

Matching, Merging & Higher-Order Corrections

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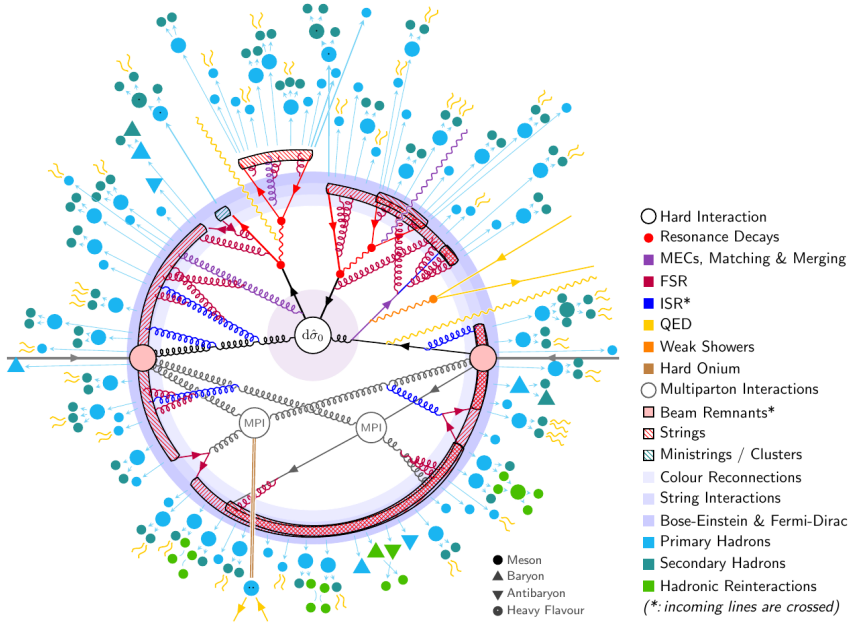
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Suggested reading

- R. K. Ellis, W. J. Stirling, B. R. Webber
QCD and Collider Physics
Cambridge University Press, 2003
- M. E. Peskin, D. V. Schroeder
An Introduction to Quantum Field Theory
Westview Press, 1995
- L. Dixon, F. Petriello (Editors)
Journeys Through the Precision Frontier
Proceedings of TASI 2014, World Scientific, 2015
- Pythia collaboration
A comprehensive guide to the physics and usage of PYTHIA 8.3
SciPost Phys. Codebases 8 (2022)

Additional references provided on the slides.

Matrix Elements vs. Parton Showers

Matrix Elements

Fixed order good for hard jets

- + Contains all terms in given order of α_s
- + Valid also for high relative p_{\perp}^2
- - Only feasible for a few emissions

Parton Showers

Approx. excl. multi-parton cross section

- + Always finite
- + Can produce any number of emissions
- - Is only valid in soft/collinear regions

Combine strengths of Matrix Elements and Parton Showers

Experiments measure both high and low p_{\perp}^2 phenomena

- Describe hard emissions by fixed order predictions
- Add further emissions and include no-emission probabilities from PS

Matching & Merging Overview

Combine Matrix Element calculations and Parton Showers. Improve in different ways:

Matrix Element Corrections Oldest scheme, correct first emission of parton shower according to full process-dependent real emission calculation

Multi-jet Merging Improve radiation pattern of parton shower by adding higher-multiplicity matrix elements

NLO Matching Improve the perturbative precision by one higher order (NLO in α_s) cross section matched to parton showers

NLO Multi-jet Matching/Merging Combine multiple higher-multiplicity and higher-order cross sections in parton shower

Also: NLO splittings in parton showers and comments on shower accuracy

Recap:

Parton Showers

Recap: Parton Showers

Start from hard $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering, dress with extra partons to get exclusive $2 \rightarrow n$ cross section

$$d\sigma_n^{\text{ex}} = F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 d\phi_0 \times \left[\prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\alpha_s(\rho_i)}{2\pi} \frac{F_i}{F_{i-1}} P_i \frac{d\rho_i}{\rho_i} dz \Pi_{i-1}(\rho_{i-1}, \rho_i) \right] \Pi_n(\rho_n, \rho_{\min})$$

- $|M_0|^2 d\phi_0$: Born-level ME and phase space
- $F_i = x_i f_i(x_i, \rho_i)$: PDF's from both sides of i -parton state, \pm for $\pm p_z$ beams
- $P_i dz d\rho_i / \rho_i$: Differential emission rate, correct for soft/collinear splittings
- ρ, z : Splitting variables, ρ jet resolution scale, z energy/momentum fraction
- $\Pi(\rho_{i-1}, \rho_i)$: No-emission probabilities
- ρ_{\min} : Minimal resolution scale / shower cut-off scale

Recap: No-emission Probabilities

$$\Pi_i(\rho_i, \rho_{i+1}) = \exp \left(- \int_{\rho_{i+1}}^{\rho_i} \frac{d\rho}{\rho} \frac{\alpha_s(\rho)}{2\pi} \int_{z_{\min}}^{z_{\max}} dz \frac{F_{i+1}}{F_i} P_i(z) \right)$$

- Probability of not having any emissions harder than ρ_{i+1} when starting shower from ρ_i
- Introduces all order corrections in α_s
- F_{i+1}/F_i only included for ISR
- Exclusive description of final state needs no-emission probabilities

Unitarity of Parton Shower: Fixed Order Expansion

Expand to $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$

Use $\frac{1}{2\pi\rho} \frac{F_{i+1}}{F_i} P_i(z) = \bar{P}_i$ for ISR, $\frac{1}{2\pi\rho} P_i(z) = \bar{P}_i$ for FSR to simplify notation

$$\frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} = F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \left[1 - \alpha_s \int_{\rho_{\min}}^{\rho_0} d\rho dz \bar{P}_1 + \frac{\alpha_s^2}{2} \left(\int_{\rho_{\min}}^{\rho_0} d\rho dz \bar{P}_1 \right)^2 \right]$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} = F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \alpha_s d\rho_1 dz_1 \bar{P}_1 \left[1 - \alpha_s \int_{\rho_1}^{\rho_0} d\rho dz \bar{P}_1 - \alpha_s \int_{\rho_{\min}}^{\rho_1} d\rho dz \bar{P}_2 \right]$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_2}{d\phi_0} = F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \alpha_s^2 d\rho_1 dz_1 \bar{P}_1 d\rho_2 dz_2 \bar{P}_2 \Theta(\rho_1 - \rho_2)$$

\Rightarrow Unitarity in every order of α_s , total cross-section

$$\frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{inc}}}{d\phi_0} = \frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} + \int \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} + \int \int \frac{d\sigma_2}{d\phi_0} = F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2$$

But 1-jet cross section not correct for hard/wide-angle emissions

Matrix Element Corrections

Matrix Element Corrections / Tree-level Matching

Want improved parton shower with full matrix elements for hard emissions

⇒ First step: Use full real-emission matrix element for hardest emission, process-dependent!

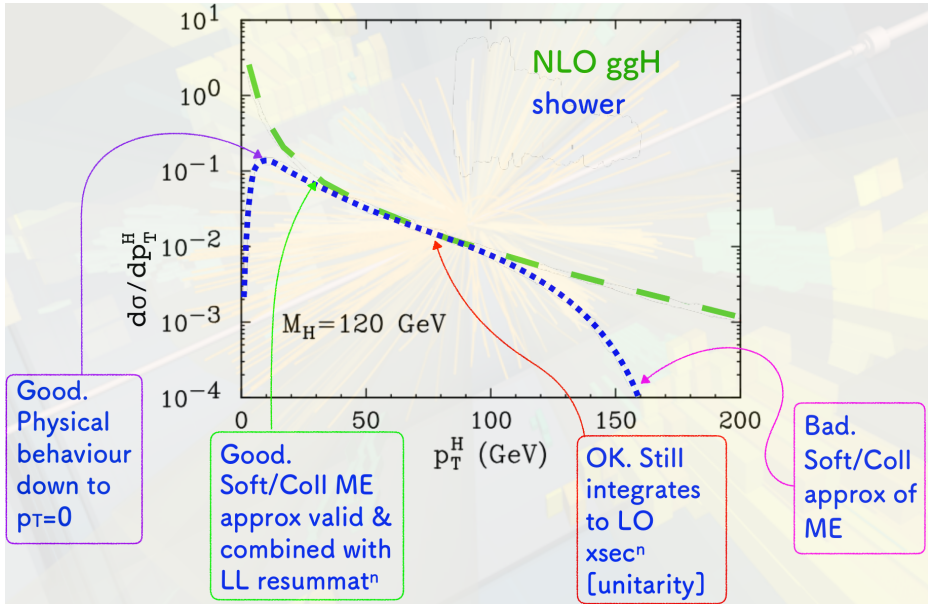
$$\alpha_s \bar{P}_i \rightarrow \alpha_s \bar{P}_i^{\text{ME}} \equiv \frac{|M_i|^2 d\phi_i}{|M_{i-1}|^2 d\phi_{i-1} d\rho dz}$$

