Making NLO predictions for Method 2

John Campbell
ANL

In collaboration with:
J. Huston

Introduction

- We must understand QCD production of:

$W+$ jets $W+b\bar{b}$ $W+b\bar{b}+$ jets	as large backgrounds to:	$t\bar{t}$ single top Higgs production other new physics

- There are many LO tools (ALPGEN, COMPHEP, Madevent, etc.) but:
  - LO lacks a predictive normalization;
  - often does not include all partonic processes (for example, $gg \to W+1$ jet enters at NLO only).
- We would like to use NLO predictions throughout, but the current state of the art in this area is limited to $W+2$ jets and $W+b\bar{b}$ (MCFM, http://mcfm.fnal.gov/).

CDF's 'Method 2'

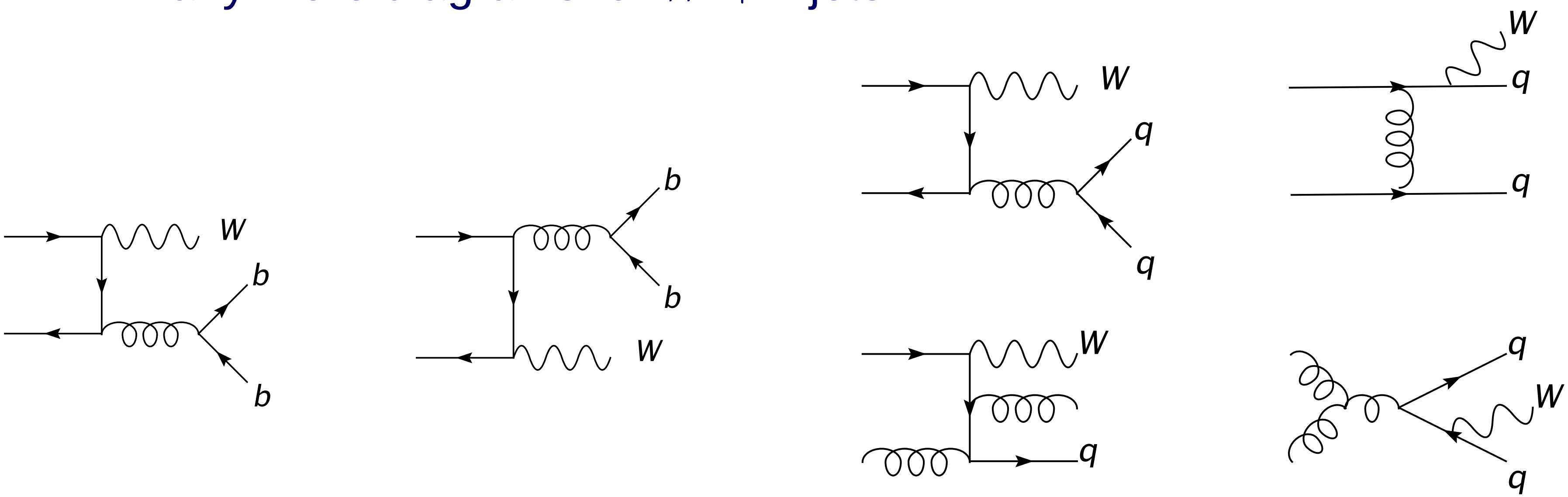
- To predict the number of $W + b\bar{b}+$ jet events, CDF uses a mix of theory and data.
- They use ALPGEN (leading order) + Herwig to estimate the fraction of $W + n$ jet events that contain two b's.
- The prediction for the $W + b\bar{b}+$ jets cross-section is then obtained from:

$$\sigma(Wb\bar{b} + (n-2)\text{ jets}) = \left[\frac{\sigma(Wb\bar{b} + (n-2)\text{ jets})}{\sigma(W + n\text{ jets})}\right]_{MC} \times [\sigma(W + n\text{ jets})]_{\text{data}}$$

- One would like to know how this ratio depends on:
  - the order in perturbation theory;
  - the choice of renormalization and factorization scales;
  - the number of jets, n.
- Can investigate some of these issues for $n = 2$ using MCFM.

