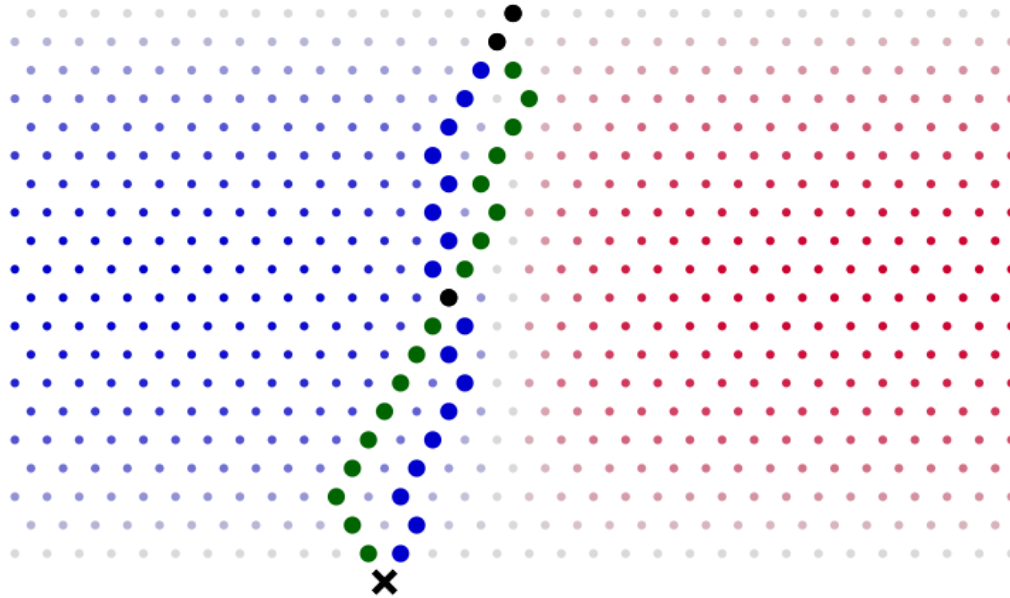






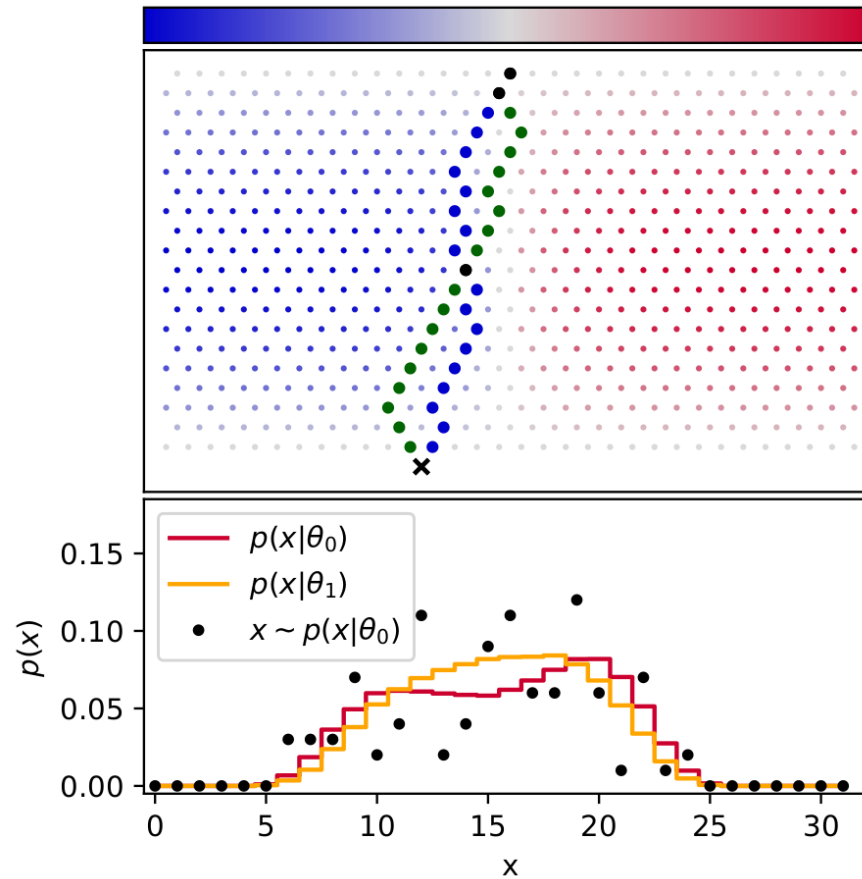
@physicsfun



The probability of ending in bin  $x$  corresponds to the total probability of all the paths  $z$  from start to  $x$ .

$$p(x|\theta) = \int p(x, z|\theta) dz = \binom{n}{x} \theta^x (1 - \theta)^{n-x}$$

What if we shift or remove some of the pins?



