

~~Towards~~ **NNLO QCD** corrections for the  
production of a **heavy-quark pair** in association  
with a **massive boson**

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based on Phys.Rev.Lett. 130 (2023) and Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023)  
in collaboration with *L.Buonocore, S.Catani, S.Devoto, M.Grazzini, S.Kallweit, J.Mazzitelli, L.Rottoli*

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**Universität  
Zürich**<sup>UZH</sup>

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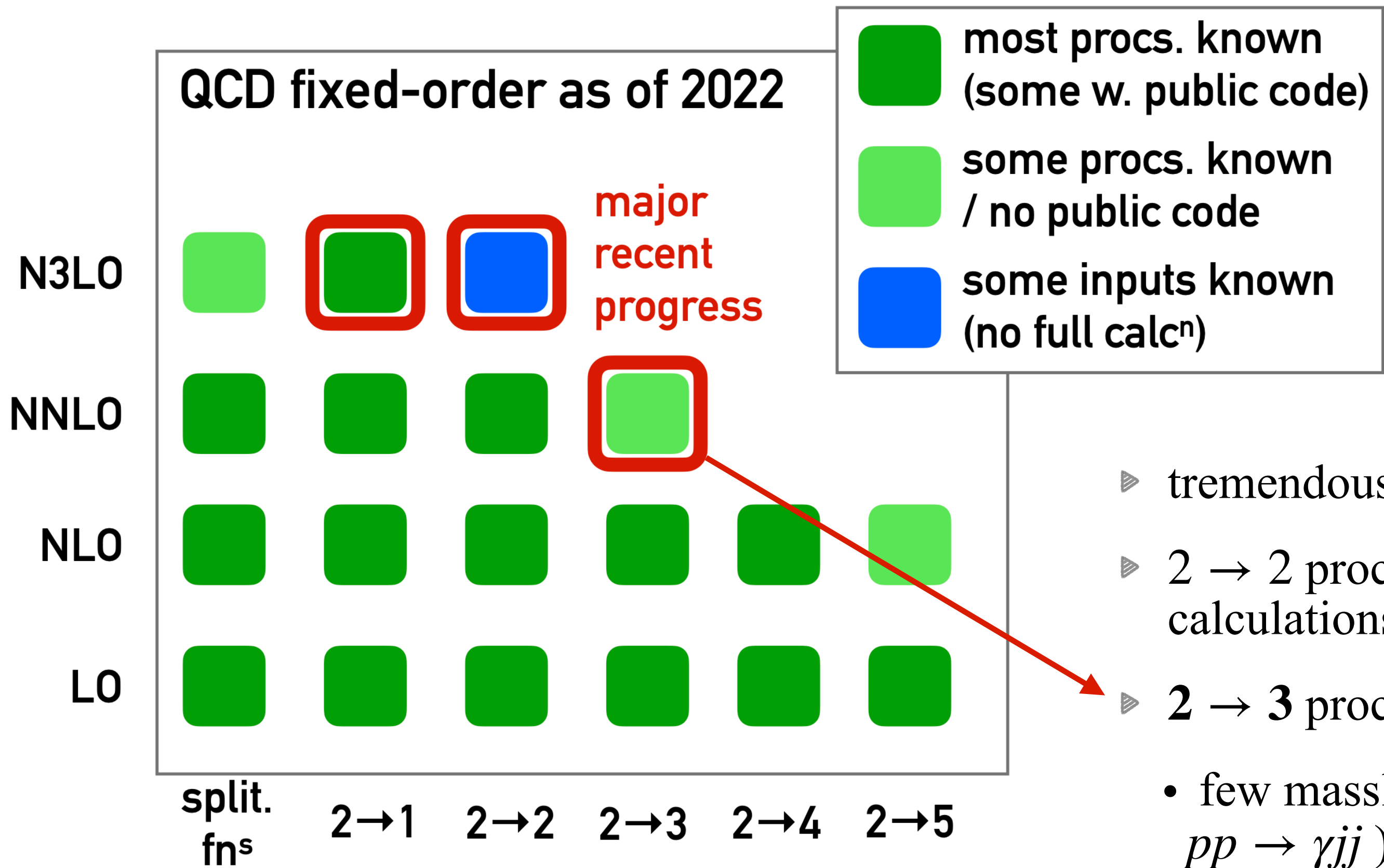
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# Introduction

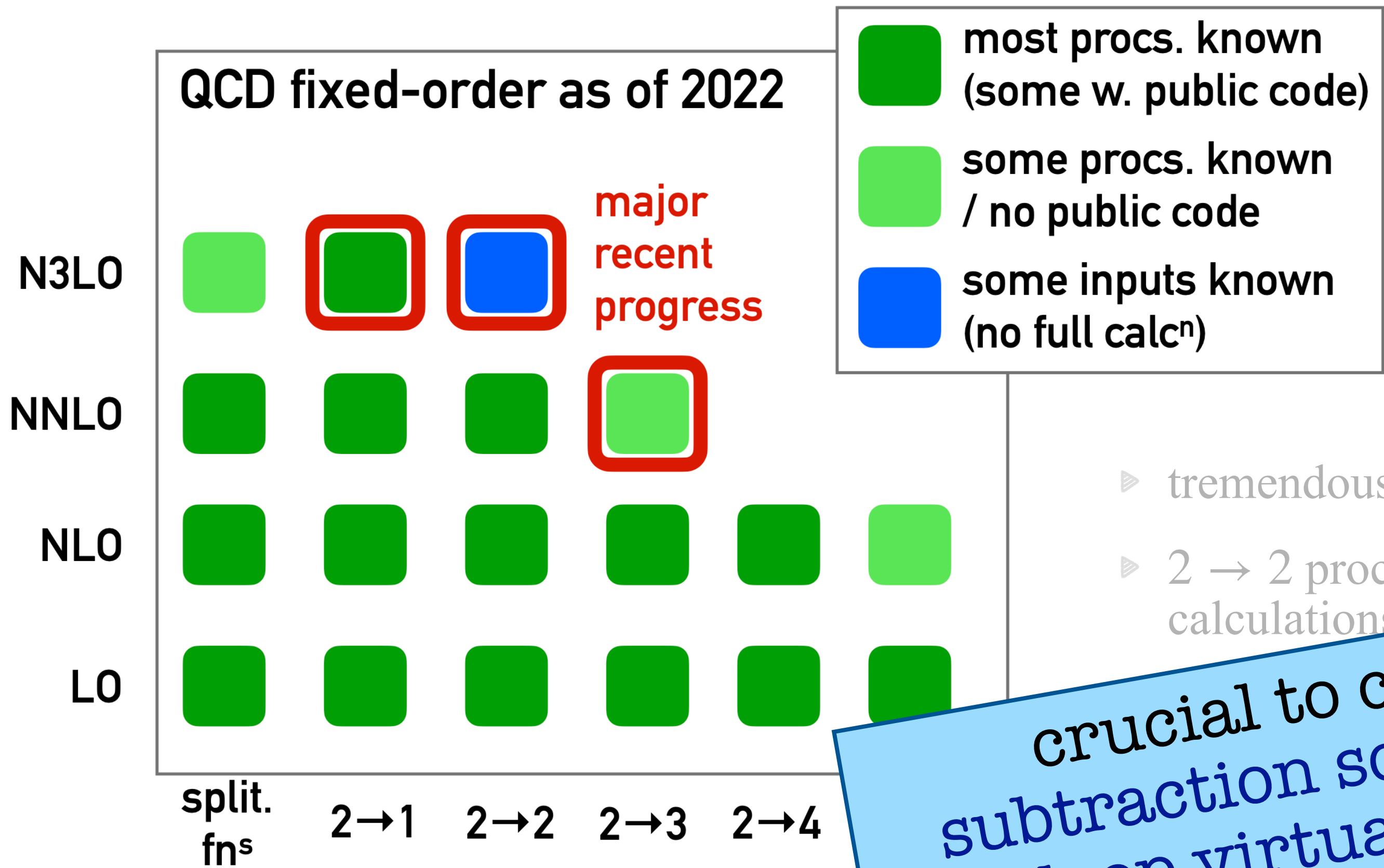


- ▶ tremendous progress in the past ~10 years!
- ▶ 2 → 2 processes at NNLO are under control (independent calculations)
- ▶ 2 → 3 processes at NNLO represent the **current frontier**
  - few massless computations ( $pp \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma, pp \rightarrow \gamma\gamma j, pp \rightarrow jjj, pp \rightarrow \gamma jj$ )
  - in this talk we will focus on 2 → 3 processes with **external massive legs**



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# Introduction



▶ tremendous progress in the past ~10 years!

