

# From partons to jets and back

## Simulating QCD interactions at highest energies

Stefan Höche

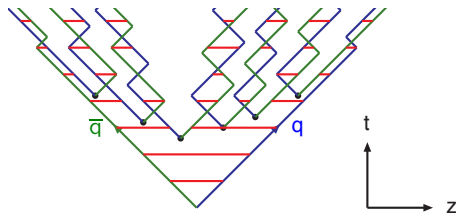
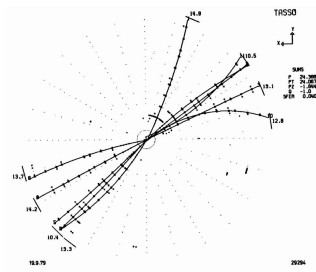
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

50 Years of Quantum Chromodynamics

UCLA, 09/14/2023

# QCD simulations before PETRA

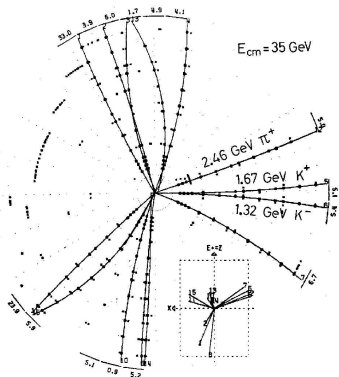
[Andersson,Gustafson,Ingelman,Sjöstrand] Phys.Rept.97(1983)31



- Lund string model:  $\sim$  like rubber band that is pulled apart and breaks into pieces, or like a magnet broken into smaller pieces.
- Complete description of 2-jet events in  $e^+e^- \rightarrow$  hadrons



# The gluon changes everything



22.9.80

Neutrino '79: Event 13177 makes history

Image credit: DESY, P. Duinker

# The gluon changes everything

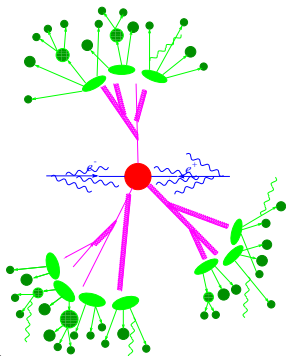
[Marchesini,Webber] Nucl.Phys.B238(1984)1, [Webber] Nucl.Phys.B238(1984)492  
[Andersson,Gustafson,Ingelman,Sjöstrand] Phys.Rept.97(1983)31

- Short distance interactions
  - Signal process
  - QCD radiative corrections
- Long-distance interactions
  - Hadronization
  - Particle decays

## Divide and Conquer

- Quantity of interest: Interaction rate
- Convolution of short & long distance physics

$$\sigma_{ee \rightarrow h+X} = \sum_{i \in \{q,g\}} \int dx \underbrace{\hat{\sigma}_{ee \rightarrow i+X}(x, \mu_F^2)}_{\text{short distance}} \underbrace{D_i^{(h)}(x, \mu_F^2)}_{\text{long distance}}$$



# Forty years and many discoveries later ...

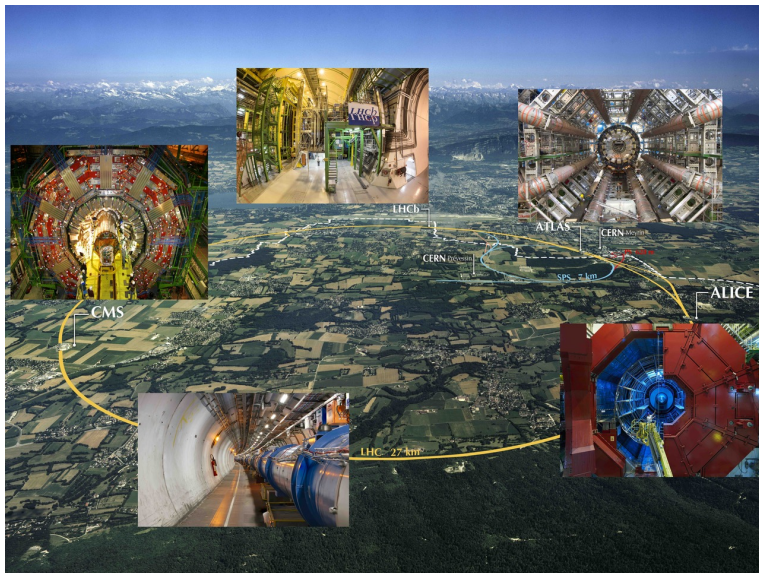
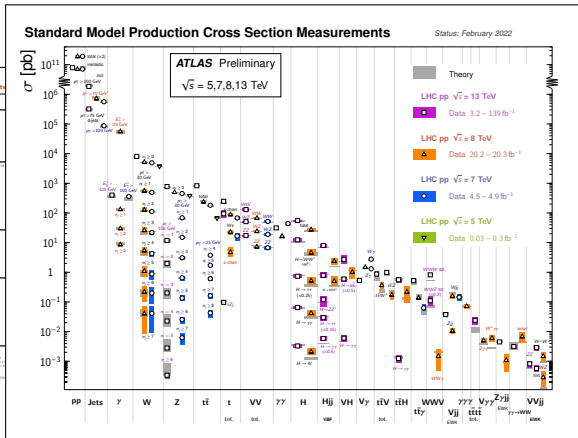
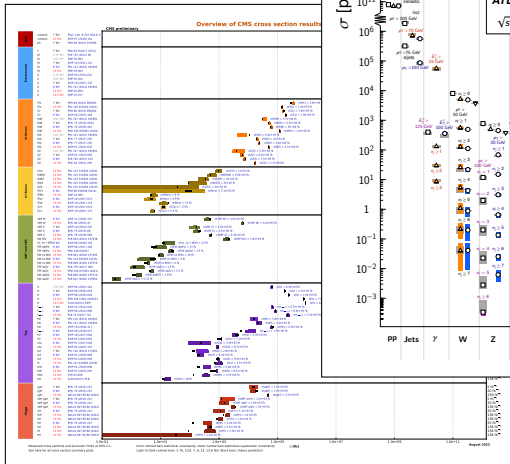


Image credit: CERN

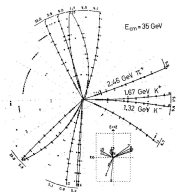
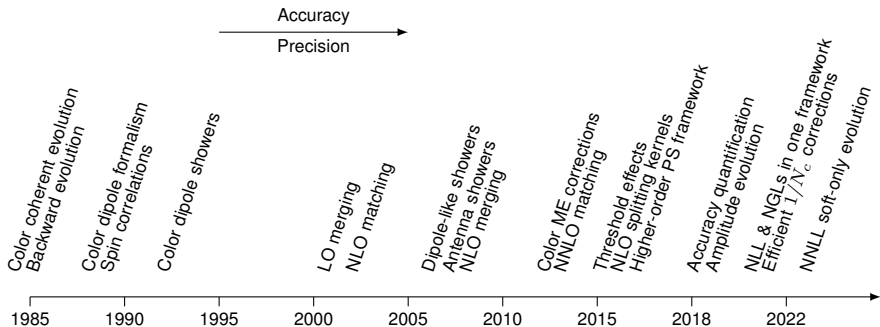
# ... it's all about jets



[ATLAS] <https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/AtlasPublic/StandardModelPublicResults>

[CMS] <https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/CMSPublic/PhysicsResultsCombined>

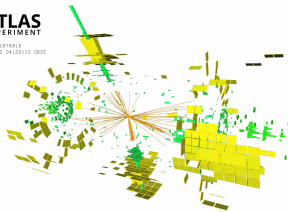
# So we need to simulate jets ...



