

# Validity of the soft approximation and the impact of higher order corrections in Higgs production in gluon fusion

**Marco Bonvini**

DESY Hamburg

CERN, TH/LPCC Institute on SM at the LHC, October 4, 2012



*Work in collaboration with:*

**Stefano Forte, Giovanni Ridolfi + Richard Ball, Simone Marzani**

# Goal of the talk

I will present a formalism to systematically answer the questions:

1. Is soft-gluon resummation needed?
2. Is soft-gluon resummation advisable? (Are soft terms dominant?)

[MB, Forte, Ridolfi 2012 (and 2010)]

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I will also present:

- a prediction of N<sup>3</sup>LO Higgs cross-section ( $gg$  channel only)

[Ball, MB, Forte, Marzani, Ridolfi (work in progress)]

# Higgs production cross-section: notations

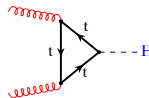
$$\sigma(\tau) = \tau \sigma_0 \int_{\tau}^1 \frac{dz}{z} \mathcal{L}\left(\frac{\tau}{z}\right) C(z, \alpha_s), \quad \tau = \frac{m_H^2}{s}, \quad z = \frac{m_H^2}{\hat{s}}$$

I concentrate on the gluon fusion channel:  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{gg}$

Partonic cross section

$$\hat{\sigma}(z) = z \sigma_0 \underbrace{\left[ \delta(1-z) + \alpha_s C^{(1)}(z) + \alpha_s^2 C^{(2)}(z) + \dots \right]}_{\text{coefficient function } C(z, \alpha_s)}$$

$\sigma_0$  is the LO partonic cross-section (order  $\alpha_s^2$ ):



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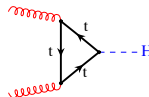
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The questions 1., 2., 3. refer to the hadronic cross-section  $\sigma(\tau)$ , but the approximations apply to the partonic coefficient function  $C(z, \alpha_s)$ .

It is **not** straightforward to answer!

# Saddle point argument

$$\frac{\sigma(\tau)}{\tau \sigma_0} = \int_{\tau}^1 \frac{dz}{z} \mathcal{L}\left(\frac{\tau}{z}\right) C(z, \alpha_s)$$

The soft region  $z \rightarrow 1$  is always included in the integration region.  
When is the  $z \sim 1$  region actually relevant/dominant?

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**The integral is dominated by the values of  $N$  in the proximity of the saddle point  $N = N_0$ :**

$$\log \frac{1}{\tau} = - \left. \frac{d}{dN} \log \mathcal{L}(N) \right|_{N_0} - \left. \frac{d}{dN} \log C(N, \alpha_s) \right|_{N_0}$$

[MB, Forte, Ridolfi 2010]

## Then we rephrase the questions:

1. Is soft-gluon resummation needed?
2. Is soft-gluon resummation advisable?
3. Is the pointlike (large- $m_t$ ) approximation adequate?



1. Is soft-gluon resummation needed **at the saddle point  $N_0$** ?
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3. Is the pointlike approximation adequate **at the saddle point  $N_0$** ?

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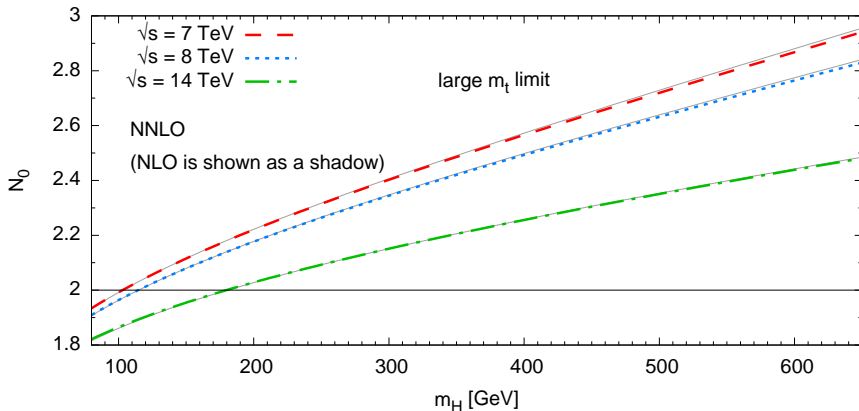
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$$\sigma(N) = \mathcal{L}(N) C(N, \alpha_s)$$

