

# Perturbative QCD & The LHC

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Pheno 2009, Madison



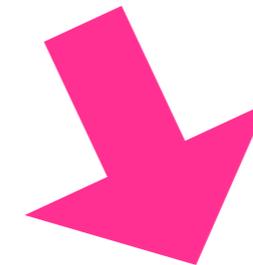
# Present status of QCD

- ✓ Thanks to LEP, Hera, and Tevatron QCD today *firmly established*
- ✓ Despite temporary discrepancies, theory successful in describing experimental data, currently *no major area of discrepancy*
- ✗ However, the LHC brings a *new frontier in energy and luminosity*
- ✗ Main goals of the LHC:
  - ☞ discovery of the Higgs and New Physics
  - ☞ identification of New Physics (requires precision measurements)

*Do we master QCD well enough to guarantee a successful physics program in this new regime?*

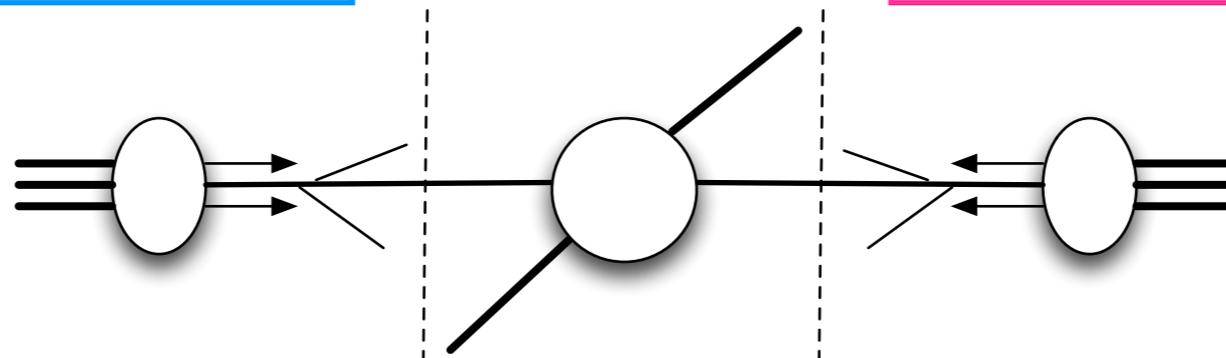
# Prerequisite: factorization

$$\frac{d\sigma_{pp \rightarrow \text{hadrons}}}{dX} = \sum_{a,b} \int dx_1 dx_2 f_a(x_1, \mu_F) f_b(x_2, \mu_F) \times \frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow \text{partons}}(\alpha_s(\mu_R), \mu_R, \mu_F)}{dX} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^n}{Q^n}\right)$$

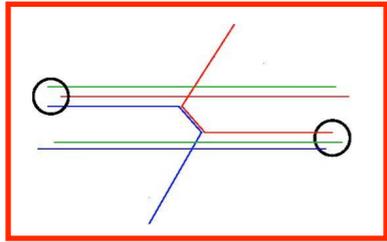


Extracted from data,  
but evolution is  
perturbative

Expansion in the  
coupling constant  
(LO, NLO, NNLO...)

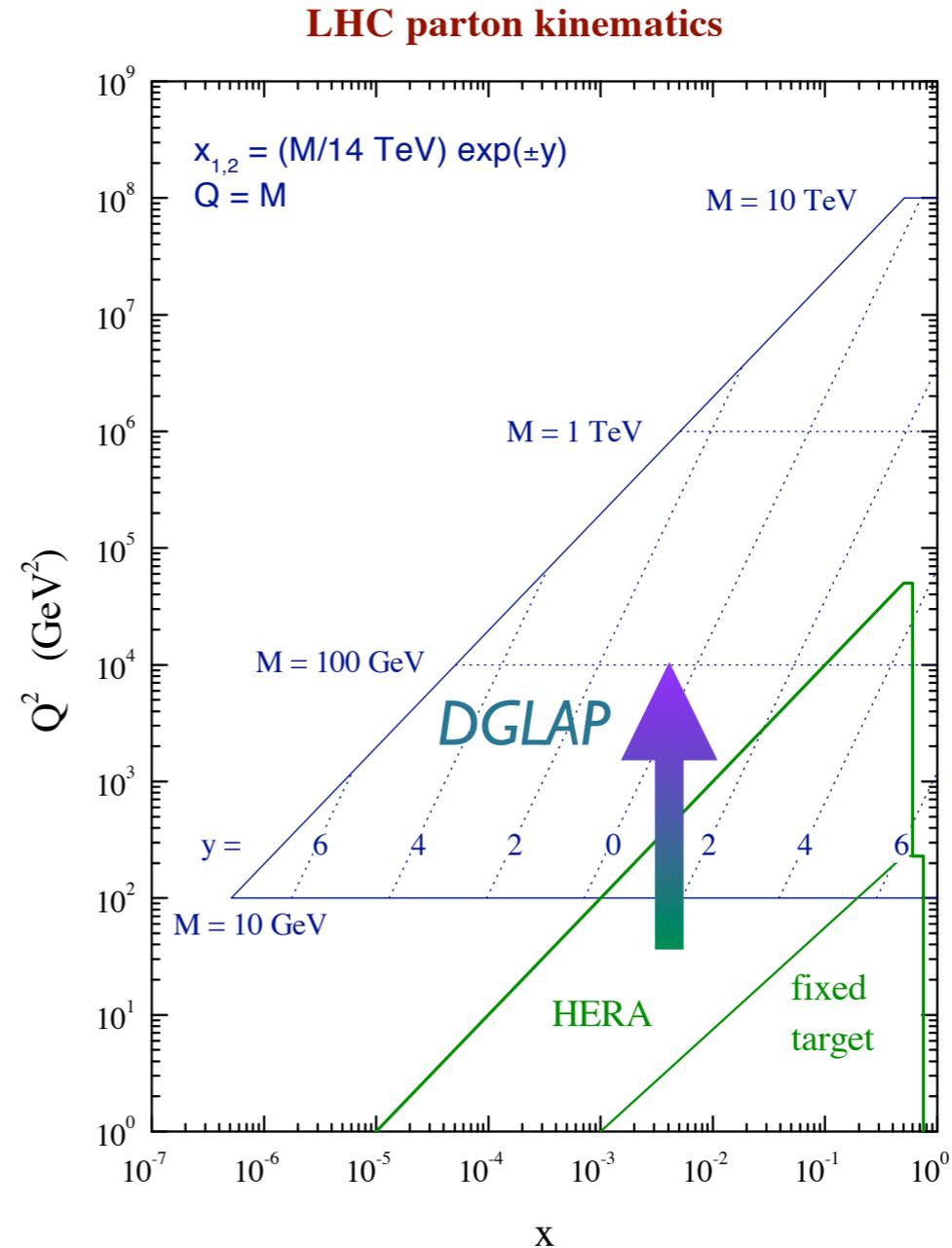


*NB: factorization used in many contexts without proof*



# Parton densities coverage

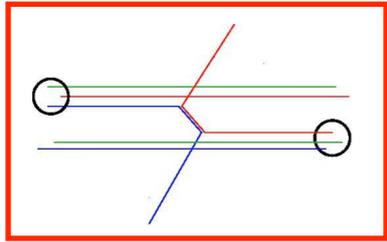
- most of the LHC x-range covered by Hera
- need 2-3 orders of magnitude  $Q^2$ -evolution
- rapidity distributions probe extreme x-values
- 100 GeV physics at LHC: small-x, sea partons
- TeV physics: large x



*PDF summary report, Hera-LHC '05*

➡ **Hera: key and essential input to the LHC**

[see talk of A. Raval]

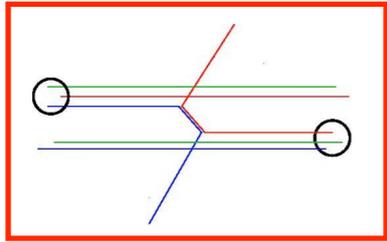


# Parton densities: recent progress

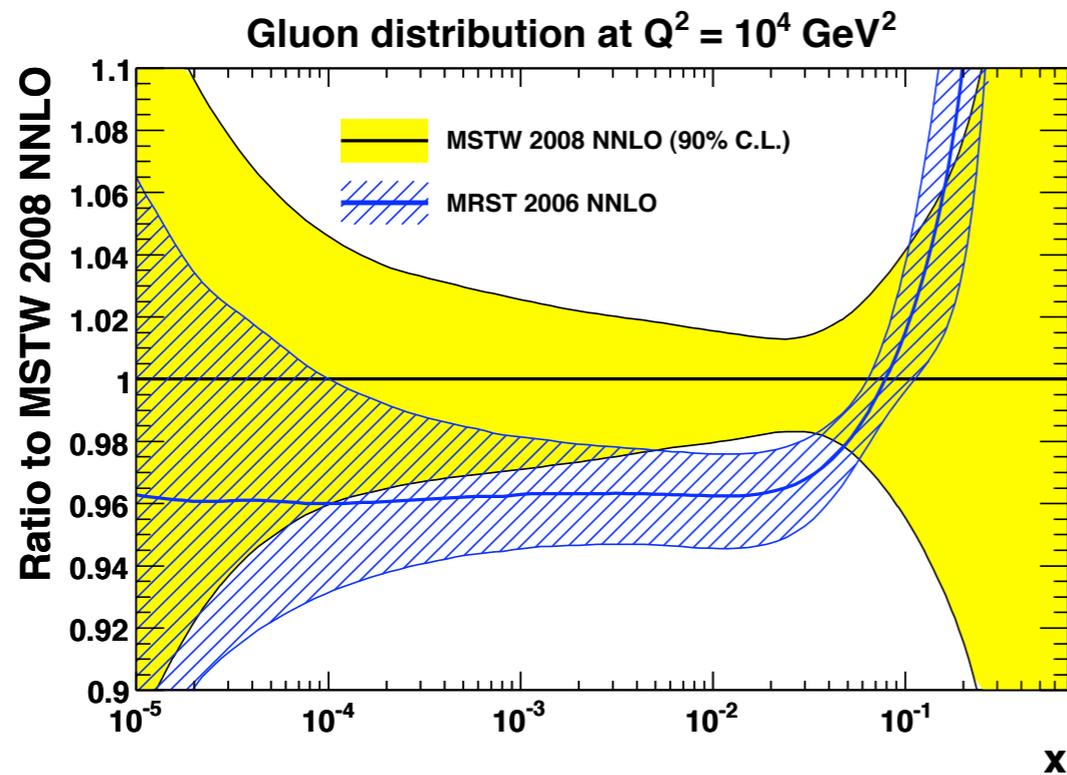
## Recent major progress:

- full **NNLO evolution** (previous approximate NNLO)
- full treatment of **heavy flavors** near the quark mass  
[Numerically: e.g. (6-7)% effect on Drell-Yan at LHC]
- more systematic use of **uncertainties/correlations** (e.g. dynamic tolerance, combinations of PDF +  $\alpha_s$  uncertainty)
- **Neural Network (NN) PDFs**

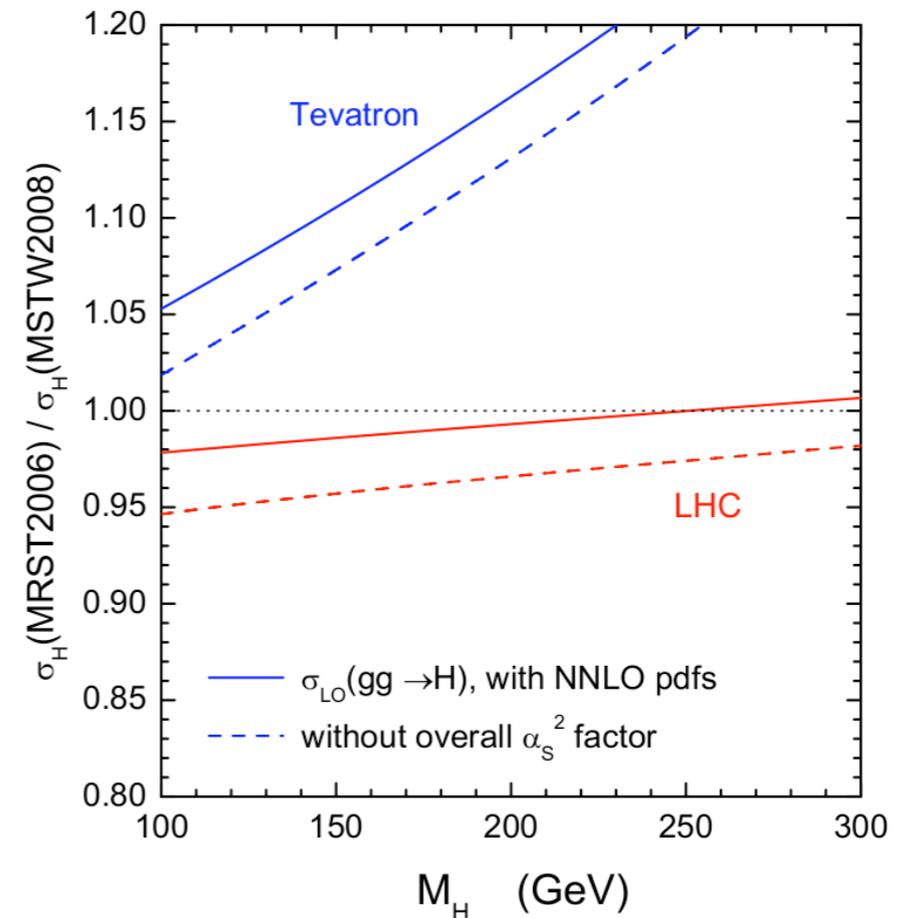
*splitting functions at NNLO: Moch, Vermaseren, A. Vogt '04  
[+ much related theory progress '04 -'08]  
Alekhin, CTEQ, MSTW (new MSTW08), NN collaboration*



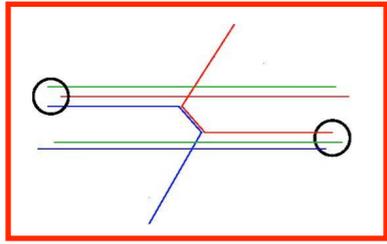
# Implications of MSTW2008



- ☛ smaller '08 gluon at large  $x$
- ☛ higher at small  $x$  (momentum sum rule)

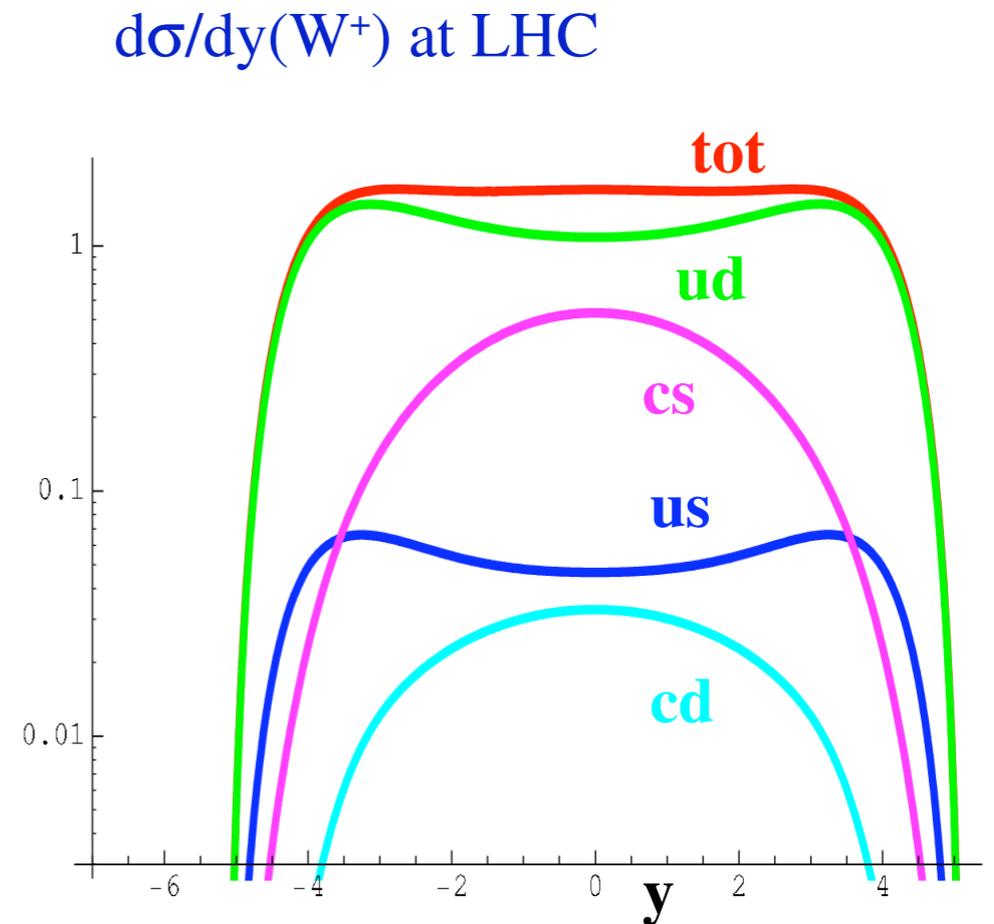


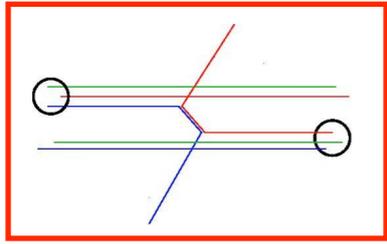
- ☛ Higgs cross-section smaller at the Tevatron with new '08 PDFs



