

Polarisation computations in the STRIPPER framework

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NNLO QCD

$$\sigma_{h_1 h_2 \rightarrow X} = \sum_{ij} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 dx_1 dx_2 \phi_{i,h_1}(x_1, \mu_F^2) \phi_{j,h_2}(x_2, \mu_F^2) \hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow X}(\alpha_s(\mu_R^2), \mu_R^2, \mu_F^2)$$

Perturbative expansion:
$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow X} = \hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow X}^{(0)} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow X}^{(1)} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow X}^{(2)} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$$

Next-to-leading order

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(1)} = \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^R + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^V + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^C$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^V = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_n 2\text{Re} \langle \mathcal{M}_n^{(0)} | \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)} \rangle F_n$$



$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^R = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+1} \langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} | \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \rangle F_{n+1}$$



Next-to-next-to-leading order

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(2)} = \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{VV} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{RV} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{RR} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{C2} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{C1}$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{VV} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_n \left(2\text{Re} \langle \mathcal{M}_n^{(0)} | \mathcal{M}_n^{(2)} \rangle + \langle \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)} | \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)} \rangle \right) F_n$$



$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{RV} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+1} 2\text{Re} \langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} | \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(1)} \rangle F_{n+1}$$



$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{RR} = \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \int d\Phi_{n+2} \langle \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} | \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} \rangle F_{n+2}$$



NNLO QCD

$$\sigma_{h_1 h_2 \rightarrow X} = \sum_{ij} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 dx_1 dx_2 \phi_{i,h_1}(x_1, \mu_F^2) \phi_{j,h_2}(x_2, \mu_F^2) \hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow X}(\alpha_s(\mu_R^2), \mu_R^2, \mu_F^2)$$

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Next-to-leading order

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(1)} = \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^R + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^V + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^C$$

Slicing

qT-slicing [Catain'07],
N-jettiness slicing [Gaunt'15/Boughezal'15]

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^R = \frac{1}{2s} \int d\Phi_{n+1} \langle \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} | \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)} \rangle_{F_{n+1}}$$

NNLO QCD schemes

Next-to-next-to-leading order

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{(2)} = \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{VV} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{RV} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{RR} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{C2} + \hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{C1}$$

Subtraction

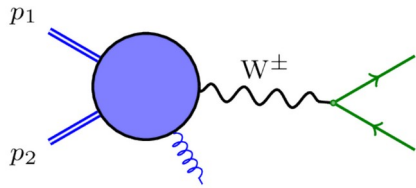
Antenna [Gehrmann'05-'08]
Colorful [DelDuca'05-'15]
Projection [Cacciari'15]
Geometric [Herzog'18]
Unsubtraction [Aguilera-Verdugo'19]
Nested collinear [Caola'17]
Sector-improved residue subtraction [Czakon'10-'14'19]

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ab}^{RR} = \frac{1}{2s} \int d\Phi_{n+2} \langle \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} | \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)} \rangle_{F_{n+2}}$$

Sector-improved residue subtraction C++ framework

- Formulation allows efficient algorithmic implementation → STRIPPER
- **High degree of automation:**
 - Partonic processes (taking into account all symmetries)
 - Sectors and subtraction terms
 - Interfaces to Matrix-element providers + O(100) hardcoded: AvH, OpenLoops, Recola, NJET, HardCoded
 - In practice: Only **two-loop matrix** elements required
- **Broad range of applications** through additional facilities:
 - **Narrow-Width & Double-Pole Approximation**
 - Fragmentation
 - **Polarised intermediate massive bosons**
 - (Partial) Unweighting → Event generation for **HighTEA**
 - Interfaces: FastNLO, FastJet

Ingredients for polarised predictions



$$M_\lambda = \mathbf{P}_\mu \cdot \frac{-g_{\mu\nu} + \frac{k^\mu k^\nu}{k^2}}{k^2 - M_V^2 + iM_V \Gamma_V} \cdot \mathbf{D}_\nu$$

on-shell polarization sum:

$$\left(-g^{\mu\nu} + \frac{k^\mu k^\nu}{k^2}\right) \rightarrow \sum_\lambda \epsilon_\lambda^{*\mu} \epsilon_\lambda^\nu$$

On-shell mapping:

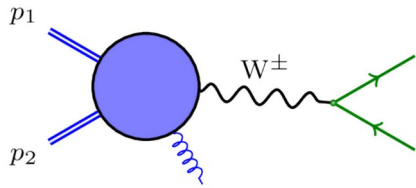
- Narrow-width-approximation (NWA)
- (double) Pole-approximation (DPA)

Polarisation vectors:

- frame dependent

Subtraction scheme modifications (?)

