



STATUS OF AMC@NLO

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LEADING ORDER

- ✱ For many of the theory predictions needed in the searches for new physics leading order predictions are used
- ✱ The reasons for this are clear:
 - ✱ In many regions of phase-space they do a **decent job**, in particular for shapes of distributions
 - ✱ Parton showers and hadronizations models are **tuned to data**
 - ✱ **Many flexible lowest order (LO) tools are readily available**
- ✱ Unfortunately LO predictions describe total rates rather poorly



NEED FOR NLO

- ✱ If we would have the same **flexible** tools available at NLO, the experimental analyses will benefit a various ways:
 - ✱ NLO predictions predict **rates** much more precisely
 - ✱ **Reduced theoretical uncertainties** due to meaningful scale dependence
 - ✱ **Shapes** are better described
 - ✱ Correct estimates for **PDF uncertainties**
 - ✱ Even data-driven analyses might benefit: smaller uncertainty due to interpolation from control region to signal region
- ✱ These **accurate** theoretical predictions are particularly needed for
 - ✱ searches of signal events in **large backgrounds** samples and
 - ✱ **precise extraction of parameters** (couplings etc.) when new physics signals have been found

NLO TOOLS

- ✱ Flexible tools for NLO predictions do not exist:
 - ✱ **MCFM** [*Campbell e Ellis e ...*] has it available almost all relevant process for **background studies** at the Tevatron and LHC, but gives only fixed-order, **parton-level results**
 - ✱ **MC@NLO** [*Frixione e Webber e ...*] has **matching to the parton shower** to describe fully exclusive final states, but the list of available processes is relatively short
 - ✱ **POWHEG BOX** [*Nason et al.*] provides a framework to **match any existing parton level NLO computation to a parton shower**. However, the NLO computation is not automated and some work by the user is needed to implement a new process
- ✱ Idea: write an automatic tool that is flexible and allows for **any process to be computed at NLO accuracy, including matching to the parton shower** to produce events ready for hadronization (and detector simulation)

WHY AN AUTOMATIC TOOL?

- ☀ **To save time**

Less human time spending on computing matrix elements means more time available on physics and phenomenology.

- ☀ **Robustness**

Modular code structure means that elements can be checked systematically and extensively once and for all. Trust can easily be build.

- ☀ **Wide accessibility**

One framework for all. Available to everybody for an unlimited set of applications. Suitable for Experimental collaborations.



OUTLINE

- ✿ The rest of the talk will be about such a tool that is being developed
- ✿ Real emission corrections and phase-space integration (including subtraction terms, ...) using **MadFKS**
- ✿ Virtual corrections using **MadLoop+CutTools**
- ✿ Matching with the shower: **aMC@NLO**
- ✿ Selected results

NLO CONTRIBUTIONS

The diagram illustrates the decomposition of a Next-to-Leading Order (NLO) contribution into three parts:

- Virtual corrections:** A blue loop diagram is equal to a double-line loop diagram.
- Real emission corrections:** A bracket groups two diagrams with red lines representing emitted particles.
- Born contribution:** A single loop diagram.

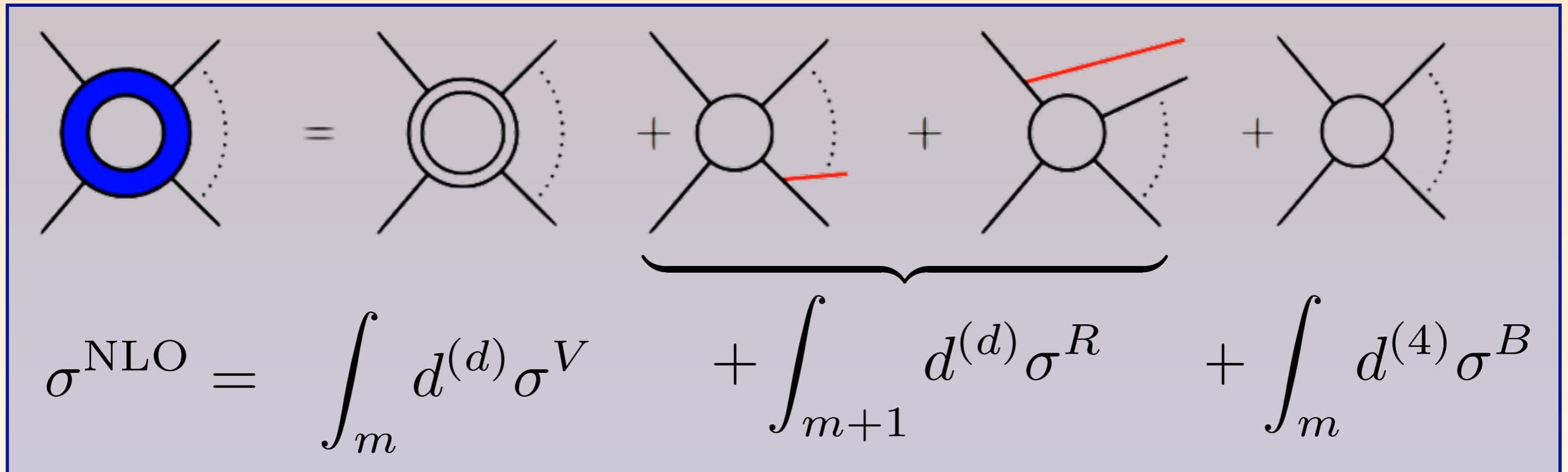
$$\sigma^{\text{NLO}} = \int_m d^{(d)} \sigma^V + \int_{m+1} d^{(d)} \sigma^R + \int_m d^{(4)} \sigma^B$$

‘Virtual’ or ‘one-loop’
NLO corrections

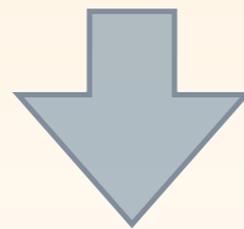
‘Real emission’
NLO corrections

‘Born’ or ‘LO’
contribution

NLO CONTRIBUTIONS



$$\sigma^{\text{NLO}} = \int_m d^{(d)} \sigma^V + \int_{m+1} d^{(d)} \sigma^R + \int_m d^{(4)} \sigma^B$$



$$\sigma^{\text{NLO}} = \int_{m+1} \left[d^{(4)} \sigma^R - d^{(4)} \sigma^A \right] + \int_m \left[d^{(4)} \sigma^B + \int_{\text{loop}} d^{(d)} \sigma^V + \int_1 d^{(d)} \sigma^A \right]_{\epsilon=0}$$

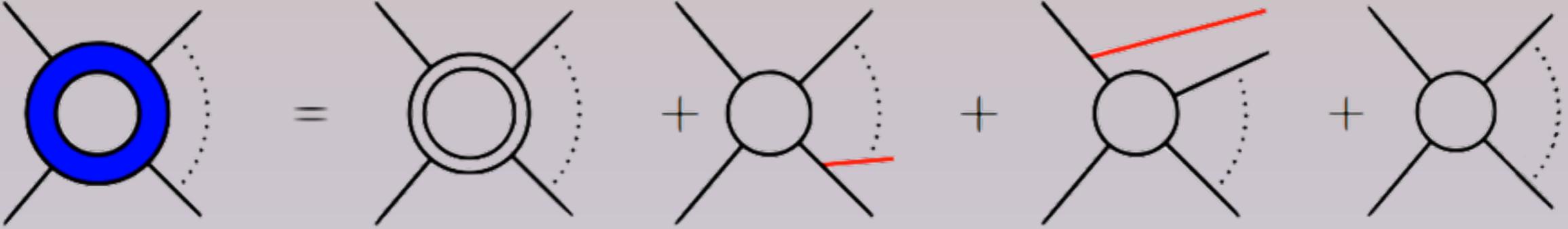


MADFKS

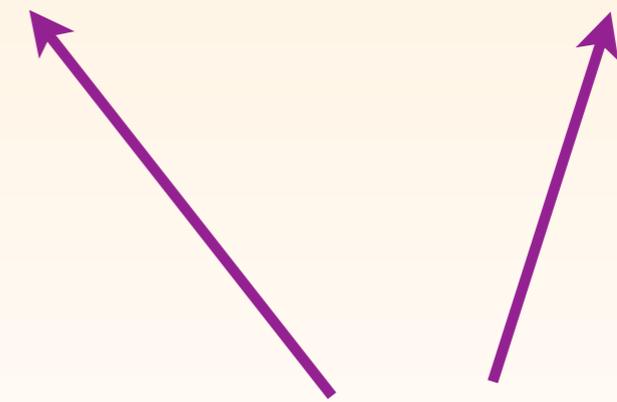
RE, Frixione, Maltoni e Stelzer, arXiv:0908.4272

- ✱ Automatic generation of the **Born and real emission** matrix elements: tree level contributions, so readily available in MadGraph
- ✱ Subtraction terms to cancel IR singularities using the **FKS formalism** [*Frixione, Kunst, Signer*]: process independent kernels times the Born amplitudes. Color-linked Borns available in MadGraph via the MadDipole [*RE, Greiner, Gehrmann*] package
- ✱ **Efficient phase-space integration**: written from scratch but using the same single-diagram enhanced techniques as in MadEvent
- ✱ Naive scaling of the number of subtraction terms is n^2 (as opposed to n^3 of CS dipoles). Can be greatly **reduced by using symmetry** of the matrix elements
- ✱ Overall management of symmetry factors, subprocess combination, generation of plots, etc.

NLO CONTRIBUTIONS



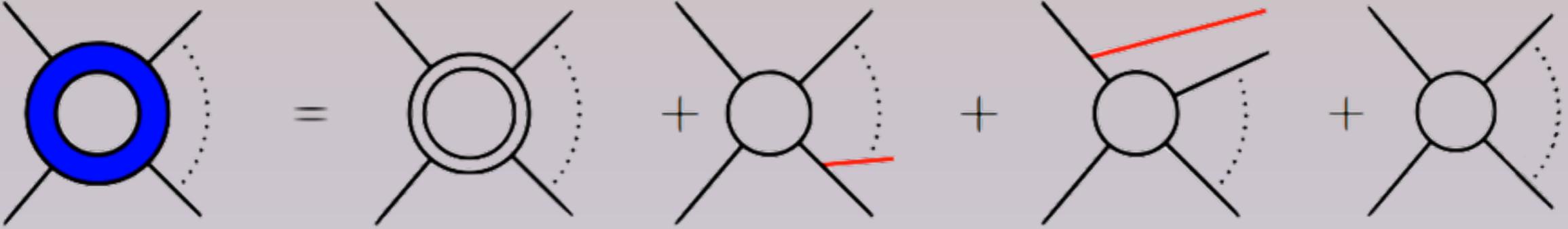
$$\sigma^{\text{NLO}} = \int_m d^{(d)} \sigma^V + \underbrace{\int_{m+1} d^{(d)} \sigma^R + \int_m d^{(4)} \sigma^B}$$



MadFKS

RE, Frixione, Maltoni & Stelzer, arXiv:0908.4272

NLO CONTRIBUTIONS

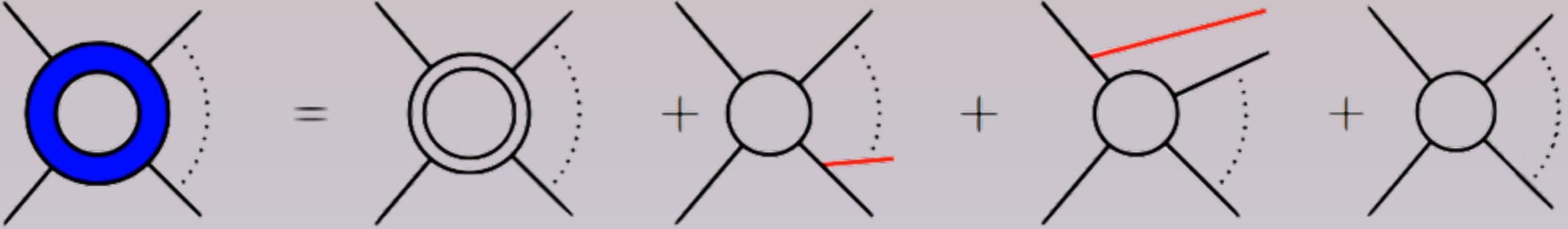


$$\sigma^{\text{NLO}} = \int_m d^{(d)} \sigma^V + \int_{m+1} d^{(d)} \sigma^R + \int_m d^{(4)} \sigma^B$$

MadFKS

RE, Frixione, Maltoni & Stelzer, arXiv:0908.4272

NLO CONTRIBUTIONS



$$\sigma^{\text{NLO}} = \int_m d^{(d)} \sigma^V + \int_{m+1} d^{(d)} \sigma^R + \int_m d^{(4)} \sigma^B$$

MadFKS

RE, Frixione, Maltoni & Stelzer, arXiv:0908.4272



FULL NLO

- ✱ Of course, to get the total NLO results, the finite parts of the virtual corrections should be included as well
- ✱ Interface to link with the virtual corrections following the **Binoth-Les Houches Accord**
 - ✱ Standardized way to link MC codes to one-loop programs
- ✱ Unfortunately, no flexible one-loop programs readily available
 - ✱ **BlackHat** & **Rocket** are impressive (private) tools for multi-jet processes, but limited when massive particles appear
 - ✱ **Golem** is not (yet) in a shape that it can be used straight-forwardly
 - ✱ **Helac One-Loop** is not (yet?) public
- ✱ We wrote our own using **CutTools: MadLoop**
[Hirschi, RE, Frixione, Garzelli, Maltoni e³ Pittau, arXiv:1103.0621]

