

Introduction to Matching and Merging

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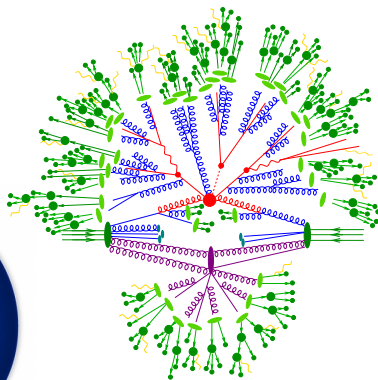
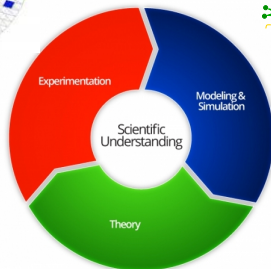
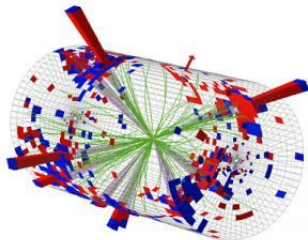
Parton Showers and Resummation School

CERN, 07/10/2025

Suggested reading

- R. K. Ellis, W. J. Stirling, B. R. Webber
QCD and Collider Physics
Cambridge University Press, 2003
- R. D. Field
Applications of Perturbative QCD
Addison-Wesley, 1995
- T. Sjöstrand, S. Mrenna, P. Z. Skands
PYTHIA 6.4 Physics and Manual
JHEP 05 (2006) 026
- L. Dixon, F. Petriello (Editors)
Journeys Through the Precision Frontier
Proceedings of TASI 2014, World Scientific, 2015

Event generators in the bigger picture

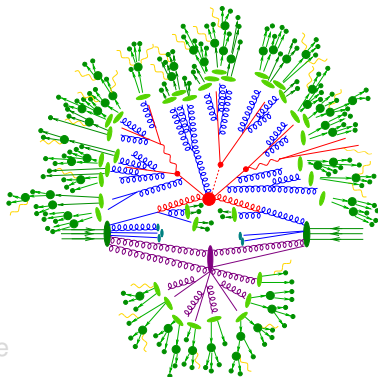


$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + i\bar{\Psi}\not{D}\Psi + h.c.$$

Schematics of LHC simulations

Need to cover large dynamic range

- Short distance interactions
 - **Signal process**
 - Radiative corrections
- Long-distance interactions
 - Hadronization
 - Particle decays



Divide and Conquer

- Quantity of interest: Total interaction rate
- Convolution of short & long distance physics

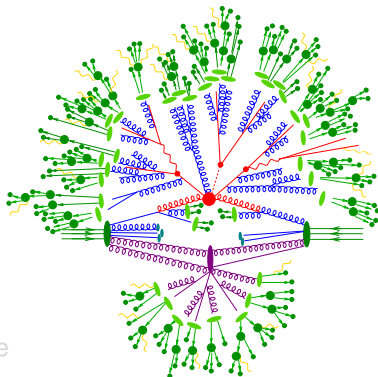
$$\sigma_{p_1 p_2 \rightarrow X} = \sum_{i,j \in \{q,g\}} \int dx_1 dx_2 \underbrace{f_{p_1,i}(x_1, \mu_F^2) f_{p_2,j}(x_2, \mu_F^2)}_{\text{long distance}} \underbrace{\hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow X}(x_1 x_2, \mu_F^2)}_{\text{short distance}}$$

Matching & merging unifies signal process & radiative corrections

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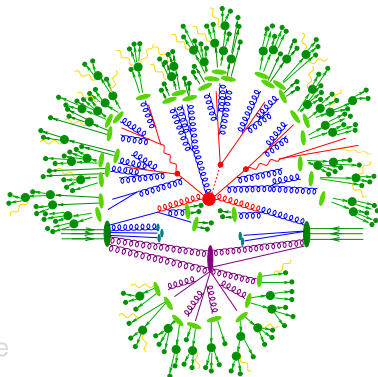
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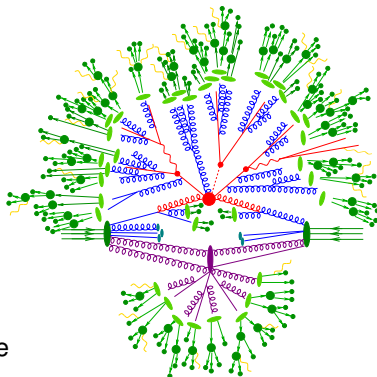
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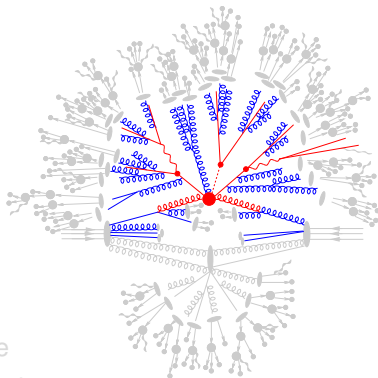
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Matching & merging unifies signal process & radiative corrections

Connection to QCD theory

- $\hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow n}(\mu_F^2) \rightarrow$ Collinearly factorized fixed-order result at N^xLO

Implemented in fully differential form to be maximally useful

Tree level: $d\Phi_n B_n$

- Automated ME generators + phase-space integrators

1-Loop level: $d\Phi_n \left(B_n + V_n + \sum C + \sum I_n \right) + d\Phi_{n+1} \left(R_n - \sum S_n \right)$

- Automated loop ME generators + integral libraries + IR subtraction

2-Loop level: It depends ...

- Individual solutions based on SCET, q_T subtraction, P2B

- $f_i(x, \mu_F^2) \rightarrow$ Collinearly factorized PDF at N^yLO

Evaluated at $O(1\text{GeV}^2)$ and expanded into a series above 1GeV^2

$$\text{DGLAP: } \frac{dx x f_a(x, t)}{d \ln t} = \sum_{b=q,g} \int_0^1 d\tau \int_0^1 dz \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} [z P_{ab}(z)]_+ \tau f_b(\tau, t) \delta(x - \tau z)$$

- Parton showers, dipole showers, antenna showers, ...

$$\text{Matching: } d\Phi_n \frac{S_n}{B_n} \leftrightarrow \frac{dt}{t} dz \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{ab}(z)$$

- MC@NLO, POWHEG, Geneva, MINNLO_{PS}, ...

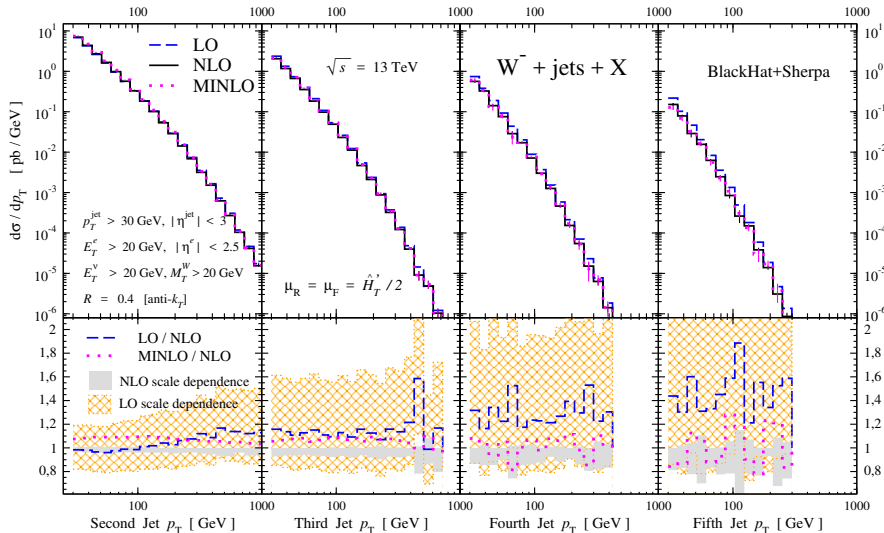
Outline of lectures

- Why match and merge?
 - Problems with fixed-order QCD
 - Problems with parton showers
- Theory background
 - Matching to NLO calculations
 - Merging of (N)LO calculations
 - Fusing of merged results
- Practicalities
 - What's my observable?
 - What does pQCD predict?
 - Common pitfalls

Why match and merge?

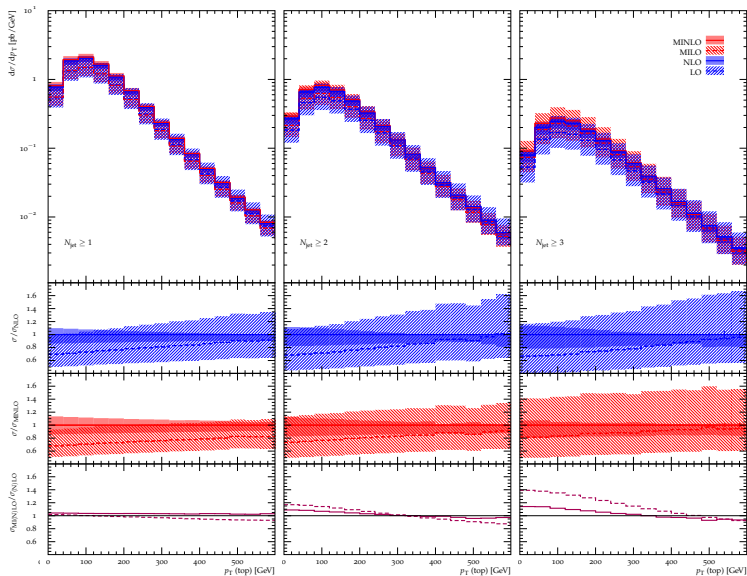
Typical fixed-order pQCD performance: $W^\pm + 5$ jets

[Bern et al.] arXiv:1304.1253, [Anger et al.] arXiv:1712.08621



Typical fixed-order pQCD performance: $t\bar{t}+3$ jets

[Maierhöfer et al.] arXiv:1607.06934



How fixed-order calculations work

- **Textbook:** Use completeness relations to square amplitudes
sum/average over external states (helicity and color)
Computational effort grows quadratically with number of diagrams
- **Real life:** Amplitudes are complex numbers
first compute them, then add and square
Effort grows linearly with number of diagrams
- Applies to dynamical degrees of freedom only
 - Consider helicity: Polarizations depend on momenta
need to recompute for each phase-space point
 - Consider color: Can be summed over at low multiplicity
independent of other d.o.f. $\rightarrow$ no need to recompute

How fixed-order calculations work

- QCD amplitudes can be stripped of color factors
These can be computed once and for all

- Fundamental representation for n -gluons

$$\mathcal{A}_n(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum_{\vec{\sigma} \in P(2, \dots, n)} \text{Tr}(\lambda^{a_1} \lambda^{a_{\sigma_2}} \dots \lambda^{a_{\sigma_n}}) A(p_1, p_{\sigma_2}, \dots, p_{\sigma_n})$$

- Adjoint representation for n -gluons

$$\mathcal{A}_n(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum_{\vec{\sigma} \in P(2, \dots, n-1)} [F^{a_{\sigma_2}} \dots F^{a_{\sigma_{n-1}}}]_{a_n}^{a_1} A(p_1, p_{\sigma_2}, \dots, p_{\sigma_{n-1}}, p_n)$$

- Color-flow representation for n -gluons

$$\mathcal{A}_n(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \sum_{\vec{\sigma} \in P(2, \dots, n)} \delta_{j_{\sigma_2}}^{i_1} \delta_{j_{\sigma_3}}^{i_{\sigma_2}} \dots \delta_{j_1}^{i_{\sigma_n}} A(p_1, p_{\sigma_2}, \dots, p_{\sigma_n})$$

How fixed-order calculations work

[Dixon] hep-ph/9601359, [Dittmaier] hep-ph/9805445

- Weyl-van-der-Waerden spinors for helicity states $+/ -$

$$\chi_+(p) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{p^+} \\ \sqrt{p^-} e^{i\phi_p} \end{pmatrix} \quad \chi_-(p) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{p^-} e^{i\phi_p} \\ -\sqrt{p^+} \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{aligned} p^\pm &= p^0 \pm p^3 \\ p_\perp &= p^1 + ip^2 \end{aligned}$$

Basic building blocks for all amplitudes

$+$, $-$, $\perp$ directions define “spinor gauge”

- Massive Dirac spinors in terms of WvdW spinors

$$\begin{aligned} u_+(p, m) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\bar{p}}} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{p_0 - \bar{p}} \chi_+(\hat{p}) \\ \sqrt{p_0 + \bar{p}} \chi_+(\hat{p}) \end{pmatrix} & \bar{p} = \text{sgn}(p_0) |\vec{p}| \\ u_-(p, m) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\bar{p}}} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{p_0 + \bar{p}} \chi_-(\hat{p}) \\ \sqrt{p_0 - \bar{p}} \chi_-(\hat{p}) \end{pmatrix} & \hat{p} = (\bar{p}, \vec{p}) \end{aligned}$$

- γ^5 conveniently defined in Weyl representation

$$\gamma^5 = i\gamma^0\gamma^1\gamma^2\gamma^3 = \begin{pmatrix} -\sigma^0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma^0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Projection operator $P_{R,L} = P_\pm = (1 \pm \gamma^5)/2$ identifies

lower/upper component of Dirac spinors as right-/left-handed

How fixed-order calculations work

- Massless polarizations constructed from $u_{\pm}(p)$ and $u_{\pm}(k)$ with external light-like gauge vector k

$$\varepsilon_{\pm}^{\mu}(p, k) = \pm \frac{\bar{u}_{\mp}(k) \gamma^{\mu} u_{\mp}(p)}{\sqrt{2} \bar{u}_{\mp}(k) u_{\pm}(p)} .$$

