



NLO QCD corrections to off-shell $t\bar{t}$ production at hadron colliders

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– in collaboration with A.Denner, S.Kallweit and S.Pozzorini –

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Introduction

$t\bar{t}$ production @ Tevatron/LHC – physics issues

- precision measurement of m_t
 \hookrightarrow cornerstone of EW precision physics / SM fit
- FB asymmetry @ Tevatron
 \hookrightarrow measurement challenges SM (new physics?)
- top-spin physics @ LHC
- EW top couplings via $t\bar{t} + \gamma/Z/H$
- $t\bar{t}$ delivers background to many new-physics searches
 (large cross section with signatures of missing \cancel{E}_T , jets, leptons)

\Rightarrow **Precision calculations** necessary that

- comprise the relevant fixed-order QCD & EW corrections
- include the top-quark decays to the relevant partonic final states
 \hookrightarrow full reactions $pp/p\bar{p} \rightarrow b\bar{b} + 2\ell 2\nu / \ell\nu 2j/4j$
- are improved by QCD resummations or matched parton showers
- are interfaced to PYTHIA/HERWIG/SHERPA for detector simulations

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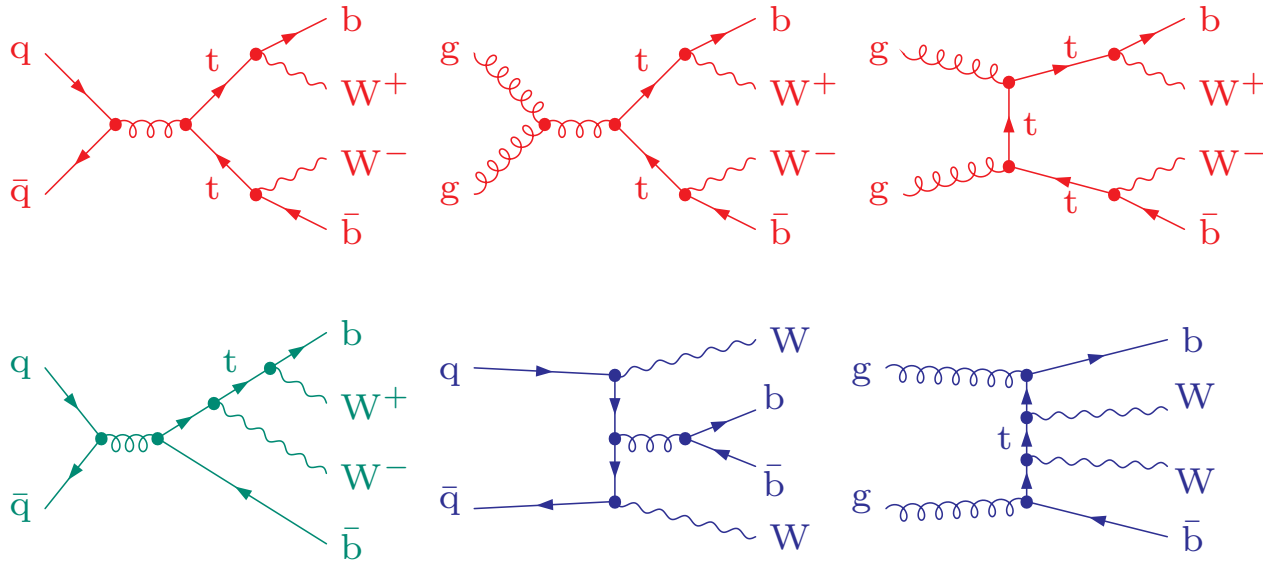
**Considered
in this talk !**

Brief history of precision calculations for hadronic $t\bar{t}$ production

- NLO QCD corrections Nason et al. '89; Beenakker et al. '91; Mangano et al. '92; Frixione et al. '95
- NLO EW corrections Beenakker et al. '94; S. Moretti et al. '06; Kühn et al. '06; Hollik et al. '07–'11; Bernreuther et al. '08
- QCD resummations Laenen et al. '92; Catani et al. '96; Berger et al. '96; Kidonakis et al. '97–'01; Bonciani et al. '98; Beneke et al. '09–'11; Czakon et al. '09–'11; Ahrens et al. '10–'11; Kidonakis '10–'11; Aliev et al. '10; Cacciari et al. '11
- Steps towards NNLO QCD Czakon et al. '07–'08; S.D. et al. '07; Kniehl et al. '08; Anastasiou et al. '08; Bonciani et al. '08–'09; Gehrmann-De Ridder et al. '09; Czakon '10–'11
- NLO QCD – inclusion of top decays in NWA Bernreuther et al. '04–'10; Melnikov et al. '09
- NLO QCD – full $b\bar{b} + 2\ell 2\nu$ final states Denner et al. '10; Bevilacqua et al. '10
 \hookrightarrow results extended in the following (paper in preparation)

Features of the NLO calculation

Leading-order calculation



... W decays attached everywhere

- specific process: $pp/p\bar{p} \rightarrow \nu_e e^+ \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b \bar{b}$
- # tree diagrams: $q\bar{q}$: 31 (14 for on-shell W's)
 gg : 79 (38 for on-shell W's)
- 2, 1, or 0 intermediate top-quark resonances
- 2 or 1 intermediate W-boson resonances
- 14-dim. phase space \rightarrow multi-channel Monte Carlo integration

NLO – virtual corrections

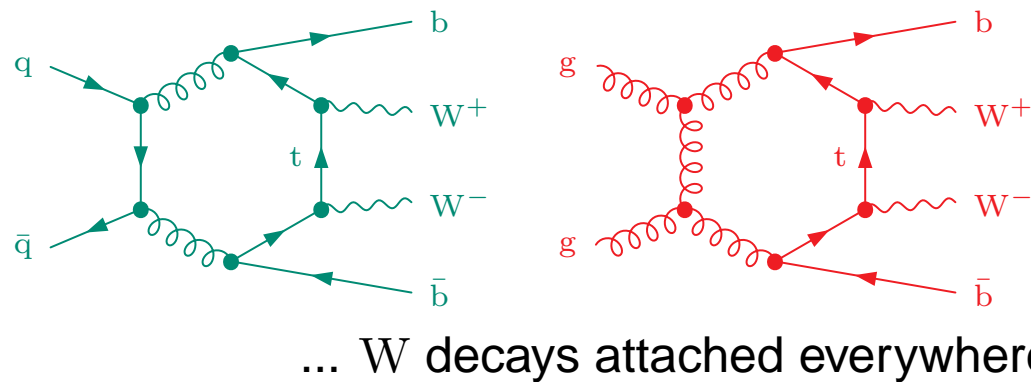
- # 1-loop diagrams: (on-shell W's, fermion loops of one generation)

$q\bar{q}$: 294 (4 hexagons, 24 pentagons, ...)

gg : 795 (21 hexagons, 96 pentagons, ...)

- most complicated representatives:

hexagons with tensors up to **rank 4** for $q\bar{q}$ and **rank 5** for gg



- 2, 1, 0 intermediate top-quark resonances

Treatment of intermediate resonances

Top-quark resonances

- full off-shellness kept everywhere
 \hookrightarrow NLO accuracy in resonant and non-resonant regions
- complex-mass scheme Denner, S.D., Roth, Wieders '05
 $\hookrightarrow \mu_t^2 = m_t^2 - im_t\Gamma_t = \text{location of complex pole in propagator}$
- generic size of off-shell effects in σ_{tot} : $\sim \Gamma_t/m_t \lesssim 1\%$ (numerically confirmed)

W-boson resonances

- leptonic W decays included
 - W off-shell effects to “top-inclusive observables” doubly suppressed:
 $\sigma_{b\bar{b}2\ell 2\nu} \sim \sigma_{t\bar{t}} \times (\Gamma_{t \rightarrow b\ell\nu}/\Gamma_t)^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{W off-shellness cancels in top BR's}$
 - treatment of W off-shellness:
 - ◇ full off-shellness kept at LO and in real corrections (complex-mass scheme)
 - ◇ virtual corrections in “double-pole approximation” (=resonance expansion) \hookrightarrow NLO accuracy near W resonances, LO for far-off-shell W's
- But: concept applicable to electroweak corrections (otherwise proliferation of complexity)

