

Complete NLO corrections to top-quark pair production with isolated photons

MALGORZATA WOREK

OUTLINE

FOCUS OF THIS TALK:

- Top-quark pair production with isolated photons: $pp \rightarrow tt\gamma$ & $pp \rightarrow tt\gamma\gamma$
 - Top-quark decay channel \rightarrow *Di-lepton*
 - Modelling of unstable top quarks and W bosons \rightarrow *NWA*
 - *NLO QCD* \rightarrow QCD corrections & photon radiation in production & decays
 - *Complete NLO* \rightarrow QCD & EW corrections & photon radiation in production & decays

Bevilacqua, Hartanto, Kraus, Weber, Worek, JHEP 10 (2018) 158

Bevilacqua, Hartanto, Kraus, Weber, Worek, JHEP 03 (2020) 154

Stremmer, Worek, JHEP 08 (2023) 179

Stremmer, Worek e-Print: 2403.03796 [hep-ph]

ADDITIONAL RESULTS WITH HELAC-NLO NOT DISCUSSED DURING THIS TALK

- NLO QCD results for $pp \rightarrow tt\gamma$
 - Full off-shell predictions for *di-lepton* decay channel
- NLO QCD results for $pp \rightarrow tt\gamma\gamma$
 - Results in NWA available also for *l+jets* decay channel

Bevilacqua, Hartanto, Kraus, Weber, Worek, JHEP 10 (2018) 158

Stremmer, Worek, JHEP 08 (2023) 179

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

$pp \rightarrow tt\gamma$

- $tt\gamma$ has been observed @ LHC @ 7 TeV by ATLAS
- Both ATLAS and CMS have observed $tt\gamma$ @ LHC @ 8 TeV & 13 TeV
- No significant deviations from SM predictions have been found
 - Measured cross sections are larger than theoretical predictions
 - Within current uncertainties differential cross-section distributions described sufficiently well by NLO theory predictions
- Measurements in $pp \rightarrow tt\gamma$ process have also been interpreted in framework of SMEFT
- Measurement of top-quark charge asymmetry in $pp \rightarrow tt\gamma$ has recently been performed by ATLAS

$pp \rightarrow tt\gamma\gamma$

- No observation for $pp \rightarrow tt\gamma\gamma$ process @ LHC yet
- Observation of $pp \rightarrow ttH \rightarrow tt\gamma\gamma$

ATLAS, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 125 (2020) 061802
CMS, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 125 (2020) 061801

THEORETICAL PREDICTIONS

$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$

PREDICTIONS WITH STABLE TOP QUARKS

- NLO QCD corrections

Duan, Ma, Zhang, Han, Guo, Wang, Phys. Rev. D 80 (2009) 014022
Duan, Zhang, Ma, Han, Guo, Wang, Chin. Phys. Lett. 28 (2011) 111401
Maltoni, Pagani, Tsiniikos, JHEP 02 (2016) 113

- NLO EW corrections → Significant effects in high energy region due to EW Sudakov effect

Duan, Zhang, Wang, Song, Li, Phys. Lett. B 766 (2017) 102

- *Complete NLO predictions*

Pagani, Shao, Tsiniikos, Zaro, JHEP 09 (2021) 155

- Approximate NNLO with soft-gluon corrections added to NLO (QCD + EW)

Kidonakis, Tonero, Phys. Rev. D 107 (2023) 034013

THEORETICAL PREDICTIONS

$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$

PREDICTIONS WITH TOP-QUARK DECAYS

- NLO QCD predictions matched with parton shower programs
 - Top-quark decays treated in parton-shower approximation omitting spin correlations & photon emission in parton-shower evolution

Kardos, Trocsanyi, JHEP 05 (2015) 090

- NLO QCD with decays in NWA
 - Double-resonant top-quark contributions + unstable t & W restricted to on-shell states
 - NLO spin correlations & photon radiation off charged top-quark decay products

Melnikov, Schulze, Scharf, Phys. Rev. D 83 (2011) 074013

Bevilacqua, Hartanto, Kraus, Weber, Worek, JHEP 03 (2020) 154

- NLO QCD with full off-shell effects
 - Double-, single- & non-resonant contributions + interference effects + Breit-Wigner propagators
 - NLO spin correlations & photon radiation off charged top-quark decay products

Bevilacqua, Hartanto, Kraus, Weber, Worek, JHEP 10 (2018) 158

- *Complete NLO predictions in NWA*

Stremmer, Worek e-Print: 2403.03796 [hep-ph]

THEORETICAL PREDICTIONS

$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma$

PREDICTIONS WITH STABLE TOP QUARKS

- NLO QCD corrections

Alwall, Frederix, Frixione, Hirschi, Maltoni, Mattelaer, Shao, Stelzer, Torrielli, Zaro, JHEP 07 (2014) 079
Maltoni, Pagani, Tsinikos, JHEP 02 (2016) 113

- NLO EW corrections

Pagani, Shao, Tsinikos, Zaro, JHEP 09 (2021) 155

PREDICTIONS WITH TOP-QUARK DECAYS

- NLO QCD predictions matched with parton shower programs omitting spin correlations & photon emission in parton-shower evolution or with LO spin correlations only

Kardos, Trocsanyi, Nucl. Phys. B 897 (2015) 717
Deurzen, Frederix, Hirschi, Luisoni, Mastroli, Ossola, Eur. Phys. J. C 76 (2016) 221

- NLO QCD with decays in NWA

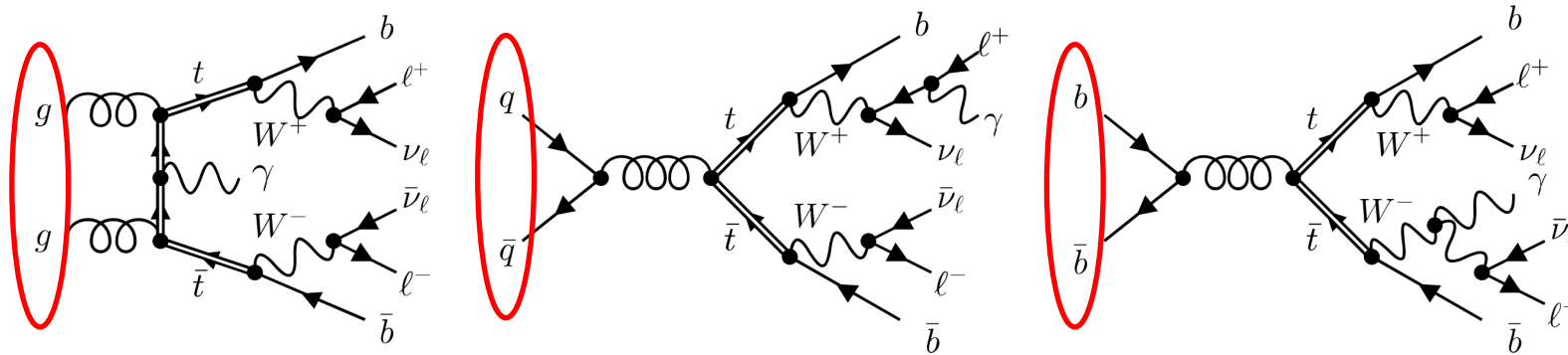
Stremmer, Worek, JHEP 08 (2023) 179

- *Complete NLO predictions in NWA*

Stremmer, Worek e-Print: 2403.03796 [hep-ph]

LO₁

- LO₁: Dominant contributions at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^{4+n_\gamma})$ where n_γ is number of photons appearing in Born-level process

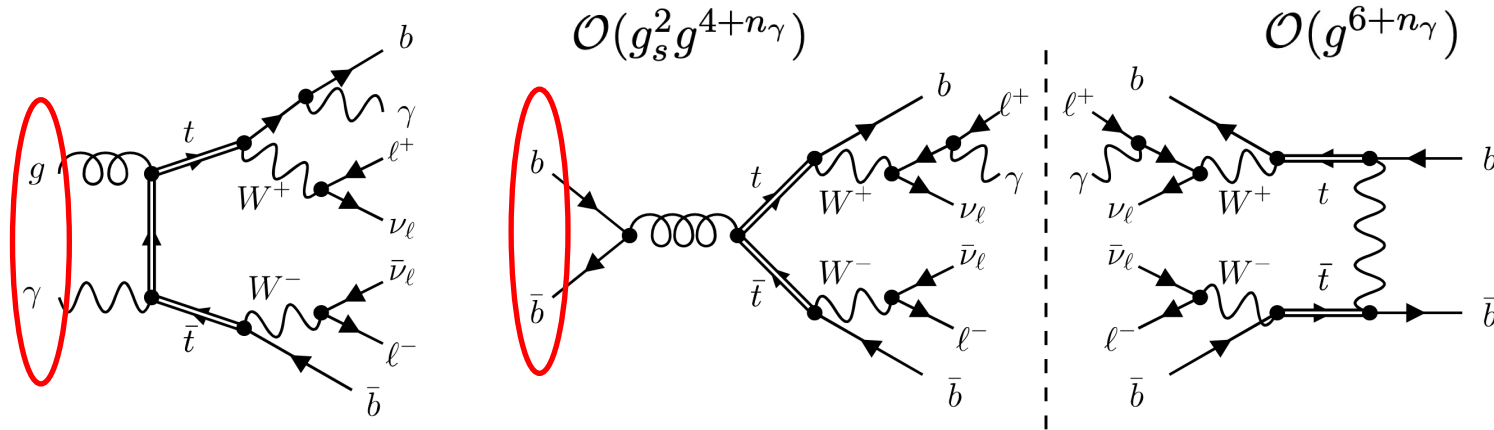


- Typical QCD production of top-quark pair with photons, which leads to the following partonic subprocesses

