Computing Higgs production at three loops in QCD

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on behalf of the N3LO team:

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 $\mathcal{N} = 0$

$\mathcal{N} = 0$

non-supersymmetric

$\mathcal{N} = 0$ non-supersymmetric non-planar

$\mathcal{N} = 0$

non-supersymmetric

non-planar

non-conformal



non-supersymmetric

non-planar

non-conformal

boring



non-supersymmetric

non-planar

non-conformal



$\mathcal{N} = 0$ non-supersymmetric

non-planar

non-conformal



QCD

Cross sections

- We are computing cross sections to make predictions for the LHC.
- Problem: Divergent integrals \rightarrow regularization and renormalization.
- Results depend on an unphysical parameter 'scale'.
- Artifact of perturbation theory, all loop result should not depend on this scale.
- Scale dependence is reduced when increasing the order in perturbation theory.
- Reduced scale sensitivity makes calculations more predictive.



Cross sections



- The dominant Higgs production mode at the LHC is gluon fusion
- Loop induced process with massive particles (top-quark) in the loop



- Leading order amplitude already starts at one loop 🐵
- Integrals with internal masses are an open problem starting from two loops (elliptic integrals) 🐵
- Better to get rid of the massive loop!

• Let us just compute



• Dimension five operator in an effective theory for gluon fusion in the limit of infinitely heavy particles in the loop

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{QCD} - \frac{1}{4\nu} CHG_a^{\mu\nu}G_{\mu\nu}^a$$

• Subleading corrections depending on the top mass are known at NNLO.

[Harlander, Ozeren; Pak, Rogal, Steinhauser; Ball, Del Duca, Marzani, Forte, Vicini; Harlander, Mantler, Marzani, Ozeren]

- Next important term is the leading contribution at N3LO.
- We are calculating in pure massless QCD coupled to a massive scalar.

• We want to compute



• This puts us firmly on the 'high precision' side





• To connect to actual physics we compute the hadronic cross section in perturbation theory

$$\sigma(pp \to H + X) = \tau \sum_{ij} \int_{\tau}^{1} \mathrm{d}z \mathcal{L}_{ij}(z) \hat{\sigma}_{ij}\left(\frac{\tau}{z}\right)$$

- The partonic cross section $\hat{\sigma}$ is a function of the ratios $\tau = \frac{m_H^2}{E_{\rm col}} \qquad z = \frac{m_H^2}{s}$
- au and $\mathcal L$ parametrize the experiment.
- Focus on the computation of $\hat{\sigma}(z)$ in perturbation theory $\hat{\sigma}(z) = \alpha_s^2 \sigma_{LO} + \alpha_s^3 \sigma_{NLO} + \alpha_s^4 \sigma_{NNLO} + \alpha_s^5 \sigma_{N3LO} + \dots$

• The partonic cross section was know through NNLO

[Dawson; Djouadi, Spira, Zerwas; Harlander, Kilgore; Anastasiou, Melnikov; Ravindran, Smith, van Neerven]

• At N3LO only approximations were known.

[Moch, Vogt; Ball, Bonvini, Forte, Marzani, Ridolfi; Bühler, Lazopoulos]

- Can we push the state of the art in QCD to N3LO?
- Improve predictions for the LHC.
- Will we find something new and unexpected?
- Is it even possible to compute in QCD at this order?
- Uncharted territory in perturbation theory.
- Culmination of many developments from amplitudes.

| | σ [8 TeV] | $\delta\sigma$ [%] |
|------|------------------|--------------------|
| LO | 9.6pb | ~ 25% |
| NLO | 16.7pb | ~ 20% |
| NNLO | 19.6pb | ~ 8% |
| N3LO | ??? | ~ 3% |

From amplitudes to cross sections...

- We want to compute finite physical cross sections.
- Not enough to just consider loop (virtual) corrections.
- Also need the corresponding real corrections.



