



# Hands-on Start to MadGraph

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Slides available at [https://github.com/ymzhong/mg5\\_aMC\\_tutorial](https://github.com/ymzhong/mg5_aMC_tutorial)

## Who am I?

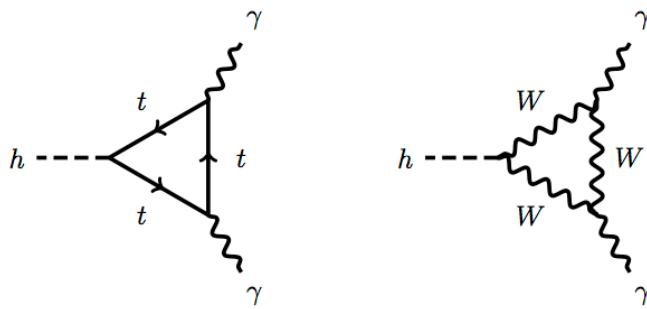
- Yiming Zhong is a postdoc fellow at Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics at the University of Chicago.
- Working on theoretical particle physics, dark matter/dark sector searches.
- Not affiliated with the MadGraph team.
- Using MadGraph for years. Writing new physics models for it.

## Goal for this tutorial

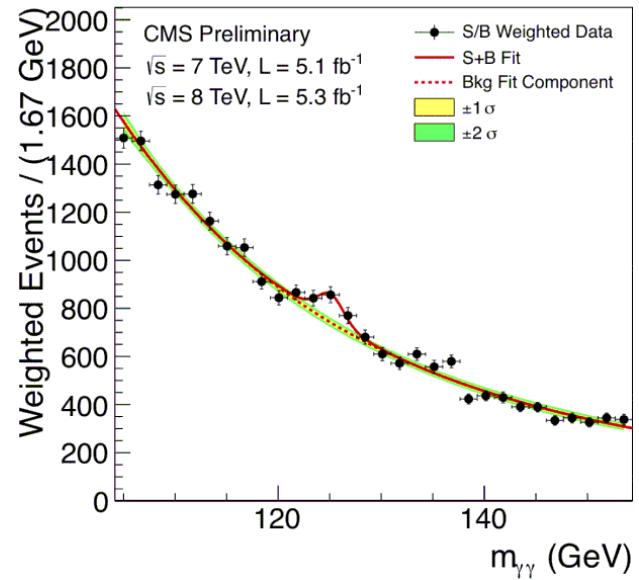
- What is MadGraph?
- Generate events for *tree-level* processes
- Play with outputs
- Add a form-factor for fixed-target processes

