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INSTITUTE OF
NUCLEAR AND
PARTICLE PHYSICS

Theory of Diboson production - Polarized & Unpolarized

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LHCP Boston 2024
The 12th Large Hadron Collider Physics
Annual Conference
June 3-7, 2024 @ Northeastern University
<http://lhcp2024.cos.northeastern.edu>

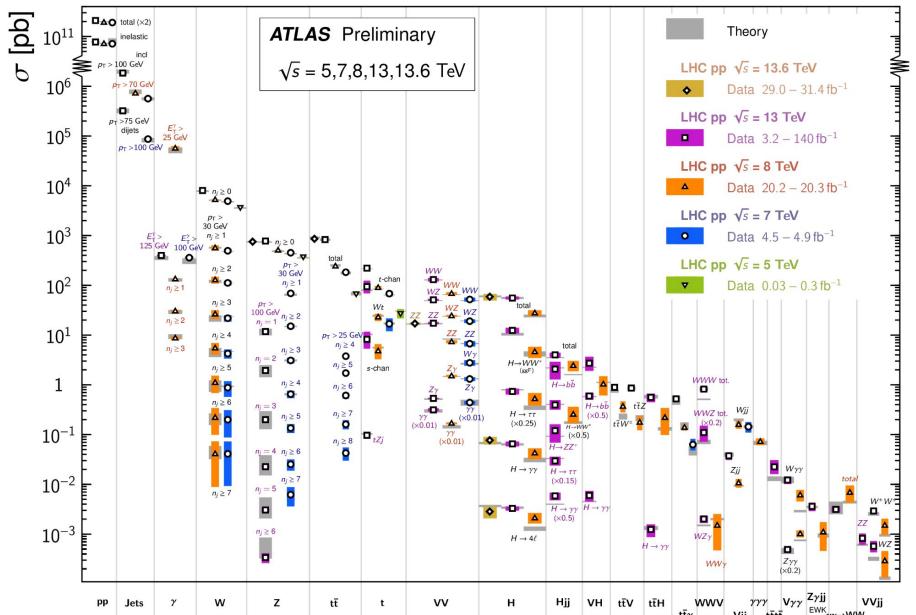
Photo credit: Alisa Mak

The LHCP2024 conference is hosted and supported by:

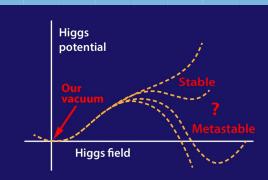
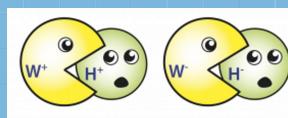
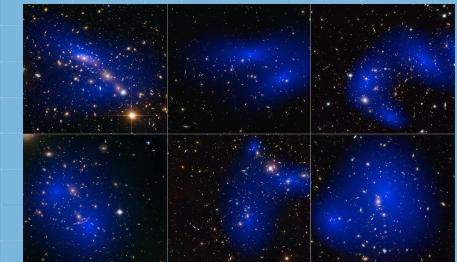
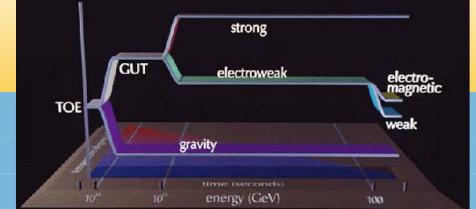
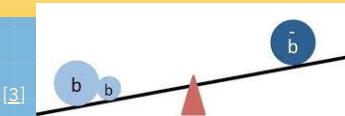
Northeastern Physics N Northeastern University College of Science CERN IUPAP NSF

Why Diboson production?

Standard Model Production Cross Section Measurements

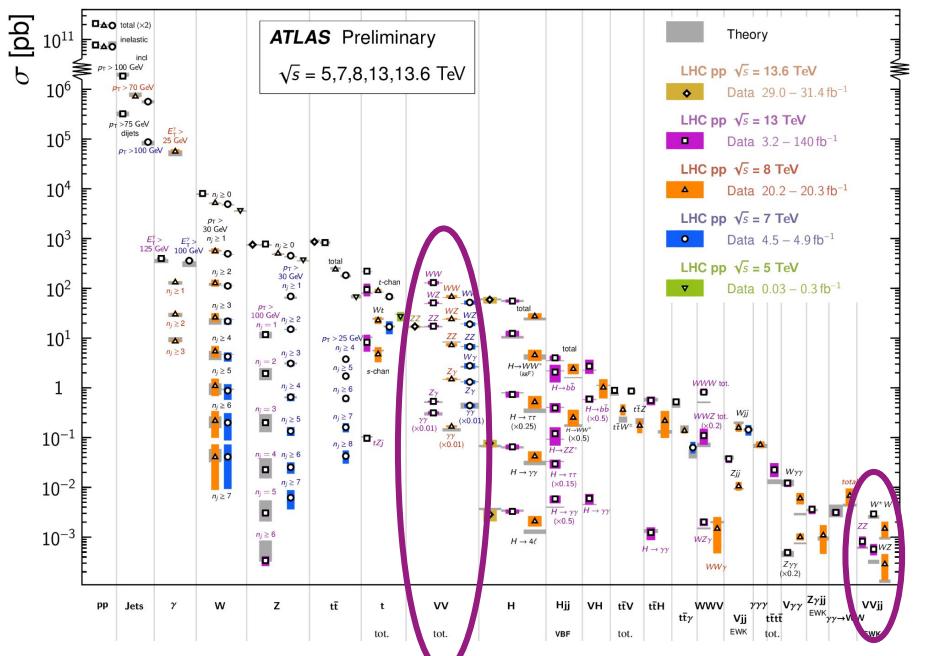


[1]

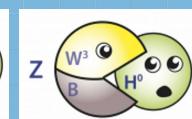
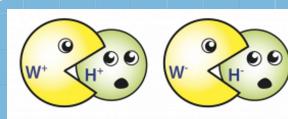
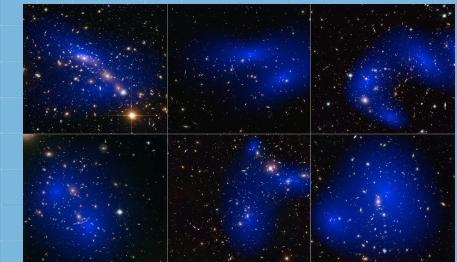
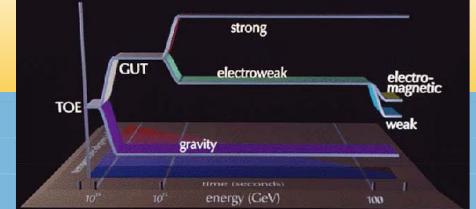


Why Diboson production?

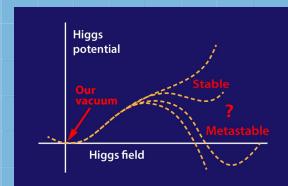
Standard Model Production Cross Section Measurements



[1]



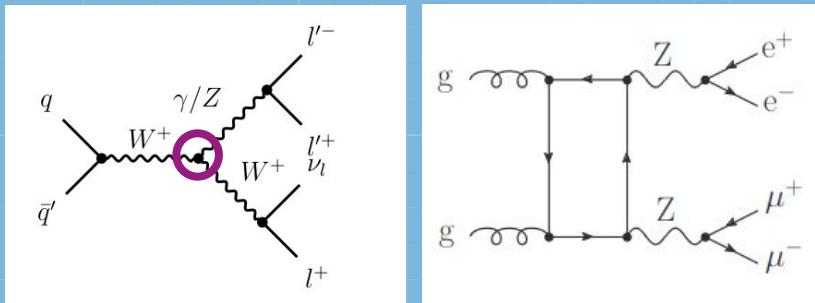
Supersymmetric Higgs
Composite Higgs



Diboson production?

