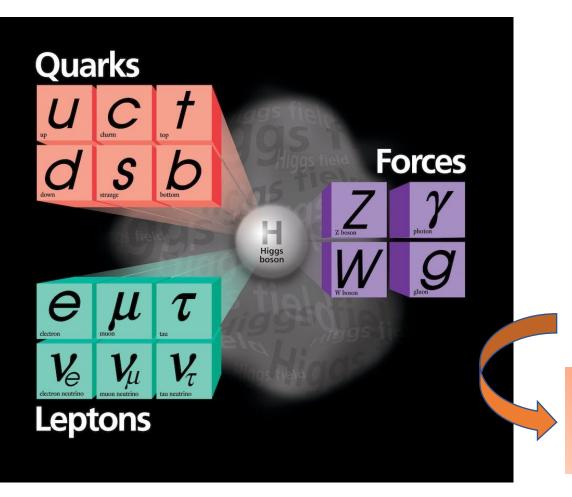


Laura Reina

**FSU** | DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS



Precision Physics in the Higgs Sector University of Roma La Sapienza March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 Higgs central to the Standard Model and a unique liaison to physics beyond it



A very minimal quantum field theory describing strong, weak, and electromagnetic interactions, based on a local (gauge) symmetry

 $SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \rightarrow SU(3)_C \times U(1)_Q$ 

Strong interactions: gluons  $\rightarrow m_g = 0$ Electromagnetic interactions: photon  $\rightarrow m_{\gamma} = 0$ Weak interactions:  $W^{\pm}$  and  $Z \rightarrow M_W, M_Z \neq 0$ 

Due to the presence of a scalar field whose potential spontaneously breaks the gauge symmetry of weak interactions and gives origin to massive gauge bosons (W,Z)

The Higgs boson (H) is the physical particle associated with such field

The Standard Model Lagrangian depends on 19 free parameters, **15 of which are in the scalar sector**!

Higgs mass, Higgs self-coupling, fermion masses, CKM angles and phase

half of it is about Higgs!

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J} &= -\frac{1}{4} F_{A\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \\ &+ i F \mathcal{D} \mathcal{F} + h.c. \\ &+ \mathcal{F}_{ij} \mathcal{F}_{j} \mathcal{P} + h.c. \\ &+ |D_{\mu} \mathcal{P}|^{2} - \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{P}) \end{aligned}$$

.

#### The SM arbitrarily postulates

$$V(\phi) = \mu^{2} \phi^{\dagger} \phi + \lambda(\phi^{\dagger} \phi)^{2}$$

$$\langle \phi \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^{+} \\ \phi^{0} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{SSB}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ H+v \end{pmatrix}$$

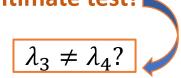
$$(\mu^{2} < 0)$$

$$v = (-\mu^{2}/2\lambda)^{1/2}$$

$$V(\phi) = \frac{M_{H}^{2}}{2}H^{2} + \lambda H^{3} + \frac{\lambda}{4}H^{4}$$

$$(M_{H}^{2} = -2\mu^{2}) \longrightarrow +O(\Lambda_{UV}^{2})$$
Why  $M_{H} \sim \Lambda_{EW}$ ?
But it could be an effective theory
Ultimate test!

$$V(\phi) = \frac{M_{H}^{2}}{2}H^{2} + \lambda_{3}H^{3} + \lambda_{4}H^{4}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \\ &+ i F \mathcal{D} \mathcal{Y} + h.c. \\ &+ \mathcal{Y}_{ij} \mathcal{Y}_{j} \mathcal{P} + h.c. \\ &+ \left| D_{\mu} \mathcal{P} \right|^{2} - V(\mathcal{P}) \end{aligned}$$

#### **Couplings to gauge bosons:**

- Minimal gauge invariant coupling
- Strict relations between masses and gauge couplings

$$g_{HVV} \sim \frac{M_V^2}{v} \qquad g_{HHVV} \sim \frac{M_V^2}{v^2}$$

# Consistency of the SM at the quantum level requires a complex scalar doublet ( $\phi$ ) to

- > Avoid unitarity violation in  $VV \rightarrow VV$  scattering
- Account for loop-effects in W and Z propagators

≻ ...

#### Crucial tests of this paradigm:

- ✓ EW precision tests
- > Direct measurement of Higgs couplings to W and Z!

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J} &= -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \\ &+ i F F + h.c. \\ &+ (\mathcal{J}_{ij} \mathcal{J}_{j} \mathcal{J}_{j} \mathcal{J}_{j} + h.c) \\ &+ \left| D_{\mu} \mathcal{J}_{j} \right|^{2} - V(\mathcal{J}) \end{aligned}$$

$$L_{Yuk} = y_{ij} \overline{\psi}_L^i \phi \psi_R^j + h.c.$$
Yukawa couplings
$$\phi \to H + v$$

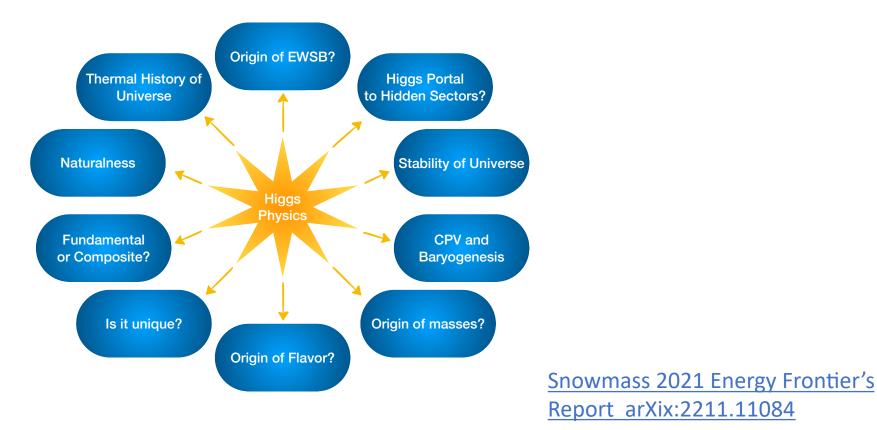
$$y_{ij} \to \frac{m_f}{v} \delta_{ij}$$
fermion masses

#### **Couplings to Fermions:**

- Yukawa interaction: Is this a new force?
- > Why the hierarchy of Yukawa couplings?
- > Why the hierarchy of fermion masses?
- Rotation to mass eigenstates: origin of flavor dynamics! in charged gauge currents (CKM)

#### Arbitrary, intriguing, and unexplained!

#### Higgs central to exploring beyond the Standard Model



The discovery of the Higgs boson has sharpened the big open questions and given us a unique handle on BSM physics.