# Parton densities: some open issues

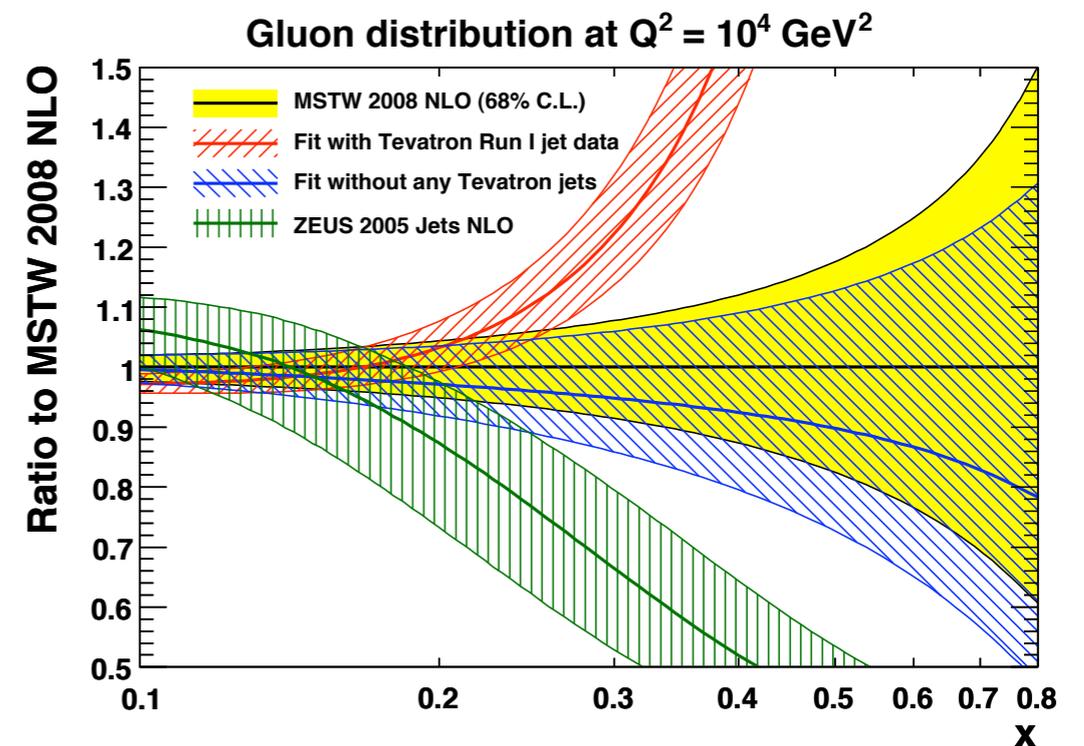
- heavy quark treatment  
theoretically not ‘clean’ (various schemes, ad hoc procedures),  
but very important at the LHC

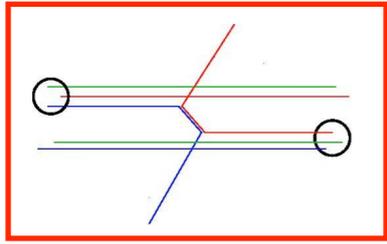




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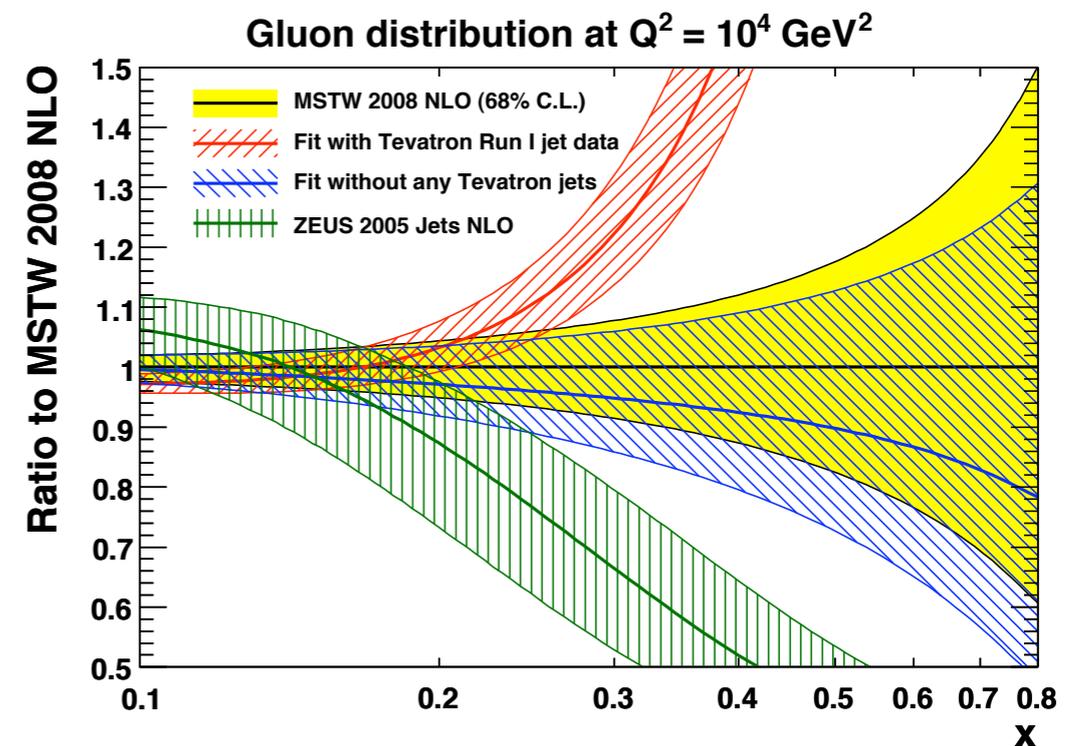
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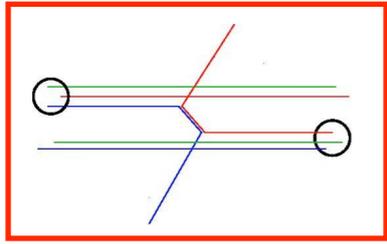




# Parton densities: some open issues

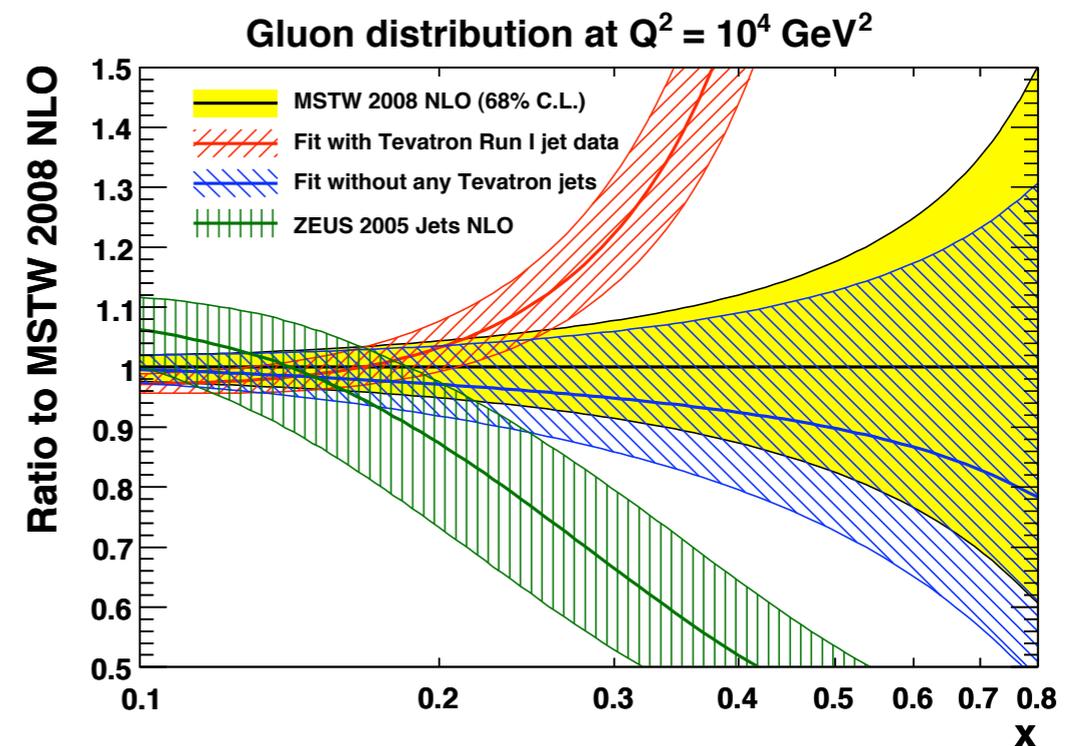
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- treatment of theory uncertainties  
(parameterizations, scheme for  
HQ, higher orders ...)





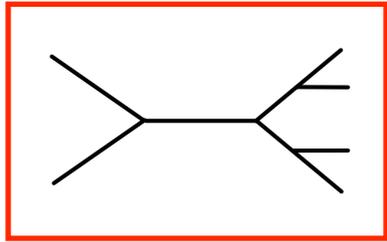
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⇒ *Description of PDFs reaching precision, but still some work ahead*





# Leading order

Status: fully automated, at most 8 outgoing particles

*Alpgen, CompHEP, CalcHEP, Helac, Madgraph, Helas, Sherpa, Whizard, ...*

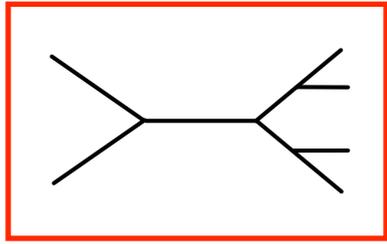
Drawbacks of LO: large scale dependences, sensitivity to cuts, poor modeling of jets, ...

Example:  $W+4$  jet cross-section  $\propto \alpha_s(Q)^4$

Vary  $\alpha_s(Q)$  by  $\pm 10\%$  via change of  $Q \Rightarrow$  cross-section varies by  $\pm 40\%$

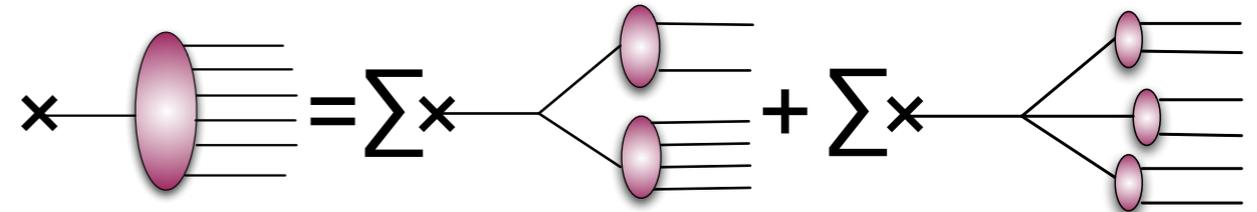
Why use LO at all?

- fastest option; often the only one
- test quickly new ideas with fully exclusive description
- many working, well-tested approaches
- highly automated, crucial to explore new ground, but no precision



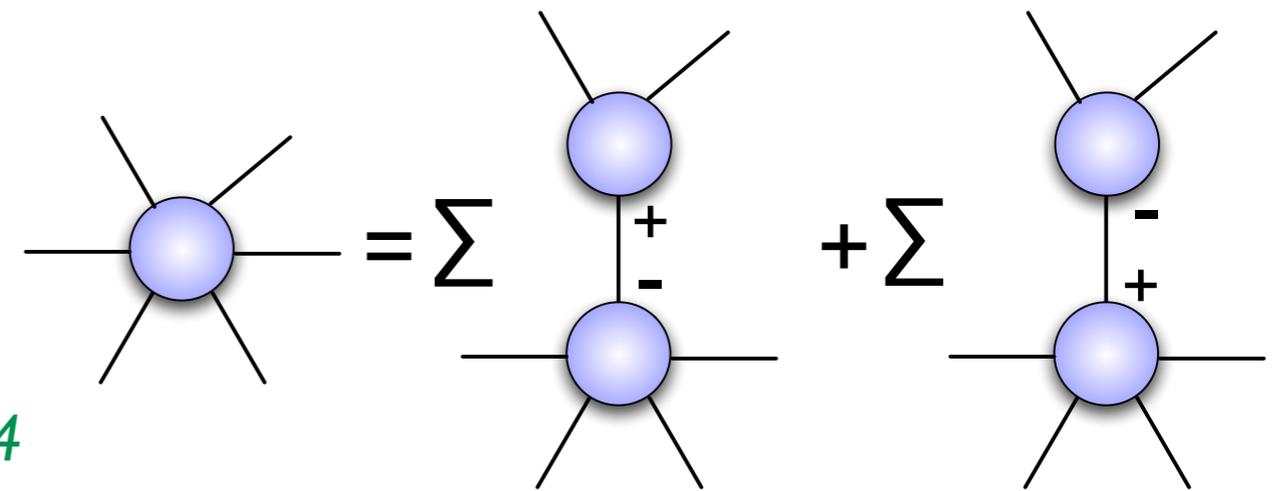
# LO: 3 methods beyond Feynman

✓ Berends-Giele relations: compute helicity amplitudes recursively using off-shell currents



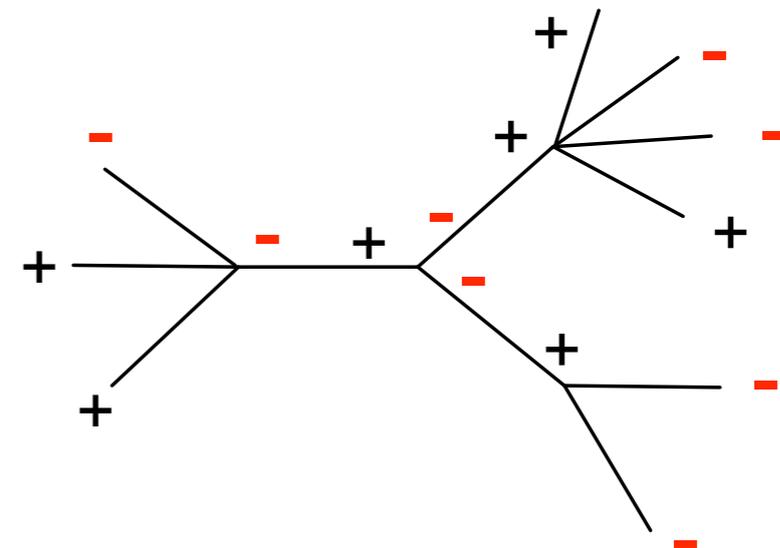
*Berends, Giele '88*

✓ BCF relations: compute helicity amplitudes via on-shell recursions (use complex momentum shifts)

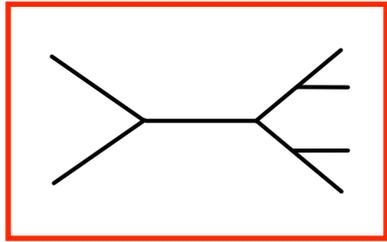


*Britto, Cachazo, Feng '04*

✓ CSW relations: compute helicity amplitudes by sewing together MHV amplitudes [ - - + + ... + ]



*Cachazo, Svrcek, Witten '04*



# LO race: who is faster?

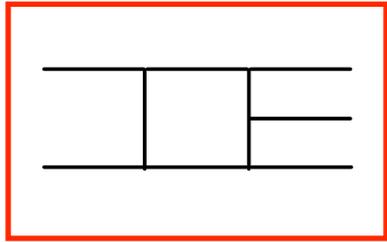
*Duhr et al. '06*  
*also Dinsdale et al. '06*

Time [s] for  $2 \rightarrow n$  gluon amplitudes for  $10^4$  points

Final state	BG	BCF	CSW
2g	0.28	0.33	0.26
3g	0.48	0.51	0.55
4g	1.04	1.32	1.75
5g	2.69	7.26	5.96
6g	7.19	59.1	30.6
7g	23.7	646	195
8g	82.1	8690	1890
9g	270	127000	29700
10g	864	-	-

👉 numerical superiority of traditional Berends-Giele methods

See next talk by Frank Krauss for tools and phenomenological applications of LO



# Next-to-leading order

For precision studies need next-to-leading-order

because the coupling is not so small, to reduce dependence from unphysical scales, to model jets better, to predict the normalization, ...

## Status of NLO:

☑  $2 \rightarrow 2$ : all known or easy in SM and beyond

☑  $2 \rightarrow 3$ : very few processes not yet computed

[but: often no decays, newest codes mostly private]

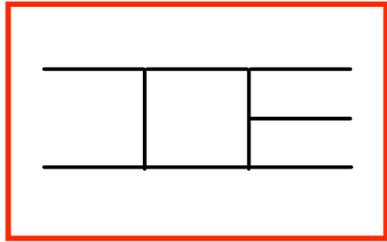
☐  $2 \rightarrow 4$ : **barely touched ground** [ $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} b\bar{b}$ ,  $pp \rightarrow W+3\text{jets}$ ]

*Bredenstein et al. '08,'09; Berger et al. '09; Ellis et al. '09*

Cancelation of divergences: automated subtraction

*Gleisberg, Krauss '07; Seymour, Tevlin '08; Hasegawa et al. '08; Fredrix et al. '08*

Bottleneck up to recently: virtual, loop amplitudes

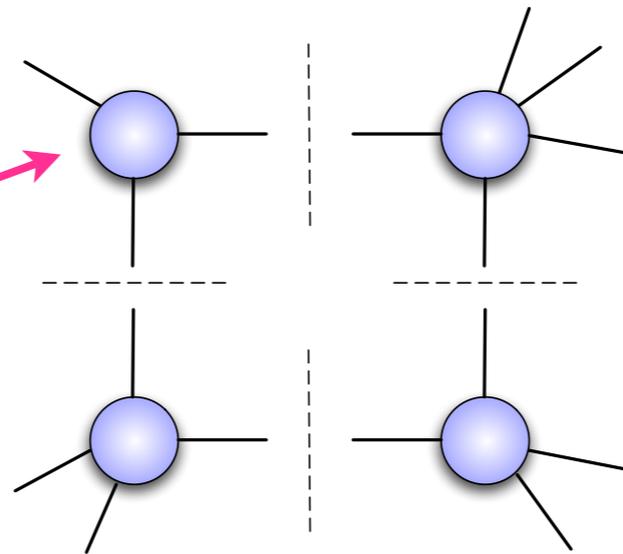


# Two breakthrough ideas for NLO

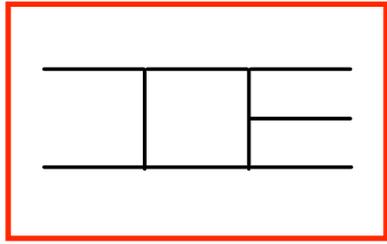
Aim: NLO loop integral without doing the integration

1) “... we show how to use generalized unitarity to read off the (box) coefficients. The generalized cuts we use are quadrupole cuts ...”