# What is MadGraph?

EPJC 74 (2014) 3076



The Higgs discovery



## The master formula

$$N = L\epsilon\sigma \sim L\epsilon \int d\Phi |{\mathcal M}|^2$$

efficiency

Event      Integrated luminosity      cross section

Phase space      Matrix element

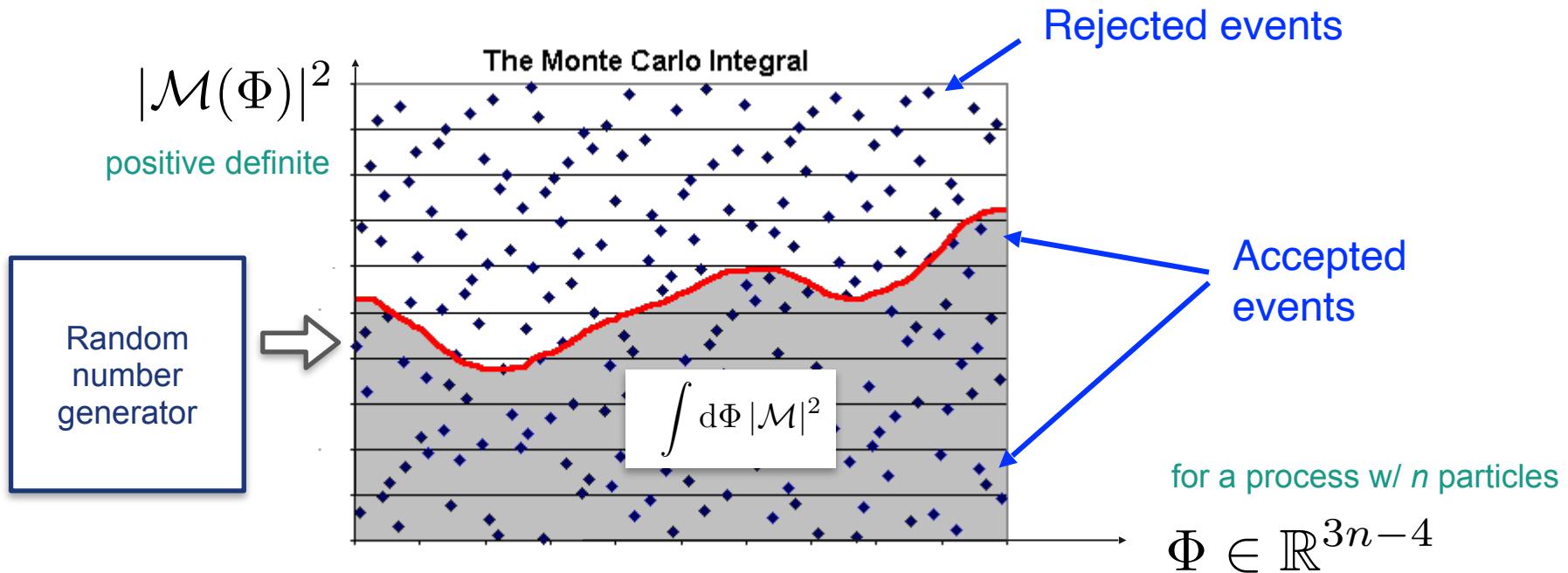
Feyn Rules

Monte-Carlo Integral

The diagram illustrates the components of the master formula. At the top right, 'Feyn Rules' is shown above a downward-pointing arrow. Below the arrow is the matrix element  $|{\mathcal M}|^2$ . To the left of the integral symbol is the cross section  $\sigma$ , with 'Integrated luminosity' and 'cross section' written below it. To the left of the entire formula is the event count  $N$ , with 'Event' written below it. Above the integral symbol is the efficiency  $\epsilon$ . Below the integral symbol is the phase space  $d\Phi$ . At the bottom center is the text 'Monte-Carlo Integral' with an upward-pointing arrow pointing towards the integral symbol.

## Integral

see [Sjöstrand's lectures](#) for more



## What is MadGraph?

- **MadGraph5\_aMC@NLO** (MG5\_aMC) computes the matrix elements and generates Monte-Carlo events.  
[Use helicity amplitudes](#)  
[Use Multi Channel Monte-Carlo](#)
- + loop computation
- + interfaces with parton shower & hadronization event generators Pythia/  
Herwig
- + .....

## Just keep in mind, MG5\_aMC

- Parton-level, fixed parton multiplicity, no control of large logs.
- Does not fully support polarized initial states.
- Is not good at sampling process with large t-channel cancellations. \*
- Important to cross-check with other general event generators, such as [Pythia](#), [WHIZARD](#), [CalcHEP](#), or specific event generators, such as [esepp](#)

## Useful resource

- MG5\_aMC Launchpad (<https://launchpad.net/mg5amcnlo>) Q&A
- MG5\_aMC Wiki (<https://cp3.irmp.ucl.ac.be/projects/madgraph>)
- ‘help’ command inside MG5\_aMC

# Installation

- Requirement: gcc & gfortran  $\geq$  4.6, Python 2.7 or 3.7
- Setup/active suitable Python environment  
`python --version`
- Download MG5\_aMC at <https://launchpad.net/mg5amcnlo>
- If you use Python 2.6, download MG5\_aMC\_v2.7.3.tar.gz  
at <https://launchpad.net/mg5amcnlo/+download>
- Untar and cd MG5\_aMC folder