Inclusive Diboson production

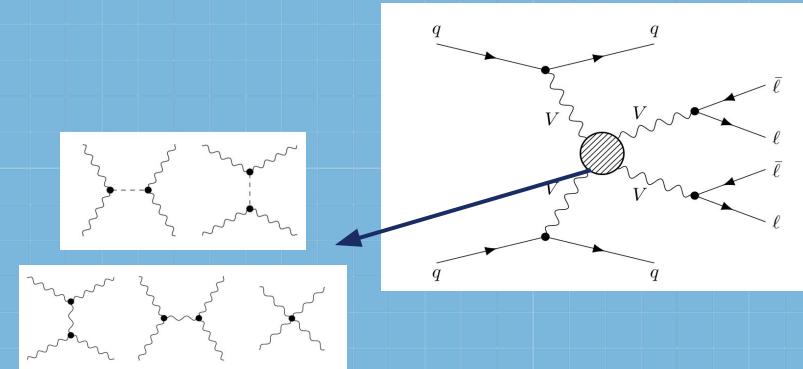
- ★ production of two VBs **without** any FS jets @LO
- ★ electroweak LO production + decay: $O(\alpha^4)$



- probes of triple gauge coupling
- important background for many analyses e.g. Higgs production

Vector boson scattering

- ★ production of two VBs with **two** FS jets @LO
- ★ electroweak LO production + decay: $O(\alpha^6)$

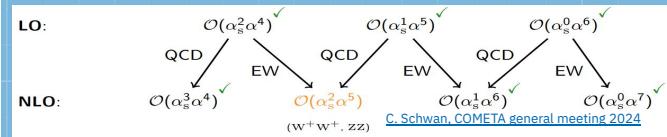
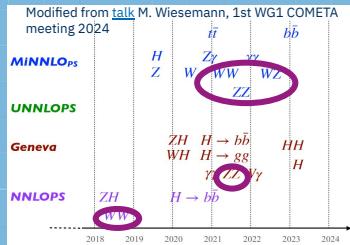


- probes of triple & quartic gauge coupling
- probes of HVV coupling
- test of EW symmetry breaking

Talk outline

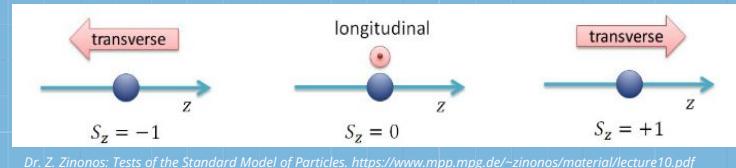
Unpolarized Diboson production

- state of the art in precision calculations
- new recent fixed-order & PS matched calculations



Polarized Diboson production

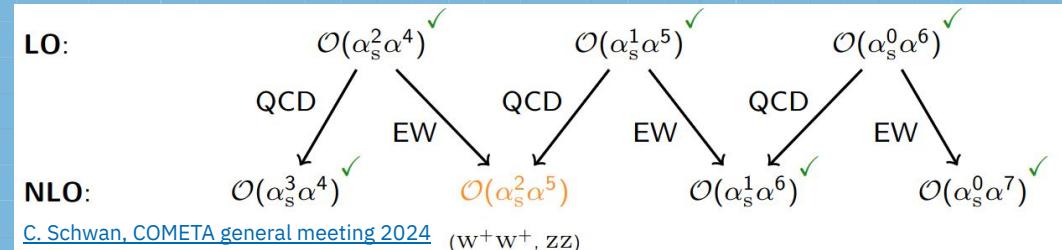
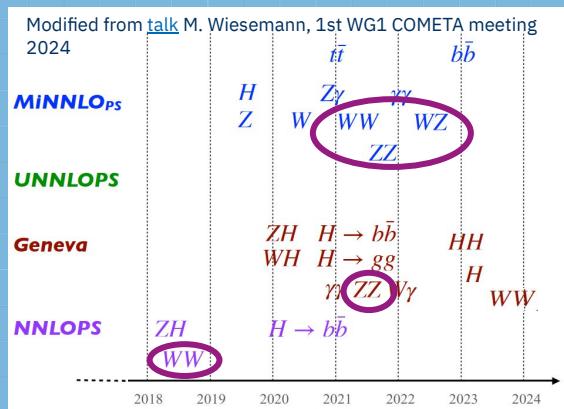
- state of the art in fixed order precision calculations
- new recent fixed-order calculations
- new tools for simulation of polarization templates with higher order QCD effects matched to PS



Not covered:

- massless VBs: Vh, Vy, yy, hh studies
- semi-/fully hadronic decays only partly covered
- BSM studies
- quantum entanglement studies in diboson production
- resummation in inclusive diboson production
- interference with off-shell Higgs contribution in gg -> VV at NLO QCD ...

Unpolarized cross sections for diboson production



State-of-the-art - Fixed order

Les Houches wish list 2021 : fully leptonic decays

Process	State-of-the-art
$pp \rightarrow VV'$	NNLO _{QCD} + NLO _{EW} + NLO _{QCD} (gg channel)
$pp \rightarrow VV' + 2j$	NLO _{QCD} (QCD component) NLO _{QCD} + NLO _{EW} (EW component)
$pp \rightarrow W^+W^+ + 2j$	Full NLO _{QCD} + NLO _{EW}
$pp \rightarrow W^+W^- + 2j$	NLO _{QCD} + NLO _{EW} (EW component)
$pp \rightarrow W^+Z + 2j$	NLO _{QCD} + NLO _{EW} (EW component)
$pp \rightarrow ZZ + 2j$	Full NLO _{QCD} + NLO _{EW}



MATRIX

Version: 2.1.0.betal
Reference: arXiv:1711.06631

Munich -- the Multi-channel Integrator at swiss (CM) precision --
Automates q²-subtraction and Resummation to Integrate X-sections

Mar 2023

M. Grazzini (m.grazzini@physik.uzh.ch), S. Kallweit (stefan.kallweit@cern.ch), S. Wiesemann (s.wiesemann@cern.ch)

MATRIX is based on a set of efficient computations and tools from the literature and groups. Please cite the original authors by citing the references in CITATIONS.bib created with every run.

1 Overview of MCFM
2 Installation and directories
3 New features in version 10.3
4 Process list
5 Configuration
6 Input file configuration
7 Histograms
8 NNLO using non-local subtraction
9 Cut-MCFM
10 Jet-vetoed cross sections
11 Z production at NLO and NLL
12 C++ matrix element interface
13 Notes on specific processes
14 New features in MCFM-10
15 New features in MCFM-9
16 Versions prior to MCFM-9
Bibliography

MCFM is a parton level Monte Carlo program that gives predictions for a wide range of processes at hadron colliders. Almost all processes are available at NNLO, but some processes are also available at NNLO or NLO in QCD. The calculation of some processes can also account for NLO and NNLO corrections. A web interface and a web resummation is available for the production of color singlet final states. Please look at the list of available processes. This document is available as a series of pdf pages and as a [pdf file](#). Download and installation instructions are in Section 1.

January 30, 2023

public available tools:

- [MATRIX](#)
- [MCFM](#): QCD calculations

NNLO QCD: [T.Gehrman et al. 2014; F. Cascioli et al. 2014; M. Grazzini et al. 2015, 2016, 2017; S. Kallweit & M. Wiesemann 2018; G. Heinrich et al. 2017]

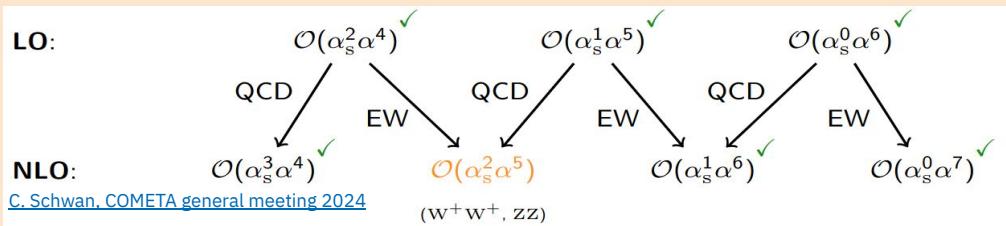
NLO EW: [B. Biedermann et al. 2016, 2016, 2016, 2017; S. Kallweit et al. 2017; M. Chiesa, A. Denner, J.-N. Lang 2018]

NLO QCD (gg channel): [F. Caola et al. 2015, 2015; M. Grazzini et al. 2018, 2020]

NNLO QCD & NLO EW combination: [M. Grazzini et al. 2020]

First NLO VBS offshell calculations:

- **W⁺W⁺:** [T. Melia et al. 2017], [B. Biedermann, A. Denner, M. Pellen, 2016, 2017]
- **W⁺Z:** [F. Campanario et al. 2013, A. Denner et al. 2019]
- **ZZ:** [F. Campanario et al. 2014, A. Denner et al. 2020, 2021]
- **W⁺W⁻:** [T. Melia et al. 2011, A. Denner et al. 2022]



State-of-the-art - FO matched to parton shower

Les Houches wish list 2021 :

Process	State-of-the-art
$pp \rightarrow VV'$	NNLO QCD + PS NLO QCD + NLO EW + PS
$pp \rightarrow VV' + 2j$	NLO QCD + PS (EW, QCD component), mostly in VBS approximation
$pp \rightarrow W^+W^+ + 2j$	
$pp \rightarrow W^+W^- + 2j$	
$pp \rightarrow W^+Z + 2j$	
$pp \rightarrow ZZ + 2j$	

