



Institute for
Theoretical
Particle Physics
and Cosmology

Learning the language of QCD jets with transformers



Research Training Group
Physics of the Heaviest
Particles at the LHC

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together with

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ML4Jets2023

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Learning the language of QCD jets with transformers

- Data
 - QCD and top jets
 - Turning particle and jets into words and sentences

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- Density estimation
 - on low level data
 - using transformers as in NLP

Learning the language of QCD jets with transformers

- **Data**
 - QCD and top jets
 - Turning **particle and jets** into **words and sentences**
- **Density estimation**
 - on **low level** data
 - using **transformers** as in **NLP**
- **Quality** assessment
 - use transformer as **generative** model
 - **classifier** tests



standard benchmark **data set**:

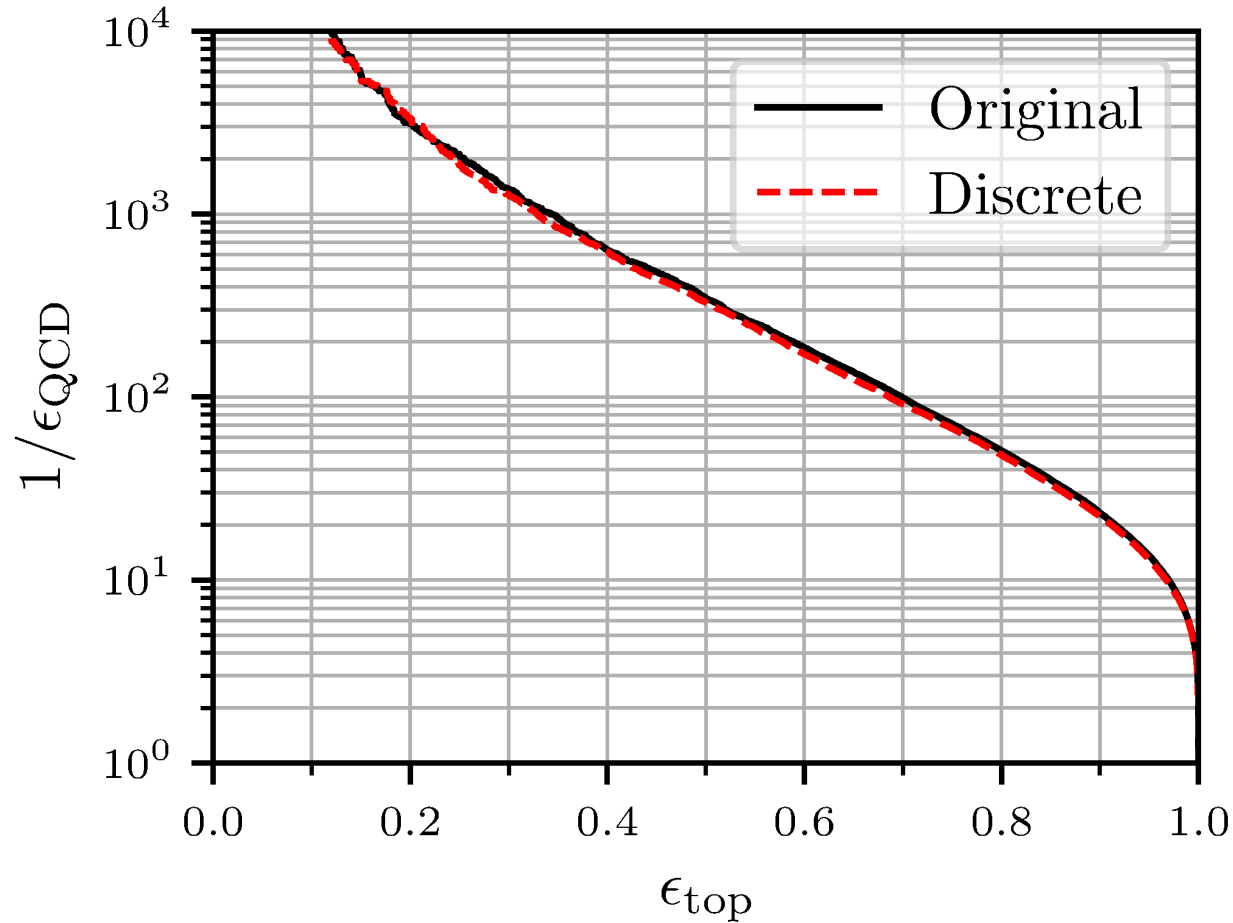
- **QCD and top jets**: "Top Quark Tagging Reference Dataset"
<https://zenodo.org/records/2603256>
- **600k** jets each
- $p_T \in [550, 650]$ GeV \rightarrow boosted top jets
- up to **200 constituent** four-momenta \Rightarrow **low-level data**

