

# Local subtraction at NNLO

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with V. Del Duca and Z. Trócsányi

## The message

Q: How to compute NNLO cross sections?

A: Like you always thought you would:

1. Derive all relevant QCD factorization formulae
2. Stare at them and write down approximate cross section(s)
3. Integrate approximate cross section(s) over unresolved emission(s)

## The message

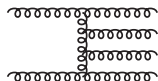
This can be done and it works and has nice properties.

# NNLO cross section

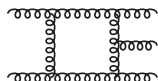
The NNLO correction to a generic  $m$ -jet cross section

$$\sigma^{\text{NNLO}} = \int_{m+2} d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR}} J_{m+2} + \int_{m+1} d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV}} J_{m+1} + \int_m d\sigma_m^{\text{VV}} J_m$$

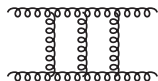
- ▶ Doubly-real:  $d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR}}$ 
  - ▶ tree level,  $m + 2$  parton kinematics
  - ▶ implicit IR poles from PS integration



- ▶ Real-virtual:  $d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV}}$ 
  - ▶ one-loop,  $m + 1$  parton kinematics
  - ▶ explicit/implicit IR poles from loop/PS integration



- ▶ Doubly-virtual:  $d\sigma_m^{\text{VV}}$ 
  - ▶ two-loops,  $m$  parton kinematics
  - ▶ explicit IR poles from loop integration



Need to deal with implicit IR poles!

## Basics of subtraction

**Strategy:** rearrange IR singularities between various contributions by subtracting and adding back suitable **approximate cross sections**

**Structure of subtractions:** governed by jet functions

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^{\text{NNLO}} = & \int_{m+2} \left\{ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR}} J_{m+2} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} J_m - \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} J_{m+1} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} J_m \right] \right\} \\ & + \int_{m+1} \left\{ \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV}} + \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right] J_{m+1} - \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right)^{A_1} \right] J_m \right\} \\ & + \int_m \left\{ d\sigma_m^{\text{VV}} + \int_2 \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} \right] + \int_1 \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right)^{A_1} \right] \right\} J_m\end{aligned}$$

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5.  $\left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right)^{A_1}$  regularizes the singly-unresolved limit of  $\int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1}$



# Basics of local subtraction

Goal: devise a subtraction scheme that is

- ➡ **general**: applicable to any process, any observable
- ➡ **explicit**: expressions include color, should be possible to implement a general version
- ➡ **local**: all color and spin correlations taken into account, mathematically rigorous
- ➡ **efficient**: option to constrain subtractions to near singular regions, also important check

Use full squared matrix elements, including color

Construct subtraction terms based on

- ➡ factorization of squared matrix elements in IR limits as embodied by standard QCD factorization formulae
- ➡ exact factorization of phase space via momentum remappings

# Constructing the subtraction terms - I

## Factorization of squared matrix elements in IR limits

$$\mathbf{X}_R |\mathcal{M}_{m+p}(\{p\}_{m+p})|^2 \simeq \text{Sing}_R \otimes |\mathcal{M}_m(\{p\}_m)|^2$$

- ➡  $\mathbf{X}_R$  is a symbolic operator that takes some specific limit  $R$  in which  $p$  patrons are unresolved ( $p = 1, 2$  at NNLO)
- ➡  $\text{Sing}_R$  is the singular factor in this limit (Altarelli-Parisi splitting function, soft current and generalizations)

## Issues

- ➡ Singular regions overlap in phase space  $\Rightarrow$  **matching of limits** to avoid multiple subtraction. E.g. at NLO: collinear + soft - collinear limit of soft

$$\mathbf{A}_1 |\mathcal{M}_{m+1}^{(0)}|^2 = \sum_i \left[ \sum_{i \neq r} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{C}_{ir} + \mathbf{S}_r - \sum_{i \neq r} \mathbf{C}_{ir} \mathbf{S}_r \right] |\mathcal{M}_{m+1}^{(0)}|^2$$

- ➡ cumbersome if done in a brute force way, however efficient solution is known
- ➡ candidate subtraction terms obtained are only defined in strict IR limits  $\Rightarrow$  **extension of IR factorization formulae** over full phase space

## Constructing the subtraction terms - II

Factorization of phase space via momentum remapping:  $\{p\}_{m+p} \xrightarrow{X_R} \{\tilde{p}\}_m^{(R)}$

