

Modeling uncertainties of $t\bar{t}W^\pm$ signatures

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Outline

Motivations for $t\bar{t}W$ at the LHC

- the need for high precision
- state of the art

Modeling of $t\bar{t}W$

- on-shell $t\bar{t}W^\pm$ with parton showers
- full off-shell results
- A first comparison of both approaches

Summary & Outlook

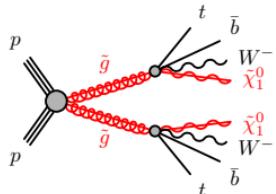
Motivations for $t\bar{t}W$ at the LHC

Motivations for $t\bar{t}W^\pm$ at the LHC – I

$t\bar{t}W^\pm$ offers one of the rarest and most complex signatures in the SM

- Irreducible background to BSM searches

e.g. SUSY



[ATLAS, arXiv:1602.09058]

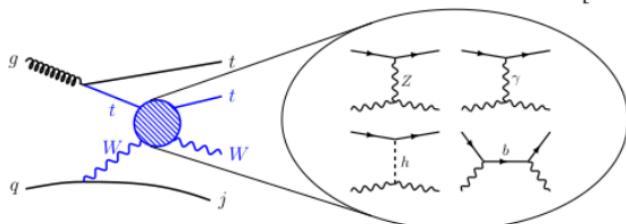
[ATLAS, arXiv:1706.03731]

[CMS, arXiv:1605.03171]

[CMS, arXiv:1704.07323]

- anomalous top-quark couplings, EFT interpretations

[Dror et al, arXiv:1511.03674]



- Dominant background for SM $t\bar{t}H$ and $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ multi-lepton signatures

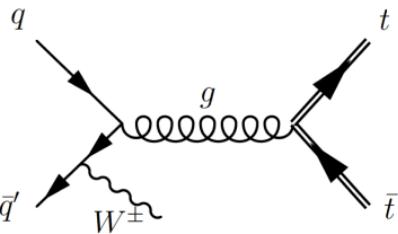
[ATLAS, arXiv:2007.14858]

Motivations for $t\bar{t}W^\pm$ at the LHC – II

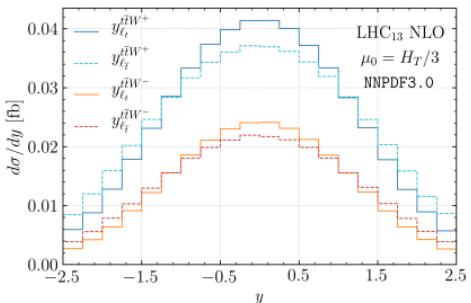
Top quarks are produced highly polarized

- large charge asymmetries of top decay products

Symmetric gg channel only opens up at NNLO



LO: $q\bar{q}'$ **NLO:** $q\bar{q}' + qg$ **NNLO:** $q\bar{q}' + qg + gg$



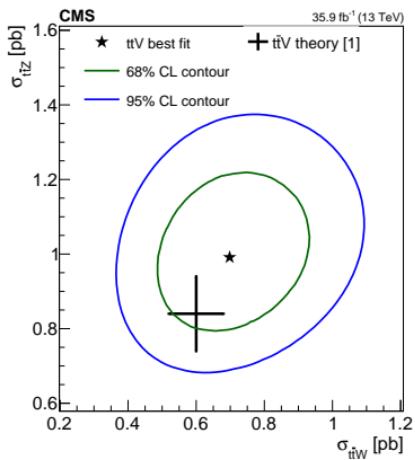
| | | 8 TeV | 13 TeV | 14 TeV |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| $t\bar{t}$ | $\sigma(\text{pb})$ | $198^{+15\%}_{-14\%}$ | $661^{+15\%}_{-13\%}$ | $786^{+14\%}_{-13\%}$ |
| | $A_c^t(\%)$ | $0.72^{+0.14}_{-0.09}$ | $0.45^{+0.09}_{-0.06}$ | $0.43^{+0.08}_{-0.05}$ |
| $t\bar{t}W^\pm$ | $\sigma(\text{fb})$ | $210^{+11\%}_{-11\%}$ | $587^{+13\%}_{-12\%}$ | $678^{+14\%}_{-12\%}$ |
| | $A_c^t(\%)$ | $2.37^{+0.56}_{-0.38}$ | $2.24^{+0.43}_{-0.32}$ | $2.23^{+0.43}_{-0.33}$ |
| | $A_c^b(\%)$ | $8.50^{+0.15}_{-0.10}$ | $7.54^{+0.19}_{-0.17}$ | $7.50^{+0.24}_{-0.22}$ |
| | $A_c^e(\%)$ | $-14.83^{+0.65}_{-0.95}$ | $-13.16^{+0.81}_{-1.12}$ | $-12.84^{+0.81}_{-1.11}$ |

[Bevilacqua, Bi, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Worek'21]

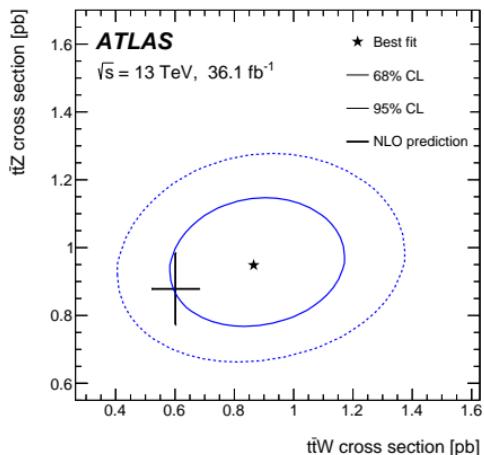
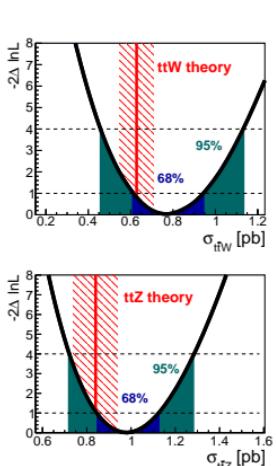
[Maltoni et al., arXiv:1406.3262]

Experimental Status at the LHC – I

inclusive $t\bar{t}W^\pm$ and $t\bar{t}Z$ cross section measurements at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV



CMS, arXiv:1711.02547

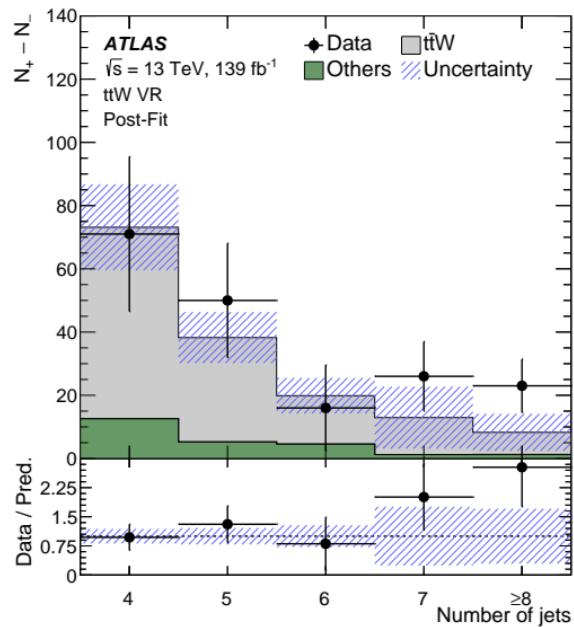
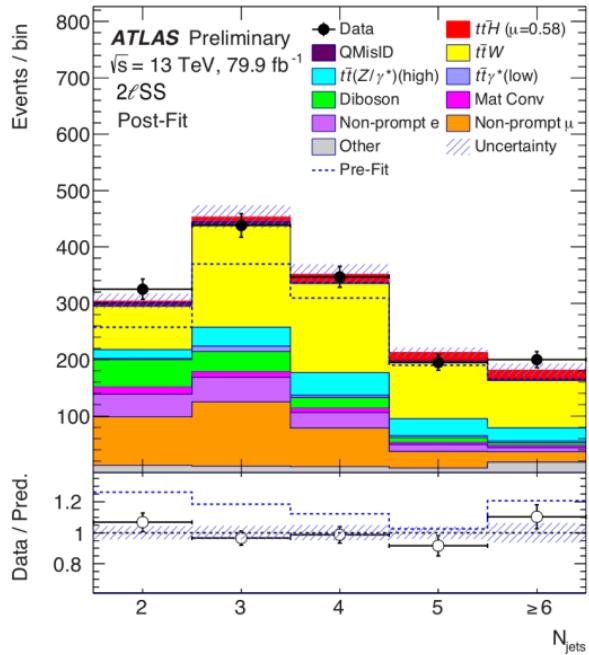