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'arbitrary' choices \rightarrow impact on pol. observables

On-shell mapping:

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Polarisation vectors:

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Subtraction scheme modifications (?)

On-shell mappings in STRIPPER

1. Narrow-width-approximation (NWA) [[hep-ph/9904472](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/9904472)]

- Uniquely defined limit (at cross sections level)
- Full factorization of production and decay (while keeping spin dependence)
- No off-shell effects, restricted phase space
- Corrections of $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\Gamma}{m}\right)$ expected

For example NWA for top-quark pairs

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dp_t^2}{2\pi} T_D(p_t^2) \xrightarrow{\frac{\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0}{m_t}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dp_t^2 \frac{\delta(p_t^2 - m_t^2)}{2m_t \Gamma_t} \quad T(p_t) = \frac{i}{\not{p}_t - \mu_t} \quad \text{with} \quad \mu_t^2 = m_t^2 - im_t \Gamma_t$$

$$\hat{\sigma}^{(0)} \xrightarrow{\frac{\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0}{m_t}} \hat{\sigma}_{\text{NWA}}^{(0)} \equiv \frac{1}{\hat{s}} \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}} \int d\Phi_{t\bar{t}} d\Phi_{\Gamma_t} d\Phi_{\Gamma_{\bar{t}}} \frac{\langle \mathcal{M}_{\text{res}} | \mathcal{M}_{\text{res}} \rangle}{(2m_t \Gamma_t)^2} \Big|_{p_t^2=m_t^2, p_{\bar{t}}^2=m_t^2}$$

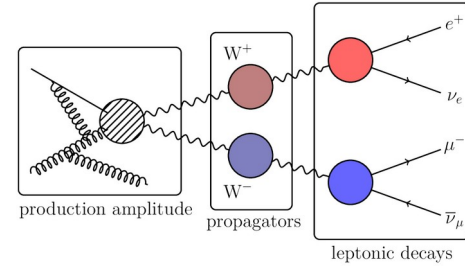
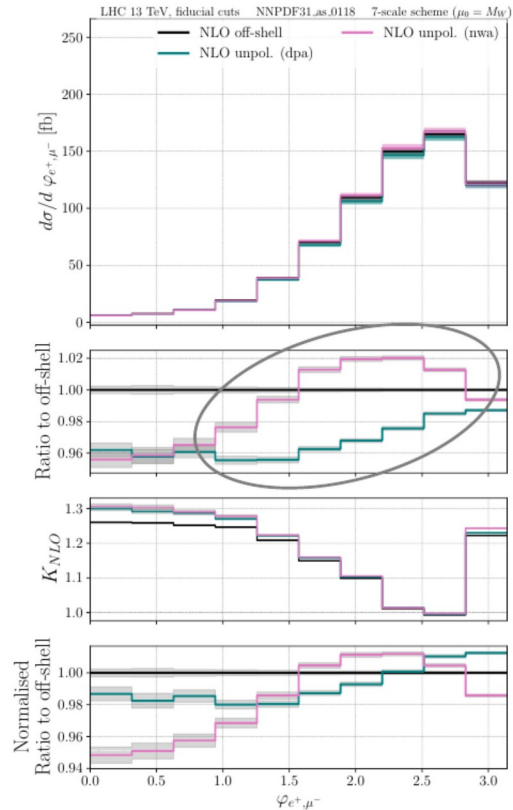
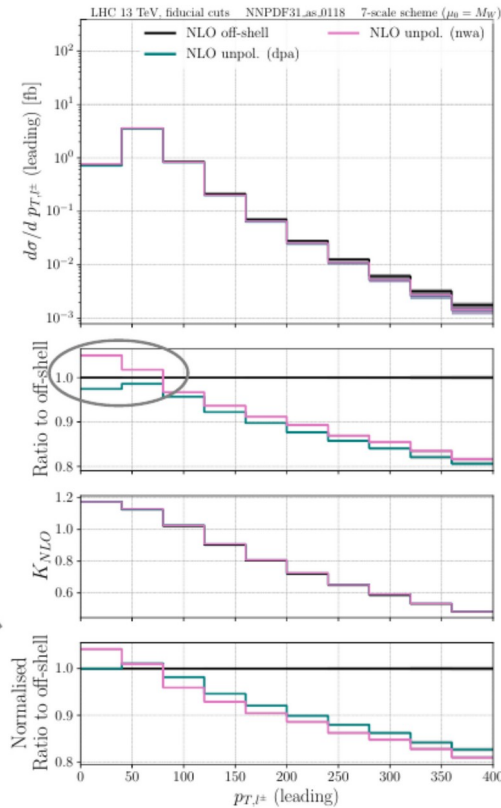
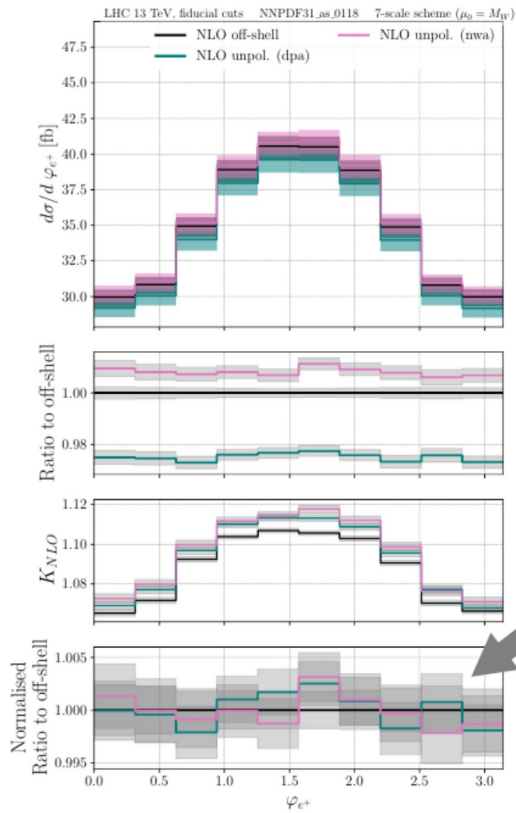
$$\langle \mathcal{M}_{\text{res}} | \mathcal{M}_{\text{res}} \rangle = \sum_{h, h', \bar{h}, \bar{h}'} \langle M_{\text{prod}}(h', \bar{h}') | M_{\text{prod}}(h, \bar{h}) \rangle \langle \Gamma_t(h') | \Gamma_t(h) \rangle \langle \Gamma_{\bar{t}}(\bar{h}') | \Gamma_{\bar{t}}(\bar{h}) \rangle$$

