



NLO QCD corrections to VVjj production at the LHC

DESY-HU seminar

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Outline



- VVjj production (with leptonic decays) at the LHC: motivation
- VVjj @ NLO QCD : some calculational details
- Phenomenological results: WZ, W_{\gamma}, ZZ, W⁺W⁺
- Summary

VVjj production at the LHC: why?



Motivation:

- Sensitive to $VV \rightarrow VV$ scattering, quartic quage-boson couplings.
- Important background for new physics searches.

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- Sensitive to $VV \rightarrow VV$ scattering, quartic quage-boson couplings.
- Important background for new physics searches.
- Classification at LO: 2 mechanisms
 - EW mechanism (vector boson fusion, VBF): $\sigma_{EW} \propto \alpha^6$





What have been done at NLO QCD?





- EW mechanism (VBF): consider QCD corrections to each quark lines separately → pentagons at most.
 - *W*⁺*W*⁻*jj*: [Jager, Oleari, Zeppenfeld, 2006]
 - ZZjj: [Jager, Oleari, Zeppenfeld, 2006]
 - W[±]Zjj: [Bozzi, Jager, Oleari, Zeppenfeld, 2007]
 - W[±] W[±] jj: [Jager, Oleari, Zeppenfeld, 2009], [Denner, Hosekova, Kallweit, 2012]
 - W[±]γjj: [Campanario, Kaiser, Zeppenfeld, 2013]

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- QCD mechanism: two quark lines are not independent ~→ hexagons at most.
 - W[±]W[±]jj: [Melia, Melnikov, Rontsch, Zanderighi, 2010], [Campanario, Kerner, LDN, Zeppenfeld, 2013]
 - W⁺W⁻jj: [Melia, Melnikov, Rontsch, Zanderighi, 2011], [Greiner, Heinrich, Mastrolia, Ossola, et al, 2012]
 - $W^{\pm}Zjj$, $W^{\pm}\gamma jj$, ZZjj: [Campanario, Kerner, LDN, Zeppenfeld, 2013, 2014]

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- almost all processes (notable exeption: QCD W⁺W⁻jj) are included in VBFNLO program.
- Same-sign *W*[±] *W*[±]*jj* are special: clean signal, small background (no *tt*), simplest calculation.

Same-sign $W^{\pm}W^{\pm}jj$ @ATLAS, 2014





	Inclusive Region			VBS Region			
	$e^{\pm}e^{\pm}$	$e^{\pm}\mu^{\pm}$	$\mu^{\pm}\mu^{\pm}$	$e^{\pm}e^{\pm}$	$e^{\pm}\mu^{\pm}$	$\mu^{\pm}\mu^{\pm}$	
Prompt	3.0 ± 0.7	6.1 ± 1.3	2.6 ± 0.6	2.2 ± 0.5	4.2 ± 1.0	1.9 ± 0.5	
Conversions	3.2 ± 0.7	2.4 ± 0.8	-	2.1 ± 0.5	1.9 ± 0.7	-	
Other non-prompt	0.61 ± 0.30	1.9 ± 0.8	0.41 ± 0.22	0.50 ± 0.26	1.5 ± 0.6	0.34 ± 0.19	
$W^{\pm}W^{\pm}jj$ Strong	0.89 ± 0.15	2.5 ± 0.4	1.42 ± 0.23	0.25 ± 0.06	0.71 ± 0.14	0.38 ± 0.08	
$W^{\pm}W^{\pm}jj$ Electroweak	3.07 ± 0.30	9.0 ± 0.8	4.9 ± 0.5	2.55 ± 0.25	7.3 ± 0.6	4.0 ± 0.4	
Total background	6.8 ± 1.2	10.3 ± 2.0	3.0 ± 0.6	5.0 ± 0.9	8.3 ± 1.6	2.6 ± 0.5	
Total predicted	10.7 ± 1.4	21.7 ± 2.6	9.3 ± 1.0	7.6 ± 1.0	15.6 ± 2.0	6.6 ± 0.8	
Data	12	26	12	6	18	10	

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VBF vs. QCD background: a Higgs example





The two tagging jets are more separated in VBF than in QCD background!

