


Investigating Vector Boson Scattering

A Lattice study

Bernd Riederer

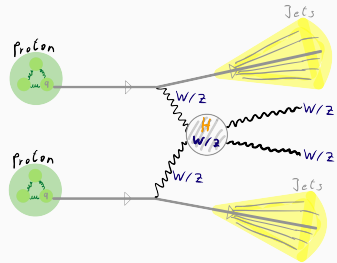
 @b_riederer

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Lattice22, Bonn

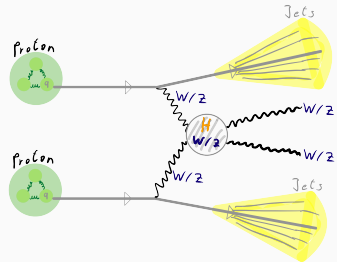
Vector boson scattering

- Scattering of weak gauge bosons
→ central electroweak process
- Heavily studied in experiments
- Especially for **BSM searches**
- **This talk:** First investigation of VBS on the lattice
- Why bother?



Vector boson scattering

- Scattering of weak gauge bosons
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- **This talk:** First investigation of VBS on the lattice
- Why bother?
- Allows to gain a nonperturbative understanding of the Higgs
 - Study of finite extent/compositeness → **BSM physics?**
 - Maybe additional **background from within the SM?**



- **Experiment:** cross-sections in specified decay channel
- **Theory:** cross-sections from fundamental theory

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \propto |\mathcal{M}|^2 \quad \mathcal{M} \dots \text{Transition matrix}$$

- Specify channel e.g. Higgs: $J_C^P = 0_0^+ \leftrightarrow$ partial wave analysis

$$\mathcal{M} = \underbrace{\langle \text{out} | T | \text{in} \rangle}_{\text{Transition element}} \propto \sum_J (2J+1) \underbrace{e^{i\delta_J} \sin(\delta_J)}_{f_J \dots \text{partial transition amplitude}} P_J(\cos \theta)$$

- **Phase shift δ_J** contains full scattering information
- **Perturbative approach:** \mathcal{M} from (augmented) PT
- **Lattice approach:** δ_J from Lüscher analysis



- PT: asymptotic states are fully specified e.g. $W^+W^- \rightarrow ZZ$
- **But** on the Lattice:
 - Specific **state unknown** \rightarrow **superposition** of possible states
 \rightarrow Lattice process: $W^\pm W^\mp / ZZ \rightarrow W^\pm W^\mp / ZZ$
 - Asymptotic states need to be **gauge-invariant**
 \rightarrow Even weakly interacting particles are bound states



Field theory **requires** physical states to be gauge-invariant

- “Augmented perturbation theory” (APT)

Maps: **bound state** correlators \leftrightarrow **perturbative** correlators

- **Masses are unaffected** by bound state structure

[Maas and Sondenheimer PRD 102 (2020) / Dudal et al. EPJ C81 (2021)]

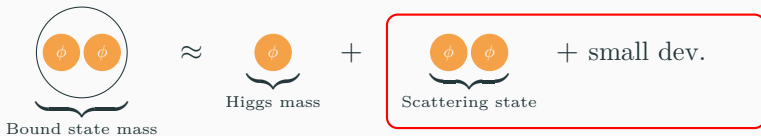
The diagram illustrates the decomposition of a bound state mass into Higgs mass and scattering state contributions. On the left, a large circle contains two smaller orange circles, each labeled with the Greek letter ϕ . A bracket underneath this large circle is labeled "Bound state mass". This is followed by an approximation symbol \approx . To the right of the approximation symbol, there are two terms separated by a plus sign. The first term consists of a single orange circle labeled ϕ with a bracket underneath it, labeled "Higgs mass". The second term consists of two orange circles labeled ϕ with a bracket underneath them, labeled "Scattering state". To the right of the second term is another plus sign followed by the text "+ small dev."

- “Augmented perturbation theory” (APT)

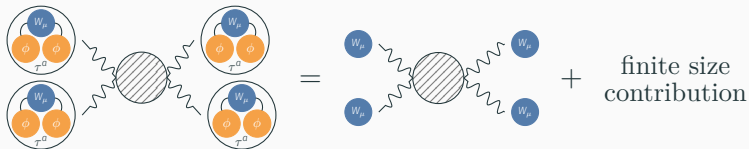
Maps: **bound state** correlators \leftrightarrow **perturbative** correlators

- **Masses are unaffected** by bound state structure

[Maas and Sondenheimer PRD 102 (2020) / Dudal et al. EPJ C81 (2021)]



- **Scattering processes are sensitive** to the change



$$\mathcal{L}_{EWH} = -\frac{1}{4} \underbrace{W_{\mu\nu}^a}_{\partial_\mu W_\nu^a - \partial_\nu W_\mu^a - gf^{abc}W_\mu^b W_\nu^c} W_a^{\mu\nu} + \left(\underbrace{D_\mu \phi}_{\partial_\mu - igW_\mu^a t_a} \right)^\dagger D^\mu \phi - \underbrace{V(\phi^\dagger \phi)}_{\lambda(\phi^\dagger \phi - f^2)^2}$$

