



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH "DEMOKRITOS"
INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR AND PARTICLE PHYSICS



H.F.R.I.
Hellenic Foundation for
Research & Innovation

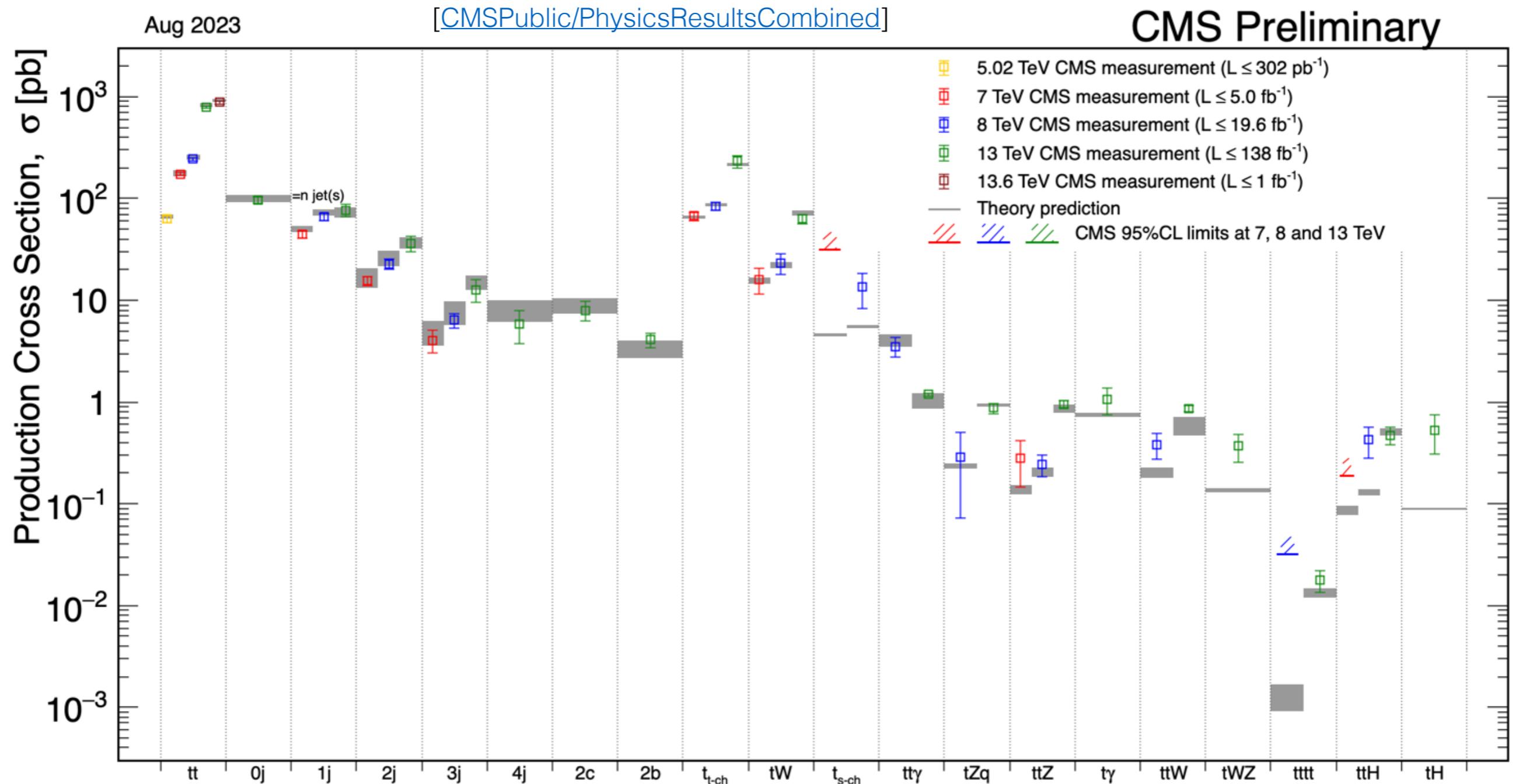
State of the art predictions for on-/off-shell top-pair production and decays

Giuseppe Bevilacqua
NCSR “Demokritos”

Standard Model at the LHC 2024

Rome, 10 May 2024

$t\bar{t}$ and associated production channels at the LHC



$t\bar{t}$: theoretical status

$t\bar{t}$ cross section @ LHC

NNLO Prod \times Decay

[Behring, Czakon, Mitov, Papanastasiou, Poncelet '19; Czakon, Mitov, Poncelet '21]

NNLO (+ NNLL)

[Czakon, Fiedler, Mitov '13; Czakon, Heymes, Mitov '16 '17; Czakon, Heymes, Mitov, Pagani, Tsinikos '17; Czakon, Ferroglia, Heymes, Mitov, Pecjak, Scott, Wang, Yang '18; Catani, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli '19 '20; Kidonakis, Guzzi, Tonero '23]

NNLO Prod \times LO Decay \oplus PS

[Mazzitelli, Monni, Nason, Re, Wiesemann, Zanderighi '20 '21]

NLO off-shell

[G.B, Czakon, Van Hameren, Papadopoulos, Worek '11; Denner, Dittmaier, Kallweit, Pozzorini '11,'12; Cascioli, Kallweit, Maierhöfer, Pozzorini '14 Denner, Pellen '18]

NLO off-shell \oplus PS

[Jezo, Lindert, Nason, Oleari, Pozzorini '16; Jezo, Lindert, Pozzorini '23]

Theoretical uncertainties (13 TeV)

NNLO QCD : ~ 5-6%

aN3LO QCD+EW : ~ 3%

[\[Phys.Rev.D 108 \(2023\) 5, 054012\]](#)

Recent progress in associated $t\bar{t} + X$ modelling

- **First NNLO results** → $t\bar{t}H, t\bar{t}W$

Catani, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, Savoini '23

Buonocore, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, Rottoli, Savoini '23

See also talks by
A. Kulesza and
M. Grazzini

- **NNLL resummation** → $t\bar{t}H, t\bar{t}Z, t\bar{t}W, t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$

[Kulesza, van Beekveld, Motyka, Stebel, Theeuwes, Moreno Valero; Broggio, Ferroglia, Frederix, Pagani, Pecjak, Tsinikos, Yang] '17-'22

- **Complete NLO** → $t\bar{t}\gamma, t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma, t\bar{t}W, t\bar{t}Z \dots$

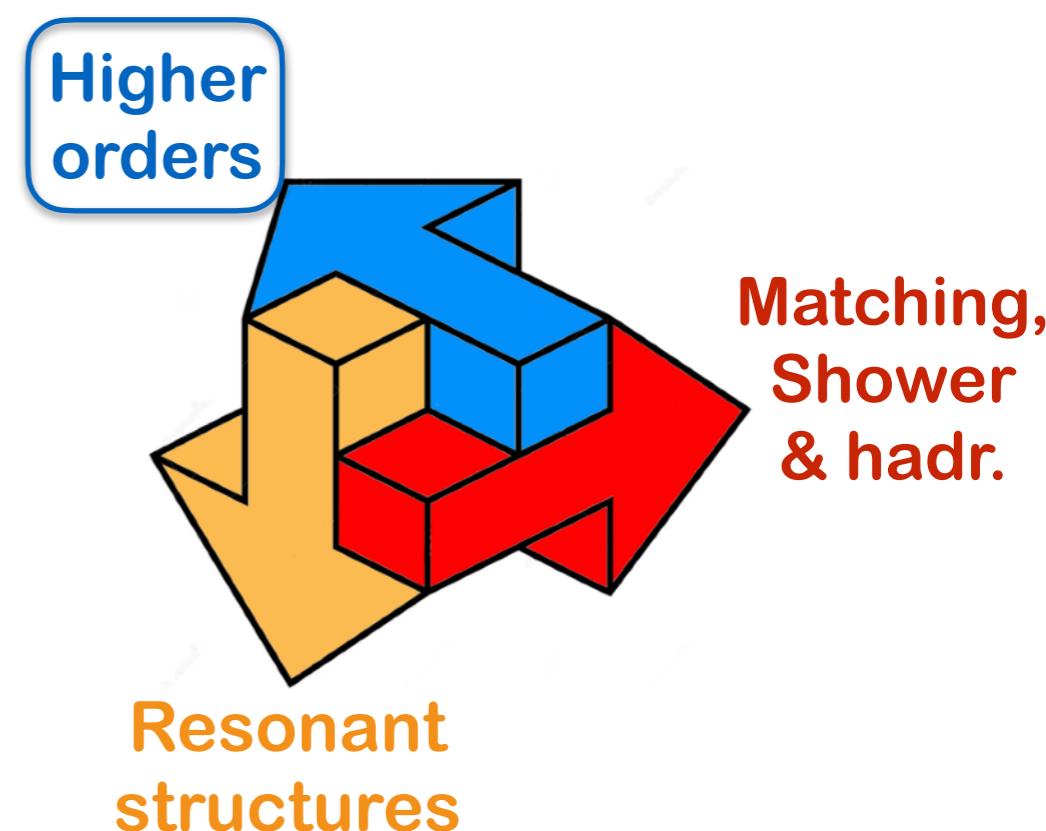
Denner, Pelliccioli '21

Pagani, Shao, Tsinikos, Zaro '21

Denner, Lombardi, Pelliccioli '23

Stremmer, Worek '24

- ↪ • Precise predictions for inclusive production rates
- Impact of subleading perturbative contributions at integrated and differential level

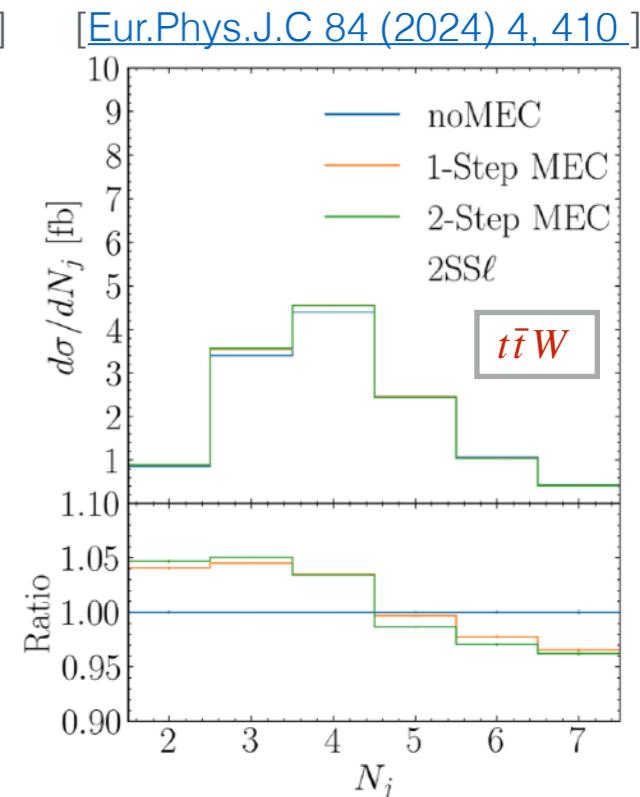
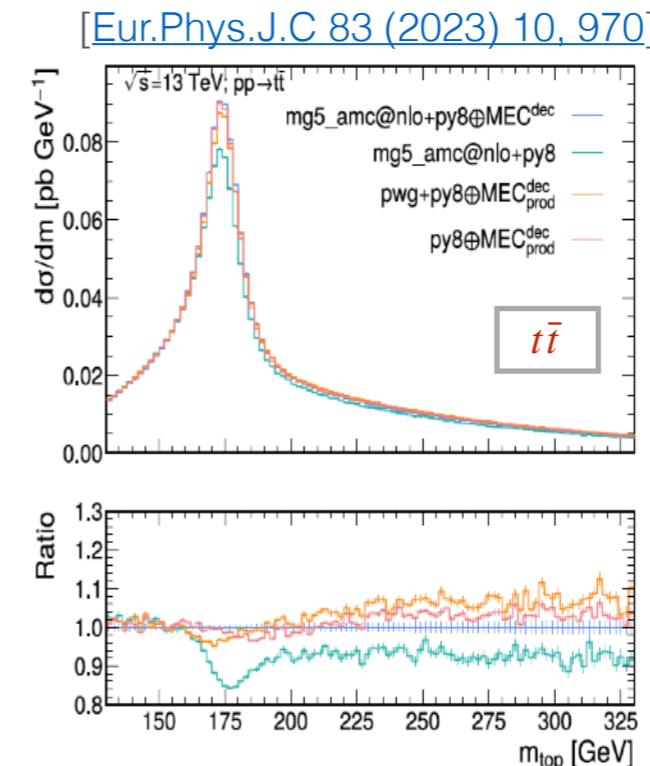


Recent progress in associated $t\bar{t} + X$ modelling

- Matrix element corrections (MEC) to top decays in MC@NLO based simulations

Frixione, Amoroso, Mrenna '23
Frederix, Gellersent, Nasufi '24

- ↪ • Improving hard-recoil effects in radiation off top-quarks

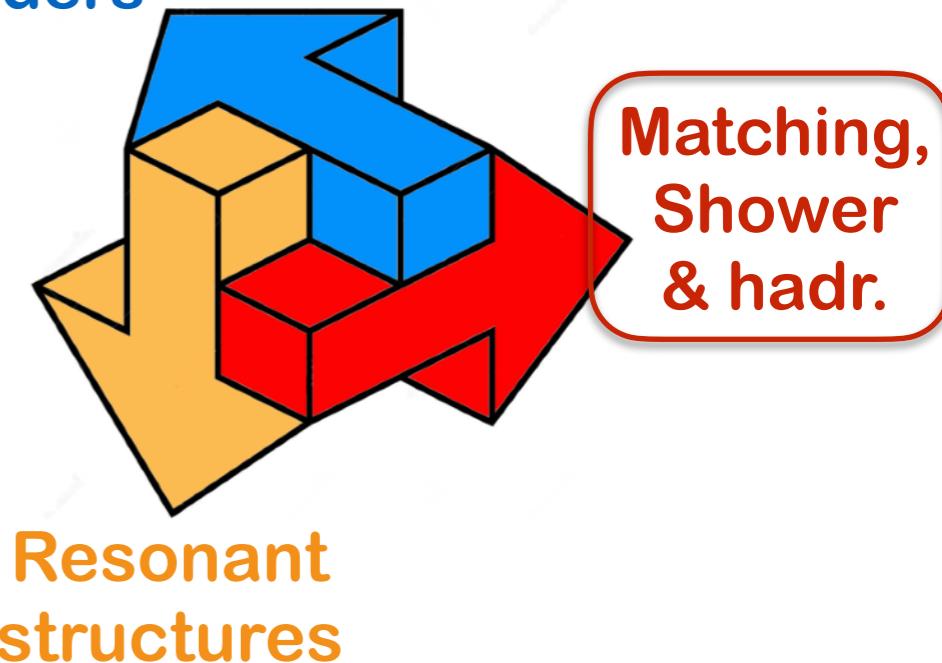


- Improved resonance-aware matching for off-shell $t\bar{t} + tW$ simulations (POWHEG)

Jezo, Lindert, Pozzorini '23

- ↪ • Improving description of single-resonant contributions
- Extending bb4l generator to semi-leptonic channel