Defines light-like axial gauge

- For massive particles decompose momentum p using k

$$b = p - \kappa k \quad \kappa = \frac{p^2}{2pk} \quad \Rightarrow \quad b^2 = 0$$

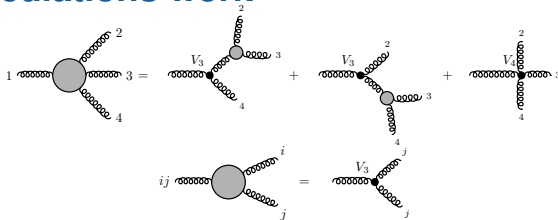
Transverse polarizations as in massless case ($p \rightarrow b$) plus longitudinal

$$\varepsilon_0^{\mu}(p, k) = \frac{1}{m} (\bar{u}_-(b) \gamma^{\mu} u_-(b) - \kappa \bar{u}_-(k) \gamma^{\mu} u_-(k))$$

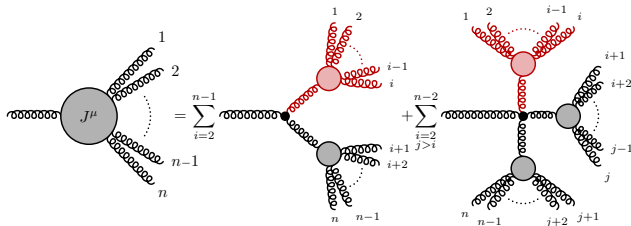
- Vertices & propagators are known
→ Amplitude building blocks complete

How fixed-order calculations work

Example: Diagrams for
 $g(1)g(2) \rightarrow g(3)g(4)$



[Berends,Giele] NPB306(1988)759



Example: Currents for
 $g(1)g(2) \rightarrow g(3)g(4)$

Step 1	$J_1 = \varepsilon(1)$	$J_2 = \varepsilon(2)$	$J_3 = \varepsilon(3)$	$J_4 = \varepsilon(4)$
Step 2	J_{12}	J_{13}	J_{23}	
Step 3	J_{123}			
Step 4	$A(1, 2, 3, 4) = J_4^* J_{123}$			

How fixed-order calculations work

[James] CERN-68-15

[Byckling,Kajantie] NPB9(1969)568

- Need to evaluate in a process-independent way

$$d\Phi_n(p_a, p_b; p_1, \dots, p_n) = \left[\prod_{i=1}^n \frac{d^3 p_i}{(2\pi)^3 2E_i} \right] \delta^4 \left(p_a + p_b - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \right)$$

- Use factorization properties of phase-space integral

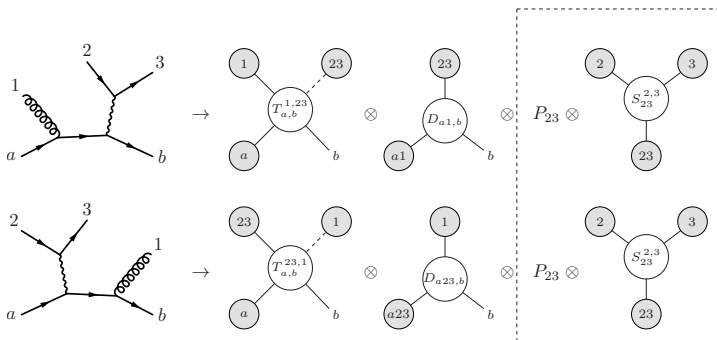
$$\begin{aligned} d\Phi_n(p_a, p_b; p_1, \dots, p_n) &= d\Phi_{n-m+1}(p_a, p_b; p_{1m}, p_{m+1}, \dots, p_n) \\ &\quad \times \frac{ds_{1m}}{2\pi} d\Phi_m(p_{1m}; p_1, \dots, p_m) \end{aligned}$$

- Apply repeatedly until only 2-particle phase spaces remain

$$d\Phi_2 = \frac{\lambda(s, m_i^2, m_j^2)}{16\pi^2 2s_{ij}} d\cos\theta_i d\phi_i$$

$$\lambda^2(a, b, c) = (a - b - c)^2 - 4bc \text{ - Källén function}$$

How fixed-order calculations work



- Construct one integrator per diagram and combine into multi-channel
- Intuitive notion of pole structure, multi-channel determines balance
- Factorial growth with number of diagrams can be tamed by recursion

When fixed-order calculations don't work ...

... one of the assumptions of fixed-order pQCD must be violated

- Scale hierarchies or rapidity gaps become large, leading to logarithmically enhanced corrections
- Flavor content of jets is resolved in some detail such that specifics of fragmentation are relevant
- Flavor channels have been down-selected to simplify computation (e.g. 4-flavor scheme in inclusive region)
- Scales are chosen inappropriately
- Reasons not relevant for this lecture ...

If none of these apply and your fixed-order calculation gives nonsense:

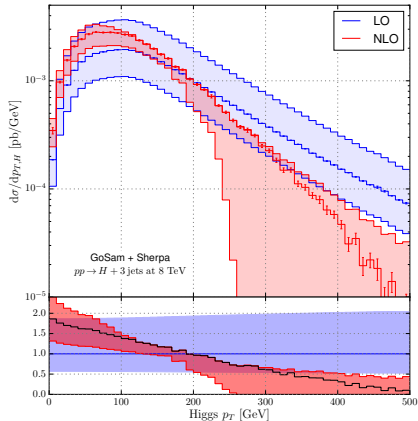
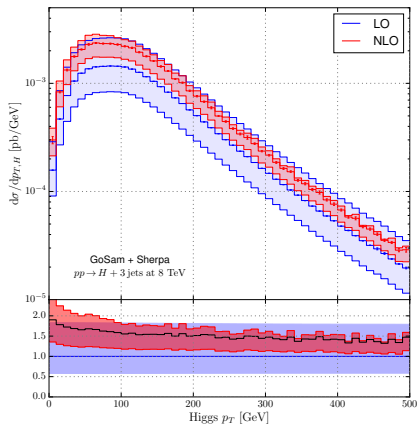
There is a problem with the calculation or the way it's used.

Matching & merging won't solve it.

You should talk to the authors!

Poor performance example: Scale choice

[Greiner et al.] arXiv:1506.01016

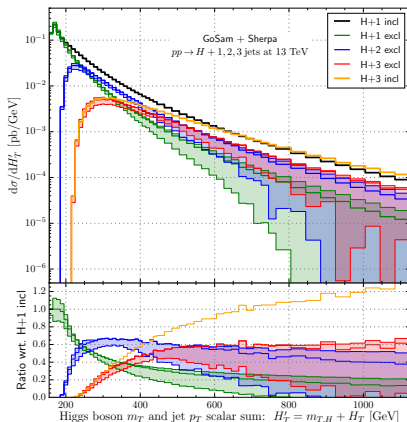
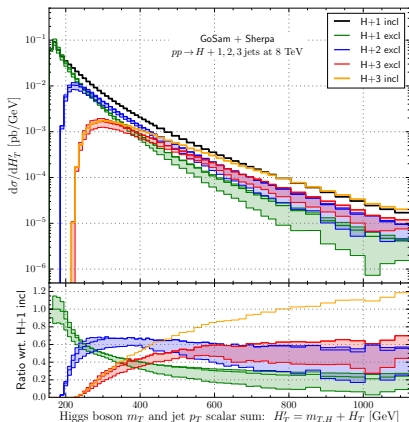


- H'_T – based scale
- Small uncertainties

- m_H – based scale
- Large uncertainties

Poor performance example: Jet cuts

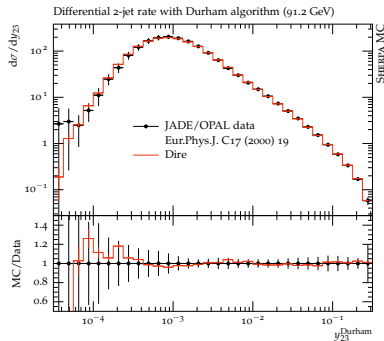
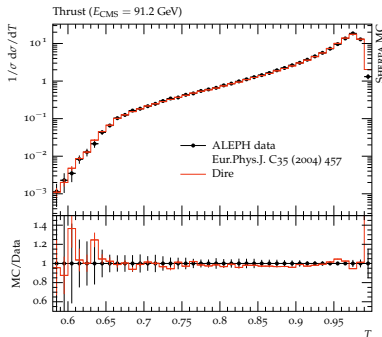
[Greiner et al.] arXiv:1506.01016



■ 8 TeV cms energy

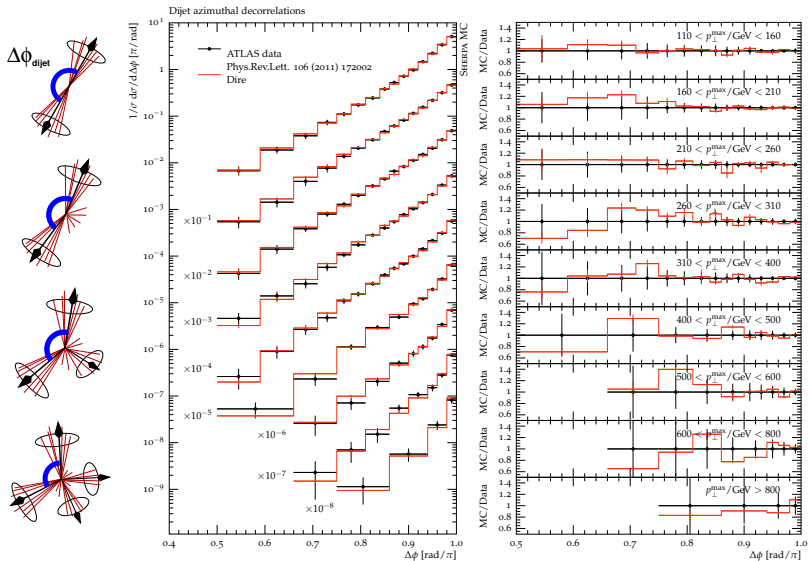
■ 13 TeV cms energy

Typical parton shower performance: $e^+e^- \rightarrow \text{jets}$



- Thrust and Durham $2 \rightarrow 3$ -jet rate in $e^+e^- \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$
- Hadronization region to the right (left) in left (right) plot

Typical parton-shower performance: Jets at LHC



How parton showers work

- Classical point charge on trajectory $y^\mu(s) \rightarrow$ conserved current $j^\mu(x)$

$$j^\mu(x) = g \int dt \frac{dy^\mu(t)}{dt} \delta^{(4)}(x - y(t)) , \quad g = \sqrt{4\pi\alpha}$$

- Fourier transform to momentum space

$$j^\mu(k) = \int d^4x e^{ikx} j^\mu(x) = g \int dt \frac{dy^\mu(t)}{dt} e^{iky(t)}$$

- Assume particle moves with momentum p_a if $t < 0$,
is 'kicked' at origin $y^\mu(0) = 0$, and moves with p_b if $t > 0$

$$y^\mu(t) = t \frac{p^\mu(t)}{p_0(t)} = \begin{cases} t p_a^\mu / p_{a,0} & \text{if } t < 0 \\ t p_b^\mu / p_{b,0} & \text{if } t > 0 \end{cases}$$

- Introduce a regulator and Fourier transform ...

$$j^\mu(k) = g \int_{-\infty}^0 dt \frac{p_a^\mu}{p_{a,0}} \exp \left\{ i \left(\frac{p_a k}{p_{a,0}} - i\varepsilon \right) t \right\} + g \int_0^{+\infty} dt \frac{p_b^\mu}{p_{b,0}} \exp \left\{ i \left(\frac{p_b k}{p_{b,0}} + i\varepsilon \right) t \right\}$$

How parton showers work

- Classical current

$$j^\mu(k) = ig \left(\frac{p_b^\mu}{p_b k + i\varepsilon} - \frac{p_a^\mu}{p_a k - i\varepsilon} \right)$$

- Spin independent
- Conserved

- Now add the quantum part $\rightarrow$ current can create gauge bosons
Interaction Hamiltonian density

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{int}}(x) = j^\mu(x) A_\mu(x)$$

- Probability of no emission $\rightarrow$ vacuum persistence amplitude squared

$$|W_{a \rightarrow b}|^2 = |\langle 0 | T \left[\exp \left\{ i \int d^4x j^\mu(x) A_\mu(x) \right\} \right] | 0 \rangle|^2$$

- Can be expanded into power series

$$W_{a \rightarrow b} = \sum \frac{1}{n!} W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(n)}, \quad W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(n)} \propto g^n$$

- Zeroth order: $W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(0)} = 1$
- First order: $\langle 0 | A_\mu(x) | 0 \rangle = 0$

How parton showers work

■ Second order contribution

$$\begin{aligned}W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2)} &= - \int d^4x \int d^4y j^\mu(x) j^\nu(y) \langle 0 | T [A_\mu(x) A_\nu(y)] | 0 \rangle \\&= - \int d^4x \int d^4y j^\mu(x) i \Delta_{F, \mu\nu}(x, y) j^\nu(y)\end{aligned}$$

