LHC searches: what role for QCD?

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Big Bang and Beyond: Forefronts of LHC Physics Princeton Center for Theoretical Science Princeton University, New Jersey, USA 16 October 2008

LHC collides quarks and gluons

Quarks and gluons interact strongly \rightarrow huge QCD backgrounds

Therefore we will need to rely on our understanding of QCD in order to make discoveries at LHC.

True, false, or only half the story?

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True, false, or only half the story?

It must be true, otherwise why would there be such a large effort devoted to QCD calculations?

- Parton shower Monte Carlo Generators
 Pythia, Herwig, Sherpa
 LO tree-level calculations
 Alpgen, Madgraph, Sherpa, ...
- ightarrow NLO calculations \sim 50 100 people, cf. talk by Zvi Bern
- NNLO calculations
- All-orders calculations
- Parton Distribution Functions (PDFs)

Higgs, W/Z, next step jets

- resummations, SCET
- CTEQ, MSTW, NNPDF, ...

Healthy scepticism

[...] unless each of the background components can be separately tested and validated, it will not be possible to draw conclusions from the mere comparison of data against the theory predictions.

I am not saying this because I do not believe in the goodness of our predictions. But because claiming that supersymmetry exists is far too important a conclusion to make it follow from the straight comparison against a Monte Carlo.

Mangano, 0809.1567

Try to examine the question of how much QCD matters, how much it can help with searches.



New resonance (e.g. Z') where you see all decay products and reconstruct an invariant mass

QCD may:

- swamp signal
- smear signal

leptonic case easy; hadronic case harder

mass



New resonance (e.g. R-parity conserving SUSY), where undetected new stable particle escapes detection.

Reconstruct only *part* of an invariant mass \rightarrow kinematic edge.

QCD may:

- swamp signal
- smear signal

high-mass excess



Unreconstructed SUSY cascade. Study *ef-fective* mass (sum of all transverse momenta).

Broad excess at high mass scales.

Knowledge of backgrounds is crucial is declaring discovery.

QCD is *one way* of getting handle on back-ground.

mass



CONTINUE HERE START HERE



CONTINUE HERE START HERE



CONTINUE HERE START HERE

Before Starting

The most pervasive role of QCD at LHC

Every single paper that comes out from the ATLAS and CMS pp physics programmes will involve the use of one or more QCD-based parton-shower Monte Carlo event generators: Pythia, Herwig or Sherpa.

For simulating physics signals.

For simulating background signals.

For simulating pileup.

As input to simulating detector respone.

Predicting QCD

SUSY example: gluino pair production





SUSY example: gluino pair production



SUSY searches: what excesses?

Atlas selection [all hadronic]

- no lepton
- MET > 100 GeV
- 1^{st,}2nd jet > 100 GeV
- 3rd,4th jet > 50 GeV
- MET / m_{eff} > 20%



CMS selection [leptonic incl.]

(optimized for 10fb⁻¹, using genetic algorithm)

- 1 muon pT > 30 GeV
- MET > 130 GeV
- 1st, 2nd jet > 440 GeV
- 3rd jet > 50 GeV
- -0.95 < cos(MET,1stjet)<0.3





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$\alpha_{\rm s}\simeq 0.1$

That implies LO QCD should be accurate to within 10%

lt isn't

Rules of thumb: LO good to within factor of 2 NLO good to within scale uncertainty



Anastasiou, Melnikov & Petriello '04 Anastasiou, Dissertori & Stöckli '07

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Control samples

We don't have NLO for the background (e.g. 4 jets + Z, a 2 \rightarrow 5 process).

Only LO (matched with parton showers). How does one verify it?

Common procedure (roughly):

- Get control sample at low p_t
- SUSY should be small(er) contamination there
- Once validated, trust LO prediction at high-pt



A conservative QCD theory point of view:

It's hard to be sure: since we can't calculate Z+4 jets beyond LO. But we would tend to think it is safe, as long as control data are within usual factor of two of LO prediction

Illustrate issues with toy example: Z+jet production

- ▶ It's known to NLO and a candidate for "first" 2 → 2 NNLO $\sim e^+e^- \rightarrow$ 3 jets, NNLO: Gehrman et al '08, Weinzierl '08
- But let's pretend we only know it to LO, and look at the p_t distribution of the hardest jet (no other cuts — keep it simple)



example based on background work for Butterworth, Davison, Rubin & GPS '08

Toy data, control sample



Toy data, control sample



stage 1: get control sample

Check LO v. data at low p_t

 normalisation off by factor 1.5 (consistent with expectations) So renormalise LO by K-fact
 shape OKish

