Top-quark and electroweak physics: Theory

Based on a personal selection of results from this vast subject.



QCD@LHC 2022, 28-11-2022, IJCLab Orsay.

Davide Pagani

Most of physics at LHC is from EW and Top-quark

Standard Model Production Cross Section Measurements





from QCD@LHC

The LHC is a pp machine therefore QCD effects are everywhere and they can never be neglected, not only for precision but for sensible predictions in general.



to QCD&EW&TOP@LHC:

Given the range of energy explored by the LHC, it is almost impossible to be sensitive on neither the EW sector of the SM nor the top-quark physics.







EW&TOP from a QCD/precision perspective

as final states

NNLO QCD corrections have been calculated for many processes and **for a few** of them **even NNNLO QCD** corrections are available: single H, γ^*, W^{\pm}, Z and HH, ZH.

NNLO recent timeline H+jet Hjj(VBF) Z+jet VH VH 2iets **Z+b-jet** $\gamma\gamma$ ep→2iets WH+jet $\gamma + X$ (+frag) ZH ZZ WW WZ $Z@O(\alpha_s \alpha)$ γγγ tīH bb WH HH W+c-jet W+jet 2jets γγ+jet γγγ γ +X Z+jet Z γ $Z@O(\alpha,\alpha)$ **3jets WH**($m_b \neq 0$) H+iet ep→jet Hjj(VBF) W@ $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_{s}\alpha)$ HHjj (VBF) Hjj (VBF) WH e⁺e→3jets 2020 2021 2022 2011 20132017 2019 2015

taken from A.Huss talk at Workshop on Tools for High Precision LHC Simulations look at it for up-to-date references and citations.

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as loops

Since NNLO QCD is unavoidable at the LHC and: NNLO QCD ~ $\alpha_s^2 \sim \alpha_{\rm EW} \sim$ NLO EW then also NLO EW corrections cannot be omitted and typically involve tops.

NLO EW corrections, as well as Complete NLO^{*} predictions, have been already automated in fixed-order calculations for LHC cross sections.

production.

Complete NLO consists of all possible SM one-loop corrections beyond the standard NLO QCD and NLO EW.



Mixed EW and QCD at NNLO have also started to be computed, and are now available for Z on- and off-shell:

EW&TOP from a QCD/precision perspective

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These three aspects, which are all different, have also mutual influences with each other.

as loops

Mixed EW and QCD at NNLO have also started to be computed, and are now available for Z on- and off-shell

in **BSM**

FIRST:

many **BSM signatures overlap** with those emerging from top and V bosons final states.

No control of the SM background means no control of the BSM signal.



SECOND:

Top-quark, Higgs and V bosons (especially longitudinal polarisations) are the most natural particles to scrutinise in order to detect possible BSM signals.



Everything is connected



Don't worry, I am not going to speak to you about wormholes, time travel or other dimensions ...



Top, EW and Higgs sectors are all connected



An EFT perspective on BSM (SMEFT)

New Physics in the Top sector has effects in the **EW** sector and vice versa.

Taken from Degrande, Maltoni, Mimasu, Vryonidou, Zhang '18

A SM (much older) perspective

QFT leads to relations between observables of the three different sectors: EW, Top, Higgs.

Taken from "Precision Electroweak Measurements on the Z Resonance", hep-ex/0509008







Top Quark Production Cross Section Measurements



$t\bar{t}V, tV(j), t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$: the EW interacting tops

Status: November 2022

Cross sections are much smaller than in the case of $t\bar{t}$ and single top, but nevertheless they have already been measured.

They are crucial for characterising the interactions of the top quarks with the gauge bosons and the Higgs.

I will focus on them, with a particular attention on $t\bar{t}W$.







ttW as representative case



Interplays of different aspects:

- $t\bar{t}W$ is relevant as both signal and background to new physics or to other SM processes ($t\bar{t}H, t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$).
- $t\bar{t}W$ involves both the EW and top sectors.
- For $t\bar{t}W$, both QCD and EW corrections are relevant and mix one into the other.

So far, it is an NLO story:

NNLO QCD is not yet available, but several different NLO calculations have been computed, involving different subtleties.





ttV NLO corrections

NLO QCD and EW corrections: the Complete-NLO

The complete set of LO_i and NLO_i is denoted as "Complete NLO".