Get Involved

[Report a bug](#) ➔

[Ask a question](#) ➔

[Register a blueprint](#) ➔

 [Help translate](#) ➔

Downloads

Latest version is 2.9.x

**MG5\_aMC\_v2.9.2.tar.gz** 

released on 2021-01-30

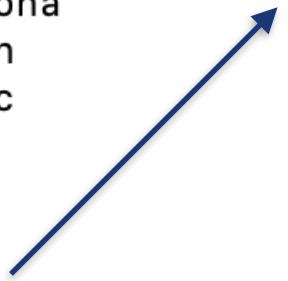
 [All downloads](#)

## What is inside?

```
$ls MG5_aMC_v2_9_2
HELAS           PLUGIN          VERSION
INSTALL         README          aloha
LICENSE         Template        bin
MadSpin         UpdateNotes.txt doc
                           doc.tgz
                           input
                           madgraph
                           mg5decay
```

Where you add  
your models

models  
proc\_card.dat  
tests  
vendor



Mg5\_configuration: setup MG5 environment

## First example: Bhabha Scattering at BaBar

1. Launch the interface

```
./bin/mg5_aMC or python3 ./bin/mg5_aMC
```

2. Load the Standard Model with massive electrons and muons

```
MG5_aMC>import model sm-full --modelname
```

3. Generate Bhabha Scattering

```
MG5_aMC>generate e+e->e+e-
```

4. Output

```
MG5_aMC>output newprocess
```

5. Launch

```
MG5_aMC>launch newprocess
```

Don't forget the "spaces"



Ask MG5 not to  
change (BSM)  
particle names

## Change parameters in param\_card and run\_card

```
Do you want to edit a card (press enter to bypass editing)?  
/-----\  
| 1. param : param_card.dat |  
| 2. run   : run_card.dat |  
\-----/  
you can also  
- enter the path to a valid card or banner.  
- use the 'set' command to modify a parameter directly.  
The set option works only for param_card and run_card.  
Type 'help set' for more information on this command.  
- call an external program (ASperGE/MadWidth/...).  
Type 'help' for the list of available command  
[0, done, 1, param, 2, run, enter path][90s to answer]  
>|
```

```
>set aEWM1 = 132  
>set run_tag = BaBar  
>set ebeam1 = 5.5  
>set ebeam2 = 5.5  
>set ptl = 0  
>set etal = 5  
>set drll = 0  
>0
```

## The web portal

file:///home/zym/Downloads/MG5\_aMC\_v2\_9\_2/newprocess/crossx.html

Results in the sm-full for  $e^+ e^- \rightarrow e^+ e^-$

Run\_card,  
param\_card  
...

Available Results

Run	Collider	Banner	Cross section (pb)	Events	Data	Output	Action
run_01	$e^+ e^-$ 5.5 x 5.5 GeV	BaBar	$5.087e+07 \pm 8.5e+04$	10000	parton madevent	LHE	<a href="#">remove run</a> <a href="#">launch detector simulation</a>

[Main Page](#) Events zipped  
in LHE format

# Check the process

- main page > process information > html
- Better do it before launching the simulation