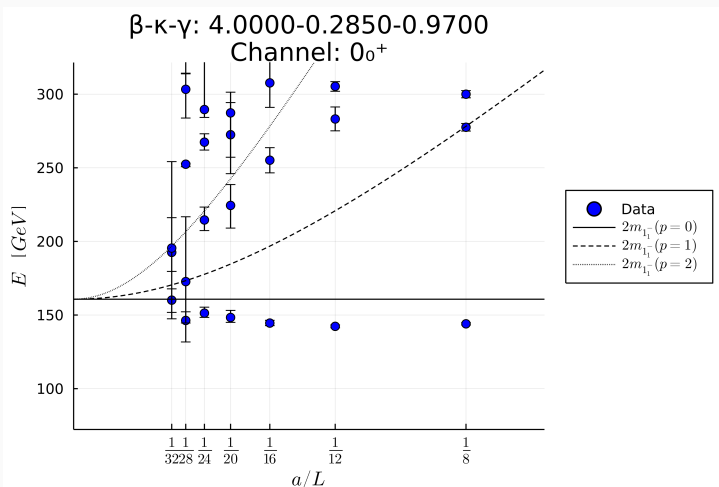
- Full EWH-sector not possible → only **weak interaction**:
 - Gauge group: $SU(2)_W \times U(1)_\gamma \rightarrow SU(2)_W$
 - no fermions & photon, $m_W = m_Z$
 - Gauged scalar field: $O(4) \rightarrow SU(2)_W \times SU(2)_C$
 - Additional **global $SU(2)_C$ symmetry** of the Higgs field

- Necessary energy spectra in involved channels:
 - Ground state in decay product channel: **vector** (1_1^-)
 - Ground and excited states in scattering channel: **scalar** (0_0^+)
- Lüscher analysis:
lattice spectra $E_n(V) \leftrightarrow$ **continuum phase shift** $\delta_l(E)$
- Problems:
 - very noisy \rightarrow huge statistics: $\mathcal{O}(10^6)$ **confs.**
 - excited states are hard to disentangle: variational analysis
 - \rightarrow operator-basis including **180 interpolators** ▶ see appendix
 - \rightarrow **pre- and post-selection** for spectra ▶ see appendix

- Checking for deviations/agreements of (A)PT and NP
- (A)PT: analytic prediction for $\tan(\delta_0) = f(E; g_W, m_W, m_H)$
- Lattice: need to choose correct parameter sets
- Previous studies categorized parameter sets as below

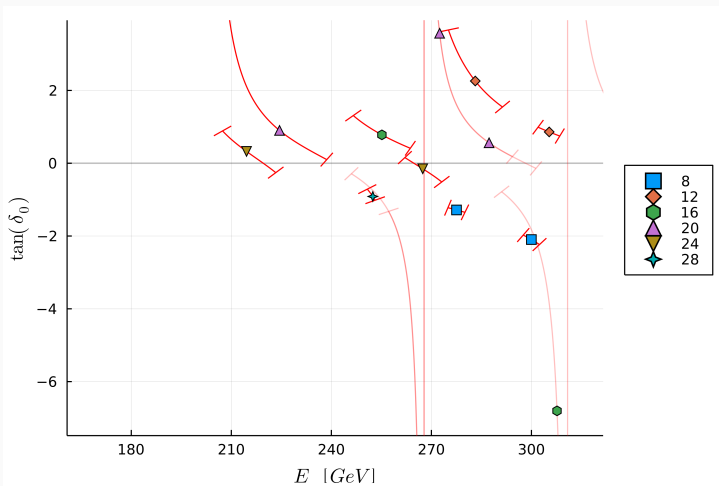
Range	Physics	m_W	m_H
$m_H < 2m_W$	stable “Higgs”	✓	✓
$2m_W \leq m_H \leq 4m_W$	“Higgs”-Resonance	✓	✗
$4m_W \ll m_H$	Heavy “Higgs”	✓	$\rightarrow \infty$





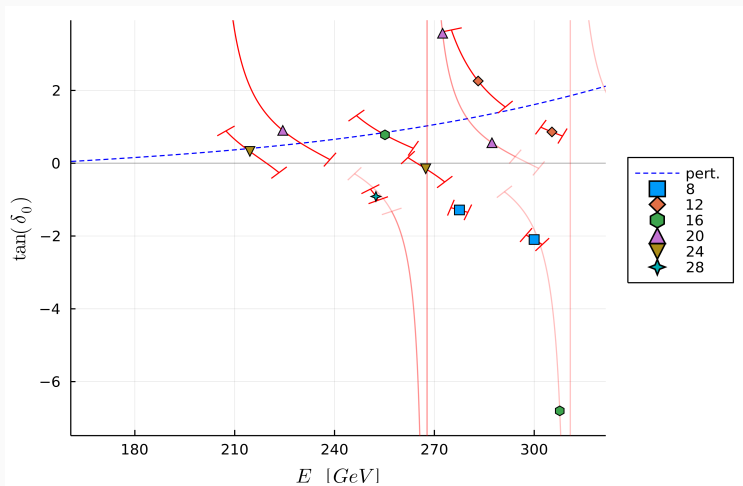
Spectrum: Lattice result (w. statistical errors) + expected states

No bound state below threshold; $\alpha_{W, 200 \text{ GeV}} = 0.219$



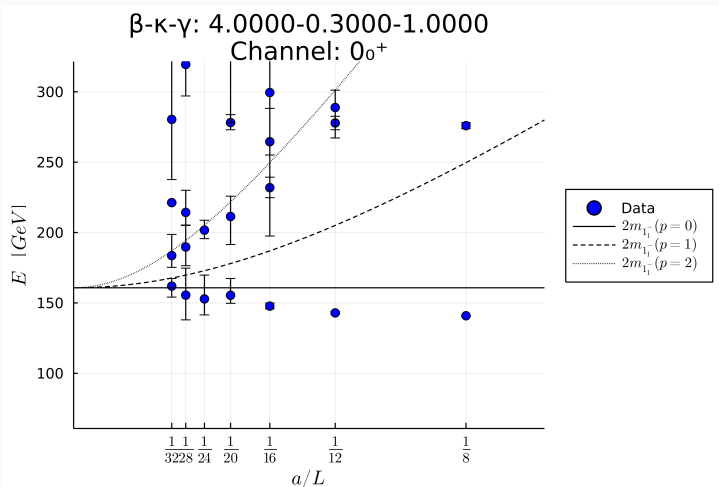
Tangent of phase shift: Lattice result (w. statistical errors)