- implements momentum conservation
- $\tilde{p}$  are on-shell
- recoil is taken away by whole event
- leads to exact factorization of phase space

$$d\phi_{m+p}(\{p\}_{m+p}; Q) = d\phi_m(\{\tilde{p}\}_m^{(R)}; Q)[dp_p^{(R)}]$$

### Issues

- extension of IR limits defined by these mappings must respect delicate structure of cancellations in all limits. [E.g. counterterms for single unresolved real radiation (unintegrated and integrated) must have universal IR limits. This is not guaranteed by QCD factorization.]
- different collinear and soft type mappings used
- obtained counterterms are hard to integrate over unresolved phase space

## Subtraction terms - general features

Given completely explicitly for any process (with colorless initial state)

Building blocks are IR limit formulae and momentum remappings

- ➡ Altarelli-Parisi splitting functions, soft currents (tree level and one-loop, also triple AP functions)
- ➡ extension away from limits based on momentum mappings that generalize to any number of unresolved partons
- ➡ phase space plays no essential role in construction

Fully local in color  $\otimes$  spin space

- ➡ no need to consider the color decomposition of real emission matrix elements
- ➡ azimuthal correlations correctly taken into account in gluon splitting

Straightforward to constrain subtractions to near singular regions

- ➡ more efficient implementation
- ➡ independence of physical results on phase space cut is a strong check

# Integrating the subtraction terms - I

Subtraction terms inherit the structure of limit formulae:

$$\mathcal{X}_R = \text{Sing}_R \otimes |\mathcal{M}_m(\{\tilde{p}\}_m^{(R)})|^2$$

- ➡  $\mathcal{X}_R$  is the subtraction term corresponding to limit  $R$
- ➡ it is a product in color and spin space of the factorized matrix element depending on momenta  $\{\tilde{p}\}_m^{(R)}$ , but independent of  $[d\rho_{p,n}^{(R)}]$
- ➡ and the singular factor  $\text{Sing}_R$  that depends on variables in  $[d\rho_{p,n}^{(R)}]$
- ➡ recall exact phase space factorization

$$d\phi_{m+p}(\{p\}_{m+p}; Q) = d\phi_m(\{\tilde{p}\}_m^{(R)}; Q)[d\rho_{p,m}^{(R)}]$$

Integrated subtraction terms computed once and for all

$$\mathcal{X}_R = \int \mathcal{X}_R = \left( \int [d\rho_{p,n}^{(R)}] \text{Sing}_R \right) \otimes |\mathcal{M}_m(\{p\}_m)|^2$$

- ➡ explicit parametrization of  $[d\rho_{p,n}^{(R)}] \Rightarrow$  parametric integral representations
- ➡ compute the parametric integrals

## Integrating the subtraction terms - II

Computing the integrated subtraction terms is cumbersome

➡ Many ( $\mathcal{O}(100)$ ) difficult higher-dimensional integrals to compute. E.g.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{3C,5}(x_{irs}^{\sim}, \epsilon; \alpha_0, d_0) &= 2^{1-4\epsilon} \frac{\Gamma^2(1-\epsilon)}{\pi\Gamma(1-2\epsilon)} x_{irs}^{\sim} \int_0^{\alpha_0} d\alpha \int_0^1 dt_{is} d\tau_{rs} dv_r dw_s \alpha^{-1-2\epsilon} \\ &\times (1-\alpha)^{2d_0-3+2\epsilon} (\alpha + (1-\alpha)x_{irs}^{\sim})^{-1-2\epsilon} (2\alpha + (1-\alpha)x_{irs}^{\sim})^2 t_{is}^{-1-2\epsilon} (1-t_{is})^{-2\epsilon} \\ &\times \tau_{rs}^{-1-\epsilon} (1-\tau_{rs})^{-\epsilon} v_r^{-\epsilon} (1-v_r)^{-\epsilon} w_s^{-1/2-\epsilon} (1-w_s)^{-1/2-\epsilon} (1-\tau_{rs} + \tau_{rs}t_{is})^{2\epsilon} \\ &\times [(1+t_{is})\alpha + (1-\alpha)x_{irs}^{\sim} (1 - (1-t_{is})v_r)]^{-1} \left\{ (1-\tau_{rs} + \tau_{rs}t_{is})(2\alpha + (1-\alpha)x_{irs}^{\sim}) \right. \\ &\left. + t_{is} \left[ \alpha + (1-\alpha)x_{irs}^{\sim} [(1-\tau_{rs})v_r + \tau_{rs}(1-v_r) - 2\sqrt{\tau_{rs}(1-\tau_{rs})v_r(1-v_r)}(1-2w_s)] \right] \right\}^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

