

# Building structure functions at higher orders

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## Theoretical setup

For Higgs production in VBF, we need the DIS structure functions for scattering off a  $Z$ -boson (neutral current) as well as off a  $W^\pm$ -boson (charged current), i.e.  $F_i^V$  with  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and  $V \in \{Z, W^\pm\}$ . To NLO, this has been documented well in Ref. [1] (see also the review Ref. [2]). Below, we present formulae for the relevant structure functions to second order in QCD. For both, neutral- and charged-current structure functions we employ the PDG conventions [3].

Beyond NLO, there are three issues to address here.

- We need to implement the correct dependence of the PDFs on the flavor quantum numbers.
- We need to separate the flavor non-singlet, pure-singlet and gluon contributions, see Fig. 1.
- We need to implement the correct scale dependence keeping  $\mu_r \neq \mu_f$ .

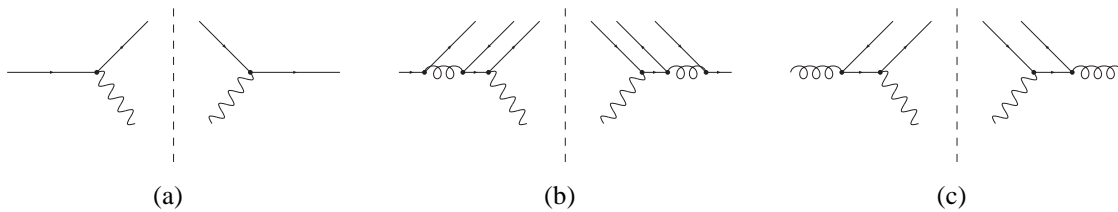


Figure 1: Sample diagrams for the non-singlet, pure-singlet and gluon contribution to vector-boson ( $W^\pm, Z$ ) production. The dashed line indicates the final state cut.

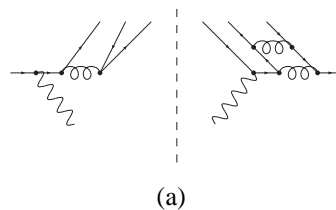


Figure 2: Sample diagram for a new contribution beyond NNLO to vector-boson ( $W^\pm, Z$ ) production in the quark sector (non-singlet and singlet). The dashed line indicates the final state cut.

## Neutral-current Z-exchange

We expand the DIS neutral current structure functions for Z-exchange  $F_k^Z$  with  $k = 1, 2, 3$  as follows:

$$F_i^Z(x, Q^2) = a_i(x) \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dy \delta(x - yz) \quad (1)$$

$$\times \sum_{j=1}^{n_f} (v_j^2 + a_j^2) \left\{ (q_j(y) + \bar{q}_j(y)) C_{i,ns}^+(z) + \sum_{k=1}^{n_f} (q_k(y) + \bar{q}_k(y)) C_{i,ps}(z) + g(y) C_{i,g}(z) \right\},$$

$$F_3^Z(x, Q^2) = \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dy \delta(x - yz) \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} 2v_i a_i (q_i(y) - \bar{q}_i(y)) C_{3,ns}^-(z), \quad (2)$$

where  $i = 1, 2$  and the pre-factors are  $a_1(x) = 1/2$ ,  $a_2(x) = x$ .

Here, the (anti)-quark and gluon distributions are denoted  $q_i$ ,  $\bar{q}_i$  and  $g$  and taken at the factorization scale  $\mu_f$ . The singlet distribution  $q_s$  and the (non-singlet) valence distribution  $q_{ns}^v$  are given by

$$q_s = \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} (q_i + \bar{q}_i), \quad (3)$$

$$q_{ns}^v = \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} (q_i - \bar{q}_i). \quad (4)$$