Hadron level kinematics  $m_H, \sqrt{s}$  (or  $\tau$ )  $\Rightarrow$  saddle point  $N_0$

# Position of the saddle point

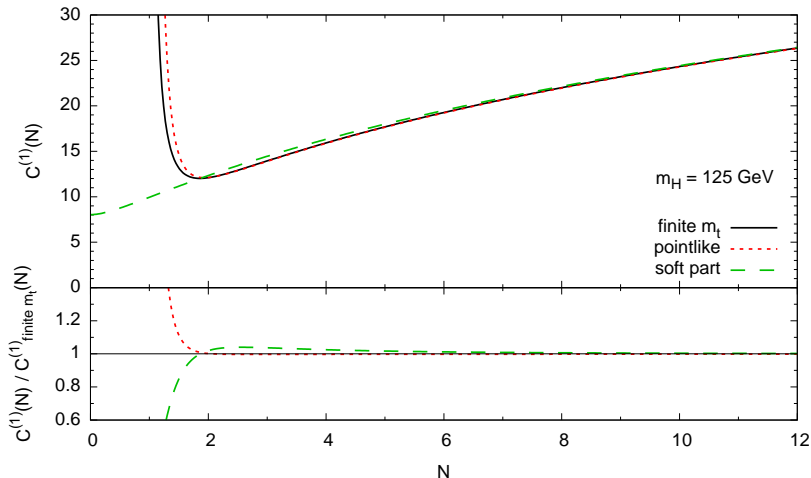
A unique real saddle  $N_0$  always exists.



Note that these curves **do not depend on the perturbative order**.  
This is due to the fact that they are mainly determined by the PDFs.

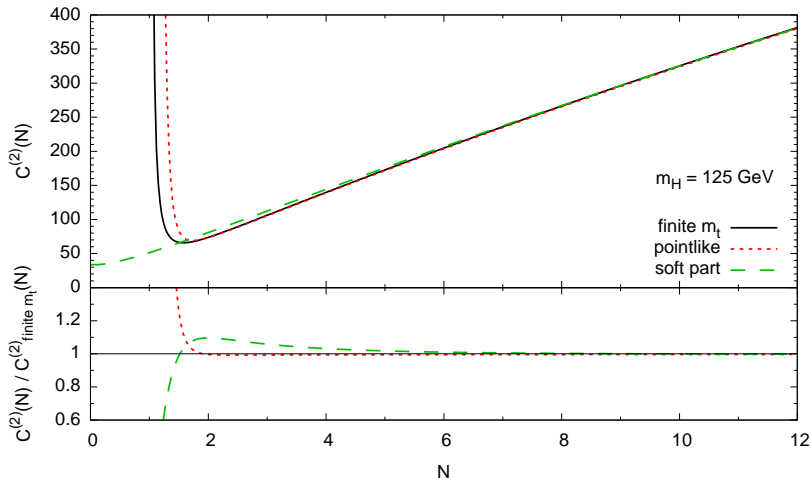
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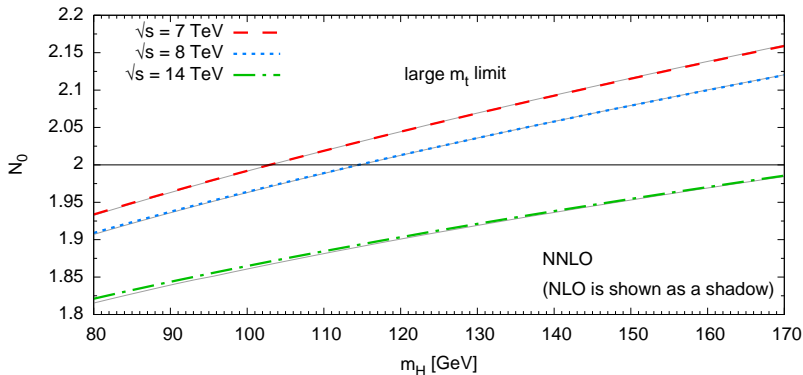
?