W[±]*W*[±]*jj*@**LO**



• EW: $\sigma_{EW} \propto \alpha^6$



• Interference: $\sigma_{Int} \propto \alpha_s \alpha^5$, maximal for same-sign $W^{\pm}W^{\pm}jj$ due to the absence of gluon-induced processes and only left chiral quarks and leptons involve.

$W^{\pm}W^{\pm}jj$ @LO: distributions



Interference effects: $\leq 15\%$ in relevant phase space region.

 $pp \rightarrow VVjj$: QCD mechanism at NLO QCD



True VVjj processes





 $+ \dots$

- Q: What is the NLO QCD correction to this process?
- A: Before answering this question, some classifications are needed.

LO: subprocesses



• 2-quark lines [4q]: $q_1 + q_2 \rightarrow q_3 + q_4 + (WV)$



- 76 subprocesses (2 generations).
- 12 crossings.

• 1-quark line [2g]:
$$q_1 + q_2 \rightarrow g + g + (WV)$$



- 14 subprocesses (2 generations).
- 7 crossings.
- 4 QCD gauge invariant groups: 4q(W), 4qWV, 2g(W), 2gWV.

NLO calculation: theory





$$d\sigma_{NLO} = d\sigma_{2 \rightarrow N}^{\text{virt}} + d\sigma_{2 \rightarrow N+1}^{\text{real}}.$$

 Both terms are IR divergent. The sum is finite for IR-safe observables (e.g. jet distributions)

NLO calculation: theory vs. practice





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- Both terms are IR divergent. The sum is finite for IR-safe observables (e.g. jet distributions)
- Real: IR divergences can be separated using Catani-Seymour dipole subtraction method.
- Virtual: 1-loop amplitude is, unfortunately, much more complicated than tree-level one. Use Feynman-diagram and tensor reduction methods. The most difficult part.

Complexity overview



- LO: 4840 [WZjj, two generations]
- NLO real emission: 79784 [WZjjj, two generations]
- NLO virtual: 116896 (up to 6-point rank 5) [WZjj, two generations]
- Many subprocesses: most complicated ZZjjj (real emission) has 275 subprocesses (with b quarks)

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This calculation can be done with:

- good classifications: effective currents V → l₁l₂, V → l₁l₂l₃l₄, building blocks (hexlines, penlines, ...), ...
- use crossing symmetry (to a minimum extent to reduce computing time): subprocesses are not completely independent (diagrams share common parts).
- two independent calculations (Fact: manual calculations are buggy):
 - manual implementation using VBFNLO framework
 - more automated approach using HELAS/MadGraph, FeynArts, FormCalc
 - loop integrals: 2 different codes, in-house LoopInts and VBFNLO implementation.
 - tensor reduction: Passarino-Veltman, Denner-Dittmaier (2005).
- numerical instabilities in the virtual part: difficult ~> gauge tests

VBFNLO framework



• tree-level amplitudes, similar to MadGraph approach, but better optimization:

 $A = \langle f | i \rangle, \quad |i \rangle = \Gamma | i_1 \rangle, \langle f_1 | \Gamma = \langle f |,$

where |i > (or < f|) are just products of spinors, γ^{μ} , propagators and couplings. We have to identify the common (occurring in many diagrams and subprocesses) |i >, a part of a Feynman diagram, then calculate and save them at the beginning. This step is difficult to automatize \rightsquigarrow manual implementation.

 one-loop amplitudes: built from universal (occurring in many processes, with generic couplings) building blocks, each is a group of Feynman diagrams with a fixed number and a fixed order of external particles. E.g. a penline:



• Effective currents: J^{μ} , ϵ^{μ} , $p^{\mu} \rightsquigarrow$ efficient gauge tests.