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special **preprocessing**:

- **discretize** constituent kinematics by binning:
 $\hat{p}_T \in [0, 40]$, $\Delta\hat{\eta} \in [0, 30]$, $\Delta\hat{\phi} \in [0, 30]$
- $\Rightarrow \sim$ **40k** different constituents \Leftrightarrow **words in our language**
- **jets** \Leftrightarrow **sentences in our language**
- **loss** of information?



⇒ almost **no information loss** for top tagging with ParticleNet

Density Estimation

- **autoregressive** approach:

$$p(\vec{x}) = p(\vec{x}_1)p(\vec{x}_2|\vec{x}_1) \dots p(\vec{x}_n|\vec{x}_1 \dots \vec{x}_{n-1})$$

(see also JUNIPR by Andreassen et al., 1804.09720)

- standard **transformer** architecture as in NLP

(see also Trade by Fakoor et al., 2004.02441)

- simple **grammar**: order constituents by p_T

(more physics inspired grammar in 1804.09720)

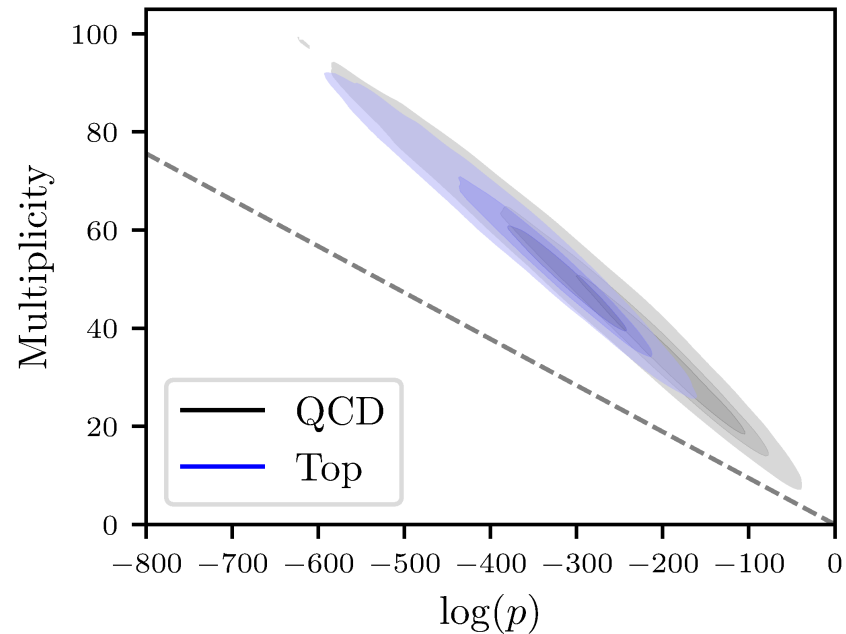
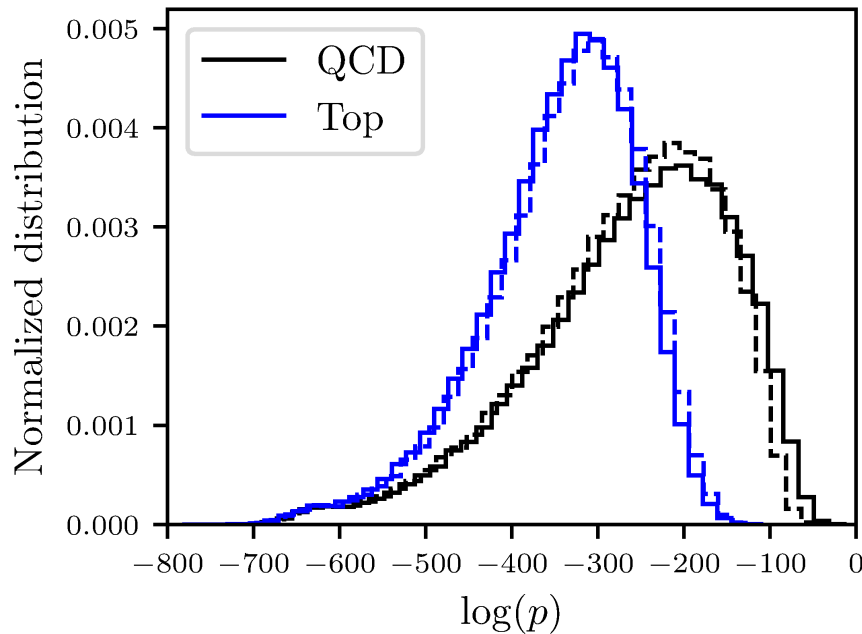
- **loss function**: categorical cross entropy between
predicted and actual next particle/word