 $NLO_1 = NLO QCD$ $NLO_2 = NLO EW$

In general, NLO,3 and NLO,4 sizes are **negligible**, but there are exceptions.





ttW: one of the exceptions

13 TeV

Naive estimate

$\delta [\%]$	$\mu = H_T/4$	$\mu = H_T/2$	$\mu = H_T$		$\delta [\%]$	$\mu = H_T/4$	$\mu = H_T/2$	$\mu = H_T$
LO_2	-	-	-	10	LO_2	_	-	-
LO_3	0.8	0.9	1.1	1	LO_3	0.9	1.1	1.3
NLO_1	34.8(7.0)	50.0(25.7)	63.4(42.0)	10	NLO_1	159.5(69.8)	149.5(71.1)	142.7(73.4)
NLO_2	-4.4(-4.8)	-4.2(-4.6)	-4.0(-4.4)	1	NLO_2	-5.8(-6.4)	-5.6(-6.2)	-5.4(-6.1)
NLO_3	11.9(8.9)	12.2(9.1)	12.5(9.3)	0.1	NLO_3	67.5(55.6)	68.8(56.6)	70.0(57.6)
NLO_4	0.02(-0.02)	0.04(-0.02)	0.05(-0.01)		NLO_4	0.2(0.1)	0.2(0.2)	$0.3\left(0.2 ight)$

Number in parentheses refer to the case with a jet veto $p_T(j) > 100$ GeV and |y(j)| < 2.5Frederix, **DP**, Zaro '17



100 TeV

NLO3 is typically of the order 0.1%, while in the case of $t\bar{t}W$ is ~ 10 % at the LHC and even more at higher energies.

The origin of this effect is the opening of the $tW \rightarrow tW$ scattering diagram, which enters only at NLO₃.

This effect is crucial for the correct description in the SM, but is also sensitive to the SMEFT operator:

 $\frac{i\bar{c}_R}{2}H^{\dagger}\overleftrightarrow{D_{\mu}}H\bar{t}_R\gamma^{\mu}t_R$ Dror, Farina, Salvioni, Serra '15









Complete NLO

(N)LO _i / LO ₁	LO ₂	LO ₃	NLO ₁	NLO ₂	NLO ₃	NLO ₄
ttW	-	1	49.5	-4.5	12.2	<0.01
ttH	0.4	0.7	28.9	1.8	0.5	<0.01
ttZ	-0.7	2.3	44.8	-0.8	0.8	<0.01
ttγ	0.2	1.1	58.6	-2.1	0.8	<0.01

Frixione, Hirschi, **DP**, Shao, Zaro '15 Frederix, **DP**, Zaro '18 Frederix, Frixione, Hirschi, **DP**, Shao, Zaro '18 **DP**, Shao, Zaro '21

Only $t\bar{t}W$ has this peculiar large NLO₃ corrections.

$t\bar{t}W$ vs. $t\bar{t}Z$, $t\bar{t}\gamma$, $t\bar{t}H$ at 13 TeV

adding NNLL QCD resummation

Broggio, Ferroglia, Frederix, **DP**, Pecjak, Tsinikos '19 Kulesza, Motyka, Schwartländer, Stebel, Theeuwes '20 based respectively on several Broggio et al. and Kulesza et al.







Analysis of $t\bar{t}H$ and $t\bar{t}W$ production in multilepton final states with the ATLAS detector



$t\bar{t}$ v also special or the experiment ($t\bar{t}H$ bkg.)

The $t\bar{t}W$ background represents the dominant background particularly in the $2\ell SS$ and 3ℓ channels across multiple event categories, which span a wide range of kinematic regimes. Despite the use of the state-of-art simulations, the accurate modelling of additional QCD radiation in $t\bar{t}W$ production remains challenging. Categories sensitive to the $t\bar{t}W$ background have been introduced to the analysis to study and constrain this background. The jet multiplicity distributions in the 2ℓ SS and 3ℓ channels after event selection are shown in Figure 1. Disagreements between the data and the prefit prediction from the simulation are observed. To minimise the dependence of the $t\bar{t}H$ signal extraction on the $t\bar{t}W$ prediction, three independent normalisation factors for the $t\bar{t}W$ background are considered in the likelihood fit: two corresponding to the LJ and HJ categories of the 2ℓ SS channel, and one corresponding to the 3ℓ channel categories. The measured normalisation factors are: $\hat{\lambda}_{t\bar{t}W}^{2\ell \text{LJ}} = 1.56^{+0.30}_{-0.28}, \ \hat{\lambda}_{t\bar{t}W}^{2\ell \text{HJ}} = 1.26^{+0.19}_{-0.18}, \text{ and } \hat{\lambda}_{t\bar{t}W}^{3\ell} = 1.68^{+0.30}_{-0.28}$. The

It was manifest also from the data that QCD radiation modelling for $t\bar{t}W$ had to be improved.

