

Matching NNLO predictions to parton showers using N³LL color-singlet transverse momentum resummation in GENEVA

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We extend the GENEVA Monte Carlo framework using the transverse momentum of a color-singlet system as the resolution variable. This allows us to use next-to-next-to-next-to-leading-logarithm (N³LL) resummation via the RADISH formalism to obtain precise predictions for any color-singlet production process at the fully exclusive level. Thanks to the implementation of two different resolution variables within the GENEVA framework, we are able to assess the impact of such a choice on differential observables for the first time. As a first application, we present predictions for Drell-Yan lepton-pair production at next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) in QCD interfaced to a parton shower simulation that includes additional all-order radiative corrections. We provide fully showered and hadronized events using PYTHIA8, while retaining the NNLO QCD accuracy for observables which are inclusive over the additional radiation. We also show that it is possible to obtain a numerically good agreement between showered GENEVA predictions and the N³LL resummation for the transverse momentum spectrum by choosing a more local recoil scheme. We compare our final predictions to LHC data at 13 TeV, finding good agreement across several distributions.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The rich and vast physics program at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) has delivered an outstanding amount of data so far. Thanks to these impressive performances, particle physics has entered an era where high precision is ubiquitous. With the forthcoming start of the Run 3 and the future upgrade to the High-Luminosity LHC, the

amount of data that will be collected will increase significantly. This ground-breaking machine will thus be able to detect extremely rare phenomena and further improve the precision of measurements.

Theoretical predictions of the Standard Model processes are one of the most fundamental ingredients for the interpretation of collider data. The vast majority of experimental analyses rely on theoretical predictions in the form of perturbative calculations at parton level or in combination with parton showers (PSs) in fully exclusive Monte Carlo (MC) event generators. The advantage of MC event generators is the ability to produce hadron-level events that can be directly interfaced to detector simulations.

In order to completely exploit the precision of present and future experimental data, it becomes therefore mandatory to refine MC event generators including the state-of-the-art corrections available. For this reason, in recent years there has been increasing interest in obtaining theoretical predictions where fixed-order predictions at next-to-next-to-leading-order (NNLO) accuracy are consistently matched with PS simulations. There are currently four available methods which can reach NNLO + PS accuracy

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[1–7], which have been initially applied to $2 \rightarrow 1$ processes such as Higgs [1,5] and Drell-Yan (DY) [3,4,8] production. The number of applications at hadron colliders has been rapidly growing in the last few years, and the methods have been extended to more complex processes such as Higgsstrahlung [9–11], hadronic Higgs boson decays [12,13], W^+W^- [14], diphoton [15], $Z\gamma$ [16], and $t\bar{t}$ production [17].

In this paper, we focus on the GENEVA framework, which has been developed in Refs. [2,3,18,19]. This method attains NNLO + PS accuracy by combining fixed-order predictions at NNLO accuracy with the higher-order resummation of an N -jet resolution variable and matching the ensuing predictions with the PS. The N -jet resolution variable partitions the phase space into regions with a different number of resolved emissions in the final state, such that infrared (IR) divergent final states with M partons are translated into finite final states with N -partonic jets (where $M \geq N$). This ensures that the IR divergences cancel on an event-by-event basis yielding physical and IR-finite events.

Although the GENEVA method is completely general to the point that several different resolution variables can be used, so far the only practical implementations employed N -jettiness \mathcal{T}_N [20] to achieve the separation between the N - and $(N+1)$ -jet events. Nonetheless, any other resolution variable which can be resummed at high enough accuracy can be used. In this paper, we extend the GENEVA method using the transverse momentum q_\perp of a color-singlet system as a 0-jet separation variable. The choice of this variable is principally dictated by the availability of higher-order resummation up to the next-to-next-to-next-to-leading logarithm (N^3LL) and by the extreme precision at which it is measured by the LHC experiments for different processes. However, the peculiar vectorial nature of this observable deserves further comment, especially in view of its usage as 0-jet resolution. Indeed, at variance with N -jettiness, it does not completely single out the soft and collinear limits when $q_\perp \rightarrow 0$. The reason is that there are two competing mechanisms which can drive q_\perp to small values: The first is the usual ensemble of soft and/or collinear partonic emissions with $k_{\perp,i} \simeq 0$ recoiling against the produced color singlet; the second proceeds instead through a combination of two or more relatively hard emissions balancing each other, such that the resulting vectorial sum of their $\vec{k}_{t,i}$ is zero. It happens that the latter mechanism is the one that dominates at small q_\perp and is responsible for the behavior of the differential cross section in the small q_\perp limit: Indeed, in the low q_\perp region the spectrum vanishes as $d\sigma/dq_\perp \sim q_\perp$ instead of vanishing exponentially as the Sudakov suppression of the first mechanism would suggest [21].

The presence of these two competing mechanisms seems to prevent the usage of q_\perp as a 0-jet resolution observable. However, both effects which lead to a vanishing q_\perp are

properly included in the 0-jet cross section by performing the resummation of q_\perp in the Fourier-conjugate impact-parameter space [22]. The problem of resummation in direct space is more delicate, and only recently was it shown that it is possible to directly resum the transverse momentum spectrum in direct space without spoiling the scaling at low q_\perp [23,24]. This problem was also addressed in Ref. [25] within a soft-collinear effective theory (SCET) approach, where the renormalization-group evolution is solved directly in momentum space. The remaining non-singular contribution stemming from two or more relatively hard emissions resulting in a system with small q_\perp is strongly suppressed and can be neglected. As a result, it is possible to use q_\perp as a proper 0-jet resolution variable. In particular, in this work we consider the RADISH approach of Refs. [23,24], which allows us to resum the transverse momentum spectrum at N^3LL .

Here we focus on neutral DY production at the LHC ($pp \rightarrow Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell^+\ell^-$) as a case study, but this approach can immediately be applied also to the charged current case and to other color-singlet processes. Differential distributions of electroweak gauge bosons play a paramount role in the precision program at the LHC. These observables are measured at the level of their leptonic decays and are typically characterized by particularly small experimental uncertainties, which can reach the few per mille level in neutral DY production [26–41]. This further motivates the inclusion of higher-order calculations in MC event generators for this process.

On the theory side, fixed-order predictions for neutral DY production have been known at NNLO accuracy for quite some time at the inclusive [42–50] and at the differential level [51–56]. Because of the outstanding precision of the experimental data, the theoretical calculations are currently being pushed at next-to-next-to-next-to-leading order (N^3LO), and the inclusive cross section for lepton-pair production through a virtual photon has been recently calculated at this accuracy in Ref. [57]. Electroweak (EW) corrections for this process are known [58–66]. The computation of mixed QCD-EW corrections is an active area of research [67–72], and they were recently computed for the production of an on-shell Z boson and its decay to massless charged leptons has become available [73].

In this work, we improve the fully differential NNLO calculation with the N^3LL resummation for the transverse momentum, and we subsequently shower and hadronize the events with PYTHIA8 [74], while maintaining NNLO accuracy for the underlying process and a numerically good agreement with the resummed q_\perp spectrum. We compare our predictions with recent data collected at the LHC by the ATLAS [40] and CMS [41] Collaborations at a center-of-mass energy of 13 TeV.

The manuscript is organized as follows: In Sec. II we introduce the theoretical framework; we first review the GENEVA method by discussing its extension to a different

0-jet resolution variable and recap the resummation of the transverse momentum within the RADISH formalism. In Sec. III, we discuss the details of the implementation and present the validation of our results by performing comparisons against fixed-order predictions at NNLO. We also study the differences with respect to the original GENEVA implementation of Refs. [3,19], which uses the beam thrust as the 0-jet resolution variable. We then compare our predictions with the experimental data in Sec. IV and finally draw our conclusions in Sec. V.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this section, we briefly review the theoretical framework used in this work. We start by providing a short description of the GENEVA method, focusing especially on the separation between 0- and 1-jet events. This is particularly relevant in our case due to the change in the 0-jet resolution variable. We then discuss the resummation of the transverse momentum spectrum in direct space using the RADISH formalism.

A. The GENEVA method

The GENEVA method is based on the definition of physical and IR-finite events at a given perturbative accuracy, with the condition that IR singularities cancel on an event-by-event basis. This is achieved by mapping IR-divergent final states with M partons into IR-finite final states with N jets, with $M \geq N$. Events are classified according to the value of N -jet resolution variables r_N which partition the phase space into different regions according to the number of resolved emissions. In particular, the GENEVA Monte Carlo cross section $d\sigma_N^{\text{MC}}$ receives contributions from both N -parton events and M -parton events where the additional emission(s) are below the resolution cut r_N^{cut} used to separate resolved and unresolved emissions. The unphysical dependence on the boundaries of this partitioning procedure is removed by requiring that the resolution parameters are resummed at high enough accuracy. Considering events with up to two resolved emissions necessary to achieve NNLO accuracy for color-singlet production, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_0 \text{ events: } & \frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}), \\ \Phi_1 \text{ events: } & \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, r_1^{\text{cut}}), \\ \Phi_2 \text{ events: } & \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 2}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_2}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, r_1 > r_1^{\text{cut}}), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where by using the notation $r_N > r_N^{\text{cut}}$ we indicate that the events are differential in the N -jet resolution variable, while with the notation r_N^{cut} , we indicate that the MC cross section contains events in which the resolution variable has been

integrated up to the resolution cut. As mentioned in the Introduction, the definition of the partonic jet bins is based on the definition of a suitable phase-space mapping $\Phi_N(\Phi_M)$, where N and M denote the number of jets and partons, respectively. This ensures the finiteness of the $d\sigma_N^{\text{MC}}$ cross section; however, they must not be mistaken for the jet bins commonly used in experimental analyses, which instead define jets according to a particular jet algorithm.¹

Defining the events as in Eq. (1), the cross section for a generic observable X is

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(X) = & \int d\Phi_0 \frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) M_X(\Phi_0) \\ & + \int d\Phi_1 \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, r_1^{\text{cut}}) M_X(\Phi_1) \\ & + \int d\Phi_2 \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 2}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_2}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, r_1 > r_1^{\text{cut}}) M_X(\Phi_2), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where by $M_X(\Phi_N)$ we indicate the measurement function used to compute the observable X for the N -jet final state Φ_N . We stress that the expression $\sigma(X)$ is not exactly equivalent to the result of a fixed-order calculation at NNLO accuracy, as for unresolved emissions the observable is calculated on the projected phase space $\Phi_N(\Phi_M)$ rather than on Φ_M . However, the difference is of non-singular nature and vanishes in the limit $r_N^{\text{cut}} \rightarrow 0$. The value of the resolution cut r_N^{cut} should therefore be chosen as small as possible. In this limit, the result contains large logarithms of the resolution variable r_N (and of r_N^{cut}), which one should resum to all orders in perturbation theory to yield meaningful results.

Let us start by discussing the separation between the 0-jet and the 1-jet regimes and the associated resummation of the 0-jet resolution variable. The expressions for the MC cross sections in the exclusive 0-jet bin and in the inclusive 1-jet bin are

$$\frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) = \frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) + \frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{nons}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) \quad (3)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 1}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}) = & \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 1}^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_1 dr_0} \mathcal{P}(\Phi_1) \theta(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}) \\ & + \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 1}^{\text{nons}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

respectively. The label ‘‘res’’ stands for ‘‘resummed’’ and the nonsingular contributions labeled ‘‘nons’’ must only contain terms which are nonsingular in the $r_0 \rightarrow 0$ limit. When

¹In principle, nothing prevents the usage of a resolution variable based on a standard jet algorithm to define the GENEVA jet bins, e.g., $p_{T,\text{jet}}$, if not for the lack of the corresponding higher-order logarithmic resummation.

working at NNLO accuracy, to ensure that the second contribution on the right-hand side of Eqs. (3) and (4) is genuinely nonsingular, the resummed contribution must include all the terms singular in the resolution variable r_0 at order α_s^2 ; i.e., it should be evaluated at least at NNLL' accuracy. In the context of hadron collider processes, the GENEVA implementations have so far only employed the beam thrust T_0 as 0-jet resolution variable, whose resummation was performed at NNLL' in SCET. In this work, we extend the GENEVA framework to use the transverse momentum of the color-singlet q_\perp as 0-jet resolution parameter, which we resum at N³LL accuracy; see Sec. II B. It is worth emphasizing again that when one chooses q_\perp as the 0-jet resolution, one is not only singling out configurations without any hard emission, as there exist configurations with two or more partons with transverse momenta balancing each other such that the vectorial sum of their k_\perp is small. These contributions are included by the resummation in $\frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_0}(q_\perp^{\text{cut}})$, but they are only described in the soft and/or collinear approximation, missing power-suppressed nonsingular corrections which are progressively important at increasing values of k_\perp . However, as long as one keeps q_\perp^{cut} sufficiently small, the chance of obtaining a small vectorial sum from larger and larger individual transverse momenta is heavily suppressed, and therefore, the contribution to this region stemming from hard jets can be safely neglected. In Sec. III B, we will discuss the value of q_\perp^{cut} necessary to make the power-suppressed terms sufficiently small that they may be neglected.

In order to make the r_0 spectrum fully differential in the Φ_1 phase space, Eq. (4) contains a splitting function $\mathcal{P}(\Phi_1)$ fulfilling the normalization condition

$$\int \frac{d\Phi_1}{d\Phi_0 dr_0} \mathcal{P}(\Phi_1) = 1. \quad (5)$$

This function is used to extend the differential dependence of $d\sigma^{\text{res}}$ including the full radiation phase space written as a function of r_0 and two additional variables, which we choose to be the energy fraction z and the azimuthal angle ϕ of the emission.

The nonsingular contributions entering in Eqs. (3) and (4) are

$$\frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{nons}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) = \frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{NNLO}_0}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) - \left[\frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) \right]_{\text{NNLO}_0} \quad (6)$$

and

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\geq 1}^{\text{nons}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}) = \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 1}^{\text{NLO}_1}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}) - \left[\frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0 dr_0} \mathcal{P}(\Phi_1) \right]_{\text{NLO}_1} \theta(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}), \quad (7)$$

where NNLO₀ and NLO₁ indicate the accuracy at which one should compute the fixed-order contributions for each jet bin. The terms in square brackets are the expansion of the resummed result at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ of the cumulant and of the spectrum.

By writing explicitly the expressions for the fixed-order cross sections, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) &= \frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) - \left[\frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) \right]_{\text{NNLO}_0} \\ &+ (B_0 + V_0 + W_0)(\Phi_0) \\ &+ \int \frac{d\Phi_1}{d\Phi_0} (B_1 + V_1)(\Phi_1) \theta(r_0(\Phi_1) < r_0^{\text{cut}}) \\ &+ \int \frac{d\Phi_2}{d\Phi_0} B_2(\Phi_2) \theta(r_0(\Phi_2) < r_0^{\text{cut}}) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

for the 0-jet bin and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 1}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}) &= \left\{ \frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0 dr_0} - \left[\frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0 dr_0} \right]_{\text{NLO}_1} \right\} \mathcal{P}(\Phi_1) \theta(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}) \\ &+ (B_1 + V_1)(\Phi_1) \theta(r_0(\Phi_1) > r_0^{\text{cut}}) \\ &+ \int \frac{d\Phi_2}{d\Phi_1^{r_0}} B_2(\Phi_2) \theta(r_0(\Phi_2) > r_0^{\text{cut}}) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

for the inclusive 1-jet bin.