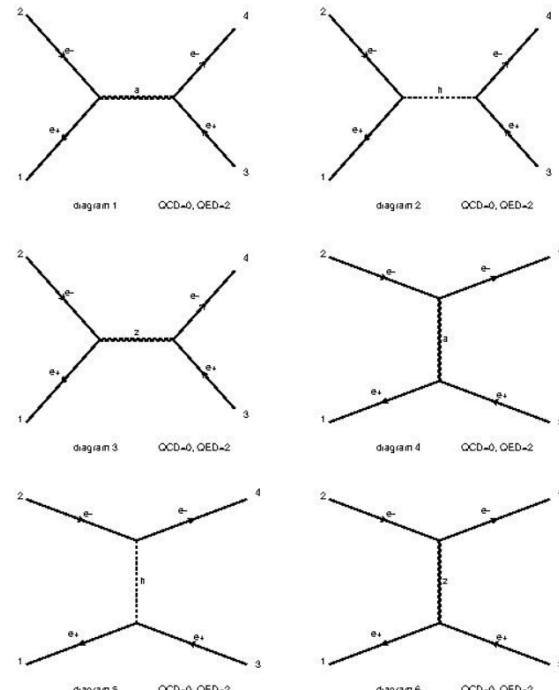
## SubProcesses and Feynman diagrams

Directory	# Diagrams	# Subprocesses	FEYNMAN DIAGRAMS	SUBPROCESS
P1_epem_epem	6	1	<a href="#">html</a>	$e^+ e^- \rightarrow e^+ e^-$

6 diagrams (6 independent).

[Postscript Diagrams for  \$e^+ e^- \rightarrow e^+ e^-\$  WEIGHTED<=4 @1](#)

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# Contributions from different channels

**s = 5.0865e+07 ± 8.54e+04 (pb)**

Graph	Cross-Section ↓	Error	Events (K)	Unwgt	Luminosity
/home/zym/Downloads/MG5_aMC_v2_9_2/newprocess/SubProcesses/P1_epem_epem	5.087e+07	8.54e+04	247.194	13861.0	0

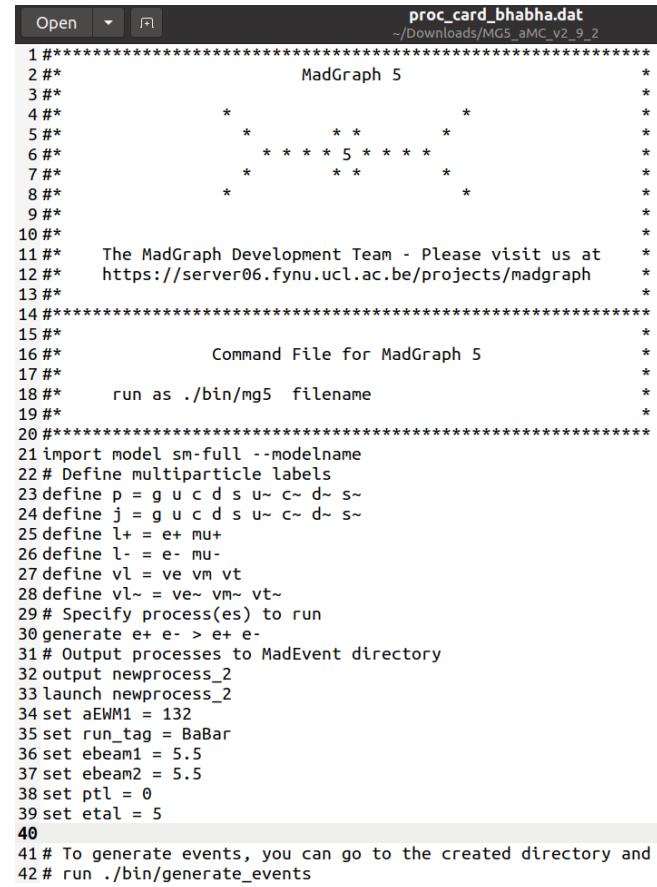
**s = 5.0865e+07 ± 8.54e+04 (pb)**

Graph	Cross-Section ↓	Error	Events (K)	Unwgt	Luminosity
G4	5.086e+07	8.54e+04	226.164	12730.0	0.00025
G2.2	4899	43.5	7.01	369.0	0.0753
G3.2	118.4	0.633	7.01	375.0	3.17
G1	22.02	0.156	7.01	387.0	17.6

- Contribution from each integration channels (see launchpad discussion\*, \*\*)
- The exact channel to diagram mapping can be found at  
[/MG5\\_aMC/newprocess/SubProcesses/config\\_subproc\\_map.inc](/MG5_aMC/newprocess/SubProcesses/config_subproc_map.inc)