ATLAS, arXiv:1901.03584

Both experiments see an excess of $t\bar{t}W$ events wrt to the Standard Model

Experimental Status at the LHC – II

Dominant background for SM $t\bar{t}H$ and $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ multi-lepton signatures



ATLAS-CONF-2019-045

ATLAS, arXiv:2007.14858

A significant normalisation of the $t\bar{t}W$ background $\sim 1.3 - 1.7$ is necessary

Theory status

NLO fixed order

- NLO QCD + EW: inclusive production [Hirschi et al'11, Maltoni et al'15]
 - stable top-quarks [Frixione et al'15, Frederix et al'17]
- NLO QCD: on-shell decay × production [Campbell and Ellis'12]
 - QCD corrections to production and decay, spin correlations
- NLO QCD + EW: complete off-shell
 - (non-) resonant diagrams, finite width-effects
 - [Bevilacqua, Bi, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Worek'20 ('21)]
 - [Denner and Pelliccioli'20] [Denner and Pelliccioli'21]
 - [Bevilacqua, Bi, Febres Cordero, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Reina, Worek'21]

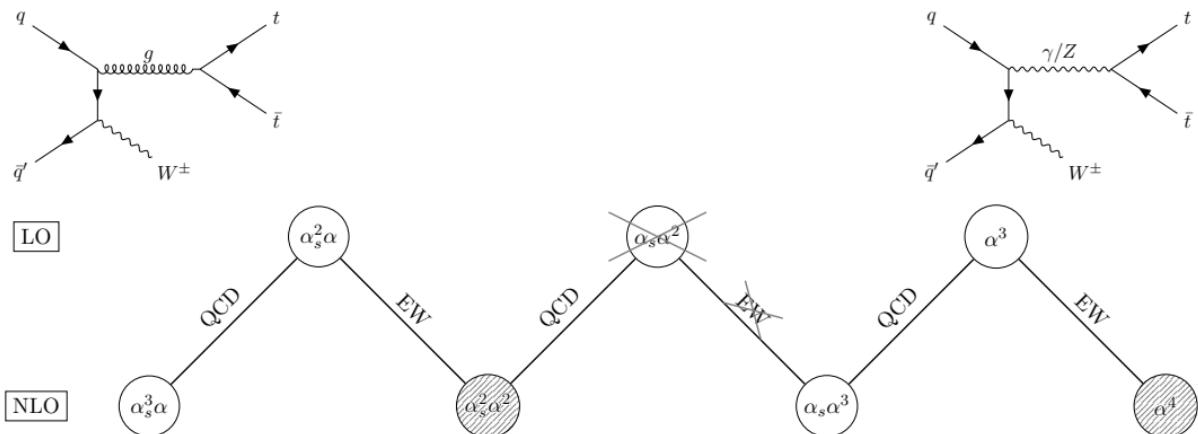
NLO + resummation

- NLO+NNLL QCD + EW: inclusive production [Li et al'14, Broggio et al'16]
 - stable top-quarks [Broggio et al'19, Kulesza et al'18'20]

NLO + parton shower

- NLO+PS QCD + EW: on-shell [Garzelli et al'12, Maltoni et al'14'15]
 - top decays at LO [Frederix and Tsinikos'20] [Febres Cordero, MK, Reina'21]
- Multi-jet merging [von Buddenbrock et al'20, ATLAS'20] [Frederix and Tsinikos'21]

Complete NLO QCD + EW corrections – I



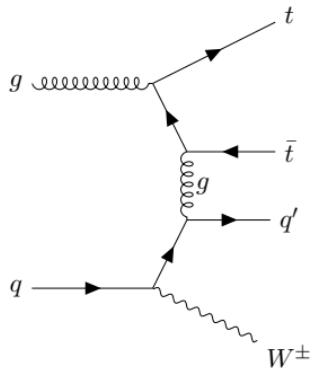
Perturbative corrections

- $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3 \alpha)$ – (50%) dominant NLO QCD corrections
- $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^2)$ – (-4%) mixed QCD-EW corrections
- $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s \alpha^3)$ – (10%) NLO QCD corrections !!!
- $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^4)$ – sub per mill NLO EW corrections

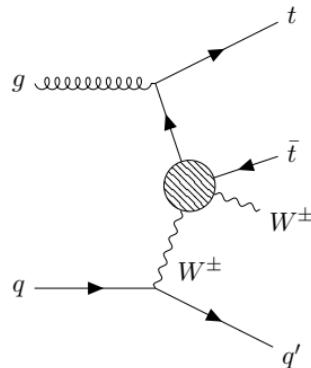
[Frederix et al arXiv:1711.02116]

Complete NLO QCD + EW corrections – II

- Origin of large QCD corrections at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s \alpha^3)$?

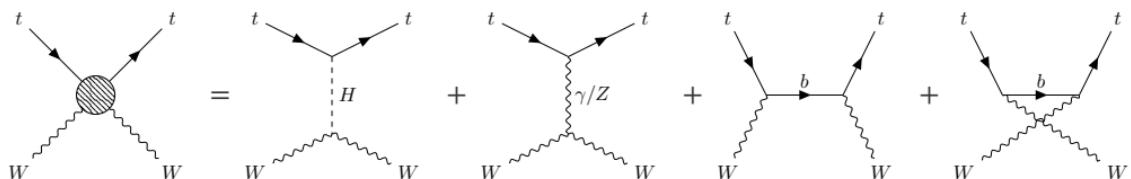


QCD



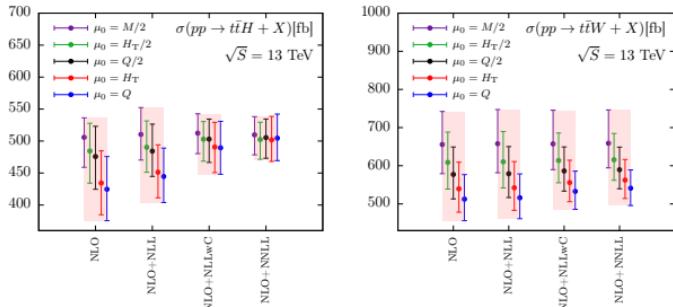
EW

- $tW \rightarrow tW$ scattering

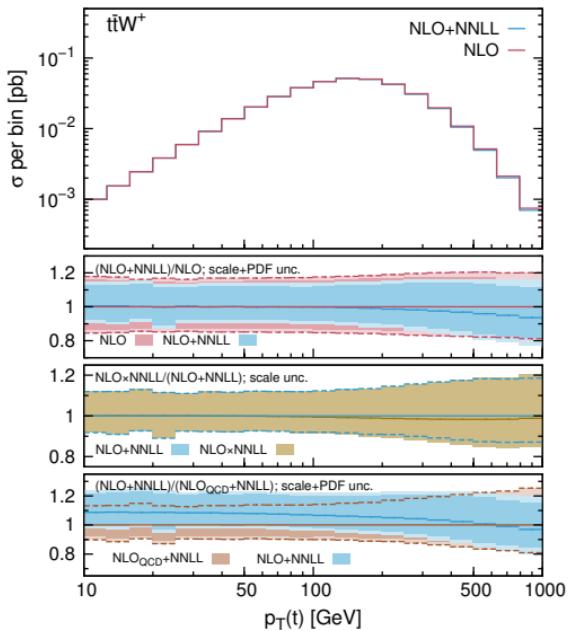


Soft-gluon Resummation

- Soft-gluon resummation @ NNLL
- no gg channel for $t\bar{t}W^\pm$
- Scale dependence of total cross sections
 - significant reduction for $t\bar{t}H/t\bar{t}Z$
 - marginal impact on $t\bar{t}W^\pm$
- Impact of resummation: $K_{NNLL} \lesssim 1.06$
- Small impact on diff. distributions