$Wb\bar{b}$ vs. $W + 2$ jets

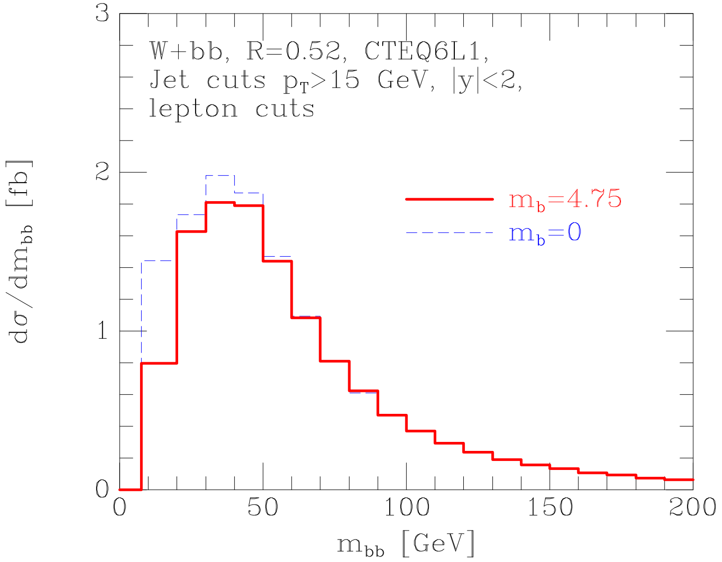
- Many more diagrams for $W + 2$ jets.

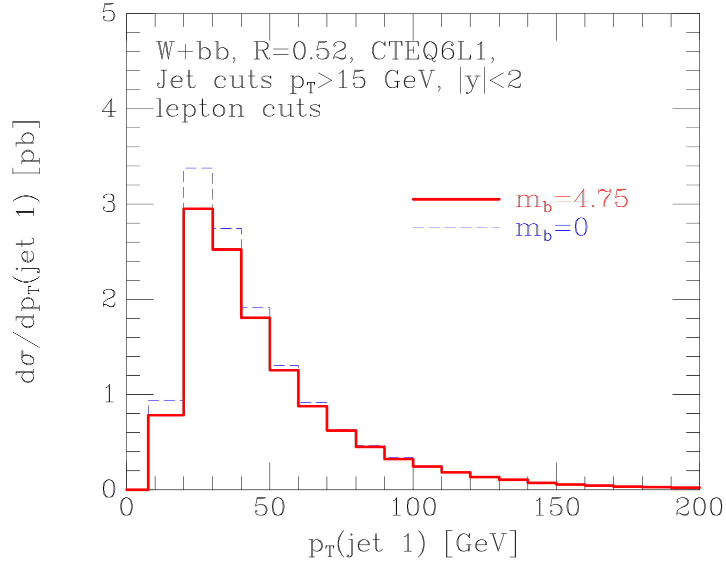


- Notably, $Wb\bar{b}$ has no gluon contribution at LO and b's are produced by gluon splitting only.
- b is treated as a massless particle in MCFM and the singularity protected by an invariant-mass cutoff.

Mass effects

- Examine the effects of introducing the b-mass at lowest order, which is easily calculable.