$m_H \rightarrow \infty$; $\alpha_{W,200 \text{ GeV}} = 0.219$



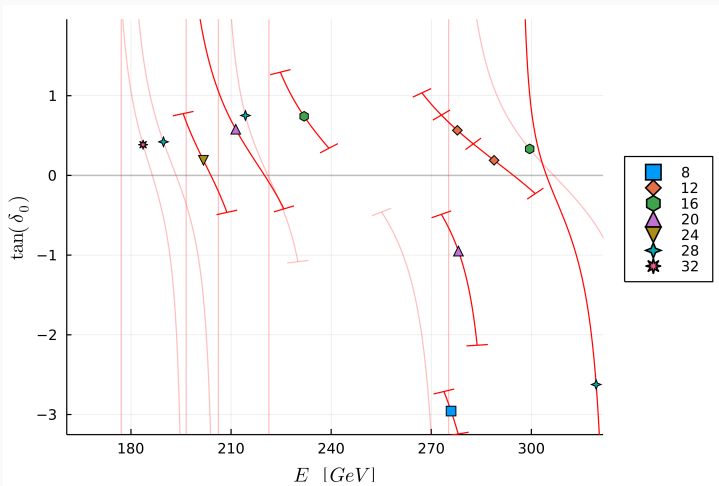
Tangent of phase shift: **Lattice result (w. statistical errors) + Born-level PT**

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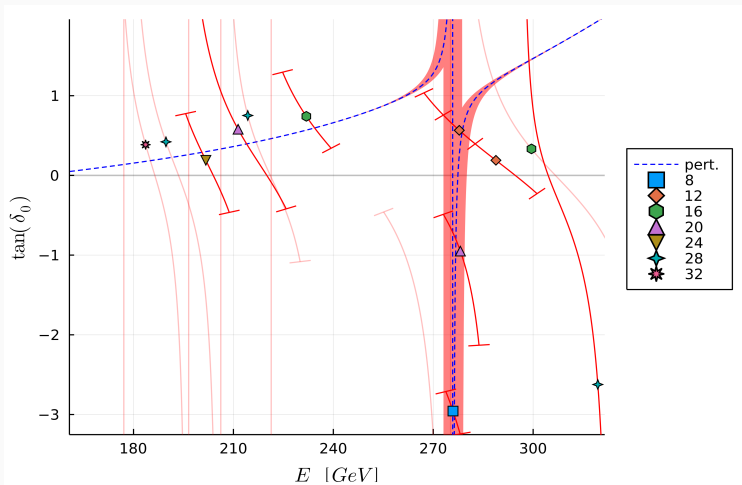
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Tangent of phase shift: Lattice result (w. statistical errors)

$m_H \approx ?$; $\alpha_{W,200 \text{ GeV}} = 0.211$

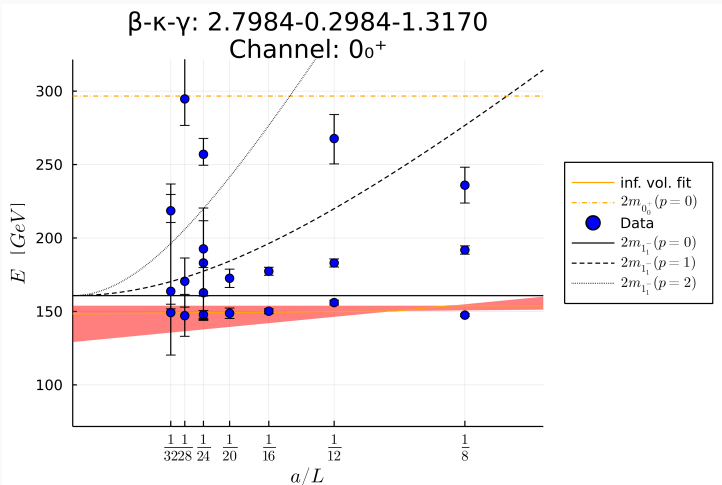


Tangent of phase shift: **Lattice result (w. statistical errors) + Born-level PT**

$m_H \approx 275$ GeV; $\alpha_{W,200 \text{ GeV}} = 0.211$

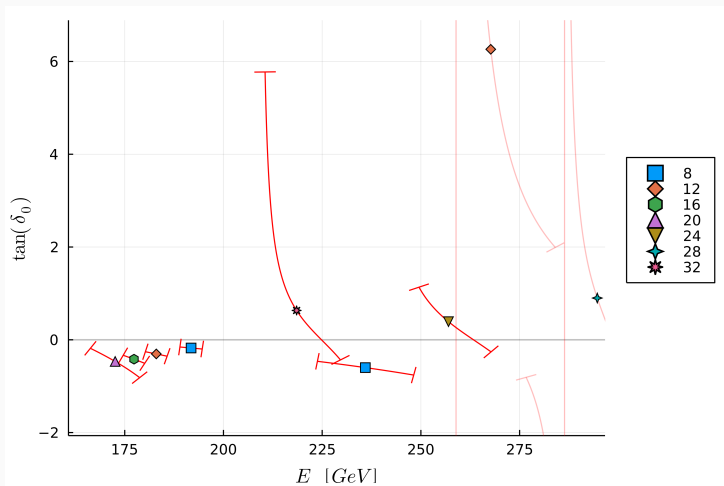
- Using perturbative prediction as a tool
- **Successful** although Breit-Wigner fit **failed**
- Reinserting to BW-fit → compatible with data
- **Provides a useful alternative to access resonances**
- **Disadvantages:**
 - No information about particle width
 - May be more involved beyond tree-level