The non-singlet part of  $F_k^Z$  ( $k = 1, 2$ ) evolves like a flavor asymmetry of the type  $q_{ns}^+$ . The most general definition of these asymmetries reads, see e.g. [4],

$$q_{ns,i,j}^\pm = (q_i \pm \bar{q}_i) - (q_j \pm \bar{q}_j). \quad (5)$$

We can use these relation to define

$$q_{ns,i}^+ = (q_i + \bar{q}_i) - q_s = \sum_{j=1}^{n_f} q_{ns,i,j}^+ \quad (6)$$

$$q_{ns,i}^- = (q_i - \bar{q}_i) - q_{ns}^v = \sum_{j=1}^{n_f} q_{ns,i,j}^-. \quad (7)$$

With these relations, we arrive at the following alternative expressions for  $F_i^Z$ ,

$$F_i^Z(x, Q^2) = a_i(x) \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dy \delta(x - yz) \quad (8)$$

$$\times \sum_{j=1}^{n_f} (v_j^2 + a_j^2) \left\{ q_{ns,j}^+(y) C_{i,ns}^+(z) + q_s(y) C_{i,q}(z) + g(y) C_{i,g}(z) \right\},$$

where  $i = 1, 2$  and  $C_{i,q} = C_{i,ns}^+ + C_{i,ps}$ , also  $q_s$  and  $q_{ns,i}^+$  of Eqs. (3) and (6). Note, that  $C_{i,ps} \neq 0$  starting at two-loop order. Likewise

$$F_3^Z(x, Q^2) = \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dy \delta(x - yz) \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} 2v_i a_i \left\{ q_{ns,i}^-(y) C_{3,ns}^-(z) + q_{ns}^v(y) C_{3,ns}^v(z) \right\}, \quad (9)$$

where  $q_{ns}^v$  and  $q_{ns,i}^-$  of Eqs. (4) and (7) have been used. The coefficient function is defined as  $C_{3,ns}^v = C_{3,ns}^- + C_{3,ns}^s$ . Note, that  $C_{3,ns}^v = C_{3,ns}^-$  up to two-loop order, i.e.  $C_{3,ns}^s \neq 0$  starting only at three-loop order. Thus, for all practical purposes, the form of  $F_3^Z$  as given in Eq. (9) suffices.

## Coupling constants

The coupling constants are given by

$$v_i^2 + a_i^2 = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{4}{3} \sin^2 \theta_w\right)^2 & u\text{-type quarks,} \\ \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{3} \sin^2 \theta_w\right)^2 & d\text{-type quarks,} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

and, likewise,

$$2v_i a_i = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} - \frac{4}{3} \sin^2 \theta_w & u\text{-type quarks,} \\ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{3} \sin^2 \theta_w & d\text{-type quarks.} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

## Coefficient functions

The coefficient functions  $C_i$  parameterize the hard partonic scattering process. They depend only on scaling variable  $x$ , and dimensionless ratios of  $Q^2$ ,  $\mu_f$  and the renormalization scale  $\mu_r$ . Their complete scale dependence, i.e. the logarithmic towers in  $R = \mu_r^2/\mu_f^2$  and  $M = Q^2/\mu_f^2$  (keeping  $\mu_r \neq \mu_f$ ) is easily derived by renormalization group methods. The perturbative expansion of  $C_i$  in the strong coupling  $\alpha_s$  up to two loops reads in the non-singlet sector,

