

Uncertainties

Tilman Plehn

ML for LHC

Uncertainties

Bayesian NNs

Ensembles

Amplitudes

Generation

Amplification

Neural Networks with Calibrated Learned Uncertainties

Tilman Plehn

Universität Heidelberg

Imperial College, February 2025



Shortest ML-intro ever

Fit-like approximation [2211.01421]

- approximate $f_{\theta}(x) \approx f(x)$
- no parametrization, but many θ
- new representation/latent space θ

Construction and control

- define loss function
- minimize loss to find best θ
- compare $x \rightarrow f_{\theta}(x)$ for training vs test data

LHC applications

- regression $x \rightarrow f_{\theta}(x)$
- classification $x \rightarrow f_{\theta}(x) \in [0, 1]$
- generation $r \sim \mathcal{N} \rightarrow f_{\theta}(r)$
- conditional generation $r \sim \mathcal{N} \rightarrow f_{\theta}(r|x)$
- ...

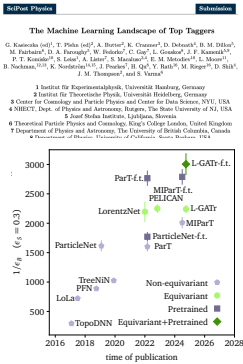
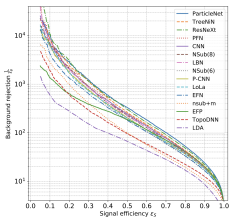
→ Transforming numerical science



ML in experiment

Top tagging [classification, 2016-today]

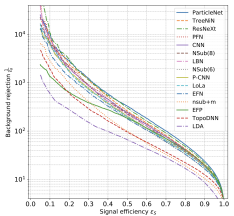
- ‘hello world’ of LHC-ML
 - end of QCD-taggers
 - ever-improving [Huilin Qu]
- **Driving NN-architectures**



ML in experiment

Top tagging [classification, 2016-today]

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 - end of QCD-taggers
 - ever-improving [Huilin Qu]
- Driving NN-architectures



SciPost Physics

Submission

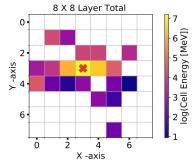
The Machine Learning Landscape of Top Taggers

G. Koushika^{(a)(1)}, T. Plehn^(a), A. Bartsch^(a), K. Craner^(a), D. Deleu^(a), B. M. Dillon^(a), M. Fairhead^(a), D. A. Faroughy^(a), W. Fisher^(a), C. Gao^(a), L. Gendreau^(a), J. P. Kauer^{(a)(1)}, P. T. Komatsu^(a), S. Lake^(a), A. Lister^(a), S. Maier^{(a)(1)}, E. M. Metodiev^(a), E. Moon^(a), B. Nachman^{(a)(1)}, K. Nourbakhsh^{(a)(1)}, J. Pousa^(a), H. Qiu^(a), Y. Rath^(a), M. Riniger^(a), D. Shih^(a), J. M. Thompson^(a), and S. Verra^(a)

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Particle flow [2020-today]

- mother of jet analyses
 - combining detectors with different resolution
 - optimality the key
- Modern jet analysis basics



Towards a Computer Vision Particle Flow *

Francesco Armando Di Bello^{a,1}, Samay Ganguly^{a,1}, Ethan Gross^a, Marumi Kado^{a,2}, Michael Pitt^a, Lorenzo Santit^a, Jonathan Shlomo^a

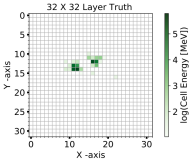
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Progress towards an improved particle flow algorithm at CMS with machine learning

Fareek Mokhtar^a, Joseph Pata^a, Javier Duarte^a, Eric Walz^a, Maurizio Pierini^a and Jean-Roch Vignani^a (on behalf of the CMS Collaboration)