- Both are individually divergent in dimensional regularisation.
- Infrared poles need to cancel between real and virtual corrections.
- E.g. at NLO we have

$$\sigma_{gg \to H}^{NLO} \propto \langle \mathcal{A}_0^{(1)} | \mathcal{A}_0^{(0)} \rangle + \langle \mathcal{A}_1^{(0)} | \mathcal{A}_1^{(0)} \rangle$$

From amplitudes to cross sections...

• We compute the inclusive cross section from two ingredients

$$\hat{\sigma} = \int \mathrm{d}\Phi |\mathcal{A}|^2$$





• Phase space integral Integrate over final state momenta of the amplitude

... and back ...

• Optical theorem



- Discontinuities of loop amplitudes are phase space integrals.
- Discontinuities of loop integrals computed from Cutkosky rule $\frac{1}{p^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} \rightarrow \delta^+(p^2 - m^2) = \delta(p^2 - m^2)\theta(p^0)$

... and back ...

• Optical theorem

$$\operatorname{Im} = \int d\Phi$$

 Optical theorem can be read 'backwards'. Use it to write phase space integrals as unitarity cuts of loop integrals → Reverse Unitarity

[Anastasiou, Melnikov; Anastasiou, Dixon, Melnikov, Petriello]

- Compute loop integrals with cuts instead of phase-space integrals
- This duality unifies the two ingredients of cross sections



... with reverse unitarity

- Reverse unitarity allows us to not distinguish between loop integrals and phase space integrals
- We just compute forward scattering amplitudes with cuts
- Enables the use of the rich technology developed for loop integrals
 - Integration-by-parts (IBP) reductions
 - Master integrals
 - Differential equations for master integrals
- Unifies the treatment of different contributions to the cross section

Good ol' Feynman diagrams

• Our calculation is beyond any modern unitarity or on-shell based techniques.





 ~ 100000 Feynman diagrams

• Contributions at next-to-leading order



Virtual corrections (loops)

[Dawson; Djouadi, Spira, Zerwas]



Real corrections (phase space)

- Both combinations are individually and in combination divergent
- UV divergences are taken care of by renormalization
- Initial state IR singularities are cancelled by PDF counter terms

• Contributions at next-to-next-to-leading order



[Harlander, Kilgore; Anastasiou, Melnikov; Ravindran, Smith, van Neerven]



Double virtual

Real-virtual



Double real

• Contributions at next-to-next-to-next-to-leading order



Triple virtual

Double virtual real

Real-virtual²



Double real virtual

Triple real

Triple virtual corrections

• Purely virtual corrections are related to the QCD form factor



- QCD form factors have been computed
 - at one loop
 - at two loops

[Gonsalves; Kramer, Lampe; Gehrmann, Huber, Maitre]

at three loops

[Baikov, Chetyrkin, Smirnov, Smirnov, Steinhauser; Gehrmann, Glover, Huber, Ikizlerli, Studerus]

• Pure loop corrections were known before

Real contributions

- All remaining contributions involve phase space integrals.
- Due to reverse unitarity dual to loop integrals, but still more complicated.
- Loop integrals are integrals over

$$\mathbb{R}^{\ell}_{d-1,1}$$

punctured by the Landau singularities of the integrand.

- Phase space integrals are intgrals over punctured algebraic varieties $\{(p_1, \dots, p_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n_{d-1,1} | p_1^2 = 0, \dots, p_n^2 = 0, p_1 + \dots + p_n = 0\}$
- To actually do the phase space integral we need to find local coordinates on these varities.
- We would like to do as few as possible of these integrals.
- Reverse unitarity can help us here.

Integral reductions

• In dimensional regularisation we have by construction

$$\int \mathrm{d}^d k \frac{\partial}{\partial k^{\mu}} f(k) = 0$$

- Loop integrals are not independent.
- Due to reverse unitarity also phase space integrals.
- Trivial example:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial k_{\mu}}k_{\mu} \times (p^2 - m^2) \times (p^2 -$$

• With a phase space cut:

• We can find integration-by-parts (IBP) identities between different integrals.

