



# PYTHIA and the Higgs

Torbjörn Sjöstrand

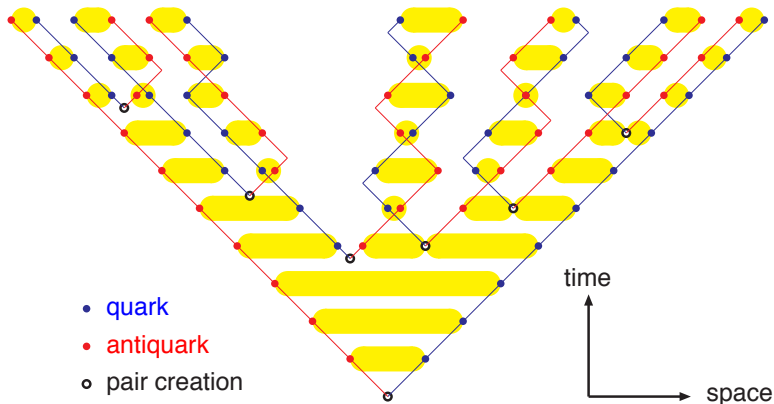
Lund University, Lund, Sweden

Higgs Hunting,  
Orsay/Paris, 23 – 25 Sep 2024

# In the beginning

- 1977 – 1982: development of Lund string fragmentation, assuming linear confinement  $V(r) = \kappa r$ ,  $\kappa \approx 1$  GeV/fm (Bo Andersson, Gösta Gustafson, students).
- 1978: first implementation in JETSET code, for fragmentation and (in 1979)  $e^+e^-$  annihilation (TS, (Bo Söderberg)).
- 1980: breakthrough in 3-jet study by JADE at PETRA.
- 1980: LEPTO code for leptonproduction, using JETSET (Gunnar Ingelman, TS).
- 1982: PYTHIA code for  $pp/p\bar{p}$  collisions, using JETSET (Hans-Uno Bengtsson).

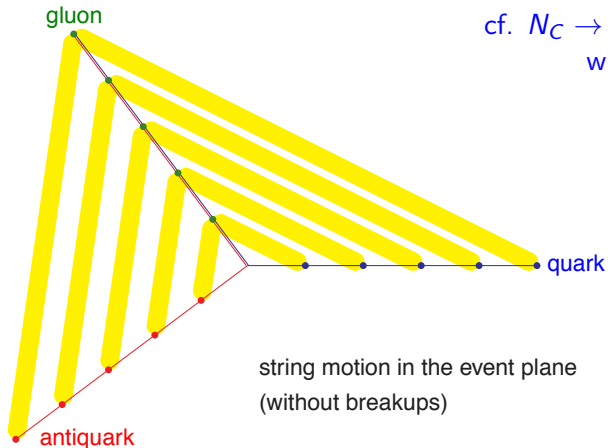
# The Lund Model for a $q\bar{q}$ system



String pulled out as  $q$  and  $\bar{q}$  move apart, shifting energy to it.  
String breakup by new  $q\bar{q}$  production, giving mesons.  
Breakup vertices approximately along hyperbola  
of constant invariant time, with spacelike separation  
 $\Rightarrow$  can use recursive fragmentation from ends inwards.

# The Lund Gluon Picture

A gluon carries one colour and one anticolour. Thus it can be viewed as a kink on the string, carrying energy and momentum:

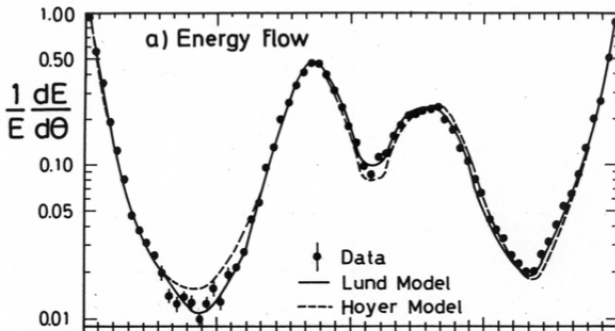
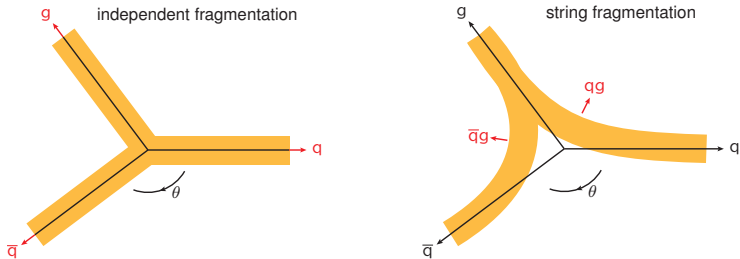


cf.  $N_C \rightarrow \infty$  (planar QCD)  
where  $N_C/C_F = 2$ .  
( 't Hooft, 1973)

string motion in the event plane  
(without breakups)

*The most characteristic feature of the Lund model.*

# The JADE Effect

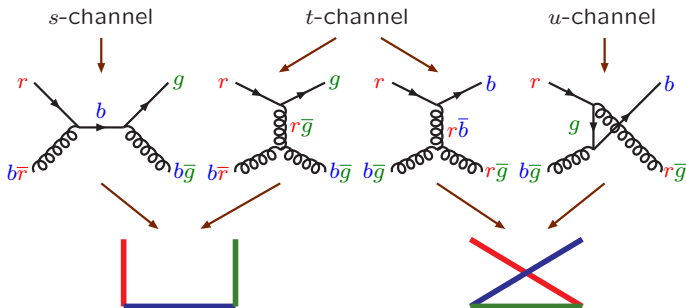


3 jets energy-ordered.

JADE (1980, 1983)

# Colour topologies in pp

Colour flow nontrivial in pp collisions, e.g.  $qg \rightarrow qg$ :



$$\frac{d\hat{\sigma}_A}{d\hat{t}} = \frac{\pi\alpha_s^2}{\hat{s}^2} \frac{4}{9} \left( 2\frac{\hat{u}^2}{\hat{t}^2} - \frac{\hat{u}}{\hat{s}} \right)$$

$$\frac{d\hat{\sigma}_B}{d\hat{t}} = \frac{\pi\alpha_s^2}{\hat{s}^2} \frac{4}{9} \left( 2\frac{\hat{s}^2}{\hat{t}^2} - \frac{\hat{s}}{\hat{u}} \right)$$

$$\frac{d\hat{\sigma}_{A+B}}{d\hat{t}} = \frac{\pi\alpha_s^2}{\hat{s}^2} \left( \frac{8}{9} \frac{\hat{s}^2 + \hat{u}^2}{\hat{t}^2} - \frac{4}{9} \frac{\hat{s}^2 + \hat{u}^2}{\hat{s}\hat{u}} \right)$$

where  $\mathcal{O}(1/N_c^2)$  colour interference term makes  $8/9 \rightarrow 1$ .

PYTHIA raison d'être: split full  $d\hat{\sigma}/d\hat{t}$  by colour flow fractions!

# A first Higgs encounter – 1

DORIS II:  $e^+e^-$  ring with  $\sqrt{s} \approx 10$  GeV.

Crystal Ball: EM calorimeter, QED transitions in  $\Upsilon$  system.

ARGUS: multipurpose detector for B meson decay at  $\Upsilon(4s)$ .

---

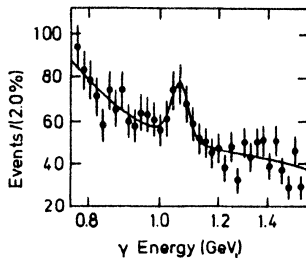
## EVIDENCE FOR A MASSIVE STATE IN THE RADIATIVE DECAYS OF THE UPSILON

Hans-Jochen Trost (representing CB Collaboration\*)  
Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron

D-2000 Hamburg 52, Notkestr. 85, Fed. Rep. of Germany

ABSTRACT: Evidence is presented for a state, which we call  $\zeta$ , with a mass  $M = (8322 \pm 8 \pm 24)$  MeV and a line width  $\Gamma < 80$  MeV (90% confidence level) obtained using the Crystal Ball NaI(Tl) detector at DORIS II. The branching ratio to this state from the  $\Upsilon(1S)$  is of order 0.5%.

The interpretation of this new state as the neutral Higgs boson expected in the standard model gives a disagreement of approximately two orders of magnitude between this observed branching ratio and that predicted. This branching ratio can be accommodated in some extensions of the standard model, e.g. two-Higgs doublet models. A less model-dependent quantity is



mass 8.32 GeV

branching ratio 0.5%

significance  $4.0 \sigma$

presented at ICHEP 1984

# A first Higgs encounter – 2

New data taken autumn 1984, presented at Moriond 1985:

## THE STATUS OF THE $\zeta(8.3)^*$

Stephen T. Lowe

(Representing the Crystal Ball Collaboration)<sup>[1]</sup>

Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305

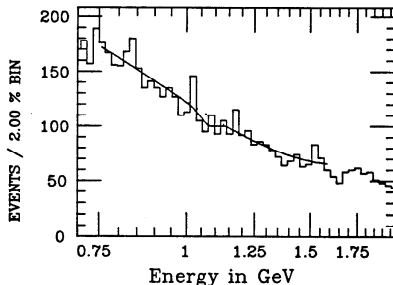
### ABSTRACT

Results are presented from  $22.1 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  of  $\Upsilon(1S)$  data, taken with the Crystal Ball detector at DORIS. These data were taken to further explore the  $\zeta(8.3)$  signal originally seen in  $10.4 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  of  $\Upsilon(1S)$  data<sup>[2]</sup>. No evidence for the  $\zeta$  is observed in this new sample. Data quality checks and possible explanations are discussed.

1984 "signal" =  $-29 \pm 29$  events  $\Rightarrow BR(\Upsilon \rightarrow \gamma\zeta) < 0.08\%$ .

Combined 1983 + 1984 significance  $1.9 \sigma$ .

Not heard of since.





# Snowmass 1982 and aftermath

Birth of the SSC project (?).  
Aimed at physics at the TeV scale.

---

spring 1984: "Supercollider physics"  
by E. Eichten, I. Hinchliffe, K. Lane, C. Quigg

- 18 pp PDFs
- 21 pp QCD jets
- 15 pp EW gauge bosons
- 9 pp Higgs, singly and associated
- 17 pp Technicolor
- 8 pp new  $Q$ ,  $\ell$ ,  $Z'^0$ ,  $W'^{\pm}$
- 16 pp Supersymmetry
- 14 pp compositeness

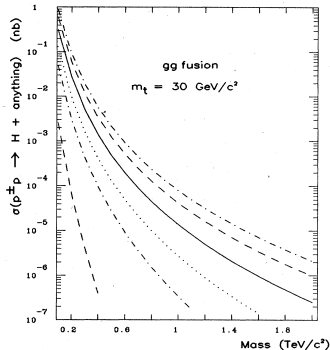


FIG. 146. Integrated cross sections for Higgs-boson production by gluon fusion in  $p^{\pm}p$  collisions, for  $m_t = 30 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 2, 10, 20, 40, 70,$  and  $100 \text{ TeV}$ , according to Set 2 of the distributions.

Boundless optimism! Reagan Star Wars atmosphere!  
Reestablish US leadership after CERN  $Z^0$  and  $W^\pm$  discoveries.  
SSC design parameters  $\sqrt{s} = 40$  TeV,  $\mathcal{L} = 10^{33}$  cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-2}$ .

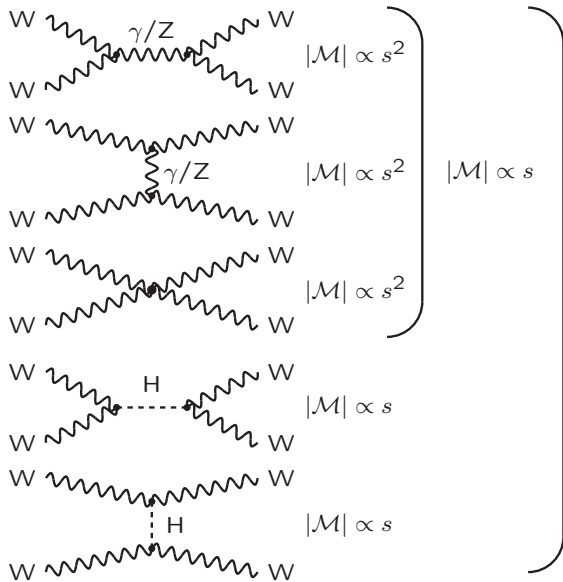
## The no-lose theorem

Either there are light ( $\leq 1$  TeV) particles  
from EW symmetry breaking  
that can be produced and studied directly  
and/or

excess WW, WZ, ZZ production is observable,  
signalling strongly coupled symmetry-breaking sector  
with masses  $\geq 1$  TeV.

(this formulation: M. Chanowitz 1987;  
divergence issue noted by Dicus and Mathur, and Veltman)

# Taming the divergence



Asymptotic behaviour  
of  $WW \rightarrow WW$   
dominated by  
 $W_L W_L \rightarrow W_L W_L$

$|\mathcal{M}|$  constant

Recall  
 $\sigma \propto |\mathcal{M}|^2/s$   
so  $|\mathcal{M}|$  constant  
required for  
unitarity

# Event generators summer 1984

generator	ISAJET	FIELDJET	COJETS WIZJET	PYTHIA JETSET
processes	2jet W/Z (?) soft	2jet	2jet W/Z	2jet $\gamma$ +jet
Higgs	no	no	no	no
initial-state rad	no	forward, hit-and-miss	forward, pretabulation	no
final-state rad	incoherent	incoherent	incoherent	no
colour flow	no	no	no	yes
fragmentation	independent	independent	independent	string
gluon jet	like quark	like quark	like quark	$\approx q\bar{q}$
beam remnants	leading baryon + cut Pomerons	remnant jets	leading baryon + longitudinal phase space	remnant jets
time per event	0.05 s	120 s	0.1 s	0.1 s
code	public	private	public	public

Others: Webber, Capella et al., Ranft et al., Preparata, ...

# PYTHIA development 1984 – 1986

- Hans-Udo Bengtsson now at UCLA; collaborate via BITNET. Gunnar Ingelman at CERN; no connection  $\Rightarrow$  dropped out.
- Several workshops: Eugene, Oregon spring/summer 1985; UCLA January 1986; Madison May 1986.
- Final-state radiation (FSR): Marchesini–Webber.
- Initial-state radiation (ISR): backwards evolution.
- Multiparton interactions (MPI): underlying event.
- Minimum bias, elastic, diffractive events.
- Gauge bosons:  $W^\pm, \gamma^*/Z^0, \gamma\gamma, W^\pm/Z^0 + \text{jet}, W^\pm/Z^0 + \gamma, W^+W^-, Z^0Z^0, W^\pm Z^0$  (+ angular correlated decays).
- Higgs:  $gg \rightarrow H^0, q\bar{q} \rightarrow H^0$  (including top,  $m_t = 40$  GeV),  $W_L^+W_L^- \rightarrow H^0, Z_L^0Z_L^0 \rightarrow H^0, q\bar{q} \rightarrow H^0 + W^\pm/Z^0$  (+ always  $H^0$  decays).
- Exotica:  $q\bar{q} \rightarrow \gamma^*/Z^0/Z'^0, q\bar{q} \rightarrow H^\pm, q\bar{q} \rightarrow R^0$ .

# Effective W Approximation

Recall: longitudinal  $W_L/Z_L$  are “eaten” Higgs fields of SSB  
 $\Rightarrow W_L^+ W_L^- / Z_L^0 Z_L^0 \rightarrow H^0$  dominates for large  $m_H$  ( $\geq 600$  GeV).

Can define effective flux like EPA or DGLAP splitting kernels

$$f_{\gamma/q}(x) = \frac{\alpha_{\text{em}} e_q^2}{2\pi} \frac{1 + (1-x)^2}{x}$$
$$f_{Z_L/q}(x) = \frac{\alpha_{\text{em}} (g_{V,q}^2 + g_{A,q}^2)}{4\pi \sin^2 \theta_W \cos^2 \theta_W} \frac{1-x + m_Z^2/\hat{s}}{x - m_Z^2/\hat{s}}$$
$$f_{W_L/q}(x) = \frac{\alpha_{\text{em}}}{4\pi \sin^2 \theta_W} \frac{1-x + m_W^2/\hat{s}}{x - m_W^2/\hat{s}} \quad (\times \text{CKM})$$

(Kane, Repko, Rolnik; Dawson; Chanowitz, Gaillard)

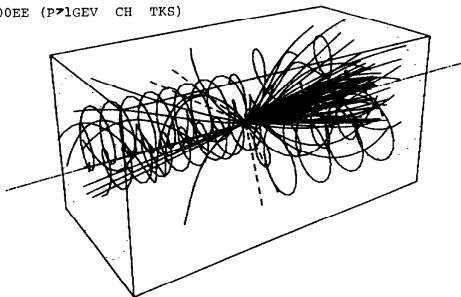
Full calculation  $q_1 q_2 \rightarrow q_3 q_4 H^0$  at border of feasibility

$\Rightarrow$  integrate out  $Q_1^2, Q_2^2$  for simplified cross sections,  
but in Monte Carlo full care with scattered-quark kinematics.

# Snowmass 1986

- Active subgroup “W/Z Pairs and the Higgs at the SSC” .  
Theory coordinator: John F. Gunion (Davis).  
Experimental coordinator: Aurore Savoy-Navarro (Saclay).
- ISAJET and PYTHIA used for studies, including cross-checks;  
tutorials by Frank Paige and TS+HUB.
- Three large reports: one theory,  
one experiment over broad Higgs mass range,  
one ditto on “high-mass” Higgs with  $m_H = 300$  or  $800$  GeV.

HZZ800EE (P>1GEV CH TKS)

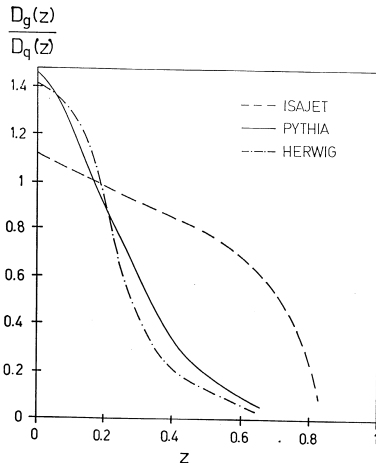
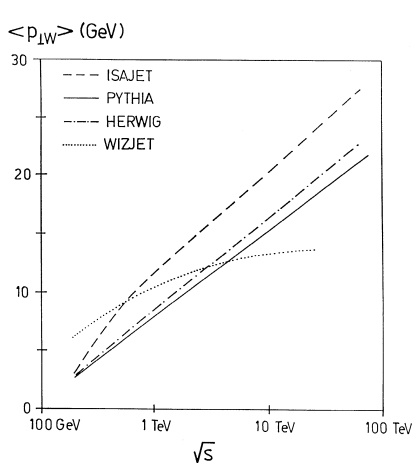


PYTHIA event  
D0-like detector  
GEANT 3 tracking

Figure 43

# Generator comparisons (1988)

Significant differences between generators in many respects:



(TS, Z.Phys. C42, 301)



- LEP tunnel intended to allow pp collider.
- LHC workshops: Lausanne 1984, La Thuile 1987.
- 1989: LEP workshop and LEP startup.
- SSC to be ready 1999, so Rubbia promises LHC by 1998; push/pull with LEP experiments.
- 1989 autumn: first contact with LHC studies (Daniel Froidevaux, Louis Fayard, ...).
- 1990 intense series of CERN meeting leading up to Aachen: the peak of theory and Monte Carlo preparations (?).
- Evian 1992: collaboration formation, technology choices.

# Gauge boson scattering

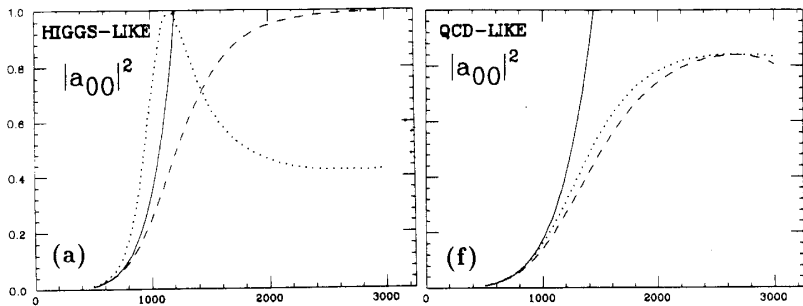
Gauge boson pair scattering  $V_L V_L \rightarrow V_L V_L$ ,  $V = Z^0$  or  $W^\pm$ ,  
complements/supersedes  $V_L V_L \rightarrow H^0$ .

What if heavy/no Higgs?

Exemplified by Dobado, Herrero, Tarron:

Higgs-like or QCD-like symmetry breaking with

Padé approximants or  $K$ -matrix unitarization ( $a \rightarrow a/(1 - ia)$ ).

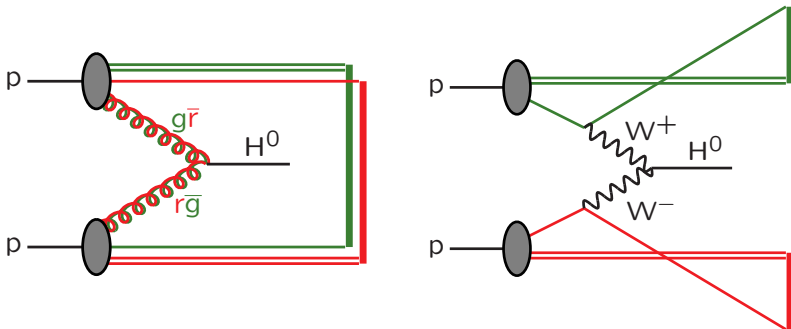


So broad range of possible high-energy behaviours available.

## Other $\sim 1990$ Higgs issues

- **Running quark masses** affects production and decays, notably  $m_b(m_b) \approx 4.5 \text{ GeV} \Rightarrow m_b(m_H) \approx 3 \text{ GeV}$ .
- **Relaxed MSSM constraint**  $m_H < m_Z$ . (Bad news for LEP2.)
- **Off-shell decays**  $H^0 \rightarrow W^{(*)+}W^{(*)-}, Z^{(*)0}Z^{(*)0}$ .
- **Running H width**:  $\Gamma_H \propto m_H^3 \rightarrow \hat{s}^{3/2}$  or  $\rightarrow m_H^2 \sqrt{\hat{s}}$  (Seymour 1995; former usually but latter for WW/ZZ).
- Full  $q_1 q_2 \rightarrow q_3 q_4 H^0$  (WW/ZZ fusion).
- $gg/q\bar{q} \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}H^0$  (but background  $gg/q\bar{q} \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}Z^0$  tough).
- $gg \rightarrow gH^0, qg \rightarrow qH^0, q\bar{q} \rightarrow gH^0$ .
- Generalize almost all  $H^0$  processes to  $H^0$  and  $A^0$ , with flexible couplings or MSSM-based ones.
- Some more  $H^\pm$  processes, including couplings as above.
- $Z'^0 \rightarrow Z^0 H^0$  and  $W'^\pm \rightarrow W^\pm H^0$  in left-right symmetry.
- $q \rightarrow f = q$  or  $\ell$  where relevant (LEP2, other  $e^+e^-$  or  $\mu^+\mu^-$ ).

# Rapidity gaps



1986, Dokshitzer, Khoze, Troyan: rapidity gap in  $W^+W^- \rightarrow H^0$

1986, we: already included, but masked by MPI, showers, ...

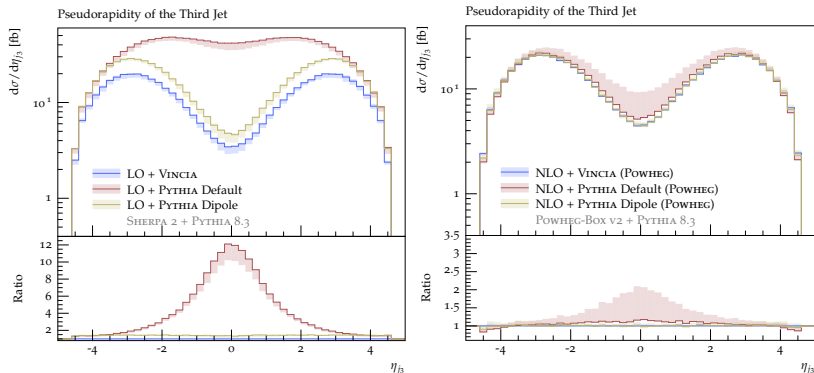
1991, Dokshitzer, Khoze, TS: more detailed study

1991, Bjorken: rapidity gap survival probability,

$$\langle |S|^2 \rangle \approx 0.1 \approx P(n_{\text{MPI}} = 0)$$

2017: ISR dipole recoil option, gives less radiation into gap region

Vector Boson Fusion, neglect Higgs, require two well-separated "tagging" jets, study third jet (if any):



**Default:** momentum exchange possible between two event sides.

**Dipole:** separate event sides, each like a DIS event.

(S. Höche et al., arXiv:2106.10987)

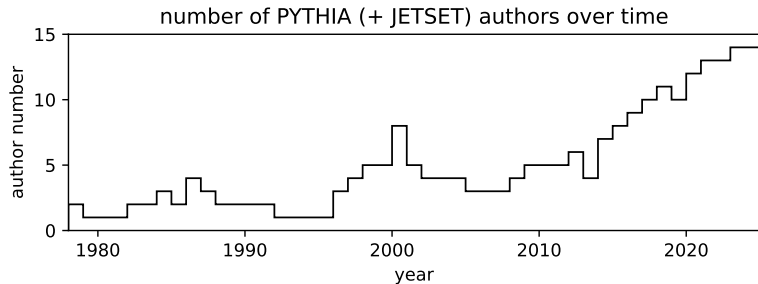
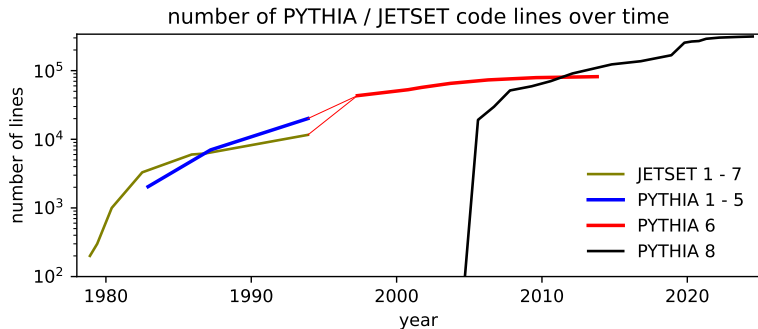
## Evolution from “qualitative understanding” to “precision theory”.

- Automated calculation and sampling of matrix elements.
- Higher orders: NLO, NNLO, N<sup>3</sup>LO, multijets
- Matching and merging of matrix elements and parton showers.
- $m_t = 40 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow 172 \text{ GeV}$ .

## Many PYTHIA physics/utility extensions in different directions.

- **Few with direct bearing on Higgs physics.**
- Exception 1: Technicolor Straw Man Model (Lane).
- Exception 2: alternative dipole recoil in VBF.
- Not only LHC, but also TESLA, CLIC, ILC, FCC-ee, ...

# Code and author size



# Summary and Outlook

- PYTHIA rapidly expanded 1984 – 1990, in many directions, but notably to support Higgs searches.
- Since then extensively used standalone for LHC detector design and early search/analysis strategies.
- Gradually integrated with other tools, like Madgraph.
- **The Higgs was discovered 2012**, at an “optimal” mass; all high-mass scenarios and much Monte Carlo code “useless”.
- No signs of BSM. Notably **no SUSY** to explain H mass.
- Higgs as portal to BSM, like Hidden Valley in PYTHIA.
- No current Higgs physics development in PYTHIA, but **ready to reactivate if needed**.