Status of the WHIZARD generator for linear colliders

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ABSTRACT

This summarizes the talk given at the LCWS 2019 conference in Sendai, Japan, on the progress of the WHIZARD event generator in terms of new physics features and technical improvements relevant for the physics programme of future lepton and especially linear colliders. It takes as a reference the version 2.8.2 released in October 2019, and also takes into account the development until version 2.8.3 to be released in February 2020.
1 Introduction

WHIZARD is a multi-purpose event generator for collider physics [1]. It is a very general framework for all types of colliders, but with a special emphasis on the physics program at lepton colliders, and has been used for many studies and design reports for e.g. ILC, CLIC and FCC-ee [2,3,4,5,6]. Hard scattering process matrix elements are generated with WHIZARD’s intrinsic (tree-level) matrix element generator O’Mega [7], using the color-flow formalism for QCD [8]. It supports all particles up to spin 2, and also fermion-number violating vertices [9,10,11,12]. O’Mega can write matrix-element code as compiled process code (libraries) or as byte-code instructions in the form of a virtual machine [13]. The latter produces very small and efficient matrix element instructions. The NLO automation will be discussed in Sec. 2.3.

WHIZARD comes with two different final- and initial-state parton shower implementations, a $k_T$-ordered shower as well as an analytic parton shower [14]. For LC simulations, WHIZARD ships with the final Pythia6 version [15] for shower and hadronization; it also has a full-fledged interface to Pythia8 [16]. This is very handy as it directly transfers data between the two event records of the generators and allows WHIZARD to use all of Pythia8’s machinery for matching and merging. WHIZARD also automatically assigns underlying resonances to full off-shell processes and gives the correct information of resonant shower systems to the parton shower.

One of the special features of WHIZARD is its framework for the support of lepton collider physics, including electron PDFs with resummation of soft photons to all orders and hard-collinear photons up to third order in $\alpha$, the generation of ISR photon $p_T$ spectra, sampling of lepton collider beam spectra [17], proper simulation of polarized beams, crossing angles and photon-induced background processes.

WHIZARD has a large number of hard-coded Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) models. The newest development for new physics, especially regarding completely general Lorentz tensor structures, will be described in Sec. 2.2.

2 New physics and technical features

2.1 Performance and integration, technical features

WHIZARD has a very modular infrastructure that allows to easily exchange different components: there are several different phase-space algorithms implemented, as well as several different Monte Carlo integration options. Besides the traditional VAMP integrator [18], there is now a conceptually identical implementation generalized to an MPI-based parallelization. In contrast to event generation which can always be trivially parallelized, adaptive phase space integration cannot so easily parallelized, and is a major bottleneck for high-multiplicity tree- and especially loop-level processes. This VAMP2 integrator [19] will now be further improved with a dynamic load balancer that allows for non-blocking communication between the different workers. The new setup will be released in version 3.0α, cf. below. Even without the load balancer speed-ups between 10 and 100 are observed, depending on the complexity of processes.

Further technical improvements are the finalization of the proper event headers for the LCIO event interface for the LC software framework, as well as the completion of the interface to HepMC3. Rescanning of event files in order to recalculate hard matrix elements without recalculating the phase space, now also work with beam spectra and structure functions. Alternative weights (squared matrix elements) can now be written out not only in LHE and HepMC formats, but also to LCIO.
are for 1 TeV fixed beams, multiple (transversal) vector boson production both for hadron and (high-energy) lepton colliders.

\[ \sigma_{LO}[\text{pb}] \] \[ \sigma_{NLO}[\text{pb}] \] \[ K \]