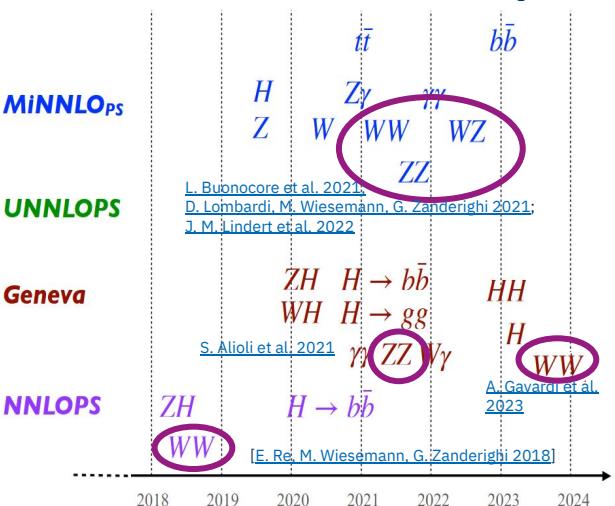
NNLO QCD+PS:

NLO QCD + NLO EW + PS :
Recola2-Collier+POWHEG-BOX-RES+PYTHIA8
[\[M. Chiesa, C. Oleari, E. Re 2020\]](#)

NLO QCD + PS (gg channel):
POWHEG+Pythia8
 ZZ: [\[S. Alioli et al. 2021\]](#), [\[L. Buonocore et al. 2021\]](#)

NLO QCD + PS + 1,2,3j + approximate NLO EW:
Sherpa+OpenLoops/Recola
 WW: [\[S. Bräuer et al. 2020\]](#); ZZ: [\[E. Bothmann et al. 2021\]](#)

Modified from talk M. Wiesemann, 1st WG1 COMETA meeting 2024



W⁺W⁺ NLO EW (+NLO QCD) (EW component): *POWHEG+Recola+Pythia8* : [\[M. Chiesa et al. 2019\]](#)

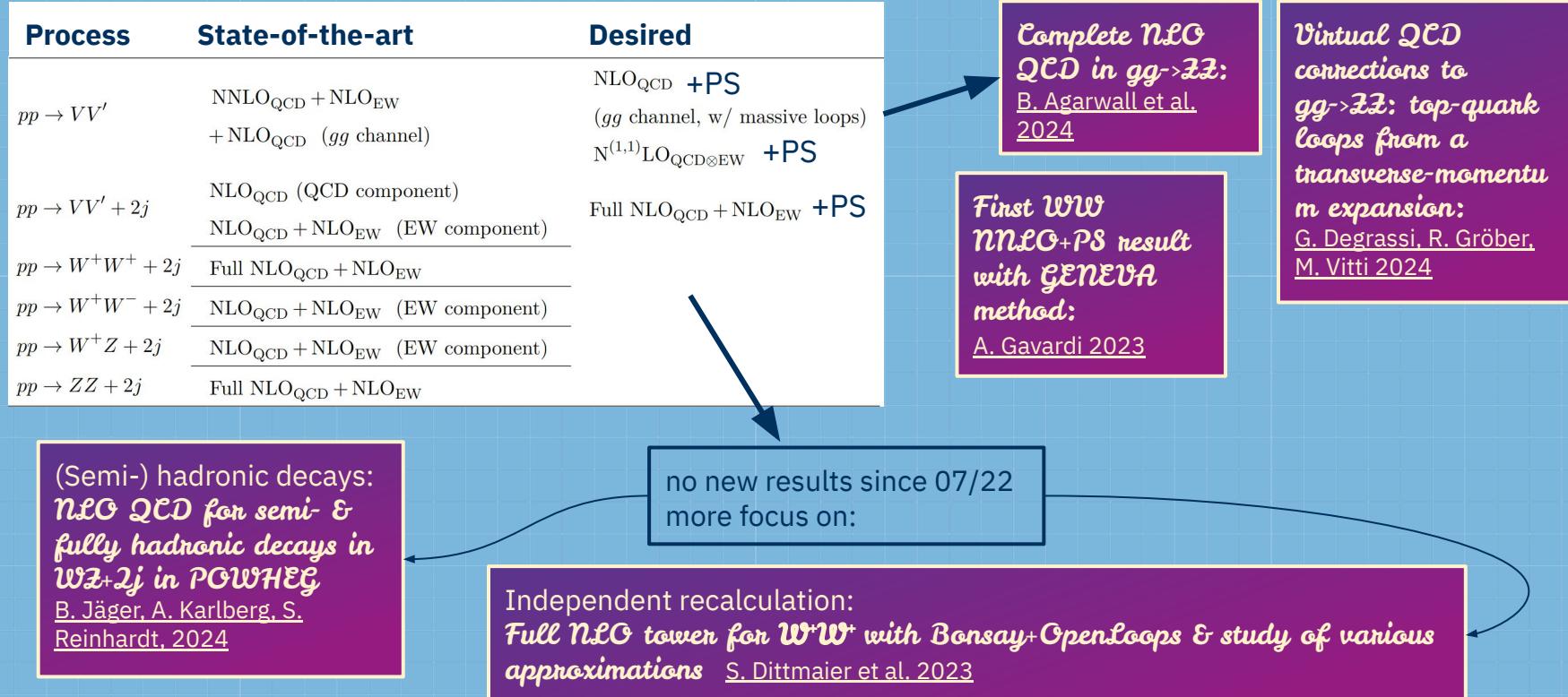
NLO QCD (EW, QCD component): mostly with approximations
 (VBFNLO, POWHEG, MadGraph5)+Pythia8/Herwig, Sherpa+Recola
[\[A. Ballestrero et al. 2018\]](#), [\[B. Jäger et al. 2011, 2013, 2013, 2018\]](#), [\[J. Baglio et al. 2014\]](#), [\[M. Rauch & S. Plätzer 2016\]](#) ...

Special color flow in PS!

Recent effort to get it right:
[\[B. Cabouat & T. Sjöstrand 2017\]](#)
[\[A. Ballestrero et al. 2018\]](#)
[\[ATL-PHYS-PUB-2019-004\]](#)

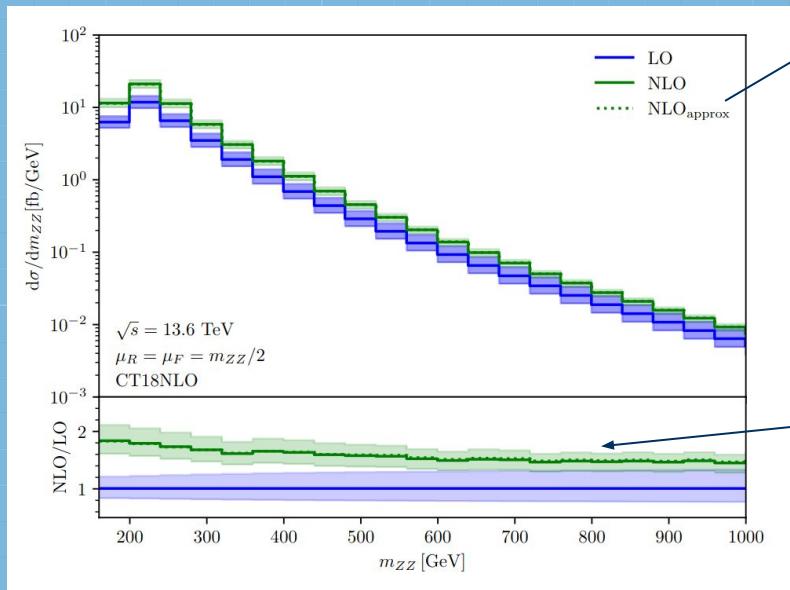
Recent progress

Les Houches wish list 2021 : fully leptonic decays



Complete NLO QCD in gluon-induced $Z\bar{Z}$ production

B. Agarwall et al. 2024



exact for all but
massive two-loop
virtual amplitude
→ replaced by rescaled
top only Born

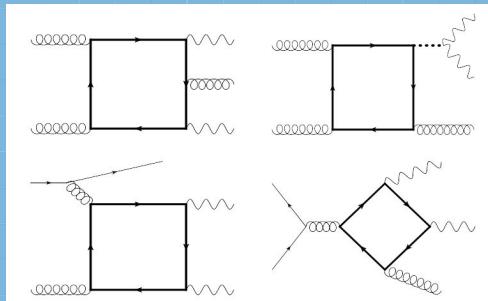
very good agreement
between calc with
approximate massive
effects & full calc
even in high mass
tails
→ maybe different
for other observables

$$\sigma_{\text{LO}} = 1316^{+23.0\%}_{-18.0\%} \text{ fb},$$
$$\sigma_{\text{NLO}} = 2275(12)^{+14.0\%}_{-12.0\%} \text{ fb}.$$

huge NLO contribution, but mostly
covered by massless calculation
(~ -2% diff total XS)

