

Resummation of high order corrections in Z boson plus jet production at the LHC

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We study the multiple soft gluon radiation effects in Z -boson plus jet production at the LHC. By applying the transverse-momentum-dependent factorization formalism, the large logarithms introduced by the small total transverse momentum of the Z -boson plus leading-jet final-state system are resummed to all orders in the expansion of the strong interaction coupling at the accuracy of the next-to-leading logarithm (NLL). We also compare the prediction of our resummation calculation to the CMS data by employing a reweighting procedure to estimate the effect from imposing kinematic cuts on the leptons from Z -boson decay, and we find good agreement for both the imbalance transverse momentum and the azimuthal angle correlation of the final-state Z -boson and leading-jet system, for $pp \rightarrow Z + \text{jet}$ production at the LHC.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Z -boson and jet-associated production at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) plays an important role in our knowledge of the Standard Model (SM) and beyond. The clean and readily identifiable signature and large production rate of this process provide an opportunity to precisely measure the electroweak parameters, constrain the parton distribution functions (PDFs), and also probe the strong coupling constant α_s . In particular, it is a prominent background in searches for SM processes and physics beyond the SM at the TeV scale [1]. Therefore, a precise study of both the inclusive and differential measurements of Z -boson plus jet production is vital to testing the SM and the search for new physics (NP).

Currently, both the ATLAS and CMS Collaborations have reported the measurements of Z -boson production associated with zero, one, and two jets [2–5]. Although the experimental measurements on p_T and y of jets show very good agreement with theoretical predictions [6], a better theoretical calculation for some other observables (e.g., the total transverse momentum of the Z -boson and leading-jet

system) in regions of the phase space dominated by soft or collinear radiation is still needed to reduce the theoretical uncertainties. Both the fixed-order and resummation techniques could be used to improve the theoretical predictions. Perturbative QCD corrections to the Z -boson plus multijet production at the next-to-leading order (NLO) are widely discussed in the literature [7–14]. The NLO effects from electroweak correction to Z -boson plus multijet systems are also discussed in Refs. [15–18]. Beyond the NLO QCD calculation, the leading threshold logarithms have been included in Ref. [19]. The accuracy to the Z -boson plus one-jet production has reached the next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) in QCD interactions [20–22]. Recently, the transverse momentum effects from the initial-state partons are also discussed in Z -boson plus one-jet production [23].

In this work, we focus on improving the prediction on the kinematical distributions of the production of the Z boson plus one jet,

$$p + p \rightarrow Z(P_Z) + \text{Jet}(P_J) + X, \quad (1)$$

where P_Z and P_J are the momenta of the Z boson and leading jet, respectively. The transverse momentum resummation (q_\perp resummation) formalism is applied to the sum over the large logarithm $\ln(Q^2/q_\perp^2)$, with $Q \gg q_\perp$, to all orders in the expansion of the strong interaction coupling at the NLO and next-leading-logarithm (NLL) accuracy, where Q and q_\perp are the invariant mass and total transverse momentum of the Z -boson plus leading-jet final-state system, respectively. The q_\perp resummation technique is based on the transverse-momentum-dependent (TMD)

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factorization formalism [24,25], which has been widely discussed in the literature in the color singlet processes, such as Drell-Yan production [26]. Extending the q_\perp resummation formalism to processes with more complex color structure has been discussed recently; e.g., heavy quark pair production [27–29] and processes involving multijets in the final state [30–36]. Here we will use the TMD resummation formalism presented in Refs. [30,32] to discuss the kinematical distributions of the Z boson plus one jet. To properly describe the jet in the final state, we should modify q_\perp resummation formalism to include the soft gluon radiation from the final state; see a detailed discussion in Refs. [30–36]. In short, we should resum the large logarithm $\ln(Q^2/q_\perp^2)$ when there is soft gluon radiation outside the observed final-state jet cone.