$$\begin{aligned} C_{i,ns}^+(x) &= \delta(1-x) + a_s \left\{ c_{i,q}^{(1)} + L_M P_{qq}^{(0)} \right\} \\ &+ a_s^2 \left\{ c_{i,ns}^{(2),+} + L_M \left( P_{ns}^{(1),+} + c_{i,q}^{(1)} (P_{qq}^{(0)} - \beta_0) \right) + L_M^2 \left( \frac{1}{2} P_{qq}^{(0)} (P_{qq}^{(0)} - \beta_0) \right) \right. \\ &\left. + L_R \beta_0 c_{i,q}^{(1)} + L_R L_M \beta_0 P_{qq}^{(0)} \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_{3,ns}^-(x) &= \delta(1-x) + a_s \left\{ c_{3,q}^{(1)} + L_M P_{qq}^{(0)} \right\} \\ &+ a_s^2 \left\{ c_{3,ns}^{(2),-} + L_M \left( P_{ns}^{(1),-} + c_{3,q}^{(1)} (P_{qq}^{(0)} - \beta_0) \right) + L_M^2 \left( \frac{1}{2} P_{qq}^{(0)} (P_{qq}^{(0)} - \beta_0) \right) \right. \\ &\left. + L_R \beta_0 c_{3,q}^{(1)} + L_R L_M \beta_0 P_{qq}^{(0)} \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

and in the singlet sector <sup>1</sup>

$$C_{i,q}(x) = \delta(1-x) + a_s \left\{ c_{i,q}^{(1)} + L_M P_{qq}^{(0)} \right\} \quad (14)$$

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<sup>1</sup> All coefficient functions can be taken e.g. from Ref. [5, 6]. Note, however, that both the pure-singlet and the gluon coefficient functions need to be divided by a factor  $n_f$  (due to the conventions of Ref. [5] with  $\langle e^2 \rangle = 1/n_f \sum_i e_i^2$  in the case of photon exchange).

$$+a_s^2 \left\{ c_{i,q}^{(2)} + L_M \left( P_{qq}^{(1)} + c_{i,q}^{(1)} (P_{qq}^{(0)} - \beta_0) + c_{i,g}^{(1)} P_{gq}^{(0)} \right) + L_M^2 \left( \frac{1}{2} P_{qq}^{(0)} (P_{qq}^{(0)} - \beta_0) + \frac{1}{2} P_{qg}^{(0)} P_{gq}^{(0)} \right) \right. \\ \left. + L_R \beta_0 c_{i,q}^{(1)} + L_R L_M \beta_0 P_{qq}^{(0)} \right\},$$

$$C_{i,ps}(x) = a_s^2 \left\{ c_{i,ps}^{(2)} + L_M \left( P_{ps}^{(1)} + c_{i,g}^{(1)} P_{gq}^{(0)} \right) + L_M^2 \frac{1}{2} P_{qg}^{(0)} P_{gq}^{(0)} \right\}, \quad (15)$$

$$C_{i,g}(x) = a_s \left\{ c_{i,g}^{(1)} + L_M P_{qg}^{(0)} \right\} \quad (16)$$

$$+a_s^2 \left\{ c_{i,g}^{(2)} + L_M \left( P_{qg}^{(1)} + c_{i,q}^{(1)} P_{qg}^{(0)} + c_{i,g}^{(1)} (P_{gg}^{(0)} - \beta_0) \right) + L_M^2 \left( \frac{1}{2} P_{qq}^{(0)} P_{qg}^{(0)} \frac{1}{2} P_{qg}^{(0)} (P_{gg}^{(0)} - \beta_0) \right) \right. \\ \left. + L_R \beta_0 c_{i,g}^{(1)} + L_R L_M \beta_0 P_{qg}^{(0)} \right\},$$

where  $i = 1, 2$  and  $a_s = \alpha_s(\mu_r)/(4\pi)$ . We abbreviate  $L_M = \ln(Q^2/\mu_f^2)$  and  $L_R = \ln(\mu_r^2/\mu_f^2)$  and all products are understood as Mellin convolutions. Moreover, we have  $P_{qq}^{(1)} = P_{ns}^{(1),+} + P_{ps}^{(1)}$  and  $c_{i,q}^{(2)} = c_{i,ns}^{(2),+} + c_{i,ps}^{(2)}$ .

