

QCD overview

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HHH workshop, Dubrovnik 14-16 July 2023

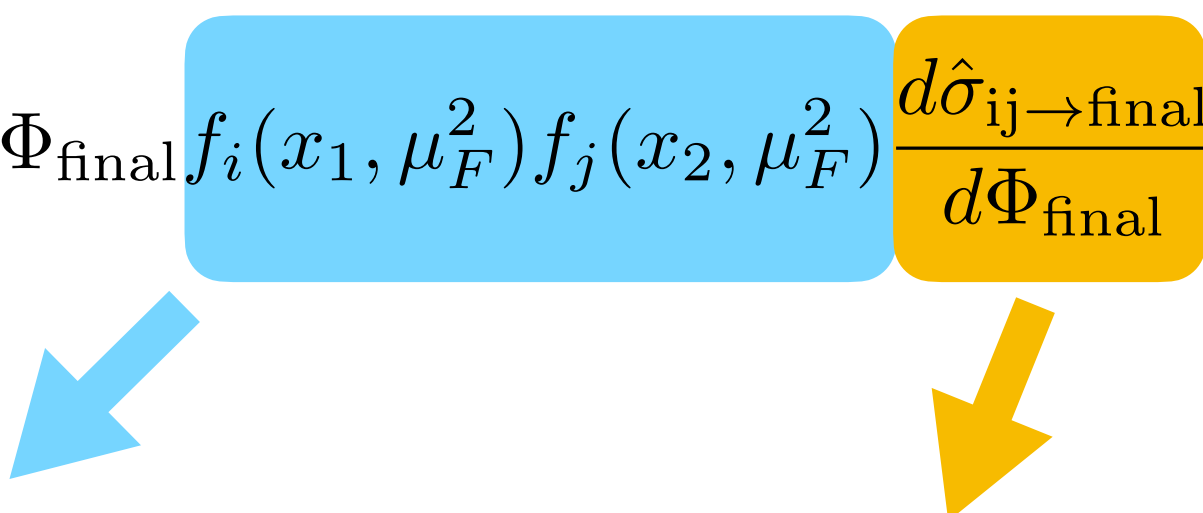
Current status

- Only about 5% of data collected so far (compared to High-Lumi), yet no leap in energy in the coming years
- Hard to expect a striking signature in a signal process/observable
- Likely, if there will be a discovery, it will manifest itself first as a range of small deviations in various measurements
- Role of precision theory is clear: the more accurate the theory predictions are, the sooner, or the more sensitive, one can be to these small deviations
- Precision crucial to extract/constrain fundamental parameters of the theory (e.g. Higgs self-coupling)

⇒ **Precise theory augments the discovery reach of the LHC and anticipates possible discoveries and novel measurements**

The master formula

Factorisation implies the following form of hadronic cross sections

$$d\sigma_{PP \rightarrow \text{final}} = \sum_{i,j,\text{final}} \int dx_1 dx_2 d\Phi_{\text{final}} f_i(x_1, \mu_F^2) f_j(x_2, \mu_F^2) \frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow \text{final}}}{d\Phi_{\text{final}}} \Theta_{\text{cuts}}$$


Parton Distributions Functions
Extracted from data at various experiments/energies. PDFs are universal and their evolution is perturbative (LO, NLO, NNLO...)

Partonic Cross Sections
Expansion in the coupling constants (LO, NLO, NNLO...), also including enhanced all-order terms (LL, NLL, NNLL...)

Precision theory is a multilateral challenge

- ❖ push frontier of the perturbative QCD expansion (NLO, NNLO, N³LO)
- ❖ heavy-top and bottom/charm mass effects
- ❖ mixed QCD-electroweak corrections
- ❖ resummation of large logarithmically enhanced terms to all orders
- ❖ fully exclusive description of the final state through parton showers
 - improving the accuracy of parton showers
 - matching fixed-order calculations and parton showers
- ❖ modelling of non-perturbative effects (or ways to reduce them)
- ❖ issues with jet-flavour
- ❖ uncertainties due to input parameters: strong coupling, PDFs, masses... ⇒ ways to reduce these uncertainties
- ❖ ...

NLO QCD: the past

Example: double Higgs production processes (similar results available for all SM processes of similar complexity)

Alwall et al 1405.0301

Process	Syntax	Cross section (pb)				
		LO 13 TeV		NLO 13 TeV		
Higgs pair production						
h.1	$pp \rightarrow HH$ (Loop improved)	p p > h h	$1.772 \pm 0.006 \cdot 10^{-2}$	+29.5% +2.1% -21.4% -2.6%	$2.763 \pm 0.008 \cdot 10^{-2}$	+11.4% +2.1% -11.8% -2.6%
h.2	$pp \rightarrow HHjj$ (VBF)	p p > h h j j \$\$ w+ w- z	$6.503 \pm 0.019 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+7.2% +2.3% -6.4% -1.6%	$6.820 \pm 0.026 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+0.8% +2.4% -1.0% -1.7%
h.3	$pp \rightarrow HHW^\pm$	p p > h h wpm	$4.303 \pm 0.005 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+0.9% +2.0% -1.3% -1.5%	$5.002 \pm 0.014 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+1.5% +2.0% -1.2% -1.6%
h.4*	$pp \rightarrow HHW^\pm j$	p p > h h wpm j	$1.922 \pm 0.002 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+14.2% +1.5% -11.7% -1.1%	$2.218 \pm 0.009 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+2.7% +1.6% -3.3% -1.1%
h.5*	$pp \rightarrow HHW^\pm \gamma$	p p > h h wpm a	$1.952 \pm 0.004 \cdot 10^{-6}$	+3.0% +2.2% -3.0% -1.6%	$2.347 \pm 0.007 \cdot 10^{-6}$	+2.4% +2.1% -2.0% -1.6%
h.6	$pp \rightarrow HHZ$	p p > h h z	$2.701 \pm 0.007 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+0.9% +2.0% -1.3% -1.5%	$3.130 \pm 0.008 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+1.6% +2.0% -1.2% -1.5%
h.7*	$pp \rightarrow HHZj$	p p > h h z j	$1.211 \pm 0.001 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+14.1% +1.4% -11.7% -1.1%	$1.394 \pm 0.006 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+2.7% +1.5% -3.2% -1.1%
h.8*	$pp \rightarrow HHZ\gamma$	p p > h h z a	$1.397 \pm 0.003 \cdot 10^{-6}$	+2.4% +2.2% -2.5% -1.7%	$1.604 \pm 0.005 \cdot 10^{-6}$	+1.7% +2.3% -1.4% -1.7%
h.9*	$pp \rightarrow HHZZ$	p p > h h z z	$2.309 \pm 0.005 \cdot 10^{-6}$	+3.9% +2.2% -3.8% -1.7%	$2.754 \pm 0.009 \cdot 10^{-6}$	+2.3% +2.3% -2.0% -1.7%
h.10*	$pp \rightarrow HHZW^\pm$	p p > h h z wpm	$3.708 \pm 0.013 \cdot 10^{-6}$	+4.8% +2.3% -4.5% -1.7%	$4.904 \pm 0.029 \cdot 10^{-6}$	+3.7% +2.2% -3.2% -1.6%
h.11*	$pp \rightarrow HHW^+W^-$ (4f)	p p > h h w+ w-	$7.524 \pm 0.070 \cdot 10^{-6}$	+3.5% +2.3% -3.4% -1.7%	$9.268 \pm 0.030 \cdot 10^{-6}$	+2.3% +2.3% -2.1% -1.7%
h.12	$pp \rightarrow HHt\bar{t}$	p p > h h t t~	$6.756 \pm 0.007 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+30.2% +1.8% -21.6% -1.8%	$7.301 \pm 0.024 \cdot 10^{-4}$	+1.4% +2.2% -5.7% -2.3%
h.13	$pp \rightarrow HHtj$	p p > h h tt j	$1.844 \pm 0.008 \cdot 10^{-5}$	+0.0% +1.8% -0.6% -1.8%	$2.444 \pm 0.009 \cdot 10^{-5}$	+4.5% +2.8% -3.1% -3.0%
h.14*	$pp \rightarrow HHb\bar{b}$	p p > h h b b~	$7.849 \pm 0.022 \cdot 10^{-8}$	+34.3% +3.1% -23.9% -3.7%	$1.084 \pm 0.012 \cdot 10^{-7}$	+7.4% +3.1% -10.8% -3.7%

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✓ A solved problem

NLO: the present

Today focus on

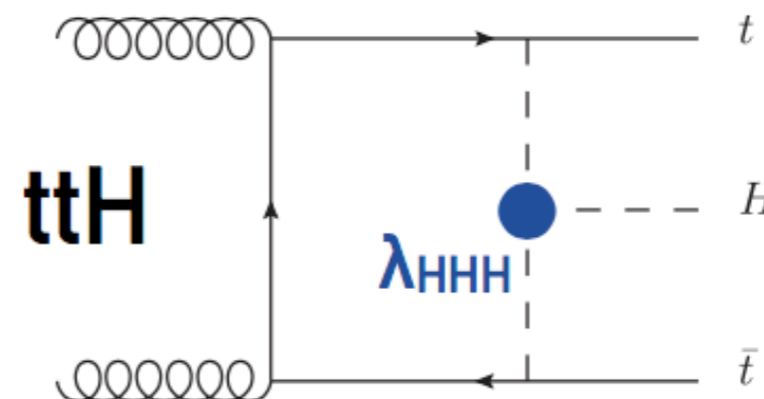
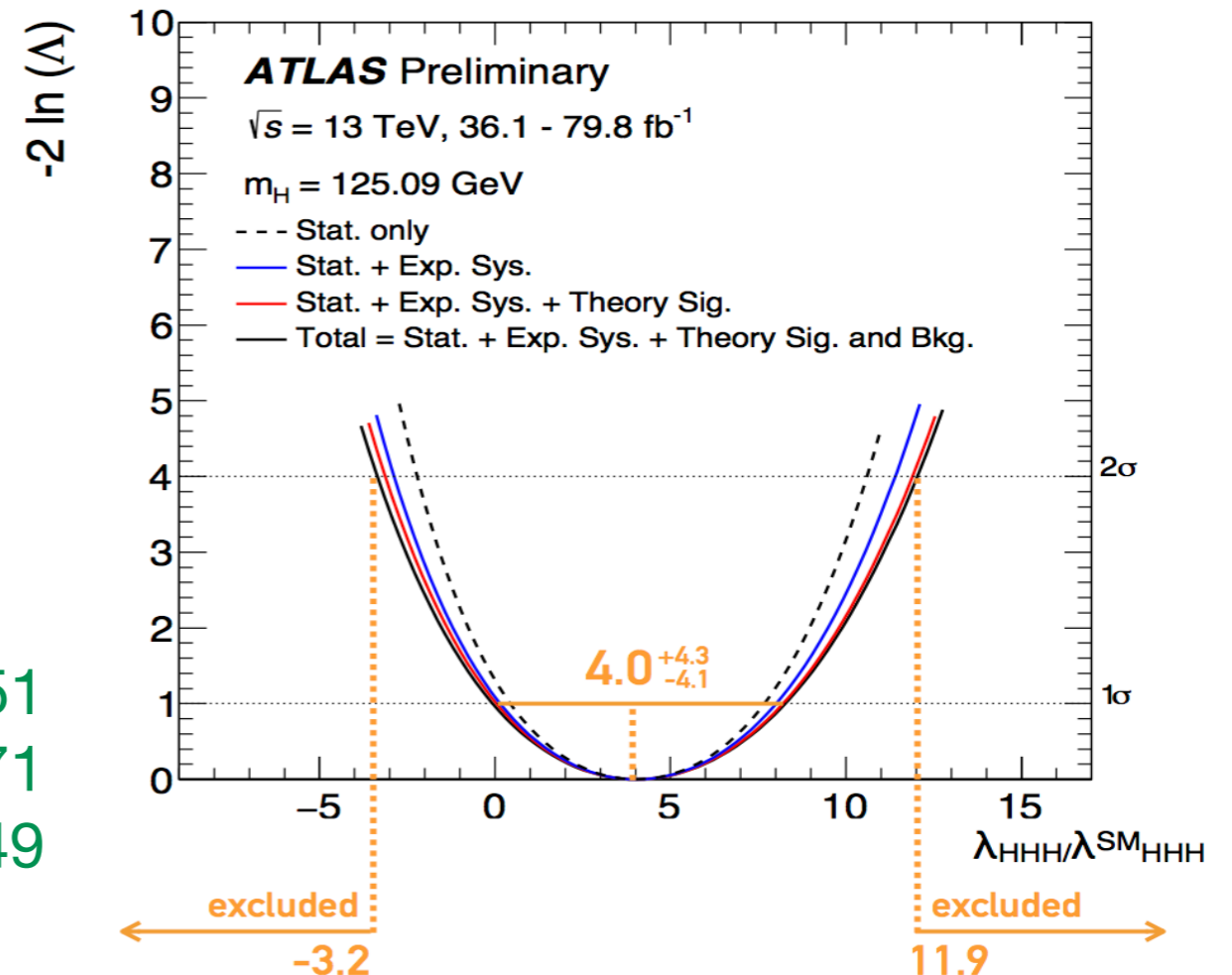
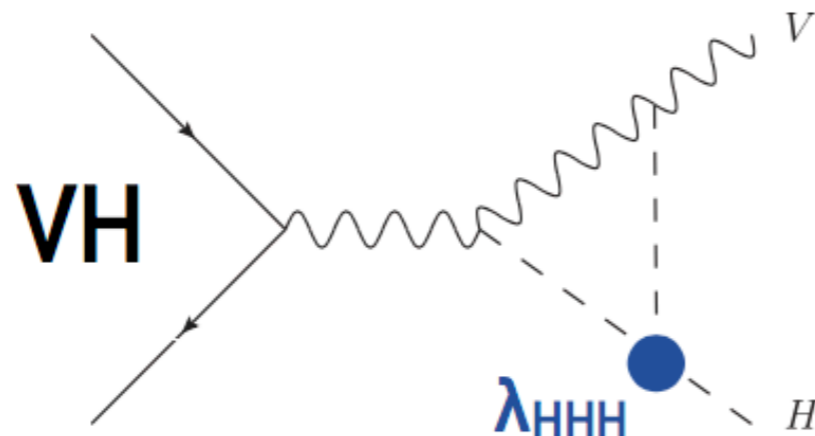
- ▶ automation of NLO for BSM signals
 - ▶ loop-induced processes: higher-order, but enhanced by gluon PDF
 - ▶ automation of NLO electroweak corrections (necessary to match accuracy of NNLO)
 - ▶ automation of NLO in SMEFT
- ➔ Practical limitation: high-multiplicity difficult because of numerical instabilities, long run-time on clusters to obtain stable results (edge: about 6 particles in the final state, depending on the process)

NLO is the first order where one can constrain coupling indirectly, through loop effects

The Higgs self-coupling

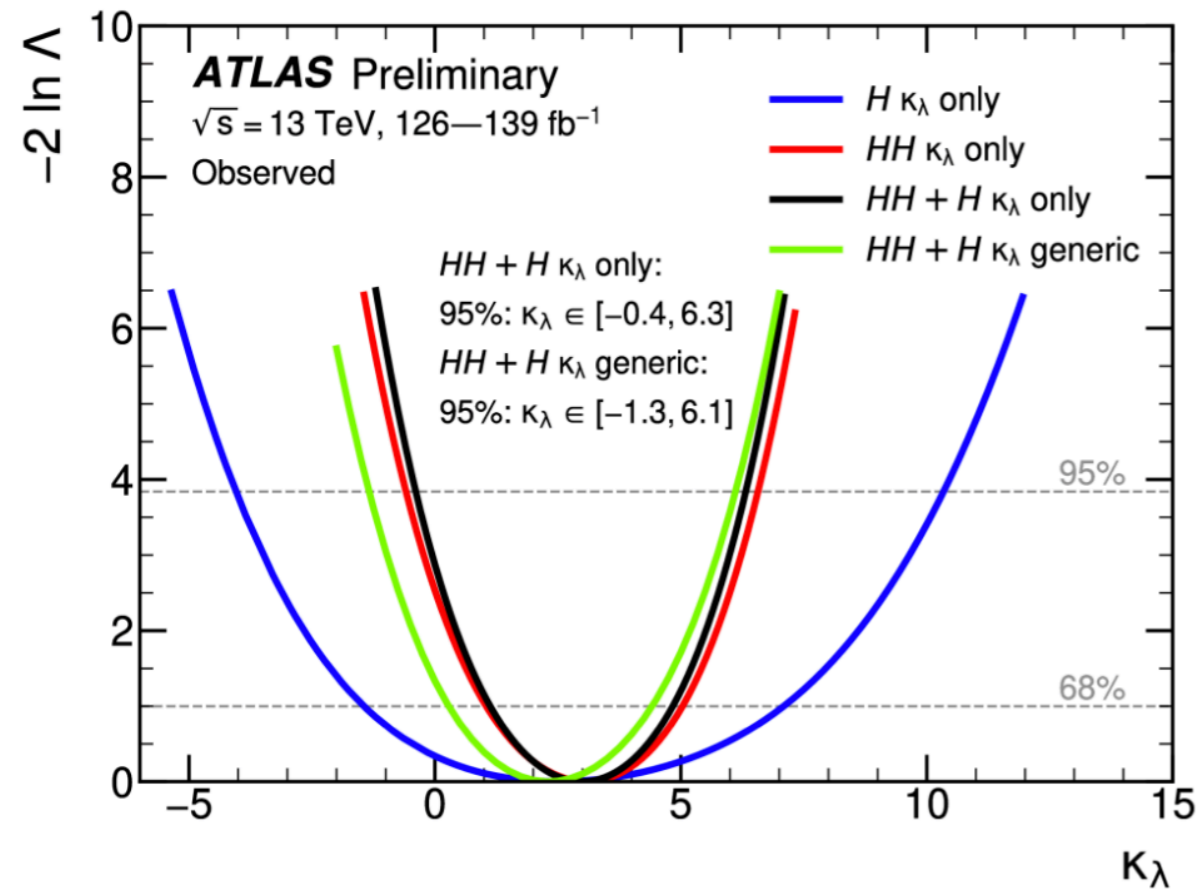
- Single-Higgs production modes **indirectly** sensitive to the self-coupling through electro-weak effects
- Precision theory predictions absolutely crucial