▶ 2 → 2 processes at NNLO are (mostly independent calculations)

crucial to construct an NNLO subtraction scheme and to have the two-loop virtual amplitudes in order to complete an NNLO calculation

independent  
frontier  
 $p \rightarrow jjj$

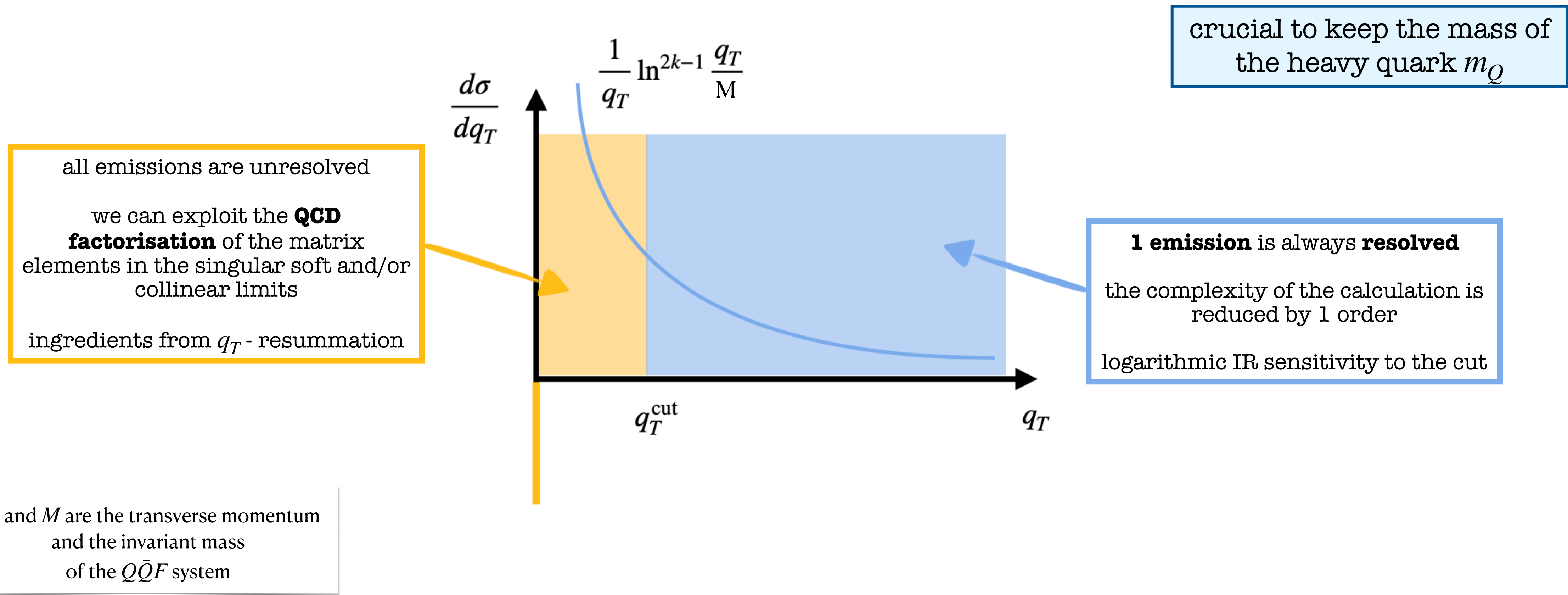
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will focus on 2 → 3 processes with external massive legs

# The framework: $q_T$ -subtraction

[Catani, Grazzini (2007)]

- cross section for the production of a triggered final state at  $N^k\text{LO}$  (in our case the triggered final state is  $Q\bar{Q}F$ )



$$d\sigma_{N^k\text{LO}} = \mathcal{H}_{N^k\text{LO}} \otimes d\sigma_{\text{LO}} + [d\sigma_{N^{k-1}\text{LO}}^R - d\sigma_{N^k\text{LO}}^{\text{CT}}]_{q_t > q_t^{\text{cut}}} + \mathcal{O}((q_t^{\text{cut}})^p)$$

# The framework: $q_T$ -subtraction [Catani, Grazzini (2007)]

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► master formula at NNLO

$$d\sigma_{NNLO} = \mathcal{H}_{NNLO} \otimes d\sigma_{LO} + [d\sigma_{NLO}^R - d\sigma_{NNLO}^{CT}]_{q_t > q_t^{\text{cut}}} + \mathcal{O}((q_t^{\text{cut}})^p)$$

✓ the required matrix elements can be computed with **automated tools** like OpenLoops2

[Buccioni, Lang, Lindert, Maierhöfer, Pozzorini, Zhang, Zoller (2019)]

✓ the remaining NLO-type singularities can be removed by applying a **local subtraction** method

[Catani, Seymour (1998)] [Catani, Dittmaier, Seymour, Trocsanyi (2002)]

✓ automatised implementation in the MATRIX framework, which relies on the efficient multi-channel Monte Carlo integrator MUNICH [Grazzini, Kallweit, Wiesemann (2017)]

# The framework: $q_T$ -subtraction

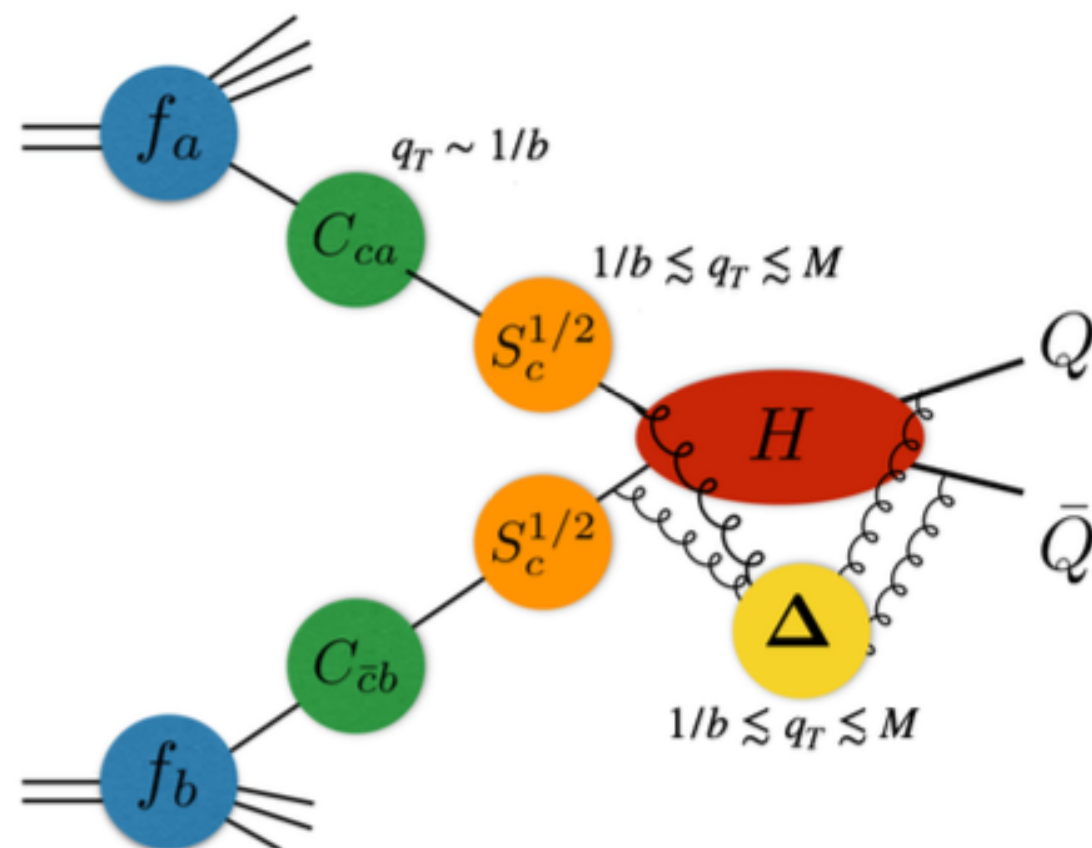
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☑ non trivial ingredient: **two-loop soft function** for an **arbitrary kinematics** of the heavy quarks

[Catani, Devoto, Grazzini, Mazzitelli (2023)] [Devoto, Mazzitelli (in preparation)]



- the resummation formula shows a **richer structure** due to the additional soft singularities
- the factor  $\Delta$  (operator in colour space) is specific for heavy-quark production and it encodes the **soft wide-angle radiation** from the  $Q\bar{Q}$  pair and from initial-state final-state interference
- the log-enhanced contributions are controlled by the **transverse momentum anomalous dimension**  $\Gamma_t$

# The framework: $q_T$ -subtraction

[Catani, Grazzini (2007)]

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- ✓ non trivial ingredient: **two-loop soft function** for an arbitrary kinematics of the heavy quarks
- ✓ all ingredients are known except for the **two-loop virtual amplitudes** contributing to the the hard-collinear coefficient

$$\mathcal{H}_{NNLO} = H^{(2)} \delta(1 - z_1) \delta(1 - z_2) + \delta \mathcal{H}^{(2)}(z_1, z_2)$$

where

$$H^{(2)} = \left. \frac{2\Re(\mathcal{M}_{fin}^{(2)}(\mu_{IR}, \mu_R) \mathcal{M}^{(0)*})}{|\mathcal{M}^{(0)}|^2} \right|_{\mu_R = \mu_{IR} = M}$$

UV renormalised and IR subtracted  
amplitude at scale  $\mu_{IR}$   
(overall normalisation  $(4\pi)^\epsilon e^{-\gamma_E \epsilon}$ )

Remark: analogous definition for the hard-collinear coefficient at NLO

$$H^{(1)} = \left. \frac{2\Re(\mathcal{M}_{fin}^{(1)}(\mu_{IR}, \mu_R) \mathcal{M}^{(0)*})}{|\mathcal{M}^{(0)}|^2} \right|_{\mu_R = \mu_{IR} = M}$$



# The framework: $q_T$ -subtraction

[Catani, Grazzini (2007)]

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main bottleneck:  
2 → 3 two-loop amplitudes  
with internal and external  
massive legs are currently out  
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crucial to find one (or more)  
reasonable approximation

main bottleneck:  
two-loop amplitudes  
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of reach!

