

Polarized W^\pm and Z bosons in multi-boson processes at the LHC

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- 5..... Conclusions and outlook

1. Introduction

Motivations

LHC luminosities accumulated in Run 2 ($\approx 150 \text{ fb}^{-1}$) and foreseen in next runs (300 fb^{-1} in Run 3, and 3000 fb^{-1} in High-Lumi) at 13/14 TeV CoM energy enable

- precise measurements of EW processes,
- in particular of multi-boson production.

Polarization observables for massive vector bosons are

- non trivial to disentangle
- but are important probes of SM gauge and Higgs sectors,
- and may provide discrimination power between SM and BSM physics.

Special interest in di-boson production, vector-boson scattering (VBS), Higgs and top-quark decays.

What's needed?

1. precise SM predictions for polarized bosons in relevant LHC processes
2. new ideas to enable the extraction of polarizations from LHC data
3. new-physics studies for polarized bosons

Recent progress: theory and phenomenology (1)

Growing interest from both theoretical and experimental side.

- **Seminal works:**

V+jets and other multi-boson processes [Bern et al. 1103.5445, Stirling et al. 1204.6427]

Interference and kinematic-selection impact [Stirling et al. 1204.6427, Belyaev et al. 1303.3297]

- **SM predictions and automation**

Automation of polarized VBS in PHANTOM (at LO) and phenomenology [Ballestrero et al. 1710.09339, 1907.04722, 2007.07133]

Automation at LO of polarized-resonance simulation in MG5 [Buarque-Franzosi et al. 1912.01725]

Polarization-related observables at NLO EW+QCD in $W^\pm Z$ production [Baglio et al. 1810.11034, 1910.13746].

NLO QCD [Denner GP 2006.14867, 2010.07149] and NNLO QCD [Poncelet Popescu 2102.13583] SM predictions for polarized di-boson production.

NLO EW + QCD predictions for polarized ZZ production [Denner GP 2107.06579]

Polarized W^\pm and Z bosons from Higgs decays in SM [Maina 2007.12080, Maina GP 2105.07972]

Recent progress: theory and phenomenology (2)

- **BSM studies in VBS/VBF-Higgs:**

Effect of new-physics on polarized VBS [Han et al. 0911.3656, Brass et al. 1807.02512, Ballestrero Maina GP 1907.04722, Buarque-Franzosi et al. 1912.01725].

EFT Higgs coupling to longitudinal and transverse W bosons [Brehmer et al. 1404.5951]

Polarized ZZ to probe the $Zt\bar{t}$ coupling in or beyond SM [Cao et al. 2004.02031]

- **New techniques and hadronic decays:**

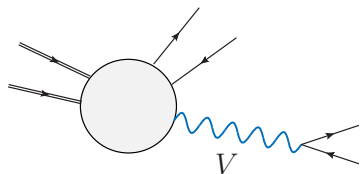
ML techniques to separate polarized contributions to VBS [Searcy et al. 1510.01691, Lee et al. 1812.07591, 1908.05196].

Jet-substructure [De et al. 2008.04318] and DNN [Kim Martin 2102.05124] techniques to disentangle polarizations of boosted, hadronically-decaying W's.

ML techniques to separate polarization in fully-leptonic and semi-leptonic VBS [Grossi et al. 2008.05316]

Separating polarizations (1)

A **natural** definition for resonant diagrams:



$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{A}^{\text{unpol}} &= \mathcal{P}_\mu \frac{-g^{\mu\nu}}{k^2 - M_V^2 + iM_V\Gamma_V} \mathcal{D}_\nu \\
 &= \mathcal{P}_\mu \frac{\sum_{\lambda'} \epsilon_{\lambda'}^\mu \epsilon_{\lambda'}^{*\nu}}{k^2 - M_V^2 + iM_V\Gamma_V} \mathcal{D}_\nu \\
 &\rightarrow \mathcal{P}_\mu \frac{\epsilon_\lambda^\mu \epsilon_\lambda^{*\nu}}{k^2 - M_V^2 + iM_V\Gamma_V} \mathcal{D}_\nu = \mathcal{A}_\lambda
 \end{aligned}$$

At the cross section level,

$$|\mathcal{A}^{\text{unpol}}|^2 = \underbrace{\sum_{\lambda} |\mathcal{A}_\lambda|^2}_{\text{incoherent sum}} + \underbrace{\sum_{\lambda \neq \lambda'} \mathcal{A}_\lambda^* \mathcal{A}_{\lambda'}}_{\text{interference terms}} \rightarrow |\mathcal{A}_\lambda|^2 \propto \text{polarized cross section}$$

Note that pol. vectors are not Lorentz covariant ($\epsilon_\lambda^\mu(\Lambda \cdot p) \neq \Lambda^\mu_\nu \epsilon_\lambda^\nu(p)$).

