

# Update on EvtGen – the new 3.0.0-beta release

Fernando Abudinén, John Back, Michal Kreps, Thomas Latham



MONASH  
University

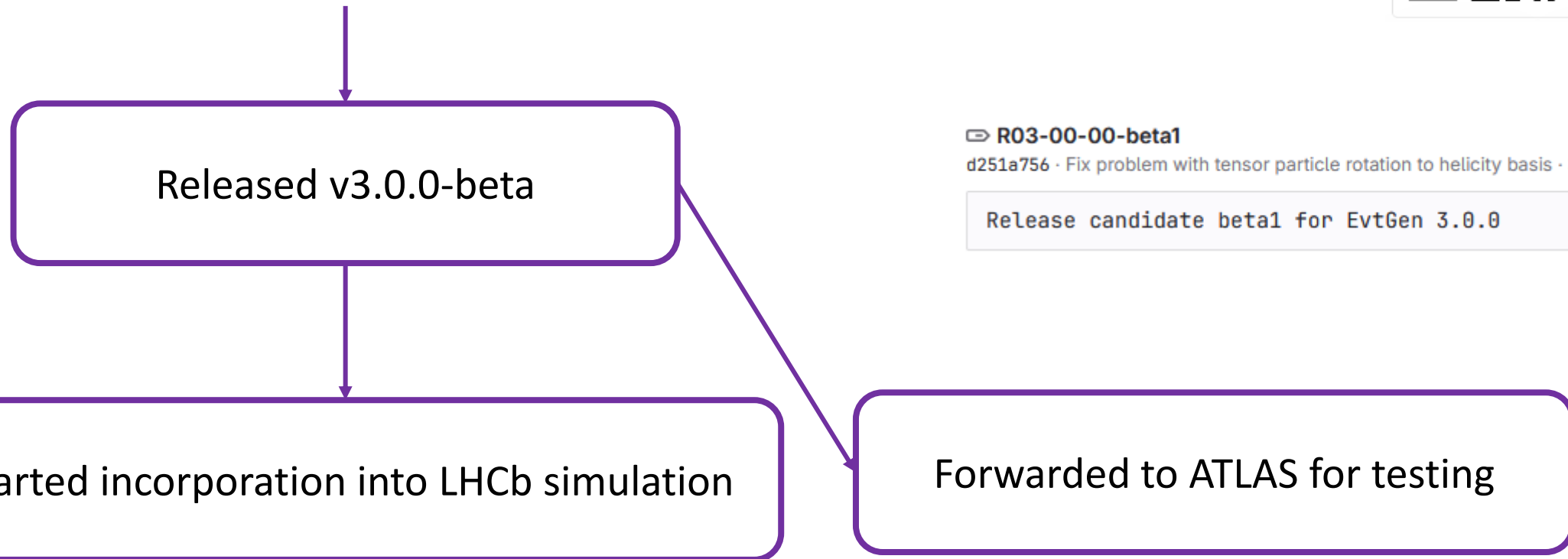
SWIFTHEP Workshop  
November 12, 2024



# News

- Propagated thread safety across the whole software framework
- Implemented multi-threading in testing framework
- Added tests for external dependencies
- Fixed bug with tensor particle rotation to helicity basis

Check it out!



📄 R03-00-00-beta1

d251a756 · Fix problem with tensor particle rotation to helicity basis · 3 weeks ago

Release candidate beta1 for EvtGen 3.0.0

# The need for thread safety

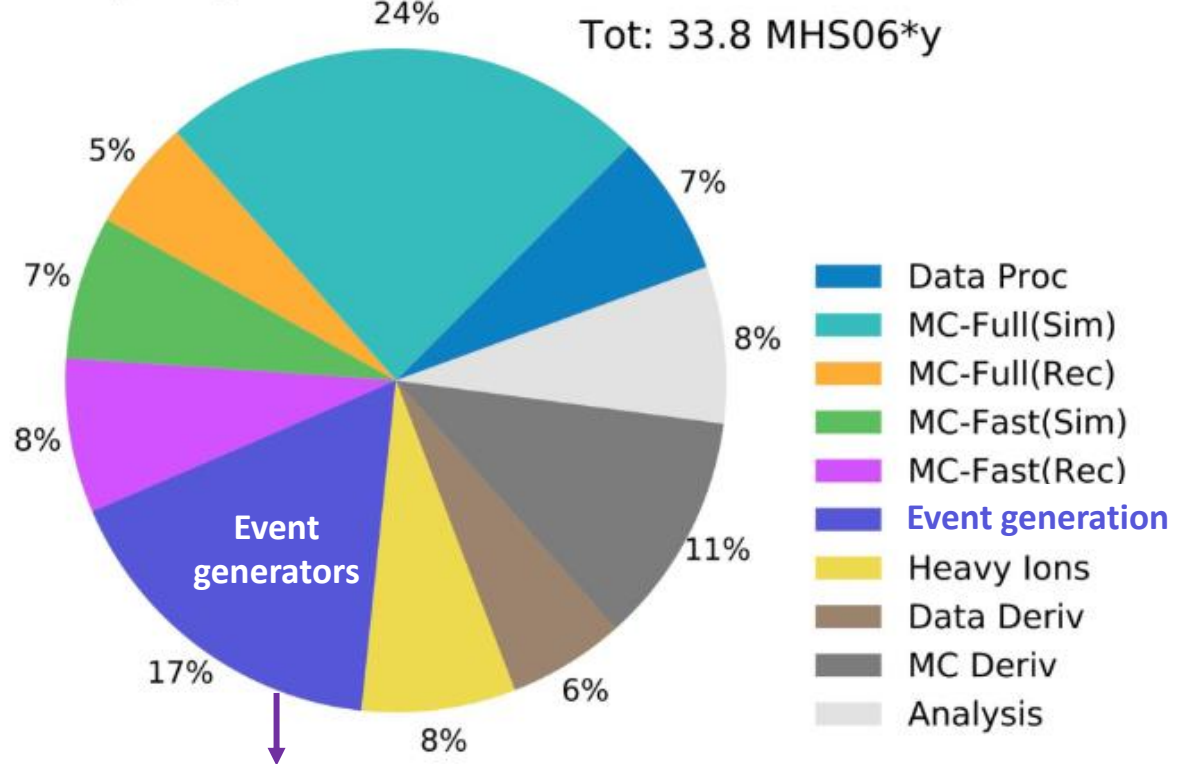
Exploiting modern CPUs requires generators to be **thread-safe**

Experiments are moving their frameworks towards multithreading

Multithreading allows us to reduce the number of submitted jobs

## Projected CPU consumption at the ATLAS experiment

**ATLAS Preliminary** [CERN-LHCC-2022-005](#)  
2022 Computing Model - CPU: 2031, Conservative R&D



EvtGen is not the major offender among event generators but should anyway evolve to enable multithreading

