



# High-precision theory predictions for LHC and EIC processes

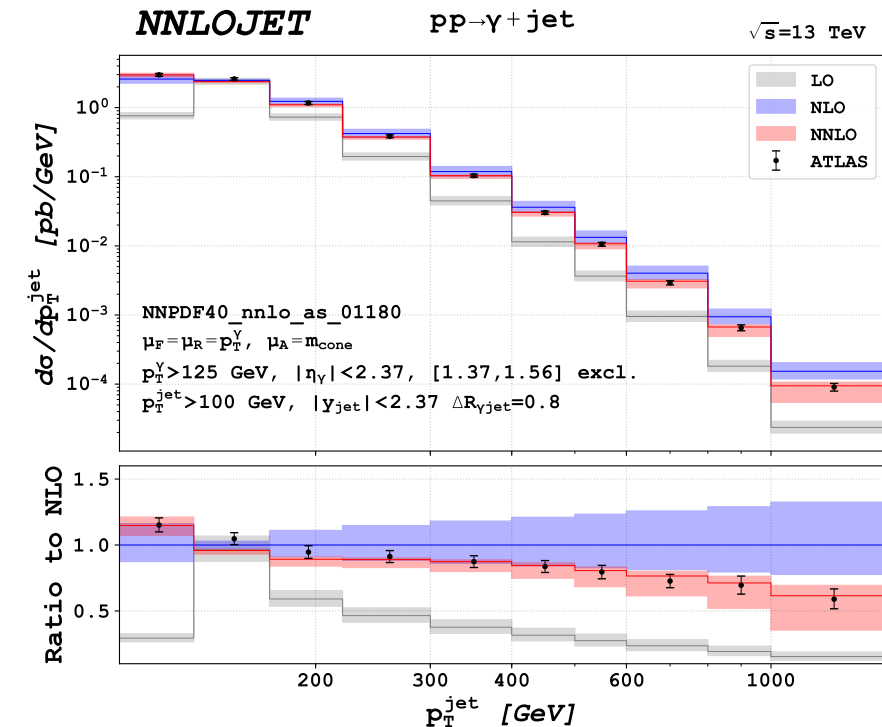
Thomas Gehrmann (Universität Zürich)  
Loop Summit 2, Cadenabbia, 23.07.2025



European Research Council  
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# Precision Predictions: State-of-the-art

- NNLO QCD predictions for  $2 \rightarrow 2$  processes (NNLO revolution, 2015  $\rightarrow$ )
  - accomplished during past 10 years on case-by-case basis
  - as parton-level event generators (full final state information)
  - computationally expensive
  - current frontier at NNLO:  $2 \rightarrow 3$
- Typical size of corrections and uncertainty
  - NLO corrections: 10..100%, uncertainty: 10..30%
  - NNLO corrections: 2..15%, uncertainty: 3..8%
  - expect N3LO to yield uncertainty at level of 1%.



# Ingredients to fixed order calculations

- Matrix elements with extra real (R) or virtual (V) partons

|      | Matrix elements    | Parton evolution |
|------|--------------------|------------------|
| LO   | Born               | 1-loop           |
| NLO  | R, V               | 2-loop           |
| NNLO | RR, RV, VV         | 3-loop           |
| N3LO | RRR, RRV, RVV, VVV | 4-loop           |

- Infrared singularities in all R-type and V-type subprocesses
  - sum of all subprocesses finite
  - require subtraction procedure to arrange IR cancellations between subprocesses
- Incoming hadrons: parton distributions
  - mass factorization of initial-state radiation and parton evolution

# NNLOJET code

- **NNLO parton level event generator**
  - Based on antenna subtraction
- **Provides infrastructure**
  - Process management
  - Phase space, histogram routines
  - Validation and testing
  - Parallel computing (MPI) support for warm-up and production
  - ApplGrid/fastNLO interfaces
- **Processes implemented at NNLO**
  - $Z+(0,1)\text{jet}$ ,  $\gamma+1\text{ jet}$ ,  $H+(0,1)\text{jet}$ ,  $W+(0,1)\text{jet}$
  - DIS-2j, LHC-2j
  - Typical runtimes: 60'000-250'000 core-hours

NNLOJET project:

A.Huss, L.Bonino, O.Braun-White, S.Caletti, X.Chen,  
J.Cruz-Martinez, J.Currie, W.Feng, G.Fontana,  
E.Fox, R.Gauld, A.Gehrmann-De Ridder,  
E.W.N.Glover, M.Höfer, P.Jakubcik, M.Jaquier,  
M.Löchner, F.Lorkowski, I.Majer, M.Marcoli,  
P.Meinzinger, J.Mo, T. Morgan, J.Niehues, J.Pires,  
C.Preuss, A.Rodriguez-Gracia, K.Schönwald,  
R.Schürmann, V.Sotnikov, G.Stagnitto, D.Walker,  
J.Whitehead, T.Z.Yang, H.Zhang, TG



# NNLOJET code

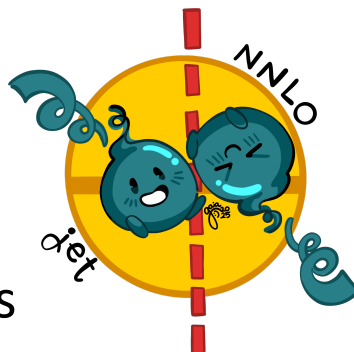
- Open-source code release: NNLOJET v1.0.2
  - download from [nnlojet.hepforge.org](http://nnlojet.hepforge.org)

## Runcard options

- process/sub-process selection
- generic histogramming
- multi-run features: e.g. jet radius
- example runcards for many processes

## Cluster workflow management: DOKAN

- automated resource allocation
- works with slurm and htcondor (lxplus)
- combination of results, quality control

