

# Born-Projected Leptons in Drell-Yan Final-State

Roger Balsach

work in progress in collaboration with F. Tackmann and G. Marinelli

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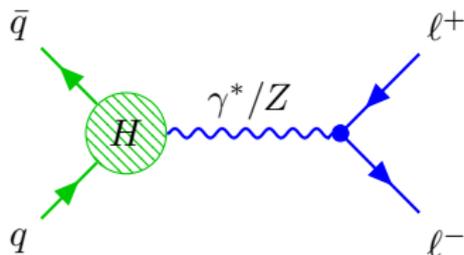
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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Born-Projected Leptons
- 3 Born Leptons: Theory vs Monte Carlo
- 4 FSR Effects in  $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell^- \ell^+$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^4q} = \frac{1}{2s} \sum_{V,V'} W_{VV'}^{\mu\nu}(q) L_{VV'\mu\nu}(q)$$

- $W^{\mu\nu}$ : Hadronic tensor for  $pp \rightarrow V/V' + X \rightarrow \dots$
- $L_{\mu\nu}$ : Leptonic tensor for  $V/V' \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$



All QCD dynamics in  $W^{\mu\nu}$ .  $L^{\mu\nu}$  tree level (2-body).

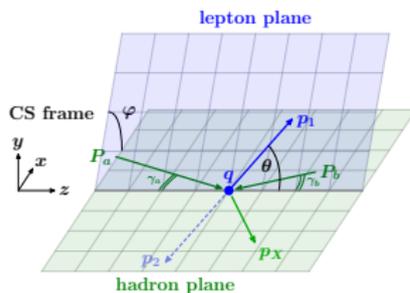
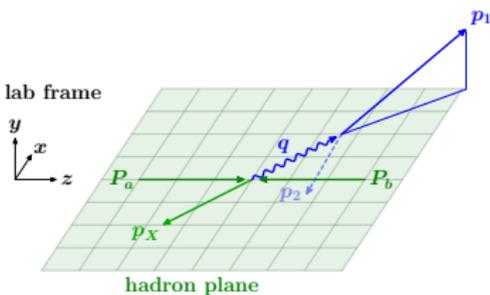
Initial-Final factorisation enables to resum QCD corrections to  $W^{\mu\nu}$  to  $N^3\text{LO} + N^4\text{LL}$ .

# Angular Decomposition in Vector Boson Decays

For a **2-body decay** of a vector boson, the differential cross section can be decomposed as:

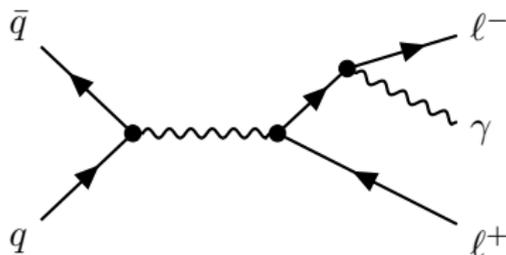
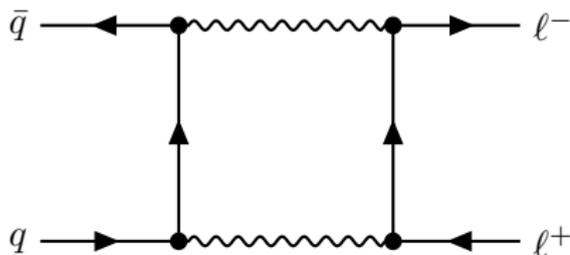
$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^4q d\cos(\theta) d\varphi} = \frac{3}{16\pi} \frac{d\sigma}{d^4q} \sum_{i=-1}^7 A_i g_i(\theta, \varphi)$$

- $A_i$ : Angular coefficients.
- $\theta$  and  $\varphi$ : spherical coordinates of  $p_1$  in the **Collins-Soper frame**.
- Used by experimentalists to study boson polarization and to extract the weak mixing angle.



# Including EW/QED corrections

- Initial-state radiation (ISR).
- Virtual contributions, including initial-final interference.
- Final-state radiation (FSR).



ISR resummation analogous to QCD:

[L. Cieri, G. Ferrera & G. Sborlini, JHEP 08 (2018) 165]

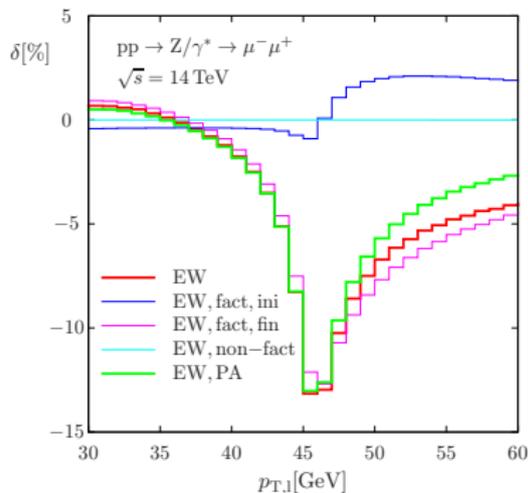
[G. Billis, F. Tackmann & J. Tablert, JHEP 03 (2020) 182]

[L. Buonocore, L. Rottoli & P. Torrielli, JHEP 07 (2024) 193]

[A. Autieri, S. Camarda, L. Cieri, G. Ferrera & G. Sborlini, arxiv:2511.07324]

and more!