[Catani, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, CS (2022)]

$t\bar{t}H$

soft boson approximation

$t\bar{t}W$

[Buonocore, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, Rottoli, CS (in preparation)]

# Soft Higgs boson approximation

**bottleneck:** the two-loop amplitudes are at the frontier of the current techniques

**solution:** development of a soft boson approximation

- ▶ the main idea is to find an analogous formula to the well known factorisation in the case of **soft gluons**

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{M}^{\text{bare}}(\{p_i\}, k) = J(k) \mathcal{M}^{\text{bare}}(\{p_i\}) \quad \text{see e.g. [Catani, Grazzini (2000)]}$$

$$J(k) = g_s \mu^\epsilon (J^{(0)}(k) + g_s^2 J^{(1)}(k) + \dots)$$

purely non abelian

- ▶ for a **soft scalar Higgs** radiated off a **heavy quark** with momentum  $p_j$ , we have that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{M}^{\text{bare}}(\{p_i\}, k) = J^{(0)}(k) \mathcal{M}^{\text{bare}}(\{p_i\}) \quad \text{bare mass of the heavy quark}$$

soft insertion rules, only external legs matter!

$$J^{(0)}(k) = \sum_j \frac{m_{j,0}}{v} \frac{m_{j,0}}{p_j \cdot k}$$

- ▶ the naïve factorisation formula does NOT hold at the level of renormalised amplitudes!

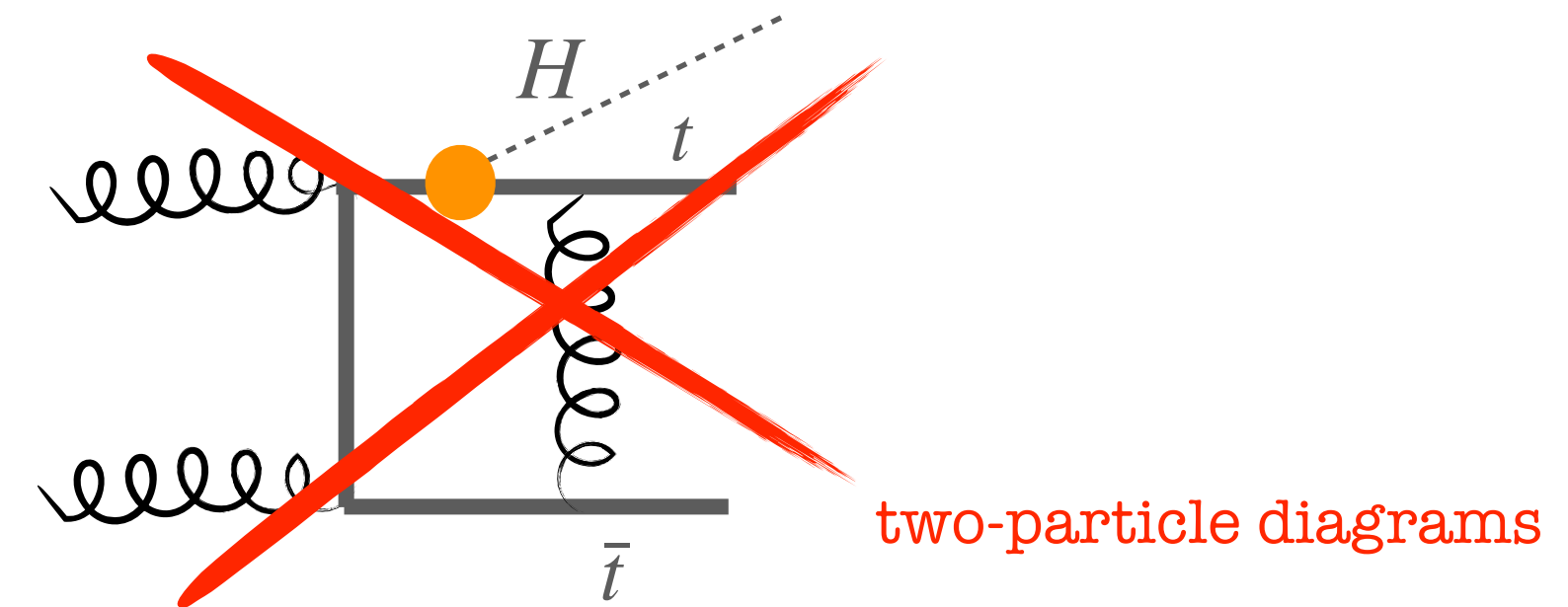
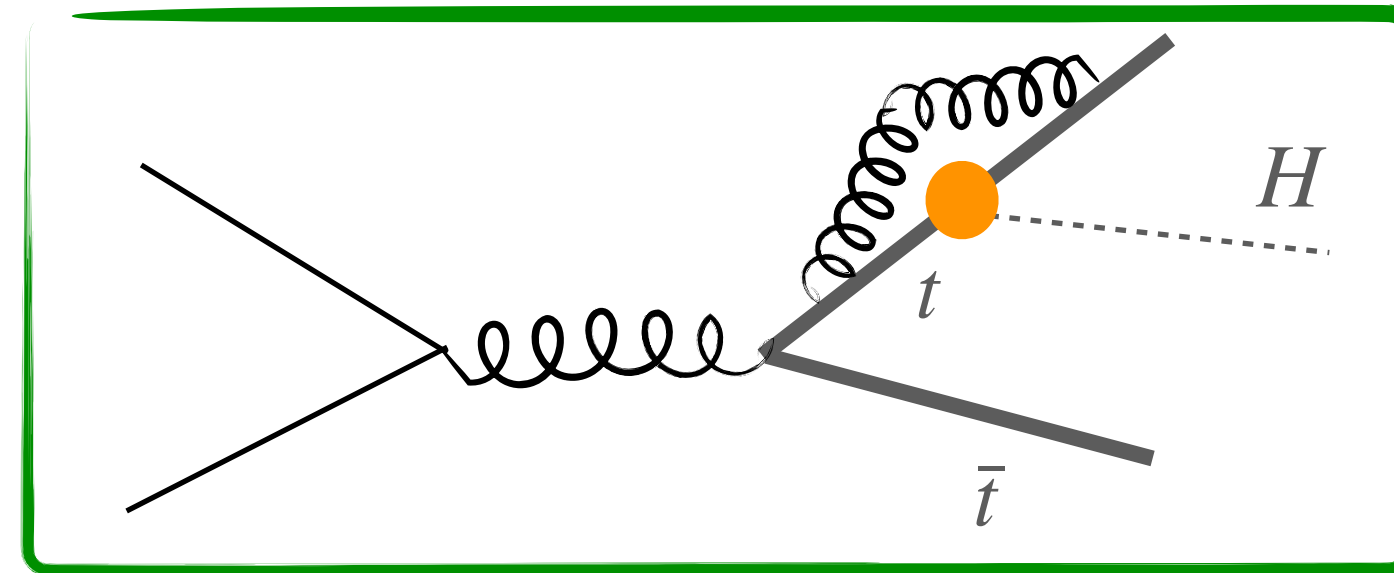
# Soft Higgs boson approximation

**bottleneck:** the two-loop amplitudes are at the frontier of the current techniques

**solution:** development of a soft boson approximation

- ▶ already at one-loop, diagrams that are not captured by the naïve factorisation formula can give an **additional leading contribution** in the soft Higgs limit

one-particle diagrams



- each 2P diagram contributes to the leading behaviour of the matrix element in the soft Higgs limit, if also the **loop momentum is soft**
- by considering **all possible insertions** of the Higgs boson on the top quark line, no additional contributions arise wrt the naïve factorisation formula

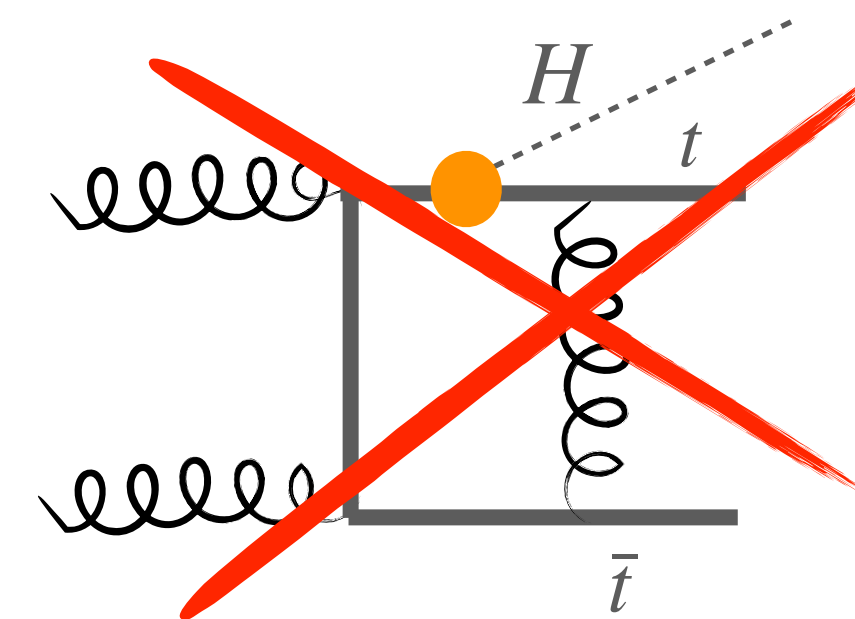
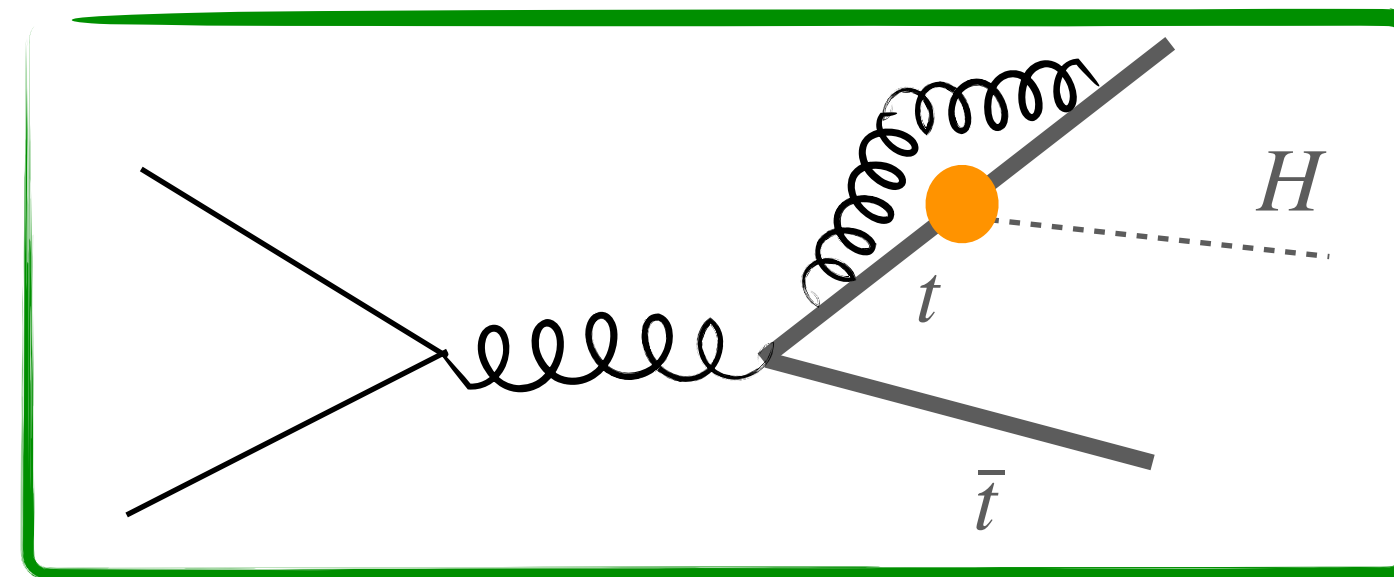
# Soft Higgs boson approximation

