SIGNAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE IDEAL LHC WORLD

Tilman Plehn

MPI München & University of Edinburgh

– What the problem with significance is
– How we can try to solve it
– Where it seems to work

in collaboration with Kyle Cranmer [he did all the statistics]

THE PROBLEM WITH LHC SEARCHES: 1

Haven't we all had this problem?

– some new BSM model predicts a crazy new particle

$\longrightarrow$ extraction from backgrounds at LHC [LHC physics is statistics]

$\longrightarrow$ parton-level signal/background analysis [all of the U.S. can do that now]

$\longrightarrow$ cuts analysis an art, not a science [know-how got people like me a job]

$\longrightarrow$ experimentalist reluctant to invest time [no trust because they know phenomenologists]

$\longrightarrow$ yes: neural net with hugely improved significance [my papers]
yes: parton level analysis proven completely wrong [everyone else's papers]
no: idea forever lost

How to solve it in the ideal world?

– (1) predict significance which can be obtained

– (2) check if experimental analysis is optimal

$\Rightarrow$ emulate the perfect experimentalist on a laptop [to take him home or to workshops]

An example from real life [TP, Rainwater, Zeppenfeld vs. Cranmer, Quayle, Wu]

– WBF H $\to \tau\tau$ in Standard Model

– cut analysis promising, experimentalists convinced [after years of convincing]

– neural net even better with LEP-type events weighting

– new Higgs discovery channel

$\Rightarrow$ could we predict these numbers?

- Significance for 30 fb^{-1}:

Higgs Mass	Cut Analysis(Pois.)	Cut on NN	NN Sig. w/cut	NN Sig. w/LR
115	2.95	0.89	3.71	4.68
120	3.09	0.93	3.97	4.88
125	3.06	0.92	3.93	4.75
130	2.72	0.94	3.70	4.49
135	2.56	0.96	3.36	4.02
140	1.86	0.97	2.85	3.38

- Improvement of ~30% from Neural Nets
- Improvement of ~60% with Likelihood Ratio

[B. Quayle, ATLAS Higgs meeting, 2003]

Likelihood ratio

– combined likelihood for N-event Poisson statistics [independent channels]

$$\mathcal{L}_b = \frac{e^{-b}\, b^N}{N!} \qquad \mathcal{L}_{s+b} = \frac{e^{-(s+b)}\, (s+b)^N}{N!}$$

$$q = \log \frac{\mathcal{L}_{s+b}}{\mathcal{L}_b} = -s + N \log\left(1 + \frac{s}{b}\right) \longrightarrow -\sum_j s_j + \sum_j N_j \log\left(1 + \frac{s_j}{b_j}\right)$$

– remember: Gaussian significance approximately $n_\sigma \sim -2\,q$

→ inspiration by LEP-Higgs analyses:
integration over all possible p.s. points by replacing $s, b \to |\mathcal{M}_{s,b}|^2$

$$q(x) = \log\left(1 + \frac{|\mathcal{M}_s|^2}{|\mathcal{M}_b|^2}\right)_x$$

→ treatment of log likelihood as measurement function

→ extraction of probability distribution function more involved: $\rho_{s,b}(n)$

→ integrate over background pdf $CL_b = \int_N^\infty dn \rho_b(n)$ [5σ with probability $2.85\,10^{-7}$]

Beyond Irreducible and Unsmeared

Beyond naive phase space integration

– irreducible & unsmeared: signal and background phase space identical

$$\sigma_{\text{tot}} = \int d\text{PS}\, M_{\text{PS}}\, d\sigma_{\text{PS}} = \int d\vec{r}\, M(\vec{r})\, d\sigma(\vec{r})$$

$\longrightarrow$ same random numbers for S and B, all phase space info included [over-all ϕ?]

$\longrightarrow$ smearing! otherwise e.g. $m_{\mu\mu}^{\text{real}} \neq m_{\mu\mu}^{\text{meas}}$ too distinctive

$\longrightarrow$ smear small number of observables/random numbers with Gaussian G

$$\sigma_{\text{tot}} = \int d\vec{r}_\perp dr_m^* \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dr_m\, M(\vec{r})\, d\sigma(\vec{r})\, G(r_m, r_m^*)$$

$\longrightarrow$ modified random number vector $\vec{r} = \{\vec{r}_\perp, r_m\}$ without back door

$\longrightarrow$ complete smearing?!

$\longrightarrow$ have to replace phase space by spectrum of set of distributions (can be large and overlapping)

$\longrightarrow$ about to be be implemented in Whizard [Cranmer, TP, Reuter]

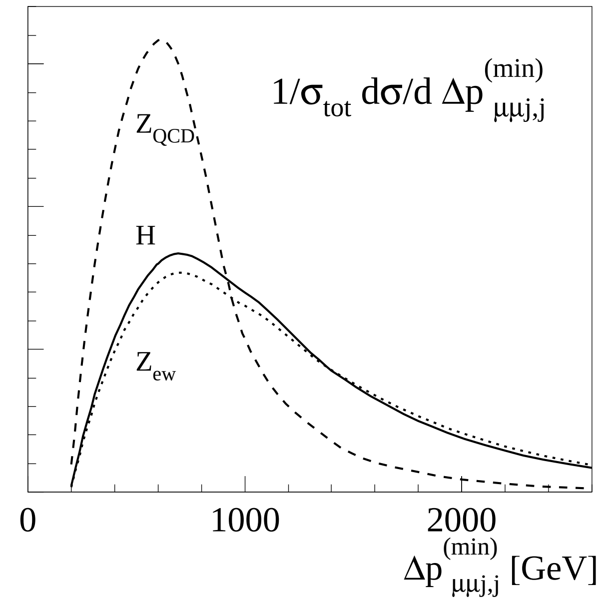
WBF-Higgs to Muons: 1

WBF Higgs with decay $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$ [TP & Rainwater, 0107180]