$gg \rightarrow l^+ \nu_\ell l^- \bar{\nu}_\ell b \bar{b} \gamma(\gamma),$	
$q\bar{q}/\bar{q}q \rightarrow l^+ \nu_\ell l^- \bar{\nu}_\ell b \bar{b} \gamma(\gamma),$	$b\bar{b}/\bar{b}b \rightarrow l^+ \nu_\ell l^- \bar{\nu}_\ell b \bar{b} \gamma(\gamma),$

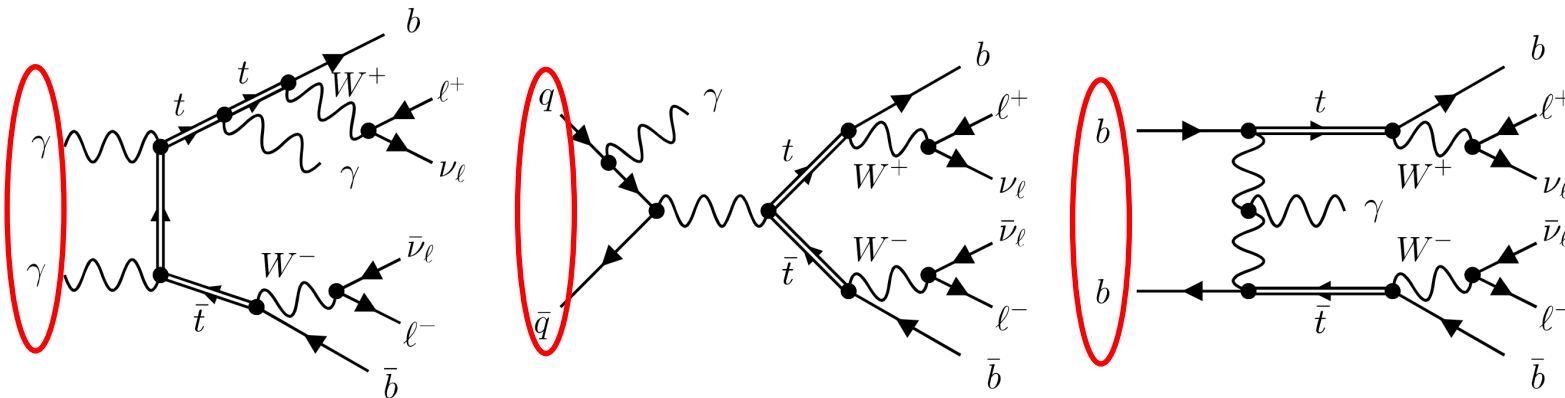
LO₂ & LO₃

- LO₂: Contributions at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^1 \alpha^{5+n_\gamma})$



- LO₃: Purely EW induced production of top-quark pair at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^{6+n_\gamma})$

- Suppressed by power coupling & gluon PDF does not enter this contribution at all



- Interference between gluon mediated diagrams with Z/γ mediated ones vanishes due to colour for qq initial state

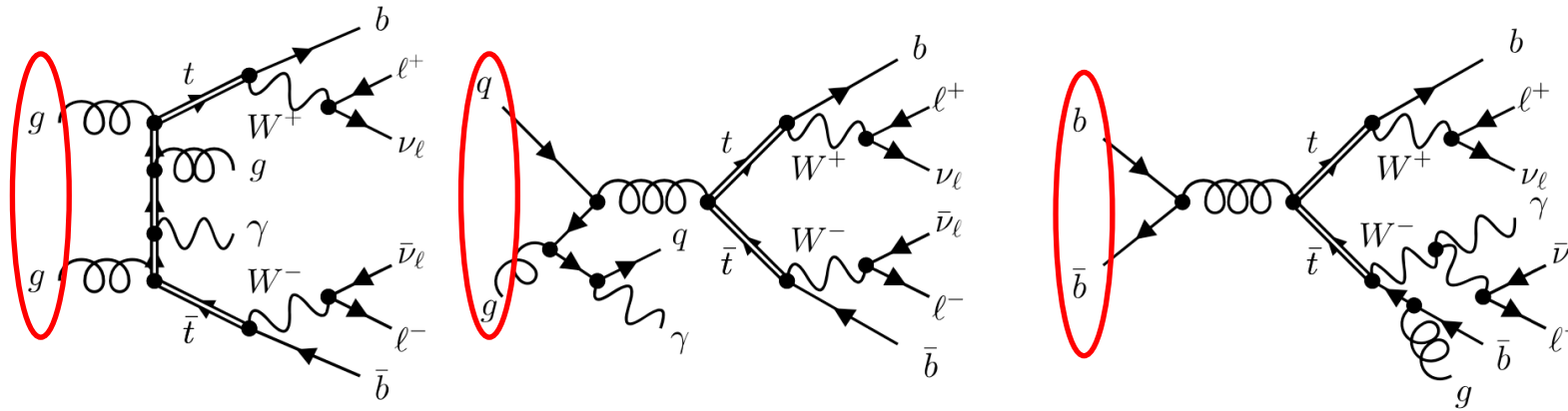
- Interference does not vanish for bb due to t -channel diagrams with intermediate W boson

- When CKM matrix is not diagonal these contributions for qq initial state can also be non-zero but are CKM-suppressed

$$\text{LO} = \text{LO}_1 + \text{LO}_2 + \text{LO}_3$$

NLO₁

- **NLO₁**: Dominant higher-order corrections at NLO arise from QCD corrections to **LO₁** at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3 \alpha^{4+n_\gamma})$



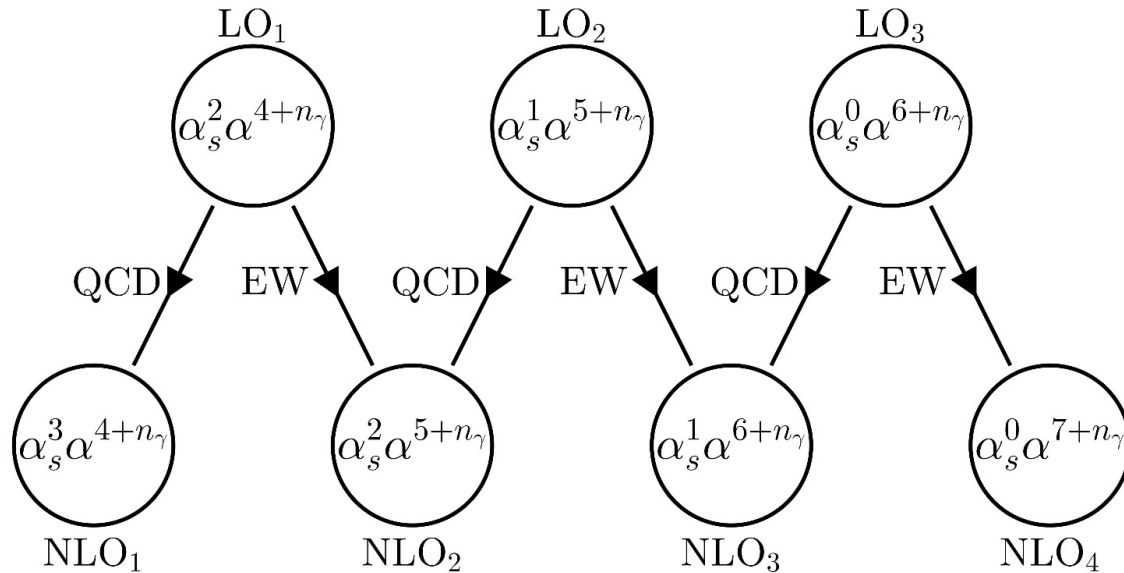
- With following partonic subprocesses

$$\text{NLO}_{\text{QCD}} = \text{LO}_1 + \text{NLO}_1$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 gg &\rightarrow l^+ \nu_\ell l^- \bar{\nu}_\ell b \bar{b} \gamma(\gamma) g, \\
 q\bar{q}/\bar{q}q &\rightarrow l^+ \nu_\ell l^- \bar{\nu}_\ell b \bar{b} \gamma(\gamma) g, & b\bar{b}/\bar{b}b &\rightarrow l^+ \nu_\ell l^- \bar{\nu}_\ell b \bar{b} \gamma(\gamma) g, \\
 gq/qg &\rightarrow l^+ \nu_\ell l^- \bar{\nu}_\ell b \bar{b} \gamma(\gamma) q, & g\bar{q}/\bar{q}g &\rightarrow l^+ \nu_\ell l^- \bar{\nu}_\ell b \bar{b} \gamma(\gamma) \bar{q}, \\
 gb/bg &\rightarrow l^+ \nu_\ell l^- \bar{\nu}_\ell b \bar{b} \gamma(\gamma) b, & g\bar{b}/\bar{b}g &\rightarrow l^+ \nu_\ell l^- \bar{\nu}_\ell b \bar{b} \gamma(\gamma) \bar{b}.
 \end{aligned}$$

