

Associated top-quark pair production with isolated photons

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Motivation of pp $\rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma(\gamma)$

- Unique features with respect to other assoicated $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ processes:
 - Large fraction of photon radiation from top-quark decays ($t\bar{t}\gamma$: ~50%)
 - Photon isolation criterion to reduce secondary photon production (fragmentation processes, hadron decays)

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- Probe $t \gamma$ coupling
- Irreducible background to $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}H(H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$
- $H \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ small branching ratio with ~0.2%
- $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}H(H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$ first single-channel observation of $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}H$



Feynman diagrams created with FeynGame Harlander, Klein, Lipp '20

- NLO QCD
- NLO EW
- complete NLO

Theory status (pp $\rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$)

- aNNLO QCD
- Matched to Parton showers at NLO QCD
 - POWHEL/POWHEG
- Higher order corrections and photon radiation in decays
 - NLO QCD in NWA
 - NLO QCD with full off-shell effects
 - Complete NLO in NWA
- All calculations based on smooth-cone isolation Frixione '98

Duan, Ma, Zhang, Han, Guo, Wang '09 '11 Maltoni, Pagani, Tsinikos '16

Duan, Zhang, Wang, Song, Li '17

Pagani, Shao, Tsinikos, Zaro '21

Kidonakis, Tonero,'21

Kardos, Trócsányi '15

Melnikov, Schulze, Scharf '11 Bevilacqua, Hartanto, Kraus, Weber, Worek '20

Bevilacqua, Hartanto, Kraus, Weber, Worek '18

Stremmer, Worek '24

Theory status (pp $\rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$)

- Stable top quarks at NLO QCD
 - NLO QCD
 - NLO QCD+EW
- Matched to Parton Showers at NLO QCD
 - POWHEL/POWHEG
 - MC@NLO
- Higher order corrections and photon radiation in decays
 - NLO QCD in NWA
 - Complete NLO in NWA
- All calculations based on smooth-cone isolation Frixione '98

Alwall, Frederix, Frixione, Hirschi, Maltoni, Mattelaer, Shao, Stelzer, Torrielli, Zaro '14 Maltoni, Pagani, Tsinikos '16

Pagani, Shao, Tsinikos, Zaro '21

Kardos, Trócsányi '15

van Deurzen, Frederix, Hirschi, Luisoni, Mastrolia '16

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Process definition



- Full calculation divided into three resonant contributions: Prod., Mixed and Decay
- Calculation performed in Narrow Width Approximation preserving spin correlations
- Photon bremsstrahlung and NLO corrections included in tt production and decay
- NLO QCD corrections calculated for each resonant structure separately
- Mixing of resonant contributions in subleading NLO corrections

NLO QCD



$NLO_{QCD} = LO_1 + NLO_1$

Complete NLO



 $LO = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3$ $NLO = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3 + NLO_1 + NLO_2 + NLO_3 + NLO_4$

Computational framework

Virtual Corrections with Recola (Actis, Denner, Hofer, Lang, Scharf, Uccirati '17) + Collier (Denner, Hofer, Dittmaier, Hofer '17)

- Further Modifications in Recola
 - Random polarisation method $\sum_{\lambda} |\mathcal{M}_{\lambda}|^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi |\mathcal{M}_{\phi}|^2$
 - Alternative reduction to scalar integrals with CutTools (Ossola, Papadopoulos, Pittau '09)

and OneLOop (van Hameren '11)

• Mixed renormalisation of α : $\alpha^n = \alpha_{G_\mu}^{n-n_\gamma} \alpha(0)^{n_\gamma}$

Real Corrections in Helac-Dipoles

- Nagy-Soper subtraction
 Bevilacqua, Czakon, Kubocz, Worek '13
 - QCD and QED-like subtraction in nested decay chains with massive/massless emitters
- Partially cross-checked with Catani-Seymour subtraction *Catani, Seymour '97 Catani, Dittmaier, Seymour, Trocsanyi '02*
- Theoretical prediction are stored in modified Les Houches Event Files (LHEFs)

Bern, Dixon, Febres Cordero, Hoeche, Ita, Kosower, Maitre '14

Reweighting to different renormalisation/factorisation scales and PDF sets

Prompt photon distribution in pp $\rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$ in di-lepton channel at NLO QCD



Integrated level: Full = Prod. (40%) + Mixed (44%) + Decay (16%)