NB: non-zero  
because cut gives  
complex momenta



Britto, Cachazo, Feng '04

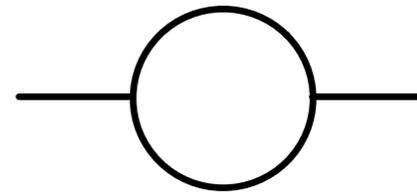
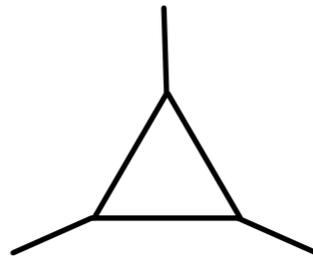
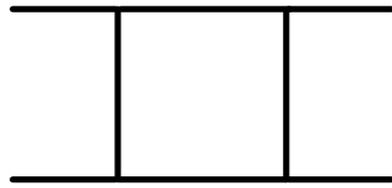


# Two breakthrough ideas

Aim: NLO loop integral without doing the integration

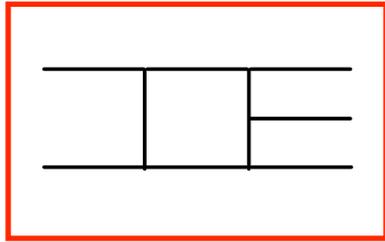
2) *The OPP method: “We show how to extract the coefficients of 4-, 3-, 2- and 1-point one-loop scalar integrals...”*

$$\mathcal{A}_N = \sum_{[i_1|i_4]} \left( d_{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} I_{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4}^{(D)} \right) + \sum_{[i_1|i_3]} \left( c_{i_1 i_2 i_3} I_{i_1 i_2 i_3}^{(D)} \right) + \sum_{[i_1|i_2]} \left( b_{i_1 i_2} I_{i_1 i_2}^{(D)} \right) + \mathcal{R}$$



rational part  
treated separately

*Ossola, Pittau, Papadopolous '06*

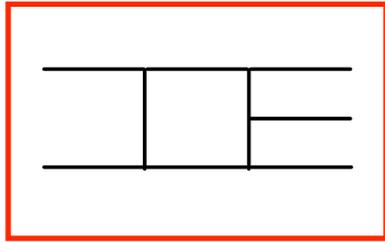


# The 2005 Les Houches wishlist

*QCD, EW & Higgs Working group report '06*

Table 42: The LHC “priority” wishlist for which a NLO computation seems now feasible.

process ( $V \in \{Z, W, \gamma\}$ )	relevant for
1. $pp \rightarrow V V \text{ jet}$	$t\bar{t}H$ , new physics
2. $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} b\bar{b}$	$t\bar{t}H$
3. $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} + 2 \text{ jets}$	$t\bar{t}H$
4. $pp \rightarrow V V b\bar{b}$	$\text{VBF} \rightarrow H \rightarrow VV, t\bar{t}H$ , new physics
5. $pp \rightarrow V V + 2 \text{ jets}$	$\text{VBF} \rightarrow H \rightarrow VV$
6. $pp \rightarrow V + 3 \text{ jets}$	various new physics signatures
7. $pp \rightarrow V V V$	SUSY trilepton



# The 2007 update

*NLO multi-leg Working group  
report '08*

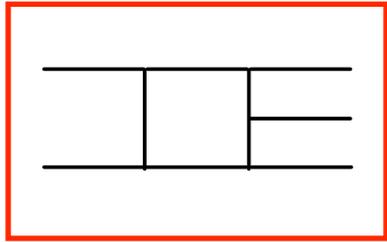
Process ( $V \in \{Z, W, \gamma\}$ )	Comments
Calculations completed since Les Houches 2005	
1. $pp \rightarrow VV\text{jet}$	$WW\text{jet}$ completed by Dittmaier/Kallweit/Uwer [3]; Campbell/Ellis/Zanderighi [4] and Binoth/Karg/Kauer/Sanguinetti (in progress) NLO QCD to the $gg$ channel completed by Campbell/Ellis/Zanderighi [5]; NLO QCD+EW to the VBF channel completed by Ciccolini/Denner/Dittmaier [6, 7] $ZZZ$ completed by Lazopoulos/Melnikov/Petriello [8] and $WWZ$ by Hankele/Zeppenfeld [9]
2. $pp \rightarrow \text{Higgs}+2\text{jets}$	
3. $pp \rightarrow VVV$	
Calculations remaining from Les Houches 2005	
4. $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$	relevant for $t\bar{t}H$ relevant for $t\bar{t}H$ relevant for $\text{VBF} \rightarrow H \rightarrow VV, t\bar{t}H$ relevant for $\text{VBF} \rightarrow H \rightarrow VV$ VBF contributions calculated by (Bozzi/Jäger/Oleari/Zeppenfeld [10–12]) various new physics signatures
5. $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}+2\text{jets}$	
6. $pp \rightarrow VVb\bar{b},$	
7. $pp \rightarrow VV+2\text{jets}$	
8. $pp \rightarrow V+3\text{jets}$	
NLO calculations added to list in 2007	
9. $pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$	Higgs and new physics signatures
Calculations beyond NLO added in 2007	
10. $gg \rightarrow W^*W^* \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2\alpha_s^3)$	backgrounds to Higgs normalization of a benchmark process Higgs couplings and SM benchmark
11. NNLO $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}$	
12. NNLO to VBF and $Z/\gamma+\text{jet}$	
Calculations including electroweak effects	
13. NNLO QCD+NLO EW for $W/Z$	precision calculation of a SM benchmark

based on Feynman  
diagrams;  
private codes only

← '09 with standard techniques

← '09 with new techniques

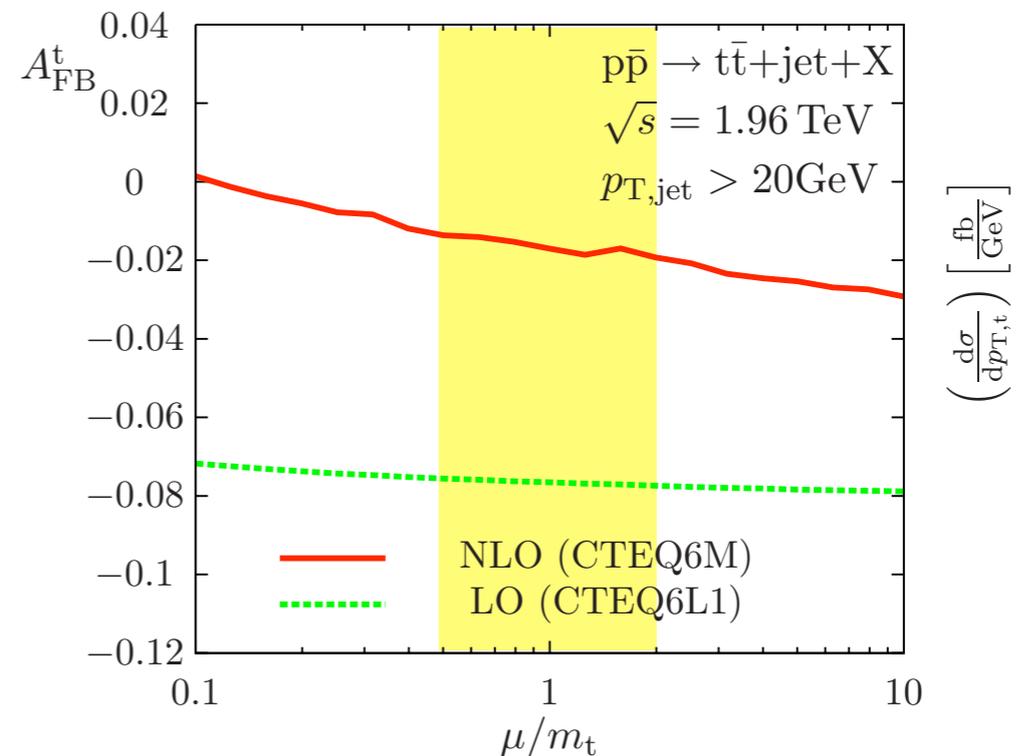
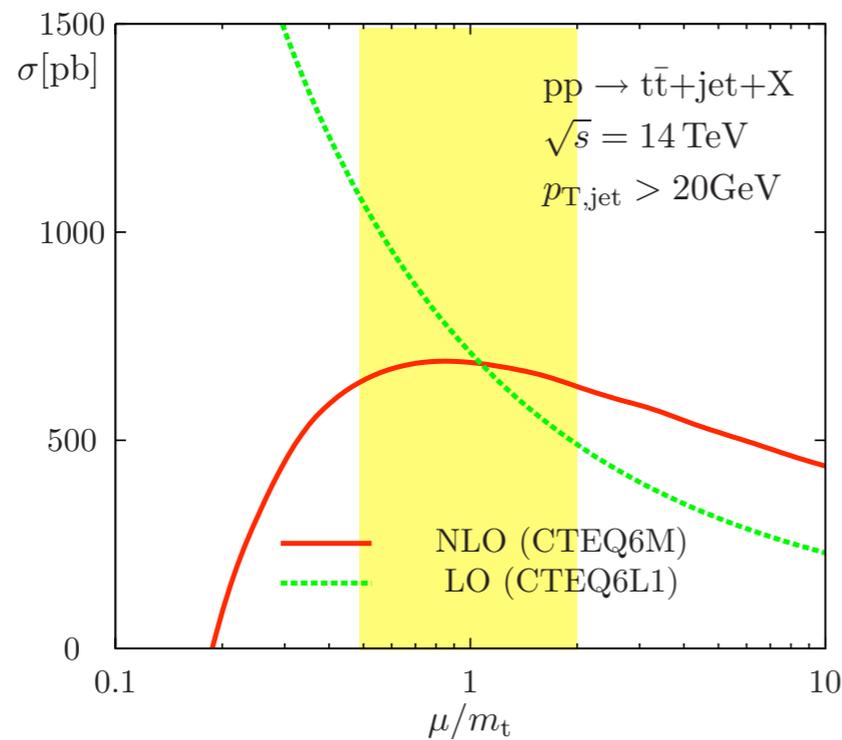
+ virtual amplitudes for several of those processes [*van Hameren, Papadopoulos, Pittau*]



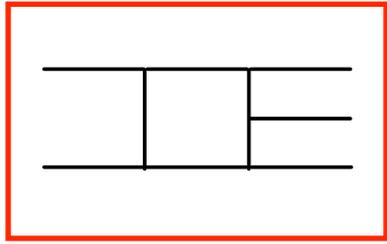
# One NLO example: $t\bar{t}$ + 1 jet

Calculation done with traditional methods

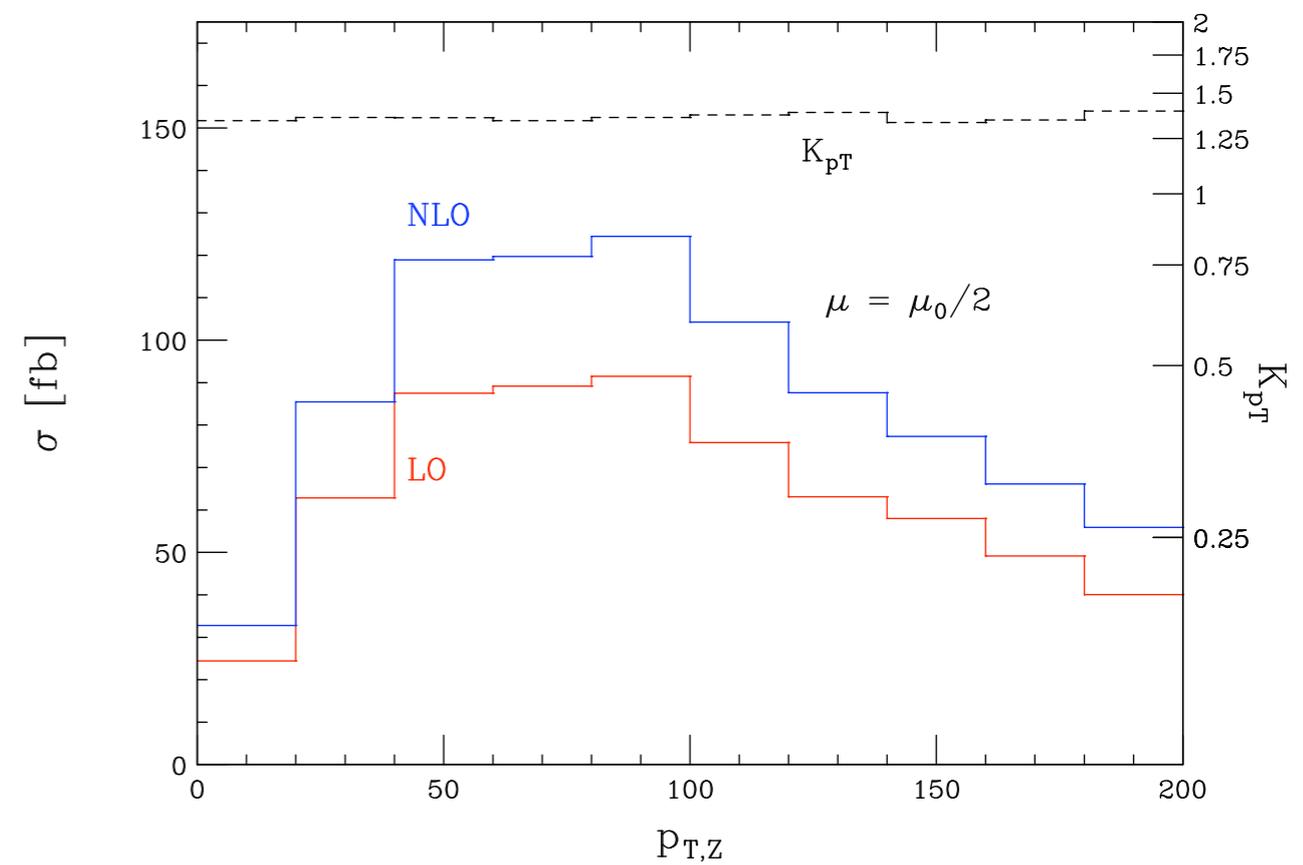
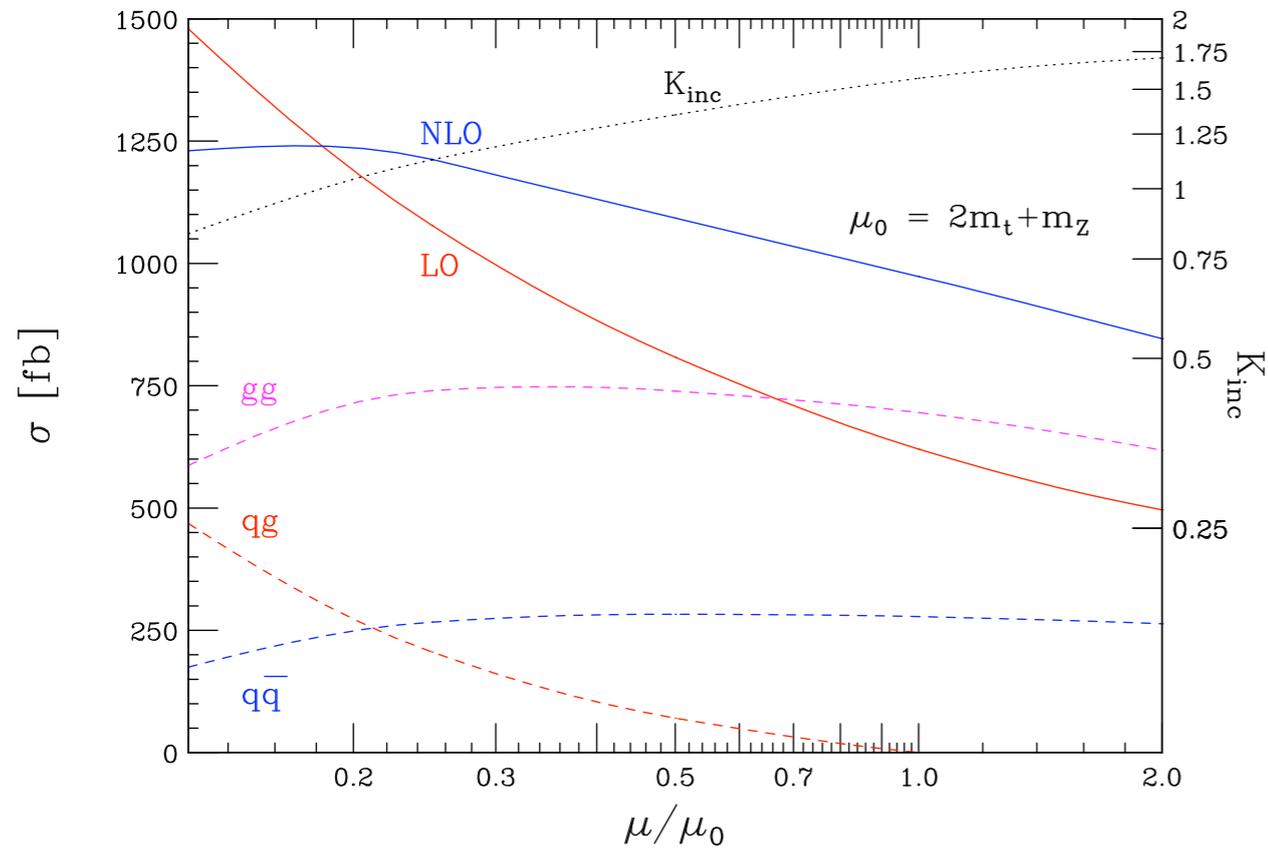
*Dittmaier, Kallweit, Uwer '07, '08*



- ▶ improved stability of NLO result **[differential, but no decays]**
- ▶ large effect on  $A_{\text{FB}}$  at the Tevatron: now compatible with zero
- ▶ essential ingredient of NNLO  $t\bar{t}$  production

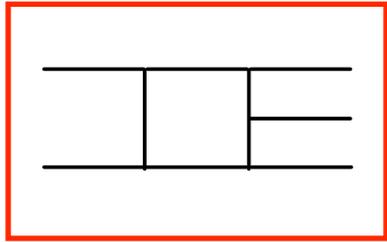


# 2nd NLO example: $tt + Z$



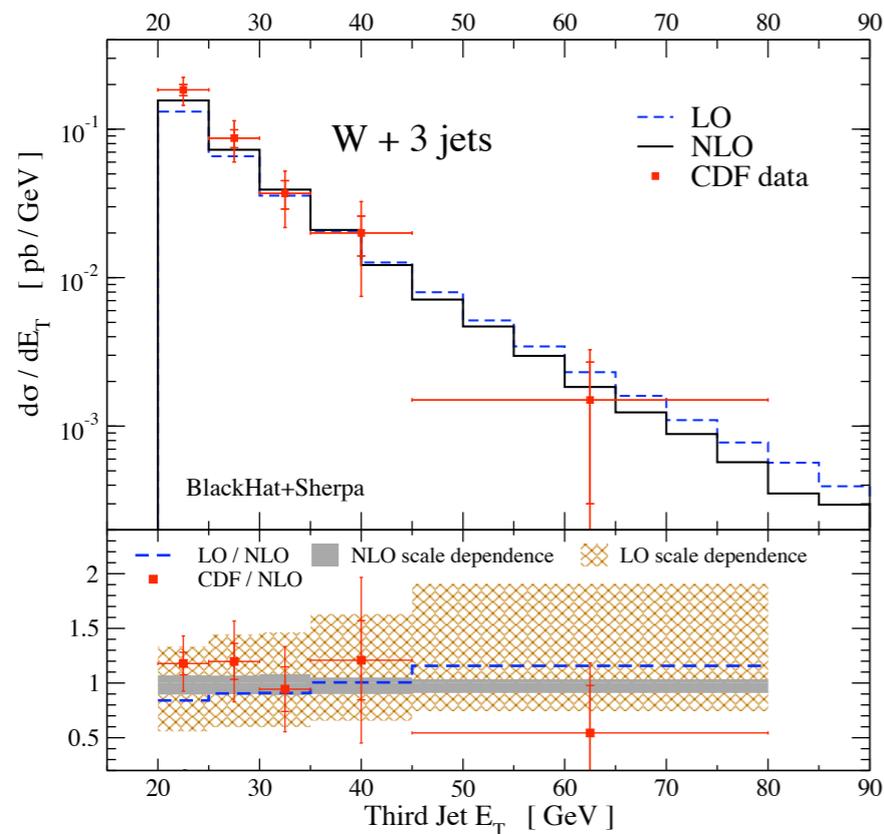
*Lazopoulos, Melnikov, Petriello '08*

- ▶ NLO increase cross section by 35% (residual 10% uncertainty)
- ▶ factor of 1.5-2 improvement on  $ttZ$  measurement (probe BSM)
- ▶ no significant change in distributions