# Higgs central to the LHC physics program From Higgs discovery to Higgs precision physics

#### 2012: discovery

#### BROKEN SYMMETRIES AND THE MASSES OF GAUGE BOSONS

Peter W. Higgs Tait Institute of Mathematical Physics, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland (Received 31 August 1964)

#### BROKEN SYMMETRY AND THE MASS OF GAUGE VECTOR MESONS\*

F. Englert and R. Brout Faculté des Sciences, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium (Received 26 June 1964)

#### 2013: Nobel Prize





years HIGGS boson discovery

#### More than ten years later Where do we stand?



# The LHC era: exploring the TeV scale



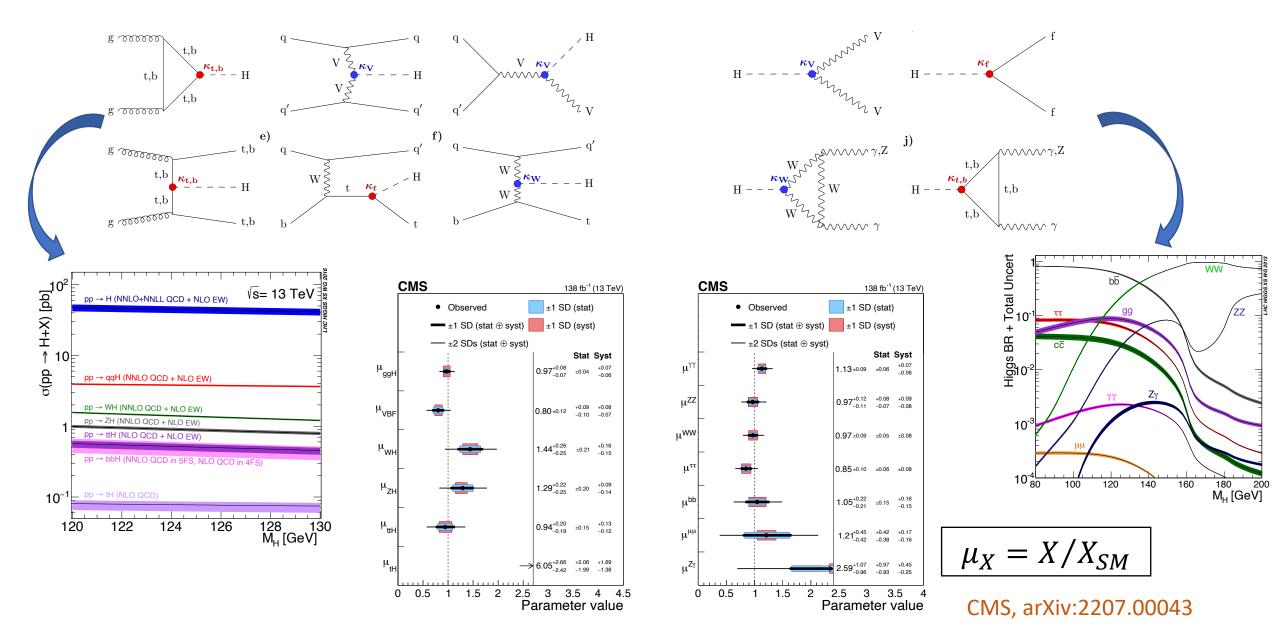
#### Higgs physics has been at the core of the LHC physics program

- Run 1: Higgs discovery
- **Run 2**: Higgs couplings
  - outperformed expectations
- Run 3 to HL-LHC
  - Higgs precision program

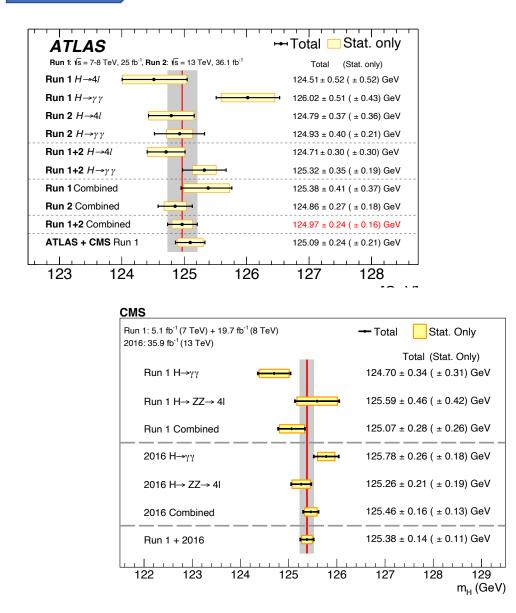
Many years of HL running ahead of us

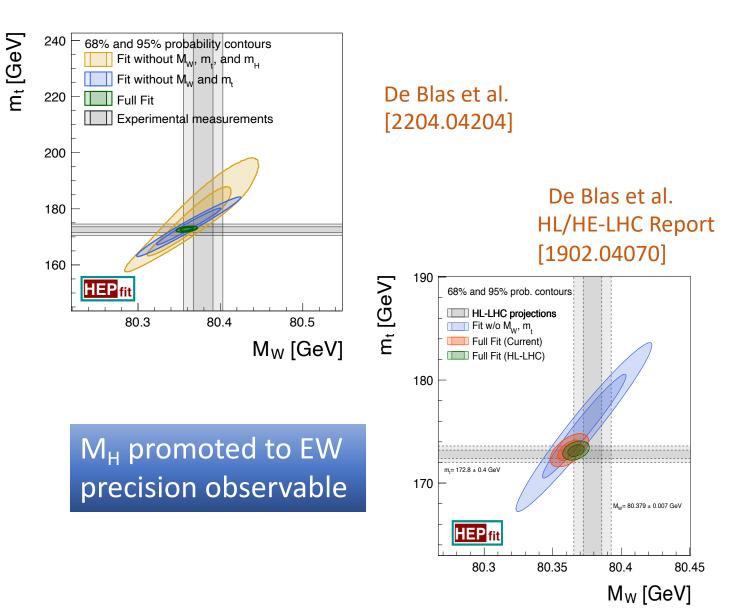
- → 2-fold increase in statistics by the end of Run 3
- → 20-fold increase in statistics by the end of HL-LHC!