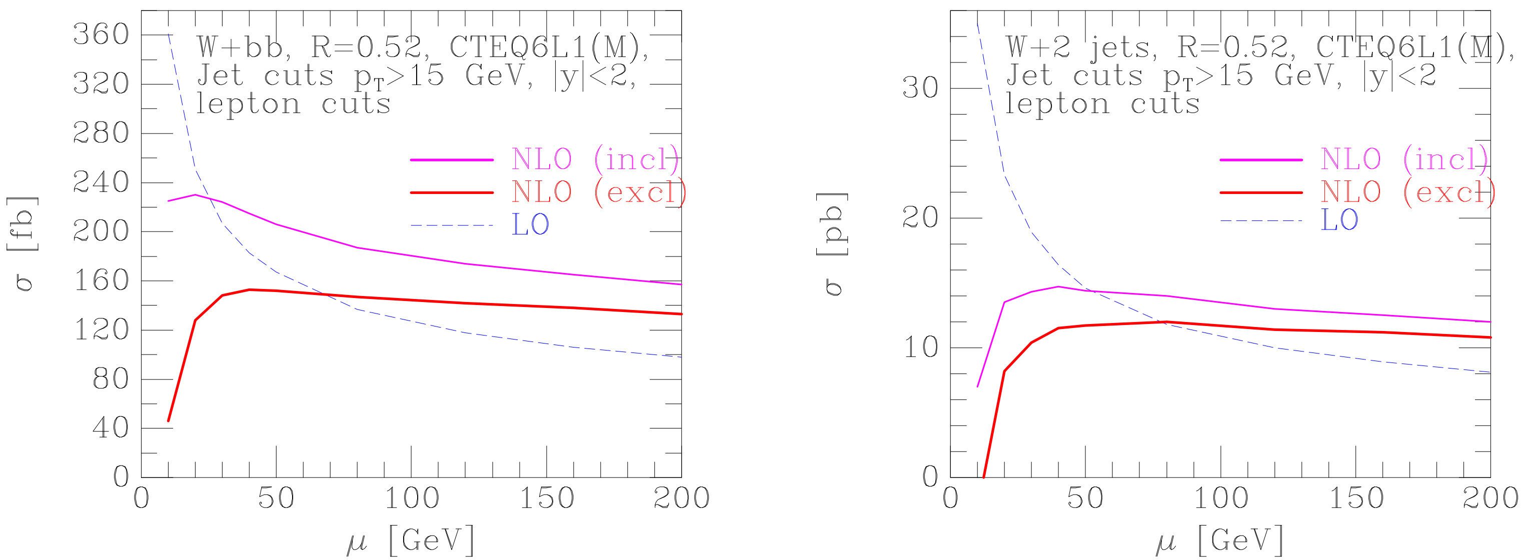




- Overall the cross section decreases by approximately 10%. Kinematic distributions are not much affected away from regions of low $p_T(b)$.

Scale dependence

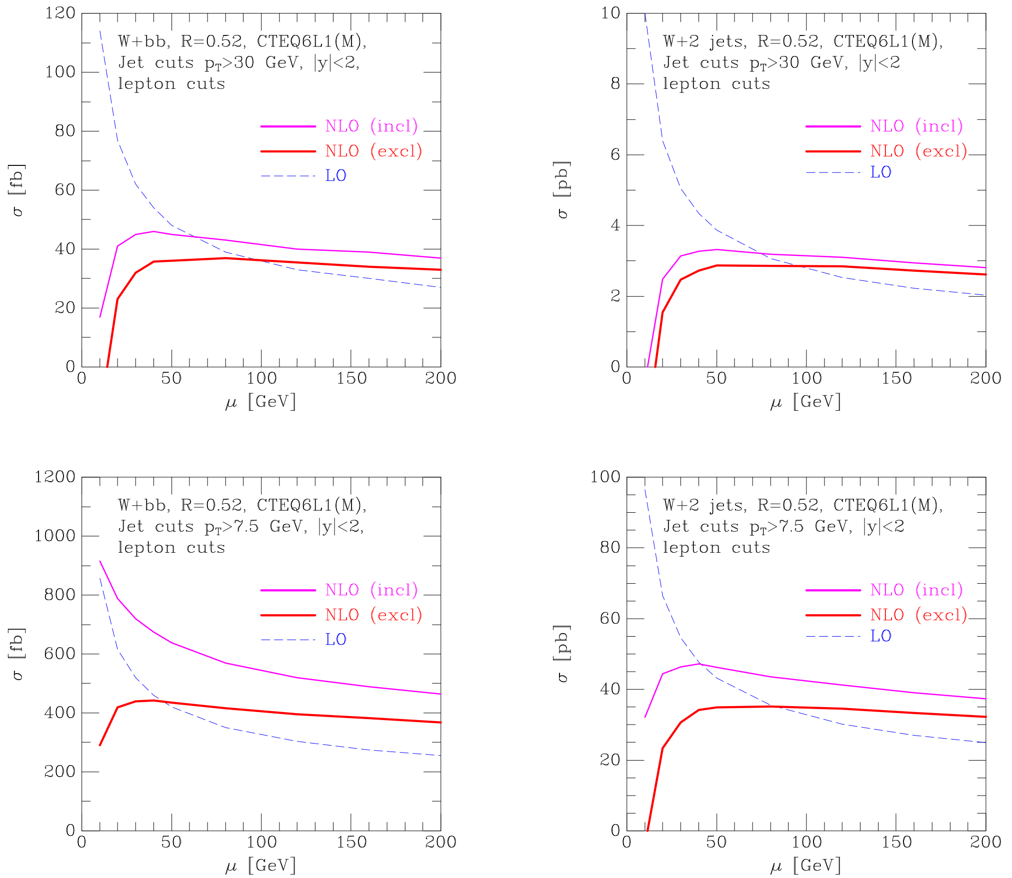
- Usual scale dependence, much reduced at NLO.