## Run MG5\_aMC wo the interface

- Put everything into a single file, then  
./bin/mg5\_aMC proc\_card.dat
- If you already output a directory, cd the folder and try  
./bin/generate\_events  
proc\_card.dat  
(only need commands after launch command)



```
Open proc_card_bhabha.dat ~/Downloads/MG5_aMC_v2_9_2
1 ****
2 #*          MadGraph 5
3 #*
4 #*          *
5 #*          *      * *      *
6 #*          * * * * 5 * * * *
7 #*          *      * *      *
8 #*          *          *
9 #*
10 #*
11 #*      The MadGraph Development Team - Please visit us at
12 #*      https://server06.fynu.ucl.ac.be/projects/madgraph
13 #*
14 ****
15 #*
16 #*          Command File for MadGraph 5
17 #*
18 #*      run as ./bin/mg5 filename
19 #*
20 ****
21 import model sm-full --modelname
22 # Define multiparticle labels
23 define p = g u c d s u~ c~ d~ s~
24 define j = g u c d s u~ c~ d~ s~
25 define l+ = e+ mu+
26 define l- = e- mu-
27 define vl = ve vm vt
28 define vl~ = ve~ vm~ vt~
29 # Specify process(es) to run
30 generate e+ e- > e+ e-
31 # Output processes to MadEvent directory
32 output newprocess_2
33 launch newprocess_2
34 set aEWM1 = 132
35 set run_tag = BaBar
36 set ebeam1 = 5.5
37 set ebeam2 = 5.5
38 set ptl = 0
39 set etal = 5
40
41 # To generate events, you can go to the created directory and
42 # run ./bin/generate_events
```

## Parameter scan w/ MG5\_aMC

- One parameters

```
set me scan:[0.1, 0.5 ,1]
set me scan:range(0.1,1,0.1)
set me scan:[0.001*i for i in range(100,105) ]
```

- Can be extended for more parameters

- Two correlated parameters

```
set ebeam1 scan1:[4.5, 5., 5.5]
set ebeam2 scan1:[4.5, 5., 5.5]
```

- check cross sections from the scan

```
launch newprocess -i
print_results --path=./cross_section.txt --format=short
```

## Exercise 1

- Generate Compton process  $\gamma e^- \rightarrow \gamma e^-$  for a fixed-target photon-beam experiment with  $E_\gamma = 100$  MeV and  $\eta_{max} = 5$ .

Q1: How to set up a fixed-target experiment?

Q2: Why we need a cut on the pseudo-rapidity?

- Generate Compton process  $\gamma N \rightarrow \gamma N$  for a fixed-target photon-beam experiment with  $E_\gamma = 10$  MeV and  $\eta_{max} = 5$ .

Q3: Nucleon is not defined in the model. How to get around?

## More on the syntax: add process

- MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > e+ e-  
MG5\_aMC>add process e+ e- > e+ e- a  
MG5\_aMC>add process e+ e- > e+ e- a a  
MG5\_aMC>display diagrams

---

## More on the syntax: select process

- MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > e+ e- /z h  
(MG5\_aMC>display diagrams)  
remove diagrams w/ z, h
- MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > z > e+ e-  
only includes diagrams w/  
s-channel z
- MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > e+ e- \$\$ z h  
remove diagrams w/  
s-channel z, h
- MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > e+ e- \$\$ z /h  
remove diagrams w/  
s-channel z and diagrams w/ h

---

## More on the syntax: add the decay chain

Use , and ()

- MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > z h, z > l+ l-      **I+ = e+ mu+**
- MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > z h, z > ta+ ta-, h > b b~
- MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > z h, (z > ta+ ta-, ta+ > j j  
vl~, ta- > l- vl vl~), h > b b~                            **j = g u c d s u~ c~ d~ s~**
- MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > z h, (z > ta+ ta-, ta+ > j j  
vl~, (ta- > mu- vt vm~, mu- > all all all)), h > b b~