NLO₂ & NLO₃ & NLO₄

- **NLO₂ & NLO₃**: cannot be completely separated into parts with only QCD or EW corrections
- **NLO₄**: NLO EW corrections to **LO₃**



- **NLO₂ @ $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^{5+n_\gamma})$**

- **NLO EW** corrections to **LO₁**
- **NLO QCD** corrections to **LO₂**

$$\text{NLO}_{\text{QCD+EW}} \equiv \text{LO}_1 + \text{NLO}_1 + \text{NLO}_2$$

WE INCLUDE ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

$$\text{NLO} = \text{LO}_1 + \text{LO}_2 + \text{LO}_3 + \text{NLO}_1 + \text{NLO}_2 + \text{NLO}_3 + \text{NLO}_4$$

$$\text{NLO}_{\text{prd}} = \text{LO}_1 + \text{LO}_2 + \text{LO}_3 + \text{NLO}_1 + \text{NLO}_{2,\text{prd}} + \text{NLO}_{3,\text{prd}} + \text{NLO}_{4,\text{prd}}$$

COMPUTATIONAL FRAMEWORK

VIRTUAL CORRECTIONS: HELAC-1LOOP & RECOLA+COLLIER

Actis, Denner, Hofer, Lang, Scharf, Uccirati, Comput. Phys. Commun. 214 (2017) 140

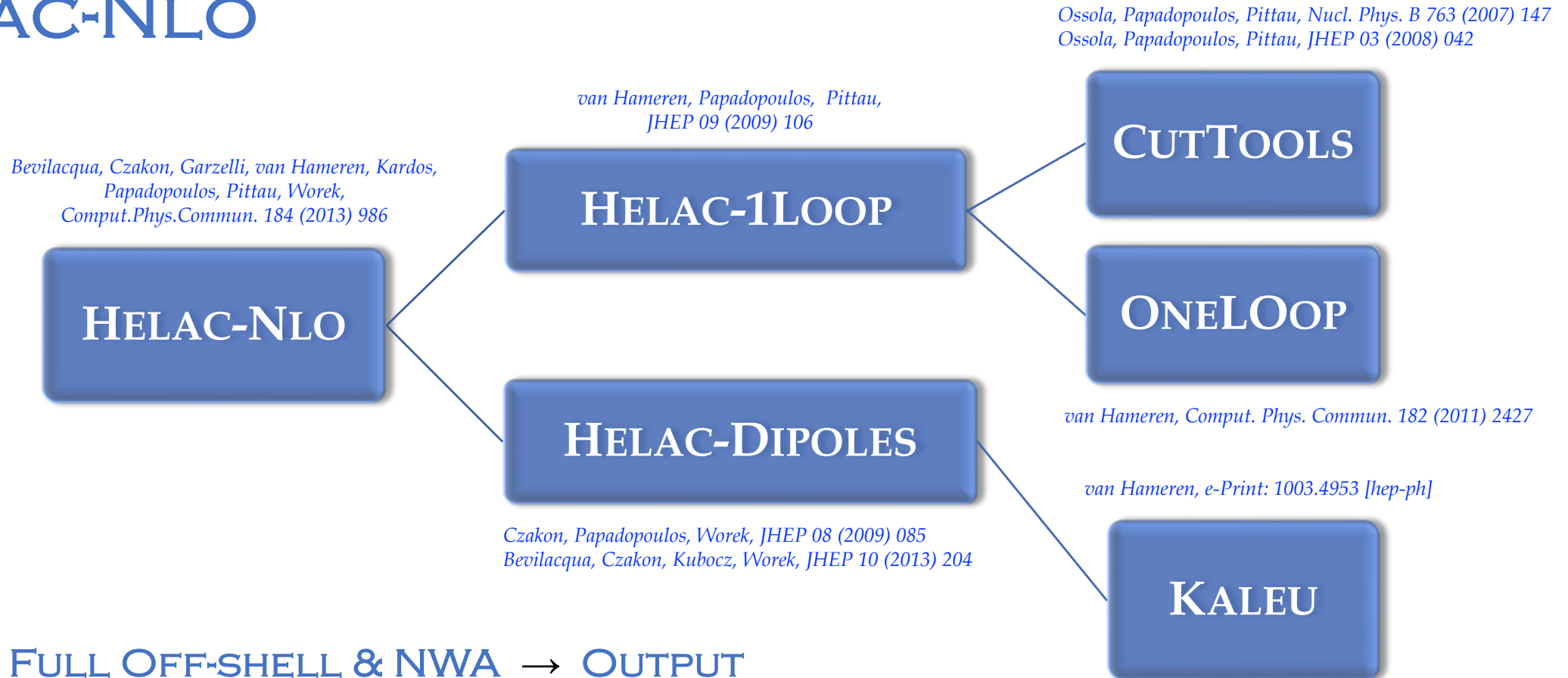
Denner, Lang, Uccirati, Comput. Phys. Commun. 224 (2018) 346

- Modifications in **RECOLA**
 - Partially unweighted events at Born used to calculate 1-loop corrections via reweighting techniques
 - Random polarisation method
 - Reduction to scalar integrals with OPP method with **CUTTOOLS & ONELOOP**
- α^n split into $\alpha_{G_\mu}^{n-n_\gamma} \alpha(0)^{n_\gamma} \rightarrow n_\gamma = 1$ ($n_\gamma = 2$)
 - In calculation α^n set to $\alpha = \alpha_{G_\mu}$ first & rescaled $(\alpha(0)/\alpha_{G_\mu})^{n_\gamma} \rightarrow \sigma_{t\bar{t}\gamma}$ & $\sigma_{t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma}$ reduced by 3% & 7%
 - Renormalisation in mixed scheme
 - ✓ First performed renormalisation of all powers of α in G_μ scheme
 - ✓ Changed for $\alpha(0)^{n_\gamma}$ by introducing new counterterm

REAL EMISSION: HELAC-DIPOLES

- Two NLO QCD subtraction schemes: Catani-Seymour & Nagy-Soper
 - Soft and collinear singularities of QCD origin
 - Extended to include soft and collinear singularities of QED origin
 - Extended to perform NLO QCD & EW calculations in NWA \rightarrow Internal on-shell resonances

HELAC-NLO



■ BOTH FULL OFF-SHELL & NWA → OUTPUT

- Predictions stored as partially unweighted “events” → *ROOT-Ntuples Files & Les Houches Files*
- Each “event” provided with supplementary matrix element & PDF information
- Results for different scale settings & PDF choices by can be obtained by reweighting
- Different observables and/or binning can be provided + more exclusive cuts → With caveat

LHC SETUP

- Inclusive cuts
- **NLO NNPDF3.1luxQED PDF** → When both higher-order QCD and EW corrections & γ -initiated subprocesses are considered
- IR-safe **anti- k_T jet algorithm** with **$R=0.4$**
- Smooth photon isolation prescription → Event is rejected unless below condition is fulfilled

S. Frixione, Phys. Lett. B429 (1998) 369

$\sum_i E_{T_i} \Theta(R - R_{\gamma i}) \leq \epsilon_\gamma E_{T_\gamma} \left(\frac{1 - \cos(R)}{1 - \cos(R_{\gamma j})} \right)^n$	for all $R \leq R_{\gamma j}$ with $R_{\gamma j} = 0.4$ and $\epsilon_\gamma = n = 1$.
---	---

- Parameters n & ϵ_γ not restricted by any constraints
- Arbitrarily soft radiation inside cone around isolated photon allowed → Collinear ($R \rightarrow 0$) radiation forbidden → Collinear splittings associated with fragmentation functions removed → Isolation applied in experimental analyses no longer reproduced

