



Department of Theoretical Physics

The path to NNLL accurate parton showers

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QCD@LHC 2024

Based on

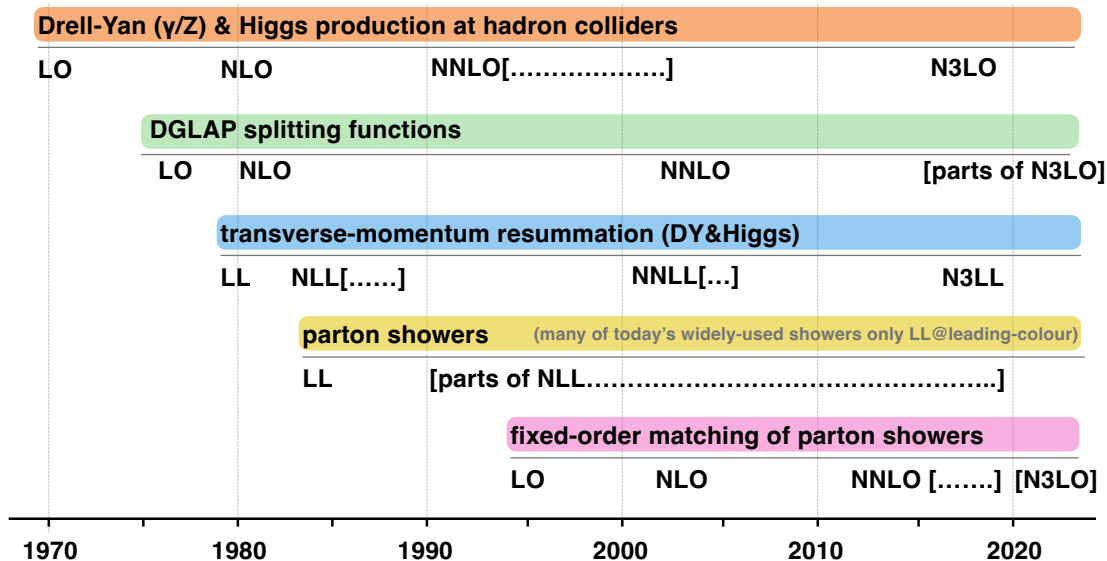
JHEP 03 (2023) 224 [K. Hamilton, AK, G. P. Salam, L. Scyboz, R. Verheyen]
Phys.Rev.Lett. 131 (2023) 16 [S. Ferrario Ravasio, K. Hamilton, AK, G. P. Salam, L. Scyboz, G. Soyez]
2406.02661 [eid. + M. v. Beekveld, M. Dasgupta, B. K. El-Menoufi, J. Helliwell, P. F. Monni, A. Soto-Ontoso]

+

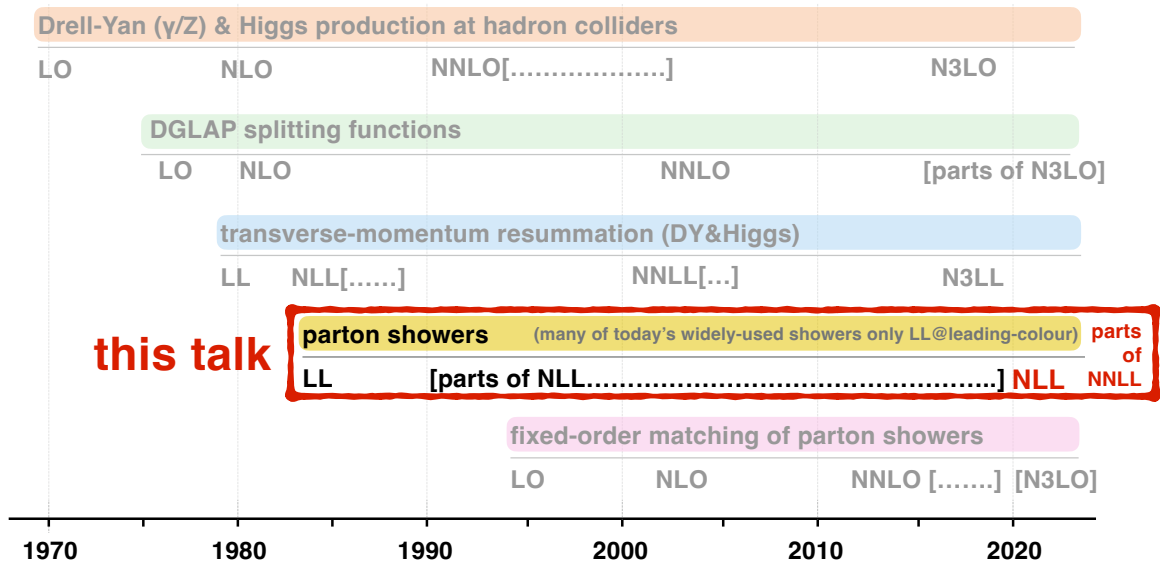
using analytic understanding developed in

