

The Higgs p_T Spectrum and Total Cross Section with Fiducial Cuts at Third Resummed and Fixed Order in QCD

Johannes Michel

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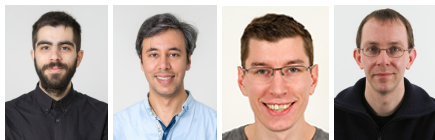
The Higgs p_T Spectrum and Total Cross Section with Fiducial Cuts at Third Resummed and Fixed Order in QCD

based on

[PRL 127 (2021) 7, 072001, 2102.08039]

in collaboration with

G. Billis, B. Dehnadi, M. Ebert, F. Tackmann



- Measure fiducial & differential Higgs cross sections at the LHC
 - ▶ Most model-independent way we have to search for BSM in the Higgs sector
- Can e.g. look for deviation from SM gluon fusion in total fiducial cross section

$$\text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} = \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{12\pi v} C_t + \frac{2v}{\Lambda^2} C_{HG} \right) H G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a,\mu\nu}$$

Challenges for theory

- QCD corrections to $gg \rightarrow H$ are large: $\sigma/\sigma_{\text{LO}} \approx 3$
 - ▶ Calculation of inclusive cross section has been pushed to N^3LO
[Anastasiou, Duhr, Dulat, Furlan, Gehrmann, Herzog, Lazopoulos, Mistlberger '15-'18]
- But LHC experiments apply kinematic selection cuts on Higgs decay products
 - ▶ Need complete interplay of QCD corrections and $\mathcal{O}(1)$ fiducial acceptance

Fiducial predictions for $gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ at three loops

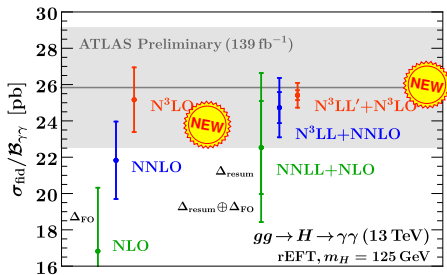
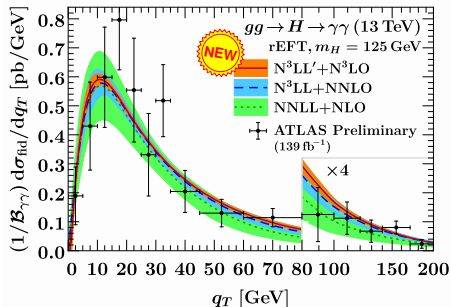
Consider $gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ with ATLAS fiducial cuts:

$$p_T^{\gamma 1} \geq 0.35 m_H, \quad p_T^{\gamma 2} \geq 0.25 m_H, \quad |\eta^\gamma| \leq 2.37, \quad |\eta^\gamma| \notin [1.37, 1.52]$$

Focus of this talk

[Billis, Dehnadi, Ebert, JM, Tackmann, PRL 127 (2021) 7, 072001, 2102.08039]

- Compute fiducial spectrum for $q_T \equiv p_T^H = p_T^{\gamma\gamma}$ at $N^3LL'+N^3LO$
- Compute total fiducial cross section at N^3LO , and improved by resummation



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- Compute fiducial spectrum for $q_T \equiv p_T^H = p_T^{\gamma\gamma}$ at $N^3\text{LL}' + N^3\text{LO}$
- Compute total fiducial cross section at $N^3\text{LO}$, and improved by resummation

- Previous state of the art was $N^3\text{LL}(+\text{NNLO}_1)$ and NNLO, respectively

[Chen et al. '18; Bizoń et al. '18; Gutierrez-Reyes et al. '19; Becher, Neumann '20]

Kicked off a recent push for fiducial color singlet at complete three-loop accuracy:

- Complementary $N^3\text{LO}$ results for fiducial $Y_{\gamma\gamma}, \eta_{\gamma 1}, \Delta\eta_{\gamma\gamma}$ (with different method)

[Chen, Gehrmann, Glover, Huss, Mistlberger, Pelloni, 2102.07607]

- Fiducial $N^3\text{LL}'$ results for Higgs q_T spectrum

[Re, Rottoli, Torrielli, 2104.07509]

[For Drell-Yan, $\gamma\gamma$, see also 2103.04974, 2106.11260, 2107.12478, 2111.14509]

Fiducial predictions for $gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ at three loops

Consider

$$p_T^{\gamma\gamma}$$

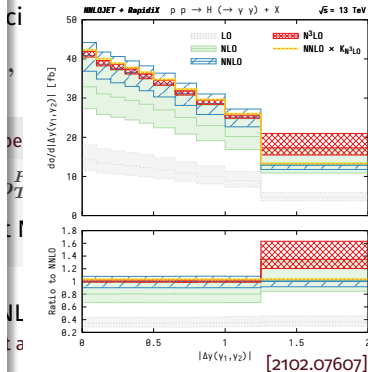
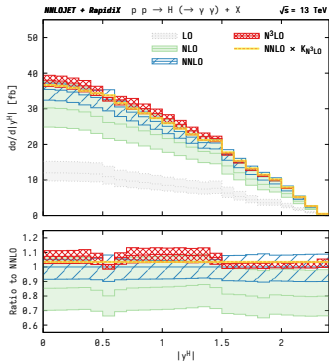
Focus

- Con

- Con

- Prev

[Chen



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Fiducial predictions for $gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ at three loops

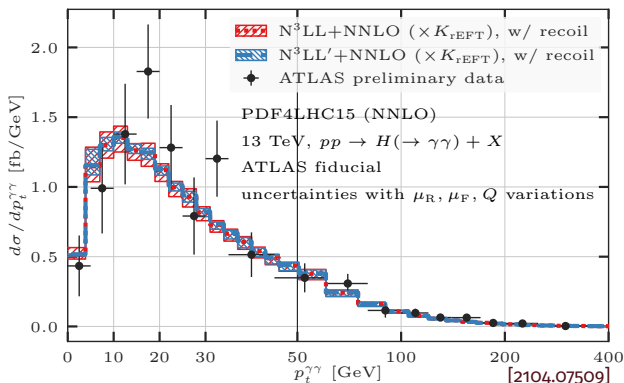
Consider gg

$$p_T^{\gamma 1} \geq \epsilon$$

Focus of the

- Compute
- Compute

- Previous [Chen et al.