Our Feynman-diagrammatic approach for virtual 1-loop corrections

$$\mathcal{M}_{1\text{-loop}} = \sum_{(\text{sub})\text{diagrams } \Gamma} \mathcal{M}_\Gamma \quad \text{generated with FEYNARTS (Küblbeck et al. '90; Hahn '01)}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_\Gamma = \sum_n \underbrace{C^{(\Gamma)}}_{\text{colour factor}} \underbrace{F_n^{(\Gamma)}}_{\uparrow} \underbrace{\hat{\mathcal{M}}_n}_{\text{spin structures like } [\bar{u}_b(k_b) \not{\epsilon}_{g_1}(k_{g_1}) v_{\bar{b}}(k_{\bar{b}})] (\epsilon_{g_2}(k_{g_2}) \cdot k_b) \dots}$$

invariant functions containing
1-loop tensor integrals $T^{\mu\nu\rho\dots}$

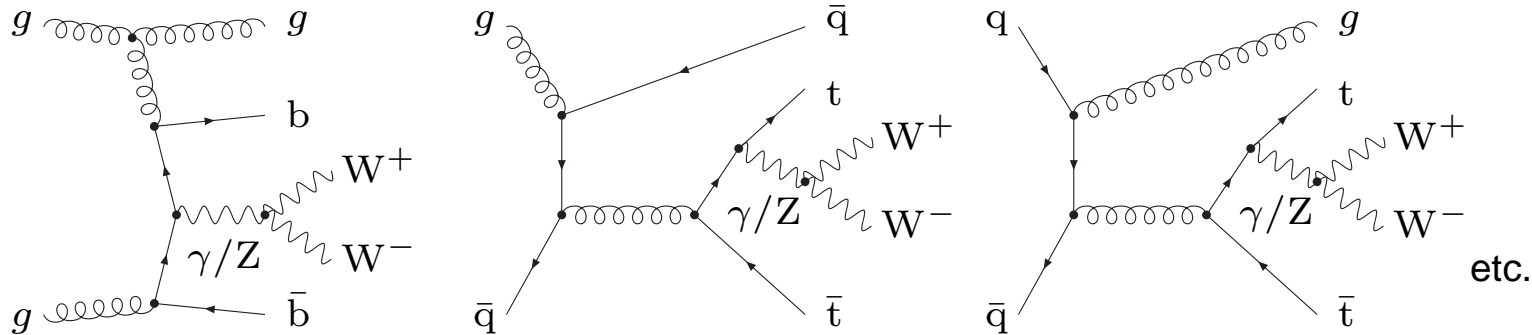
$$T^{\mu\nu\rho\dots} = (p_k^\mu p_l^\nu p_m^\rho \dots) T_{kl\dots} + (g^{\mu\nu} p_m^\rho \dots) T_{00m\dots} + \dots$$

$$T_{kl\dots} = \text{linear combination of scalar 1-loop integrals } A_0, B_0, C_0, D_0$$

- 5-/6-point integrals reduced to 4-point integrals Denner, S.D. '02,'05
- 4-/3-point integrals reduced à la Passarino/Veltman '79 for regular points
- specially designed methods for rescuing cases with small Gram det. Denner, S.D. '05
- A_0, \dots, D_0 with complex masses Denner, S.D. '10

- Features:**
- advantage: get all colour/spin channels in one stroke
 - lengthy algebra \rightarrow automation (MATHEMATICA) $\rightarrow \sim 4.5$ Mio lines of code
 - two independent calculations, one using features of FORMCALC (Hahn)

Corrections due to real radiation



Salient features:

- fast evaluation of amplitudes → spinor methods / MADGRAPH / OPENLOOPS
Stelzer, Long Cascioli, Maierhoefer, Pozzorini '11
- multi-channel Monte Carlo integration over phase space
- soft and collinear divergences
↪ dipole subtraction formalism
Catani, Seymour '96; S.D. '99
Phaf, Weinzierl '01
Catani, S.D., Seymour, Trócsányi '02

$$\sigma^{\text{NLO}} = \underbrace{\int_{m+1} \left[d\sigma^{\text{real}} - d\sigma^{\text{sub}} \right]}_{\text{finite}} + \underbrace{\int_m \left[d\sigma^{\text{virtual}} + d\bar{\sigma}_1^{\text{sub}} \right]}_{\text{finite}} + \int_0^1 dx \underbrace{\int_m \left[d\sigma^{\text{fact}}(x) + \left(d\bar{\sigma}^{\text{sub}}(x) \right)_+ \right]}_{\text{finite}}$$

- two alternative IR regularizations: dim. reg. / mass reg. (small m_q, m_b)

Runtime of various parts of the calculation

Typical setup:

- 2×10^7 events before applying cuts
- single 3 GHz Intel Xeon processor
- pgf77 compiler

Some statistics:

	$\sigma/\sigma_{\text{LO}}$	# events (after cuts)	$(\Delta\sigma)_{\text{stat}}/\sigma$	runtime	time/event
tree level	86%	5.3×10^6	0.4×10^{-3}	38 min	0.4 ms
virtual	−11%	0.26×10^6	0.6×10^{-3}	13 h	180 ms
real + dipoles	49%	10×10^6	3×10^{-3}	40 h	14 ms
total	124%		4×10^{-3}	53 h	

↪ Performance very good !

Numerical results



Setup – most relevant details

- **two scale choices:** $(\mu = \mu_R = \mu_F)$

fixed scale (FS): $\mu_0 = m_t$

dynamical scale (DS): $\mu_{\text{dyn}} = \sqrt{\sqrt{m_t^2 + p_{T,t}^2} \sqrt{m_t^2 + p_{T,\bar{t}}^2}}$

- **top-quark width:** two different values with on- or off-shell W's

Jezabek/Kühn '89

↪ necessary to receive consistent (effective) branching ratios

W off shell:	$\Gamma_{t,\text{LO}} = 1.4655 \text{ GeV},$	$\Gamma_{t,\text{NLO}} = 1.3376 \text{ GeV}$	} differ by 1.6%
W on shell:	$\Gamma_{t,\text{LO}} = 1.4426 \text{ GeV},$	$\Gamma_{t,\text{NLO}} = 1.3167 \text{ GeV}$	

- **W/Z-boson widths:** NLO QCD predictions everywhere
(only leptonic W decays, no imbalance in BR's)

- **More details:**

G_μ scheme for EW couplings, $m_b = 0$, $M_H \rightarrow \infty$, MSTW2008(N)LO PDFs,

$N_F = 5$, anti- k_T algorithm with $R = 0.4(0.5)$ for Tev.(LHC), cuts:

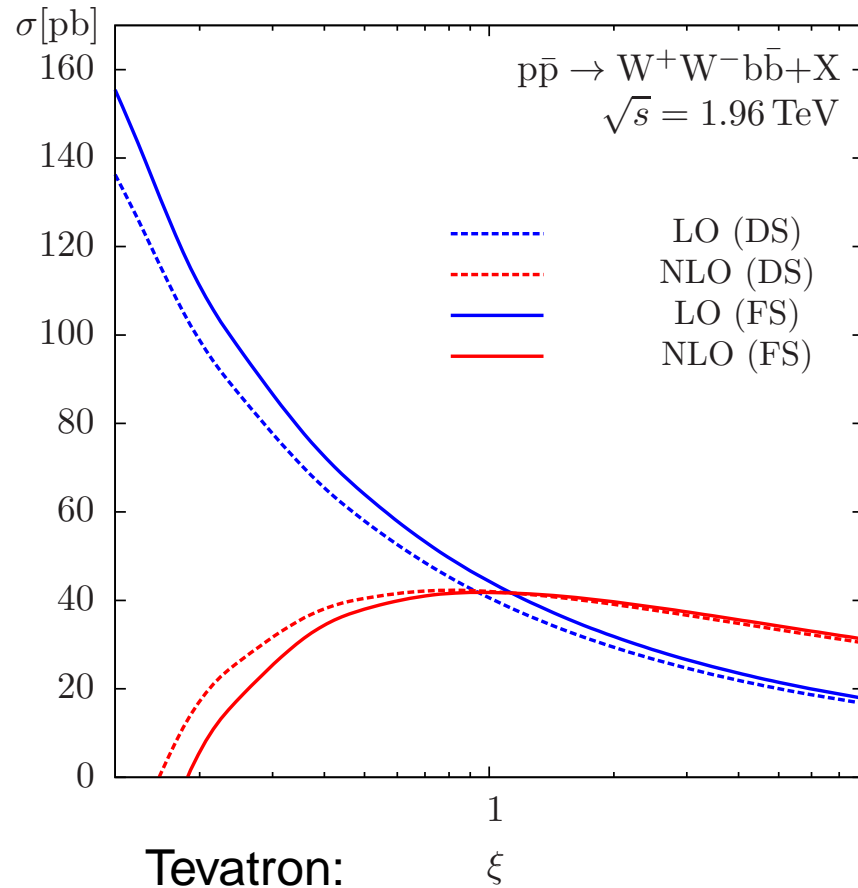
$p_{T,b} > 20(30) \text{ GeV}, |\eta_b| < 2.5, p_{T,\text{miss}} > 25(20) \text{ GeV}, p_{T,l} > 20 \text{ GeV}, |\eta_l| < 2.5$

