

Quantum Chromodynamics and Jets at the LHC

Herbstschule HEP

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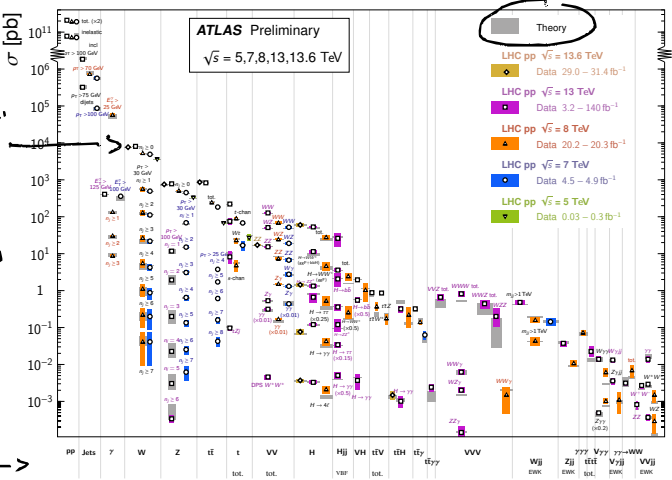
Lecture Overview

- Introduction and motivation } 1 day
- Basics of QCD
- Higher orders (very brief) } 10m0+10m
- Hadronic initial states
- All-order computations: resummation & parton-showers → Tuesday
- Jet physics & LHC Phenomenology → Friday

Standard Model measurements

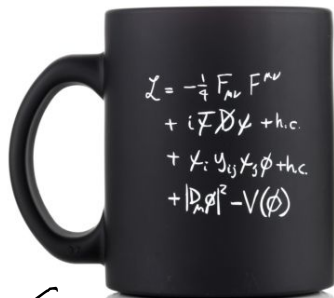
Standard Model Production Cross Section Measurements

Status: July 2026



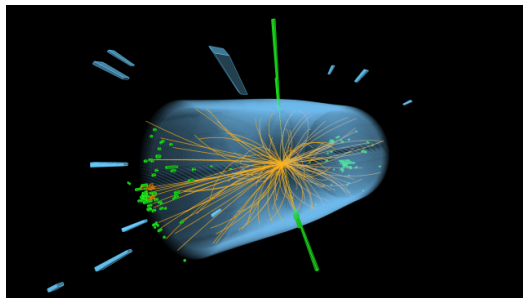
SM
success
story
↓
QCD

Standard Model measurements



prediction
↑
approximation
↑
QCD

Real data



→ pQFT : #particles < few
~ 10 @ LO QCD
~ 3-4 @ NLO QCD
~ 2 @ N3LO QCD

Event Simulations

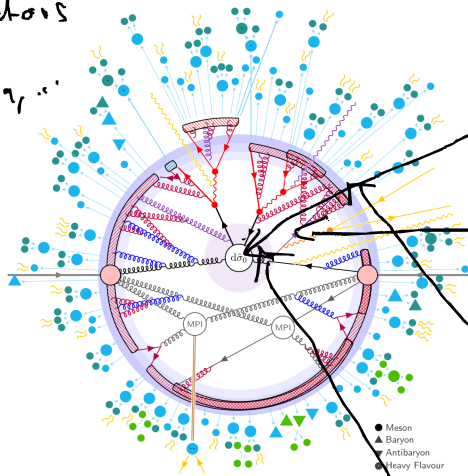
Monte Carlo Event generators

Pythia, Herwig, Sherpa, ...

↓
Scale factorization

"What you see
depends on the
resolution"

[Pythia]



Asymptotic freedom
 $\alpha_S(Q) \xrightarrow{Q \rightarrow \infty} 0$, α_S
 $\alpha_S(\Lambda_{QCD}) \rightarrow 1$ non-perturbative

$Q \rightarrow \Lambda_{QCD}$:
 resummation
 → power-law

Λ_{QCD} : non-perturbative
 → phenomenology
 + decays

$Q \gg \Lambda_{QCD}$: hard scattering
 (perturbative QCD)

Basic of QCD

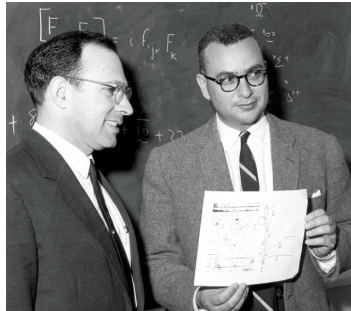
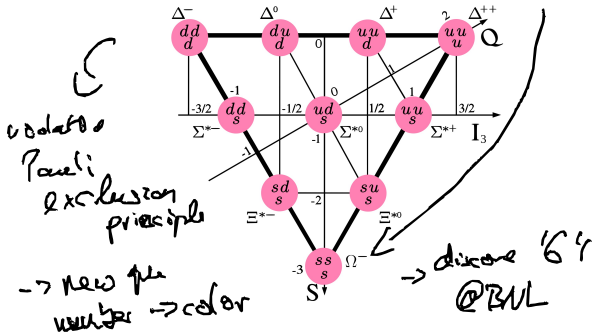
→ quick history

