# Matrix Element Analyses

**BND2013** School

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What is the Matrix Element Method (MEM) ?

- Event-by-event discriminator built upon matrix elements
- First introduced at LEP; in hadron-hadron collisions, first application at the Tevatron to measure the mass of the top quark



- Applied subsequently to many other analyses: all tt channels, single top, WH, H to WW at the Tevatron, H to ZZ, H to WW at the LHC
- Still subject to developments to improve its formulation / extend the range of application

# OUTLINE

• Part I: Introduction to the Matrix Element Method

- General idea
- Definition
- Current developments
- Part II: Examples of application
  - m<sub>top</sub> reconstruction
  - Characterization of a scalar resonance
  - Search for ttH

## New physics searches at the LHC



## Why is the MEM so special ?

Two distinct approaches are used at hadron colliders:

I. Monte-Carlo-based approach



the discriminator is built upon Monte Carlo events ONLY

II. Matrix-Element-based approach = subject of this lecture



the discriminator is built upon hard-scattering matrix elements (and also Monte Carlo events)







In the last decade, sophisticated tools has been developed to simulate hard scattering events based on Monte Carlo techniques for any model that can be defined in the form of a Lagrangian at leading/next-toleading order.







• Simple case: discriminator built on one reconstructed observable, e.g. the invariant mass of two leptons



I. Reconstruct the distribution of events with respect to  $d=m(I^+,I^-)$  from MC events, under B-only and S+B hypotheses,

2. Compare with the distribution of exp. events with respect to d

 The discriminant power can be enhanced by using a sophisticated algorithm (NN, BDT) which analyses the distribution of MC events with respect to a large number of observables



## Matrix-Element-based approach



## Matrix-Element-based approach



### Matrix Element Method

- Construction of the PDF based on hard scattering matrix elements
- Definition of the discriminating variable: likelihood built upon this PDF



- $\boldsymbol{x}$  : kinematics of the reconstructed event
- $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  : theoretical assumption

#### Reweighing events with matrix elements

Imagine we live in an ideal world, with an ideal detector able to reconstruct

 $\checkmark$  all the final state objects

- $\checkmark$  at the scale Q= scale of the hard interaction
- $\checkmark$  with an infinite resolution



### Reweighing events with matrix elements

• Assuming this ideal world/detector, consider the following search:



In this analysis, an event x corresponds to  $\,p_{\mu^+},p_{\mu^-},p_b,p_{ar b}$ 

Define a probability density function using matrix elements

$$P(x|S) \propto |M_S(x)|^2$$
  $P(x|B) \propto |M_B(x)|^2$ 

 $M_S\,$  : matrix element under the signal hypothesis

 $M_B$ : matrix element under the background hypothesis

### Reweighing events with matrix elements



D is a discriminator based on the phase-space distribution of the events

## Defining the likelihood

Combine the weights into one likelihood

Given N experimental events, you can test the S+B hypothesis versus the B-only hypothesis

If s,b =expected numbers of signal and background events is known, you can also use this information to improve the discriminating power

Likelihood for the B-only hypothesis:  $Pois(N|b) \prod_{i=1}^{N} P(x_i|B)$ 

Likelihood for S+B hypothesis:  $Pois(N|s+b) \prod_{i=1}^{N} [sP(x_i|S) + bP(x_i|B)]/(s+b)$ 

K. Cranmer, T. Plehn, Eur. Phys. J. C 51, 415-420

#### Real experiment

In a real experiment, a reconstructed event cannot be weighted by a unique matrix element:

#### I. Missing energy

Some particles escape from the detector without any interaction (neutrino, wimp, ...)

example: top-quark pair production, di-leptonic channel



#### Real experiment

In a real experiment, a reconstructed event cannot be weighted by a unique matrix element:

#### 2. Showering/hadronization effects

A high energy collision is a multi-scale process, but a fixed-order matrix element provides a relevant description only for the hard scale Q



non-branching probability between scales  $t_{\rm I}$  and  $t_{\rm 2}$ 

#### Real experiment

In a real experiment, a reconstructed event cannot be weighted by a unique matrix element:

3. Experimental resolution/reconstruction algorithm

the final state objects (hadrons, leptons) are reconstructed with a finite resolution