Integral reductions

- The IBP identities for all integrals in a family form a linear system.
- Linear systems become very large.
- Systems can be solved with efficient computer algebra AIR, FIRE, Reduze
- Solution is a basis for all integrals in a family \rightarrow master integrals.
- All integrals can be reduced to a small set of master integrals
- Reduction from $\sim 10^9$ integrals to ≤ 1000 master integrals.
- Example:

$$= -\frac{(\epsilon-1)(2\epsilon-1)(3\epsilon-2)(6\epsilon-5)(6\epsilon-1)}{\epsilon^4(\epsilon+1)(2\epsilon-3)} \times$$

- We can also take derivatives w.r.t external kinematic parameters of the integrals.
- In our case the relative mass *z* of the scalar.
- The derivative of a master integral will be some linear combination of integrals.
- Using IBP reductions the derivative can be expressed in terms of the master integrals. In particular also in terms of the integral itself → Differential equation.
- The derivative of a master integral will be usually expressible in terms of the integral itself and in terms of simpler master integrals.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \partial_{\overline{z}} - 3\epsilon \frac{1}{1 - \overline{z}} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow -3\epsilon \frac{1}{1 - \overline{z}} \longrightarrow -3\epsilon \frac{1}{1 - \overline$$

• The differential equations for all our master integrals form a coupled system of first order differential equations.

$$\partial_{\bar{z}} f_i(\bar{z}) = \mathcal{A}_{ij}(\bar{z},\epsilon) f_j(\bar{z})$$

• Formal solution of the system is

$$f_i(z) = \mathcal{P}e^{\int d\bar{z}\mathcal{A}_{ij}(\bar{z})} f_j(\bar{z}_0)$$

- To solve the system we should decouple it.
- We are ultimately only interested in solutions that are expansions in ϵ .
- It suffices if the system decouples in the limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.
- Methods to solve such systems have been studied extensively in recent years in the context of canonical bases.

• The idea is to find a basis transformation

$$g_i(\bar{z}) = T_{ij}(\bar{z})f_j(\bar{z})$$
$$\mathcal{A}_{ij} \to \frac{\partial T_{ik}}{\partial \bar{z}}T_{kj}^{-1} + T_{ik}\mathcal{A}_{kl}T_{lj}^{-1}$$

which puts the system into the form

$$\partial_{\bar{z}}g_i(\bar{z}) = \epsilon \sum_{\sigma} \frac{A_{ij}^{\sigma}}{\bar{z} - \sigma} g_j(\bar{z})$$

- R.h.s is proportional to ϵ . System decouples in the limit $\epsilon \to 0$.
- Explicit dependence on \overline{z} is only through $d \log$ forms.
- See talks by Johannes and Lorenzo.

• The system can be solved by explicitly expanding the path ordered exponential

$$\mathcal{P}e^{\epsilon \int d\bar{z} \sum_{\sigma} \frac{A^{\sigma}}{\bar{z} - \sigma}} = 1 + \epsilon \int d\bar{z} \sum_{\sigma} \frac{A^{\sigma}}{\bar{z} - \sigma} + \dots$$

• Compare with the definition of the multiple polylogarithms

$$G(a_1, \dots, a_n, z) = \int_0^z \frac{dt}{t - a_1} G(a_2, \dots, a_n, t)$$

• Solution of the system is expressible as a linear combination of multiple polylogarithms with alphabet

$$\{\bar{z}-\sigma_i\}$$

- Well studied class of functions with useful analyical properties
- See e.g. Erik's talk

- Finding a transformation to the canonical basis is not always possible.
- Even if it is possible, finding the transformation is not necessarily straightforward.
- In our case we find some square root singularities that need to be transformed away to go to a canonical basis
- Faster way for us: We just expand the differential equations around $\bar{z} = 0$. $\partial_{\bar{z}} f_i(\bar{z}) = \left(\frac{A_{ij}^{(0)}(\epsilon)}{\bar{z}} + \sum_k \bar{z}^k A_{ij}^{(k)}(\epsilon)\right) f_j(\bar{z})$
- Solved by Laurent series in \bar{z}

$$f(\bar{z}) = \sum_{k} \bar{z}^{a_k \epsilon} \sum_{l=-1}^{\infty} \bar{z}^i c_{kl}$$

- Finding the general solutions of the differential equations is not enough.
- General solutions need to be specialised by fixing a boundary condition at some point \overline{z}_0 .
- We need to evaluate Feynman integrals directly in some limit $\bar{z} \rightarrow \bar{z}_0$.
- We choose $\overline{z} = 0$ which is the so-called soft-limit.