FormCalc framework: semi-automated



- Adding leptonic decays directly does not work: code for j₁j₂ → l₁l₂l₃l₄j₃j₄ cannot be generated (Mathematica+FORM takes forever).
- Tricks: generate Fortran code for semi-on-shell ($p^2 \neq M_V^2$) *VVjj* and either replace $\epsilon^{\mu} \rightarrow J^{\mu}$ or cut the V propagators.
- Problems: Very long expression: use FormCalc6, for virtual WZjj, process ggqqVV: hex = 205M, pen = 84M, rest = 26M, tensor reduction not counted.
- Bottom line: automated tools is faster in generating the amplitude, but much slower in providing cross section.

Numerical instabilities: gauge test



د 3 و[fb] Passarino-Veltman: $D_{iikl} = N/\det(G)^4$ pp $\rightarrow e^+\nu_e\mu^+\mu^-jj+X$ → small Gram-det problem. QCD virtual 2.95 $\mathcal{B}^{\mathcal{N}} = T^{\mathcal{N}}_{\mu} \epsilon^{\mu}(k), \ \epsilon^{\mu} \to k^{\mu},$ Band: 2σ deviation off $\epsilon = 10^{-2}$ 2.9 $\frac{1}{\not q+\not k}\not k\frac{1}{\not q}=\frac{1}{\not q}-\frac{1}{\not q+\not k},$ 2.85 $T^N_{\mu}k^{\mu} - \mathcal{A}^{N-1} = 0,$ 2.8 $Q=1-\frac{\mathcal{A}^{N-1}}{\mathcal{T}_{\mu}^{N}k^{\mu}},$ 2.75 2.7 if $Q < \varepsilon$: accept the point. 2.65 if $Q > \varepsilon$: use quadruple precision, $\rightsquigarrow Q < \varepsilon$? accept or discard points. 10⁻⁵ 10⁻³ 10⁻⁴ 10-2 10-6 10^{-1} ۶

Computing time



With an Intel i5-3470 computer with one core and using the compiler Intel-ifort version 12.1.0, to get a statistical error of 1%:

- *W*⁺*W*⁺*jj*: 30 minutes.
- *W*+*Zjj*: 2.5 hours.
- $W^+ \gamma jj$: 3 hours. Importance: two integrals in two different regions on-shell $W^+ \rightarrow l^+ \nu_l$ and on-shell $W^+ \rightarrow l^+ \nu_l \gamma$. Two different Breit-Wigner mappings.
- ZZjj: 3.5 hours.

VVjj setup: cuts



- partons \rightarrow jets: anti- k_t algorithm with a cone radius of R = 0.4.
- Inclusive cuts:

$$\begin{split} p_{T,j} &> 20 \; \text{GeV}, \quad |y_j| < 4.5, \quad R_{jj}^{antj-k_t} = 0.4, \quad R_{jl} > 0.4; \\ p_{T,l} &> 20 \; \text{GeV}, \quad |y_l| < 2.5, \quad R_{ll} > 0.4, \quad M_{l^+l^-} > 15 \; \text{GeV}; \\ p_{T,\gamma} &> 30 \; \text{GeV}, \quad |y_{\gamma}| < 2.5, \quad R_{l\gamma} > 0.4, \quad R_{j\gamma} > 0.7, \quad \not{p}_T > 30 \; \text{GeV}. \end{split}$$

Final-sate real photon: Frixione smooth cone isolation cut. Events are accepted if

$$\sum_{i \in \text{partons}} p_{T,i} \theta(R - R_{\gamma i}) \le p_{T,\gamma} \frac{1 - \cos R}{1 - \cos \delta_0} \quad \forall R < \delta_0$$

with $\delta_0 = 0.7 \rightsquigarrow$ events with a soft gluon are accepted (IR safety).