$\sqrt{s} \times 500$   
→  
 $e^+e^-$  vs.  $pp$

ATLAS  
EXPERIMENT

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2010-09-27 04:00:10 CDD

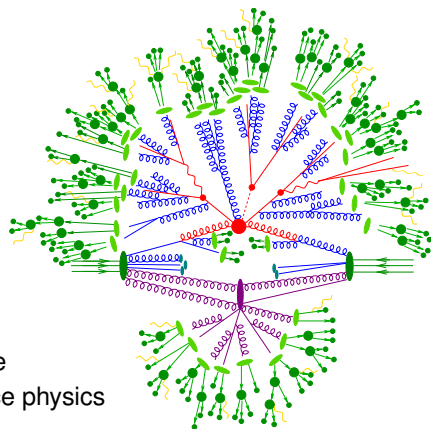




# ... lots of jets

[Buckley et al.] arXiv:1101.2599  
[Campbell et al.] arXiv:2203.11110

- Short distance interactions
  - Signal process
  - Radiative corrections
- Long-distance interactions
  - Hadronization
  - Particle decays



## Divide and Conquer

- Quantity of interest: Interaction rate
- Convolution of short & long distance physics

$$\sigma_{p_1 p_2 \rightarrow X} = \sum_{i,j \in \{q,g\}} \int dx_1 dx_2 \underbrace{f_{p_1,i}(x_1, \mu_F^2) f_{p_2,j}(x_2, \mu_F^2)}_{\text{long distance}} \underbrace{\hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow X}(x_1 x_2, \mu_F^2)}_{\text{short distance}}$$

# The connection to pQCD theory

- $\hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow n}(\mu_F^2) \rightarrow$  Collinearly factorized fixed-order result at N<sup>x</sup>LO

Implemented in fully differential form to be maximally useful

Tree level:  $d\Phi_n B_n$

- Automated ME generators + phase-space integrators

1-Loop level:  $d\Phi_n \left( B_n + V_n + \sum C + \sum I_n \right) + d\Phi_{n+1} \left( R_n - \sum S_n \right)$

- Automated loop ME generators + integral libraries + IR subtraction

2-Loop level: It depends ...

- Individual solutions based on SCET,  $q_T$  subtraction, P2B

- $f_i(x, \mu_F^2) \rightarrow$  Collinearly factorized PDF at N<sup>y</sup>LO

Evaluated at  $O(1\text{GeV}^2)$  and expanded into a series above  $1\text{GeV}^2$

$$\text{DGLAP: } \frac{dx x f_a(x, t)}{d \ln t} = \sum_{b=q,g} \int_0^1 d\tau \int_0^1 dz \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} [z P_{ab}(z)]_+ \tau f_b(\tau, t) \delta(x - \tau z)$$

- Parton showers, dipole showers, antenna showers, ...

$$\text{Matching: } d\Phi_n \frac{S_n}{B_n} \leftrightarrow \frac{dt}{t} dz \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{ab}(z)$$

- MC@NLO, POWHEG, Geneva, MINNLO<sub>PS</sub>, ...

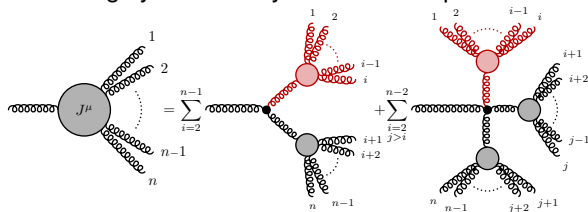
# Fixed-order calculations – LO

[Berends,Giele] NPB306(1988)759

- Tree-level QCD a solved problem, but textbook methods unwieldy

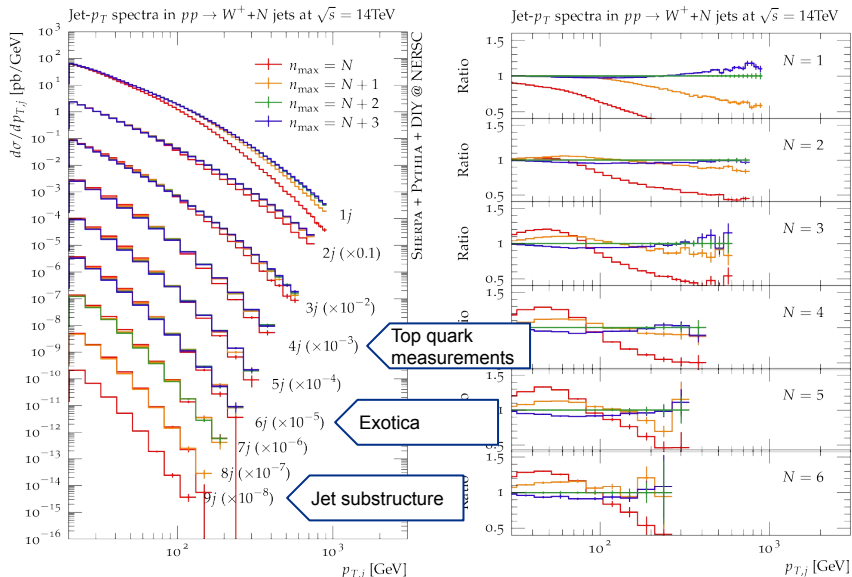
| # of gluons | Min. # diagrams | Max. # diagrams |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 4           | 3               | 4               |
| 5           | 10              | 25              |
| 6           | 36              | 220             |
| 7           | 133             | 2485            |
| 8           | 501             | 34300           |
| 9           | 1991            | 559405          |
| 10          | 7335            | 10525900        |
| 11          | 28199           | 224449225       |
| 12          | 108281          | 5348843500      |

- Dynamic programming eliminates common subexpressions  
→ Factorial scaling systematically reduced to exponential