Don't be too fussy: SUSY could bias higher p_t

Toy data, control sample



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stage 2: look at high p_t

- ▶ good agreement at low p_t, by construction
- excess of factor ~ 10 at high
 p_t

 check scale dependence of LO [NB: seldom done except e.g. Alwall et al. 0706.2569] still big excess

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ls it:

- ► QCD + extra signal?
- ▶ just QCD? But then where does a *K*-factor of 10 come from?

Here it's just a toy illustration. In a year or two it may be for real:

Do Nature / Science / PRL accept the paper?

Discovery of New Physics at the TeV scale We report a 5.7 σ excess in MET + jets production that is consistent with a signal of new physics ...

 Do we proceed immediately with a linear collider? It'll take 10–15 years to build; the sooner we start the better
 At what energy? It would be a shame to be locked in to the wrong energy... ls it:

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Open the box...



Unlike for SUSY multi-jet searches, in the Z+jet case we do have NLO.

Once NLO is included the excess disappears

The "toy data" were just the upper edge of the NLO band

Hold on a second: how does QCD give a K-factor O(5-10)? NB: DYRAD, MCFM consistent

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Why the large *K*-factor?



LHC will probe scales well above EW scale, $\sqrt{s} \gg M_Z$. QCD and EW effects **mix**, EW bosons are **light**. New logarithms (enhancements) appear. QCD & Searches, G. Salam (p. 21) Predicting QCD

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Plot distribution for p_{t7} .

This selects events in which the Z is the hardest object.

Kills diags with EW double-logs.

NLO is well-behaved.

- ► Excess = New Physics, iff you are really, really sure you understand backgrounds;
- Control samples may not be good enough cross-check
- Plain LO QCD can be misleading, understanding the physics is crucial This can be non-trivial even in simplest of cases But can help you choose good observables
- NLO provides a powerful cross check and progress is being made in multi-jet case
 BlackHat: Berger et al. '08

Rocket: Ellis, Kunszt, Giele, Melnikov & Zanderighi '08

What about MLM, CKKW matching for combining different tree-level contributions? Designed to avoid deficiences of Parton Showers But does more — a sort of "LO++". Still, not NLO Couldn't tell from literature how it would do in this case One should double-check it!

Viewing QCD

Consider case of *mass peaks* — but bear in mind that other kinematic structures are fundamentally related.



QCD & Searches, G. Salam (p. 26) Viewing QCD Some peaks are easy — QCD not needed

e.g. resonance $\rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$, or big broad resonance to jets



Bhatti et al (for CMS), study of dijet mass resonances (q^*) , 0807.4961

QCD & Searches, G. Salam (p. 27) Viewing QCD

Observability may depend on parameters



RS KK resonances, from Frederix & Maltoni, 0712.2355

Cases where QCD has the most to contribute are those that are borderline



DO low-mass Higgs-boson search, 0808.1970

As example, a Higgs-boson search illustrates two things:

- Using LHC scale hierarchy $\sqrt{s} \gg M_{EW}$ to our advantage
- Using QCD to help us extract cleaner signals

taken from Butterworth, Davison, Rubin & GPS '08



Low-mass Higgs search @ LHC: complex because dominant decay channel, $H \rightarrow bb$, often swamped by backgrounds.

Various production processes

| | $gg \to H$ | $(\rightarrow \gamma \gamma)$ | feasible |
|--|------------|-------------------------------|----------|
|--|------------|-------------------------------|----------|

- $WW \rightarrow H \rightarrow \dots$ feasible
- $gg \rightarrow t\bar{t}H$ v. hard

▶ $q\bar{q} \rightarrow WH, ZH$

small; but gives access to *WH* and *ZH* couplings Currently considered impossible

QCD & Searches, G. Salam (p. 31) Viewing QCD Higgs search

$\rm WH/ZH$ search channel @ LHC

• Signal is $W \to \ell \nu$, $H \to b \overline{b}$.

• Backgrounds include $Wb\bar{b}$, $t\bar{t} \rightarrow \ell \nu b\bar{b} j j$, ...

Studied e.g. in ATLAS TDR

Difficulties, e.g.

