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Radiative corrections from medium to high energy experiments

# The McMULE framework for NNLO QED calculations

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McMULE

Monte Carlo for MUons and other LEptons

<https://mule-tools.gitlab.io>

P. Banerjee, A. Coutinho, T. Engel, A. Gurgone, F. Hagelstein,  
 S. Kollatzsch, L. Naterop, A. Proust, M. Rocco, N. Schalch,  
 V. Sharkovska, A. Signer, Y. Ulrich

- fixed-order QED corrections for (leptonic) scattering and decay processes  
     some NLO, most NNLO, toying with N<sup>3</sup>LO, but no TPE and no parton shower (yet)
- **fully differential** Monte Carlo **integrator**
- **really** NNLO, i.e. make no approximation (nearly possible ...)
- whenever possible make use of progress made for QCD @ LHC

QCD @ LHC	$\Leftrightarrow$	QED @ low & medium energy	
non-abelian	$\gtrsim$	abelian	matrix elements somewhat easier
non-abelian	$\gg$	abelian	IR structure <b>much easier</b> ①
massless fermions	$\ll$	massive fermions	loop amplitudes <b>much harder</b> ②
jets	$<$	exclusive w.r.t. collinear radiation	numerics <b>harder</b> $\supset \log(m^2/Q^2) \equiv L$ <b>much harder</b> for small masses ③

### stealing from QCD

- master integrals (reduction and computation), automated tools, EFT methods
- use dimensional regularisation for IR singularities, not photon mass
- use subtraction method for phase-space integration, not slicing method
- for the future: match fixed-order result to parton shower

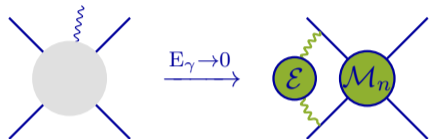
physical ( $2 \rightarrow 2$ ) cross section (e.g. Møller)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma = & \int d\Phi_2 \left| \text{tree} + \text{1-loop} + \text{2-loop} + \dots \right|^2 \\
 & + \int d\Phi_3 \left| \text{1-loop} + \text{2-loop} + \dots \right|^2 \\
 & + \int d\Phi_4 \left| \text{2-loop} + \dots \right|^2 \\
 & + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

challenges

- ① fully differential phase-space integration  
 $\Rightarrow$  FKS<sup>ℓ</sup>
- ② virtual amplitudes with massive particles  
 $\Rightarrow$  one-loop: [OpenLoops](#)  
 $\Rightarrow$  two-loop: massification
- ③ numerical instabilities due to pseudo-singularities  
 $\Rightarrow$  next-to-soft stabilisation

only soft singularities



$$\mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(\ell)} = \mathcal{E} \mathcal{M}_n^{(\ell)} + \mathcal{O}(E_\gamma^{-1})$$

$$\text{eikonal } \mathcal{E} = \sum_{i,j} \frac{p_i \cdot p_j}{(p_\gamma \cdot p_i)(p_\gamma \cdot p_j)} \sim \mathcal{O}(E_\gamma^{-2})$$

⇒ subtraction scheme (FKS<sup>ℓ</sup>)

$$\underbrace{\int d\Phi_\gamma}_{\text{divergent and complicated}} \left( \text{grey circle with wavy line} \right) = \underbrace{\int d\Phi_\gamma}_{\text{complicated but finite}} \left( \text{grey circle with wavy line} - \text{green circles with wavy line} \right) + \underbrace{\int d\Phi_\gamma}_{\text{divergent but easy}} \left( \text{green circles with wavy line} \right)$$

divergent but easy  $E_\gamma \simeq \xi_1 Q$ ; auxiliary unphysical parameter  $0 < \xi_c \leq 1$

$$\int d\Phi_\gamma \left( \text{diagram} \right) \sim \int_0^{\xi_c} d\xi_1 \xi_1 \frac{1}{\xi_1^2} \xrightarrow{\text{dim. reg.}} \int_0^{\xi_c} d\xi_1 \xi_1^{-1-\epsilon} \Rightarrow \underbrace{\hat{\mathcal{E}}(\xi_c)}_{1/\epsilon} \mathcal{M}_n^{(0)}$$

complicated but finite

$$\int d\Phi_\gamma \left( \text{diagram} - \text{diagram} \right) = \int d\Phi_{n+1}^{d=4} \left( \frac{1}{\xi_1} \right)_c (\xi_1 \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)})$$

$$\int_0^1 d\xi_1 \left( \frac{1}{\xi_1} \right)_c f(\xi_1) \equiv \int_0^1 d\xi_1 \frac{f(\xi_1) - f(0)\theta(\xi_c - \xi_1)}{\xi_1}$$

