

VBS for HE and HL LHC

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Abstract

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1 Introduction

The measurements of vector-boson scattering (VBS) processes are one of the most important in the future Large Hadron Collider (LHC) program. In particular, given the foreseen experimental precision, very precise measurements will be performed. This offers great opportunities to the probe the electroweak (EW) sector and its associated symmetry breaking mechanism [1] [MP: Other HE/HL studies?] . Therefore it is of prime importance to estimate precisely theoretical predictions for the future operation of the LHC. In this contribution, predictions for NLO QCD and EW corrections are provided for the LHC running in its high luminosity configuration (HL) and high energy (HE) configurations. The HL set-up corresponds to a centre-of-mass energy of 14 TeV while the HE one is of 27 TeV. For both centre-of-energy the same type of event selections have been assumed. These predictions represent important benchmarks as they indicates the expected rates and the corresponding theoretical uncertainties. For QCD corrections, they are very important as they can significantly distort the shape of jet-related observables [2–8] [MP: More?] . In addition, the inclusion of NLO QCD corrections allow for more precise predictions as it reduces the theoretical uncertainties. Concerning NLO EW, they have been showed to be very large for VBS processes [9] and even the dominating NLO contribution for same-sign WW scattering [10].

The NLO QCD corrections have been obtained from [11–13] in the so-called VBS approximation [14]. The NLO EW corrections have been obtained from MoCaNLO+Recola [15] in the full computation. The differences between the full computation and the VBS approximated one have been found to be below the per-cent level [14]. This justifies the combination of this two types of corrections. The QCD corrections have been computed for all possible VBS signatures while the EW ones have been restricted to the same-sign WW scattering. This is justified given the fact that it constitutes a representative channel. While the exact value of the corrections is expected to be different for other signatures, it is expected that their magnitudes and nature will be identical.

2 Discussions

2.1 Standard Model

In this section we focus on the discussion of Standard Model predictions for the HL and HE LHC. This entails both QCD and EW corrections that have been combined together.

The event selections used for the various signature is summed-up in Table XX. The scale used is ... The parton distribution functions used are...

For VBS processes EW corrections are particularly large and are therefore of prime importance. They originate from the exchange of massive gauge boson in the virtual corrections. They tend to grow negatively large in the high-energy limit and are dubbed Sudakov logarithm. As these corrections are large and given the foreseen experimental precision, it is expected to actually measure such corrections. Because they involve all the interactions of the EW sector, measuring such corrections would constitute a non-trivial test of the SM.

2.2 Beyond the Standard Model

[MP: I left the set-up section for completeness but we should probably omit it in the final version]

3 Set-up

The hadronic scattering processes are simulated at the LHC with a centre-of-mass energy $\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV}$ and $\sqrt{s} = 27 \text{ TeV}$. The NNPDF 3.1 luxQED parton distribution functions (PDFs) [16] with five massless flavours,¹ NLO-QCD evolution, and a strong coupling constant $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.118$ are employed.² Initial-state collinear singularities are factorised according to the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme, consistently with what is done in NNPDF.

For the rest of the input parameters, they have been chosen as in Ref. [14]. For the massive particles, the following masses and decay widths are used:

$$\begin{aligned} m_t &= 173.21 \text{ GeV}, & \Gamma_t &= 0 \text{ GeV}, \\ M_Z^{\text{OS}} &= 91.1876 \text{ GeV}, & \Gamma_Z^{\text{OS}} &= 2.4952 \text{ GeV}, \\ M_W^{\text{OS}} &= 80.385 \text{ GeV}, & \Gamma_W^{\text{OS}} &= 2.085 \text{ GeV}, \\ M_H &= 125.0 \text{ GeV}, & \Gamma_H &= 4.07 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

The measured on-shell (OS) values for the masses and widths of the W and Z bosons are converted into pole values for the gauge bosons ($V = W, Z$) according to Ref. [18],

$$\begin{aligned} M_V &= M_V^{\text{OS}} / \sqrt{1 + (\Gamma_V^{\text{OS}} / M_V^{\text{OS}})^2}, \\ \Gamma_V &= \Gamma_V^{\text{OS}} / \sqrt{1 + (\Gamma_V^{\text{OS}} / M_V^{\text{OS}})^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The EW coupling is renormalised in the G_μ scheme [19] according to

$$\alpha = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\pi} G_\mu M_W^2 \left(1 - \frac{M_W^2}{M_Z^2} \right), \quad (3)$$

with

$$G_\mu = 1.16637 \times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \quad (4)$$

and where M_V^2 corresponds to the real part of the squared pole mass. The numerical value of α , corresponding to the choice of input parameters is

$$1/\alpha = 132.3572 \dots \quad (5)$$

The Cabibbo–Kobayashi–Maskawa matrix is assumed to be diagonal, meaning that the mixing between different quark generations is neglected. The complex-mass scheme [20–22] is used throughout to treat unstable intermediate particles in a gauge-invariant manner.

The central value of the renormalisation and factorisation scales is set to

$$\mu_{\text{ren}} = \mu_{\text{fac}} = \sqrt{p_{\text{T},j1} p_{\text{T},j2}}, \quad (6)$$

defined via the transverse momenta of the two hardest jets (identified with the procedure outlined in the following), event by event. This choice of scale has been shown to provide stable NLO-QCD predictions [7].

Following experimental measurements [23–26] and prospect studies [27], the event selection used in the present study is:

¹For the process considered, no bottom (anti-)quarks appear in the initial or final state at LO and NLO, as they would lead to top quarks, and not light jets, in the final state.

²The corresponding identifier `lhaid` in the program LHAPDF6 [17] is 324900.

- The two same-sign charged leptons are required to fulfil cuts on transverse momentum, rapidity, and separation in the rapidity–azimuthal-angle separation,

$$p_{T,\ell} > 20 \text{ GeV}, \quad |y_\ell| < 4.0, \quad \Delta R_{\ell\ell} > 0.3, \quad m_{\ell\ell} > 20 \text{ GeV}. \quad (7)$$

- The total missing transverse momentum, computed from the vectorial sum of the transverse momenta of the two neutrinos, is required to be

$$p_{T,\text{miss}} > 40 \text{ GeV}. \quad (8)$$

- QCD partons (light quarks and gluons) are clustered together using the anti- k_T algorithm [28], with distance parameter $R = 0.4$. We impose cuts on the jets' transverse momenta and rapidities,

$$p_{T,j} > 30 \text{ GeV}, \quad |y_j| < 4.0, \quad (9)$$

VBS cuts are applied on the two jets with largest transverse momentum, unless otherwise stated. In particular, we impose a cut on the invariant mass of the di-jet system, as well as on the rapidity separation of the two jets and their separation from leptons,

$$m_{jj} > 500 \text{ GeV}, \quad |\Delta y_{jj}| > 2.5, \quad \Delta R_{j\ell} > 0.3. \quad (10)$$

- Finally, the centrality of the leptons is enforced as defined in Ref. [27]:

$$\zeta = \min \left[\min (y_{\ell_1}, y_{\ell_2}) - \min (y_{j_1}, y_{j_2}), \max (y_{j_1}, y_{j_2}) - \max (y_{\ell_1}, y_{\ell_2}) \right] > 0. \quad (11)$$

- When EW corrections are computed, real photons and charged fermions are clustered together using the anti- k_T algorithm with radius parameter $R = 0.1$. In this case, leptons and quarks are understood as *dressed fermions*.

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