→ Lagrangian

→ LO example: $t\bar{t}$ @ LHC LO

QCD origins - light quarks

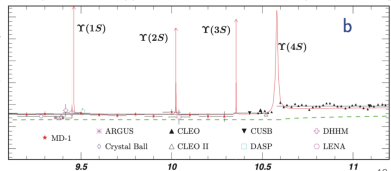
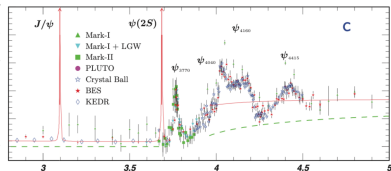
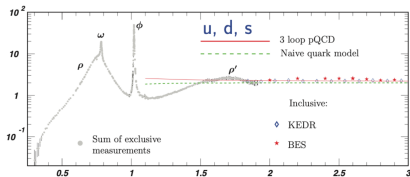
Zoo particle $\frac{3}{2}$ -spin $\rightarrow$ 3 quarks of $\frac{1}{2}$ spin $\leftarrow$ proposal



[8-foldway & Yuval Ne'eman (left) and Gell-Mann March 1964 (CERN Courier'19)]

$\rightarrow$ further evidence : DIS experiments @SLAC

QCD origins - number of colors



$\rightarrow$ R-ratio in e^+e^-

$$R = \frac{\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \text{had.})}{\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-)} = N_c \sum_f q_f^2$$

$$R = 2 \quad Q < 2m_c \quad \& \quad R = 3,67 \quad Q > 2m_b$$

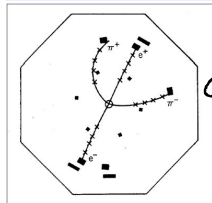
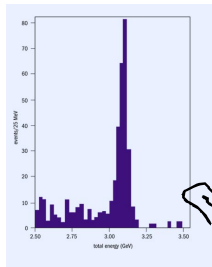
$\rightarrow \pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ decay

$$\Gamma(\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) = \left(\frac{N_c}{3}\right)^2 \frac{\alpha_{EW}^2}{64\pi^3 f_\pi^2}$$

$\rightarrow$ agrees with exp. data

$\rightarrow$ confirms jet meas.

QCD origins - the charm quark



→ Puzzle of ~~FCPC~~

→ J/ψ mechanism

BNL

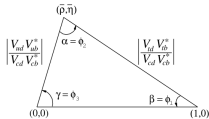
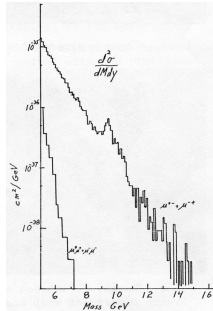
SLAC

}

$J/\psi \rightarrow$ particles

[CERN Courier 04]

QCD origins - the bottom quark



→ similar for bottom

→ CP violation via CKM matrix

→ 3rd generation

→ directly produced @ Fermilab '77

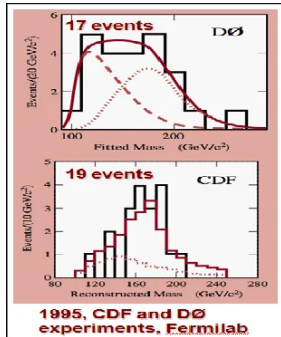
[E228 experiment '77]

QCD origins - the top quark

Indirect evidence

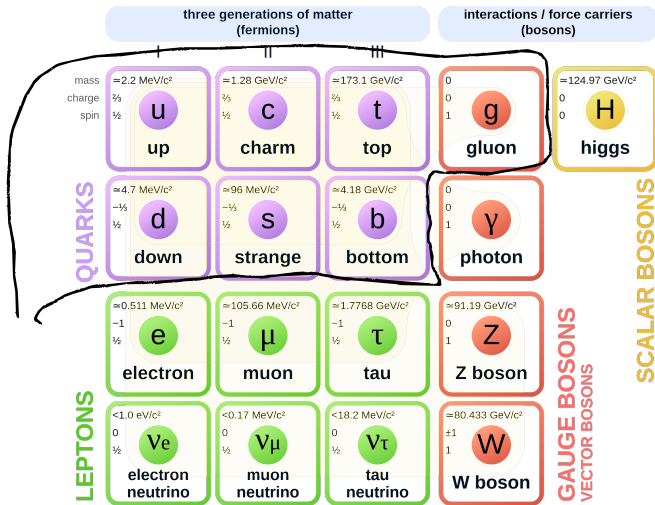
- CKM matrix
- B meson oscillation
- Precision EW measurements
- top-quark was measured @ 170 GeV