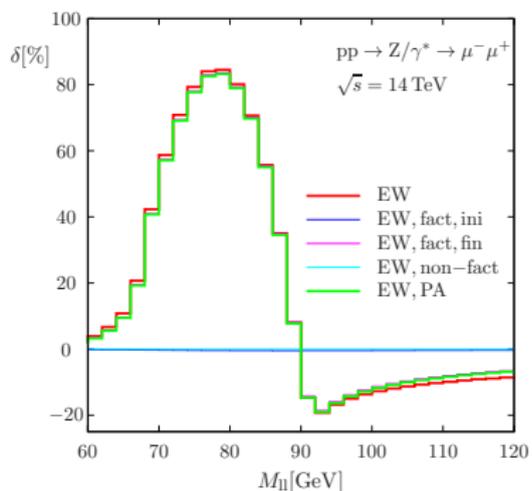
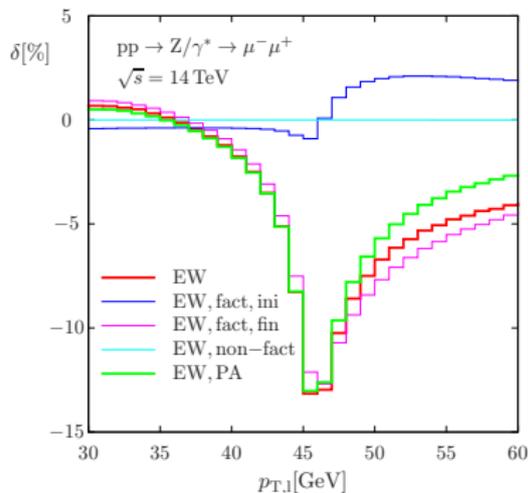
# Electroweak Corrections in Drell–Yan



[S. Dittmaier et al., Nucl. Phys. B 885 (2014) 318]

- Initial-final interference **breaks factorisation**.
- Contributions: **factorisable initial**, **factorisable final**, **non-factorisable**.
- Systematic treatment via the *pole approximation*.
- **Non-factorisable** corrections are negligible.
- Factorisable EW contributions to  $L^{\mu\nu}$  are the dominant contributions.

# Electroweak Corrections in Drell–Yan



[S. Dittmaier et al., Nucl. Phys. B 885 (2014) 318]

## Why FSR matters

- Shifts the reconstructed dilepton invariant mass.
- Strongly affects the cross section near the  $Z$  pole.
- $q_T \neq p_T^{\ell\ell}$ . We resum the first, but measure the latter.

## Reminder: Angular decomposition requirements

- Leptonic tensor at **LO**.
- Two-particle final state.
- Angular variables defined in the **Collins–Soper frame**.

## Effect of QED radiation

- Final-state photon emission:  $\ell^+ \ell^- \gamma$ .
- Final state no longer two-body.
- Leptons are not emitted back-to-back.
- How to even define the angular variables  $\theta, \varphi$ ?

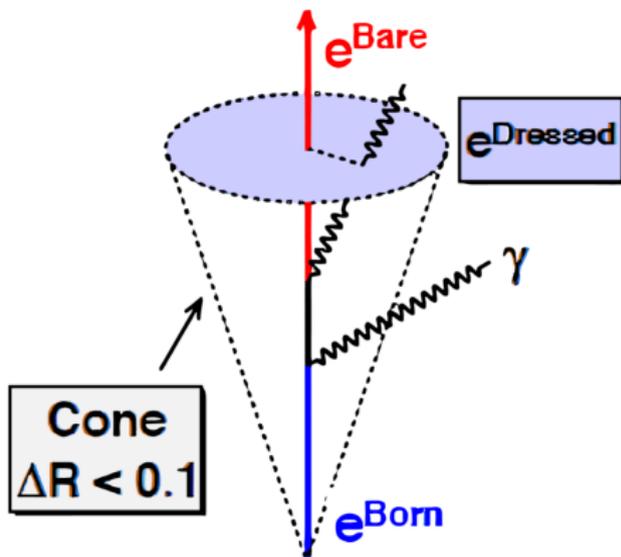
Some generalisations to the angular coefficients have been used:

[R. Frederix & T. Vitos, Eur. Phys. J. C 80 (2020) 939]

[M. Pellen, R. Poncelet, A. Popescu & T. Vitos, Eur. Phys. J. C 82 (2022) 693]

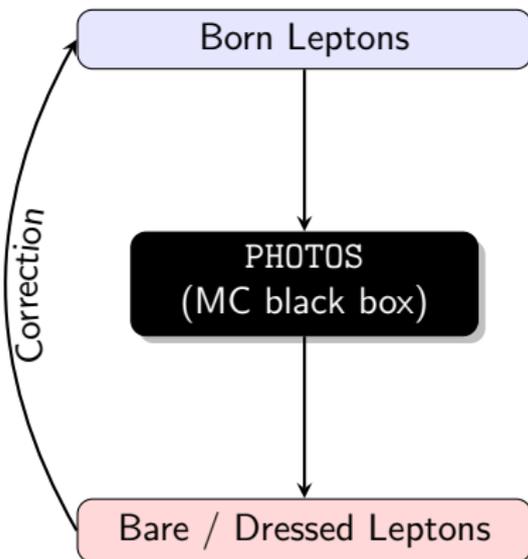
In the presence of **final-state radiation**, leptons can be defined in several ways:

- **Bare leptons:** the charged lepton itself, ignoring any photons radiated.
- **Dressed leptons:** the lepton combined with photons in a small cone ( $\Delta R < 0.1$ ).
- **Born leptons:** the theoretical lepton before any QED radiation.



Born leptons are typically reconstructed using Monte Carlo tools: PHOTOS.

- PHOTOS simulates QED photon emission.
- **MC-Born lepton** are inferred by “undoing” this radiation.
- Used to recover LO-like kinematics.
- The procedure is a black box.
- **How to make them theoretically well-defined?**



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# Born-Projected Leptons

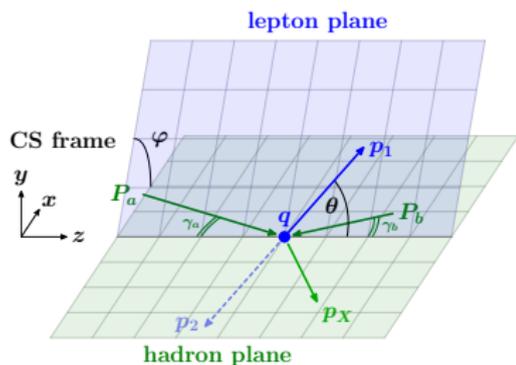
Decay with FSR:  $V(q) \rightarrow \ell^+(p_1)\ell^-(p_2) + \gamma(k)$

## Final-state radiation

- Bare leptons satisfy:

$$q^\mu = p_1^\mu + p_2^\mu + k^\mu, \quad k^\mu \neq 0$$

- Leptons are not back-to-back in the Collins–Soper frame.
- Angular variables are ill-defined.