ONE-LOOP INTEGRALS

- ✱ Any one-loop diagram (or amplitude) can be expressed as a **linear combination of scalar integrals** (+ a remainder)
- ✱ These **scalar integrals** are known (e.g. `QCDLoop` [*Ellis & Zanderighi*] and `OneLOop` [*Van Hameren*])
- ✱ Only the coefficients in front of these integrals need to be determined
- ✱ The **OPP method** (implemented in `CutTools`) is an efficient way to determine these coefficients [*Ossola, Papadopoulos & Pittau*]
- ✱ The **remainder** can be computed using tree-level diagrams, with some special vertices [*Draggiotis, Garzelli, Papadopoulos & Pittau*]
 - ✱ very similar to normal counter terms for the UV renormalization



MADLOOP

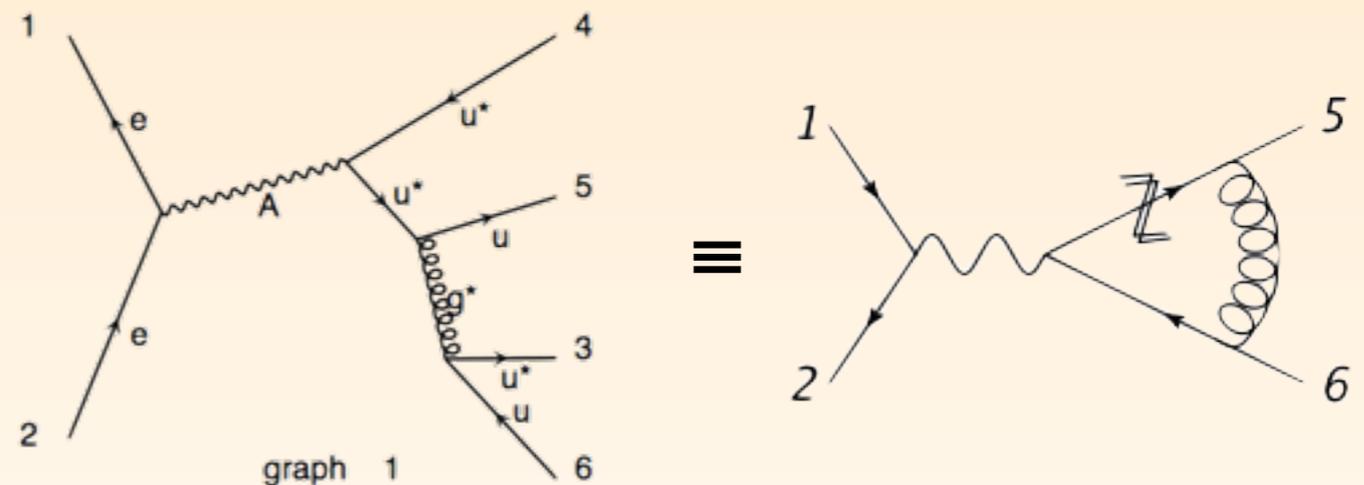
Hirschi, RE, Frixione, Garzelli, Maltoni e Pittau, arXiv:1103.0621

- ✱ Generation of the loop diagrams
 - ✱ Generate “L-cut diagrams” and select a non-redundant set
 - ✱ Compute color factors to interfere virtual amplitude with the Born
 - ✱ Provide the numerators of the loop integrals that need to be passed to CutTools
 - ✱ Perform sanity checks (Double pole, Ward identity, ...)
- ✱ Performing the phase-space integration
 - ✱ MadFKS provides the momenta (and helicity)
 - ✱ CutTools determines the coefficient in front of the scalar integrals (times the scalar integral) numerically
 - ✱ Compute the remainder (and UV-renormalization)
 - ✱ Handle possible “exceptional phase-space points”

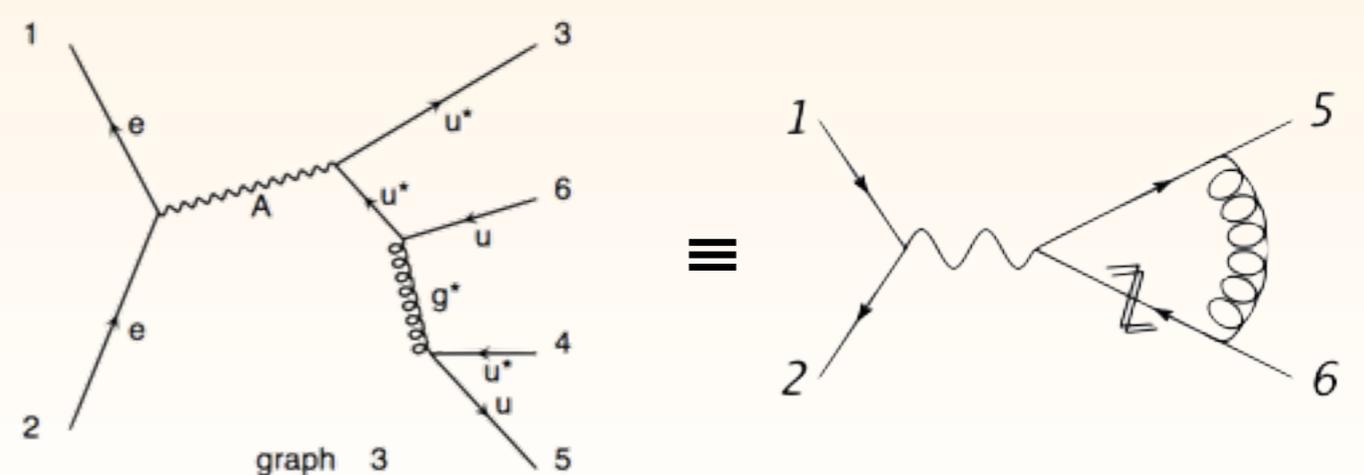
L-CUT DIAGRAMS

- ✱ Instead of writing a new code to generate loop diagrams, we use the existing, well-tested **MadGraph** code to generate tree-level diagrams
- ✱ A loop diagrams with the loop cut open has to extra external particles. Consider $e^+e^- \rightarrow u^* \text{ubar}^* u \text{ubar}$ (loop particles are denoted with a star). MadGraph will generate 8 L-cut diagrams. Here are two of them:

- ✱ All diagrams with two extra particles are generated and the ones that are needed are **filtered out**
- ✱ Each diagram gets an unique **tag**: any **mirror** and/or **cyclic** permutations of tags of diagrams already in the set are taken out
- ✱ Additional filter to eliminate **tadpoles** and **bubbles** attached to external lines



$$\text{Diag}_1 = [u^*(6)g^*(5)u^*(A)]$$



$$\text{Diag}_3 = [u^*(A)u^*(6)g^*(5)]$$



MADLOOP: EXCEPTIONAL PS POINTS

- ✱ There are (almost) always phase-space points for which the numerical reduction to determine the coefficients in front of the scalar integrals does not work due to **numerical instabilities**
- ✱ CutTools has **build-in routines** to determine if a phase-space point is **exceptional or not**
 - ✱ By sending $m_i^2 \rightarrow m_i^2 + M^2$ CT has an **independent reconstruction of the numerator** and can check if both match
 - ✱ CT can ask MadLoop to **evalutate the integrand at a given loop momentum** and check if the result is close enough to the one from the reconstructed integrand
- ✱ Using **quadruple precision** numerics in the reduction helps, but not always

MADLOOP: EXCEPTIONAL PS POINTS

- ✱ When CutTools assigns a phase-space point to be **unstable**, MadLoop tries to cure it
 - ✱ Check if the **Ward Identity** holds at a satisfactory level
 - ✱ Shift the phase-space point by **rescaling** one of the components of the **3-momenta** (for all particles), e.g. $k_i^3 = (1 + \lambda_{\pm})k_i^3$, and adjusting the energy components to keep the point on-shell
 - ✱ Provide an **estimate of the virtual** of the original phase-space point (**with uncertainty**) $V_{\lambda=0}^{FIN} = |\mathcal{A}_{\lambda=0}^{born}|^2 (c \pm \Delta)$ where

$$c = \frac{1}{2} \left(v_{\lambda_+}^{FIN} + v_{\lambda_-}^{FIN} \right) \quad \Delta = \left| v_{\lambda_+}^{FIN} - v_{\lambda_-}^{FIN} \right| \quad v_{\lambda_{\pm}}^{FIN} = \frac{V_{\lambda_{\pm}}^{FIN}}{|\mathcal{A}_{\lambda=0}^{born}|^2}$$
- ✱ If all shifts fail (very rarely) use the **median** of the results of the last 100 stable points and the **median absolute deviation** (MAD (!)) to determine the associated uncertainty

LOCAL CHECKS

$u\bar{u} \rightarrow W^+W^-b\bar{b}$	MADLOOP	Ref. [33]
a_0	2.338047209268890E-008	2.338047130649064E-008
c_{-2}	-2.493920703542680E-007	-2.493916939359002E-007
c_{-1}	-4.885901939046758E-007	-4.885901774740355E-007
c_0	-2.775800623041098E-007	-2.775787767591390E-007

$gg \rightarrow W^+W^-b\bar{b}$	MADLOOP	Ref. [33]
a_0	1.549795815702494E-008	1.549794572435312E-008
c_{-2}	-2.686312747217639E-007	-2.686310592221201E-007
c_{-1}	-6.078687041491385E-007	-6.078682316434646E-007
c_0	-5.519004042667462E-007	-5.519004727276688E-007

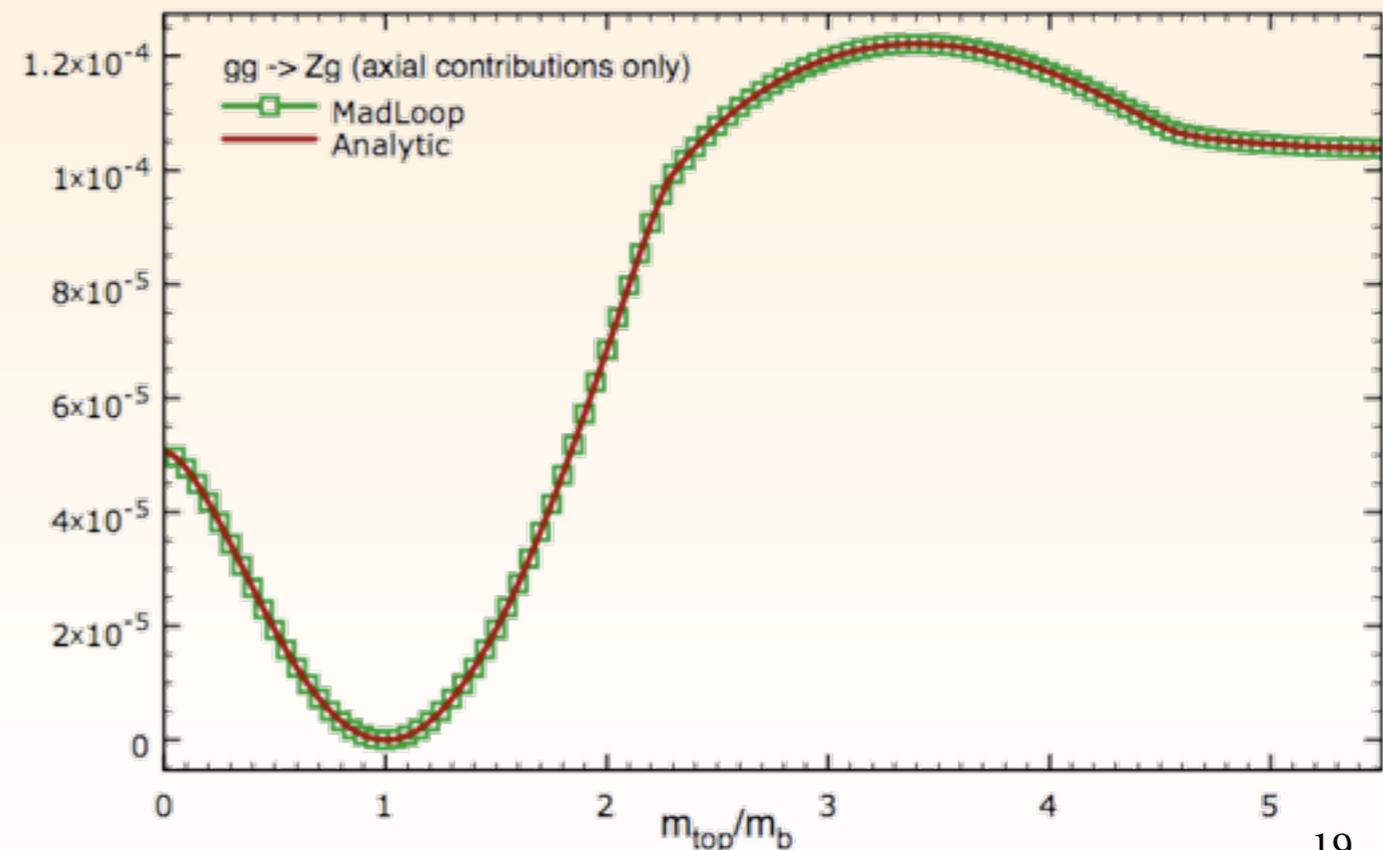
Ref. [33]: *A. van Hameren et al. arXiv:0903.4665*

The numerics are **pin-point** on analytical data, even with **several mass scales**.