# W + 3 jets

Measured at the Tevatron + of primary importance at the LHC:  
background to **model- independent new physics searches using jets + MET**

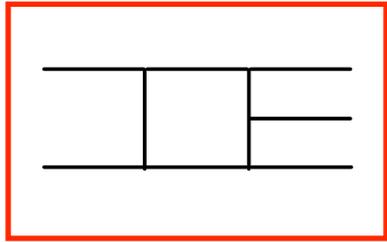


number of jets	CDF	LC NLO	NLO
1	$53.5 \pm 5.6$	$58.3^{+4.6}_{-4.6}$	$57.8^{+4.4}_{-4.0}$
2	$6.8 \pm 1.1$	$7.81^{+0.54}_{-0.91}$	$7.62^{+0.62}_{-0.86}$
3	$0.84 \pm 0.24$	$0.908^{+0.044}_{-0.142}$	$0.882(5)^{+0.057}_{-0.138}$

Preliminary

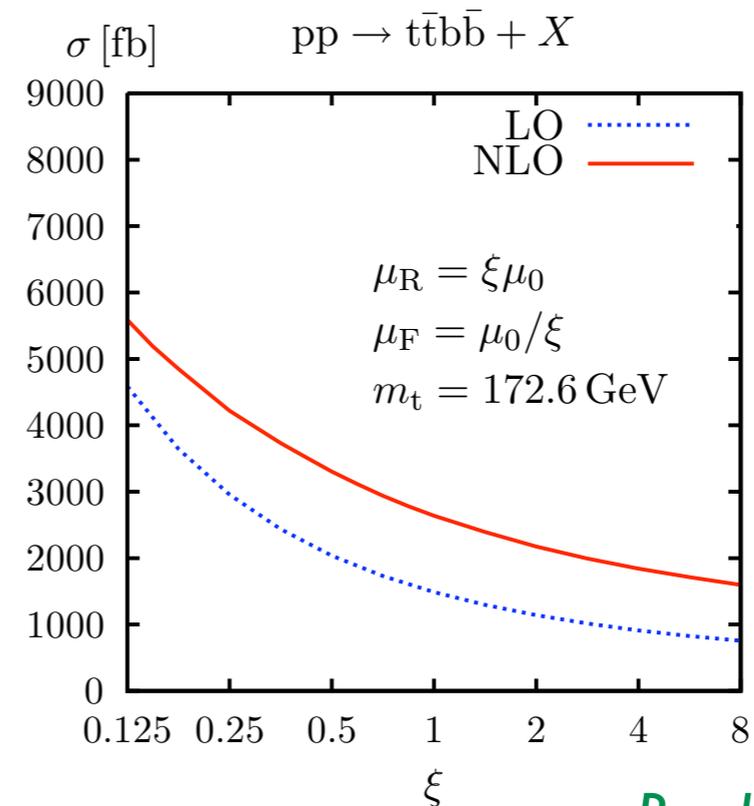
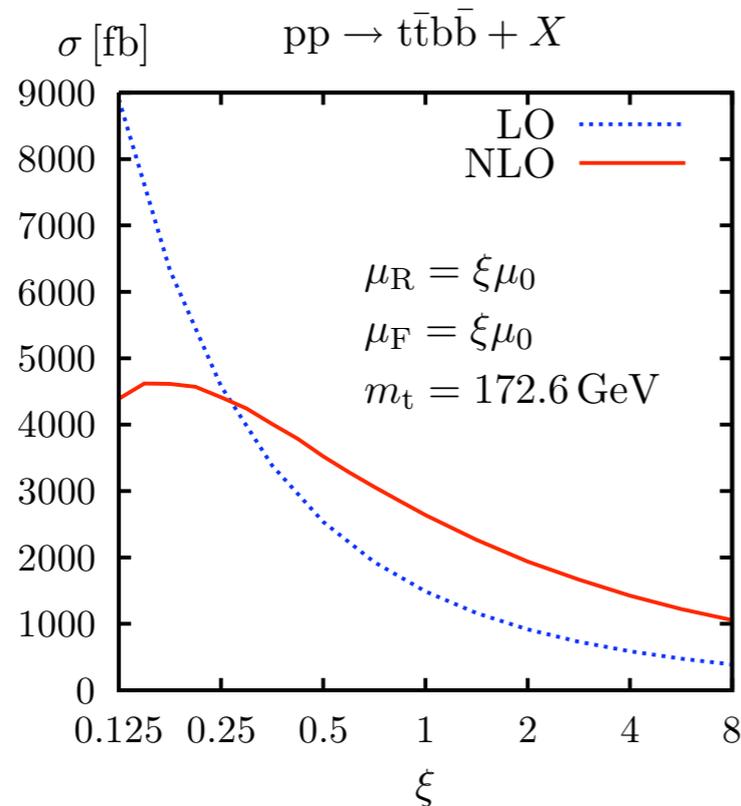
*Berger et al. '09; also Ellis et al. '09 (LC)*

- ☺ Small  $K=1.0-1.1$ , reduced uncertainty: **50% (LO) → 10% (NLO)**
- ☺ First applications of new techniques to **2 → 4** LHC processes



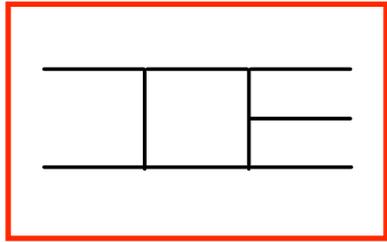
$pp \rightarrow tt \bar{b}\bar{b}$

Measurement of  $ttH$  impossible without knowledge of  $pp \rightarrow tt \bar{b}\bar{b}$  at NLO  
(need also  $pp \rightarrow tt jj$ ) + interesting per se



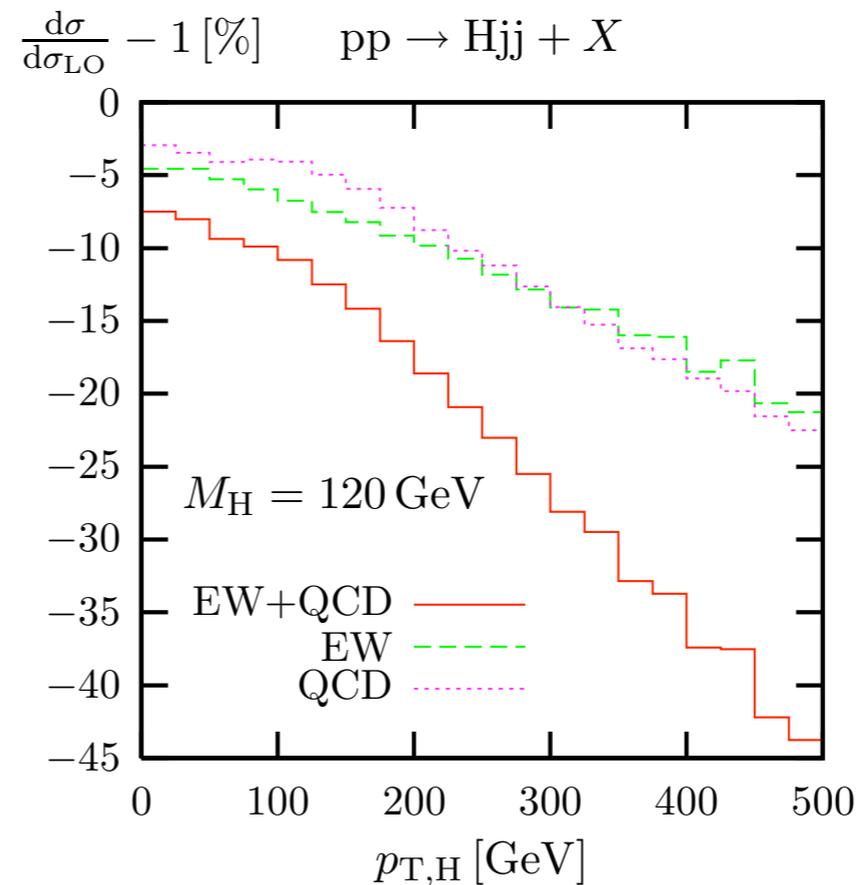
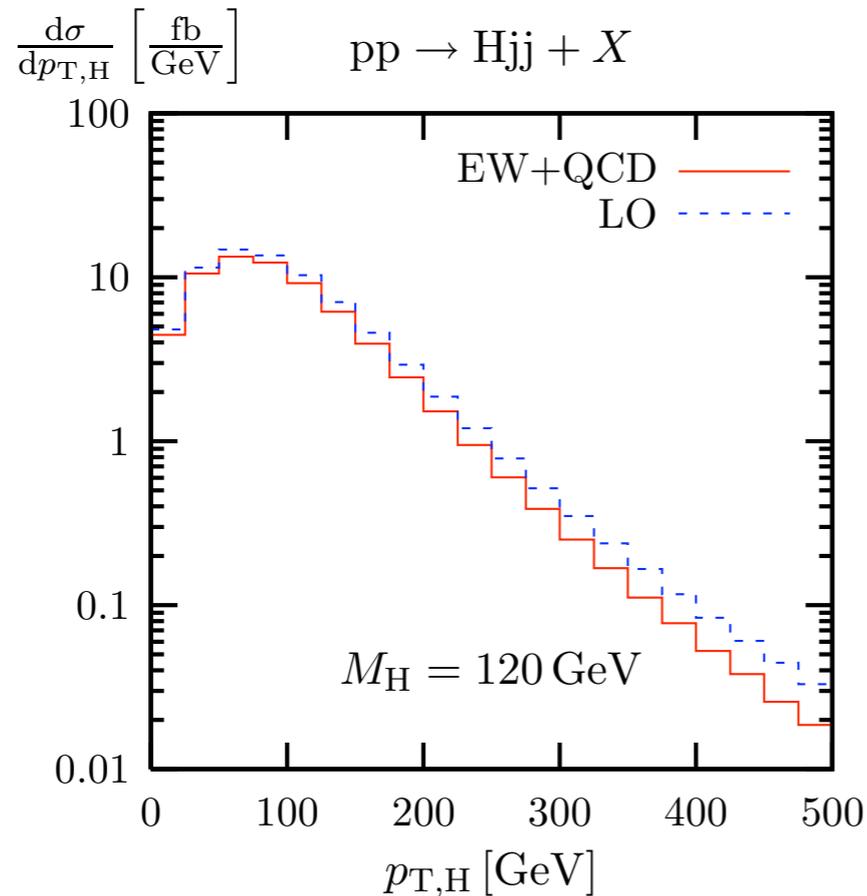
*Bredenstein et al. '09*

- ☹ Large  $K=1.8$ , large residual uncertainties: **70% (LO)  $\rightarrow$  35% (NLO)**
- ☺ Demonstrates feasibility of Feynman diagrams calculation for **2  $\rightarrow$  4** LHC processes



# The “not so weak” EW :VBF Higgs

*Ciccolini, Denner, Dittmaier '07*



EW and QCD of the same size

- 👉 importance of EW corrections for precision studies (peaks) and in tails of distributions (large electro-weak logarithms)

# General NLO features?

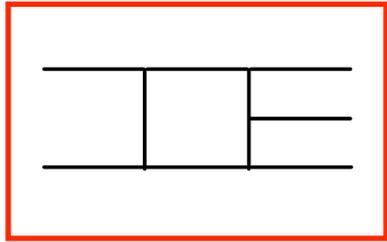
Process	Typical scales		Tevatron $K$ -factor			LHC $K$ -factor		
	$\mu_0$	$\mu_1$	$\mathcal{K}(\mu_0)$	$\mathcal{K}(\mu_1)$	$\mathcal{K}'(\mu_0)$	$\mathcal{K}(\mu_0)$	$\mathcal{K}(\mu_1)$	$\mathcal{K}'(\mu_0)$
$W$	$m_W$	$2m_W$	1.33	1.31	1.21	1.15	1.05	1.15
$W+1\text{jet}$	$m_W$	$p_T^{\text{jet}}$	1.42	1.20	1.43	1.21	1.32	1.42
$W+2\text{jets}$	$m_W$	$p_T^{\text{jet}}$	1.16	0.91	1.29	0.89	0.88	1.10
$WW+\text{jet}$	$m_W$	$2m_W$	1.19	1.37	1.26	1.33	1.40	1.42
$t\bar{t}$	$m_t$	$2m_t$	1.08	1.31	1.24	1.40	1.59	1.48
$t\bar{t}+1\text{jet}$	$m_t$	$2m_t$	1.13	1.43	1.37	0.97	1.29	1.10
$b\bar{b}$	$m_b$	$2m_b$	1.20	1.21	2.10	0.98	0.84	2.51
Higgs	$m_H$	$p_T^{\text{jet}}$	2.33	–	2.33	1.72	–	2.32
Higgs via VBF	$m_H$	$p_T^{\text{jet}}$	1.07	0.97	1.07	1.23	1.34	1.09
Higgs+1jet	$m_H$	$p_T^{\text{jet}}$	2.02	–	2.13	1.47	–	1.90
Higgs+2jets	$m_H$	$p_T^{\text{jet}}$	–	–	–	1.15	–	–

*NLO report '08*

## General features:

- ▶ color annihilation, gluon dominated  $\Rightarrow$  large  $K$ -factors
- ▶ extra legs in the final state  $\Rightarrow$  smaller  $K$ -factors

*But be careful, only full calculations can really tell!*



# NLO + parton shower

## Combine best features:

Get correct rates (NLO) and hadron-level description of events (PS)

Difficult because need to avoid double counting at NLO

## Working LHC examples:

### ▶ MC@NLO

add difference between exact  
NLO and (MC) NLO

- W/Z
- WW, WZ, ZZ
- Higgs
- heavy quark
- single-top (also with W)
- Higgs + V

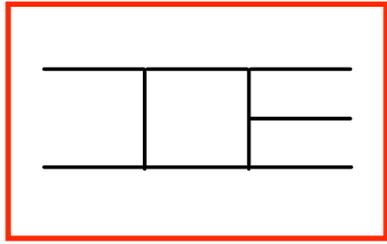
*Frixione & Webber '02 and later refs.*

### ▶ POWHEG

generated the hardest emission  
1st, then shower independently

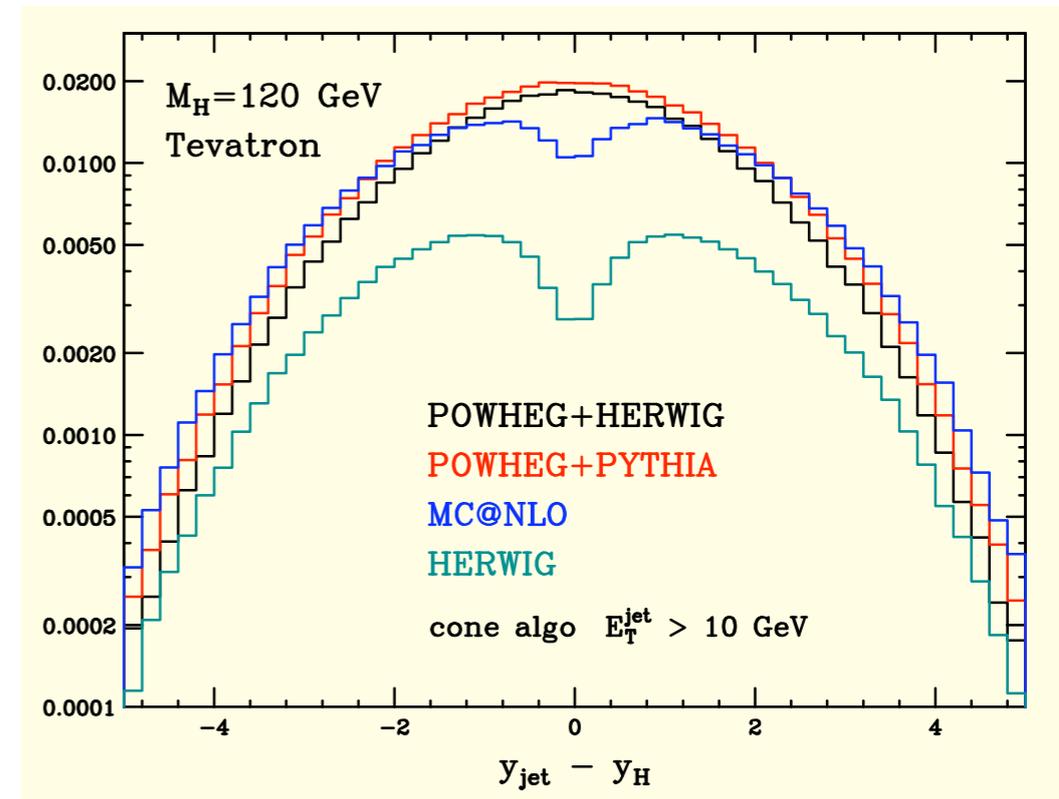
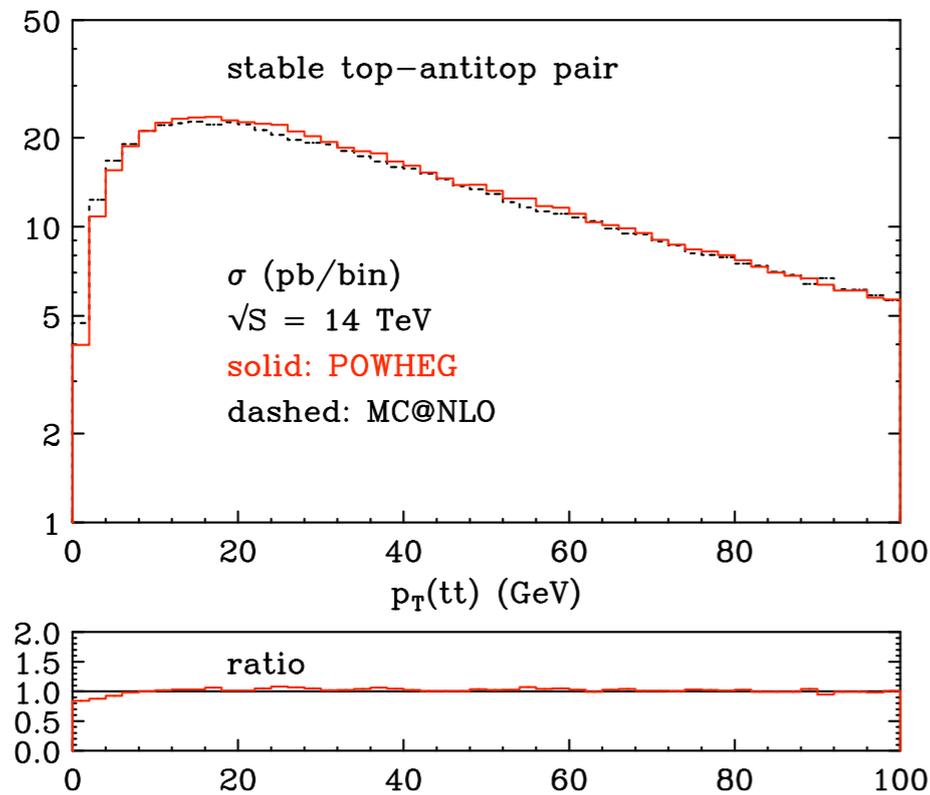
- ZZ
- heavy quark
- W/Z
- Higgs, Higgs + V
- single top
- Z + jet (preliminary)

*Nason '04 and later refs.*



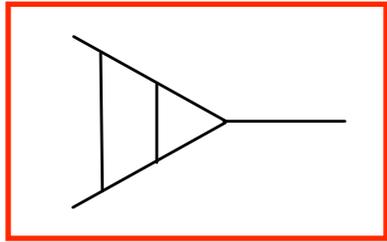
# MC@NLO vs. PowHeg

## Examples:



⇒ agreement for many processes/observables considered  
(difference = different treatment of higher order terms, but sometimes important)

⇒ importance of independent calculations



# When is NLO not good enough?

🔊 when **NLO corrections are large** (NLO correction  $\approx$  LO)

This may happen when

- process involves very different scales  $\rightarrow$  large logarithms
- new channels open up (at NLO they are effectively LO)
- gluon dominated processes

🔊 when **high precision is useful** (occasionally the case)

- Drell-Yan, heavy-quark production, 3 jets in  $e^+e^-$ , ...