The probability of ending in bin  $x$  still corresponds to the total probability of all the paths  $z$  from start to  $x$ :

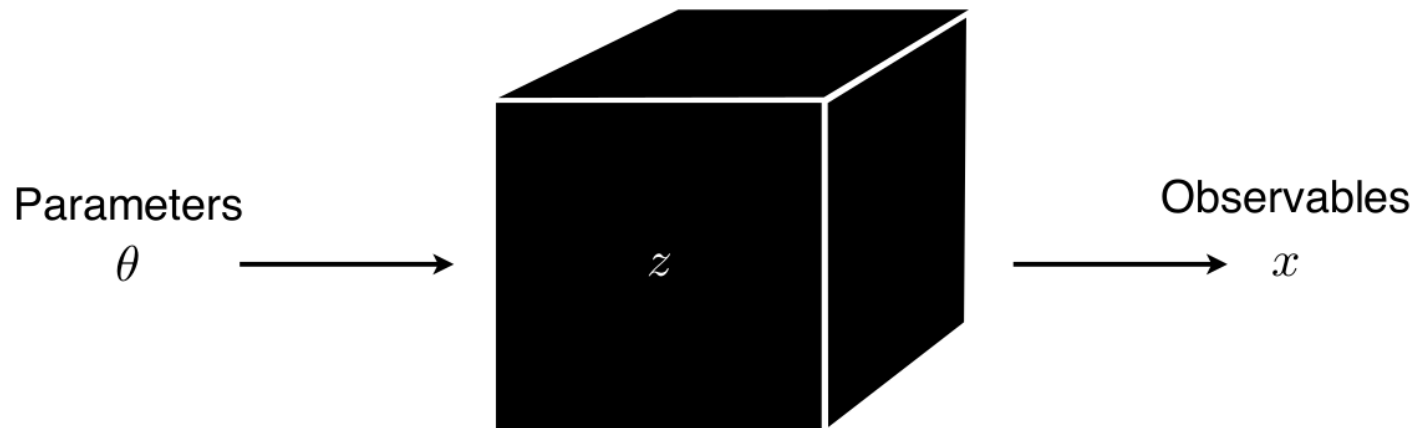
$$p(x|\theta) = \int p(x, z|\theta) dz$$

- But this integral can no longer be simplified analytically!
- As  $n$  grows larger, evaluating  $p(x|\theta)$  becomes **intractable** since the number of paths grows combinatorially.
- Generating observations remains easy: drop balls.

The Galton board is a metaphor for the simulator-based scientific method:

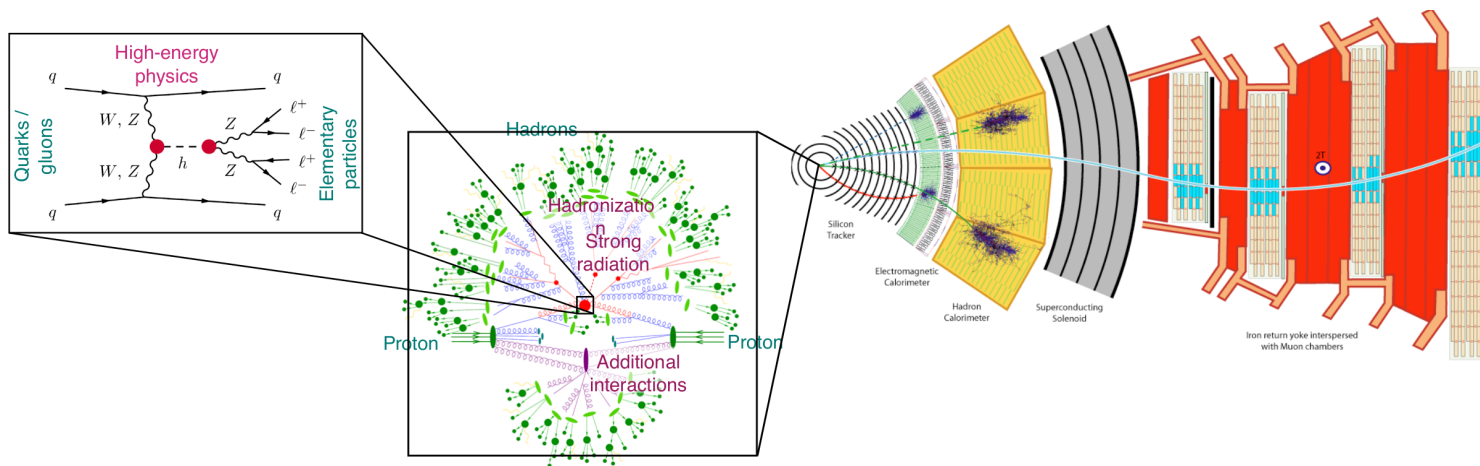
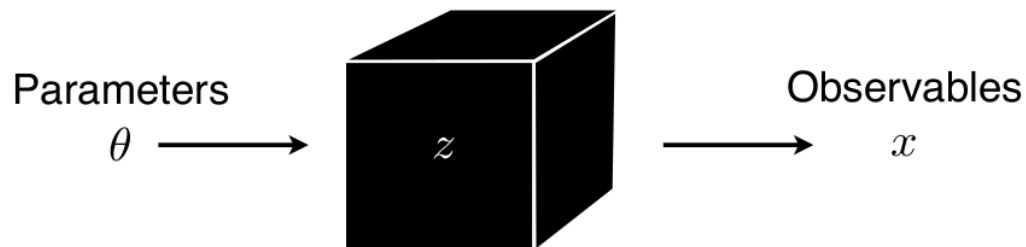
- the Galton board device is the equivalent of the scientific simulator
- $\theta$  are parameters of interest
- $z$  are stochastic execution traces through the simulator
- $x$  are observables

Inference in this context requires **likelihood-free algorithms**.