- Old, but very good! [Bengtsson, Sjöstrand (1987)]
- + Natural and efficient within PS: Use modified acceptance probability
- - Difficult to generalize beyond one emission
- Vincia & Dire parton showers exponentiate n -parton matrix elements
[Giele, Kosower, Skands (2008)] [Fischer, Prestel (2017)]

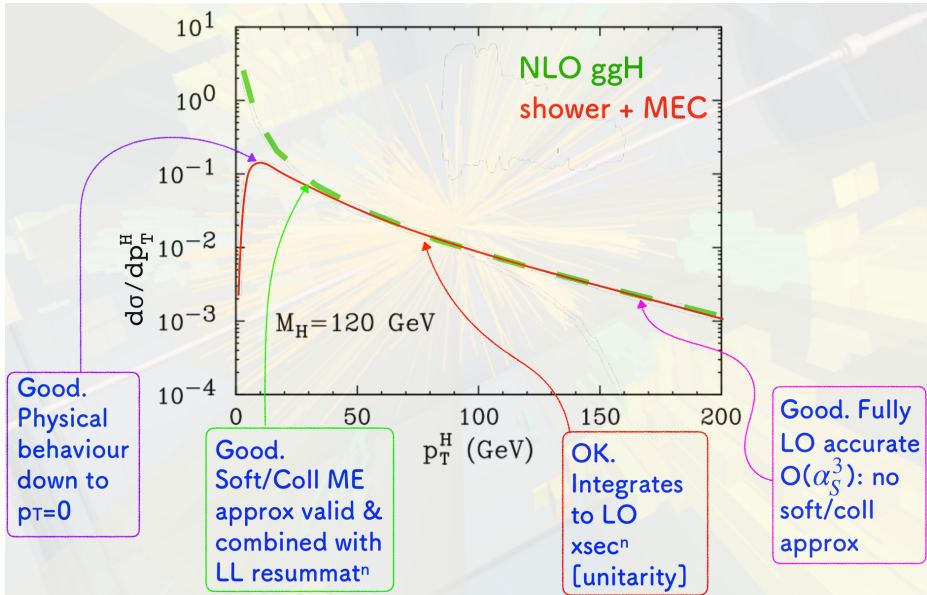
Matrix Element Corrections Preserve PS Unitarity

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} &= F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \left[1 - \alpha_s \int_{\rho_{\min}}^{\rho_0} d\rho dz \bar{P}_1^{\text{ME}} + \frac{\alpha_s^2}{2} \left(\int_{\rho_{\min}}^{\rho_0} d\rho dz \bar{P}_1^{\text{ME}} \right)^2 \right] \\ \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} &= F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \alpha_s d\rho_1 dz_1 \bar{P}_1^{\text{ME}} \left[1 - \alpha_s \int_{\rho_1}^{\rho_0} d\rho dz \bar{P}_1^{\text{ME}} - \alpha_s \int_{\rho_{\min}}^{\rho_1} d\rho dz \bar{P}_2 \right] \\ \frac{d\sigma_2}{d\phi_0} &= F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \alpha_s^2 d\rho_1 dz_1 \bar{P}_1^{\text{ME}} d\rho_2 dz_2 \bar{P}_2 \Theta(\rho_1 - \rho_2)\end{aligned}$$

- Still unitary to all orders in α_s
- Valid in whole shower emission phase space, down to scale ρ_{\min}



borrowed from Keith Hamilton



borrowed from Keith Hamilton

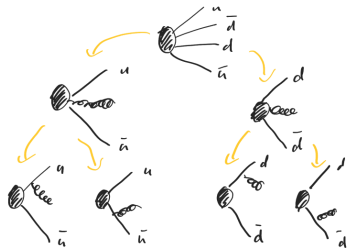
Iterative Matrix Element Corrections [Giele, Kosower, Skands (2008)][Fischer, Prestel (2017)]

- Consider matrix element state $|\mathcal{M}(\Phi_0)|^2$
- Parton-shower produces branching according to $P(\Phi_1/\Phi_0)|\mathcal{M}(\Phi_0)|^2 d\Phi_1$
- Apply MEC factor to correct weight of Φ_1 to full fixed-order matrix element

$$\mathcal{R}(\Phi_1) = \frac{|\mathcal{M}(\Phi_1)|^2}{\sum_{\Phi'_0} P(\Phi_1/\Phi'_0)|\mathcal{M}(\Phi'_0)|^2}$$

- Iterate, taking all possible PS histories into account

$$\mathcal{R}(\Phi_2) = \frac{|\mathcal{M}(\Phi_2)|^2}{\sum_{\Phi'_1} P(\Phi_2/\Phi'_1)\mathcal{R}(\Phi'_1) \sum_{\Phi'_0} P(\Phi'_1/\Phi'_0)|\mathcal{M}(\Phi'_0)|^2}$$



Leading Order Multi-Jet Merging

Multi-jet Merging: The Naive (and Wrong) Way

Want to improve PS emissions for more than hardest emission. Naive approach:

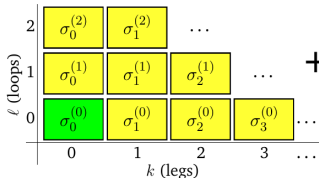
- Generate $[X]_{\text{ME}}$ + parton shower
- Generate $[X + 1\text{jet}]_{\text{ME}}$ + parton shower
- Generate $[X + 2\text{jet}]_{\text{ME}}$ + parton shower
- ...

And combine everything into one sample. Does not work, **double counting!**

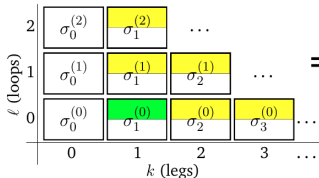
- $[X]_{\text{ME}}$ + parton shower is inclusive
- $[X + 1\text{jet}]_{\text{ME}}$ + parton shower is inclusive
- ...

See also [Skands: Introduction to QCD](#)

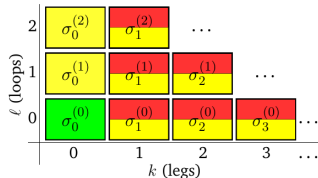
F @ LO×LL



F+1 @ LO×LL



F & F+1 @ LO×LL



Multi-jet Merging: Exclusive Description without Double-counting

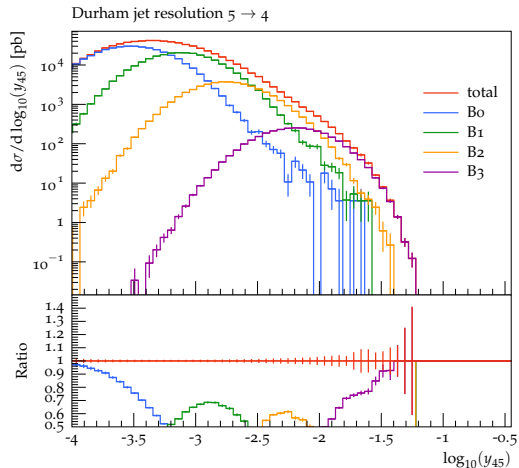
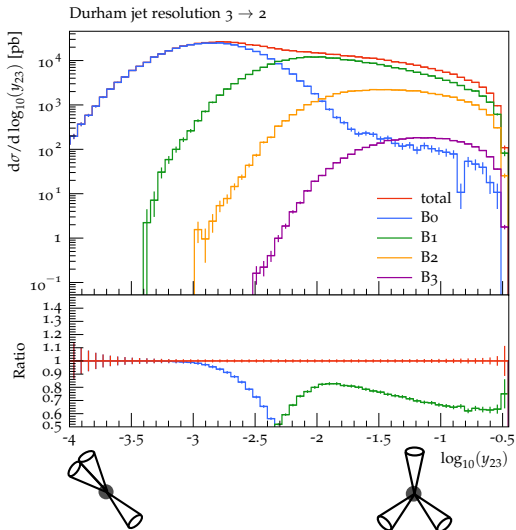
Solve double-counting issue by dividing phase space in “hard and soft region”:

- Generating inclusive few jet samples according to exact tree-level $F_n^+ F_n^- |M_n|^2 \equiv B_n$ in “hard region”
- Using some merging scale ρ_{ms} to cut off divergences
- Making exclusive by reweighting with no-emission probabilities (and α_s and PDF ratios), i.e. how would PS have produced this configuration
- Using normal shower in “soft region” below ρ_{ms}

Remaining issues:

- Merging scale dependence
- Merging scale might not be defined in terms of shower evolution variable
- Might break unitarity of shower

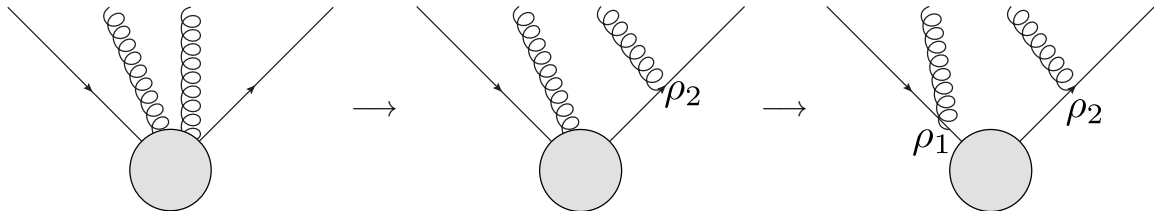
Multi-jet Merging: $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q} + \text{jets}$ example



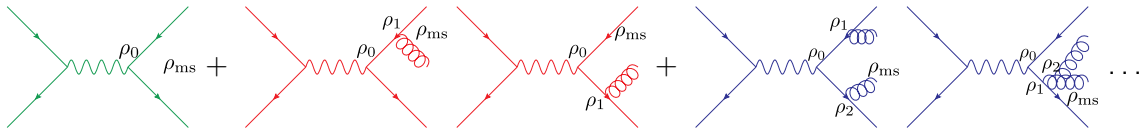
How to Reweight: Parton Shower Histories

Want to apply no-emission probabilities and scale dependent ratios \Rightarrow need ρ_i . Two ways:

- Find unique history by applying sequential 2 \rightarrow 1 jet algorithm
- Find all possible parton shower histories by 3 \rightarrow 2 clustering, choose one according to product of splitting probabilities
 - Choose one history according to product of splitting probabilities
 - Combine partons according to parton shower kinematics



Multi-jet Merging: Illustration in FSR



Combine MEs with different multiplicities, avoid overlap by reweighting

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int d\phi_0 \left\{ \mathcal{O}_0 B_0 w_0 + \int d\phi_1 \mathcal{O}_1 B_1 w_1 + \int d\phi_1 \int d\phi_2 \mathcal{O}_2 B_2 w_2 \right\}$$

with the weights

$$w_0 = \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_{\text{ms}}), \quad w_1 = \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1) \frac{\alpha_s(\rho_1)}{\alpha_s(\mu_R)} \Pi_1(\rho_1, \rho_{\text{ms}}),$$

$$w_2 = \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1) \frac{\alpha_s(\rho_1)}{\alpha_s(\mu_R)} \Pi_1(\rho_1, \rho_2) \frac{\alpha_s(\rho_2)}{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}$$

Multi-jet Merging: Illustration in ISR

Inclusive Matrix Element:

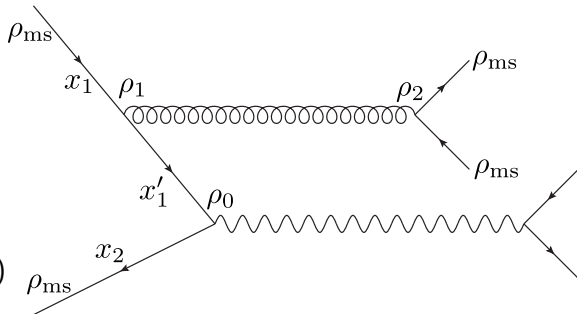
$$\frac{d\sigma_2^{\text{in}}}{d\phi_{0+2}} = F_1(x_1, \rho_0) F_2(x_2, \rho_0) |M_2|^2$$

Exclusive Parton Shower:

$$\frac{d\sigma_2^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0 d\phi_{1,2}} = F'_1(x'_1, \rho_0) F_2(x_2, \rho_0) |M_0|^2 \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1)$$

$$\frac{\alpha_s(\rho_1)}{2\pi} \frac{F_1(x_1, \rho_1)}{F'_1(x'_1, \rho_1)} \frac{P_1}{\rho_1} \Pi_1(\rho_1, \rho_2)$$

$$\frac{\alpha_s(\rho_2)}{2\pi} \frac{P_2}{\rho_2} \Pi_2(\rho_2, \rho_{\text{ms}})$$



Find weight to make inclusive matrix element exclusive:

$$\frac{d\sigma_2^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0 d\phi_{1,2}} = w \frac{d\sigma_2^{\text{in}}}{d\phi_{0+2}}$$

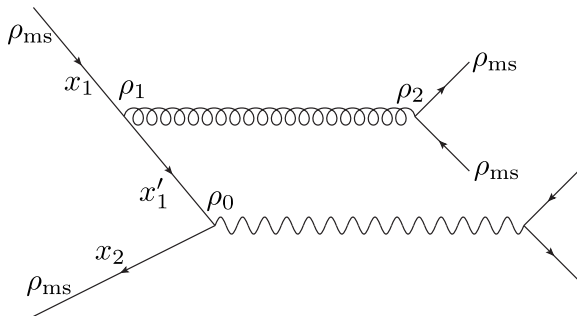
Multi-jet Merging: Merging Weight in ISR

$$W = W_{\alpha_s} W_{\text{pdf}} W_{\text{no-em}}$$

$$W_{\alpha_s} = \frac{\alpha_s(\rho_1) \alpha_s(\rho_2)}{\alpha_s(\rho_0) \alpha_s(\rho_0)}$$

$$W_{\text{pdf}} = \frac{f(x'_1, \rho_0) f(x_1, \rho_1)}{f(x'_1, \rho_1) f(x_1, \rho_0)}$$

$$W_{\text{no-em}} = \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1) \Pi_1(\rho_1, \rho_2) \Pi_2(\rho_2, \rho_{\text{ms}})$$



Multi-Jet Merging Algorithm

Summary of general multi-jet merging procedure:

- ① Calculate inclusive cross sections for $X + n$ partons (with kinematic cut ρ_{ms} to avoid singularities)
- ② Cluster according to jet algorithm or find parton shower history to find scales for no-emission probabilities and scale dependent ratios
- ③ Multiply with merging weight: α_s -ratios, no-emission probabilities (and PDF ratios)
- ④ If $n < N$, with N highest fixed order multiplicity, multiply no-emission probability towards merging scale ρ_{ms}
- ⑤ Allow further parton shower emissions below ρ_{ms} , for $n = N$ also above

CKKW Merging [Catani, Krauss, Kuhn, Webber (2001)]

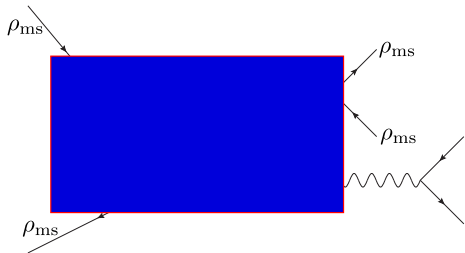
- Cluster according to k_{\perp} jet algorithm
- Apply analytic Sudakov factors (NLL accuracy) as no-emission probabilities
- Perform “truncated showering”, since parton shower evolution variable not exactly identical to merging scale cut: Start shower from ρ_0 , but forbid emissions above t_{ms} . Handle hard emissions (in ρ) below t_{ms} with care!
 - + Appealing theoretical treatment
 - - Requires dedicated PS implementation
 - - Mismatch between analytical Sudakov and parton shower
 - Implemented in Sherpa (v 1.1) [Krauss (2002)]