# EvtGen in a nutshell

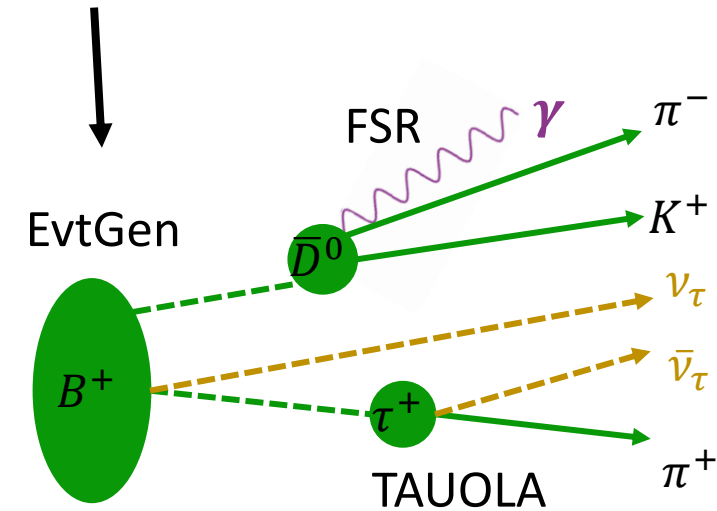
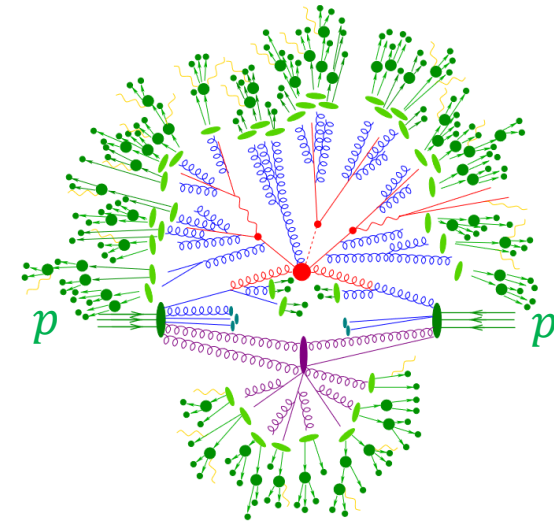
Simulation generator package specialised for decays of heavy particles containing  $b$  and  $c$  quarks.

- Contains 130 decay models for specific decays
- Maintains decay table with properties of  $\sim 10^4$  explicit decays

## External dependencies

- Uses [Pythia8](#) for decays of generic quark configurations
- Uses [TAUOLA](#) for decays of  $\tau$  particles
- Relies on [PHOTOS](#) or [PHOTONS++](#) for final-state photon radiation (FSR)

Example collision simulated by PYTHIA8



# EvtGen status

- Developed in the 90's, stable over past 10 years
- Changes mostly additions of new models by different collaborators
- Maintained at Warwick since 2012
- Started modernisation campaign in 2020 with help of research software engineers (RSEs) at Warwick

⇒ Main goal: enable thread safety

Heather Ratcliffe  
Chris Brady

<https://evtgen.hepforge.org>

- Home
- Documentation
- Downloads
- Repository
- Bug tracker
- Join the mailing list
- Contact the developers
- Licence
- Acknowledgements

## EvtGen

This is the development page for the EvtGen project.

EvtGen is a Monte Carlo event generator that simulates the decays of heavy flavour particles, primarily B and D mesons. It contains a range of decay models for intermediate and final states containing scalar, vector and tensor mesons or resonances, as well as leptons, photons and baryons. Decay amplitudes are used to generate each branch of a given full decay tree, taking into account angular and time-dependent correlations which allows for the simulation of CP-violating processes.

Originally written by Anders Ryd and David Lange, this package is used by many particle physics experiments worldwide, including ATLAS, BaBar, Belle(-II), BES III, CDF, CLEO(-c), CMS, D0, and LHCb. The maintenance and development of the package is now performed by the particle physics group at the University of Warwick (in particular by Fernando Abudinen, John Back, Michal Kreps, and Thomas Latham).

**Mirror at** <https://gitlab.cern.ch/evtgen/evtgen>  
with continuous integration tests

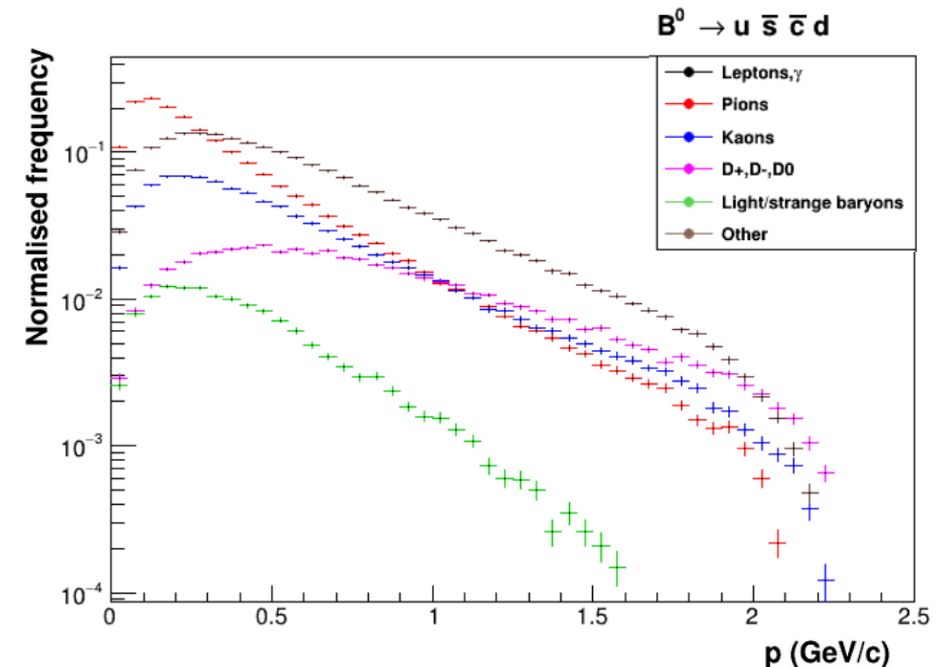
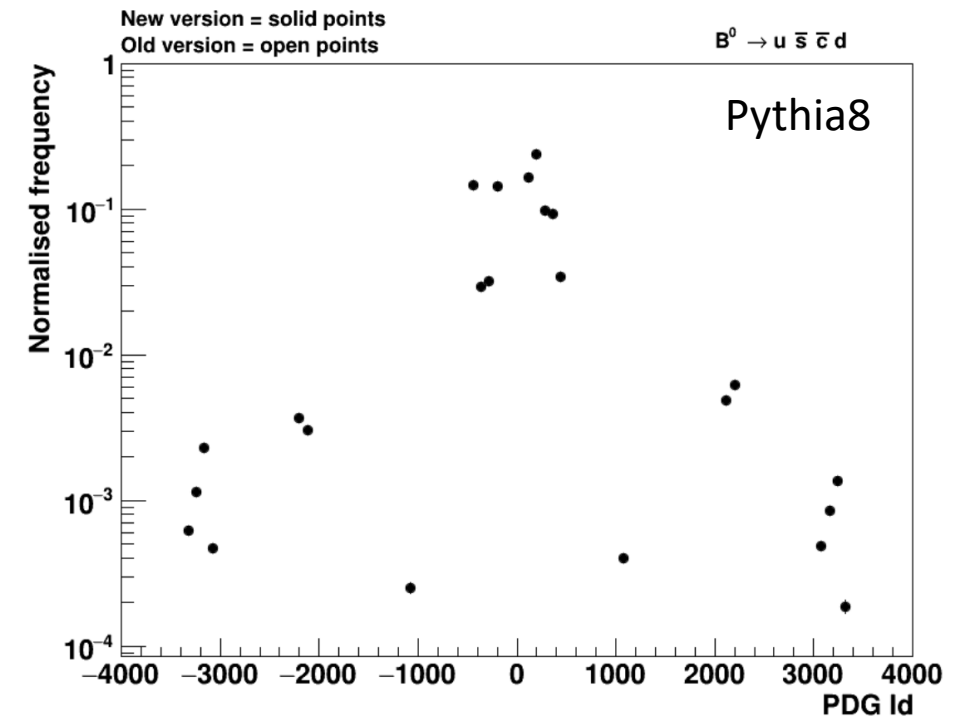


