

# MIAPbP Workshop on Differentiable and Probabilistic Programming

Lukas Heinrich, TUM

Technische  
Universität  
München





# MIAPbP

**MIAPbP: Munich Institute for Astro- Particle- and Biophysics**

**45 Seats for 4 Weeks. Funded by TUM and ORIGINS Cluster of Excellence**



*Sanmay Ganguly*







Munich Institute for  
Astro-, Particle and BioPhysics

## Programs 2023

Interacting Supernovae

6 February - 3 March

L. Dessart, R. Margutti, J. Fuller, R. Kudritzki

Engineering life: Unifying concepts from system  
chemistry, biophysics and theoretical physics

13 - 24 March

C. Weber, J. Boekhoven, K. Göpfrich

Quantum Computing Methods for High Energy Physics

10 April - 5 May

C. Bauer, I. Cirac, M. Dalmonte, Z. Davoudi, H. S. Lamm, M. Spannowsky

The Present and Future of Heavy Flavour  
and Exotic Hadron Spectroscopy

8 May - 2 June

M. Barabanov, B. El-Bennich, M. Mikhasenko, S. Paul, E. Santopinto, L. Tolos

Differentiable and Probabilistic Programming  
for Fundamental Physics

5 - 30 June

L. Heinrich, T. EnBlin, M. Kagan, A. G. Baydin, V. Vassilev

The Extragalactic Distance Scale and Cosmic Expansion in  
the Era of Large Surveys and the James Webb Telescope

3 - 28 July

R. I. Anderson, S. H. Suyu, E. Di Valentino, S. W. Jha, H.-J. Seo

Stellar Astrophysics in the Era of Gaia,  
Spectroscopic, and Asteroseismic Surveys

31 July - 25 August

M. Bergemann, D. Huber, S. Hekker, A. Karakas, R. Kudritzki

Stellar Magnetic Fields from Protostars to Supernovae

9 October - 3 November

S. Bagnulo, L. Ferrario, A. Vidotto, G. A. Wade, K. Dolag

### What is MIAPbP?

The Munich Institute for Astro-, Particle and BioPhysics (MIAPbP) hosts several programs per year in the fields of astrophysics, cosmology, nuclear and particle physics, biophysics, and biochemistry. MIAPbP serves as a center for scientific exchange and provides a stimulating platform for international collaborations and creative thinking.  
[www.munich-iapbp.de](http://www.munich-iapbp.de)

**Proposals for the 2024 program can be submitted until 3 October 2022:**

[www.munich-iapbp.de/propose](http://www.munich-iapbp.de/propose)

**Application for participation:**

[www.munich-iapbp.de/register](http://www.munich-iapbp.de/register)

### MIAPbP Directors:

Prof. Dr. Andreas Weller (TUM),

Prof. Dr. Rolf Kudritzki (LMU / University of Hawaii)

[www.munich-iapbp.de](http://www.munich-iapbp.de)

[info@munich-iapbp.de](mailto:info@munich-iapbp.de)

Excellence Cluster ORIGINS - MIAPbP -

Boltzmannstr. 2 - 85748 Garching, Germany



# Our workshop was one of the first “Data Science/Computing” themed MIAPbP Workshop ( together with QC)

and Exotic Hadron Spectroscopy

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The Extragalactic Distance Scale and Cosmic Expansion in  
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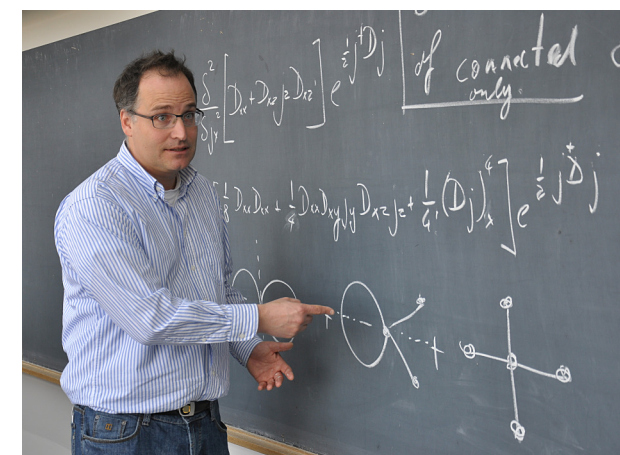
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## Organizing Team



**Torsten Ensslin**  
(MPA)



**Atılım Güneş Baydin**  
(Oxford)



**Vassil Vassilev**  
(Princeton)



**Michael Kagan**  
(SLAC)



**Lukas Heinrich**  
(TUM)



# Why we did it

**The topics of the workshop are still new to fundamental physics. Deeply interesting, but also outside of our usual wheelhouse.**

## **Goals:**

- **provide venue where there is a lot of **space for discussions** and **time to think****
- **bring together **physicists** and **computer scientists** for an extended period of time**



# Format

**Format: 1-2 Talks a day - Rest is discussion!**



**Talks available here (not sometimes it's a URL)**

<https://www.munich-iapbp.de/probabilistic-programming/schedule>



# Impromptu Sessions

**We had many unplanned impromptu sessions as well:** Measure Theory, Julia, Distributed DiffProg, Theorem Proving, Geant4

**Takeaway (as HEPer):** a lot of folks have deep expertise in things that often don't surface in HEP context. The format helped a lot.





# Topical Workshop

We had a more traditional workshop for 3 days as well (~ 80 attendees)



Let me fix this





# Why we did it

My reaction when learning about this program:



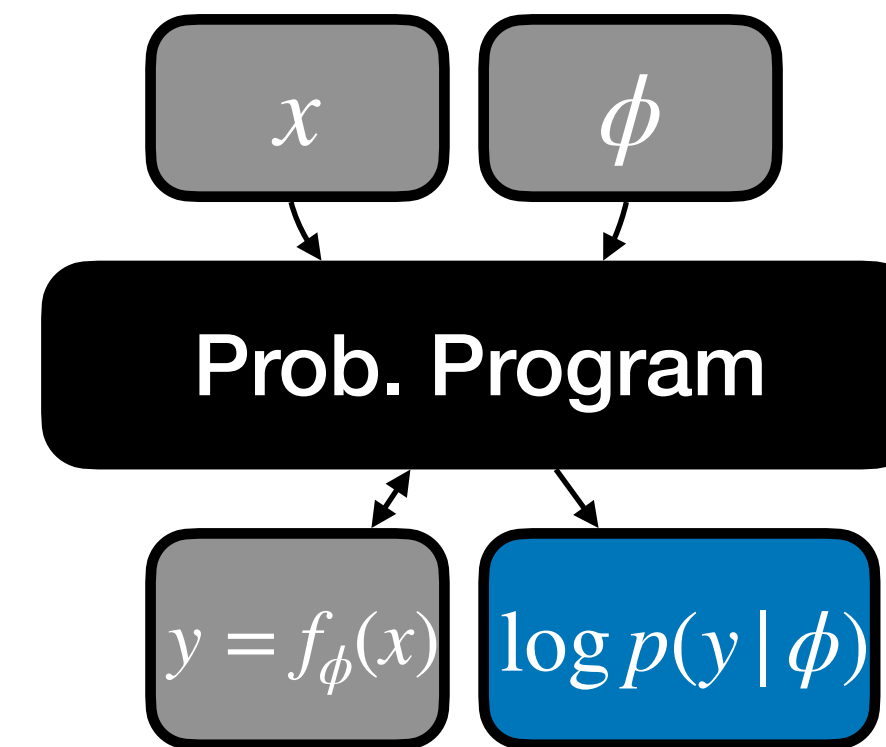
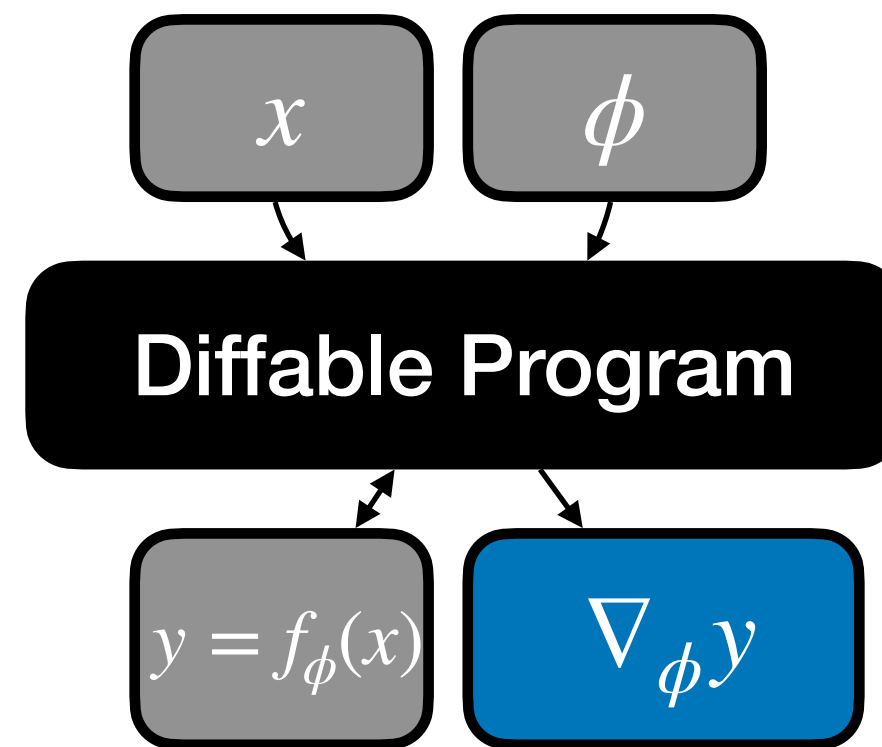
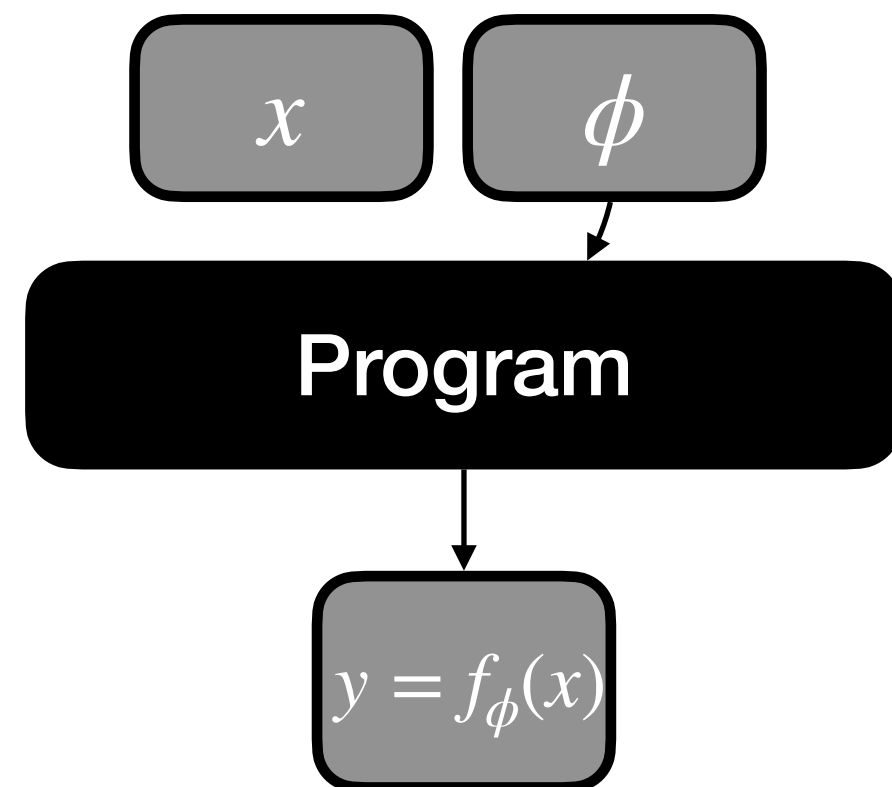
via GIPHY



# Why ProbProg and DiffProg

From a certain point of view Differentiable and Probabilistic Programming are closely connected.

- but not a lot of cross-talk between communities





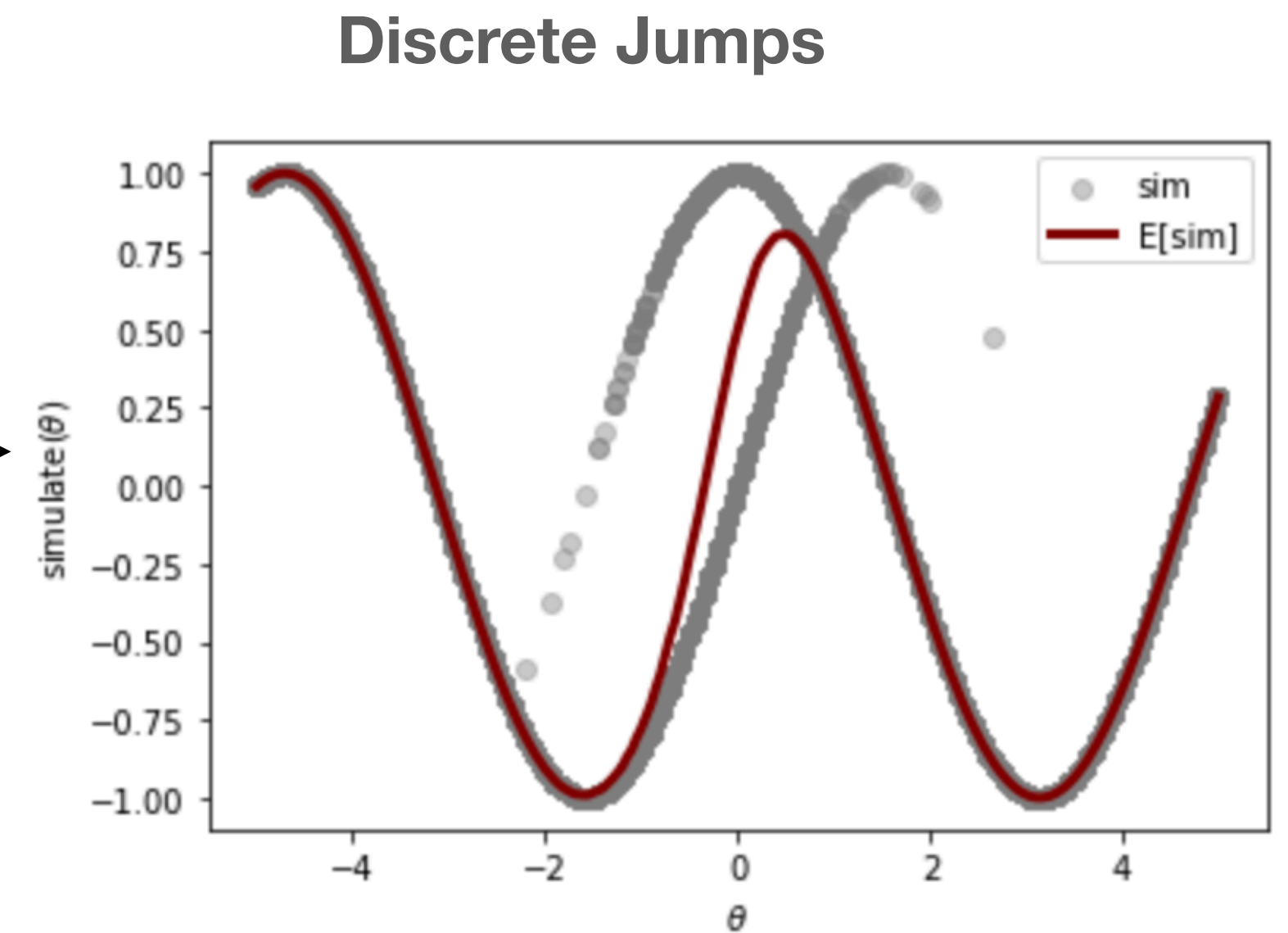
# DiffProg Needs ProbProg

To differentiate through some of the non-differentiable operations we often to, it's useful to make the program stochastic first (see. M. Kagan's Talk)

```
def simulate(theta):  
    p = sigmoid(theta)  
    if p > 0.5:  
        r = sin(theta)  
    else:  
        r = cos(theta)  
    return r
```



```
def simulate(theta):  
    p = sigmoid(theta)  
    b = bernoulli(p) # 0 or 1  
    if b == 1:  
        r = sin(theta)  
    else:  
        r = cos(theta)  
    return r
```

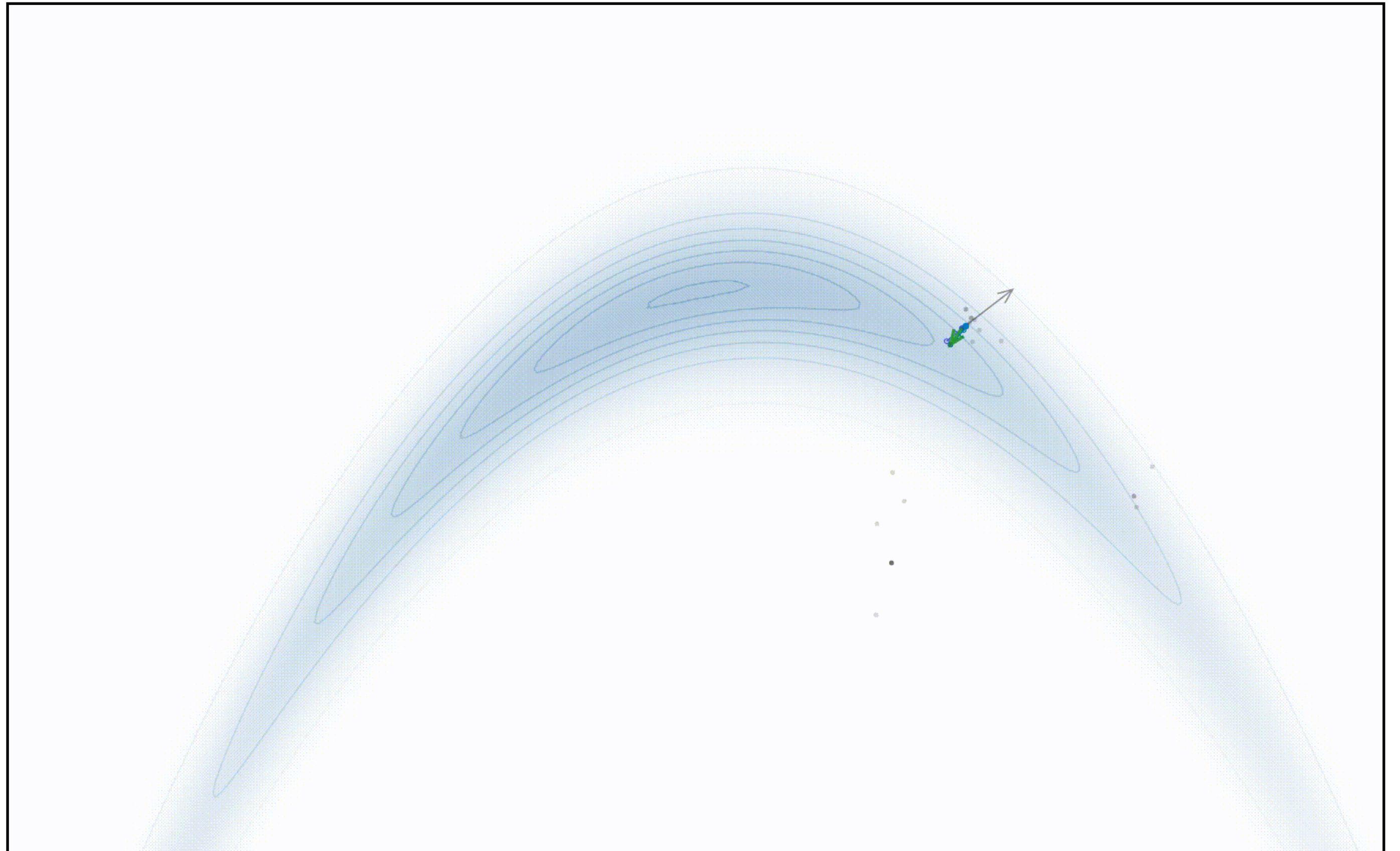




# ProbProg needs DiffProg

**Statistical Inference with PPLs often require gradients** for efficient exploration of the parameter space

$$\nabla_{\theta} \log p(x, \theta)$$





# ProbProg needs DiffProg

**Statistical Inference with PPLs often require gradients** for efficient exploration of the parameter space

$\nabla_{\theta}$

The rapid exploration of the deep learning approach to artificial intelligence has been triggered to a large degree by the emergence of programming language tools that automate the tedious and troublesome derivation and calculation of gradients for optimization.

Probabilistic programming aims to build and deliver a toolchain that does the same for probabilistic machine learning;



# **A few Takeaways**



# Tooling

**The tooling is continuously improving and is growing (or always has been) beyond ML.**

**JAX:** the quasi-default for a lot of “new” differentiable programming work in particle physics

**Why?** Most people got exposed to DP through ML. DP as a way to add physics inductive bias. JAX much better suited than other ML frameworks



# Case in Point:

Astro-folks **are investing a lot** into rewriting simulation code in JAX (and TF). From primordial fields to final inference.

Target: HMC

How complicated can it be to simulate the universe?

Francois Lenusse

**FlowPM**

build passing pypi package 0.1.1 Open in Colab astro-ph.IM arXiv:2010.11847 youtube code style yapf docs failing

Particle Mesh Simulation in TensorFlow, based on [fastpm-python](#) simulations

Try me out: Open in Colab

To install:

```
$ pip install flowpm
```

For a minimal working example of FlowPM, see this [notebook](#). The steps are as follows:

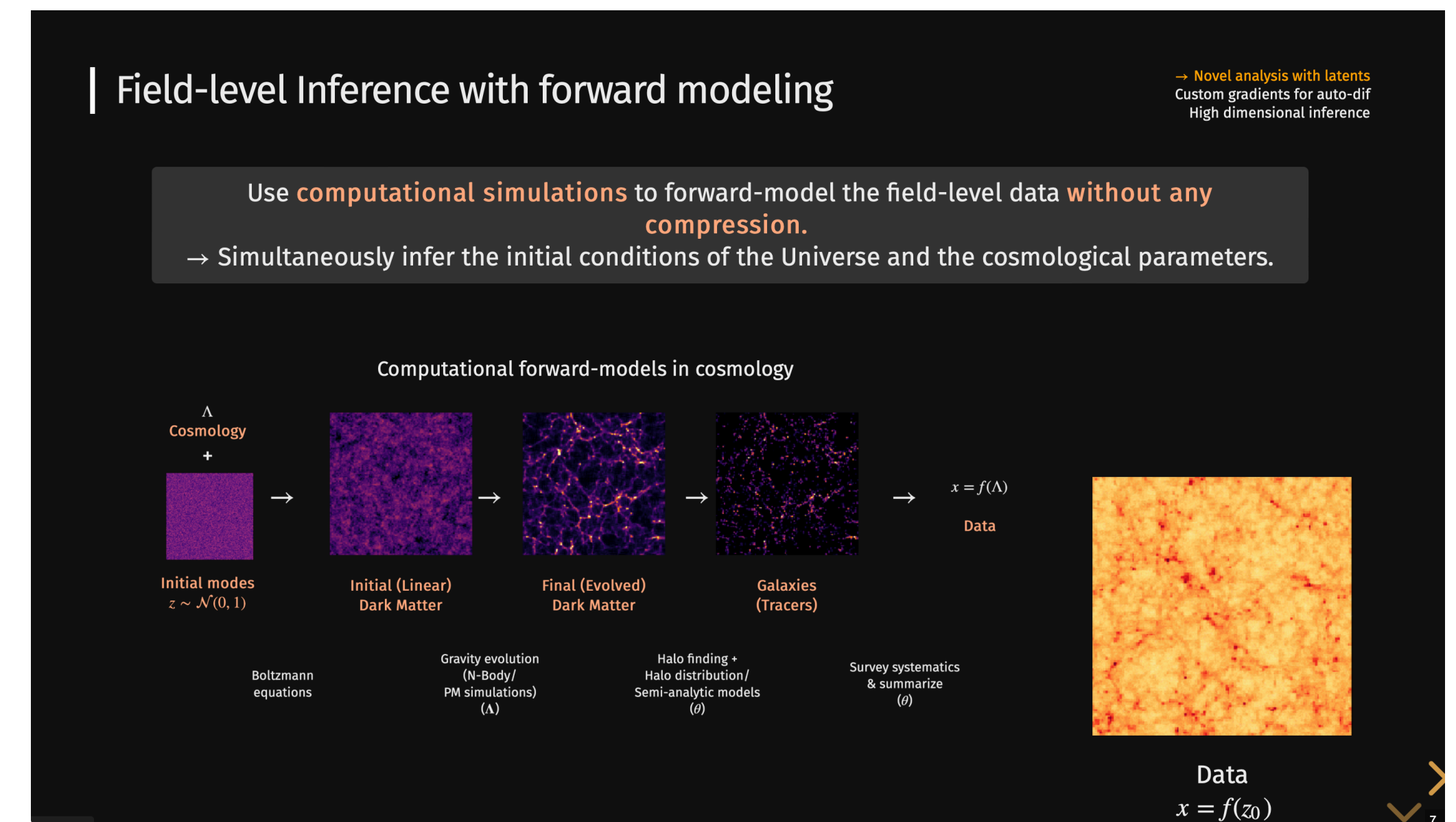
```
import tensorflow as tf
import numpy as np
import flowpm

cosmo = flowpm.cosmology.Planck15()
stages = np.linspace(0.1, 1.0, 10, endpoint=True)

initial_conditions = flowpm.linear_field(32,          # size of the cube
                                         100,         # Physical size of the cube
                                         ipklin,       # Initial power spectrum
                                         batch_size=16)

# Sample particles
state = flowpm.lpt_init(cosmo, initial_conditions, a0=0.1)

# Evolve particles down to z=0
final_state = flowpm.nbody(cosmo, state, stages, 32)
```



Chirag Modi



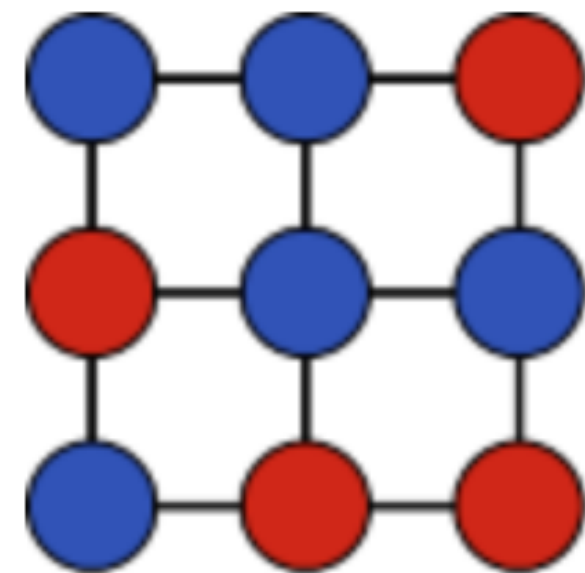
# Beyond JAX

**JAX can be a good choice for new projects, but most of our code is not even implemented in Python let alone JAX**

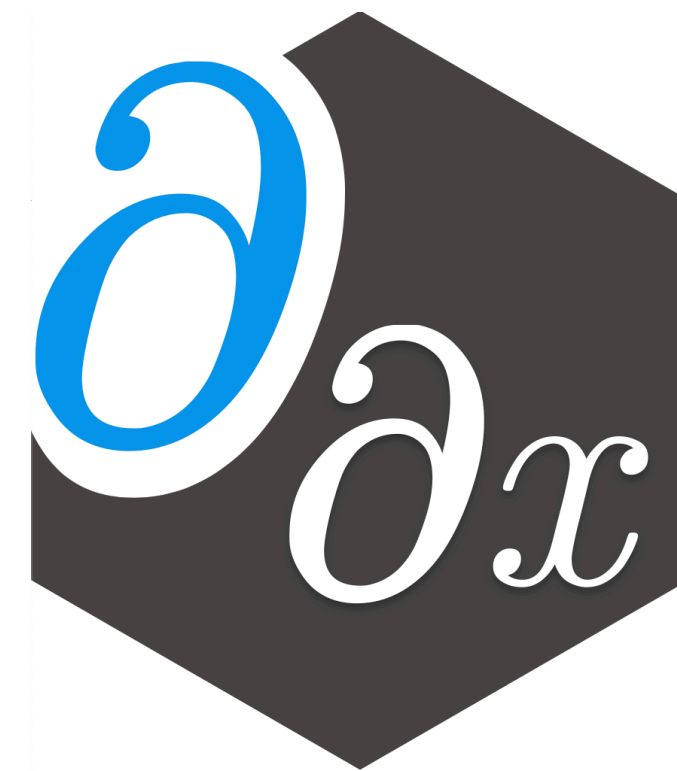
**A lot of tooling developing for multi-language AD and scientific computing in particular**



TAPENADE



CoDiPack



Enzyme



CLAD

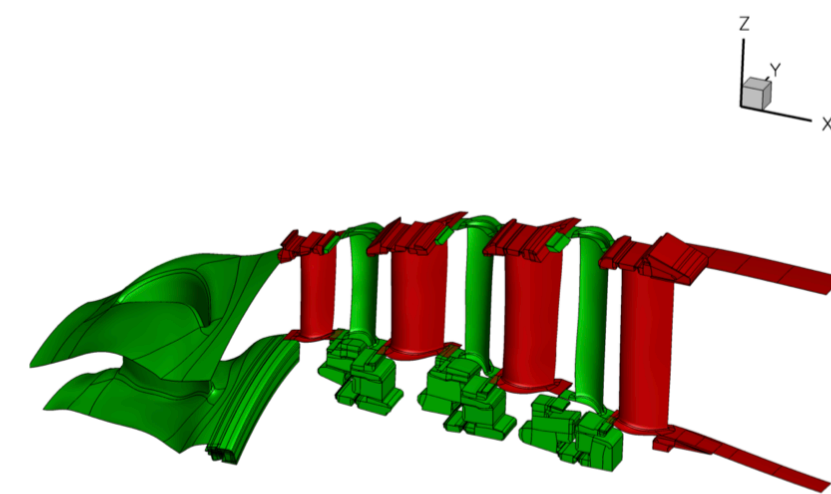
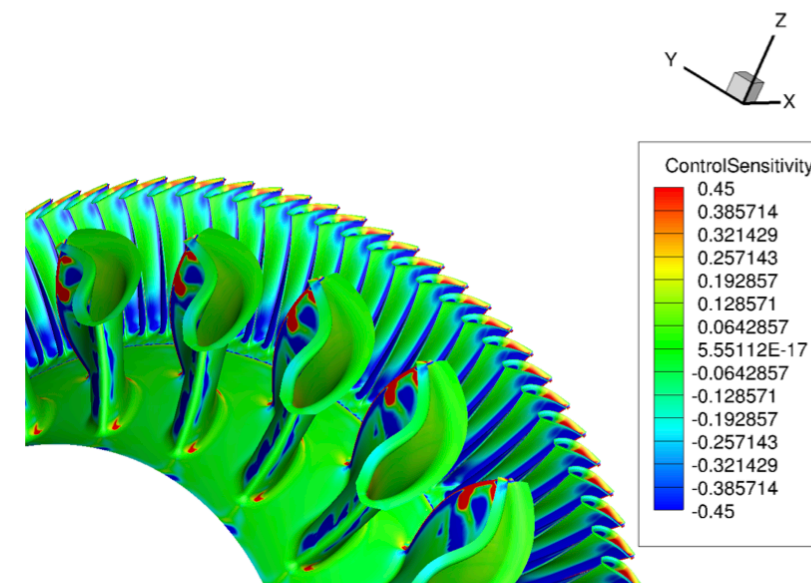
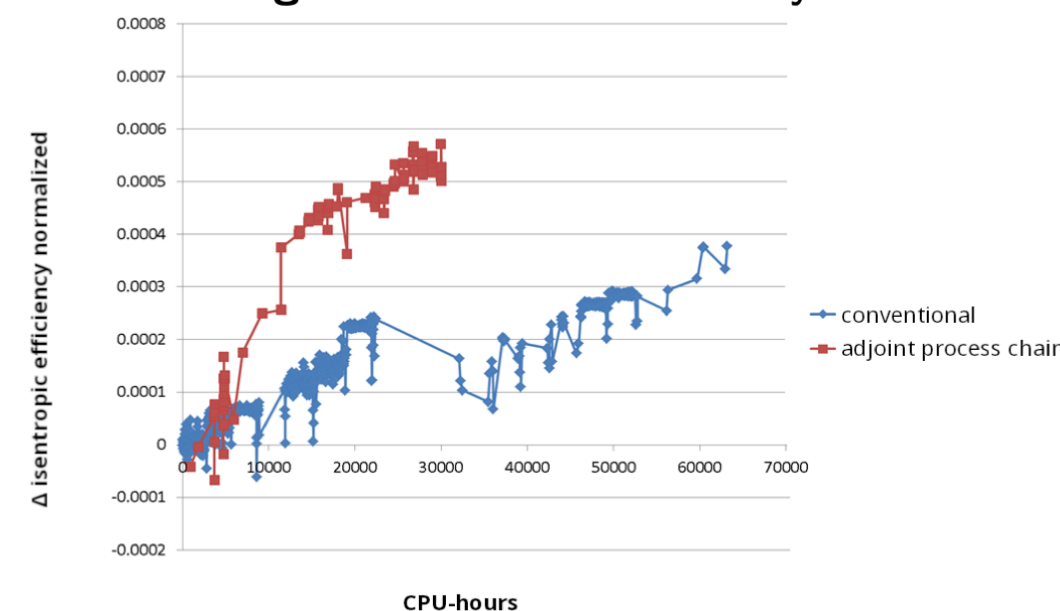


# Takeaway: It Scales

**If things are differentiable, we shouldn't be scared of large-scale codebases and applications**

## Optimization of a 4-stage low pressure turbine (MTU Aero Engines)

- **Shape optimization:**  
4-stage low pressure turbine  
TMTF<sup>1</sup>, Cavities
- **Mesh:** 7.2 Mio. Cells
- **Solver:** DLR TRACE
- **Simulation:** RANS, Transition +  
Turbulence
- **Target functional:** Efficiency



<sup>1</sup> - Turning Mid Turbine Frame

## Optimality System

- **Optimization Problem:**

$$\min_{\phi \in \Phi} J(W, \phi) \quad s.t. \quad R(W, \phi) = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Fixed point iteration:} \\ W = G(W, \phi) \end{array}$$

- **Lagrangian:**

$$L = J + \Lambda^T R \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad L(W, \Lambda, \phi) = J(W, \phi) + \Lambda^T (G(W, \phi) - W)$$

- **Optimality condition (KKT system, 1. order necessary cond.):**

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \Lambda} = R \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

State equation

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} = \frac{\partial J}{\partial W} + \Lambda^T \frac{\partial R}{\partial W} \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

Adjoint state equation

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \phi} = \frac{\partial J}{\partial \phi} + \Lambda^T \frac{\partial R}{\partial \phi} \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

Design equation



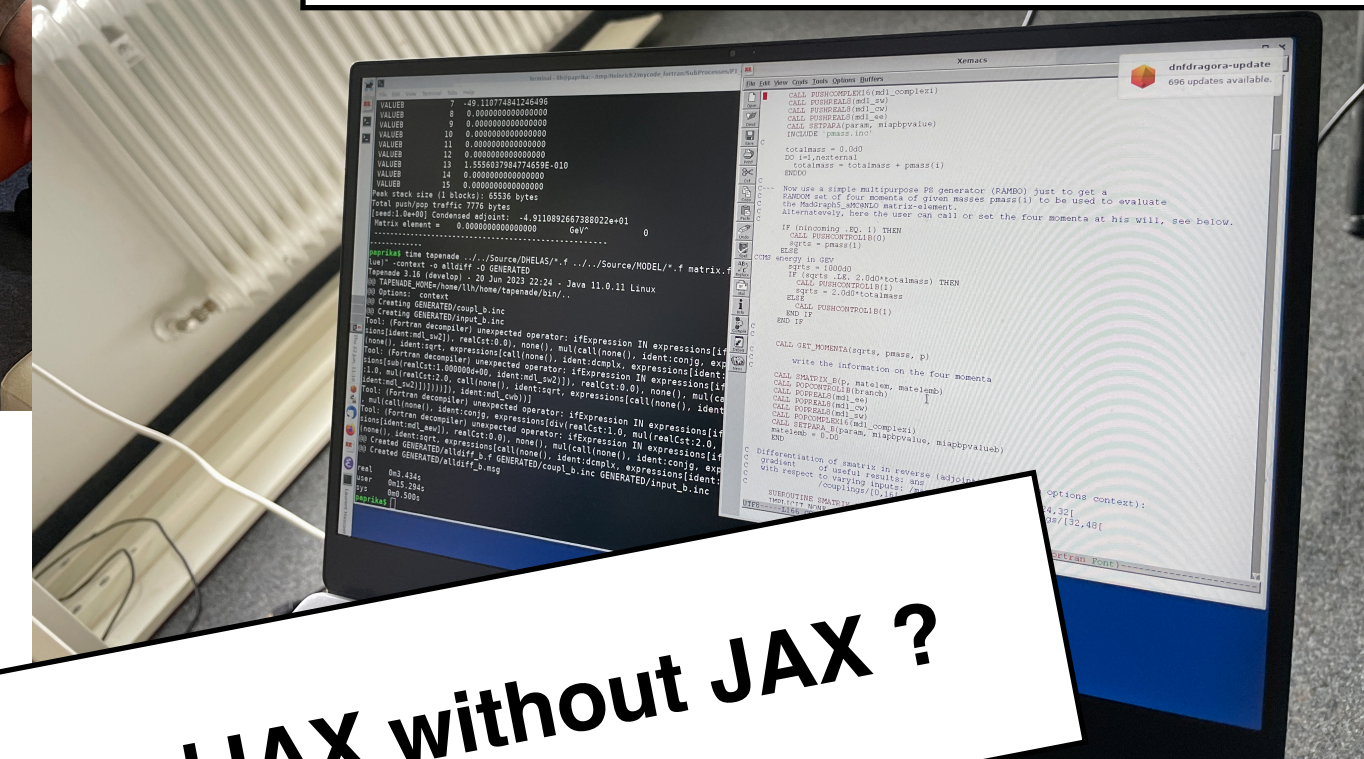
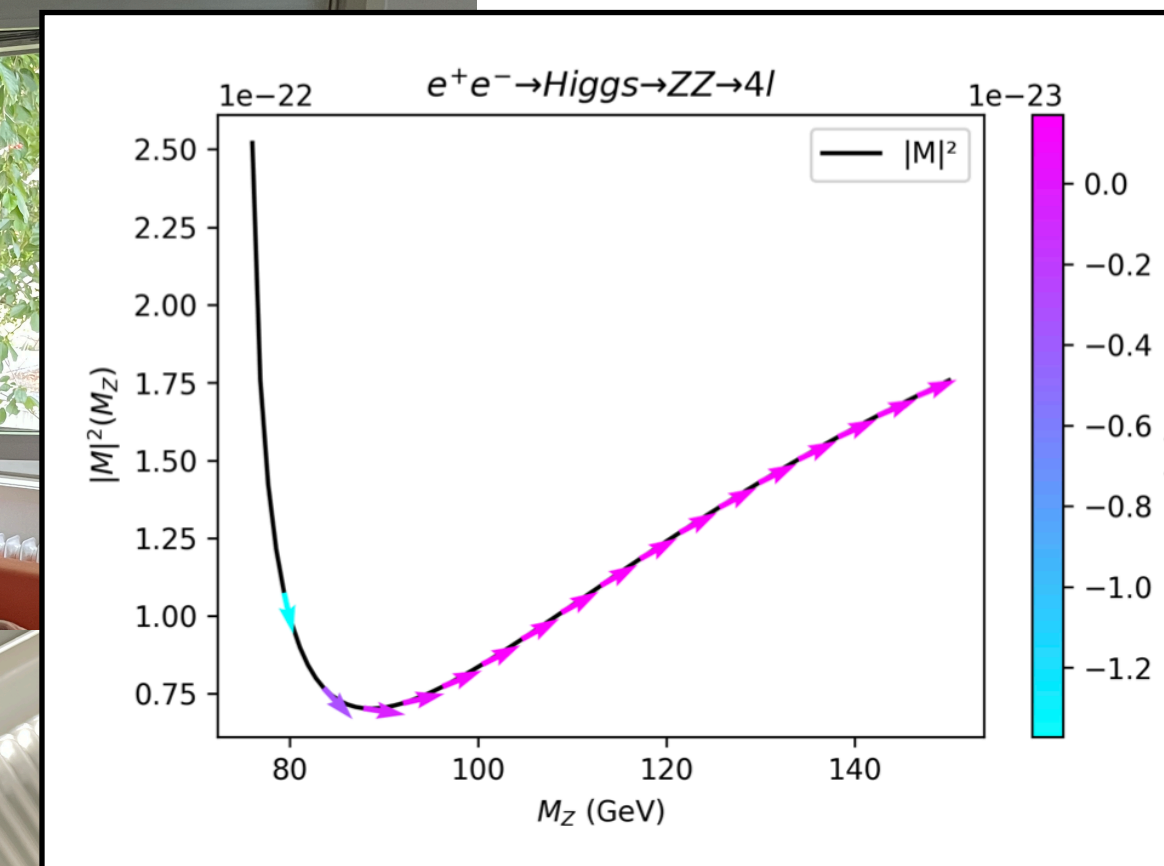
# A Taste of what's possible

**MadJax:** Differentiable Matrix Elements from MadGraph (FORTRAN)

**In JAX:** painful compilation

**In CoDiPack, Tapenade:**  
Gradients within O(day) on original  
code (C++ and/or Fortran)

**Extra:** Derivgrind derivatives on compiled artefact



MadJAX without JAX ?

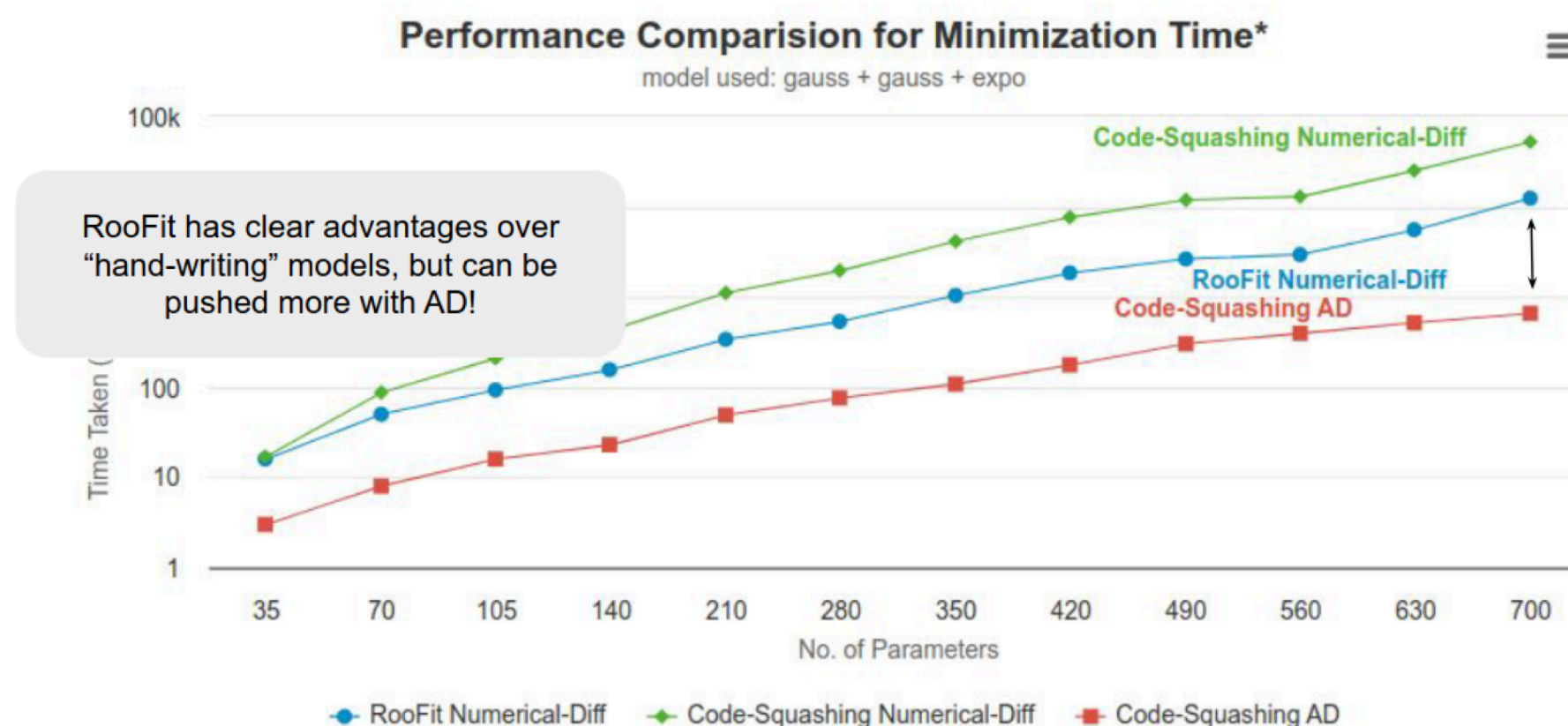


# A Taste of what's possible

**RooFit:** after ~10 years, it actually is becoming differentiable

[Garima Singh]

**Maybe indicative:** first small-scale rewrite in JAX (*pyhf*) to demonstrate feasibility and added value, and then motivate larger effort & deployment (with C++ / CLAD)





# Beyond Automatic Differentiation

**Standard AD is not a magic black-box machine**

**Jan Hückelheim:**

***“AD is for people who already know what the gradients are”***

**There are a lot of “tricks-of-the-trade” that one has to be aware of and that should be added to languages as features**



# Examples

$$\partial_{\theta} \text{odesolve}(f, x_0)$$

$$\partial_{\theta} \int_{\Omega(\theta)} \partial_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{p(x, \theta)}$$

$$\partial_{\theta} \arg\min_x f(x, \theta)$$



**Possible Outcome of  
Workshop: Handbook  
of AD constructs  
(B. Pearlputter, G. Baydin)**



# Application: Differentiable Rendering

Modern photorealistic rendering technology is  
insanely good

- at 2014, around 60-75% of all IKEA's product images (images showing only a single product) are CG. 35% of non-product images are fully CG.



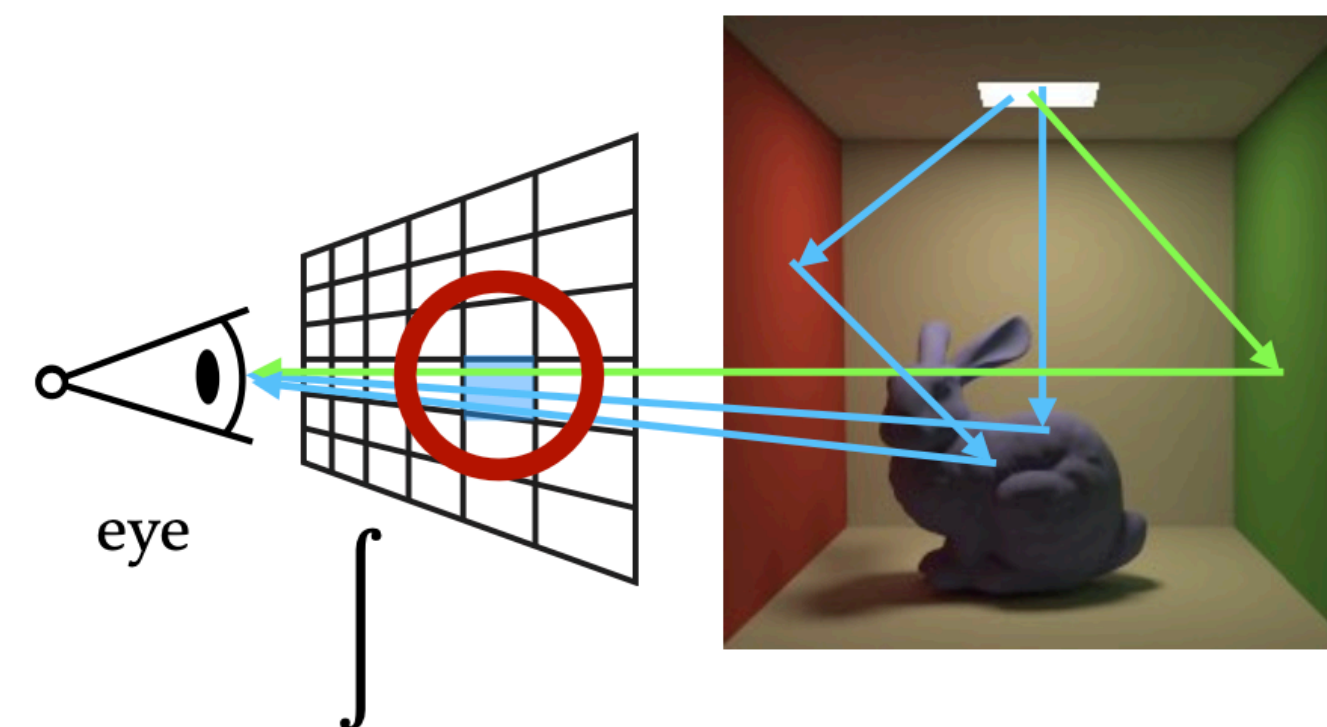
these are all com

Mathematically

$$\partial_{\theta} \iint \text{[diagram of blue triangle and red square]} = \iint_{\text{area}} \partial_{\theta} \text{[diagram of blue triangle and red square with yellow dots]} + \int_{\text{boundary}} \text{[diagram of blue triangle and red square with pink dot]}$$

derived through Dirac delta or Reynolds transport theorem

Key observation: the **integrand** is discontinuous, but the **integral** is differentiable



Li, Aittala, Durand, Lehtinen, 2018

*Differentiably  
Tracing Photons might be a  
good starting point for  
differentiably tracking more particles*



# Special Role of HEP

## Notable difference in uptake of DP in Astro and HEP

**HEP:** local algorithms become differentiable or we have big surrogates (fits, track reconstruction, generative models)

- Natural blockage at discrete changes in data representation

**Astro:** ambition is more towards soup-to-nuts differentiable pipelines

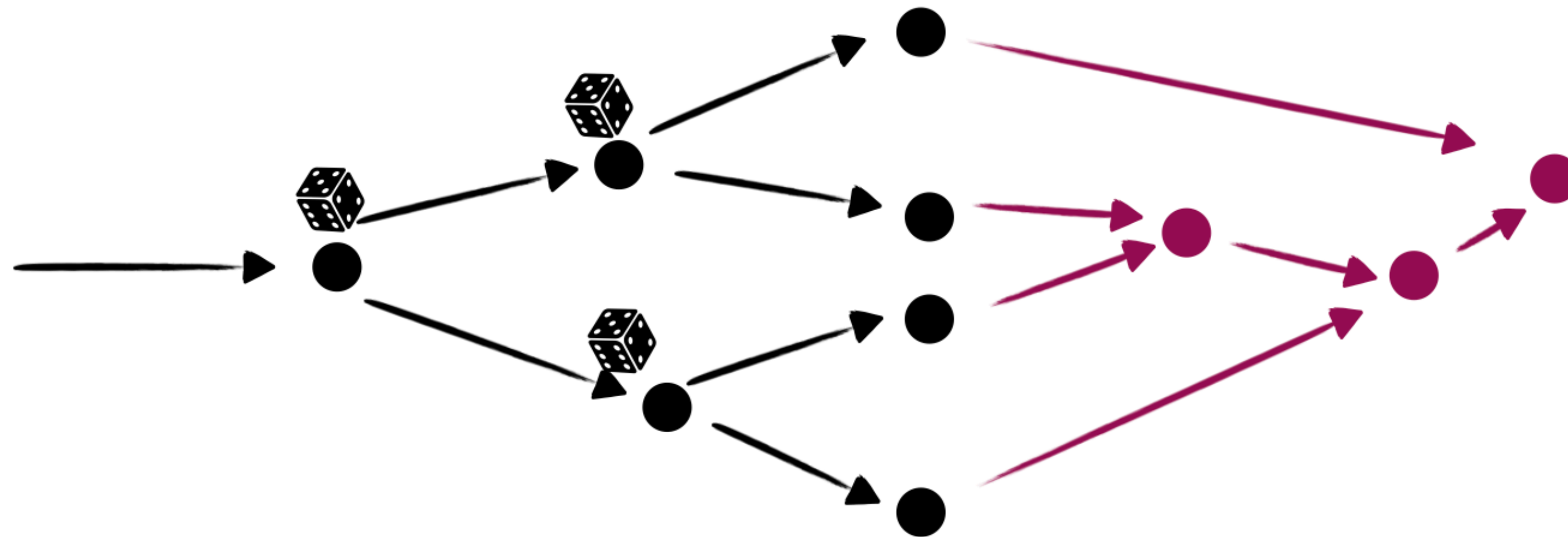
- A lot of applications are more “inherently differentiable”



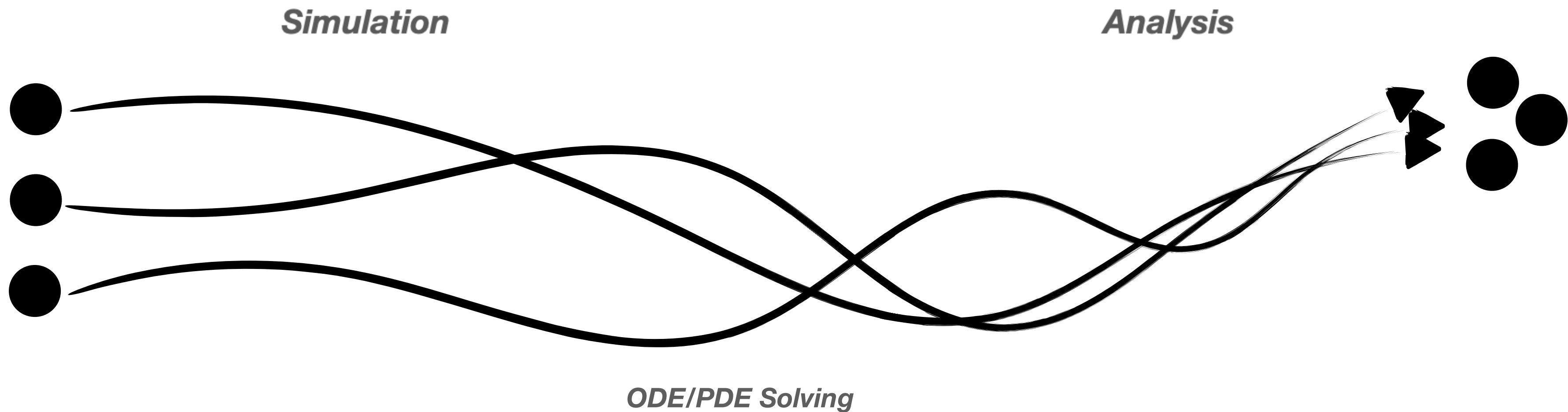
# Special Role of HEP

Notable difference in uptake of DP in Astro and HEP

HEP:



Astro:

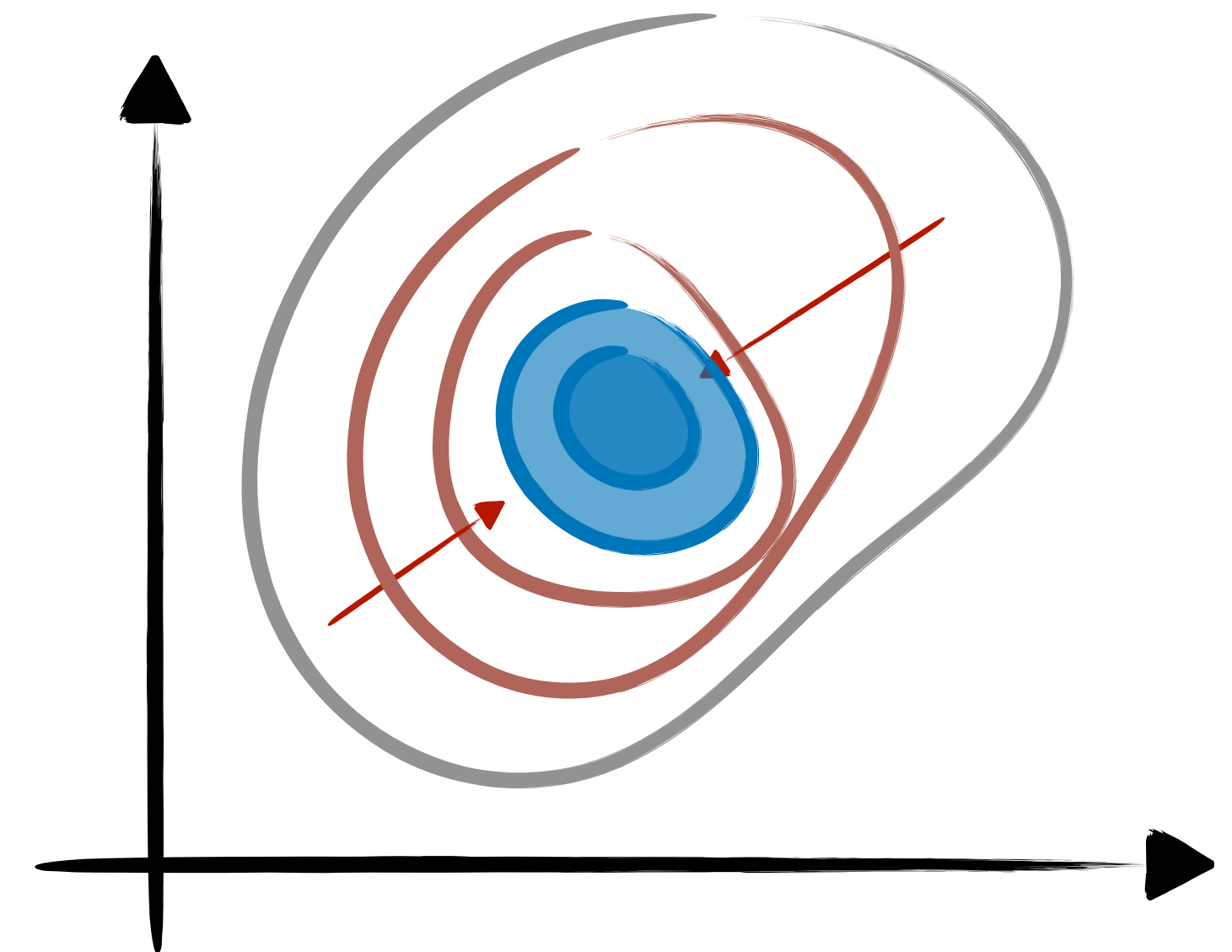
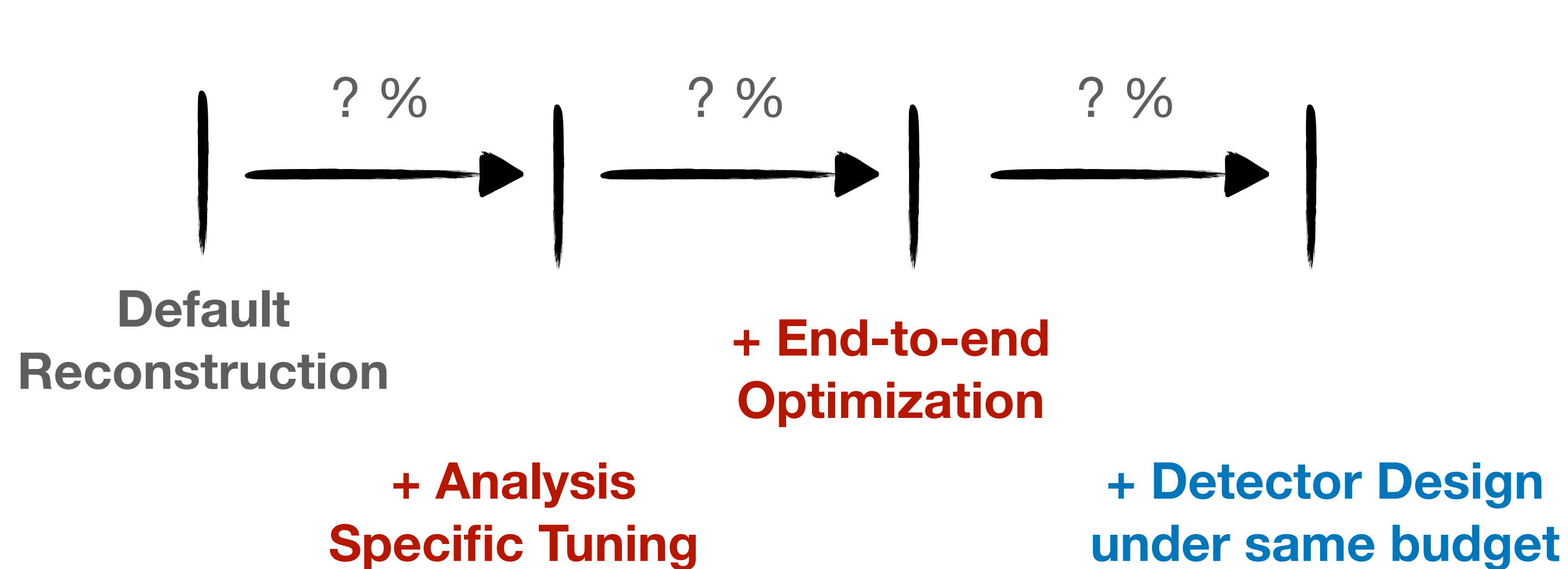




# A Big Question

Why do we do differentiable programming. Presumably to gain performance. But how much is there to gain?

What is the hierarchy of approaches, how big are the gaps?






# A Big Question

Why do we do differentiable programming. Presumably to gain performance. Presumably to gain?

# What is the h, how big are the gaps?

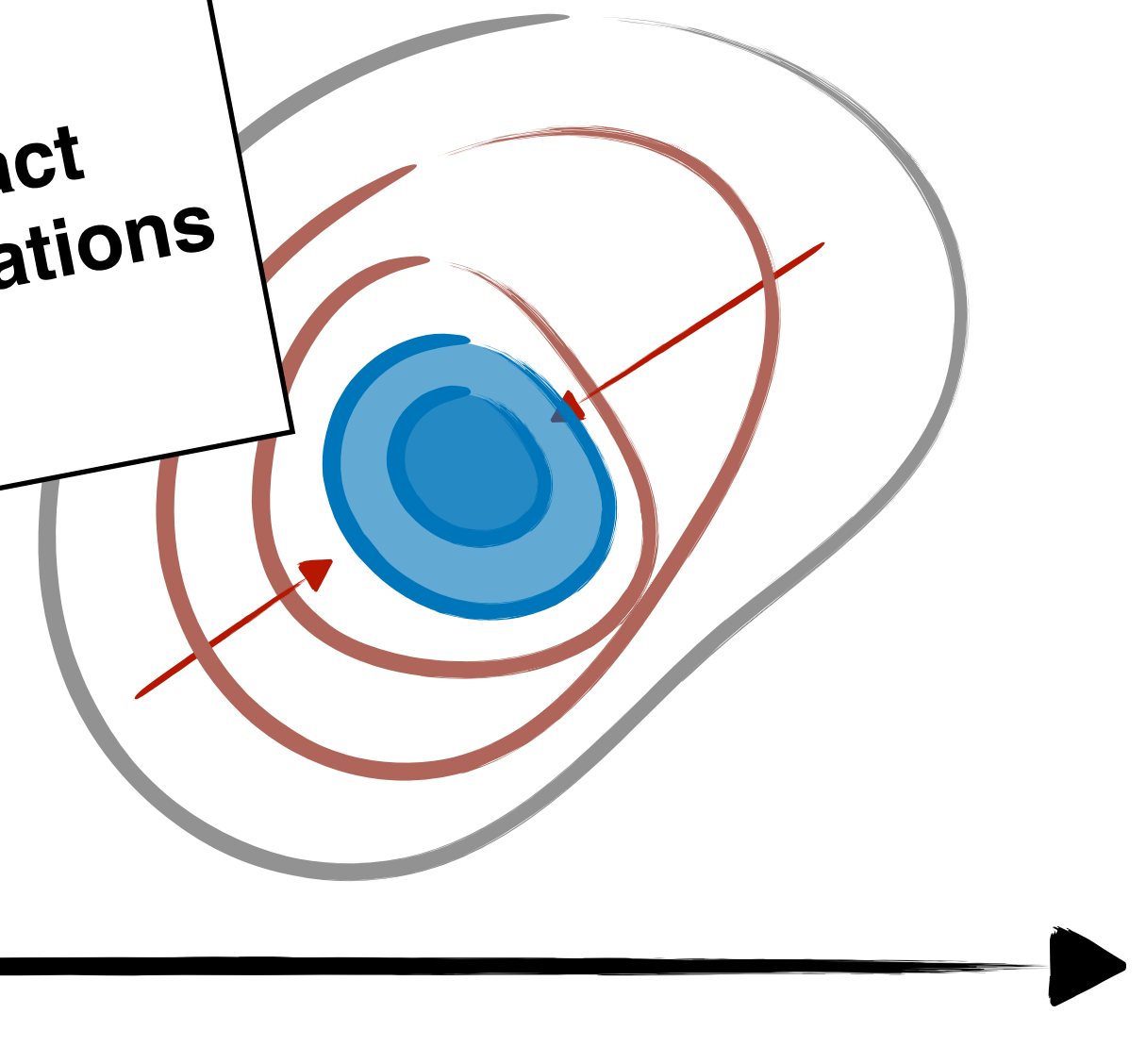


**Default  
Reconstruction**

## + And Specific

**Possible outcome  
statistical analysis on impact  
of various inference simplifications  
we often do in HEP**

# Design budget



# The Main Takeaway



# We should do it again sometime!

## Currently exploring options around the world



**Sanmay Ganguly**  
@SanmayGanguly

Putting HEP inference in the language of the graphical model. with [@lukasheinrich\\_](#) [@atilingunes](#) [@Michael\\_A\\_Kagan](#) [@migorinova](#) at [@MIAPbP](#). The number of new things I encountered in a single WS is mindblowing.



**Maria Gorinova** 1:40 PM

On the plane to London 😭 Thank you [@Lukas Heinrich](#) [@Michael Kagan](#) [@Atilim Gunes Baydin](#) [@Torsten Enßlin](#) [@Vassil](#) for organising such a great workshop and thank you everyone else for being so welcoming and fun! Leaving with the best of memories and I hope we see each other again in the future 😊



11



1 reply 23 days ago



**Tzu-Mao Li** @tzumaoli · Jun 29

This was one of the best workshops I've ever attended! Met a bunch of super friendly and smart physicists and AD/PPL folks and I was extremely inspired. 10/10 would attend again.



**Atılım Güneş Baydin** @atilingunes · Jun 27

Here is a summary of the talks on the second day of our topical workshop "The Road to Differentiable and Probabilistic Programming in Fundamental Physics" hosted at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics @MPE\_Garching @MIAPbP @TU\_Muenchen [munich-iapbp.de/road-to-diff-p...](https://munich-iapbp.de/road-to-diff-p...)



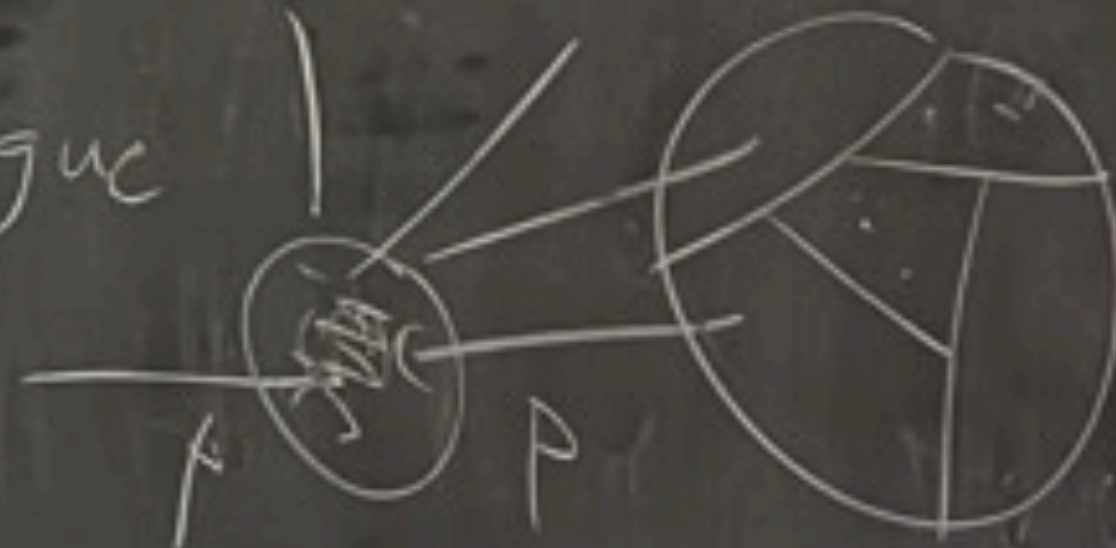


Abstract PDF Culture

Quad GK  
Cube - j

$$\frac{1}{x} e^{-x \frac{y}{6} \sqrt{1 - \frac{y^2}{6}}} \approx \Phi(x_0 + \Delta x) - \Phi(x_0) + \phi_x(\Delta x)$$

Lebesgue


$$U(A) = U$$

) (transpo