

# ggF Status Report

Alessandra Cappati, Robin Hayes, Alexander Huss, Stephen Jones

Dec. 4, 2024

# ggF WGI: Who We Are

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Stephen Jones (Theory)



Alessandra Cappati (CMS)



Alexander Huss (Theory)



Robin Hayes (ATLAS)



# In This Talk

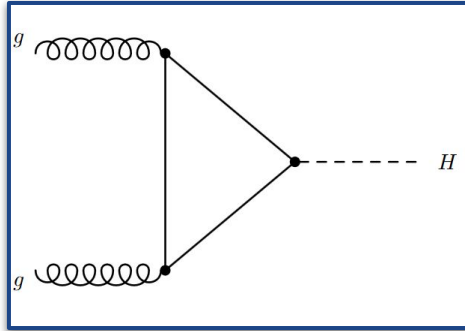
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- ggF at the LHC
  - Experimental context
- Theory updates this past year:
  - Quark mass effects in ggF loop: top, bottom mass dependence
  - aN3LO PDFs
  - N4LO soft-virtual approximation
  - 3-loop heavy flavour corrections
- Status of ggF cross-section update for 13.6 TeV
- Possible future areas of focus



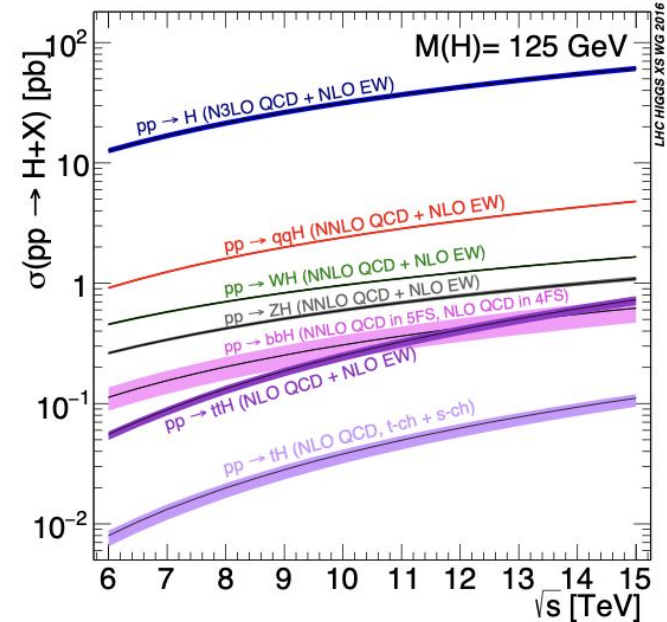
# ggF at the LHC

- Largest production mode at the LHC.



- **Experimentally:** Large statistics = crucial role in discovery, no distinctive features = best observed in clean decay modes.
- **Theoretically:** Calculations complicated by the quark loop: introduces dependence on top mass and other heavy quark (b, c).