On-shell mappings in STRIPPER

2. (double) Pole-approximation (DPA) [[1310.1564](#)]

- Full phase space
- On-shell matrix elements (exactly the same that go into NWA) defined through on-shell projection
- Off-shell Breit-Wigner propagators → capture kinematic off-shell effects
- Choices to be made about what quantities to preserve (we follow [[2107.06579](#)]):
 - Invariant mass of boson system
 - Certain angles in specific frames

Comparisons between DPA and NWA



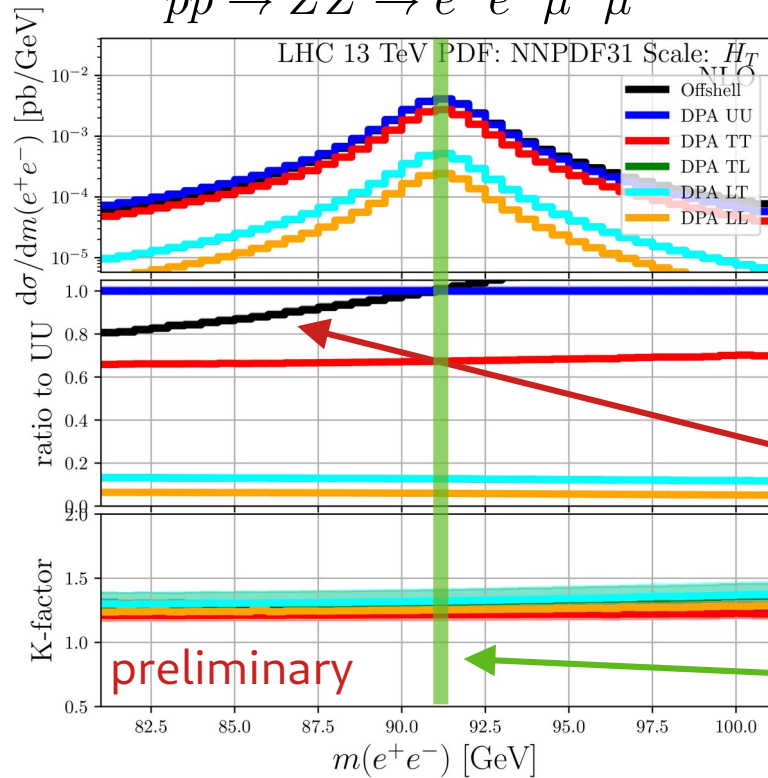
Systematic shape differences of few percent

