The top quark is still going strong! (and electroweak)

Andrea Knue (she/her), University of Freiburg 11th May, 2022

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What you probably heard countless times...

- the top quark is the heaviest quark: "almost the mass of a gold atom"
 → actually... mass between tungsten and rhenium nowadays ;)
- "it plays a special role in the standard model"
 - \hookrightarrow I will discuss today why it is special
- "the LHC is a top quark factory"
 - \hookrightarrow this very much depends on the production process!

What is matter made of?



The first generation of fermions





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The second generation of fermions





The third generation of fermions





The bosons





• is based on relativistic quantum field theory

• the three fundamental forces are described by gauge groups

Lagrange density: $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{T} - \mathcal{V}$

 $\ensuremath{\mathcal{L}}$ needs to be invariant under local gauge transformations:

$$\psi(x)
ightarrow e^{iq\chi(x)}\psi(x)
onumber \ A_{\mu}
ightarrow A_{\mu} - \partial_{\mu}\chi$$

. If fermions and bosons have non-zero masses: breaks local gauge invariance

- Where do the masses come from?
 - \hookrightarrow need the Higgs mechanism

Higgs mechanism

Introduce doublet of complex, scalar fields ϕ :

$$\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\begin{array}{c} \phi_1 + i\phi_2 \\ \phi_3 + i\phi_4 \end{array} \right)$$

Lagrange density:

$$\mathcal{L}=\mathcal{T}-\mathcal{V}=(D_{\mu}\phi)^{\dagger}(D^{\mu}\phi)-\mu^{2}\phi^{\dagger}\phi-\lambda(\phi^{\dagger}\phi)^{2}$$



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vacuum-expectation value: $v = \sqrt{-\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda}}$

$$b = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + H(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

 \hookrightarrow spontaneous breaking of symmetry: mass!

Mass terms in the Lagrangian

Gauge boson masses:

$$\mathcal{L}_{
m Gauge} = M_W^2 W_\mu^- W^{+\mu} + rac{1}{2} M_Z^2 Z_\mu Z^\mu + ...$$

Higgs self-coupling and mass term:



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Fermion-Higgs coupling (Yukawa coupling):

$$\mathcal{L}_{Yukawa} = -\underbrace{\frac{y_{f}v}{\sqrt{2}}}_{m_{f}}\psi\overline{\psi} - \frac{y_{f}}{\sqrt{2}}\overline{\psi}\overline{\psi}H$$













Since when do we know about the top quark?



- only knew these particles when the top-quark was postulated in 1977
- after *b*-quark discovery: expect to find the top-quark also soon
- but: due to the large mass: discovery only in 1995
- decays before hadron formation or spin-decorrelation can take place

 \hookrightarrow can obtain properties from the top-quark decay products

• plays key role in multitude of research areas: What do we know today?

Lets start with the top-quark production!

The Large Hadron Collider at CERN



• particles accelerated to almost the speed of light, ran with different energies

focus in the following on proton-proton collisions

The Large Hadron Collider at CERN



- LHC: 27 km circumference, collisions every 25 or 50 nanoseconds
- ${}_{\odot}$ $\approx 10^{15}$ proton-proton collisions for 8 TeV collision energy
- $\, \bullet \, \approx 10^{16}$ proton-proton collisions for 13 TeV collision energy

The ATLAS Detector



- use direction, charge, energy, momentum
 - $\hookrightarrow \mathsf{identify} \mathsf{ particle type}$
- need electrons, muons, taus, jets, photons for measurements discussed today



One LHC experiment, $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, 139 fb⁻¹ data in 2015–2018

Process	Cross-section [pb]	Events before selection
tī	832	115,648,000
t channel	217	30,163,000
tW-channel	71.7	9,966,300
s-channel	10.32	1,434,480
$t\overline{t} + Z$	0.88	122,320
$t\bar{t}+W$	0.60	83,400
$t\bar{t} + \gamma$	0.77	107,030
$t\overline{t} + H$	0.51	70,890
tīttī	0.012	1,668

- Can produce tops via the strong and the electroweak interaction
 - \hookrightarrow Different final states give access to different properties
- But: do we actually have access to these very rare processes?
- Have plethora of measurements, focus on the latest results today

How can we identify Top-Quark pairs?