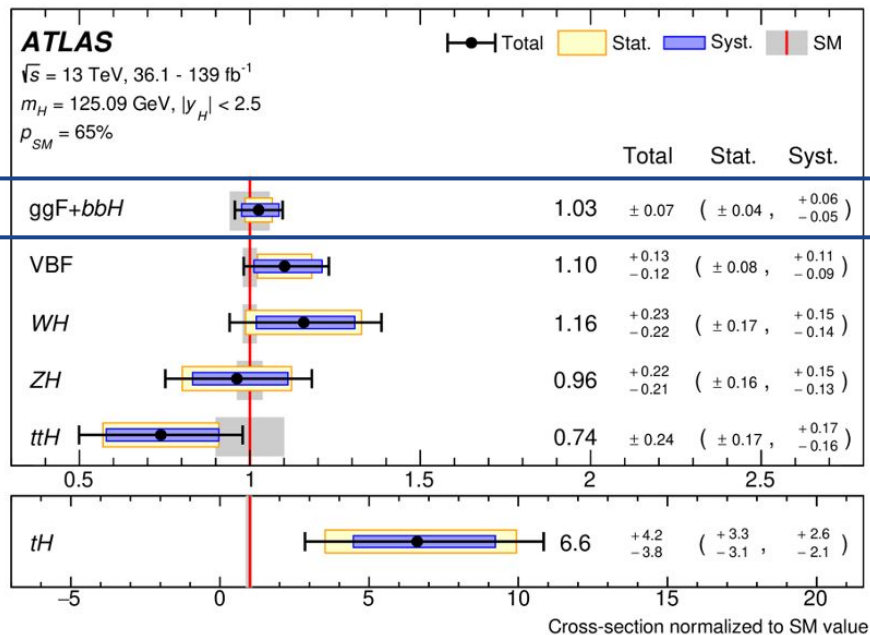
Yellow Report 4



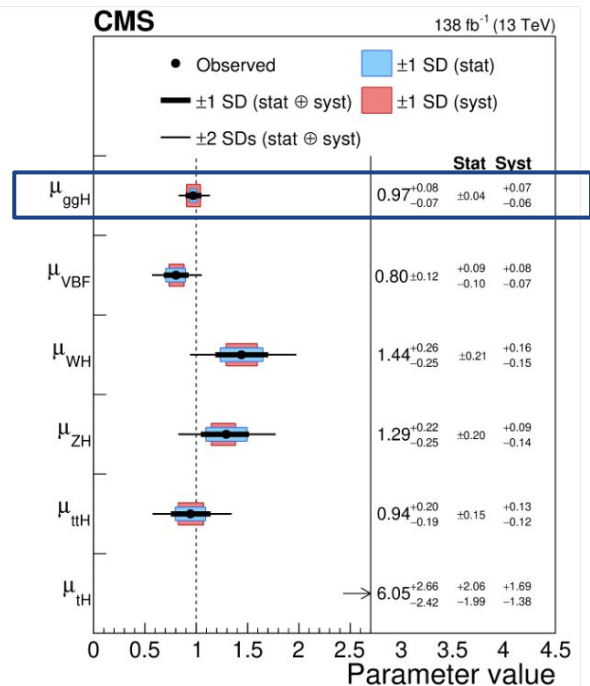
# ggF at the LHC

- Run 2: measurements systematics-dominated, ~same precision as theory.

## ATLAS HIGG-2021-23

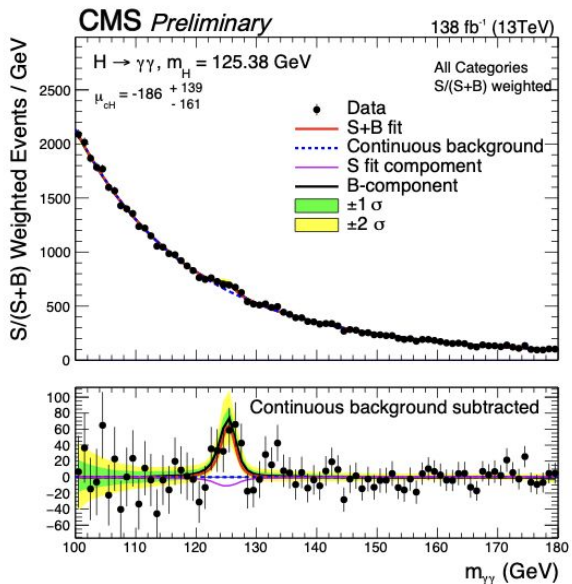


## CMS HIG-22-001

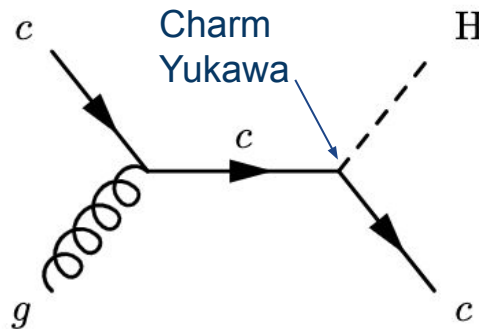


# ggF at the LHC

Experiments also studying interesting new modes in Run 2 data, eg. inclusive H+c production with sensitivity to charm Yukawa coupling:



ATLAS and CMS probed inclusive H+c production in the diphoton channel.

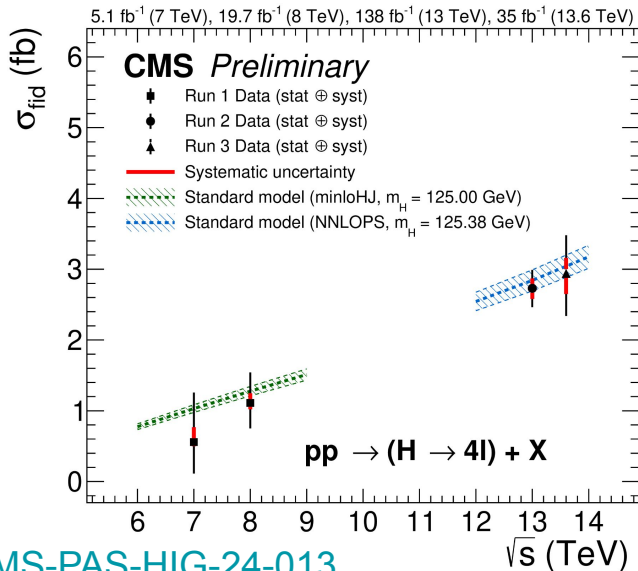


CMS: limits on  $\kappa_c < 38.1$  obs (72.5 exp)  
ATLAS: H+c cross-section < 10.4 pb at 95% CL

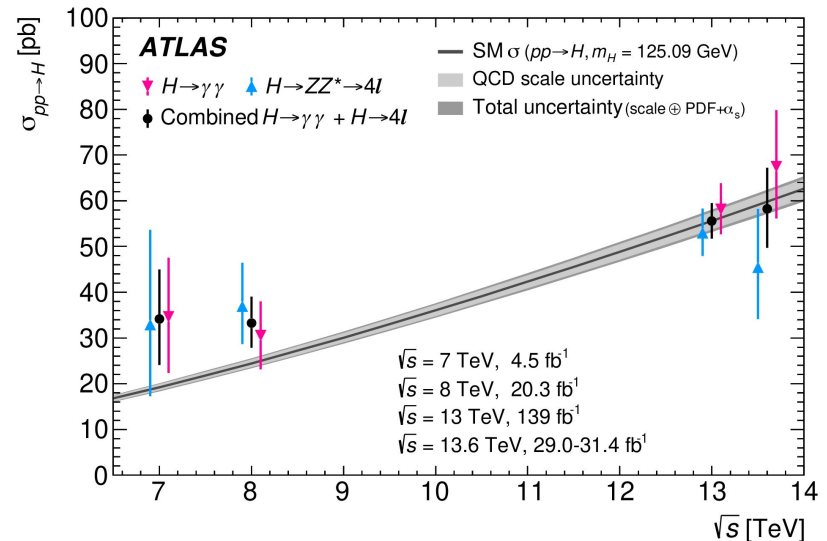
More on this topic in the first talks of the WG1 parallel session!

