



UPPSALA  
UNIVERSITET

# NuRadioOpt: Optimization of Radio Detectors of Ultra-High Energy Neutrinos through Deep Learning and Differential Programming

Christian Glaser

Associate Professor, Uppsala University



Co-funded by  
the European Union



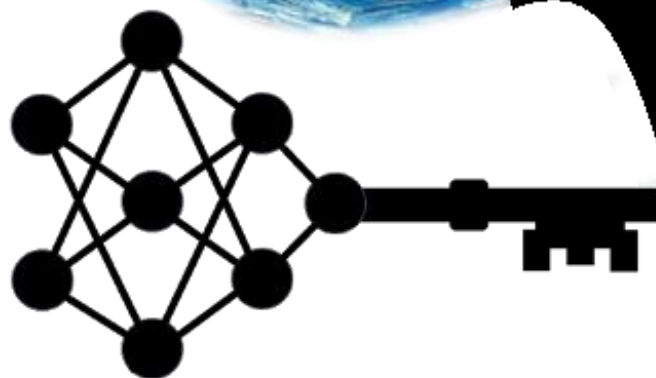
European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



Swedish  
Research  
Council



CARL TRYGGERS  
STIFTELSE  
FÖR VETENSKAPLIG FORSKNING



credit: Nils Heyer

# Executive Summary

NuRadioOpt will improve both key factors that impact the science output

detection rate of UHE neutrinos

→ objective 1: Deep-Learning-Based Trigger

precision to determine the  
neutrino's direction and energy

→ objective 2: End-to-End Optimization +  
Deep Learning Reconstruction

How:  
Using Deep Learning and  
Differential Programming



# In-Ice Radio Detection of Ultra-High-Energy Neutrinos

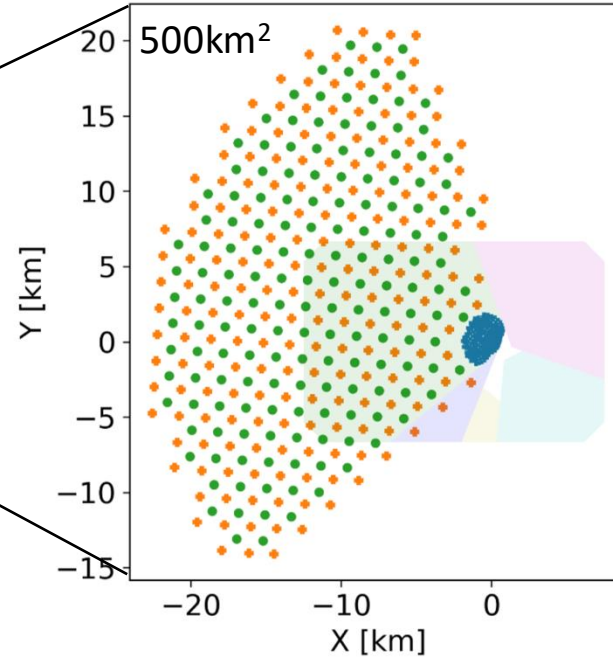
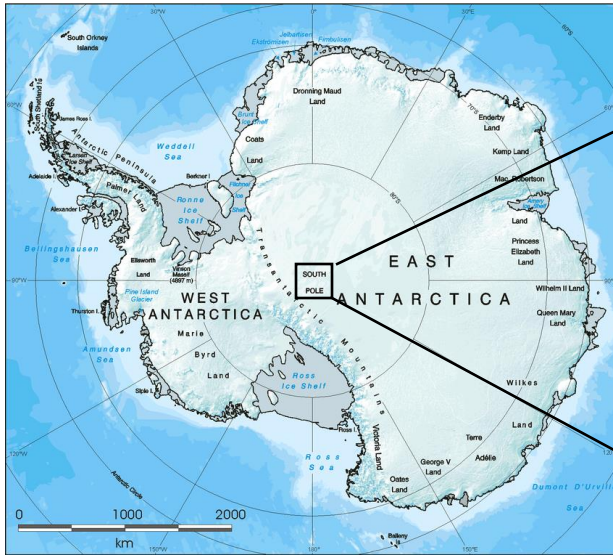