## Born-projected leptons

- Define projected momenta:  
 $P_1^\mu, P_2^\mu$

- Enforce:

$$q^\mu = P_1^\mu + P_2^\mu,$$

$$P_i^\mu \rightarrow p_i^\mu \text{ as } k^\mu \rightarrow 0$$

- Defines a map from  $\ell^+\ell^-\gamma$  to an effective **two-body** phase space.

The full multi-body leptonic system is projected onto effective two-body kinematics:

$$F_{VV'}^{\mu\nu}(P_1, P_2) = (2\pi)^2 \int L_{VV'}^{\mu\nu}(\Phi_L) \delta^{(4)}(P_1 - \hat{P}_1(\Phi_L)) d\Phi_L$$

Here  $\hat{P}_1(\Phi_L)$  defines the Born momentum in terms of the full leptonic phase space.

Using Lorentz covariance and the orthogonality relation  $q_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = 0$ :

$$F^{\mu\nu}(P_1, P_2) = \mathcal{F}_+^{\mu\nu}(\theta, \varphi) F_+(q^2) + \mathcal{F}_0^{\mu\nu}(\theta, \varphi) F_0(q^2) + \mathcal{F}_-^{\mu\nu}(\theta, \varphi) F_-(q^2)$$

The scalar  $F_i$  coefficients **generalise** the LO leptonic ones:

$$F_\pm = L_\pm (1 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{em}})), \quad F_0 = \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{em}})$$

# Generalised Angular Decomposition

Using Born-projected leptons  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ , the final state is effectively a two-body decay. The angular decomposition is therefore recovered.

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^4q d\cos\theta d\varphi} = \frac{3}{16\pi} \frac{d\sigma}{d^4q} \sum_{i=-1}^7 \tilde{A}_i g_i(\theta, \varphi)$$

## Generalised angular coefficients (including EW corrections)

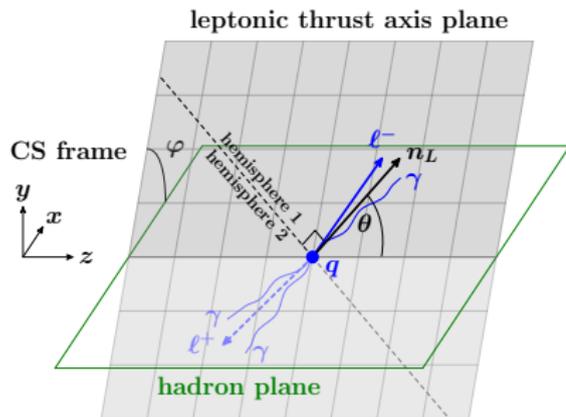
$$\tilde{A}_0 = \frac{F_+ W_0 + F_0 W_{\text{inc}}}{(F_+ + \frac{3}{2} F_0) W_{\text{inc}}}, \quad \tilde{A}_{i>0} = \frac{F_{\pm(i)} W_i}{(F_+ + \frac{3}{2} F_0) W_{\text{inc}}}$$

These coefficients reduce to the LO ones for  $k \rightarrow 0$ .

Unlike other generalisations, they retain  
a **clear physical interpretation**.

# Born-Projections via the Thrust Axis

Any **IR**–**safe** projection  $\hat{P}_1^\mu(\Phi_L)$  defines a valid Born-projected lepton. One choice is to cluster the FSR using the **thrust axis**:



$$\hat{P}_1^\mu(\Phi_L) = \frac{Q}{2} (t^\mu + n_L^\mu),$$

$$Q = \sqrt{q^2},$$

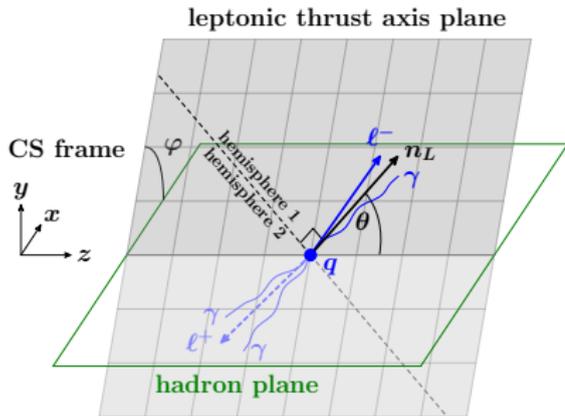
$$t^\mu = \frac{1}{Q} q^\mu,$$

$$\vec{n}_L(\Phi_L) = \pm \arg \max_{\vec{n} \in S^2} \sum_{i \in L} |\vec{n} \cdot \vec{p}_i|$$

- Choose the sign such that in the absence of radiation  $\hat{P}_1(\Phi_L) = p_1$ .
- Provides a **concrete definition** of Born leptons, enabling **calculable** theoretical predictions.

# Born-Projections via the Thrust Axis

Any **IR**–**safe** projection  $\hat{P}_1^\mu(\Phi_L)$  defines a valid Born-projected lepton. One choice is to cluster the FSR using the **thrust axis**:



At NLO :

$$\vec{n}_L = \begin{cases} \hat{p}_1 & \text{if } |\vec{p}_1| > |\vec{p}_2| \\ -\hat{p}_2 & \text{if } |\vec{p}_2| > |\vec{p}_1| \end{cases}$$

- Choose the sign such that in the absence of radiation  $\hat{P}_1(\Phi_L) = p_1$ .
- Provides a **concrete definition** of Born leptons, enabling **calculable** theoretical predictions.

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# Born Leptons: Theory vs Experiment

## Comparing Born leptons in theory and experiment

### Theory: Born-projected leptons

- Defined directly from  $l^+l^- + X$
- Projection onto two-body kinematics
- Uses thrust axis

### Experiment: MC-Born leptons

- Start from Born-level  $l^+l^-$
- PHOTOS adds QED FSR and builds the response matrix.
- Born leptons reconstructed by unfolding the response matrix.

Born-projected leptons

comparison?