Top-Quark Decay:

- BR($t \rightarrow Wb$) ≈ 1
- final state defined by W decay
- W decays to Iv₁ or qq̄'
 - → b-jet identification crucial!



dilepton:

- signature: two jets, $l^+, l^-, \nu_l, \bar{\nu_l}$
- pro: clean signal
- con: kinematically underconstrained

all hadronic:

- signature: six jets
- pro: largest branching ratio
- con: large multijet background

lepton+jets:

- $\bullet\,$ signature: four jets, $l,\,\nu_l$
- pro: good signal/background ratio
- on: large jet/modelling uncertainties

Inclusive $t\bar{t}$ cross-sections: News from the lower-energy front!



- precision at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV: below 2.5% for single result
- new results at $\sqrt{s} = 5$ TeV: already below 8%
 - \hookrightarrow strongly dominated by statistical uncertainties
 - \hookrightarrow excellent agreement with the NNLO+NNLL prediction
- LHCb measurement: relative uncertainty of 20%

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ABMP16* 5.02 Vs (TeV)

Test the Standard Model in different parts of the phase space:

- Inew physics might manifest itself only in some corners of the phase space
- allows to compare different MC generators and use for tuning

Measure kinematic distributions of the event as well as the top and $t\bar{t}$ system in resolved (low top p_T) and boosted (high top p_T) events.



Perform unfolding: remove detector effects! Two options shown here:

- $\bullet\,$ parton level: after radiation, before decay $\rightarrow\,$ compare to fixed order calculations
- $\, \bullet \,$ particle level: select events in fiducial phase space, use particles with $\tau >$ 30 ps
 - \hookrightarrow can only show a subset of results here

Do we still have a disagreement of the top p_T with data?



 \hookrightarrow softer top p_{T} in data visible in all decay channels

137 fb⁻¹(13 TeV) 137 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV) 10 Data Data nom dp_(t.) [GeV1 CMS e/u+iets . CMS e/u+jets . GeV 10.5 Syst. @ stat Syst. @ stat Particle level Particle level Stat 10] (⁴10⁻ 10⁻ 10⁻ 10⁻ titional iets 2 additional jets POWHEG P8 (CP5) POWHEG P8 (CP5) POWHEG H7 (CH3) POWHEG H7 (CH3) MG P8 (CP5) MG P8 (CP5) POWHEG P8 (T4) POWHEG P8 (T4) 10 10 10 • 10-6 10 Pred. Pred. Data 1.6 1.6 1.4 1.4 1.2 1.2 0.8 0.8 0.6 0.6 200 400 400 700 1500 p_(t_)[GeV] p_(t_) [GeV]

Significant reduction of uncertainties in the lepton+jets boosted channel: \hookrightarrow use mass of large-*R* jet to reduce jet-energy scale uncertainty



 \hookrightarrow multi-differential: disagreement is largest for events without additional radiation!

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NEW: Central exclusive production of top-quark pairs • CMS-PAS-TOP-21-007

Small-angle scattering of protons:

- both protons still intact, can exchange for example photons
- allows production of $t\overline{t}$ pairs: $pp \rightarrow pt\overline{t}p$
- $t\bar{t}$ decay products in central detector, tag forward protons
- cross-section very small: $\mathcal{O}(0.1\text{fb})$



Precision-Proton Spectrometer (PPS): measure fractional momentum loss of protons $\xi_{1,2}$:



Central exclusive production of top-quark pairs • CMS-PAS-TOP-21-007

- use single- and dilepton $t\bar{t}$ decay topologies
- quantities of central system X:
 - \hookrightarrow related to proton-momentum loss:

$$M_X = \sqrt{s\xi_1\xi_2}$$
 and $y_X = \frac{1}{2}\ln(\frac{\xi_1}{\xi_2})$

 \hookrightarrow used as a constraint in the kinematic fit (single-lepton reconstruction), used in BDT training (dilepton channel)





- train BDT to distinguish signal from QCD $\rightarrow t\bar{t}$ background
- binned nuisance-parameter fit to BDT output
- observed (expected) limit: 0.59 (1.14^{+1.2}_{-0.6}) pb @ 95% CL
- first result in this production process!

Top quark couplings: The top quark likes every particle!



- $t\overline{t} + W$ production:
 - relative uncertainty of 22%
 Phys. Rev. D 99, 072009 (2019)
 - dominated by statistical and signal modelling uncertainties
 - significance for SM process: 5.3 standard deviations (observed) by CMS • JHEP 08 (2018) 011





- $t\overline{t} + Z$ production:
 - relative uncertainty of 8.2%
 - dominated by statistical and lepton identification uncertainties
 - differential measurements with full 13 TeV dataset also available:
 Eur. Phys. J. C 81 (2021) 737
- \hookrightarrow good agreement with prediction







- $t\overline{t} + \gamma$ production:
 - relative uncertainty of 3.9%
 - \hookrightarrow new result (dilepton)!
 - dominated by statistical, lepton efficiency and luminosity unc.
 - differential cross-section largely in agreement with prediction





Weak production of the top-quark: the tZq process



- observed both by ATLAS JHEP 07 (2020) 124 and CMS
 PRL 122 (2019) 132003
- $\bullet\,$ purely EW production of top, top is strongly polarised $\hookrightarrow\,$ can measure the spin-asymmetry
- can also measure ratio R for top/antitop production



Top polarisation measurement at 13 TeV • arXiv:2202.11382

ŵ'

In top reference frame: define three orthogonal directions:

^, ▲

 \hat{z}' : direction of spectator quark

 \hat{y}' : orthogonal to production plane \hat{x}' : lies in the production plane

- in QCD: parity conserved, \approx no polarisation of top quark in $t\bar{t}$ events
- weak interaction: V A vertex structure: expect significant polarisation in single top!



- \hookrightarrow slice phase space into eight quadrants
- \hookrightarrow separately for leptons with neg./pos. charge.
- extract: signal/bkg normalisation, 6 polarisation values





Top polarisation: results and interpretation • arXiv:2202.1138.



• measure strong polarisation in *z*-direction \hookrightarrow limited by jet-energy resolution uncertainty \hookrightarrow in agreement with NLO+PS prediction

also unfolded angular distributions
 → allows to set limits on EFT operators

Parameter	Extracted value	(stat.)
t-channel norm.	$+1.045 \pm 0.022$	(± 0.006)
W+jets norm.	$+1.148 \pm 0.027$	(± 0.005)
tī norm.	$+1.005 \pm 0.016$	(± 0.004)
$P_{x'}^t$	$+0.01\pm0.18$	(± 0.02)
$P_{x'}^{\overline{t}}$	-0.02 ± 0.20	(± 0.03)
$P_{y'}^t$	-0.029 ± 0.027	(± 0.011)
$P_{y'}^{\overline{t}}$	-0.007 ± 0.051	(± 0.017)
$P_{z'}^t$	$+0.91\pm0.10$	(±0.02)
$P_{z'}^{\overline{t}}$	-0.79 ± 0.16	(±0.03)



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NEW: First observation of the $tq\gamma$ process • ATLAS-CONF-2022-013



- scrutinize the top-photon interaction further
- rare process: $\sigma_{tq\gamma} = 406^{+25}_{-32} \text{ pb}$
- identify forward jet and leptonic top decay
- employ data-driven methods to model fake-photon backgrounds



- need NN to distinguish signal from large background processes
- main systematic uncertainty: $t\bar{t}\gamma$ modelling
- observed (expected) significance: 9.1 (6.7) standard deviations
- fiducial parton (particle)-level cross-sections:
 - \hookrightarrow consistent with SM expectation within 2.5 (1.9) σ
 - \hookrightarrow CMS result: $\mu = 1.42 \pm 0.43$ PRL 121, 221802 (2018)

Why do we care about the top-quark mass and Yukawa coupling?