In the above equations, B_M are the M -parton tree-level contributions, V_M are the M -parton one-loop contributions, and finally, W_0 is the two-loop contribution. In Eq. (9), we also introduced the notation

$$\frac{d\Phi_2}{d\Phi_1^{r_0}} \equiv d\Phi_2 \delta[\Phi_1 - \Phi_1^{r_0}(\Phi_2)] \Theta^{r_0}(\Phi_1) \quad (10)$$

to indicate that the integration is performed over a region of Φ_2 while keeping the values of r_0 and of the Φ_1 observables that we use to parametrize the 1-jet phase space fixed. This is required since the expression for $d\sigma_{\geq 1}^{\text{MC}}$ is differential in the 0-jet resolution parameter r_0 , meaning that we should also parametrize the 2-parton contribution B_2 in the same terms. This means that the mapping used in the projection $d\Phi_2/d\Phi_1^{r_0}$ should preserve r_0 , i.e.,

$$r_0(\Phi_1^{r_0}(\Phi_2)) = r_0(\Phi_2), \quad (11)$$

to guarantee the pointwise cancellation of the singular r_0 contributions in Eq. (9).

The $\Theta^{r_0}(\Phi_1)$ in Eq. (10) limits the integration to the singular points for which it is possible to construct such a projection. The nonprojectable region of the Φ_2 phase space, which only includes nonsingular events, must

therefore be included in the 2-jet event cross section, as shown later. We finally notice that Eq. (9) should be supplemented by including in $d\sigma_1^{\text{MC}}$ 1-jet events with $r_0 < r_0^{\text{cut}}$ which cannot be mapped into 0-jet events. In the $1 \rightarrow 0$ case, we use the Frixione-Kunszt-Signer (FKS) mapping [75], which implies that the only nonprojectable events are those which would result in an invalid flavor configuration that is not present at the LO level (e.g., $qg \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- q$ projected to $gg \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$). By denoting the nonprojectable region with the symbol $\bar{\Theta}_{\text{map}}^{\text{FKS}}$, we supplement the formulas above with

$$\frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 \leq r_0^{\text{cut}}) = (B_1 + V_1)(\Phi_1)\theta(r_0 < r_0^{\text{cut}})\bar{\Theta}_{\text{map}}^{\text{FKS}}(\Phi_1). \quad (12)$$

Before we move on to discuss the N^3LL resummation of the transverse momentum, we shall briefly review the separation of the 1-jet cross section into an exclusive 1-jet cross section and an inclusive 2-jet cross section. This separation can be performed in analogy to the 0-/1-jet separation discussed above, with r_1 now being the relevant resolution variable:

$$\frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}; r_1^{\text{cut}}) = \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}; r_1^{\text{cut}}) + \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{match}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}; r_1^{\text{cut}}), \quad (13)$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\geq 2}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_2}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, r_1 > r_1^{\text{cut}}) = \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 2}^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_2}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, r_1 > r_1^{\text{cut}}) + \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 2}^{\text{match}}}{d\Phi_2}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, r_1 > r_1^{\text{cut}}). \quad (14)$$

In these equations, the resummation accuracy can be lowered with respect to the 0-/1-jet separation and is set to NLL. The full expressions for the exclusive 1-jet and the inclusive 2-jet cross section read [3,11]

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}; r_1^{\text{cut}}) &= \left\{ \frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0 dr_0} \mathcal{P}(\Phi_1) - \left[\frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0 dr_0} \mathcal{P}(\Phi_1) \right]_{\text{NLO}_1} + [B_1 + V_1^C](\Phi_1) \right\} \times U_1(\Phi_1, r_1^{\text{cut}})\theta(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}) \\ &+ \left\{ \int \left[\frac{d\Phi_2}{d\Phi_1^{r_0}} B_2(\Phi_2)\theta(r_0(\Phi_2) > r_0^{\text{cut}})\theta(r_1 < r_1^{\text{cut}}) - \frac{d\Phi_2}{d\Phi_1^C} C_2(\Phi_2)\theta(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}) \right] \right\} \\ &- B_1(\Phi_1)U_1^{(1)}(\Phi_1, r_1^{\text{cut}})\theta(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}), \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 2}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_2}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, r_1 > r_1^{\text{cut}}) &= \left[\left\{ \frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0 dr_0} \mathcal{P}(\Phi_1) - \left[\frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0 dr_0} \mathcal{P}(\Phi_1) \right]_{\text{NLO}_1} + (B_1 + V_1^C)(\Phi_1) \right\} U_1'(\Phi_1, r_1) \times \theta(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}) \right]_{\Phi_1 = \Phi_1^{r_0}(\Phi_2)} \mathcal{P}(\Phi_2)\theta(r_1 > r_1^{\text{cut}}) \\ &+ \{ B_2(\Phi_2)\theta(r_1 > r_1^{\text{cut}}) - B_1(\Phi_1^{r_0})U_1^{(1)'}(\Phi_1^{r_0}, r_1)\mathcal{P}(\Phi_2)\theta(r_1 > r_1^{\text{cut}}) \} \times \theta(r_0(\Phi_2) > r_0^{\text{cut}}). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

In these formulas, $U_1(\Phi_1, r_1^{\text{cut}})$ is the Sudakov form factor that resums the dependence on r_1^{cut} at NLL, $U_1'(\Phi_1, r_1)$ denotes its derivative with respect to r_1^{cut} , and $U_1^{(1)}$ and $U_1^{(1)'}$ are their $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ expansions. The C_2 term is the singular approximant of the double-real matrix element B_2 , which acts as a standard NLO subtraction reproducing the singular behavior of B_2 . The term V_1^C is defined from the relation

$$(B_1 + V_1)(\Phi_1) + \int \frac{d\Phi_2}{d\Phi_1^C} C_2(\Phi_2) \equiv (B_1 + V_1^C)(\Phi_1). \quad (17)$$

The normalized splitting function $\mathcal{P}(\Phi_2)$ satisfies the unitarity condition [cf. the 0-/1-jet case Eq. (5)]

$$U_1(\Phi_1, r_1^{\text{cut}}) + \int \frac{d\Phi_2}{d\Phi_1^{r_0}} U_1'(\Phi_1, r_1)\mathcal{P}(\Phi_2)\theta(r_1 > r_1^{\text{cut}}) = 1. \quad (18)$$

Analogous to the case of the normalized splitting function $\mathcal{P}(\Phi_1)$, the function $\mathcal{P}(\Phi_2)$ extends the differential dependence of $d\sigma^{\text{res}}$ including the radiation phase space for two emissions, where the second emission should now be parametrized in terms of r_1 and of the same two additional radiation variables. Despite having used the same notation, we stress that the mapping used in Eqs. (16) and (18) does not need to correspond to the one used to implement the subtraction in Eq. (15). Indeed the latter does not need to be written as a function of r_1 .

The formulas above should be supplemented by including nonprojectable 2-jet events with $r_1 < r_1^{\text{cut}}$, namely,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 2}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_2}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, r_1 \leq r_1^{\text{cut}}) \\ = B_2(\Phi_2)\bar{\Theta}_{\text{map}}^{r_0}(\Phi_2)\theta(r_1 < r_1^{\text{cut}})\theta(r_0(\Phi_2) > r_0^{\text{cut}}), \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

where we use the symbol $\bar{\Theta}_{\text{map}}^{r_0}(\Phi_2)$ to denote the region of phase space which cannot be projected on the physical Φ_1 phase space via the $\Phi_1^{r_0}(\Phi_2)$ mapping. In principle, in the $r_0 < r_0^{\text{cut}}$ region also, events with two hard emissions contribute at NNLO. However, we stress again that when the 0-jet resolution variable is q_{\perp} and one keeps q_{\perp}^{cut} small enough, these nonsingular contributions from events with two hard jets are negligible, and we therefore set

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\geq 2}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_2}(q_{\perp} < q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}}) \equiv 0. \quad (20)$$

This concludes our review of the GENEVA method.

In the following, we will use the transverse momentum as 0-jet resolution variables and 1-jettiness as a 1-jet resolution variable. We shall use the notation $\text{GENEVA}_{q_{\perp}}$ to label our predictions, while we will use the notation $\text{GENEVA}_{\mathcal{T}_0}$ when referring to the original GENEVA implementation using beam thrust. In the next section, we discuss the resummation of the transverse momentum distribution in color-singlet production within the RADISH framework. We refer the reader to Refs. [11,19] for the discussion of the NLL resummation of \mathcal{T}_1 within the GENEVA formalism.

B. Transverse momentum resummation in the RADISH formalism

Various formalisms to perform the resummation of the transverse momentum in color-singlet processes have been developed over the last four decades [21–25,76–86]. All the ingredients for the N³LL q_{\perp} resummation have been computed in Refs. [87–95], and state-of-the-art predictions for DY production now reach this accuracy [24,96–101]. In this section, we summarize the RADISH resummation formalism developed in Refs. [23,24], which we use in this work to resum the transverse momentum spectrum at N³LL.

The RADISH formalism allows one to resum any transverse observable (i.e., not depending on the rapidity of the radiation) which fulfills recursive infrared collinear (RIRC) safety [102]. The resummation is formulated directly in momentum space by exploiting factorization properties of squared QCD amplitudes. The resummation is then evaluated numerically via MC methods. The RADISH formulas are more conveniently expressed at the level of the cumulative cross section

$$\Sigma(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}}) \equiv \int_0^{q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}}} dq_{\perp} \frac{d\sigma(q_{\perp})}{dq_{\perp}} = \int d\Phi_0 \frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0}(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}}), \quad (21)$$

where $q_{\perp} = \hat{q}_{\perp}(\Phi_0, k_1, \dots, k_n)$ is a function of the Born phase space Φ_0 of the produced color singlet and of the momenta k_1, \dots, k_n of n real emissions.

For example, in the soft limit, the all-order structure of $\Sigma(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}})$ fully differential in the Born phase space can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0}(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}}) = \mathcal{V}(\Phi_0) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int \prod_{i=1}^n [dk_i] |\mathcal{M}(\Phi_0, k_1, \dots, k_n)|^2 \\ \times \theta(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}} - \hat{q}_{\perp}(\Phi_0, k_1, \dots, k_n)). \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Here, $[dk_i]$ and $d\Phi_0$ denote the phase spaces of the i th emission k_i and of the Born configuration, respectively, \mathcal{M} denotes the matrix element for n real emissions in the soft approximation, and $\mathcal{V}(\Phi_0)$ is the resummed form factor in the soft limit, which encodes the purely virtual corrections; see [103–105]. To obtain the resummation, it is first necessary to establish a well-defined logarithmic counting in the squared amplitude. The counting is established by decomposing the squared amplitude defined in Eq. (22) in n -particle-correlated blocks, which contain the correlated portion of the squared n -emission soft amplitude and its virtual corrections [24,102,106]. In particular, blocks with n particles start contributing one logarithmic order higher than blocks with $(n-1)$ particles, which allows one to systematically identify all the relevant contributions entering at a given logarithmic order.

Thanks to the RIRC safety of the observables, the divergences appearing at all perturbative orders in the real matrix elements cancel exactly those of virtual origin, which are contained in the $\mathcal{V}(\Phi_0)$ factor of Eq. (22). The cancellation of the singularities is achieved by introducing a resolution scale q_0 . Radiation softer than q_0 is dubbed unresolved and can be exponentiated to cancel the divergences of virtual origin. Radiation harder than q_0 (*resolved*) must instead be generated exclusively as it is constrained by the measurement function $\theta(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}} - \hat{q}_{\perp}(\Phi_0, k_1, \dots, k_n))$ in Eq. (22). Recursive IRC safety ensures that neglecting radiation softer than q_0 (*unresolved*) in the computation of $\hat{q}_{\perp}(\Phi_0, k_1, \dots, k_n)$ only produces terms suppressed by powers of q_0 , thus ensuring that the limit $q_0 \rightarrow 0$ can be taken safely.

In the RADISH formalism, the resolution scale q_0 is set to a small fraction $\delta > 0$ of the transverse momentum of the correlated block with the largest k_{\perp} , which we henceforth denote as $k_{\perp,1}$. The cumulative cross section at N³LL accuracy for the production of a color singlet of mass M fully differential in the Born kinematic variables and including also the effect of collinear radiation can then be written as [24]

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0}(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}}) &= \int \frac{dk_{\perp,1}}{k_{\perp,1}} \frac{d\phi_1}{2\pi} \partial_L(-e^{-R(k_{\perp,1})} \mathcal{L}_{\text{N}^3\text{LL}}(k_{\perp,1})) \int d\mathcal{Z}[\{R', k_i\}] \Theta(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}} - |\vec{k}_{\perp,1} + \dots + \vec{k}_{\perp,n+1}|) \\
&+ \int \frac{dk_{\perp,1}}{k_{\perp,1}} \frac{d\phi_1}{2\pi} e^{-R(k_{\perp,1})} \int d\mathcal{Z}[\{R', k_i\}] \int_0^1 \frac{d\zeta_s}{\zeta_s} \frac{d\phi_s}{2\pi} \left\{ (R'(k_{\perp,1}) \mathcal{L}_{\text{NNLL}}(k_{\perp,1}) - \partial_L \mathcal{L}_{\text{NNLL}}(k_{\perp,1})) \right. \\
&\times \left(R''(k_{\perp,1}) \ln \frac{1}{\zeta_s} + \frac{1}{2} R'''(k_{\perp,1}) \ln^2 \frac{1}{\zeta_s} \right) - R'(k_{\perp,1}) \left(\partial_L \mathcal{L}_{\text{NNLL}}(k_{\perp,1}) - 2 \frac{\beta_0}{\pi} \alpha_S^2(k_{\perp,1}) \hat{P}^{(0)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\text{NLL}}(k_{\perp,1}) \ln \frac{1}{\zeta_s} \right) \\
&+ \left. \frac{\alpha_S^2(k_{\perp,1})}{\pi^2} \hat{P}^{(0)} \otimes \hat{P}^{(0)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\text{NLL}}(k_{\perp,1}) \right\} \{ \Theta(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}} - |\vec{k}_{\perp,1} + \dots + \vec{k}_{\perp,n+1} + \vec{k}_{\perp,s}|) \\
&- \Theta(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}} - |\vec{k}_{\perp,1} + \dots + \vec{k}_{\perp,n+1}|) \} \\
&+ \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{dk_{\perp,1}}{k_{\perp,1}} \frac{d\phi_1}{2\pi} e^{-R(k_{\perp,1})} \int d\mathcal{Z}[\{R', k_i\}] \int_0^1 \frac{d\zeta_{s1}}{\zeta_{s1}} \frac{d\phi_{s1}}{2\pi} \int_0^1 \frac{d\zeta_{s2}}{\zeta_{s2}} \frac{d\phi_{s2}}{2\pi} R'(k_{\perp,1}) \\
&\times \left\{ \mathcal{L}_{\text{NLL}}(k_{\perp,1}) (R''(k_{\perp,1}))^2 \ln \frac{1}{\zeta_{s1}} \ln \frac{1}{\zeta_{s2}} - \partial_L \mathcal{L}_{\text{NLL}}(k_{\perp,1}) R''(k_{\perp,1}) \left(\ln \frac{1}{\zeta_{s1}} + \ln \frac{1}{\zeta_{s2}} \right) \right. \\
&+ \left. \frac{\alpha_S^2(k_{\perp,1})}{\pi^2} \hat{P}^{(0)} \otimes \hat{P}^{(0)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\text{NLL}}(k_{\perp,1}) \right\} \\
&\times \{ \Theta(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}} - |\vec{k}_{\perp,1} + \dots + \vec{k}_{\perp,n+1} + \vec{k}_{\perp,s1} + \vec{k}_{\perp,s2}|) - \Theta(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}} - |\vec{k}_{\perp,1} + \dots + \vec{k}_{\perp,n+1} + \vec{k}_{\perp,s1}|) \\
&- \Theta(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}} - |\vec{k}_{\perp,1} + \dots + \vec{k}_{\perp,n+1} + \vec{k}_{\perp,s2}|) + \Theta(q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}} - |\vec{k}_{\perp,1} + \dots + \vec{k}_{\perp,n+1}|) \}. \tag{23}
\end{aligned}$$

In the equation above, the first line enters already at NLL, the first set of curly brackets (second to fifth line) starts contributing at NNLL, and the last set of curly brackets (from line six) enters at N³LL.

