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Next-to-next-to-leading order predictions for diboson production in hadronic scattering combined with parton showers

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Standard Model at the LHC

Durham, April 7, 2025



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NNLO Monte Carlo event generators

Why Monte Carlo event generators?

- The fully differential events are the closest simulations of the scattering processes observed at colliders
- They combine
 - Multi-loop matrix elements → perturbative accuracy
 - (Analytic resummation → logarithmic accuracy)
 - Parton showers → multiplicity of the final state
 - \blacksquare Hadronization models \rightarrow from colored partons to colorless hadrons

Why NNLO?

- LHC is turning into a precision machine
 - $\rightarrow\,$ More and more accurate theoretical predictions are needed

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- **1** The Geneva method
- 2 The MiNNLO_{PS} method
- 3 ZZ distributions
- 4 WZ distributions
- 5 WW distributions
- 6 $\gamma\gamma$ distributions

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The Geneva framework

GENEVA is a Monte Carlo event generator that provides

- Fully differential events up to NNLO QCD accuracy
- NNLL' resummation of the 0-jet resolution variable (e.g. the zero-jettiness \mathcal{T}_0 or the color-singlet transverse momentum $q_{\rm T}$ for the case of color singlet production)
- NLL' resummation of the 1-jet resolution variable (e.g. the one-jettiness *T*₁ for the case of color singlet production)
- Interface to parton showers

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Examples of 0-jet resolution variables

Given a process of production of a color singlet

 $p p
ightarrow \mathrm{CS}(q) + X$

the phase space regions where the matrix elements present QCD infrared divergences at NLO can be equivalently identified as those with low

- Color-singlet transverse momentum *q*_T
- Zero-jettiness *T*₀
- Hardest-jet transverse momentum p_T^{jet}

0-jet resolution variables

We can equivalently use $q_{\rm T}$, \mathcal{T}_0 and $p_{\rm T}^{\rm jet}$ as **0-jet resolution variables**

If X is a massless parton of momentum p

$$q_{ ext{ iny T}} = \sqrt{q_{ ext{ iny X}}^2 + q_{y}^2} \qquad \mathcal{T}_0 = \min(\hat{p}_0 - \hat{p}_z, \, \hat{p}_0 + \hat{p}_z) \qquad p_{ ext{ iny T}}^{ ext{ iny int}} = \sqrt{p_{ ext{ iny X}}^2 + p_{y}^2}$$

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Slicing of the phase space

\mathcal{T}_0	<	$\mathcal{T}_0^{\text{\tiny cut}}$
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 $\begin{array}{l} \mathcal{T}_0 > \mathcal{T}_0^{\scriptscriptstyle \mathrm{cut}} \\ \mathcal{T}_1 < \mathcal{T}_1^{\scriptscriptstyle \mathrm{cut}} \end{array}$









No resolved partons in the final state

One resolved parton in the final state

Two resolved partons in the final state

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Matching the resummation and the fixed order calculation

We write the NNLO differential \mathcal{T}_0 spectrum as the sum of a resummed singular and non-singular spectrum

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\rm CS}^{\rm NNLO}}{d\Phi_0 \, d\mathcal{T}_0} = \frac{d\sigma^{\rm NNLL'}}{d\Phi_0 \, d\mathcal{T}_0} + \frac{d\sigma_{\rm CS}^{\rm nonsing}}{d\Phi_0 \, d\mathcal{T}_0}$$



where the **non-singular** spectrum is given by the difference between the **fixed-order** and the α_s expansion of the resummed singular spectrum

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\rm \scriptscriptstyle CS}^{\rm nonsing}}{d\Phi_0\,d\mathcal{T}_0} = \int \left. \frac{d\Phi_1}{d\Phi_0\,d\mathcal{T}_0} \frac{d\sigma_{\rm \scriptscriptstyle CS+jet}^{\rm \scriptscriptstyle NLO_1}}{d\Phi_1} - \left. \frac{d\sigma^{\rm \scriptscriptstyle NNLL'}}{d\Phi_0\,d\mathcal{T}_0} \right|_{\rm \scriptscriptstyle NLO_1} \right|_{\rm \scriptscriptstyle NLO_1}$$