Defined in a **specific frame**: typical choices are the **di-boson center-of-mass (CM)** or the **laboratory** frame.

Decay leptons angular distributions reflect polarization state of the decayed V boson.

Separating polarizations (2)

- At **tree-level**, for a **single resonant boson**: the **master equation** holds (θ^*, ϕ^* are ℓ^+ angles in V rest frame, w.r.t. V direction in the lab) [Bern et al. 1103.5445],

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta^* d\phi^* dX} = \frac{d\sigma}{dX} \frac{3}{16\pi} \left[(1 + \cos^2\theta^*) + (A_0/2)(1 - 3\cos^2\theta^*) + A_1 \sin 2\theta^* \cos\phi^* \right. \\ \left. + (A_2/2) \sin^2\theta^* \cos 2\phi^* + A_3 \sin\theta^* \cos\phi^* + A_4 \cos\theta^* \right. \\ \left. + A_5 \sin^2\theta^* \sin 2\phi^* + A_6 \sin 2\theta^* \sin\phi^* + A_7 \sin\theta^* \sin\phi^* \right]$$

where X are kin. variables independent of lepton angles (e.g. p_T^V, η_V). $A_i = A_i(X)$.

- If **no lepton cuts applied**, interferences vanish upon integration over full azimuth ϕ^* :

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta^*} = \frac{3}{8} f_- \left(1 + \cos^2\theta^* - \frac{2(c_L^2 - c_R^2)}{(c_L^2 + c_R^2)} \cos\theta^* \right) \\ + \frac{3}{8} f_+ \left(1 + \cos^2\theta^* + \frac{2(c_L^2 - c_R^2)}{(c_L^2 - c_R^2)} \cos\theta^* \right) + \frac{3}{4} f_L \sin^2\theta^*,$$

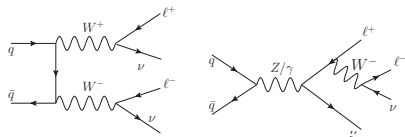
f_L, f_-, f_+ polarization fractions of the decayed V boson ($f_L + f_- + f_+ = 1$).

- If **lepton cuts applied**, analytic expression for $d\sigma/d\cos\theta^*$ does not hold anymore: interferences do not vanish (cannot integrate over the full ϕ^* range).

Selecting resonant diagrams

- Remark: not all diagrams that contribute to multi-boson processes are resonant!

To define polarizations, we need a factorized amplitude (production \otimes propagator \otimes decay): not possible for all contributions. E.g. diboson (fully leptonic):



Double-resonant and non-double-resonant diagrams at LO. For the latter polarizations cannot be defined: drop them, providing a recipe to recover gauge invariance.

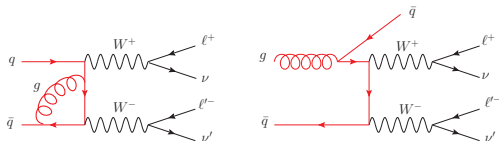
Separating resonant contributions is delicate: the only “truth” is the full computation.

- Consider non-double-resonant diagrams as non-resonant background.
- Treat double-resonant diagrams with double-pole approximation (DPA) [Denner et al. 0006307, Ballestrero et al. 1710.09339, Denner GP 2006.14867] or with a spin-correlated narrow-width approximation (NWA) [Artoisenet et al. 1212.3460, Buarque Franzosi et al. 1912.01725].
- Then separating polarizations is straightforward.