- Prediction (simulation):
- Well-understood mechanistic model
  - Simulator can generate samples

- Inference:
- Likelihood function  $p(x|\theta)$  is intractable
  - Goal: estimator  $\hat{p}(x|\theta)$



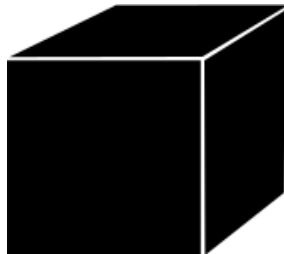
*The Galton board of particle physics*



# Likelihood-free inference methods

## Treat the simulator as a black box

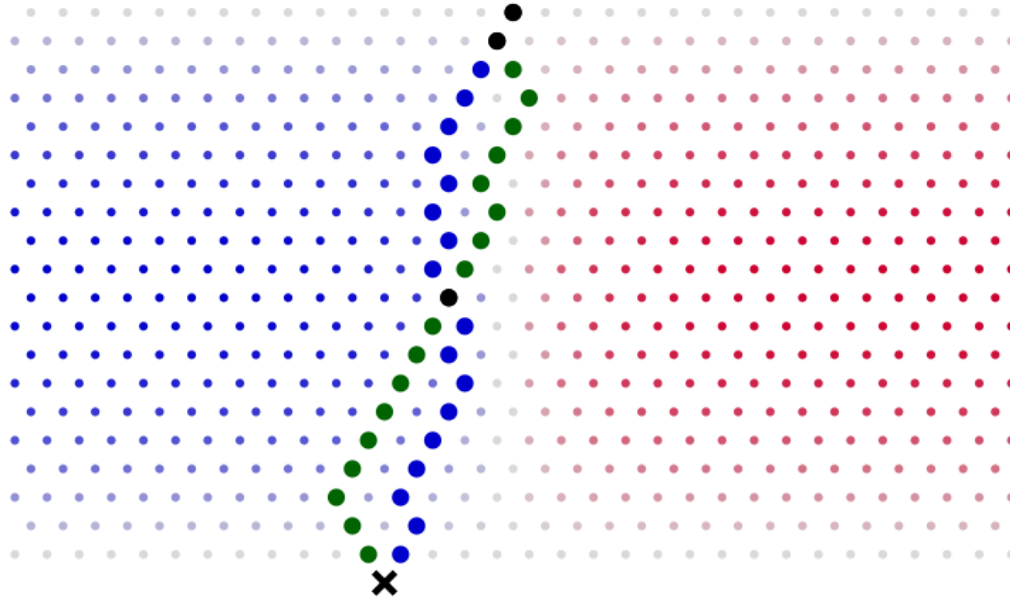
- Histograms of observables, Approximate Bayesian computation.
  - *Rely on summary statistics.*
- Machine learning algorithms
  - *Density estimation, CARL, autoregressive models, normalizing flows, etc.*



## Use latent structure

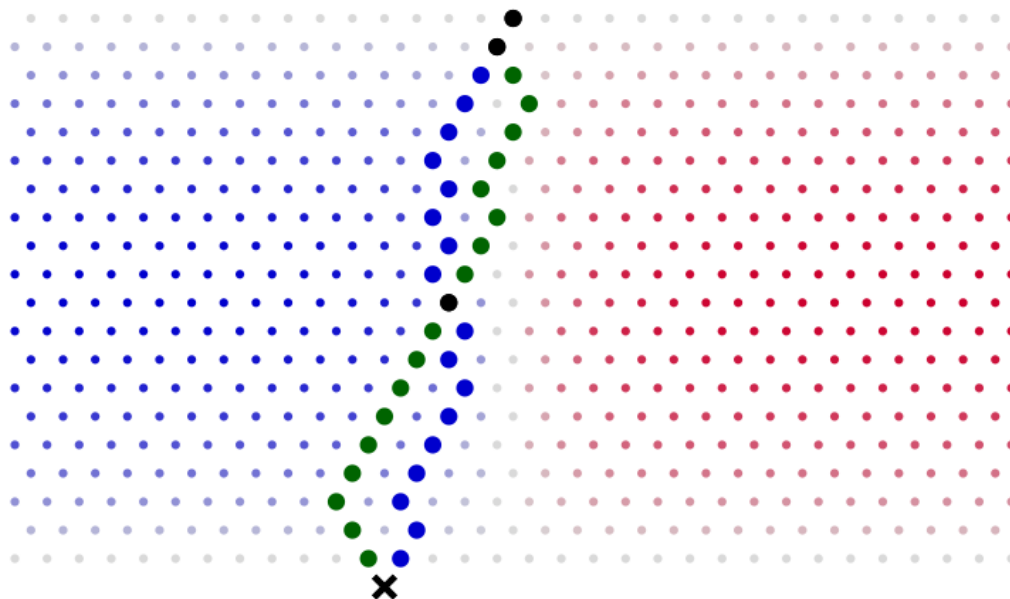
- Matrix Element Method, Optimal Observables, Shower deconstruction, Event Deconstruction.
  - *Neglect or approximate shower + detector, explicitly calculate  $z$  integral.*
- **\*new\*** Mining gold from the simulator.
  - *Leverage matrix-element information + Machine Learning.*

# Mining gold from simulators



$p(x|\theta)$  is usually intractable.

What about  $p(x, z|\theta)$ ?



$$\begin{aligned}
 p(x, z|\theta) &= p(z_1|\theta)p(z_2|z_1, \theta) \dots p(z_T|z_{<T}, \theta)p(x|z_{\leq T}, \theta) \\
 &= p(z_1|\theta)p(z_2|\theta) \dots p(z_T|\theta)p(x|z_T) \\
 &= p(x|z_T) \prod_t \theta^{z_t} (1 - \theta)^{1-z_t}
 \end{aligned}$$