De Grassi et al 1607.04251
 Bizon et al 1610.05771
 Maltoni et al 1709.08649



H+HH combination

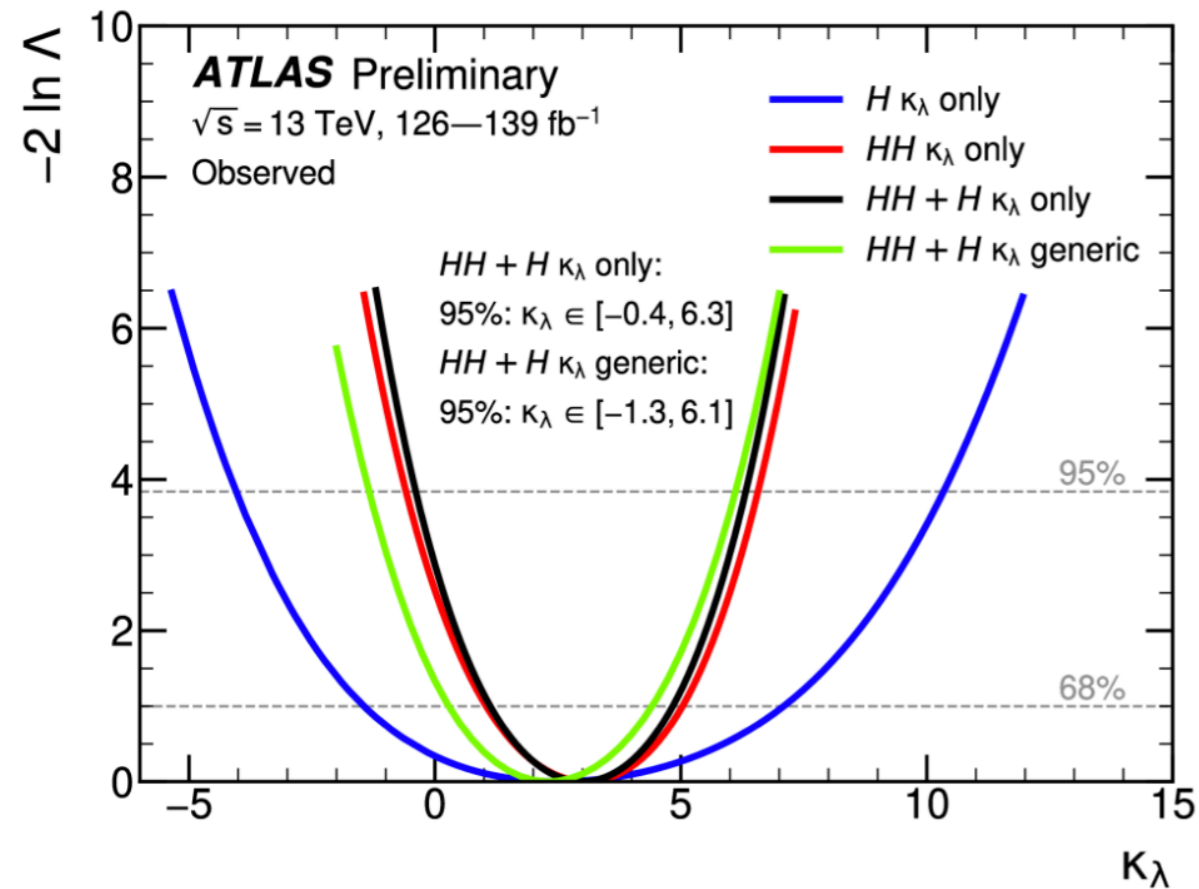
ATLAS-CONF-2022-050 (see also 2211.01216)



\Rightarrow no relevant gain from single-Higgs

H+HH combination

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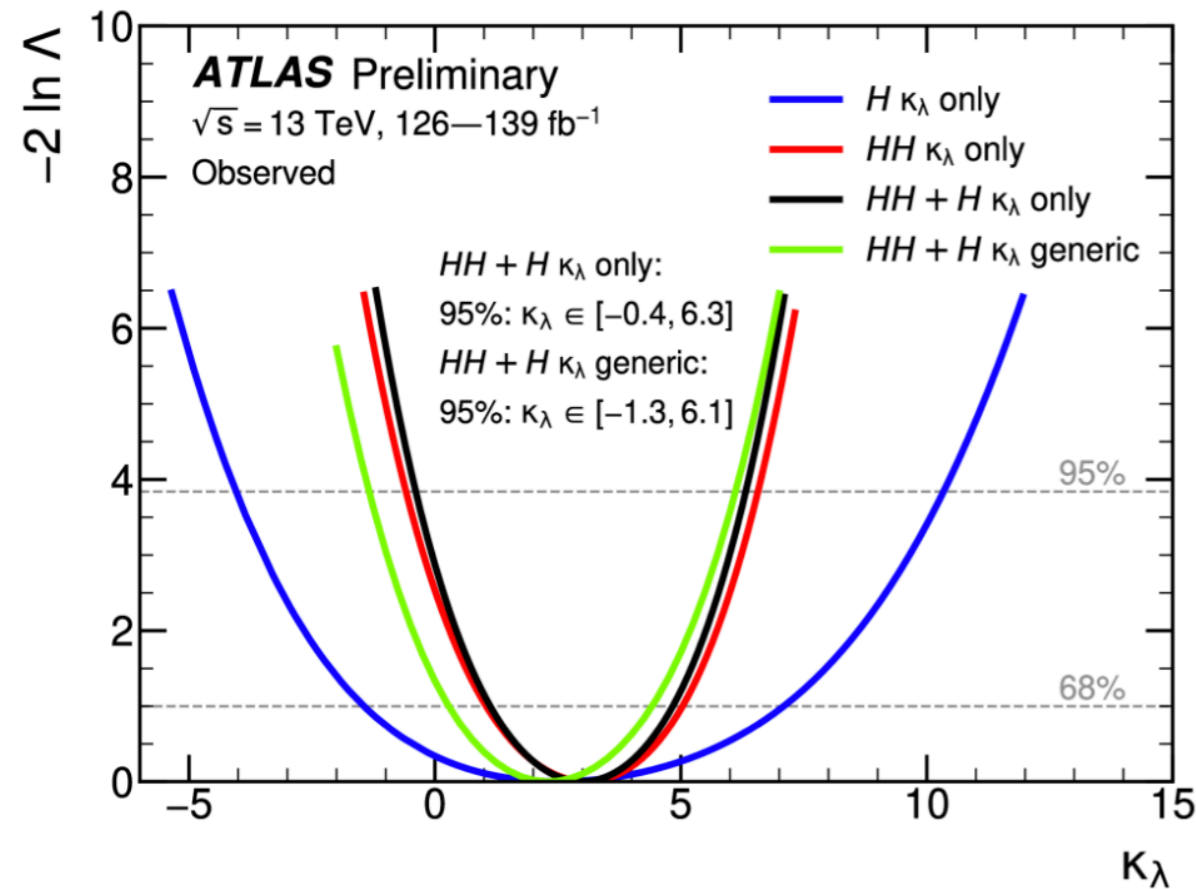


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BUT

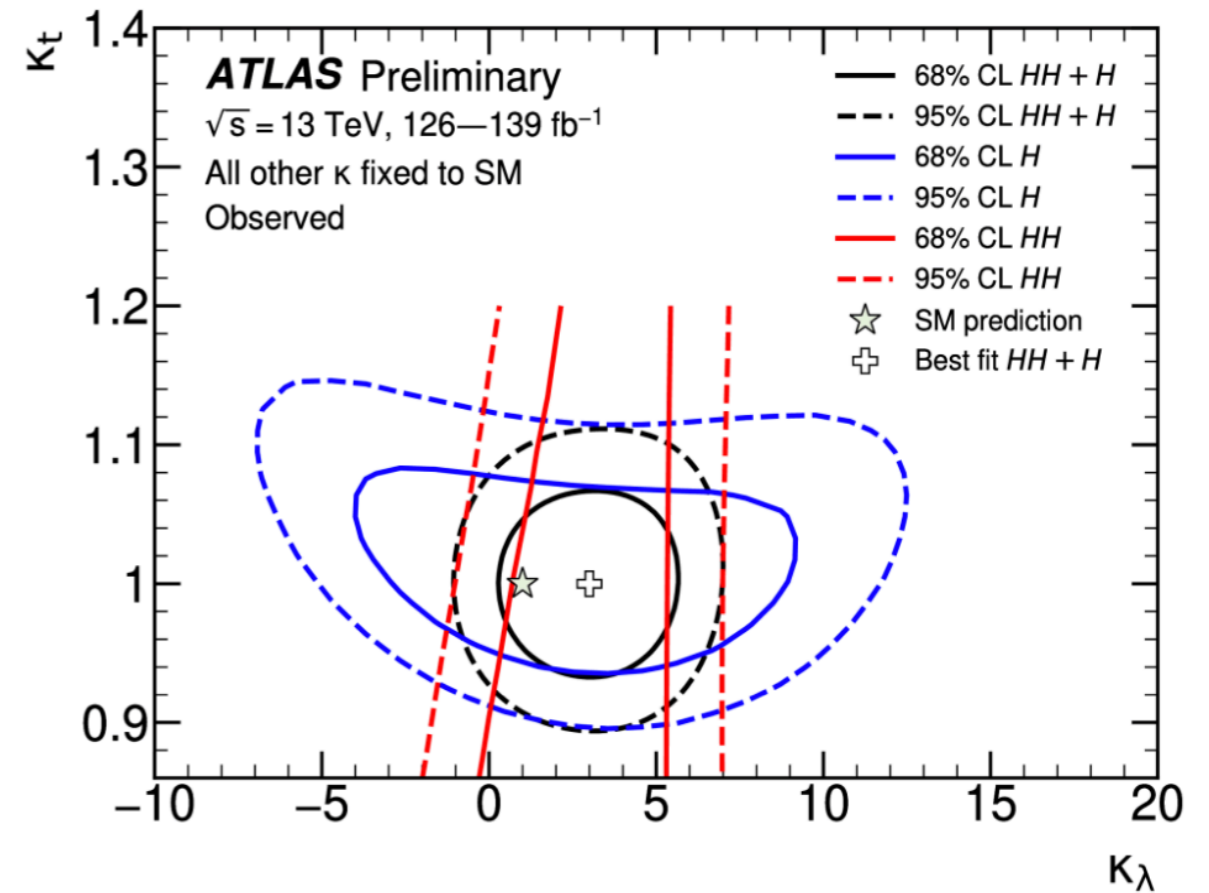
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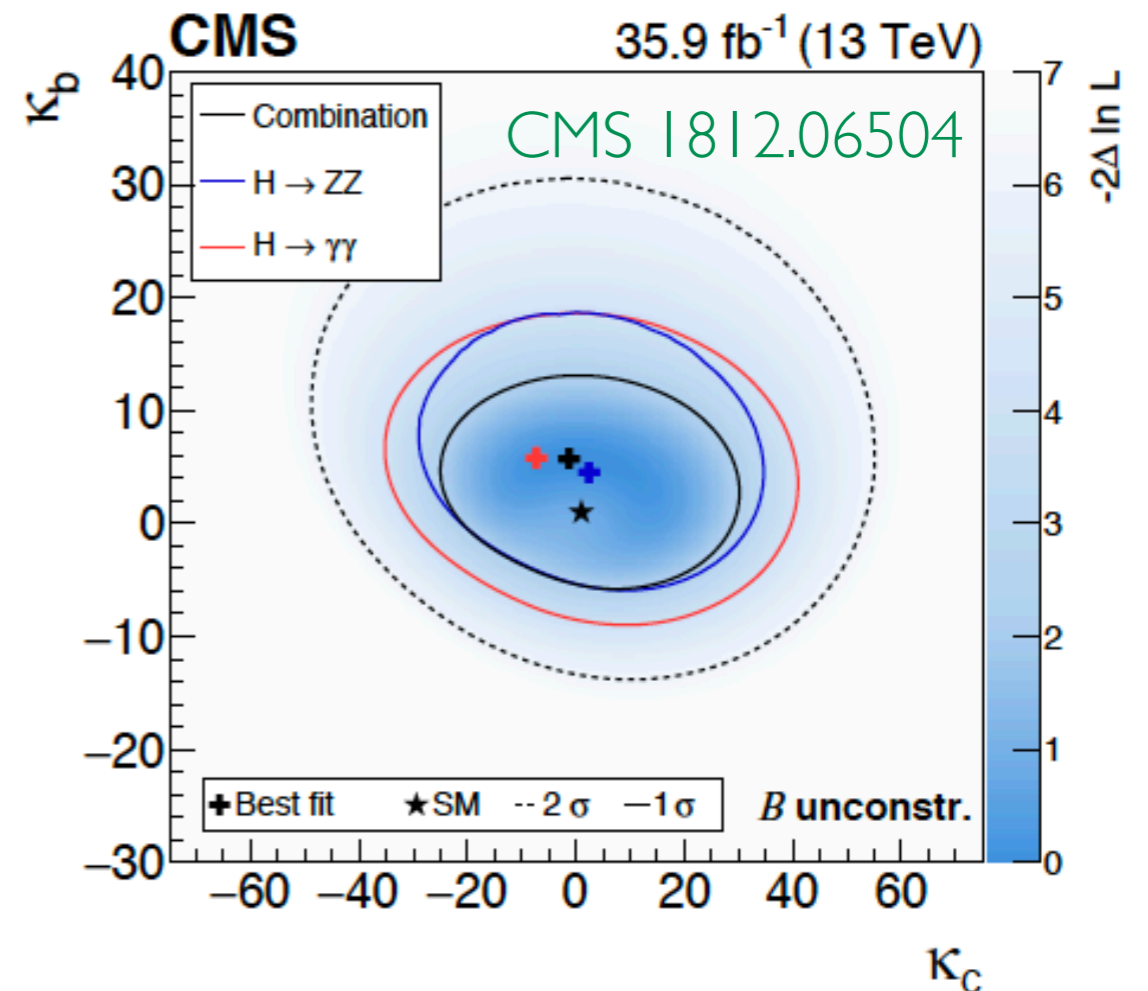
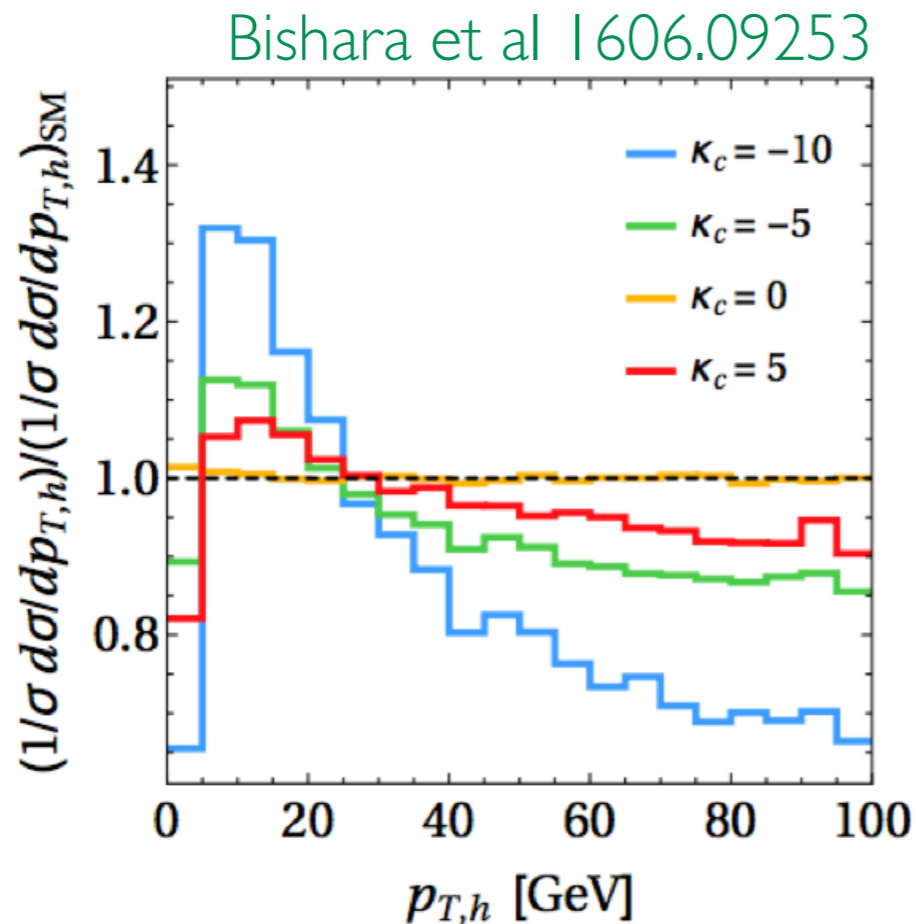
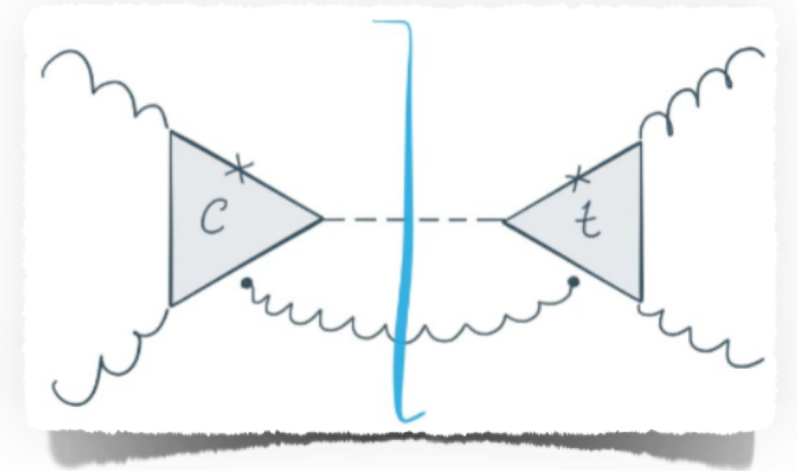
BUT