SMOOTH PHOTON ISOLATION PRESCRIPTION

$pp \rightarrow tt\gamma\gamma$

Stremmer, Worek, JHEP 08 (2023) 179

$n = 1$	$\sigma_{\text{Full}}^{\text{NLO}}$ [fb]
$\epsilon_\gamma = 1.0$	$0.2973(3)^{+1.9\%}_{-5.4\%}$
$\epsilon_\gamma = 0.5$	$0.2832(7)^{+1.5\%}_{-4.2\%}$
$E_{T\gamma} \epsilon_\gamma = 10 \text{ GeV}$	$0.2666(8)^{+1.0\%}_{-7.2\%}$

Results for different parameter choices
of smooth photon isolation prescription

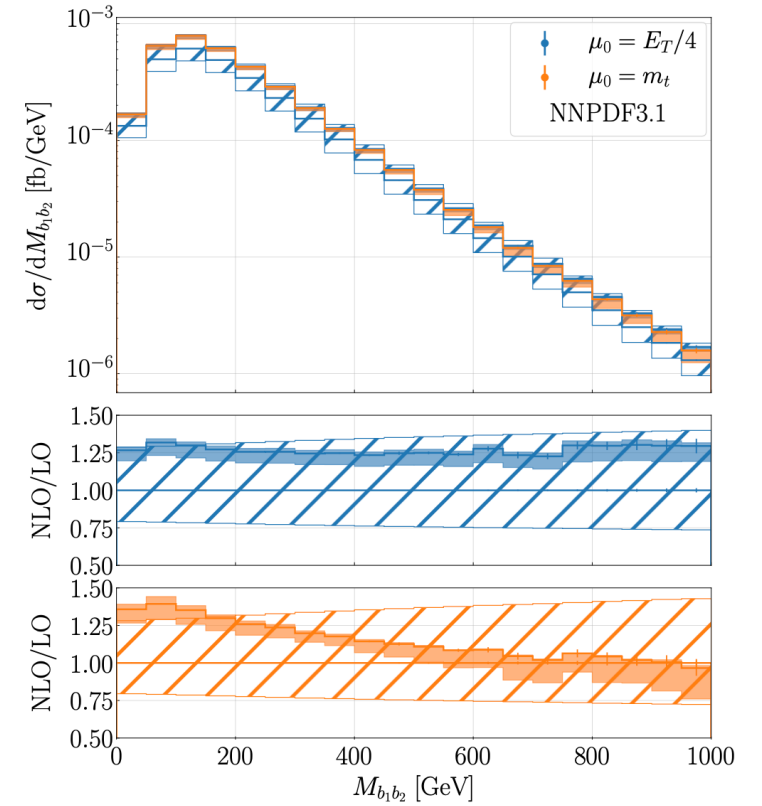
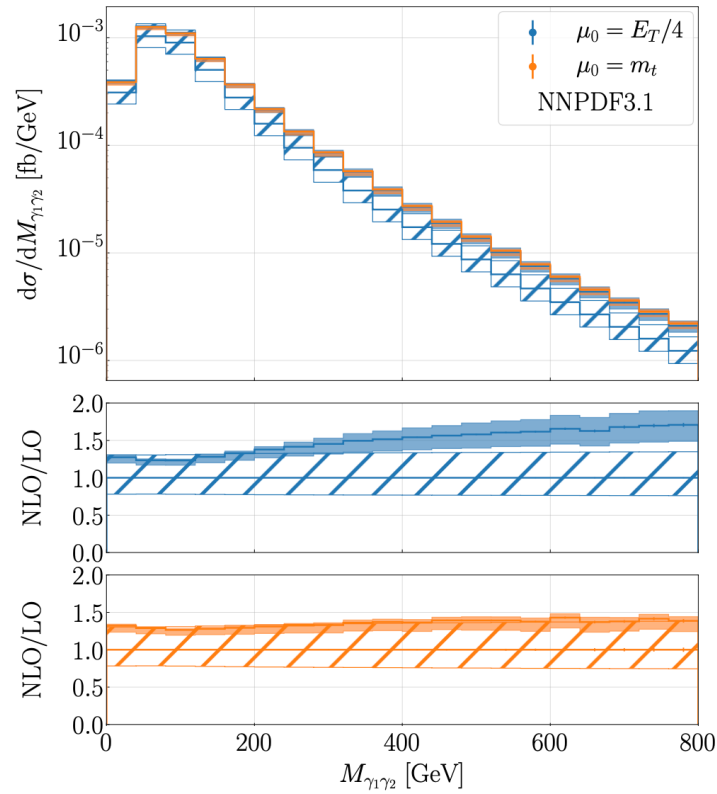
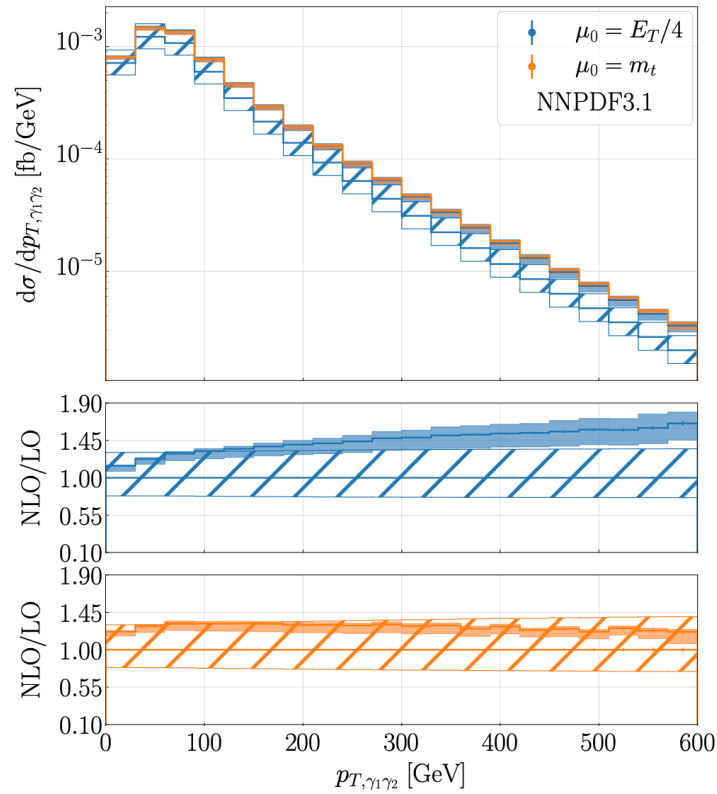
l+jets decay channel

In *di-lepton* decay channel $3\% - 6\%$

- Dependence on n & ϵ_γ parameters is not irrelevant
- Could affect comparisons between theoretical predictions and experimental results
- Cross section is reduced by about $5\% - 10\%$
- Substantial differences due to high number of jets (up to 5) and/or photons (2)
- Differences similar in size or even larger than corresponding NLO scale uncertainties for this process

$$\text{NLO}_{\text{QCD}} = \text{LO}_1 + \text{NLO}_1$$

$pp \rightarrow tt\gamma\gamma$



Stremmer, Worek, JHEP 08 (2023) 179

- Impact of NLO QCD effects on differential distributions substantial
- Size of higher-order corrections and uncertainties depends on observable & scale choice

