

# *Reaching NNLOPS accuracy with POWHEG and MiNLO*

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\*based mainly on [1206.3572, 1212.4504, 1309.0017]

## Outline: “explain the acronyms in the title”

- POWHEG in a nutshell

- MiNLO: Multiscale Improved NLO

[1206.3572]

- NLOPS merging of  $X$  @ NLO and  $X + 1j$  @ NLO

[1212.4504]

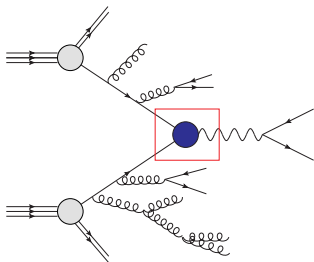
- NNLOPS simulation of Higgs production

[1309.0017]

- **NLO is important**: first order where **rates are reliable**, and possible to attach **sensible theoretical uncertainties**
- In some phase-space regions, **NLO accuracy is not enough**:  
↪ need to **resum to all orders** the dominant terms
- A **parton shower** is an algorithm to resum (some classes of) collinear/soft logs in a “fully-exclusive” way

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$$d\sigma_{\text{SMC}} = B(\Phi_n) d\Phi_n \left[ \Delta(t_{\text{max}}, t_0) + \Delta(t_{\text{max}}, t) \underbrace{\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \frac{1}{t} P(z) d\Phi_r}_{\text{coll. approximation}} \right]$$



$$\Delta(t_{\text{max}}, t) = \exp \left\{ - \int_t^{t_{\text{max}}} d\Phi'_r \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \frac{1}{t'} P(z') \right\}$$

This is LOPS

Idea: *Modify  $d\sigma_{\text{SMC}}$  in such a way that, expanding in  $\alpha_s$ , one recovers the NLO cross section.*

$$B(\Phi_n) \Rightarrow \bar{B}(\Phi_n) = B(\Phi_n) + \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \left[ V(\Phi_n) + \int R(\Phi_{n+1}) d\Phi_r \right]$$

$$\Delta(t_m, t) \Rightarrow \Delta(\Phi_n; k_T) = \exp \left\{ -\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \int \frac{R(\Phi_n, \Phi'_r)}{B(\Phi_n)} \theta(k'_T - k_T) d\Phi'_r \right\}$$

POWHEG “master formula” for the **hardest emission**:

$$d\sigma_{\text{POW}} = d\Phi_n \bar{B}(\Phi_n) \left\{ \Delta(\Phi_n; k_T^{\min}) + \Delta(\Phi_n; k_T) \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \frac{R(\Phi_n, \Phi_r)}{B(\Phi_n)} d\Phi_r \right\}$$

+  *$p_T$ -vetoing subsequent emissions*, to avoid double-counting.

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- inclusive observables: @NLO
- first hard emission: full tree level ME
- (N)LL resummation of collinear/soft logs

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☞ Notice: when doing  $X + \text{jet}(s)$  @ NLO,  $\bar{B}(\Phi_n)$  is **not finite** !

↪ need of a **generation cut** on  $\Phi_n$  (or variants thereof)

↪ POWHEG for  $H + 1$  jet **cannot be used** for inclusive Higgs production

## MiNLO: Multiscale Improved NLO

- goal: method to a-priori choose scales in NLO computation
- relevant for processes with widely different scales (*e.g.*  $X$ + jets close to Sudakov regions)

How?

- At LO, the CKKW procedure allows to **take these effects into account**: modify the LO weight  $B(\Phi_n)$  in order to include (N)LL effects.