## MEM prescription for the PDF

In a real experiment, a reconstructed event cannot be weighted by a unique matrix element:

I. Missing energy

 $P(x,\alpha)$  must be summed over the unobserved degrees of freedom



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#### "Assumed" factorization in MEM:



The prescription to extract the transfer function relies on a one-to-one assignment between reconstructed jets and partons

This prescription is ambiguous beyond LO

Current definition of the pdf in the MEM has LO accuracy only

#### Definition of the PDF in the MEM

Real detector: need marginalize over unconstrained information and to convolute with the resolution function W for the measured quantities

$$P(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \alpha) = \frac{1}{\sigma^{obs}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\text{jet perm.}} \int d\phi_{\boldsymbol{y}} |M|^{2}(\boldsymbol{y}) W(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \boldsymbol{y}).$$
  
integration on the parton-level phase-space tree-level matrix element transfer function extracted from MC simulation  
normalization:  $\int dx W(x, y) = 1$ 

 $\rightarrow$  the probability density P(x|  $\alpha$ ) is normalized to 1

## First MEM analyses at the Tevatron

Top-quark mass measurement from  $t\overline{t}$  production in hadron collisions



## Recent developments in the MEM



Research activities in several directions:

- I. Maximum statistical significance / treatment of the systematics
- 2. MEM beyond Leading order
- 3. Practical calculation of the MEM weights
- 4. Exploring new applications of the MEM

## I. Maximum statistical significance / systematics

Formal expected maximum significance based on the Neyman-Pearson Lemma T. Plehn, K. Cranmer, 2006



For a simple hypothesis test  $(H_0, H_1)$ , the variable that maximizes power is the likelihood ratio

$$Q(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{L(\mathbf{x}|H_1)}{L(\mathbf{x}|H_0)}$$

Fourier transformation to obtain the expected Likelihood profile of a sample of events (including Poisson fluctuations) from the single-event Likelihood profile no need to generate pseudo-experiments

Generalization: profile likelihood with systematic uncertainties included as nuisance parameters in the likelihood G. Cowan, K. Cranmer, E. Gross, O.Vitells, 2010

#### II. MEM at NLO

J. M. Campbell, W.T. Giele, C. Williams, 2012

Define an NLO weight for EW production processes in the unresolved region (veto on events with extra jets)

Example of application: Higgs boson production in the 4-lepton channel



ref. [?]. In this reference the method required the momentum over all longitu uivalent final states (i.e. one integrates over the parton fraction  $x_1$ ). Here we will is method to be fully exclusive in Carboral phase space point, where the of ref. covered by restoring the longitudinal integration. NLO correction may affect the kinematics of the Higgs boson The aim of this section is to define an event by event K-factor such that the in the lab frame (nonzero p1) culation is rendered in the following format,

 $\mathcal{P}_{NLO}(\Phi_B) = K(\Phi_B)\mathcal{P}_{LO}(\Phi_B)$ ere  $\mathcal{P}(\Phi_B)$  represents a weight defined at a given order for an input born phase int. We define a born phase space point as follows,

