

# POWHEG-BOX user manual: Single-top $Wt$ -channel process (DR and DS)

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**ABSTRACT:** This note documents the use of the package POWHEG-BOX for the single-top  $Wt$ -channel production process. Results can be easily interfaced to shower Monte Carlo programs, in such a way that both NLO and shower accuracy are maintained. Two alternative prescriptions to quantify interference effects with  $t\bar{t}$  are available. Please read carefully the manual before using this code.

**KEYWORDS:** POWHEG, Shower Monte Carlo, NLO.

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## 1. Introduction

The POWHEG-BOX program is a framework for implementing NLO calculations in Shower Monte Carlo programs according to the POWHEG method. An explanation of the method and a discussion of how the code is organized can be found in refs. [1, 2, 3]. The code is distributed according to the “MCNET GUIDELINES for Event Generator Authors and Users” and can be found in

<http://powhegbox.mib.infn.it/~nason/POWHEG>.

In the following we will focus on the implementation of single-top  $Wt$ -channel production, whose source files can be found in the POWHEG-BOX/ST\_wtch\_DR and POWHEG-BOX/ST\_wtch\_DS subdirectories.

This program is an implementation of the NLO cross section calculated in [4] in the POWHEG formalism of refs. [1, 2]. A detailed description of the implementation can be found in ref. [5]. Spin correlations of the top-quark decay products are included with a method analogous to the one described in [6], and the relevant matrix elements for the full decayed amplitudes were obtained using MadGraph [7]. To evaluate scalar integrals, the program needs to be linked with QCDloop [8], that can be downloaded from

<http://qcdloop.fnal.gov>.

In this note we give all the necessary information to run the program. A quick description on how to install and properly link QCDloop is also given in the following.

## 2. Installation

Before describing the installation procedure, we want to recall that single-top  $Wt$ -channel production is not well defined beyond LO, since there are interference effects with  $t\bar{t}$  production. To deal with this problem, we used an approach very similar to the one described in ref. [4]. A description of the problem and of the POWHEG implementation used in this code can be found in [5]. As described in the aforementioned references, the size of interference effects with  $t\bar{t}$  (and all the related issues) can be quantified essentially by comparing results obtained with two different prescriptions: DR (*Diagram Removal*) and DS (*Diagram Subtraction*). Hence, the two directories.

In the following, we will describe how to run the DR code. Same considerations hold also for DS: in fact, the structure of the two codes (and the relevant files) is similar.<sup>1</sup> Explicit instructions will be given when there are relevant differences.

The latest version of program can be downloaded through SVN

```
$ svn checkout [--revision n] --username anonymous --password anonymous  
svn://powhegbox.mib.infn.it/trunk/POWHEG-BOX
```

Previous revisions are available via the [--revision n] option. Once downloaded, the program can be installed with the following commands

```
$ cd POWHEG-BOX/ST_wtch_DR  
$ make <target>
```

where the choice of the <target> depends upon the way one wants to interface the program with a Shower Monte Carlo implementation. In order to correctly compile and run the program, the user is asked to have the LHAPDF library installed on his/her system and to take care to insert its correct search path in the `Makefile`, or, simply, to add the path of the `lhpdf-config` executable to the `$PATH` environmental variable. We remind that in case of linking against "dynamic" shared library, the correct LHAPDF library path should also be added to the `$LD_LIBRARY_PATH` environmental variable, otherwise run time errors may occur.

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<sup>1</sup>We recall that in the DS case a slightly modified version of the file `sigreal.f` has to be used with respect to the same file present in the main folder. The `Makefile` is build such that the proper file will be compiled and linked.

The default analysis routine that comes with the package does not rely on jet algorithms, therefore for this process there is no need to have the **FASTJET** library installed: this may become needed when more sophisticated analyses are performed.

The **Makefile** is set up to use the compiler **gfortran** on Linux platforms. If one wishes to use **g77**, one should change the appropriate lines in the **Makefile** (and in the **dhelas** **Makefile** present in the folder **madgraph/dhelas3.2**, which is executed automatically by the main **Makefile**).

As anticipated before, the program needs to be linked with **QCDloop**: to this end, the **Makefile** variables **VPATH** and **LIBSQCDLOOP** have to be set properly.