⇒ “Use CKKW” on top of NLO computation that potentially involves many scales

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Next-to-Leading Order accuracy needs to be preserved



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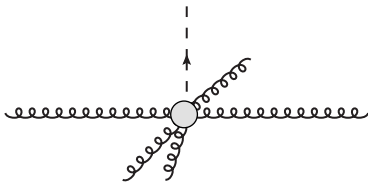
- 1 Scale dependence shows up at NNLO [“scale compensation”]:

$$O(\mu') - O(\mu) = \mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{n+2}) \quad \text{if} \quad O \sim \alpha_S^n \quad \text{at LO}$$

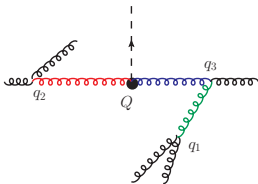
- 2 Away from soft-collinear regions, **exact NLO recovered**:

$$O_{\text{MiNLO}} = O_{\text{NLO}} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{n+2}) \quad [i.e. \alpha_S^n \ \& \ \alpha_S^{n+1} \ \text{as in NLO}]$$

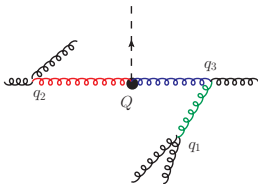
- Find “most-likely” shower history (via  $k_T$ -algo):  $Q > q_3 > q_2 > q_1 \equiv Q_0$



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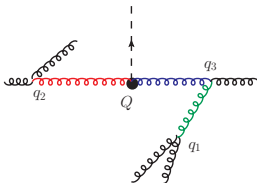


- Evaluate  $\alpha_S$  at nodal scales

$$\alpha_S^n(\mu_R) B(\Phi_n) \Rightarrow \alpha_S(q_1) \alpha_S(q_2) \dots \alpha_S(q_n) B(\Phi_n)$$

\* scale compensation requires  $\bar{\mu}_R^2 = (q_1 q_2 \dots q_n)^{2/n}$  in  $V$

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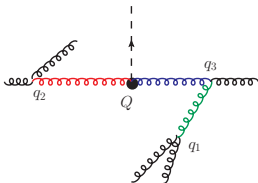
- Sudakov FFs in internal and external lines of Born “skeleton”

$$B(\Phi_n) \Rightarrow B(\Phi_n) \times \{\Delta(Q_0, Q) \Delta(Q_0, q_i) \dots\}$$

\* Upon expansion,  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{n+1})$  (log) terms are introduced, and need to be removed

$$B(\Phi_n) \Rightarrow B(\Phi_n) \left( 1 - \Delta^{(1)}(Q_0, Q) - \Delta^{(1)}(Q_0, q_i) + \dots \right)$$

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$X + \text{jets}$  cross-section finite **without generation cuts**

$\hookrightarrow \bar{B}$  with MINLO prescription: ideal starting point for NLOPS (POWHEG) for  $X + \text{jets}$

Example, in 1 line:  $H + 1 \text{ jet}$

- Pure NLO:

$$d\sigma = \bar{B} d\Phi_n = \alpha_S^3(\mu_R) \left[ B + \alpha_S V(\mu_R) + \alpha_S \int d\Phi_{\text{rad}} R \right] d\Phi_n$$

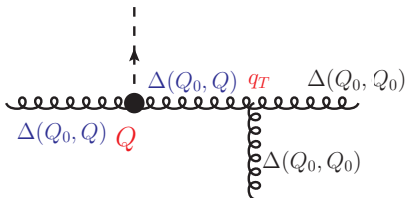
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- MiNLO:

$$\bar{B} = \alpha_S^2(M_H) \alpha_S(q_T) \Delta_g^2(q_T, M_H) \left[ B \left( 1 - 2\Delta_g^{(1)}(q_T, M_H) \right) + \alpha_S V(\bar{\mu}_R) + \alpha_S \int d\Phi_{\text{rad}} R \right]$$



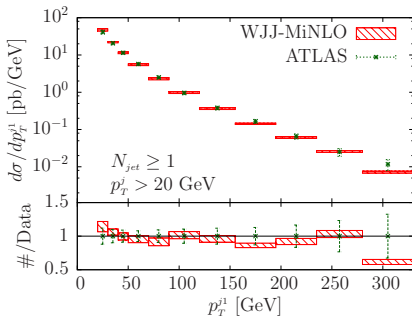
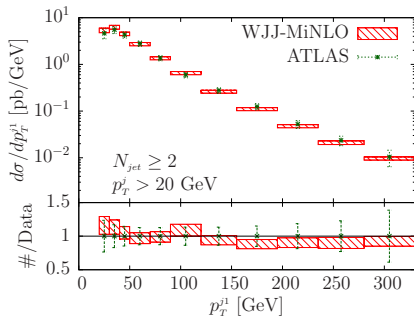
$$* \bar{\mu}_R = (M_H^2 q_T)^{1/3}$$