Want tau to decay to pions? add model taudecay\_UFO

## Alternative ways to perform the decays

- Use [MadSpin](#) MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > z h

```
The following switches determine which programs are run:  
===== Description ======|===== values ======  
| 1. Choose the shower/hadronization program | shower = Not Avail.  
| 2. Choose the detector simulation program | detector = Not Avail.  
| 3. Choose an analysis package (plot/convert) | analysis = Not Avail.  
| 4. Decay onshell particles | madspin = ON  
| 5. Add weights to events for new hypp. | reweight = OFF  
=====
```

- Output to Pythia, let [Pythia do the decays](#)

The decays are always in isotropic way

- >decay h > b b~  
>decay z > ta+ ta-  
>decay ta+ > all all all  
>decay ta- > all all all

Only include the decay channels that kinematically accessible!

## More on the decays

- Using narrow width approximation
  - MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > z h, z > l+ l-
  - MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > z h then use MadSpin  
>decay z > l+ l- Only includes on-shell contributions
- Not using narrow width approximation  
MG5\_aMC>generate e+ e- > l+ l- h Include non-resonant contributions

## More on the decays

- What is the “`bwcutoff`” in `run_card`? Defines what means on-shell.  
[Breit-Wigner](#)
  - A resonate is considered to be on-shell if the invariant mass is within [ `mass - bwcutoff*width`, `mass + bwcutoff*width`].
  - Affects the cross section of the decay process (`ab > cd, c > ef ...`)  
 $bwcutoff \uparrow \Rightarrow \text{cross section} \uparrow$ ;  $bwcutoff \downarrow \Rightarrow \text{cross section} \downarrow$
- How to set the decay width (for BSM particles) in `param_card`?  
Use “`auto`” when possible.

## Exercise 2

- Import the dark photon model then generate Compton-like process  $\gamma e^- \rightarrow A' e^- \rightarrow (e^+ e^-) e^-$  for a fixed-target photon-beam experiment with  $E_\gamma = 100$  MeV.  $A'$  is the dark photon and we set its mass to be 5 MeV. Its coupling to the electrons is  $g_V = 10^{-3}$ .
- Q1: How to generate a process if we only want on-shell  $A'$ ?
- Q2: How to generate a process if we want both on-shell and off-shell  $A'$ ? (also without SM background.)
- Q3: How to generate a process if we only want off-shell  $A'$ ? (also without SM background.)

## Play with the simulated events

- The resulting events can be found inside  
`/newprocess/Events/run_xx/unweighted_events.lhe.gz`
- It is a zipped LHE file all the events have the same probability of occurrence
- Unzip
- Open
- It contains: proc\_card, run\_card, param\_card, number of events, cross section, an event list

# Events in Les Houches Accord (LHE)

cross section [pb]

```
<MGGenerationInfo>
# Number of Events      :      10000
# Integrated weight (pb) : 50865039.465
</MGGenerationInfo>
```

```
</header>
<init> beam ID  beam energy [GeV]
-11 11 5.50000e+00 5.50000e+00 0 0 247000 247000 -4 1
5.086504e+07 8.539401e+04 <-0.086504e+07-1
```

```
<generator name='MadGraph5_aMC@NLO' version='2.9.2'>please cite 1405.0301 </generator>
</init>
```

```
<event> proc ID      scale [GeV]      α      αs
# of particles
  4   1 +5.0865039e+07 5.50000000e+00 7.57575800e-03 2.06766100e-01
  -11 -1   0   0   0   0 +0.000000000e+00 +0.000000000e+00 +5.499999763e+00 5.500000000e+00 5.110000000e-04 0.0000e+00 1.0000e+00
  -11 -1   0   0   0   0 -0.000000000e+00 -0.000000000e+00 -5.499999763e+00 5.500000000e+00 5.110000000e-04 0.0000e+00 1.0000e+00
  -11  1   1   2   0   0 +1.6106200894e-01 +4.0548438748e-02 +5.4974916637e+00 5.500000000e+00 5.110000000e-04 0.0000e+00 1.0000e+00
  11  1   1   2   0   0 -1.6106200894e-01 -4.0548438748e-02 -5.4974916637e+00 5.500000000e+00 5.110000000e-04 0.0000e+00 1.0000e+00
</event>
```