JHEP 01 (2019) 083 [A. Banfi, B. K. El-Menoufi, P. F. Monni]
JHEP 12 (2021) 158 [M. Dasgupta, B. K. El-Menoufi]
JHEP 05 (2024) 09 [eid. + M. v. Beekveld, J. Helliwell, P. F. Monni]

selected collider-QCD accuracy milestones



selected collider-QCD accuracy milestones



Textbook QFT

Traditionally, finite predictions in QFT can be made through (**systematically improvable**) perturbation theory

$$\sigma = \sum_{i=1} \alpha_S^i(\mu_R) \sigma^{(i)}(\mu_R)$$

But QFT perturbation theory has many **unphysical features**:

- UV singularities need **renormalization**
- IR **singularities** → individual renormalized diagrams **not finite**, only after summing unresolved (virtual) and resolved (real) diagrams (KLN theorem)
- Perturbative series **not positive definite** order by order
- Series not convergent in general
- Complexity grows exponentially → predictions restricted to low multiplicities

Would like to organise calculation such that it is positive definite and free of singularities ⇒ **Parton Showers!**



Why are we talking about logarithmic accuracy?

Parton showers **evolve** hard states from $Q \sim \sqrt{\hat{s}}$ down to $\Lambda \sim 1 \text{ GeV}$

This evolution **generates logarithms** of the form $L \sim \ln \frac{Q}{\Lambda} \gg 1$, ($g_X(\alpha_S L) \sim \alpha_S L$)

$$\Sigma(\Theta < e^{-L}) = \exp \left[-L g_{LL}(\alpha_S L) + g_{NLL}(\alpha_S L) + \alpha_S g_{NNLL}(\alpha_S L) + \dots \right]$$

	$Q = M_Z$	$Q = 1 \text{ TeV}$
$ L g_{LL} \sim \alpha_S L^2$	2	4
$ g_{NLL} \sim \alpha_S L$	0.5	0.6 $\leftarrow \mathcal{O}(100\%)$
$ \alpha_S g_{NNLL} \sim \alpha_S^2 L$	0.06	0.05 $\leftarrow \mathcal{O}(10\%)$

NNLL **crucial** to reach **percent-level** accuracy!

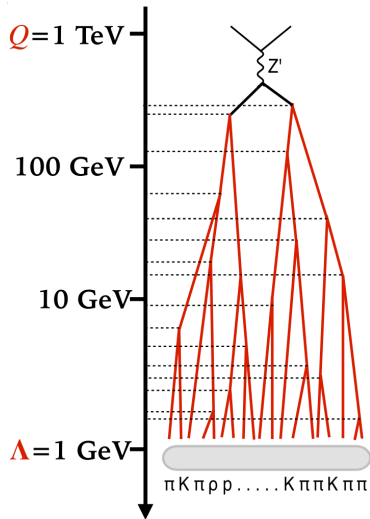


Figure by S. Ferrario Ravasio



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$$\Sigma(\theta < e^{-L}) = \exp \left[-L g_{LL}(\alpha_S L) + g_{NLL}(\alpha_S L) + \alpha_S g_{NNLL}(\alpha_S L) + \dots \right]$$

Conceptual limitations

- Can we **improve systematically** from LL \rightarrow NLL \rightarrow NNLL \rightarrow ...?
- How do we incorporate the hard scattering at high orders?

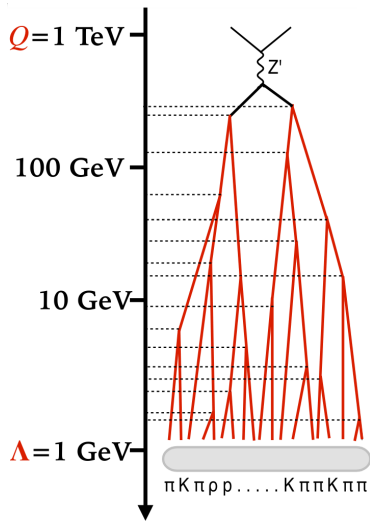


Figure by S. Ferrario Ravasio



The ubiquitous Parton Shower



Pythia 8

An introduction to PYTHIA 8.2

Torbjörn Sjöstrand (Lund U., Dept. Theor. Phys.), Stefan Ask (Cambridge U.), Jesper R. Christiansen (Lund U., Dept. Theor. Phys.), Richard Corke (Lund U., Dept. Theor. Phys.), Nishita Desai (U. Heidelberg, ITP) et al. (Oct 11, 2014)

Published in: *Comput.Phys.Commun.* 191 (2015) 159-177 • e-Print: [1410.3012](https://arxiv.org/abs/1410.3012) [hep-ph]

[pdf](#) [links](#) [DOI](#) [cite](#)

↻ 6,423 citations



Herwig 7

Herwig++ Physics and Manual

M. Bahr (Karlsruhe U., ITP), S. Gieseke (Karlsruhe U., ITP), M.A. Gigg (Durham U., IPPP), D. Grellscheid (Durham U., IPPP), K. Hamilton (Louvain U.) et al. (Mar, 2008)

Published in: *Eur.Phys.J.C* 58 (2008) 639-707 • e-Print: [0803.0883](https://arxiv.org/abs/0803.0883) [hep-ph]

[pdf](#) [links](#) [DOI](#) [cite](#)

↻ 3,150 citations



Sherpa

Event generation with SHERPA 1.1

T. Gleisberg (SLAC), Stefan. Hoeche (Zurich U.), F. Krauss (Durham U., IPPP), M. Schonherr (Dresden, Tech. U.), S. Schumann (Edinburgh U.) et al. (Nov, 2008)

Published in: *JHEP* 02 (2009) 007 • e-Print: [0811.4622](https://arxiv.org/abs/0811.4622) [hep-ph]

[pdf](#) [links](#) [DOI](#) [cite](#)

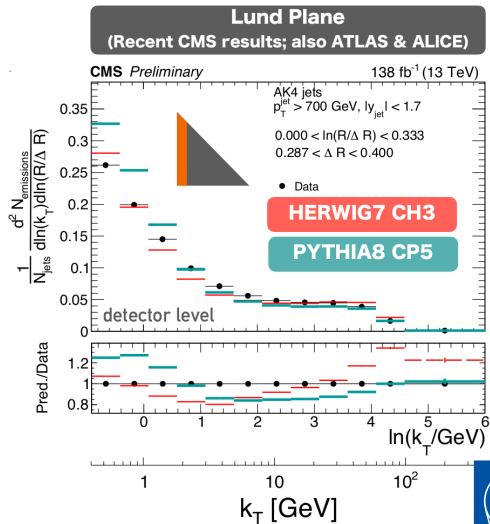
↻ 3,827 citations

Parton Showers enter one way or another in almost 95% of all ATLAS and CMS analyses. Collider physics would not be the same without them.



Current status on parton showers

- The most widely-used event generators, Pythia, Herwig, and Sherpa, are all **formally limited to LL**
 - Overall they do a good job at the LHC, but places where **big differences** are seen
- very differential phase space regions of jets are associated with **10 – 30%** differences
- Feeds into many analysis, becoming even more important to get right as **machine learning** will learn wrong features



The NLL revolution

The PANSCALES collaboration has lead the effort to go **beyond LL**.

core principle for NLL showers:

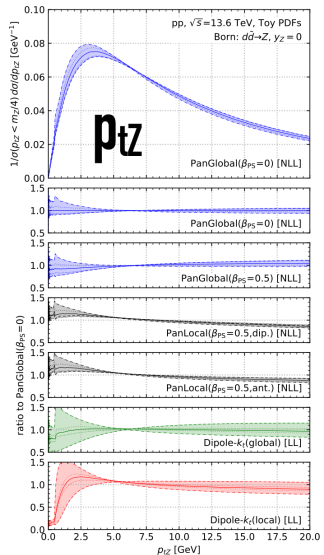
QCD factorisation \Rightarrow Parton showers must correctly reproduce QCD matrix elements in single soft/collinear limits, where **QFT amplitudes factorise**

This principle is **violated** by most standard showers!

Other work

NLL also achieved by other groups: ALARIC Herren, Höche, Krauss, Reichelt, Schoenherr [2208.06057], [2404.14360], APOLLO Preuss [2403.19452], DEDUCTOR Nagy, Soper [2011.04773], and Forshaw-Holguin-Plätzer [2003.06400]. Two latter with additional novelty due to amplitude evolution.





NLL
showers

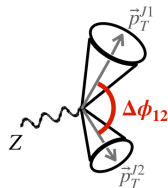
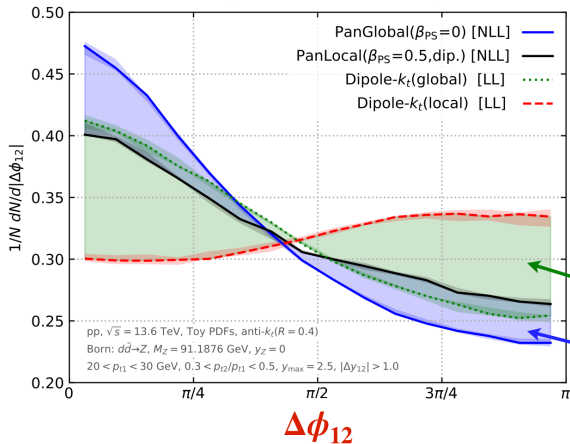
LL
showers

Part of advantage in LL \rightarrow NLL is
reduction in residual scale
uncertainties for inclusive quantities
like the transverse momentum of the Z



$$m_{\ell\ell} = m_Z$$

Azimuthal angle between leading jets (ΔY)



Larger **shape differences**
can be observed in more
exclusive observables

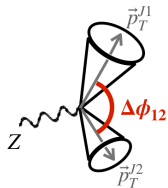
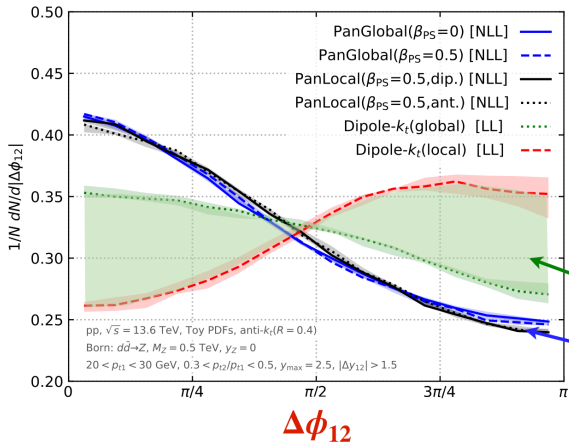
LL showers

NLL showers



$$m_{\ell\ell} = 500 \text{ GeV}$$

Azimuthal angle between leading jets (DY)



Larger **shape differences**
can be observed in more
exclusive observables

further enhanced at large
scales!

LL showers

NLL showers



PanLocal $k_t\sqrt{\theta}$ ordered**Recoil** \perp : local

+: local

-: local

Dipole partition
event CoM**PanGlobal** k_t or $k_t\sqrt{\theta}$ ordered**Recoil** \perp : global

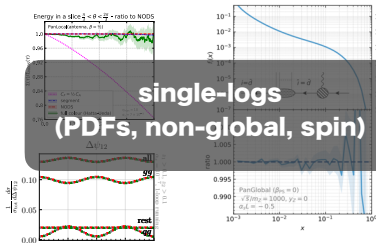
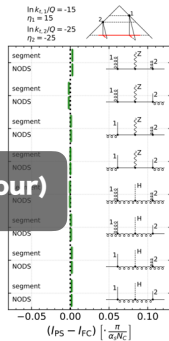
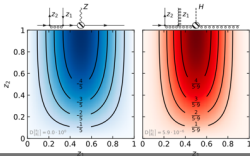
+: local

-: local

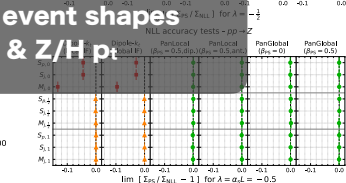
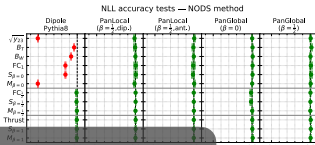
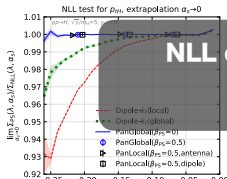
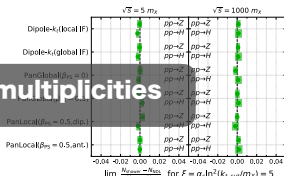
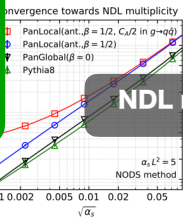
Dipole partition
event CoM**Colour**nested ordered
double soft
(NODS)Designed to
ensure LL are
full colour
(also gets many
NLL at full
colour)Hamilton, Medves,
Salam, Scyboz, Soyez
[2011.10054]**Spin**for correct
azimuthal
structure in
collinear and
soft \rightarrow collinear[Collins-Knowles
extended to soft
sector]AK, Salam, Scyboz, Verheyen
[2103.16526],
eid. + Hamilton [2111.01161] e^+e^- : Dasgupta, Dreyer, Hamilton, Monni, Salam, Soyez
[2002.11114]; pp (w/spin+colour): van Beekveld, Ferrario
Ravasio, Salam, Soto-Ontoso, Soyez, Verheyen [2205.02237]; +
 pp tests: eid. + Hamilton [2207.09467]; DIS+VBF: van Beekveld,
Ferrario Ravasio [2305.08645]

a selection of the logarithmic accuracy tests

TESTS



fixed order (kinematics, spin, colour)



Oxford



Gavin Salam



Nicolas Schalch



Silvia Zanoli

Monash



Ludovic Scyboz



Basem El-Menoufi



Jack Helliwell

CERN



AK



Pier Monni



Silvia Ferrario Ravasio

UCL



Keith Hamilton

Manchester



Mrinal Dasgupta

NIKHEF



Melissa van Beekveld

IPhT



Gregory Soyez

UGR



Alba Soto-Ontoso

PanScales current members

A project to bring logarithmic understanding and accuracy to parton showers

Going beyond NLL

Already made significant progress, in a few years, taking NLL \rightarrow NNLL.

core additional principle for NNLL showers:

achieve **QCD factorisation** also for commensurate scale “pair” of emissions \Rightarrow

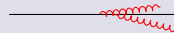
1 hard emission



double-soft emissions



triple-collinear emissions



- leading-order α_S matching \rightarrow Hamilton, AK, Salam, Scyboz, Verheyen [2301.09645]
- double-soft emissions \rightarrow Ferrario Ravasio, Hamilton, AK, Salam, Scyboz, Soyez [2307.11142]
- parts of triple-collinear \rightarrow Dasgupta, El-Menoufi [2109.07496], eid. + van Beekveld, Helliwell, Monni [2307.15734], eid. + AK [2402.05170], PANSCALES [2406.02661]



Analytic structure beyond NLL

Taking an event shape, \mathcal{O} , to be less than some value $e^{-|L|}$ we have at **NNLL** (focusing for now on e^+e^- only)

$$\Sigma(\mathcal{O} < e^{-|L|}) = (1 + \alpha_s C_1 + \dots) \exp \left[\frac{1}{\alpha_s} g_1(\alpha_s L) + g_2(\alpha_s L) + \alpha_s g_3(\alpha_s L) + \dots \right] \quad (1)$$

where g_1 accounts for LL terms, g_2 for NLL terms, and g_3 and C_1 for NNLL terms¹. Whereas an analytic resummation in principle retains only the terms that are put in (i.e. g_1 and g_2 at NLL) the shower will instead generate spurious higher order terms

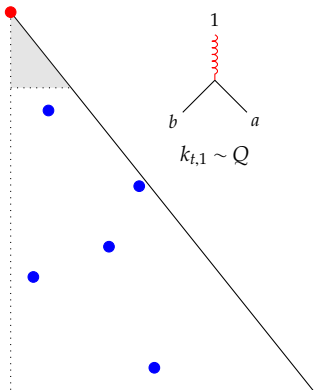
$$\Sigma(\mathcal{O} < e^{-|L|}) = (1 + \alpha_s \tilde{C}_1 + \dots) \exp \left[\frac{1}{\alpha_s} g_1(\alpha_s L) + g_2(\alpha_s L) + \alpha_s \tilde{g}_3(\alpha_s L) + \dots \right] \quad (2)$$

When thinking about going beyond NLL we need to address two things: 1) what are the necessary **analytic ingredients** from resummation and 2) how do we **compensate** the NNLL terms already present in the shower?

¹In the language of q_T resummation A_1 is responsible for LL terms, A_2 and B_1 for NLL terms and A_3 and B_2 for NNLL terms (together with the hard coefficient function $C_1(z)$).

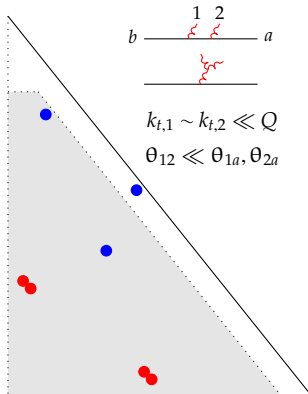


Lund plane picture



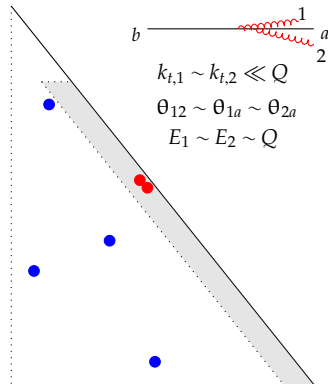
hard matching \rightarrow

α_S correct for first emission



double-soft \rightarrow

get any pair of soft commensurate energy/angle right

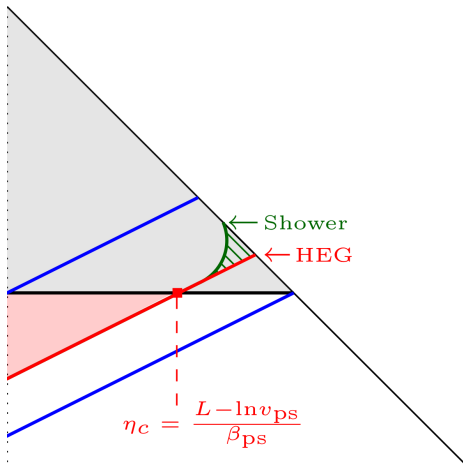


triple-collinear \rightarrow

account for genuine $2 \rightarrow 4$ collinear splittings



Match without breaking NLL



Standard matching → **don't break fixed-order!**

Log-aware matching → **first step in improving the shower log accuracy!**

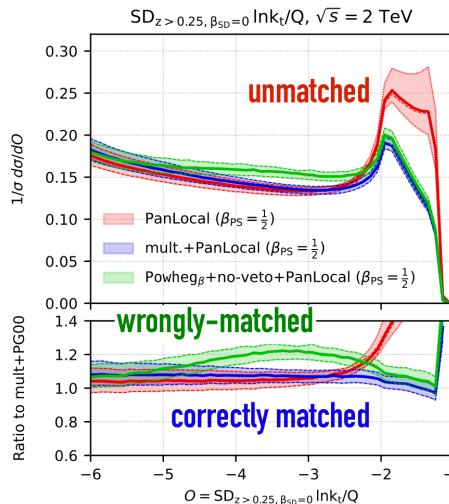
- Existing matching schemes not necessarily suited.
- Main concern related to kinematic mismatch between **shower** and **hardest emission generator**. This issue has been studied in the past Corke, Sjöstrand [1003.2384] but logarithmic understanding is new.
- Further subtlety in how shower partitions $g \rightarrow gg$ splitting function



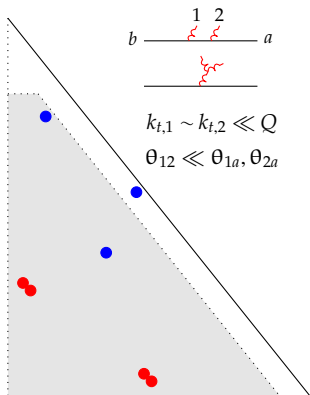
Phenomenological impact

- Contour mismatch by area $\alpha\Delta$ leads to **breaking** of NLL and exponentiation
- Correct matching on the other hand **augments** the shower from NLL to NLL+NNDL for event shapes.
- Impact of NLL breaking terms vary - for SoftDrop they have a **big impact** due to the single-logarithmic nature of the observable. In particular the breaking manifests as terms with **super-leading** logs

$$\partial_L \Sigma_{SD}(L) = \bar{\alpha} c e^{\bar{\alpha} c L - \bar{\alpha} \Delta} - 2\bar{\alpha} L e^{-\bar{\alpha} L^2} (1 - e^{-\bar{\alpha} \Delta})$$



Include double-soft corrections



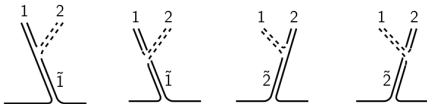
Double-soft corrections necessary for general NNLL accuracy \rightarrow **sufficient for large classes of observables**

Achieves NNDL ($\alpha_s^n L^{2n-2}$) for **multiplicities** and NSL ($\alpha_s^n L^{n-1}$) for **non-global** observables (at leading colour)

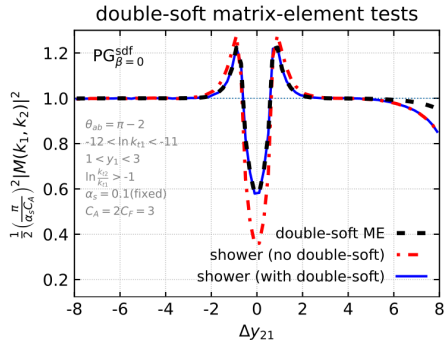
We implement through multiplicative matrix element correction, **care** needed to get correct NLO normalisation (interplay with K_{CMW})



The double-soft ME



- Any two-emission configuration in a dipole-shower comes with a number of **histories**
- We accept any such configuration with the true ME divided by the shower's **effective double-soft ME** summed over all histories that could have lead to that configuration
- NB: Efficiency depends on shower over-estimate!



$$P_{\text{accept}} = \frac{|M_{\text{DS}}^2|}{\sum_h |M_{\text{shower},h}^2|}$$



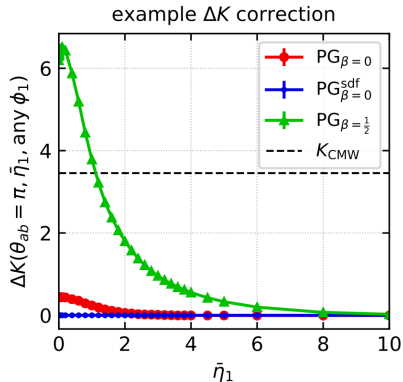
...and associated virtuals!

- Shower needs to reproduce both **real** and **virtual** contributions!
- Virtuals are always included through the Sudakov veto and an **effective coupling** (CMW-coupling)

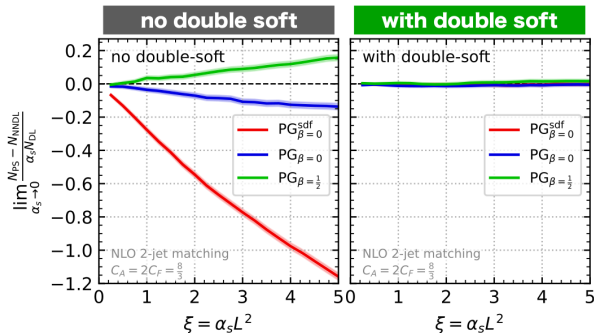
$$\alpha_s \rightarrow \alpha_s + \alpha_s^2 K_1 / 2\pi$$

- Shower-recoil effectively modifies the Sudakov/coupling \rightarrow needs compensating term ΔK_1

$$\Delta K_1 = \int d\Phi_{12/\tilde{1}}^{(\text{PS})} |M_{12/\tilde{1}}^{(\text{PS})}|^2 - \int d\Phi_{12/\tilde{1}_{\text{sc}}}^{(\text{PS})} |M_{12/\tilde{1}_{\text{sc}}}^{(\text{PS})}|^2.$$



Lund Multiplicities at NNDL ($\alpha_s^n L^{2n-2}$)



Reference NNDL analytic result from Medves, Soto-Ontoso, Soyez [2205.02861]

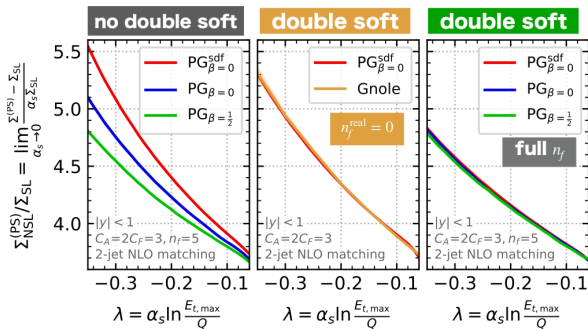
Showers without double-soft corrections show **clear differences** from reference (and each other).

Adding the double-soft corrections brings **NNDL agreement**.

$$\lim_{\alpha_s \rightarrow 0} \frac{N_{(PS)} - N_{NNDL}}{\alpha_s N_{DL}} \Big|_{\text{fixed } \alpha_s L^2}$$



Energy in a slice at NSL ($\alpha_s^n L^{n-1}$)



$$\lim_{\alpha_s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Sigma^{(PS)} - \Sigma_{SL}}{\alpha_s} \Big|_{\text{fixed } \alpha_s L}$$

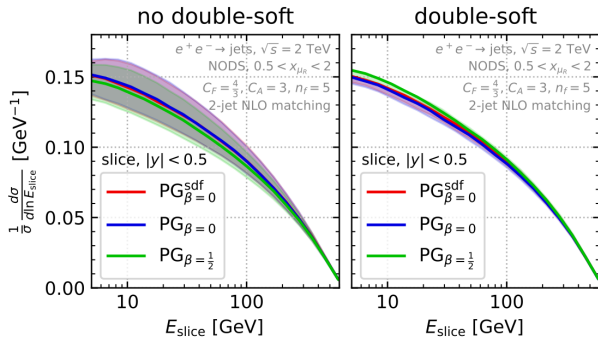
Reference NSL from Gnole
Banfi, Dreyer, Monni [2111.02413]
(see also Becher, Schalch, Xu [2307.02283]).

We did this test **semi-blind**:
only compared to Gnole after
we had agreement between the
three PanGlobal variants.

We have **NSL agreement with Gnole** (using $n_f^{\text{real}} = 0$) and
agreement between all showers
with full- n_f dependence (first
calculation of this kind as a
by-product!)



What about pheno?



- We studied energy flow between two hard (1 TeV) jets as a **preliminary** pheno case
- The three PanGlobal variants are remarkably close without double-soft corrections, but have **large uncertainties**
- With double-soft corrections we see a small shift in central values but a **significant reduction in uncertainties**.



Compute triple-collinear ingredients

Double-soft corrections are **not** sufficient to reach NNLL accuracy for event shapes. Need triple-collinear ingredients (cf. Dasgupta, El-Menoufi [2109.07496], eid. + van Beekveld, Helliwell, Monni [2307.15734], eid. + AK [2402.05170] for work in this direction)

However, with the inclusion of real double-soft emissions, only the **Sudakov form factor** needs to be modified to reach NNLL, i.e. we do not need the fully differential triple-collinear structure (**hot off the press**: van Beekveld, Dasgupta, El-Menoufi, Helliwell, Monni, Salam [2409.08316])

Taking

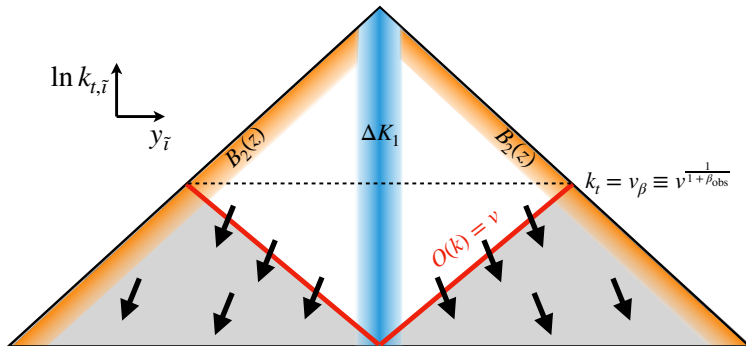
$$\alpha_{\text{eff}} = \alpha_s \left[1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} (K_1 + \Delta K_1(y) + B_2(z)) + \frac{\alpha_s^2}{4\pi^2} K_2 \right]$$

there are two pieces missing - B_2 which is of triple-collinear origin [2109.07496], [2307.15734] and K_2 (A_3) which is known Banfi, El-Menoufi, Monni [1807.11487], Catani, De Florian, Grazzini [1904.10365]

NB: NLL showers generate spurious \tilde{B}_2 and $\tilde{K}_2 \rightarrow$ must be **compensated** by ΔB_2 and ΔK_2



An intuitive picture



Recoil induces a **drift** of emissions in the Lund plane. Main novelty here is numerical compensation. Shower but **not** observable dependent!



Relation between shower and resummation ingredients

It is fairly straightforward to see that at NNLL we **only depend** on ΔK_1 and B_2 through their respective **integrals**

$$\Delta K_1^{\text{int}} \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \Delta K_1(y), \quad B_2^{\text{int}} \equiv \int_0^1 dz \frac{P_{gq}(z)}{2C_F} B_2(z).$$

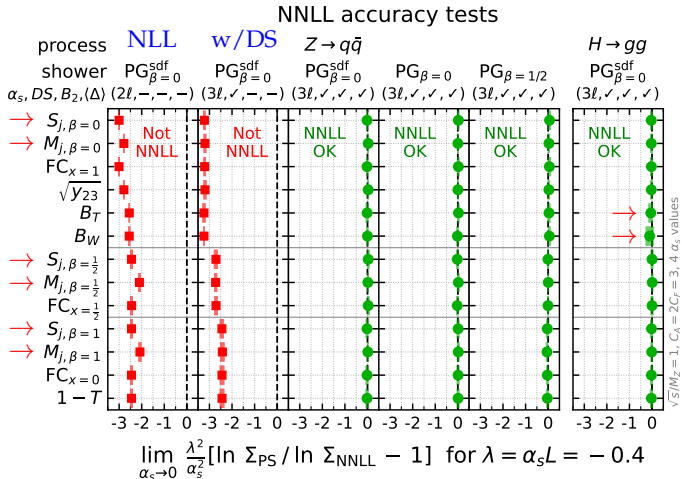
These (and K_2) can be related to the **drifts** in y ($\langle \Delta_y \rangle$), $\ln z$ ($\langle \Delta_{\ln z} \rangle$), and $\ln k_t$ ($\langle \Delta_{\ln k_t} \rangle$) and analytical resummation through

$$\Delta K_1^{\text{int,PS}} = 2\langle \Delta_y \rangle, \quad B_2^{\text{int,PS}} = B_2^{\text{int,NLO}} - \underbrace{\langle \Delta_{\ln z} \rangle}_{=\Delta B_2}, \quad K_2^{\text{PS}} = K_2^{\text{resum}} - \underbrace{4\beta_0 \langle \Delta_{\ln k_t} \rangle}_{=\Delta K_2}.$$

Using these relations and taking $B_2^{\text{int,NLO}}$ from [2109.07496], [2307.15734] and K_2^{resum} from [1807.11487] one can **prove** that our showers are **NNLL accurate for event-shape observables**



NNLL numerical tests



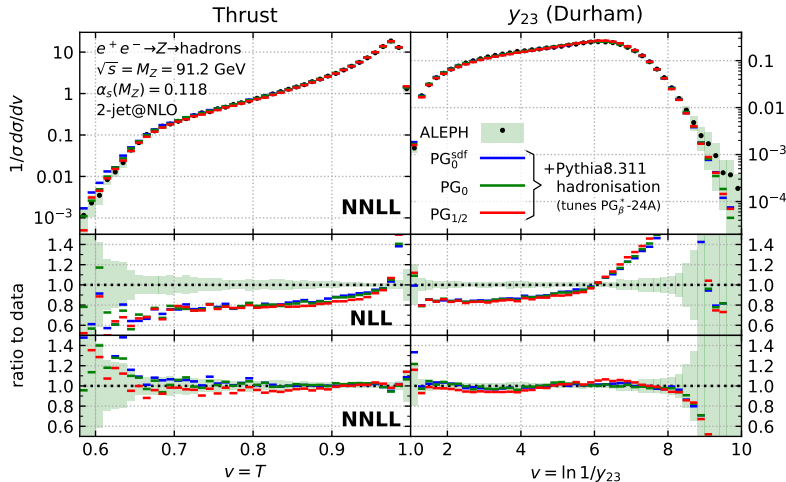
→: New analytic results, not available in literature

With no NNLL improvements, the coefficient of NNLL difference is significant, $\mathcal{O}(2-3)$, indicating importance of getting NNLL right

After inclusion of shifts and B_2 and K_2 we have perfect agreement



Impact of NNLL

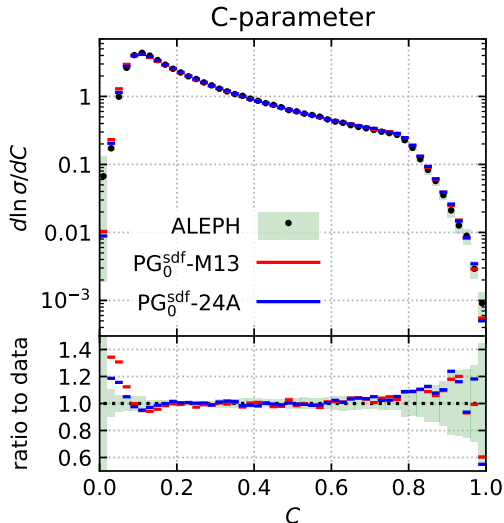


Long-standing **tension** between LEP data and Pythia8 unless using an **anomalously** large value of $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.137$ Skands, Carrazza, Rojo [1404.5630]

Inclusion of NNLL brings **large** corrections wrt NLL. **Agreement** with data achieved **without** anomalously large value of α_s



What about tuning?



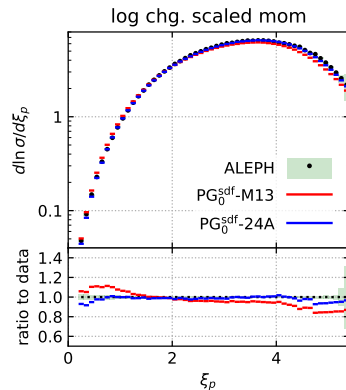
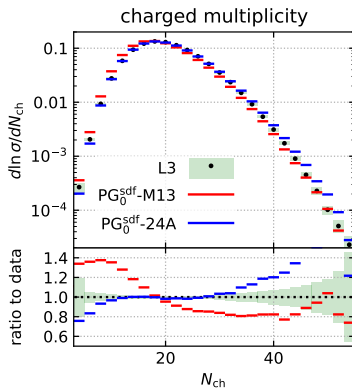
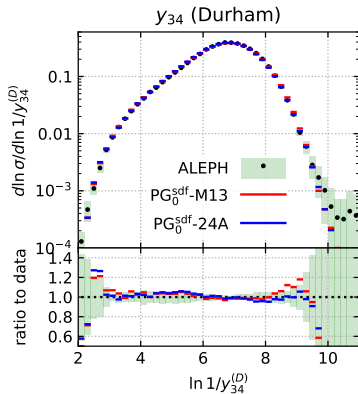
Improved agreement with data across a large range of event shapes

We start from the Monash tune (see ref. above) but fix $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.118$ (M13)

Full tuning exercise still to be done, but very little impact on infrared safe observables!



What about tuning?



Impact of tune **very minor** on infrared safe observables, even those that are only NLL accurate

Impact on unsafe observables **much larger**, bringing good agreement with ALEPH data.



Conclusions and outlook

NNLL parton showers have arrived!

Full phenomenological impact still to be studied but encouraging results observed in e^+e^-

Our code, including the NNLL improvements discussed here from v0.2, can be obtained from <https://gitlab.com/panscales/panscales-0.X>.

Next steps are to extend to hadron collisions...

