Simulation of vector boson plus many jet final states at the high luminosity LHC

Stefan Höche,¹ Stefan Prestel,² and Holger Schulz³

¹ Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, Illinois 60510-0500, USA
² Department of Astronomy and Theoratical Physics, Lund University, S.223, 62 Lund 2 Department of Astronomy and Theoretical Physics, Lund University, S-223 62 Lund, Sweden

³Department of Physics, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219, USA

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We present a novel event-generation framework for the efficient simulation of vector boson plus multijet backgrounds at the high-luminosity LHC and at possible future hadron colliders. Message passing interface parallelization of parton-level and particle-level event generation and storage of parton-level event information using the HDF5 data format allow us to obtain leading-order merged Monte Carlo predictions with up to nine jets in the final state. The parton-level event samples generated in this manner correspond to an integrated luminosity of 3 ab^{-1} and are made publicly available for future phenomenological studies.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The production of a dilepton pair or a lepton-neutrino pair at hadron colliders [\[1,2\]](#page-8-0) is both one of the most studied and one of the best understood reactions in high-energy physics. Calculations using fixed-order QCD perturbation theory have been performed up to N^2LO accuracy [\[3](#page-8-1)–6]. The production of an additional jet can be described fully exclusively at N^2LO accuracy [7–[11\],](#page-8-2) and the production of up to five (four) additional jets in lepton-neutrino (dilepton) events can be described [12–[14\]](#page-8-3) at NLO accuracy, partly in a fully automated fashion [\[15](#page-8-4)–20]. Tree-level matrix element generators [\[21](#page-8-5)–27] are capable of predicting the production rates of a Drell-Yan lepton pair in association with any number of jets, limited only by computing power. These predictions can be merged with parton showers [28–[35\]](#page-8-6) to create simulations that include the dominant effects of Sudakov resummation and are at the same time leading-order accurate at any jet multiplicity. Such simulations prove to be an invaluable tool for LHC data analyses [\[36\]](#page-8-7).

While techniques for the automated computation of treelevel matrix elements have been devised long ago [\[37](#page-8-8)–39], practical computations have not advanced considerably beyond the state of the art of the early 2000s [\[24,25\]](#page-8-9). This has adverse effects on experimental measurements at the LHC, where up to eight-jet final states are routinely probed [\[40](#page-8-10)–47], and nine-jet final states will be measured to excellent precision with an integrated luminosity of 3 ab^{-1} . We address this problem by providing a novel eventgeneration framework, combining core functionalities of Comix [\[25\]](#page-8-11) and Pythia [\[48\].](#page-9-0) Inspired by the preliminary studies on HPC computing for perturbative QCD performed during the Snowmass 2013 community planning process [\[49,50\]](#page-9-1) and by the successful parallelization of Alpgen [\[51\],](#page-9-2) we construct a workflow for parton-level and particle-level event generation that provides a scalable solution from desktops to high-performance computers. Existing limitations of Comix [\[52\]](#page-9-3) are addressed, and the new algorithms are tested in W^{\pm} - and Z-boson production with up to nine jets at the LHC. The results of our partonlevel event-generation campaign are publicly available [\[53](#page-9-4)–55] and can be used as an input to particle-level simulations in experimental analyses and phenomenology. The code base can be downloaded from Ref. [\[56\].](#page-9-5)

This paper is organized as follows: Sec. [II](#page-0-0) introduces the technical challenges of particle-level simulations at scale, and Sec. [III](#page-3-0) presents our new event-generation framework. Section [IV](#page-4-0) discusses its computing performance and presents some first physics results. Section [V](#page-7-0) contains an outlook.