Spectrum: Lattice result (w. statistical errors) + expected states

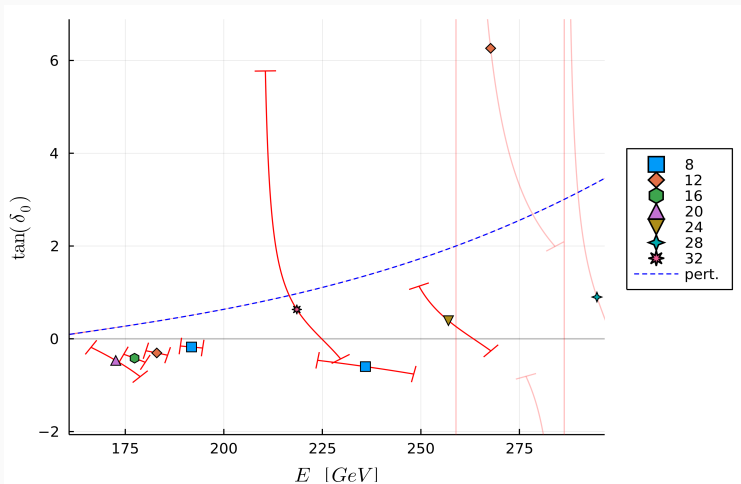
$m_H \approx 148$ GeV; $\alpha_{W,200 \text{ GeV}} = 0.492$



Tangent of phase shift: **Lattice result (w. statistical errors)**

$m_H \approx 148 \text{ GeV}$; $\alpha_{W,200 \text{ GeV}} = 0.492$

Stable Higgs



Tangent of phase shift: Lattice result (w. statistical errors) + Born-level PT

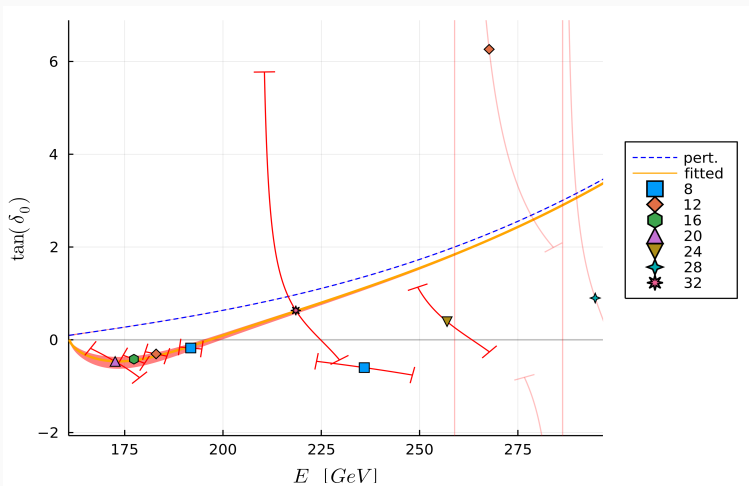
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- Large discrepancy near threshold for “stable Higgs”-sets
- **Because:** Tree-level (A)PT **loses bound-state-like nature**
→ particle extent modifies interaction radius

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- **Because:** Tree-level (A)PT **loses bound-state-like nature**
→ particle extent modifies interaction radius
- **Scattering length a_0 :** $\tan(\delta_j) \approx \frac{\sqrt{s-4m_W^2}}{a_0^{-1}}$ @ elastic threshold
 - **Negative** scattering length \leftrightarrow **Bound state** of some size
 - Close to elastic threshold \rightarrow attractive component
 - Inside the elastic region \rightarrow contribution vanishes

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- Modification of perturbative approximation:

$$\tan(\delta_J) \rightarrow \tan(\delta_{J,\text{PT}}) - \Delta f(a_0, s)$$



Tangent of phase shift: **Lattice result (w. statistical errors) + Born-level PT + finite size contribution**

$$m_H \approx 148 \text{ GeV}; \alpha_{W,200 \text{ GeV}} = 0.492; a_0^{-1} \approx -39 \text{ GeV}$$

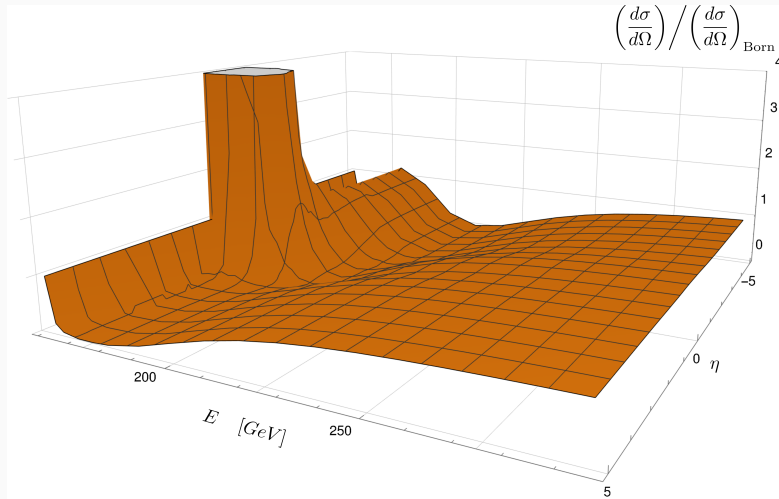
- Modification of $\tan(\delta_J) \leftrightarrow$ direct impact on cross-section
- Ratio of modified differential cross-sections to usual PT

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{mod.}} / \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{PT}} = \left| 1 - \frac{2\mathcal{M}_{\Delta f}}{\mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}}} \left(1 - \frac{\mathcal{M}_{\Delta f}}{2\mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}}} \right) \right|$$