Why do we care about the top-quark mass and Yukawa coupling?



What mass values would lead to meta- or instability?



ightarrow previous mass values: are in meta-stable region, but close to the stable region

But: What mass do we measure?

- direct reconstruction $m_{
 m top}$ measurements:
 - \hookrightarrow measured $m_{
 m top}^{MC}$ depends on renormalization scheme of MC generator
- $m_{
 m top}$ from cross-section measurements: closer to pole mass
- difference between m_{top}^{MC} and e.g. m_{top}^{pole} (and other mass schemes)
 - \hookrightarrow still subject of lively discussion



Measurement of m_{top} in *t*-channel single-top events ▶ JHEP 12 (2021) 161

- *t*-channel events: allow to measure m_{top} at lower energy scale
- different systematics than $t\bar{t}$ events, but large $\sigma_{m_{top}}^{\text{total}}$ at 8 TeV
- challenge: large contamination from $t\bar{t}$ and V+jets events \hookrightarrow train BDT, cut on BDT output to get enriched sample



Results from profile-likelihood fit:

$$m_{
m top} = 172.13^{+0.76}_{-0.77} {
m GeV} \quad {
m and} \quad \Delta m_{
m top} = 0.83^{+1.79}_{-1.35} {
m GeV}$$

 \hookrightarrow first sub-percent top mass measurement in single top final states!

 \hookrightarrow mass difference compatible with CPT invariance



35.9 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV

Data

t-ch tī. tW, s-ch + iets, VV

Stat @ syst

ivents / 10 GeV CMS

40

20

80 /t, 2J1T

Measurement of the energy asymmetry in boosted $t\bar{t}$ +jet events • arXiv:2110.05453

measured C_A as function of rapidity at the LHC

 → appears in tt̄ events at NLO

 energy asymmetry in tt̄+jets events: already at tree level!

 → also have more qg than qq̄ production
 very sensitive to EFT four-fermion operators

$$egin{split} \mathsf{A}_{E}(heta_{j}) &= rac{\sigma^{\mathrm{opt}}(heta_{j}|\Delta E > 0) - \sigma^{\mathrm{opt}}(heta_{j}|\Delta E < 0)}{\sigma^{\mathrm{opt}}(heta_{j}|\Delta E > 0) + \sigma^{\mathrm{opt}}(heta_{j}|\Delta E < 0)} \end{split}$$

 $\begin{array}{l} \hookrightarrow \text{ with } \Delta E = E_t - E_{\overline{t}} \\ \hookrightarrow \theta_j \text{ is the angle between the jet and the positive } z\text{-axis} \end{array}$

Results:

In second bin: $A_E = -0.043 \pm 0.020$

- \hookrightarrow good agreement with the SM
- \hookrightarrow dominated by statistical uncertainty
- \hookrightarrow important new variable in EFT fit





Can we have more than 1 or 2 tops? ... 4 tops!



Why is this process interesting?

- very rare process: $\sigma_{t\bar{t}t\bar{t}} = 12.0 \pm 2.4$ fb
 - \hookrightarrow for each $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ event we get 69,333 $t\bar{t}$ events!
- In case of new physics: cross-section could be much larger: \hookrightarrow gluino pair production, scalar gluon pair production, etc.
- also sensitive to the top-Higgs Yukawa coupling!