– number of signal events small [$\sigma \cdot$ BR $\sim$ 0.25fb]

– no distribution with golden cut

$\longrightarrow$ perfect for neural net analysis

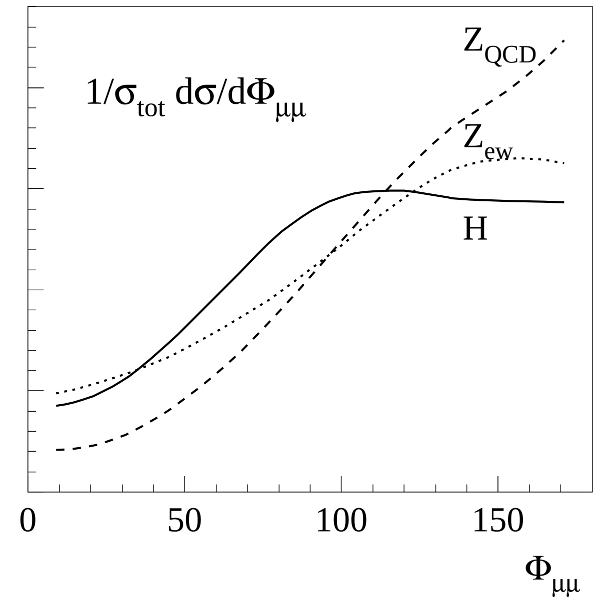


WBF-Higgs to Muons: 1

WBF Higgs with decay $H \to \mu\mu$ [TP & Rainwater, 0107180]

- number of signal events small [$\sigma \cdot \text{BR} \sim 0.25$fb]
- no distribution with golden cut

$\to$ perfect for neural net analysis



Old results [leading (irreducible) backgrounds]

$\sqrt{S}$ [TeV]	M_H [GeV]	σ_H [fb]	σ_Z^{QCD} [fb]	σ_Z^{ew} [fb]	S/B	significance σ	$\triangle\sigma/\sigma$	$\mathcal{L}_{5\sigma}$ [fb^{-1}]
14	115	0.25	3.57	0.40	1/9.1	1.7	60%	2600
14	120	0.22	2.60	0.33	1/7.5	1.8	60%	2300
14	130	0.17	1.61	0.24	1/6.5	1.7	65%	2700
14	140	0.10	1.11	0.19	1/7.5	1.2	85%	4900
200	115	2.57	39.6	5.3	1/10.1	5.3	20%	270
200	120	2.36	29.2	4.0	1/8.0	5.7	20%	230
200	130	1.80	18.7	2.7	1/6.9	5.3	20%	260
200	140	1.14	13.4	2.0	1/7.9	4.0	27%	500

WBF-Higgs to Muons: 2

Statistical promise of WBF H $\to \mu\mu$

– relevant for physics: confirm Yukawa coupling to 2nd generation

– gluon–fusion channel helpful? [Han & McElrath, Boos etal.]

$\longrightarrow$ better try WBF alone

– cut analysis impossible

– event weighting in neural net promising

– only irreducible backgrounds

– smearing only relevant for $m_{\mu\mu}$ [mimic by Γ'_H]

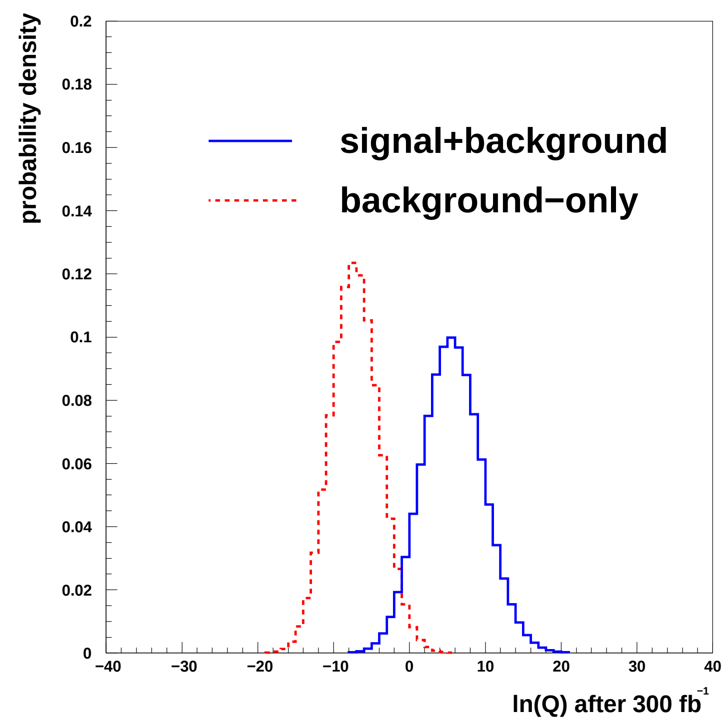
$\longrightarrow$ compute likelihood for each event

$\longrightarrow$ upper limit on parton level significance

$\longrightarrow$ WBF H $\to \mu\mu$: 3.7 sigma in 300 fb^{-1}

[4.2σ with jet veto; 5.2σ for Atlas+CMS]

$\Longrightarrow$ see if we can find an experimental group now



OUTLOOK

Higgs/BSM news for LHC

– we can emulate the perfect experimentalist!
– another cool tool in the pipeline
– concept and feasibility shown
– incorporation into Whizard over summer