$$* \log \Delta_f(q_T, Q) = - \int_{q_T^2}^{Q^2} \frac{dq^2}{q^2} \frac{\alpha_S(q^2)}{2\pi} \left[ A_f \log \frac{Q^2}{q^2} + B_f \right]$$

$$* \Delta_f^{(1)}(q_T, Q) = - \frac{\alpha_S}{2\pi} \left[ \frac{1}{2} A_{1,f} \log^2 \frac{Q^2}{q_T^2} + B_{1,f} \log \frac{Q^2}{q_T^2} \right]$$

$$* \mu_F = Q_0 (= q_T)$$





☞ Start from  $W + 2$  jets @ NLO, good agreement with data also when requiring  $N_{jet} \geq 1$  !

- Accuracy of  $B_{J+MiNLO}$  for inclusive observables carefully investigated
- $B_{J+MiNLO}$  describes inclusive boson observables at relative order  $\alpha_S$  wrt  $B + 0j$  at LO
- However, to reach genuine NLO, higher terms must be order  $\alpha_S^2$ , *i.e.*

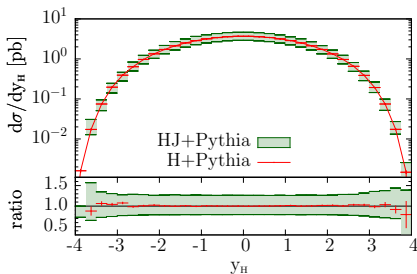
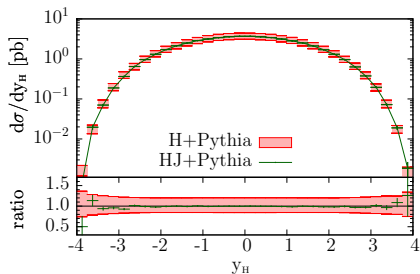
$$O_{VJ+MiNLO} = O_{V@NLO} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^2)$$

if  $O$  is inclusive. “Original MiNLO” contains **ambiguous  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{3/2})$  terms**

- Possible to improve  $B_{J+MiNLO}$  such that NLO  $B + 0j$  is recovered, without spoiling NLO accuracy for  $B + 1j$ .
  - proof based on careful comparisons of general resummation formula with MiNLO ingredients
  - need to include  $B_2$  in Sudakovs
  - need to evaluate  $\alpha_S^{(NLO)}$  in  $B_{J+MiNLO}$  at scale  $q_T$ , and  $\mu_F = q_T$

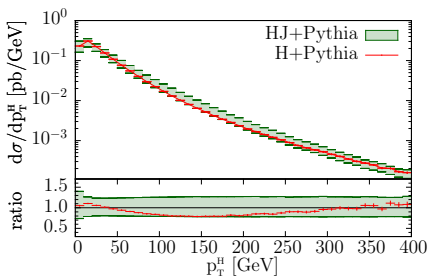
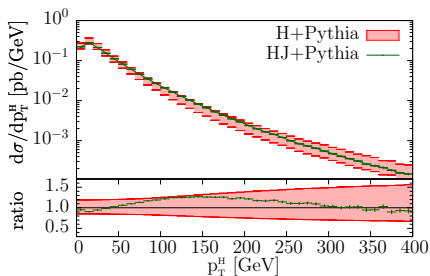
Effectively it is like if we merged  $NLO^{(0)}$  and  $NLO^{(1)}$  samples, **without merging** different samples (no merging scale used).