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80 Andrea Knue

60

2.6 (2.7) σ

0.0 (0.4) a

Searches for new physics processes

Search for CP violation in lepton+jets $t\bar{t}$ events • arXiv:2205.02314

• Standard Model CP violation in $t\bar{t}$ events is small: search sensitive to BSM physics allows to constrain chromo-electric dipole moment (as does spin-correlation)

• construct 4 observables O_i : triple product of momentum vectors

• fit all O_i distributions, then extract asymmetry:



138 fb⁻¹ (13 TeV)

0.

Search for charged-lepton flavour violation • arXiv:2201.07859 • ATLAS-CONF-2018-044

lepton flavour conservation in SM: "accidental" global symmetry
have observed that neutrino flavours are not conserved
many BSM theories predict CLFV: MSSM, lepto-quark, etc
CMS: use tt and single top events
separate signal and bkg with BDT, fit BDT output, set limits
no sign for CLFV: achieved strongest limits to date



• based on $t\bar{t}$ events, also BDT discriminant in fit to data



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Have seen: Higgs boson couples differently to different fermions: strongest for top

Is this also true for other boson couplings?

In SM: lepton coupling to W/Z bosons: not mass dependent

 \hookrightarrow lepton flavour universality, no fundamental physics reason!

What do we want to measure and why?

Measure ratio of W boson decays into muons/taus: $R(\mu/ au)$

- \hookrightarrow previous measurement by LEP: 1.070 \pm 0.026 (2.7 σ deviation from SM) \checkmark Paper
- \hookrightarrow fluctuation or new physics effect?

What does this have to do with $t\bar{t}$ events?

 ${\sf BR}(t \to Wb) pprox$ 100%: easy to select, large statistics, gives us two W bosons

 $W \rightarrow \mu \nu_{\mu}$: larger lepton p_T , low impact parameter d_0 (close to interaction vertex)

 $W \rightarrow \tau \nu_{\tau} \rightarrow \mu \nu_{\mu} \nu_{\tau} \nu_{\tau}$: lower lepton p_{T} , larger d_0 (decays 2mm from interaction vertex)

What did we measure? • Nature Physics vol 17, 813-818 (2021)

Fit impact parameter distribution (left): measure for displacement of muon vertex → prompt muons have low impact parameter, muons from tau decays have high values



Result from ATLAS: compatible with the SM, and most precise result up to date \hookrightarrow Here a nice \checkmark Video by two of the physicists who performed the measurement!

Searches for flavour-changing neutral currents (FCNC)

• FCNC in the Standard Model: forbidden at tree-level

 \hookrightarrow strongly suppressed in loops by GIM mechanism: $\textit{BR}\approx 10^{-15}-10^{-12}$

- but: many new physics models allow for FCNCs: MSSM, 2HDM, composite Higgs...

 → much larger branching ratios possible: in reach for the LHC!
- in top physics: can occur in many production/decay channels:



New results for flavour-changing neutral currents (FCNC) • arXiv:2205.02537



- reaching now branching-ratios that are possible in BSM scenarios
- analyses strongly benefit from larger dataset, also strongly rely on BDTs/NNs
- for tgq FCNC: ATLAS recently improved limits by factor 2 compared to 8 TeV: arXiv:2112.01302

How much do we know now?



How much do we know about the Yukawa coupling?

→ direct measurement of y_t possible in $t\bar{t}H$ production

→ combine results from $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}, \gamma\gamma$ and multilepton channels: observation!



How much do we know now?



How much do we know now?



 \rightarrow Does this mean the universe is metastable? No, but no need to worry even if it was!

The top quark has come a long way since 1977:

Back then: missing quark, assumed to be similar to other quarks

$\mathbf{1}$

Today: we know that top quark is special!

Live in precision era, top quark is key to an abundance of different research areas

$\mathbf{1}$

Look to the future:

- Reduce systematic uncertainties
- Look at rare processes finally accessible
- Test BSM theories, also in the EFT framework