Based on all-order considerations, we can argue that

*soft terms dominate for  $N \gtrsim 2$*

(and, a fortiori, the pointlike approx has to be good at least in the same region)

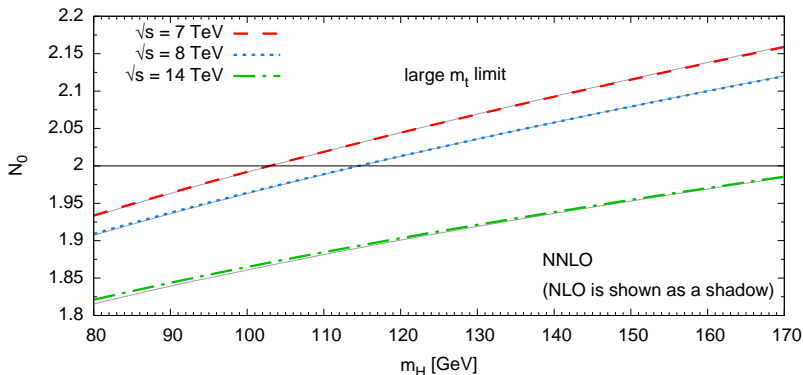
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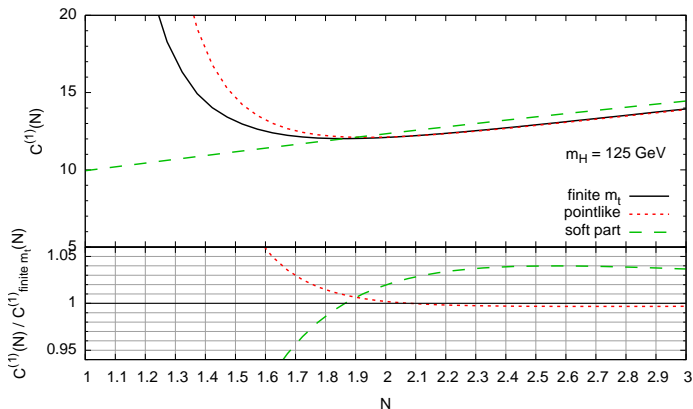
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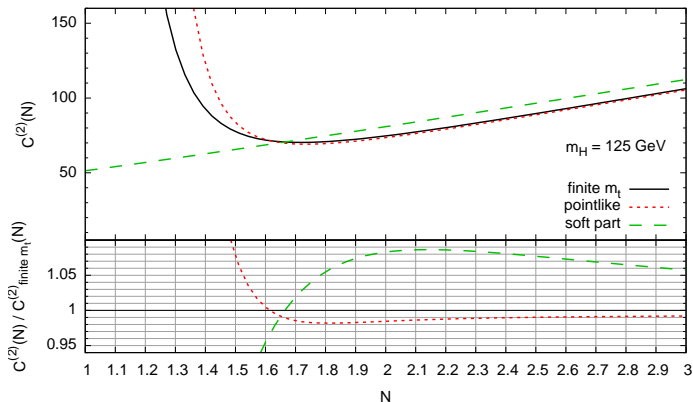
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7 TeV	very good ( $\sim 1\%$ )	quite good (4 – 9%)
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Is resummation *needed*?

The loss-of-perturbativity condition is  $\alpha_s \log^2 N \gtrsim 1$  which gives  $N \gtrsim 10$

The saddle point is never so large!  $\Rightarrow$  Resummation never needed.

*Soft-gluon resummation can just be used as a (useful!) tool to predict higher order terms.*



# Predictive power of our method

- We have a solid method to establish the dominant partonic region (saddle point)
- The saddle point is independent on the perturbative order and on other details  $\rightarrow$  property of the considered subprocess
- Based on all-order considerations, we can argue that the partonic region in which soft terms dominate is the region  $N \gtrsim 2$
- Then, when  $N_0 \gtrsim 2$ , we can predict higher orders using soft terms coming from soft-gluon resummation