Our expansion parameter is always  $a_s = \alpha_s/(4\pi)$  and the conventions for the running coupling are

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu^2} \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \equiv \frac{d a_s}{d \ln \mu^2} = -\beta_0 a_s^2 - \beta_1 a_s^3 - \beta_2 a_s^4 - \dots, \quad (17)$$

where  $\beta_n$  denote the usual four-dimensional expansion coefficients of the beta function in QCD, i.e. starting with

$$\beta_0 = \frac{11}{3} C_A - \frac{2}{3} n_f. \quad (18)$$

In QCD, the color coefficients are  $C_A = 3$  and  $C_F = 4/3$ . The splitting functions  $P_{ij}^{(l)}$  can be taken e.g. from Ref. [4, 7]. At leading order they read

$$P_{qq}^{(0)}(x) = C_F \left( \frac{4}{1-x} - 2 - 2x + 3\delta(1-x) \right), \quad (19)$$

$$P_{qg}^{(0)}(x) = 2n_f (1 - 2x + 2x^2), \quad (20)$$

$$P_{gq}^{(0)}(x) = C_F \left( \frac{4}{x} - 4 + 2x \right), \quad (21)$$

$$P_{gg}^{(0)}(x) = C_A \left( \frac{4}{1-x} + \frac{4}{x} - 8 + 4x - 4x^2 + \frac{11}{3} \delta(1-x) \right) - \frac{2}{3} n_f \delta(1-x), \quad (22)$$

Please also note the explicit factor of  $(2n_f)$  in Eq. (20) which is due to the definition of  $P_{qg}^{(0)}$  in Eq. (20) (and, likewise for  $P_{qg}^{(1)}$  in Ref. [7]). This factor originates from summation over all quarks and anti-quarks.<sup>2</sup>

## Charged-current $W^\pm$ -exchange

For the charged current structure functions  $F_i^{W^\pm}$  with  $W^\pm$ -exchange with  $i = 1, 2, 3$  we have at leading order in QCD in terms of the parton densities

$$F_2^{W^+}(x) = 2x \left( \bar{u} + d + s + \bar{c} + b \right), \quad (23)$$

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<sup>2</sup>In analogy to the pure-singlet and the gluon coefficient functions (see footnote 1) also the splitting functions  $P_{qg}^{(0)}$  and  $P_{qg}^{(1)}$  in Eqs. (14)–(16) need to be divided by a factor  $n_f$ .

$$F_2^{W^-}(x) = 2x(u + \bar{d} + \bar{s} + c + \bar{b}), \quad (24)$$

$$F_3^{W^+}(x) = 2(-\bar{u} + d + s - \bar{c} + b), \quad (25)$$

$$F_3^{W^-}(x) = 2(u - \bar{d} - \bar{s} + c - \bar{b}). \quad (26)$$

With these expressions, we can construct to leading order the structure functions for the sum and differences,  $W^+ \pm W^-$ . The latter have well defined transformation properties under the standard OPE of DIS.

$$\begin{aligned} F_2^{W^++W^-}(x) &= 2x \left[ (u + \bar{u}) + (d + \bar{d}) + (s + \bar{s}) + (c + \bar{c}) + (b + \bar{b}) \right] \\ &= 2x q_s, \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_2^{W^+-W^-}(x) &= 2x \left[ -(u - \bar{u}) + (d - \bar{d}) + (s - \bar{s}) - (c - \bar{c}) + (b - \bar{b}) \right] \\ &= -2x \delta q_{\text{ns}}^-, \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_3^{W^++W^-}(x) &= 2 \left[ (u - \bar{u}) + (d - \bar{d}) + (s - \bar{s}) + (c - \bar{c}) + (b - \bar{b}) \right] \\ &= 2q_{\text{ns}}^v, \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_3^{W^+-W^-}(x) &= 2 \left[ -(u + \bar{u}) + (d + \bar{d}) + (s + \bar{s}) - (c + \bar{c}) + (b + \bar{b}) \right] \\ &= -2\delta q_{\text{ns}}^+, \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

where the asymmetry  $\delta q_{\text{ns}}^-$  parametrizes the iso-triplet component of the proton, i.e.  $u \neq d$  and so on. It arises from Eq. (5) as

$$\delta q_{\text{ns}}^\pm = \sum_{i \in u\text{-type}} \sum_{j \in d\text{-type}} q_{\text{ns},ij}^\pm. \quad (31)$$

