N³LL resummation of one-jettiness for Z-boson plus jet production at hadron colliders

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We present the resummation of one-jettiness for the color-singlet plus jet production process $pp \to (\gamma^*/Z \to \ell^+\ell^-)$ + jet at hadron colliders up to the fourth logarithmic order (N³LL). This is the first resummation at this order for processes involving three colored partons at the Born level. We match our resummation formula to the corresponding fixed-order predictions, extending the validity of our results to regions of the phase space where further hard emissions are present. This result paves the way for the construction of next-to-next-to-leading order simulations for color-singlet plus jet production matched to parton showers in the GENEVA framework.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The study of the production of a color singlet system at large recoil is of crucial importance for the physics programme at the Large Hadron Collider. In particular, theoretical predictions for γ^*/Z + jet production are needed at higher precision to match the accuracy reached by experimental measurements of the Z boson transverse momentum (q_T) spectrum. Combining next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) predictions for γ^*/Z + jet [1–6] with q_T resummation [7–15] provides an accurate description of this distribution over the whole kinematic range and can be used to extract α_s [16] and as a background for new physics searches.

The one-jettiness variable is a suitable event shape for color singlet (L) + jet production which does not suffer from superleading or nonglobal logarithms. It is a specific case of N-jettiness [17], and has been used to perform slicing calculations at NNLO [18–22]. Resummation of the jettiness has been performed for various N [23–27], and

Published by the American Physical Society under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license. Further distribution of this work must maintain attribution to the author(s) and the published article's title, journal citation, and DOI. Funded by SCOAP³. this was exploited to match NNLO calculations to parton shower algorithms for color singlet production in GENEVA [23,25,28–33]. In this work, we resum the one-jettiness up to N³LL accuracy, providing state-of-the-art predictions for this variable, which was only previously known up to NNLL [26]. In order to obtain this accurate result, we rely on higher-order perturbative ingredients which have only become available in the last few years. In particular, the structure of the hard anomalous dimensions that is relevant for N³LL resummation was derived in Ref. [34] together with the direct evaluation of the four-loop cusp anomalous dimension in Refs. [35,36]. N³LL resummation also requires the knowledge of two-loop soft boundary terms which were first evaluated in Refs [37,38] and recomputed for this paper with a refined treatment of the small and large angle regions [39].

We define the one-jettiness resolution variable as [17]

$$\mathcal{T}_1 = \sum_k \min \left\{ \frac{2q_a \cdot p_k}{Q_a}, \frac{2q_b \cdot p_k}{Q_b}, \frac{2q_J \cdot p_k}{Q_J} \right\}, \quad (1)$$

with $q_{a,b} = x_{a,b}E_{\rm cm}n_{a,b}/2 = E_{a,b}n_{a,b}$ and $q_J = E_Jn_J$, where E_J is the jet energy. The beam directions are $n_{a,b} = (1,0,0,\pm 1)$ while the massless jet direction is $n_J = (1,\vec{n}_J)$. In Eq. (1) the sum runs over the four-momenta p_k of all partons which are part of the hadronic final state.

We use a geometric measure where $Q_i = 2\rho_i E_i$ with i = a, b, J is proportional to the energy of the beam or jet momenta. This particular choice is preferable because it is independent of the total jet energy, but makes the onejettiness definition frame dependent. Results in frames that differ by a longitudinal boost can be obtained by making different choices for ρ_i . In this work we show results for \mathcal{T}_1 in the laboratory frame (LAB) and in the frame where the color singlet system has zero rapidity (CS). The LAB frame definition is obtained by setting $\rho_i = 1$ and evaluating the jet energy and the directions of the partonic momenta in the laboratory. In order to obtain the CS frame definition we instead set

$$ho_a = e^{\hat{Y}_L}, \qquad \rho_b = e^{-\hat{Y}_L}, \\
ho_J = (e^{-\hat{Y}_L} \hat{q}_J^+ + e^{\hat{Y}_L} \hat{q}_J^-)/(2\hat{E}_J), \end{cases}$$

where \hat{Y}_L is the rapidity of L in the laboratory. The quantities $\hat{q}_J^\pm = \hat{q}_J^0 \mp \hat{q}_J^3$ and \hat{E}_J are the light cone components and energy of the reconstructed massless jet four-momentum \hat{q}_J in the laboratory frame respectively. In this way the longitudinal boost between the two frames is absorbed by a redefinition of the ρ_i .

The manuscript is organized as follows. In Sec. II we introduce the factorization formula, detailing its ingredients and their renormalization group (RG) evolution. We present a final resummed formula valid up to N³LL accuracy and we match it with the appropriate fixed-order calculation in order to extend the description of the one-jettiness spectrum also in regions where more than one hard jet is present. In Sec. III we discuss the details of the implementation and present our results for the one-jettiness distribution. We also study the nonsingular contribution in different frames and provide predictions matched to the appropriate fixed-order (FO) distributions. We finally draw our conclusions in Sec. IV. Further details about the derivation of the resummed results are described in the appendices.

II. FACTORIZATION AND RESUMMATION

A general factorization formula for the *N*-jettiness distribution was derived in Refs. [40,41]. For the case of one-jettiness in hadronic collisions it reads

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma}{\mathrm{d}\Phi_{1}\mathrm{d}\mathcal{T}_{1}} = \sum_{\kappa} H_{\kappa}(\Phi_{1},\mu) \int \mathrm{d}t_{a}\mathrm{d}t_{b}\mathrm{d}s_{J}
\times B_{\kappa_{a}}(t_{a},x_{a},\mu)B_{\kappa_{b}}(t_{b},x_{b},\mu)J_{\kappa_{J}}(s_{J},\mu)
\times S_{\kappa}\left(n_{a}\cdot n_{J},\mathcal{T}_{1} - \frac{t_{a}}{Q_{a}} - \frac{t_{b}}{Q_{b}} - \frac{s_{J}}{Q_{J}},\mu\right), \quad (2)$$

where $x_{a,b} = (Q_{LJ}/E_{\rm cm}) \exp\{\pm Y_{LJ}\}$ and Q_{LJ} is the invariant mass of the color-singlet plus jet system (LJ). The index set $\kappa \equiv \{\kappa_a, \kappa_b, \kappa_J\}$ runs over all allowed partonic channels and $\kappa_a, \kappa_b, \kappa_J$ denote the individual parton types.

 Φ_1 is the phase space for the LJ system and $n_a \cdot n_J = (1 - \cos\theta_{aJ})$ measures the angle between the jet and the rightward beam direction in the laboratory frame. In general, for L + jet production all permitted partonic channels contribute, i.e. $\kappa_a \kappa_b \kappa_J \in \{q\bar{q}g, qgq, ggg, ...\}$, where we have indicated all the crossing and charge-conjugated processes within the dots. For the $pp \to (\gamma^*/Z \to \ell^+\ell^-)$ + jet + X case we consider in this work, the $q\bar{q}g$ and qgq channels (plus their crossing and charge-conjugated ones) appear at Born level. The ggg channel instead begins to contribute only at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$.

In Eq. (2) the hard functions H_{κ} are defined as the square of the Wilson coefficients of the effective theory operators defined in soft-collinear effective theory (SCET). They can be obtained from the UV- and IR-finite relevant amplitudes in full QCD. The beam $B_{\kappa_{a/b}}$ and the jet J_{κ_J} functions describe collinear emissions along the beam and jet directions respectively. The functions S_{κ} describe isotropic soft emissions from soft Wilson lines and depend on the angle between the beam and jet directions.

The differential cross section in \mathcal{T}_1 for a typical multiscale process such as γ^*/Z + jet depends on logarithms of the ratios of different energy scales

$$\mu_H = \sqrt{m_{l^+l^-}^2 + q_T^2}, \qquad \mu_B = \mu_J = \sqrt{\mu_H \mathcal{T}_1}, \qquad \mu_S = \mathcal{T}_1,$$

which are the characteristic scales of the hard, beam, jet, and soft functions. In the regions of phase space which are dominated by soft or collinear radiation, these energy scales assume a strong ordering $\mu_H \gg \mu_B \sim \mu_J \gg \mu_S$ such that large logarithms of the ratios of these scales may arise. This spoils the convergence of fixed-order perturbation theory and requires the resummation of these logarithms to all orders. In the SCET framework this is achieved through RG evolution.

All the functions appearing in the factorization formula are evolved from their characteristic energy scales $(\mu_X, X = H, S, B, J)$ to the common scale μ by separately solving their associated RG evolution equations. The accuracy of the resummed predictions is systematically improvable by including higher-order terms in the fixedorder expansions of the hard, soft, beam and jet functions as well as in their corresponding anomalous dimensions. To achieve N³LL accuracy one needs the boundary conditions of the hard, soft, beam and jet functions up to two loops. The coefficients of the scale-dependent and kinematicdependent logarithmic terms in the anomalous dimension and the QCD beta function need to be evaluated up to four loops. Finally, nonlogarithmic noncusp terms in the anomalous dimension need to be evaluated up to three loops. The power of the logarithms that are resummed at each different resummation order and the corresponding ingredients can be found, for example, in Ref. [42].

In the rest of this section we will present the functions appearing in the factorization formula (2) and their evolution separately and derive the final resummed formula in Sec. II D.

A. Hard functions for $pp \to (\gamma^*/Z \to \mathscr{C}^+\mathscr{C}^-) + \text{jet}$

The hard function for the channel κ satisfies the following RG equation (RGE)

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\log\mu}H_{\kappa}(\Phi_{1},\mu) = \Gamma_{H}^{\kappa}(\mu)H_{\kappa}(\Phi_{1},\mu),\tag{3}$$

with $\Gamma_K^{\kappa}(\mu) = 2\text{Re}\{\Gamma_C^{\kappa}(\mu)\}$. Here we have already exploited the fact that for the color-singlet plus jet production process, the color structure is trivial, i.e., the anomalous dimensions of the Wilson coefficient $\Gamma_C^{\kappa}(\mu)$ [or equivalently the anomalous dimension of the hard function $\Gamma_H^{\kappa}(\mu)$] is diagonal in color space, as we show below. For ease of notation we use in this section the abbreviations $a = \kappa_a$, $b = \kappa_b$ and $c = \kappa_J$. Writing the anomalous dimension $\Gamma_C^{\kappa}(\mu)$ in full generality as a matrix in color space and using its explicit expression up to N³LL given in Ref. [34], we find

$$\Gamma_{C}^{\kappa}(\mu) = \Gamma_{C}^{\kappa}(\mu) \mathbf{1}$$

$$= \left\{ \frac{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_{s})}{2} \left[(C_{c} - C_{a} - C_{b}) \ln \frac{\mu^{2}}{(-s_{ab} - i0)} + \text{cyclic permutations} \right] \right.$$

$$+ \gamma_{C}^{a}(\alpha_{s}) + \gamma_{C}^{b}(\alpha_{s}) + \gamma_{C}^{c}(\alpha_{s}) + \frac{C_{A}^{2}}{8} f(\alpha_{s}) (C_{a} + C_{b} + C_{c}) \right\} \mathbf{1}$$

$$+ \sum_{(i,j)} \left[-f(\alpha_{s}) \mathcal{T}_{iijj} + \sum_{R=F,A} g^{R}(\alpha_{s}) (3 \mathcal{D}_{iijj}^{R} + 4 \mathcal{D}_{iiij}^{R}) \ln \frac{\mu^{2}}{(-s_{ij} - i0)} \right] + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{s}^{5}), \tag{4}$$

where the sums run over all the external hard parton pairs with $i \neq j$ and C_i is the quadratic Casimir invariant for the parton i in the color representation R_i . The symbol 1 denotes the identity element in color space. The cusp $\Gamma_{\rm cusp}(\alpha_s)$ and noncusp $\gamma_C^i(\alpha_s)$ anomalous dimensions are given in Appendix A of Ref. [34] for both quark and gluon cases. We have $\Gamma_{\rm cusp}(\alpha_s) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi})^n \Gamma_n$, with Γ_n the universal cusp anomalous dimension coefficients. The symmetrized color structures that appear in Eq. (4) are defined as

$$\mathcal{T}_{ijkl} = f^{ade} f^{bce} (\mathbf{T}_i^a \mathbf{T}_j^b \mathbf{T}_k^c \mathbf{T}_l^d)_+,$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{iikl}^R = d_R^{abcd} \mathbf{T}_i^a \mathbf{T}_j^b \mathbf{T}_k^c \mathbf{T}_l^d,$$
(5)

where $(\boldsymbol{T}_{i_1}^{a_1}...\boldsymbol{T}_{i_n}^{a_n})_+ \equiv \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\pi} \boldsymbol{T}_{i_{\pi(1)}}^{a_{\pi(n)}}...\boldsymbol{T}_{i_{\pi(n)}}^{a_{\pi(n)}}$ denotes the normalized sum of all possible permutations π of the n color operators and

$$d_R^{a_1...a_n} = \operatorname{Tr}_R(T^{a_1}...T^{a_n})_+ = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\pi} \operatorname{Tr}(T_R^{a_{\pi(1)}}...T_R^{a_{\pi(n)}}).$$
 (6)