#### SM Higgs production and decay at the LHC

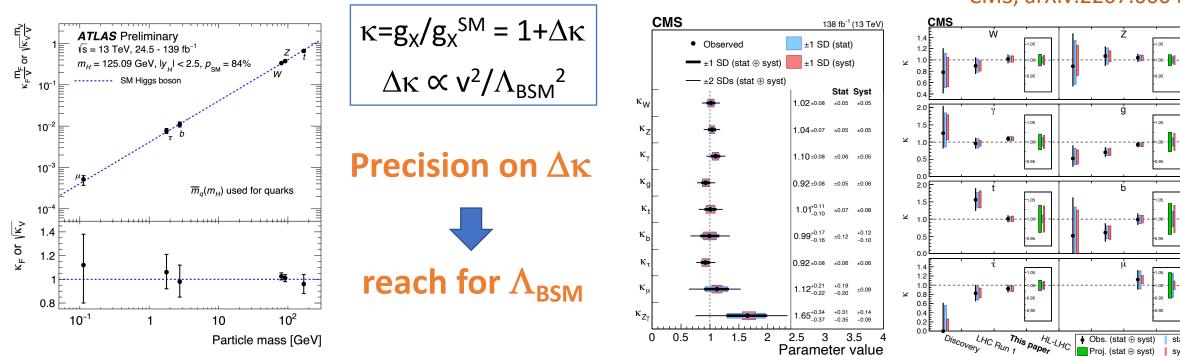


# Run 1+2 From discovery to precision physics





# Run 2 Zooming in on couplings to probe the TeV scale

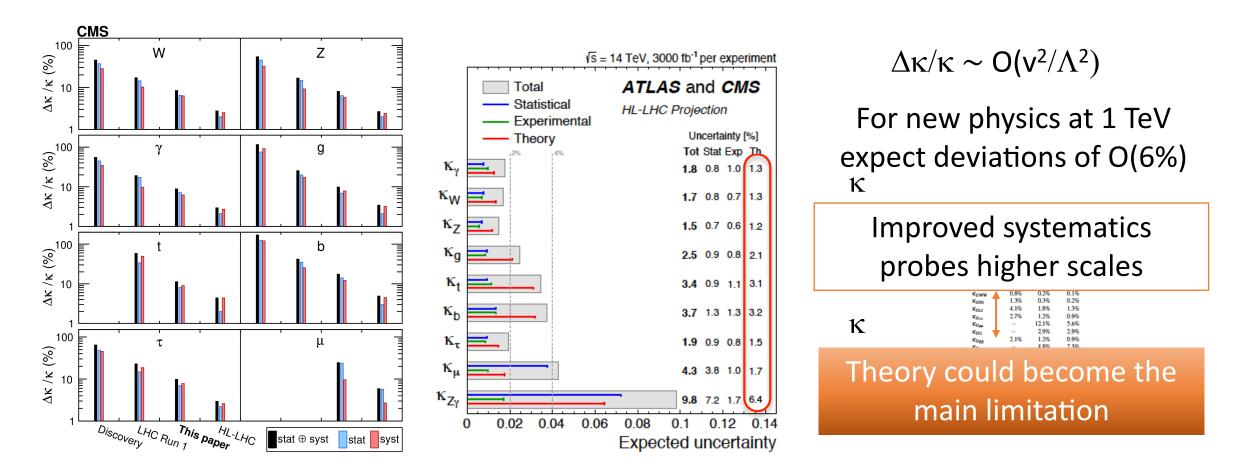


CMS, arXiv:2207.00043

- Couplings to W/Z at 5-10 %
- Couplings to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation to 10-20%
- First measurements of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation couplings
- > HL-LHC projections from partial Run 2 data (YR):
  - 2-5 % on most couplings
  - < 50% on Higgs self-coupling.</p>
- Full Run2 results drastically improve partial Run
   2 results: better projections expected

# Run 2 and beyond

#### per-cent level systematic uncertainties



κ

К

К

К

κ

К

Theory need to improve modeling and interpretation of LHC events, in particular when new physics may not be a simple rescaling of SM interactions

#### Run 2 and beyond Beyond SM coupling rescaling

Framework: Extend SM Lagrangian by effective interactions (SMEFT)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\rm SM}^{\rm eff} = \mathcal{L}_{\rm SM} + \sum_{d>4} \frac{1}{\Lambda^{d-4}} \mathcal{L}_d = \mathcal{L}_{\rm SM} + \frac{1}{\Lambda} \mathcal{L}_5 + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \mathcal{L}_6 + \mathcal{L}_{SM}^{(6)} = \mathcal{L}_{SI}^{(6)} + \mathcal{L}_{SI}^{(6)} + \mathcal{L}_{SI}^{(6)} + \mathcal{L}_{SI}^{(6)} = \mathcal{L}_{SI}^{(6)} + \mathcal{L}_{SI}^{(6)} + \mathcal{L}_{SI}^{(6)} = \mathcal{L}_{SI}^{(6)} + \mathcal$$

Built of SM fields and respecting the SM gauge symmetry.  $\sqrt{s} < \Lambda$ 

**Expansion in**  $(v, E)/\Lambda$ : affects all SM observables at both low and high energy

SM masses and couplings → rescaling

➤ Shapes of distributions → more visible in tails of distributions

 Rescaling

 SM

 Ilustrative plot

 EFT in the tails

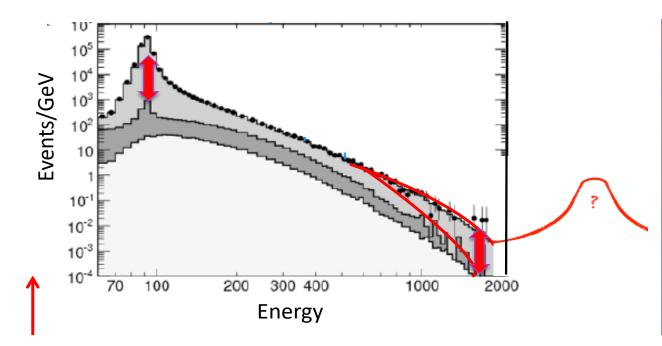
 pr(t,H)

sluthder the assumption that new

physics leaves at scales  $\Lambda < \sqrt{s}$ 

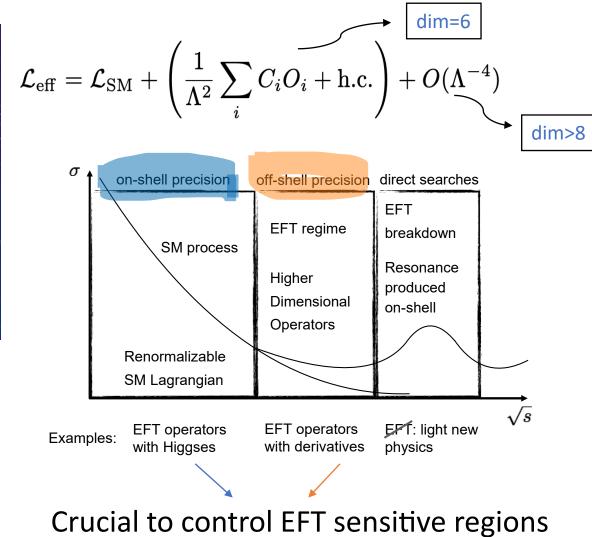
 $\Lambda^2 > s |c_i| / \delta$ 

#### **Beyond total rates**



Need SM precision calculations at differential level both at **lower energy**, where rates are large and at **higher energy** where rates are small but effects of new physics may be more visible.