## subtraction scheme

we **do not** write  $\sigma_n^{(1)} = \sigma_n^{(v)}(\lambda) + \sigma_n^{(s)}(\lambda, \omega) + \sigma_{n+1}^{(h)}(\omega)$  photon mass  $\lambda$ , resolution  $\omega$

we **do** write  $\sigma_n^{(1)} = \sigma_n^{(1)}(\xi_c) + \sigma_{n+1}^{(1)}(\xi_c)$

$$\sigma_n^{(1)}(\xi_c) = \int d\Phi_n^{d=4} \left( \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_n^{(1)}}_{1/\epsilon} + \underbrace{\hat{\mathcal{E}}(\xi_c)}_{1/\epsilon} \mathcal{M}_n^{(0)} \right) = \int d\Phi_n^{d=4} \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_n^{(1)f}(\xi_c)}_{\text{finite}}$$

$$\sigma_{n+1}^{(1)}(\xi_c) = \int d\Phi_{n+1}^{d=4} \left( \frac{1}{\xi_1} \right)_c (\xi_1 \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(0)f})$$

the  $\xi_c$  dependence cancels between the two terms (implementation/stability check)

FKS<sup>ℓ=2</sup> “double virtual”, “real-virtual”, “double real”

$$\sigma_n^{(2)}(\xi_c) = \int d\Phi_n^{d=4} \left( \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_n^{(2)}}_{1/\epsilon^2} + \underbrace{\hat{\mathcal{E}}(\xi_c)}_{1/\epsilon} \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_n^{(1)}}_{1/\epsilon} + \frac{1}{2!} \mathcal{M}_n^{(0)} \underbrace{\hat{\mathcal{E}}(\xi_c)^2}_{1/\epsilon^2} \right) = \int d\Phi_n^{d=4} \underbrace{\mathcal{M}_n^{(2)f}(\xi_c)}_{\text{finite}}$$

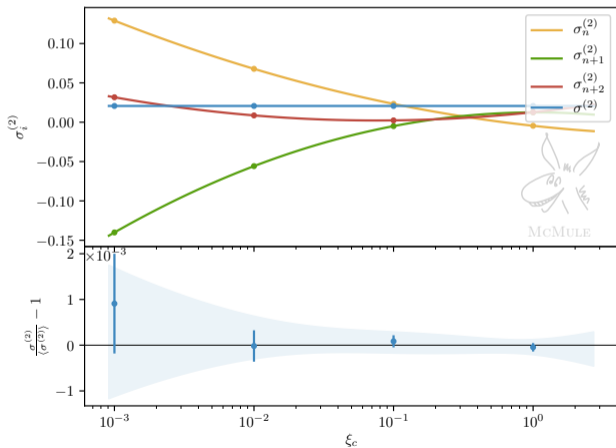
$$\sigma_{n+1}^{(2)}(\xi_c) = \int d\Phi_{n+1}^{d=4} \left( \frac{1}{\xi_1} \right)_c \left( \xi_1 \mathcal{M}_{n+1}^{(1)f}(\xi_c) \right),$$

$$\sigma_{n+2}^{(2)}(\xi_c) = \int d\Phi_{n+2}^{d=4} \left( \frac{1}{\xi_1} \right)_c \left( \frac{1}{\xi_2} \right)_c \left( \xi_1 \xi_2 \mathcal{M}_{n+2}^{(0)f} \right)$$

simple generalisation [Engel,AS,Ulrich,1909.10244], QED eikonal does **not** get further corrections



consistency/implementation/stability check here e.g. for  $\mu e \rightarrow \mu e$  ("mixed" = TPE)



- $\xi_c$  (in)dependence
- no approximations made (subtraction not slicing)
- in principle any  $\xi_c$  is ok
- use 'good'  $\xi_c \sim 10^{-1}$  for actual runs (no large cancellations)