II. TMD RESUMMATION

Our TMD resummation formula can be written as [31]

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d^5\sigma}{dy_Z dy_J dP_{J\perp}^2 d^2\vec{q}_\perp} \\ &= \sum_{ab} \left[\int \frac{d^2\vec{b}_\perp}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-i\vec{q}_\perp \cdot \vec{b}_\perp} W_{ab \rightarrow ZJ}(x_1, x_2, b_\perp) + Y_{ab \rightarrow ZJ} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where y_Z and y_J denote the rapidity of the Z boson and the leading jet; $P_{J\perp}$ ($P_{Z\perp}$) and $\vec{q}_\perp = \vec{P}_{Z\perp} + \vec{P}_{J\perp}$ are the leading-jet (Z -boson) transverse momentum and the imbalance transverse momentum of the Z boson and the jet system. The first term ($W_{ab \rightarrow ZJ}$) contains the all-order resummation effect, and the second term ($Y_{ab \rightarrow ZJ}$) accounts for the difference between the fixed-order result and the so-called asymptotic result, which is given by expanding the resummation result to the same order in α_s as the fixed-order term. x_1 and x_2 are the momentum fractions of the incoming hadrons carried by the two incoming partons,

$$x_{1,2} = \frac{\sqrt{m_Z^2 + P_{Z\perp}^2} e^{\pm y_Z} + \sqrt{P_{J\perp}^2} e^{\pm y_J}}{\sqrt{S}}, \quad (3)$$

where m_Z and S are the Z -boson mass and squared collider energy, respectively. The all-order resummation result $W_{ab \rightarrow ZJ}$ can be further written as

$$\begin{aligned} & W_{ab \rightarrow ZJ}(x_1, x_2, b) \\ &= x_1 f_a(x_1, \mu_F = b_0/b_\perp) x_2 f_b(x_2, \mu_F = b_0/b_\perp) \\ & \times H_{ab \rightarrow ZJ}(s, \mu_{\text{res}}, \mu_R) e^{-S_{\text{Sud}}(s, \mu_{\text{res}}, b_\perp)} e^{-\mathcal{F}_{\text{NP}}}, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where $s = x_1 x_2 S$, $b_0 = 2e^{-\gamma_E}$, with γ_E being the Euler constant, and μ_{res} is the resummation scale to apply the TMD factorization in the resummation calculation. μ_{res} is also the scale to define the TMDs in the Collins 2011

scheme [37]. μ_R is the renormalization scale. $f_{a,b}(x, \mu_F)$ are the PDFs for the incoming partons a and b , μ_F is the factorization scale of the PDFs, and $b_\perp = b/\sqrt{1+b^2/b_{\text{max}}^2}$ with $b_{\text{max}} = 1.5 \text{ GeV}^{-1}$, which is introduced to factor out the nonperturbative contribution $e^{\mathcal{F}_{\text{NP}}}$, arising from the large- b region (with $b \gg b_\perp$) [38–41]:

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{NP}}(Q^2, \mathbf{b}) = g_1 b^2 + g_2 \ln \frac{Q}{Q_0} \ln \frac{b}{b_\perp}, \quad (5)$$

where $g_1 = 0.21$, $g_2 = 0.84$, and $Q_0^2 = 2.4 \text{ GeV}^2$ [41].

The Sudakov form factor can be expressed as

$$S_{\text{Sud}} = \int_{b_0^2/b_\perp^2}^{\mu_{\text{res}}^2} \frac{d\mu^2}{\mu^2} \left[\ln \left(\frac{s}{\mu^2} \right) A + B_1 + B_2 + D \ln \frac{1}{R^2} \right], \quad (6)$$

where R denotes the jet cone size of the final-state jet. The coefficients A , $B_{1,2}$, and D can be expanded perturbatively in α_s , which is $g_s^2/(4\pi)$:

$$A/B_{1,2}/D = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^n A^{(n)}/B_{1,2}^{(n)}/D^{(n)}. \quad (7)$$

For the $q\bar{q} \rightarrow Zg$ channel, we have

$$\begin{aligned} A^{(1)} &= C_F, & A^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{2} C_F K, & B_1^{(1)} &= -\frac{3}{2} C_F, \\ B_2^{(1)} &= 0, & D^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{2} C_A. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