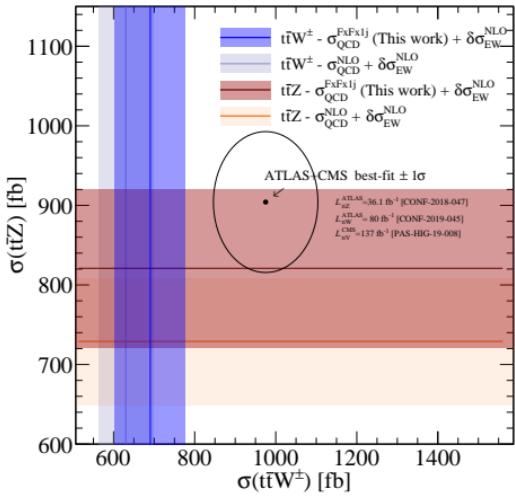


[Kulesza et al. arXiv:2001.03031]

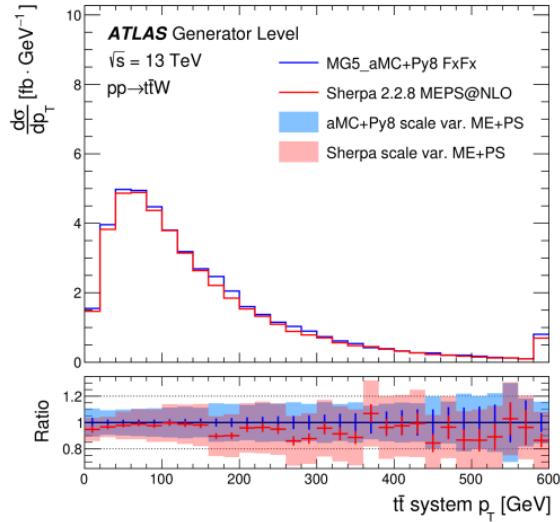


[Broggio et al arXiv:1907.04343]

Multi-jet merging



[von Buddenbrock et al arXiv:2009.00032]

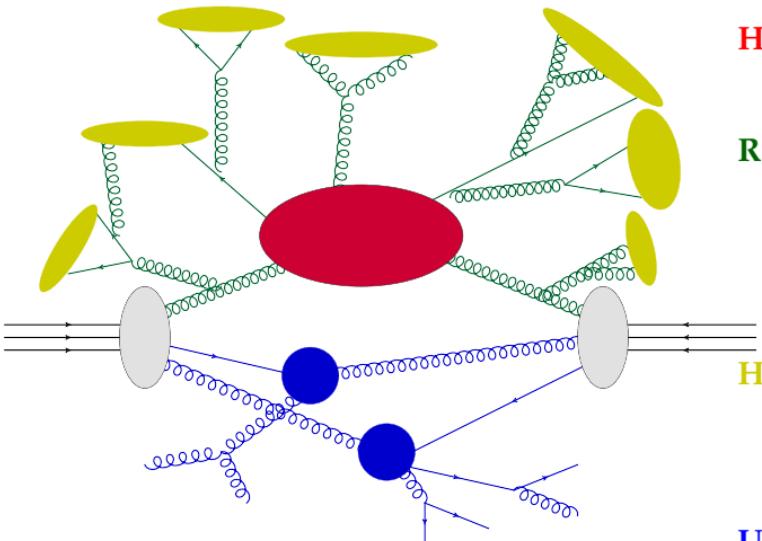


[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2020-024]

- FxFx NLO vs. MEPS@NLO multi-jet merging → **consistent** schemes
- multi-jet merging **improves slightly** tension with LHC measurements

on-shell $t\bar{t}W$ – parton showers

Modelling of hadron collisions



Event generators have to be improved once data becomes more precise!

Incoming protons

- Parton distribution functions

Hard interaction

- LO, NLO, NNLO predictions

Radiation

- Parton shower
- Resonance decays
- Matching to NLO, NNLO

Hadronization

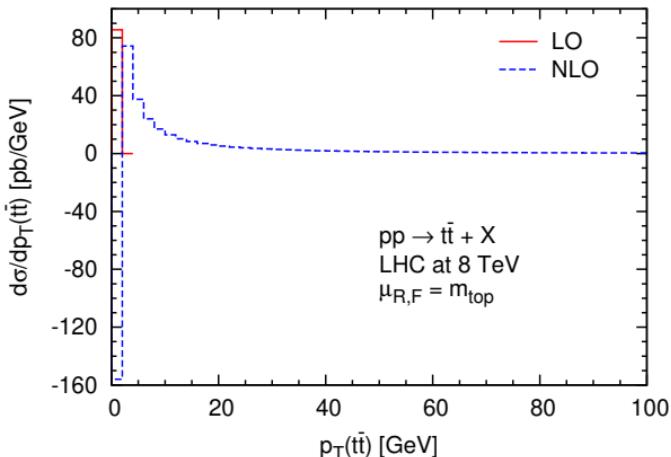
- Phenomenological models
- Hadronic decays

Underlying event

- Multi parton interactions

Beyond Leading order

Why fixed-order calculations are not always enough:

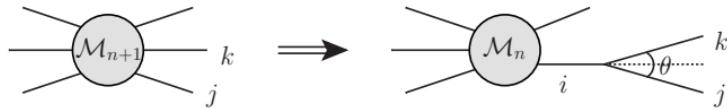


- ✓ NLO normalization
- ✗ large logarithms – e.g $\log(p_T^2(t\bar{t})/\hat{s})$
- ✗ simulates only few final state partons
- ✗ Needs a bridge to hadronization

Parton showers can improve all these points!

Parton shower - collinear factorization

- Higher-order QCD matrix elements factorize in the collinear limit



$$|M_{n+1}|^2 d\Phi_{n+1} \approx |M_n|^2 d\Phi_n \frac{dt}{t} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{ij}(z) dz d\phi \quad (\star)$$

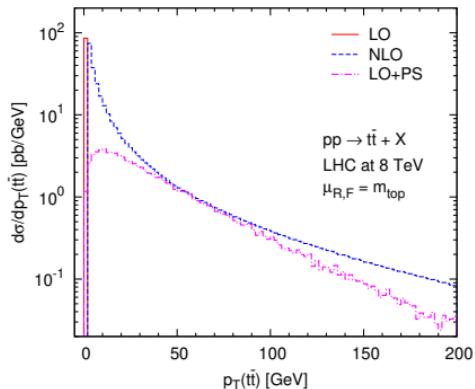
- t : evolution variable – e.g k_T , angle θ , virtuality Q^2 , ...
- z : momentum fraction of the emitted parton
- P_{ij} : Altarelli-Parisi splitting kernels
- For infinite many emissions Eq. (\star) yields

$$\sigma^{\text{LO+PS}} = \int d\Phi_n B(\Phi_n) \left[\Delta(t_0, t_{\max}) + \sum_{ij} \int_{t_0}^{t_{\max}} \frac{dt}{t} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \int dz P_{ij}(z) \Delta(t, t_{\max}) \right]$$

with the **Sudakov form factor**

$$\Delta(t_0, t_{\max}) = \exp \left[- \int_{t_0}^{t_{\max}} \frac{dt}{t} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \int dz P_{ij}(z) \right]$$

LO + Parton shower



- ✓ more realistic description in the low p_T region
- ✗ only LO accurate
- ✗ high p_T region reliably described only by NLO calculation

Combining NLO calculation and parton shower: **NLO+PS matching**

- ✓ avoid double counting
- ✓ preserve NLO accuracy
- popular methods:
 - MC@NLO [Frixione, Webber hep-ph/0204244]
 - POWHEG [Nason hep-ph/0409146]

Also: Merging matched calculation for different multiplicities
 $(t\bar{t} + 0j, t\bar{t} + 1j, t\bar{t} + 2j, \dots) \rightarrow$ NOT discussed in this talk.