- Emission of field quantum at x , propagation to y & absorption
- Unobserved, i.e. a *virtual* correction

■ Propagation described by time-ordered Green's function

$$\begin{aligned}i \Delta_F^{\mu\nu}(x, y) &= \Theta(y_0 - x_0) \langle 0 | A^\nu(y) A^\mu(x) | 0 \rangle + \Theta(x_0 - y_0) \langle 0 | A^\mu(x) A^\nu(y) | 0 \rangle \\&= \int \frac{d^3 \vec{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2E_k} \left[\Theta(y_0 - x_0) e^{-ik(y-x)} \right. \\&\quad \left. + \Theta(x_0 - y_0) e^{ik(y-x)} \right] \sum_{\lambda=\pm} \varepsilon_\lambda^\mu(k, l) \varepsilon_\lambda^{\nu*}(k, l) \\&= -i \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{e^{-ik(y-x)}}{k^2 + i\varepsilon} \sum_{\lambda=\pm} \varepsilon_\lambda^\mu(k) \varepsilon_\lambda^{\nu*}(k)\end{aligned}$$

How parton showers work

- Insert into vacuum persistence amplitude

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2)} &= -i \int d^4x \int d^4y \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{e^{-ik(y-x)}}{k^2 + i\varepsilon} \sum_{\lambda=\pm} (j(x)\varepsilon_\lambda(k))(j(y)\varepsilon_\lambda(k))^* \\
 &= -i \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{k^2 + i\varepsilon} \sum_{\lambda=\pm} (j(k)\varepsilon_\lambda(k))(j(k)\varepsilon_\lambda(k))^*
 \end{aligned}$$

- Use completeness relation for polarization vectors (e.g. axial gauge)

$$\sum_{\lambda=\pm} \varepsilon_\lambda^\mu(k, l) \varepsilon_\lambda^{\nu *} (k, l) = -g^{\mu\nu} + \frac{k^\mu l^\nu + k^\nu l^\mu}{kl}$$

- Complete second-order contribution ($p_a^2 = p_b^2 = 0$, dim.reg., $\overline{\text{MS}}$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2)} &= -i |g|^2 \left(\frac{\mu^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{4\pi} \right)^\varepsilon \int \frac{d^D k}{(2\pi)^D} \frac{1}{k^2 + i\varepsilon} \frac{2p_a p_b}{(p_a k)(p_b k)} \\
 &\xrightarrow{\text{IR only}} -\frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log \frac{2p_a p_b}{\mu^2} + \frac{1}{2} \log^2 \frac{2p_a p_b}{\mu^2} - \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

How parton showers work

■ Real-emission contribution

$$dW_{a \rightarrow bc}^2(p_c) = \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_c}{(2\pi)^3 2E_c} \left| \langle \vec{p}_c | T \left[\exp \left\{ i \int d^4 x j^\mu(x) A_\mu(x) \right\} \right] | 0 \rangle \right|^2.$$

■ Can be expanded into power series

$$dW_{a \rightarrow bc}(p_c) = \sum \frac{1}{n!} dW_{a \rightarrow bc}^{(n)}(p_c), \quad dW_{a \rightarrow bc}^{(n)}(p_c) \propto g^n$$

■ Zeroth order: $\langle \vec{p}_c | 0 \rangle = 0$

■ First-order term ($p_a^2 = p_b^2 = 0$, dim.reg., $\overline{\text{MS}}$)

$$\begin{aligned} \int dW_{a \rightarrow bc}^{2(1)}(p_c) &= \int \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_c}{(2\pi)^3 2E_c} \left| i \int d^4 x j^\mu(x) \langle \vec{p}_c | A_\mu(x) | 0 \rangle \right|^2 \\ &= - \int \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_c}{(2\pi)^3 2E_c} \sum_{\lambda=\pm} (j(p_c) \varepsilon_\lambda(p_c)) (j(p_c) \varepsilon_\lambda(p_c))^* \\ &\rightarrow |g|^2 \left(\frac{\mu^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{4\pi} \right)^\varepsilon \int \frac{d^D \vec{p}_c}{(2\pi)^D} \frac{2p_a p_b}{(p_a p_c)(p_b p_c)} \delta(p_c^2) \\ &\approx + \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log \frac{2p_a p_b}{\mu^2} + \frac{1}{2} \log^2 \frac{2p_a p_b}{\mu^2} - \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \right) \end{aligned}$$

How parton showers work

- So far we have

$$W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2)} = -\frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log \frac{2p_a p_b}{\mu^2} + \frac{1}{2} \log^2 \frac{2p_a p_b}{\mu^2} - \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \right)$$
$$\int dW_{a \rightarrow bc}^{2(1)}(p_c) = +\frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} - \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \log \frac{2p_a p_b}{\mu^2} + \frac{1}{2} \log^2 \frac{2p_a p_b}{\mu^2} - \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \right)$$

- Explicit form of unitarity condition (probability conservation)
- Poles in ε cancel between virtual and real-emission correction
- π^2 contributions due to D -dimensional phase space
- Double poles in ε only appear upon integration over loop momentum and full real-emission phase space $\rightarrow$ associated with unobserved region $\rightarrow$ cancellation between real and virtual (Bloch-Nordsieck / KLN)
- Remaining terms are double logarithms

$$W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2)} \rightarrow -\frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{2} \log^2 \frac{2p_a p_b}{\mu^2} - \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \right)$$
$$\int dW_{a \rightarrow bc}^{2(1)}(p_c) \rightarrow +\frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left(\frac{1}{2} \log^2 \frac{2p_a p_b}{\mu^2} - \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \right)$$

- Terms of this type survive if unitarity is broken by the measurement e.g. vetoed real radiation above a certain scale $\tau\mu^2$
 - ↗ Computation of thrust at NLO in Melissa's lecture

How parton showers work

- Order $2n$ contribution to vacuum persistence amplitude

$$W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2n)} = \left[\prod_{i=1}^{2n} i \int d^4 x_i j^{\mu_i}(x_i) \right] \langle 0 | T \left[\prod_{i=1}^{2n} A_{\mu_i}(x_i) \right] | 0 \rangle$$

- Decompose time-ordered product into Feynman propagators, use symmetry of integrand in currents

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2n)}}{(2n)!} &= \frac{(2n-1)(2n-3)\dots 3 \cdot 1}{(2n)!} \left[\prod_{i=1}^{2n} i \int d^4 x_i j^{\mu_i}(x_i) \right] \\ &\quad \times \prod_{i=1}^n \langle 0 | T [A_{\mu_{2i}}(x_{2i}) A_{\mu_{2i+1}}(x_{2i+1})] | 0 \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2^n n!} \left(- \int d^4 x \int d^4 y j^\mu(x) i \Delta_{\mu\nu}(x, y) j^\nu(y) \right)^n = \frac{1}{n!} \left(\frac{W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2)}}{2} \right)^n. \end{aligned}$$

- Sum all orders in $\alpha \rightarrow$ vacuum persistence amplitude squared

$$|W_{a \rightarrow b}|^2 = \left| \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \left(\frac{W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2)}}{2} \right)^n \right|^2 = \exp \left\{ W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2)} \right\}.$$

How parton showers work

■ Sudakov factor from first principles

$$\Delta = |W_{a \rightarrow b}|^2 = \exp \left\{ W_{a \rightarrow b}^{(2)} \right\}$$

- Resummed virtual corrections at scale μ^2
- Logarithmic structure same as real corrections

■ For Abelian theories we can also use

$$\Delta = \exp \left\{ - \int dW_{a \rightarrow bc}^{2(1)} \right\}$$

- Agrees with heuristics based on probability conservation
- Sufficient for most use cases in non-Abelian theories, but not exact

■ Universal, semi-classical integrand (Eikonal)

$$\frac{2p_a p_b}{(p_a p_c)(p_b p_c)}$$

- Originates in gauge boson radiation off conserved charge
- **This is the same for charged particles in full scalar QED / QCD**
→ **Kinematical approximations not actually needed**
- As they use exact phase space factorization, parton showers only miss spin effects & correlations

When parton showers don't work ...

... one of the underlying assumptions must be violated

- Relevant phase space is not covered by the evolution
- Multi-parton correlations are resolved by observable
- Scale hierarchies are small (e.g. similar jet- p_T)
- Rapidity differences are large
- Reasons too complicated to explain here ...

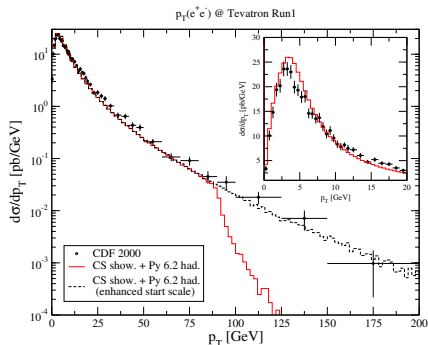
If none of these apply and your parton shower still gives nonsense:

There is a problem with the generator or the way it's used.

Matching & merging won't solve it.

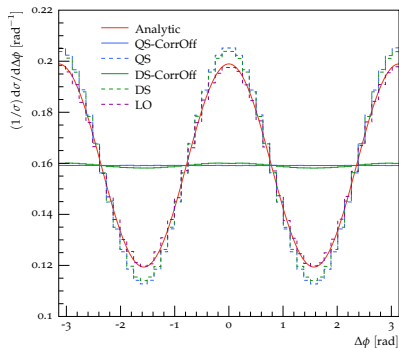
You should talk to the authors!

Poor performance example: Phase space coverage



- Drell-Yan lepton pair production at Tevatron
- If hard cross section computed at leading order, then parton shower is only source of transverse momentum
↗ Melissa's lecture
- Does not generate transverse momenta larger than μ_F

Poor performance example: Spin correlations



- Azimuthal modulation of QCD radiation due to spin of intermediate gluons

Theory background

Toy model for infrared subtraction at NLO

[Frixione,Webber] hep-ph/0204244

- Assume system of charges radiating “photons” of fractional energy x .
- Predicting observables at NLO amounts to computing expectation value

$$\langle O \rangle = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_0^1 dx x^{-2\varepsilon} \left[\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dx} \right)_B O_0 + \left(\frac{d\sigma}{dx} \right)_V O_0 + \left(\frac{d\sigma}{dx} \right)_R O_1(x) \right]$$

- Born, virtual and real-emission contributions given by

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dx} \right)_{B,V,R} = B \delta(x), \quad \left(V_f + \frac{BV_s}{2\varepsilon} \right) \delta(x), \quad \frac{R(x)}{x}$$

KLN cancellation theorem: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} R(x) = BV_s$

Infrared safe observable: $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} O_1(x) = O_0$

Virtual correction $\begin{cases} V_f & - & \text{finite piece} \\ BV_s/2\varepsilon & - & \text{singular piece} \end{cases}$

Implicit: All higher-order terms proportional to coupling α

Toy model for infrared subtraction at NLO

- Add and subtract approximation of real correction in soft limit

$$\langle O \rangle_R = \text{BV}_s O(0) \int_0^1 dx \frac{x^{-2\varepsilon}}{x} + \int_0^1 dx \frac{\text{R}(x) O(x) - \text{BV}_s O(0)}{x^{1+2\varepsilon}}$$

- Second integral non-singular $\rightarrow$ set $\varepsilon = 0$

$$\langle O \rangle_R = -\frac{\text{BV}_s}{2\varepsilon} O(0) + \int_0^1 dx \frac{\text{R}(x) O(x) - \text{BV}_s O(0)}{x}$$

- Combine everything with Born and virtual correction

$$\langle O \rangle = (\text{B} + \text{V}_f) O(0) + \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} [\text{R}(x) O(x) - \text{BV}_s O(0)]$$

Both terms separately finite as $x \rightarrow 0$

- Rewrite for future reference

$$\langle O \rangle = (\text{B} + \text{V} + \text{I}) O(0) + \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} [\text{R}(x) O(x) - \text{S} O(0)]$$

$\text{I} = -\text{BV}_s/2\varepsilon \rightarrow$ Integrated subtraction term

$\text{S} = \text{BV}_s \rightarrow$ Real subtraction term

Actual infrared subtraction at NLO

- QCD subtraction more cumbersome:

- Soft limit color dependent [Bassetto,Ciafaloni,Marchesini] PR100(1983)201

$$|\mathcal{M}(1, \dots, j, \dots, n)|^2 \xrightarrow{j \rightarrow \text{soft}} - \sum_{i, k \neq i} \frac{8\pi\mu^{2\epsilon}\alpha_s}{p_i p_j} \\ \times {}_m \langle 1, \dots, i, \dots, k, \dots, n | \frac{\mathbf{T}_i \mathbf{T}_k p_i p_k}{(p_i + p_k) p_j} | 1, \dots, i, \dots, k, \dots, n \rangle_m$$

$\mathbf{T}_i$ - color insertion operator for parton i

$|1, \dots, i, \dots, k, \dots, n\rangle_m$ - m -parton Born amplitude

- Collinear limit spin dependent [Altarelli,Parisi] NPB126(1977)298

$$|\mathcal{M}(1, \dots, i, \dots, j, \dots, n)|^2 \xrightarrow{i, j \rightarrow \text{coll}} \frac{8\pi\mu^{2\epsilon}\alpha_s}{2p_i p_j} \\ \times {}_m \langle 1, \dots, ij, \dots, n | \hat{P}_{(ij)i}(z, k_T, \epsilon) | 1, \dots, ij, \dots, n \rangle_m$$

