Higgs production in bottom quark annihilation:
Transverse momentum distribution at
NNLO+NNLL

Robert V. Harlander\textsuperscript{a}, Anurag Tripathi\textsuperscript{b}, Marius Wiesemann\textsuperscript{c}

\textsuperscript{a}Fachbereich C, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, 42097 Wuppertal, Germany

\textsuperscript{b}Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Torino and INFN, Sezione di Torino, 10125 Torino, Italy

\textsuperscript{c}Physik-Institut, Universität Zürich, 8057 Zürich, Switzerland

Abstract

We present the inclusive transverse momentum distribution for Higgs bosons produced in bottom quark annihilation at the LHC. The results are obtained in the five-flavor scheme. The soft and collinear terms at small $p_T$ are resummed through NNLL accuracy and matched to the NNLO transverse momentum distribution at large $p_T$. We find that the theoretical uncertainty, derived from a variation of the unphysical scales entering the calculation, is significantly reduced with respect to lower orders.
1 Introduction

In the Standard Model (SM), Higgs boson production proceeds predominantly through gluon fusion. The theoretical efforts that went into the precise prediction of the corresponding total cross section as well as kinematical distributions are enormous (see Refs. [1–3] for more information). Other processes such as associated $VH$- or $t\bar{t}H$-production, or weak boson fusion, receive their importance from their characteristic final state particles or kinematics which typically improve the signal-to-background ratio relative to gluon fusion.

Similar to $t\bar{t}H$ production, the Higgs boson can also be produced in association with bottom quarks ($b\bar{b}H$). Until now, however, this process has been largely disregarded in SM Higgs searches and studies, even though its cross section is larger than for $t\bar{t}H$ production [4], since the suppression by the smaller Yukawa coupling is over-compensated by the increased phase space. However, in searches for a SM Higgs boson, the experimental significance of the associated production with bottom quarks suffers heavily from the enormous QCD background.

In theories with an extended Higgs sector, such as the Two-Higgs Doublet Model (2HDM) or the Minimal Supersymmetric SM (MSSM), the bottom Yukawa coupling can be enhanced relative to the SM, so that $b\bar{b}H$ can become the dominant Higgs production mechanism. Concerning the theoretical prediction for this process, mainly two complementary approaches have been pursued in the past. In the four-flavor scheme (4FS), the leading order (LO) partonic processes are $q\bar{q} \rightarrow b\bar{b}H$ and $gg \rightarrow b\bar{b}H$, where $q \in \{u, d, c, s\}$. This approach is most suitable when the bottom quarks are considered as part of the signature. The theoretical prediction is available through next-to-LO (NLO) QCD in the 4FS [5–7].

In the five-flavor scheme (5FS) at LO, the final state bottom quarks are considered as part of the proton remnants which are implicitly integrated over in the parton model. The LO process thus becomes $b\bar{b} \rightarrow H$, which needs to be convolved with appropriate $b$-quark density functions. The $b\bar{b}H$ process evaluated in the 5FS is thus also referred to as bottom quark annihilation. This approach is most suitable for the calculation of the $b\bar{b}H$ component to inclusive Higgs production. Its advantage with respect to the 4FS in this case is that, on the one hand, logarithms of the form $\ln m_b/M$ ($m_b$ is the bottom quark mass, $M$ the Higgs mass) which arise from integrating over the collinear region of the final state bottom quark momenta, are implicitly resummed through DGLAP evolution. On the other hand, due to the much simpler structure of the LO process, its theoretical prediction can be obtained at higher perturbative order than for the 4FS. Indeed, the next-to-NLO (NNLO) result for the inclusive total cross section in the 5FS has been known for more than ten years [8]. The theoretical uncertainty, derived from renormalization and factorization scale variation, is significantly smaller than in the 4FS, in particular for Higgs masses above 200 GeV. Experimental analyses are currently based on a pragmatic combination of the NLO 4FS and the NNLO 5FS result, as suggested in Ref. [9].
With increasing luminosity, kinematical distributions of the Higgs boson will become more and more important for the clear identification of this particle and the search for possible deviations from the SM predictions. Among the simplest observables in this respect is the transverse momentum ($p_T$) distribution of the Higgs. Comparison to theoretical predictions will provide a handle to the precise nature of the Higgs couplings, for example to gluons \cite{10,11}, where the Higgs-gluon coupling is mediated through a quark loop. Similarly the associated production of a Higgs with bottom quarks plays a central role to measure the Higgs-bottom Yukawa coupling, in particular in theories where this coupling is enhanced.

It is well known that fixed-order predictions of the $p_T$ spectrum break down for small values of $p_T$. A proper theoretical description in this region can be obtained by a resummation of logarithmic terms in $p_T$, leading to a re-ordering of the perturbative series. At this point, it is useful to clarify our notation for the perturbative orders of the $p_T$ distribution. In gluon fusion as well as in $b\bar{b}H$ within the 5FS, the kinematics of the LO partonic process is $2 \rightarrow 1$, so that the $p_T$ distribution vanishes for $p_T \neq 0$. Quite often one therefore speaks of the “LO $p_T$ distribution” only when an additional parton is emitted which can balance a finite $p_T$ of the Higgs. In this paper, however, we will consistently associate the term “LO” with the $2 \rightarrow 1$ process, so that in our notation, the LO $p_T$ distribution in gluon fusion and 5FS-$b\bar{b}H$ is $\sim \delta(p_T)$.

In gluon fusion, the $p_T$ distribution has been studied in great detail. The NNLO result in the heavy-top limit has been presented long ago \cite{12,13}. Subleading top-mass effects were calculated in Ref. \cite{14}. For the resummation in the small-$p_T$ region, various approaches have been pursued. In Ref. \cite{15}, a matching procedure between the resummed NNLL terms and the NNLO $p_T$ distribution has been suggested which, when integrated over all $p_T$, reproduces the total cross section at NNLO. Its application to the gluon fusion process was implemented in the program $HqT$ \cite{15,17}, which calculates the NNLO+NNLL $p_T$ spectrum of the Higgs in the limit of an infinitely heavy top mass. The effects of exact top and bottom masses on the resummed transverse momentum distribution were studied at NLO+NNLL in Ref. \cite{18,19}.

For $b\bar{b}H$, the NNLO $p_T$ spectrum of the Higgs for $p_T > 0$ in the 5FS was obtained in Ref. \cite{20,21}. The jet- and $p_T$-vetoed rate \cite{20,22}, as well as the fully differential cross section \cite{23} are also known up to NNLO. The special case of $H + b$ production had been considered earlier in Ref. \cite{24}. So far, resummation of the $p_T$ spectrum of the Higgs produced in bottom annihilation has been considered only at NLO+NNLL \cite{25}. In this paper, we present the first result of the resummed NNLO+NNLL transverse momentum distribution in the 5FS.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: In Section 2.1, we give a brief outline of the $p_T$ resummation formalism for the production of an uncolored final state. This section also defines the notation for the rest of the article. Section 2.2 describes the matching procedure to the fixed order result. In Section 2.3, we present our result for
the so-called hard coefficient which was the only missing ingredient for the calculation of the resummed $p_T$ distribution at NNLO+NNLL. Our numerical results are presented in Section 3 including a description of the consistency checks that have been performed on the implementation (Section 3.1), the default input parameters (Section 3.2), and finally the $p_T$-distributions (Section 3.3) for the LHC at a center-of-mass energy of 8 TeV (results for 13 TeV are presented in Appendix D). We analyze the dependence of the differential cross section on the unphysical scales and the parton distributions. Section 4 contains our conclusions. In Appendix C, we give complementary information on complex Mellin transforms of some transcendental functions, that appear in our calculation.

