

A Machine Learning Framework to improve the search for New Physics in the ATLAS experiment

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Collaborators: José Salt, Guillem Arbona, Santiago González de la Hoz,
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20/11/2025



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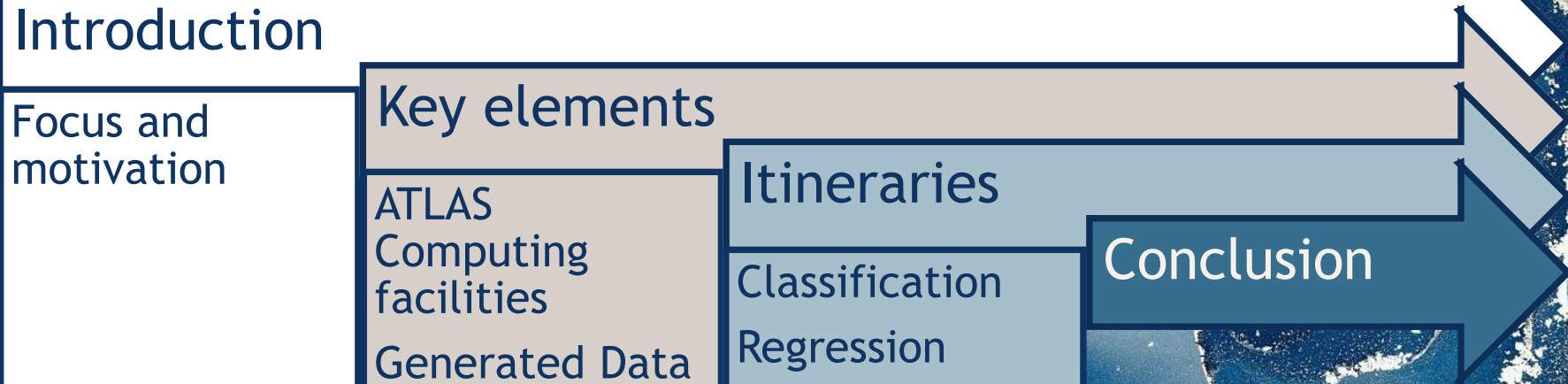
VNIVERSITAT
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INSTITUT DE
FÍSICA
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EXCELENCIA
SEVERO
OCHOA



Introduction

Focus and
motivation

Key elements

ATLAS
Computing
facilities
Generated Data
ML methods

Itineraries

Classification
Regression
ARTEMISA
implementation

Conclusion



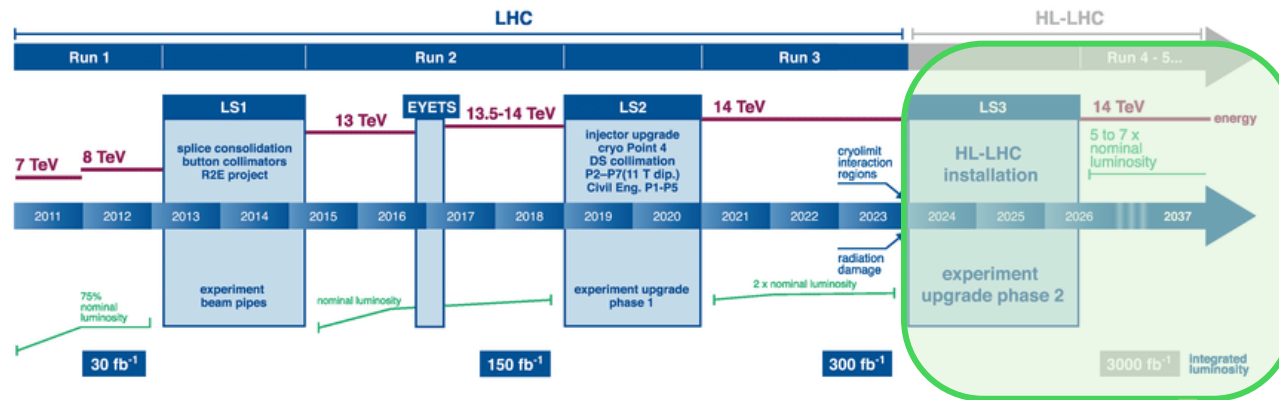
INTRODUCTION

Focus and motivation

Final Run of LHC - software and hardware

LHC / HL-LHC Plan

NOTE: outdated timeline

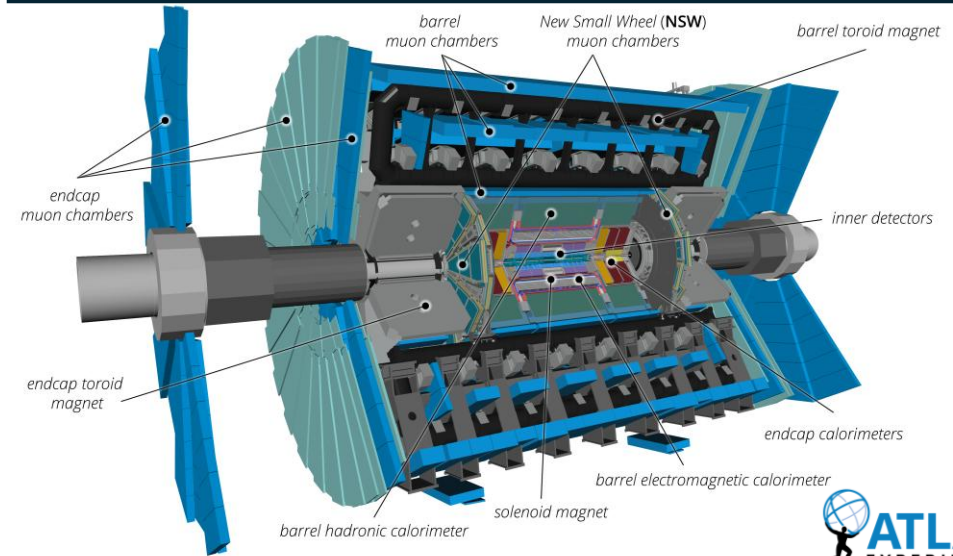


Necessary training in ML/DL for future PhDs

- Analysis will benefit from AI methods
- Broad offer of libraries, ML/DL



ATLAS & CMS - general purpose detectors



CMS DETECTOR

Total weight : 14,000 tonnes
Overall diameter : 15.0 m
Overall length : 28.7 m
Magnetic field : 3.8 T

STEEL RETURN YOKE
12,500 tonnes

SILICON TRACKERS
Pixel (100x150 μm) ~1m² ~66M channels
Microstrips (80x180 μm) ~200m² ~9.6M channels

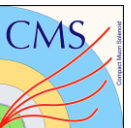
SUPERCONDUCTING SOLENOID
Niobium titanium coil carrying ~18,000A

MUON CHAMBERS
Barrel: 250 Drift Tube, 480 Resistive Plate Chambers
Endcaps: 540 Cathode Strip, 576 Resistive Plate Chambers

PRESHOWER
Silicon strips ~16m² ~137,000 channels

FORWARD CALORIMETER
Steel + Quartz fibres ~2,000 Channels

CRYSTAL ELECTROMAGNETIC CALORIMETER (ECAL)
~76,000 scintillating PbWO₄ crystals



Trajectory of numerous TFGs and TFMs

Deep Learning to improve Experimental Sensitivity and Generative Models for Monte Carlo simulations for searching for New Physics in LHC experiments

José Salt^{1,*}, Raúl Balanzá², Azael García⁴, Jon Ander Gomez², Santiago González de la Hoz¹, Julio Lozano³, Roberto Ruiz de Austri¹, and Miguel Villaplana¹

¹Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC) - Universitat de València (UV) and CSIC, Valencia, Spain

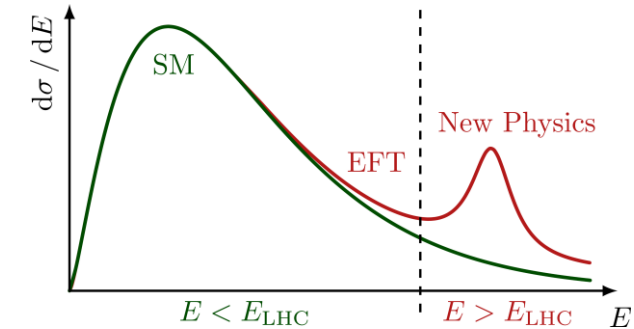
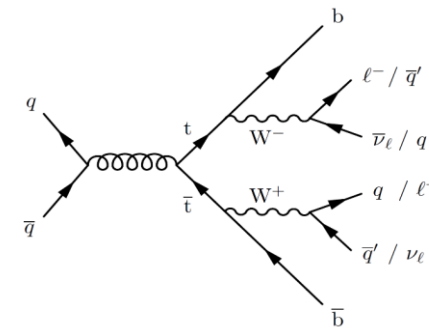
²Universitat Politècnica de Valencia (UPV), Valencia, Spain

³Universidad de Alcalá de Henares (UAH), Spain

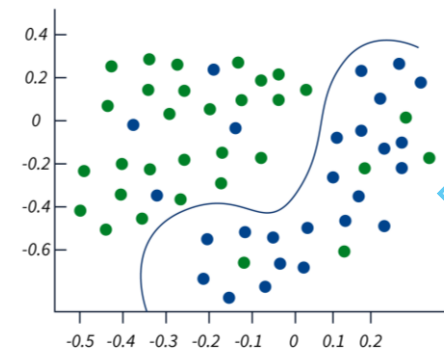
⁴Universitat de València (UV), Spain



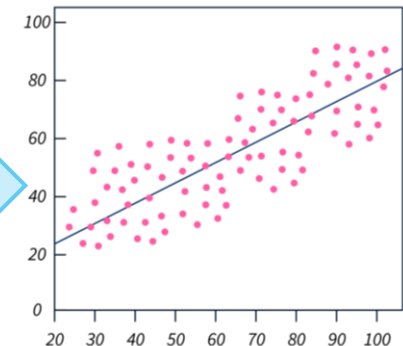
$t\bar{t}$ events $\rightarrow$ BSM probe



ML itineraries



Classification



Regression



VNIVERSITAT ID VALÈNCIA Facultat de Física Màster en Física Avanzada Especialidad Física Nuclear de Partículas Experimental  Trabajo Fin de Máster Estimation of Systematic Errors in Deep Learning Methods applied to the extraction of $t\bar{t}$ resonances in ATLAS experiment Guillem Arbona Ferrer	VNIVERSITAT ID VALÈNCIA Facultat de Física Màster en Física Avanzada Especialidad Física Nuclear y de Partículas Experimental  Trabajo Fin de Máster MACHINE LEARNING EN EL ESTUDIO $t\bar{t}$ DEL EXPERIMENTO ATLAS AUTORA: ÁNGELA GARCÍA MÍNQUEZ TUTORES: JORDI MUÑOZ MARI, JOSÉ SALT CAIROLIS JULIO, 2020	VNIVERSITAT ID VALÈNCIA Facultat de Física Màster en Física Avanzada Especialidad en Física Nuclear y de Partículas  Trabajo Fin de Máster Approaching new challenges in the search for New Physics in ATLAS $t\bar{t}$ events Alejandro Pérez García Tutor (1): José Salt Cairós Tutor (2): Santiago González de la Hoz Curso académico 2021/22
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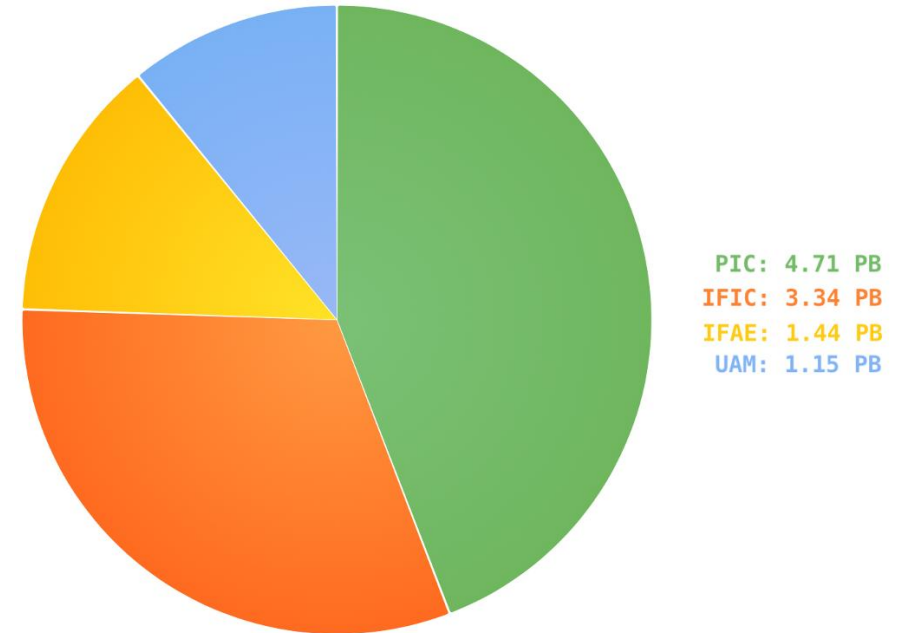
KEY ELEMENTS

CERN Analysis facilities, simulation, ML methods

Spanish ATLAS Tier-1 & Tier-2s



Collaboration and coordination

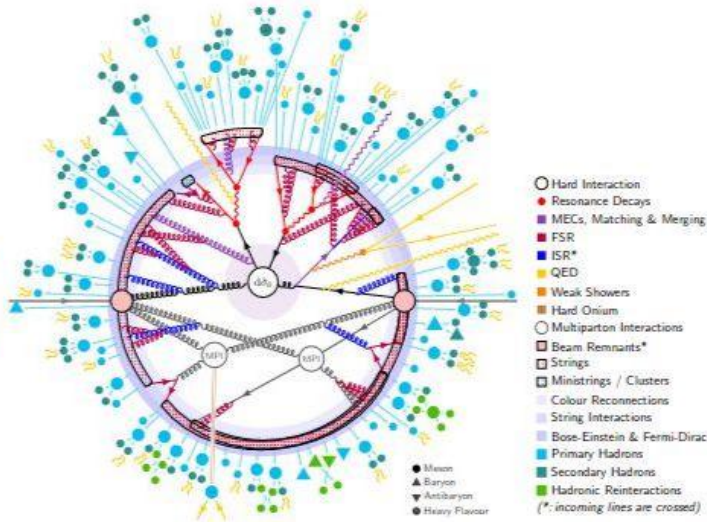


Disk usage 2024

Simulation software

Simulation parameters

Pythia8



CPU demanding

Setting name	Setting description	CMS default	ATLAS default	Common Proposal
POWHEG				
qmass	top-quark mass [GeV]	172.5	172.5	172.5
twidh	top-quark width [GeV]	1.31	1.32	1.315
hdamp	first emission damping parameter [GeV]	237.8775	258.75	250
wmass	$W^\pm$ mass [GeV]	80.4	80.3999	80.4
wwidh	$W^\pm$ width [GeV]	2.141	2.085	2.11
bmass	b -quark mass [GeV]	4.8	4.95	4.875
PYTHIA 8				
	PYTHIA 8 version	v240	v230	v240 (CMS) v244 (ATLAS)
	Tune	CP5	A14	Monash
PDF:pSet	LHAPDF6 parton densities to be used for proton beams	NNPDF31_nnlo _as_0118	NNPDF23_lo _as_0130_qed	NNPDF23_lo _as_0130_qed
TimeShower:alphaSvalue	Value of α_s at Z mass scale for Final State Radiation	0.118	0.127	0.1365
SpaceShower:alphaSvalue	Value of α_s at Z mass scale for Initial State Radiation	0.118	0.127	0.1365
MPI:alphaSvalue	Value of α_s at Z mass scale for Multi-Parton Interaction	0.118	0.126	0.130
MPI:pT0ref	Reference p_T scale for regularizing soft QCD emissions	1.41	2.09	2.28
ColourReconnection:range	Parameter controlling colour reconnection probability	5.176	1.71	1.80

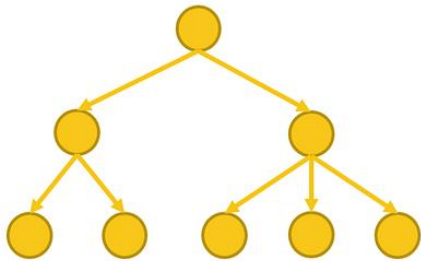
Negro, Giulia. (2022). Top Quark Modelling and Tuning in ATLAS and CMS. 10.48550/arXiv.2201.03517.