For the $gq \rightarrow Zq$ channel, we have

$$\begin{aligned} A^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{2} (C_F + C_A), & A^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{C_F + C_A}{2} K, \\ B_1^{(1)} &= \left(-C_A \beta_0 - \frac{3}{4} C_F \right), & B_2^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{2} (C_F - C_A) \ln \left(\frac{u}{t} \right), \\ D^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{2} C_F, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where $C_F = \frac{4}{3}$, $C_A = 3$, and $K = \frac{67}{18} - \frac{\pi^2}{6} C_A - \frac{5}{9} N_f$; $\beta_0 = (11 - 2/3 N_f)/12$, with $N_f = 5$ being the number of effective light quarks. Here $t = (P_a - P_Z)^2$ and $u = (P_a - P_J)^2$ with the incoming parton momentum P_a . They are the usual Mandelstam variables for the partonic $2 \rightarrow 2$ process. The coefficients A and B_1 come from the energy evolution effect in the TMD PDFs [42], so that they only depend on the flavor of the incoming partons and are independent of the scattering processes. The coefficient B_2 describes the soft gluon interaction between initial and final states. The factor D quantifies the effect of soft gluon radiation which goes outside the jet cone, hence it depends on the jet cone size R . Furthermore, the narrow jet approximation [43,44] is applied to simplify the calculation,

and we only keep the term proportional to $\ln(1/R^2)$. In our numerical calculation, the $A^{(2)}$ terms will also be included in our analysis, since it is associated with the incoming parton distribution and universal for all processes [45].

By applying the TMD factorization with the Collins 2011 scheme, we obtain the hard factor $H_{q\bar{q}\rightarrow Zg}$ in Eq. (4), at the one-loop order, as

$$\begin{aligned}
H_{q\bar{q}\rightarrow Zg}^{(1)} = & H_{q\bar{q}\rightarrow Zg}^{(0)} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \left\{ \left[-2\beta_0 \ln\left(\frac{R^2 P_J^2}{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{R^2 P_J^2}{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}\right) + \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{m_Z^2}{m_Z^2 - t}\right) + \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{m_Z^2}{m_Z^2 - u}\right) \right. \right. \\
& - \ln\left(\frac{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}{m_Z^2}\right) \ln\left(\frac{sm_Z^2}{tu}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}{m_Z^2}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{s}{m_Z^2}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{tu}{m_Z^4}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{t}{m_Z^2}\right) \ln\left(\frac{u}{m_Z^2}\right) \\
& + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{m_Z^2 - t}{m_Z^2}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{m_Z^2 - u}{m_Z^2}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{1}{R^2}\right) - \frac{2\pi^2}{3} + \frac{67}{9} - \frac{23N_f}{54} \left. \right] C_A + 6\beta_0 \ln\frac{\mu_R^2}{\mu_{\text{res}}^2} \\
& + \left. \left[2 \ln\left(\frac{s}{m_Z^2}\right) \ln\left(\frac{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}{m_Z^2}\right) - \ln^2\left(\frac{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}{m_Z^2}\right) - 3 \ln\left(\frac{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}{m_Z^2}\right) - \ln^2\left(\frac{s}{m_Z^2}\right) + \pi^2 - 8 \right] C_F \right\} + \delta H_{q\bar{q}\rightarrow Zg}^{(1)}. \quad (10)
\end{aligned}$$

The leading-order matrix element for $q\bar{q} \rightarrow Zg$ is

$$H_{q\bar{q}\rightarrow Zg}^{(0)} = \frac{8\pi}{3} \alpha_s C_F (g_V^2 + g_A^2) \left[\frac{u}{t} + \frac{t}{u} + \frac{2m_Z^2(m_Z^2 - u - t)}{tu} \right]. \quad (11)$$