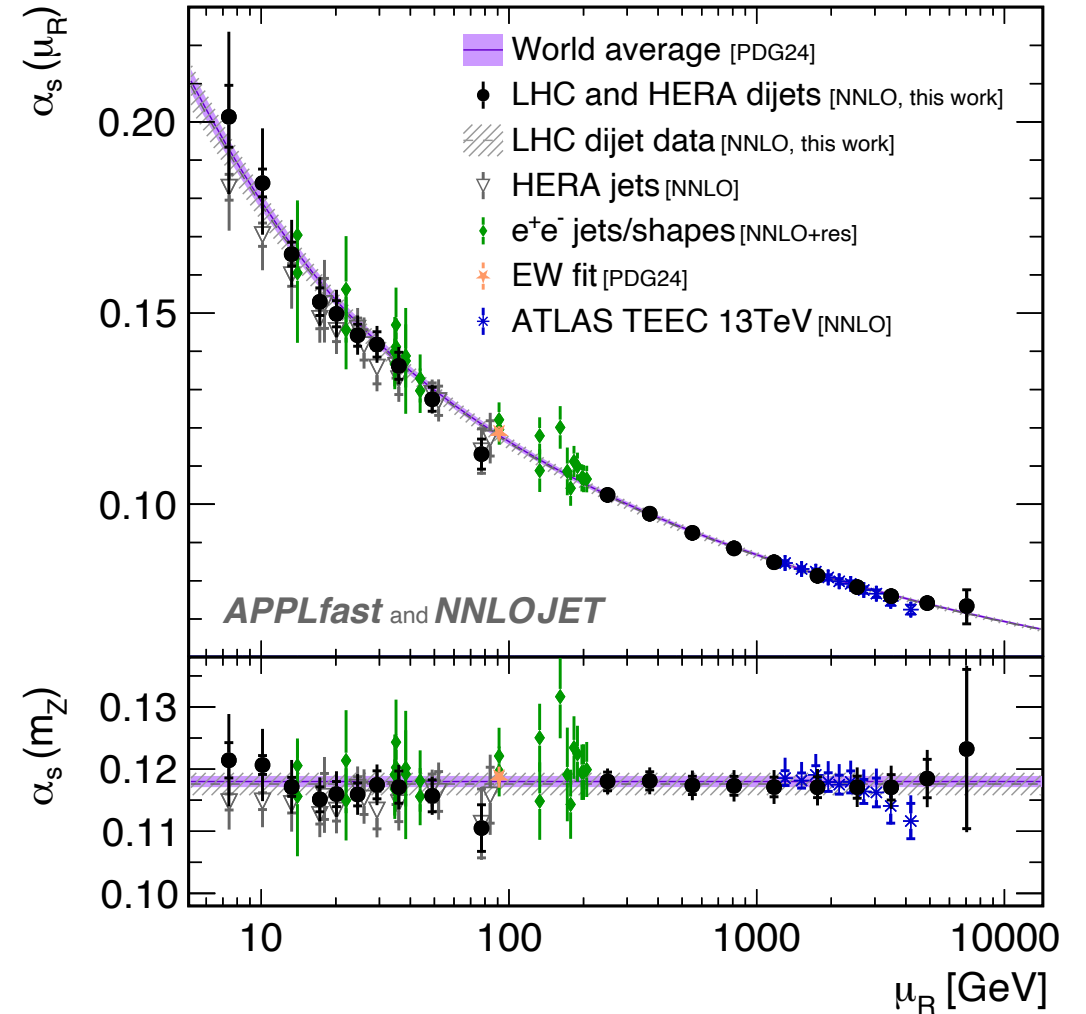


| #  | L0            | R             | V             | RR            | RV            | VV            |
|----|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1  | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] | WRM A[0] D[4] | PRD A[1] D[0] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 2  | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[1] D[0] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] | WRM A[1] D[3] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 3  | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[0] | WRM A[1] D[3] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 4  | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 5  | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[0] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 6  | -             | PRD A[0] D[0] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 7  | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[0] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 8  | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[1] D[0] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 9  | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[0] | PRD A[1] D[0] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 10 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[1] D[0] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 11 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[0] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 12 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] | -             | -             |
| 13 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[0] | PRD A[0] D[1] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 14 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[0] | -             | -             |
| 15 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] | WRM A[1] D[3] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 16 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[1] D[0] | WRM A[1] D[3] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 17 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[0] | WRM A[1] D[3] | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 18 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[1] D[0] | -             | -             |
| 19 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] | -             | -             |
| 20 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] | -             | -             |
| 21 | -             | -             | -             | WRM A[1] D[3] | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 22 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 23 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[1] D[0] | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 24 | -             | -             | -             | WRM A[1] D[3] | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] |
| 25 | -             | -             | -             | WRM A[1] D[3] | -             | -             |
| 26 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[1] D[0] | -             | -             |
| 27 | -             | -             | -             | PRD A[0] D[1] | -             | -             |

# Two-jet production

- 2-jet production at LHC
  - most basic hard QCD process
  - large cross section: high-statistics measurement
  - combine ATLAS/CMS data sets
  - group data according to  $\mu=M_{2j}$
- correlation of  $\alpha_s$  with PDFs
  - vary PDF through APPLgrid interface
  - combine with DIS 2-jet (HERA)
- reach: 7.4 GeV ... 7.0 TeV

$$\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1178 \pm 0.0014_{\text{exp, pdf}} \pm 0.0017_{\text{th}}$$



(APPLfast+NNLOJET: F. Ahamdova et al.)