# Validation

Simulation needs testing and validation after changes to ensure invariance of the physics models

- Implemented testing framework with common testing module and JSON configuration files
- Migrated all previous tests (covered only 40% of models) and added new ones to framework
- Tests cover all models and **external generators**
- Implemented **multi-threaded testing**
  - ⇒ With possibility to use `std` or `tbb` thread models

Available also for users to facilitate testing/development



# Challenges for multithreading in EvtGen

- **Internal:** structural limitations inside EvtGen

- Global instance of random number generator
- Global instance of particle properties and decay table

⇒ Needed structural changes identified and first combination of solutions found

- **External:** limitations from dependences

- TAUOLA (Fortran)
- PHOTOS (C)

⇒ Overcoming limitations from dependences are more challenging as they are external

# Current solution

Implemented modifications to enable thread-safety:

- Converted **static** objects to **static const** (or **static thread\_local**)
- Global singleton objects made **thread\_local**
- Serialized (**mutex**) calls to PHOTOS, PHOTONS++ and TAUOLA
- Introduced function to set random seed per event

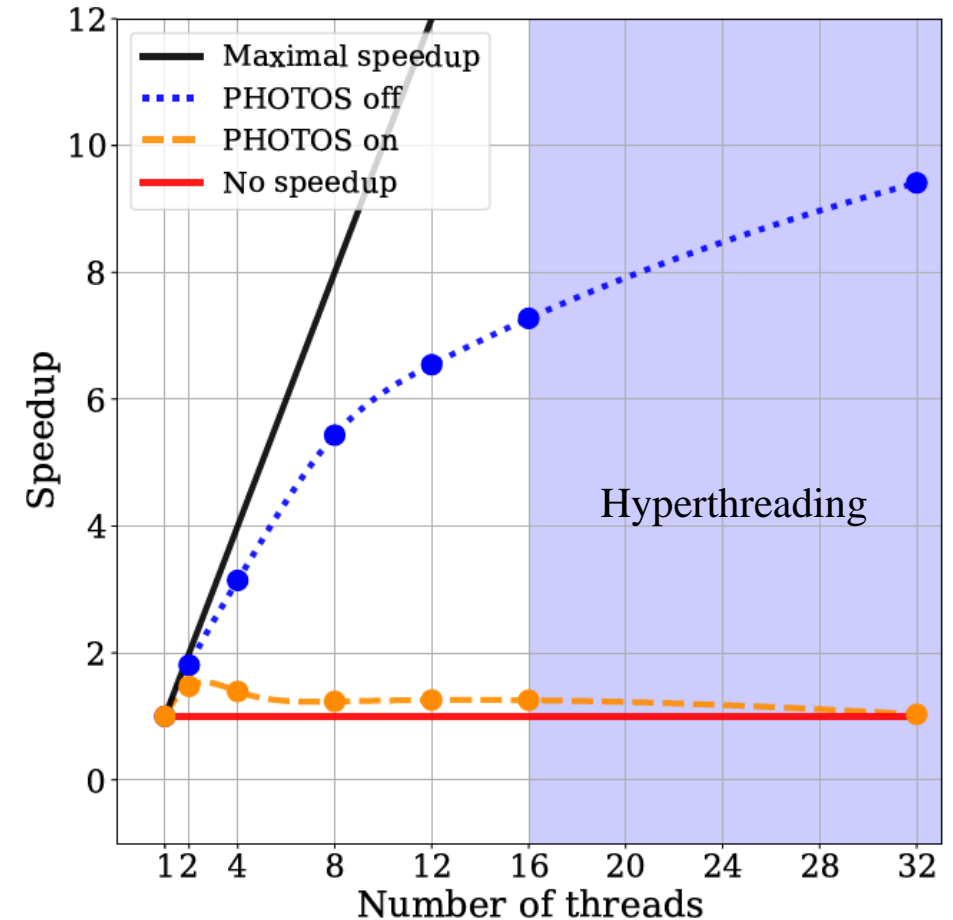
⇒ Current preliminary status reaches thread safety

⇒ Passes all tests for all decay models, and external generators

⇒ Performance remains largely limited by external dependencies

⇒ Study alternatives for photon radiation and  $\tau$  simulation

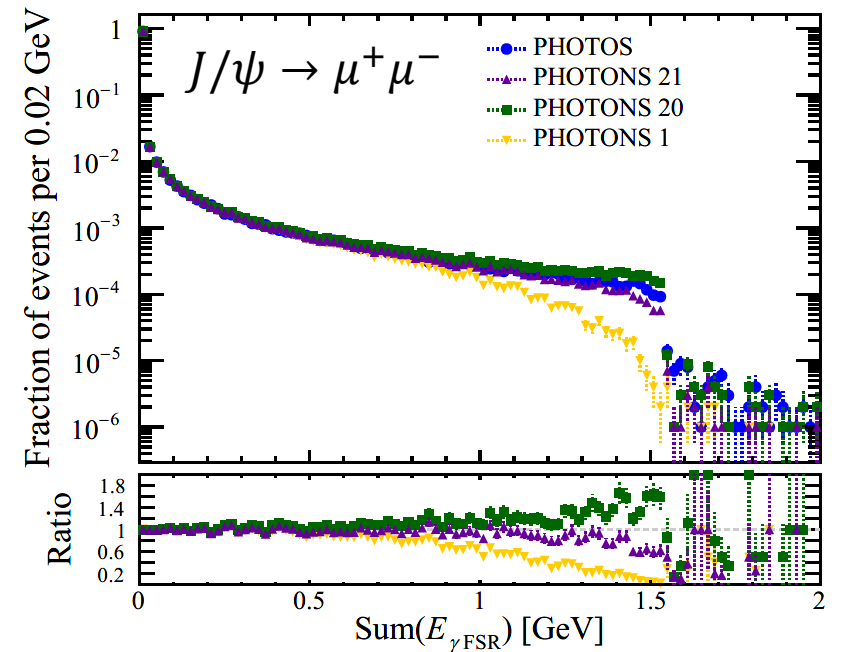
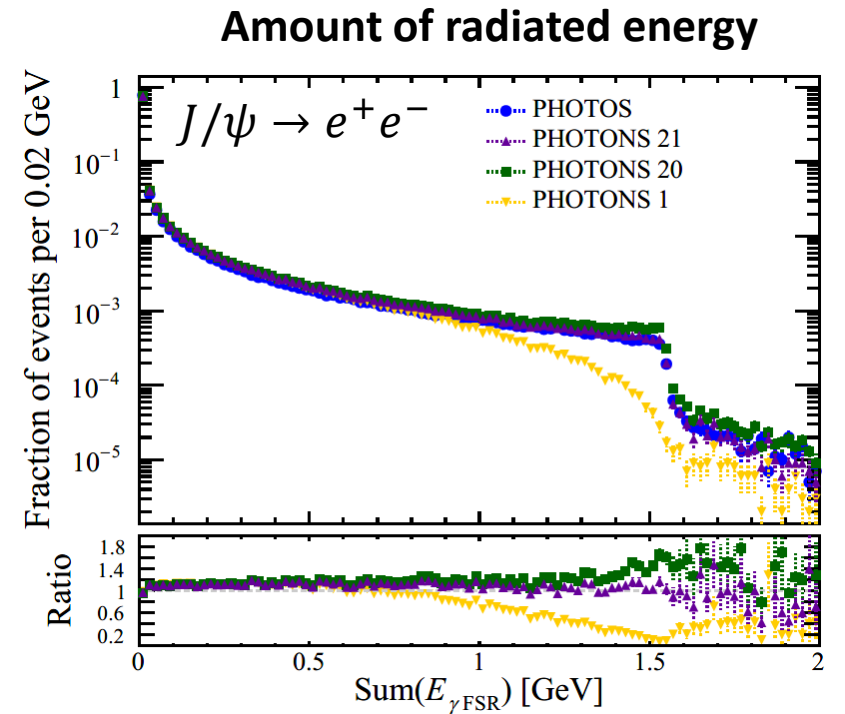
With help of research-software engineers:  
Heather Ratcliffe, Chris Brady