1st Step: Complete NLO + PS

Frederix, Tsinikos `20;

Febres Cordero, Kraus, Reina `21





1st Step: Complete NLO + PS



3

4

• EW_{sub} structure • Jet multiplicities (large effect at high n) $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}W$, NLO+PS $pp \to t\bar{t}W$, NLO+PS — QCD – QCD 1.6 3.5 $2ss\ell$ $--+EW_{sub}$ $- + EW_{sub}$ <u>ح</u> 2.5 **4** 1.2 iq 1 bin $\mathbf{2}$ 8.0 ber σpe ^b 0.6 0.40.50.21.6- (QCD+EW_{sub})/QCD - (QCD+EW_{sub})/QCD 1.41.4QCD QCD 1.2

Frederix, Tsinikos 20

3

4

Slide taken from I. Tsinikos' talk at LHCP2020

Non flat *K*-factor ____

Enhancement of the _____ tails



The large component of the Complete NLO, NLO_{QCD} + EW_{sub}, plus the parton shower gives new contributions.





Multilepton signatures

Frederix, Tsinikos 21



2nd Step: improve the merging recipe

New FxFx merging strategy:

If a quark stems from a $q \rightarrow q'W$ splitting, it should be treated differently than QCD jets.

Much less dependence on the merging scale and better description of QCD radiation.





NLO off-shell with $t\bar{t}$ **leptonic signature**



NLO QCD: Bevilacqua, Bi, Hartanto, Kraus, Worek '20; Denner, Pelliccioli '20 Complete NLO: Denner, Pelliccioli '21

++11







What about NNLO? first results for *ttH*

Catani, Devoto, Grazzini, Kallweit, Mazzitelli, Savoini '22

	$\sqrt{s} = 1$.3 TeV	$\sqrt{s} = 10$)0 Te
$\sigma \; [{ m fb}]$	gg	$q \overline{q}$	gg	
$\sigma_{ m LO}$	261.58	129.47	23055	232
$\Delta \sigma_{ m NLO,H}$	88.62	7.826	8205	21
$\Delta \sigma_{ m NLO,H} _{ m soft}$	61.98	7.413	5612	20
$\Delta \sigma_{\rm NNLO,H} _{\rm soft}$	-2.980(3)	2.622(0)	-239.4(4)	(

Calculation performed for the total cross section, in the limit of soft-Higgs for the twoloop amplitude only.

Taking into account uncertainty from this approximation at NLO, NNLO result leads to a consistent reduction of scale uncertainties, but small corrections to the central value.

We could expect this qualitative behaviour for $t\bar{t}Z$, but not for $t\bar{t}W$. 20





Single-top+V $V = Z, H, \gamma$

tHj and tZj: NLO QCD+EW predictions **DP**, Tsinikos, Vryonidou '20

Accuracy	Channel	FS	tHj
NLO _{QCD}	<i>t</i> -ch., <i>s</i> -ch.,	$5\mathrm{FS}$	$85.1(2)^{+5.4}_{-2.3}(+6.4\%) + 0.5(+0.6\%)_{-0.5(-0.6\%)}$
	tvv _h	$5FS_{4-5}^{scale}$	$\frac{85.1(2)^{+6.2}_{-9.2}(+7.2\%)}{(-10.9\%)} + 0.5(+0.6\%) + 0.5(-0.6\%)$
$\rm NLO_{QCD+EW}$	t-ch., s -ch.,	$5\mathrm{FS}$	$82.2(2)^{+5.6(+6.8\%)}_{-2.4(-2.9\%)} \begin{array}{c} +0.5(+0.6\%) \\ -0.5(-0.6\%) \end{array}$
•	$\iota v v_h$	$5FS_{4-5}^{scale}$	$\frac{82.2(2)^{+5.9(+7.2\%)}_{-8.9(-10.9\%)}}{0.5(+0.6\%)} + 0.5(+0.6\%)_{-0.5(-0.6\%)}$

 $5FS_{4-5FS}^{scale}$.

NLO EW corrections are in general within the QCD uncertainty band only taking into account the flavour-scheme dependence.