# Di-photon+jet production at NNLO

- Di-photon+jet production:  $2 \rightarrow 3$  process

- multi-differential precision measurements
- derived observables
  - transverse momentum distribution
  - event shape distributions
- interplay of fiducial cuts
- agreement with earlier NNLO results

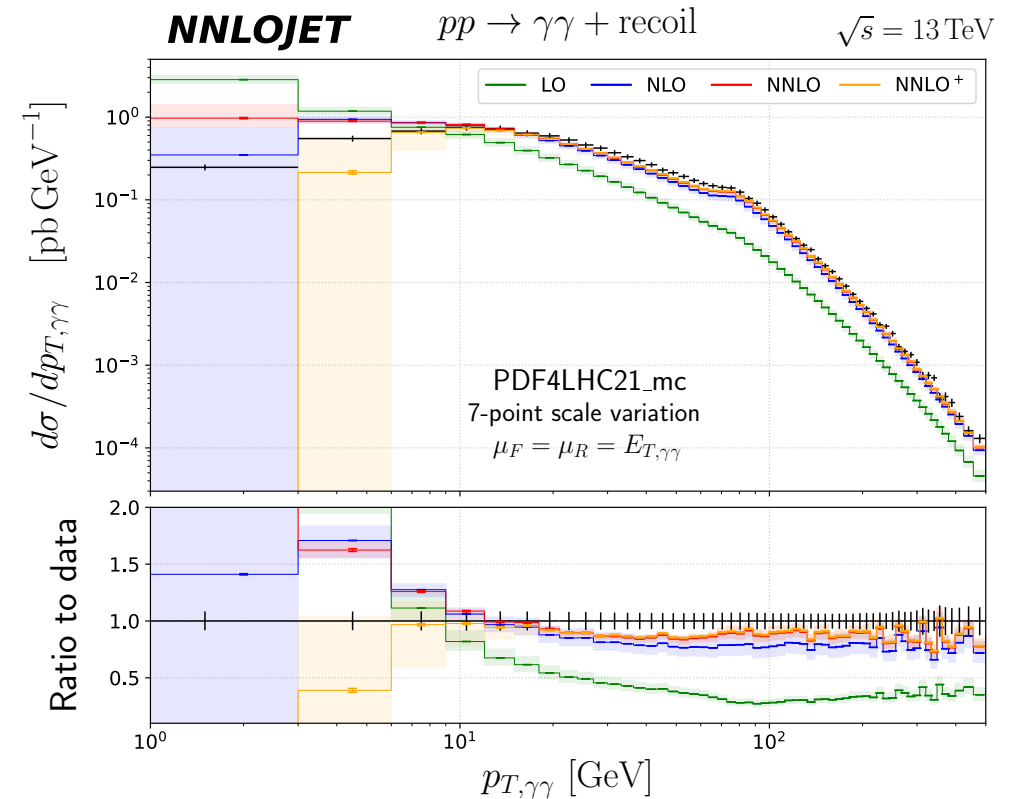
(H.Chawdhry, M.Czakon, A.Mitov, R.Poncelet)

- Photon isolation

- use dynamical cone: no fragmentation

- Testing ground

- treatment of loop-induced processes
- towards  $\gamma\gamma$  at N3LO



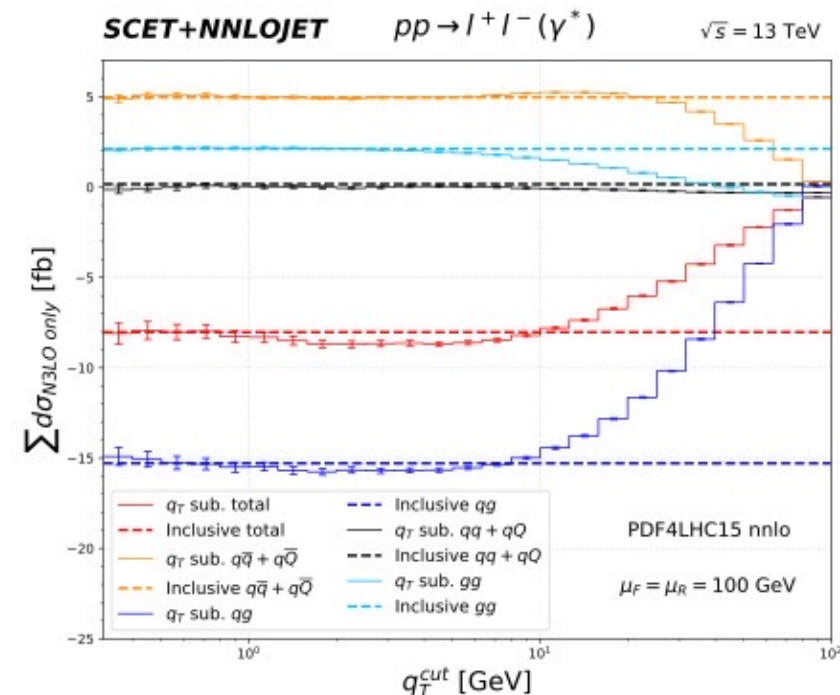
(F.Buccioni, X.Chen, W.J.Feng, A.Huss, M.Marcoli, TG)

# N3LO for Drell-Yan observables

Slicing parameter: transverse momentum ( $q_T$  slicing) [S.Catani, M.Grazzini]

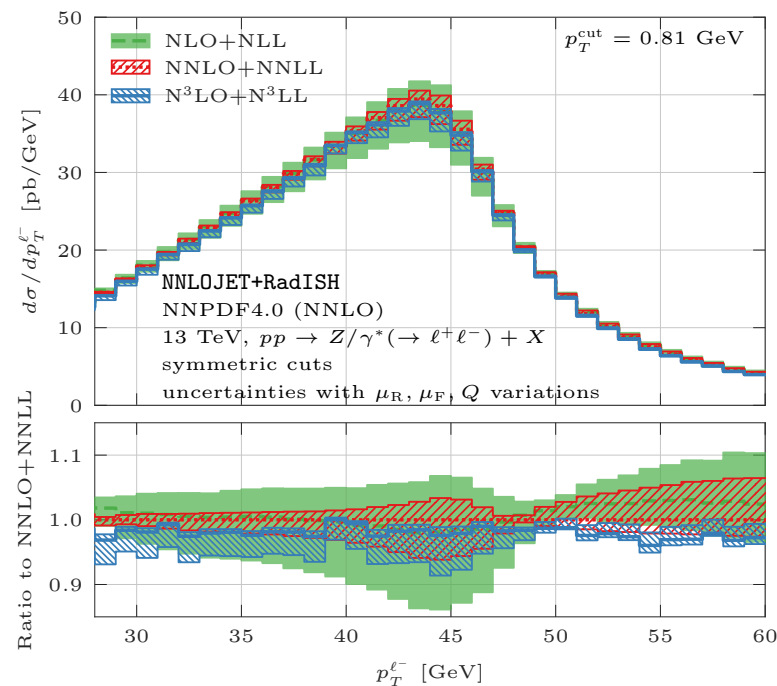
$$\frac{d\sigma_X^{N3LO}}{dO} = \mathcal{H}_{N3LO} \otimes \frac{d\sigma_X^{LO}}{dO} + \left[ \int_{q_{T,X}} \frac{d\sigma_{X+j}^{NNLO}}{dO} - \frac{d\sigma_{X,CT}^{NNLO}}{dO}(q_T) \right]$$