Analytic computation via an implementation of the formulae found in a paper by *J.J. van der Bij e³ N. Glover*

~25 processes checked against known results (24 pages appendix of MadLoop paper, arXiv:1103.0621)

We believe the code is **very robust** - e.g., MadLoop helped **to find mistakes** in published NLO computations implementations ($pp \rightarrow Zjj$, $pp \rightarrow W^+W^+jj$)





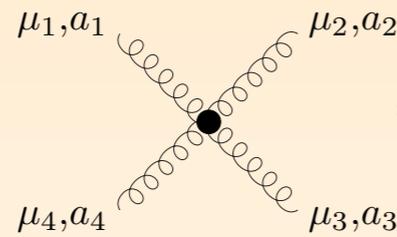
INTEGRATED RESULTS

- ✱ Errors are the MC integration uncertainty only
- ✱ Cuts on jets, γ^*/Z decay products and photons, but **no cuts on b quarks** (their mass regulates the IR singularities)
- ✱ Efficient handling of **exceptional phase-space points**: their uncertainty always at least two orders of magnitude smaller than the integration uncertainty
- ✱ Running time: **two weeks on ~150 node cluster** leading to rather small integration uncertainties
- ✱ MadFKS+MadLoop results are fully **differential** in the final states (but only parton-level)

Process	μ	n_{lf}	Cross section (pb)	
			LO	NLO
a.1 $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}$	m_{top}	5	123.76 ± 0.05	162.08 ± 0.12
a.2 $pp \rightarrow tj$	m_{top}	5	34.78 ± 0.03	41.03 ± 0.07
a.3 $pp \rightarrow tjj$	m_{top}	5	11.851 ± 0.006	13.71 ± 0.02
a.4 $pp \rightarrow t\bar{b}j$	$m_{top}/4$	4	25.62 ± 0.01	30.96 ± 0.06
a.5 $pp \rightarrow t\bar{b}jj$	$m_{top}/4$	4	8.195 ± 0.002	8.91 ± 0.01
b.1 $pp \rightarrow (W^+ \rightarrow)e^+\nu_e$	m_W	5	5072.5 ± 2.9	6146.2 ± 9.8
b.2 $pp \rightarrow (W^+ \rightarrow)e^+\nu_e j$	m_W	5	828.4 ± 0.8	1065.3 ± 1.8
b.3 $pp \rightarrow (W^+ \rightarrow)e^+\nu_e jj$	m_W	5	298.8 ± 0.4	300.3 ± 0.6
b.4 $pp \rightarrow (\gamma^*/Z \rightarrow)e^+e^-$	m_Z	5	1007.0 ± 0.1	1170.0 ± 2.4
b.5 $pp \rightarrow (\gamma^*/Z \rightarrow)e^+e^- j$	m_Z	5	156.11 ± 0.03	203.0 ± 0.2
b.6 $pp \rightarrow (\gamma^*/Z \rightarrow)e^+e^- jj$	m_Z	5	54.24 ± 0.02	56.69 ± 0.07
c.1 $pp \rightarrow (W^+ \rightarrow)e^+\nu_e b\bar{b}$	$m_W + 2m_b$	4	11.557 ± 0.005	22.95 ± 0.07
c.2 $pp \rightarrow (W^+ \rightarrow)e^+\nu_e t\bar{t}$	$m_W + 2m_{top}$	5	0.009415 ± 0.000003	0.01159 ± 0.00001
c.3 $pp \rightarrow (\gamma^*/Z \rightarrow)e^+e^- b\bar{b}$	$m_Z + 2m_b$	4	9.459 ± 0.004	15.31 ± 0.03
c.4 $pp \rightarrow (\gamma^*/Z \rightarrow)e^+e^- t\bar{t}$	$m_Z + 2m_{top}$	5	0.0035131 ± 0.0000004	0.004876 ± 0.000002
c.5 $pp \rightarrow \gamma t\bar{t}$	$2m_{top}$	5	0.2906 ± 0.0001	0.4169 ± 0.0003
d.1 $pp \rightarrow W^+W^-$	$2m_W$	4	29.976 ± 0.004	43.92 ± 0.03
d.2 $pp \rightarrow W^+W^- j$	$2m_W$	4	11.613 ± 0.002	15.174 ± 0.008
d.3 $pp \rightarrow W^+W^+ jj$	$2m_W$	4	0.07048 ± 0.00004	0.1377 ± 0.0005
e.1 $pp \rightarrow HW^+$	$m_W + m_H$	5	0.3428 ± 0.0003	0.4455 ± 0.0003
e.2 $pp \rightarrow HW^+ j$	$m_W + m_H$	5	0.1223 ± 0.0001	0.1501 ± 0.0002
e.3 $pp \rightarrow HZ$	$m_Z + m_H$	5	0.2781 ± 0.0001	0.3659 ± 0.0002
e.4 $pp \rightarrow HZ j$	$m_Z + m_H$	5	0.0988 ± 0.0001	0.1237 ± 0.0001
e.5 $pp \rightarrow Ht\bar{t}$	$m_{top} + m_H$	5	0.08896 ± 0.00001	0.09869 ± 0.00003
e.6 $pp \rightarrow Hb\bar{b}$	$m_b + m_H$	4	0.16510 ± 0.00009	0.2099 ± 0.0006
e.7 $pp \rightarrow Hj j$	m_H	5	1.104 ± 0.002	1.036 ± 0.002

MADLOOP: LIMITATIONS

- Of course, there are some **limitations** on what the code cannot do yet...
- No **four-gluon vertex** at the Born level: the special vertex to compute the remainder is too complicated to implement in **MadGraph v4**



$$\begin{aligned}
 &= -\frac{ig^4 N_{col}}{96\pi^2} \sum_{P(234)} \left\{ \left[\frac{\delta_{a_1 a_2} \delta_{a_3 a_4} + \delta_{a_1 a_3} \delta_{a_4 a_2} + \delta_{a_1 a_4} \delta_{a_2 a_3}}{N_{col}} \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. + 4 \text{Tr}(t^{a_1} t^{a_3} t^{a_2} t^{a_4} + t^{a_1} t^{a_4} t^{a_2} t^{a_3}) (3 + \lambda_{HV}) \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. - \text{Tr}(\{t^{a_1} t^{a_2}\} \{t^{a_3} t^{a_4}\}) (5 + 2\lambda_{HV}) \right] g_{\mu_1 \mu_2} g_{\mu_3 \mu_4} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + 12 \frac{N_f}{N_{col}} \text{Tr}(t^{a_1} t^{a_2} t^{a_3} t^{a_4}) \left(\frac{5}{3} g_{\mu_1 \mu_3} g_{\mu_2 \mu_4} - g_{\mu_1 \mu_2} g_{\mu_3 \mu_4} - g_{\mu_2 \mu_3} g_{\mu_1 \mu_4} \right) \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

- If **EW bosons appear in the loops**, the reduction by CutTools might not work
- No **finite-width effects** for massive particles also appearing in the loops
- All Born contributions must **factorize the same power of all coupling orders**

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- ✱ The MadLoop code is being rewritten in [MadGraph v5](#). This will:
 - ✱ **remove the limitations** presented on the previous slide
 - ✱ make it faster:
 - ✱ **Recycling of tree-structures** attached to the loops
 - ✱ Identify **identical contributions** (e.g. massless fermion loops of different flavors)
 - ✱ Call CutTools not per diagram, but per **set of diagrams with the same loop kinematics**
 - ✱ Use **recursion** relations (will mostly help the real-emission corrections)
 - ✱ Even more efficient mapping of integrand to integration channels
 - ✱ allow for the automatic generation of **UV renormalization** and **remainder vertices** using **FeynRules** [*Christensen, Duhr et al.*] for BSM physics



MATCHING TO A PARTON SHOWER

- ✱ To get **fully exclusive predictions** at NLO (ready to be passed to a hadronization model) we have to match the parton level results to a parton shower
- ✱ There is a severe problem of **double counting**:
 - ✱ **Real emission** from the NLO and PS has to be counted only once
 - ✱ **Virtual corrections** in the NLO and the Sudakov should not overlap
- ✱ The **MC@NLO** method [*Frixione & Webber*] removes this double counting explicitly by introducing **MC counter terms**
 - ✱ MC counter terms are **process independent kernels** (but do depend on the parton shower used) times the Born amplitudes

AUTOMATIC MC@NLO

[Torrielli, RF e Frixione (to appear)]

$$d\sigma_{\text{MC@NLO}}^{(\text{H})} = d\phi_{n+1} \left(\mathcal{M}^{(r)}(\phi_{n+1}) - \mathcal{M}^{(\text{MC})}(\phi_{n+1}) \right)$$

$$d\sigma_{\text{MC@NLO}}^{(\text{S})} = \int_{+1} d\phi_{n+1} \left(\mathcal{M}^{(b+v+rem)}(\phi_n) - \mathcal{M}^{(c.t.)}(\phi_{n+1}) + \mathcal{M}^{(\text{MC})}(\phi_{n+1}) \right)$$

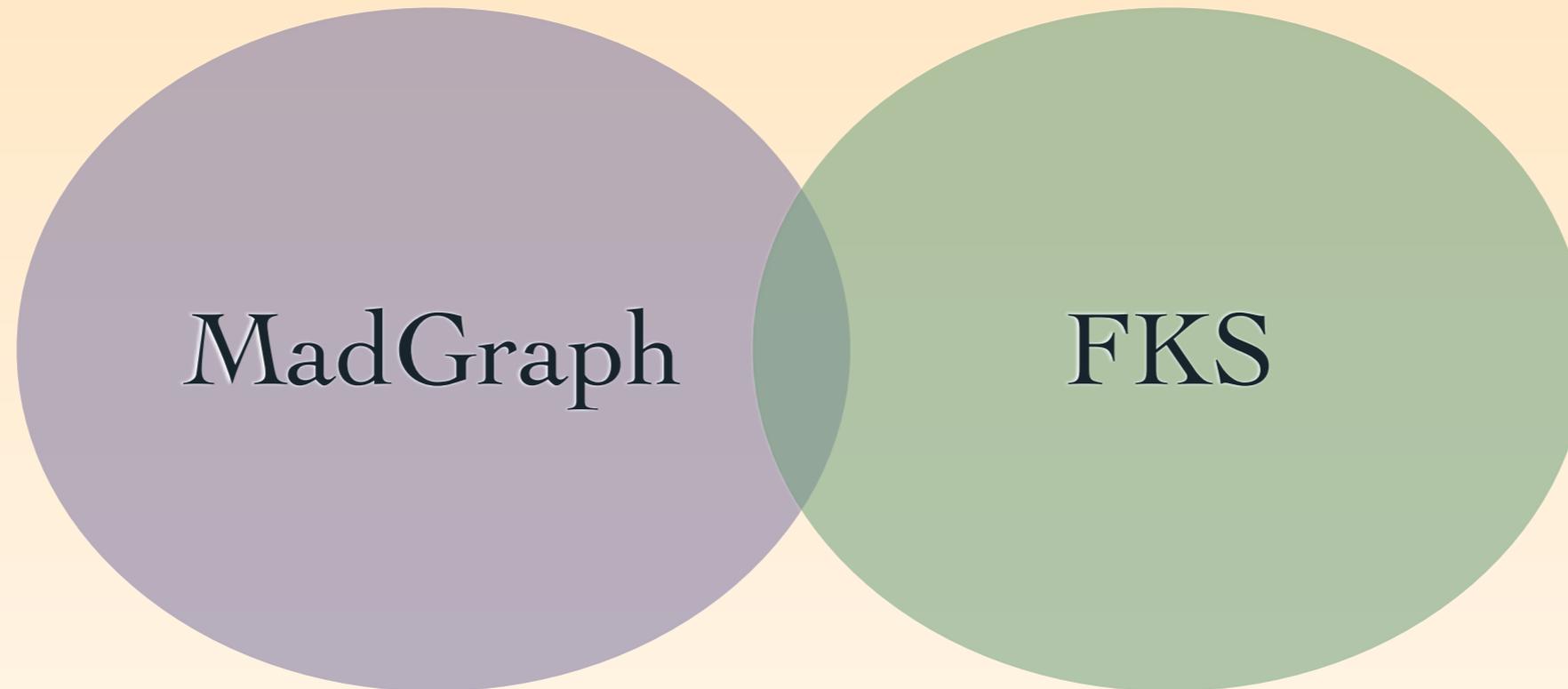
- ✱ In black: pure NLO (MadFKS and MadLoop+CutTools)
- ✱ **In red:** MC counter terms have been implemented for Herwig6, Pythia and Herwig++ (but only fully tested for Herwig6)
 - ✱ FKS subtraction is based on a collinear picture, so are the MC counter terms: branching structure is for free
 - ✱ Automatic determination of color partners
 - ✱ Automatic computation of leading-color matrix elements
 - ✱ Works also when MC-ing over helicities