Experiment-theory loop update

DT based methods

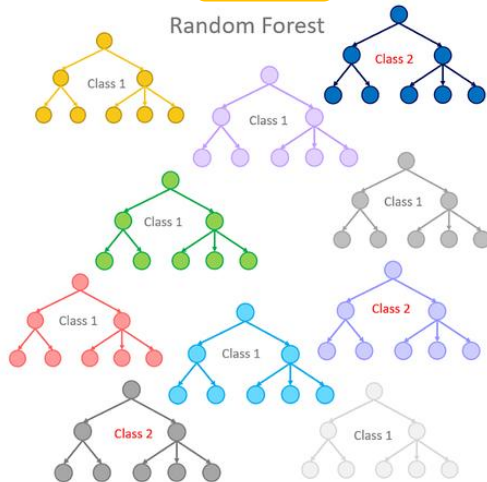
Single Decision Tree

DT



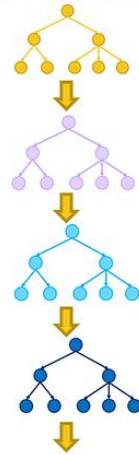
RF

Random Forest

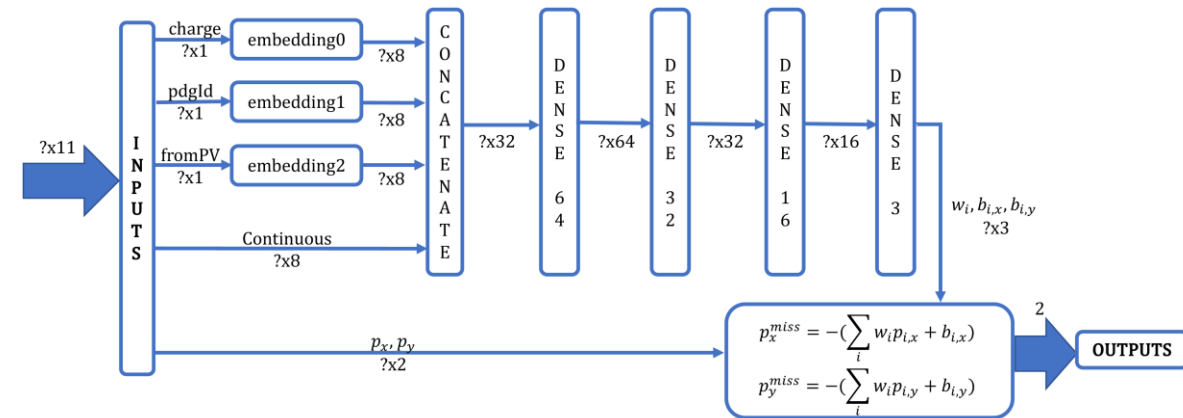
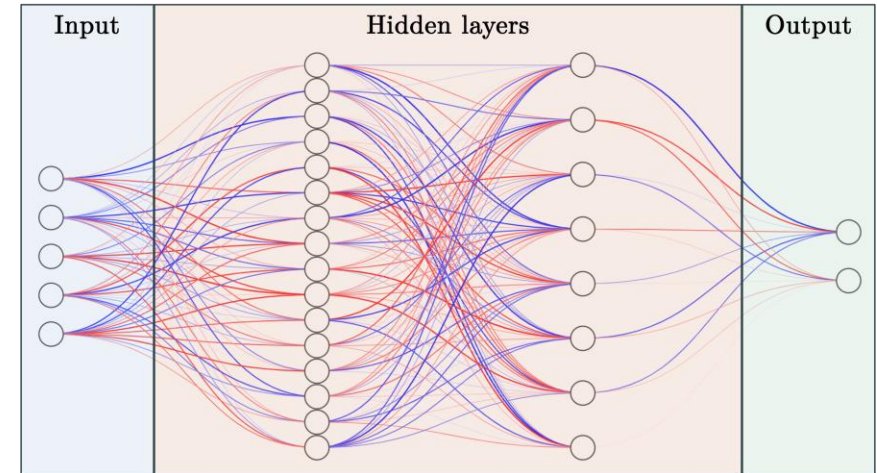


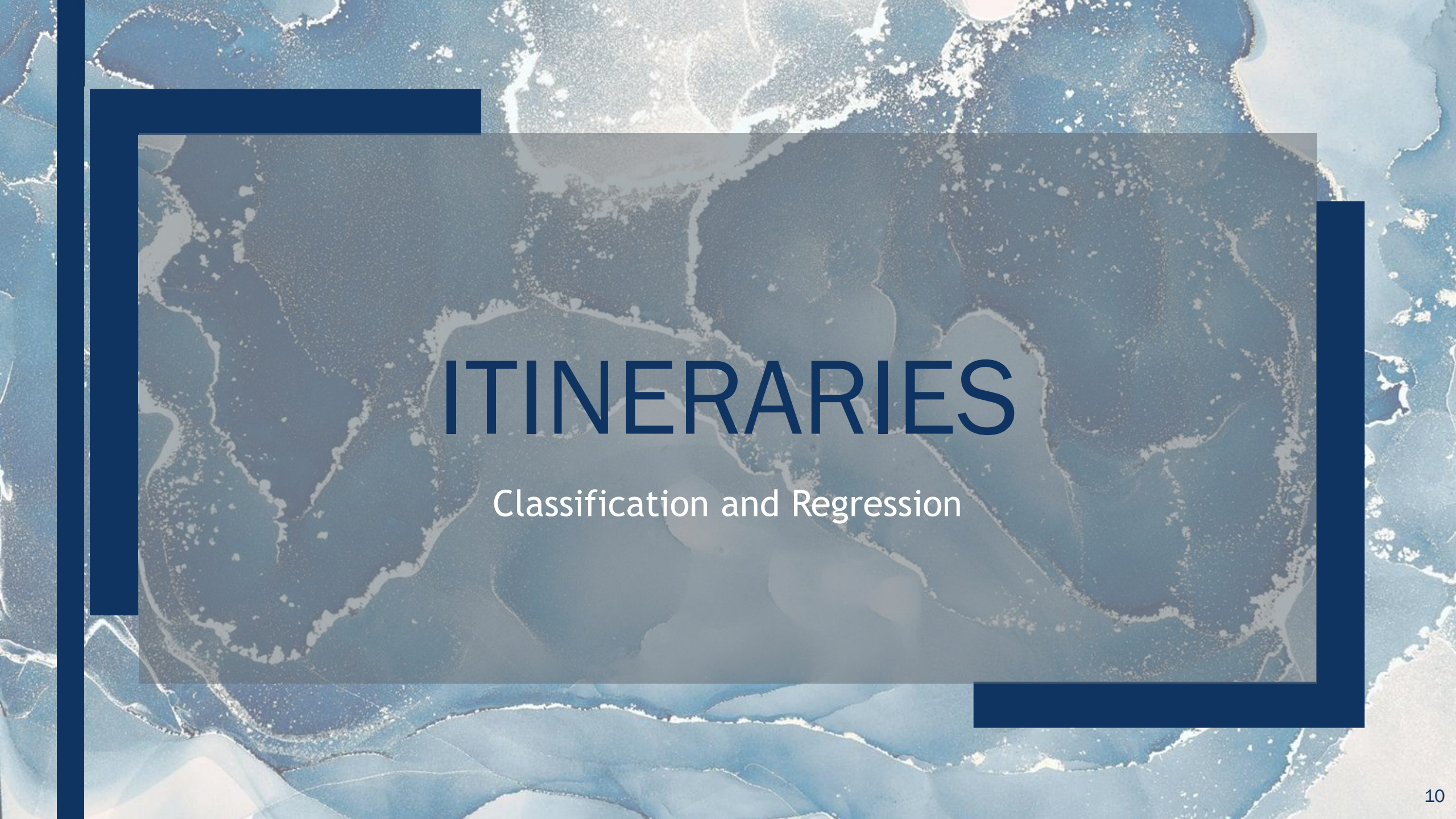
Gradient Boosted Trees

BDT



Neural Networks



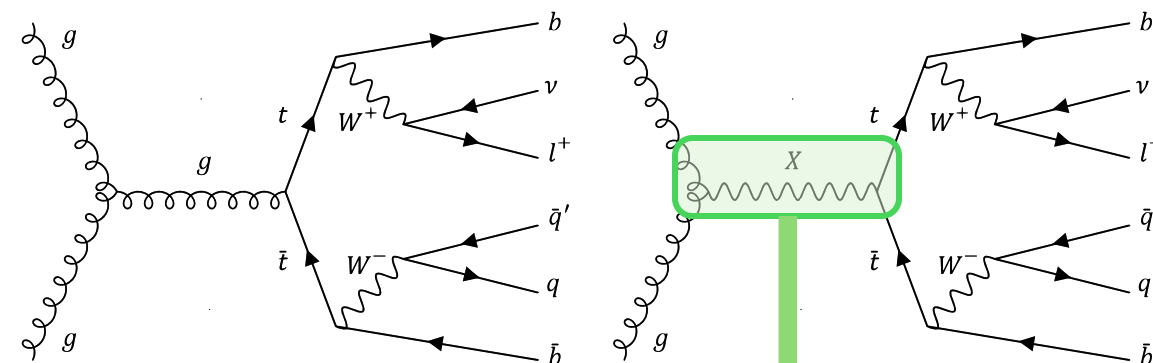
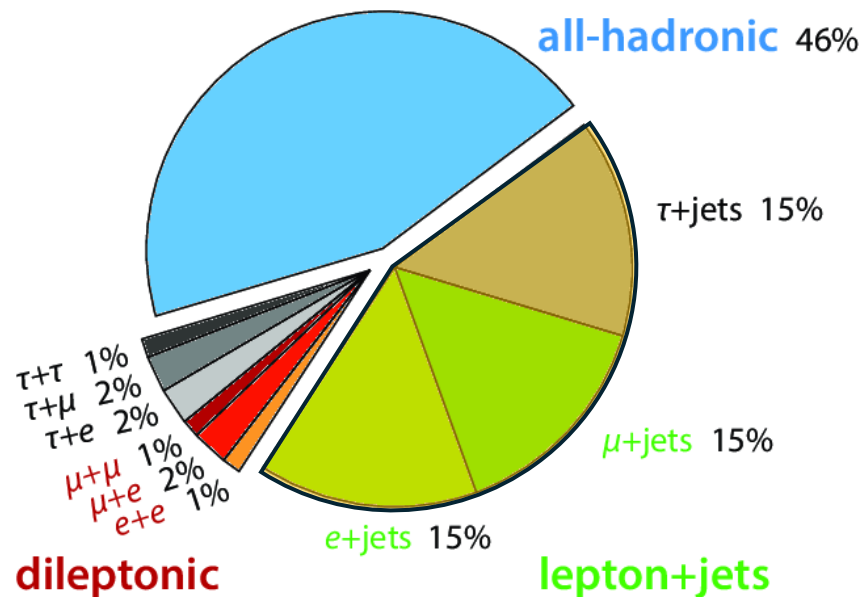


ITINERARIES

Classification and Regression

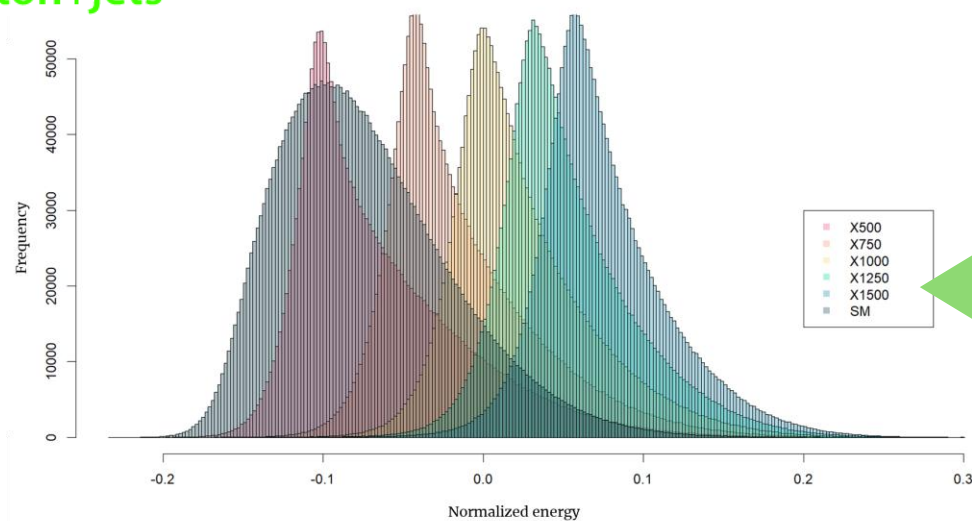
Semileptonic $t\bar{t}$

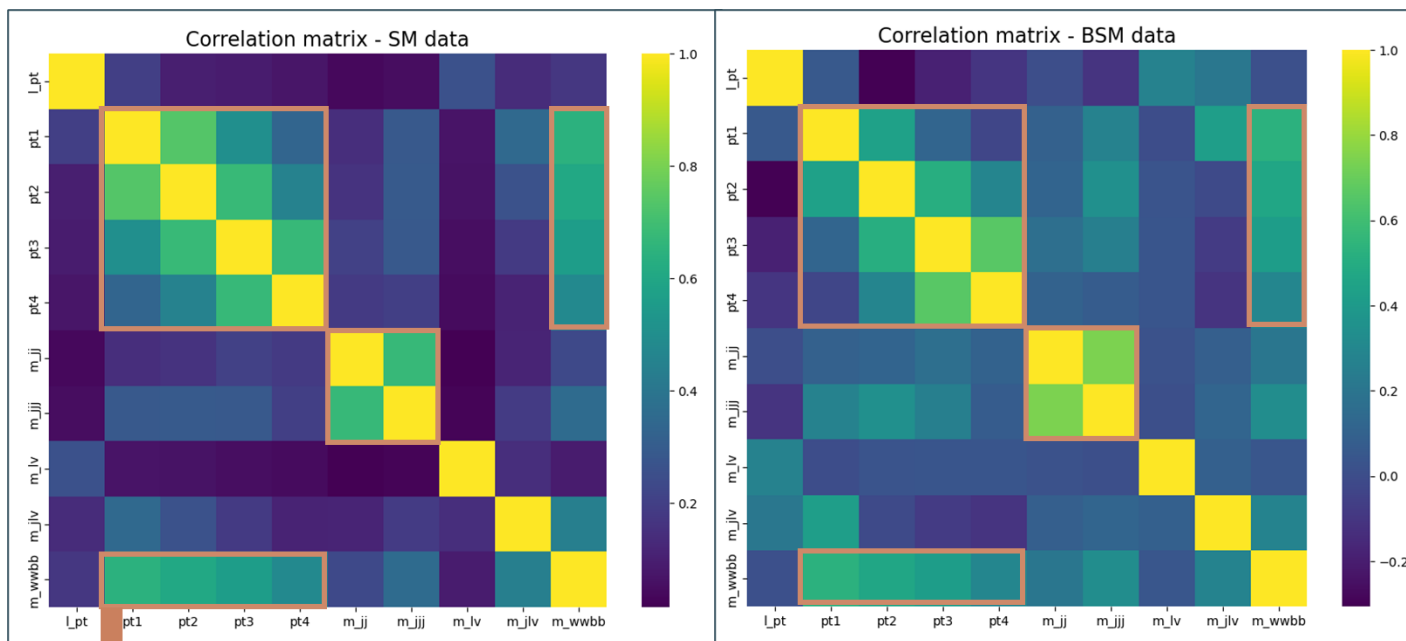
SM (gluon) vs BSM (Z')