Other NLOPS-merging approaches: [Hoeche,Krauss, et al.,1207.5030] [Frederix,Frixione,1209.6215]  
[Lonnblad,Prestel,1211.7278 - Platzer,1211.5467] [Alioli,Bauer, et al.,1211.7049]



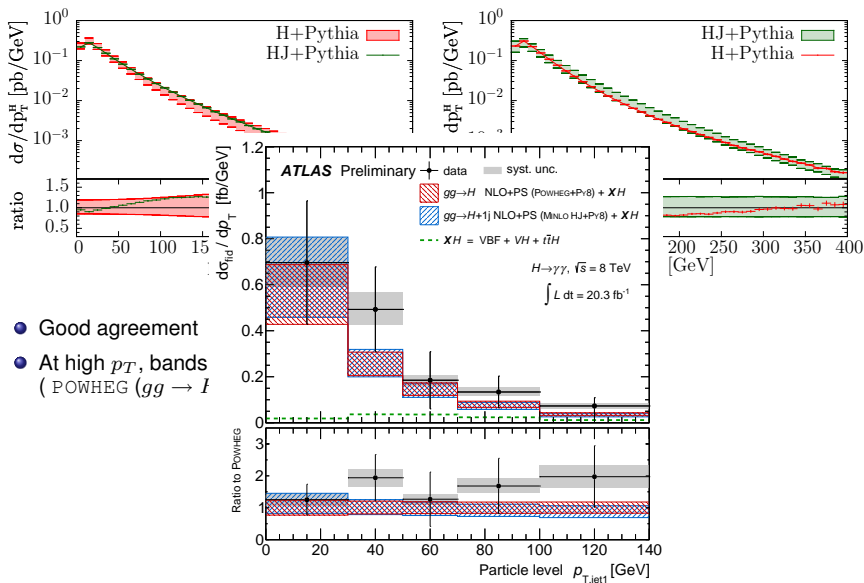
- “H+Pythia”: standalone POWHEG ( $gg \rightarrow H$ ) + PYTHIA (PS level) [7pts band,  $\mu = m_H$ ]
- “HJ+Pythia”: HJ-MiNLO\* + PYTHIA (PS level) [7pts band,  $\mu$  from MiNLO]
- ✓ very good agreement (both value and band)

👉 Notice: band is  $\sim 20 - 30\%$



- Good agreement
- At high  $p_T$ , bands as expected (LO vs NLO)  
 ( POWHEG ( $gg \rightarrow H$ ) with  $hfact = m_H/1.2$ , YR2 )

# MinLO merging: results 2



- Good agreement
- At high  $p_T$ , bands ( $gg \rightarrow H$ )

- HJ-MiNLO\* differential cross section  $(d\sigma/dy)_{\text{HJ-MiNLO}}$  is NLO accurate

$$W(y) = \frac{\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dy}\right)_{\text{NNLO}}}{\left(\frac{d\sigma}{dy}\right)_{\text{HJ-MiNLO}}} = \frac{c_2\alpha_S^2 + c_3\alpha_S^3 + c_4\alpha_S^4}{c_2\alpha_S^2 + c_3\alpha_S^3 + d_4\alpha_S^4} \simeq 1 + \frac{c_4 - d_4}{c_2}\alpha_S^2 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^3)$$

- thus, reweighting each event with this factor, we get NNLO+PS
  - \* obvious for  $y_H$ , by construction
  - \*  $\alpha_S^4$  accuracy of HJ-MiNLO\* in 1-jet region not spoiled, because  $W(y) = 1 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^2)$
  - \* if we had  $\text{NLO}^{(0)} + \alpha_S^{3/2}$ , 1-jet region spoiled because

$$[\text{NLO}^{(1)}]_{\text{NNLOPS}} = \text{NLO}^{(1)} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{4.5})$$


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\* Variants for  $W$  are possible: with

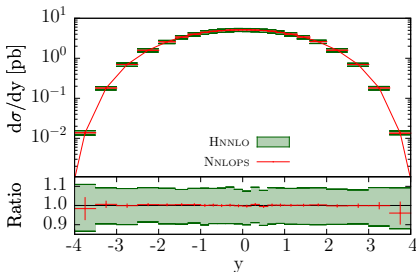
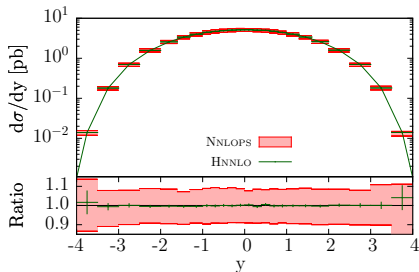
$$W(y, p_T) = h(p_T) \frac{\int d\sigma^{\text{NNLO}} \delta(y - y(\Phi)) - \int d\sigma_B^{\text{MiNLO}} \delta(y - y(\Phi))}{\int d\sigma_A^{\text{MiNLO}} \delta(y - y(\Phi))} + (1 - h(p_T))$$