NNLO QCD study of polarised W+W- production at the LHC,
Poncelet, Popescu 2102.13583

DPA off-shell effects

DPA captures certain off-shell effects

$$pp \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$$

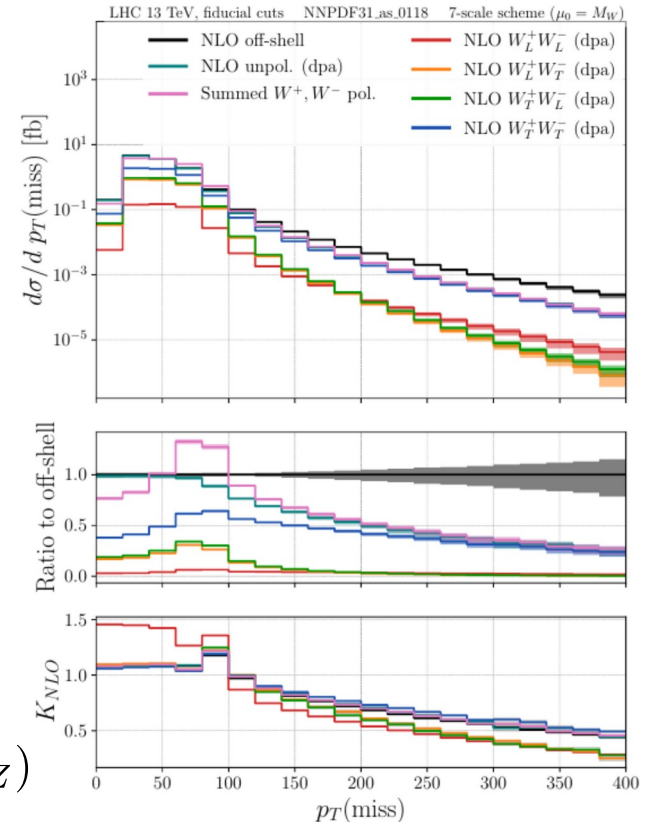


DPA
vs
Off-shell

NWA
 $\rightarrow \delta(m(e^+e^-) - m_Z)$

But not all...

e.g. single-resonant contributions



Polarization frames

Two options implemented:

- Laboratory frame
- Respective vector-boson rest-frame (directions by simple boost from lab-frame)

$$\begin{aligned}\varepsilon_-^\mu &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (0, \cos \theta_V \cos \phi_V + i \sin \phi_V, \cos \theta_V \sin \phi_V - i \cos \phi_V, -\sin \theta_V), \\ \varepsilon_+^\mu &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (0, -\cos \theta_V \cos \phi_V + i \sin \phi_V, -\cos \theta_V \sin \phi_V - i \cos \phi_V, \sin \theta_V), \\ \varepsilon_L^\mu &= \frac{1}{M} (p, E \sin \theta_V \cos \phi_V, E \sin \theta_V \sin \phi_V, E \cos \theta_V),\end{aligned}$$

Interplay between polarization frame and higher-order QCD corrections?

→ recoil **might** introduce 'spurious' effects in polarization fractions

→ enhancement of NNLO QCD effects on longitudinal fractions ?

| QCD Order Pol. frame | $pp \rightarrow W^+W^-$ Lab | | $pp \rightarrow ZZ$ V rest | | NNLO K-factor UU: 1.06 LL : 1.10 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--|
| | UU | LL | UU | LL | |
| NLO | 214.55(7) fb | 9.064(6) fb | 15.159(1) fb | 0.889(1) fb | NNLO K-factor UU: 1.06 LL : 1.10 |
| NNLO | 219.4(4) fb | 9.88(3) fb | 16.06(2) fb | 0.975(1) fb | |
| NNLO+LI | 232.7(4) fb | 10.57(3) fb | 17.39(2) fb | 1.073(1) fb | |