2 Transverse momentum resummation

2.1 Elements

For the following discussion, it will be convenient to consider the production of a general colorless particle of mass $M$ with transverse momentum $p_T$ in proton-proton collisions. The specialization to $b\bar{b}H$, where $M = M_H$, will be done in Section 2.3.

If $p_T$ is significantly smaller than $M$, large logarithms of $p_T/M$ arise in the distribution $d\sigma/dp_T$ due to an incomplete cancellation of soft and collinear contributions. Since each order of perturbation theory introduces additional powers of these logarithms, the naive perturbative expansion in $\alpha_s$ is no longer valid as $p_T \to 0$. However, factorization of soft and collinear radiation from the hard process allows to resum the logarithms to all orders in $\alpha_s$. This factorization is observed when working in the so-called impact parameter ($b$) space, defined via the Fourier transformation

$$
\frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int d^2b \ e^{-ib\cdot p_T} f(b),
$$

implying that the limit $p_T \to 0$ corresponds to $b \to \infty$. Using rotational invariance around the beam axis, the angular integration can be performed, so that we may write the $p_T$ distribution in the form

$$
\frac{d\sigma_{F,(\text{res})}}{dp_T^2} = \tau \int_0^\infty db \ \frac{b}{2} J_0(bp_T) W^F(b, M, \tau),
$$

with the Bessel Function $J_0(x)$, $\tau = M^2/S$, and $S$ the hadronic center-of-mass energy. By the superscript “(res)” in Eq. (2), we have already indicated that we are going to use this equation only for $p_T \ll M$ where the logarithmically enhanced terms need to be resummed. The proper inclusion of terms $p_T \gtrsim M$ will be described in Section 2.2. Here

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\[ \text{The momentum conservation relates } p_T \text{ to the transverse momenta } K_T = \sum_i k_{i,T} \text{ of the outgoing partons which is factorized in } b \text{ space using } \delta(p_T + K_T) = (2\pi)^{-2} \int db \exp[-ib\cdot p_T] \exp[-ib\cdot K_T]. \]
and in what follows, the superscript $F$ is attached to process specific quantities; we will set $F = \text{DY}$ for the Drell-Yan production of a vector boson, for example, and $F = b\bar{b}H$ for the $b\bar{b}H$ process.

It is convenient to consider the Mellin transform with respect to the variable $\tau$ of the resummed cross section in $b$ space,

$$W_F^N(b, M) = \int_0^1 \tau b^{-1} W_F(b, M, \tau) \, d\tau,$$

which can be written as

$$W_F^N(b, M) = \sum_c \hat{\sigma}_{c\bar{c}}^{F(0)} H_c^F(\alpha_s) \times \exp\left\{-\int_0^{b_0^2/b^2} \frac{dk^2}{k^2} \left[A_c(\alpha_s(k)) \ln \frac{M^2}{k^2} + B_c(\alpha_s(k)) \right]\right\} \times \sum_{i,j} C_{ci,N}(\alpha_s(b_0/b)) C_{cj,N}(\alpha_s(b_0/b)) f_{i,N}(b_0/b) f_{j,N}(b_0/b),$$

where $\hat{\sigma}_{c\bar{c}}^{F(0)}$ is called the Born factor and determines the parton level cross section at LO. Unless indicated otherwise, the renormalization and factorization scales have been set to $\mu_F = \mu_R = M$. The sum $\sum_c$ runs over all relevant quark flavors $c = q \in \{u, d, s, c, b\}$ and their charge conjugates, as well as gluons, $c = g$ (where $\bar{g} \equiv g$). It takes into account that already at LO different initial states can contribute.\footnote{Throughout this paper, parameters that are not crucial for the discussion will be suppressed in function arguments.}

In the $b\bar{b}H$ process though, only $c \in \{b, \bar{b}\}$ is relevant, and

$$\hat{\sigma}_{b\bar{b}}^{bbH(0)} = \frac{\pi m_b^2}{6v^2 M^2},$$

where $M$ is the Higgs mass, $m_b$ the bottom quark mass, and $v \approx 246 \text{ GeV}$ is the vacuum expectation value of the Higgs field. The function $f_{i,N}(q)$ in Eq. (4) is the Mellin transform of the density function $f_i(x, q)$ of parton $i$ in the proton, where $x$ is the momentum fraction and $q$ the momentum transfer. The numerical constant $b_0 = 2 \exp(-\gamma_E)$, with Euler’s constant $\gamma_E = 0.5772 \ldots$, is introduced for convenience.

The perturbative expansion of the resummation coefficients is given by

$$C_{ci,N}(\alpha_s) = \delta_{ci} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right)^n C_{ci,N}^{(n)}, \quad X(\alpha_s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right)^n X^{(n)},$$

$$H_c^F(\alpha_s) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right)^n H_c^{F(n)},$$

\footnote{For example, the LO DY process receives contributions from all light quark flavors.}
where $X \in \{A_c, B_c\}$. The order at which these coefficients are taken into account in Eq. (4) determines the logarithmic accuracy of the resummed cross section; leading logarithmic (LL) means that all higher order coefficients except for $A_c^{(1)}$ are neglected, next-to-LL (NLL) requires $A_c^{(2)}$, $B_c^{(1)}$, $C_{ci}^{(1)}$, and $H_c^{F(1)}$, etc. The coefficients required for the $b\bar{b}H$ process at next-to-NLL (NNLL) accuracy will be given in Section 2.3.

The fact that the coefficients $A_c$, $B_c$, and $C_{ci}$ in Eq. (4) are process independent (i.e., they do not carry a superscript $F$) assumes a common resummation scheme for all ($c\bar{c}$ initiated) processes $F$. The entire process dependence is then contained in the hard coefficient $H_c^F$ and the Born factor $\hat{\sigma}^{F(0)}$. In the following, we will work in the $DY$ scheme, where $H_{DY}^{c\bar{c}} \equiv 1$ through all orders of perturbation theory. All resummation coefficients are known in the $DY$ scheme up to the order required in this paper (see Section 2.3), with the exception of $H_{b\bar{b}H}^{c\bar{c}} \equiv H_{b\bar{b}H}^c$ whose evaluation through NNLO will also be presented in Section 2.3.

Evolving the parton densities from $b_0/b$ to $\mu_F$ in Eq. (4) (see Ref. [15]), one can define the partonic resummed cross section $W_{ij}^F$ through

$$W_N^F(b, M) = \sum_{i,j} W_{ij,N}^F (b, M, \mu_F) f_{i,N}(\mu_F) f_{j,N}(\mu_F).$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

From a perturbative point of view, $W^F$ can be cast into the form

$$W_{ij,N}^F (b, M, \mu_F) = \sum_c \hat{\sigma}_{c\bar{c}}^{F(0)} \left\{ \mathcal{H}_{c\bar{c} \rightarrow ij,N}(M, Q, \mu_F) + \Sigma_{c\bar{c} \rightarrow ij,N}^F (L, M, Q, \mu_F) \right\},$$  \hspace{1cm} (8)

where $L = \ln(Q^2b^2/b_0^2)$ denotes the logarithms that are being resummed in $W^F$, and $Q$ is an arbitrary resummation scale. While $W^F$ is formally independent of $Q$, truncation of the perturbative series will introduce a dependence on this scale which is, however, of higher order. The variation of the cross section with $Q$ will be taken into account when estimating the theoretical uncertainty of our final result in Section 3.3. Note that the entire $b$ dependence, parametrized in terms of $L$, is contained in the function $\Sigma_{c\bar{c} \rightarrow ij}^F$ which are defined to vanish at $L = 0$. Their generic perturbative expansion through NNLO, expressed in terms of the resummation coefficients of Eq. (6), can be found in Ref. [15]. The hard-collinear function $\mathcal{H}_{c\bar{c} \rightarrow ij}$ depends on the coefficients $H_c^F$ and $C_{ci}$ of Eq. (4). For $\mu_F = \mu_R = Q = M$ and $c \neq g$ (for $c = g$, see Ref. [28])