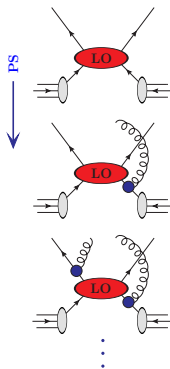
$\hat{P}_{(ij)i}(z, k_T, \epsilon)$ - Spin-dependent DGLAP kernel

- Basic features surviving from toy model are phase-space mapping and subtraction terms as products of Born times splitting operator
- Commonly used techniques: Dipole method & FKS method

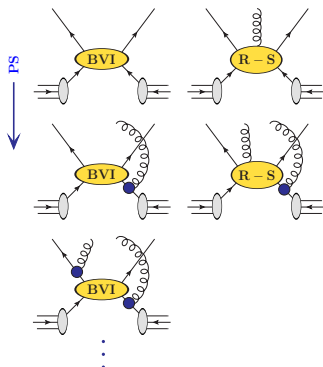
[Catani,Seymour] NPB485(1997)291, [Catani,Dittmaier,Seymour,Trocsanyi] NPB627(2002)189

[Frixione,Kunszt,Signer] NPB467(1996)399

NLO matching



NLO matching



Matching schemes

Two major techniques to match NLO calculations and parton showers

Additive (MC@NLO-like)

[Frixione, Webber] hep-ph/0204244

- Use parton-shower splitting kernel as an NLO subtraction term
- Multiply LO event weight by Born-local K-factor including integrated subtraction term and virtual corrections
- Add hard remainder function consisting of subtracted real-emission correction

Multiplicative (POWHEG-like)

[Nason] hep-ph/0409146

- Use matrix-element corrections to replace parton-shower splitting kernel by full real-emission matrix element in first shower branching
- Multiply LO event weight by Born-local NLO K-factor (integrated over real corrections that can be mapped to Born according to PS kinematics)

Toy model for modified subtraction

[Frixione, Webber] hep-ph/0204244

- Revisit toy model for NLO

$$\langle O \rangle = (B + V + I) O(0) + \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} [R(x) O(x) - S O(0)]$$

- In parton showers, any number of “photons” can be emitted
- Emission probability controlled by Sudakov form factor

$$\Delta(x_1, x_2) = \exp \left\{ - \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \frac{dx}{x} K(x) \right\}$$

Evolution kernel behaves as $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} K(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} R(x)/B = V_s$

- Define generating functional

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(n)}(x, O) = \Delta(x_0, x) O_n(x) + \int_{x_0}^x \frac{d\bar{x}}{\bar{x}} \frac{d\Delta(\bar{x}, x)}{d \ln \bar{x}} \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(n+1)}(\bar{x}, O)$$

- $\mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(n)}(x, O)$ now replaces observable $O \rightarrow$ Naively:

$$O(0) \Leftrightarrow \text{start MC with 0 emissions} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(0)}(1, O)$$

$$O(x) \Leftrightarrow \text{start MC with 1 emission} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(1)}(x, O)$$

Toy model for modified subtraction

- Combined generating functional would be

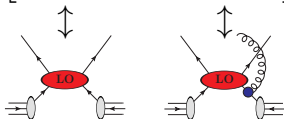
$$\left[(B + V + I) - \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} S \right] \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(0)}(1, O) + \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} R(x) \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(1)}(x, O)$$

- This is wrong because

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(0)}(O) = \Delta(x_c, 1) O(0) + \int_{x_c}^1 \frac{dx}{x} K(x) \Delta(x, 1) O(x) + \dots$$

- So $B \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(0)}$ generates an $\mathcal{O}(\alpha)$ term that spoils NLO accuracy

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dx} \right)_{\text{MC}} O(x) = B \left[- \frac{K(x)}{x} O(0) + \frac{K(x)}{x} O(x) \right]$$



- The proper matching is obtained by subtracting this $\mathcal{O}(\alpha)$ contribution

$$\langle O \rangle = \underbrace{\left[(B + V + I) + \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} (BK(x) - S) \right]}_{\text{NLO-weighted Born cross section}} \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(0)}(1, O) \\ + \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} \underbrace{[R(x) - BK(x)]}_{\text{hard remainder}} \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(1)}(x, O)$$

- Like at fixed order, both terms are separately finite
- We call events from the first term **S-events** (Standard) and events from the second term **H-events** (Hard)
- For further reference, define $D^{(K)}(x) := BK(x)$ as well as

$$\bar{B}^{(K)} = (B + V + I) + \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} (D^{(K)}(x) - S), \quad H^{(K)}(x) = R(x) - D^{(K)}(x)$$

→ compact notation

$$\langle O \rangle = \bar{B}^{(K)} \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(0)}(O) + \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} H^{(K)}(x) \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(1)}(x, O)$$

Modified subtraction in QCD

[Frixione, Webber] hep-ph/0204244

- Leading-order calculation for observable O

$$\langle O \rangle = \int d\Phi_B B(\Phi_B) O(\Phi_B)$$

- NLO calculation for same observable

$$\langle O \rangle = \int d\Phi_B \left\{ B(\Phi_B) + \tilde{V}(\Phi_B) \right\} O(\Phi_B) + \int d\Phi_R R(\Phi_R) O(\Phi_R)$$

- Parton-shower result until first emission

$$\begin{aligned} \langle O \rangle = & \int d\Phi_B B(\Phi_B) \left[\Delta^{(K)}(t_c) O(\Phi_B) + \int_{t_c} d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \Delta^{(K)}(t(\Phi_1)) O(\Phi_R) \right] \\ & \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s) \int d\Phi_B B(\Phi_B) \left\{ 1 - \int_{t_c} d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \right\} O(\Phi_B) + \int_{t_c} d\Phi_B d\Phi_1 B(\Phi_B) K(\Phi_1) O(\Phi_R) \end{aligned}$$

Phase space: $d\Phi_1 = dt dz d\phi$

Splitting functions: $K(t, z) \rightarrow \alpha_s / (2\pi t) \sum P(z) \Theta(\mu_Q^2 - t)$

Sudakov factors: $\Delta^{(K)}(t) = \exp \left\{ - \int_t d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \right\}$

Modified subtraction in QCD

- Subtract $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ PS terms from NLO result

$$\int d\Phi_B \left\{ B(\Phi_B) + \tilde{V}(\Phi_B) + B(\Phi_B) \int d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \right\} \dots \\ + \int d\Phi_R \left\{ R(\Phi_R) - B(\Phi_B) K(\Phi_1) \right\} \dots$$

- In DLL approximation both terms finite $\rightarrow$
MC events in two categories, $\mathbb{S}$ Standard and $\mathbb{H}$ Hard

$$\mathbb{S} \rightarrow \bar{B}^{(K)}(\Phi_B) = B(\Phi_B) + \tilde{V}(\Phi_B) + B(\Phi_B) \int d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1)$$

$$\mathbb{H} \rightarrow H^{(K)} = R(\Phi_R) - B(\Phi_B) K(\Phi_1)$$

- Color & spin correlations $\rightarrow$ **NLO subtraction** needed

$1/N_c$ corrections can be faded out in soft region by **smoothing function**

$$\bar{B}^{(K)}(\Phi_B) = B(\Phi_B) + \tilde{V}(\Phi_B) + \mathbf{I}(\Phi_B) + \int d\Phi_1 \left[B(\Phi_B) K(\Phi_1) - \mathbf{S}(\Phi_R) \right] f(\Phi_1)$$

$$H^{(K)}(\Phi_R) = \left[R(\Phi_R) - B(\Phi_B) K(\Phi_1) \right] f(\Phi_1)$$

Dealing with color and spin

Method 1

[Frixione,Webber] hep-ph/0204244

- $f(\Phi_1) \rightarrow 0$ in soft-gluon limit
- Full NLO in hard / collinear region
- Subleading color terms not ϕ_1 -dependent in soft domain

Method 2

[Krauss,Schönherr,Siegert,SH] arXiv:1111.1220

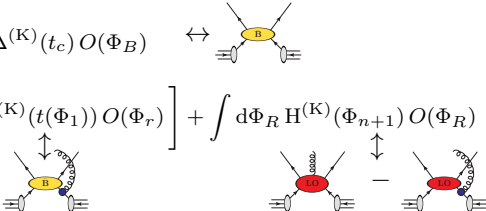
- Replace $B(\Phi_B)K(\Phi_1) \rightarrow S(\Phi_R)$, includes color & spin correlations
- Can lead to non-probabilistic $\Delta^{(S)}(t)$
→ requires modification of veto algorithm

- Add parton shower, described by generating functional $\mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}$

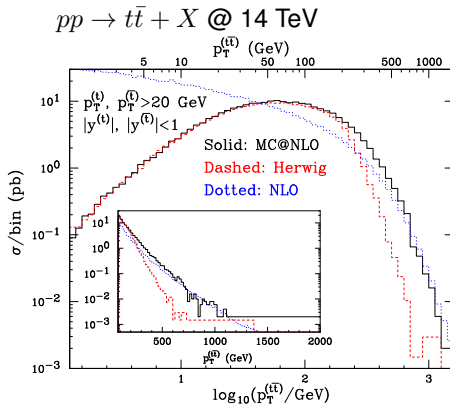
$$\langle O \rangle = \int d\Phi_B \bar{B}^{(K)}(\Phi_B) \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(0)}(\mu_Q^2, O) + \int d\Phi_R H^{(K)}(\Phi_R) \mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}^{(1)}(t(\Phi_R), O)$$

Probability conservation: $\mathcal{F}_{\text{MC}}(t, 1) = 1 \rightarrow$ cross section correct at NLO

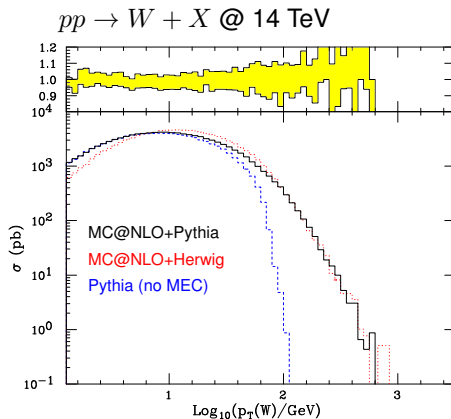
- Expansion of matched result until first emission

$$\begin{aligned} \langle O \rangle = \int d\Phi_B \bar{B}^{(K)}(\Phi_B) & \left[\Delta^{(K)}(t_c) O(\Phi_B) \right. \\ & \left. + \int_{t_c} d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \Delta^{(K)}(t(\Phi_1)) O(\Phi_r) \right] + \int d\Phi_R H^{(K)}(\Phi_{n+1}) O(\Phi_R) \end{aligned}$$


- Parametrically $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ correct
- Preserves logarithmic accuracy of PS



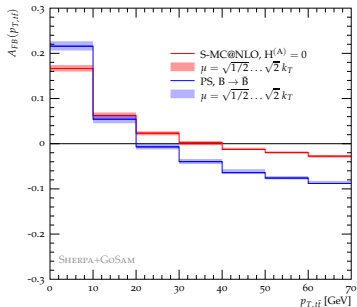
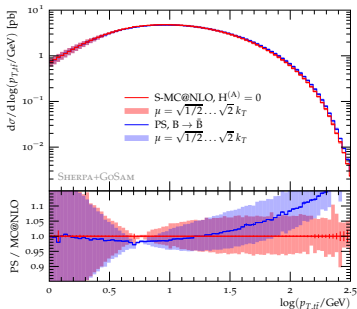
- MC@NLO interpolates smoothly between real-emission ME and PS



- MC@NLO with different PS agree at high $p_T \leftrightarrow$ NLO
- Differences at low p_T due to differences in PS

MC@NLO – Features

[Huang,Luisoni,Schönherr,Winter,SH] arXiv:1306.2703



- Leading color appropriate for sufficiently inclusive observables
- Full vs leading color has larger impact on $A_{FB} \rightarrow$ explained by kinematics effects using arguments of [Skands,Webber,Winter] arXiv:1205.1466

- Aim of the method: Eliminate negative weights from MC@NLO
- Replace $BK \rightarrow R \Rightarrow$ no $\mathbb{H}$ -events $\Rightarrow \bar{B}^{(R)}$ positive in physical region
- Expectation value of observable is

$$\langle O \rangle = \int d\Phi_B \bar{B}^{(R)}(\Phi_B) \left[\Delta^{(R)}(t_c, s_{\text{had}}) O(\Phi_B) + \int_{t_c}^{s_{\text{had}}} d\Phi_1 \frac{R(\Phi_R)}{B(\Phi_B)} \Delta^{(R)}(t(\Phi_1), s_{\text{had}}) O(\Phi_R) \right]$$