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one-particle diagrams



two-particle diagrams

- they give an additional contribution to the the naïve factorisation formula
- in other words, the renormalisation of the heavy-quark mass and wave function induces a **modification of the Higgs coupling** to the heavy quark

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{M}(\{p_i\}, k) = F(\alpha_s(\mu_R); m/\mu_R) J^{(0)}(k) \mathcal{M}(\{p_i\})$$

overall normalisation, finite, gauge-independent and perturbatively computable

$$J^{(0)}(k) = \sum_j \frac{m}{v} \frac{m}{p_j \cdot k}$$

renormalised mass

# Soft Higgs boson approximation

- **master formula** in the soft Higgs limit ( $k \rightarrow 0, m_H \ll m_t$ )

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{M}_{t\bar{t}H}(\{p_i\}, k) = F(\alpha_s(\mu_R); m_t/\mu_R) J^{(0)}(k) \mathcal{M}_{t\bar{t}}(\{p_i\})$$

[Bärnreuther, Czakon, Fiedler (2013)]

soft limit of the scalar form factor for the heavy quark [Bernreuther et al. (2005)] [Blümlein et al. (2017)]

$$F(\alpha_s(\mu_R); m_t/\mu_R) = 1 + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{2\pi}(-3C_F) + \left(\frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{2\pi}\right)^2 \left(\frac{33}{4}C_F^2 - \frac{185}{12}C_FC_A + \frac{13}{6}C_F(n_L + 1) - 6C_F\beta_0 \ln \frac{\mu_R^2}{m_t^2}\right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$$

up to two-loop order

we assume that all heavy quarks involved in the process have the same mass

- **NEW:** ongoing check of the soft factorisation formula at **three-loop order**, based on
  - ❖ three-loop on-shell renormalisation constants  $Z_m$  and  $Z_2$  [Melnikov, Ritbergen (2000)]
  - ❖ decoupling relations at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$  [Chetyrkin, Kniehl, Steinhauser (1997)]
  - ❖ three-loop massive form factors [Fael, Lange, Schönwald, Steinhauser (2022, 2023)]

# Soft W-boson approximation

**bottleneck:** the two-loop amplitudes are at the frontier of the current techniques

**solution:** development of a soft boson approximation

- ▶ goal: compute NNLO QCD corrections for  $t\bar{t}W$
- ▶ the idea is to follow a similar approach used in the case of  $t\bar{t}H$  : develop a **soft factorisation formula** also in the case of a  $W$  boson (only coupling to massless quarks, masses break the factorisation...)
- ▶ for a **soft gauge W boson** radiated off a **massless quark** with momentum  $p_j$ , we find that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{M}(\{p_i\}, k) = \frac{g_W}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_j \left( \sigma_j \frac{p_j \cdot \epsilon^*(k)}{p_j \cdot k} \mathcal{M}_{j_L}(\{p_i\}) \right)$$

valid at all perturbative orders

$$\sigma_j = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{incoming } \bar{q}, \text{ outgoing } q \\ -1 & \text{incoming } q, \text{ outgoing } \bar{q} \end{cases}$$

amplitude where the massless quark with momentum  $p_j$  is LEFT-HANDED



# Soft W-boson approximation

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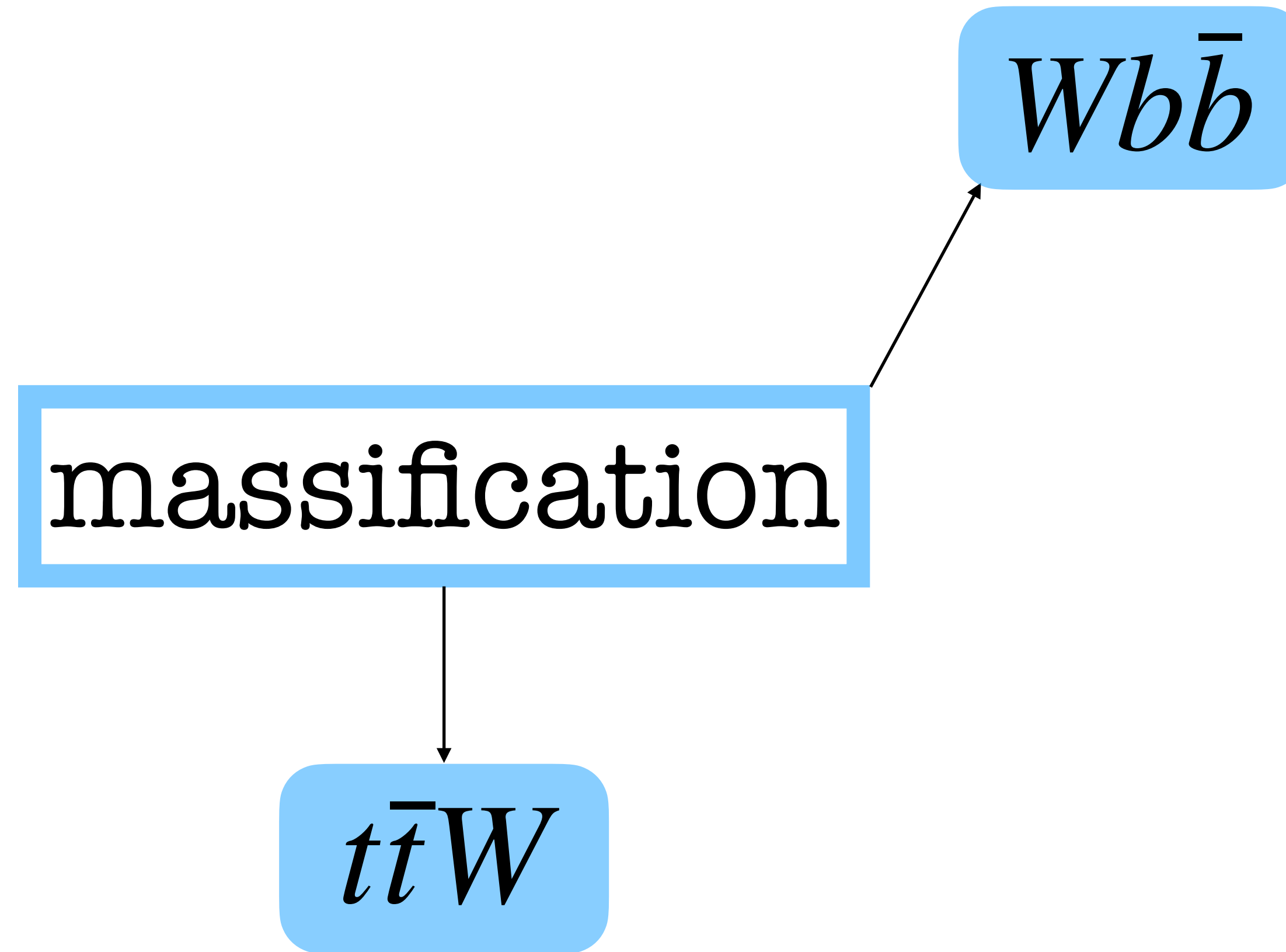
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valid at all perturbative orders

**main differences** between W boson and Higgs :

- vectorial vs scalar current
- massless vs massive emitters
- no renormalisation effects
- selection of the polarisation state of the emitter

[Buonocore, Devoto, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, Rottoli, CS (2022)]



[Buonocore, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, Rottoli, CS (in preparation)]

# Massification

[Moch, Mitov (2007)]  
[Becher, Melnikov (2007)]

- ▶ idea: exploit the recently computed leading-colour **massless two-loop 5-point amplitudes** for  $q\bar{q}' \rightarrow WQ\bar{Q}$  production  
[Abreu et al. (2021)] [Badger et al. (2021)]
- ▶ and apply the **massification** technique to reconstruct the corresponding massive amplitudes up to power corrections in the mass  $m_Q$
- ▶ massification relies on the **factorisation** properties of **massless** QCD amplitudes (into jet, hard and soft functions)

$$|\mathcal{M}_p\rangle = \mathcal{J}_0^{[p]} \left( \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \varepsilon \right) \mathcal{S}_0^{[p]} \left( \{k_i\}, \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \varepsilon \right) |\mathcal{H}_p\rangle$$

