Combining Parton Showers with Next-to-Leading Order QCD Matrix Elements in Deep-Inelastic $eP$ Scattering

B. Pöttter, T. Schörner
Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), Föhringer Ring 6, 80805 Munich, Germany

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Abstract

We have implemented a systematic procedure for combining parton shower algorithms with next-to-leading order QCD calculations for the case of jet production in deep-inelastic electron-proton scattering. Using this method we have computed inclusive jet cross sections and jet shapes for the case of single-jet production and compared them to data from the ZEUS collaboration at HERA. We found good agreement between the data and our calculations, both for the jet shapes and the inclusive spectra.

1 Introduction

In the last two decades sophisticated event generators have been developed for all relevant physical scattering processes. For the case of $eP$ scattering, generators like PYTHIA [1], HERWIG [2], LEPTO [3] or RAPGAP [4] are available. In the simplest case the event generation procedure falls into three steps. First, a one-parton final state is generated from the $O(\alpha_s)$ quark-parton-model (QPM) matrix element. Next, a parton shower (PS) algorithm [2,5] is attached to the one-parton final state. The PS takes into account arbitrarily high orders in $\alpha_s$, but only in the leading log $Q^2$ approximation as opposed to the exact treatment in fixed order matrix elements. This implies that the region of small $k_\perp$ around the original QPM quark is described quite well, which is important for the description of the internal properties of jets. Finally the PS is terminated at some lower cutoff $Q_0^2$, where hadronization models such as the Lund String model [6] can be used to simulate the transition of partons to hadrons.

The approximations involved in the construction of the PS allow to describe well only the region of small angle parton emission. The region of wide angle scattering should be more appropriately described by the hard QCD matrix elements of $O(\alpha_s)$ which describe the QCD-Compton (QCDC) and boson-gluon fusion (BGF) processes with two final state
partons. To include these processes into the event generators, the phase-space is separated into two complementary regions by means of some technical separation parameter, which we call $R_{\text{tech}}$ in the following. In one (‘soft’) region, the QPM result plus PS is used to produce the cross section, whereas in the other (‘hard’) region the QCDC and BGF matrix elements are employed. The approximations involved in the PS approach suggest that the separation parameter $R_{\text{tech}}$ should not be chosen too large in order to guarantee that wide angle scattering is appropriately described by the hard QCD matrix elements. One has to ensure that none of the partons generated by the PS populates the hard region above $R_{\text{tech}}$, since this would lead to double counting. Apart from separating the phase space into complementary regions, the parameter $R_{\text{tech}}$ serves as a cutoff and ensures the finiteness of the QCD matrix elements, which are divergent in the region of soft and collinear particle emissions. A problem occurring at this stage is that the overall normalization of the cross section is not yet fixed. For the special case we are discussing here, the total cross section can be calculated beforehand, which can be used to normalize the contributions coming from the QPM and QCD matrix elements. A lower boundary for $R_{\text{tech}}$ is obtained by the requirement that the sum of the QCDC and BGF contributions does not exceed the total cross section. Otherwise $R_{\text{tech}}$ can be chosen freely.

The normalization of the individual contributions by calculating the total cross section beforehand is in general not feasible e.g. for the case of dijet production in $eP$ scattering. It is therefore desirable to find a general, systematic approach to fix the cross section when fixed order matrix elements are combined with PS algorithms. To reliably calculate the normalization of the cross section, the complete next-to-leading order (NLO) corrections to the leading order (LO) processes have to be calculated. This includes the calculation of the real soft and collinear regions, as well as of the virtual corrections. The NLO corrections to the QPM graph in deep-inelastic scattering (DIS) have long been evaluated \[9\]. Also for the DIS dijet case, several NLO calculations are available \[8,10,11\], which employ either the subtraction method \[8,12,13\] or the phase-space slicing technique \[9,14,15,16\] to treat the soft and collinear part of the real corrections. The problem of directly combining the NLO cross sections with the PS is the occurrence of large positive and negative weights in the NLO calculation which makes it practically difficult to obtain numerically stable results. Furthermore, it is not straightforward to use the hadronization models with negative weights.