# ggF Cross-Sections at 13.6 TeV

- First results with data at 13.6 TeV already available both from ATLAS and CMS
  - For now using ad interim prescriptions from LHCHWG: [arXiv:2402.09955](https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.09955)
  - Future analyses will need more precise predictions



[CMS-PAS-HIG-24-013](#)



[Eur. Phys. J. C 84 \(2024\) 78](#)

# ggF Cross-Sections at 13.6 TeV

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- Goal: update cross-section prediction for new COM energy, with theory developments of the last several years.
- Numbers will be included in YR 5
  - Feature updates on next slides
  - Will summarize status and approach after.

Stephen's summary

## Progress

$\delta(1/m_t)$ : Now known to NNLO

$\delta(t, b, c)$ : Now known to NNLO

$\delta(\text{EW})$ : gg known, unc. 1%

$\delta(\text{PDF} - \text{TH})$ : Progress but uncertainty persists

$\delta(\text{scale})$ : Some ingredients known

Czakon, Eschment, Niggetiedt, Poncelet, Schellenberger 24

Czakon, Niggetiedt 20; Czakon, Harlander, Klappert, Niggetiedt 21

Niggetiedt, Usovitsch 23

Czakon, Eschment, Niggetiedt, Poncelet, Schellenberger 23

Becchetti, Bonciani, Del Duca, Hirschi, Moriello, Schweitzer 20; +  
Bonetti, Panzer, Smirnov, Tancredi, Melnikov, ...

McGowan, Cridge, Harland-Lang, Thorne 22; NNPDF 24

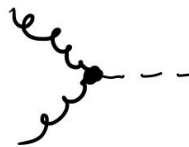
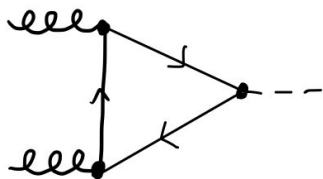
Lee, von Manteuffel, Schabinger, Smirnov, Smirnov,  
Steinhauser 22



# Quark Mass Effects

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- ggF calculation made extra challenging by presence of **massive quarks** in the loop.
  - Calculations usually performed in heavy top limit  $\rightarrow$  integrate out the top quark, decrease number of loops.



ggF xsec known  
to N3LO in  
heavy top limit!

- Recent theory improvements:
  - Top mass dependence up to NNLO
  - Top x bottom mass dependence in interference up to NNLO

# NNLO with Top Mass Dependence

- Top mass dependence at NNLO included since [last year](#).

channel	$\sigma_{\text{HEFT}}^{\text{NNLO}}$ [pb]			$(\sigma_{\text{exact}}^{\text{NNLO}} - \sigma_{\text{HEFT}}^{\text{NNLO}})$ [pb]	
	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$			$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$
$\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$					
<i>gg</i>	+15.966	+19.295(3)	+8.574(13)	+0.0280	+0.2409(7)
<i>qq</i>		+1.483(2)	+0.831(6)	-0.3705	-0.0416(5)
<i>qq</i>		+0.024(1)	+0.101(1)	+0.0317	-0.0505(1)
total	+15.966	+20.802(4)	+9.506(14)	-0.3108	+0.1488(9)
$\sqrt{s} = 13.6 \text{ TeV}$					
<i>gg</i>	+17.110	+20.754(3)	+9.216(13)	+0.0238	+0.2644(6)
<i>qq</i>		+1.613(2)	+0.916(6)	-0.4034	-0.0459(5)
<i>qq</i>		+0.026	+0.109(1)	+0.0335(1)	-0.0551(1)
total	+17.110	+22.394(4)	+10.241(15)	-0.346	+0.1634(8)

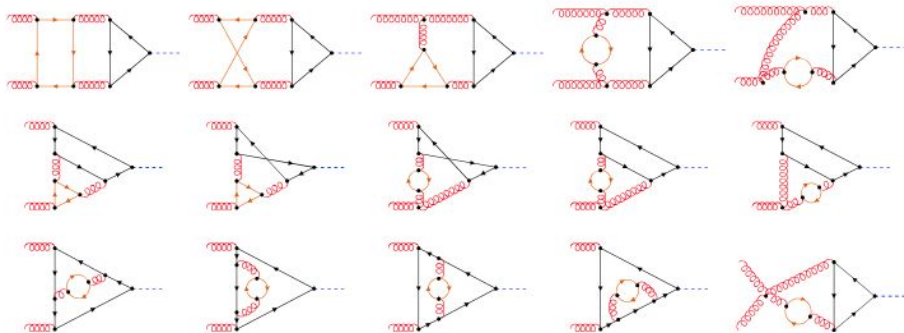
[Czakon, Niggetiedt 20:](#)  
[Czakon, Harlander, Klappert,](#)  
[Niggetiedt 21](#)

- Dependence on renormalization scale for Yukawa: results previously only available in pole mass scheme, but as **of this year** also in MSbar scheme → can be incorporated in ggF xsec update!