The functions \mathcal{L} are luminosity factors evaluated at different orders which involve, besides the parton luminosities, the process-dependent squared Born amplitude and hard-virtual corrections $H^{(n)}$ as well as the coefficient functions $C_{ci}^{(n)}$, which have been evaluated to second order for $q\bar{q}$ -initiated processes in Refs. [88,89,91]. The factors $\hat{P}^{(0)}$ denote the regularized splitting functions. The interested reader is referred to Sec. 4 of Ref. [24] for the definition of the luminosity factors and their ingredients. We defined $\zeta_{si} \equiv k_{\perp,si}/k_{\perp,1}$ and we introduced the notation $d\mathcal{Z}[\{R', k_i\}]$ to denote an ensemble describing the emission of n identical independent blocks. The average of a function $G(\Phi_0, \{k_i\})$ over the measure $d\mathcal{Z}$ as ($\zeta_i \equiv k_{\perp,i}/k_{\perp,1}$) is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int d\mathcal{Z}[\{R', k_i\}] G(\Phi_0, \{k_i\}) \\
&= e^{-R'(k_{\perp,1}) \ln \frac{1}{\delta}} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \prod_{i=2}^{n+1} \int_{\delta}^1 \frac{d\zeta_i}{\zeta_i} \\
&\times \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\phi_i}{2\pi} R'(k_{\perp,1}) G(\Phi_0, k_1, \dots, k_{n+1}). \tag{24}
\end{aligned}$$

Note that the $\ln 1/\delta$ divergence appearing in the exponential prefactor of Eq. (24) cancels exactly that in the resolved real radiation encoded in the nested sums of products on the right-hand side of Eq. (24).

Equation. (23) has been obtained by expanding all the ingredients around $k_{\perp,1}$ since $\zeta_i = k_{\perp,i}/k_{\perp,1} \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$; see Ref. [24]. Thanks to RIRC safety, blocks with $k_{\perp,i} \ll k_{\perp,1}$ are fully canceled by the term $\exp\{-R'(k_{\perp,1}) \ln(1/\delta)\}$ of Eq. (24). Although such an expansion is not strictly necessary, it makes a numerical implementation much more efficient [24]. Because of this expansion, Eq. (23) contains explicitly the derivatives

$$R' = dR/dL, \quad R'' = dR'/dL, \quad R''' = dR''/dL \tag{25}$$

of the radiator R , which is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
R(k_{\perp,1}) &= -Lg_1(\alpha_S\beta_0L) - g_2(\alpha_S\beta_0L) \\
&- \frac{\alpha_S}{\pi} g_3(\alpha_S\beta_0L) - \frac{\alpha_S^2}{\pi^2} g_4(\alpha_S\beta_0L), \tag{26}
\end{aligned}$$

with $\alpha_S = \alpha_S(\mu_R)$ and $\mu_R \sim M$ being the renormalization scale, where M is the hard scale of the process. Here $L = \ln(Q/k_{\perp,1})$, where $Q \sim M$ is the resummation scale, whose variation is used to probe the size of missing logarithmic higher-order corrections in Eq. (23). The functions g_i are reported in Eqs. (B.8)–(B.11) of Ref. [24].

The above formulas are implemented in the code RADISH, which evaluates them using MC methods. We refer the reader to Sec. 4.3 of Ref. [24] for the technical details.

The resummed result provided by RADISH is valid in the soft/collinear region, i.e., $q_{\perp}/M \ll 1$, and must be matched with fixed-order predictions at large values of q_{\perp} .

Resummation effects should thus vanish in the large q_\perp region. This is enforced by mapping the limit $k_{\perp,1} \rightarrow Q$, where the logarithms vanish onto $k_{\perp,1} \rightarrow \infty$ via modified logarithms

$$\ln \frac{Q}{k_{\perp,1}} \rightarrow \tilde{L} \equiv \frac{1}{p} \ln \left(\left(\frac{Q}{k_{\perp,1}} \right)^p + 1 \right), \quad (27)$$

where p is a positive real parameter whose value is chosen such that the resummed component decreases faster than the fixed-order spectrum for $q_\perp/M \gtrsim 1$. In the following, we took $p = 4$. Therefore, the logarithms L in the Sudakov radiator Eq. (26), its derivatives Eq. (25), and the luminosity factors have to be replaced by \tilde{L} .

For consistency, one must supplement Eq. (23) with the following Jacobian:

$$\mathcal{J}(k_{\perp,1}) = \left(\frac{Q}{k_{\perp,1}} \right)^p \left(\left(\frac{Q}{k_{\perp,1}} \right)^p + 1 \right)^{-1}. \quad (28)$$

This prescription leaves the measurement functions in Eq. (23) unchanged. The final result is modified beyond the nominal accuracy by power corrections in $(Q/k_{\perp,1})^p$.

III. IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

In this section, we discuss the interface of the RADISH code with GENEVA and the implementation of the DY process in GENEVA using q_\perp as a 0-jet resolution variable. We validate our framework by comparing our results with NNLO predictions obtained with MATRIX [107] and discuss the interface with PSs.

A. Interfacing GENEVA with RADISH

The resummation formulas discussed in Sec. II B are implemented in the FORTRAN90 code RADISH. For each Born event, the code produces the initial-state radiation and performs the resummation of large logarithmic contributions using MC methods as described in Sec. 4.3 of Ref. [24]. As a result, the cumulative distribution is filled on the fly yielding $d\sigma^{\text{res}}/d\Phi_0(q_\perp^{\text{cut}})$. The spectrum can be calculated by differentiating the cumulative histogram numerically.

We note that our need to obtain the spectrum at a given value of q_\perp as in Eq. (4) poses some technical challenges which need to be addressed in order to interface RADISH with GENEVA. Indeed, the RADISH code has been designed to compute the whole cumulant distribution by generating a MC ensemble of soft and/or collinear emissions. The simplest solution would be to run the MC algorithm with a very large number of events for each Born configuration provided by GENEVA in order to yield sufficiently stable results for the numerical derivative of the cumulant. However, despite the effectiveness of the MC generation, this on-the-fly computation is rather inefficient.

A better approach is to first compute the RADISH cumulant with a very large number of Born points, exploiting run-time parallelization. This is done before starting the main GENEVA runs. From these parallel RADISH runs, we build an interpolation grid, which is then used to provide the cumulant and the spectrum for the GENEVA runs on an event-by-event basis. To this end, we first parametrize the Born phase space using two variables² and construct a discrete lattice in these two parameters. We then compute the resummed cumulant in each bin and for each combination of perturbative scales up to the maximal value of q_\perp kinematically allowed. The resulting grids are then loaded and interpolated on the fly by means of Chebyshev polynomials as implemented in the GSL library [108], yielding a fast evaluation of the cumulant and of its derivative. Since the shape of the resummed result depends only mildly on the Born variables, it is sufficient to rescale the resummation by the Born squared amplitude to obtain a result differential in the Born kinematics. We found that a (10×10) -dimensional grid in the Born variables provides a sufficiently fine discretization of the Born phase space.

The other ingredient which is provided by RADISH is the expansion of the resummation to remove the double counting between resummation and fixed order. In this case, the use of interpolation routines is not advisable, since one must ensure the exact cancellation of the large logarithmic terms at low q_\perp to avoid spurious and potentially large effects on the final results.³ However, since the expansion is computed semianalytically in RADISH (for additional details, we refer the reader to Sec. 4.2 of [24]), we can avoid the interpolation altogether and compute it on the fly without affecting the speed of the code.

Once the values of the resummation and the expansion are available, the matched results for the spectrum of Eq. (4) can be obtained by means of a standard additive matching. The use of modified logarithms (27) automatically ensures that the effect of the resummation vanishes in the fixed-order region. However, numerical instabilities could arise since, while the expansion is exact, the resummed result is obtained by means of a Chebyshev interpolation. This can induce tiny but visible numerical artifacts in the region where the cumulant flattens and its derivative approaches zero. In order to avoid this unwanted feature, we introduce a function which further suppresses both the resummed and the resummed expanded results smoothly in the fixed-order region, where a complete cancellation between them should be achieved. In this way, undesired numerical instabilities in this region are removed. In particular, we use the following function:

²Specifically, we use the rapidity of the virtual boson $Y_{\ell\ell}$ and $a_{\ell\ell} = \arctan((m_{\ell\ell}^2 - m_Z^2)/(m_Z \Gamma_Z))$ for DY production. The latter variable is chosen to flatten the $m_{\ell\ell}$ distribution; see, e.g., Ref. [9].

³Indeed, in a first attempt using an interpolation also for the resummed expanded contribution, we observed numerical instabilities in the $Y_{\ell\ell}$ distribution.

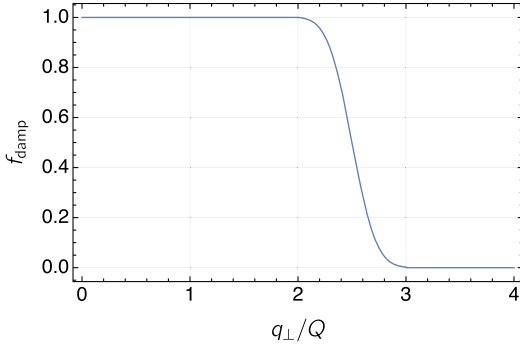


FIG. 1. Damping function used to further suppress the resummation at large values of q_\perp ; see text for details.

$$f_{\text{damp}}(q_\perp) = \begin{cases} 1, & q_\perp < l, \\ \frac{1 - \text{erf}(\frac{2(q_\perp - m)}{w})}{1 - \text{erf}(\frac{2(l - m)}{w})}, & l < q_\perp < r, \\ 0, & q_\perp > r \end{cases} \quad (29)$$

with $m = (r + l)/2$, $w = (r - l)/2$, and where we take $l = 2Q$ and $r = 3Q$ and “erf” is the standard Gaussian error function. We observe that with this choice there is a very tiny discontinuity at $q_\perp = r$, which, however, does not give any visible effect since $f_{\text{damp}}(r - \epsilon) \simeq 0$. The damping function is plotted as a function of q_\perp/Q in Fig. 1.

B. Power-suppressed corrections to the nonsingular cumulant

In Eq. (8), we wrote the expression for the NNLO accurate 0-jet cross section fully differential in the Born phase space, whose implementation would require a local NNLO subtraction scheme. In our implementation, the NNLO₀ accuracy is instead achieved replacing Eq. (8) with the following expression:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\widetilde{\sigma}_{0}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) &= \frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) - \left[\frac{d\sigma^{\text{res}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) \right]_{\text{NNLO}_0} \\ &+ (B_0 + V_0)(\Phi_0) \\ &+ \int \frac{d\Phi_1}{d\Phi_0} (B_1)(\Phi_1) \theta(r_0(\Phi_1) < r_0^{\text{cut}}), \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

which only involves a local subtraction at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S)$ and the expansion of the resummation at the same order. The formula assumes an exact cancellation between the fixed-order and the resummed expanded contribution below the value of r_0^{cut} at order α_S^2 . The cancellation is guaranteed for the singular contributions due to the accuracy of the r_0 cumulant (we stress again that in order to achieve NNLO₀ accuracy, the resummation accuracy must be at least NNLL’); however, the formula fails to capture nonsingular contributions at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^2)$. These nonsingular contributions can be expressed as

$$\frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{non}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) = [\alpha_S f_1(r_0^{\text{cut}}, \Phi_0) + \alpha_S^2 f_2(r_0^{\text{cut}}, \Phi_0)] r_0^{\text{cut}}, \quad (31)$$

and their integral over the phase space is

$$\Sigma_{\text{ns}}(r_0^{\text{cut}}) = \int d\Phi_0 \frac{d\sigma_0^{\text{non}}}{d\Phi_0}(r_0^{\text{cut}}). \quad (32)$$

The nonsingular cumulant vanishes in the limit $r_0^{\text{cut}} \rightarrow 0$ since the functions $f_i(r_0^{\text{cut}}, \Phi_0)$ contain at worst logarithmic divergences. As discussed above, our calculation includes the term $f_1(r_0^{\text{cut}}, \Phi_0)$ since we implement a NLO₁ FKS local subtraction. On the contrary, $f_2(r_0^{\text{cut}}, \Phi_0)$ is not included in Eq. (31). Neglecting the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^2)$ power corrections is acceptable as long as we choose r_0^{cut} to be very small.