$$d\sigma_A = d\sigma h(p_T), \quad d\sigma_B = d\sigma (1 - h(p_T)), \quad h = \frac{(\beta m_H)^2}{(\beta m_H)^2 + p_T^2}$$

we get exactly  $(d\sigma/dy)_{\text{NNLOPS}} = (d\sigma/dy)_{\text{NNLO}}$  (no  $\alpha_S^5$  terms)

\*  $h$  essentially controls where the NNLO/NLO K-factor is spread.

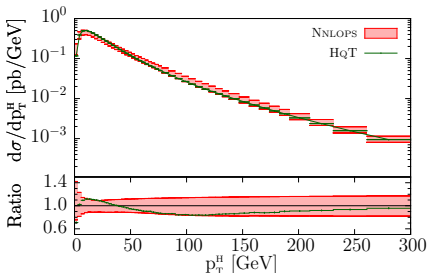
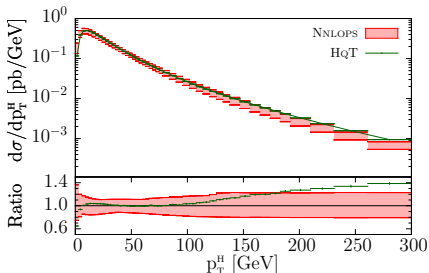
- NNLO with  $\mu = m_H/2$ , HJ-MiNLO “core scale”  $m_H$  [NNLO from HNNLO, Catani, Grazzini]
- events reweighted at the LH level, then showered with PYTHIA (PS level)
- $(7 \times 3)$  pts scale var. in NNLOPS, 7pts in NNLO



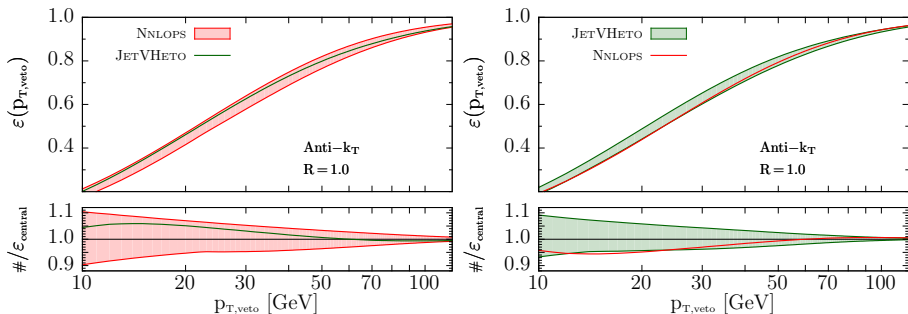
👉 Notice: band is 10%

[Until and including  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^4)$ , PS effects don't affect  $y_H$  (first 2 emissions controlled properly at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^4)$  by MiNLO+POWHEG)]



$\beta = \infty$  (W indep. of  $p_T$ )

 $\beta = 1/2$ 


- HqT: NNLL+NNLO,  $\mu_R = \mu_F = m_H/2$  [7pts],  $Q_{\text{res}} \equiv m_H/2$
- $\beta = 1/2$  &  $\infty$ : uncertainty bands of HqT (not shown) contain NNLOPS at low-/moderate  $p_T$
- $\beta = 1/2$ : NNLOPS tail  $\rightarrow$  NLOPS tail [  $W(y, p_T \gg m_H) \rightarrow 1$  ]  
larger band (affected just marginally by NNLO, so it's  $\sim$  genuine NLO band)
- $\beta = 1/2$ : HqT tail harder than NNLOPS tail ( $\mu_{\text{HqT}} < \mu_{\text{MiNLO}}$ )
- $\beta = 1/2$ : very good agreement with HqT resummation



$$\varepsilon(p_{T,\text{veto}}) = \frac{\Sigma(p_{T,\text{veto}})}{\sigma_{\text{tot}}} = \frac{1}{\sigma_{\text{tot}}} \int d\sigma \theta(p_{T,\text{veto}} - p_T^{j1})$$

- JetVHeto: NNLL resum,  $\mu_R = \mu_F = m_H/2$  [7pts],  $Q_{\text{res}} \equiv m_H/2$ , (a)-scheme only
- nice agreement, differences never more than 5-6 %

☞ Separation of  $H \rightarrow WW$  from  $t\bar{t}$  bkg: x-sec binned in  $N_{\text{jet}}$   
 0-jet bin  $\Leftrightarrow$  jet-veto accurate predictions needed !