## 2.1 Installation of QCDloop

The procedure to install **QCDloop** can be found in its webpage. Here we summarize it:

1. Download and decompress the **QCDloop** tarball.
2. Edit the **QCDloop-1.9/ff/ffinit\_mine.f** file by setting the variable 'path' from its current value to the absolute path of the folder where **ff** will be located. Therefore, the user needs to change the line 786 from
 

```
path = '/Users/ellis/QCDLoop-1.9/ff/'
```

 to something like
 

```
path = '/home/username/path_to_QCDLoop-1.9/QCDLoop-1.9/ff/'
```
3. Compile **QCDloop** by typing **make** in the **QCDLoop-1.9** directory. If the files **libqcdloop.a** and **libff.a** are now present in the directories **ql** and **ff**, the **QCDloop** library has been compiled and installed properly.

## 3. Modes of operation

The program generates hard events that can then be fed into an **SMC** program for subsequent showering. **POWHEG-BOX** saves the hard event information according to the conventions of the Les Houches Interface for User Processes (**LHIUP** from now on) [10]. The **SMC** should also comply with these conventions (as is the case for **PYTHIA** and **HERWIG**) in order to be used in conjunction with **POWHEG-BOX**.

The program can be run in three ways:

- **POWHEG-BOX** generates hard events, and stores them in a file. A **SMC** program reads the file and showers them.
- **POWHEG-BOX** is linked directly together with the **SMC**. In this case the events are generated and immediately showered, without intermediate storage.
- **POWHEG-BOX** is run as a standalone program, and the produced hard events are analyzed without showering. The output yields, in this case, NLO distribution with LL resummation of soft gluon effects.

### 3.1 Storing the user events

The easiest way to interface POWHEG-BOX to a SMC is to simply store the hard events in a file (which we call the *event file*), and in a subsequent run read the events and process them with the SMC. The format of the event file supported by POWHEG-BOX is the “Standard format for Les Houches event files”, documented in ref. [11]. The program for the generation of the Les Houches Event Files (LHEF from now on) can be built with the command

```
$ make pwhg_main
```

The event file is named `pwgevents.lhe` (the user is given the possibility to change the file name, as documented in the next section).

An example program that reads the event file, showers it with HERWIG and analyzes it can be built as follows

```
$ make main-HERWIG-lhef
```

A similar program, named `main-PYTHIA-lhef`, is provided for PYTHIA, and can be built with the command

```
$ make main-PYTHIA-lhef
```

The user should take care of installing the HERWIG or PYTHIA program in the POWHEG-BOX directory. In the case of HERWIG, the appropriate include files should also be present. As can be evinced from the Makefile, the fortran files relevant for these examples are `main-HERWIG-lhef.f`, `herwig6510.f` (`main-PYTHIA-lhef.f`, `pythia6.4.22.f` for PYTHIA), `pwhg_bookhist.f` and `pwhg_analysis.f`.

The file `pwhg_analysis.f` contains a template analysis, that one can take as a starting point for more complex analysis. It uses `pwhg_bookhist`, the histogramming package of M.L. Mangano with minor modifications, and it produces topdrawer outputs in the file `pwg***.top`.

The routines in `pwhg_analysis.f` are adequate for both HERWIG and PYTHIA since they rely on the standard common blocks of ref. [12]. If the user would like to use other analysis routines, or to use a jet-finding algorithm, he/she can simply modify the `pwhg_analisys.f` file or write his/her own.<sup>2</sup>

### 3.2 Interfacing POWHEG-BOX with a Shower Monte Carlo program

One should create a main program that initializes the SMC to make it ready to accept a user process, and provide the following routines

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<sup>2</sup>During the integration stage and/or during the generation of the event file, the possibility to perform a NLO analysis or an analysis at the level of the POWHEG output, before interfacing to the shower, is left to the user. In these cases, the analysis is executed with the string `WHCPRG` set to `'NLO'`.

```

subroutine UPINIT
call pwhginit
end

```

```

subroutine UPEVNT
call pwhgevnt
end

```

that are the only link to the POWHEG-BOX program. The main program should call the appropriate subroutines to run the SMC. If the SMC is compliant with the LHIUP, it will call the routines UPINIT and UPEVNT in order to initialize and to generate the hard events. The routine `pwhginit` performs the initialization of POWHEG-BOX, setting up all the grids that are necessary for the efficient generation of the events, and it also initializes the process common block of the LHIUP. Each call to `pwhgevnt` results in the generation of one event, and its storage in the LHIUP event common block.

When using HERWIG, one must remove the dummy subroutines UPINIT and UPEVNT that are present in the HERWIG source file.

#### 4. Input parameters

POWHEG-BOX provides an independent facility to set the input parameters for the run. All parameters are stored in a file, named `powheg.input`. Examples of these files can be found in the `testrun` subdirectory. The format of these files is as follows

1. Lines are no more than 100 characters long.
2. Empty (blank) lines are ignored
3. If a `#` or a `!` appears at any point in a line, the part of the line starting from the `#` or `!` symbol up to its end is blanked.
4. An entry has the format:
 

```

name    value

```

 usually followed by a `!` and a comment to clarify the meaning of the variable. The `name` keyword has no more than 20 characters, and `value` is an integer or floating point number.
5. A maximum of 100 keywords are allowed.