- below-cut contribution from expansion of N3LL  $q_T$  resummation to  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$  [W.Bizon, P.Monni, E.Re, P.Torrielli; S.Camrada, L.Cieri, G.Ferrera; T.Becher, T.Neumann; W.L.Ju, M.Schönherr]
- ingredients: three-loop soft and beam functions [Y.Li, H.X.Zhu; M.Ebert, B.Mistlberger, G.Vita; M.X.Luo, T.Z.Yang, Y.J.Zhu]
- check: independence on  $q_{T,cut}$  slicing parameter
- check: reproduce inclusive coefficient functions (no ingredients or methodology in common!) [X.Chen, E.W.N.Glover, A.Huss, T.Z.Yang, H.X.Zhu, TG]



# N3LO for Drell-Yan observables

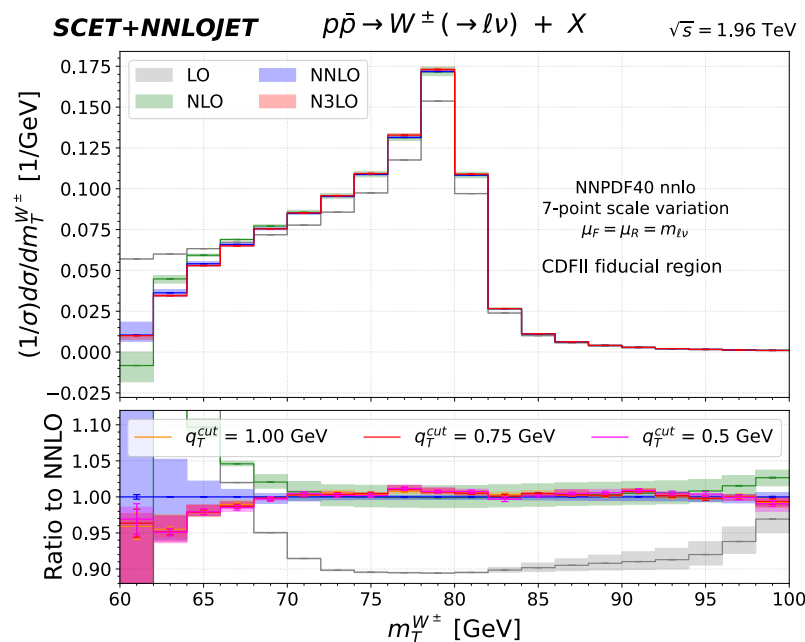
## Results: fiducial distributions



single lepton distribution in NC Drell-Yan,  
matched to N3LL resummation (RadISH)

[X.Chen, E.W.N.Glover, A.Huss, P.F.Monni,  
E.Re, L.Rottoli, P.Torrielli, TG]

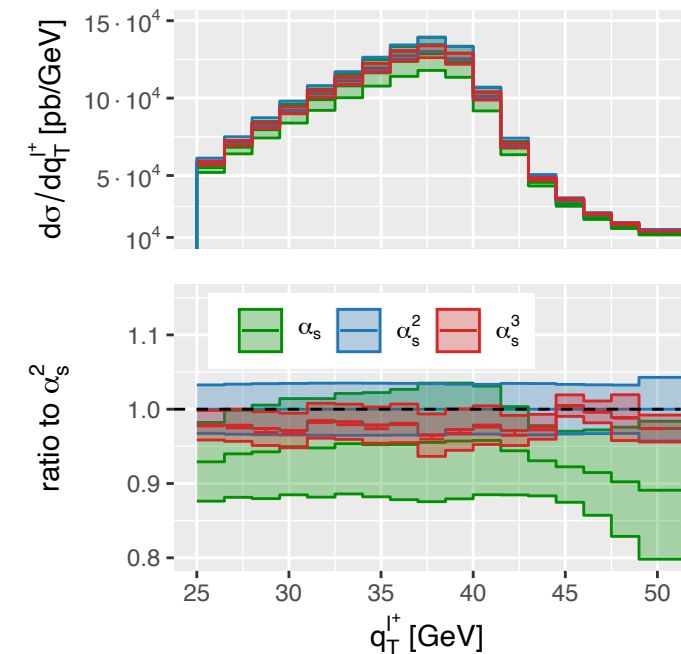
Thomas Gehrmann



transverse mass distribution in  
W boson production (CDF II cuts)

[X.Chen, E.W.N.Glover, A.Huss,  
T.Z.Yang, H.X.Zhu, TG]