Gluon-induced $Z\bar{Z}$ production

- ~60% of NNLO QCD contribution [[F. Cascioli et al. 2014](#)]
- NLO corrections = no Z boson couples to external quark lines → well defined
- NLO QCD with massless quarks / approximate massive contribution: **5-8%** increase in total XS [[M. Grazzini et al. 2018](#), [F. Caola et al. 2015](#)]



Complete NLO tower for $W^+W^+ + 2j$ with Bonsai+OpenLoops

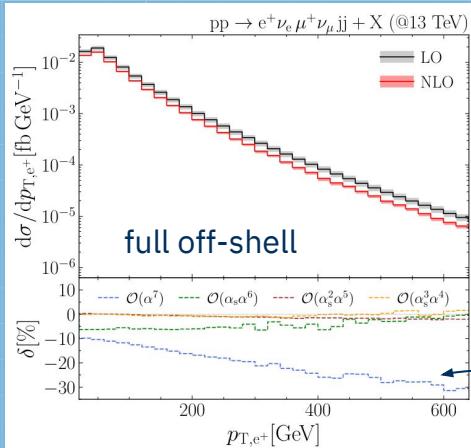
Order	MOCANLO +RECOLA	BONSAY+OpenLoops		
LO	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha^6)$ $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^5\alpha_s)$ $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^4\alpha_s^2)$	1.4178(2) 0.04815(2) 0.17229(5)	EW Int QCD	1.41773(5) 0.048138(3) 0.17233(2)
NLO	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha^7)$ $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^6\alpha_s)$ $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^5\alpha_s^2)$ $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^4\alpha_s^3)$	-0.1732(3) -0.0568(5) -0.00032(13) -0.0063(4)		-0.1728(6) -0.0560(8) 0.0047(2) -0.0073(2)

EW -induced contribution dominates in VBSA phase space

large EW corrections (>-12%)

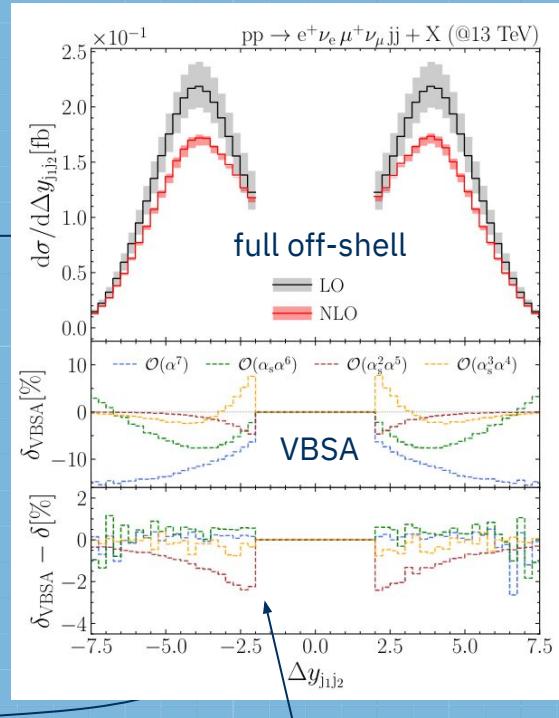
very good agreement for leading contributions

inconsistency with previous calculation



VBSA: VBS approximation + DPA for virtual corrections
 $\rightarrow \sim 10$ times faster
EVA: effective VB approximation not suitable for LHC precision

S. Dittmaier et al. 2023



diff $\leq 1.5\%$ dominant phase space regions, even better with only DPA

Electroweak Sudakov approximation

- NLO EW corrections more & more important to reach precision targets
- complete NLO EW calculation possible, but not always feasible
- possible approximation: **EW Sudakov logarithms**

[A. Denner & S. Pozzorini [2001](#), [2001](#)]

- NLO EW logarithmically enhanced for energies above EW scale
- large contributions in tails of kinematic distributions

- automated in SHERPA & MadGraph

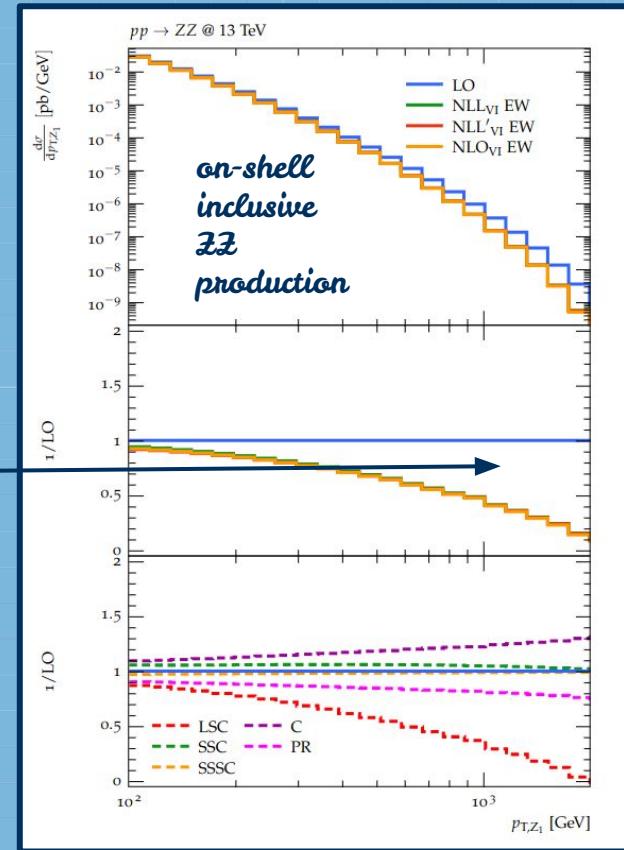
[E. Bothmann & D. Napoletano [2020](#)]

[D. Pagani & M. Zaro [2021](#), D. Pagani, T. Vitos & M. Zaro [2023](#)]

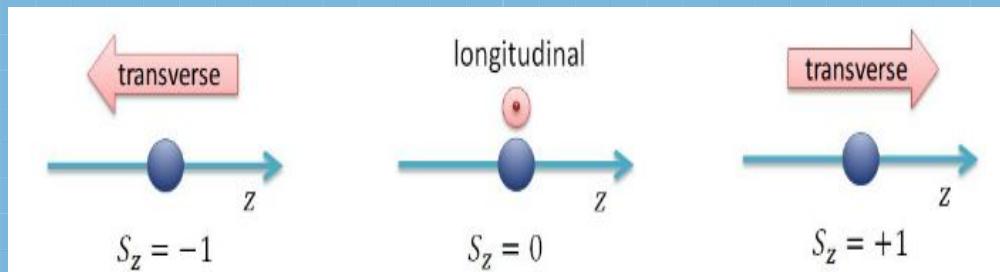
- recently enabled in **OpenLoops** [J. M. Lindert & L. Mai [2023](#)]

- extensive validation incl. inclusive diboson production
- comparison with NLO_{VI} EW approximation

[S. Kallweit et al. [2015](#)]



Polarized cross sections for diboson production



Dr. Z. Zinonos: Tests of the Standard Model of Particles. <https://www.mpp.mpg.de/~zinonos/material/lecture10.pdf>

How to measure vector boson polarization ...

Traditional idea / LHC Run 1 strategy

- at tree-level, polarization in helicity basis, no cuts on decay products, massless leptonic decays
[Z. Bern et al. 2011, A. Ballestrero et al. 2018]

$$\frac{1}{\frac{d\sigma(X)}{dX}} \frac{d\sigma(\theta^*, X)}{d\cos \theta^* dX} = \frac{3}{8} f_L(X) \left(1 + \cos^2 \theta^* \mp \frac{2(c_L^2 - c_R^2)}{(c_L^2 + c_R^2)} \cos \theta^* \right) \\ + \frac{3}{8} f_R(X) \left(1 + \cos^2 \theta^* \pm \frac{2(c_L^2 - c_R^2)}{(c_L^2 + c_R^2)} \cos \theta^* \right) + \frac{3}{4} f_0(X) \sin^2 \theta^*$$

with lepton decay angle
 θ^* : angle between lepton momentum in VB rest frame and VB momentum in some Lorentz frame

- idea:** extract $\{f_i\}$ from unpolarized distribution with projections on Legendre polynomials or via fits

Problems:

- *lepton selection criteria* spoil factorization of angular dependence of decay angle and other variables X
- decomposition breaks up for *higher order corrections to decay*
- *W rest frame* difficult to reconstruct

Solution / LHC Run 2 strategy

- fit with polarized templates from MC simulation

Separate templates!

