



Hands-on Start to MadGraph

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Slides available at https://github.com/ymzhong/mg5_aMC_tutorial



Who am I?

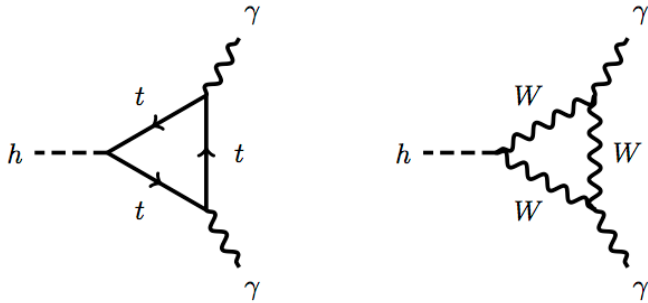
- Yiming Zhong is a postdoc fellow at Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics at the University of Chicago.
- Working on theoretical particle physics, dark matter/dark sector searches.
- Not affiliated with the MadGraph team.
- Using MadGraph for years. Writing new physics models for it.



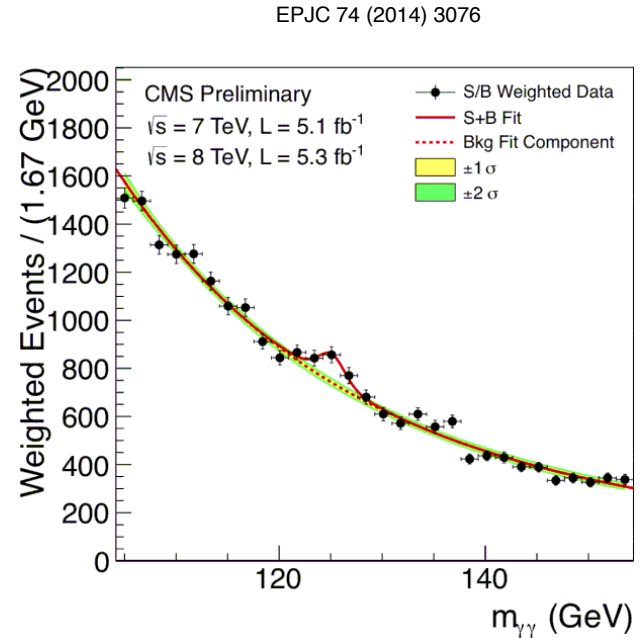
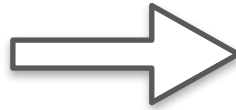
Goal for this tutorial

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

What is MadGraph?



The Higgs discovery





The master formula

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

Diagram illustrating the components of the master formula:

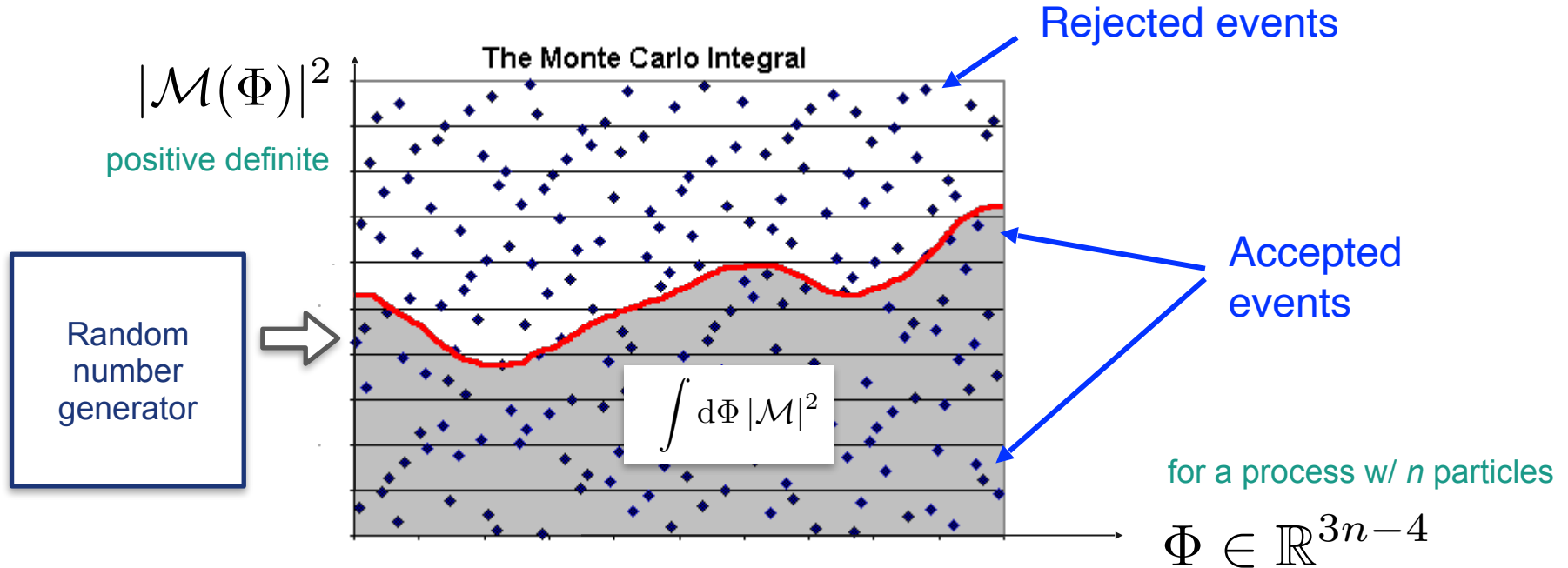
- N : Event
- L : Integrated luminosity
- ϵ : efficiency
- σ : cross section
- $\int d\Phi$: Phase space
- $|\mathcal{M}|^2$: Matrix element

Annotations:

- Feyn Rules (indicated by a downward arrow pointing to $|\mathcal{M}|^2$)
- Monte-Carlo Integral (indicated by an upward arrow pointing to $\int d\Phi$)

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 ≥ 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]
>

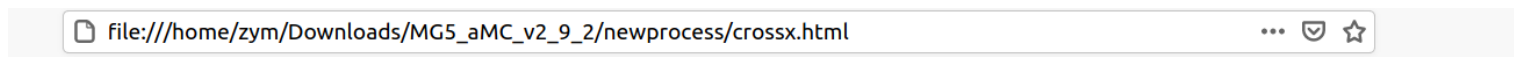
```

```

>set aEWM1 = 132
>set run_tag = BaBar
>set ebeam1 = 5.5
>set ebeam2 = 5.5
>set pt1 = 0
>set etal = 5
>set dr11 = 0
>0

```

The web portal



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 ± 8.5e+04	10000	parton madevent	LHE	<input type="button" value="remove run"/> <input type="button" value="launch detector simulation"/>

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

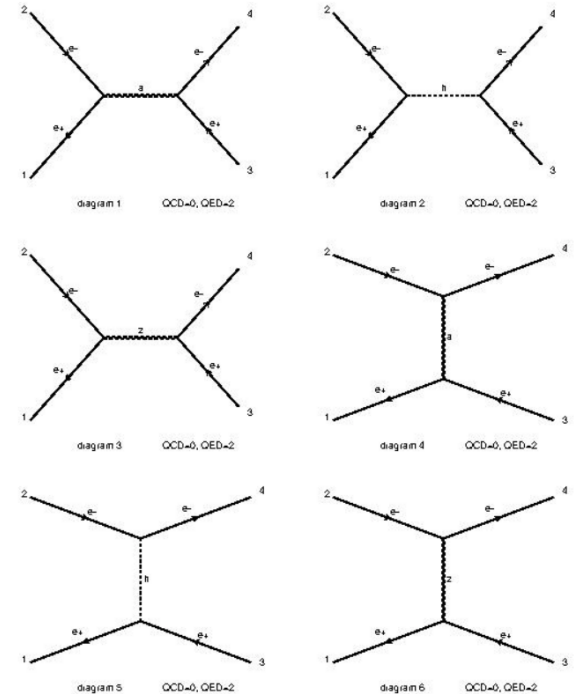
Check the process

- 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	html	e+ e- -> e+ e-

6 diagrams (6 independent).



Contributions from different channels

$s = 5.0865\text{e}+07 \pm 8.54\text{e}+04 \text{ (pb)}$

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

$s = 5.0865\text{e}+07 \pm 8.54\text{e}+04 \text{ (pb)}$

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`

Run MG5_aMC w/o 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)