- $\bar{z} = 0 \Leftrightarrow s = m$, all energy is used to create the Higgs at rest
- No energy for hard gluonic radiation.



- Simplified kinematic constraints around the soft limit.
- In the strict soft limit there is a duality to Wilson line scattering.
- Some boundary conditions can be obtained by computing the scattering of Wilson lines
- General strategy:
- We need to evaluate master integrals explicitly in the soft-limit.
- Need to do an explicit Feynman integral calculation for every boundary condition.
- Can we further reduce the ammount of explicit integrals we have to calculate?

• Boundary conditions fix the coefficients of the branch cuts at $\bar{z} = 0$

$$\partial_{\bar{z}} f(\bar{z}) = \epsilon \left(\frac{\alpha}{\bar{z}} + \dots \right) f(\bar{z})$$
$$f(\bar{z}) = \bar{z}^{\alpha \epsilon} f_0 (1 + \dots)$$

• In the case of a system of differential equations

$$\partial_{\bar{z}} f_i(\bar{z}) = \epsilon \left(\frac{A_{ij}}{\bar{z}} + \dots \right) f_j(\bar{z})$$
$$f_i(\bar{z}) = \bar{z}^{\epsilon A_{ij}} f_j^{(0)} + \dots$$

- Solutions will have branch cuts of the form $\overline{z}^{\epsilon\lambda_i}$, λ_i are the eigenvalues of A_{ij} .
- In our case only some branch cuts are allowed $\overline{z}^{-2\epsilon}, \overline{z}^{-3\epsilon}, \overline{z}^{-4\epsilon}, \overline{z}^{-5\epsilon}, \overline{z}^{-6\epsilon}$
- Some eigenvalues of A_{ij} are prohibited by physics, coefficient must be zero.

• In the case of a system of differential equations

$$\partial_{\bar{z}} f_i(\bar{z}) = \epsilon \left(\frac{A_{ij}}{\bar{z}} + \dots \right) f_j(\bar{z})$$
$$f_i(\bar{z}) = \overline{z}^{\epsilon A_{ij}} f_j^{(0)} + \dots$$

- A boundary condition f_i is associated to an eigenvalue λ_i , 'eigenfunctions'.
- In general A_{ij} will not have full rank, less eigenfuctions than the dimension of the system.
- We do not find one indepedent boundary condition per master integral.
- We can find relations between different boundary conditions by going to a Jordan basis.
- Reduces the ammount of boundary conditions that actually need to be computed.

- The boundary conditions that remain after this reduction need to be computed explicitly.
- Need to do explicit phase space integrals for:



H + 3g phase space integrals over tree level amplitudes



H + 2g phase space integrals over one-loop amplitudes



 $H + 1g~{\rm phase}~{\rm space}~{\rm integrals}~{\rm over}~{\rm squares}~{\rm of}~{\rm one-loop}$ amplitudes



H + 1g phase space integrals over two-loop amplitudes

• General phase space integrals over

 $\{(p_1, \dots, p_n) \in \mathcal{M}_{d-1,1}^n | p_1^2 = 0, \dots, p_n^2 = 0, p_1 + \dots + p_n = 0\}$

- In general very complicated integrals.
- In particular, usually not possible to find linear parametrisations for phase space integrals beyond H + 1g.
- No direct analog to the Feynman parameters
- Not straightforward to obtain 'parameter integrals'.