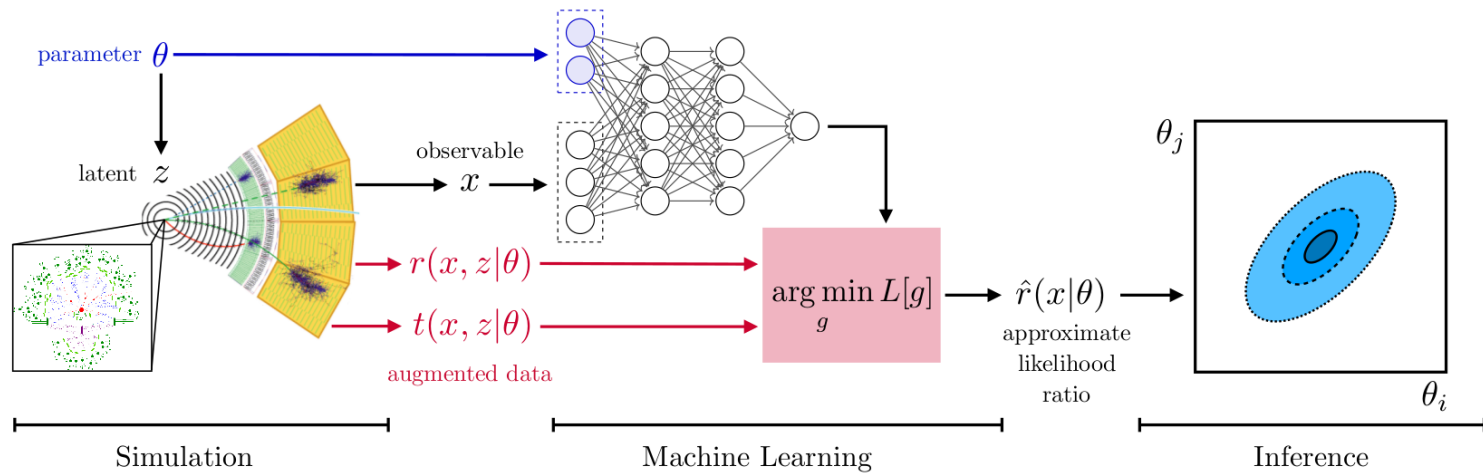
This can be computed as the ball falls down the board!

As the trajectory  $z = z_1, \dots, z_T$  and the observable  $x$  are emitted, it is often possible:

- to calculate the joint likelihood  $p(x, z|\theta)$ ;
- to calculate the joint likelihood ratio  $r(x, z|\theta_0, \theta_1)$ ;
- to calculate the joint score  $t(x, z|\theta_0) = \nabla_{\theta} \log p(x, z|\theta)|_{\theta_0}$ .

We call this process **mining gold** from your simulator!