**ICECUBE**  
GEN2



**RNO-G**  
Radio Neutrino Observatory - Greenland

# In-Ice Radio Detection of Ultra-High-Energy Neutrinos

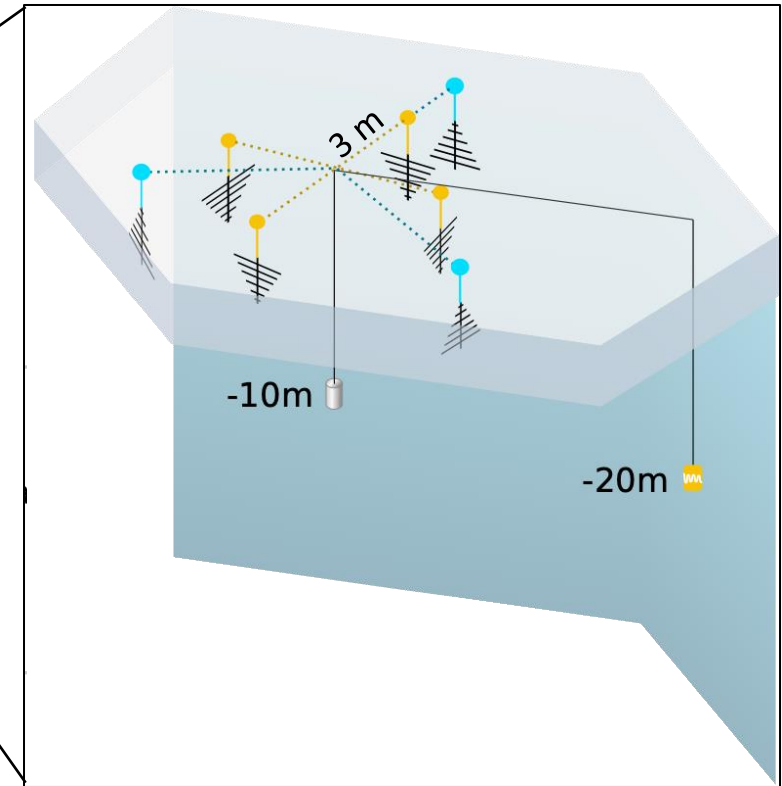
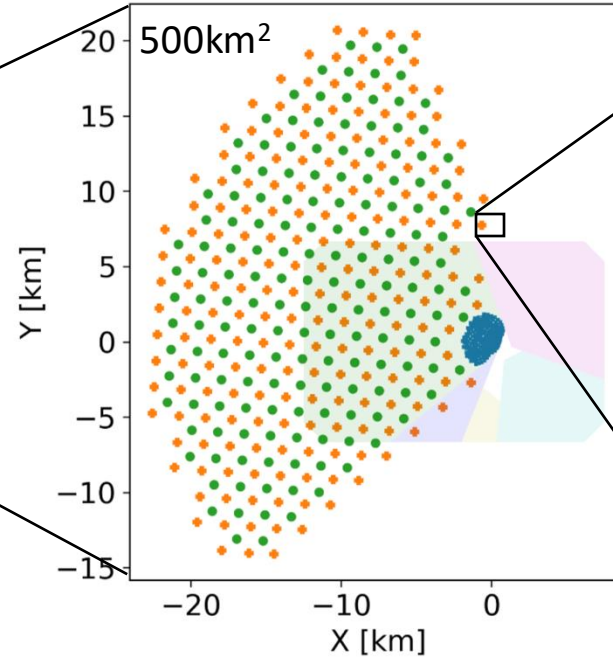
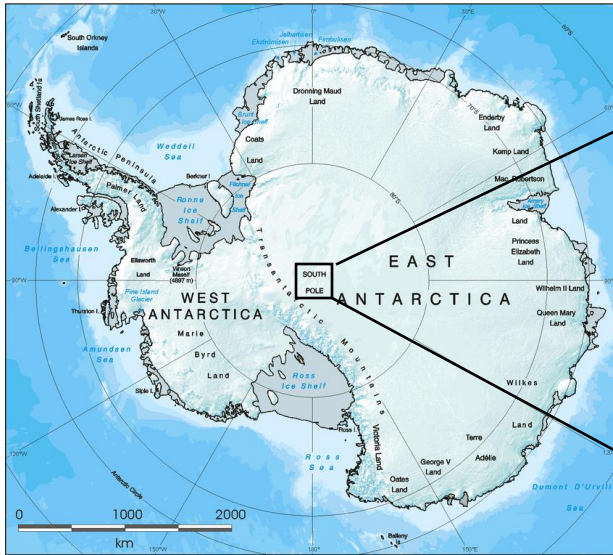


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# In-Ice Radio Detection of Ultra-High-Energy Neutrinos