VVjj setup: scale choice



$$\mu_{\rm HT} = \left(\sum_{\rm partons} p_{T,i} + \sum_{i=1}^{2} E_{T,V_i}\right)/2 \tag{1}$$

$$\mu'_{\rm HT} = \left(\sum_{j \in I} p_{T,i} e^{|y_i - y_{12}|} + \sum_{i=1}^2 E_{T,V_i}\right) / 2 \tag{2}$$

$$\mu_{\rm ET} = [E_T(jj) + E_T(VV)]/2 \tag{3}$$

with $y_{12} = (y_1 + y_2)/2$ and $E_T(jj) = (m_{jj}^2 + p_{jj}^2)^{1/2}$, and

$$m_{jj}^2pprox 2 p_{\mathcal{T},j_1} p_{\mathcal{T},j_2} \left[\cosh(\Delta y_{jj}) - \cos(\Delta \phi_{jj})
ight]$$

Remarks:

- For large Δy_{jj} , then $\sum p_T \ll m_{jj} \rightsquigarrow \mu_{\text{HT}}$ too small.
- μ'_{HT} and μ_{ET} interpolate between $\sum p_T$ and m_{jj} , for small and large Δy_{jj} , respectively.



Overview









Summary



- VVjj is a special class of processes: sensitive to $VV \rightarrow VV$ scatterings, quartic gauge couplings, background for new physics searches, ...
- Two mechanisms: EW (VBF), QCD, interference effects are small (at most 15% for W^+W^+jj , expected $\leq 5\%$ for the others).
- NLO QCD corrections for all VVjj are under control.
- A good scale choice has to take m_{ii} into account, p_T alone is not enough.
- Virtual amplitude: difficult part, gauge tests are good to deal with numerical instabilities.
- The program VBFNLO 2.7.0: includes WZjj, Wγjj, W[±]W[±]jj. ZZjj will be in the next release (or upon request).

Thank you!







But, large K factor at small m_{jj} always there: new $q_{final} \rightarrow j_1 j_2$ configuration at NLO.

Dipole subtraction method



$$\int_{N+1} d\sigma_{N+1}^{\text{real}}(p) J^{N+1}(p) = \int_{N+1} \left[(d\sigma_{N+1}^{\text{real}}(p) J^{N+1}(p) - \sum_{i,j} S_{ij}^{N}(\tilde{p}_{ij}) J_{ij}^{N}(\tilde{p}_{ij}) \right] (4) \\ + \underbrace{\int_{N+1} \sum_{i,j} S_{ij}^{N}(\tilde{p}_{ij}) J_{ij}^{N}(\tilde{p}_{ij})}_{\mathsf{PK}+\mathsf{I}} \\ \mathsf{PK} = \int_{0}^{1} dx \int_{N} \sum_{j \neq a} S_{aj}^{N}(x,p) J_{a}^{N}(x,p) + (a \leftrightarrow b)$$
(5)
$$\mathsf{I} = \int_{N} \sum_{i,j} S_{ij}^{N}(p) J^{N}(p).$$
(6)

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The Jet function: a cut, a histogram, PDF(Q), $\alpha_s(Q)$, ...

- IR safety: $J^N \rightarrow J^{N+1}$ in the IR singular limits.
- An easy mistake: in Eq. (4), set α^N_s(Q̃) = α^{N+1}_s(Q): the result is finite, BUT wrong (almost correct) because the integrated part ≠ the subtraction part.
- If we do $J^N = J^{N+1}$ in Eq. (4), then PK term will get more complicated. [arXiv: 0802.1405]



Partonic level:

$$\begin{aligned} d\sigma^{\rm I}_{\rm soft} + d\sigma^{\rm virt}_{\rm soft} &= 0, \\ d\sigma^{\rm I}_{\rm coll} + d\sigma^{\rm virt}_{\rm coll} &= 0, \\ d\sigma^{\overline{PK}}_{\rm coll} &\neq 0. \end{aligned}$$