🔊 when **a reliable error estimate is wanted**

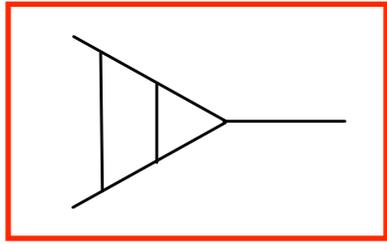
# Collider processes known at NNLO

Collider processes known at NNLO today:

(a) Drell-Yan (Z,W)

(b) Higgs

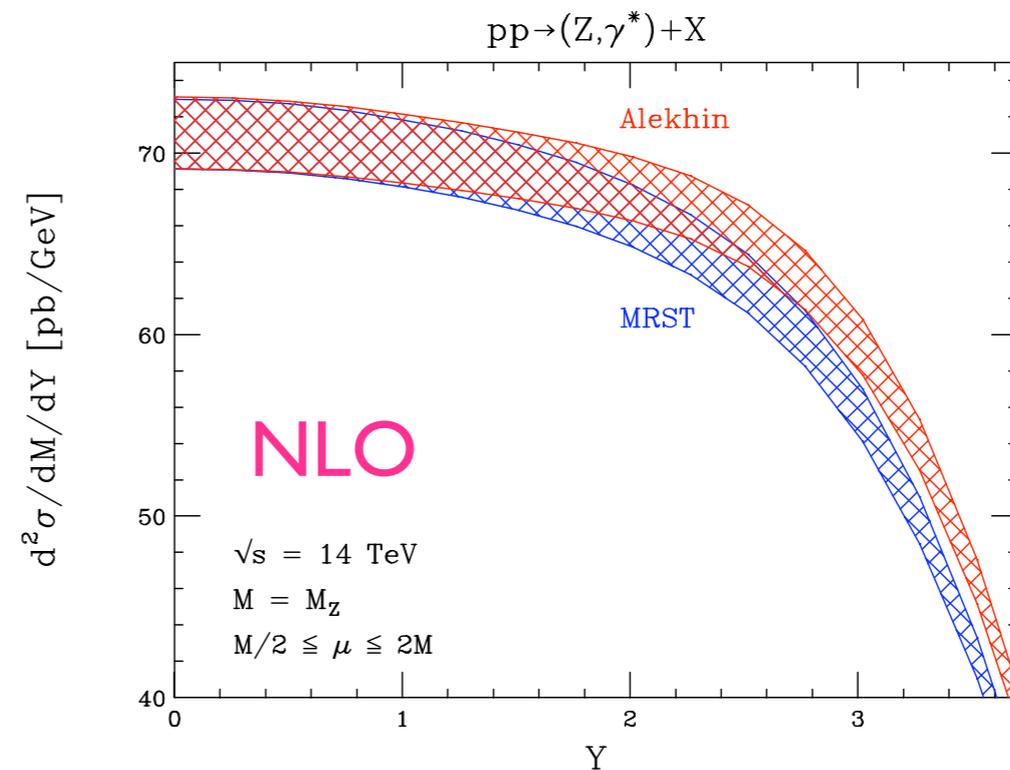
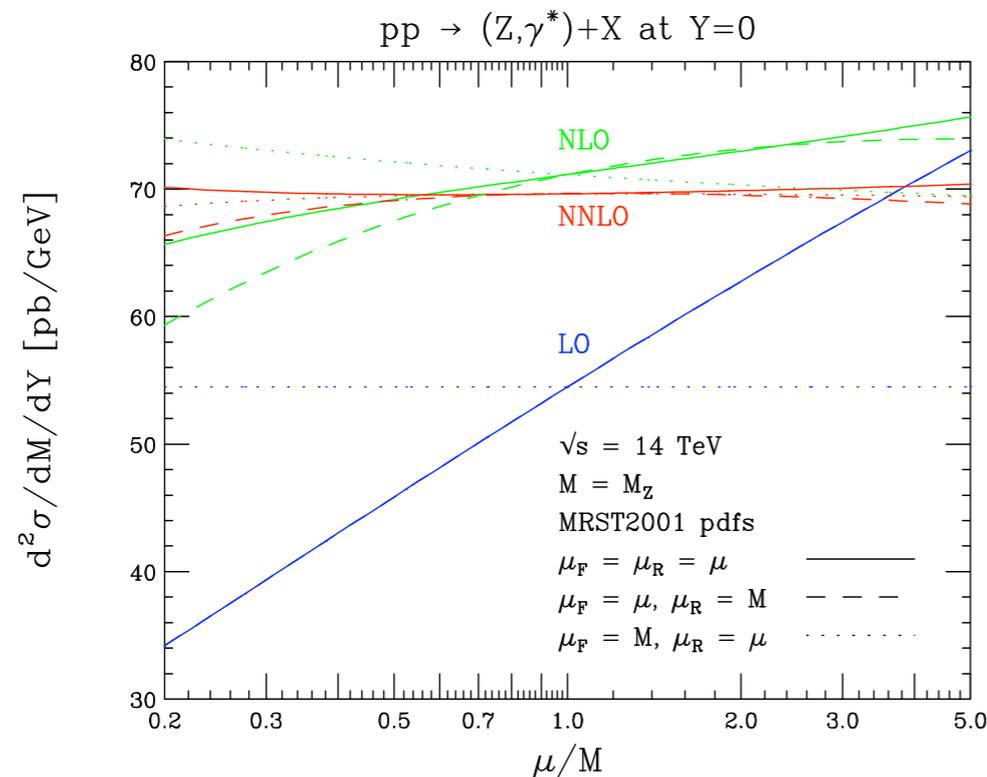
(c) 3-jets in  $e^+e^-$



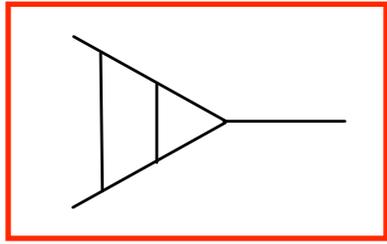
# Drell-Yan

- most important and precise test of the SM at the LHC
- best known process at the LHC: spin-correlations, finite-width effects,  $\gamma$ -Z interference, fully differential in lepton momenta

## Scale stability and sensitivity to PDFs



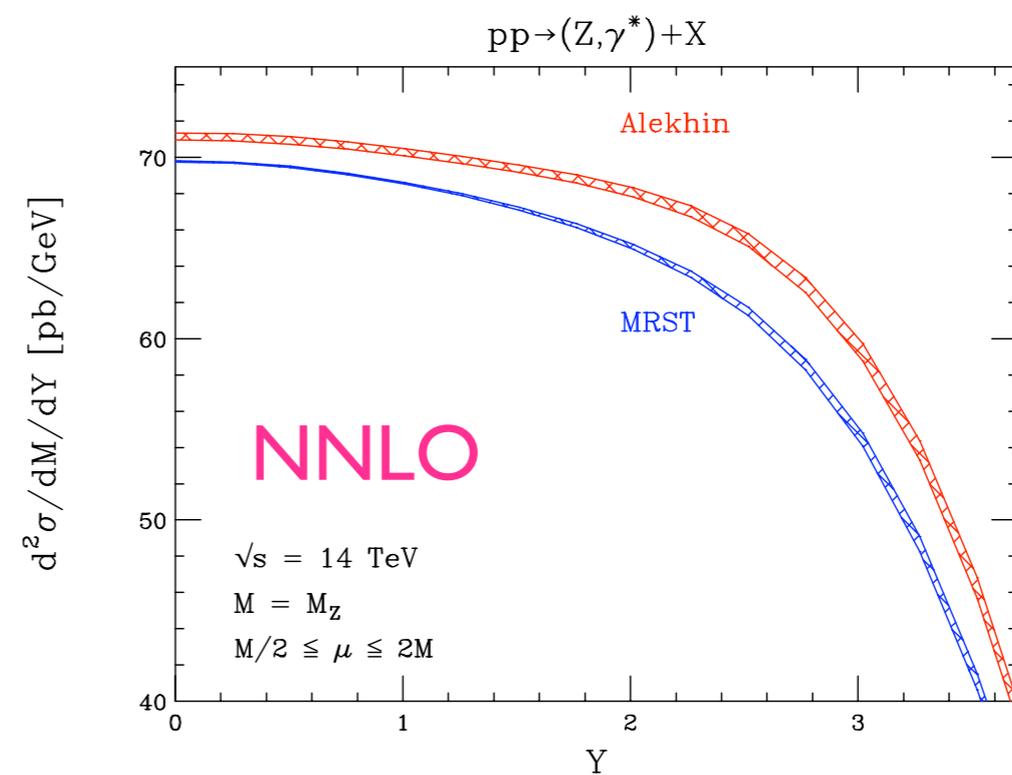
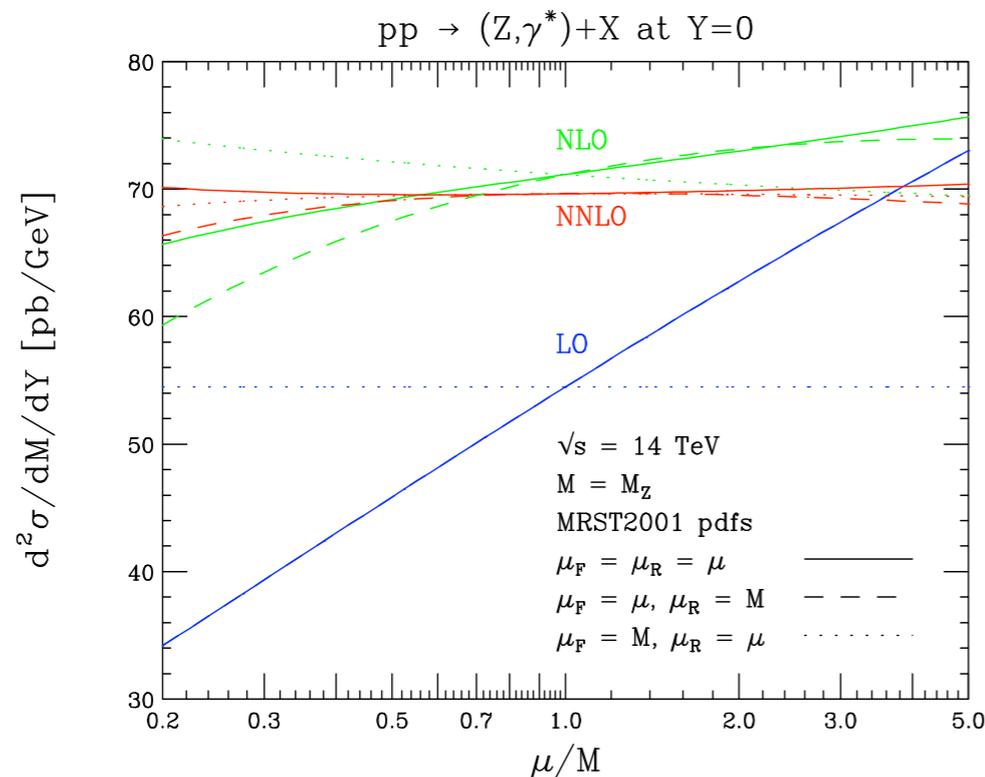
*Anastasiou, Dixon, Melnikov, Petriello '03, '05; Melnikov, Petriello '06*



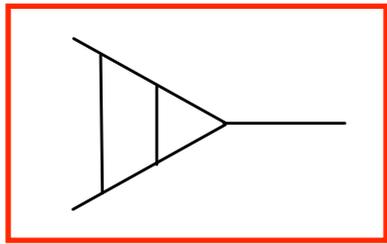
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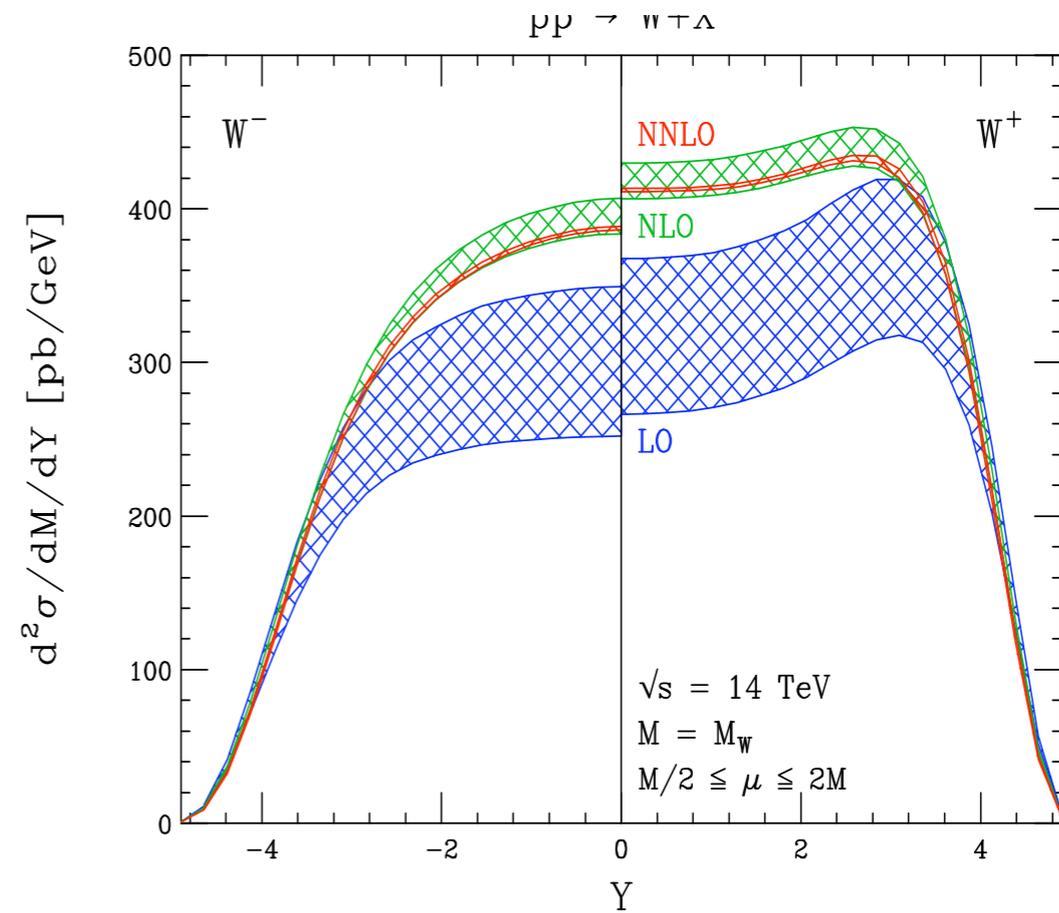
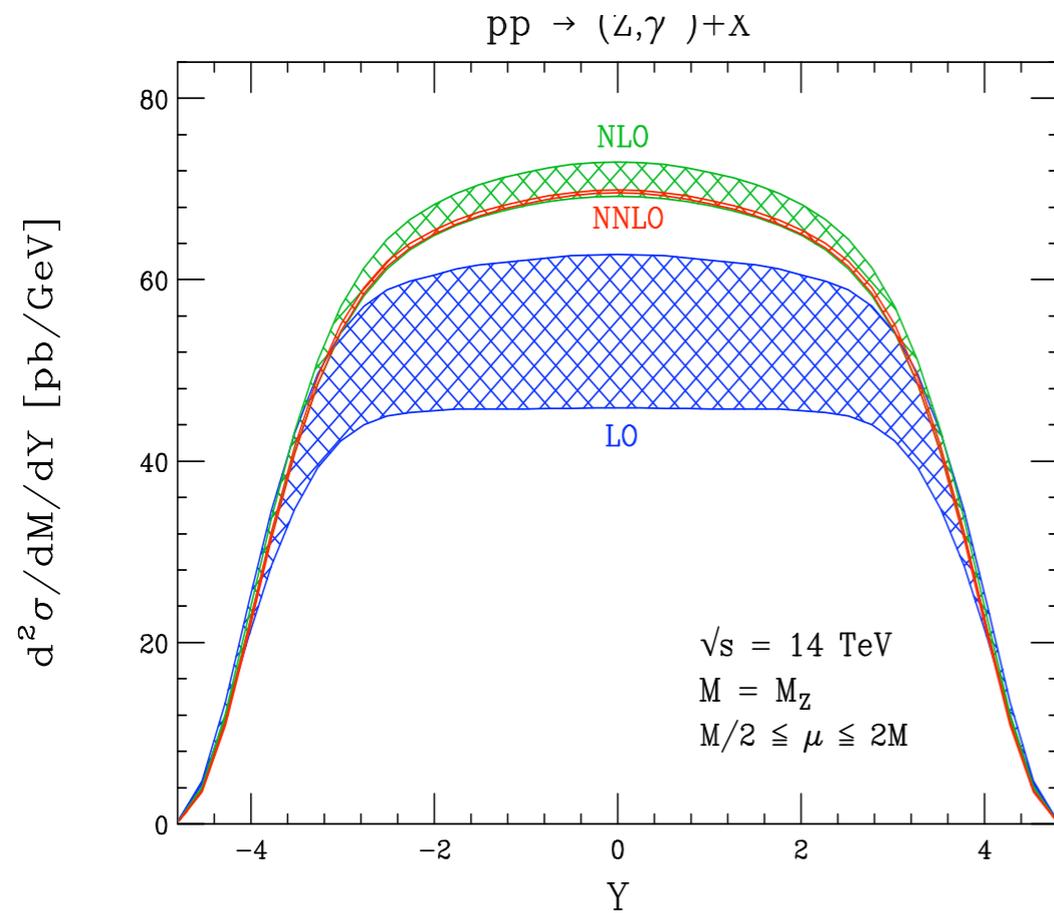
## Scale stability and sensitivity to PDFs