- Inclusive result (allows $Wb\bar{b}j$, $W+3$ jet configurations) shows more scale dependence, as expected.
- Exclusive cross-sections stable over a large range of scales.

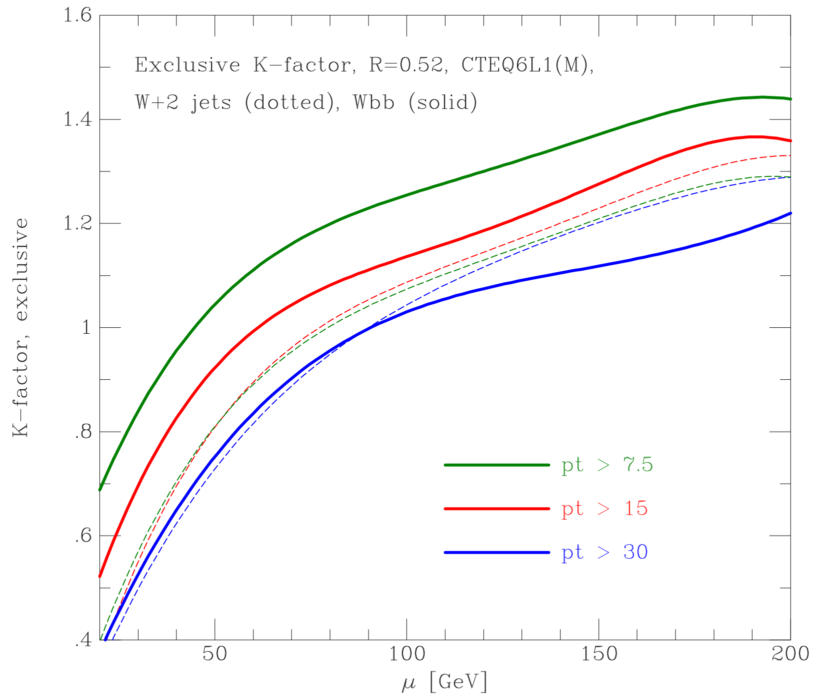
Jet p_T dependence

- Increasing the minimum jet p_T reduces the 3 jet contribution compared to the 2 jet one, so the behaviour of the inclusive cross-section improves.



Scale dependence of K-factors

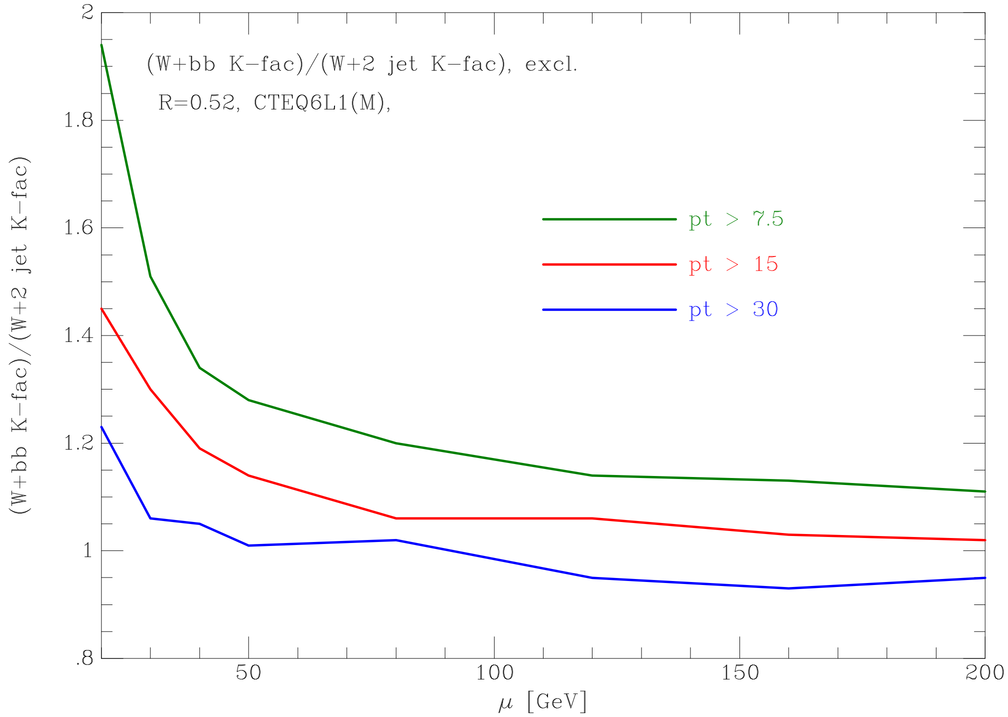
- Strong scale dependence.
- The $Wb\bar{b}$ K-factor varies greatly with the minimum jet p_T, whereas the $W+2$ jets one does not.