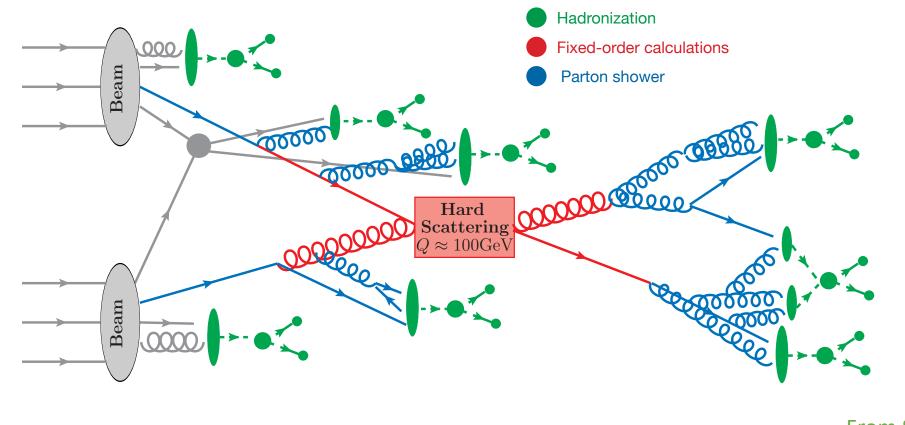
Extending the SM via effective interactions above the EW scale  $\longrightarrow$  **SMEFT** 



# Enabling the LHC Higgs precision program Theory for percent-level phenomenology

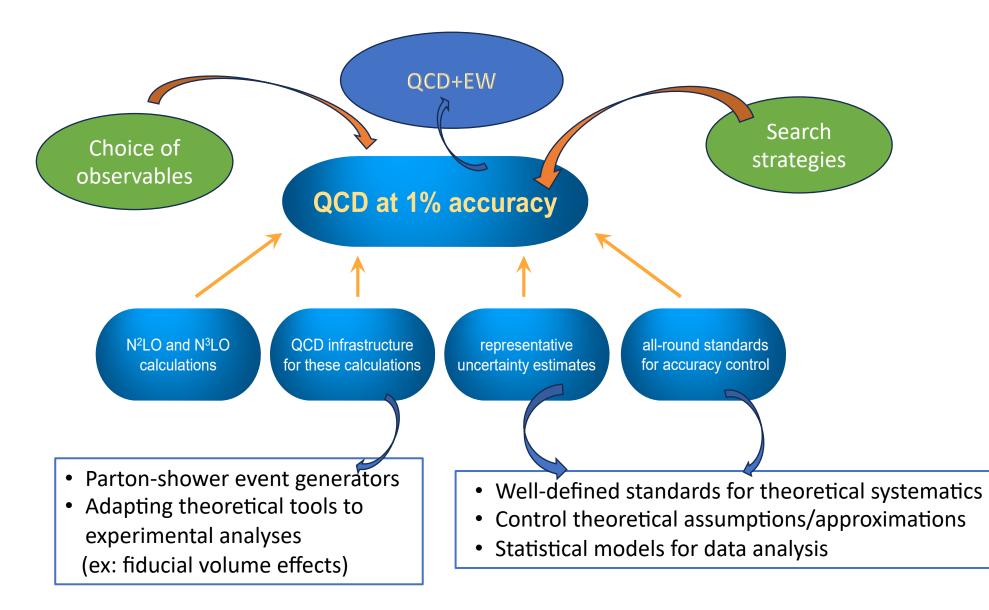
Understand and reduce theoretical uncertainties: a multi-pronged challenge

#### Dissecting the challenge



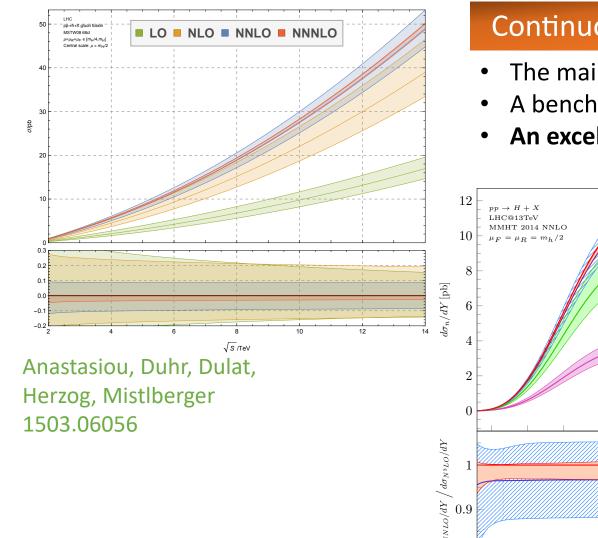
 $d\sigma = \sum_{ij} \int dx_1 \, dx_2 \, f_{p,i}(x_1) f_{p,j}(x_2) \widehat{d\sigma}(x_1 x_2 s) + O((\Lambda_{QCD}/Q)^p)$ RADCOR 2023
Parton Distribution
Functions (PDF)
Radia Constraints
From S. Ferrario Ravasio,
RADCOR 2023