# Sherpa's PHOTONS++ for FSR

- [PHOTONS++](#) in [Sherpa](#) can simulate emission of soft photons based on YFS approximation (mode 1)
  - If switched on also hard photons based on collinear approximation (mode 2)
    - Approx. matrix-element corrections (mode 20) or
    - Exact matrix-element corrections (mode 21)
  - With mode 1: fewer hard photons compared to PHOTOS (PHOTOS has matrix-element corrections implemented)
  - With mode 2: generally good agreement with PHOTOS
- ⇒ Implemented switches for systematic studies



# Interface between EvtGen and Sherpa

- EvtGen objects translated directly into Sherpa objects (and back)
- EvtGen RNG loaded as external library inside Sherpa
- Updates Sherpa's `KF_Table` to include custom EvtGen's particles
- Sherpa's PHOTONS++ not thread-safe yet  $\Rightarrow$  **mutex**
- Supporting Sherpa 2.x.x releases

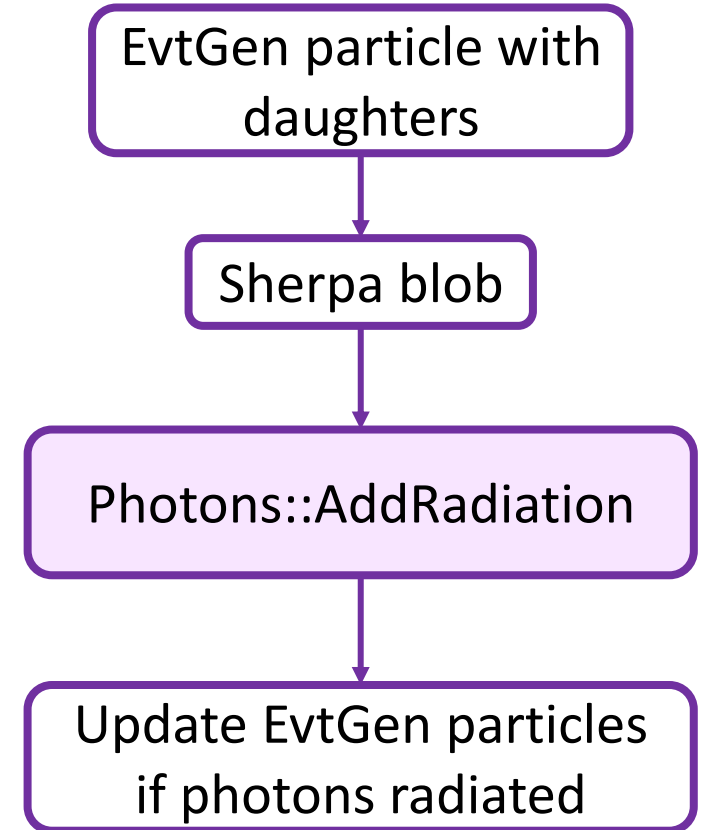


Available in EvtGen v3.0.0-beta

- Support for Sherpa 3.x.x in progress
  - $\Rightarrow$  Needs to iron out issue with lifetime of settings object

