# Interpretable Machine Learning for Particle Physics

# Jesse Thaler



APS DPF / Pheno 2024, University of Pittsburgh — May 14, 2024

Jesse Thaler (MIT, IAIFI) — Interpretable Machine Learning for Particle Physics

Please put captions in this "black box"



# The NSF Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions (IAIFI /aI-faI/ iaifi.org)

Launched August 2020

## Deep Learning (AI) + Deep Thinking (Physics)

Jesse Thaler (MIT, IAIFI) — Interpretable Machine Learning for Particle Physics

## Deeper Understanding

# Next Generation of AI + Physics Talent

### **IAIFI** Postdoctoral Fellows

Golubeva





AI and Statistical Physics



Boyda

Al for Lattice QCD

Bright-Thonnney

AI for

Particle

Physics



AI for

Cuesta

Cosmological **Observations** 



Mathematical

**Physics** 

of AI



Gagliano



Time-Domain Astronomy





Grosso



AI for Collider Physics

AI for String Theory

### **IAIFI Summer School & Workshop**





Summer Workshop: August 12–16, 2024



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### Application deadline typically early October











### Micallef



Al for Neutrino **Physics** 

Mishra-Sharma









AI Frontiers of Reinforcement Learning



# Machine Learning at DFP-Pheno 2024

### Machine Learning & Al: New Physics

Decision tree autoencoder anomaly detection on FPGA at L1 triggers - take 2	Tae Min Hong	
David Lawrence 105, University of Pittsburgh	14:00 - 14:15	
AutoDQM for Anomaly Detection in the CMS Detector	Chosila Sutantawibul	
David Lawrence 105, University of Pittsburgh	14:15 - 14:30	
Residual ANODE	Ranit Das	
David Lawrence 105, University of Pittsburgh	14:30 - 14:45	
Exploring Optimal Transport for Event-Level Anomaly Detection at the Large Hadron Collider	Hancheng Li	
David Lawrence 105, University of Pittsburgh	14:45 - 15:00	
Constraining the SMEFT Higgs Sector with Machine Learning	Radha Mastandrea	
David Lawrence 105, University of Pittsburgh	15:00 - 15:15	
Probing a GeV-scale Scalar Boson and a TeV-scale Vector-like Quark Associated with \$U(1)_{T3R Umar Sohail Oureshi	}\$ at the Large Hadron	

### Quantum Field & String Theory: Non-perturbativity and Amplitudes

Machine learning and (large-N) field theory David Lawrence 104, University of Pittsburgh Zhengkang Zhang 16:45 - 17:00

### Instrumentation: Neutrinos, Dark Matter, and Scintillation

NuDot, R&D testbed for future large-scale neutrino detectors Law 111, University of Pittsburgh Masooma Sarfraz 14:45 - 15:00

Jinghong Yang

15:10 - 15:30

### Mini-Symposium: Quantum Instrumentation

Exploring Quantum Machine Learning for High-Energy Physics University of Pittsburgh / Carnegie Mellon University

### Computing, Analysis Tools, and Data Handling

ARCANE Reweighting: A Solution to the Negative Weights Problem in Collider Monte Carlo	Prasanth Shyamsundar				
David Lawrence 105, University of Pittsburgh	16:00 - 16:15				
A Matrix-Based Approach for Jet-Parton Assignment Leveraging Mass and Momentum Using CMS Open Data Eric Reinhardt					
Resolving Combminatorial Problems with Quantum Algorithms	Jacob Scott				
David Lawrence 105, University of Pittsburgh	16:30 - 16:45				
Multi-vertex jet trigger at ATLAS' upgrade for HL-LHC using Boosted Decision Trees on FPGAs	Santiago Cane				
David Lawrence 105, University of Pittsburgh	16:45 - 17:00				
Data Quality Monitoring for the HL-LHC Upgrade to the CMS Outer Tracker	Brandi Nicole Skipworth				
David Lawrence 105, University of Pittsburgh	17:00 - 17:15				
A Herwig7 Underlying Event Tune for Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider Energies at 200 GeV	Umar Sohail Qureshi				
David Lawrence 105, University of Pittsburgh	17:15 - 17:30				

### QCD & Heavy Ion Physics: Jets and Energy Correlators

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 Det Calibration in ATLAS Using Machine Learning Networks
 Denji Lunday (P

 Law 107, University of Pittsburgh
 15:00 - 15:15

 **Today at Lunch: DOE PI Meeting Computational HEP and Al/ML Coordinating Panel for Software and Computing Constant (CPSC) Townhall** 

 Coordinating panel for software and computing townhall

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### Compared to 3 talks at Pheno 2019!