3.1 Fixed versus dynamical scale

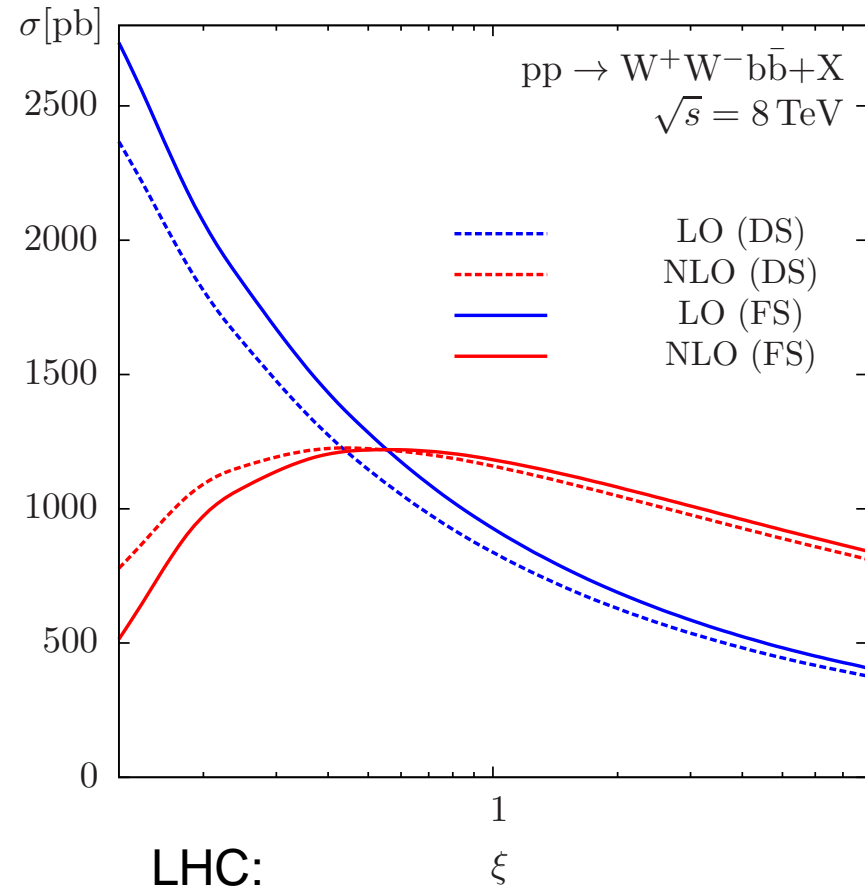
Scale dependence of integrated cross sections

$$\mu = \mu_R = \mu_F, \quad \mu_{\text{FS}} = \xi m_t, \quad \mu_{\text{DS}} = \xi \mu_{\text{dyn}}$$

Denner, S.D., Kallweit, Pozzorini '10,'12



$q\bar{q}$ dominance (s -channel)

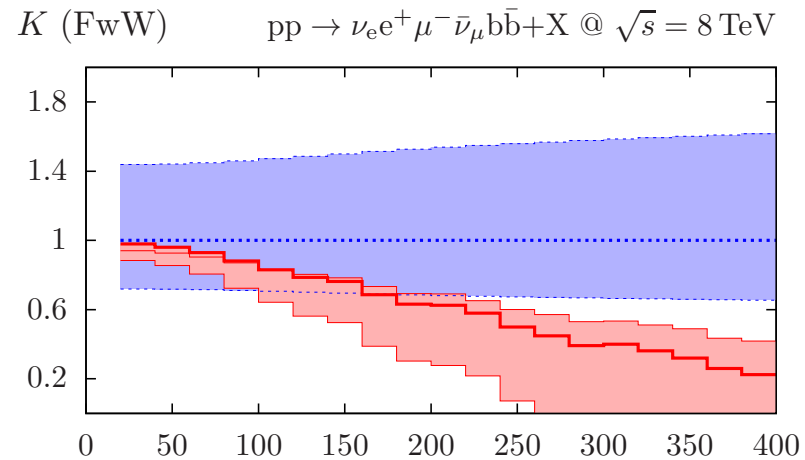
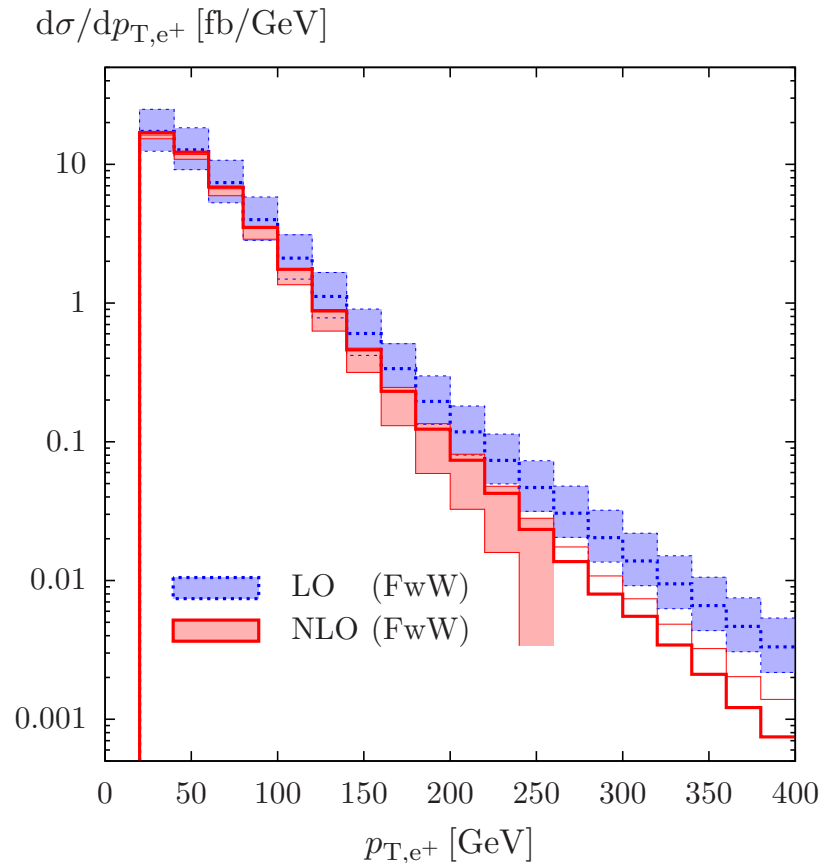


gg dominance (t -channel)

\hookrightarrow smaller scales relevant

NLO QCD corrections to p_T distributions – example: leptonic p_T

Denner, S.D., Kallweit, Pozzorini '12



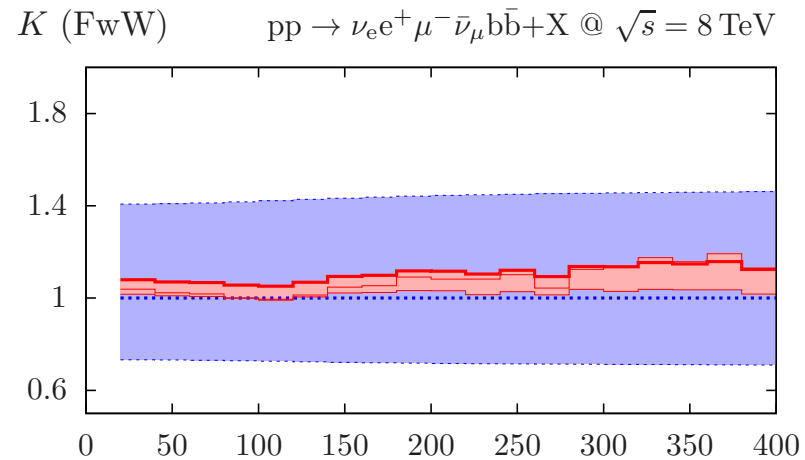
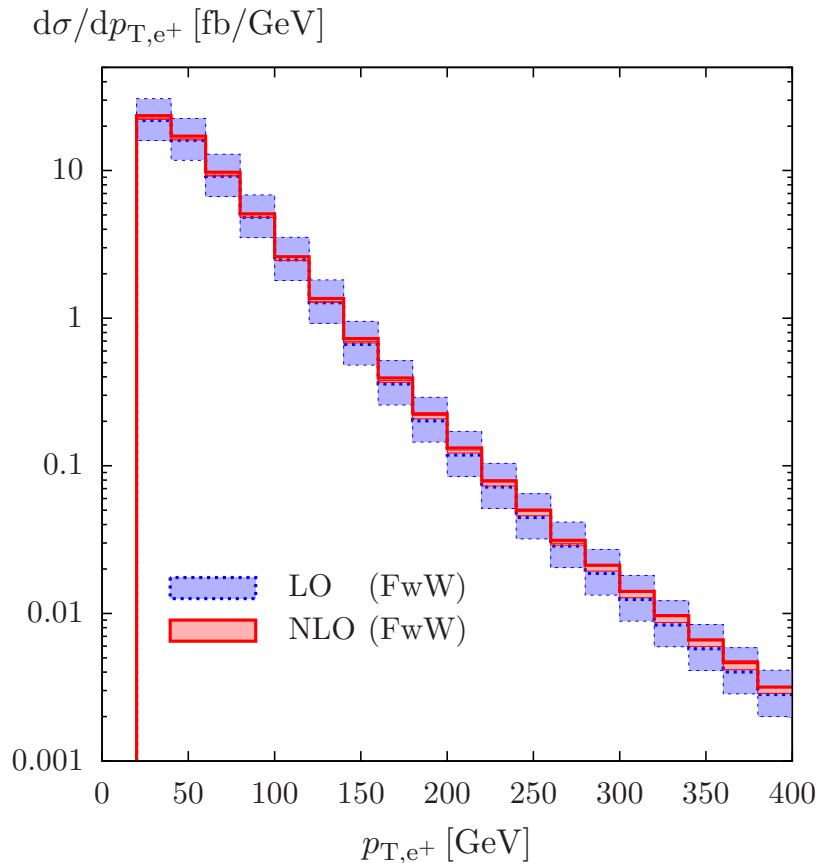
central scale: $\mu = m_t/2$ ($\xi = 1/2$)

Fixed scale implies large negative corrections at high p_T

(Bands correspond to scale variations by factors of 2.)