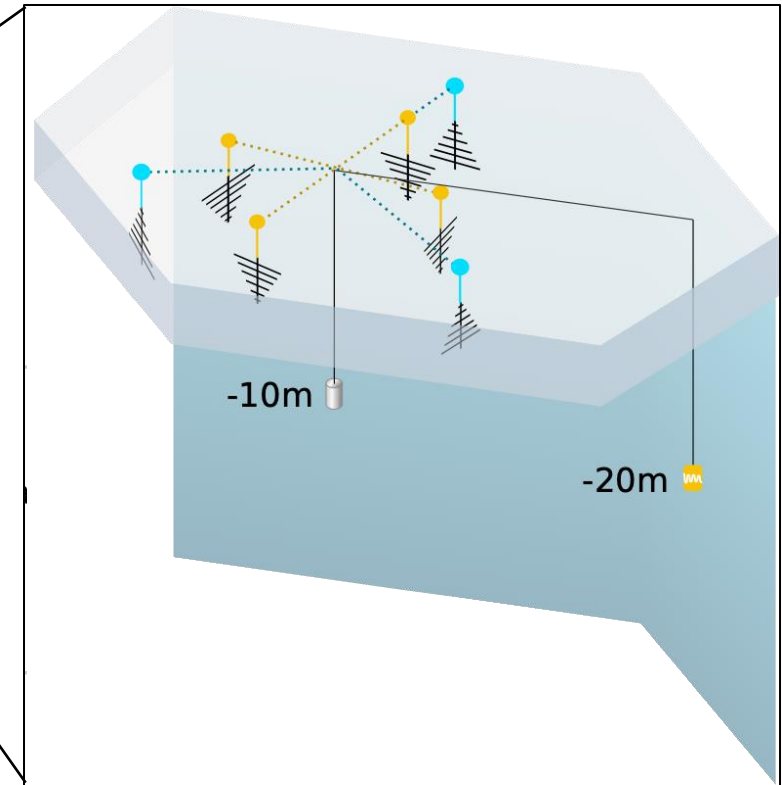
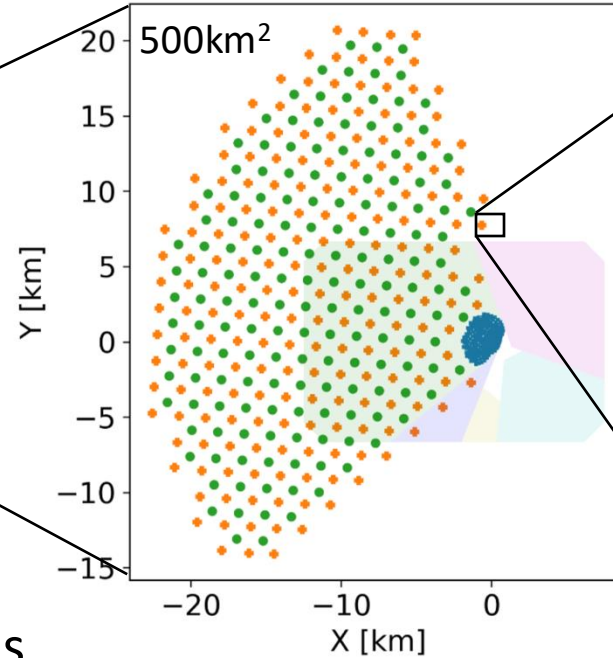
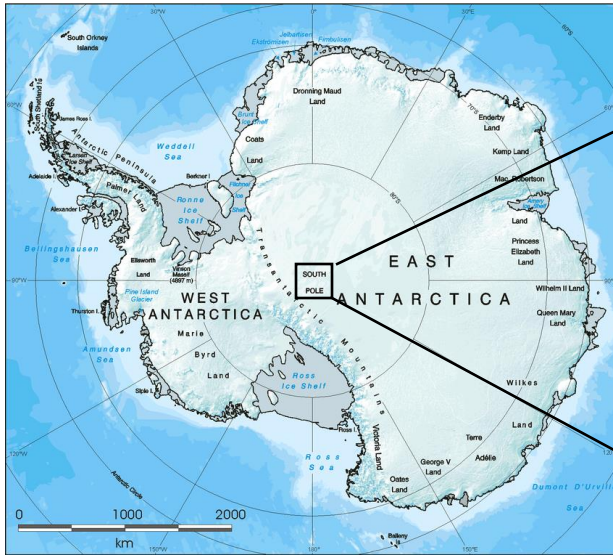