So far, the GENEVA method has been based on N -jettiness subtraction [109–111]. In this work, we take r_0 equal to q_\perp ; effectively, this corresponds to basing GENEVA on a q_T subtraction scheme [112]. The availability of different resolution parameters in GENEVA is beneficial, as the size and the scaling of the power corrections can be different. The size of the missing $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^2)$ power corrections as a function of q_\perp^{cut} can be calculated as

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_{\text{NS}}^{(2)}(q_\perp^{\text{cut}}) &= \delta\sigma^{\text{NNLO}} - \Sigma_{\text{asympt}}^{\text{N}^3\text{LL}} + \Sigma_{\text{asympt}}^{\text{N}^3\text{LL}}|_{\alpha_S} \\ &- \int_{q_\perp^{\text{cut}}}^{\infty} dq_\perp \left(\frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO}_1}}{dq_\perp} - \frac{d\sigma^{\text{N}^3\text{LL}}}{dq_\perp} \Big|_{\alpha_S^2} \right) \\ &+ \int_{q_\perp^{\text{cut}}}^{\infty} dq_\perp \left(\frac{d\sigma^{\text{LO}_1}}{dq_\perp} - \frac{d\sigma^{\text{N}^3\text{LL}}}{dq_\perp} \Big|_{\alpha_S} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

where $\delta\sigma^{\text{NNLO}} = \sigma^{\text{NNLO}} - \sigma^{\text{NLO}}$, $\Sigma_{\text{asympt}}^{\text{N}^3\text{LL}}$ is the cumulant of the resummed contribution [see Eq. (21)]

$$\Sigma_{\text{asympt}}^{\text{N}^3\text{LL}} = \int d\Phi_0 \int_0^{q_\perp^{\text{max}}} dq'_\perp \frac{d\sigma^{\text{N}^3\text{LL}}}{d\Phi_0 dq'_\perp}, \quad (34)$$

and q_\perp^{max} is the maximum value allowed by the kinematics for each Φ_0 point. Finally, $|_{\alpha_S^n}$ indicates the expansion up to order α_S^n .

We have calculated $\delta\sigma^{\text{NNLO}}$ by computing σ^{NNLO} with MATRIX. Note that MATRIX also achieves NNLO accuracy via q_T subtraction, and therefore potentially misses power corrections at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^2)$. However, MATRIX includes an estimate of these power corrections by interpolating the result to $q_\perp^{\text{cut}} = 0$, and including an estimate of this interpolation procedure in its error.

We show the size of the missing power corrections in Fig. 2, where we consider values of q_\perp^{cut} down to 1 GeV. We consider $pp \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$ production at 13 TeV in an inclusive setup by applying a cut only on the invariant mass of the produced color singlet. We observe that the power corrections are below the 2% level for $\log_{10}(q_\perp^{\text{cut}}) \lesssim 0.5$, corresponding to a value of $q_\perp^{\text{cut}} \lesssim 3$ GeV, in accordance with

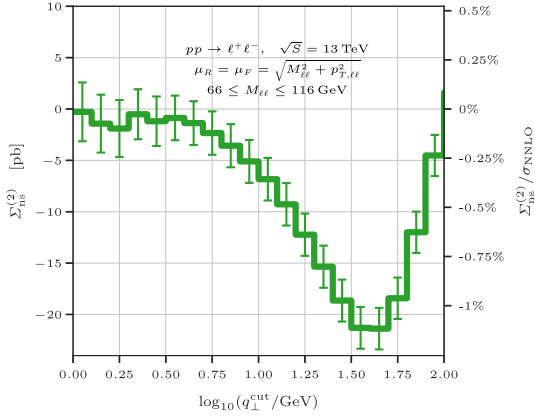


FIG. 2. Nonsingular cumulant at order α_s^2 as a function of q_\perp^{cut} .

what was observed in Ref. [107]. Motivated by this plot, we choose $q_\perp^{\text{cut}} = 1$ GeV as our default value. The negligible size of the missing power correction allows us to avoid the need for the reweighting of the Φ_0 events, which was instead the approach followed in the previous application of the GENEVA method. Our choice is further justified by a detailed comparison between GENEVA and an independent NNLO calculation for distributions differential in the Φ_0 variables, as we will show in Sec. III E.

C. NLO₁ calculation and phase-space mapping

In this section, we discuss the implementation of the $\Phi_1^r(\Phi_2)$ mapping introduced in Eq. (15) and of that introduced in Eq. (18). As we anticipated in Sec. II A, these phase-space mappings do not necessarily need to coincide, since only the latter needs to be written as a function of the 1-jet resolution variable \mathcal{T}_1 .

We start by discussing the mapping used to implement the NLO₁ calculation. Let us first notice that the $\Phi_1^r(\Phi_2)$ mapping used in the B_2 term and the $\Phi_2^C(\Phi_1)$ used for the C term in Eq. (15) can be different, but provided that both are IR safe, they must be equivalent in the IR singular limit. However, as we discussed in Sec. II A, the $\Phi_1^r(\Phi_2)$ mapping must have the additional property that it preserves the 0-jet resolution variable q_\perp in order to guarantee that the NLO₁ is pointwise consistent with the q_\perp resummation. Moreover, the mapping must be invertible, meaning that one should be able to reconstruct all the Φ_2 points which can be projected on a given Φ_1 configuration. The additional requirement that the mapping should preserve q_\perp poses some challenges as discussed in Sec. A6 of Ref. [3]. In addition to preserving the 0-jettiness \mathcal{T}_0 which was used as 0-jet resolution variable,⁴ the $\mathcal{T}_0^{\text{FR}}$ mapping introduced in Ref. [3] also preserves the four-momentum of the vector boson $q^\mu(\Phi_2) = q^\mu(\Phi_1^T(\Phi_2))$ and thus the full transverse

⁴More precisely, the mapping preserves a recursive definition of \mathcal{T}_0 dubbed $\mathcal{T}_0^{\text{FR}}$; see Ref. [3] for additional details.

momentum \vec{q}_\perp . Therefore, in our study one could in principle use the same mapping to implement the NLO₁ calculation and the splitting function $\mathcal{P}(\Phi_2)$ used in the \mathcal{T}_1 resummation. It happens, however, that the $\mathcal{T}_0^{\text{FR}}$ mapping creates undesired higher-order artifacts in a few NLO₁ differential distributions when used also in the \mathcal{T}_1 resummation. In particular, one observes the effects on quantities such as the rapidity separation between the leading jet and the vector boson. For this reason, in all recent applications of the GENEVA method based on the resummation of \mathcal{T}_0 , the $\mathcal{T}_0^{\text{FR}}$ mapping has been modified, relaxing the condition that it preserves the transverse momentum of the vector boson. Therefore, while one could use the \vec{q}_\perp -preserving $\mathcal{T}_0^{\text{FR}}$ mapping for the subtraction, one needs a new phase-space mapping which preserves \vec{q}_\perp for the \mathcal{T}_1 resummation projection. For the initial-state radiation (ISR), we found that the q^μ -preserving mapping introduced in Ref. [113] does not create distortions in any differential distribution, and we have therefore implemented this mapping in the GENEVA code. For final-state radiation (FSR), a mapping preserving the four-momentum q^μ of the vector boson is uniquely defined once one decides how to map the (massive) jet with momentum $p_{12}^\mu = p_1^\mu + p_2^\mu$ of the 2-jet configuration into a massless jet with momentum \bar{p}^μ in the 1-jet configuration. In particular, we choose to conserve the longitudinal component of the jet, i.e., $p_1^z + p_2^z = \bar{p}^z$, as described in Appendix.

We have verified that these mappings can be used both in the NLO₁ calculation [in Eq. (15)] as well as in the \mathcal{T}_1 resummation [in Eq. (16)]. We have, however, preferred to maintain the (\vec{q}_\perp -preserving) $\mathcal{T}_0^{\text{FR}}$ mapping in the NLO₁ calculation due to slightly better convergence properties, while we resort to the new ISR and FSR mappings in the implementation of the \mathcal{T}_1 resummation. In this way, we avoid unnecessarily large higher-order effects in the distributions.

D. Validation of the N³LL resummation

In this section, we validate the implementation of the N³LL resummation in GENEVA by comparing the matched q_\perp spectrum with an independent calculation obtained using the MATRIX + RADISH interface [114]. We note that the approach taken in the GENEVA framework is somewhat different from that taken in MATRIX + RADISH. In the GENEVA approach, each event generated is assigned a resummed weight according to the value of the chosen resolution parameter; as a consequence, the information about the physical event, which is characterized by a particular value of q_\perp , is always retained throughout the calculation. As shown in Ref. [100], by retaining the exact lepton kinematics the GENEVA _{q_\perp} result effectively resums also the linear power corrections which appear as soon as one imposes fiducial cuts [115] beyond the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$, which is in any case included after the matching to NNLO. This is

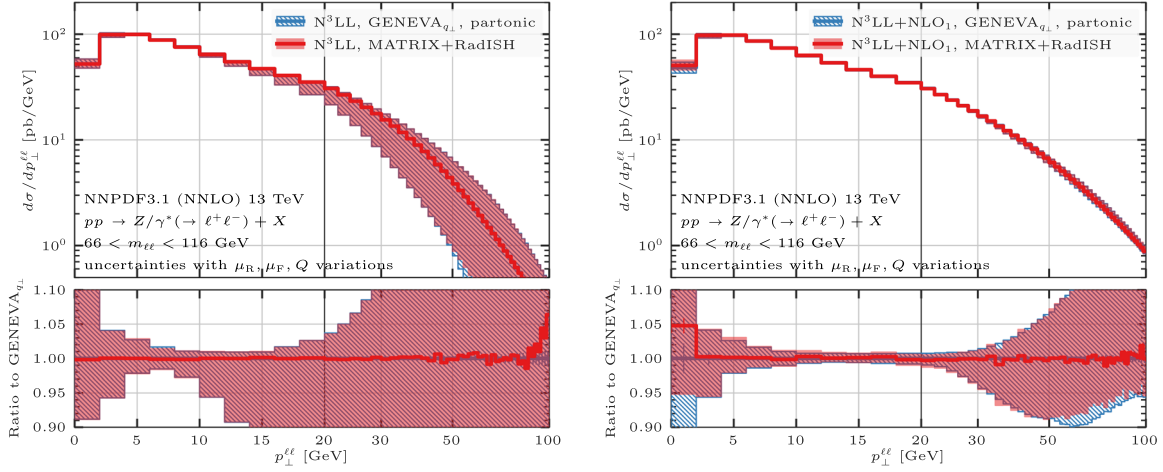


FIG. 3. Comparison between the resummed $N^3\text{LL}$ (left panel) and matched $N^3\text{LL} + \text{NLO}_1$ (right panel) results obtained with MATRIX + RADISH and with GENEVA + RADISH.

not the case in the MATRIX + RADISH calculation, where the matching is instead performed at the level of the final distribution, and therefore the linear power corrections associated with fiducial cuts are included only up to order $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$.⁵

The predictions for the q_\perp spectrum obtained in the two approaches are equivalent in the absence of fiducial cuts on the Born-level variables (see, e.g., the discussion in Sec. 4.3 of [15]). In the presence of cuts, the two approaches are equivalent only in the limit $q_\perp \rightarrow 0$, unless the quantity subject to the cuts is preserved by the phase-space mapping $\Phi_N^r(\Phi_{N+1})$. For the following validation, the only process-defining cut is applied to the invariant mass of the resulting color singlet, which is preserved by our mappings. Therefore, we expect full agreement above q_\perp^{cut} between our results and those obtained with MATRIX + RADISH, which we can use to validate our implementation.

To produce our predictions we use the NNLO NNPDF3.1 parton distribution function set [116] with $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.118$ through the LHAPDF interface [117]. We set the central renormalization and factorization scales to $m_T = \sqrt{m_{\ell\ell}^2 + q_\perp^2}$, while the central resummation scale is set to $Q = m_{\ell\ell}/2$. The uncertainty band is constructed as the envelope of a canonical seven-point variation of the renormalization (μ_R) and factorization (μ_F) scales and of two additional variations of Q by a factor of 2 for central μ_R and μ_F . The comparison is presented in Fig. 3, where we show the resummed and the matched results for the $q_\perp \equiv p_\perp^{\ell\ell}$ spectrum up to 100 GeV, on a scale which is linear up to 20 GeV and logarithmic for larger values. In both cases,

⁵Note that this is not an intrinsic limitation, since by implementing an appropriate recoil scheme directly in RADISH one could achieve the same result.

we observe a very good agreement between the two calculations, both for the central prediction and for the theory uncertainty bands. We observe marginal deviations at large q_\perp in the resummed result, which can be traced back to the additional damping present in the GENEVA implementation as discussed in Sec. III A. As expected, this difference cancels in the matched result. The difference in the first bin of the matched result, on the other hand, originates from the sensitivity to the different IR cutoffs employed in the two calculations necessary to regularize the $q_\perp \rightarrow 0$ limit in the NLO_1 calculation. We observe that after matching, the uncertainty bands are significantly reduced between 10 and 25 GeV and are at the 1%–2% level, which might not reflect the actual size of missing higher-order effects. However, since we are not including further sources of uncertainty such as parton distribution function (PDF) errors, mass effects, etc., one should not regard this as the full theoretical uncertainty. Including all these additional effects in order to provide a fully realistic error estimate is beyond the scope of this work.

E. Comparison with NNLO predictions and validation

In this section, we proceed with the validation of the GENEVA implementation by comparing our results with those obtained with an independent NNLO calculation using MATRIX. In Fig. 4, we compare four distributions already defined at the Born level, which allows us to assess the agreement of the NNLO corrections. In particular, we compare the invariant mass $m_{\ell\ell}$ and the rapidity $y_{\ell\ell}$ of the dilepton system, the rapidity of the hardest lepton $y_{\ell,\text{hardest}}$, and the transverse momentum of the hardest lepton $p_{T,\ell,\text{hardest}}$. We use the same settings as specified in the previous section, but we now use a canonical seven-point scale uncertainty prescription by keeping the resummation scale fixed to its central value Q .