Higher orders



Recent progress in associated $t\bar{t} + X$ modelling

Fixed-order NLO

- **Off-shell studies** → $t\bar{t}X (X = \gamma, j, W, Wj, Z, H, b\bar{b})$

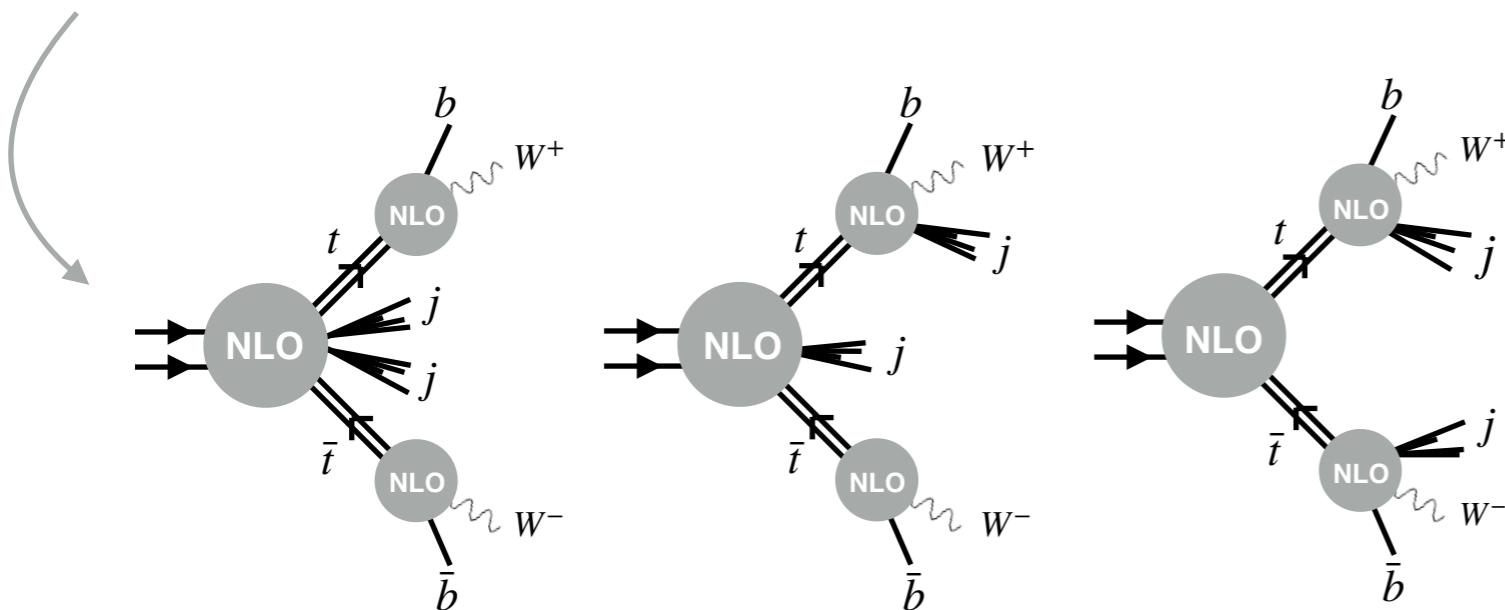
[G.B., Hartanto, Kraus, Worek '15-'16] [G.B., Hartanto, Kraus, Weber, Worek '18-'20] [G.B., Bi, Hartanto, Kraus, Nasufi, Worek '20-'21] [G.B., Bi, Febres Cordero, Hartanto, Kraus, Nasufi, Reina, Worek '22] [G.B., Bi, Hartanto, Kraus, Lupattelli, Worek '21-'23] [Hermann, Worek '21] [Hermann, Stremmer, Worek '22] [Bi, Kraus, Reinartz, Worek '23]
[Denner, Pellen '17] [Denner, Lang, Pellen, Uccirati '17] [Denner, Pelliccioli '20-'21] [Denner, Lang, Pellen '21] [Denner, Lombardi, Pelliccioli '23]

- **On-shell studies (full NWA)** → $t\bar{t}jj, t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma, t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$

G.B., Lupattelli, Stremmer, Worek '23

Stremmer, Worek '23

Dimitrakopoulos, Worek '24



Higher
orders



Matching,
Shower
& hadr.

Recent progress in associated $t\bar{t} + X$ modelling

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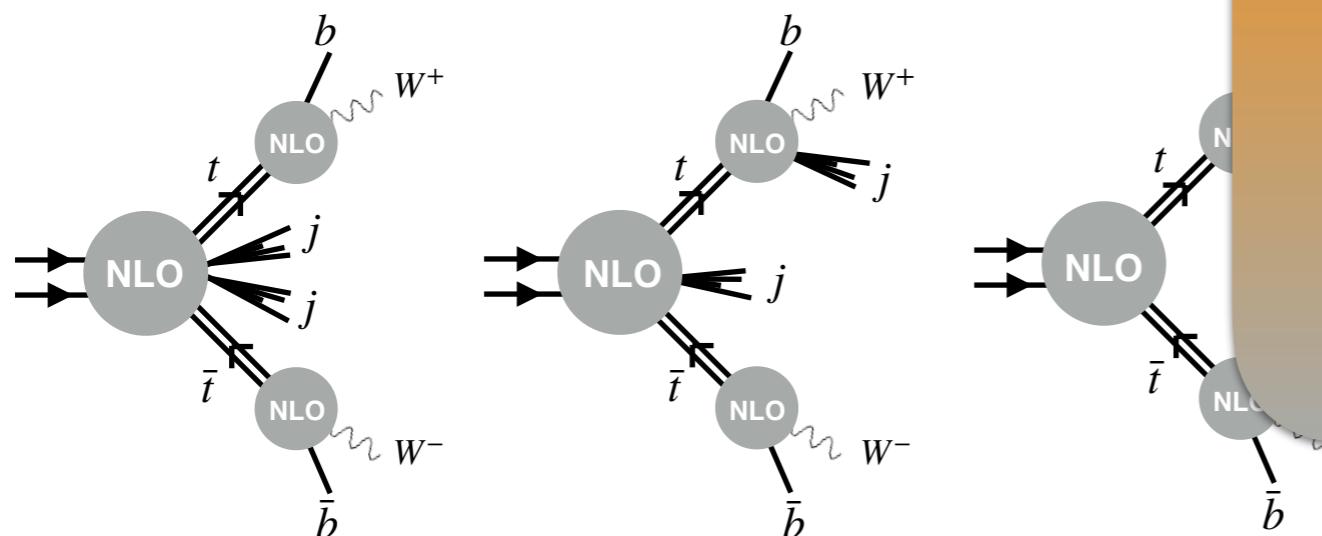
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G.B., Lupattelli, Stremmer, Worek '23

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Disclaimer

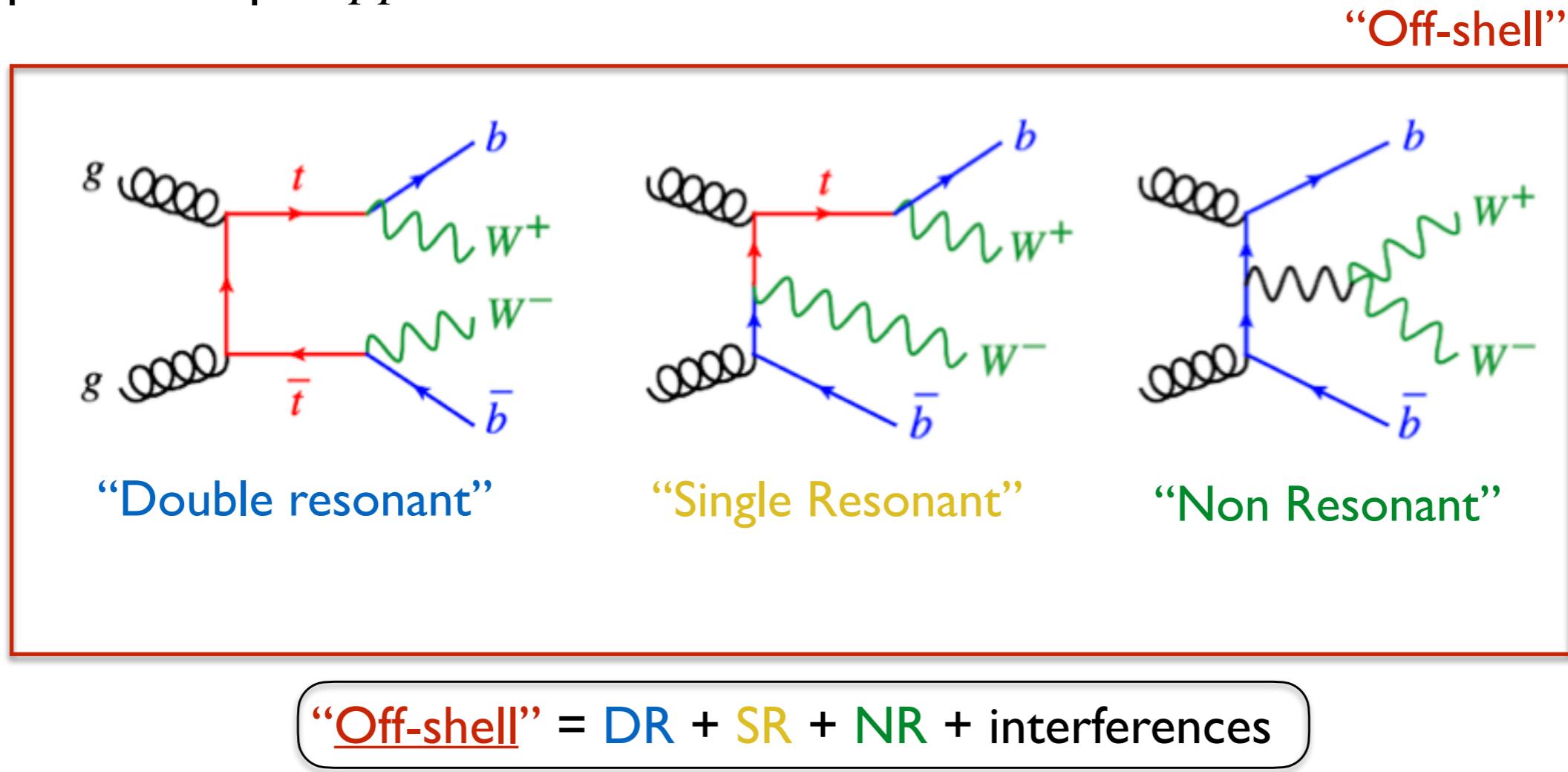
A limited selection of results will be discussed in the following.

Main focus:

- Impact of full off-shell effects
- Complete NLO corrections
- Modelling of resonant structures

Offshell in a nutshell

- Simplest example: $pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^-$

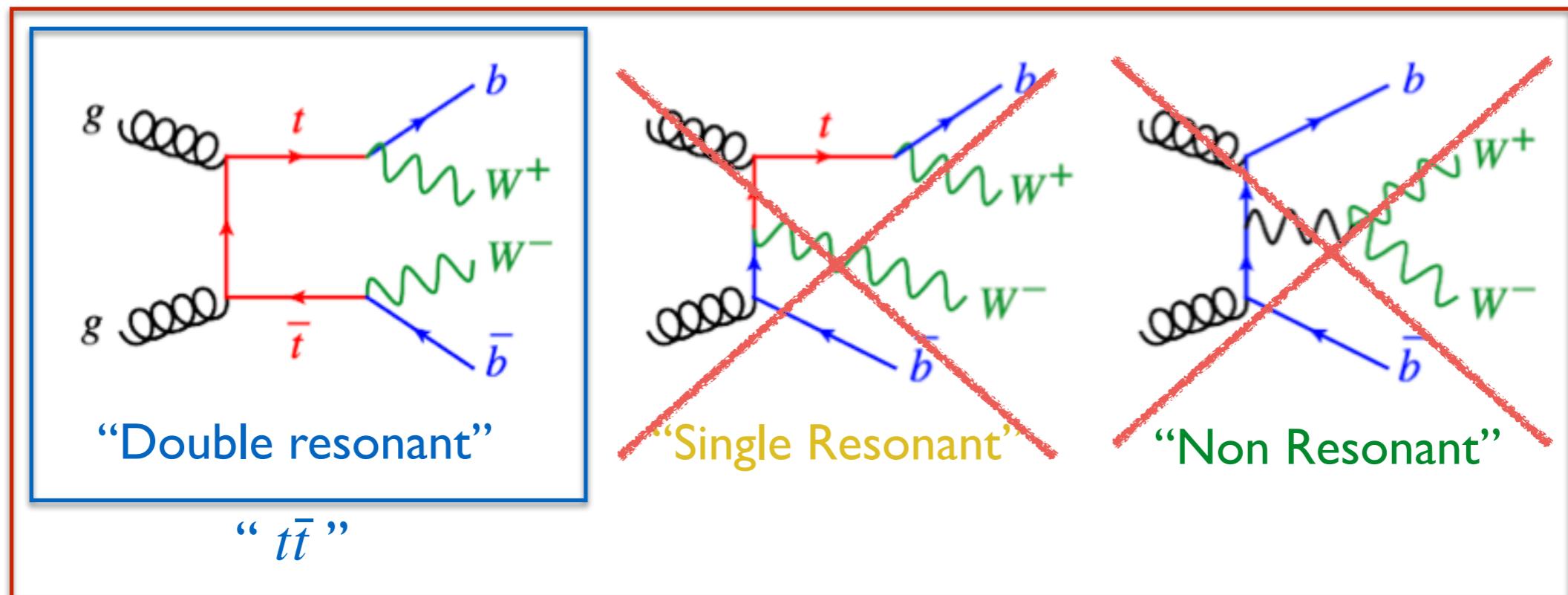


Narrow Width Approximation

- Simplest example: $pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^- \rightarrow \text{NWA}$

$$\Gamma_t/m_t \approx 0.008 \quad \Gamma_W/m_W \approx 0.026$$

“Off-shell”