CKKW-L Merging [Lönnblad (2001)]

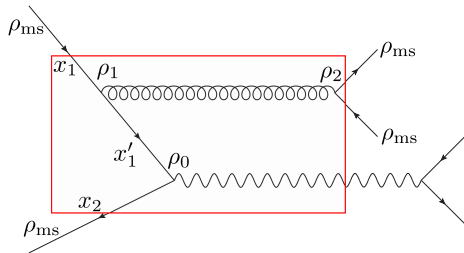
- Cluster back to parton shower history according to splitting probabilities in PS
- Generate of no-emission probabilities using parton shower
- Perform showering step-by-step for each step in history, starting from respective clustering scale
- Veto event if emission at larger scale than next clustering scale or ρ_{ms} in last step
- Keep PS emissions below ρ_{ms} (and between ρ_n and ρ_{ms} at highest multiplicity)
 - + Agreement between Sudakov and shower by construction \Rightarrow Reduced merging scale dependence
 - + Use simple veto in shower if ρ_{ms} in terms of PS evolution variable
 - - Requires dedicated PS implementation
 - Implemented in Sherpa (≥ 1.2) [Höhe, Krauss, Schumann, Siegert (2009)], Pythia8 [Lönnblad, Prestel (2012)] and Herwig7 [Bellm, Gieseke, Plätzer (2018)]

- Simplest way to estimate Sudakov suppression: Run shower on ME state without prior reclustering, starting from ρ_0
- Perform jet clustering, and reject if PS emits any jets harder than original partons or partons that are not clustered to hard partons
- No reconstructed history \Rightarrow Sudakov factor corresponds to final partons only, not taking into account intermediate states
- Approximation turns out to be good enough
 - + Simplest available scheme
 - + Matching with any shower algorithm without specific implementation
 - - Sudakov suppression not exact \Rightarrow mismatch with shower

Sudakov Factor: MLM vs. CKKW-L



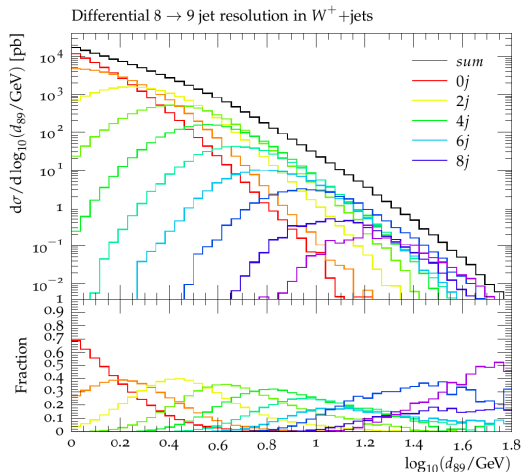
- First shower from ρ_0 to ρ_{ms}
- Then do jet clustering to veto if hard emissions occurred
- Resulting no-emission probability:
 $\Pi_q^2(\rho_0, \rho_{ms}) \Pi_q^2(\rho_0, \rho_{ms})$



- First construct parton shower history
- Then do trial shower on reconstructed history, veto event if emission above merging scale
- Resulting no-emission probability:
 $\Pi_q^2(\rho_0, \rho_2) \Pi_g(\rho_1, \rho_2) \Pi_q^4(\rho_2, \rho_{ms})$

What about high multiplicities?

- Merging requires reconstruction of parton shower histories, grow factorially
- For high multiplicities beyond 5 or so: need to be creative
- One way: winner-takes-all: go for highest probability in first clusering steps [Höche, Prestel, Schulz (2019)]
- Another way: sector showers, i.e., unique histories [Brooks, Preuss (2021)]



Unitarity in Multi-jet Merging

Unitarity in Multi-jet Merging

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} &= F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \left[1 - \alpha_s \int_{\rho_{\min}}^{\rho_0} d\rho dz \bar{P}_1 + \frac{\alpha_s^2}{2} \left(\int_{\rho_{\min}}^{\rho_0} d\rho dz \bar{P}_1 \right)^2 \right] \\ \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} &= F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \alpha_s d\rho_1 dz_1 \bar{P}_1^{\text{ME}} \left[1 - \alpha_s \int_{\rho_1}^{\rho_0} d\rho dz \bar{P}_1 - \alpha_s \int_{\rho_{\min}}^{\rho_1} d\rho dz \bar{P}_2 \right] \\ \frac{d\sigma_2}{d\phi_0} &= F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \alpha_s^2 d\rho_1 dz_1 \bar{P}_1^{\text{ME}} d\rho_2 dz_2 \bar{P}_2^{\text{ME}} \Theta(\rho_1 - \rho_2)\end{aligned}$$

- Unitarity of parton shower broken in multi-jet merging schemes mentioned above
- Inclusive cross-section only preserved if **splitting probabilities in no-emission probability** identical to **full fixed order splitting probabilities**

Unitary Merging: UMEPS [Lönnblad, Prestel (2012)]

Start from CKKW-L scheme, want to restore PS unitarity. Use:

$$\Pi_n(\rho_n, \rho_{\text{ms}}) = 1 - \int_{\rho_{\text{ms}}}^{\rho_n} d\rho dz \alpha_s \bar{P}_{n+1}^{\text{ME}}(\rho, z) \Pi_n(\rho_0, \rho)$$

i.e. probability of no emission is 1 - probability of at least one emission

$$\frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} = F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_{\text{ms}})$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} = F_1^+ F_1^- |M_1|^2 d\rho_1 dz_1 \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1) \Pi_1(\rho_1, \rho_{\text{ms}})$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_2}{d\phi_0} = F_2^+ F_2^- |M_2|^2 d\rho_1 dz_1 \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1) d\rho_2 dz_2 \Pi_1(\rho_1, \rho_2)$$

Unitary Merging: UMEPS [Lönnblad, Prestel (2012)]

Start from CKKW-L scheme, want to restore PS unitarity. Use:

$$\Pi_n(\rho_n, \rho_{\text{ms}}) = 1 - \int_{\rho_{\text{ms}}}^{\rho_n} d\rho dz \alpha_s \bar{P}_{n+1}^{\text{ME}}(\rho, z) \Pi_n(\rho_0, \rho)$$

i.e. probability of no emission is 1 - probability of at least one emission

$$\frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} = F_0^+ F_0^- |M_0|^2 \cancel{\Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_{\text{ms}})} - \int F_1^+ F_1^- |M_1|^2 d\rho_1 dz_1 \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1)$$

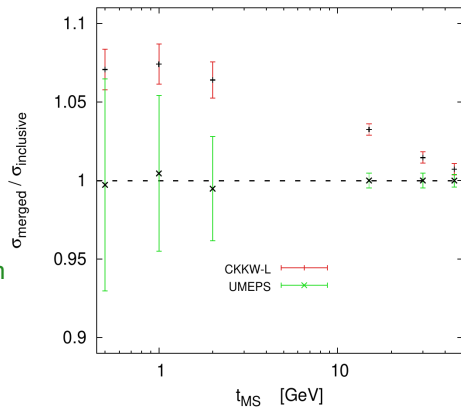
$$\frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{ex}}}{d\phi_0} = F_1^+ F_1^- |M_1|^2 d\rho_1 dz_1 \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1) \cancel{\Pi_1(\rho_1, \rho_{\text{ms}})}$$

$$- d\rho_1 dz_1 \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1) \int F_2^+ F_2^- |M_2|^2 d\rho_2 dz_2 \Pi_1(\rho_1, \rho_2)$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_2}{d\phi_0} = F_2^+ F_2^- |M_2|^2 d\rho_1 dz_1 \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1) d\rho_2 dz_2 \Pi_1(\rho_1, \rho_2)$$

Unitary Merging: UMEPS [Lönnblad, Prestel (2012)]

- Still add CKKW-L reweighted samples
- Instead of last Sudakov, subtract +1 parton integrated sample
⇒ Individual multiplicities still exclusive
- Can still add normal PS below merging scale
- + Procedure does not change inclusive cross section
- - UMEPS introduces negative weights ⇒ less efficient



Summary Lecture I

Summary Lecture I

Goal: Combine matrix elements and parton showers. The Problem:

- Parton showers generate singular terms of higher-order matrix elements
- Same terms present in $X + \text{jet}(s)$ matrix elements
- Combination must not double count

ME Corrections

- Oldest scheme, correct PS emissions to match full real emission ME
- Can be iterated beyond one emission
- Developments: higher multiplicity, NLO in VINCIA

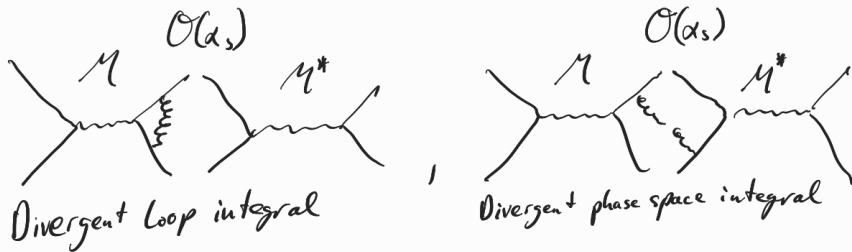
Multi-jet Merging

- Combine multiple LO ME samples by reweighting
- Separate phase space regions to deal with divergence
- Different schemes available

NLO Matching

Towards NLO

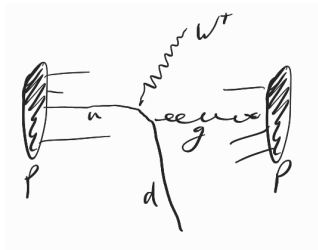
- So far, considered only higher multiplicities $\sigma_0, \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots$, i.e., legs, no loops
- In consistent expansion in coupling parameter, need to consider loops as well!



- IR singularities cancel between different multiplicities in *inclusive* cross sections
- Measurements that ensure singularity cancellation are *IR safe*

What is NLO?

- Leading order is first order in α_s that gives non-zero result for given observable
- NLO is next order. If large correction \rightarrow need NNLO
- Can be tricky: consider $W + j$, and measure azimuthal angle between W and (leading) jet.
- Need second jet for non back-to-back \Rightarrow implicitly two-jet, so only described at LO for NLO $W + j$
- What if $\Delta\phi < \frac{2\pi}{3}$?



Finite Numerical NLO Cross Section

NLO prediction for observable \mathcal{O} given by

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int d\phi_n (B_n + V_n) \mathcal{O}_n(\phi_n) + \int d\phi_{n+1} B_{n+1} \mathcal{O}_{n+1}(\phi_{n+1})$$

but both V_n and B_{n+1} separately divergent, only sum is finite.

Use universal subtraction terms to get finite results: [\[Frixione, Kunszt, Siegner \(1996\)\]](#) [\[Catani, Seymour \(1997\)\]](#)

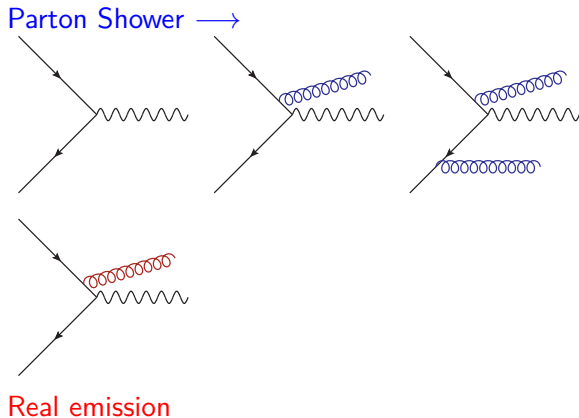
$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = & \int d\phi_n (B_n + V_n + B_n \otimes I_1) \mathcal{O}_n(\phi_n) \\ & + \int d\phi_{n+1} (B_{n+1} \mathcal{O}_{n+1}(\phi_{n+1}) - B_n \otimes D_1 \mathcal{O}_n(\phi_{n+1})) \end{aligned}$$

Event interpretation not yet possible, \mathcal{O}_n and \mathcal{O}_{n+1} contributions must be finite separately

Matching of NLO Matrix Elements & Parton Showers

We want precision predictions: Combine NLO fixed order calculations with Parton showers.

- Again problem of double counting of emissions by **real emission matrix element** and **emissions generated by parton shower**
- Also double counting of virtual terms through **virtual corrections** and **Sudakov factors**



Shower Subtraction

Want to attach shower (include factor α_s in \bar{P})

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}_n(\phi_n) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{O}, \phi_n) &= \Pi(\rho_n, \rho_{\min})\mathcal{O}_n(\phi_n) + \int d\phi_{+1} \Pi(\rho_n, \rho_{n+1}) \bar{P}_{n+1} \mathcal{F}_{n+1}(\mathcal{O}, \phi_{n+1}) \\ &\xrightarrow{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)} 1 - \int d\phi_{+1} \bar{P}_{n+1} \mathcal{O}_n(\phi_{n+1}) + \int d\phi_{+1} \bar{P}_{n+1} \mathcal{O}_{n+1}(\phi_{n+1}) \end{aligned}$$

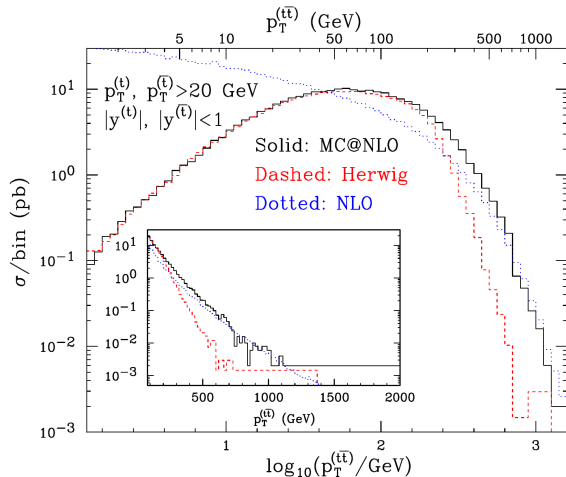
But $B_n \mathcal{F}_n$ contains $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ terms \Rightarrow subtract shower terms to first order in α_s such that accuracy of NLO not spoiled by shower

With shower subtraction, arrive at MC@NLO prescription

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{MC@NLO}} &= \int d\phi_n (B_n + V_n + B_n \otimes I_1) \mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{O}, \phi_n) && \text{Born + subtracted virtual} \\
 &+ \int d\phi_{n+1} (B_n \bar{P}_{n+1} - B_n \otimes D_1) \mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{O}, \phi_{n+1}) && \text{Shower virtual - subtraction} \\
 &+ \int d\phi_{n+1} (B_{n+1} - B_n \bar{P}_{n+1}) \mathcal{F}_{n+1}(\mathcal{O}, \phi_{n+1}) && \text{Real - shower real}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Event generation possible since \mathcal{O}_n and \mathcal{O}_{n+1} separately finite
- Sudakov suppression agrees with shower prediction
- Distribution correct only if parton shower is attached to cancel MC counterterms
- Can lead to many events with negative weights
- Needs to be implemented for each shower separately
- Automated in Sherpa [Höche, Krauss, Schönherr, Siegert (2012)] and aMC@NLO [Frederix, Frixione, Hirschi, Maltoni, Pittau, Torrielli (2012)]

MC@NLO



- MC@NLO gives smooth transition between real emission pattern at high scales and parton shower at low scales
- Inclusive cross section correct at NLO

Plot from [Nason, Webber (2012)]

Positive Weight Hardest Emission Generator

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{POWHEG}} &= \int d\phi_n (B_n + V_n + B_n \otimes I_1) \mathcal{F}_n^{\text{HI}}(\mathcal{O}, \phi_n) && \text{Born + subtracted virtual} \\
 &+ \int d\phi_{n+1} (B_{n+1} - B_n \otimes D_1) \mathcal{F}_n^{\text{HI}}(\mathcal{O}, \phi_{n+1}) && \text{Shower virtual - subtraction}
 \end{aligned}$$

Based on MC@NLO, modify shower to get “shower real” = “real” for hardest emission (similar to matrix element corrections)

- Less negative weights \Rightarrow Improved efficiency
- Hardest emission modified \Rightarrow Differences compared to MC@NLO, but both NLO correct
- Implementation process by process, but independent of attached shower

