

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY



Phillip Ionkov, Columbia University Under the direction of Elizabeth Brost and Abraham Tishelman-Charny

March 26, 2024



# Motivation

- We want more precise measurements of the Higgs potential
  - Has implications on the stability of the universe
- Higgs self-coupling is directly related to the Higgs potential.
- Need to utilize a Higgs production channel with highest cross-section at FCC-ee
- ZH process is best candidate in a e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider at 240 GeV





source: CERN



# Signal

- We're interested in studying the hadronic decay modes of ZH
- Focus on the  $ZH \rightarrow c\bar{c}b\bar{b}$  process
  - $H \rightarrow b\overline{b}$  is the predominant decay mode at a Higgs mass of 125 GeV
  - $Z \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  gives a less interfering signal because  $H \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  occurs infrequently
  - Ultimately study all decay modes

#### Background

- Used a few of the major backgrounds found at electronpositron colliders:
  - WW, ZZ, Zqq





# Jet identification process:

After ZH decays, it hadronizes into 4 jets

Use FCCAnalyses to analyze

observations:

1. Reconstruct exactly 4 jets using

Durham-kt algorithm

2. Compare methods of jet

assignment of Z boson

3. Compare truth particle position

to reconstructed jet location



# Identifying Z Candidate Jets



# **Truth Information**

Z(cc)H(bb) events, after selections, Durham-kt N=4

National Laboratory

- Allows us to understand how often we're selecting jets correctly.
  - More useful than  $\frac{S}{\sqrt{R}}$ , which is calculated using reconstructed data
- Mapped truth particles and jet assignment to make visual observations about reconstruction choices
- Reconstruction not perfect (see right) --- motivates study of other reclustering methods



Z(cc)H(bb) events, after selections, Durham-kt N=4

#### **Conclusions and Next Steps**

- Studying ZH process at FCC-ee with eventual goal of using it to constrain Higgs self-coupling
- Able to reconstruct jets and determine truth information, which will continue to be helpful in other analyses.
  - Implemented FCCAnalyses software
- Two methods identified for tagging Z boson jets: invariant mass and flavor score.
  - Flavor score method performed better using reconstruction information, now must check if truth information agrees.
- Must compare other reconstruction algorithms and modes (e.g. anti-kt)



#### Acknowledgments

First and foremost, I give special thanks to my mentor, Dr. Abraham Tishelman-Charny for his guidance and patience throughout the course of this project.

I would also like to thank to Dr. Elizabeth Brost for her valuable insight and feedback.

This project was supported in part by the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Department of Physics under the BNL Supplemental Undergraduate Research Program (SURP).

This project is not export controlled



#### **Vacuum Stability**



