



# Four Polarizations of the $W$ at High Energies

**Trina Basu<sup>1</sup>**

Particle Theory Department (NZ42/NO4)  
The Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences

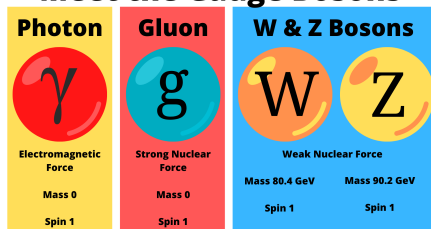
January 22, 2026

---

<sup>1</sup>in collaboration with **Richard Ruiz**, arXiv id: 2512.10015 (submitted to JHEP)

# Gauge Bosons: Mediators of the fundamental forces

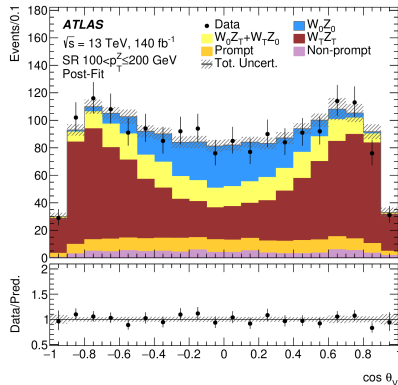
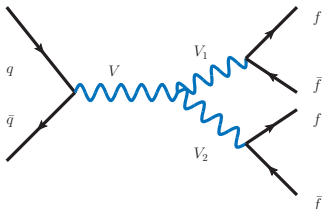
## Meet the Gauge Bosons



- Gauge condition is added to the Lagrangian to remove the unphysical dof in calculations
- Massive gauge boson (3 dof): 2 transverse and 1 longitudinal states (helicity,  $\lambda = \pm 1, 0$ )
- Massless gauge boson (2 dof): 2 transverse states (Helicity,  $\lambda = \pm 1$ )
- Spin-1 particles, three spin states:  
 $s_z = -1, 0, +1$  (3 dof)
- In high-energy scattering, described by a Lorentz 4-vector:  
 $A^\mu \equiv (A^0, A^1, A^2, A^3)$  (4 dof)

# Motivation

- Studying weak boson polarization is a probe of gauge theory and EWSB

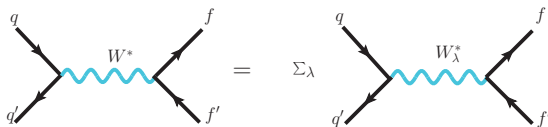


Source: ATLAS Collaboration, arXiv:2402.16365

- Extraction of gauge boson helicities is difficult but affects the kinematics of their decay products

## Motivation (continued)

- When gauge bosons interact, their polarization states interfere



- Unpolarized amplitude = sum over amplitudes of polarized weak bosons

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}} = \sum_{\lambda=0,\pm 1,S} \mathcal{M}_\lambda = \sum_{\lambda=0,\pm 1,S} J_{\text{in}}^\mu \Pi_\lambda J_{\text{out}}^\nu \quad (1)$$

$$|\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}}|^2 = \sum_{\lambda=0,\pm 1,S} \underbrace{|\mathcal{M}_\lambda|^2}_{\text{incoherent terms}} + \underbrace{\sum_{\lambda \neq \lambda'} \mathcal{M}_\lambda \mathcal{M}'_\lambda}_{\text{interference terms}} \quad (2)$$

- Predictions assume that interference between different helicity states is negligible
- In general, interference is not guaranteed to be negligible
- Ensuring gauge invariance requires keeping track of scalar polarization ( $\lambda = S$ )

# Goal and Outline

## ■ Main Goal:

- 1 To investigate the interference effects
- 2 To explore the condition when it is negligible

## ■ Outline:

- 1 Introduce the relevant tools/expressions
- 2 Construct the analytical structure of the interference
- 3 Perform power counting of interference terms
- 4 Find the conditions under which the interference is minimized
- 5 Numerical case studies of interference at the matrix-element and cross section levels