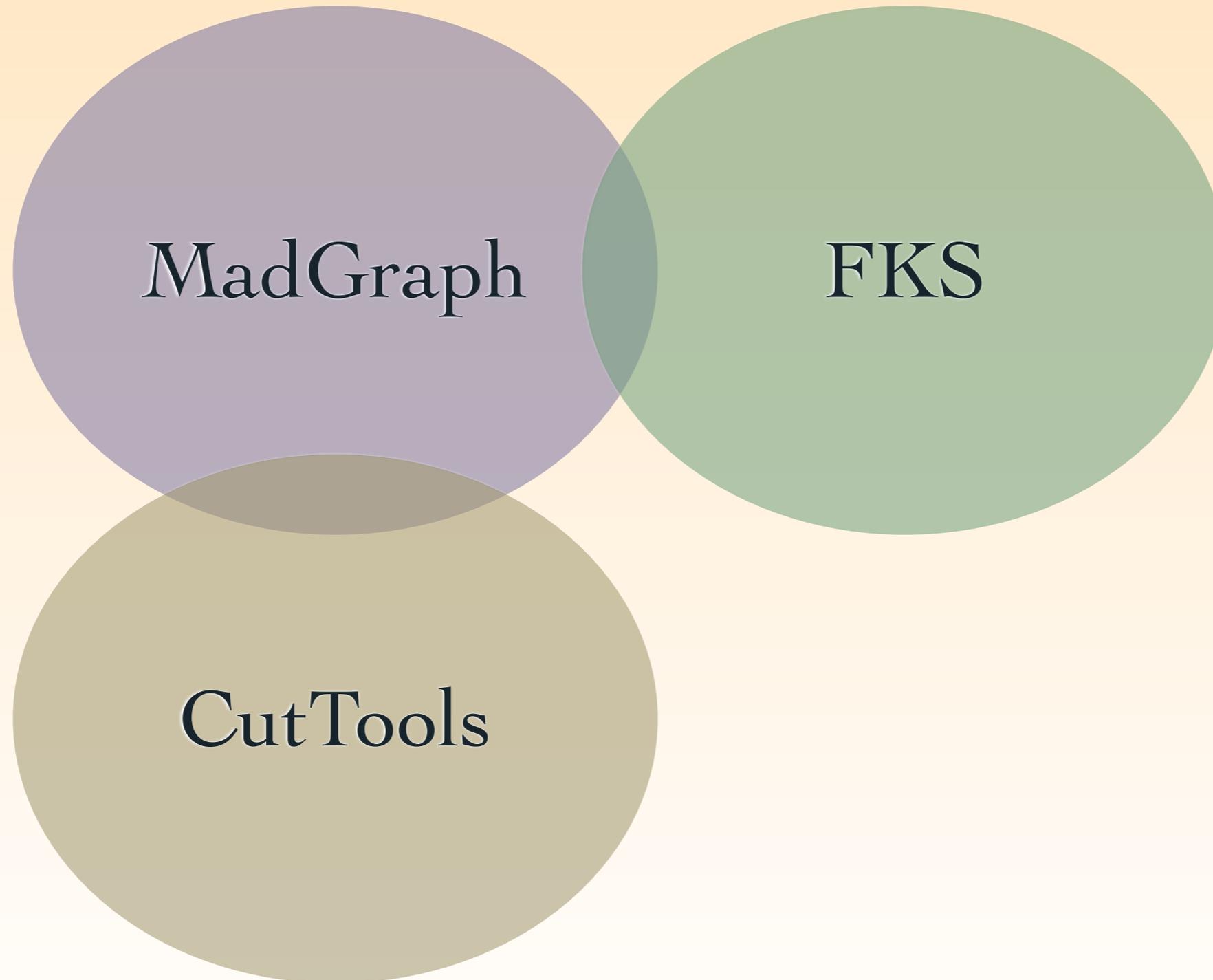
THE aMC@NLO CODE

MadGraph

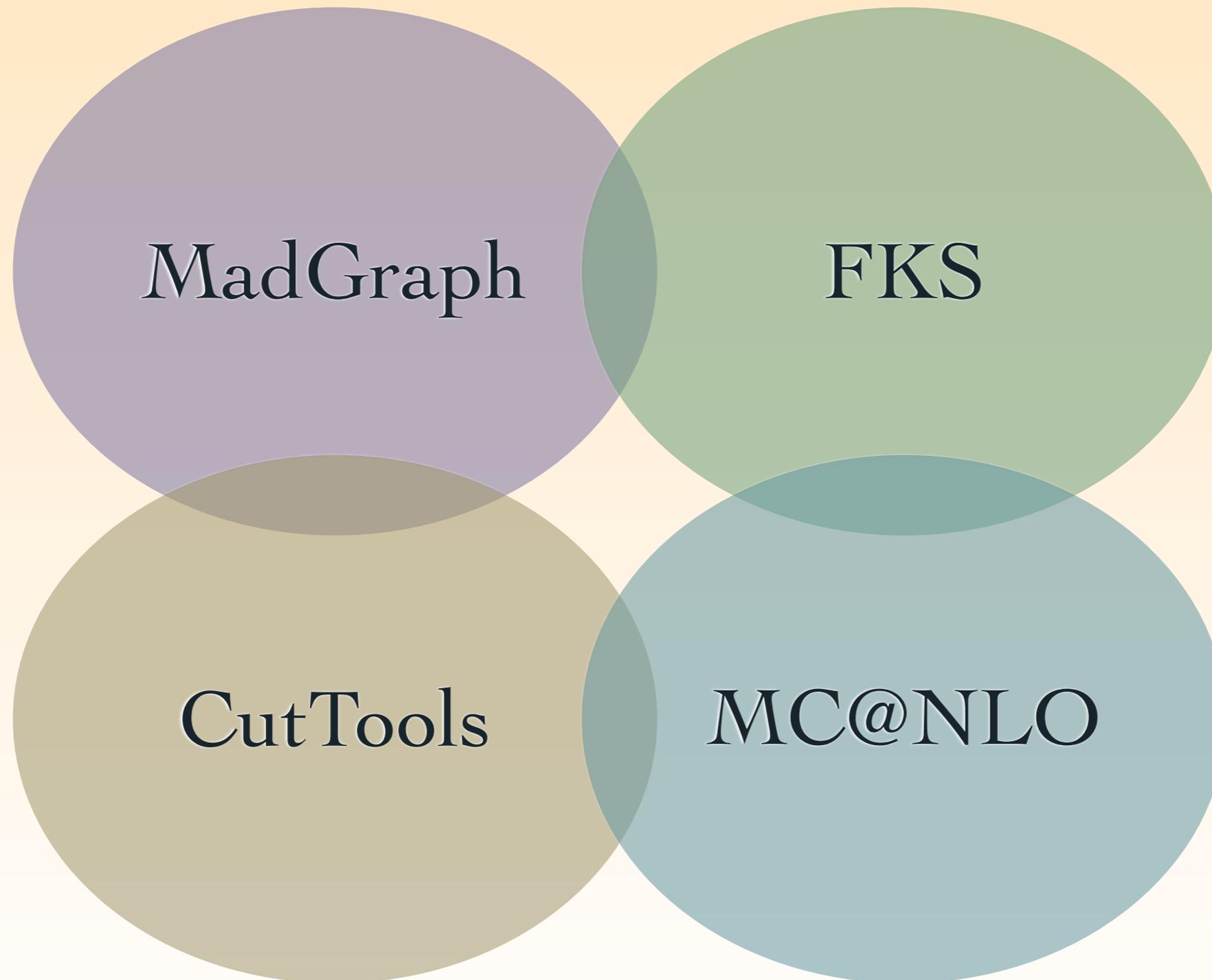
THE aMC@NLO CODE



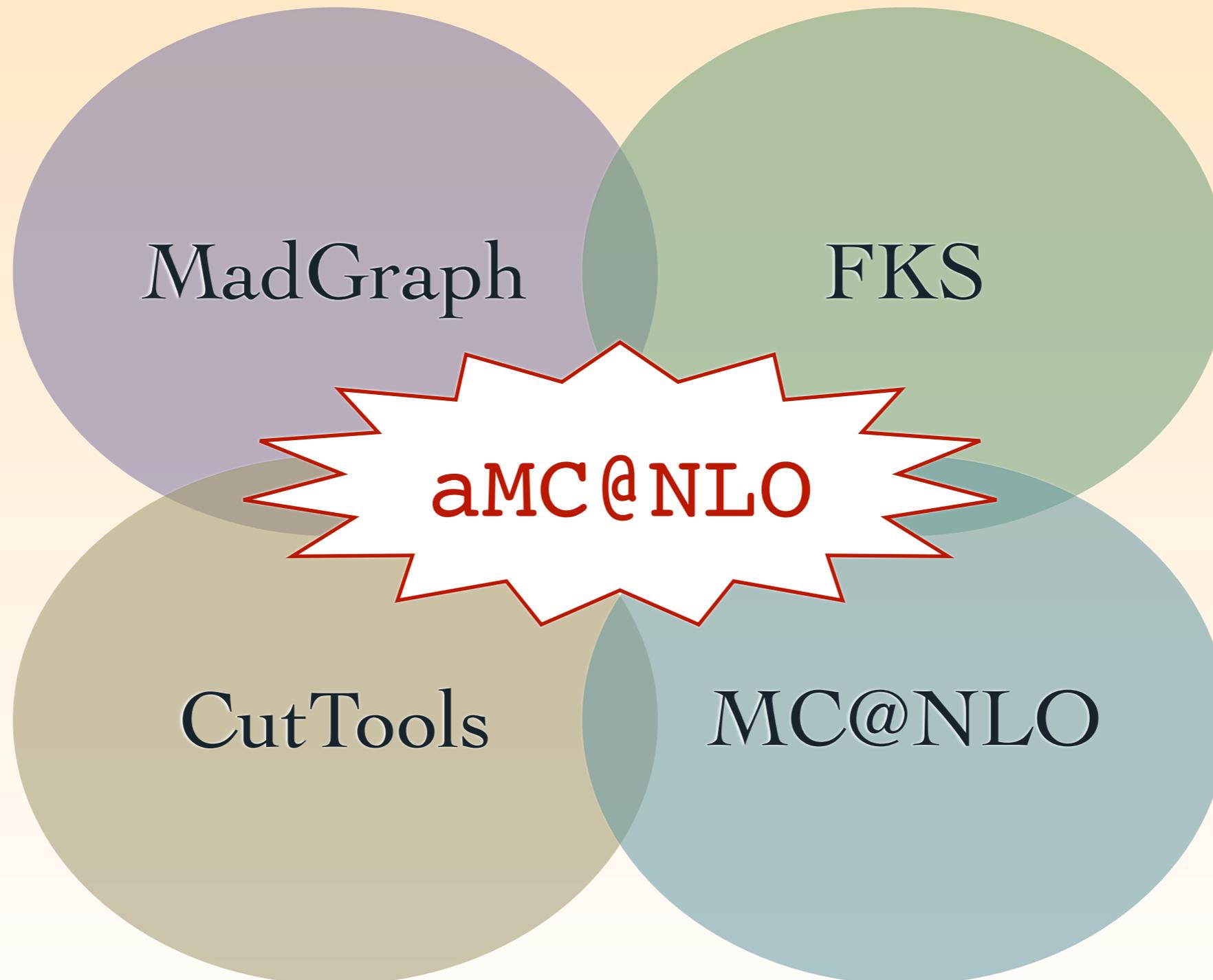
THE aMC@NLO CODE



THE aMC@NLO CODE



THE aMC@NLO CODE



<http://amcatnlo.cern.ch>



SELECTION OF RESULTS

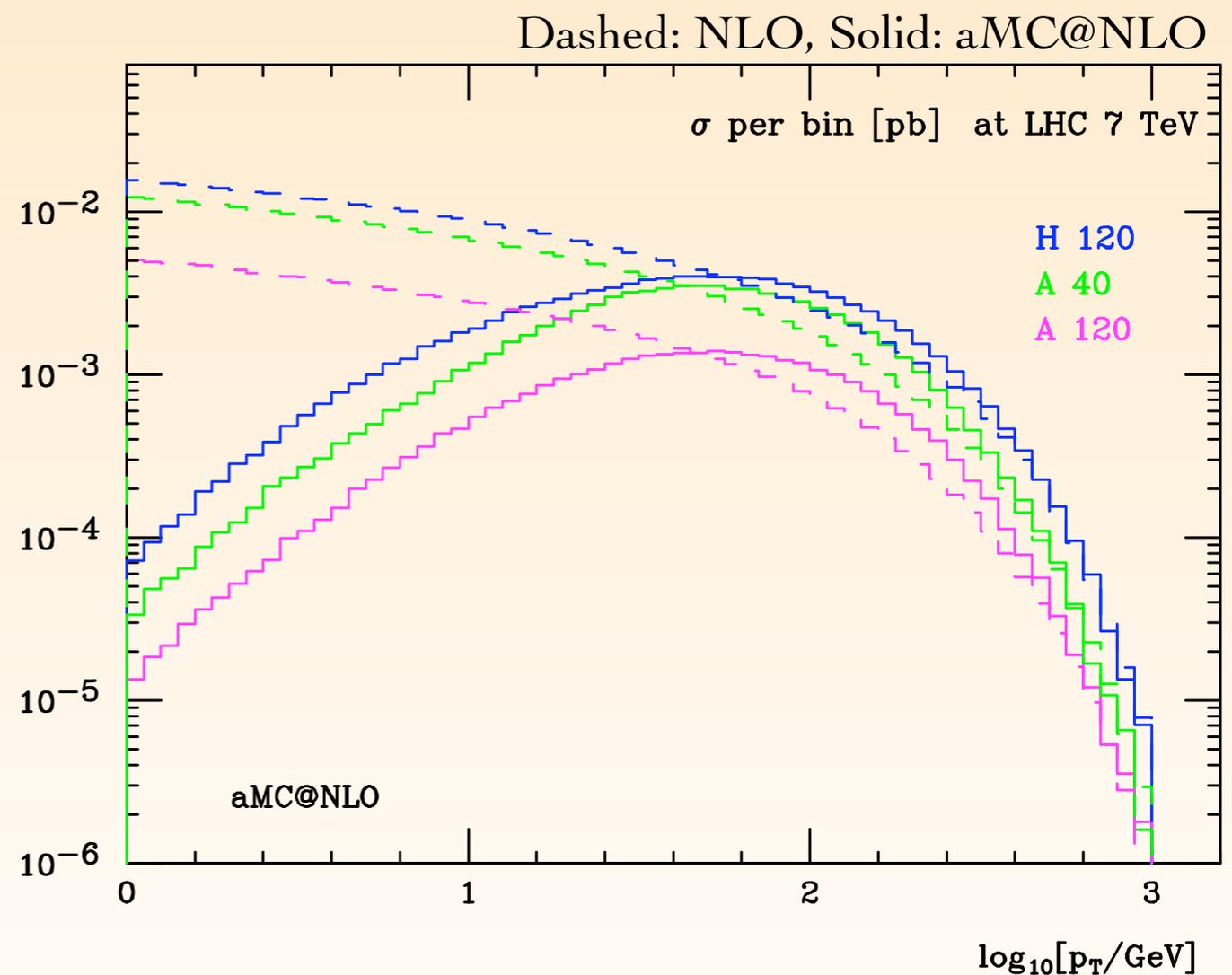
- ✱ Published results:
 - ✱ (pseudo-)scalar Higgs production in association with a top-antitop pair [*RF, Frixione, Hirschi, Maltoni, Pittau e Torrielli, arXiv:1104.5613*]
 - ✱ Vector boson production in association with a bottom-antibottom pair [*RF, Frixione, Hirschi, Maltoni, Pittau e Torrielli, arXiv:1106.6019*]
- ✱ (Very) preliminary unpublished results:
 - ✱ 4 charged lepton production
 - ✱ $W+lj$ production