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dX} = f_L \frac{d\sigma_L}{dX} + f_R \frac{d\sigma_R}{dX} + f_0 \frac{d\sigma_0}{dX} \left(+ f_{int.} \frac{d\sigma_{int.}}{dX} \right)$$

Fully exclusive events for polarized cross sections - Theoretical caveats

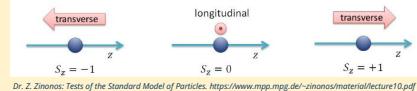
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dX} = f_L \frac{d\sigma_L}{dX} + f_R \frac{d\sigma_R}{dX} + f_0 \frac{d\sigma_0}{dX} \left(+ f_{int.} \frac{d\sigma_{int.}}{dX} \right)$$

Polarization for intermediate particles

- completeness relation

$$\left(-g^{\mu\nu} + \frac{q^\mu q^\nu}{m_V^2} \right) = \sum_\lambda \quad \epsilon^\mu(q, \lambda) \epsilon^{*\nu}(q, \lambda)$$

- lead to interferences between different polarizations



Polarization basis

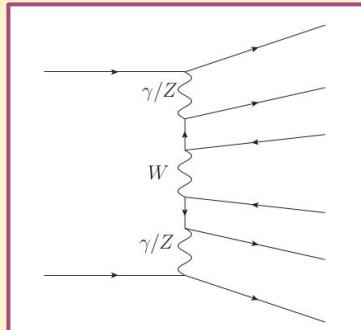
- helicity basis

$$\begin{aligned}\epsilon_\pm^\mu(q) &= \frac{e^{\mp i\phi}}{\sqrt{2}} (0, -\cos\theta \cos\phi \pm i \sin\phi, -\cos\theta \sin\phi \mp i \cos\phi, \sin\theta) \\ \epsilon_0^\mu(q) &= \frac{q^0}{m} \left(\frac{|\vec{q}|}{q^0}, \cos\phi \sin\theta, \sin\phi \sin\theta, \cos\theta \right)\end{aligned}$$

- frame dependent!

Polarization only defined in production \otimes propagator \otimes decay factorizable amplitudes

- problem: non-resonant diagrams
→ no polarisation definition, but necessary for gauge invariance
- **solution:** appropriate approximations - gauge invariant options:
 - Pole Approximation ((D)PA)
 - Narrow-Width Approximation (NWA)



Fixed-order phenomenological landscape

Inclusive Diboson production

Fully leptonic decays:

NLO QCD + NLO EW

WZ: [D.N. Le, J. Baglio 2022, D.N. Le, J. Baglio, T.N. Dao 2022], [A. Denner & G. Pelliccioli 2020]

ZZ: [A. Denner & G. Pelliccioli 2021]

W⁺W⁻: [A. Denner & G. Pelliccioli 2020, A. Denner, C. Haitz, G. Pelliccioli 2023, T.N. Dao & D.N. Le 2023], [R. Poncelet & A. Popescu 2021]

Semi-leptonic decays: increasing interest very recently

WZ: NLO QCD [A. Denner, C. Haitz, G. Pelliccioli 2022]

new!

NNLO QCD

Large NLO QCD effects on pol due to RAZ @ LO

Vector boson scattering

Fully leptonic decays:

LO

WW: [A. Ballestrero, E. Maina, G. Pelliccioli, 2017], [A. Ballestrero, E. Maina, G. Pelliccioli, 2020]

WZ: [A. Ballestrero, E. Maina, G. Pelliccioli, 2019]

ZZ: [A. Ballestrero, E. Maina, G. Pelliccioli, 2019]

Semi-leptonic decays: conceptually possible, but not well studied

all calculations in DPA

Generator landscape

- several private fixed-order tools:
 - RECOLA+MOCANLO/BBMC
 - AvH+OpenLoops+STRIPPER
 - ...

- public codes & predictions matched to PS:

- **PHANTOM**: 2->6 processes @ LO+PS [A. Ballestrero et al. 2008, 2017]
- **mg5_amc@nlo**: arbitrary processes @ LO+ PS,
multi-jet merging [D. Buarque Franzosi et al. 2020, M. Javurkova et al. 2024]

- **SHERPA**: arbitrary processes @nLO QCD+PS, multi-jet merging [MH, M. Schönherr, F. Siegert 2023]
- **POWHEG-BOX-RES+PYTHIA**: inclusive diboson processes @NLO QCD+PS [G. Pelliccioli, G. Zanderighi 2023]



PHANTOM: a Monte Carlo event generator for six parton final states at high energy colliders.

Alessandro Ballestrero^a, Aissa Belhouari^c,
Giuseppe Bevilacqua^{a,b}, Vladimir Kashkin^{a,b}, Ezio Maina^{a,b,l}

^aINFN, Sezione di Torino, Italy

^bDipartimento di Fisica Teorica, Università di Torino, Italy

^cThe Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy



New polarization frameworks beyond LO - SHERPA

Methodology: unpolarized simulation run, polarized XS as event weights

- all polarization combinations, interferences, reference frames in one simulation run

Processes: arbitrary processes with intermediate vector bosons

Order: nLO QCD +PS for VB production, multi-leg merging

- nLO: approximation for calculation of polarization fractions:

Born amplitude tensor
no virtual
ultra-collinear/-soft
connections

Amplitude tensor of
real connection

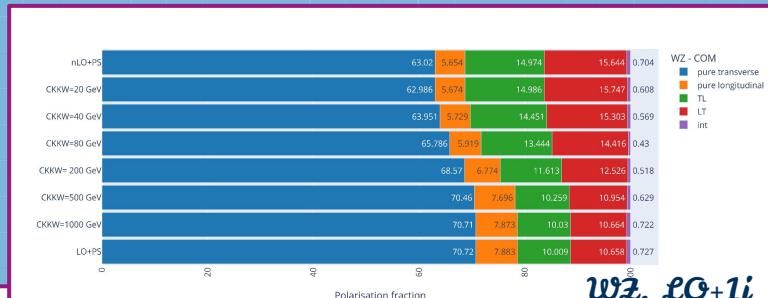


$$\langle O \rangle^{(\text{NLOMC})} = \sum_{\{\vec{f}\}} \int d\Phi_B(\{\vec{p}\}) \bar{B}^{(A)}(\{\vec{a}\}) \left[\underbrace{\bar{\Delta}^{(A)}(t_0; \{\vec{a}\})}_{\text{unresolved}} O(\{\vec{p}\}) \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{\{\vec{i}, \vec{k}\}} \sum_{F_i=q,g} \int d\Phi_{R|B}^{ij,k} \Theta(t(\Phi_{R|B}^{ij,k}) - t_0) O(r_{\vec{i}, \vec{k}}(\{\vec{p}\})) \right. \\ \left. \times \underbrace{\frac{1}{S_{ij}} \frac{S(r_{\vec{i}, \vec{k}}(F_i; \{\vec{f}\}))}{S(\{\vec{f}\})} \frac{D_{ij,k}^{(A)}(r_{\vec{i}, \vec{k}}(F_i, \Phi_{R|B}^{ij,k}; \{\vec{a}\}))}{B(\{\vec{a}\})}}_{\text{resolved, singular}} \bar{\Delta}^{(A)}(t; \{\vec{a}\}) \right] \\ + \sum_{\{\vec{F}\}} \int d\Phi_R(\{\vec{p}\}) \left[R(\{\vec{a}\}) - \sum_{ij,k} D_{ij,k}^{(A)}(\{\vec{a}\}) \right] O(\{\vec{p}\}).$$

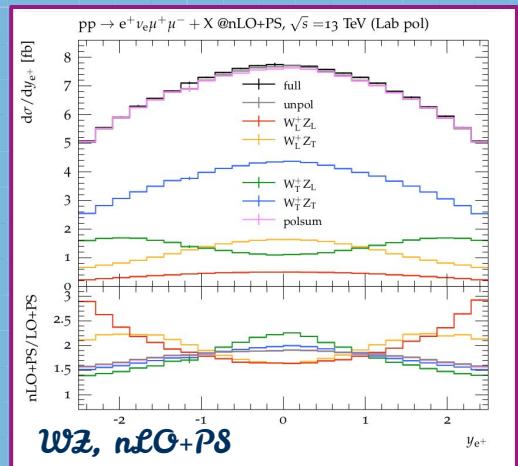
Matching: MC@NLO

On-Shell approximation: Narrow-Width Approximation
+ Breit-Wigner Mass-Smeearing

[MH, M. Schönherr, F. Siegert, 2023]