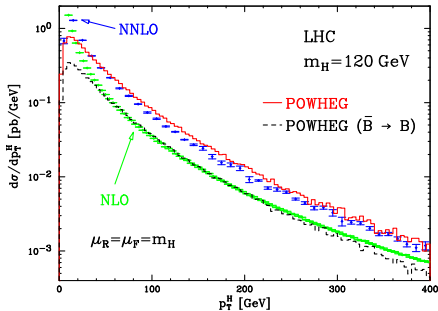
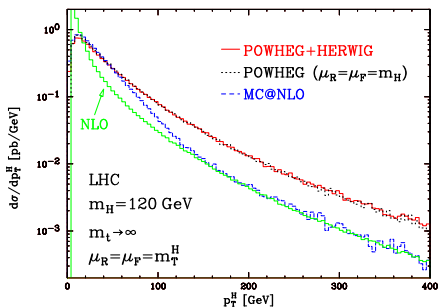
- μ_Q^2 has changed to hadronic centre-of-mass energy squared, s_{had} , as full phase space for real-emission correction, R , must be covered
- Absence of $\mathbb{H}$ -events leads to enhancement of high- p_T region by

$$K = \frac{\bar{B}}{B} = 1 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$$

Formally beyond NLO, but sizeable corrections in practice

POWHEG – Features

[Alioli,Nason,Oleari,Re] arXiv:0812.0578

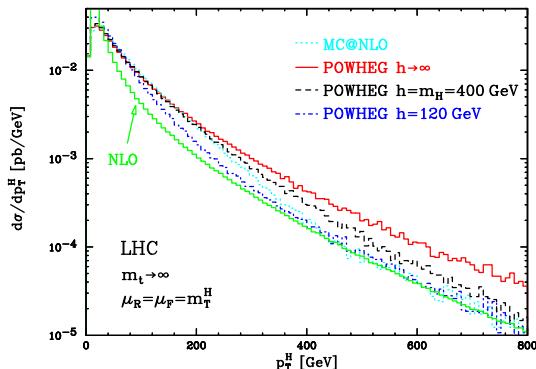


- Large enhancement at high $p_{T,h}$
- Can be traced back to large NLO correction
- Fortunately, NNLO correction is also large $\rightarrow \sim$ agreement

Improved POWHEG

- To avoid problems in high- p_T region, split real-emission ME into singular and finite parts as $R = R^s + R^f$
- Treat singular piece in $\mathbb{S}$ -events and finite piece in $\mathbb{H}$ -events
Similar to MC@NLO with redefined PS evolution kernels
- Differential event rate up to first emission

$$\begin{aligned} \langle O \rangle = & \int d\Phi_B \bar{B}^{(R^s)}(\Phi_B) \left[\Delta^{(R^s)}(t_c, s_{\text{had}}) O(\Phi_B) \right. \\ & \left. + \int_{t_c}^{s_{\text{had}}} d\Phi_1 \frac{R^s(\Phi_R)}{B(\Phi_B)} \Delta^{(R^s)}(t(\Phi_1), s_{\text{had}}) O(\Phi_R) \right] + \int d\Phi_R R_n^f(\Phi_R) \end{aligned}$$



- Singular real-emission part here defined as

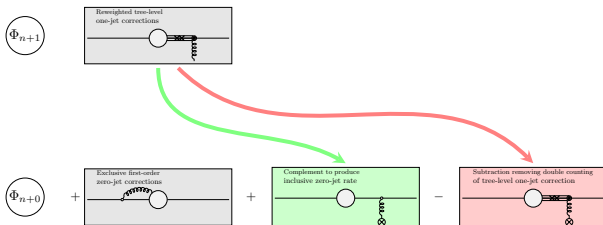
$$R^s = R \frac{h^2}{p_T^2 + h^2}$$

- Can “tune” NNLO contribution by varying free parameter h

Unitarity-based techniques

[Lönnblad,Prestel] arXiv:1211.4827, [Plätzer] arXiv:1211.5467

U(N)LOPS

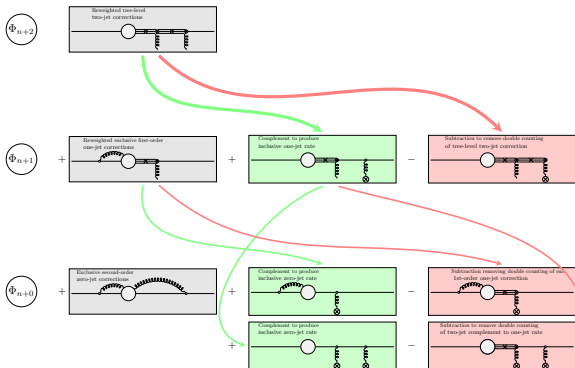


- Compute vetoed cross section & complete with real-emission
- Add Sudakov vetoed real-emission cross section & projection
- Can be implemented based on only two inputs (gray boxes)

Unitarity-based techniques

UN²LOPS

[Lönnblad,Prestel] arXiv:1211.4827, [Li,Prestel,SH] arXiv:1405.3607

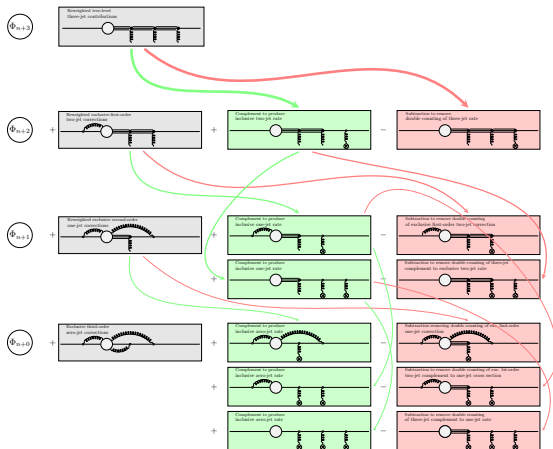


- Same idea as in ULOPS, but now also adding 2-loop contribution

Unitarity-based techniques

[Prestel] arXiv:2106.03206, [Bertone,Prestel] arXiv:2202.01082

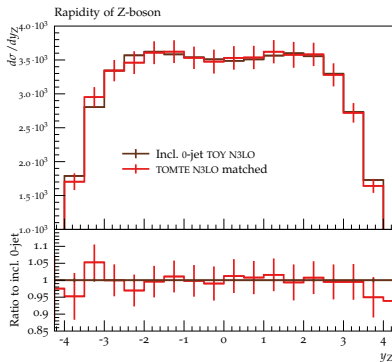
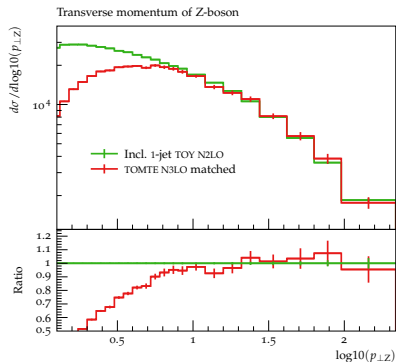
TOMTE



- Same idea as in UN²LOPS, but now also adding 3-loop contribution
- Must pay careful attention to projections (relevant for all UN^XLOPS)

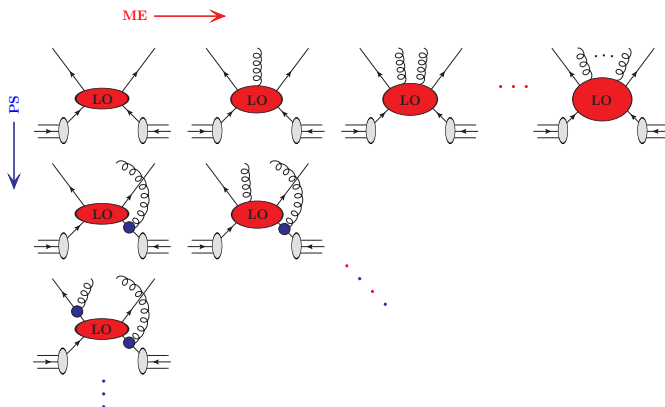
TOMTE – Features

[Bertone,Prestel] arXiv:2202.01082



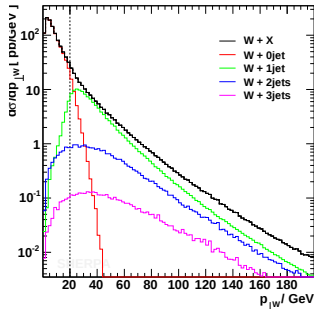
- Drell-Yan lepton pair production at LHC
- Stand-in fixed-order calculation for closure tests

Multi-jet merging



Basic idea of merging

- Separate phase space into “hard” and “soft” region
- Parton shower populates soft domain
- N^x LO real corrections replace PS emission term in hard domain
- Need criterion to define “hard” & “soft”
→ jet measure Q and corresponding cut, Q_{cut}



Basic idea of merging

- MC@LO split into $Q < Q_{\text{cut}}$ (PS) and $Q > Q_{\text{cut}}$ (ME) region

PS expression replaced by real-emission matrix-element in ME region

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle O \rangle = & \int d\Phi_B B(\Phi_B) \left[\Delta^{(K)}(t_c, \mu_Q^2) O(\Phi_B) \right. \\
 & + \int_{t_c}^{\mu_Q^2} d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \Delta^{(K)}(t(\Phi_1), \mu_Q^2) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q) O(\Phi_R) \left. \right] \\
 & + \int d\Phi_R R(\Phi_R) \Delta^{(K)}(t(\Phi_R), \mu_Q^2) \Theta(Q - Q_{\text{cut}}) O(\Phi_R)
 \end{aligned}$$

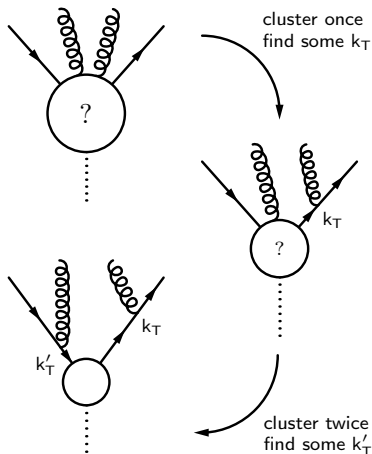
- Jet veto in PS / Jet cut on ME

- To match $K(\phi_1)$, weight $R(\phi_1)$ by $\alpha_s(k_T^2)/\alpha_s(\mu_R^2)$

Parton shower histories

[André,Sjöstrand] hep-ph/9708390

- Start with some “core” process for example $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$
- This process is considered inclusive
It sets the resummation scale μ_Q^2
- Higher-multiplicity ME can be reduced to core by clustering
 - Identify most likely splitting according to PS emission probability
 - Combine partons into mother according to PS kinematics
 - Continue until core process reached



Truncated vetoed parton showers

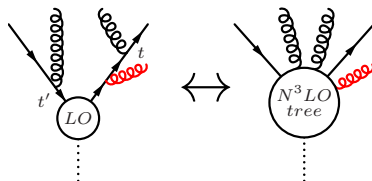
[Lönblad] hep-ph/0112284

- In hard region $\Delta(t(\Phi_R), \mu_Q^2)$ is additional weight
- Most efficiently computed using pseudo-showers

Recall PS no-emission probability: Constrained: $\Pi(x, t_2, \mu_Q^2)/\Pi(x, t_1, \mu_Q^2)$

Unconstrained: $\Delta(t_2, \mu_Q^2)/\Delta(t_1, \mu_Q^2)$

- Start PS from core process
- Evolve until predefined branching
↔ truncated parton shower
- Emissions that would produce additional hard jets
lead to event rejection (veto)



Truncated unvetoes parton showers

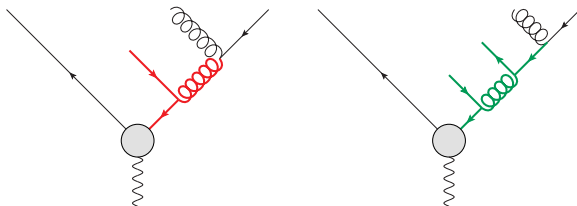
[Nason] hep-ph/0409146

- For $t \neq Q$, PS may generate emissions between μ_Q^2 and $t(\Phi_R)$, as

$$\Delta(t, \mu_Q^2) = \Delta(t, \mu_Q^2; > Q_{\text{cut}}) \Delta(t, \mu_Q^2; < Q_{\text{cut}})$$

$$\Delta(t, \mu_Q^2; > Q_{\text{cut}}) = \exp \left\{ - \int_t^{\mu_Q^2} d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \Theta(Q - Q_{\text{cut}}) \right\}$$

- Momentum and flavor conserving implementation non-trivial
Example: Two emissions may be allowed, while one may be not

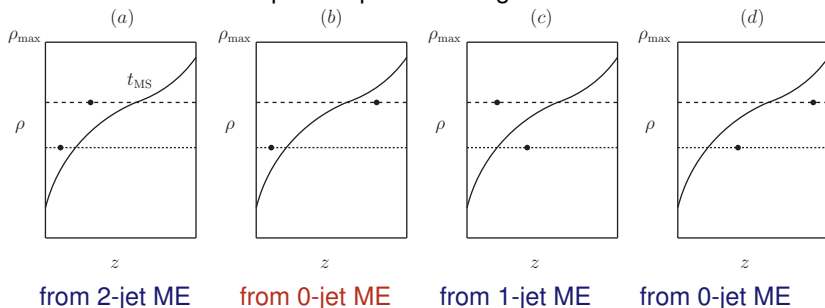


- Effects of non-trivial terms formally suppressed
Better algorithm may be easier to implement

Circumventing truncated unvetoes parton showers

[Lönblad] hep-ph/0112284

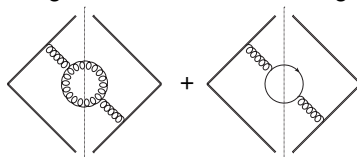
- Generate truncated unvetoes configurations with parton shower effective redefinition of Q , assuming PS ordering parameter $\sim$ “hardness”
- Schematic illustration of phase space coverage