- Scale dependence has a similar shape for both processes.

Reliability of Method 2 at NLO

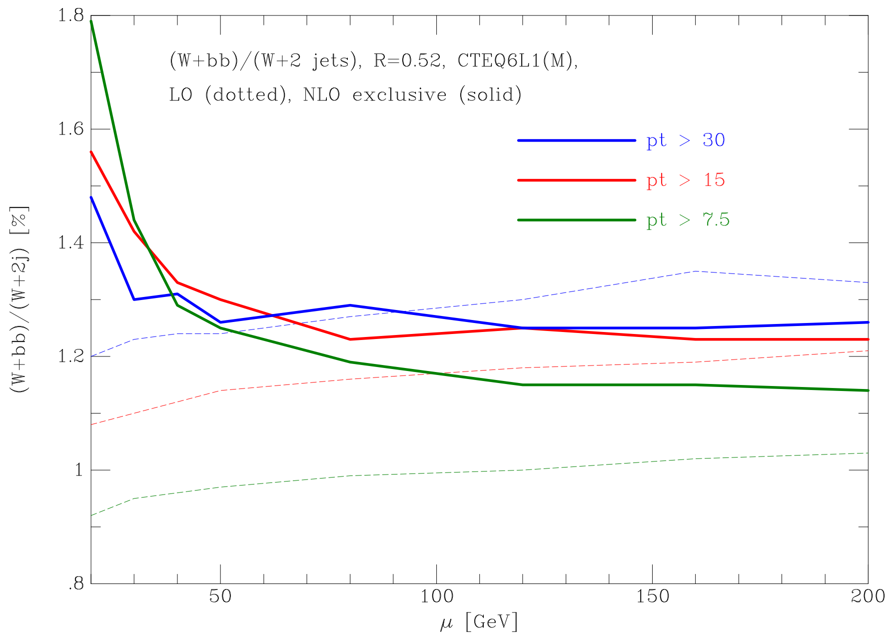
- If we are to trust Method 2, the ratio of K-factors should be ~ 1.



- This seems to be true for scale choices around 50 GeV or greater and p_T cuts of about 15 GeV or greater.
- Markedly worse for lower jet p_T cuts.

b-jet fraction

- At NLO, ratio is stable across a wide range of scales.

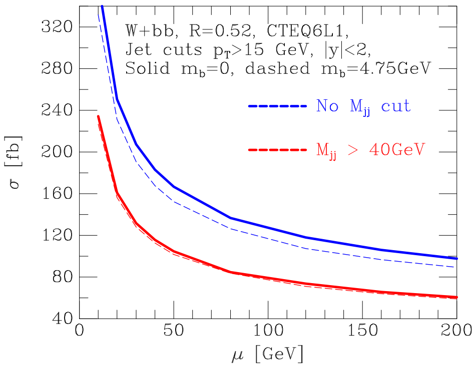


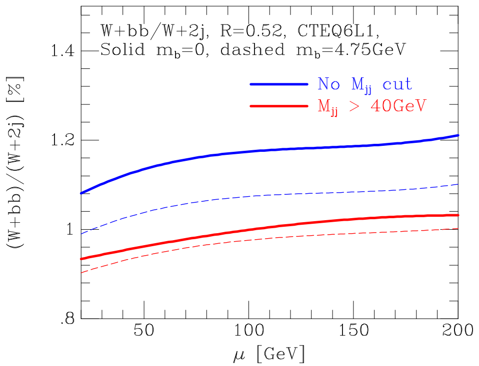
- For a p_T cut of 15 GeV and $\mu \sim M_W$, we have:

$$\left[\frac{\sigma(Wb\bar{b})}{\sigma(W+2\text{ jets})}\right]_{LO} = 1.16\%, \qquad \left[\frac{\sigma(Wb\bar{b})}{\sigma(W+2\text{ jets})}\right]_{NLO} = 1.23\%$$