Partonic level:

$$\begin{array}{lll} d\sigma_{\rm soft}^{\rm l} + d\sigma_{\rm soft}^{\rm virt} &=& 0, \\ d\sigma_{\rm coll}^{\rm l} + d\sigma_{\rm coll}^{\rm virt} &=& 0, \\ d\sigma_{\rm coll}^{\overline{PK}} & \neq& 0. \end{array}$$

Hadronic level:

$$\begin{split} d\sigma^{\rm NLO} &= d\sigma^{\rm tree} + d\sigma^{\rm virt} + d\sigma^{\rm real}, \\ {\sf PDF}^{\sf NLO} \otimes d\sigma^{\sf NLO} &= \int dx_1 \int dx_2 f_a(x_1, Q) f_b(x_2, Q) d\sigma^{\sf NLO} + \delta_{\sf PDF}(d\sigma^{\rm tree}, 1/\epsilon), \\ d\sigma^{\sf PK} &\equiv d\sigma^{\overline{\sf PK}}(1/\epsilon) + \delta_{\sf PDF}(d\sigma^{\rm tree}, 1/\epsilon): \text{ finite} \end{split}$$



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1

Virtual: use 't Hooft-Veltman (HV) scheme (external momenta in 4D)

$$d\sigma_{\rm HV}^{\rm virt} = d\sigma_{\rm CDR}^{\rm virt}, \quad \alpha_s^{\rm HV} = \alpha_s^{\rm CDR}.$$

Dimensional regularization scheme (DRS) independence [Catani, Seymour, Trócsányi 1997]:

 $d\sigma^{\text{tree}} + d\sigma^{\text{virt}} + d\sigma^{\text{I}}$: \notin DRS at partonic level!

• 4 flavors (no b/t) or 5 flavors (b and t loop): α_s , PDF, tree, virtual, real.

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$$\sigma^{N+1} = \sum_{\text{subproc}} \int_{N+1} \left[d\sigma^{\text{real}}_{N+1}(\boldsymbol{p}) - \sum_{i,j,k} S^N_{ijk}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{p}}_{ijk})
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- Universal kinematic mapping M(i, j; k): emitter (p_i) , unresolved (p_j) , spectator (p_k) with $i, k \in \{1, N+1\}; j \in \{3, N+1\}$.
 - final-final (i, k > 2): $M_{ff}(i, j; k) = M_{ff}(j, i; k) \neq M_{ff}(k, j; i)$. $\rightsquigarrow N + 1$
 - final-initial $(i > 2, a \le 2)$: $M_{fi}(i, j; a) = M_{fi}(j, i; a)$. $\rightsquigarrow N(N + 1)$
 - initial-final $(a \le 2, k > 2)$: $M_{if}(a, j; k) = M_{fi}(k, j; a)$. $\rightsquigarrow 0$
 - initial-initial $(a \le 2, b \le 2)$: $M_{ii}(a, j; b) \ne M_{ii}(b, j; a)$. $\rightsquigarrow 2(N+1)$
 - Number of independent mappings: (N + 1)(N + 3).



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 - Number of independent mappings: (N + 1)(N + 3).
- Each QCD dipole: kinematics, splitting (vertex, propagator), Born amplitude matrix (mapped kinematics). A generic Fortran code!
- Input: Born amplitude matrix (helicity, color), color-correlated matrices. Sum over subprocesses is optimized here.
- Check: singular limits (necessary BUT not enough).

PK term: implementation



$$\sigma_{\mathsf{PK}}^{N} = \int_{0}^{1} dy \int_{0}^{1} dx_{1} \int_{0}^{1} dx_{2} f_{a}(x_{1}) f_{b}(x_{2}) \\ \times \left\{ \sum_{a_{1}} \int_{N} [\mathsf{PK}^{aa_{1}} d\sigma_{a_{1}b}(yp_{a}, p_{b})] + \sum_{b_{1}} \int_{N} [\mathsf{PK}^{bb_{1}} d\sigma_{ab_{1}}(p_{a}, yp_{b})] \right\},$$

$$\mathsf{PK}(y) = A(y) + \delta(1 - y)B(y) + [C(y)] + D(y),$$

$$[C(y)] + E(y)dy \equiv \int_{0}^{1} C(y)[E(y) - E(1)]dy, \quad E(y) = D(y)d\sigma(y).$$

• Straight-forward coding: calculate Born amplitudes twice $d\sigma(y)$ and $d\sigma(1)$.

