



Affine Parametric Neural Networks

FOR HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS

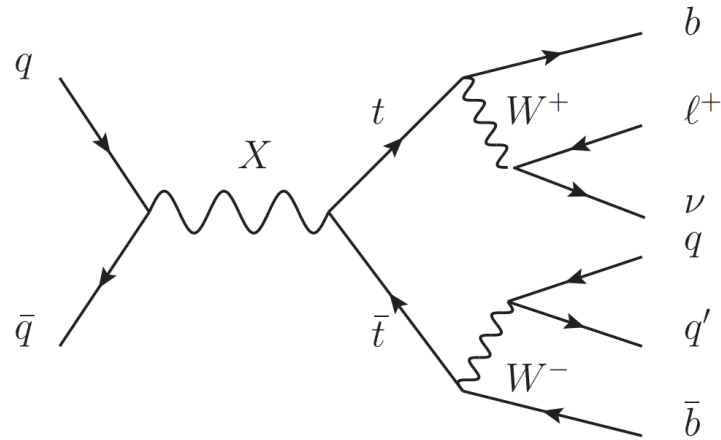
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SIGNAL-BKG
CLASSIFICATION
HEPMASS-IMB

Introduction

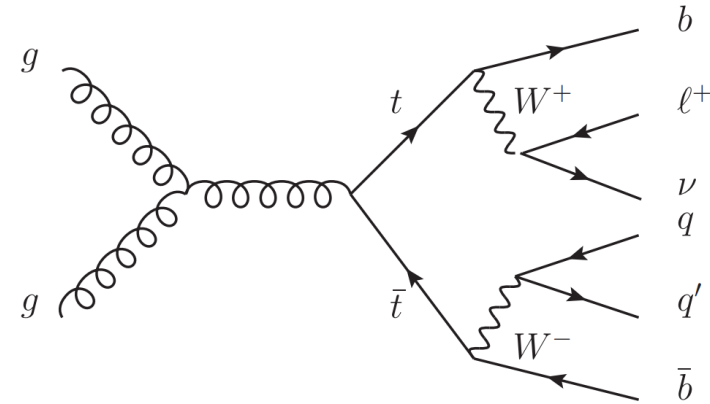
Signal-bkg Classification with HEPMASS

Problem: search for an hypothetical particle X with unknown mass.



Signal: particle X decaying to $t\bar{t}$.

The decay mode considered is $t\bar{t} \rightarrow W^+ b W^- \bar{b} \rightarrow qq' b l \nu \bar{b}$.



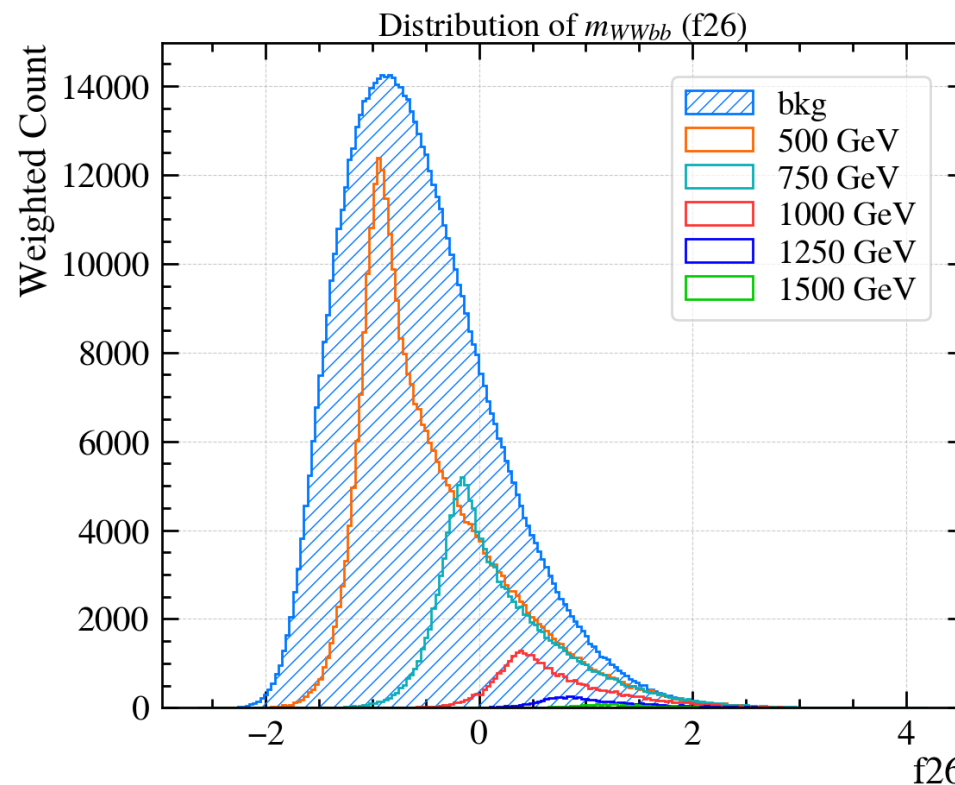
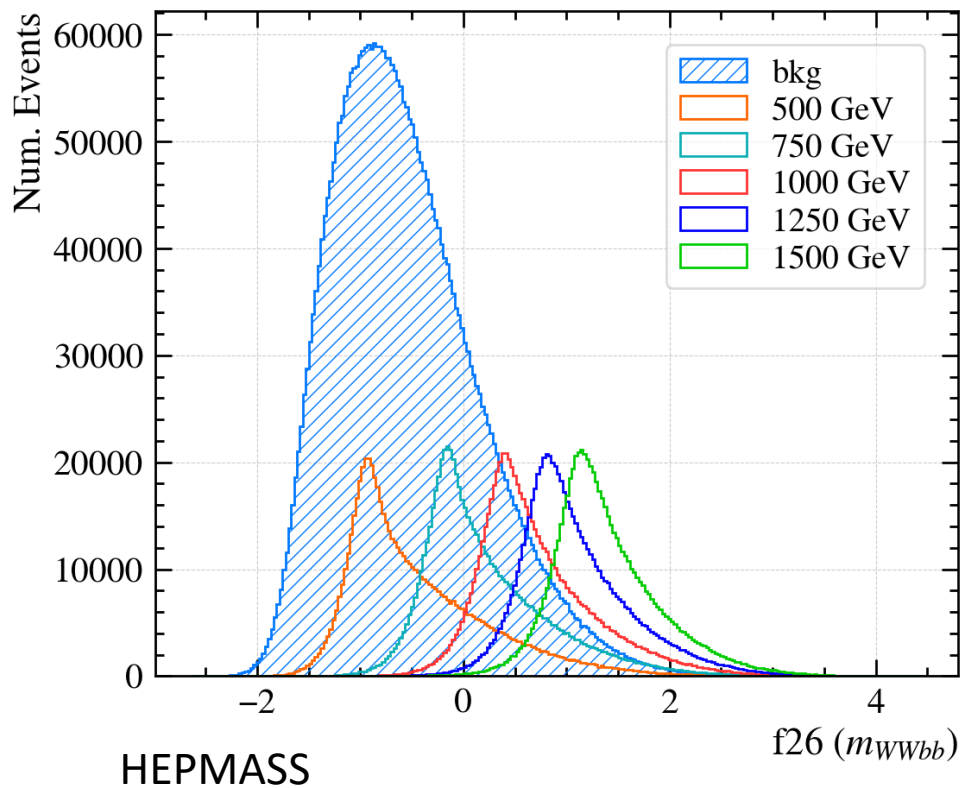
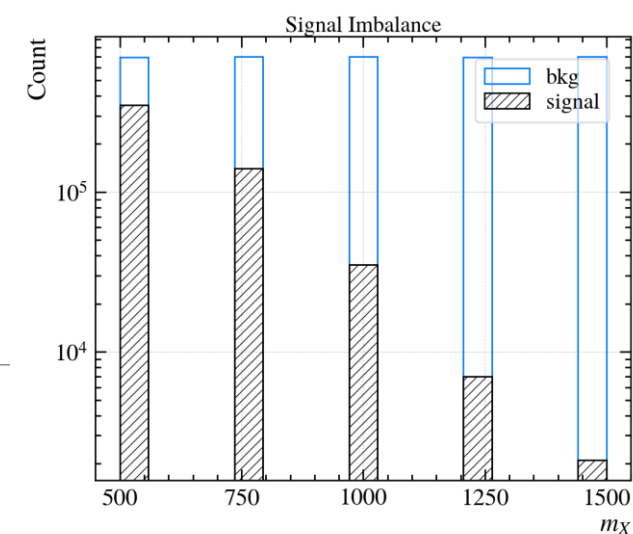
Background: Standard Model $t\bar{t}$ production, identical in decay mode but without the X resonance.

There are **five mass hypotheses** for the signal: $m_X = \{500, 750, 1000, 1250, 1500\}$ GeV.

HEPMASS-IMB

Double-imbalanced version of HEPMASS:

Both *class* and *mass* are imbalanced!



HEPMASS-IMB
(bkg weighted by 1/5,
for visualization)

BALDI'S PNN
CONDITIONING
AFFINE PNN

Parametric Neural Networks

Parameterized NNs

Neural network classifier with **two inputs**:

- The *features*, x
- The **physics parameter**: in this case the signal mass hypotheses, m .

which are combined (e.g. by **concatenation**) to yield:

- $\hat{y} = f_{\theta}(x, m)$.

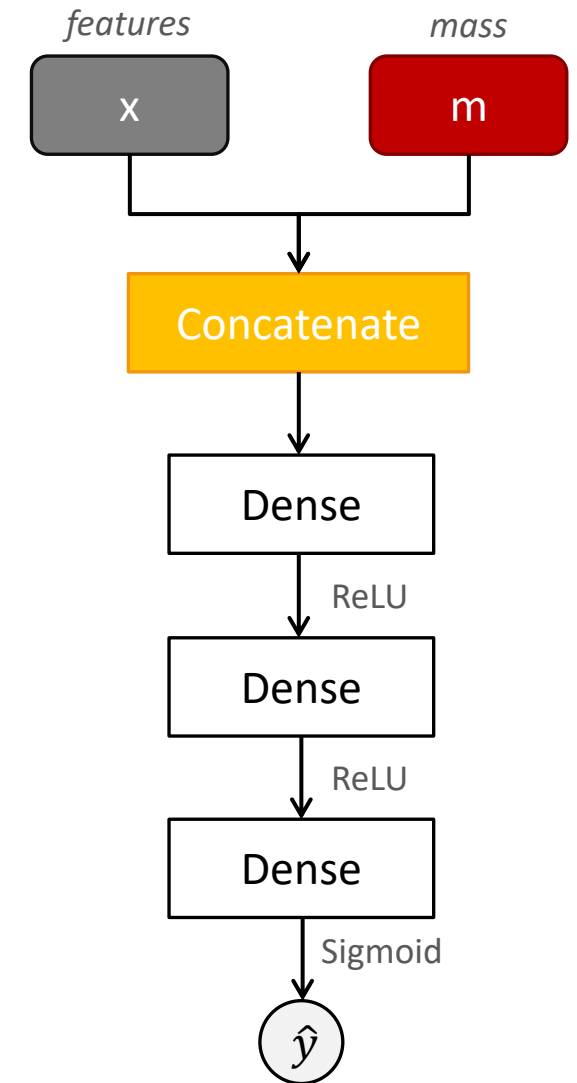
The **mass feature**, m , is responsible for «parametrizing» the NN:

- Can **replace** $M = |m|$ *individual* classifiers.
- Enables **interpolation** among known mass hypotheses.
- Potentially improves classification performance.

Q1: How to combine x with m ?

Q2: How to assign m for the background?

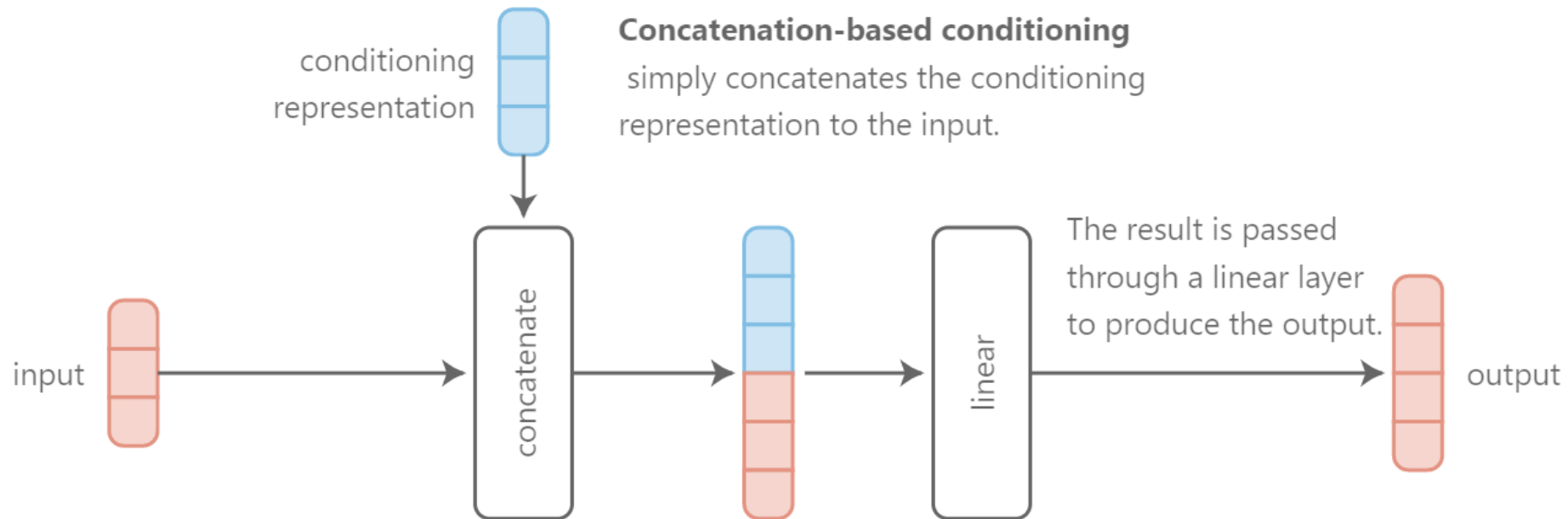
Q3: How to evaluate interpolation?



Concatenation-based Conditioning

A simple **conditioning mechanism**:

$$z = W[x \ m] + b$$

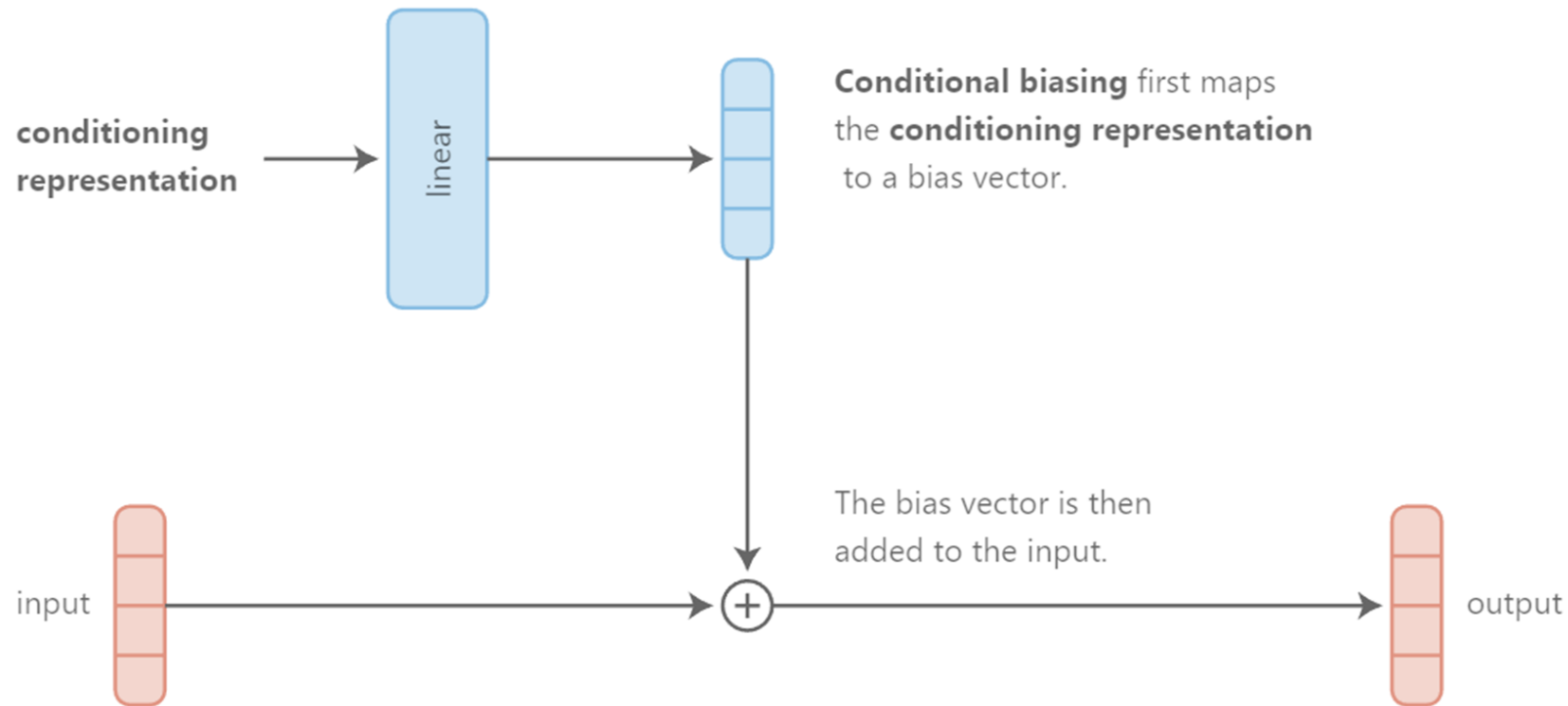


Parametric = *conditioning on a physics parameter.*

Conditional Biasing

Equivalent to concatenation-based conditioning (prev. slide):

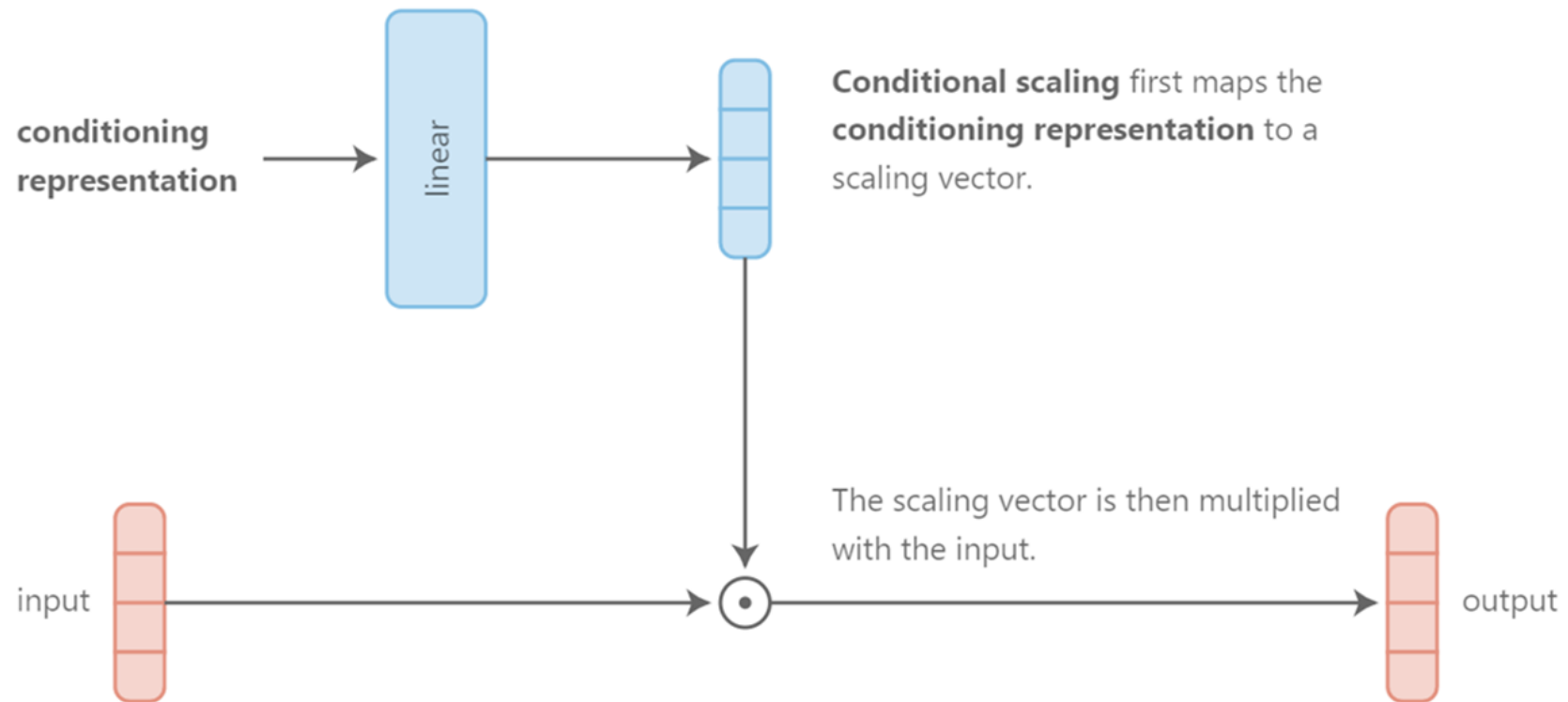
$$z = (Wm + b) + x$$



Conditional Scaling

Alternative to concatenation and biasing:

$$z = x \odot (Wm + b)$$



Affine Conditioning

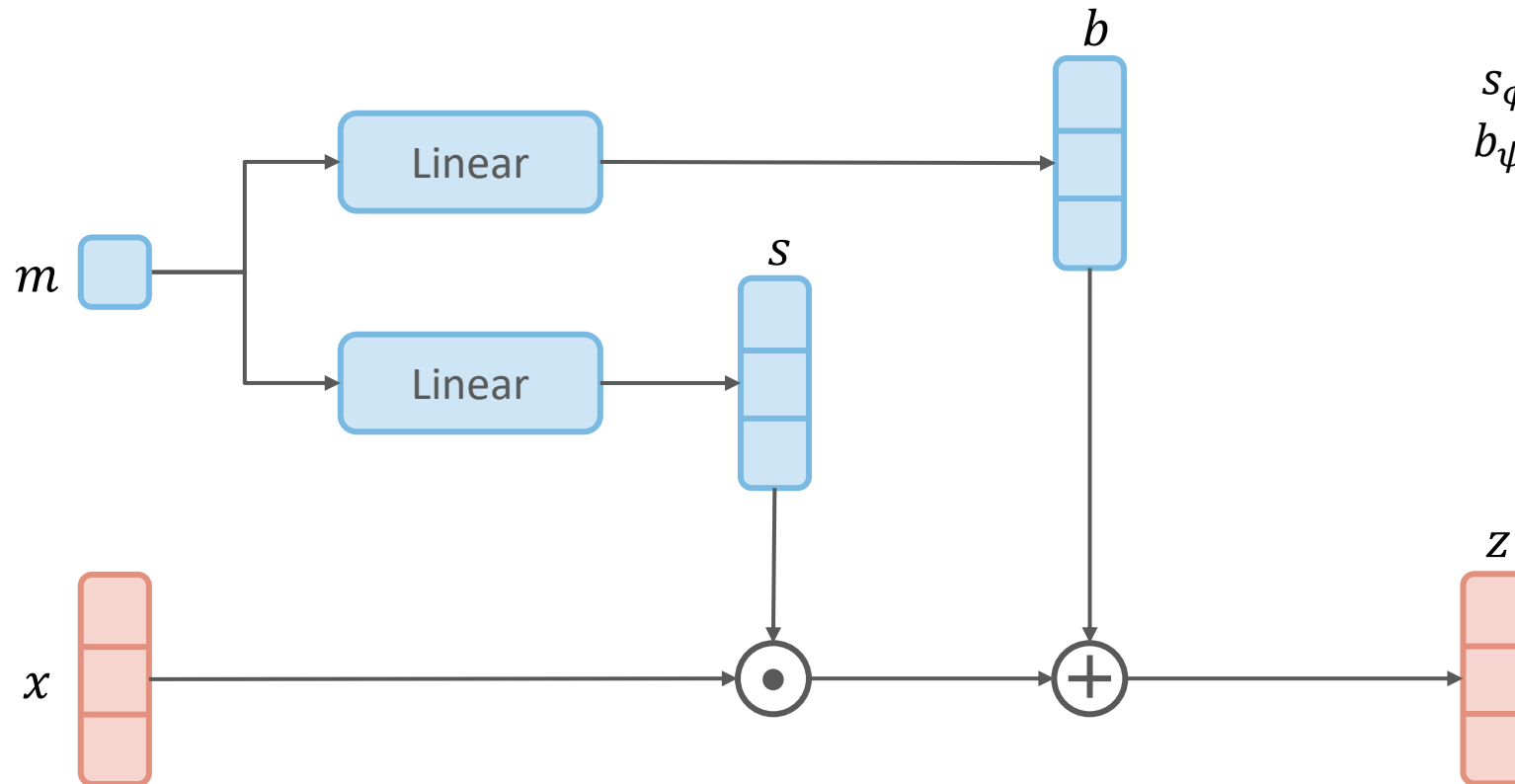
Q1: ✓

A combination of *conditional scaling* and *conditional biasing*:

$$z = x \odot s_\phi(m) + b_\psi(m)$$

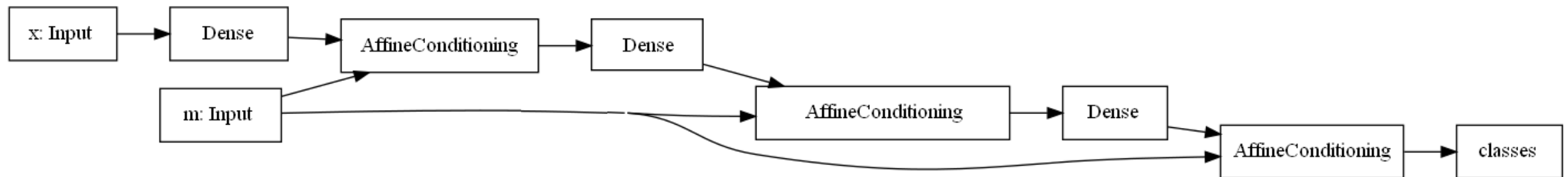
$$s_\phi(m) = W_\phi m + b'$$

$$b_\psi(m) = W_\psi m + b''$$



Affine Parametric Neural Networks

Interleave multiple **affine-conditioning layers** in between *dense* layers, to better condition the neural network on the *mass feature*, m :



Full architecture:

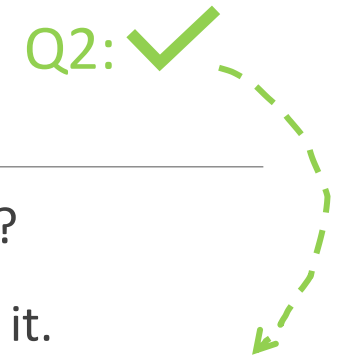
- Four dense layers with 300, 150, 100 and 50 units: for a total of $\sim 70\text{k}$ parameters.
- ReLU activation.
- Dropout ($p = 25\%$) after each affine-conditioning layer.

BACKGROUND MASS
DISTRIBUTION

BALANCED
TRAINING

Improving pNNs

Background's Mass Distribution



Given $M = \{m_0, m_1, \dots, m_K\}$ signal mass hypotheses, how to assign m for the background?

1. Identical distribution: M represents a **discrete delta distribution**, so assign $m^{(i)}$ from it.

For example: $m^{(i)} = m_1$, $m^{(j)} = m_3$, and $m^{(k)} = m_3$.

Values outside the set M are not possible.

$m^{(i)}$ is a **discrete** value.

2. Different distribution: define a **probability distribution** from M .

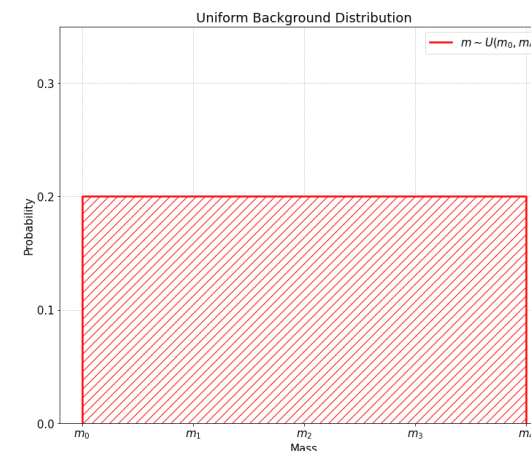
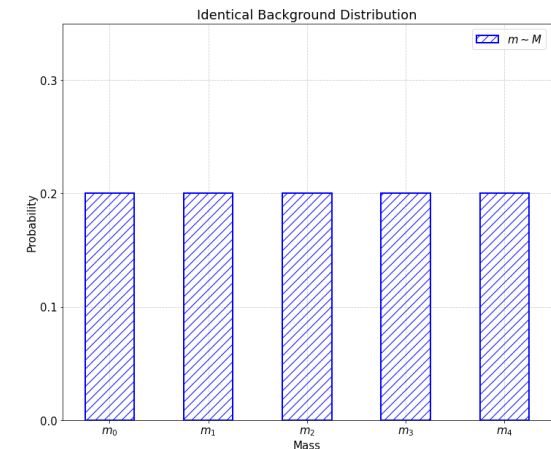
E.g. can be uniform $U(m_0, m_K)$, and so $m^{(i)} \sim U$.

For example: $m^{(i)} = 505.5$, $m^{(j)} = 766.3$

$m^{(i)}$ is now a **continuous** value.

Two implementations:

- **Fixed:** sampling of $m^{(i)}$ occurs *once* (e.g. beginning of training).
- **Sampled:** assignment of $m^{(i)}$ is done at each *mini-batch*.



Balanced Training

Exploit the **structure** of the dataset for training

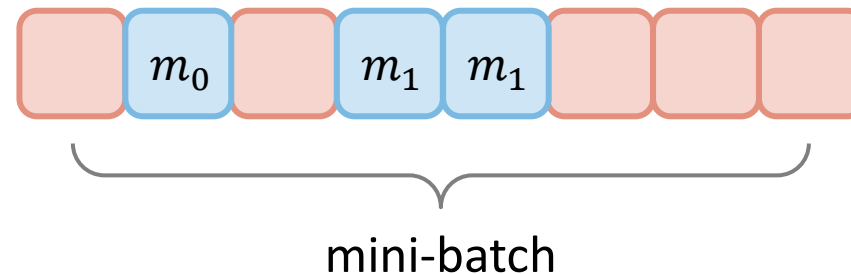
Suppose $D = \{(x, y, m, p)_i\}_{i=1}^N$, where:

- The **mass label** m is defined *only* for the signal: $m^{(i)} \in M, \forall i \in S = \{i \mid y^{(i)} = 1\}$.
- The **process label** p is defined *only* for the background: $p^{(i)} \in P, \forall i \in B = \{i \mid y^{(i)} = 0\}$.
- Let's $M = \{m_0, m_1, m_2, m_3\}$ and $P = \{p_1, p_2\}$.

\Rightarrow Both m and p divide S and B , respectively, into **sub-classes**!

Balancing each *mini-batch* can remove **imbalance** among sub-classes.

No balance (default):



Each square is a sample; *some sub-classes may be underrepresented, e.g. M .*

Notation

s 

b 

p_1 

p_2 

Balanced Mini-batches

Class balance: same num. of samples per class, y (regardless m and p).

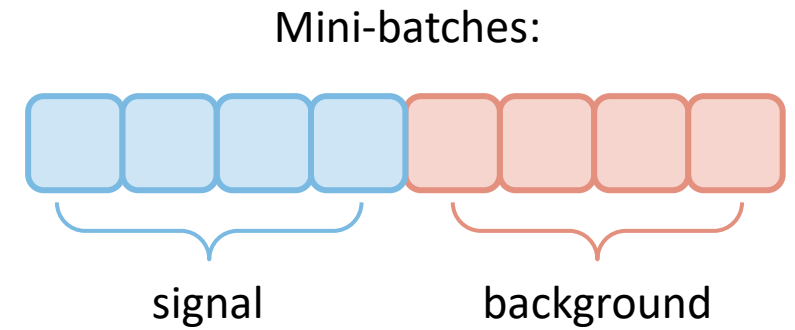
Background balance: same num. of samples per bkg process, p .

Signal balance: same num. of samples per mass, m .

Full balance: same num. of samples per tuple (y, m, p) .

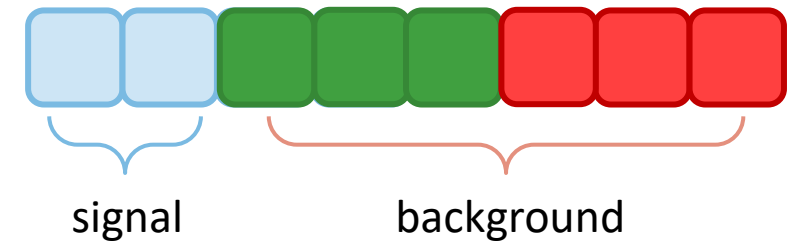
Class balance:

$$|s| = |b|$$



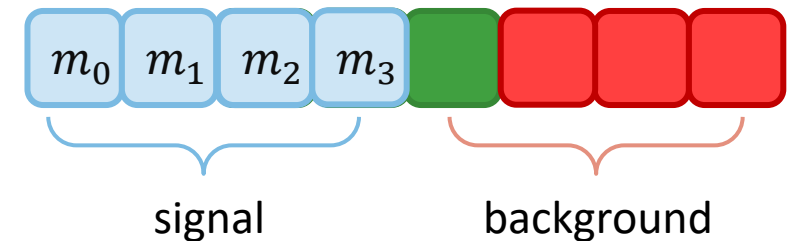
Background balance:

$$|p_1| = |p_2|$$



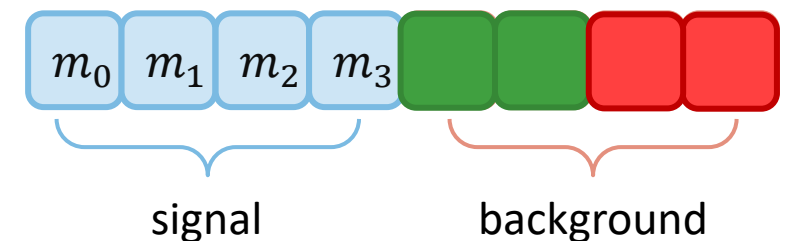
Signal balance:

$$|m_0| = |m_1| = \dots = |m_3|$$



Full balance:

$$|s| = |b| \wedge |p| = |m|$$



METRICS
BASELINES
INTERPOLATION

Results

The Significance Ratio Metric

Along with ROC and PR curves, we introduce a new metric (evaluated $\forall t \in [0,1]$):

$$\sigma_{\text{ratio}} = \frac{\max_t \text{AMS}(t)}{s_{\text{max}} / \sqrt{s_{\text{max}}}} = \max_t \left\{ \frac{s_t \cdot \sqrt{s_{\text{max}}}}{s_{\text{max}} \cdot \sqrt{s_t + b_t}} \right\} = \frac{s_{\star} \cdot \sqrt{s_{\text{max}}}}{s_{\text{max}} \cdot \sqrt{s_{\star} + b_{\star}}},$$

where:

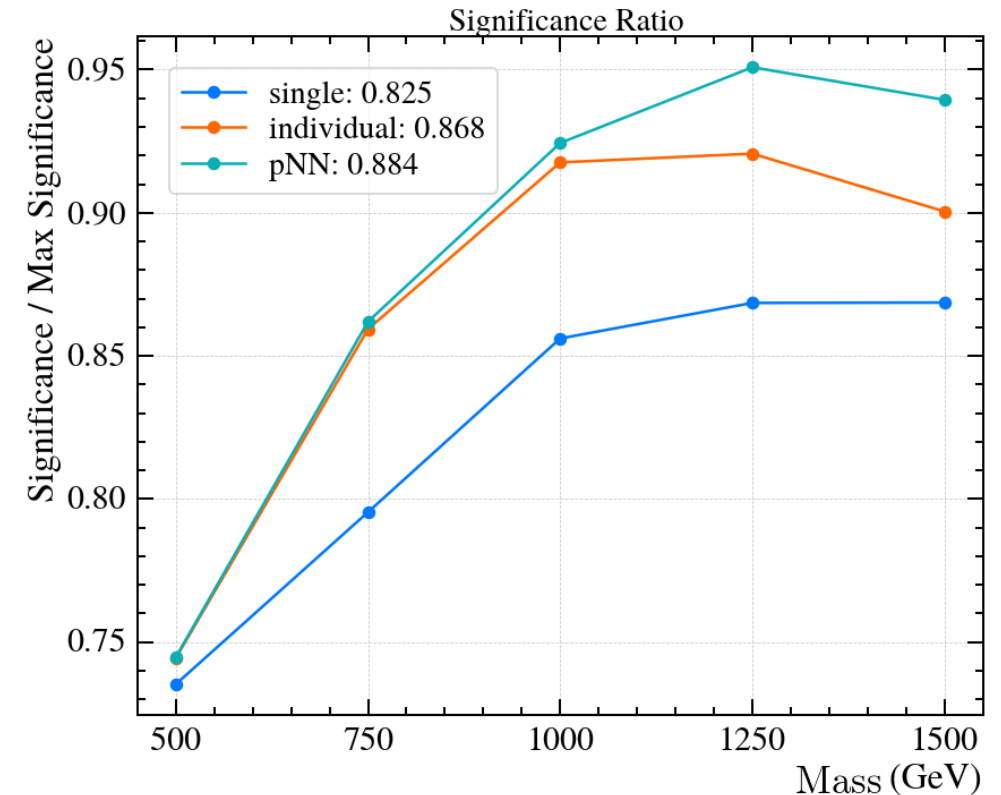
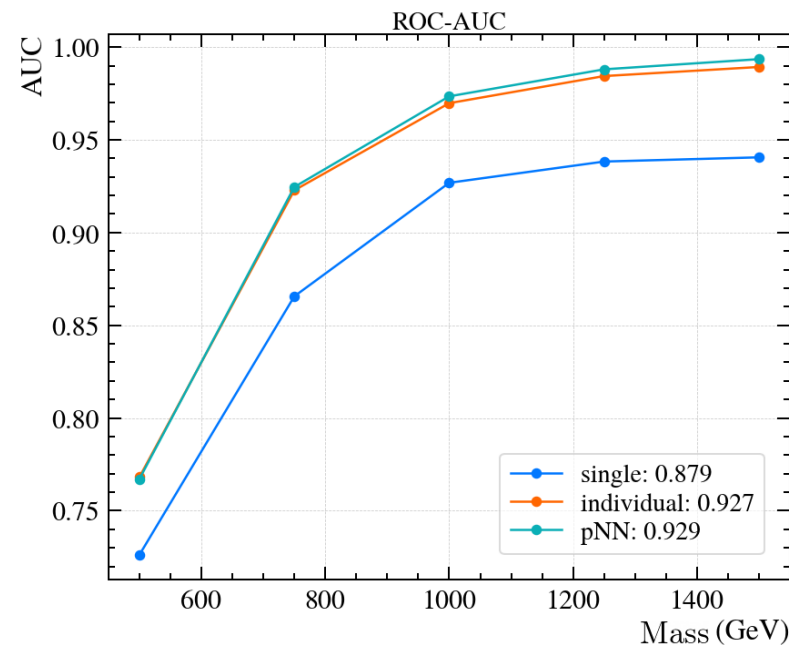
- $\text{AMS}(t) = \frac{s_t}{\sqrt{s_t + b_t}}$ is the **significance** computed at classification *threshold* t .
- $\frac{s_{\text{max}}}{\sqrt{s_{\text{max}}}}$ is the **ideal significance**, when $s_t = s$ (take all signal) and $b_t = 0$ (reject all bkg).

The metric is **normalized in [0, 1]**, regardless the #signal and #background \Rightarrow Is comparable between different mass hypotheses.

Baseline Models

There are three baselines:

- **Single-NN:** *one* neural network trained on all M mass points, but without the mass feature, m , as input – so *not parametrized*.
- **Individual-NNs:** a *set* of $|M|$ neural networks, each trained on the corresponding mass point, $m_i \in M$.
- **pNN:** Baldi's like parametric neural network, without our improvements.



The pNN outperforms even the set of individual neural networks.

Interpolation

Interpolation capability implies **twofold generalization**:

1. On new samples belonging to *training* mass points M , and
2. On novel samples related to the *missing* masses, \bar{M} .

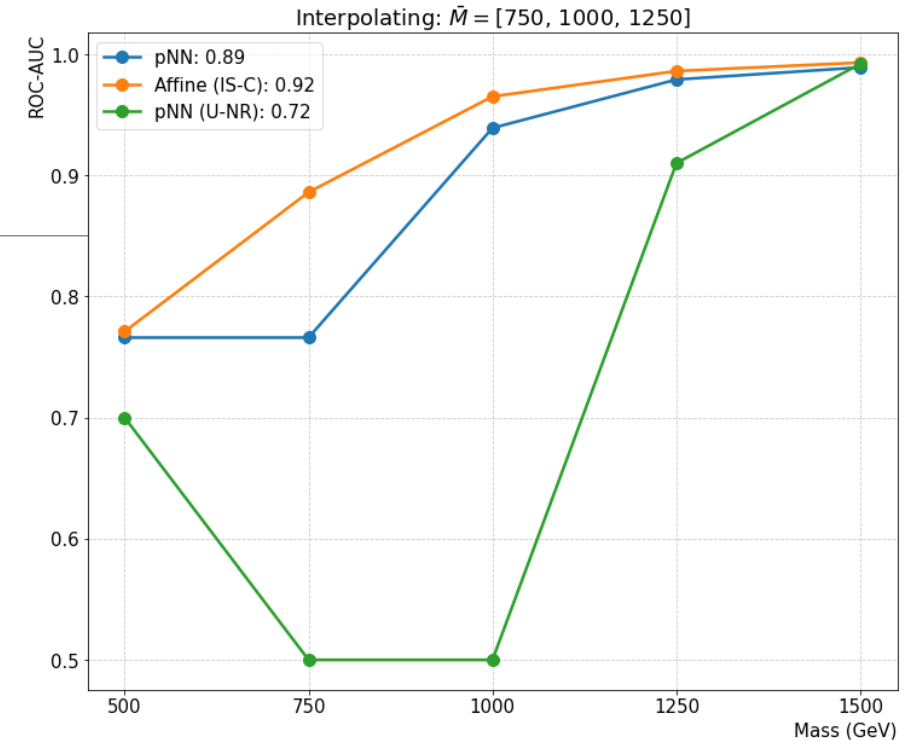
Factors affecting interpolation:

- Distribution of mass-correlated features.
- Background's mass distribution, and regularization.

How to evaluate it?

- Train only on one mass point to assess *similarity* among masses: force pNN to **extrapolate**.
- **Drop about half of the mass points for training.**
- Train on **one mass less**: usually **not enough** to establish interpolation ability.

Q3: ✓



IS-C: Identical-sampled; class-balance.

U-NR: Uniform; no regularization.

SUMMARY
REFERENCES

Conclusions

Summary

Parametric NNs can effectively **replace a set of $|M|$ classifiers**, when:

- The **physics parameter** (e.g. *mass*) is correctly assigned to the background: for the mass the **identical (sampled) assignment** strategy works the best.
- The **conditioning** on the parameter is meaningful: simple **concatenation** may be not enough.
- **Enough regularization** is employed to enable the model to interpolate.

Remember to **exploit the structure and information in your own dataset** to improve the model at the level of *architecture*, *conditioning* mechanism, and even *training*.

If you need **interpolation** at inference time, be sure to check for it by training a pNN on about 50% less mass points (as a rule of thumb).

References

Parameterized Neural Networks for High-Energy Physics – P. Baldi et al. 2016, [EPJ](#)

HEPMASS – [UCI ML Repository](#)

Feature-wise Transformations – [Distill.pub](#), 2018

Improving Parametric Neural Networks for High-Energy Physics (and Beyond) – L. Anzalone et al, 2022, [MLST](#), [code](#) (github).

HEPMASS-IMB – [Zenodo](#)

Thanks for the Attention!

Questions?

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