Going beyond leading-order (1)

NLO QCD only affect the **initial state** in the case of **leptonic decays**, **but**

- ▶ Born (B), virtuals (V) and reals (R) contribute: $V + R$ is free of IR singularities;



- ▶ **subtraction counterterms** needed, e.g. dipoles D in Catani-Seymour formalism [Catani, Seymour 9605323]:

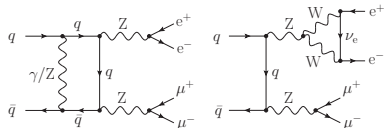
$$d\sigma_{\text{nlo}}/d\xi = \int d\phi_n (B + V + \int d\phi_{\text{rad}} D)_{d=4} \delta_\xi^{(n)} + \int d\phi_{n+1} (R \delta_\xi^{(n+1)} - D \delta_\xi^{(n)})_{d=4}; \quad (1)$$

- ▶ **DPA** usually used for LO kinematics (B, V), need for analogous prescription **for R and subtraction counterterms** (most involved part of the computation), similar considerations hold for NWA;
- ▶ separation of polarizations required for **all contributions** in Eq. 1.

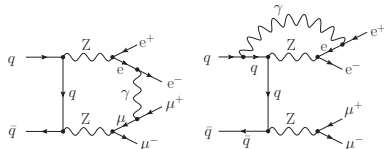
Going beyond leading-order (2)

NLO EW more involved, as production and decay sub-amplitudes are mixed in virtual corrections

Factorizable

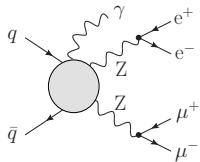


Non-factorizable

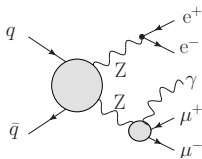


and in real corrections

ISR



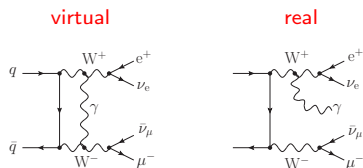
FSR



Very recently, a [general method](#) has been proposed to separate Z resonant contributions at NLO EW, with leptonic decays [[Denner GP 2107.06579](#)].

Going beyond leading-order (3)

NLO EW modeling of W^\pm bosons is **more delicate**, as (real and virtual) **photons** can be radiated off the **boson propagator**



A **tailored treatment**, different from the one for Z bosons, is **needed for W^\pm** to ensure the proper **subtraction of IR singularities**.

2. Di-boson production

W^+W^- and $W^\pm Z$

W^+W^- ($pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^- \bar{\nu}_\mu$) at NLO QCD + gg-induced [Denner GP 2006.14867]:

- DPA, polarizations defined in the LAB and separated at amplitude level;
- Large K-factor for $W_L^+ W_L^-$ ($\approx 40\%$) even with jet veto;
- single-boson polarization fractions roughly conserved from LO to NLO QCD;
- large interferences for some angular distributions.

Extended to NNLO QCD (both with DPA and NWA), no strong modifications of NLO QCD results w.r.t. NLO QCD [Poncelet Popescu 2102.13583].

W^+Z ($pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^+ \mu^-$) at NLO QCD [Denner GP 2010.07149]:

- detailed comparison between LAB and di-boson CM frame definition;
- large K-factors (radiation-zero effect at LO);
- fractions roughly conserved from LO to NLO QCD in the LAB, not in the CM;
- small K-factor for LL in the CM, very large for mixed contributions.

Recently measured by ATLAS (singly-polarized) [ATLAS 1902.05759].

Another approach [Baglio et al. 1810.11034, 1910.13746]: apply master equation to $\cos\theta_\ell^*$ distrib. with lepton cuts \rightarrow angular coefficients far from describing polarizations.

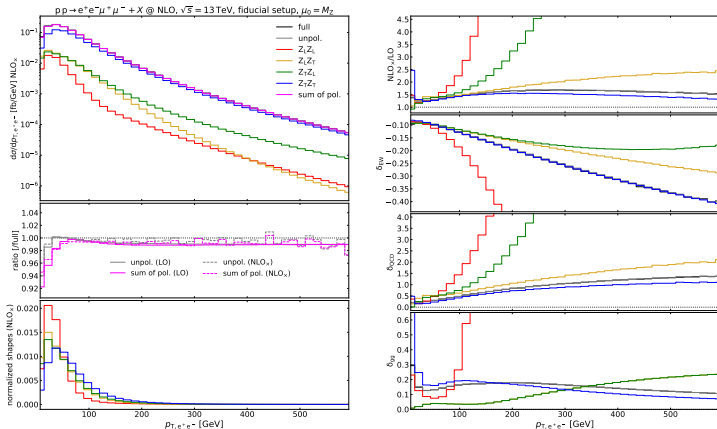
ZZ (1)