Recently, several proposals where made to combine NLO QCD calculations, including the virtual corrections, with PS’s \[17,18,19,20,21\]. In this paper, we will rely on the method proposed by one of us (B.P.) in \[20\] and apply it to the case of single-jet inclusive cross sections in DIS $eP$ scattering. The idea is to keep the separation of the phase-space into a soft and a hard region with help of the $R_{\text{tech}}$ parameter, but to use the full NLO calculation in the soft region instead of the LO one. To ensure that the weights generated in the soft region are always positive, a method adapted from \[22\] is employed where the $s_{\text{min}}$ parameter of the phase-space slicing method is chosen such that the sum of the Born, virtual and soft and collinear contributions vanish. In this way, the NLO corrections are calculated from the hard matrix elements, integrated within the soft region down to the $s_{\text{min}}$ cutoff, which will always yield positive weights. While in \[22\] the cutoff was
adjusted by hand, in [20], it is calculated from the NLO corrections, thereby preserving
the improved scale and scheme dependence of the NLO calculation.

The outline of the paper is as follows. In section 2 we specify how to generate events
with positive NLO weights and how we have implemented the method for the case of
single-jet production in DIS eP scattering. In the following section we calculate inclusive
jet cross sections and jet shapes as measured by the ZEUS collaboration at HERA for
large $Q^2$ in the laboratory frame. We conclude with a short summary and an outlook.

## 2 Event Generation with Positive NLO Weights

In $eP$ scattering

$$e(k) + P(p) \to e(k') + X$$

(1)

the simplest hadronic final state consists of a single jet with a large transverse energy
$E_T$ in the laboratory frame. The lowest order $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0)$ partonic contribution to this single-
jet cross section arises from the QPM subprocess. At NLO, the single-jet cross section
receives contributions from the real and the one-loop virtual corrections. The real cor-
rections consist of the BGF and QCDC processes which are divergent for collinear and
soft emissions. These divergencies are cancelled by the virtual corrections or are absorbed
into the parton density functions (PDFs) of the proton. To enable a numerical treatment
of the real corrections, one can employ the phase-space slicing technique and introduce
a parameter $s_{\text{min}}$ which cuts out the singular regions. Within this method, the NLO
cross section can be written as a sum of the one-parton final state up to $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ and the
two-parton final state. The one-parton final state reads

$$\sigma_{\text{had}}^{1\text{parton}}(s_{\text{min}}) = \sigma_0 \sum_{i=q,\bar{q}} e_i^2 \int dx \, dPS^{(k'+1)} \left[ f_i(x, \mu_F) \left( 1 + \alpha_s(\mu_R) \, K_{q\to q}(s_{\text{min}}, Q^2) \right) \right. $$

$$ + \alpha_s(\mu_R) \, C_i^{\text{MS}}(x, \mu_F, s_{\text{min}}) \bigg] |M_{q\to q}|^2. \quad (2)$$

The $f_i(x, \mu_F)$ are the proton PDFs, the Lorentz-invariant phase space measure $dPS^{(k'+n)}$ contains both the scattered electron and the partons from the photon-parton scattering
process and the term $\sigma_0$ is defined as $\sigma_0 = 4(\pi \alpha)^2/(Q^4 xs)$. The $e_i$ are the charges of the
quarks. The factor $K_{q\to q}$ which depends both on the phase-space slicing parameter $s_{\text{min}}$
and on the hard scale of the process $Q^2$ contains the virtual and final state corrections
and is specified in [20]. The function $C_i^{\text{MS}}$ containing the initial state corrections is given by

$$C_i^{\text{MS}}(x, \mu_F, s_{\text{min}}) = \left( \frac{N_C}{2\pi} \right) \left[ A_i(x, \mu_F) \ln \left( \frac{s_{\text{min}}}{\mu_F^2} \right) + B_i^{\text{MS}}(x, \mu_F) \right]. \quad (3)$$