The vector and axial-vector gauge couplings between the Z -boson and quarks are

$$g_V = \frac{g_W}{2 \cos \theta_W} (\tau_3^q - 2Q_q \sin^2 \theta_W), \quad g_A = \frac{g_W}{2 \cos \theta_W} \tau_3^q, \quad (12)$$

where g_W and θ_W are the weak gauge coupling and weak mixing angle, respectively. τ_3^q is the third component of the quark weak isospin, and Q_q is the electric charge of the quark. $\delta H^{(1)}$ represents terms which are not proportional to $H^{(0)}$ and can be found in Ref. [7]. Similarly, for the subprocess $g + q \rightarrow Z + q$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
H_{qg\rightarrow Zq}^{(1)} = & H_{qg\rightarrow Zq}^{(0)} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \left\{ \left[-\frac{3}{2} \ln\left(\frac{R^2 P_J^2}{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{R^2 P_J^2}{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}\right) + 2 \ln\left(\frac{u}{m_Z^2}\right) \ln\left(\frac{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}{m_Z^2}\right) \right. \right. \\
& - \ln^2\left(\frac{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}{m_Z^2}\right) - 3 \ln\left(\frac{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}{m_Z^2}\right) - \ln^2\left(\frac{u}{m_Z^2}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{1}{R^2}\right) - \frac{2\pi^2}{3} - \frac{3}{2} \left. \right] C_F + 6\beta_0 \ln\frac{\mu_R^2}{\mu_{\text{res}}^2} \\
& + \left[-\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{m_Z^2}{s}\right) + \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{m_Z^2}{m_Z^2 - t}\right) - \ln\left(\frac{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}{m_Z^2}\right) \ln\left(\frac{um_Z^2}{st}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{\mu_{\text{res}}^2}{m_Z^2}\right) \right. \\
& - \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{st}{m_Z^4}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{s}{m_Z^2}\right) \ln\left(\frac{t}{m_Z^2}\right) - \ln\left(\frac{s}{m_Z^2}\right) \ln\left(\frac{t}{m_Z^2 - s}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{s}{m_Z^2}\right) \\
& \left. + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{m_Z^2 - t}{m_Z^2}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2\left(\frac{u}{m_Z^2}\right) + \frac{\pi^2}{2} \right] C_A \left. \right\} + \delta H_{qg\rightarrow Zq}^{(1)}, \quad (13)
\end{aligned}$$

where the leading-order matrix element is

$$H_{qg\rightarrow Zq}^{(0)} = -\pi \alpha_s C_F (g_V^2 + g_A^2) \left[\frac{s}{t} + \frac{t}{s} + \frac{2m_Z^2(m_Z^2 - s - t)}{ts} \right]. \quad (14)$$

We should note that the nonglobal logarithms (NGLs) could also contribute to this process. The NGLs arise from some special kinematics of two soft

gluon radiations, in which the first one is radiated outside of the jet, which subsequently radiates a second gluon into the jet [46–49]. Recently, the NGLs' effects were studied in Ref. [50] in the framework of soft-collinear effective theory, and it shows that their contributions are negligible when $P_{J\perp} > 30 \text{ GeV}$. Therefore, we will not consider the NGLs in the following numerical calculations. The additional resummation effect of $\ln R$ is beyond the scope of this paper and has also been discussed in Ref. [50].

III. Z-BOSON PLUS JET PRODUCTION AT THE LHC

We apply the resummation formula of Eq. (2) to calculate the differential and total cross sections of the Z-boson production associated with a high-energy jet. The anti- k_r jet algorithm with jet cone size $R = 0.4$ will be used to define the observed jet as discussed in Refs. [32,44].

Before we present our numeric results, we would like to comment on the cross-check of our resummation method. We perform the fixed-order expansion of the integral of Eq. (2) to obtain the total cross section and compare it with the fixed-order prediction. The Y term is vanishing when q_\perp goes to zero in the resummation framework; thus, the cross section in the small- q_\perp region (from $q_\perp = 0$ to a small value $q_{\perp,0}$, about 1 GeV) can be obtained by integrating the distribution of the asymptotic part and the one-loop virtual diagram contribution. The cross section in the large- q_\perp region ($q_\perp > q_{\perp,0}$) is infrared safe and can be numerically calculated directly. Thus, the total cross section can be written as [51]

$$\sigma_{\text{NLO}} = \int_0^{q_{\perp,0}^2} dq_\perp^2 \frac{d\sigma_{\text{NLO}}^{\text{virtual+real}}}{dq_\perp^2} + \int_{q_{\perp,0}^2}^\infty dq_\perp^2 \frac{d\sigma_{\text{NLO}}^{\text{real}}}{dq_\perp^2}.$$