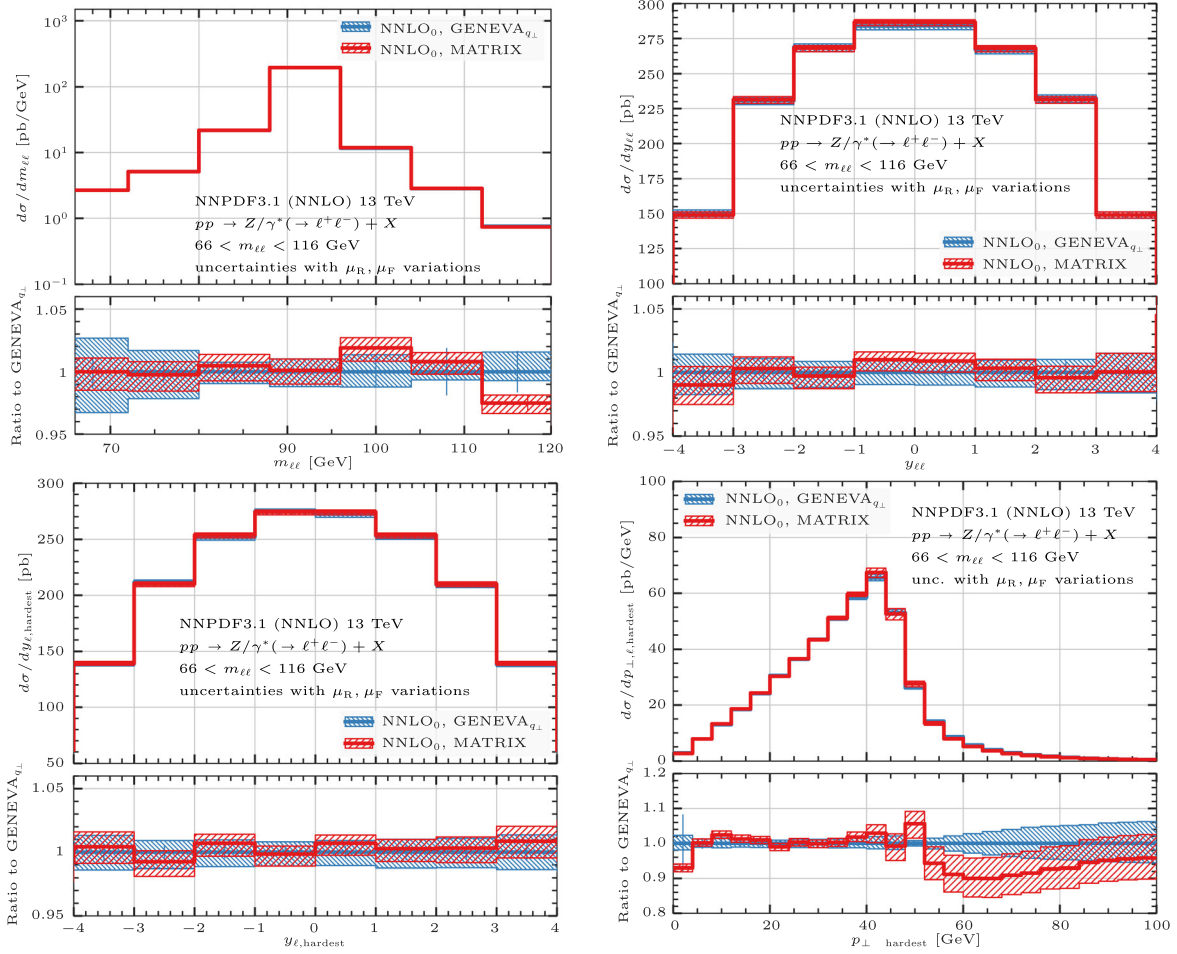


FIG. 4. Comparison between the NNLO results obtained with MATRIX and the results obtained with GENEVA + RADISH. Upper panel: invariant mass (left) and rapidity (right) of the lepton pair. Lower panel: rapidity (left) and transverse momentum (right) of the hardest lepton.

For the first three observables we find an excellent agreement between GENEVA and MATRIX, with differences at the few percent level, which is within the size of the statistical fluctuations. In the case of $p_{T,\ell,\text{hardest}}$, we expect possible differences because the distribution is NNLO accurate only below the Jacobian peak at $m_{\ell\ell}/2$. The presence of resummation effects in the GENEVA results improves the description of this observable above the peak with respect to the pure fixed-order result, smearing out the unphysical behavior of the distribution around the Sudakov shoulder [118]. Indeed, we observe that the two predictions are in good agreement up to ~ 40 GeV. Above this value, the two predictions start to differ, and the two uncertainty bands barely overlap between 50 and 70 GeV. At larger values of $p_{T,\ell,\text{hardest}}$, the two predictions approach each other again.

In conclusion, the comparison between the GENEVA and the MATRIX predictions provides a robust check of our implementation. In particular, the agreement observed at the differential level fully justifies the value of the q_{\perp}^{cut} of 1 GeV which we shall use to produce our results.

F. Interface with the PYTHIA8 parton shower

In order to make a calculation fully differential at higher multiplicities the GENEVA, partonic predictions must be matched to a PS. The shower adds extra radiation to the exclusive 0- and 1-jet cross section and extends the inclusive 2-jet cross section by including higher jet multiplicities. For the sake of definiteness in this study, as in the previous ones, we focus on the PYTHIA8 shower. The GENEVA interface to PYTHIA8 for hadronic processes is discussed in detail in Ref. [3]; here we briefly summarize the most relevant features, and we discuss the modifications to the interface needed to accommodate the change in the 0-jet resolution variable. In the previous GENEVA implementations based on \mathcal{T}_0 resummation, the shower constraints aim to preserve as far as possible the NNLL' accuracy of the \mathcal{T}_0 distribution. In particular, it was shown that for the majority of the events the first emission of the shower produces a distortion of the \mathcal{T}_0 distribution at the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3/T_0)$ level, i.e., beyond NNLL' [3]. However, due to the vectorial nature of q_{\perp} , one cannot readily apply the same argument in this case. In general, one expects that any

emission of the shower could alter the transverse momentum distribution of the color-singlet system, and ultimately, the logarithmic accuracy for the transverse momentum spectrum after the shower is therefore dictated by the shower accuracy. Hence, in this work we refrain from making any claims about the formal accuracy of the predictions for the q_\perp spectrum after the showering. However, we will show below that it is possible, with a suitable choice of the shower recoil scheme, to obtain an excellent numerical agreement between the analytic N³LL resummation and the GENEVA showered results. Lastly, one can get an excellent description of the data at small q_\perp by tuning the PYTHIA8 nonperturbative parameters. However, in any calculation obtained by matching higher-order calculations with PS, one has to carefully evaluate which parameters are truly encoding nonperturbative effects and should therefore be tuned.

In order to discuss the details of the matching, let us start by analyzing the interface to the PYTHIA8 k_\perp -ordered PS, starting with the 0-jet event case. For this set of events, the shower should simply restore the emissions which were integrated over in the construction of the 0-jet cross section. In our implementation, we set the starting scale to these events to the natural scale q_\perp^{cut} ; to avoid double counting with events above the cut, we require that after the shower the transverse momentum of the boson does not exceed q_\perp^{cut} , though we allow for a small spillover if the showered event has $q_\perp > 1.05 \times q_\perp^{\text{cut}}$ to avoid a hard cutoff. Events which do not fulfill this constraint are reshowered. In practice, this spillover has a negligible effect, since 0-jet events account for $\mathcal{O}(1\%)$ or less of the total cross section, and are therefore a very small fraction of the total; moreover, since the starting scale for the showering of these events is ~ 1 GeV, the majority of them automatically satisfy the constraint.

The showering of 1- and 2-jet events is more delicate. As discussed in Sec. II A, the separation between 1- and 2-jet events is achieved by means of a Sudakov form factor $U_1(\Phi_1, T_1)$, which suppresses the 1-jet cross section at small values of T_1 . The mapping used preserves the 0-jet resolution parameter r_0 , i.e., T_0 in the original GENEVA implementation and q_\perp in this work. Even with $T_1^{\text{cut}} = 1$ GeV, σ_1^{MC} remains sizeable and must be handled with certain care. In the original GENEVA implementation, it was necessary to reduce its size to avoid further distortions of the T_0 distribution after the shower. Here we prefer to follow the same approach, which also helps to reduce the size of the nonsingular contributions in Eq. (19). Properly, to fully account for configurations where $q_\perp \sim T_1 \ll Q$, one should extend the resummation framework used here and include a joint resummation for the two jet resolutions. Unfortunately, this is not yet available at the required logarithmic order.⁶ In the $T_1 \ll q_\perp$ limit, it is however possible to approximate the

correct behavior and suppress the size of the 1-jet cross section σ_1^{MC} by multiplying it by an additional LL Sudakov form factor $U_1(\mathcal{T}_1^{\text{cut}}, \Lambda_1)$; see Ref. [11]. The new 1-jet exclusive cross section becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, \mathcal{T}_1^{\text{cut}}, \Lambda_1) \\ = \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, \mathcal{T}_1^{\text{cut}}) U_1(\mathcal{T}_1^{\text{cut}}, \Lambda_1), \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

while the 2-jet inclusive reads

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 2}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_2}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, \mathcal{T}_1^{\text{cut}}, T_1 > \Lambda_1) \\ = \frac{d\sigma_{\geq 2}^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_2}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, T_1 > \mathcal{T}_1^{\text{cut}}) \\ + \frac{d}{dT_1} \frac{d\sigma_1^{\text{MC}}}{d\Phi_1}(r_0 > r_0^{\text{cut}}, \mathcal{T}_1^{\text{cut}}, T_1) \times \mathcal{P}(\Phi_2) \theta(T_1 > \Lambda_1). \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

The parameter Λ_1 is set to be much smaller than $\mathcal{T}_1^{\text{cut}}$ and constitutes the ultimate 1-jet resolution cutoff (in the present work, we set this cutoff to 0.0001 GeV). The 1-jet cross section is therefore extremely suppressed and accounts for a negligible fraction of the cross section, at the few per mille level.

As a result, the inclusive 2-jet cross section accounts for almost all events. The starting scale of the shower for this set of events is chosen to be sufficiently large to completely fill the phase space available to the k_\perp -ordered shower (in particular, in the present work we choose the largest relative k_\perp with respect to the direction of the sister parton for the second emission). The events are then showered, vetoing events which have a \mathcal{T}_2 value larger than the initial \mathcal{T}_1 value once showering is complete. Events which do not pass this veto are reshowered again until they do. This in practice corresponds to the implementation of a truncated-vetoed shower [123] and thus preserves the LL accuracy of the shower for observables other than q_\perp .

Having discussed the matching conditions of the shower, we now move to discuss the results. We match the NNLO calculation to the PYTHIA8.245 PS, and we use the general-purpose CMS MonashStar Tune (Tune:pp = 18). As previously discussed, it would be desirable to maintain an agreement between the precise parton level predictions and the showered result. This is possible by choosing a more local recoil scheme in PYTHIA through the option `SpaceShower:dipoleRecoil = on`, which affects the color-singlet kinematics less compared to the standard recoil scheme [7,124].

This scheme does not change the transverse momentum of the colorless system when there is an emission involving an initial-final dipole, and it was shown to improve the

⁶Results for the joint resummation at lower orders or for other observables are, e.g., available in Refs. [119–122].

agreement between parton level and showered predictions for the transverse momentum of a diphoton pair in our previous work [15]. We stress that the choice of the recoil scheme has important implications on the accuracy of PSs [125–130] and might induce spurious effects at NLL. Nonetheless, since in this work we assume that the accuracy of our predictions is dictated by the PS, we leave a study of the formal accuracy to future work.

Nonperturbative effects are another possible source of modification of the q_{\perp} distribution induced by the matching with a PS. In general, the values of the nonperturbative parameters in PYTHIA8 have been tuned starting from predictions which were lacking the higher-order effects that are instead included in this work. Therefore, it is not clear whether their values reflect real nonperturbative effects or simply the lack of perturbative ingredients. When matching to a NNLO computation, it would be advisable to investigate this and eventually perform a retuning. While the determination of an optimal tune is beyond the scope of this work, we observed that the description of the spectrum in the small q_{\perp} region strongly depends on the value of the intrinsic (or primordial) k_{\perp} transverse momentum of the incoming partons determined by the PYTHIA option `BeamRemnants:primordialkThard`. In the CMS MonashStar tune, the value for this parameter is set to 1.8 GeV; nonetheless, we observed that this value is responsible for a shift in the spectrum outside scale variation bands up to values of $q_{\perp} \sim 10$ GeV, i.e., in a region where one would naively expect nonperturbative effects to play a minor role. Therefore, we preferred to lower this value to ~ 0.6 GeV, such that the uncertainty bands before and after the shower overlap. In the following, we shall use this value as our default.

The effect of changing the recoil scheme is shown in Fig. 5 for the rapidity distribution of the dilepton pair and

for the transverse momentum of the vector boson. In the plots, we compare the parton level predictions with the results after the shower with different recoil schemes, in the absence of hadronization and multiparticle interactions (MPI) effects. The difference in the rapidity distribution is negligible almost everywhere: The dipole recoil scheme is indistinguishable from the parton level results, while there are tiny discrepancies for the default recoil scheme, but these appear only at very large rapidities. On the other hand, the effect on the transverse momentum distribution is somewhat more pronounced, although the two schemes are in good agreement within the scale uncertainty bands, with differences at the few percent level. In particular, when the more local recoil scheme is chosen, the agreement between the showered result and the $N^3LL + NLO_1$ result at the parton level is excellent across the whole spectrum.

We now compare the partonic, showered, and hadronized result for a selected set of distributions. In order to keep the analysis simple, we do not include QED effects in the showered results. In the following, we always include MPI effects in our hadronized results. We start by presenting this comparison in Fig. 6 for the rapidity distribution of the lepton pair and for the transverse momentum of the hardest lepton. In the left panel, we observe that for the rapidity distribution, the NNLO accuracy is maintained at a very precise level after the showering and the hadronization stages, as should be expected by the inclusive nature of this distribution. In the right panel, the same excellent agreement is also seen in the case of the $p_{T,\ell,\text{hardest}}$ distribution case, with differences well inside statistical fluctuations.

Next, in Fig. 7 we focus on the transverse momentum distribution of the lepton pair, comparing the partonic result to the result after showering (upper row) and after hadronization and MPI (lower row). We present three separate

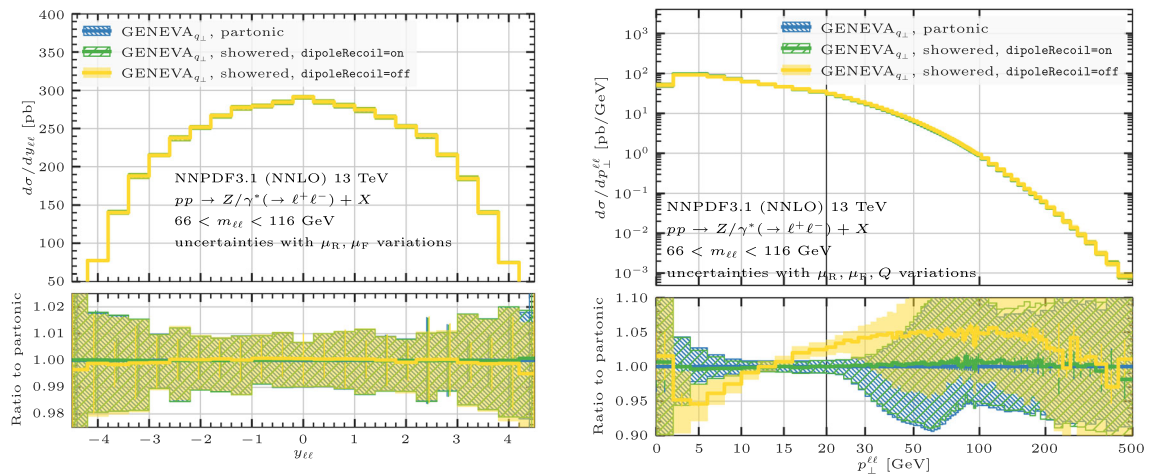


FIG. 5. Comparison between the parton level and the showered results with and without the PYTHIA8 DIPOLERECOIL option for the rapidity distribution (left) and for the transverse momentum distribution (right) of the lepton pair.

