

# Machine Learning for Precision Physics at the LHC

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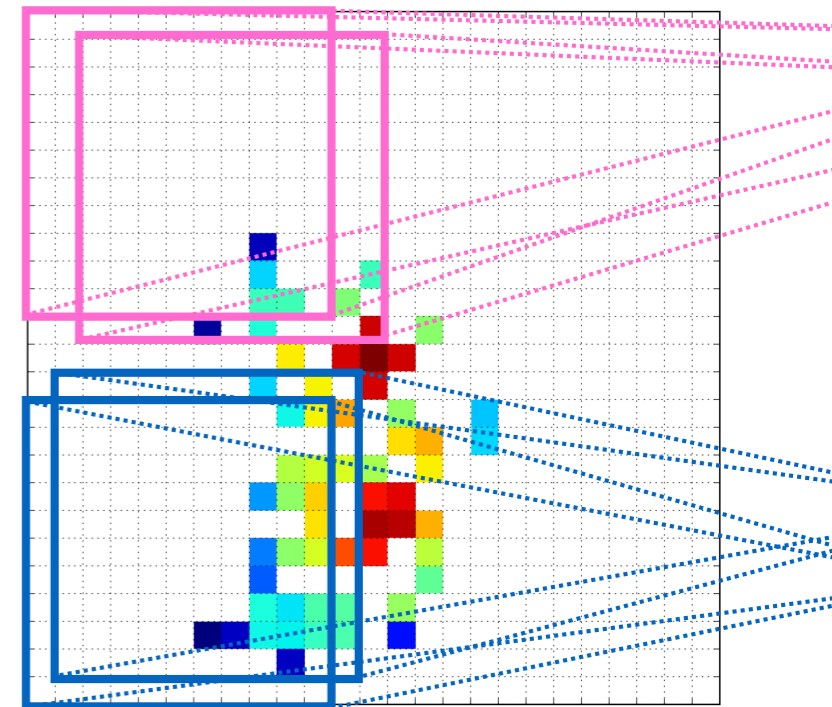
[bpnachman@lbl.gov](mailto:bpnachman@lbl.gov)



@bpnachman



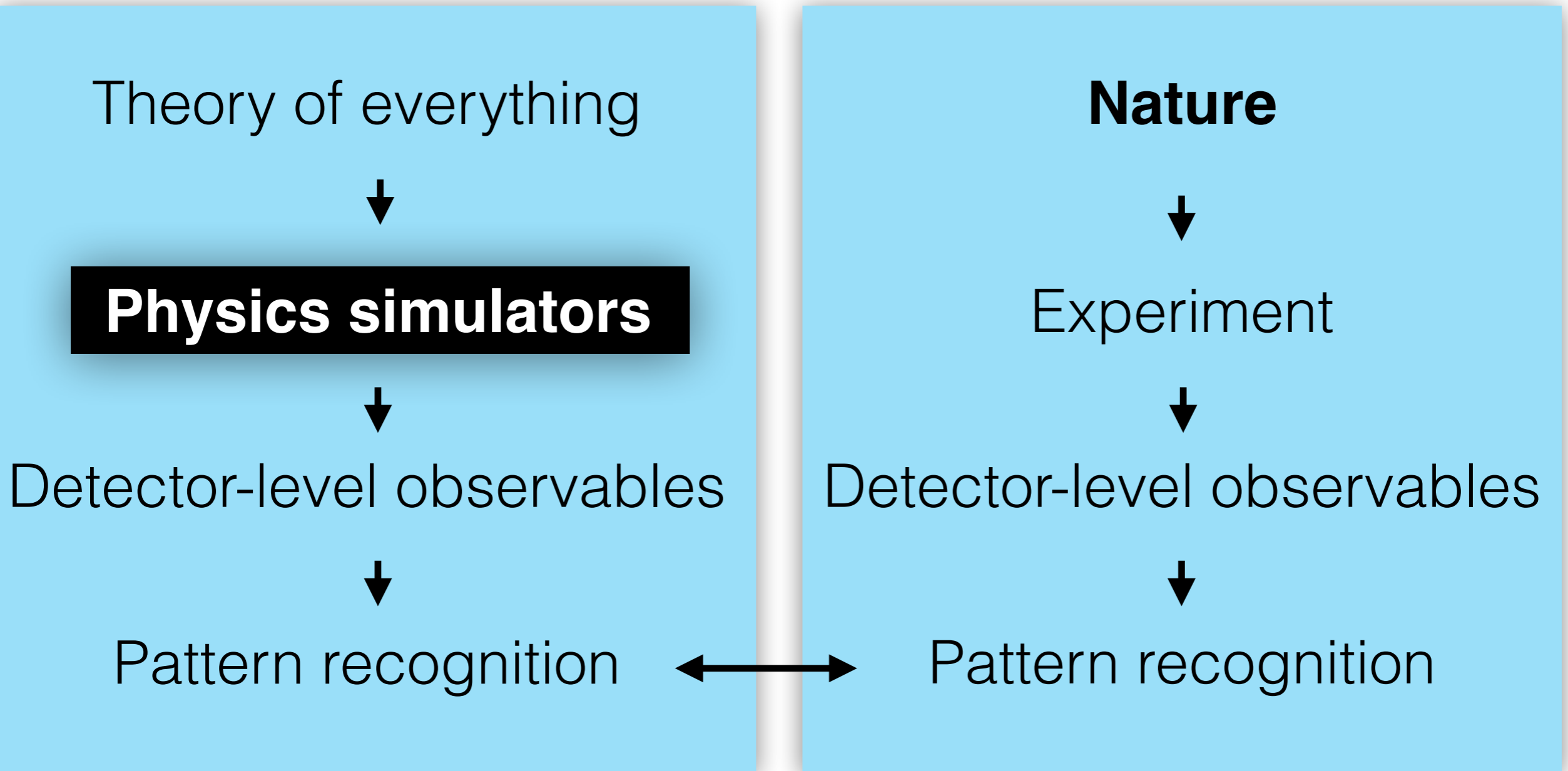
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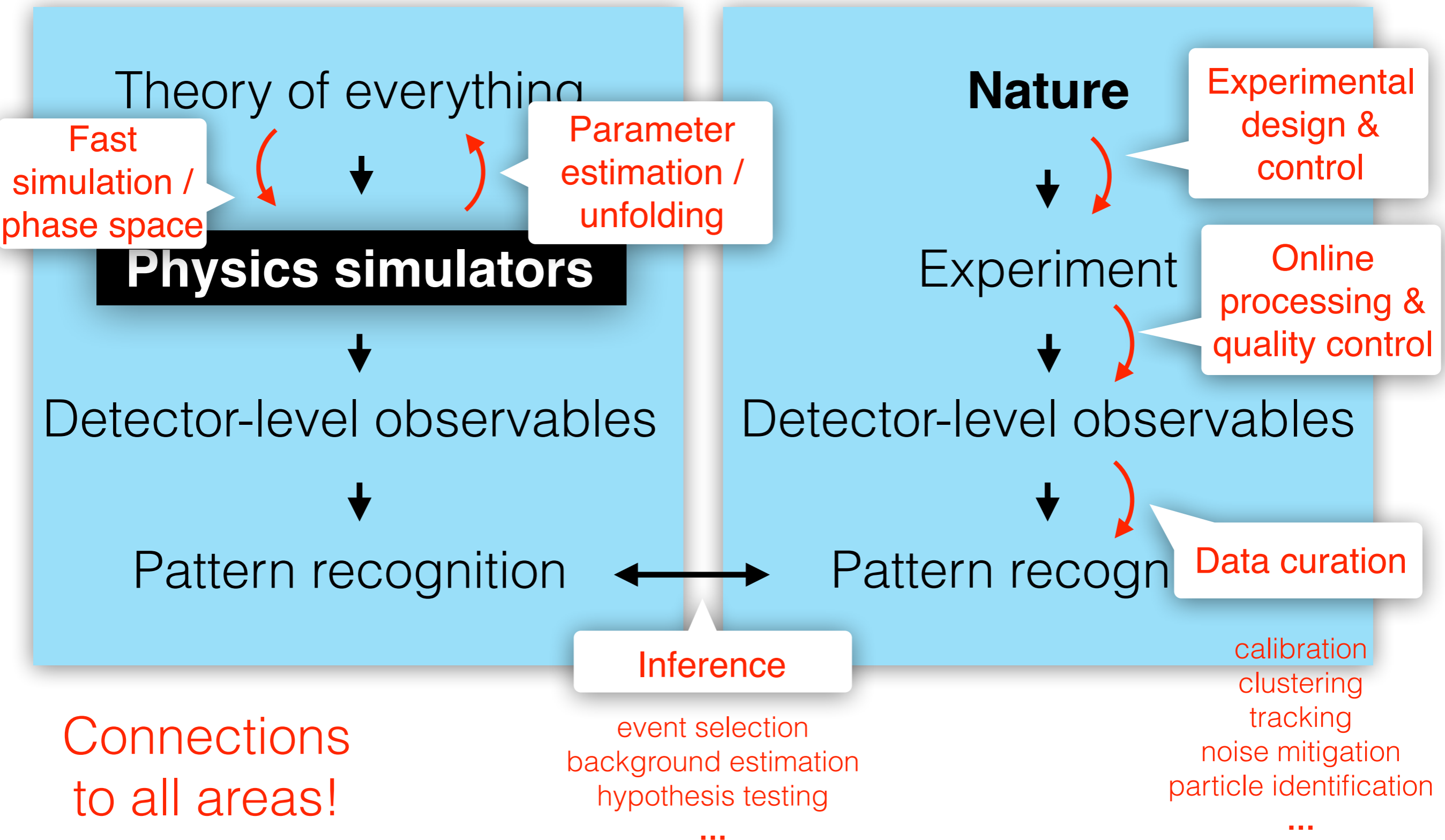
LoopFest XXI  
June 2023

# Precision Physics at the LHC

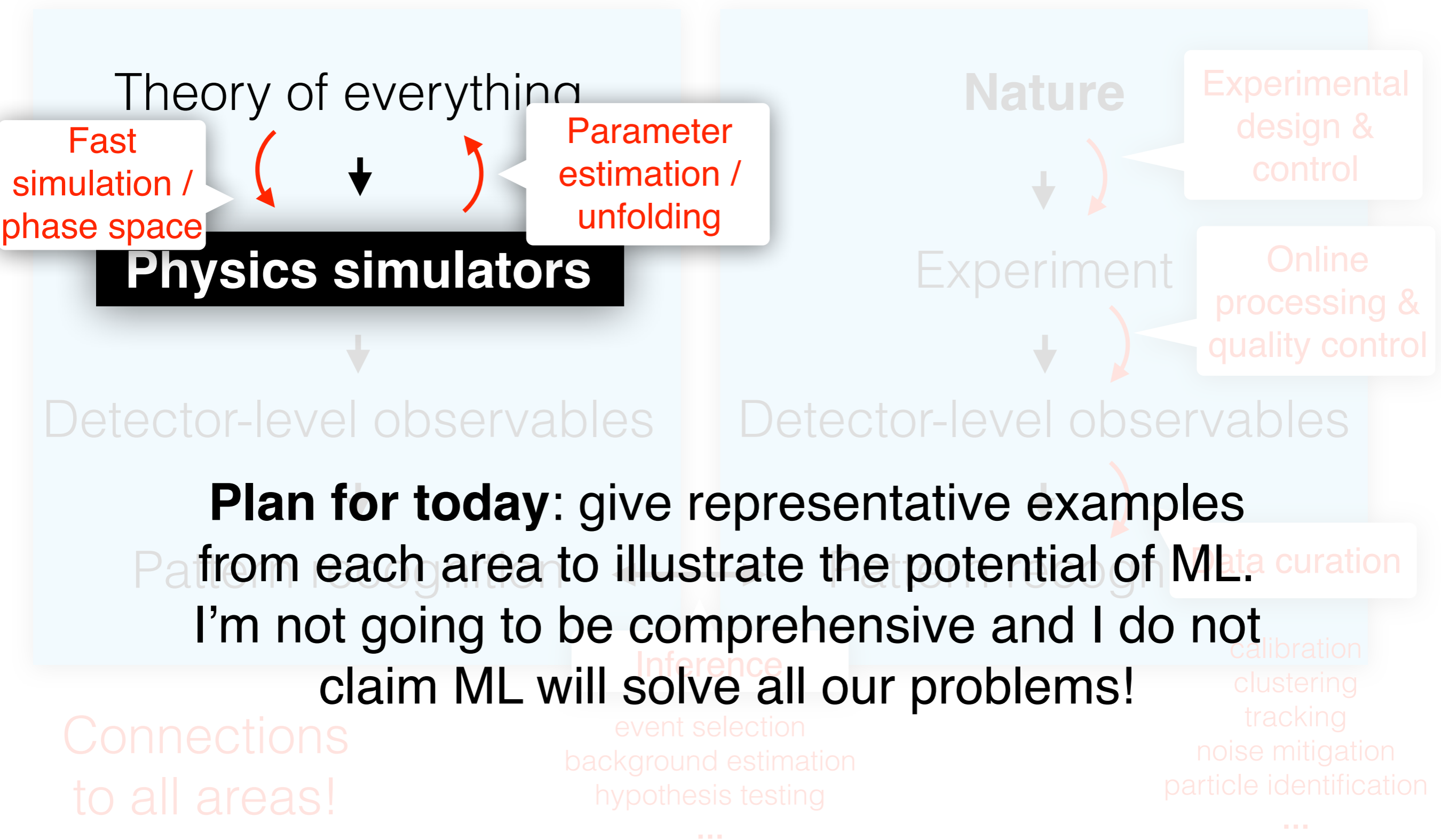
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# Precision Physics at the LHC



# Precision Physics at the LHC





# Precision Physics at the LHC



Theory of everything

Nature

Experimental design & control

**Forward Model**

**Inverse Model**

**Physics simulators**

Experiment

Online processing & quality control

Detector-level observables

Detector-level observables

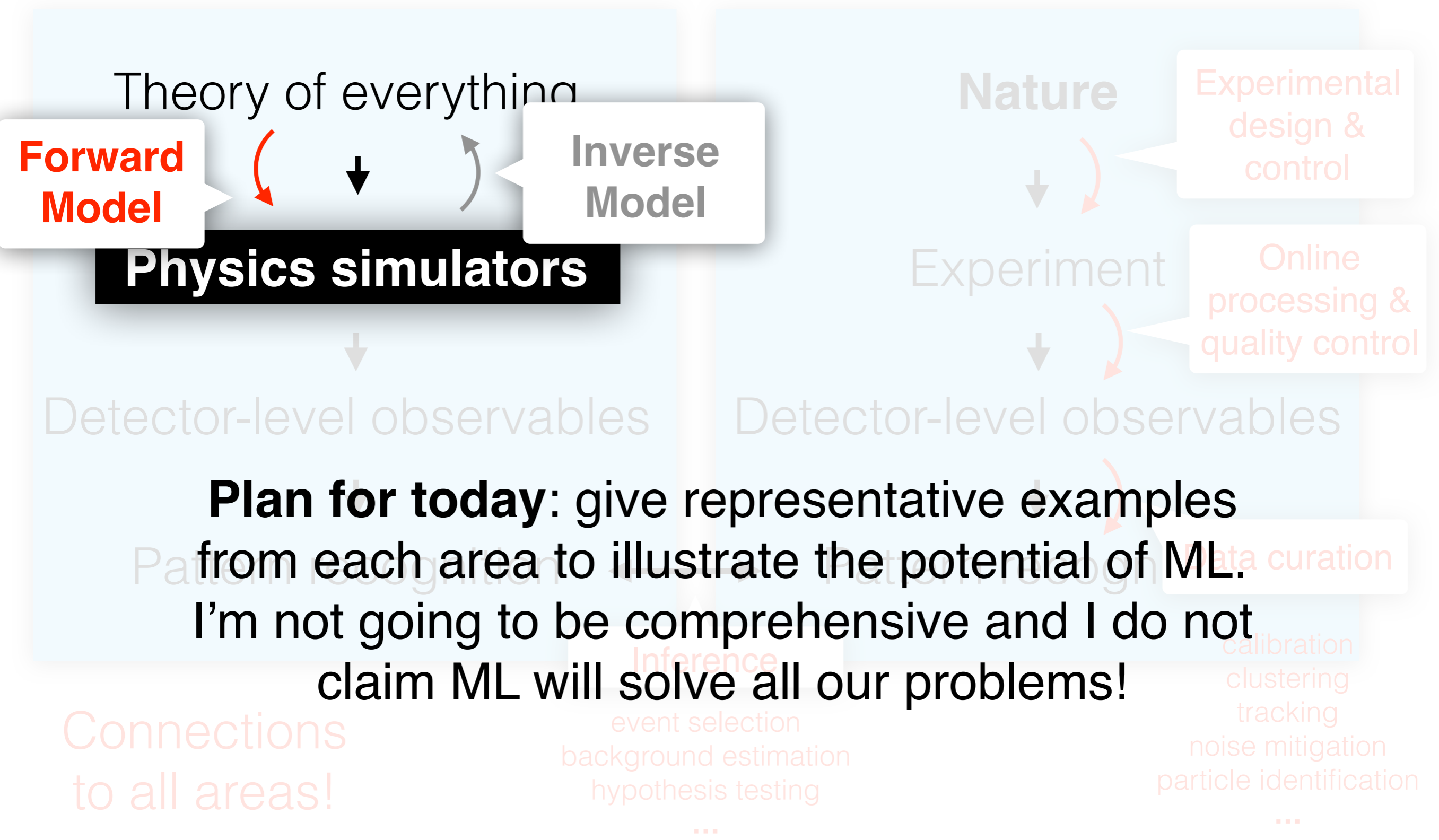
**Plan for today:** give representative examples from each area to illustrate the potential of ML. I'm not going to be comprehensive and I do not claim ML will solve all our problems!

Connections to all areas!

Inference  
event selection  
background estimation  
hypothesis testing  
...

Data curation  
calibration  
clustering  
tracking  
noise mitigation  
particle identification  
...

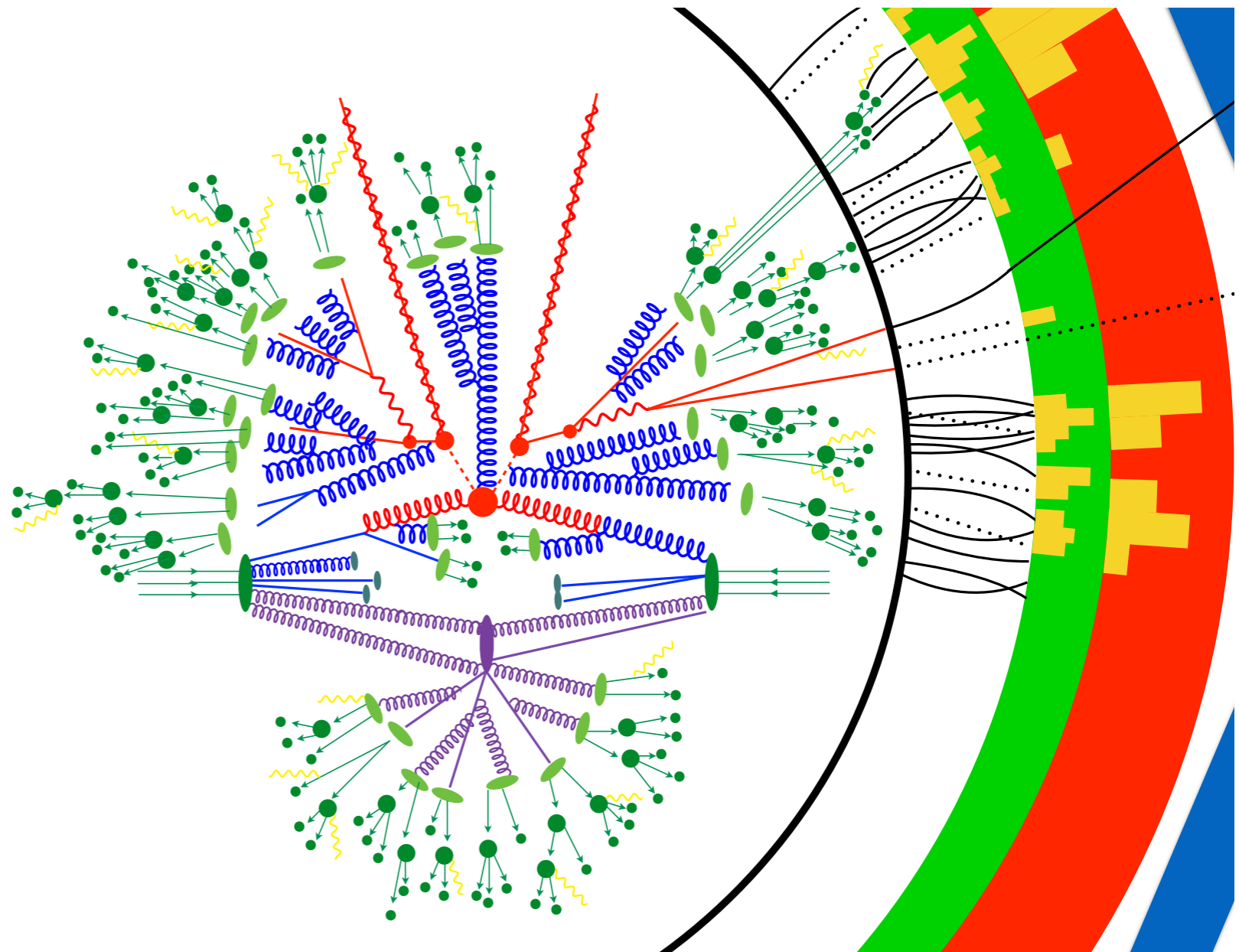
# Precision Physics at the LHC



**Complete predictions require composing a number of different components.**

There are proposals for ML at all levels:

- PDFs
- Phase space
- Matrix elements
- Parton showers
- Hadronization
- End-to-end



# Enhancing the “forward model”

8

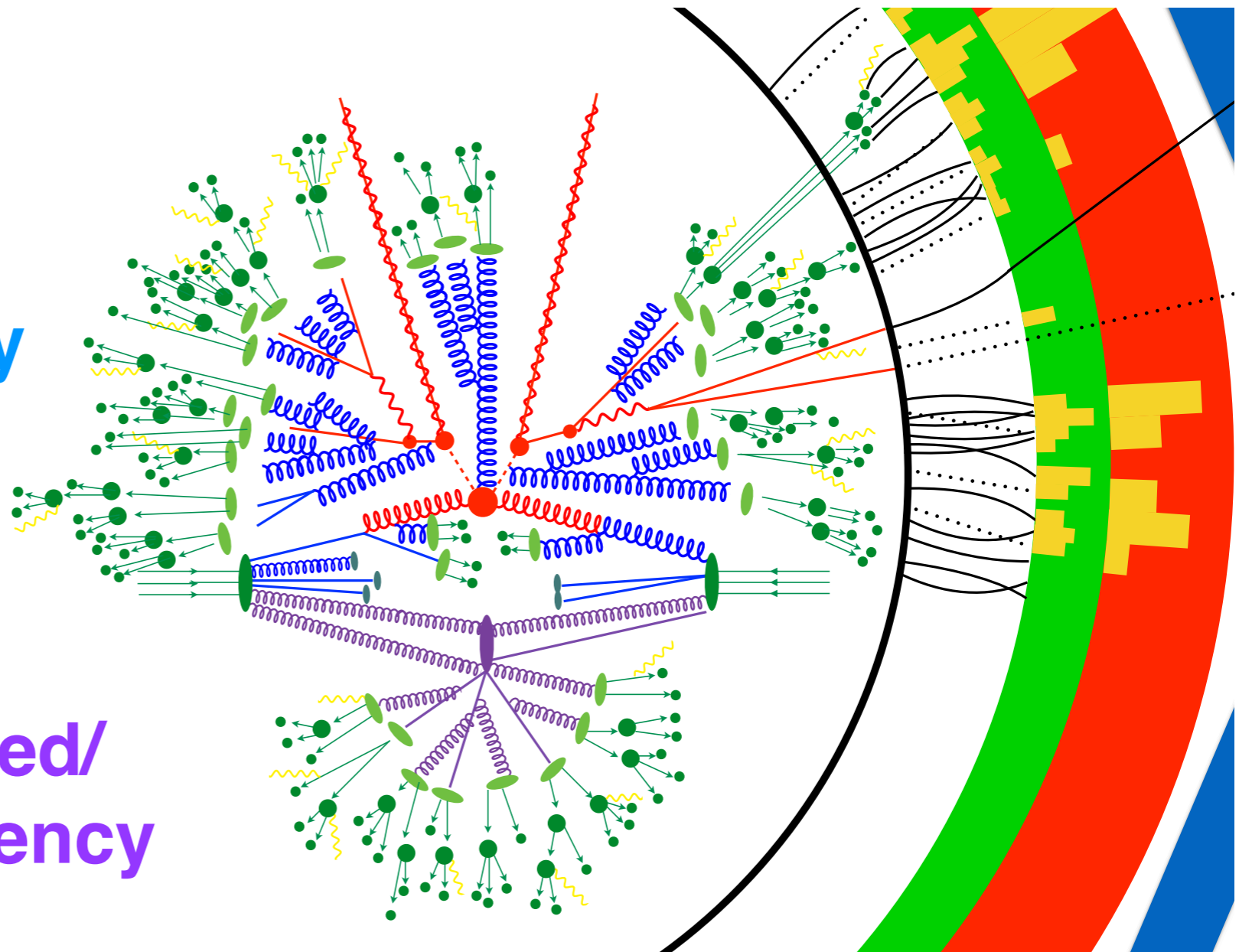
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**accuracy**

**speed/  
efficiency**



# Enhancing the “forward model”



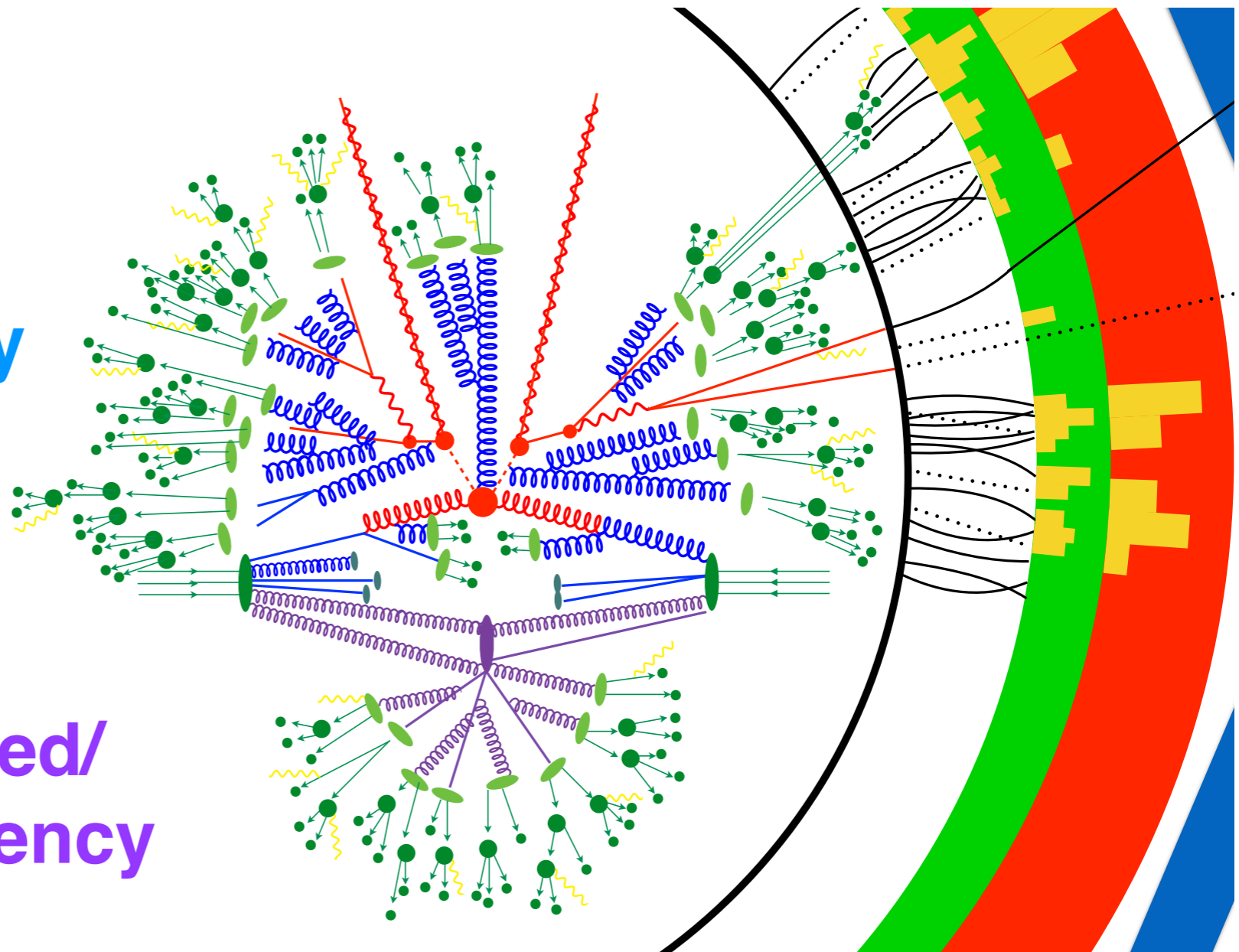
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# Why hadronization?

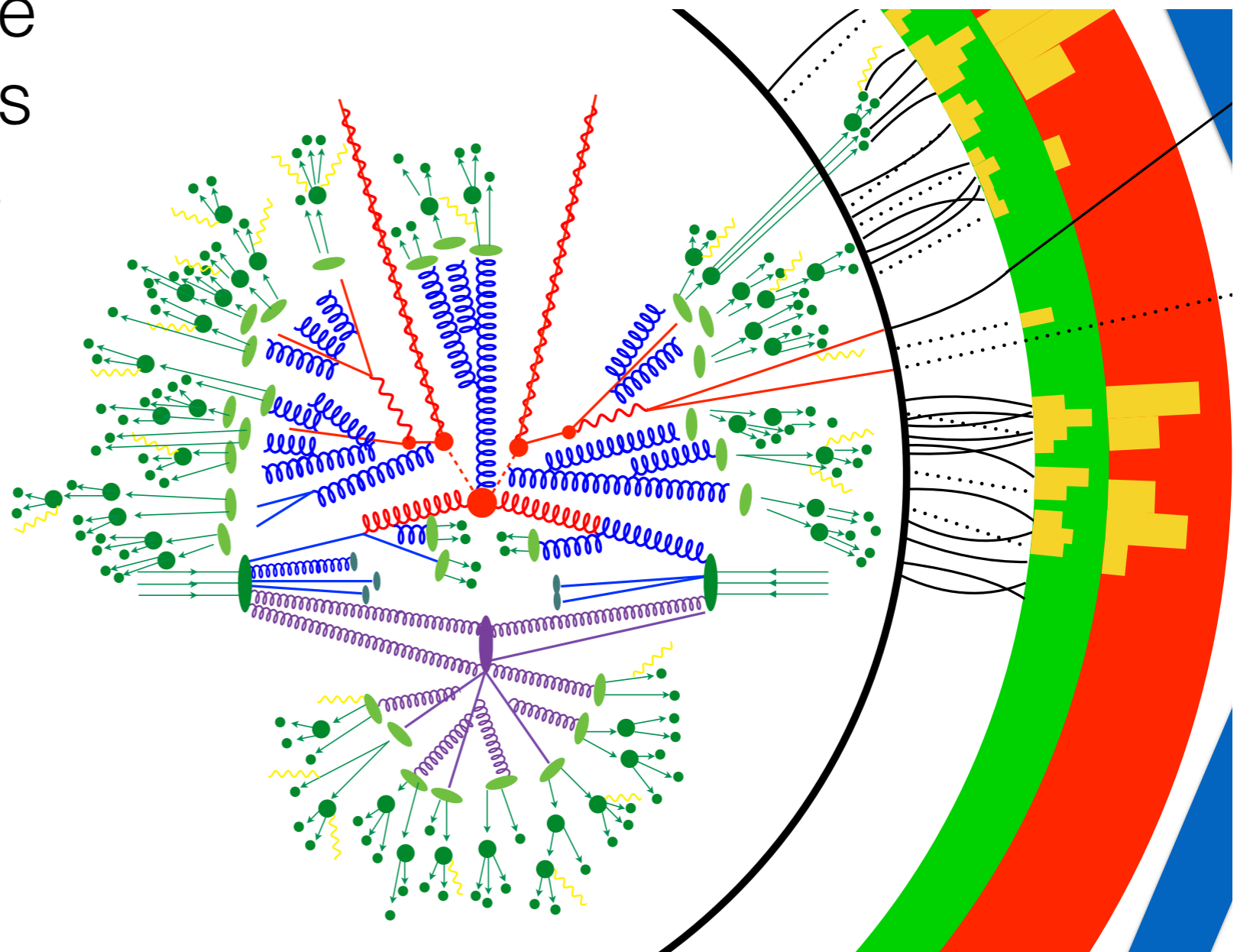
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We do not understand hadronization from first principles!

Existing approaches use physics-inspired models with lots of parameters that are fit to data.

Seems to be calling out for a machine learning solution!

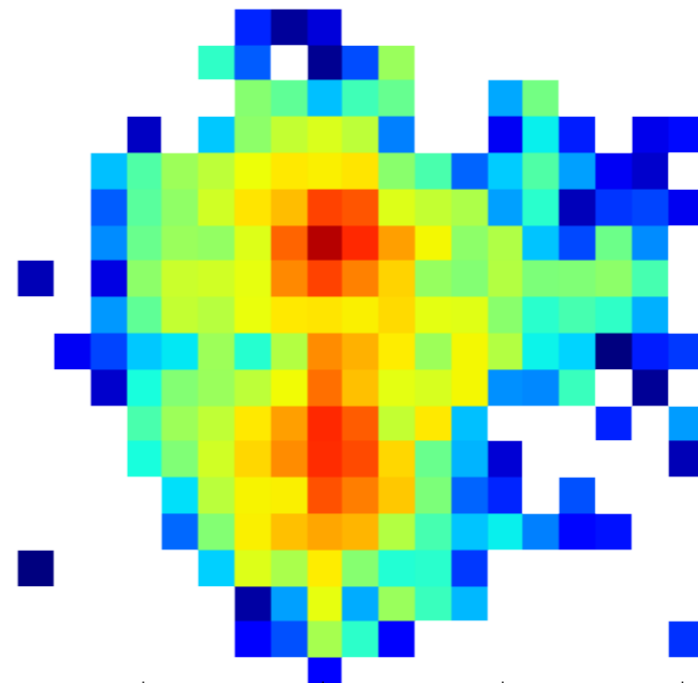
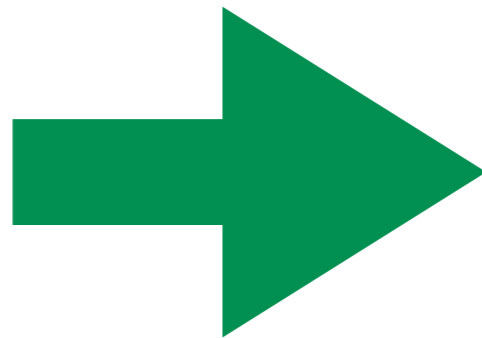
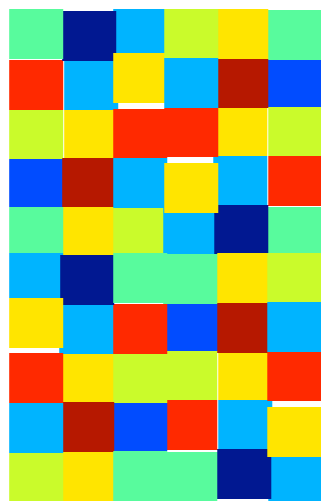
See also PDFs (and the pioneer, NNPDF)



# What is a deep generative model?

11

A **generator** is nothing other than a function that maps random numbers to structure.



Deep generative models: the map is a deep neural network.

# What is a deep generative model?

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**GANs**

*Generative  
Adversarial Networks*

**Score-  
based**

**Restricted  
Boltzmann  
Machines**

**Mixture  
Density  
Networks**

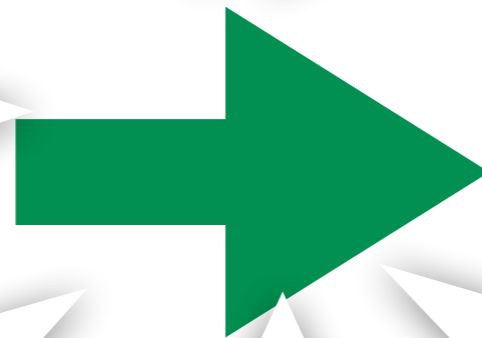
**NFs**

*Normalizing Flows*

**Energy-  
based  
models**

**VAEs**

*Variational Autoencoders*



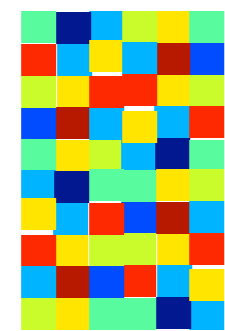


# Our tool of choice: GANs

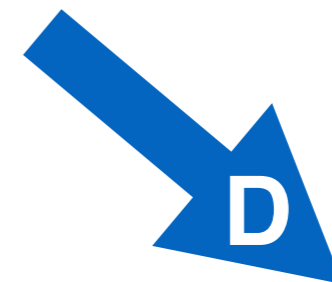
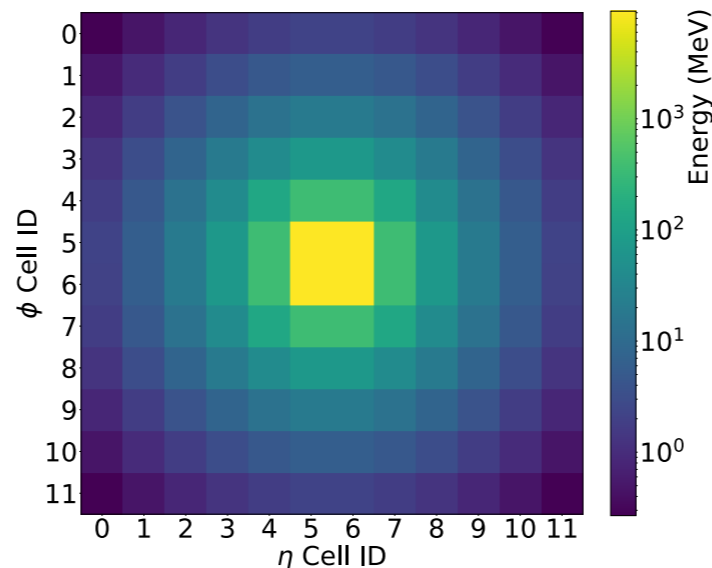
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Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs):

*A two-network game where one **maps noise to structure** and one **classifies images as fake or real**.*

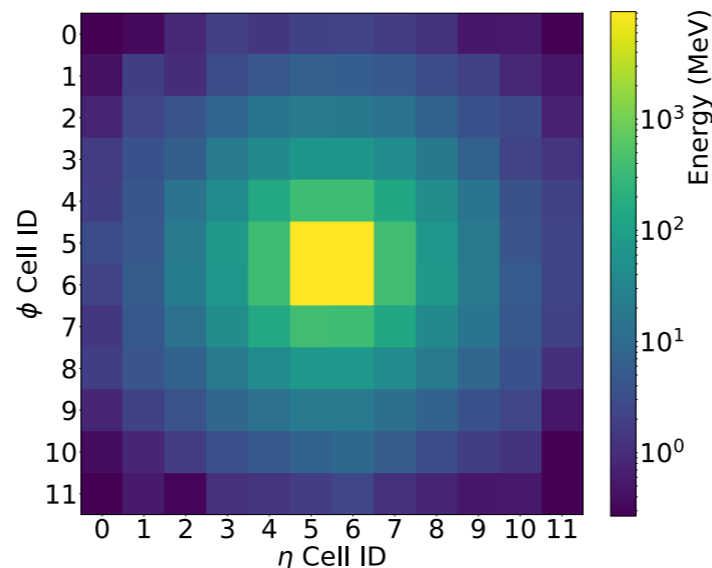


noise



{real, fake}

When **D** is maximally confused, **G** will be a good generator



Physics-based simulator or data

# Our tool of choice: GANs

14

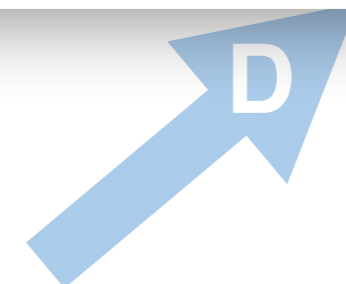
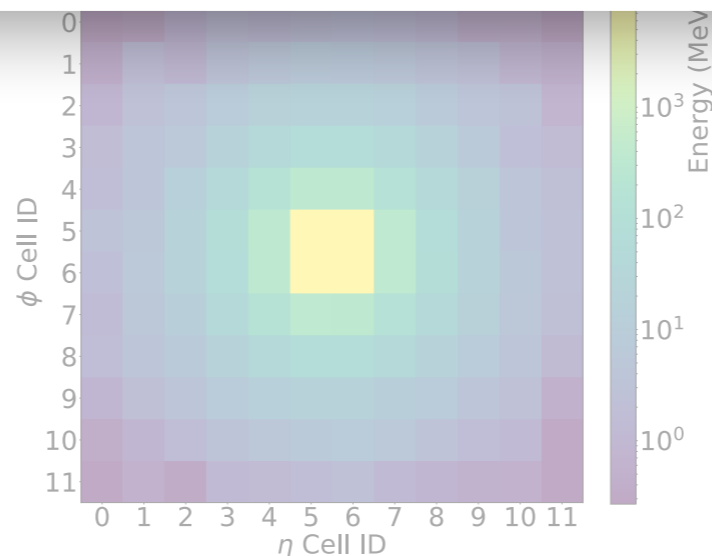
Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs):

*A two-network game where one **maps noise to structure** and one **classifies images as fake or real**.*

There are many new methods that have superior robustness to GANs, but for reasons I hope will be clear later, we need the flexibility of GANs that no other approach can accommodate (yet).

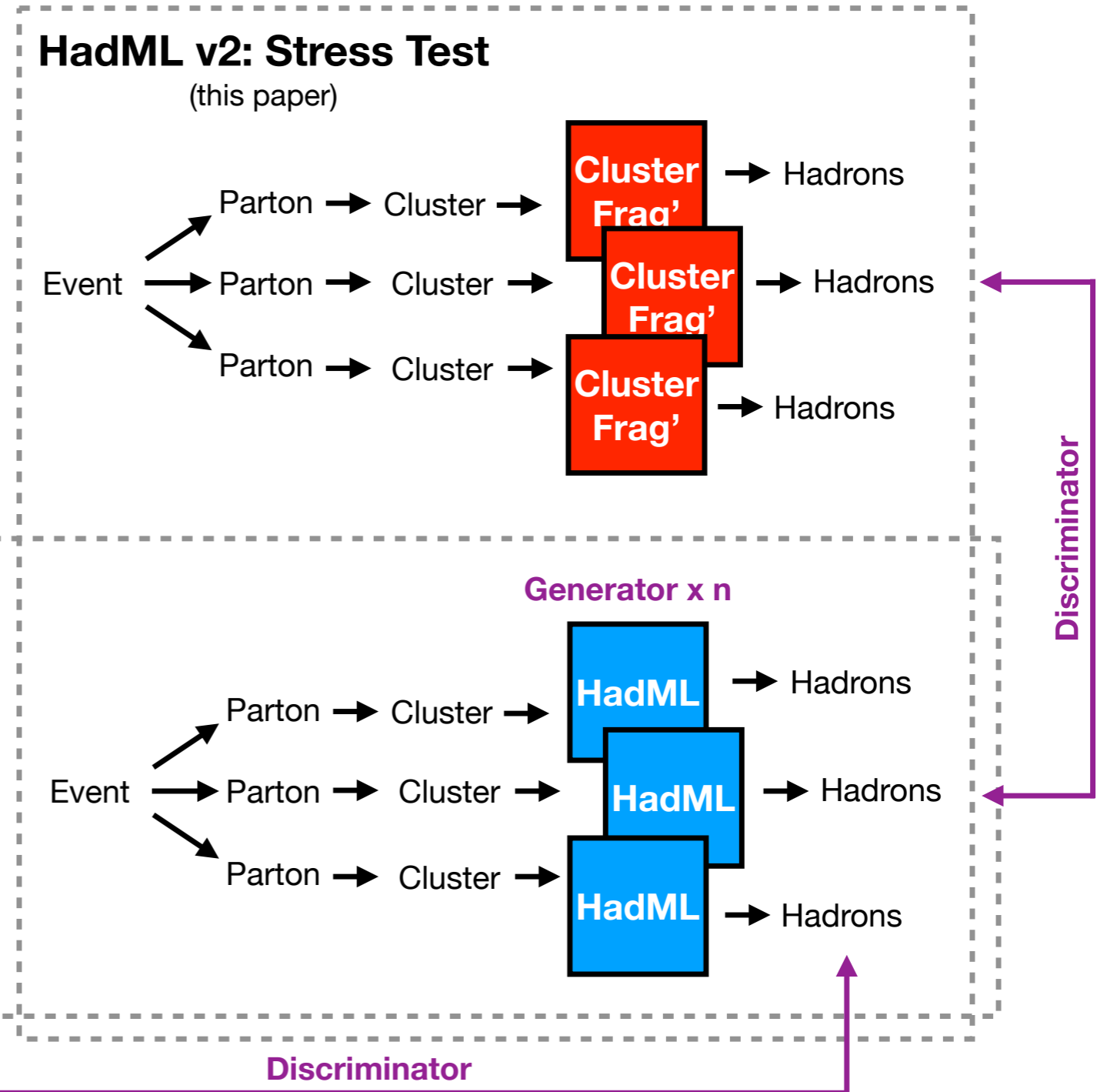
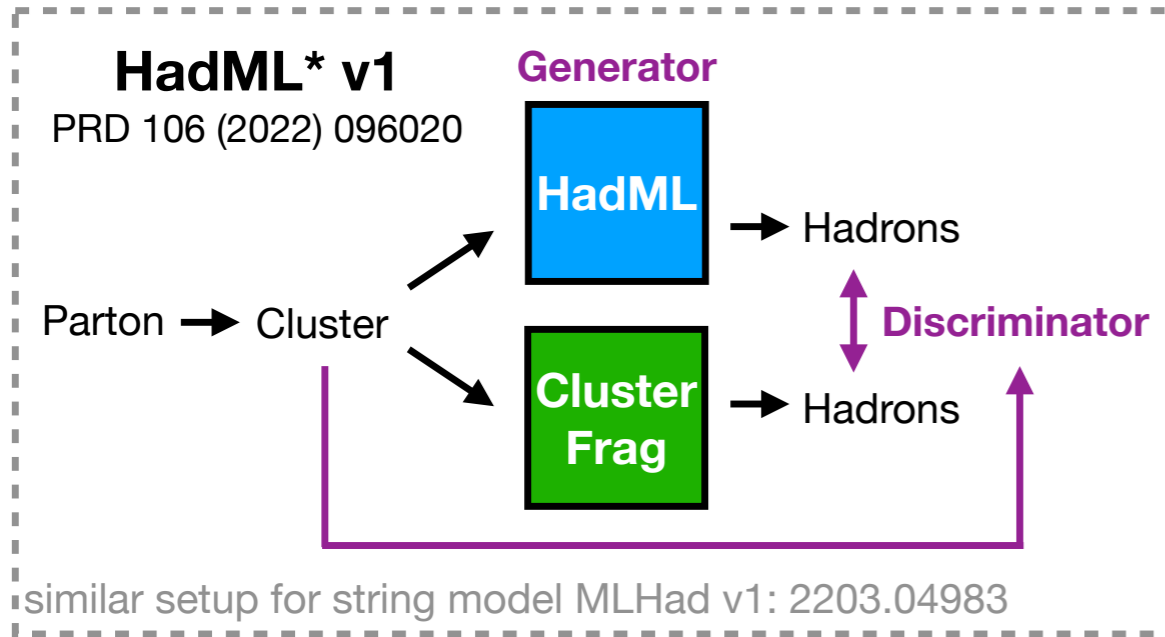
{real, fake}

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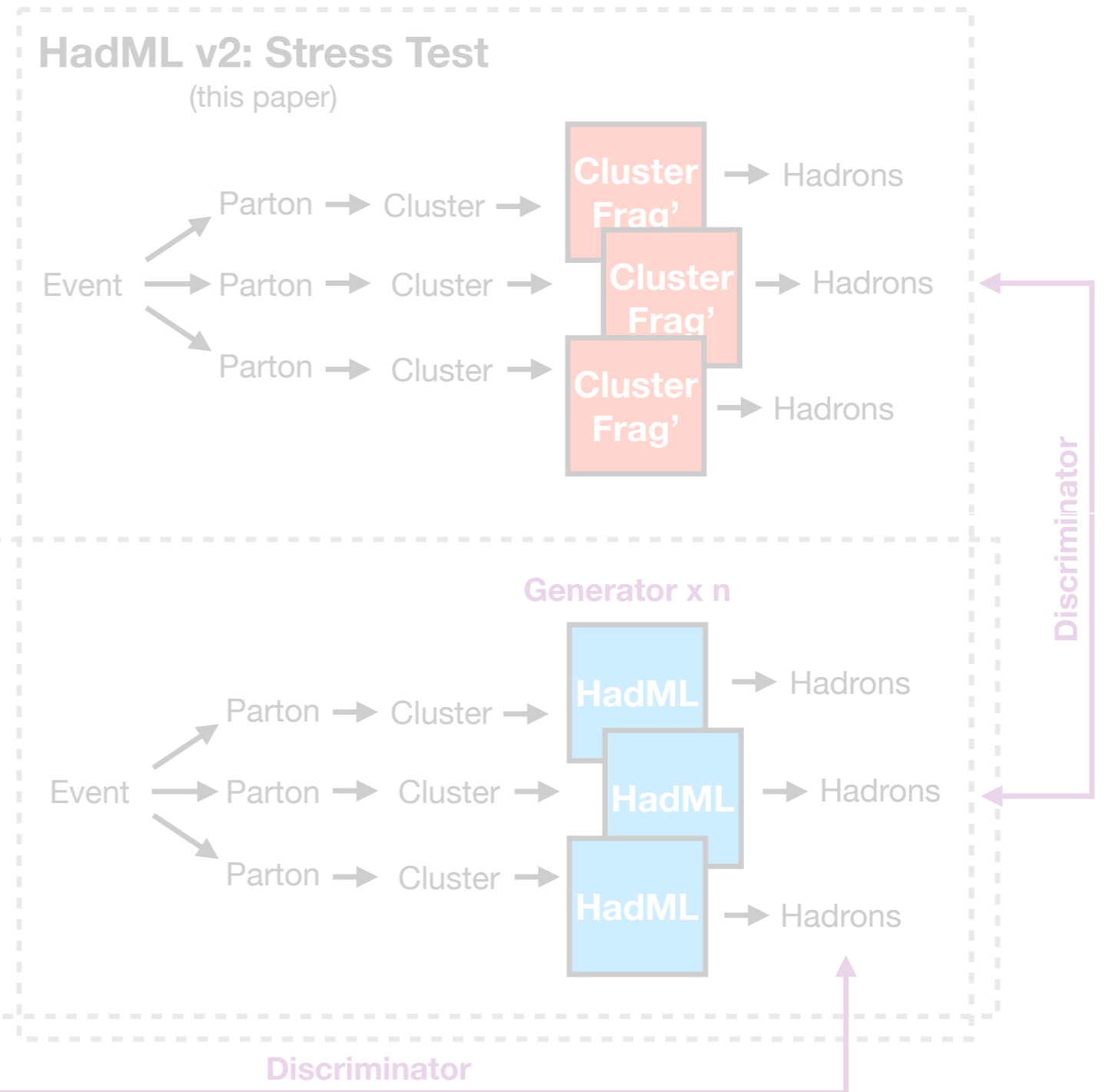
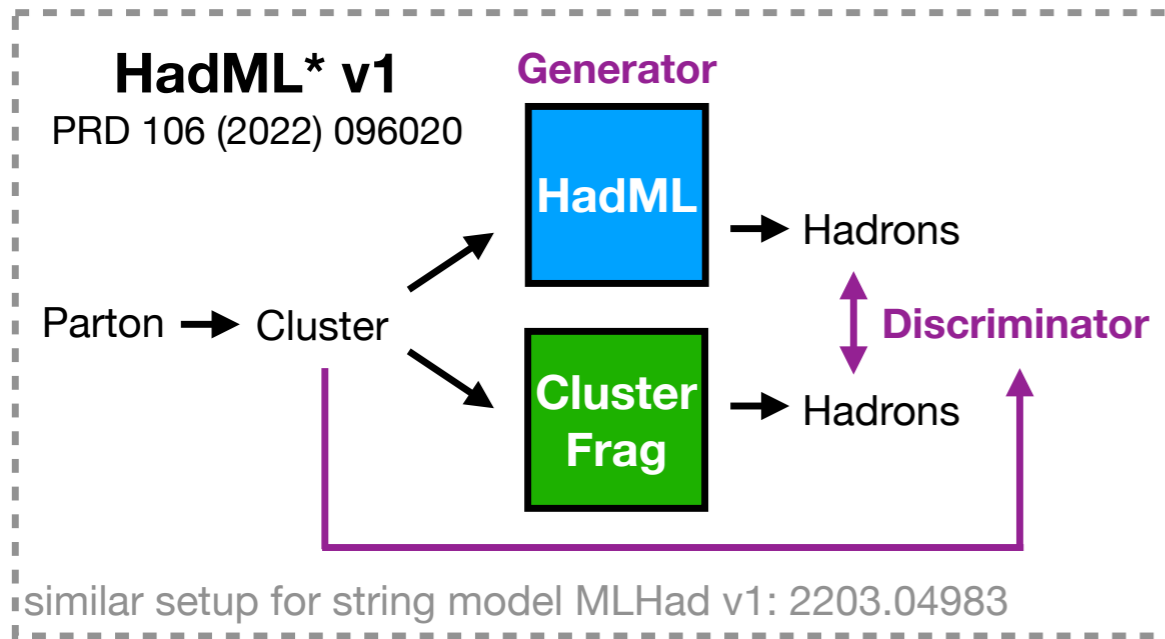


Physics-based simulator or data

# ML Hadronization - Overview



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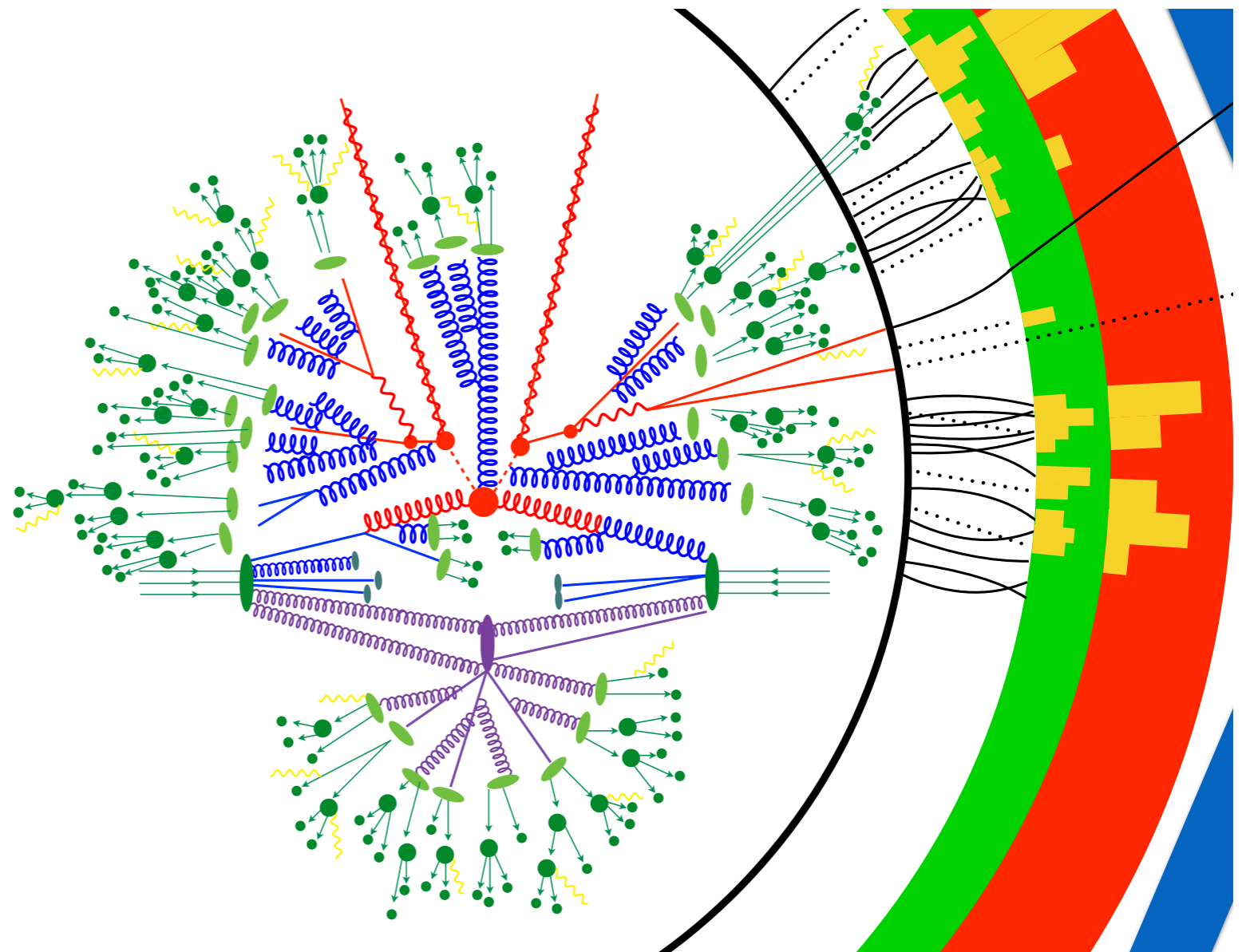


# Cluster hadronization

17

Physics inspiration: preconfinement. Universal distribution of color singlet objects ('clusters') which decay into hadrons.

Our approach: take preconfinement as a starting point and learn the decay. In the future, we want to be able to go beyond this starting point\*



*\*We actually tried fitting a version of Pythia with all the same simplifying assumptions as our Herwig model and it doesn't work yet for known reasons. Please ask if you want to hear more about this!*

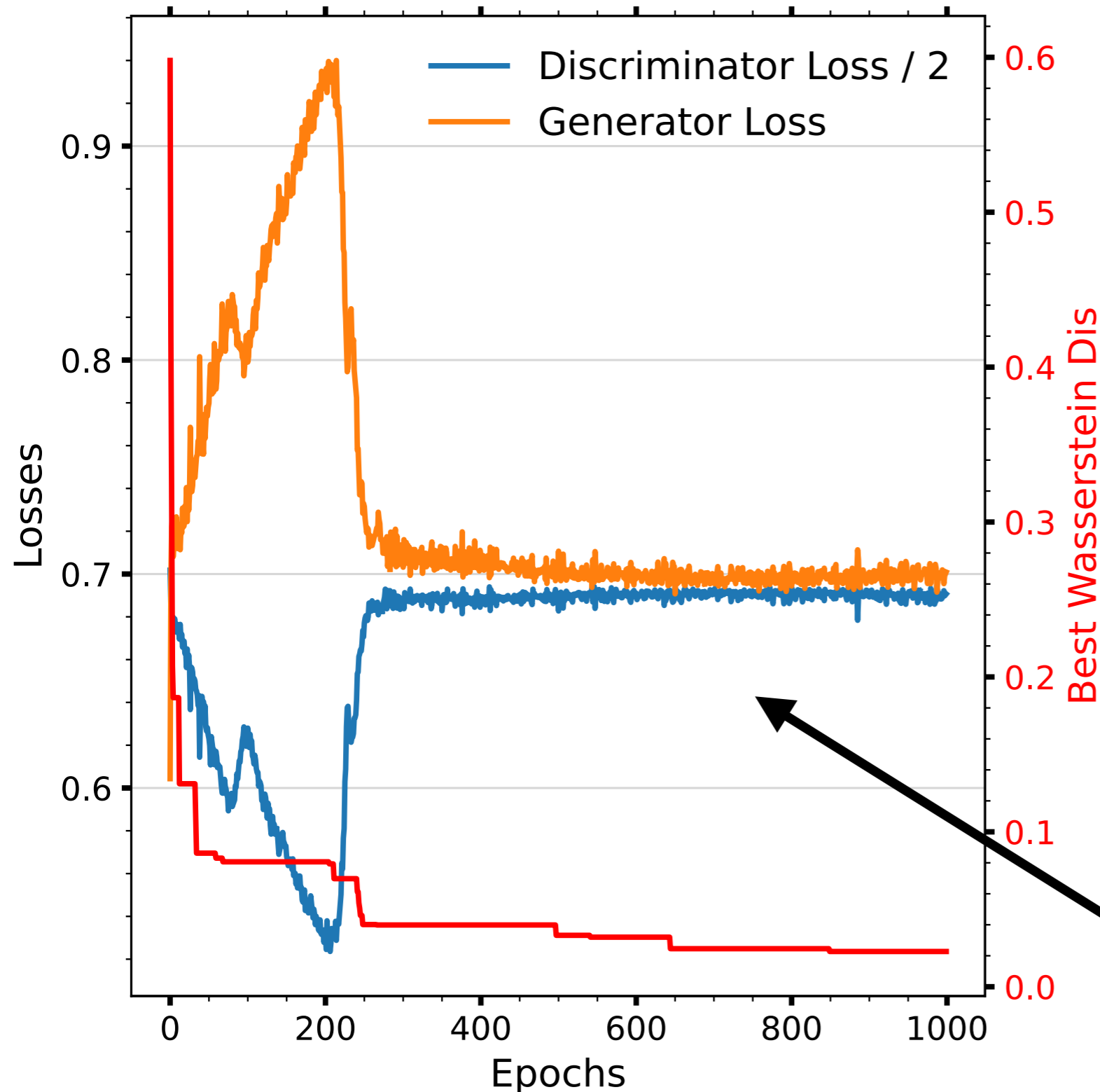
We have a conditional GAN, with cluster 4-vector input and two hadron 4-vector outputs.

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We simplify this by considering only pions and generating two angles in the cluster rest frame.

# Training HADML

20



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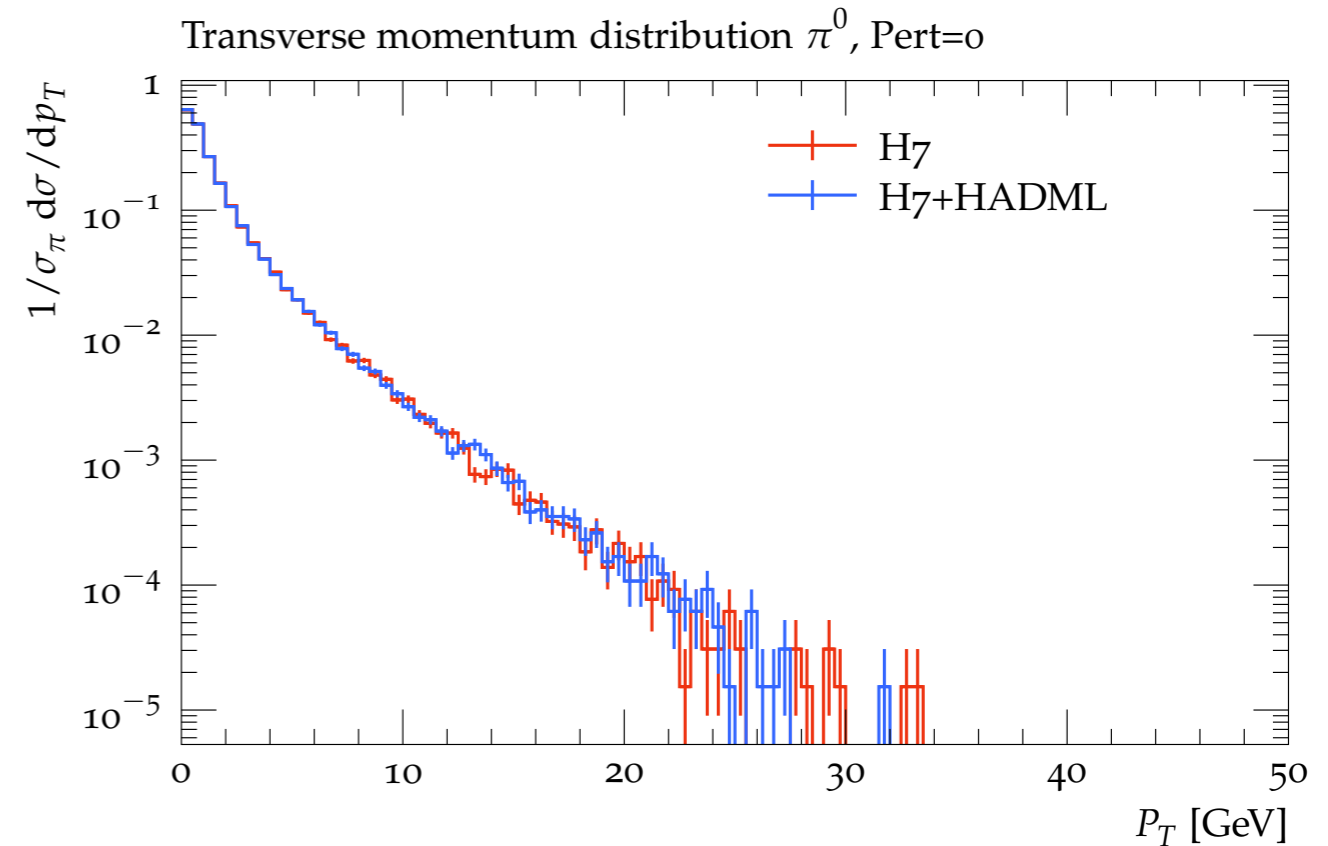
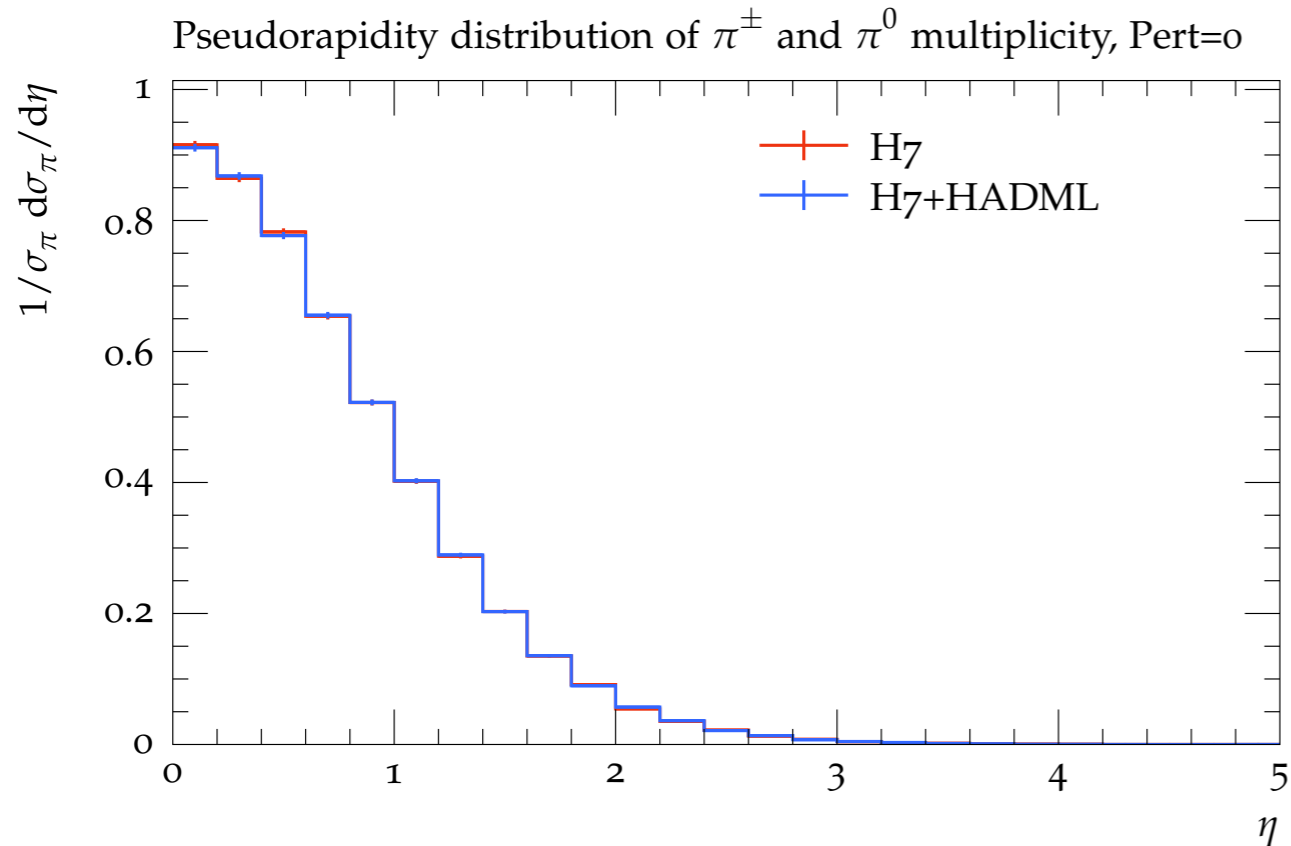
We simplify this by considering only pions and generating two angles in the cluster rest frame.

This is a typical learning curve for GAN training.



# Performance: Pions

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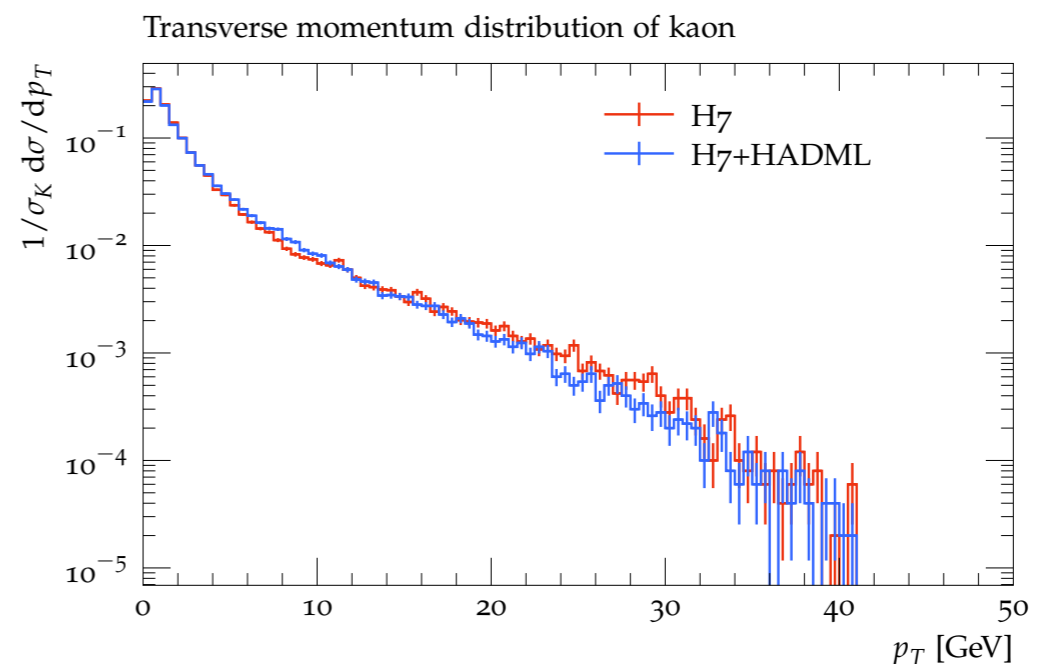
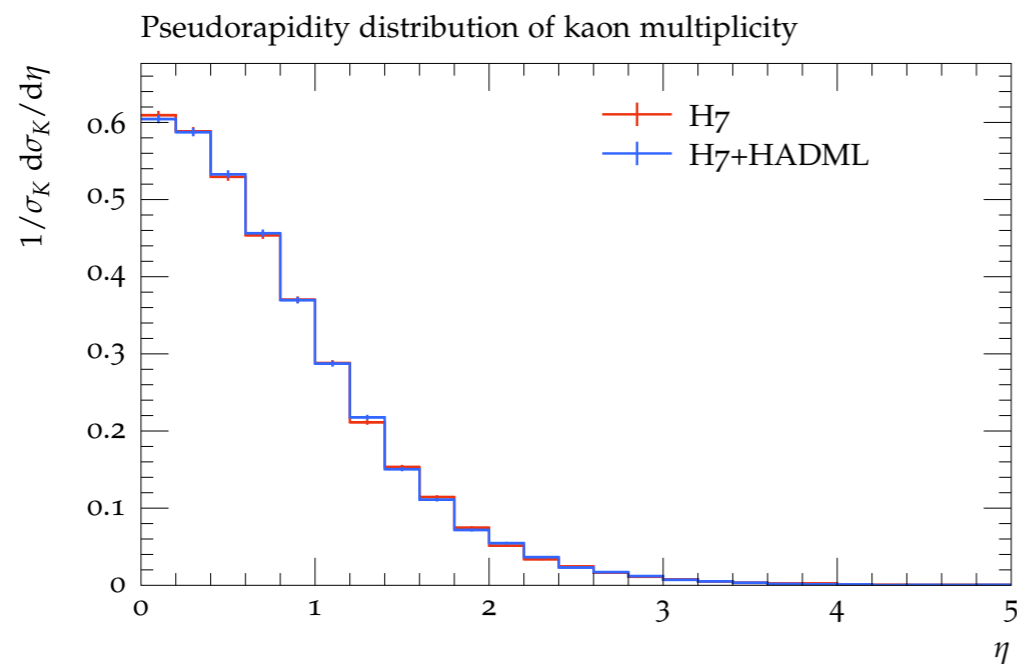
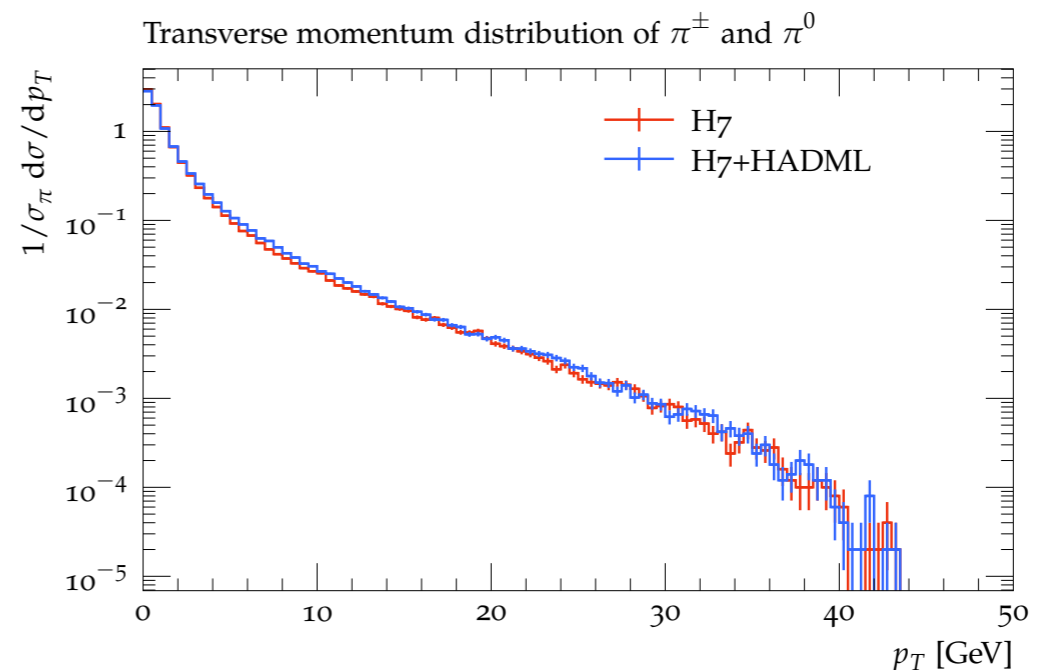
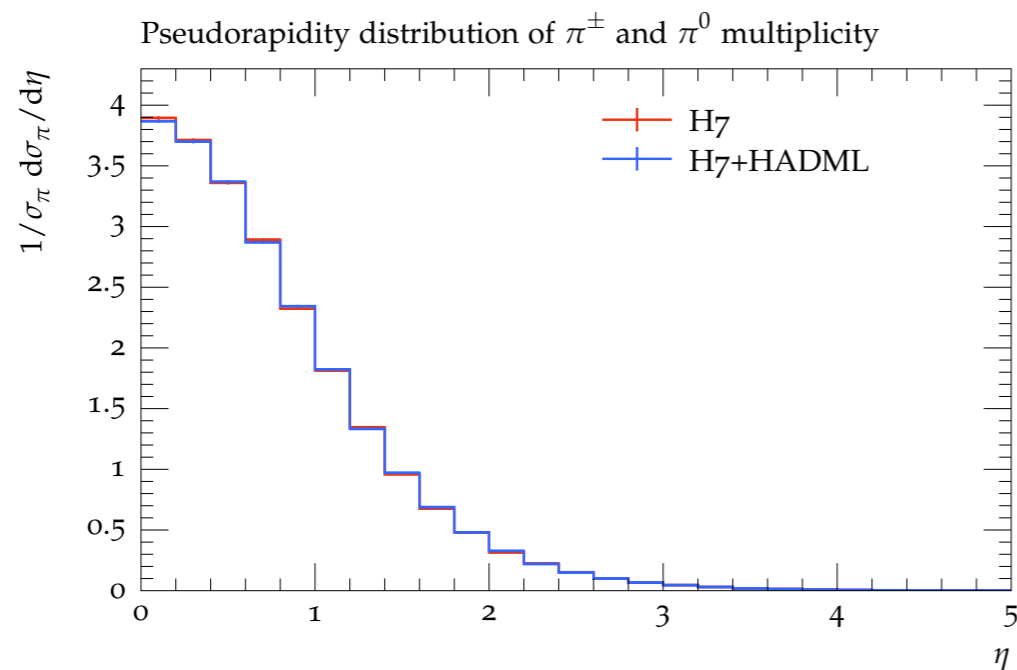


We extract clusters + hadrons, train, and then using ONNX, re-insert the model back into Herwig. This then allows us to run a full event generator and produce plots like these!

# Performance: All Hadrons

22

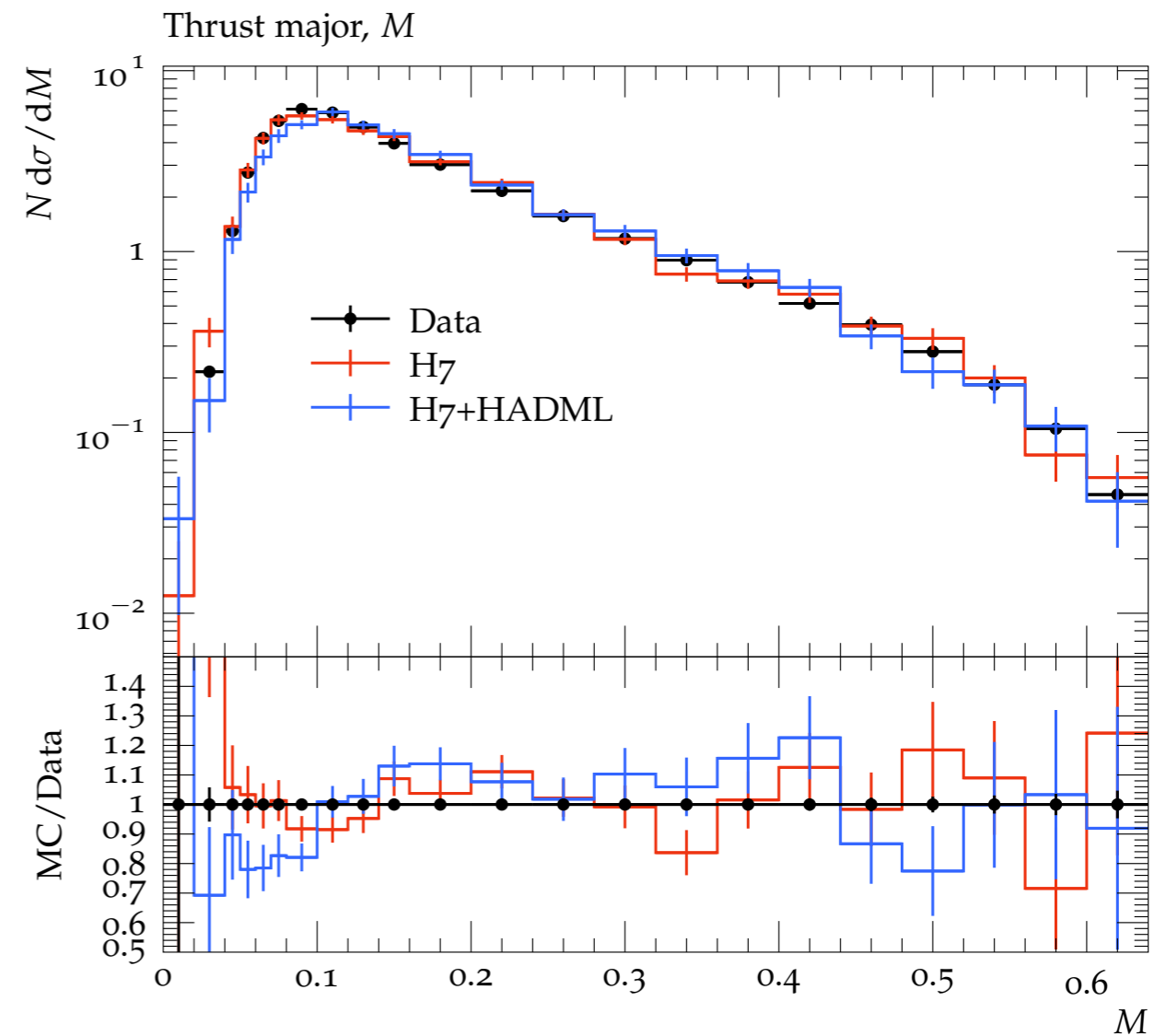
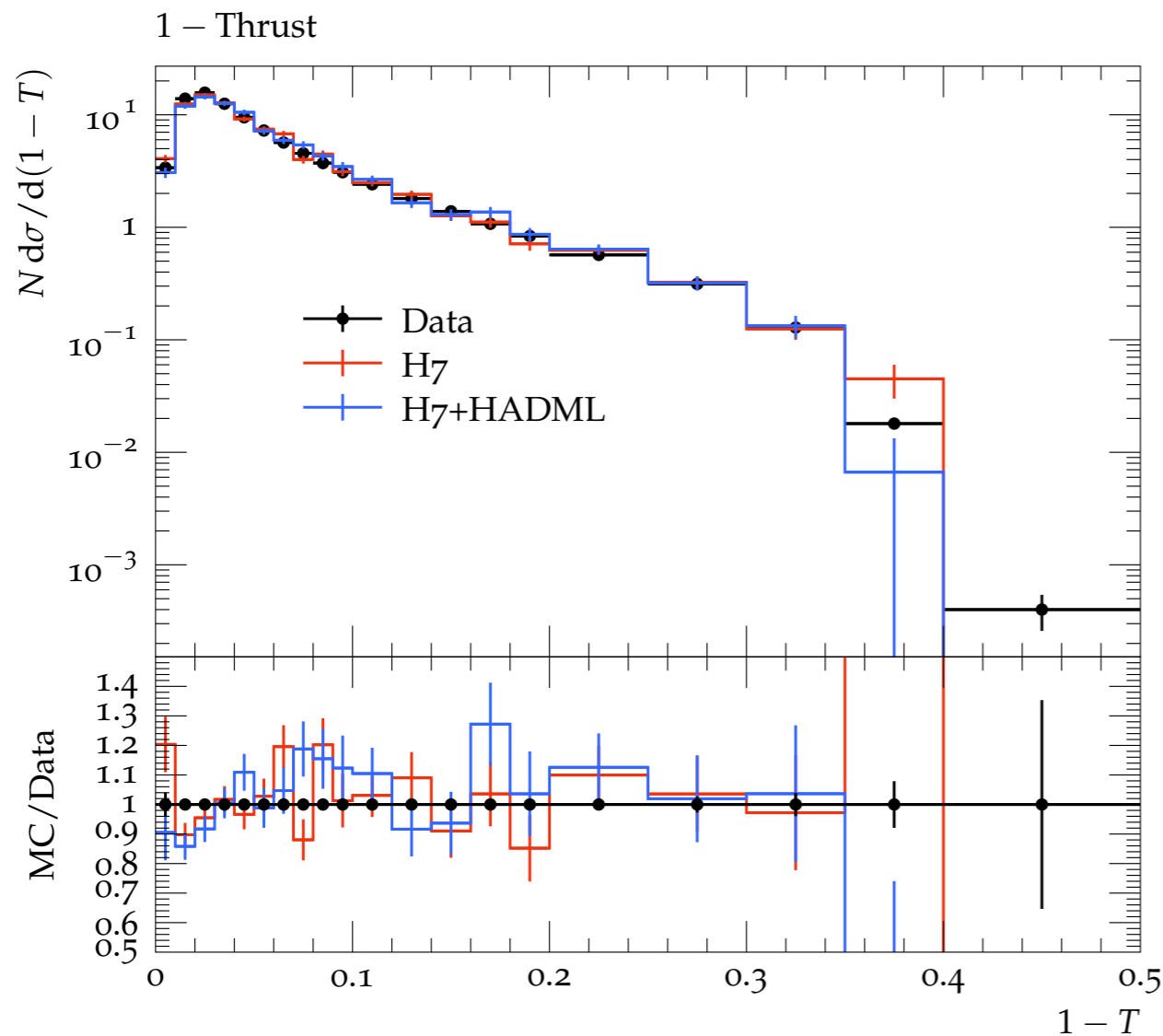
As a crude “full” model, we simply take the PIDs from Herwig and the kinematics from the GAN.



# Performance: Data!

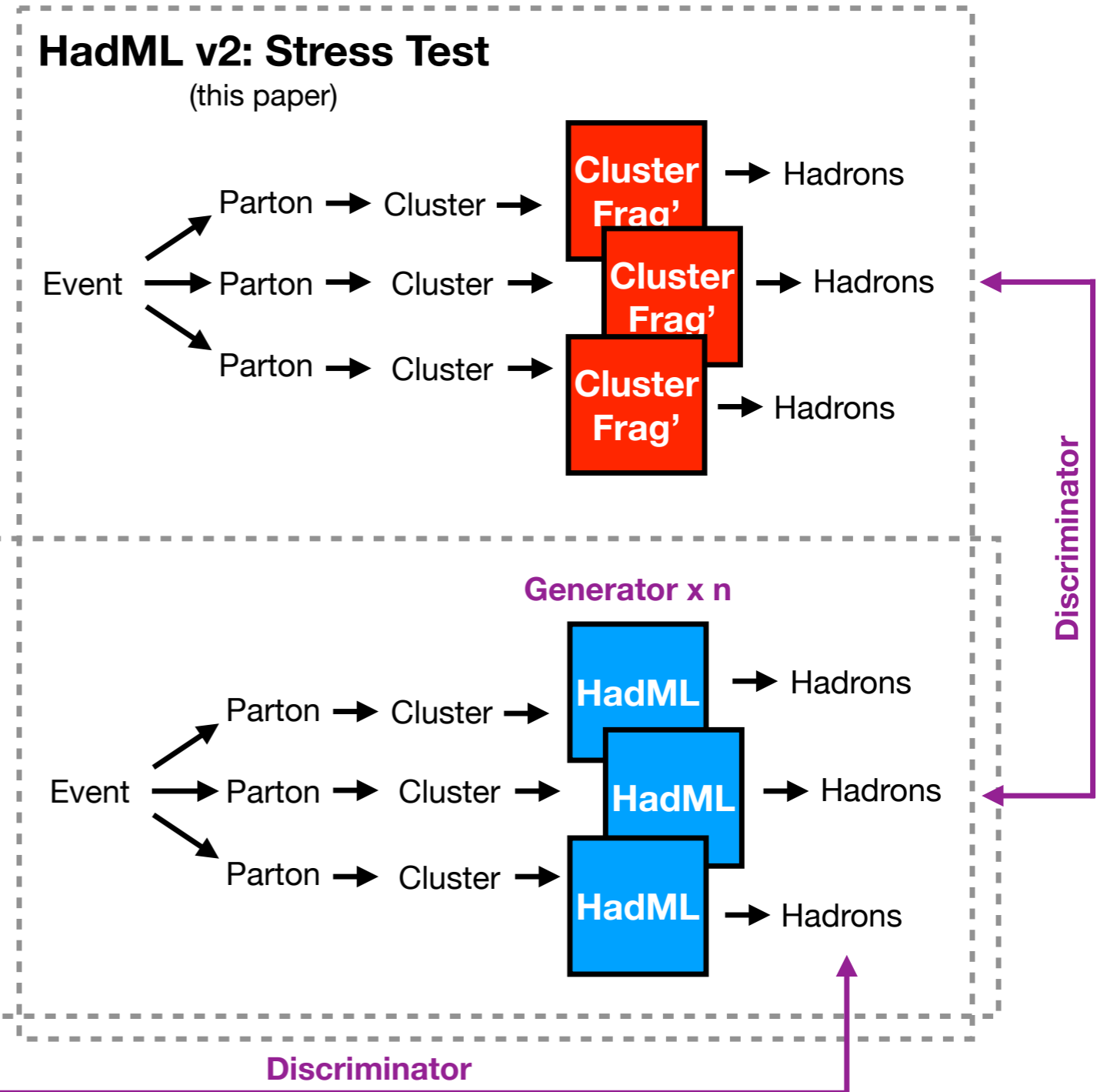
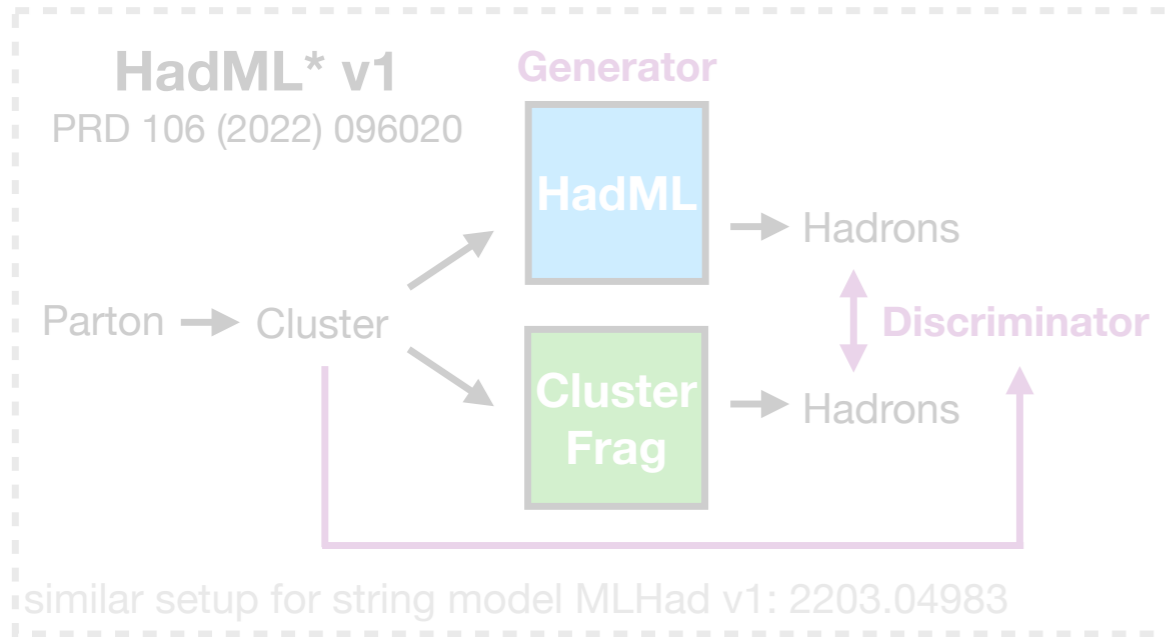
23

With a “full” model, we can compare directly to data!



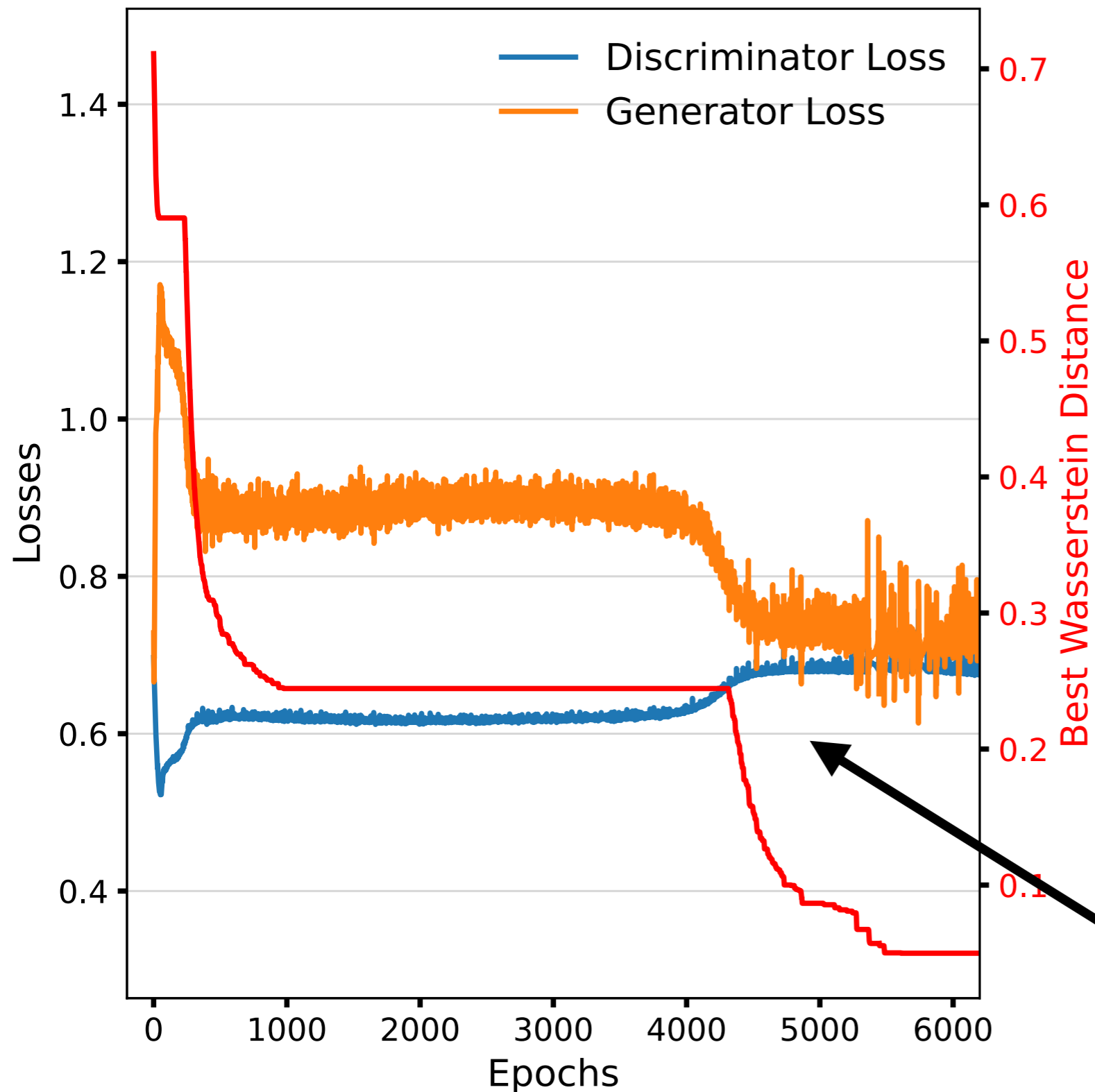
N.B. we have trained on H7, so we don't expect to be any better than it at modeling the data.

# ML Hadronization - Overview



# Training HADML v2

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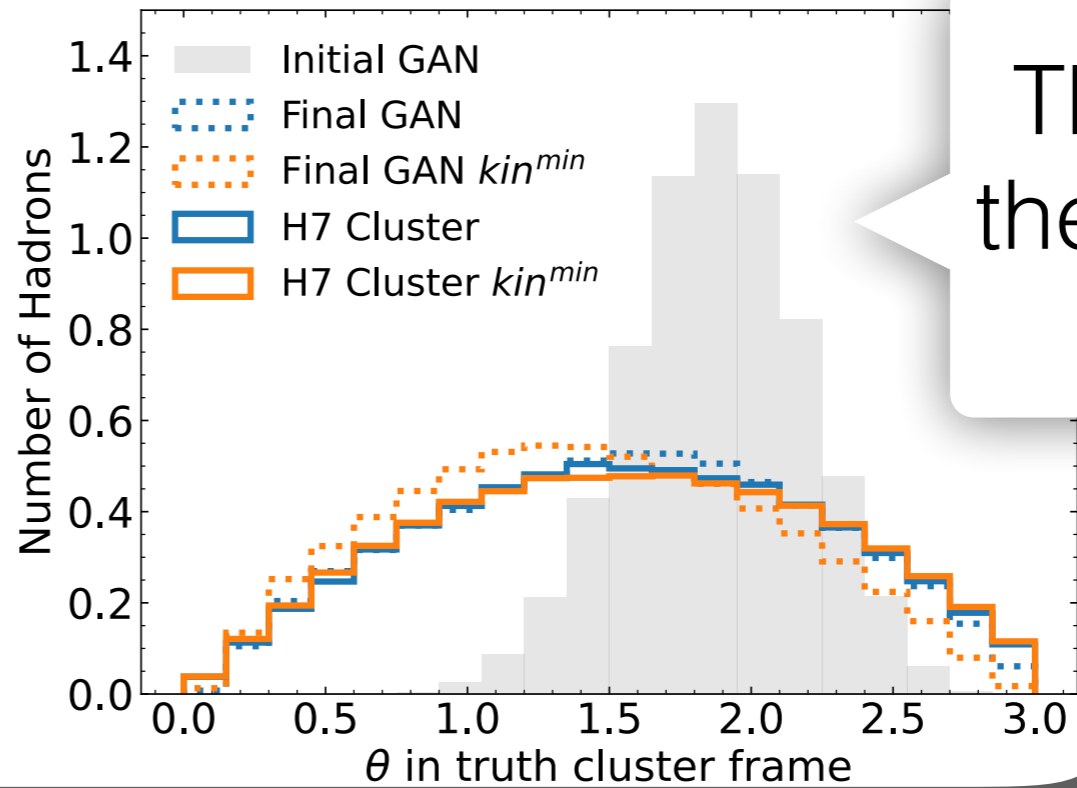
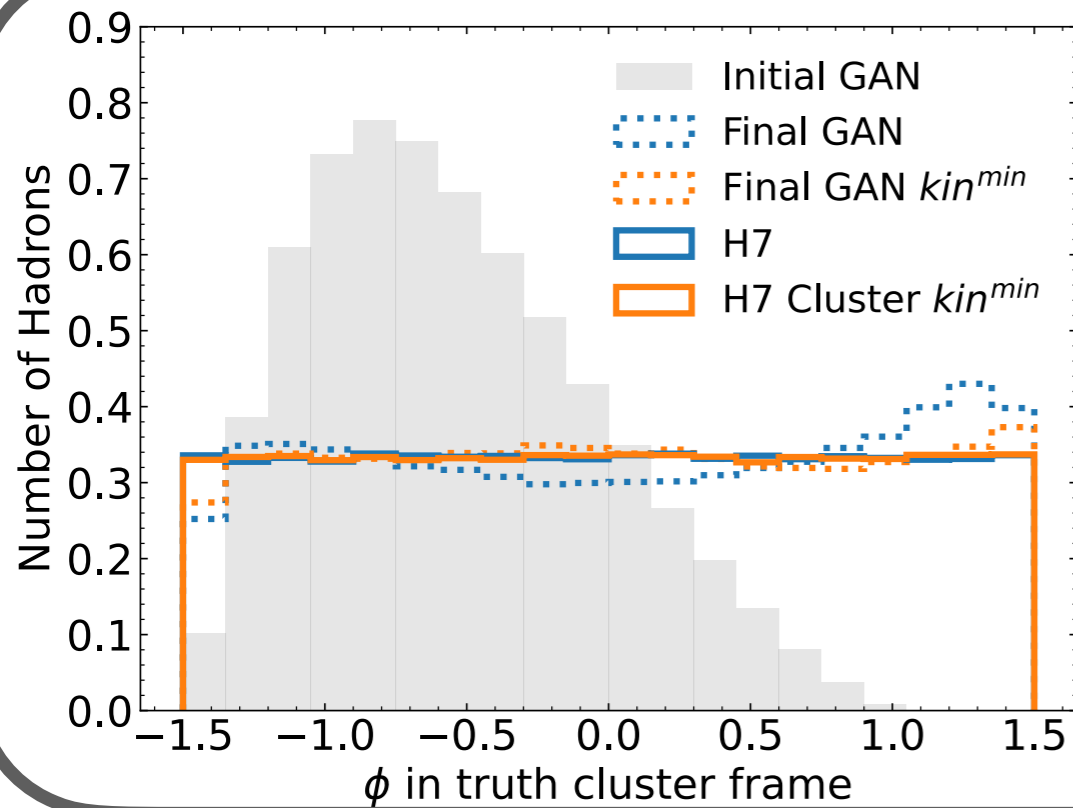


Now, the generator is local (per cluster), but the discriminator is global (whole event).

Discriminator is a permutation-invariant architecture called Deep Sets.

Still works !

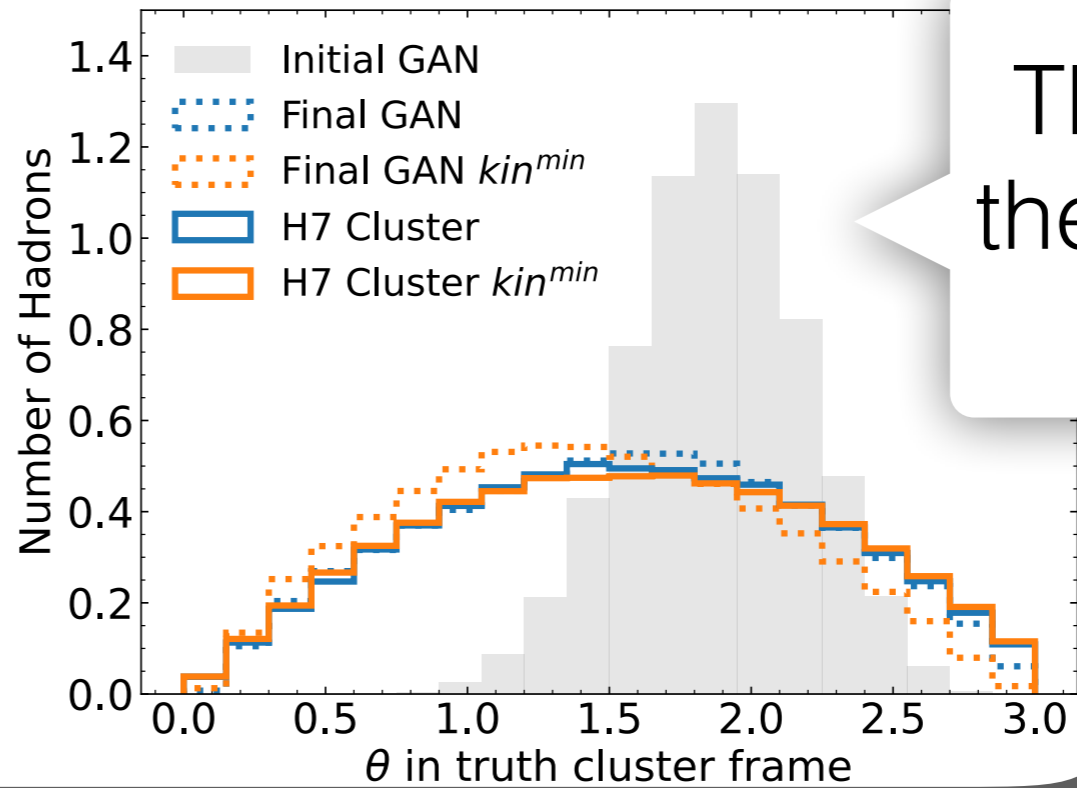
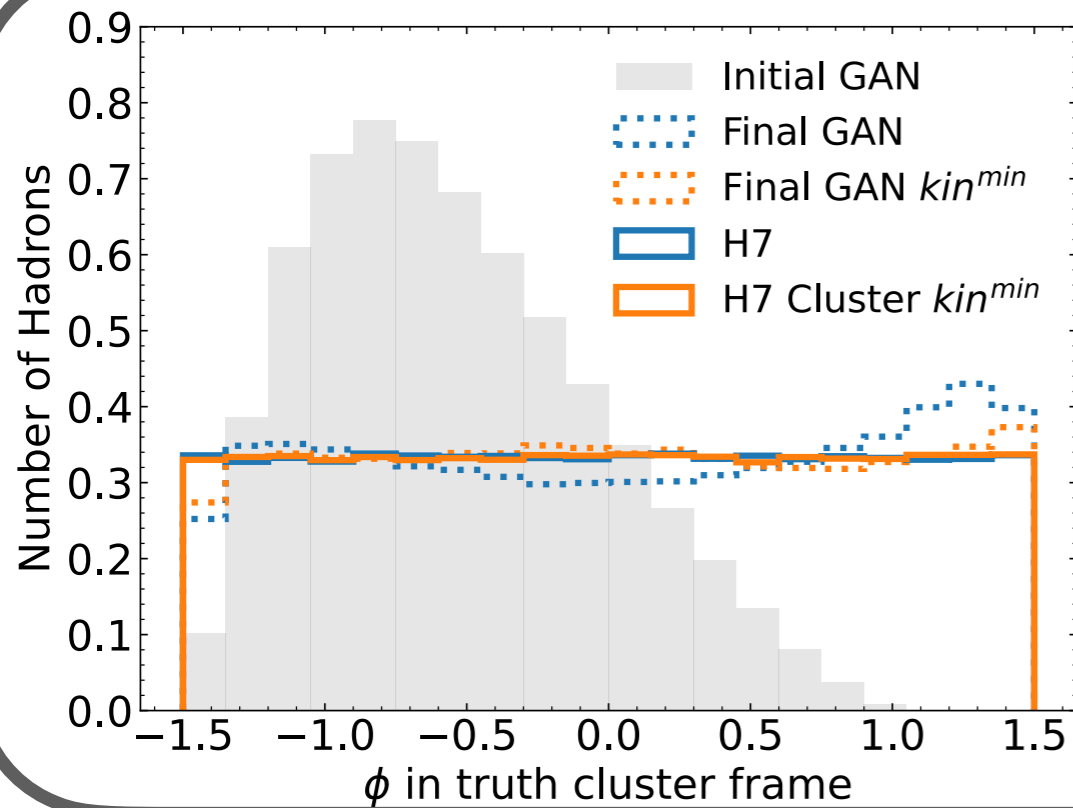
# Performance



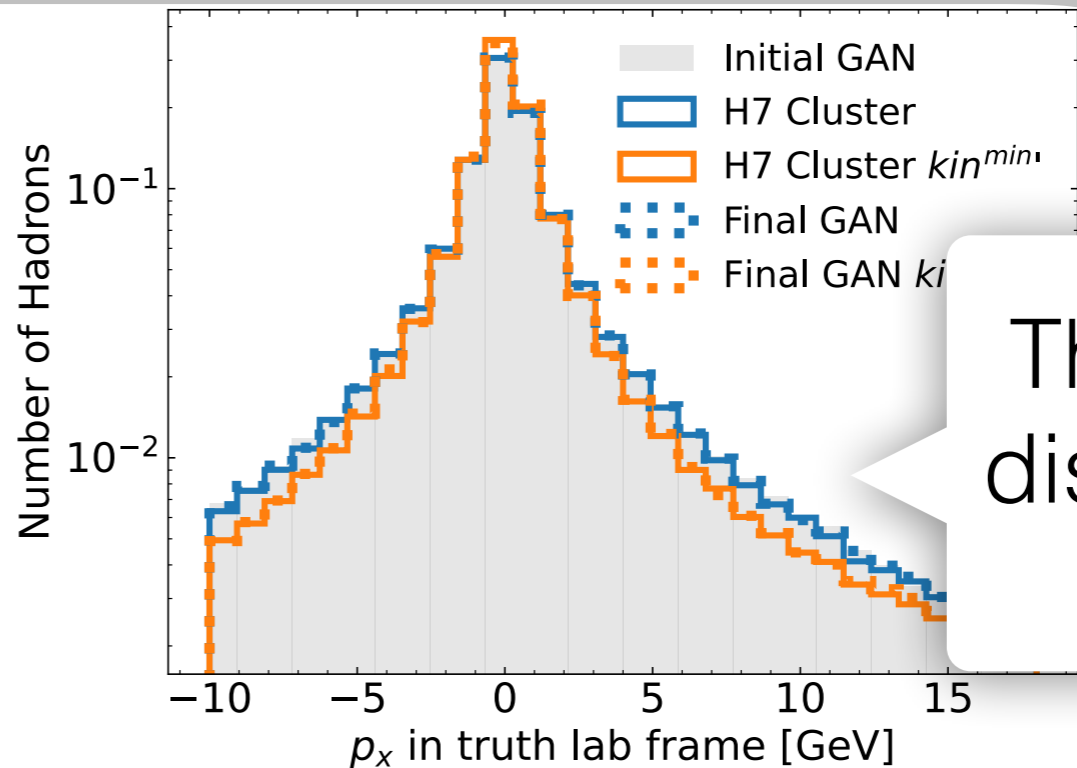
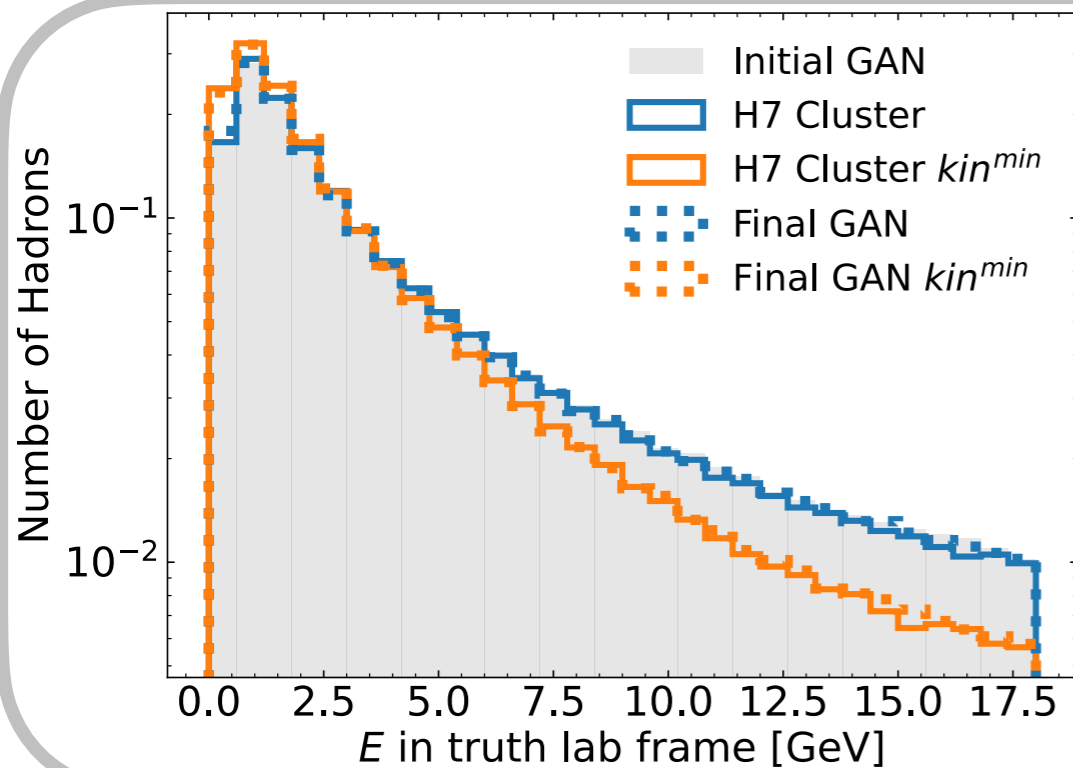
This is what the generator "sees"

# Performance

27



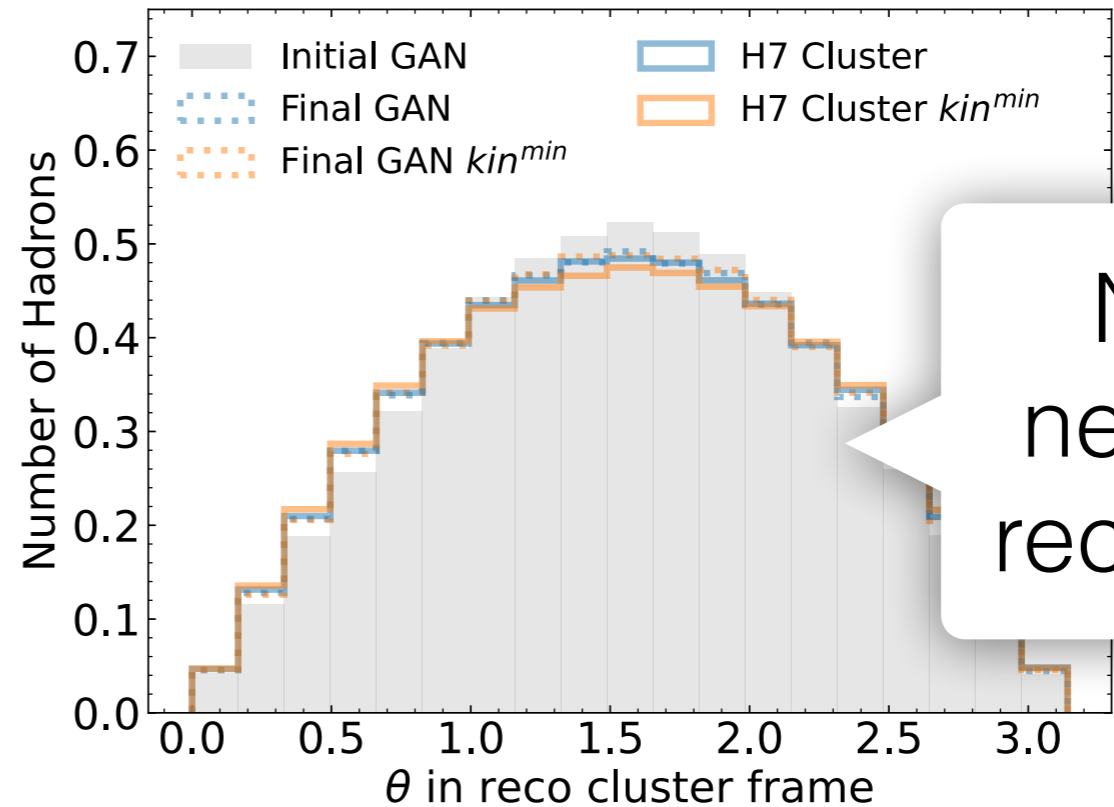
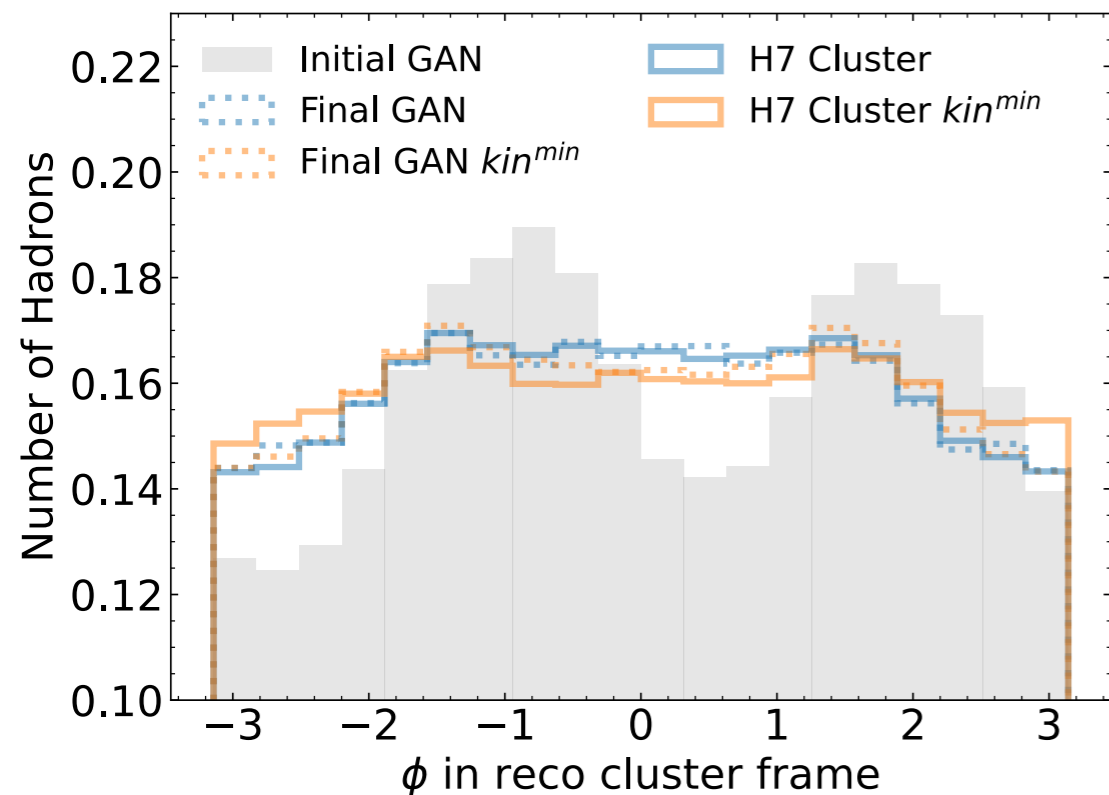
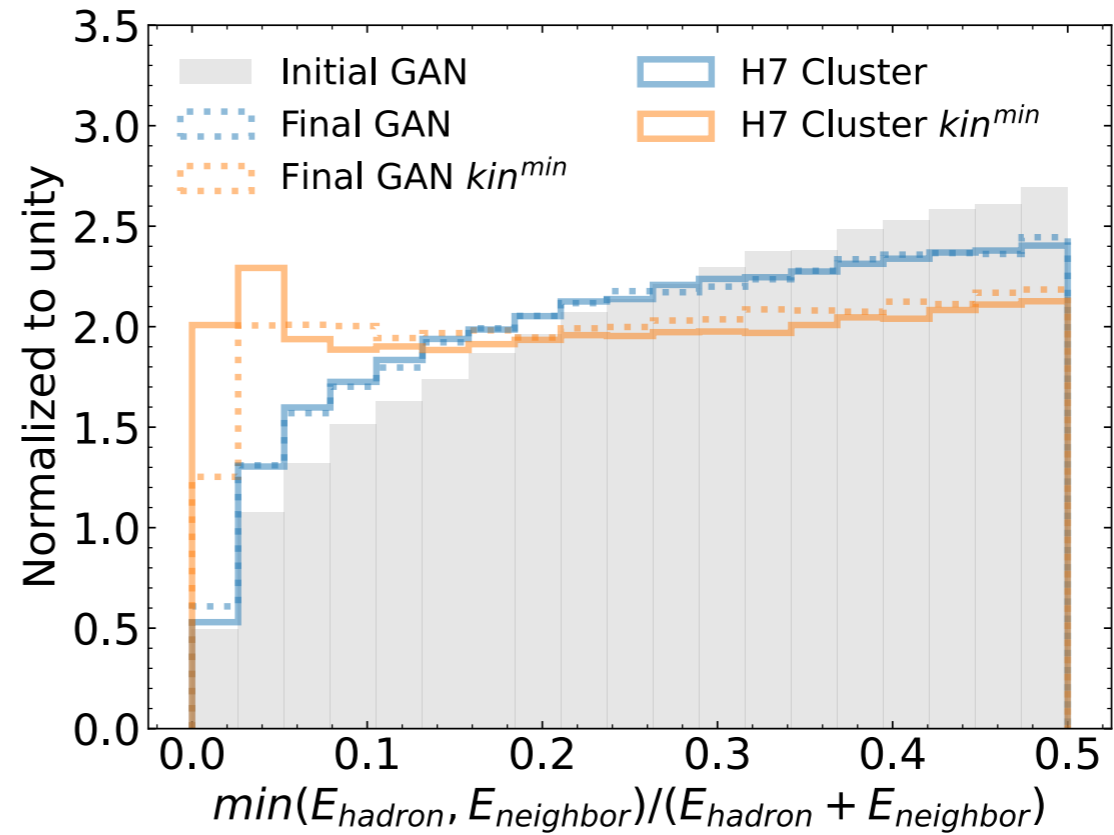
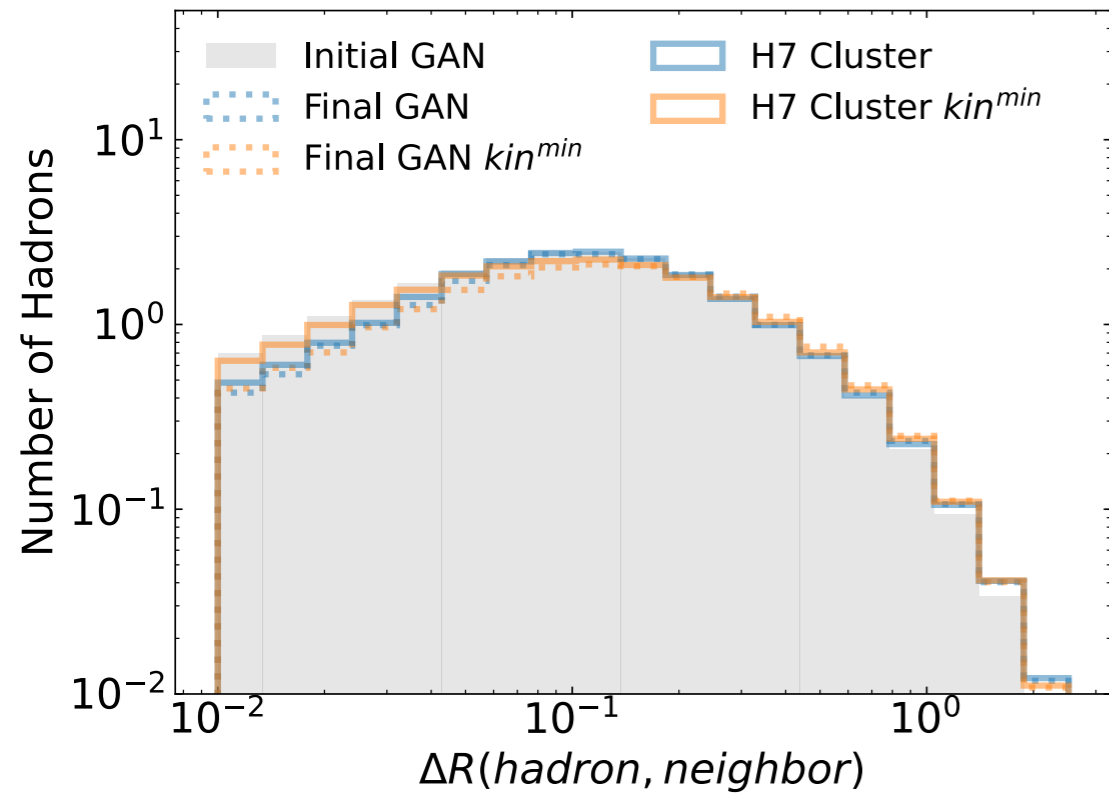
This is what the generator "sees"



This is what discriminator "sees"

# Performance: reco. quantities

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Nearest neighbor = reco. cluster

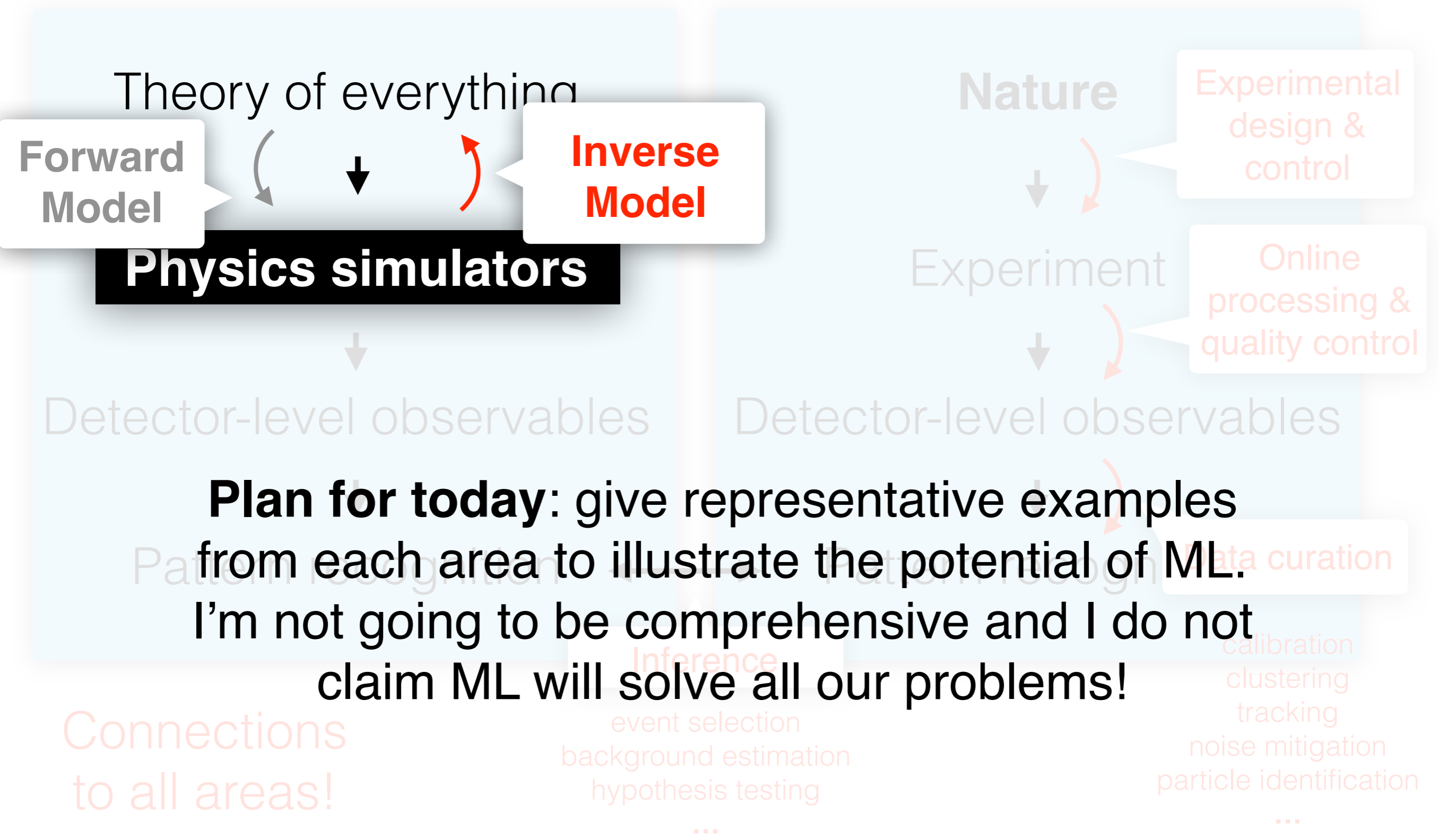


**Non-perturbative functions are natural candidates for ML-modeling to improve accuracy.**

Long history (but still very active) for PDFs and now also progress for hadronization. **What about other non-perturbative objects?**

For hadronization, there is still clearly multiple steps before we have a product we can hand off to users, but it is **not science fiction !**

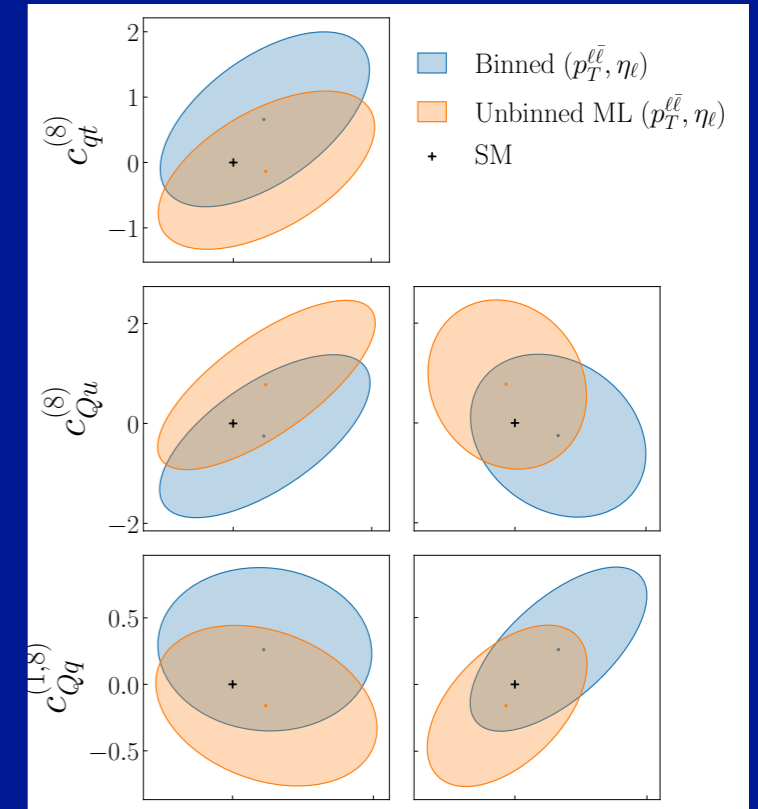
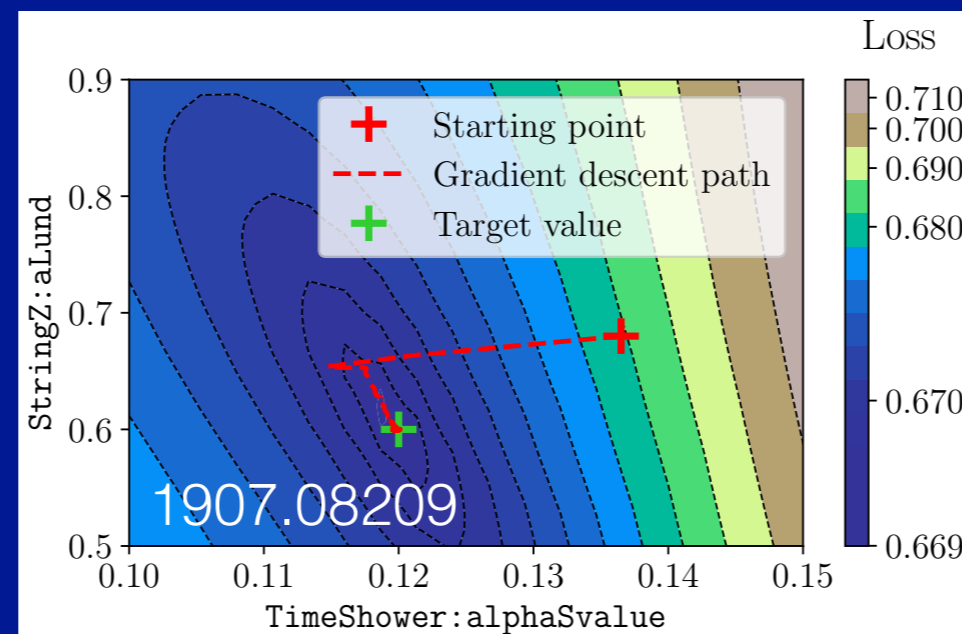
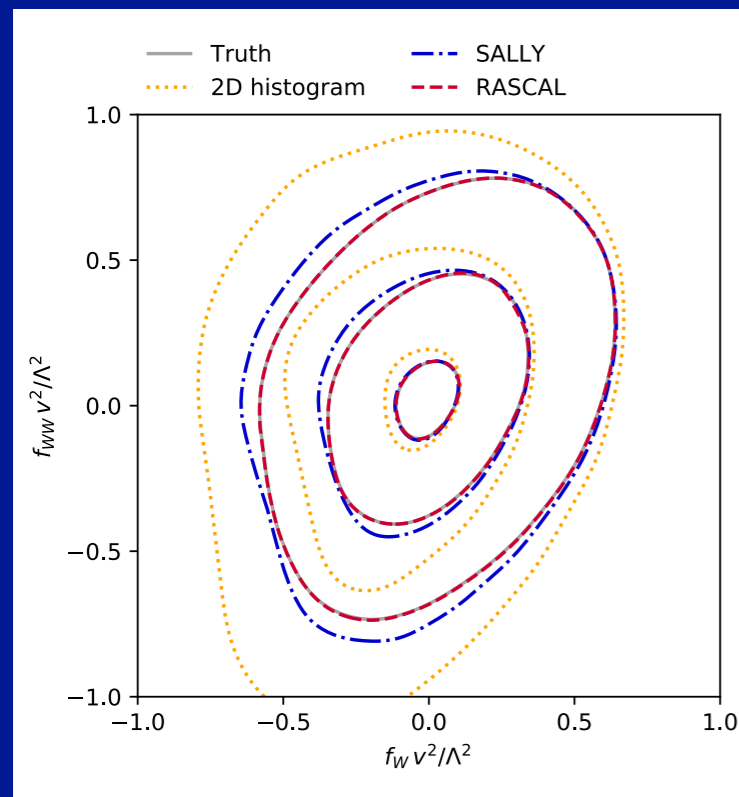
# Precision Physics at the LHC



# Enhancing the “inverse model”

31

There are many proposals for using ML to **directly infer model parameters**. This is a very exciting topic, but instead, I want to describe a complementary program on **highly differential cross sections**.



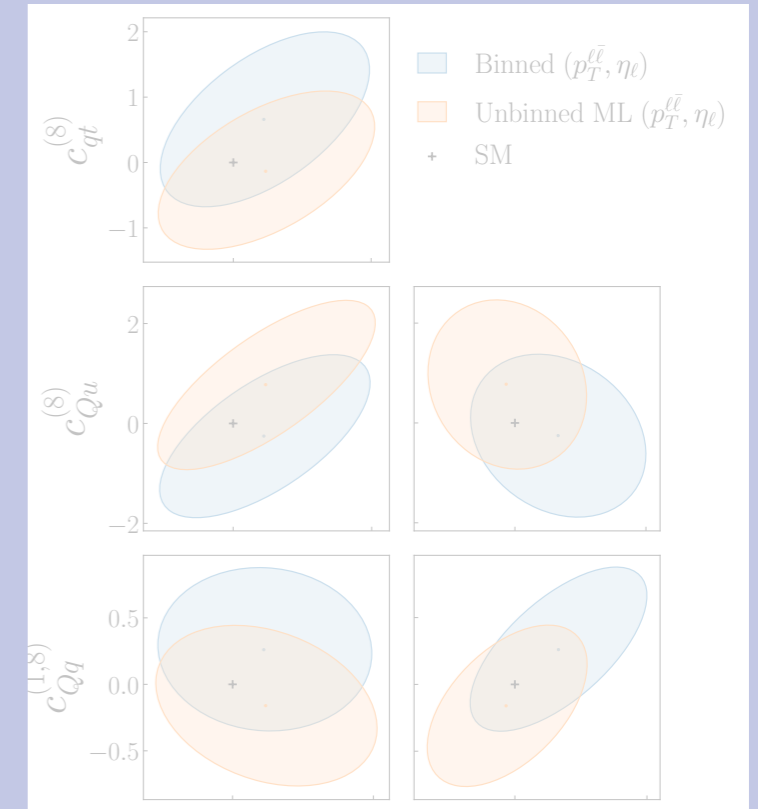
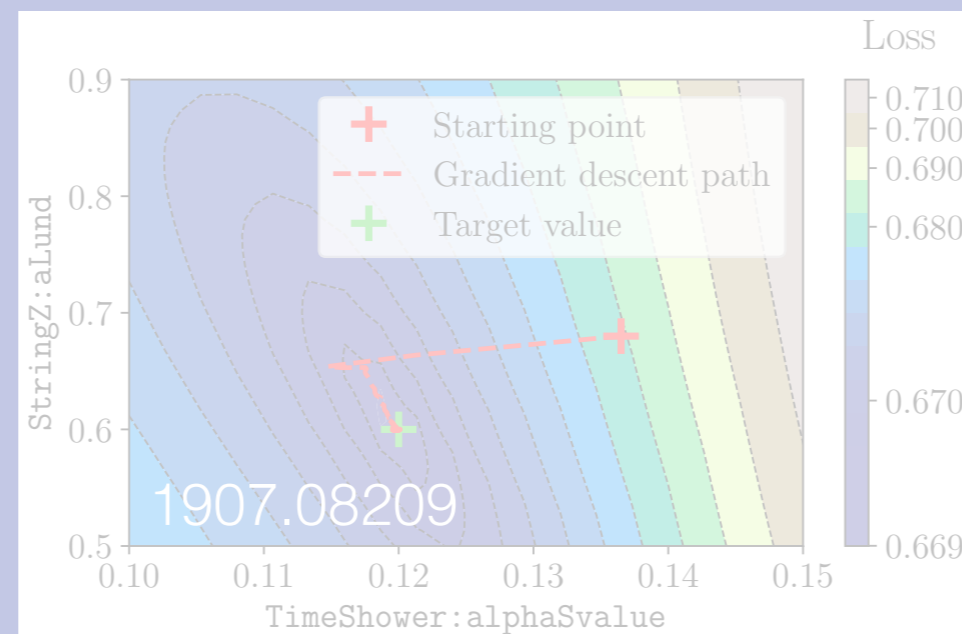
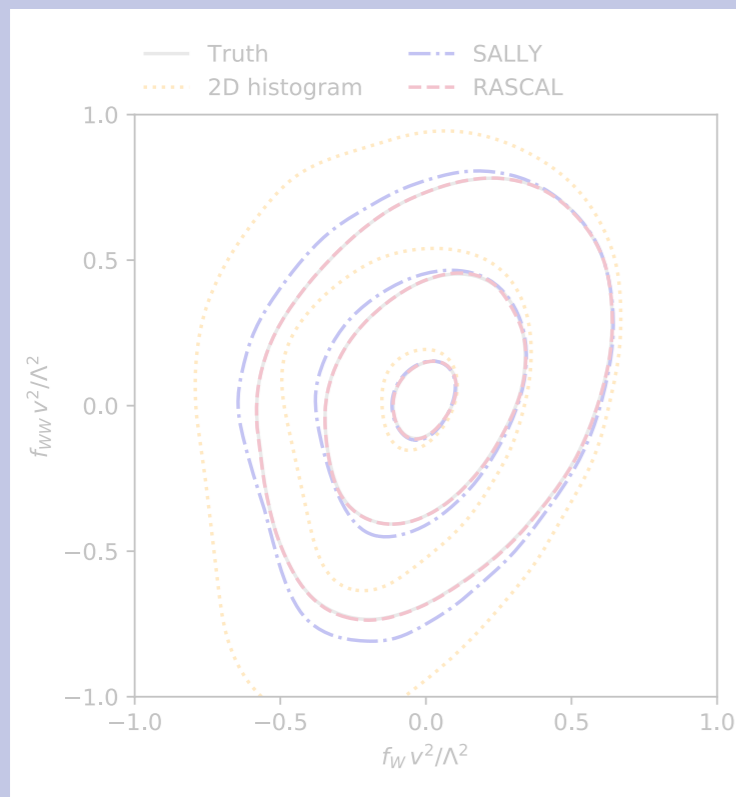
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2211.02058

# Enhancing the “inverse model”

32

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1805.00013

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Deconvolution (“unfolding”):  
correcting for detector effects

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Key aspect of **all cross section measurements**, across particle/  
nuclear/astro physics (!)

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Key aspect of **all cross section measurements**, across particle/  
nuclear/astro physics (!)

Proton-Proton

Nucleus-Nucleus

Electron-Proton

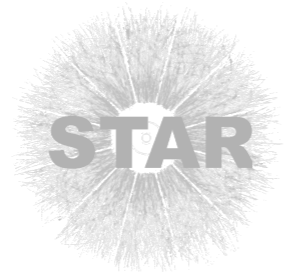
Neutrino-Nucleus

Cosmic Rays

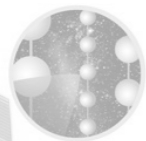
Electron-Positron

Particle/Nuclear/Astro Physics Experiments

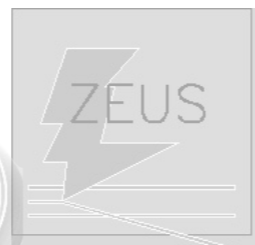
Proton-Proton



PHENIX  
Nucleus-Nucleus



ICECUBE  
SOUTH POLE NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY

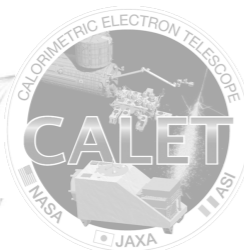


Electron-Proton

Neutrino-Nucleus



Cosmic Rays



Electron-Positron

Particle/Nuclear/Astro Physics Experiments

Deconvolution (“unfolding”):  
correcting for detector effects

Key aspect of **all cross section measurements**, across particle/nuclear/astro physics (!)

*Why “unfold” instead of “fold”?*

*Unfolding is ill-posed, BUT only way to compare different experiments and to compare with non fully exclusive predictions. Data also survive much longer.*

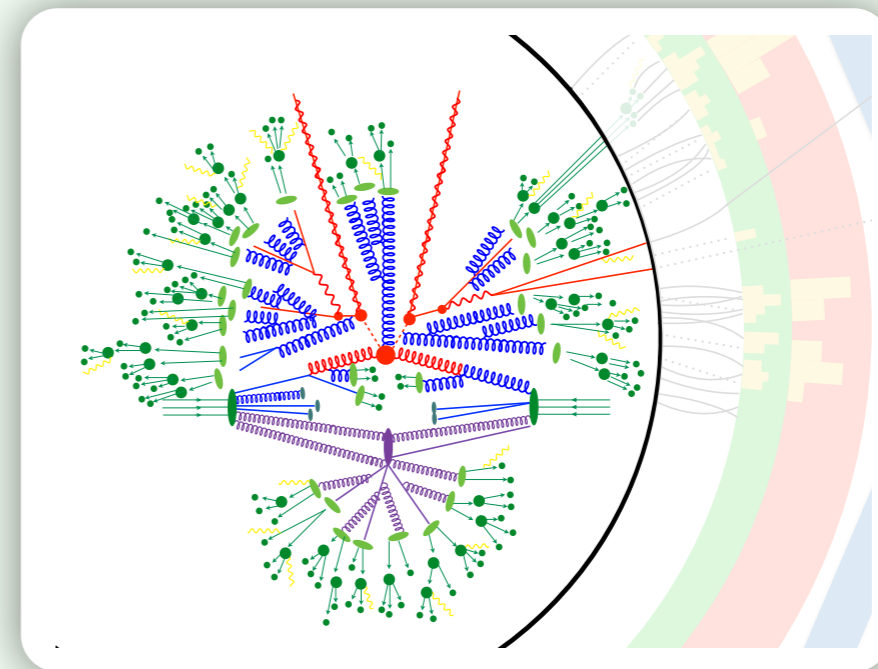


# The Unfolding Challenge

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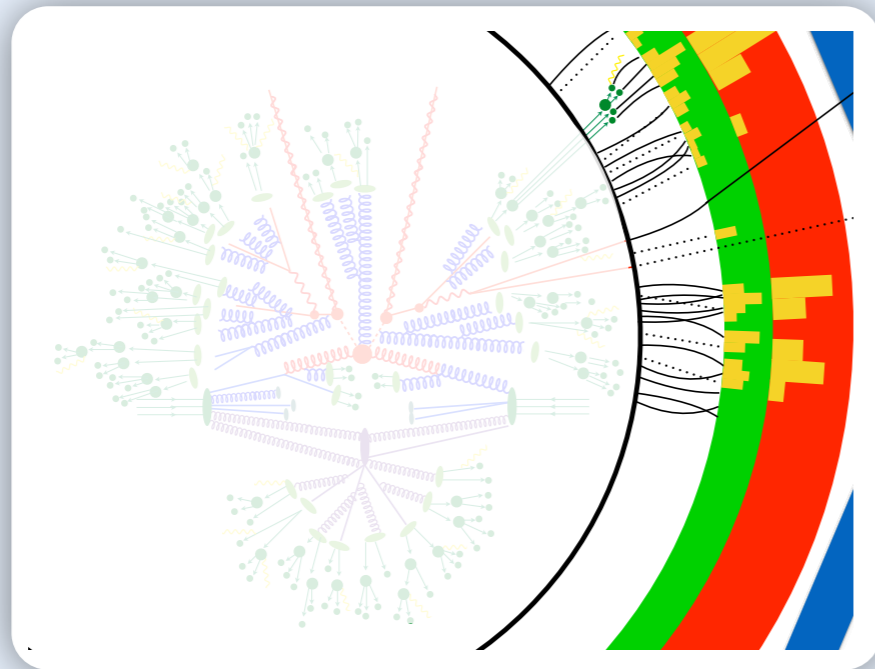
Particle  
Level

Want this

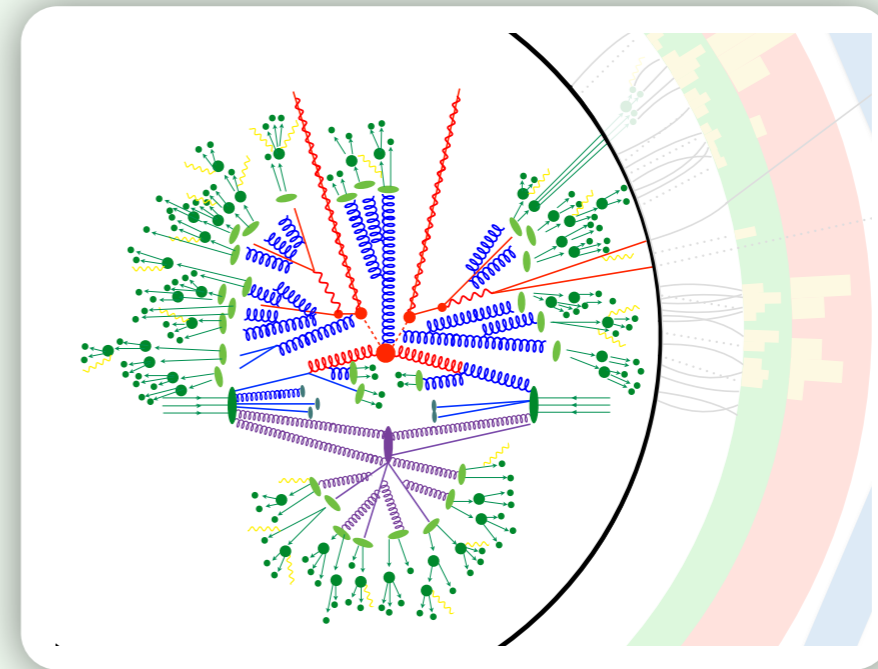


# The Unfolding Challenge

Measure this

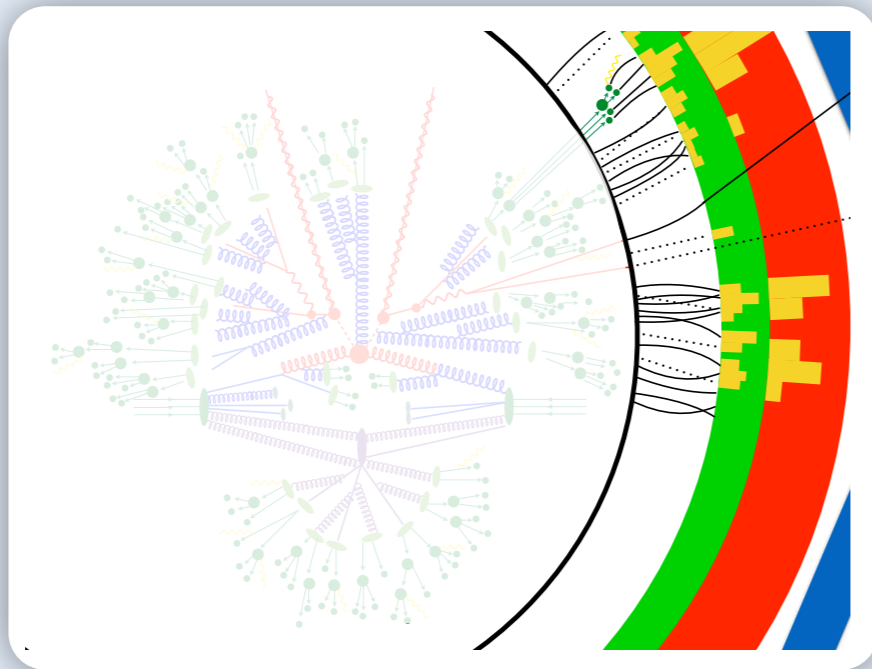


Want this

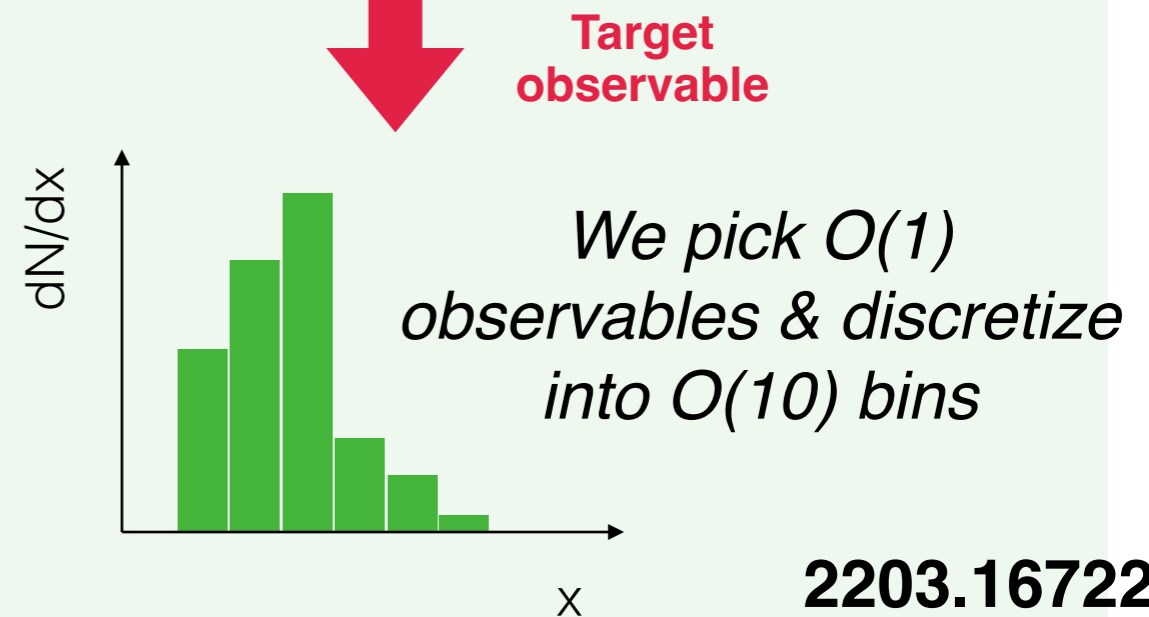
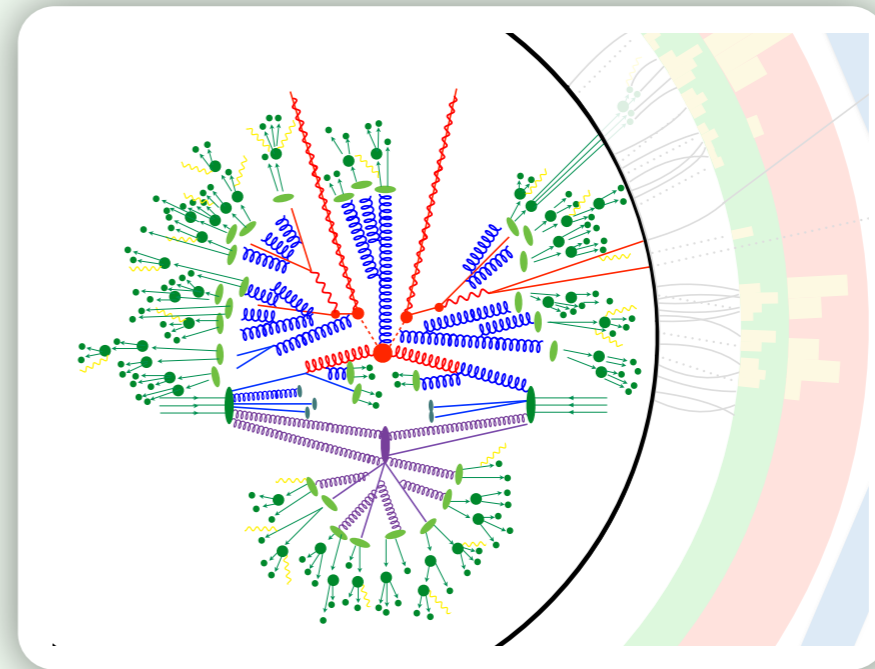


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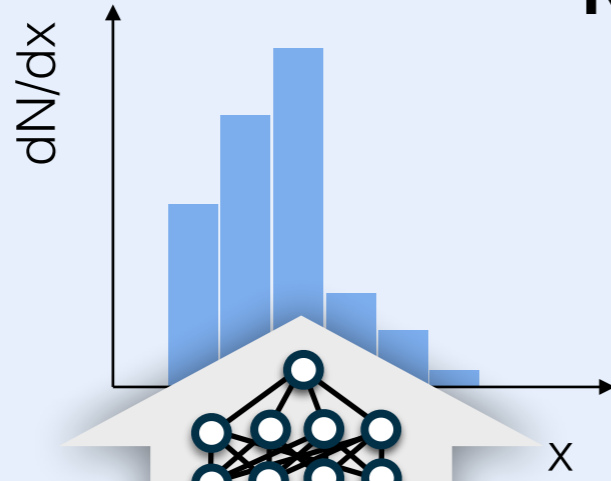
Measure this



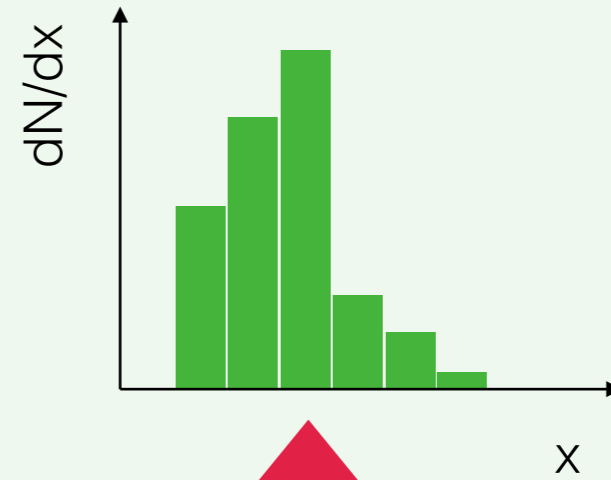
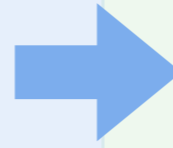
Want this



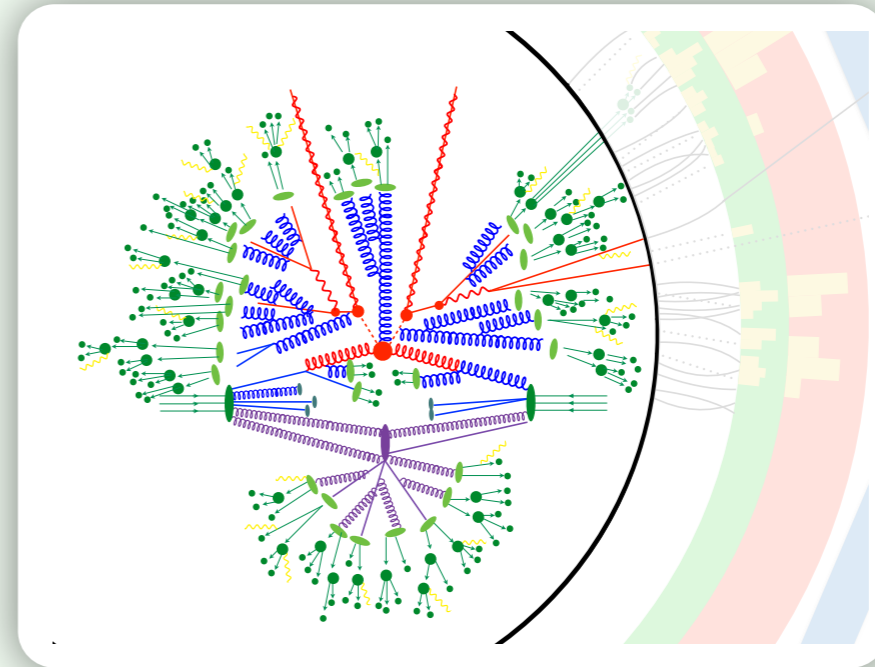
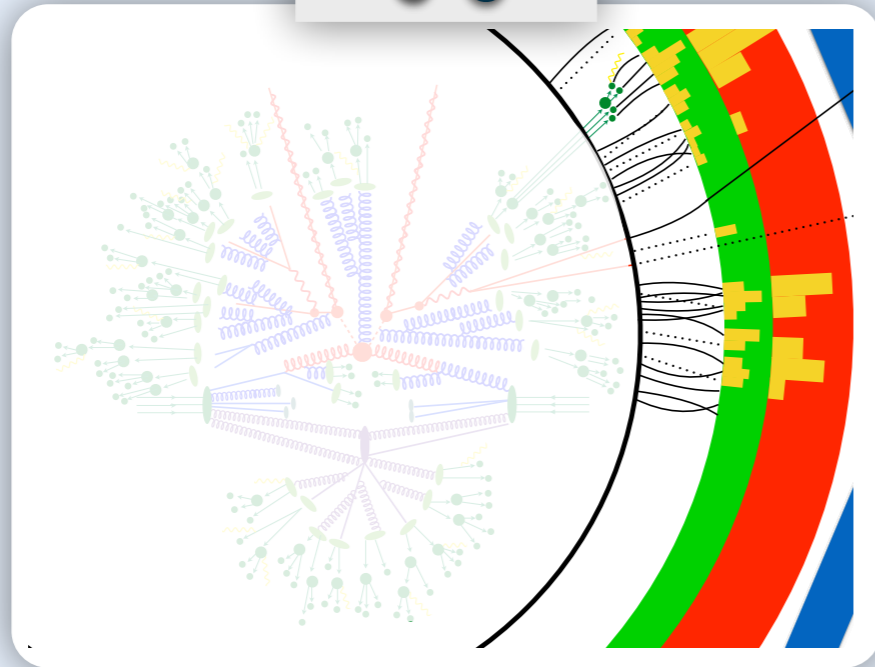
Detector Level



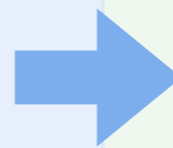
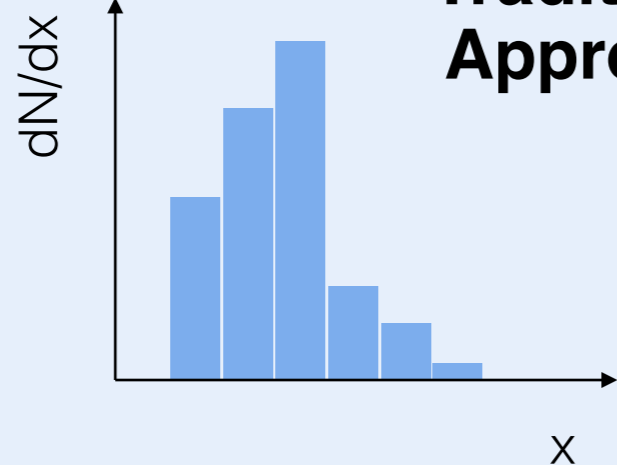
NN reco tailored for unfolding



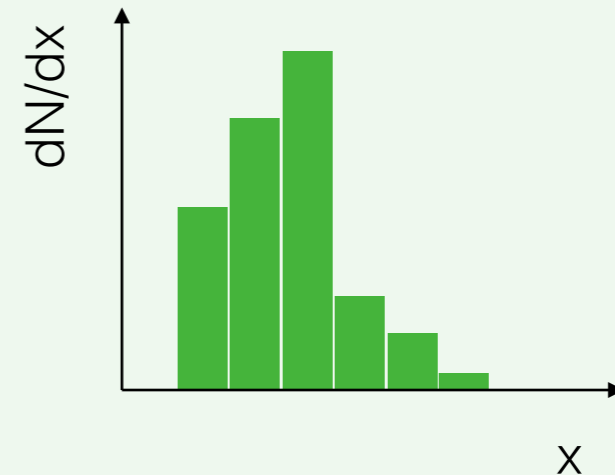
Particle Level



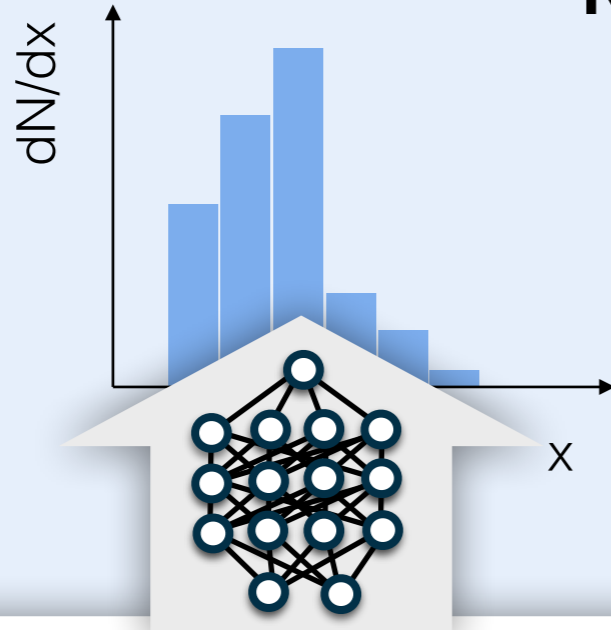
Traditional Approach



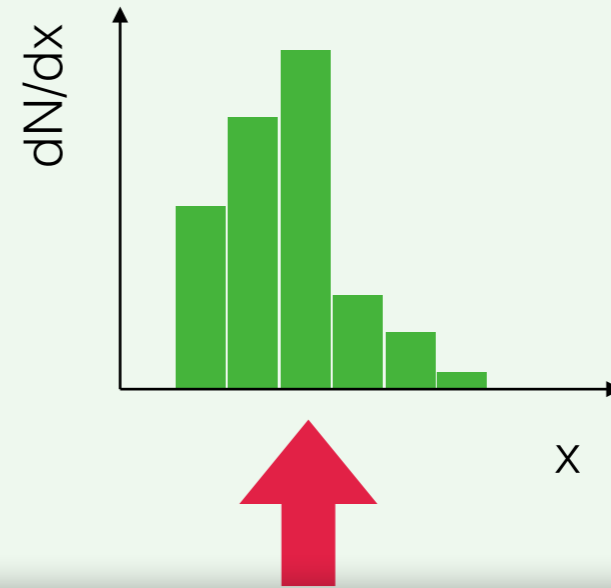
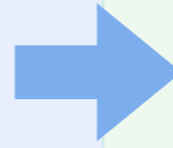
Target observable



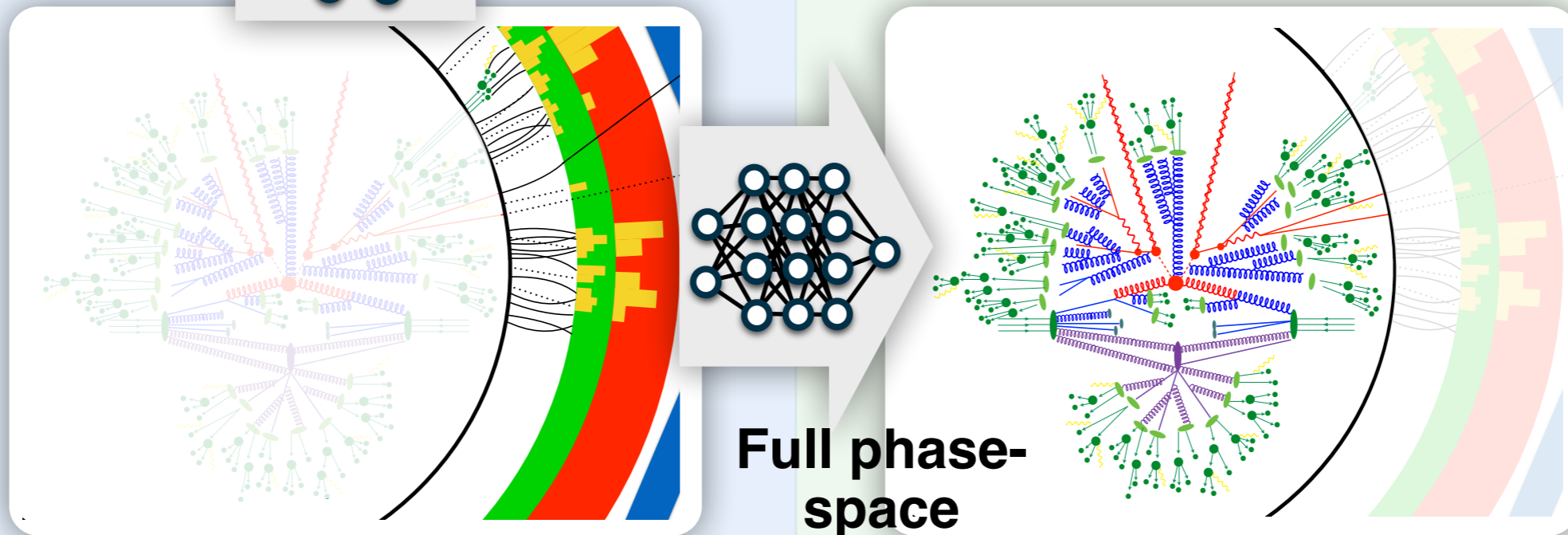
Detector Level



NN reco tailored for unfolding



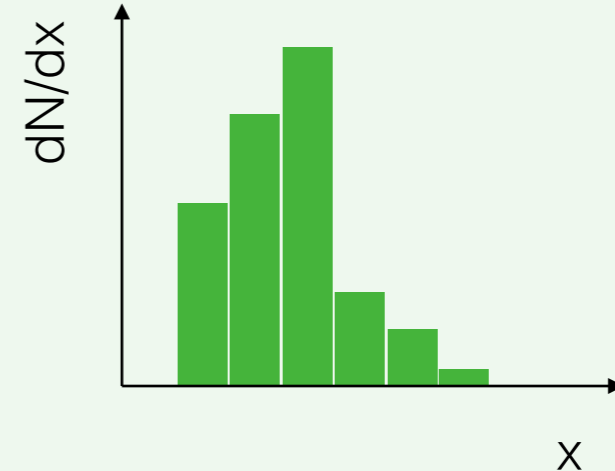
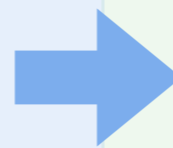
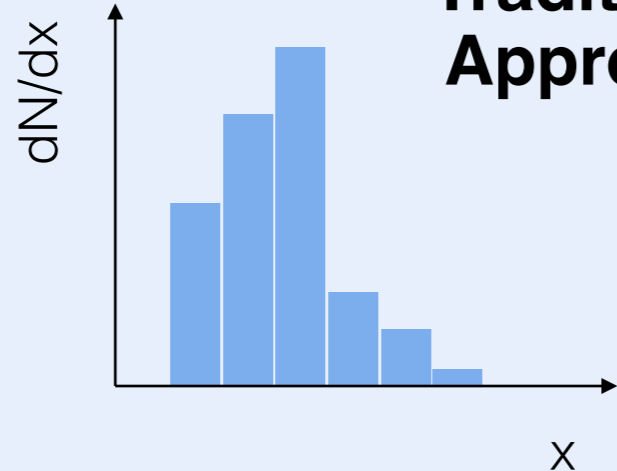
Particle Level



Full phase-space unfolding

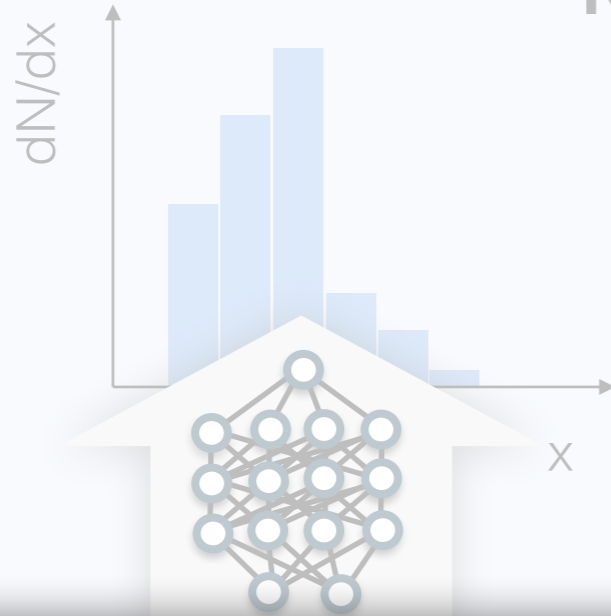


Traditional Approach

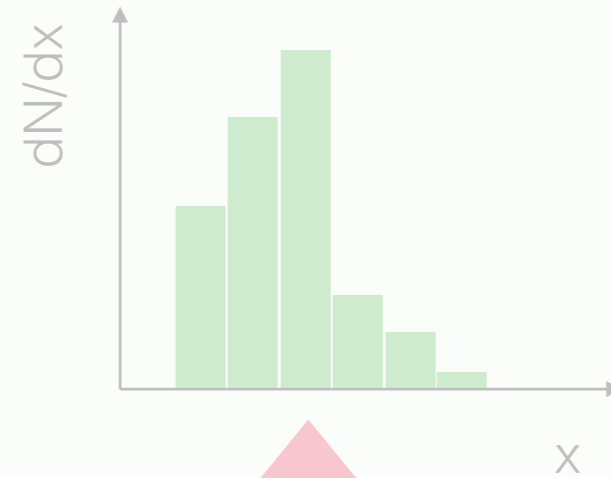
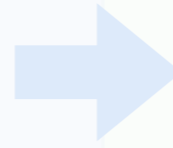


Target observable

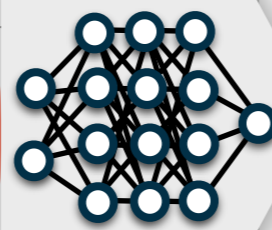
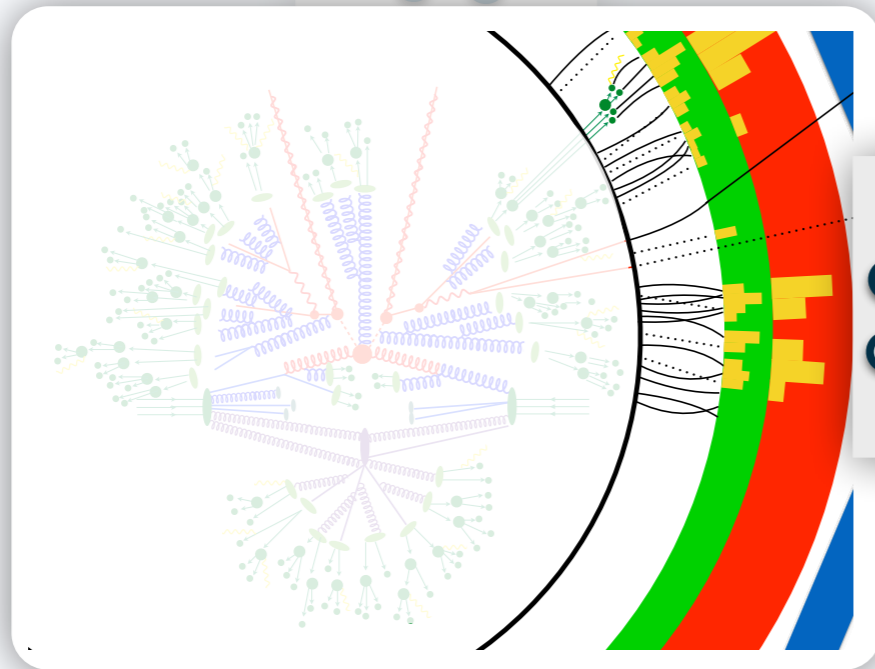
**Detector Level**



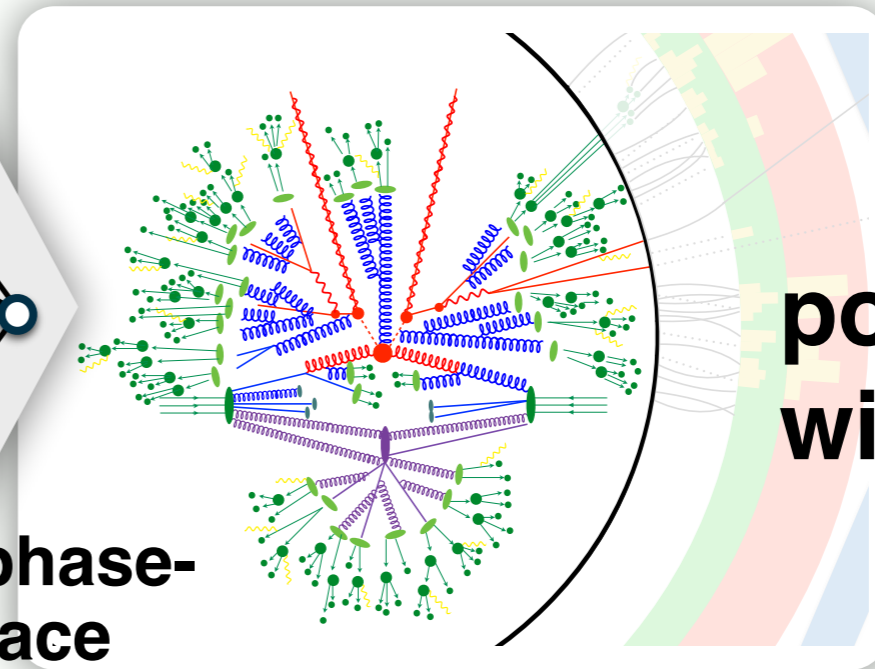
**NN reco tailored for unfolding**



**Particle Level**



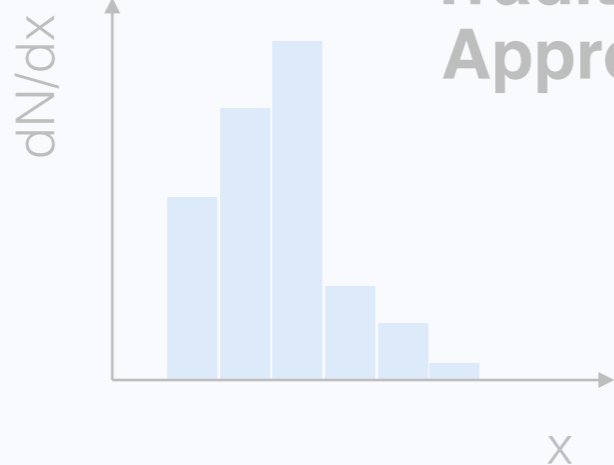
**Full phase-space unfolding**



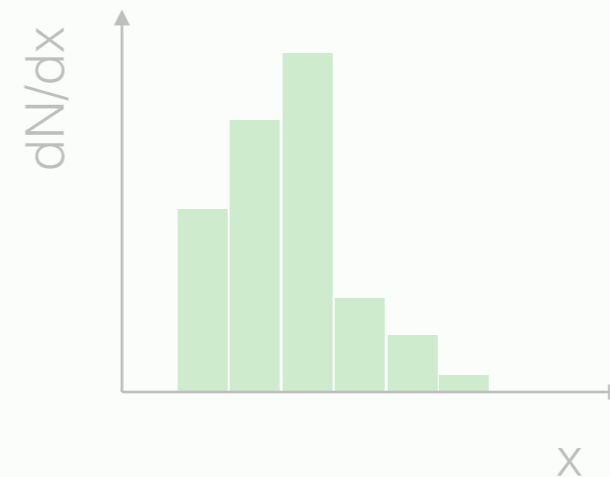
**Now possible with ML!**



**Traditional Approach**



**Target observable**



# Why unbinned (+high-dimensional)?

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For a community white paper, see JINST 17 (2022) P01024, 2109.13243



# Why unbinned (+high-dimensional)?

45

## Inference-Aware Binning

*Optimal binning depends on downstream task. Not possible with current setup.*

*What about moments?*

*(see e.g. [this paper](#))*

# Why unbinned (+high-dimensional)?

46

## Inference-Aware Binning

*Optimal binning depends on downstream task. Not possible with current setup.*

*What about moments?  
(see e.g. [this paper](#))*

## Derivative Measurements

*With binned measurements, essentially impossible to reuse results for a function of the phase space.*

# Why unbinned (+high-dimensional)?

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## Inference-Aware Binning

*Optimal binning depends on downstream task. Not possible with current setup.*

*What about moments?*

*(see e.g. [this paper](#))*

## Derivative Measurements

*With binned measurements, essentially impossible to reuse results for a function of the phase space.*

## Higher Dimensions

*Some phenomena can't be probed in a few dimensions.*

*What about observables that are not per-event?*

## Classifier-Based Methods

*Learn (unfolded) data  
likelihood ratio w.r.t. simulation*

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density implicitly or explicitly.*

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## Density-Based Methods

*Learn (unfolded) data probably  
density implicitly or explicitly.*

*Both methods work with various  
pros/cons that I won't get into here.*

The examples I give are based on the classifier approach.

How do we learn LLRs without binning?

dataset 1: sampled from  $p(\mathbf{x})$

dataset 2: sampled from  $q(\mathbf{x})$

Create weights  $\mathbf{w}(\mathbf{x}) = q(\mathbf{x})/p(\mathbf{x})$  so that when dataset 1 is weighted by  $\mathbf{w}$ , it is statistically identical to dataset 2.

What if we don't (and can't easily) know  $q$  and  $p$ ?

(and don't want to estimate them by binning)

# Classification = likelihood ratios

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**Fact:** Neural networks learn to approximate the likelihood ratio =  $q(x)/p(x)$   
(or something monotonically related to it in a known way)

Solution: train a neural network to distinguish the two datasets!

This turns the problem of **density estimation** (**hard**) into a problem of **classification** (**easy**)



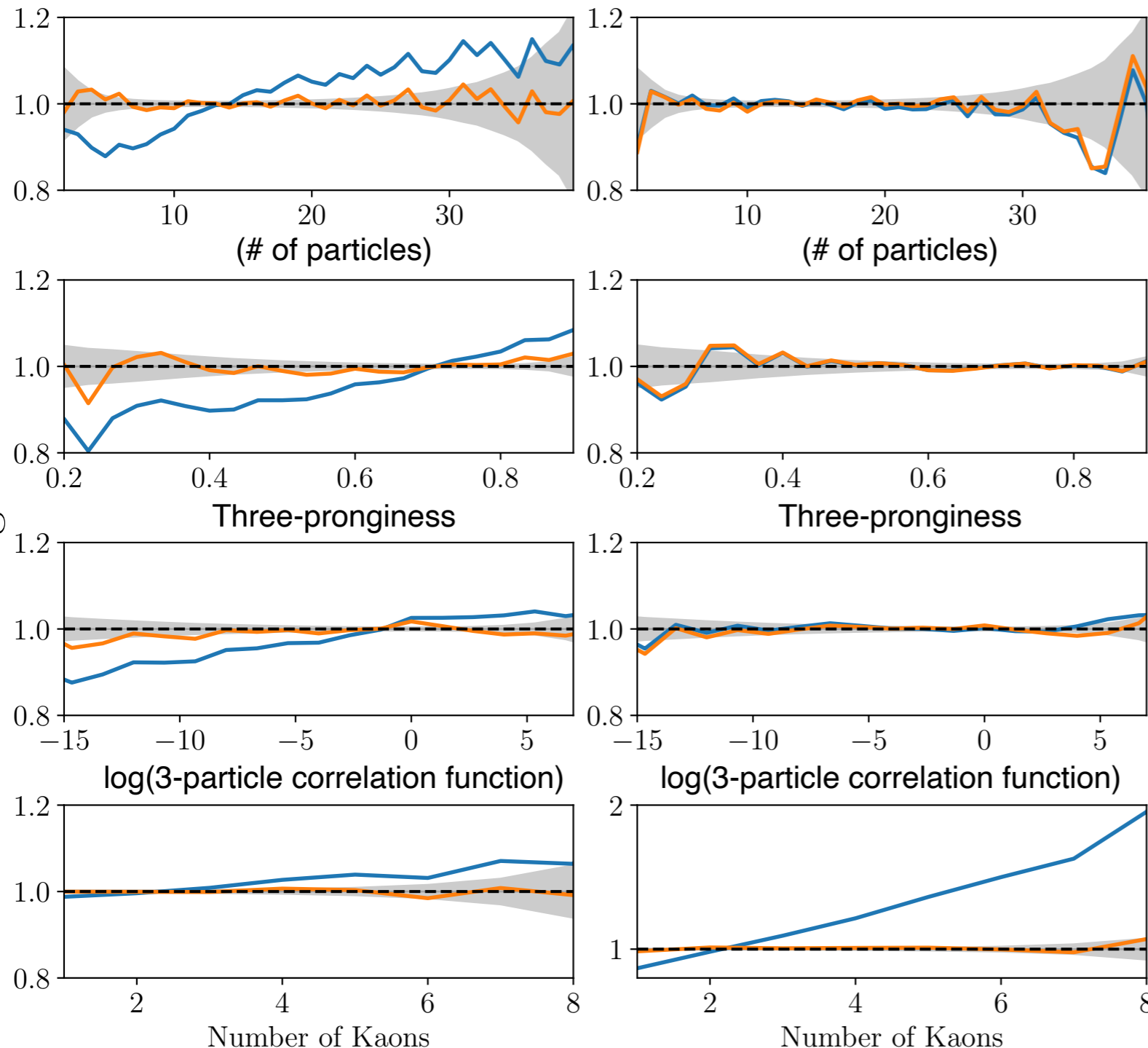
# Neural reweighting: works !

53

StringZ:aLund

StringFlav:probStoUD

— Unweighted — Weighted



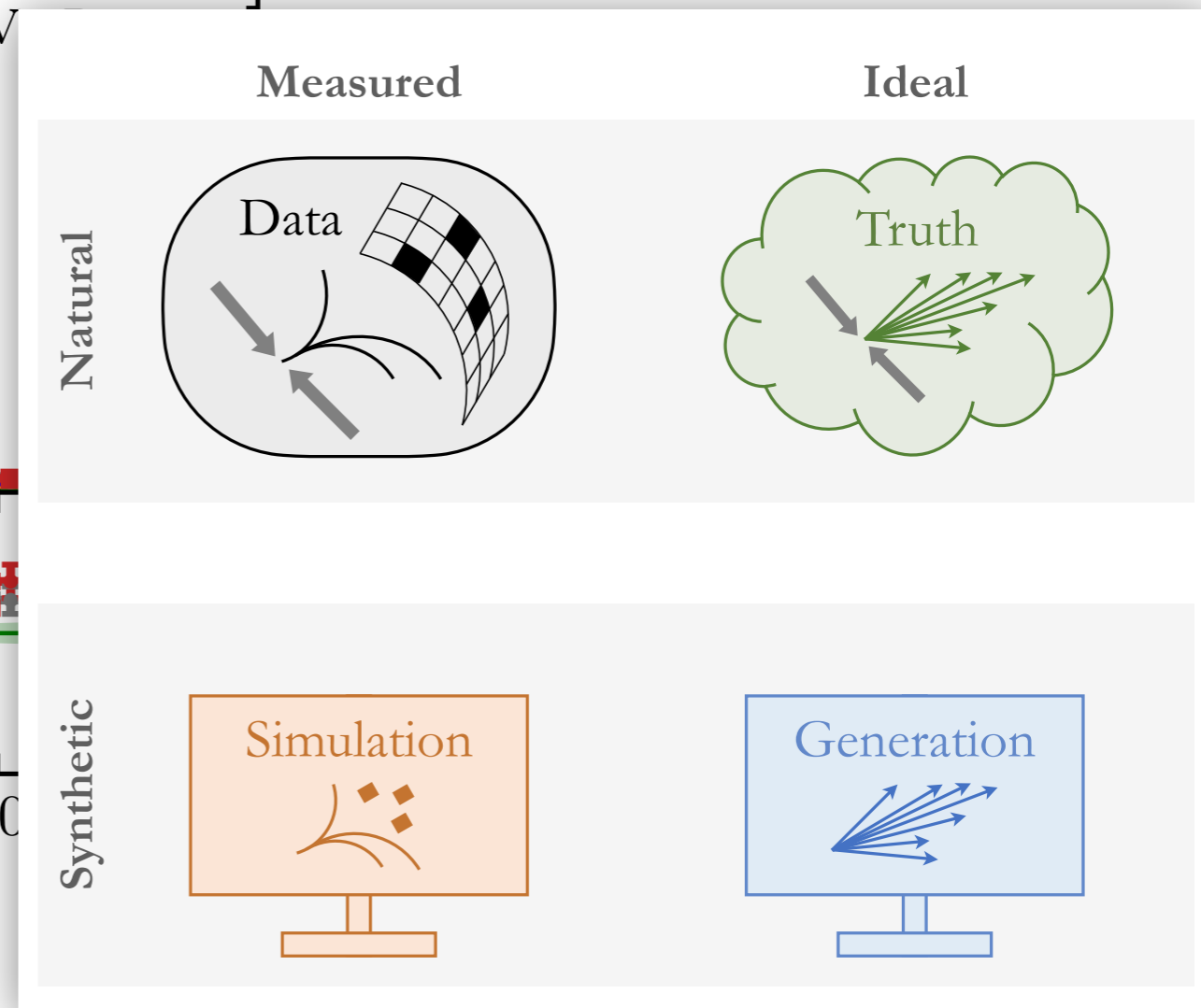
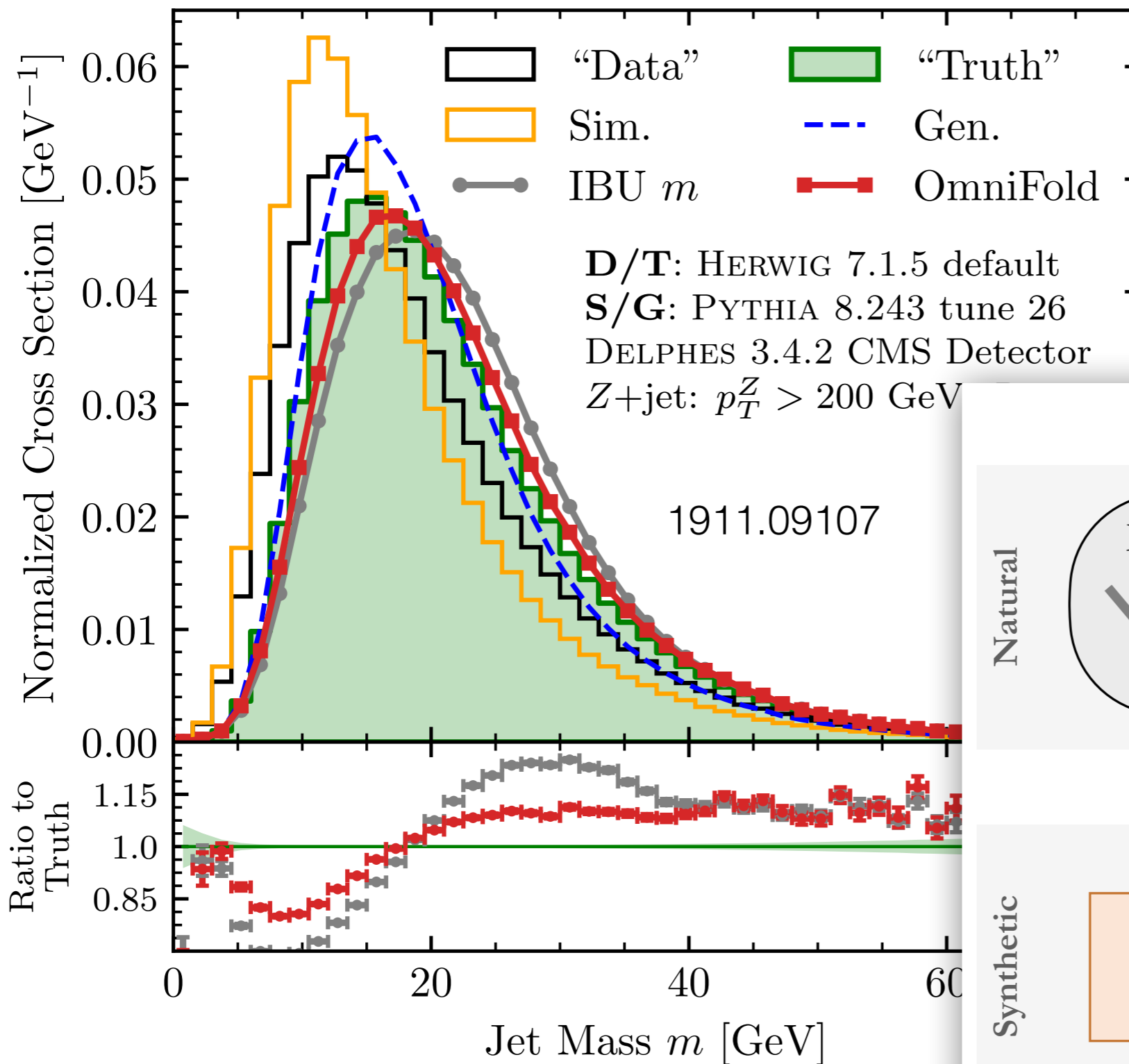
*Full phase-space reweighting using simulated  $e^+e^-$*

Works even when the differences are **small** (left) or **localized** (right).

*These are histogram ratios for a series of one-dimensional observables*

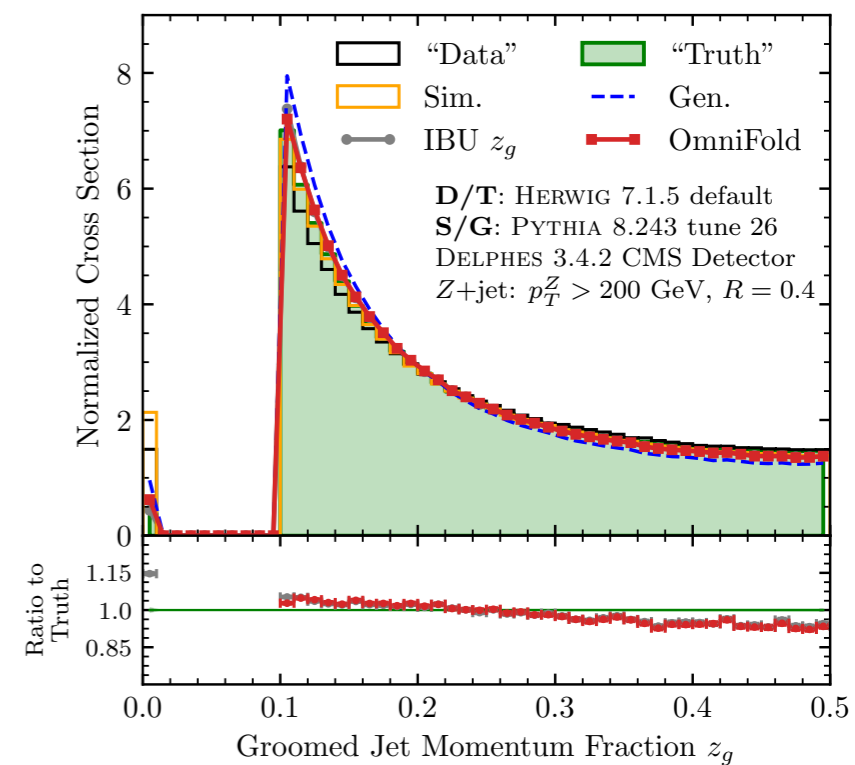
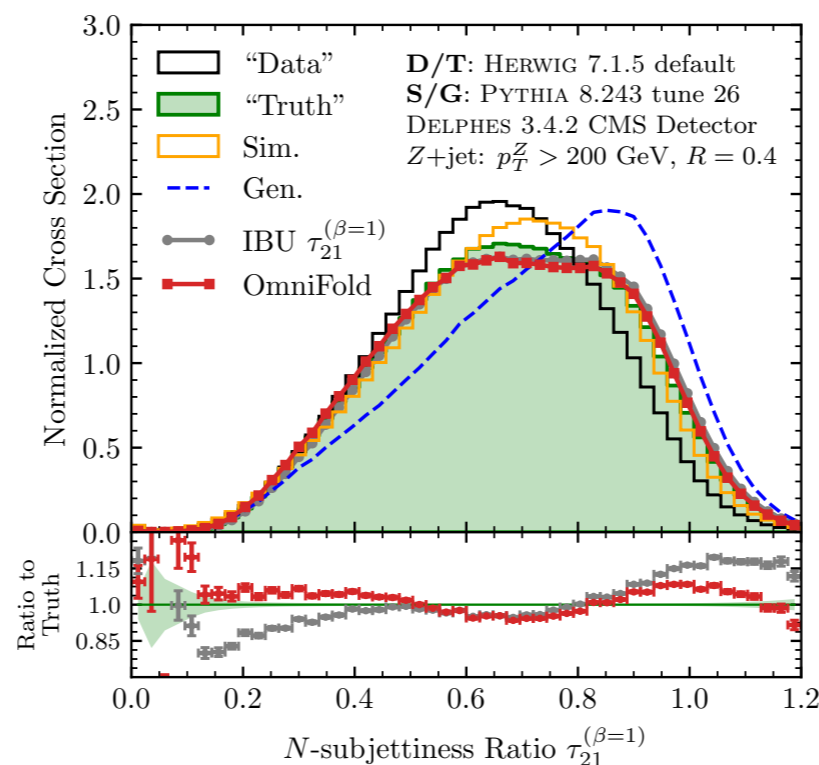
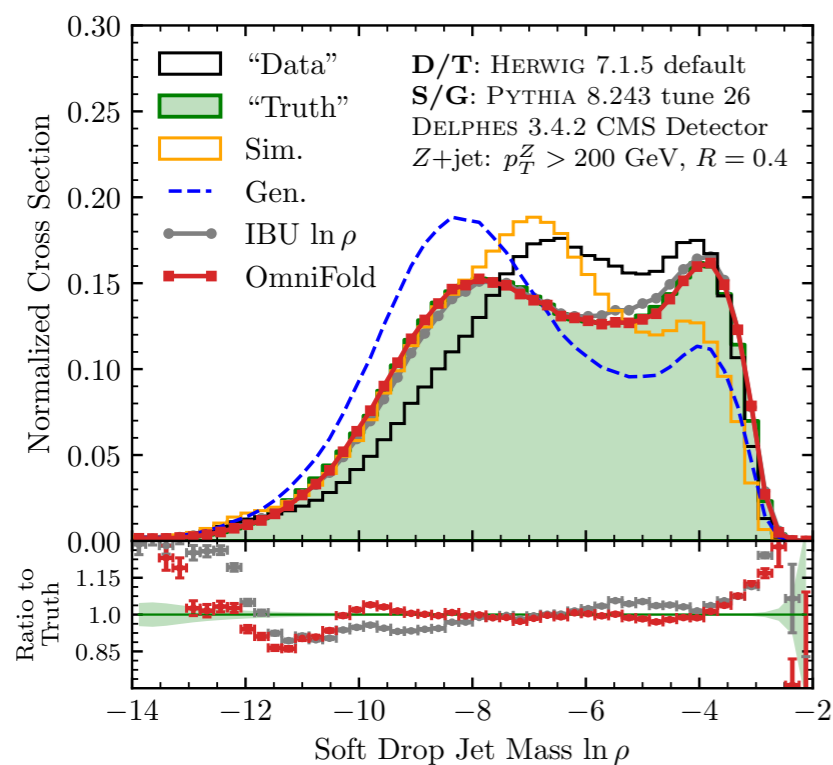
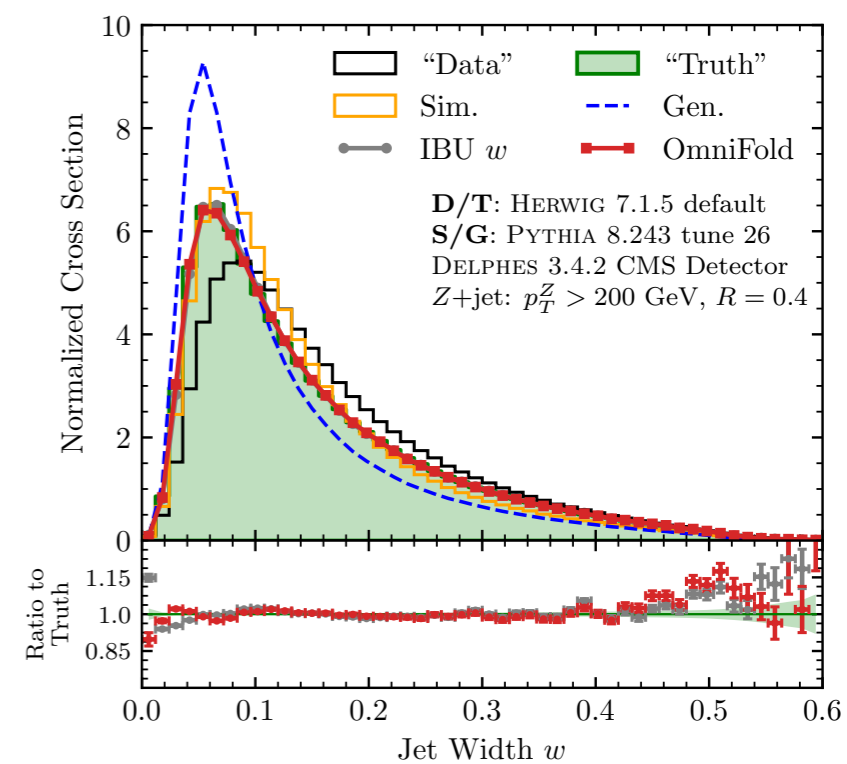
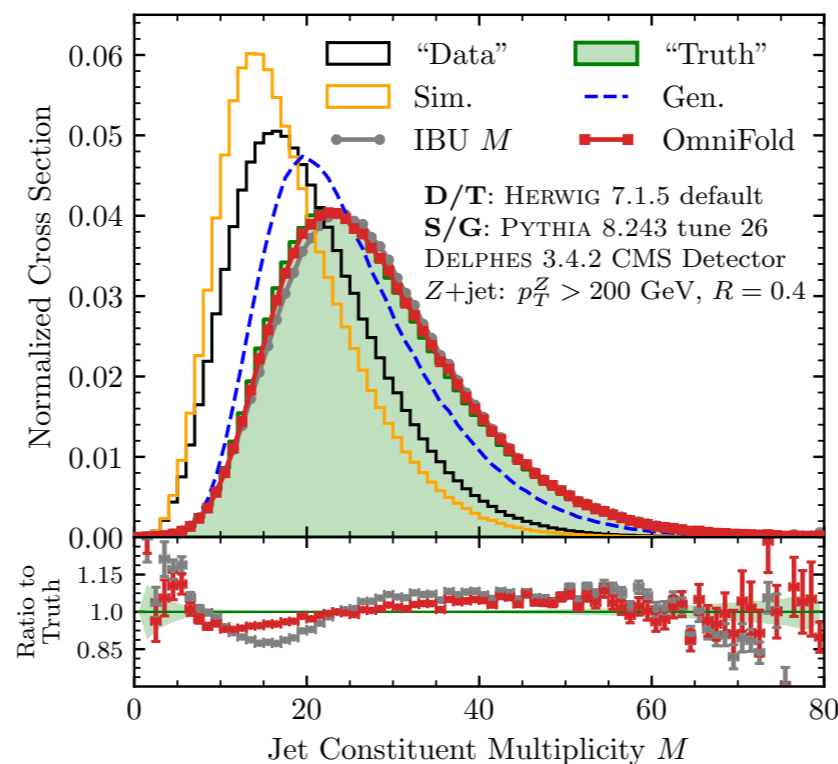
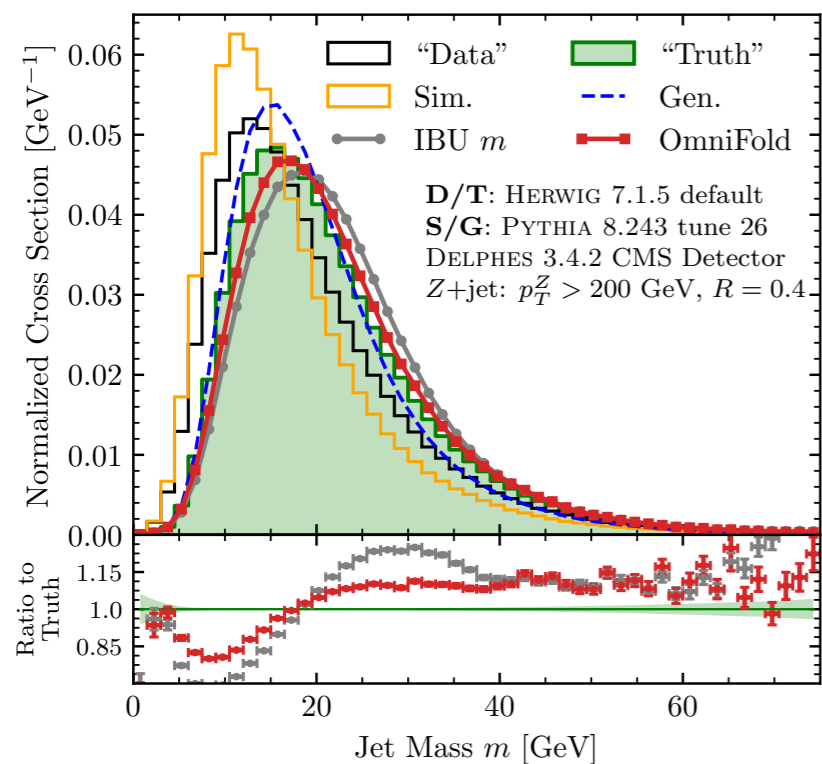
# Full phase-space unfolding in action

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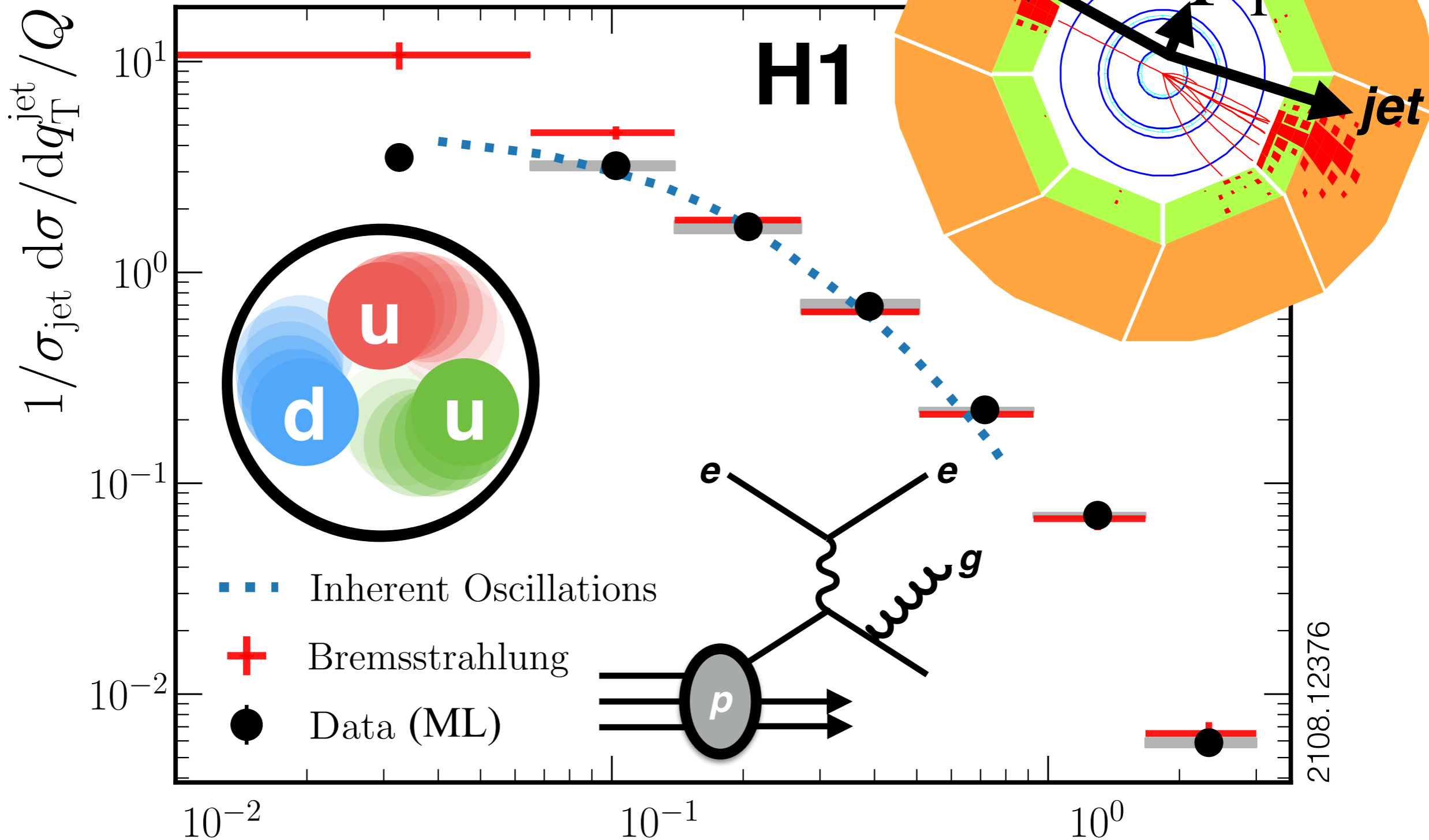
# Full phase-space unfolding in action

1911.09107



# The future is here!

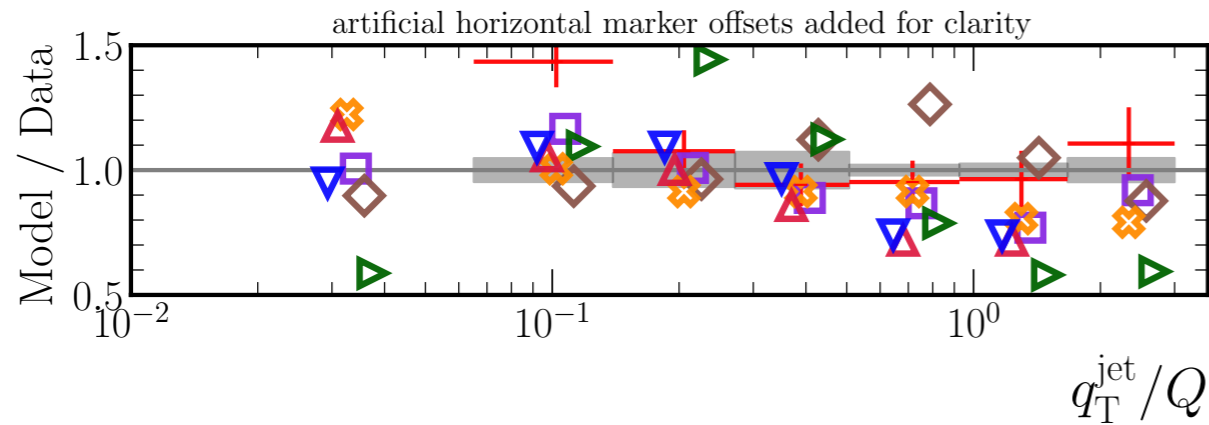
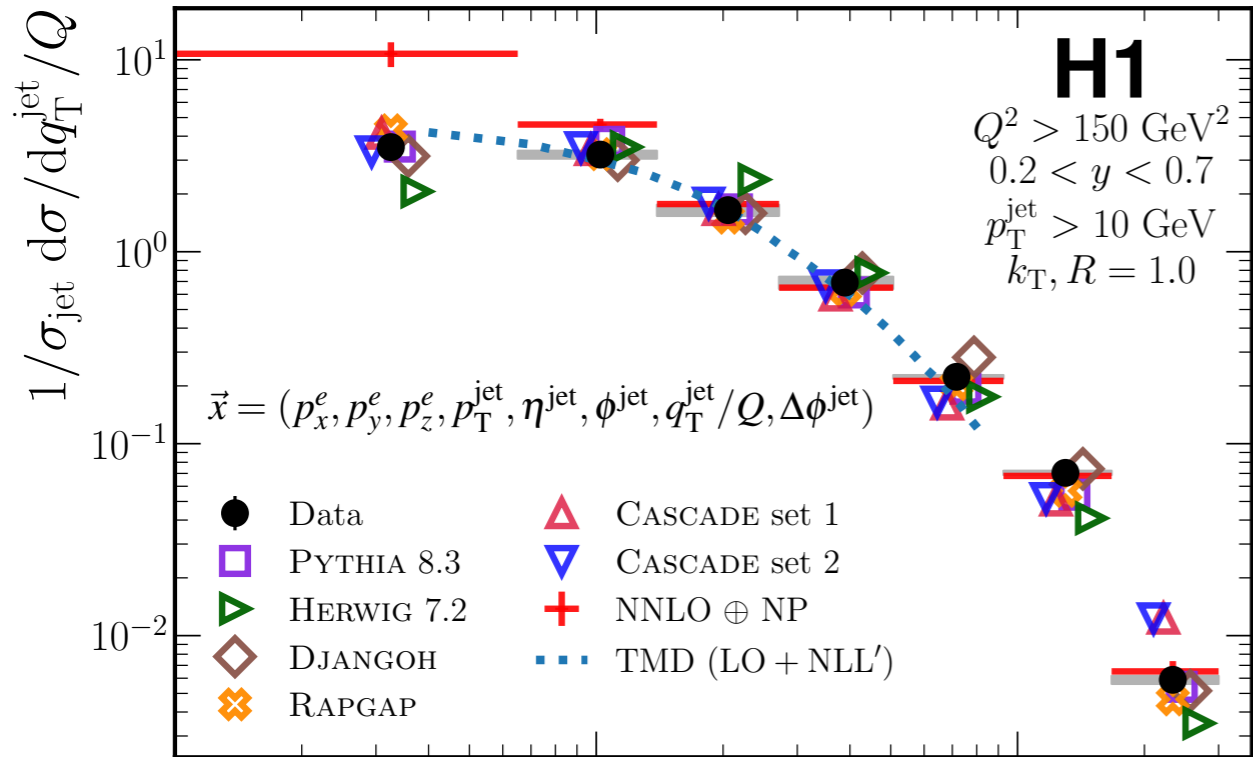
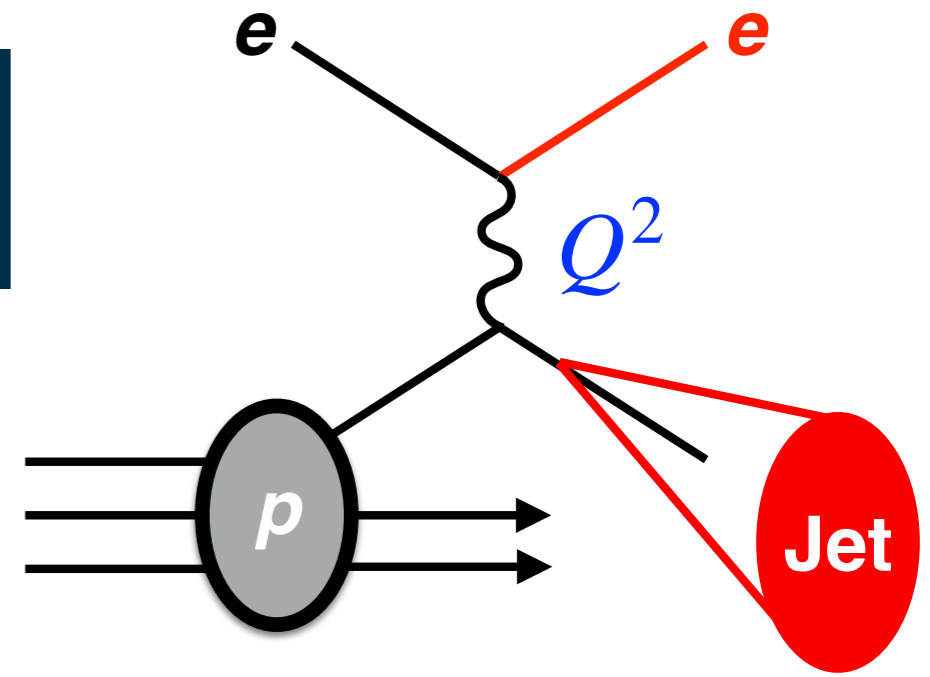
M. Arratia, BPN, and our H1 collaborators



$$\vec{x} = (p_x^e, p_y^e, p_z^e, p_T^{\text{jet}}, \eta^{\text{jet}}, \phi^{\text{jet}}, q_T^{\text{jet}}/Q, \Delta\phi^{\text{jet}})$$

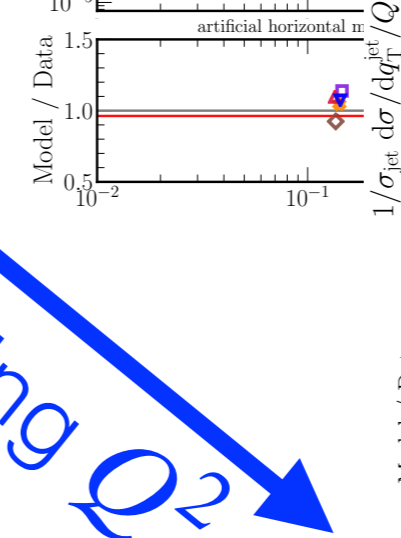
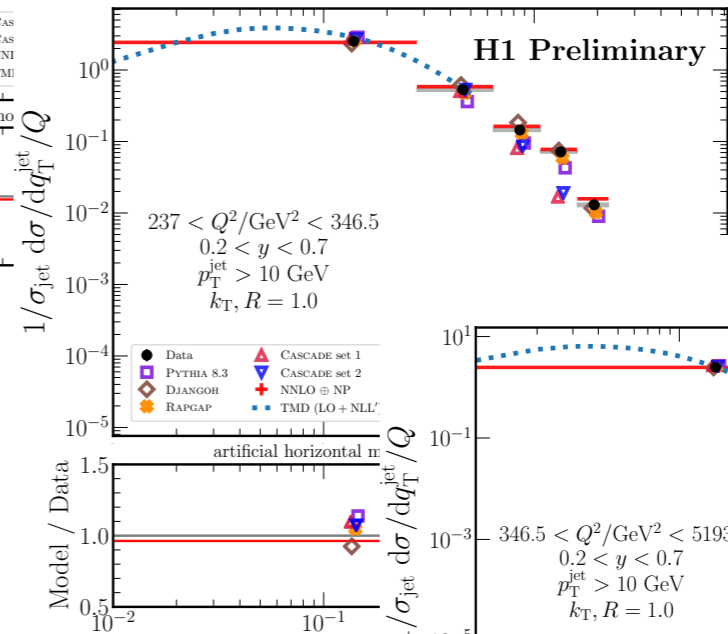
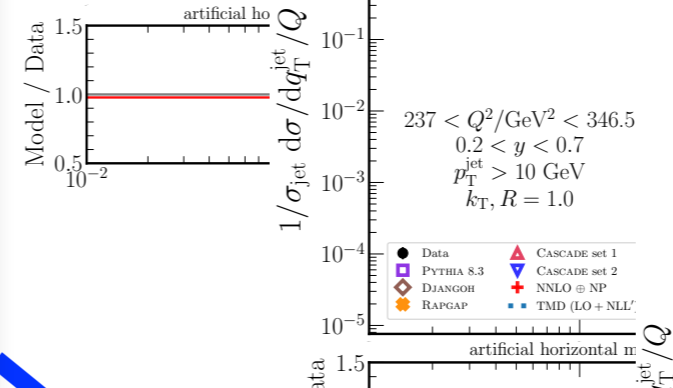
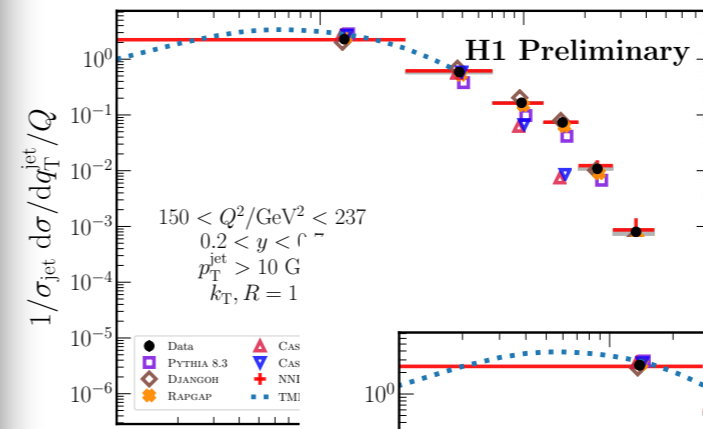
$$q_T^{\text{jet}}/Q$$

# Re-using and extending

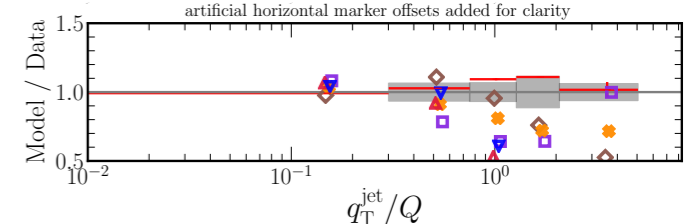
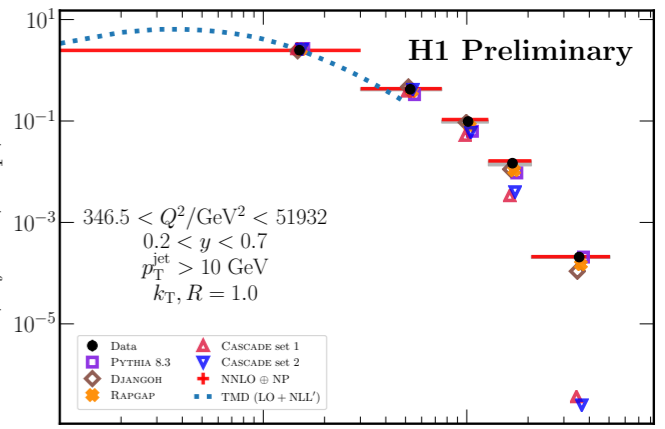


$$Q^2 = \frac{(q_T^{\text{jet}})^2}{(q_T^{\text{jet}}/Q)^2}$$

$$= \frac{(p_x^e + p_T^{\text{jet}} \cos(\phi^{\text{jet}}))^2 + (p_y^e + p_T^{\text{jet}} \sin(\phi^{\text{jet}}))^2}{(q_T^{\text{jet}}/Q)^2}$$



H1prelim-22-031



Increasing  $Q^2$

The future is unbinned.

**Will your predictions be able to make use of this?**

There are still challenges that need to be overcome, but many experiments are starting to use these new methods in parallel.

*I just gave one example, but there are also recent/ongoing results from ATLAS, CMS, LHCb, STAR, ...*

These data will also benefit inference tasks that can handle unbinned, multidimensional data (e.g. ML hadronization!)

# What is next-to-next?

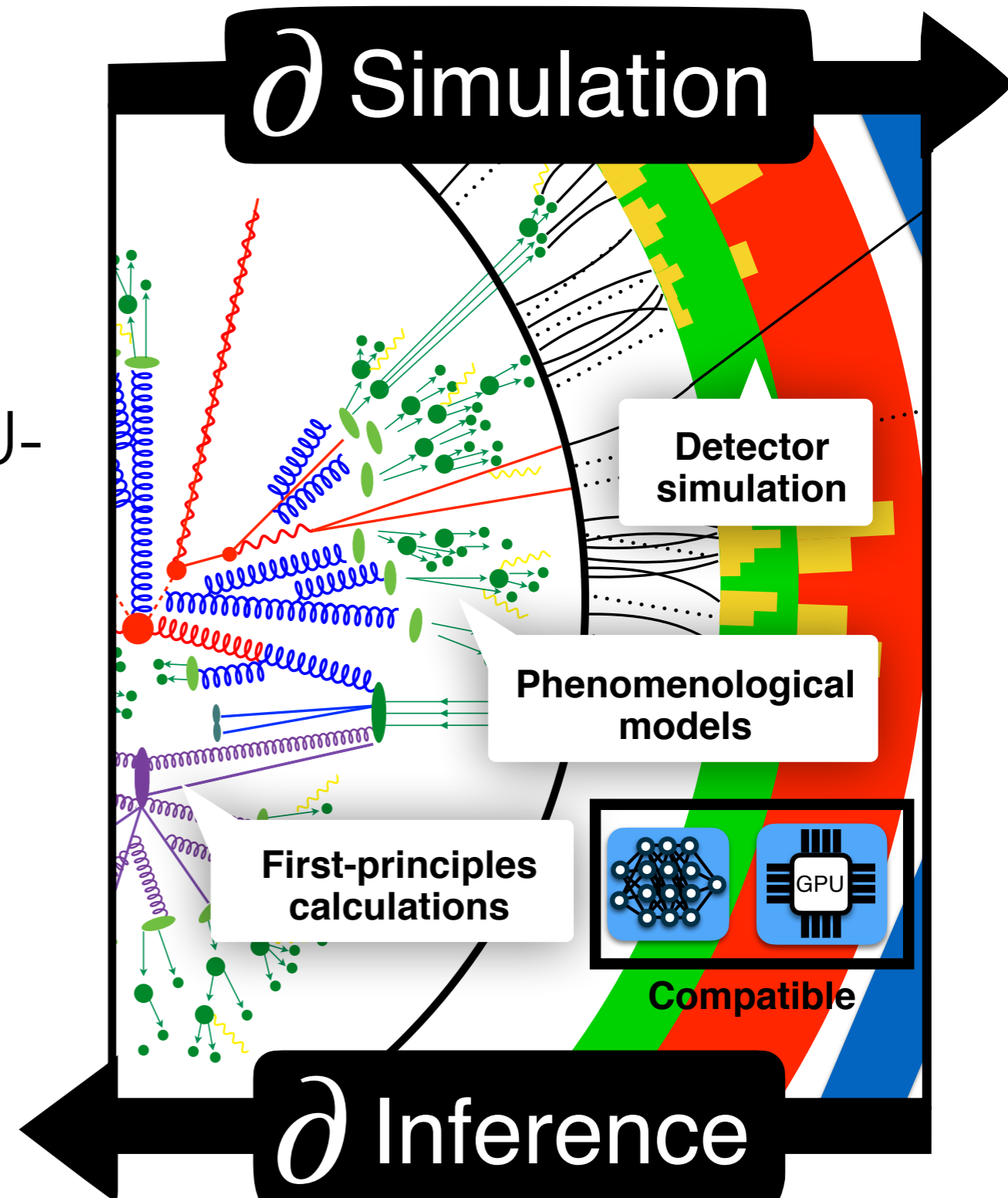
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## An end-to-end differentiable event generator?

Computing benefits: fast, GPU-compatible, ML-compatible

(Imagine HADML was just one layer of a NN!)

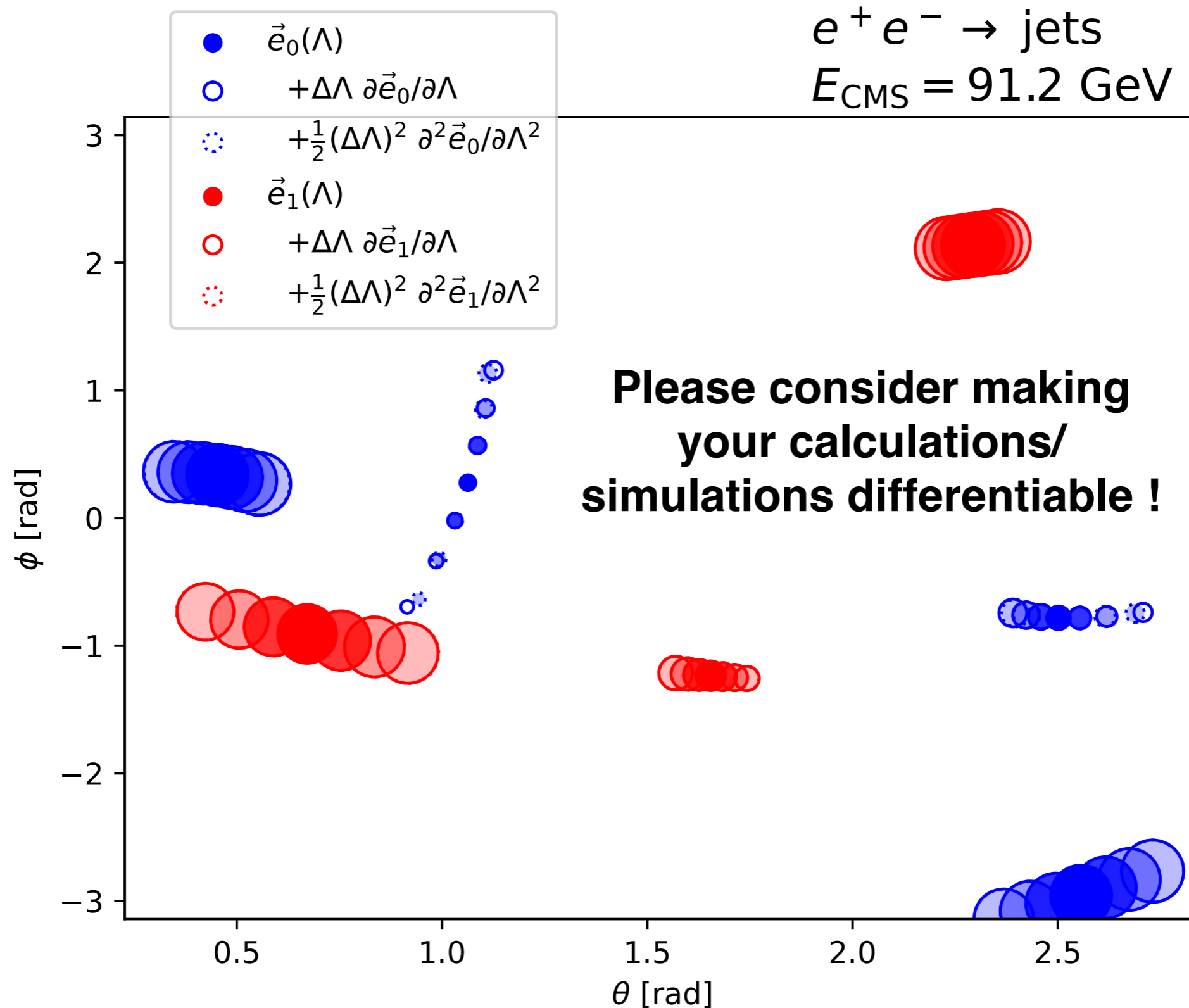
Physics benefits: precise inference + uncertainties





# The power of a differentiable generator

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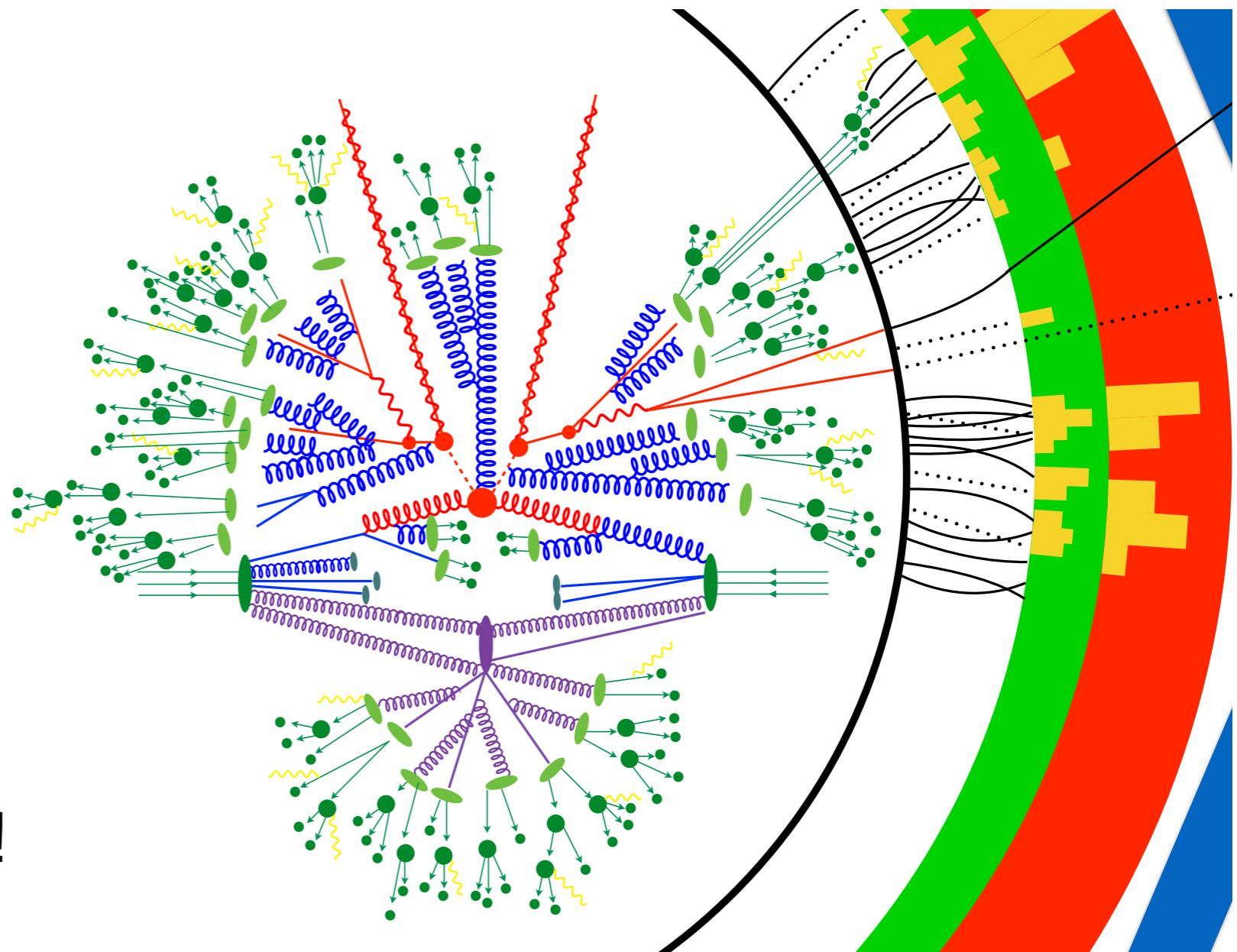
# Conclusions and Outlook

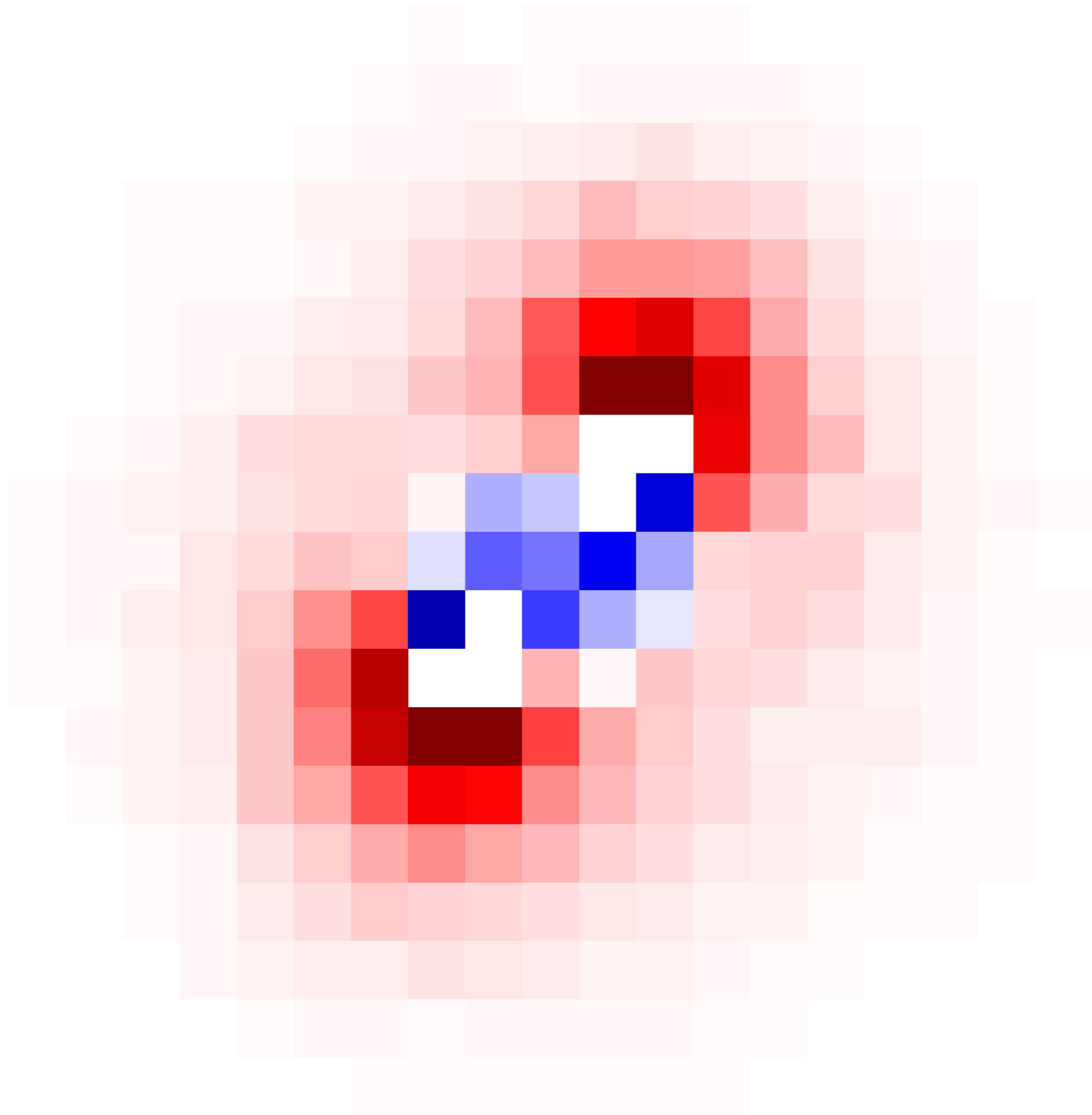
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ML has many exciting use-cases for precision physics at the LHC. I've only covered a couple of representative examples.

**This is not just a tool  
for experimentalists.**

Physicists are also developing new ML methods - we need innovation in order to make the most of past, present, and future data!

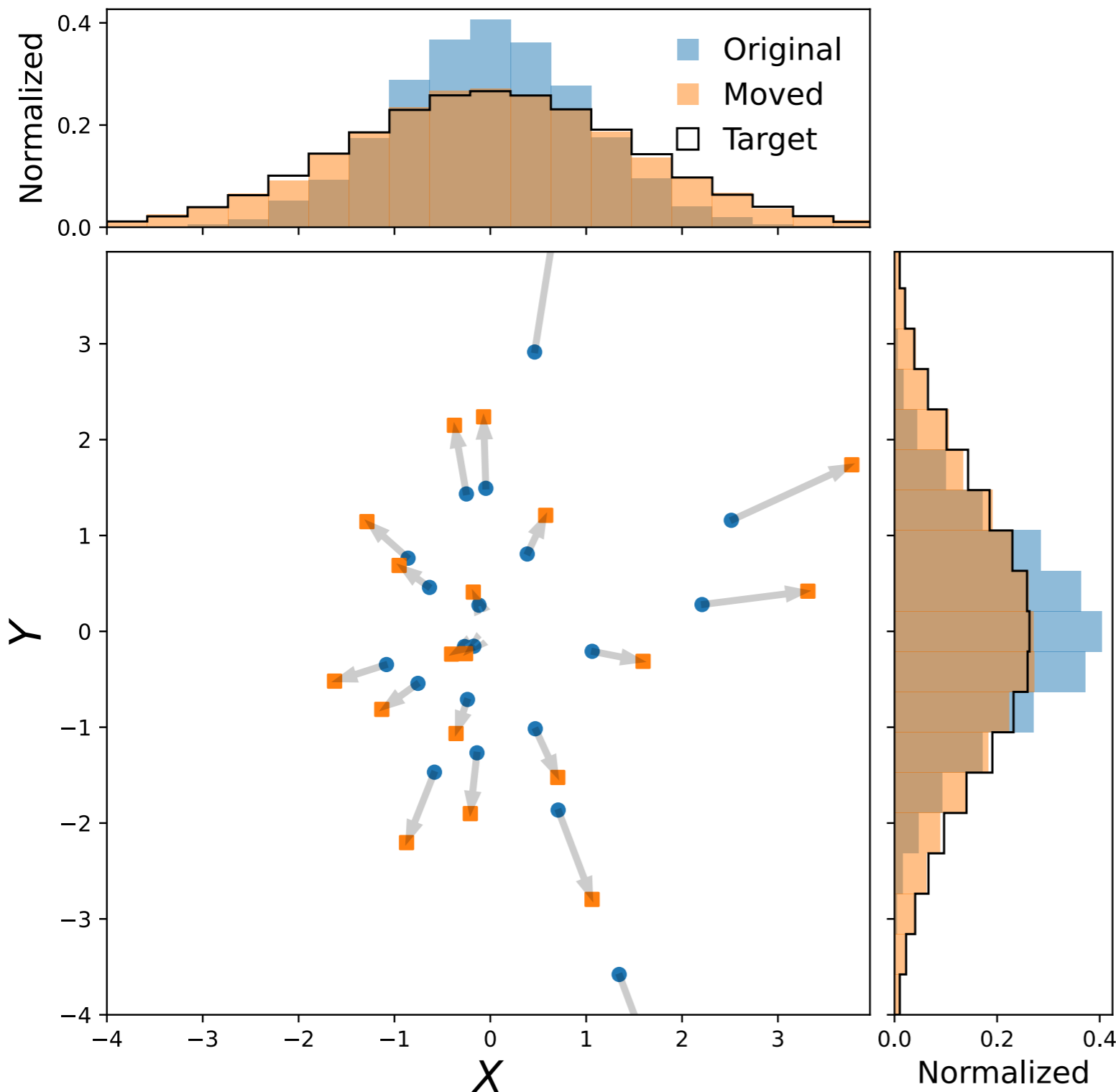




Fin.

# Differentiable Simulation

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$$X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$$



```
x = np.random.normal(mu, sigma)
```



```
z = np.random.uniform(0, 1)
```

```
x = sigma*Phiinv(z)+mu
```

(Phiinv = inverse Gaussian CDF)

Now, can compute  
 $\partial/\partial\mu$  and  $\partial/\partial\sigma$

We can then do:

$$\text{sim}(\mu_0 + \epsilon) \approx \text{sim}(\mu_0) + \frac{\partial \text{sim}}{\partial \mu} \epsilon$$