\Rightarrow the combination of H and HH allows to constrain κ_λ and other “ κ ” (e.g. κ_t)

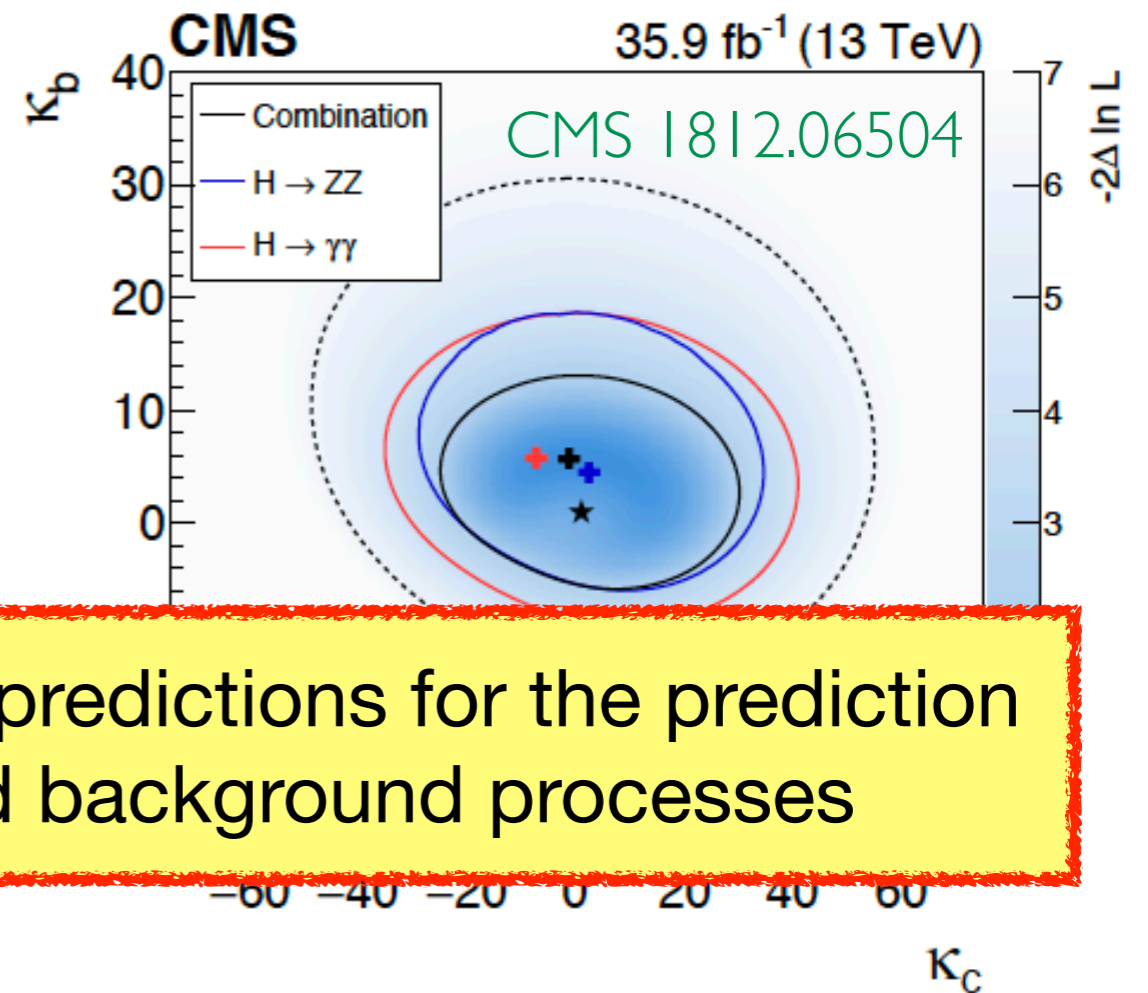
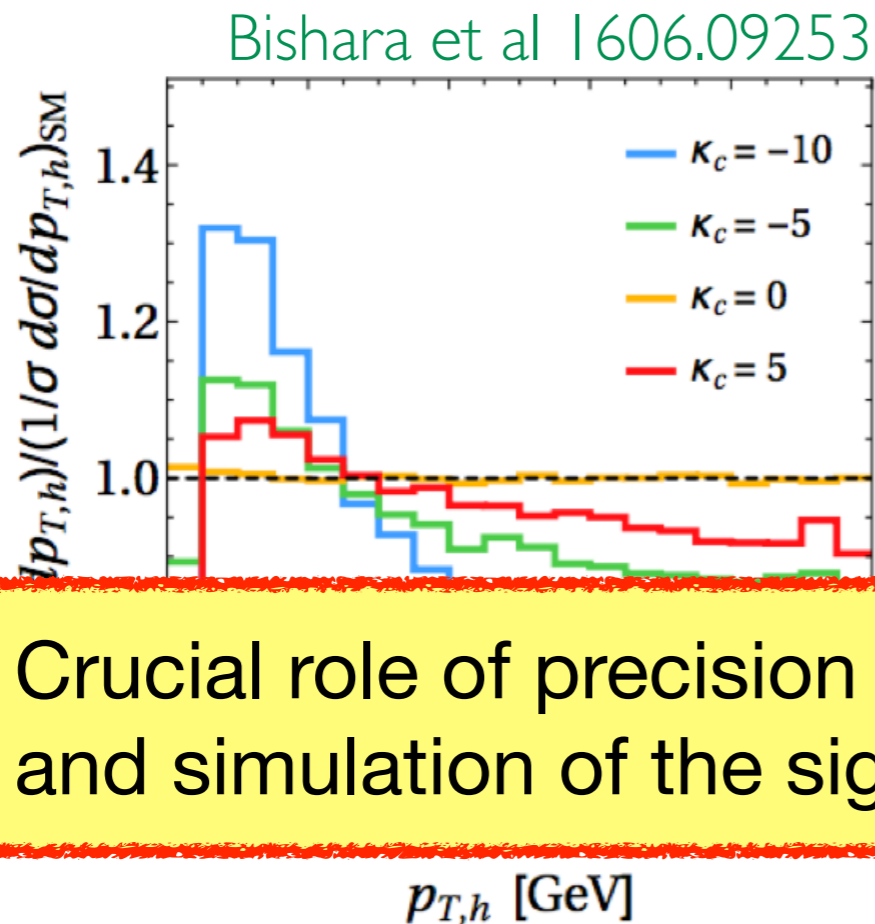
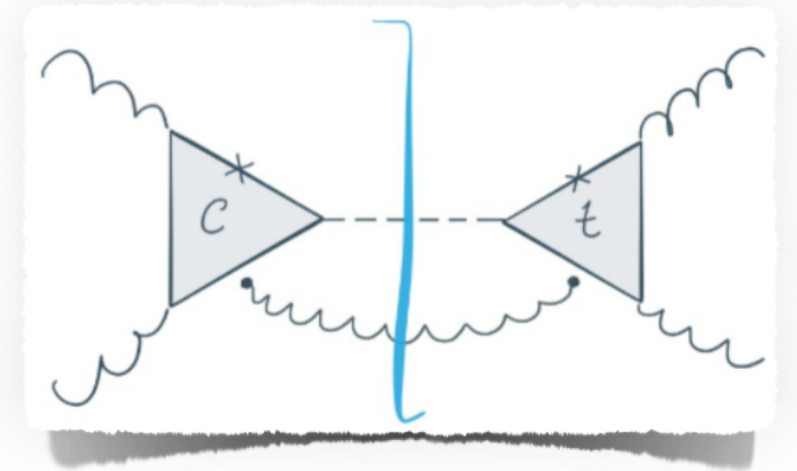
Charm Yukawa through $p_{T,H}$

Interference between top and charm loops create a distortion of the Higgs transverse momentum (at low p_T)
 \Rightarrow sensitivity to charm Yukawa coupling



Charm Yukawa through $p_{T,H}$

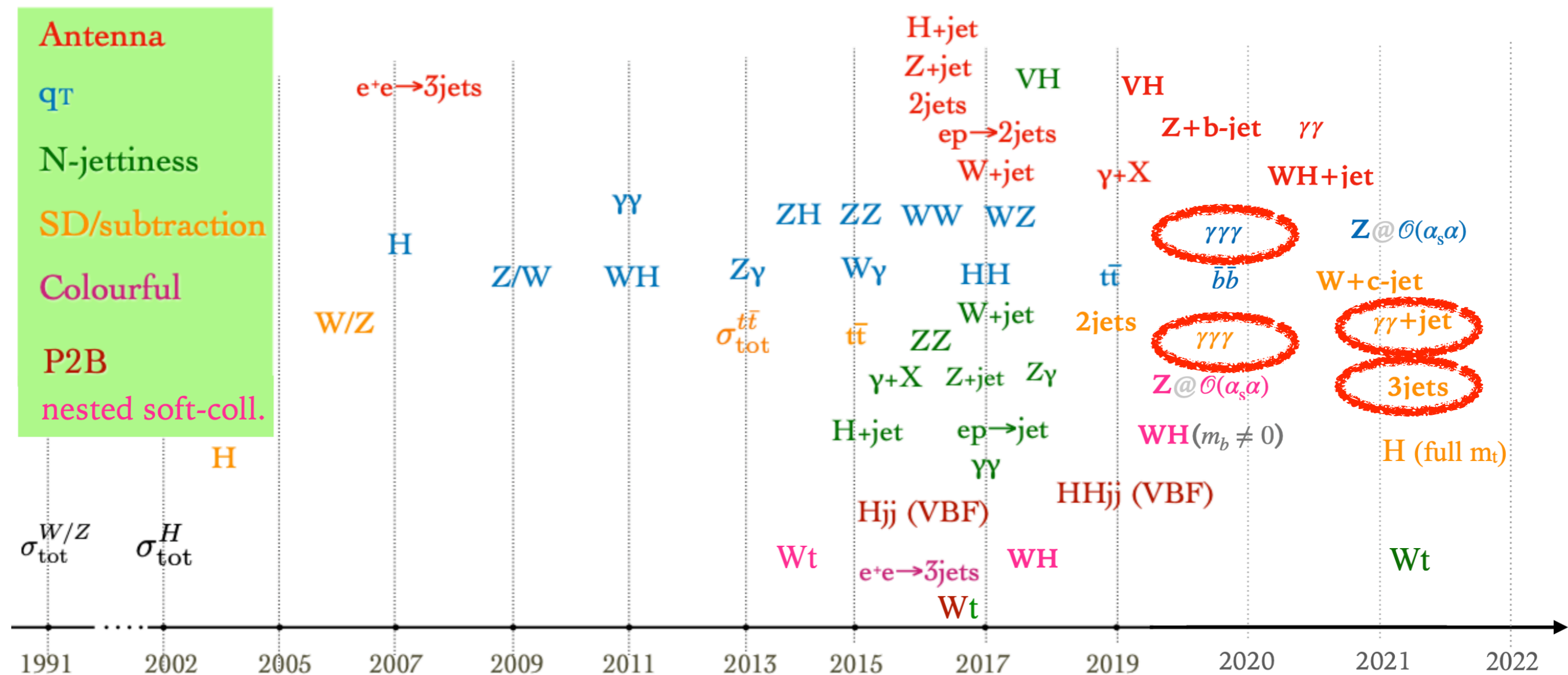
Interference between top and charm loops create a distortion of the Higgs transverse momentum (at low p_T)
⇒ sensitivity to charm Yukawa coupling



Crucial role of precision theory predictions for the prediction and simulation of the signal and background processes

NNLO: status

adapted from A. Huss/G. Salam

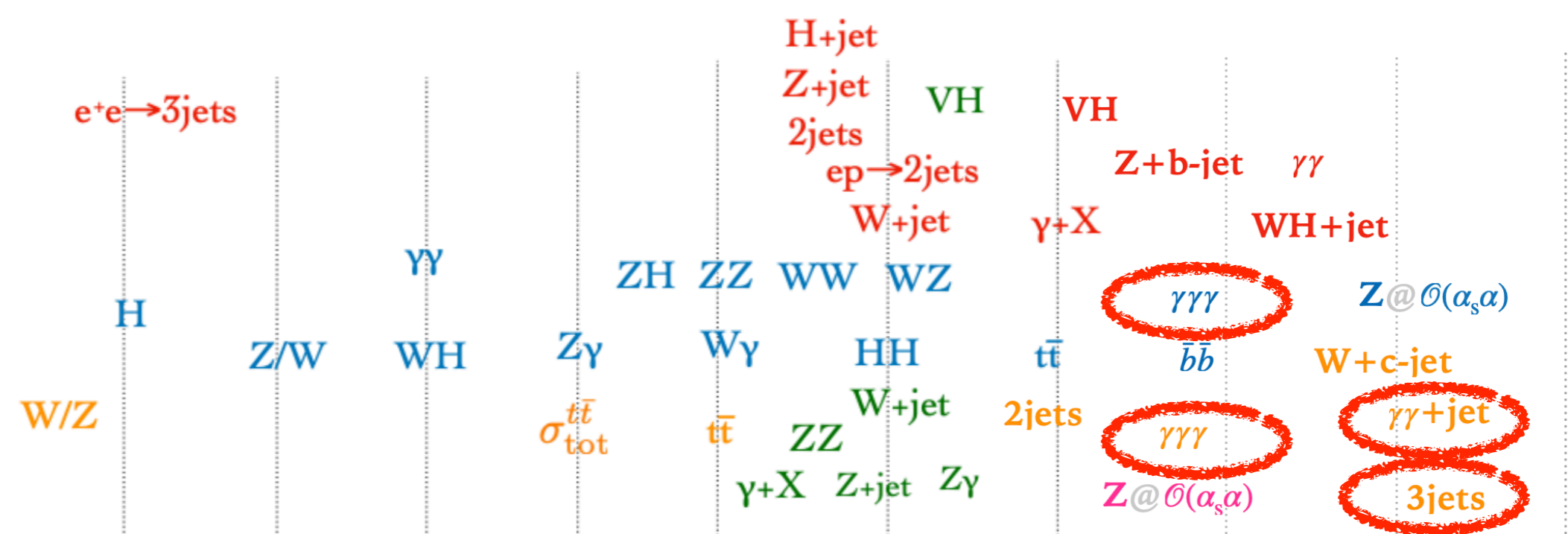


Different colour: different way to handle intermediate divergences

NNLO: status

adapted from A. Huss/G. Salam

- Antenna
- qt
- N-jettiness
- SD/subtraction
- Colourful
- P2B
- nested soft-coll.