# Fixed-order calculations – LO

[Prestel,Schulz,SH] arXiv:1905.05120



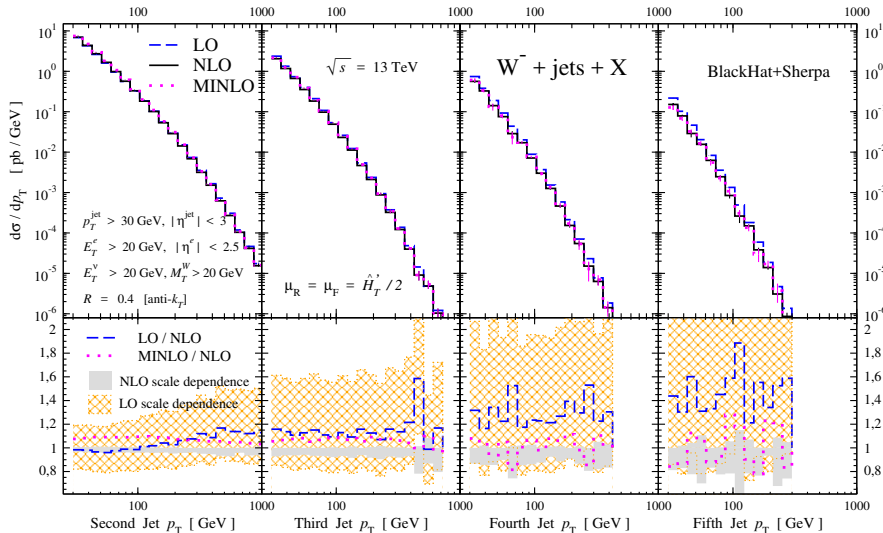
# Fixed-order calculations – NLO

- General methods for regularization of IR singularities developed  $\sim 25$  years ago [Frixione,Kunszt,Signer] hep-ph/9512328 [Catani,Seymour] hep-ph/9605323, [Catani,Dittmaier,Seymour,Trocsanyi] hep-ph/0201036
- Generalized unitarity, advanced tensor reduction, reduction at integrand level led to industrialization of 1-loop computations  $\sim 2010$  [Bern,Dixon,Dunbar,Kosower] NPB435(1995)59, NPB513(1998)3 [Denner,Dittmaier] hep-ph/0509141, [Binoth,Guillet,Pilon,Heinrich,Schubert] hep-ph/0504267 [Ossola,Papadopoulos,Pittau] hep-ph/0609007, arXiv:0802.1876, [Forde] arxiv:0704.1835 [Ellis,Giele,Kunszt] arXiv:0708.2398, [Giele,Kunszt,Melnikov] arXiv:0801.2237, . . .
- Many highly challenging calculations as a community effort  
↗ talks by R. Boughezal, T. Gehrmann
  - Automated tree-like components and phase space: HELAC, Herwig7, MadGraph5, MUNICH, Sherpa, Whizard, ...
  - Automated virtual corrections: BlackHat, Golem95, GoSam, HelacNLO, MadGolem, MadLoop, NJet, OpenLoops, Recola, Rocket, ...
  - Complete, dedicated codes: MCFM, NLOJet++, ...

# Fixed-order calculations – NLO

[Bern,Dixon,Febres Cordero,Ita,Kosower,Maître,Ozeren,SH] arXiv:1304.1253

[Anger,Febres-Cordero,Maître,SH] arXiv:1712.08621



# Fixed-order calculations – Computing bottlenecks

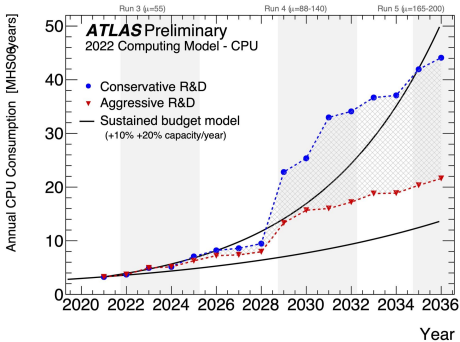
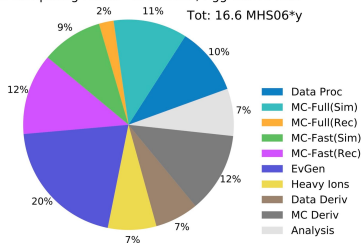
[HSF Generator WG] arXiv:2004.13687, arXiv:2109.14938

- Event generation will consume significant fraction of resources at LHC soon
- Need to scrutinize both generator usage and underlying algorithms
- Dedicated effort: HEP Software Foundation Generator Working Group

ATLAS Preliminary

2022 Computing Model - CPU: 2031, Aggressive R&D

Tot: 16.6 MHS06\*y

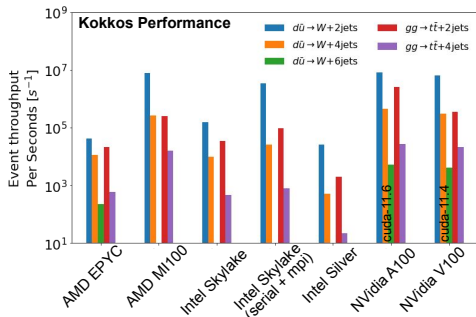
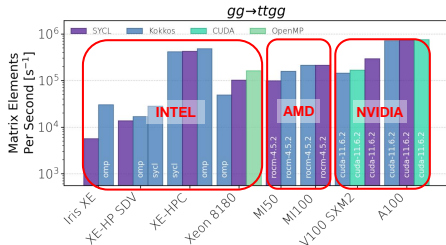


[ATLAS] CERN-LHCC-2022-005 / LHCC-G-182

# Fixed-order calculations – Performance portability

[A. Valassi et al., ACAT '22]

- Must keep up with rapidly developing & changing computing architectures
- Portability frameworks SYCL, Kokkos can target most modern platforms



[R. Wang et al., ACAT'22]

- Choice of algorithm must take theoretical, experimental & CS requirements into account
- New theory developments often useful for performance



# Fixed-order calculations – AI-assisted integration

- Neural Networks used in many different ways to improve event generation  
[Butter et al.] arXiv:2203.07460

## Surrogate model techniques

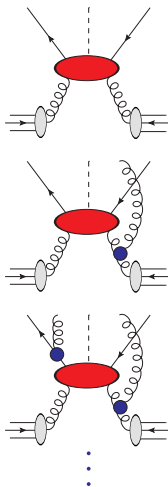
- Hit or miss w/ NN estimate
  - An order of magnitude faster
  - Insufficient training leads to large uncertainties, but no bias
  - Needs existing sample to train
- Generate events with GANs
  - Orders of magnitude faster
  - Needs existing sample to train
  - Bias if not trained right

## Variabe transformation techniques

- Normalizing flows
  - Learn integrand to improve importance sampling
  - Insufficient training leads to large uncertainties, but no bias
  - Events generated from scratch no pre-existing sample required
  - Resulting events still need to be unweighted

# Parton showers, dipole showers and all that

Add any number of partons



$$\sigma_{\text{incl}} \left[ \Delta(t_c, Q^2) \right]$$

$$+ \int_{t_c}^{Q^2} \frac{dt}{t} \int dz \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P(z) \Delta(t, Q^2)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \left( \int_{t_c}^{Q^2} \frac{dt}{t} \int dz \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P(z) \right)^2 \Delta(t, Q^2)$$

+ ...

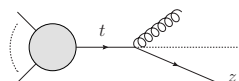
# Radiative corrections as a branching process

[Marchesini, Webber] NPB238(1984)1

[Sjöstrand] PLB157(1985)321

- Probability for parton splitting in collinear limit

$$\lambda \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sigma_n} \int_t^{Q^2} d\bar{t} \frac{d\sigma_{n+1}}{d\bar{t}} \approx \sum_{\text{jets}} \int_t^{Q^2} \frac{d\bar{t}}{\bar{t}} \int dz \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P(z)$$



- Perturbative unitarity leads to a Markov process

- Assume bosonic final state  $\rightarrow$  naive probability for  $n$  emissions

$$P_{\text{naive}}(n, \lambda) = \frac{\lambda^n}{n!}$$

- Probability conservation implies no-emission probability

$$P(n, \lambda) = \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} \exp\{-\lambda\} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(n, \lambda) = 1$$

$$\Delta(t, Q^2) := \exp\{-\lambda\} \rightarrow \text{Sudakov factor}$$

- Practical challenges

- Four-momentum conservation
- On-shell conditions
- Color conservation

# Soft radiation and matching to collinear result

[Marchesini, Webber] NPB238(1984)1, NPB310(1988)461

- Eikonal can be written in terms of energies and angular “radiator” function

$$J_\mu J^\mu \rightarrow \frac{2p_i p_k}{(p_i p_j)(p_j p_k)} = \frac{W_{ik,j}}{E_j^2}, \quad W_{ik,j} = \frac{1 - \cos \theta_{ik}}{(1 - \cos \theta_{ij})(1 - \cos \theta_{kj})}$$

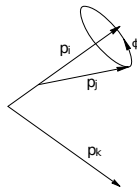
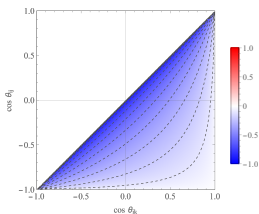
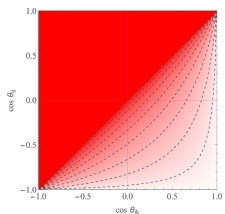
- Collinearly divergent as  $\theta_{ij} \rightarrow 0$  and as  $\theta_{kj} \rightarrow 0$