LAB frame  $\Phi_B = (x_1, x_2, \{Q_n\}).$  MEM frame

ere  $\{Q_n\}$  istapset Brastitha Grant went hich af prosent of the particular formes along the z-axis, and are fully so the two fractions of the partonic momenta. Given this phase space point it is define a weight defined by the  $\underline{LO}(\Phi_B) = \frac{d(x_1)f(x_2)}{2x_1x_2s} |\mathcal{M}^{(0)}(\Phi_B)|^2$  $\mathcal{P}_{LO}(\Phi_B) = \frac{f(x_2)f(x_2)}{2x_1x_2s} |\mathcal{M}^{(0)}(\Phi_B)|^2$  **GINGINE MODE IN THE IDENTIFIED FINAL STATE PARTICLES** (and, if required, the term of the identified final state particles (and, if required, the term of the identified final state particles (and, if required, the term of the identified final state particles (and the term of term of the term of term o We show in Appendix at MatChis can be achieved using a FBPS generator d n Initial State Forward Branching Bhase Space, 26 Aver, tor  $d\Phi(p_{a} + p_{b}) \in Q + p_{c}) = d\Phi(\hat{p}_{a} + \hat{p}_{b} \rightarrow Q) \times d\Phi_{\text{FBPS}}(p_{a}, p_{b}, p_{r}) \times \theta_{\text{veto}} ,$  **btraction btraction btractio** 2 b is the entities of amplitude over the unresolved degrees of freedom to integrate the unresolved degrees of freedom to be the content of the over the unresolved degrees of freedom the real-emission amplitude over the unresolved degrees of freedom to be the content of the $p_T^{lab}(p_r)$  is the laboratory frame transverse momentum feal cultured using to (2)he initial state brancher is necessarily  $\sqrt{2}$  such that brancher since it e state partons remain mastivesgenthe iter the Hergentnerator, atic variables  $\frac{f_{Da}(x_1)f_b(x_2)}{2x_1x_2s} \left( p_{\Gamma} + \frac{i}{\mathcal{R}_v(s_{min})} |\mathcal{M}^{(0)}(\Phi_B)|^2 + 2\operatorname{Re}\left\{ \mathcal{M}^{(0)}\mathcal{M}^{(1)^{\dagger}}(\Phi_B) \right\}$  $d\Phi_{\text{HBH}} \int_{s_{min}} (p_a d \Phi_{\text{HB}}^{IS} p_s) \Phi_{\overline{B}} \frac{f(x_a (f(ab_b)))}{f(x_a (f(ab_b)))} M_{Ran}^{(0)} (\Phi_{\overline{R}}(\Phi_{\overline{B}}))|^2 + \mathcal{O}(s_{min})$  $t_{xy} = (p_x - p_y)^2$  and  $d\phi$  is a rotational degree of freedom as t construction for the MEM weight programmation wins of the ailed in Appendix A. The phase space weight corrects the f ng emission of an <del>extra parton</del>. Tuesday 3 September 13 t-- abara ma th

## III. Effective treatment of extra QCD radiations J.Alwall, A. Freitas, O. Mattelaer, 2011



Step I: boost correction (correct for the fact that ISR affects Bornlevel kinematics)

Step 2: sudakov reweighting for the ISR

**Remarks:** I. information on  $p_T(H)$  is also folded in the definition of the weight (resummation of the logs in the Sudakov weight)

2. no information from the gne-loop amplitude

#### IV. Shower deconstruction D. E. Soper, M. Spannowsky 2012



#### Standard MEM:

transfer function W(y,x)
= map between the partonlevel kinematics and the
reconstructed jets



Shower deconstruction:

reconstruct the microjet config. (kt, R=0.15,  $p_T > 5$  GeV,) and consider the probability density function of these objects

#### IV. Shower deconstruction

How do you get the weight ? (large logs prevent the use of fixed-order matrix element)

step 1: reconstruct all possible branching histories leading to the observed micro-jet configuration

step 2: relative weight for each branching history is a product of Sudakov form factors



### Practical Evaluation of the PDF

Let's go back to the definition of the weights at leading order:



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#### Monte Carlo integration

Basic idea:  $I = \int_{V} dz f(z)$  is estimated by sampling the volume V=[0,1]<sup>d</sup> with N uniformly distributed random points:  $E = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f(z_n)$ 



# Monte Carlo integration



When the dimension of the phase-space is large, this structure in "peaks" complicates the numerical evaluation of the weights



Need for a procedure to speed up the convergence (large number of weights must be evaluated)

## Monte Carlo integration

Adaptive MC integration: probe the phase-space volume according to a probability density function  $p(z) = p_1(z^1)p_2(z^2) \dots p_d(z^d)$  (grid) that is adapted iteration after iteration

The grid has a factorized dependence in the integration variables

> Here: adapt the expected density of points along the direction Z<sup>1</sup> to resolve the "peak"



## Adaptive Monte Carlo integration

The efficiency of the adaptive MC integration depends on the choice of variables of integration

**Z**2♠



#### Variables z<sub>1</sub>, z<sub>2</sub>:

The grid cannot be adjusted efficiently to the shape of the integrand because the strength of the "peak" in the integrand is not controlled by a single variable of integration



Variables z<sub>1</sub>', z<sub>2</sub>':

Z

Ζ

The probability density along  $z_1$ ' (= variable that controls the strength of the "peak") can be adapted to probe the integration region where the integrand is the largest

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#### III. Practical Calculation of the weights