NLO QCD corrections to p_T distributions – example: leptonic p_T

Denner, S.D., Kallweit, Pozzorini '12



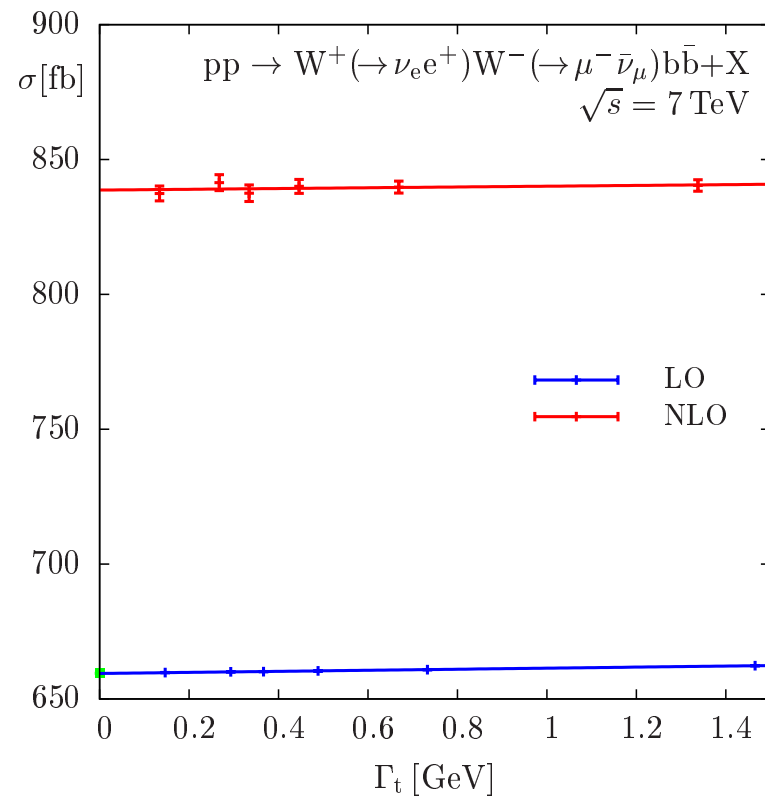
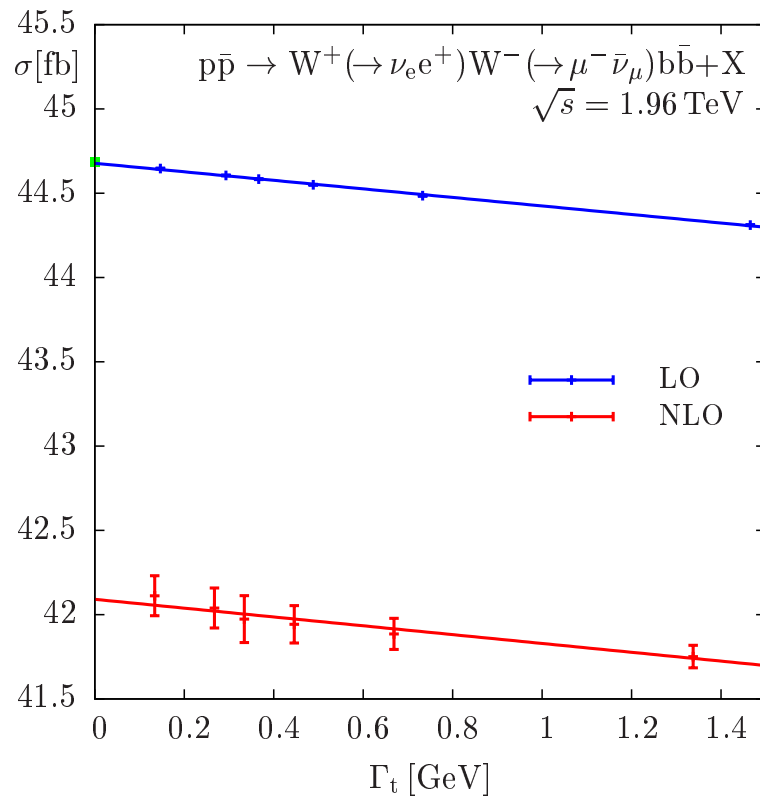
Dynamical scale leads to much flatter K factor

(Bands correspond to scale variations by factors of 2.)

3.2 Off-shell effects of the top quarks

Numerical $\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0$ limit for integrated cross sections

Denner, S.D., Kallweit, Pozzorini '10,'12



Extrapolation: $\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}(\Gamma_t) \times \left(\frac{\Gamma_t}{\Gamma_t^{\text{fix}}} \right)^2 \xrightarrow{\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0} \sigma_{t\bar{t}} \times \text{BR}(t \rightarrow b\ell\nu_\ell)^2 = \sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\text{NWA}}$

- virtual and real corrections involve **terms** $\propto \alpha_s \ln \Gamma_t$
 \hookrightarrow terms connected to IR singularities of on-shell top's and **cancel in sum**
- linear dependence on Γ_t = non-trivial check**

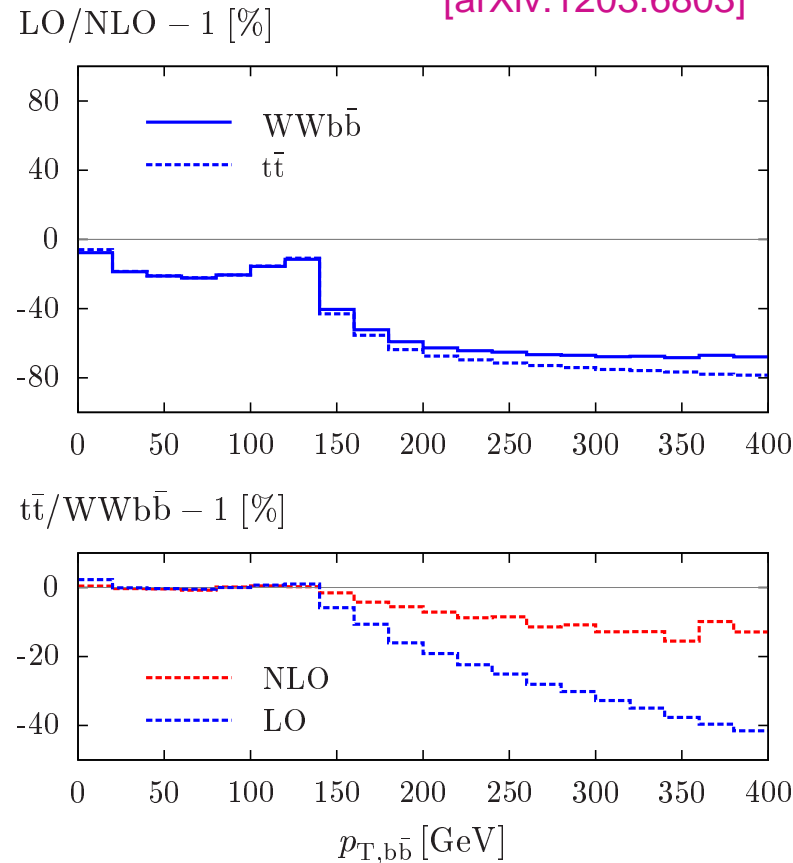
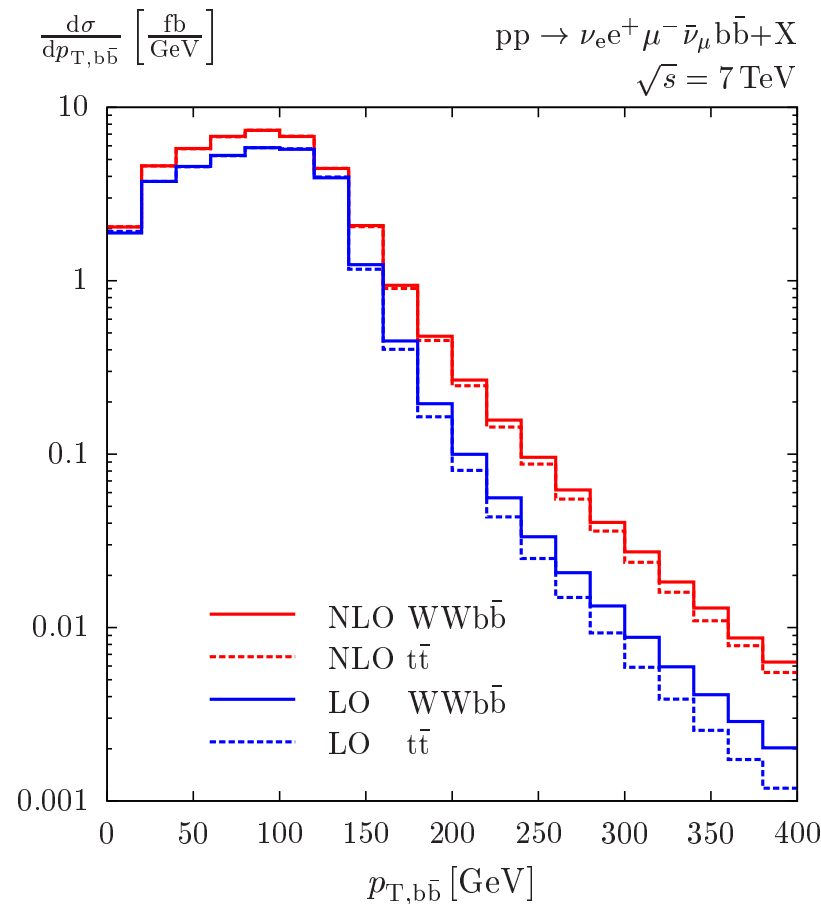
Collider	\sqrt{s} [TeV]	order	$\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\text{NWA}}$ [fb]	$\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}$ [fb]	$\frac{\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\text{NWA}}}{\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}} - 1$	$\frac{\sigma_{\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0}^{WWb\bar{b}}}{\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}} - 1$
Tevatron	1.96	LO	44.691(8)	44.310(3)	+ 0.86(2)%	+ 0.8%
		NLO	42.16(3)	41.75(5)	+ 0.98(14)%	+ 0.9%
LHC	7	LO	659.5(1)	662.35(4)	- 0.43(2)%	- 0.4%
		NLO	837(2)	840(2)	- 0.41(31)%	- 0.2%
LHC	14	LO	3306.3(1)	3334.6(2)	- 0.85(1)%	-
		NLO	4253(3)	4286(7)	- 0.77(19)%	-