The functions $A_i(x, \mu_F)$ and $B_i^{\text{MS}}(x, \mu_F)$ are also specified in [20]. The final result, inde-
dependent of $s_{\text{min}}$, is obtained by adding to the one-parton contribution the contribution
containing the two-parton final state, integrated over those phase-space regions where any
pair of partons $i,j$ has $s_{ij} > s_{\text{min}}$ with $s_{ij} = (p_i + p_j)^2$:

\[
\sigma_{\text{had}}^{2\text{parton}}(s_{\text{min}}) = \sigma_0 \sum_{i=q,\bar{q}} e_i^2 \int dx \, d\mathcal{P}(k'^2) \frac{d^4\pi \alpha_s(\mu_R)}{4} \left[ f_i(x, \mu_F) \left| M_{q \to qg} \right|^2 + \frac{1}{2} f_g(x, \mu_F) \left| M_{g \to q\bar{q}} \right|^2 \right].
\] (4)

The condition

\[
\frac{d\sigma_{\text{had}}^{1\text{parton}}}{dx \, dQ^2}(s_{\text{min}}) = 0
\] (5)
can be used to determine the function \[20\]

\[
s_{\text{min}}^{\text{nlo}}(\mu_F, \mu_R, x, Q^2) = \exp \left[ \eta - \sqrt{\eta^2 + \psi} \right]
\] (6)
in which

\[
\eta = \ln(Q^2) - \frac{3}{4} + \frac{9}{16} \frac{A}{F},
\] (7)
\[
\psi = -\ln^2(Q^2) + \frac{3}{2} \ln(Q^2) - \frac{\pi^2}{3} - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{9}{8} \left[ \frac{2\pi}{N_C \alpha_s} + \frac{B}{F} - \frac{A}{F} \ln(\mu_F^2) \right]
\] (8)

and

\[
F = \sum_{i=q,\bar{q}} e_i^2 \, f_i(x, \mu_F),
\] (9)
\[
A = \sum_{i=q,\bar{q}} e_i^2 \, A_i(x, \mu_F),
\] (10)
\[
B = \sum_{i=q,\bar{q}} e_i^2 \, B_i^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(x, \mu_F).
\] (11)

Inserting the $s_{\text{min}}^{\text{nlo}}$ function (3) into Eqn. (4) as a lower integration boundary for each phase-space point $(x, Q^2)$ will give the complete answer for the total cross section at NLO. It is important to note that the $s_{\text{min}}^{\text{nlo}}$ function depends on the factorization and renormalization scales, so that the improved scale dependence of the NLO cross section as opposed to the LO one is preserved. As was studied in detail in \[20\], the $s_{\text{min}}^{\text{nlo}}$ function Eqn. (3) is small enough for the soft and collinear approximations to remain valid which are made to evaluate the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ one-parton final states. The NLO single-jet cross section calculated within the standard approach could be reproduced within 1–2% with this method \[20\].

For the calculation of the cross sections in the next section, we have implemented the function $s_{\text{min}}^{\text{nlo}}$ into the DISENT program \[3\] and combined the NLO cross section thus obtained with the PS algorithm from PYHTIA \[1\]. The reason we chose DISENT is to be able to easily extend the results obtained here to the dijet case later on. In the dijet case also the subtraction terms from the subtraction method have to be used (see \[20\] for details). The steps we have performed to generate events are the following:
• Define the soft (PS) region by \( s_{ij} < R_{\text{tech}} Q^2 \) for at least one pair of partons \( i,j \).

• The hard region given by \( s_{ij} > R_{\text{tech}} Q^2 \) for all partons \( i,j \) is described by the hard two-parton matrix elements (BGF and QCDC). We do not attach the PS to the partons of the hard region, although this could in principle be done.

• For each \((x, Q^2)\) calculate \( s_{\text{nlo}}^{\text{min}} \) according to Eqn. (6). When \( s_{ij} < s_{\text{nlo}}^{\text{min}} \) for any one pair of partons \((i,j)\), reject the event. When \( s_{ij} > s_{\text{nlo}}^{\text{min}} \) for all \( i,j \), start the PS algorithm with the four-vector of the QPM quark as input. The weight associated with this event is the one obtained from the two-parton final state. These weights are positive by construction.

• Reject any partons from the PS that lie outside the PS region.