- Poor acceptance (~ 12%)
 Easily lose 1 of 4 decay products
- *p_t* cuts introduce intrinsic bkgd mass scale;
- $gg \rightarrow t\bar{t} \rightarrow \ell \nu b\bar{b}[jj]$ has similar scale
- ► small S/B
- Need exquisite control of bkgd shape



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"The extraction of a signal from $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ decays in the WH channel will be very difficult at the LHC, even under the most optimistic assumptions [...]"



Take advantage of the fact that $\sqrt{s} \gg M_H, m_t, \ldots$



Go to high *p*_t:

- ✓ Higgs and W/Z more likely to be central
- ✓ high- p_t Z → $ν\bar{ν}$ becomes visible
- ✓ Fairly collimated decays: high- $p_t \ \ell^{\pm}, \nu, b$ Good detector acceptance
- ✓ Backgrounds lose cut-induced scale
- ✓ $t\overline{t}$ kinematics cannot simulate bkgd Gain clarity and S/B

X Cross section will drop dramatically By a factor of 20 for $p_{tH} > 200 \text{ GeV}$

Will the benefits outweigh this?

Hadronically decaying Higgs boson at high p_t = single massive jet?



discussion of this & related problems: Seymour '93; Butterworth, Cox & Forshaw '02; Butterworth, Ellis & Raklev '07; Skiba & Tucker-Smith '07; Holdom '07; Baur '07; Agashe et al. '07; Lillie, Randall & Wang '07; Contino & Servant '08; Brooij-mans '08; Thaler & Wang '08; Kaplan et al '08; Almeida et al '08; [...]

What does QCD tell us about how to deal with this?

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What does QCD tell us about how to deal with this?

QCD & Searches, G. Salam (p. 34) Viewing QCD Higgs search

QCD principle: soft divergence





Splitting probability for Higgs:

 $P(z) \propto 1$

Splitting probability for quark:

 $P(z) \propto rac{1+z^2}{1-z}$

1/(1-z) divergence enhances background

Remove divergence in bkdg with cut on z Can choose cut analytically so as to maximise S/\sqrt{B}

> Originally: ad-hoc cut on (related) k_t -distance Seymour '93; Butterworth, Cox & Forshaw '02

QCD principle: angular ordering



Given a color-singlet $q\bar{q}$ pair of opening angle R_{bb} :

Nearly all the radiation from the pair is contained in two cones of opening angle R_{bb} , one centred on each quark.

Standard result also in QED

Use this to capture just the radiation from the $q\bar{q} \Rightarrow$ good mass resolⁿ

The Cambridge/Aachen jet alg.Dokshitzer et al '97
Wengler & Wobisch '98Work out $\Delta R_{ij}^2 = \Delta y_{ij}^2 + \Delta \phi_{ij}^2$ between all pairs of objects i, j;
Recombine the closest pair;
Repeat until all objects separated by $\Delta R_{ii} > R$.

Provides a "hierarchical" view of the event; work through it backwards to analyse a jet

Implemented in FastJet Cacciari, GPS & Soyez, '05-08, http://fastjet.fr/

All MC done with Herwig 6.510 and Jimmy 4.31

Example clustering with C/A algorithm, R = 0.7

Repeatedly recombine closest pair of objects, until all separated by $\Delta R_{ij} > R$.





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QCD & Searches, G. Salam (p. 37) Viewing QCD Higgs search

Cambridge/Aachen at work



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SIGNAL

Herwig 6.510 + Jimmy 4.31 + FastJet 2.3



Zbb BACKGROUND

Cluster event, C/A, R=1.2



SIGNAL

Herwig 6.510 + Jimmy 4.31 + FastJet 2.3



Zbb BACKGROUND

Fill it in, \rightarrow show jets more clearly





arbitrary norm.



arbitrary norm.







combine HZ and HW, $p_t > 200 \text{ GeV}$



Common cuts

- $p_{tV}, p_{tH} > 200 \text{ GeV}$
- ► $|\eta_H| < 2.5$
- $[p_{t,\ell} > 30 \text{ GeV}, |\eta_\ell| < 2.5]$
- No extra ℓ , *b*'s with $|\eta| < 2.5$
- Real/fake b-tag rates: 0.7/0.01
- S/\sqrt{B} from 16 GeV window