## FKS<sup>ℓ</sup> for N<sup>ℓ</sup>LO

$$\text{YFS: } e^{\hat{\mathcal{E}}} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{M}_n^{(\ell)} = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{M}_n^{(\ell)f}$$

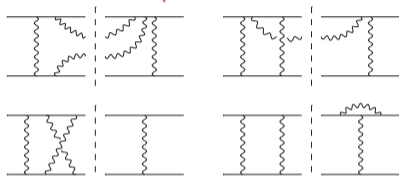
$$\sigma^{(\ell)} = \sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \sigma_{n+j}^{(\ell)}(\xi_c) \quad \text{with} \quad \sigma_{n+j}^{(\ell)}(\xi_c) = \int d\Phi_{n+j}^{d=4} \left( \prod_{i=1}^j \left( \frac{1}{\xi_i} \right)_c \xi_i \right) \mathcal{M}_{n+j}^{(\ell-j)f}(\xi_c)$$

**in principle:** if we have all matrix elements, we can get fully differential cross sections at any order in  $\alpha \rightarrow$  ①

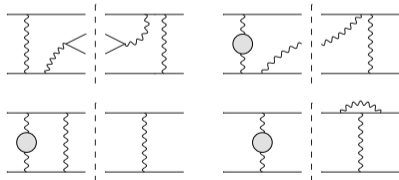
**in practice:** wishful thinking ...  $\rightarrow$  ② and ③

- ready for a full (e.g. Møller) NNLO calculation  
photonic and fermionic contributions
- compute double-real amplitudes
- use OpenLoops [Buccioni, Pozzorini, Zoller] for real-virtual amplitudes, numerical stability → ③
- ③ → apply next-to-soft stabilisation
- massive two-loop integrals not all known → ②
- ② → massify massless two-loop amplitudes [Bern,Dixon,Ghinculov] (and one-loop squared)
- use FKS<sup>2</sup> (open  $e^+e^-$  production not yet included)
- let the mule trot [McMule, 2107.12311]

photonic







fermionic/hadronic



- scales (e.g. masses) are the enemy of loop-integral calculators
- for one-loop amplitudes we use [OpenLoops](#), remarkable numerical stability
- **but** massive two-loop integrals for  $2 \rightarrow 2$  **are not all known**

[here should go a list of an army of loop-calculating theoreticians ... sorry]

$\gamma^* \rightarrow ee$		✓ full $m$ dependence	harmonic (M)PL	~ 2004
$\mu \rightarrow e\nu\bar{\nu}$		✓ full $m_1$ and $m_2$	generalised (M)PL	2018
$\mu e \rightarrow \mu e$		✓ full $m_1, m_2 = 0$	generalised (M)PL	2021
$ee \rightarrow ee$		✗ only planar	elliptic MPL	2022

### multiple polylogarithms (MPL)

simple loop integrals, one scale  $z \Rightarrow$  logs and dilogs = polylogs

$$\text{Li}_1(z) = -\log(1-z) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Li}_n(z) = \int_0^z \frac{dt}{t} \text{Li}_{n-1}(z)$$

more complicated loop integrals, many scales  $a_1 \dots a_n, z \Rightarrow$  multiple polylogs

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

for  $a_i \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$ : harmonic polylogs (HPL) [Remiddi, Vermaseren]

for generic  $a_i$ : generalised polylogs (GPL) [Goncharov]

for Monte Carlo need **fast** (Fortran) numerical evaluation [handyG 1909.01656]

sadly, this is not the end  $\Rightarrow$  elliptic integrals ...

collinear factorization  $\Rightarrow$  massification [Penin; Becher, Melnikov; Engel, Gnendiger, AS, Ulrich]

get leading mass effects based on massless loops, miss terms  $\lim_{m \rightarrow 0} = 0$  e.g.  $m^2/Q^2$

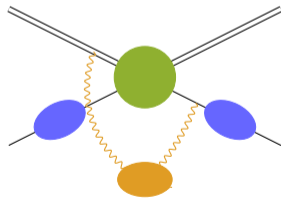
process e.g.  $\mu e \rightarrow \mu e$  at NNLO  $\mathcal{A}(m) = \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{Z} \times \mathcal{Z} \times \mathcal{A}(0) + \mathcal{O}(m) \supset \{1/\epsilon^2, L^2\}$

based on factorisation, SCET, and method of regions [Beneke, Smirnov]