The POWHEG method in a nutshell – I

- Start from NLO fixed-order cross section

$$\sigma^{\text{NLO}} = \int d\Phi_n \left[B(\Phi_n) + V(\Phi_n) \right] + \int d\Phi_{n+1} R(\Phi_{n+1})$$

- Split real radiation in *soft* and *hard* contributions

$$R(\Phi_{n+1}) = \underbrace{F(\Phi_{n+1})R(\Phi_{n+1})}_{\equiv R_s(\Phi_{n+1})} + \underbrace{\left[1 - F(\Phi_{n+1})\right]R(\Phi_{n+1})}_{\equiv R_h(\Phi_{n+1})}$$

- $F(\Phi_{n+1})$ to a large extend arbitrary

$$F(\Phi_{n+1}) = F_{\text{damp}}(\Phi_{n+1}) F_{\text{bornzero}}(\Phi_{n+1})$$

- Standard choices in the POWHEG-BOX

$$F_{\text{damp}}(\Phi_{n+1}) = \frac{h_{\text{damp}}^2}{h_{\text{damp}}^2 + p_T^2}, \quad F_{\text{bornzero}}(\Phi_{n+1}) = \Theta \left(h_{\text{bornzero}} - \frac{R(\Phi_{n+1})}{P_{ij}(\Phi_r) \otimes B(\Phi_n)} \right)$$

The POWHEG method in a nutshell – II

- one step parton shower approximation

$$\sigma^{\text{NLO+PS}} = \int d\Phi_n \bar{B}(\Phi_n) \underbrace{\left[\Delta(\Phi_n, p_T^{\min}) + \int d\Phi_r \frac{R_s(\Phi_{n+1})}{B(\Phi_n)} \Delta(\Phi_n, p_T) \right]}_{=1} + \int d\Phi_{n+1} R_h(\Phi_{n+1})$$

- Inclusive NLO and infrared finite cross section

$$\bar{B}(\Phi_n) = B(\Phi_n) + V(\Phi_n) + \int d\Phi_r R_s(\Phi_n)$$

- **Modified** Sudakov form factor

$$\Delta(\Phi_n, p_T) = \exp \left(- \int d\Phi_r \frac{R_s(\Phi_n, \Phi_r)}{B(\Phi_n)} \Theta(k_T(\Phi_n, \Phi_r) - p_T) \right)$$

Generator comparison

[Febres Cordero, MK, Reina arXiv:2101.11808]

| | POWHEG-BOX | MG5_aMC@NLO | Sherpa |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|
| $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3 \alpha)$ | POWHEG | MC@NLO | MC@NLO |
| $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s \alpha^3)$ | POWHEG | MC@NLO | tree-level merg. |
| Decay | spin/no spin | MadSpin | spin-density mat. |
| Shower | Pythia8 | Pythia8 | CS shower |

Comparative analysis: Two same-sign leptons

$$p_T(\ell) > 15 \text{ GeV}, \quad |\eta(\ell)| < 2.5,$$

$$p_T(j) > 25 \text{ GeV}, \quad |\eta(j)| < 2.5,$$

$$N_{l\text{-jets}} \geq 2, \quad N_{b\text{-jets}} \geq 2,$$

$$\text{anti-}k_T, \quad R = 0.4$$

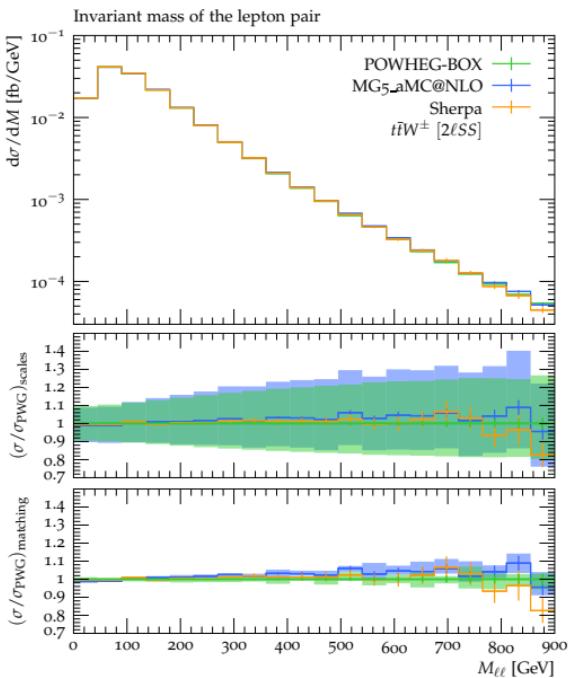
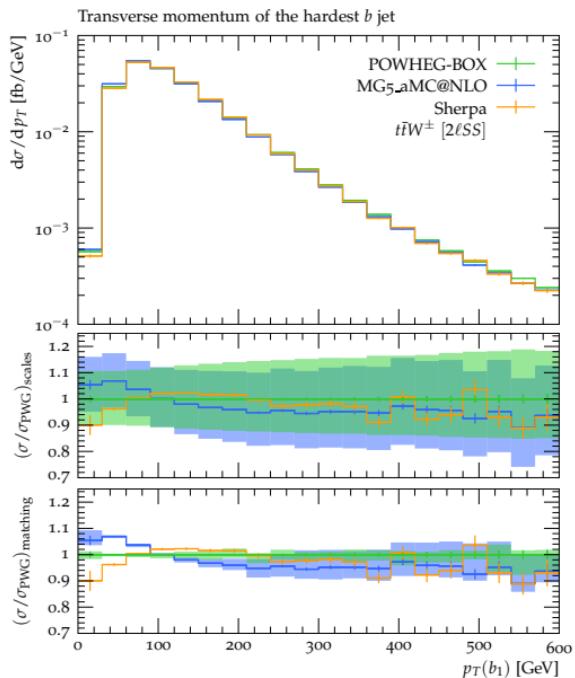
Not addressed in this study:

- Effects from Multi-parton interactions
- Hadronization effects

Fiducial observables - Uncertainties

two same-sign leptons

[Febres Cordero, MK, Reina arXiv:2101.11808]

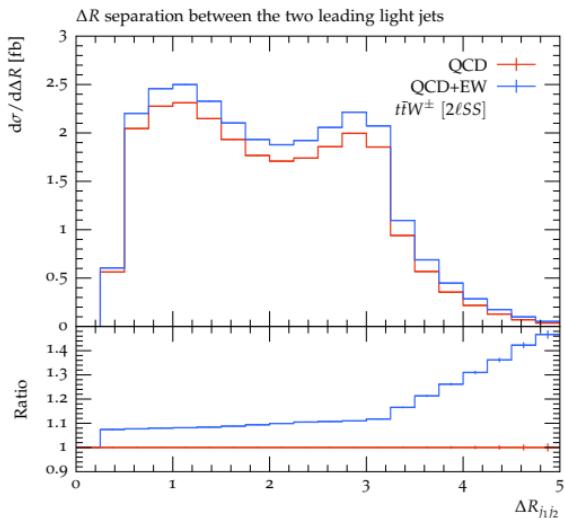
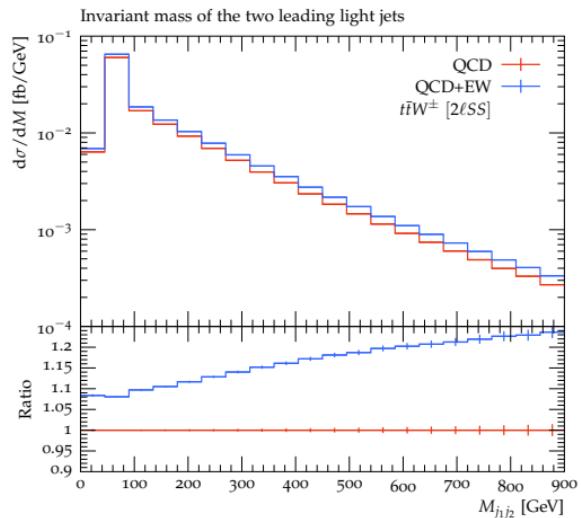