Very recent calculation of $pp \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-+X$ including NLO QCD+EW corr. and loop-induced contributions [Denner GP 2107.06579]:

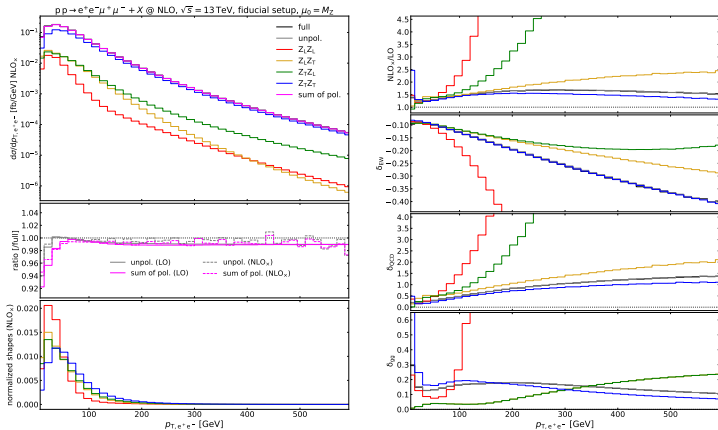
- DPA for both ISR and FSR contributions at NLO EW
- polarizations defined both in LAB and in ZZ-CM at inclusive level, ZZ-CM definition in fiducial setup
- several validation checks in inclusive setup
- fiducial selections mimic those of Ref. [ATLAS 2103.01918]

mode	σ_{LO} [fb]	δ_{QCD}	δ_{EW}	δ_{gg}	σ_{NLO+} [fb]	σ_{NLO_X} [fb]
full	11.1143(5) ^{+5.6%} _{-6.8%}	+34.9%	-11.0%	+15.6%	15.505(6) ^{+5.7%} _{-4.4%}	15.076(5) ^{+5.5%} _{-4.2%}
unpol.	11.0214(5) ^{+5.6%} _{-6.8%}	+35.0%	-10.9%	+15.7%	15.416(5) ^{+5.7%} _{-4.4%}	14.997(4) ^{+5.5%} _{-4.2%}
Z _L Z _L	0.64302(5) ^{+6.8%} _{-8.1%}	+35.7%	-10.2%	+14.5%	0.9002(6) ^{+5.5%} _{-4.3%}	0.8769(5) ^{+5.4%} _{-4.1%}
Z _L Z _T	1.30468(9) ^{+6.5%} _{-7.7%}	+45.3%	-9.9%	+2.8%	1.8016(9) ^{+4.3%} _{-3.5%}	1.7426(8) ^{+4.1%} _{-3.3%}
Z _T Z _L	1.30854(9) ^{+6.5%} _{-7.7%}	+44.3%	-9.9%	+2.8%	1.7933(9) ^{+4.3%} _{-3.4%}	1.7355(8) ^{+4.0%} _{-3.2%}
Z _T Z _T	7.6425(3) ^{+5.2%} _{-6.4%}	+31.2%	-11.2%	+20.5%	10.739(4) ^{+6.2%} _{-4.7%}	10.471(3) ^{+6.1%} _{-4.6%}

- small non-resonant background (0.5%) and interferences (1.2%)
- multiplicative combination of NLO corr. better motivated (but use with care!)
- fractions conserved from LO to NLO, substantial gg contribution (LL, TT)
- sizeable QCD and EW corrections

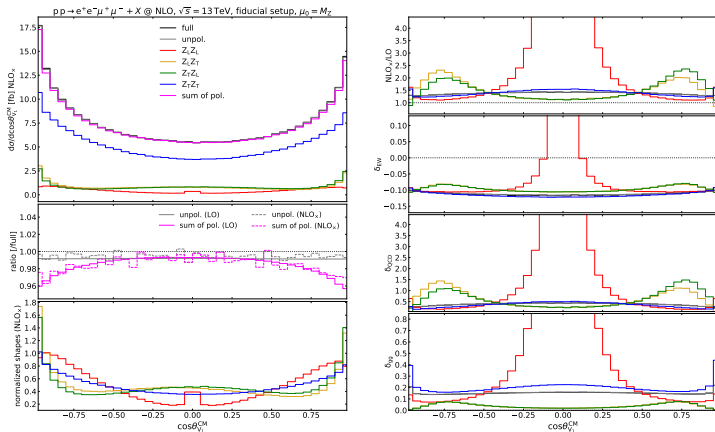
Transverse momentum of the Z boson [$\rightarrow e^+e^-(\gamma)$]