The functions $f(\alpha_s)$ and $g^R(\alpha_s)$ (R=F for the fundamental and R=A for the adjoint representation) start at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ and $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$ respectively. The explicit expressions can be derived from Refs. [34–36]; we report them below for completeness

$$f(\alpha_s) = 16(\zeta_5 + 2\zeta_2\zeta_3) \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi}\right)^3 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$$

$$g^F(\alpha_s) = T_F n_f \left(\frac{128\pi^2}{3} - \frac{256\zeta_3}{3} - \frac{1280\zeta_5}{3}\right) \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi}\right)^4 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^5)$$

$$g^A(\alpha_s) = \left(-64\zeta_2 - \frac{3968}{35}\zeta_2^3 + \frac{64}{3}\zeta_3 - 192\zeta_3^2 + \frac{1760}{3}\zeta_5\right) \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi}\right)^4 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^5). \tag{7}$$

The terms proportional to these functions start contributing only at N³LL accuracy. In particular, similar to the $\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_s)$ case, $g^R(\alpha_s)$ needs to be known one order higher than $f(\alpha_s)$ since it multiplies a scale logarithm.

It is possible to show using color conservation relations $(\sum_{i=a,b,c} T_i | \mathcal{M} \rangle = 0)$ and the symmetry properties of d_R^{abcd} that a symmetric combination of the term proportional to $g^R(\alpha_s)$ can be rewritten in terms of quartic Casimirs

$$C_4(R_i, R) = \frac{d_{R_i}^{abcd} d_R^{abcd}}{N_{R_i}} \equiv D_{iR}, \tag{8}$$

associated to the external legs, where N_{R_i} is the dimension of the color representation R_i (i.e., $N_F = N_c$ and $N_A = N_c^2 - 1$ for the fundamental and adjoint representations of $SU(N_c)$ respectively). The explicit form of the D_{iR} is

¹In the notation of Ref. [34] they read $\Gamma_{\rm cusp}(\alpha_s) \equiv \gamma_{\rm cusp}(\alpha_s)$ and $\gamma_C^i(\alpha_s) \equiv \gamma^i(\alpha_s)$.

$$\begin{split} D_{FF} &= \frac{(N_c^4 - 6N_c^2 + 18)(N_c^2 - 1)}{96N_c^3}, \\ D_{FA} &= \frac{(N_c^2 + 6)(N_c^2 - 1)}{48}, \\ D_{AF} &= \frac{N_c(N_c^2 + 6)}{48}, \\ D_{AA} &= \frac{N_c^2(N_c^2 + 36)}{24}. \end{split} \tag{9}$$

Similar relations can also be found by exploiting consistency relations among anomalous dimensions. Explicitly, when acting on the color states we find

$$3(\mathcal{D}_{iijj}^{R} + \mathcal{D}_{jjii}^{R}) + 4(\mathcal{D}_{iiij}^{R} + \mathcal{D}_{jjji}^{R})$$

$$= (D_{kR} - D_{iR} - D_{jR})\mathbf{1}, \tag{10}$$

where $i \neq j \neq k$. These relations have a similar structure to the quadratic Casimir case, where for three colored partons one finds for example identities of the type $T_a \cdot T_b = [T_c^2 - T_a^2 - T_b^2]/2$. The only relevant difference is the appearance of the index R which labels the fundamental and adjoint representations. This is due to the presence of different partons in the internal loops. We have verified that these relations hold by directly evaluating the action of the color insertion operators on the possible color states in the color-space formalism. We have further checked these relations using the COLORMATH package [43].

By employing these expressions, the logarithmic term of the hard anomalous dimension in Eq. (4) can be further simplified and rewritten in terms of quartic Casimirs. In order to do so we define

$$\bar{c}^{\kappa} = c_s^{\kappa} + c_u^{\kappa} + c_t^{\kappa} = -(C_a + C_b + C_c)/2,$$
 (11)

$$\bar{c}_I^{\kappa} = c_s^{\kappa} L_s + c_u^{\kappa} L_u + c_t^{\kappa} L_t, \tag{12}$$

with

$$c_s^{\kappa} = T_a \cdot T_b, \qquad c_u^{\kappa} = T_b \cdot T_c, \qquad c_t^{\kappa} = T_a \cdot T_c.$$
 (13)

We also introduce an arbitrary hard scale Q to separate the cusp and noncusp terms and use the abbreviations

$$L_s = \ln \frac{-s_{ab} - i0}{Q^2} = \ln \frac{s_{ab}}{Q^2} - i\pi,$$

$$L_u = \ln \frac{s_{bc}}{Q^2}, \qquad L_t = \ln \frac{s_{ac}}{Q^2}.$$

By analogy to the quadratic case, we also define the sum of the quartic Casimirs of the external colored legs as

$$\bar{c}_4^{\kappa,R} = D_{aR} + D_{bR} + D_{cR}. \tag{14}$$

For the quartic Casimir terms the kinematic dependence is encoded by

$$\bar{c}_{4L}^{\kappa,R} \equiv c_{4s}^{\kappa,R} L_s + c_{4u}^{\kappa,R} L_u + c_{4t}^{\kappa,R} L_t, \tag{15}$$

where

$$c_{4,s}^{\kappa,R} = D_{aR} + D_{bR} - D_{cR},$$

$$c_{4,t}^{\kappa,R} = D_{aR} + D_{cR} - D_{bR},$$

$$c_{4,u}^{\kappa,R} = D_{bR} + D_{cR} - D_{aR}.$$
(16)

Using all the above definitions the anomalous dimension of the Wilson coefficient for each channel κ can be written in a fully diagonal form in color space as

$$\Gamma_C^{\kappa}(\mu) = \left[-\bar{c}^{\kappa} \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_s) + \sum_{R=F,A} \bar{c}_4^{\kappa,R} g^R(\alpha_s) \right] \ln \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}$$

$$+ \sum_{i=a,b,c} \gamma_C^i(\alpha_s) + f(\alpha_s) c_f^{\kappa} - \bar{c}_L^{\kappa} \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_s)$$

$$+ \sum_{R=F,A} g^R(\alpha_s) \bar{c}_{4,L}^{\kappa,R},$$
(17)

where the last missing ingredient appearing in the noncusp anomalous dimensions is

$$c_f^{\kappa} = -\left[\frac{C_A^2}{4}\bar{c}^{\kappa} + \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{\langle \mathcal{M} | \mathcal{T}_{iijj} | \mathcal{M} \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{M} | \mathcal{M} \rangle}\right]. \tag{18}$$

This again requires an explicit evaluation of the action of the color insertion operators on the possible color states. We remind the reader that for three colored partons the result of the color insertion operators must be diagonal and proportional to the identity by Schur's lemma. Therefore, we consider their action on the amplitude in color space $|\mathcal{M}\rangle$ for each partonic channel κ . The color amplitude $|\mathcal{M}\rangle$ is the same for all quark channels, $|\mathcal{M}\rangle = t^a_{ji}|ija\rangle$ where the t^a_{ji} are the Gell-Mann matrices and the quantum numbers i(j) denote the color of the quark (antiquark) and a that of the gluon respectively. We proceed by calculating separately for each channel the action of the color operators as a function of the number of colors N_c . For $\kappa = q\bar{q}g$ we find

$$\sum_{(i,i)} \frac{\langle \mathcal{M} | \mathcal{T}_{iijj} | \mathcal{M} \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{M} | \mathcal{M} \rangle} = \frac{1}{\langle \mathcal{M} | \mathcal{M} \rangle} (2 \langle \mathcal{T}_{qq\bar{q}\bar{q}} \rangle + 4 \langle \mathcal{T}_{qqgg} \rangle) \quad (19)$$

where we used the abbreviation $\langle \mathcal{T}_{ijkl} \rangle \equiv \langle \mathcal{M} | \mathcal{T}_{ijkl} | \mathcal{M} \rangle$ and the relations

$$\langle \mathcal{T}_{qq\bar{q}\bar{q}} \rangle = \langle \mathcal{T}_{\bar{q}\bar{q}qq} \rangle = \frac{3}{16} C_F N_c^2,$$

$$\langle \mathcal{T}_{xxgg} \rangle = \langle \mathcal{T}_{ggxx} \rangle = \frac{1}{16} C_F N_c^2 (N_c^2 + 4), \quad x = q, \bar{q}. \quad (20)$$

The normalization factor corresponds to the color factor of the Born amplitude $\langle \mathcal{M} | \mathcal{M} \rangle = C_F N_c$.

For the $\kappa = qgq$ channel it is crucial to properly take into account whether the quark is in the initial state or in the final state, since it uniquely defines the action of the color operators on the color states. We do so by using the notation q_i (q_f) for the initial (final) state quark. We find

$$\sum_{(i,j)} \frac{\langle \mathcal{M} | \mathcal{T}_{iijj} | \mathcal{M} \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{M} | \mathcal{M} \rangle} = \frac{1}{\langle \mathcal{M} | \mathcal{M} \rangle} (2 \langle \mathcal{T}_{q_i q_i q_f q_f} \rangle + 4 \langle \mathcal{T}_{q_i q_i gg} \rangle), \tag{21}$$

where we used

$$\langle \mathcal{T}_{q_i q_i q_f q_f} \rangle \equiv \langle \mathcal{T}_{q_f q_f q_i q_i} \rangle = C_F N_c^2 \frac{3}{16},$$

$$\langle \mathcal{T}_{q_x q_x gg} \rangle \equiv \langle \mathcal{T}_{ggq_x q_x} \rangle = C_F N_c^2 \frac{N_c^2 + 4}{16}, \quad x = i, f. \quad (22)$$

Finally, the $\kappa = \bar{q}g\bar{q}$ can be obtained trivially from the $\kappa = qgq$ results simply by applying charge conjugation and replacing the quark with an antiquark. Some of these color factors also appear in the calculation of the threshold three-loop soft function in Ref. [44], for which we find complete agreement.