- ▶ when the mass is introduced, some of the collinear singularities are screened 1/ε poles are traded into log  $m_Q$
- ▶ in the limit  $m_Q \ll Q$ , the massive amplitude “shares” essential properties with the corresponding massless amplitude

↓  
change in the renormalisation scheme

- ▶ factorisation of **massive** QCD amplitudes ( up to  $\mathcal{O}(m_Q/Q)$  )

$$|\mathcal{M}_p\rangle = \mathcal{J}^{[p]} \left( \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \frac{m_i^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \varepsilon \right) \mathcal{S}_0^{[p]} \left( \{k_i\}, \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \varepsilon \right) |\mathcal{H}_p\rangle$$

ASSUMPTION: being the process-dependent soft and hard functions insensitive to collinear dynamics, they are assumed not to change, up to power corrections in the mass

# Massification

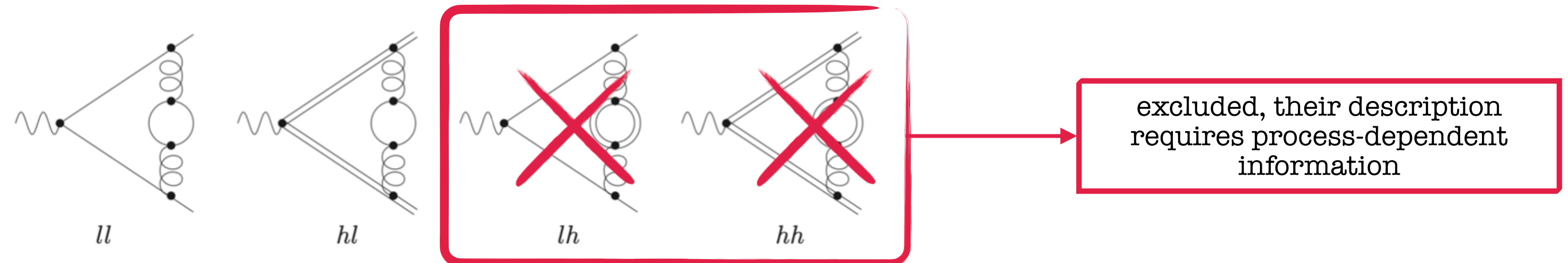
► the master formula is

$$\mathcal{M}^{[p],(m)} \left( \{k_i\}, \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \varepsilon \right) = \prod_{i \in \{\text{all legs}\}} \left( Z_{[i]}^{(m|0)} \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \varepsilon \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \times \mathcal{M}^{[p],(m=0)} \left( \{k_i\}, \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \varepsilon \right)$$

universal, perturbatively computable, ratio of massive and massless form factors

$$Z_{[i]}^{(m|0)} \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s, \varepsilon \right) = \mathcal{F}^{[i]} \left( \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \frac{m^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s, \varepsilon \right) \left( \mathcal{F}^{[i]} \left( \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, 0, \alpha_s, \varepsilon \right) \right)^{-1}$$

► in the case of  $WQ\bar{Q}$ , the function  $Z_{[q]}^{(m_Q|0)}$  is related to  $\gamma^* q\bar{q}$  form factor



# Massification

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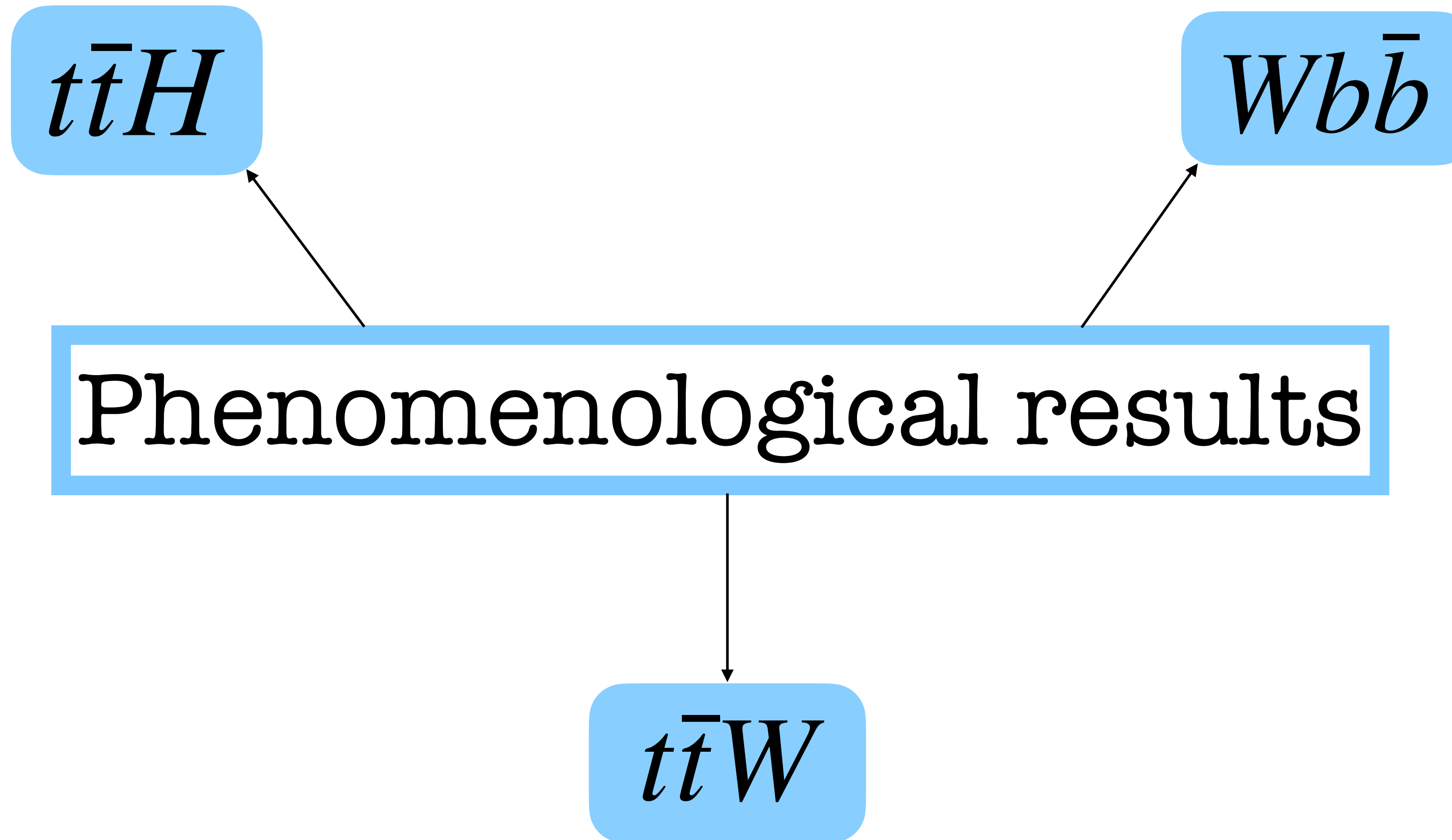
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take-home message:

- the massification procedure predicts the correct  $\epsilon$  poles, logarithms of the mass and mass independent terms of the massive amplitude
- power corrections in the mass and heavy-quark loop contributions cannot be retrieved

[Catani, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, CS (2022)]

[Buonocore, Devoto, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, Rottoli, CS (2022)]



[Buonocore, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, Rottoli, CS (in preparation)]

setup: NNLO NNPDF31,  $m_H = 125\text{GeV}$ ,  $m_t = 173.3\text{GeV}$ ,  $\mu_R = \mu_F = (2m_t + m_H)/2$

- \* direct probe of the **top Yukawa coupling**
- \* HL-LHC projection:  $\mathcal{O}(2\%)$  [CERN Yellow Report (2019)]
- \* current theoretical predictions:  $\mathcal{O}(10\%)$   
[LHC cross section WG (2016)]
- \* mandatory to include **NNLO QCD** corrections!
- \* missing ingredient: 2loop  $2 \rightarrow 3$  (2 masses) amplitudes
- \* prescription: **soft Higgs boson approximation**

all ingredients are computed exactly  
except the two-loop contribution

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[Catani, de Florian, Ferrera, Grazzini (2015)]

- ▶ we construct a **mapping** to project a  $t\bar{t}H$  event onto a  $t\bar{t}$  one
- ▶ we test the **quality** of the approximation at Born and one-loop level: the observed deviation at NLO is used to estimate the uncertainty at NNLO
- ▶ at NNLO, the hard contribution is about **1%** of the LO cross section in  $gg$  and **2-3%** in  $q\bar{q}$
- ▶ it is clear that the quality of the final result depends on the size of the contribution we are approximating