- LL is strongly suppressed at LO (by $1/s^2$ w.r.t. to TT)
- large negative EW (large virtuals) and QCD corrections to LL (huge reals)
- large gluon-induced contributions to LL

Transverse momentum of the Z boson [$\rightarrow e^+e^-(\gamma)$]

- large QCD corrections to TL (the transverse one decays into $e^+e^-(\gamma)$)
- sizable interference and non-resonant effects only in soft region
- rather sizeable shape differences among polarized states

Scattering angle of Z [$\rightarrow e^+e^-(\gamma)$] in the ZZ frame (w.r.t. ZZ-sys. direction in LAB)



- huge radiative corrections to LL around $\theta_{V_1}^{CM} = \pi/2$ (LL vanishes at LO)
- artificial effect for LL due to multiplicative approach, at $\theta_{V_1}^{CM} = \pi/2$
- non-flat K-factors for LT, TL, TT; 3% interferences in (anti)collinear regimes
- marked shape differences among various polarization states

3. Vector-boson scattering

Extensive phenomenological studies with PHANTOM Monte Carlo [[Ballestrero et al. 0801.3359](#)] at leading order [$\mathcal{O}(\alpha^6)$]:

- ▶ double- or single-pole approximation;
- ▶ separation of polarizations at amplitude level (SM, SESM, Higgsless);
- ▶ possibility to choose between LAB and CM definitions of polarization (v. 1.7);
- ▶ first study in W^+W^- [[Ballestrero Maina GP 1710.09339](#)] reproduced with MG5 [[Buarque-Franzosi et al. 1912.01725](#)];
- ▶ realistic study of W^+Z (with neutrino reconstruction) and ZZ , comparison with reweighting method [[Ballestrero Maina GP 1907.04722](#)];
- ▶ comparison of different polarization definitions in W^+W^+ [[Ballestrero Maina GP 2007.07133](#)].

Comparison between SM, Singlet Extension and Higgsless SM [[Ballestrero Maina GP 1710.09339](#), [1907.04722](#)].

Comparison between SM and Composite-Higgs models in the fully-automated (LO) MG5 [[Buarque-Franzosi et al. 1912.01725](#)] → spin-correlated NWA.

W^+W^+ (1)

Very recently: first measurement by CMS [CMS 2009.09429].

W^+W^+ scattering ($pp \rightarrow e^+\nu_e\mu^+\nu_\mu jj$) at LO [Ballestrero Maina GP 2007.07133] in a realistic setup, comparison between LAB and WW-CM definition of polarizations.

	LAB	WW-CM	ratio
full		1.593(2)	-
unpol		1.572(2)	-
0-unpol	0.4226(4)	0.4036(5)	0.96
T-unpol	1.165(1)	1.182(2)	1.01
0-0	0.1185(1)	0.1552(2)	1.31
0-T, T-0	0.3062(3)	0.2519(3)	0.82
T-T	0.8690(9)	0.9350(9)	1.08

Tab. Total cross-sections (fiducial setup) in fb.

Small non-resonant background (missing off-shell effects): 1.5%.

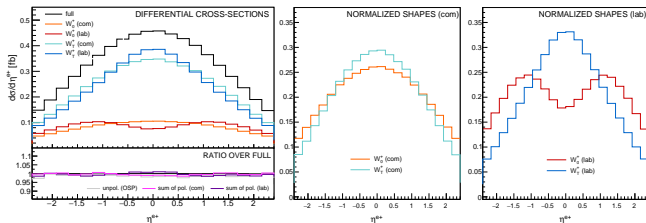
Small interferences among polarization ($\approx -1\%$).

Singly-polarized signals rather insensitive to the polarization definition.