Numerically, we find that the above procedure reproduces the NLO cross sections from MCFM [52] with slight differences, ranging from 2% for $R = 0.4$ to 0.2% for $R = 0.2$. Clearly, this discrepancy arises from the narrow jet approximation made in our derivations. Following the procedure of Ref. [33], we parametrize this difference as a function of R : $H^{(0)} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} (0.74R - 6.44R^2)$ for the range of $0.2 < R < 0.6$, which will be considered as part of our NLO contribution $H^{(1)}$.

Recently, the CMS Collaboration has reported the measurement of the q_\perp spectrum of Z-boson plus jet

production at the 13 TeV LHC [5]. Since the experimental measurement was done with certain kinematic cuts imposed on the final-state leptons, its result cannot be directly compared to the current theory prediction, which is for an on-shell Z-boson production associated with one or more high- $P_{J\perp}$ jets. In order to compare to these data, we need to estimate the effect of those kinematic cuts to our theory prediction. This estimation can be done by employing a reweighting procedure based on the PYTHIA8 simulations. For example, the differential cross section of the imbalance transverse momentum of the Z-boson and leading-jet system (q_\perp), after imposing the kinematic cuts on the decay leptons of the Z boson, can be written as

$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{dq_\perp} \right|_{\text{decay}} = \left. \frac{d\sigma}{dq_\perp} \right|_{\text{stable,Z}} \times \kappa(m_{\ell^+\ell^-}, y_{\ell^+\ell^-}, p_T^{\ell^+\ell^-}), \quad (15)$$

where $\kappa(m_{\ell^+\ell^-}, p_T^{\ell^+\ell^-}, y_{\ell^+\ell^-})$ is the reweighting factor, which depends on the lepton-pair invariant mass ($m_{\ell^+\ell^-}$), transverse momentum ($p_T^{\ell^+\ell^-}$), and rapidity ($y_{\ell^+\ell^-}$). $d\sigma/dq_\perp|_{\text{stable,Z}}$ is the differential cross section with stable Z-boson production. Figure 1 shows the normalized $m_{\ell^+\ell^-}$, $p_T^{\ell^+\ell^-}$, and $y_{\ell^+\ell^-}$ distributions at the $\sqrt{S} = 13$ TeV, with $|y_J| < 2.4$ and $P_{J\perp} > 30$ GeV, as predicted by the Monte Carlo event generator PYTHIA8 [53]. The blue solid lines show the distributions after we impose the following kinematic cuts on the leptons (labeled as “with cut”) [5]:

$$71 \text{ GeV} < m_{\ell^+\ell^-} < 111 \text{ GeV}, \\ p_T^{\ell^\pm} > 20 \text{ GeV}, \quad \text{and} \quad |\eta_{\ell^\pm}| < 2.4. \quad (16)$$

The red dashed lines show the prediction of $pp \rightarrow \gamma^*/Z(\rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-) + \text{jet}$ without the above kinematic cuts imposed on the Z-decay leptons (labeled as “no cut”), while the black dotted lines show the prediction with stable Z-boson