I. Phase space mapping: parametrize the phase-space in such a way that the strength of each peak is mapped onto a single variable of integration

II.Adaptive MC integration: probe the phase-space volume according to a probability density function  $p(z) = p_1(z^1)p_2(z^2) \dots p_d(z^d)$  (grid) that is adapted iteration after iteration



#### MadWeight

Full automation of the calculation of the MEM weights (LO only) in the madgraph framework P.A., F. Maltoni, V. Lemaitre, O. Mattelaer, 2011

MadWeight = generator of optimized phase-space mappings  $d\phi_y$  for the evaluation of the weights in the Matrix Element Method

Multichannel integrator

- Narrow Width Approximation optional
- Effective treatment for ISR radiation
- Grouping of subprocesses
- Pre-training of the grid
- Monte Carlo over parton-jet assignements

The code is available on the launchpad:

bzr branch lp:~maddevelopers/madgraph5/madweight\_mc\_perm



Step I: generate the matrix elements type ./bin/mg5 to open the prompt



Step I: generate the matrix elements type ./bin/mg5 to open the prompt



framework for MEM that is reliable, user-friendly, reproducible, fast



Step 3: define your own TF parametrization

Source/MadWeight/transfer\_function/data/TF\_my\_tf.dat

```
load TF: type 'change_tf.py '
```

Please choose your transfer\_function

- 0 / all\_delta
- 1 / dbl\_gauss\_pt\_jet
- 2 / gauss\_on\_leptons
- 3 / single\_gaussian
- 4 / uniform
- 5 / user



Step 4: edit the cards with the input parameters associated with (1) the model, (2) the collider, (3) the submission of the jobs and (4) the transfer function



the code will load phase-space generator, evaluate the weights, collect the results





## Normalization of the weights

MadWeight returns the values of the weight without the  $1/\sigma^{obs}$  normalization

$$P(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \alpha) = \frac{1}{\sigma^{obs}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\text{jet perm.}} \int d\phi_{\boldsymbol{y}} |M|^{2}(\boldsymbol{y}) W(\boldsymbol{x}_{i}, \boldsymbol{y}) Acc(\boldsymbol{x})$$

To estimate  $\sigma^{obs}\,$  :

- Generate parton-level distributed according to  $|M|^2(\boldsymbol{y})$  (parton-level cross section =  $\sigma$ )
- $\blacktriangleright$  Smear the energies/angles of the reconstructed particles according to the transfer function  $W(\pmb{x},\pmb{y})$
- $\blacktriangleright$  Count the number of events (after smearing) falling inside the acceptance region and record the associated efficiency  $\epsilon$

$$\sigma^{obs} = \sigma \times \epsilon$$

# Part II

- Reconstruction of m<sub>t</sub> (single-lepton tt samples) JHEP 1012 (2010) 068
- Characterization of a scalar resonance arXiv1306.6464

• Search for ttH Phys. Rev. Lett. 111, 091802 (2013)



## Reconstruction of m<sub>top</sub>



Top quark mass can be reconstructed by minimizing

$$-\log[L(m_{top})] = -\sum_{i=1}^{20} P(x_i|m_{top})$$

with respect to  $m_{top}$ 

- The statistic error can be estimated by the half width of the distribution at  $\log(L/L_{\rm max}) = 0.5$   $m_t = 171.9 \pm 2.0_{stat}$  GeV
- Bias: the probability density function assumed in the MEM does not exactly describe the phase-space distributions of the Monte Carlo events calibration procedure

# Higgs Characterization in the 4I channel

- MELA approach: study of  $h \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4l$  with the MEM for discovery and characterization of the new 125 GeV resonance Y. Gao et al, 2010 S. Bolognesi et al, 2012
- Here we consider the characterization of a scalar boson using the framework of an Effective Field Theory valid up to a scale  $\Lambda$ 
  - Only one new state  $X(J^P)$  at the electroweak scale v (all other new states are heavier than  $\Lambda$ )
  - Includes all effects coming from the complete set of dimension 6 operators the for spin-0 case (above the EW symmetry breaking scale)