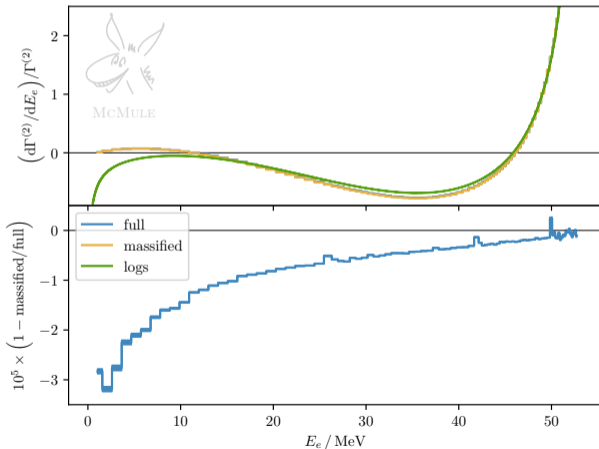
soft: process dependent  
 in QED  $\mathcal{S} = 1 + \text{fermion loops}$   
 $\rightarrow$  compute separately with full  $m$  dependence

collinear: universal  
 'converts'  $1/\epsilon \rightarrow L$

hard: massless electron  $\mathcal{A}(0) \sim 1/\epsilon^4$



test massification  $\alpha^2$  coefficient of positron energy spectrum in muon decay

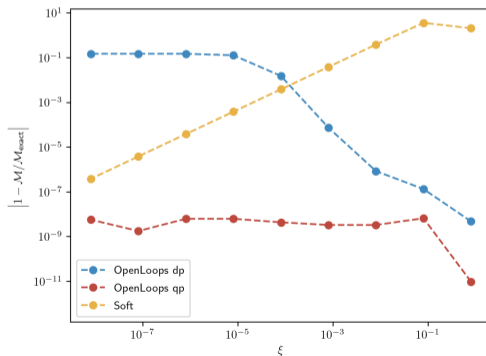


- exact result available  
[McMule 1909.10244]
- error in massification  
few %  $\times$  NNLO  
few  $\cdot 10^{-2} \times (\alpha/\pi)^2 L^2$
- in agreement with estimate  
 $\sim (\alpha/\pi)^2 m_e^2/m_\mu^2 \times L^2$
- about same size as  $\alpha^3$  contribution

real-virtual corrections trivial in principle, extremely delicate numerically

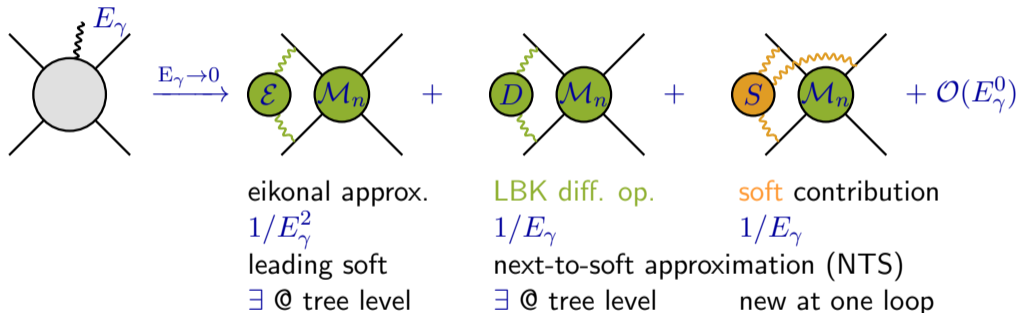


- soft limit (of collinear emission)  
 $E_\gamma = \xi \sqrt{s}/2$
- Bhabha scattering (as example)  
[McMule, 2106.07469]
- $M_{\text{exact}}$  Mathematica expression
- full  $M$  vs soft limit
- **stability problem**



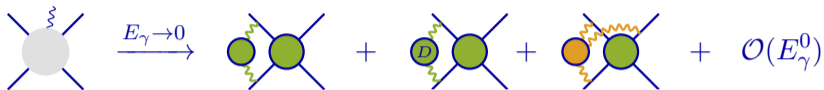


extend LBK theorem [Low 1958; Burnett, Kroll 1968] to one-loop [Engel, AS, Ulrich, 2112.07570]