Precision Theory for LHC and EIC



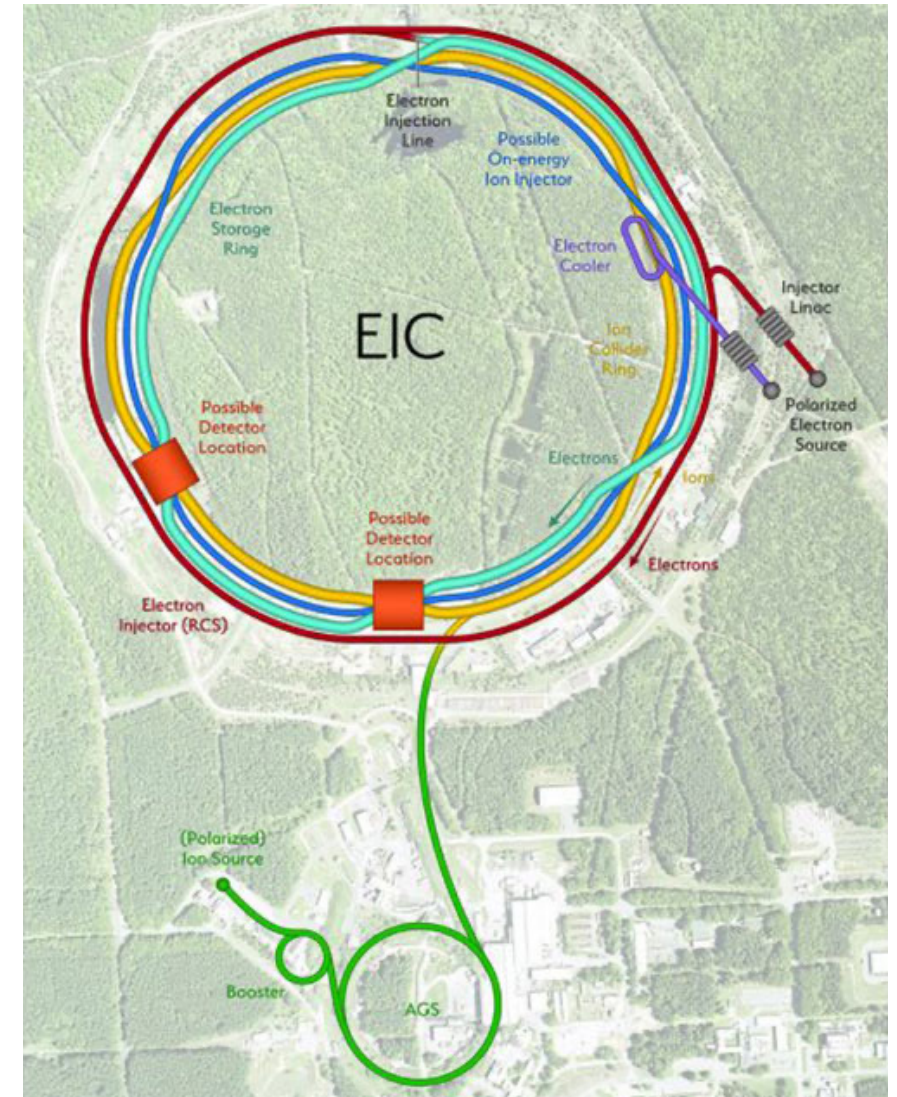
charged lepton distribution  
in W boson production

(ATLAS 5.02 TeV)

[J.Campbell, T.Neumann]

# Beyond LHC: EIC

- Electron-Ion Collider at BNL
  - High-luminosity:  $10^{33} \dots 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
  - Centre-of-mass energy range: 40..140 GeV
  - Full identification of hadronic final state
  - precision QCD: hadron structure, fragmentation,....
  - Polarized collisions
- Theory challenges
  - NNLO precision for benchmark processes
  - identified hadrons, fully exclusive final states
  - novel types of observables: TMD, GPD, ....



# Semi-inclusive deep inelastic scattering

$$l(k) + p(P) \rightarrow l(k') + h(P_h) + X$$

variables

$$Q^2 = -q^2 \quad x = \frac{Q^2}{2P \cdot q} \quad z = \frac{P \cdot P_h}{P \cdot q} \quad y = \frac{P \cdot q}{P \cdot k}$$

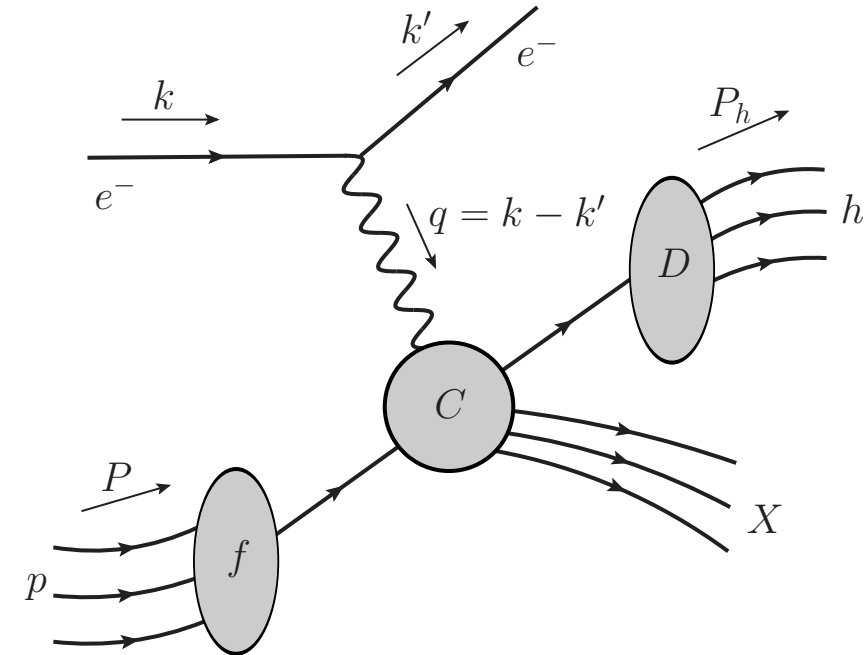
cross sections

$$\frac{d^3\sigma^h}{dx dy dz} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^2} \left[ \frac{1 + (1 - y)^2}{2y} F_T^h(x, z, Q^2) + \frac{1 - y}{y} F_L^h(x, z, Q^2) \right]$$

$$\frac{d^3\Delta\sigma^h}{dx dy dz} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{Q^2} (2 - y) g_1^h(x, z, Q^2)$$