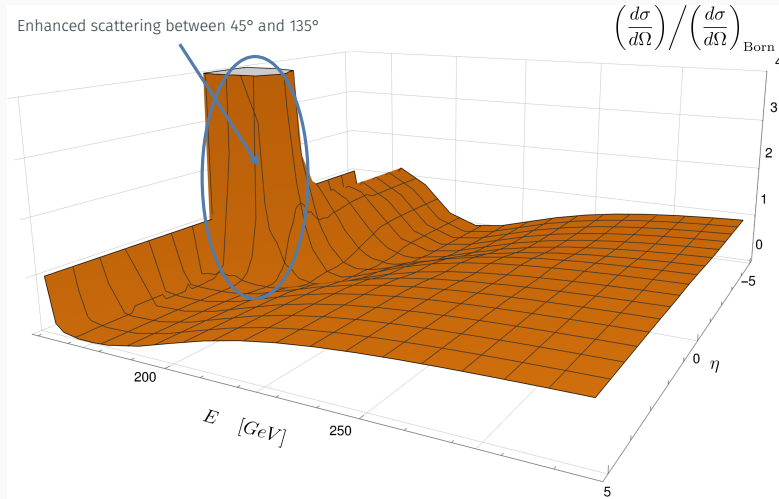
▶ see appendix

- Deviations expected only for $\mathcal{M}_{\Delta f} \gg \mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}}$
 - for E close to elastic threshold E_{th}
 - requires $E_{th} \lesssim m_H + |a_0^{-1}|$
- In other words: **Bound state needs to be big enough**

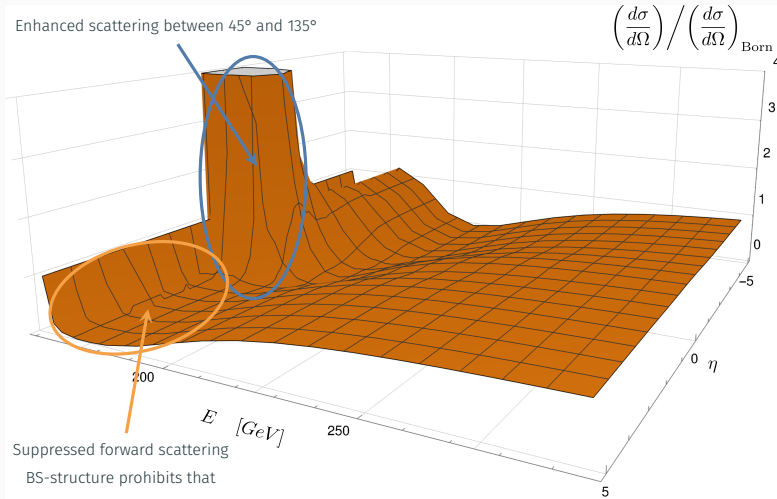
What do these deviations look like?



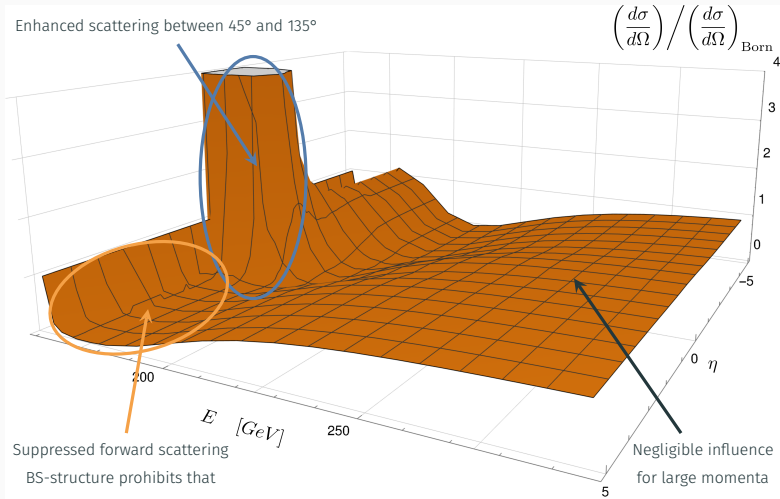
Modification of differential cross-section: $m_H \approx 148$ GeV; $\alpha_{W,200 \text{ GeV}} = 0.492$; $a_0^{-1} \approx -39$ GeV



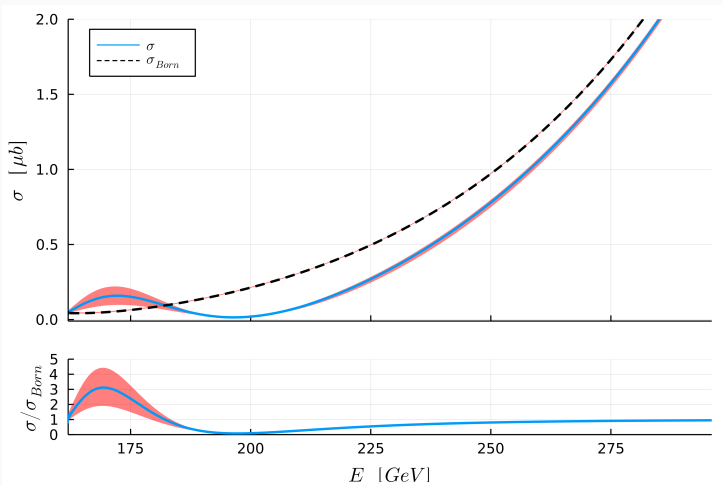
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Integrated cross-sections (top) and ratio of these (bottom)

$$m_H \approx 148 \text{ GeV}; \alpha_{W,200 \text{ GeV}} = 0.492; a_0^{-1} \approx -39 \text{ GeV}$$

- VBS process allows to probe “**composite-ness**” of the Higgs
 - SM → **fully gauge-invariant objects** are physical d.o.f.
 - BSM → often intrinsically composite
- **Heavy Higgs**
 - does not influence elastic VBS → (A)PT and NP **agree**
- **Resonance**
 - (A)PT yields **alternative fit-approach** for resonances
- **Stable Higgs**
 - disagreement of (A)PT and NP close to threshold
 - can be explained with **BS-like nature of the Higgs**
 - measurable modifications to cross-sections are expected



Thank you!

