Stress testing the Standard Model via vector-boson scattering at the LHC

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GRK seminar

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 \rightarrow Illustration of Giordano Bruno's philosophical ideas $_{\rm (XVI^{th}century)}$

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Stress testing the Standard Model via vector-boson scattering at the LHC

<u>LHC</u>: Great tool to probe fundamental interactions at high energies \rightarrow Cross talk between **experiment** and **theory**





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VBS: smallest cross sections at the LHC!

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Vector-Boson Scattering (VBS) at the LHC

 \rightarrow Scattering of vector bosons!



Vector-Boson Scattering (VBS) at the LHC

 \rightarrow Scattering of vector bosons!



Leptonic signature: $2j + 4\ell$

- pp $\rightarrow \ell^{\pm} \nu_{\ell} \ell'^{\pm} \nu_{\ell'}$ jj (ss-WW)
- pp $\rightarrow \ell^{\pm} \nu_{\ell} \ell'^{+} \ell'^{-} jj$ (WZ)
- pp $\rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- \ell'^+ \ell'^- jj$ (ZZ)
- pp $\rightarrow \ell^{\pm} \nu_{\ell} \ell'^{\mp} \nu_{\ell'}$ jj (os-WW)

Semi-leptonic signature: $4j + 2\ell$

• pp
$$\rightarrow \ell^{\pm} \nu_{\ell} 4j$$
 (ss-WW, os-WW, WZ)

• pp $\rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^- 4j$ (WZ, ZZ)

Fully hadronic signature: 6j

• pp
$$\rightarrow$$
 6j (ss-WW, os-WW, WZ, ZZ)

Why this is interesting



[Denner, Hahn, 1997]

Electroweak symmetry breaking

- Unitarisation due to Higgs boson
- Polarisation measurements
- Measurements of SM parameters
 → Higgs width
- Triple/quartic gauge coupling → EFT



https://indico.cern.ch/event/777988/contributions/3410603

Underlying idea

Delicate structure in the Standard Model:

 \rightarrow Is it modified/disturbed by new phenomena?

Underlying idea

<u>Delicate structure in the Standard Model:</u> \rightarrow Is it modified/disturbed by new phenomena?

 \rightarrow To help in this quest: HL-HE LHC programme



 \rightarrow Great jump in precision

Precision physics for VBS

Assume scaling of uncertainties with 1/√L

dedicated studies with detector simulation for example in <u>CMS-PAS-SMP-14-008</u>

Integrated Luminosity	36 fb	150 fb	300 fb	3000 fb-
Year	2016	2019	2022	2038
EW(VBS) W±W±	20%	10%	7%	2%
EW (VBS) ZZ	35%	18%	13%	6%
EW (VBS) WZ	35%	18%	13%	6%

source: Jakob Salfeld-Nebgen, https://indico.cern.ch/event/711256

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This talk

- → Focused on Standard Model physics
 - How to get to per-cent uncertainties from the theory side
 - Importance of interplay between experiment and theory

Outline:

- Vector-boson scattering at the LHC
 → Theory definition and how to measure it
- The devil is in the detail
 → Kinematics and theory approximations
- Going beyond current work \rightarrow Few directions

Example: pp
$$\rightarrow \mu^+ \nu_\mu e^+ \nu_e jj$$
 (aka same-sign WW VBS)

VBS diagrams



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 (aka same-sign WW VBS)

VBS diagrams



More diagrams contribute ...



▲ Gauge invariance: diagrams cannot be cherry picked!

VBS signatures possess more than VBS contributions: \rightarrow All contributions are experimentally measured

(VBS, tri-boson, decay chains, etc.)

Even more (QCD) diagrams ...



Even more (**QCD**) diagrams ...



With 2 different amplitudes \rightarrow 3 different contributions:

- $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^6)$: EW contribution/signal
- $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_{s}\alpha^{5})$: interference
- $\mathcal{O}\left(\alpha_{s}^{2}\alpha^{4}\right)$: QCD contribution/background



 \rightarrow How to measure the EW component (including VBS) then?

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[Ballestrero, MP et al.; 1803.07943]

- The contributions have different kinematic
- Use of exclusive cuts to enhance the EW contribution

 \rightarrow typical cuts are $\mathit{m}_{\rm jj} > 500\,{\rm GeV}$ and $|\Delta y_{\rm jj}| > 2.5$

 \rightarrow typical kinematic:

back-to-back jets at large rapidities + central gauge bosons



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 \rightarrow <u>Solution</u>: Exclusive phase-space with ... irreducible background (interference+QCD) subtracted

 $\underline{\land}$ VBS contributions appear also in the interference $\underline{\land}$ Theory dependent measurement

LO cross sections in fiducial volume



[Andersen, MP et al.; 1803.07977 LH proceedings]

- \rightarrow The relative size of the EW contribution is process dependent
- \rightarrow Background can be overwhelming
- \rightarrow Interference usually small but not negligible

▲ Background is as important as the signal!