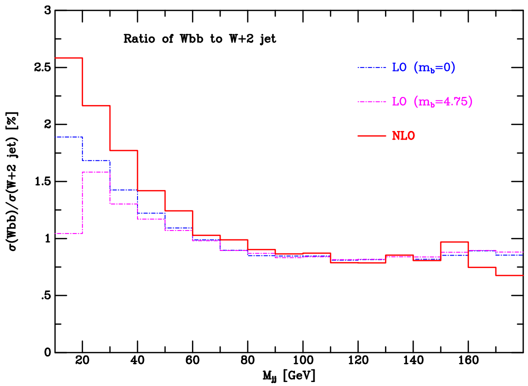
$b\bar{b}$ mass cut

- Such a cut would be helpful, if it could be experimentally enforced:
  - It improves the massless approximation



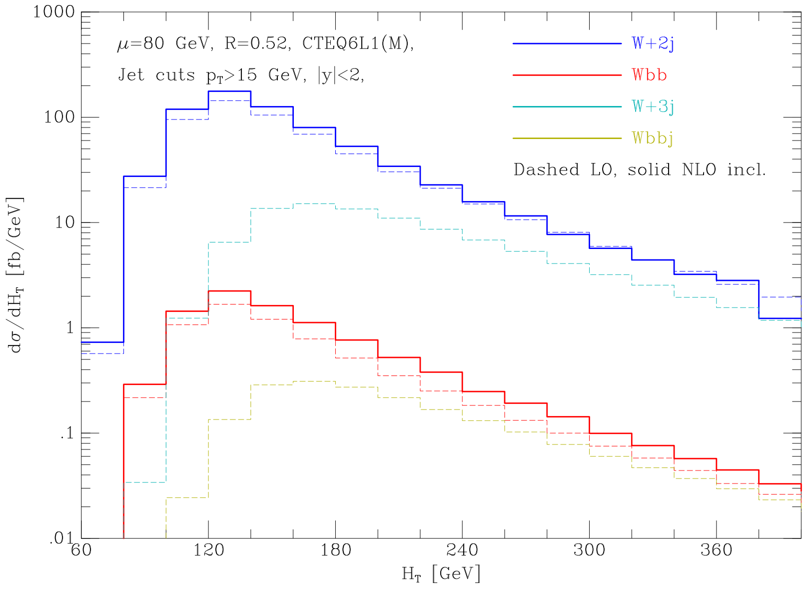


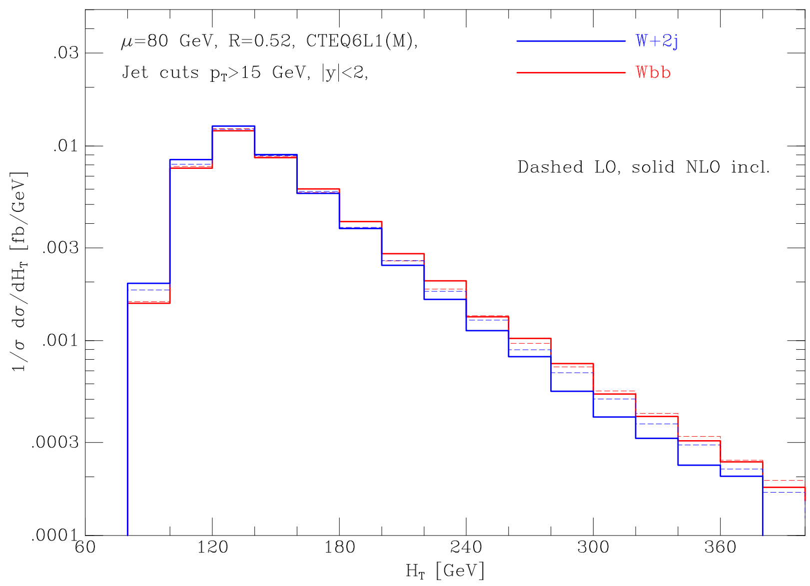
  - It reduces this background compared to, for example, $t\bar{t}$ production, since here the b's like to lie at low invariant mass.



Kinematic distributions

- NLO behaviour may provide clues to processes with more jets, especially for very inclusive variables such as $\sum E_T(\text{jet})$ and $H_T = \sum_{\text{event}} E_T$.