1. Formulate gauge-invariant operator and correlator e.g.:

$$0^+ \text{ singlet: } H(x) = (\phi_i^\dagger \phi_i)(x)$$

$$\langle H(x)H(y) \rangle = \left\langle (\phi_i^\dagger \phi_i)(x) (\phi_j^\dagger \phi_j)(y) \right\rangle$$

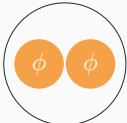
2. Expand Higgs field in fixed gauge $\phi_i = vn_i + h_i$

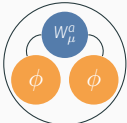
$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle (\phi_i^\dagger \phi_i)(x) (\phi_j^\dagger \phi_j)(y) \right\rangle &= dv^4 + 4v^2 \left\langle \Re [n_i^\dagger h_i]^\dagger(x) \Re [n_j^\dagger h_j](y) \right\rangle + \\ &+ 2v \left\{ \left\langle (h_i^\dagger h_i)(x) \Re [n_j^\dagger h_j](y) \right\rangle + (x \leftrightarrow y) \right\} + \left\langle (h_i^\dagger h_i)(x) (h_j^\dagger h_j)(y) \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

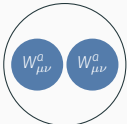
3. Perform standard Perturbation Theory


$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle (\phi_i^\dagger \phi_i)(x) (\phi_j^\dagger \phi_j)(y) \right\rangle &= d'v^4 + 4v^2 \left\langle \Re [n_i^\dagger h_i]^\dagger(x) \Re [n_j^\dagger h_j](y) \right\rangle_{\text{t1}} + \\ &+ \left\langle \Re [n_i^\dagger h_i]^\dagger(x) \Re [n_j^\dagger h_j](y) \right\rangle_{\text{t1}}^2 + \mathcal{O}(g^2, \lambda) \end{aligned}$$

Gauge invariant weakly interacting particles

Physical Higgs: $\mathcal{O}^{0_0^+} =$  $= \phi^\dagger \phi = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \{ \Phi^\dagger \Phi \}$

Physical W_μ^a : $\mathcal{O}_\mu^{1_1^- a} =$  $= \text{tr} \{ \tau^a \Phi^\dagger D_\mu \Phi \}$

W-Ball: $\mathcal{O}^{0_0^+} =$  $= 1 - W_{\mu\nu}^a W^{\mu\nu a}$

Physical fermion: $\mathcal{O}^F =$  $= \Phi \begin{pmatrix} \nu^L \\ e^L \end{pmatrix}$

SU(2)-Gauge-Higgs-Theory on the Lattice

[I. Montvay and G. Münster, Quantum Fields on a Lattice (1994)]

$$S = \sum_{x \in \Lambda} \left[\beta \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mu < \nu} \operatorname{Re} \{ \operatorname{Tr} \{ U_{\mu\nu}(x) \} \} \right) + \right. \\ \left. + \gamma (\phi^\dagger(x) \phi(x) - 1)^2 + \phi^\dagger(x) \phi(x) - \right. \\ \left. - \kappa \sum_{\pm\mu} \phi^\dagger(x) U_\mu(x) \phi(x + e_\mu) \right]$$

Lattice parameters: β , γ and κ

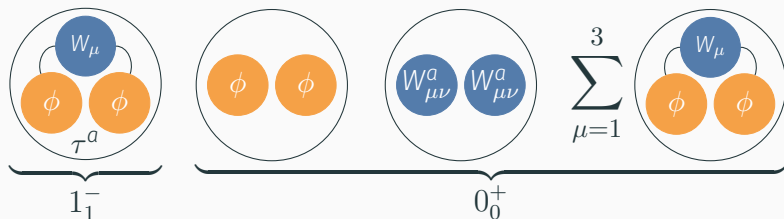
Continuum parameters: g , λ and f

$$C_{ij}(\Delta t) = \langle \mathcal{O}_i^\dagger(\Delta t) \mathcal{O}_j(0) \rangle$$

Diagonalization disentangles physical states

$$\lambda_n(\Delta t) \propto e^{-E_n \Delta t} (1 + \mathcal{O}(e^{-\Delta E_n \Delta t}))$$

Basis-Interpolators in the 1_1^- and 0_0^+ (physical Higgs) channel



Variational Analysis

$$C_{ij}^{1\bar{3}} = \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{\sigma_i^{1\bar{3}}}^a \\ \mu \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{\sigma_j^{1\bar{3}}}^a \\ \mu \end{array} \right\rangle \quad \text{for } i = j = 1, \dots, 10 \text{ (} 2 \times 5 \text{ smear)}$$

$$C_{ij}^{0^+} = \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{\sigma_i^{0^+} \sigma_i^{0^+}} \\ \textcircled{\sigma_j^{0^+} \sigma_j^{0^+}} \\ \textcircled{\sigma_i^{1\bar{3}} \sigma_i^{1\bar{3}}} \\ \textcircled{\sigma_j^{1\bar{3}} \sigma_j^{1\bar{3}}} \end{array} \right\rangle \quad \text{for } |\vec{\mathbf{p}}|^2 \neq 0$$

for $i = j = 1, \dots, 180$ $\left((4 + 2) \times 3 |\vec{\mathbf{p}}|^2 \times 5 \text{ smear} \times 2 \text{ squared} \right)$