13 / 41

Moving on to NLO



 \rightarrow Order $\mathcal{O}\left(\alpha_{s}\alpha^{6}\right)$ and $\mathcal{O}\left(\alpha_{s}^{2}\alpha^{5}\right)$: QCD and EW corrections mix

At NLO

Meaningless distinction between EW and QCD component

Moving on to NLO



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At NLO

Meaningless distinction between EW and QCD component

<u>Solution</u>: Combined measurement of all the contributions \rightarrow clear physical interpretation

$pp \rightarrow W^{\pm}W^{\pm}jj$ **(**full NLO)



[Biedermann, Denner, MP; 1708.00268]

- Different LO and NLO behaviours
 - $\underline{\wedge}$ Large EW corrections: intrinsic feature of VBS at the LHC
 - \rightarrow Now available in POWHEG [Chiesa, Denner, Lang, MP; 1906.01863]

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Comparison with data

\rightarrow Recent ss-WW and WZ analysis of CMS with 137 fb⁻¹ [2005.01173]

Process	$\sigma \mathcal{B}$ (fb)	Th. pred.	Th. pred.
		LO (fb)	NLO (fb)
EW WW	3.98 ± 0.45	$\textbf{3.93} \pm \textbf{0.57}$	3.31 ± 0.47
	$0.37 \text{ stat} \pm 0.25 \text{ syst}$		
EW+QCD WW	4.42 ± 0.47	4.34 ± 0.69	3.72 ± 0.59
	$0.39 \text{ stat} \pm 0.25 \text{ syst}$		
EW WZ	1.81 ± 0.41	1.41 ± 0.21	1.24 ± 0.18
	$0.39 \text{ stat} \pm 0.14 \text{ syst}$		
EW+QCD WZ	4.97 ± 0.46	4.54 ± 0.90	4.36 ± 0.88
	$0.40 \text{ stat} \pm 0.23 \text{ syst}$		
QCD WZ	3.15 ± 0.49 \degree	3.12 ± 0.70	3.12 ± 0.70
	$0.45~{\rm stat}\pm0.18~{\rm syst}$		

\rightarrow LO: MadGraph5_AMC@NLO+PYTHIA

→ NLO: MADGRAPH5_AMC@NLO+PYTHIA + NLO corr. from [Biedermann, Denner, MP; 1708.00268] or [Denner, Dittmaier, Maierhöfer, MP, Schwan; 1904.00882] but only to EW signal

NB: Uncertainty for the NLO numbers are from the LO 7-scales variation.

\rightarrow Set basis of future precision measurements

• The devil is in the detail

 \rightarrow Kinematics and theory approximations

Kinematics and approximations

- Typically cuts $m_{\rm jj} > 500 \, {\rm GeV}$
 - \rightarrow Relaxed for rarest processes
 - $ightarrow m_{
 m jj} > 100\,{
 m GeV}~({
 m ZZ}~{
 m analysis}~{
 m of}~{
 m [arXiv:1708.02812]})$



▲ EW component possesses VBS+tri-boson+other contributions → Naively, 100 GeV cut should do the job. Is it really the case?

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Neglecting *s*-channel contributions and t/u interferences

 \rightarrow Implemented in POWHEG and VBFNLO (possibly including s-channel)



Source: Giovanni Pelliccioli

 \rightarrow Comparison of approximations against full computations at NLO [Ballestrero, MP et al.; 1803.07943]

Quality of the VBS approximation (LO)



[Ballestrero, MP et al.; 1803.07943]

- For low m_{jj} and low Δy_{jj}, significant s-channel contributions
 → tri-boson contributions with resonant W-boson
- Good approximation in fiducial regions!

Quality of the VBS approximation (NLO)



[Ballestrero, MP et al.; 1803.07943]

- Approximations are worse at NLO
- Approximation can fail by up to 20% even in fiducial regions

Quality of the VBS approximation $_{(\mbox{neglecting tri-boson contributions)}}$



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Quality of the VBS approximation (NLO)

Why are NLO approximations worth than LO ones?