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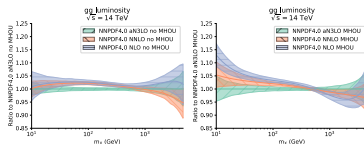


ML in phenomenology

Parton densities [NNPDF, 2002-today]

- pdfs without functional bias and full uncertainties
- precision and calibrated uncertainties

→ Drivers of ML-theory



The Path to N³LO Parton Distributions

The NNPDF Collaboration:

Richard D. Ball¹, Andrea Bassalat², Alessandro Cacciari^{3,4}, Stefano Carrazza⁵, Juan Cruz-Martinez⁶, Luigi Del Debbio⁷, Stefano Forte⁸, Tommaso Gehrmann⁹, Felix Heinrich^{10,11}, Zakari Karakoç⁹, Niccolò Leonardi¹², Giacomo Magni^{13,14}, Emanuele M. Nicosia¹⁵, Eulenes R. Rabeauxmanjara^{16,17}, Juan Rojo^{18,19}, Christopher Schroeder²⁰, Roy Stogmann¹, and Maria Ubald⁸

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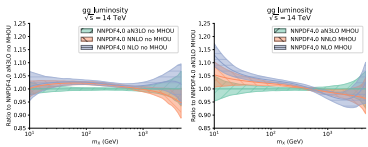
This paper is dedicated to the memory of Stefano Catani, Grand Master of QCD, great scientist and human being



ML in phenomenology

Parton densities [NNPDF, 2002-today]

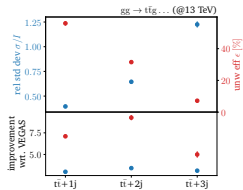
- pdfs without functional bias and full uncertainties
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Ultra-fast event generators [Sherpa, MadNIS, MLHad]

- event generation modular
 - improve and replace by ML-modules
- Beat state of the art

Triple-W $u\bar{d} \rightarrow W^+W^+W^-$
VBS $uc \rightarrow W^+W^+ds$
W+jets $gg \rightarrow W^+d\bar{u}$ $gg \rightarrow W^+d\bar{u}g$ $gg \rightarrow W^+d\bar{u}gg$
tt+jets $gg \rightarrow t\bar{t}+g$ $gg \rightarrow t\bar{t}+gg$ $gg \rightarrow t\bar{t}+ggg$



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Self-Test Physics

Submission

The MADNIS Reloaded

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Olivier Mattelaer⁵, Tilman Plehn⁶, and Roman Vissler⁷

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³Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Università di Bologna, Italy

December 17, 2024

Abstract

In pursuit of precise and fast theory predictions for the LHC, we present an implementation of the MADNIS method in the MADNIS event generator. A series of improvements in MADNIS further enhance its efficiency and speed. We validate this implementation for realistic partonic processes and find significant gains from using modern machine learning in event generators.



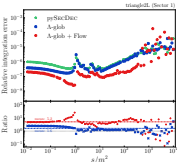
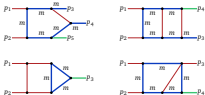


ML in theory

Optimizing integration paths [invertible networks]

- find optimal integration paths
- learn variable transformation

→ Theory-integrator



SciPost

SciPost Phys. 12, 129 (2022)

Targeting multi-loop integrals with neural networks

Ramon Winterhalder^{1,2,3}, Vitaly Magerya⁴, Emilio Villa⁵, Stephen P. Jones⁶,
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Abstract

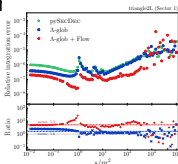
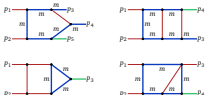
Numerical evaluations of Feynman integrals often proceed via a deformation of the integration contour into the complex plane. While valid contours are easy to construct, the numerical precision for a multi-loop integral can depend critically on the chosen contour. We present methods to optimize this contour using a combination of optimized, global complex shifts and a normalizing flow. They can lead to a significant gain in precision.