MC-Born leptons

Born projection

PHOTOS

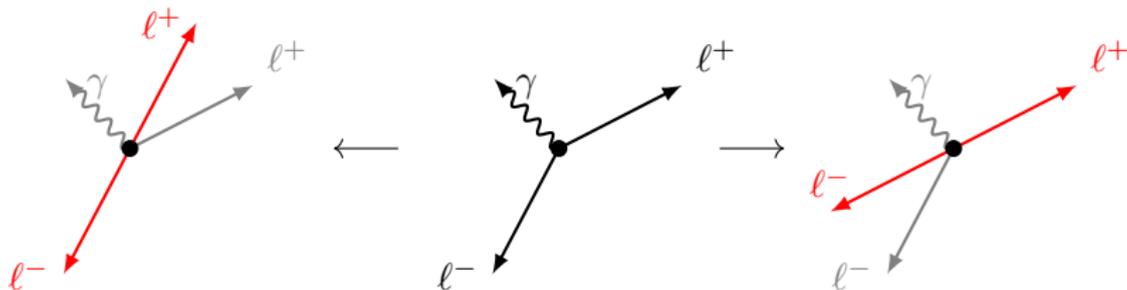
Bare leptons

Goal: Is there a Born projection that reproduces **exactly** the MC-Born leptons?

# Why MC-Born are not calculable

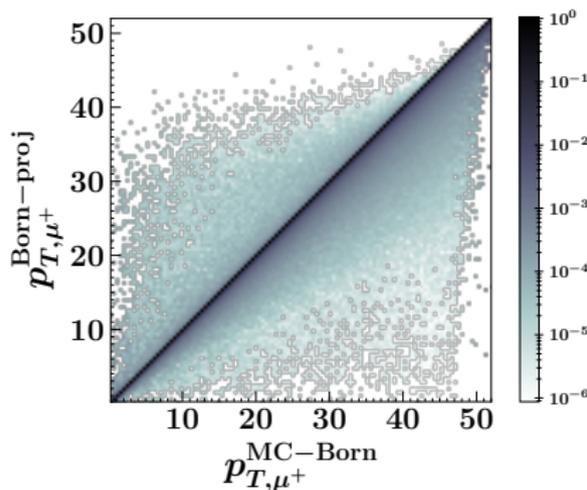
The PHOTOS map is **not injective**

- Distinct MC-Born configuration can radiate into the **same** final state.
- Photon angles and energies are not uniquely reversible.
- PHOTOS does not recoil non-emitting particles, so at NLO there is a twofold degeneracy.



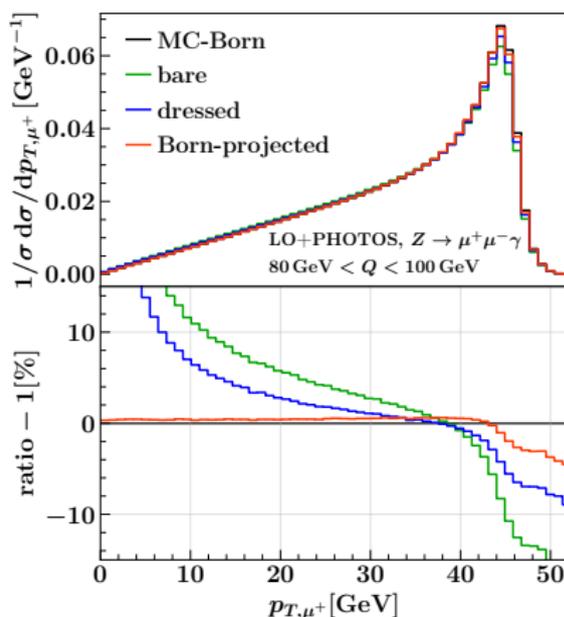
**Therefore:** a true inverse PHOTOS map **does not exist.**

# Born-Projections: Response Matrix and $p_T$ Distributions

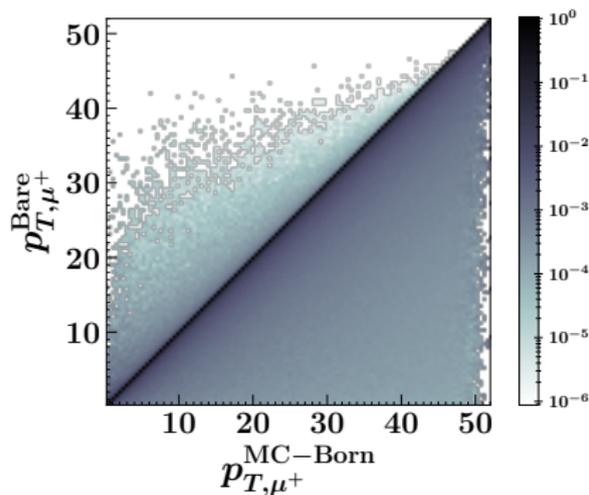


- Born-projected leptons closely reproduce PHOTOS Born kinematics.
- Small deviations arise from occasional “misreconstruction” of the MC-Born configuration.

- $p_T$  agreement with PHOTOS reflects closeness between the two definitions. It is **not** a measure of the accuracy of Born-projected leptons.

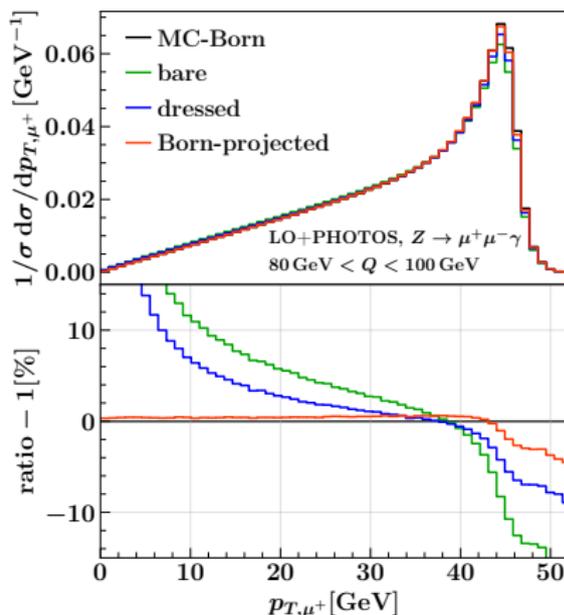


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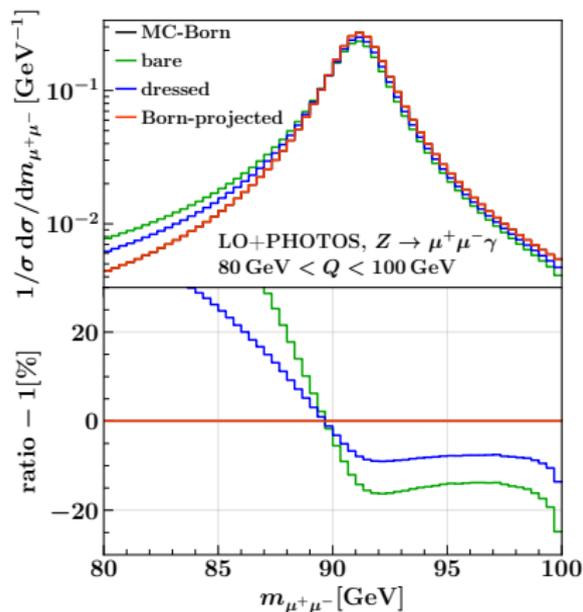