If the file `powheg.input` is not present, the program asks the user to enter a prefix, and then looks for the file `<prefix>-powheg.input`. In this case, all the files created by POWHEG-BOX in the current run will carry the prefix `<prefix>-` instead of `pwg`.

The input parameters are read by the `(real * 8)` function `powheginput(string)`, in file `powheginput.f`. The statement

```
rvalue=powheginput('myparm')
```

returns the value of token `myparm` stored in `powheg.input`. If the token is not found in the input file, a message is printed, and the program is stopped. The file is read only once, on the first invocation of the function `powheginput`, and token-value pairs are stored in internal arrays, so that subsequent calls to `powheginput` are relatively fast. The statement

```
rvalue=powheginput('#myparm')
```

also returns the value of the token `myparm`. However, in case the token `myparm` is not present, the program does not stop, and returns the value  $-10^6$ . The file `powheginput.f` is a standalone code, and can be linked to any program. In this way, an SMC that is reading an event file may get parameters of the POWHEG-BOX run, if it needs too.

We document here a typical input file for single-top  $Wt$ -channel:

```
! ST-wtchannel inputs

numevts 100000 ! number of events to be generated
ih1 1          ! hadron 1 type (1: proton; -1: antiproton)
ih2 1          ! hadron 2 type (1: proton; -1: antiproton)
lhans1 10050   ! pdf set for hadron 1 ( LHAGLUE number )
lhans2 10050   ! pdf set for hadron 2 ( LHAGLUE number )
```

The first entry is self-explanatory. The integers `ih1`, `ih2` and `lhans1`, `lhans2` characterize instead the hadron type and PDF used in POWHEG-BOX. The numbering scheme is that of LHAGLUE interface, leaving the possibility of re-evaluate pdf's on the fly (using number corresponding to `.LHpdf` file) or to interpolate from a previously calculated grid (number corresponding to `.LHgrid` file), as explained in ref. [13]. In the example above, 10050 corresponds to the central value of the CTEQ6M set in this latter case. The hadron type in `ih1` and `ih2` can be 1 for a proton or -1 for an antiproton.

```
ebeam1 7000 ! energy of beam 1 in GeV
ebeam2 7000 ! energy of beam 2 in GeV
```

We assume that beam 1 and 2 move along the third axis in the positive and negative direction respectively.

```
facscfact 1 ! factorization scale factor: mufact=muref*facscfact
renscfact 1 ! renormalization scale factor: muren=muref*renscfact
```

Factorization and renormalization scale factors appearing here have to do with the com-

putation of the inclusive cross section (i.e. the  $\bar{B}$  function [1, 2, 3]), and can be varied by a factor of order 1 to study scale dependence. The natural choice for this process is the mass of the top-quark. We choose to perform the NLO calculation keeping these scales fixed. The experienced user can change this setting modifying the `set_fac_ren_scales` routine.

The following parameters control the operation of the POWHEG-BOX program:

```
! Parameters to allow or not the use of stored data
use-old-grid 1
use-old-ubound 1
```

The meaning of these tokens requires a little knowledge of the operation of POWHEG-BOX. Before the program starts generating events, the integral of the inclusive cross section is computed, and a grid is set up for the generation of Born-like configurations. Similarly, in the generation of hard radiation a grid is computed to get an upper bounding function to the radiation probability. The generation of the grids is time consuming, but the time spent in this calculation is negligible in a normal run, when hundreds of thousands of events are generated. On the other hand, sometimes it is useful (for example, when debugging an analysis program) to skip the generation stage. For this purpose, the grid for the generation of Born-like kinematics is stored in the file `pwggrid.dat`.

If `use-old-grid` is set equal to 1, and `pwggrid.dat` exists and is consistent, it is loaded, and the old grid and old value of the cross section are used. Otherwise, a new grid is generated. Observe that the program does check the file for consistency with the current run, but the check is not exhaustive. The user should be sure that a consistent grid is used. The token `use-old-ubound` has the same role as `use-old-grid`, but it applies to the upper bounding array that is used in the generation of radiation.