In order to identify definite flavor representations for the PDFs and the respective coefficient functions we expand the DIS charged current structure functions for  $W^+ \pm W^-$ -exchange  $F_k^{W^+ \pm W^-}$  with  $k = 1, 2, 3$  as follows:

$$F_i^{W^++W^-}(x, Q^2) = 2a_i(x) \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dy \delta(x - yz) \frac{1}{n_f} \sum_{j=1}^{n_f} (v_j^2 + a_j^2) \{q_s(y) C_{i,q}(z) + g(y) C_{i,g}(z)\} \quad (32)$$

$$F_i^{W^+-W^-}(x, Q^2) = 2a_i(x) \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dy \delta(x - yz) \frac{1}{n_f} \sum_{j=1}^{n_f} (v_j^2 + a_j^2) (-\delta q_{\text{ns}}^-(y)) C_{i,\text{ns}}^-(z), \quad (33)$$

$$F_3^{W^++W^-}(x, Q^2) = 2 \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dy \delta(x - yz) \frac{1}{n_f} \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} 2v_i a_i q_v(y) C_{3,\text{ns}}^v(z), \quad (34)$$

$$F_3^{W^+-W^-}(x, Q^2) = 2 \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dy \delta(x - yz) \frac{1}{n_f} \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} 2v_i a_i (-\delta q_{\text{ns}}^+(y)) C_{3,\text{ns}}^+(z). \quad (35)$$

Here we have used the relations for  $q_s$ ,  $q_{\text{ns}}^v$  and  $\delta q_{\text{ns}}^\pm$  of Eqs. (3) and (4) and (31).

Taking the sum and the difference, we obtain for the structure functions  $F_k^{W^\pm}$  with  $k = 1, 2$  which describe individual  $W^\pm$ -exchange,

$$F_i^{W^-}(x, Q^2) = a_i(x) \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dy \delta(x-yz) \quad (36)$$

$$\times \frac{1}{n_f} \sum_{j=1}^{n_f} (v_j^2 + a_j^2) \left\{ \delta q_{ns}^-(y) C_{i,ns}^-(z) + q_s(y) C_{i,q}(z) + g(y) C_{i,g}(z) \right\},$$

$$F_3^{W^-}(x, Q^2) = \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dy \delta(x-yz) \frac{1}{n_f} \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} 2 v_i a_i \left\{ \delta q_{ns}^+(y) C_{3,ns}^+(z) + q_{ns}^v(y) C_{3,ns}^v(z) \right\}, \quad (37)$$

where in this case  $C_{i,q} = C_{i,ns}^- + C_{i,ps}$ . The respective results for  $F_i^{W^+}$  are obtained from Eqs. (36), (37) with the simple replacement  $\delta q_{ns}^\pm \rightarrow -\delta q_{ns}^\pm$ .

Please recall, that the functions  $C_{i,ns}^+$  and  $C_{i,q}$  start to differ only at two-loop order; up to NLO there is no difference (cf. the simple replacement rules in Ref. [1]). Recall also, that  $C_{3,ns}^v = C_{3,ns}^-$  up to two-loop order.

This implies, that the iso-triplet component of the proton  $\delta q_{ns}^-$  enters in a non-trivial way for the first time at NNLO. Its numerical impact is expected to be small though.