## 1 MiNLO:

- assign scales and Sudakov FF in  $B + n$  jets NLO computations
- well-behaved in Sudakov regions
- NLO away from Sudakov regions
- ideal as starting point for POWHEG

## 2 Improved MiNLO:

- $B + 1$  jet improved MiNLO allows to merge  $\text{NLO}^{(0)}$  and  $\text{NLO}^{(1)}$  samples, **without merging** (no merging scale used)
- **merging for higher multiplicity requires further study, it'll take some time**

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- **Shown results for Higgs production**

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- **Shown results for Higgs production**

*Thanks for your attention!*

## Number of processes still increasing ( $\sim 30$ )

- Drell-Yan with QED/EW and QCD effects available

## Automation:

- **Interface to MadGraph 4** [Frederix]: automatically builds subprocesses list,  $B$ ,  $B_{ij}$ ,  $B^{\mu\nu}$ ,  $R$  and large- $N$  Born color structures.
  - Used to build the code for  $Hj$  and  $Hjj$  [Campbell, Ellis, Frederix, Nason, Oleari], with virtuals from MCFM.
- **interface to GoSam** [Luisoni, Nason, Oleari, Tramontano]: automatically write the code for 1-loop amplitudes, and interface it via BLHA - Used to study  $VH$  and  $VHj$

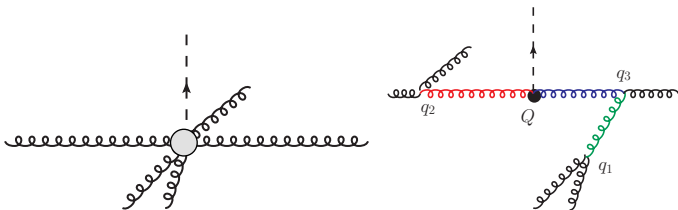
## PDF and scale uncertainties:

- Generate MC samples for different scale choices, and, even more, for different PDFs, is very time consuming
- Primitive reweighting facility now superseded by new mechanism [Hamilton,Nason,ER]

V2 ready and under testing; MiNLO will also be the default for  $X$ +jets processes.

## Backup (1)

- Start from ME weight:  $B(\Phi_n)$
- Find “most-likely” shower history (via  $k_T$ -algo):  $Q > q_3 > q_2 > q_1 \equiv Q_0$



- New weight:

$$\alpha_S^5(Q)B(\Phi_3) \rightarrow \alpha_S^2(Q)B(\Phi_3) \frac{\Delta_g(Q_0, Q)}{\Delta_g(Q_0, q_2)} \frac{\Delta_g(Q_0, Q)}{\Delta_g(Q_0, q_3)} \frac{\Delta_g(Q_0, q_3)}{\Delta_g(Q_0, q_1)}$$
$$\Delta_g(Q_0, q_2)\Delta_g(Q_0, q_2)\Delta_g(Q_0, q_3)\Delta_g(Q_0, q_1)\Delta_g(Q_0, q_1)$$
$$\alpha_S(q_1)\alpha_S(q_2)\alpha_S(q_3)$$

where typically

$$\log \Delta_f(q_T, Q) = - \int_{q_T^2}^{Q^2} \frac{dq^2}{q^2} \frac{\alpha_S(q^2)}{2\pi} \left[ A_{1,f} \log \frac{Q^2}{q^2} + B_{1,f} \right]$$