✓ 2 to 2 processes in the SM
 → frontier is 2 to 3

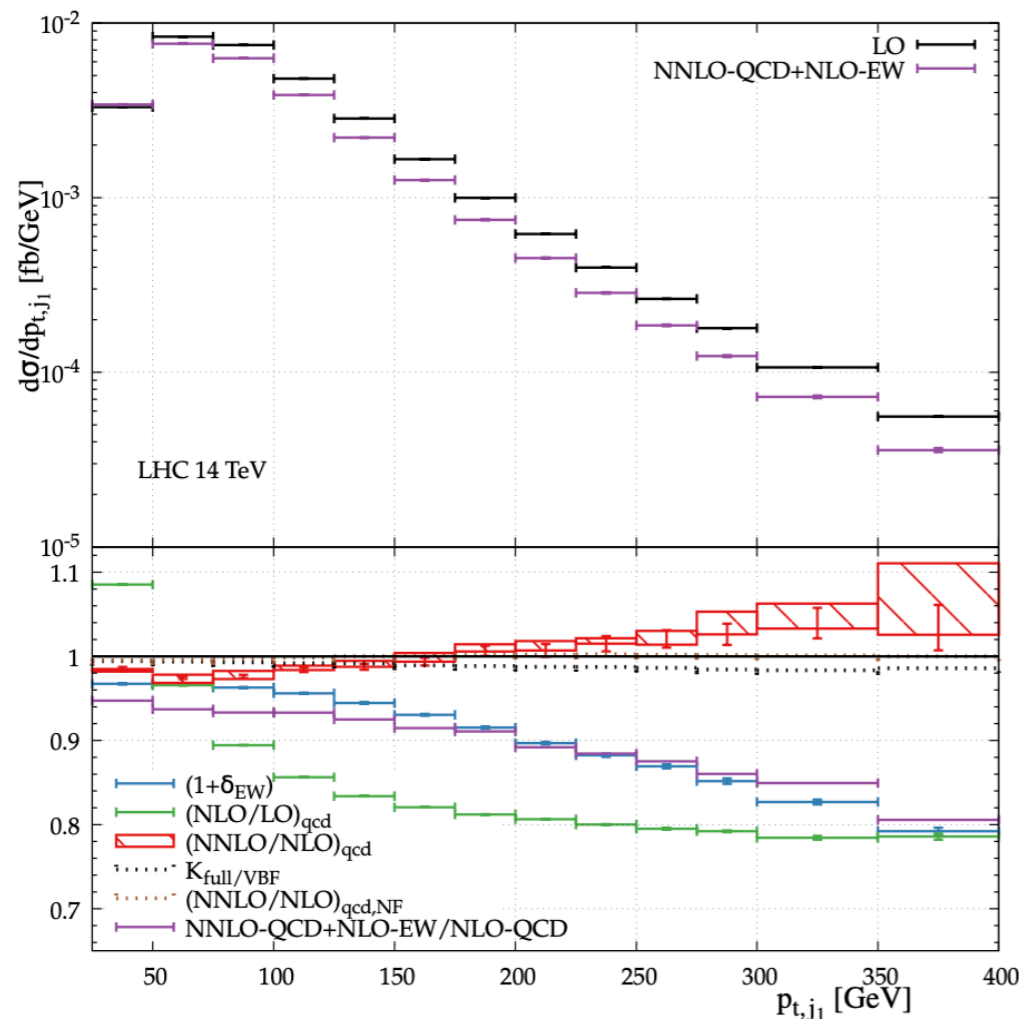
Different colour: c

NNLO VBF diHiggs

Dreyer and Karlberg 1811.07918

Dreyer, Karlberg, Lang, Pellen 2005.13341

Realistic fiducial cuts available at NNLO



⇒ Impact of EW effects rather large (6% for fiducial cross-sections, -(10-20)% in tails

⇒ Largest ambiguity from combination of NNLO QCD and NLO EW (additive/multiplicative scheme)

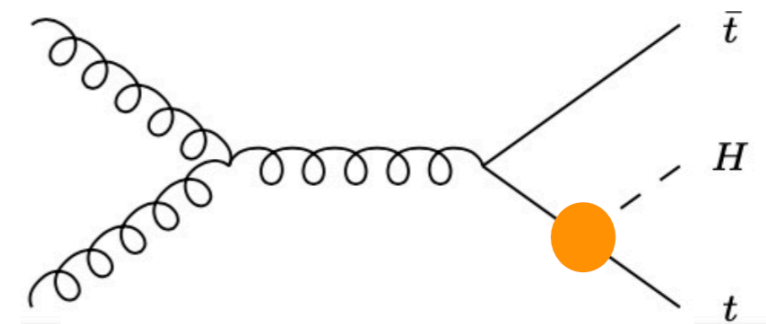
$\sigma_{\text{LO}}^{\text{full}}$	$\delta_{\text{NLO QCD}}^{\text{full}}$	$\delta_{\text{NNLO QCD}}^{\text{VBF}}$	$\delta_{\text{NLO EW}}^{\text{full}}$	$\sigma_{\text{NNLO QCD} \times \text{NLO EW}}$	$\delta_{\text{NNLO QCD}}^{\text{NF}}$ [fb]
$0.78444(9)^{+0.0825}_{-0.0694}$	$-0.07110(13)$	$-0.0115(5)$	$-0.0476(2)$	$0.6684(5)^{+0.002}_{-0.0004}$	$-0.001766(7)$
+10.5% -8.8%	-9.1%	-1.5%	-6.1%	-14.8% ^{+0.3%} _{-0.06%}	-0.23%

Approximate ttH at NNLO

Catani et al 2210.04846

Two-loop pp \rightarrow ttH amplitudes still missing.

Idea: approximate with amplitudes with a soft Higgs emitted off heavy quarks



	$\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$		$\sqrt{s} = 100 \text{ TeV}$	
σ [fb]	gg	$q\bar{q}$	gg	$q\bar{q}$
σ_{LO}	261.58	129.47	23055	2323.7
$\Delta\sigma_{\text{NLO,H}}$	88.62	7.826	8205	217.0
$\Delta\sigma_{\text{NLO,H}} _{\text{soft}}$	61.98	7.413	5612	206.0
$\Delta\sigma_{\text{NNLO,H}} _{\text{soft}}$	-2.980(3)	2.622(0)	-239.4(4)	65.45(1)

Test the procedure at NLO

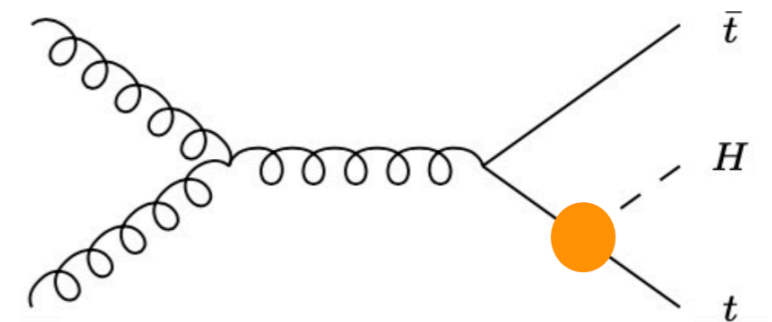
► approximation not that great! Works better for qq than gg channel

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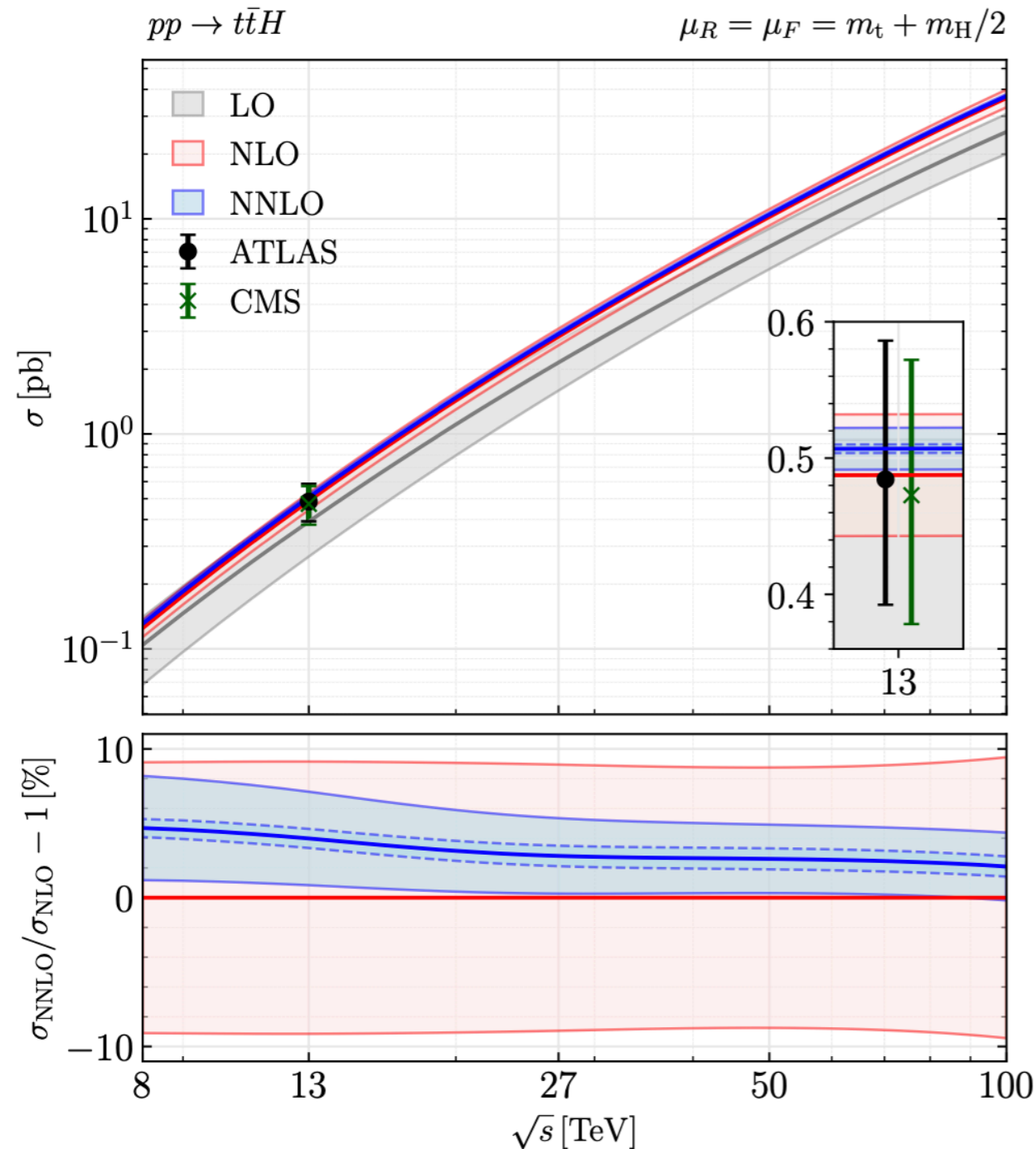
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Size of approx.
NNLO

- ▶ approximation works better for qq than gg channel
- ▶ but two-loop corrections are very small (below a %)

Approximate $t\bar{t}H$ at NNLO

Catani et al 2210.04846

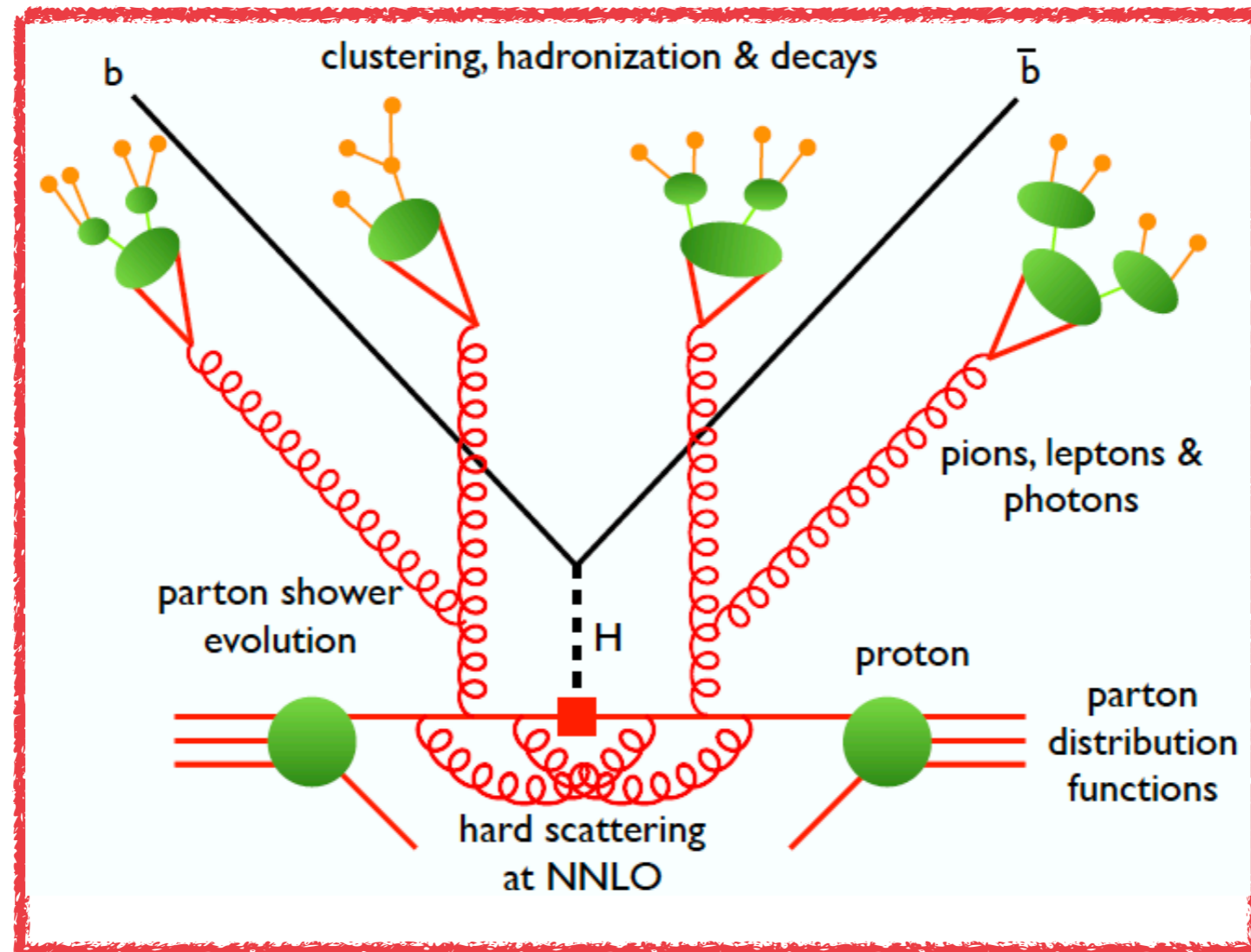


\Rightarrow estimated **uncertainty on the total cross section at the few percent level**

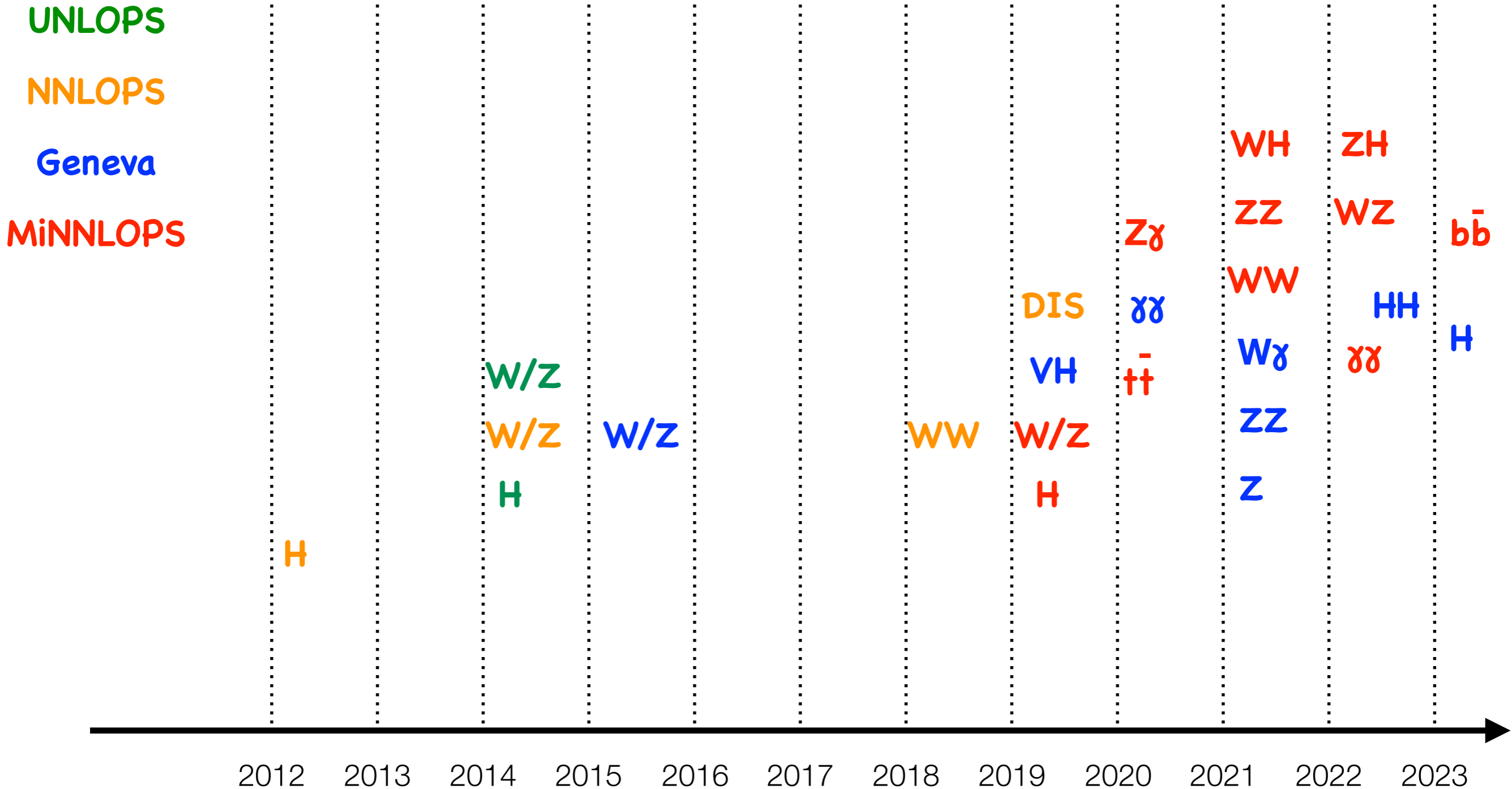
Interesting to validate this once full is NNLO available