ML in theory

Optimizing integration paths [invertible networks]

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→ Theory-integrator



Navigating string landscape [reinforcement learning]

- searching for viable vacua
- high dimensions, unknown global structure

→ Model space sampling

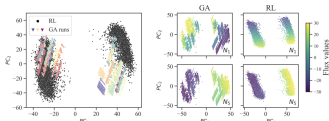


Figure 1: Left: Cluster structure in dimensionally reduced flux samples for RL and 25 GA runs (PCA on all samples of GA and RL). The colors indicate individual GA runs. Right: Dependence on flux (input) values (N_1 and N_2 respectively) in relation to principal components for a PCA fit of the individual output of GA and RL.

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Probing the Structure of String Theory Vacua with Genetic Algorithms and Reinforcement Learning

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Abstract

Identifying string theory vacua with desired physical properties at low energies requires searching through high-dimensional solution spaces – collectively referred to as the string landscape. We highlight that this search problem is amenable to reinforcement learning and genetic algorithms. In the context of this vacua, we are able to reveal novel features (inspiring previously unidentified symmetries) in the string theory solutions required for properties such as the string coupling. In order to identify these features robustly, we combine results from both search methods, which we argue is imperative for reducing sampling bias.

Learned uncertainties

Network training as a fit

- learn scalar field $f_{\theta}(x) \approx f(x)$
- statistics: maximize parameter probability given (f_j, σ_j)

$$p(\theta|x) = \frac{p(x|\theta) p(\theta)}{p(x)}$$

→ maximize tractable likelihood instead

$$p(x|\theta) = \prod_j \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_j} \exp\left(-\frac{|f_j - f_{\theta}(x_j)|^2}{2\sigma_j^2}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L} \equiv -\log p(x|\theta) = \sum_j \frac{|f_j - f_{\theta}(x_j)|^2}{2\sigma_j^2} + \text{const}(\theta)$$



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Learned local uncertainty

- Gaussian log-likelihood with normalization

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{heteroscedastic}} = \frac{|f(x) - f_{\theta}(x)|^2}{2\sigma_{\theta}(x)^2} + \log \sigma_{\theta}(x) + \dots$$

- if needed replace $\sigma_{\theta}(x)$ by mixture model

→ learn $f_{\theta}(x)$ and $\sigma_{\theta}(x)$ together



Bayesian networks

Learned function statistically

- amplitude over phase phase

$$\langle A \rangle = \int dA A p(A)$$

- internal representation θ of training data T [think Gaussian with mean and width]

$$p(A) = \int d\theta p(A|\theta) p(\theta|T)$$

→ θ -distribution defining Bayesian NN



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Variational approximation

- definition of training

$$p(A) = \int d\theta p(A|\theta) p(\theta|T) \approx \int d\theta p(A|\theta) q(\theta)$$

- similarity through minimal KL-divergence [Bayes' theorem to remove unknown posterior]

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\text{KL}}[q(\theta), p(\theta|T)] &= \int d\theta q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|T)} \\ &= \int d\theta q(\theta) \log \frac{q(\theta)p(T)}{p(T|\theta)p(\theta)} \\ &\approx D_{\text{KL}}[q(\theta), p(\theta)] - \int d\theta q(\theta) \log p(T|\theta) \equiv \mathcal{L} \end{aligned}$$

→ Two-term loss: likelihood + prior



Statistics vs systematics

Statistical network evaluation

- expectation value from network $q(\theta)$

$$\begin{aligned}\langle A \rangle &= \int dA d\theta \, A \, p(A|\theta) \, q(\theta) \\ &\equiv \int d\theta \, q(\theta) \bar{A}(\theta) \quad \text{with} \quad \bar{A}(\theta) = \int dA \, A \, p(A|\theta)\end{aligned}$$