QCD scale and flavour (4FS vs. 5FS) uncertainties combined in the

NLO EW corrections mix the different channels-(s, t, tW)

Flavour-scheme uncertainty is essential for a realistic estimate of total uncertainties.





tyj: NLO QCD+EW predictions DP, Shao, Tsinikos, Zaro '21

Accuracy	Channel	\mathbf{FS}	Inclusive
NLO _{QCD}	<i>t</i> -ch., <i>s</i> -ch.,	$5\mathrm{FS}$	$900(2)^{+52.05}_{-36.26}(+5.8\%) + $
	tW_h	$5FS_{4-5}^{scale}$	$900(2)^{+63.80}_{-73.78}(+7.1\%) + \\ -8.2\%)$
NLO_{OCD+EW}	<i>t</i> -ch., <i>s</i> -ch.,	$5\mathrm{FS}$	$875(2)^{+55.18(+6.3\%)}_{-33.13(-3.8\%)}$ +
	tW_h	$5FS_{4-5}^{scale}$	$875(2)^{+62.06(+7.1\%)}_{-71.77(-8.2\%)}$ +



Similar consideration of tZj and tHj, but milder differences between 4FS and 5FS.

[fb]

- -4.76(+0.5%)-4.76(-0.5%)
- -4.76(+0.5%)-4.76(-0.5%)
- -4.64(+0.5%)-4.64(-0.5%)
- -4.64(+0.5%)
- -4.64(-0.5%)



tZj: NLO QCD+EW off-shell effects

Denner, Pelliccioli, Schwan '22

 $pp \rightarrow e^+ e^- \mu^+ \nu_\mu J j_b + X$,



(a) t channel



(b) s channel



(c) Non resonant



(d) Vector-boson scattering



but also

If I start from single-**top** Z production with a leptonically decaying top, NLO QCD corrections give a contribution that is in fact single-**antitop** Z production with a hadronically decaying top!

e process ition of recent LHC analyses [5, 6], we complete by the set of the

 $pp \rightarrow e^+_e e^-_e \mu^+_\mu \nu_\mu J j_{j_b} + X_{X},$



re 1. Sample tree-level diagrams contributing at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^6)$ to off-shell tZj production $\frac{25}{3}$ the LHC.

tZj: NLO QCD+EW off-shell effects



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Complete NLO



Frederix, **DP**, Zaro '17

The gg initial-state gives ~90% of the LO cross section at 13 TeV and almost all the cross section at 100 TeV. There is no gg contribution to LO₄ and LO₅.

$${}^{3}\Sigma_{5,3}^{t\bar{t}t\bar{t}\bar{t}} + \alpha_{s}^{1}\alpha^{4}\Sigma_{5,4}^{t\bar{t}t\bar{t}\bar{t}} + \alpha^{5}\Sigma_{5,5}^{t\bar{t}t\bar{t}\bar{t}}$$
$$\Sigma_{\rm NLO_{5}} + \Sigma_{\rm NLO_{6}} .$$

There is no gg contribution to NLO₅ and NLO₆. Multiple Higgs-Top and EW-Top interactions can be present.





Complete NLO

-				
Naive est	$\mu = H_T/2$	$\mu = H_T/4$	$\mu = H_T/8$	$\delta [\%]$
10	-30.5	-28.3	-26.0	LO_2
1	45.9	39.0	32.6	LO_3
0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	$ m LO_4$
0.01	0.05	0.03	0.02	LO_5
10	103.5	62.7	14.0	NLO_1
1	-15.1	-3.3	8.6	NLO_2
0.1	16.1	1.8	-10.3	NLO_3
0.01	3.6	2.8	2.3	NLO_4
0.00	0.19	0.16	0.12	NLO_5
	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	NLO_6
_ 0.000	0.9	-1.6	-1.7	$NLO_2 + NLO_3$

LO2 and LO3 are large and have also large cancellations. NLO2 and NLO3 are mainly given by 'QCD corrections' on top of LO2 and LO3, so they are large and strongly depend on the scale choice, at variance with standard EW corrections. Accidentally, relatively to LO1, NLO2+NLO3 scale dependence almost disappear. What happens if BSM enters into the game? Anomalous yt ?













Conclusions and Outlook

In this talk I have focused on one of the many relevant theoretical aspects in Top and EW physics: The relevance of higher-order QCD and EW corrections for the "rare" top-quark processes, involving the EW interacting tops.

Even just considering precision physics, many other important studies have been performed for top and EW: for example, all the studies for $t\bar{t}$ production and the multiboson and VBS processes. Not discussed in this talk.

We have seen how many NLO studies have been performed for $t\bar{t}V$ and especially $t\bar{t}W$. This demonstrates that besides going to NNLO, there are plenty of phenomenological aspects that can still be explored.

However, first results for NNLO predictions for $t\bar{t}V$ have appeared in $t\bar{t}H$ production. This is just the beginning of studies aiming at a new level of precision, which has been already achieved for lower multiplicities in the final state.