#### Multiple components to percent accuracy



# Examples to illustrate the path towards percent precision

# gg fusion: the need for precision



#### Continuous progress on a crucial process

• The main Higgs production mode, crucial to all measurements

g 00000

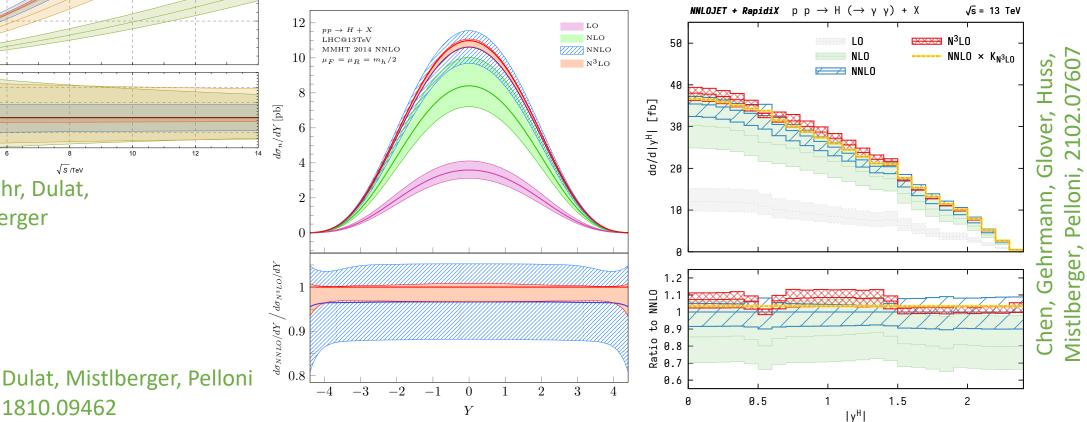
g coooc

t.b

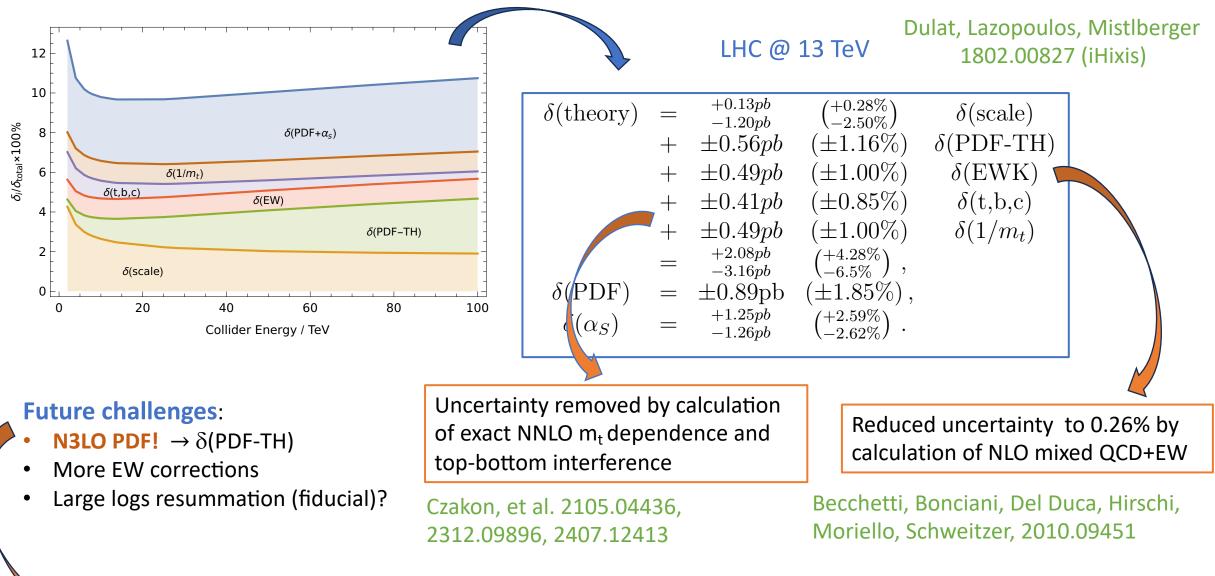
 $\kappa_{\mathrm{t,b}}$ 

- H

- A benchmark test of QCD, and QCD+EW
- An excellent testing ground to probe theoretical accuracy



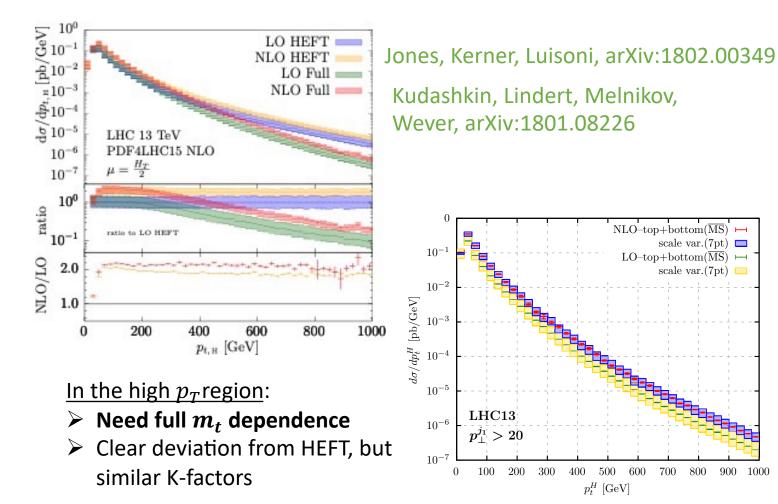
#### ... a clear map of residual uncertainties

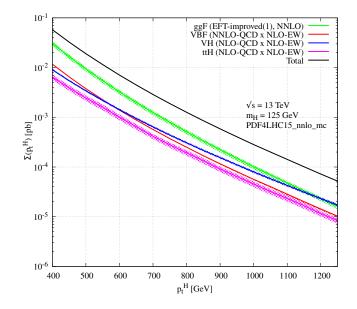


4-loop splitting functions (low moments) – Moch, Ruijl, Ueda, Vermaseren, Vogt, 2111.15561
DY@N3LO QCD – Duhr, Dulat, Mistlberger, 2001.07717, 2007.13313

#### Higgs $p_T$ spectrum (H+j)

Observing the H in different kinematic regimes: high  $p_T$  region particularly interesting for new physics effects





#### Other channel matters at high $p_T$

Becker et al., arXiv:2005.07762



**Exact top+bottom contributions** with on-shell and running masses:

- $\blacktriangleright$  interference and NLO effects cancel at high  $p_T$
- $\blacktriangleright$  non-trivial shape effects at low  $p_T$ .

900

-1000

 $VH(H \rightarrow b\overline{b})$ , access to  $y_b$ 

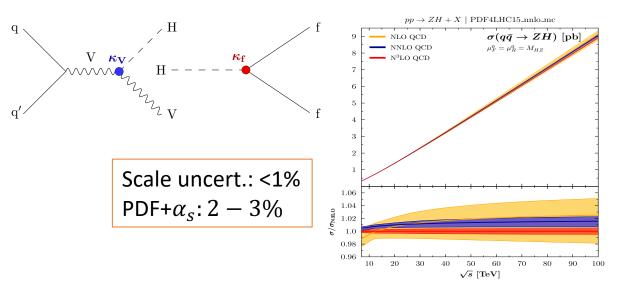
#### Dominant at high $p_T$

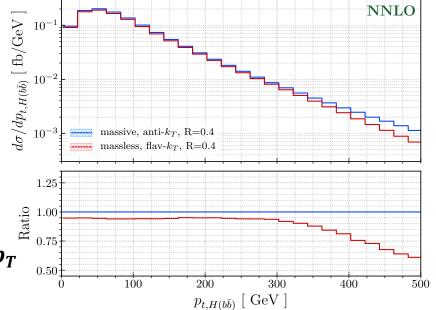
Need to account for mass effects: **both**  $m_t$  and  $m_b$ !

Order	b quarks	$\sigma_{\rm fid}$ [fb]	$\sigma_{\rm fid}({\rm boosted})$ [fb]
LO	massive	$22.623^{+0.845}_{-1.047}$	$3.735\substack{+0.000\\-0.016}$
	massless	$22.501\substack{+0.796 \\ -1.007}$	$3.638\substack{+0.000\\-0.009}$
NLO	massive	$25.364(1)^{+0.778}_{-0.756}$	$4.586(1)_{-0.141}^{+0.158}$
	massless	$24.421(1)_{-0.879}^{+0.852}$	$4.333(1)\substack{+0.165\\-0.154}$
NNLO	massive	$24.225(4)^{+0.642}_{-0.742}$	$4.530(2)^{+0.071}_{-0.096}$
	massless	$22.781(3)^{+0.791}_{-0.898}$	$4.207(1)_{-0.116}^{+0.097}$

O(6%)  $m_b$  effect on total rates, up to O(25%) on high-  $p_T$  tail of distributions, once fiducial cuts applied (2 b jets)

Due to  $H \rightarrow b\overline{b}g$  radiative decays (**different collinear patterns**) when combined with clustering algorithm.