- Straightforward implementation, no reshuffling of kinematics or flavor

Scale choices

- Approximate soft-gluon emission times collinear decay in $q(i)\bar{q}(j)g(1)g(2)$ using semi-classical limit and gluon splitting function



$$= \sum_{b=q,g} j_{ij,\mu}(p_{12}) j_{ij,\nu}(p_{12}) \frac{P_{gb}^{\mu\nu}(z_1)}{s_{12}}$$

$$P_{gq}^{\mu\nu}(z) = T_R \left(-g^{\mu\nu} + 4z(1-z) \frac{k_{\perp}^{\mu} k_{\perp}^{\nu}}{k_{\perp}^2} \right)$$

$$P_{gg}^{\mu\nu}(z) = C_A \left(-g^{\mu\nu} \left(\frac{z}{1-z} + \frac{1-z}{z} \right) - 2(1-\varepsilon)z(1-z) \frac{k_{\perp}^{\mu} k_{\perp}^{\nu}}{k_{\perp}^2} \right)$$

- Combine with phase space for one parton emission in collinear limit $D = 4 - 2\varepsilon$, $y = s_{12}/Q^2$, see for example [Catani,Seymour] hep-ph/9605323

$$d\Phi_{+1} = \frac{Q^{2-2\varepsilon}}{16\pi^2} \frac{(4\pi)^{\varepsilon}}{\Gamma(1-\varepsilon)} dy dz [y z(1-z)]^{-\varepsilon}$$

- Perform Laurent series expansion

$$\frac{1}{y^{1+\varepsilon}} = -\frac{\delta(y)}{\varepsilon} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\varepsilon^n}{n!} \left(\frac{\ln^n y}{y} \right)_+$$

Scale choices

- $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^0)$ differential remainder terms have contributions proportional to

$$g \rightarrow q\bar{q}: T_R \left[2z(1-z) + (1-2z(1-z)) \ln(z(1-z)) \right]$$

$$g \rightarrow gg: 2C_A \left[\frac{\ln z}{1-z} + \frac{\ln(1-z)}{z} + (-2 + z(1-z)) \ln(z(1-z)) \right]$$

- Integration over z , addition of some semi-classical terms & one-loop soft current gives two-loop cusp anomalous dimension

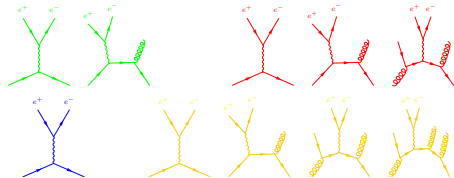
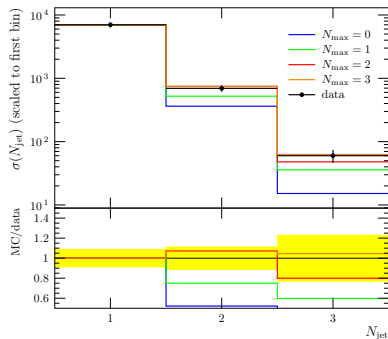
$$K = \left(\frac{67}{18} - \frac{\pi^2}{6} \right) C_A - \frac{10}{9} T_R n_f$$

- Local K -factor for soft-gluon emission
 - Scheme dependent: originates in dim. reg. and $\overline{\text{MS}}$
 - **Can be absorbed in effective coupling** [Catani, Marchesini, Webber] NPB349(1991)635
- Similarly, we find $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^0)$ contributions proportional to

$$\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \beta_0 \log \frac{(p_i p_{12})(p_{12} p_j)}{(p_i p_j) \mu^2}$$

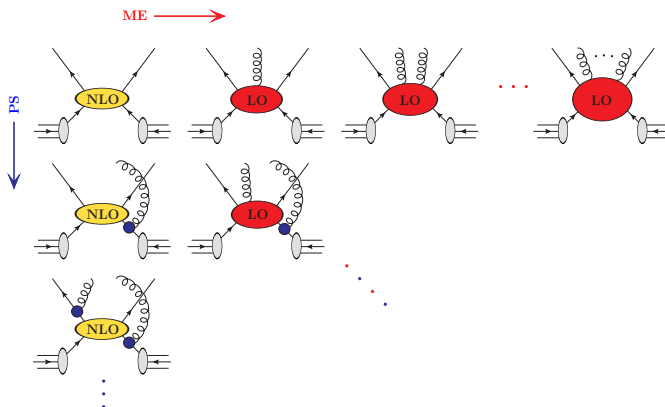
- Can be eliminated by setting scale to transverse mass of soft pair
- **Leading NLO correction** [Amati, et al.] NPB173(1980)429

Effects of merging - Z +jets at the Tevatron



- MC predictions for exclusive n -jet rates match data well as long as corresponding final states are described by matrix elements

Combining Matching and Merging

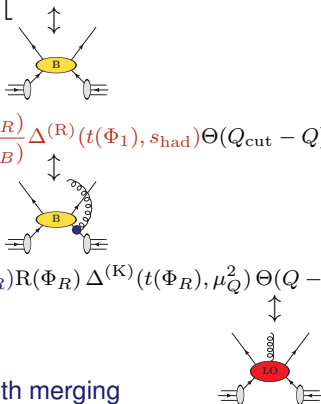


Combined matching and merging with POWHEG

[Hamilton,Nason] arXiv:1004.1764

[Krauss,Schönherr,Siegert,SH] arXiv:1009.1127

■ Increase accuracy below Q_{cut} to full NLO

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle O \rangle = & \int d\Phi_B \bar{B}^{(R)}(\Phi_B) \left[\Delta^{(R)}(t_c, s_{\text{had}}) O(\Phi_B) \right. \\
 & + \int_{t_c}^{s_{\text{had}}} d\Phi_1 \frac{R(\Phi_R)}{B(\Phi_B)} \Delta^{(R)}(t(\Phi_1), s_{\text{had}}) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q) O(\Phi_R) \\
 & \left. + \int d\Phi_R k^{(R)}(\Phi_R) R(\Phi_R) \Delta^{(K)}(t(\Phi_R), \mu_Q^2) \Theta(Q - Q_{\text{cut}}) O(\Phi_R) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$


■ Local K -factor for smooth merging

Combined matching and merging with MC@NLO

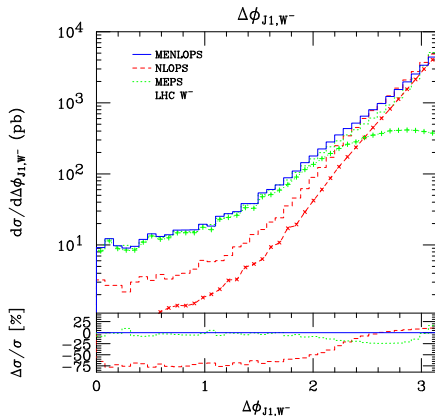
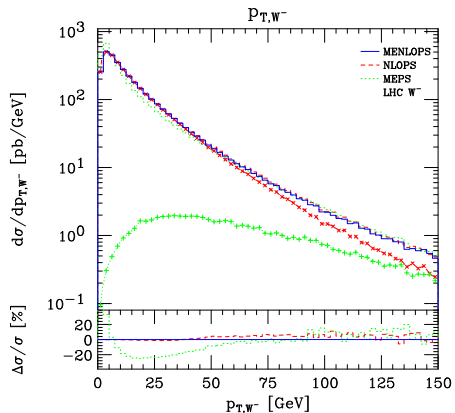
- Increase accuracy below Q_{cut} to full NLO

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle O \rangle = & \int d\Phi_B \bar{B}^{(K)}(\Phi_B) \left[\Delta^{(K)}(t_c, \mu_Q^2) O(\Phi_B) \right. \\
 & + \int_{t_c}^{\mu_Q^2} d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \Delta^{(K)}(t, \mu_Q^2) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q) O(\Phi_R) \Big] + \int d\Phi_R H^{(K)}(\Phi_R) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q) O(\Phi_R) \\
 & + \int d\Phi_R k^{(K)}(\Phi_R) R(\Phi_R) \Delta^{(K)}(t, \mu_Q^2; > Q_{\text{cut}}) \Theta(Q - Q_{\text{cut}}) O(\Phi_R)
 \end{aligned}$$

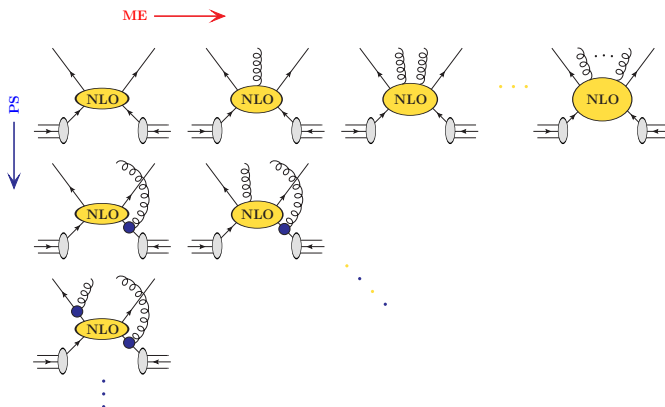
- Local K -factor for smooth merging

Combining matching and merging

[Hamilton,Nason] arXiv:1004.1764



Merging of multiple matched calculations



Merging of multiple matched calculations

- ME+PS merging for 0+1-jet in MC@NLO notation

$$\langle O \rangle = \int d\Phi_B B(\Phi_B) \left[\Delta^{(K)}(t_c) O(\Phi_B) + \int_{t_c} d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \Delta^{(K)}(t) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q) O(\Phi_R) \right] \\ + \int d\Phi_R R(\Phi_R) \Delta^{(K)}(t(\Phi_R), \mu_Q^2) \Theta(Q - Q_{\text{cut}}) O(\Phi_R)$$

- Reorder by parton multiplicity k , change notation $R_k \rightarrow B_{k+1}$
- Analyze exclusive contribution from k hard partons only ($t_0 = \mu_Q^2$)

$$\langle O \rangle_k^{\text{excl}} = \int d\Phi_k B_k \prod_{i=0}^{k-1} \Delta_i^{(K)}(t_{i+1}, t_i) \Theta(Q_k - Q_{\text{cut}}) \\ \times \left[\Delta_k^{(K)}(t_c, t_k) O_k + \int_{t_c}^{t_k} d\Phi_1 K_k \Delta_k^{(K)}(t_{k+1}, t_k) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q_{k+1}) O_{k+1} \right]$$

Merging of multiple matched calculations

[Lavesson,Lönnblad,Prestel] arXiv:0811.2912 arXiv:1211.7278

[Gehrmann,Krauss,Schönherr,Siegert,SH] arXiv:1207.5031 arXiv:1207.5030

[Frederix,Frixione] arXiv:1209.6215

- Analyze exclusive contribution from k hard partons

$$\begin{aligned}\langle O \rangle_k^{\text{excl}} &= \int d\Phi_k \bar{B}_k^{(K)} \prod_{i=0}^{k-1} \Delta_i^{(K)}(t_{i+1}, t_i) \Theta(Q_k - Q_{\text{cut}}) \\ &\times \left(1 + \frac{B}{\bar{B}_k^{(K)}} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \int_{t_{i+1}}^{t_i} d\Phi_1 K_i \Theta(Q_i - Q_{\text{cut}}) + \dots \right) \\ &\times \left[\Delta_k^{(K)}(t_c, t_k) O_k + \int_{t_c}^{t_k} d\Phi_1 K_k \Delta_k^{(K)}(t_{k+1}, t_k) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q_{k+1}) O_{k+1} \right] \\ &+ \int d\Phi_{k+1} H_k^{(K)} \Delta_k^{(K)}(t_k, \mu_Q^2) \Theta(Q_k - Q_{\text{cut}}) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q_{k+1}) O_{k+1}\end{aligned}$$

- Born matrix element $\rightarrow$ NLO-weighted Born
- Add hard remainder function
- Subtract $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ terms from truncated vetoed PS

A different perspective on NLO merging

■ Define compound evolution kernel

$$\tilde{K}_k(\Phi_{k+1}) = K_k(\Phi_{k+1}) \Theta(t_k - t_{k+1}) + \sum_{i=n}^{k-1} K_i(\Phi_i) \Theta(t_i - t_{k+1}) \Theta(t_{k+1} - t_{i+1})$$

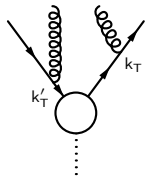
■ Extend modified subtraction

$$\tilde{B}_k^{(K)}(\Phi_k) = [B_k(\Phi_k) + \tilde{V}_k(\Phi_k) + I_k(\Phi_k)] + \int d\Phi_1 [B_k(\Phi_k) \tilde{K}_k(\Phi_1) - S_k(\Phi_{k+1})]$$

$$\tilde{H}_k^{(K)}(\Phi_{k+1}) = R_k(\Phi_{k+1}) - B_k(\Phi_k) \tilde{K}_k(\Phi_1)$$