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PK term: implementation



$$\sigma_{\mathsf{PK}}^{N} = \int_{0}^{1} dy \int_{0}^{1} dx_{1} \int_{0}^{1} dx_{2} f_{a}(x_{1}) f_{b}(x_{2})$$

$$\times \left\{ \sum_{a_{1}} \int_{N} [\mathsf{PK}^{aa_{1}} d\sigma_{a_{1}b}(yp_{a}, p_{b})] + \sum_{b_{1}} \int_{N} [\mathsf{PK}^{bb_{1}} d\sigma_{ab_{1}}(p_{a}, yp_{b})] \right\}$$

$$\mathsf{PK}(y) = A(y) + \delta(1 - y)B(y) + [C(y)] + D(y),$$

$$[C(y)]_{+} E(y) dy \equiv \int_{0}^{1} C(y)[E(y) - E(1)] dy, \quad E(y) = D(y) d\sigma(y).$$

- Straight-forward coding: calculate Born amplitudes twice $d\sigma(y)$ and $d\sigma(1)$.
- Trick: $z_1 = x_1y$, $z_2 = x_2$ if a is the emitter; $z_1 = x_1$, $z_2 = x_2y$ if b is the emitter:

$$\begin{split} \sigma_{\mathsf{PK}}^{N} &= \int_{0}^{1} dy \int_{0}^{1} dz_{1} \int_{0}^{1} dz_{2} \\ &\times \left\{ \sum_{a_{1}} \int_{N} d\sigma_{a_{1}b}(z_{1}z_{2}) [\mathsf{PK}^{aa_{1}}f_{a}(z_{1}/y)f_{b}(z_{2})\theta(y-z_{1})] \right. \\ &+ \left. \sum_{b_{1}} \int_{N} d\sigma_{ab_{1}}(z_{1}z_{2}) [\mathsf{PK}^{bb_{1}}f_{a}(z_{1})f_{b}(z_{2}/y)\theta(y-z_{2})] \right\}. \end{split}$$

• A generic Fortran code. Input: $\sum_{\text{subproc}} |A_0|^2(c_1, c_2)$ used for subtraction term.

I term: implementation



$$\sigma_{\mathsf{I}}^{\mathsf{N}} = \int_{\mathsf{N}} \sum_{i \neq j} \mathsf{I}_{ij} \otimes d\sigma_{\mathsf{tree}}.$$

A generic Fortran code. Input: color-correlated squared amplitudes.

Good check for PKI: *α* parameter [Nagy and Trocsanyi, M. Kerner in VBFNLO].

Virtual amplitude



Include V decays:

$$\epsilon^{\mu}(k,\lambda) \to J_{\text{eff}}^{\mu}/(k^2 - M_V^2 + iM_V\Gamma_V), \quad \text{Or}$$

$$Q_1 \to V \to L_2$$

$$Q_2 \to V \to V$$

$$g^{\mu\nu} = -\sum_{\lambda=-1,0,1} \epsilon^{\mu}(k,\lambda) \epsilon^{*\nu}(k,\lambda) + \underbrace{\frac{k^{\mu}k^{\nu}}{k^2}}_{=0},$$

 $k^{\mu}\bar{F}_{1}\gamma_{\mu}(a+b\gamma_{5})F_{2} = 0$, since : $m_{1} = m_{2} = 0$ (no Goldstones).

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• Fermion loop with γ_5 : anomaly free (need both b and t)



 \rightsquigarrow 2.5 generations not OK (we cannot decouple the top quark).

Fermion loops



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