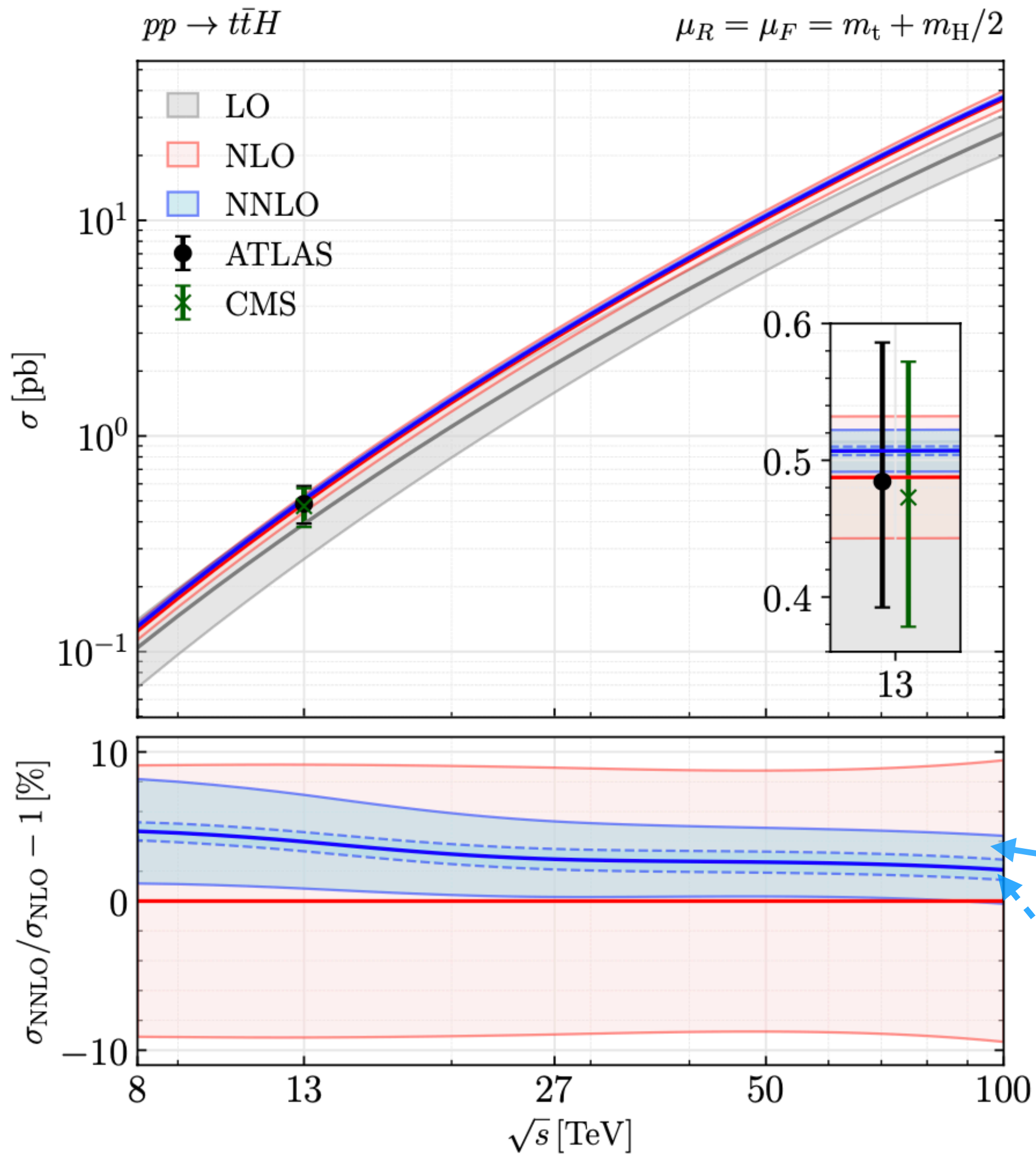
FINAL UNCERTAINTY:

$\pm 0.6\%$  on  $\sigma_{NNLO}$ ,  $\pm 15\%$  on  $\Delta\sigma_{NNLO}$



# Results

setup: NNLO NNPDF31,  $m_H = 125\text{GeV}$ ,  $m_t = 173.3\text{GeV}$ ,  $\mu_R = \mu_F = (2m_t + m_H)/2$



$\sigma$ [pb]	$\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$	$\sqrt{s} = 100 \text{ TeV}$
$\sigma_{\text{LO}}$	$0.3910^{+31.3\%}_{-22.2\%}$	$25.38^{+21.1\%}_{-16.0\%}$
$\sigma_{\text{NLO}}$	$0.4875^{+5.6\%}_{-9.1\%}$	$36.43^{+9.4\%}_{-8.7\%}$
$\sigma_{\text{NNLO}}$	$0.5070 (31)^{+0.9\%}_{-3.0\%}$	$37.20(25)^{+0.1\%}_{-2.2\%}$

- ▶ @NLO: **+25 (+44)%** at  $\sqrt{s} = 13 (100) \text{ TeV}$
- ▶ @NNLO: **+4 (+2)%** at  $\sqrt{s} = 13 (100) \text{ TeV}$
- ▶ **significant reduction** of the perturbative uncertainties

symmetrised 7-point scale variation

systematic + soft-approximation

[CMS: arXiv 1608.07561]

**setup:** NNLO NNPDF31 4F,  $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$ ,  $\mu_R = \mu_F = E_T(\nu) + p_T(b_1) + p_T(b_2)$   
 $p_{T,l} > 30 \text{ GeV}$   $|\eta_l| < 2.1$ ,  $p_{T,b} > 25 \text{ GeV}$   $|\eta_l| < 2.4$ ,  $p_{T,j} > 25 \text{ GeV}$   $|\eta_l| < 2.4$

- \* irreducible background to  $VH$ , single top production, BSM searches
- \* test of perturbative QCD: 4FS vs 5FS, **modelling of flavoured jets**
- \* large NLO QCD corrections
- \* mandatory to include **NNLO QCD** corrections!
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[CMS: arXiv 1608.07561]

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- \* missing ingredient: 2loop  $2 \rightarrow 3$  (2 masses) amplitudes
- \* prescription: **massification technique**

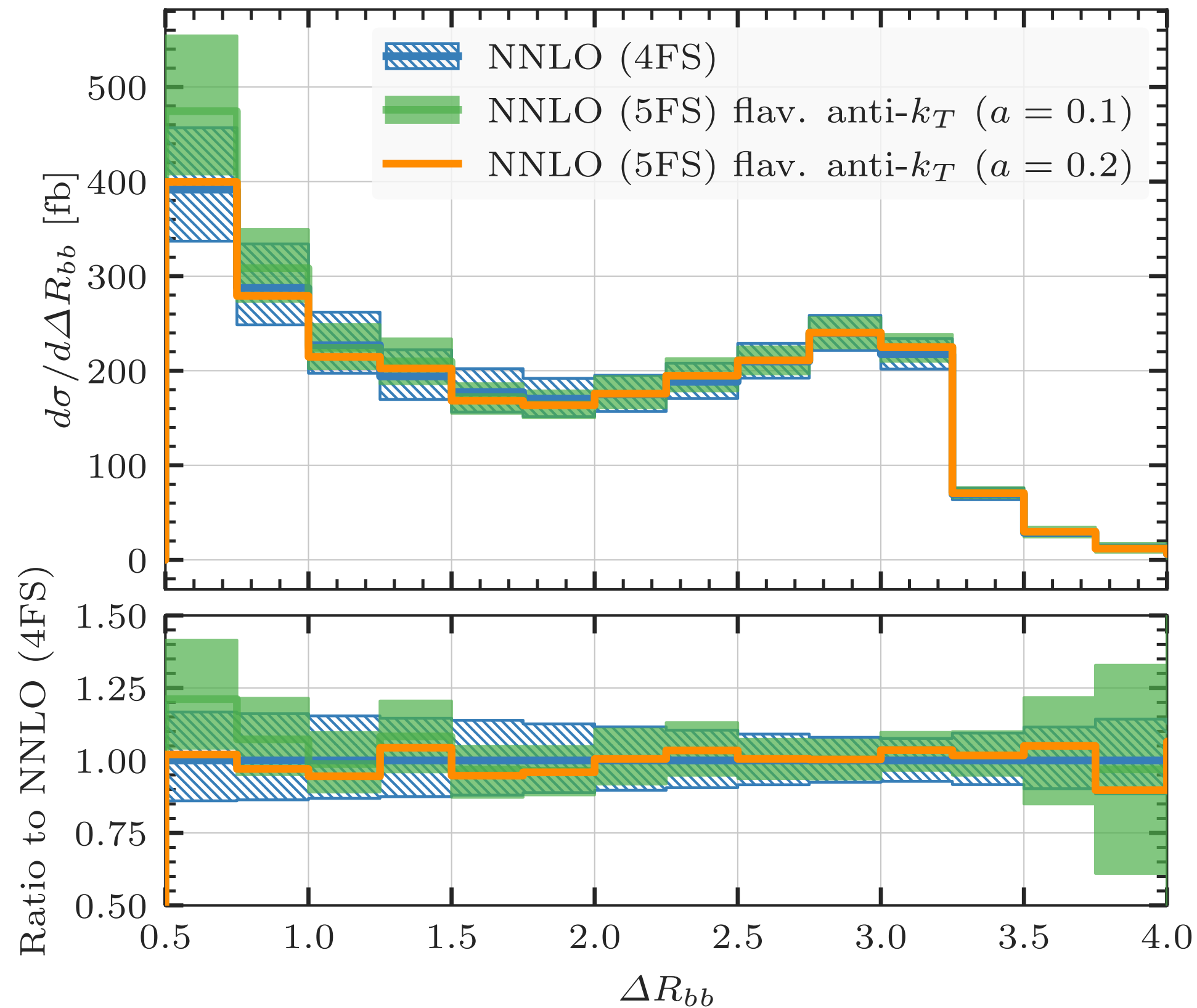
all ingredients are computed exactly  
except the two-loop contribution

- ▶ we construct a **mapping** to project the massive bottom momenta to the massless ones (preserve the four momentum of the  $b\bar{b}$  pair)
- ▶ we rely on the leading-colour two-loop massless amplitudes for  $W + 4$  partons [Abreu et al. (2021)] [Badger et al. (2021)]
- ▶ **reliability** of the procedure:
  - the discrepancy between the exact and massified virtual contribution at NLO is only **3%** of the NLO correction
  - the part of the two-loop virtual amplitude computed in LCA contributes at the **2%** level of the full NNLO correction