PDG code	parents	color flow	$p_1$ [GeV]	$p_2$ [GeV]	$p_3$ [GeV]	$p_4$ [GeV]	mass [GeV]	distance traveled [mm]	helicity

Status: -1 incoming, 1 outgoing, 2 intermediate

## PDG code

	QUARKS	LEPTONS	GAUGE AND HIGGS BOSONS	
<i>d</i>	1	$e^-$	11	(9) 21
<i>u</i>	2	$\nu_e$	12	$g$
<i>s</i>	3	$\mu^-$	13	$\gamma$
<i>c</i>	4	$\nu_\mu$	14	$Z^0$
<i>b</i>	5	$\tau^-$	15	$W^+$
<i>t</i>	6	$\nu_\tau$	16	$h^0/H^0_1$

## initialization

statistical error on cross section [pb]

## an event

## Time to open Jupyter notebook

- copy your \*.lhe.gz/\*.lhe file to the Jupyter notebook folder

---

## Exercise 3

- The forward-backward symmetry is defined by

$$A_{FB} = \frac{\sigma(\cos \theta > 0) - \sigma(\cos \theta < 0)}{\sigma(\cos \theta > 0) + \sigma(\cos \theta < 0)},$$

where  $\theta$  is the scattering angle of one of the outgoing fermions in the center-of-mass frame. It measures the net fraction of events move in the forward direction.

taken from [Tanedo's tutorial](#)

Now consider the SM process  $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$  at LEP. How does  $A_{FB}$  changes with respect to the central energy?

(scan over  $\sqrt{s} = [60, 70, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 110, 120]$  GeV)

## Add a form factor

- For fixed-target collisions with nuclei, interactions take place inside the nuclei environment rather than the vacuum environment. This difference is taken account by the form factor.
- In many case, the form factor can be viewed as dressing a vertex with some functions, which usually have some momentum-dependence.
- How to add the form factor?

---

## The Universal FeynRules Output (UFO) models

- [Degrade et al \(2012\)](#)
- `__init__.py`, `object_library.py`, `function_library.py`,  
`write_param_card.py`
- `particles.py`, `parameters.py`, `vertices.py`, `lorentz.py`,  
`couplings.py`, `coupling_orders.py`, `decays.py`,  
`propagators.py`, (`CT_parameters.py`, `CT_vertices.py`,  
`CT_couplings.py`)

$$V(a_1 \dots a_n l_1 \dots l_n; p_1 \dots p_n) = \sum_{ij} C_i(a_1 \dots a_n) G_{ij} L_j(l_1 \dots l_n; p_1 \dots p_n)$$

Vertex                      Color factor    Couplings    Spin/Lorentz factor

## Add a form factor

Example: add to  $\log \frac{p_{W^+} \cdot p_{W^-}}{m_W^2}$  to the  $W^+W^-H$  vertex

1. Make a folder with name “Fortran” inside the UFO model folder and make a file with name “functions.f” inside the Fortran folder
2. Define a COMPLEX function for the form factor inside functions.f

```
double complex function FormFactor(S1)
double complex S1
include 'input.inc' ! include all model parameter
FormFactor = LOG(S1/MW**2)
return
end
```