Leptonic channel

$$\overline{Z}
ightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-, e^+ e^-$$

combine HZ and HW, $p_t > 200 \text{ GeV}$



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- S/\sqrt{B} from 16 GeV window

Semi-leptonic channel

 $W \to \nu \ell$

- $\not\!\!E_T > 30 \text{ GeV}$ (& consistent W.)
- no extra jets $|\eta| < 3, p_t > 30$

combine HZ and HW, $p_t > 200 \text{ GeV}$



Common cuts

- ▶ p_{tV}, p_{tH} > 200 GeV
- ► $|\eta_H| < 2.5$
- $[p_{t,\ell} > 30 \text{ GeV}, |\eta_\ell| < 2.5]$
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- ▶ Real/fake *b*-tag rates: 0.7/0.01

• S/\sqrt{B} from 16 GeV window

<u>3 channels combined</u> Note excellent $VZ, Z \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ peak for calibration NB: $q\bar{q}$ is mostly $t\bar{t}$

Higgs physics means establishing whether it has the expected SM couplings.

Crucial part of that is seeing WH and ZH cleanly and separately from each other.

This channel seems to be the only good way of doing that for a light Higgs. Alternative WW fusion: but mixes with ZZ fusion, gg fusion

High- p_t top production often envisaged in New Physics processes. ~ high- p_t EW boson, but: top has 3-body decay and is coloured.

4 papers on top tagging in '08 (at least). All use the jet mass + something extra.

Questions

- What efficiency for tagging top?
- What rate of fake tags for normal jets?

| Rough results for top quark with $p_t \sim 1~TeV$ | | | |
|---|--|------|------|
| | "Extra" | eff. | fake |
| [from T&W] | just jet mass | 50% | 10% |
| Broojimans | 3,4 k_t subjets, d_{cut} | 45% | 5% |
| Thaler & Wang | 2,3 k_t subjets, z_{cut} + various | 40% | 5% |
| Kaplan et al. | 3,4 C/A subjets, $z_{cut} + \theta_h$ | 40% | 1% |
| Almeida et al. | predict mass dist ⁿ , use jet-shape | ? | ? |

If you want to use the tagged top (e.g. for $t\bar{t}$ invariant mass) QCD tells you:

the jet you use to tag a top quark \neq the jet you use to get its p_t



Within inner cone $\sim \frac{2m_t}{p_t}$ (dead cone) you have the top-quark decay products, but no radiation from top ideal for reconstructing top mass

Outside dead cone, you have radiation from top quark

> essential for top p_t Cacciari, Rojo, GPS & Soyez '08

QCD & Searches, G. Salam (p. 43) Viewing QCD Boosted top

Impact of using small cone angle



Figure actually from 0810.1304, for light $q\bar{q}$ resonance — but $t\bar{t}$ will be similar

How you look at your event matters: http://quality.fastjet.fr/

Conclusions

We've seen examples where doing the QCD "right" makes a big difference.

From first part: it's clear that relative $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ ("the details") in QCD predictions (NLO) may be more than just a luxury refinement. Part of the motivation for the large calculational effort in the field Crucial in building confidence in our understanding of any LHC "excess"

From second part: there's much freedom in how we view events at LHC. QCD can guide us in making good choices, with large gains at hand. A much smaller field — but several groups making good progress Crucial in order to maximise LHC's sensitivity to new physics

Common theme: LHC, for the first time, will take us well above the EW scale. That can take getting used to.

EXTRAS

QCD & Searches, G. Salam (p. 47) EXTRAS Large *K*-factors



Mangano, 0809.1567 Leading jet seems not to be enhanced? Other "matched" plots do suggest some enhancement.

0-lepton search

Is there a larger excess when plotted v. MET ($\sim p_{tZ}$)?

Is this because Eff.Mass ($\sim p_{t,jet}$) is enhanced in bkgd, but MET is not?