# NNLO with $b, c$ Mass Dependence

- Top-bottom interference included up to NNLO (remaining effects of bottom and charm mass still at NLO).

[Niggetiedt, Usovitsch 23](#)



Quarks in loop 1 and **loop 2** can have different masses.

[Czakon, Eschment, Niggetiedt, Poncelet, Schellenberger 23](#)

- Results in  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  scheme  $\rightarrow$  can be incorporated in ggF xsec update!
  - Sensitive to choice of renormalization scheme.

# NNLO with b,c Mass Dependence

- Accounting for top-bottom interference decreases cross-section by ~4% at NNLO compared to heavy top limit.
  - Effect very stable on moving from NLO (also 4%) to NNLO.

Interference contribution:

	7 TeV	8 TeV	13 TeV	13.6 TeV	14 TeV
LO	$-0.39^{+0.10}_{-0.15}$ pb	$-0.50^{+0.12}_{-0.19}$ pb	$-1.09^{+0.27}_{-0.42}$ pb	$-1.17^{+0.29}_{-0.45}$ pb	$-1.22^{+0.31}_{-0.47}$ pb
NLO	$-0.66^{+0.11}_{-0.12}$ pb	$-0.82^{+0.13}_{-0.14}$ pb	$-1.72^{+0.26}_{-0.27}$ pb	$-1.84^{+0.28}_{-0.29}$ pb	$-1.91^{+0.29}_{-0.30}$ pb
NNLO	$-0.68^{+0.06}_{-0.02}$ pb	$-0.84^{+0.07}_{-0.01}$ pb	$-1.70^{+0.13}_{-0.01}$ pb	$-1.80^{+0.13}_{-0.01}$ pb	$-1.88^{+0.13}_{-0.01}$ pb

[Czakon, Eschment, Niggetiedt, Poncelet, Schellenberger 23](#)

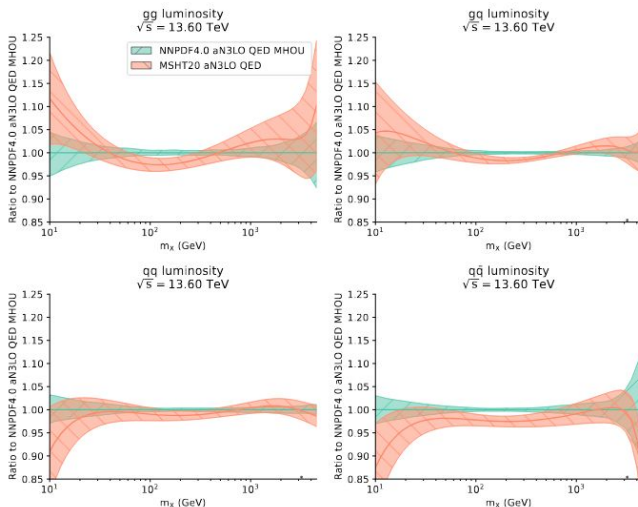
- From experiments: Predictions for finite quark mass effects, differential in  $p_{TH}$ , useful for (kt/kb/kc diff xsec interpretations).

- [Dedicated ggF WG1 meeting](#) in June → Status: NNPDF and MSHT have produced aN3LO PDFs, CT supports full PDF4LHC combo only later. (See [PDF talk](#) this week!)

[NNPDF: 2402.18635](#)

[MSHT: 2207.04739](#)

aN3LO PDFs  
(incl. QED effects)  
normalized to NNPDF set.



### 14:00 → 14:10 ggF Overview

meeting\_recording\_... meeting\_recording\_... sjones-intro.pdf

### 14:15 → 14:35 MSHT (Thomas Cridge)

Speaker: Thomas Cridge (DESY)

TCridge\_aN3LO\_PD...

### 14:50 → 15:10 NNPDF (Giacomo Magni)

Speaker: Giacomo Magni (Nikhef, VU Amsterdam)

Higgs\_WG\_26\_06\_2...

### 15:25 → 15:45 ABM (Sasha Zenaiev)

Speaker: Oleksandr Zenaiev (Hamburg University)

Zenaiev-Higgs.pdf

### 16:00 → 16:15

Break

### 16:15 → 16:35 CT (Marco Guzzi)

Speaker: Marco Guzzi (Kennesaw State University)

ggF-mguzzi-June-2...