With help from  
Marek Schönherr  
and Frank Krauss

## Workflow

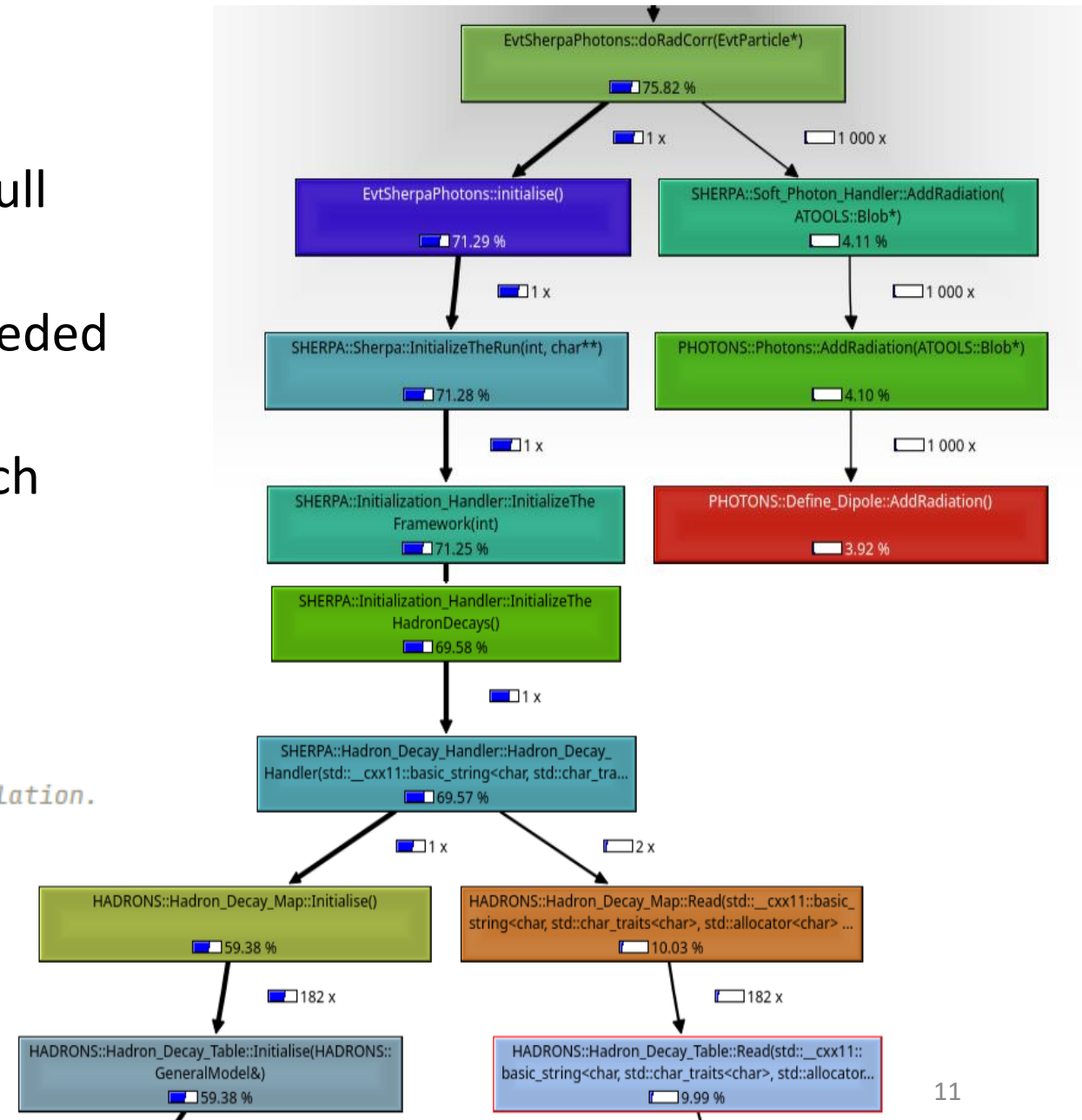


# Initialisation of Sherpa

- For external dependencies EvtGen creates full Pythia/Sherpa objects
- Would be useful to initialise only objects needed by PHOTONS++
- Example: Sherpa's initialisation takes as much time as  $\sim 10^4$  decay events
- Several initialised objects are not used

```
// Vector containing the configuration strings for Sherpa
// INIT_ONLY=6 intialises the Sherpa objects without launching simulation.
std::vector<std::string> m_configs{ "Sherpa", "INIT_ONLY=6" };
```

```
// Create instance and initialise Sherpa.
m_sherpaGen = std::make_unique<SHERPA::Sherpa>();
m_sherpaGen->InitializeTheRun( argv.size(), &argv[0] );
m_sherpaGen->InitializeTheEventHandler();
```



# Vincia QED shower for FSR

- [Vincia](#) parton shower evolution based on Antenna approximation (can be interleaved)
  - Recently adapted to radiate off hadrons (previously supporting only leptons)
  - Matrix-element corrections not implemented yet
- ⇒ A lot of room for improvement and validation
- ⇒ However, preliminary results look promising

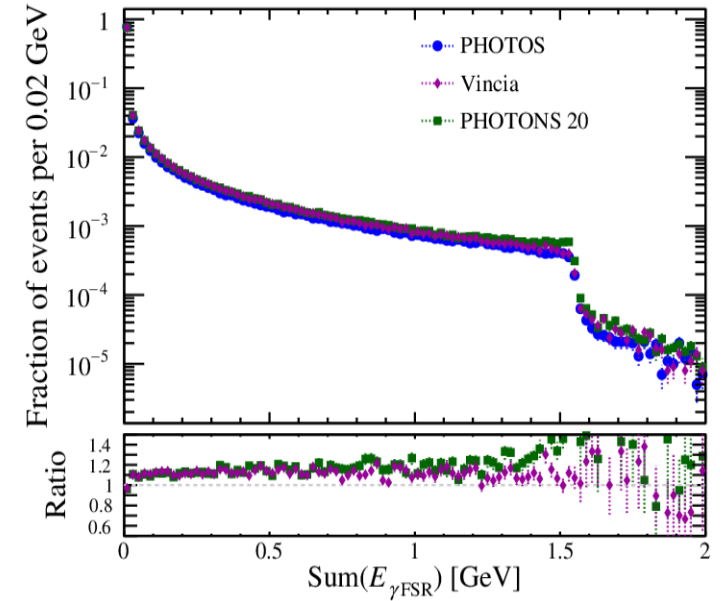
## Technical aspects

- Vincia is embedded in Pythia8
  - Algorithm implementation enables thread safety
  - Developed EvtGen ↔ Vincia interface based on existing dependency with Pythia8
- ⇒ Not in EvtGen release as Vincia under development