MC@NLO- Δ

- Let's look at MC@NLO again:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{MC@NLO}} = & \int d\phi_n (B_n + V_n + B_n \otimes I_1) \mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{O}, \phi_n) && \text{Born + subtracted virtual} \\ & + \int d\phi_{n+1} (B_n \bar{P}_{n+1} \Delta - B_n \otimes D_1 && \text{Shower virtual - subtraction} \\ & \quad B_{n+1} (1 - \Delta)) \mathcal{F}_n(\mathcal{O}, \phi_{n+1}) \\ & + \int d\phi_{n+1} (B_{n+1} - B_n \bar{P}_{n+1}) \Delta \mathcal{F}_{n+1}(\mathcal{O}, \phi_{n+1}) && \text{Real - shower real} \end{aligned}$$

- With $\Delta \rightarrow 0$ in soft/collinear limit, $\Delta \rightarrow 1$ in hard regions. Use shower no-emission probability (between hard scale and scale of emission)
- Also: optimize shower starting scales and sampling
- \Rightarrow Reduces fraction of negative weights [Frederix, Frixione, Prestel, Torrelli (2020)]

There's more

- Matching: discussed matrix element corrections a.k.a. LO multiplicative matching, MC@NLO and POWHEG
- Multiplicative matching also possible for NLO: KrkNLO [Jadach, Płazcek, Sapeta, Siódmok, Skrzypek (2015)]
 - Can be applied as weights \rightarrow fast, but also efficient?
 - No negative weights
 - Hard to extend to generic processes
- MAcNLOPS: Multiplicative for $P_{\text{exact}} < P_{\text{shower}}$, MC@NLO otherwise [Nason, Salam (2022)]
 - No negative weights
 - Unrestricted applicability?

NLO Multi-jet Merging

Combine NLO Matching and Multi-leg Merging

Goal: Combine several NLO matrix elements for same process: NLO for X , $X + 1$, $X + 2$, ...

Mostly based on parton shower unitarity

Different methods available:

- UNLOPS, based on UMEPS [Lönnblad, Prestel (2013)][Plätzer (2013)]
- MiNLO, based on POWHEG [Hamilton, Nason, Zanderighi (2012)] [Frederix, Hamilton (2016)]
- FxFx, based on MC@NLO [Frederix, Frixione (2012)]
- MEPS@NLO, based on CKKWL [Höche, Krauss, Schönherr, Siegert (2013)]
- (Vincia, based on NLO MEC) [Hartgring, Laenen, Skands (2013)]
- ...

Multi-jet Merging at NLO

- UNLOPS [Lönnblad, Prestel (2013)]: Combine NLO matrix elements in unitary merging
- Subtract $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ from weights to preserve perturbative accuracy

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int d\phi_0 \left\{ \mathcal{O}_0 \left[\bar{B}_0 - \int_S \bar{B}_{1 \rightarrow 0} - \int_S B_{1 \rightarrow 0} (w_1 - w_1 |_{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)}) \right] \right. \\ \left. + \int d\phi_1 \mathcal{O}_1 \left[\bar{B}_1 + B_1 (w_1 - w_1 |_{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)}) \right] \right\}$$

with \bar{B} subtracted NLO cross sections, w CKKW-L weight as before

Freedom in Choice of Merging Scheme

Merging scheme should

- preserve fixed order quantum interference model
- preserve parton shower state evolution model

Define three valid variants of UNLOPS, look at 1 jet contribution

UNLOPS-1

$$B_1 w_1 + \left[\bar{B}_1 - B_1 w_1 |_{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)} \right]$$

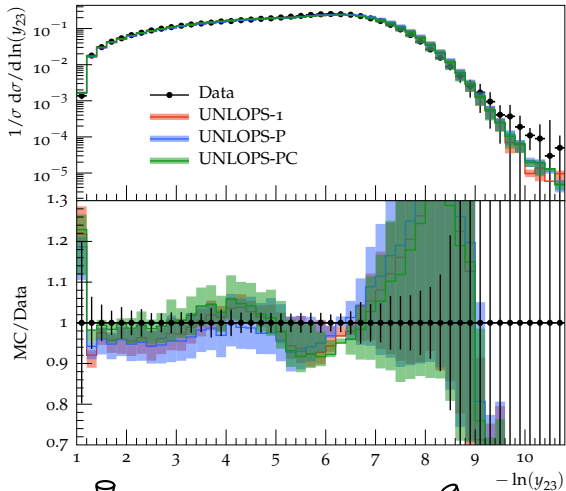
UNLOPS-P

$$B_1 w_1 + \left[\bar{B}_1 - B_1 w_1 |_{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)} \right] \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1, b)$$

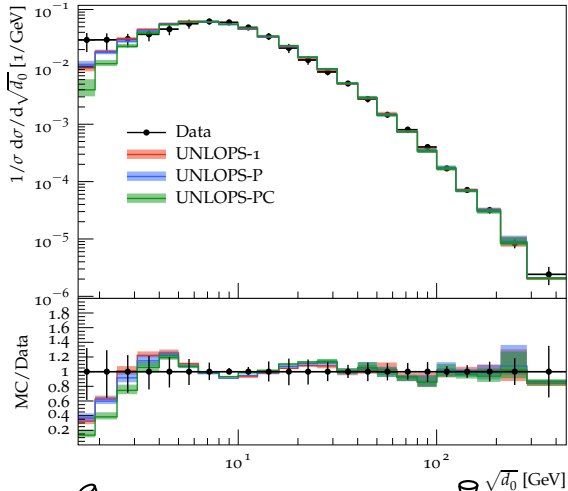
UNLOPS-PC

$$B_1 w_1 + \left[\bar{B}_1 - B_1 w_1 |_{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)} \right] \Pi_0(\rho_0, \rho_1, b) \frac{\alpha_s(b\rho_1)}{\alpha_s(b\mu_R)}$$

Durham jet resolution $3 \rightarrow 2$ ($E_{\text{CMS}} = 91.2$ GeV)



k_{\perp} scale of $0 \rightarrow 1$ clustering ($W \rightarrow \mu\nu$)



Beyond NLO

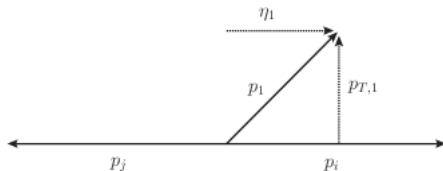
Beyond NLO

- NNLO results become available: combine with parton shower for fully exclusive predictions
- Unitarization well suited: replace lowest multiplicity to get inclusive NNLO cross section
 - UN2LOPS implemented in Sherpa [Höche, Li, Prestel (2015)]
 - Yet higher orders thinkable, see UN3LOPS/Tomte for toy implementation [Prestel (2021)]
- Fully differential NNLO+PS
 - Extension of POWHEG philosophy to NNLO
 - Born-local NNLO K-factor
 - Hardest-emission spectrum of PS given by NLO result (real-virtual and double-real corrections)
 - Proof-of-concept worked out for $e^+e^- \rightarrow 2j$ [Campbell, Höche, Li, Preuss, Skands (2023)]
- And more, e.g. MINNLOPS [Monni, Nason, Re, Wieseemann, Zanderighi (2020)], GENEVA [Alioli, Bauer, Berggren, Tackmann, Walsh (2015)]

Higher Orders in Parton Shower

The Lund plane

- Compute everything in center-of-mass frame of quarks



$$p_1 = p_1^+ + p_1^- + p_{T,1}$$

- Write momenta in Sudakov decomposition
 - On-shell condition: $p_1^2 = 2(p_1^+ p_1^- - p_{T,1}^2)$
 - “-”-projection: $p_1^- = 2p_i p_1 / \sqrt{2p_i p_j}$
 - “+”-projection: $p_1^+ = 2p_j p_1 / \sqrt{2p_i p_j}$
- Simple expressions for transverse momentum and rapidity
 - $p_{T,1}^2 = \frac{2(p_i p_1)(p_j p_1)}{p_i p_j}$
 - $\eta_1 = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{p_i p_1}{p_j p_1}$
- Semi-classical matrix element squared $\propto 1/p_T^2$