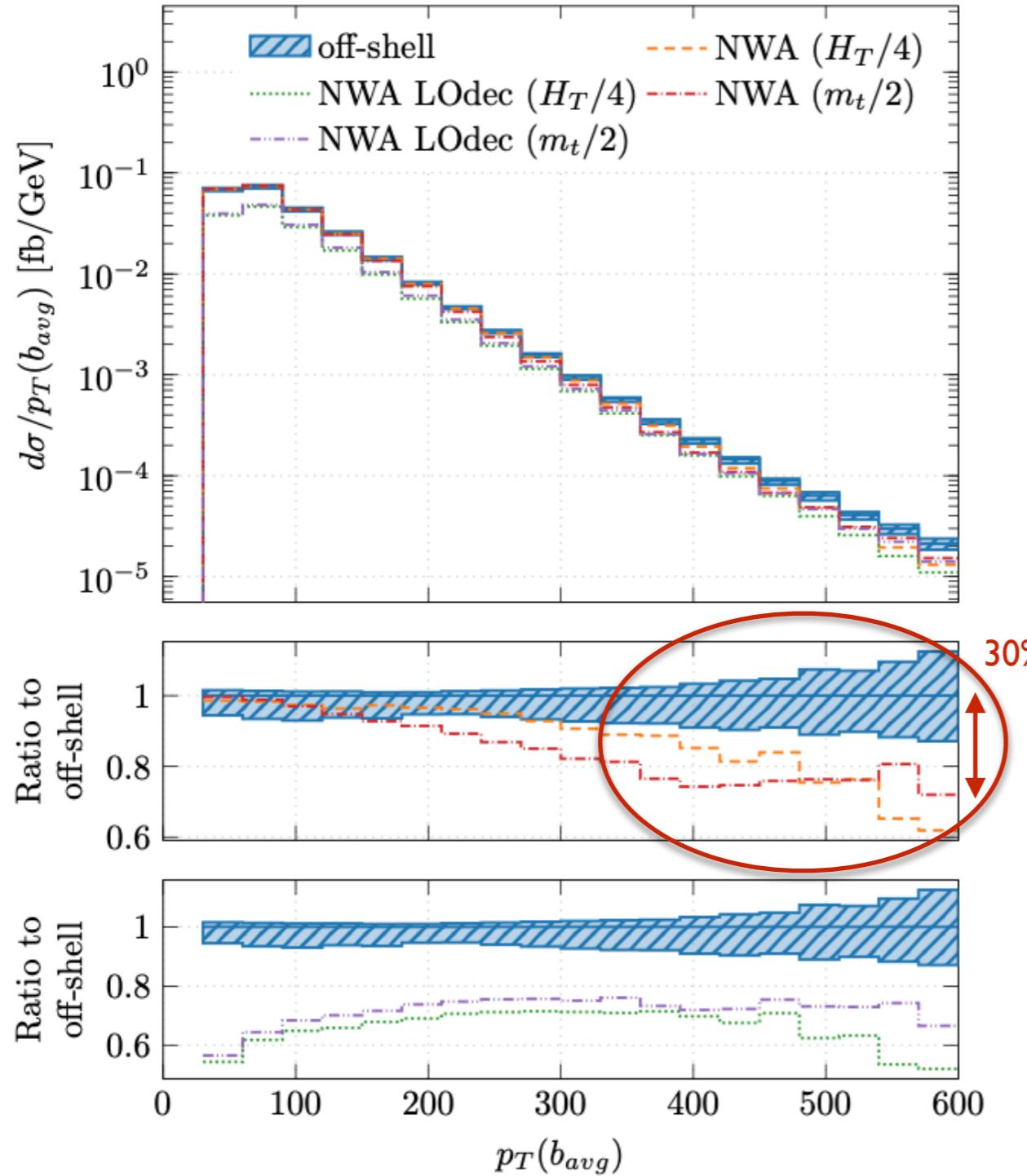
$$\Gamma_t/m_t \rightarrow 0 \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{1}{(p_t^2 - m_t^2)^2 + m_t^2 \Gamma_t^2} \stackrel{\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0}{\sim} \frac{\pi}{m_t \Gamma_t} \delta(p_t^2 - m^2) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\Gamma_t}{m_t}\right)$$

Off-shell effects are suppressed by powers of $\Gamma_t/m_t = \mathcal{O}(1\%)$ for sufficiently inclusive observables \rightarrow not always true differentially

Off-shell effects

$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$ (dilepton)

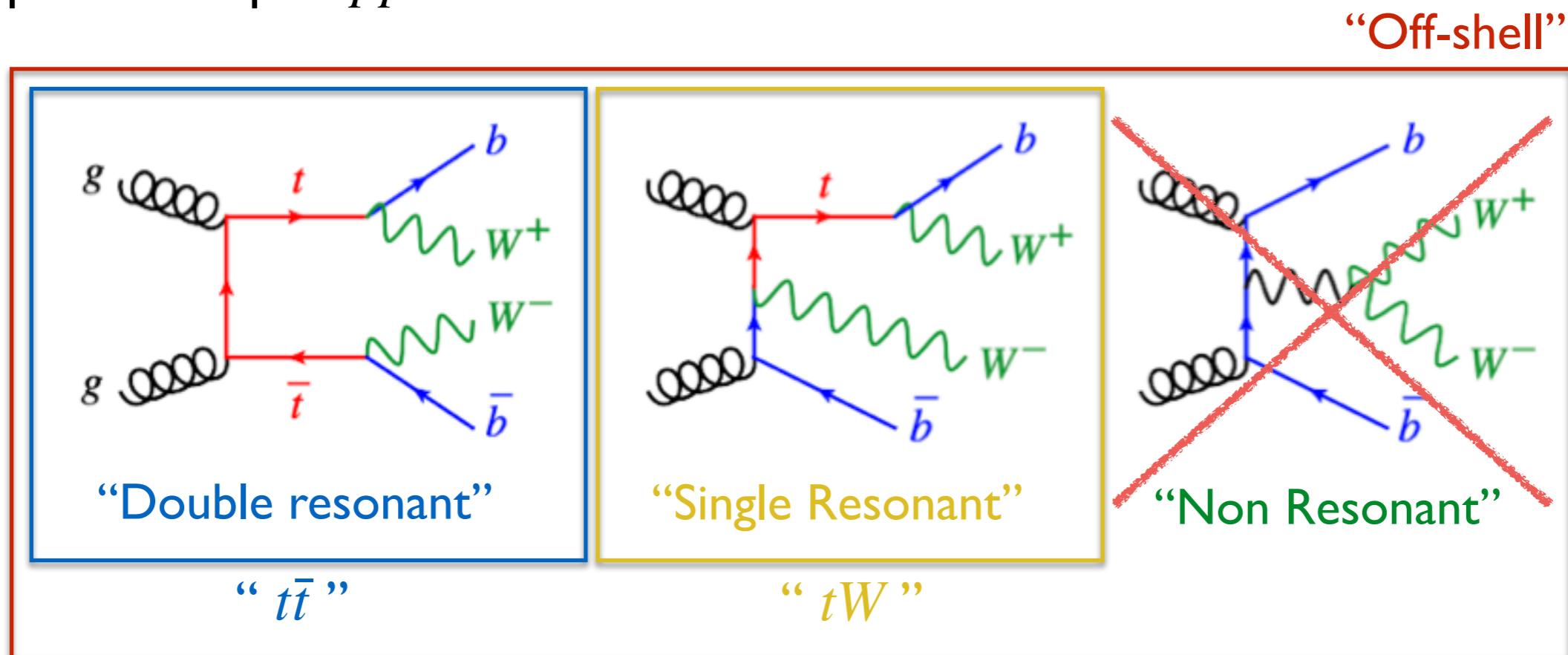


GB, Hartanto, Kraus, Weber and Worek

[JHEP 03 \(2020\) 154](#)

Narrow Width Approximation: $t\bar{t} + tW$

- Simplest example: $pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+W^- \rightarrow \text{NWA}$



$$\Gamma_t/m_t \rightarrow 0$$

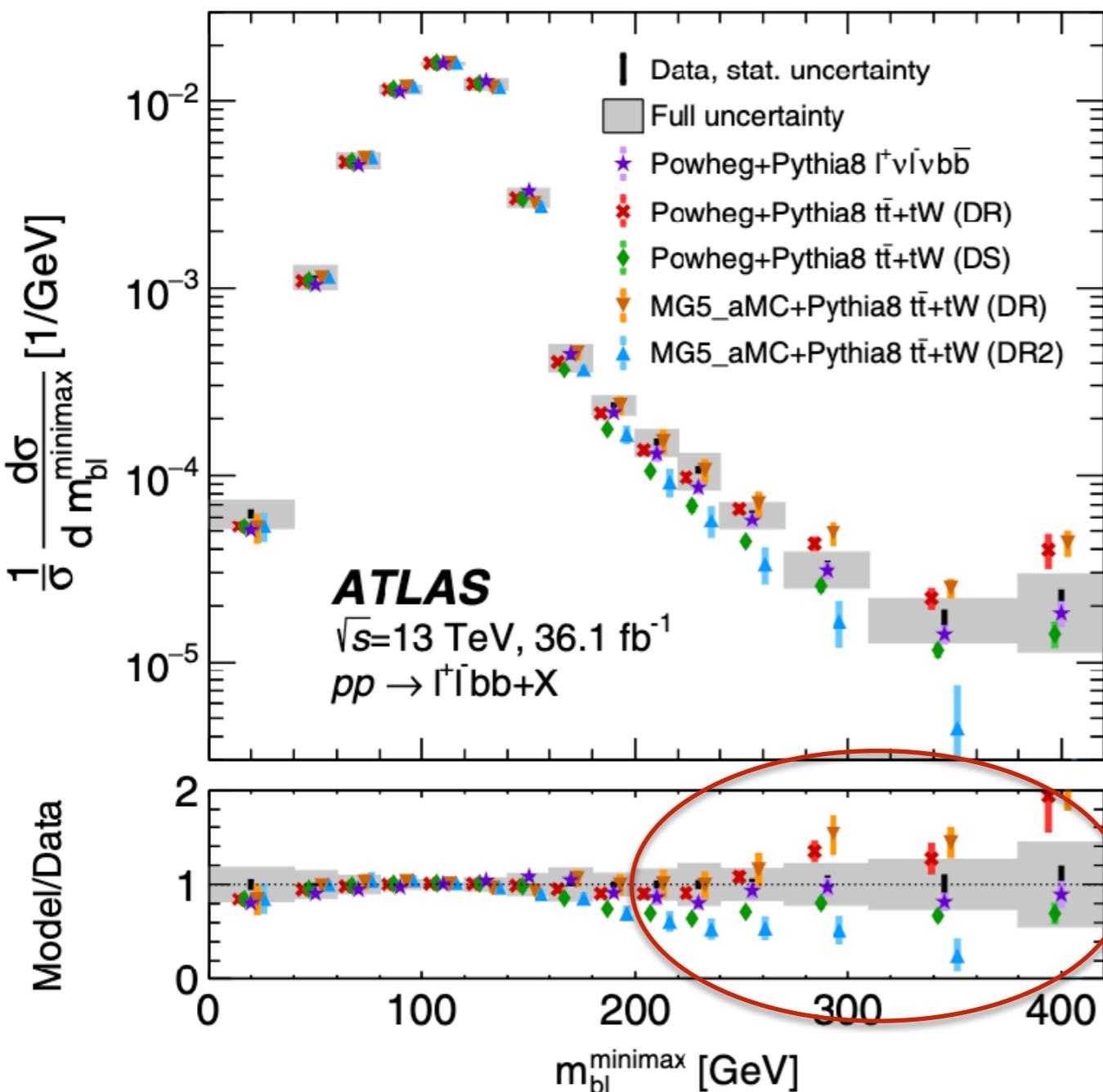
Overlapping $t\bar{t}/tW(b)$



Diagram Subtraction (DS) ↔ Diagram Removal (DR)

$t\bar{t} - tW$ interference effects

[ATLAS Collab., [Phys. Rev. Lett. 121 \(2018\)](#)]



- **Semi-leptonic channel**

$$pp \rightarrow \ell^+\nu_\ell \ell^-\bar{\nu}_\ell b\bar{b}$$

- **Full off-shell vs $t\bar{t} + tW(b)$ at NLO+PS**
- **Full off-shell models well all regions**
- $t\bar{t} + tW(b)|_{DR, DS}$ differ numerically
↪ systematic comparisons

Model	All bins	$m_{bl}^{\text{minimax}} > 160 \text{ GeV}$
POWHEG-Box $t\bar{t} + tW$ (DR)	0.71	0.40
POWHEG-Box $t\bar{t} + tW$ (DS)	0.77	0.56
MG5_aMC $t\bar{t} + tW$ (DR)	0.14	0.17
MG5_aMC $t\bar{t} + tW$ (DR2)	0.02	0.08
POWHEG-Box $\ell^+\nu\ell^-\bar{\nu}bb$	0.92	0.95

$$m_{bl}^{\text{minimax}} \equiv \min\{\max(m_{b_1\ell_1}, m_{b_2\ell_2}), \max(m_{b_1\ell_2}, m_{b_2\ell_1})\}$$

Off-shell $t\bar{t}$ @ NLO QCD + PS

- Semi-leptonic channel**

$$pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e jj b\bar{b}$$

[Jezo, Lindert and Pozzorini, [JHEP10\(2023\)008](#)]

	bb4l-s1	hvq+ST _{wtch} -DS	hvq+ST _{wtch} -DR
$t \rightarrow Wb$ and $W \rightarrow q\bar{q}'$ decays	NLO+PS	LO+PS	LO+PS
tWb production	NLO+PS	LO+PS	LO+PS
$t\bar{t}$ - tW interference	NLO+PS	—	LO+PS
off-shell effects	NLO+PS	approx.	approx.
non-resonant contributions	NLO+PS	—	—

Comparison against on-shell $t\bar{t} + tW$ generators \rightarrow integrated level

		inclusive phase space		$e^+ \nu_e bbjj$ fiducial phase space			
		σ [pb]	$\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{\text{NLOPS}}}$	$R=0.5$	$R=0.2$	σ [pb]	$\frac{\sigma}{\sigma_{\text{NLOPS}}}$
bb4l-s1	NLOPS	57.56(2)	1	16.30(1)	1	14.639(9)	1
bb4l-s1	LHE	57.56(2)	1	16.33(1)	1.002	17.17(1)	1.173
hvq	NLOPS	54.340(9)	0.944	15.910(6)	0.976	14.244(6)	0.973
ST _{wtch} -DS	NLOPS	2.5194(3)	0.044	0.4877(2)	0.030	0.4232(2)	0.029
ST _{wtch} -DR	NLOPS	2.5524(3)	0.044	0.5249(2)	0.032	0.4683(2)	0.032
hvq + ST _{wtch} -DS	NLOPS	56.859(8)	0.988	16.398(6)	1.006	14.667(6)	1.002
hvq + ST _{wtch} -DR	NLOPS	56.892(8)	0.988	16.475(6)	1.011	14.780(6)	1.010

- Impact of tW contribution:** $\sim 5\%$

Off-shell $t\bar{t}$ @ NLO QCD + PS

- Semi-leptonic channel**

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- Impact of tW contribution:** $\sim 5\%$
- Small $t\bar{t}$ - tW interference**

Off-shell $t\bar{t}$ @ NLO QCD + PS

- Semi-leptonic channel**

$$pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e jj b\bar{b}$$

[Jezo, Lindert and Pozzorini, [JHEP10\(2023\)008](#)]

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Comparison against on-shell $t\bar{t} + tW$ generators \rightarrow integrated level

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- Impact of tW contribution:** $\sim 5\%$
- Small $t\bar{t}$ - tW interference**
- $t\bar{t} + tW$ accurate at $\sim 1\%$**
↪ using MEC