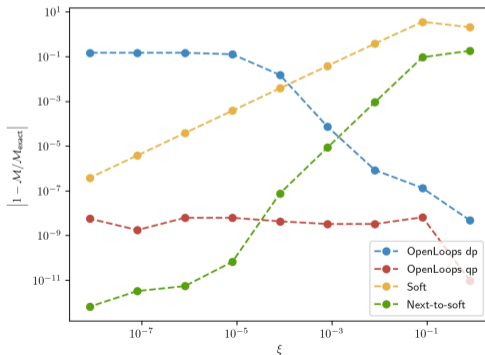


use again EFT (HQEFT) and method of region, **hard** and **soft**  
 can be extended beyond NLO (almost certainly) but not (universally) beyond NTS

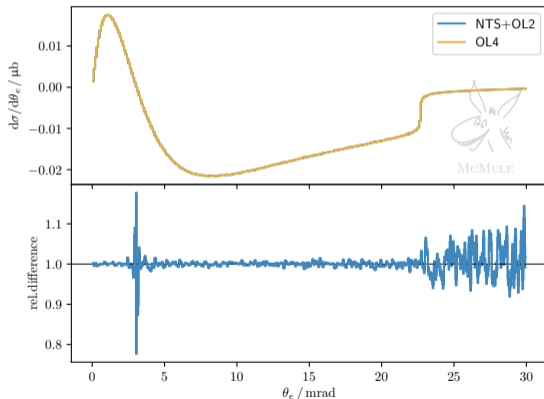
real-virtual corrections trivial in principle, extremely delicate numerically



- soft limit (of collinear emission)
- Bhabha scattering (as example)
- [McMule, 2106.07469]
- $M_{\text{exact}}$  Mathematica expression
- full  $M$  vs next-to-soft limit
- stability problem solved




test next-to-soft stabilisation vs OL4 (OpenLoops quad) for  $\mu e \rightarrow \mu e$  real-virtual



- e.g.  $\xi_c = 10^{-4}$
- for  $\theta_e > 23$  mrad few events
- same statistics, same result
- 70 days vs 4 days
- integrated results for  $\xi_c = 10^{-4/5/6}$  :

	NTS	OL4
	-0.29268(4)	-0.29267(4)
	-0.44789(6)	-0.44778(6)
	-0.64662(9)	-0.64649(9)

a few more hurdles to jump over

computation of VP e.g.   $\mathcal{M}_{\text{VP}} = \int [d\ell] \frac{\Pi(\ell^2)}{\ell^2} \tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{\text{VP}}$

dispersive  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{VP}}^{\text{had}} = \frac{\alpha}{3\pi} \int_{4m_\pi^2}^{\infty} \frac{dz}{z} R^{\text{had}}(z) \int [d\ell] \frac{\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{\text{VP}}}{\ell^2 - z}$

[Cabbibo, Gatto 1961; Ritbergen et al, Davydychev et al, Actis et al, Kuhn et al, Carloni Calame et al. ...]

hyperspherical  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{VP}} = - \int dQ^2 \Pi(-Q^2) \int \frac{d\Omega}{2\pi^2} \tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{\text{VP}}$

[Levine, Roskies 1974; Laporta, Fael]

collinear pseudo-singularities  $\lim_{\rightarrow 0} \angle(p_\gamma, p_i) \Rightarrow L$

partitioning of phase space  $\Rightarrow$  at most one small angle per region

tune phase space  $\Rightarrow$  [Vegas]  $x_i \leftrightarrow \cos \angle$



the NNLO era is here, not only for QCD, also for QED

to tackle state-of-the-art problems, a modern approach to QED is required

## future steps

- add TPE for  $lp \rightarrow lp$  (done for pointlike  $p$ )
- NNNLO 'form factor' contributions  $\gamma^* \rightarrow l^+l^-$  (MUonE)
- combine fixed-order QED with (YFS?) parton shower
- combine fixed-order QED with electroweak
- polarised leptons
- generally towards higher energies (mainly numerical)
- integrator  $\rightarrow$  generator (desired ??)



MCMULE