- Large contributions from photon emission in decays in bulk of distribution
- Tails dominated by Prod. (79 82% of Full)

Prompt photon distribution in pp $\rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$ in di-lepton channel at NLO QCD



- Different peak structures for Prod., Mixed and Decay
- Only sum leads to reliable predictions
- Similar conclusions in lepton + jet top-quark decay channel

Complete NLO predictions for $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$ in di-lepton channel

		σ_i [fb]	Ratio to LO_1
LO_1	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^5)$	$55.604(8)^{+31.4\%}_{-22.3\%}$	1.00
LO_2	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^1 \alpha^6)$	$0.18775(5)^{+20.1\%}_{-15.4\%}$	+0.34%
LO_3	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0\alpha^7)$	$0.26970(4)^{+14.3\%}_{-16.9\%}$	+0.49%
NLO ₁	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3 \alpha^5)$	+3.44(5)	+6.19%
NLO_2	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^6)$	-0.1553(9)	-0.28%
NLO_3	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^1 \alpha^7)$	+0.2339(3)	+0.42%
NLO_4	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0\alpha^8)$	+0.001595(8)	+0.003%
LO		$56.061(8)^{+31.2\%}_{-22.1\%}$	1.0082
$\rm NLO_{QCD}$		$59.05(5)^{+1.6\%}_{-5.9\%}$	1.0620
$\mathrm{NLO}_{\mathrm{prd}}$		$59.08(5)^{+1.5\%}_{-5.9\%}$	1.0626
NLO		$59.59(5)^{+1.6\%}_{-5.9\%}$	1.0717
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- Subleading LO contributions below 1%
- NLO corrections dominated by NLO₁
- Subleading NLO corrections below 1%
- Similar conclusions for $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$
- $NLO_{prd} = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3 + NLO_1 + NLO_{2,prd} + NLO_{3,prd} + NLO_{4,prd}$
- No photon radiation and higer-order corrections in top-quark decays in subleading NLO contributions

Complete NLO predictions for $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$ in di-lepton channel



- Subleading NLO corrections as large as 10% due to EW Sudakov logarithms in NLO_2
- Accidental cancellations between NLO₂ and NLO₃
- Negligible differences between $\rm NLO_{prd}$ and $\rm NLO$ of less than 2%

Photon isolation criteria

Smooth-cone isolation *Frixione '98*

•
$$E_{T,\text{had}}(R) \le \epsilon_{\gamma} E_{T,\gamma} \left(\frac{1 - \cos(R)}{1 - \cos(R_{\gamma j})}\right)^n$$
 for all $R \le R_{\gamma j}$

- Removes collinear photon-quark configurations → Removes fragmentation contribution
- Cannot directly be used in experiments
- Input parameters ϵ_{γ} , n (and $R_{\gamma j}$) are arbitrary
- Fixed-cone isolation
 - $E_{T,\text{had}}(R_{\gamma j}) \leq E_{T,\max}(E_{T,\gamma})$
 - Collinear photon-quark configurations allowed

•
$$d\hat{\sigma}^{\gamma+X,\text{NLO}} = d\hat{\sigma}^{\text{NLO}}_{\gamma} + \sum_{p} d\hat{\sigma}^{\text{LO}}_{p} \otimes D_{p \to \gamma} - \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \sum_{p} d\hat{\sigma}^{\text{LO}}_{p} \otimes \Gamma^{(0)}_{p \to \gamma}$$

- Hybrid photon isolation
 - First use smooth-cone isolation to remove fragmentation contribution and then the fixed-cone isolation
 - Reduces dependence on (arbitrary) input parameters in smooth-cone isolation
- Setup based on recent ATLAS analysis: *arXiv*: 2403.09452 [hep-ex]
 - $E_{T,had}(R = 0.4) < 0.022 \cdot E_{T,\gamma} + 2.45 \text{ GeV}$ and $E_{T,had}(R = 0.2) < 0.05 \cdot E_{T,\gamma}$
 - ALEPH LO quark-to-photon fragmentation function

Photon isolation in pp $\rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b \bar{b} \gamma$ at $\sqrt{s} = 13.6 \text{ TeV}$



■ Fragmentation contribution negligible small with ~0.2%

• Hybrid photon isolation reduces dependence on input parameters in (inner) smooth-cone isolation