*Anastasiou, Dixon, Melnikov, Petriello '03, '05; Melnikov, Petriello '06*

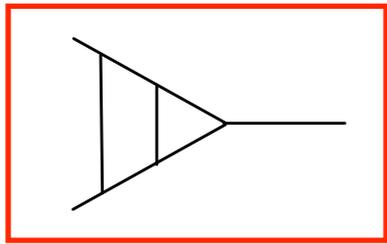


# Drell-Yan: rapidity distributions



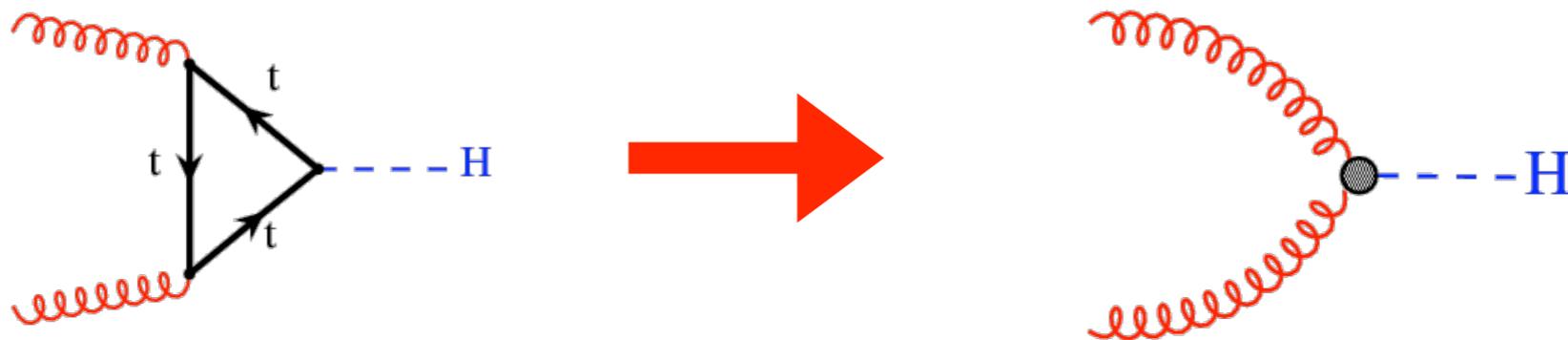
*Anastasiou, Dixon, Melnikov, Petriello '03, '05; Melnikov, Petriello '06*

👉 at the LHC: perturbative accuracy better than 1%

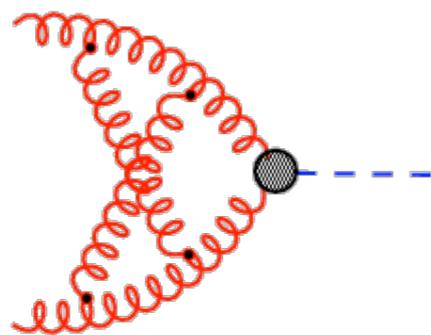


# Inclusive NNLO Higgs production

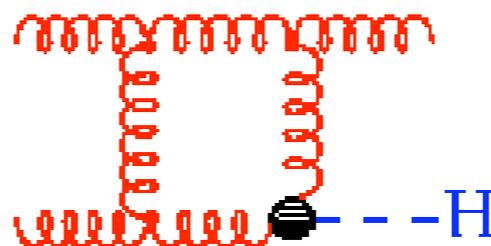
Inclusive Higgs production via gluon-gluon fusion in the large  $m_t$ -limit:



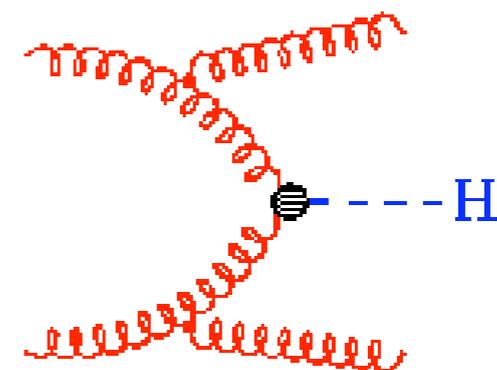
NNLO corrections known since few years now:



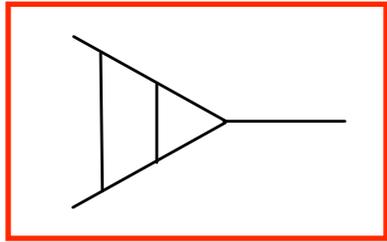
virtual-virtual



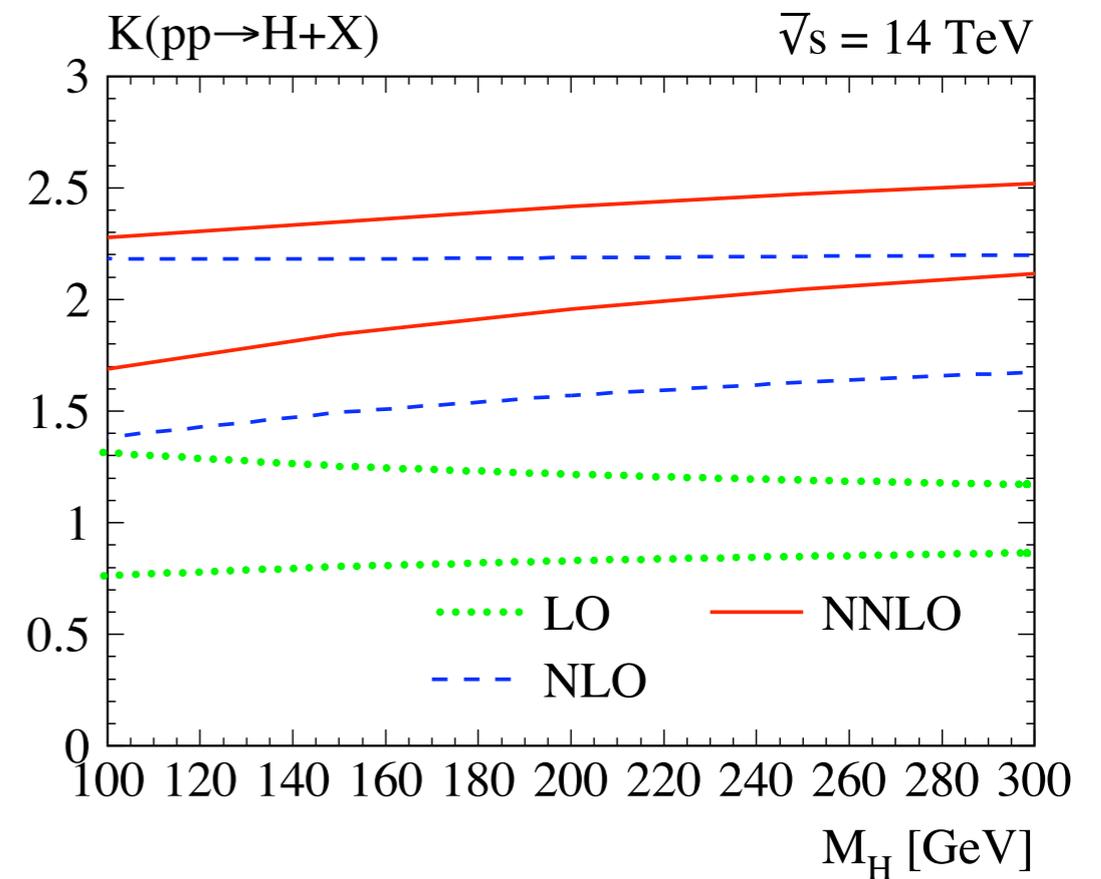
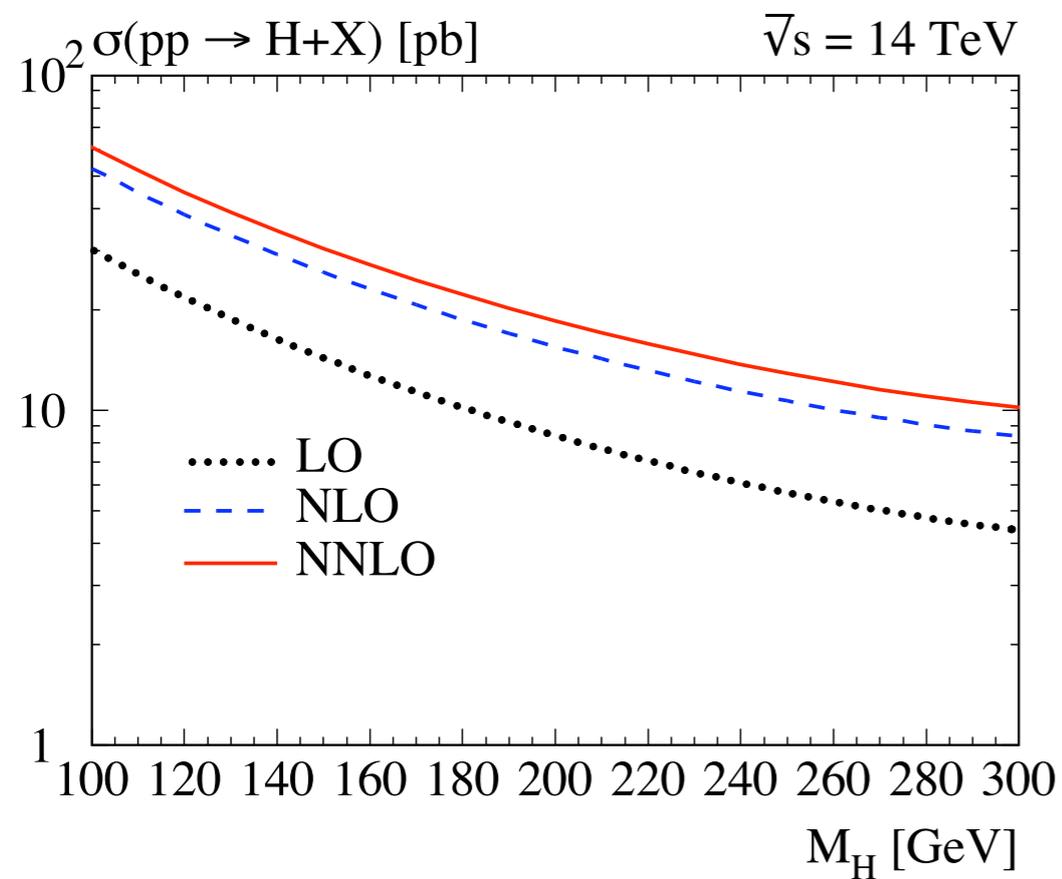
real-virtual



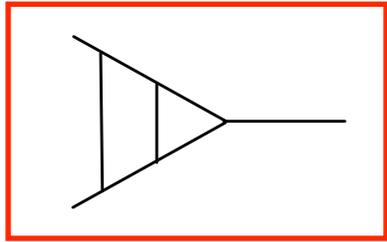
real-real



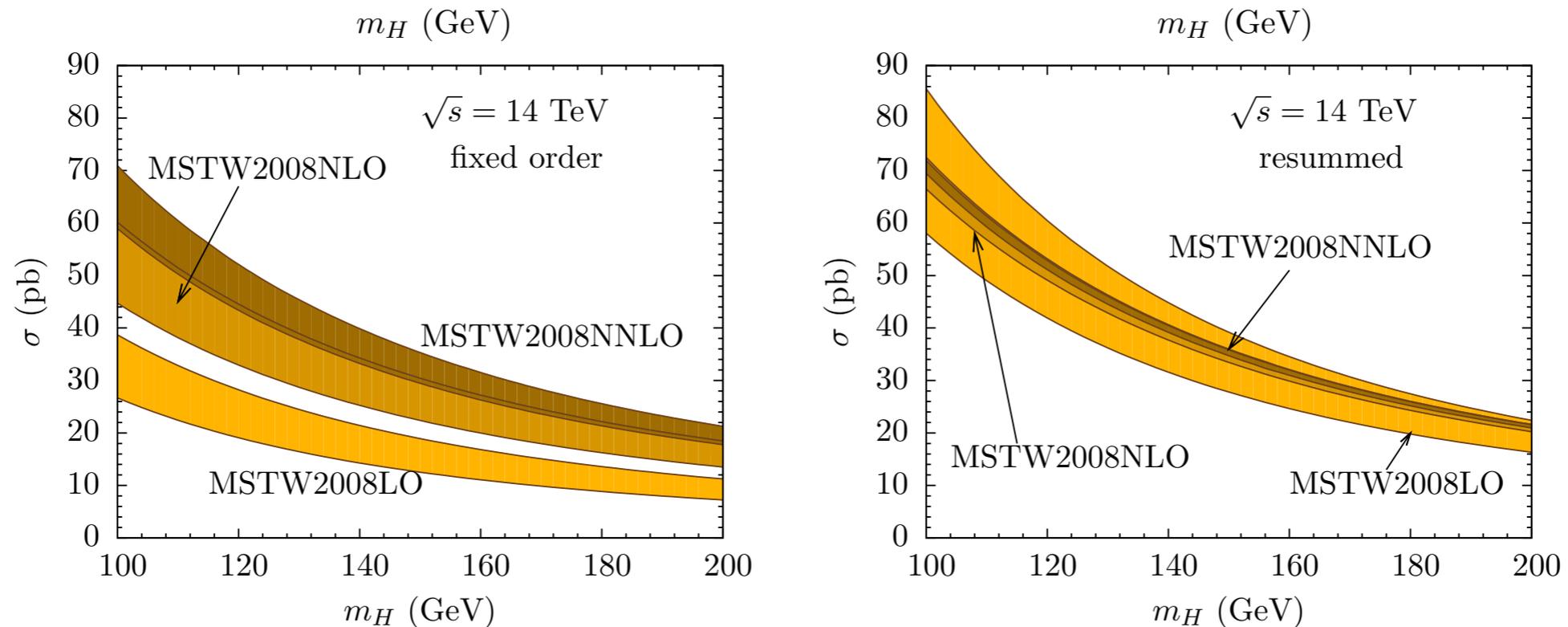
# Inclusive NNLO Higgs production



*Kilgore, Harlander '02*  
*Anastasiou, Melnikov '02*

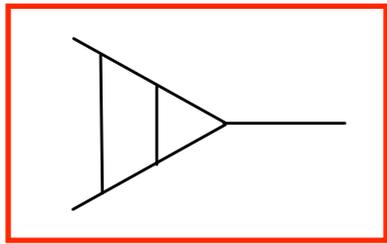


# RGE improved Higgs production



Ahrens et al. '08

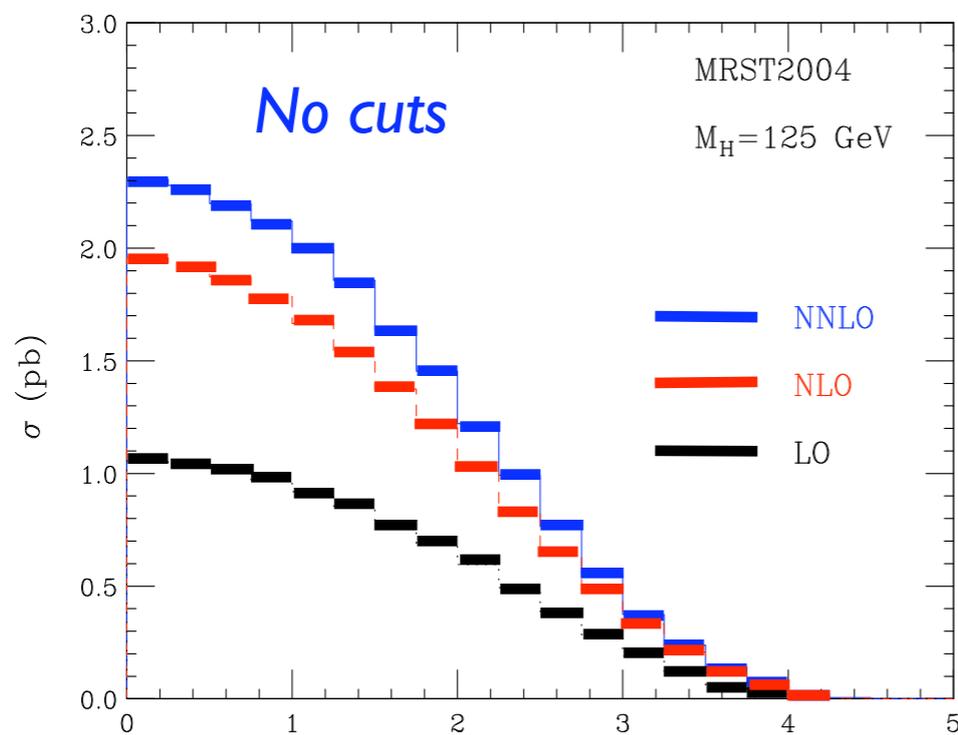
- improve convergence of PT expansion by matching effective theory in the space-like region ( $\mu^2 < 0$ ) and do RGE to the time-like one ( $\mu^2 > 0$ )
- residual 8% (13%) effect at the LHC (Tevatron)