- good agreement between our $\sigma_{\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0}^{WWb\bar{b}}$ and $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\text{NWA}}$ from Melnikov/Schulze
 \hookrightarrow confirms $\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0$ extrapolation
- size of top off-shell effects to integrated cross sections
 $\sim 1\% \sim \Gamma_t/m_t \rightarrow$ corresponds to naive expectation

top off-shell effects in the $p_{T,b\bar{b}}$ distribution

↪ relevant for background studies to $WH(\rightarrow b\bar{b})$ searches

Denner, S.D., Kallweit, Pozzorini, Schulze
[arXiv:1203.6803]

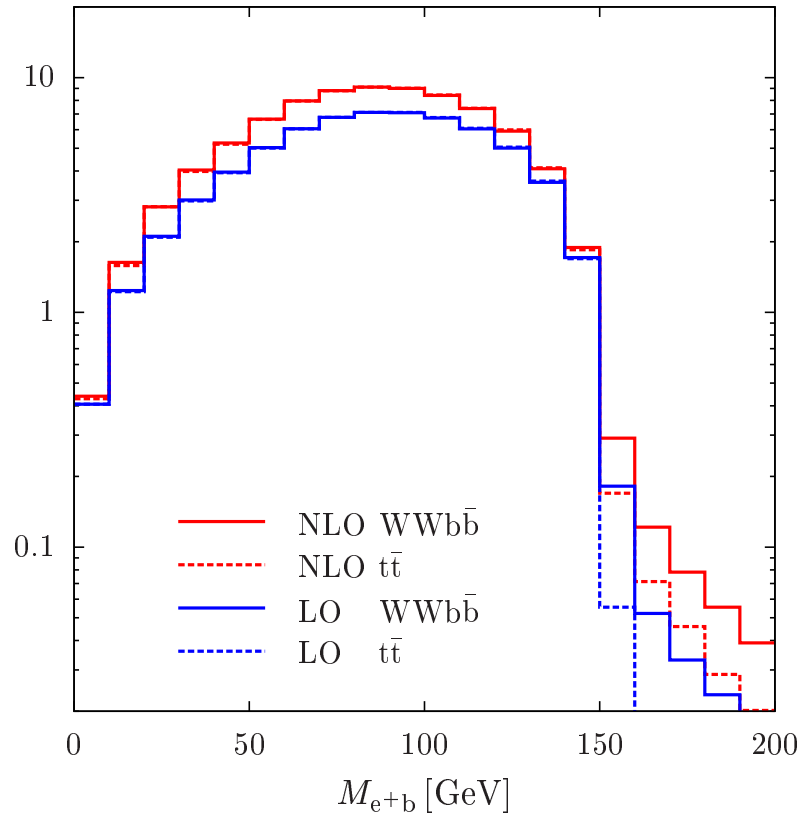


- kinematical suppression for on-shell top's in LO: $p_{T,b\bar{b}} < (m_t^2 - M_W^2)/m_t \sim 135 \text{ GeV}$
- cross section and K factor well described by NWA for $p_{T,b\bar{b}} \lesssim 150 \text{ GeV}$
- top off-shell effects reach 10–40% for $p_{T,b\bar{b}} \sim 200\text{--}400 \text{ GeV}$

top off-shell effects in the M_{e+b} distribution

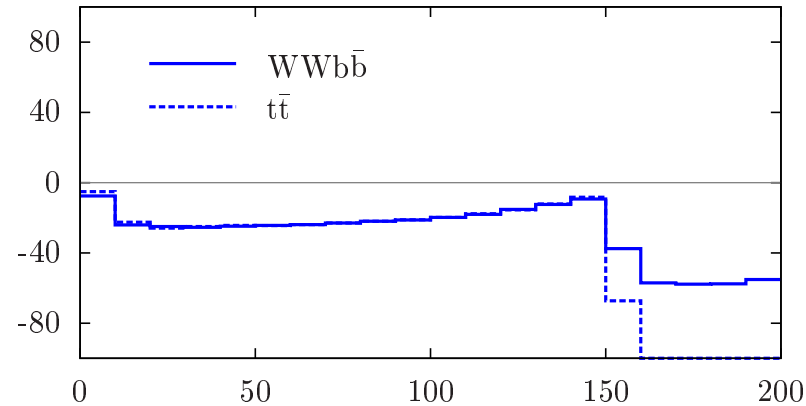
↪ important for m_t measurement

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dM_{e+b}} \left[\frac{\text{fb}}{\text{GeV}} \right] \quad pp \rightarrow \nu_e e^+ \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b \bar{b} + X \quad \sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$$

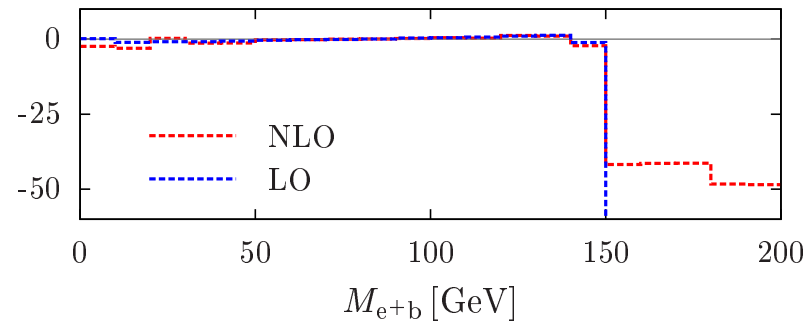


Denner, S.D., Kallweit, Pozzorini, Schulze
[arXiv:1203.6803]

LO/NLO - 1 [%]



$t\bar{t}/WWb\bar{b} - 1$ [%]



- kinematical edge for on-shell top's in LO: $M_{e+b} < \sqrt{m_t^2 - M_W^2} \sim 150 \text{ GeV}$
- cross section and K factor well described by NWA for $M_{e+b} \lesssim 150 \text{ GeV}$
- top off-shell effects reach some 10% for $M_{e+b} \gtrsim 150 \text{ GeV}$

3.3 Off-shell effects of the W bosons

Preliminary consideration

Cancellation of effects in σ and Γ_t (“effective BR’s”)

↪ double suppression $\sim \frac{\Gamma_t}{m_t} \frac{\Gamma_W}{M_W} \times \dots < 0.5\%$

effect hardly visible where top-quark resonances dominate

Total cross section @ LHC with CM energy 8 TeV

Denner, S.D., Kallweit, Pozzorini '12

scale	Γ_W	$\sigma_{\text{LO}} [\text{fb}]$	$\sigma_{\text{NLO}} [\text{fb}]$
FS	narrow	$1283.3(2)^{+43.1\%}_{-27.8\%}$	$1219(3)^{-11.3\%}_{-3.0\%}$
FS	finite	$1278.1(2)^{+43.2\%}_{-27.8\%}$	$1212(3)^{-11.4\%}_{-3.0\%}$
DS	narrow	$1146.3(2)^{+41.1\%}_{-26.9\%}$	$1225(3)^{-5.2\%}_{-5.3\%}$
DS	finite	$1141.7(2)^{+41.1\%}_{-26.9\%}$	$1218(2)^{-5.3\%}_{-5.3\%}$