II. EFFICIENT ALGORITHMS FOR HIGH-MULTIPLICITY MULTIJET MERGING

Multijet merged event simulations at leading- or next-toleading-order QCD accuracy are the de facto standard for making precise, fully differential signal and background predictions for Standard Model measurements and new physics searches at the LHC [\[36\].](#page-8-7) They provide a consistent combination of the fully differential resummation provided by parton showers with exact higher-order perturbative

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QCD predictions of events with resolved jets. Using the example of $pp \rightarrow Z +$ jets, this implies that the merging combines the parton-shower calculation of $pp \rightarrow Z$ with a parton-shower calculation for $pp \rightarrow Z + j$, a partonshower calculation for $pp \rightarrow Z + jj$, and so on. As each of the results to be merged is inclusive over additional QCD radiation, and the parton shower can in principle populate the entire multijet phase space, two aspects need to be addressed in any merging procedure:

- (1) The phase space of resolvable emissions in the parton shower must be restricted to the complement of the phase space in the fixed-order calculation. This procedure is called the jet veto, the observable used to separate the phase space is called the jet criterion, and the numerical value where the separation occurs is called the merging scale.
- (2) The fixed-order result must be amended by the resummed higher-order corrections implemented by the parton shower, in order to maintain the logarithmic accuracy of the overall calculation. This involves
	- (a) Reinterpreting the final-state configuration of the fixed-order calculation as having originated from a parton cascade [\[28\]](#page-8-6). This procedure is called clustering, and the representations of the final-state configuration in terms of parton branchings are called parton-shower histories.
	- (b) Choosing appropriate scales for evaluating the strong coupling in each branching of this cascade, thereby resumming higher-order corrections to soft-gluon radiation [\[57,58\]](#page-9-6). This procedure is called α_s reweighting.
	- (c) Multiplying by appropriate Sudakov factors, representing the resummed unresolved real and virtual corrections [\[30\]](#page-8-12). This is called Sudakov reweighting and is usually implemented by trial showers [\[31\]](#page-8-13).

Step 2 in this algorithm turns the inclusive $pp \rightarrow Z + nj$ predictions into exclusive results, which describe the production of *exactly n* jets according to the jet criterion.¹ They can then be added to obtain the merged result. Care has to be taken that the result for the highest jet multiplicity remain inclusive over additional radiation which is softer than the softest existing jet. This is known as the highest multiplicity treatment.

A. General aspects of the simulation

Technically, the merging algorithm described above involves multiple stages:

(1) The computation of fixed-order results.

- (2) The clustering and α_s reweighting.
- (3) The parton-shower and Sudakov reweighting.

In the past, different implementations have combined these steps in different ways. Traditionally, the Sherpa event generator performs the jet clustering during the computation of the fixed-order result and optimizes the Monte Carlo integrator based on the hard matrix element, including α_s reweighting. The Pythia event generator relies on external matrix element providers [\[60\]](#page-9-7) to compute the perturbative inputs, and therefore a natural separation of step 1 from the remainder of the calculation occurs. We argue that this also provides the more natural separation for improved computer performance. The reasons are twofold:

- (1) The parton shower and the clustering are probabilistic, in the sense that the number of particles produced in the shower, or the path chosen in the clustering, are not known a priori. In contrast, the fixed-order perturbative calculations used as an input to the parton shower operate at fixed particle multiplicity, and always evaluate the same Feynman diagrams. By separating these two domains, we divide the program into two components with different program flow.
- (2) The computation of fixed-order results is very cumbersome at high multiplicity, even when making use of recursion relations. The corresponding unweighting efficiencies are usually very small. By comparison, both the parton-shower and the jet clustering procedure are fast and consume significantly less memory. This is exemplified in Fig. [1](#page-1-0).

FIG. 1. Scaling of computation time (in CPU hours per $10⁶$ events) for parton-level and particle-level event generation in multijet merged computations of W^+ + jets at the LHC. We limit the number of quarks to ≤ 6 in $W^+ + 6$, 7–jet and to ≤ 4 in $W^+ + 8$, 9–jet final states. Green squares indicate results using the standard clustering procedure, while blue circles indicate results obtained from the winner-takes-all (WTA) approach as the number of jets exceeds six. See Sec. [II C](#page-3-1) for details.