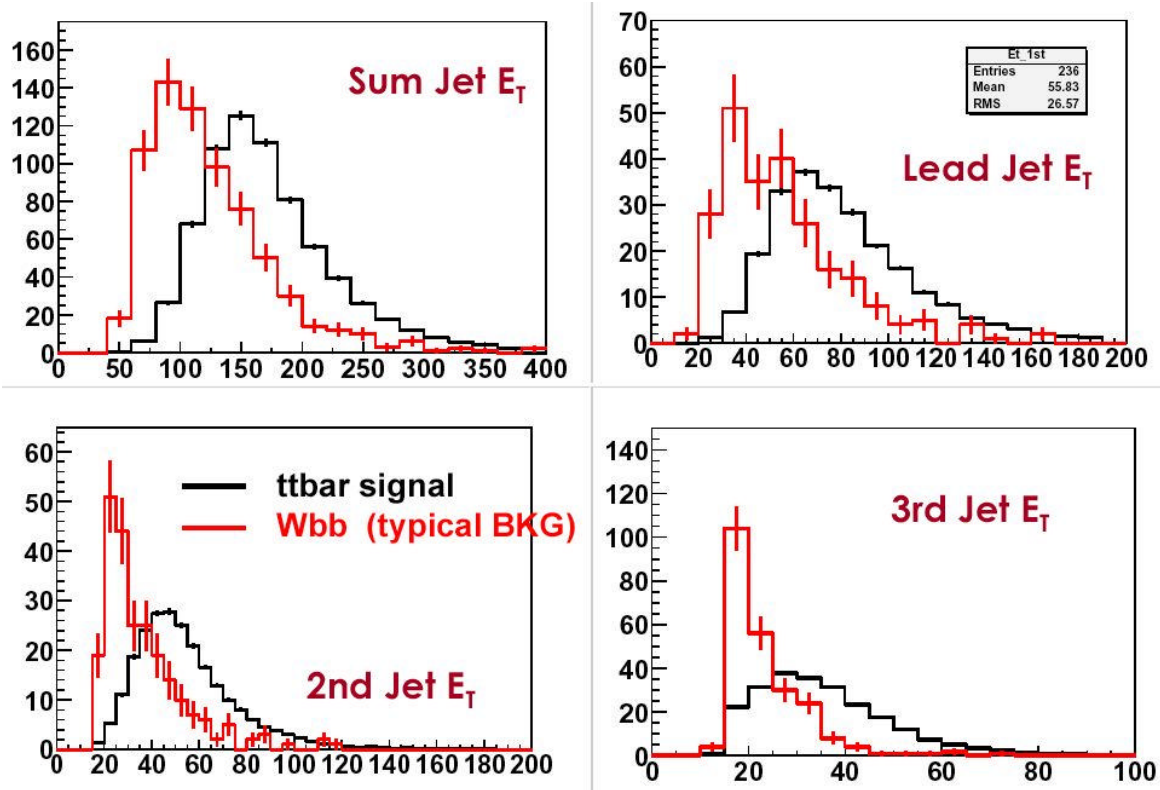




- $Wb\bar{b}$ shape is relatively unchanged at NLO, compared to $W + 2$ jets.

