



ttH production in the Higgs characterisation model at NLO in QCD with full off-shell effects

Based on [arXiv:2205.09983](https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.09983)

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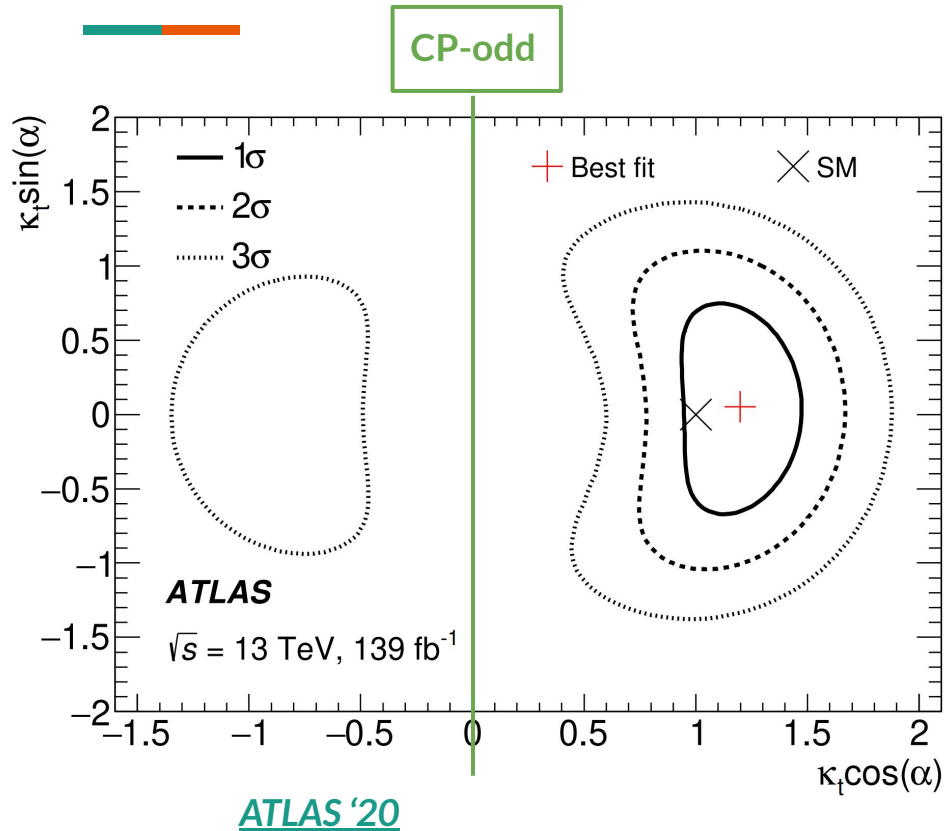
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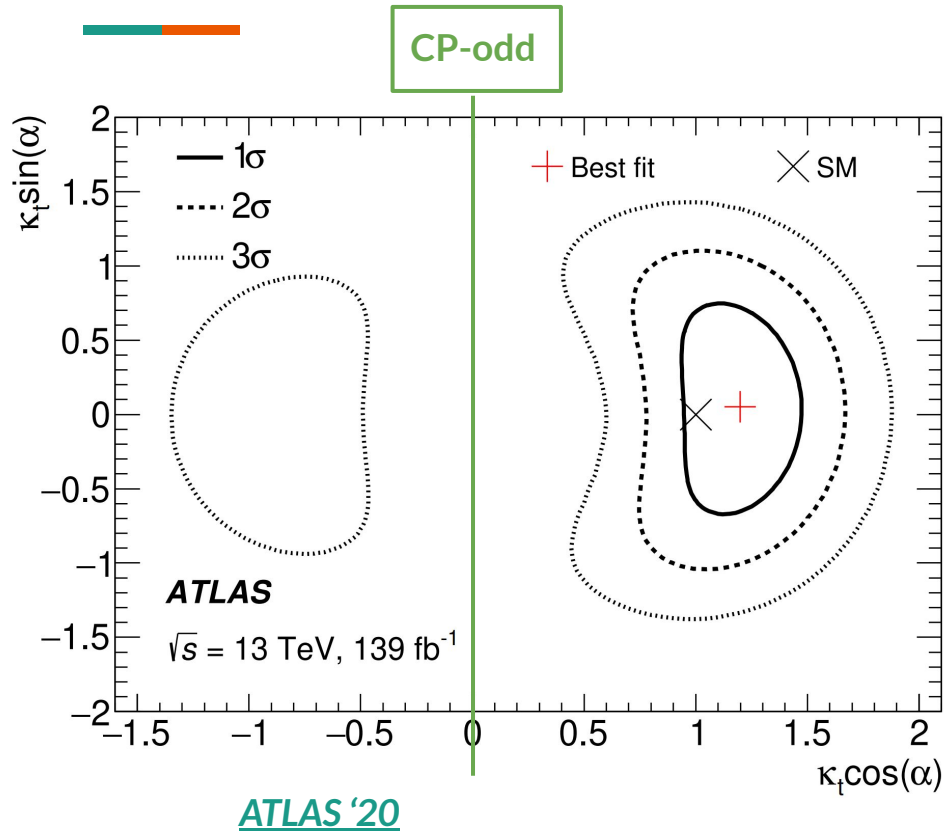
Introduction



ttH production:

- Observed for the first time in 2018, [ATLAS '18, CMS'18](#)
- Allows for direct probe of Yukawa interaction
- Top is heaviest SM particle
→ strongest Yukawa coupling
- Measurement of CP-odd component would indicate new physics

Introduction



SM-like interpretation:

- Still freedom in the CP-state of the Higgs boson
- SM prediction: Higgs is CP-even
- CP-odd state excluded with 3.9σ
- $\alpha_{CP} > 43^\circ$ excluded at 95% CL if CP-even and CP-odd couplings are equal

[ATLAS '20](#)

BSM interpretations:

- Extended Higgs sector
- 2HDM
- ...

Introduction

Main Goal: $pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b \bar{b} H$ at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^3 \alpha^5)$

Provide state-of-the-art predictions for ttH production with possible mixing between **CP-even** (SM) and **CP-odd** Higgs states at NLO in QCD including full off-shell effects using HELAC-NLO

Questions:

- Which **observables** are sensitive to the CP-state?
- How are the different CP-states affected by **NLO QCD corrections**?
- How are the different CP-states affected by **off-shell effects**?