¹Note that the jet criterion need not correspond to an experimentally relevant jet algorithm. It may be a purely theoretical construct as long as the infrared limits are properly identified [\[59\].](#page-9-8)

Separating the two domains and storing results of the fixed-order calculation in intermediate event files allows us to reuse the computationally most expensive parts of the simulation for calculations with

different parton-shower or hadronization parameters. In the following, we will discuss the problems related to fixed-order calculations and parton-shower simulations on HPC architectures in more detail, and present solutions that allow us to carry out simulations relevant for the highluminosity LHC.

B. Fixed-order computations

Fixed-order computations usually proceed in two steps: The optimization stage uses adaptive algorithms like Vegas [\[61\]](#page-9-9), and possibly multichannels [\[62\],](#page-9-10) to better approximate the integrand, and therefore reduce the variance of the Monte Carlo integral that is evaluated. During the integration or event-generation stage, the integral is determined at high precision, and weighted or unweighted events are generated, and possibly stored.

Both stages are ideally suited for message passing interface (MPI) parallelization. During optimization, a large number of phase-space points must usually be generated to provide the input for adaptive algorithms. MPI parallelization can be achieved by independently producing a fraction of these points on each MPI rank and subsequently collecting the results. This process is repeated as needed. The computation of matrix elements can also be thread parallelized using, for example, the techniques in Refs. [\[25,63,64\].](#page-8-11) During the event-generation stage, any Monte Carlo simulation is trivially parallel-izable. The only complications are I/O operations related to the read-in of information related to the construction of the hard matrix elements and to the parameters of the adaptive integrator.

The related files can be large at high particle multiplicity, because the multichannel integrator consists of many individual channels (typically one per diagram). We choose to store this information in a zip file by means of the libzippp interface [\[65\].](#page-9-11) We have implemented a parallelization layer into Comix, which both maps the file access through libzippp to a std::i/ostream and enables read/write access to the actual zip file only on the master rank of the MPI executable. During the read operation, the file content obtained by the master rank is then broadcast to all ranks via the MPI Bcast function. We have implemented the same technology in the LHAPDF6 parton distribution library [\[66\]](#page-9-12).

A significant complication occurs in the generation of unweighted events, which is most easily explained by using an example. Consider Fig. [2,](#page-2-0) which shows the distribution of the number of trials in the unweighting of $pp \rightarrow W^+ +$ n_j events at leading-order QCD with Comix. Let us assume that we want to generate 10^4 W + 8j events. Generating them on a single rank, the timing per event will be determined by the average number of trials, which is given by the slope of the distribution. A trivial MPI parallelization

FIG. 2. Distribution of the number of trials in the unweighting of $pp \rightarrow W^+ + nj$ at the 14 TeV LHC. Jets are required to have $p_{T,j} > 20$ GeV and $|y_j| < 6$.

strategy would be to generate $10^4/N$ events on each rank for N total ranks in the MPI run. This approach is bound to fail at large N, as can be seen easily: Assume that $N = 10^4$, and that one MPI rank generates an event with 250 000 trials. The timing of the overall MPI run is then set by this rank, and until it has finished, the remaining ranks are in an effective wait state. Therefore, the overall event-generation time is $10⁴$ times the generation time for an event with 250 000 trials. Generally, for an executable parallelized in this manner, the event-generation time is set by the most inefficient rank. In order to efficiently parallelize the simulation, we might instead choose to generate weighted events and perform the unweighting independently. While the timing will be uniform in this case, weighted events require a large amount of disk storage, especially if the unweighting efficiency is as low as in the eight-jet case. This holds true even if we store only the event weight.