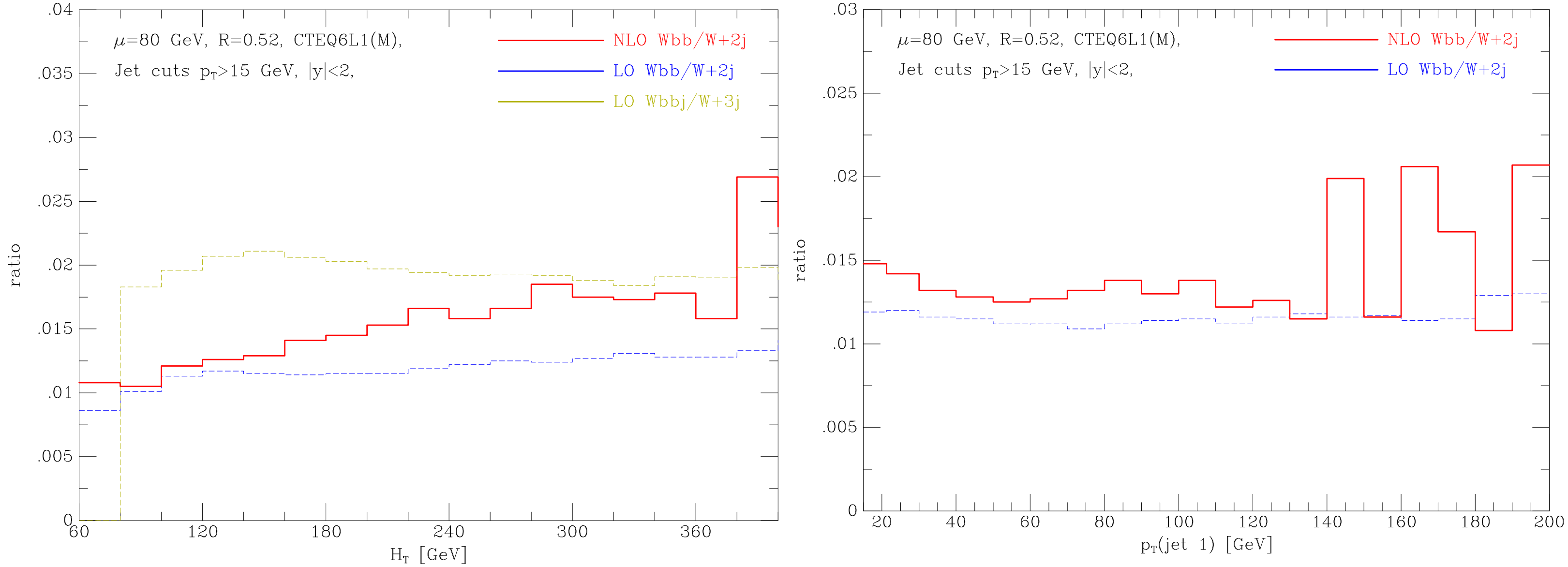
Shape comparisons

- Top analysis, which would like to make kinematic cuts to reduce the $W+$ jet backgrounds, relies on similar shapes of kinematic distributions.



NLO predictions

- Statistics limited at the moment, but evidence for a change of shape in the H_T distribution.

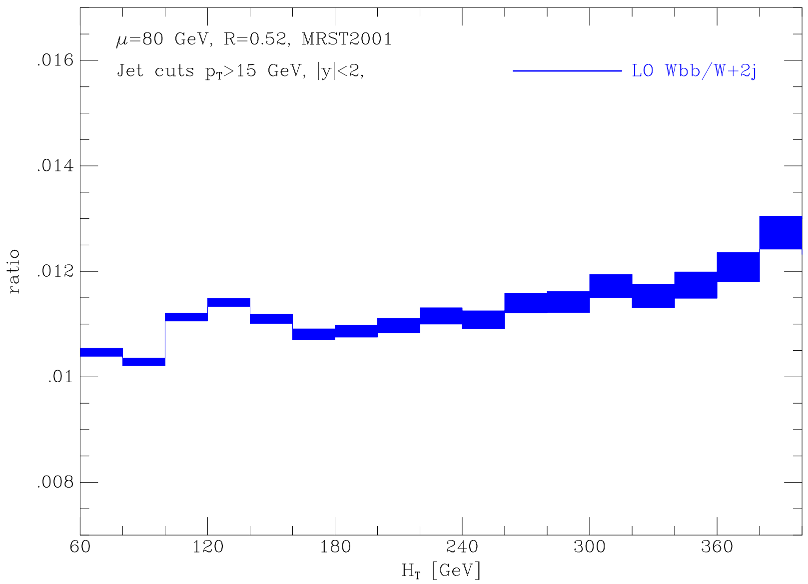


- Does not seem to be due to extra parton flux.
- Effect on analyses still being studied.

PDF uncertainties

- Implemented in MCFM using LHAPDF (see http://pdf.fnal.gov/).
- Beta version of the LHAPDF code uses grid versions of the PDF's so that cross-sections using all PDF error sets can be calculated in one Monte Carlo run.
- At present, not all PDF sets are implemented in this form.

The uncertainty on the total $Wb\bar{b}$ cross-section is $\pm 1.5\%$.



Outlook

- The $W+$ jets channel is very important for many physics searches in Run II and should be understood to the best of our ability.
- There should be lots to learn from the NLO corrections that we know about, i.e. $Wb\bar{b}$ and $W+2$ jets.
- Too early to predict the effects of these results on Run II analyses, but preliminary results suggest that we can proceed with more confidence.
- Inclusion of PDF errors in the Monte Carlo (and LHAPDF) is a step in the right direction.
- Comparisons with parton shower approaches and data should be coming soon.