- jet multiplicity: predict **stop token** to terminate jet

⇒ variable multiplicity

Estimated Density

- **probability** for QCD and top jets:



solid: trained on QCD jets $\Rightarrow p_{\text{QCD}}(x)$

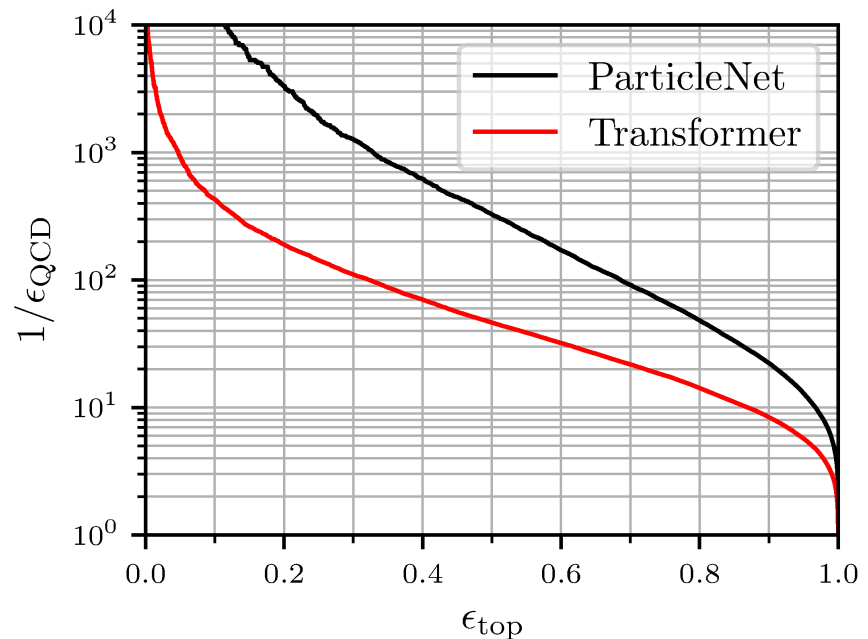
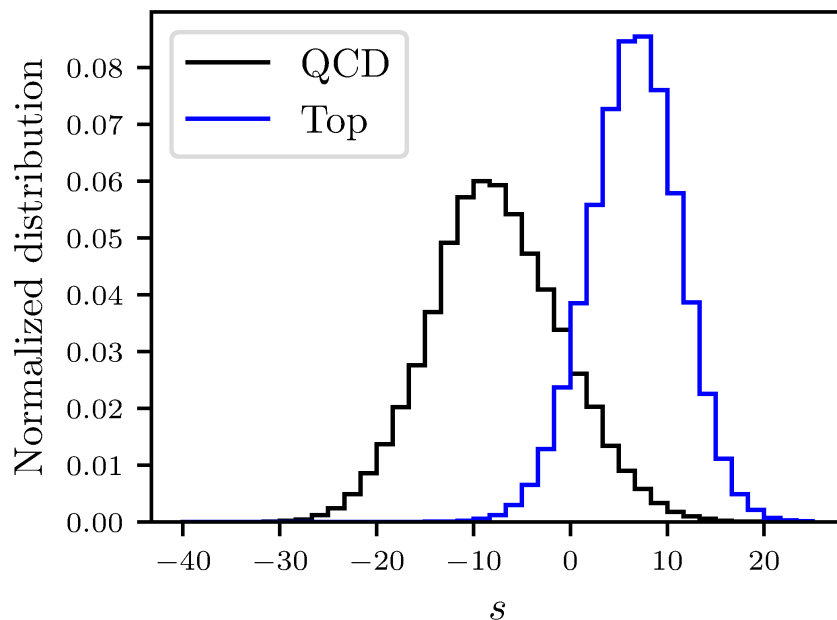
dashed: trained on top jets $\Rightarrow p_{\text{top}}(x)$