$WZ, \text{nLO+PS}$



$WZ, \text{nLO+PS}$

First higher order QCD effects for W^+W^+jj

Preliminary
results

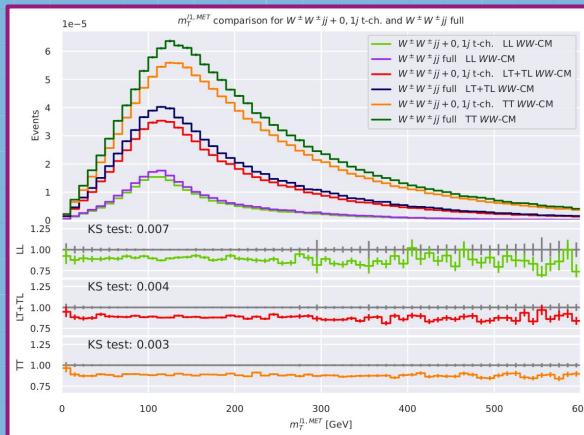
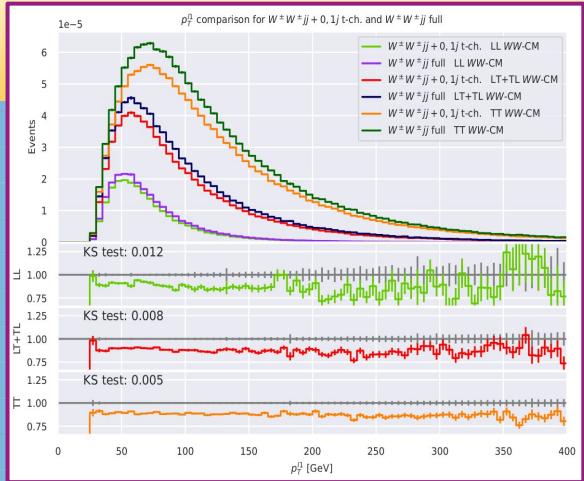
fully leptonic channel, LO+1j simulation in VBS
approximation

[MH, M.Stange, to be published]

W^+W^+jj	unpol [fb]	LL [fb]	Fract ion [%]	LT+TL [fb]	Fract ion [%]	TT [fb]	Fract ion [%]
LO+PS	2.459	0.237	9.63	0.765	31.12	1.497	60.88
LO+1j VBS approx.	2.302	0.224	9.73	0.716	31.10	1.399	60.77



Only sub-percent level effects of QCD
corrections on polarization fractions!



New polarization frameworks beyond LO - POWHEG + PYTHIA

[G. Pelliccioli, G. Zanderighi 2023]



Matrix elements: RECOLA 1

Processes: inclusive diboson production

Order: NLO QCD + PS

Matching: POWHEG approach

On-Shell-Approximation: Double-Pole-Approximation

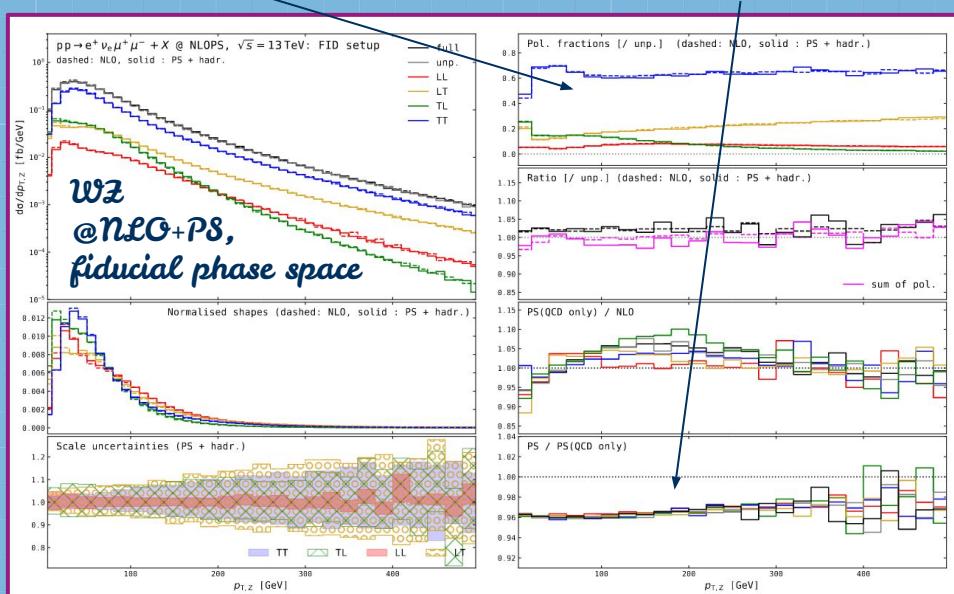
	POWHEG	SHERPA	
state	NLOPS	nLO+PS [37]	$\frac{\text{nLO+PS}}{\text{NLOPS}} - 1$
full off-shell	34.04(5)	33.80(4)	-0.7%
unpolarised	33.30(5)	33.46(3)	+0.5%
LL	1.892(3)	1.902(2)	+0.5%
LT	5.140(7)	5.241(4)	+1.9%
TL	4.888(6)	5.002(4)	+2.3%
TT	21.16(3)	21.10(2)	-0.3%
interference	0.217	0.215	-0.9%

main NLO QCD effect on pol fractions from real corrections

detailed phenomenological analysis of inclusive
diboson-production @ NLO QCD incl. PS effects

pol fractions only sizable affected
for boosted setups, jet-activity vetoes

largest overall PS effects
from QED shower



Summary & future prospects

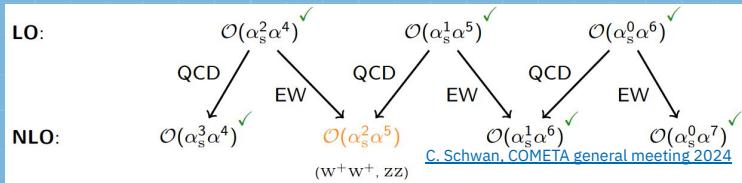
Unpolarized Diboson production

Inclusive Diboson production

- ✓ NNLO QCD + PS & NLO QCD + NLO EW + PS state of the art
- ✓ NLO QCD for loop-induced processes available
 - first calculations including top mass effects

Vector boson scattering

- ✓ full NLO tower available for $W^+W^+ + 2j$ and $ZZ + 2j$, otherwise only $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 \alpha_{EW}^5)$ missing



- ✓ matching to PS only partly available
- ✓ semi- & fully hadronic channels become interesting

both process groups interesting for quantum entanglement measurements

Polarized Diboson production

- ✓ first tools for fully realistic polarization templates with higher-order QCD effects

Inclusive Diboson production

- ✓ NLO QCD + NLO EW state of the art in fixed-order calculations for fully leptonic channels
- ✓ semi-leptonic channels become interesting

Vector boson scattering

- ✓ LO state of the art in fixed-order calculations for fully leptonic channels
- ✓ first higher order QCD effects simulated



Summary & future prospects

Lots of open tasks!

Unpolarized Diboson production

- matching to parton shower
- precision calculation in SMEFT / full BSM models

Inclusive Diboson production

- top mass effects for all loop-induced contributions
- inclusion of NLO EW contributions in NNLO QCD predictions

Vector boson scattering

- completion of NLO tower
- semi-leptonic predictions

Polarized Diboson production

- inclusion of NLO EW (& beyond) in particle-level simulations for inclusive diboson production
- NLO QCD & NLO EW predictions for VBS processes
- study of BSM effects
- tool comparison
- polarization tagger
- connections between quantum entanglement & polarization community
- more model independent approaches ...



<https://www.zeppelinschule-speyer.de/ausblick-auf-die-zeit-nach-pfingsten/>

Interested?
Stay tuned!

COmprehensive Multiboson
Experiment-Theory Action

[COST-Action](#)

[Wiki](#)



Summary & future prospects

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Thank you for
your attention!
Questions?

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Interested?
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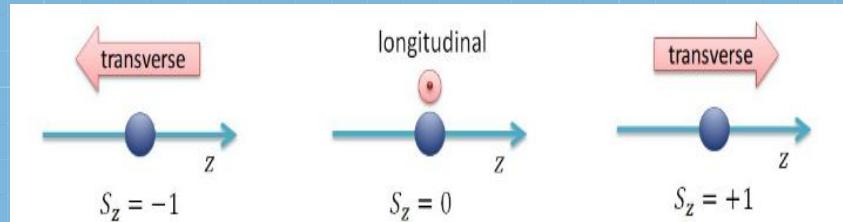
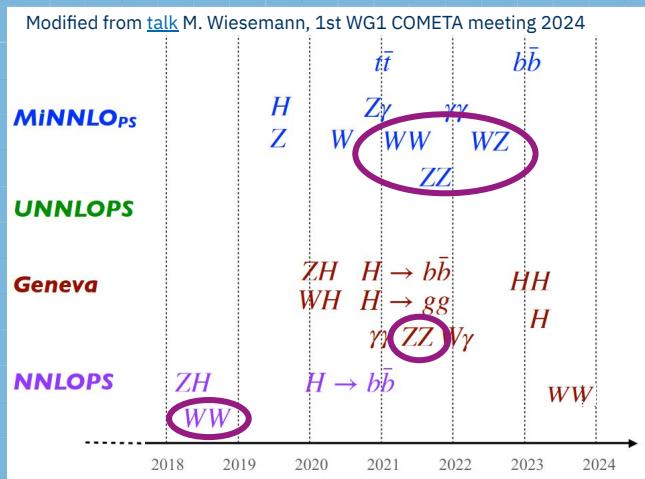
COmprehensive Multiboson
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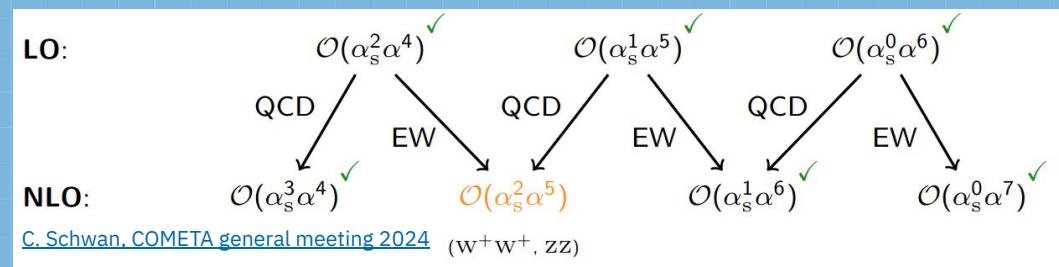
[Wiki](#)