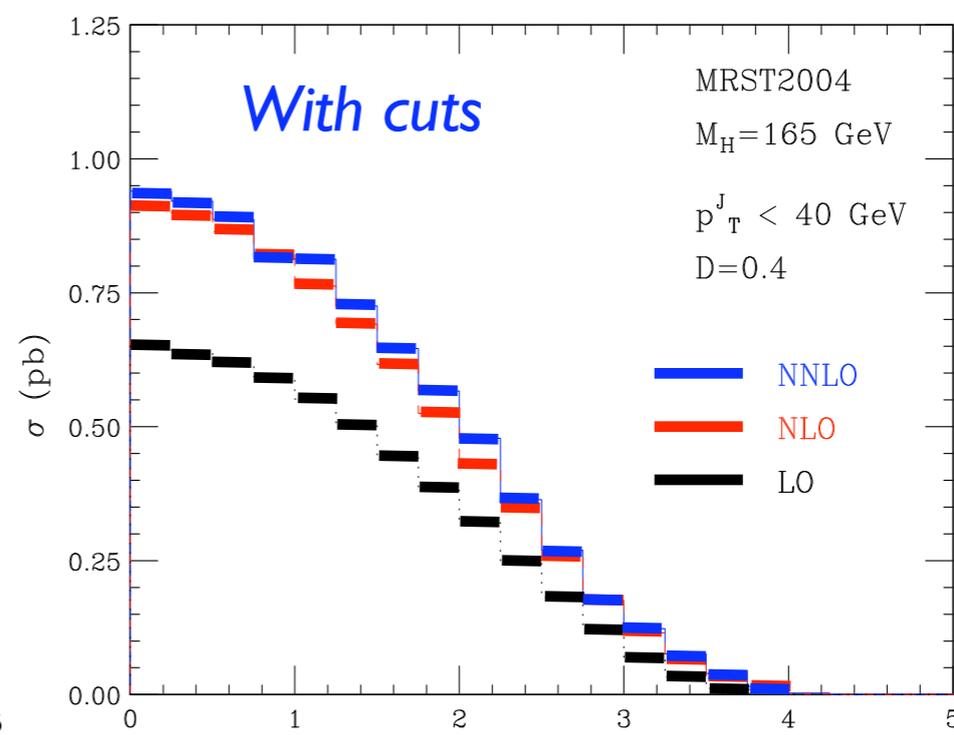
# Exclusive NNLO Higgs production

First fully exclusive  $H \rightarrow WW \rightarrow 2l 2\nu$  NNLO calculation

*Anastasiou, Dissertori, Stoeckli '07; also Catani, Grazzini '08*



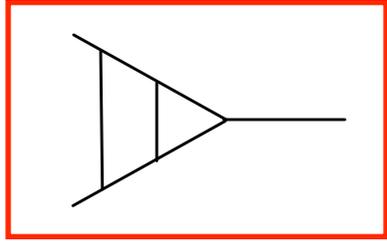
👉 **slow convergence**



👉 **good convergence**

⇒ impact of NNLO dramatically reduced by cuts

**Very important to include cuts and decays in realistic studies**



# NNLO 3-jets in $e^+e^-$

Motivation: error on  $\alpha_s$  from jet-observables

$$\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.121 \pm 0.001 \text{ (exp.)} \pm 0.005 \text{ (th.)}$$

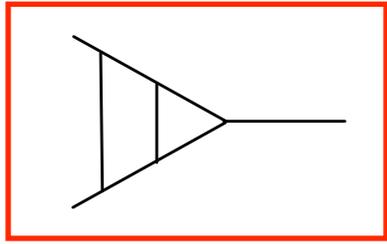
*Bethke '06*

➔ dominated by theoretical uncertainty

NNLO 3-jet calculation in  $e^+e^-$  completed in 2007

Method: developed antenna subtraction at NNLO

First application: NNLO fit of  $\alpha_s$  from event-shapes



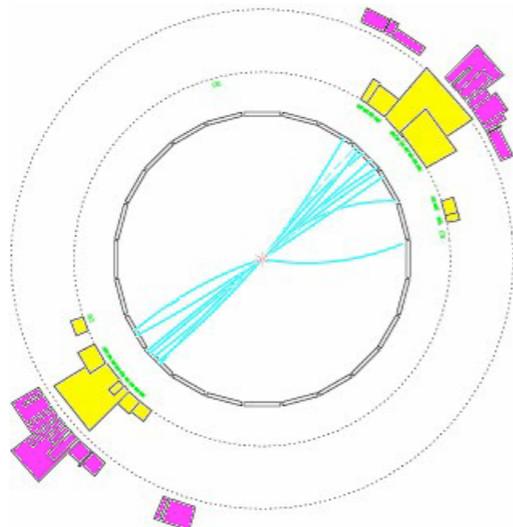
# Event shapes

**Event-shapes and jet-rates:** infrared safe observables describing the energy and momentum flow of the final state.

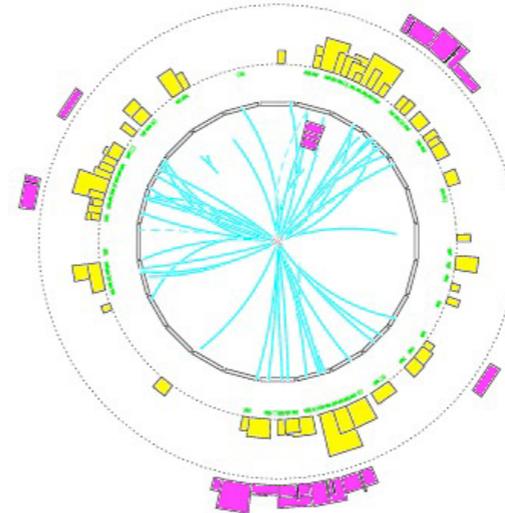
Candle example in  $e^+e^-$ : The thrust

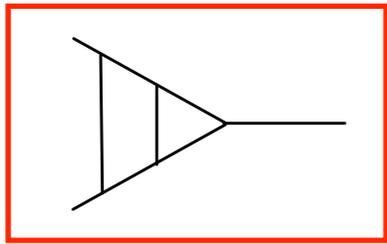
$$T = \max_{\vec{n}} \frac{\sum_i \vec{p}_i \cdot \vec{n}}{\sum_i |\vec{p}_i|}$$

Pencil-like event:  $1 - T \ll 1$



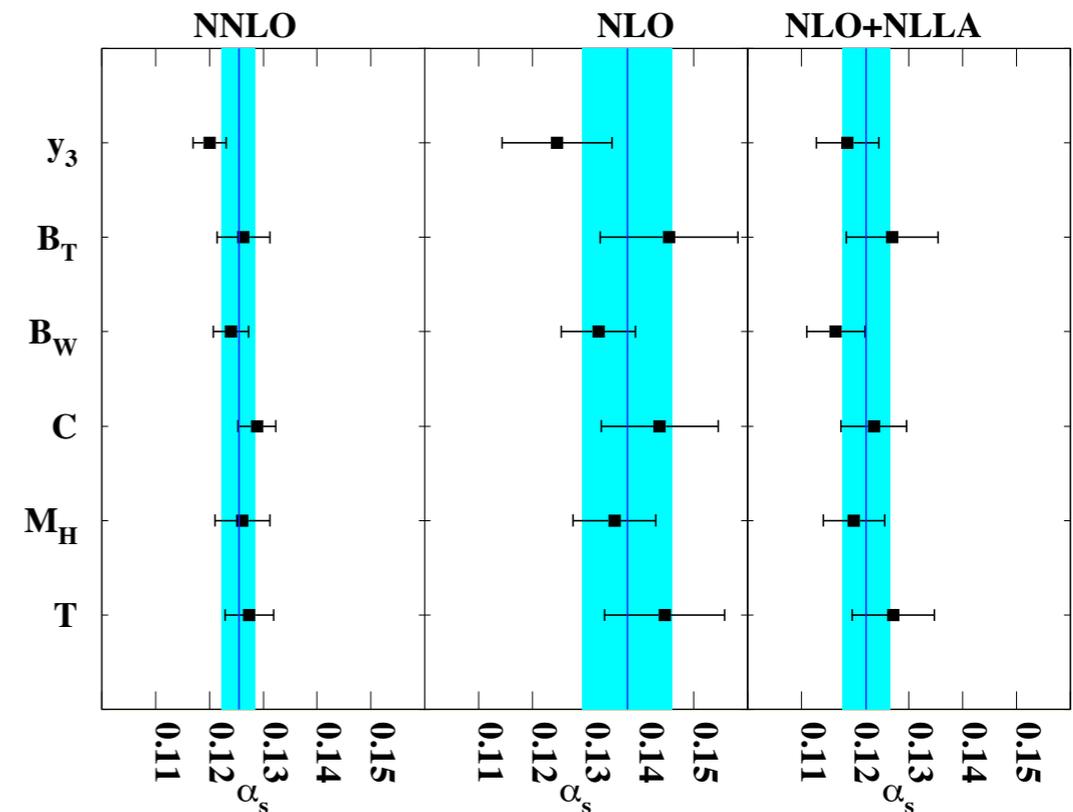
Planar event:  $1 - T \sim 1$





# $\alpha_s$ from event shapes at NNLO

- ▶ scale variation reduced by a factor 2
- ▶ scatter between  $\alpha_s$  from different event-shapes reduced
- ▶ better  $\chi^2$ , central value closer to world average
- ▶ study of moments of event-shapes

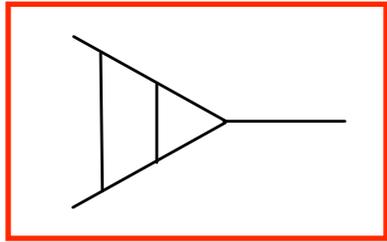


$$\alpha_s(M_Z^2) = 0.1240 \pm 0.0008 \text{ (stat)} \pm 0.0010 \text{ (exp)} \pm 0.0011 \text{ (had)} \pm 0.0029 \text{ (theo)}$$

*Dissertori et al. '07; Gehrmann et al. '08 - '09*

Subsequent calculations identified a problem in 2 color structures in 2-jet region, now fixed

*Becher et al. '08; Weinzierl '08*



# NNLO on the horizon



## Single-jet production

- needed to constrain gluon PDF and coupling constant
- matrix elements known for some time
- subtraction in progress

*Anastasiou et al.; Bern et al.; Daleo et al.*



## Top pair production

- needed for more precise  $m_t$  determination
- possibly for further constraining PDFs
- matrix elements partially known

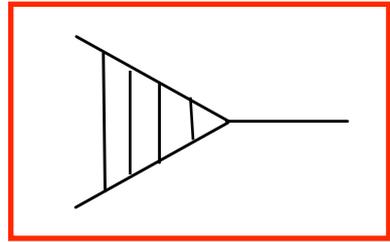
*Czakon et al.; Bonciani et al.; Kiyo et al.*



## Vector boson pair production

- study gauge structure of SM (triple gauge couplings)
- irreducible background for Higgs search in intermediate mass region
- NLO corrections are large

*Chachamis, Czakon, Eiras*



# All order formula for IR divergences

Anomalous dimension:

$$\Gamma = \sum_{(i,j)} \mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_s) \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s_{ij}} + \sum_i \gamma^i(\alpha_s)$$

*Becher, Neubert '09*

*See also: Dixon, Sterman, Aybat '08; Gardi & Magnea '09; Dixon '09 & refs. therein*

☛ only color-dipole correlations

Singularities cancel in physical quantities, but important for

- ☛ Sudakov resummation
- ☛ check of virtual results
- ☛ insight into the structure of gauge theories

Extension to the massive partons more complicated

*Mitov, Sterman, Sung '09; Becher, Neubert '09*



# Jets: few years ago



**Cones are IR unsafe!**

**The Cone is too rigid!**

**IR unsafety affects jet cross-sections by less than 1%, so don't need to care!**

**kt collects too much soft radiation!**



**Cones have a well-defined circular area!**

**Jet area not well defined in kt: U.E. and pile-up subtraction too difficult!**

**What about dark towers??**

**After all, if  $D=1.35 R$  Cone and kt are practically the same thing ...**



# Jet-algorithms

## Cone type

(UAI, JetCLU, Midpoint, SIScone..)

☞ **top down approach:**  
cluster particles according to  
distance in **coordinate-space**  
Idea: put cones along dominant  
direction of energy flow

- 😊 intuitive, meant to be simple
- 😞 problems with IR-safety
- 😊 SIScone: IR-safe and fast

## Sequential

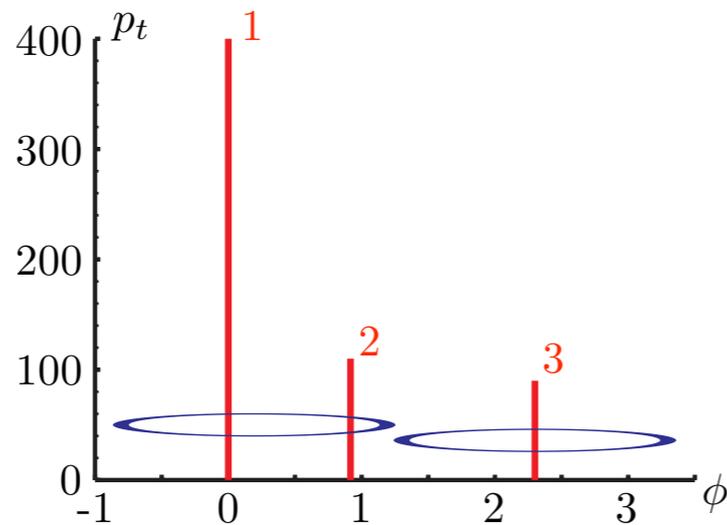
(kt-type, Jade, Cambridge/Aachen..)

☞ **bottom up approach:**  
particles according to distance  
in **momentum-space**  
Idea: undo branchings occurred  
in the PT evolution

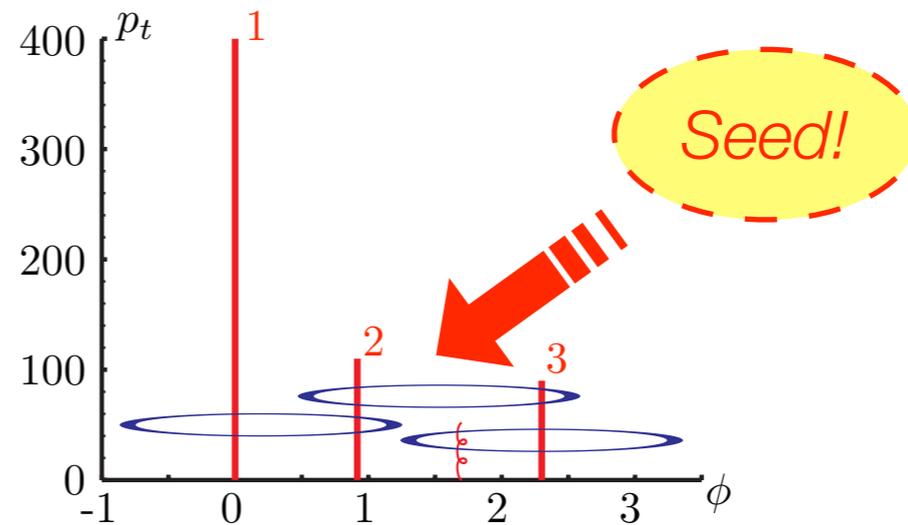
- 😊 simple, clean, IR-safe
- 😞 irregular, wide-reaching jets
- 😊 solved by anti-kt



# Jets: IR-unsafety of midpoint



3 hard  $\Rightarrow$  2 stable cones



3 hard + 1 soft  $\Rightarrow$  3 stable cones

*Soft emission changes the hard jets  $\Rightarrow$  algorithm is IR unsafe*

Solution: use a seedless algorithm find all stable cones [ $\Rightarrow$  jets]

**SISCone**: complexity  $N^2 \log(N)$

*Salam, Soyez '07*

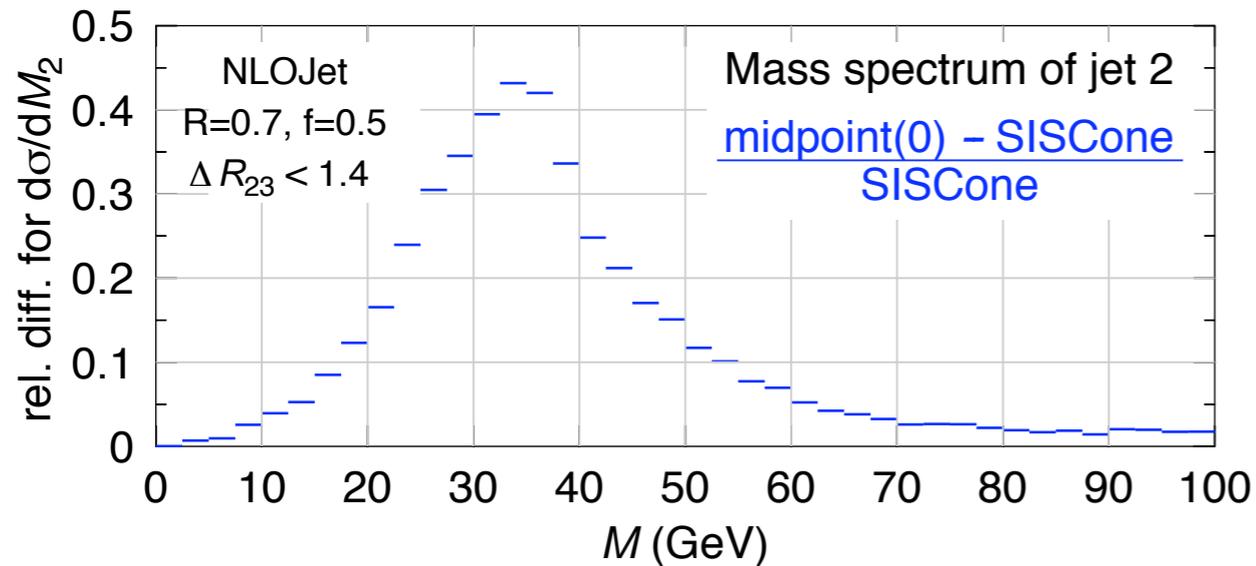
Similarly: iterative cone is collinear unsafe