↖ @ Tevatron '95



QCD in the Standard Model

Standard Model of Elementary Particles



$$SU(3)_c \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$$

$\rightarrow$ Yukawa coupling
determines quark m
but they are parameter
in QCD

QCD Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a\mu\nu} + \sum_{f=1}^{n_f} \bar{\psi}_{f,i} (i \not{D}_{ij} - m_f \delta_{ij}) \psi_{f,i}$$

$j=1,2,3$
color degrees of freedom

SU(3) gauge theory:

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow \psi'(x) = U(x) \psi(x) = \exp(i g_s \theta^a(x) T^a) \psi(x)$$

SU(3) has $3^2 - 1 = 8$ generators

$$[T^a, T^b] = i f^{abc} T^c$$

↑
antisymmetric constants

$$(D_\mu)_{ij} = \partial_\mu \delta_{ij} - i g_s (T^a)_{ij} A_\mu^a$$

gluon field

$$F_{\mu\nu}^a = \underbrace{\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a}_{\sim \text{QED (abelian)}} + \underbrace{g_s f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c}_{\text{non-abelian}}$$

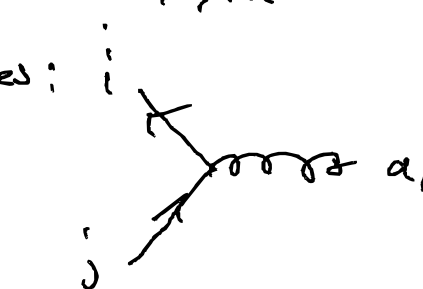
→ can't solve this theory in general

- lattice QCD: → putting everything on space-time lattice spacing is a
- take limit $a \rightarrow 0$
- good at low energies $\leftrightarrow$ large distances
- bad at high energies $\leftrightarrow$ short distances

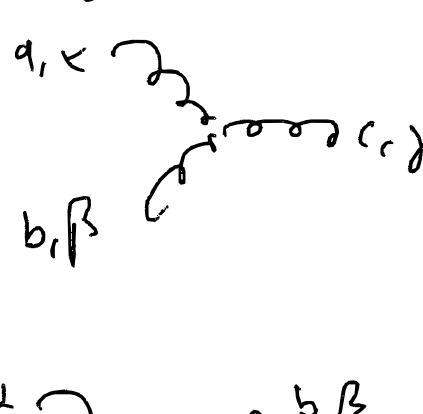
→ perturbation theory:

- small coupling g_s
- expand around free theory
- Feynman calculus

Vertices:

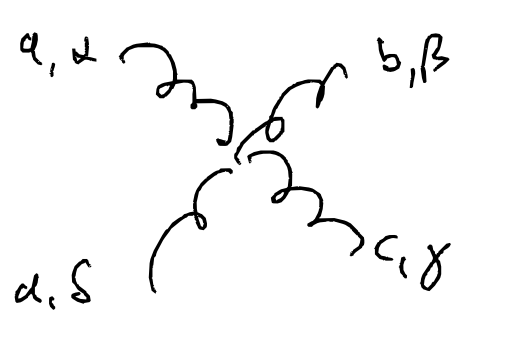


$$-i g_s (T^a)_{ij} \gamma^\mu$$



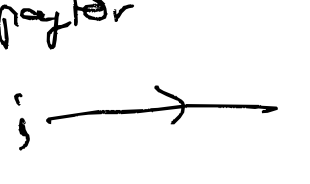
$$-i g_s f^{abc} V_{\alpha\beta\gamma}(p_1, p_2, p_3)$$

$$V_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = (p_1 - p_2)_\gamma g_{\alpha\beta} + (p_2 - p_3)_\alpha g_{\beta\gamma} + (p_3 - p_1)_\beta g_{\alpha\gamma}$$



$$-i g_s^2 \left[f^{kac} f^{xba} (g_{\alpha\beta} g_{\gamma\delta} - \dots) + \dots \right]$$

quark propagator



$$\delta_{ij} \frac{i(\not{p} + m)}{p^2 + m^2 + i\epsilon}$$

gluons:

→ req. gauge fixing

cov. R_ξ
($\partial_\mu A^\mu = 0$)

$$\frac{-i \delta^{ab}}{p^2 + i\epsilon} \left[g^{\mu\nu} - \frac{(1-\xi) p^\mu p^\nu}{p^2} \right]$$