Backup

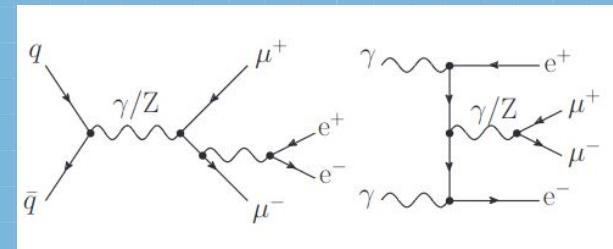


Dr. Z. Zinonos: Tests of the Standard Model of Particles. <https://www.mpp.mpg.de/~zinonos/material/lecture10.pdf>



Inclusive Diboson production

- ★ production of two (massive) vector bosons
- ★ without any jets @LO
- ★ electroweak LO production + decay: $O(\alpha^4)$

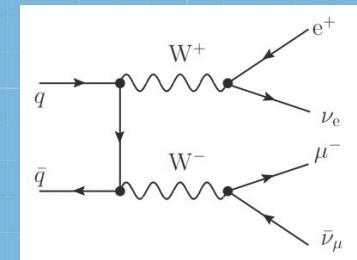
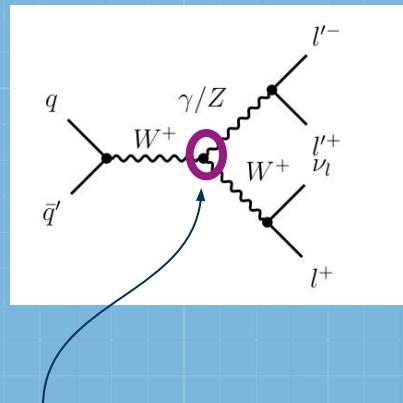


**Three channels
(fully leptonic decays):**

$pp \rightarrow W^+W^-$

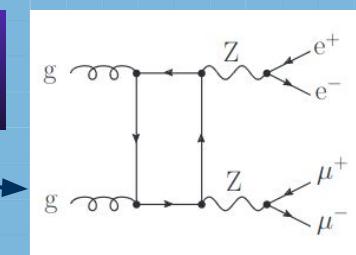
$pp \rightarrow W^\pm Z$

$pp \rightarrow ZZ$



loop-induced
production

- probes of triple gauge coupling
- important background for many analyses e.g. Higgs production



Vector boson scattering

- ★ production of two (massive) vector bosons
- ★ in association with two jets @LO
- ★ electroweak LO production + decay: $O(\alpha^6)$

Four channels (fully leptonic decays):

$pp \rightarrow W^\pm W^\pm jj$: same-sign WW scattering

$pp \rightarrow W^+ W^- jj$: opposite-sign WW scattering

$pp \rightarrow W^\pm Z jj$: WZ scattering

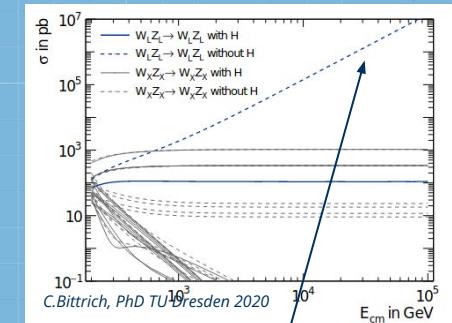
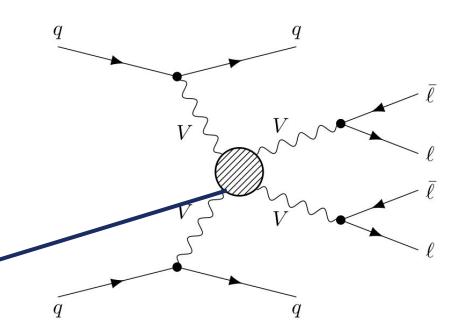
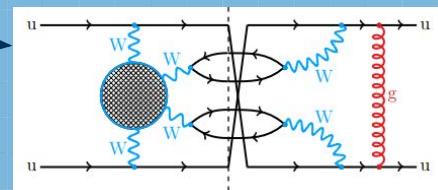
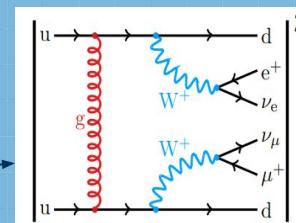
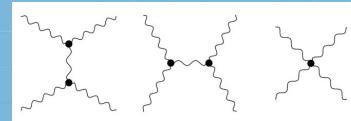
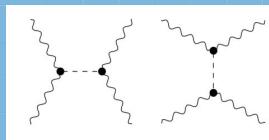
$pp \rightarrow ZZ jj$: ZZ scattering

Important irreducible backgrounds @LO:

QCD-induced process: $O(\alpha_s^2 \alpha^4)$

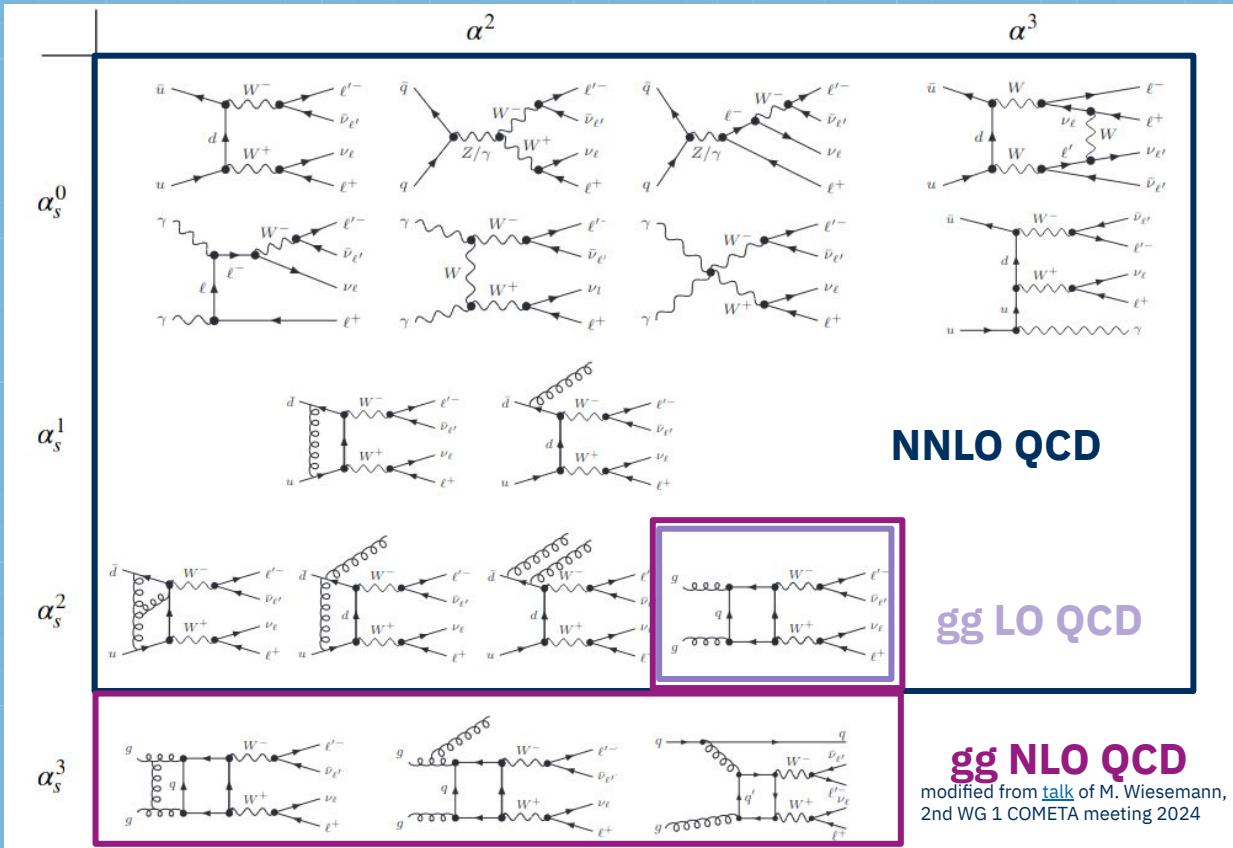
EW-QCD interference: $O(\alpha_s \alpha^5)$