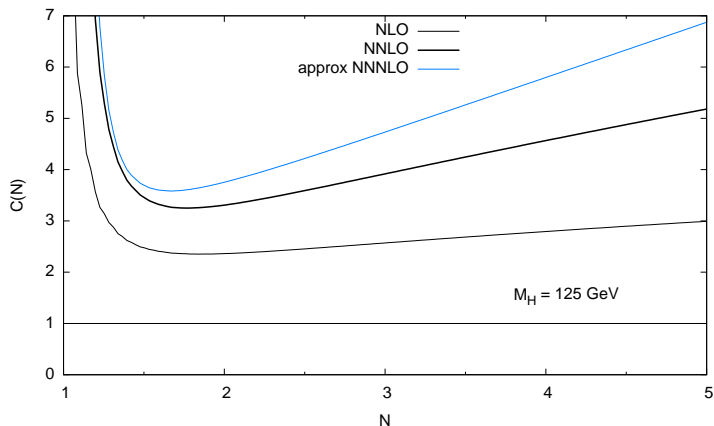
# $N^3\text{LO}$ prediction for Higgs production

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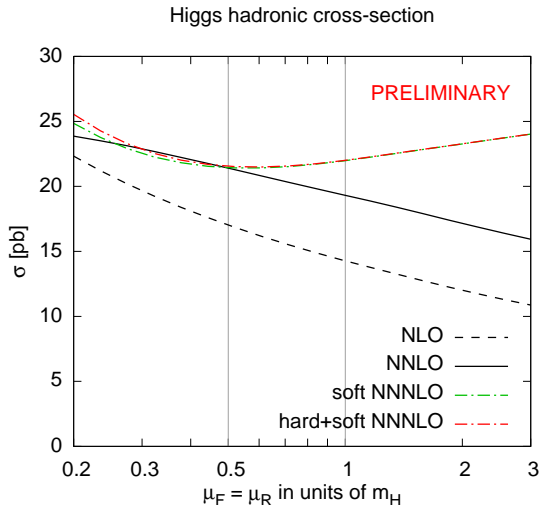
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- The saddle point method is fast, efficient and it works!
- It is a tool to easily check the validity of the soft (and other) approximations
- Approximate prediction for Higgs cross-section at  $N^3\text{LO}$

# Backup slides

# Discussion on what is SOFT — 1

$$\text{In } z\text{-space: } \mathcal{D}_k(z) = \left[ \frac{\log^k(1-z)}{1-z} \right]_+$$

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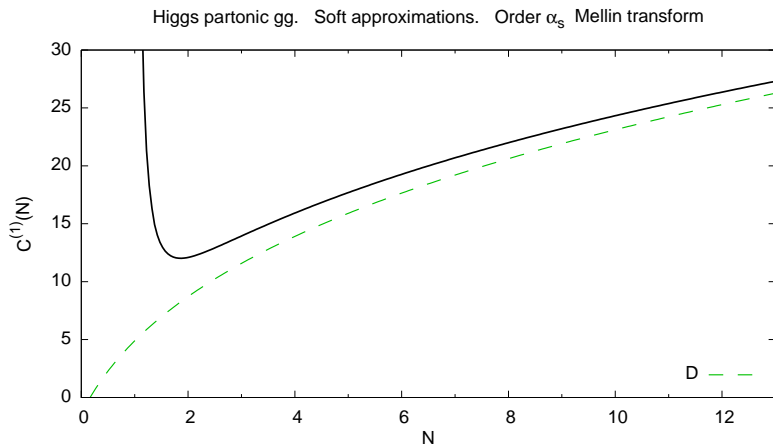
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The last option allows to include all the terms  $\alpha_s^n \log^{2n-1}(1-z)$  in the soft terms (equivalent to the collinear improvement of [Krämer, Laenen, Spira 1997], [Catani, de Florian, Grazzini 2001], [Catani, de Florian, Grazzini, Nason 2003])