The Lund plane

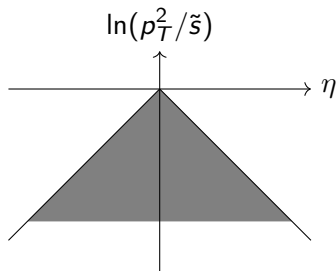
- Rewrite rapidity using transverse momentum

$$\eta_1 = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{p_i p_1}{p_j p_1} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{s_{i1}^2}{p_{T,1}^2 s_{ij}} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{p_{T,1}^2 s_{ij}}{s_{j1}^2}$$

- In momentum conserving parton branching $(\tilde{p}_i, \tilde{p}_j) \rightarrow (p_i, p_j, p_1)$

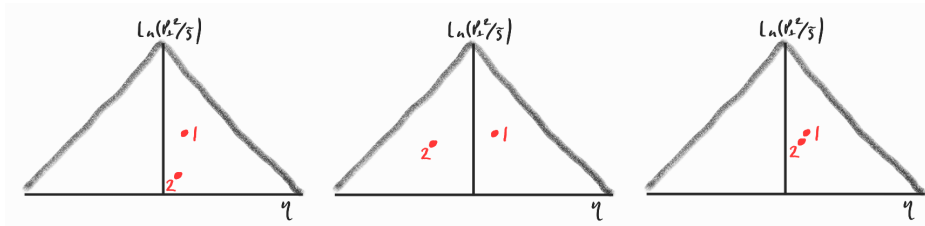
$$-\frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{\tilde{s}_{ij}}{p_{T,1}^2} \leq \eta_1 \leq \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{\tilde{s}_{ij}}{p_{T,1}^2}$$

- Differential phase-space element $\propto dp_T^2 d\eta$
- The Lund plane
 - $\eta, \ln(p_T^2/\tilde{s})$ plane
 - Phase space bounded by diagonals
 - Single-emission semi-classical radiation probability a constant



NLO Splitting Kernels: Motivation

- QCD amplitudes factorise in soft and collinear limits
- Leading order shower has factorized 2 \rightarrow 3 splitting kinematics implemented
- Higher orders in LO parton shower generated by iterating LO kernels
- Shower must reproduce the factorised amplitude for sufficiently independent emissions
- \Rightarrow Any particle emitted after first one may NOT influence the kinematics of it (too much)



- First two should be correctly described by LO shower, third requires NLO splitting kernels

Double Soft and Triple Collinear Emissions

- Inclusion of double soft and triple collinear effects into NLO parton shower treated separately in [Höche, Prestel (2017)] and [Dulat, Höche, Prestel (2018) [hep-ph]]
- Two structurally different approximations. Implemented in shower as additional kernel, avoiding double counting with LO shower by subtracting iterated LO shower

$$\begin{aligned}
 P^{(tc)} &\sim \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1} \\ \text{Diagram 2} \end{array} \right] , \\
 P^{(ds)} &\sim \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 3} \\ \text{Diagram 4} \\ + \dots \end{array} \right] ,
 \end{aligned}$$

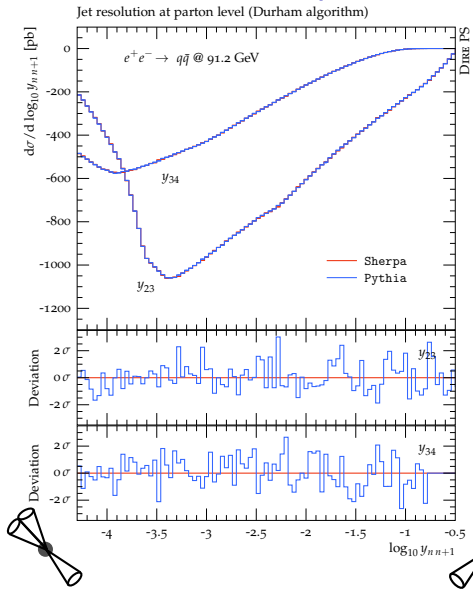
The diagrams are Feynman diagrams representing parton shower kernels. The top row shows the triple collinear (tc) kernel, which is the difference between a diagram with two collinear lines and a soft line (left) and a diagram with two collinear lines and a soft line (right). The bottom row shows the double soft (ds) kernel, which is the difference between a diagram with two soft lines (left) and a diagram with two soft lines (right), plus an ellipsis indicating further terms.

Combining Double Soft and Triple Collinear Emissions

- Need both double soft and triple collinear emissions in full NLO shower, needed for NNLL/NNDL accuracy
- Remove overlap: include double soft, and subtract corresponding contribution from each triple collinear kernel [LG, Höche, Prestel (2022)]

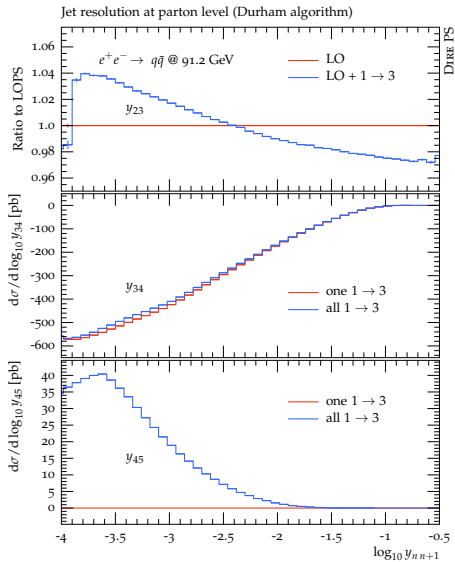
$$P^{(tc-ds)} \sim \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1} - \text{Diagram 2} \\ - \text{Diagram 3} + \text{Diagram 4} + \dots \end{array} \right].$$

Validation and impact of soft-subtracted triple-collinear splittings



Leif Gellersen

Matching & Merging



July 11th & 12th, 2023

60 / 70

Shower Accuracy

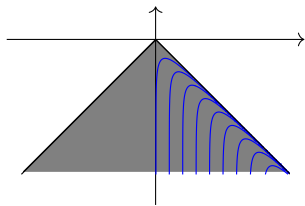
What Determines Shower Accuracy?

- Assume we have correct splitting functions
- Freedom to choose ordering variable
- Freedom to choose recoil scheme
- ... and more
- \Rightarrow Need to make careful choices!
- Problems with default dipole shower recoil, can spoil accuracy even for LO shower
[Dasgupta,Dreyer,Hamilton,Monni,Salam] [arXiv:1805.09327](https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.09327)

Ordering Variables in the Lund plane

Angular Ordering:

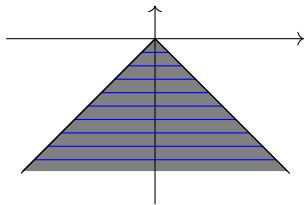
Lund plane filled from center to edges



- Dipole ends evolve separately: Parton shower
- Not ordered in p_{\perp}^2
- Color factors correct if observable insensitive to azimuthal correlations

Dipole Showers:

Lund plane filled from top to bottom



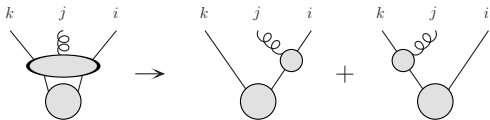
- Unified dipole and parton evolution
- Not ordered in η
- Color factors in improved leading color approximation

Structure of semi-classical matrix element

- Dipole shower approach: partial fraction matrix element & match to collinear sectors

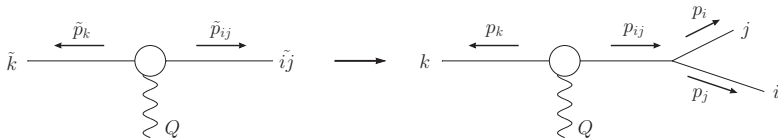
[Ellis,Ross,Terrano] NPB178(1981)421, [Catani,Seymour] hep-ph/9605323

$$\frac{p_i p_k}{(p_i p_j)(p_j p_k)} \rightarrow \frac{1}{p_i p_j} \frac{p_i p_k}{(p_i + p_k) p_j} + \frac{1}{p_k p_j} \frac{p_i p_k}{(p_i + p_k) p_j}$$



- Convenient, Lorentz invariant formulation
- Easy to integrate and use in NLO IR subtraction
- Captures matrix element both in angular ordered and unordered region