The parameter \( R_{\text{tech}} \) should be larger than \( s_{\text{nlo}}^{\text{min}} / Q^2 \) but not too large to ensure that the hard region is appropriately described by the fixed order matrix elements. \( R_{\text{tech}} \) is typically of the order of 1. We have checked that our cross sections are not sensitive to the exact value of \( R_{\text{tech}} \) by varying it by a factor of 2. The starting scale for the PS is set by the matrix element cutoff [3].

We have not yet implemented the initial state PS, but only the final state PS. The parton emission due to the initial state PS will populate mainly the forward region, which is excluded in the data with which we are comparing in the next section through kinematical cuts. Therefore we believe that the effects of the initial state PS are small. The evolution of the incoming parton is taken into account through the evolution equations for the partons in the proton. Furthermore, hadronization effects have not been taken into account in our calculations. It is however feasible in our model to implement hadronization, since it can be naturally attached to the PS.

For all calculations in the next section we have set the renormalization and factorization scales equal to \( Q^2 \) and employed the CTEQ4M PDFs for the proton.

3 Results

The ZEUS collaboration has measured inclusive jet cross sections in neutral current (NC) DIS \( eP \) scattering at \( \sqrt{s} \simeq 300 \text{ GeV} \) for \( Q^2 > 125 \text{ GeV}^2 \) [23,24]. The phase-space of the electron has been further reduced by restricting its energy \( E_{e'} \) and the inelasticity \( y_e \) to \( E_{e'} > 10 \text{ GeV} \) and \( y_e < 0.95 \), respectively. The jets were reconstructed using a \( k_T \) cluster algorithm [25] in the laboratory frame. The reconstructed jets were required to have a minimum transverse energy of \( E_T > 14 \text{ GeV} \) and a pseudorapidity in the range \(-1 < \eta < 2\). The data are corrected for detector effects.

In Fig. [1] we show the comparison of our calculation, given by the full line labeled 'DISSET', to the ZEUS data in four regions of \( Q^2 \), namely \( Q^2 > 125, 500, 1000 \) and \( 2000 \text{ GeV}^2 \). We see an overall good agreement. Since our predictions are on parton level, we have checked the influence of the hadronization using the LEPTO event generator [3]. We found that the overall effect of the hadronization was small, below 5%, with a
tendency to lower the parton level predictions. We have furthermore checked that the PS changes the $E_T$ distribution only marginally, also below 5%. In [24] the data were compared to a standard NLO calculation with DISENT [8]. We have redone these calculations for comparison and also plotted the results in Fig. 1, shown as the dashed line labeled 'standard DISENT'. Our results are in agreement with those from [24]. The agreement between data and NLO theory is similarly good as for our calculation. From this comparison we deduce that our calculation reproduces correctly the standard NLO result, which confirms the findings in [20]. We emphasize that the correct normalization of the cross sections is a non-trivial result of our procedure. We obtained the normalization without using information from the total $eP$ scattering cross section. The normalization comes directly from the NLO matrix elements, modified by the $s^{\text{min}}_{\text{NLO}}$ function.

A similarly good description of the data is seen in Fig. 2 for the $\eta$ distribution, which is integrated over $E_T > 14$ GeV and $Q^2 > 125$ GeV. The data are described rather well, both with the standard NLO calculation as well as with our new calculation.

We proceed to a comparison of our calculation with jet shape measurements. The ZEUS collaboration has measured the differential and integrated shape of jets in neutral current DIS events with $Q^2 > 100$ GeV for jets with $E_T > 14$ GeV and $-1 < \eta < 2$ [26]. The jets are reconstructed using an iterative cone algorithm in the $(\eta, \phi)$ plane [27,28]. For the scattered electron further restrictions are $E_{e'} > 10$ GeV and $y_e < 0.95$, as for the previously discussed data. The differential jet shape is defined as the average fraction of the jet’s transverse energy that lies inside an annulus in the $(\eta, \phi)$ plane of inner (outer) radius $r - \Delta r/2 (r + \Delta r/2)$ concentric with the jet defining cone [29]:

$$\rho(r) = \frac{1}{N_{\text{jets}}} \frac{1}{\Delta r} \sum_{\text{jets}} \frac{E_T(r - \Delta r/2, r + \Delta r/2)}{E_T(0, R)} .$$

(12)

Here, $E_T(r - \Delta r/2, r + \Delta r/2)$ is the transverse energy within the given annulus and $N_{\text{jets}}$ is the total number of jets in the sample. The differential jet shape has been measured for $r$ values varying from 0.05 to 0.95 in $\Delta r = 0.1$ increments. The integrated jet shape is defined by

$$\Psi(r) = \frac{1}{N_{\text{jets}}} \sum_{\text{jets}} \frac{E_T(0, r)}{E_T(0, R)} .$$

(13)

By definition, $\Psi(R) = 1$. It has been measured for $r$ values varying from 0.1 to 1.0 also in increments of $\Delta r = 0.1$.