Everything is now in place to write the solution of the RGE for the hard Wilson coefficient. Indicating with μ_H its canonical scale, the evolution kernel for the hard function $U_H^{\kappa}(\mu_H, \mu) = |U_C^{\kappa}(\mu_H, \mu)|^2$ reads

$$U_{H}^{\kappa}(\mu_{H},\mu) = \exp\left[4\bar{c}^{\kappa}K_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{H},\mu) - 4\left(\sum_{R=F,A}\bar{c}_{4}^{\kappa,R}K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{H},\mu)\right) - 2\bar{c}^{\kappa}\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{H},\mu)\ln\frac{Q^{2}}{\mu_{H}^{2}}\right] + 2\left(\sum_{R=F,A}\bar{c}_{4}^{\kappa,R}\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{H},\mu)\right)\ln\frac{Q^{2}}{\mu_{H}^{2}} - 2\text{Re}\{\bar{c}_{L}^{\kappa}\}\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{H},\mu) + \sum_{R=F,A}2\text{Re}\{\bar{c}_{4,L}^{\kappa,R}\}\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{H},\mu) + 2\sum_{i=a,b,c}K_{\gamma_{C}^{i}}(\mu_{H},\mu) + 2c_{f}^{\kappa}K_{f}(\mu_{H},\mu)\right],$$

$$(23)$$

where we have used the definitions

$$\begin{split} K_{\Gamma_{x}}(\mu_{H},\mu) &= \int_{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}^{\alpha_{s}(\mu)} \frac{\mathrm{d}\alpha_{s}}{\beta(\alpha_{s})} \Gamma_{x}(\alpha_{s}) \int_{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}^{\alpha_{s}} \frac{\mathrm{d}\alpha'_{s}}{\beta(\alpha'_{s})}, \\ \eta_{\Gamma_{x}}(\mu_{H},\mu) &= \int_{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}^{\alpha_{s}(\mu)} \frac{\mathrm{d}\alpha_{s}}{\beta(\alpha_{s})} \Gamma_{x}(\alpha_{s}), \\ K_{\gamma_{x}}(\mu_{H},\mu) &= \int_{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}^{\alpha_{s}(\mu)} \frac{\mathrm{d}\alpha_{s}}{\beta(\alpha_{s})} \gamma_{x}(\alpha_{s}) \end{split} \tag{24}$$

and

$$K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{H}, \mu) \equiv \int_{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}^{\alpha_{s}(\mu)} \frac{d\alpha_{s}}{\beta(\alpha_{s})} g^{R}(\alpha_{s}) \int_{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}^{\alpha_{s}} \frac{d\alpha'_{s}}{\beta[\alpha'_{s}]},$$

$$\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{H}, \mu) \equiv \int_{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}^{\alpha_{s}(\mu)} \frac{d\alpha_{s}}{\beta(\alpha_{s})} g^{R}(\alpha_{s}),$$

$$K_{f}(\mu_{H}, \mu) \equiv \int_{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}^{\alpha_{s}(\mu)} \frac{d\alpha_{s}}{\beta(\alpha_{s})} f(\alpha_{s}).$$
(25)

The latter are identically zero at lower orders since $g^R(\alpha_s)$ and $f(\alpha_s)$ start at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$ and $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ respectively.

The hard function admits a perturbative expansion whose coefficients $H_{\kappa}^{(n)}$ are defined by

$$H_{\kappa}(\Phi_{1},\mu_{H}) = \frac{4\pi\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4d_{\kappa_{a}}d_{\kappa_{b}}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4\pi}\right)^{n} H_{\kappa}^{(n)}(\Phi_{1},\mu_{H}), \quad (26)$$

where d_i is the dimension of the color representation of parton i. Up to N³LL we only need the first two coefficients. They can be extracted from the two-loop helicity amplitudes calculated in Refs. [45,46], using the methods described in Ref. [47]. In addition, we include the one-loop axial corrections due to the difference between massive top and massless bottom triangle loops, which were computed in Ref. [48]. At present, our implementation neglects the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ axial contributions to the $q\bar{q}g$ and qgq channels, which have only been recently calculated in Ref. [49]. Their contributions is expected to be extremely small for the one-jettiness distribution.

We constructed the hard functions from the known UVand IR-finite helicity amplitudes for Z + jet [45–47], adding the Z/γ^* interference and the decay into massless leptons, producing the final squared matrix elements in an analytical form. They have been obtained by rewriting products of spinor brackets in terms of the kinematic invariants, writing them in terms of five parity-even invariants and one parity-odd invariant which is given by the contraction of the Levi-Civita tensor with four of the external momenta. Since they are too lengthy to be presented here, we refrain from including them in the manuscript.

B. N-jettiness beam and jet functions

The beam and jet functions that enter Eq. (2) are the same in the factorization formula for every N [41]. The former can be written as convolutions of perturbatively calculable kernels with the standard parton distribution functions (PDFs). The beam and jet functions satisfy the RGEs [40,50]

$$\mu \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\mu} B_a(t, x, \mu) = \int \mathrm{d}t' \Gamma_B^a(t - t', \mu) B_a(t', x, \mu), \quad (27)$$

$$\mu \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\mu} J_c(s,\mu) = \int \mathrm{d}s' \Gamma_J^c(s-s',\mu) J_c(s',\mu), \quad (28)$$

where a, c can be a quark or a gluon. Formulas for the second beam function are easily obtained by substituting $a \rightarrow b$. The anomalous dimensions in Eqs. (27) and (28) read

$$\Gamma_B^a(t,\mu) = -2 \left[C_a \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_s) + 2 \sum_{R=F,A} D_{aR} g^R(\alpha_s) \right] \mathcal{L}_0(t,\mu^2)$$
$$+ \gamma_B^a(\alpha_s) \delta(t), \tag{29}$$

$$\Gamma_J^c(s,\mu) = -2 \left[C_c \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_s) + 2 \sum_{R=F,A} D_{cR} g^R(\alpha_s) \right] \mathcal{L}_0(s,\mu^2)$$
$$+ \gamma_J^c(\alpha_s) \delta(s), \tag{30}$$

where we denote the standard plus distributions by [51]

$$\mathcal{L}_n(x,\mu^m) = \left[\frac{\theta(x)\ln^n(x/\mu^m)}{x}\right]_+,\tag{31}$$

where m is an integer equal to the mass dimension of x. In order to solve both RGEs we find it convenient to cast Eqs. (27) and (28) in Laplace space, where momentum convolutions turn into simple products. We denote the Laplace space conjugate functions with a tilde

$$\tilde{B}_a(\varsigma_B, x, \mu) = \int dt e^{-t/(Q_a e^{\gamma_E} \varsigma_B)} B_a(t, x, \mu), \quad (32)$$

$$\tilde{J}_c(\varsigma_J, \mu) = \int \mathrm{d}s e^{-s/(Q_J e^{\gamma_E} \varsigma_J)} J_c(s, \mu), \tag{33}$$

where the measures Q_a and Q_J are those introduced in the definition of \mathcal{T}_1 in Eq. (1). The RGEs for the beam and jet functions can be written as

$$\mu \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\mu} \ln \tilde{B}_a(\varsigma_B, x, \mu) = -2 \left[C_a \Gamma_{\mathrm{cusp}}(\alpha_s) + 2 \sum_{R=F,A} D_{aR} g^R(\alpha_s) \right] \times \ln \left(\frac{Q_a \varsigma_B}{\mu^2} \right) + \gamma_B^a(\alpha_s), \tag{34}$$

$$\mu \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\mu} \ln \tilde{J}_c(\varsigma_J, \mu) = -2 \left[C_c \Gamma_{\mathrm{cusp}}(\alpha_s) + 2 \sum_{R=F,A} D_{cR} g^R(\alpha_s) \right] \times \ln \left(\frac{Q_J \varsigma_J}{\mu^2} \right) + \gamma_J^c(\alpha_s). \tag{35}$$

The solutions of Eqs. (34) and (35) yield the resummed beam and jet functions in Laplace space

$$\tilde{B}_{a}(\varsigma_{B}, x, \mu) = \exp\left[4C_{a}K_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{B}, \mu) + 8\sum_{R=F,A}D_{aR}K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{B}, \mu) + K_{\gamma_{B}^{a}}(\mu_{B}, \mu)\right]
\times \tilde{B}(\partial_{\eta_{B}}, x, \mu_{B}) \left(\frac{Q_{a}\varsigma_{B}}{\mu_{B}^{2}}\right)^{\eta_{B}}\Big|_{\eta_{B}=-2[C_{a}\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{B}, \mu)+2\sum_{R=F,A}D_{aR}\eta_{q^{R}}(\mu_{B}, \mu)]},$$
(36)

$$\tilde{J}_{c}(\varsigma_{J},\mu) = \exp\left[4C_{c}K_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{J},\mu) + 8\sum_{R=F,A}D_{cR}K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{J},\mu) + K_{\gamma_{J}^{c}}(\mu_{J},\mu)\right]
\times \tilde{J}(\partial_{\eta_{J}},\mu_{J})\left(\frac{Q_{J}\varsigma_{J}}{\mu_{J}^{2}}\right)^{\eta_{J}}\Big|_{\eta_{J}=-2[C_{c}\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{J},\mu)+2\sum_{R=F,A}D_{cR}\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{J},\mu)]},$$
(37)

where they are evolved from their canonical scales μ_B and μ_J to an arbitrary scale μ . By performing the inverse Laplace transform, we obtain them in momentum space

$$B_{a}(t, x, \mu) = \exp\left[4C_{a}K_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{B}, \mu) + 8\sum_{R=F,A}D_{aR}K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{B}, \mu) + K_{\gamma_{B}^{a}}(\mu_{B}, \mu)\right] \times \tilde{B}(\partial_{\eta_{B}}, x, \mu_{B}) \frac{e^{-\gamma_{E}\eta_{B}}}{\Gamma(\eta_{B})} \frac{1}{t} \left(\frac{t}{\mu_{B}^{2}}\right)^{\eta_{B}} \Big|_{\eta_{B} = -2[C_{a}\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{B}, \mu) + 2\sum_{R=F,A}D_{aR}\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{B}, \mu)]},$$
(38)

$$J_{c}(s,\mu) = \exp\left[4C_{c}K_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{J},\mu) + 8\sum_{R=F,A}D_{cR}K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{J},\mu) + K_{\gamma_{J}^{c}}(\mu_{J},\mu)\right] \times \tilde{J}(\partial_{\eta_{J}},\mu_{J}) \frac{e^{-\gamma_{E}\eta_{J}}}{\Gamma(\eta_{J})} \frac{1}{s} \left(\frac{s}{\mu_{J}^{2}}\right)^{\eta_{J}} \Big|_{\eta_{J}=-2[C_{c}\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{J},\mu)+2\sum_{R=F,A}D_{cR}\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{J},\mu)]}.$$
(39)

Similar to the hard functions in Eq. (26), the perturbative components of the beam and jet functions admit an expansion in terms of powers of the strong coupling constant and perturbatively calculable coefficients. For the beam functions these have been recently calculated up to N³LO [50,52–55] while for the jet functions they have been known for some time [56–62]. For our N³LL predictions we only need the beam and jet coefficients up to $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$.