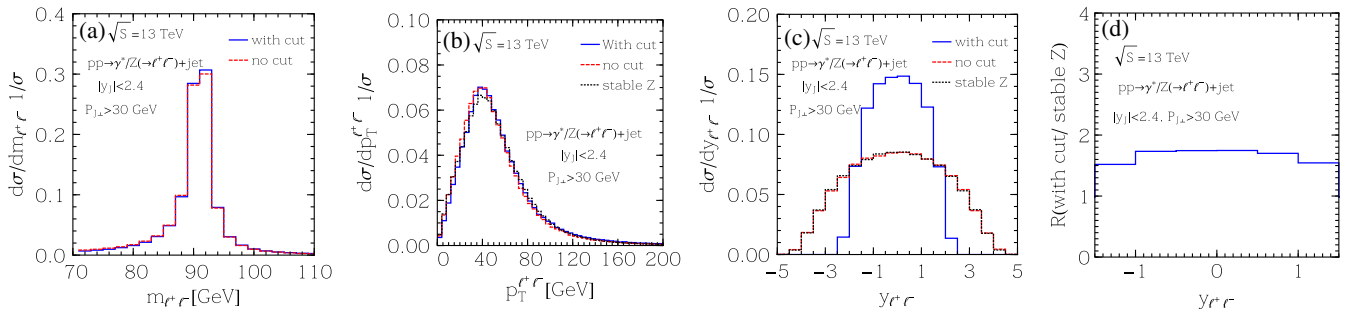


FIG. 1. Comparison of normalized differential distributions of the (a) invariant mass, (b) transverse momentum, and (c) rapidity of the lepton pairs predicted by PYTHIA8 for the Z-boson plus jet production at the $\sqrt{S} = 13$ TeV LHC with $|y_J| < 2.4$ and $P_{J\perp} > 30$ GeV. The blue solid lines show the distributions with the kinematic cuts imposed on the leptons, as done in the CMS measurement [5], which are $71 \text{ GeV} < m_{\ell^+\ell^-} < 111 \text{ GeV}$, $p_T^{\ell^\pm} > 20 \text{ GeV}$, and $|\eta_{\ell^\pm}| < 2.4$. The red dashed lines show the predictions without imposing the kinematic cuts on the decay leptons. The black dotted lines show the predictions for a stable Z-boson production; hence, $p_T^{\ell^+\ell^-} \equiv p_T^Z$ and $y_{\ell^+\ell^-} \equiv y_Z$. (d) The ratio of normalized rapidity distribution between cases with kinematic cuts [blue solid line in (c)] and with a stable Z boson [black dashed line in (c)].

production (labeled as “stable Z ”). It is clear that the normalized distributions of $m_{\ell^+\ell^-}$ and $p_T^{\ell^+\ell^-}$ are not sensitive to the imposed lepton kinematic cuts. On the contrary, the kinematic cuts on the decay leptons significantly modified the shape of the rapidity distribution of the lepton pairs, cf. Fig. 1(c). Therefore, to a very good approximation, we can assume that the reweighting factor κ only depends on the value of $y_{\ell^+\ell^-}$, i.e.,

$$\kappa(m_{\ell^+\ell^-}, p_T^{\ell^+\ell^-}, y_{\ell^+\ell^-}) \simeq \kappa(y_{\ell^+\ell^-}). \quad (17)$$

The kinematic cuts imposed on the leptons, as in Eq. (16), will constrain the allowed rapidity range of the lepton pair, and approximately $|y_{\ell^+\ell^-}| < 1.5$. Figure 1(d) shows the ratio of normalized rapidity distribution between cases with kinematic cuts and with a stable Z -boson prediction in Fig. 1(c). It is clear that $\kappa(y_{\ell^+\ell^-})$ does not strongly depend on $y_{\ell^+\ell^-}$ for $|y_Z| < 1.5$; we could approximate a constant reweighting factor to describe the effect of the kinematic cuts on the Z -decay leptons; i.e.,

$$\kappa(y_{\ell^+\ell^-}) \simeq \kappa. \quad (18)$$

Although κ is estimated based on a LO prediction given by the PYTHIA8 event generator, the theoretical uncertainties from higher-order corrections are not significant [6]. Therefore, under this approximation, we have