Good agreement within uncertainties

Fiducial observables - QCD vs. EW

two same-sign leptons

[Febres Cordero, MK, Reina arXiv:2101.11808]

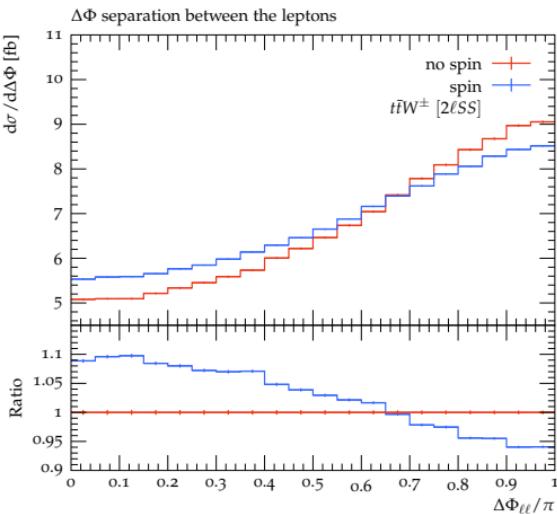
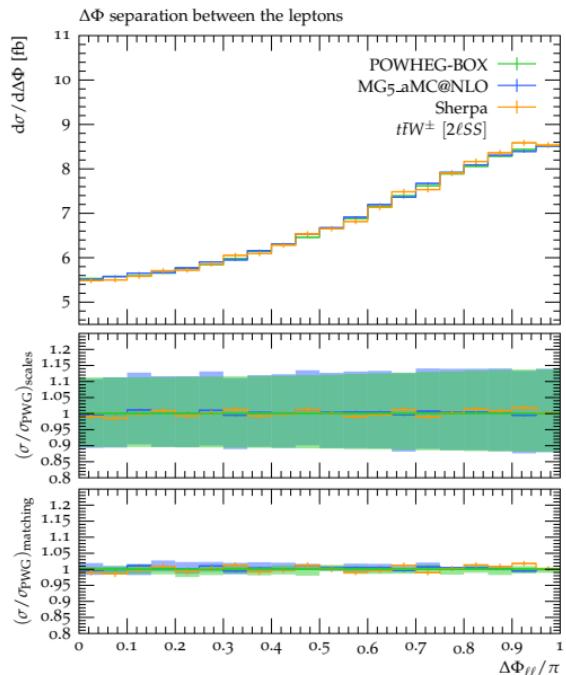


- EW contribution sizeable if sensitive to forward jets
- For most observables: flat +10% correction

Fiducial observables - Polarization effects

two same-sign leptons

[Febres Cordero, MK, Reina arXiv:2101.11808]

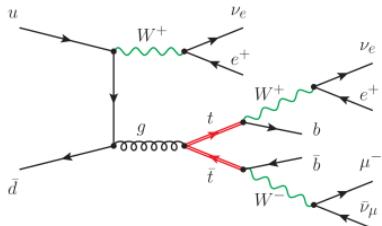


- Polarization effects modify shape by 10%
- Stronger effects for $t\bar{t}W^+$ and $t\bar{t}W^-$ separately

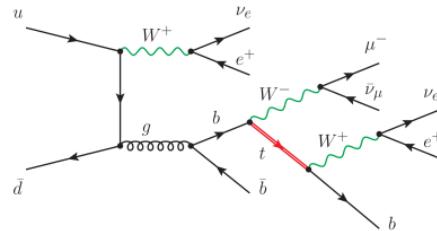
Beyond stable top quarks

Beyond stable top quarks

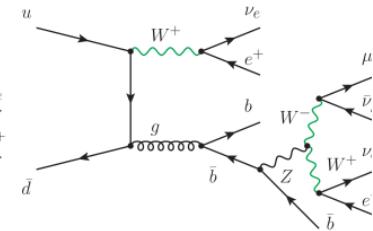
- full off-shell contributions to $t\bar{t}W^+$



Double resonant



Single resonant



Non-resonant

- Narrow-width approximation (NWA)

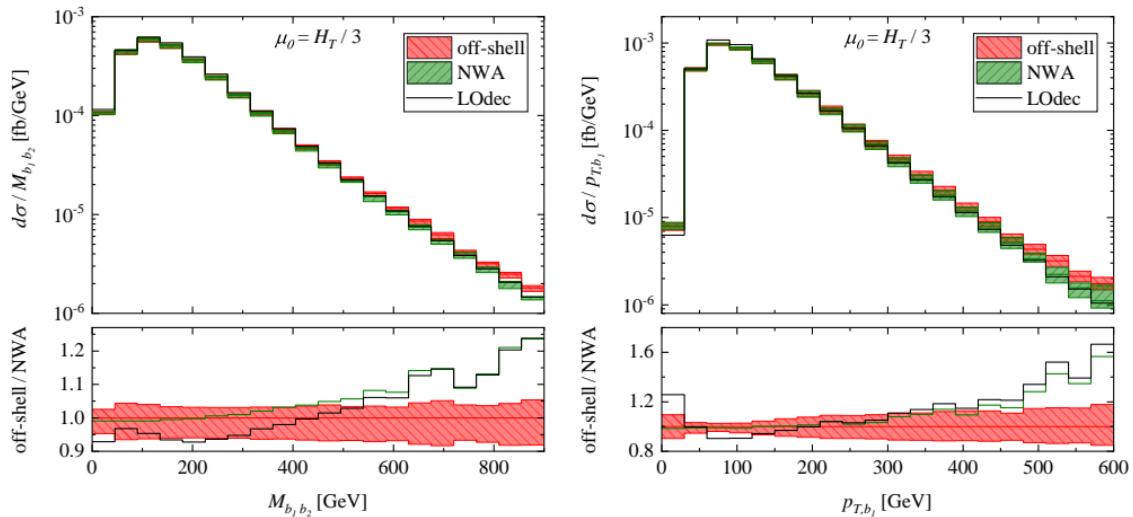
$$\frac{1}{(p^2 - m_t^2)^2 + m_t^2 \Gamma_t^2} \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{m_t \Gamma_t} \delta(p^2 - m_t^2) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\Gamma_t}{m_t}\right)$$

Keeps only **double resonant** contributions

- How large are these effects at the differential level?
- What is the impact of QCD corrections on the top decay?

off-shell $t\bar{t}W$ - differential cross sections

Impact of radiative top decays in $pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e e^- \bar{\nu}_e e^+ \nu_e b\bar{b}$ @ $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV



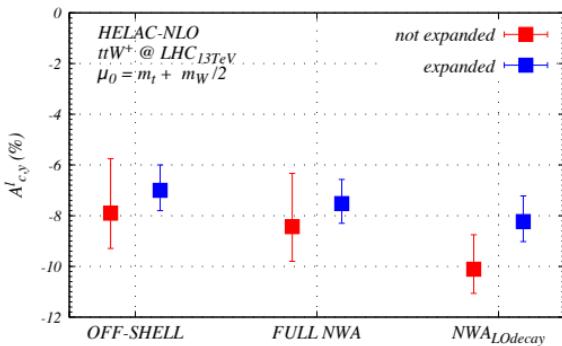
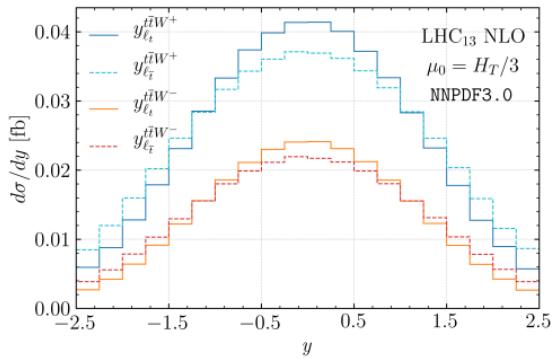
- Large off-shell effects in the tails of the distributions
- Differences between NWA and NWA_{L0dec} are $\mathcal{O}(10\%)$ in the bulk