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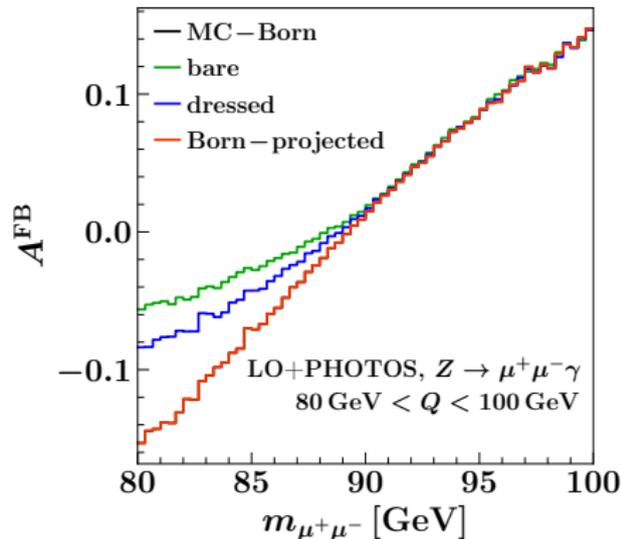


# Differential Distributions



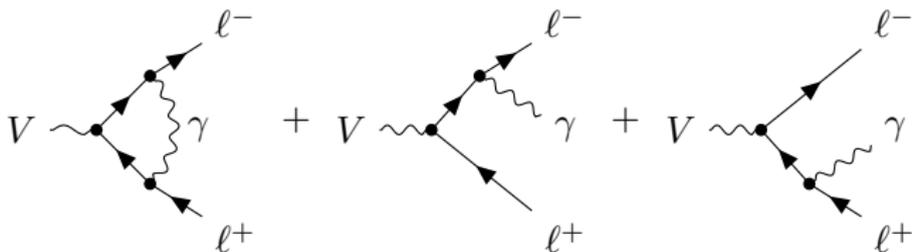
- Differences only due to  $m_{\ell\ell}$ .
- $m_{\ell\ell}$  is equal for all Born leptons, by definition.

- $A_{\text{FB}}$  probes electroweak coupling:  $\sin^2(\theta_W)$
- Both  $A_{\text{FB}}$  and  $m_{\ell\ell}$  depend on lepton definition.
- We see no difference between MC-Born and Born-projected.



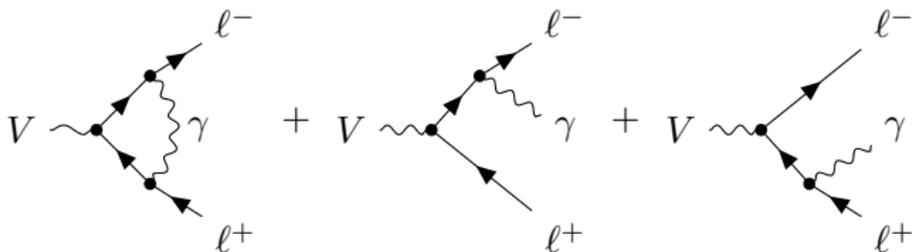
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# Results for $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell^-\ell^+$



$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{1}{12\pi} F_{VV',}^{\mu\nu}(P_1, P_2) &= \frac{\pi}{3} \int L_{VV',}^{\mu\nu}(\Phi_L) \delta^{(4)}(P_1 - \hat{P}_1(\Phi_L)) d\Phi_L \\
 &= (t^\mu t^\nu - g^{\mu\nu} - n_L^\mu n_L^\nu) F_+(q^2) \\
 &\quad + (t^\mu t^\nu - g^{\mu\nu}) F_0(q^2) \\
 &\quad + i \epsilon^{\mu\nu}{}_{\alpha\beta} n_L^\alpha t^\beta F_-(q^2)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Results for $Z/\gamma^* \rightarrow \ell^-\ell^+$



$$F_{+VV'} = \frac{P_V^* P_{V'}}{Q^2} \alpha_{\text{em}} (v_V v_{V'} + a_V a_{V'}) \left( \frac{2}{3} + \alpha_{\text{em}} Q_\ell^2 \frac{16 \log(2) - 11}{2\pi} \right)$$

$$F_{0VV'} = \frac{P_V^* P_{V'}}{Q^2} \alpha_{\text{em}} (v_V v_{V'} + a_V a_{V'}) \left( \alpha_{\text{em}} Q_\ell^2 \frac{12 - 16 \log(2)}{3\pi} \right)$$

$$F_{-VV'} = \frac{P_V^* P_{V'}}{Q^2} \alpha_{\text{em}} (v_V a_{V'} + a_V v_{V'}) \left( \frac{2}{3} + \alpha_{\text{em}} Q_\ell^2 \frac{5 + 4 \log(2)}{6\pi} \right)$$

$$P_V = \frac{Q^2}{Q^2 - M_V^2 + iM_V \Gamma_V}$$

# Numerical Results from FSR

$$\sigma_{\text{incl}} = \frac{L_{\text{incl}} W_{\text{incl}}}{2Q^2} \propto \frac{4\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}^2}{3Q^2 N_c} \left( \frac{Q^4(a_q^2 + v_q^2)(a_\ell^2 + v_\ell^2)}{(Q^2 - M_V^2)^2 + M_V^2\Gamma_V^2} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{3\alpha_{\text{em}}Q_\ell^2}{4\pi} \right)$$