### 16:50 → 17:05 Splitting Functions (Sven-Olaf Moch)

Speakers: Giulio Falcioni, Sven-Olaf Moch, Sven-Olaf Moch

higgs-ggF-2024.pdf

### 17:10 → 17:25 Splitting Functions (Tongzhi Yang)

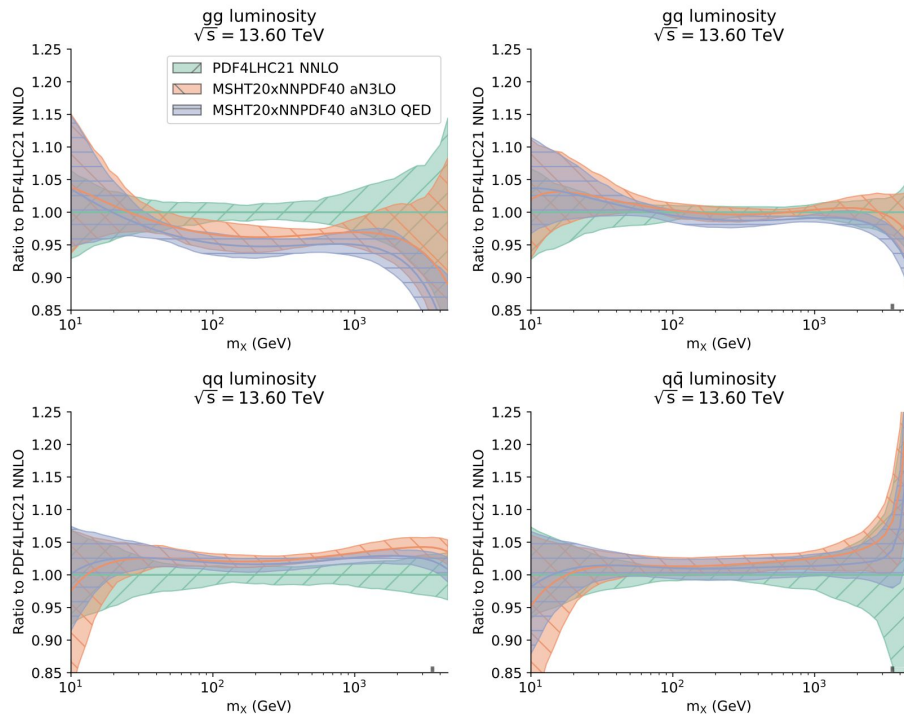
Speakers: Thomas Kurt Gehrman (University of Zurich (CH)), Tongzhi Yang

ggF2024.pdf

### 17:40 → 18:00 Summary & Discussion

# aN3LO PDFs

After the dedicated meeting, NNPDF and MSHT performed **combination** of their aN3LO PDFs according to PDF4LHC methods:

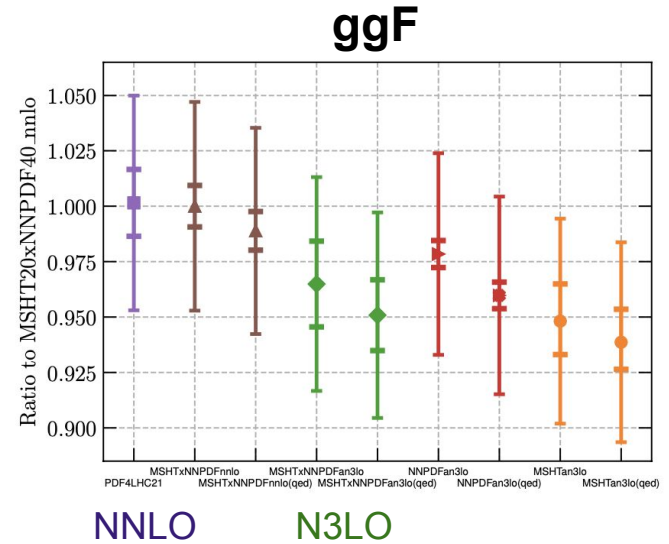
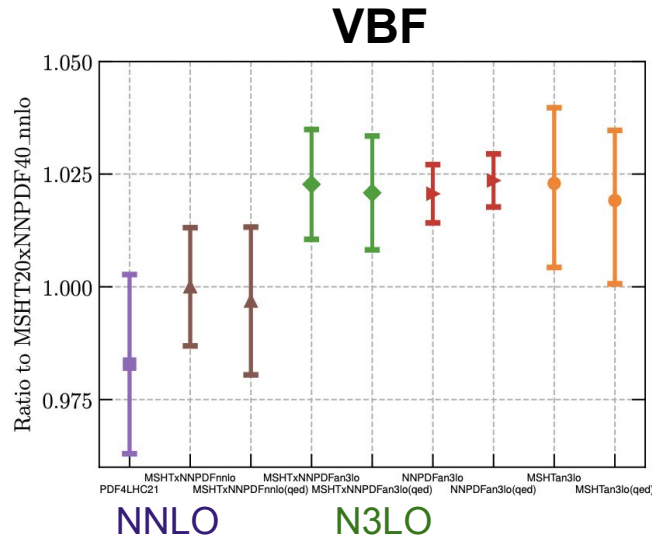


Combined aN3LO pure QCD and QCD+QED sets, shown as a ratio to NNLO.

Combination published in [2411.05373](https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.05373), planned as YR5 submission.

# aN3LO PDFs

aN3LO PDFs have a sizeable effect on the Higgs production cross-section, especially in VBF and ggF:



- Lower ggF xsec by ~3% → previously underestimated PDF-TH uncertainty on ggF xsec? (Was 1.18%, from comparison with PDF4LHC15)

# N4LO Cross-Sections with Soft-Virtual Approx

- Work done toward N4LO Higgs production.
  - Matrix elements computed in soft-virtual approximation (assuming additional radiation is soft).

