

Global fits beyond the standard Beyond-the-Standard-Model models

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Given the plethora of competing Beyond-the-Standard-Model (BSM) theories, we need to make the best possible use of all current and upcoming experimental results to help guide the search for BSM physics. In this conference paper I discuss how BSM global fits are key in this effort, and what the main challenges of such analyses are. I give brief introductions to the model-independent GAMBIT framework for BSM global fits and the recently released GAMBIT Universal Model Machine (GUM), which uses Lagrangian-level tools to automatically set up a GAMBIT global fit starting from a BSM Lagrangian.

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1. Introduction

A key task for Beyond-the-Standard-Model (BSM) phenomenology research is to help realise the full scientific potential of hard-won experimental results. This is achieved by reinterpreting available experimental results in terms of a wide range of viable and promising BSM theories, and within each theory fully explore the tensions and complementarities between the different experiments, from searches and measurements at colliders, to astrophysical and cosmological observations. The importance of such reinterpretation work, and various challenges associated with it, have been recognised and discussed in several recent community papers [1–3].

Experimental collaborations usually interpret their results in terms of simplified BSM scenarios, and without necessarily considering all complementary results from other experiments. Thus, it is particularly important that the broader BSM community investigates how the *full* set of available results impact the space of non-simplified BSM theories with many free parameters and rich phenomenological structures. A *BSM global fit* is a statistically rigorous approach to this problem. In this conference paper I highlight some key technical challenges of BSM global fits, and I discuss how the GAMBIT software framework [4], with its recent extension GUM [5], now make it much easier to subject a new BSM theory to a global fit analysis.

2. Global fits

A BSM global fit is a parameter estimation analysis where all the free parameters of the BSM theory are simultaneously fitted using all relevant experimental constraints. Such an analysis can be carried out within either a frequentist or a Bayesian statistical framework, and it can also provide the basis for a *global* assessment of the BSM theory, either in the form of a frequentist goodness-of-fit evaluation (see *e.g.* [6, 7]) or a Bayesian model comparison (see *e.g.* [8]).

Independent of the statistical framework, the starting point for a BSM global fit is a *joint likelihood function*,

$$L(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = L_{\text{collider}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})L_{\text{DM}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})L_{\text{flavour}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \dots, \quad (1)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ denotes the set of BSM parameters and any relevant nuisance parameters. The likelihood function is constructed from the joint probability density that describes the theory predictions for the complete set of relevant experimental observables $O_i(\boldsymbol{\theta})$. It is by basing the analysis on a properly formulated joint likelihood function that we ensure that all complementarities between different experimental results are fully exploited in a statistically sound manner. This likelihood function is then explored across the typically many-dimensional parameter space using some adaptive parameter sampling algorithm, *e.g.* nested sampling or differential evolution. See Refs. [9–11] for discussions and illustrations of the importance of using suitable sampling algorithms, rather than naive “random sampling” of parameter points, such as simply sampling from a uniform probability distribution over the many-dimensional parameter space.

There are three main challenges associated with large-scale BSM global fits:

- The need for sampling algorithms able to explore complicated likelihood functions across many-dimensional parameter spaces in sufficient detail.¹

¹In general, Bayesian and frequentist analyses require different sampling algorithms [9].

- The need for fast yet sufficiently precise theory predictions for the relevant observables $O_i(\theta)$. This is particularly challenging for predictions for *e.g.* LHC searches and measurements, for which computationally expensive Monte Carlo event simulations are required to fully utilise the experimental results, see *e.g.* Refs. [12, 13].
- The need for sufficiently detailed likelihoods, or better, full statistical models, to describe the relevant experiments [1, 2]. A lack of sufficient public information will severely reduce phenomenologists' ability to properly reinterpret an experimental result, and thus directly limit the scientific impact of the experiment.

These challenges connect to a number of more specific software requirements for global fits software to be suitable for large-scale fits using high-performance computing clusters. Among other things, these requirements include

- a model-independent core framework, to avoid having to reinvent the wheel for every new BSM model to be studied;
- parallelisation, both at the level of the scanning algorithm and the physics computations;
- memory-based interfaces to existing physics codes used to evaluate theory predictions and/or likelihoods; and
- strictly non-terminating exception handling, including within all external codes interfaced to the global fits code. This is to avoid *e.g.* an order 10,000-CPU scan being killed by one of the external physics tools terminating when it encounters a parameter point that gives an invalid computation.

3. GAMBIT

The Global And Modular Beyond-the-Standard-Model Inference Tool (GAMBIT) is an open-source software framework for BSM global fits, developed by the GAMBIT Community.² The aim of the GAMBIT Community is two-fold: to provide the HEP community with a model-independent global fits tool that can tackle such challenges as outlined in the previous section, and to use this tool to carry out comprehensive global fits of promising BSM theories.

Here I give only a brief outline of how GAMBIT is designed, focusing on code modularity and model-independence. For a detailed discussion of the GAMBIT framework, see Refs. [4, 14]. A sketch of GAMBIT's modular structure is given in Fig. 1. All scanning algorithms are implemented as plug-ins for the ScannerBit module [9], while all physics-specific computations are organised in a series of physics modules: ColliderBit [15], CosmoBit [16], DarkBit [17], DecayBit [18], FlavBit [19], NeutrinoBit [20], PrecisionBit [18] and SpecBit [18].³ These physics modules can both contain native physics computations and make use of external physics codes (referred to as *backends*) connected to GAMBIT as plug-ins. The latest version of GAMBIT (2.1) ships with interfaces to the physics backends and scanners listed in Fig. 1 [9, 21–76].

²See <https://gambit.hepforge.org> and https://github.com/GambitBSM/gambit_2.1

³Not shown in Fig. 1 is the ObjectivesBit module, which contains a collection of objective functions for testing scanning algorithms.

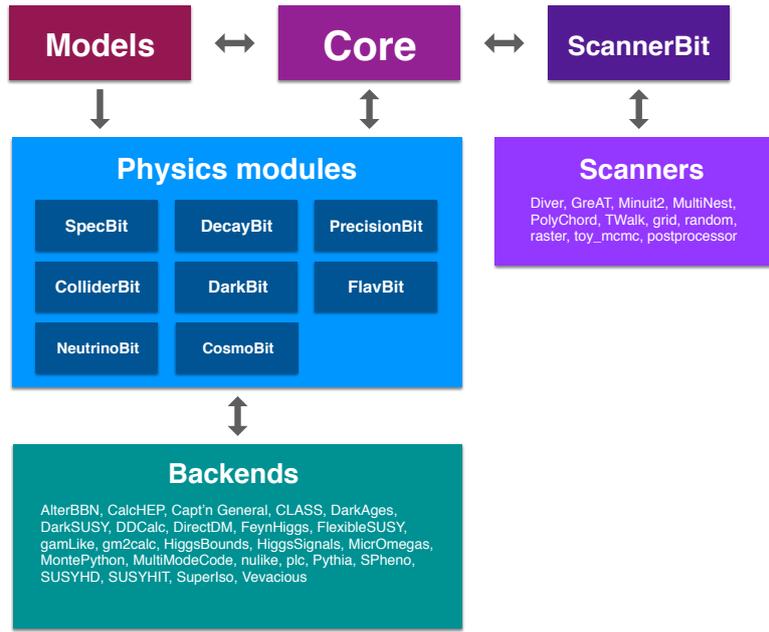


Figure 1: A sketch of the GAMBIT code structure. See the text for further details.

The basic unit in the GAMBIT system is the *module function*. This is any function within one of the physics modules that has been registered to provide a single *capability* to the rest of the GAMBIT system. Any other module function can then register this capability as one of its *dependencies*, *i.e.* a required input. This capability-dependency system ensures that the exact function call chain does not have to be hardcoded, but can be automatically adapted and optimised to the requirements for each run. Based on the user-specified configuration file, GAMBIT at runtime solves a directed, acyclic graph of module function dependencies to determine the correct order of function calls for the given run. This system also helps ensure that the core GAMBIT framework stays model-independent. Each module function can declare whether it can be used only for specific BSM models or for any model. A typical example of the latter would be a module function that evaluates a likelihood contribution $L(O(\theta))$, after some other module function has taken care of the model-specific computation of the observable $O(\theta)$.

That GAMBIT indeed can fulfill its purpose as a model-independent framework for global fits is demonstrated by the broad range of theories that have so far been studied with GAMBIT. The most recent examples include a large-scale exploration of WIMP dark matter scenarios [77], a study of the general two-Higgs-doublet model in light of flavour physics anomalies and the muon $g - 2$ [78], and a global fit that constrains the lightest neutrino mass through a combination of cosmological and terrestrial experimental results [79].

4. GUM: the GAMBIT Universal Model Machine

Truly comprehensive investigations of the BSM implications of experimental results would be practically infeasible if software for computing theory predictions had to be written from scratch for every new BSM theory to be studied. However, recent years have seen the development of an ecosystem of tools that, when used together, can autogenerate code for a wide range of BSM

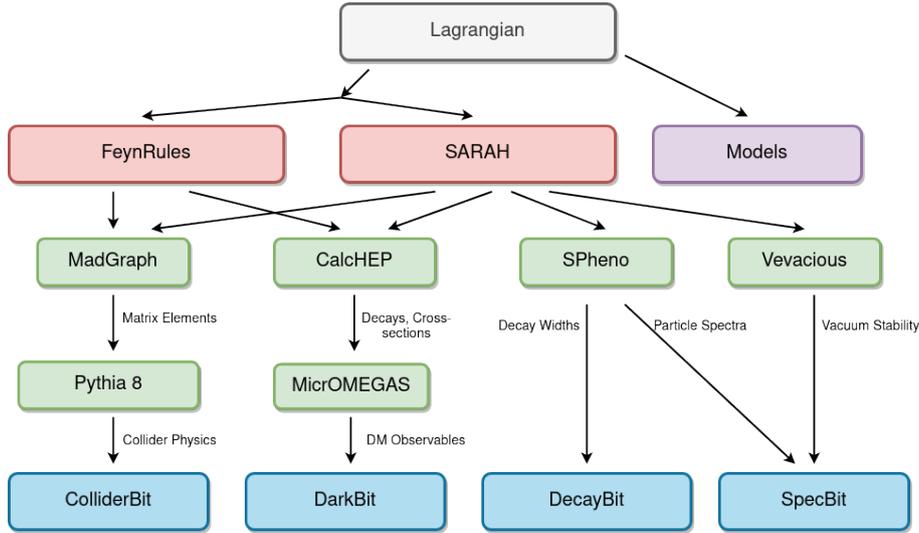


Figure 2: A diagram of the code-generation pathways implemented in the current version of GUM. Diagram made by C. Chang. See the text for further details.

physics computations starting from only a Lagrangian-level theory definition, see *e.g.* Refs. [5, 80] for an overview.

The steps required to implement a new model in GAMBIT and connect GAMBIT to model-specific physics backends are detailed in Ref. [4]. Yet, to do this “by hand” does require a significant amount of work and some understanding of the GAMBIT code design. Thus, to truly enable large-scale BSM global fits of any given BSM theory, the ecosystem of Lagrangian-level tools should be connected to GAMBIT in an automated manner. This was recently achieved with the release of the GAMBIT Universal Model Machine (GUM) [5]. GUM starts from a user-defined BSM Lagrangian, uses FeynRules [81–85], SARAH [86–90], MadGraph [91–93], and CalcHEP [23, 24] to generate code for the GAMBIT modules ColliderBit, DarkBit, SpecBit and DecayBit and to generate interfaces to model-specific versions of SPheno [63, 64], micrOMEGAs [47–53], Pythia 8 [62, 94], and Vevacious [73]. GUM thus effectively works as a pre-GAMBIT step: starting from a BSM Lagrangian, it prepares a version of GAMBIT that is ready to perform a global fit of the given theory, without the user having to write GAMBIT code directly. Figure 2 shows a diagram of the various code pathways incorporated in the current version of GUM.

A fully worked example of how to use GUM is given in Ref. [5]. Moving forward, the next steps will be to extend the GUM system to include code generation for more observables and likelihoods. In particular, we will enable autogeneration of code for the FlavBit module in GAMBIT, by making use of FlavorKit [95] and/or MARTY [96]. We will also extend GUM with interfaces to other public tools, including FlexibleSUSY [41] and MadDM [97].

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