## Coupling constants

The coupling constants are given by

$$v_i = a_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}. \quad (38)$$

Note that in this case

$$\frac{1}{n_f} \sum_{j=1}^{n_f} (v_j^2 + a_j^2) = \frac{1}{n_f} \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} 2 v_i a_i = 1. \quad (39)$$

## Coefficient functions

The dependence on the factorization and the renormalization scales of  $C_{i,ns}^+$ ,  $C_{i,q}$  and  $C_3^+$  can be obtained from Eqs.(12)-(16) performing the substitutions  $c_{i,ns}^{(2),+} \leftrightarrow c_{i,ns}^{(2),-}$ ,  $c_{3,ns}^{(2),+} \leftrightarrow c_{3,ns}^{(2),-}$  and  $P_{ns}^{(1),+} \leftrightarrow P_{ns}^{(1),-}$ .<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>In this case the pure-singlet and the gluon coefficient functions of Ref. [5] need **not** to be divided by a factor  $n_f$  and also **not** the splitting functions  $P_{qg}^{(0)}$  and  $P_{qg}^{(1)}$ .

## Electromagnetic $\gamma$ -exchange

This interaction gives contributions to the  $F_i^\gamma$  structure function for  $i = 1, 2$  only, because the  $\gamma$ -exchange is not a CP-violating interaction.

Just as a reminder we recall that the structure function  $F_2^\gamma$  at leading order takes the following form

$$F_2^\gamma(x) = x \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} e_i^2 (q_i + \bar{q}_i), \quad (40)$$

where  $n_f$  is the number of active flavors and the electromagnetic charges are  $e_i = 2/3$  for a  $u$ -type quark and  $e_i = -1/3$  for a  $d$ -type quark.

At higher orders we have the following structure, e.g. for  $F_2^\gamma$ , see e.g. Ref. [5],

$$x^{-1} F_2^\gamma = C_{2,\text{ns}}^+ \otimes q_{\text{ns}}^\gamma + \langle e^2 \rangle (C_{2,\text{q}} \otimes q_s + C_{2,\text{g}} \otimes g), \quad (41)$$

where  $\otimes$  denotes the Mellin convolution and

$$\langle e^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{n_f} \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} e_i^2. \quad (42)$$

Finally according to the notation in Ref. [5],

$$C_{i,\text{q}} = C_{i,\text{ns}} + C_{i,\text{ps}}. \quad (43)$$

Recall that for an even number of  $n_f$ , we have  $\langle e^2 \rangle = 5/18$ . According to Eqs. (40), (41) we can easily check that the quark combination  $q_{\text{ns}}^\gamma$  is

$$q_{\text{ns}}^\gamma = \Delta(e^2) \left\{ \sum_{i=u\text{-type}} (q_i + \bar{q}_i) - \sum_{i=d\text{-type}} (q_i + \bar{q}_i) \right\}, \quad (44)$$

where  $\Delta(e^2) = 1/2(e_u^2 - e_d^2) = 1/6$ . Note that  $q_{\text{ns}}^\gamma$  evolves like a  $q_{\text{ns}}^+$  quark combination, see also [8]. Recall  $F_3^\gamma = 0$ .

Up to two-loop order we can recover the cases for neutral- and charged current interactions discussed above with the following set of substitutions in Eq. (41). E.g. for  $F_2^Z$  we have, cf. Eq. (8),

$$x^{-1} F_2^Z = x^{-1} F_2^\gamma \begin{cases} e_u^2 \rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{4}{3} \sin^2(\theta_W)\right)^2 \\ e_d^2 \rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{3} \sin^2(\theta_W)\right)^2 \end{cases}, \quad (45)$$

and the PDFs remain unchanged.

Likewise, e.g. for  $F_2^{W^-}$  we have, cf. Eq. (36)

$$x^{-1} F_2^{W^-} = x^{-1} F_2^\gamma \begin{cases} \langle e^2 \rangle \rightarrow 1 \\ q_{\text{ns}}^\gamma \rightarrow \delta q_{\text{ns}}^- = [(u - \bar{u}) - (d - \bar{d})] + [(c - \bar{c}) - (s - \bar{s})] + \dots \end{cases}, \quad (46)$$

where substitution of the nonsinglet PDF accounts for the proper quark-flavor dependence.

## References

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