Moch and Das, based on [2004.00563](#)

## 1.1 Case-I: $\alpha_S^c(m_Z) = \text{FROM LHAPDF (DEFAULT VALUE)}$

PDF Name	N3LO ( $\delta$ in %)			N4LOsv ( $\delta$ in %)				
	Central	$\delta(\text{N3LO})$	$\delta(\text{Scale})$	$\delta(\text{PDF})$	Central	$\delta(\text{N4LO})$	$\delta(\text{Scale})$	$\delta(\text{PDF})$
ABMP16_5_nnlo [2]	48.8	3.3	+0.2 -3.6	+1.7 -1.7	48.7	-0.1	+0.5 -2.1	+1.7 -1.7
ABMPtt_5_nnlo [3]	48.4	3.3	+0.2 -3.6	+1.5 -1.5	48.4	-0.1	+0.5 -2.1	+1.5 -1.5
CT18NNLO [4]	51.3	3.5	+0.3 -3.9	+2.8 -3.6	51.3	-0.1	+0.5 -2.3	+2.8 -3.6
MSHT20nnlo_as118 [5]	51.4	3.5	+0.3 -3.9	+1.2 -1.2	51.3	-0.1	+0.5 -2.3	+1.2 -1.2
NNPDF40_nnlo_as_01180 [6]	51.7	3.5	+0.3 -3.9	+0.6 -0.6	51.7	-0.1	+0.5 -2.3	+0.6 -0.6
PDF4LHC21_40 [7]	51.6	3.5	+0.3 -3.9	+0.6 -0.6	51.5	-0.1	+0.5 -2.3	+0.6 -0.6
MSHT20an3lo_as118 [8]	48.7	3.5	+0.3 -3.9	+1.9 -1.7	48.7	-0.1	+0.5 -2.3	+1.9 -1.7
NNPDF40_an3lo_as_01180 [9]	50.6	3.5	+0.3 -3.9	+0.6 -0.6	50.6	-0.1	+0.5 -2.3	+0.6 -0.6

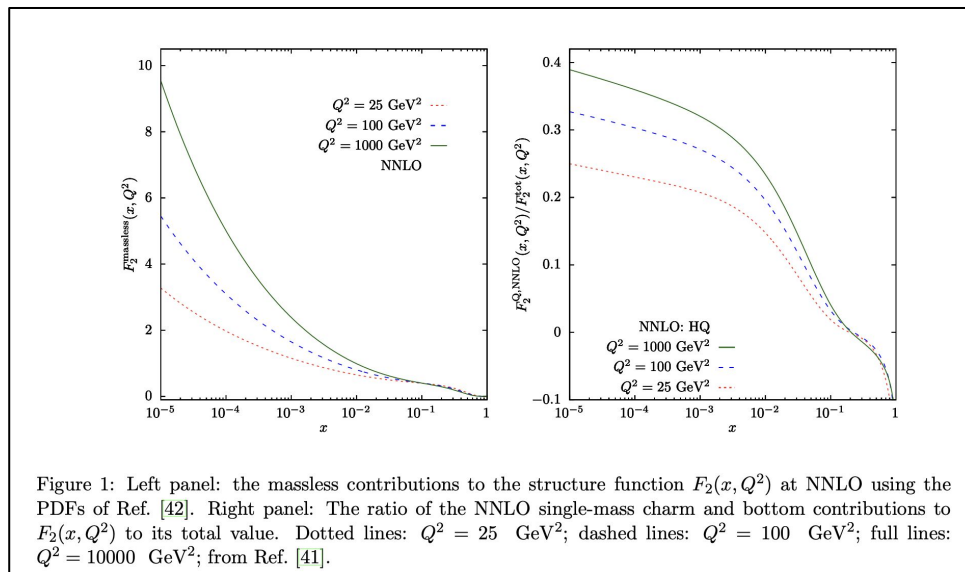
Table 1: Higgs cross-section along with the absolute error obtained from seven-point scale variation around  $(\mu_R^c, \mu_F^c) = (1/2, 1/2)m_H$  as well as intrinsic PDF uncertainty using LHAPDF.  $\sqrt{S} = 13.6$  TeV,  $\alpha_S$  from LHAPDF (NNLO value).

N4LO affects size of xsec prediction (-0.1% with  $\mu_R = m_H/2$ ) and scale uncertainty (~3% compared to ~4% at NNLO).



# 3-Loop Heavy Flavour Corrections

- Heavy flavour quark contributions to PDFs have to be accounted for in PDF fits
  - Input to aN3LO PDFs
- New work from Johannes Bluemlein et al. accounts for massive 3-loop corrections in PDF fits



# Putting it all together: Status of 13.6 TeV xsec update

- Partonic cross-section decomposed:

$$\sigma_{ij} = R_{\text{LO}} C^2 \left( \underbrace{\sigma_{ij}^{\text{LO,HTL}} + \sigma_{ij}^{\text{NLO,HTL}} + \sigma_{ij}^{\text{NNLO,HTL}} + \sigma_{ij}^{\text{N}^3\text{LO,HTL}}}_{\text{xsec in heavy top limit}} \right) + \underbrace{\delta\sigma_{ij}^{\text{LO,(t,b,c)}} + \delta\sigma_{ij}^{\text{NLO,(t,b,c)}} + \delta\sigma_{ij}^{\text{NNLO,(t,b,c)}}}_{\text{corrections for massive quarks}}$$