# Propagators

- Unpolarized propagator = the sum over propagators for each polarization state

$$\text{wavy line } W = \sum_{\lambda} \text{wavy line } W_{\lambda}$$

- Unpolarized propagator: <sup>2</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{\mu\nu} &= \frac{-i}{D_W(q^2)} \left[ g_{\mu\nu} - \left( \frac{1-\xi}{D_W(q^2, \xi)} \right) q_{\mu} q_{\nu} \right] \\ &= \frac{i}{D_W(q^2)} \sum_{\lambda=0, \pm 1, S} \eta_{\lambda} \epsilon_{\mu}(\lambda) \epsilon_{\nu}^{*}(\lambda) \\ &= \sum_{\lambda=0, \pm 1, S} \Pi_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda} \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

where,  $D_W(q^2) = q^2 - \tilde{M}_W^2$ ,  $D_W(q^2, \xi) = q^2 - \xi \tilde{M}_W^2$ ,  $\tilde{M}_W^2 = M_W^2 - i\Gamma_W M_W$

---

<sup>2</sup> $\eta_0 = \eta_{\pm 1} = 1, \eta_s = -1$

## Propagators for W boson in unitary gauge ( $\xi \rightarrow \infty$ )

- Unpolarized propagator:

$$\Pi_{\mu\nu} = \frac{-i}{D_W(q^2)} \left( g_{\mu\nu} - \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{\tilde{M}_W^2} \right) \quad (4)$$

- Transverse propagator sum ( $\lambda = \pm 1$ ):

$$\Pi_{\mu\nu}^T = \frac{i}{D_W(q^2)} \sum_{\lambda=\pm 1} \eta_\lambda \epsilon_\mu(\lambda) \epsilon_\nu^*(\lambda) = \frac{i}{D_W(q^2)} (-g_{\mu\nu} - \Theta_{\mu\nu}) \quad (5)$$

- Longitudinal propagator ( $\lambda = 0$ ):

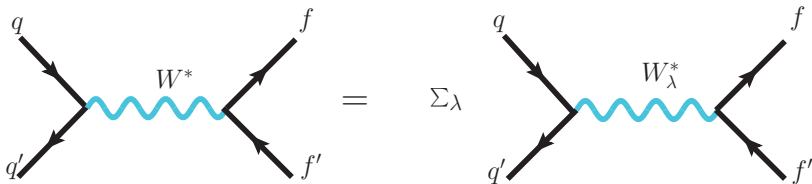
$$\Pi_{\mu\nu}^0 = \frac{i}{D_W(q^2)} \left( \Theta_{\mu\nu} + \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q_W^2} \right) \quad (6)$$

- Scalar propagator ( $\lambda = S$ ):

$$\Pi_{\mu\nu}^S = \frac{i}{D_W(q^2)} \left( \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q_W^2} - \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{\tilde{M}_W^2} \right) \quad (7)$$

## Matrix elements

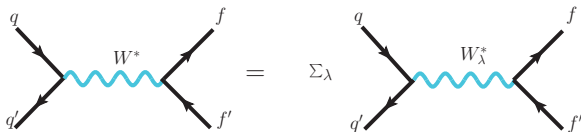
- polarized matrix elements have special “polarized” propagators
- polarized matrix elements can otherwise be built from usual Feynman rules



$$\mathcal{M} = \sum_{\lambda=0,\pm 1,S} \mathcal{M}_\lambda = \sum_{\lambda=0,\pm 1,S} J_{\text{in}}^\mu \Pi_{\mu\nu}^\lambda J_{\text{out}}^\nu \quad (8)$$



## Matrix elements (continued)



■ Matrix elements for polarized propagators:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}} = -i \left( \mathcal{G} - \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\tilde{M}_W^2} \right) ; \quad \mathcal{M}_{\lambda=T} = -i(\mathcal{G} + \mathcal{V}) ;$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=0} = i \left( \mathcal{V} + \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{q^2} \right) ; \quad \mathcal{M}_{\lambda=S} = i \left( \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{q^2} - \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\tilde{M}_W^2} \right) ;$$

where,  $\mathcal{G} = \frac{1}{D_W(q^2)} J_{\text{in}}^\mu \mathbf{g}_{\mu\nu} J_{\text{out}}^\nu$ ;  $\mathcal{V} = \frac{1}{D_W(q^2)} J_{\text{in}}^\mu \Theta_{\mu\nu} J_{\text{out}}^\nu$ ;  $\mathcal{Q} = \frac{1}{D_W(q^2)} J_{\text{in}}^\mu \mathbf{q}_\mu \mathbf{q}_\nu J_{\text{out}}^\nu$