# RASCAL



# **Constraining Effective Field Theories, effectively**

# LHC processes

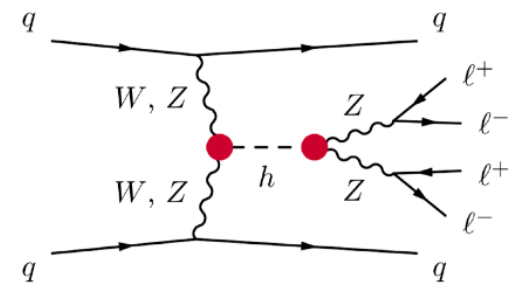
Latent variables

Parameters  
of interest

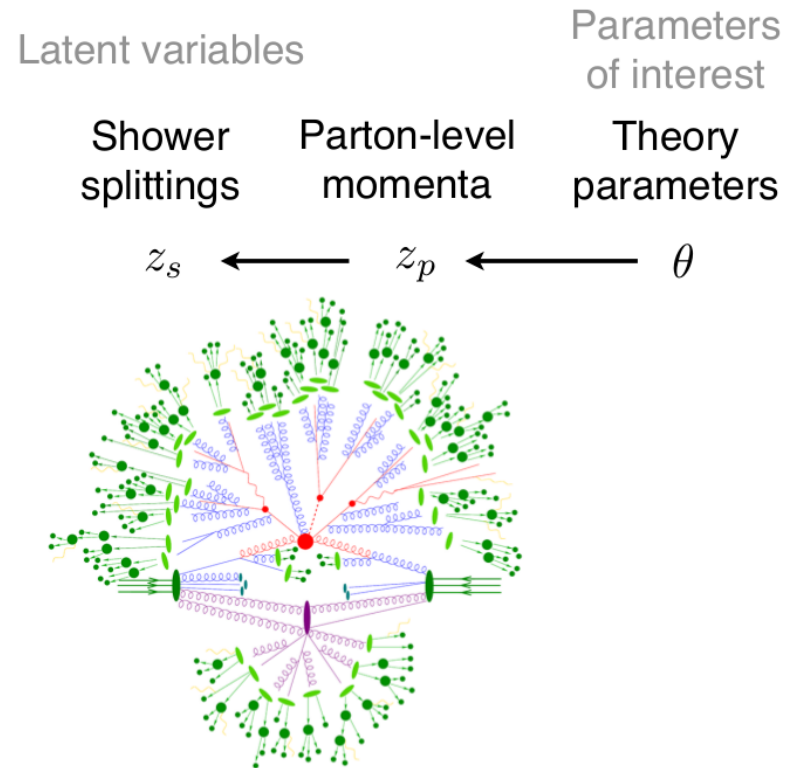
Parton-level  
momenta

Theory  
parameters

$$z_p \longleftarrow \theta$$

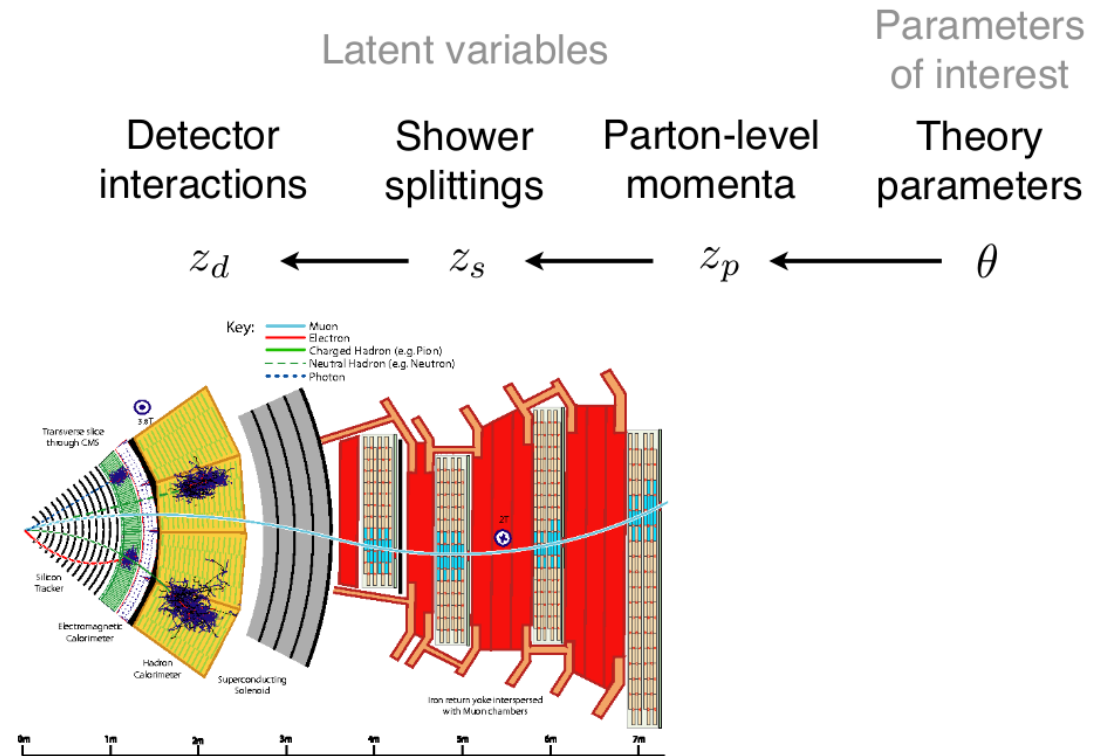


# LHC processes

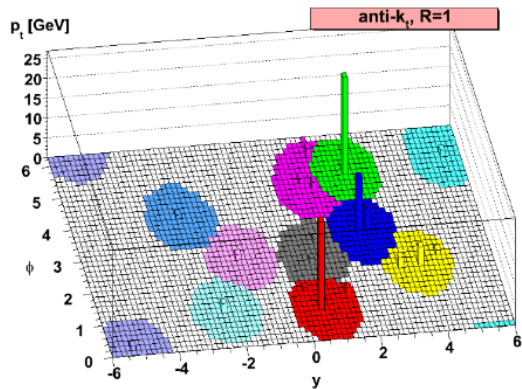
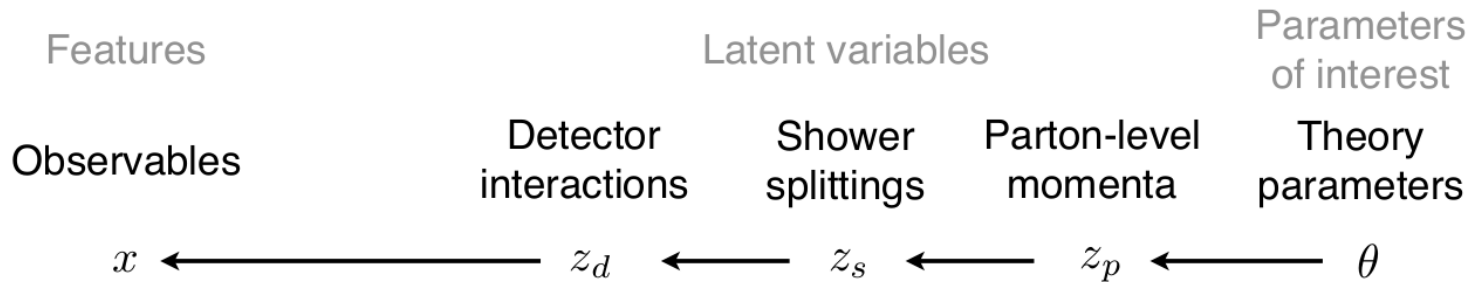




# LHC processes



# LHC processes



[Image source: M. Cacciari,  