$R_{\text{LO}}$  accounts for top mass effects at LO

- Dependence on t, b, c quark masses:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\sigma_{ij}^{\text{LO,(t,b,c)}} &= \sigma_{ij}^{\text{LO,(t,b,c)}} - [C_{\text{QCD}}^2 R_{\text{LO}} \sigma_{ij}^{\text{HTL}}]_{\alpha_s^2}, \\ \delta\sigma_{ij}^{\text{NLO,(t,b,c)}} &= \sigma_{ij}^{\text{NLO,(t,b,c)}} - [C_{\text{QCD}}^2 R_{\text{LO}} \sigma_{ij}^{\text{HTL}}]_{\alpha_s^3}, \\ \delta\sigma_{ij}^{\text{NNLO,(t,b,c)}} &= \sigma_{ij}^{\text{NNLO,(t,b,c)}} - [C_{\text{QCD}}^2 R_{\text{LO}} \sigma_{ij}^{\text{HTL}}]_{\alpha_s^4}, \end{aligned}$$

- With each term decomposed as:

$$\sigma_{ij}^{\text{N}^n\text{NLO,(t,b,c)}} = \sigma_{ij}^{\text{N}^n\text{NLO,(t)}} + \sigma_{ij}^{\text{N}^n\text{NLO,(b)}} + \sigma_{ij}^{\text{N}^n\text{NLO,(c)}} + \sigma_{ij}^{\text{N}^n\text{NLO,(t \times b)}} + \sigma_{ij}^{\text{N}^n\text{NLO,(t \times c)}} + \sigma_{ij}^{\text{N}^n\text{NLO,(b \times c)}}.$$

known to NNLO (points to  $\sigma_{ij}^{\text{N}^n\text{NLO,(t)}}$ )

known to NLO (points to  $\sigma_{ij}^{\text{N}^n\text{NLO,(b \times c)}}$ )

# Putting it all together: Status of 13.6 TeV xsec update

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- Exact dependence on massive  $t$ , and  $b/t$  interference, only available for  $m_H=125.09$  GeV  $\rightarrow$  extrapolate to other masses:

$$R_n^H(m_H) = \frac{\left[ C_{\text{QCD}}^2 R_{\text{LO}} \sigma_{ij}^{\text{HTL}} \right]_{\alpha_s^n}(m_H)}{\left[ C_{\text{QCD}}^2 R_{\text{LO}} \sigma_{ij}^{\text{HTL}} \right]_{\alpha_s^n}(m_H^{\text{ref}})},$$
$$\delta\sigma_{ij}^{\text{NNLO},(t),\text{ext}}(m_H) = R_4^H(m_H) \delta\sigma_{ij}^{\text{NNLO},(t)}(m_H^{\text{ref}}),$$
$$\delta\sigma_{ij}^{\text{NNLO},(t \times b),\text{ext}}(m_H) = R_4^H(m_H) \delta\sigma_{ij}^{\text{NNLO},(t \times b)}(m_H^{\text{ref}}),$$

Conservative uncertainties assigned on the extrapolation, and on the scheme (MSbar vs OS)

- Lots of room for discussion: handling of PDF.
  - Use PDF4LHC21 right now  $\rightarrow$  all inputs produced using this.
  - aN3LO PDFs induce large correction (or large uncertainty):  $\sim -4\%$ .
  - QED evolution effects have also been included in aN3LO PDFs:  $\sim -1\%$

# Putting it all together: Status of 13.6 TeV xsec update

- Current numbers produced at all Higgs mass points and COM energies:

$\sqrt{s}$ [TeV]	$M_H$ [GeV]	$\sigma$ [pb]	$\delta(\text{scale})$	$\delta(\text{EWK})$	$\delta^{\text{sch.}}(m_t)$	$\delta^{\text{ext.}}(t)$	$\delta^{\text{ext.}}(t \times b)$	$\delta(\text{theory})$	$\delta(\text{PDF} + \alpha_s)$	$\delta(\text{PDF})$	$\delta(\alpha_s)$	$\delta^{\text{old}}(\text{PDF-TH})$
13.6	120.00	53.89	+0.56% -3.32%	±1.00%	±0.12%	±0.03%	±0.03%	+1.74% -4.50%	+2.68% -2.27%	+1.65% +1.65%	+2.12% -1.57%	±1.21%
13.6	122.00	52.37	+0.56% -3.31%	±1.00%	±0.17%	±0.02%	±0.02%	+1.77% -4.52%	+2.68% -2.27%	+1.65% +1.65%	+2.11% -1.56%	±1.20%
13.6	124.00	50.91	+0.56% -3.31%	±1.00%	±0.16%	±0.01%	±0.00%	+1.72% -4.47%	+2.68% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.11% -1.56%	±1.18%
13.6	124.60	50.49	+0.56% -3.31%	±1.00%	±0.15%	±0.00%	±0.00%	+1.71% -4.46%	+2.67% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.11% -1.56%	±1.18%
13.6	124.80	50.35	+0.56% -3.31%	±1.00%	±0.15%	±0.00%	±0.00%	+1.71% -4.46%	+2.67% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.11% -1.55%	±1.18%
13.6	125.00	50.21	+0.56% -3.31%	±1.00%	±0.15%	±0.00%	±0.00%	+1.70% -4.45%	+2.67% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.11% -1.55%	±1.18%
13.6	125.09	50.14	+0.56% -3.31%	±1.00%	±0.15%	±0.00%	±0.00%	+1.70% -4.45%	+2.67% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.11% -1.55%	±1.18%
13.6	125.20	50.07	+0.56% -3.31%	±1.00%	±0.14%	±0.00%	±0.00%	+1.70% -4.45%	+2.67% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.11% -1.55%	±1.18%
13.6	125.30	50.00	+0.56% -3.30%	±1.00%	±0.14%	±0.00%	±0.00%	+1.70% -4.44%	+2.67% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.11% -1.55%	±1.18%
13.6	125.38	49.94	+0.56% -3.30%	±1.00%	±0.14%	±0.00%	±0.00%	+1.70% -4.45%	+2.67% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.11% -1.55%	±1.18%
13.6	125.60	49.79	+0.55% -3.30%	±1.00%	±0.14%	±0.00%	±0.00%	+1.70% -4.45%	+2.67% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.11% -1.55%	±1.17%
13.6	126.00	49.52	+0.55% -3.30%	±1.00%	±0.14%	±0.00%	±0.01%	+1.70% -4.45%	+2.67% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.11% -1.55%	±1.17%
13.6	128.00	48.18	+0.55% -3.29%	±1.00%	±0.13%	±0.02%	±0.02%	+1.72% -4.46%	+2.67% -2.26%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.10% -1.55%	±1.16%
13.6	130.00	46.89	+0.55% -3.28%	±1.00%	±0.13%	±0.03%	±0.04%	+1.74% -4.48%	+2.67% -2.25%	+1.64% +1.64%	+2.10% -1.54%	±1.15%