$$\text{NLO}_{\text{QCD}} = \text{LO}_1 + \text{NLO}_1$$

$pp \rightarrow tt\gamma$

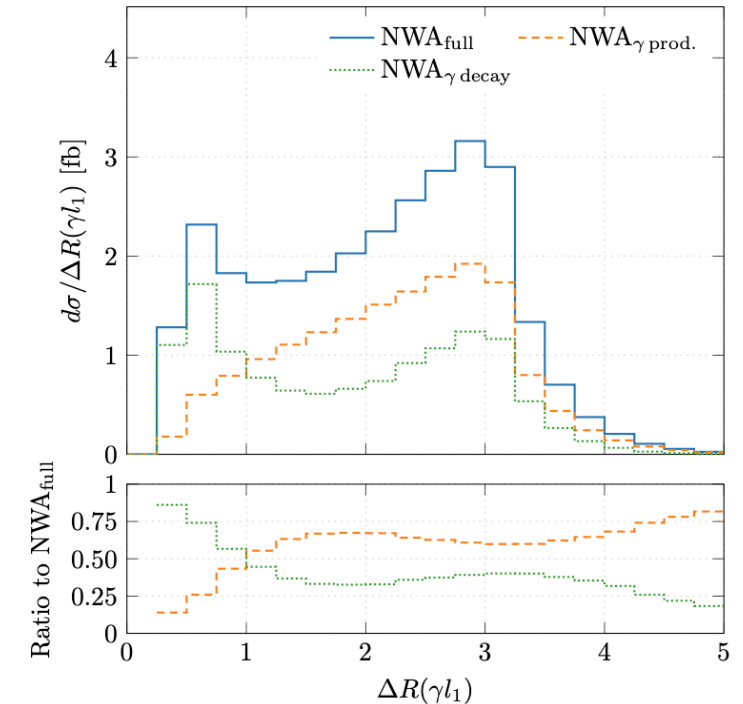
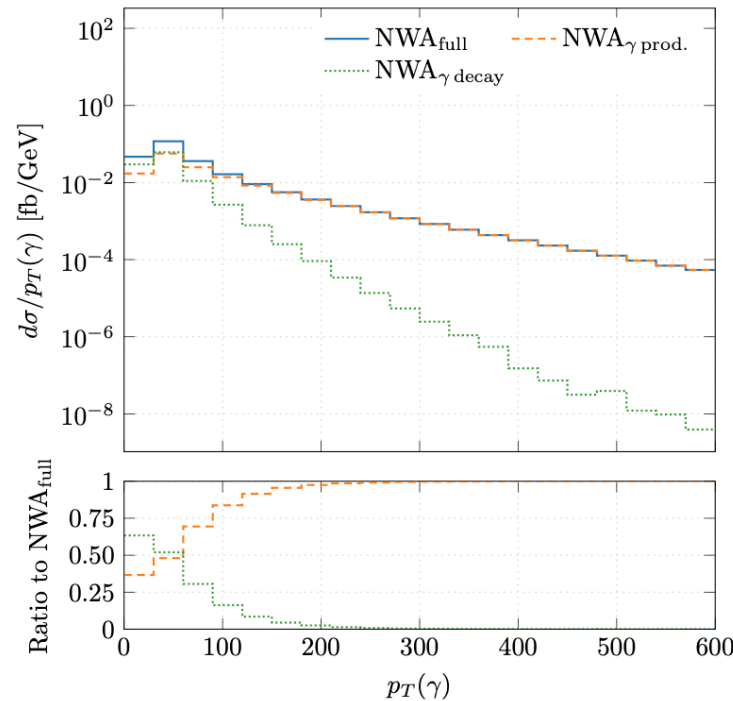
- Photon radiation in production & decays
- Integrated level @ NLO QCD
 - $p_{Tb} > 40 \text{ GeV}, p_{T\gamma} > 25 \text{ GeV}$
 - *Prod. contribution* $\rightarrow 57\%$
 - *Decay contribution* $\rightarrow 43\%$
- Differential level @ NLO QCD
 - Various phase-space regions with various effects

Production

$$d\sigma_{tt\gamma}^{\text{NWA}} = d\sigma_{t\bar{t}\gamma} d\mathcal{B}_{t \rightarrow be^+\nu_e} d\mathcal{B}_{\bar{t} \rightarrow \bar{b}\mu^-\bar{\nu}_\mu}$$

Decays

$$+ d\sigma_{t\bar{t}} \left(d\mathcal{B}_{t \rightarrow be^+\nu_e\gamma} d\mathcal{B}_{\bar{t} \rightarrow \bar{b}\mu^-\bar{\nu}_\mu} + d\mathcal{B}_{t \rightarrow be^+\nu_e} d\mathcal{B}_{\bar{t} \rightarrow \bar{b}\mu^-\bar{\nu}_\mu\gamma} \right)$$



NLO_{QCD} = LO₁ + NLO₁

$pp \rightarrow tt\gamma\gamma$

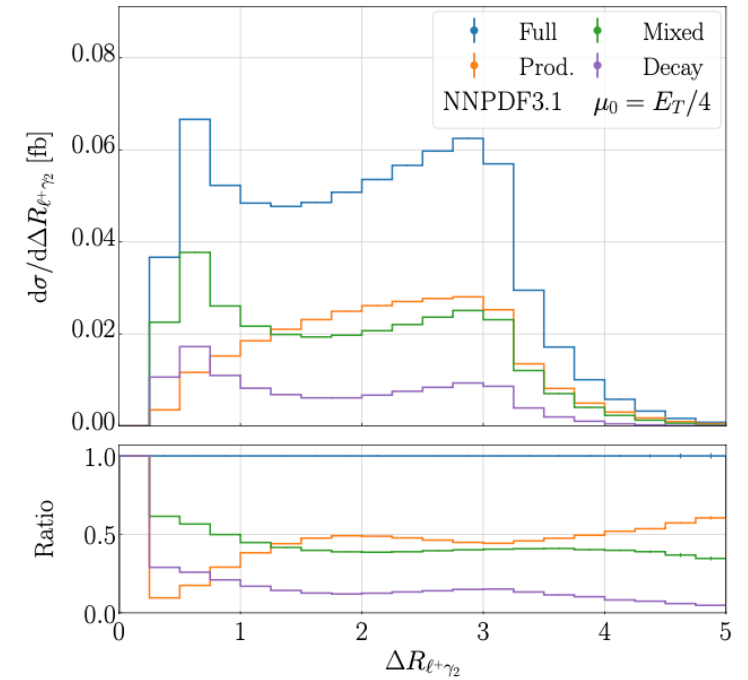
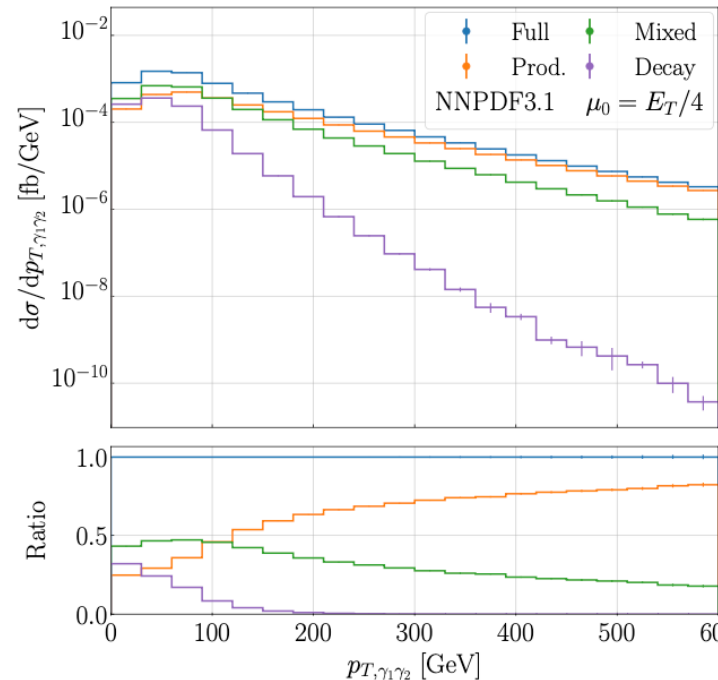
- Photon radiation in production & decays
- Integrated level @ NLO QCD

$$d\sigma_{\text{Full}} = \underbrace{d\sigma_{t\bar{t}\gamma\gamma} \times \frac{d\Gamma_t}{\Gamma_t} \times \frac{d\Gamma_{\bar{t}}}{\Gamma_{\bar{t}}}}_{\sigma_{\text{Prod.}}} + \underbrace{d\sigma_{t\bar{t}\gamma} \times \left(\frac{d\Gamma_{t\gamma}}{\Gamma_t} \times \frac{d\Gamma_{\bar{t}}}{\Gamma_{\bar{t}}} + \frac{d\Gamma_t}{\Gamma_t} \times \frac{d\Gamma_{\bar{t}\gamma}}{\Gamma_{\bar{t}}} \right)}_{\sigma_{\text{Mixed}}} + \underbrace{d\sigma_{t\bar{t}} \times \left(\frac{d\Gamma_{t\gamma\gamma}}{\Gamma_t} \times \frac{d\Gamma_{\bar{t}}}{\Gamma_{\bar{t}}} + \frac{d\Gamma_t}{\Gamma_t} \times \frac{d\Gamma_{\bar{t}\gamma\gamma}}{\Gamma_{\bar{t}}} + \frac{d\Gamma_{t\gamma}}{\Gamma_t} \times \frac{d\Gamma_{\bar{t}\gamma}}{\Gamma_{\bar{t}}} \right)}_{\sigma_{\text{Decay}}}$$

- $p_{T_b} > 25 \text{ GeV}, p_{T_\gamma} > 25 \text{ GeV}$
- Mixed contribution $\rightarrow 44\%$
- Prod. contribution $\rightarrow 40\%$
- Decay contribution $\rightarrow 16\%$