Color

axial gauge

→ T^a, f^{abc}

- always sum over external color indices
- trace

$$\text{Tr}(T^a T^b) = T_F \delta^{ab} \quad T_F = \frac{1}{2}$$

Casimirs

$$(T^a T^a)_{ij} = C_F \delta_{ij} \quad C_F = \frac{4}{3}$$

$$f^{acd} f^{bcd} = C_A \delta^{ab} \quad C_A = 3$$

Useful:

$$i T_F f^{abc} = \text{Tr}(T^a T^b T^c) - \text{Tr}(T^c T^b T^a)$$

Fierz identity: $T_{ij}^a T_{kl}^a = \frac{1}{2} (\delta_{il} \delta_{jk} - \frac{1}{N_c} \delta_{ii} \delta_{kk})$

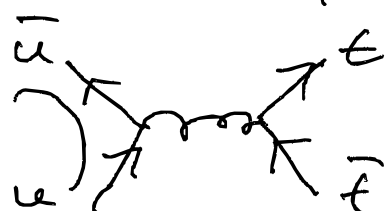
LO: example: $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}$

$$\rightarrow d\sigma = \frac{1}{F} |\mathcal{M}|^2 d\Phi_2$$

$\hookrightarrow 2\hat{s}$

2 particle process: $q\bar{q} \rightarrow t\bar{t}, g g \rightarrow t\bar{t}$

$q\bar{q} \rightarrow t\bar{t}$



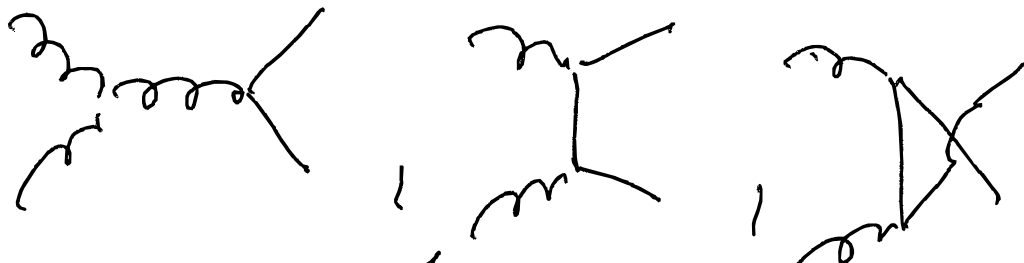
Mandelstam:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{s} &= (p_1 + p_2)^2 \\ \hat{t} &= (p_1 - p_3)^2 \\ \hat{u} &= (p_1 - p_4)^2 \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{\hat{s}} + \frac{1}{\hat{t}} + \frac{1}{\hat{u}} \\ &= 2u_e^2 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$i\mathcal{M}_{q\bar{q} \rightarrow t\bar{t}} = [\bar{u}(p_2) (-i g_s \gamma^\mu T^a) u(p_1)] \frac{1}{\hat{s}} [\bar{u}(p_3) (-i g_s \gamma^\nu T^b) u(p_4)] (-i g_{\mu\nu} \delta^{ab})$$

$$\langle |\mathcal{M}_{q\bar{q} \rightarrow t\bar{t}}|^2 \rangle = \frac{g_s^4}{4 N_c^2 \hat{s}} \langle q\bar{q} \rangle \hookrightarrow 2 \left[(\hat{t}^2 - \hat{u}^2)^2 + (\hat{u}^2 - \hat{s}^2)^2 + 2\hat{s}^2 \hat{t} \hat{u} \right]$$

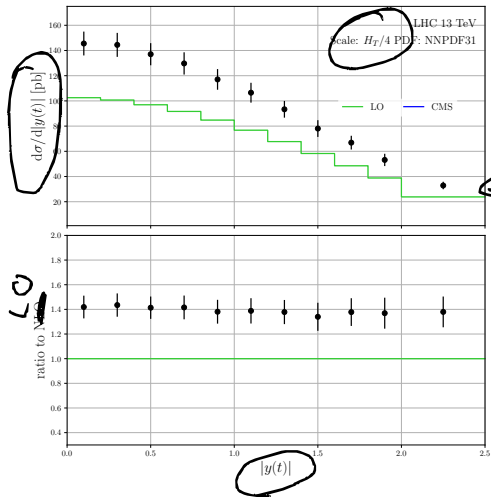
$g g \rightarrow t\bar{t}$:



$$d\sigma_{pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}} = \sum_{a,b} \int_0^1 dx_1 dx_2 f_a(x_1) f_b(x_2) d\sigma_{ab \rightarrow t\bar{t}}(x_1, x_2)$$

→ numerically

LHC top-quark pair at leading order



40%



→ higher-order will help us to resolve this