Variational Analysis

$$C_{ij}^{1\bar{3}} = \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{\sigma_i^{1\bar{3}}}^a \\ \mu \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{\sigma_j^{1\bar{3}}}^a \\ \mu \end{array} \right\rangle \quad \text{for } i = j = 1, \dots, 10 \text{ (} 2 \times 5 \text{ smear)}$$

$$C_{ij}^{0\bar{1}^+} = \left\langle \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{\sigma_i^{0\bar{1}^+} \sigma_i^{0\bar{1}^+}} \\ \textcircled{\sigma_i^{1\bar{3}} \sigma_i^{1\bar{3}}} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \textcircled{\sigma_j^{0\bar{1}^+} \sigma_j^{0\bar{1}^+}} \\ \textcircled{\sigma_j^{1\bar{3}} \sigma_j^{1\bar{3}}} \end{array} \right\rangle \quad \text{for } |\vec{p}|^2 \neq 0$$

for $i = j = 1, \dots, 180$ $\left((4 + 2) \times 3 |\vec{p}|^2 \times 5 \text{ smear} \times 2 \text{ squared} \right)$

Operator Basis

$$\mathcal{O}_H(x) = \phi^\dagger(x)\phi(x)$$

$$\mathcal{O}_W(x) = \text{Tr} \left\{ U_\mu(x) U_\nu(x + e_\mu) U_\mu^\dagger(x + e_\nu) U_\nu^\dagger(x) \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{0^+}(x) = \sum_{\mu=1}^3 \text{Tr} \left\{ X^\dagger(x) U_\mu(x) X(x + e_\mu) \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{0_n^+}(x) = \sum_{\mu=1}^3 \text{Tr} \left\{ \frac{X^\dagger(x)}{\sqrt{\det(X(x))}} U_\mu(x) \frac{X(x + e_\mu)}{\sqrt{\det(X(x + e_\mu))}} \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{1-\mu}^a(x) = \text{Tr} \left\{ \tau^a X^\dagger(x) U_\mu(x) X(x + e_\mu) \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{1_n-\mu}^a(x) = \text{Tr} \left\{ \tau^a \frac{X^\dagger(x)}{\sqrt{\det(X(x))}} U_\mu(x) \frac{X(x + e_\mu)}{\sqrt{\det(X(x + e_\mu))}} \right\}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{1-30}^{0^+} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{O}_W^{(0-4)}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_H^{(0-4)}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{0^+}^{(0-4)}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{0_n^+}^{(0-4)}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{1-\mu}^{(0-4)a}(-\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \mathcal{O}_{1-\mu}^{(0-4)a}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{1_n-\mu}^{(0-4)a}(-\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \mathcal{O}_{1_n-\mu}^{(0-4)a}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \end{array} \right\} \text{ such that } |\vec{\mathbf{p}}|^2 = 0$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{30-90}^{0^+} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{O}_W^{(0-4)}(-\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \mathcal{O}_W^{(0-4)}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_H^{(0-4)}(-\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \mathcal{O}_H^{(0-4)}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{0^+}^{(0-4)}(-\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \mathcal{O}_{0^+}^{(0-4)}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{0_n^+}^{(0-4)}(-\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \mathcal{O}_{0_n^+}^{(0-4)}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{1-\mu}^{(0-4)a}(-\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \mathcal{O}_{1-\mu}^{(0-4)a}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{1_n-\mu}^{(0-4)a}(-\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \mathcal{O}_{1_n-\mu}^{(0-4)a}(\vec{\mathbf{p}}) \end{array} \right\} \text{ such that } |\vec{\mathbf{p}}|^2 = 1, 2$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{91-180}^{0^+} = \left(\mathcal{O}_{1-90}^{0^+} \right)^2$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{1-10\mu}^{1-\mu a} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{O}_{1-\mu}^{(0-4)a}(\vec{\mathbf{o}}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{1_n-\mu}^{(0-4)a}(\vec{\mathbf{o}}) \end{array} \right.$$



Pre- and post-processing of spectra

- Correlator on lattice with periodic boundary

$$C(t) = \sum_k A_k \cosh \left[E_k \left(t - \frac{L_t}{2} \right) \right]$$

- Noisiest point at $t = L_t/2 \rightarrow$ contains A_0

- **Idea:** Obtain E_0 and A_0 by assuming $A_0 = \text{const.}$

$$f(A_0(t), t) = \left[\frac{C(t)}{A_0(t)} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{C(t)}{A_0(t)} \right)^2 - 1} \right]^{\frac{1}{t - \frac{L_t}{2}}} = e^{-E_{\text{eff}}(t)}$$

- Search for plateau in $f(A_0(t), t)$

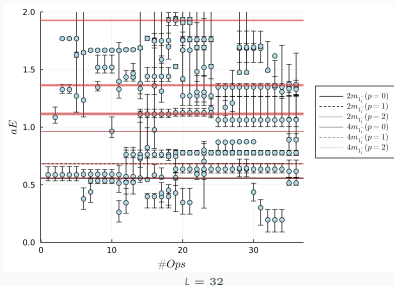
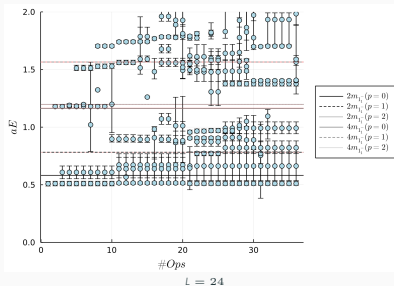
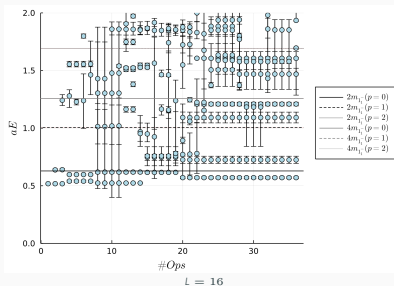
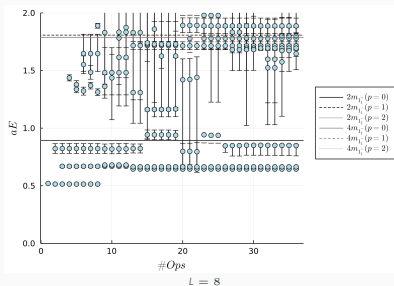
\rightarrow gives value for A_0 and thus E_{eff}