 \rightarrow Typical *s*-channel contribution:



\rightarrow Less suppressed at NLO due to extra jet in the real

Similar effect for tt production at NLO QCD in lepton+jet channel [Denner, MP; 1711.10359]

LO cuts are not safe at NLO and beyond

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Example of ZZ VBS at NLO



[Denner, Franken, MP, Schmidt; 2009.00411]

 \rightarrow Effects of tri-boson (at NLO) even when using $m_{\rm ii}$ > 100 GeV

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Lessons learnt

∧ Strong correlations between:

theory approximations and experimental event selection

 \rightarrow Theory approximations valid only for certain fiducial region

Lessons learnt

 $\underline{\land} Strong correlations between: \\ theory approximations and experimental event selection \\ \rightarrow Theory approximations valid only for certain fiducial region \\$

- For inclusive phase spaces, use full computations (including tri-bosons contributions)
- For exclusive phase spaces, approximate computations OK (with current experimental precisions)
 - \rightarrow Not at high-luminosity LHC
- Subtracting tri-boson in measurements is dangerous
- $\underline{\wedge}$ Cross talks between theory and experiment are crucial

 \rightarrow How to ensure that all effects are under control?

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	Particle type	Selection	
		ZZjj inclusive	
Solution:	Leptons	$p_{T}(\ell_{1}) > 20 \text{ GeV}$ $p_{T}(\ell_{2}) > 10 \text{ GeV}$ $p_{T}(\ell) > 5 \text{ GeV}$	
• Different phase spaces	Z and ZZ	$ \eta(\ell) < 2.5$ $60 < m(\ell\ell) < 120 \text{GeV}$ $m(4\ell) > 180 \text{GeV}$	
ightarrow Sensitive to different effects	Jets	at least 2	
\rightarrow Great for exp./th. comparisons		$p_{\rm T}({\rm j}) > 30{ m GeV}$ $ \eta({\rm j}) < 4.7$	
 CMS ZZ measurement with 		$m_{ m jj} > 100 { m GeV}$ $\Delta R(\ell, { m j}) > 0.4 { m for each} \ell, { m j}$	
137 fb^{-1} [2008.07013]	VBS	6-enriched (loose)	
ightarrow Disentangles all physical effects	Jets	$\begin{aligned} &ZZjj \text{ inclusive } + \\ & \Delta\eta_{\rm jj} > 2.4 \\ &m_{\rm jj} > 400 {\rm GeV} \end{aligned}$	
	VB	5-enriched (tight)	
		ZZjj inclusive +	

Jets

$$\begin{split} |\Delta \eta_{\rm jj}| &> 2.4 \\ m_{\rm jj} &> 1\,{\rm TeV} \end{split}$$

Going beyond current work → Few directions

Going beyond current work (I) → Full use of NLO+PS simulations (example ss-WW)



- $\mathcal{O}\left(\alpha^{7}\right)$ [Biedermann, Denner, MP; 1611.02951, 1708.00268] \rightarrow +PS: [Chiesa, Denner, Lang, MP; 1906.01863]
- O (α_sα⁶) [Biedermann, Denner, MP; 1708.00268] [Jäger, Oleari, Zeppenfeld; 0907.0580]* [Denner, Hošeková, Kallweit; 1209.2389]* → +PS: [Jäger, Zanderighi; 1108.0864]*
- $\mathcal{O}\left(\alpha_{s}^{2}\alpha^{5}\right)$ [Biedermann, Denner, MP; 1708.00268]
- $\mathcal{O}\left(\alpha_{s}^{3}\alpha^{4}\right)$ [Biedermann, Denner, MP; 1708.00268] [Melia et al.; 1007.5313, 1104.2327], [Campanario et al.; 1311.6738] \rightarrow +PS: [Melia et al.; 1102.4846], [Melia et al.; 1102.4846]
- (*) Computations in the VBS-approximation i.e. t-u interferences and tri-boson contributions neglected

Soon similar accuracy for other channels

Going beyond current work (I) → Full use of NLO+PS simulations (example ss-WW)

Theory challenge

 Why O (α_sα⁶) and O (α_s²α⁵) not NLO+PS yet?
 → These are mixed QCD/EW corrections: real QCD and photon radiation at NLO at the same order
 → No consistent matching to parton/photon shower yet

Phenomenology

• NLO+PS accuracy not yet fully used in experimental analyses (difficult but necessary step)

 \rightarrow Precise comparisons between theory and experiment

→ Precise probe of EW sector

 \rightarrow Large EW corrections: intrinsic feature of VBS at the LHC

Large EW corrections: $\sim 16\%$ at the level of the cross section

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Large EW corrections: $\sim 16\%$ at the level of the cross section

$$\sigma_{\rm LL} = \sigma_{\rm LO} \left[1 - \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} 4 C_{\rm W}^{\rm ew} \log^2 \left(\frac{Q^2}{M_{\rm W}^2} \right) + \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} 2 b_{\rm W}^{\rm ew} \log \left(\frac{Q^2}{M_{\rm W}^2} \right) \right]$$

• For $Q = \langle m_{4\ell} \rangle \sim 390 \,\text{GeV}$
 $\delta_{\rm EW}^{\rm LL} \simeq \delta_{\rm EW}^{\rm NLO} \ (!)$

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 (!)