# Interference

- Interference in unitary gauge:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{I} &= |\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}}|^2 - \sum_{\lambda=T,0,S} |\mathcal{M}_\lambda|^2 = \sum_{\lambda \neq \lambda', \lambda=T,0,S} \mathcal{M}_\lambda^* \mathcal{M}_{\lambda'} \\ &= -2|\vartheta|^2 - 2\text{Re}(\mathcal{G}^* \vartheta) - \frac{2}{\tilde{M}_W^2} \text{Re}(\mathcal{G}^* \mathcal{Q}) - \frac{2}{q^2} \text{Re}(\mathcal{Q}^* \vartheta) \\ &\quad + \frac{2M_W^2(q^2 - M_W^2 - \Gamma_V^2)}{q^4 |\tilde{M}_W^2|^2} |\mathcal{Q}|^2\end{aligned}\tag{9}$$

- Partial cancellations occur at squared matrix element level
- Even in the on-shell limit, the interference remains non-zero

## Some nice analytical expressions

- For  $W$  momentum,  $q^\mu = (E_V, |\vec{q}| \sin \theta_V \cos \phi_V, |\vec{q}| \sin \theta_V \sin \phi_V, |\vec{q}| \cos \theta_V)$ ,  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}(\theta_V, \phi_V)$  is given by:

$$\Theta_{\mu\nu} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2 \phi_V \sin^2 \theta_V & \cos \phi_V \sin^2 \theta_V \sin \phi_V & \cos \theta_V \cos \phi_V \sin \theta_V \\ 0 & \cos \phi_V \sin^2 \theta_V \sin \phi_V & \sin^2 \theta_V \sin^2 \phi_V & \cos \theta_V \sin \phi_V \sin \theta_V \\ 0 & \cos \theta_V \cos \phi_V \sin \theta_V & \cos \theta_V \sin \phi_V \sin \theta_V & \cos^2 \theta_V \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

- Also we can decompose  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  in a nice way:

$$\Theta_{\mu\nu} = \frac{(n \cdot q)}{(n \cdot q)^2 - q^2 n^2} \left[ -n_\mu q_\nu - q_\mu n_\nu + \frac{q^2}{(n \cdot q)} n_\mu n_\nu + \frac{n^2}{(n \cdot q)} q_\mu q_\nu \right] \quad (11)$$

- The choices of  $n_\mu$  are frame dependent:  $n_\mu = \underbrace{(1, \vec{0})}_{\text{time-like}} \text{ or } \underbrace{(0, -\hat{q})}_{\text{space-like}} \text{ or } \underbrace{(1, -\hat{q})}_{\text{light-like}}$

- Contractions of  $n_\mu$  and  $q_\mu$  with  $J_{\text{in}}^\nu$  and  $J_{\text{out}}^\nu$  generate the structures  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$

## Some nice analytical expressions

- For  $W$  momentum,  $q^\mu = (E_V, |\vec{q}| \sin \theta_V \cos \phi_V, |\vec{q}| \sin \theta_V \sin \phi_V, |\vec{q}| \cos \theta_V)$ ,  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}(\theta_V, \phi_V)$  is given by:

$$\Theta_{\mu\nu} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2 \phi_V \sin^2 \theta_V & \cos \phi_V \sin^2 \theta_V \sin \phi_V & \cos \theta_V \cos \phi_V \sin \theta_V \\ 0 & \cos \phi_V \sin^2 \theta_V \sin \phi_V & \sin^2 \theta_V \sin^2 \phi_V & \cos \theta_V \sin \phi_V \sin \theta_V \\ 0 & \cos \theta_V \cos \phi_V \sin \theta_V & \cos \theta_V \sin \phi_V \sin \theta_V & \cos^2 \theta_V \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

