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POWHEG-BOX-V2

The Z/γ^* EW NLO & QCD production in the POWHEG-BOX-V2 user manual

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Abstract: This note documents the use of the package POWHEG-BOX-V2 for Z/γ^* production processes including QCD and ElectroWeak NLO corrections. Results can be easily interfaced to shower Monte Carlo programs, in such a way that both NLO and shower accuracy are maintained.

Keywords: POWHEG, Shower Monte Carlo, NLO, Electroweak.

Contents

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 at the web page

http://powhegbox.mib.infn.it.

This program is an implementation of the Drell-Yan NLO cross sections $pp \to Z/\gamma^* \to \ell^+\ell^-$ including QCD and ElectroWeak (EW) radiative corrections. A detailed description of the implementation can be found in Ref. [4]. In order to run the POWHEG BOX program, we recommend the reader to start from the POWHEG BOX user manual, which contains all the information and settings that are common between all subprocesses. In this note we focus on the settings and parameters specific to the Z/γ^* implementation.

2. Generation of events

Build the executable

```
$ cd POWHEG-BOX/ZEW
$ make pwhg_main
```

Then do (for example)

```
$ cd test-el
$ ../pwhg_main
```

At the end of the run, the file pwgevents.lhe will contain 100000 events for $Z/\gamma^* \to e^+e^-$ in the Les Houches format. In order to shower them with PYTHIA do

```
$ cd POWHEG-BOX/ZEW
$ make main-PYTHIA-lhef
$ cd test-el
$ ../main-PYTHIA-lhef
```

3. Process specific input parameters

For the EW NLO Z/γ^* production, it is required to activate the `easlight` option, to enable the new final state radiation mapping necessary to describe the final state collinear radiation.
Other mandatory parameters are those needed to select the final state leptonic species coming from the vector-boson:

```
vdecaymode 11 !  code for selected Z decay
              !  (11(-11):  electronic; 13(-13):  muonic; 15(-15):  tauonic)
```

The decay $Z \to \nu\bar{\nu}$ is not handled in the present version.

Together with the mandatory parameters, the `POWHEG BOX` input facility allows for an easy setting of EW and run parameters, by explicitly adding the relevant lines to the input card. If one of the following entries is not present in the input card the reported default value is assumed. In any case, these parameters are printed in the output of the program, so their values can be easily tracked down.

```
Wmass   80.398         !  W mass in GeV
Wwidth  2.141          !  W width in GeV
Zmass   91.1876        !  Z mass in GeV
Zwidth  2.4952         !  Z width in GeV
alphaem 0.00729735254  !  em coupling alpha(0)
Hmass   120.           !  Higgs mass in GeV
Tmass   172.9          !  Top mass in GeV
Bmass     4.6          !  B quark mass in GeV
Cmass     1.2          !  C quark mass in GeV
Smass    0.15          !  S quark mass in GeV
Umass    0.06983       !  U quark mass in GeV
Dmass    0.06984       !  D quark mass in GeV
Elmass   0.005109989   !  Electron mass in GeV
Mumass   0.105658369   !  Mu mass in GeV
Taumass  1.77699       !  Tau mass in GeV
```

The following parameter limits from below the virtuality of the Z boson:

```
mass_low 20          !  Z virtuality > mass_low in GeV
```

If absent, it is set to 30 GeV. In order to avoid edge effects, the lower limit `masslow` should be more inclusive w.r.t. cuts applied at the analysis level. Notice that, if photons are generated, the Z virtuality is not necessarily the mass of the dilepton.

```
runningscale 0     !  choice for ren and fac scales in Bbar integration
                                  0:  fixed scale M_Z
```

1: running scale $\ell^+\ell^-$ inv mass

With running scale, a minimum cutoff of 5 GeV is imposed on $m(\ell^+\ell^-)$.

scheme 1! choice for EW NLO scheme calculation
0: Alpha(0)
1: Alpha(M_Z)
2: G_μ

The CKM mixing matrix is assumed diagonal in the EW NLO corrections.

The EW radiative corrections can be calculated according to three different schemes: the $\alpha(0)$ scheme, where the input parameters are $\alpha(0)$, M_W and M_Z; the $\alpha(M_Z^2)$ scheme, where the input parameters are $\alpha(M_Z^2)$, M_W and M_Z (with this scheme the value of the parameter `alphaem_z` should be specified); the G_μ scheme, where the input parameters are G_μ, M_W and M_Z.
The Electro-Weak corrections can be switched off by setting
`no_ew 1 ! default 0`
and the strong corrections can be switched off by setting
`no_strong 1 ! default 0`
This last option is just to check EW corrections at the NLO level (i.e., the Les Houches events do not have much meaning).

The program can be interfaced to both `PYTHIA6` and `PYTHIA8`, by doing
`make main-PYTHIA-lhef`
for `PYTHIA6` and
`make main-PYTHIA8-lhef`.
In the case of `PYTHIA6` one can also optionally switch off photon radiation from `PYTHIA6`, and use `PHOTOS` [5] instead. This is done by setting:
`use_photos 1 ! default 0`
in the `powheg.input` file.

The `PHOTOS` source code is included in the `POWHEG BOX`.

References

[1] P. Nason, "A new method for combining NLO QCD with shower Monte Carlo algorithms," JHEP **0411** (2004) 040 [arXiv:hep-ph/0409146].

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