PP \rightarrow HTT/ATT

- ☼ Top pair production in association with a (pseudo-)scalar Higgs boson
- ☼ Three scenarios
 - I) scalar Higgs H, with $m_H = 120$ GeV
 - II) pseudo-scalar Higgs A, with $m_A = 120$ GeV
 - III) pseudo-scalar Higgs A, with $m_A = 40$ GeV
- ☼ SM-like Yukawa coupling, $y_t/\sqrt{2}=m_t/v$
- ☼ Renormalization and factorization scales $\mu_F = \mu_R = \left(m_T^t m_T^{\bar{t}} m_T^{H/A}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$
with $m_T = \sqrt{m^2 + p_T^2}$ and $m_t^{pole} = m_t^{\overline{MS}} = 172.5$ GeV
- ☼ Note: first time that pp \rightarrow ttA has been computed beyond LO
[RE, Frixione, Hirschi, Maltoni, Pittau & Torrielli, arXiv:1104.5613]

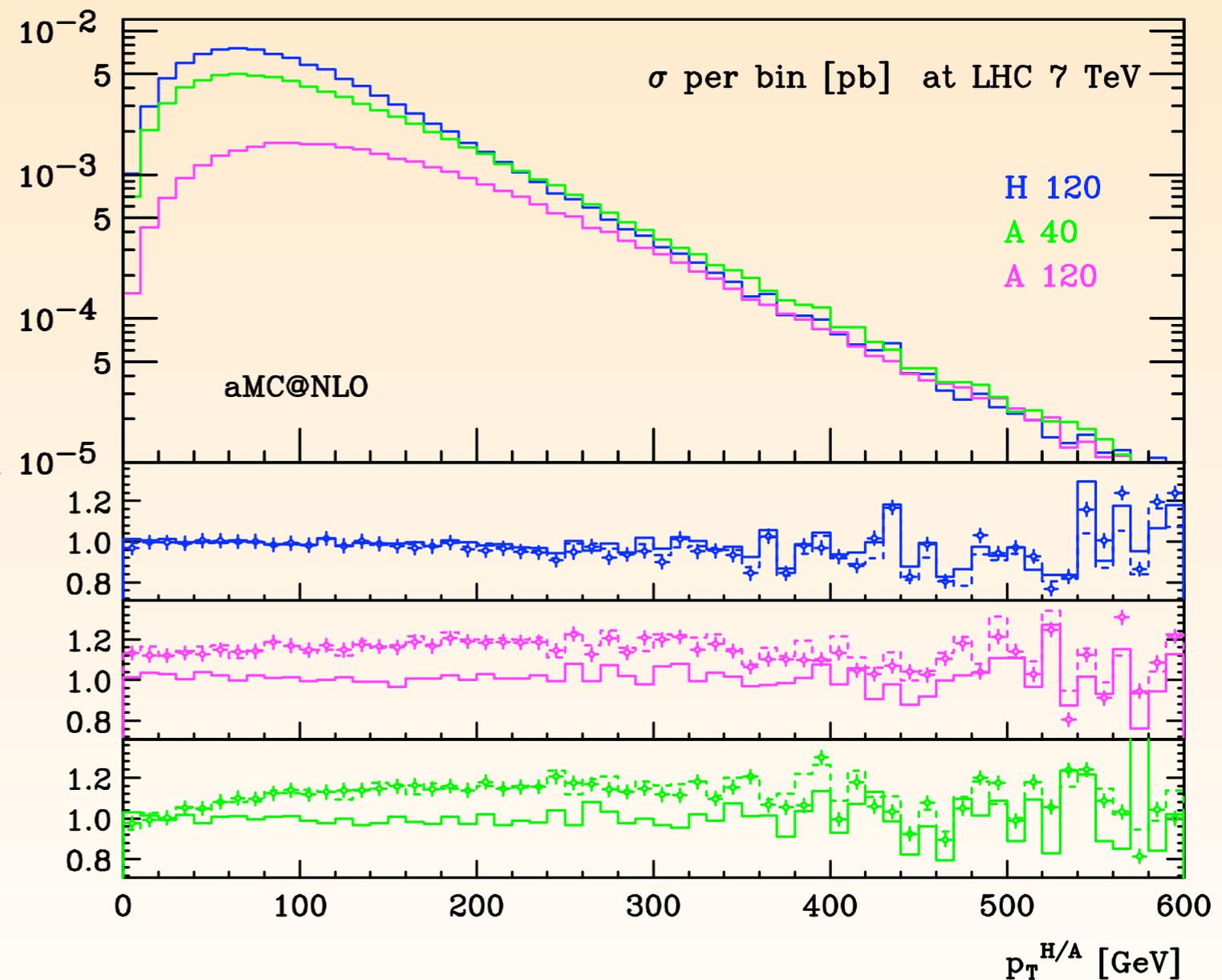
IMPACT OF THE SHOWER

- Three particle transverse momentum, $p_T(\text{H/A } t \text{ tbar})$, is obviously sensitive to the impact of the parton shower
- Infrared sensitive observable at the pure-NLO level for $p_T \rightarrow 0$
- aMC@NLO displays the usual Sudakov suppression
- At large p_T 's the two descriptions coincide in shape and rate



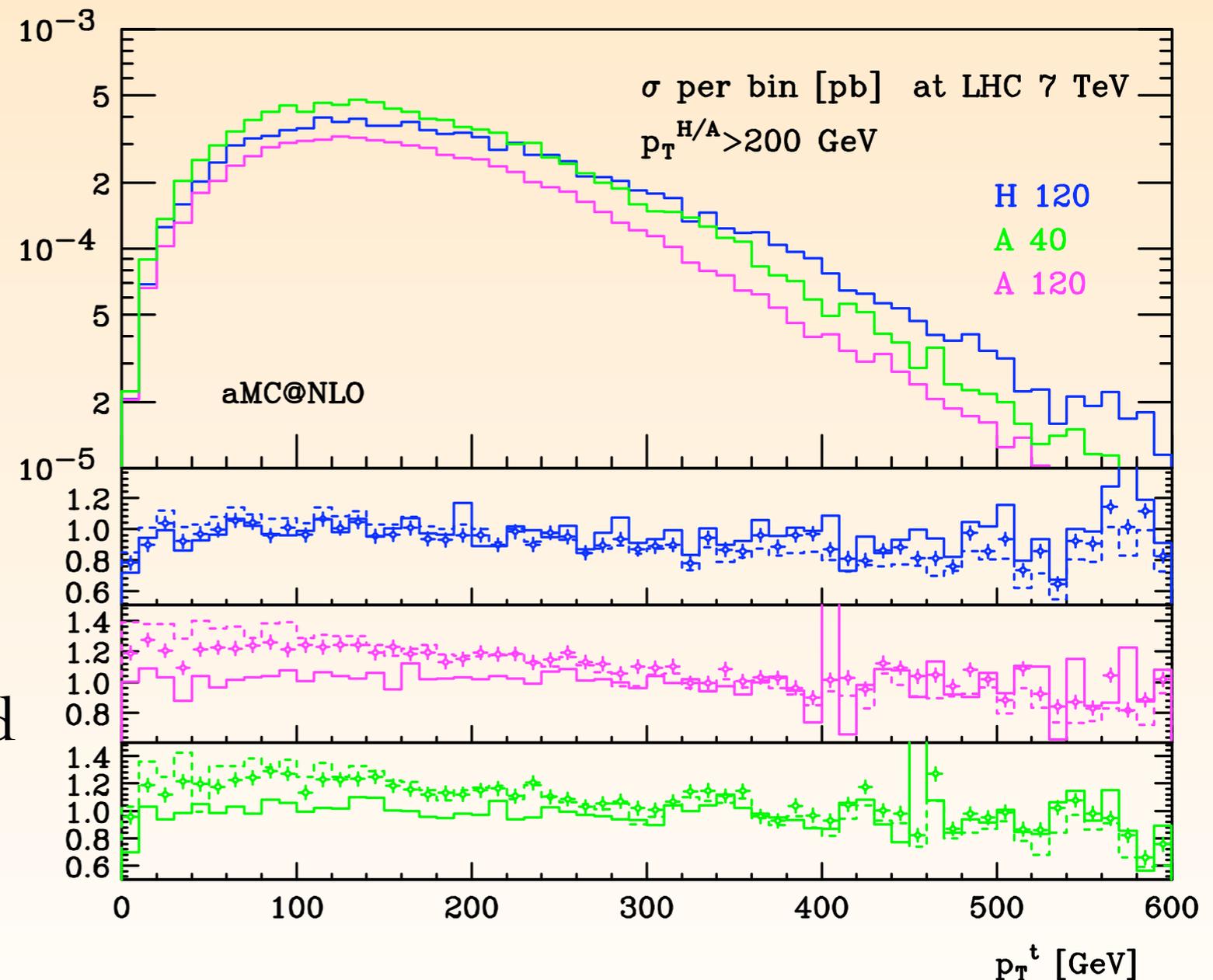
HIGGS P_T

- ✱ Transverse momentum of the Higgs boson
- ✱ Lower panels show the ratio with LO (dotted), NLO (solid) and aMC@LO (crosses)
- ✱ Corrections are **small** and fairly constant
- ✱ At large p_T , scalar and pseudo-scalar production coincide: **boosted Higgs scenario**
[Butterworth et al., Plehn et al.] should work equally well for pseudo-scalar Higgs



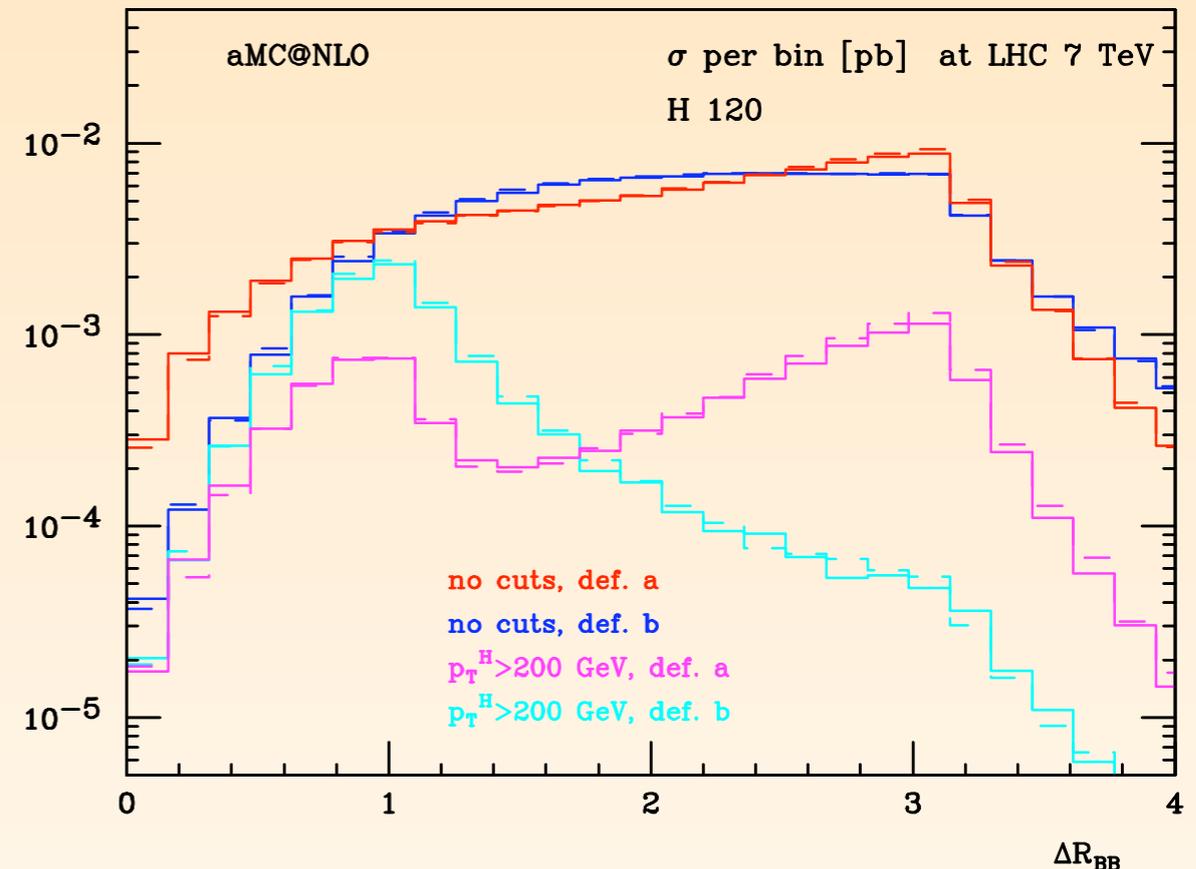
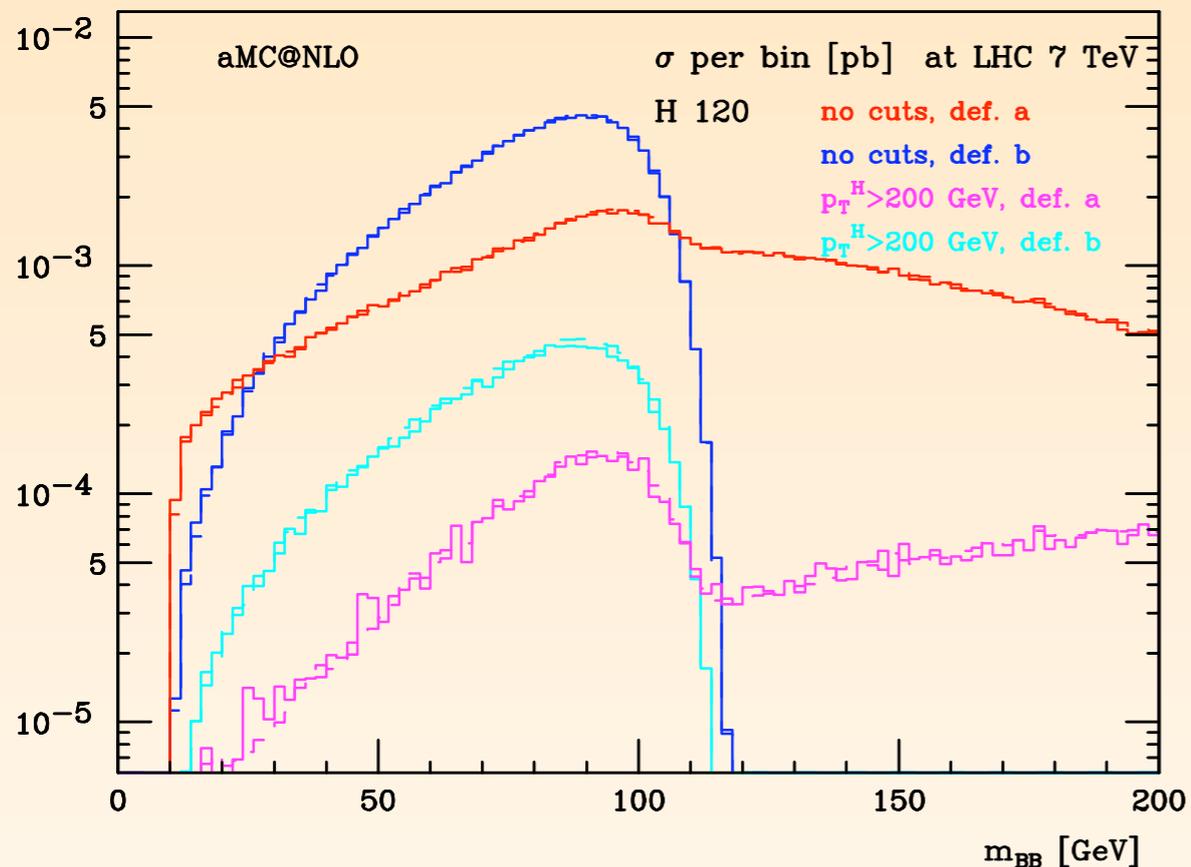
BOOSTED HIGGS

