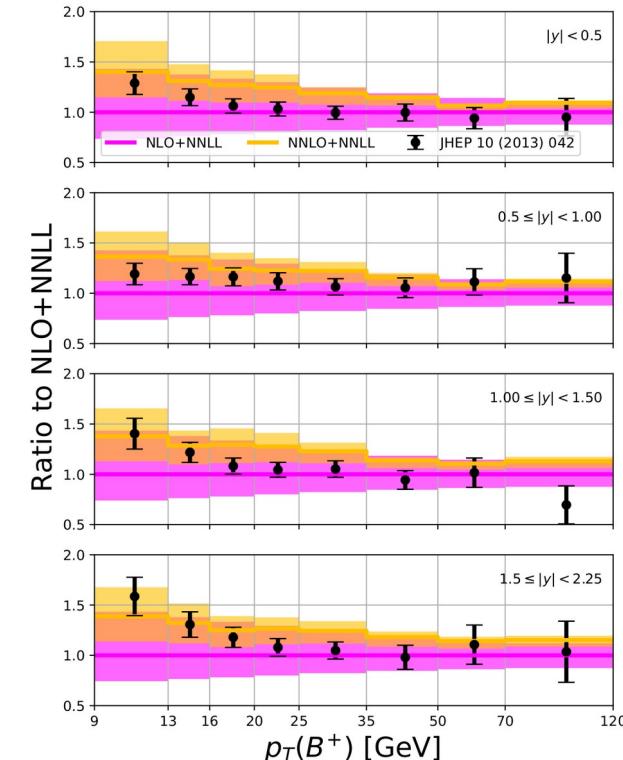
$$d\sigma_{pp \rightarrow h}(p) = \sum_i \int dz \ d\hat{\sigma}_{pp \rightarrow i} \left( \frac{p}{z} \right) D_{i \rightarrow h}(z)$$



Pion production

Open-bottom  
@FONLL:

$$\sigma(p_T) = \sigma(m, p_T) + G(p_T)(\sigma(0, p_T) - \sigma(0, p_T)|_{FO})$$

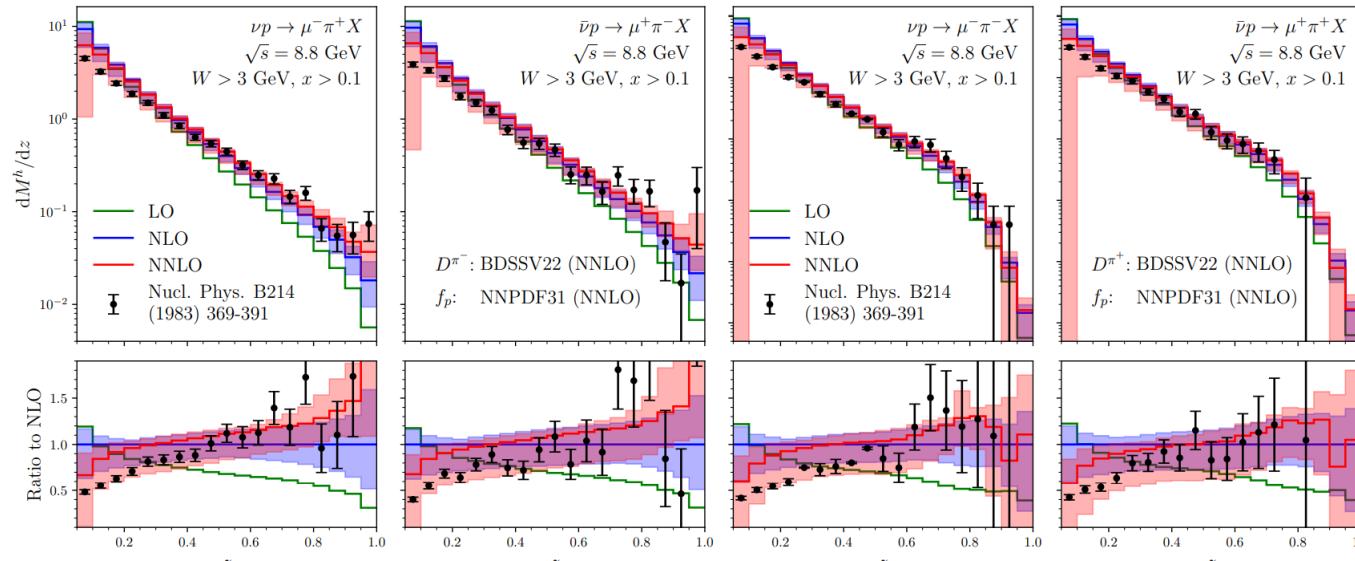
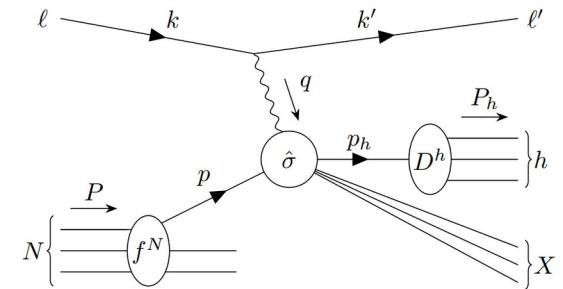


# Semi-inclusive Deep Inelastic Scattering

Series of works on SIDIS through NNLO QCD:

[Bonino, Gehrmann, Loehner, Schoenwald, Stagnitto]

- Polarised initial states [2404.08597]
- Neutrino-Nucleon Scattering [2504.05376]
- CC and NC [2506.19926]



[2504.05376]

# Jet substructure

Semi-inclusive jet function [1606.06732, 2410.01902]

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{LP}}}{dp_T d\eta} = \sum_{i,j,k} \int_{x_{i,\min}}^1 \frac{dx_i}{x_i} f_{i/P}(x_i, \mu) \int_{x_{j,\min}}^1 \frac{dx_j}{x_j} f_{j/P}(x_j, \mu) \int_{z_{\min}}^1 \frac{dz}{z} \mathcal{H}_{ij}^k(x_i, x_j, p_T/z, \eta, \mu)$$
$$\times J_k \left( z, \ln \frac{p_T^2 R^2}{z^2 \mu^2}, \mu \right),$$



The same hard function as for identified hadrons!

Modified RGE:

[2402.05170, 2410.01902]

$$\frac{d\vec{J} \left( z, \ln \frac{p_T^2 R^2}{z^2 \mu^2}, \mu \right)}{d \ln \mu^2} = \int_z^1 \frac{dy}{y} \vec{J} \left( \frac{z}{y}, \ln \frac{y^2 p_T^2 R^2}{z^2 \mu^2}, \mu \right) \cdot \hat{P}_T(y)$$

Energy-Energy correlators obey similar factorization!

# Small-R jets

Application to small-R jets  
[Generet, Lee, Moult, Poncelet, Zhang]  
[2503.21866]

'Triple' differential measurement by CMS:  
 $\gamma$ ,  $p_T$ ,  $R$  [2005.05159]