### Machine Learning & Al: Collider Physics

Trackless Jet Vertexing and Timing using ML	Wen Han Chiu	
Law 109, University of Pittsburgh	14:00 - 14:15	
Towards a data-driven model of hadronization using normalizing flows	Ahmed Youssef	
Law 109, University of Pittsburgh	14:15 - 14:30	
Search for New Physics in the Merged Diphoton plus Photon final state with the CMS Detector	Austin Edwin Townsend	
Law 109, University of Pittsburgh	14:30 - 14:45	
The versatility of flow-based fast calorimeter surrogate models	lan Pang	
Law 109, University of Pittsburgh	14:45 - 15:00	
Studies into di-Tau mass reconstruction for high mass resonances at the ATLAS experiment	Kyle Angelo Granados	
Law 109, University of Pittsburgh	15:00 - 15:15	
Deep Learning Based Tagger for Highly Collimated Photons at CMS	Kyungmin Park	
Law 109, University of Pittsburgh	15:15 - 15:30	

### Electroweak & Higgs Physics: Electroweak Physics at the LHC

New W Boson Decay Channel at the LHC David Lawrence 207, University of Pittsburgh Peiran Li 17:00 - 17:15

### Dark Matter: WIMPs, DM Simulation and ML

Sweeping the Dust Away: An unbiased map of the Milky Way's gravitational potential using unsupervised ML *Eric Putney* David Lawrence 120, University of Pittsburgh 16:45 - 17:00

### Mini-Symposium: Neutrino Science with the DUNE Experiment

Deep-learning at DUNE Far Detector University of Pittsburgh / Carnegie Mellon University Prof. Jianming Bian 16:45 - 17:00

Neural Network Based Fast Optical Simulation Method in ProtoDUNE-VD

University of Pittsburgh / Carnegie Mellon University

Shuaixiang (Shu) Zhang 17:00 - 17:15

# "... but what is the machine actually learning?"

## What does it really mean for ML to be "Interpretable"? (Or explainable, trustworthy, safe, robust, aligned, helpful, transparent, ...)

Obligatory apology that examples below are heavily drawn from my research in collider physics

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# "... but what is the machine actually learning?"

My evolving perspective:

The desire for human interpretability often arises when we imperfectly specify the task we want to accomplish

A more actionable definition of interpretability: identifying low-rank structures in high-dimensional datasets

# Interpretable Machine Learning for Particles Physics



## Confronting the Black Box

To benefit from machine learning advances, we must ensure that our algorithmic choices align with our scientific goals



## Case Study in Jet Classification

When possible, pursue active interpretability, where you control the network architecture and training paradigm



## The Next Frontier for Interpretability

Foundation models identify generically useful features, which challenge the importance of task alignment





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# Likelihood Ratio Trick

Key example of simulation-based inference

Goal: Training Data: Learnable Function:

Estimate p(x) / q(x)Finite samples P and Q f(x) parametrized by, e.g., neural networks

Loss Function(al): 
$$L = -\langle \log f(x) \rangle_{\mathbf{P}} + \langle f(x) - f(x) \rangle_{\mathbf{P}}$$

[see e.g. Cranmer, Pavez, Louppe, arXiv 2015; D'Agnolo, Wulzer, PRD 2019; simulation-based inference in Cranmer, Brehmer, Louppe, PNAS 2020; relation to f-divergences in Nguyen, Wainwright, Jordan, AoS 2009; Nachman, Thaler, PRD 2021]

Many HEP problems can be expressed in this form!



# Likelihood Ratio Trick

Key example of simulation-based inference

Goal: Estimate p(x) / q(x)Training Data: Finite samples P and Q f(x) parametrized by, e.g., neural networks Learnable Function:

Loss Function(al): 
$$L = - \langle \log f(x) \rangle_{P} + \langle f(x) - f(x) \rangle_{P}$$

 $\underset{f(x)}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} L = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$ Asymptotically:  $-\min_{f(x)} L = \int \mathrm{d}x \, p(x) \log \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$ 

Likelihood ratio

Kullback–Leibler divergence

[see e.g. Cranmer, Pavez, Louppe, arXiv 2015; D'Agnolo, Wulzer, PRD 2019; simulation-based inference in Cranmer, Brehmer, Louppe, PNAS 2020; relation to f-divergences in Nguyen, Wainwright, Jordan, AoS 2009; Nachman, Thaler, PRD 2021]

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Many HEP problems can be expressed in this form!