- corresponding variance

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\text{tot}}^2 &= \int dA d\theta \, (A - \langle A \rangle)^2 \, p(A|\theta) \, q(\theta) \\ &= \int d\theta \, q(\theta) \left[\overline{A^2}(\theta) - \bar{A}(\theta)^2 + (\bar{A}(\theta) - \langle A \rangle)^2 \right] \equiv \sigma_{\text{syst}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{stat}}^2\end{aligned}$$

Two uncertainties

- statistical — vanishing for perfect training: $q(\theta) \rightarrow \delta(\theta - \theta_0)$

$$\sigma_{\text{stat}}^2 = \int d\theta \, q(\theta) \left[\bar{A}(\theta) - \langle A \rangle \right]^2$$

- systematic — vanishing for perfect data: $p(A|\theta) \rightarrow \delta(A - A_0)$

$$\sigma_{\text{syst}}^2 = \int d\theta \, q(\theta) \left[\overline{A^2}(\theta) - \bar{A}(\theta)^2 \right]$$

→ Systematics dominant for LHC



Repulsive ensembles

Posterior from network ensemble

- OED vs continuity equation

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = v(\theta, t) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \rho(\theta, t)}{\partial t} = -\nabla_{\theta} [v(\theta, t)\rho(\theta, t)]$$

- Fokker-Planck equation with stationary $\rho(\theta, t) = \pi(\theta)$

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = -\nabla_{\theta} \log \frac{\rho(\theta, t)}{\pi(\theta)}$$

- ODE describing training progress

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^{t+1} - \theta^t &\propto -\nabla_{\theta^t} [\log \rho(\theta^t) - \log \pi(\theta^t)] \\ &= -\nabla_{\theta^t} \left[\log \sum_j k(\theta^t, \theta_j^t) - \log p(\theta | x_{\text{train}}^t) \right] \equiv -\nabla_{\theta^t} \mathcal{L}_{\text{RE}} \end{aligned}$$

→ Joint ensemble training



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→ Joint ensemble training

Repulsive ensembles

- train network ensemble
- apply repulsive force
kernel in function space

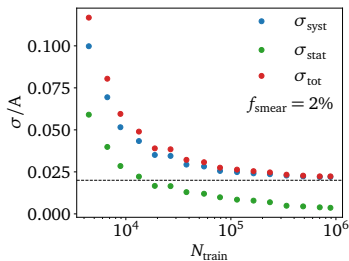
→ Alternative for statistical uncertainty



Network amplitudes

Loop amplitude $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma g(g)$ [Bahl, Elmer, Favaro, Haussmann, TP, Winterhalder]

- regression of exact scalar over phase space [Aylett-Bullock, Badger, Moodie]
- example systematics: **artificial noise**
- assume $\sigma_{\text{stat}} \ll \sigma_{\text{syst}}$

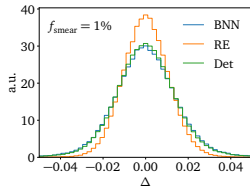
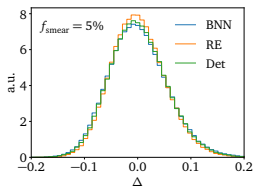
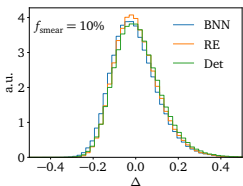


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$$\Delta(x) = \frac{A_{\text{NN}}(x) - A_{\text{true}}(x)}{A_{\text{true}}(x)}$$