G. Salam, G. Soyez 0802.1189]

$$p(x|\theta) = \underbrace{\iiint}_{\text{intractable}} p(z_p|\theta)p(z_s|z_p)p(z_d|z_s)p(x|z_d)dz_pdz_sdz_d$$

## Key insights:

- The distribution of parton-level momenta

$$p(z_p|\theta) = \frac{1}{\sigma(\theta)} \frac{d\sigma(\theta)}{dz_p},$$

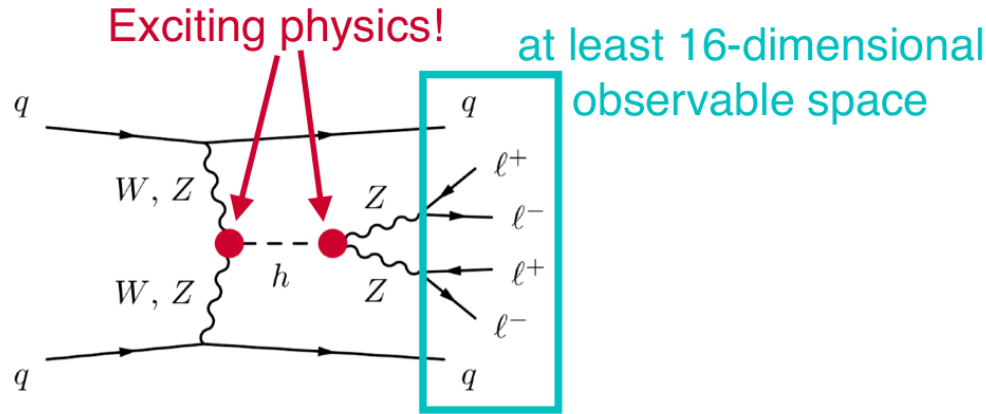
where  $\sigma(\theta)$  and  $\frac{d\sigma(\theta)}{dz_p}$  are the total and differential cross sections, is tractable.