# Likelihood Ratio Trick

Key example of simulation-based inference

Asymptotically, same structure as Lagrangian mechanics!

Action: 
$$L = \int \mathrm{d}x \, \mathcal{L}(x)$$

Lagrangian: 
$$\mathcal{L}(x) = -p(x)\log f(x) + q(x)(f(x)) - p(x)\log f(x)$$

Euler-Lagrange: 
$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial f} = 0$$
 Solution:  $f(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$ 

Requires shift in focus from solving problems to specifying problems

[see e.g. Cranmer, Pavez, Louppe, <u>arXiv 2015</u>; D'Agnolo, Wulzer, <u>PRD 2019</u>; simulation-based inference in Cranmer, Brehmer, Louppe, <u>PNAS 2020</u>; relation to f-divergences in Nguyen, Wainwright, Jordan, <u>AoS 2009</u>; Nachman, Thaler, <u>PRD 2021</u>]

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Many HEP problems can be expressed in this form!



# "What is the machine learning?"

For this loss function, an estimate of the likelihood ratio derived from sampled data and regularized by the network architecture and training paradigm

# "What is the machine learning?"

For this loss function, an estimate of the likelihood ratio derived from sampled data and regularized by the network architecture and training paradigm

# "But I want to understand what it has learned?"

Do you really expect the likelihood ratio to take on a particularly nice functional form?

> " " . . .

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N.B. QFT calculations often involve special functions that have no elementary representation

# Why might we want ML to be "Interpretable"?

. . .

. . .

Or explainable, trustworthy, safe, robust, aligned, helpful, transparent, ...

### Scientific Reasons:

### **Sociological Reasons:**

Could be working in non-asymptotic regime Training data might be biased in some way Result could depend on poorly modeled features Limited ability to perform independent validation Need for compact symbolic expressions Desire to generalize away from specific context

**Skeptical** of algorithmic/statistical/computational reasoning Need to explain decisions to external **stakeholders** Desire to **manage risks** from unforeseen outcomes

## All valid reasons, but suggest imperfect specification of our initial goals!

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# Likelihood Ratio Trick in HEP



[Andreassen, Komiske, Metodiev, Nachman, JDT, PRL 2020; + Suresh, ICLR SimDL 2021]

### Monte Carlo Reweighting



[Nachman, JDT, PRD 2020; inspired by Andersen, Gutschow, Maier, Prestel, EPIC 2020]

## For these applications, goal is "accuracy" more than "interpretability"

Ask me offline why I think standard methods to assess accuracy, quantify uncertainties, and validate results are incomplete

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Apologies that examples are all from my own work

### **Resolution Estimation**



[Gambhir, Nachman, JDT, PRL 2022, PRD 2022]



## Identifying low-rank structures in high-dimensional datasets

This is an actionable definition of interpretability, which may or may not be relevant to the physics problem of interest

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## Case Study in Jet Classification

When possible, pursue active interpretability, where you control the network architecture and training paradigm



The Next Frontier for Interpretability Foundation models identify generically useful features, which challenge the importance of task alignment

# The More Things Change...

Jet classification, from my talk at Pheno 2019

## Application of Likelihood Ratio Trick



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## Interpretability in Machine Learning







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# Three Lessons since Pheno 2019

Highlighting the power of active interpretability



If you have a catalog of trusted observables, you can translate a black-box algorithm on low-level inputs into a simple classifier on high-level features

$$\langle \Phi^{a_1} \Phi^{a_2} \rangle_{\mathcal{P}}$$

If there are simple operations like multiplication and sums that don't really require "interpretation", you can bake those into your machine learning architecture

$$\|\Phi(\hat{p}_1) - \Phi(\hat{p}_2)\|$$
  
  $\leq L \|\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2\|$ 

If there is a property you want your network to have, make sure to impose algorithmic guardrails, otherwise the machine might pursue undesirable optimization

Apologies that examples are all from my own work

# Translating the Black Box

Selecting Energy Flow Polynomials that mimic CNN decisions

### Iteratively building likelihood ratio estimate from catalog of high-level observables



### A glimpse at an alternative history for field of jet substructure

	$\kappa$	$\beta$	Chrom $\#$	0.95
Т		_	_	0.94 D Black-box Guided
	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	0.92 - Brute Force CNN CNN 6 HI
	0	2	2	0.91 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 Computing Time (Min.)
	0	_	1	0.7 Background in space <i>EFP</i> <sub>i</sub> Signal in space <i>EFP</i> <sub>i</sub>
	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	
	-1	_	1	
	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{n}} \\ 0.3 \\ 0.2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} (\kappa=2, \beta=0.5) \\ 0.2 \end{bmatrix}$
	-1	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	
				0.0 - 12 - 10 - 8 - 6 - 4
				-12 $-10$ $-0$ $-4$