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0-jet exclusive and 1-jet inclusive differential cross sections

• The phase space points with $\mathcal{T}_0 < \mathcal{T}_0^{\mathrm{cut}}$ contribute to the NNLO 0-jet exclusive differential cross section

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\rm \scriptscriptstyle CS}^{\scriptscriptstyle (0)}}{d\Phi_0}(\mathcal{T}_0^{\scriptscriptstyle \rm cut}) = \frac{d\sigma^{\scriptscriptstyle \rm NNLL'}}{d\Phi_0}(\mathcal{T}_0^{\scriptscriptstyle \rm cut}) + \frac{d\sigma^{\scriptscriptstyle \rm nonsing}_{\scriptscriptstyle \rm CS}}{d\Phi_0}(\mathcal{T}_0^{\scriptscriptstyle \rm cut})$$

■ The phase space points with $\mathcal{T}_0 > \mathcal{T}_0^{\text{cut}}$ contribute to the NLO₁ 1-jet inclusive differential spectrum

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\rm CS}^{(\geq 1)}}{d\Phi_0 \, d\mathcal{T}_0} = \frac{d\sigma^{\rm \tiny NNLL'}}{d\Phi_0 \, d\mathcal{T}_0} + \frac{d\sigma_{\rm CS}^{\rm \tiny nonsing}}{d\Phi_0 \, d\mathcal{T}_0}$$

The integration recovers the total NNLO differential cross section

$$rac{d\sigma_{ ext{CS}}^{ ext{NNLO}}}{d\Phi_0} = rac{d\sigma_{ ext{CS}}^{(0)}}{d\Phi_0}(\mathcal{T}_0^{ ext{cut}}) + \int d\mathcal{T}_0 \, rac{d\sigma_{ ext{CS}}^{(\geq 1)}}{d\Phi_0 \, d\mathcal{T}_0} \, heta(\mathcal{T}_0 - \mathcal{T}_0^{ ext{cut}})$$

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The splitting functions

To generate Φ_1 events, we need to spread the **1-jet inclusive** differential spectrum over the entire Φ_1 phase space

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\rm CS}^{(\geq 1)}}{d\Phi_1} = \left(\frac{d\sigma^{\rm NNLL'}}{d\Phi_0 \, d\mathcal{T}_0} - \left. \frac{d\sigma^{\rm NNLL'}}{d\Phi_0 \, d\mathcal{T}_0} \right|_{\rm NLO_1} \right) P_{0 \to 1}(\Phi_1) + \frac{d\sigma_{\rm CS+jet}^{\rm NLO_1}}{d\Phi_1}$$

- The fixed-order contribution has a natural Φ_1 dependence
- We multiply the resummed contributions by a splitting function P_{0→1}(Φ₁) defined so that, for every function f(Φ₀, T₀) of the underlying phase space Φ₀ and the resolution variable T₀,

$$\int d\Phi_1 f(\Phi_0, \mathcal{T}_0) \operatorname{P}_{0 \to 1}(\Phi_1) = \int d\Phi_0 \int d\mathcal{T}_0 f(\Phi_0, \mathcal{T}_0)$$

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Combination with the parton shower

Ideally, we would like to feed in the generated NNLO events to a T_N -ordered shower where

$$\mathcal{T}_{1}\left(\Phi_{2}\right) > \mathcal{T}_{2}\left(\Phi_{3}\right) > ... > \mathcal{T}_{n}\left(\Phi_{n+1}\right) > ...$$

If that is not available, we simulate it by mean of a <u>vetoed</u> p_T-ordered shower

Vetoed shower

- We compute the *p*_T starting scale of the shower
- We pass the event to the shower and let it generate the additional QCD (and QED) radiation
 - \rightarrow If $\mathcal{T}_{2}\left(\Phi_{n}\right) > \mathcal{T}_{1}\left(\Phi_{2}\right)$, we re-shower the event (<u>veto</u>)
 - $\rightarrow\,$ Otherwise, we add MPI and hadronization effects

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The MiNNLO_{PS} method in a nutshell