- probes of triple & quartic gauge coupling
- probes of HVV coupling, Higgs usually off-shell
- test of EW symmetry breaking



*unitarity
violation*

Complete NLO QCD in gluon-induced $Z\bar{Z}$ production



Gluon-induced $Z\bar{Z}$ production

- ~60% of NNLO QCD contribution [F. Cascioli et al. 2014]
- NLO corrections = no Z boson couples to external quark lines
-> well defined
- NLO QCD with massless quarks / approximate massive contribution: 5-8% increase in total XS [M. Grazzini et al. 2018, F. Caola et al. 2015]
- top contributions important
 - > high invariant mass region for production of Z_L (Goldstone equivalence theorem)
 - > interplay with Higgs mediated production

Polarization tagging

- ML methods for extracting polarization information from data
 - standard in Run 2 analysis: [\[CMS 2020\]](#), [ATLAS 2021, 2023, 2024\]](#)
 - topic of phenomenological studies: [\[J.Searcy et al. 2015\]](#), [\[M.Grossi et al. 2020\]](#), [\[T. Kim & A. Martin, 2021\]](#), [\[J. Lee et al., 2018\]](#), [\[J. Li et al. 2021\]](#), [\[K. Ozdemir 2023 ...\]](#)

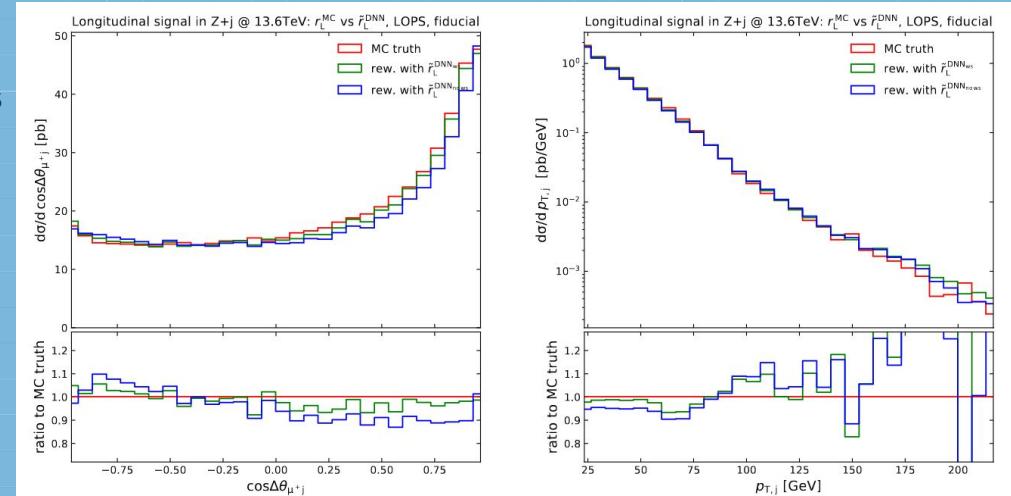
-> in common:

New approach: predict polarization fractions on event-by-event-basis via ML methods

-> training on MC polarization templates
-> use full differential information,
no fitting procedure required

Proof of concept: [\[M. Grossi et al. 2023\]](#)

- using wide deep neural networks
- application on Z+j @LO, LO+PS

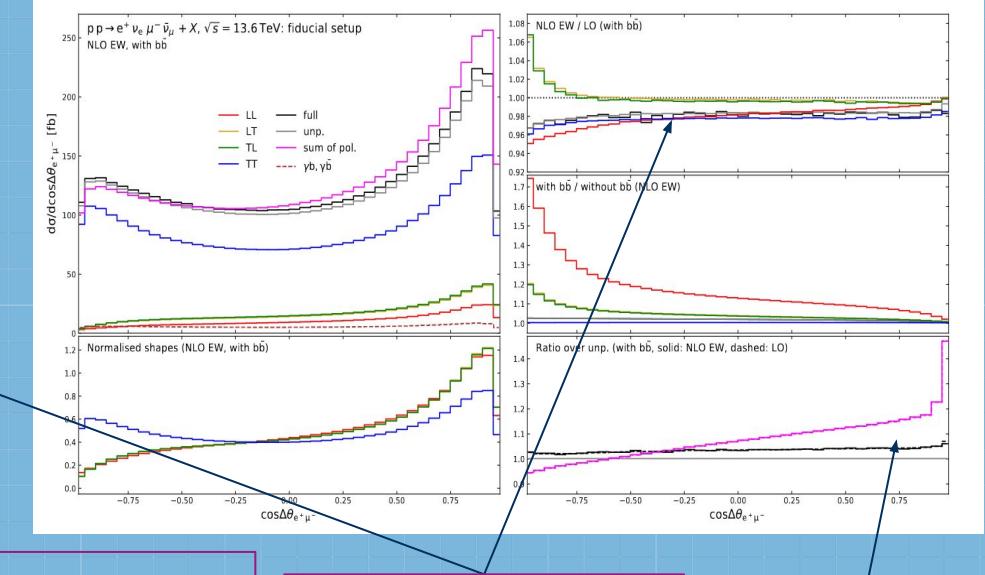


Most recent results - NLO EW for W^+W^- production

MOCANLO+RECOLA, fully leptonic, W^+W^- center of mass frame

[A. Denner, C. Haitz, G. Pelliccioli 2023]

state	σ_{LO} [fb]	$\sigma_{\text{NLO EW}}$ [fb]	$\delta_{\text{EW}} [\%]$	$f_{\text{NLO EW}} [\%]$
bb̄, γb̄, γ̄b̄ excluded				
full	254.79(2)	249.88(9)	-1.93	103.5
unp.	245.79(2)	241.48(2)	-1.75	100
LL	18.752(2)	18.510(2)	-1.30	7.7
LT	32.084(3)	32.043(3)	-0.13	13.3
TL	33.244(5)	33.155(5)	-0.27	13.7
TT	182.17(2)	177.83(2)	-2.38	73.6
int.	-20.46(3)	-20.1(1)	-1.96	-8.3
bb̄ included, γb̄, γ̄b̄ excluded				
full	259.02(2)	253.95(9)	-1.96	103.4
unp.	249.97(2)	245.49(2)	-1.79	100.0
LL	21.007(2)	20.663(2)	-1.64	8.4
LT	33.190(3)	33.115(3)	-0.23	13.5
TL	34.352(5)	34.230(5)	-0.35	13.9
TT	182.56(2)	178.21(3)	-2.38	72.6
int.	-21.14(5)	-20.6(2)	-2.45	-8.4



b̄bar channel
→ + 12% LL
(different helicity structure from t-channel top)

moderate negative EW corrections
→ differ between different polarizations

huge interference
(interplay between left-chiral couplings & pT(ll) selection)

New polarization frameworks beyond LO - POWHEG + PYTHIA

[G. Pelliccioli, G. Zanderighi 2023]



Matrix elements: RECOLA 1

Processes: Diboson production

Order: NLO QCD + PS

Matching: POWHEG approach

On-Shell-Approximation: Double-Pole-Approximation

Details: FKS mapping + specific DPA mapping
guaranteeing cancellation of real
phase space singularities

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int d\Phi_{4\ell} \tilde{B}(\tilde{\Phi}_{4\ell}) \left[\mathcal{O}(\tilde{\Phi}_{4\ell}) \Delta(t_0) + \int_{t>t_0} d\Phi_{\text{rad}} \mathcal{O}(\tilde{\Phi}_{4\ell}, \Phi_{\text{rad}}) \frac{R(\tilde{\Phi}_{4\ell}, \Phi_{\text{rad}})}{B(\tilde{\Phi}_{4\ell})} \Delta(t) \right]$$

for fully-leptonic diboson production @ NLO QCD
matching as in off-shell case (up to technical subtleties)

kinematics:

ME numerators: DPA-mapped

ME denominators, phase space weights: off-shell

detailed phenomenological analysis of diboson-production @ NLO
QCD incl. PS effects

pol fractions only sizable affected
for boosted setups, jet-activity vetoes

largest overall PS effects
from QED shower