- Differential level @ NLO QCD

- Various phase-space regions with various effects



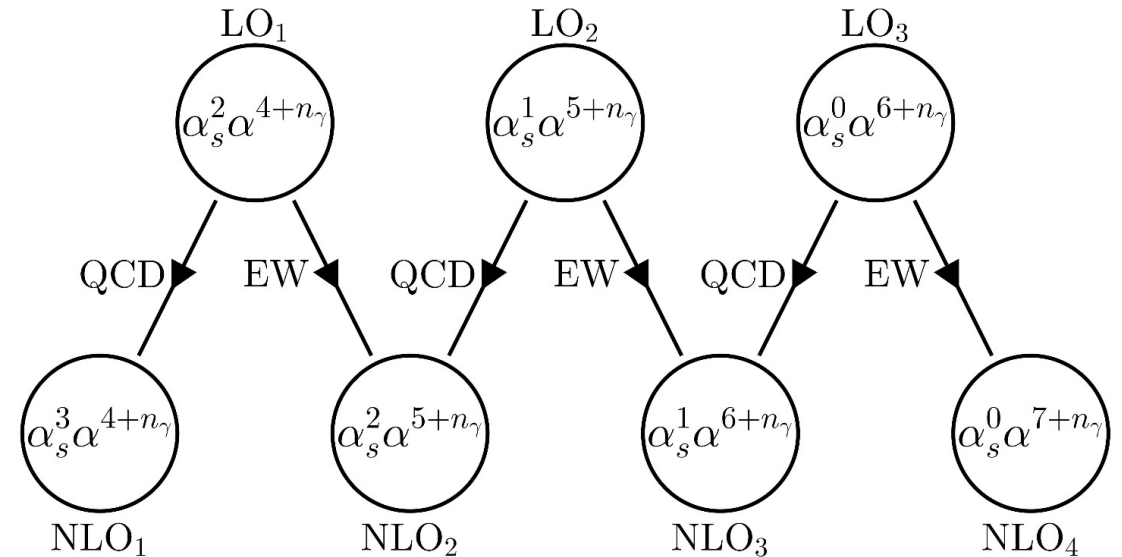
NLO_{QCD} & NLO_{PRD} & NLO

$pp \rightarrow tt\gamma$

- Differences between LO₁ & LO below 1%
- Differences between NLO_{QCD} & NLO below 1%
- Differences between NLO_{prd} & NLO below 1%

$LO = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3$
$NLO_{QCD} = LO_1 + NLO_1$
$NLO = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3 + NLO_1 + NLO_2 + NLO_3 + NLO_4$
$NLO_{prd} = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3 + NLO_1 + NLO_{2,prd} + NLO_{3,prd} + NLO_{4,prd}$

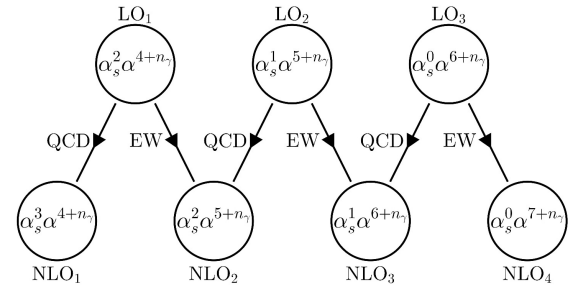
		σ_i [fb]	Ratio to LO ₁
LO ₁	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^5)$	55.604(8) ^{+31.4%} _{-22.3%}	1.00
LO ₂	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^1 \alpha^6)$	0.18775(5) ^{+20.1%} _{-15.4%}	+0.34%
LO ₃	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0 \alpha^7)$	0.26970(4) ^{+14.3%} _{-16.9%}	+0.49%
NLO ₁	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3 \alpha^5)$	+3.44(5)	+6.19%
NLO ₂	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^6)$	-0.1553(9)	-0.28%
NLO ₃	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^1 \alpha^7)$	+0.2339(3)	+0.42%
NLO ₄	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0 \alpha^8)$	+0.001595(8)	+0.003%
LO		56.061(8) ^{+31.2%} _{-22.1%}	1.0082
NLO _{QCD}		59.05(5) ^{+1.6%} _{-5.9%}	1.0620
NLO _{prd}		59.08(5) ^{+1.5%} _{-5.9%}	1.0626
NLO		59.59(5) ^{+1.6%} _{-5.9%}	1.0717



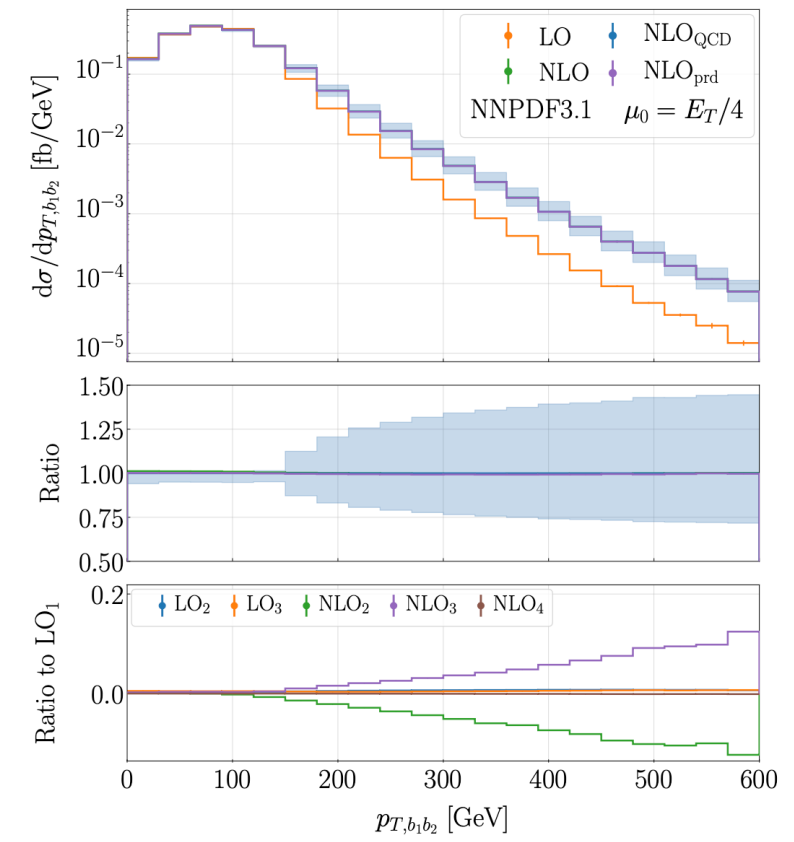
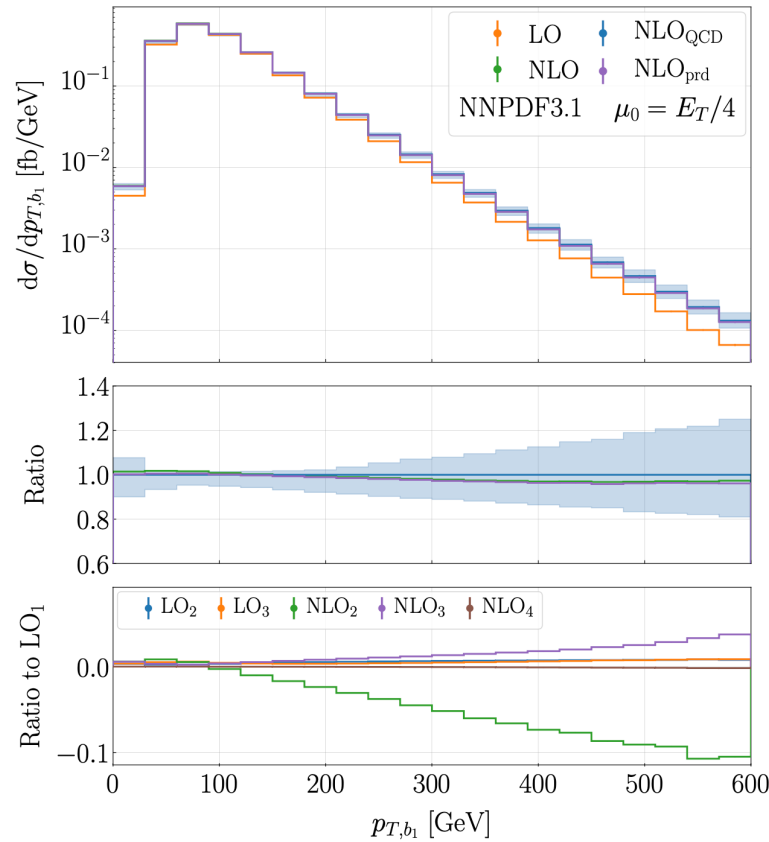
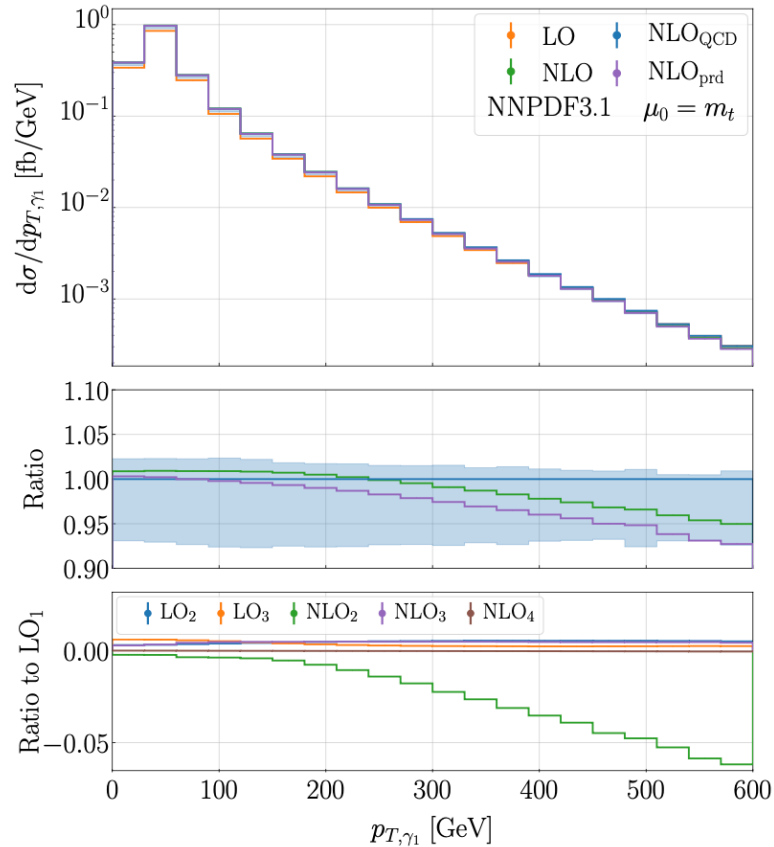
NLO_{prd} → photon bremsstrahlung & subleading NLO corrections in production only