Conclusion

- Prompt photon distribution in $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$ in the NWA
 - Only 40% of integrated fiducial cross section from Prod.
 - Only sum of all resonant contributions leads to accurate predictions
- Calculation of complete NLO corrections in $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$ and $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$ in the NWA
 - Negligible impact at the integrated level
 - Enhancement of EW Sudakov logarithms in $NLO_2 \rightarrow Reduction$ in tails up to 10%
 - Accidental cancellations between NLO_2 and NLO_3
 - NLO_{prd} is good approximation \rightarrow Sufficient to include subleading NLO corrections in $t\bar{t}\gamma(\gamma)$ producion
- First calculation of $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$ at NLO QCD with fixed-cone isolation
 - Small fragmentation contribution $\sim 0.2\%$
 - Large dependence on input parameters in smooth-cone isolation → Requires tuning of parameters
 - Basically no dependence on input parameters in hybrid photon isolation

Outlook

• Extend study of realistic photon isolation condition to $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$ and lepton + jet top-quark decay channel

Backup

Setup

$$pp \to t\bar{t}(\gamma\gamma) \to W^+W^-b\bar{b}(\gamma\gamma) \to \begin{cases} \ell^+\ell^-\nu_\ell\bar{\nu}_\ell\,b\bar{b}\,\gamma\gamma \\ \ell^-\bar{\nu}_\ell\,jj\,b\bar{b}\,\gamma\gamma \end{cases}$$

- LHC with $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$
- Calculation performed in Narrow Width Approximation preserving spin correlations
- Photon bremsstrahlung and NLO QCD corrections included in tt production and decay
- Diagonal CKM matrix
- 5 flavour scheme ($m_b = 0$)
- Top-quark width treated as fixed parameter $(\Gamma_t^{NLO}(\mu_R = m_t))$

$$g \longrightarrow 1 \qquad (t \quad u \quad w \quad b) \\ g \longrightarrow 1 \qquad (t \quad u \quad w \quad b) \\ g \longrightarrow 1 \qquad W^+ \qquad g \longrightarrow 1 \qquad (t \quad u \quad w \quad b) \\ g \longrightarrow 1 \qquad W^+ \qquad g \longrightarrow 1 \qquad W^+ \qquad g \longrightarrow 1 \qquad W^+ \qquad W^+ \qquad W^+ \qquad W^+ \qquad W^+ \qquad W^- \qquad W^$$

 $\ell^{\pm} = e^{\pm}, \mu^{\pm}$

Setup of the calculation

•
$$G_{\mu}$$
 scheme: $\alpha = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\pi} G_{\mu} M_W^2 \left(1 - \frac{M_W^2}{M_Z^2} \right)$

- External photon radiation with $\alpha^{-1} = \alpha^{-1}(0) = 137.035999084$
- Renormalisation/Factorisation scale: $\mu_R = \mu_F = \mu_0 = \frac{E_T}{4}$ $E_T = \sqrt{m_t^2 + p_{T,t}^2} + \sqrt{m_t^2 + p_{T,\bar{t}}^2} + p_{T,\gamma_1} + p_{T,\gamma_2}$
- NNPDF3.1(luxQED) NLO PDF set with $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.118$

Smooth-cone isolation Frixione '98

$$\sum_{i} E_{Ti} \Theta(R - R_{\gamma i}) \le \epsilon_{\gamma} E_{T\gamma} \left(\frac{1 - \cos(R)}{1 - \cos(R_{\gamma j})} \right)^n \quad \text{for all } R \le R_{\gamma j}$$

- with $R_{\gamma j} = 0.4$ and $\epsilon_{\gamma} = n = 1$
- Anti- k_T jet algorithm (R = 0.4) Cacciari, Salam, Soyez '08

Setup of the calculation (2)

- Exclusive in $n_b = 2$
- $\begin{array}{lll} & \text{Event selection:} \\ & p_{T,\,\ell} > 25 \,\, \text{GeV} \,, \\ & p_{T,\,b} > 25 \,\, \text{GeV} \,, \\ & p_{T,\,\gamma} > 25 \,\, \text{GeV} \,, \\ & \Delta R_{bl} > 0.4 \,, \\ & \Delta R_{bl} > 0.4 \,, \\ \end{array} \begin{array}{lll} & y_{\ell}| < 2.5 \,, \\ & |y_{\gamma}| < 2.5 \,, \\ & \Delta R_{\gamma\gamma} > 0.4 \,, \\ & \Delta R_{\gamma b} > 0.4 \,, \\ \end{array}$
- Additional cuts in lepton+jet channel:
 $p_{T, j} > 25 \text{ GeV}$,
 $|y_j| < 2.5$,
 $\Delta R_{jj} > 0.4$,
 $\Delta R_{\ell j} > 0.4$,
 $\Delta R_{\ell j} > 0.4$,
 $\Delta R_{\gamma j} > 0.4$,
 $|m_W M_{jj}| < 15 \text{ GeV}$
- Modifications in fixed-cone isolation setup:
- $n_b \ge 2$, $p_{T,\gamma} > 20 \text{ GeV}$, $|y_\gamma| < 2.37$