[37, 1.52]

[2001, 2102.08039]

Information

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Structure of the q_T spectrum

Compute cross section from $\sigma = \int dq_T \frac{d\sigma}{dq_T}$ and *power expand* around IR, $q_T \rightarrow 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma}{dq_T} &= \frac{d\sigma^{(0)}}{dq_T} + \frac{d\sigma^{(1)}}{dq_T} + \frac{d\sigma^{(2)}}{dq_T} + \dots \\ &\sim \frac{1}{q_T} \left[\mathcal{O}(1) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{q_T}{m_H}\right) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{q_T^2}{m_H^2}\right) + \dots \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma^{(0)}}{dq_T} = \sigma_{\text{LO}} \delta(q_T) + \sum_n \alpha_s^n \left\{ \sigma_n^V \delta(q_T) + \sum_m \sigma_{n,m}^{(0)} \left[\frac{\ln^m(q_T/m_H)}{q_T} \right]_+ \right\}$$

- ▶ Contains LO contribution, virtual corrections, and log-enhanced singular terms

$$\frac{d\sigma^{(1)}}{dq_T} = \sum_n \alpha_s^n \sum_m \sigma_{n,m}^{(1)} \frac{1}{m_H} \ln^m(q_T/m_H)$$

- ▶ Still logarithmically divergent, only present if decay products are resolved

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$$\frac{d\sigma}{dq_T} = \frac{d\sigma^{(0)}}{dq_T} + \frac{d\sigma^{(1)}}{dq_T} + \frac{d\sigma^{(2)}}{dq_T} + \dots$$
$$\sim \frac{1}{q_T} \left[\mathcal{O}(1) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{q_T}{m_H}\right) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{q_T^2}{m_H^2}\right) + \dots \right]$$

$$\frac{d\sigma^{(2)}}{dq_T} = \sum_n \alpha_s^n \sum_m \sigma_{n,m}^{(2)} \frac{q_T}{m_H^2} \ln^m(q_T/m_H) + \dots$$

- ▶ Finite as $q_T \rightarrow 0$, extract by fitting known functional form to $H + 1j$ calculation
 - ▶ For the experts: Use a differential q_T subtraction accounting for fiducial power corrections
 - ▶ Avoids shortcomings of slicing [e.g. 1807.11501, 2103.04974] or Projection to Born [e.g. 2102.07607]
 - ▶ First complete application of q_T subtractions at N³LO; see backup for details

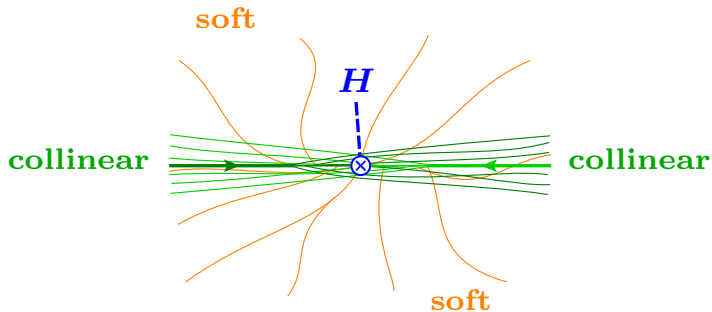
Set up some notation, use that production and **decay (acceptance)** factorize:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dq_T} = \int dY \mathbf{A}(q_T, Y; \Theta) W(q_T, Y), \quad \mathbf{A}_{\text{incl}} = 1, \quad W(q_T, Y) = \frac{d\sigma_{\text{incl}}}{dq_T dY}$$

Leading-power factorization & resummation to N^3LL'

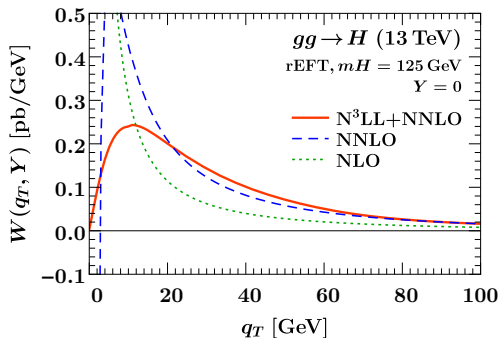
At leading power in $q_T \ll m_H$, the hadronic dynamics factorize as:

$$W^{(0)}(q_T, Y) = H(m_H^2, \mu) \int d^2\vec{k}_a d^2\vec{k}_b d^2\vec{k}_s \delta(q_T - |\vec{k}_a + \vec{k}_b + \vec{k}_s|) \\ \times B_g^{\mu\nu}(x_a, \vec{k}_a, \mu, \nu) B_{g\mu\nu}(x_b, \vec{k}_b, \mu, \nu) S(\vec{k}_s, \mu, \nu)$$



Leading-power factorization & resummation to N^3LL'

- Renormalization group evolution between (e.g.) $\mu_S \sim q_T$ and $\mu_H \sim m_H$ resums large $\frac{\alpha_s^n}{q_T} \ln^{2n} \frac{q_T}{m_H}$ to all orders \Rightarrow Sudakov peak $\sim \frac{1}{q_T} e^{-\alpha_s \ln^2 q_T/m_H}$



- N^3LL' \Leftrightarrow complete three-loop anomalous dimensions and boundary conditions
[See backup for a complete list of ingredients and references]
- Apart from high order, this is completely standard for inclusive q_T spectrum

... are the power corrections coming from the q_T -dependent acceptance:

$$\frac{d\sigma^{\text{fpc}}}{dq_T} \equiv \int dY \left[A(q_T, Y; \Theta) - A^{(0)}(Y; \Theta) \right] W^{(0)}(q_T, Y)$$

- These uniquely predict all linear power corrections $d\sigma^{(1)}$ because

$$A(q_T, Y; \Theta) = A^{(0)}(Y; \Theta) \left[1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{q_T}{m_H}\right) \right]$$

$$W(q_T, Y) = W^{(0)}(q_T, Y) \left[1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{q_T^2}{m_H^2}\right) \right]$$

[Presence of linear terms pointed out in Ebert, Tackmann, 1911.08486]

[Factorization/resummation & use in subtractions: Ebert, JM, Stewart, Tackmann, 2006.11382]