- Also we can decompose  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  in a nice way:

$$\Theta_{\mu\nu} = \frac{(n \cdot q)}{(n \cdot q)^2 - q^2 n^2} \left[ -n_\mu q_\nu - q_\mu n_\nu + \frac{q^2}{(n \cdot q)} n_\mu n_\nu + \frac{n^2}{(n \cdot q)} q_\mu q_\nu \right] \quad (11)$$

- The choices of  $n_\mu$  are frame dependent:  $n_\mu = \underbrace{(1, \vec{0})}_{\text{time-like}} \text{ or } \underbrace{(0, -\hat{q})}_{\text{space-like}} \text{ or } \underbrace{(1, -\hat{q})}_{\text{light-like}}$

- Contractions of  $n_\mu$  and  $q_\mu$  with  $J_{\text{in}}^\nu$  and  $J_{\text{out}}^\nu$  generate the structures  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$

## Some nice analytical expressions

- For  $W$  momentum,  $q^\mu = (E_V, |\vec{q}| \sin \theta_V \cos \phi_V, |\vec{q}| \sin \theta_V \sin \phi_V, |\vec{q}| \cos \theta_V)$ ,  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}(\theta_V, \phi_V)$  is given by:

$$\Theta_{\mu\nu} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2 \phi_V \sin^2 \theta_V & \cos \phi_V \sin^2 \theta_V \sin \phi_V & \cos \theta_V \cos \phi_V \sin \theta_V \\ 0 & \cos \phi_V \sin^2 \theta_V \sin \phi_V & \sin^2 \theta_V \sin^2 \phi_V & \cos \theta_V \sin \phi_V \sin \theta_V \\ 0 & \cos \theta_V \cos \phi_V \sin \theta_V & \cos \theta_V \sin \phi_V \sin \theta_V & \cos^2 \theta_V \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

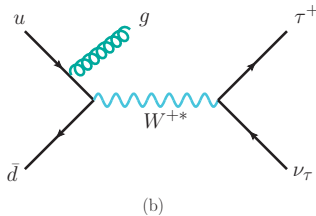
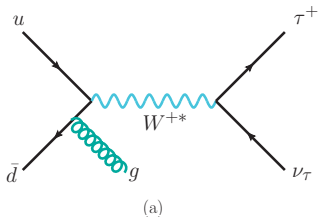
- Also we can decompose  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  in a nice way:

$$\Theta_{\mu\nu} = \frac{(n \cdot q)}{(n \cdot q)^2 - q^2 n^2} \left[ -n_\mu q_\nu - q_\mu n_\nu + \frac{q^2}{(n \cdot q)} n_\mu n_\nu + \frac{n^2}{(n \cdot q)} q_\mu q_\nu \right] \quad (11)$$

- The choices of  $n_\mu$  are frame dependent:  $n_\mu = \underbrace{(1, \vec{0})}_{\text{time-like}} \text{ or } \underbrace{(0, -\hat{q})}_{\text{space-like}} \text{ or } \underbrace{(1, -\hat{q})}_{\text{light-like}}$

- Contractions of  $n_\mu$  and  $q_\mu$  with  $J_{\text{in}}^\nu$  and  $J_{\text{out}}^\nu$  generate the structures  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$

## Case studies: $u\bar{d} \rightarrow W^{*}g \rightarrow \tau\nu_{\tau}g$

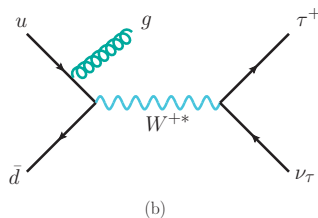
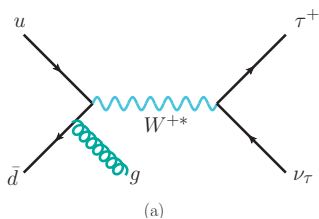