Solution: **anti-kt algorithm**

*Cacciari, Salam, Soyez '08*



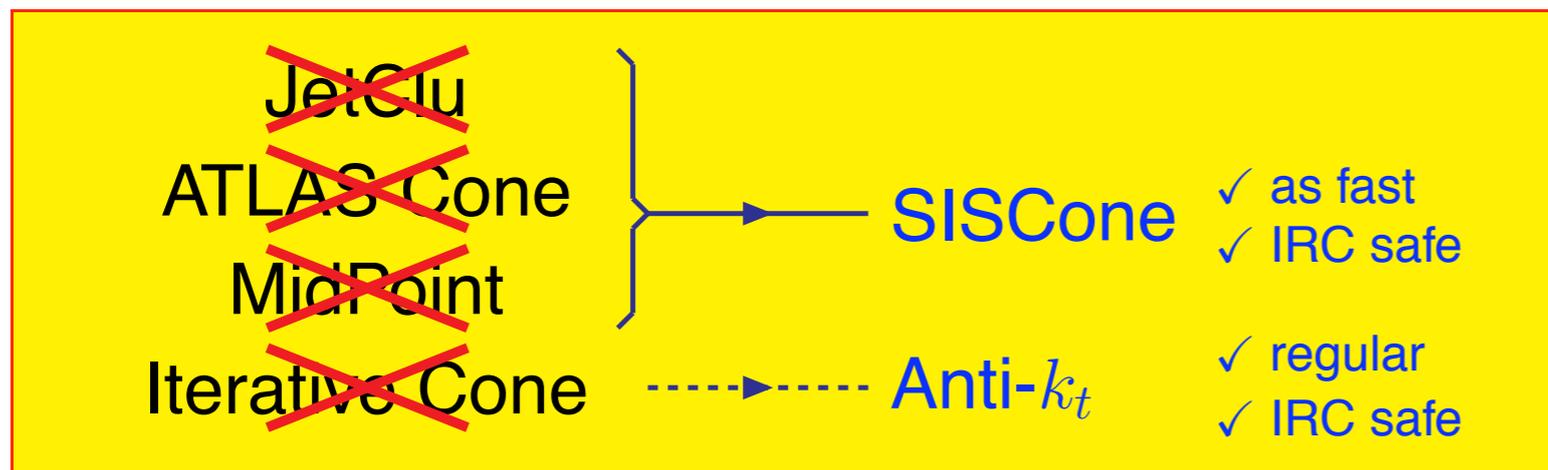
# Physical impact of IR-unsafety



Up to 40% difference  
in mass spectrum

IR-unsafety is an  
issue at the LHC

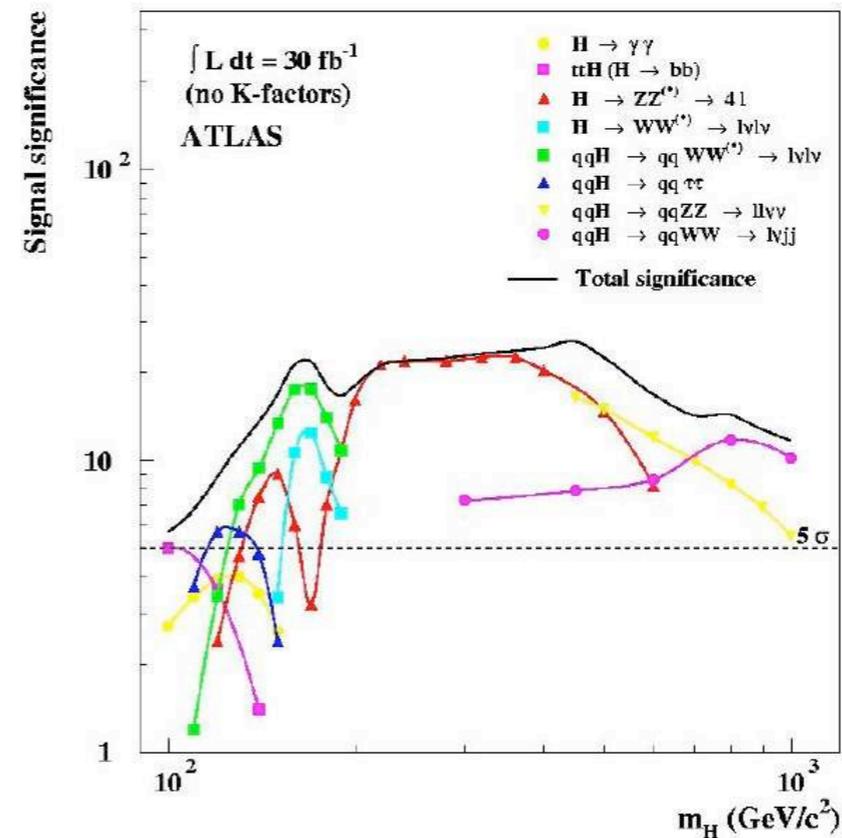
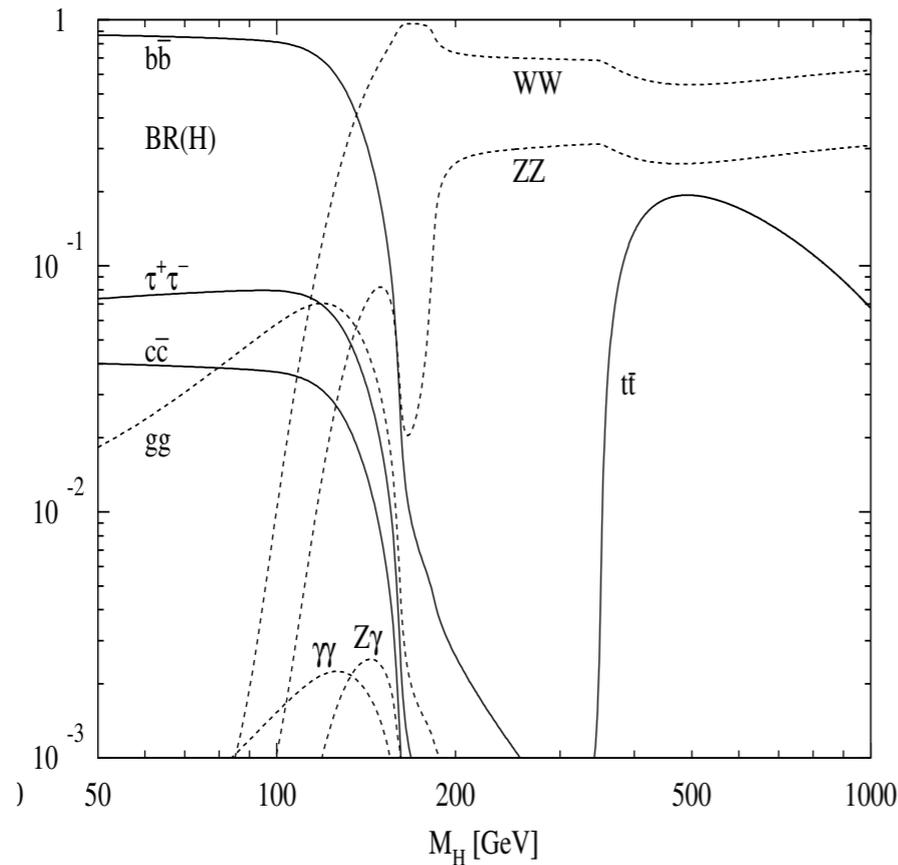
Observable	1st miss cones at	Last meaningful order
Inclusive jet cross section	NNLO	NLO
3 jet cross section	NLO	LO (NLO in NLOJet)
$W/Z/H + 2$ jet cross sect.	NLO	LO (NLO in MCFM)
jet masses in 3 jets	LO	none (LO in NLOJet)



If you don't want  
theoretical efforts  
to be wasted!



# Z/W+ H ( $\rightarrow bb$ ) rescued ?



$\Rightarrow$  **Light Higgs hard:  $H \rightarrow bb$  dominant, but overwhelmed by background**

## Conclusion [ATLAS TDR]:

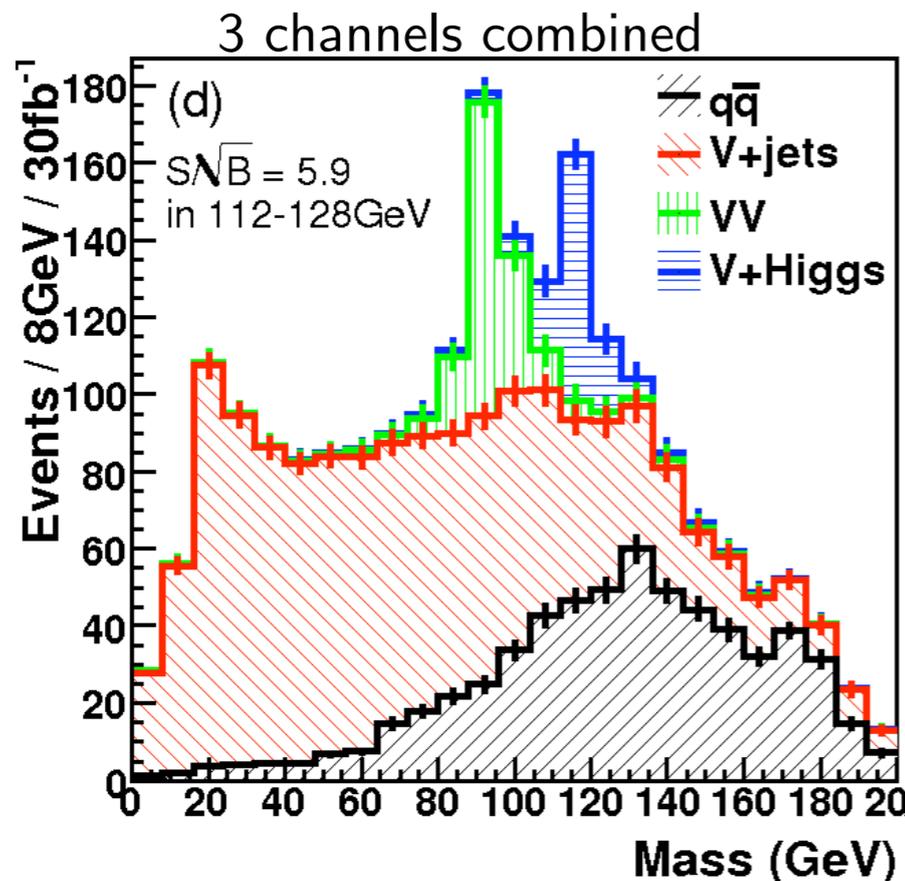
*The extraction of a signal from  $H \rightarrow bb$  decays in the WH channel will be very difficult at the LHC even under the most optimistic assumptions [...]*



# Z/W + H ( $\rightarrow$ bb) rescued ?

**Boosted Higgs at high  $p_t$ :** central decay products  $\Rightarrow$  single massive jet

Use **jet-finding geared to identify the characteristic structure of fast-moving Higgs** that decays into a bb-pair close in angle



- ▶ with common & channel specific cuts:  
 $p_{tV}, p_{tH} > 200$  GeV , ...
- ▶ real/fake b-tag rate: 0.7/0.01
- ▶ NB: very neat peak for WZ (Z  $\rightarrow$ bb)  
Important for calibration

*Butterworth et al. '08*

**5.9 $\sigma$  at 30 fb<sup>-1</sup>: VH with H  $\rightarrow$  bb recovered as one of the best discovery channels for light Higgs? More exp. studies to come !**

# Conclusions

Impressive progress in perturbative QCD in the last few years

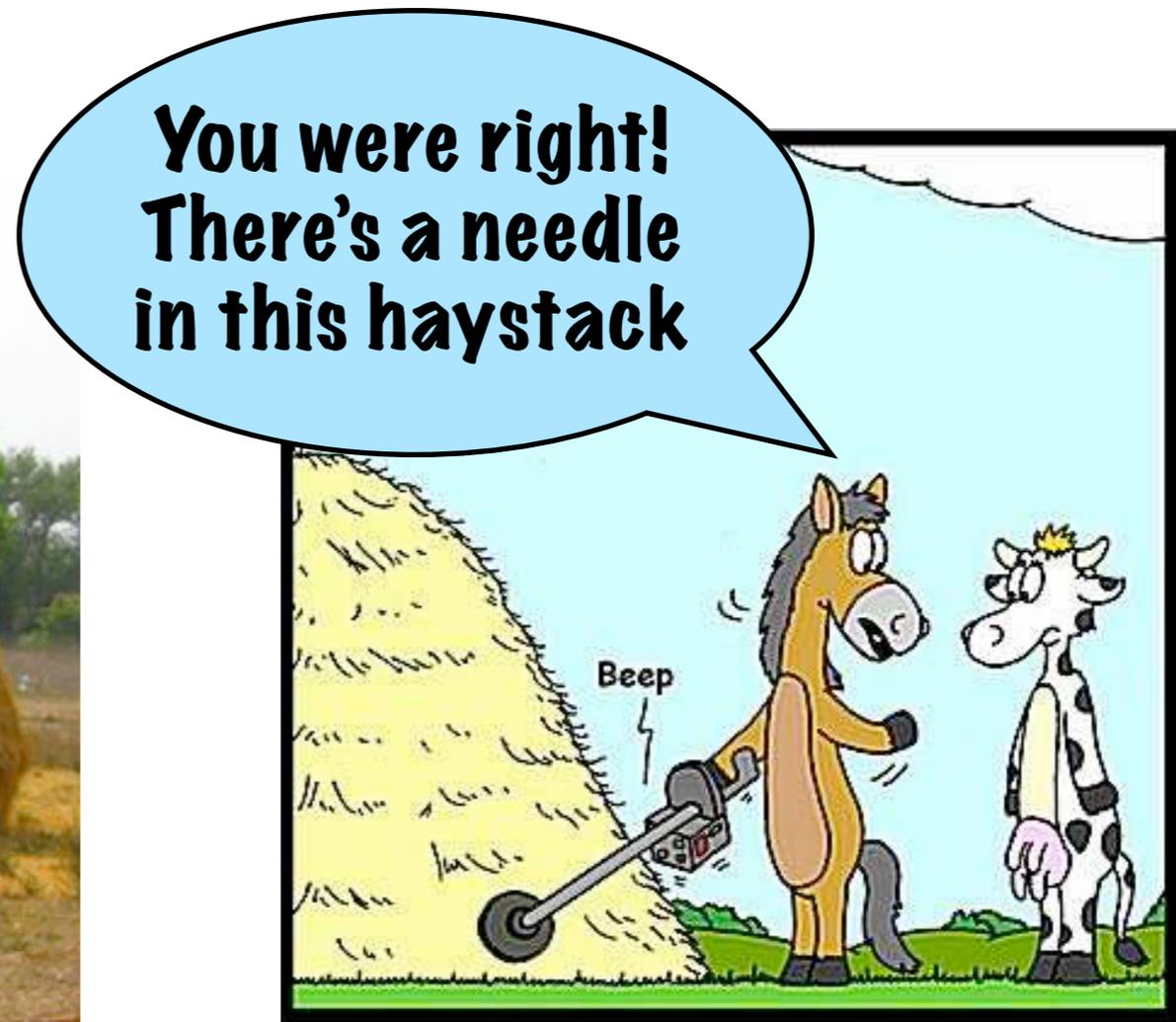
- precision in parton densities
- full automation in LO matrix elements calculations
- NLO: automation on the horizon
- NNLO for standard candle processes available or almost
- all order understanding of IR singularities
- jets: many new ideas, impressive level of sophistication
- ... apologies for all the other important work I could not mention

*Still many challenges ahead but QCD theory will provide solid basis for a successful physics program at the LHC*

*How often did you hear the statement that looking for BSM signals at the LHC might be like looking for a needle in a haystack?*

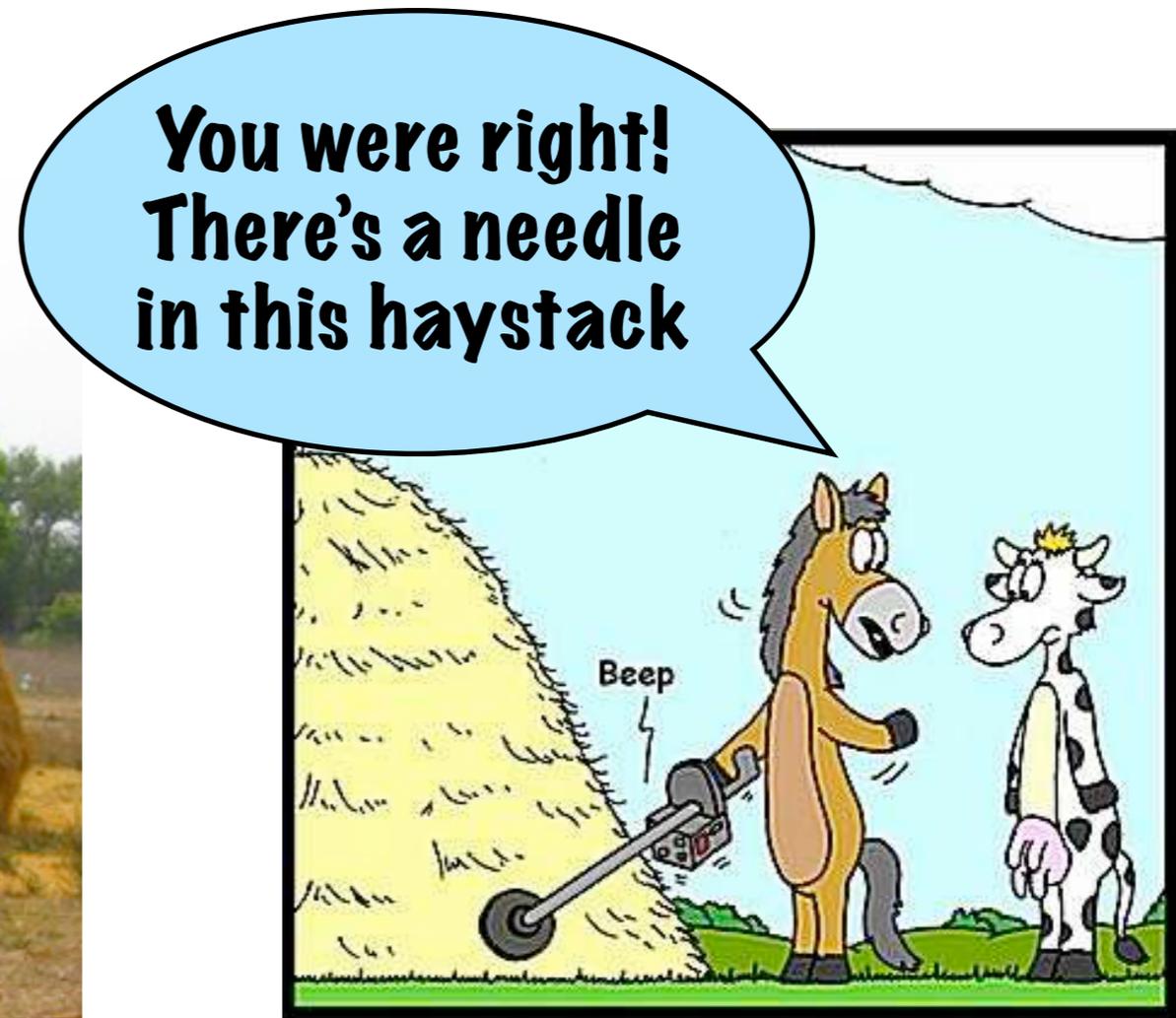


*How often did you hear the statement that looking for BSM signals at the LHC might be like looking for a needle in a haystack?*



*But at the end, it is all a matter of having the right tools.*

*How often did you hear the statement that looking for BSM signals at the LHC might be like looking for a needle in a haystack?*



*But at the end, it is all a matter of having the right tools.*

**UNDERSTANDING QCD CRUCIAL TO DEVELOP THE RIGHT TOOLS!**