One may attempt to solve this problem by a hybrid approach: Generate unweighted events, but limit the number of trials to a fixed number $N_{\text{trial,max}}$ that can be defined by the user of the program and should be adapted to the efficiency and timing for any given partonic final state. If the program reaches $N_{\text{trial,max}}$ and no event has passed the unweighting, an event of weight zero is returned in order to achieve more uniform timing. However, for a large number of nodes, this approach is still insufficient. We have verified this by disabling the writeout of events² and comparing to weighted event generation, which then scales ideally. Based on this finding, we implement a technique similar to Alpgen $[24]$, which was adapted to scale to over $10⁶$

 2 We would not be able to compare the scaling if we were to write out weighted events, due to the high storage requirements in the weighted event case. Disabling the writeout for unweighted events instead leaves the scaling behavior of the unweighted event generation intact.

threads in Ref. [\[51\]](#page-9-2): We generate a fixed number of weighted events, unweight on the fly, and store only those events which pass the unweighting procedure. This leaves us with a variable number of unweighted events, which cannot be predicted, as it depends on the efficiency of the integrator and is subject to statistical fluctuations. However, the scaling behavior is determined solely by the I/O performance (cf., Sec. [IV](#page-4-0)).

To reduce the memory footprint of the executable, we are allowed to manually partition the partonic processes generated by Comix into sets of irreducible groups with identical diagrammatic structure to the hard matrix elements.

C. Parton showers and merging

The simulation of parton showers and the associated jet clustering procedure behave intrinsically differently from the fixed-order computations discussed above, and they involve their own unique computational challenges. Since the parton shower is a Markov-chain Monte Carlo, the particle multiplicity and the flavor structure vary event by event, such that memory usage and program flow cannot be predicted. Since the typical parton multiplicity is $\mathcal{O}(10-100)$, and only one possible parton-shower history is generated per event, this does not present a problem. The jet clustering procedure as the inverse operation to the parton shower does, however, create a challenge: In order to determine the correct probability for any given history, one must construct all histories corresponding to a given parton-level final state in the fixed-order calculation [\[28\]](#page-8-6). For indistinguishable final-state particles, the number of possible histories grows at least factorially, depending on the parton-shower recoil scheme. Both timing and memory usage of the executable therefore increase rapidly with the final-state multiplicity. This is exemplified in Fig. [1](#page-1-0) for the exclusive contributions to a W^+ + jets calculation in a multijet merged approach. The computational complexity increases by approximately a factor of 1.5 for each addi-tional final-state jet.³ As is argued in Sec. [II B,](#page-2-1) any nonuniform timing in the calculation will eventually break the scaling, even if the simulation is trivially parallelizable, as in the case of parton showers. Starting with $pp \rightarrow$ $W/Z + 7$ -jet final states, the jet clustering procedure also begins to exhaust the memory of modern computers $(at \approx 4 \text{ GB}/\text{core}).$

These problems must be tackled by changes to the underlying merging algorithms. We use the CKKW-L technique [\[31\]](#page-8-13) and amend it as follows: In order to make the generation of parton-level events independent of the merging procedure, we use a standard k_T -jet algorithm to regularize the hard matrix elements and to veto the parton shower. In parton-level configurations that exceed the complexity of a $W/Z + 6$ –jet final state, we perform the first clustering steps using the "winner-takes-all" (WTA) approach: The clustering with the largest probability is chosen, independent of the parton-shower history of the clustered lower-multiplicity state. This procedure is repeated until the final state has been reduced by the jet clustering to a $W/Z + 6$ –jet configuration. At this point, the standard algorithm resumes. We have verified that the change to physical cross sections and distributions arising from this WTA approach is at the level of a few percent and is significantly lower than the renormalization and factorization scale uncertainties arising from the perturbative expansion. Event samples with different final-state multiplicities at the parton level are processed independently, in order to make the timing of the clustering and subsequent parton showering as uniform as possible. We use ASCR's DIY framework [\[67,68\]](#page-9-13) to parallelize the particle-level event simulation.

III. NEW FRAMEWORK FOR MASSIVELY PARALLEL PROCESSING

It remains for us to discuss the combination of the fixedorder and parton-shower calculations described above into a consistent, multijet merged event simulation. This relies on the efficient communication of event properties at the parton level by means of intermediate event files that are similar in spirit to Les Houches event files (LHEF) [\[60\]](#page-9-7). The LHEF standard is widely used in the high-energy physics community. It is based on XML, which poses a challenge for I/O operations, in particular the simultaneous read access when processing event information in heavily

TABLE I. Datasets and data types in the init group.