Different $M_{Z'}$

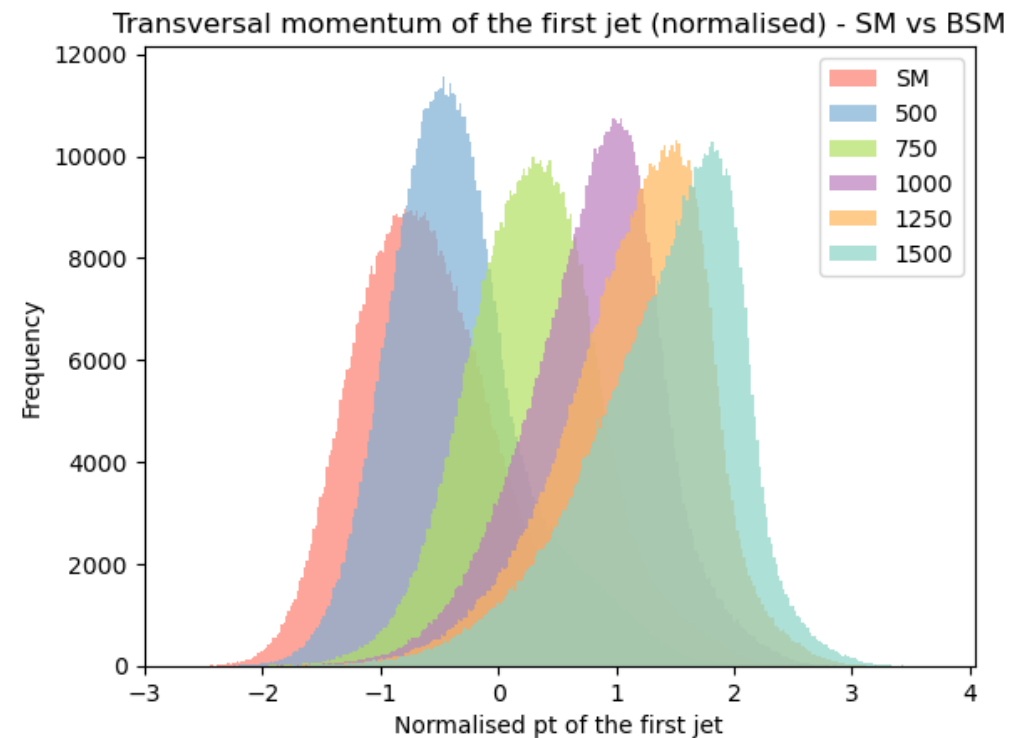
Complete invariant mass – SM and BSM





SM Gluon vs $t\bar{t}$ resonance ($M_Z = 1000$ GeV)

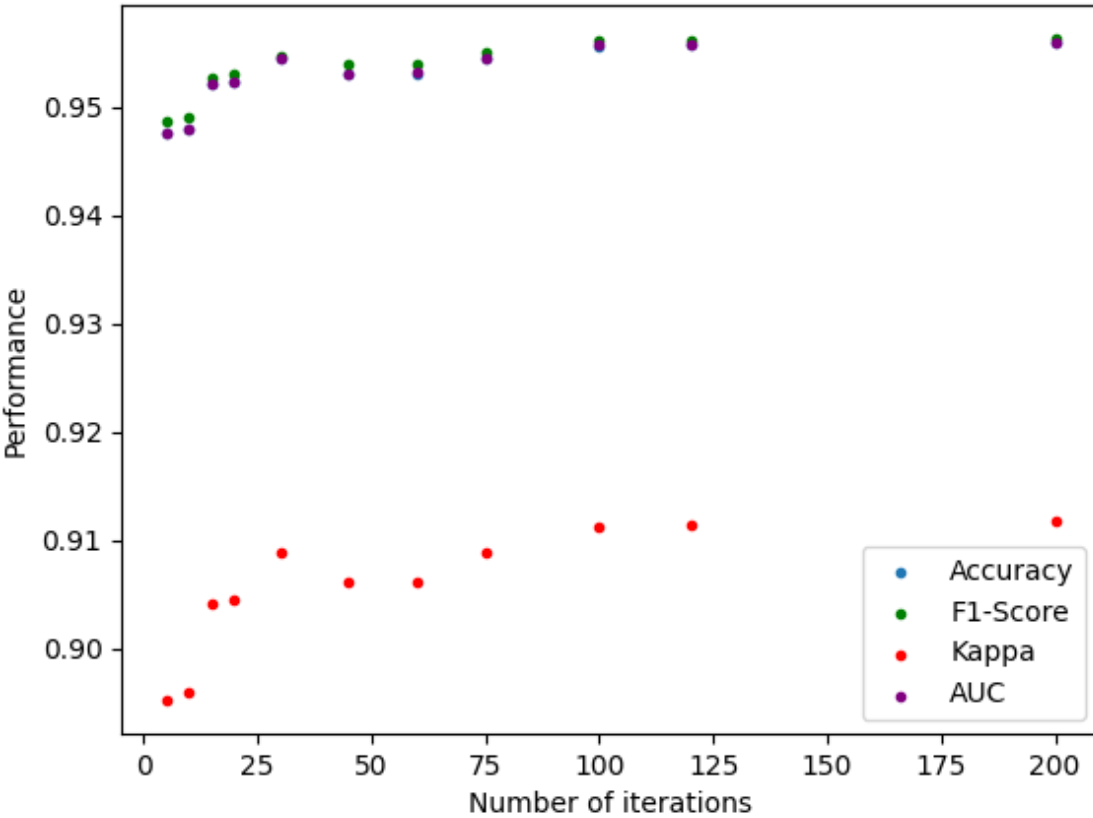
Key tendencies



$t\bar{t}$ resonance ($M_Z \in [500, 1500]$ GeV)

Number of BDT iterations

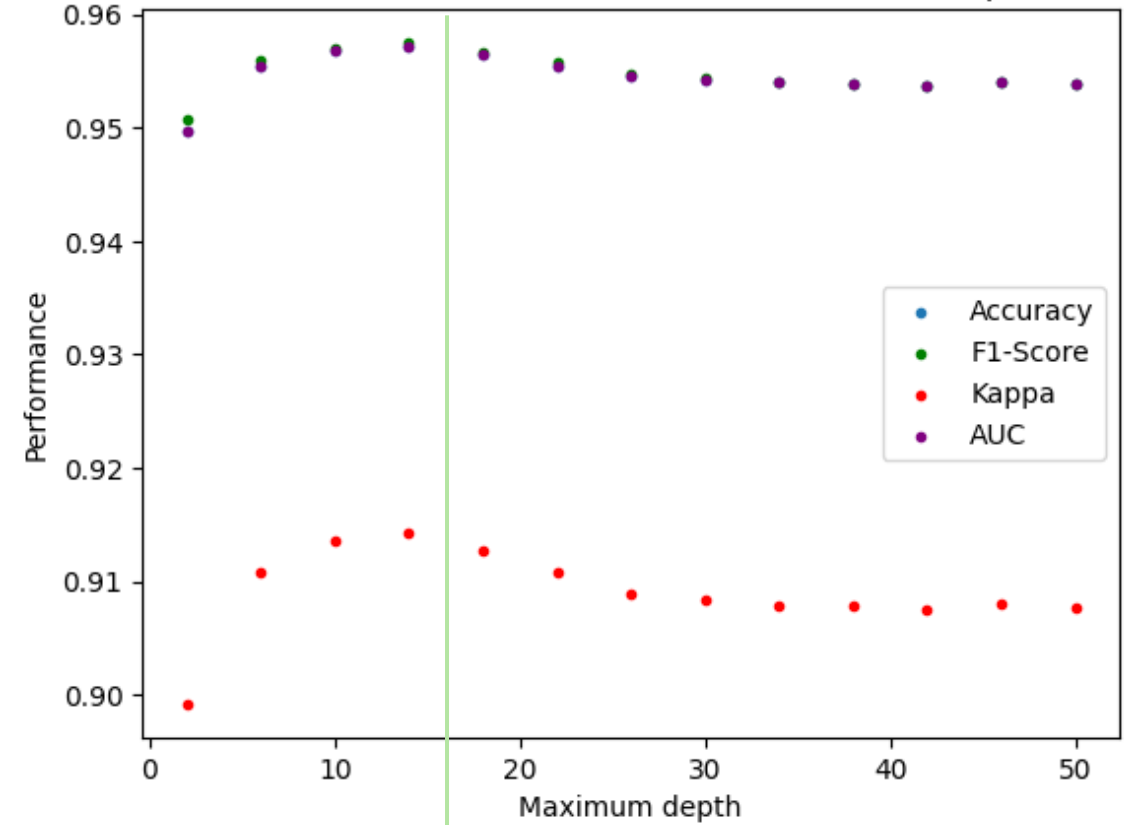
Performance of BDT mass 1500 vs number of iterations



Asymptotic improvement

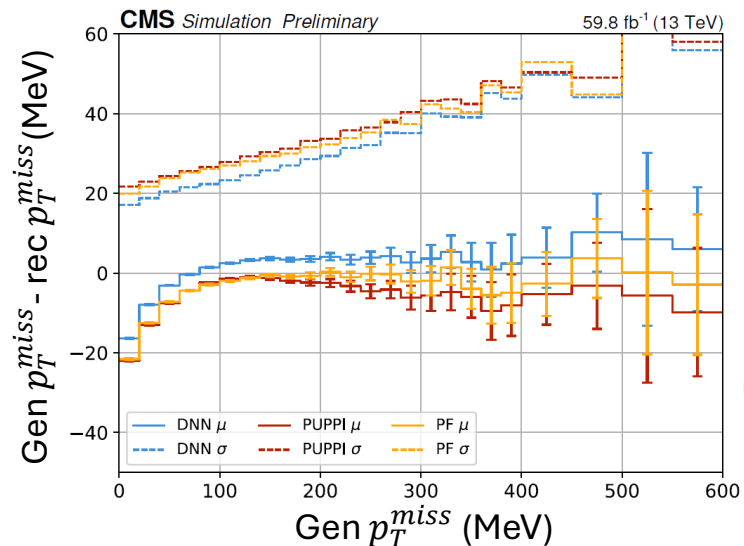
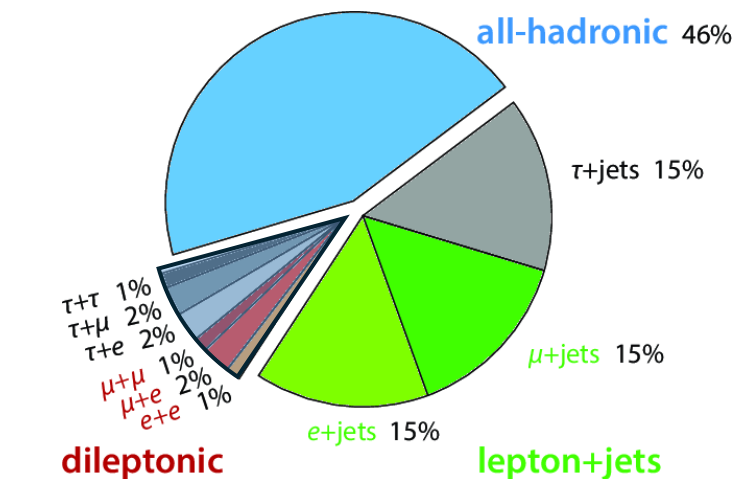
Max depth of RF

Performance of RF mass 1500 vs Maximum depth

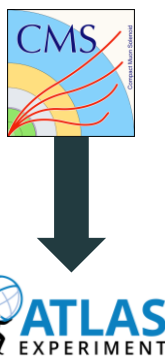


Overfitting

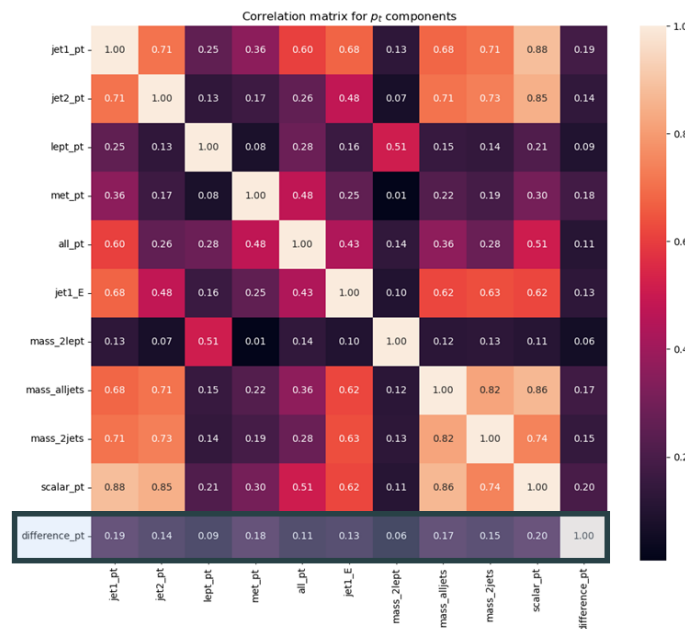
Dileptonic ttbar regression



CMS precedent

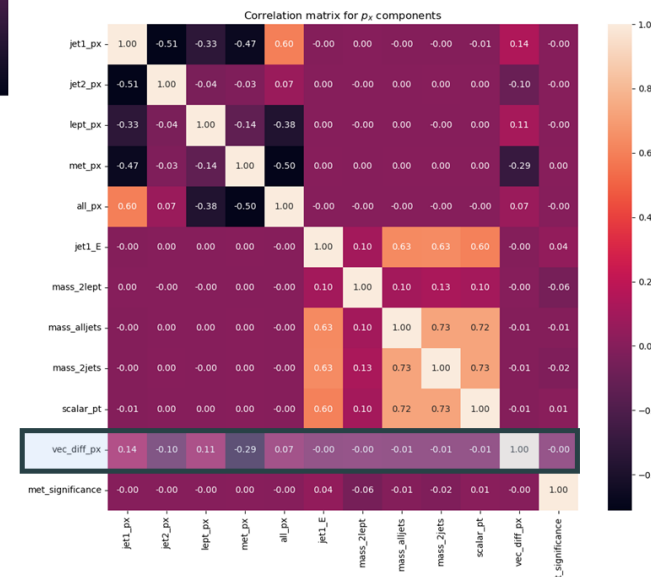


Correlation matrices

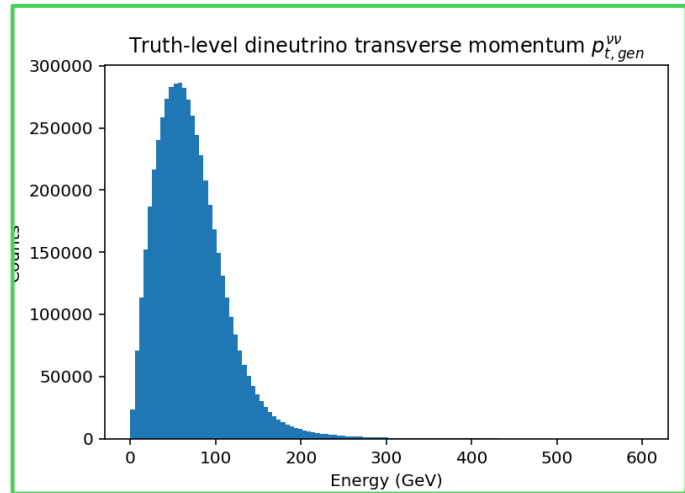


Very low correlation

Best if px/py coordinates

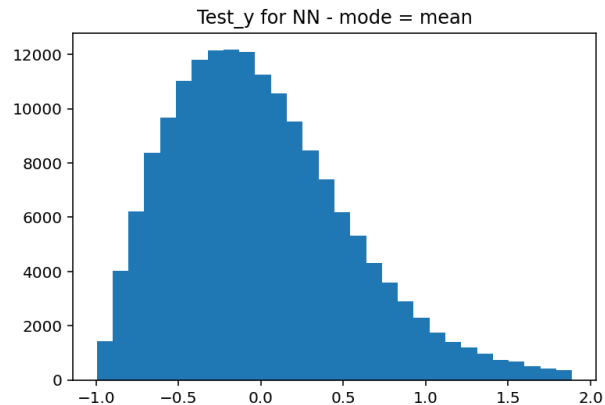


Reweighting procedure

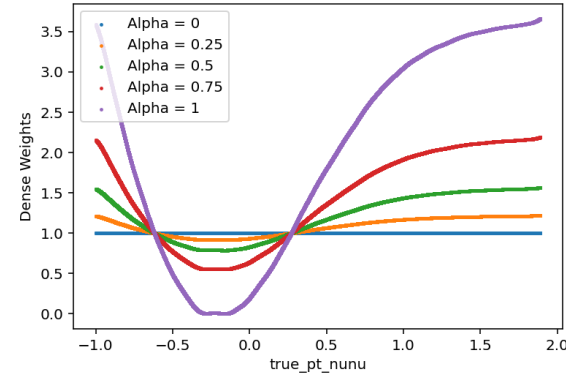


Imbalanced dataset

DenseWeights



DenseWeights computed on normalized true_pt_nunu, mode = mean



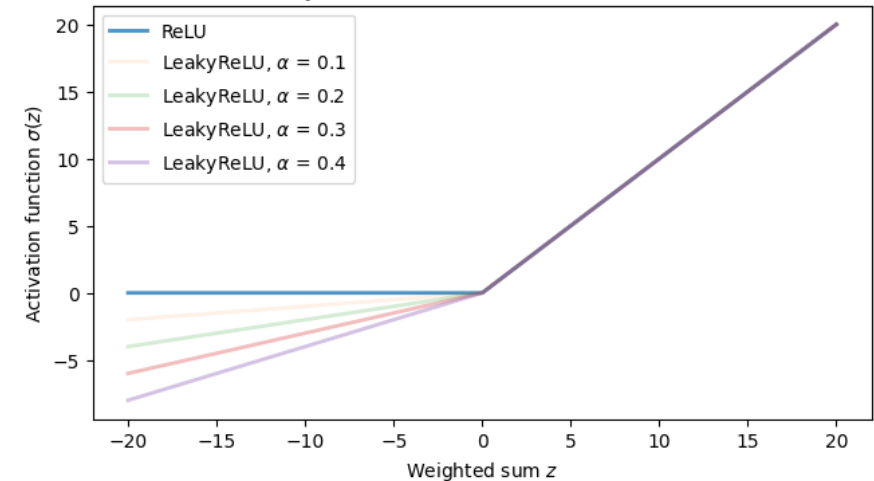
Hyperparameter testing

Hyperparameter	Options
Loss function	[logcosh, huber, mse, mae, custom]
Activation function	[relu, leaky relu, sigmoid]
First hidden layer neurons	[16, 32, 64, 128, 256, 512]
Hidden layers neurons ratio	[1/8, 1/4, 1/2, 1, 2]
Epochs	[50, 100, 500]
Dropout	[0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4]
Alpha (DenseWeights)	[0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1]
Patience (Early Stopping)	[5, 10, 20]

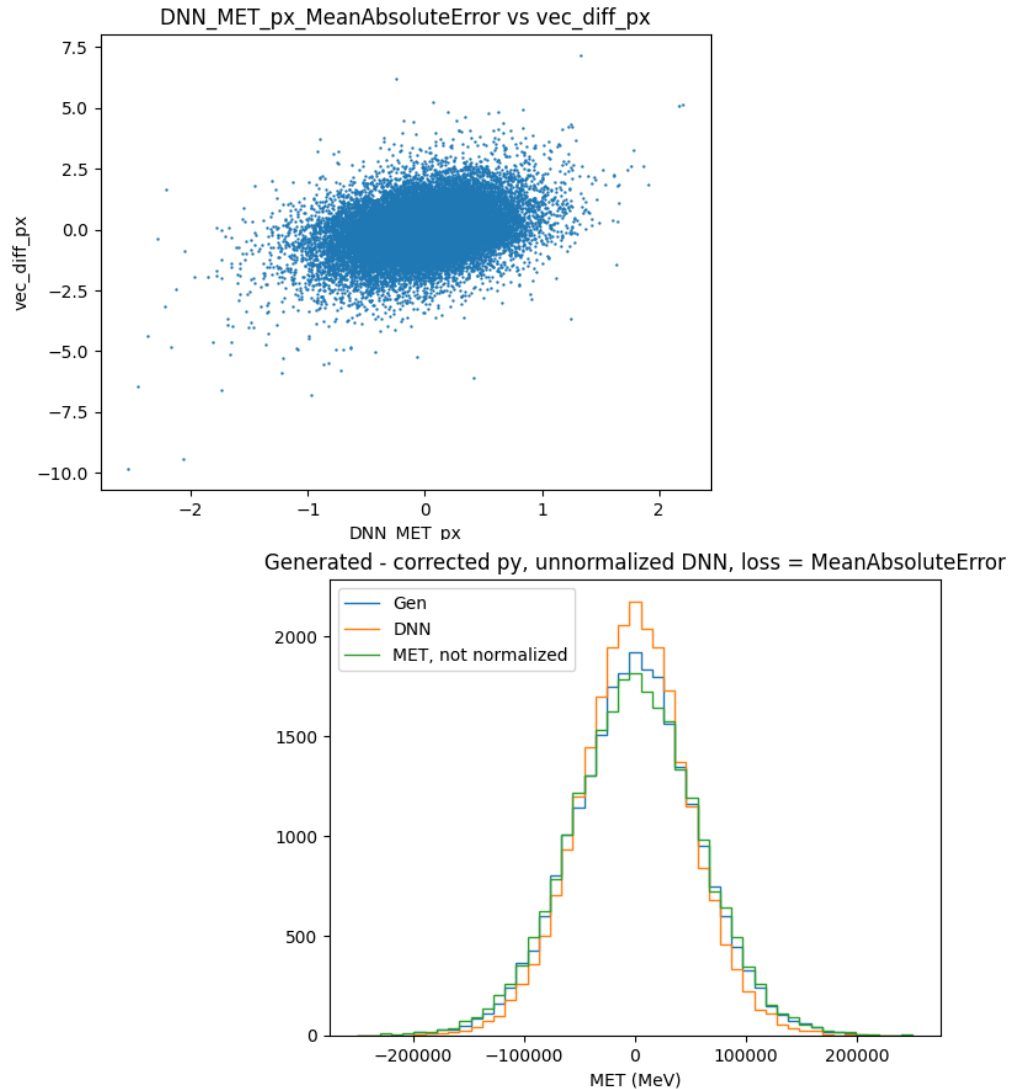
Code	Procedure	Range
mean	$x_n = (x - \bar{x})/\bar{x}$	-
mean_std	$x_n = (x - \bar{x})/\sigma_x$	-
min_max	$x_n = (x - \min(x))/(\min(x) - \max(x))$	[0, 1]
log	$x_1 = \log(x + \kappa) \rightarrow x_n = (x_1 - \bar{x}_1)/\bar{x}_1$	[0, +∞]

Activation function

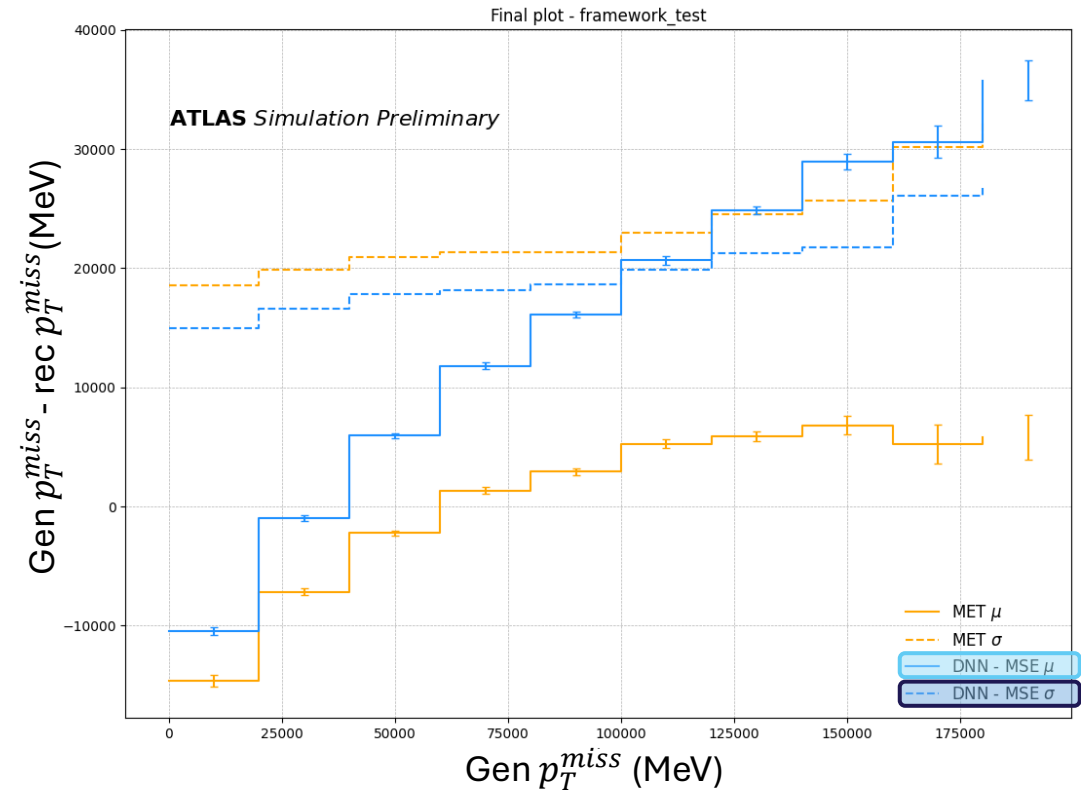
LeakyReLU and ReLU activation functions



Strong deviation - ongoing project



Preliminary results

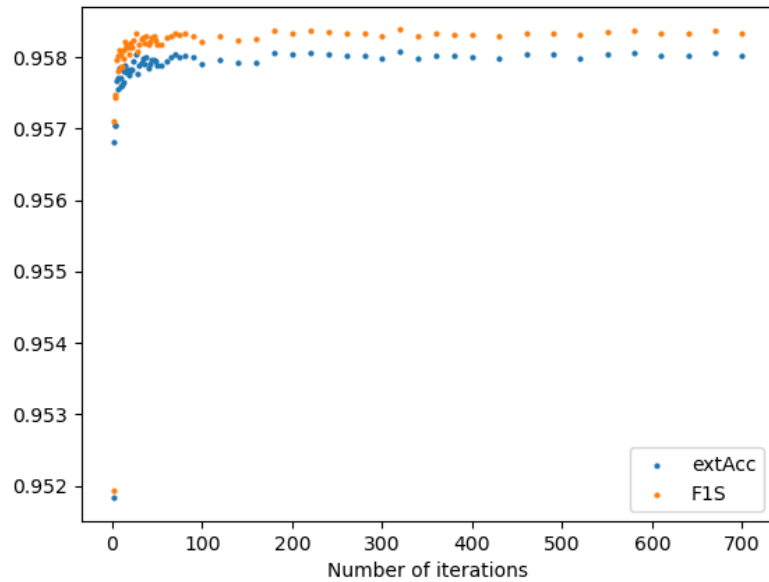


Slight resolution improvement

Notably worse reconstruction

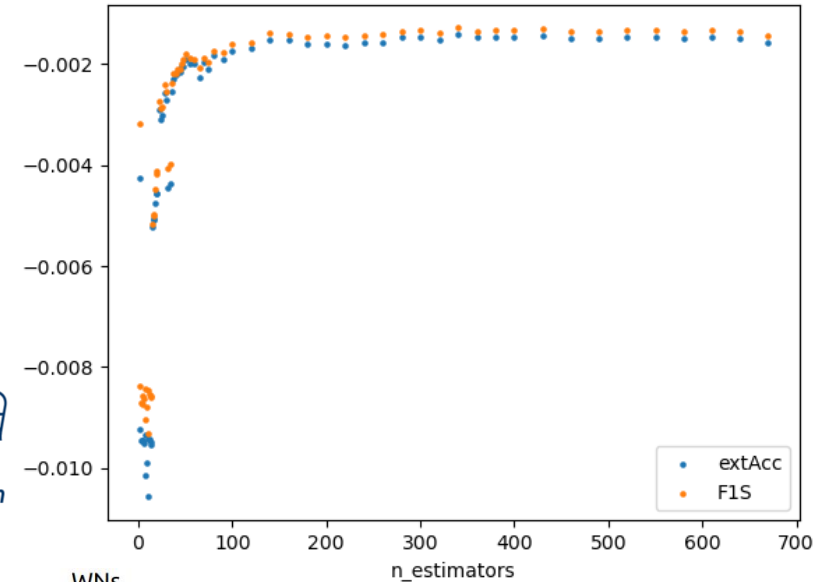
RF number of trees

ARTEMISA: metrics RF vs n_estimators

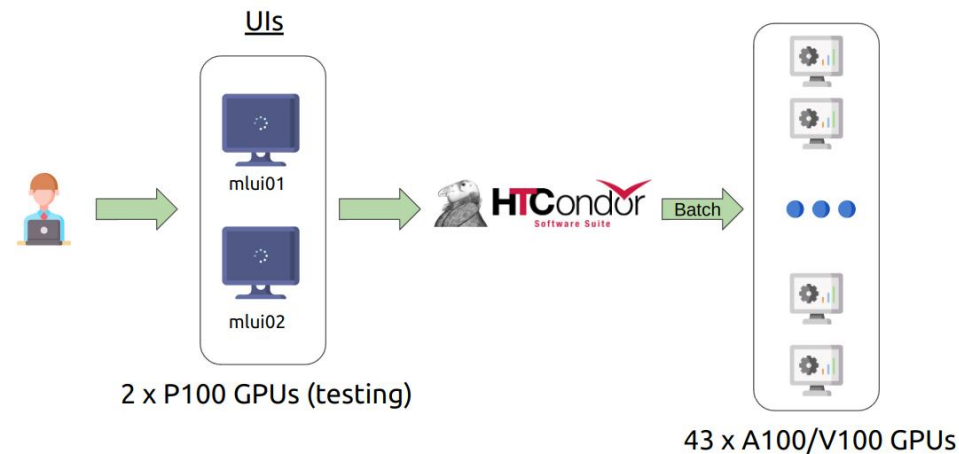


BDT vs RF

ARTEMISA: BDT – RF performance



Local infrastructure





CONCLUSION



Deep initiation into ML/DL applied to Physics

Useful for Bachelor's / Master's & first steps in HEP analysis

Classification: $t\bar{t}$ BSM signal

Regression: MET reconstruction

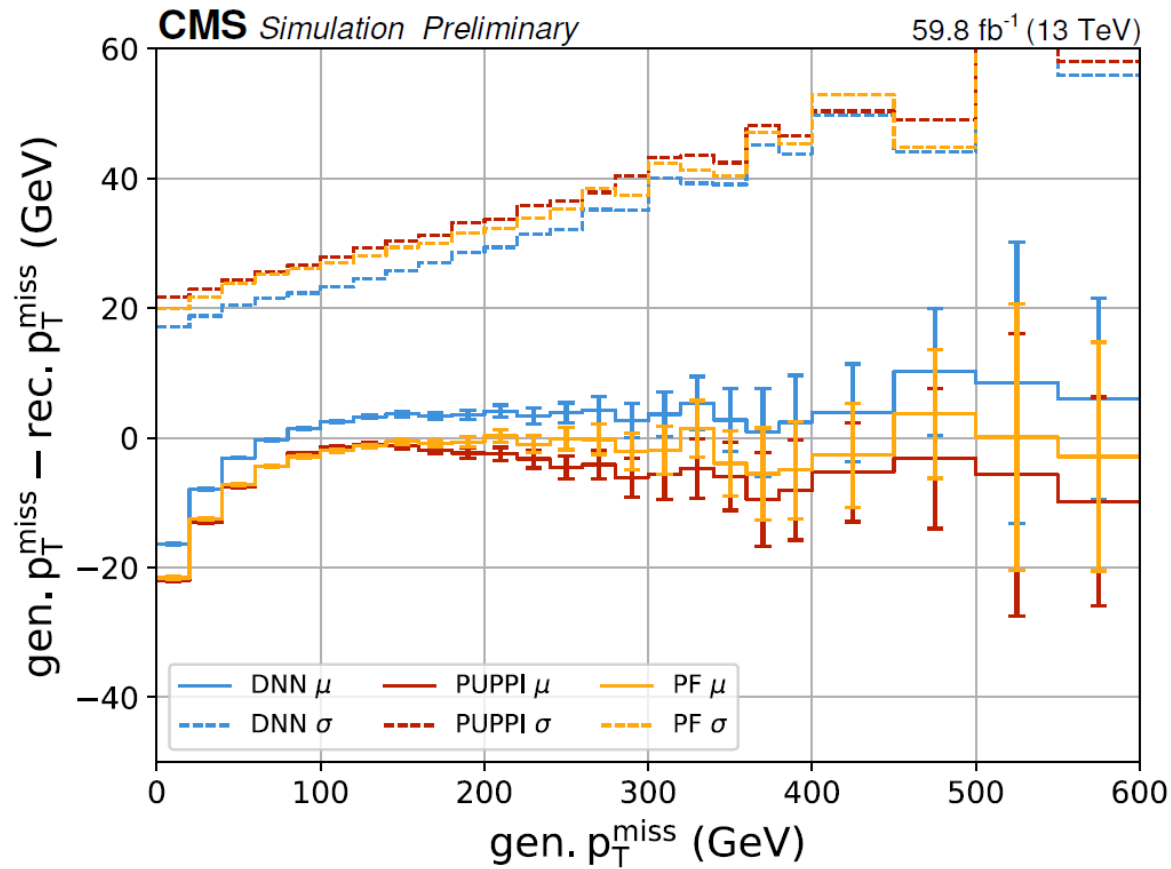
ARTEMISA: high-end computing infrastructure

- “Estudi de l’extracció del senyal ressonant de successos $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$ mitjançant tècniques de Machine Learning en l’experiment ATLAS”, Alejandro Pérez García, Bachelor’s Thesis.
- “Approaching new challenges in the search for New Physics in ATLAS $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$ events”, Alejandro Pérez García, Master’s Thesis.
- “Estimation of Systematic Errors in Deep Learning Methods applied to the extraction of $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$ resonances in ATLAS experiment”, Guillem Arbona Ferrer, Master’s Thesis.
- B. H. Hodkinson, “METNet: A combined missing transverse momentum working point using a neural network with the ATLAS detector”
<https://cds.cern.ch/record/2777658>
- “Measurement of the dineutrino system kinematics in dileptonic top quark pair events in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV”, CMS collaboration, 2024
- D. Meuser, “Measurement of the differential dileptonic $t\bar{t}$ cross section in a BSM phase space with the CMS detector using the full LHC Run 2 data set,” Ph.D. dissertation, Sep. 2023

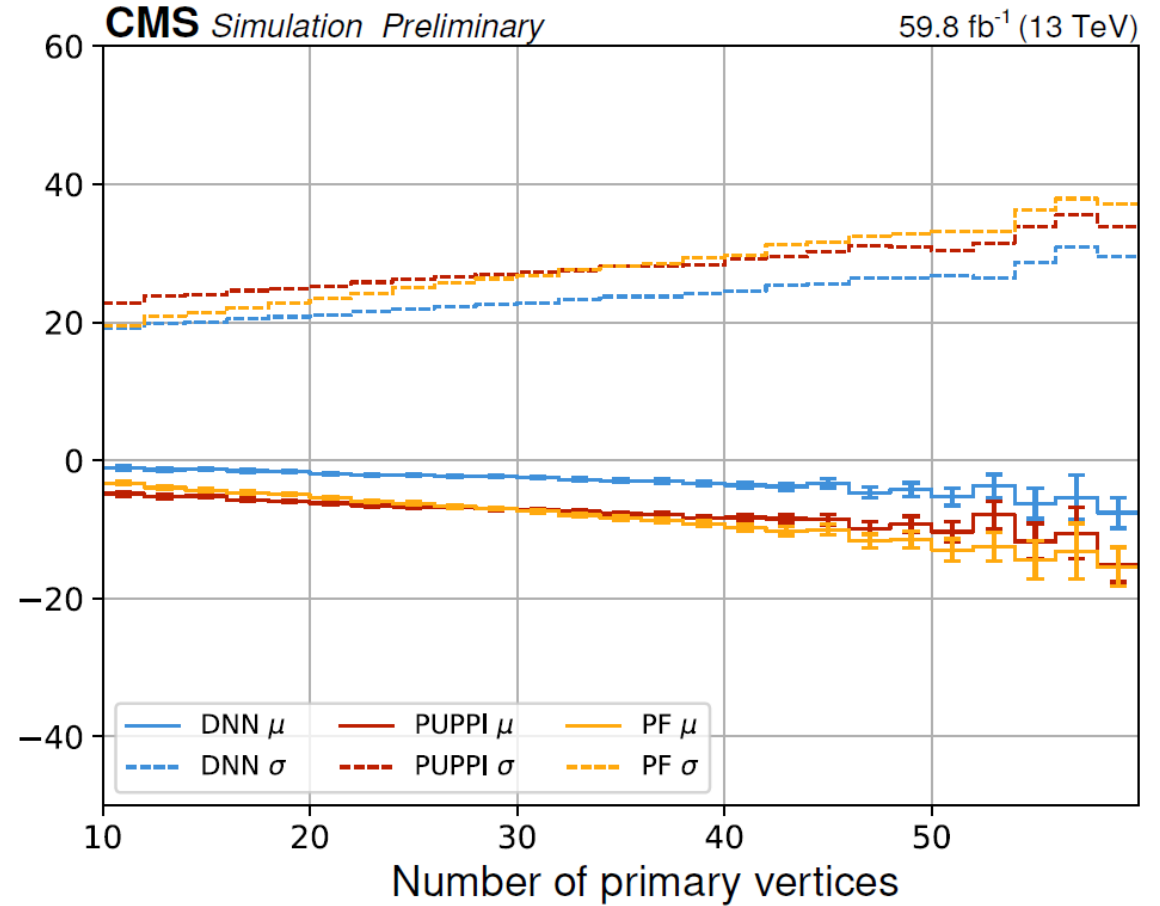
The authors gratefully acknowledge the computer resources at Artemisa and the technical support provided by the Instituto de Física Corpuscular, IFIC(CSIC-UV). Artemisa is co-funded by the European Union through the 2014-2020 ERDF Operative Programme of Comunitat Valenciana, project IDIFEDER/2018/048. This work was partially supported by MICINN in Spain under grant PID2022-136323OB-C21.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

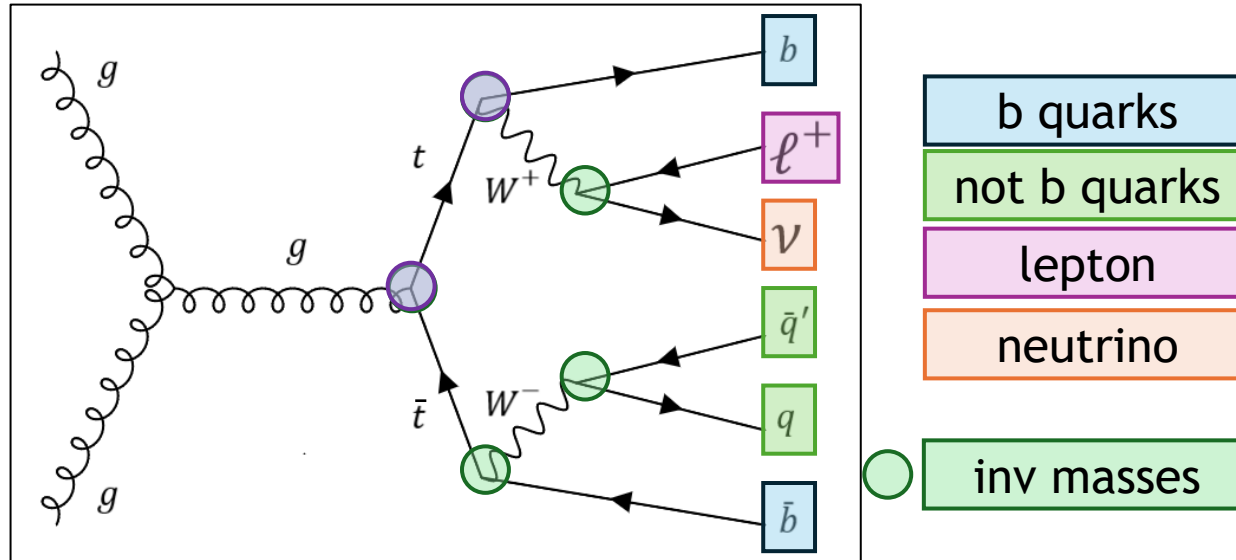
ADDITIONAL SLIDES



Successful attempt with Run 2 data at CMS



Pileup resilience studies at CMS



$$p_t = \sqrt{p_x^2 + p_y^2}$$

$$\varphi = \arctan(p_y/p_x)$$

$$\eta = -\ln \left[\tan \left(\frac{\theta}{2} \right) \right]$$

$$s_{ij}^2 = m_i^2 + m_j^2 + 2(\vec{p}_i \cdot \vec{p}_j) \\ \approx 2(\vec{p}_i \cdot \vec{p}_j)$$

HEPMASS repositori: 7M for training - 3.5M for testing

22 LL variables

5 HL variables

$p_t, \varphi, \eta, \text{btag}$
4 jets

p_t, φ, η lepton

p_t, φ, η MET
(neutrino)

Invariant masses

Pseudorapidity and invariant masses

$$p_t = \sqrt{p_x^2 + p_y^2}$$

$$\varphi = \arctan(p_y/p_x)$$

$$\eta = -\ln \left[\tan \left(\frac{\theta}{2} \right) \right]$$

$$s_{ij}^2 = m_i^2 + m_j^2 + 2(\vec{p}_i \cdot \vec{p}_j) \\ \approx 2(\vec{p}_i \cdot \vec{p}_j)$$

New High-Level variables

2D pt

Leading jets

Leading
leptons

MET

All jets

Invariant
masses

2 leptons

All jets

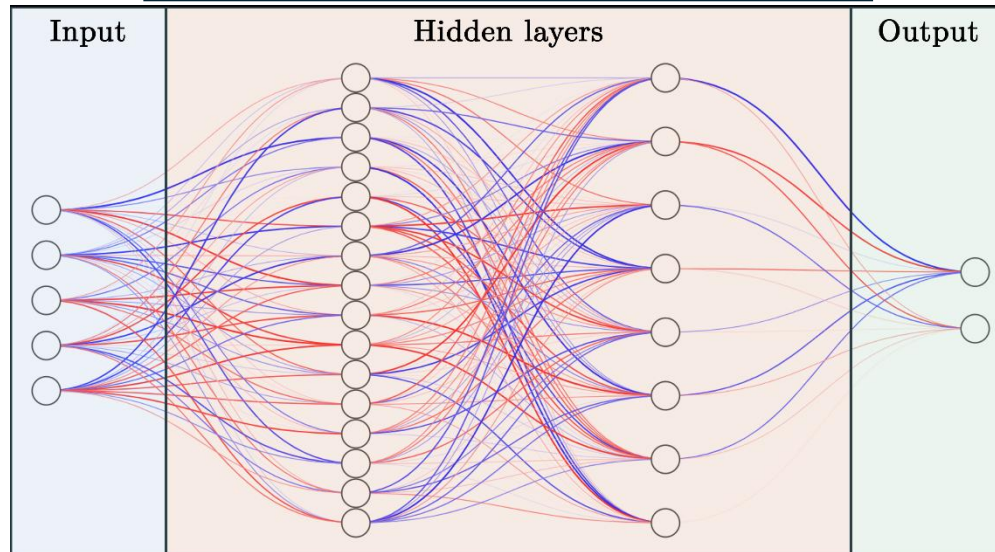
2 leading
jets

Others

Leading jet E

Scalar sum of
jet pt

MLP architecture



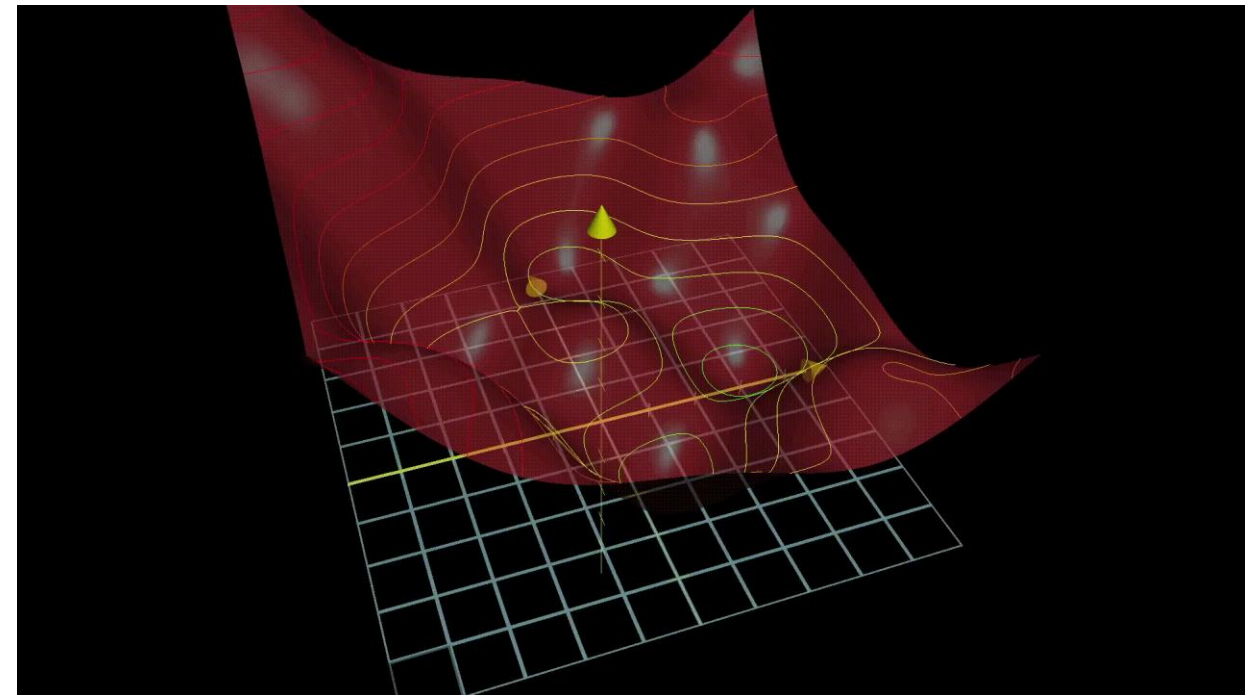
Backpropagation

$$\frac{\partial C_0}{\partial w^{(L)}} = \frac{\partial z^{(L)}}{\partial w^{(L)}} \cdot \frac{\partial a^{(L)}}{\partial z^{(L)}} \cdot \frac{\partial C_0}{\partial a^{(L)}} = a^{(L-1)} \cdot \sigma'(z^{(L)}) \cdot 2(a^{(L)} - y)$$

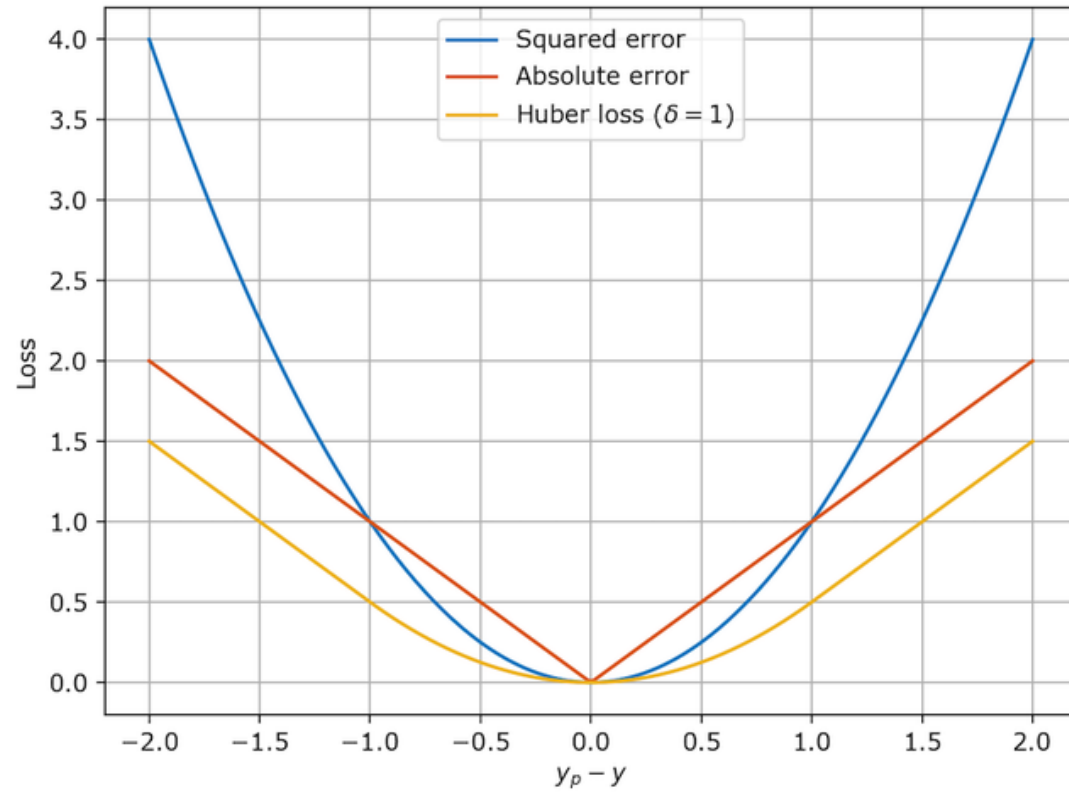
$$\frac{\partial C_0}{\partial b^{(L)}} = \frac{\partial z^{(L)}}{\partial b^{(L)}} \cdot \frac{\partial a^{(L)}}{\partial z^{(L)}} \cdot \frac{\partial C_0}{\partial a^{(L)}} = 1 \cdot \sigma'(z^{(L)}) \cdot 2(a^{(L)} - y)$$

$$\frac{\partial C_0}{\partial a^{(L-1)}} = \frac{\partial z^{(L)}}{\partial a^{(L-1)}} \cdot \frac{\partial a^{(L)}}{\partial z^{(L)}} \cdot \frac{\partial C_0}{\partial a^{(L)}} = w^{(L)} \cdot \sigma'(z^{(L)}) \cdot 2(a^{(L)} - y)$$