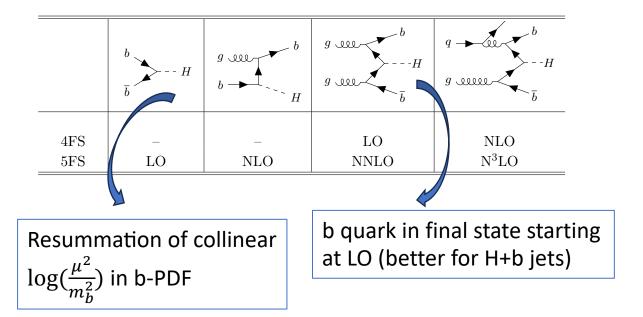


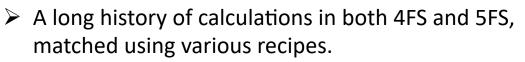
Baglio, Duhr, Mistlberger, Szafron, arXiv:2209.06138

Behring, Bizoń, Caola, Melnikov. Röntsch. arXiv:2003.08321

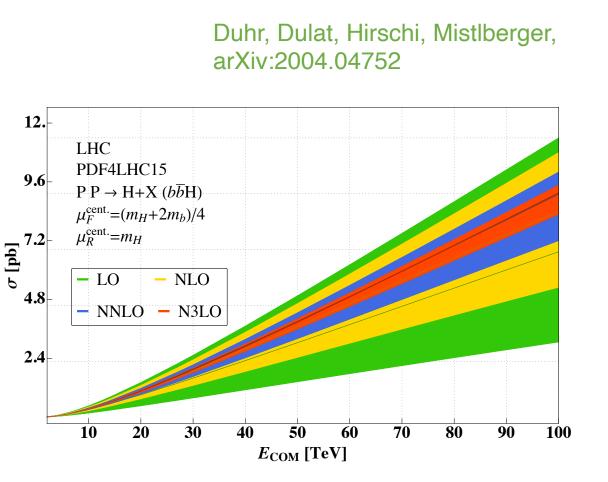
# H + b jets at N3LO, measuring $y_b$

Higgs couplings to b quark modified in many BSM models (also background to  $pp \rightarrow HH \rightarrow Hb\overline{b}$ )





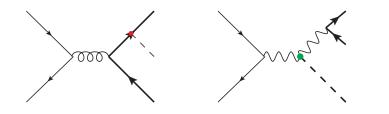
> At N3LO possible consistent matching through third order in  $\alpha_s$ . Theoretical prediction well understood.

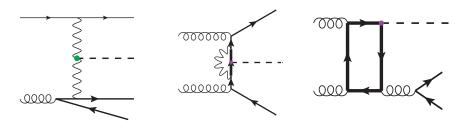


#### ... deploying new techniques to interpret complex signatures

The case of **bbH production including QCD+EW corrections** The extraction of y<sub>b</sub> seems lost

ratios	$\frac{\sigma(y_b^2)}{\sigma(y_b^2) + \sigma(\kappa_Z^2)} \equiv \frac{\sigma_{\rm NLO_{QCD+EW}}}{\sigma_{\rm NLO_{all}}}$	$\left  egin{array}{c} \sigma(y_b^2) \ \overline{\sigma(y_b^2) {+} \sigma(y_t^2) {+} \sigma(y_by_t)} \end{array}  ight $	$\left  \begin{array}{c} \sigma(y_b^2) \\ \overline{\sigma(y_b^2) {+} \sigma(y_t^2) {+} \sigma(y_b y_t) {+} \sigma(\kappa_Z^2)} \end{array} \right $
	$(y_b \text{ vs. } \kappa_Z)$	$(y_b \text{ vs. } y_t)$	$(y_b \text{ vs. } \kappa_Z \text{ and } y_t)$
NO CUT	0.69	0.32	0.28
$N_{j_b} \ge 1$	0.37 (0.48)	0.19	0.14
$N_{j_b} = 1$	$0.46\ (0.60)$	0.20	0.16
$N_{j_b} \ge 2$	0.11	0.11	0.06

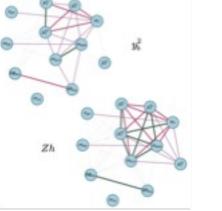


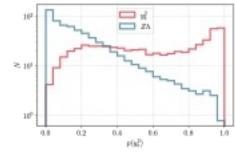


A kinematic-shape based analysis based on game theory (Shapley values) and BDT techniques opened new possibilities "Resurrecting Hbb with kinematic shapes"

[Grojean et al., arXiv:2011.13945]

New techniques will open the possibility of turning problematic processes into powerful probes of the quantum structure of the SM



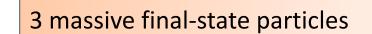


#### $t\bar{t}H$ (and $t\bar{t}W$ ) at NNLO: measuring $y_t$

First NNLO results for multi-scale processes:  $t\bar{t}H$ ,  $t\bar{t}W$ 

Buonocore, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, Rotoli, Savoini, 2306.16311

Catani, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, Savoini , 2210.07846



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 $^{\mathrm{t,b}}$ 

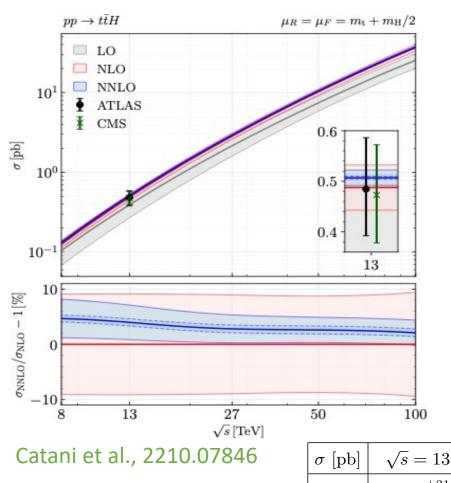
 $\kappa_{\rm t,b}$ 

Major bottle neck: 2-loop 5-point amplitudes Evaluated in  $t\bar{t}W$ ,  $t\bar{t}H$  calculation by soft-W/H approximation

Very recently first results for exact 2-loop amplitudes

Febres Cordero, Figueiredo, Krauss, Page, Reina, 2312.08131 Buccioni, Kreer, Liu, Tancredi, 2312.10015 Agarwal, Heinrich, Jones, Kerner, Klein, 2402.03301

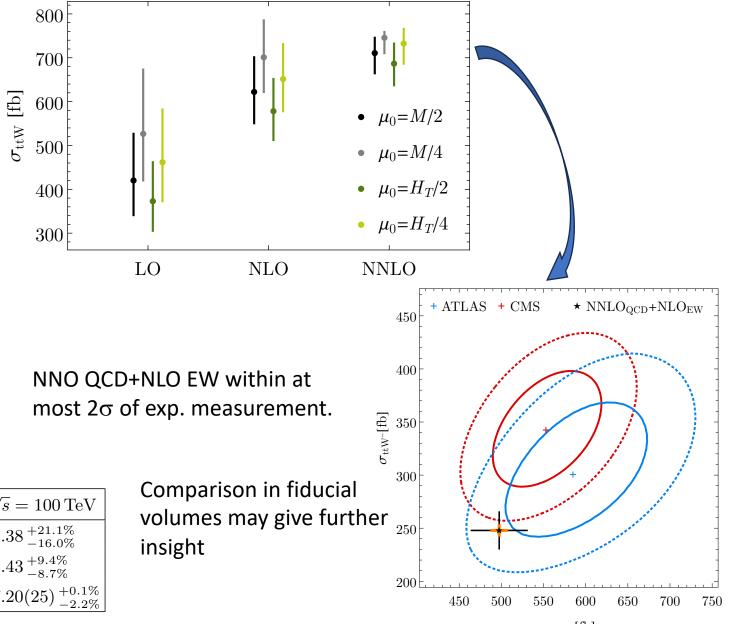
# $t\bar{t}H$ and $t\bar{t}W$ at NNLO



Theoretical uncertainty reduced to 3% level (not counting approx. 2-loop)