↪ W off-shell effect $\sim 0.4\%$ (decreasing with looser cuts)

(similar at Tevatron and LHC @ 7 and 14 TeV)

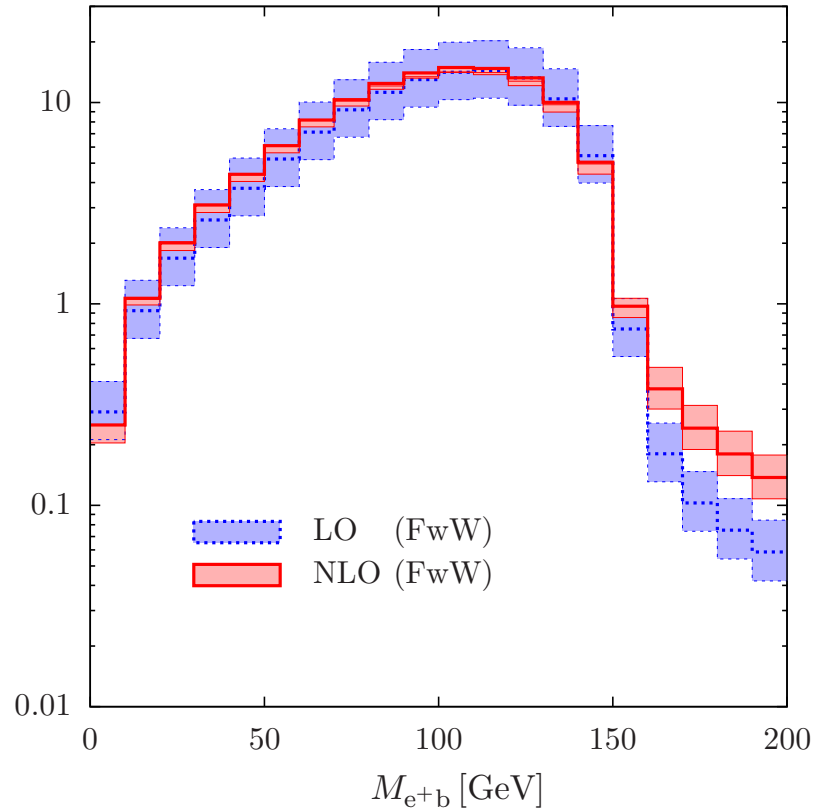
Note: $\Gamma_t/m_t = 0.8\%$, $\Gamma_W/M_W = 3\%$

↪ additional suppression beyond Γ_W/M_W confirmed !

W off-shell effects in the M_{e+b} distribution

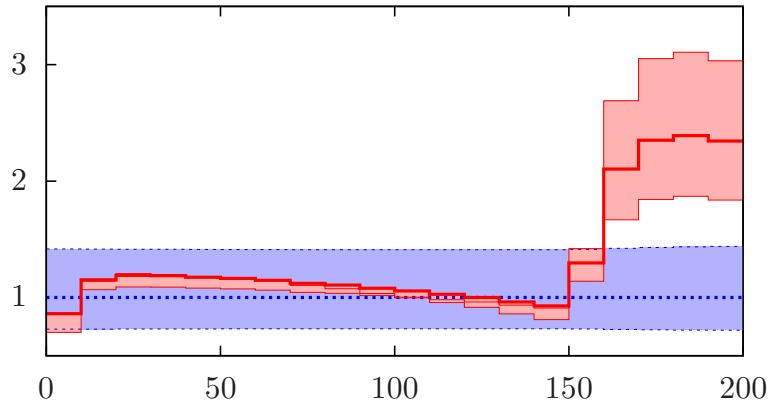
Denner, S.D., Kallweit, Pozzorini '12

$d\sigma/dM_{e+b}$ [fb/GeV]

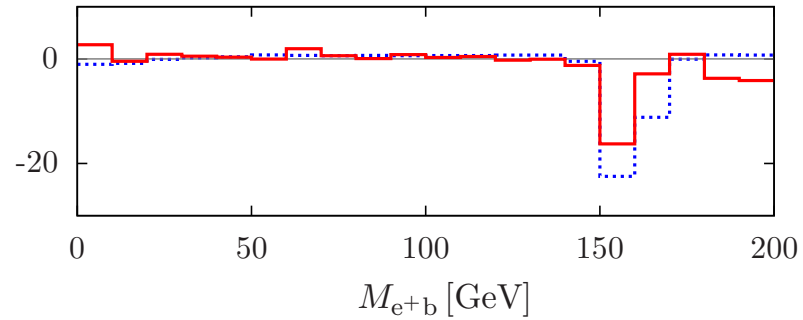


K (FwW)

$pp \rightarrow \nu_e e^+ \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b \bar{b} + X$ @ $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV



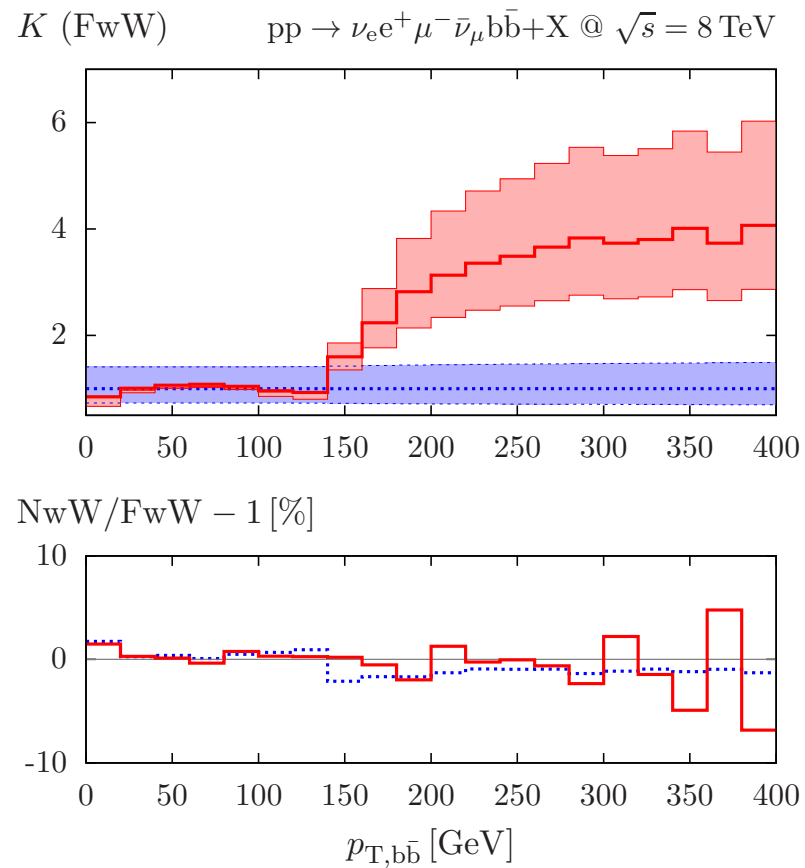
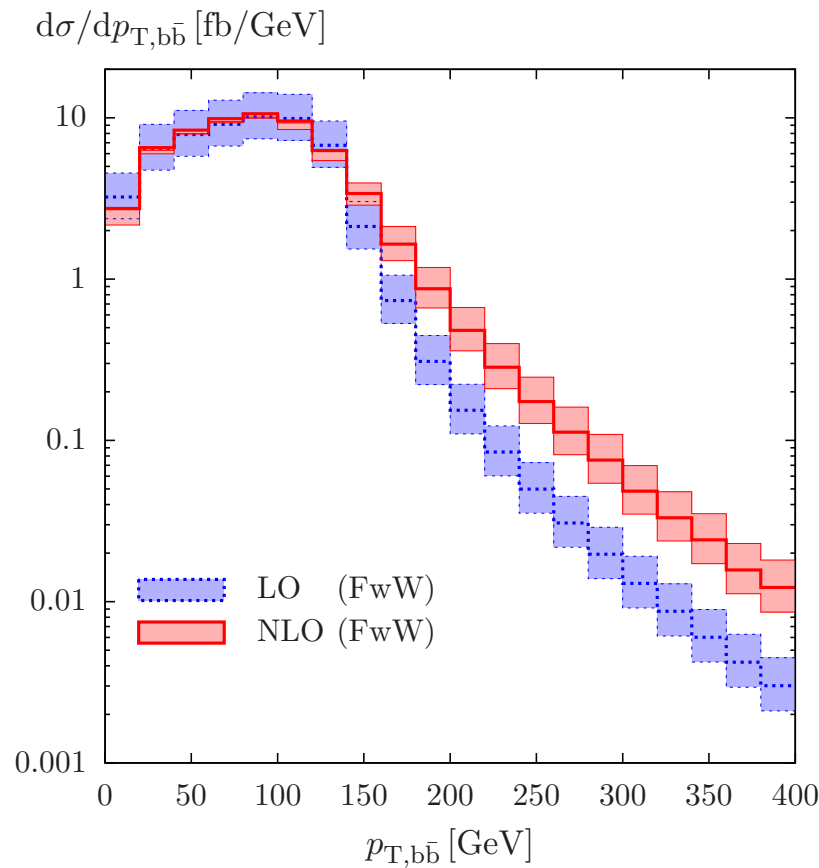
$N_{wW}/F_{wW} - 1$ [%]



W off-shell effect relevant ($\sim 10-20\%$) near on-shell edge at $M_{e+b} \sim 150$ GeV

W off-shell effects in the $p_{T,b\bar{b}}$ distribution

Denner, S.D., Kallweit, Pozzorini '12



W off-shell effects reach some % for $p_{T,b\bar{b}} > 150$ GeV.