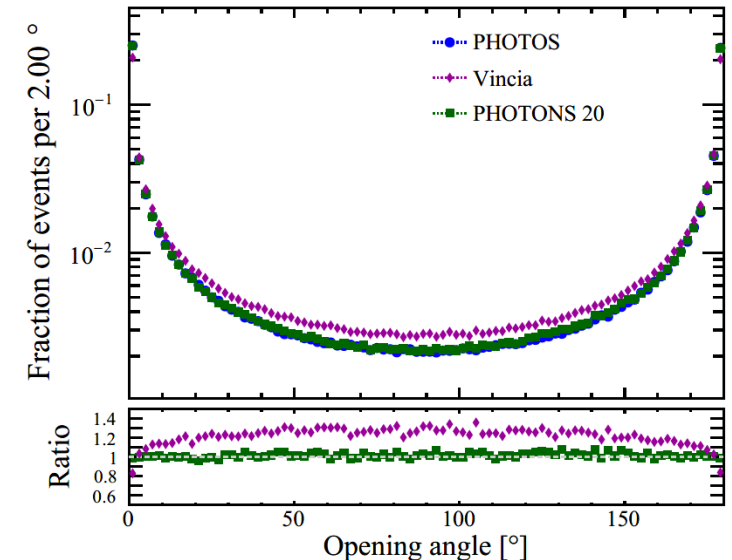
Within Monash-Warwick alliance

$$J/\psi \rightarrow e^+ e^-$$

Amount of radiated energy

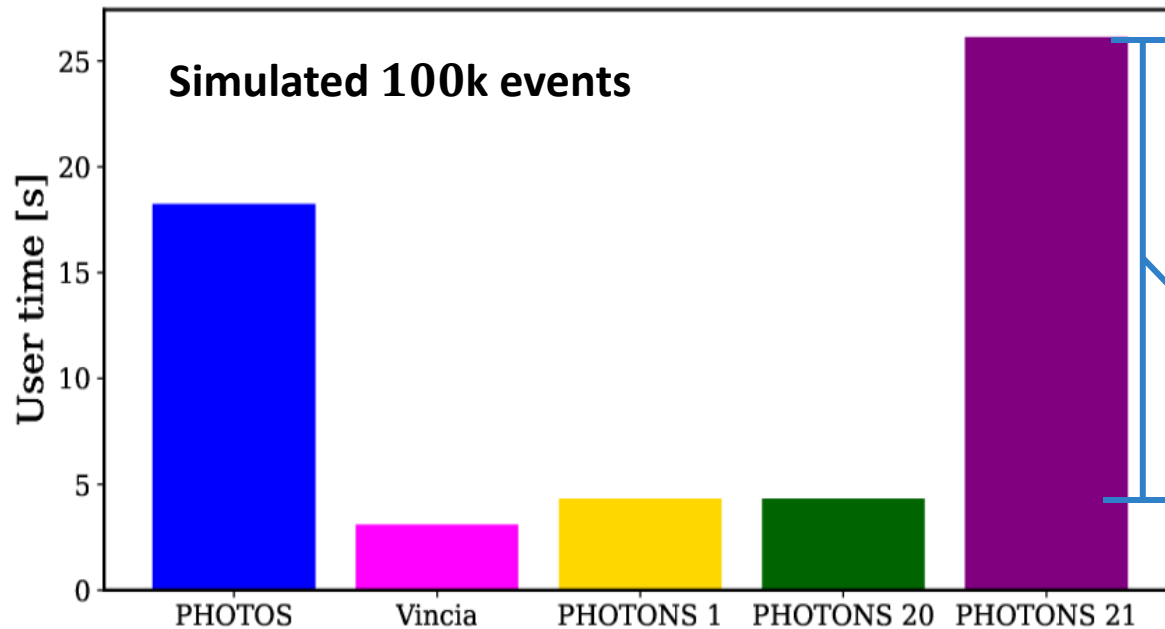


Angular distribution of photons

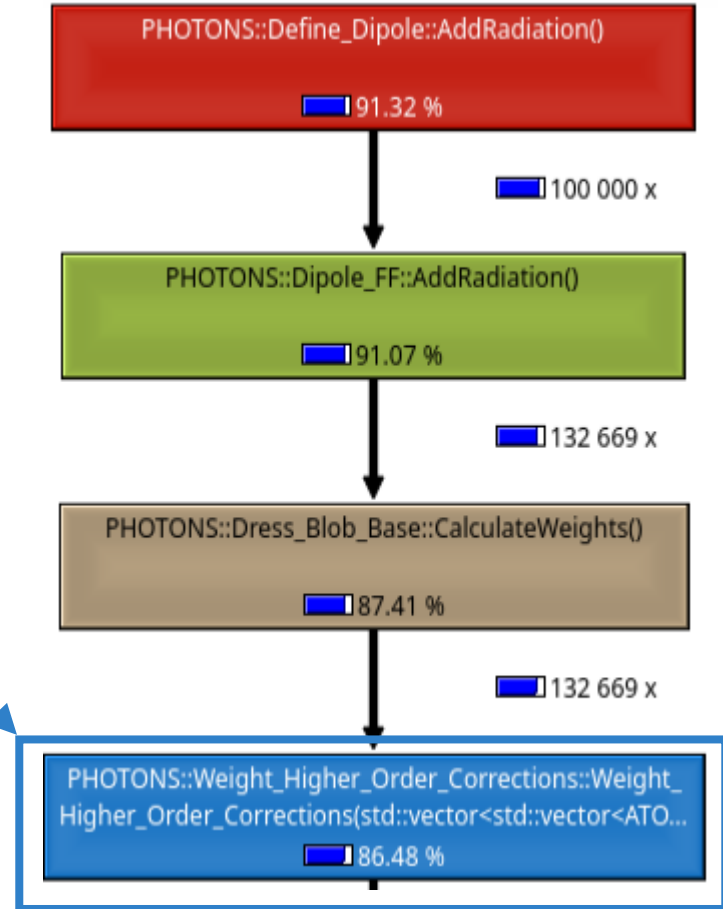


# A word on timing

- Compare simulation time using  $J/\psi \rightarrow e^+e^-$  decay as benchmark
- ⇒ Collinear singularities enhanced due to small electron mass

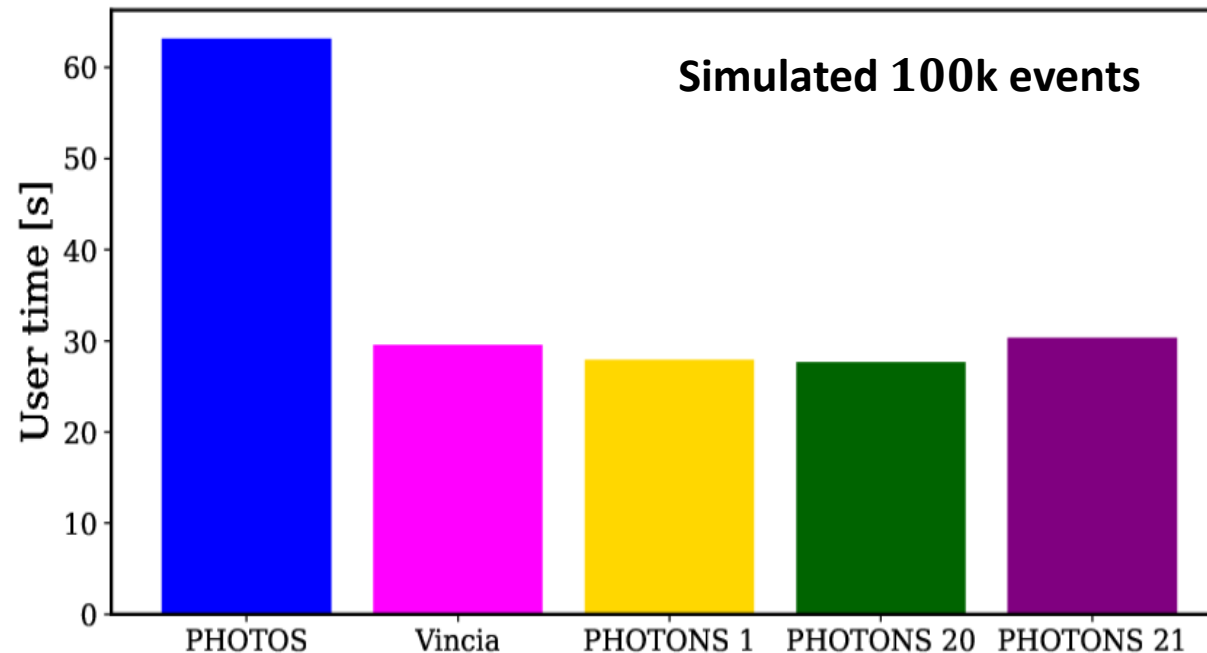


- ⇒ Largest consumption by exact matrix-element calculation
- ⇒ Good precision/time trade-off for option 20 (will use as default)
- ⇒ Potential speedup using Vincia or PHOTONS by about factor 4



# Another word on timing

- Compare simulation time when simulating generic  $\Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B\bar{B}$   
⇒ Benchmark for general use



- ⇒ No large difference between PHOTONS options in generic case
- ⇒ Potential speedup using Vincia or PHOTONS by about factor 2

# New release R03-00-00-beta1

After the long campaign released [R03-00-00-beta1](#) for users to test

- Implemented thread safety
- Implemented new testing framework
- Added Sherpa's PHOTONS++ as FSR alternative
- Fixed various decay models (removed obsolete ones)
- Fixed bug with tensor particle rotation to helicity basis



## EvtGen – on its first steps towards thread safety

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fernando.abudinen@cem.ac.uk

WARWICK  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

### EvtGen in a nutshell

Simulation generator package specialised for decays of heavy-flavour hadrons (used as well inside simulation of  $b$  jets)

- Contains 130 decay models describing dynamics of specific decays
- Maintains detailed decay table with large number of explicit decays

⇒ When decay branching fractions do not add up to 100%, the rest is filled up by generating quark configurations and passing those to Pythia8 [1]

- Decays of  $\tau$  leptons are simulated using TAUOLA [2]
- Final-state radiation (FSR) photons are simulated using PHOTOS [3] or Sherpa's PHOTONS++ [4]