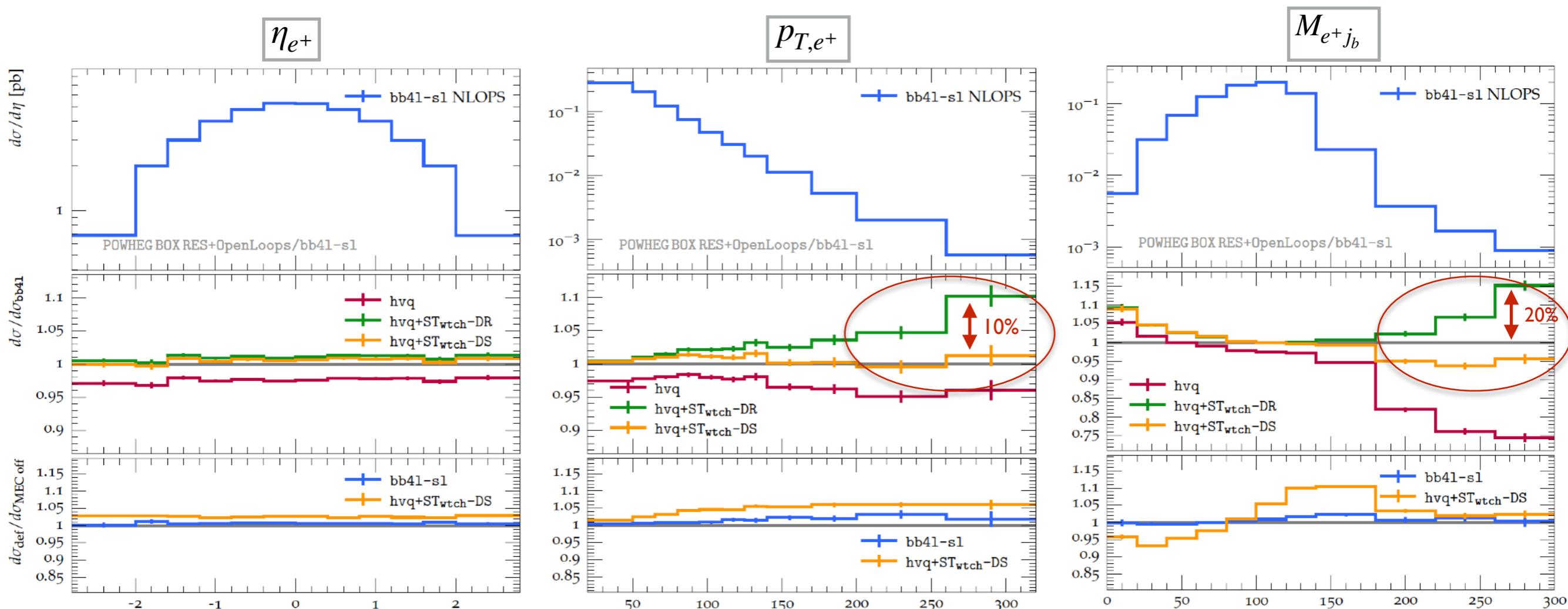
Off-shell $t\bar{t}$ @ NLO QCD + PS

- Semi-leptonic channel

$$pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e jj b\bar{b}$$

[Jezo, Lindert and Pozzorini, [JHEP10 \(2023\) 008](#)]

Comparison against on-shell $t\bar{t} + tW$ generators → differential level



Off-shell $t\bar{t}$ @ NLO QCD + PS

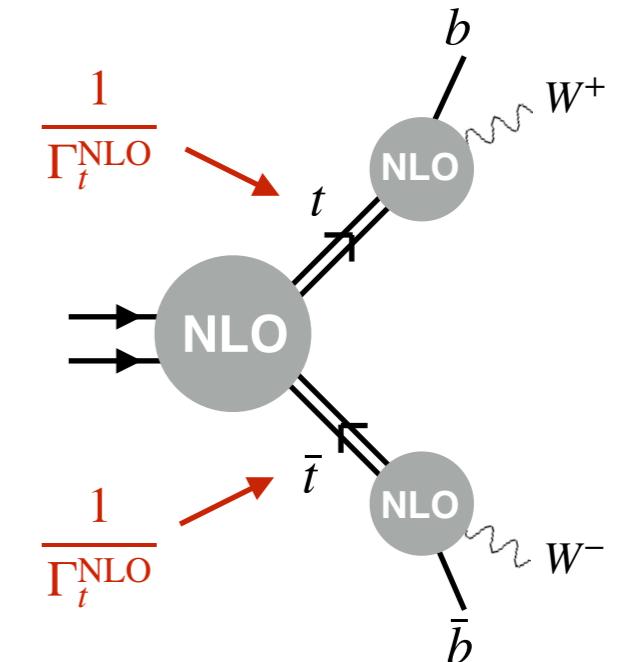
[Jezo, Lindert and Pozzorini, [JHEP10\(2023\)008](#)]

- **Inverse-width expansion**

↪ removes “spurious” terms $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$

- $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ effects numerically larger than tW :

$$\hookrightarrow \left. \frac{\sigma_{\text{bb4l-sl}}}{\sigma_{\text{hvq+ST}}} \right|_{\text{no } 1/\Gamma_t \text{ expansion}} = 1.074$$



$$d\sigma_{\text{NWA}}^{\text{NLO}_{\text{exp}}} = \left(\prod_{r \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\Gamma_{r,\text{NLO}}}{\Gamma_{r,0}} \right) \left[d\sigma_{\text{NWA}}^{\text{NLO}} - \left(\sum_{r \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\Gamma_{r,1}}{\Gamma_{r,0}} \right) d\sigma_{\text{NWA}}^{(0)} \right]$$



$$d\sigma_{\text{off-shell}}^{\text{NLO}_{\text{exp}}} \equiv \left(\prod_{r \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\Gamma_{r,\text{NLO}}}{\Gamma_{r,0}} \right) \left[d\sigma_{\text{off-shell}}^{\text{NLO}} - \left(\sum_{r \in \mathcal{R}} \frac{\Gamma_{r,1}}{\Gamma_{r,0}} \right) d\sigma_{\text{off-shell}}^{(0)} \right]$$

Off-shell $t\bar{t}bb\bar{b}$ @ NLO QCD

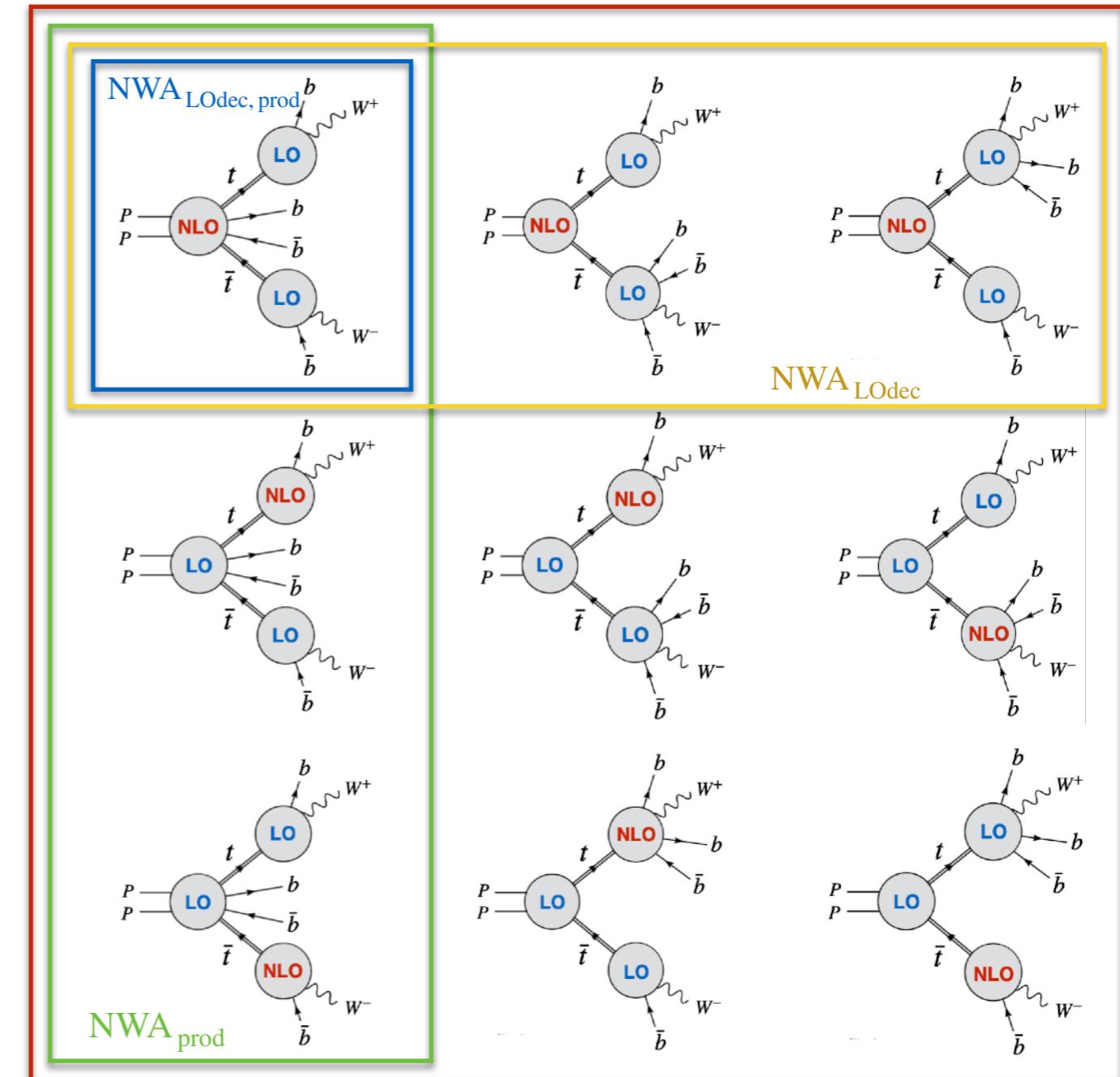
- **Di-lepton channel**

$$pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$$

[GB, Bi, Hartanto, Kraus, Lupattelli and Worek, [Phys. Rev. D \(107\) 2023](#)]

Full off-shell vs NWA (double res.)

Modelling	σ^{NLO} [fb]	δ_{scale} [fb]	$\frac{\sigma^{\text{NLO}}}{\sigma^{\text{NLO}}_{\text{NWA}_{\text{full}}}} - 1$
Off-shell	13.22(2)	+2.65 (20%) -2.96 (22%)	+0.5%
NWA _{full}	13.16(1)	+2.61 (20%) -2.93 (22%)	-
NWA _{LOdec}	13.22(1)	+3.77 (29%) -3.31 (25%)	+0.5%
NWA _{prod}	13.01(1)	+2.58 (20%) -2.89 (22%)	-1.1%
NWA _{prod, exp}	12.25(1)	+2.87 (23%) -2.86 (23%)	-6.9%
NWA _{prod, LOdec}	13.11(1)	+3.74 (29%) -3.28 (25%)	-0.4%



NWA predictions based on different accuracies in top decay modelling

Off-shell $t\bar{t}bb\bar{b}$ @ NLO QCD

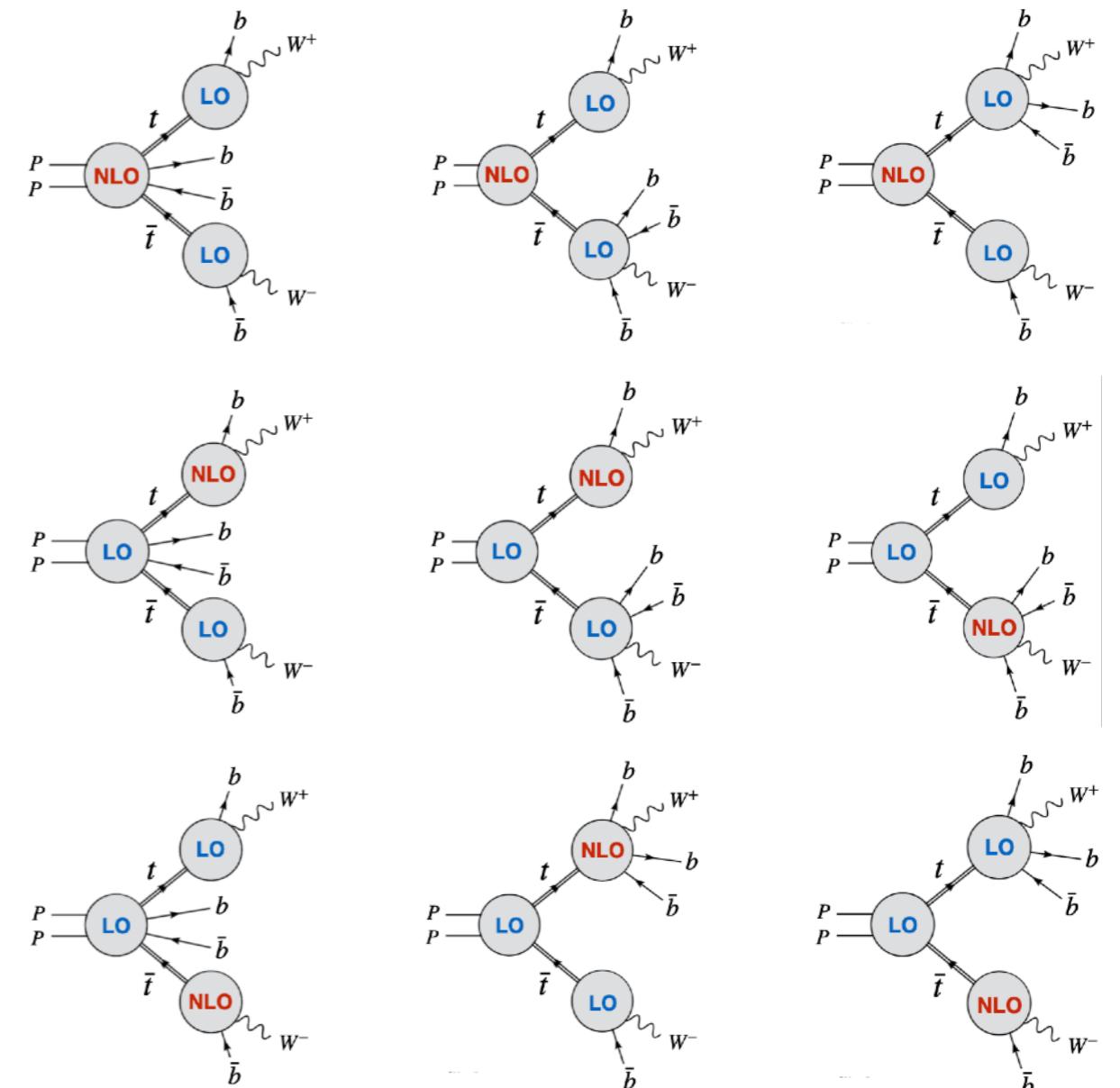
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- Genuine off-shell effects:

+0.5 %

Off-shell $t\bar{t}bb\bar{b}$ @ NLO QCD

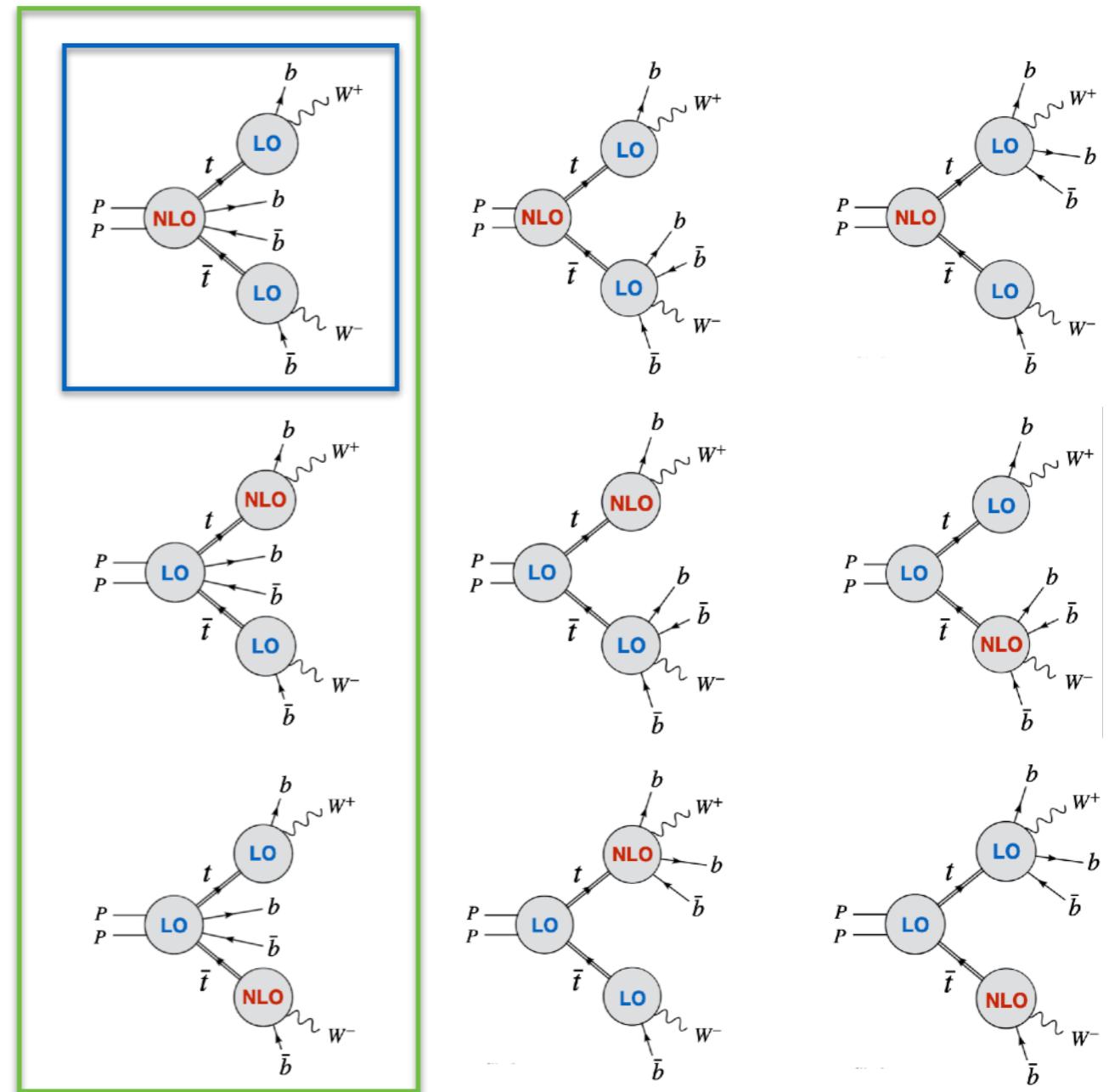
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- Impact of QCD corrections to decays: **-7 %**

Off-shell $t\bar{t}bb\bar{b}$ @ NLO QCD

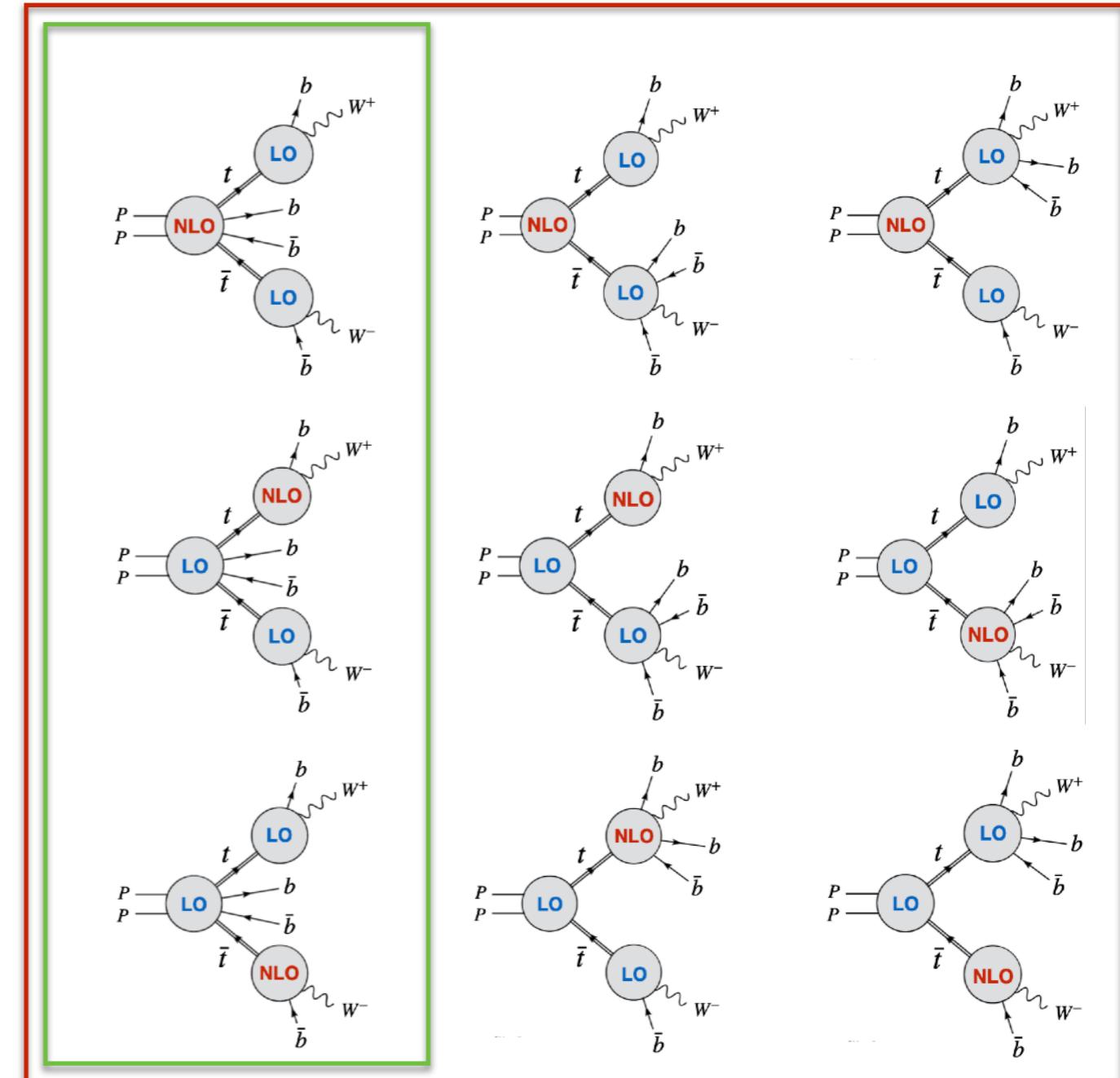
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[GB, Bi, Hartanto, Kraus, Lupattelli and Worek, [Phys. Rev. D \(107\) 2023](#)]

Full off-shell vs NWA (double res.)

Modelling	σ^{NLO} [fb]	δ_{scale} [fb]	$\frac{\sigma^{\text{NLO}}}{\sigma^{\text{NLO}}_{\text{NWA}_{\text{full}}}} - 1$
Off-shell	13.22(2)	+2.65 (20%) -2.96 (22%)	+0.5%
NWA _{full}	13.16(1)	+2.61 (20%) -2.93 (22%)	-
NWA _{LOdec}	13.22(1)	+3.77 (29%) -3.31 (25%)	+0.5%
NWA _{prod}	13.01(1)	+2.58 (20%) -2.89 (22%)	-1.1%
NWA _{prod, exp}	12.25(1)	+2.87 (23%) -2.86 (23%)	-6.9%
NWA _{prod, LOdec}	13.11(1)	+3.74 (29%) -3.28 (25%)	-0.4%



- Impact of $t \rightarrow W b b\bar{b}$ decays:

+1 %

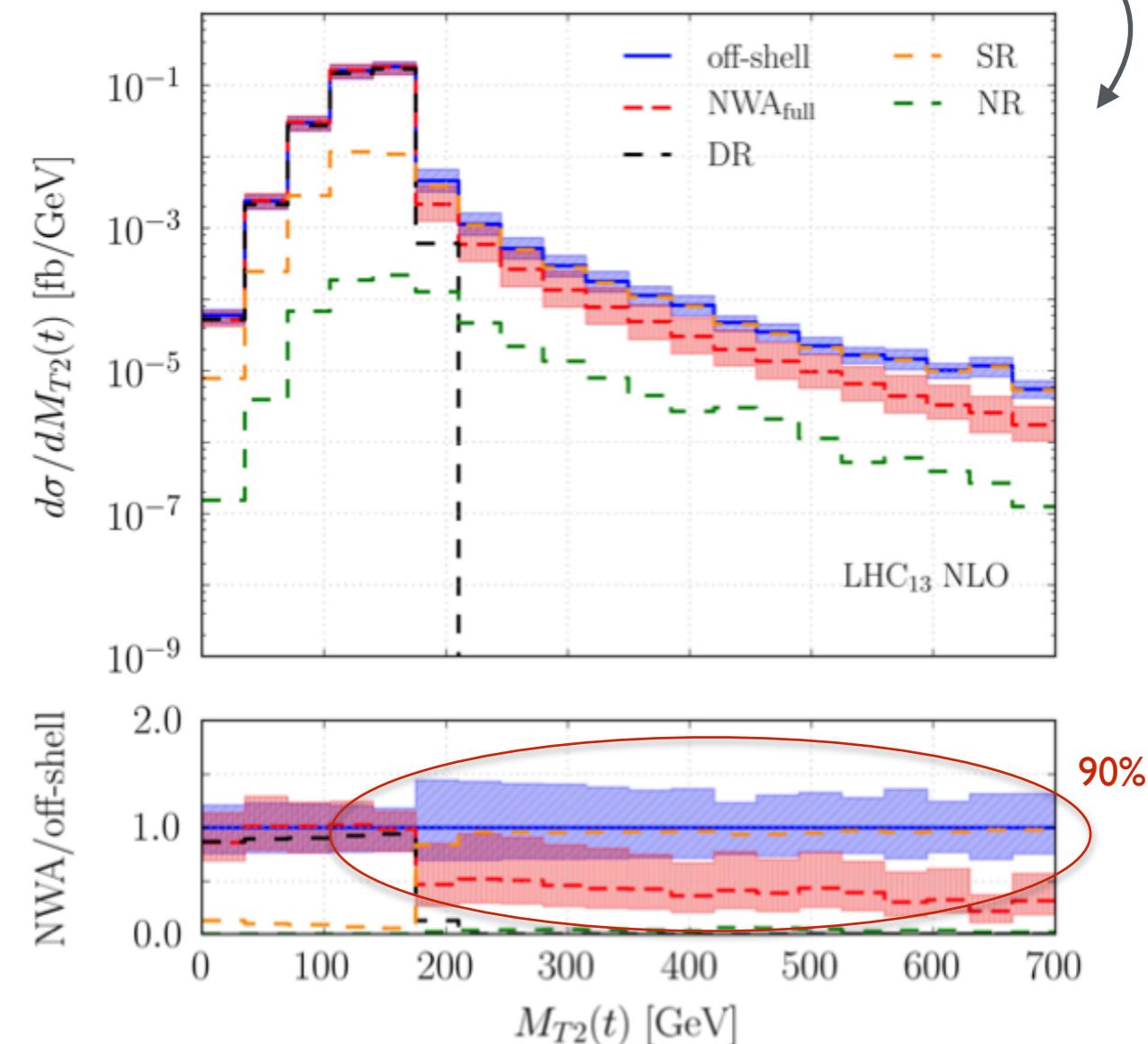
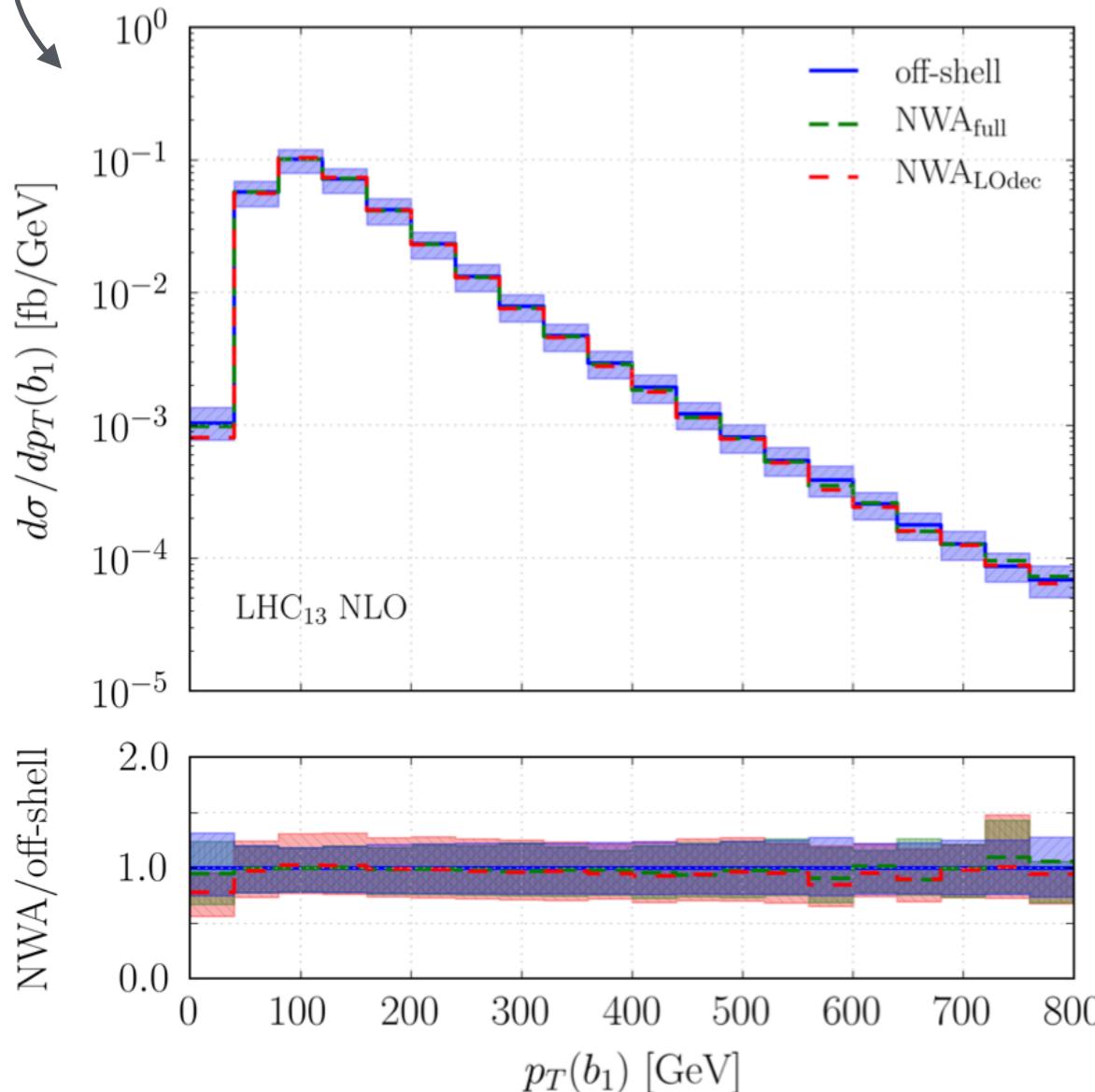
Off-shell $t\bar{t}bb$ @ NLO QCD