Generic conclusion on W off-shellness:

- $< 0.5\%$ where top resonances dominate
- LO inclusion generally sufficient

3.4 Comparison to other work

Input tuned to [Bevilacqua et al. \[HELAC-NLO\] arXiv:1012.4230 \[hep-ph\]](#)

↪ comparison of integrated cross sections:

collider	energy	$\sigma_{\text{LO}} [\text{fb}]$	$\sigma_{\text{LO}} [\text{fb}]$	$\sigma_{\text{NLO}} [\text{fb}]$	$\sigma_{\text{NLO}} [\text{fb}]$
		HELAC-NLO	our result	HELAC-NLO	our result
Tevatron	1.96 TeV	34.922(14)	34.921(5)	35.705(47)	35.850(45)
LHC	7 TeV	550.54(18)	550.29(7)	808.46(98)	806.0(1.0)
LHC	10 TeV	1394.72(75)	1394.6(2)	1993.3(2.5)	1984.6(3.4)
		$\Delta \sim 1\sigma < 0.1\%$		$\Delta \sim 2\sigma \sim 0.3\text{--}0.4\%$	

Good agreement

Loop results for single phase-space points: (m_t kept real)

MadLoop and GoSam results mutually agree

↪ [Hirschi et al. arXiv:1103.0621 \[hep-ph\]](#) and [Cullen et al. arXiv:1111.2034 \[hep-ph\]](#)

But: no contact yet made to HELAC-NLO and our work

Conclusions



NLO QCD predictions for $pp/p\bar{p} \rightarrow WWb\bar{b} \rightarrow \nu_e e^+ \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b\bar{b}$

- two calculations available and in agreement (DDKP and HELAC-NLO)
- top-quark off-shell effects
 - ◇ $\sim 1\%$ as long as top resonances dominate (e.g. σ_{tot})
 - ◇ can rise to effects $> 10\%$ for off-shell top's (e.g. in $M_{e+b}, p_{T,b\bar{b}}$ distributions)
 - ↪ relevance for m_t determination, some background studies, etc.
- W-boson off-shell effects
 - ◇ suppressed ($< 0.5\%$) as long as top resonances dominate
 - ◇ LO treatment should be sufficient also in off-shell tails
 - ◇ to be included in Γ_t as well

Outlook / possible use of the new results

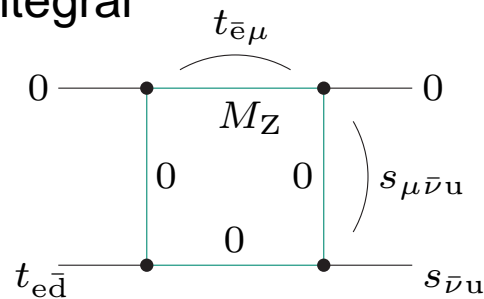
- further correction $\sim 1\%$ to state-of-the-art prediction of $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$
- implementation into multi-purpose MC & parton-shower matching
 - ↪ application in m_t determinations
- further improvement by EW corrections

Backup slides

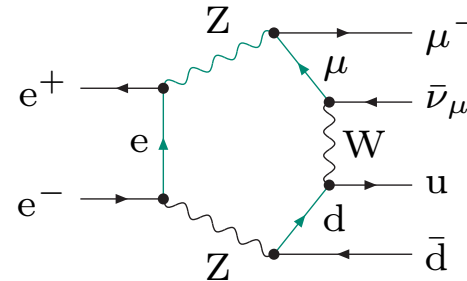


A typical (older) example with small Gram determinant:

Box integral



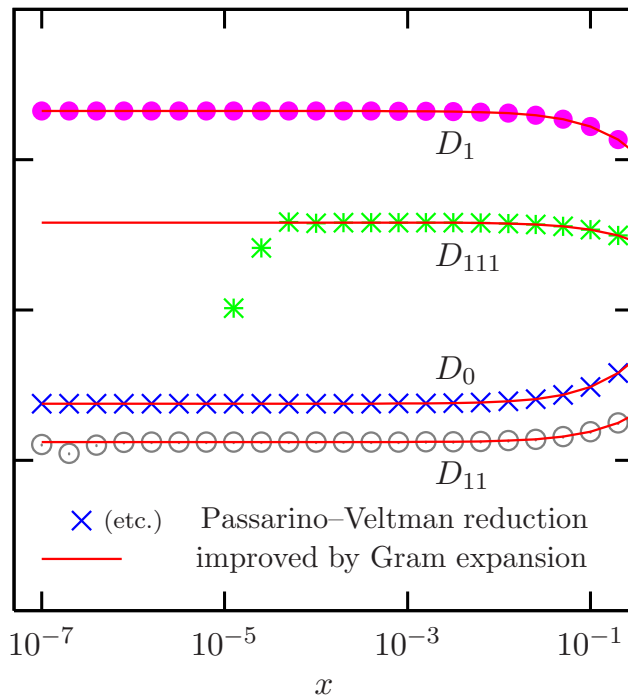
appears, e.g., in subgraph of diagram



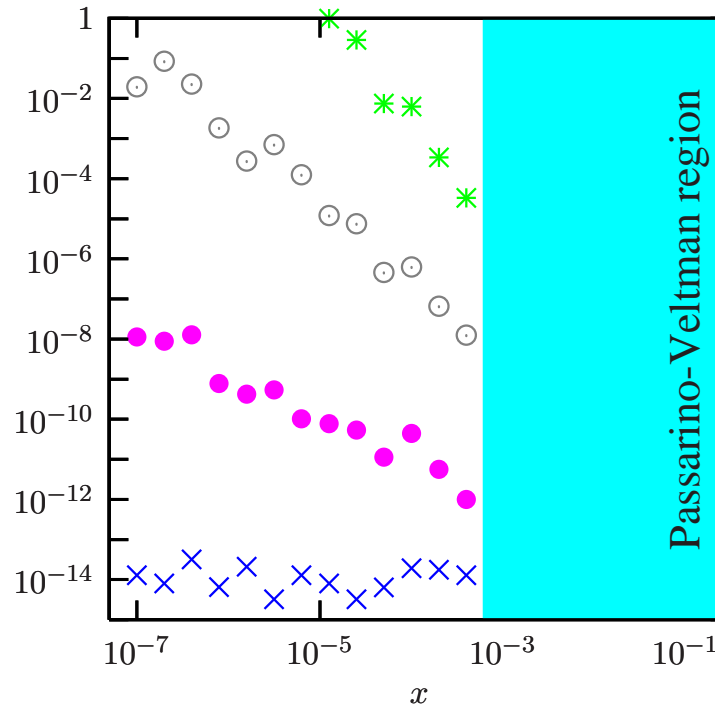
Gram det.: $\det(\text{Gram}) \rightarrow 0$ if $t_{e\bar{d}} \rightarrow t_{\text{crit}} \equiv \frac{s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u}(s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u} - s_{\bar{\nu}u} + t_{e\bar{\mu}})}{s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u} - s_{\bar{\nu}u}}$

Numerical comparison: maximal tensor rank = 6 (similar to $ee \rightarrow 4f$ application)

Absolute predictions



Relative deviations from "best"



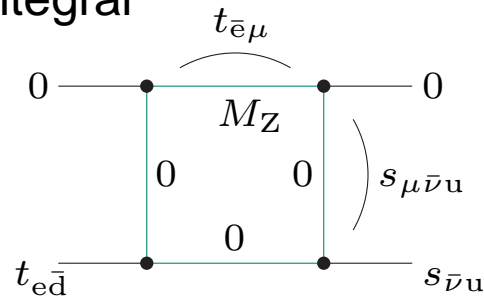
$$x \equiv \frac{t_{e\bar{d}}}{t_{\text{crit}}} - 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u} &= +2 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \\ s_{\bar{\nu}u} &= +1 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \\ t_{e\bar{\mu}} &= -4 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \\ t_{\text{crit}} &= -6 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \end{aligned}$$

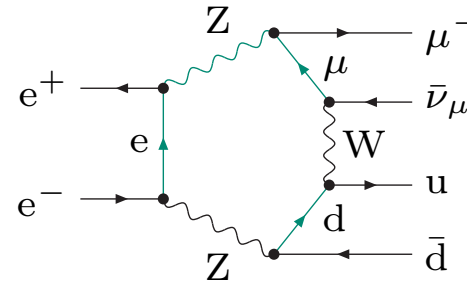
PV reduction breaks down,
but Gram exp. stable
for $\det(\text{Gram}) \rightarrow 0$!