NNLO + parton shower

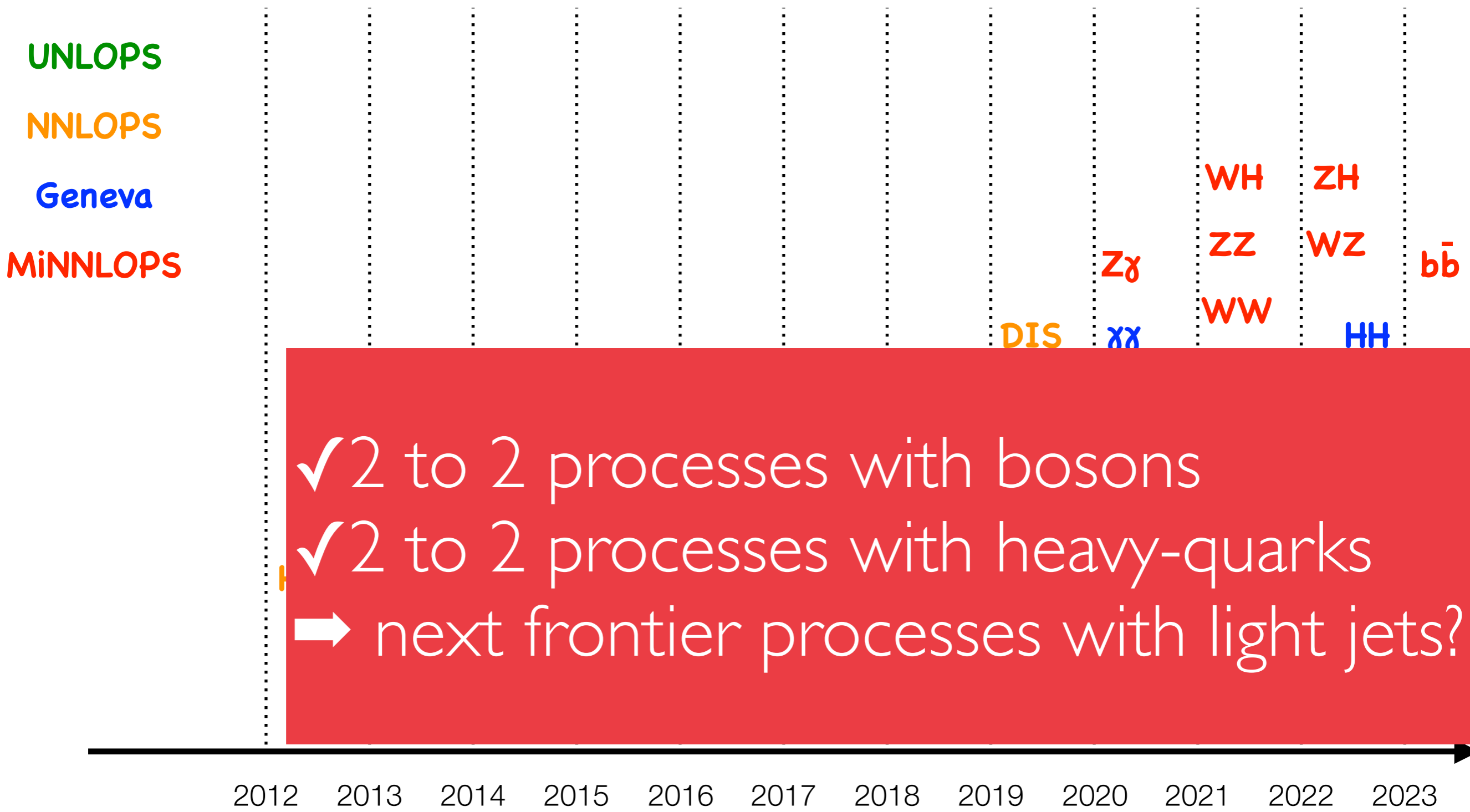
Merging NNLO and parton shower (NNLOPS) is a must to have the best perturbative accuracy with a realistic description of final state



NNLO+PS timeline

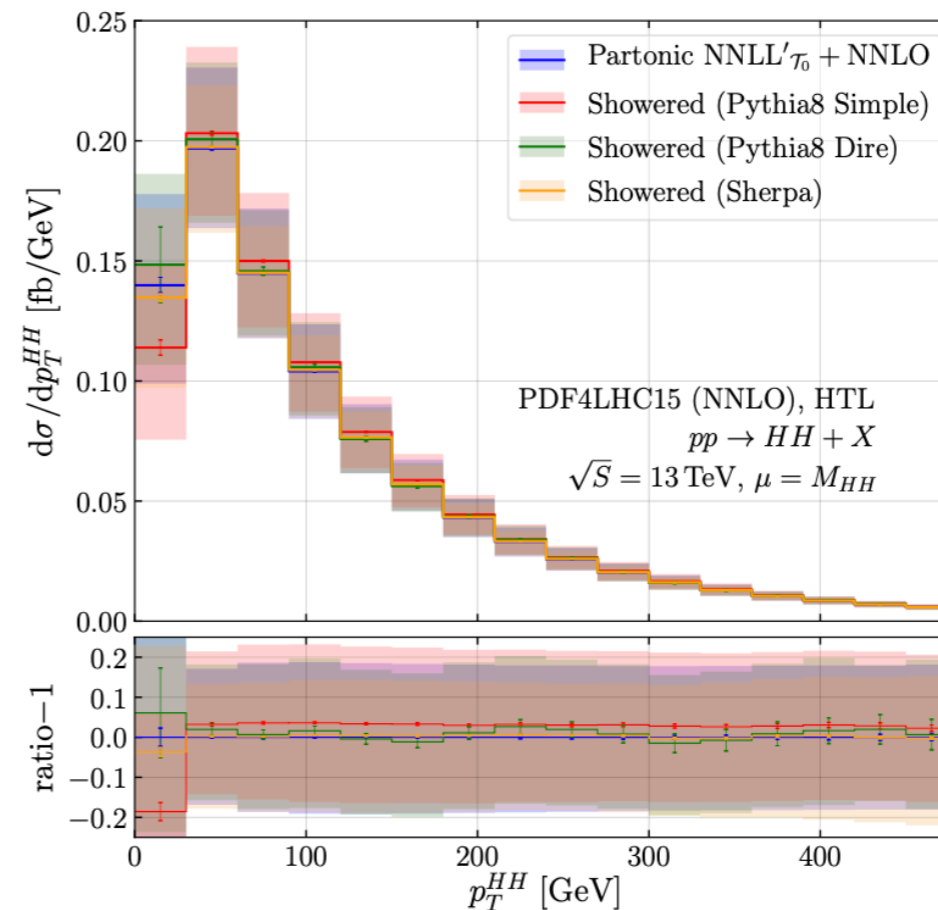
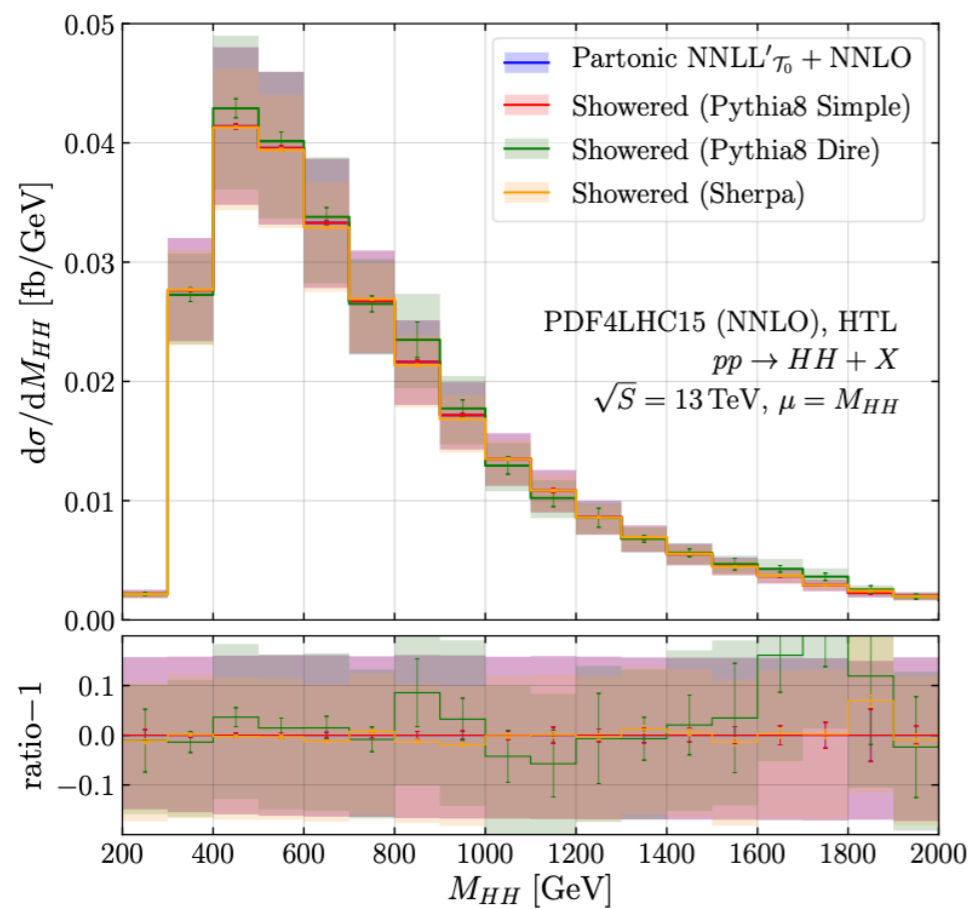


NNLO+PS timeline



NNLO+PS: $gg \rightarrow HH$

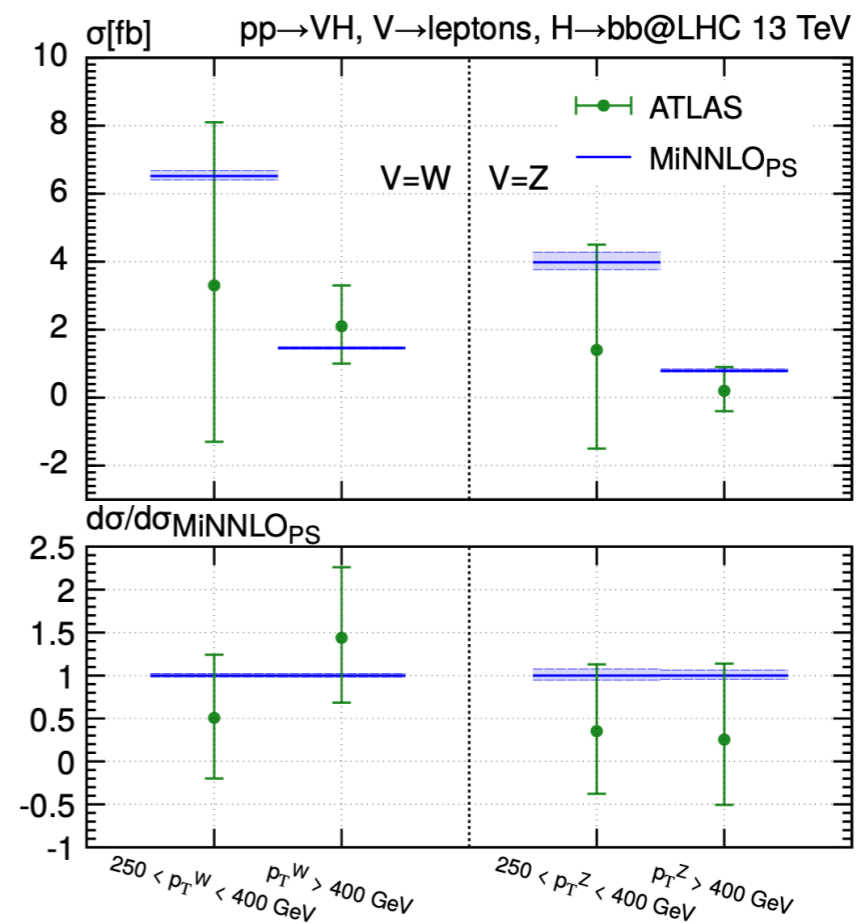
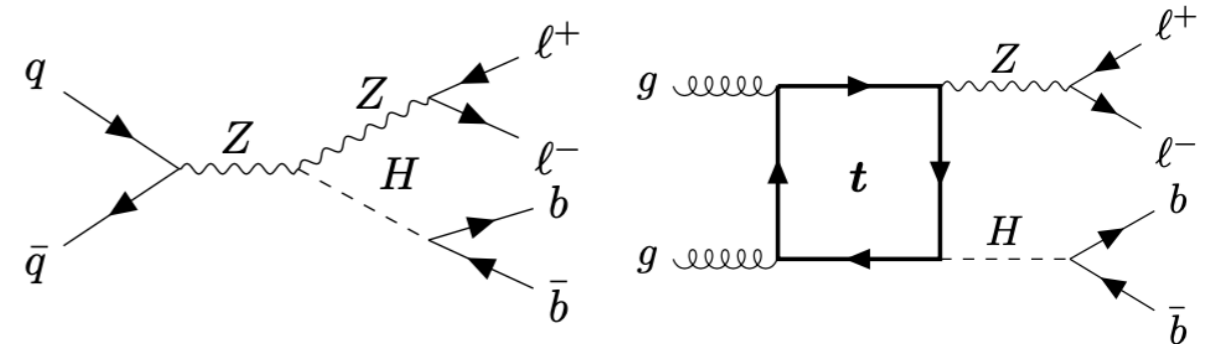
Alioli et al 2212.10489



Good agreement with analytic results for inclusive quantities.
Exclusive simulations allow to implement fiducial cuts and
exclusive distributions accurately

NNLO+PS: HV with H \rightarrow bb

- Needed for precision in the Higgs sector
- One of the main production channels + largest branching fraction in decay
- NNLO+PS accuracy in production of decay



ZH with SMEFT $H \rightarrow bb$

$$Q_{H\Box} = (H^\dagger H)\Box(H^\dagger H),$$

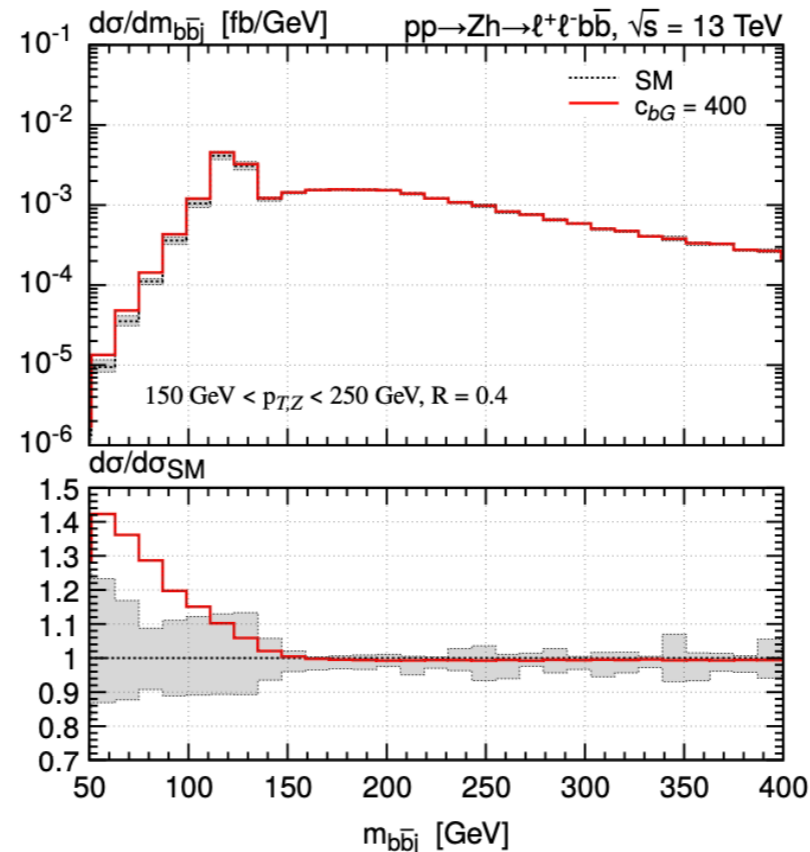
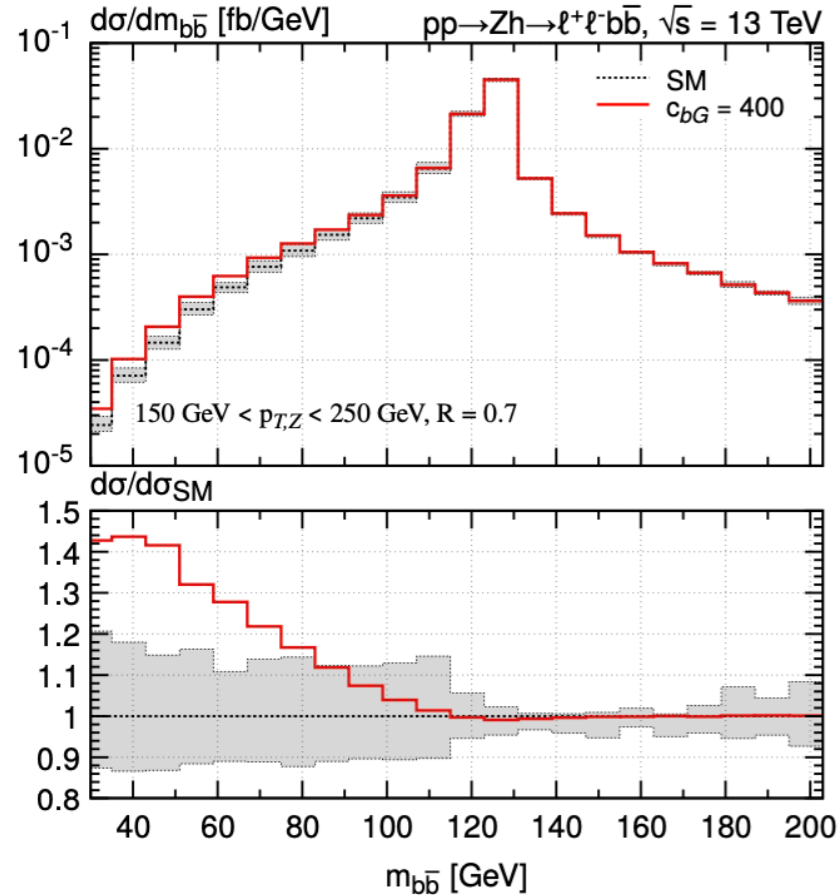
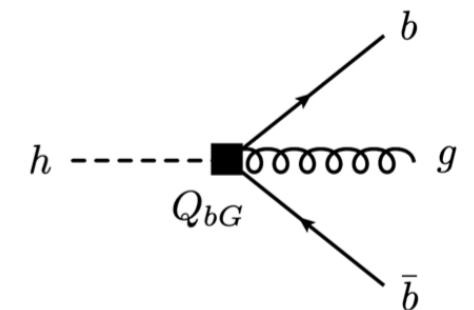
$$Q_{bH} = y_b(H^\dagger H)\bar{q}_L b_R H,$$

$$Q_{HG} = \frac{g_s^2}{(4\pi)^2}(H^\dagger H)G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a,\mu\nu},$$

$$Q_{HD} = (H^\dagger D_\mu H)^*(H^\dagger D^\mu H),$$

$$Q_{bG} = \frac{g_s^3}{(4\pi)^2}y_b\bar{q}_L\sigma_{\mu\nu}T^a b_R H G^{a,\mu\nu},$$

$$Q_{3G} = \frac{g_s^3}{(4\pi)^2}f^{abc}G_\mu^{a,\nu}G_\nu^{b,\sigma}G_\sigma^{c,\mu},$$

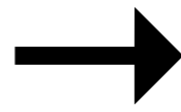


$$\Gamma(h \rightarrow b\bar{b})_{\text{SMEFT}}^{\text{NNLO,non}} = \Delta_{\text{non}} c_{bG} \Gamma(h \rightarrow b\bar{b})_{\text{SM}}^{\text{LO}},$$

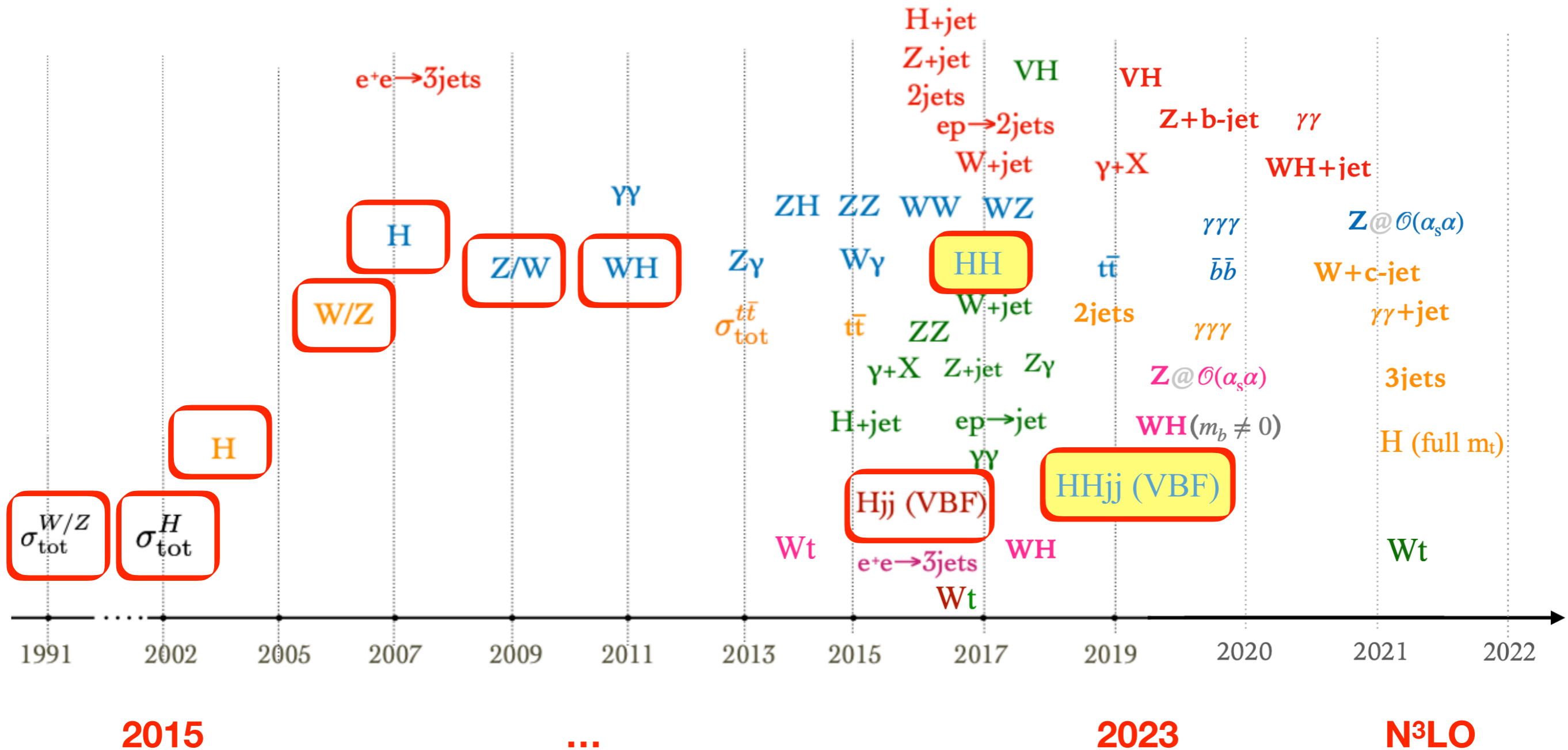
$$\Delta_{\text{non}} = \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right)^2 \frac{m_h^2}{3v^2}$$

\Rightarrow very interesting
and distinctive
shape differences

NNLO



N³LO



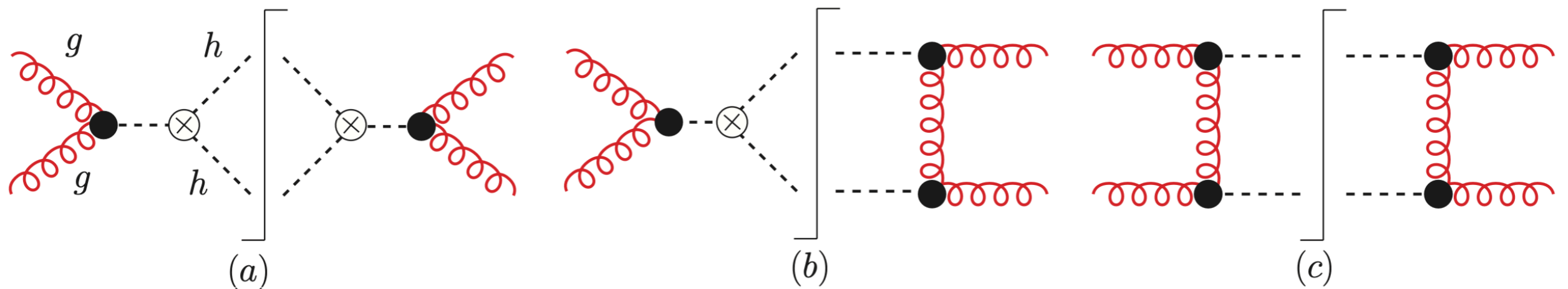
N³LO status

Range of calculations and **public codes** allow comprehensive phenomenological studies at N³LO:

- **iHixs2** H (gg) N³LO+EW+threshold,HQ effects [Dulat et al. 1802.00827](#)
- **ggHiggs** H (gg) N³LO+N³LL threshold [Bonvini et al. 1603.08000](#)
- **SusHi** H (gg), also CP-odd [Harlander et al 1605.03190](#)
- **ProVBFH** inclusive VBF Higgs and **di-Higgs** [Dreyer&Karlberg 1606.00840](#)
- **n3lox**s inclusive H (gg or bb induced), Drell Yan and Higgsstrahlung (HV) [Baglio et al 2209.06138](#)

N³LO gluon-fusion di-Higgs

Chen et al 1909.06808 and 1912.13001



NB: Since more complicated topologies (b) and (c) enter at NLO and NNLO, respectively, one can obtain N³LO accuracy by considering off-shell single Higgs production, i.e. topology (a)

	LO	NLO	NNLO	N ³ LO
Total	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^5)$
a	LO _a $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$	NLO _a $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$	NNLO _a $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$	N ³ LO _a $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^5)$
b	— 0	LO _b $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$	NLO _b $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$	NNLO _b $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^5)$
c	— 0	— 0	LO _c $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$	NLO _c $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^5)$

Similar arguments hold for triple-Higgs production

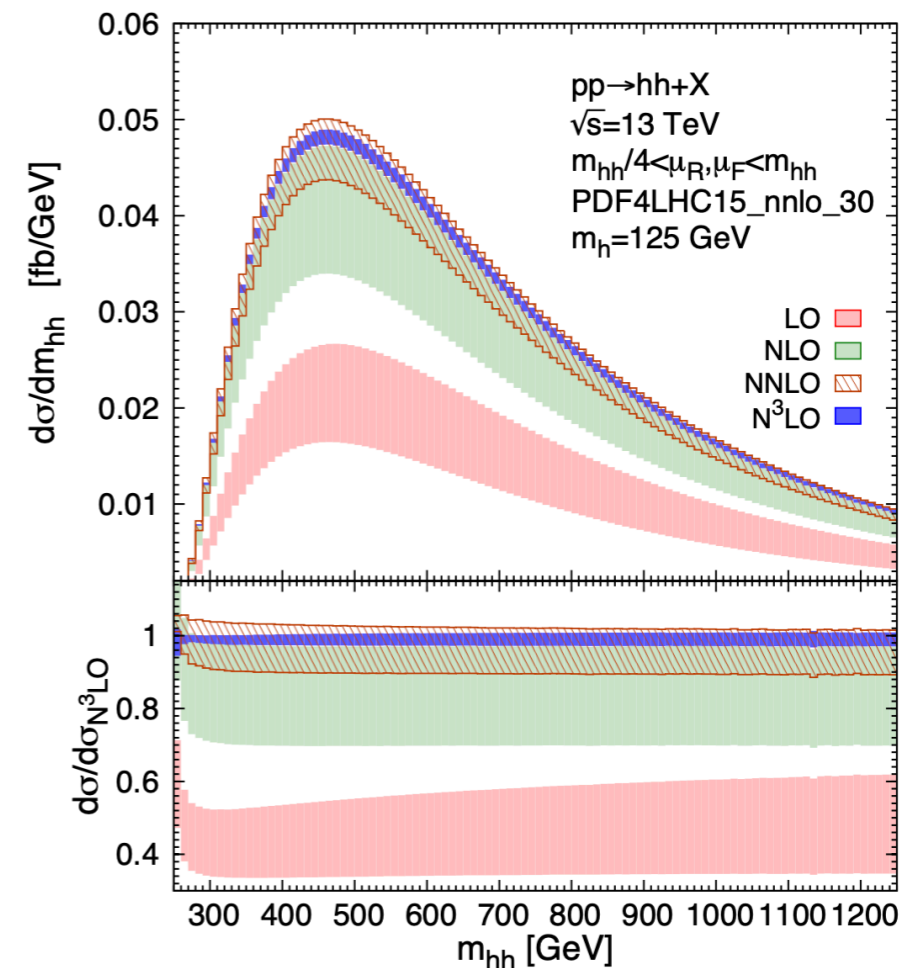
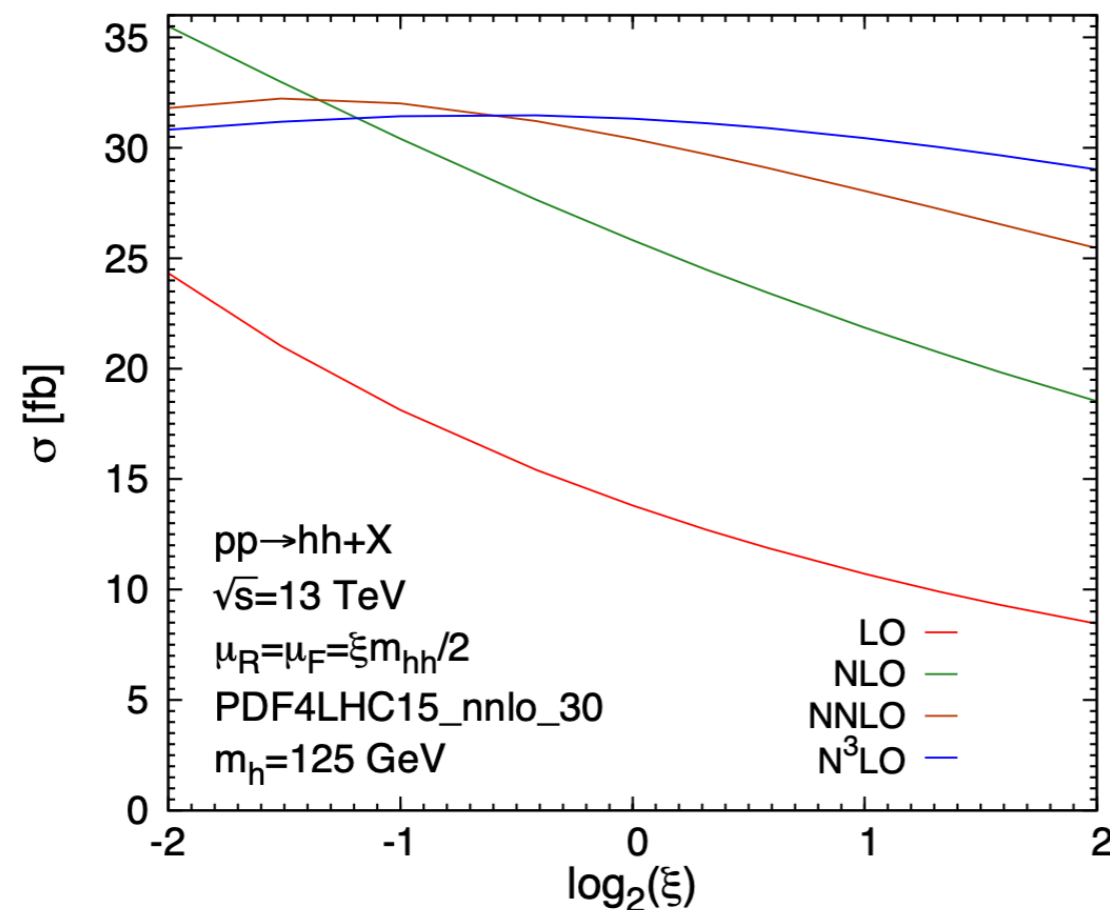
N³LO gluon-fusion di-Higgs