C. One-jettiness soft functions

The soft function for exclusive N-jet production was first calculated at NLO in Ref. [63]. There, results were presented for the fully differential soft function in \mathcal{T}_N^i , where i labels the beam and jet regions, $i=a,b,J_1,\ldots,J_N$. In our case, the NLO soft function appearing in Eq. (2) can be obtained from these results by specifying N=1 and projecting the soft momenta from each region to a single variable,

$$S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s},\mu) = \int dk_{a} dk_{b} dk_{J} S_{N=1}^{\kappa}(\{k_{i}\},\mu) \delta(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s} - k_{a} - k_{b} - k_{J}), \quad (40)$$

where we have left implicit any angular dependence of the soft functions on the jet directions, i.e., $S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_1^s, \mu) \equiv S^{\kappa}(n_a \cdot n_J, \mathcal{T}_1^s, \mu)$ introduced in Eq. (2). It satisfies the following RGE

$$\mu \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\mu} S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s}, \mu) = \int \mathrm{d}\ell \Gamma_{S}^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s} - \ell, \mu) S^{\kappa}(\ell, \mu), \tag{41}$$

with the anomalous dimensions $\Gamma_S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_1^s,\mu)$ related to those of the fully differential soft function $S_{N=1}^{\kappa}(\{k_i\},\mu)$ by an analogous projection of the soft momentum from each region to a single variable,

$$\Gamma_{S}^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s},\mu) = \int dk_{a}dk_{b}dk_{J}\Gamma_{S_{N=1}}^{\kappa}(\{k_{i}\},\mu)\delta(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s}-k_{a}-k_{b}-k_{J}). \quad (42)$$

Explicit expressions for both the fully differential $\Gamma_{S_{N=1}}^{\kappa}(\{k_i\},\mu)$ and $S_{N=1}^{\kappa}(\{k_i\},\mu)$ at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ can be found in Ref. [63]. Note that in Eqs. (40) and (41) we have exploited the fact that, for the present case, the soft function and its anomalous dimensions are trivial matrices in color

space. The consistency of the factorization formula, Eq. (2), implies that the anomalous dimensions of $S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_1^s, \mu)$ can be related to those of the hard, beam, and jet functions by

$$\Gamma_S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_1^s, \mu) = -Q_a \Gamma_B^a(Q_a \mathcal{T}_1^s, \mu) - Q_b \Gamma_B^b(Q_b \mathcal{T}_1^s, \mu) - Q_J \Gamma_L^c(Q_J \mathcal{T}_1^s, \mu) - 2 \operatorname{Re}[\Gamma_C^{\kappa}(\mu)] \delta(\mathcal{T}_1^s). \tag{43}$$

Using known identities of the plus distributions \mathcal{L}_n [51], we find

$$\begin{split} &\Gamma_{S}^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s},\mu) \\ &= 4 \left[-\bar{c}^{\kappa} \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_{s}) + \sum_{R=F,A} \bar{c}_{4}^{\kappa,R} g^{R}(\alpha_{s}) \right] \mathcal{L}_{0}(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s},\mu) \\ &+ \left[\gamma_{S_{N=1}}^{\kappa}(\alpha_{s}) + 2 \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_{s}) (c_{s}^{\kappa} L_{ab} + c_{t}^{\kappa} L_{ac} + c_{u}^{\kappa} L_{bc}) \right. \\ &\left. - 2 \sum_{R=F,A} g^{R}(\alpha_{s}) (c_{4,s}^{\kappa,R} L_{ab} + c_{4,t}^{\kappa,R} L_{bc} + c_{4,u}^{\kappa,R} L_{bc}) \right] \delta(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s}), \end{split}$$

$$(44)$$

where the noncusp anomalous dimensions of the fully differential soft function [63] are given by

$$\gamma_{S_{N=1}}^{\kappa}(\alpha_s) = -2\sum_{i=a,b,c} \gamma_C^i(\alpha_s) - \gamma_B^a(\alpha_s)
- \gamma_B^b(\alpha_s) - \gamma_J^c(\alpha_s) - 2c_f^{\kappa}f(\alpha_s),$$
(45)

and we use an abbreviated form for the logarithms

$$L_{ij} \equiv \ln \hat{s}_{ij}, \quad \text{with} \quad \hat{s}_{ij} = \frac{2q_i \cdot q_j}{Q_i Q_j}.$$
 (46)

Eq. (41) dictates the evolution of the soft function $S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_1^s,\mu)$ from its canonical scale μ_S to an arbitrary μ . In addition, it determines its distributional structure in \mathcal{T}_1^s , up to a boundary term that necessitates explicit computation. Here, we exploit this in order to solve for the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ soft function coefficient. We start by noting that $\Gamma_S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_1^s,\mu)$ in Eq. (44) has the same distributional form as the zerojettiness soft function anomalous dimensions [40]. Thus, we can directly use the known solutions of the zerojettiness soft function as long as we properly account for the different anomalous dimension coefficients. The logarithmic contributions to the zero-jettiness soft function were calculated up to N³LO in Ref. [64] and in the

following we use the conventions therein. We expand the soft function in momentum space as

$$S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_1^s,\mu) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi}\right)^n S^{\kappa(n)}(\mathcal{T}_1^s,\mu), \qquad (47)$$

and write the perturbative coefficients in terms of delta functions and plus distributions,

$$S^{\kappa(m)}(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s},\mu) = s^{\kappa(m)}\delta(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s}) + \sum_{n=0}^{2m-1} S_{n}^{\kappa(m)}\mathcal{L}_{n}(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s},\mu). \tag{48}$$

We find that the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ coefficients read

$$\begin{split} S_1^{\kappa(1)} &= -2(C_a + C_b + C_c)\Gamma_0, \\ S_0^{\kappa(1)} &= -2(c_s^{\kappa}L_{ab} + c_t^{\kappa}L_{ac} + c_u^{\kappa}L_{bc})\Gamma_0, \end{split}$$

while at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ they read

$$\begin{split} S_3^{\kappa(2)} &= 2\Gamma_0^2(C_a + C_b + C_c)^2, \\ S_2^{\kappa(2)} &= 2\Gamma_0(C_a + C_b + C_c) \\ &\qquad \times \left[\beta_0 + 3\Gamma_0(c_s^\kappa L_{ab} + c_t^\kappa L_{ac} + c_u^\kappa L_{bc})\right], \\ S_1^{\kappa(2)} &= 4\Gamma_0^2[(c_s^\kappa L_{ab} + c_t^\kappa L_{ac} + c_u^\kappa L_{bc})^2 \\ &\qquad - \zeta_2(C_a + C_b + C_c)^2] \\ &\qquad + 2\Gamma_0[2\beta_0(c_s^\kappa L_{ab} + c_t^\kappa L_{ac} + c_u^\kappa L_{bc}) \\ &\qquad - (C_a + C_b + C_c)s^{\kappa(1)}] - 2\Gamma_1(C_a + C_b + C_c), \\ S_0^{\kappa(2)} &= 4\Gamma_0^2(C_a + C_b + C_c)[\zeta_3(C_a + C_b + C_c) \\ &\qquad - \zeta_2(c_s^\kappa L_{ab} + c_t^\kappa L_{ac} + c_u^\kappa L_{bc})] - \gamma_{S_{N=1},1}^\kappa - 2\beta_0 s^{\kappa(1)} \\ &\qquad - 2(\Gamma_0 s^{\kappa(1)} + \Gamma_1)(c_s^\kappa L_{ab} + c_t^\kappa L_{ac} + c_u^\kappa L_{bc}). \end{split}$$

Note that the functions $f(\alpha_s) \sim \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ and $g^R(\alpha_s) \sim \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$, and therefore they enter in the fixed-order expansion of $S(\mathcal{T}_1^s, \mu)$ starting only at N³LL' accuracy.

The boundary terms $s^{\kappa(n)}$ are not predicted by the RGE and they necessitate an explicit computation. At LO they are still trivial,

$$s^{\kappa(0)} = 1,\tag{49}$$

while at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ they have been analytically calculated for arbitrary N and distance measures Q_i in Ref. [63]. In the case of one-jettiness they read

$$s^{\kappa(1)} = 2c_s^{\kappa} \left[L_{ab}^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{6} + 2(I_{ab,c} + I_{ba,c}) \right]$$

$$+ 2c_t^{\kappa} \left[L_{ac}^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{6} + 2(I_{ac,b} + I_{ca,b}) \right]$$

$$+ 2c_u^{\kappa} \left[L_{bc}^2 - \frac{\pi^2}{6} + 2(I_{bc,a} + I_{cb,a}) \right], \quad (50)$$

where we use the abbreviation for the finite integrals

$$I_{ij,m} \equiv I_0 \left(\frac{\hat{s}_{jm}}{\hat{s}_{ij}}, \frac{\hat{s}_{im}}{\hat{s}_{ij}} \right) \ln \frac{\hat{s}_{jm}}{\hat{s}_{ij}} + I_1 \left(\frac{\hat{s}_{jm}}{\hat{s}_{ij}}, \frac{\hat{s}_{im}}{\hat{s}_{ij}} \right), \quad (51)$$

with expressions for $I_{0,1}(\alpha,\beta)$ given in Ref. [63]. In our predictions we evaluate Eq. (50) for each phase space point on-the-fly in the corresponding reference frame.

The $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ boundary term $s^{\kappa(2)}$ was evaluated in Refs. [37,38] in the LAB frame, where the parameters $\rho_i = 1$. The result is numeric, and the authors of Ref. [38] provide useful fit functions for the complete NNLO correction for all partonic channels. Nevertheless, in this work, we use a new evaluation of the soft function performed by a subset of the authors of Ref. [39]. This calculation is based on an extension of the Softserve framework [65–67] to soft functions with an arbitrary number of lightlike Wilson lines. This approach relies on a universal parametrization of the phase-space integrals, which is used to isolate the singularities of the soft function in Laplace space. The observable-dependent integrations are then performed numerically.

The soft function in the CS frame is then related to that in the LAB frame by a boost along the beam direction. While the invariants $n_i \cdot n_j$ are frame-independent, the soft function implicitly depends on the quantities \hat{s}_{ij} defined in Eq. (46), which are frame-dependent. Specifically, in the LAB and CS frame they are related by

$$\hat{s}_{ab}^{\text{LAB}} = \hat{s}_{ab}^{\text{CS}} = 1, \qquad \hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{LAB}} = \frac{n_a \cdot n_J}{2} = \rho_a \rho_J \hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{CS}}, \quad (52)$$

which implies that events with moderately sized \hat{s}_{aJ}^{CS} may require us to evaluate the LAB-frame soft function at exceedingly small values of $\hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{LAB}}$, depending on the size of the boost-induced factor $\rho_a \rho_J$. We therefore supplement our numerical calculation with analytic results that can be derived in the asymptotic limit of a jet approaching one of the beam directions, i.e., where $\hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{LAB}} \ll 1$ (or $\hat{s}_{bJ}^{\text{LAB}} \ll 1$), to leading power in $\hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{LAB}}$ ($\hat{s}_{bJ}^{\text{LAB}}$) (details are given in Ref. [39]).

Specifically, we use the symmetry of the soft function under the exchange of the two beam directions to restrict the phase space to configurations with $\hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{LAB}} \leq 1/2$. We then divide the phase space into four regions with $\hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{LAB}} \leq 10^{-12}, \ \hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{LAB}} \in [10^{-12}, 10^{-8}], \ \hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{LAB}} \in [10^{-8}, 10^{-4}],$ and $\hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{LAB}} \in [10^{-4}, 1/2]$. In the first region we use the novel

analytic leading-power expressions. As power corrections are expected to scale as $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{\hat{s}_{aJ}^{\text{LAB}}})$ (modulo logarithms), this means that the accuracy of the leading-power approximation should be at subpercent level in this region. For the remaining three regions, we construct Chebyshev interpolations of numerical grids, consisting of 4, 9, and 43 sampling points respectively, directly in Laplace space. We construct these interpolations for each interval separately before putting them together.