➡ Needed as an  $\epsilon$ -expansion to  $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0)$

$$\mathcal{I}_{3C,5}(x_{irs}^{\sim}, \epsilon; \alpha_0, d_0) = \frac{1}{4\epsilon^4} - \frac{\ln x_{irs}^{\sim}}{\epsilon^3} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{-2})$$

rest of the expansion coefficients obtained numerically

➡ Method of computation: sector decomposition (in this case)

# Performing the integrals

Have explored several different methods to compute integrals which arise

- ⇒ use of IBPs to reduce to master integrals + solution of MIs by differential equations
- ⇒ use of MB representations to extract pole structure + summation of nested series
- ⇒ use of sector decomposition

Analytical vs. numerical

- ✗ Complete analytic integration does not seem practical/feasible.
- ✓ However, whenever available, analytical results show that the integrals are smooth functions (in the colloquial sense) of kinematical variables.
- ✓ Hence, for practical purposes, numerical forms are sufficient. E.g. suitable approximating functions may be obtained by fitting or interpolation.

# Performing the integrals

Method	Analytical	Numerical
IBP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ singly-unresolved integrals</li><li>✗ bottleneck is the proliferation of denominators</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ by evaluating the analytic expressions</li><li>✗ no numbers without full analytical results</li></ul>
MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ iterated singly-unresolved integrals</li><li>✗ bottleneck is the evaluation of sums</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ direct numerical evaluation of MB integrals possible</li><li>✓ fast and accurate</li></ul>
SD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ easy to automate</li><li>✗ only in principle, except for lowest order poles</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✗ numerical behavior is generally worse than MB method (speed, accuracy)</li></ul>



## Integrated approximate cross sections

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^{\text{NNLO}} = & \int_{m+2} \left\{ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR}} J_{m+2} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} J_m - \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} J_{m+1} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} J_m \right] \right\} \\ & + \int_{m+1} \left\{ \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV}} + \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right] J_{m+1} - \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right)^{A_1} \right] J_m \right\} \\ & + \int_m \left\{ d\sigma_m^{\text{VV}} + \int_2 \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} \right] + \int_1 \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right)^{A_1} \right] \right\} J_m\end{aligned}$$

### Structure

- ➡ after summing over unobserved flavors, they are products (in color space) of various insertion operators with lower point cross sections

### Insertion operators

- ➡ color and flavor structure known
- ➡ first two leading poles known analytically
- ➡ remaining poles and finite parts to be computed numerically

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Last missing piece:  $\int_2 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2}$

## Integrated doubly-unresolved approximate cross section

$$\int_2 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} = d\sigma_m^{\text{B}} \otimes \mathbf{I}_2^{(0)}(\{\mathbf{p}\}_m; \epsilon)$$

- structure of insertion operator in color  $\otimes$  flavor space

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{I}_2^{(0)}(\{\mathbf{p}\}_m; \epsilon) = & \left[ \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} S_\epsilon \left( \frac{\mu^2}{Q^2} \right)^\epsilon \right]^2 \left\{ \sum_i \left[ C_{12,f_i}^{(0)} \mathbf{T}_i^2 + \sum_k C_{2,f_i f_k}^{(0)} \mathbf{T}_k^2 \right] \mathbf{T}_i^2 \right. \\ & + \sum_{j,l} \left[ S_2^{(0),(j,l)} C_A + \sum_i CS_{2,f_i}^{(0),(j,l)} \mathbf{T}_i^2 \right] \mathbf{T}_j \mathbf{T}_l \\ & \left. + \sum_{i,k,j,l} S_2^{(0),(i,k)(j,l)} \{ \mathbf{T}_i \mathbf{T}_k, \mathbf{T}_j \mathbf{T}_l \} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

- $C_{2,f_i}^{(0)}$ ,  $C_{2,f_i f_k}^{(0)}$ ,  $S_2^{(0),(j,l)}$ ,  $CS_{2,f_i}^{(0),(j,l)}$  and  $S_2^{(0),(i,k)(j,l)}$  are functions with  $\epsilon$ -poles up to  $1/\epsilon^{-4}$  that depend on event kinematics and also on phase space cut parameters
- kinematical dependence enters through variables

$$x_i = y_{iQ} \equiv \frac{2p_i \cdot Q}{Q^2} \quad \text{and} \quad Y_{ik,Q} = \frac{y_{ik}}{y_{iQ} y_{kQ}}$$

## Integrated doubly-unresolved approximate cross section

$$\int_2 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} = d\sigma_m^{\text{B}} \otimes \mathbf{I}_2^{(0)}(\{p\}_m; \epsilon)$$