- dominated by particle **multiplicity**
- indeed depends on specific **training data**

Quality assessment

- Use **density ratio** as classifier **score**:

$$s = \log(p_{\text{top}}(x)) - \log(p_{\text{QCD}}(x))$$

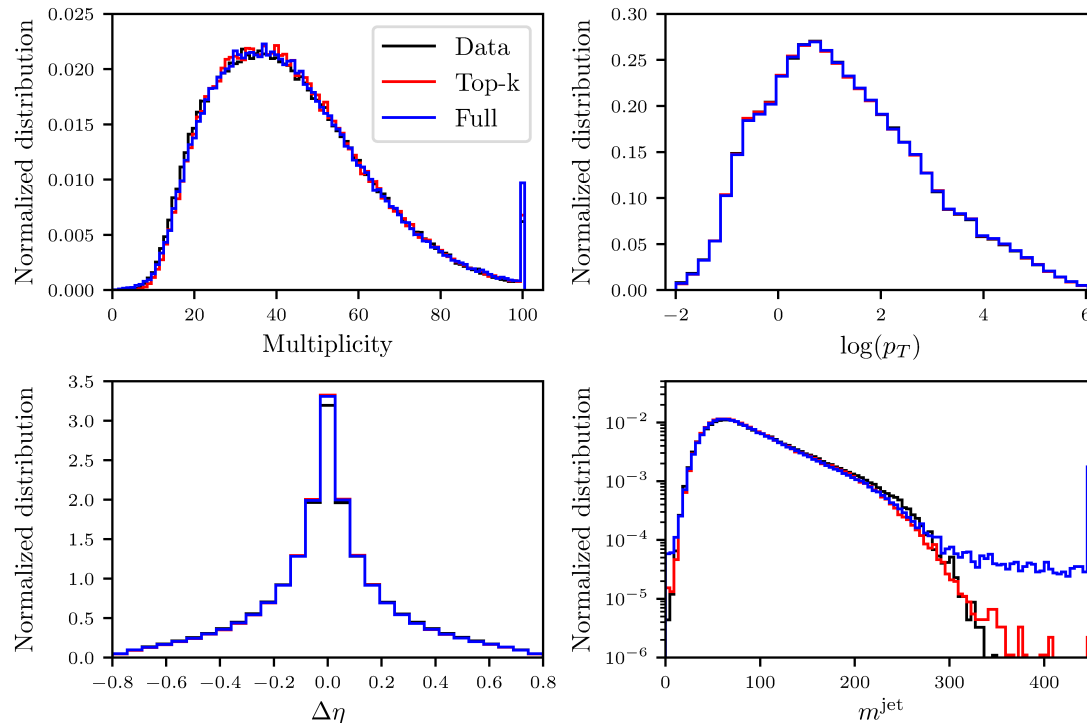


- density provides **discrimination power**
- room for improvement
- strong **overfitting** observed

