

Towards accuracy in parton showers

Gregory Soyez mostly based on work within PanScales:

arXiv:1805.09327, arXiv:1807.04758, arXiv:2002.11114, arXiv:2007.10355, arXiv:2011.10054,
arXiv:2103.16526, arXiv:2109.07496, arXiv:2111.01161, arXiv:2205.02237, arXiv:2205.02861,
arXiv:2207.09467, arXiv:2212.05076, arXiv:2301.09645, arXiv:2305.08645, arXiv:2307.11142,
arXiv:2312.13275, arXiv:2402.05170, arXiv:2406.02664, arXiv:2409.08316

IPhT, CNRS, CEA Saclay

Rencontres de Physique des Particules, LAPTh, Annecy, February 5-7 2025

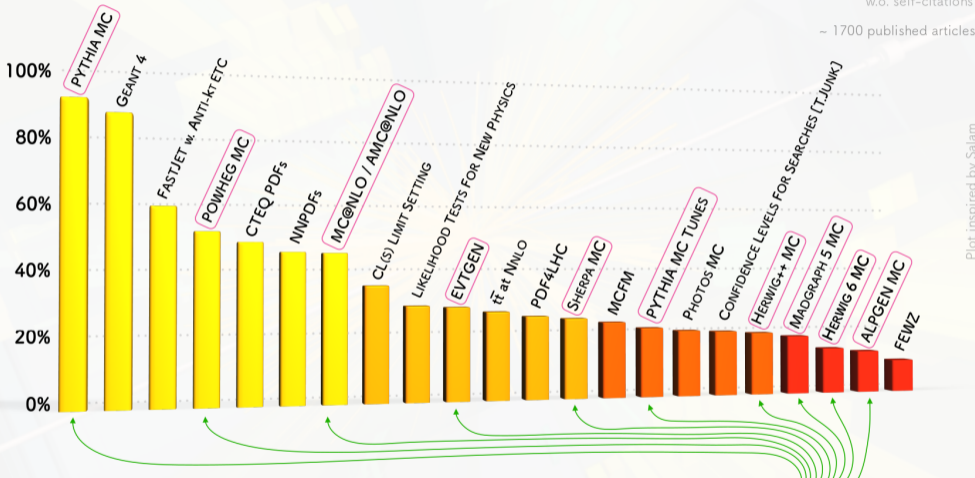


Basic message #1: Event Generators are among us!

- % of ATLAS+CMS+LHCb papers citing some article/group in Jan '14 → May '20

w.o. self-citations

- 1700 published articles



Plot inspired by Salam

- PS MC is a central, everyday, part of the LHC physics programme

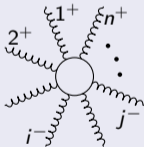
[plot by Keith Hamilton]

What makes them so successful/useful?

From fundamental theory...

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \\ & + i\bar{\psi}\not{D}\psi \\ & + \sum_i y_{ij} \bar{\psi}_i \psi_j + h.c. \\ & + |D_\mu \phi|^2 - V(\phi) \end{aligned}$$

+ associated analytic progress

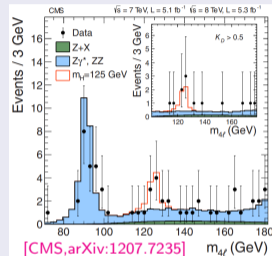
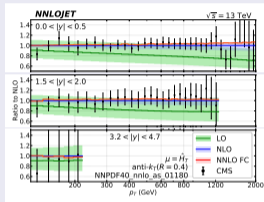


$$= \frac{\langle ij \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \cdots \langle n1 \rangle}$$

+ BSM extensions

...to a spectrum of applications

Basic idea: getting practical numbers



Applications:

- pheno studies (“run Pythia to test a pheno idea”)
- measurements (compare data/theory)
- modelling (systematic uncertainties)
- searches (estimate backgrounds)
- AI training (e.g. supervised classification)
- ...

What makes them so successful/useful?

Benchmark feature: versatility

- ranges from “fixed-order” parton-level to realistic full-event simulations (incl. detector)
- wide range of applications
- can compute any observable, fiducial cuts, ...

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Precision challenge

Precision is increasingly required for LHC physics (and future colliders)

- Get precise background estimates
- Search for tiny deviations/rare processes
- Get precise predictions and small uncertainties
- Avoid AI picking up spurious effects

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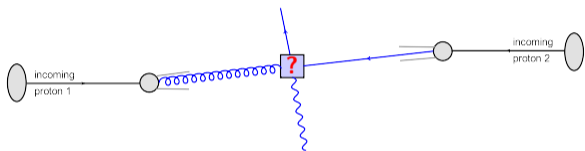
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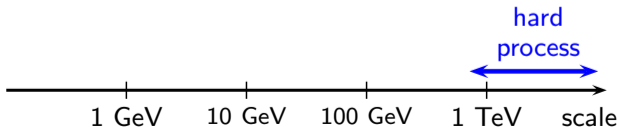
This requires control over the full chain: from the amplitude to the detector

Anatomy of a high-energy collision

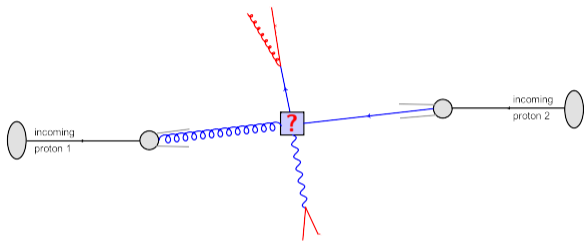


Simulating a high-energy collision requires several ingredients

- A hard process

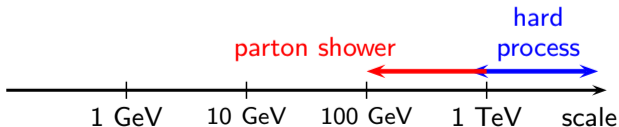


Anatomy of a high-energy collision

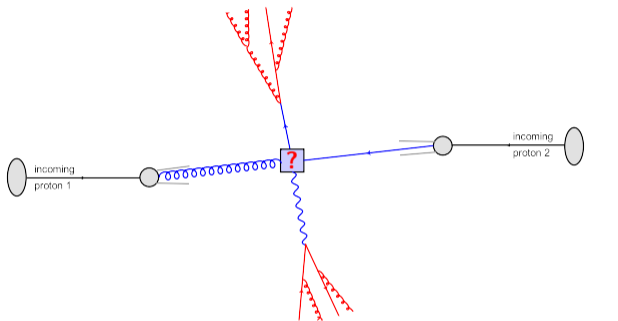


Simulating a high-energy collision requires several ingredients

- A hard process
- Parton shower (initial and final-state)

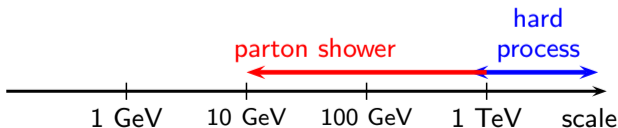


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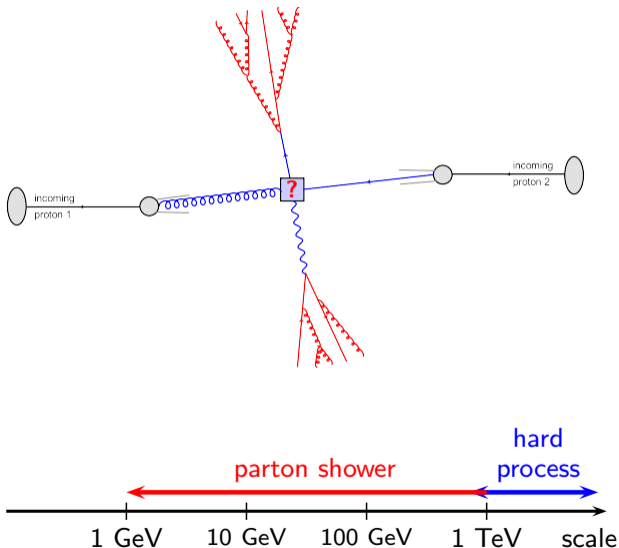


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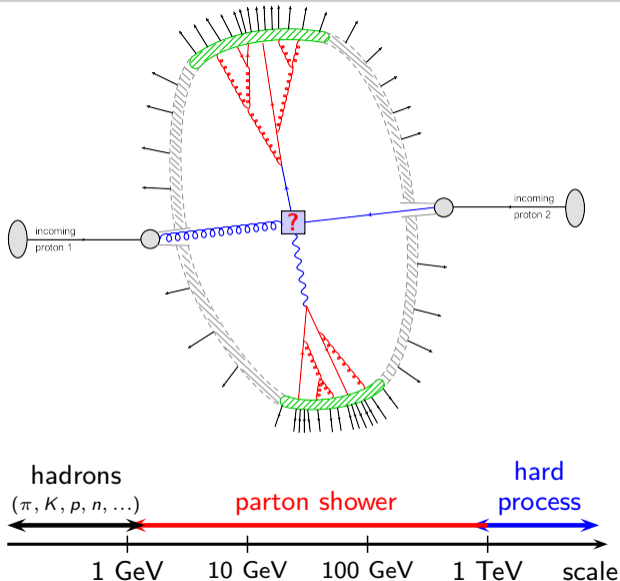
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Simulating a high-energy collision requires several ingredients

- A hard process
- Parton shower (initial and final-state)
- Hadronisation

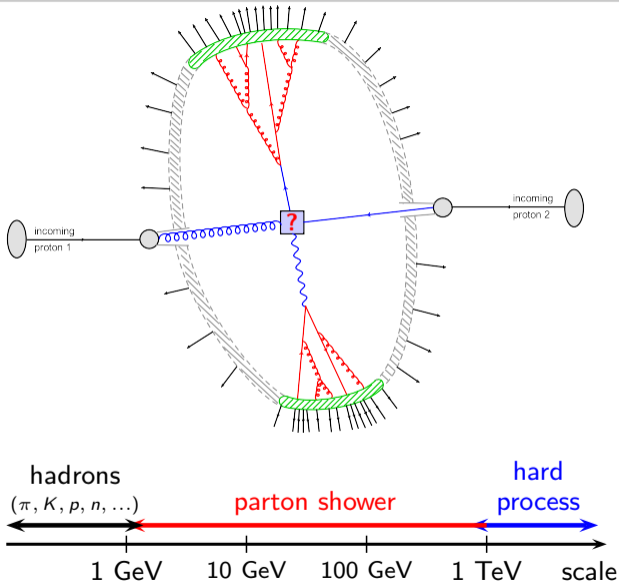
Anatomy of a high-energy collision



Simulating a high-energy collision requires several ingredients

- A hard process
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- Hadronisation
- Multi-parton interactions

Anatomy of a high-energy collision



Simulating a high-energy collision requires several ingredients

perturbatively
“calculable”

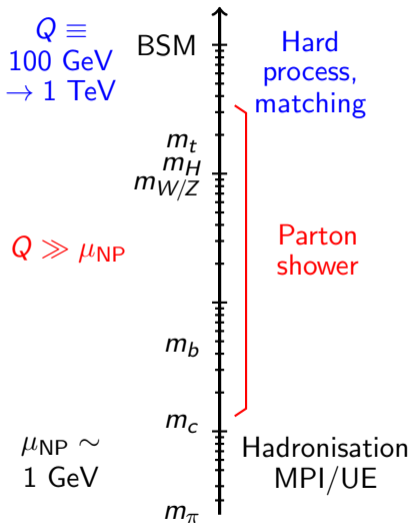
- A hard process
- Parton shower (initial and final-state)

non-pert.
“modelled”

- Hadronisation
- Multi-parton interactions

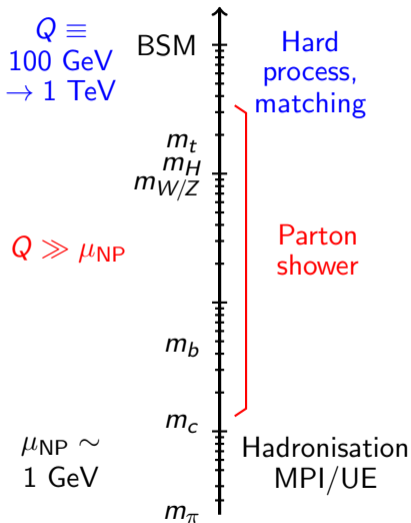
Basic message #2: physics at all scales

physics probed across many scales



Basic message #2: physics at all scales

physics probed across many scales



“Standard” perturbative expansion

$$\alpha_s(Q)f_1(v) + \alpha_s^2(Q)f_2(v) + \alpha_s^3(Q)f_3(v) + \dots$$

LO

NLO

NNLO

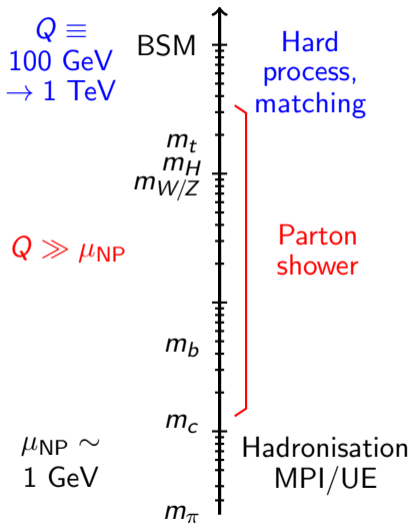
expect logs between disparate scales

$$\alpha_s \log^2 Q/\mu_{NP}, \alpha_s \log Q/\mu_{NP}$$

(double, single,...) logs to resum

Basic message #2: physics at all scales, a shower resums logs

physics probed across many scales



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LO

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(double, single,...) logs to resum

Parton shower v. resummations

Resummation is a vast field \Rightarrow let us take a concrete example: [event shapes](#)

global property of energy flow in the event

Examples:

- [energy-energy correlators](#): $FC_x \approx \frac{1}{Q^2} \sum_{i \neq j} E_i E_j \sin^x \theta_{ij}$,
- [Thrust](#) $T = \max_{|\vec{u}|=1} \frac{\sum_i |\vec{p}_i \cdot \vec{u}|}{\sum_i |\vec{p}_i|}$
- [Cambridge \$y_{23}\$](#) (\approx largest k_t in an angular-ordered clustering)

Resummation is a vast field \Rightarrow let us take a concrete example: [event shapes](#)

For a generic shape v , the **analytic QCD prediction** is

$$\ln \Sigma(v_{\text{cut}}) \equiv \ln P(v < v_{\text{cut}}) = \frac{1}{\alpha_s} g_1(\alpha_s L) + g_2(\alpha_s L) + \alpha_s g_3(\alpha_s L) + \dots$$

with $L = \log(v_{\text{cut}})$ [working limit: $\alpha_s \ll 1$, $\alpha_s L \sim \text{cst}$]

All order resummation of logarithmically-enhanced terms:

- $\frac{1}{\alpha_s} g_1 = \alpha_s L^2 + \alpha_s^2 L^3 + \dots \equiv$ leading-logs (LL)
- $g_2 = \alpha_s L + \alpha_s^2 L^2 + \dots \equiv$ next-to-leading-logs (NLL)
- $\alpha_s g_3 = \alpha_s + \alpha_s^2 L + \dots \equiv$ next-to-next-to-leading-logs (NNLL)

Resummation is a vast field \Rightarrow let us take a concrete example: [event shapes](#)

FIRST TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

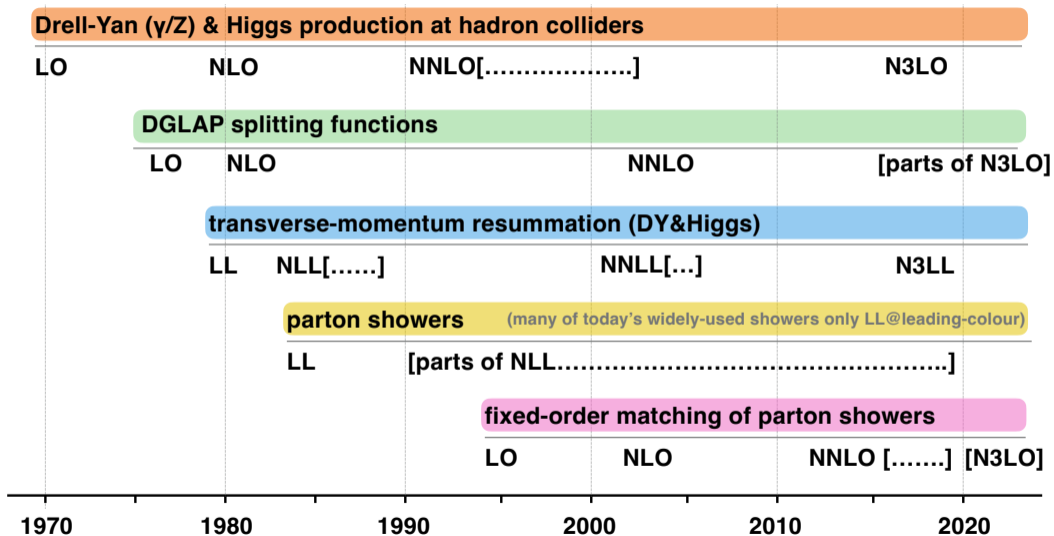
shower accuracy means logarithmic accuracy

(LL, NLL, NNLL, ...)

well-defined & systematically improvable

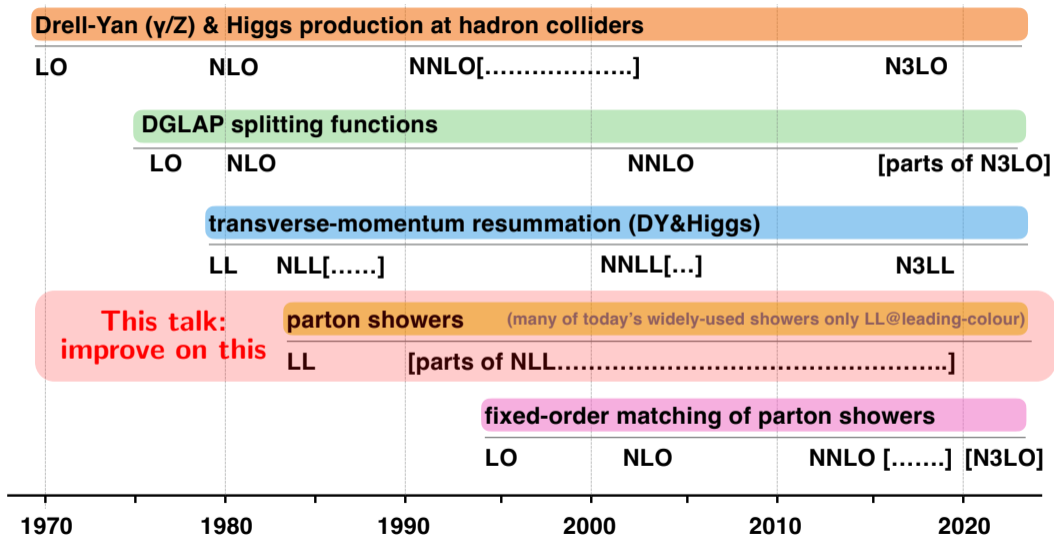
selected collider-QCD accuracy milestones

[slide from Gavin Salam (Moriond QCD 2023)]



selected collider-QCD accuracy milestones

[slide from Gavin Salam (Moriond QCD 2023)]



**This talk:
improve on this**



Mrinal Dasgupta
Manchester



Keith Hamilton
Univ. Coll. London



Pier Monni
CERN



GPS
Oxford



Grégory Soyez
IPhT, Saclay

since 2017



Frédéric Dreyer



Rob Verheyen



Rok Medves



Emma Slade

former members



Basem El-Menoufi
Monash



Alexander Karlberg
CERN



Ludovic Scyboz
Monash

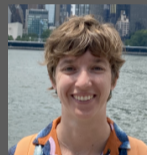
since 2019



Melissa van Beekveld
NIKEHF



Silvia Ferrario Ravasio
CERN



Alba Soto-Ontoso
Granada

since 2020

PanScales

A project to bring logarithmic understanding and accuracy to parton showers



Jack Helliwell
Monash

since 2022



Silvia Zanoli
Oxford

since 2023



Nicolas Schalch
Oxford

since 2024



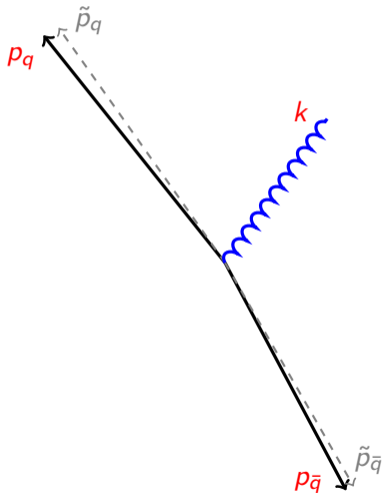
ERC funded
2018-2024

An “easy” graphical representation

Lund plane(s)

Basic features of QCD radiation

Take a gluon emission from a $(q\bar{q})$ dipole



Emission $(\tilde{p}_q \tilde{p}_{\bar{q}}) \rightarrow (p_q k)(k p_{\bar{q}})$:

$$k^\mu \equiv z_q \tilde{p}_q^\mu + z_{\bar{q}} \tilde{p}_{\bar{q}}^\mu + k_\perp^\mu$$

3 degrees of freedom:

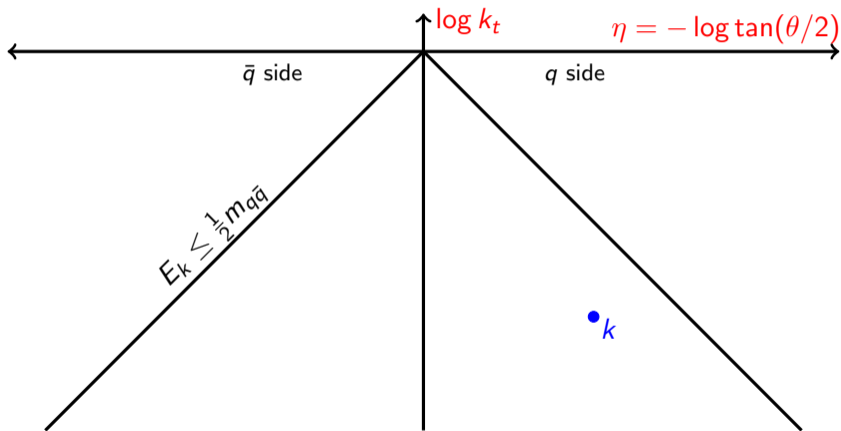
- Rapidity: $\eta = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{z_q}{z_{\bar{q}}}$
- Transverse momentum: k_\perp
- Azimuth: ϕ

In the soft-collinear approximation

$$d\mathcal{P} = \frac{\alpha_s(k_\perp) C_F}{\pi^2} d\eta \frac{dk_\perp}{k_\perp} d\phi$$

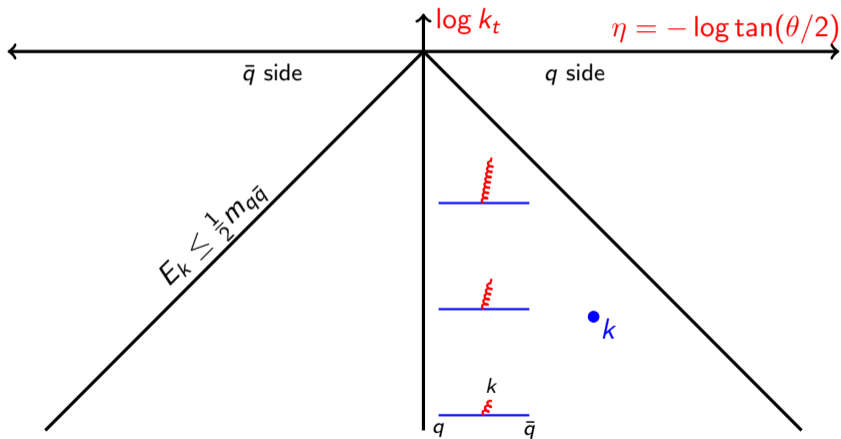
Basic features of QCD radiations: the Lund plane

Lund plane: natural representation uses the 2 “log” variables η and $\log k_{\perp}$



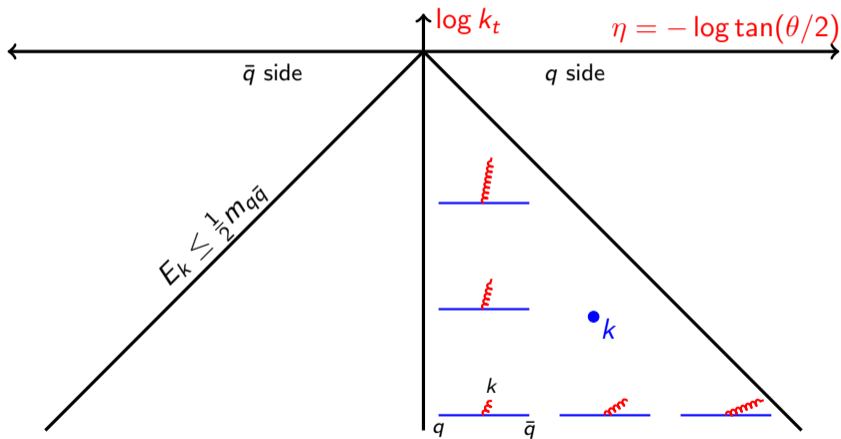
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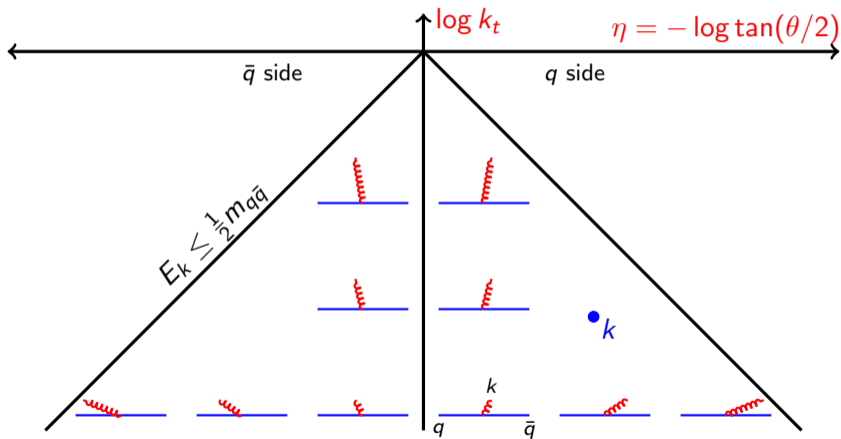
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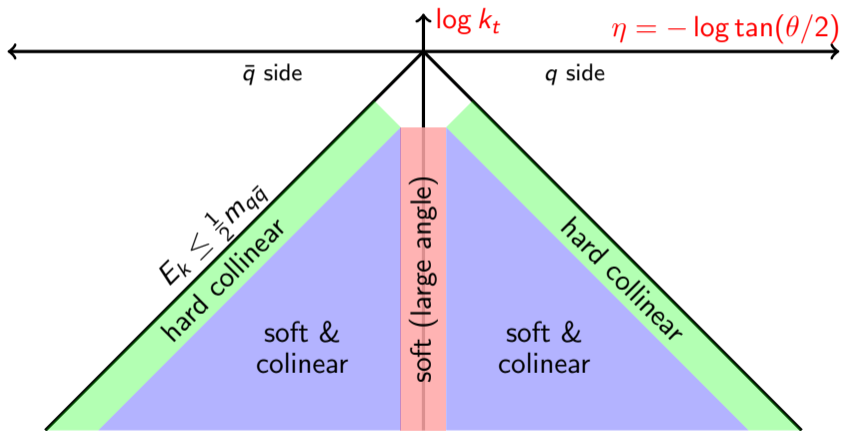
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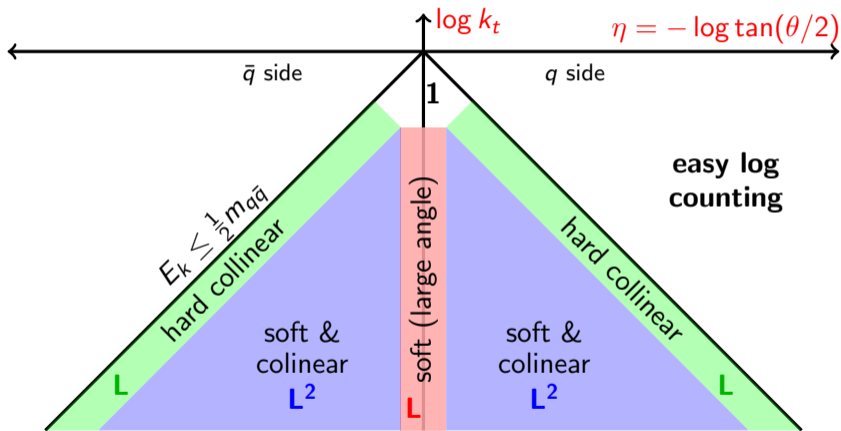
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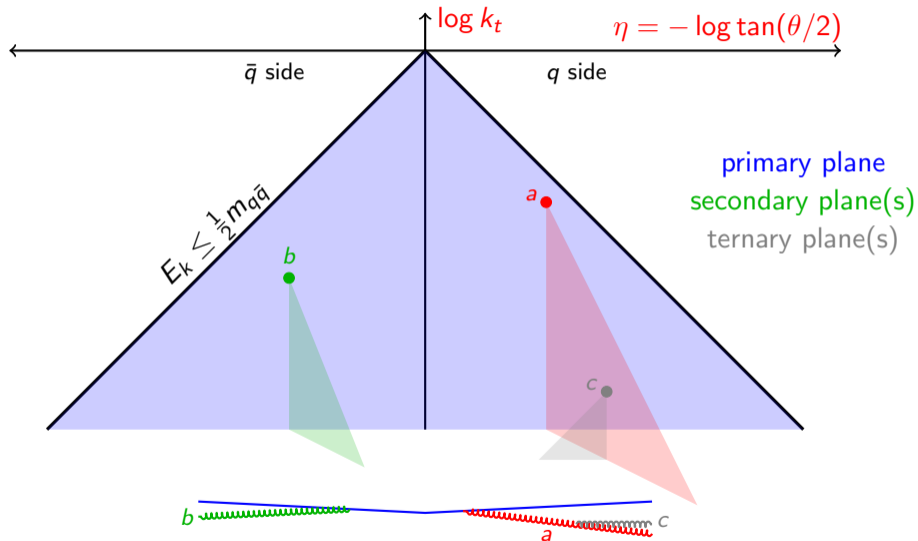


Basic features of QCD radiations: the Lund plane

Lund plane: natural representation uses the 2 “log” variables η and $\log k_{\perp}$



Multiple emissions in the Lund plane



A (Dipole) Parton-Shower primer

Basic of parton showering in one slide

Dipoles at large- N_c

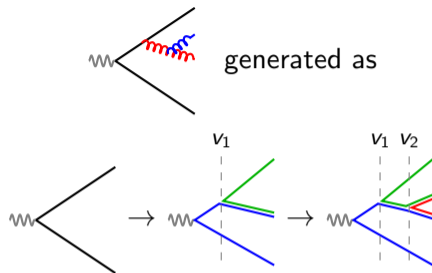
In the large- N_c limit, a gluon emission corresponds to a dipole splitting

Mechanism: generate emissions one-by-one

ordering variable v (e.g. transverse momentum k_\perp)



Virtuals as Sudakov/unitarity/no-emission probability



Basic of parton showering in one slide

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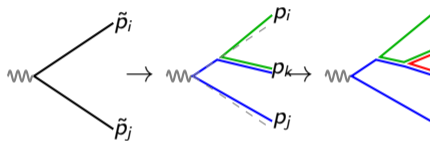
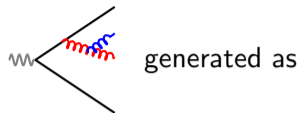


Virtuals as Sudakov/unitarity/no-emission probability

Ingredient 1: Momentum map

How to go from

pre-branching momenta (\tilde{p}_i, \tilde{p}_j)
to post-branching (p_i, p_j, p_k)



Ingredient 2: Emission probability

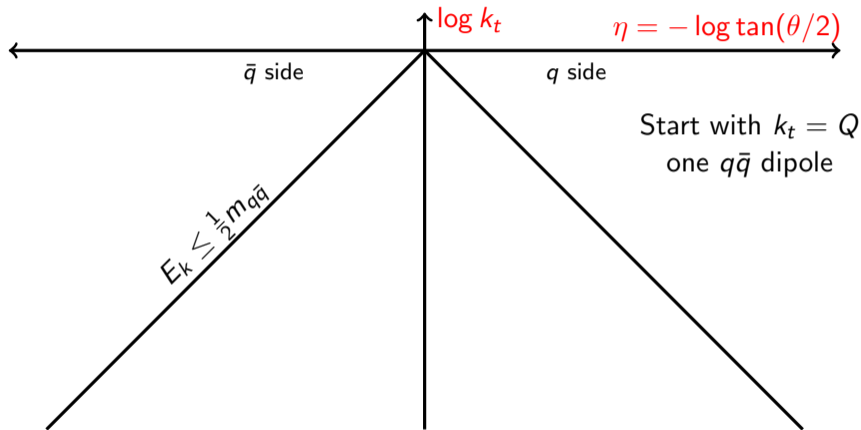
QCD-driven rate of emissions:

$$\frac{dP}{d \ln v d\eta} = \frac{\alpha_s(k_t) C_A}{\pi} g(\eta) P(z)$$

(💡 for NLL, need 2-loop CMW $\alpha_s(k_t)$)

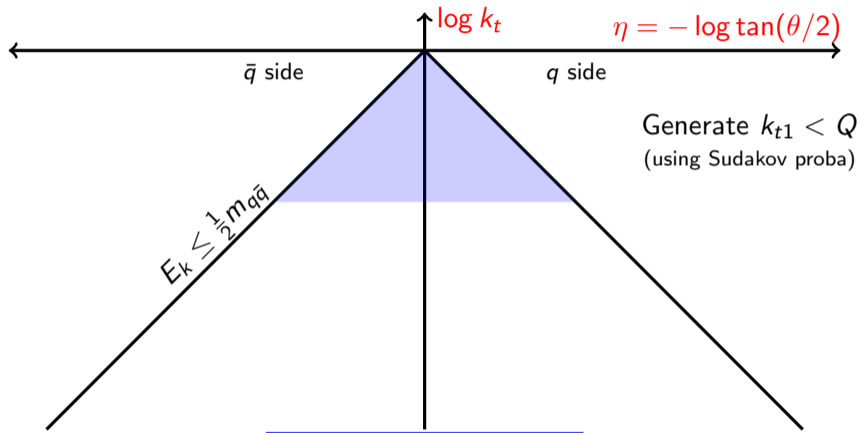
(Dipole) parton shower in the Lund plane

Ordering variable: transverse momentum k_t



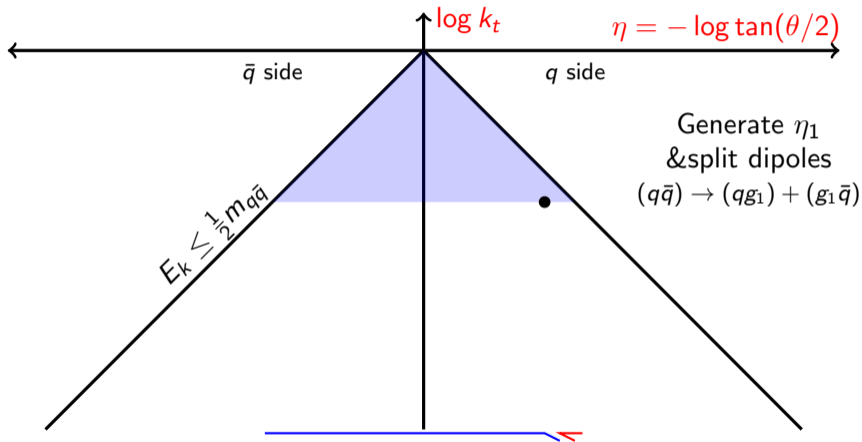
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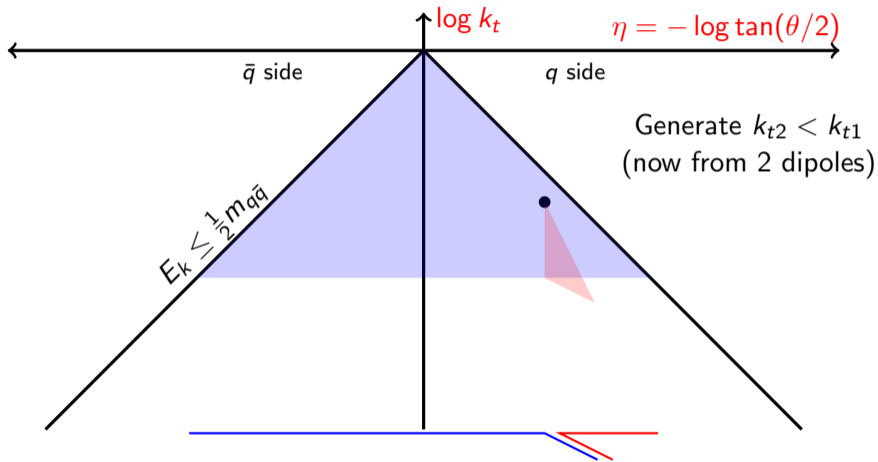
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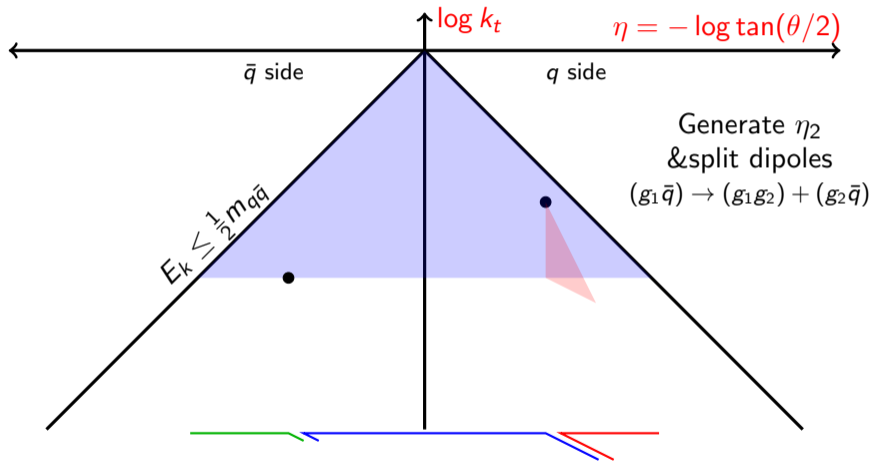
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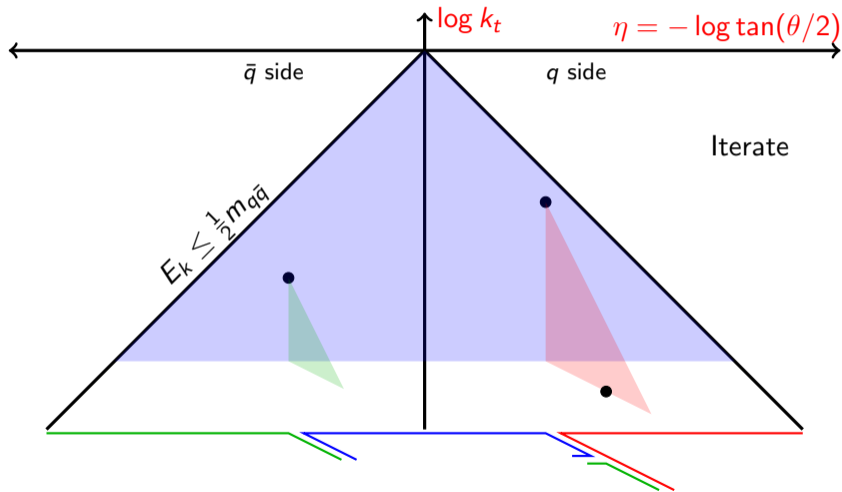
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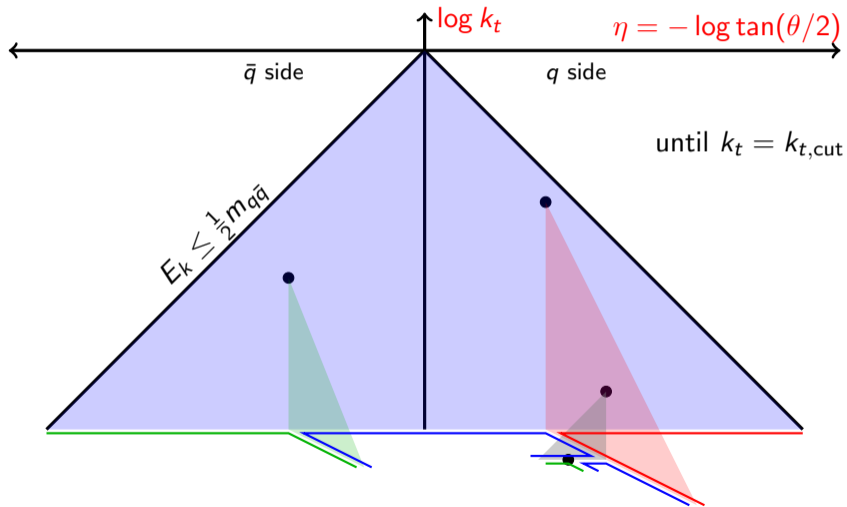
(Dipole) parton shower in the Lund plane

Ordering variable: transverse momentum k_t



(Dipole) parton shower in the Lund plane

Ordering variable: transverse momentum k_t



Physics result #1: an organising principle:

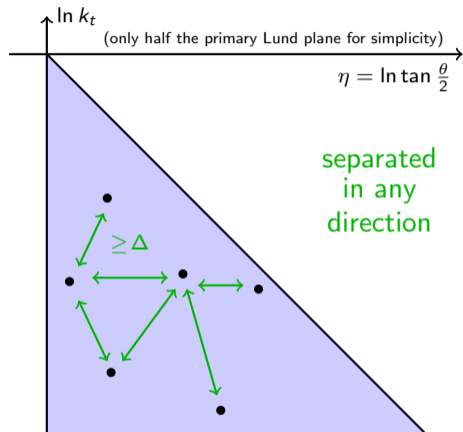
at a given (all-order) accuracy, what physics do we need to get right?

handles disparate scales
all-order perturbative QCD



minimum: get the ME for an arbitrary number
of well-separated emissions

- If “log distance” Δ emissions factorise up to $\mathcal{O}(e^{-\Delta})$ corrections
- this achieves NLL accuracy
in a way NLL can be viewed as the first meaningful order
- In particular, in a parton showers, an emission should not be affected by subsequent distant emissions

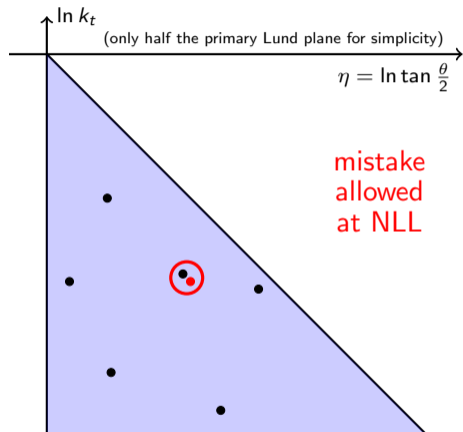


handles disparate scales
all-order perturbative QCD



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Accuracy \leftrightarrow reproducing sets of MEs

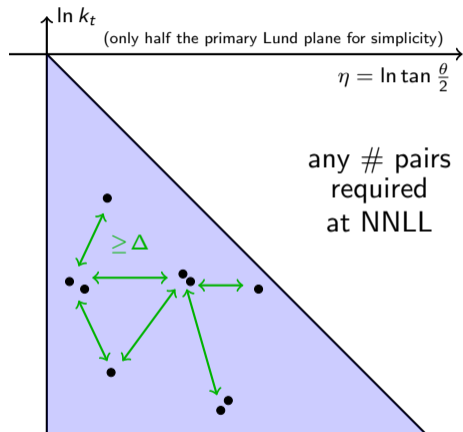
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Beyond NLL

- At NNLL we also want an arbitrary number of pairs of emissions
- N³LL also requires triplets, etc...



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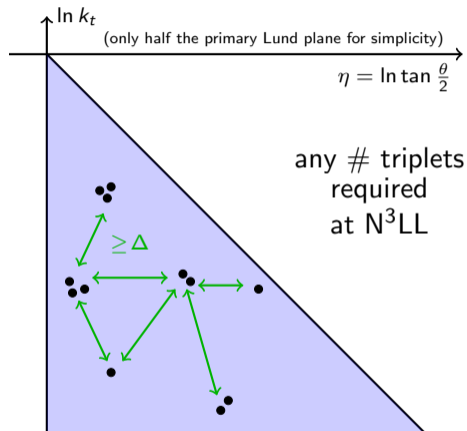
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Accuracy \leftrightarrow reproducing sets of MEs

handles (discrete scales)
all-order p

minimum: get the M
of well-separat

Beyond NLL

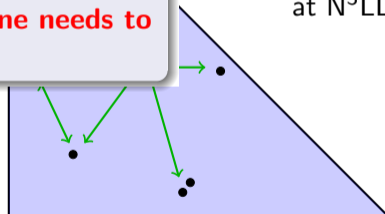
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pairs of emissions
- N³LL also requires triplets, etc...

- **Robust construction in pQCD**
- **Systematically improvable**
- “only” a handful of ME at each order thanks to QCD factorisation
- **difficulty: the shower algorithm generates spurious terms one needs to avoid/correct for**

(primary Lund plane for simplicity) \rightarrow

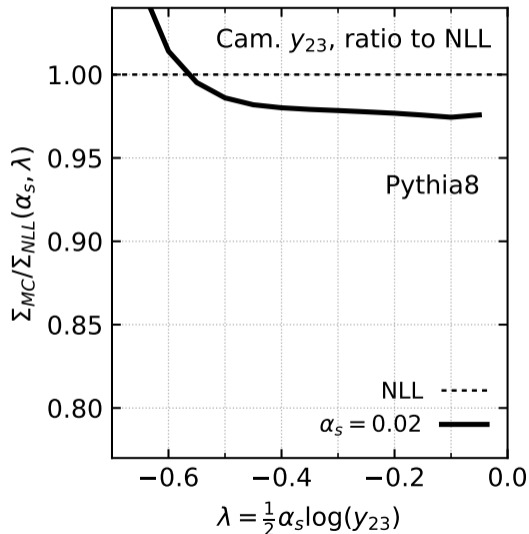
$$\eta = \ln \tan \frac{\theta}{2}$$

any # triplets
required
at N³LL



Physics result #2: NLL-accurate showers

Novel approach for testing accuracy



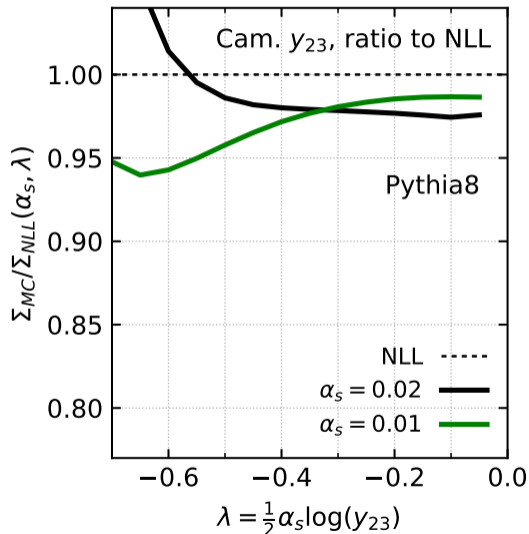
Resummation regime: $\alpha_s \log(v) \sim 1$, $\alpha_s \ll 1$
[Idea for NLL testing:](#)

$$\frac{\Sigma_{MC}(\lambda=\alpha_s L, \alpha_s)}{\Sigma_{NLL}(\lambda=\alpha_s L, \alpha_s)} \quad \text{v.} \quad 1$$

with $\lambda = \alpha_s L$

NLL deviations
or
subleading effects?

Novel approach for testing accuracy



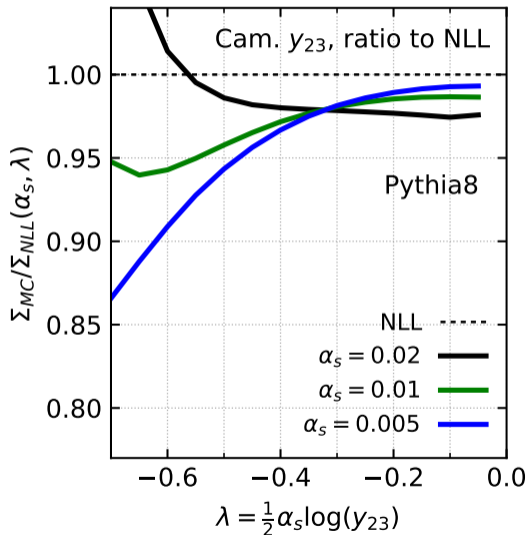
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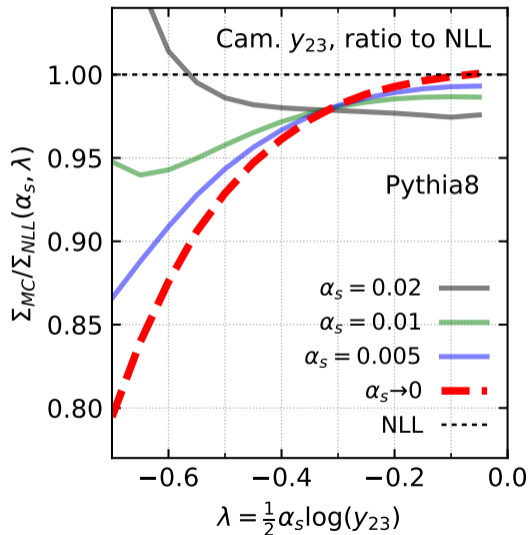
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Novel approach for testing accuracy



Resummation regime: $\alpha_s \log(v) \sim 1$, $\alpha_s \ll 1$
Idea for NLL testing:

$$\frac{\Sigma_{MC}(\lambda = \alpha_s L, \alpha_s)}{\Sigma_{NLL}(\lambda = \alpha_s L, \alpha_s)} \xrightarrow{\alpha_s \rightarrow 0} 1$$

at fixed $\lambda = \alpha_s L$

NLL deviations

or

~~subleading effects?~~

$$\text{NNLL if } \frac{\Sigma_{MC}(\lambda=\alpha_s L, \alpha_s)}{\Sigma_{NLL}(\lambda=\alpha_s L, \alpha_s)} \xrightarrow{\alpha_s \rightarrow 0} 1$$

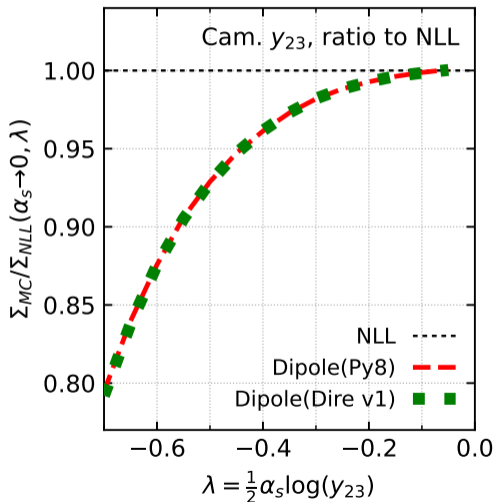
Failure of standard dipole showers

Pythia8, Dire(v1) deviate from NLL



Reason:

spurious recoil for commensurate- k_t
emissions at disparate angles
violates our NLL ME requirement



$$\text{NNLL if } \frac{\sum_{MC}(\lambda=\alpha_s L, \alpha_s)}{\sum_{NLL}(\lambda=\alpha_s L, \alpha_s)} \xrightarrow{\alpha_s \rightarrow 0} 1$$

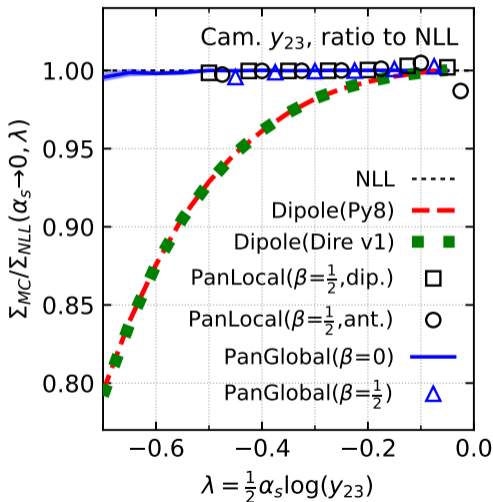
Failure of standard dipole showers

Pythia8, Dire(v1) deviate from NLL

New series of NLL-accurate showers

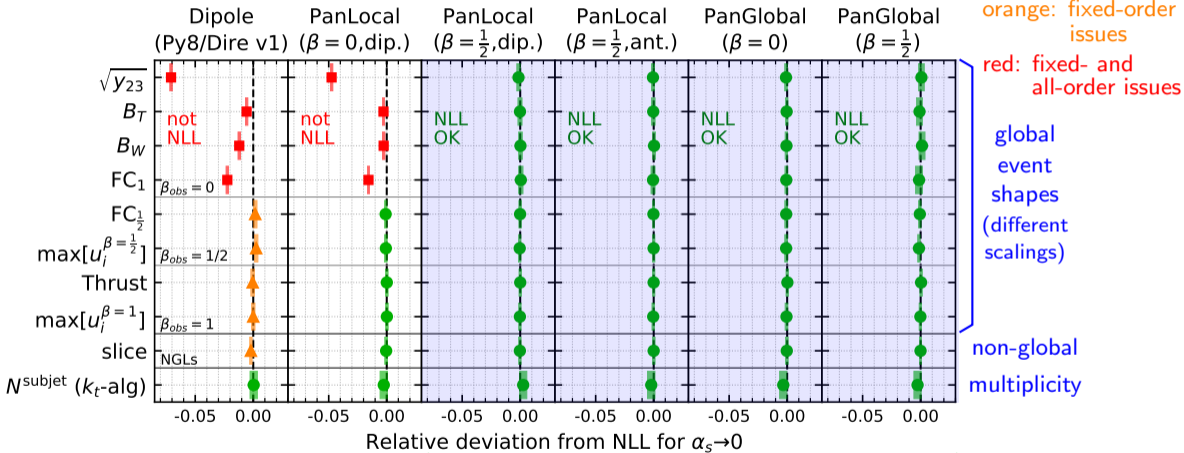
PanLocal($0 < \beta < 1$): local recoil
(dipole or antenna)

PanGlobal($0 \leq \beta < 1$): global recoil



Assessing accuracy: extensive observable list

[M.Dasgupta,F.Dreyer,K.Hamilton,P.Monni,G.Salam,GS,20]

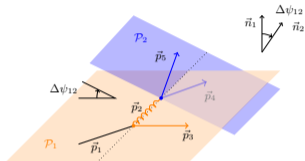


PanLocal($0 < \beta < 1$) and PanGlobal($0 \leq \beta < 1$) get expected NLL (i.e. 0)

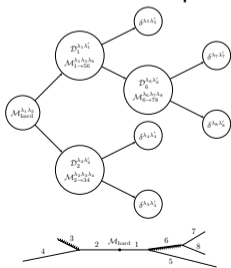
More progress with NLL-accurate showers

Physics:

$\Delta\psi$ distribution due to spin correlations

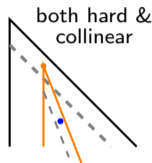


Solution: adapt the Collins-Knowles alg.

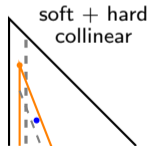


build and update
a spin correlation tree
as shower progresses

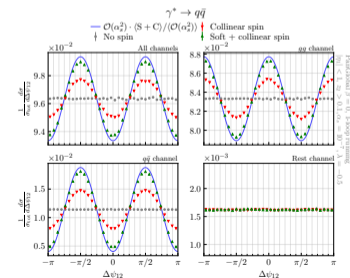
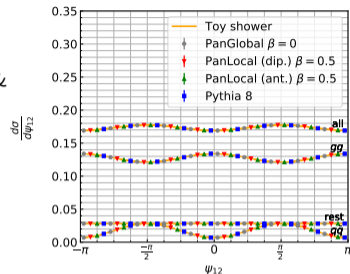
Tests:



also EEE v.
analytics



first all-order
result



Beyond
large N_c
(backup)

(collinear
& soft)
spin cor-
relations

hadronic
collisions
DIS/VBF
(backup)

NLL is quickly becoming the standard for parton showers

PanScales

Parton showers beyond leading logarithmic accuracy

Mrinal Dasgupta,¹ Frédéric A. Dreyer,² Keith Hamilton,³ Pier Francesco Monni,⁴ Gavin P. Salam,^{2,*} and Grégory Soyez²

Matching and event-shape NNLL accuracy in parton showers

Keith Hamilton,^a Alexander Karlberg,^{b,c} Gavin P. Salam,^{b,d} Ludovic Scyboz,^b Rob Verheyen^a

PanScales showers for hadron collisions: all-order validation

Melissa van Beekveld,^a Silvia Ferrario Ravasio,^a Keith Hamilton,^b Gavin P. Salam,^{a,c} Alba Soto-Ontoso,^d Grégory Soyez,^d Rob Verheyen^a

Spin correlations in final-state parton showers and jet observables

Alexander Karlberg¹, Gavin P. Salam^{1,2}, Ludovic Scyboz¹, Rob Verheyen³

Colour and logarithmic accuracy in final-state parton showers

Keith Hamilton,^a Rok Medves,^b Gavin P. Salam,^{b,c} Ludovic Scyboz,^b Grégory Soyez^d

Next-to-leading-logarithmic PanScales showers for Deep Inelastic Scattering and Vector Boson Fusion

Melissa van Beekveld,^a Silvia Ferrario Ravasio,^a

Building a consistent parton shower

Jeffrey R. Forshaw,^{a,b} Jack Holguin,^{a,b} Simon Plätzer,^{b,c}

Improvements on dipole shower colour

Jack Holguin^{a,1}, Jeffrey R. Forshaw^{b,1}, Simon Plätzer^{c,2}

¹Consortium for Fundamental Physics, School of Physics & Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom
²Particle Physics, Faculty of Physics, University of Vienna, 1090 Wien, Austria

DEDUCTOR

Summations of large logarithms by parton showers

Zoltán Nagy
DESY, Notkestrasse 85, 22607 Hamburg, Germany *

Davidson E. Soper
Institute for Fundamental Science, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-5203, USA ¹
(Dated: 18 August 2021)

Summations by parton showers of large logarithms in electron-positron annihilation

Zoltán Nagy
DESY, Notkestrasse 85, 22607 Hamburg, Germany *

Davidson E. Soper
Institute for Fundamental Science, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-5203, USA ¹
(Dated: 13 November 2020)

Introduction to the PanScales framework, version 0.1

Melissa van Beekveld¹, Mrinal Dasgupta², Basem Kamal El-Menoufi^{2,3}, Silvia Ferrario Ravasio⁴, Keith Hamilton⁵, Jack Helliwell⁶, Alexander Karlberg⁴, Rok Medves⁶, Pier Francesco Monni⁴, Gavin P. Salam^{6,7}, Ludovic Scyboz^{2,6}, Alba Soto-Ontoso⁴, Grégory Soyez⁸, Rob Verheyen⁵

ALARIC

A new approach to color-coherent parton evolution

Florian Herren,¹ Stefan Höche,¹ Frank Krauss,² Daniel Reichelt,² and Marek Schönherr²

¹Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, IL, 60510, USA
²Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology, Durham University, Durham DH1 3LE, UK

A new approach to QCD evolution in processes with massive partons

Benoît Assi and Stefan Höche
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, IL, 60510

The Alaric parton shower for hadron colliders

Stefan Höche,¹ Frank Krauss,² and Daniel Reichelt²

APOLLO

A partitioned dipole-antenna shower with improved transverse recoil

Christian T Preuss

Department of Physics, University of Wuppertal, 42119 Wuppertal, Germany
E-mail: preuss@uni-wuppertal.de

Soft spin correlations in final-state parton showers

Keith Hamilton,^a Alexander Karlberg,^b Gavin P. Salam,^{b,c} Ludovic Scyboz,^b Rob Verheyen^a

slide from Pier Monni [... & more]

Physics result #3: towards NNLL-accurate showers

Rule of thumb:

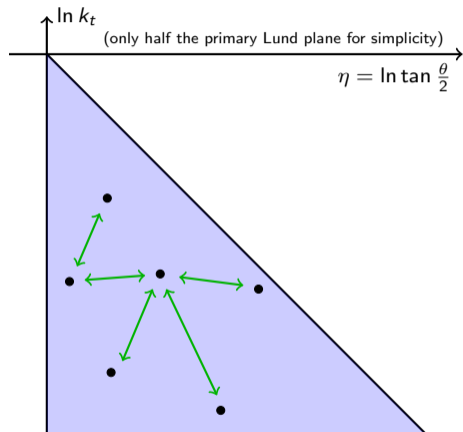
LL \equiv qualitative starting point

NLL \equiv first quantitative order

NNLL \equiv towards precision physics

(NNLL) accuracy \leftrightarrow reproducing (extra) sets of MEs

NNLL: include pairs of emissions



(NNLL) accuracy \leftrightarrow reproducing (extra) sets of MEs

NNLL: include pairs of emissions

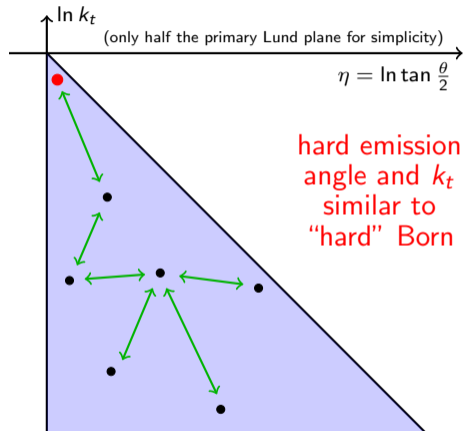
Matching

Get exact 3-jet LO (2-jet NLO) ME

\equiv one hard emission (pair with the hard event)

Standard approaches work but require care to preserve NLL accuracy

[K.Hamilton,A.Karlberg,G.P.Salam,L.Scyboz,arXiv:2301.09645]



(NNLL) accuracy \leftrightarrow reproducing (extra) sets of MEs

NNLL: include pairs of emissions

Matching

[K.Hamilton,A.Karlberg,G.P.Salam,L.Scyboz,arXiv:2301.09645]

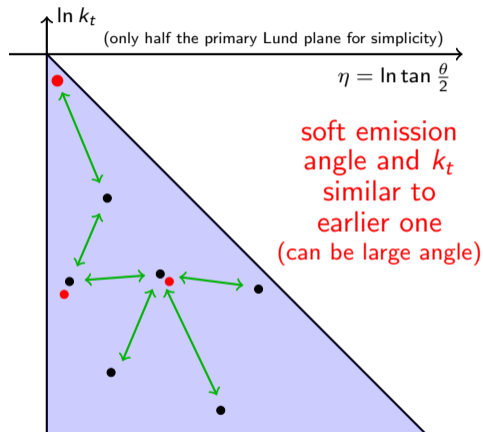
Double-soft corrections

Two soft emissions at commensurate angles and k_t
(not necessarily collinear)

- Correction spurious shower ME \rightarrow correct ME
watch out for flavour channels and colour flows
- Need to get the correct virtual contributions
(done through a modified K_{CMW})

Gain: state-of-the-art (next-to-single-log) non-global logs

[S.Ferrario Ravasio,K.Hamilton,A.Karlberg,G.P.Salam,L.Scyboz,GS,arXiv:2307.11142]



$$\frac{dP}{d \ln v d\eta} = \frac{\alpha_s(k_t) C_A}{\pi} \times M \times g(\eta) P(z)$$

Matrix elements

First emission: $M(k)$ corrects to the exact ME (matching)

Next emissions: $M(k_1, k_2)$ corrects for double-soft ME

Emission strength

$$\alpha_s = \alpha_s^{(3\ell)} (1 + \alpha_s \Delta K_1 + \alpha_s \Delta B_1 + \alpha_s^2 \Delta K_2)$$

- use 3-loop running (CMW scheme)
- ΔK_1 (soft large angle) and ΔB_2 (hard-collinear) correct for “spurious” virtual $\alpha_s^2 L$
- ΔK_2 (soft-collinear) corrects for “spurious” virtual $\alpha_s^3 L^2$

Strong constraints, e.g. for event shapes, ΔK_1 , ΔB_2 , ΔK_2 only depend on 2 numbers

$$\frac{dP}{d \ln v d\eta} = \frac{\alpha_s(k_t) C_A}{\pi} \times M \times g(\eta) P(z)$$

Matrix elements

First emission: $M(k)$ corrects to the exact ME (matching)

Next emissions: $M(k_1, k_2)$ corrects for double-soft ME

Full analytic proof of NNLL accuracy

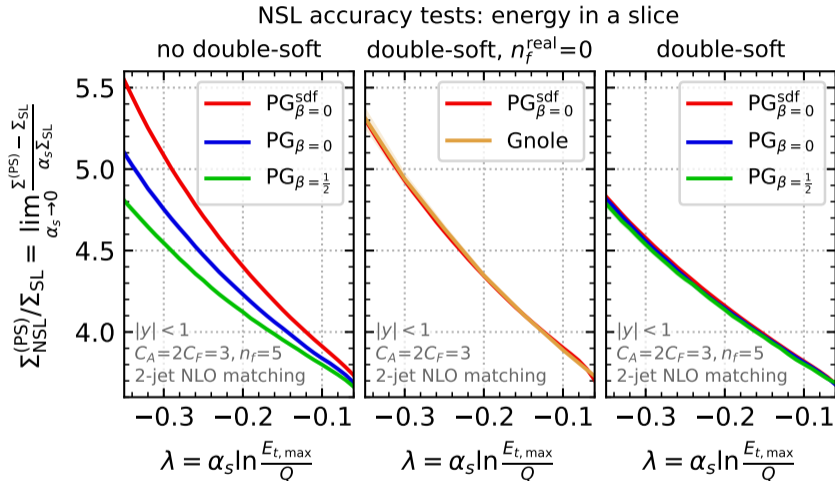
Emission strength

$$\alpha_s = \alpha_s^{(3\ell)} (1 + \alpha_s \Delta K_1 + \alpha_s \Delta B_1 + \alpha_s^2 \Delta K_2)$$

- use 3-loop running (CMW scheme)
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- ΔK_2 (soft-collinear) corrects for “spurious” virtual $\alpha_s^3 L^2$

Strong constraints, e.g. for event shapes, ΔK_1 , ΔB_2 , ΔK_2 only depend on 2 numbers

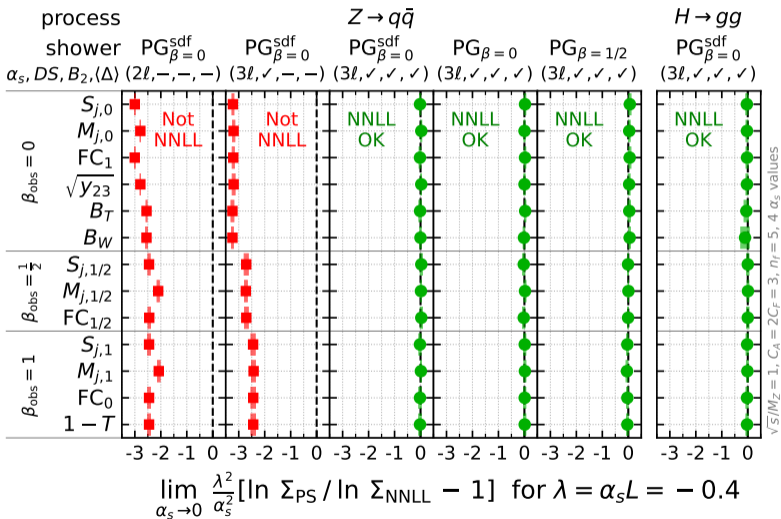
Beyond NLL: double-soft corrections



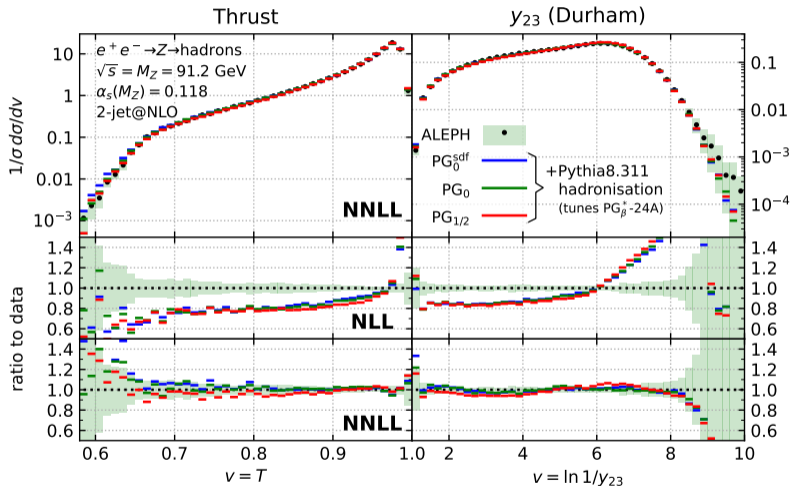
Successfully reproduce next-to-single (non-global) logs for emissions in a slice

NNLL accuracy tests

NNLL accuracy tests



explicit numerical test that we get g_3 (NNLL coefficient) right.



Quite good agreement with LEP data

- “physical” α_s
- NLL deviation from one could be seen as uncertainty
- NNLL expected to give better accuracy
- NP tuning (mostly) not sizeable

Recap of take-home messages

- Parton showers are a cornerstone of collider physics
- Parton showers accuracy \equiv log accuracy
- Systematically improvable, can be tested analytically and numerically
- PanScales 2019-2023: NLL parton showers... several others nos
- PanScales 2023-now: good NNLL progress (ee shapes, large angle non-globals)

Future

- NNLL in pp (LHC)
- NNLL hard-colliner (jet substructure)
- NNLL PanLocal
- more complex processe/(N)NLO
- Tuning
- Investigate phenomenology

... steps towards NLL were just O(5) years away

slide from Pier Monni

Birth of Herwig (with elements of NLL for global observables)

SIMULATION OF QCD JETS INCLUDING SOFT GLUON INTERFERENCE

© MUKHERJEE
Artem A. Pagan ¹ Université de Paris and INFN, Sezione di Milano, Italy

ER. WIEBERG
CEFN, Geneva, Switzerland

Revised 21 March 1982
Revised 14 October 1982

We present a new Monte Carlo simulation scheme for jet production in perturbative QCD which takes into account the effects of several orders of soft-gluon corrections. Therefore, the scheme accounts correctly not only for the leading soft-gluon singularities, as is previous schemes, but also for leading infrared singularities. In this first paper we study the features of jets in real emission such as (i) the interference effects and the corresponding distribution of the phase distribution in the soft region, (ii) the approach to asymptotic QCD, the efficiency of color screening (preconfinement), which has been questioned recently by Dokshitzer.

MONTÉ CARLO SIMULATION OF GENERAL HARD PROCESSES WITH COHERENT QCD RADIATION

© MUKHERJEE
Department of Física, Universidad de Parma, INFN, Gruppo Collegato di Parma, Italy

ER. WIEBERG
CEFN, Geneva, Switzerland

Revised 1 February 1983

In this paper we extend our previous work on the simulation of coherent soft-gluon radiation to hard observables that involve corrections at all orders of logarithmic order. For this simulation we use the leading soft-gluon singularities for real and final-state radiation, and we consider the leading infrared corrections from soft-gluon emission. We use the same scheme for the real emission and virtual corrections as in our previous work. However, we include the interference effects and the corresponding distribution of the phase distribution in the soft region, (ii) the approach to asymptotic QCD, the efficiency of color screening (preconfinement), which has been questioned recently by Dokshitzer.

General principles for NNLL parton showers

A new standard for the logarithmic accuracy of parton showers

Melissa van Dieveld,¹ Miral Dasgupta,² Inessa Konat El-Moradi,³ Silvia Patricia Baroni,⁴ Keith Hamilton,⁵ Jack Howell,⁶ Alexander Kuehnberg,⁷ Pier Francesco Monni,⁸ Gavin P. Salam,⁹ Ludovic Seymour,¹⁰ Alha Soto-Ostoya,¹¹ and Gregory Soyez¹²

¹Nikhef, Theory Group, Science Park 105, 1099 XG, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
²Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom
³School of Physics and Astronomy, Monash University, Wellington Rd, Clayton, VIC 3168, Australia
⁴CREN, Theoretical Physics Department, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland
⁵Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, WC1E 6BT, UK
⁶Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics, Chilton Laboratory, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PU, UK
⁷All Souls College, Oxford OX1 1AL, UK
⁸IPST, Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS IDR 3905, CEA Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

We report on a major milestone in the construction of logarithmically accurate final-state parton showers, achieving next-to-next-to-leading logarithmic (NNLL) accuracy for the wide class of observable known as event shapes. The key to this advance lies in the identification of the relation between critical NNLL analytic resummation ingredients and their parton-shower counterparts. Our analytic discussion is supplemented with numerical tests of the logarithmic accuracy of these observables for more than a dozen distinct event-shape observables in $Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ and Higgs $\rightarrow g\gamma$ decays. The NNLL terms are phenomenologically viable, as illustrated in comparisons to data.



A MODEL FOR INITIAL STATE PARTON SHOWERS

Torbjörn Sjöstrand
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, P.O. Box 500, Batavia, IL 60510, USA

Revised 25 February 1981

We present a detailed model for inclusive production of initial state parton showers. A numerically efficient algorithm is achieved by using the parton shower backwards, i.e. start with the hard scattering process and then successively reconstruct parton branching in falling sequence of angular variables Q^2 and energy of parton regions. We show how the Altarelli-Parisi equations can be used in a form suitable for this, and also discuss the kinematics of the branching. The complete model is implemented in a Monte Carlo program, and some test results are presented.

Parton showers beyond leading logarithmic accuracy

Miral Dasgupta,¹ Frédéric A. Dreyer,² Keith Hamilton,³ Pier Francesco Monni,⁴ Gavin P. Salam,^{5,6} and Gregory Soyez⁷

¹Consorzio per l'Insegnamento Fisico, School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom
²Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PU, UK
³Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, WC1E 6BT, UK
⁴CREN, Theoretical Physics Department, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland
⁵Institut de Physique Théorique, Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS, CEA, F-91191, Gif-sur-Yvette, France

Parton showers are among the most widely used tools in collider physics. Despite their key importance, none so far has been able to demonstrate accuracy beyond a basic level known as leading logarithmic (LL) order, with existing limitations across a broad spectrum of physics applications. In this letter, we propose criteria for showers to be considered next-to-leading logarithmic (NLL) accurate. We then introduce new classes of shower, for final-state radiation, that satisfy the main elements of these criteria in the widely used large- N_c limit. As a proof of concept, we demonstrate these showers' agreement with analytic analytical NLL calculations for a range of observables, something never so far achieved for any parton shower.

Parton showering with higher-logarithmic accuracy for soft emissions

Silvia Patricia Baroni,¹ Keith Hamilton,² Alexander Kuehnberg,³ Gavin P. Salam,⁴ Ludovic Seymour,⁵ and Gregory Soyez⁶

¹CREN, Theoretical Physics Department, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland
²Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, London, WC1E 6BT, UK
³Rudolf Peierls Centre for Theoretical Physics, Chilton Laboratory, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PU, UK
⁴All Souls College, Oxford OX1 1AL, UK
⁵IPST, Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS IDR 3905, CEA Saclay, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

The accuracy of parton-shower simulations is often a limiting factor in the interpretation of data from high-energy colliders. We present the first formulation of parton showers with accuracy beyond state-of-the-art next-to-leading logarithmic, for classes of observable that are dominantly sensitive to low-energy (soft) emissions, specifically next-to-leading observables and subject multiplicities. This represents a major step towards general next-to-next-to-leading logarithmic accuracy for parton showers.

Birth of Pythia

General principles for a NLL parton shower (formulated for e^+e^- , many extensions will follow)

[ca. 800 papers on the subject of event generators]

Junior position in theoretical physics

IPhT, Saclay • Europe

hep-ph

astro-ph

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hep-th

Junior (leads to Senior) • Senior (permanent)

🕒 **Deadline on Mar 9, 2025**

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The Institut de Physique Théorique (IPhT) invites applications for a junior-level permanent position in physics. The position is opened for researchers working in phenomenological and theoretical aspects of the following fields: cosmology, particle physics within and beyond the standard model, amplitudes and heavy-ion physics.

Applications (including a cover letter, a CV, a research statement and a list of publications) and three reference letters should be sent through Academic Jobs Online following [this link](#).

The Institut de Physique Théorique (IPhT) is a Research Institute of CEA and CNRS, and is associated to the Université Paris-Saclay. IPhT is a multidisciplinary institute, with a strong expertise in a wide range of topics in theoretical physics. It is located in the south of Paris, a rich scientific environment. CEA and the broader Paris-Saclay area also count many other institutes working on related physics aspects, both theoretical and experimental. More details can be found at [this link](#). A description of the group concerned by the hiring is found at [this link](#).

Contact: [Soyez, Gregory \(gregory.soyez@ipht.fr\)](mailto:gregory.soyez@ipht.fr)

Letters of Reference should be sent to: <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/29672>

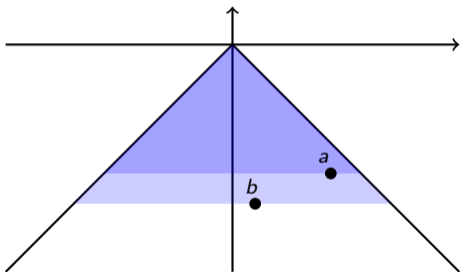
More Information: <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/29672>

Backup

Different ordering variables...

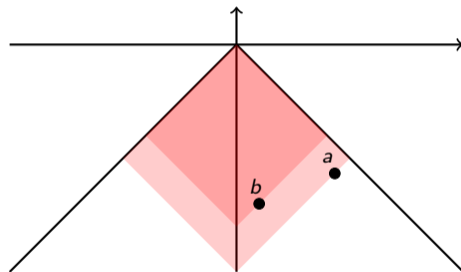
... can lead to different emission orderings

k_t (transv. mom.) ordering



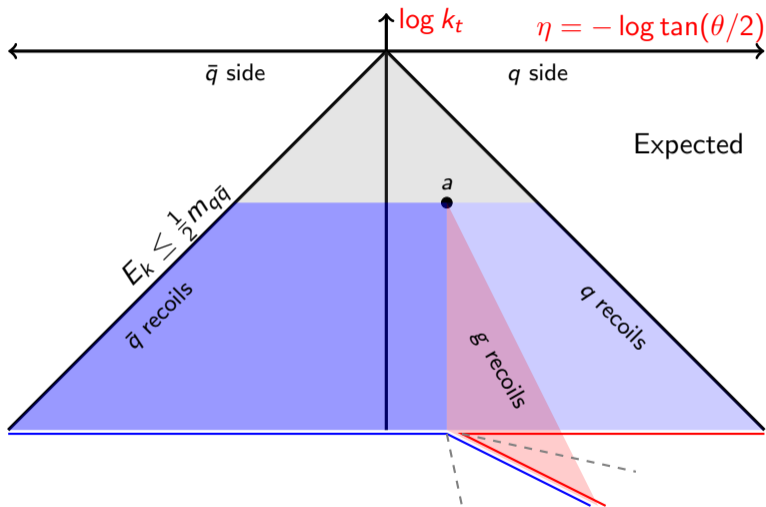
$k_{ta} > k_{tb}$
 $\Rightarrow a$ emitted before b

q (virtuality) ordering



$q_b > q_a$
 $\Rightarrow b$ emitted before a

Lund-plane representation: transverse recoil boundaries



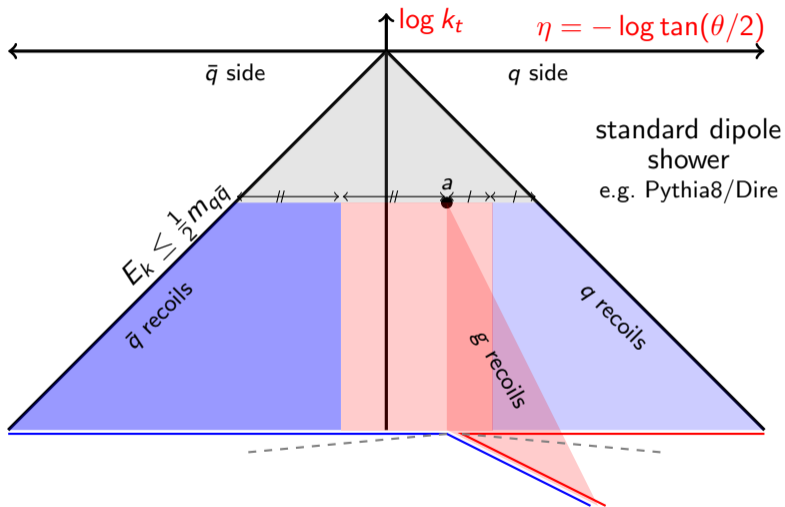
gluon a radiated at scale k_{ta} and angle θ_a

gluon b radiated at scale $k_{tb} \leq k_{ta}$

Expected

a takes recoil iff $\theta_{ab} < \theta_a$

Lund-plane representation: transverse recoil boundaries



gluon a radiated at scale k_{ta} and angle θ_a

gluon b radiated at scale $k_{tb} \leq k_{ta}$

Expected

a takes recoil iff $\theta_{ab} < \theta_a$

standard dipole shower

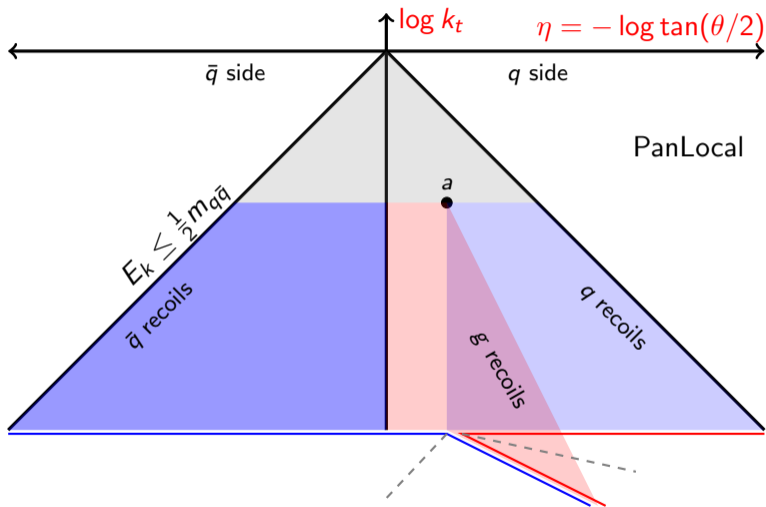
decided in dipole frame:

a takes recoil if

$$\theta_{bg}^{(\text{dip})} < \theta_{bq}^{(\text{dip})}$$

WRONG!

Lund-plane representation: transverse recoil boundaries



gluon a radiated at scale k_{ta} and angle θ_a

gluon b radiated at scale $k_{tb} \leq k_{ta}$

Expected

a takes recoil iff $\theta_{ab} < \theta_a$

PanLocal (step 1)

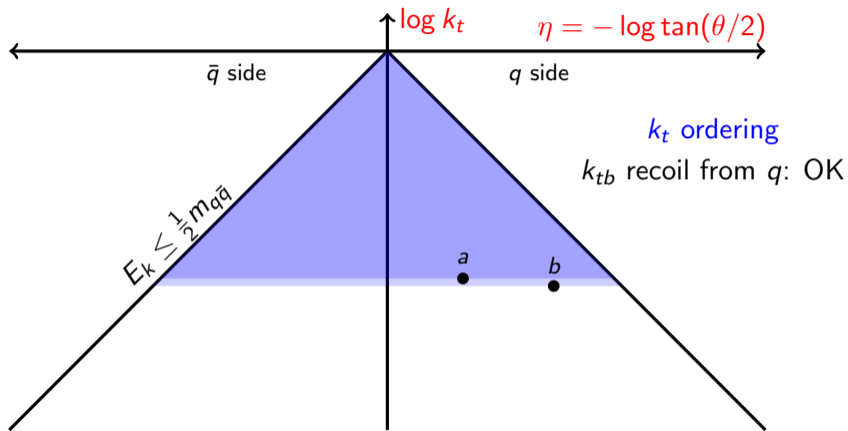
decided in event frame:

a takes recoil if

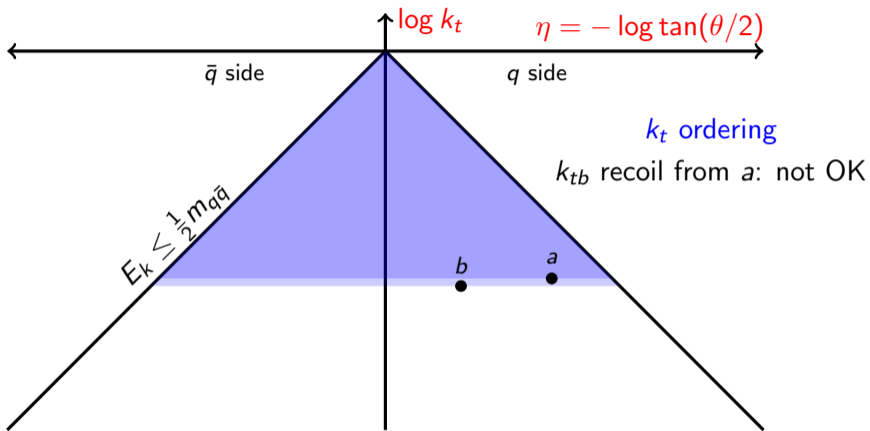
$$\theta_{bg} < \theta_{bq}$$

better but still WRONG!

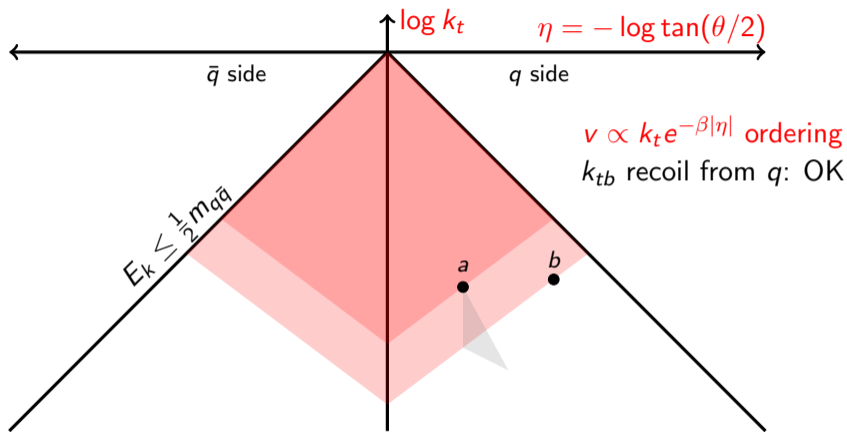
Lund-plane representation: PanLocal evolution variable



Lund-plane representation: PanLocal evolution variable



Lund-plane representation: PanLocal evolution variable



commensurate k_t emissions generated from central to forward rapidities
 \Rightarrow no recoil issue

PanLocal (local \perp recoil)

$$p_k = a_k \tilde{p}_i + b_k \tilde{p}_j + k_\perp$$

$$p_i = a_i \tilde{p}_i + b_i \tilde{p}_j - k_\perp$$

$$p_j = a_j \tilde{p}_i + b_j \tilde{p}_j$$

PanGlobal (global \perp recoil)

$$p_k = r(a_k \tilde{p}_i + b_k \tilde{p}_j)$$

$$p_i = r(1 - a_k) \tilde{p}_i$$

$$p_j = r(1 - b_k) \tilde{p}_j$$

with r so as to conserve event Q^2
+ transverse boost to conserve event Q^μ .

Evolution variable v ($v \approx k_\perp \theta^\beta$)

Auxiliary variable(s): $\tilde{\eta}, \phi$

($\tilde{\eta} \equiv$ rapidity in event frame) Define:

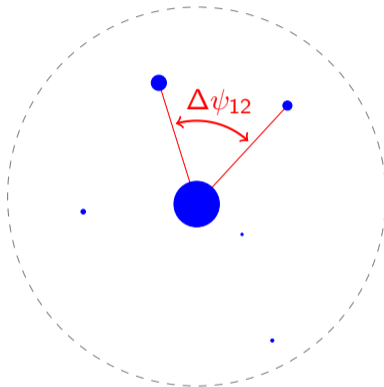
$$|k_\perp| = \rho v e^{\beta|\tilde{\eta}|} \quad \rho = \left(\frac{2\tilde{p}_i \cdot Q \tilde{p}_j \cdot Q}{Q^2 \tilde{p}_i \cdot \tilde{p}_j} \right)^{\beta/2}$$

$$a_k = \sqrt{\frac{\tilde{p}_j \cdot Q}{2\tilde{p}_i \cdot Q \tilde{p}_i \cdot \tilde{p}_j}} |k_\perp| e^{+\tilde{\eta}},$$

$$b_k = \sqrt{\frac{\tilde{p}_i \cdot Q}{2\tilde{p}_j \cdot Q \tilde{p}_i \cdot \tilde{p}_j}} |k_\perp| e^{-\tilde{\eta}},$$

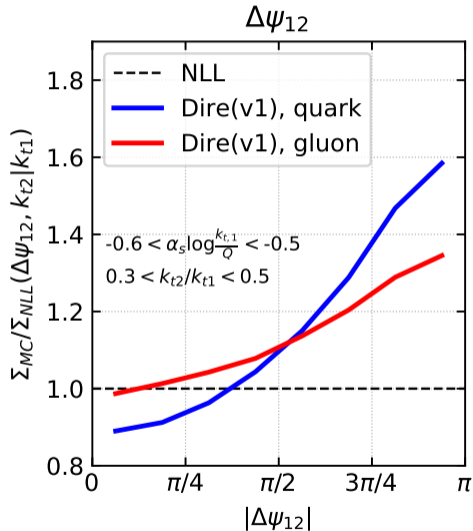
A striking example

- ▶ Look at angle $\Delta\psi_{12}$ between two hardest “emissions” in jet
(defined through Lund declusterings)



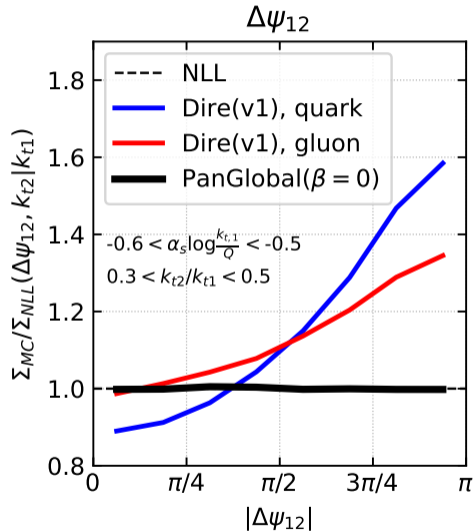
A striking example

- ▶ Look at angle $\Delta\psi_{12}$ between two hardest “emissions” in jet (defined through Lund declusterings)
- ▶ quite large NLL deviations in current dipole showers
- ▶ differences between quark and gluon jets



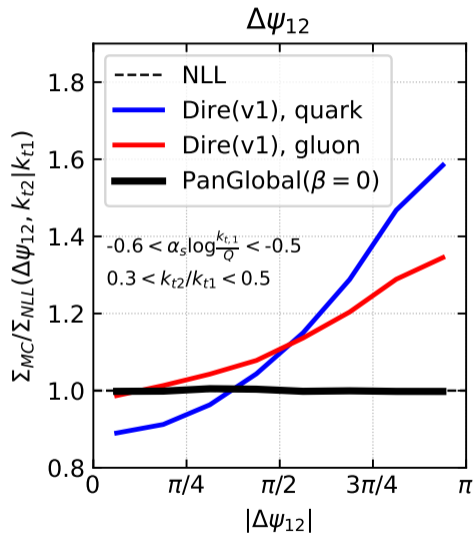
A striking example

- ▶ Look at angle $\Delta\psi_{12}$ between two hardest “emissions” in jet (defined through Lund declusterings)
- ▶ quite large NLL deviations in current dipole showers
- ▶ differences between quark and gluon jets
- ▶ PanScales showers (here PanGlobal) get the correct NLL



A striking example

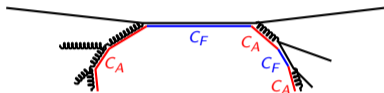
- ▶ Look at angle $\Delta\psi_{12}$ between two hardest “emissions” in jet (defined through Lund declusterings)
- ▶ quite large NLL deviations in current dipole showers
- ▶ differences between quark and gluon jets
- ▶ PanScales showers (here PanGlobal) get the correct NLL
- ▶ ML could “wrongly/correctly” learn this



Physics:

Beyond large N_c

Keep track of the $C_F - C_A/2$ transitions



First generate assuming $C_A(/2)$, then correct in one of 2 ways:

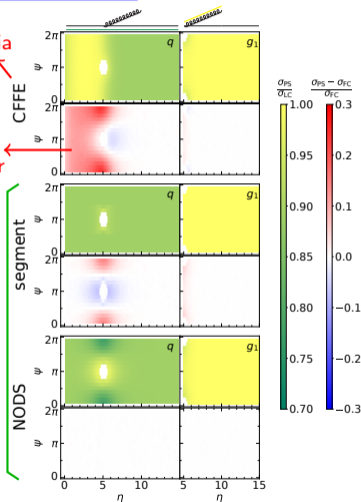
- 1 segment
factor $2C_F/C_A$ if in quark segment
OK in the angular-ordered limit
- 2 NODS
(soft) $q\bar{q}g$ matrix-element correction
also OK for 2 emissions at \sim angles

Fixed-order tests:

as in pythia

WRONG
similar to recoi earlier

perform as expected



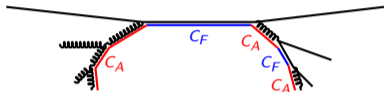
(collinear & soft) spin correlations

hadronic collisions

Physics:

Beyond large N_c

Keep track of the $C_F - C_A/2$ transitions



(collinear & soft) spin correlations

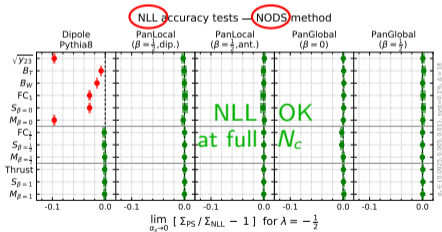
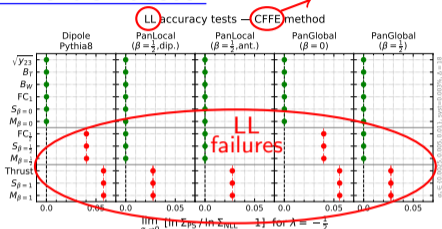
First generate assuming $C_A(/2)$, then correct in one of 2 ways:

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- 2 NODS (soft) $q\bar{q}g$ matrix-element correction also OK for 2 emissions at \sim angles

hadronic collisions

All-order tests:

as in pythia



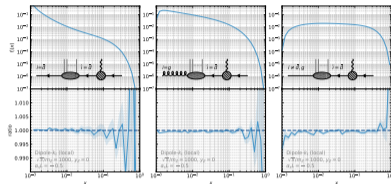
Non-global logs: large- N_c + (full- N_c at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$)

Physics:

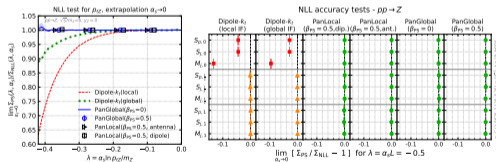
- hadron collision
 \Rightarrow initial-state radiation
- Consider Drell-Yan
- existing showers have the same recoil issue as for final state
 earlier emission takes recoil instead of the Z
- fix is essentially the same (modulo kinematic differences)
- includes colour and spin
- so far limited to colour singlet production

Tests:

explicit
test of
DGLAP



+ usual tests: Z -boson p_T , event shapes



+ multiplicity, non-globals, beyond large- N_C , spin

Beyond
large N_C

(collinear
& soft)
spin cor-
relations

hadronic
collisions

Matching = exact fixed-order generator + parton shower resumming logs

Physics

Focus on e^+e^- collisions. We want

- ✓ exact $q\bar{q}g$ ($\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$) distributions
- ✓ maintain NLL accuracy

Benefit: “NNDL” accuracy for event shapes^(*)

$$\Sigma(L) = \underbrace{h_1(\alpha_s L^2)}_{\text{DL}} + \underbrace{\sqrt{\alpha_s} h_2(\alpha_s L^2)}_{\text{NDL}} + \underbrace{\alpha_s h_3(\alpha_s L^2)}_{\text{NNDL}} + \dots$$

Implementation

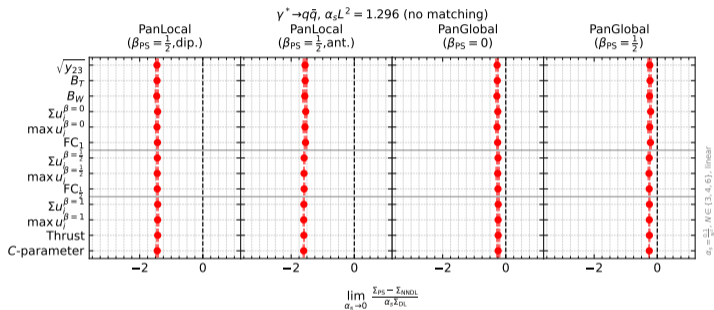
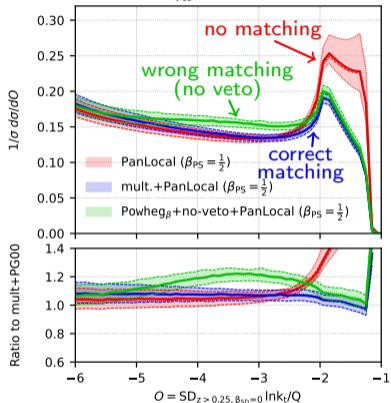
Several possibilities:

- **simple multiplicative** matching (accept first emission with probability $P_{\text{exact}}/P_{\text{shower}}$)
- **MC@NLO-like** matching
- **POWHEG-like** matching (with β scaling and careful veto to avoid double-counting when switching from POWHEG to the shower)

(*) Note: $N^k\text{LL}$ expands $\ln \Sigma(\alpha_s L, \alpha_s)$ for “exponentiating” observables; $N^k\text{DL}$ directly expands $\Sigma(\alpha_s L^2, \alpha_s)$
alternative viewpoint: $N^k\text{LL}$ takes the limit $\alpha_s L \sim \text{cst}$ with $\alpha_s \ll 1$; $N^k\text{DL}$ takes the limit $\alpha_s L^2 \sim \text{cst}$ with $\alpha_s \ll 1$
practical implication: NLL requires an arbitrary number of single-logs $((\alpha_s L)^n)$; NDL requires only one $((\alpha_s L)(\alpha_s L^2)^n)$

Accuracy tests

$SD_Z > 0.25, \beta_{SD} = 0, \ln k_t/Q, \sqrt{s} = 2 \text{ TeV}$

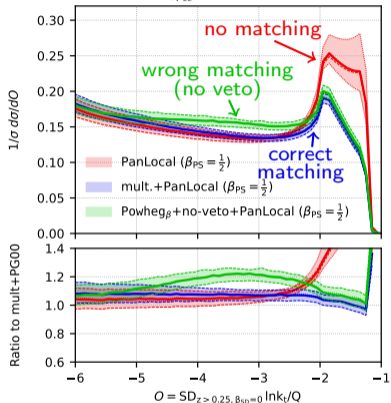


● no matching \Rightarrow wrong NNDL

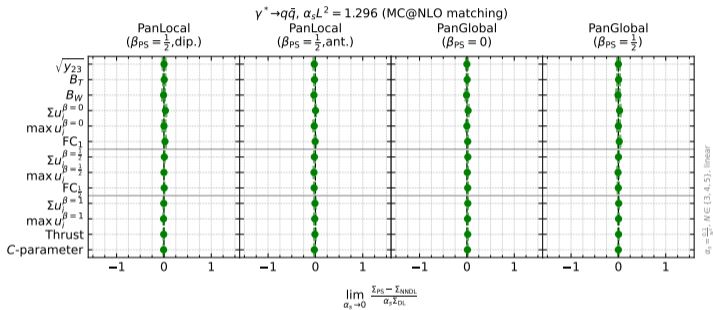
- visible effect at large k_t (right)
- spurious effect if not careful
- “correct” matching OK everywhere

Accuracy tests

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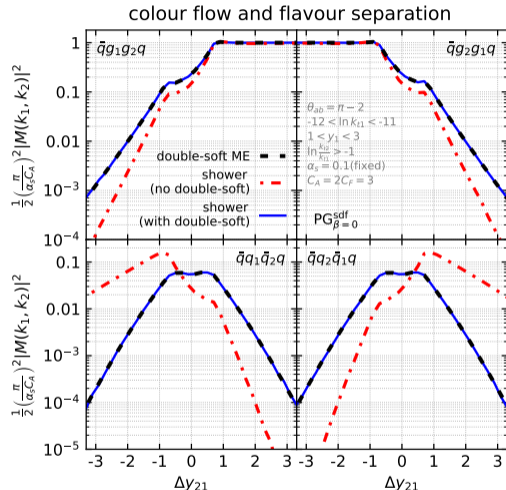
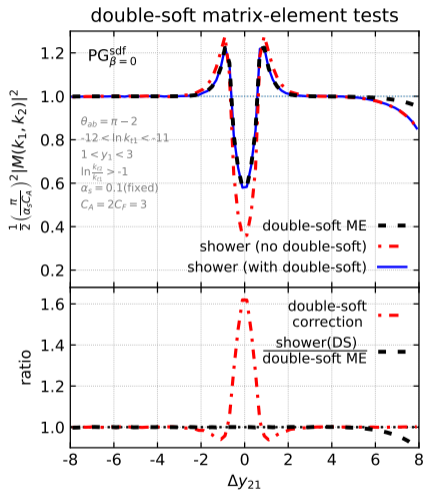


- visible effect at large k_t (right)
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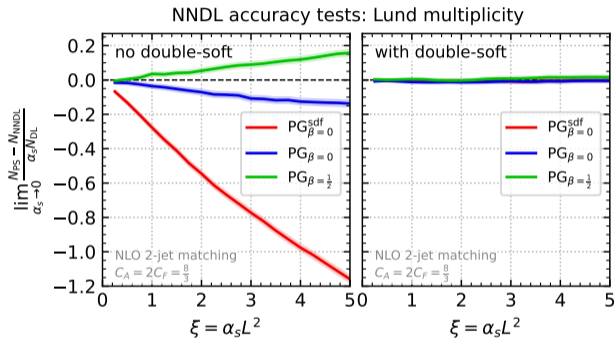
- no matching \Rightarrow wrong NNDL
- with matching \Rightarrow OK at NNDL

Extra double-soft results: matrix-element tests

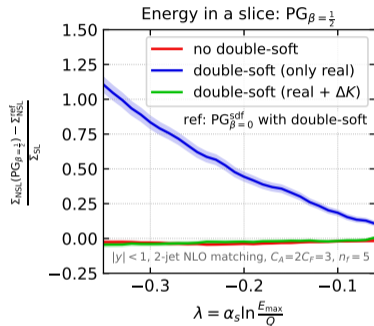


Correct reproduction of the double-soft matrix elements

Extra double-soft results: multiplicity, δK

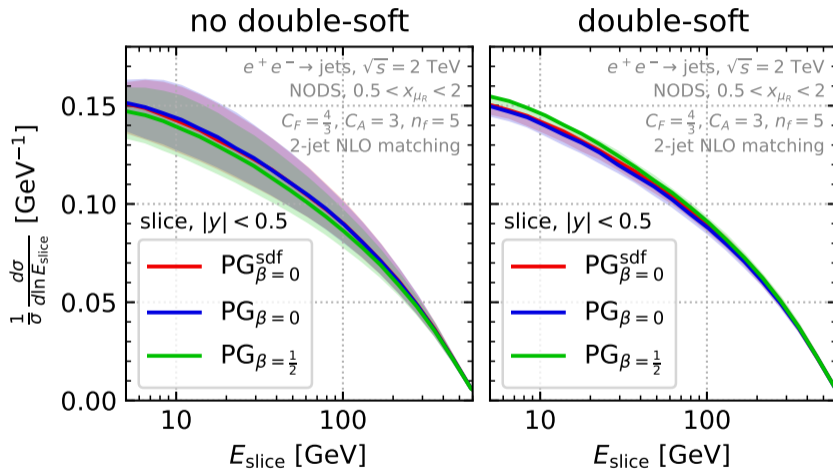


Reproduces NNDL multiplicity



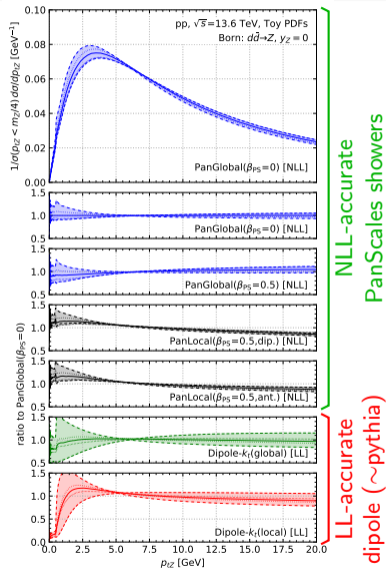
Requires the correct K_{CMW} prescription

Extra double-soft results: multiplicity, δK



No large shift of central value but large reduction of the uncertainty estimates

Example #1: Z-boson transverse momentum



Uncertainties:

- renormalisation scale variation:
for NLL-accurate showers include compensation term to maintain 2-loop running for soft emissions
- factorisation scale variations (note: use of toy PDFs)
- term associated with lack of matching for $k_t \sim M_Z$
- for LL showers: a term associated with spurious recoil for commensurate k_t 's

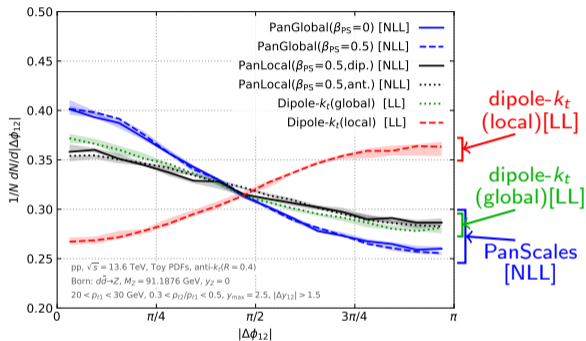
Observations:

Differences are relatively small except

- at very small k_t for dipole- k_t (esp. w global recoil)
- NLL brings significant uncertainty reduction

Example #2: $\Delta\psi_{12}$

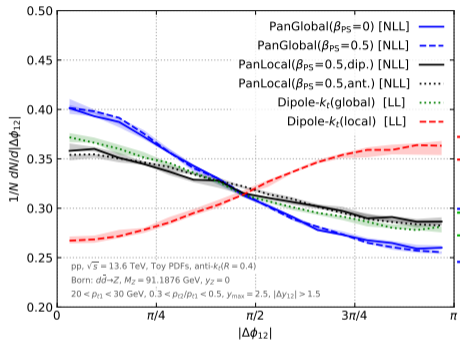
Drell-Yan, $M_Z = 91.1876$ GeV



- Dipole- k_t with global recoil (LL) quite off
- All others [local dipole- k_t (LL) and PanScales(NLL)] similar

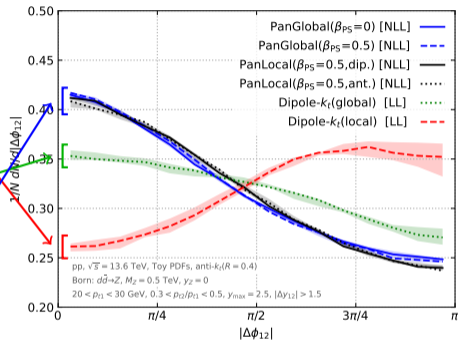
Example #2: $\Delta\psi_{12}$

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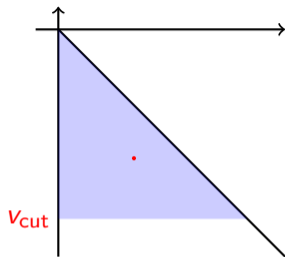
- Dipole- k_t with global recoil (LL) quite off
- All others [local dipole- k_t (LL) and PanScales(NLL)] similar

Drell-Yan, $M_{Z'} = 500$ GeV



- At higher scale:
dipole- k_t (LL) \neq PanScales(NLL)
- **DANGER: false sense of control from lower-energy info!**

Log counting for LL Event shapes



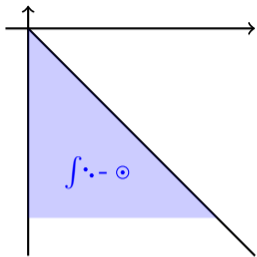
Soft-collinear:
 $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s L^2) + 1-l \alpha_s$

In the soft-collinear approx

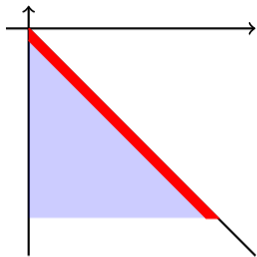
$$v_{\text{cut}} \approx k_t e^{-\beta|\eta|}$$

(here $\beta = 0$)

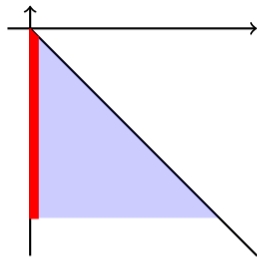
Log counting for NLL Event shapes



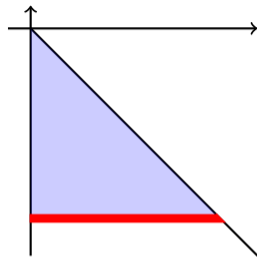
Soft-coll: $2\text{-}l \alpha_s + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 L^2)$ R-V (CMW)



Hard collinear (virtual)
(from $\alpha_s L$)

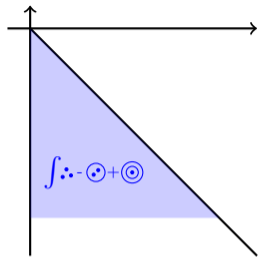


Soft large-angle
(virtual)=0

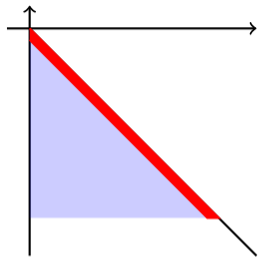


Multiple real emissions
(from $\alpha_s^2 L^2$)

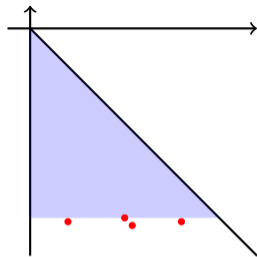
Log counting for NNLL Event shapes



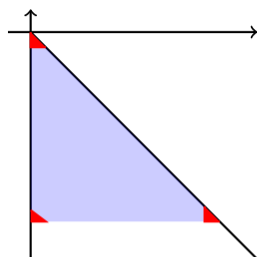
Soft-coll: $3\text{-}l \alpha_s + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3 L^2)$ R-V (CMW)



Hard collinear (virtual) $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 L)$ corrections

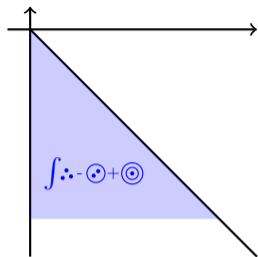


Multiple reals: $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 L)$ double-soft

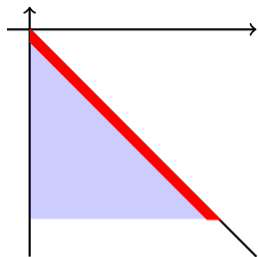


New $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ contributions

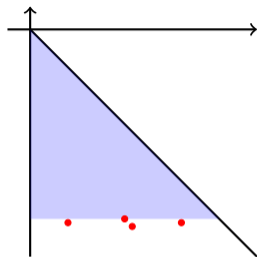
Log counting for NNLL Event shapes



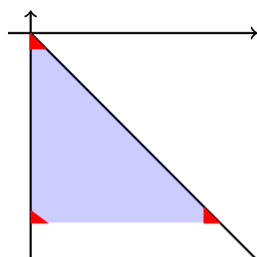
Soft-coll: $3\text{-}l \alpha_s + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3 L^2)$ R-V (CMW)



Hard collinear (virtual) $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 L)$ corrections



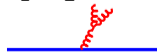
Multiple reals: $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 L)$ double-soft



New $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ contributions

Freedom to reshuffle terms between different contributions

Example: double-soft k_1, k_2 emission



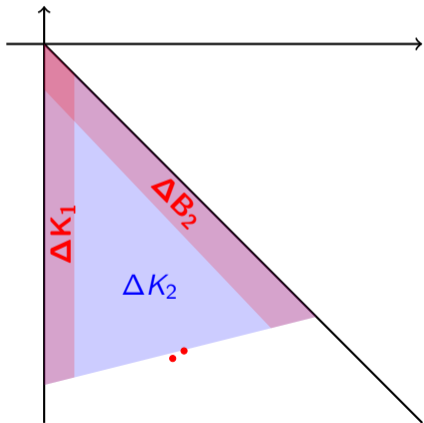
Typical approach:

- define a massless k_{1+2} with same k_\perp, η, ϕ as $k_1 + k_2$
- express the Sudakov using k_{1+2}
- treat $k_{1+2} \rightarrow k_1 + k_2$ as real double-soft correction

Shower Sudakov drifts

The shower does not take the same prescription:

- generate a first emission \tilde{k}_1
- generate a second branching $\tilde{k}_1 \rightarrow k_1, k_2$ (with correct k_1, k_2 matrix element)



NNLL shapes magic trick

NNLL: enough to get (soft-coll) average drift between \tilde{k}_1 and k_{1+2} (in k_\perp and y)!

→ defines ΔK_2 , ΔK_1 and ΔB_2

Sumrules

For shapes, only $\int dy \Delta K_1$ ($\propto \langle y \rangle_{\text{drift}}$) matters

For exclusive observables (E in slice) full differential ΔK_1 needed \Rightarrow powerful check

Same for triple-coll. region (not yet in PanScales)