[Analytic results in double-logarithmic approximation: Salam, Slade, 2106.08329; see talk by G. Salam]

[See also Alekhin et al., 2104.02400; Buonocore et al., 2111.13661; Camarda et al., 2111.14509]

Challenge [see talk by G. Salam]

Fiducial power corrections upset fixed-order perturbative convergence of total σ_{fid}

Compare fixed-order series, isolating the effect of $\int dq_T \frac{d\sigma^{\text{fpc}}}{dq_T}$:

$$\sigma_{\text{incl}}^{\text{FO}} = 13.80 [1 + 1.291 + 0.783 + 0.299] \text{ pb}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\text{fid}}^{\text{FO}} &= 6.928 [1 + 1.429 + 0.723 + 0.481] \text{ pb} \\ &= 6.928 [1 + (1.300 + 0.129_{\text{fpc}}) + (0.784 - 0.061_{\text{fpc}}) + (0.331 + 0.150_{\text{fpc}})] \text{ pb} \end{aligned}$$

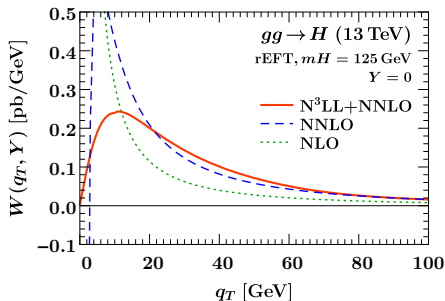
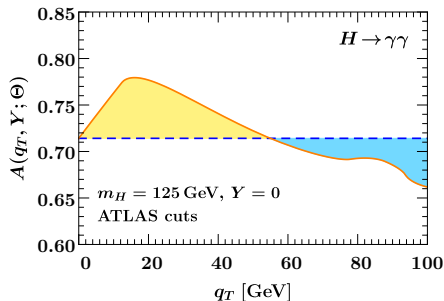
- Fiducial power corrections show no convergence, remainder is similar to inclusive

Challenge [see talk by G. Salam]

Fiducial power corrections upset fixed-order perturbative convergence of *total* σ_{fid}

Two ways to understand the effect of small q_T on total cross section:

1. Acceptance acts as a weight under the q_T integral



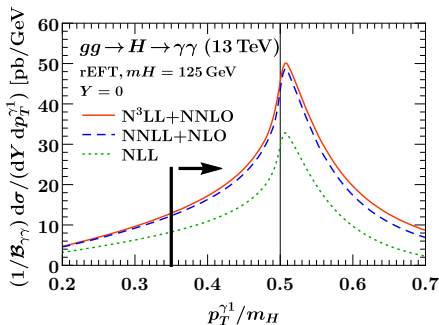
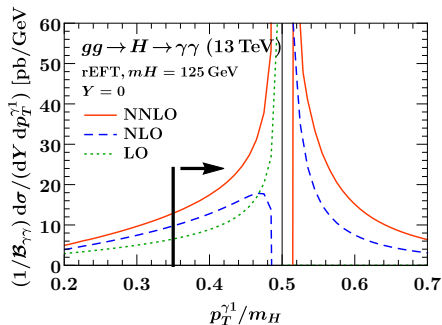
$$\sigma_{\text{incl}} = \int dq_T \mathbf{W}(q_T) \quad \sigma_{\text{fid}} = \int dq_T \mathbf{A}(q_T) \mathbf{W}(q_T)$$

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Two ways to understand the effect of small q_T on total cross section:

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2. We're cutting on the resummation-sensitive photon p_T



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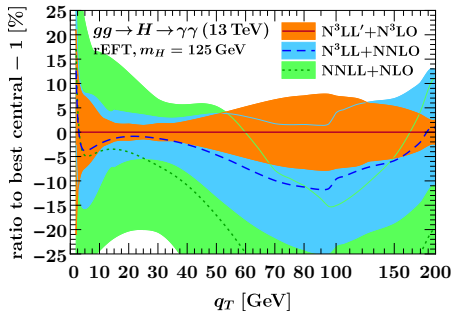
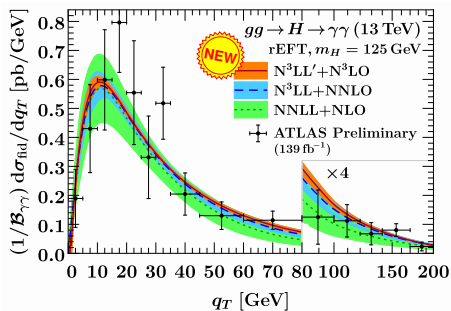
Solution

Resum fiducial power corrections to the same $\text{N}^3\text{LL}'$ accuracy as leading power by resumming $\mathbf{W}^{(0)} = \mathbf{H} \mathbf{B} \otimes \mathbf{B} \otimes \mathbf{S}$ and keeping $\mathbf{A}(q_T, \mathbf{Y}; \Theta)$ exact:

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{res}}^{\text{fpc}}}{dq_T} = \int dY \left[\mathbf{A}(q_T, \mathbf{Y}; \Theta) - \mathbf{A}^{(0)}(\mathbf{Y}; \Theta) \right] \mathbf{W}_{\text{res}}^{(0)}(q_T, \mathbf{Y})$$

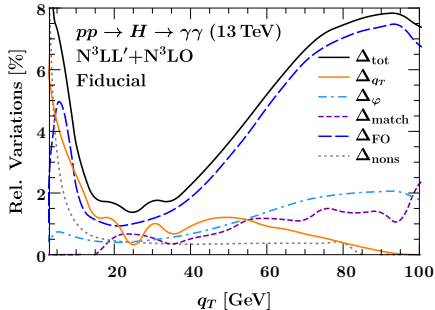
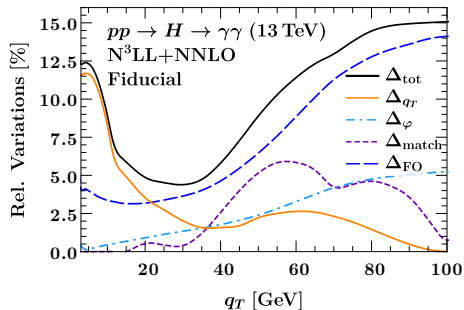
- Effect is **fully predicted** by resummed perturbation theory

Results: The fiducial q_T spectrum at $N^3LL'+N^3LO$



- Good agreement with ATLAS Run 2 data
 - Divide $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ branching ratio $\mathcal{B}_{\gamma\gamma}$ out of data [LHC Higgs Cross Section WG, 1610.07922]
 - Data are corrected for other production channels, photon isolation efficiency [ATLAS, 1802.04146]
- Observe excellent perturbative convergence & uncertainty coverage
- ▶ Crucial to probe all parts of the prediction in uncertainty estimate!

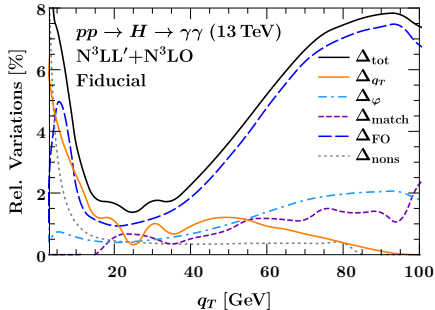
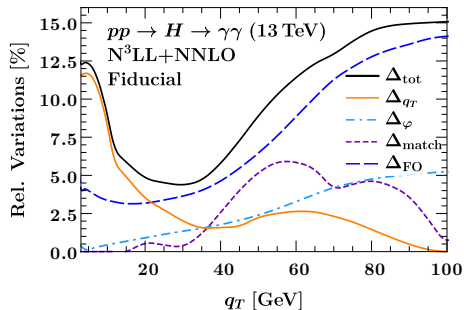
Uncertainty breakdown



$$\Delta_{tot} = \Delta_{q_T} \oplus \Delta_{\varphi} \oplus \Delta_{match} \oplus \Delta_{FO} \oplus \Delta_{nons}$$

- Probes higher-order **resummed** terms $\sim \ln q_T/m_H$
- Estimated by envelope of 36 different combinations of independently varying $\{\mu_B, \mu_S, \dots\}$ in $W^{(0)} = HB \otimes B \otimes S$

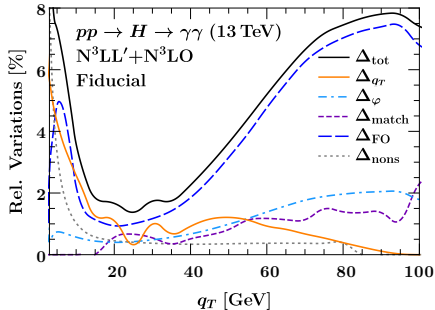
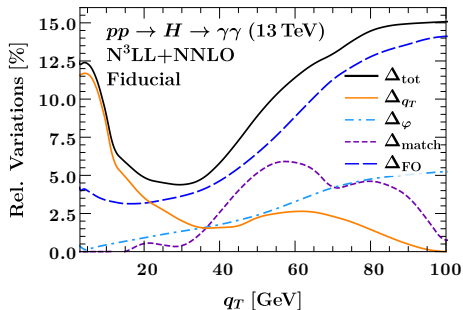
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- Probes higher-order terms $\sim \ln \frac{-m_H^2 - i0}{\mu_H^2} = -i\pi$ in **timelike gluon form factor**
- Estimated by varying phase of complex hard scale over $\arg \mu_H \in \{\pi/4, 3\pi/4\}$

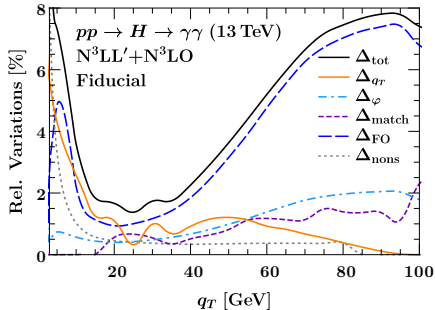
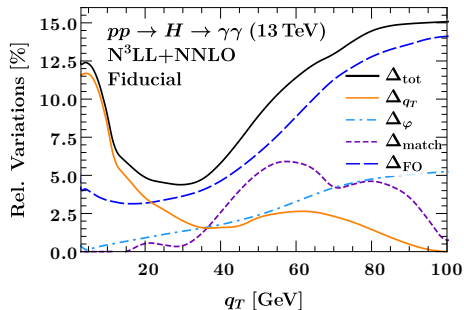
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- Uncertainty from **matching scheme** between resummed peak and fixed-order tail
- Estimated by varying the transition points governing resummation turn-off
- Turn-off implemented by *profile scales* $\mu_{B,S} \rightarrow \mu_{\text{FO}}$
 - Ambiguity manifestly reduces at each order

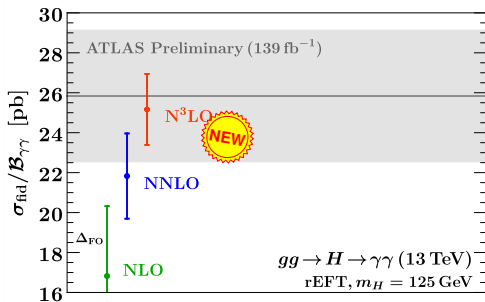
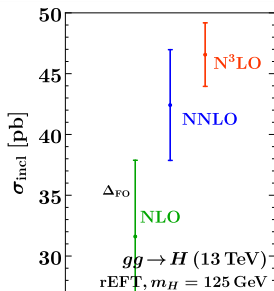
Uncertainty breakdown



$$\Delta_{\text{tot}} = \Delta_{q_T} \oplus \Delta_{\varphi} \oplus \Delta_{\text{match}} \oplus \Delta_{\text{FO}} \oplus \Delta_{\text{nons}}$$

- Fixed-order uncertainty
- Estimated by standard variations of overall $\mu_{\text{FO}} = \mu_R$ (dominates over μ_F)
- Fit/MC uncertainty on extraction of nonsingular terms $\sim q_T^2/m_H^2$...see backup

Results: The total fiducial cross section at N³LO and N³LL'+N³LO



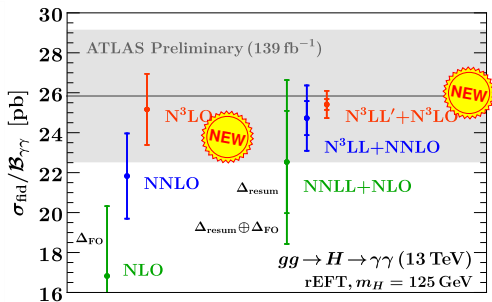
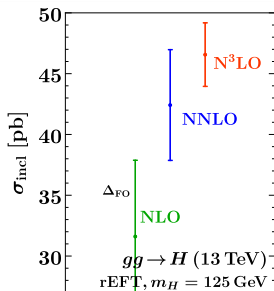
- Large N³LO correction to fiducial cross section (larger than inclusive)
 - Caused by fiducial power corrections, *not* captured by rescaling inclusive N³LO result
- Resummation restores convergence, gives detailed handle on uncertainty:

$$\text{N}^3\text{LO: } \sigma_{\text{fid}}/\mathcal{B}_{\gamma\gamma} = (25.16 \pm 1.78_{\text{FO}} \pm 0.12_{\text{nons}}) \text{ pb}$$

$$\text{N}^3\text{LL}' + \text{N}^3\text{LO: } \sigma_{\text{fid}}/\mathcal{B}_{\gamma\gamma} = (25.41 \pm 0.59_{\text{FO}} \pm 0.21_{qT} \pm 0.17_{\varphi} \pm 0.06_{\text{match}} \pm 0.20_{\text{nons}}) \text{ pb}$$

► Today's message: **Theory can deal with it!**

Results: The total fiducial cross section at N³LO and N³LL'+N³LO



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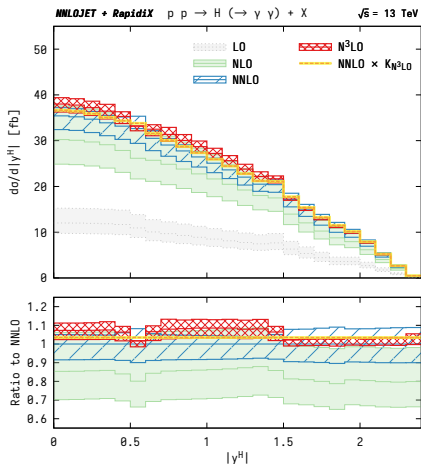
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Outlook: Resummation effects in other $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ observables

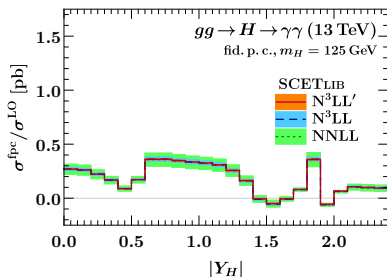
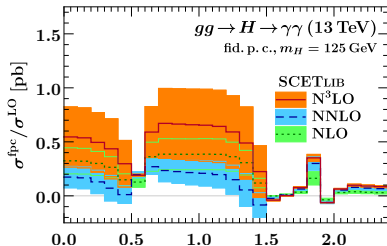
- “Infrared sensitivity” observed also in other Higgs observables at $N^3\text{LO}$

[Chen, Gehrmann, Glover, Huss, Mistlberger, Pelloni, 2102.07607]

↔ Precisely the fiducial power corrections we can analytically deal with and resum



Note: Plots on the right show only σ^{fpc} .

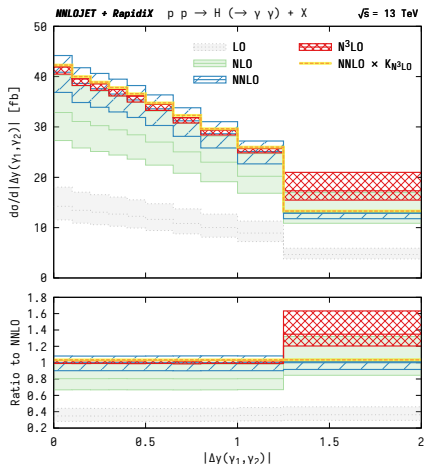


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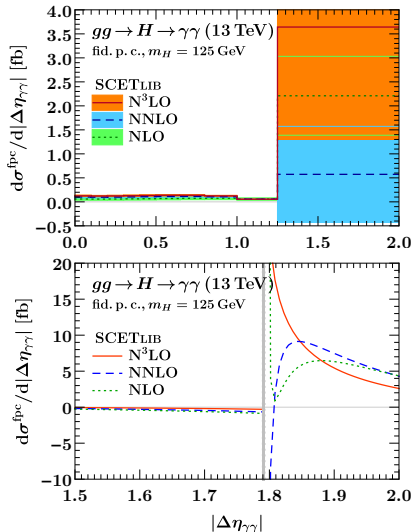
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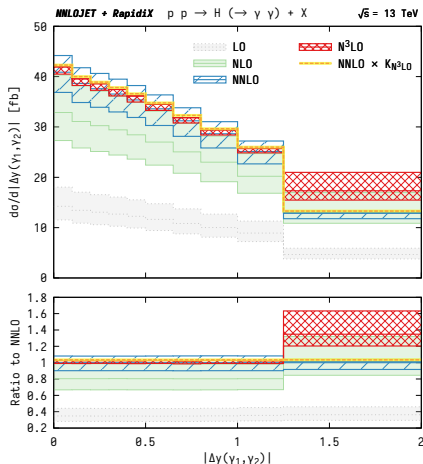


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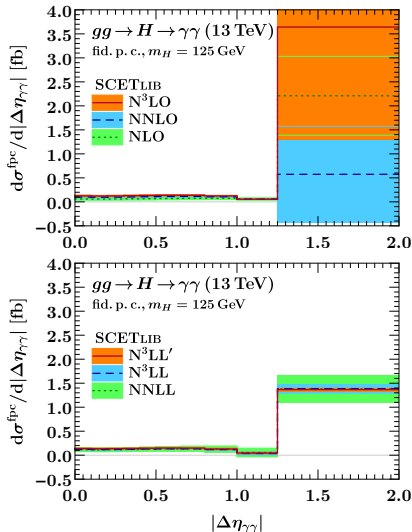
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[Chen, Gehrmann, Glover, Huss, Mistlberger, Pelloni, 2102.07607]

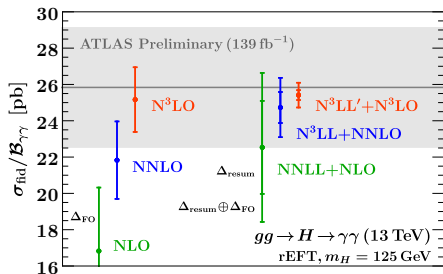
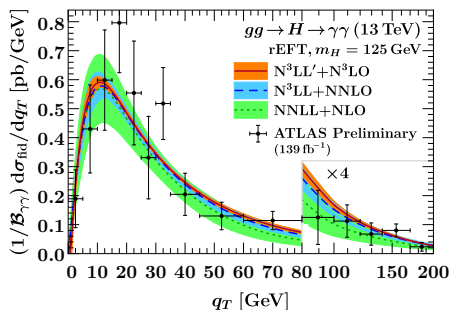
⇒ Precisely the fiducial power corrections we can analytically deal with and resum



Note: Plots on the right show only σ^{fpc} .

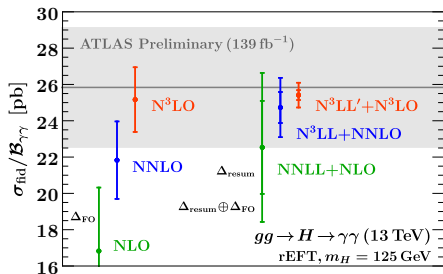
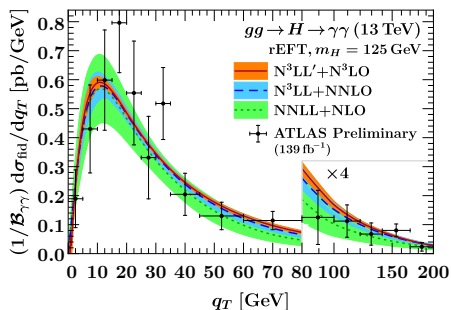


- Presented third-order predictions for fiducial p_T^H spectrum and total fiducial cross section for $gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ at the LHC
 - First direct comparison to LHC data at genuine three-loop order



- Large fiducial power corrections induced by experimental acceptance
 - Fully accounted for by resummed perturbation theory
 - Enables best-possible combined predictions for other $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ observables

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Thank you for your attention!

Backup

Leading-power factorization & resummation to N^3LL'

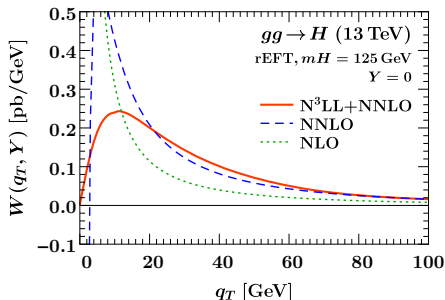
At leading power in $q_T \ll m_H$, the hadronic dynamics factorize as:

$$W^{(0)}(q_T, Y) = H(m_H^2, \mu) \int d^2\vec{k}_a d^2\vec{k}_b d^2\vec{k}_s \delta(q_T - |\vec{k}_a + \vec{k}_b + \vec{k}_s|) \\ \times B_g^{\mu\nu}(x_a, \vec{k}_a, \mu, \nu) B_{g\mu\nu}(x_b, \vec{k}_b, \mu, \nu) S(\vec{k}_s, \mu, \nu)$$

Ingredients satisfy 2D renormalization group equations, e.g. soft function:

$$\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \ln \tilde{S}(\vec{b}_T, \mu, \nu) = \tilde{\gamma}_S^g(\mu, \nu) \quad \nu \frac{d}{d\nu} \ln \tilde{S}(\vec{b}_T, \mu, \nu) = \tilde{\gamma}_\nu^g(b_T, \mu)$$

- Solve recursively at fixed order
 - ▶ Complete log structure of $d\sigma^{(0)}$
- Closed-form all-order solution
 - ▶ Resummed Sudakov peak
- Resummation order specified by perturbative order of anom. dims. and boundary conditions



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To reach N^3LL' for $W^{(0)}$, implemented in SCETlib:

- Three-loop **soft** and **hard** function ... includes in particular the three-loop virtual form factor [Li, Zhu, '16] [Baikov et al. '09; Lee et al. '10; Gehrmann et al. '10]
- Three-loop **unpolarized** and two-loop **polarized beam** functions [Ebert, Mistlberger, Vita '20; Luo, Yang, Zhu, Zhu '20] [Luo, Yang, Zhu, Zhu '19; Gutierrez-Reyes, Leal-Gomez, Scimemi, Vladimirov '19]
- Four-loop cusp, three-loop noncusp anomalous dimensions [Brüser, Grozin, Henn, Stahlhofen '19; Henn, Korchemsky, Mistlberger '20; v. Manteuffel, Panzer, Schabinger '20] [Li, Zhu, '16; Moch, Vermaseren, Vogt '05; Idilbi, Ma, Yuan '06; Vladimirov '16]
- N^3LL solutions to virtuality/rapidity RGEs in b_T space
- Hybrid profile scales for fixed-order matching [Lustermans, JM, Tackmann, Waalewijn '19]

Differential q_T subtractions

$$\sigma = \int_0^{q_T^{\text{off}}} dq_T \frac{d\sigma^{\text{sing}}}{dq_T} + \int_0^{q_T^{\text{off}}} dq_T \frac{d\sigma_{\text{FO}}^{\text{nons}}}{dq_T} + \int_{q_T^{\text{off}}} dq_T \frac{d\sigma_{\text{FO}1}}{dq_T}$$

Include $d\sigma^{\text{fpc}}$ in differential subtraction:

$$\frac{d\sigma^{\text{sing}}}{dq_T} = \int dY A(q_T, Y; \Theta) W^{(0)}(q_T, Y) = \frac{d\sigma^{(0)}}{dq_T} + \frac{d\sigma^{\text{fpc}}}{dq_T}$$

Remaining (nonsingular) terms:

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\text{FO}}^{\text{nons}}}{dq_T} = \int dY A(q_T, Y; \Theta) \left[W_{\text{FO}}^{(2)}(q_T, Y) + \dots \right] = \left[\frac{d\sigma_{\text{FO}1}}{dq_T} - \frac{d\sigma_{\text{FO}}^{\text{sing}}}{dq_T} \right]_{q_T > 0}$$

Challenges:

- Obtaining stable $H + 1j$ results for $q_T \rightarrow 0$ is *hard* ...in particular at NNLO₁
- Dropping the nonsingular below $q_T \leq q_T^{\text{cut}}$ is not viable, either ...as we'll see shortly
 - Crucial to use differential subtraction, not slicing

Differential q_T subtractions

$$\sigma = \int_0^{q_T^{\text{off}}} dq_T \frac{d\sigma^{\text{sing}}}{dq_T} + \int_0^{q_T^{\text{off}}} dq_T \frac{d\sigma_{\text{FO}}^{\text{nons}}}{dq_T} + \int_{q_T^{\text{off}}} dq_T \frac{d\sigma_{\text{FO}1}}{dq_T}$$

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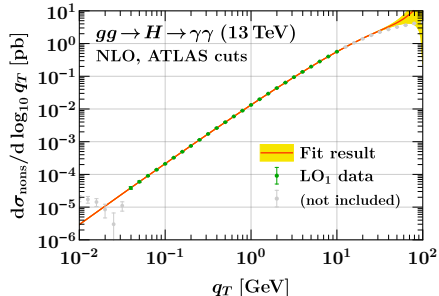
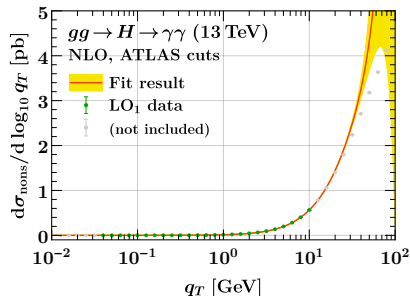
Key idea

Fit nonsingular data to known form at subleading power and integrate *analytically*:

$$q_T \frac{d\sigma_{\text{FO}}^{\text{nons}}}{dq_T} \Big|_{\alpha_s^n} = \frac{q_T^2}{m_H^2} \sum_{k=0}^{2n-1} \left(a_k + b_k \frac{q_T}{m_H} + c_k \frac{q_T^2}{m_H^2} + \dots \right) \ln^k \frac{q_T^2}{m_H^2}$$

- Include higher-power b_k, c_k to get unbiased a_k
- ▶ Allows us to use more precise data at higher q_T as lever arm in the fit

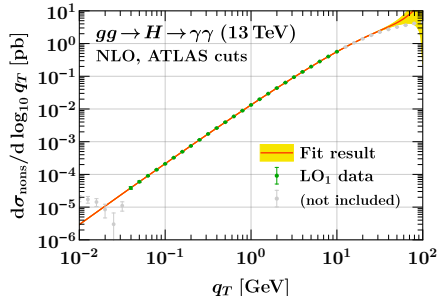
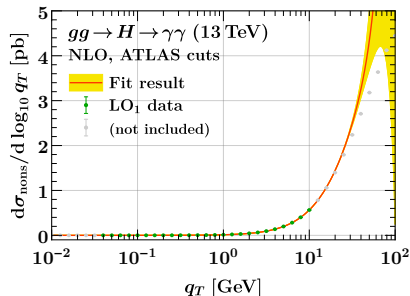
Fit results at (N)NLO



Fixed-order inputs:

- NLO contribution to $W(q_T, Y)$ at $q_T > 0$ (LO₁) is easy
- At NNLO (NLO₁), renormalize & implement bare analytic results for $W(q_T, Y)$
[Dulat, Lionetti, Mistlberger, Pelloni, Specchia '17]

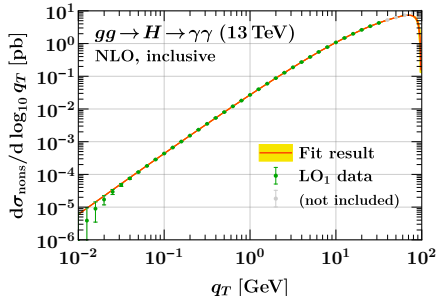
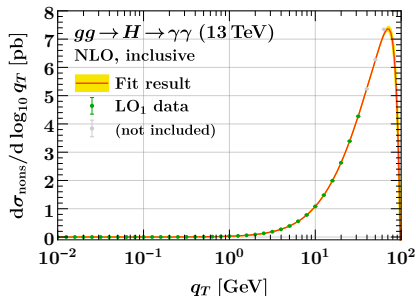
Fit results at (N)LO



Fit procedure:

- Perform separate χ^2 fits of $\{a_k^{\text{incl, fid}}\}$ to inclusive and fiducial nonsingular data [generated by our analytic implementation]
- Increase fit window to larger q_T until p value decreases
- Include subleading log coefficients at next higher power until p value decreases
- Also test intermediate combinations to ensure fit is stable [procedure follows Moutl, Rothen, Stewart, Tackmann, Zhu '15-'16]

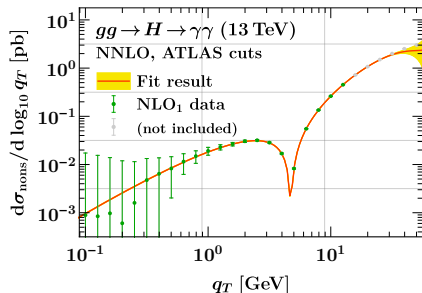
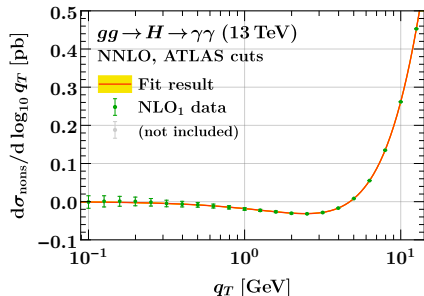
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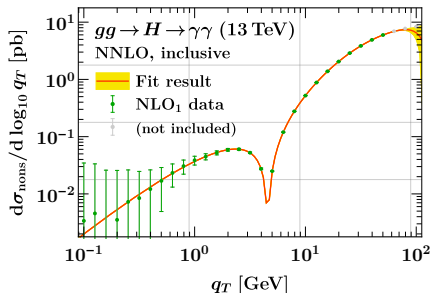
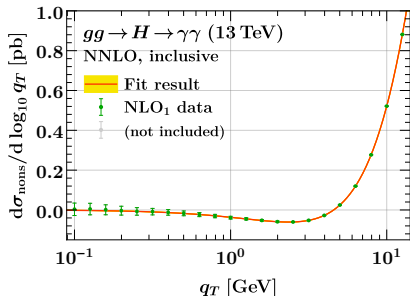
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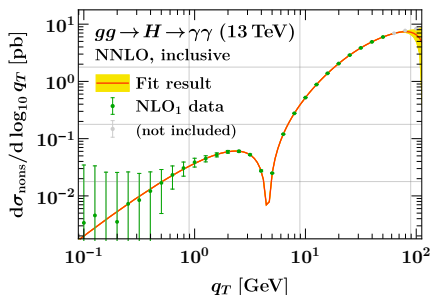
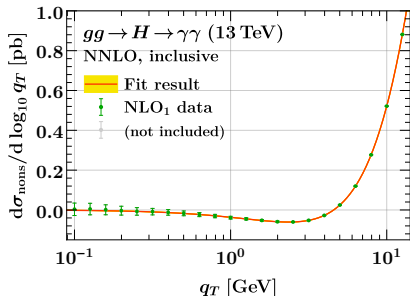
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Fit results at (N)NLO

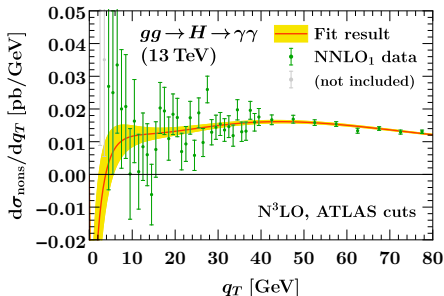
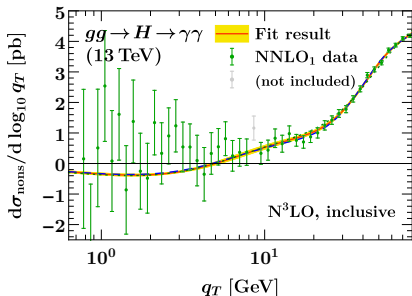


- Check the purely hadronic a_k^{fid} by directly fitting them to

$$q_T \int dY A^{(0)}(Y; \Theta) [W - W^{(0)}] = \frac{q_T^2}{m_H^2} \sum_{k=0}^{2n-1} \left(a_k^{\text{fid}} + c'_k \frac{q_T^2}{m_H^2} + \dots \right) \ln^k \frac{q_T^2}{m_H^2} \quad \checkmark$$

- Recover analytic (N)NLO coefficient of σ_{incl} at 10^{-5} (10^{-4}) \checkmark
- Analytic implementation gives us awesome precision on *all* NLP coefficients (all logs at NLO *and* NNLO, also differential in Y , broken down by color structure, ...)
- ▶ Can serve as benchmark for q_T resummation at subleading power

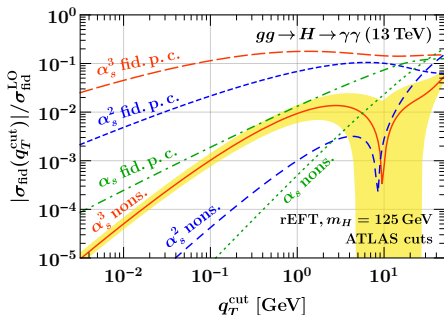
Fit results at N³LO



Setup:

- Combined fit to existing binned inclusive and fiducial NNLO₁ data from NNLOjet [Chen, Cruz-Martinez, Gehrmann, Glover, Jaquier '15-16; as used in Chen et al. '18; Bizoń et al. '18]
- Empirically find $0.4 \leq a_k^{\text{fid}}/a_k^{\text{incl}} \leq 0.55$ at (N)NLO \Rightarrow use as weak 1 σ constraint
- Add $\sigma_{\text{incl}}(q_T \leq q_T^{\text{cut}}) = \sigma_{\text{incl}}^{\text{N}^3\text{LO}} - \sigma_{\text{incl}}(q_T > q_T^{\text{cut}})$ as additional incl. data point [Mistlberger '18]

Comparison to other methods: q_T slicing



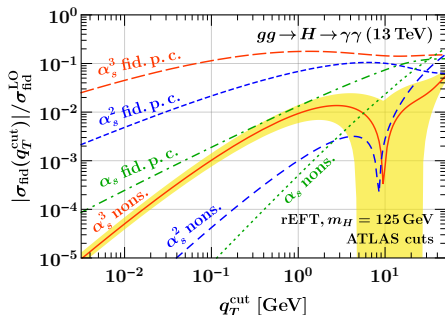
Slicing approach to q_T subtractions:

[used e.g. in Cieri, Chen, Gehrmann, Glover, Huss, 1807.11501; Camarda, Cieri, Ferrera, 2103.04974]

$$\sigma = \sigma^{(0)}(q_T^{\text{cut}}) + \sigma^{\text{fpc}}(q_T^{\text{cut}}) + \sigma^{\text{nons}}(q_T^{\text{cut}}) + \int_{q_T^{\text{cut}}} dq_T \frac{d\sigma_{\text{FO1}}}{dq_T}$$

- Slicing uses finite $q_T^{\text{cut}} \sim 2 \text{ GeV}$ and neglects *both* $\sigma^{\text{fpc}}(q_T^{\text{cut}})$, $\sigma^{\text{nons}}(q_T^{\text{cut}}) \approx 0$
- This is a catastrophic approximation even at α_s^2 , and definitely at α_s^3
- Even without σ^{fpc} (e.g., without cuts), this is a bad approximation at α_s^3
 - q_T^{cut} variations only scan local maximum around $2 \text{ GeV} \dots$

Comparison to other methods: Projection to Born



Projection-to-Born method:

[used e.g. in Chen, Gehrmann, Glover, Huss, Mistlberger, Pelloni, 2102.07607]

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dY} = A(0, Y) \frac{d\sigma_{\text{incl}}}{dY} + \int_{\approx q_T^{\text{cut}}} dq_T [A(q_T, Y) - A(0, Y)] W(q_T, Y)$$

- First term from analytic (threshold expansion of) inclusive rapidity spectrum
- Second term numerically from $H + 1j$ MC, dominated by σ^{fpc} at small q_T
- ▶ Need to integrate down to $q_T^{\text{cut}} \ll 0.1 \text{ GeV}$ to get error below 10% of $\sigma_{\text{LO}}^{\text{fid}}$!
[See also Salam, Slade, 2106.08329 for an explicit/analytic estimate at double-logarithmic level]