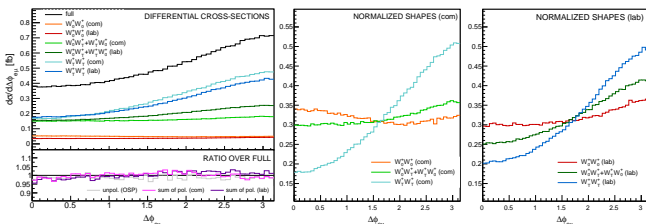
LL and TT signals are enhanced in the WW-CM definition (+31% and +8% respectively). Mixed enhanced in the LAB.

Stronger correlations in the WW-CM (most natural frame in the scattering of bosons).

Differential results [Ballestrero Maina GP 2007.07133]:



η_{e^+} : strong shape differences in the transverse mode between two definitions.



$\Delta\phi_{\ell\ell'}$: noticeable shape differences among polarized modes, mostly in the CM.

Results do not favor either of the two definitions, CM better motivated.

4. Higgs-boson decays

Polarized weak bosons from Higgs-boson decays

LO decay amplitude ($H \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-$): analytic function of decay angles (defined in the Higgs rest frame), $\cos\theta_{e^+}^*$, $\cos\theta_{\mu^+}^*$ and $\Delta\phi_{e^+\mu^+}^*$

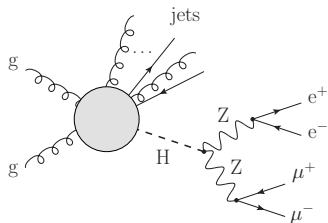
→ sum of doubly-polarized and interference terms

$$|\mathcal{A}_{H \rightarrow ZZ}^{\text{SM}}|^2 = |\mathcal{A}_{LL}|^2 + |\mathcal{A}_{TT}|^2 + 2\text{Re}(\mathcal{A}_{LL}^* \mathcal{A}_{TT})$$

Polarized events obtained with matrix-element reweighting of unpolarized ones:

$$w_\lambda = \frac{|\mathcal{A}_{\lambda\lambda}|^2}{|\mathcal{A}_{H \rightarrow ZZ}^{\text{SM}}|^2}, \lambda = L, T,$$

→ independently of the production mechanism!



Remark: polarizations defined for off-shell bosons (no DPA possible).

Same treatment as di-boson/VBS only possible for a **single boson**, via a **single-pole approximation**, which can be extended to **NLO EW**.

Polarized W/Z bosons in inclusive gluon-fusion Higgs production [Maina 2007.12080]

Polarized Z bosons: Higgs + 2 jets in gluon-fusion (GGF) and vector-boson fusion (VBF) [Maina GP 2105.07972]

Similar studies were done for anomalous Higgs coupling to longitudinal and transverse boson in WW, within EFT framework [Brehmer et al. 1404.5951]

Higgs + 2 jets in VBF and GGF

Total and differential cross-sections for H+2 jets at the LHC [Maina GP 2105.07972], in the presence of realistic selections.

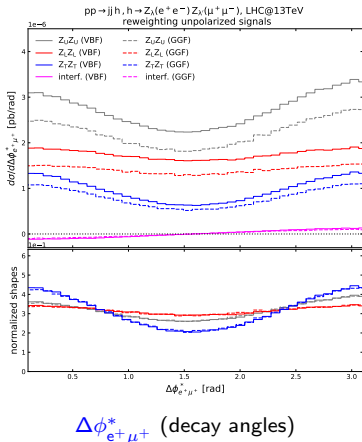
Validation: perfect agreement between reweighted results and Monte-Carlo ones (PHANTOM, MG5).

mode	GGF	VBF
unp.	$6.988(5) \cdot 10^{-6}$ pb	$8.566(5) \cdot 10^{-6}$ pb
LL	63.60%	64.26%
TT	36.35%	35.67%
interf.	0.05%	0.07%

Polarized signals show the same behaviour in GGF and VBF.

- ▶ at the level of polarization fractions
- ▶ at the level of polarized-distribution shapes

→ can safely sum over production channels



5. Conclusions & outlook

Very active field, several studies on polarization triggered by recent (and upcoming) experimental measurements.

Much effort is being invested in polarized-boson processes:

- automation of polarized-boson MC simulation (DPA, NWA)
- calculation of higher-order corrections (NLO EW+QCD, NNLO QCD)
- study of polarization-sensitive observables
- techniques for polarization extraction from hadronic decays

with special focus on di-boson production, VBS, Higgs-boson decays.