- **Di-lepton channel**

$$pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b} b\bar{b}$$

[GB, Bi, Hartanto, Kraus, Lupattelli and Worek, [Phys. Rev. D \(107\) 2023](#)]

Off-shell effects at sub-percent level for most observables used for precision SM studies
Threshold observables (interesting for searches) are naturally more sensitive



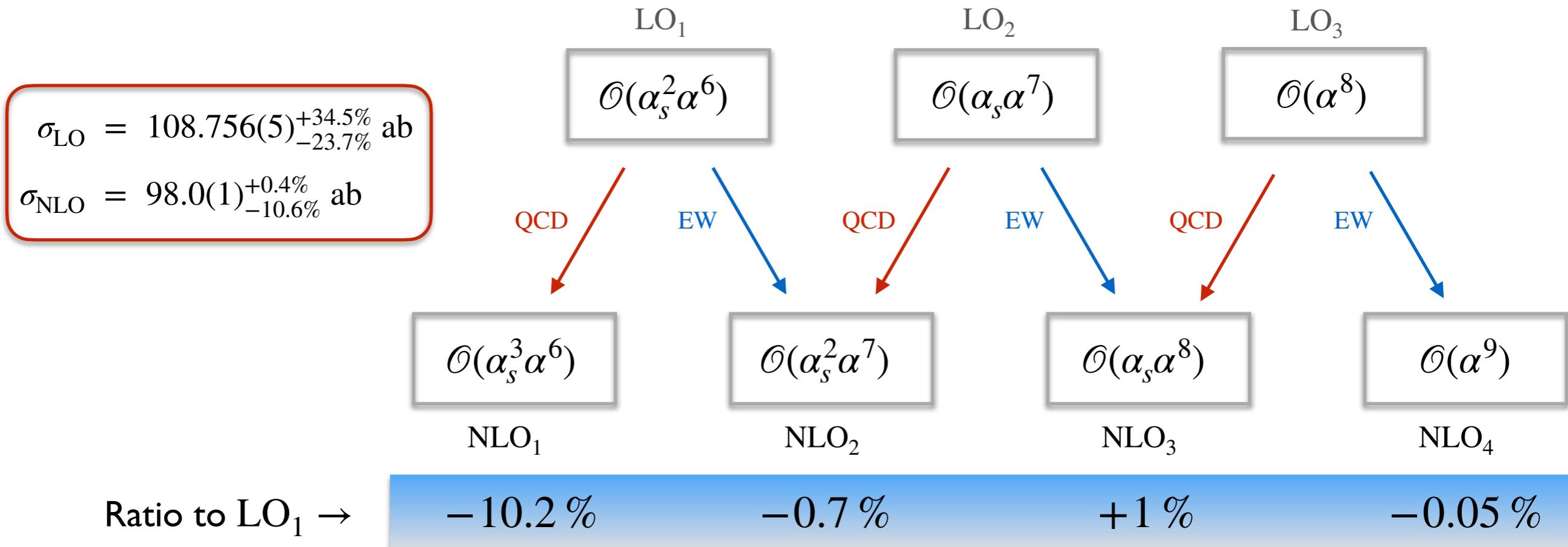
$$M_{T2}(t) = \min_{\sum_i p_T^{\nu_i} = p_t^{\text{miss}}} \left[\max \{ M_T(p_T(e^+ X_t), p_T(\nu_1)), M_T(p_T(\mu^- X_{\bar{t}}), p_T(\nu_2)) \} \right]$$

Off-shell $t\bar{t}Z$ @ complete NLO

- **Multi-lepton channel**

$$pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu \tau^+ \tau^- b\bar{b}$$

[Denner, Lombardi and Pelliccioli, [JHEP09 \(2023\) 072](#)]



- Subleading effects (NLO_{2,3,4}) of the order of **1%** at integrated level
- NLO₂ impacts up to **-10%** differentially → EW Sudakov logs at work

See also talks by S. Schumann and A. Kulesza

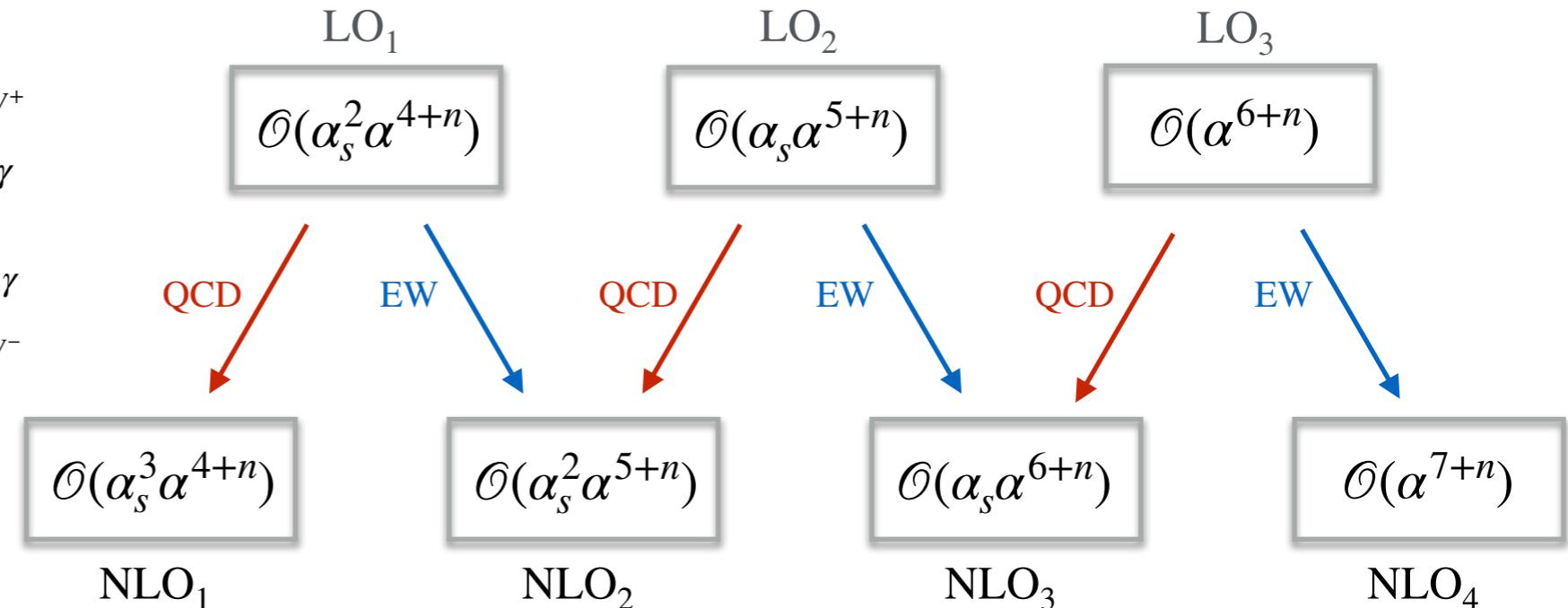
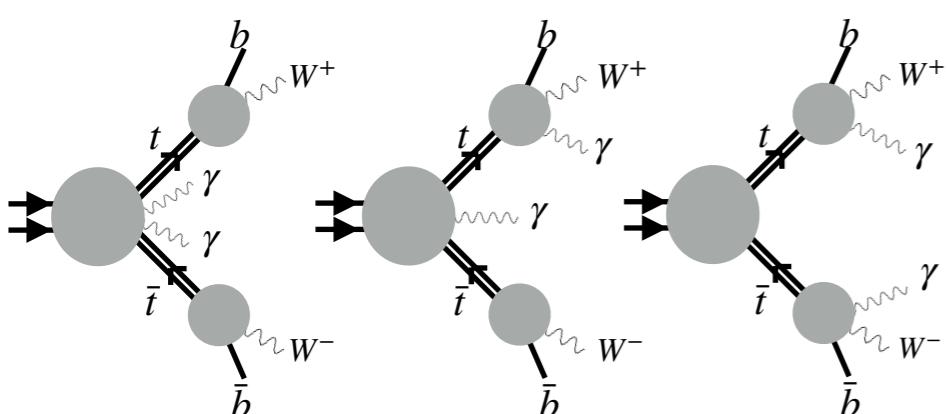
On-shell $t\bar{t} + n \gamma$ @ complete NLO

- Di-lepton channel

$$pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b}\gamma(\gamma)$$

Full NWA

[Stremmer and Worek, [arXiv:2403.03796 \[hep-ph\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.03796)]



Ratio to LO₁ :

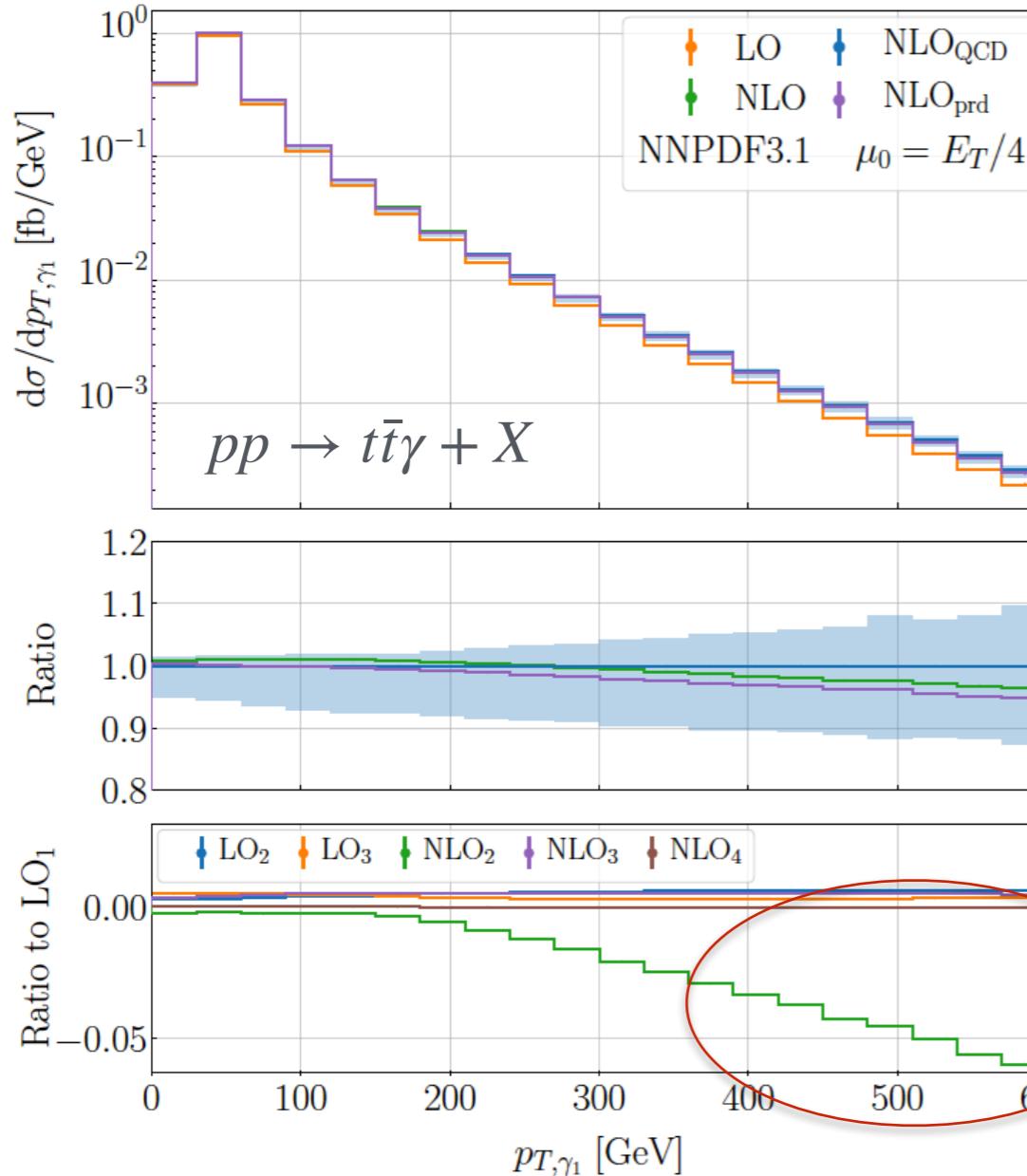
	NLO ₁	NLO ₂	NLO ₃	NLO ₄
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$	+6.2 %	-0.3 %	+0.4 %	+0.003 %
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$	+6.9 %	-1.5 %	+0.4 %	-0.01 %

- Dominant NLO₁ correction essential for precise predictions
↪ residual scale uncertainties $\sim 6\%$
- Subleading effects (NLO_{2,3,4}) at the level of 1%

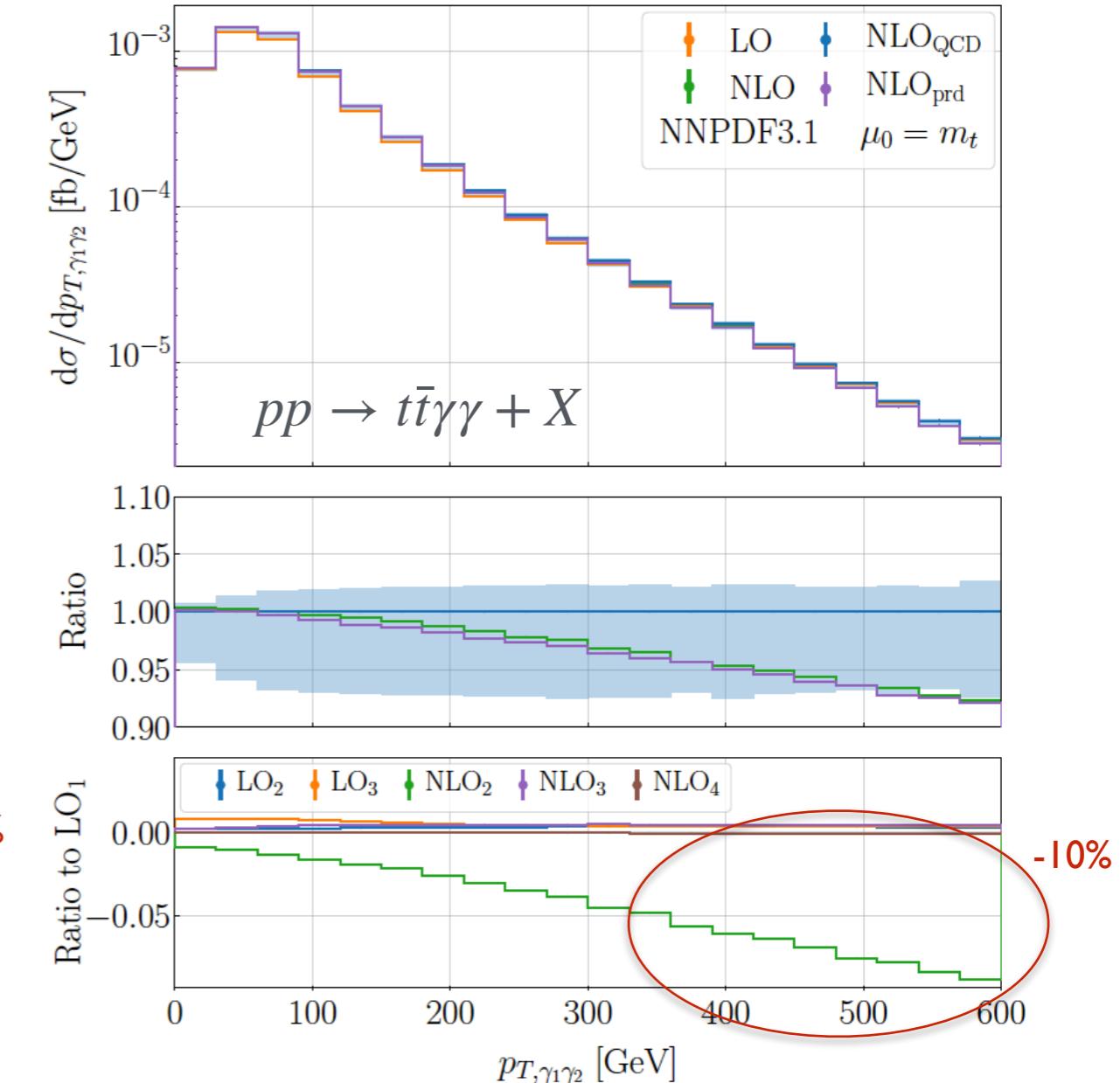
On-shell $t\bar{t} + n \gamma$ @ complete NLO

$pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b}\gamma(\gamma)$

Full NWA



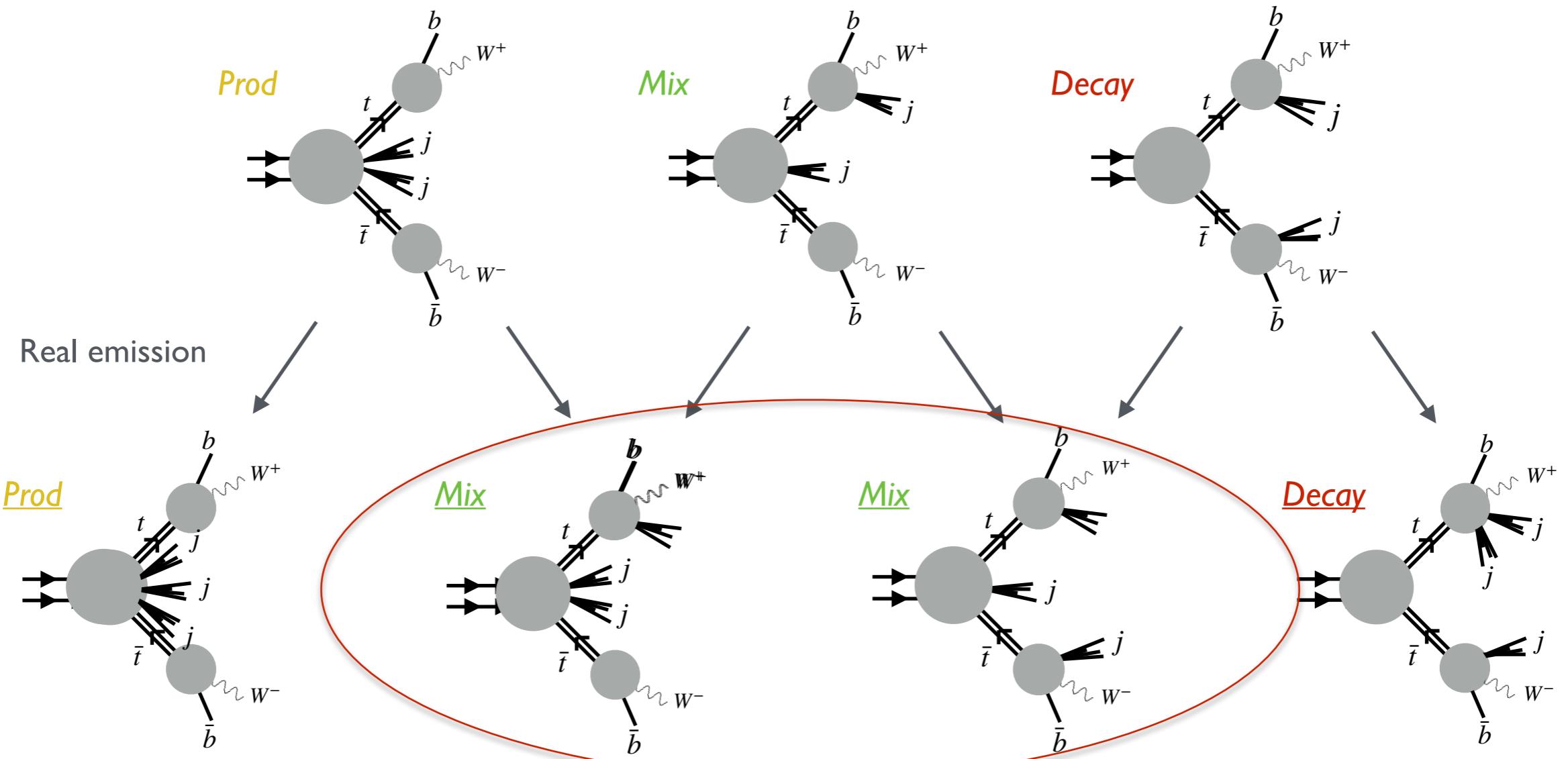
[Stremmer and Worek, arXiv:2403.03796 [hep-ph]]



- NLO₂ enhanced up to **-10%** in tails of dimensionful observables
- Neglecting γ brehmstralung and subleading corrections in decays ($\equiv NLO_{prd}$) is accurate at **2%**

On-shell $t\bar{t}jj$ @ NLO QCD

- What's the impact of different resonant contributions on fiducial cross section?



→ $t\bar{t}j$ (7 TeV, semilept.) → $\sigma_{\text{NLO}} = 323 \text{ (Prod)} - 75.5 \text{ (Mix)} + 40.5 \text{ (Dec)} = 288 \text{ fb}$

-25% of σ_{NLO}

[Melnikov, Scharf, Schulze '12]

On-shell $t\bar{t}jj$ @ NLO QCD

- **Di-lepton channel**
 $pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b} jj$

Full NWA

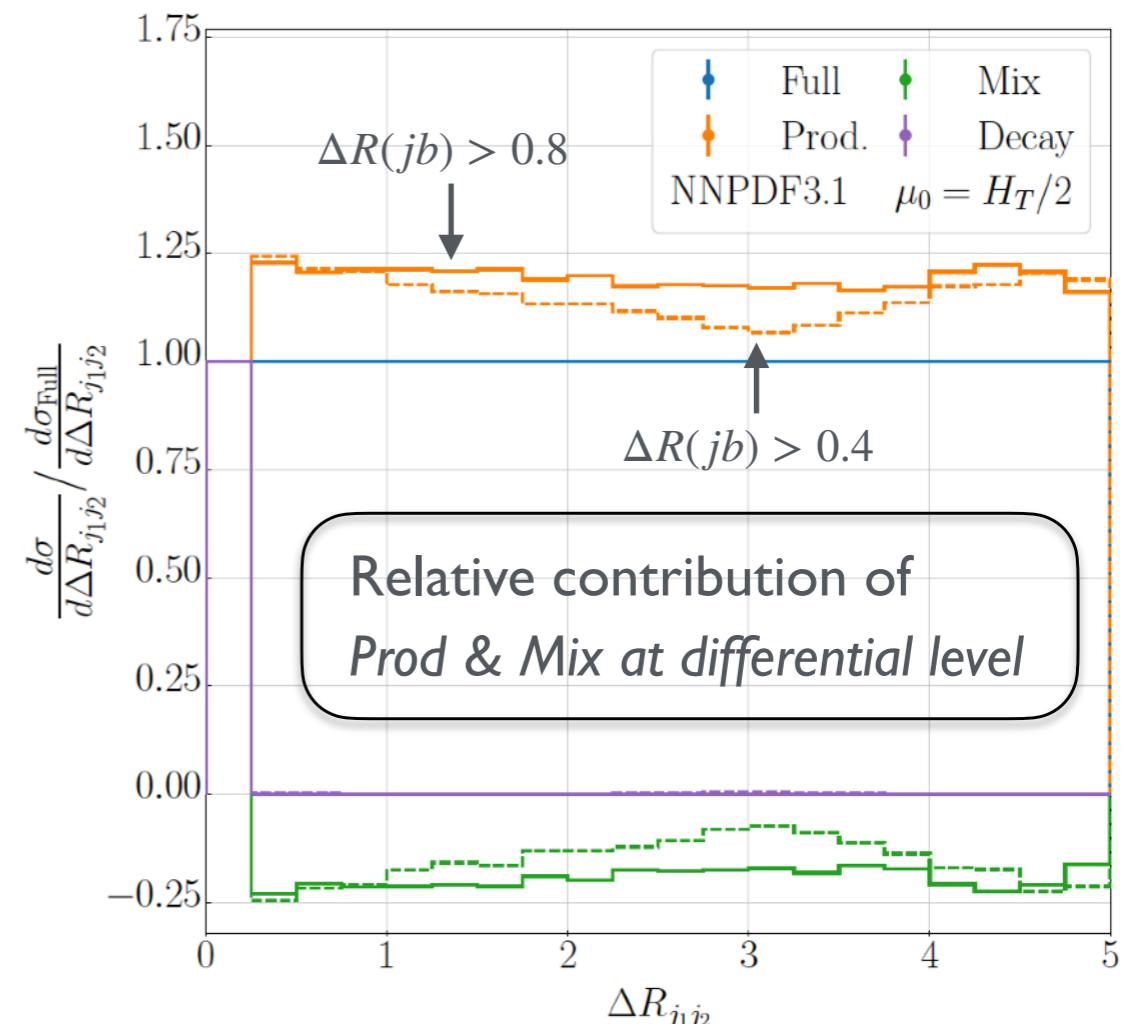
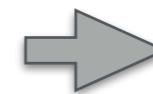
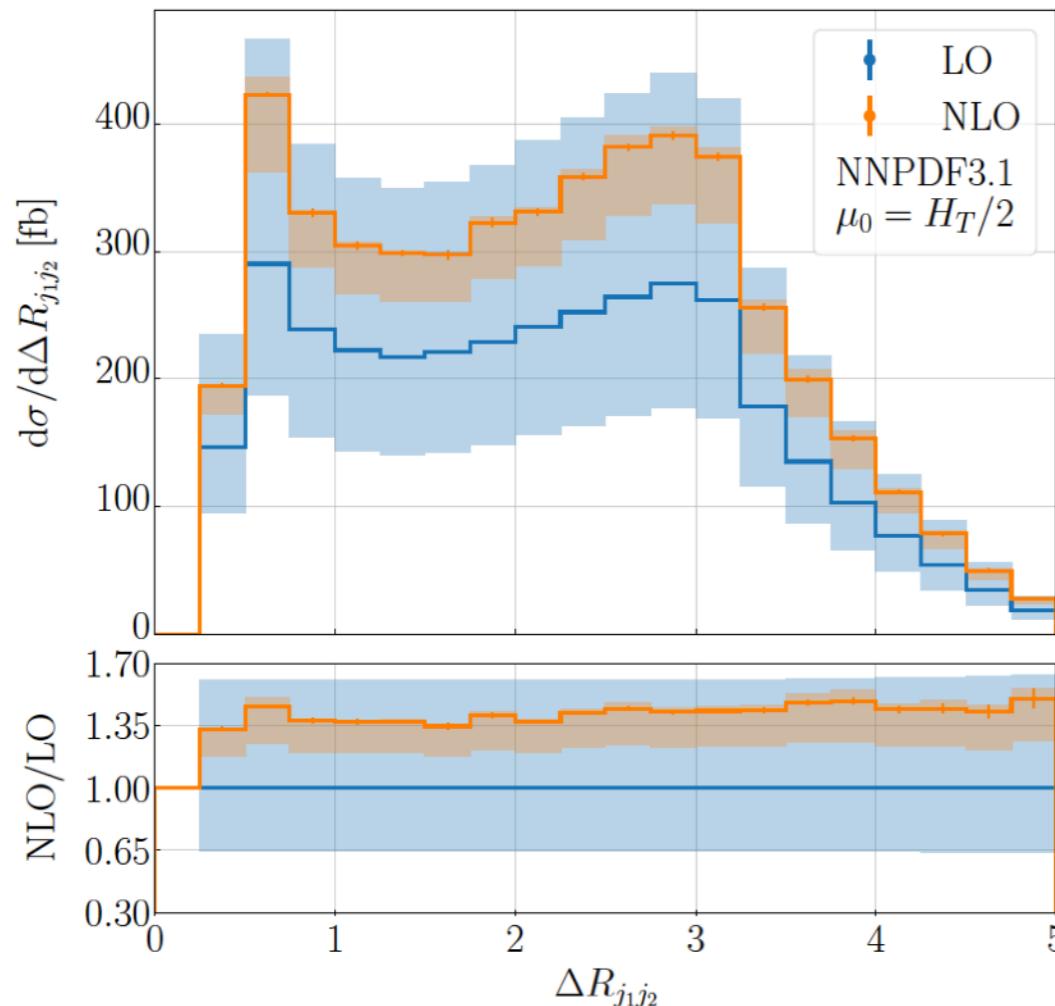
[GB, Lupattelli, Stremmer and Worek
[Phys. Rev. D \(107\) 2023, 114027](#)]

$$\Delta R(jb) > 0.8 \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{NLO}} = 1462 \text{ (Prod)} - 236 \text{ (Mix)} + 0.2 \text{ (Dec)} = 1225 \text{ fb}$$

-19% of σ_{NLO}

$$\Delta R(jb) > 0.4 \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{NLO}} = 1662 \text{ (Prod)} - 205 \text{ (Mix)} + 2.4 \text{ (Dec)} = 1460 \text{ fb}$$