# Higgs Characterization with the use of EFT

Interaction of a spin 0 state with Z bosons

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} c_{\alpha} \kappa_{SM} g_{HZZ} Z_{\mu} Z^{\mu} X_{0}}_{\left[\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{\Lambda} \left[ c_{\alpha} \kappa_{HZZ} Z_{\mu\nu} Z^{\mu\nu} + s_{\alpha} \kappa_{AZZ} \tilde{Z}_{\mu\nu} Z^{\mu\nu} \right] X_{0} \right]} \text{SM case 0+ state,}$$

dimension-6 operators (above the EW scale)

***************************************	*#####		
$\kappa_i$ in front of each parameter	######################################		
angle $\alpha$ parametrizing the CP- mixing between 0 <sup>+</sup> and 0 <sup>-</sup> states 1 1.000000e+00 # Lambda 2 1.000000e+00 # ca 3 1.000000e+00 # kSM 4 1.000000e+00 # kHff 5 1.000000e+00 # kAff 6 1.000000e+00 # kHaa 7 1.000000e+00 # kAaa			
parameter default value description			
$\Lambda [{ m GeV}] = 10^3$ cutoff scale 1.00000e+00 # kAgg 0.00000e+00 # kHzz			
$c_{\alpha}(\equiv \cos \alpha)$ 1 mixing between 0 <sup>+</sup> and 0 <sup>-</sup> 0.00000e+00 # kHww 0.00000e+00 # kHww 0.00000e+00 # kHww			
$\kappa_i$ 1 or 0 dimensionless coupling parameter 0.000000e+00 # kHda 0.000000e+00 # kHda			

# Specific channel: X<sub>0</sub> into 4 charged leptons



Kinematics: 5 variables  $(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta^*, m_1^*, m_2^*)$ 



Confidence level to reject hypothesis HD if hypothesis SM is realized

 a) significance with 1-dimension distribution ?
 b) significance with the matrix element weights ?

$$L_{\mathcal{O}} = \prod_{i}^{N} \frac{\sigma_{\mathrm{HD}(c_{\alpha})}^{-1} \frac{d\sigma_{\mathrm{HD}(c_{\alpha})}}{d\mathcal{O}}(\mathcal{O}_{i})}{\sigma_{\mathrm{SM}}^{-1} \frac{d\sigma_{\mathrm{SM}}}{d\mathcal{O}}(\mathcal{O}_{i})}.$$

a) likelihood ratio based on I-dim. distribution

$$L_{\rm MEM} = \prod_{i}^{N} \frac{|M_{HD(c_{\alpha})}(i)|^2}{|M_{\rm SM}(i)|^2}$$

b) likelihood ratio based on matrix elements

# Step I: generation of events



input parameters:

- A. model+proc\_card\_mg5.dat
- B. run\_card.dat, param\_card.dat
- C. pythia\_card.dat

- D. delphes\_card.dat, delphes\_trigger.dat
- E.  $p_T > 7 \text{ GeV}$ , |y| < 7 GeV (python code)

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# Step 2: distributions of events w.r.t. discriminant

#### a) I-dimension distributions:

MadAnalysis: reads the event files and build histograms with respect to each variable  $(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta^*, m_1^*, m_2^*)$ 



# Step 2: distributions of events w.r.t. discriminant

#### b) MEM-based distributions:



# Step 3: generate pseudo-experiments

IM pseudo-experiments with N=10 events under each assumptions (SM of HD)

Two options: (1) generate a 10<sup>7</sup> MC events for each assumptions SLOW (2) generate the kinematic variables of interest according to the previous distributions FAST

For each pseudo-experiment, the likelihood functions can be evaluated:

$$L_{\mathcal{O}} = \prod_{i}^{N} \frac{\sigma_{\mathrm{HD}(c_{\alpha})}^{-1} \frac{d\sigma_{\mathrm{HD}(c_{\alpha})}}{d\mathcal{O}} (\mathcal{O}_{i})}{\sigma_{\mathrm{SM}}^{-1} \frac{d\sigma_{\mathrm{SM}}}{d\mathcal{O}} (\mathcal{O}_{i})}. \qquad \qquad L_{\mathrm{MEM}} = \prod_{i}^{N} \frac{|M_{HD}(c_{\alpha})(i)|^{2}}{|M_{\mathrm{SM}}(i)|^{2}}$$

#### Step 4: estimate the significance



Significance estimated by calculating the median  $q_{SM,1/2}$  of the SM distribution and by counting the fraction of pseudo-experiments in the HD distribution with  $q < q_{SM,1/2}$ 

This fraction = expected p-value associated with the test of rejecting hypothesis HD if the SM hypothesis is realized.