Wishlist (towards more complete and realistic input for experimental collaborations):

- parton-shower effects in the presence of polarized-bosons
- new-physics effects on polarized-boson production and decay
- more processes and more decay channels

Backup

Process: $pp \rightarrow e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^- + X$.

Accuracy: NLO EW [$\mathcal{O}(\alpha^5)$] + QCD [$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s\alpha^4)$], gg loop-induced [$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2\alpha^4)$].

Code: in-house Monte Carlo MOCANLO (makes use of RECOLA 1 + COLLIER).

Details: $N_F = 5$, G_μ -scheme for α , Complex-Mass-Scheme for weak bosons.

PDFs.: NNPDF3.1 at NLO with $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.118$, LHAPDF interface.

Ren. and fact. scale: $\mu_R = \mu_F = M_Z$.

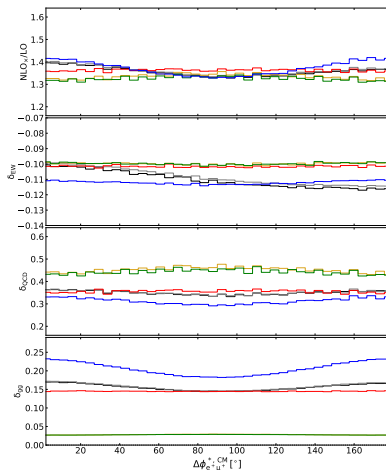
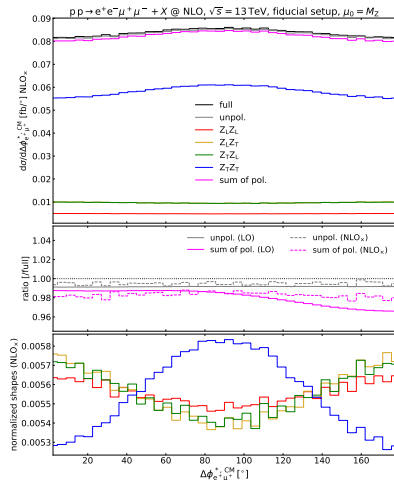
Fiducial selections:

- $p_{T,e^\pm} > 7 \text{ GeV}$, $p_{\mu^\pm} > 5 \text{ GeV}$, $p_{\ell_1} > 20 \text{ GeV}$, $p_{\ell_2} > 10 \text{ GeV}$
- $\Delta R_{\ell\ell'} > 0.05$, $|\eta_{e^\pm}| < 2.47$, $|\eta_{\mu^\pm}| < 2.7$
- $M_{4\ell} > 180 \text{ GeV}$, $|M_{\ell^+\ell^-} - M_Z| < 10 \text{ GeV}$
- no distance cut on QCD-jet kinematics, photon recombination with leptons if $\Delta R_{\ell\gamma} < 0.1$

ZZ production: azimuthal decay angles

Results in the **fiducial** setup.

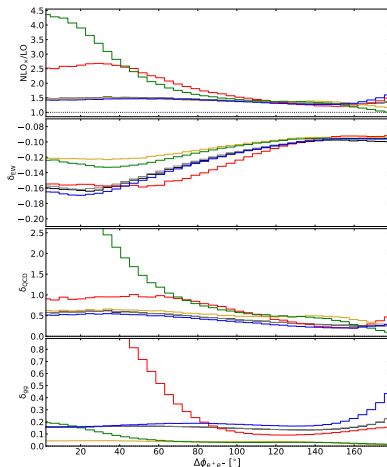
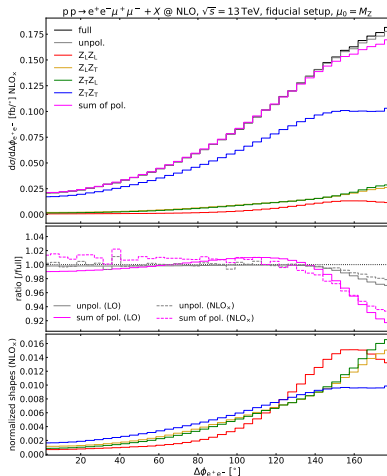
Difference between azimuthal angles of e^+ and μ^+ in the corresponding Z rest frames.



ZZ production: azimuthal positron-electron distance

Results in the **fiducial** setup.

Azimuthal distance between positron and electron.