# Discussion on what is SOFT — 2

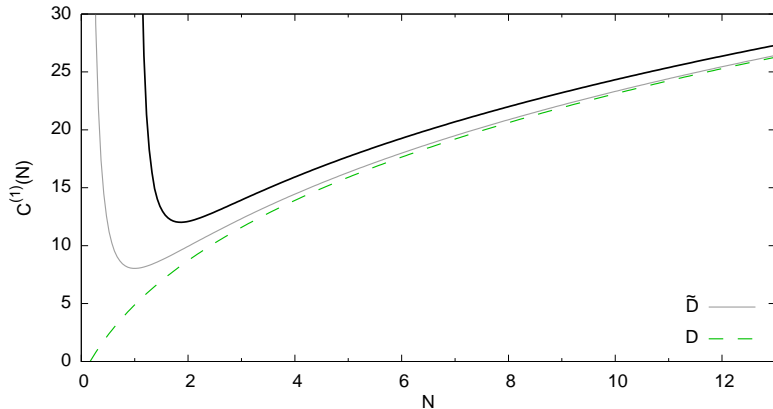
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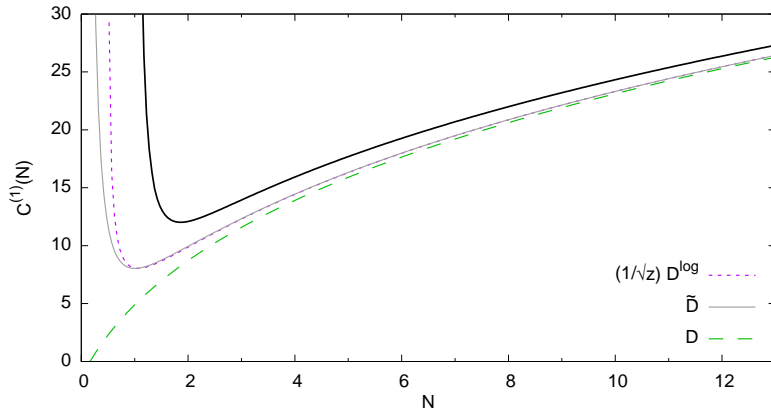
Higgs partonic gg. Soft approximations. Order  $\alpha_s$  Mellin transform



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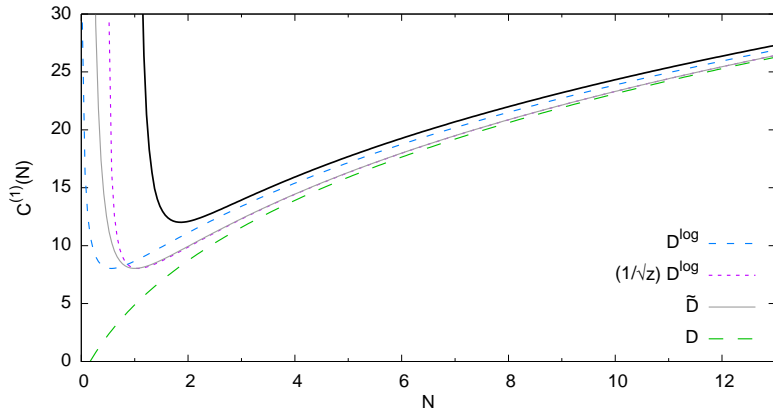