- $L_{\text{incl}} = F_+ + \frac{3}{2}F_0$ : known  $\rightarrow$  Cross-check.
- Global FSR normalisation  $\implies$  **No shape effects.**
- $\sigma_{\text{NLO}} = \sigma_{\text{LO}}(1 + \delta_{\text{FSR}})$ ,  $\delta_{\text{FSR}} \sim 0.17\%$ .

$$\tilde{A}_{\text{FB}} = \frac{3}{8} \frac{F_- W_4}{L_{\text{incl}} W_{\text{incl}}} = - \frac{6a_q a_\ell v_q v_\ell}{(a_q^2 + v_q^2)(a_\ell^2 + v_\ell^2)} \frac{4\pi + \alpha_{\text{em}}Q_\ell^2(5 + 4\log(2))}{4\pi + 3\alpha_{\text{em}}Q_\ell^2}$$

- New result
- Normalisation effects cancel in  $\tilde{A}_{\text{FB}}$ .
- FSR is also a global correction,  $\sim 0.27\%$

- Born-projected leptons provide a **well-defined** framework for **including FSR** in Drell-Yan.
  - Preserves the **angular decomposition** of the leptonic tensor at **all orders**.
- ⇒ Allows a systematic way to combine **precision QCD** with potentially large **EW corrections** in the final state.
- Thrust Born-projected leptons behave **numerically very similar** to MC-Born leptons, which are extensively used in experimental analyses, but **theoretically ill-defined**.

## Future Work:

- Include virtual EW corrections.
- Explore different projections  $\hat{P}_1(\Phi_L)$ .

# Backup Slides

Supplementary material

# Tensor Structure in Drell–Yan Factorisation

Thanks to initial-final factorisation, the Drell–Yan cross section can be written as a contraction of hadronic and leptonic tensors.

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^4q} \propto \sum_{V,V'} W_{VV'}^{\mu\nu}(q) L_{VV'\mu\nu}(q)$$

## Tensor properties

- Rank-2 Lorentz tensors due to spin-1 nature of the intermediate boson.
- Hermitian  $L^{\nu\mu} = (L^{\mu\nu})^*$ ,  $W^{\nu\mu} = (W^{\mu\nu})^*$
- Transverse<sup>1</sup>:  $q_\mu W^{\mu\nu} = q_\nu W^{\mu\nu} = 0$

<sup>1</sup> The chiral anomaly breaks the transverse property. All arguments are still valid in this case, but formulas are more complex, so we will ignore this.

## Helicity decomposition:

- Any spin-1 tensor  $W_{\mu\nu}$  can be expanded in **helicity components**  $W_i$ :

$$W_i = P_i^{\mu\nu} W_{\mu\nu},$$

- Projectors  $P_i^{\mu\nu}$  are defined with the helicity states of the intermediate boson.

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^4q} \propto \sum_{i=-1}^7 W_i L^i$$

## Why this matters:

- Independent** of specific leptonic final states.
- At LO there is a one-to-one connection between  $W_i$  and  $A_i$ .

$$A_i = \frac{2L_{\pm(i)}W_i}{L_+(W_0 + 2W_{-1})}$$

- Electroweak effects can be included directly at the level of  $W_i$  and  $L_i$ .

Helicity decomposition provides a generalisation of the LO angular decomposition to arbitrary  $V \rightarrow L$  final states.

# Helicity Decomposition

## Helicity basis

- Tensors can be expanded in a finite set of **projectors**  $P_i^{\mu\nu}$
- Defines **helicity components**:

$$W_i = P_i^{\mu\nu} W_{\mu\nu}, \quad L_i = P_i^{\mu\nu} L_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^4q} \propto \sum_{i=-1}^7 W_i L_i$$

$$P_{-1}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}(\epsilon_+^{*\mu} \epsilon_+^\nu + \epsilon_-^{*\mu} \epsilon_-^\nu)$$

$$P_0^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}(\epsilon_0^{*\mu} \epsilon_0^\nu)$$

$$P_2^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-1}{4}(\epsilon_+^{*\mu} \epsilon_-^\nu + \epsilon_-^{*\mu} \epsilon_+^\nu)$$

$$P_4^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4}(\epsilon_+^{*\mu} \epsilon_+^\nu - \epsilon_-^{*\mu} \epsilon_-^\nu)$$

$$P_5^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2}(\epsilon_+^{*\mu} \epsilon_-^\nu - \epsilon_-^{*\mu} \epsilon_+^\nu)$$

$$P_1^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-1}{2}(\epsilon_+^{*\mu} \epsilon_0^\nu + \epsilon_0^{*\mu} \epsilon_+^\nu + \epsilon_-^{*\mu} \epsilon_0^\nu + \epsilon_0^{*\mu} \epsilon_-^\nu)$$

$$P_3^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-1}{4\sqrt{2}}(\epsilon_+^{*\mu} \epsilon_0^\nu + \epsilon_0^{*\mu} \epsilon_+^\nu - \epsilon_-^{*\mu} \epsilon_0^\nu - \epsilon_0^{*\mu} \epsilon_-^\nu)$$

$$P_6^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2\sqrt{2}}(\epsilon_+^{*\mu} \epsilon_0^\nu - \epsilon_0^{*\mu} \epsilon_+^\nu - \epsilon_-^{*\mu} \epsilon_0^\nu + \epsilon_0^{*\mu} \epsilon_-^\nu)$$

$$P_7^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{4\sqrt{2}}(\epsilon_+^{*\mu} \epsilon_0^\nu - \epsilon_0^{*\mu} \epsilon_+^\nu + \epsilon_-^{*\mu} \epsilon_0^\nu - \epsilon_0^{*\mu} \epsilon_-^\nu)$$