## Step 4: estimate the significance



The optimal significance is reached with the MEM-based likelihood approach

#### tt + scalar boson at the LHC with the MEM

P.A. P. de Aquino, F. Maltoni, O. Mattelaer



I) The production rate is small
NLO prediction @ LHC:
8 TeV I4 TeV
0.137 pb 0.632 pb



 $W^+W^-b\overline{b}b\overline{b}$  final state

- 2) Challenging backgrounds:
- $t \overline{t} + jets$
- combinatorial background (identification of the b-jets coming from the scalar boson)

# Decay channels



single-lepton final state

di-lepton final state



Q: is the discriminating power in the di-lepton channel higher or less than the one in the semi-lepton channel ?

# Step I: event generation



<u>Leptons</u> : $P_T > 20$ GeV and $ \eta  < 2.4$	process	incl. $\sigma$	efficiency	$\sigma^{ m rec}$
lets: anti-k <sub>T</sub> with R=0.5, $P_T > 30$ GeV	$t\bar{t}h$ , single-lepton	111 fb	0.0485	5.37 fb
and $ n  < 2.5$	$t\bar{t}h$ , di-lepton	17.7 fb	0.0359	0.634 fb
At least 4 b-jets required	$t\bar{t}$ +jets, single-lepton	256 pb	$0.463\times10^{-3}$	119 fb
	$t\bar{t}$ +jets, di-lepton	40.9 pb	$0.168\times 10^{-3}$	6.89 fb

# Step I: event generation



#### single-lepton: S/B ~ 1/22

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	di-l	epton:	S/B ~ I	/
<u>Leptons</u> : $P_T > 20$ GeV and $ \eta  < 2.4$	process	incl. $\sigma$	efficiency	$\sigma^{ m rec}$
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# Step II: event distributions w.r.t. MEM discriminant



Left-hand plot: distributions of events with respect to  $D(x) = \left[1 + \frac{P(x|B)}{P(x|S)}\right]^{-1}$ Right-hand plot: signal vs. background efficiencies resulting from a cut on D>D<sub>min</sub>

> dilepton-channel is cleaner, more manageable combinatorial background

# Step IV: significance



Test: confidence level in rejecting S+B hypothesis if B-only hypothesis is realized

• compute  $q_{B,1/2}$  = median of the B-only distribution

estimate the p-value as the faction of events in the S+B distribution satisfying q < q<sub>B,1/2</sub>
 C.L. = I-p 69

# Step IV: significance

 $\blacktriangleright$  Rescale the signal cross section by a factor  $\mu$  such that S+B is excluded at 95% C.L



#### MEM versus counting

Redo the analysis with a likelihood that is based on the number of events

$$L_{\text{counting}}^{R} = \frac{\text{pois}(s+b|s_{0}+b_{0})}{\text{pois}(b|b_{0})}$$

with s<sub>0</sub>, b<sub>0</sub> the expected number of signal and background events

Also consider the effect of 20% systematic uncertainties on b<sub>0</sub> (=the expected number of background events):

This can be done by smearing the value of  $b_0$  according to a lognormal distribution (mean= $b_0$ , std= $0.2b_0$ ) before drawing the number of background events according to a Poisson distribution in each pseudo-experiment

#### MEM versus counting



Already a 20% uncertainty on  $b_0$  hampers the counting analysis
## Other applications of the MEM

- VBF scalar boson production J.R.Anderson, C. Englert, M. Spannowsky '12
- Characterization of a scalar boson S. Bolognesi et al '12
- b-charge identification Gedalia, Isidori, Maltoni, Perez, Selvaggi, Soreq '12
- Stops searches P. Van Mulders et al.
- Z' searches S. Basegmez, G. Bruno
- Differential weight A. Pin, O. Mattelaer

• ...

## Conclusion

- I discussed several aspects of the Matrix Element method:
  - The use of MEM to establish a formal maximum significance,
  - The inclusion of beyond leading-order corrections in the definition of the weights,
  - The practical evaluation of the MEM weights.
- I presented three examples of application:
  - m<sub>top</sub> reconstruction
  - Higgs characterization
  - Search for ttH