Final state momentum mapping



- Generate off-shell momentum by rescaling

$$p_{ij}^\mu = \tilde{p}_{ij}^\mu + \frac{p_{ij}^2}{2\tilde{p}_{ij}\tilde{p}_k} \tilde{p}_k^\mu, \quad p_k^\mu = \left(1 - \frac{p_{ij}^2}{2\tilde{p}_{ij}\tilde{p}_k}\right) \tilde{p}_k^\mu$$

- Then branch into two on-shell momenta

$$p_i^\mu = \tilde{z} \tilde{p}_{ij}^\mu + (1 - \tilde{z}) \frac{p_{ij}^2}{2\tilde{p}_{ij}\tilde{p}_k} \tilde{p}_k^\mu + k_\perp^\mu, \quad p_j^\mu = (1 - \tilde{z}) \tilde{p}_{ij}^\mu + \tilde{z} \frac{p_{ij}^2}{2\tilde{p}_{ij}\tilde{p}_k} \tilde{p}_k^\mu - k_\perp^\mu$$

- On-shell conditions require that

$$\vec{k}_T^2 = p_{ij}^2 \tilde{z}(1 - \tilde{z}) \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \tilde{z}_\pm = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 4\vec{k}_T^2/p_{ij}^2}\right)$$

→ for any finite \vec{k}_T we have $0 < \tilde{z} < 1$

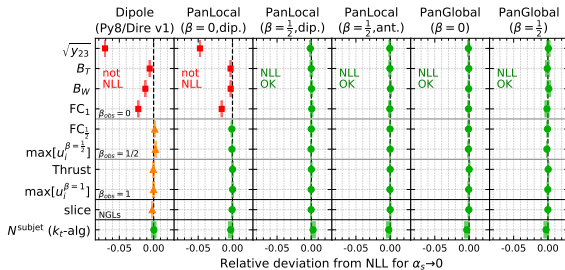
Momentum mapping in dipole-like showers

[Dasgupta,Dreyer,Hamilton,Monni,Salam,Soyez] [arXiv:2002.11114](https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.11114)

- Problem can be solved by partitioning of antenna radiation pattern and choosing a suitable evolution variable ($\beta \sim 1/2$)

$$k_T = \rho v e^{\beta |\vec{\eta}|} \quad \rho = \left(\frac{s_i s_j}{Q^2 s_{ij}} \right)^{\beta/2}$$

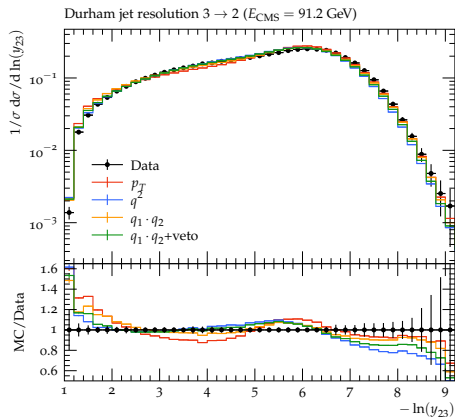
- Three different recoil schemes lead to NLL result if β chosen appropriately: Local dipole, local antenna, and global antenna
- NLL correct for global and non-global observables in $e^+ e^- \rightarrow \text{hadrons}$



Momentum mapping in angular ordered showers

[Bewick, Ferrario-Ravasio, Richardson, Seymour] [arXiv:1904.11866](https://arxiv.org/abs/1904.11866)

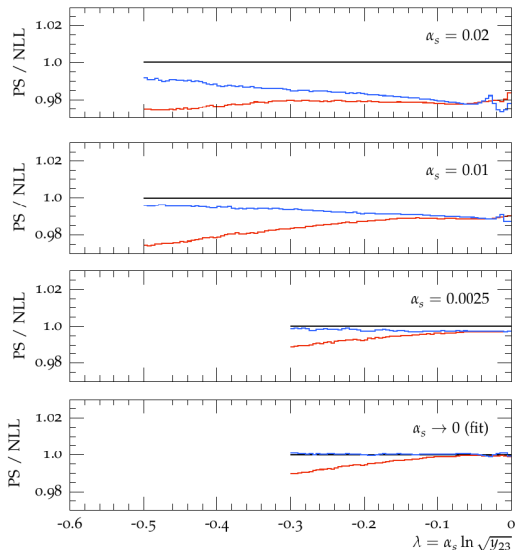
- Recoil schemes affect logarithmic accuracy but impact also phase-space coverage
- In context of angular ordered Herwig 7 (NLL accurate for global observables)
 - q_T preserving scheme:
 - Maintains logarithmic accuracy
 - Overpopulates hard region
 - q^2 preserving scheme:
 - Breaks logarithmic accuracy
 - Good description of hard region
 - Dot product preserving scheme (new):
 - Maintains logarithmic accuracy
 - Good description of hard radiation



Alaric

[Herren, Höche, Krauss, Reichelt, Schönherr (2022)]

- Partial fractioning of eikonal \rightarrow positive definite splitting function with full phase space coverage
- Drawback: splitting kernels depend on azimuthal angle
- Global kinematics scheme enables analytic proof of NLL accuracy & numerical validation
- Right: Comparing **Dire** and **Alaric**



Summary Lecture II

Summary Lecture II

Goal: Add higher-order corrections into the picture

- NLO matrix element calculations require matching to parton showers
- NLO multi-jet merging allows for higher multiplicities at NLO
- Higher-order corrections also in shower

NLO Matching

- MC subtraction allows for NLO ME + PS
- MC@NLO and POWHEG
- Work towards NNLO

NLO Multi-jet Merging

- Combine multiple NLO ME samples
- Careful extension of LO techniques
- Different schemes available

NLO in parton shower

- Work on higher-order splitting kernels in parton showers
- It's not just about orders: recoil can spoil accuracy

Backup

Collinear Factorization and Initial State Radiation

Collinear Factorization of QCD Cross Sections

Hadronic cross section for scattering $ab \rightarrow n$ given by

$$\sigma = \sum_{a,b} \int_0^1 \frac{dx_a}{x_a} \frac{dx_b}{x_b} \int x_a f_a^{h_1}(x_a, \mu_F) x_b f_b^{h_2}(x_b, \mu_F) d\hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow n}(\mu_F, \mu_R)$$

- $\hat{\sigma}$ Partonic cross section
- $f_a^h(x_a, \mu_F)$ parton distribution functions (PDFs)
- x_a light cone momentum fraction $\rightarrow x_a f_a$ momentum flux of parton a at x_a
- μ_F factorization scale

Need to take PDFs into account in initial state radiation (ISR), since they change flux

See [\[Collins, Soper, Sterman \(1989\)\]](#) for factorization theorems in QCD

DGLAP Equations

[Dokshitzer (1977)] [Gribov, Lipatov (1972)] [Altarelli, Parisi (1977)]

$$\frac{d}{d \log(t/\mu^2)} f_q(x, t) = \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{qq}(z) f_q(x/z, t) + \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{gq}(z) f_g(x/z, t)$$

$$\frac{d}{d \log(t/\mu^2)} f_g(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^{2n_f} \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{qi}(z) f_q(x/z, t) + \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{gg}(z) f_g(x/z, t)$$

- Coupled differential equations describing the parton flux of a hadron at different resolution scales

Initial State Radiation and PDFs

- Modify emission and no-emission probabilities to include PDFs: $x_{\text{new}} = x/z$:

$$d\mathcal{P}_{\text{emission}}(\rho) = \frac{df_j}{f_j} = \frac{d\rho}{\rho} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \int_{z_{\text{min}}}^{z_{\text{max}}} dz P_{ij}(z) \frac{\frac{x}{z} f_i(\frac{x}{z}, \rho)}{x f_j(x, \rho)}$$

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{no-em}}(\rho_1, \rho_2) = \exp\left(-\int_{\rho_2}^{\rho_1} \frac{d\rho}{\rho} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \int_{z_{\text{min}}}^{z_{\text{max}}} dz P_{ij}(z) \frac{\frac{x}{z} f_i(\frac{x}{z}, \rho)}{x f_j(x, \rho)}\right) := \Pi(\rho_1, \rho_2)$$

- Initial state shower (more or less) reproduces DGLAP
- DGLAP evolution from small to large scale
- ISR usually uses “backwards evolution”: from large to small scales
⇒ makes sure we can start from partonic process of interest at high scale [\[Sjöstrand \(1985\)\]](#)