Example collision simulated by Pythia8

Example decay simulated by EvtGen

### The need for thread safety

- Exploiting modern CPUs requires generators to be thread-safe
- Experiments are moving their frameworks towards multithreading
- Multithreading allows us to reduce the number of submitted jobs

### Challenges for multi-threading

Internal: structural limitations inside EvtGen

- Global instance of random number generator
- Global instance of particle properties and decay table

External: limitations from dependencies

- TAUOLA
- FSR generators PHOTOS and Sherpa's PHOTONS++

### Our current solution

Implemented modifications to enable thread safety

- Converted static objects to static const (or static thread\_local)
- Global singleton objects made thread\_local
- Serialized (mutex) calls to PHOTOS, PHOTONS++, and TAUOLA

### Validation, speedup and memory checks

Simulation needs testing and validation after changes to ensure invariance of the physics models

- Implemented testing framework with common testing module and JSON configuration files
- Migrated all previous tests and added new ones to framework
- Tests cover all models and external generators
- Available also for users to facilitate testing models

Deeper structural changes needed to fully exploit multi-threading

- Current preliminary status reached thread safety
- Passes all tests for all decay models, and external generators
- Performance remains largely limited by external dependencies

⇒ Look for FSR and  $\tau$  simulation alternatives!

### New alternative for final-state radiation

Implemented Sherpa's PHOTONS++ generator as alternative FSR plugin

- Simulates emission of soft photons based on YFS algorithm (mode 1)
- If switched on also hard photons based on collinear approx. (mode 2)

⇒ Approximate matrix-element corrections (mode 20), or

⇒ Exact matrix-element corrections (mode 21)

Simulated  $J/\psi \rightarrow e^+e^-$  decays

Simulated  $\Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B\bar{B}$  decays

⇒ Overall good physics agreement between simulators

⇒ Speedup by a factor of  $\sim 2$  when using PHOTONS++

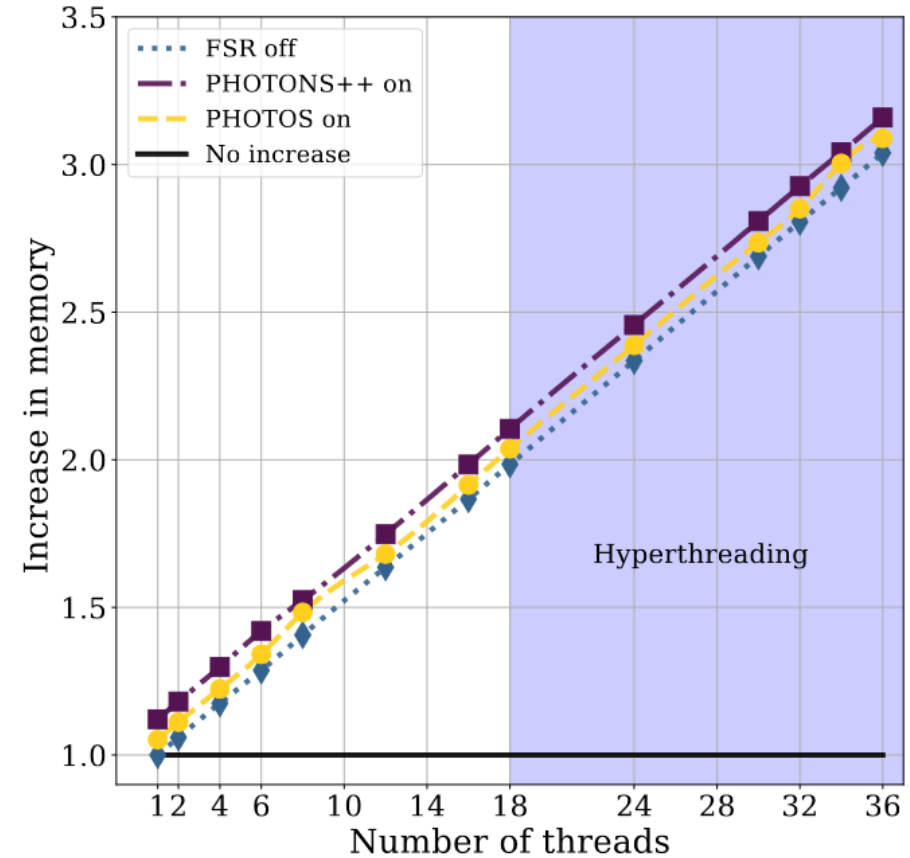
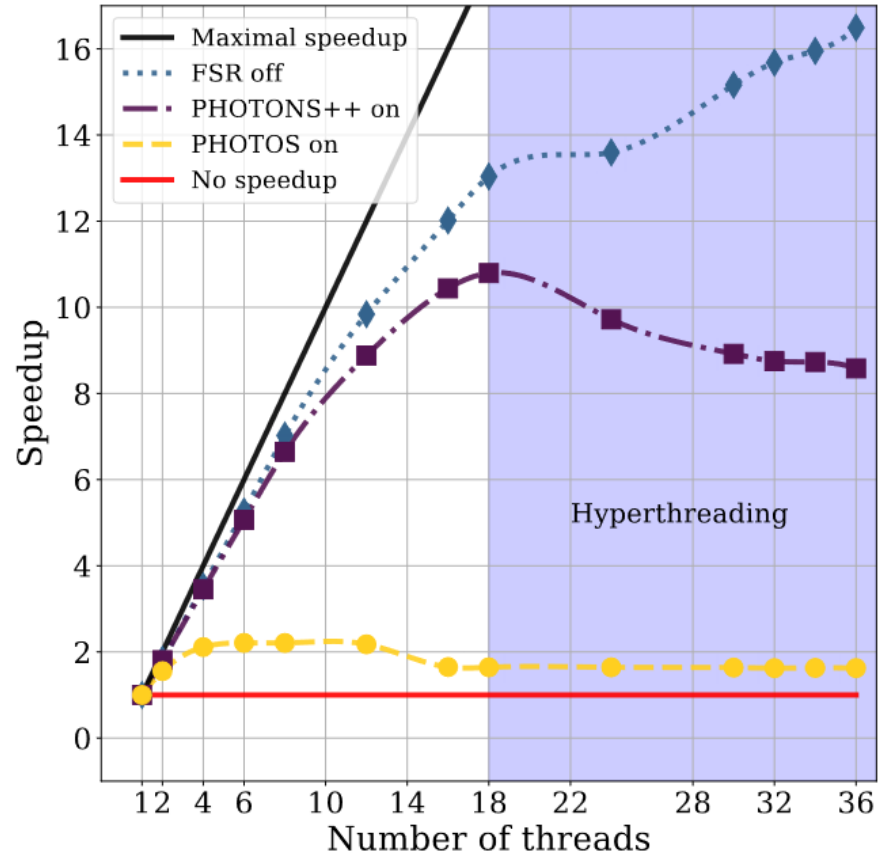
### The new beta release

Released **R03-00-00-beta1** for users to test

- Implemented thread safety
- Implemented new testing framework
- Added Sherpa's PHOTONS++ as FSR alternative
- Fixed various decay models (removed obsolete ones)
- Fixed bug with tensor particle rotation to helicity basis

Check it out!