$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{dq_\perp} \right|_{\text{decay}} \simeq \kappa \times \left(\left. \frac{d\sigma}{dq_\perp} \right|_{\text{stable}, Z} \right), \quad \text{for } |y_{\ell^+\ell^-}| < 1.5, \quad (19)$$

with the kinematic cuts imposed in the CMS measurement [5]. For the normalized distribution, the κ dependence would be canceled out and yield the following relations:

$$\left. \frac{d\sigma}{\sigma dq_\perp} \right|_{\text{decay}} \simeq \left(\left. \frac{d\sigma}{\sigma dq_\perp} \right|_{\text{stable}, Z} \right), \quad \text{for } |y_{\ell^+\ell^-}| < 1.5. \quad (20)$$

This approximation is expected to hold well, better than the theoretical uncertainty of the normalized q_\perp differential cross section which is at the order of 10%, cf. Fig. 2. Hence, the small correction arising from taking into account the full rapidity dependence of the reweighting factor can be ignored in this study.

We calculate the normalized q_\perp distribution of Z -boson plus one-jet production at the $\sqrt{S} = 13$ TeV LHC with CT14 NNLO PDF [54], after imposing the kinematic cuts with $|y_J| < 2.4$ and $P_{J\perp} > 30$ GeV, and the results are shown in Fig. 2(a). We fix the resummation scale $\mu_{\text{res}} = P_{J\perp}$, while the renormalization scale μ_R is taken to be $H_T = \sqrt{m_Z^2 + P_{J\perp}^2}$. The factorization scale μ_F of the Y term is also taken to be H_T . We estimate the scale uncertainties in our calculation by simultaneously varying the scales μ_R and μ_F by a factor of 2 around the central value H_T in a correlated way. The blue and red bands

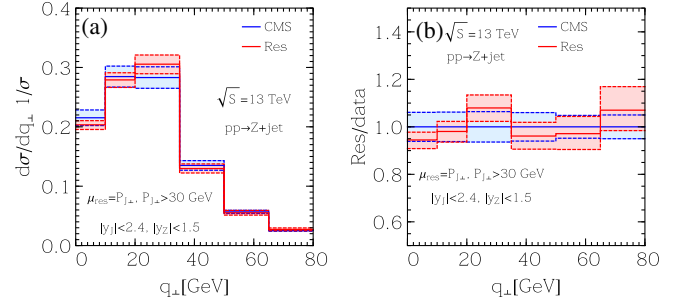


FIG. 2. (a) The normalized q_\perp distribution of the Z -boson plus one-jet system, produced at the $\sqrt{S} = 13$ TeV LHC with $|y_J| < 2.4$ and $P_{J\perp} > 30$ GeV. The blue and red bands represent the CMS experimental uncertainty [5] and the resummation calculation (Res) scale uncertainty, respectively. (b) The ratio of resummation prediction to CMS data as a function of q_\perp .

represent the experimental uncertainty and scale uncertainty, respectively. In Fig. 2(b), we compare the predictions from our resummation calculation to the CMS data by taking the ratio of their q_\perp differential distributions. It is clear that our resummation calculations agree well with the experimental data. We also show the comparison between resummation calculation and NLO prediction in Fig. 3(a). It is clear that there is a large deviation between NLO and resummation calculation in the small- q_\perp region.

The azimuthal angle (ϕ) between the final-state jet and Z boson measured in the laboratory frame is related to the q_\perp distribution and is thus sensitive to the soft gluon radiation. The advantage of studying the ϕ distribution is that it only depends on the moving directions of the final-state jet and Z boson. This observable was measured by the CMS Collaboration at the 7 and 8 TeV LHC [3,55]. In Figs. 4 and 5, we compare the normalized ϕ angle distribution at the 7 TeV and 8 TeV LHC, respectively. Similar to the q_\perp spectrum, the predictions of our resummation calculation agree well with the CMS data. The comparison between NLO and resummation calculation is shown in Fig. 3(b).