$$\mathcal{H}_{c\bar{c} \rightarrow ij,N} = H_c^F (\alpha_s) C_{ci,N}(\alpha_s) C_{cj,N}(\alpha_s),$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

where $\alpha_s \equiv \alpha_s(M)$. The expression for $\mathcal{H}_{c\bar{c} \rightarrow ij}$ for the $b\bar{b}H$ process including the full scale dependence through NNLO will be given in Eq. (29).
Recalling that the formalism discussed in this section is valid only in the small-$p_T$ region, it is convenient to replace

\[ L \rightarrow \tilde{L} \equiv \ln \left( \frac{Q^2 b_2^2}{b_0^2} + 1 \right) , \quad (10) \]

in the resummed cross section, which will prove useful in the next section to suppress the impact of $\Sigma_{c\bar{c} \leftarrow ij}$ in the large-$p_T$ region without affecting the logarithmic accuracy under consideration. Note, however, that this replacement changes the $Q$ dependence of $\Sigma_{c\bar{c} \leftarrow ij}$, so that Eq. (8) – and therefore $d\sigma^{(res)}/dp_T^2$ – becomes explicitly $Q$ dependent. We will come back to this issue in the next section.

2.2 Matching with the large $p_T$ region

In the previous section we recalled the formalism of transverse momentum resummation at small $p_T$. In order to obtain a result that is valid for arbitrary values of $p_T$, a matching to the distribution at high values of $p_T$ is required, which is predominantly given by the fixed order result. We will follow the additive matching procedure of Ref. [15], where the matched result $[d\sigma]_{f.o.+l.a.}$ is obtained by subtracting from the fixed order distribution $[d\sigma]_{f.o.}$ the logarithms at $p_T \rightarrow 0$ at the same order in $\alpha_s$, and adding the resummed expression at the appropriate logarithmic accuracy $[d\sigma^{(res)}]_{l.a.}$:

\[
\left[ \frac{d\sigma^F}{dp_T^2} \right]_{f.o.+l.a.} = \left[ \frac{d\sigma^F}{dp_T^2} \right]_{f.o.} - \left[ \frac{d\sigma_{F, \text{(res)}}}{dp_T^2} \right]_{f.o.} + \left[ \frac{d\sigma_{F, \text{(res)}}}{dp_T^2} \right]_{l.a.}. \quad (11)
\]

The logarithmic terms $[d\sigma^{(res)}]_{f.o.}$ are obtained from the perturbative expansion of Eq. (2). The matching condition is imposed by requiring

\[
\left[ \frac{d\sigma_{F, \text{(res)}}}{dp_T^2} \right]_{l.a.} = \left[ \frac{d\sigma_{F, \text{(res)}}}{dp_T^2} \right]_{f.o.}, \quad (12)
\]

which defines the logarithmic accuracy needed at each perturbative order in $\alpha_s$ and vice versa. Thus, at a given order in $\alpha_s$, it determines to which order the resummation coefficients of Eq. (6) are required. Note that the $Q$ dependence of $d\sigma^{(res)}$ introduced by the replacement $L \rightarrow \tilde{L}$ of Eq. (10) cancels up to higher orders in Eq. (11).

Integrating Eq. (2) (with $L \rightarrow \tilde{L}$) over $p_T^2$ by using the integration properties of $J_0(x)$ and $\Sigma_{c\bar{c} \leftarrow ij}(\tilde{L} = 0) = 0$, it directly follows that

\[
\int dp_T^2 \frac{d\sigma_{F, \text{(res)}}}{dp_T^2} = \tau \sum_{c,i,j} \partial_{c\bar{c}}^{F, (0)} (\mathcal{H}_{c\bar{c} \leftarrow ij} \otimes f_i \otimes f_j)(\tau), \quad (13)
\]
where the convolution of two functions \( h_1 \) and \( h_2 \) is defined as

\[
(h_1 \otimes h_2)(\tau) \equiv \int_0^1 \int_0^1 dz_1 \int_0^1 dz_2 \delta(\tau - z_1 z_2) h_1(z_1) h_2(z_2).
\]

(14)

 Needless to say that \( f_i \) and \( \mathcal{H}_{ij}^F \) in Eq. (13) denote the inverse Mellin transforms of \( f_{i,N} \) and \( \mathcal{H}_{ij,N}^F \).

For the r.h.s. of Eq. (13), it is \( \cdot \)\_\_l.a.\_\_f.o. using Eq. (12), it is thus easy to see that the integral over \( p_2^T \) is the same for \( d\sigma_{(\text{res})} \)\_\_f.o. and \( d\sigma_{(\text{res})} \)\_\_l.a.. One therefore obtains a \textit{unitarity constraint} on the matched cross section which implies that the integral over \( p_2^T \) reproduces the total cross section \( \sigma_{\text{tot}} \) at fixed order:

\[
\int dp_2^T \left[ \frac{d\sigma^F}{dp_2^T} \right]_{\text{f.o.}+\text{l.a.}} \equiv [\sigma_{\text{tot}}^F]_{\text{f.o.}}.
\]

(15)

This relation will be used in Section 2.3 to determine the second order coefficient of the hard function \( H_{b}^H \) numerically, which is the only missing piece for carrying out the full NNLL \( p_T \)-resummation for the \( bbH \) process in the 5FS.

### 2.3 Resummation coefficients and determination of \( H_{b}^{H,(2)} \)

In the DY scheme, the resummation coefficients relevant for the \( bbH \) process read

\[
A_{b}^{(1)} = C_F, \quad A_{b}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} C_F \left[ \left( \frac{67}{18} - \frac{\pi^2}{6} \right) C_A - \frac{5}{9} N_f \right],
\]

\[
A_{b}^{(3)} = C_A^2 C_F \left( \frac{11 \pi^4}{720} - \frac{67 \pi^2}{216} + \frac{245}{96} + \frac{11}{24} \zeta_3 \right) + C_A C_F N_f \left( \frac{5 \pi^2}{108} - \frac{209}{432} - \frac{7}{12} \zeta_3 \right)
\]

\[+ C_F N_f \left( \frac{-55}{96} + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_4 \right) - \frac{1}{108} C_F N_f^2 + 8 \beta_0 C_F \left( C_A \left( \frac{101}{216} - \frac{7}{16} \zeta_3 \right) - \frac{7}{108} N_f \right),
\]

(16)

\[
B_{b}^{(1)} = -\frac{3}{2} C_F, \quad B_{b}^{(2)} = \frac{C_F}{4} \left[ C_F \left( \pi^2 - \frac{3}{4} - 12 \zeta_3 \right) + C_A \left( \frac{11}{9} \pi^2 - \frac{193}{12} + 6 \zeta_3 \right) \right.
\]

\[+ N_f \left( \frac{17}{6} - \frac{2}{9} \pi^2 \right) \right],
\]

where \( \beta_0 = (11 C_A - 2 N_f)/12, C_F = 4/3, C_A = 3, \) and \( N_f = 5 \) is the number of active quark flavors; furthermore \( \zeta_3 \equiv \zeta(3) = 1.20206 \ldots \) with Riemann’s \( \zeta \) function. \( A_{c}^{(n)} \) and \( B_{c}^{(1)} \) are actually resummation scheme independent. Through \( n \in \{1, 2\} \), their expressions