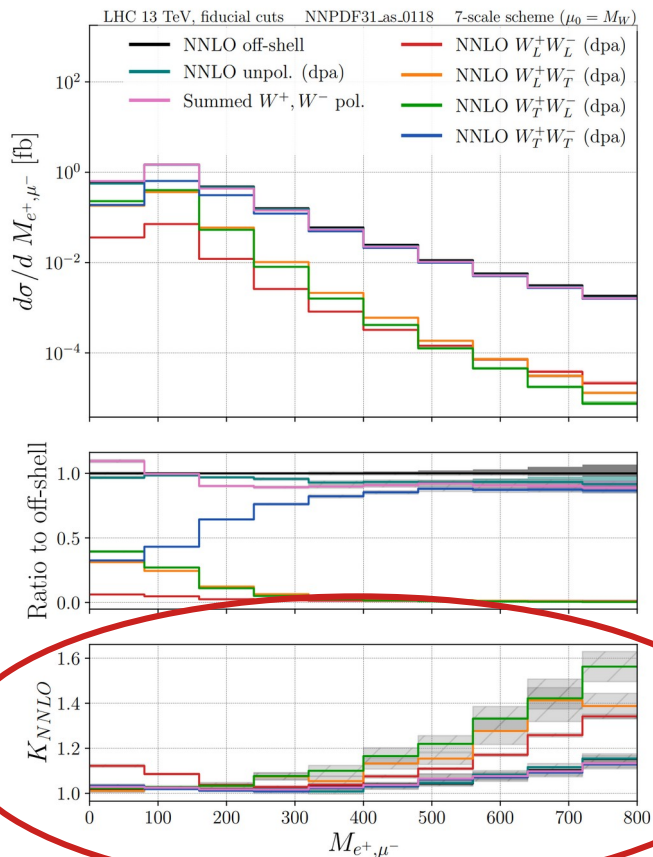
Impact on LL component from NNLO QCD in both frames!

Polarization frames – higher QCD

(Sorry for the confusing colour coding ;-)