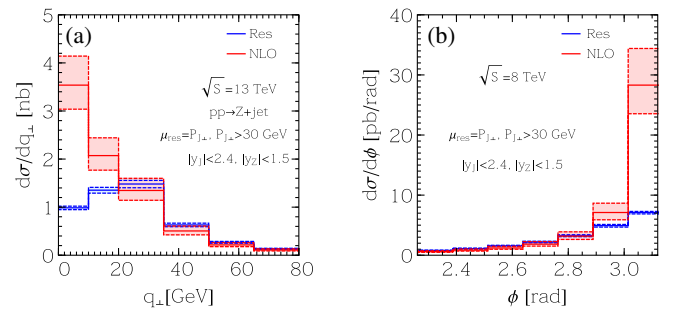


FIG. 3. The (a) q_\perp and (b) ϕ distributions from resummation calculation (blue band) and NLO prediction (red band) at the $\sqrt{S} = 13$ TeV and $\sqrt{S} = 8$ TeV LHC, with $|y_J| < 2.4$ and $P_{J\perp} > 30$ GeV, respectively.

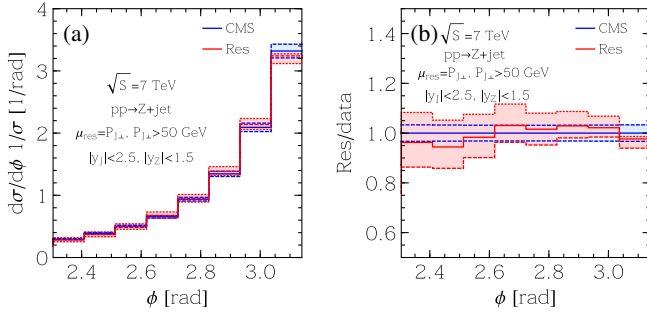


FIG. 4. (a) The normalized distribution of ϕ , the azimuthal angle between the final state jet and Z boson measured in the laboratory frame, for $pp \rightarrow Z + \text{jet}$ production at the $\sqrt{S} = 7$ TeV LHC with $|y_J| < 2.5$, $|y_Z| < 1.5$ and $P_{J\perp} > 50$ GeV. The blue and red bands represent the CMS experimental uncertainty [55] and the resummation calculation (Res) scale uncertainty, respectively. (b) The ratio of resummation prediction to CMS data as a function of ϕ .

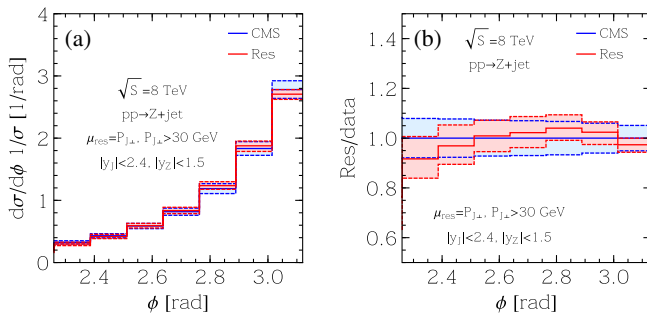


FIG. 5. Same as Fig. 4, but for the 8 TeV LHC [3].

IV. SUMMARY

In summary, we have applied the TMD resummation formalism to study the production of the Z boson

associated with a high-energy jet at the LHC, where large logarithms of $\ln(Q^2/q_\perp^2)$ were resummed to all orders at the NLL accuracy. We also calculate the NLO total cross section based on the resummation framework, and the result is slightly different from the MCFM prediction due to the usage of narrow jet approximation in our resummation calculation. To ensure the correct NLO total cross section, we have added an additional term proportional to $H^{(0)}$ to account for the above difference in our resummation calculation. To compare the prediction of our resummation calculation (for an on-shell Z boson) to the CMS experimental data (with kinematic cuts imposed on Z -decay leptons), we approximate the effect of imposing kinematic cuts on the Z -decay leptons by employing a reweighting procedure based on the result of PYTHIA8 prediction. It shows that we could use a constant reweighting factor to describe the effects of the kinematic cuts imposed on the Z -decay leptons. A detailed comparison between our resummation calculation and the CMS data is also discussed. We find that our resummation calculation can describe well the CMS data, both in the distributions of the imbalance transverse momentum (q_\perp) and the azimuthal angle (ϕ) correlation of the Z -boson and jet system, for $pp \rightarrow Z + \text{jet}$ production at the LHC.

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