The following parameters are used to control the grids generation:

```
! Parameters that control the grid for Born variables generation
ncall1 50000      ! number of calls for initializing the integration grid
itmx1 5           ! number of iterations for initializing the integration grid
ncall2 50000      ! number of calls for computing integral
itmx2 5           ! number of iterations for computing integral
foldcsi 1         ! number of folds on x integration
foldy 1           ! number of folds on y integration
foldphi 1         ! number of folds on phi integration
nubound 50000     ! number of bbarra calls to setup upper bounds for radiation
iymax 1           ! <=100, number of intervals in y grid to compute upper bounds
icsimax 1         ! <=100, number of intervals in csi grid
xupbound 2        ! increase upper bound for radiation generation by given factor
```

The values of some of the tokens may be changed in the following cases:



- If the integration results have large errors, one may try to increase `ncall1`, `itmx1`, `ncall2`, `itmx2`.
- As discussed in ref. [5] when the DS procedure is used, negative weights can appear. To keep track of them properly, in the input files for DS we decided to activate the `withnegweights` flag. The fraction of negative-weighted events can be reduced by setting the *folding* variables properly, as discussed in the next item.
- If the fraction of negative weights is large, one may increase `foldcsi`, `foldy`, `foldphi`. Allowed values are 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50. The speed of the program is inversely proportional to the product of these numbers, so that a reasonable compromise should be found. Our experiences tell us that, even at LHC energies, the fraction of negative weights in  $\bar{B}$  calculation is such that the numbers provided in the examples need not to be changed. In particular, in the DS case, it is recommended to leave the default foldings on the `csi` and `y` variables, in order to generate an event sample with a low number of negative-weighted events.
- If there are too many upper bound violations in the generation of radiation (see section 6), one may increase `nubound`, and/or `xupbound`.
- If the efficiency in the generation of radiation is too small, one may try to increase `ymax`, `icsimax`. We recommend to use for these parameters the values in the template input cards.
- In the  $Wt$ -channel case, it is not needed to activate the `withdamp` option. Therefore, this token is set to zero at the beginning of the input cards. The same setting can be obtained by commenting or deleting the corresponding line, which was left as a reminder.

In order to check whether any of these conditions occurs, the user should inspect the files `pwgstat.dat` and `pwgcounters.dat` at the end of the run, as illustrated in sec. 6.

Other mandatory parameters are those specifically related to the single-top  $Wt$ -channel process. For the production part, the relevant parameters are:

```
! production parameters
ttype 1          ! 1 for t, -1 for tbar

topmass 175.0
wmass 80.4
sthw2 0.23113
alphaem.inv 137.0359895

CKM_Vud 0.9740
CKM_Vus 0.2225
CKM_Vub 0.000001
```

```

CKM_Vcd 0.2225
CKM_Vcs 0.9740
CKM_Vcb 0.000001
CKM_Vtd 0.000001
CKM_Vts 0.000001
CKM_Vtb 1.0

```

The value of `ttype` is used to decide if top or antitop quarks will be produced. The meaning of the other parameters is self-explanatory. We remind that it is not allowed to set any entry of the CKM matrix exactly equal to zero.

In the current released version, top-quark decay products are always generated by POWHEG, accordingly to a procedure very similar to the one of ref. [6]. Therefore, all the following parameters are mandatory too:

```

! decay parameters
topwidth 1.7
wwidth 2.141

topdecaymode 10000 ! decay mode: the 5 digits correspond to the following
                    ! top-decay channels (l,mu,tau,u,c)
                    ! 0 means close, 1 open
wdecaymode 10000 ! decay mode: the 5 digits correspond to the following
                  ! primary-w-decay channels (l,mu,tau,u,c)
                  ! 0 means close, 1 open
tdec/elbranching 0.108 ! W electronic branching fraction
tdec/emass 0.000511
tdec/mumass 0.1056
tdec/taumass 1.777

```

The value of the `topdecaymode` token is formed by five digits, each representing the maximum number of the following particles at the (parton level) decay of the  $t$  ( $\bar{t}$ ) quark:  $e^\pm$ ,  $\mu^\pm$ ,  $\tau^\pm$ ,  $\bar{u}^{(-)}$ ,  $\bar{c}^{(-)}$ . Thus, for example, 10000 means  $t \rightarrow e^+ \nu_e b$ , 11100 means all semileptonic decays, 00011 means fully hadronic. The same syntax has to be used to set the `topdecaymode` token, which controls the decay of the  $W$ -boson produced in the hard process (i.e. not the  $W$ -boson present in the decay chain of the top quark).