Process: $pp \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e \mu^+ \nu_\mu jj$.

Accuracy: LO EW, $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^6)$.

Code: PHANTOM Monte Carlo.

Details: $N_F = 5$, G_μ -scheme for α , Complex-Mass-Scheme for weak bosons.

PDFs.: NNPDF3.0 at LO with $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.118$, LHAPDF interface.

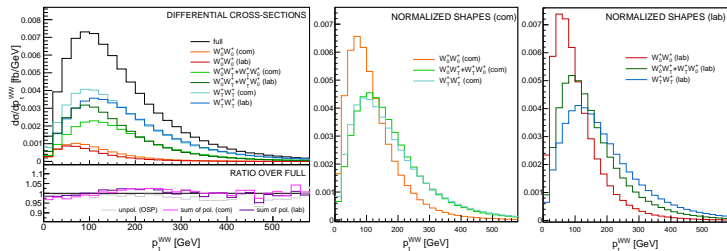
Ren. and fact. scale: $\mu_R = \mu_F = \sqrt{p_{T,j1} p_{T,j2}}$.

Two sets of selection cuts:

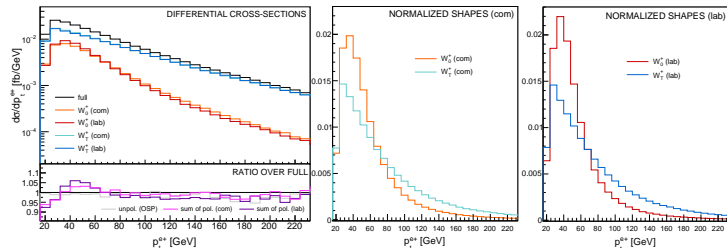
- **inclusive:** $M_{jj} > 500 \text{ GeV}$, $|\Delta\eta_{jj}| > 2.5$, $|\eta_j| < 5$, $p_{T,j} > 20 \text{ GeV}$.
- **fiducial:** $M_{jj} > 500 \text{ GeV}$, $|\Delta\eta_{jj}| > 2.5$, $|\eta_j| < 5$, $p_{T,j} > 20 \text{ GeV}$,
 $p_{T,\ell} > 20 \text{ GeV}$, $|y_\ell| < 2.5$, $p_T^{\text{miss}} > 40 \text{ GeV}$.

W^+W^+ scattering: distributions (fiducial setup)

Transverse momentum of the WW system



Transverse momentum of the positron



Process: $pp \rightarrow H(e^+e^-\mu^+\mu^-)jj$.

Accuracy: LO EW for VBF, $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^6)$, LO HEFT for GGF, $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2\alpha_{\text{ggH}}\alpha^3)$.

Code: PHANTOM and MADGRAPH 5.

Details: $N_F = 5$, G_μ -scheme for α , Complex-Mass-Scheme for weak bosons.

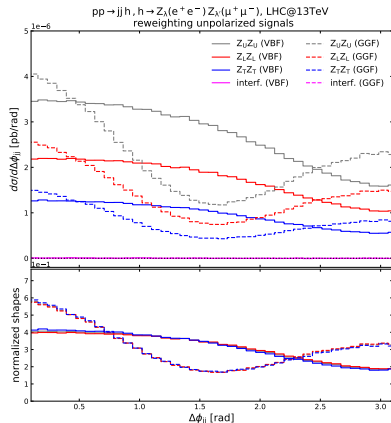
PDFs.: NNPDF3.0 at LO with $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.118$, LHAPDF interface.

Ren. and fact. scale: $\mu_R = \mu_F = \sqrt{p_{T,j1}p_{T,j2}}$.

Fiducial selections:

- $M_{jj} > 300 \text{ GeV}$, $|\Delta\eta_{jj}| > 2.5$, $\eta_{j,1} \cdot \eta_{j,2} < 0$, $|\eta_j| < 4.5$, $p_{T,j} > 25 \text{ GeV}$
- $M_{e^+e^-}, M_{\mu^+\mu^-} > 10 \text{ GeV}$, $|\eta_\ell| < 2.5$, $p_{T,\ell} > 20 \text{ GeV}$ ($\ell = e, \mu$)
- $120 \text{ GeV} < M_{4\ell} < 130 \text{ GeV}$

Azimuthal separation between tagging jets



Invariant mass of the e⁺μ⁺ system