- One possible parametrisation is in terms of the energies and angles of the massless momenta.
- Not very useful in general, but ...
- ...in the soft limit the energy integrals factor from the angular integrals.
- Possible to derive Mellin-Barnes representations for angular integrals for arbitrary number of legs

[Somogyi]

- Canonical way to derive Mellin-Barnes representations for soft phase space integrals.
- Also works for phase space integrals over loop amplitudes, provided we can find a Mellin-Barnes representation of the loop integral.

• Binomial series

$$(1+x)^{\lambda} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} {\binom{\lambda}{n} x^n}$$

• Mellin-Barnes integral

$$(1+x)^{\lambda} = \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} dz \frac{\Gamma(-z)\Gamma(z-\lambda)}{\Gamma(-\lambda)} x^{\lambda-z}$$



- Repeated use of the basic Mellin-Barnes integral enables us to integrate arbitrarily complicated rational functions.
- At the price of introducing Mellin-Barnes integrals with complicated pole structures.
- Mellin-Barnes integrals are conventionally solved by taking residues and summing.
- Need to perform nested Euler-Zagier sums and generalisations.
- In our case one obtains after summation the result for the boundary condition as linear combination of multiple zeta-values.

- Pole structures can become very complicated and lead to very difficult nested sums.
- We map contour integrals on \mathbb{C}^n to a parametric integrals over the real line.
- Remove poles by introducing auxilliary integrals. $\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b) = P(a, b)\Gamma(a)$

$$\begin{aligned} f(a)\Gamma(b) &= B(a,b)\Gamma(a+b) \\ B(a,b) &= x^{a-1}(1-x)^{b-1} \end{aligned}$$

- Mellin-Barnes integral can be rewritten as a nested parametric integral.
- Nested parametric integrals can be performed in terms of iterated integrals over multiple polylogarithms.

[Brown; Anastasiou, Duhr, FD, Herzog, Mistlberger]

• Linear reducibility criterion needs to be fulfilled.

- Using these techniques all ~ 90 boundary conditions can be computed
- All boundary conditions are linear combinations of mutliple zeta-values up to weight 6.

$$1 = \frac{160}{\epsilon^5} - \frac{1712}{\epsilon^4} + \frac{1}{\epsilon^3} \left(-120\zeta_2 + 2784 \right) + \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left(-120\zeta_3 + 1284\zeta_2 + 31968 \right) \\ + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(2520\zeta_4 + 1284\zeta_3 - 2088\zeta_2 - 216864 \right) + 15720\zeta_5 + 1920\zeta_2\zeta_3 \\ - 26964\zeta_4 - 2088\zeta_3 - 23976\zeta_2 + 795744 + \epsilon \left(82520\zeta_6 + 9600\zeta_3^2 \\ - 168204\zeta_5 - 20544\zeta_2\zeta_3 + 43848\zeta_4 - 23976\zeta_3 + 162648\zeta_2 - 2449440 \right) \\ + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2).$$

• The leading boundary conditions are linear combinations of $\zeta_2, \zeta_3, \zeta_4, \zeta_2\zeta_3, \zeta_5, \zeta_3^2, \zeta_6$ with only integer coefficients.