In Fig. 3 we compare our calculation (full line) and a standard NLO calculation (dashed line) to the ZEUS data which are corrected to hadron level. The description of the jet shape within our approach is rather good. The jets produced are slightly too narrow, our calculation being about 8% above the data in the lowest $r$ bin. We have checked with LEPTO that the hadronization effects can account for the difference between data and prediction, i.e. including hadronization in our calculation would bring our results to good agreement with the data. We furthermore see that the standard NLO prediction is much too large for all $r$. This implies that the jets produced by the standard calculation are not broad enough. Reducing the cross sections by taking into account hadronization is not sufficient...
for the standard NLO calculation. This result is not surprising since the standard NLO calculation provides only a LO prediction for the jet shape in which at maximum two partons are combined to give a jet.

In Fig. 4 we finally compare our calculations to the ZEUS differential jet shapes for four different \( E_T \) regions. We find similar results as for the integrated jet shapes. The standard NLO calculation (dashed line) is clearly too narrow in all four \( E_T \) regions, whereas our calculation (full line) gives a much better description. In the lowest \( E_T \) bin our calculation produces slightly too narrow jets, whereas in the largest \( E_T \) bin the jets tend to be too broad. Using LEPTO, we have checked the hadronization corrections also for the differential jet shapes and found the discrepancies between our calculation on the parton level and the data can be accounted for by hadronization effects.

4 Summary and Outlook

We have investigated the method described in [20] to combine a fixed NLO QCD calculation, including the real soft and collinear as well as the virtual corrections, with a leading log PS. We have implemented the method in DISENT and attached the PS from PYTHIA. We have compared our calculation with data from ZEUS, both for inclusive jet cross sections in the laboratory frame, as well as for jet shape measurements. For both measurements, good agreement with our model was found. In addition, good agreement was found between the standard NLO calculation and our results for the case of the inclusive spectra in transverse energy and rapidity, where the influence of the PS is marginal. This shows that we have obtained the correct NLO normalization of the cross sections together with a good description of the internal structure of the jets.

To obtain a full event generator, the initial state PS as well as hadronization need to be implemented in our program package. This will be done in the near future. The next, more complicated step is to proceed to the two-jet final states and combine the NLO calculations for this case with the PS. Although some details have to be clarified for this case, we could show the principle feasibility of our method.

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Figure 1: Differential cross sections $d\sigma/dE_T$ for inclusive jet production in NC DIS events integrated over $-1 < \eta < 2$ for $Q^2 > 125, 500, 1000$ and $2000$ GeV$^2$. The ZEUS data are compared to our calculation labeled ‘DISSET’ (full line) and to a NLO calculation, labeled ‘standard DISENT’ (dashed line).
Figure 2: Differential cross sections $d\sigma/d\eta$ for inclusive jet production in NC DIS events integrated over $E_T > 14$ GeV and $Q^2 > 125$ GeV$^2$. The ZEUS data are compared to our calculation (full line) and to a NLO calculation (dashed line).
Figure 3: Integrated jet shape $\Psi(r)$ in NC DIS events integrated over $Q^2 > 100$ GeV$^2$ for jets with $E_T > 14$ GeV and $-1 < \eta < 2$. The ZEUS data are compared to our calculation (full line) and to a NLO calculation (dashed line).
Figure 4: Integrated jet shape $\rho(r)$ in NC DIS events integrated over $Q^2 > 100 \text{ GeV}^2$ for jets with $-1 < \eta < 2$ in four different ranges of $E_T$. The ZEUS data are compared to our calculation (full line) and to a NLO calculation (dashed line).