\( ^5 \text{Note that this line of argumentation assumes that terms proportional to } \delta(p_2^T) \text{ are included in } [d\sigma^{F,(\text{res})}]_{\text{f.o.}} \text{ as well as } [d\sigma^{F}]_{\text{f.o.}} \text{ (implying also that logarithms are actual plus-distributions). In the practical application of Eq. (11), however, these terms cancel and can be disregarded.} \)
have been known for some time \cite{29,30}, while $A_{\mathrm{\bar{b}b}}^{(3)}$ has recently been calculated in Ref. \cite{31}. The coefficient $B_{\bar{b}b}^{(2)}$ was first obtained in Ref. \cite{32}. The $C$-coefficients which arise in our calculation are of the form $C_{\bar{b}b}^{(n)}$ where $n \leq 2$, the index $b$ denotes the bottom quark, and $i \in \{u, d, s, c, b, g\}$. Of course, also the respective coefficients for the charge conjugate partons are implied in this notation. In $z$ space (i.e., inverse Mellin space), the first order coefficients in the $\text{DY}$ scheme read \cite{32}

$$C_{\bar{b}g}^{(1)}(z) = \frac{1}{2} z (1 - z), \quad C_{bq}^{(1)}(z) = C_{bb}^{(1)}(z) = 0,$$

$$C_{bb}^{(1)}(z) = C_F \left[ \left( \frac{\pi^2}{2} - 4 \right) \delta(1 - z) + 1 - z \right].$$

The off-diagonal NLO coefficients $C_{\bar{b}g}^{(1)}, C_{bq}^{(1)}, C_{bb}^{(1)} (q \in \{u, d, s, c\})$ are resummation scheme independent. The second order coefficients $C_{\bar{b}b}^{(2)}$ can be found in Ref. \cite{33}. Finally, we need to determine the hard coefficient $H_{\bar{b}b}^{H(2)}$ for the bottom annihilation process in the $\text{DY}$ scheme. At NLO, it can easily be deduced from the first order $C$-coefficient in the $\text{DY}$ scheme \cite{32} and in the $\bar{b}bH$ scheme \cite{21,6} leading to $H_{\bar{b}b}^{H(1)} = 3 C_F$. The NNLO term $H_{\bar{b}b}^{H(2)}$, on the other hand, we have calculated in two independent ways.

**Numerical evaluation.** Using Eqs. (11), (13) and (15), one finds

$$\tau \sum_{ij} \hat{\sigma}_{\bar{b}b}^{\bar{b}H,(0)} ([H_{\bar{b}b \rightarrow ij}]_{\text{f.o.}} \otimes f_i \otimes f_j)(\tau) = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^{(\text{tot})} \end{bmatrix}_{\text{f.o.}} - \int dp_T^2 \begin{bmatrix} d\sigma^{(\text{fin})} \end{bmatrix}_{\text{f.o.}} \quad (18)$$

where $[d\sigma^{(\text{fin})}]_{\text{f.o.}} \equiv [d\sigma]_{\text{f.o.}} - [d\sigma^{(\text{res})}]_{\text{f.o.}}$. Eq. (18) holds order by order in $\alpha_s$ and for each channel separately.

If we consider $ij = \bar{b}b$ at $O(\alpha_s^2)$, the only unknown in Eq. (18) is the hard coefficient $H_{\bar{b}b}^{H(2)}$, which appears as a constant in the hard-collinear function $H_{\bar{b}b \rightarrow ij}^{\bar{b}bH,(2)}$ (see Eq. (29)). The full $z$ dependence of the latter is known from the $C$-functions in the $\text{DY}$ scheme. Thus, we can simply fit $H_{\bar{b}b}^{H(2)}$ using Eq. (18) without any approximations. The numerical result we obtain is

$$H_{\bar{b}b}^{H(2)} = 10.47 \pm 0.08,$$

where the relatively big uncertainty is caused by the cancellation of several digits on the right hand side of Eq. (18).
Analytic evaluation. The evaluation of the hard coefficient requires the knowledge of the purely virtual amplitude for the process $bbH$ which was calculated through NNLO in Refs. \cite{8,35}. We give below the UV renormalized $bbH$ form factor in $d = 4 - 2\epsilon$ dimensions for $\mu_R = M$, where here and in what follows, $M$ denotes the Higgs boson mass $M_H$.

$$F^h_b = \tilde{F}^h_b + \hat{F}^h_b,$$

where

$$\begin{align*}
\hat{F}^h_b &= \left( \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right) C_F \left[ -\frac{1}{2\epsilon^2} - \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left( \frac{i\pi}{2} - \frac{3}{4} \right) + \frac{\pi^2}{24} \right] + \left( \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^2 \left[ C_F^2 \left( \frac{1}{8\epsilon^4} + \frac{1}{\epsilon^3} \left( \frac{i\pi}{4} - \frac{3}{8} \right) \right) \\
&+ \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left( \frac{3i\pi^3}{8} - \frac{13\pi^2}{48} + \frac{17}{32} \right) + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left( -\frac{5i\pi^3}{24} + \frac{i\pi}{3} - \frac{4\zeta(3)}{3} - \frac{5\pi^2}{32} + \frac{53}{64} - \frac{7i\pi\zeta(3)}{6} \right) \\
&+ \frac{11i\pi}{8} - \frac{3i\pi^3}{32} - \frac{7\zeta(3)}{8} + \frac{83\pi^4}{960} - \frac{5\pi^2}{12} + \frac{7}{4} \right] + C_A C_F \left\{ \frac{11}{32\epsilon^3} + \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left( \frac{11i\pi}{48} + \frac{\pi^2}{96} + \frac{1}{9} \right) \right. \\
&\left. + \frac{67i\pi^3}{144} + \frac{13\zeta(3)}{16} - \frac{11\pi^2}{192} - \frac{961}{1728} \right) + \frac{11i\pi^3}{288} + \frac{77\zeta(3)}{144} - \frac{\pi^4}{288} \\
&\left. + \frac{67\pi^2}{576} - \frac{607}{648} \right) + N_f C_F \left\{ -\frac{1}{16\epsilon^3} + \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left( -\frac{i\pi}{24} - \frac{1}{36} \right) + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left( \frac{5i\pi}{72} + \frac{\pi^2}{96} + \frac{65}{864} \right) \right. \\
&\left. - \frac{i\pi^3}{144} - \frac{7\zeta(3)}{72} - \frac{5\pi^2}{288} + \frac{41}{324} \right] \right) \\
\end{align*}$$

and

$$\begin{align*}
\tilde{F}^h_b &= 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} C_F \left( \frac{\pi^2}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \left( \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \right)^2 \left[ C_A C_F \left( \frac{37\zeta_3}{72} + \frac{83\pi^2}{144} + \frac{125\pi^2}{432} - \frac{\pi^4}{480} \right) \\
&+ C_F^2 \left( -\frac{15\zeta_3}{8} + \frac{3\pi^2}{8} + \frac{23\pi^4}{1440} \right) + C_F N_f \left( \frac{\zeta_3}{9} + \frac{1}{36} - \frac{5\pi^2}{108} \right) \right. \\
&\left. + i\pi \left( C_A C_F \left( \frac{13\zeta_3}{8} - \frac{121}{216} - \frac{11\pi^2}{288} \right) + C_F^2 \left( \frac{\pi^2}{8} - \frac{3\zeta_3}{2} + \frac{7}{54} + \frac{\pi^2}{144} \right) C_F N_f \right) \right],
\end{align*}$$

with $\alpha_s = \alpha_s(M)$. All singular terms are contained in $\hat{F}^h_b$, while $\tilde{F}^h_b$ remains independent of singularities. Note, however, that $\hat{F}^h_b$ also contains finite terms. The splitting has been done according to Ref. \cite{36}. The hard coefficient in the hard scheme at $\mu_R = M$ is then obtained at each order in $\alpha_s$ through \cite{36}

$$H^H_{b,\text{hard}}(\alpha_s) = \left| \tilde{F}^h_b(\alpha_s) \right|^2. \tag{23}$$