- Downstream processes  $p(z_s|z_p)$ ,  $p(z_d|z_s)$  and  $p(x|z_d)$  do not depend on  $\theta$ .

⇒ This implies that both  $r(x, z|\theta_0, \theta_1)$  and  $t(x, z|\theta_0)$  can be mined. E.g.,

$$r(x, z|\theta_0, \theta_1) = \frac{p(z_p|\theta_0)}{p(z_p|\theta_1)} \frac{p(z_s|z_p)}{p(z_s|z_p)} \frac{p(z_d|z_s)}{p(z_d|z_s)} \frac{p(x|z_d)}{p(x|z_d)} = \frac{p(z_p|\theta_0)}{p(z_p|\theta_1)}$$

# Proof of concept

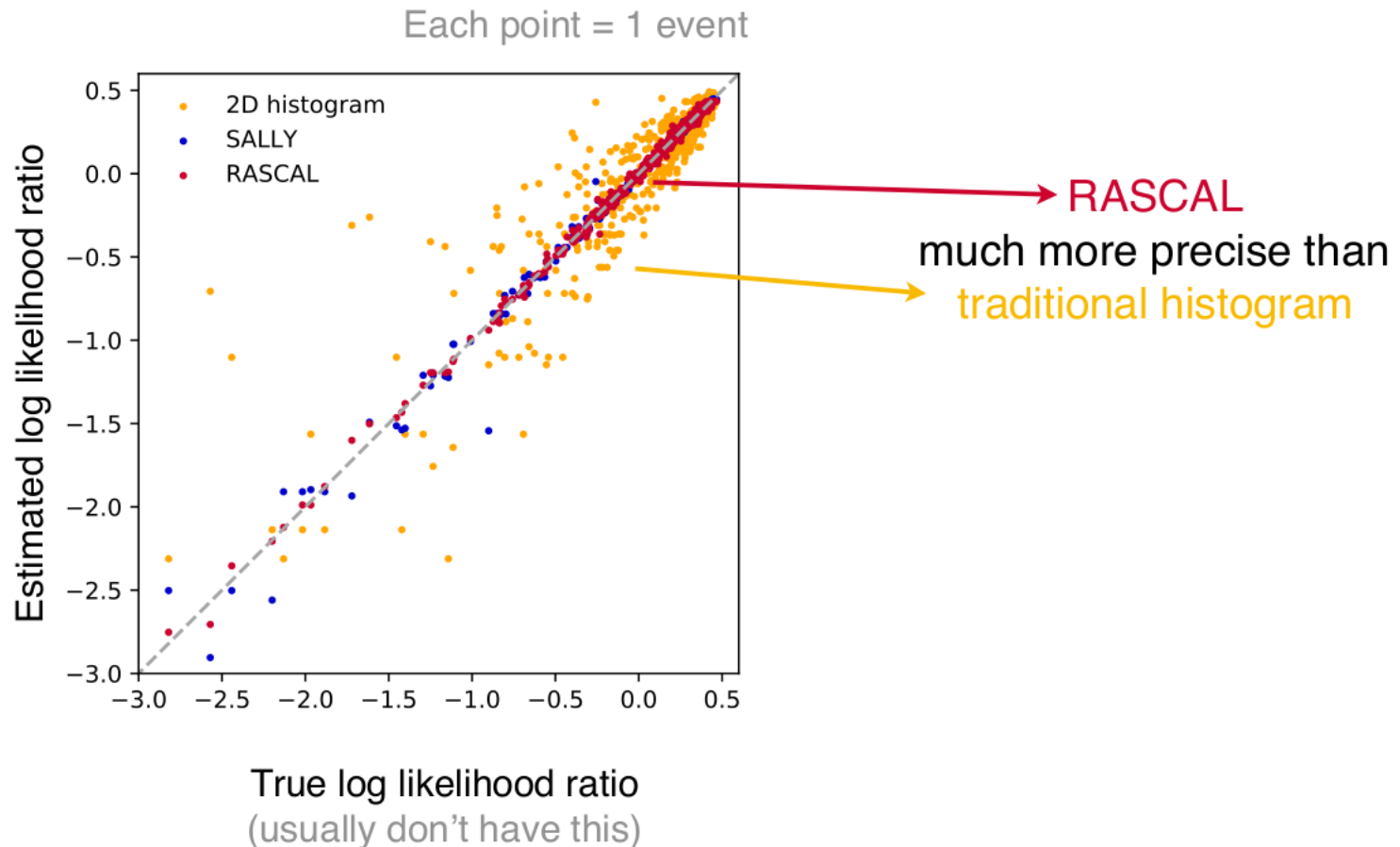


*Higgs production in weak boson fusion*

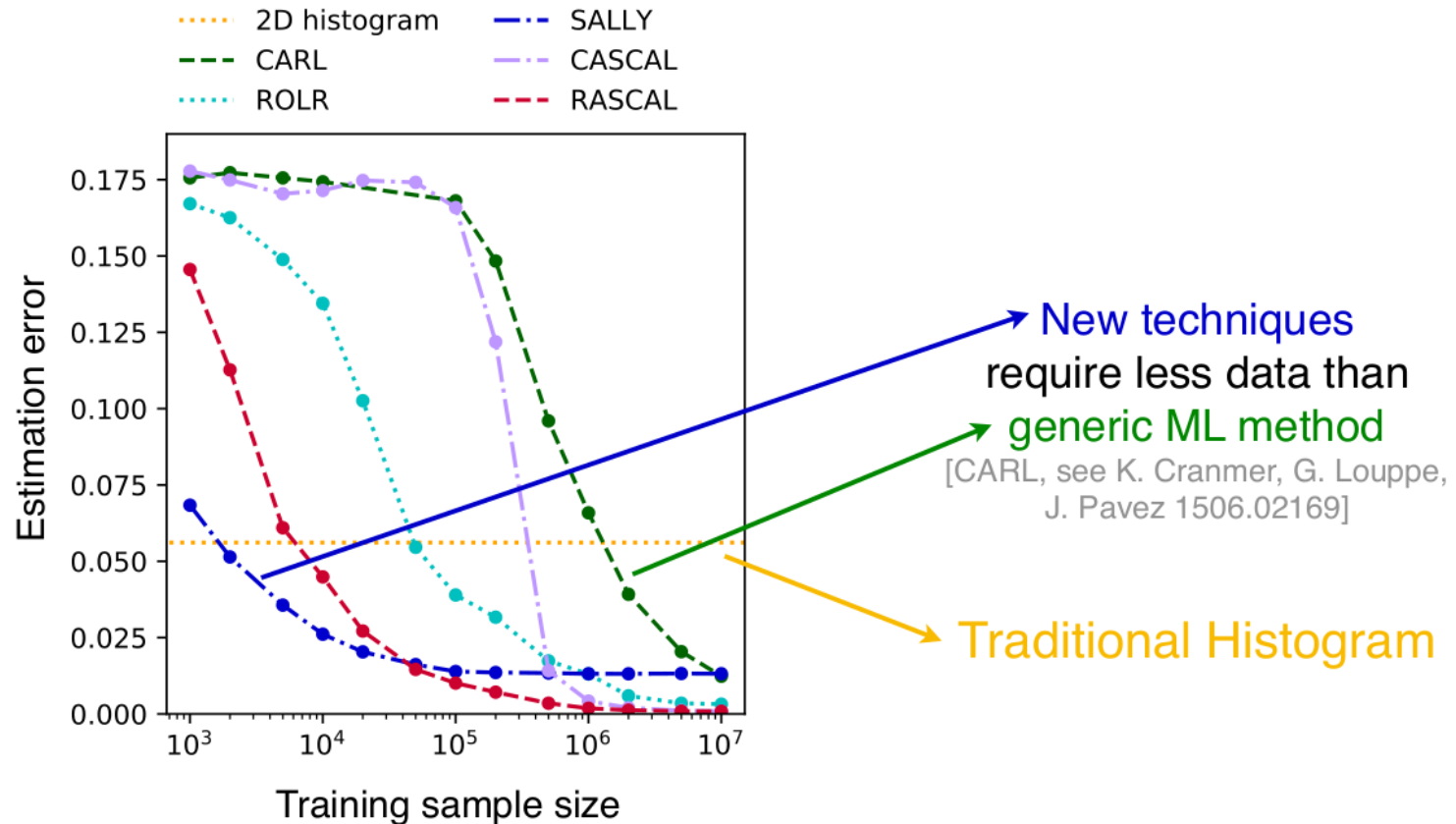
Goal: Constraints on two theory parameters:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \underbrace{\frac{f_W}{\Lambda^2}}_{\text{exciting physics}} \frac{ig}{2} (D^\mu \phi)^\dagger \sigma^a D^\nu \phi W_{\mu\nu}^a - \underbrace{\frac{f_{WW}}{\Lambda^2}}_{\text{exciting physics}} \frac{g^2}{4} (\phi^\dagger \phi) W_{\mu\nu}^a W^{\mu\nu a}$$