Network amplitudes

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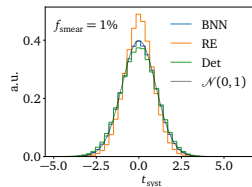
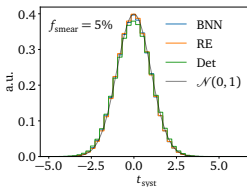
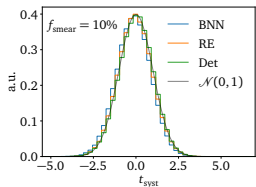
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- pull over phase space

$$t(x) = \frac{A_{\text{NN}}(x) - A_{\text{true}}(x)}{\sigma(x)}$$

→ **calibrated leading systematics**



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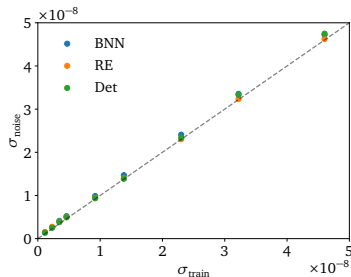
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Towards zero noise

- extrapolate to zero noise

$$\sigma_{\text{noise}}^2 = \sigma_{\text{syst}}^2 - \sigma_{\text{syst},0}^2 \approx \sigma_{\text{train}}$$



Network amplitudes

Loop amplitude $gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma g(g)$ [Bahl, Elmer, Favaro, Haussmann, TP, Winterhalder]

- regression of exact scalar over phase space [Aylett-Bullock, Badger, Moodie]
- example systematics: **artificial noise**
- assume $\sigma_{\text{stat}} \ll \sigma_{\text{syst}}$
- accuracy over phase space

$$\Delta(x) = \frac{A_{\text{NN}}(x) - A_{\text{true}}(x)}{A_{\text{true}}(x)}$$

- pull over phase space

$$t(x) = \frac{A_{\text{NN}}(x) - A_{\text{true}}(x)}{\sigma(x)}$$

→ **calibrated leading systematics**

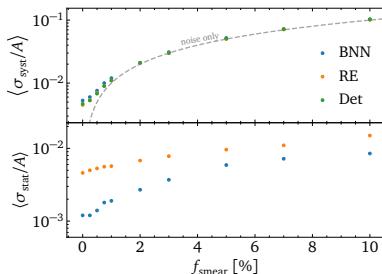
Towards zero noise

- extrapolate to zero noise

$$\sigma_{\text{noise}}^2 = \sigma_{\text{syst}}^2 - \sigma_{\text{syst},0}^2 \approx \sigma_{\text{train}}^2$$

- systematics plateau $\langle \sigma/A \rangle \sim 0.4\%$

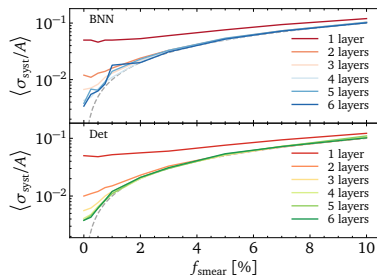
→ **Limiting factor??**



Improved accuracy

Network expressivity

- large range of amplitude values
- resolution of (collinear) peaks
- network breaks for large amplitudes
- 3 hidden layers needed
- activation function
- machine precision...



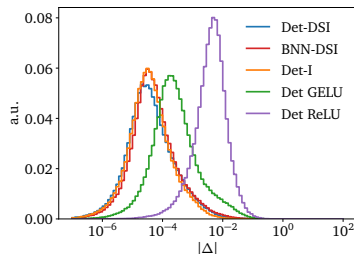
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Data pre-processing

- amplitude from invariants
- learn Minkowski metric?
- Deep-sets-invariant network [Heinrich et al]
L-GATr transformer



Improved accuracy

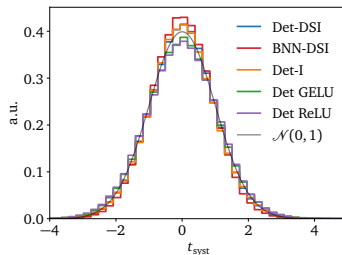
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Data pre-processing

- amplitude from invariants
- learn Minkowski metric?
- Deep-sets-invariant network [Heinrich et al]
L-GATr transformer
- uncertainty scaling with accuracy
pull unit Gaussian

→ Calibrated leading systematics



Improved accuracy

Network expressivity

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- network breaks for large amplitudes
- 3 hidden layers needed
- activation function
machine precision...