Central  
value

Sources of uncertainty

Sum of  
previous 5  
columns

PDF+aS unc.

Old unc. from 1/2  
(NNLO-NLO) PDF  
→ next slide

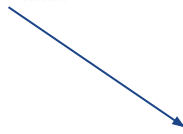
# Putting it all together: Status of 13.6 TeV $\sigma_{\text{sec}}$ update

- Can compare size of PDF uncertainty/correction from multiple approaches:

$$\Delta(\text{aN3LO}) = \sigma(\text{MSHTxNNPDF\_aN3LO}) - \sigma(\text{PDF4LHC21})$$

$$\Delta(\text{QED}^{\text{NNLO}}) = \frac{\sigma(\text{MSHTxNNPDF\_NNLO\_qed}) - \sigma(\text{MSHTxNNPDF\_NNLO})}{\sigma(\text{MSHTxNNPDF\_NNLO})}$$

$$\Delta(\text{QED}^{\text{aN3LO}}) = \frac{\sigma(\text{MSHTxNNPDF\_aN3LO\_qed}) - \sigma(\text{MSHTxNNPDF\_aN3LO})}{\sigma(\text{MSHTxNNPDF\_aN3LO})}$$



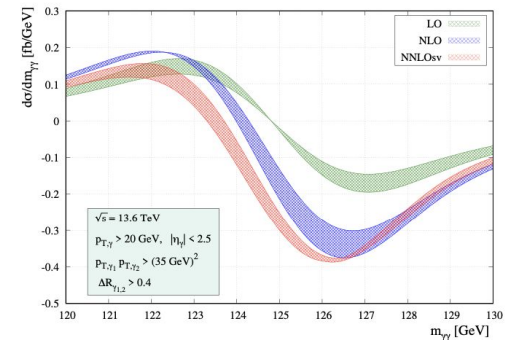
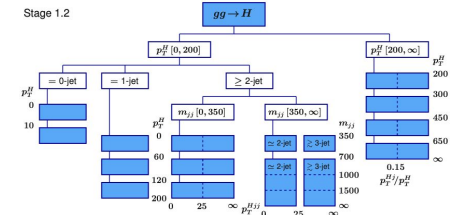
$\Delta(\text{aN3LO})$ [pb]	$\Delta(\text{QED}^{\text{NNLO}})$	$\Delta(\text{QED}^{\text{aN3LO}})$
-2.16 = -3.80%	-1.10%	-1.45%
-2.11 = -3.82%	-1.10%	-1.45%
-2.05 = -3.83%	-1.11%	-1.46%
-2.04 = -3.83%	-1.11%	-1.46%
-2.03 = -3.83%	-1.11%	-1.46%
-2.03 = -3.83%	-1.12%	-1.46%
-2.03 = -3.84%	-1.12%	-1.46%

Large effects  
compared to other  
uncertainties  
(previous slide)

# Other Ongoing or Possible Topics

- Boosted Higgs predictions ([dedicated WG1 meeting](#)):
  - Update precise predictions in YR5
  - Lots of open topics: PS uncertainty, EW correction, mass scheme uncertainties....
- STXS Stage 1.3 scheme (in coordination with WG2)
  - Plan cross-experiment responsibility for uncertainty scheme
- Signal-background interference effects in ggH diphoton
  - Computation of interference at NNLO
- [At this workshop](#): ggH+cc and ggH+bb (as bkg to HH and H+c searches).
- Your suggestion?

Bargiela, Caola, von Manteuffel, Tancredi 21; Buccioni, Devoto 22; and Buccioni, Devoto, Djouadi, Ellis, Quevillon, Tancredi 23



# Conclusion

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- Lots of ongoing activities ahead of the YR5 update.
- Please get in touch if you'd like to see what you're working on featured there!

To reach convenors: [lhc-higgs-ggf-convener@cern.ch](mailto:lhc-higgs-ggf-convener@cern.ch)

To follow subgroup activities, subscribe to: [lhc-higgs-ggf@cern.ch](mailto:lhc-higgs-ggf@cern.ch)

Thanks for your attention.