Theory status

SM Higgs boson (stable tops):

- ttH @ NLO in QCD+EW with NNLL soft gluon resummation [Broggio et al. '19, Kulesza, et al. '20](#)

SM Higgs boson (with top quark decays):

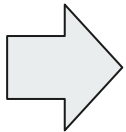
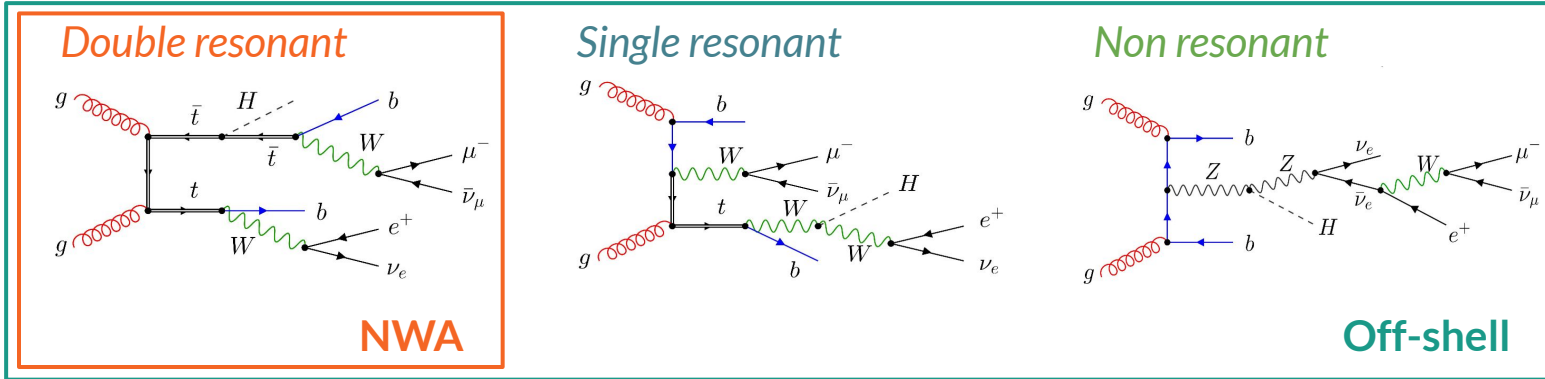
- ttH @ NLO in QCD with full off-shell effects [Denner, Feger '15](#)
- ttH @ NLO in QCD+EW with full off-shell effects [Denner, Lang, Pellen, Uccirati '17](#)
- ttH @ NLO in QCD with full off-shell effects + Higgs decays in NWA [Stremmer, Worek '22](#)

Higgs boson with CP-odd admixture:

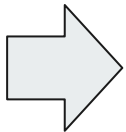
- ttX @ NLO in QCD with LO decays [Artoisenet et al. '13, Demartin et al. '14](#)
 - HC_NLO_X0 model [Artoisenet et al. '13, Maltoni et al. '14, Demartin et al. '14](#)

Off-shell effects

Process: $pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu b \bar{b} H$ at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^2 \alpha^5)$



Full off-shell = DR + SR + NR + interference + Breit-Wigner



NWA = DR with on-shell masses

$$\frac{\Gamma}{m} \rightarrow 0$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Full off-shell} \\ \text{NWA} \end{array} \right\} \mathcal{O}(\Gamma_t/m_t) \sim 0.8\%$$

The Higgs characterisation framework (HCF)

SM:

Top-Yukawa coupling Top-quark fields

$$\mathcal{L}_{t\bar{t}H} = -\frac{Y_t}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{\psi}_t \psi_t H$$

Higgs boson field

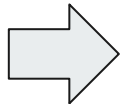
HCF:

$$\mathcal{L}_{t\bar{t}H} = -\frac{Y_t}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{\psi}_t (\kappa_{Ht\bar{t}} \cos(\alpha_{CP}) + i\kappa_{At\bar{t}} \sin(\alpha_{CP}) \gamma_5) \psi_t H$$

Mixing angle

Additional couplings

Artoisenet et al. '13
Maltoni et al. '14
Demartin et al. '14



Recover SM for $\kappa_{Ht\bar{t}} = 1$ and $\alpha_{CP} = 0$

The Higgs characterisation framework (HCF)

HCF:

$$\mathcal{L}_{t\bar{t}H} = -\frac{Y_t}{\sqrt{2}}\bar{\psi}_t \left(\underbrace{\kappa_{Ht\bar{t}} \cos(\alpha_{CP})}_{\text{CP-even}} + \underbrace{i\kappa_{At\bar{t}} \sin(\alpha_{CP})\gamma_5}_{\text{CP-odd}} \right) \psi_t H$$

Mixing angle

Three reference points:

- **CP-even:** $\alpha_{CP} = 0 \longrightarrow \cos(\alpha_{CP}) = 1, \sin(\alpha_{CP}) = 0$
- **CP-odd:** $\alpha_{CP} = \frac{\pi}{2} \longrightarrow \cos(\alpha_{CP}) = 0, \sin(\alpha_{CP}) = 1$
- **CP-mixed:** $\alpha_{CP} = \frac{\pi}{4} \longrightarrow \cos(\alpha_{CP}) = \sin(\alpha_{CP}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

Parameter choices

$\kappa_{Ht\bar{t}}$

- Choose $\kappa_{Ht\bar{t}} = 1$ to **recover SM** results for $\alpha_{CP} = 0$

$\kappa_{At\bar{t}}$

- Choose $\kappa_{At\bar{t}} = 1$ to have the same coupling as for CP-even part
- Choose $\kappa_{At\bar{t}} = 2/3$ to be consistent with **gluon-gluon fusion (ggF) measurements** ([ATLAS '21](#))

κ_{HVV}

$$\mathcal{L}_{HVV} = \kappa_{HVV} \left(\frac{g_{HZZ}}{2} Z_\mu Z^\mu + g_{HWW} W_\mu^+ W^{-\mu} \right) H$$

Additional coupling

Parameter choices

$$\underline{\kappa_{Ht\bar{t}}}$$

- Choose $\kappa_{Ht\bar{t}} = 1$ to recover SM results for $\alpha_{CP} = 0$

$$\underline{\kappa_{At\bar{t}}}$$

- Choose $\kappa_{At\bar{t}} = 1$ to have the same coupling as for CP-even part
- Choose $\kappa_{At\bar{t}} = 2/3$ to be consistent with gluon-gluon fusion (ggF) measurements ([ATLAS '21](#))

$$\underline{\kappa_{HVV}}$$

- Choose $\kappa_{HVV} = 1$ to be consistent with vector-boson fusion (VBF) measurements ([CMS '19](#))
- Choose $\kappa_{HVV} = \cos(\alpha_{CP})$ to avoid coupling of pseudoscalar particle to vector bosons (e.g. 2HDM)

Integrated fiducial cross-sections (NLO)

α_{CP}		Off-shell	NWA	Off-shell effects
0 (SM)	σ_{LO} [fb]	2.0313(2) ^{+0.6275 (31%)} _{-0.4471 (22%)}	2.0388(2) ^{+0.6290 (31%)} _{-0.4483 (22%)}	-0.37%
	σ_{NLO} [fb]	2.466(2) ^{+0.027 (1.1%)} _{-0.112 (4.5%)}	2.475(1) ^{+0.027 (1.1%)} _{-0.113 (4.6%)}	-0.36%
	$\sigma_{NLO_{LOdec}}$ [fb]	–	2.592(1) ^{+0.161 (6.2%)} _{-0.242 (9.3%)}	
	$\mathcal{K} = \sigma_{NLO}/\sigma_{LO}$	1.21	1.21 (LOdec: 1.27)	
$\pi/4$	σ_{LO} [fb]	1.1930(2) ^{+0.3742 (31%)} _{-0.2656 (22%)}	1.1851(1) ^{+0.3707 (31%)} _{-0.2633 (22%)}	0.66%
	σ_{NLO} [fb]	1.465(2) ^{+0.016 (1.1%)} _{-0.071 (4.8%)}	1.452(1) ^{+0.015 (1.0%)} _{-0.069 (4.8%)}	0.89%
	$\sigma_{NLO_{LOdec}}$ [fb]	–	1.517(1) ^{+0.097 (6.4%)} _{-0.144 (9.5%)}	
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$\pi/2$	σ_{LO} [fb]	0.38277(6) ^{+0.13123 (34%)} _{-0.09121 (24%)}	0.33148(3) ^{+0.11240 (34%)} _{-0.07835 (24%)}	13.4%
	σ_{NLO} [fb]	0.5018(3) ^{+0.0083 (1.2%)} _{-0.0337 (6.7%)}	0.4301(2) ^{+0.0035 (0.8%)} _{-0.0264 (6.1%)}	14.3%
	$\sigma_{NLO_{LOdec}}$ [fb]	–	0.4433(2) ^{+0.0323 (7.3%)} _{-0.0470 (11%)}	
	$\mathcal{K} = \sigma_{NLO}/\sigma_{LO}$	1.31	1.30 (LOdec: 1.34)	

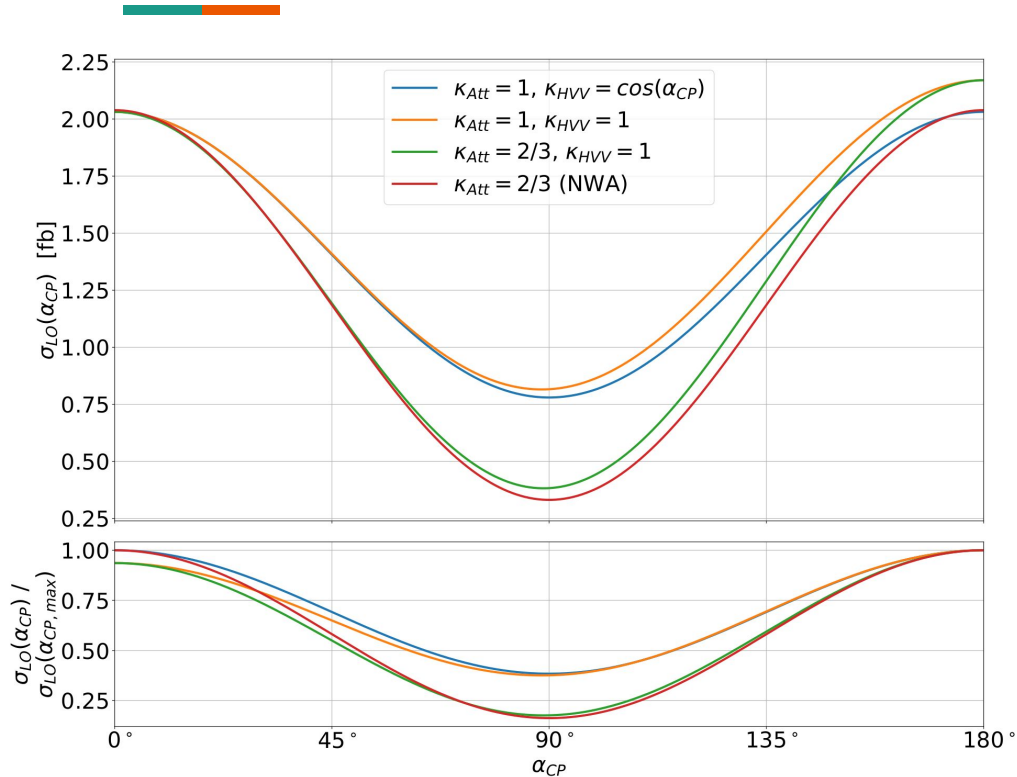
NLO corrections:

- 21% - 31%
- Increase with the mixing angle
- NLO with LO decays overestimates NLO results by a few percent

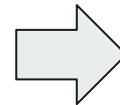
Off-shell effects:

- Small for CP-even and CP-mixed Higgs boson
- Large effects for CP-odd Higgs boson

Integrated fiducial cross-sections (LO)

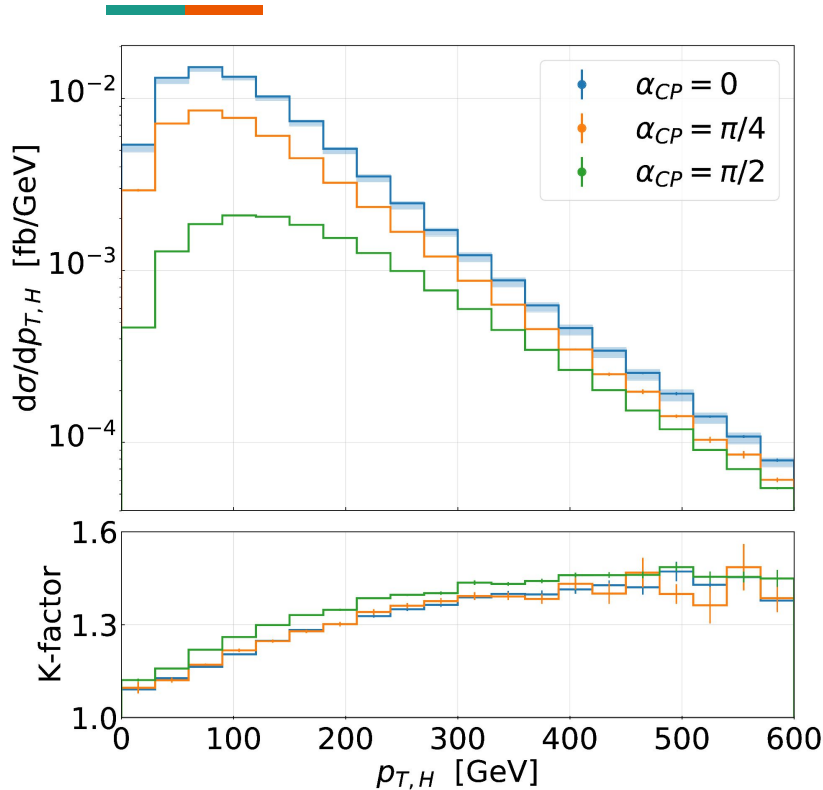


- **NWA** is symmetric
- Full result is only symmetric for $\kappa_{HVV} = \cos(\alpha_{CP})$
- $\kappa_{Att\bar{t}}$ only influences the size of the CP-odd contribution



Off-shell contributions break symmetry

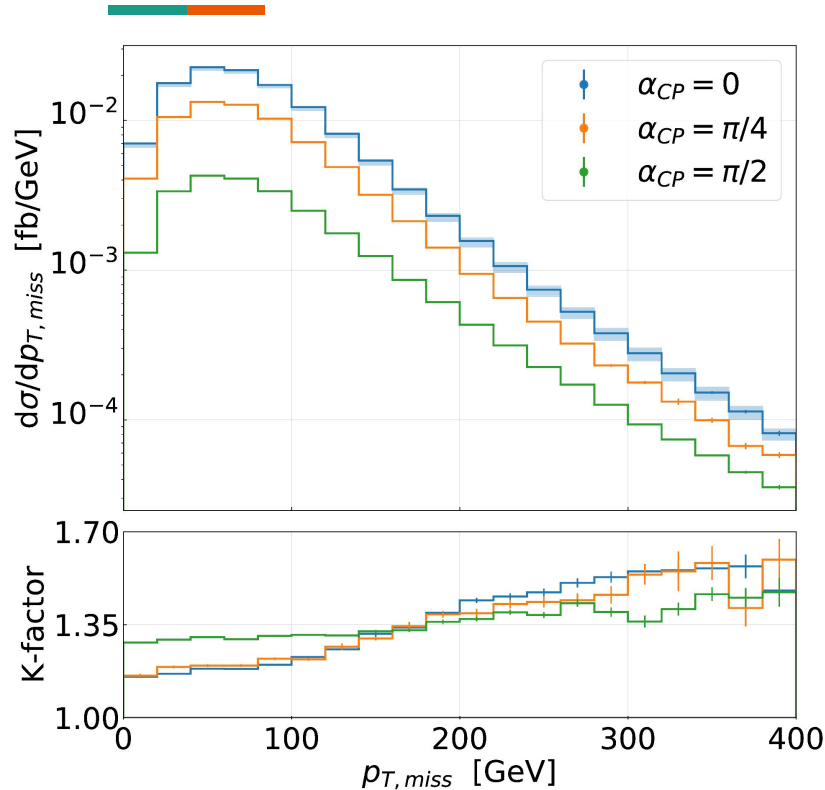
Differential distributions - NLO corrections



General behaviour:

- Larger corrections in distribution tails
- Corrections largest for CP-odd case
- Shape of K-factor similar between different CP-states
- Harder Higgs radiation in CP-odd case

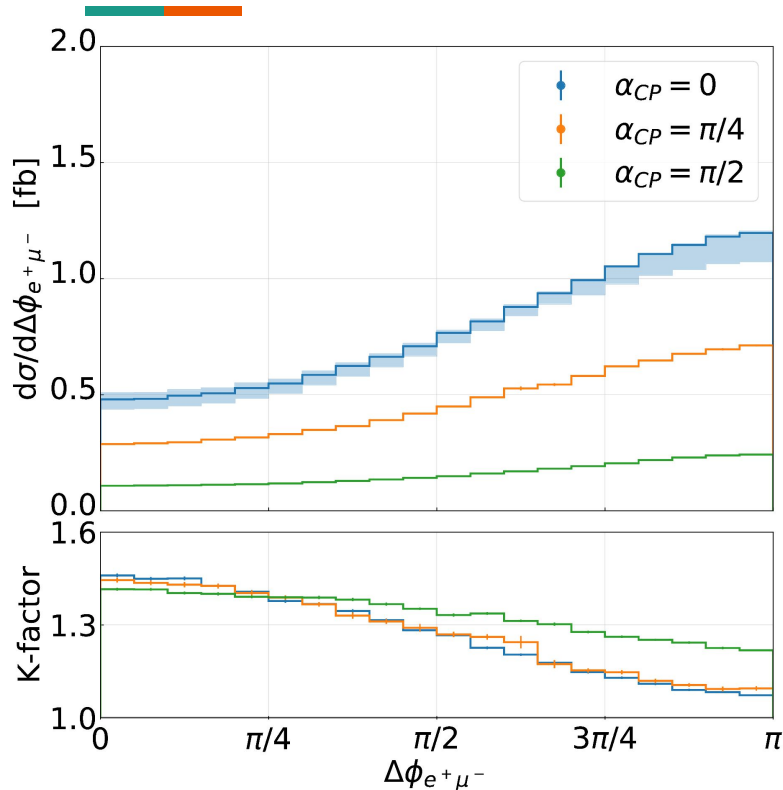
Differential distributions - NLO corrections



Observables with top-quark decay products:

- Corrections largest for CP-odd case only for small transverse momenta
- For large momenta, CP-odd case receives smallest corrections -> smaller shape distortions
- Harder Higgs radiation in CP-odd case suppresses K-factor
- CP-even and CP-mixed very similar

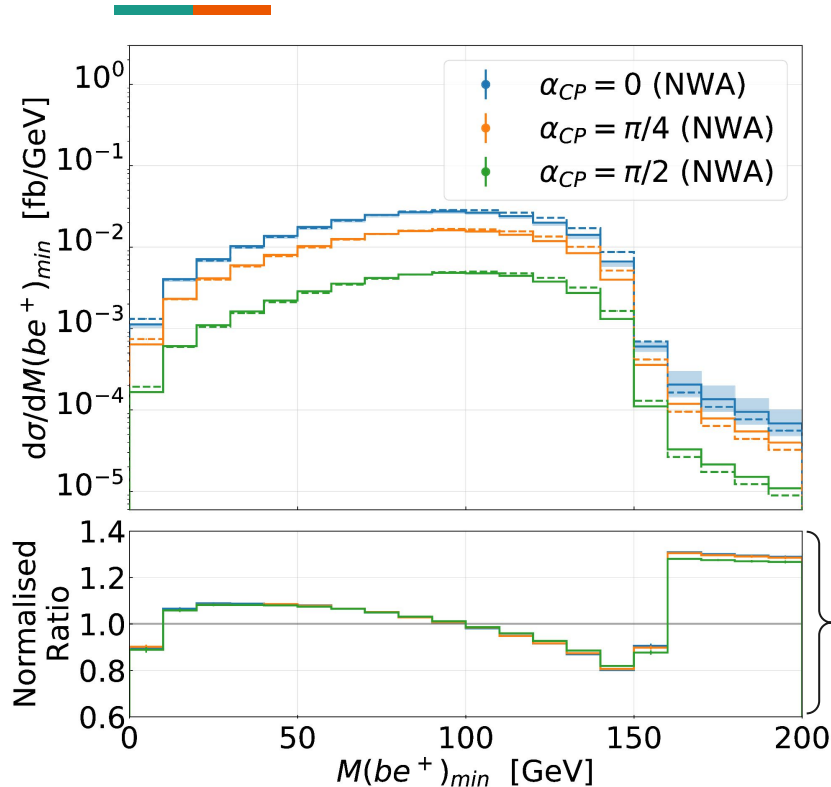
Differential distributions - NLO corrections



Observables with top-quark decay products:

- Corrections largest for **CP-odd** case only for large opening angles
- For small opening angles, **CP-odd** case receives smallest corrections -> smaller shape distortions
- Harder Higgs radiation in **CP-odd** case suppresses K-factor
- **CP-even** and **CP-mixed** very similar

Differential distributions - NLO corrections

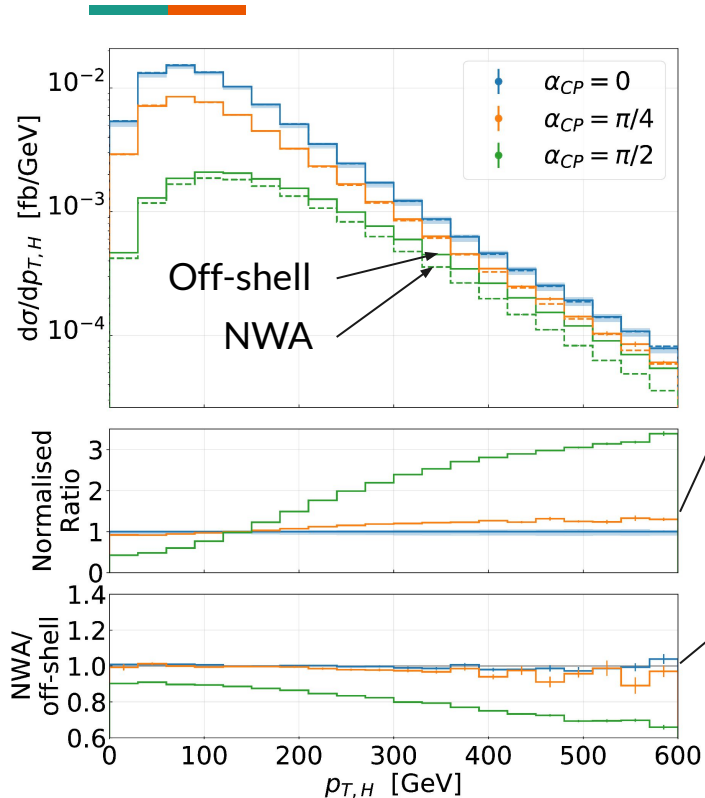


NLO corrections to top-quark decays:

- Almost no difference between the CP-states
- Significant shape distortions

$$\frac{\text{NLO}}{\text{NLO}_{\text{LOdec}}} \quad (\text{both normalised})$$

Differential distributions



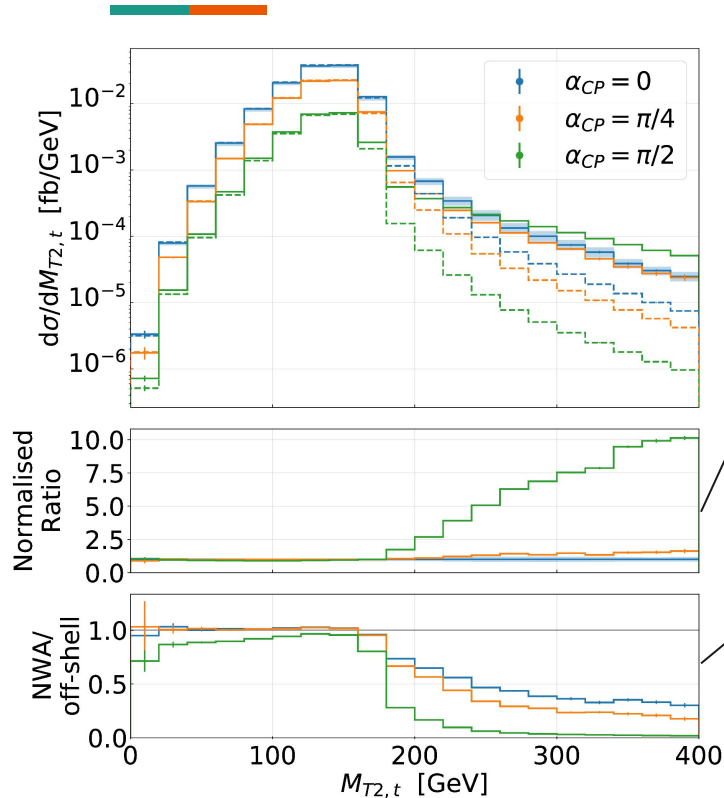
Shape comparison:

- CP-even and CP-mixed similar, small difference in tails
- Tails much more pronounced in CP-odd case

Off-shell effects:

- Large effects on size and shape for CP-odd Higgs boson
- Only small effects for CP-even and CP-mixed

Differential distributions



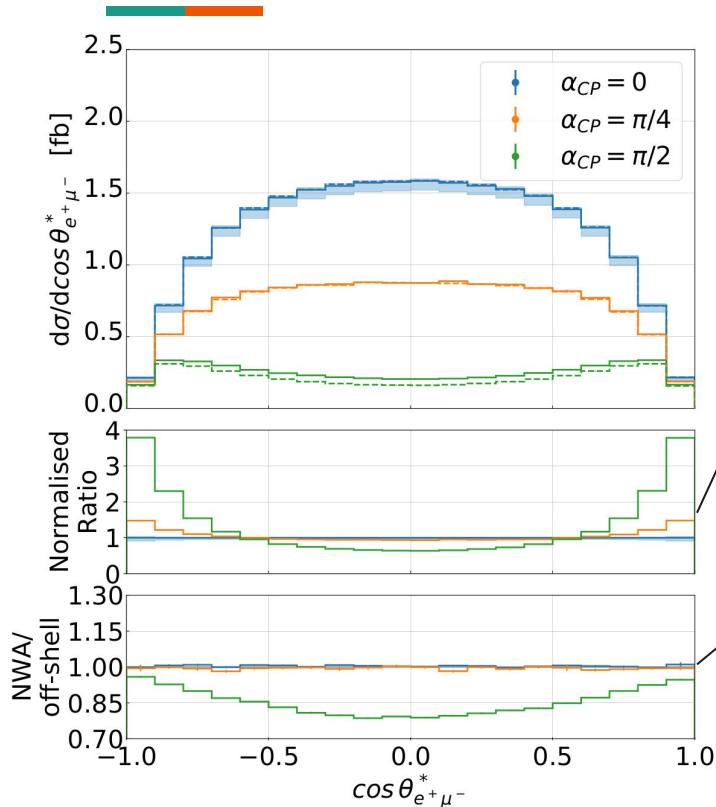
Shape comparison:

- CP-even and CP-mixed similar, large difference in tails
- In the tails, the CP-odd cross-section is actually the largest

Off-shell effects:

- Large effects for all CP-states above kinematic edge, largest for CP-odd

Differential distributions



Shape comparison:


- CP-even and CP-mixed similar, small differences around 1 and -1
- Significant differences for CP-odd case

Off-shell effects:

- Significant effects on size and shape for CP-odd Higgs boson
- Only small effects for CP-even and CP-mixed

Conclusions

- Which **observables** are sensitive to the CP-state?
 - Integrated fiducial cross-section (total rate)
 - Observables with kinematic edges ($M_{T2,t}$, M_{e+b})
 - Observables involving decay products of both top quarks ($p_{T,miss}$, $p_{T,b\bar{b}}$, $\cos \theta_U^*$, ...)
- How are the different CP-states affected by **NLO QCD corrections**?
 - Larger overall corrections for **CP-odd** Higgs boson but smaller shape distortions
 - **CP-mixed** very similar to **CP-even** (SM) case
- How are the different CP-states affected by **off-shell effects**?
 - Large corrections in **CP-odd** case even for integrated cross-section
 - Off-shell effects break symmetry of integrated cross-section
 - Particularly large effects in distribution tails and above kinematic edges



**Thank you for your
attention!**



Backup



Outline

- Introduction
- The Higgs characterisation framework
- Off-shell effects
- Integrated fiducial cross-sections
- Differential fiducial cross-section distributions
- Conclusions

Inputs

PDF: NNPDF31-nlo-as-0118

Parameters:

$$\alpha = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\pi} G_\mu m_W^2 \left(1 - \frac{m_W^2}{m_Z^2} \right), \quad G_\mu = 1.166378 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$$
$$m_t = 172.5 \text{ GeV}, \quad m_H = 125 \text{ GeV},$$
$$m_W = 80.385 \text{ GeV}, \quad \Gamma_W = 2.09767 \text{ GeV},$$
$$m_Z = 91.1876 \text{ GeV}, \quad \Gamma_Z = 2.50775 \text{ GeV},$$
$$\Gamma_t^{\text{LO}} = 1.45759 \text{ GeV}, \quad \Gamma_t^{\text{NLO}} = 1.33247 \text{ GeV}$$
$$\Gamma_{t,\text{NWA}}^{\text{LO}} = 1.48063 \text{ GeV}, \quad \Gamma_{t,\text{NWA}}^{\text{NLO}} = 1.35355 \text{ GeV}$$

Inputs

Cuts: $p_{T,\ell} > 25 \text{ GeV},$ $p_{T,b} > 25 \text{ GeV},$
 $|y_\ell| < 2.5,$ $|y_b| < 2.5,$

Jet-clustering: *anti*- k_T jet algorithm $R = 0.4.$

Scale choice: $\mu_0 = \mu_R = \mu_F = H_T/2$

$$H_T = p_{T,b_1} + p_{T,b_2} + p_{T,e^+} + p_{T,\mu^-} + p_{T,miss} + p_{T,H}$$

Scale variation: $\left(\frac{\mu_R}{\mu_0}, \frac{\mu_F}{\mu_0}\right) = \left\{ (2, 1), (0.5, 1), (1, 2), (1, 1), (1, 0.5), (2, 2), (0.5, 0.5) \right\}$

Integrated fiducial cross-sections (NLO)

$$\sigma_{NLO,expanded} = \left(\frac{\Gamma_{NLO}}{\Gamma_{LO}}\right)^2 \cdot \sigma_{NLO} - 2 \frac{\Gamma_{NLO} - \Gamma_{LO}}{\Gamma_{LO}} \cdot \sigma_{LO}$$

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	$\sigma_{NLO_{LOdec}}$ [fb]	–	1.517(1) ^{+0.097 (6.4%)} _{-0.144 (9.5%)}	
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Expanded NWA:

- CP-even: 2.418 fb (-2.3 %)
- CP-mixed: 1.417 fb (-2.4 %)
- CP-odd: 0.416 fb (-3.2 %)

Integrated fiducial cross-sections (LO)

Interpolation formula:

$$\sigma(\alpha_{CP}) = \cos^2(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{Ht\bar{t}}^2 \sigma_1 + \sin^2(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{At\bar{t}}^2 \sigma_2 + \cancel{\cos(\alpha_{CP}) \sin(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{Ht\bar{t}} \kappa_{At\bar{t}} \sigma_3} \\ - \cancel{+ \cos(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{Ht\bar{t}} \kappa_{HV V}(\alpha_{CP}) \sigma_4} + \cancel{\sin(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{At\bar{t}} \kappa_{HV V}(\alpha_{CP}) \sigma_5} - \cancel{\kappa_{HV V}^2(\alpha_{CP}) \sigma_6}$$

- **No interference** between diagrams with **CP-even** and **CP-odd** Yukawa interactions
- **No interference** between diagrams with HVV and **CP-odd** Yukawa interactions
- No HVV couplings in **NWA**

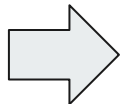
	Off-shell	NWA
σ_1 [fb]	2.0643(4)	2.0388(2)
σ_2 [fb]	0.7800(1)	0.74583(7)
σ_3 [fb]	-0.0002(8)	-0.0001(3)
σ_4 [fb]	-0.0693(8)	-
σ_5 [fb]	-0.0001(9)	-
σ_6 [fb]	0.0363(9)	-

Integrated fiducial cross-sections (LO)

Interpolation formula (without vanishing terms):

$$\sigma(\alpha_{CP}) = \cos^2(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{Ht\bar{t}}^2 \sigma_1 + \sin^2(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{At\bar{t}}^2 \sigma_2 + \cos(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{Ht\bar{t}} \kappa_{HV V}(\alpha_{CP}) \sigma_4 + \kappa_{HV V}^2(\alpha_{CP}) \sigma_6$$

- First two terms are **symmetric** in α_{CP}
- Last term is either **constant** ($\kappa_{HV V} = 1$) or **symmetric** ($\kappa_{HV V} = \cos(\alpha_{CP})$) with respect to α_{CP}



Interference between diagrams with HVV and CP-even Yukawa interactions breaks the symmetry

	Off-shell	NWA
σ_1 [fb]	2.0643(4)	2.0388(2)
σ_2 [fb]	0.7800(1)	0.74583(7)
σ_3 [fb]	-0.0002(8)	-0.0001(3)
σ_4 [fb]	-0.0693(8)	-
σ_5 [fb]	-0.0001(9)	-
σ_6 [fb]	0.0363(9)	-

Integrated fiducial cross-sections (NLO)

Interpolation formula (without vanishing terms):

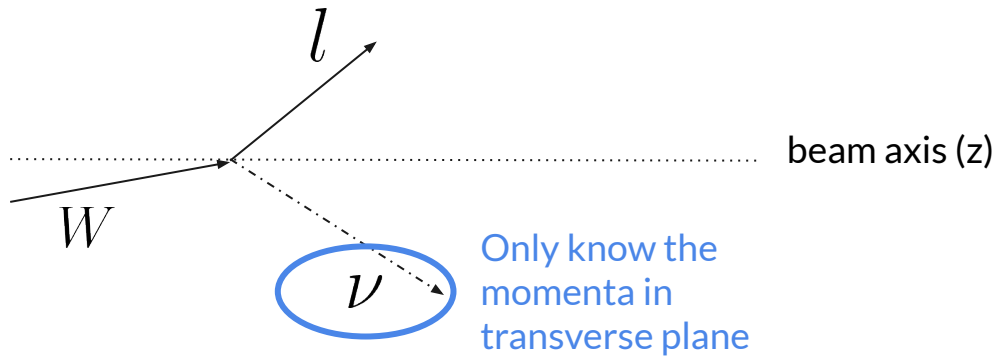
$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(\alpha_{CP}) = & \cos^2(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{Ht\bar{t}}^2 \sigma_1 + \sin^2(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{At\bar{t}}^2 \sigma_2 \\ & + \cos(\alpha_{CP}) \kappa_{Ht\bar{t}} \kappa_{HVV}(\alpha_{CP}) \sigma_4 + \kappa_{HVV}^2(\alpha_{CP}) \sigma_6 \end{aligned}$$

Problem: The virtual contributions do not factorise in this manner
→ Interpolation much more complicated

Example diagram?

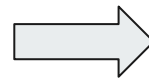
The 'stransverse' mass - idea

Transverse mass: reconstruct mass of particle with partly invisible final state



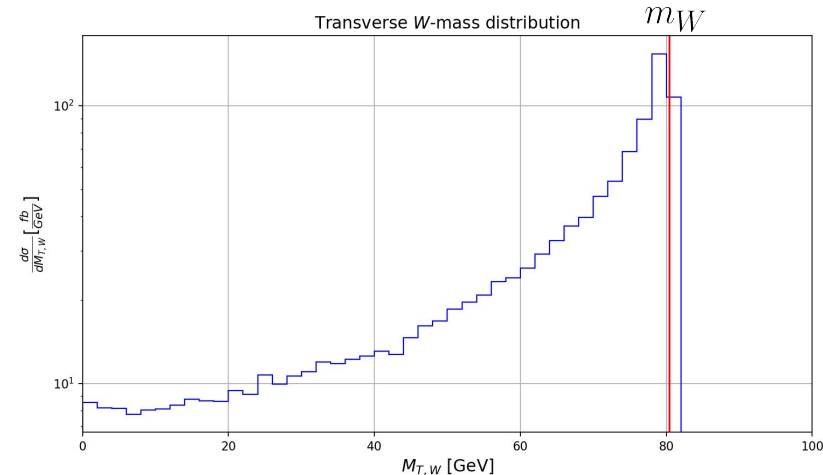
➡ Define mass & momenta in transverse plane

$$p_T = (E_T, p_x, p_y, 0) \quad \text{where} \quad E_T = \sqrt{p_{T,x}^2 + p_{T,y}^2}$$



$$M_T^2 = (p_T^l + p_T^\nu)^2 \leq m_W^2$$

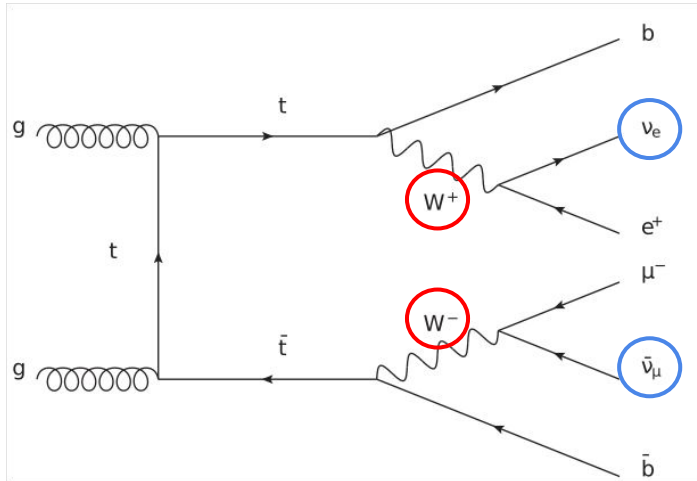
Reconstruct the W mass:



The 'stransverse' mass - idea & definition

'Stransverse' mass:
 generalization for **two** particles with partly invisible final state

$$M_{T2,W}^2 = \min_{\mathbf{p}_T^{\nu_1} + \mathbf{p}_T^{\nu_2} = \mathbf{p}_{T,\text{miss}}} \left[\max\{M_T^2(\mathbf{p}_T^{l_1}, \mathbf{p}_T^{\nu_1}), M_T^2(\mathbf{p}_T^{l_2}, \mathbf{p}_T^{\nu_2})\} \right]$$

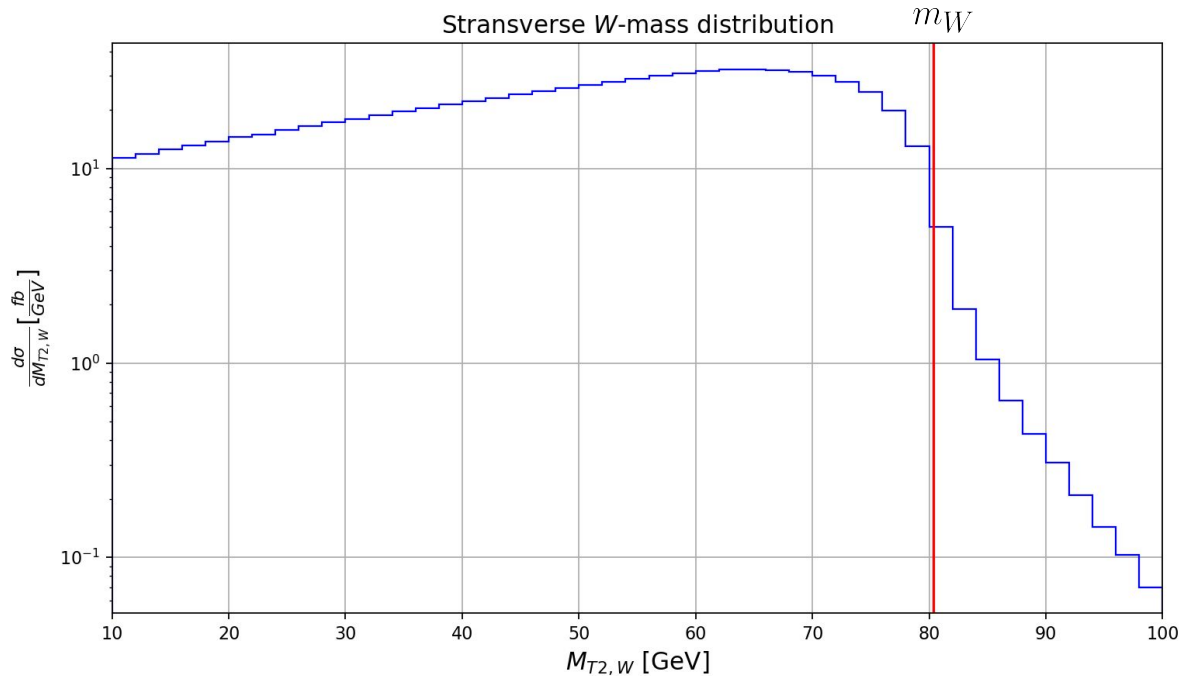


Only know the sum of the momenta in transverse plane



Minimize over all missing momentum combinations

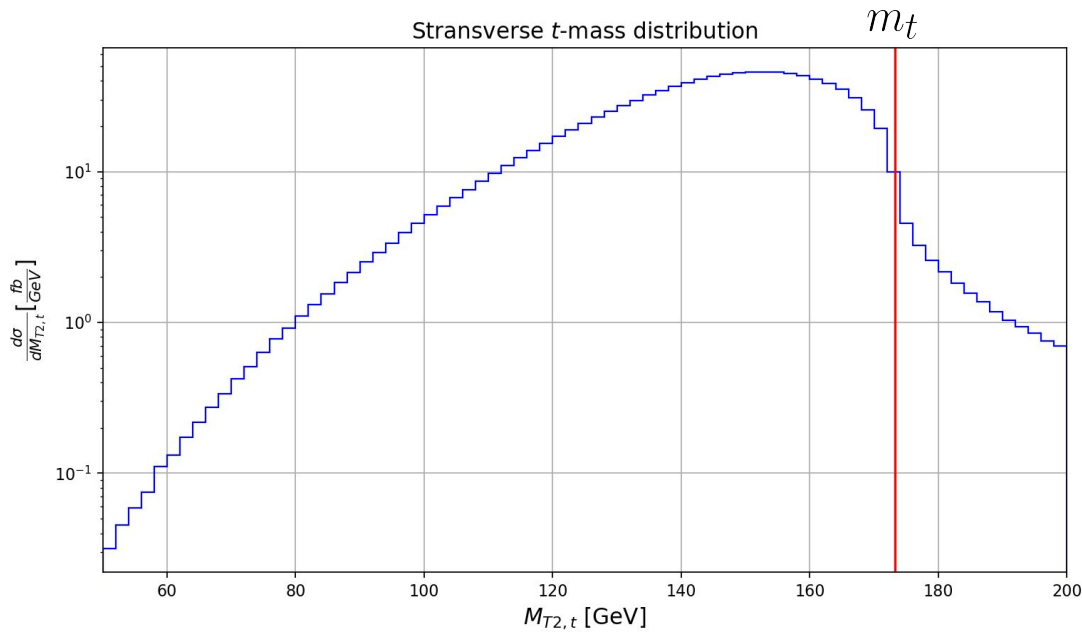
The 'stransverse' mass - distribution



- Not a 'hard' cut-off but drop-off is clearly visible

The 'stransverse' mass - distribution

We can do the same for the top quarks:



- Use b-jet + lepton instead of lepton as visible, massive 'particle'
- Problem: which jet is associated with which lepton?
 - take minimum of invariant b-jet + lepton mass combinations
 - minimize the sum of the two invariant masses to avoid combining one lepton with both b-jets

The 'stransverse' mass - definition

$$M_{T2}^2 = \min_{\mathbf{p}_T^{\nu_1} + \mathbf{p}_T^{\nu_2} = \mathbf{p}_{T,\text{miss}}} \left[\max \left\{ M_T^2 \left(\mathbf{p}_T^{(lb)_1}, \mathbf{p}_T^{\nu_1} \right), M_T^2 \left(\mathbf{p}_T^{(lb)_2}, \mathbf{p}_T^{\nu_2} \right) \right\} \right]$$

$$\text{where } M_T^2 \left(\mathbf{p}_T^{(lb)_i}, \mathbf{p}_T^{\nu_i} \right) = M_{(lb)_i}^2 + 2 \left(E_T^{(lb)_i} E_T^{\nu_i} - \mathbf{p}_T^{(lb)_i} \cdot \mathbf{p}_T^{\nu_i} \right)$$

Lepton + b-jet combinations chosen such that $M_{(lb)_1} + M_{(lb)_2}$ is minimal