(for diffusion based results see 2306.03933, Vinicius' talk today at 14.15h)

Quality assessment

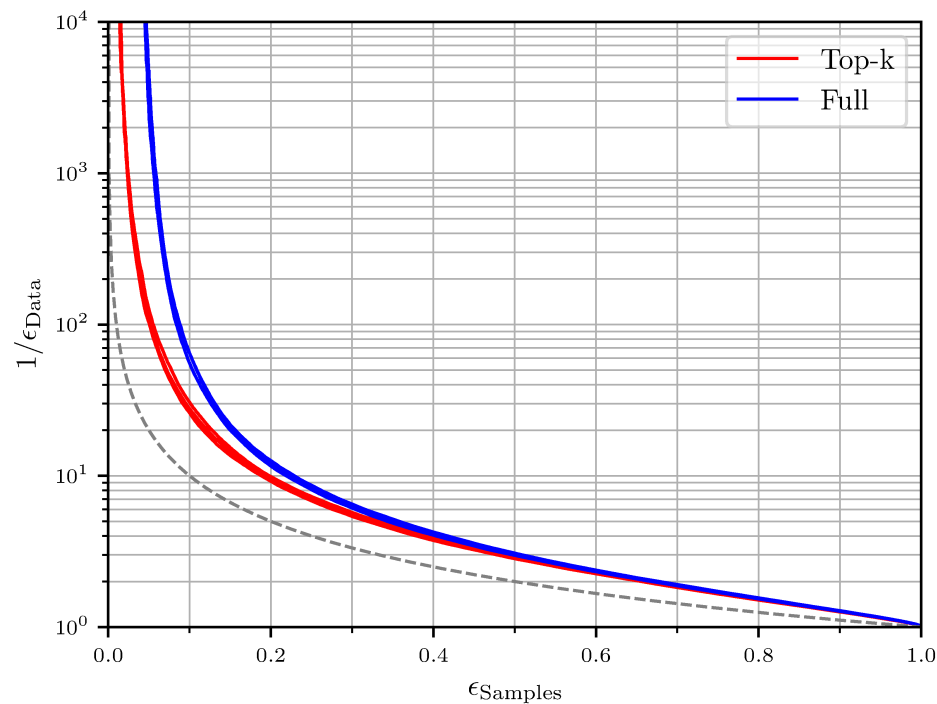
- Transformer as **generative model**: draw jets from $p(\vec{x})$
(see also 2305.10475, Jonas' talk today at 14.30h)



- good agreement for **1D distributions**
- multiplicity extrapolation** works well (trained only with 50 constituents)
- top-k sampling to suppress low probability bins
(sample from $k=5000$ particles with highest probability)

Quality assessment

- Transformer as **generative model**: draw jets from $p(\vec{x})$
 \Rightarrow use **classifier** to discriminate samples from data
 (see also 2305.16774, Luigi's talk Thu 11.45h)



- **poor** classification \Rightarrow **good** sampling \Rightarrow **good** density estimate
- Top-k sampling \Rightarrow fewer poor samples

Conclusion

Density estimation for low-level jet data

- following Natural Language Processing
- works for flexible number of constituents

Promising results

- the transformer can speak QCD with a slight accent
- use classifier to assess quality