Integrated Fiducial cross section in di-lepton channel

	$pp \rightarrow$	$t\bar{t}(\gamma\gamma)$	$\to W^+ W^- b \overline{b} (\gamma)$	$(\gamma) \to \ell^+ \ell^- \nu_\ell \bar{\nu}$	$h_\ellbar b\gamma\gamma$
μ_0			LO	NLO	$\mathcal{K} = \sigma_{ m NLO} / \sigma_{ m LO}$
$E_T/4$	$\sigma_{ m Full}$	[fb]	$0.13868(3)^{+31.2\%}_{-22.1\%}$	$0.1773(1)^{+1.8\%}_{-6.2\%}$	1.28
	$\sigma_{ m Prod.}$	[fb]	$0.05399(2)^{+30.6\%}_{-21.7\%}$	$0.07130(6)^{+2.5\%}_{-7.2\%}$	1.32
	$\sigma_{ m Mixed}$	[fb]	$0.06022(2)^{+31.9\%}_{-22.5\%}$	$0.07733(8)^{+1.5\%}_{-6.2\%}$	1.28
	$\sigma_{ m Decay}$	[fb]	$0.024473(7)^{+30.9\%}_{-22.1\%}$	$0.02863(4)^{+0.9\%}_{-4.9\%}$	1.17
					Stremmer, Worek '23

- NLO QCD corrections ~30%
- Scale uncertainties reduced from 31% to 6%
- Relative size to Full: Prod. (40%), Mixed (44%) and Decay (16%)
- Internal PDF uncertainties: NNPDF3.1 1.0%, MSHT20 1.4%, CT18 2.0%

Resonant contributions

		gg	gg/pp	q ar q	$q \bar{q}/p p$	$qg + \bar{q}g$	$(qg+\bar{q}g)/pp$
$\sigma_{ m Full}^{ m NLO}$	[fb]	0.0999(1)	56.4%	0.04307(4)	24.3%	0.03428(4)	19.3%
$\sigma_{\mathrm{Prod.}}^{\mathrm{NLO}}$	[fb]	0.02587(4)	36.3%	0.02672(4)	37.5%	0.01871(3)	26.2%
$\sigma_{ m Mixed}^{ m NLO}$	[fb]	0.04928(8)	63.7%	0.01408(2)	18.2%	0.01398(2)	18.1%
$\sigma_{\rm Decay}^{\rm NLO}$	[fb]	0.02476(4)	86.5%	0.002268(3)	7.9%	0.00160(2)	5.6%

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- Full dominated by gg with 56.4%
- qq̄ channel decreases, gg channel increases in absolute size from Prod. to Mixed
- gg channel supressed for increasing number of photons in $t\bar{t}$ production
- Conclusions also hold in lepton + jet top-quark decay channel

Differential Fiducial cross section in di-lepton channel

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- NLO QCD corrections up to 65%
- Smaller corrections for $\mu_0 = m_t$
- Scale uncertainties 5% 13%



- NLO QCD corrections ~25% 30%
- Scale uncertainties reduced from $\sim 35\%$ to 5% 8%
- Increasing scale uncertainties in tails for $\mu_0 = m_t$

Differential Fiducial cross section in di-lepton channel



$$H_T^{vis} = p_{T,\ell^+} + p_{T,\ell^-} + p_{T,b_1} + p_{T,b_2} + p_{T,\gamma_1} + p_{T,\gamma_2}$$

- Fixed scale unstable for general dimensionful observables:
 - Large shape distortions
 - NLO scale uncertainties, up to 50%, exceeding LO ones
- \rightarrow Dynamical scale in general required