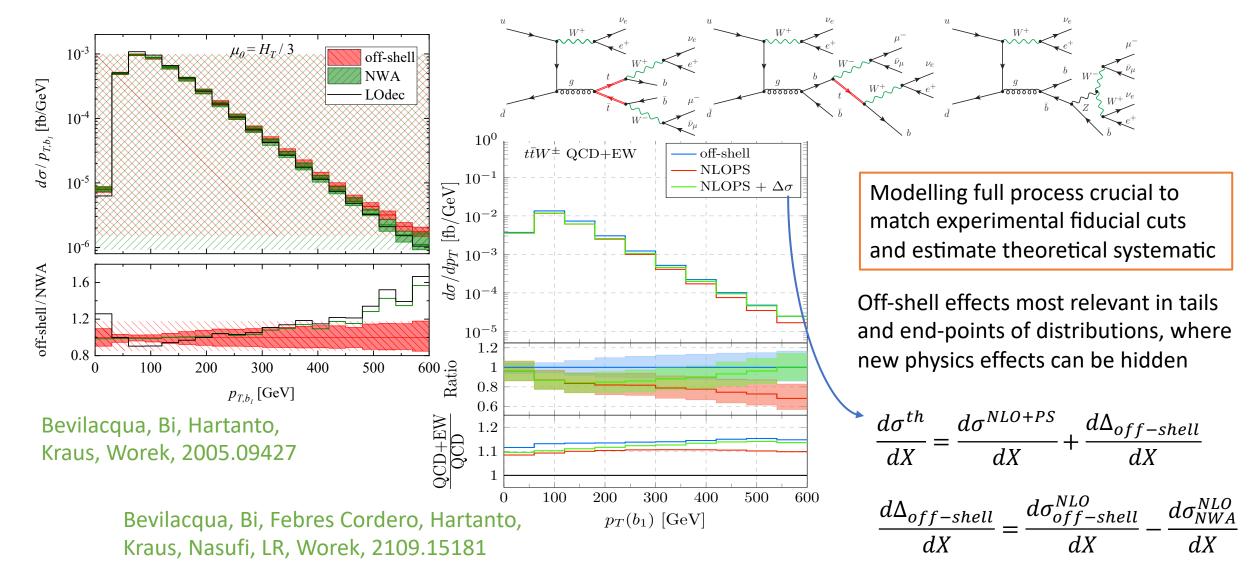
$\sigma$ [pb]	$\sqrt{s} = 13 \mathrm{TeV}$	$\sqrt{s} = 100 \mathrm{TeV}$
$\sigma_{\rm LO}$	$0.3910^{+31.3\%}_{-22.2\%}$	$25.38^{+21.1\%}_{-16.0\%}$
$\sigma_{ m NLO}$	$0.4875^{+5.6\%}_{-9.1\%}$	$36.43^{+9.4\%}_{-8.7\%}$
$\sigma_{\rm NNLO}$	$0.5070  (31)^{+0.9\%}_{-3.0\%}$	$\left  37.20(25) ^{+0.1\%}_{-2.2\%} \right $

Buonocore et al., 2306.16311

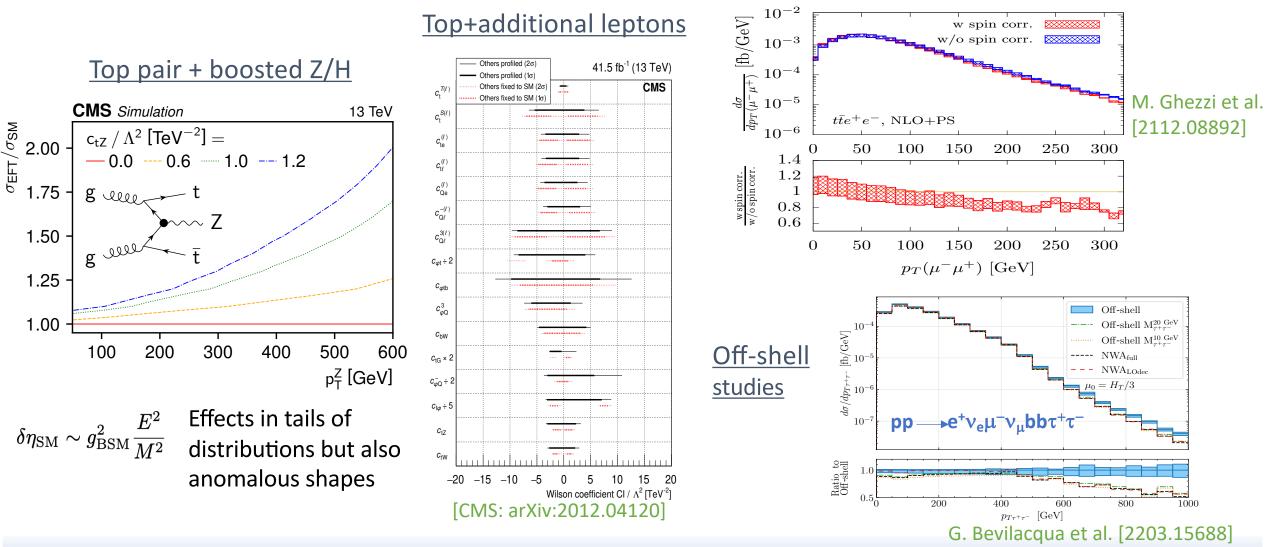


# *ttX*@NLO: push the multiplicity challenge

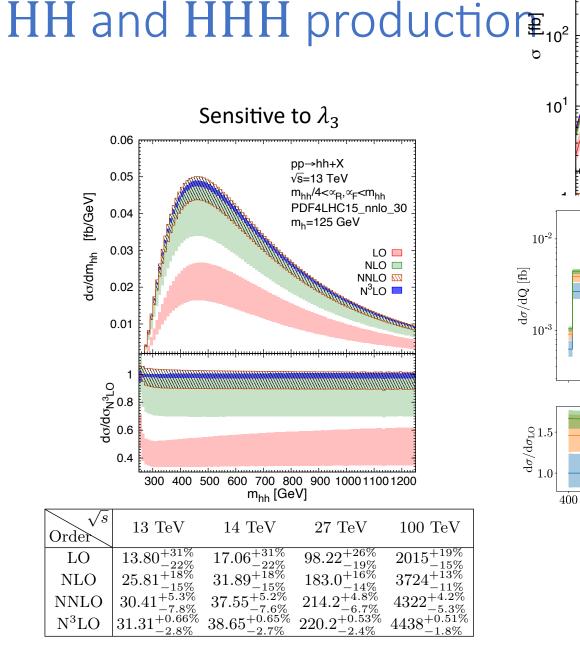
#### **Beyond on-shell production to match fiducial measurements**