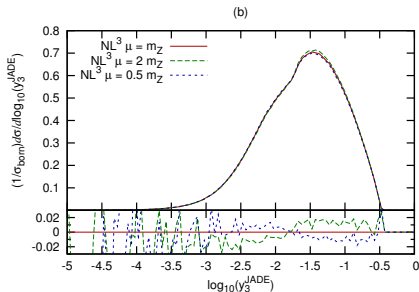
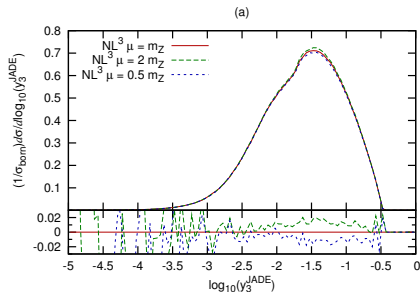
■ Differential event rate for exclusive $n + k$ -jet events

$$\begin{aligned} \langle O \rangle_k^{\text{excl}} &= \int d\Phi_k \tilde{B}_k^{(D)} \Theta(Q_k - Q_{\text{cut}}) \\ &\times \left[\tilde{\Delta}_k^{(K)}(t_c, \mu_Q^2) O_k + \int_{t_c}^{\mu_Q^2} d\Phi_1 \tilde{K}_k \tilde{\Delta}_k^{(K)}(t, \mu_Q^2) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q_{k+1}) O_{k+1} \right] \\ &+ \int d\Phi_{k+1} \tilde{H}_k^{(D)} \tilde{\Delta}_k^{(K)}(t_{k+1}, \mu_Q^2) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q_{k+1}) \end{aligned}$$



$e^+e^- \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$ at LEP

[Lavesson, Lönnblad] arXiv:0811.2912

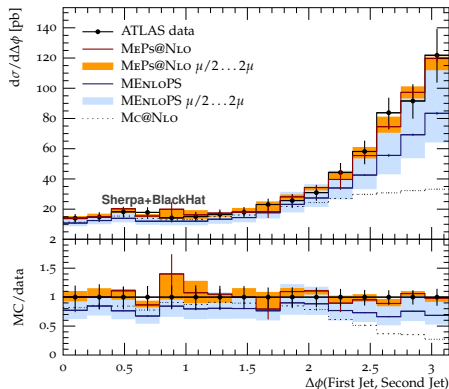
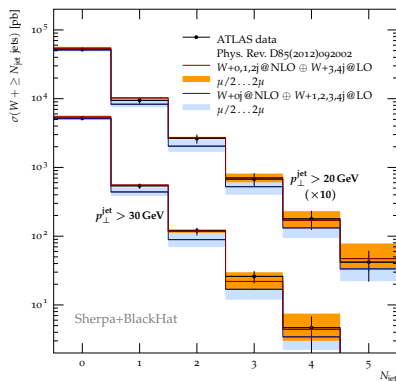


- Scale variations around 2%
- Agreement between 1- and 2-loop but no further reduction of uncertainty

W+jets production at the LHC

[ATLAS] arXiv:1201.1276

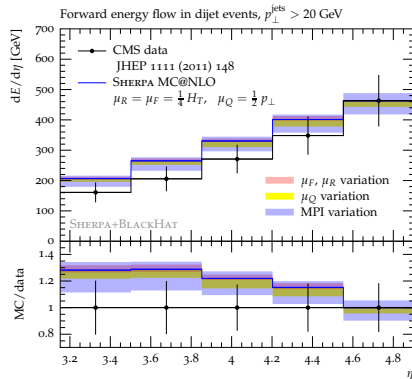
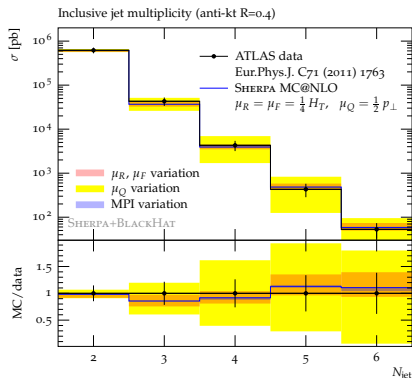
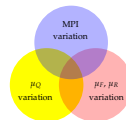
[Krauss,Schönherr,Siebert,SH] arXiv:1207.5030



- NLO merging of 0, 1 & 2 jets plus 3 & 4 jets at LO vs MC@NLO merged with up to 4 jets at LO

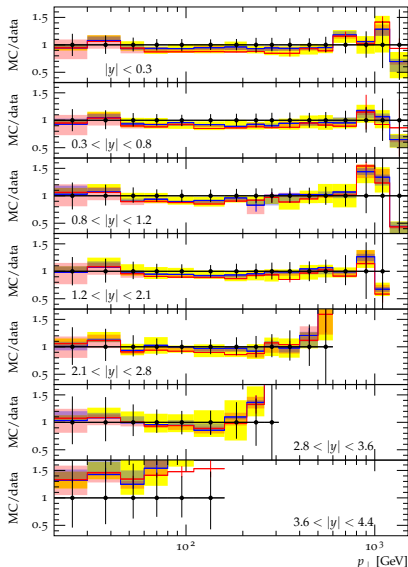
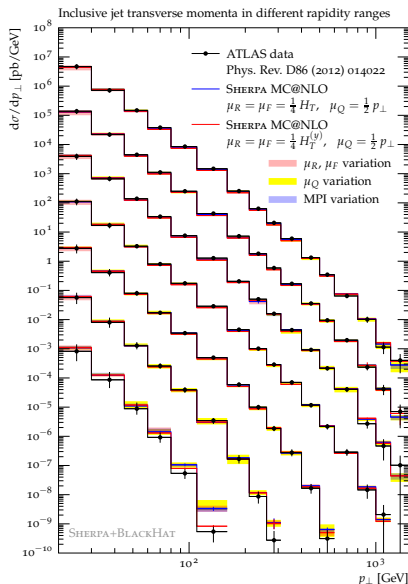
Practicalities

Scale uncertainties in NLO matching



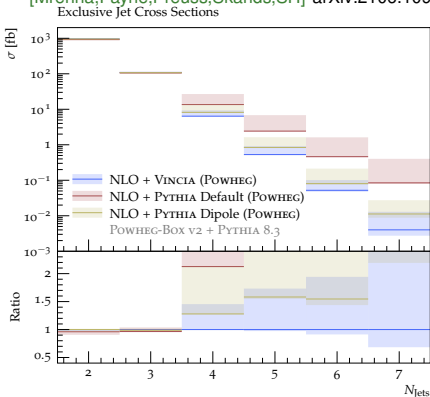
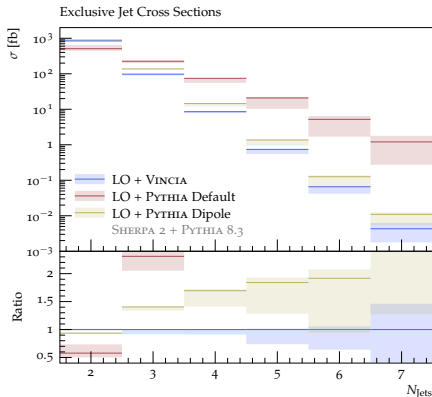
- Jet multiplicity $\rightarrow$ uncertainty due to choice of μ_Q^2
- Forward energy flow $\rightarrow$ major uncertainty from underlying event

Scale uncertainties in NLO matching



PS uncertainties in NLO matching

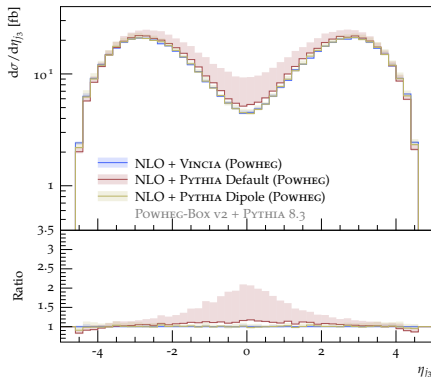
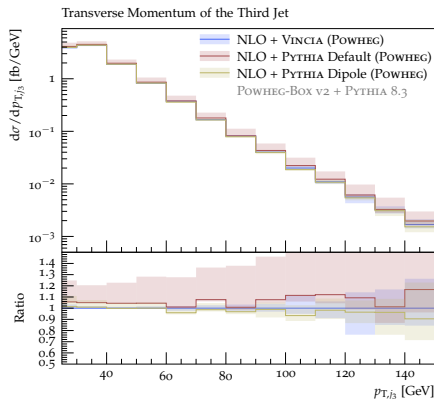
[Mrenna,Payne,Preuss,Skands,SH] arXiv:2106.10987



- LO+PS vs NLO+PS predictions for Pythia variants and Vincia
- Large impact of recoil scheme on sub-leading jet multiplicity

PS uncertainties in NLO matching

[Mrenna,Payne,Preuss,Skands,SH] arXiv:2106.10987
Pseudorapidity of the Third Jet

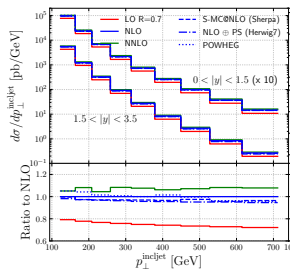
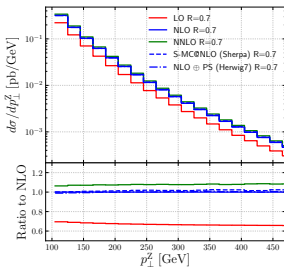
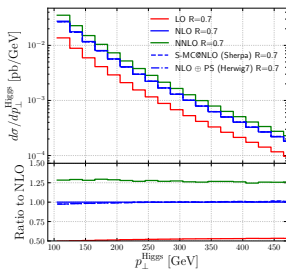


- NLO+PS predictions for Pythia variants and Vincia
- Sizable impact of recoil scheme on sub-leading jet distributions

PS uncertainties in NLO matching

[Bellm et al.] arXiv:1903.12563

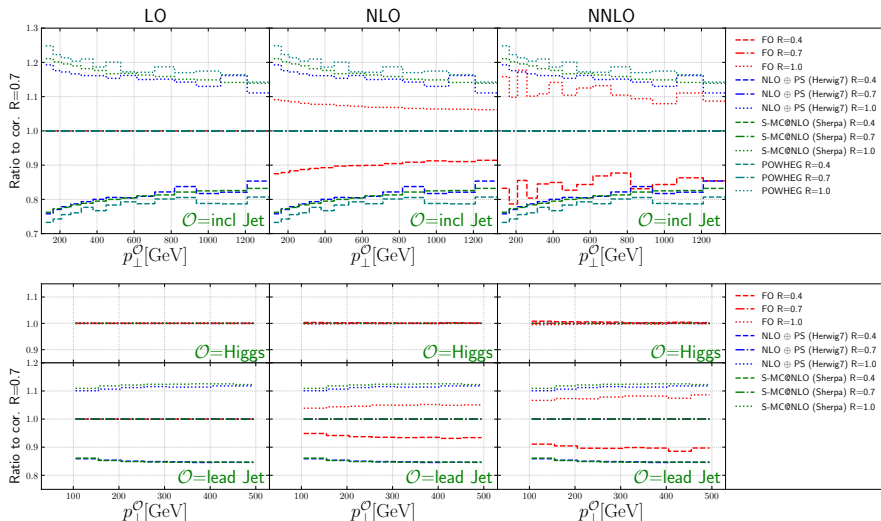
■ Ratio of inclusive jet- $p_{\perp}$ cross sections for different radii in $pp \rightarrow jets$



PS uncertainties in NLO matching

[Bellm et al.] arXiv:1903.12563

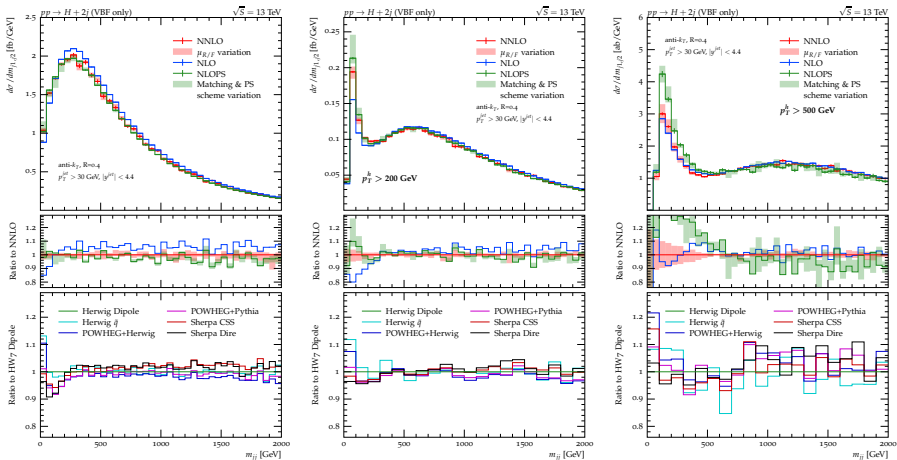
■ Ratio of inclusive jet- $p_{\perp}$ spectra for different radii in $pp \rightarrow jj / pp \rightarrow H + j$