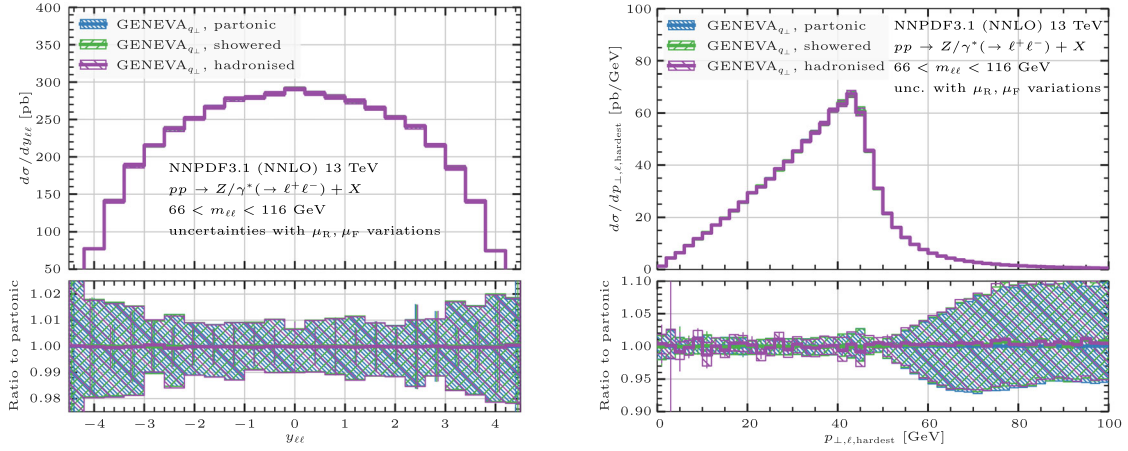


FIG. 6. Comparison of the partonic, showered, and hadronized results for the rapidity of the lepton pair (left) and the transverse momentum of the hardest lepton (right).

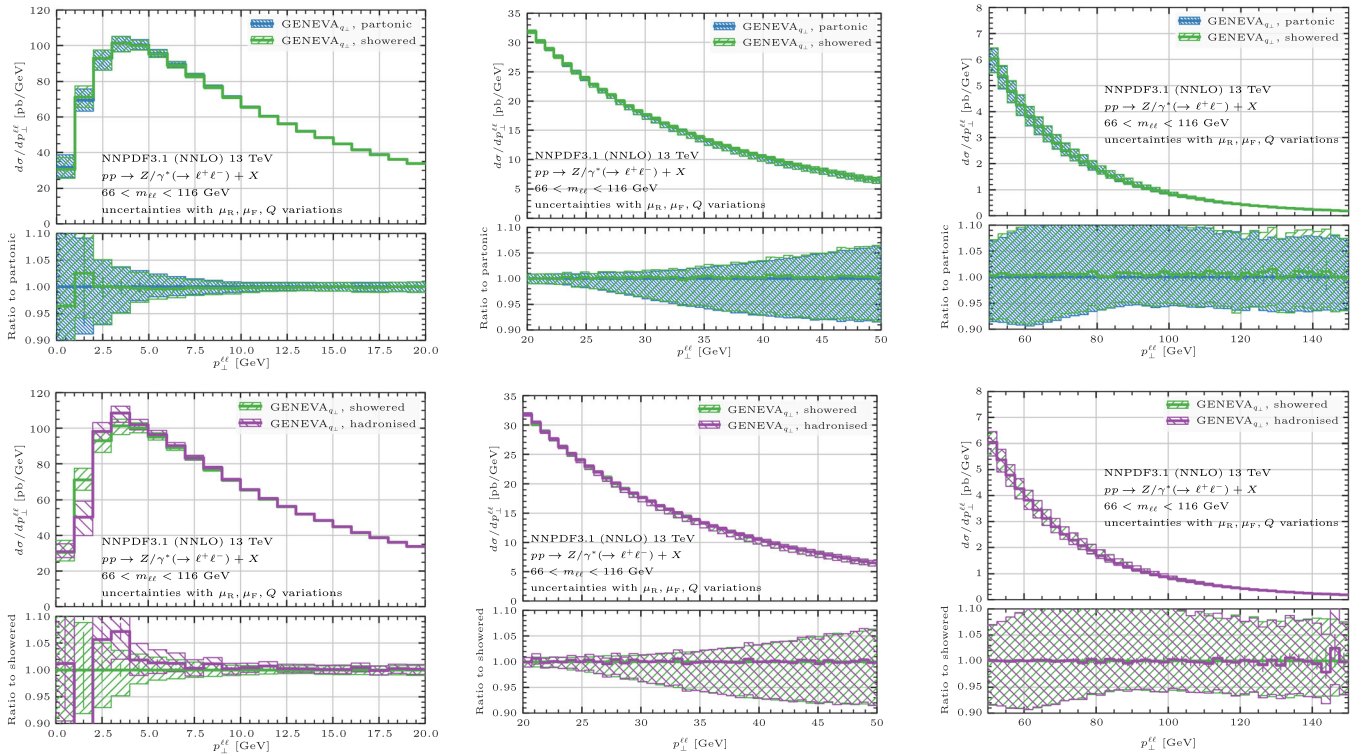


FIG. 7. Comparison of the q_{\perp} spectra between the partonic $N^3\text{LL} + \text{NLO}_1$ and the showered results, after interfacing to PYTHIA8, before the inclusion of nonperturbative effects (above), and after hadronization and MPI (below). The peak (left), transition (center), and tail (right) regions are shown.

plots, in the peak, transition, as well as in the tail region of the distribution. An extremely good agreement between the showered and the partonic results is observed in all three regions, both for the central predictions and for the scale

uncertainty bands. When the hadronization (and MPI) stage is also added, some differences arise, localized in the small q_{\perp} region. There we observe that the peak becomes more pronounced, and the spectrum is more suppressed at small

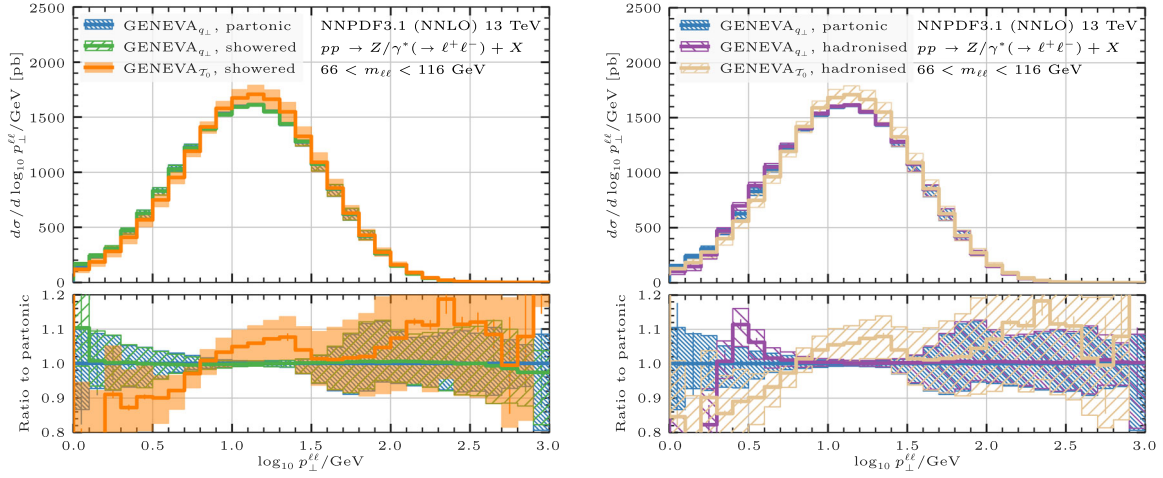


FIG. 8. Comparison between parton level and showered results (left) and between parton level and results after shower, hadronization, and MPI (right) for the transverse momentum distribution of the dilepton pair using GENEVA $_{q_{\perp}}$ and GENEVA $_{\mathcal{T}_0}$.

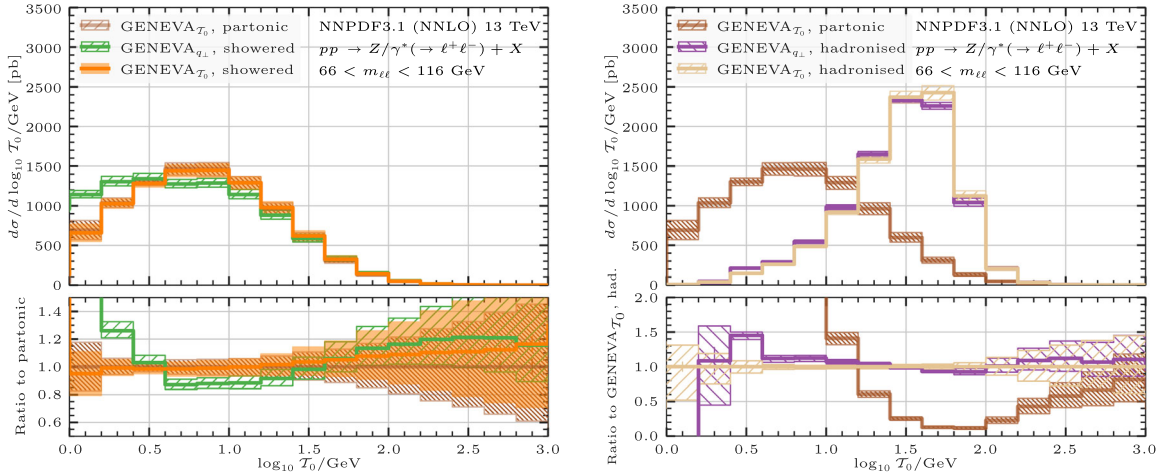


FIG. 9. Same as Fig. 8, now comparing the \mathcal{T}_0 distribution.

q_{\perp} , while at large q_{\perp} the showered and hadronized results are again in agreement, as one expects from factorization.

G. Comparison of resolution variables

The implementation of two different 0-jet resolution variables opens up the possibility of comparing the predictions after shower, hadronization, and MPI obtained using GENEVA in the two cases. Moreover, we can also compare the results to the parton level predictions, where the higher-order resummation is guaranteed by construction for each 0-jet resolution variable. We show this comparison in Figs. 8 and 9 for the q_{\perp} and \mathcal{T}_0 spectra, respectively. There, the N³LL + NLO₁ (NNLL' + NLO₁) results at the parton level for each 0-jet resolution variable are compared to the results after showering and after

hadronization obtained using q_{\perp} and \mathcal{T}_0 in GENEVA. For the transverse momentum distribution, we observe differences at the 10%–20% level between the results obtained with GENEVA $_{q_{\perp}}$ and GENEVA $_{\mathcal{T}_0}$ after the shower up to values of q_{\perp} close to 30 GeV, though the uncertainty bands always overlap. The GENEVA $_{\mathcal{T}_0}$ result is more suppressed at small q_{\perp} and slightly harder above the peak. The differences are reduced at larger values of q_{\perp} , although the GENEVA $_{\mathcal{T}_0}$ spectrum is somewhat harder than that of GENEVA $_{q_{\perp}}$. A similar pattern is visible after hadronization and MPI.

Analogous differences can be observed when comparing the \mathcal{T}_0 spectra obtained using the two different implementations. The showered results are in good agreement for values of \mathcal{T}_0 larger than 30 GeV, while they start to differ

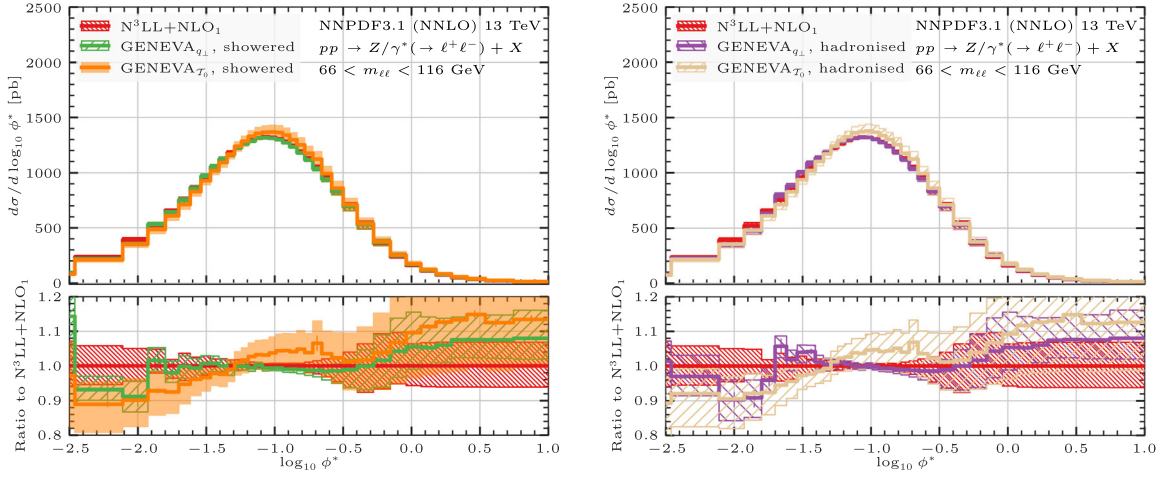


FIG. 10. Comparison between the $N^3LL + NLO_1$ prediction and showered results (left) and between the $N^3LL + NLO_1$ prediction and results after hadronization and MPI (right) for the ϕ^* distribution using $GENEVA_{q_\perp}$ and $GENEVA_{T_0}$.

below. The differences are as large as 50% at small values of T_0 , where the $GENEVA_{q_\perp}$ result is considerably harder than the $NNLL' + NLO_1$ result. The hadronization and especially the addition of MPI effects significantly modify the T_0 distribution, and bring the two results closer also at small values of T_0 . To accommodate this larger difference, instead of the usual ratio with respect to the partonic result, in the right panel of Fig. 9 we show the ratio with respect to the $GENEVA_{T_0}$ result after hadronization and MPI.

Finally, we show the same comparison for the ϕ^* variable [131] in Fig. 10. Although this observable is not fully resummed at N^3LL accuracy in the $GENEVA_{q_\perp}$ implementation, we expect to observe good agreement between the $GENEVA_{q_\perp}$ and the resummed results since the two observables are closely related. Indeed, we observe that after showering, the $GENEVA_{q_\perp}$ result is close to the $N^3LL + NLO_1$ result obtained with *MATRIX + RADISH*. The $GENEVA_{T_0}$ result displays instead differences similar to those seen for the q_\perp distribution, both before and after hadronization.

IV. RESULTS AND COMPARISON TO LHC DATA

In this section, we compare our predictions against 13 TeV data collected at the LHC by the ATLAS [40] and the CMS [41] experiments. We have generated events using the same settings as detailed in Sec. III D regarding the choice of PDF and central scales, and we use the shower settings as described in Sec. III F. We remind the reader that our predictions thus include hadron decay and MPI effects, but do not include QED shower effects.

A. Comparison to ATLAS data

We start by showing the comparison of our predictions with the ATLAS data of Ref. [40]. The Z boson is

reconstructed by selecting the two hardest same-flavor opposite-sign leptons in the final state. We then apply the following cuts to our events:

$$p_\perp^\ell > 27 \text{ GeV}, \quad |\eta_\ell| < 2.47, \quad m_{\ell\ell} \in [66, 116] \text{ GeV}. \quad (37)$$

In Fig. 11, we compare our predictions for the normalized q_\perp and ϕ^* distributions. For q_\perp , we use a scale which is linear up to 30 GeV and logarithmic for larger values. The former are in very good agreement with the data in the whole q_\perp range. Below 30 GeV, the central prediction is within a few percent of the data, and only in the first two bins, where hadronization and nonperturbative effects play a prominent role, do the scale uncertainty bands fail to cover the experimental data. Our predictions are also in good agreement with the ϕ^* measurements, matching them within scale uncertainty bands down to values of $\phi^* \sim 0.01$; at lower values, the differences reach the 20% level in the first bin, and the perturbative uncertainty does not cover the data. Here, the inclusion of shower and nonperturbative uncertainties as well as the development of a dedicated tuning could help ameliorate the agreement.