Observables: multiplicity

$$\frac{dM_h}{dz} = \frac{d^3\sigma^h}{dx dy dz} \bigg/ \frac{d^2\sigma^{\text{DIS}}}{dx dy}$$



spin asymmetry

$$A_1^h(x, z, Q^2) = \frac{g_1^h(x, z, Q^2)}{F_1^h(x, z, Q^2)}$$

# SIDIS coefficient functions at NNLO

## Partonic channels

$\blacktriangleright C_{qq}^{i,(2)} = C_{\bar{q}\bar{q}}^{i,(2)} = e_q^2 C_{qq}^{i,NS} + \left( \sum_j e_{q_j}^2 \right) C_{qq}^{i,PS},$

$C_{\bar{q}q}^{i,(2)} = C_{q\bar{q}}^{i,(2)} = e_q^2 C_{\bar{q}q}^i,$

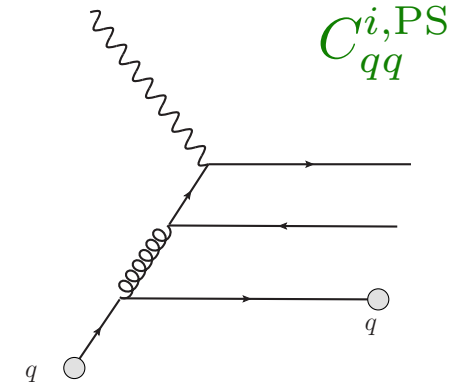
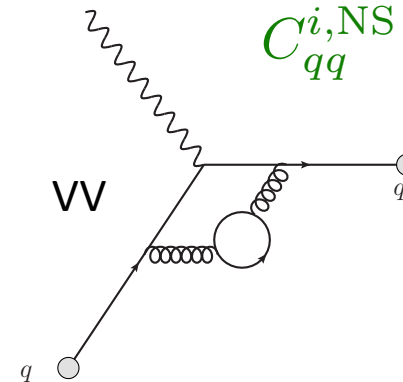
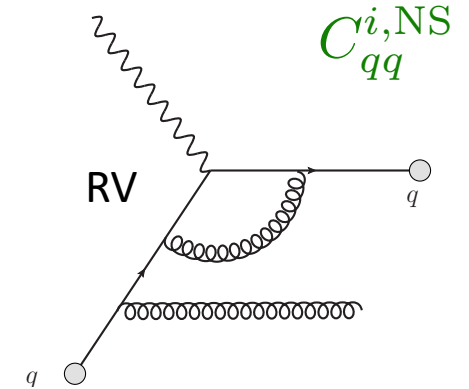
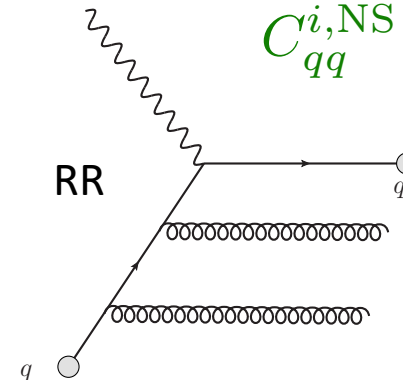
$C_{q'q}^{i,(2)} = C_{\bar{q}'\bar{q}}^{i,(2)} = e_q^2 C_{q'q}^{i,1} + e_{q'}^2 C_{q'q}^{i,2} + e_q e_{q'} C_{q'q}^{i,3},$

$C_{\bar{q}'q}^{i,(2)} = C_{q'\bar{q}}^{i,(2)} = e_q^2 C_{q'q}^{i,1} + e_{q'}^2 C_{q'q}^{i,2} - e_q e_{q'} C_{q'q}^{i,3},$

$C_{gq}^{i,(2)} = C_{g\bar{q}}^{i,(2)} = e_q^2 C_{gq}^i,$

$C_{qg}^{i,(2)} = C_{\bar{q}g}^{i,(2)} = e_q^2 C_{qg}^i,$

$C_{gg}^{i,(2)} = \left( \sum_j e_{q_j}^2 \right) C_{gg}^i,$



not a forward scattering amplitude:  
evaluate all contributions separately

# SIDIS: NNLO corrections

RR: tree-level double-real matrix elements

$$C_{\text{RR}}^{(2)} \sim \int d\phi_3(k_p, k_j, k_k; q, k_i) |\mathcal{M}|_{\text{RR}}^2(\{s_{ab}\}) \delta\left(\hat{z} - \frac{s_{ip}}{s_{ip} + s_{ij} + s_{ik}}\right)$$

- correspond to cut two-loop integrals = antenna functions for fragmentation processes

$$C_{\text{RR}}^{(2)} \sim \int d^{4-2\epsilon}k_p d^{4-2\epsilon}k_j |\mathcal{M}|_{\text{RR}}^2(\{s_{ab}\}) \delta^+(k_p^2) \delta^+(k_j^2) \delta^+((q + k_i - k_p - k_j)^2) \delta\left(\hat{z} - \frac{s_{ip}}{s_{ip} + s_{ij} + s_{ik}}\right)$$

- use Cutkosky rule to arrive at Standard integral form

$$I_{t,r,s}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{d^d l}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{1}{D_1^{m_1} \dots D_t^{m_t}} S_1^{n_1} \dots S_q^{n_q}$$

# SIDIS: NNLO corrections

## Integrals [L.Bonino, M.Marcoli, R.Schürmann, G.Stagnitto, TG]

- 12 propagators (4 cut),  
7 of them linearly independent
- 13 integral families with  
total 21 master integrals
- analytical results throughout
- family A,B,C previously  
computed for photon  
fragmentation