-14% of σ_{NLO}

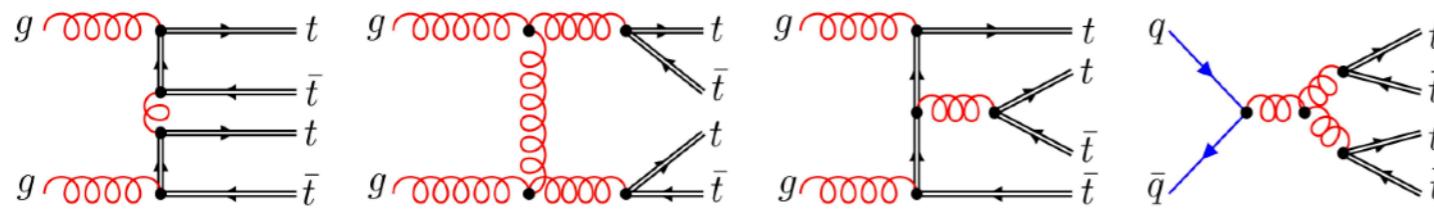


On-shell $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ @ NLO QCD

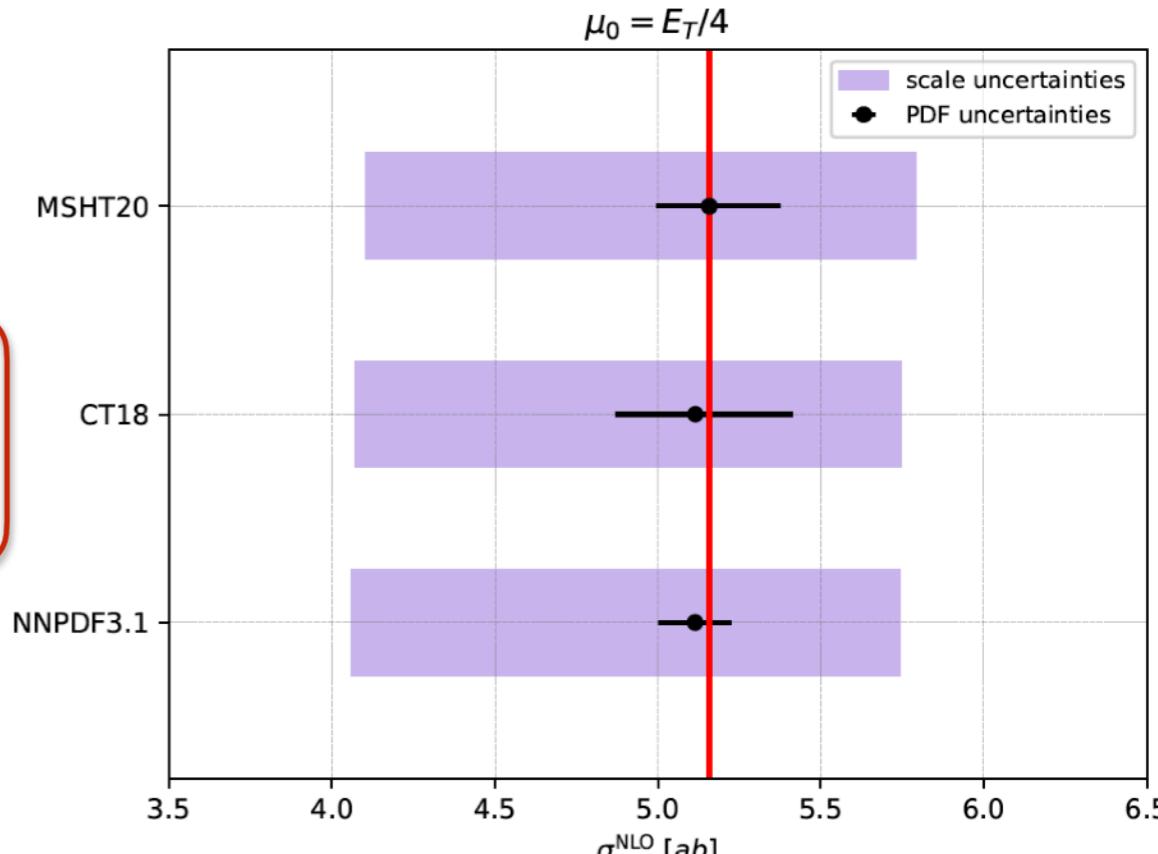
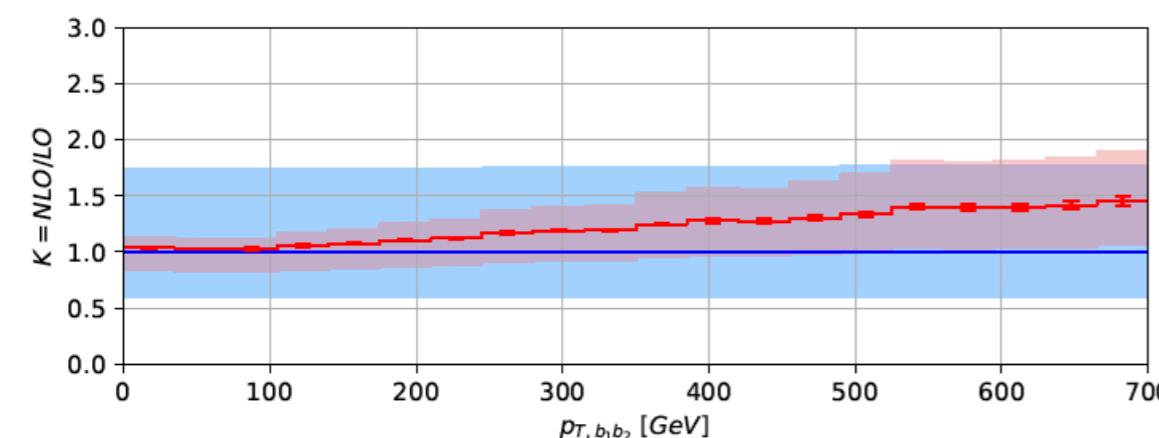
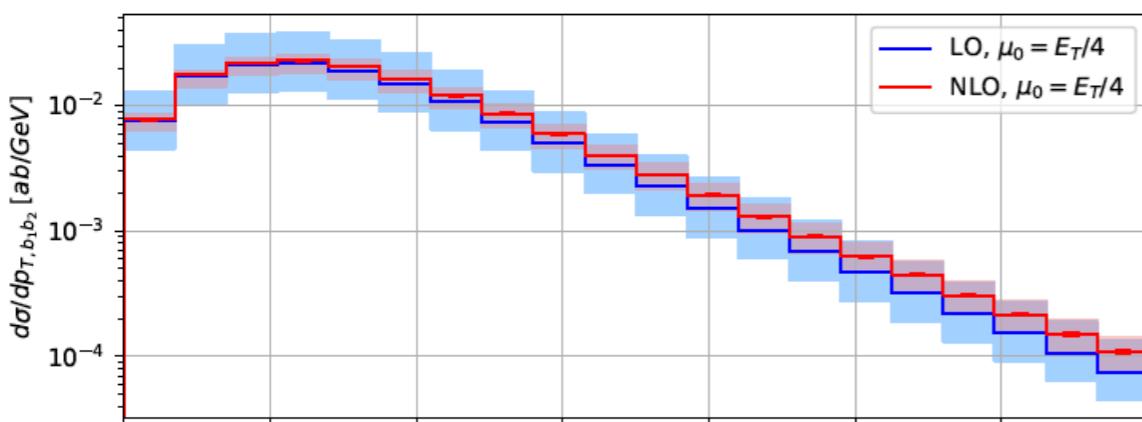
- 4ℓ channel

Full NWA

[Dimitrakopoulos and Worek, arXiv:2401.10678 [hep-ph]]



$\sigma^{\text{LO}}(\text{MSHT20}, \mu_0 = E_T/4) = 4.7479(3)^{+74\%}_{-40\%}$ [scale] ab,
 $\sigma^{\text{NLO}}(\text{MSHT20}, \mu_0 = E_T/4) = 5.158(3)^{+12\%}_{-20\%}$ [scale] $^{+4\%}_{-3\%}$ [PDF] ab



Residual scale uncertainties:
 $\mathcal{O}(20\%)$

Impact of QCD corrections to decays:
 -8%

Summary

- Precision $t\bar{t} + X$ phenomenology sets a number of theoretical challenges
 - Perturbative accuracy
 - Decay modelling
 - PS matching & modelling
- Many interesting developments in recent times
 - Accurate predictions for inclusive $t\bar{t}$ production rates (aN³LO)
 - First NNLO QCD results for $t\bar{t}H$ and $t\bar{t}W$
 - Soft-gluon resummation for several $t\bar{t} + X$ channels
 - Full off-shell calculations, in some cases with complete NLO corrections
 - Improvements in PS matching: resonance-aware, MEC ...
- Off-shell computations for multi-leg processes are CPU intensive
 - Most of them are NLO fixed-order results → *parton level*
 - Upgrading to NLO+PS accuracy is *computational* rather than *conceptual* problem

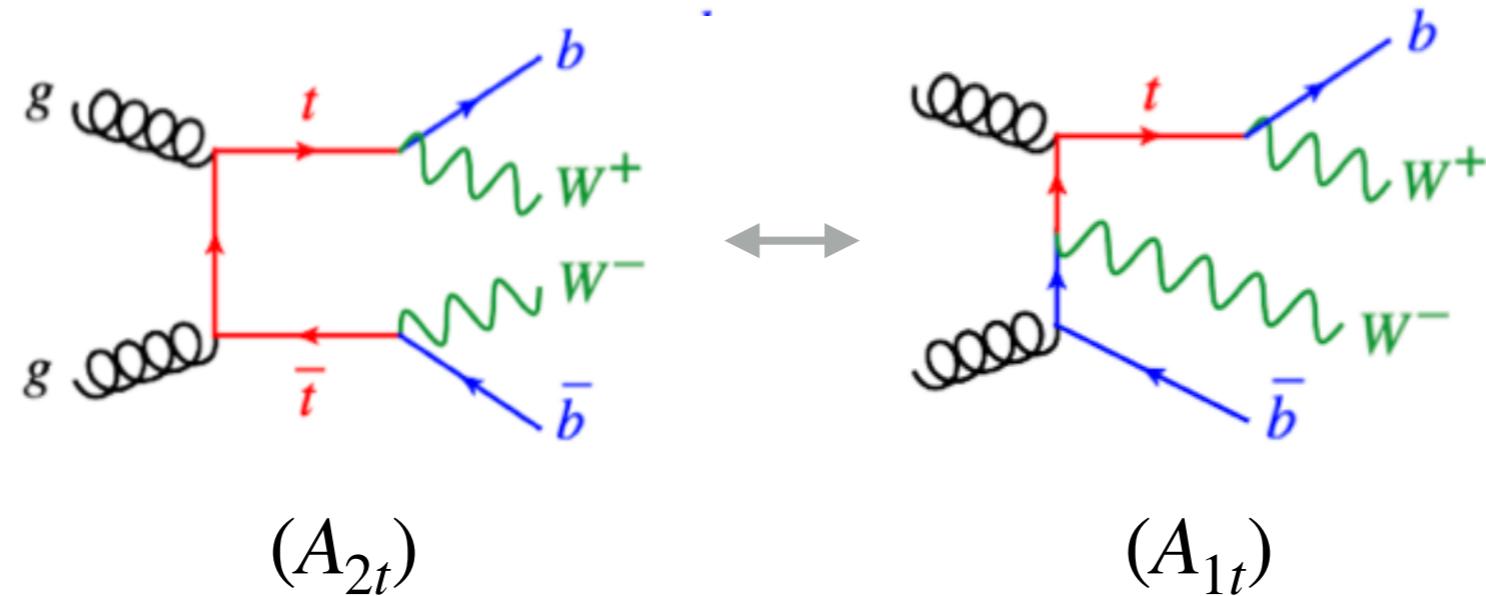
Thank you for your attention

Backup slides

Single-resonant production (tW)

- Beyond LO: overlapping $t\bar{t} \leftrightarrow tW(b)$

$$\Gamma_t/m_t \rightarrow 0$$



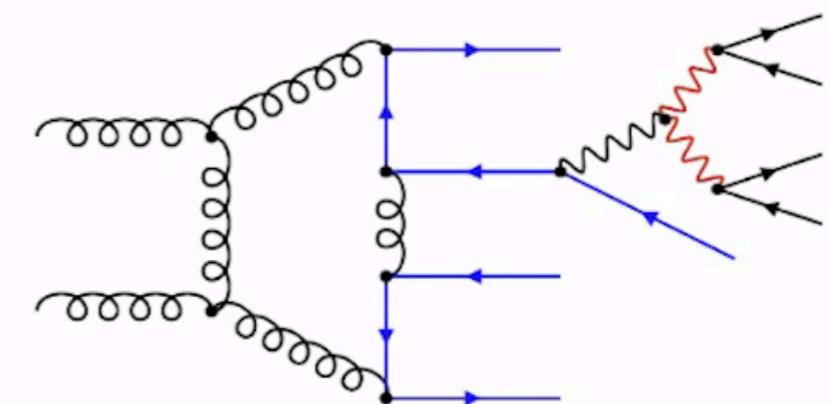
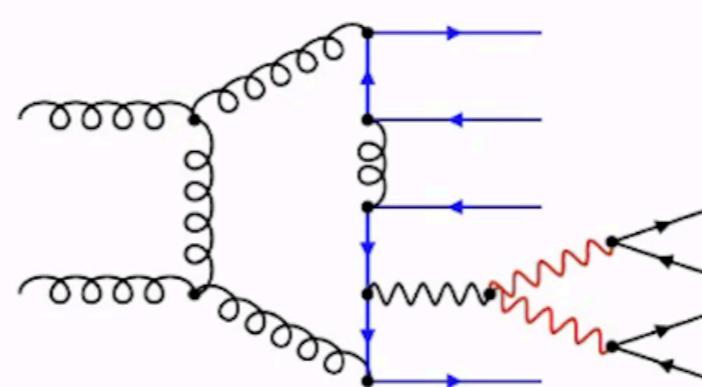
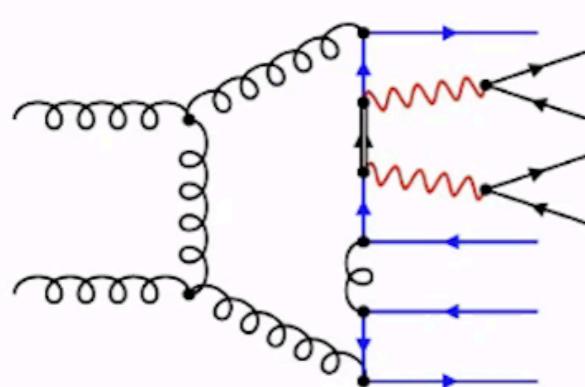
- Diagram Subtraction** \rightarrow DS : $|A_{tWb}|_{DS}^2 = |A_{2t} + A_{1t}|^2 - C_{2t}$
- Diagram Removal** \rightarrow DR₁ : $|A_{tWb}|_{DR_1}^2 = |A_{1t}|^2$
DR₂ : $|A_{tWb}|_{DR_2}^2 = |A_{1t}|^2 + 2\text{Re}(A_{1t} A_{2t}^*)$

Technical aspects of off-shell calculations

One-loop correction type	Number of Feynman diagrams
Self-energy	93452
Vertex	88164
Box-type	49000
Pentagon-type	25876
Hexagon-type	11372
Heptagon-type	3328
Octagon-type	336
Total number [gg channel]	271528

Example: $gg \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b} b\bar{b}$

Partonic Subprocess	Number of Feynman diagrams	Number of CS Dipoles	Number of NS Subtractions
$gg \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b} b\bar{b} g$	41364	90	18
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b} b\bar{b} g$	9576	50	10
$gq \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b} b\bar{b} q$	9576	50	10
$g\bar{q} \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b} b\bar{b} \bar{q}$	9576	50	10



On-shell $t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$ @ NLO QCD

- Interplay of resonant contributions:

[Stremmer and Worek, [JHEP08 \(2023\) 179](#)]

$$\text{Di-lepton} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{NLO}} = 0.07130 \text{ (Prod)} + 0.077333 \text{ (Mix)} + 0.02863 \text{ (Dec)} = 0.1773 \text{ fb}$$

44 % of σ_{NLO}

$$\text{Semi-leptonic} \rightarrow \sigma_{\text{NLO}} = 0.1405 \text{ (Prod)} + 0.1205 \text{ (Mix)} + 0.03629 \text{ (Dec)} = 0.2973 \text{ fb}$$

40 % of σ_{NLO}