Following similar considerations as in Sec. II B, we now turn to the resummed soft function in Laplace space which is defined as

$$\tilde{S}^{\kappa}(\varsigma_{S},\mu) = \int d\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s} e^{-\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s}/(e^{\gamma_{E}}\varsigma_{S})} S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s},\mu), \qquad (53)$$

and satisfies the multiplicative RGE

$$\mu \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\mu} \ln \tilde{S}^{\kappa}(\varsigma_{S}, \mu)$$

$$= 2 \left[-\bar{c}^{\kappa} \Gamma_{\mathrm{cusp}}(\alpha_{s}) + \sum_{R=F,A} \bar{c}_{4}^{\kappa,R} g^{R}(\alpha_{s}) \right] \ln \left(\frac{\varsigma_{S}^{2}}{\mu^{2}} \right)$$

$$+ \left[\gamma_{S_{N=1}}^{\kappa}(\alpha_{s}) + 2 \Gamma_{\mathrm{cusp}}(\alpha_{s}) (c_{s}^{\kappa} L_{ab} + c_{t}^{\kappa} L_{ac} + c_{u}^{\kappa} L_{bc}) \right]$$

$$- 2 \sum_{R=F,A} g^{R}(\alpha_{s}) (c_{4,s}^{\kappa,R} L_{ab} + c_{4,t}^{\kappa,R} L_{bc} + c_{4,u}^{\kappa,R} L_{bc}) \right]. \quad (54)$$

The solution of Eq. (54) is given by

$$\tilde{S}^{\kappa}(\varsigma_{S},\mu) = \exp \left\{ 2(c_{s}^{\kappa}L_{ab} + c_{t}^{\kappa}L_{ac} + c_{u}^{\kappa}L_{bc})\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{S},\mu) - 2\sum_{R=F,A} (c_{4,s}^{\kappa,R}L_{ab} + c_{4,t}^{\kappa,R}L_{ac} + c_{4,u}^{\kappa,R}L_{bc})\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{S},\mu) \right. \\
\left. + 4\bar{c}^{\kappa}K_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{S},\mu) - 4\sum_{R=F,A} \bar{c}_{4}^{\kappa,R}K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{S},\mu) + K_{\gamma_{S}^{\kappa}}(\mu_{S},\mu) \right\} \\
\times \tilde{S}^{\kappa}(\partial_{\eta_{S}},\mu_{S}) \left(\frac{\varsigma_{S}}{\mu_{S}} \right)^{2\eta_{S}} \bigg|_{\eta_{S} = -2\bar{c}^{\kappa}\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{S},\mu) + 2\sum_{R=F,A} \bar{c}_{4}^{\kappa,R}\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{S},\mu)}, \tag{55}$$

and by performing the inverse transform we obtain it in momentum space

$$S^{\kappa}(\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s},\mu) = \exp\left\{2(c_{s}^{\kappa}L_{ab} + c_{t}^{\kappa}L_{ac} + c_{u}^{\kappa}L_{bc})\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{S},\mu) - 2\sum_{R=F,A}(c_{4,s}^{\kappa,R}L_{ab} + c_{4,t}^{\kappa,R}L_{ac} + c_{4,u}^{\kappa,R}L_{bc})\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{S},\mu) + 4\bar{c}^{\kappa}K_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{S},\mu) - 4\sum_{R=F,A}\bar{c}_{4}^{\kappa,R}K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{S},\mu) + K_{\gamma_{S}^{\kappa}}(\mu_{S},\mu)\right\} \times \tilde{S}^{\kappa}(\partial_{\eta_{S}},\mu_{S})\frac{e^{-2\gamma_{E}\eta_{S}}}{\Gamma(2\eta_{S})}\frac{1}{\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s}}\left(\frac{\mathcal{T}_{1}^{s}}{\mu_{S}}\right)^{2\eta_{S}}\Big|_{\eta_{S}=-2\bar{c}^{\kappa}\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{S},\mu)+2\sum_{R=F,A}\bar{c}_{4}^{\kappa,R}\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{S},\mu)}.$$
(56)

D. Final resummed and matched formulas

Combining all the previous ingredients together and using the following definitions

$$K_{\gamma_{\text{tot}}} = -2n_g K_{\gamma_C^g}(\mu_S, \mu_H) + 2(n_g - 3)K_{\gamma_C^q}(\mu_S, \mu_H) - (n_g - n_g^{\kappa_J})K_{\gamma_J^g}(\mu_J, \mu_B) - n_g K_{\gamma_J^g}(\mu_S, \mu_J)$$

$$+ (n_g - 2 - n_g^{\kappa_J})K_{\gamma_J^q}(\mu_J, \mu_B) + (n_g - 3)K_{\gamma_J^q}(\mu_S, \mu_J) + 2c_f^{\kappa}K_f(\mu_H, \mu_S),$$
(57)

where n_g is the total number of gluons and $n_g^{\kappa_J}$ the number of gluons in the final state, we arrive at the resummation formula which, when evaluated at N³LL accuracy, reads

$$\frac{d\sigma^{N^{3}LL}}{d\Phi_{1}dT_{1}} = \sum_{\kappa} \exp\left\{4(C_{a} + C_{b})K_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{B}, \mu_{H}) + 4C_{c}K_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{J}, \mu_{H}) - 2(C_{a} + C_{b} + C_{c})K_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{S}, \mu_{H})\right. \\
\left. - 2C_{c}L_{J}\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{J}, \mu_{H}) - 2(C_{a}L_{B} + C_{b}L'_{B})\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{B}, \mu_{H}) + K_{\gamma_{\text{tot}}} \right. \\
+ \left[C_{a}\ln\left(\frac{Q_{a}^{2}u}{st}\right) + C_{b}\ln\left(\frac{Q_{b}^{2}t}{su}\right) + C_{\kappa_{J}}\ln\left(\frac{Q_{J}^{2}s}{tu}\right) + (C_{a} + C_{b} + C_{c})L_{S}\right]\eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_{S}, \mu_{H}) \right. \\
+ \sum_{R=F,A} \left[8(D_{aR} + D_{bR})K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{B}, \mu_{H}) + 8D_{cR}K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{J}, \mu_{H}) \right. \\
- 4(D_{aR} + D_{bR} + D_{cR})K_{g^{R}}(\mu_{S}, \mu_{H}) - 4D_{cR}L_{J}\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{J}, \mu_{H}) - 4(D_{aR}L_{B} + D_{bR}L'_{B})\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{B}, \mu_{H}) \right. \\
+ 2\left[D_{aR}\ln\left(\frac{Q_{a}^{2}u}{st}\right) + D_{bR}\ln\left(\frac{Q_{b}^{2}t}{su}\right) + D_{cR}\ln\left(\frac{Q_{J}^{2}s}{tu}\right) + (D_{aR} + D_{bR} + D_{cR})L_{S}\right]\eta_{g^{R}}(\mu_{S}, \mu_{H})\right]\right\} \\
\times H_{\kappa}(\Phi_{1}, \mu_{H})\tilde{S}^{\kappa}(\partial_{\eta_{S}} + L_{S}, \mu_{S})\tilde{B}_{\kappa_{a}}(\partial_{\eta_{B}} + L_{B}, x_{a}, \mu_{B})\tilde{B}_{\kappa_{b}}(\partial_{\eta'_{B}} + L'_{B}, x_{b}, \mu_{B})\tilde{J}_{\kappa_{J}}(\partial_{\eta_{J}} + L_{J}, \mu_{J}) \\
\times \frac{Q^{-\eta_{\text{tot}}}}{T_{1}^{1-\eta_{\text{tot}}}}\frac{\eta_{\text{tot}}e^{-\gamma_{E}\eta_{\text{tot}}}}{\Gamma(1 + \eta_{\text{tot}})}, \tag{58}$$

where the terms

$$\begin{split} &\eta_S = -2\bar{c}^\kappa \eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_S, \mu) + 2\sum_{R=F,A} \bar{c}_4^{\kappa,R} \eta_{g^R}(\mu_S, \mu), \\ &\eta_B = -2 \bigg[C_a \eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_B, \mu) + 2\sum_{R=F,A} D_{aR} \eta_{g^R}(\mu_B, \mu) \bigg], \\ &\eta_B' = -2 \bigg[C_b \eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_B, \mu) + 2\sum_{R=F,A} D_{bR} \eta_{g^R}(\mu_B, \mu) \bigg], \\ &\eta_J = -2 \bigg[C_{\kappa_c} \eta_{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}}(\mu_J, \mu) + 2\sum_{R=F,A} D_{cR} \eta_{g^R}(\mu_J, \mu) \bigg], \end{split}$$

are combined as

$$\eta_{\text{tot}} = \eta_B + \eta_B' + \eta_J + 2\eta_S$$

and we have also introduced the definitions

$$\begin{split} L_H &= \ln \left(\frac{Q^2}{\mu_H^2} \right), \qquad L_B = \ln \left(\frac{Q_a Q}{\mu_B^2} \right), \qquad L_B' = \ln \left(\frac{Q_b Q}{\mu_B^2} \right), \\ L_J &= \ln \left(\frac{Q_J Q}{\mu_J^2} \right), \qquad L_S = \ln \left(\frac{Q^2}{\mu_S^2} \right). \end{split}$$

In the previous equation all the K_X and η_X evolution functions are evaluated at N³LL accuracy and the boundary terms of the hard, soft, beam, and jet functions in the second to last line are implicitly expanded up to relative $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$. The complete formula with the boundary terms expanded out is presented in Appendix C.

While Sudakov logarithms at small \mathcal{T}_1 invalidate the perturbative convergence and call for their resummation at all orders, as \mathcal{T}_1 approaches the hard scale they are no longer considered large. In this regime, the spectrum is

correctly described by fixed-order predictions. In addition, \mathcal{T}_1 is subject to the constraint $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 \leq 1-1/N$, with N=2 (N=3) at NLO (NNLO). Therefore, in order to achieve a proper description throughout the \mathcal{T}_1 spectrum while satisfying the $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0$ constraint, we construct two-dimensional (2D) profile scales that modulate the transition to the FO region as a function of both \mathcal{T}_1/μ_{FO} and $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0$, with μ_{FO} the fixed-order scale. These profile scales correctly implement the phase space constraint in $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0$, reducing to \mathcal{T}_1 -dependent profile scales when it is satisfied and asymptoting to μ_{FO} when it is violated. A detailed discussion of our 2D profile scale construction is given in Sec. III B.

A reliable theoretical prediction must include a thorough uncertainty estimate by exploring the entire space of possible scale variations. In our analysis, we achieve this by means of \mathcal{T}_1 profile scale variations, see e.g. Ref. [28]. Specifically, our final uncertainty is obtained by separately estimating the uncertainties related to resummation and the FO perturbative expansion. Since these are considered to be uncorrelated, we sum them in quadrature. A breakdown of the various components is presented in Appendix B.

In order to achieve a valid description also in the tail region of the one-jettiness distribution, the resummed cross section is matched to the full fixed order results using a standard additive matching prescription

$$\frac{d\sigma^{N^3LL+NLO_2}}{d\Phi_1d\mathcal{T}_1} = \frac{d\sigma^{N^3LL}}{d\Phi_1d\mathcal{T}_1} + \frac{d\sigma^{Nons}}{d\Phi_1d\mathcal{T}_1}, \quad (59)$$

where the nonsingular contribution is defined as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma^{\mathrm{Nons}}}{\mathrm{d}\Phi_{1}\mathrm{d}\mathcal{T}_{1}} \equiv \frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma^{\mathrm{NNLO}_{1}}}{\mathrm{d}\Phi_{1}\mathrm{d}\mathcal{T}_{1}} - \frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma^{\mathrm{N^{3}LL}}}{\mathrm{d}\Phi_{1}\mathrm{d}\mathcal{T}_{1}}\bigg|_{\mathcal{O}(\sigma^{2})}.$$
 (60)

Here $\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma^{\mathrm{NNLO_1}}}{\mathrm{d}\Phi_1\mathrm{d}T_1}$ refers to the full fixed-order result in perturbation theory and $\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma^{\mathrm{N^3LL}}}{\mathrm{d}\Phi_1\mathrm{d}T_1}|_{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)}$ is the singular contribution at NNLO. When computing the nonsingular correction we use the fact that for $\mathcal{T}_1 > 0$ the $Z/\gamma^* + 1$ jet cross section at NNLO₁ is identical to the next-to-leading order cross section for $Z/\gamma^* + 2$ jets (NLO₂), and we therefore determine the nonsingular corrections from

$$\frac{d\sigma^{\text{Nons}}}{d\Phi_1 d\mathcal{T}_1} = \left(\frac{d\sigma^{\text{NLO}_2}}{d\Phi_1 d\mathcal{T}_1} - \frac{d\sigma^{\text{N}^3\text{LL}}}{d\Phi_1 d\mathcal{T}_1}\bigg|_{\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)}\right) \theta(\mathcal{T}_1). \quad (61)$$

The NLO₂ predictions for Z/γ^*+2 jets are obtained from GENEVA, which implements a local FKS subtraction [68], using tree-level and one-loop amplitudes from OpenLoops2 [69]. We note that for this reason in Eq. (59) we have written the highest accuracy as $N^3LL + NLO_2$ (even if it is identical to $N^3LL + NNLO_1$ because Eq. (60) and Eq. (61) both exactly vanish at $\mathcal{T}_1 = 0$.). The formula in Eq. (59) can therefore also be safely used for quantities integrated over \mathcal{T}_1 . Similar formulas for the matching readily apply at lower orders.