\begin{tabular}{llll}
\hline
Process & \sigma_{LO}[\text{pb}] & \sigma_{NLO}[\text{pb}] & K \\
\hline
\ppp \to \jjj & 1.157(2) \times 10^6 & 1.604(7) \times 10^6 & 1.39 \\
\ppp \to Z & 4.3586(3) \times 10^4 & 5.4865(2) \times 10^4 & 1.27 \\
\ppp \to ZZ & 7.207(2) \times 10^3 & 9.720(17) \times 10^3 & 1.35 \\
\ppp \to Zjj & 2.352(8) \times 10^3 & 2.735(9) \times 10^3 & 1.16 \\
\ppp \to W^- W^+ & 1.3750(5) \times 10^5 & 1.7696(9) \times 10^5 & 1.29 \\
\ppp \to W^- j j j & 2.043(1) \times 10^4 & 2.845(6) \times 10^4 & 1.39 \\
\ppp \to W^- W^+ j j j & 6.796(7) \times 10^3 & 7.939(3) \times 10^3 & 1.17 \\
\ppp \to ZZ & 1.094(2) \times 10^4 & 1.4192(32) \times 10^4 & 1.3 \\
\ppp \to ZZ j & 3.659(2) \times 10^3 & 4.820(11) \times 10^3 & 1.32 \\
\ppp \to ZW & 2.775(2) \times 10^3 & 4.488(4) \times 10^3 & 1.62 \\
\ppp \to ZW^+ & 1.604(6) \times 10^3 & 2.103(4) \times 10^3 & 1.31 \\
\ppp \to W^-W^- (4f) & 0.7340(7) \times 10^{-2} & 1.027(1) \times 10^{-2} & 1.4 \\
\ppp \to W^-W^- (4f) & 2.868(1) \times 10^{-3} & 3.733(8) \times 10^{-4} & 1.3 \\
\ppp \to W^-W^- (4f) & 1.483(4) \times 10^{-1} & 2.238(6) \times 10^{-1} & 1.51 \\
\ppp \to W^-W^- (4f) & 6.755(4) \times 10^{-1} & 9.97(3) \times 10^{-1} & 1.48 \\
\ppp \to W^- W^- W^- W^+ (4f) & 1.309(1) \times 10^{-1} & 2.117(2) \times 10^{-1} & 1.62 \\
\ppp \to ZW^- W^- W^- (4f) & 0.966(2) \times 10^{-1} & 1.682(2) \times 10^{-1} & 1.74 \\
\ppp \to ZW^- W^- Z (4f) & 0.642(2) \times 10^{-3} & 1.240(2) \times 10^{-3} & 1.93 \\
\ppp \to ZW^- Z Z (4f) & 0.528(2) \times 10^{-5} & 1.229(2) \times 10^{-5} & 2.09 \\
\ppp \to t \bar{t} & 4.588(2) \times 10^2 & 6.740(9) \times 10^2 & 1.47 \\
\ppp \to t \bar{t} j j & 3.131(3) \times 10^2 & 4.194(9) \times 10^2 & 1.34 \\
\ppp \to t \bar{t} H & 4.512(2) \times 10^{-3} & 9.670(9) \times 10^{-3} & 2.01 \\
\ppp \to t \bar{t} Z & 5.281(8) \times 10^{-1} & 7.639(9) \times 10^{-1} & 1.45 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Table 1: Selection of validated processes at LO and NLO QCD with WHIZARD. $e^+e^-$ processes (left) are for 1 TeV fixed beams, pp processes are for 13 TeV. The scale is the scalar transverse energy, $H_T$. Jets are clustered with the anti-$k_T$ algorithm and jet radius $\Delta R = 0.5$, with cuts of $p_T > 30$GeV for the Born jets.

### 2.2 Beyond the standard model physics

Besides of the full SM samples for TESLA, ILC, CLIC and CEPC, WHIZARD has been extensively used for BSMS simulations where it contains e.g. complete implementations of Little Higgs models and Another interesting feature is WHIZARD’s ability to calculate unitarity constraints for vector boson scattering (VBS) and multi-boson processes and to deliver unitarized amplitudes for SMMET dim-6/dim-8 operators and simplified models, while precision SM predictions for VBS can be found in \[ ... \]. Ongoing work deals with the automatic calculation of unitarity limits for multiple (transversal) vector boson production both for hadron and (high-energy) lepton colliders.

Nowadays, new physics models are almost exclusively included via automated interfaces, e.g. to FeynRules. These explicit interfaces have now been superseded by WHIZARD’s implementation of its UFO interface. WHIZARD now (with the upcoming versions 2.8.3 and 3.0a) supports this completely including spins 1/2, 3/2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, automatic construction of 5-, 6-ary and even higher vertices, fermion-number-violating vertices, four-fermion vertices (and higher), SLHA-type input files for BSMS models and customized propagators defined in the UFO files. This makes the old interfaces to FeynRules and SARAH deprecated, however, they will be kept for backwards compatibility.

### 2.3 Next-to-leading order QCD automation

WHIZARD started first with hard-coded next-to-leading order (NLO) projects regarding QED and electroweak corrections for SUSY production and NLO QCD correction for $p p \to b b b b$. Now,
**WHIZARD** is based on an automated implementation of the FKS subtraction algorithm [41]. In this automated implementation only the virtual amplitudes are external from one-loop providers (OLP, there are interfaces to Openloops [42,43], Recola [44] and GoSam [45]), while subtraction terms are automatically generated in **WHIZARD**. The NLO QCD has been fully validated as can be seen from Table 1. First applications of this automated interface have been devoted to linear collider top physics in the continuum [46] and in the threshold region [47]. These examples also show NLO calculations with factorized processes as well as NLO QCD decays. Recently, the selection of heavy-flavor jets in the jet clustering (bottom and charm) as well as a veto for them has been added, and also the possibility for photon isolation to separate perturbative QCD from nonperturbative effects in photon-jet fragmentation. The final validation is being finished now, there are still a few ongoing issues especially regarding easier usage, but an alpha version of **WHIZARD** 3.0 officially releasing NLO QCD automation will be done in March 2020. **WHIZARD** allows for a completely automatized POWHEG-type matching (and damping) [48] to the parton shower (for final state showering). While the corresponding matching for initial-state showering is being implemented, the work on NLO electroweak corrections has been started and first total cross sections for simple processes are already available. Next steps here are the complete validation, as well as the proper matching to the higher-order corrections for incoming electron PDFs. Also, the work for other NLO matching schemes has started.

### 2.4 Summary and Outlook

This is a status report of the close-to-final release version 2.8.2/2.8.3 of the **WHIZARD** version 2 series, showing intense work on the complete NLO QCD automation, the completion of automatic generation of arbitrary Lorentz tensor representations and the UFO interface, and many technical and convenience developments driven by the upcoming 250 GeV full SM Monte Carlo mass production for ILC with 2 ab$^{-1}$ integrated luminosity.

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