# Helicity Decomposition

## Helicity basis

- Tensors can be expanded in a finite set of **projectors**  $P_i^{\mu\nu}$
- Defines **helicity components**:

$$W_i = P_i^{\mu\nu} W_{\mu\nu}, \quad L_i = P_i^{\mu\nu} L_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d^4q} \propto \sum_{i=-1}^7 W_i L_i$$

$$P_{-1}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}(x^\mu x^\nu + y^\mu y^\nu)$$

$$P_0^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2}z^\mu z^\nu$$

$$P_2^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-1}{4}(x^\mu x^\nu - y^\mu y^\nu)$$

$$P_4^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4i}(x^\mu y^\nu - y^\mu x^\nu)$$

$$P_5^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-1}{2}(x^\mu y^\nu + y^\mu x^\nu)$$

$$P_1^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-1}{2}(x^\mu z^\nu + z^\mu x^\nu)$$

$$P_3^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4i}(y^\mu z^\nu - z^\mu y^\nu)$$

$$P_6^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-1}{2}(y^\mu z^\nu + z^\mu y^\nu)$$

$$P_7^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4i}(x^\mu z^\nu - z^\mu x^\nu)$$

# Projected Leptonic Tensor in $D$ Dimensions

Definition in  $D = 4 - 2\epsilon$

$$F_{VV'}^{\mu\nu}(P_1, P_2) = (2\pi)^{D-2} \int L_{VV'}^{\mu\nu}(\Phi_L) \delta^{(D)}(P_1 - \hat{P}_1(\Phi_L)) d\Phi_L,$$

with the Born momentum

$$\hat{P}_1^\mu(\Phi_L) = \frac{Q}{2} (t^\mu + n_L^\mu).$$

Tensor decomposition

The tensor can be decomposed into scalar coefficients  $F_i(q^2)$  as:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{12\pi} F_{VV'}^{\mu\nu}(P_1, P_2) &= (t^\mu t^\nu - g^{\mu\nu} - n_L^\mu n_L^\nu) F_+(q^2) \\ &\quad + (t^\mu t^\nu - g^{\mu\nu}) F_0(q^2) \\ &\quad + i \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} n_L^\alpha t^\beta F_-(q^2). \end{aligned}$$

Transversality  $q_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = 0$  is manifest.

# Virtual and Real Divergent Contributions

## Virtual contribution ( $F^{\text{virt}}$ )

$$F_{+VV'}^{\text{virt}} = -\frac{Q^2 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2 Q_\ell^2 (v^2 + a^2)}{3\pi} \left( \frac{Q^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{4\pi\mu^2} \right)^{-\epsilon} \left[ \frac{2}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{3}{\epsilon} - \frac{7\pi^2}{6} + 8 \right]$$

$$F_{-VV'}^{\text{virt}} = -\frac{2Q^2 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2 Q_\ell^2 va}{3\pi} \left( \frac{Q^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{4\pi\mu^2} \right)^{-\epsilon} \left[ \frac{2}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{3}{\epsilon} - \frac{7\pi^2}{6} + 5 \right]$$

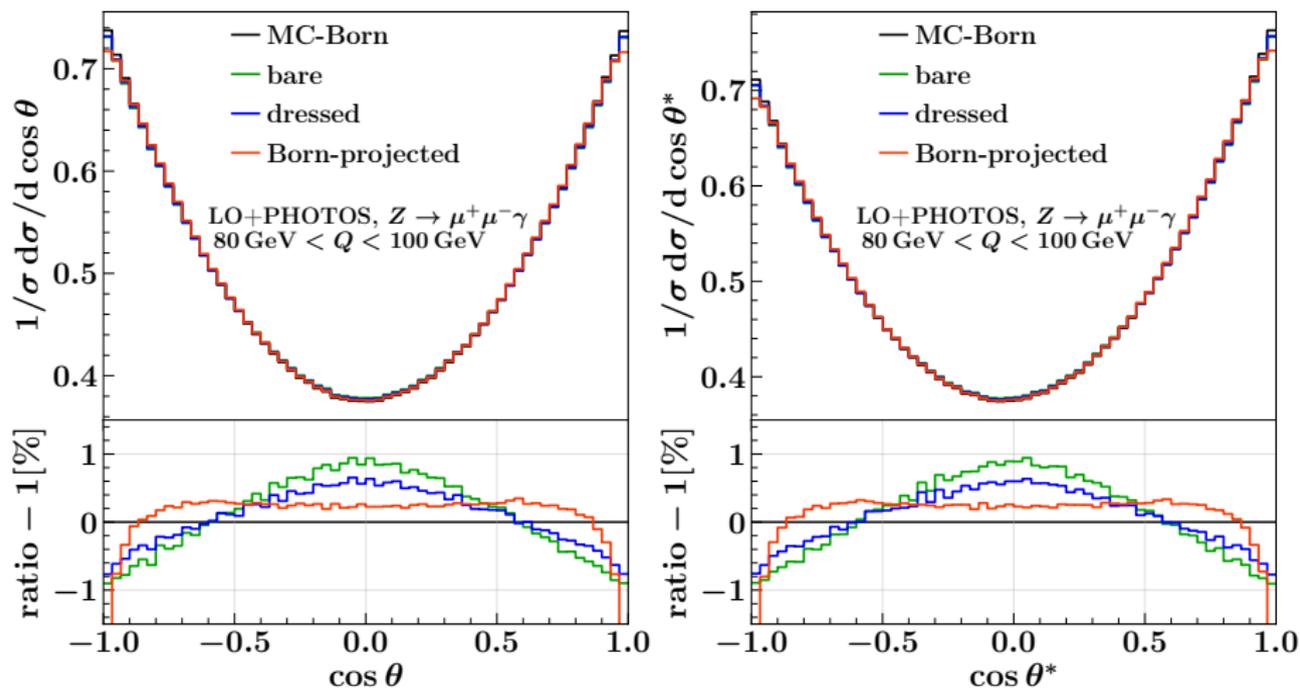
## Real contribution ( $F^{\text{real}}$ )

$$F_{+VV'}^{\text{real}} = +\frac{Q^2 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2 Q_\ell^2 (v^2 + a^2)}{3\pi} \left( \frac{Q^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{4\pi\mu^2} \right)^{-\epsilon} \left[ \frac{2}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{3}{\epsilon} - \frac{7\pi^2}{6} - \frac{17}{2} + 24 \log(2) \right]$$