- ightarrow Corrections 3-4 times larger than for $q ar q
 ightarrow {\sf W}^+ {\sf W}^-$
 - C^{ew} larger for bosons than fermions
 - $\langle m_{4\ell} \rangle$ larger for VBS (massive *t*-channel [Denner, Hahn; hep-ph/9711302]) NB: $\langle m_{4\ell} \rangle \sim 250 \text{ GeV}$ for $q\bar{q} \rightarrow W^+W^-$

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Large NLO EW corrections: intrinsic feature of VBS at the LHC

[Biedermann, Denner, MP; 1611.02951]

 \rightarrow Large EW corrections: intrinsic feature of VBS at the LHC



Sensitive to EW corrections at High-Luminosity LHC \rightarrow Homework for theorists: compute them in new-physics models

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\rightarrow Effects from Higgs sector



[Dittmaier, Maierhöfer, Schwan, Siegert, In: PoS RADCOR2017]

 \rightarrow low p_{T} region sensitive to modified Higgs sector \rightarrow large p_{T} is unaffected

Test our SM understanding of VBS at the LHC \rightarrow EW sector

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▲ Typical kinematic:

back-to-back jets at large rapidities + central gauge bosons

- \rightarrow Low hadronic activity in central region
- \rightarrow Higher-order and PS corrections crucial



[Ballestrero, MP et al.; 1803.07943]

 \rightarrow Reasonable agreement at both LO (left) and NLO (right) for observables defined at LO

 \rightarrow <u>NB</u>: input parameters (masses, widths, PDF, scales)

all set to common values

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Large differences for third-jet observables $\rightarrow z_{j_3} = (j_3 - (j_1 + j_2)/2)/|\Delta y_{jj}|$ (how central is the third jet)

 $\label{eq:prevented} \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow \mbox{ Prevented experimental analyses to use jet veto} \\ \rightarrow \mbox{ Understood now (recoil scheme)} \ {}_{[J{\mbox{ args}, Karlberg, Pl{\mbox{ args}, Scheller, Zaro; 2003.12435]}} \end{array}$

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→ Allows for the use of jet veto in experimental analyses → Homework for theorists: compute VBS+1j at NLO QCD [Jäger, Karlberg, Plätzer, Scheller, Zaro; 2003.12435] for VBF Higgs → Further studies of PS with similar processes

VBF-Z production [CMS; 1712.09814] (*i.e.* $pp \rightarrow jjZ$)



Going beyond current work (IV) → Semi-leptonic signatures

Next step after leptonic measurements of VBS: \rightarrow measuring the EW production of $\ell \nu_{\ell} + 4i$ and $\ell^+ \ell^- + 4i$

- Large cross sections (W/Z hadronic branching ratio)
- Great potential for new physics studies
- Huge and complicated backgrounds
- \rightarrow Challenge for both theory and experiment!
 - Limit of current (LO/NLO) predictions (very CPU intensive)
 - Difficult experimental analyses

Going beyond current work (IV) → Semi-leptonic signatures

Theory challenges

- Large number of partonic channels:
 - $\ell \nu_{\ell} + 4j$: $W^{\pm}(W^{\pm} \rightarrow jj) + W^{\pm}(W^{\mp} \rightarrow jj) + W^{\pm}(Z \rightarrow jj)$
 - $\ell^+\ell^- + 4j$: $Z(Z \rightarrow jj) + Z(W^{\pm} \rightarrow jj)$
- Complicated final state with 4 QCD particles:
 - \rightarrow Only available computations at NLO QCD:
 - ${\sf pp} o \ell
 u_\ell {\sf jjbb}$ [Denner, MP; 1711.10359] [Anger, Febres Cordero, Ita, Sotnikov; 1712.05721]
- Huge CPU cost
 - → Experimental analysis limited size of sample
 - \rightarrow New computing methods welcome

• Conclusion

Summary

Vector-boson scattering at the LHC

Physical definition

• Comparisons between theory and experiment

- Full measurement vs. full predictions
- Subtracted measurements vs. approximate predictions
- Use of different phase-space regions

 \rightarrow Best way to get most of VBS physics in a transparent way

- Possible directions to go beyond current work
 - \rightarrow Precision programme at the LHC
- Potential for exciting studies in Standard Model and beyond
 → Polarisation, concrete new-physics models, EFT, ...

∧ Cross talk between theory and experiment is crucial

Review

Vector-Boson Scattering at the LHC: unravelling the Electroweak sector

[arXiv:2102.10991]

Roberto Covarelli, MP, Marco Zaro

Thank you

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Stress testing the Standard Model via vector-boson scattering at the LHC 41 / 41

BACK-UP

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