NLO_{QCD} & NLO_{PRD} & NLO

$pp \rightarrow tt\gamma$



Stremmer, Worek e-Print: 2403.03796 [hep-ph]



- EW Sudakov logarithms in **NLO₂** leads to reduction in tails of up to **10%** compared to **NLO_{QCD}** result
- Random cancellations between **NLO₂** & **NLO₃** → Should be considered together
- NLO_{prd}** approximation models complete **NLO** result very well

NLO_{QCD} & NLO_{PRD} & NLO

$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$

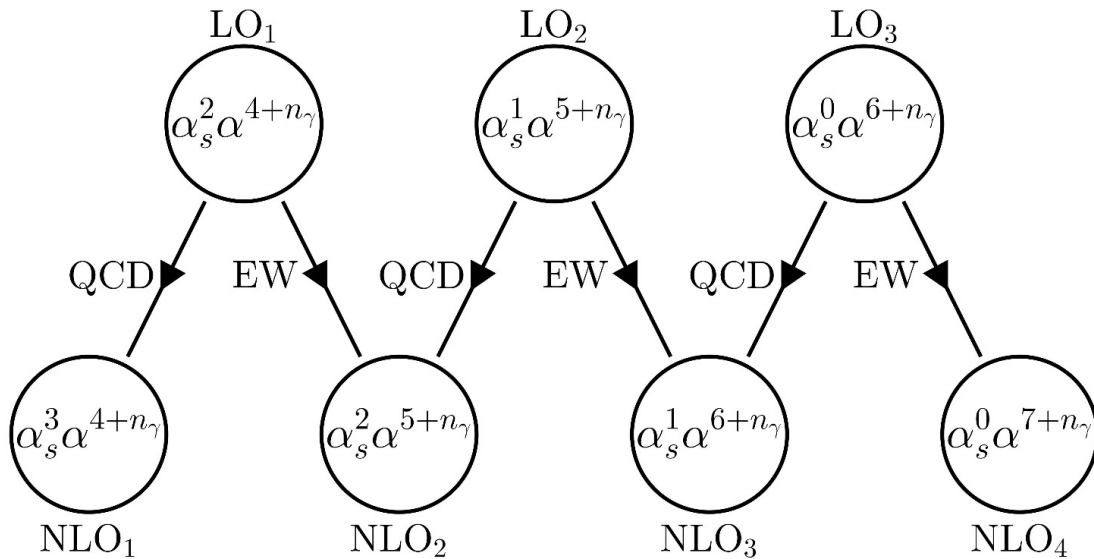
$$LO = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3$$

$$NLO_{QCD} = LO_1 + NLO_1$$

$$NLO = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3 + NLO_1 + NLO_2 + NLO_3 + NLO_4$$

$$NLO_{prd} = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3 + NLO_1 + NLO_{2,prd} + NLO_{3,prd} + NLO_{4,prd}$$

- Differences between **LO₁** & **LO** below **1%**
- Differences between **NLO_{QCD}** & **NLO** below **1%**
- Differences between **NLO_{prd}** & **NLO** below **1%**



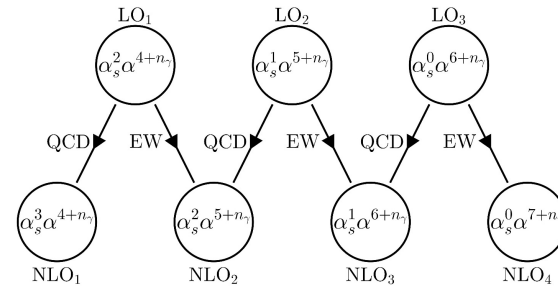
NLO_{prd} → photon bremsstrahlung & subleading
NLO corrections in production only

		σ_i [fb]	Ratio to LO ₁
LO ₁	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^6)$	0.15928(3) ^{+31.3%} _{-22.1%}	1.00
LO ₂	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^1 \alpha^7)$	0.0003798(2) ^{+25.8%} _{-19.2%}	+0.24%
LO ₃	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0 \alpha^8)$	0.0010991(2) ^{+10.6%} _{-13.1%}	+0.69%
NLO ₁	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3 \alpha^6)$	+0.0110(2)	+6.89%
NLO ₂	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^7)$	-0.00233(2)	-1.46%
NLO ₃	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^1 \alpha^8)$	+0.000619(1)	+0.39%
NLO ₄	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0 \alpha^9)$	-0.0000166(2)	-0.01%
LO		0.16076(3) ^{+30.9%} _{-21.9%}	1.0093
NLO _{QCD}		0.1703(2) ^{+1.9%} _{-6.2%}	1.0690
NLO _{prd}		0.1694(2) ^{+1.7%} _{-5.9%}	1.0637
NLO		0.1700(2) ^{+1.8%} _{-6.0%}	1.0674