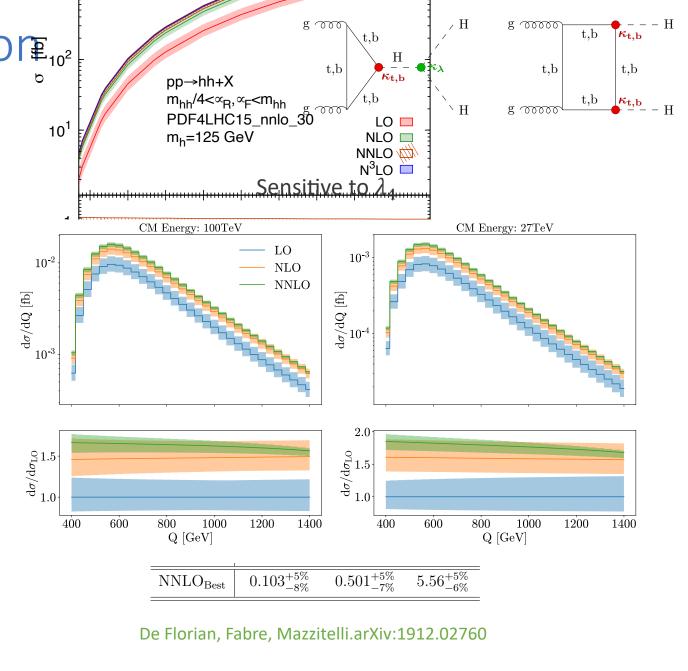


#### ... exploring boosted kinematics and off-shell signatures



Pointing to the need for precision in modelling signatures from tT+X processes in regions where on-shell calculations may not be accurate enough

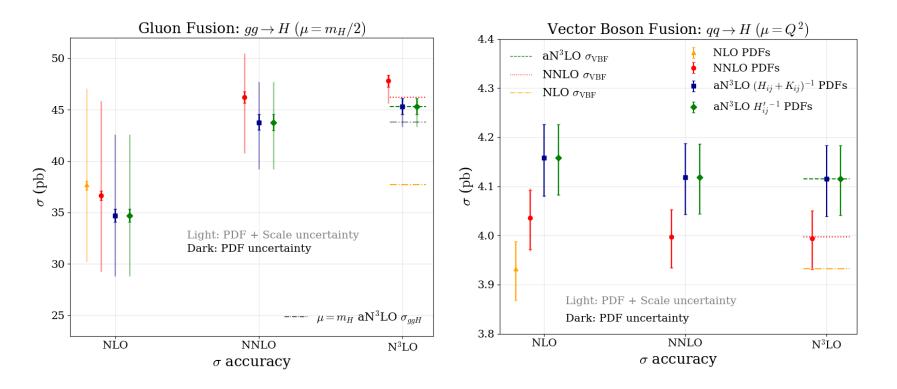




#### Chen, Li, Shao, Wang, arXiv:1909.06808

# Beyond specific processes

#### PDF – first approximate N<sup>3</sup>LO sets

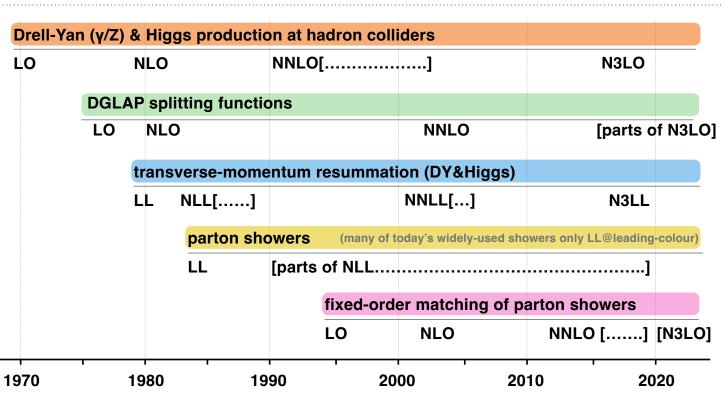


 $aN^{3}LO \rightarrow MSHT20aN^{3}LO$ 

McGowan, Cridge, Harland-Lang, Thorne, 2207.04739

- Based on N<sup>3</sup>LO approximation to structure functions and DGLAP evolution
- Making use of all available knowledge to constrain PDF parametrization, including both exact, resummed, and approximate estimates of N<sup>3</sup>LO results
- Including PDF uncertainty from missing higher-orders (MHOU) as theoretical uncertainty in the fit
- Gluon fusion to H: the increase in the cross section prediction at N<sup>3</sup>LO is compensated by the N<sup>3</sup>LO PDF, suggesting a cancellation between terms in the PDF and cross section theory at N<sup>3</sup>LO → matching orders matters!
- Vector Boson Fusion: no relevant change in going from N<sup>2</sup>LO to N<sup>3</sup>LO PDF, due to different partonic channel involved.

#### Parton-shower event generators



#### It's time for better Parton Showers!

Slide from G. Salam

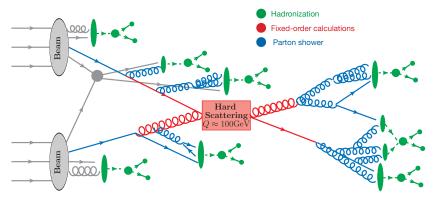
Crucial ingredient to reproduce the complexity of collider events

Often unknown or with poor formal accuracy (built in approx., tunings, etc.)

# From S. Ferrario Ravasio, RADCOR 2023

- $\succ$  Standard PS are Leading Logarithmic (LL)  $\rightarrow$  becoming a limitation
- Several groups aiming for NLL hadron-collider PS

Nagy&Soper, PanScales, Holguin- Forshaw-Platzer, Herren-Höche-Krauss- Reichelt



#### More challenges: non-perturbative effects $O((\Lambda_{OCD}/Q)^p)$

Estimate of "p" for all relevant processes crucial to LHC precision program

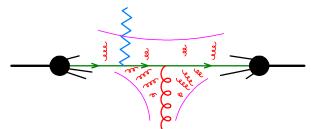
A few tens GeV < Q < a few hundreds GeV  $\rightarrow (\Lambda_{QCD}/Q)^p \sim (0.01)^p - (0.001)^p$ 

Perturbative predictions at percent level will have to be supplemented with nonperturbative effects if p = 1 for a particular process or observable.

No general theory. Direct calculations have shown that there are no linear non-pert power corrections in:

Z transverse-momentum distributions

Ferrario Ravasio, Limatola, Nason, 2011.14114



Observables that are inclusive with respect to QCD radiation

Caola, Ferrario Ravasio, Limatola, Melnikov, Nason, 2108.08897, same+Ozcelik 2204.02247

# Summary

- The Higgs discovery has been fundamental in opening new avenues to explore physics beyond the SM and the Higgs-physics program ahead of us promises to start answering some of the remaining fundamental questions in particle physics.
- Collider physics remains as a unique and necessary test of BSM scenarios, both via direct and indirect evidence of new physics effects.
- Both direct and indirect searches for new physics effects will rely on the **percent level precision** of the HL-LHC and of the necessary theoretical predictions.
- Matching the precision expected by the HL-LHC (and future Higgs factories) is a remarkable challenge that brings theoretical prediction to a multi-component new level of accuracy.