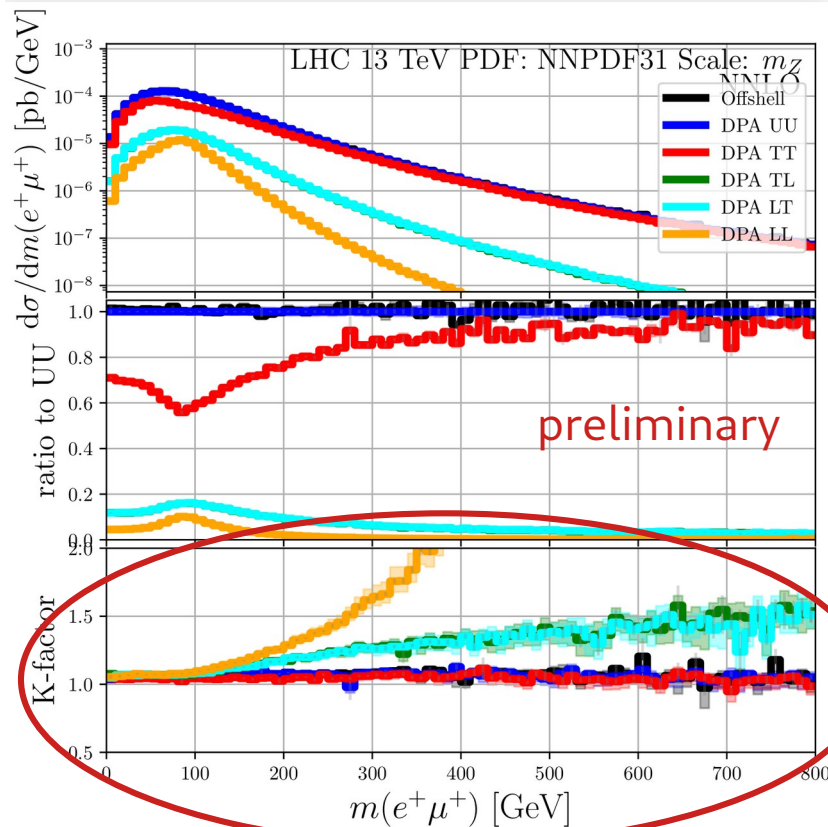
$$pp \rightarrow W^+ W^-$$

Lab frame



$$pp \rightarrow ZZ$$

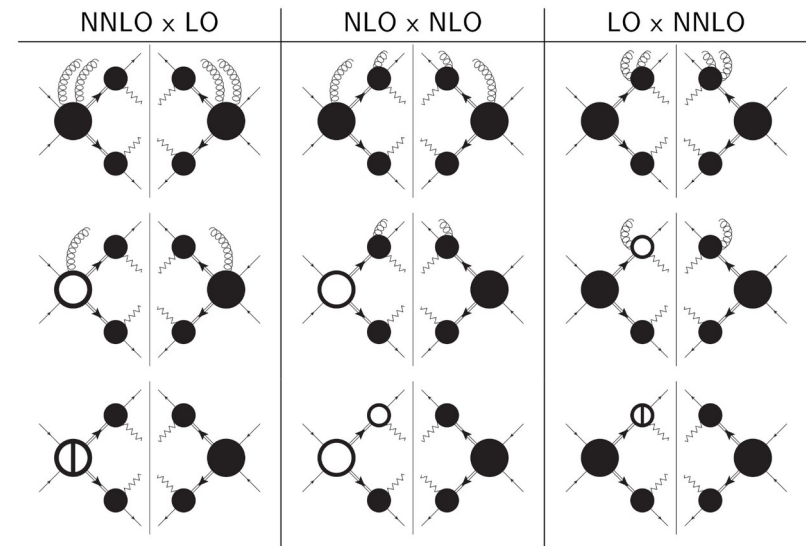
V rest frame



Subtraction scheme and polarization

- So far only QCD corrections considered
→ no need to modifications
- Works also for loop-induced processes
example: $pp \rightarrow H$ with $b+t$ mass effects
[2312.09896 & 2407.12413]
- What about non-leptonic decays?
 - Higher-order QCD corrections to NWA decays
 - used for the much more complicated top-pair case already
 - DPA would require to keep track of resonances

$$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow \ell\bar{\nu}v\bar{b}b$$



[2008.11133 & 1901.05407]

How to make NNLO QCD calculations easy?



Try it, it's fun :)



<https://www.precision.hep.phy.cam.ac.uk/hightea>

What is HighTEA in a nutshell?

- Database of pre-calculated fixed-order events (think Ntuples [BlackHat '08'13])
→ **Equivalent to a fully fledged calculation**
- Equipped with an easy-to-use interface: bash, python, webform

HighTEA: High energy Theory Event Analyser

[2304.05993]

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^bDAMTP, University of Cambridge, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, CB3 0WA, United Kingdom

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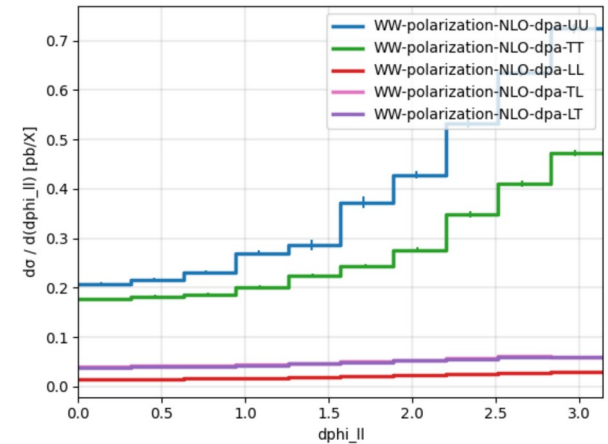
E-mail: mczakon@physik.rwth-aachen.de, zk261@cam.ac.uk, adm74@cam.ac.uk, poncelet@hep.phy.cam.ac.uk, andrei.popescu@cantab.net

Polarized VV in HighTEA

Work-in-progress, but first example online

pp → WW @ NLO QCD (takes only seconds to run)