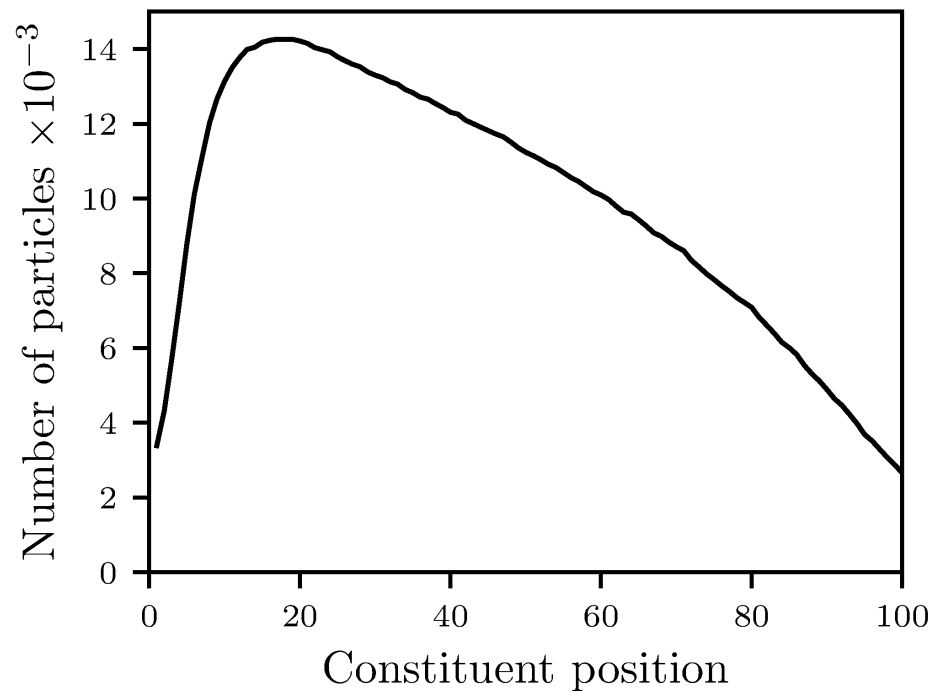
Outlook

- improvements on larger datasets expected
- use in the context of Anode and Cathode
(see also 2310.06897, talk by Cedric et al. Wed 17.15h)
- general pretraining (see also talk by Matthew)

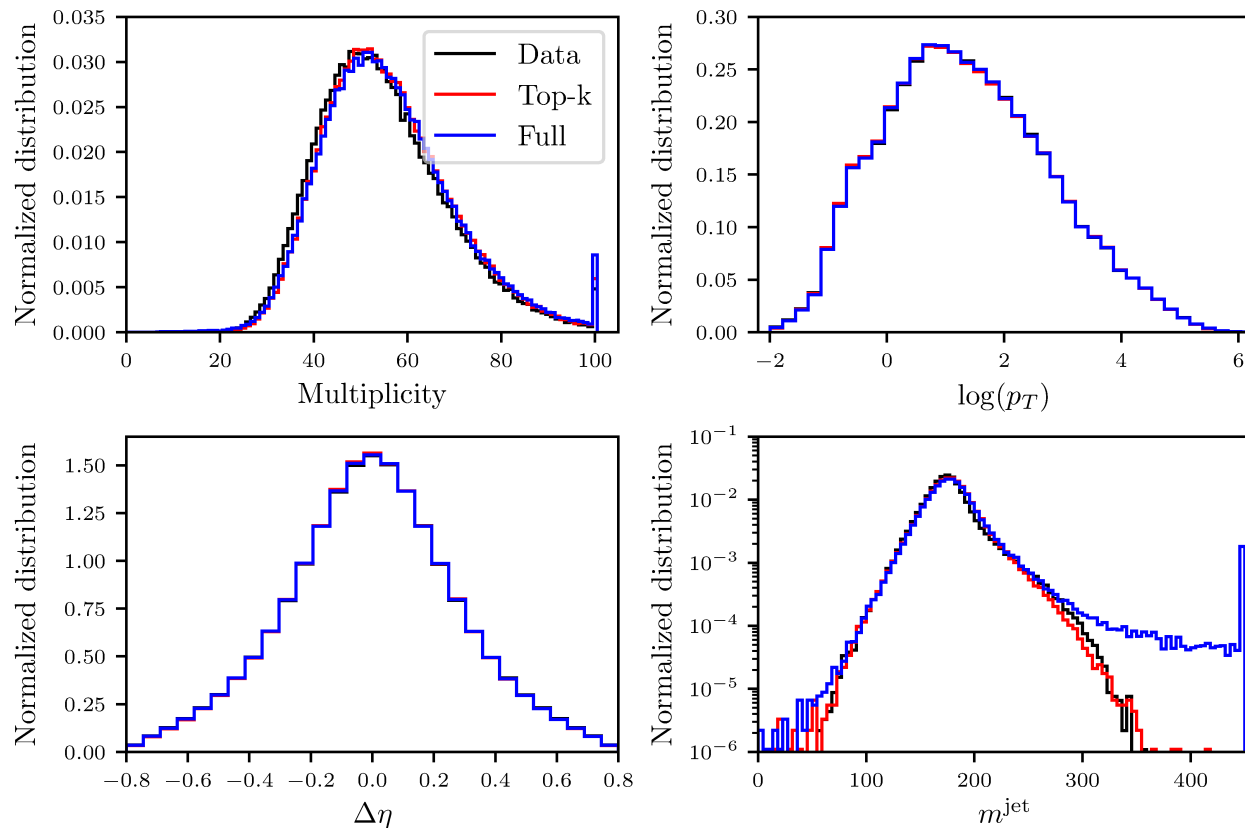


Backup

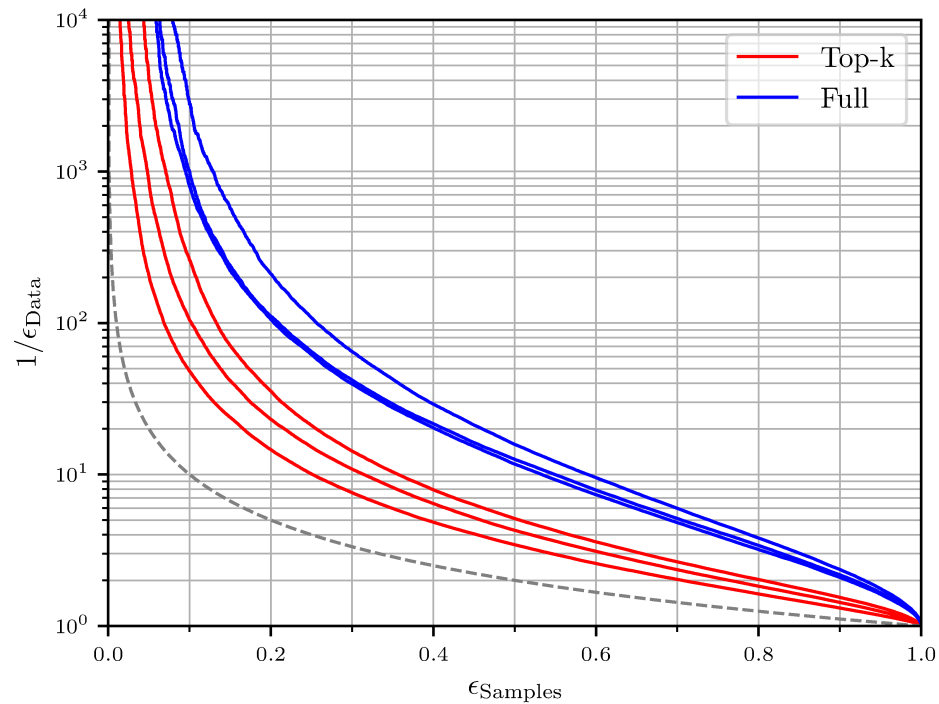
How many **different particle types** are in the data set?



Training on and sampling **top jets**: 1D distributions



Training on and sampling **top jets**: Classifier test



Sampling speed:

