

Transforming Particle Physics

Tilman Plehn

Universität Heidelberg

Munich, January 2025

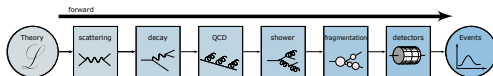


LHC Theory

Turning data to knowledge

- Quantum Field Theory
start with Lagrangian
- compute hard scattering
compute decays
compute jet radiation
- parton densities [NNPDF]
hadron-level QCD

→ First-principle simulations, with help from ML



LHC Theory

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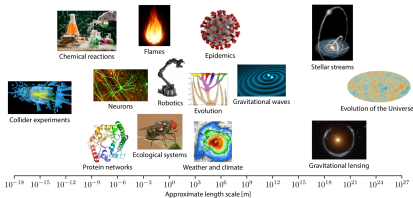
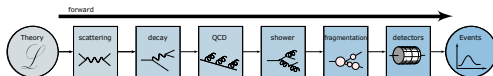
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HL-LHC: inference with $10\times$ more data

- SBI starts with Simulation...
- statistical improvement $\sqrt{10} = 3$
- rate over phase space to $< 0.1\%$
- theory to follow
- precision = QFT \times Compute

→ Everything, faster and better...



Shortest ML-intro ever

Fit-like approximation

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

Applications

- applications all over experiment
- 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 $r \sim \mathcal{N} \rightarrow f_{\theta}(r|x)$

Architectures

- physics-aware questions and data representation
- symmetries, locality, etc
- accuracy, control, error bars?
- is LHC data images or language?

→ Complexity a feature, not a problem

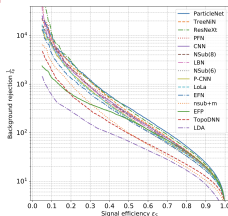


ML in experiment

Top tagging [classification, 2016-today]

- 'hello world' of LHC-ML
- end of QCD-taggers
- ever-improving [Huiliu Qu]

→ Driving NN-architectures



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Submission

The Machine Learning Landscape of Top Taggers

G. Kasieczko (ed)¹, T. Plehn (ed)², A. Butter³, K. Cranmer⁴, D. DeKans⁵, B. M. Dillon⁶, M. Fairbairn⁷, D. A. Flanagan⁷, W. Fisher⁸, C. Gay⁷, L. Gousiou⁹, J. F. Kaniatis¹⁰, P. T. Komatsu¹¹, S. Liao¹, A. Lami¹, S. Mariani¹², E. M. Metodiev¹³, L. Moore¹⁴, B. Nachreiss¹⁵, K. Nishikawa¹⁶, J. Dooling¹⁷, B. Qiu¹⁸, Y. Bai¹⁹, M. Rieger²⁰, D. Shi²¹, J. M. Thompson²², and S. Varma²³

¹ Institut für Experimentalphysik, Universität Hamburg, Germany

² Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

³ Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics and Center for Data Science, NYU, USA

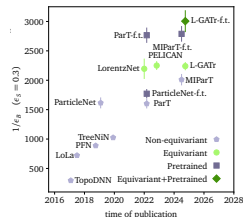
⁴ NHECT, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, Rutgers, The State University of NJ, USA

⁵ Jozef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

⁶ Theoretical Particle Physics and Cosmology, King's College London, United Kingdom

⁷ Department of Physics and Astronomy, The University of British Columbia, Canada

⁸ Department of Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

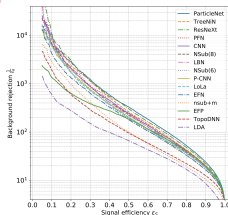


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⁸ Department of Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

⁹ Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

¹⁰ Center for Theoretical Physics, MIT, Cambridge, USA

¹¹ CP3, Universitat Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

¹² Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, USA

¹³ Simons Inst. for the Theory of Computing, University of California, Berkeley, USA

¹⁴ National Institute for Subatomic Physics (NIKHEF), Amsterdam, Netherlands

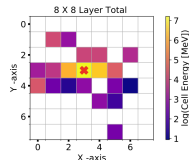
¹⁵ LPTHE, CNRS & Sorbonne Université, Paris, France

¹⁶ III. Physikalisches Institut A, RWTH Aachen University, Germany

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⁽¹⁾, Samay Ganguly⁽²⁾⁽³⁾, Eliam Gross⁽⁴⁾, Marumi Kudo⁽⁵⁾, Michael Pitt⁽⁶⁾, Lorenzo Sant'Anna⁽⁷⁾, Jonathan Shewell⁽⁸⁾

¹Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Israel

²CEBN, CH 1211, Geneva 23, Switzerland

³Università di Roma Sapienza, Piazza Aldo Moro, 2, 00185 Roma, Italy e INFN, Italy

⁴Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS/IN2P3, UCLM, 91195, Orsay, France

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

Feroz Mohideen⁽¹⁾, Josep Pata⁽²⁾, Javier Duarte⁽³⁾, Eric Wolff⁽⁴⁾, Maurizio Pierini⁽⁵⁾ and Jean-Baptiste Villmann⁽⁶⁾ (on behalf of the CMS Collaboration)

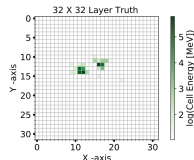
¹University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92039, USA

²UCPR, Riverside 92513, California, Riverside

³European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), CH 1211, Geneva 23, Switzerland

⁴California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA

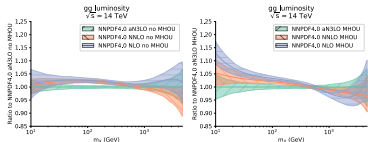
E-mail: fmo@ucsd.edu, josep.pata@cern.ch, javierduarte@cern.ch, jvillmann@cern.ch



Parton densities [NNPDF, 2002-today]

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

→ Drivers of ML-theory



The Path to N²LO Parton Distributions

The NNPDF Collaboration:

Richard D. Ball¹, Andrea Bharucha², Alessandro Candia^{3,4}, Stefano Carrazza⁵, Juan Cruz-Martinez⁶, Long Di Dai^{1,7}, Stefano Forte⁸, Francesco Guss⁹, Ilse Heinrich^{10,11}, Zoltan Kunszt¹², Nicolaas Lauretti¹³, Giacomo Magni^{14,15}, Emanuele M. Nicosia¹⁶, Tanja R. Reboredo^{17,18}, Juan Rojo^{14,15}, Christopher Schwan¹⁹, Roy Stogmann²⁰, and Maria Ubald²¹

¹The Higgs Centre for Theoretical Physics, University of Edinburgh, JCMB, KB, Higgsfield Rd, Edinburgh EH9 1JZ, Scotland

²TUM, Department of Physics, University of Munich and INFN, Sezione di Milano, Via Celoria 16, I-20133 Milano, Italy

³CERN, Theoretical Physics Department, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland

⁴Department of Physics and Astronomy, Vrije Universiteit, NL-1081 HV Amsterdam

⁵Mathematical Physics Group, Science Park 105, 1098 XJ Amsterdam, The Netherlands

⁶University of Jyväskylä, Department of Physics, P.O. Box 35, FI-00014 University of Jyväskylä, Finland

⁷Helsinki Institute of Physics, P.O. Box 64, FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland

⁸DAUPT, University of Cambridge, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, CB3 0WA, United Kingdom

⁹Department of Physics, University of Padua, Italy

¹⁰INFN, Sezione di Torino, Via Pirella 1, I-10125 Torino, Italy

¹¹Universitäts-Würzburg, Institut für Theoretische Physik und Astrophysik, 97074 Würzburg, Germany

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

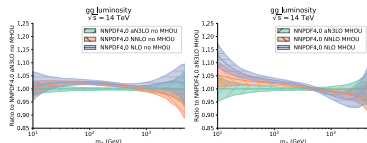


ML in phenomenology

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¹The Higgs Centre for Theoretical Physics, University of Edinburgh, JCMS, KB, Higgsfield Rd, Edinburgh EH9 1JZ, Scotland

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⁸DAUPT, University of Cambridge, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge, CB3 0HA, United Kingdom

⁹Departamento de Física, Universidade de São Carlos, 13560-970 São Carlos, Brazil

¹⁰INFN, Sezione di Torino, Via Partino Giuria 1, I-10125 Torino, Italy

¹¹Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Bonn, Institut für Theoretische Physik und Astrophysik, 53115 Würzburg, Germany

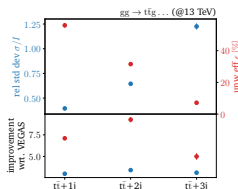
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Ultra-fast event generators [Sherpa, MadNIS, MLHad]

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



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Submission

The MadNIS Reloaded

Théo Heidegger¹, Nathan Harnett², Fabio Maltoni^{3,4}, Olivier Mattelaer², Tilman Plehn¹, and Ramon Winterhalder²

¹Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

²CPS, Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

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 MadGraph 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.

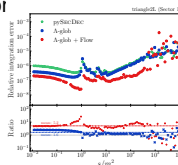
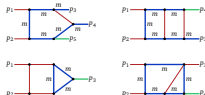


ML in theory

Optimizing integration paths [invertible networks]

- find optimal integration paths
- learn variable transformation

→ Theory-integrator



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SciPost Phys. 12, 129 (2022)

Targeting multi-loop integrals with neural networks

Ramon Winterhalder^{1,2,3}, Vitaly Magyer⁴, Emilio Villa⁵, Stephen P. Jones⁶, Matthias Kerner^{1,6}, Anja Böttcher^{1,2}, Gidon Heinrich^{2,4} and Tilman Plehn^{1,2}

¹ Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

² HEKKA - Heidelberg Karlsruhe Strategic Partnership, Heidelberg University, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany

³ Centre for Cosmology, Particle Physics and Phenomenology (CP3), Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium

⁴ Institut für Theoretische Physik, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, Germany

⁵ Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology, Durham University, UK

⁶ Institut für Astroteilchenphysik, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, Germany

Abstract

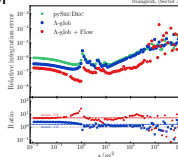
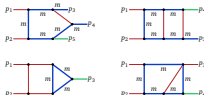
Numerical evaluations of Feynman integrals often proceed via a deformation of the integration contour into the complex plane. While valid contours are easy to construct, the numerical precision for a multi-loop integral can depend critically on the chosen contour. We present methods to optimize this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



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Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany

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Navigating string landscape [reinforcement learning]

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

→ Model space sampling

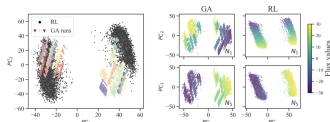


Figure 1: *Left*: Cluster structure in dimensionally reduced flux samples for RL and 25 GA runs (PCA) on all samples of GA and RL. The colors indicate individual GA runs. *Right*: Dependence on flux (input) values (N_3 and N_5 respectively) in relation to principal components for a PCA fit of the individual output of GA and RL.

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

Alex Cate
University of Amsterdam
a.s.c@uva.nl

Seon Krippendorf
Arnold Sommerfeld Center for Theoretical Physics
LMU Munich
seon.krippendorf@physik.uni-muenchen.de

Andreas Schachner
Center for Mathematical Sciences
University of Cambridge
as273@cam.ac.uk

Gary Shiu
University of Wisconsin-Madison
shiug@physics.wisc.edu

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 (outgoing previously unidentified connections) 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.

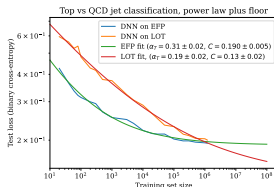


Theory for ML

Scaling laws for classification networks [statistical learning]

- networks are complex systems
- training as statistical process

→ Now solving problems



SCALING LAWS IN JET CLASSIFICATION

Joshua Bates*

Independent Researcher

Oakland, CA 94607

j.bates.1@ucsf.edu

Vasanth Kulkarni

Center for Artificial Intelligence Innovation and

Department of Physics

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Urbana, IL 61801

vkulkarni@uiuc.edu

ABSTRACT

We demonstrate the emergence of scaling laws in the benchmark top versus QCD jet classification problem in collider physics. Six distinct physically-motivated classifiers exhibit power-law scaling of the binary cross-entropy test loss as a function of training set size, with distinct power-law indices. This result highlights the importance of comparing classifiers as a function of dataset size rather than for a fixed training set, as the optimal classifier may change considerably as the dataset is scaled up. We speculate on the interpretation of our results in terms of previous models of scaling laws observed in natural language and image datasets.

Collective variables of neural networks: empirical time evolution and scaling laws

Samuel Tony

Institute for Computational Physics

University of Stuttgart

Stuttgart, Germany, 70569

stony@ipz.uni-stuttgart.de

Sven Krüppendorf

Cambridge Laboratory and DAMTP

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, United Kingdom, CB3 0WA

s.krueppendorf@cam.ac.uk

Michael Spannowsky

Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology

Department of Physics

Durham University

Durham, DH1 1TA, U.K.

Konstantin Nikolov

Institute for Computational Physics

University of Stuttgart

Stuttgart, Germany, 70569

Christian Helm

Institute for Computational Physics

University of Stuttgart

Stuttgart, Germany, 70569

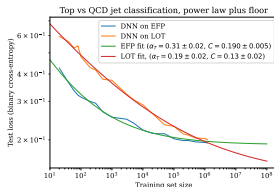


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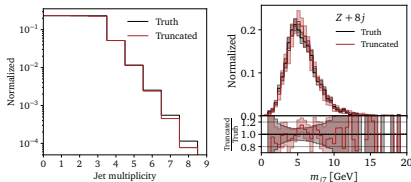
→ Now solving problems



Extrapolating transformers

- train on QCD jet radiation
- learn to generate universal patterns

→ Extrapolation at work



SCALING LAWS IN JET CLASSIFICATION

Julian Bates¹
Independent Researcher
Oxford, UK OX4 9JG
julian.bates@gmail.com

Vincent Kuhn
Centre for Artificial Intelligence Innovation and
Department of Physics
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, IL 61805
vincentkuhn@illinois.edu

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Collective variables of neural networks: empirical time evolution and scaling laws

Samuel Torrey
Institute for Computational Physics
University of Stuttgart
Stuttgart, Germany, 70569
stortrey@icp.uni-stuttgart.de

Sven Krippendorff
Cavendish Laboratory and DAMTP
University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom, CB3 0HA
s.k233@cam.ac.uk

Michael Spannowsky
Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology
Department of Physics
Dartmouth University
Hanover, NH 03824, U.S.A.

Konstantin Nikolov
Institute for Computational Physics
University of Stuttgart
Stuttgart, Germany, 70569

Christian Helm
Institute for Computational Physics
University of Stuttgart
Stuttgart, Germany, 70569

SciPost Physics

Submission

Extrapolating Jet Radiation with Autoregressive Transformers

Anja Butter^{1,2}, François Chamon³, Javier Marín Villadamiño³,
Ayodele Oke¹, Tilman Plehn^{1,4}, and Jonas Spörrer¹

¹ Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

² LPNHE, Sorbonne Université, Université Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France

³ Meta FAIR, CERMICS - Ecole des Ponts

⁴ Interdisciplinary Center for Scientific Computing (IWR), Universität Heidelberg, Germany

December 17, 2024

Abstract

Generative networks are an exciting tool for fast LHC event generation. Usually, they are used to generate configurations with a fixed number of particles. Autoregressive transformers allow us to generate events with variable numbers of particles, very much in line with the physics of QCD jet radiation. We show how they can learn a factorized likelihood for jet radiation and extrapolate in terms of the number of generated jets. For this extrapolation, bootstrapping training data and training with modifications of the likelihood loss can be used.



Network training

Encoding a transtition amplitude-squared

- expectation value from probability

$$\langle A \rangle(x) = \int dA \, A \, p(A|x)$$

- internal representation θ

$$\langle A \rangle = \int dA \, A \int d\theta \, p(A|\theta) \, p(\theta|A_{\text{train}})$$

- training a generalization of θ -probability

$$\int d\theta \, p(A|\theta) \, p(\theta|A_{\text{train}}) \approx \int d\theta \, p(A|\theta) \, q(\theta)$$



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$$\int d\theta \ p(A|\theta) \ p(\theta|A_{\text{train}}) \approx \int d\theta \ p(A|\theta) \ q(\theta)$$

- similarity from minimal KL-divergence

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\text{KL}}[q(\theta), p(\theta|A_{\text{train}})] &\equiv \int d\theta \ q(\theta) \ \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta|A_{\text{train}})} \\ &= \int d\theta \ q(\theta) \ \log \frac{q(\theta)p(A_{\text{train}})}{p(A_{\text{train}}|\theta)p(\theta)} \\ &= - \int d\theta \ q(\theta) \ \log p(A_{\text{train}}|\theta) + \int d\theta \ q(\theta) \ \log \frac{q(\theta)}{p(\theta)} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

→ Simplification: likelihood + regularization + dropout

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{BNN}} = - \int d\theta \ q(\theta) \ \log p(A_{\text{train}}|\theta) + D_{\text{KL}}[q(\theta), p(\theta)]$$

$$\rightarrow (A_{\theta} - A_{\text{train}})^2 + c(\theta - \theta_0)^2$$



Statistics vs systematics

Network evaluation

- expectation value using trained 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

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

Two uncertainties

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

$$\sigma_{\text{stat}}^2 = \int d\theta \ q(\theta) \left[\bar{A}(\theta) - \langle A \rangle \right]^2 = \left[\bar{A}(\theta_0) - \langle A \rangle \right]^2$$

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

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

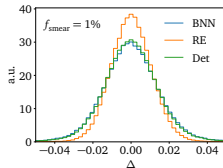
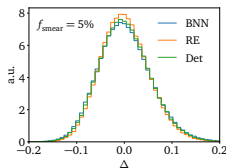
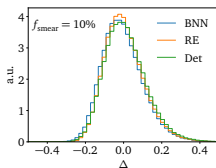


Amplitude regression

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]
- accuracy — control — uncertainties
- example systematics: artificial noise
- accuracy over phase space

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



Amplitude regression

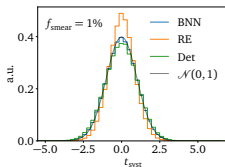
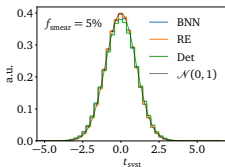
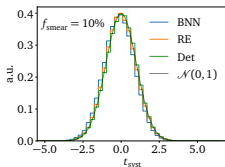
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$$t(x) = \frac{A_{\text{NN}}(x) - A_{\text{true}}(x)}{\sigma(x)}$$



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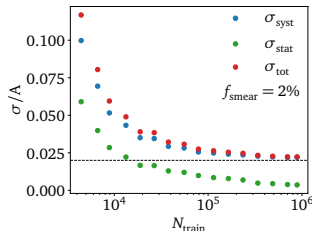
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→ calibrated uncertainty

From finite to zero noise

- assume statistics not the problem



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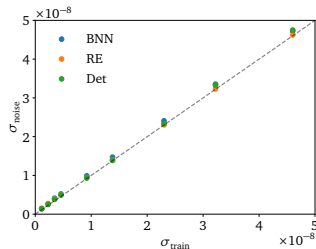
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From finite to zero noise

- assume statistics not the problem
- extrapolate to zero noise

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



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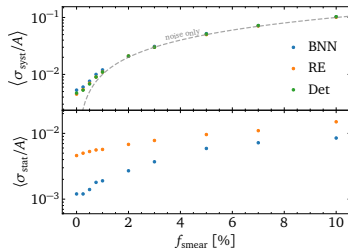
From finite to zero noise

- assume statistics not the problem
- extrapolate to zero noise

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

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

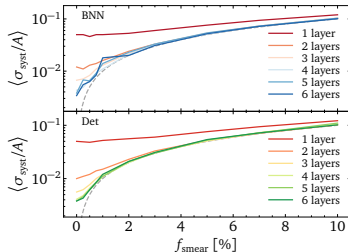
→ Limiting factor?



Improved accuracy

Network expressivity

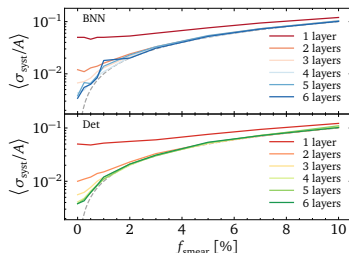
- large range of amplitude values
- resolution of (collinear) peaks
- 3 hidden layers needed
- 6 hidden layers challenge for BNN
- activation function, machine precision...



Improved accuracy

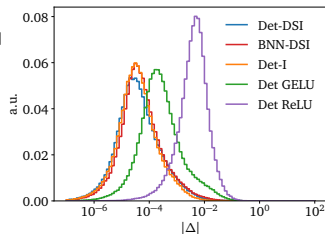
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Data pre-processing

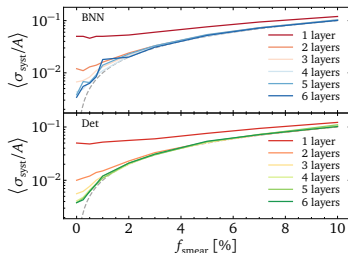
- amplitude from invariants
- learn Minkowski metric?
- Deep-sets-invariant architecture [Heinrich et al]
L-GATr transformer



Improved accuracy

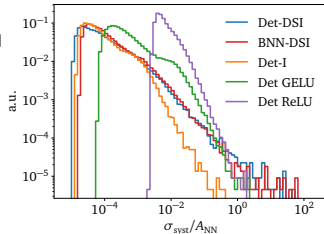
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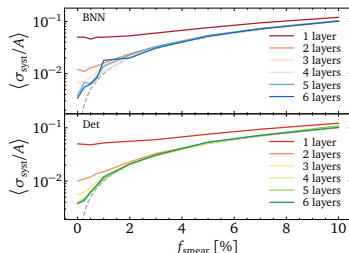
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Improved accuracy

Network expressivity

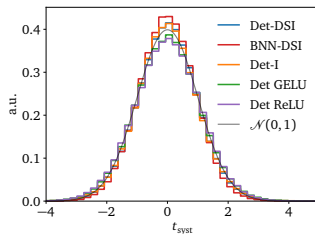
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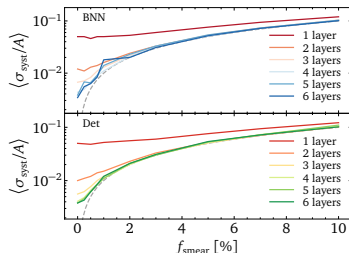
→ pull showing calibration



Improved accuracy

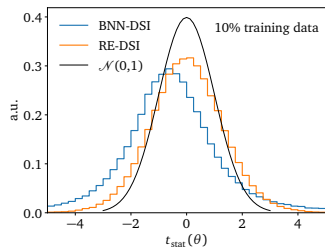
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Statistical uncertainties

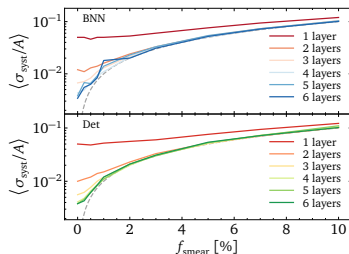
- heteroscedastic loss: systematics
- BNN & repulsive ensembles: also statistics
- only well-defined for $\sigma_{\text{stat}} \ll \sigma_{\text{syst}}$
- calibrated statistics?



Improved accuracy

Network expressivity

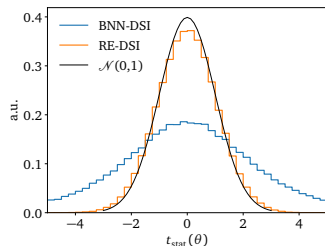
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→ [Work to do for BNN and REs...](#)



ATLAS calibration

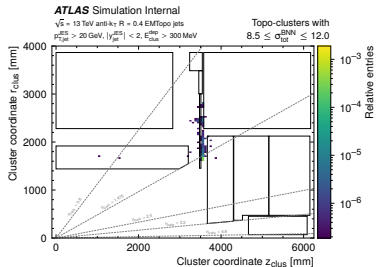
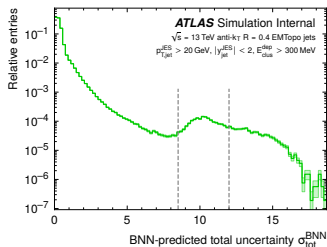
Energy calibration with uncertainties [ATLAS + Vogel, 2412.04370]

- interpretable calorimeter phase space x
- learned calibration function

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

- **uncertainties:** noise in data ...

→ **Understand (simulated) detector**

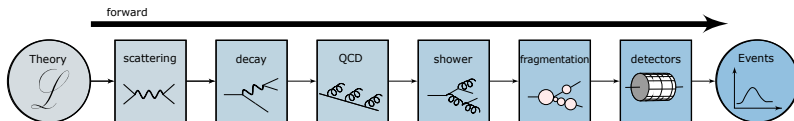
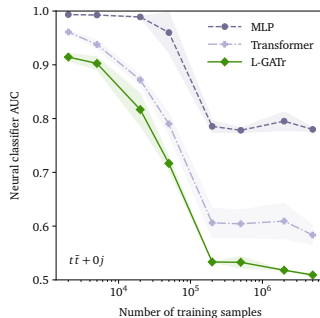


Generative AI

Simulations, MadNIS, calorimeters,...

- learn phase space density
fast sampling Gaussian \rightarrow phase space
- Variational Autoencoder
 \rightarrow low-dimensional physics
- Generative Adversarial Network
 \rightarrow generator trained by classifier
- Normalizing Flow/Diffusion
 \rightarrow (bijective) mapping
- JetGPT, ViT
 \rightarrow non-local structures
- Equivariant L-GATr
 \rightarrow Lorentz symmetry for efficiency

\rightarrow **Equivariant transformer CFM...**



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



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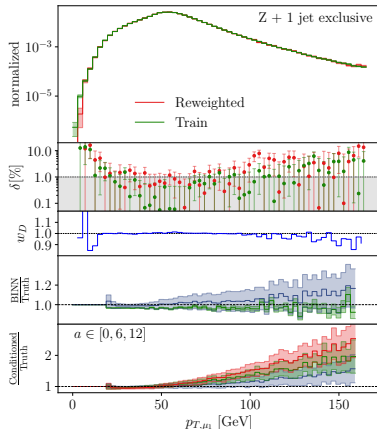
Z+jets events [Heimel, Vent...]

- 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

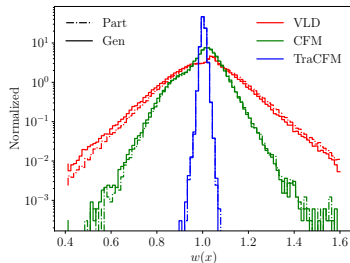
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→ Test ratio over phase space

Progress in NN-generators

- any generative AI task
 - compare different architectures
 - accuracy from width of weight distribution
 - tails indicating failure mode
- Systematic performance test

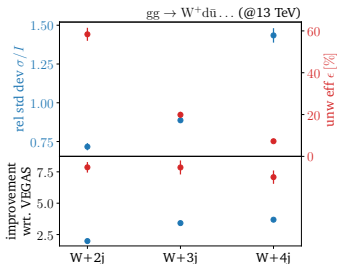
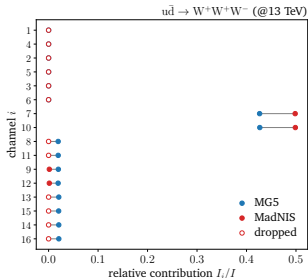


Neural importance sampling

ML-channel weights & ML-Vegas

- simple goal 1: learn channel weights [regression]
- simple goal 2: learn Vegas mapping [invertible generation]
- technically: online + buffered training
- minimize integration variance

→ Beat MadGraph and its team...



Transforming LHC physics

Number of searches

- optimal inference: signal and background simulations
- CPU-limitation for many signals?

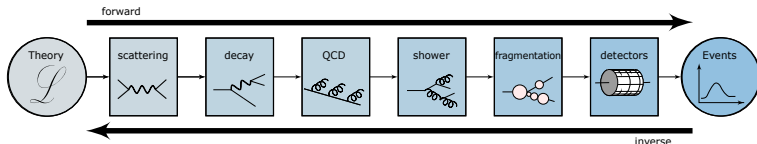
Optimal analyses

- theory limiting many analyses
- include predictions not in event generators

Public LHC data

- common lore:
LHC data too complicated for amateurs
- in truth:
hard scattering and decay simulations public
BSM physics not in hadronization and detector

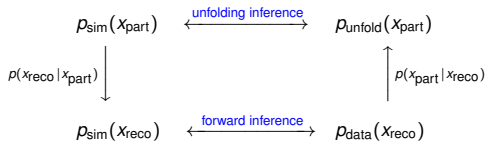
→ **Unfold to suitable level**



ML-Unfolding

Basic structure [Butter, Köthe, TP, Winterhalder]

- four phase space distributions



- learn conditional probabilities from $(x_{\text{part}}, x_{\text{reco}})$ [forward-inverse symmetric]

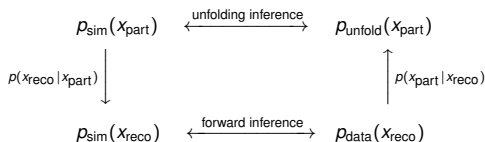
→ ML for unbinned and high-dimensional unfolding?



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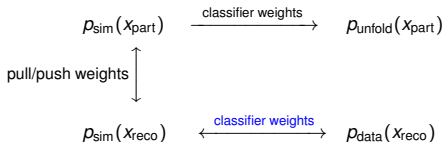


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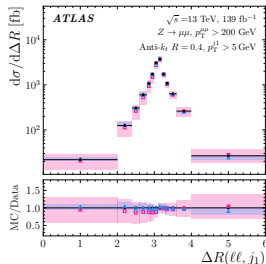
→ ML for unbinned and high-dimensional unfolding?

OmniFold [Andreassen, Komiske, Metodiev, Nachman, Thaler + ATLAS]

- learn $p_{\text{sim}}(x_{\text{reco}}) \leftrightarrow p_{\text{data}}(x_{\text{reco}})$ [Neyman-Pearson]
- reweight $p_{\text{sim}}(x_{\text{part}}) \rightarrow p_{\text{unfold}}(x_{\text{part}})$



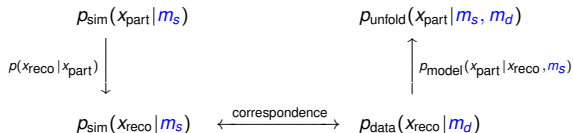
→ Z+jets in 24D [ATLAS]



Unfolding top decays

A challenge [Favaro, Kogler, Paasch, Palacios Schweitzer, TP, Schwarz]

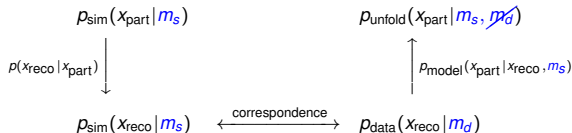
- first measure m_t in unfolded data
then unfold full kinematics
- model dependence: simulation m_s vs data m_d



Unfolding top decays

A challenge [Favaro, Kogler, Paasch, Palacios Schweitzer, TP, Schwarz]

- first measure m_t in unfolded data
then unfold full kinematics
- complete training bias $m_d \rightarrow m_s$ [too bad to reweight]



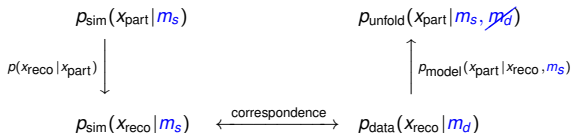
- 1 weaken bias by training on m_s -range
- 2 strengthen data by including batch-wise $m_d \sim M_{jjj} \in x_{\text{reco}}$



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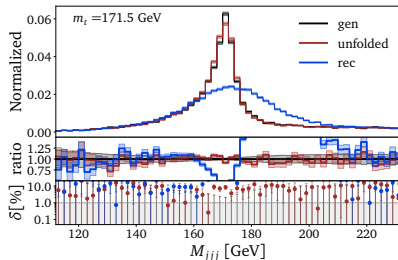
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Preliminary unfolding results [TraCFM]

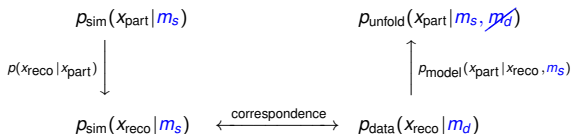
- 4D for calibrated mass measurement



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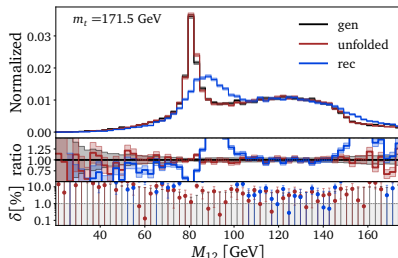
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Preliminary unfolding results [TraCFM]

- 4D for calibrated mass measurement
 - 12D published data
- CMS data next



ML for LHC Theory

Developing ML for the best science

- 1 just another numerical tool for a numerical field
- 2 completely transformative new language
 - driven by money from data science and medical research
 - physics should be leading scientific AI
 - 1000 Einsteins...
 - ...improving established tools
 - ...developing new tools for established tasks
 - ...transforming through new ideas

→ You can be the golden generation!

Modern Machine Learning for LHC Physicists

Tilman Plehn^{a,†}, Anja Butter^{a,b}, Barry Dillon^a,
Theo Helme^a, Claudius Krause^c, and Ramon Winterhalder^d

^a Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

^b LPNHE, Sorbonne Université, Université Paris Cité, CNRS/IN2P3, Paris, France

^c HEPHY, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria

^d CP3, Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

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.[†]

:2211.01421v2 [hep-ph] 17 Mar 2024