Integrated Fiducial cross section in lepton + jet channel

 $|m_W - M_{jj}| < 15 \text{ GeV}$

μ_0			LO	NLO	$\mathcal{K} = \sigma_{\rm NLO} / \sigma_{\rm LO}$
$E_T/4$	$\sigma_{ m Full} \ \sigma_{ m Prod.} \ \sigma_{ m Mixed} \ \sigma_{ m Decay}$	[fb] [fb] [fb] [fb]	$\begin{array}{c} 0.24214(4)^{+31.1\%}_{-22.0\%}\\ 0.11960(3)^{+30.5\%}_{-21.6\%}\\ 0.09632(3)^{+31.9\%}_{-22.5\%}\\ 0.026230(9)^{+30.9\%}_{-22.1\%}\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.2973(3)^{+1.9\%}_{-5.4\%} \\ 0.1405(2)^{+2.1\%}_{-4.6\%} \\ 0.1205(2)^{+1.5\%}_{-5.7\%} \\ 0.03629(7)^{+3.3\%}_{-7.7\%} \end{array}$	1.23 1.17 1.25 1.38

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- NLO corrections $\sim 23\%$, scale uncertainties reduced from $\sim 31\%$ to $\sim 5\%$
- Prod. increased from 40% (di-lepton) to 48% (lepton + jet) because of by additional cut

$$\sigma_{\text{Full}}^{\text{NLO}}(\epsilon_{\gamma} = 0.5) = 0.2832(7) \text{ fb}$$

$$\sum_{i} E_{T i} \Theta(R - R_{\gamma i}) \le \epsilon_{\gamma} E_{T \gamma} \left(\frac{1 - \cos(R)}{1 - \cos(R_{\gamma j})}\right)^{n}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{Full}}^{\text{NLO}}(E_{T \gamma} \epsilon_{\gamma} = 10 \text{ GeV}) = 0.2666(8) \text{ fb}$$

 Significant deviations (5% – 10%) between different input parameters in Smooth photon isolation prescription

Integrated Fiducial cross section in lepton + jet channel





- Large NLO QCD corrections of ~140% for $Q_{\rm cut} \to \infty$ caused by hard radiation in production stage
- NLO QCD corrections drastically reduced by additional $|m_W M_{jj}| < Q_{cut}$

Differential Fiducial cross section in lepton + jet channel



- Huge NLO QCD corrections caused by hard jets in the production stage
- Scale uncertainties in tails ~50%



- LO spectrum limited by finite W boson mass $p_{T,j_2,max} \sim m_W / \Delta R_{jj} \sim 203 \text{ GeV}$
- Scale uncertainties in tails ~50%

Complete NLO predictions for $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$ in di-lepton channel

		σ_i [fb]	Ratio to LO_1
LO_1	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^6)$	$0.15928(3)^{+31.3\%}_{-22.1\%}$	1.00
LO_2	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^1 \alpha^7)$	$0.0003798(2)^{+25.8\%}_{-19.2\%}$	+0.24%
LO_3	${\cal O}(lpha_s^0 lpha^8)$	$0.0010991(2)^{+10.6\%}_{-13.1\%}$	+0.69%
NLO ₁	${\cal O}(lpha_s^3 lpha^6)$	+0.0110(2)	+6.89%
NLO_2	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^7)$	-0.00233(2)	-1.46%
NLO_3	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^1 \alpha^8)$	+0.000619(1)	+0.39%
NLO_4	${\cal O}(lpha_s^0 lpha^9)$	-0.0000166(2)	-0.01%
LO		$0.16076(3)^{+30.9\%}_{-21.9\%}$	1.0093
$\rm NLO_{QCD}$		$0.1703(2)^{+1.9\%}_{-6.2\%}$	1.0690
$\mathrm{NLO}_{\mathrm{prd}}$		$0.1694(2)^{+1.7\%}_{-5.9\%}$	1.0637
NLO		$0.1700(2)^{+1.8\%}_{-6.0\%}$	1.0674
			Stremmer, Worek '24



- Subleading LO contributions ~1%
- NLO corrections dominated by NLO₁
- Subleading NLO corrections ~1%

- $NLO_{prd} = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3 + NLO_1 + NLO_{2,prd} + NLO_{3,prd} + NLO_{4,prd}$
- No photon radiation and higer-order corrections in top-quark decays in subleading NLO contributions

Complete NLO predictions for pp $\rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$ in di-lepton channel



- Subleading NLO corrections as large as 10% due to EW Sudakov logarithms in NLO_2
- Accidental cancellations between NLO₂ and NLO₃
- Negligible differences between $\rm NLO_{prd}$ and $\rm NLO$ of less than 2%