■ Incoming current:  $J_{\text{in}}^{\mu} = D_{\text{in}}^{\mu} + U_{\text{in}}^{\mu}$

$$D_{\text{in}}^{\mu} = \bar{v}_R(p_d) \underbrace{\left(-ig\gamma^{\rho}T_{ij}^a\right)}_{\text{Quark-gluon vertex}} \epsilon_{\rho}^{*}(k) \underbrace{\left(\frac{-i\not{p}_b}{p_b^2}\right)}_{\text{Fermion propagator}} \underbrace{\left(-\frac{ig}{\sqrt{2}}\gamma^{\mu}P_L\right)}_{\text{W-u-d vertex}} u_L(p_u), \quad (12)$$

$$U_{\text{in}}^{\mu} = \bar{v}_R(p_d) \left(-\frac{ig}{\sqrt{2}}\gamma^{\mu}P_L\right) \left(\frac{i\not{p}_a}{p_a^2}\right) \left(-ig\gamma^{\rho}T_{ij}^a\right) \epsilon_{\rho}^{*}(k) u_L(p_u) \quad (13)$$

## Case studies: $u\bar{d} \rightarrow W^{*}g \rightarrow \tau\nu_{\tau}g$ (continued)

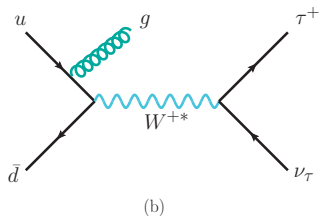
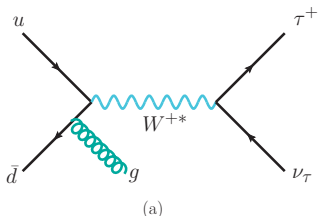


■ Outgoing currents:

$$J_{\text{out}}^{\nu}(\tau_R^+ \nu_L) = \bar{u}_L(p_{\nu}) \left( -\frac{ig}{\sqrt{2}} \gamma^{\nu} P_L \right) v_R(p_{\tau}) \quad (14)$$

$$J_{\text{out}}^{\nu}(\tau_L^+ \nu_L) = \bar{u}_L(p_{\nu}) \left( -\frac{ig}{\sqrt{2}} \gamma^{\nu} P_L \right) v_L(p_{\tau}) \quad (15)$$

## Case studies: $u\bar{d} \rightarrow W^{*}g \rightarrow \tau\nu_{\tau}g$ (continued)



■ Matrix elements:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}} = -i(\mathcal{G} - \mathcal{Q}); \quad \mathcal{M}_{\lambda=\tau} = -i(\mathcal{G} + \vartheta); \quad (16)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=0} = i\left(\vartheta + \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{q^2}\right); \quad \mathcal{M}_{\lambda=S} = i\left(\frac{\mathcal{Q}}{q^2} - \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\tilde{M}_W^2}\right) \quad (17)$$



## Case studies: $u\bar{d} \rightarrow W^*g \rightarrow \tau\nu_\tau g$ (continued)

- Total incoming current is orthogonal to the  $W$  momenta for  $m_u, m_d = 0$ :

$$J_{in}^\mu q_\mu = (D_{in}^\mu + U_{in}^\mu) q_\mu = 0$$

- $\mathcal{Q}$  term:

$$\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{Q}_U + \mathcal{Q}_D = (D_{in}^\mu + U_{in}^\mu) q_\mu q_\beta J_{out}^\beta = 0$$

- Theta term:

$$\begin{aligned} \vartheta &\propto J_{in}^\mu \Theta_{\mu\nu} J_{out}^\nu \\ &\propto \left[ -J_{in}^\mu n_\mu q_\nu J_{out}^\nu - J_{in}^\mu q_\mu n_\nu J_{out}^\nu + \frac{q^2}{(n \cdot q)} J_{in}^\mu n_\mu n_\nu J_{out}^\nu + \frac{n^2}{(n \cdot q)} J_{in}^\mu q_\mu q_\nu J_{out}^\nu \right] \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

- Matrix elements reduce to:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}} = -i\mathcal{G} ; \mathcal{M}_{\lambda=\tau} = -i(\mathcal{G} + \vartheta) ; \mathcal{M}_{\lambda=0} = i\vartheta ; \mathcal{M}_{\lambda=S} = 0$$

- Interference reduces to:

$$\mathcal{I}^{W+1g} = -2|\vartheta|^2 - 2 \operatorname{Re}(\mathcal{G}^* \vartheta) = -2 \operatorname{Re}[(\mathcal{G} + \vartheta)^* \vartheta] \neq 0 \quad (18)$$