Dataset	Data type
PDFGROUPA	int
PDFGROUPB	int
PDFSETA	int
PDFSETB	int
BEAMA	int
BEAMB	int
ENERGYA	double
ENERGYB	double
NUMPROCESSES	int
WEIGHTINGSTRATEGY	int

TABLE II. Datasets and data types in the procInfo group.

 3 Note that the scaling for $N > 6$ is improved by the winner-

NPNLO int takes-all approach explained below.

TABLE III. Data sets and data types in the event group.

Dataset	Data type				
NPARTICLES	int				
START	int				
PID	int				
WEIGHT	double				
SCALE	double				
FSCALE	double				
RSCALE	double				
AQED	double				
AQCD	double				
NPLO	int				
NPNLO	int				
TRIALS	double				

TABLE IV. Datasets and data types in the particle group.

parallelized workflows. We address this problem by proposing a new format based on HDF5 [\[69\],](#page-9-14) which is designed specifically for processing large amounts of data on HPC machines. HDF5 uses a computing model not too dissimilar from databases. The data stored is organized in datasets that can be thought of as tables of standard types such as integer and float. These datasets can be organized in groups in order to create hierarchical structures. We strive to keep the new HDF5 event file standard as similar to the LHEF standard as possible.

The LHEF format comprises global properties as well as event-wise properties [\[60\].](#page-9-7) Global properties include process information (i.e., the type of collisions) and total cross sections as well as reweighting information. The event-wise properties are the process ID, the event weight, the scale of the hard process as well as the values of α_{QCD} , α_{OED} , and of course the list of particles generated. The latter contains the momentum four-vectors and information on particle identification (charges, spin, lifetime), as well as their genealogy. We propose to organize the HDF5 structure of Les Houches events such that each quantity normally stored in an event-wise block of XML is instead written to independent HDF datasets. We suggest to have separate groups for global, event-wise and particle properties.

A. Global properties

We follow the general idea of the XML tags used in LHE files and define a group init. The names of the datasets as well as their data types are summarized in Table [I](#page-3-2). Properties of the individual processes are stored in the group procInfo. The names of the datasets and their data types are summarized in Table [II](#page-3-3).

B. Event-wise properties

The information that is unique to a single event (except its particles) is stored in the event group. Table [III](#page-4-1) gives an overview of the dataset names and data types used.

The number start identifies the location of the first record in the additional group named particle, which stores information about individual particles that belong to each event. A summary of the information stored in the particle group is given in Table [IV.](#page-4-2)

IV. NUMERICAL RESULTS

In this section, we present the first phenomenological results generated with the new event-generation framework and discuss its computing performance. We consider proton-proton collisions at the high-luminosity LHC at \sqrt{s} = 14 TeV. We use the CT14 NNLO PDF set [\[70\]](#page-9-15) and define the strong coupling accordingly. Our modified parton-level event generator is based on Comix [\[25\]](#page-8-11) as included in Sherpa version 2.2.4 [\[71\]](#page-9-16). Our modified particle-level event generator is based on Pythia 8 [\[48\]](#page-9-0) and will be part of the next Pythia release.

TABLE V. Inclusive cross sections at the LHC at $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV using the CT14nnlo PDF set and a correspondingly defined strong coupling. Jets are defined using the k_T clustering algorithm with $R = 0.4$, $p_{T,j} > 20$ GeV, and $|\eta_j| < 6$.