[Faucett, JDT, Whiteson, PRD 2021; using Komiske, Metodiev, JDT, JHEP 2018; C3 from Larkoski, Salam, JDT, JHEP 2013



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# Moments of Clarity

Alternative pooling operations for streamlined latent spaces

### Combining per-particle features through multiplication and summation

Same philosophy (and scaling) as Energy Flow Networks,

just new permutation-invariant pooling operations

Sum Pooling (Deep Sets, EFN, k=1) Moment Pooling (k = 2)

> Log Angularity through Symbolic **ReGression**:

[Gambhir, Osathapan, JDT, arXiv 2024; building off Komiske, Metodiev, JDT, JHEP 2019; see also Cranmer, Kreisch, Pisani, Villaescusa-Navarro, Spergel, Ho, ICLR 2021 SimDL]





## $\Phi_{\mathcal{L}}(r) = c_1 + c_2 \log(c_3 + r)$



# Safe but Incalculable

Formal IRC safety doesn't immediately ensure small non-perturbative corrections

### Regularizing learned features to ensure controlled behavior of per-particle representations





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# From the Living Review of ML for Particle Physics

Fascinating categorization!

Alternative answer to: "What is the goal of interpretable ML?"

### **Uncertainty Quantification**

### Interpretability

- Jet-images deep learning edition [DOI]
- What is the Machine Learning? [DOI]
- CapsNets Continuing the Convolutional Quest [DOI]
- Explainable AI for ML jet taggers using expert variables and layerwise relevance propagation [DOI]
- Resurrecting  $b\bar{b}h$  with kinematic shapes [DOI]
- Safety of Quark/Gluon Jet Classification
- An Exploration of Learnt Representations of W Jets
- Explaining machine-learned particle-flow reconstruction
- Creating Simple, Interpretable Anomaly Detectors for New Physics in Jet Substructure [DOI]
- Improving Parametric Neural Networks for High-Energy Physics (and Beyond) [DOI]
- Lessons on interpretable machine learning from particle physics [DOI]
- A Detailed Study of Interpretability of Deep Neural Network based Top Taggers [DOI]
- Interpretability of an Interaction Network for identifying  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  jets [DOI]
- Interpretable Machine Learning Methods Applied to Jet Background Subtraction in Heavy Ion Collisions [DOI]
- Interpretable deep learning models for the inference and classification of LHC data

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[HEPML-LivingReview, moderated by Nachman, Feickert, Krause, Winterhalder]

# E.g. SHapley Additive exPlanations (SHAP)



12 variable machine learning assisted analysis for classifying 5 particle-production channels

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Goal: Identify features driving decisions about classification

Quite similar to goal of identifying low-rank features

[Grojean, Paul, Qian, Strümke, Nature Reviews Physics 2022]

# "... but what is the machine actually learning?"

To the extent that "interpretability" is about identifying features...

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# "... but what is the machine actually learning?"

To the extent that "interpretability" is about identifying features...

# The Next Frontier: Foundation Models

Identify features useful for generic tasks, which get reused for specialized applications Purposeful misalignment between initial and downstream goals

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# Foundation Models for HEP

### Symmetry Augmentation



[Dillon, Kasieczka, Olischlager, Plehn, Sorrenson, Vogel, SciPost 2021]

### Masked Particle Modeling



[Heinrich, Golling, Kagan, Klein, Leigh, Osadchy, Raine, arXiv 2024]

### Multi-Category Classification



[Mikuni, Nachman, <u>arXiv 2024</u>]

### **Re-Simulation Similarity**



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The natural evolution of transfer learning

### Next Token Prediction



[Birk, Hallin, Kasieczka, arXiv 2024]



# Foundation Models for HEP

### Symmetry Augmentation



[Dillon, Kasieczka, Olischlager, Plehn, Sorrenson, Vogel, SciPost 2021]

### Masked Particle Modeling





Asymptotically, pre-training cannot yield improved performance, but very effective in practice

"What is the machine learning?!"

The natural evolution of transfer learning

### Next Token Prediction



[Birk, Hallin, Kasieczka, arXiv 2024]



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Artificial intelligence as a pathway to scientific insight

> Progress driven by early career talent with interdisciplinary expertise Consider applying to IAIFI Postdoctoral Fellowship this Fall!

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# **Physics intelligence** as a pathway to Al innovation