➡ example:  $e^+e^- \rightarrow 3 \text{ jets}$  (momentum assignment is  $1_q, 2_{\bar{q}}, 3_g$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{I}_2^{(0)}(p_1, p_2, p_3; \epsilon) = & \left[ \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} S_\epsilon \left( \frac{\mu^2}{Q^2} \right)^\epsilon \right]^2 \left\{ \frac{3C_A^2 + 10C_A C_F + 8C_F^2}{4\epsilon^4} + \left[ \frac{77C_A^2}{24} \right. \right. \\ & + \frac{109C_A C_F}{12} + 6C_F^2 - \frac{C_A T_R n_f}{2} - \frac{7C_F T_R n_f}{3C_F} + \left. \left( \frac{3C_A^2}{2} - C_A C_F - 4C_F^2 \right) \ln y_{12} \right. \\ & \left. \left. - \frac{C_A(3C_A + 4C_F)}{2} (\ln y_{13} + \ln y_{23}) \right] \frac{1}{\epsilon^3} + O(\epsilon^{-2}) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

➡ notice  $x$  and  $Y$  dependence combine to produce just  $y_{ik}$  dependence, as expected

➡ remaining expansion coefficients computed numerically

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma^{\text{NNLO}} = & \int_{m+2} \left\{ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR}} J_{m+2} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} J_m - \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} J_{m+1} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} J_m \right] \right\} \\
 & + \int_{m+1} \left\{ \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV}} + \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right] J_{m+1} - \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right)^{A_1} \right] J_m \right\} \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

- ✓ unintegrated RR counterterms
- ✓ unintegrated RV counterterms
- ✓ RV counterterms integrated
- ✓ RR counterterms integrated (numerics is work in progress)

## Cancellation of IR singularities I - kinematical

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma^{\text{NNLO}} = & \int_{m+2} \left\{ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR}} J_{m+2} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} J_m - \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} J_{m+1} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} J_m \right] \right\} \\
 & + \int_{m+1} \left\{ \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV}} + \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right] J_{m+1} - \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right)^{A_1} \right] J_m \right\} \\
 & + \int_m \left\{ d\sigma_m^{\text{VV}} + \int_2 \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} \right] + \int_1 \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right)^{A_1} \right] \right\} J_m
 \end{aligned}$$

Cancellation of kinematical singularities for  $e^+e^- \rightarrow 2, 3$  jets ( $m = 2, 3$ )

⇒ in all singly- and doubly-unresolved limits

$$\frac{d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} J_m + \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} J_{m+1} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} J_m \right]}{d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR}} J_{m+2}} \rightarrow 1$$

⇒ in all singly-unresolved limits

$$\frac{- \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} J_{m+1} + \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right)^{A_1} \right] J_m}{d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV}} J_{m+1}} \rightarrow 1$$

## Cancellation of IR singularities II - poles

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^{\text{NNLO}} = & \int_{m+2} \left\{ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR}} J_{m+2} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} J_m - \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} J_{m+1} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} J_m \right] \right\} \\ & + \int_{m+1} \left\{ \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV}} + \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right] J_{m+1} - \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right) A_1 \right] J_m \right\} \\ & + \int_m \left\{ d\sigma_m^{\text{VV}} + \int_2 \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} \right] + \int_1 \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right) A_1 \right] \right\} J_m\end{aligned}$$

Cancellation of poles for  $e^+e^- \rightarrow 2, 3$  jets ( $m = 2, 3$ ) up to  $O(\epsilon^{-2})$  analytically

$$d\sigma_m^{\text{VV}} + \int_2 \left[ d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_2} - d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_{12}} \right] + \int_1 \left[ d\sigma_{m+1}^{\text{RV},A_1} + \left( \int_1 d\sigma_{m+2}^{\text{RR},A_1} \right) A_1 \right] = O(\epsilon^{-2})$$

- ➡ cancellation of PS cut parameter dependence in sum of integrated approximate cross sections is highly nontrivial: strong check
- ➡ nontrivial interplay of kinematical dependence in various terms
- ➡ cancellation of lower order poles to be checked numerically (work in progress)

# Conclusions and outlook

## Local subtraction at NNLO

- ➡ general, explicit, local subtraction scheme for computing NNLO QCD jet cross sections
- ➡ construction based on IR limit formulae
- ➡ fully worked out for processes with colorless initial state
- ➡ integration of all approximate cross sections finished

## Immediate next steps

- ➡ consolidate numerics for integrated subtraction terms
- ➡ physical applications to assess overall performance