→ Expose individual singularities via  $W_{ik,j} = \tilde{W}_{ik,j}^i + \tilde{W}_{ki,j}^k$

$$\tilde{W}_{ik,j}^i = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{1 - \cos \theta_{ik}}{(1 - \cos \theta_{ij})(1 - \cos \theta_{kj})} + \frac{1}{1 - \cos \theta_{ij}} - \frac{1}{1 - \cos \theta_{kj}} \right]$$

- Azimuthal averaging yields famous angular ordering

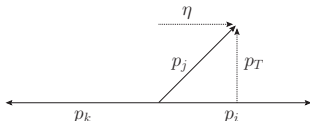
- Differential radiation pattern outside parent dipole more intricate  
Positive & negative contributions sum to zero



# Dual description and the Lund plane

[Gustafson] PLB175(1986)453

- Compute everything in center-of-mass frame of fast partons



- Simple expressions for transverse momentum and rapidity

$$p_T^2 = \frac{2(p_i p_j)(p_k p_j)}{p_i p_k}, \quad \eta = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{p_i p_j}{p_k p_j}$$

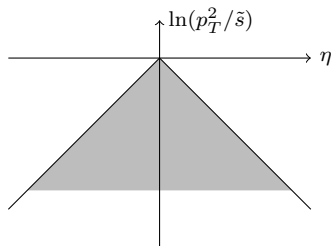
- In momentum conserving parton branching  $(\tilde{p}_i, \tilde{p}_k) \rightarrow (p_i, p_k, p_j)$

$$-\ln \tilde{s}_{ik}/p_T^2 \leq 2\eta \leq \ln \tilde{s}_{ik}/p_T^2$$

Differential phase-space element  $\propto dp_T^2 d\eta$

- Visualized best in Lund plane

- Gluon emission probability is constant
- QCD evolution creates fractal structure
- Recent revival in experimental analyses



# Angular ordered parton showers

[Marchesini,Webber] NPB238(1984)1, ...

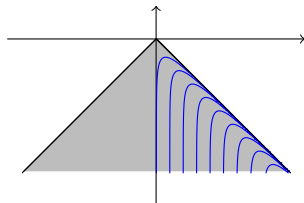
## ■ Differential radiation probability

$$d\mathcal{P} = d\Phi_{+1} |M|^2 \approx \frac{d\tilde{q}^2}{\tilde{q}^2} dz \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{\tilde{ij}i}(z)$$

- Ordering parameter  $\tilde{q}^2 = \frac{2p_i p_j}{z(1-z)} \approx 4E_{ij}^2 \sin^2 \frac{\theta_{ij}}{2}$

## ■ Lund plane filled from center to edges

- Random walk in  $p_T^2$
- Color factors correct for observables insensitive to azimuthal correlations
- Small dead zone at  $\ln(p_T^2/\bar{s}) \approx 0$



## ■ Usually disfavored due to dead zones

Not suitable to resum non-global logarithms

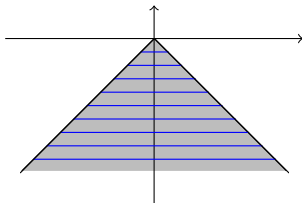
# Dipole & antenna showers

[Gustafson, Pettersson] NPB306(1988)746, ...

- Differential radiation probability for the dipole

$$d\mathcal{P} = d\Phi_{+1} |M|^2 \approx \frac{dp_T^2}{p_T^2} d\eta \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \tilde{P}_{ij}(z)$$

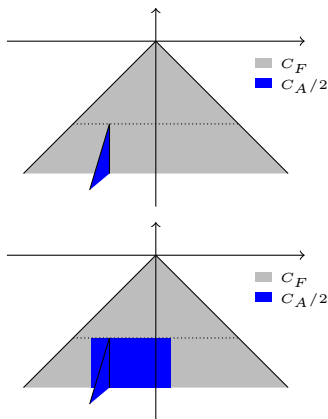
- Ordering parameter  $p_T^2$
- Lund plane filled from top to bottom
  - Random walk in  $\eta$
  - Color factors in CFFE approximation
  - Pairs of partons evolve simultaneously
  - No dead zones
- Solves problem of dead zones  
Known issues with color coherence



# Getting color charges right on average

[Gustafsson] NPB392(1993)251

- In angular ordered showers angles are measured in the event center-of-mass frame  
→ coherence effects modeled by angular ordering variable agree on average with matrix element
- In dipole-like showers angles effectively measured in center-of-mass frame of emitting color dipole  
→ angular coherence not reflected by setting average QCD charge
- Emission off “back plane” in Lund diagram should be associated with  $C_F$ , but is partly associated with  $C_A/2$  in dipole showers

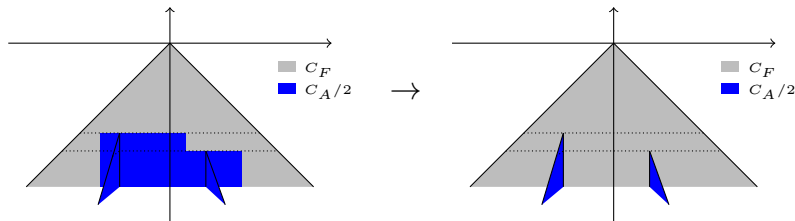




# Getting color charges right on average

[Gustafsson] NPB392(1993)251

- Analyze rapidity of gluon emission in event center-of-mass frame
- Sectorize phase space, use color charge of parton closest to soft gluon



- Alternatively reweight to double-soft ME [Giele,Kosower,Skands] arXiv:1102.2126  
Algorithm scales as  $N^2$  but can be simplified while retaining accuracy  
→ Nested double-soft corrections in rapidity segments of parent dipole  
[Hamilton,Medves,Salam,Scyboz,Soyez] arXiv:2011.10054
- Starting with 4 emissions, there be “color monsters”  
[Dokshitzer,Troian,Khoze] SJNP47(1988)881, YF47(1988)1384
  - Quartic Casimir operators (easy)
  - Non-factorizable contributions (hard)

# The problem of on-shell momentum mapping

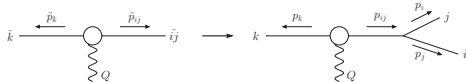
[Dasgupta,Dreyer,Hamilton,Monni,Salam] arXiv:1805.09327

- Subtle problems in standard dipole, dipole-like and antenna mapping

$$p_k^\mu = \left(1 - \frac{p_{ij}^2}{2\tilde{p}_{ij}\tilde{p}_k}\right) \tilde{p}_k^\mu$$

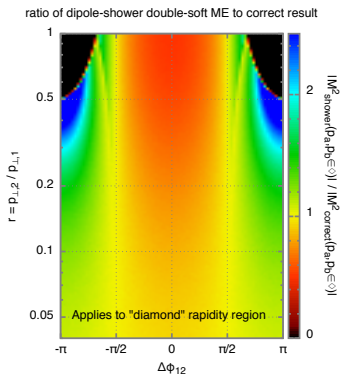
$$p_i^\mu = \tilde{z} \tilde{p}_{ij}^\mu + (1 - \tilde{z}) \frac{p_{ij}^2}{2\tilde{p}_{ij}\tilde{p}_k} \tilde{p}_k^\mu + k_\perp^\mu$$

$$p_j^\mu = (1 - \tilde{z}) \tilde{p}_{ij}^\mu + \tilde{z} \frac{p_{ij}^2}{2\tilde{p}_{ij}\tilde{p}_k} \tilde{p}_k^\mu - k_\perp^\mu$$



