# A theorist's perspective on boosted boson tagging

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# 14 TeV, after a few years, will roughly double the mass reach of LHC searches



# **Boosted hadronic decays**

#### (X = W, Z, H, top, new particle)

Normal analyses: two quarks from  $X \rightarrow q\bar{q}$  reconstructed as two jets



High- $p_t$  regime: EW object X is boosted, decay is collimated,  $q\bar{q}$  both in same jet



Happens for  $p_t \gtrsim 2m/R$  $p_t > 400$  GeV for m = m<sub>W</sub>, R = 0.4 Most obvious way of detecting a boosted decay is through the mass of the jet





But jet mass is **poor** in practice:

#### e.g., narrow W resonance highly smeared by QCD radiation

(mainly underlying event/ pileup)

# As a field we've devised O(10-20) powerful methods to tag jet substructure.

Many of the methods have been tried out in searches and work; these kinds of methods will be crucial for searches in the years to come.



apologies for omitted taggers, arguable links, etc.



As a field we've devised O(10-20) powerful methods to tag jet substructure.

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But from outside, the many methods make the field look pretty confusing.

And from inside, I get the impression we don't always know *why or how* the methods work – which is bad if we're looking for robustness.

> Is it time to get back to basics? I.e. to start understanding our tools?

# What was the original motivation?

Normal R=0.4/0.5 jet finding fails to find one jet per prong of a boosted [W/Z/H/top/NP] hadronic decay.

We need to make sure that this doesn't prevent us from using EW-scale particles in TeV scale searches.

#### **Question #1:**

To what extent are the things we do with "normal" jets (and leptons) mirrored in the things we're doing with "fat" jets?

# What have we found out in the meantime?

There's a huge number of things you can do with jet substructure.

Many of the things appear to improve mass resolution, background rejection, etc. [at least in MC simulation]

#### **Question #2:**

How should we balance improvements v. "complexity" of method?

**Resolved Analysis** 

Find one jet/prong

Cut on jet  $p_t$ ,  $\Delta y$ , ...





colourless leptons,  $\gamma$ 

Cut on radiation in jet for q/g discrimination





# analytical understanding: why?

#### **Better Insight**

Can guide taggers' use in experimental analyses

It may help us design better taggers

#### Robustness

You know what you predict, what you don't

Unlike MC, you have powerful handles for cross-checks & accuracy estimates

There is a "right" answer



Search for resonances in doubly-tagged dijet events.

Tagging = pruning + tau21 cut

Note different Herwig++ and Pythia6 shapes

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Understanding your taggers means you know what tools you can safely use with them

For robustness, you can then choose taggers whose distributions can be predicted in many ways



Just like MET( $Z \rightarrow vv$ ) in multijets is reliably estimated from  $\gamma$ +jets because multiple types of calculations of the ratio agree

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# The key variables

#### For phenomenology

#### Jet mass: m

[as compared to W/Z/H or top mass] For QCD calculations



[R is jet opening angle – or radius]

Because *p* is invariant under boosts along jet direction

#### Start with "plain" jet mass



#### Start with "plain" jet mass



#### Start with "plain" jet mass

![](_page_22_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Now examine "taggers/groomers"

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

Different taggers can be quite similar

#### Now examine "taggers/groomers"

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

But only for a limited range of masses

## What do we want to find out?

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

And maybe you can

make better taggers

# Does tagging/grooming make precise QCD impossible?

![](_page_28_Picture_1.jpeg)

# mMDT resummation v. fixed order

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

Because we only have single logs, fixed-order is valid over a broader than usual range of scales

(helped by fortuitous cancellation between running coupling and single-log Sudakov)

NLO from NLOJet++

## mMDT: comparing many showers

![](_page_30_Figure_1.jpeg)

# mMDT: comparing many showers

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

Issue found in Pythia 6  $p_t$ -ordered shower  $\rightarrow$  promptly identified and fixed by Pythia authors!

# mMDT: comparing many showers

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

Issue found in Pythia 6  $p_t$ -ordered shower  $\rightarrow$  promptly identified and fixed by Pythia authors!

## Hadronisation effects

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

Nearly all taggers have large hadronisation effects: 15 - 60%for m = 30 - 100 GeV

## Hadronisation effects

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Exception is (m)MDT.

In some cases just few % effect.

m-dependence of hadronisation even understood analytically!

![](_page_34_Picture_5.jpeg)

# Underlying Event (UE)

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

Underlying event impact much reduced relative to jet mass

Almost zero for mMDT (this depends on jet pt)

A question from theorists to experimenters: How well can you work around detector granularity at high pt?

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Detector resolution? Use Topocluster/PFlow directly. Or charged tracks scaled to total jet energy?

#### cf. work by Tweedie et al

![](_page_37_Figure_2.jpeg)

Detector resolution? Use Topocluster/PFlow directly. Or charged tracks + π<sup>0</sup> scaled to total jet energy? cf. work by Tweedie et al

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

Detector resolution? Use Topocluster/PFlow directly. Or charged tracks +  $\pi^0$  scaled to total jet energy? cf. work by Tweedie et al

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Detector resolution? Use Topocluster/PFlow directly. Or charged tracks + $\pi^0$ scaled to total jet energy? cf. work by Tweedie et al

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)