```

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)`
- `MG5_aMC>generate e+ e- > z > e+ e-`
- `MG5_aMC>generate e+ e- > e+ e- $$ z h`
- `MG5_aMC>generate e+ e- > e+ e- $$ z /h`

remove diagrams w/ z, h

only includes diagrams w/  
s-channel z

remove diagrams w/  
s-channel 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-     $l^+ = e^+ \mu^+$`
- `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~     $j = g u c d s u^c d^c s^c$`
- `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 resonance is considered to be on-shell if the invariant mass is within  $[\text{mass} - \text{bwcutoff} \cdot \text{width}, \text{mass} + \text{bwcutoff} \cdot \text{width}]$ .
  - Affects the cross section of the decay process ( $ab \rightarrow cd, c \rightarrow ef \dots$ )  
 $\text{bwcutoff} \uparrow \Rightarrow \text{cross section} \uparrow; \text{bwcutoff} \downarrow \Rightarrow \text{cross section} \downarrow$
- 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
- Unzip
- Open
- It contains: `proc_card`, `run_card`, `param_card`, number of events, cross section, an event list

all the events have the same  
probability of occurrence

# Events in Les Houches Accord (LHE)

## PDG code

| QUARKS | LEPTONS      | GAUGE AND HIGGS BOSONS |                |
|--------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| $d$    | 1 $e^-$      | 11                     |                |
| $u$    | 2 $\nu_e$    | 12                     | (9) 21         |
| $s$    | 3 $\mu^-$    | 13                     | $\gamma$ 22    |
| $c$    | 4 $\nu_\mu$  | 14                     | $Z^0$ 23       |
| $b$    | 5 $\tau^-$   | 15                     | $W^+$ 24       |
| $t$    | 6 $\nu_\tau$ | 16                     | $h^0/H_1^0$ 25 |

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

initialization

```
</header>
<init> beam ID beam energy [GeV]
-11 11 5.500000e+00 5.500000e+00 0 0 247000 247000 -4 1
5.086504e+07 8.539401e+04 5.086504e+07 1
<generator name='MadGraph5_aMC@NLO' version='2.9.2'>please cite 1405.0301 </generator>
```

statistical error on cross section [pb]

an event

```
<event>
proc ID scale [GeV] α α_s
4 1 +5.0865039e+07 5.5000000e+00 7.5757580e-03 2.0676610e-01
-11 -1 0 0 0 0 +0.000000000e+00 +0.000000000e+00 +5.4999999763e+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 -5.4999999763e+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



## Time to open Jupyter notebook

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



## Exercise 3

taken from [Tanedo's tutorial](#)

- 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.

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

- [Degrande 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 declaim 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.

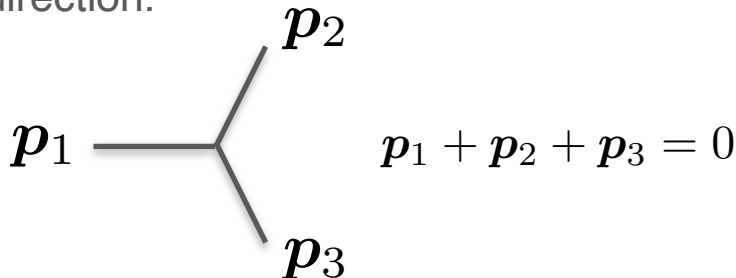


Table 6: Elementary Lorentz structures

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



## 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**