$pp \rightarrow X + njets$ X/n	Cross section [pb]										
W^+	9908(29)	2523(8)	1067(7)	404(4)	148(1)	49.3(5)	15.8(2)	5.2(2)	1.30(8)	0.330(6)	
W^-	7496(21)	1898(6)	760(4)	278(2)	94(1)	29.8(3)	9.29(9)	2.71(7)	0.63(2)	0.170(3)	
Ζ	1661(3)	464(1)	193.6(8)	72.2(3)	25.7(2)	8.61(8)	2.74(3)	0.82(2)	0.211(3)	0.057(1)	

FIG. 3. Test of scaling behavior in the optimization stage of the parton-level calculation. In the strong scaling test (red), the number of points per rank (p/r) is inversely proportional to the number of ranks. In the weak scaling test (green), p/r is constant and the computation time is multiplied by the square of the Monte Carlo error.

Table [V](#page-4-3) shows the parton-level cross sections for the event samples produced by Comix and used in the merging. Jets are defined using the k_T clustering algorithm with $R = 0.4$, $p_{T,i} > 20$ GeV, and $|\eta_i| < 6$. Following the good agreement between parton-level and particle-level results established in Ref. [\[72\],](#page-9-17) and the good agreement between fixed-order and MINLO [\[73\]](#page-9-18) results established in Ref. [\[74\],](#page-9-19) the renormalization and factorization scales are set to $\hat{H}_T^{\prime}/2$ [\[18\]](#page-8-14).

Figure [3](#page-5-0) shows the scaling behavior of the parton-level calculation during the optimization stage. We limit the number of quarks to ≤ 6 in $W^+ + 6$, 7-jet and to ≤ 4 in $W^+ + 8$, 9-jet final states. The red line corresponds to a test of strong scaling. The number of nonzero points generated per rank and optimization step, which we denote as p/r , is inversely proportional to the number of ranks. The results deviate from the perfect scaling assumption shown by the red dotted line for fewer than $100p/r$. This is somewhat expected, as cut efficiencies tend to be nonuniform across various ranks when the number of points per rank is too low. The problem could in principle be addressed by not requesting a fixed number of nonzero phase-space points per optimization step, but by requesting a fixed number of points (zero and nonzero). However, such a procedure would not guarantee that the optimization can be carried out efficiently, because the adaptive Monte Carlo integration depends on sufficient statistics [\[61,62\].](#page-9-9) Fluctuations in the number of terms to be evaluated in the Monte Carlo integration over color [\[75,76\]](#page-9-20) also contribute to the nonuniform timing, and therefore to the breakdown of scaling when the number of points per rank is too low. In the test of weak scaling, we keep the number of points per rank a constant and instead multiply the computation

FIG. 4. Test of scaling behavior in the event-generation stage of the parton-level calculation. In the strong scaling test (red), the number of events per rank, e/r , is inversely proportional to the number of ranks. In the weak scaling test (green), the computation time is divided by the number of events.

time by the square of the Monte Carlo error. For a fixed number of nonzero points per rank, the error scales as number of nonzero points per rank, the error scales as $1/\sqrt{N}$, with N being the number of ranks. This behavior is what we observe on average, while the randomness in the Monte Carlo integration generates fluctuations around the projected timing for ideal scaling. We remark, however, that the weak scaling test is rather academic. For a calculation like $W/Z + 9$ jets, the timing of the overall Monte Carlo integration is limited by the allocated computing time. The job shape as well as the number of points per rank need to be determined such that the wall time of the calculation can be minimized.

Figure [4](#page-5-1) displays the scaling behavior of the parton-level event generation. Both the strong (red) and the weak (green) scaling tests show satisfactory performance up to 2048 cores (64 nodes) on the Cori system at NERSC $[77]$ ⁴ While the scaling behavior is much better than when requesting a fixed number of unweighted events (cf., the discussion in Sec. [III](#page-3-0)), it is not yet ideal, because the file size for event storage is determined dynamically. Optimizing the HDF5 output parameters may lead to further improvements.