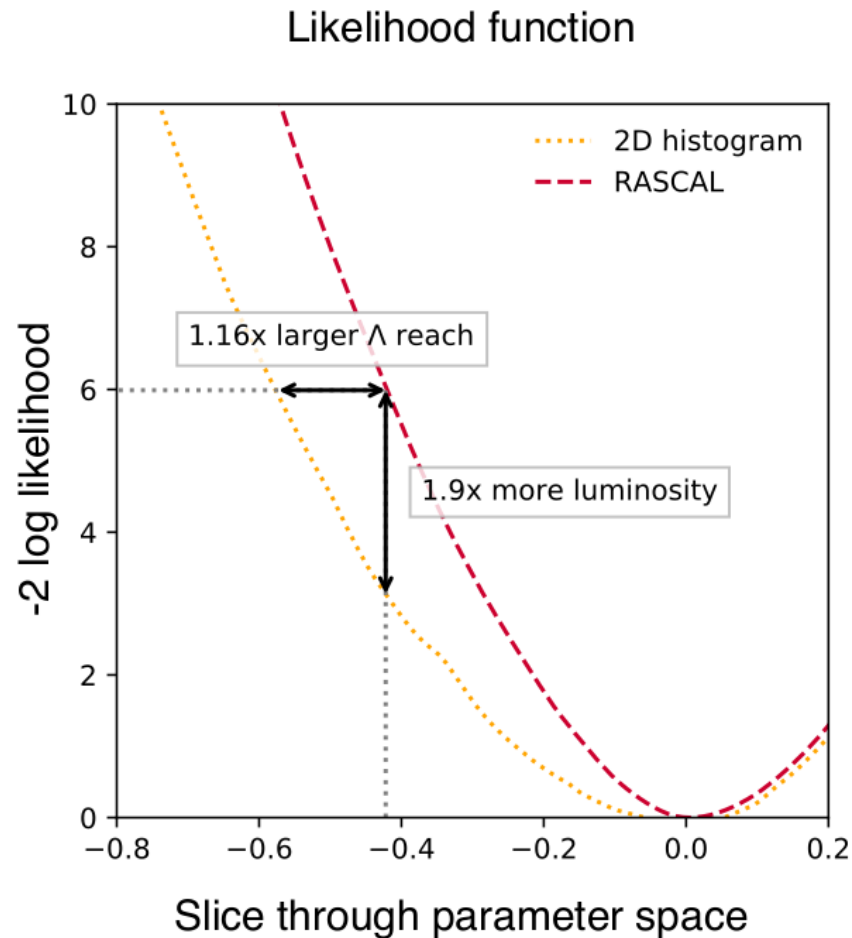
# Precise likelihood ratio estimates



# Increased data efficiency



# Better sensitivity



36 events, assuming SM

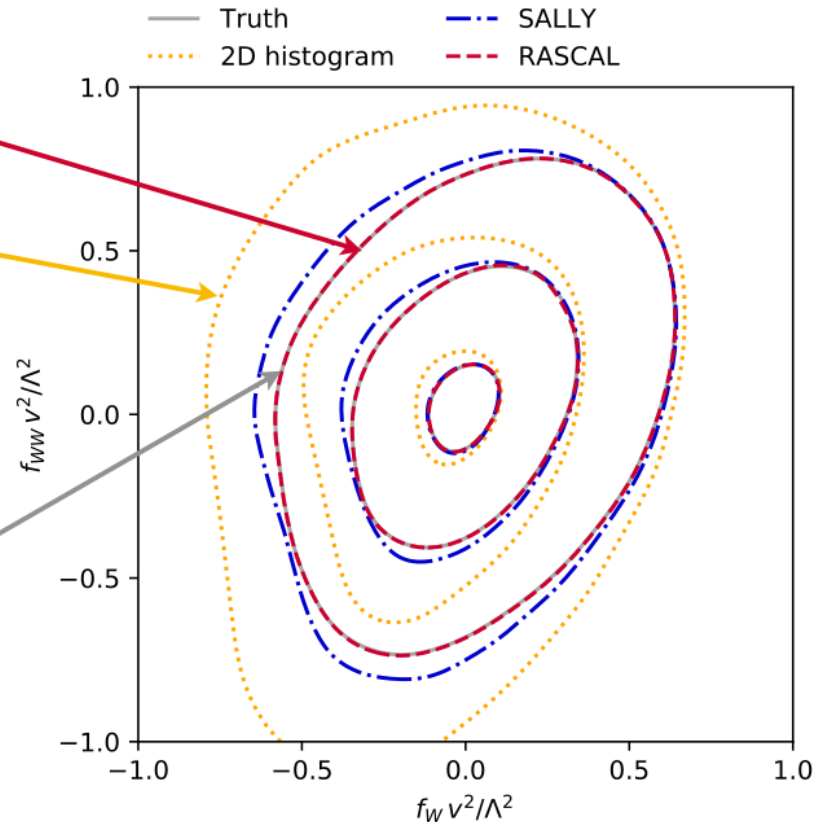


# Stronger bounds

Expected exclusion limits at 68%, 95%, 99.7% CL

**RASCAL**  
enables stronger  
limits than  
traditional histogram

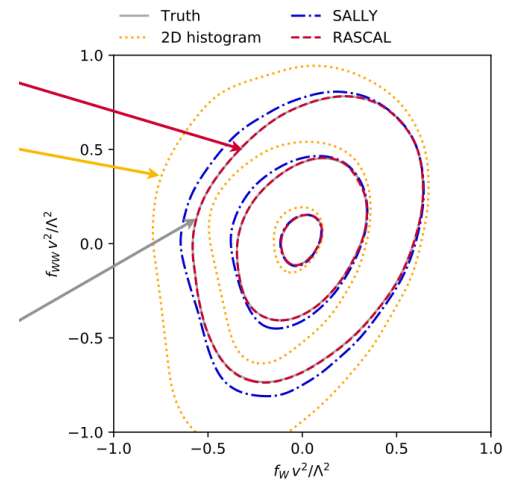
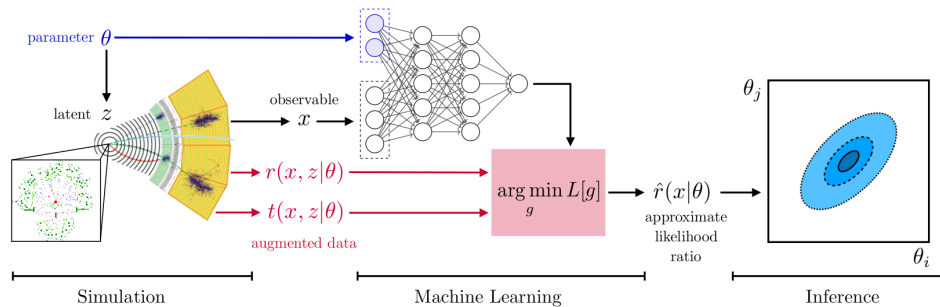
Limits from **RASCAL**  
virtually indistinguishable  
from true likelihood  
(usually we don't have that)



36 events, assuming SM

# Summary

- Many LHC analysis (and much of modern science) are based on "likelihood-free" simulations.
- New inference algorithms:
  - Leverage more information from the simulator
  - Combine with the power of machine learning
- First application to LHC physics: stronger EFT constraints with less simulations.



# Collaborators



*Johann Brehmer, Kyle Cranmer and Juan Pavez*

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