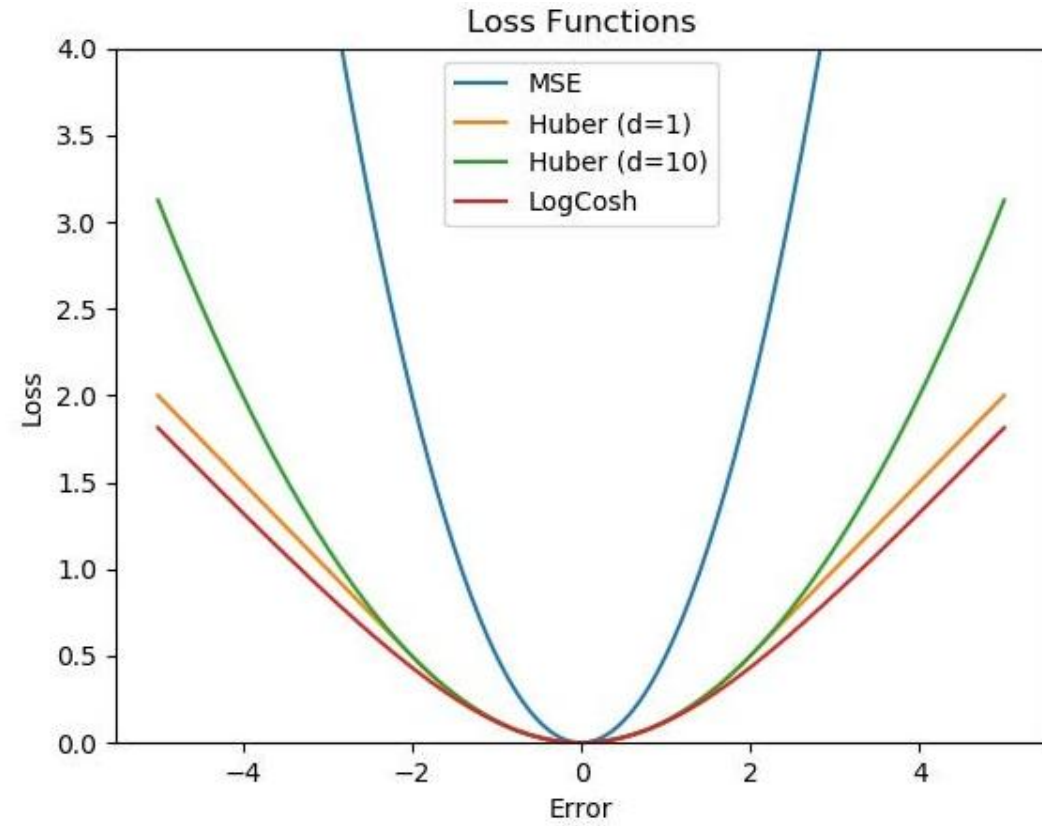
Stochastic Gradient Descent



<https://www.3blue1brown.com/lessons/backpropagation>



MSE - MAE - Huber



MSE - Huber - lgcosh

<https://htcondor.readthedocs.io/en/latest/users-manual/submitting-a-job.html>

HTCondor is the job manager at ARTEMISA



```
# Comunicació amb HTCCondor - el gestor de treballs dins d'Artemisa
condor_submit NNprova.sub # Carrega en la cua de treball el "submit" NNprova
condor_q                  # Mostra els treballs en cola
condor_rm 862149          # Elimina de la cola el treball 6862149
```

.sh file copy



```
#!/bin/bash
python3 BDTprova.py
cp BDTprova.csv /lhome/ific/a/alexp/
# Per tal de copiar l'output en la meua carpeta
```

,sub file example:



```
universe = vanilla
// No tinc massa clar quines opcions hi ha disponibles, però sembla que en general aquest és correcte.

executable      = BDTprova.sh
// Executarà l'script BDTprova.sh (podem considerar arxius sh bash o directament python)

log              = condor_logs/BDTprova.log
output           = condor_logs/BDTprova.$(Cluster).$(Process).out
error            = condor_logs/BDTprova.$(Cluster).$(Process).err
// Guarda un registre del treball en log, el que eix en terminal en .out i els errors en .err

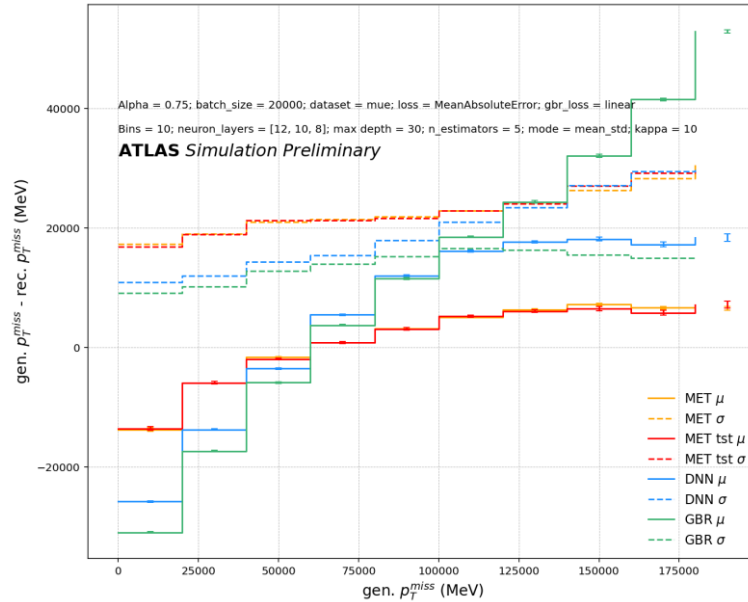
notify_user = alejandro.perez@ific.uv.es // Es pot demanar que notifique al usuari quan acabe
notification = always

transfer_output_files = BDTprova.csv // Podem guardar els files en un arxiu .csv
queue            // Ací podem incloure quantes vegades volem executar el treball (queue 3)
```

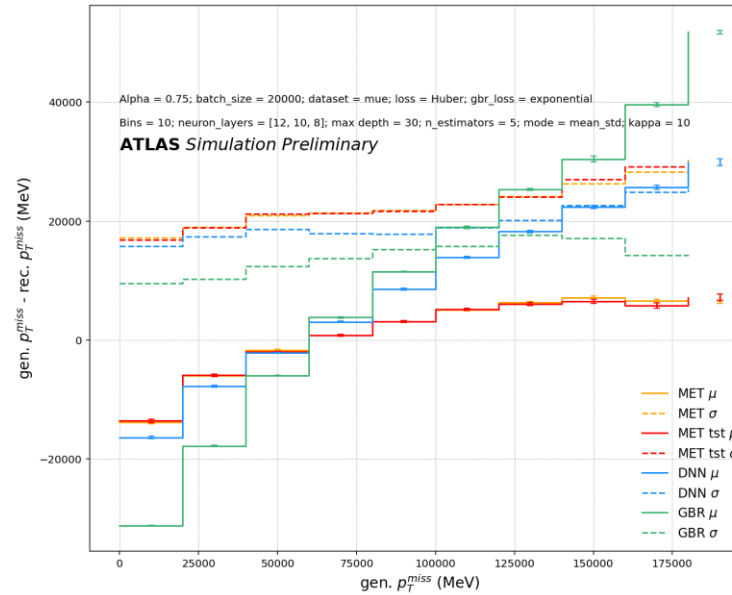
Loss function exploration

Custom loss definition

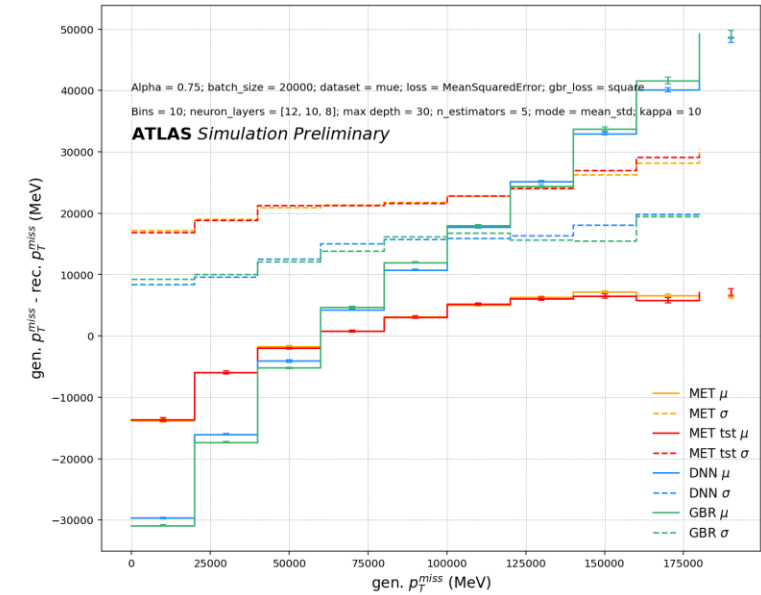
Custom weights



DNN loss: MeanAbsoluteError
AdaBoost loss: linear



DNN loss: Huber
AdaBoost loss: exponential



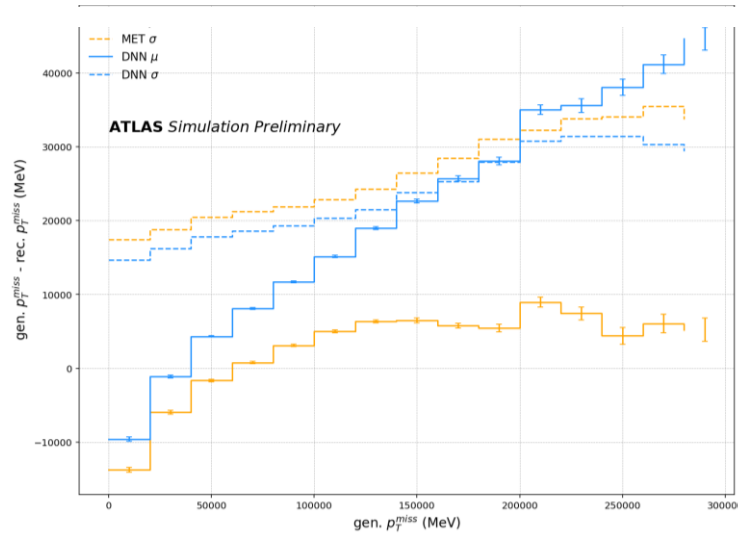
DNN loss: MeanSquaredError
AdaBoost loss: square

Loss function exploration

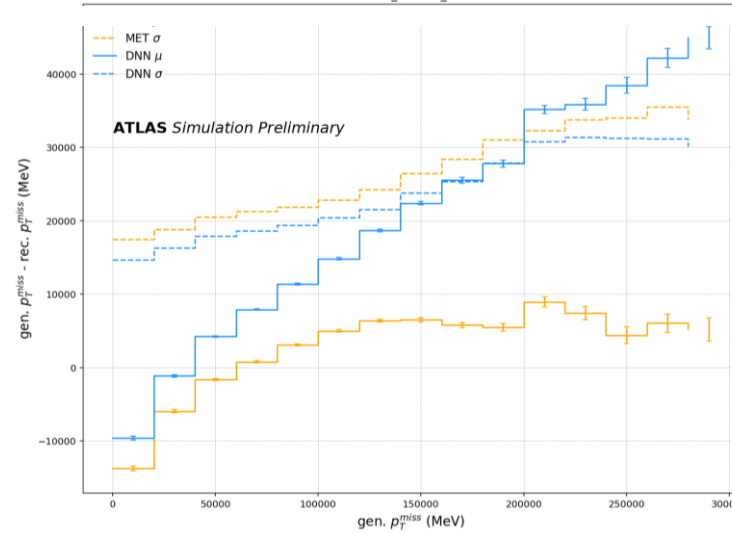
Custom loss definition

Custom weights

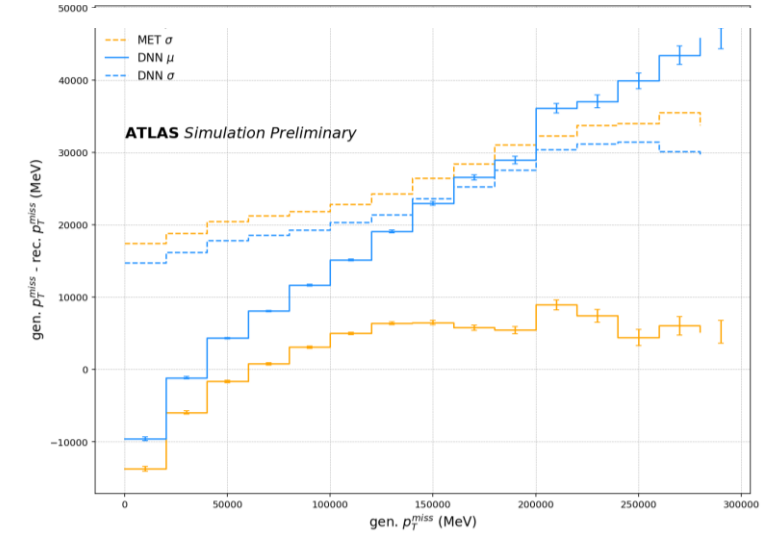
$$C_{custom} = \lambda \cdot \sum_b (\text{mean } [a]_b)^2 + C_{MSE}$$



$\lambda = 0.1$



$\lambda = 1$

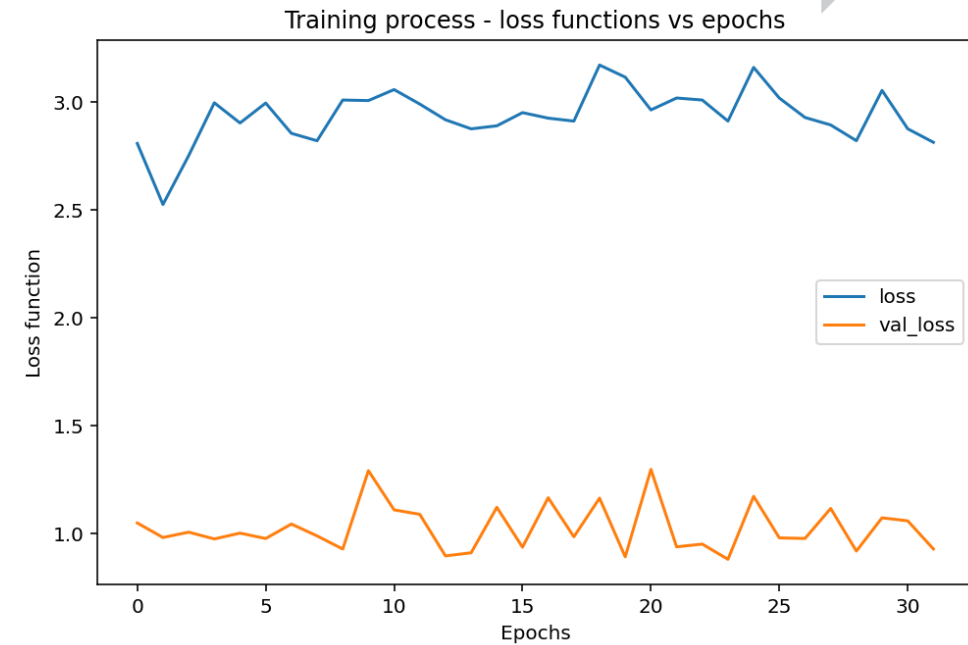
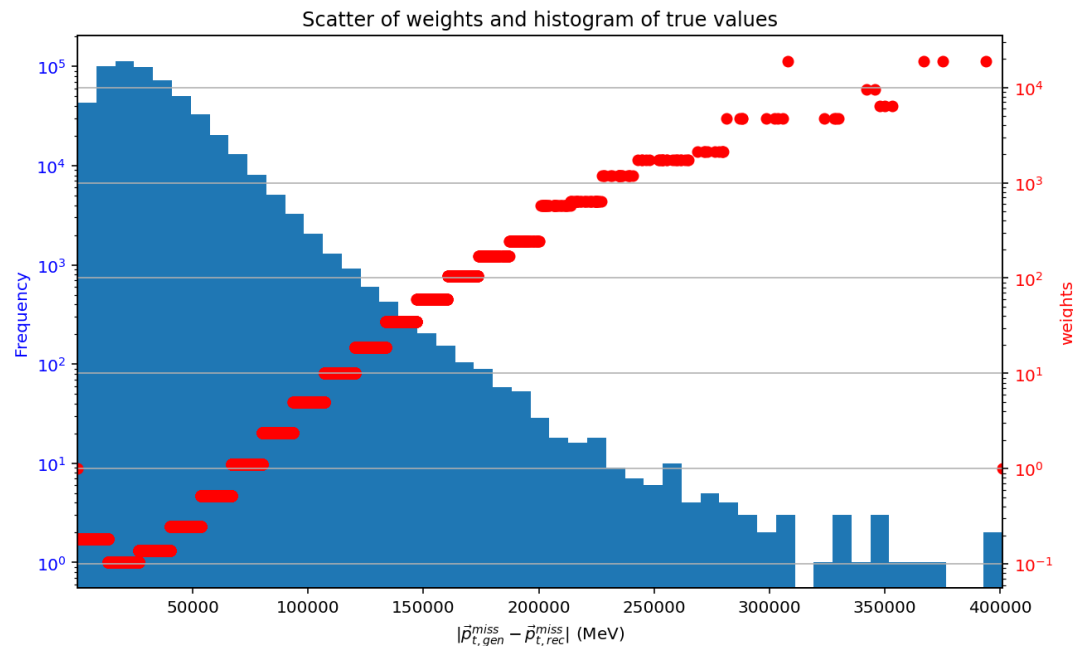


$\lambda = 1000$

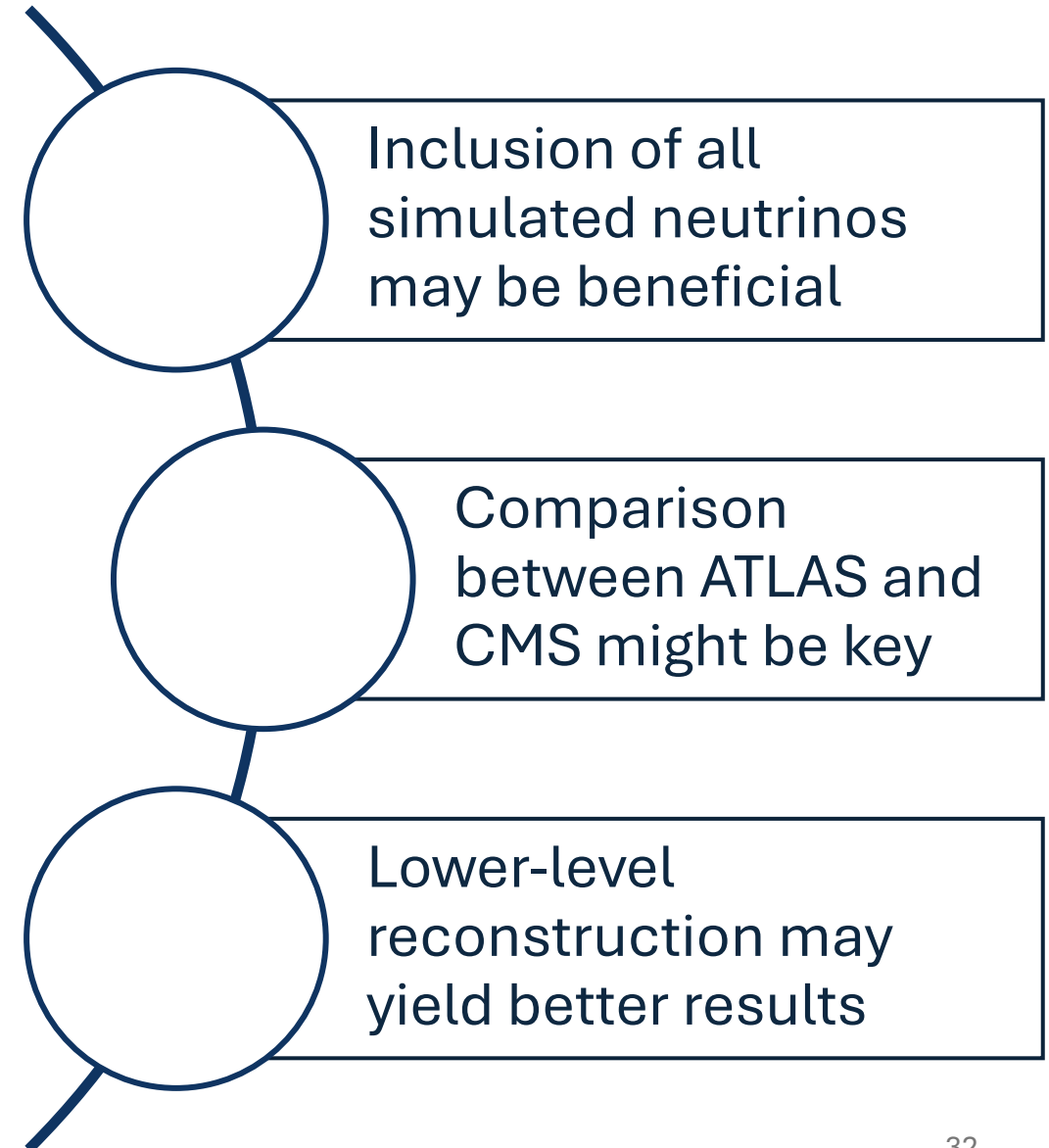
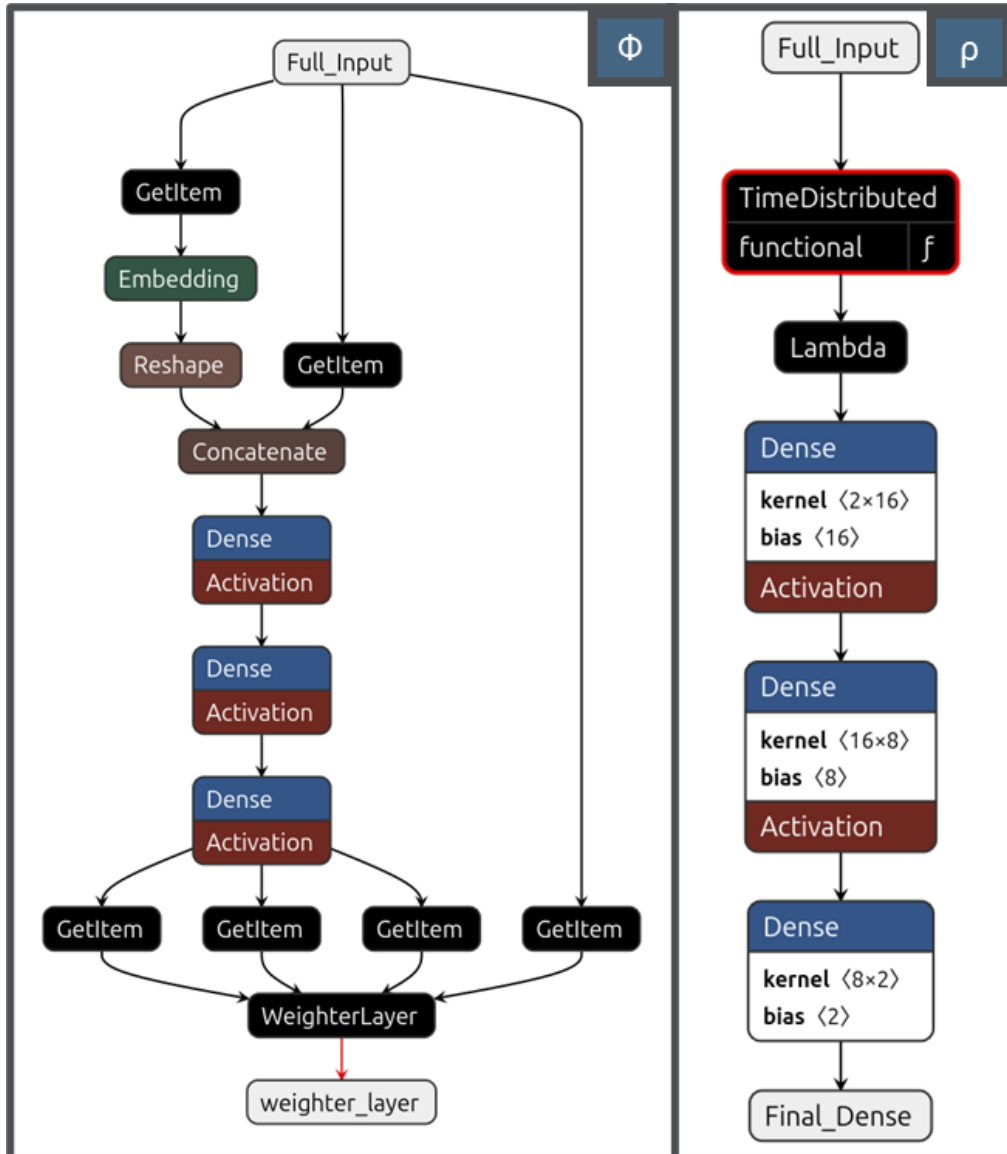
Loss function exploration

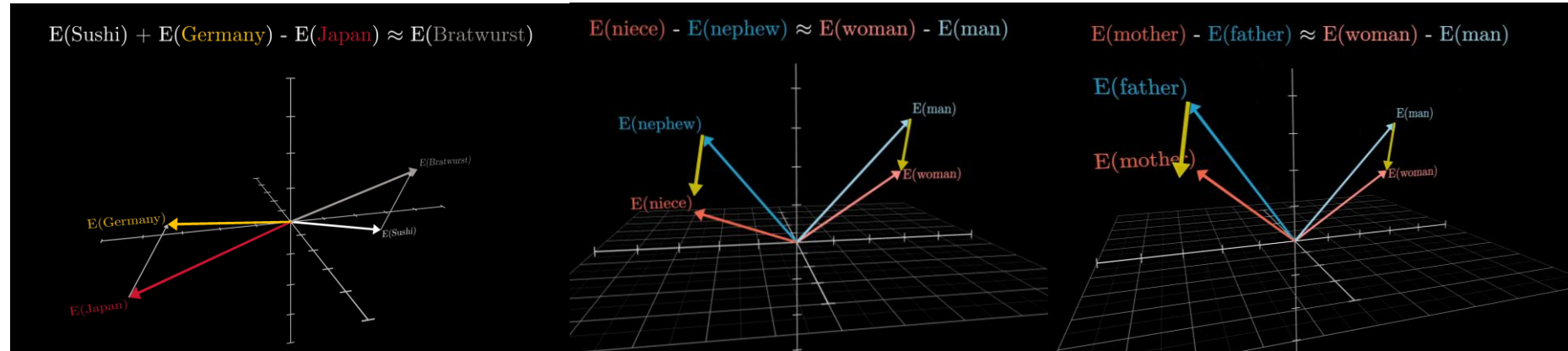
Custom loss definition

Custom weights

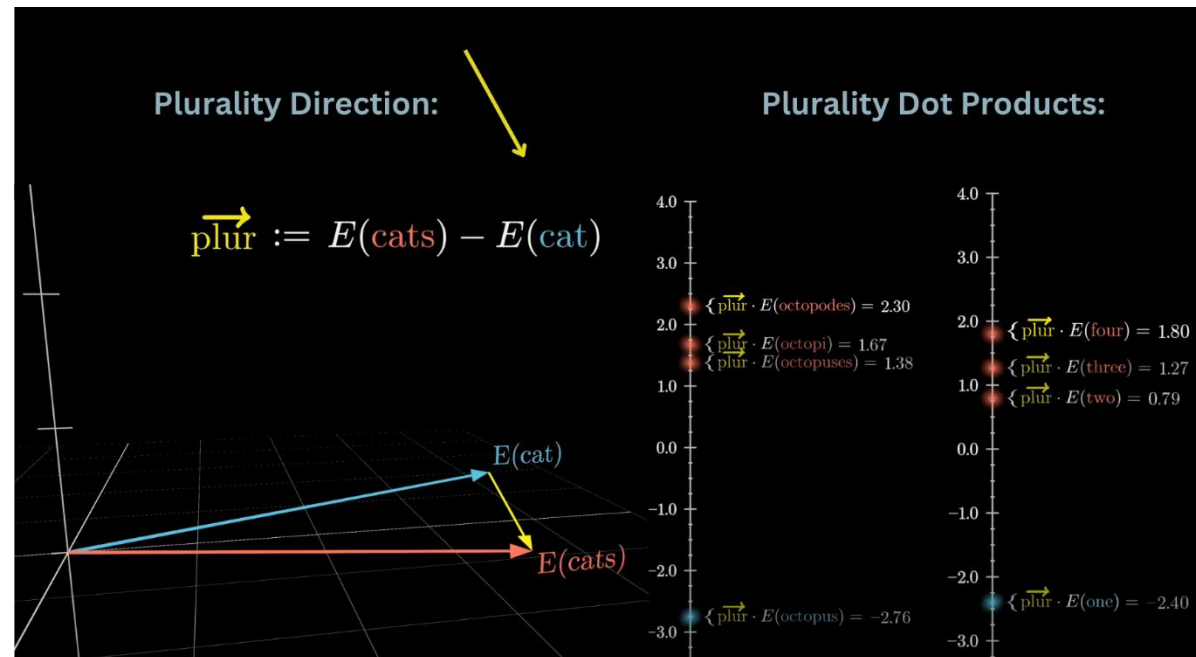


Determination of missing transverse momentum using multivariate methods for a differential top pair production cross section measurement at CMS



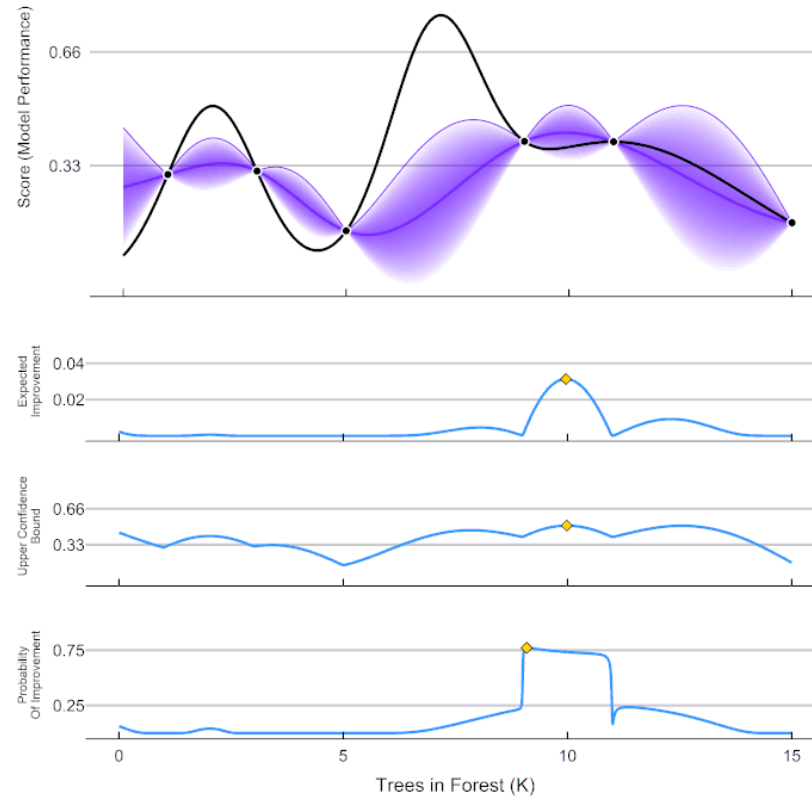


Embedding word differences using Chat-GPT2 - <https://www.3blue1brown.com/lessons/gpt>

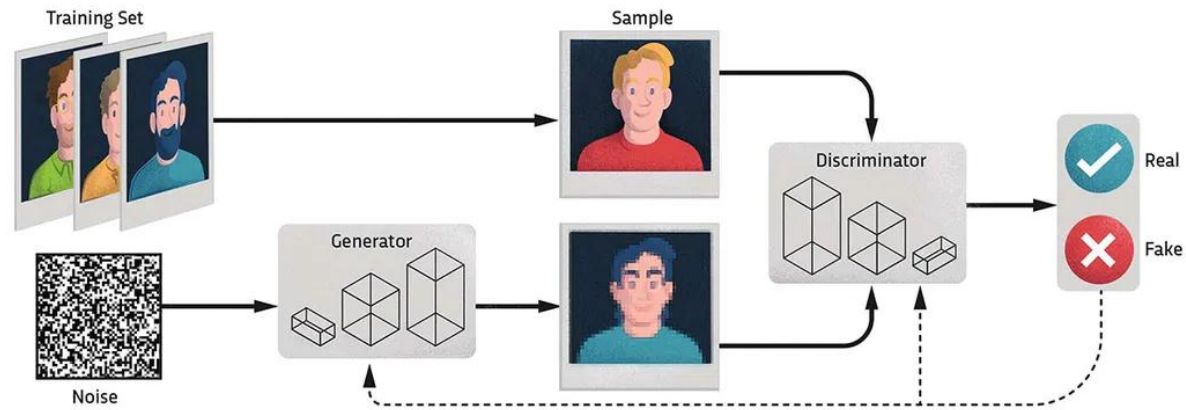


Embedding concept of “plurality” using Chat-GPT2 - <https://www.3blue1brown.com/lessons/gpt>

ParBayesianOptimization in Action (Round 1)



By AnotherSamWilson - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=84842869>



GAN - diagram

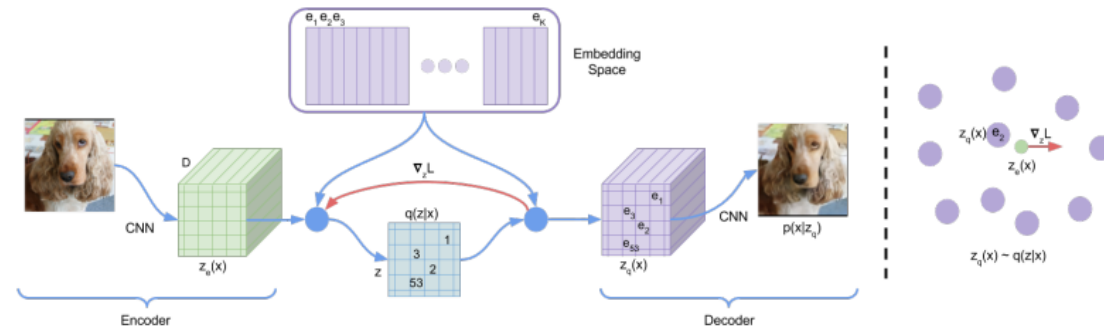


Figure 1: Left: A figure describing the VQ-VAE. Right: Visualisation of the embedding space. The output of the encoder $z(x)$ is mapped to the nearest point e_2 . The gradient $\nabla_z L$ (in red) will push the encoder to change its output, which could alter the configuration in the next forward pass.

VAE - diagram

Setting name	Setting description	CMS default	ATLAS default	Common Proposal
POWHEG				
qmass	top-quark mass [GeV]	172.5	172.5	172.5
twidht	top-quark width [GeV]	1.31	1.32	1.315
hdamp	first emission damping parameter [GeV]	237.8775	258.75	250
wmass	$W^\pm$ mass [GeV]	80.4	80.3999	80.4
wwidht	$W^\pm$ width [GeV]	2.141	2.085	2.11
bmass	b -quark mass [GeV]	4.8	4.95	4.875
PYTHIA 8				
	PYTHIA 8 version	v240	v230	v240 (CMS) v244 (ATLAS)
	Tune	CP5	A14	Monash
PDF:pSet	LHAPDF6 parton densities to be used for proton beams	NNPDF31_nnlo _as_0118	NNPDF23_lo _as_0130_qed	NNPDF23_lo _as_0130_qed
TimeShower:alphaSvalue	Value of α_s at Z mass scale for Final State Radiation	0.118	0.127	0.1365
SpaceShower:alphaSvalue	Value of α_s at Z mass scale for Initial State Radiation	0.118	0.127	0.1365
MPI:alphaSvalue	Value of α_s at Z mass scale for Multi-Parton Interaction	0.118	0.126	0.130
MPI:pT0ref	Reference p_T scale for regularizing soft QCD emissions	1.41	2.09	2.28
ColourReconnection:range	Parameter controlling colour reconnection probability	5.176	1.71	1.80

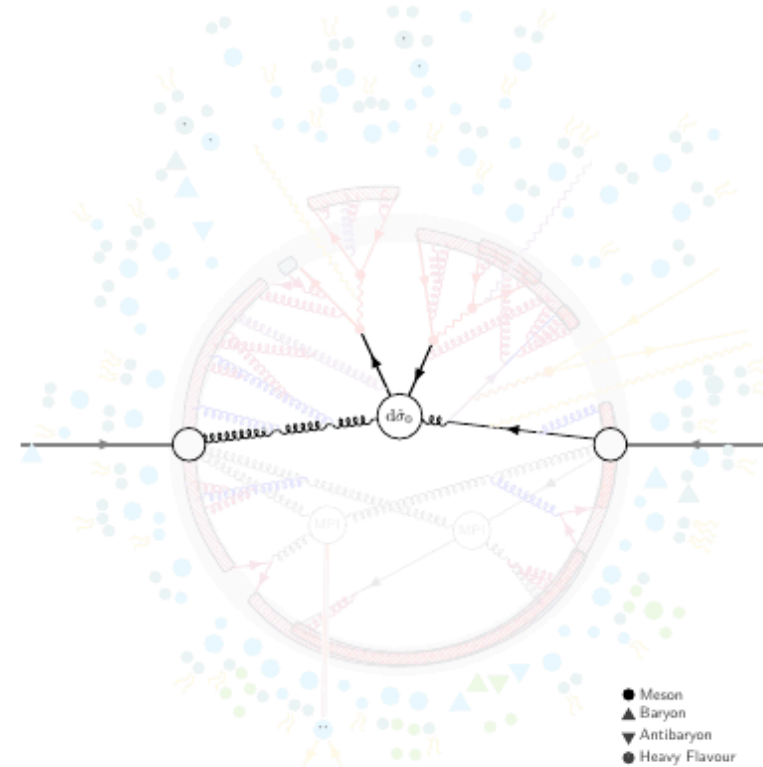
Negro, Giulia. (2022). Top Quark Modelling and Tuning in ATLAS and CMS. 10.48550/arXiv.2201.03517.

Physics modelled within Pythia 8

Classify event generation in terms of
“hardness”

1. Hard Process (here $t\bar{t}$)

[figure credit: P. Skands]



Physics modelled within Pythia 8

Classify event generation in terms of “hardness”

1. Hard Process (here $t\bar{t}$)
2. Resonance decays ($t, Z, \dots$)
3. Matching, Merging and matrix-element corrections
4. Multiparton interactions
5. Parton showers:
ISR, FSR, QED, Weak
6. Hadronization, Beam remnants
7. Decays, Rescattering

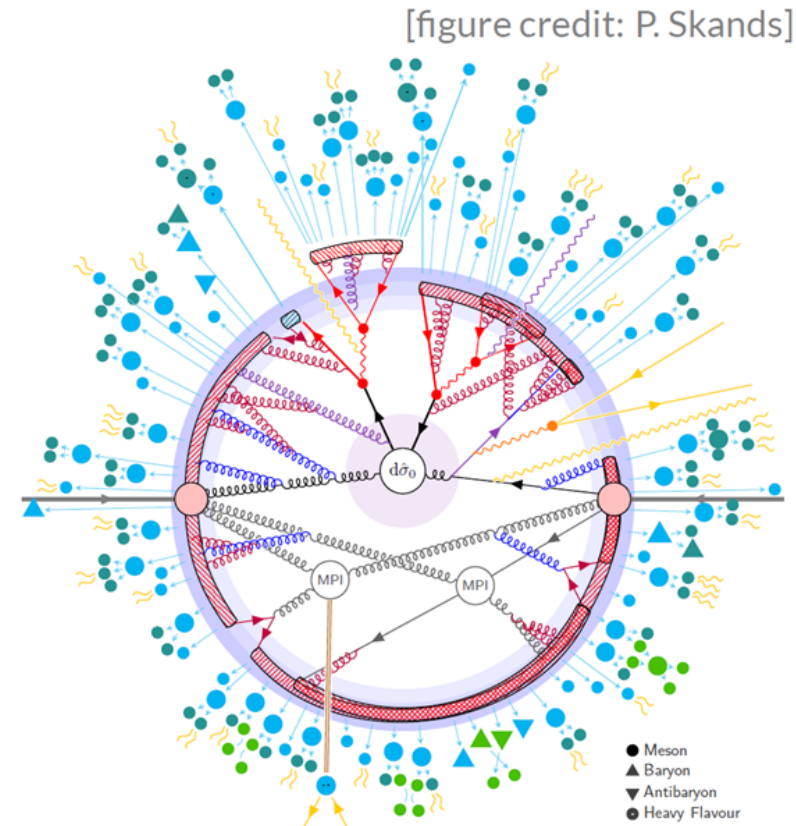
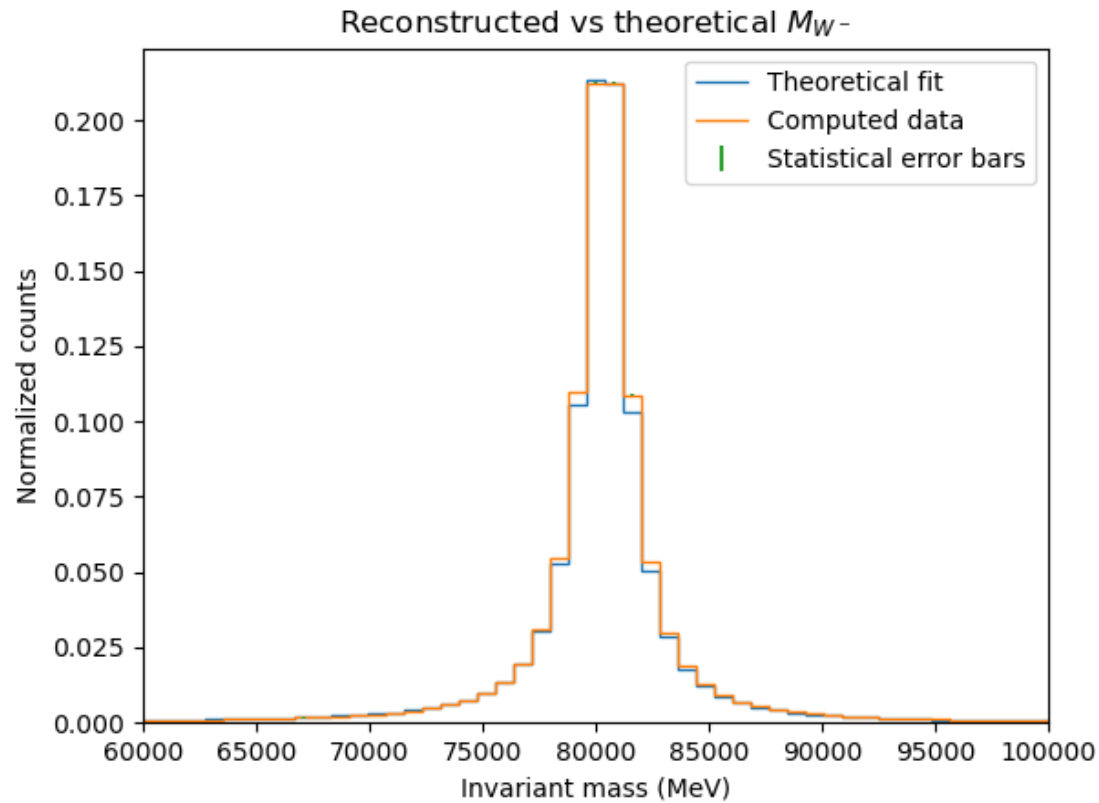
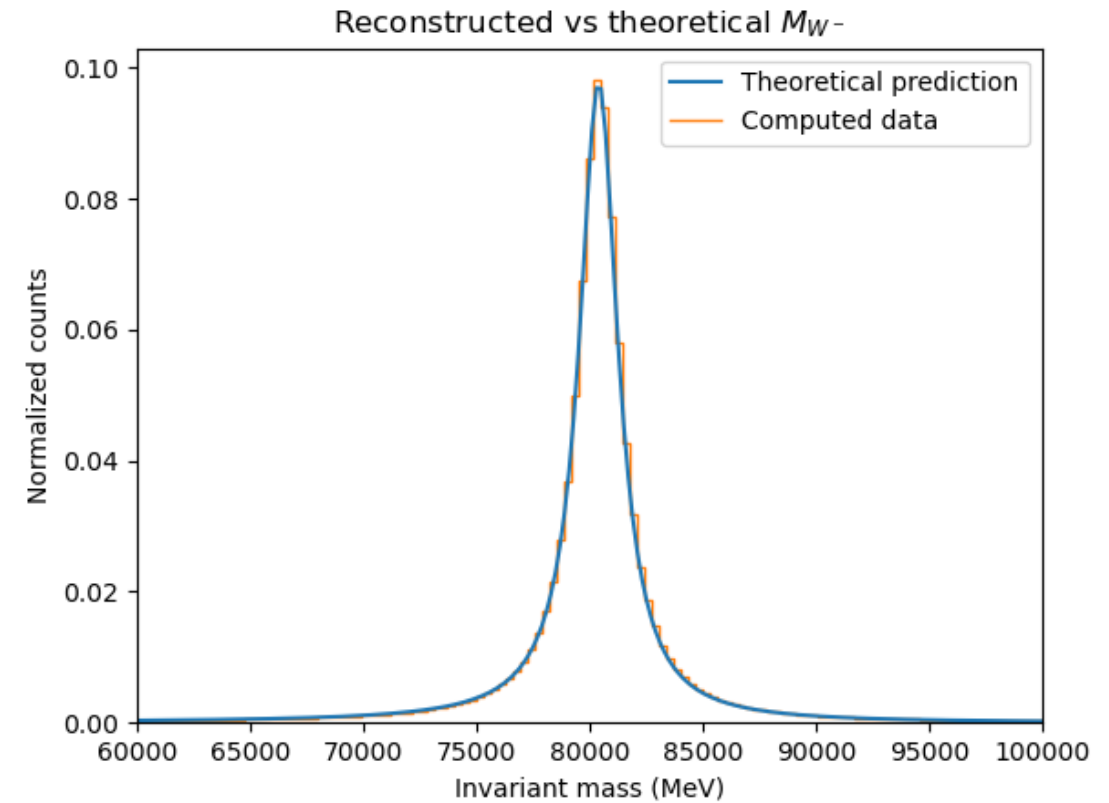


Table 6.2. Cross sections, at next-to-leading-order in QCD, for top-quark production via the strong interaction at the Tevatron and the LHC [14]. Also shown is the percentage of the total cross section from the quark-antiquark-annihilation and gluon-fusion subprocesses.

	σ_{NLO} (pb)	$q\bar{q} \rightarrow t\bar{t}$	$gg \rightarrow t\bar{t}$
Tevatron ($\sqrt{s} = 1.8$ TeV $p\bar{p}$)	$4.87 \pm 10\%$	90%	10%
Tevatron ($\sqrt{s} = 2.0$ TeV $p\bar{p}$)	$6.70 \pm 10\%$	85%	15%
LHC ($\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV pp)	$803 \pm 15\%$	10%	90%



Successful attempt with Run 2 data at CMS



Pileup resilience studies at CMS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION