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Analytic result for the top-quark width at next-to-next-to-leading order in QCD

We present the first full analytic results of next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) QCD corrections to the top-quark decay width $\Gamma(t \rightarrow W b)$ by calculating the imaginary part of three-loop top-quark self-energy diagrams. The results are all expressed in terms of harmonic polylogarithms and valid in the whole region $0 \leq m_W \leq m_t$. The expansions in the $m_W \rightarrow 0$ and $m_W \rightarrow m_t$ limits coincide with previous studies. Our results can also be taken as the exact prediction for the lepton invariant mass spectrum in semileptonic $b \rightarrow u$ decays. We also analytically compute the decay width including the off-shell W boson effect up to NNLO in QCD for the first time. Combining these contributions with electroweak corrections and the finite b -quark mass effect, we determine the most precise top-quark width to be 1.331 GeV for $m_t = 172.69$ GeV. The total theoretical uncertainties including those from renormalization scale choice, top-quark mass renormalization scheme, input parameters and missing higher-order corrections are scrutinized and found to be less than 1%.

Author: Prof. WANG, Jian (Shandong University)

Presenter: Prof. WANG, Jian (Shandong University)

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