- Fill phase space below  $Q_0$  with **vetoed** shower

MiNLO: All  $\alpha_S$  in Born term are chosen with CKKW (local) scales  $q_1, \dots, q_n$

$$\alpha_S^n(\mu_R)B \Rightarrow \alpha_S(q_1)\alpha_S(q_2)\dots\alpha_S(q_n)B$$

- Normal NLO structure ( $\mu = \mu_R$ ):

$$\sigma(\mu) = \underbrace{\alpha_S^n(\mu)B}_{\text{Born}} + \underbrace{\alpha_S^{n+1}(\mu)\left(C + nb_0 \log(\mu^2/Q^2)\right)B}_{\text{Virtual}} + \underbrace{\alpha_S^{n+1}(\mu)R}_{\text{Real}}$$

- Explicit  $\mu$  dependence of virtual term as required by RG invariance:

$$\alpha_S^n(\mu')B = \left[ \alpha_S(\mu) - nb_0\alpha_S^{n+1}(\mu) \log(\mu'^2/\mu^2) \right] B + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{n+2})$$

$$\text{Virtual}(\mu') = \text{Virtual}(\mu) + \alpha_S^{n+1}(\mu)nb_0 \log(\mu'^2/\mu^2) B + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{n+2})$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma(\mu') - \sigma(\mu) = \mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{n+2})$$

- In MiNLO “scale compensation” kept if

$$\left(C + nb_0 \log(\mu_R^2/Q^2)\right)B \Rightarrow \left(C + nb_0 \log(\bar{\mu}_R^2/Q^2)\right)B$$

$$\text{with } \bar{\mu}_R^2 = (q_1 q_2 \dots q_n)^{2/n}$$

Few technicalities for original MiNLO:

- $\mu_F = Q_0$  (as in CKKW)
- Cluster with CKKW also  $V$  and  $R$  kinematics
  - Actual implementation uses FKS mapping for first cluster of  $\Phi_{n+1}$
  - Ignore CKKW Sudakov for  $1^{st}$  clustering of  $\Phi_{n+1}$  (inclusive on extra radiation)
- Some freedom in choice of  $\alpha_S^{(n+1)}$  (entering  $V$ ,  $R$  and  $\Delta^{(1)}$ ) (not free for MiNLO merging)
- Used full NLL-improved Sudakovs ( $A_1, B_1, A_2$ )



- Resummation formula

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dq_T^2 dy} = \sigma_0 \frac{d}{dq_T^2} \left\{ [C_{ga} \otimes f_a](x_A, q_T) \times [C_{gb} \otimes f_b](x_B, q_T) \times \exp S(q_T, Q) \right\} + R_f$$

- NLO<sup>(0)</sup> if  $C_{ij}^{(1)}$  included and  $R_f$  is LO<sup>(1)</sup>
- Take derivative, then compare with MiNLO:

$$\sim \sigma_0 \frac{1}{q_T^2} [\alpha_S, \alpha_S^2, \alpha_S^3, \alpha_S^4, \alpha_S L, \alpha_S^2 L, \alpha_S^3 L, \alpha_S^4 L] \exp S(q_T, Q) \quad L = \log(Q^2/q_T^2)$$

- can be shown that

$$\int^{Q^2} \frac{dq_T^2}{q_T^2} L^m \alpha_S^n(q_T) \exp S \sim (\alpha_S(Q^2))^{n-(m+1)/2}$$

- if I drop  $B_2$  in MiNLO  $\Delta_g$ , I miss a term  $(1/q_T^2)\alpha_S^2 B_2 \exp S$
- upon integration, violate NLO<sup>(0)</sup> by a term  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{3/2})$
- “wrong” scale in  $\alpha_S^{(\text{NLO})}$  in MiNLO produces again same error

Alternative proof also available in the paper.

$p_T^H$  spectrum:

- “ $\mu_{\text{HJ-MiNLO}} = m_H, m_H, p_T$ ”
- At high  $p_T$ ,  $\mu_{\text{HJ-MiNLO}} = p_T$
- If  $\beta = 1/2$ , NNLOPS  $\rightarrow$  HJ-MiNLO at high  $p_T$
- NNLO/NLO  $\sim 1.5$ , because HNNLO with  $\mu = m_H/2$ ,  $\mu_{\text{HJ-MiNLO,core}} = m_H$