We also note that there is some freedom when evaluating \mathcal{T}_1 on events with two or three partons. In this work, we use N-jettiness as a jet algorithm [70] and minimize over all possible jet directions n_J obtained by an exclusive clustering procedure $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_1 = \min_{n_J} \mathcal{T}_1$. This means that we recursively cluster together emissions in the E-scheme using the \mathcal{T}_1 metric in Eq. (1) until we are left with exactly one jet. The resulting jet is then made massless by rescaling its energy to match the modulus of its three-momentum; the jet direction is then taken to be \vec{n}_J . We stress that this choice is intrinsically different from determining the jet axis a priori by employing an inclusive jet clustering, as done for example in refs. [19–22].

This difference has also the interesting consequence that one has to be careful when defining $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_1$ via the exclusive jet clustering procedure in a frame which depends on the jet momentum. There are indeed choices of the clustering metric that render the $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}_1$ variable so defined infrared (IR) unsafe. A particular example is given by the frame where the system of the color-singlet and the jet has zero rapidity $Y_{LJ}=0$ (underlying-Born frame) which was instead previously studied for the inclusive jet definition [22]. A detailed discussion of these features and a comparison of the size of nonsingular power corrections for these alternative \mathcal{T}_1 definitions is beyond the scope of this work and will be presented elsewhere.

III. NUMERICAL IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

We consider the process

$$pp \to (\gamma^*/Z \to \ell^+\ell^-) + \text{jet} + X$$
,

at $\sqrt{S} = 13$ TeV and use the NNPDF31_nnlo_as_0118 PDF set [71].

The factorization and renormalization scales are set equal to each other and equal to the dilepton transverse mass.

$$\mu_R = \mu_F = \mu_{FO} = m_T \equiv \sqrt{m_{\ell^+\ell^-}^2 + q_T^2},$$
 (62)

which we also use as hard scale for the process, i.e. $\mu_H = \mu_{FO}$. At this stage, we also fix $Q^2 = s_{ab}$.

Here we report the numerical parameters used in the predictions, for ease of reproducibility. We set the following nonzero mass and width parameters

$$m_{\rm Z} = 91.1876 \; {\rm GeV}, \qquad \Gamma_{\rm Z} = 2.4952 \; {\rm GeV},$$
 $m_{\rm W} = 80.379 \; {\rm GeV}, \qquad \Gamma_{\rm W} = 2.0850 \; {\rm GeV},$ $m_{\rm t} = 173.1 \; {\rm GeV}.$

In the plots presented in this section, we apply either a cut $\mathcal{T}_0 > 50$ GeV or $q_T > 100$ GeV in order to have a well-defined Born cross section with a hard jet. However, since our predictions depend on the choice of the cut that defines a finite Born cross section, we study different variables and values to cut upon in Sec. III D.

A. Resummed and matched predictions

In the upper panel of Fig. 1 we show the absolute values of the spectra for fixed-order, singular and nonsingular contributions with $T_0 > 50$ GeV at different orders in the strong coupling. We plot on a logarithmic scale in the dimensionless $\tau_1 = T_1/m_T$ variable, which is the argument of the logarithms appearing in the cross section for our choice of $\mu_H = m_T$. In the lower panel of the same figure we compare the nonsingular contributions in the LAB and CS frames on a linear scale. At both orders one can see how the singular spectrum reproduces the fixed-order result at small values of τ_1 and how the nonsingular spectrum has the expected suppressed behavior in the $\tau_1 \to 0$ limit. As anticipated, the nonsingular contribution in the CS frame is consistently smaller than that evaluated in the laboratory frame. Due to the smaller power corrections in the nonsingular contribution, from now on we only focus on and present results in the color-singlet frame (though the formalism adopted is able to deal with any frame definition related by a longitudinal boost). Similar results for q_T cuts are reported in Sec. III D.

In the left panel of Fig. 2 (Fig. 3) we show our resummed predictions in the peak region of the \mathcal{T}_1 spectrum in the CS frame, with a cut $\mathcal{T}_0 > 50$ GeV ($q_T > 100$ GeV). We observe good perturbative convergence between different orders. Starting from NNLL', the inclusion of NNLO boundary conditions together with NLO × NLO mixed-terms in the factorization formula results in a large impact

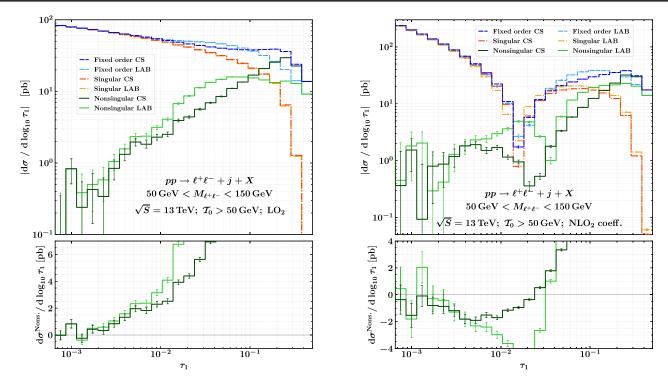


FIG. 1. Absolute values of the $\tau_1 = \mathcal{T}_1/m_T$ spectra with $\mathcal{T}_0 > 50$ GeV for fixed-order, singular and nonsingular contributions at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ (left) and at pure $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ (right) on a logarithmic scale (upper frames) and signed values for the nonsingular on a linear scale (lower frames). Results for both the laboratory frame (LAB) and the frame where the color-singlet system has zero rapidity (CS) are shown. Statistical errors from Monte Carlo integration, shown as thin vertical error bars, become sizeable at extremely low τ_1 values.

on the central values and in a sizeable decrease of the theoretical uncertainty bands. We also notice that the differences between the N³LL and the NNLL' predictions are minor, suggesting that, unlike at lower-orders, the N³LL evolution does not change considerably the NNLL' results.

In the right panel of Fig. 2 we present our final results after additive matching to the fixed-order predictions. In order to better highlight the effects in the resummation region ($\mathcal{T}_1 \lesssim 30$ GeV), the plot is shown on a linear \mathcal{T}_1 scale up to 30 GeV and a logarithmic scale above. In this case, the addition of the nonsingular contributions substantially modifies the resummed predictions, both in the fixed-order ($T_1 \gtrsim 30 \text{ GeV}$) but also in the resummation region. This can be better appreciated by looking at Fig. 4, which compares the values of the resummed and nonsingular predictions at NNLL + LO₂ (left panel) and at $N^3LL + NLO_2$ (right panel). The relative size of each contribution to the corresponding matched predictions is shown in the lower inset. We note that this poor convergence is also present when cutting on the vector boson transverse momentum $q_T > 100$ GeV in the right panel of Fig. 3 and the difference between orders grows larger when the cut is reduced (see Sec. III D).

However, since these are the first nontrivial corrections to the \mathcal{T}_1 spectrum, their large size is not completely unexpected and further motivates their inclusion.

B. Two-dimensional profile scales

A final state with *N* particles is subject to the kinematical constraint

$$\frac{\mathcal{T}_1(\Phi_N)}{\mathcal{T}_0(\Phi_N)} \le \frac{N-1}{N} = \begin{cases} 1/2, & N=2\\ 2/3, & N=3 \end{cases}$$
 (63)

where we explicitly specify the possible upper bounds that T_1/T_0 can have for the NNLO calculation of color-singlet plus one jet. Our goal in this section is to formulate profile scales that force the resummed prediction to satisfy the phase space constraint in Eq. (63) and at the same time to have the appropriate scaling at small and large T_1 , i.e.,

$$\mu_S(\mathcal{T}_1 \ll \mu_{FO}) \sim \mathcal{T}_1,$$

$$\mu_S(\mathcal{T}_1 \sim \mu_{FO}) \sim \mu_{FO},$$

$$\mu_S(\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 \sim (N-1)/N) \sim \mu_{FO}.$$
(64)

Both requirements in Eqs. (63) and (64) can be satisfied by formulating two-dimensional profile scales in \mathcal{T}_1/μ_{FO} and $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0$. To this end, we choose the soft profile scale to be

$$\mu_{S}(\mathcal{T}_{1}/\mu_{FO}, \mathcal{T}_{1}/\mathcal{T}_{0})$$

$$= \mu_{FO}[(f_{run}(\mathcal{T}_{1}/\mu_{FO}) - 1)s^{(p,k)}(\mathcal{T}_{1}/\mathcal{T}_{0}) + 1] \quad (65)$$

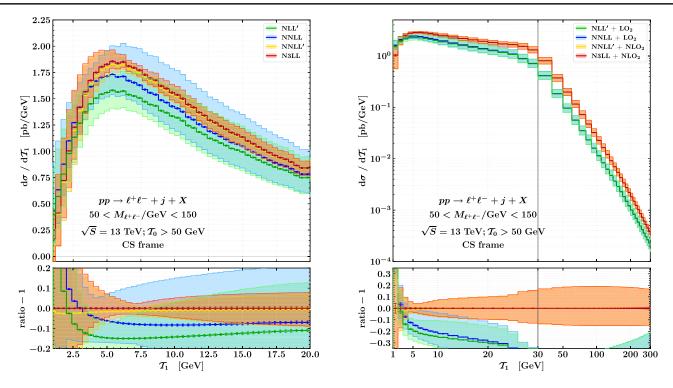


FIG. 2. Resummed (left) and matched (right) results for one-jettiness distribution with $T_0 > 50$ GeV.

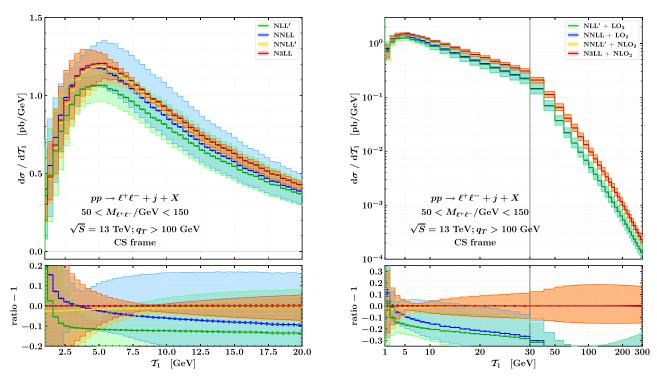


FIG. 3. Resummed (left) and matched (right) results for one-jettiness distribution with $q_T > 100$ GeV.

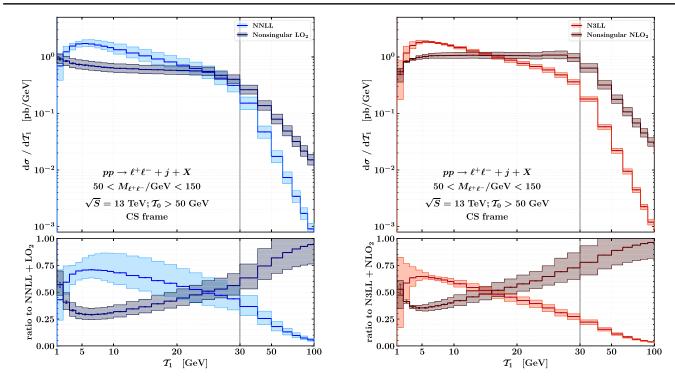


FIG. 4. Comparison between resummed and nonsingular contributions at NNLL + LO₂ (left) and N³LL + NLO₂ (right) for one-jettiness distribution with $T_0 > 50$ GeV. The lower inset shows the ratio to the corresponding matched prediction.

where f_{run} is the same as that appearing in \mathcal{T}_0 profile scales used in previous GENEVA implementations, see, e.g., Ref. [28], while $s^{(p,k)}$ is a logistic function

$$s^{(p,k)}(\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{pk(\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 - 1/p)}}, \tag{66}$$

that behaves like a smooth theta function and controls the transition to μ_{FO} for a target $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0$ value. It depends on the parameters k and p. The former fixes the slope of the transition between canonical and fixed-order scaling, while the latter determines the transition point where this happens. For our final predictions we use p=2 and k=100. In Appendix A we further investigate the dependence of the resummed results on the way the resummation is switched off in the $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0$ direction.