# Results

[CMS: arXiv 1608.07561]

setup: NNLO NNPDF31 4F,  $\sqrt{s} = 8 \text{ TeV}$ ,  $\mu_R = \mu_F = E_T(l\nu) + p_T(b_1) + p_T(b_2)$   
 $p_{T,l} > 30 \text{ GeV}$   $|\eta_l| < 2.1$ ,  $p_{T,b} > 25 \text{ GeV}$   $|\eta_l| < 2.4$ ,  $p_{T,j} > 25 \text{ GeV}$   $|\eta_l| < 2.4$



order	$\sigma^{4\text{FS}}$ [fb]	$\sigma_{a=0.05}^{5\text{FS}}$ [fb]	$\sigma_{a=0.1}^{5\text{FS}}$ [fb]	$\sigma_{a=0.2}^{5\text{FS}}$ [fb]
LO	210.42(2) <sup>+21.4%</sup> <sub>-16.2%</sub>	262.52(10) <sup>+21.4%</sup> <sub>-16.1%</sub>	262.47(10) <sup>+21.4%</sup> <sub>-16.1%</sub>	261.71(10) <sup>+21.4%</sup> <sub>-16.1%</sub>
NLO	468.01(5) <sup>+17.8%</sup> <sub>-13.8%</sub>	500.9(8) <sup>+16.1%</sup> <sub>-12.8%</sub>	497.8(8) <sup>+16.0%</sup> <sub>-12.7%</sub>	486.3(8) <sup>+15.5%</sup> <sub>-12.5%</sub>
NNLO	649.9(1.6) <sup>+12.6%</sup> <sub>-11.0%</sub>	690(7) <sup>+10.9%</sup> <sub>-9.7%</sub>	677(7) <sup>+10.4%</sup> <sub>-9.4%</sub>	647(7) <sup>+9.5%</sup> <sub>-9.4%</sub>

- ▶ comparison against the 5F massless computation [Poncelet et al. (2022)]
- overall **good agreement** within the scale uncertainties
- the uncertainties due to variation of  $m_b \in [4.2, 4.92] \text{ GeV}$  are at **2%** level (smaller than the ones due to the variation of  $a$ ,  $\sim 7\%$ )
- ▶ large positive NNLO corrections: **+40%**
- ▶ still **large perturbative uncertainties**

setup: NNLO NNPDF31 luxqed,  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ ,  $m_W = 80.385 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $m_t = 173.2 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $\mu_R = \mu_F = (2m_t + m_W)/2$

- \* relevant background for SM processes ( $t\bar{t}H$ ,  $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ )
- \* multi-lepton signature relevant for BSM sources
- \* “special”: large NLO QCD and EW corrections
- \* well known **tension** between theory and experiments  
(excess at **1-2 $\sigma$**  level)  
[ATLAS-CONF-2023-019]  
[CMS: arXiv 2208.06485]
- \* current **NLO QCD + EW** predictions, supplemented with **multi-jet merging** are affected by relatively large uncertainties
- \* mandatory to include **NNLO QCD** corrections!
- \* missing ingredient: 2loop  $2 \rightarrow 3$  (2 masses) amplitudes

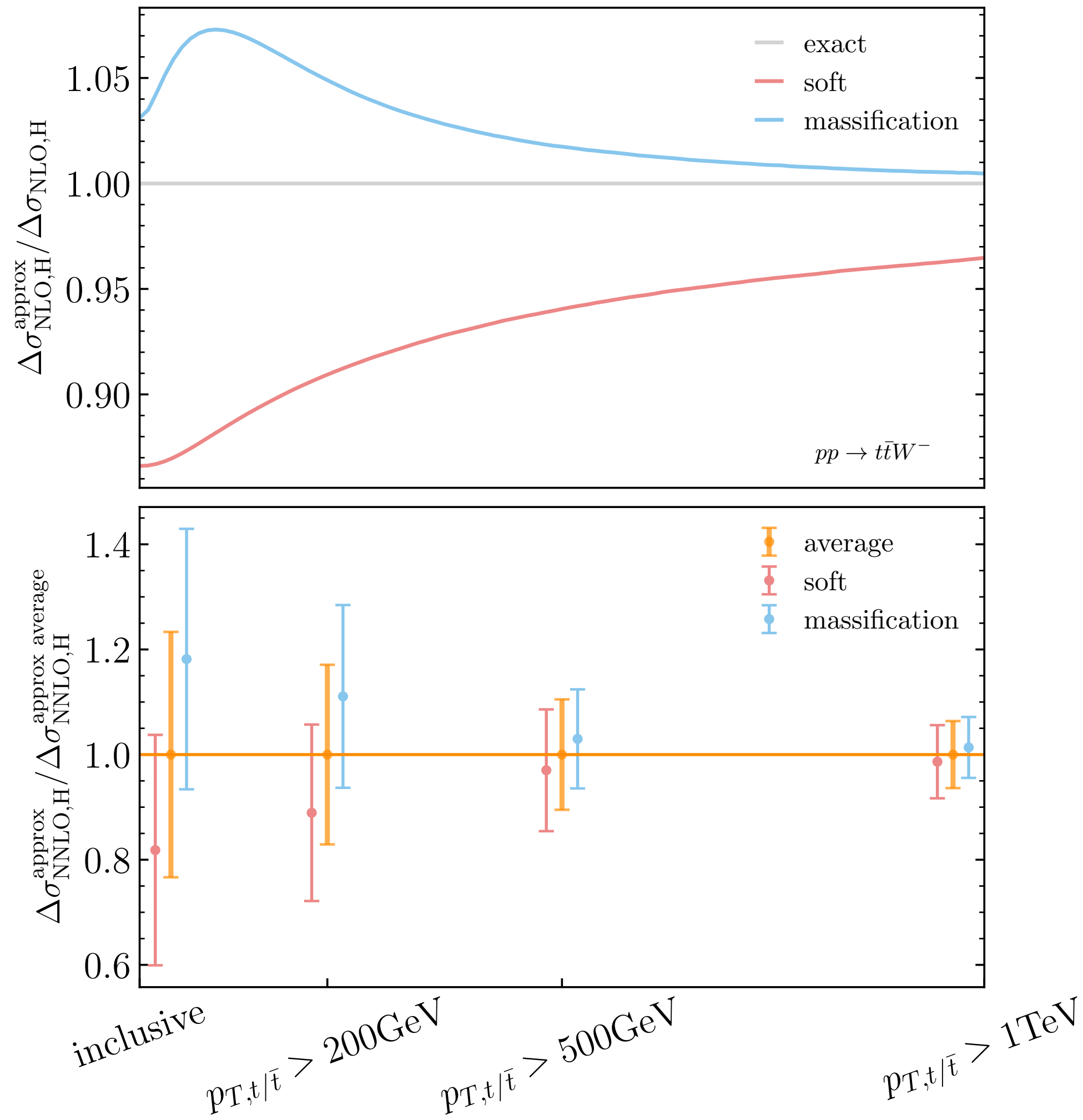
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▶ we exploit both approximations: **soft approximation** and **massification technique**

all ingredients are computed exactly except the two-loop contribution

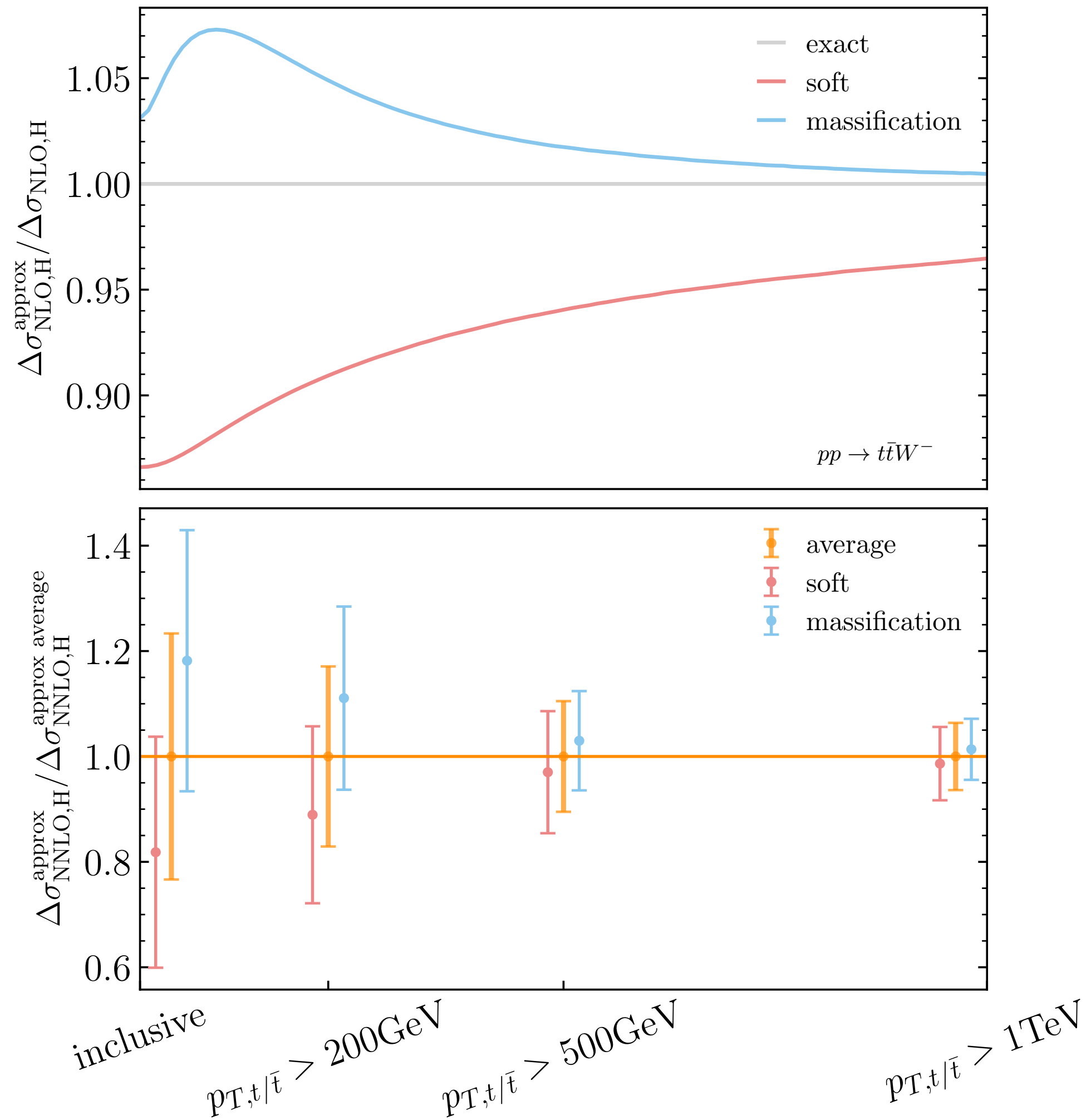
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► validation at NLO:

- both approaches provide a **good quantitative approximation** of the exact virtual coefficient (discrepancy of 5-15%)
- the soft approximation tends to **undershoot** the exact result while the massification **overshoots** it
- clear **asymptotic behaviour** towards the exact result for high  $p_{T,t}$  where both approximations are expected to perform better (faster convergence of the massification)

setup: NNLO NNPDF31 luxqed,  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ ,  $m_W = 80.385 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $m_t = 173.2 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $\mu_R = \mu_F = (2m_t + m_W)/2$

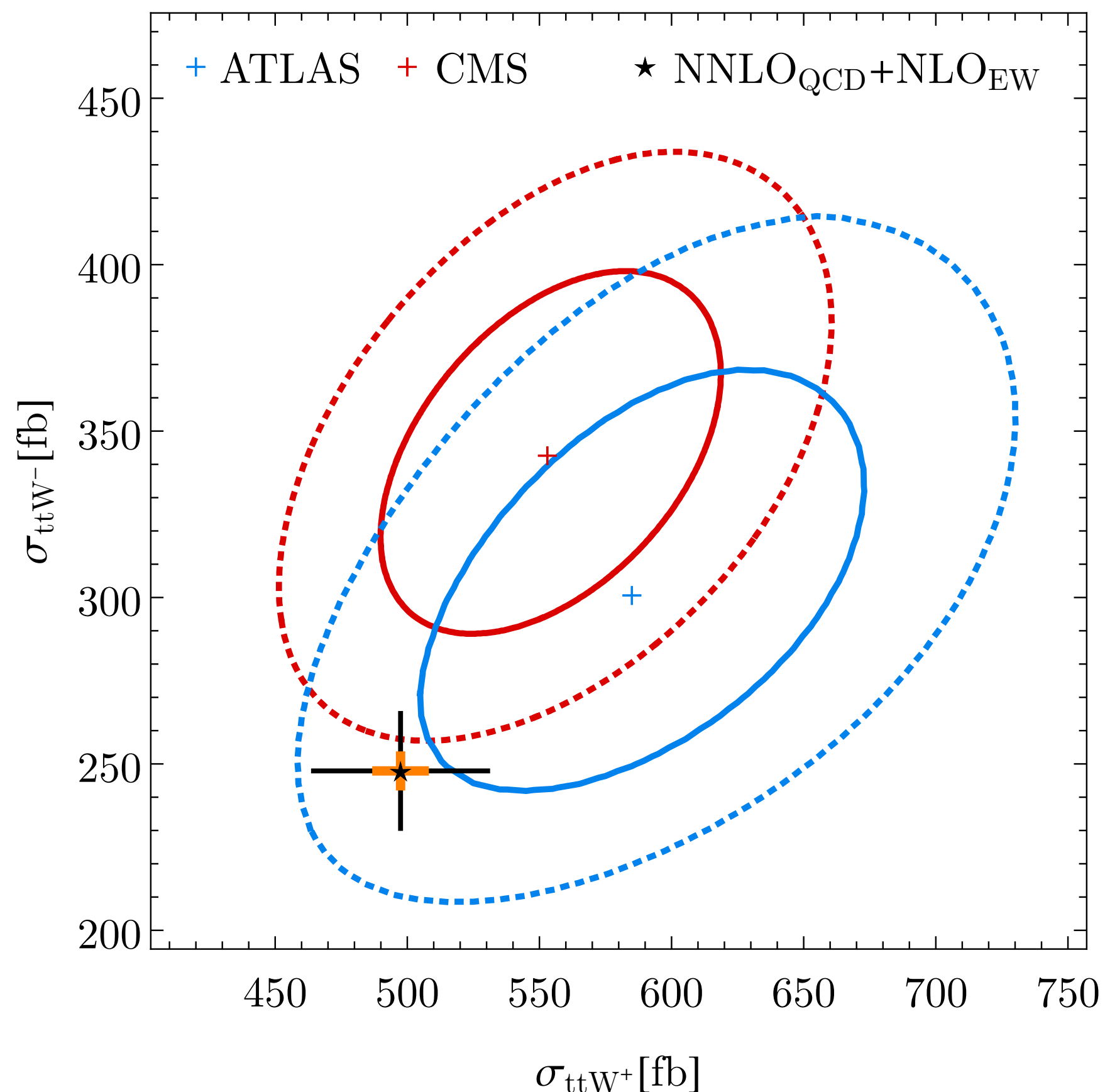


- ▶ based on the validation at NLO, we define **our best prediction** at NNLO as the **average** of the two approximated results
- ▶ the **conservative uncertainty** on the approximated two-loop contribution is defined by linearly combining the uncertainties on the two approximations
- ▶ the two-loop contribution turns out to be **6-7%** of the NNLO cross section (both for  $t\bar{t}W^+$  and  $t\bar{t}W^-$ )

FINAL UNCERTAINTY:  
 $\pm 1.8 \%$  on  $\sigma_{\text{NNLO}}$ ,  $\mathcal{O}(25\%)$  on  $\Delta\sigma_{\text{NNLO,H}}$



setup: NNLO NNPDF31 luxqed,  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ ,  $m_W = 80.385 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $m_t = 173.2 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $\mu_R = \mu_F = (2m_t + m_W)/2$



- comparison against the most recent ATLAS and CMS data:
  - the **agreement is at the  $1\sigma$  and  $2\sigma$  level** respectively
  - reduction of the perturbative scale uncertainties
  - systematic uncertainties due the two-loop approximation are under control and much smaller than the scale uncertainties

take-home message:  
two completely different approximations lead to compatible results for the missing two-loop virtual contribution!!

# Summary & Outlook

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## summary:

- ▶ the current and expected precision of LHC data requires **NNLO QCD predictions**
- ▶ the actual frontier is represented by NNLO corrections for  $2 \rightarrow 3$  processes with **several massive external legs**
- ▶ the IR divergencies are regularised within the  $q_T$  **-subtraction** framework: two-loop soft function for arbitrary kinematics
- ▶ the only missing ingredient is represented by the **two-loop amplitudes**:
  - first approximation based on a **soft boson factorisation** formula
  - second approximation based on the **massification procedure** of the corresponding massless amplitudes
- ▶ for all three processes considered ( $t\bar{t}H$ ,  $Wb\bar{b}$ ,  $t\bar{t}W$ ), we have a **good control of the systematic uncertainties** associated to the approximation (much smaller than the perturbative uncertainties)

## outlook:

- ▶ test the performance of the soft approximation in a fiducial setup and at the differential level
- ▶ match the  $Wb\bar{b}$  fixed order calculation to parton shower
- ▶ explore other processes of the same class!

BACKUP SLIDES

# Soft Higgs approximation: more details

[Shifman, Vainshtein, Voloshin, Zakharov (1979)]

► the effective coupling can also be derived by exploiting Higgs **low-energy theorems (LETs)**

[Kniehl, Spira (1995)]

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{M}_{Q \rightarrow QH}^{\text{bare}}(p, k) = \frac{1}{v} \frac{\partial}{\partial \log m_0} \mathcal{M}_{Q \rightarrow Q}^{\text{bare}}(p) \Big|_{p^2=m^2}$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \left( \text{diagram with Higgs emission} \right) = \frac{2i}{g_0^2} \left( \text{diagram with self-energy} \right)$$

heavy-quark self-energy

In the soft limit, the Higgs boson is not a dynamical d.o.f.  
Its effect is to shift the mass of the heavy quark:

$$m_0 \rightarrow m_0 \left( 1 + \frac{H}{v} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{Q \rightarrow Q}^{\text{bare}}(p) = \bar{Q}_0 \left\{ m_0 [-1 + \Sigma_S(p)] + \not{p} \Sigma_V(p) \right\} Q_0$$

[Broadhurst, Grafe, Gray, Schilcher (1990)]

[Broadhurst, Gray, Schilcher (1991)]

$$\Sigma_S(p) = - \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \left[ \frac{g_0^2}{(4\pi)^{D/2} (p^2)^\epsilon} \right]^n (A_n(m_0^2/p^2) - B_n(m_0^2/p^2))$$

$$\Sigma_V(p) = - \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \left[ \frac{g_0^2}{(4\pi)^{D/2} (p^2)^\epsilon} \right]^n B_n(m_0^2/p^2)$$

► renormalisation of the quark mass and wave function  $m_0 \bar{Q}_0 Q_0 = m \bar{Q} Q Z_m Z_2$

►  $\overline{MS}$  renormalisation of the strong coupling + decoupling of the heavy quark

[Chetyrkin, Kniehl, Steinhauser (1997)]