- ✱ Boosted Higgs:
 $p_T^{H/A} > 200 \text{ GeV}$
- ✱ Transverse momentum of the top quark
- ✱ Corrections compared to (MC@)LO are **significant** and cannot be approximated by a constant K-factor



TTH DECAYED

Dashed: aMC@LO, Solid: aMC@NLO



- ✿ Two definitions of the B hadron pair in these plots (assuming 100% b-tagging efficiency)
 - a) hardest pair in the event
 - b) decay products of the Higgs (uses MC truth)

- ✿ A cut on the p_T of the Higgs improves the selection of B hadrons from the Higgs decay

PP → WBB/ZBB

- ✱ Background to $pp \rightarrow HW/HZ$, $H \rightarrow bb$

- ✱ 4 Flavor scheme calculations

- ✱ Massive b quarks

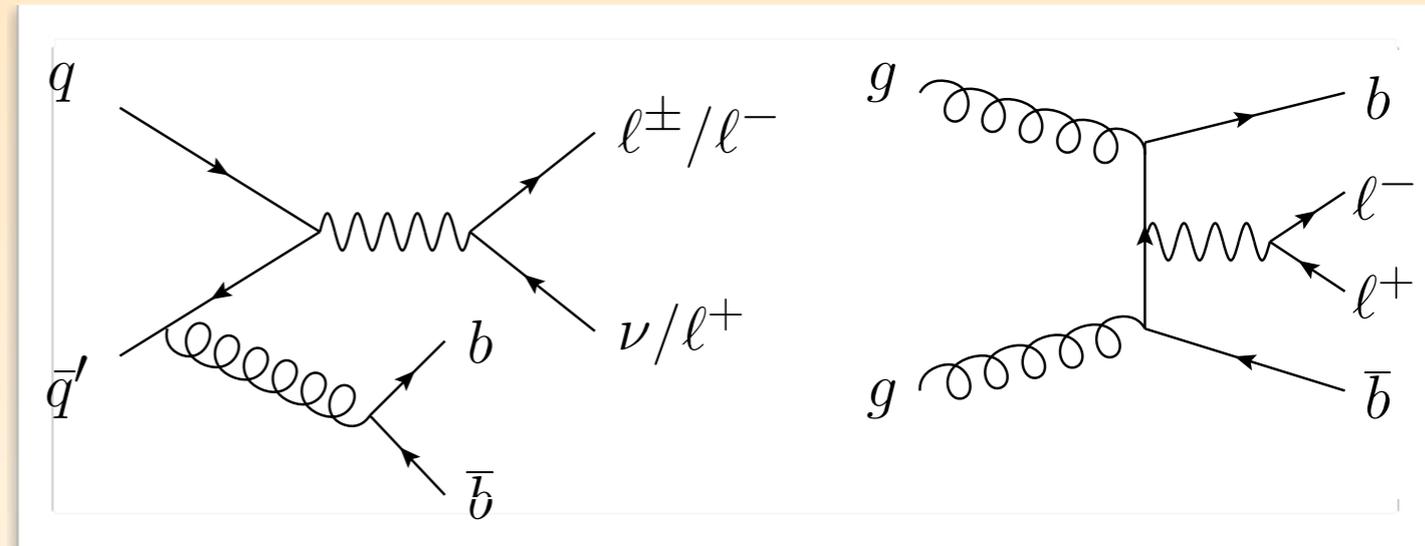
- ✱ No initial state b quarks

- ✱ Born is finite: no generation cuts are needed

- ✱ At LO, Wbb is purely qq induced, while Zbb has also contributions from gg initial states

- ✱ Cross sections for Zbb and Wbb are similar at LHC 7 TeV

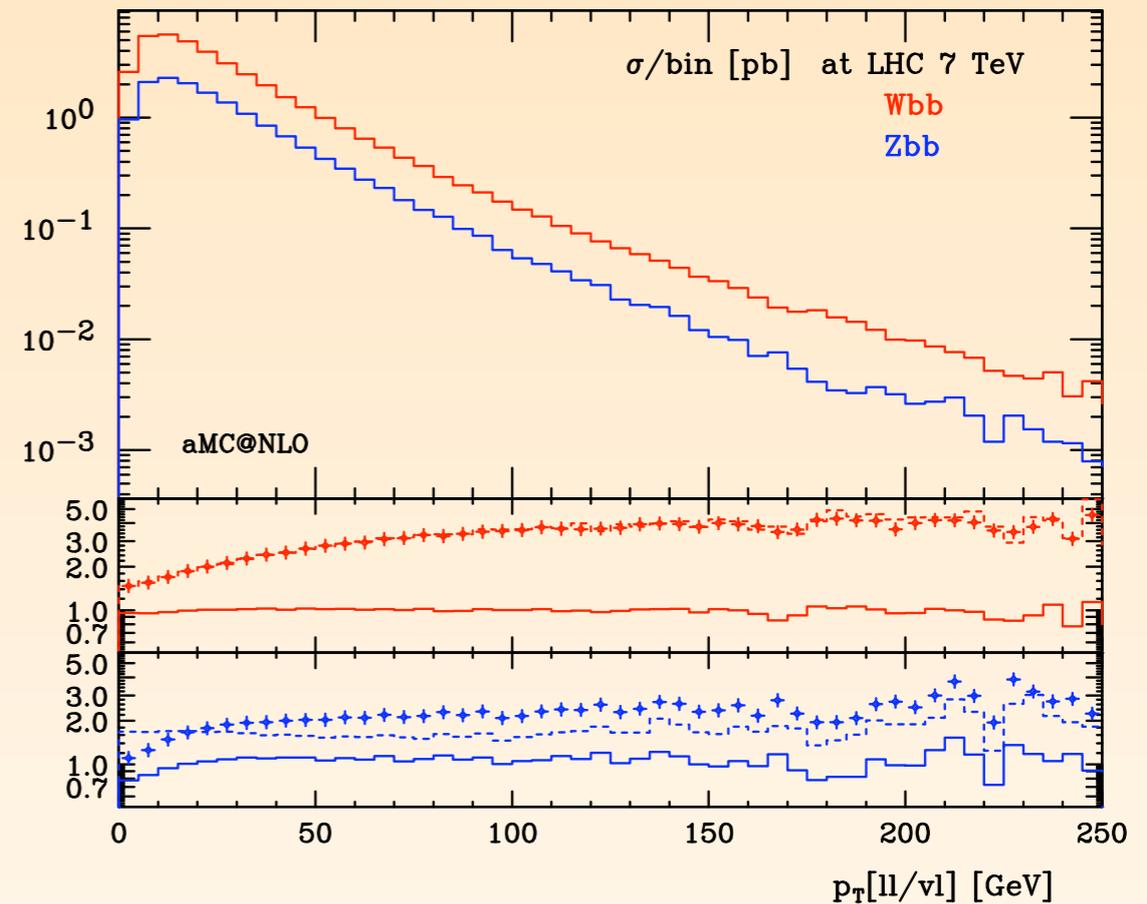
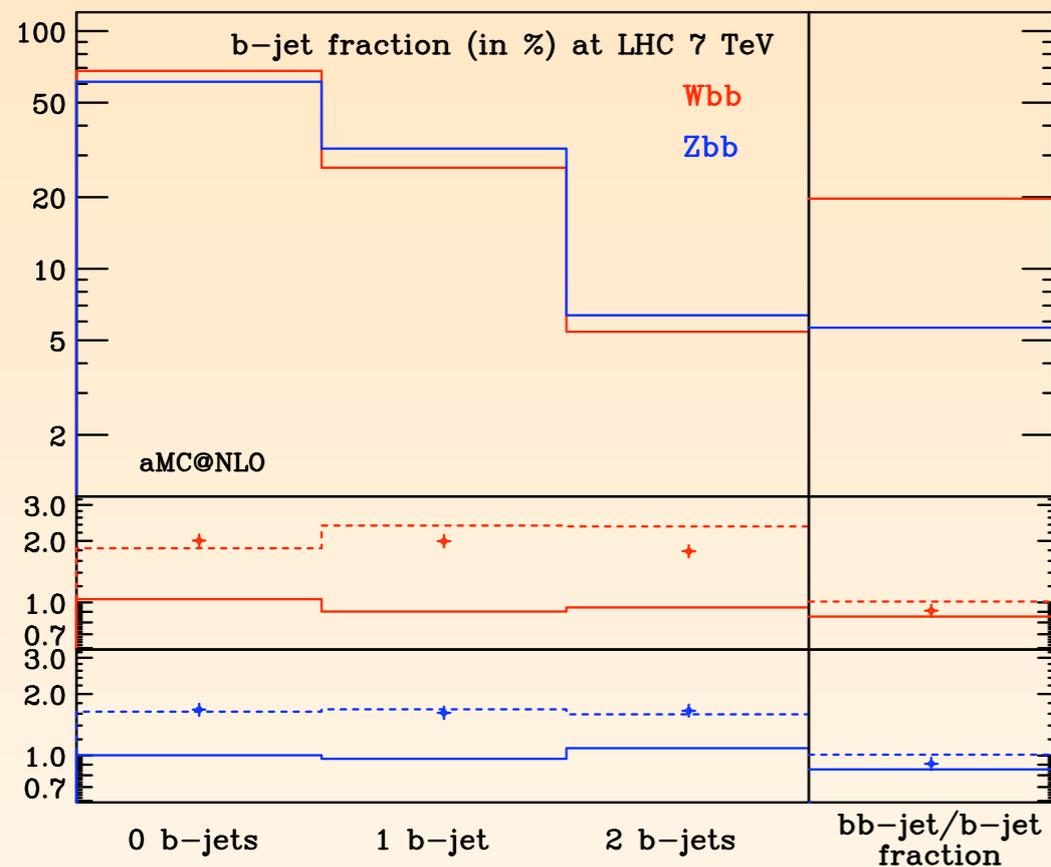
[RE, Fraxione, Hirschi, Maltoni, Pittau e Torrielli, arXiv:1106.6019]



	Cross section (pb)					
	Tevatron $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV			LHC $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV		
	LO	NLO	K factor	LO	NLO	K factor
$l\nu b\bar{b}$	4.63	8.04	1.74	19.4	38.9	2.01
$l^+l^-b\bar{b}$	0.860	1.509	1.75	9.66	16.1	1.67

$$\mu_F^2 = \mu_R^2 = m_{\ell\ell'}^2 + p_T^2(\ell\ell') + \frac{m_b^2 + p_T^2(b)}{2} + \frac{m_b^2 + p_T^2(\bar{b})}{2}$$