- □ at least 1 jet with PT>100GeV
- □ 0 lepton (e, μ) with PT > 20 GeV
- MET > 100 GeV
- MET > 0.2 effective mass
- Transverse Sphericity ST > 0.2
- Δφ(ET jet i) > 0.2 (i = 1, 2, 3)

0-1

62%

17%

10%

10%

Federica Lego

SM

tt

W

7

QCD

Main backgrounds:

| tt |
|----|
| |

- W+jets
- Z+jets
- 🗆 QCD



2000 2500

3000 3500 4000 Effective Mass [GeV]

1000 1500

Another example: *b*-jet production



Banfi, GPS & Zanderighi, '07



Start with high- p_t jet

- 1. Undo last stage of clustering (\equiv reduce R): $J
 ightarrow J_1, J_2$
- 2. If $\max(m_1, m_2) \lesssim 0.67m$, call this a **mass drop** [else goto 1] Automatically detects correct $R \sim R_{bb}$ to catch angular-ordered radn.
- 3. Require $y_{12} = \frac{\min(p_{t1}^2, p_{t2}^2)}{m_{12}^2} \Delta R_{12}^2 \simeq \frac{\min(z_1, z_2)}{\max(z_1, z_2)} > 0.09$ [else goto 1] dimensionless rejection of asymmetric QCD branching
- 4. Require each subjet to have *b*-tag [else reject event] Correlate flavour & momentum structure

#2: The jet analysis



Start with high- p_t jet

- 1. Undo last stage of clustering (\equiv reduce *R*): $J \rightarrow J_1, J_2$
- 2. If $\max(m_1, m_2) \lesssim 0.67m$, call this a mass drop [else goto 1] Automatically detects correct $R \sim R_{bb}$ to catch angular-ordered radn.

3. Require $y_{12} = \frac{\min(p_{t1}^2, p_{t2}^2)}{m_{12}^2} \Delta R_{12}^2 \simeq \frac{\min(z_1, z_2)}{\max(z_1, z_2)} > 0.09$ [else goto 1] dimensionless rejection of asymmetric QCD branching

4. Require each subjet to have *b*-tag [else reject event] Correlate flavour & momentum structure
#3: jet filtering



At moderate p_t , R_{bb} is quite large; UE & pileup degrade mass resolution $\delta M \sim R^4 \Lambda_{UE} \frac{p_t}{M}$ [Dasgupta, Magnea & GPS '07]

Filter the jet

- Reconsider region of interest at smaller $R_{filt} = \min(0.3, R_{b\bar{b}}/2)$
- **•** Take **3** hardest subjets b, \bar{b} and leading order gluon radiation

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QCD & Searches, G. Salam (p. 52) L EXTRAS L Higgs high p_t

Impact of *b*-tagging, Higgs mass



Most scenarios above 3σ

For it to be a significant discovery channel requires decent *b*-tagging, lowish mass Higgs [and good experimental resolution]In nearly all cases, looks feasible for extracting *WH*, *ZH* couplings

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How can we be doing so well despite losing factor 20 in X-sct?

| | Signal | Background | |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|--|
| Eliminate <i>tī</i> , etc. | _ | imes 1/3 | [very approx.] |
| $p_t > 200 \text{ GeV}$ | imes 1/20 | imes 1/60 | [bkgds: $Wb\overline{b}, Zb\overline{b}$] |
| improved acceptance | $\times 4$ | $\times 4$ | |
| twice better resolution | _ | imes 1/2 | |
| add $Z ightarrow u ar{ u}$ | imes1.5 | imes1.5 | |
| total | ×0.3 | ×0.017 | |
| | | | |

much better S/B; better S/\sqrt{B} [exact numbers depend on analysis details] Cross section for signal and the Z+jets background in the leptonic Z channel for $200 < p_{TZ}/\text{GeV} < 600$ and $110 < m_J/\text{GeV} < 125$, with perfect *b*-tagging; shown for our jet definition (C/A MD-F), and other standard ones close to their optimal *R* values.

| Jet definition | $\sigma_{\mathcal{S}}/fb$ | $\sigma_B/{ m fb}$ | $S/\sqrt{B\cdot \mathrm{fb}}$ |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| C/A, <i>R</i> = 1.2, MD-F | 0.57 | 0.51 | 0.80 |
| k_t , $R=1.0$, y_{cut} | 0.19 | 0.74 | 0.22 |
| SISCone, $R = 0.8$ | 0.49 | 1.33 | 0.42 |
| anti- k_t , $R = 0.8$ | 0.22 | 1.06 | 0.21 |

QCD & Searches, G. Salam (p. 55) EXTRAS Higgs high p_t

Compare with "standard" algorithms

Check mass spectra in HZ channel, $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$, $Z \rightarrow \ell^+ \ell^-$



Cambridge/Aachen (C/A) with mass-drop and filtering (MD/F) works best