The leading term of the cross section

$$\begin{split} \hat{\eta}^{(3)}(z) &= \delta(1-z) \left\{ C_A^3 \left(-\frac{203}{48} \zeta_6 + \frac{413}{6} \zeta_3^2 - \frac{7579}{144} \zeta_5 + \frac{979}{24} \zeta_2 \zeta_3 - \frac{15257}{864} \zeta_4 - \frac{819}{16} \zeta_3 + \frac{16151}{1296} \zeta_2 + \frac{215131}{5184} \right) \\ &+ N_F \left[C_A^2 \left(\frac{869}{72} \zeta_5 - \frac{125}{12} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + \frac{2629}{432} \zeta_4 + \frac{1231}{216} \zeta_3 - \frac{70}{81} \zeta_2 - \frac{98059}{5184} \right) \\ &+ C_A C_F \left(\frac{5}{2} \zeta_5 + 3\zeta_3 \zeta_2 + \frac{11}{72} \zeta_4 + \frac{13}{2} \zeta_3 - \frac{71}{36} \zeta_2 - \frac{63991}{5184} \right) + C_F^2 \left(-5\zeta_5 + \frac{37}{12} \zeta_3 + \frac{19}{18} \right) \right] \\ &+ N_F^2 \left[C_A \left(-\frac{19}{36} \zeta_4 + \frac{43}{108} \zeta_3 - \frac{133}{324} \zeta_2 + \frac{2515}{1728} \right) + C_F \left(-\frac{1}{36} \zeta_4 - \frac{7}{6} \zeta_3 - \frac{23}{72} \zeta_2 + \frac{4481}{2592} \right) \right] \right\} \\ &+ \left[\frac{1}{1-z} \right]_+ \left\{ C_A^3 \left(186 \zeta_5 - \frac{725}{6} \zeta_3 \zeta_2 + \frac{253}{24} \zeta_4 + \frac{8941}{108} \zeta_3 + \frac{8563}{324} \zeta_2 - \frac{297029}{23328} \right) + N_F^2 C_A \left(\frac{5}{27} \zeta_3 + \frac{10}{27} \zeta_2 - \frac{58}{729} \right) \\ &+ N_F \left[C_A^2 \left(-\frac{17}{12} \zeta_4 - \frac{475}{36} \zeta_3 - \frac{2173}{324} \zeta_2 + \frac{31313}{11664} \right) + C_A C_F \left(-\frac{1}{2} \zeta_4 - \frac{19}{18} \zeta_3 - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_2 + \frac{1711}{864} \right) \right] \right\} \\ &+ \left[\frac{\log(1-z)}{1-z} \right]_+ \left\{ C_A^3 \left(-77\zeta_4 - \frac{35}{32} \zeta_3 - \frac{152}{3} \zeta_2 + \frac{30569}{648} \right) + N_F^2 C_A \left(-\frac{4}{9} \zeta_2 + \frac{25}{81} \right) \\ &+ N_F \left[C_A^2 \left(\frac{46}{3} \zeta_3 + \frac{94}{9} \zeta_2 - \frac{4211}{324} \right) + C_A C_F \left(6\zeta_3 - \frac{63}{8} \right) \right] \right\} \\ &+ \left[\frac{\log^2(1-z)}{1-z} \right]_+ \left\{ C_A^3 \left(181\zeta_3 + \frac{187}{3} \zeta_2 - \frac{1051}{27} \right) + N_F \left[C_A^2 \left(-\frac{34}{3} \zeta_2 + \frac{457}{54} \right) + \frac{1}{2} C_A C_F \right] - \frac{10}{27} N_F^2 C_A \right\} \\ &+ \left[\frac{\log^3(1-z)}{1-z} \right]_+ \left\{ C_A^3 \left(-56\zeta_2 + \frac{925}{27} \right) - \frac{164}{27} N_F C_A^2 + \frac{4}{27} N_F^2 C_A \right\} \\ &+ \left[\frac{\log^4(1-z)}{1-z} \right]_+ \left\{ C_A^3 \left(-56\zeta_2 + \frac{925}{27} \right) - \frac{164}{27} N_F C_A^2 + \frac{4}{27} N_F^2 C_A \right\} \\ &+ \left[\frac{\log^4(1-z)}{1-z} \right]_+ \left\{ \frac{20}{9} N_F C_A^2 - \frac{110}{9} C_A^3 \right) + \left[\frac{\log^5(1-z)}{1-z} \right]_+ 8 C_A^3. \end{aligned}$$

The cross section



The cross section



The cross section



Conclusions

- We finished the first ever calculation at N3LO for a hadron collider.
- New state of the art of perturbative QCD.
- Important result for Higgs physics at the LHC.
- Made possible with the use of many exciting developments in the amplitudes community.
- We will compute more processes at N3LO.
- Maybe we can learn something from comparing different orders in QCD. IR-Singularities MultipleZetaValues Symbols PhaseSpace IntegralReductions IteratedIntegrals Polylogarithms CanonicalForm HopfAlgebra HypergeometricFunctions Expansion-by-Regions DifferentialEquations ReverseUnitarity NestedSums