Chen et al 1909.06808 and 1912.13001

Including resummation effects in Ajjath and Shao 2209.03914

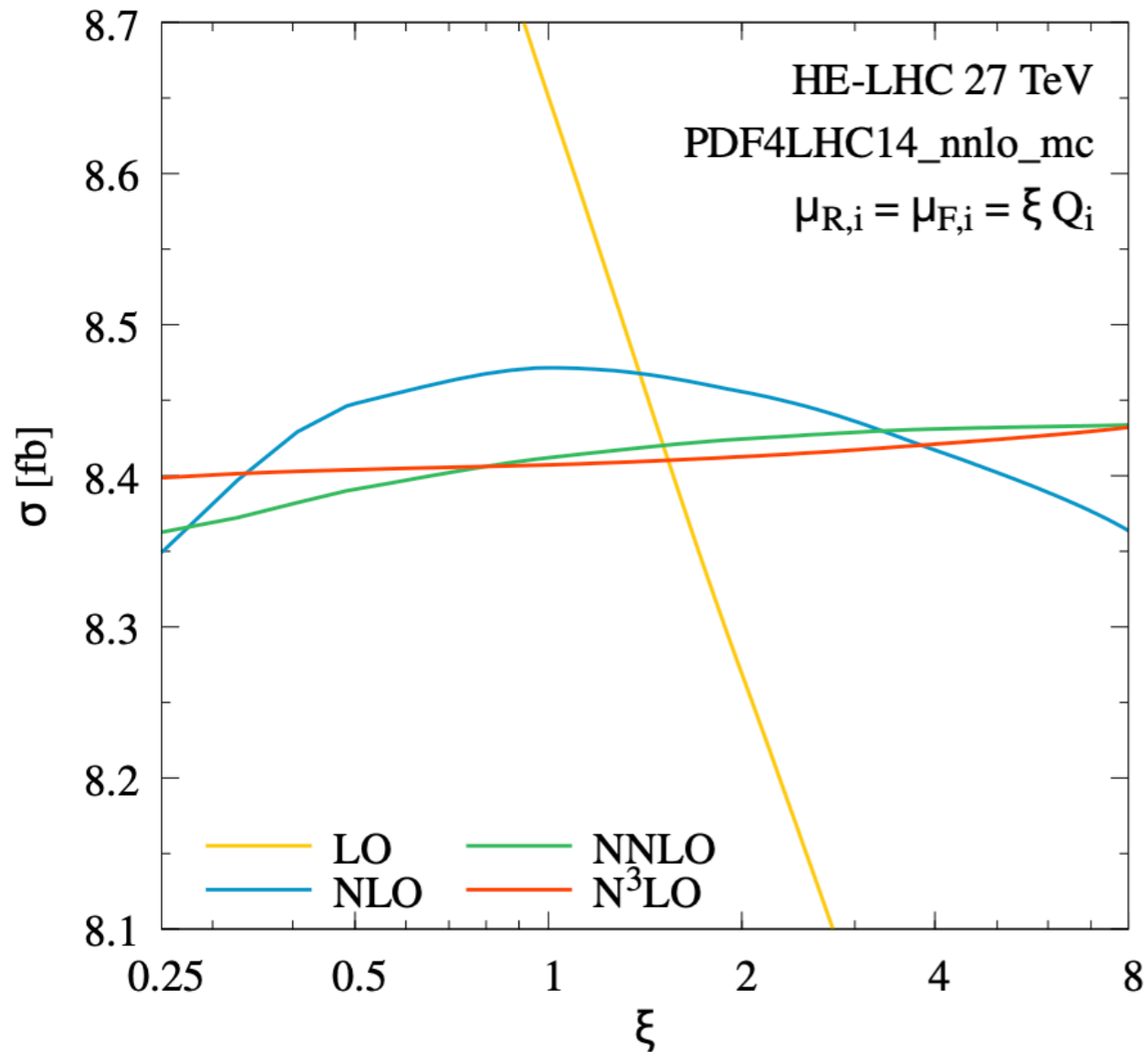
Top mass scheme uncertainty in Baglio et al. 2008.11626

Not surprisingly, the pattern of higher order corrections is very similar to single-Higgs production:

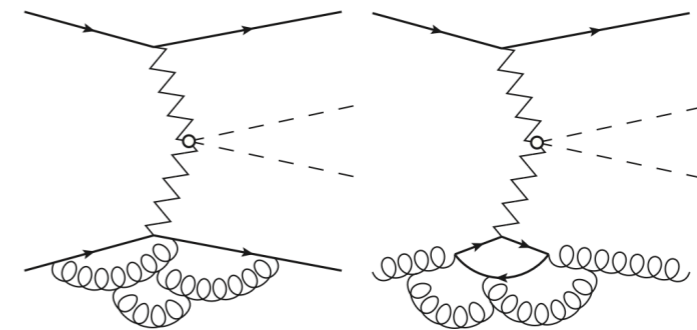


Leading residual uncertainties from missing N³LO PDFs and missing NNLO top-loop effects (both effects are about 3%)

N³LO VBF diHiggs



Dreyer and Karlberg 1811.07906



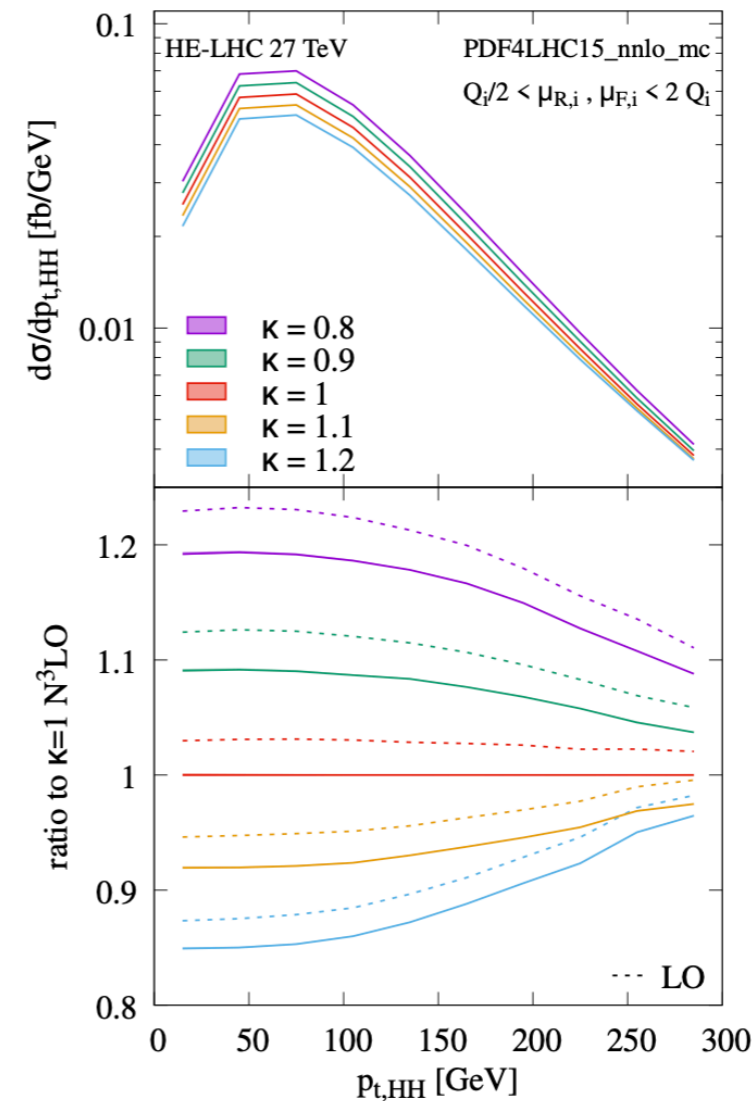
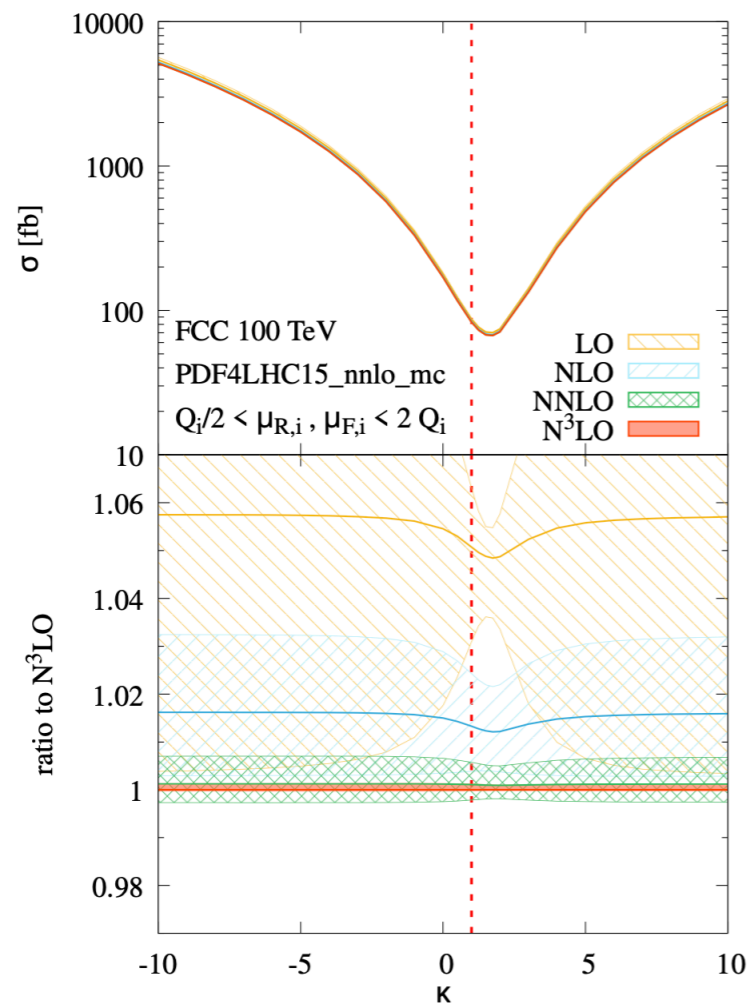
	$\sigma^{(14 \text{ TeV})}$ [fb]	$\sigma^{(27 \text{ TeV})}$ [fb]	$\sigma^{(100 \text{ TeV})}$ [fb]
LO	$2.079^{+0.177}_{-0.152}$	$8.651^{+0.411}_{-0.382}$	$87.104^{+1.023}_{-1.633}$
NLO	$2.065^{+0.022}_{-0.018}$	$8.471^{+0.046}_{-0.024}$	$84.026^{+0.781}_{-0.860}$
NNLO	$2.056^{+0.003}_{-0.005}$	$8.412^{+0.014}_{-0.021}$	$83.000^{+0.340}_{-0.269}$
N ³ LO	$2.055^{+0.001}_{-0.001}$	$8.407^{+0.005}_{-0.003}$	$82.901^{+0.097}_{-0.035}$

⇒ small N³LO corrections, stable perturbative expansion

N³LO VBF diHiggs

Impact of rescaling trilinear coupling λ

Dreyer and Karlberg 1811.07906



\Rightarrow small deviations in λ can have sizeable effects in cross sections and distributions. K-factors largely unchanged

Sample N³LO results

Baglio et al 2209.06138

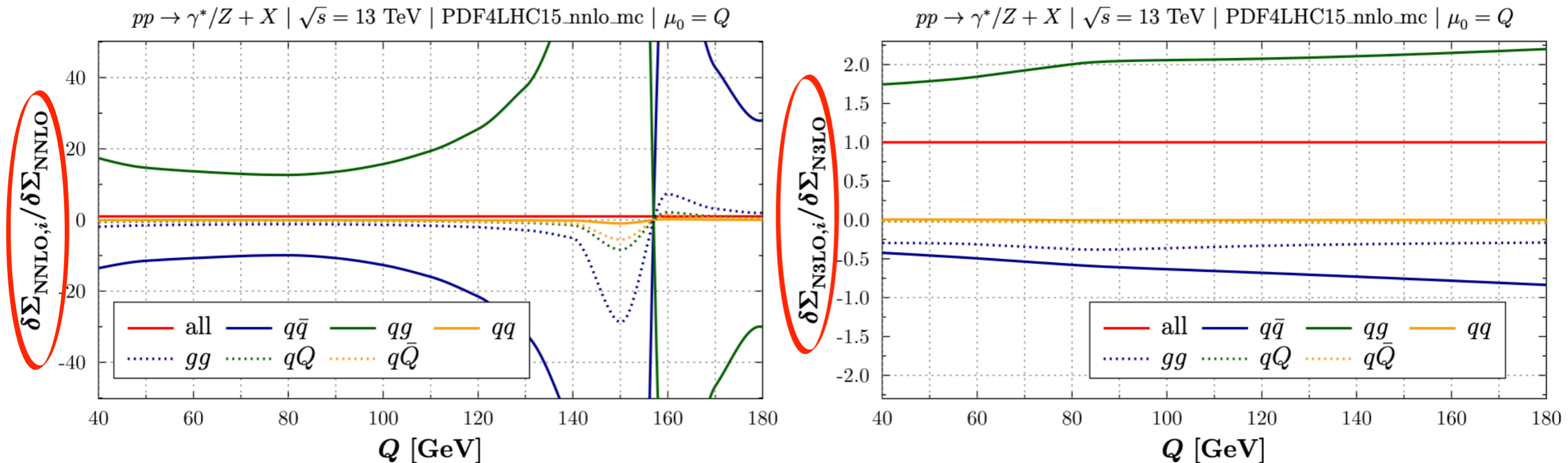
	Q [GeV]	$\delta\sigma^{\text{N}^3\text{LO}}$	$\delta\sigma^{\text{NNLO}}$	$\delta(\text{scale})$	$\delta(\text{PDF} + \alpha_S)$	$\delta(\text{PDF-TH})$
$gg \rightarrow \text{Higgs}$	m_H	3.5%	30%	+0.21% -2.37%	$\pm 3.2\%$	$\pm 1.2\%$
$b\bar{b} \rightarrow \text{Higgs}$	m_H	-2.3%	2.1%	+3.0% -4.8%	$\pm 8.4\%$	$\pm 2.5\%$
NCDY	30	-4.8%	-0.34%	+1.53% -2.54%	+3.7% -3.8%	$\pm 2.8\%$
	100	-2.1%	-2.3%	+0.66% -0.79%	+1.8% -1.9%	$\pm 2.5\%$
CCDY(W^+)	30	-4.7%	-0.1%	+2.5% -1.7%	$\pm 3.95\%$	$\pm 3.2\%$
	150	-2.0%	-0.1%	+0.5% -0.5%	$\pm 1.9\%$	$\pm 2.1\%$
CCDY(W^-)	30	-5.0%	-0.1%	+2.6% -1.6%	$\pm 3.7\%$	$\pm 3.2\%$
	150	-2.1%	-0.6%	+0.6% -0.5%	$\pm 2\%$	$\pm 2.13\%$

Process	σ^{LO} [pb]	σ^{NLO} [pb]	K^{NLO}	σ^{NNLO} [pb]	K^{NNLO}	$\sigma^{\text{N}^3\text{LO}}$ [pb]	$K^{\text{N}^3\text{LO}}$
W^+H	$0.758^{+2.43\%}_{-3.13\%}$	$0.883^{+1.38\%}_{-1.20\%}$	1.16	$0.891^{+0.28\%}_{-0.34\%}$	1.18	$0.884^{+0.27\%}_{-0.30\%}$	1.17
W^-H	$0.484^{+2.50\%}_{-3.26\%}$	$0.560^{+1.34\%}_{-1.23\%}$	1.16	$0.564^{+0.27\%}_{-0.34\%}$	1.17	$0.559^{+0.30\%}_{-0.33\%}$	1.16
ZH	$0.678^{+2.40\%}_{-3.11\%}$	$0.786^{+1.33\%}_{-1.16\%}$	1.16	$0.792^{+0.25\%}_{-0.32\%}$	1.17	$0.786^{+0.26\%}_{-0.29\%}$	1.16

\Rightarrow N³LO corrections sizeable (several %), often outside NNLO band

Sample N³LO results

Partonic channel contributions for e.g. neutral Drell Yan



- Caveat of N³LO predictions: PDFs are computed at NNLO
- Large cancelations between partonic channels can enhance PDF sensitivity \Rightarrow underlines the need for N³LO PDFs

