

# A unified NLO description of top-pair and associated $Wt$ production

Stefan Kallweit<sup>1</sup>

based on work with F. Cascioli, P. Maierhöfer and S. Pozzorini  
[Eur. Phys. J. C \(2014\) 74:2783 \[arXiv:1312.0546 \[hep-ph\]\]](#)

<sup>1</sup>University of Zurich

August 11, 2014, Top Quark Physics Day

MIAPP summer institute “Challenges, Innovations and Developments in Precision Calculations for the LHC” at TU Munich



**Universität  
Zürich**<sup>UZH</sup>

- 1 Introduction
  - Full description vs. narrow-width approximation
  - Motivation for  $WWbb$  — with massive bottom quarks
- 2 Technical aspects of the NLO QCD calculation
  - NLO QCD calculation with OPENLOOPS/COLLIER/CDST dipoles
  - Phase-space integration by multi-channel approach
- 3 Numerical Results for the 8TeV LHC
  - Adequate scale choice for  $WWbb$
  - 0-, 1-, and 2-jet cross sections at NLO QCD
  - Differential cross sections at NLO QCD
- 4 Conclusions

# Precise predictions for hadronic $t\bar{t}$ production (and decay)

## NLO QCD corrections

Beenakker, Dawson, Ellis, Frixione, Kuijf, Meng, Nason, van Neerven, Schuler, Smith

## Electroweak NLO corrections

Beenakker, Bernreuther, Denner, Fücks, Hollik, Kao, Kollar, Kühn, Ladinsky, Mertig, Moretti, Nolten, Ross, Sack, Scharf, Si, Uwer, Wackerroth, Yuan

## From LL to NNLL resummations

Ahrens, Beneke, Berger, Bonciani, Cacciari, Catani, Contopanagos, Czakon, Falgari, Ferroglia, Frixione, Kidonakis, Kiyo, Klein, Laenen, Mangano, Mitov, Moch, Nason, Neubert, Pecjak, Piclum, Ridolfi, Schwinn, Sterman, Ubiali, Uwer, Vogt, Yan, Yang

## Towards full NNLO predictions

Abelof, Anastasiou, Aybat, Baernreuther, Bonciani, Czakon, Dittmaier, Ferroglia, Gehrmann, Gehrmann-De Ridder, Kniehl, Körner, Langenfeld, Maierhöfer, Maitre, Merebashvili, Mitov, Moch, Pozzorini, Ritzmann, Rogal, Studerus, von Manteuffel, Uwer, Vogt, Weinzierl

## NNLO QCD $t\bar{t}$ production

Czakon, Fiedler, Mitov, Rojo

## NLO QCD $t\bar{t}$ production $\otimes$ decay in spin-correlated narrow-width approximation

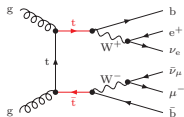
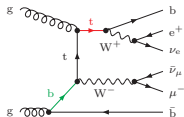
Bernreuther, Brandenburg, Melnikov, Schulze, Si, Uwer

## NLO QCD $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$ production with massless bottom quarks (with leptonic W decays)

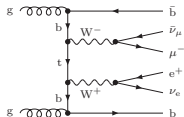
Bevilacqua, Czakon, Denner, Dittmaier, van Hameren, Heinrich, Kallweit, Maier, Nisius, Papadopoulos, Pozzorini, Schlenk, Worek, Winter

## NLO QCD $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$ production with massive bottom quarks (with leptonic W decays)

Cascioli, Frederix, Kallweit, Maierhöfer, Pozzorini

Full  $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$  description vs narrow-width approximation in LODoubly-resonant ( $t\bar{t}$ -like) diagrams (DR)Singly-resonant ( $Wt$ -like) diagrams (SR)

## Non-resonant diagrams (NR)

 $t\bar{t}$  in narrow-width approximation

- only DR channels
- narrow-width limit of Breit-Wigner top resonances

$$\lim_{\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0} \left| \frac{1}{p_t^2 - m_t^2 + i\Gamma_t m_t} \right|^2 = \frac{\pi}{\Gamma_t m_t} \delta(p_t^2 - m_t^2)$$

Finite-width contributions to  $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$ 

- off-shell corrections to DR channels
- SR+NR channels and interferences  
 $\hookrightarrow$  Divergences appear for  $p_{T,b} \rightarrow 0$  if  $m_b = 0$
- $\mathcal{O}(\Gamma_t/m_t)$  corrections to inclusive  $t\bar{t}$  observables

Finite bottom masses in  $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$ 

- phase-space regions with unresolved b-jets accessible  
 $\hookrightarrow$  huge finite-top-width corrections from  $Wt$
- $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$  describes both  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Wt$  with all off-shell effects and interferences in a unified way!