Figure [5](#page-6-0) shows the scaling behavior in the particle-level event simulation with Pythia 8 [\[48\]](#page-9-0) and DIY [\[68\]](#page-9-22). Both the strong (red) and the weak (green) scaling tests show a deviation from the ideal pattern, which can be attributed to the I/O overhead. In this context it is important to note that we have set the number of events for the weak and strong scaling test to be the same at 2048 MPI ranks (64 nodes). This implies a larger I/O overhead in the weak scaling test and explains the slightly worse scaling behavior at smaller

⁴In order to speed up the writeout of events, we have made use of the Burst Buffer.

FIG. 5. Test of scaling behavior in the particle-level simulation. In the strong scaling test (red), the number of events per rank, e/r , is inversely proportional to the number of ranks. In the weak scaling test (green), the computation time is divided by the number of events.

rank numbers. It exemplifies that even for relatively complex simulations, like $Z + 6$ jets, the I/O overhead quickly begins to dominate.

Finally, in Fig. [6](#page-6-1), we show a test of our new partonlevel event-generation framework during the optimization stage on the KNL nodes of Cori Phase II at NERSC [\[77\]](#page-9-21). The memory footprint of the executable needs to be kept at a minimum for this test, in order not to exceed the 1.4 GB RAM/core available on this architecture. We have exhausted all four hyperthreads per core through MPI, which reduces the available memory per rank to 350 MB. The performance is reduced compared to a Haswell architecture by a factor of 2 to 3, depending on the jet multiplicity. Given the overall computing time needed for

FIG. 6. Performance comparison of the parton-level eventgeneration framework during the optimization stage between the KNL and Haswell architectures of Cori at NERSC [\[77\].](#page-9-21)

FIG. 7. Differential $0 \rightarrow 1$ and $8 \rightarrow 9$ k_T -jet rates in $Z +$ jets events. Colored lines represent the $Z + 0 - 9$ jet contributions in the merging.

the optimization, this presents more of an academic than a practical problem at this stage.

Figure [7](#page-6-2) shows differential jet rates in $Z +$ jets events using the k_T algorithm [\[78\].](#page-9-23) The colored lines represent the contributions from event samples of different jet multiplicity at the parton level. It is interesting to note that highmultiplicity configurations play a significant role in the $0 \rightarrow 1$ jet rate at high p_T .

Figure [8](#page-7-1) shows the jet transverse momenta for a varying maximum jet multiplicity, n_{max} , starting at the number of observed jets, N, and ranging up to $N + 3$ (if possible). As observed in Refs. [\[79,80\]](#page-9-24), the predictions for a low number of jets, N, stabilize at $n_{\text{max}} = N + 1$. It is interesting to observe that the correction to the $n_{\text{max}} = N$ sample for

FIG. 8. Jet transverse momentum distributions in W^+ + jets events. We show a comparison of multijet merged simulations where the maximum jet multiplicity, n_{max} , is set to the number of measured jets, N (red), to $N + 1$ (green), to $N + 2$ (blue), and to $N + 3$ (purple).

 $N \geq 3$ is negative at low p_T , indicating that the default parton-shower tune of Pythia 8.240 overestimates the emission rate in this configuration.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have presented a new event-generation framework, suitable for massively parallel processing of multijet merged simulations for current and future collider experiments. Making use of high-performance computing resources, we have computed the first predictions for single vector-boson production in proton-proton collisions with up to nine jets described at leading-order accuracy. This presents a significant improvement of the currently available simulations, which are capable of reaching leadingorder accuracy for only up to six jets in the final state. The results of our parton-level event-generation campaign can be obtained from Refs. [53–[55\]](#page-9-4) and can be used as an input to particle-level simulations in experimental analyses as well as phenomenology. The modified parton-level and particle-level event generators, together with wrapper scripts and setups needed to perform similar simulations, are publicly available [\[56\].](#page-9-5)

We have shown that the algorithms employed in our simulation scale as far as can reasonably be expected, given the problem size of the computation. Limitations arise during the integration stage from the limited number of phase-space points that are generated in each integration step, and in the event-generation stage from the I/O limitations of the host system. We achieve best performance with MPI parallelization on up to 2048 ranks (64 nodes) of the Cori system at NERSC [\[77\].](#page-9-21)

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