Finally, it is straightforward to get the beam and jet function profile scales since they are tied to the corresponding soft profiles by

$$\mu_B(T_1/\mu_{FO}, T_1/T_0) = \sqrt{\mu_{FO}\mu_S(T_1/\mu_{FO}, T_1/T_0)},$$
 (67)

$$\mu_J(T_1/\mu_{FO}, T_1/T_0) = \sqrt{\mu_{FO}\mu_S(T_1/\mu_{FO}, T_1/T_0)},$$
 (68)

and for this process we set the hard scale to be

$$\mu_H = \mu_{\text{FO}} = m_T \equiv \sqrt{m_{\ell^+\ell^-}^2 + q_T^2}.$$
 (69)

When calculating scale variations we vary μ_{FO} by a factor of two in either direction. The soft, jet and beam scales variations are then calculated as detailed in Ref. [28] and summed in quadrature to the hard variations.

Having discussed the implementation of the resummed predictions, some freedom remains in how to treat the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ singular resummed-expanded term. Since for $T_1 > T_0/2$ only the real contribution $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ with three particles can contribute in the fixed-order, one can decide to completely neglect both the resummed and the resummed-expanded terms above that threshold. Alternatively, one can keep them both on, but with the 2D profile scales we have chosen the resummed predictions will naturally match the singular ones for $T_1 \gtrsim T_0/2$ and the two contributions will cancel again in the matched predictions, leaving only the fixed-order real contribution of $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$. This behavior is shown in Fig. 5, where we plot the NLO₂ fixed-order predictions for the T_1/T_0 ratio, together with the N³LL resummed and singular ones. We include two copies of the resummed and singular predictions obtained with and without a hard cut at $T_1/T_0 = 1/2$ on the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ singular contribution. This is immediately evident from the fact that the singular prediction with this cut is zero above $T_1/T_0 = 1/2$. The corresponding resummed prediction does not have the same sharp jump because of the smoothing of the profile scale, but it still experiences a drastic reduction on a short T_1/T_0 range. We also notice that the singular prediction without the hard cut manifests a sudden jump: this is a consequence of the fact that for $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 \leq 1/2$ both the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ and $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$

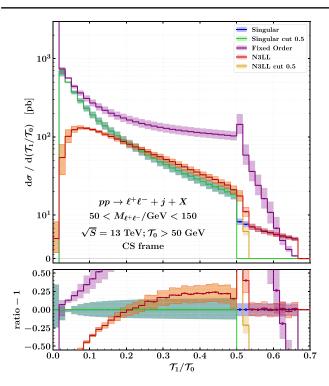


FIG. 5. Comparisons between resummed N³LL results, fixed-order NLO₂ and singular ones for $\mathcal{T}_0 > 50$ GeV with or without a hard cut at $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 < 0.5$ on the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ singular contribution.

terms contribute, while above we only have the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ terms. The instability of this Sudakov shoulder region is also evident in the fixed-order predictions, showing the typical miscancellation between soft and collinear $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ real emissions in the region $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 > 1/2$. These are not compensated by their virtual counterparts, which are confined to the $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 \leq 1/2$ region.

For the predictions obtained in this work we have chosen to allow the singular contribution at order $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ above $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 > 1/2$ up to the true kinematic limit $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 = 2/3$. In principle this choice affects the size of the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ nonsingular contribution across the whole \mathcal{T}_1 spectrum. Therefore we have carefully checked that our choice does not produce numerically significant differences with the choice of imposing $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 \leq 1/2$. In fact, for the plots shown in Fig. 1 we could only spot a very minor difference in the largest bins of the τ_1 distribution.

C. Effects of the inclusion of the gg loop-induced channel

In this subsection we investigate the effect of the inclusion of the NLL resummation of the gg loop-induced channel in addition to the N³LL + NLO2 matched predictions. Since the gg loop-induced channel starts to contribute at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ it is formally necessary to include it already when the resummation of the other channels is performed at NNLL' accuracy. However, as can be seen in Fig. 6, its contribution is extremely small across the whole \mathcal{T}_1 spectrum, reaching a

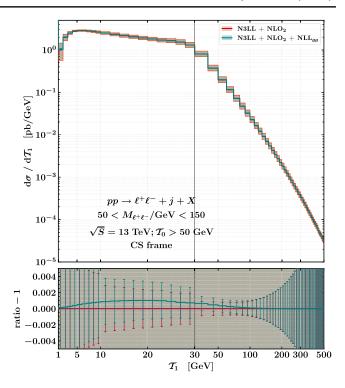


FIG. 6. Effects of the inclusion of the NLL resummation of the gg loop-induced channel on top of the $N^3LL + NLO_2$ matched predictions.

maximum deviation of around one per mille between 10 and 20 GeV. The fact that this deviation is smaller than the numerical uncertainty associated with the Monte Carlo integration allows one to safely neglect this contribution.

D. Results with different \mathcal{T}_0 and q_T cuts

The resummation of one-jettiness requires the presence of a hard jet to have a well-defined Born cross section. In order to investigate the effect of the selection of the hard jet here we discuss the behavior of our predictions for different values of the \mathcal{T}_0 cut. We also present results obtained by requiring that the color singlet has a substantial transverse momentum q_T , which is equivalent to requiring the presence of at least one hard jet with a large k_T imbalance compared with other potential jets. Lowering the \mathcal{T}_0 cut value to 10 or 1 GeV, we observe a worsening of the convergence of the resummed predictions. Moreover, the nonsingular contribution increases with the lowering of the \mathcal{T}_0 cut value and the distance between the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ and $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ contributions widens when reaching the region $T_0 \sim T_1 \ll Q$. This behavior can be easily explained by considering that the factorization formula in Eq. (2) has been derived assuming $T_1 \ll T_0 \sim Q$. A thorough treatment of this region would necessitate a multidifferential resummation of \mathcal{T}_0 and \mathcal{T}_1 , which is beyond the current state of the art [72,73]. If we define the hard jet by placing a cut on the q_T of the color singlet system, we observe a similar behavior when the cut is reduced. In Fig. 7 we show

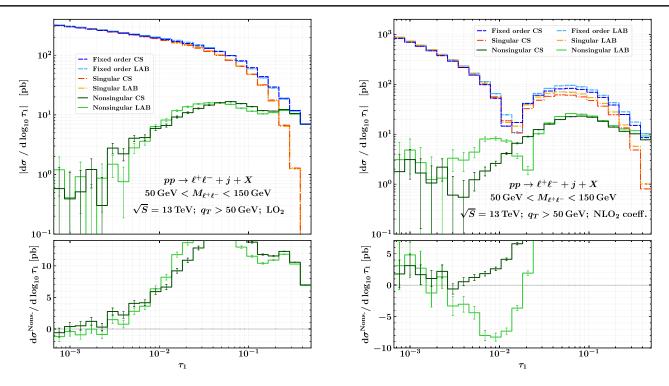


FIG. 7. Absolute values of the $\tau_1 = \mathcal{T}_1/m_T$ spectra with $q_T > 50$ GeV for fixed-order, singular and nonsingular contributions at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ (left) and at pure $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ (right) on a logarithmic scale (upper frames) and signed values for the nonsingular on a linear scale (lower frames). Results for both the laboratory frame (LAB) and the frame where the color-singlet system has zero rapidity (CS) are shown. Statistical errors from Monte Carlo integration, shown as thin vertical error bars, become sizeable at extremely low τ_1 values.

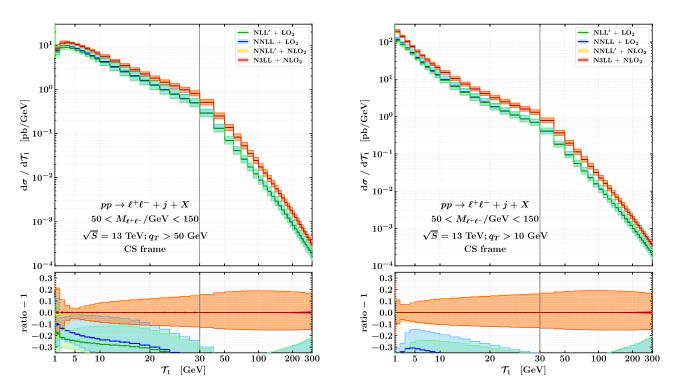


FIG. 8. Resummed results matched to the appropriate fixed-order on a semilogarithmic scale with $q_T > 50$ GeV (left) and with $q_T > 10$ GeV (right).

the nonsingular contributions at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ and $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ with a $q_T > 50$ GeV cut. Compared to the same plot for the $\mathcal{T}_0 > 50$ GeV cut in Fig. 1 we observe a reduced difference between the size of the power corrections for \mathcal{T}_1 definitions in the two different frames.

Finally, in Fig. 8 we show the resummed predictions matched to the fixed-order in the peak region for the additional cuts $q_T > 50 \text{ GeV}$ and $q_T > 10 \text{ GeV}$. We observe that the predictions are very sensitive to the cut value, and the perturbative convergence is rapidly lost when decreasing the cut value too much.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this work, we presented novel predictions for the \mathcal{T}_1 spectrum of the process $pp \to (\gamma^*/Z \to \ell^+\ell^-) + \mathrm{jet}$ at NNLL' and N³LL accuracy in resummed perturbation theory. By matching these results to the appropriate fixed-order calculation, we obtained an accurate description of the spectrum across the entire kinematic range. This is the first time that results at this accuracy have been presented for a process with three colored partons at Born level. Our calculation includes all two-loop singular terms as $\mathcal{T}_1 \to 0$, off-shell effects of the vector bosons, the Z/γ^* interference, as well as spin correlations.

The resummed predictions in the color-singlet frame exhibit a good perturbative convergence, with a significant reduction of theoretical uncertainties as the perturbative order is increased. Notably, the inclusion of N³LL evolution has only a minor effect on our final results. The matching to the fixed-order calculation was achieved by switching off the resummation in the hard region of phase space by means of two-dimensional profile scales, which allow for the kinematic restrictions on the one-jettiness variable to be enforced consistently. Our matched results indicate that the inclusion of the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ nonsingular terms is important due to their large size.

In order to assess the consistency of our implementation, we checked the explicit cancellation of the arbitrary μ dependence which appears in the separate evolution of each of the ingredients in the factorization formula and that the singular structure of the resummed expanded results matches that of the relative fixed order. We found that, in accordance with observations in the literature, the definition of \mathcal{T}_1 in the laboratory frame is subject to larger nonsingular contributions. These arise due to the dependence of the observable on the longitudinal boost between the hadronic and the partonic center-of-mass frames. To mitigate their impact, we found that a different definition of \mathcal{T}_1 (which incorporates a longitudinal boost to the frame where the vector boson has zero rapidity) receives smaller power corrections. This makes it suitable for slicing calculations at NNLO and for use in Monte Carlo event generators which match fixed order predictions to parton shower programs.

The N-jettiness variable is particularly useful in the context of constructing higher-order event generators, since it is able to act as a resolution variable which divides the phase space into exclusive jet bins. In this context, the NNLL' resummed zero-jettiness spectrum has enabled the construction of NNLO + PS generators for color-singlet production using the GENEVA method. The availability of an equally accurate prediction for \mathcal{T}_1 in hadronic collisions will now enable these generators to be extended to cover the case of color singlet production in association with a jet. The predictions presented in this work will be made public in a future release of GENEVA.