[Bevilacqua, Bi, Hartanto, MK, Worek, arXiv:2005.09427]

off-shell $t\bar{t}W$ - Charge Asymmetry

Leptonic charge asymmetry

$$A_c^\ell = \frac{\sigma_{\text{bin}}^+ - \sigma_{\text{bin}}^-}{\sigma_{\text{bin}}^+ + \sigma_{\text{bin}}^-}, \quad \sigma_{\text{bin}}^\pm = \int \theta(\pm \Delta|y|) \theta_{\text{bin}} d\sigma, \quad \Delta|y| = |y_{\ell_t} - y_{\ell_{\bar{t}}}|$$



- Decay modelling has **large** impact on charge asymmetry

[Bevilacqua, Bi, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Worek, arXiv:2012.01363]

Comparison of different approaches

Comparison of different approaches

How to model multilepton final states?

$$pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}\ell^{\pm}\nu_{\ell}\ell^{\pm}\nu_{\ell}\ell^{\pm}\nu_{\ell}$$



fixed-order

- top decay at NLO
- exact spin correlations
- double, single and non-resonant contributions or NWA
- only one extra parton

parton showers

- Additional radiation
- Hadronization
- More flexible
- NLO only for production
- LO spin correlations

How compatible are the different descriptions?

[Bevilacqua, Bi, Febres Cordero, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Reina, Worek arXiv:2109.15181]

Multi-lepton signature

- 3 lepton final states

$$p_T(j) > 25 \text{ GeV} , \quad |\eta(j)| < 2.5 ,$$

$$p_T(\ell) > 25 \text{ GeV} , \quad |\eta(\ell)| < 2.5 , \quad \Delta R(\ell\ell) > 0.4 , \quad \Delta R(\ell j) > 0.4$$

- Jets defined via anti- k_T jet algorithm with $R = 0.4$
- b jets are defined as jets having a b parton inside
- Required at least $2b$ jets
- Parton shower: Pythia8

Not addressed in this study:

- Effects from Multi-parton interactions
- Hadronization effects

[Bevilacqua, Bi, Febres Cordero, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Reina, Worek arXiv:2109.15181]

- **full off-shell**

$$\sigma_{\text{off-shell}}^{\text{NLO}} = 1.58^{+0.05 \text{ (3\%)}}_{-0.10 \text{ (6\%)}} \text{ fb}$$

- **NWA**

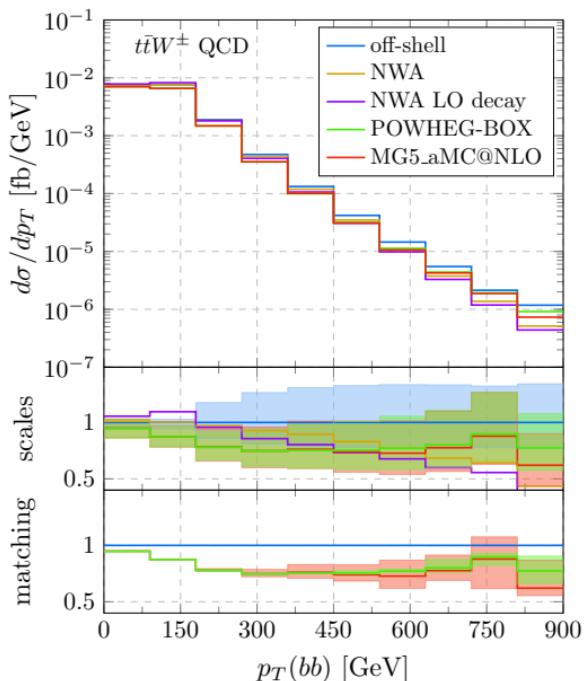
$$\sigma_{\text{NWA}}^{\text{NLO}} = 1.57^{+0.05 \text{ (3\%)}}_{-0.10 \text{ (6\%)}} \text{ fb} , \quad \sigma_{\text{NWA LOdec}}^{\text{NLO}} = 1.66^{+0.17 \text{ (10\%)}}_{-0.17 \text{ (10\%)}} \text{ fb} ,$$

- QCD corrections in top decay **negative** → -5%
- subtle interplay between scale variation in prod. and decay

- **Parton shower**

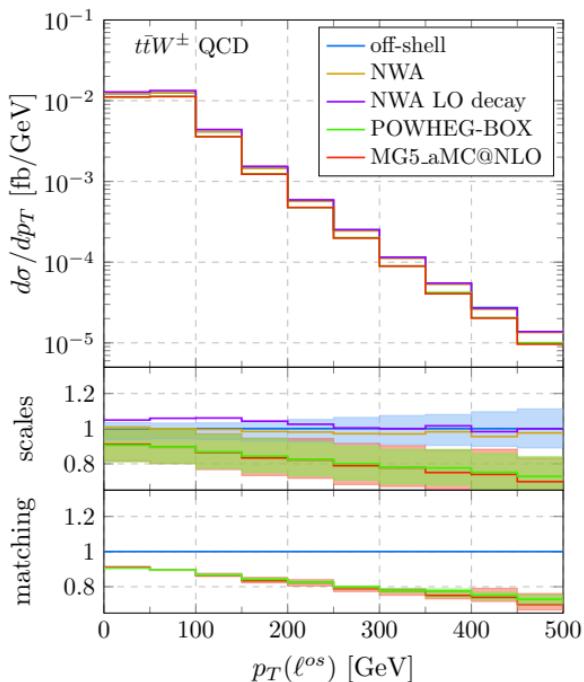
$$\sigma_{\text{PWG}}^{\text{NLO+PS}} = 1.40^{+0.16 \text{ (11\%)}}_{-0.15 \text{ (11\%)}} \text{ fb} , \quad \sigma_{\text{MG5}}^{\text{NLO+PS}} = 1.40^{+0.16 \text{ (11\%)}}_{-0.15 \text{ (11\%)}} \text{ fb} ,$$

- similar uncertainties as NWA LOdec
- 11% reduction due to multiple emissions in top decays!



- Large single-resonant $pp \rightarrow tWWb$ contribution in the tail
- top decay @ NLO QCD important for the bulk of the distribution
- Large shower corrections

[Bevilacqua, Bi, Febres Cordero, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Reina, Worek arXiv:2109.15181]



- NWA reproduces distribution obtained with full off-shell effects
- top decay only has minor influence for low p_T
- Shower based results have different shapes

[Bevilacqua, Bi, Febres Cordero, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Reina, Worek arXiv:2109.15181]

- **full off-shell**

$$\sigma_{\text{off-shell}}^{\text{NLO}} = 0.206^{+0.045 \text{ (22\%)}}_{-0.034 \text{ (17\%)}} \text{ fb}$$

- **NWA**

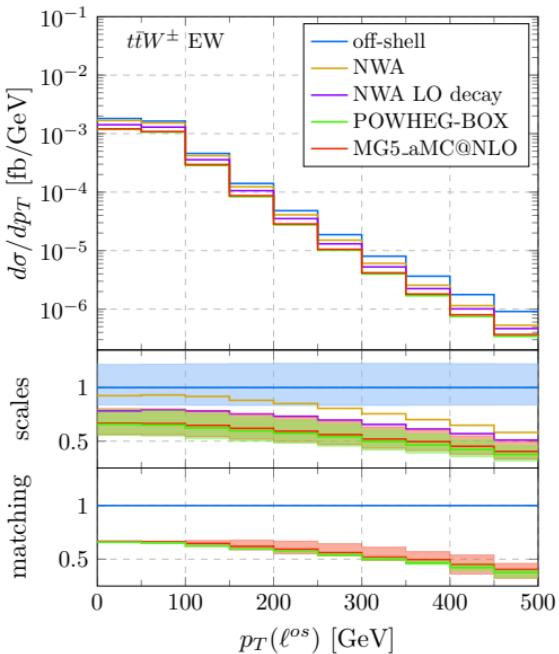
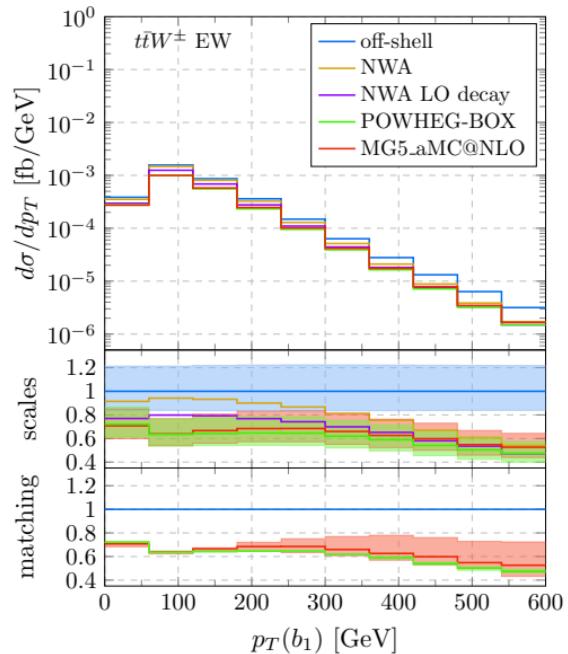
$$\sigma_{\text{NWA}}^{\text{NLO}} = 0.190^{+0.041 \text{ (22\%)}}_{-0.031 \text{ (16\%)}} \text{ fb}, \quad \sigma_{\text{NWA LOdec}}^{\text{NLO}} = 0.162^{+0.035 \text{ (22\%)}}_{-0.026 \text{ (16\%)}} \text{ fb},$$

- QCD corrections in top decay **positive** $\rightarrow +17\%$
- scale variation dominated by qg initial state processes
- 8% difference wrt full off-shell due to $WW \rightarrow WW$ contributions!

- **Parton shower**

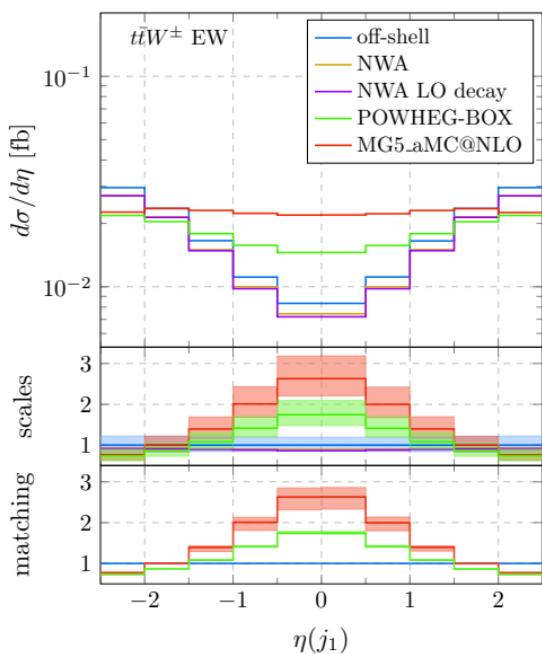
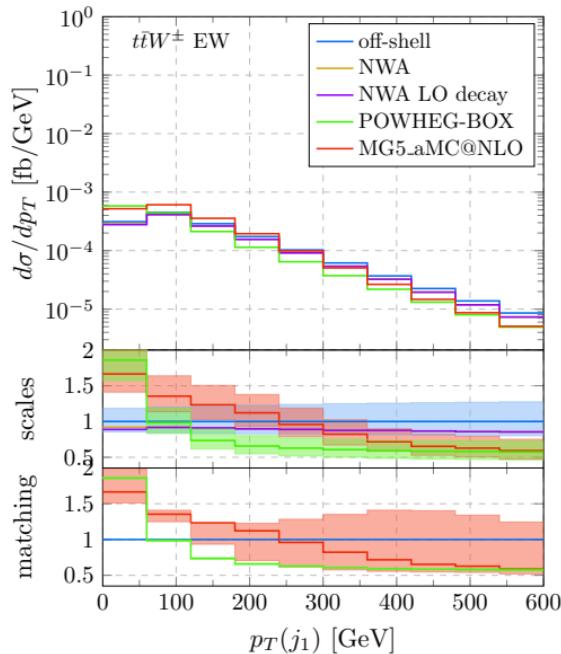
$$\sigma_{\text{PWG}}^{\text{NLO+PS}} = 0.133^{+0.028 \text{ (21\%)}}_{-0.021 \text{ (16\%)}} \text{ fb}, \quad \sigma_{\text{MG5}}^{\text{NLO+PS}} = 0.136^{+0.028 \text{ (21\%)}}_{-0.022 \text{ (16\%)}} \text{ fb},$$

- similar uncertainties as NWA and full off-shell
- Reduction due to multiple emissions in top decays!
- significantly smaller than full off-shell prediction!



Effects more extreme for the EW production mode

[Bevilacqua, Bi, Febres Cordero, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Reina, Worek arXiv:2109.15181]



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Combination of approaches

- In the absence of full off-shell @ NLO+PS can we do something more?

What do we have at hand?

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$$\frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO+PS}}}{dX} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bullet \text{ Many non-trivial kinematic effects} \\ \bullet \text{ Corrections beyond fixed-order} \\ \bullet \text{ Hadronization} \end{array} \right.$$

Combination of approaches

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What do we have at hand?

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO+PS}}}{dX} \\ \frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO}}}{dX} \end{array} \right\} \quad \begin{array}{l} \bullet \text{ Many non-trivial kinematic effects} \\ \bullet \text{ Corrections beyond fixed-order} \\ \bullet \text{ Hadronization} \\ \\ \bullet \text{ Double resonant contributions} \\ \bullet \text{ top decay @ NLO QCD} \\ \bullet \text{ exact spin correlations} \end{array}$$

Combination of approaches

- In the absence of full off-shell @ NLO+PS can we do something more?

What do we have at hand?

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| $\frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO+PS}}}{dX}$ | { | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many non-trivial kinematic effects• Corrections beyond fixed-order• Hadronization |
| $\frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO}}_{\text{NWA}}}{dX}$ | { | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double resonant contributions• top decay @ NLO QCD• exact spin correlations |
| $\frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO}}_{\text{off-shell}}}{dX}$ | { | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double, single + non-resonant contributions• top decay @ NLO QCD• finite width effects |