A typical (older) example with small Gram determinant:

Box integral



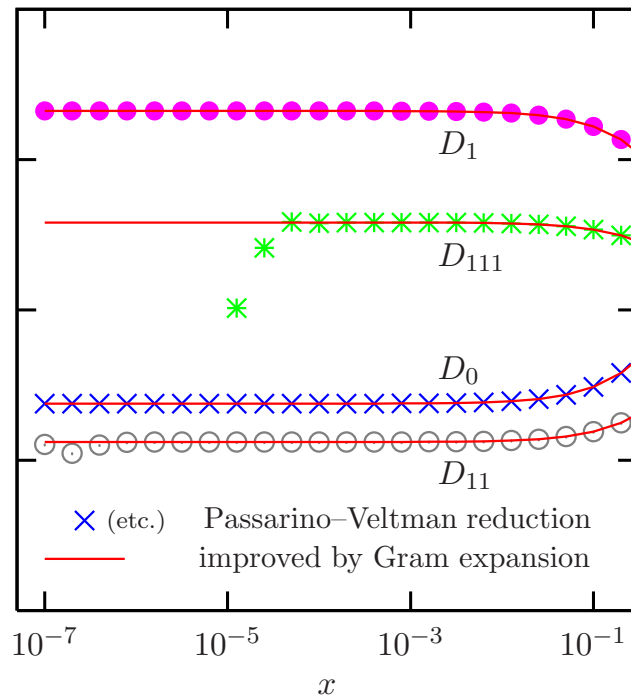
appears, e.g., in subgraph of diagram



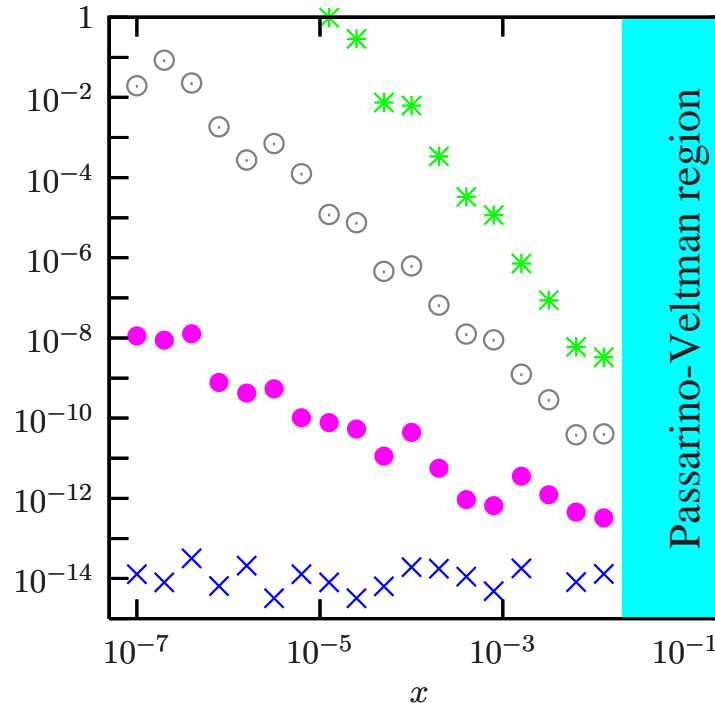
Gram det.: $\det(\text{Gram}) \rightarrow 0$ if $t_{e\bar{d}} \rightarrow t_{\text{crit}} \equiv \frac{s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u}(s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u} - s_{\bar{\nu}u} + t_{\bar{e}\mu})}{s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u} - s_{\bar{\nu}u}}$

Numerical comparison: maximal tensor rank = 12

Absolute predictions



Relative deviations from "best"



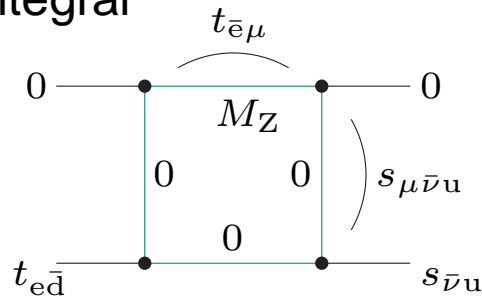
$$x \equiv \frac{t_{e\bar{d}}}{t_{\text{crit}}} - 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u} &= +2 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \\ s_{\bar{\nu}u} &= +1 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \\ t_{\bar{e}\mu} &= -4 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \\ t_{\text{crit}} &= -6 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \end{aligned}$$

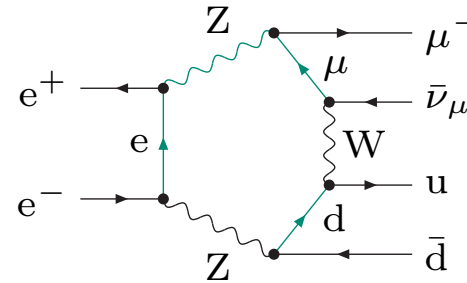
PV reduction breaks down,
but Gram exp. stable
for $\det(\text{Gram}) \rightarrow 0$!

A typical (older) example with small Gram determinant:

Box integral



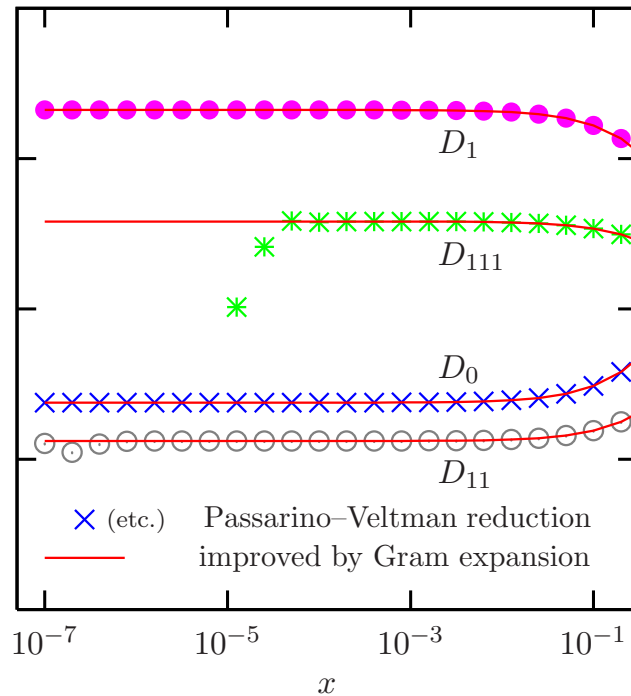
appears, e.g., in subgraph of diagram



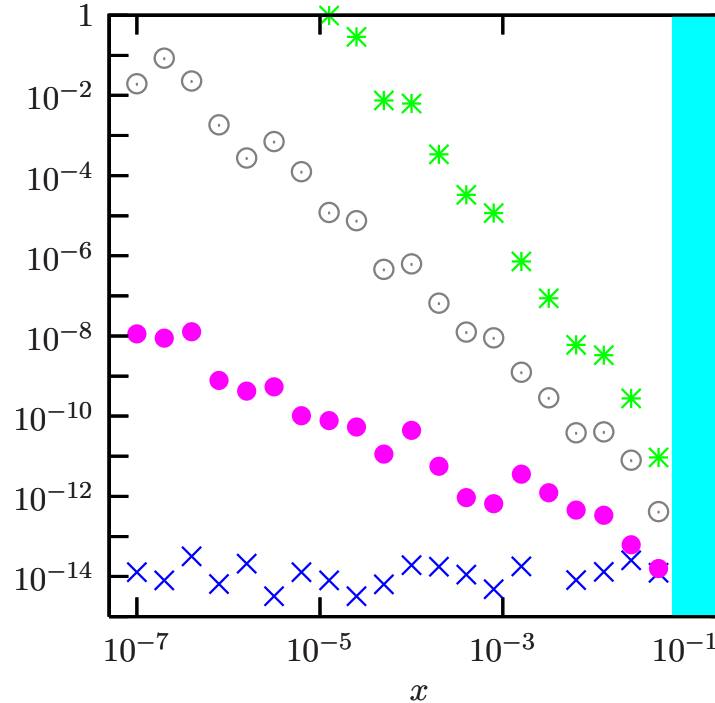
Gram det.: $\det(\text{Gram}) \rightarrow 0$ if $t_{e\bar{d}} \rightarrow t_{\text{crit}} \equiv \frac{s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u}(s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u} - s_{\bar{\nu}u} + t_{\bar{e}\mu})}{s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u} - s_{\bar{\nu}u}}$

Numerical comparison: maximal tensor rank = 25

Absolute predictions



Relative deviations from "best"



$$x \equiv \frac{t_{e\bar{d}}}{t_{\text{crit}}} - 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} s_{\mu\bar{\nu}u} &= +2 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \\ s_{\bar{\nu}u} &= +1 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \\ t_{\bar{e}\mu} &= -4 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \\ t_{\text{crit}} &= -6 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2 \end{aligned}$$

PV reduction breaks down,
but Gram exp. stable
for $\det(\text{Gram}) \rightarrow 0$!