- Quality of variational analysis depends strongly on basis
- Choose operator basis depending on a **signal-to-noise ratio**

$$\text{SNR}_i = \sum_{t=0}^{L_t/2} \frac{\Delta C_{ii}(t)}{C_{ii}(t)}$$

- Adding operators iteratively starting with smallest SNR_i
- First step gives an estimate of ground state
- Further steps should add states but leave ground state
- Repeat until analysis becomes unstable/too noisy

Pre- and post-processing of spectra



- For volume dependence one needs to choose the basis for **each** lattice size independently
- Choose an operator basis with:
 - stable behaviour
 - overlap with expected states
 - continuous changes across different lattice sizes

- Assuming: phaseshift δ_j can be obtained from PT
- Reunitarized partial transition amplitude:

$$F_j = 1/\operatorname{Re}(1/f_j) \rightarrow F_j = \tan(\delta_j)/(1 - i \tan(\delta_j))$$

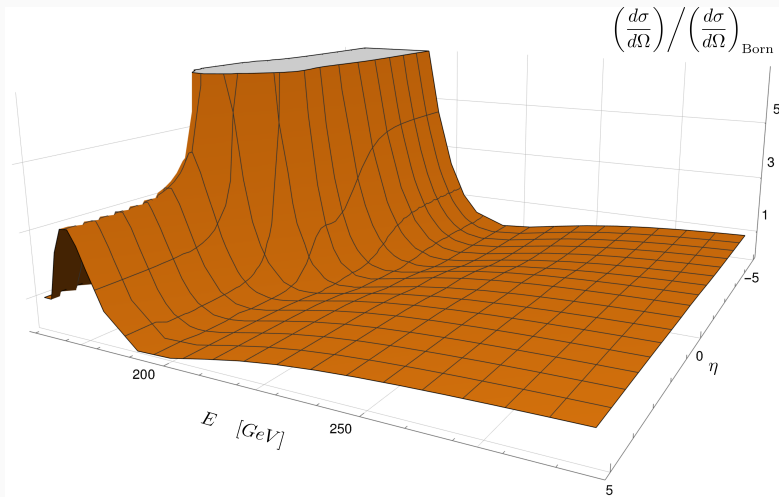
- Adding finite size contribution: $\tan(\delta_j) \rightarrow \tan(\delta_j) - \Delta f_j$

$$\Rightarrow F_j \rightarrow F_j - \frac{\Delta f_j}{(\Delta f_j - i - \tan(\delta_j))(i + \tan(\delta_j))} = F_j - \Delta F_j$$

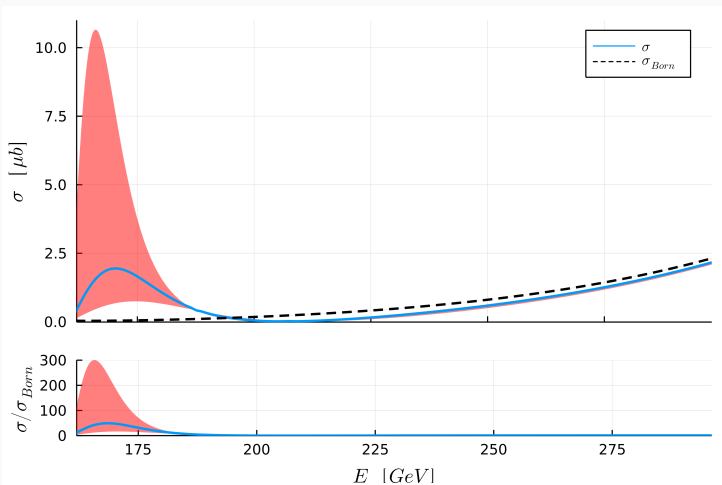
$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}} \propto \sum_J (2J+1) F_J P_J(\cos \theta) \quad \mathcal{M}_{\Delta f} \propto \sum_J (2J+1) \Delta F_J P_J(\cos \theta)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{mod.}} = \mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}} - \mathcal{M}_{\Delta f}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{mod.}} / \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_{\text{PT}} &= \frac{|\mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}} - \mathcal{M}_{\Delta f}|^2}{|\mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}}|^2} = \left| \frac{(\mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}} - \mathcal{M}_{\Delta f})^2}{\mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}}^2} \right| \\ &= \left| 1 - \frac{2\mathcal{M}_{\Delta f}}{\mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}}} \left(1 - \frac{\mathcal{M}_{\Delta f}}{2\mathcal{M}_{\text{PT}}}\right) \right| \end{aligned}$$



Modification of differential cross-section: $m_H \approx 149$ GeV; $\alpha_{W200\text{GeV}} = 0.448$; $a_0^{-1} \approx -12$ GeV



Integrated cross-sections (top) and ratio of these (bottom)

$$m_H \approx 149 \text{ GeV}; \alpha_{W,200\text{GeV}} = 0.448; a_0^1 \approx -12 \text{ GeV}$$