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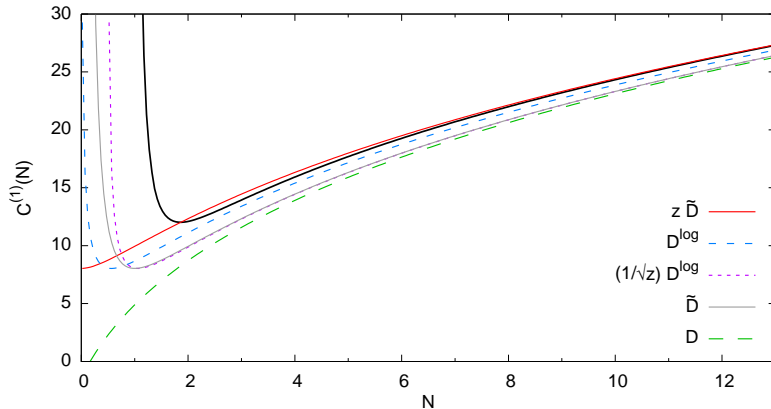
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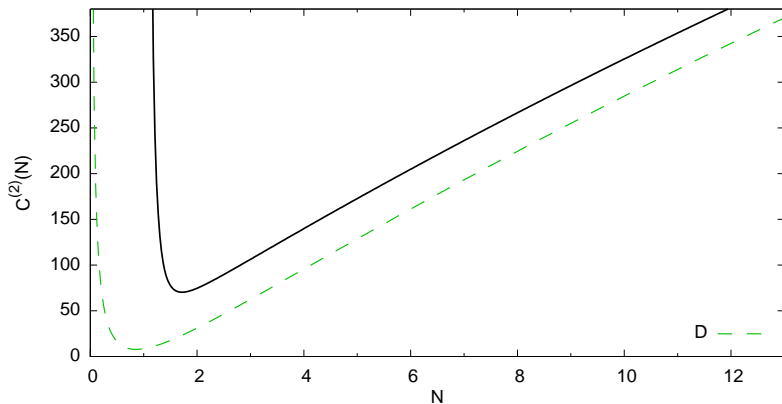
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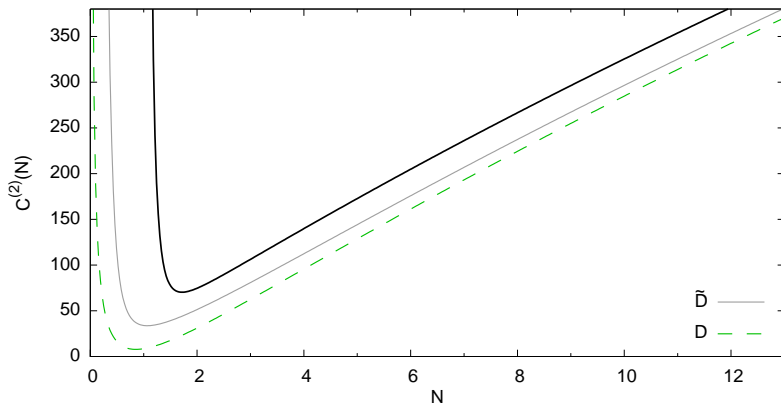
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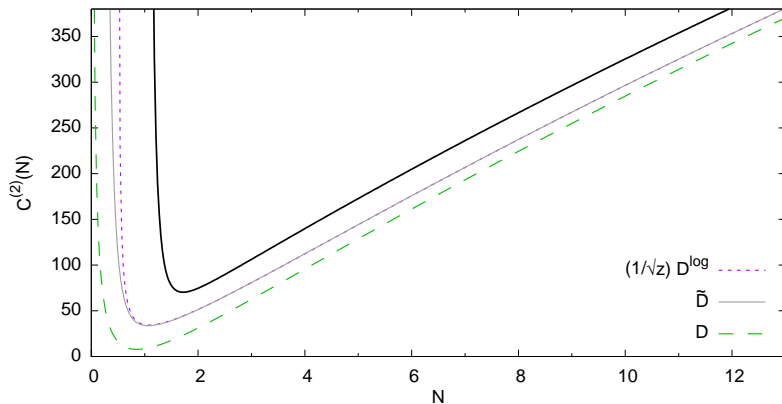
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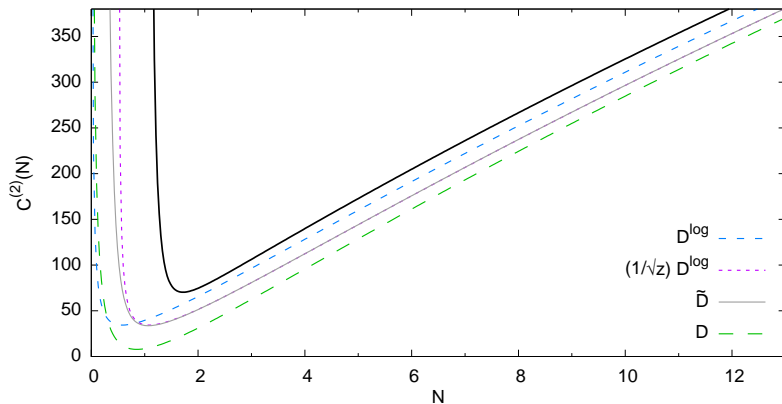
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