- Induces accidental angular correlations  
Spoils agreement w/ analytic resummation
- Good recoil schemes preserve logarithmic accuracy, but also impact phase-space coverage, especially for angular ordered evolution

[Bewick,Ferrario-Ravasio,Richardson,Seymour] arXiv:1904.11866

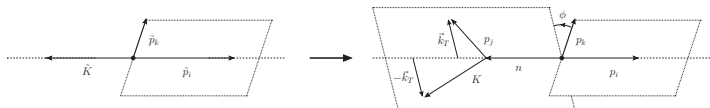


# NLL compatible on-shell momentum mappings

- Partitioning of antenna radiation pattern paired with suitable choice of evolution variable [Dasgupta,Dreyer,Hamilton,Monni,Salam,Soyez] arXiv:2002.11114

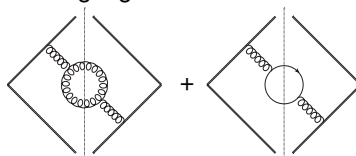
$$k_T = \rho v e^{\beta|\bar{\eta}|} \quad \rho = \left( \frac{s_i s_j}{Q^2 s_{ij}} \right)^{\beta/2}$$

- Global transverse recoil, global longitudinal recoil gives analytic proof of NLL correctness for dedicated observables (thrust, multiplicity) [Forshaw,Holguin,Plätzer] arXiv:2003.06400
- Local transverse recoil, global longitudinal recoil allows analytic proof of NLL correctness, based on kinematics in  $s \rightarrow \infty$  limit [Nagy,Soper] arXiv:2011.04773
- Keeping emitter along original direction & recoil vector arbitrary allows to match analytic resummation and prove NLL precision analytically [Herren,Krauss,Reichelt,Schönherr,SH] arXiv:2208.06057



# Approximate soft NLO corrections

- Leading higher-order corrections to soft-gluon effects from collinear decay


$$+ \dots = \sum_{b=q,g} j_{ij,\mu}(p_{12}) j_{ij,\nu}(p_{12}) \frac{P_{gb}^{\mu\nu}(z_1)}{s_{12}}$$

- Add semi-classical contributions  $\rightarrow$  2-loop cusp anomalous dimension

$$\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}^{(2)} = \left( \frac{67}{18} - \frac{\pi^2}{6} \right) C_A - \frac{10}{9} T_R n_f$$

- Soft splitting function with estimated higher-order corrections

$$P_{aa}(z) \xrightarrow{z \rightarrow 1} \frac{2C_a}{1-z} \left[ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu^2)}{2\pi} \left( -\beta_0 \ln \frac{k_T^2}{\mu^2} + \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}^{(2)} \right) \right]$$

- Origin of CMW scheme [Catani, Marchesini, Webber] NPB349(1991)635  
De-facto standard in generator community for past  $\sim 30$  years

# Complete soft NLO corrections at leading color

- Need a benchmark for parton shower to reproduce  
→ soft-gluon resummed expression of Drell-Yan or DIS cross section

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma(z, Q^2)}{d \log Q^2} = \mathcal{H}(Q^2) \widetilde{W}(z, Q^2)$$

RGE governed by Wilson loop  $\widetilde{W}$  ( $Q(1-z)$  - total soft gluon energy)

- Non-abelian exponentiation theorem allows to expand as

$$\widetilde{W} = \exp \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} w^{(i)} \right\}$$

- One-loop result [Marchesini, Korchemsky] PLB313(1993)433, hep-ph/9210281

$$w^{(1)} = C_F \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{2\pi} \left[ \ln^2 L + \frac{\pi^2}{6} \right], \quad L = -\frac{b_+ b_-}{b_0^2}, \quad b_0 = \frac{2 e^{-\gamma_E}}{\mu}$$

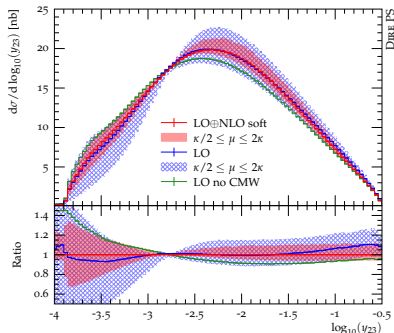
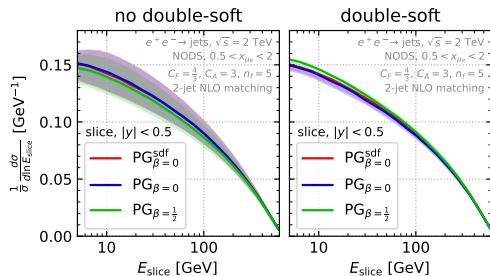
- Two-loop result [Belitsky] hep-ph/9808389

$$w^{(2)} = C_F \frac{\alpha_s^2(\mu)}{(2\pi)^2} \left[ -\frac{\beta_0}{6} \ln^3 L + \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}^{(2)} \ln^2 L + 2 \ln L \left( \Gamma_{\text{soft}}^{(2)} + \frac{\pi^2}{12} \beta_0 \right) + \dots \right]$$

# Complete soft NLO corrections at leading color

[Ferrario Ravasio et al.] arXiv:2307.11142

[Dulat,Prestel,SH] arXiv:1805.03757



- Implementation in publicly available MC (Pythia)
- Uncertainty bands no longer just estimates, but perturbative QCD predictions for the first time
- Good agreement with CMW (leading soft effects)

# Collinear higher-order corrections

[Prestel,SH] arXiv:1705.00742

- DGLAP evolution kernels obtained from factorization

$$D_{ji}^{(0)}(z, \mu) = \delta_{ij} \delta(1-z) \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \text{Diagram 1} / \text{Diagram 2}$$

Diagram 1: A grey circle with two external lines on the left and one line on the right labeled  $j$  with momentum  $z$ .

Diagram 2: A grey circle with two external lines on the left and one line on the right labeled  $i$  with momentum  $1$ .

$$D_{ji}^{(1)}(z, \mu) = -\frac{1}{\epsilon} P_{ji}^{(0)}(z) \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \text{Diagram 3} / \text{Diagram 4}$$

Diagram 3: A grey circle with two external lines on the left and one line on the right labeled  $i$  with momentum  $1$ . A second grey circle is attached to the right side of the first, with a wavy line between them. This second circle has two external lines on the left and one line on the right labeled  $j$  with momentum  $z$ .

Diagram 4: A grey circle with two external lines on the left and one line on the right labeled  $i$  with momentum  $1$ .

$$D_{ji}^{(2)}(z, \mu) = -\frac{1}{2\epsilon} P_{ji}^{(1)}(z) + \frac{\beta_0}{4\epsilon^2} P_{ji}^{(0)}(z) + \frac{1}{2\epsilon^2} \int_z^1 \frac{dx}{x} P_{jk}^{(0)}(x) P_{ki}^{(0)}(z/x)$$

$$\leftrightarrow \left( \text{Diagram 5} + \text{Diagram 6} \right) / \text{Diagram 4}$$

Diagram 5: Similar to Diagram 3, but the wavy line is attached to the left side of the second grey circle.

Diagram 6: Similar to Diagram 3, but the wavy line is attached to the top of the second grey circle.

Diagram 4: A grey circle with two external lines on the left and one line on the right labeled  $i$  with momentum  $1$ .