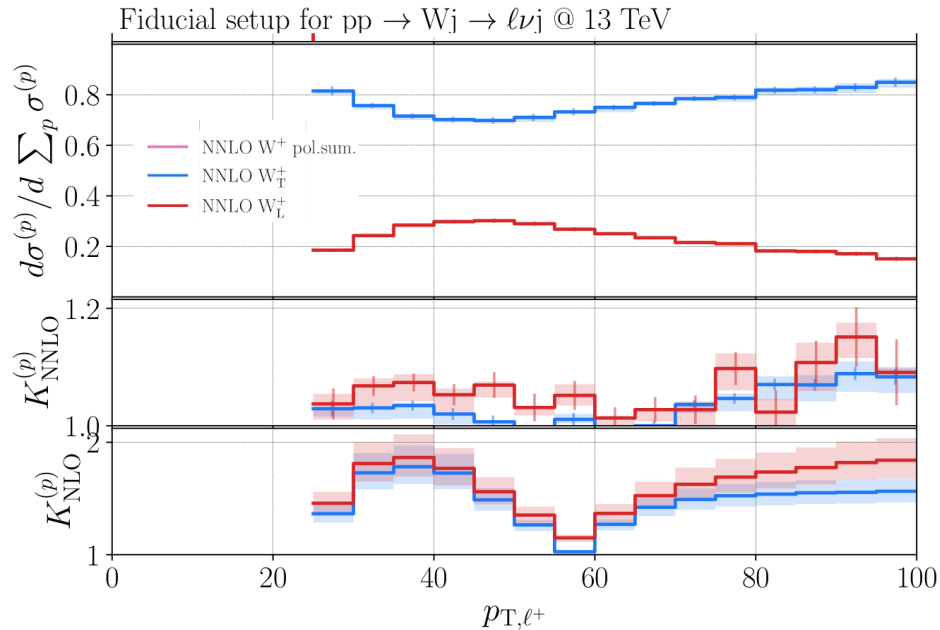
```
jobs = {}  
  
printit = True  
  
for mode in ["LO-dpa-UU", "LO-dpa-TT", "LO-dpa-LL", "LO-dpa-TL", "LO-dpa-LT",  
            "NLO-dpa-UU", "NLO-dpa-TT", "NLO-dpa-LL", "NLO-dpa-TL", "NLO-dpa-LT"]:  
  
    print('Current mode: ', mode)  
  
    jobs[mode] = hightea('WW-polarization-'+mode, directory=USERDIR, overwrite=False)  
    jobs[mode].process('pp_ww_pol_13TeV', printit)  
    printit=False  
  
    jobs[mode].contribution(mode)  
  
    jobs[mode].define_new_variable('a_lp', 'arctan2(p_lp_1, p_lp_2)')  
    jobs[mode].define_new_variable('a_lm', 'arctan2(p_lm_1, p_lm_2)')  
    jobs[mode].define_new_variable('dphi_ll', 'fabs(a_lp-a_lm)*(pi > fabs(a_lp-a_lm))+(2*pi-fabs(a_lp-a_lm))*(pi < fabs(a_lp-a_lm))')  
  
    jobs[mode].observable('dphi_ll', list(np.linspace(0, np.pi, 11)))  
  
    jobs[mode].request()
```



NNLO QCD on the way...

Do we need NNLO QCD corrections?

Example: $pp \rightarrow W^\pm (\rightarrow l\nu) j$



Important

Non-trivial differential NNLO K-factors!