PP \rightarrow WBB/ZBB

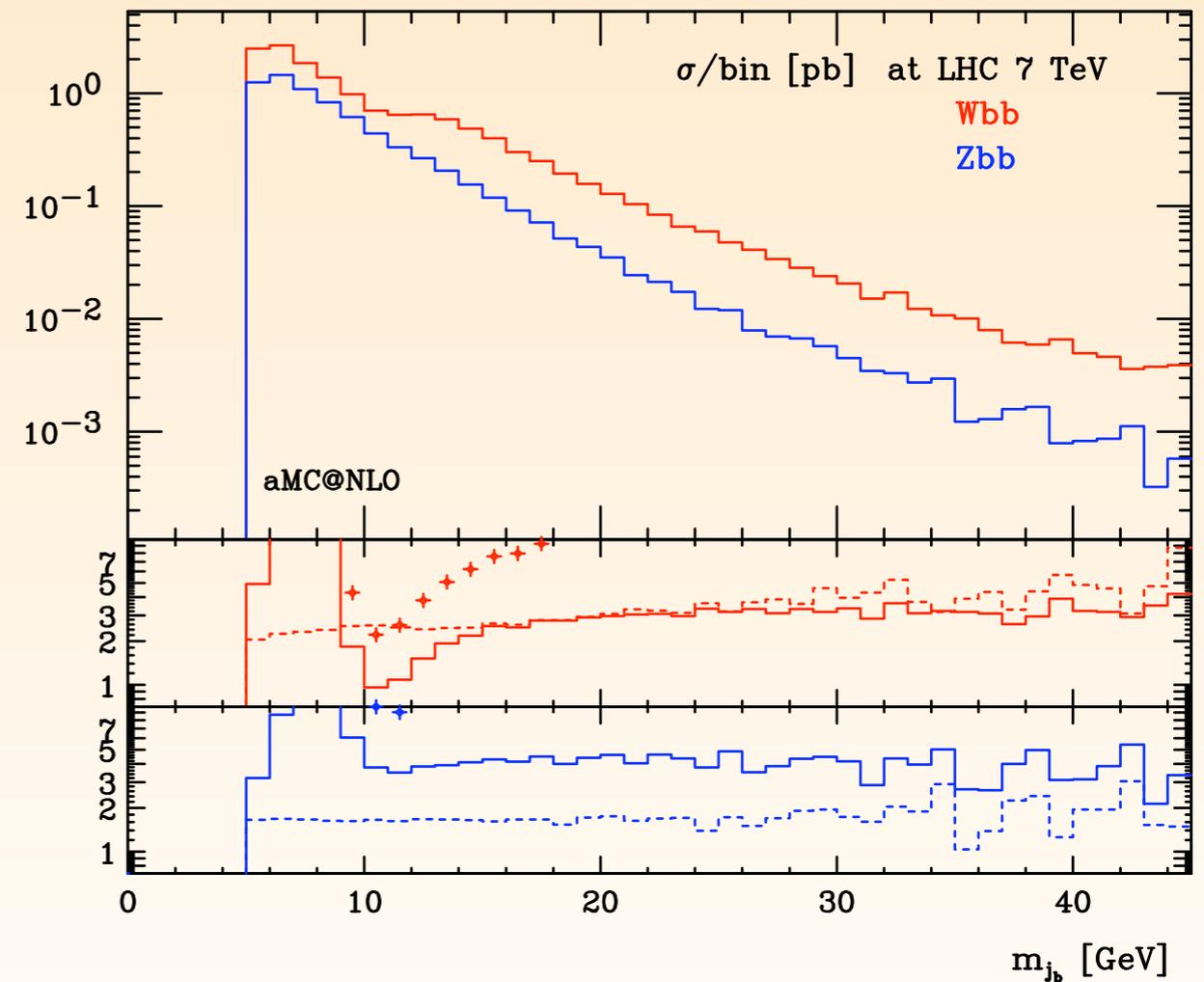
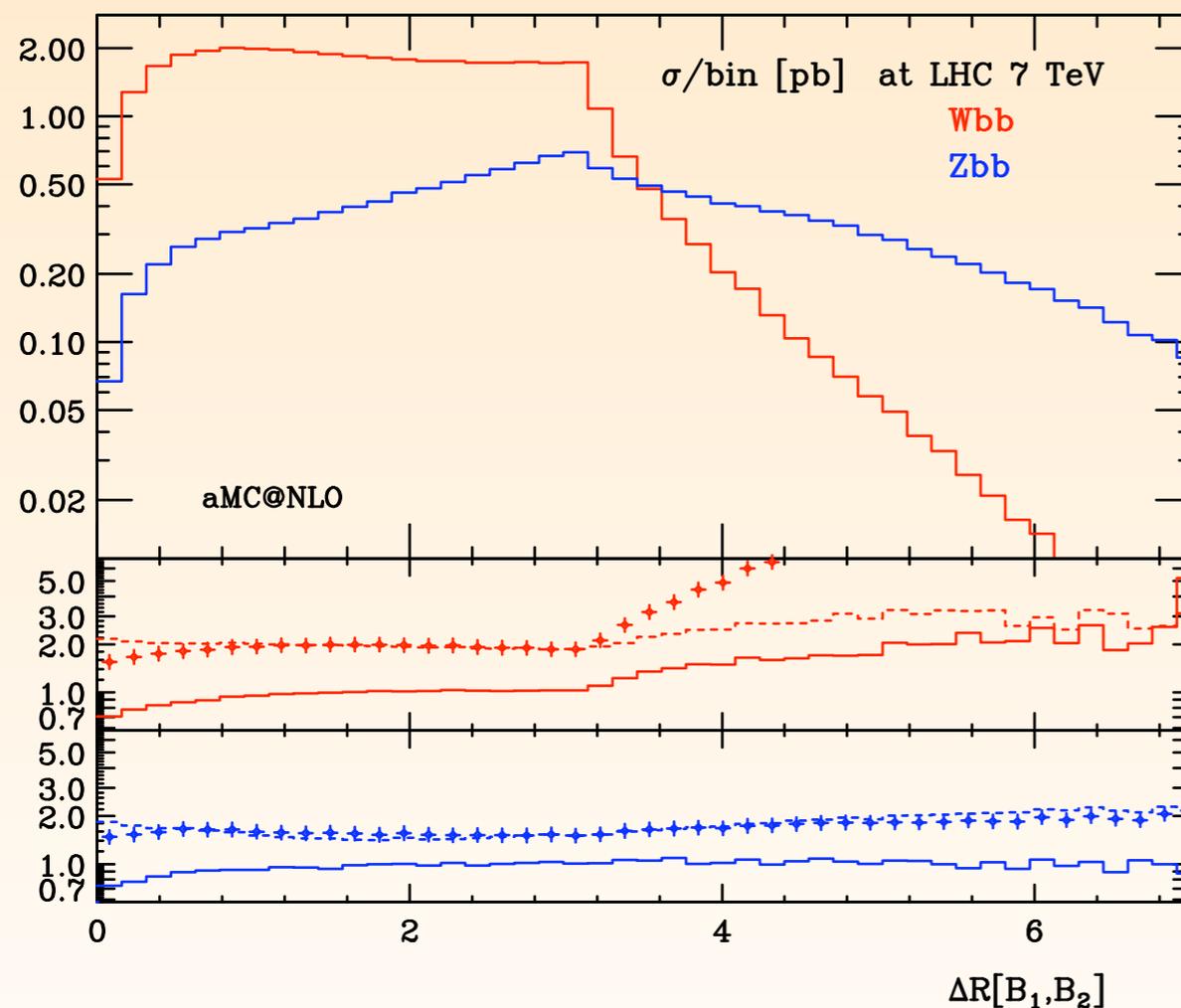


- ✿ In Wbb, ~20% of b-jets are bb-jets; for Zbb only ~6%
- ✿ Jets defined with anti- k_T and $R=0.5$, with $p_T(j) > 20$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.5$
- ✿ Lower panels show the ratio of aMC@NLO with LO (crosses), NLO (solid) and aMC@LO (dotted)
- ✿ NLO and aMC@NLO very similar and consistent

PP \rightarrow WBB/ZBB

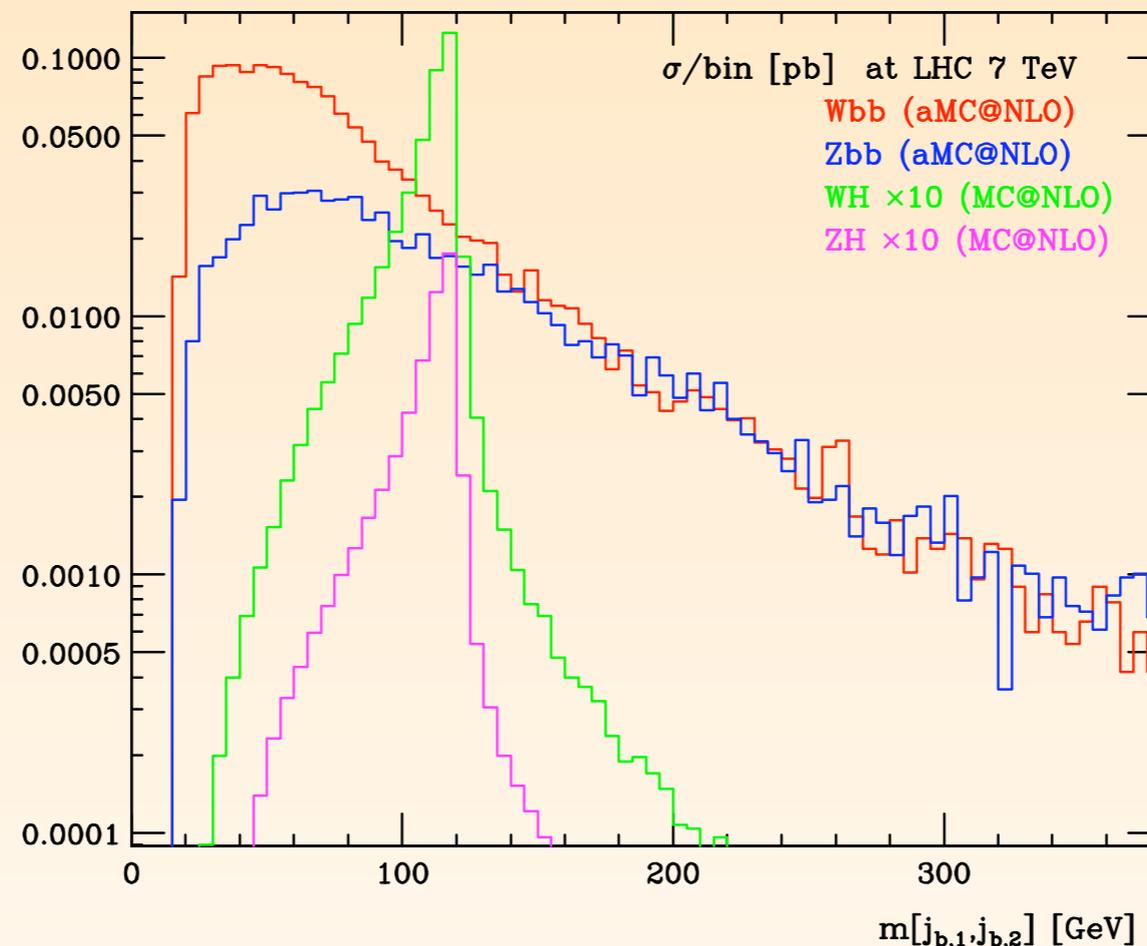
Distance between B-mesons
(no cuts)

b-jet mass



- ☀ For some observables NLO effects are large and/or parton showering has large effects