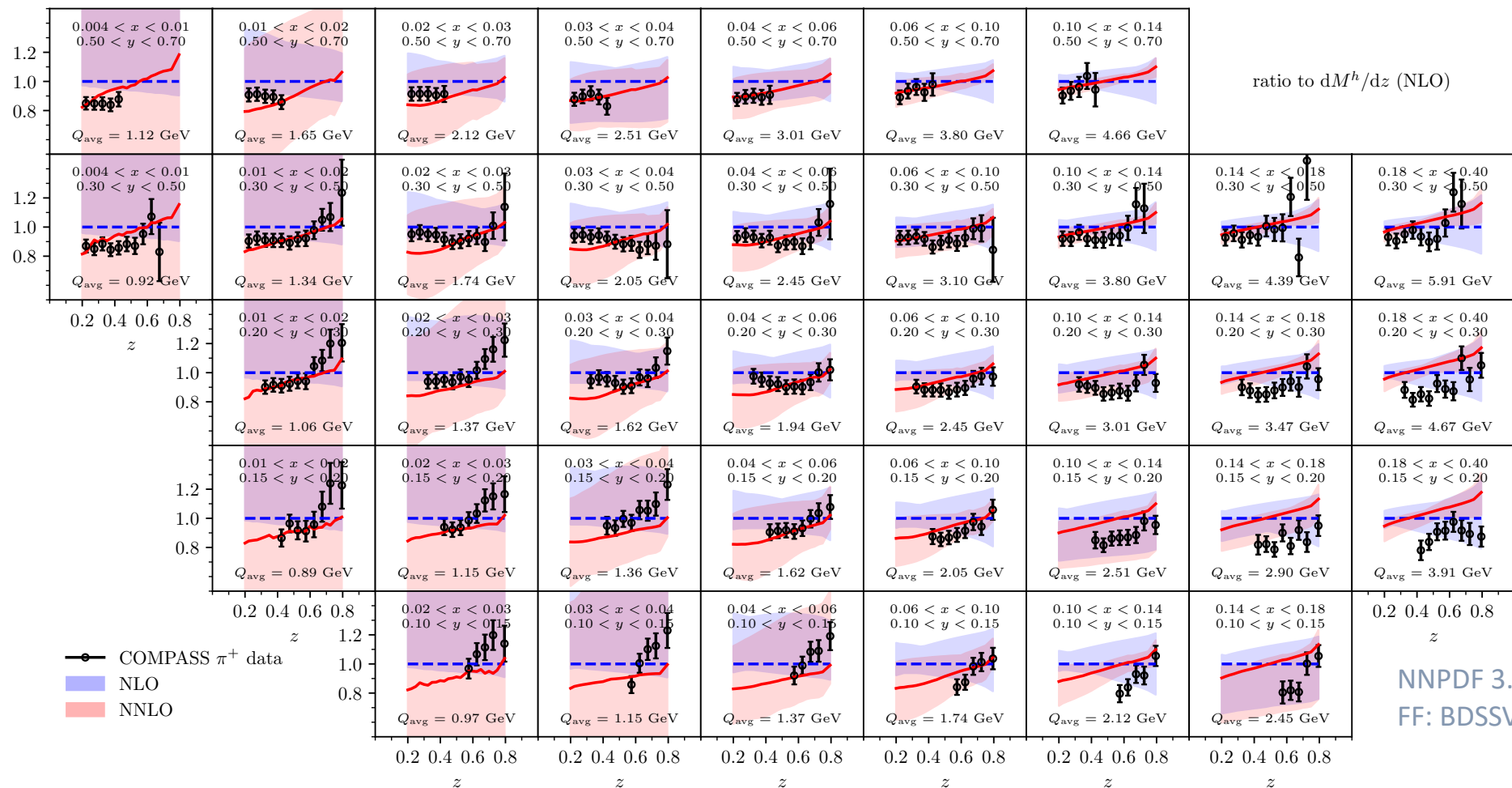
[R.Schürmann, TG]

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_1 &= (q - k_p)^2, \\
 D_2 &= (p_i + q - k_p)^2, \\
 D_3 &= (p_i - k_l)^2, \\
 D_4 &= (q - k_l)^2, \\
 D_5 &= (p_i + q - k_l)^2, \\
 D_6 &= (q - k_p - k_l)^2, \\
 D_7 &= (p_i - k_p - k_l)^2, \\
 D_8 &= (k_p + k_l)^2, \\
 D_9 &= k_p^2, \\
 D_{10} &= k_l^2, \\
 D_{11} &= (q + p_i - k_p - k_l)^2, \\
 D_{12} &= (p_i - k_p)^2 + Q^2 \frac{z}{x},
 \end{aligned}$$