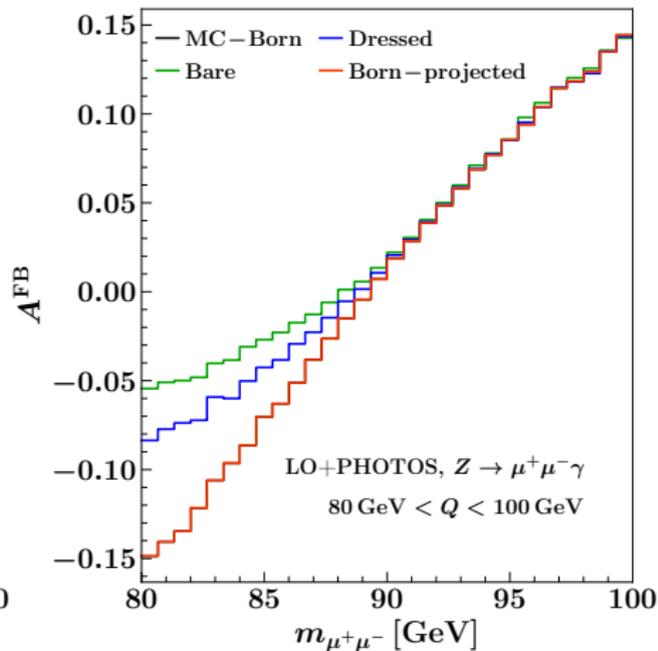
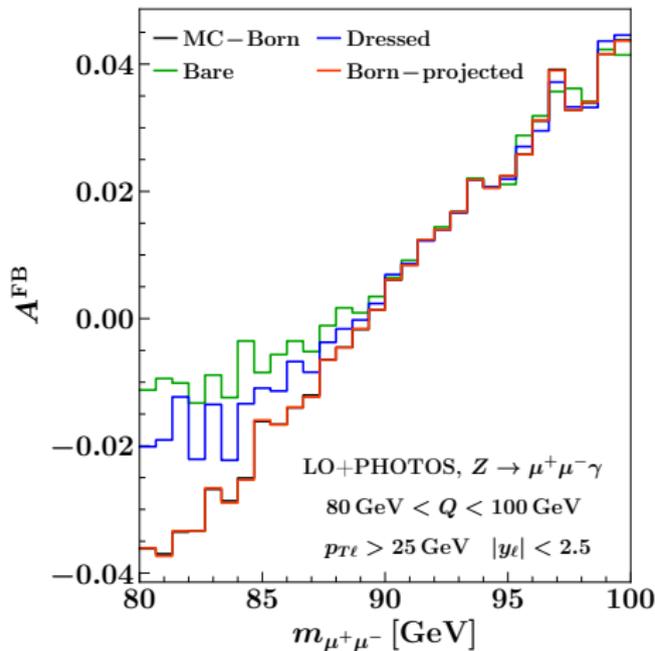
$$F_{-VV'}^{\text{real}} = +\frac{2Q^2 \alpha_{\text{em}}^2 Q_\ell^2 va}{3\pi} \left( \frac{Q^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{4\pi\mu^2} \right)^{-\epsilon} \left[ \frac{2}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{3}{\epsilon} - \frac{7\pi^2}{6} + \frac{15}{2} + 2 \log(2) \right]$$

Note the cancellation between virtual and real divergences in the sum.

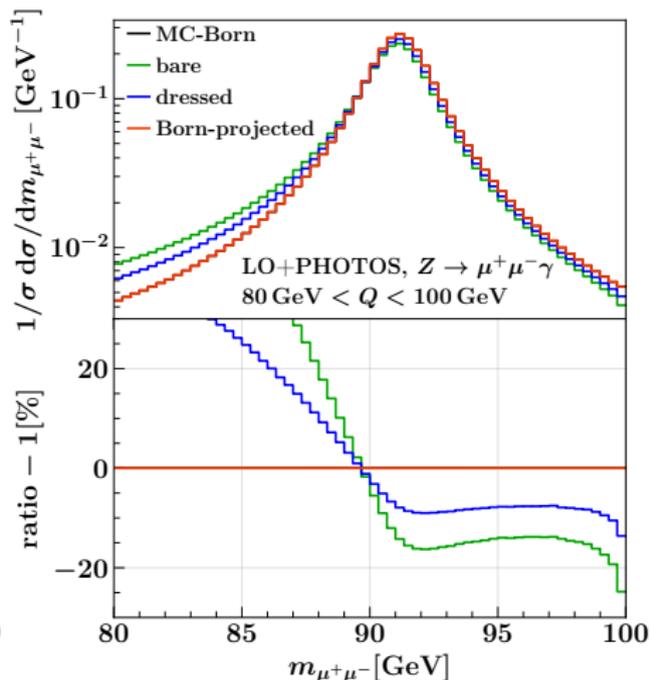
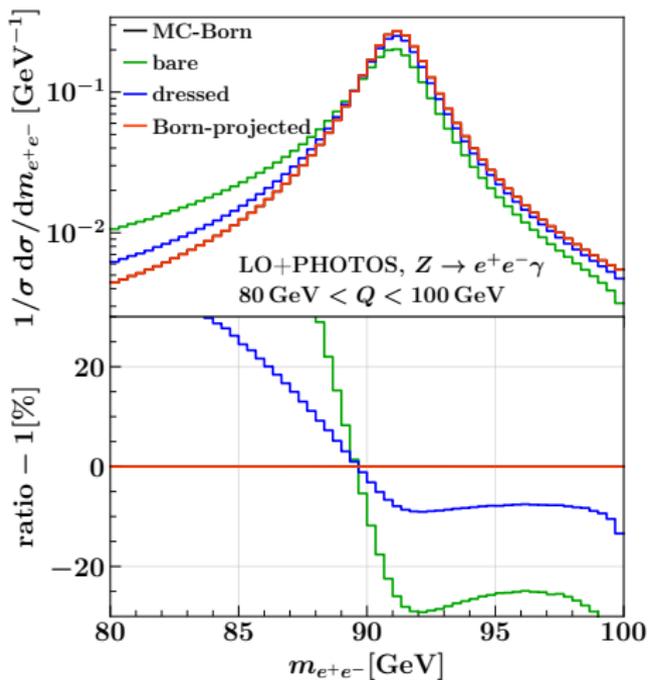
# Differential Angular Distributions



# Forward-Backward Asymmetry



# Born Leptons for $e$ and $\mu$





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