- $P_{ji}^{(n)}$  not probabilities, but sum rules hold ( $\leftrightarrow$  unitarity constraint)  
In particular: Momentum sum rule identical between LO & NLO
- Can perform the NLO computation of  $P_{ji}^{(1)}$  fully differentially using modified dipole subtraction, e.g.

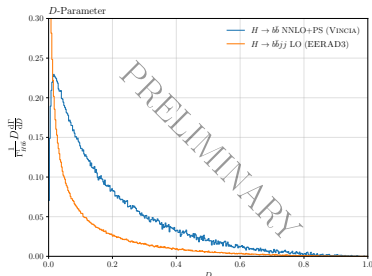
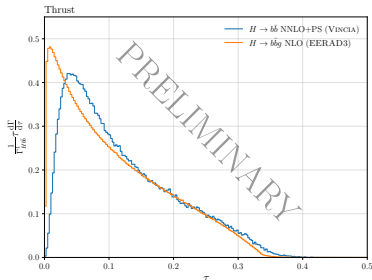
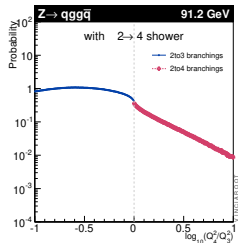
$$P_{qq'}^{(1)}(z) = C_{qq'}(z) + I_{qq'}(z) + \int d\Phi_{+1} \left[ R_{qq'}(z, \Phi_{+1}) - S_{qq'}(z, \Phi_{+1}) \right]$$

# Combined soft & collinear higher-order corrections

[Hartgring,Laenen,Skands] arXiv:1303.4974

[Li,Skands] arXiv:1611.00013, [Campbell,Li,Preuss,Skands,SH] arXiv:2106.10987

- ME-corrected showers predict correct 2-emission pattern  $\rightarrow$  possibility to extend to full NLO by including virtual corrections
- Can be turned into complete NLO-accurate emission generator by filling missing phase space with direct  $2 \rightarrow 4$  transitions (hard corrections)





# Parton showers beyond leading color accuracy

## ■ Systematic expansion of shower operator

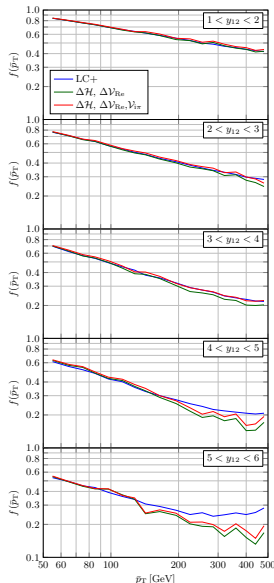
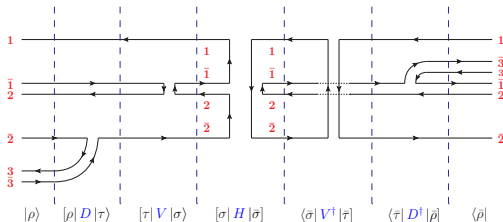
[Nagy,Soper] arXiv:1902.02105, arXiv:1905.07176

- Simplify soft insertion operators  $T_i T_k \rightarrow T_i^2$  but retain bra/ket states exactly
- Extend to higher number of terms in  $1/N_c$  through additional operators

## ■ Amplitude based evolution using color flow decomposition

[DeAngelis,Forshaw,Plätzer] arXiv:2007.09648

- Systematic expansion in  $1/N_c$  terms related to number of swaps of color lines



# Heavy flavor production & evolution

[ATLAS] arXiv:1712.08895

- Example  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$ : MC single largest source of uncertainty on signal strength

- Despite intense study of HF production

- Fixed order, NLL, FONLL

[Cacciari,Frixione,Houdeau,Mangano,Nason,Ridolfi,...]  
arXiv:1205.6344, hep-ph/0312132, hep-ph/9801375,  
NPB373(1992)295

- In context of particle-level Monte Carlo

[Norrbin,Sjöstrand], hep-ph/0010012,  
[Gieseke,Stephens,Webber] hep-ph/0310083,  
[Schumann,Krauss] arXiv:0709.1027,  
[Gehrmann-deRidder,Ritzmann,Skands] arXiv:1108.6172

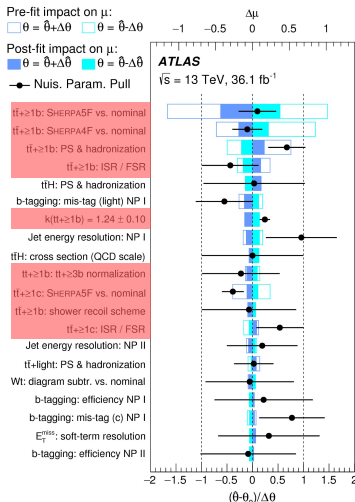
- Recurring themes, not special to  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$

- PS uncertainties hard to judge and reduce

[Cascioli,Maierhöfer,Moretti,Pozzorini,Siegert] arXiv:1309.591

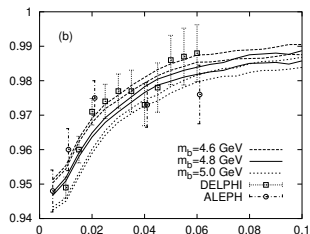
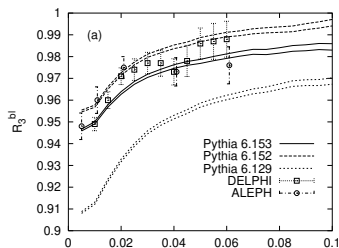
- Matching needed for inclusive predictions

[Krause,Siegert,SH] arXiv:1904.09382,  
[Ferencz,Katzy,Krause,Pollard,Siegert,SH]



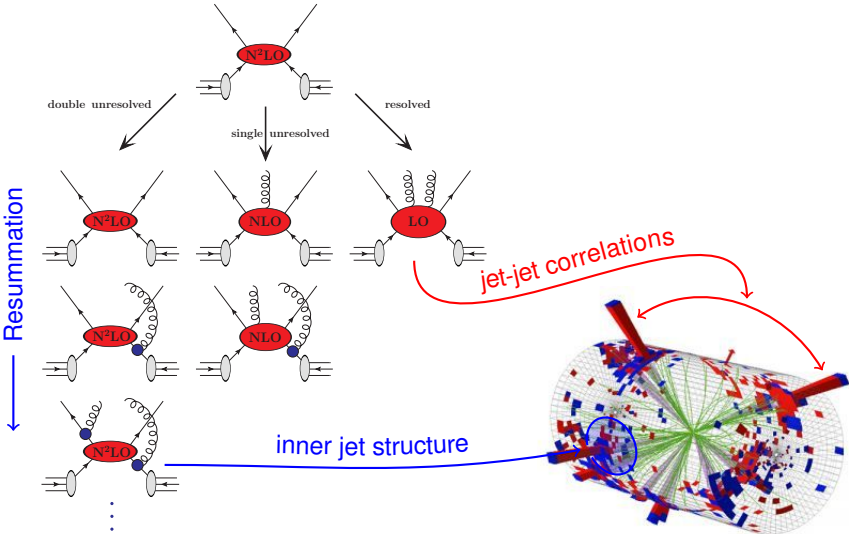
# Heavy flavor production & evolution

- Both high-energy limit and threshold region should be described well, but
- Infrared finite prediction for  $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$  leaves splitting functions somewhat arbitrary
- Soft gluon emission off light/heavy quarks associated with  $\alpha_s(k_T^2)$ , i.e. “correct” scale is  $k_T^2$  [Amati et al.] NPB173(1980)429, but no such argument to set scale for  $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$   
→ HQ production rate not very stable w.r.t. parton shower variations
- A number of different prescriptions, e.g.  
[Norrbin,Sjöstrand], hep-ph/0010012,  
[Gieseke,Stephens,Webber] hep-ph/0310083,  
[Schumann,Krauss] arXiv:0709.1027,  
[Gehrmann-deRidder,Ritzmann,Skands] arXiv:1108.6172,  
[Assi,SH] arXiv:2307.00728  
varying success in describing expt. data