Finally, in Fig. 12 we can compare our predictions with parton level results at $N^3LL + NNLO_1$ accuracy [97] for the q_\perp and ϕ^* distributions obtained by matching *RADISH* results with fixed-order predictions from *NNLOJET* [132–134] in the ATLAS fiducial region. In the q_\perp case, we also show the *GENEVA* parton level predictions at $N^3LL + NLO_1$ accuracy for reference. Our results for the q_\perp spectrum are in good agreement with the parton level predictions across the whole range. In particular, the results are within a few percent from the $N^3LL + NNLO_1$ result up to 30 GeV; at larger values, where $NNLO_1$ corrections become dominant, the differences can reach $\mathcal{O}(10\%)$. We observe a similar agreement in the ϕ^*

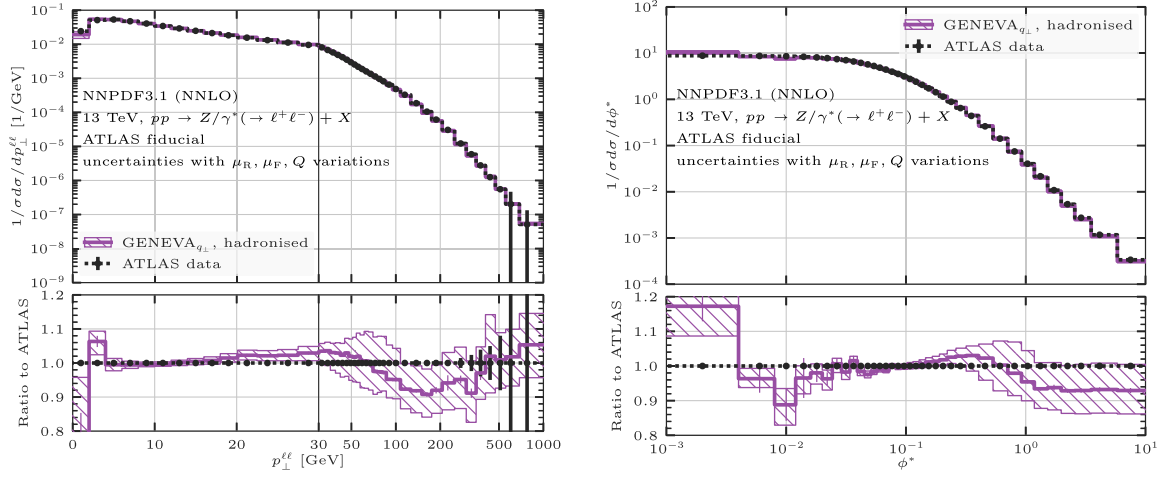


FIG. 11. Comparison between GENEVA predictions and the ATLAS data for the transverse momentum distribution (left) and for the ϕ^* observable (right).

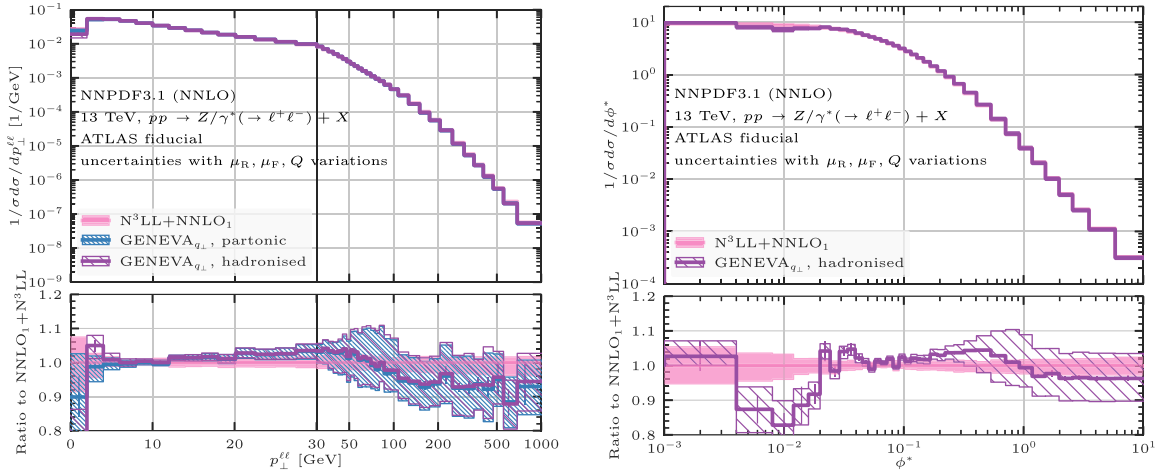


FIG. 12. Comparison between GENEVA results and N³LL + NNLO₁ predictions for the transverse momentum distribution (left) and for the ϕ^* observable (right) within ATLAS fiducial cuts.

case, with differences at most at the 10% level around $\phi^* \sim 0.01$.

B. Comparison to CMS data

Finally, we compare our predictions with the CMS data of Ref. [41]. The fiducial region in this case is defined by the selection cuts

$$p_{\perp}^{\ell} > 25 \text{ GeV}, \quad |\eta_{\ell}| < 2.4, \quad (38)$$

$$|m_{\ell\ell} - 91.1876 \text{ GeV}| < 15 \text{ GeV}. \quad (39)$$

We compare our predictions both at the absolute level and for normalized distributions. We note that in the analysis of Ref. [41], the latter are defined by dividing by the sum of

the weights rather than by the integrated cross section; i.e., it is not normalized by the fiducial cross section.

In Fig. 13, we show the comparison for the absolute rapidity $|y_{\ell\ell}|$ and for the q_{\perp} and ϕ^* distributions. In the first row, we observe a reasonably good agreement for the rapidity distribution. The theoretical predictions are a few percent higher than the experimental data at the absolute level, and oscillate around the data in the normalized distribution. In the central row, the predictions for q_{\perp} are also in good agreement with the CMS data, repeating the same pattern already observed when comparing to ATLAS data. This is especially true at the normalized level.

In the last row, we observe that the theoretical predictions display statistical fluctuations more pronounced than in the ATLAS case. This is due to the very fine binning at small

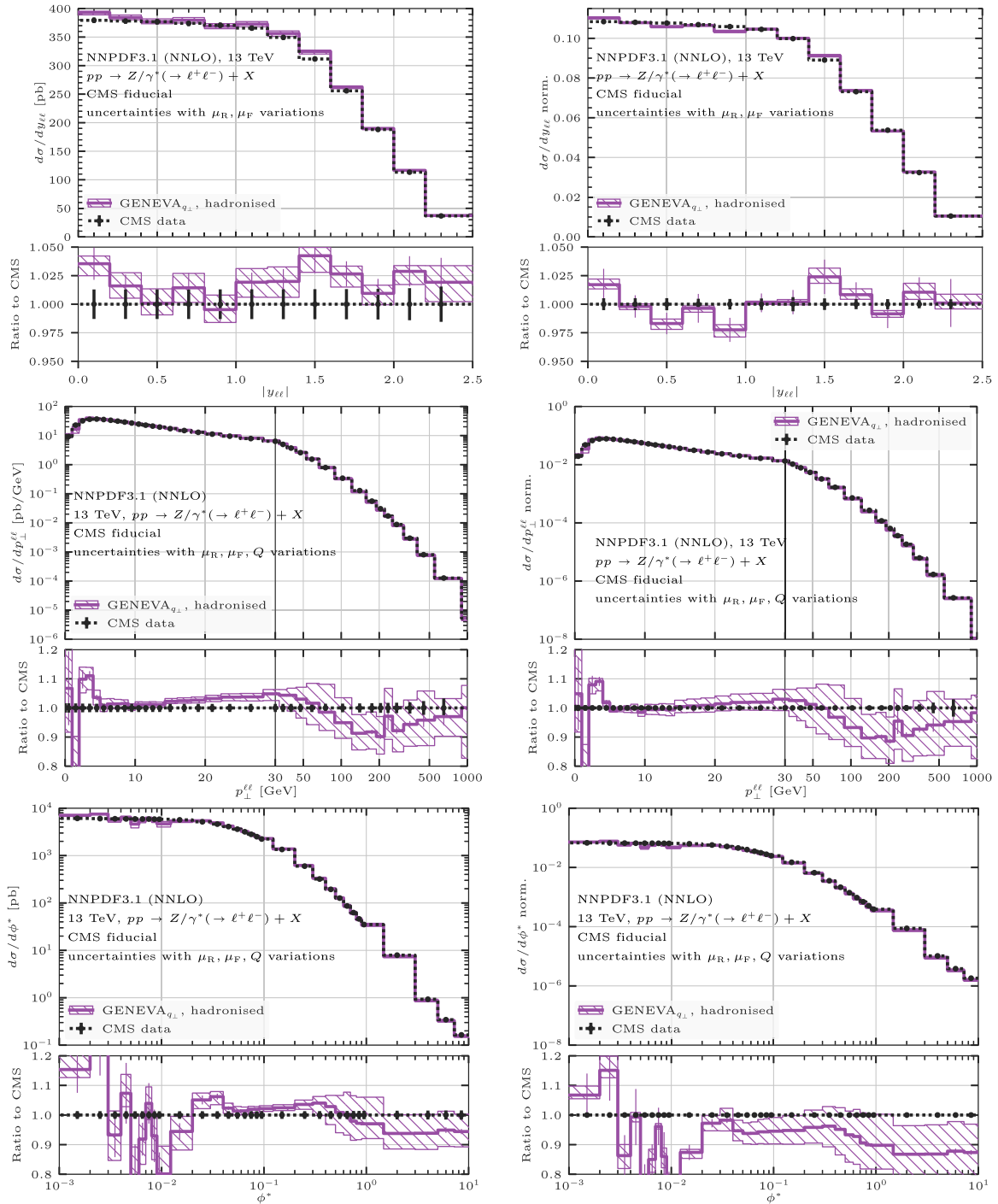


FIG. 13. Comparison between GENEVA and the CMS data for different observables. Normalized distributions are shown on the right; see text for details.

values of ϕ^* . Moreover, the normalized predictions seem to consistently undershoot the data. A possible explanation for this effect could lie in the interplay between the statistical fluctuations at small values of ϕ^* and the atypical normalization chosen for this particular analysis, which enhances the impact of the low ϕ^* region across the whole spectrum. This can be further appreciated by noticing that

the relative size of the uncertainty bands is somewhat larger in the normalized ϕ^* distribution, defying a naive expectation. Finally, in Fig. 14 we compare our predictions for the transverse momentum distribution in different rapidity slices with the CMS data. In all cases, we observe a good agreement, with larger differences localized in the first few bins where hadronization effects are more significant.

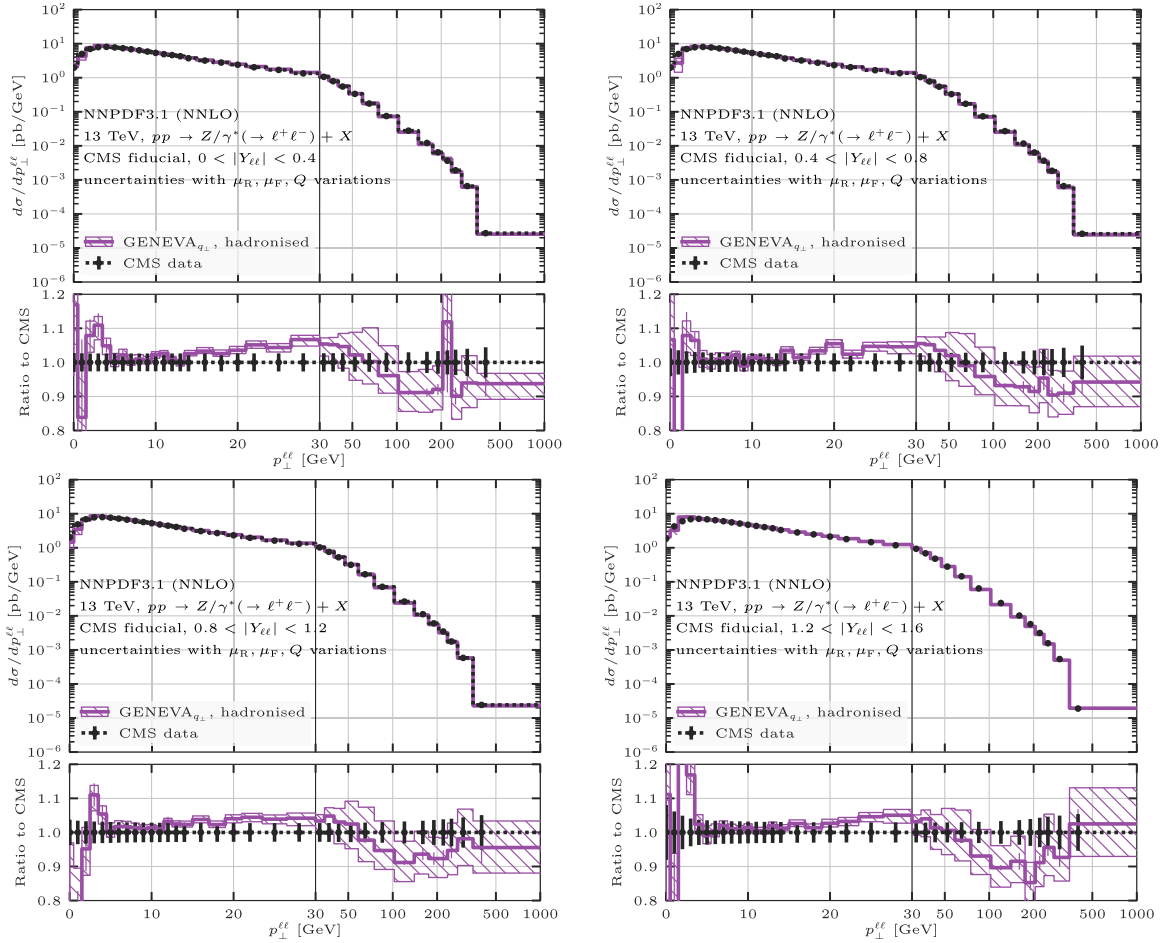


FIG. 14. Comparison between GENEVA and the CMS data for the q_{\perp} distribution in different rapidity slices.

V. CONCLUSION

In this work, we have presented an extension of the GENEVA method which uses the transverse momentum of the color singlet as the 0-jet resolution variable. As a first application, we have provided an NNLO + PS description of DY pair production by matching the parton level calculation with the PYTHIA8 PS. The method presented here is fully general and can be readily applied to other color-singlet processes.