## Power counting of Interference

- Naive scaling with hard scattering energy in partonic frame
- Assuming that  $W^*$  and  $g$  are produced at wide angles and at high  $p_T$  scale:

$$E_g, E_W \sim E_u, E_d = \sqrt{\hat{s}}/2$$

- Energy scale dependence:

$$u_L(p_u) \sim \sqrt{E_u}$$

$$p_{a/b} \sim \sqrt{E_{u/d} E_g}$$

$$\gamma^\mu, P_{L/R} \sim E^0$$

$$T_{ij}^a, \epsilon(k) \sim E^0$$

## Power counting of Interference(continued)

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}}(\nu_L \tau_R^+) \propto \frac{\sqrt{E_\nu} \sqrt{E_\tau}}{D_W(q^2)}, \quad \mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}}(\nu_L \tau_L^+) \propto \frac{\sqrt{E_\nu} \sqrt{E_\tau}}{D_W(q^2)} \frac{m_\tau}{E_\tau} \quad (19)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=T}(\nu_L \tau_R^+) \propto \frac{\sqrt{E_\nu} \sqrt{E_\tau}}{D_W(q^2)} \frac{E_W^2}{E_W^2 - q^2} \left( 1 + \frac{m_\tau^2}{E_W E_\tau} \right) \quad (20)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=T}(\nu_L \tau_L^+) \propto \frac{\sqrt{E_\nu} \sqrt{E_\tau}}{D_W(q^2)} \frac{E_W^2}{E_W^2 - q^2} \frac{m_\tau}{E_\tau} \left( 1 + \frac{E_\tau}{E_W} \right) \quad (21)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=0}(\nu_L \tau_R^+) \propto \frac{\sqrt{E_\nu} \sqrt{E_\tau}}{D_W(q^2)} \frac{E_W^2}{E_W^2 - q^2} \left( \frac{m_\tau^2}{E_W E_\tau} + \frac{q^2}{E_W^2} \right) \quad (22)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=0}(\nu_L \tau_L^+) \propto \frac{\sqrt{E_\nu} \sqrt{E_\tau}}{D_W(q^2)} \frac{E_W^2}{E_W^2 - q^2} \left( \frac{m_\tau}{E_W} + \frac{m_\tau}{E_\tau} \frac{q^2}{E_W^2} \right) \quad (23)$$

## Power counting of Interference(continued)

- In high energy limit ( $m_\tau = 0$ ), helicity configuration for  $\nu_L \tau_L^+$  is suppressed

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=\tau}(\nu_L \tau_L^+), \mathcal{M}_{\lambda=0}(\nu_L \tau_L^+), \mathcal{I}_{\text{pol}}^{W+1g}(\nu_L \tau_L^+) \xrightarrow{m_\tau \rightarrow 0} 0$$

- Energy dependence of matrix elements and interference for helicity state  $\nu_L \tau_R^+$ :

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=\tau}(\nu_L \tau_R^+) \xrightarrow{m_\tau \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{E_\nu} \sqrt{E_\tau}}{D_W(q^2)} \frac{E_W^2}{E_W^2 - q^2} \quad (24)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=0}(\nu_L \tau_R^+) \xrightarrow{m_\tau \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{E_\nu} \sqrt{E_\tau}}{D_W(q^2)} \frac{E_W^2}{E_W^2 - q^2} \frac{q^2}{E_W^2} \quad (25)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}}(\nu_L \tau_R^+) \xrightarrow{m_\tau \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{E_\nu} \sqrt{E_\tau}}{D_W(q^2)} \quad (26)$$

- Contribution of longitudinal state decreases with increase of  $W$  energy

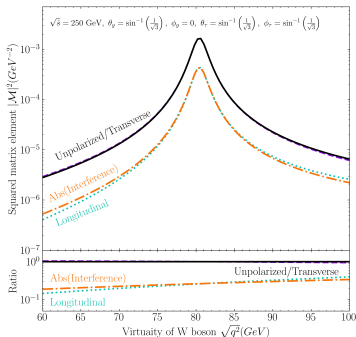
## Power counting of Interference(continued)

- Energy scale dependence of ratio:

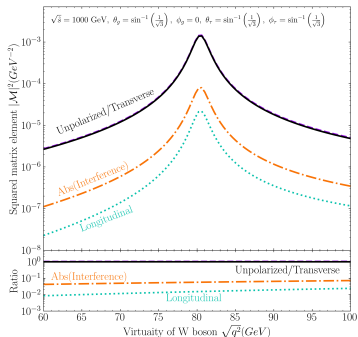
$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{R}_{\text{pol int}}^{W+1g} &\equiv \frac{\mathcal{I}_{\text{pol}}^{W+1g}(\nu_L \tau_R^+) + \mathcal{I}_{\text{pol}}^{W+1g}(\nu_L \tau_L^+)}{|\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}}(\nu_L \tau_R^+)|^2 + |\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}}(\nu_L \tau_L^+)|^2} \\ &\stackrel{m_\tau \rightarrow 0}{\sim} \frac{E_W^4}{(E_W^2 - q^2)^2} \left( \frac{q^2}{E_W^2} \right) \\ &\sim \frac{q^2}{E_W^2} \left[ 1 + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{q^2}{E_W^2} \right) \right]^2\end{aligned}\tag{27}$$

- In high energy limit ( $m_\tau \rightarrow 0$ ), interference is suppressed with increasing  $E_W$

# Numerical analysis of Interference: $|\mathcal{M}|^2$ vs $\sqrt{q^2}$ plots



(a)

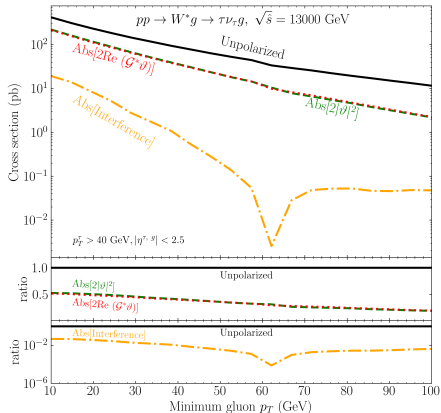


(b)

■ Peak is around  $m_W \approx 80$  GeV:  $|\mathcal{M}|^2 \sim \frac{1}{|D_W(q^2)|^2} \sim \frac{1}{(q^2 - m_W^2)^2 + (\Gamma_W m_W)^2}$

■  $\sqrt{s}$ : 250 GeV  $\rightarrow$  1000 GeV;  $\mathcal{I}$ :  $O(10\%) \rightarrow O(5\%)$

# Numerical analysis of Interference: Cross section plot



- Results after integration over whole phase space:  $\sigma_\lambda = \frac{1}{N} \int d\Phi |\mathcal{M}_\lambda|^2$
- Interference:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}^{W+1g} &= \underbrace{-2|\vartheta|^2}_{\text{term1}} - \underbrace{2 \text{Re}(G^* \vartheta)}_{\text{term2}} \\ &= -2 \text{Re}[\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=\tau}^* \mathcal{M}_{\lambda=0}] \end{aligned}$$

- For low value of  $p_{T\min}$ ,  $\text{Abs}[\text{term 1}] > \text{Abs}[\text{term 2}]$
- For high value of  $p_{T\min} \Rightarrow$  large  $E_W \Rightarrow$  Interference is small

# Conclusion

- Study of helicity polarized vector boson is an important probe to understand the gauge theory and EWSB
- We introduce some tools ( $\Theta$ -decomposition) that simplifies interference structures and can be useful for other multiboson processes
- In practice, for LHC experiments, the center-of-mass energy is high enough that fermions can be treated as massless, which leads to the dominance of particular helicity processes and makes interference negligible



**Thank You**

**Back up slides**

- Field decomposition:

$$A^\mu(x) = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 2E_k} \sum_{\lambda=0}^4 \left[ \varepsilon^\mu(k, \lambda) a(k, \lambda) e^{ik \cdot x} + \varepsilon^{*\mu}(k, \lambda) a^\dagger(k, \lambda) e^{-ik \cdot x} \right] . \quad (28)$$

## Recap of Gauge Symmetry

- Lagrangian of photon field:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{where} \quad F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu \quad (29)$$

- Gauge transformation:

$$A_\mu \rightarrow A'_\mu = A_\mu + \partial_\mu \alpha(x) \quad (30)$$

- Gauge symmetry:

$$F'_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu (A_\nu + \partial_\nu \alpha) - \partial_\nu (A_\mu + \partial_\mu \alpha) = F_{\mu\nu} \quad (31)$$