# Relevance of $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$ production at NLO QCD — with $m_b > 0$

## Full description of $t\bar{t}$ production $\otimes$ decays

- off-shell top quark and non-doubly-resonant background  
 $\hookrightarrow$  huge effects from regions with unresolved b-jets (where  $Wt$  is enhanced!)
- leptonic W decays taken into account (actually full four-lepton final states)

## Relevance for many BSM searches

- typical discovery signature: leptons + jets + missing  $E_T$  (SUSY, ...)
- heavy resonances decaying into  $t\bar{t}$  in various BSM scenarios

## Importance as background to SM processes

(especially if jet vetoes are required!)

- $pp \rightarrow WH(\rightarrow b\bar{b}) + X$  (if one of the W-decay leptons is invisible)
  - $pp \rightarrow H(\rightarrow WW) + 2\text{jets} + X$  in VBF (particular relevance of the high- $\Delta\eta_{jj}$  region)
  - $pp \rightarrow H \rightarrow WW + X$  (particular relevance of the 0-jet and 1-jet bins)
- $\hookrightarrow$  Consistent treatment of  $t\bar{t}$ ,  $Wt$  backgrounds and interferences needed.

# Technical realization of the NLO QCD calculation

## Treatment of unstable particles via complex-mass scheme

(introduced at NLO for  $e^+e^- \rightarrow W^+W^- \rightarrow 4f$  [Denner/Dittmaier/Roth/Wieders '05])

- $\Gamma$  is absorbed into the renormalised pole mass:  $M^2 \rightarrow \mu^2 = M^2 - iM\Gamma$
- on-shell renormalisation on complex propagator pole:  $\hat{\Sigma}(p^2) = 0$  at  $p^2 = \mu^2$

## Calculation of top-quark width

- Consistent treatment in amplitude and parameters crucial (to avoid fake effects)
- top width calculated with off-shell  $W$  and finite bottom mass  
[Jezabek/Kühn '89, Czarnecki '90, Campbell/Ellis '12]

## Scattering amplitudes with OPENLOOPS [Cascioli/Maierhöfer/Pozzorini '11]

- tree, one-loop and real-emission amplitudes (including colour/helicity correlations)
- fully automated for NLO QCD for any SM process
- compact and fast numerical code

## Tensor reduction by means of the COLLIER library [Denner/Dittmaier/Hofer]

- numerically stable Denner–Dittmaier reduction methods [Denner/Dittmaier '02&'05]
- scalar integrals with complex masses [Denner/Dittmaier '10]

## Mediation of IR divergences between Born- and real-emission phase-spaces

- dipole subtraction for massless and massive particles [Catani/Dittmaier/Seymour/Troscanyi '02]

# Numerical realization of the calculation

## Fully automated NLO QCD Monte Carlo framework (implementation in C++) [SK]

- Phase-space integration by multi-channel Monte Carlo techniques
  - Automated generation of mappings for arbitrary partonic processes
  - Additional Monte Carlo channels based on dipole kinematics (improvement of convergence, particularly in multi-resonance processes)
- ↔ Fast and stable numeric calculation of cross sections and distributions
- Additional features of the integrator
  - Code generation for arbitrary Standard Model process (including automatic bookkeeping of all required partonic channels)
  - Automatic generation of OPENLOOPS interface
  - Automatic selection and construction of massless and massive dipoles
  - Simultaneous calculations for different scale choices and variations
- Applicability to NNLO calculations proven (via  $q_T$  subtraction)  
[Grazzini/SK/Rathlev/Torre '13, Cascioli, Gehrmann, Grazzini, SK, Maierhöfer, von Manteuffel, Pozzorini, Rathlev, Tancredi, Weihs '14]
- Extension to NLO EW calculations straightforward

↔ All ingredients well tested in various multi-particle processes!

## Setup and input parameters

## Particle masses and widths

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 m_b = 4.75 \text{ GeV} & & \\
 m_t = 173.2 \text{ GeV} & \Gamma_{t,\text{LO}} = 1.47451 \text{ GeV} & \Gamma_{t,\text{NLO}} = 1.34264 \text{ GeV} \\
 M_W = 80.385 \text{ GeV} & & \Gamma_{W,\text{NLO}} = 2.09530 \text{ GeV} \\
 M_Z = 91.1876 \text{ GeV} & & \Gamma_{Z,\text{NLO}} = 2.50479 \text{ GeV} \\
 M_H = 126 \text{ GeV} & \Gamma_H = 4.21 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GeV} & 
 \end{array}$$

**$G_\mu$ -scheme couplings**  $\cos^2 \theta_w = \frac{M_W^2 - i\Gamma_W M_W}{M_Z^2 - i\Gamma_Z M_Z}$ ,  $\alpha = \sqrt{2} G_\mu M_W^2 (1 - M_W^2/M_Z^2)/\pi$

$$G_\mu = 1.16637 \times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$$

**PDFs and  $\alpha_S$**  4-flavour NNPDF at LO and NLO with 4-flavour running of  $\alpha_S$ ; independent variations  $1/2 \leq \mu_R/\mu_0 \leq 2$  and  $1/2 \leq \mu_F/\mu_0 \leq 2$ .

**Cuts** only on leptons:  $|\eta_l| < 2.5$ ,  $p_{T,l} > 20 \text{ GeV}$ ,  $p_{T,\text{miss}} > 20 \text{ GeV}$

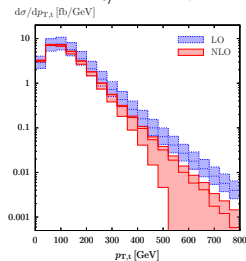
**Anti- $k_T$  Jet Algorithm**

- Separation of (b)jets with  $\sqrt{\Delta\phi^2 + \Delta y^2} > R = 0.4$ .
- No "IR-safe" recombination of  $b\bar{b}$  applied ( $m_b > 0$ ).
- (b)jets are defined by  $|\eta_{j/b}| < 2.5$ ,  $p_{T,j/b} > 30 \text{ GeV}$ .

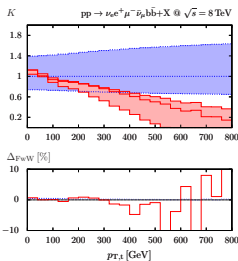


# Adequate scale choice for $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$ dedicated to $t\bar{t}$ production

Fixed scale  $\mu_{R/F} = m_t/2$ :



[Denner/Dittmaier/SK/Pozzorini '12]



**Fixed scale too low in high- $p_{T,t}$  tails of produced particles**

- LO overestimates cross section,
- NLO calculation gets perturbatively unstable.

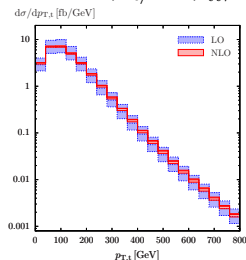
⇒ **Introduction of dynamic scale**

- which coincides with fixed scale if  $p_{T,t} \rightarrow 0$ ,
- which adapts to the higher scattering energy in high- $p_{T,t}$  regions.

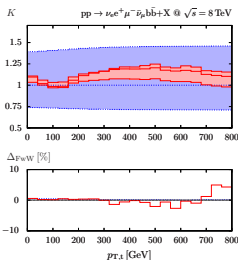
⇒ **Use average over  $t$  and  $\bar{t}$  transverse energies:**

$$\mu_{t\bar{t}}^2 = \sqrt{m_t^2 + p_{T,t}^2} \times \sqrt{m_{\bar{t}}^2 + p_{T,\bar{t}}^2}$$

Dynamic scale  $\mu_{R/F} = \mu_{t\bar{t}}/2$ :



[Denner/Dittmaier/SK/Pozzorini '12]



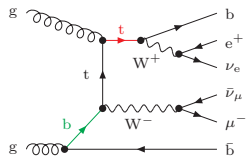
Scale choice for simultaneous description of  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Wt$ 

**Dynamic scale  $\mu_{t\bar{t}}$  is motivated from the  $t\bar{t}$  side only.**

↪ Scale **overestimates** natural scale for  $Wt$ -like events, particularly due to  $g \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  splitting.

⇒ **Introduction of a new dynamic scale to interpolate between  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Wt$  production (multi-scale problem)**

- which coincides with the dynamic scale  $\mu_{t\bar{t}}$  for  $t\bar{t}$ -like events,
- which takes into account the  $g \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  splitting for  $Wt$ -like events.



**Ansatz:**  $\mu_{WWb\bar{b}}^2 = E_{Wb} \times E_{W\bar{b}}$  with  $E_{Wb} = P(t)E_{T,t} + P(b)E_{T,b}$ ,  
 $E_{W\bar{b}} = P(\bar{t})E_{T,\bar{t}} + P(\bar{b})E_{T,\bar{b}}$ .

$P(t/\bar{t})$  and  $P(b/\bar{b})$  stand for probability estimates of the  $W^+b/W^-\bar{b}$  configurations in the respective event to be “top-like” or “bottom-like”:

$$P(t) \propto \chi(t) = \frac{m_t^4}{(p_t^2 - m_t^2)^2 + \Gamma_t^2 m_t^2} \quad \text{and} \quad P(b) \propto \chi(b) = \frac{m_t^2}{E_{T,b}^2}.$$

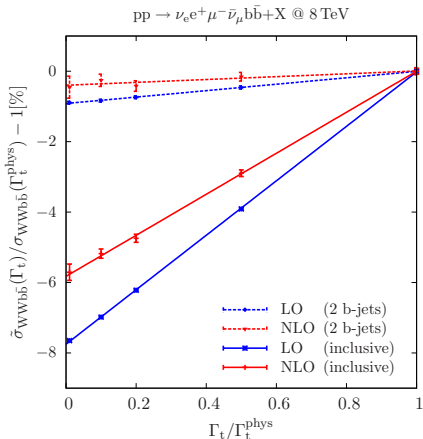
↪ Normalization of “top-like” and “bottom-like” probabilities ( $P(t) + P(b) = 1$ ) and an iterative procedure performed at LO fix the weighting between  $P(t)$  and  $P(b)$ .

Off-shell and not doubly-resonant contributions to  $\sigma_{\text{incl}}$ Assessment of finite-width effects  $\sigma(\Gamma_t) - \sigma(0)$ 

- Numerical extrapolation to  $\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0$  is performed using five rescaled values  $\Gamma_t = \xi \Gamma_t^{\text{phys}}$  with  $0.01 \leq \xi \leq 1$ .

Cancellation of soft-gluon  $\ln(\Gamma_t/m_t)$  singularities

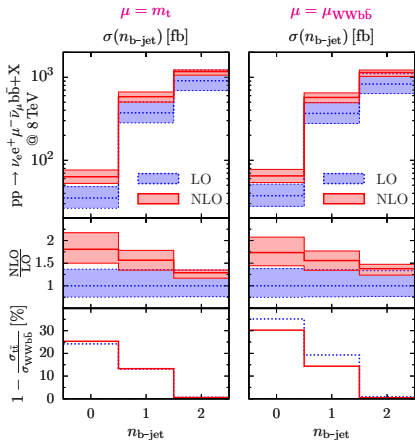
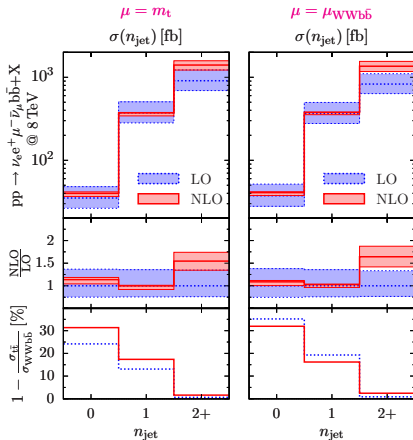
- Dipole-subtracted virtual and real parts diverge logarithmically when  $\Gamma_t \rightarrow 0$ .
- Linear convergence of  $\sigma(\Gamma_t) \rightarrow \sigma(0)$  provides non-trivial consistency and stability check.



**2-bjet bin:** Small  $\mathcal{O}(\Gamma_t/m_t) \simeq 0.8\%$  effects  
 $\leftrightarrow$  as in  $m_b = 0$  case.

**inclusive:** 10 times larger finite-top-width effects  
 $\leftrightarrow$   $Wt$  dominated.

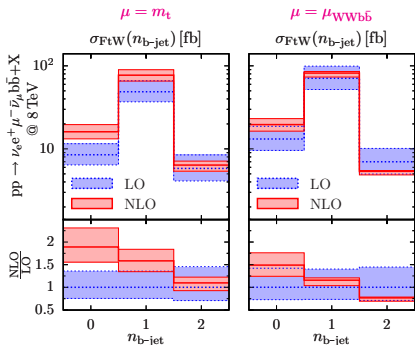
## First WWbb predictions in (exclusive) 0- and 1-(b)jet bins

 $\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}$  - multiplicity of bjets

 $\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}$  - multiplicity of jets


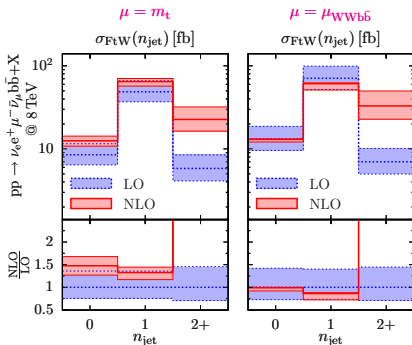
- Enhanced finite-top-width effects in 0- and 1-(b)jet bins (up to  $\sim 30\%$ )  
 $\hookrightarrow$  Importance of unified  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Wt$  description!
- Perturbative benefit from  $\mu_{WWb\bar{b}}$  is widely washed out by dominating  $t\bar{t}$  contribution.

# Finite-top-width contribution: (exclusive) multiplicity of (b)jets

$\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}^{\text{FtW}}$  - multiplicity of bjets



$\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}^{\text{FtW}}$  - multiplicity of jets



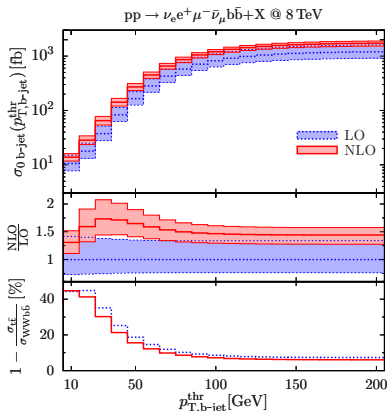
- Both the size of NLO corrections and the residual scale uncertainties are reduced by the dynamic scale choice  $\mu = \mu_{WWb\bar{b}}$ .

- Similar reduction as in the b-jet case due to  $\mu = \mu_{WWb\bar{b}}$  (2+-jet bin anyway dominated by  $t\bar{t}$  contribution).

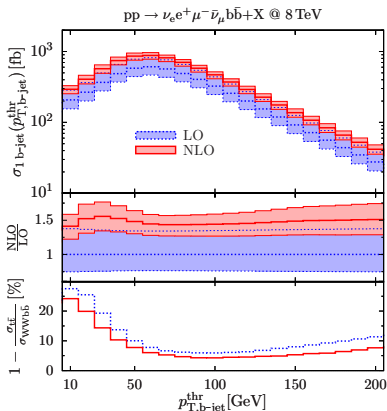
→ Perturbative stability seems to be improved by the dynamic scale choice  $\mu = \mu_{WWb\bar{b}}$ .

# Multiplicity of bjets in dependence of jet- $p_T$ threshold

## 0-bjet exclusive cross section



## 1-bjet exclusive cross section



- saturates the integrated cross section for high  $p_T$  thresholds.

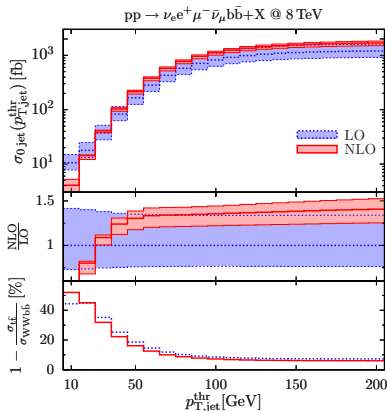
- gets largest contribution at a threshold  $p_T \approx 60$  GeV.

Results are perturbatively quite stable in the relevant range of jet- $p_T$  thresholds.

→ At  $p_T \approx 30$  GeV (typical veto range), both NLO and  $t\bar{t}/Wt$  ratio non-trivial.

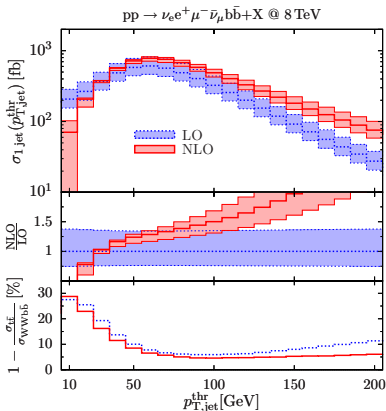
# Multiplicity of jets in dependence of jet- $p_T$ threshold

## 0-jet exclusive cross section



- saturates the integrated cross section for high  $p_T$  thresholds.

## 1-jet exclusive cross section



- is dominated by LO-like contributions in the high- $p_T$  region.

For low jet- $p_T$  threshold ( $p_T \lesssim 20$  GeV), perturbative stability breaks down.

↪ Parton shower is needed to restore perturbative stability for very low jet- $p_T$  threshold.

# Multiplicity of jets in dependence of jet- $p_T$ threshold

The European Physical Journal

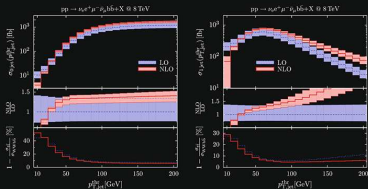
volume 74 · number 3 · march · 2014

# EPJ C



Recognized by European Physical Society

Particles and Fields



LO and NLO  $W^+W^-bb$  cross sections in the exclusive bins with  $N_j = 0$  (left) and  $N_j = 1$  (right) jets as functions of the jet- $p_T$  threshold. From F. Cascioli, S. Kallweit, P. Maierhöfer and S. Pozzorini: A unified NLO description of top-pair and associated  $Wt$  production.



Springer

In the relevant range of jet- $p_T$  thresholds ( $p_T \approx 30$  GeV),

- the size of NLO corrections is strongly jet- $p_T$ -threshold dependent,
- the off-shell contributions are sizable.

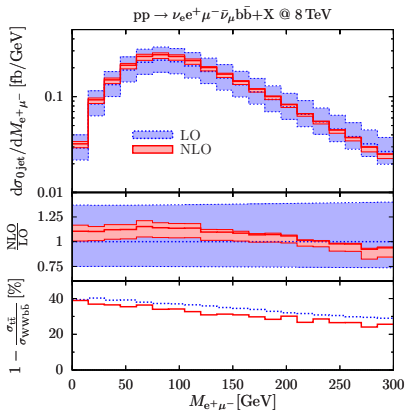
↪ A combined description of  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Wt$  at NLO QCD is highly motivated.

[EPJ C volume 74 number 3 March 2014]

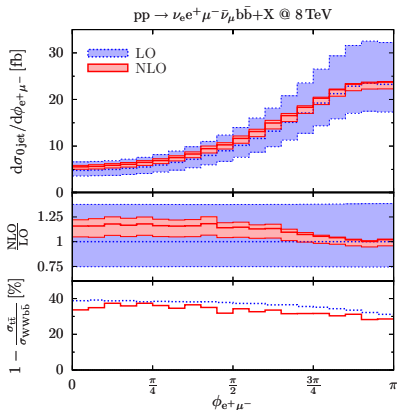


0-jet-bin distributions for  $H \rightarrow WW$  analysis

## Invariant mass of the lepton pair



## Azimuthal angle between the leptons



Top-induced background for  $H \rightarrow WW$  analysis  $\rightarrow$  precise description needed.

- Significant finite-top-width effects up to 40% with  $\sim 10\%$  phase-space dependence.
- Small NLO corrections and significant reduction of scale variations to about 10%.

$\rightarrow$  Further evidence for stability of the perturbative description.

# Conclusions

## NLO QCD calculation for $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$ production with $m_b > 0$

- Precise **unified description of  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Wt$**  (with full leptonic decays) in the 4F scheme, including off-shell effects, non-resonant backgrounds and interferences
- Suggestion for an adequate scale choice to interpolate between  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Wt$
- **New results with  $m_b > 0$** 
  - **Full b-quark phase-space coverage**  
 $\hookrightarrow$  no cuts needed for IR-safety reasons
  - **Exclusive jet-multiplicity dependent cross sections accessible**  
 $\hookrightarrow$  non-trivial effects from **NLO** and **interplay of  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Wt$**
  - **0- and 1-(b)jet-bin exclusive distributions**  
 $\hookrightarrow$  Scale variations significantly reduced at NLO QCD
  - **Sizable finite-top-width effects**  
 $\hookrightarrow$  6% for inclusive  $\sigma_{Wb\bar{b}}$ , up to 40% in 0-jet bin!

## Outlook

- More dedicated analysis of the  $W^+W^-b\bar{b}$  background to relevant signal processes
- Analysis of **impact on  $m_t$  measurement**
- Combination with **parton shower to improve stability in low- $p_T$  region**

# Backup

Backup slides

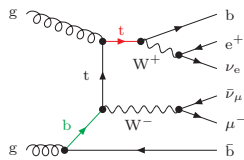
Scale choice for simultaneous description of  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Wt$ 

**Dynamic scale  $\mu_{t\bar{t}}$  is motivated from the  $t\bar{t}$  side only.**

↔ Scale **overestimates** natural scale for  $Wt$ -like events, particularly due to  $g \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  splitting.

⇒ **Introduction of a new dynamic scale to interpolate between  $t\bar{t}$  and  $Wt$  production (multi-scale problem)**

- which coincides with the dynamic scale  $\mu_{t\bar{t}}$  for  $t\bar{t}$ -like events,
- which takes into account the  $g \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  splitting for  $Wt$ -like events.



**Ansatz:**  $\mu_{Wb\bar{b}}^2 = E_{Wb} \times E_{W\bar{b}}$  with  $E_{Wb} = P(t)E_{T,t} + P(b)E_{T,b}$ ,  
 $E_{W\bar{b}} = P(\bar{t})E_{T,\bar{t}} + P(\bar{b})E_{T,\bar{b}}$ .

$P(t/\bar{t})$  and  $P(b/\bar{b})$  stand for probability estimates of the  $W^+b/W^-\bar{b}$  configurations in the respective event to be “top-like” or “bottom-like”:

$$P(t) \propto \chi(t) = \frac{m_t^4}{(p_t^2 - m_t^2)^2 + \Gamma_t^2 m_t^2} \quad \text{and} \quad P(b) \propto \chi(b) = \frac{m_t^2}{E_{T,b}^2}.$$

$$P(t) + P(b) = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad P(t) = \frac{R\chi(t)}{\chi(b) + R\chi(t)} \quad \text{and} \quad P(b) = \frac{\chi(b)}{\chi(b) + R\chi(t)}.$$

# Iterative procedure to determine new dynamic scale choice

The parameter  $R$  is determined in an iterative procedure to fulfill the condition:

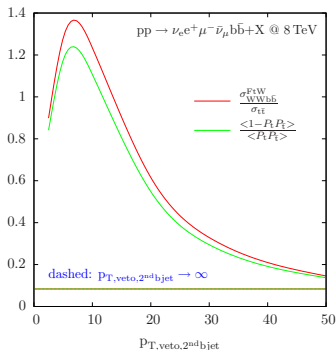
$$\int d\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}^{\text{FtW}}(R) \stackrel{!}{=} \int d\Phi [1 - P_t(\Phi)P_{\bar{t}}(\Phi)](R) \frac{d\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}(R)}{d\Phi}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}^{\text{FtW}} = \sigma_{WWb\bar{b}} - \sigma_{t\bar{t}}$  with  $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}$  defined as the narrow-width limit of  $\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}$ .

## Iterative procedure (fully inclusive, LO)

- Start with  $R \rightarrow \infty$  (dynamic  $t\bar{t}$  scale  $\mu_{t\bar{t}}$ ).
- Perform iteration step at  $\mu_{WWb\bar{b}}(R)$ :
  - Calculate  $\sigma_{WWb\bar{b}}^{\text{FtW}}$  at  $\mu_{WWb\bar{b}}(R)$ .
  - Scan  $\langle [1 - P_t(\Phi)P_{\bar{t}}(\Phi)](R) \rangle$  over  $R$  at the same scale  $\mu_{WWb\bar{b}}(R)$ .
- $\Leftrightarrow$  (1) fixes  $R$  for next iteration step.
- Fast convergence delivers  $\mu_{WWb\bar{b}}(R)$ .

Validation of final  $\mu_{WWb\bar{b}}(R)$ :



$\Leftrightarrow$  accurate description of FtW content of differential  $WWb\bar{b}$  cross section.