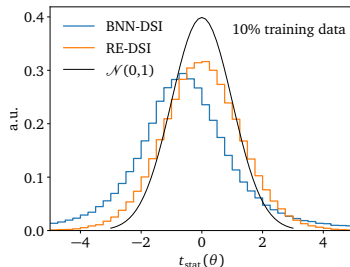
Statistical uncertainties

- well-defined for $\sigma_{\text{stat}} \ll \sigma_{\text{syst}}$
calibration of $\sigma_{\text{tot}} \sim \sigma_{\text{syst}}$
- systematics per network
statistics sampled
- calibration from pull

$$t_{\text{stat}}(x, \theta) = \frac{\bar{A}(x, \theta) - \langle A \rangle(x)}{\sigma_{\text{stat}}(x)}$$

$$\approx \frac{\bar{A}(x, \theta) - A_{\text{true}}(x)}{\sigma_{\text{stat}}(x)}$$

→ Work to do...



ATLAS calibration

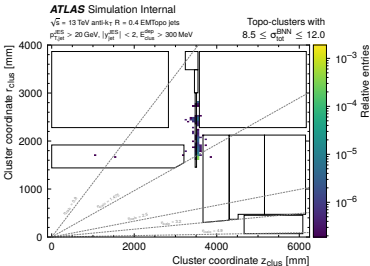
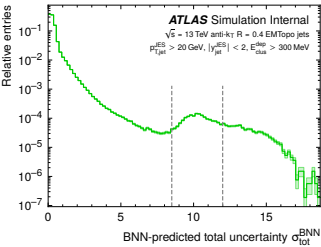
Energy calibration with uncertainties [ATLAS + Heidelberg, 2412.04370]

- interpretable calorimeter phase space x
- learned calibration function

$$\mathcal{R}^{\text{BNN}}(x) \pm \Delta \mathcal{R}^{\text{BNN}}(x) \approx \frac{E^{\text{obs}}(x)}{E^{\text{dep}}(x)}$$

- systematics: noisy training data ...

→ Understand (simulated) detector



Generative AI with uncertainties

Bayesian generative networks [Bellagente, Haussmann, Luchmann, TP]

- network weight distributions for density
- sampling phase space events with error bars on weights
- learned density & uncertainty reflecting network learning?

→ Generative networks like fitted densities



Generative AI with uncertainties

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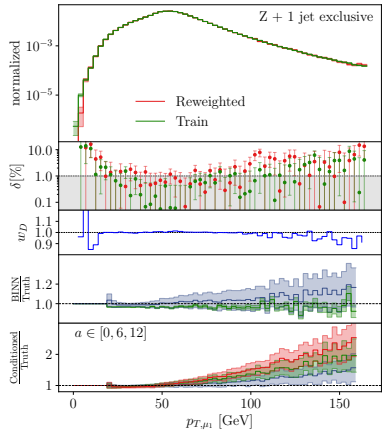
Z+jets events [Heimel, Vent...]

- per-cent accuracy on density
- statistical uncertainty from BNN
- systematics in training data

$$w = 1 + a \left(\frac{p_{T,j_1} - 15 \text{ GeV}}{100 \text{ GeV}} \right)^2$$

sampling a conditionally

→ Precision and uncertainty control



Controlling generative AI

Compare generated with training data

- regression accuracy $\Delta = (A_{\text{data}} - A_{\theta}) / A_{\text{data}}$
- harder for generation, unsupervised density
classify training vs generated events $D(x)$
learned density ratio [Neyman-Pearson]

$$w(x_i) = \frac{D(x_i)}{1 - D(x_i)} = \frac{p_{\text{data}}(x_i)}{p_{\text{model}}(x_i)}$$