PS uncertainties in NLO matching

[Buckley et al.] arXiv:2105.11399

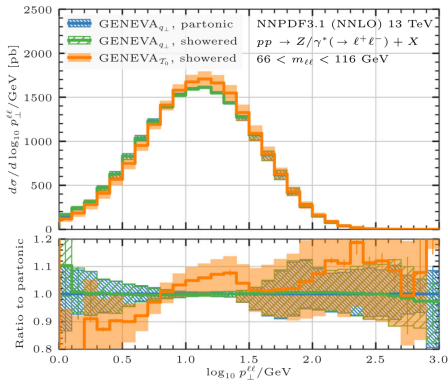
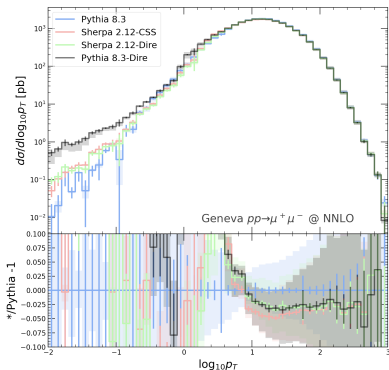
■ m_{jj} of two leading jets in VBF Higgs production



PS uncertainties in NNLO matching

[D. Napoletano, HP2 2022], [Alioli et al.] arXiv:2102.08390

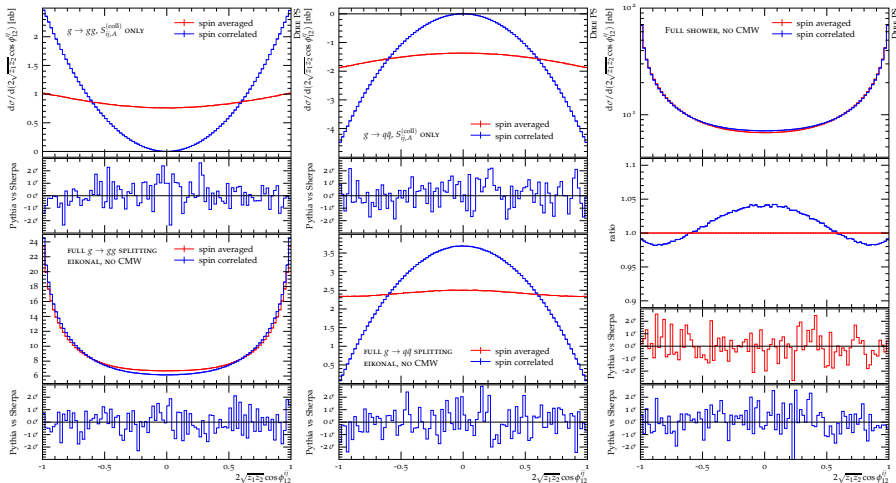
- NNLO+PS precise predictions for $pp \rightarrow Z$ from Geneva
- Matched to shower by vetoing events with $r_N(\Phi_{N+M}) > r_N$



- Parton shower scheme uncertainty
- Choice of resolution variable

Impact of spin correlations

[Dulat,Prestel,SH] arXiv:1805.03757



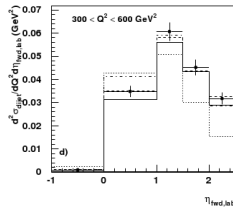
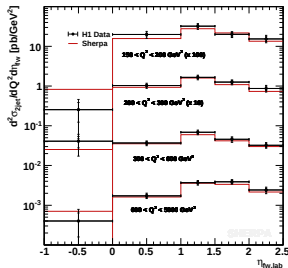
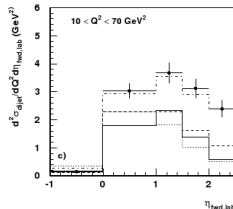
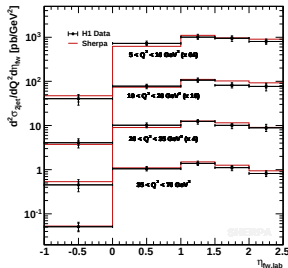
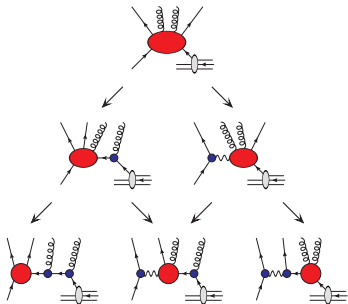
- Spin effects at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ from double-soft / triple-collinear radiation pattern
- Is overall impact larger than QCD uncertainties?

Lessons from HERA

[Carli,Gehrmann,SH] arXiv:0912.3715

Simulation often too focused
on resonant contributions

Need be inclusive to describe
DIS, low-mass Drell-Yan or
photon / diphoton production



Unitarization

[Lönnblad,Prestel] arXiv:1211.4827, [Plätzer] arXiv:1211.5467

[Bellm,Gieseke,Plätzer] arXiv:1705.06700

■ Unitarity condition of PS:

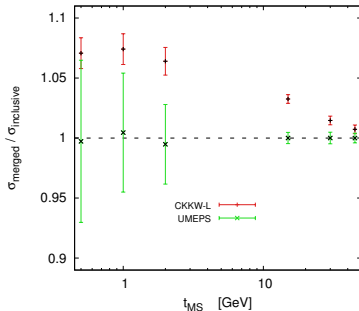
$$1 = \Delta^{(K)}(t_c) + \int_{t_c} d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \Delta^{(K)}(t)$$

■ ME+PS(@NLO) violates PS unitarity as **ME ratio** replaces **splitting kernels** in emission terms, but not in Sudakovs

$$K(\Phi_1) \rightarrow \frac{R(\Phi_1, \Phi_B)}{B(\Phi_B)}$$

■ Can be corrected by **explicit subtraction**

$$1 = \underbrace{\left\{ \Delta^{(K)}(t_c) + \int_{t_c} d\Phi_1 \left[K(\Phi_1) - \frac{R(\Phi_1, \Phi_B)}{B(\Phi_B)} \right] \Theta(Q - Q_{\text{cut}}) \Delta^{(K)}(t) \right\}}_{\text{unresolved emission / virtual correction}} + \underbrace{\int_{t_c} d\Phi_1 \left[K(\Phi_1) \Theta(Q_{\text{cut}} - Q) + \frac{R(\Phi_1, \Phi_B)}{B(\Phi_B)} \Theta(Q - Q_{\text{cut}}) \right] \Delta^{(K)}(t)}_{\text{resolved emission}}$$



Heavy quark production

- Two different approaches to dealing with heavy-quark masses:
 - 4-flavor scheme (4FS): Decoupling scheme - (no b -quarks in PDF)
 - 5-flavor scheme (5FS): Minimal subtraction scheme
- Calculations can be matched by
 - Re-expressing both in same renormalization scheme
 - Subtracting the overlap

$$\sigma^{\text{FONLL}} = \sigma^{\text{massive}} + (\sigma^{\text{massless}} - \sigma^{\text{massive}, 0})$$

- This has been applied extensively to inclusive observables and is now known as fixed-order next-to-leading log (FONLL) scheme

[Cacciari,Frixione,Mangano,Nason,Ridolfi] hep-ph/0312132,

[Forte,Napoletano,Ubiali] arXiv:1508.01529, arXiv:1607.00389, . . .

- Extension to differential observables is needed for MC simulations

Heavy quark production

■ Interpret $X + b\bar{b}$ as part of $X + jj$

[Krause,Siegert,SH] arXiv:1904.09382

- 1 Cluster to obtain parton shower history
- 2 Apply $\alpha_s(\mu_R^2) \rightarrow \alpha_s(p_T^2)$ reweighting
- 3 Apply Sudakov factors $\Delta(t, t')$ (trial showers)

■ Remove double-counting

- 1 Cluster PS-level event using inverse PS
- 2 Look at leading two emissions
 - Heavy Flavour $\rightarrow$ keep from $Xb\bar{b}$ (“direct component”)
 - Light Flavour $\rightarrow$ keep from X +jets (“fragmentation component”)
 - Subleading $g \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ splittings not from $Xb\bar{b}$ ME, but $X4j$ ME+PS

■ Match 5F $\rightarrow$ 4F in PDFs and α_s

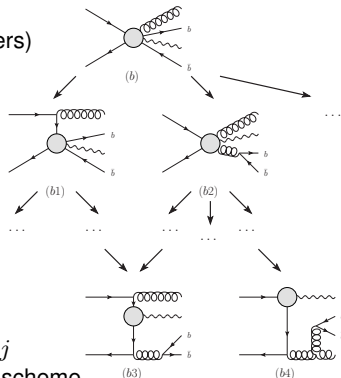
- 1 Use 5F PDF / α_s to be consistent with Xjj
- 2 Use matching coefficients to correct to 4F scheme

[Buza,Matiounine,Smith,van Neerven] hep-ph/9612398, [Forte,Napoletano,Ubiali] arXiv:1607.00389

$\rightarrow$ Coefficients up to (N)LL generated by (N)LO parton shower!

- 3 Reweighting needed only for α_s in hard ME

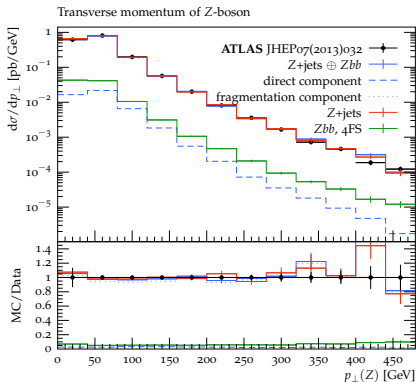
Can be applied to LO and NLO merging!



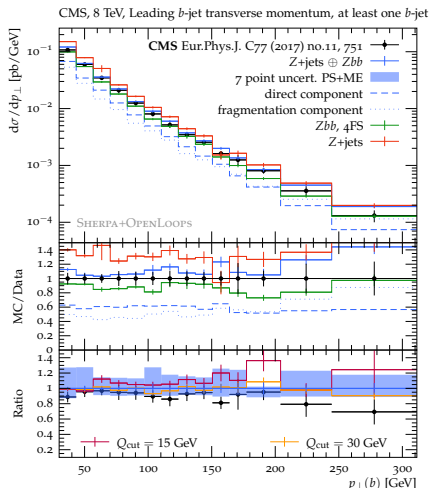
Heavy quark production: Z +jets & $Zb\bar{b}$

[Krause,Siebert,SH] arXiv:1904.09382

Validation with LHC data



	Data [pb]	Fusing [pb]
$Z + \geq 1b$	$3.55 \pm 0.24_{\text{comb}}$	$3.80(5) \pm \begin{matrix} 0.83 \\ 0.33 \end{matrix}$
$Z + \geq 2b$	$0.331 \pm 0.037_{\text{comb}}$	$0.282(4) \pm \begin{matrix} 0.027 \\ 0.022 \end{matrix}$



Summary of lectures

- Matching and merging needed to solve problems with both parton showers and fixed-order QCD
- NLO matching and merging de-facto standard at LHC
- Moving towards NNLO accurate matching for HL-LHC
- Making correct predictions not always straightforward
NLO just a label, getting physics right requires thought

Backup Slides

Collinear parton evolution

■ DGLAP equation for fragmentation functions

$$\frac{d x D_a(x, t)}{d \ln t} = \sum_{b=q, g} \int_0^1 d\tau \int_0^1 dz \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} [z P_{ab}(z)]_+ \tau D_b(\tau, t) \delta(x - \tau z)$$

■ Refine plus prescription $[z P_{ab}(z)]_+ = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} z P_{ab}(z, \varepsilon)$

$$P_{ab}(z, \varepsilon) = P_{ab}(z) \Theta(1 - \varepsilon - z) - \delta_{ab} \frac{\Theta(z - 1 + \varepsilon)}{\varepsilon} \sum_{c \in \{q, g\}} \int_0^{1-\varepsilon} d\zeta \zeta P_{ac}(\zeta)$$

■ Rewrite for finite ε

$$\frac{d \ln D_a(x, t)}{d \ln t} = - \sum_{c=q, g} \int_0^{1-\varepsilon} d\zeta \zeta \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{ac}(\zeta) + \sum_{b=q, g} \int_x^{1-\varepsilon} \frac{dz}{z} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{ab}(z) \frac{D_b(x/z, t)}{D_a(x, t)}$$

■ First term is derivative of Sudakov factor $\Delta = \exp\{-\lambda\}$

$$\Delta_a(t, Q^2) = \exp \left\{ - \int_t^{Q^2} \frac{d\bar{t}}{\bar{t}} \sum_{c=q, g} \int_0^{1-\varepsilon} d\zeta \zeta \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{ac}(\zeta) \right\}$$

Above equation is parton-shower equivalent of DGLAP

Collinear parton evolution

- At any order in perturbation theory, splitting functions obey sum rules

$$\int_0^1 d\zeta \hat{P}_{qq}(\zeta) = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{flavor sum rule}$$

$$\sum_{c=q,g} \int_0^1 d\zeta \zeta \hat{P}_{ac}(\zeta) = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{momentum sum rule}$$

→ defines regularized splitting functions $\hat{P}_{ab}$ as (↗ previous slide)

$$\hat{P}_{ab}(z) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \left[P_{ab}(z) \Theta(1 - \varepsilon - z) - \delta_{ab} \frac{\Theta(z - 1 + \varepsilon)}{\varepsilon} \sum_{c=q,g} \int_0^{1-\varepsilon} d\zeta \zeta P_{ac}(\zeta) \right]$$

- What does that mean in physics terms?

- Contribution $\propto \Theta(1 - \varepsilon - z)$
corresponds to real-emission correction
- Contribution $\propto \Theta(z - 1 + \varepsilon)$
corresponds to approximate virtual correction
- **Momentum sum rule is a unitarity constraint**
Parton showers implement this automatically