In this specific implementation, the transverse momentum resummation is performed at N^3LL accuracy by interfacing GENEVA with the RADISH code. We have validated our predictions of the transverse momentum resummation by comparing with the $N^3LL + NNLO_0$ results obtained with the MATRIX + RADISH interface. The use of the transverse momentum as the 0-jet resolution variable has allowed us to reduce the impact of missing power corrections in the NNLO calculation. Setting $q_{\perp}^{\text{cut}} = 1$ GeV, we have found that the missing power corrections contribute below the per mille level. We have validated our NNLO differential predictions by comparing a few selected distributions against the MATRIX program.

The availability of a fully exclusive event generator at this accuracy allows for the evaluation of any fiducial cross section, also correctly resumming linear power corrections associated with cuts on the lepton kinematics.

We have then studied the impact of PS and hadronization on our predictions and have found that the NNLO description of inclusive observables is preserved after both shower and hadronization. An important outcome of this study is the observation that it is possible to maintain an extremely good agreement between the $N^3LL + NLO_1$ result for the transverse momentum spectrum and the GENEVA results after the shower by choosing a more local recoil scheme in PYTHIA8. We have also quantified the impact of non-perturbative corrections after hadronization on the transverse momentum distribution, finding, as expected, that they are localized below the peak.

The construction of a NNLO + PS event generator is subject to several assumptions, and the choice of which resolution variables are used is of particular importance. The availability of two different 0-jet resolution variables within the GENEVA framework has allowed us to robustly assess the impact of such choices on differential observables for the first time. We have studied the effect of the

shower and hadronization (including MPI effects) on the higher-logarithmic partonic predictions using both \mathcal{T}_0 and q_\perp as the 0-jet resolution variable. The major differences are observed below the peak region, where the higher-order resummation of the correct logarithms is necessary to reproduce the correct behavior. Nonetheless, the two predictions are in reasonable agreement, with the size of the differences never exceeding 15% for the q_\perp and ϕ^* distributions.

Finally, we have compared our predictions, including hadronization and MPI effects, to LHC data at 13 TeV. A good agreement has been observed both for inclusive and for more exclusive distributions, such as the transverse momentum spectrum of the dilepton system as well as the ϕ^* variable, across the whole spectrum. The description at very small q_\perp and ϕ^* is sensitive to the details of the hadronization procedure, suggesting that dedicated studies are needed in order to determine the optimal value of the nonperturbative parameters in a NNLO + PS computation. It should be emphasised, however, that at this level of precision, the inclusion of EW corrections and a careful study of the impact of mass effects become relevant. We have refrained from including these effects in this study, leaving them to future work. Another direction in which our predictions could be improved concerns the inclusion of higher-order matrix elements, beyond what is available in a NNLO calculation for DY with no additional jets.

This work could be expanded even further by extending the study to the use of alternative 1-jet resolution variables and their resummation, as well as the interplay between the 0-jet and 1-jet resummations. In particular, in view of the recent advancements in the development of PSs beyond LL accuracy, the choice of a suitable 1-jet resolution variable might prove crucial in order to ensure that the matching of NNLO calculations to PS preserves the shower accuracy.

The code used to produce the results presented in this work is available upon request from the authors, and will be made public in a future GENEVA release [135].

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APPENDIX: $2 \rightarrow 1$ MAPPING FOR FINAL-STATE RADIATION

In this appendix, we describe the \vec{q}_T -preserving mapping used for the implementation of the \mathcal{T}_1 resummation. We define the phase space for the emission of N particles by also including the momentum fractions x_a, x_b of the two incoming partons, such that

$$\begin{aligned} d\Phi_N(x_a, x_b; p_1, \dots, p_N) \\ \equiv dx_a dx_b d\Phi_N(x_a P_a + x_b P_b; p_1, \dots, p_N), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A1})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} d\Phi_N(Q; p_1, \dots, p_N) &= (2\pi)^4 \delta(Q - \sum p_i) \\ &\times \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{d^4 p_i}{(2\pi)^3} \delta(p_i^2 - m_i^2) \theta(p_i^0) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A2})$$

is the N -body Lorentz-invariant phase space. The momenta of the incoming hadrons are

$$P_a = E_{\text{cm}} \frac{n_a}{2}, \quad P_b = E_{\text{cm}} \frac{n_b}{2}, \quad (\text{A3})$$

where E_{cm} is the hadronic center-of-mass energy. For later convenience, we have introduced light-cone coordinates relative to the beam axis as

$$n^\mu \equiv n_a^\mu = (1, 0, 0, 1), \quad \bar{n}^\mu \equiv n_b^\mu = (1, 0, 0, -1), \quad (\text{A4})$$

such that

$$P_a^- = P_b^+ = E_{\text{cm}}, \quad P_a^+ = P_b^- = 0, \quad (P_a + P_b)^2 = E_{\text{cm}}^2. \quad (\text{A5})$$

The momenta of the incoming partons are then

$$\begin{aligned} p_a &= x_a P_a, & p_a^- &= x_a E_{\text{cm}}, & p_a^+ &= 0, \\ p_b &= x_b P_b, & p_b^+ &= x_b E_{\text{cm}}, & p_b^- &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A6})$$

and we define

$$s = (p_a + p_b)^2 = x_a x_b E_{\text{cm}}^2. \quad (\text{A7})$$

The phase-space projection is a variable transformation from the $N + 1$ phase space onto the underlying Born phase space $\bar{\Phi}_N$, such as

$$\Phi_{N+1}(x_a, x_b; p_1, \dots, p_N, p_{N+1}) \leftrightarrow \{\bar{\Phi}_N(\bar{x}_a, \bar{x}_b; \bar{p}_1, \dots, \bar{p}_N), \Phi_{\text{rad}}(\xi, y, \phi)\}, \quad (\text{A8})$$

where $\Phi_{\text{rad}}(\xi, y, \phi)$ is the phase space of the radiation, and ξ, y, ϕ are the radiation variables which parametrize the emission.

In particular, we are interested in the case in which p_1, \dots, p_M , with $M < N$, are the momenta of colorless particle, and

$$q \equiv \sum_1^M p_i \quad (\text{A9})$$

is the total momentum of the color-singlet system. For the DY production process studied in this paper, we specifically consider the mapping

$$\Phi_2(x_a, x_b; q, p_1, p_2) \leftrightarrow \{\Phi_1(\bar{x}_a, \bar{x}_b; \bar{q}, \bar{p}), \Phi_{\text{rad}}(\xi, y, \phi)\}, \quad (\text{A10})$$

where the number of particles in the phase-space label has now been reduced to match the notation adopted in the main text by omitting the number of leptons from the count.

In order to construct the projection, we start from the relations of momentum conservation

$$\begin{aligned} x_a E_{\text{cm}} &= p_1^- + p_2^- + q^-, & \bar{x}_a E_{\text{cm}} &= \bar{p}^- + \bar{q}^-, \\ x_b E_{\text{cm}} &= p_1^+ + p_2^+ + q^+, & \bar{x}_b E_{\text{cm}} &= \bar{p}^+ + \bar{q}^+, \\ 0 &= \vec{p}_{1,\perp} + \vec{p}_{2,\perp} + \vec{q}_\perp, & 0 &= \vec{\bar{p}}_\perp + \vec{\bar{q}}_\perp. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A11})$$

Imposing also the conservation of the four-momentum of the vector boson q , we have

$$q^- = \bar{q}^-, \quad q^+ = \bar{q}^+, \quad \vec{q}_\perp = \vec{\bar{q}}_\perp. \quad (\text{A12})$$

This immediately gives the relation

$$\vec{\bar{p}}_\perp = \vec{\bar{p}}_{1,\perp} + \vec{\bar{p}}_{2,\perp}. \quad (\text{A13})$$

The projection is uniquely defined once we decide how to map the (massive) jet with momentum

$$p_{12} = p_1 + p_2 \quad (\text{A14})$$

into the massless parton \bar{p} . We choose to fix the longitudinal component

$$\bar{p}^z = p_1^z + p_2^z. \quad (\text{A15})$$

From the on-shell relation

$$0 = \bar{p}^2 = (\bar{p}^0)^2 - (\bar{p}^z)^2 - (\vec{\bar{p}}_\perp)^2, \quad (\text{A16})$$

one can now easily determine \bar{p}^0 . Having fixed \bar{p}^z and \bar{p}^0 , the barred system and therefore the complete projection is fully determined, since we can obtain

$$\bar{p}^+ = \bar{p}^0 - \bar{p}^z, \quad \bar{p}^- = \bar{p}^0 + \bar{p}^z, \quad (\text{A17})$$

and solve Eq. (A11) for \bar{x}_a and \bar{x}_b .

To construct the inverse mapping, it is convenient to first reconstruct the total momentum p_{12} . Once p_{12} is known, p_1 and p_2 can be constructed by decaying p_{12} in its rest frame with decay angles $\{\cos \vartheta, \phi\}$. Here, ϕ is the azimuthal radiation angle, while $\cos \vartheta$ can be determined by the variable ξ from the relation

$$2p_2^0 = \xi E_{\text{cm}} = p_{12}^0 + |\vec{p}_{12}| \cos \vartheta. \quad (\text{A18})$$

Note that the Φ_{rad} variables are defined in the hadronic center-of-mass frame, i.e.,

$$\xi = \frac{2p_2^0}{E_{\text{cm}}} = \frac{2p_{12}^0(1-z)}{E_{\text{cm}}}, \quad (\text{A19})$$

$$y = \frac{\vec{p}_1 \cdot \vec{p}_2}{|\vec{p}_1| |\vec{p}_2|} = 1 - \frac{p_{12}^2}{2p_1^0 p_2^0}. \quad (\text{A20})$$

To reconstruct p_{12} , we then must solve the system

$$\begin{cases} p_{12}^2 = 2p_1^0 p_2^0 (1-y) = (2p_{12}^0 - \xi E_{\text{cm}}) \xi E_{\text{cm}} \frac{1-y}{2}, \\ p_{12}^2 = (p_{12}^0)^2 - (p_{12}^z)^2 - q_\perp^2 = (p_{12}^0)^2 - (\bar{p}^z)^2 - q_\perp^2 \end{cases} \quad (\text{A21})$$

for p_{12}^2 and p_{12}^0 . One obtains two solutions, but only one of them is physical such that $p_{12}^2 > 0$ and $p_{12}^0 > 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} p_{12}^2 &= \frac{1}{2} (-E_{\text{cm}}^2 \xi^2 y + E_{\text{cm}}^2 \xi^2 y^2 \\ &\quad + E_{\text{cm}} \xi \sqrt{4(\bar{p}^z)^2 + 4q_\perp^2 - E_{\text{cm}}^2 \xi^2 + E_{\text{cm}}^2 \xi^2 y^2} \\ &\quad - E_{\text{cm}} \xi y \sqrt{4(\bar{p}^z)^2 + 4q_\perp^2 - E_{\text{cm}}^2 \xi^2 + E_{\text{cm}}^2 \xi^2 y^2}), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A22})$$

$$\begin{aligned} p_{12}^0 &= \frac{1}{2} (E_{\text{cm}} \xi (1-y) \\ &\quad + \sqrt{4(\bar{p}^z)^2 + 4q_\perp^2 - E_{\text{cm}}^2 \xi^2 + E_{\text{cm}}^2 \xi^2 y^2}). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A23})$$

This is enough information to fully reconstruct p_{12} , since

$$\bar{p}_{12}^0 = \frac{p_{12}^- + p_{12}^+}{2}, \quad \bar{p}^z = p_{12}^z = \frac{p_{12}^- - p_{12}^+}{2}, \quad (\text{A24})$$

which allows us to obtain p_{12}^\pm .

The Jacobian can be derived starting by the relation between $d\Phi_2$ and $d\Phi_1$,

$$\frac{d\Phi_2}{d\Phi_1 d\Phi_{\text{rad}}} = \frac{1}{\xi E_{\text{cm}}^2} \frac{\bar{p}}{p_{12}^0} \frac{\bar{q}^+}{q^+} \frac{dp_{12}^z d^2 q_\perp dq^+ dp_{12}^2 d \cos \vartheta d\phi}{d\bar{p}^z d^2 \bar{q}_\perp d\bar{q}^+ d\xi dy d\phi}. \quad (\text{A25})$$

Since the mapping is defined such as $q = \bar{q}$, $p_{12}^z = \bar{p}^z$, one has

$$\frac{d\Phi_2}{d\Phi_1 d\Phi_{\text{rad}}} = \frac{1}{\xi E_{\text{cm}}^2} \frac{\bar{p}}{p_{12}^0} \frac{dp_{12}^2 d \cos \vartheta}{d\xi dy}, \quad (\text{A26})$$

which can be calculated by using Eqs. (A18) and (A22). Since the expression is not particularly compact, we refrain from reporting it here.

Finally, we show how one can write the inverse map in terms of \mathcal{T}_1 and the energy fraction z . In order to do that, one should first express p_{12} as a function of \mathcal{T}_1 . Since

$$\mathcal{T}_1 = \hat{E}_{12} - |\hat{p}_{12}|, \quad (\text{A27})$$

where $\hat{}$ denotes that the variable is evaluated in the center-of-mass frame of the leptonic system, we have

$$\mathcal{T}_1 = \frac{e^{-Y} p_{12}^- + e^Y p_{12}^+}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(e^{-Y} p_{12}^- - e^Y p_{12}^+) + 4q_\perp^2}, \quad (\text{A28})$$

where

$$Y = \ln \sqrt{q^-/q^+}. \quad (\text{A29})$$

Since the mapping uniquely fixes $(p_{12}^- - p_{12}^+)/2 = p_{12}^z = \bar{p}^z$, and $p_{12}^2 = p_{12}^+ p_{12}^- - q_\perp^2$, one can fully reconstruct p_{12} . One finds that

$$p_{12}^0 = \mathcal{T}_1 \cosh Y + \sqrt{(\bar{p}^z)^2 + q_\perp^2 - \mathcal{T}_1^2 + \mathcal{T}_1^2 \cosh^2 Y - 2\mathcal{T}_1 \bar{p}^z \sinh Y}, \quad (\text{A30})$$

$$p_{12}^2 = \mathcal{T}_1 (\mathcal{T}_1 \cosh 2Y - 2\bar{p}^z \sinh Y + \cosh Y \sqrt{4((\bar{p}^z)^2 + q_\perp^2) + 2\mathcal{T}_1 (\mathcal{T}_1 \cosh 2Y - 4\bar{p}^z \sinh Y) - 2\mathcal{T}_1^2}), \quad (\text{A31})$$

which allows one to determine ξ and y and to compute the Jacobian $(d\xi dy)/(dT_1 dz)$ using

$$\xi = \frac{2p_{12}^0(1-z)}{E_{\text{cm}}},$$

$$y = 1 - \frac{p_{12}^2}{\xi E_{\text{cm}}(p_{12}^0 - \xi E_{\text{cm}}/2)}. \quad (\text{A32})$$

Also in this case, we refrain from reporting the rather lengthy expression for the Jacobian. The interested reader can find them well documented in the GENEVA code.

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