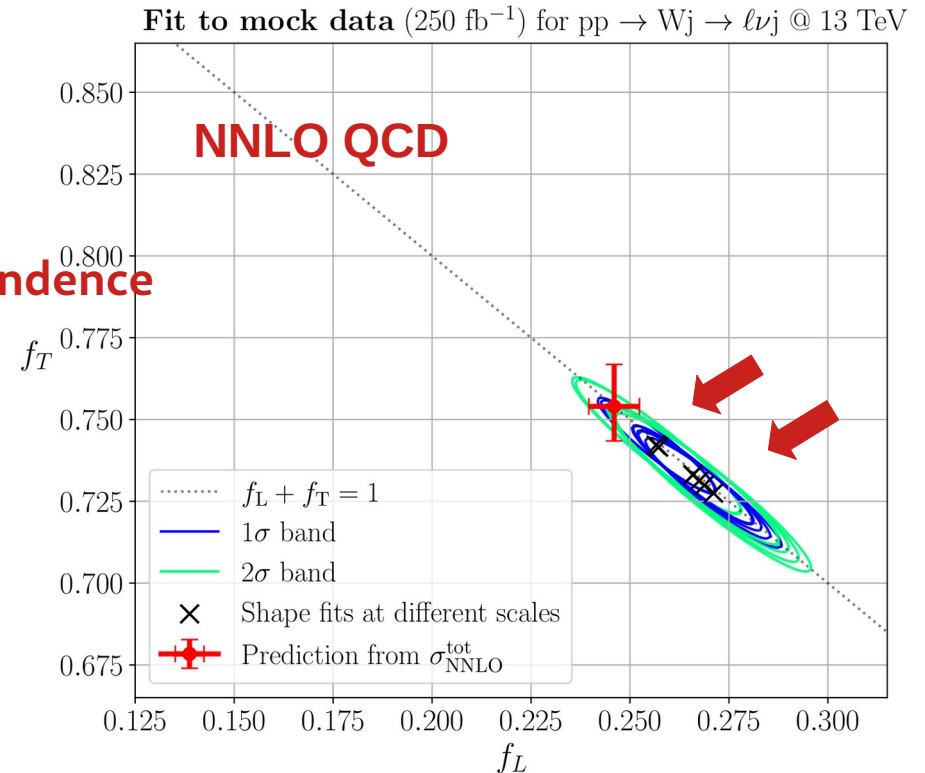
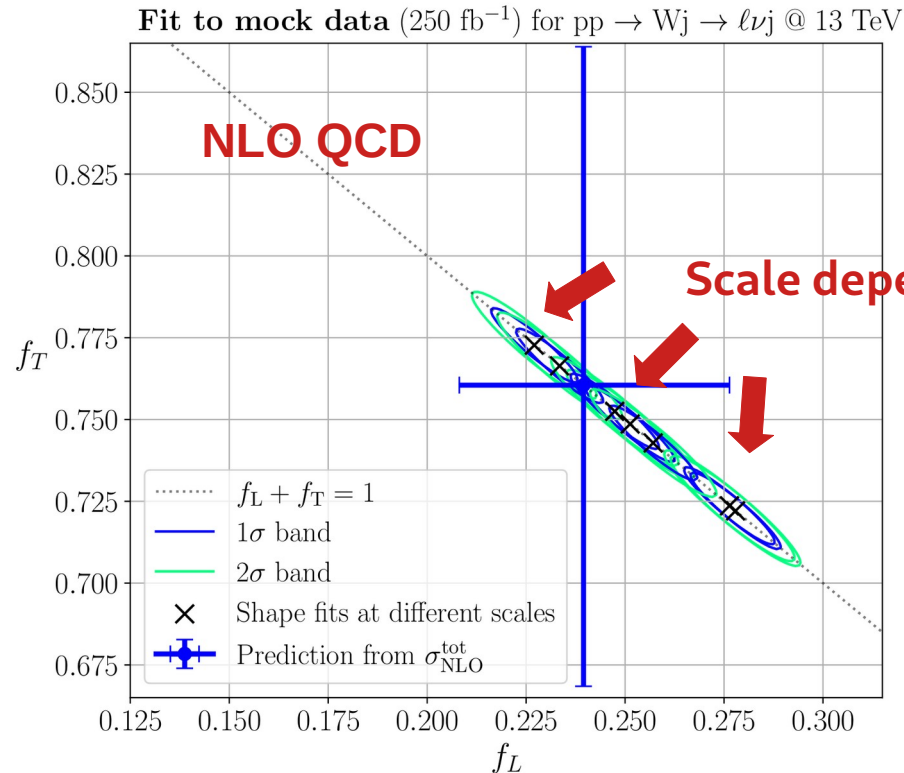
- 1) Differential polarization fraction have shapes
- 2) Higher-order corrections dependent on polarization! Just using unpolarized K-factor would lead to distortion of spectrum.
- 3) NNLO QCD needed to reach percent-level scale-dependence \rightarrow MHO

Polarised W+j production at the LHC: a study at NNLO QCD accuracy,
Pellen, Poncelet, Popescu 2109.14336

Do we need NNLO QCD corrections?

Fit to mock-data (based on NNLO QCD and 250 fb⁻¹ stats):
→ extreme case to see effect of scale dependence reduction

Observable: $\cos(\ell, j_1)$



Summary and Outlook

Summary

- STRIPPER: automated NNLO QCD subtraction scheme
- Polarization features: DPA & NWA, LAB & V-boson polarization frames
- Polarized processes @ NNLO QCD: $pp \rightarrow Vj$, $pp \rightarrow WW$, **NEW: $pp \rightarrow ZZ$**
- **NEW: polarized cross sections in HighTEA** (wip)

Outlook

- The other $pp \rightarrow VV$ underway
- Extending HighTEA setup
- Polarization in top-quark production and decay
- Non-leptonic decays in NWA including NNLO QCD corrections