## 5. Optional parameters

In addition to mandatory parameters presented above, POWHEG-BOX also accepts other parameters. The user should not worry if they are not present since, in this case, default values are used. We include them here since they can be useful for a more advanced use of the program: who is not interested in modifying them can safely skip this section. It follows a list of these parameters with corresponding default values:

```

QCDlambda5 0.25 !   for not equal pdf sets
charmthr 1.5 !   (default 1.5 GeV) charm treshold for gluon splitting
bottomthr 5.0 !   (default 5.0 GeV) bottom treshold for gluon splitting
charmthrpdf 1.5 !   (default 1.5 GeV) pdf charm treshold
bottomthrpdf 5.0 !   (default 5.0 GeV) pdf bottom treshold
ptsqmin 0.8 !   (default 0.8 GeV) minimum pt for generation of radiation

```

For testing the correct behaviour of the program and to obtain NLO distributions, we added other parameters that may also be useful for developers. The normal user is asked not to change them, since their invocation is time consuming and/or may cause some conflicts with other settings. If instead the user is interested in changing them, a detailed explanation of their behaviour can be found on ref. [3].

```

testsuda 0 !   (default 0, do not test) tests the Sudakov FF by numerical integration
testplots 0 !   (default 0, do not) do NLO and PWHG distributions
bornonly 0 !   (default 0) if 1 do Born only
smartsig 0 !   (default 1) remember equal amplitudes (0 do not remember)
withsubtr 0 !   (default 1) subtract real counterterms (0 do not subtract)
radregion 1 !   (default all regions) only generate radiation in the selected
singular region
iupperisr 1 !   (default 1) choice of ISR upper bounding functional form
iupperfsr 2 !   (default 2) choice of FSR upper bounding functional form

```

## 6. Counters and statistics

Several results relevant to the interpretation of the output of the run are written into the files `pwgstat.dat` and `pwgcounters.dat`. The fraction of negative weights, the total cross section, the number of upper bound failures in the generation of the inclusive cross section, and the generation efficiency, together with failures and efficiency in the generation of hard radiation, are printed there. These are quite self-explanatory and we do not comment them any further. These numbers are sufficient to take action in case of problems.

## 7. Random number generator

POWHEG-BOX uses the RM48 random number generator, documented in the CERNLIB write-ups. This generator has default initialization. If a user wishes to start the program with different seeds, he/she should add lines similar to

```

! Random number generator initializing parameters
iseed 6093726 ! initialize random number sequence
rand1 -1      ! initialize random number sequence

```

```
rand2 -1      ! initialize random number sequence
```

to the input card. This results in a call to the `rm48in(iseed,rand1,rand2)` subroutine that seeds the generator with the integer `iseed`, and skip the first `rand1+rand2*10**8` numbers, as documented in the CERNLIB manual. This can be useful if one wants to resume a previous run. In that case, one has simply to use as initializing values those reported in the `<prefix>-events.lhe` file. If instead one just wants to change the seed only, he/she can comment or skip the `rand1` and `rand2` lines in the input card. The last option

```
manyseeds 1
```

may be used to perform multiple runs with different random seeds in the same directory. If set to 1, the program asks for an integer `j`. The file `pwgseeds.dat` at line `j` is read, and the integer at line `j` is used to initialize the random sequence for the generation of the event. The event file is called `pwgevents-j.lhe`

We remind the reader that a change in random number generator initialization affects the POWHEG-BOX random number sequence, both in the generation of events and in NLO computation or upper bound searching, when the corresponding grids are not present. If the program is interfaced to a SMC, the user should also take care to initialize the seeds of the latter.

## 8. Generation of a sample with $t$ and $\bar{t}$ events

The user can be interested in the generation of a sample where both top and antitop events appear. To this purpose, a script and a dedicated executable have been included. The script is named `merge.ttb.sh` and can be found in the directory `testrun`. It can be run in any subfolder of `ST_wtch_DR`. Three inputs are mandatory: the first two are the prefixes of the input files used to generate  $t$  and  $\bar{t}$  events. The third input has to be an integer and correspond to the total number of events that the final *merged* sample will contain. The script has to be run twice, using a positive integer value at the first call and its opposite afterwards. Therefore, for example, to produce a sample of 10000 events at the LHC, starting from the input files `lhq_wt_t-powheg.input` and `lhq_wt_tb-powheg.input`, the invocation lines should be as follows:

```
$ sh merge.ttb.sh lhq_wt_t lhq_wt_tb 10000
```

and then

```
$ sh merge.ttb.sh lhq_wt_t lhq_wt_tb -10000
```

Few remarks are needed:

- it is responsibility of the user to check that the 2 input files are equal. The `ttype` tokens have to be different, obviously.
- the two values of `numevts` are not really used: the program re-calculate the needed values as a function of the  $t$  and  $\bar{t}$  cross sections and of the total number of events to be generated.
- the final event file is always named `t_tb_sample-events.lhe`. In the header section it also contains a copy of the two input files used to generate it, for cross-checking purposes

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