# Checks with R03-00-00-beta1



⇒ Better performance with new FSR alternative

⇒ Deeper structural changes needed to fully exploit multithreading with increased memory sharing



# Implementation into LHCb simulation

- Remove serialisation (mutex) for EvtGen
  - One EvtGen instance per tread required for multi-threading
- ⇒ One initialisation per thread
- Set seed for each event
  - Implement **const** correctness inside LHCb-only models

```
Gen/LbEvtGen/src/Lib/EvtGenDecay.cpp  +95 -63  Viewed  ⌵  ⋮  
-   std::lock_guard<std::recursive_mutex> locked{ m_mutex };  
-   /*static*/ std::unique_ptr<EvtGen> EvtGenDecay::m_gen{ nullptr };  
-   /*static*/ std::recursive_mutex  EvtGenDecay::m_mutex{};  
741 + /*static*/ thread_local std::unique_ptr<EvtGen>  
    EvtGenDecay::m_gen{ nullptr };
```

# Plans for the future

## Immediate

- Improve Doxygen documentation (on it!)
- Prepare main Journal article

## Long-term

- Make singleton objects **const** (requires modifications in all models!)
- Implement Vincia as FSR alternative
- Implement alternatives for  $\tau$  particle simulation (fix spin propagation)
- Explore providing event weights from alternative decay tables

<https://evtgen.hepforge.org/doc/doxygen/test>

## EvtGen 3.0.0

Monte Carlo generator of particle decays, in particular the weak decays

<a href="#">Main Page</a>	<a href="#">Related Pages</a>	<a href="#">Namespaces ▾</a>	<a href="#">Classes ▾</a>	<a href="#">Files ▾</a>
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### EvtGen Documentation

#### Copyright

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# Uncertainties associated with Decay Table

- EvtGen Decay Table does not consider BF uncertainties
- Each user can have a custom Decay Table
- Idea: evaluate uncertainties by varying the Decay Table and providing event weights for systematic variations

## Variation of BFs

- Requires bookkeeping  $\Rightarrow$  relatively straightforward

## Variation of models (and model config)

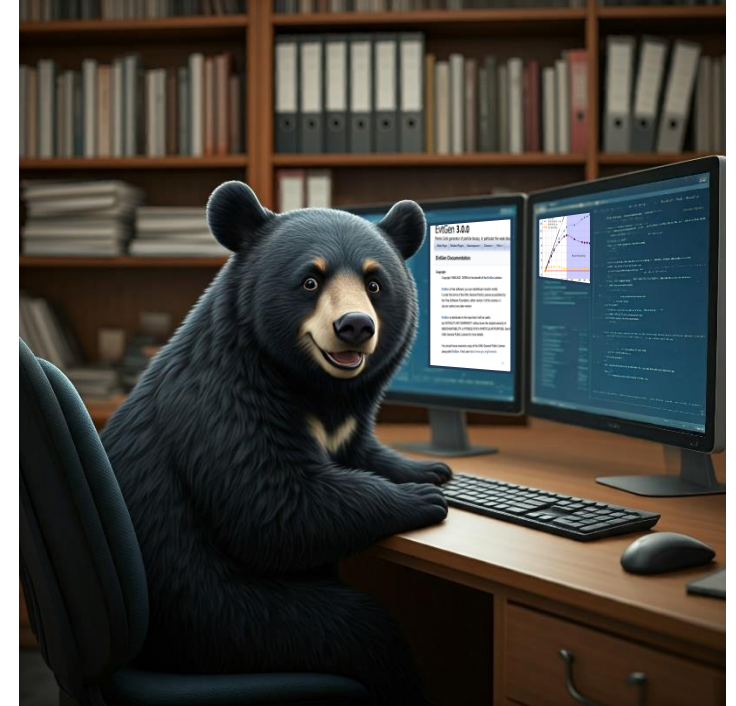
- Calculate alternative amplitude for generated kinematic configuration
- Propagate alternative spin-density matrix through decay chain
- $\Rightarrow$  Requires to modify the structure in all models plus expansion of bookkeeping
- $\Rightarrow$  Can be implemented, but very challenging

## Example from general Decay table

Decay anti-B0					b -> c semileptonic				
#	BFs								
0.0493	D*+	e-	anti-nu_e	FSR	HQET2	1.207	0.920	1.406	0.853;
0.0219	D+	e-	anti-nu_e	FSR	HQET2	1.185	1.081;		
0.0042	D_1+	e-	anti-nu_e	FSR	ISGW2;				
0.0045	D_0*+	e-	anti-nu_e	FSR	ISGW2;				
0.0046	D'_1+	e-	anti-nu_e	FSR	ISGW2;				
0.0033	D_2*+	e-	anti-nu_e	FSR	ISGW2;				
0.00045	D*+	pi0	e-	anti-nu_e	FSR	GOITY_ROBERTS;			
0.00490	D*0	pi+	e-	anti-nu_e	FSR	GOITY_ROBERTS;			
0.0015	D+	pi0	e-	anti-nu_e	FSR	GOITY_ROBERTS;			
0.0043	D0	pi+	e-	anti-nu_e	FSR	GOITY_ROBERTS;			

# Summary and outlook

- After a long campaign released [R03-00-00-beta1](#)
  - ⇒ Enabled thread-safety (preliminary solutions)
  - ⇒ New testing framework with multi-threading capability
  - ⇒ Sherpa PHOTONS++ for FSR (2x faster than PHOTOS)
  - ⇒ Various bugfixes (models, tensor-particle decays)
  - ⇒ Currently working on documentation
  - ⇒ Tag full release 3 afterwards
- Long-term plans
  - ⇒ Make structural modifications to make singletons **const**
  - ⇒ Implement VINCIA as FSR alternative
  - ⇒ Continue work on alternatives for TAUOLA
  - ⇒ Incorporate systematic variations of Decay Table



Generated by Gemini

*Thanks for your attention!*

# Backup

# Bugfix for tensor decays

- Belle II uncovered bug in angular distributions for tensor particle decays
  - Polarisation vectors were **static** and not properly reset after Euler rotations
- ⇒ Euler rotations were compounded
- ⇒ Fixed by removing the static modifier

```
src/EvtGenBase/EvtTensorParticle.cpp +5 -5
@@ -142,11 +142,11 @@ EvtSpinDensity EvtTensorParticle::rotateToHelicityBasis( do
142 142 {
143 143     EvtTensor4C es[5];
144 144
145 -     static thread_local EvtVector4C eplus(
146 -         0.0, -1.0 / sqrt( 2.0 ), EvtComplex( 0.0, -1.0 / sqrt( 2.0 ) ), 0.0 );
147 -     static thread_local EvtVector4C ezero( 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0 );
148 -     static thread_local EvtVector4C eminus(
149 -         0.0, 1.0 / sqrt( 2.0 ), EvtComplex( 0.0, -1.0 / sqrt( 2.0 ) ), 0.0 );
145 +     EvtVector4C eplus( 0.0, -1.0 / sqrt( 2.0 ),
146 +         EvtComplex( 0.0, -1.0 / sqrt( 2.0 ) ), 0.0 );
147 +     EvtVector4C ezero( 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 1.0 );
148 +     EvtVector4C eminus( 0.0, 1.0 / sqrt( 2.0 ),
149 +         EvtComplex( 0.0, -1.0 / sqrt( 2.0 ) ), 0.0 );
```

Helicity angle distribution