\footnote{Both $\alpha_s$ and $m_b$ are renormalized in the \textit{MS} scheme. In particular, we replace $\alpha_s$ in the whole amplitude according to Eq. (6) of Ref. \cite{35}.}
Using the fact that scheme conversion is process independent, i.e.,
\[ H_{c,\text{hard}}^F = (1 + \Delta_{\text{hard}}) H_{c}^F , \]  
with an appropriate perturbative factor \( \Delta_{\text{hard}} = \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s) \), and that \( H_{q,\text{DY}}^\alpha(\alpha_s) \equiv 1 \), the conversion to the DY scheme is easily carried out using
\[ H_{b,\text{DY}}^2 = H_{b,\text{hard}} - (H_{b,\text{hard}})^2 - H_{b,\text{hard}}^2 H_{b,\text{DY}}^\alpha , \]  
where \( H_{b,\text{DY}}^\alpha \) is the hard coefficient for the DY process in the hard scheme which is presented in Ref. [36]. In this way we find
\[ H_{b,\text{DY}}^\alpha = C_F \left[ \left( \frac{321}{64} - \frac{13}{48} \pi^2 \right) C_F + \left( \frac{365}{288} + \frac{\pi^2}{12} \right) N_f \right] \]  
\[ + \left( \frac{5269}{576} - \frac{5}{12} \pi^2 - \frac{9}{4} \zeta_3 \right) C_A \]  
(26)
This yields a numerical value of \( H_{b,\text{DY}}^\alpha = 10.52 \ldots \), which is in perfect agreement with Eq. (19). This serves as an important check of our calculation.

3 Outline of the calculation and results

We are now ready to consider the resummed transverse momentum distribution of the Higgs boson produced via bottom quark annihilation through NNLO+NNLL. Exemplary Feynman diagrams that enter our calculation are shown in Appendix A. The LO diagram in Fig. 10(a) determines the Born factor given in Eq. (5). The virtual one- and two-loop corrections (e.g. Fig. 10(b) and (c)) govern the hard coefficient \( H_{b}^\alpha \) as outlined in Section 2.3. Fig. 11 shows a sample of real and mixed real-virtual diagrams that appear at NNLO for \( p_T > 0 \). Note that the various sub-processes enter the calculation at different orders. The \( b\bar{b} \) initial state is the only sub-process present at LO. At NLO also the contribution of the \( bg \)-channel has to be taken into account. The \( gg, bb, bq \) and \( q\bar{q} \)-initiated sub-processes \( (q \in \{u,d,s,c\}) \) enter only at NNLO. The only sub-process which is finite at small transverse momenta and needs no resummation is the \( q\bar{q} \)-channel.

The calculation of the matched resummed distribution of Eq. (11) requires the differential cross section \[ d\sigma \] calculated in various approximations:

\footnote{We account all charge conjugated and switched initial states to the same sub-process. Thus, the \( bg \)-channel includes \( bg, bg, gb \) and \( gb \).}
\footnote{The superscript \( F=bbH \) will be dropped in what follows.}
• The analytic transverse momentum distribution at NNLO, [dσ]_{f.o.}, can be taken from Ref. [21] (for \( p_T > 0 \), but see footnote [5]).

• The logarithms at NNLO, [dσ^{(res)}]_{f.o.}, are obtained from the fixed order expansion of dσ^{(res)} which was carried out explicitly in Eqs. (72) and (73) of Ref. [15] (again, only \( p_T > 0 \) terms are taken into account).

• For the calculation of the resummed expression, [dσ^{(res)}]_{l.a.}, we use a modified version of the program HqT [15–17], which performs the transverse momentum resummation for gluon-induced Higgs production in the heavy-top limit. We extended its capabilities to cover also the resummation for quark-induced processes and implemented the resummation coefficients of the \( \bar{b}bH \)-process.

3.1 Checks

Before presenting numerical results, we comment on various checks that we made on our calculation and outline our default input parameters. The analytic \( p_T \)-distribution at NNLO [21] has been checked numerically against the partonic Monte Carlo program for H plus jet production at the same order of Refs. [20,22], which in turn has been validated by various related calculations [23–26].

The small-\( p_T \) behavior of the distribution needs to agree with the expansion of dσ^{(res)}. We checked that the limit

\[
\left[ \frac{d\sigma}{dp_T^2} \right]_{f.o.} \xrightarrow{p_T \to 0} \left[ \frac{d\sigma^{(res)}}{dp_T^2} \right]_{f.o.}
\]  

holds to better than one per-mille in the interval 0.001 GeV < \( p_T < 0.1 \) GeV. We also verified that this limit is independent of the resummation scale.

Furthermore, we used our implementation of dσ^{(res)} to calculate a large number of sampling points in order to approximate the integral over \( p_T \). According to Eq. (13), the result has to yield the (analytically known) hard-collinear function \( \mathcal{H}_{\bar{b}b\rightarrow ij}^{bbH} \), which we verified up to an accuracy of a few per-mille. This is quite remarkable, considering the fact that the determination of \( \sigma^{(res)} \) includes the numerical transform from \( b \)- to \( p_T \)-space and from \( N \)- to \( z \)-space, as well as a fit of the parton distributions in Mellin space.

We also checked Eq. (15) for the matched cross section up to a numerical accuracy considerably better than one per-mille, using the analytical result for \( \mathcal{H}_{\bar{b}b\rightarrow ij}^{bbH} \) as the integral of

\[\text{11}\] The corresponding coefficients are given in Eqs. (63), (64), (66), (67), (68) and (69) of Ref. [15].

\[\text{12}\] For more details see also Ref. [27].

\[\text{13}\] More precisely, to verify Eq. (15) we used resummation scales significantly smaller than the mass of the Higgs to reduce the impact of resummation at high transverse momenta, because at very high \( p_T \) (\( p_T \gtrsim 300 \) GeV) the numerical convergence of our implementation of dσ^{(res)} deteriorates.
\[ \text{d} \sigma^{(\text{res})} \]. This was already expected from the agreement between Eq. (19) and the analytical result of Eq. (26) for \( H_b^{H,(2)} \) mentioned above.

All these checks have been performed for various values of the resummation, factorization, and renormalization scale, separately at order \( \alpha_s \) and \( \alpha_s^2 \), and for the individual partonic sub-channels.

At NLO+NLL, the \( p_T \) spectrum of the Higgs in \( bbH \) has already been studied in Ref. [25] within the original CSS formalism [26]. Although their approach – in particular the matching procedure – differs from ours, the qualitative behavior of our curves is in fairly good agreement at this order. In particular, we find the same properties of the matched curve at high transverse momenta, which is non-trivial as will be shown in Section 3.3.

### 3.2 Input parameters

We present results for the LHC at 8 and 13 TeV center-of-mass energy. Our choice for the central factorization and renormalization scale is \( \mu_F = \mu_R = \mu_0 \equiv M \); our default value for the resummation scale is \( Q = Q_0 \equiv M/2 \). If not stated otherwise, all numbers are obtained with the MSTW2008 [42] PDF set, which implies that the input value for the strong coupling constant is taken as \( \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.12018 \) at NLO, and \( \alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.11707 \) at NNLO. For comparison we also report results for the NNPDF2.3 and CT10 PDF sets, with their corresponding \( \alpha_s(M_Z) \) values. Since we are working in the 5FS, the bottom mass is set to zero throughout the calculation, except for the bottom-Higgs Yukawa coupling which we insert in the \( \overline{\text{MS}} \)-scheme at the scale \( \mu_R \), derived from the input value \( m_b(m_b) = 4.16 \text{ GeV} \).

All numbers are evaluated within the framework of the SM. Through appropriate rescaling of the bottom Yukawa coupling, they are obviously also applicable to neutral (CP even and odd) Higgs production within the 2HDM, and, according to the studies of Refs. [43, 44], even within the MSSM.