Combination of approaches

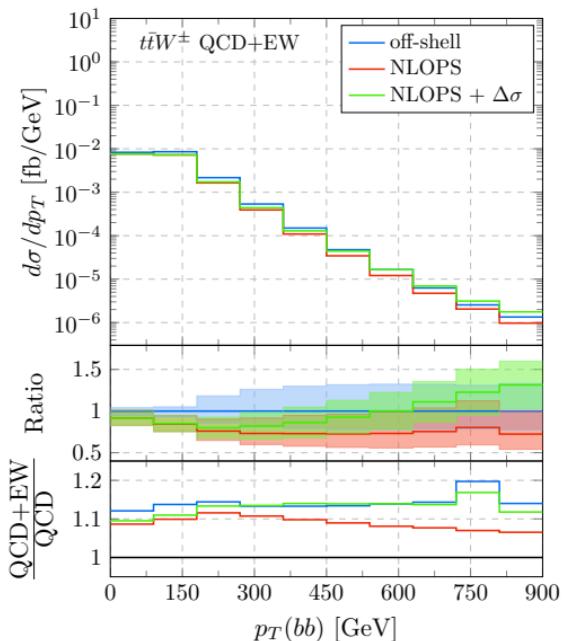
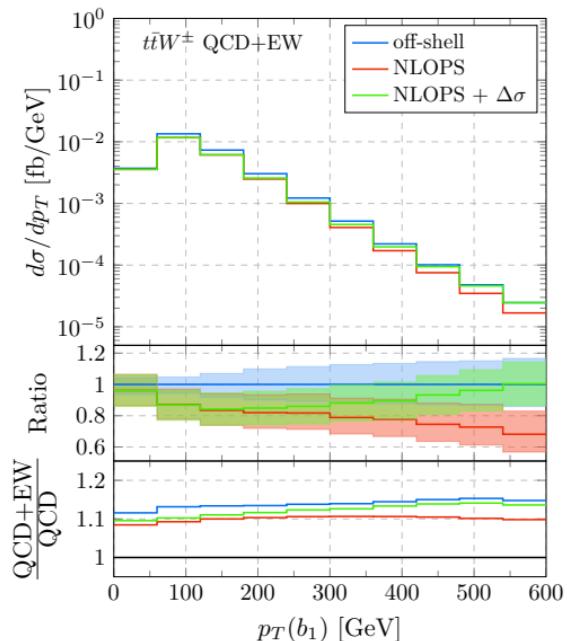
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What do we have at hand?

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| $\frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO+PS}}}{dX}$ | { | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Many non-trivial kinematic effectsCorrections beyond fixed-orderHadronization |
| $\frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO}}}{dX}$ | { | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Double resonant contributionstop decay @ NLO QCDexact spin correlations |
| $\frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO off-shell}}}{dX}$ | { | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Double, single + non-resonant contributionstop decay @ NLO QCDfinite width effects |

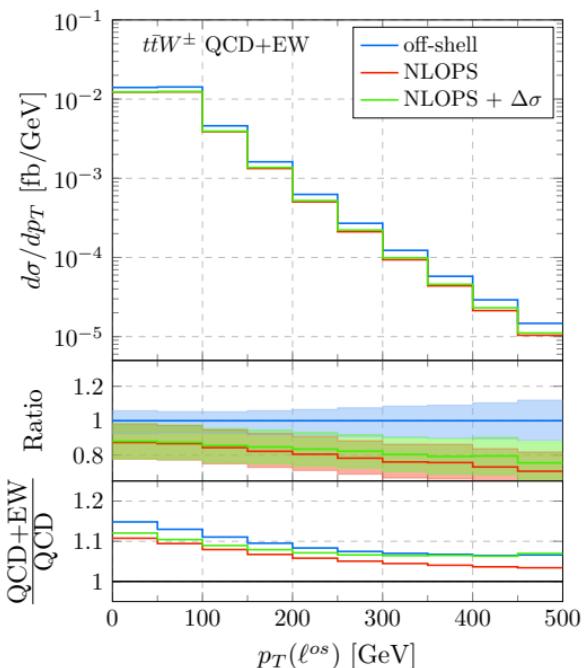
Combine predictions via

$$\frac{d\sigma^{\text{th}}}{dX} = \frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO+PS}}}{dX} + \frac{d\Delta\sigma_{\text{off-shell}}}{dX}, \quad \frac{d\Delta\sigma_{\text{off-shell}}}{dX} = \frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO}}_{\text{off-shell}}}{dX} - \frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO}}_{\text{NWA}}}{dX}$$



Sizable corrections for the tail of distributions

[Bevilacqua, Bi, Febres Cordero, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Reina, Worek arXiv:2109.15181]



- EW part receives sizable corrections
- overall minor impact as single-res. contributions are small
- Sizable shape differences between predictions

[Bevilacqua, Bi, Febres Cordero, Hartanto, MK, Nasufi, Reina, Worek arXiv:2109.15181]

Summary & Outlook

Summary

Phenomenology of $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}W^\pm$ at the LHC

- Much progress has been made in recent months
- Comparison of fixed-order and NLO+PS presented
 - Difficult to say which is the *better* one
 - each has advantages and disadvantages
- We proposed a simple combination to get the best of both worlds!
 - full off-shell at NLO+PS would be great to have!

Where do we go from here?

- Two same-sign leptons:
 - NLO QCD corrections for $W \rightarrow q\bar{q}'$ are inevitable
- Multi-lepton signatures:
 - NNLO QCD and full NWA for $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}W^\pm$ are necessary

Backup

The POWHEG method in a nutshell – I

- Start from NLO fixed-order cross section

$$\sigma^{\text{NLO}} = \int d\Phi_n \left[B(\Phi_n) + V(\Phi_n) \right] + \int d\Phi_{n+1} R(\Phi_{n+1})$$

- Split real radiation in *soft* and *hard* contributions

$$R(\Phi_{n+1}) = \underbrace{F(\Phi_{n+1})R(\Phi_{n+1})}_{\equiv R_s(\Phi_{n+1})} + \underbrace{\left[1 - F(\Phi_{n+1})\right]R(\Phi_{n+1})}_{\equiv R_h(\Phi_{n+1})}$$

- $F(\Phi_{n+1})$ to a large extend arbitrary

$$F(\Phi_{n+1}) = F_{\text{damp}}(\Phi_{n+1}) F_{\text{bornzero}}(\Phi_{n+1})$$

- Standard choices in the POWHEG-BOX

$$F_{\text{damp}}(\Phi_{n+1}) = \frac{h_{\text{damp}}^2}{h_{\text{damp}}^2 + p_T^2}, \quad F_{\text{bornzero}}(\Phi_{n+1}) = \Theta \left(h_{\text{bornzero}} - \frac{R(\Phi_{n+1})}{P_{ij}(\Phi_r) \otimes B(\Phi_n)} \right)$$

The POWHEG method in a nutshell – II

- one step parton shower approximation

$$\sigma^{\text{NLO+PS}} = \int d\Phi_n \bar{B}(\Phi_n) \underbrace{\left[\Delta(\Phi_n, p_T^{\min}) + \int d\Phi_r \frac{R_s(\Phi_{n+1})}{B(\Phi_n)} \Delta(\Phi_n, p_T) \right]}_{=1} + \int d\Phi_{n+1} R_h(\Phi_{n+1})$$

- Inclusive NLO and infrared finite cross section

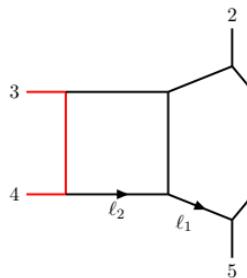
$$\bar{B}(\Phi_n) = B(\Phi_n) + V(\Phi_n) + \int d\Phi_r R_s(\Phi_n)$$

- **Modified** Sudakov form factor

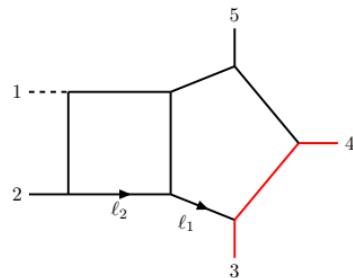
$$\Delta(\Phi_n, p_T) = \exp \left(- \int d\Phi_r \frac{R_s(\Phi_n, \Phi_r)}{B(\Phi_n)} \Theta(k_T(\Phi_n, \Phi_r) - p_T) \right)$$

Two-loop planar master topologies

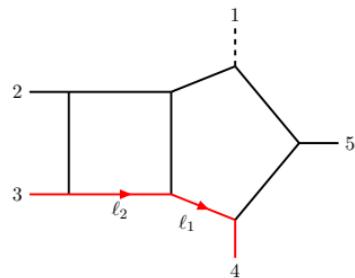
Planar master integrals



(a) $I_1(\vec{v})$



(b) $I_2(\vec{v})$



(c) $I_3(\vec{v})$

Number of master integrals per topology

$$\dim(I_1) = 128 , \quad \dim(I_2) = 117 , \quad \dim(I_3) = 139 .$$