Lagrangian is invariant under this transformation for different choices of  $\alpha$

- Gauge invariance: Redundancy of the system  
 $\implies$  each choice of  $\alpha \longleftrightarrow$  same physical state

# Gauge Fixing

- Gauge invariance: several field configurations describe the same physical state
- Gauge fixing: Selects one suitable field configuration, making the theory consistent and the propagator well defined
- It is implemented by adding an extra unphysical term to the Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}_{GF} = -\frac{1}{2\xi}(\partial_\mu A^\mu)^2 \quad (32)$$

- Gauge parameter  $\xi$  is a unphysical parameter, physical observables are independent of  $\xi$
- For massive gauge bosons, gauge fixing introduces unphysical particles like Goldstone boson: Goldston ( $\xi$ ) + Scalar ( $\xi$ )  $\rightarrow$  Physical observable

$$|\mathcal{M}_{\text{unpol}}|^2 = |\mathcal{G}|^2 + \frac{1}{|\tilde{M}_W^2|^2} |\mathcal{Q}|^2 - 2\text{Re}(\mathcal{G}^* \mathcal{Q}) \quad (33)$$

$$|\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=\tau}|^2 = |\mathcal{G}|^2 + |\vartheta|^2 + 2\text{Re}(\mathcal{G}^* \vartheta) \quad (34)$$

$$|\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=0}|^2 = |\vartheta|^2 + \frac{1}{q^4} |\mathcal{Q}|^2 + 2\text{Re}(\vartheta^* \mathcal{Q}) \quad (35)$$

$$|\mathcal{M}_{\lambda=S}|^2 = \left( \frac{1}{q^4} + \frac{1}{|\tilde{M}_W^2|^2} - \frac{2}{q^2 \tilde{M}_W^2} \right) |\mathcal{Q}|^2 \quad (36)$$

where,

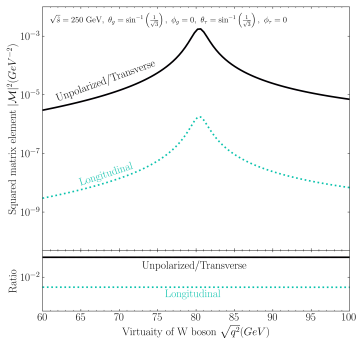
$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_U + \mathcal{G}_D, \quad \vartheta = \vartheta_U + \vartheta_D, \quad \mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{Q}_U + \mathcal{Q}_D \quad (37)$$

$$\mathcal{G}_U = \frac{i}{D_W(q^2)} \left( U_{in}^\alpha \ g_{\alpha\beta} \ J_{out}^\beta \right), \quad \mathcal{G}_D = \frac{i}{D_W(q^2)} \left( D_{in}^\alpha \ g_{\alpha\beta} \ J_{out}^\beta \right) \quad (38)$$

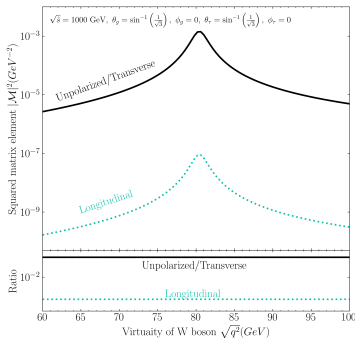
Energy scale dependence of interference:

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{pol}}^{W+1g}(\nu_L \tau_R^+) \stackrel{m_\tau \rightarrow 0}{\sim} \frac{E_\tau E_\nu}{|D_W(q^2)|^2} \frac{q^2 E_W^2}{(E_W^2 - q^2)^2} \quad (39)$$

# Numerical analysis of Interference: $|\mathcal{M}|^2$ vs $\sqrt{q^2}$ plots(continued)



(a)



(b)

- A special kinematic configuration where  $J_{\text{out}}^0 = 0$  which makes  $J_{\text{out}}^\beta n_\beta = 0 \implies \vartheta = 0, \mathcal{I} = 0$
- Interference effect varies with phase space points
- Interference is non zero even in on-shell limit