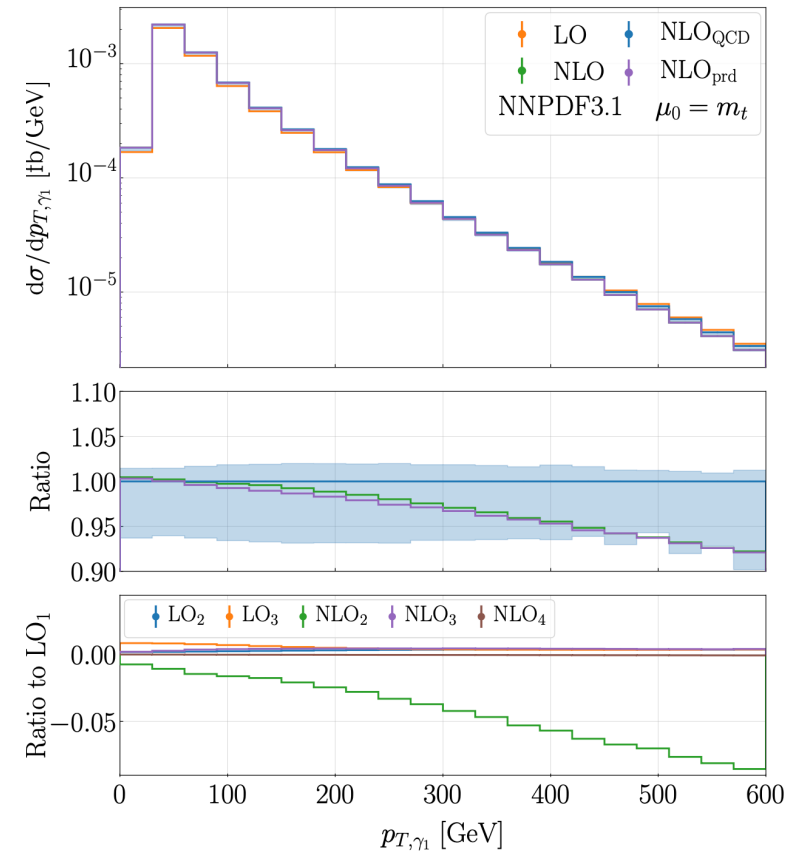
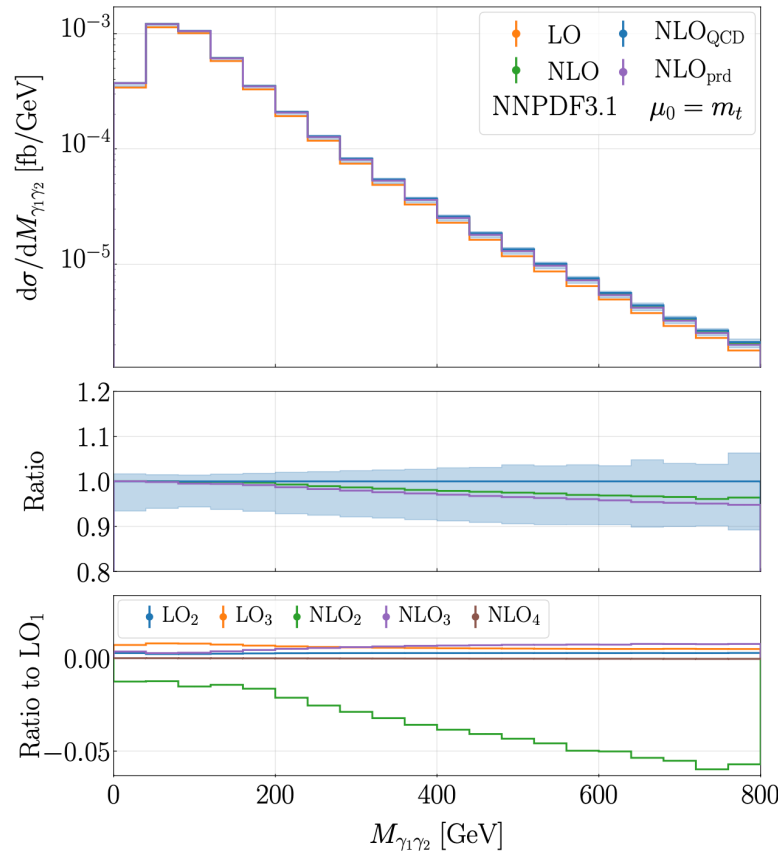
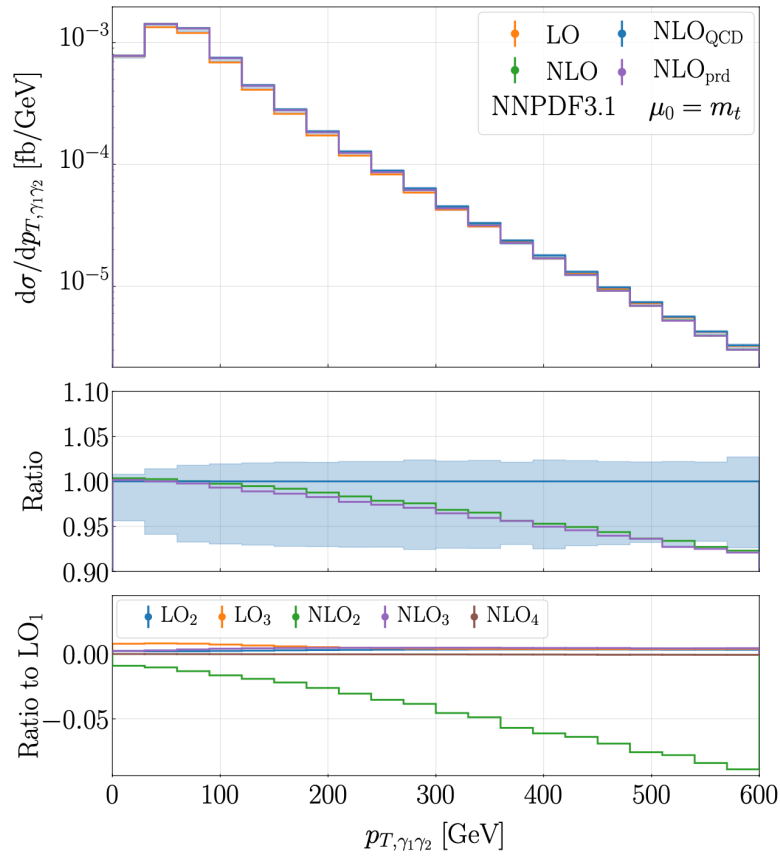
Stremmer, Worek e-Print: 2403.03796 [hep-ph]

NLO_{QCD} & NLO_{PRD} & NLO

$pp \rightarrow ttH \rightarrow tt\gamma\gamma$



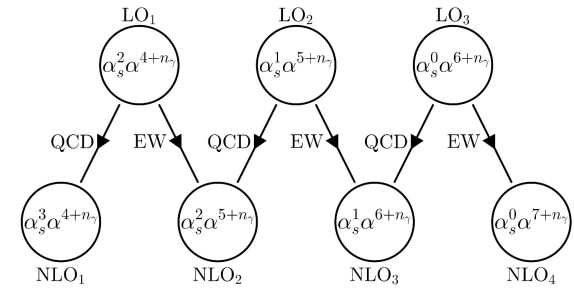
$pp \rightarrow tt\gamma\gamma$



- NLO₂ can be as large as NLO_{QCD} scale uncertainties
- Potentially affecting comparison between theory & experiment

Stremmer, Worek e-Print: 2403.03796 [hep-ph]

SUMMARY



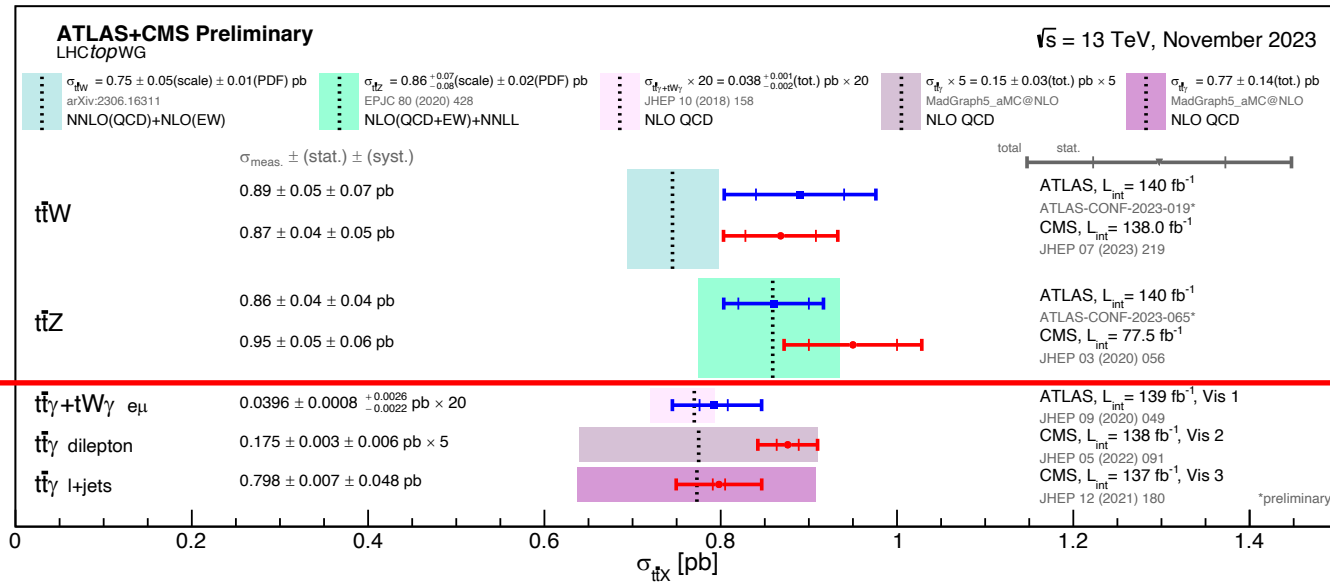
- Impact of NLO QCD effects on differential distributions substantial
- Size of higher-order corrections & uncertainties depends on observable & scale choice
- Overall → Higher order NLO QCD corrections important
- EW Sudakov logarithms in **NLO₂** leads to reduction in tails of up to **10%** compared to **NLO_{QCD}** result
- Random cancellations between **NLO₂** & **NLO₃** → Should be considered together
- **NLO_{prd}** approximation models complete **NLO** result very well
- **NLO₂** can be as large as **NLO_{QCD}** scale uncertainties → Potentially affecting comparison between theory & experiment

$LO = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3$
$NLO_{QCD} = LO_1 + NLO_1$
$NLO = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3 + NLO_1 + NLO_2 + NLO_3 + NLO_4$
$NLO_{prd} = LO_1 + LO_2 + LO_3 + NLO_1 + NLO_{2,prd} + NLO_{3,prd} + NLO_{4,prd}$

BACKUP

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}$



$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}\gamma$ @ LHC $_{13\text{TeV}}$

CMS, JHEP 05 (2022) 091