Sources of theoretical uncertainty and their impact on the numerical results will be studied in Section 3.3. As usual, the uncertainty due to the truncation of the perturbative series with respect to \( \alpha_s \) will be estimated from the dependence of the cross section on the unphysical scales \( \mu_F \) and \( \mu_R \). Similarly, the effect of a finite logarithmic accuracy will be addressed by a variation of \( Q \). Finally, we will investigate the uncertainty induced by the PDFs and the input value of \( \alpha_s(M_Z) \).

### 3.3 Transverse momentum distribution up to NNLO+NNLL

In this section we present our results for the transverse momentum distribution of Higgs bosons produced in bottom quark annihilation. We study the impact of the newly evaluated terms at NNLO+NNLL by comparing them to NLO+NLL, both in absolute size and in their theoretical uncertainty.
As can be seen in Fig. 1, the NLO+NLL result differs significantly from the NLO one, even at $p_T \gtrsim M$. This was already observed in Ref. [25]. Considering the dominant subchannels (e.g. the $b\bar{b}$ channel, see Fig. 2(a)) at NNLO+NNLL, we observe huge discrepancies to the NNLO curve at large transverse momenta as well. However, in the sum of all channels, Fig. 2(b), a non-trivial cancellation among these occurs, leading to a resummed curve that smoothly approaches the fixed order curve at high $p_T$. Thus the NNLO+NNLL result is the first to combine the small and high $p_T$ region in a satisfactory way. This indicates its importance to predict a distribution valid at all transverse momenta.

Let us now consider the effect of the higher orders on the dependence due to the renormalization and the factorization scale, while fixing the resummation scale at its default value, $Q = Q_0$. The bands in Fig. 3 correspond to an independent variation of $\mu_F$ and $\mu_R$ in the range $[\mu_0/2, 2\mu_0]$, while excluding the region where $\mu_F/\mu_R > 2$ and $\mu_F/\mu_R < 1/2$. Comparing the red NNLO+NNLL with the blue NLO+NLL band, a considerable decrease of the scale uncertainties is only observed for $p_T \gtrsim 20$ GeV, while in the region where resummation is crucial the error bands have a similar size.

Including higher orders in the logarithmic accuracy, one also expects a reduction of the dependence of the $p_T$ distribution on the resummation scale. This is impressively confirmed in Fig. 4 which shows the cross sections at NLO+NLL (blue, dotted) and at NNLO+NNLL (red, solid), where $\mu_F$ and $\mu_R$ are fixed at their default values (see Section 3.2). The bands...
Figure 2: Transverse momentum spectrum at NNLO (blue, dashed) and at NNLO+NNLL (red, solid) for the central scales of (a) just the $b\bar{b}$ channel and (b) the sum of all channels.

Figure 3: Resummed $p_T$-distribution at NLO+NLL (blue) and NNLO+NNLL (red); lines: central scale choices; bands: uncertainty due to $\mu_F,\mu_R$-variation.
Figure 4: Resummed $p_T$-distribution at NLO+NLL (blue) and NNLO+NNLL (red); lines: central scale choices; bands: uncertainty due to $Q$-variation.

Figure 5: Resummed $p_T$-distribution at NLO+NLL (blue) and NNLO+NNLL (red); lines: central scale choices; bands: uncertainty due to variation of all scales.
are obtained by varying $Q$ between $Q_0/2$ and $2Q_0$; the lines correspond to $Q = Q_0$. The variation of the cross section with respect to $Q$ at NNLL is indeed significantly reduced w.r.t. to NLL.

Finally, Fig. 5 shows the result for an independent variation of all three scales within $Q \in [Q_0/2, 2Q_0]$ and $\mu_F, \mu_R \in [\mu_0/2, 2\mu_0]$, where again we exclude the regions $\mu_F/\mu_R > 2$ and $\mu_F/\mu_R < 1/2$. For all values of $p_T$, one observes a reduction of the uncertainty of the resummed NNLO+NNLL cross section (red) with respect to the one at NLO+NLL (blue). The relative uncertainty at the maximum amounts to $+18/-21\%$ for the NNLL curve and $+41/-23\%$ at NLL.

The corresponding plots for 13 TeV are shown in Appendix D, Fig. 12-14. Qualitatively, the above statements apply also here, only the absolute cross section is larger.

In the second part of this chapter, we discuss the uncertainties arising from the PDF and $\alpha_s$ choices. Besides the importance for our calculation, this study is particularly interesting regarding the treatment of the bottom densities of the various PDF groups, given the fact that the $b\bar{b}H$ process in the 5FS is directly sensitive to the bottom densities. We consider three different PDF sets: MSTW2008 68%CL, NNPDF2.3 and CT10. The combined PDF+$\alpha_s$ uncertainties are determined following the recommendations of the corresponding PDF groups [42, 45, 46]. In contrast to MSTW and CTEQ, there is no central PDF set for NNPDF, which is why the central value is calculated as the mean value of all considered PDF members.
Fig. 6 compares the resummed distributions obtained with the three PDF sets and their intrinsic uncertainties, for (a) NLO+NLL and (b) NNLO+NNLL accuracy. At NLO+NLL, the MSTW and NNPDF results are very well consistent within their uncertainties, while the CTEQ band is right below the MSTW band. At NNLO+NNLL, on the other hand, the situation is the other way round: The bands of MSTW and CTEQ overlap, while the NNPDF band lies right on top of them. In both cases the biggest discrepancies are observed around the maximum of the distribution. Furthermore, considering the relative uncertainties in Fig. 7 (MSTW), Fig. 8 (NNPDF) and Fig. 9 (CTEQ), we observe no reduction of the PDF+$\alpha_s$ uncertainties when going from NLO to NNLO densities. In fact, at large transverse momenta the NNLO uncertainties are even slightly increased. These two observations may be due to the rather special role of the bottom densities which are determined not directly from experimental data, but are theoretically derived from the other parton densities. However, in general the uncertainties of both cross sections NLO+NLL and NNLO+NNLL are rather small, $\lesssim 4\%$, $\lesssim 3\%$ and $\lesssim 5\%$ for MSTW, NNPDF and CTEQ, respectively.

The overall theoretical uncertainty on the cross section is clearly dominated by unphysical scales, in particular the factorization and renormalisation scale. It is therefore convenient to simply add the PDF+$\alpha_s$ and scale uncertainty in quadrature.

Figure 7: Relative uncertainties for the MSTW2008 68%CL PDF set of the resummed $p_T$-distribution at NLO+NLL (blue) and NNLO+NNLL (red).
Figure 8: Relative uncertainties for the NNPDF2.3 PDF set of the resummed $p_T$-distribution at NLO+NLL (blue) and NNLO+NNLL (red).

Figure 9: Relative uncertainties for the CT10 PDF set of the resummed $p_T$-distribution at NLO+NLL (blue) and NNLO+NNLL (red).
4 Conclusions

The transverse momentum distribution of Higgs bosons produced in bottom quark annihilation has been presented through NNLO+NNLL accuracy, following the method of Ref. [15]. While at NLO+NLL, the matched \( p_T \) distribution differs quite significantly from the fixed order curve even at relatively large \( p_T \) [25], the NNLO+NNLL result nicely approaches the NNLO \( p_T \) distribution at large transverse momenta, leading to a consistent cross section prediction over the full \( p_T \) spectrum.

Concerning the variation of the cross section with the unphysical scales, we observe a significant reduction when going from NLO+NLL to NNLO+NNLL. In fact, the extremely weak dependence of the NNLO+NNLL result on the resummation scale is remarkable. Concerning the PDF uncertainties, we found no improvement from NLO+NLL to NNLO+NNLL. The overall variation of all three considered PDF sets as well as the uncertainties of each set are almost identical at both orders. Not least, differential quantities in the \( b\bar{b}H \) process thus provide a good physical example to study various parameterizations and implementations of \( b \)-densities.

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Appendix A  Feynman diagrams

![Feynman diagrams](image)

Figure 10: A Sample of Feynman diagrams for $b\bar{b} \rightarrow H$ contributing to the NNLO cross section at $p_T = 0$; (a) LO, (b) 1-loop and (c) 2-loop.

![Feynman diagrams](image)

Figure 11: A sample of Feynman diagrams for $b\bar{b} \rightarrow H$ contributing to the NNLO cross section at $p_T > 0$; (a-b) single-real, (c-e) double-real, (f) mixed real-virtual.

Appendix B  Hard-collinear coefficient with full scale dependence

In this appendix, we present expressions for the hard-collinear function to second order with complete scale dependence for the $b\bar{b}H$ process:

$$
\mathcal{H}_{b\bar{b}H,ij}^{(1)}(z) = \delta(1 - z) \delta_{b_i} \delta_{\bar{b}_j} \left[ H_b^{H,(1)} - \left( B_b^{(1)} + \frac{1}{2} A_b^{(1)} \right) - 2 \gamma_0 \ln(M^2/\mu^2_R) \right] + \delta_{b_i} C_{b_j}^{(1)}(z) + \delta_{\bar{b}_j} C_{\bar{b}_i}^{(1)}(z) + \frac{1}{2} \left( \delta_{b_i} P_{b_j}^{(0)}(z) + \delta_{\bar{b}_j} P_{\bar{b}_i}^{(0)}(z) \right) \ln^3(M^2/Q^2),
$$

(28)
\[ H_{bb\rightarrow ij}^{hH,(2)}(z) = \delta(1-z) \beta_{bi} \delta_{bj} H_{b}^{H,(2)} + \delta_{bi} C_{bij}^{(2)}(z) + \delta_{bj} C_{bij}^{(2)}(z) + (C_{bij}^{(1)} \otimes C_{bij}^{(1)})(z) + H_{b}^{H,(1)} \left( \delta_{bi} C_{bij}^{(1)}(z) + \delta_{bj} C_{bij}^{(1)}(z) \right) + \delta(1-z) \frac{A_{b}^{(1)}}{6} \beta_{0} \ln^{3}(M^{2}/Q^{2}) + \frac{1}{2} \left[ \delta(1-z) \beta_{bi} \delta_{bj} A_{b}(2) + \beta_{0} \Sigma_{bb\rightarrow ij}^{(1:1)}(z) \right] \ln^{2}(M^{2}/Q^{2)} - \delta(1-z) \delta_{bi} \delta_{bj} \left( B_{b}^{(2)} + A_{b}^{(2)} \ln(M^{2}/Q^{2}) \right) - \beta_{0} \left( \delta_{bi} C_{bij}^{(1)}(z) + \delta_{bj} C_{bij}^{(1)}(z) \right) + \delta_{bi} \frac{1}{4} P_{b}^{(1)}(z) + \delta_{bj} \frac{1}{4} P_{b}^{(1)}(z) \right] \ln(M^{2}/Q^{2}) + \frac{1}{4} \beta_{0} \left( \delta_{bi} P_{b}^{(0)}(z) + \delta_{bj} P_{b}^{(0)}(z) \right) \ln^{2}(M^{2}/\mu_{F}^{2}) + \frac{1}{4} \left( \delta_{bi} P_{b}^{(1)}(z) + \delta_{bj} P_{b}^{(1)}(z) \right) \ln(M^{2}/\mu_{F}^{2}) - H_{bb\rightarrow ij}^{hH,(1)}(z) \beta_{0} \ln(M^{2}/\mu_{R}^{2}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i'j'} \left[ H_{bb\rightarrow ij}^{hH,(1)}(z) + \delta(1-z) \delta_{bi'} \delta_{bj'} H_{b}^{H,(1)} + \delta_{bi'} C_{bij}^{(1)}(z) + \delta_{bj'} C_{bij}^{(1)}(z) \right] \times \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left( \delta_{i'j'} P_{b}^{(0)}(z) + \delta_{i'j'} P_{b}^{(0)}(z) \right) \ln(Q^{2}/\mu_{F}^{2}) - \delta(1-z) \delta_{i'j'} \delta_{i'j'} \times \left[ \left( B_{b}^{(1)} + \frac{1}{2} A^{(1)} \ln(M^{2}/Q^{2}) \right) \ln(M^{2}/Q^{2}) + 2 \gamma_{0} \ln(M^{2}/\mu_{R}^{2}) \right] \right\} - \delta(1-z) \delta_{bi} \delta_{bj} \left[ \gamma_{0} \beta_{0} \ln^{2}(M^{2}/\mu_{R}^{2}) + 2 \gamma_{1} \ln(M^{2}/\mu_{R}^{2}) \right], \right. \\

\text{where } M \text{ denotes the Higgs mass, } \Sigma_{bb\rightarrow ij}^{(1:1)} \text{ is defined in Eq. (64) of Ref. [15], and } P_{ij}^{(n)}(z) \text{ denote the Altrelli-Parisi splitting functions. Their expressions can be found in Ref. [47], for example. The quark mass anomalous dimension enter due to the fact that the Born factor is proportional to the square of the bottom quark mass, see Eq. (5):} \\

\gamma_{0} = \frac{3}{4} C_{F}, \tag{30} \\
\gamma_{1} = \frac{1}{16} \left( \frac{3}{2} C_{F}^{2} + \frac{97}{6} C_{F} C_{A} - \frac{10}{3} C_{F} T_{F} N_{f} \right), \\

\text{while the power of } \alpha_{s} \text{ at LO vanishes.} \]
Appendix C  Mellin transforms

Mellin transforms of several transcendental functions which appear in 2-loop calculations are reported for integer $N$ in Ref. [48]. Ref. [49] gives a FORTRAN code that numerically approximates the analytic continuation of the moments of 25 basic functions termed $g(1, z), \ldots, g(25, z)$ (see Section 3 of Ref. [49]). The resummation coefficients $C_N^{(1)}$ and $C_N^{(2)}$ can be expressed in terms of the moments of these 25 basic functions $g(1, N), \ldots, g(25, N)$, and the analytic continuation of the single harmonic sums $S_k(N)$. Below, we give analytic expressions for Mellin transforms defined by

$$f(N) = \int_0^1 dz z^{N-1} f(z)$$  \hspace{1cm} (31)

of some of the transcendental functions true for complex $N$ which appear in the coefficients $C^{(2)}$ of our calculation. The general definition of the Harmonic sums is given by

$$S_{k_1,\ldots,k_m}(N) = \sum_{n_1=1}^{N} \frac{(\text{sign}(k_1))^{n_1}}{n_1^{k_1}} \cdots \sum_{n_m=1}^{N} \frac{(\text{sign}(k_m))^{n_m}}{n_m^{k_m}},$$  \hspace{1cm} (32)

which are defined, of course, only for integer $N$ and for $k_i \neq 0$. The analytic continuations are known for single sums and are expressed as functions of polygamma function $\psi^{(n)}(N)$.

We obtained the following mellin transforms by modifying some of the formulas in Ref. [48,49] such that they become valid for complex $N$:

$$\ln(1 + z) \to \frac{(-1)^{(N-1)}}{N} \left[ -S_1(N) + \frac{1 + (-1)^{(N-1)}}{2} S_1\left(\frac{N-1}{2}\right) \right] + \frac{1 - (-1)^{(N-1)}}{2} S_1\left(\frac{N}{2}\right), \hspace{1cm} (33)$$

$$\text{Li}_2(-z) \to \frac{1}{N} \left\{ -\frac{\zeta_2}{2} + \frac{1 + (-1)^{(N-1)}}{N} \ln(2) + \frac{(-1)^{(N-1)}}{N} \left[ -S_1(N) + \frac{1 + (-1)^{(N-1)}}{2} S_1\left(\frac{N-1}{2}\right) \right] \right\} + \frac{1 + (-1)^{(N-1)}}{2} S_1\left(\frac{N-1}{2}\right) + \frac{1 - (-1)^{(N-1)}}{2} S_1\left(\frac{N}{2}\right), \hspace{1cm} (34)$$

\footnote{The formula for $g(11, N)$ in Eq. (30) of Ref. [49] contains a typo: The last term $\frac{1}{N} \ln^4 2$ should be replaced by $\frac{1}{N} \ln^4 2$. We would like to thank J. Blümlein for confirmation.}
\[ \ln(z) \ln(1 + z) \rightarrow \frac{(-1)^N \zeta_2}{N} - \frac{1 + (-1)^{N-1}}{N^2} \ln 2 \]
\[ + \frac{(-1)^N}{N} \left[ -S_2(N) + \frac{1 + (-1)^{N-1}}{4} S_2 \left( \frac{N - 1}{2} \right) + \frac{1 - (-1)^{N-1}}{4} S_2 \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \right] \]
\[ + \frac{(-1)^N}{N^2} \left[ -S_1(N) + \frac{1 + (-1)^{N-1}}{2} S_1 \left( \frac{N - 1}{2} \right) + \frac{1 - (-1)^{N-1}}{2} S_1 \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \right], \tag{35} \]

\[ \frac{\ln(1 + z)}{1 + z} \rightarrow g(1, N) + (-1)^{-N-1} \left[ S_1(N - 1)^2 + S_{-1}(N - 1)S_1(N - 1) \right. \]
\[ + S_{-2}(N - 1) + S_2(N - 1) - 2 \ln(2)S_1(N - 1) + \ln(2)(S_1(N - 1) - S_{-1}(N - 1)) \]
\[ + \frac{1 - (-1)^{-N-1}}{2} \left[ S_1(N - 1)S_1 \left( \frac{N - 2}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} S_2 \left( \frac{N - 2}{2} \right) - \ln(2)S_1 \left( \frac{N - 2}{2} \right) \right] \]
\[ - \frac{1 + (-1)^{-N-1}}{2} \left[ S_1(N - 1)S_1 \left( \frac{N - 1}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} S_2 \left( \frac{N - 1}{2} \right) - \ln(2)S_1 \left( \frac{N - 1}{2} \right) \right], \tag{36} \]

\[ \text{Li}_3 \left( \frac{1 - z}{1 + z} \right) - \text{Li}_3 \left( -\frac{1 - z}{1 + z} \right) \rightarrow \left( S_1 \left( \frac{N - 1}{2} \right) - S_1 \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \right) \]
\[ \times \frac{1}{8N} \left[ \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N + 1}{2} \right) - 4\psi^{(1)}(N + 1) - \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N + 2}{2} \right) + \pi^2 \right] \]
\[ + \frac{1}{4N} \left[ \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N + 1}{2} \right) - 4\psi^{(1)}(N + 1) - \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N + 2}{2} \right) \right] \left( S_1(N) + \ln 2 \right) \]
\[ + \frac{1}{N} \left[ g(3, N + 1) - g(4, N + 1) + g(18, N + 1) - g(19, N + 1) \right], \tag{37} \]

\[ \frac{\ln(1 + z) \ln^2(z)}{1 + z} \rightarrow 2g(5, N) - 2g(6, N) - 2g(7, N) \]
\[ + (-1)^{-N} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \zeta_3 S_{-1}(N - 1) + \frac{3}{2} \zeta_3 S_1(N - 1) + 4S_{-4}(N - 1) \right. \]
\[ - \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 S_{-2}(N - 1) + 2S_{-3}(N - 1)S_1(N - 1) + 2S_{-2}(N - 1)S_2(N - 1) \]
\[ + \frac{1}{6} \pi^2 S_2(N - 1) - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_3 \ln(2) - \frac{\pi^4}{360} \right], \tag{38} \]
\[
\frac{1}{1+z} \left[ \text{Li}_3 \left( \frac{1}{1+z} \right) - \frac{1}{6} \ln^3(1+z) \right] \to \\
\frac{1}{192} \left[ \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) - 24 g \left( \frac{18}{2}, \frac{N}{2} \right) + 24 g(19, N) - 9 \zeta_3 + \pi^2 (6 \gamma + \ln(16)) \right] \\
- \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \left( -24 g \left( 18, \frac{N+1}{2} \right) + 24 g(19, N) - 9 \zeta_3 + \pi^2 (6 \gamma + \ln(16)) \right) \\
- 4 \pi^2 g(1, N) - 144 g(5, N) + 192 g(6, N) + 144 g(7, N) + 96 g(8, N) + 48 g(10, N) \\
+ 96 g(11, N) + 48 g(12, N) + 24 g \left( 20, \frac{N}{2} \right) - 24 g \left( 20, \frac{N+1}{2} \right) + 24 g \left( 21, \frac{N}{2} \right) \\
- 24 g \left( 21, \frac{N+1}{2} \right) + 24 \left( - \gamma g \left( 18, \frac{N}{2} \right) + \gamma g \left( 18, \frac{N+1}{2} \right) + \ln(4) g(4, N) \right) \\
+ 4 \left( \psi^{(0)}(N) + \gamma g(3, N) - g(4, N) \right) \right] + 9 \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right)^2 \\
- 12 \psi^{(2)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right)^2 + 3 \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right)^2 + 6 \pi^2 \psi^{(0)}(N) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \\
+ 6 \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) + 24 \gamma \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \\
- 6 \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) - 12 \psi^{(0)}(N)^2 \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \\
+ 48 \psi^{(2)}(N) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) - 6 \pi^2 \psi^{(0)}(N) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) + 12 \psi^{(0)}(N)^2 \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \\
- 3 \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right)^2 \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) + 48 \psi^{(0)}(N) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \psi^{(1)}(N) \\
- 9 \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right)^2 \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) - 24 \gamma \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \\
- 48 \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \psi^{(2)}(N) + 12 \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) \psi^{(2)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) + \psi^{(3)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \\
- \psi^{(3)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) + 6 \left( - \pi^2 - 2 \ln^2(2) + \gamma (4 \gamma + \ln(16)) \right) \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) + 6 \left[ \pi^2 \\
+ 2 \ln^2(2) - \gamma (4 \gamma + \ln(16)) \right] \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) + 48 \ln(2) - \gamma \psi^{(1)}(N) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \\
+ 24 \left( \gamma + \ln(2) \right) \psi^{(0)}(N) \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) + \psi^{(0)}(N) \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \\
- 24 \left( \gamma + \ln(2) \right) \psi^{(0)}(N) \psi^{(1)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) - 12 \left( \gamma + \ln(2) \right) \psi^{(2)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \\
+ 12 \left( \gamma + \ln(2) \right) \psi^{(2)} \left( \frac{N+1}{2} \right) - 48 \psi^{(0)}(N) \psi^{(1)}(N) \psi^{(0)} \left( \frac{N}{2} \right) \right],
\]

(39)
where \( \gamma = \gamma_E \). Furthermore, the expressions for \( g(1,N), g(5,N), g(6,N), g(7,N) \) for integer \( N \) given in Section 3 of Ref. [49] become valid for complex \( N \) upon replacing the overall factor of \( (-1)^N \) by \( (-1)^{-N} \).

Appendix D  Results for 13 TeV

Figure 12: Resummed \( p_T \)-distribution at NLO+NLL (blue) and NNLO+NNLL (red); lines: central scale choices; bands: uncertainty due to variation of all scales.
Figure 13: Resummed $p_T$-distribution at NLO+NLL (blue) and NNLO+NNLL (red); lines: central scale choices; bands: uncertainty due to $Q$-variation.

Figure 14: Resummed $p_T$-distribution at NLO+NLL (blue) and NNLO+NNLL (red); lines: central scale choices; bands: uncertainty due to $\mu_F+\mu_R$-variation.
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