→ Test ratio over phase space



Controlling generative AI

Compare generated with training data

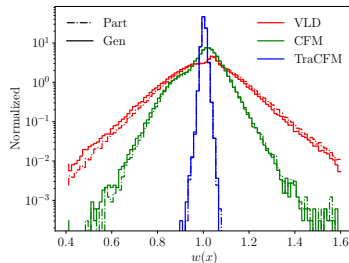
- regression accuracy $\Delta = (A_{\text{data}} - A_{\theta})/A_{\text{data}}$
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→ Test ratio over phase space

Progress in NN-unfolding

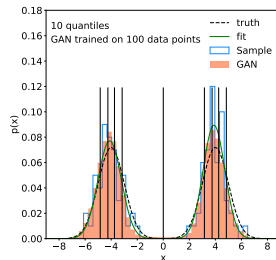
- generative network example
 - compare different architectures
 - accuracy from width of weight distribution
 - tails indicating failure mode
- Systematic performance test



Amplification (for Louis)

Improving training data [Butter, Diefenbacher, Kasieczka, Nachman, TP]

- true function known
compare GAN vs sampling vs fit
- χ^2 -sum of quantiles

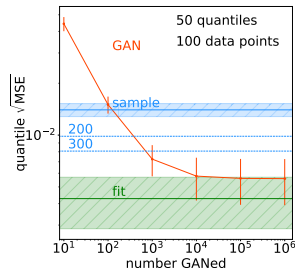
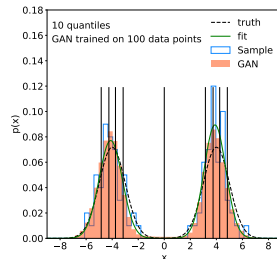


Amplification (for Louis)

Improving training data [Butter, Diefenbacher, Kasieczka, Nachman, TP]

- true function known
compare **GAN** vs **sampling** vs **fit**
- χ^2 -sum of quantiles
- training and fit with 100 data points
- fit like 500-1000 sampled points
GAN like 500 sampled points [amplification factor 5]
requiring 10,000 GANned events

⇒ **Generative networks like fits**



Modern ML for LHC

Developing ML for the best science

- just another numerical tool for a numerical field
- transformative new common language
- driven by money from data science and medical research
- be 10000 Einsteins,
...improving established tools
...developing new tools for established tasks
...transforming through new ideas

→ It's the future, let's not miss it

Modern Machine Learning for LHC Physicists

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March 19, 2024

Abstract

Modern machine learning is transforming particle physics fast, bullying its way into our numerical tool box. For young researchers it is crucial to stay on top of this development, which means applying cutting-edge methods and tools to the full range of LHC physics problems. These lecture notes lead students with basic knowledge of particle physics and significant enthusiasm for machine learning to relevant applications. They start with an LHC-specific motivation and a non-standard introduction to neural networks and then cover classification, unsupervised classification, generative networks, and inverse problems. Two themes defining much of the discussion are well-defined loss functions and uncertainty-aware networks. As part of the applications, the notes include some aspects of theoretical LHC physics. All examples are chosen from particle physics publications of the last few years.¹

:2211.01421v2 [hep-ph] 17 Mar 2024



Generative Uncertainties

Unsupervised Bayesian networks

- data: event sample [points in 2D space]
learn phase space density
standard distribution in latent space [Gaussian]
sample from latent space
- Bayesian version
allow weight distributions
learn uncertainty map
- 2D wedge ramp

$$p(x) = ax + b = ax + \frac{1 - \frac{a}{2}(x_{\max}^2 - x_{\min}^2)}{x_{\max} - x_{\min}}$$

$$(\Delta p)^2 = \left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 (\Delta a)^2 + \left(1 + \frac{a}{2}\right)^2 (\Delta x_{\max})^2 + \left(1 - \frac{a}{2}\right)^2 (\Delta x_{\min})^2$$

explaining minimum in $\sigma(x)$

→ INNs, diffusion just (non-parameterized) fits