[Norrbin,Sjöstrand] hep-ph/0010021

# Matching fixed-order calculations to parton showers



# Matching fixed-order calculations to parton showers

Two major techniques to match NLO calculations and parton showers

## **Additive** (MC@NLO-like)

[Frixione, Webber] hep-ph/0204244

- Use parton-shower splitting kernel as an NLO subtraction term
- Multiply LO event weight by Born-local K-factor including integrated subtraction term and virtual corrections
- Add hard remainder function consisting of subtracted real-emission correction

## **Multiplicative** (POWHEG-like)

[Nason] hep-ph/0409146

- Use matrix-element corrections to replace parton-shower splitting kernel by full real-emission matrix element in first shower branching
- Multiply LO event weight by Born-local NLO K-factor (integrated over real corrections that can be mapped to Born according to PS kinematics)

# Basis of matching – Modified subtraction

[Frixione, Webber] hep-ph/0204244

- NLO calculation of observable  $O$

$$\langle O \rangle = \int d\Phi_B \{B + \tilde{V}\} O(\Phi_B) + \int d\Phi_R R O(\Phi_R)$$

- Parton-shower result until first emission (  $\Delta^{(K)}(t) = \exp \left\{ - \int_t d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \right\}$  )

$$\langle O \rangle = \int d\Phi_B B \left[ \Delta^{(K)}(t_c) O(\Phi_B) + \int_{t_c} d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \Delta^{(K)}(t(\Phi_1)) O(\Phi_R) \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)} \int d\Phi_B B \left\{ 1 - \int_{t_c} d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1) \right\} O(\Phi_B) + \int_{t_c} d\Phi_B d\Phi_1 B K(\Phi_1) O(\Phi_R)$$

- Overlap removal at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$  must be accurate for all IRC safe observables  
First solution in MC@NLO method, others are variants of this scheme

$$\langle O \rangle = \int d\Phi_B \bar{B}^{(K)} \mathcal{F}_{MC}^{(0)}(\mu_Q^2, O) + \int d\Phi_R H^{(K)} \mathcal{F}_{MC}^{(1)}(t(\Phi_R), O)$$

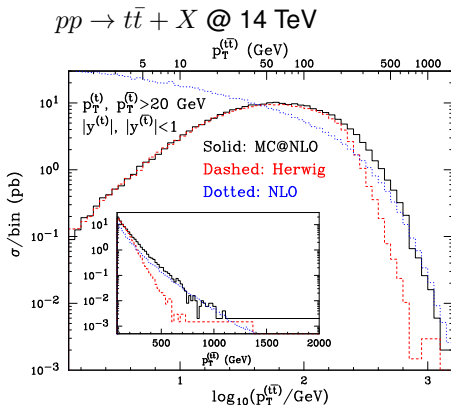
MC events fall into categories, Standard and  $\mathbb{H}$ ard

$$\mathbb{S} \rightarrow \bar{B}^{(K)} = B + \tilde{V} + B \int d\Phi_1 K(\Phi_1)$$

$$\mathbb{H} \rightarrow H^{(K)} = R - B(\Phi_B(\Phi_R)) K(\Phi_1)$$

# Fixed-order matching – NLO

[Nason,Webber] arXiv:1202.1251

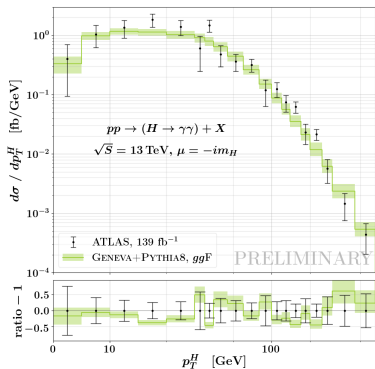


- Matching interpolates smoothly between fixed-order & resummation

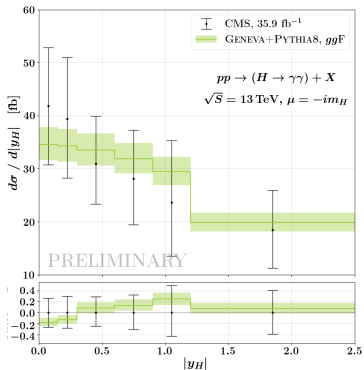
# Fixed-order matching – N<sup>2</sup>LO

[Alioli et al.] arXiv:2301.11875

- In most cases excellent description of experimental data



- $p_{T,H}$  and ATLAS data



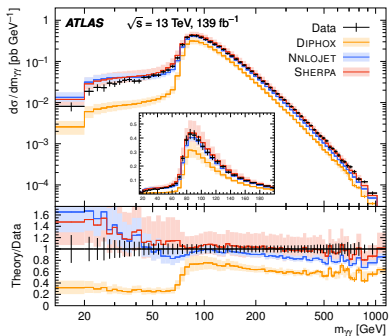
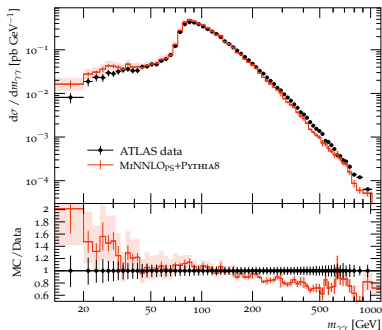
- $y_H$  and CMS data



# Fixed-order matching – N<sup>2</sup>LO

[Gavardi,Oleari,Re] arXiv:2204.12602

- Good description even of challenging multi-scale dynamics like in  $\gamma\gamma + X$



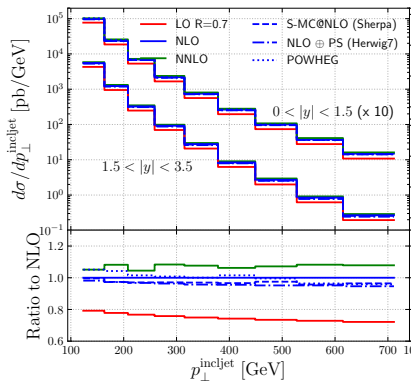
- Comparison between ATLAS data and MINNLO<sub>PS</sub>

- Previous experimental analysis [ATLAS] arXiv:2107.09330

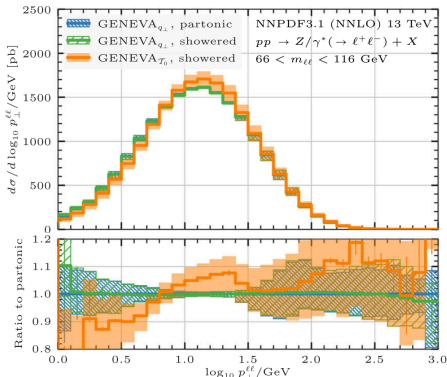
# Residual uncertainties – N<sup>2</sup>LO matching

[Bellm et al.] arXiv:1903.12563

[D. Napoletano] arXiv:2212.10489, [Alioli et al.] arXiv:2102.08390

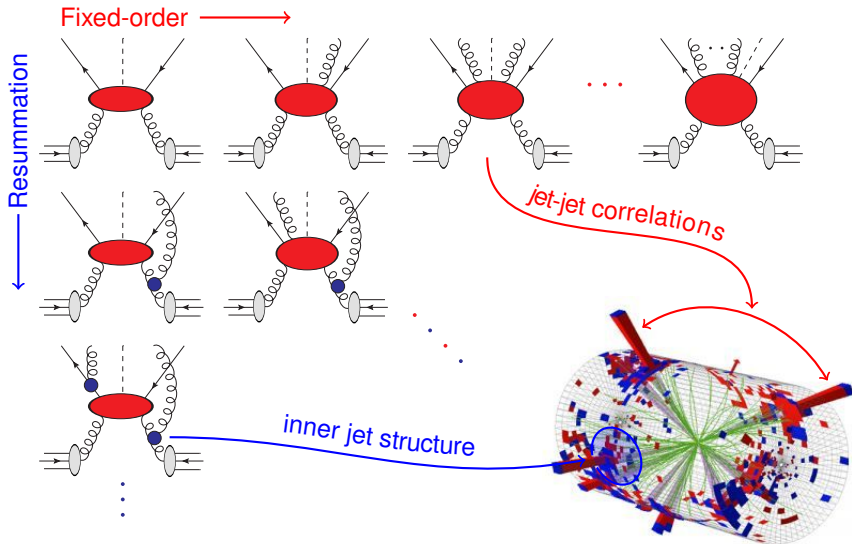


- NLO predictions for  $pp \rightarrow jj$
- Choice of parton shower



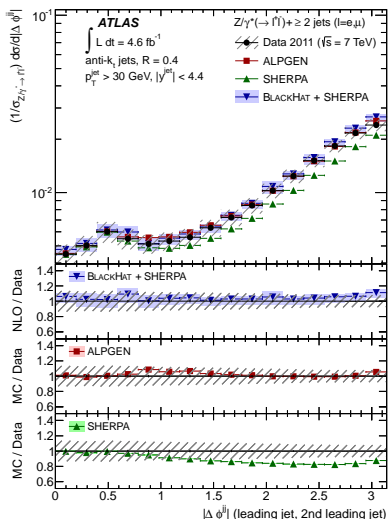
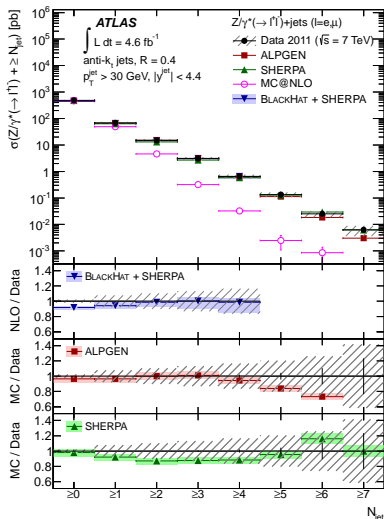
- N<sup>2</sup>LO predictions for  $pp \rightarrow Z$
- Choice of resolution variable

# Merging calculations of varying jet multiplicity



# QCD prediction of multi-jet dynamics

[ATLAS] arXiv:1304.7098



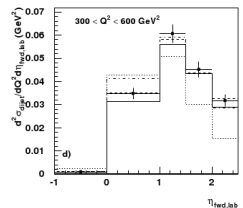
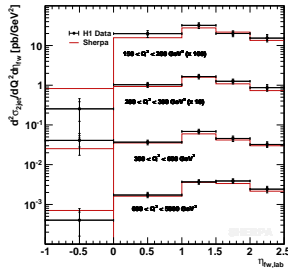
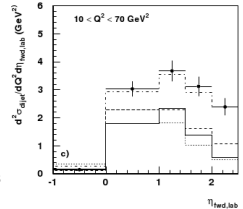
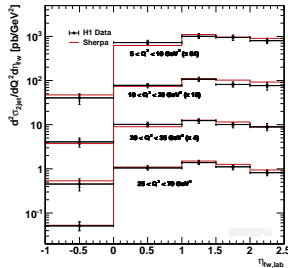
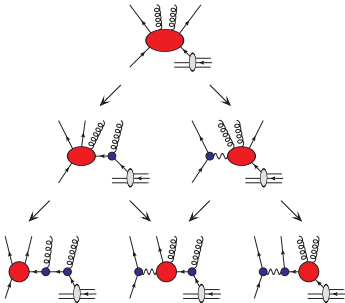
■ Drell-Yan lepton pair plus multi-jet production at the LHC

# Lessons from HERA

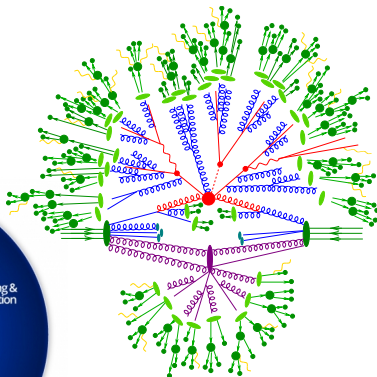
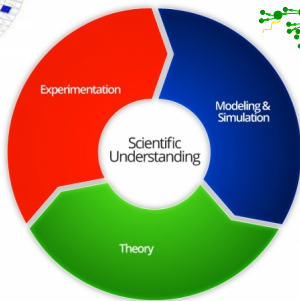
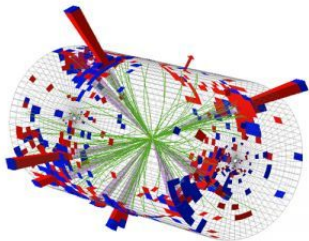
[Carli,Gehrmann,SH] arXiv:0912.3715

Simulation often too focused  
on resonant contributions

Need be inclusive to describe  
DIS, low-mass Drell-Yan or  
photon / diphoton production



# Half a century of teamwork ...



$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + i\bar{\Psi}\not{D}\Psi + \text{h.c.}$$

## ... and we're only getting started

- Fixed-order calculations
  - Higher-order matrix element calculations
  - Higher-order fully differential IR subtraction
  - Computing improvements
- Parton showers
  - Improved logarithmic precision
  - Higher-order splitting kernels
  - Interplay with analytic resummation
- Matching and merging
  - The role of unitarity constraints
  - Interplay with analytic resummation
  - Fully differential higher-order matching

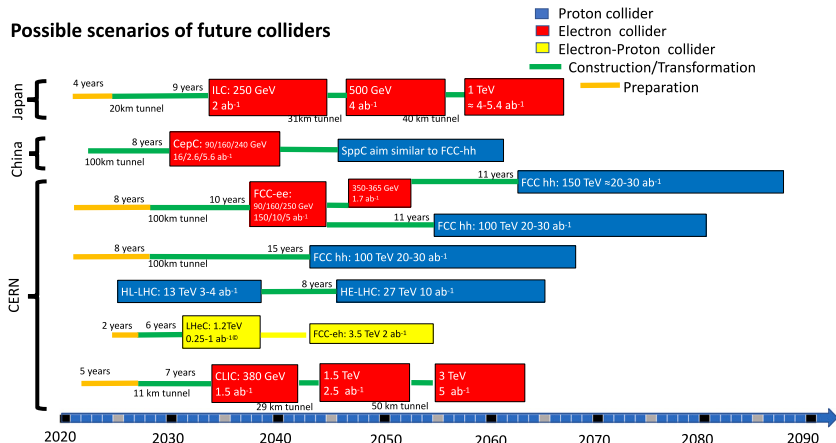
Apologies for only selecting a small subset of topics

For a comprehensive overview: [\[Campbell et al.\] arXiv:2203.11110](#)

# Whatever the future may hold ...

[Gray] Rev.Phys. 6 (2021) 100053

## Possible scenarios of future colliders





... nothing goes without QCD