## Add a form factor

3. Open `vertices.py` inside the UFO model folder. Find the vertex you want to modify

```
v_2 = Vertex(name = 'v_2',
               particles = [ P.W_minus__, P.W_plus__, P.H ],
               color = [ '1' ],
               lorentz = [ L.VVS1, L.VVS2 ],
               couplings = { (0,0):C.GC_1, (0,1):C.GC_3 })
```

$$V = C \cdot G \cdot L$$

---

## Add a form factor

4. Open `lorentz.py` inside the UFO model folder and changes the Lorentz structure with the newly defined `FormFactor` function

$$\log \frac{p_{W^+} \cdot p_{W^-}}{m_W^2}$$

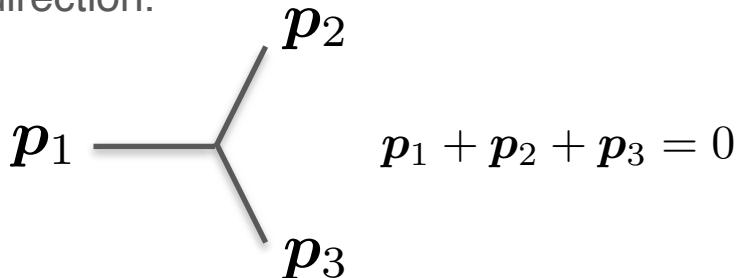
```
VVS1 = Lorentz(name = 'VVS1',
                 spins = [ 3, 3, 1 ],      -1: Einstein sum with the metric
                 structure ='FormFactor(P(-1,1)*P(-1,2))*Metric(1,2)')
                                         momentum of particle 1  momentum of particle 2
VVS2 = Lorentz(name = 'VVS2',
                 spins = [ 3, 3, 1 ],
                 structure ='FormFactor(P(-1,1)*P(-1,2))
                             *P(-1,1)*P(-1,2)*Metric(1,2)')
```

## Add a form factor

5. `./bin/mg5_aMC until output then pause`
6. `cd /output_dir/Source/MODEL`, check if the form factor function is added to `model_function.f` and `model_functions.inc`. If not, add the function to the **end of** `model_function.f` and **declare it** in `model_functions.inc`.
7. `cd /output_dir/Source/DHELAS`, check if the vertex contains the form factor.
8. `make clean; make all`
9. launch the simulation

# ABC of the UFO language

- [Degrande et al \(2012\)](#)
- Follows (+ - - -) metric
- In the UFO convention, all momenta are along the incoming direction.



**Table 6:** Elementary Lorentz structures

Charge conjugation matrix: $C_{i_1 i_2}$	<code>C(1,2)</code>
Epsilon matrix: $\epsilon^{\mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3 \mu_4}$	<code>Epsilon(1,2,3,4)</code>
Dirac matrices: $(\gamma^{\mu_1})_{i_2 i_3}$	<code>Gamma(1, 2, 3)</code>
Fifth Dirac matrix: $(\gamma^5)_{i_1 i_2}$	<code>Gamma5(1,2)</code>
(Spinorial) Kronecker delta: $\delta_{i_1 i_2}$	<code>Identity(1,2)</code>
Minkowski metric: $\eta_{\mu_1 \mu_2}$	<code>Metric(1,2)</code>
Momentum of the $N^{\text{th}}$ particle: $p_N^{\mu_1}$	<code>P(1,N)</code>
Right-handed chiral projector: $\left(\frac{1+\gamma^5}{2}\right)_{i_1 i_2}$	<code>ProjP(1,2)</code>
Left-handed chiral projector $\left(\frac{1-\gamma^5}{2}\right)_{i_1 i_2}$	<code>ProjM(1,2)</code>
Sigma matrices: $(\sigma^{\mu_1 \mu_2})_{i_3 i_4}$	<code>Sigma(1,2,3,4)</code>

## Exercise 4

- In the DarkPhoton model, pretend the electron to be a nucleon and add the elastic  $G_2$  form factor, Eq. (A18) of <https://arxiv.org/abs/0906.0580>, to the  $\gamma N \bar{N}$  vertex. Re-generate the Compton-like process  $\gamma N \rightarrow A' N$  and compare it to the same process without adding the form factor.  
(set  $E_\gamma = 10$  MeV and  $m_{A'} = 50$  MeV)

---

**Thank you**