| family | master       | deepest pole    | at $x = 1$             | at $z = 1$             |
|--------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|        | $I[0]$       | $\epsilon^0$    | $(1-x)^{1-2\epsilon}$  | $(1-z)^{1-2\epsilon}$  |
| A      | $I[5]$       | $\epsilon^{-1}$ | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{1-2\epsilon}$  |
|        | $I[2, 3, 5]$ | $\epsilon^{-2}$ | $(1-x)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ | $(1-z)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ |
| B      | $I[7]$       | $\epsilon^0$    | $(1-x)^{1-2\epsilon}$  | $(1-z)^{1-2\epsilon}$  |
|        | $I[-2, 7]$   | $\epsilon^0$    | $(1-x)^{1-2\epsilon}$  | $(1-z)^{1-2\epsilon}$  |
|        | $I[-3, 7]$   | $\epsilon^0$    | $(1-x)^{1-2\epsilon}$  | $(1-z)^{1-2\epsilon}$  |
|        | $I[2, 3, 7]$ | $\epsilon^{-2}$ | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ |
| C      | $I[5, 7]$    | $\epsilon^{-1}$ | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{1-2\epsilon}$  |
|        | $I[3, 5, 7]$ | $\epsilon^{-2}$ | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{-2\epsilon}$   |
| D      | $I[1]$       | $\epsilon^0$    | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{-2\epsilon}$   |
|        | $I[1, 4]$    | $\epsilon^0$    | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{-2\epsilon}$   |
|        | $I[1, 3, 4]$ | $\epsilon^{-1}$ | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ |
| E      | $I[1, 3, 5]$ | $\epsilon^{-2}$ | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ |
| G      | $I[1, 3, 8]$ | $\epsilon^{-2}$ | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ |
| H      | $I[1, 4, 5]$ | $\epsilon^{-1}$ | $(1-x)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ | $(1-z)^{-2\epsilon}$   |
| I      | $I[2, 4, 5]$ | $\epsilon^{-2}$ | $(1-x)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ | $(1-z)^{-2\epsilon}$   |
| J      | $I[4, 7]$    | $\epsilon^0$    | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{-2\epsilon}$   |
|        | $I[3, 4, 7]$ | $\epsilon^{-1}$ | $(1-x)^{-2\epsilon}$   | $(1-z)^{-2\epsilon}$   |
| K      | $I[3, 5, 8]$ | $\epsilon^{-2}$ | $(1-x)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ | $(1-z)^{-2\epsilon}$   |
| L      | $I[4, 5, 7]$ | $\epsilon^{-1}$ | $(1-x)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ | $(1-z)^{-2\epsilon}$   |
| M      | $I[4, 5, 8]$ | $\epsilon^{-1}$ | $(1-x)^{-1-2\epsilon}$ | $(1-z)^{-2\epsilon}$   |

**Table 1.** Summary of the double real radiation master integrals.

# Numerical results: $\pi^+$ multiplicity



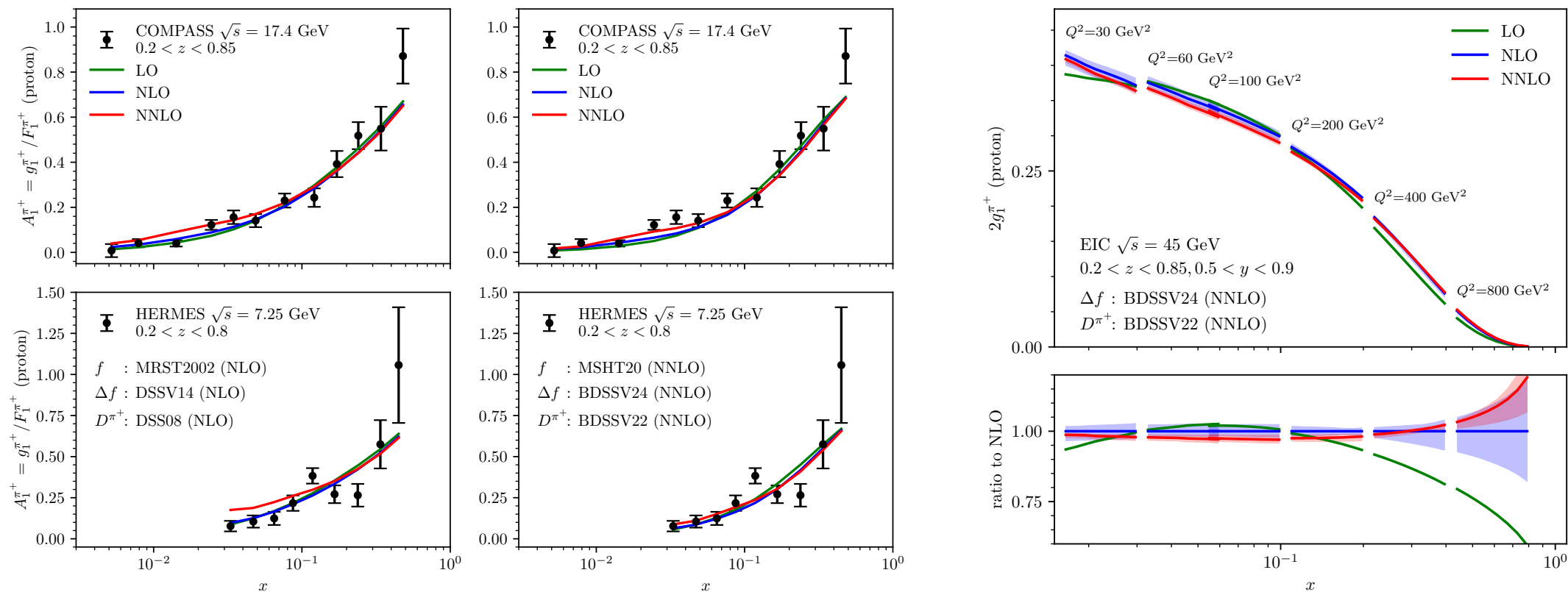
| Experiment | # data | NLO  | Approx. NNLO | NNLO |
|------------|--------|------|--------------|------|
| SIA        | 288    | 1.05 | 0.96         | 0.85 |
| COMPASS    | 510    | 0.98 | 1.14         | 0.96 |
| HERMES     | 224    | 2.24 | 2.27         | 2.52 |
| TOTAL      | 1022   | 1.27 | 1.33         | 1.26 |

[I.Borsa: BDSSV22 revisited]

NNPDF 3.1  
FF: BDSSV22

# Numerical results

## Polarized SIDIS [L.Bonino, M.Löchner, K.Schönwald, G.Stagnitto, TG]



- analytical agreement with independent calculations [S.Goyal, R.Lee, S.Moch, V.Pathak, N.Rana, V.Ravindran]

# Summary

- LHC and EIC are ultimate precision challenge for QCD
  - predictions for complex final states at per-cent level accuracy
  - enable precise determination of fundamental parameters
- Theory ready to face the LHC challenge
  - NNLO predictions becoming the new standard
  - first N3LO results
- Precision theory for EIC only just starting
  - semi-inclusive and exclusive final states
  - require new frameworks beyond collinear factorization