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APPENDIX A: ALTERNATIVE PROFILE SCALE CHOICES

In this appendix we study the dependence of the resummed results on the profile scale definition in the $(\mathcal{T}_1/m_T, \mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0)$ plane. We start by showing the functional form of μ_S for the default 2D profile scales in Fig. 9. As observed, when the LO₂ kinematical constraint Eq. (63) is satisfied, the factor $s^{(2,100)}(\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 \lesssim 1/2) \to 1$ in Eq. (65) and therefore the scaling of μ_S is entirely dictated by f_{run} , depending only on the value of $\mathcal{T}_1/\mu_{\text{FO}}$. On the other hand, when the $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 \leq 1/2$ condition is violated, $s^{(2,100)}(\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 \gtrsim 1/2) \to 0$, which implies that $\mu_S = \mu_{\text{FO}}$. This is a crucial asymptotic limit, since for $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 \gtrsim 1/2$ the fixed-order and singular cross sections pass a kinematical boundary. Therefore, since the fixed-order corrections are extremely relevant in that region, care must be taken to switch off the \mathcal{T}_1 resummation before passing the same threshold.

In Fig. 10 we show resummed predictions obtained using 2D profiles with p=3 and k=10, which results in a earlier and smoother switch-off of the resummation around $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0 \sim 1/3$. As one can see by comparing the results with the left panel of Fig. 2, by doing so the convergence of successive perturbative orders is slightly worsened. Alternatively, we have explored the usage of 1D profile scales, either by removing the suppression in the $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0$ direction, see Fig. 11, or by switching off the resummation in the $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0$ direction by means of a 1D hybrid profile, see Fig. 12. The hybrid profile approach has previously been successfully used in enforcing multidifferential profile scales switch-offs [74]. In our case it is defined by

$$\mu_{S}(\mathcal{T}_{1}/\mu_{FO}, \mathcal{T}_{1}/\mathcal{T}_{0}) = \mu_{FO} f_{run}(\mathcal{T}_{1}/\mathcal{T}_{0}) + \mathcal{T}_{1}(1 - f_{run}(\mathcal{T}_{1}/\mathcal{T}_{0})), \quad (A1)$$

where now the argument of $f_{\rm run}$ is the ratio ${\cal T}_1/{\cal T}_0$ rather than ${\cal T}_1/\mu_{\rm FO}$. The formula in Eq. (A1) smoothly interpolates between ${\cal T}_1$ and $\mu_{\rm FO}$ on a diagonal slice of the

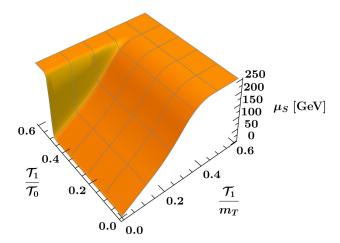


FIG. 9. Functional form of the two-dimensional soft profile scale.

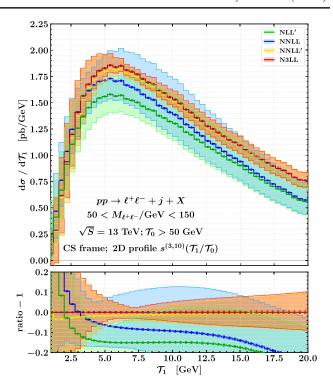


FIG. 10. Resummed results for one-jettiness distribution with $\mathcal{T}_0 >$ 50 GeV at increasing accuracy, for the 2D profile with $s^{(3,10)}(\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0)$.

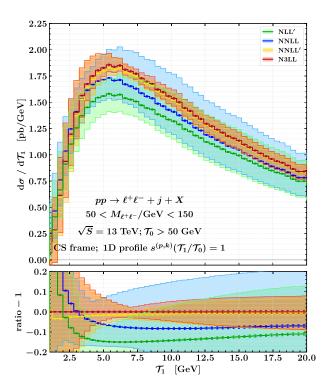


FIG. 11. Resummed results for one-jettiness distribution with $\mathcal{T}_0 > 50$ GeV at increasing accuracy, for the 1D flat profile $s^{(p,k)}(\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0) = 1$.

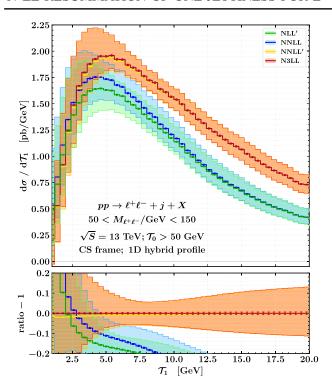


FIG. 12. Resummed results for one-jettiness distribution with $\mathcal{T}_0 > 50$ GeV at increasing accuracy, for the 1D hybrid profile discussed in the text.

 $(\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0, \mathcal{T}_1/m_T)$ plane. In Fig. 11 we observe that removing the $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0$ suppression has very small effects on the \mathcal{T}_1 distribution, maintaining a good perturbative convergence across orders. This, however, does not provide the correct suppression of the resummation effects past the kinematic endpoint in the $\mathcal{T}_1/\mathcal{T}_0$ direction. The usage of the hybrid profile shows instead a much poorer convergence (see Fig. 12). In particular, we notice a change in the resummed predictions also in the peak region, which should follow a canonical scaling. This is easily explained by the fact that for the hybrid profiles in Eq. (A1) the μ_S behavior at low \mathcal{T}_1 is changed from \mathcal{T}_1 to $(1+m_T/\mathcal{T}_0)\mathcal{T}_1$, which is still a canonical scaling but includes small artificial leftover logarithms.

APPENDIX B: UNCERTAINTY BUDGET

In this appendix we study the size of the variation bands associated with the possible sources of theoretical uncertainties for our best predictions. In Fig. 13 we show the resummation uncertainty for the calculation of the \mathcal{T}_1 resummed spectrum at N³LL accuracy normalized to its central value. In the same plot we also show the uncertainties stemming from the separate variations of the fixed-order scale μ_{FO} , the beam μ_B , the jet μ_J and the soft μ_S scales. We remind the reader that the final uncertainty is obtained by summing in quadrature the μ_{FO} variations and

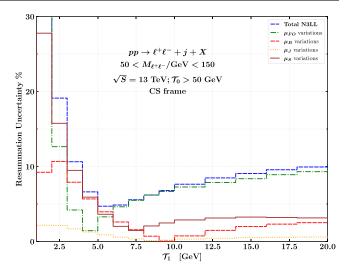


FIG. 13. Uncertainty budget for the N³LL resummed calculation of the one-jettiness distribution with $T_0 > 50$ GeV.

the symmetrized convolution of all the other resummation variations. In the plot we show the maximum distance on the uncertainty band from the central prediction. Due to the use of the profile scales described in Sec. III B, all resummation scales flow to μ_H for large values of \mathcal{T}_1 . The region where the soft or beam scales play an important role in the total uncertainty budget is therefore limited to the peak region, as expected. It should also be noted that for extremely low values of \mathcal{T}_1 both the soft and the fixed-order variations become large, signalling a deterioration in the convergence of the perturbation theory also for the resummed calculation.

The uncertainty budget for the calculation of the \mathcal{T}_1 matched spectrum at $N^3LL + NLO_2$ accuracy is instead shown in Fig. 14, now normalized to its central value.

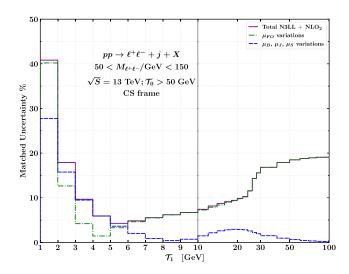


FIG. 14. Uncertainty budget for the N³LL + NLO₂ matched calculation of the one-jettiness distribution with $T_0 > 50$ GeV.

In this case the μ_{FO} variations become dominant for moderately small values of \mathcal{T}_1 . Even at very small values around 2 GeV, the uncertainty stemming from the non-singular contribution is of similar size (or larger) than that coming from the resummed part, highlighting the need for an accurate description of both contributions.

APPENDIX C: RESUMMED FORMULA AT N³LL ACCURACY

In this section we report the full formula for the N³LL resummation with the explicit combination of the hard, soft, beam, and jet boundary terms, evaluated at the appropriate order, for completeness. It reads

$$\begin{split} \frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma^{\mathrm{syl},1}}{\mathrm{d}\Phi_{1}dT_{1}} &= \sum_{\kappa} \exp\left\{4(C_{a} + C_{b})K_{\Gamma,\mathrm{ore}}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{B},\mu_{H}) + 4C_{c}K_{\Gamma,\mathrm{ore}}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{J},\mu_{H}) - 2(C_{a} + C_{b} + C_{c})K_{\Gamma,\mathrm{ore}}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{S},\mu_{H}) \\ &- 2C_{c}L_{J}\eta_{\Gamma,\mathrm{ore}}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{J},\mu_{H}) - 2(C_{a}L_{B} + C_{b}L_{B})\eta_{\Gamma,\mathrm{ore}}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{B},\mu_{H}) + K_{\Gamma,\mathrm{ore}}^{\mathrm{Syl},1} \\ &+ \left[C_{a} \ln\left(\frac{Q_{a}^{2}t}{st}\right) + C_{b} \ln\left(\frac{Q_{b}^{2}t}{st}\right) + C_{k_{J}} \ln\left(\frac{Q_{J}^{2}s}{tt}\right) + (C_{a} + C_{b} + C_{c})L_{S}\right]\eta_{\Gamma,\mathrm{ore}}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{S},\mu_{H}) \\ &+ \sum_{K=F_{A}} \left[8(D_{aR} + D_{bR})K_{S}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{S},\mu_{H}) + 8D_{cR}K_{S}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{J},\mu_{H}) \\ &- 4(D_{aR} + D_{bR} + D_{cR})K_{S}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{S},\mu_{H}) + 4D_{cR}L_{J}\eta_{S}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{J},\mu_{H}) - 4(D_{aR}L_{B} + D_{bR}L_{B}')\eta_{S}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{S},\mu_{H}) \\ &+ 2\left[D_{aR} \ln\left(\frac{Q_{a}^{2}t}{st}\right) + D_{bR} \ln\left(\frac{Q_{B}^{2}t}{st}\right) + D_{cR} \ln\left(\frac{Q_{J}^{2}s}{tt}\right) + (D_{aR} + D_{bR} + D_{cR})L_{S}\right]\eta_{S}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\mu_{S},\mu_{H}) \right]\right\} \\ &\times \left\{H_{k}^{(0)}(\Phi_{1},\mu_{H})\left[f_{\kappa_{a}}(x_{a},\mu_{B})f_{\kappa_{b}}(x_{b},\mu_{B})\left(1 + \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{S})}{4\pi}\tilde{J}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\partial_{q_{S}} + L_{S},\mu_{S}) + \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4\pi}\tilde{J}^{\mathrm{Syl},1}(\partial_{q_{S}} + L_{S},\mu_{S}) \right. \\ &+ \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4\pi}\tilde{J}_{k_{s}}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{J},\mu_{J}) + \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{B})}{16\pi^{2}}\tilde{J}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{J},\mu_{J})\tilde{J}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{S},\mu_{S}) \\ &+ \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4\pi}\tilde{J}_{k_{s}}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{B},\mu_{s}) + \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{16\pi^{2}}\tilde{J}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{S},\mu_{S}) \\ &+ \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4\pi}\tilde{J}_{k_{s}}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{J},\mu_{J}) + \frac{\alpha_{s}^{2}(\mu_{H})}{16\pi^{2}}\tilde{J}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{S},\mu_{s}) + \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4\pi}\tilde{J}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{S},\mu_{s}) \\ &+ \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4\pi}\tilde{J}_{k_{s}}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{J},\mu_{J}) + \frac{\alpha_{s}^{2}(\mu_{H})}{16\pi^{2}}\tilde{J}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{B},\mu_{s},\mu_{s}) \right) \\ &+ \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4\pi}\tilde{J}_{k_{s}}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{S},\mu_{S}) + \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4\pi}\tilde{J}_{k_{s}}^{\mathrm{Syl},0}(\partial_{q_{s}} + L_{S},\mu_{s}) \\ &+ \frac{\alpha_{s}(\mu_{H})}{4\pi}\tilde{J}_{k_{s}}^{\mathrm{Sy$$

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