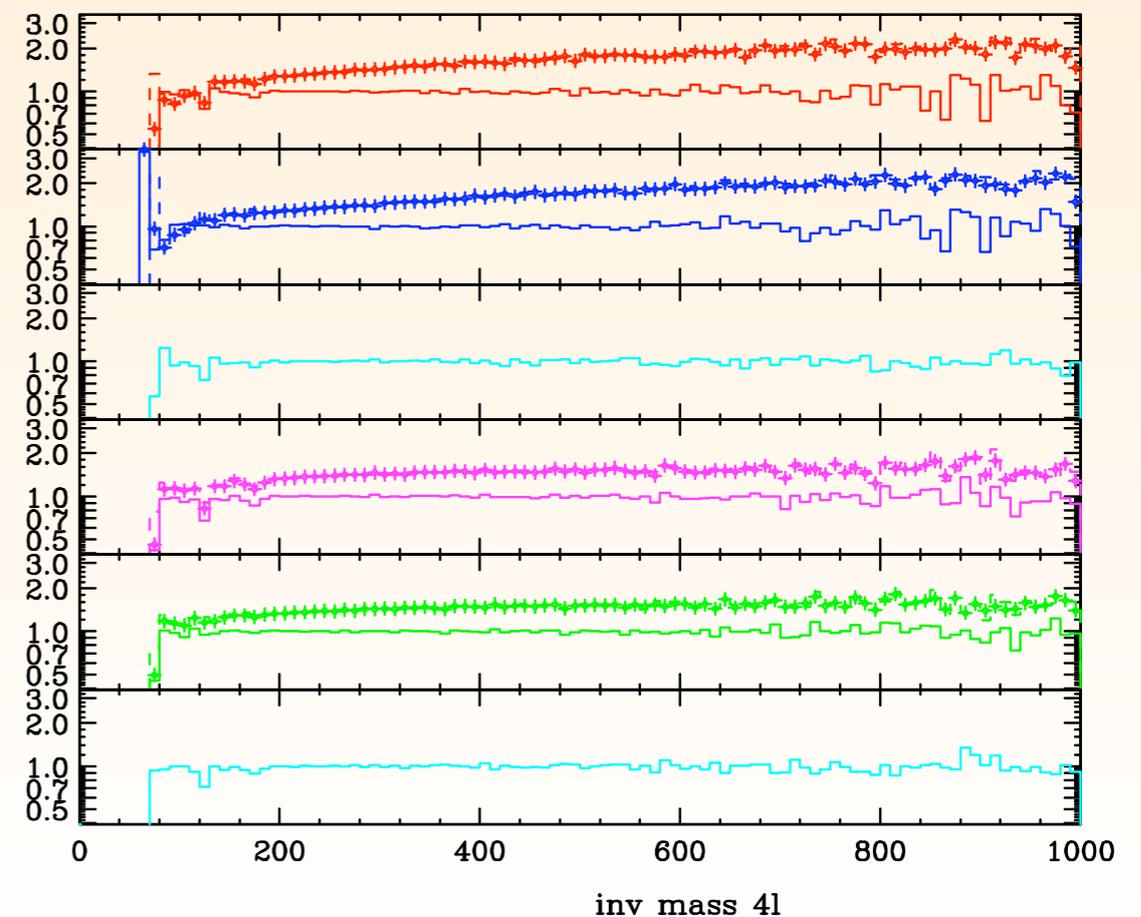
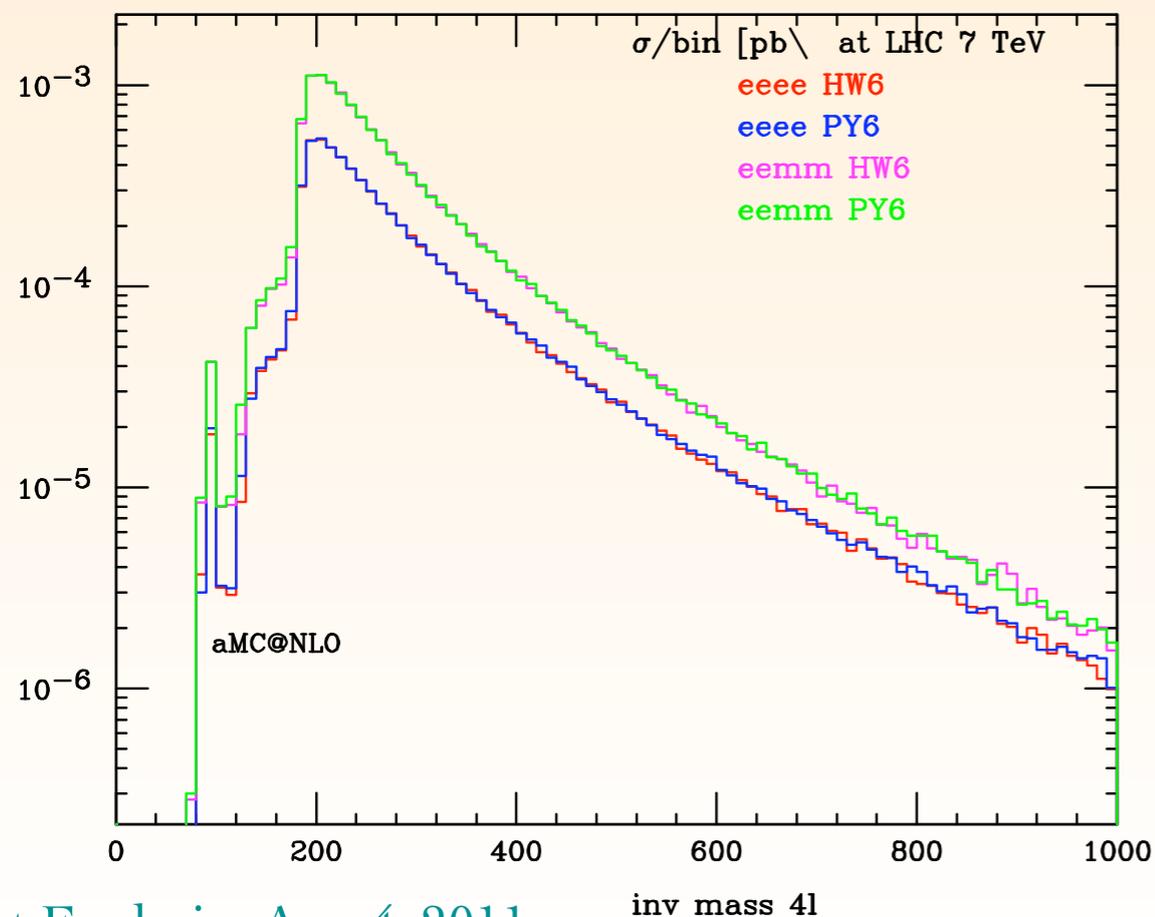
SIGNAL + BACKGROUND



- ✱ Using (a)MC@NLO both signal and background for Vector boson production in association with a Higgs boson (where the Higgs decays to b anti-b) can be produced at the same NLO accuracy, including showering and hadronization effects

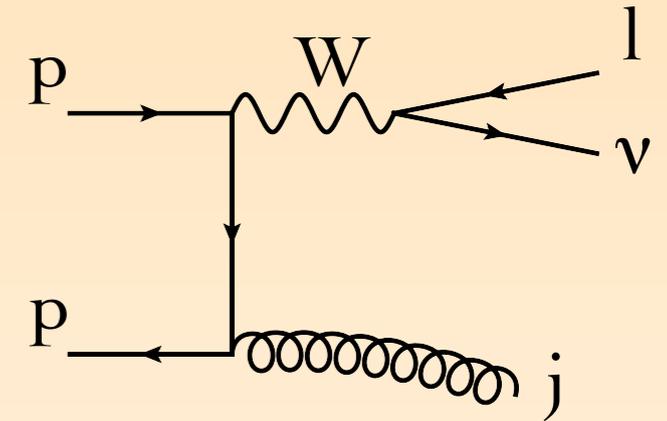
PP \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4L

- ✱ Important background to heavy Higgs bosons
- ✱ NLO calculation includes Z/γ^* interference and single-resonant contributions, but no gg-induced (α_s^2) contributions
- ✱ First results using aMC@NLO with Pythia
- ✱ extremely stable predictions

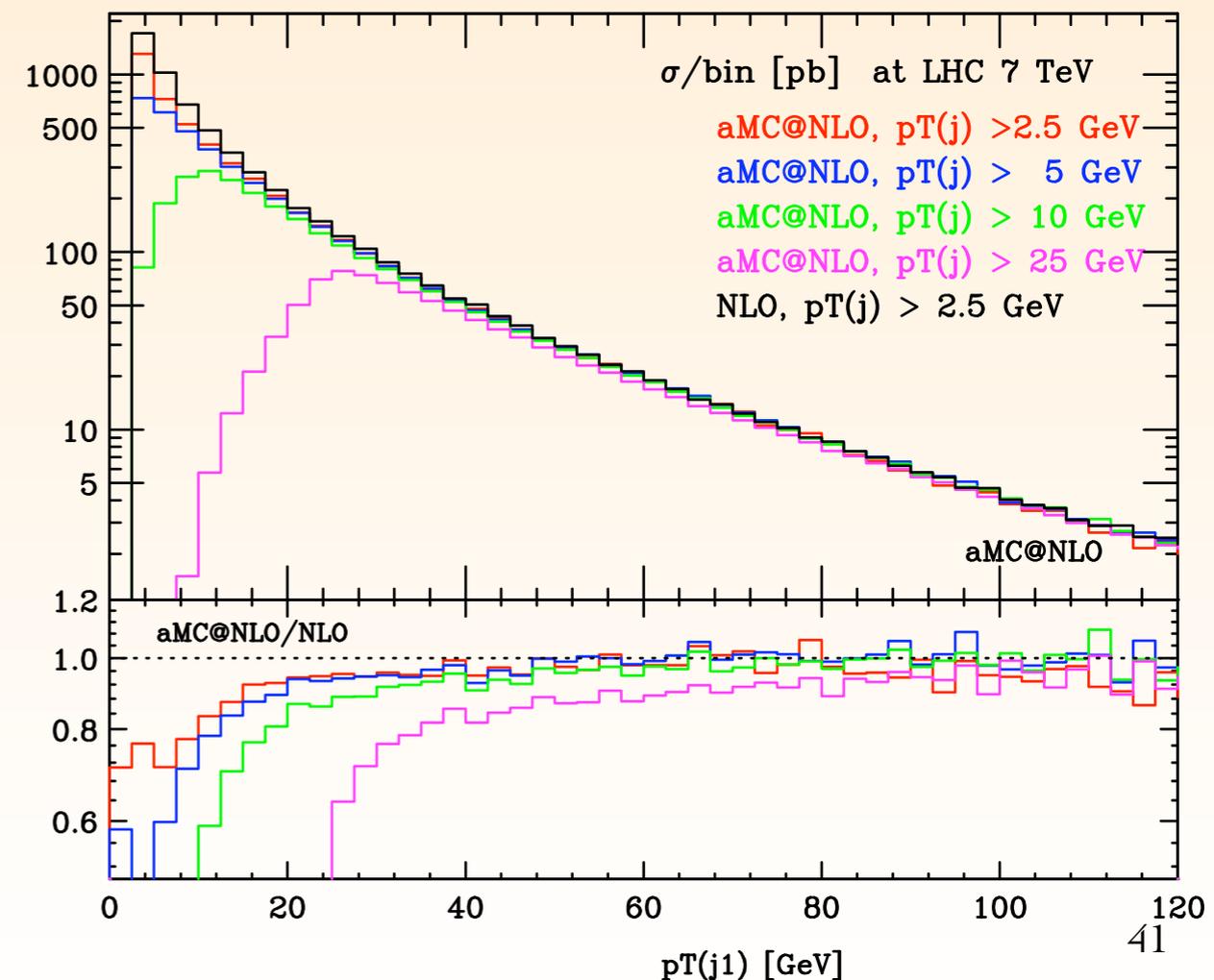


PP → WJ

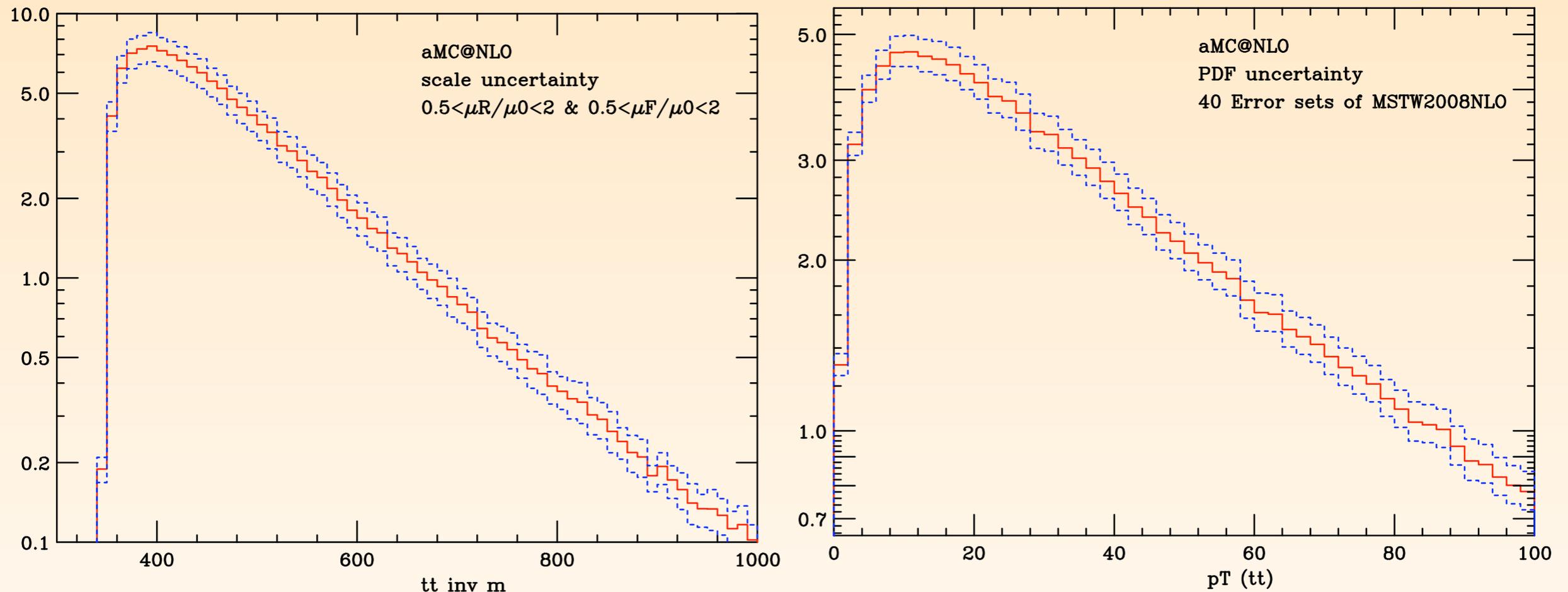
- ✱ Born is divergent: need a cut at the generation level
- ✱ This introduces a (possible) bias after showering, because momenta are shifted around
 - ✱ Easy check to be insensitive to the bias is to generate event samples with various generation level cuts, and show that final distributions is independent of these cuts



- ✱ As a first try: $pp \rightarrow Wj$
- ✱ Easiest is to apply the generation cut on the p_T of the W-boson
- ✱ We prefer to cut on the p_T of the jet to validate our tool, because that is what needs to be done when looking at higher jet multiplicities



SCALE & PDF UNCERTAINTIES



- ✿ Any short-distance cross section can be written as a linear combination of scale and PDF dependent terms, with coefficients independent of both scales and PDFs.
- ✿ Therefore, saving these coefficients in the event file allows for a posterior evaluation of scale and PDF uncertainties, by evaluating their dependence event-by-event, without needing to rerun the generation of the events



FUTURE PLANS

- ✱ Validate the MC counter terms for Herwig++ and Pythia (FSR)
- ✱ Move the code to MadGraph v5: much more efficient and removes (minor) limitations from MadLoop
- ✱ Merge predictions using different multiplicity matrix elements at NLO into one consistent, all-inclusive event sample
- ✱ Make the use of the code public for specific processes by running on the website, <http://amcatnlo.cern.ch>
- ✱ Make the code public



CONCLUSIONS

- ✱ Flexible, automatic event generators at NLO accuracy will become publicly available for analyses very soon
- ✱ First completely automatic NLO events within the MadGraph framework have been produced using **aMC@NLO**, matching MadFKS with MadLoop+CutTools to the Herwig6 and Pythia6 showers using the MC@NLO method
- ✱ Have a look at our website!, <http://amcatnlo.cern.ch/>, where we will make available soon:
 - ✱ more NLO event samples to be showered by the user
 - ✱ On-line running of validated aMC@NLO code for specific processes
 - ✱ Phase-space point checking for virtuals using MadLoop