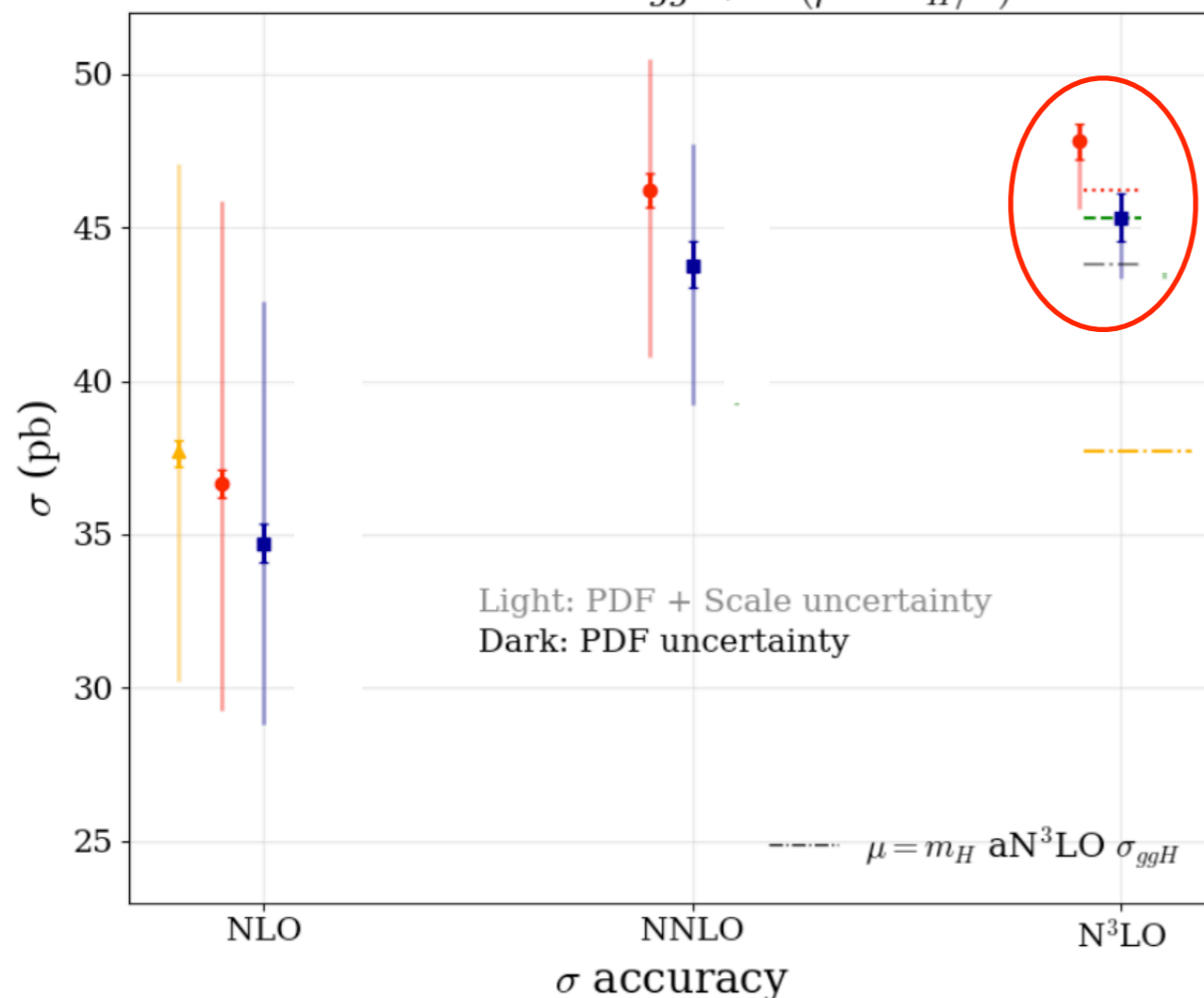
Towards N³LO PDFs

McGowan et al. 2207.04739

First approximate N³LO PDF global fit (aN³LO) in the MSHT framework

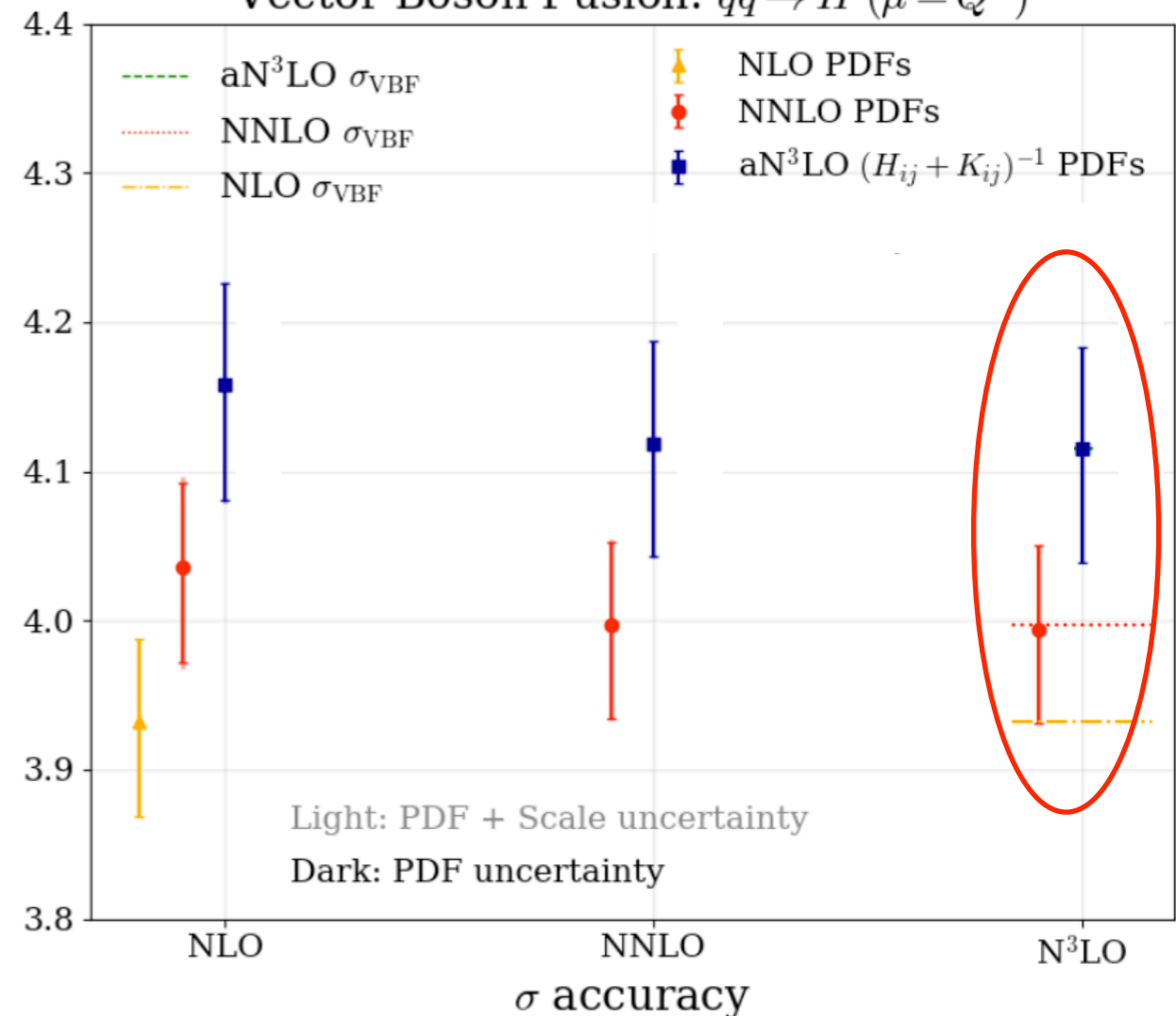
ggH cross-section:

Gluon Fusion: $gg \rightarrow H$ ($\mu = m_H/2$)



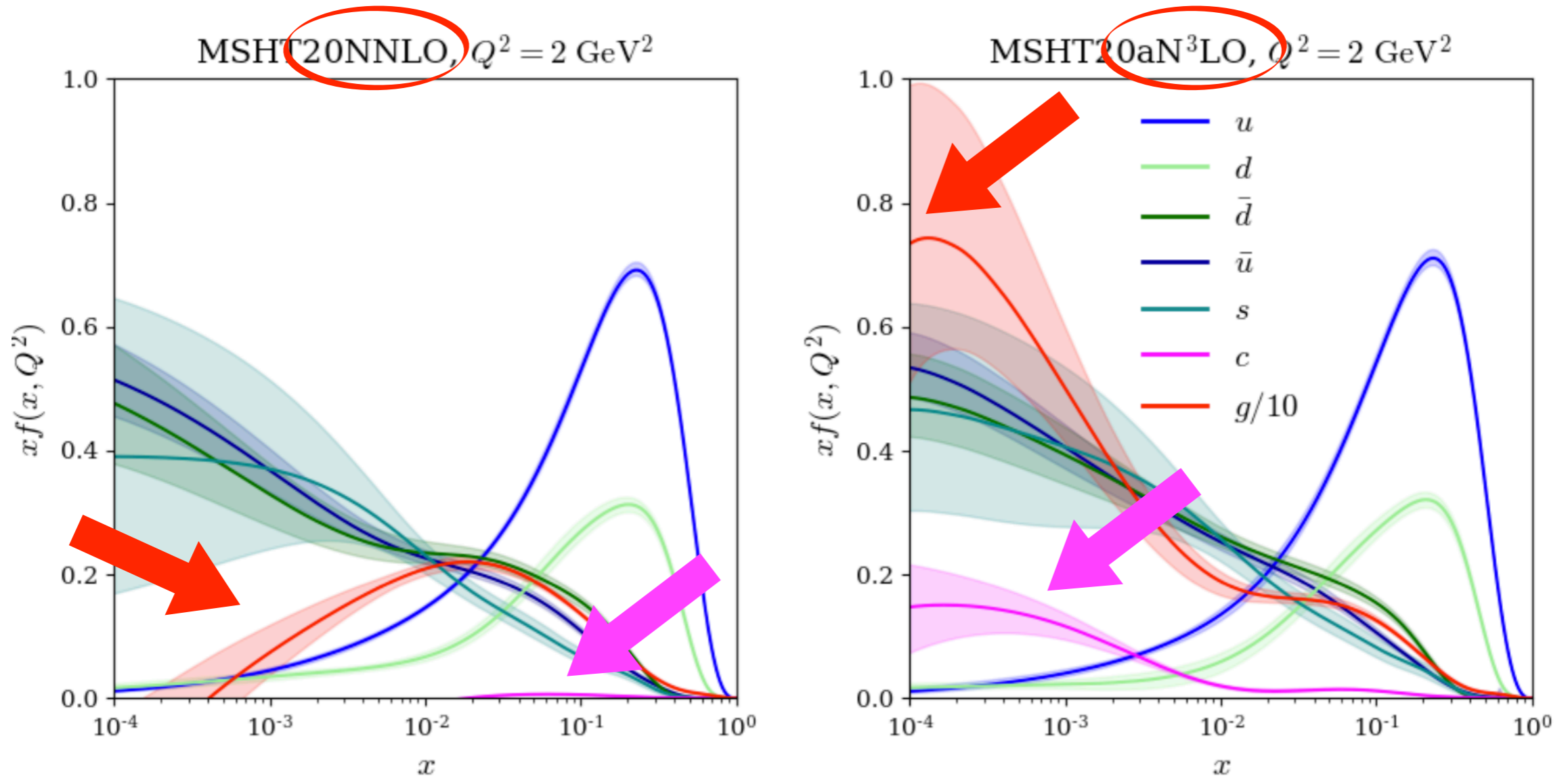
VBF H:

Vector Boson Fusion: $qq \rightarrow H$ ($\mu = Q^2$)



Towards N³LO PDFs

McGowan et al. 2207.04739



Drastic change of gluon and heavy-quark PDF and low x and low Q^2 . aN³LO completely outside NNLO band. Needs more investigation.

Infrared safe jet definitions

Infrared unsafe jet algorithms widely used at the Tevatron

[Infrared unsafe = the structure of the hard jets can be modified by very soft or collinear splittings in QCD]

Things changed at the LHC thanks seminal work which lead to the development of the **fast- k_t , the SISCone and anti- k_t algorithms**

Cacciari & Salam hep-ph/0512210; Salam & Soyez 0704.0292; Cacciari, Salam, Soyez 0802.1189

This progress triggered considerable more work on jet-area, pileup subtraction and paved the way to the field of jet-substructure

Infrared safe jet definitions

Nobody, today, would use any old infrared unsafe jet-algorithm.
So, you will wonder, why I am talking about this at all here?

Infrared safe jet definitions

Nobody, today, would use any old infrared unsafe jet-algorithm.
So, you will wonder, why I am talking about this at all here?

Because jet-algorithms specifying the flavour of jets are still a notable exception!

Jet flavour

Where does jet flavour enter?

- Top reconstruction (top mass)
- Instrumental for QCD studies, e.g. inclusive b-jet (\Rightarrow b-PDF)
- Z + charm-jet (\Rightarrow charm PDF)
- W +charm-jet (\Rightarrow strange PDF)
- Higgs to bottom (\Rightarrow di-Higgs, triple Higgs studies)
- Jet-substructure (mass reconstructions)
- ...

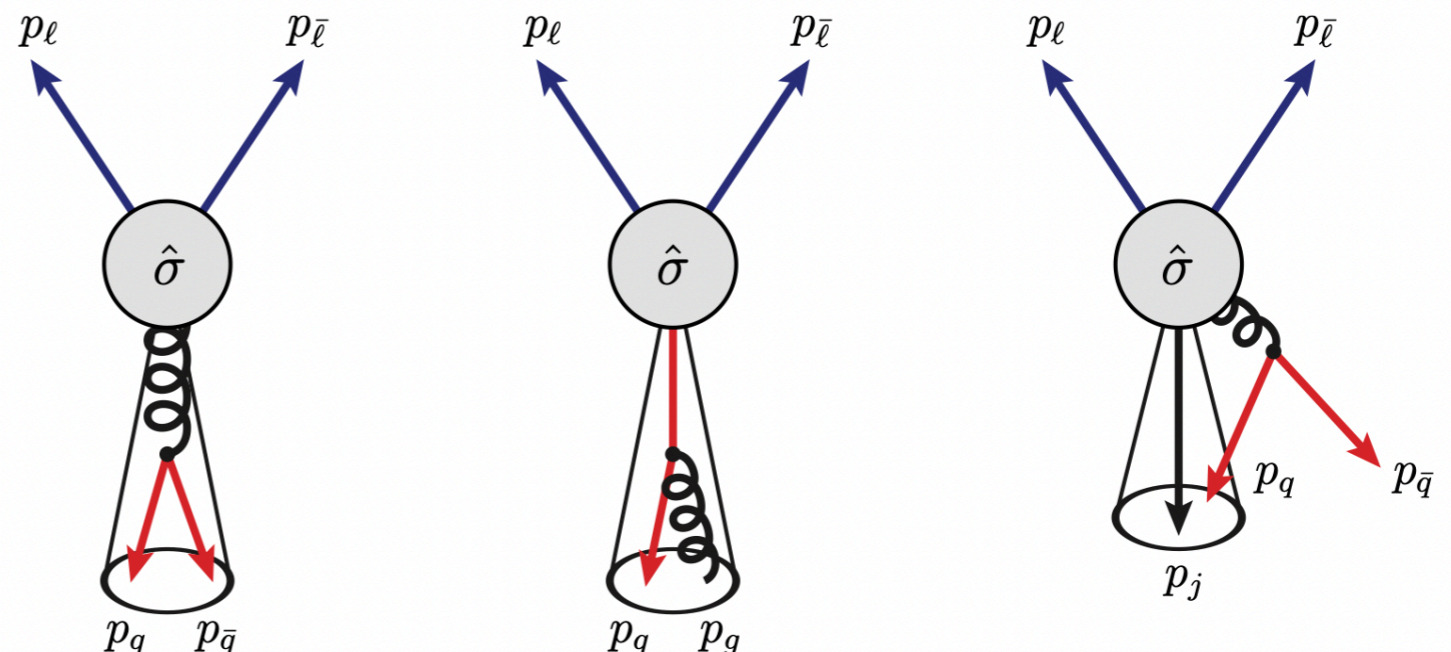
Infrared safe jet definitions

Example: LHCb charm-jet definition

LHCb 2109.08084

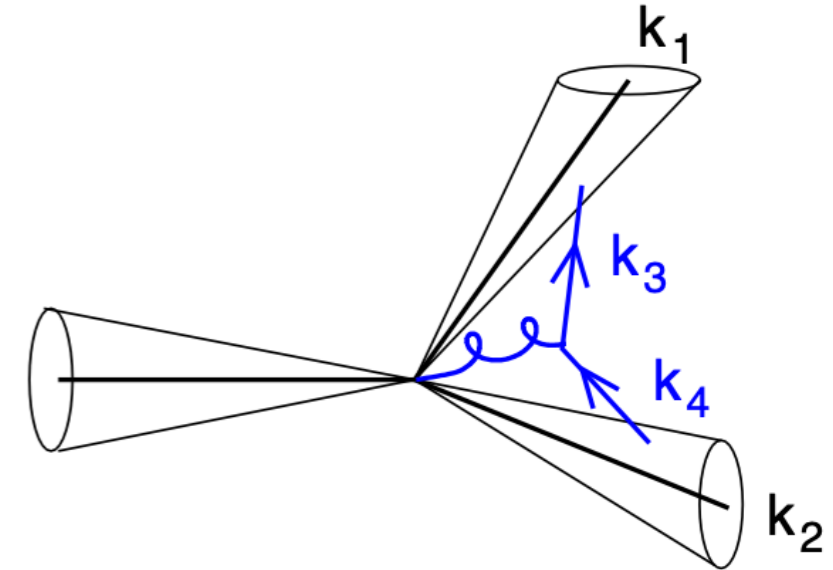
- reconstruct jets with anti- k_t algorithm
- require that the leading jet passes fiducial cuts
- the leading jet is considered a charm jet if there is at least one c-hadron satisfying $p_{t,c\text{-hadron}} > 5 \text{ GeV}$ and $\Delta R(\text{jet}, c\text{-hadron}) < 0.5$

This definition is infrared and collinear unsafe



Jet flavour

The problem was addressed in 2006 (before the anti- k_t) and the proposed definition relies on a modification of the k_t -algorithm



Banfi, Salam, GZ hep-ph/0601139

Two key elements:

1) modification of the distance for flavoured particles

$$d_{ij}^{(F)} = (\Delta\eta_{ij}^2 + \Delta\phi_{ij}^2) \times \begin{cases} \max(k_{ti}^2, k_{tj}^2) & \text{if softer of } i, j \text{ is flavoured} \\ \min(k_{ti}^2, k_{tj}^2) & \text{if softer of } i, j \text{ is flavourless} \end{cases}$$

2) classify a jet containing flavour and anti-flavour as gluon jet

Because of the k_t -like distance and the fact that it requires tagging two nearby flavoured particles, the algorithm was not adopted in practice at the LHC

Jet flavour

Recent proposals:

- ▶ Practical jet flavour through NNLO Caletti et al. '22
- ▶ Infrared-safe flavoured anti- k_t jets Czakon et al. '22
- ▶ A dress of flavour to suit any jets Gauld et al. '22
- ▶ Flavoured jets with exact anti- k_t kinematics Caola et al '23

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Goals (in some cases not fully met yet...)

- ▶ anti- k_t like kinematics
- ▶ infrared-safe to all orders
- ▶ flavour information, e.g. for jet-substructure
- ▶ **experimentally feasible**

Whether or not these novel jet definitions will be used in realistic experimental analyses remains to be seen...

Conclusions

- ✓ Continuous fast progress in fixed-order calculations: **NNLO 2** → **3, new N³LO results**. Progress driven by new ideas and methods.
- ✓ Steps towards **N³LO PDFs**
- ✓ Progress in **matching NNLO and parton shower** (but not fully automated yet)
- ✓ **Jet flavour: new ideas and algorithms**. Theoretically interesting and useful ⇒ look forward to first experimental implementations