In the $MINNLO_{PS}$ formalism, the q_T spectrum of the differential cross section for the $p p \rightarrow CS + X$ process is written as

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\rm CS}^{\rm MiNNLO}}{d\Phi_{\rm CS}\,dp_{\rm T}} = e^{-\tilde{S}}D + R_{\rm f}$$

• The term $e^{-\tilde{S}}D$ provides the $q_{\rm T}$ resummation

• The term R_f contains non-singular (i.e. integrable in the $q_T \rightarrow 0$ limit) contributions to the $p p \rightarrow CS + jet$ process

The non-singular contribution is set to

$$R_{f} = e^{-\tilde{S}} \left[\frac{d\sigma_{\rm CS+jet}^{\rm NLO}}{d\Phi_{\rm CS} \, dq_{\rm T}} - \left. e^{-\tilde{S}} D \right|_{\rm NNLO} + \tilde{S}^{(1)} \left(\frac{d\sigma_{\rm CS+jet}^{\rm LO}}{d\Phi_{\rm CS} \, dq_{\rm T}} - D^{(1)} \right) \right]_{\mu = q_{\rm T}}$$

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ZZ distributions in Geneva



GENEVA predictions from S. Alioli, A. Broggio, AG, S. Kallweit, M. A. Lim,

R. Nagar, D. Napoletano Phys.Lett.B 818 (2021) 136380

ATLAS and CMS data at 13 TeV from Phys.Rev.D 97 (2018) 3, 032005 and

Eur.Phys.J.C 81 (2021) 3, 200

See also L. Buonocore, G. Koole, D. Lombardi, L. Rottoli, M. Wiesemann, G. Zanderighi JHEP 01 (2022) 072 for MINNLO_{PS} predictions

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WZ distributions in MiNNLO_{PS}

Comparison for the transverse momenta of the reconstraucted Z boson, W boson and neutrino (missing energy)



MINNLOPS predictions at (NNLO QCD x NLO EW) + PS from

J. M. Lindert, D. Lombardi, M. Wiesemann, G. Zanderighi, S. Zanoli JHEP 11 (2022) 036

ATLAS data at 13 TeV from Eur. Phys. J. C 79 (2019) 535

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WW distributions in Geneva

Comparison for the exclusive zero-jet cross section as a function of the jet transverse momentum veto and the jet multiplicity



- GENEVA predictions with hardest-jet transverse momentum resummation from AG, M. A. Lim, S. Alioli, F. Tackmann JHEP 12 (2023) 069
- ATLAS and CMS data at 13 TeV from Eur. Phys. J. C 79 (2019) 884 and Phys. Rev. D 102, 092001 (2020)

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WW distributions in Geneva

Comparison for the transverse momentum, mass and azimuthal separation of the charged lepton pair



- GENEVA predictions with hardest-jet transverse momentum resummation from AG, M. A. Lim, S. Alioli, F. Tackmann JHEP 12 (2023) 069
- ATLAS and CMS data at 13 TeV from Eur. Phys. J. C 79 (2019) 884 and

Phys. Rev. D 102, 092001 (2020)

See also D. Lombardi, M. Wiesemann, G. Zanderighi JHEP 11 (2021) 230 for MINNLO_{PS} predictions

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$\gamma\gamma$ distributions in MiNNLO_{\rm PS} and Geneva



- MINNLO_{PS} predictions from AG, C. Oleari, E. Re JHEP 09 (2022) 061
- GENEVA predictions from S. Alioli, A. Broggio, AG, S. Kallweit, M. A. Lim, R. Nagar, D. Napoletano, L. Rottoli JHEP 04 (2021) 041
- ATLAS data (at 13 TeV) and CMS data (at 7 TeV) from JHEP 11 (2021) 169 and Eur. Phys. J. C 74 (2014) 3129
- Check out also D. Lombardi, M. Wiesemann, G. Zanderighi JHEP 06 (2021) 095 for Zγ predictions in MINNLO_{PS} and S. Alioli, G. Billis, A. Broggio, AG, S. Kallweit, M. A. Lim, G. Marinelli, R. Nagar, D. Napoletano JHEP 06 (2023) 205 ffor HH production in GENEVA

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Thanks for your attention!

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