## RNO-G site, Summit Station Greenland, summer 2024



# In-Ice Radio Detection of Ultra-High-Energy Neutrinos

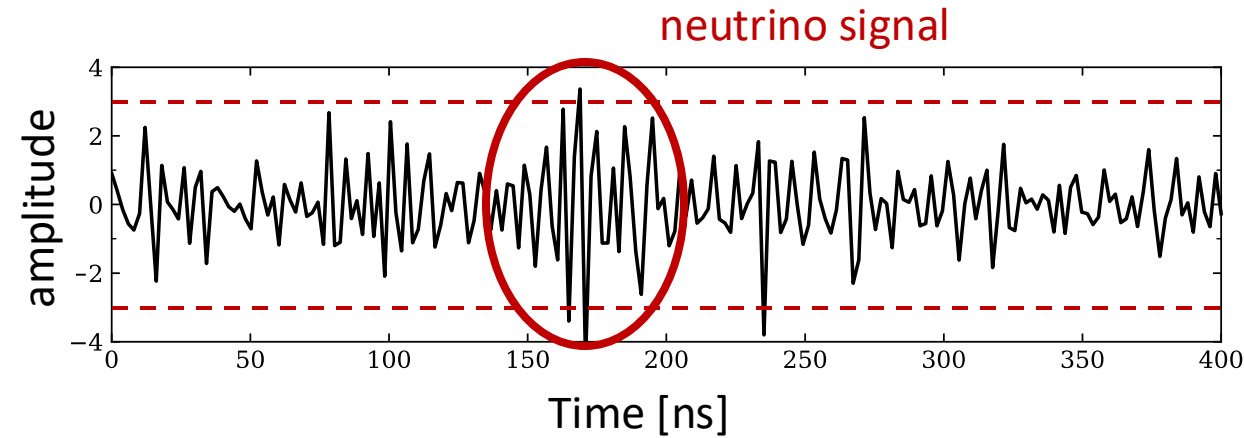


- Autonomous detector stations
  - limited data bandwidth and power budget
- Construction lasts 7 years limited by logistics!
  - detector size can't be increased

→ Only option to accelerate the research field:  
better detector

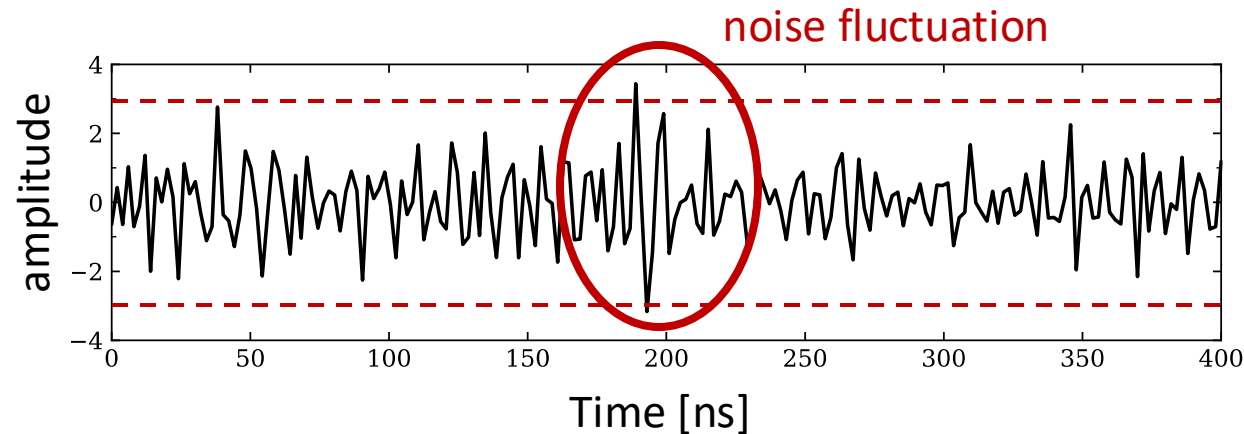
# Deep-Learning-Based Trigger

- Data can't be stored continuously
- Current state of the art: Threshold-based trigger
  - Unavoidable thermal noise fluctuations dominate trigger
  - Thresholds need to be high enough to limit trigger rate on thermal noise



- **Huge potential of improvement:**
  - offline analysis: thermal noise can be rejected with high efficiency
  - Neural networks are very good at classification tasks
  - Proof-of-concept study

*ARIANNA collab. (... C. Glaser, ...), JINST 2022*

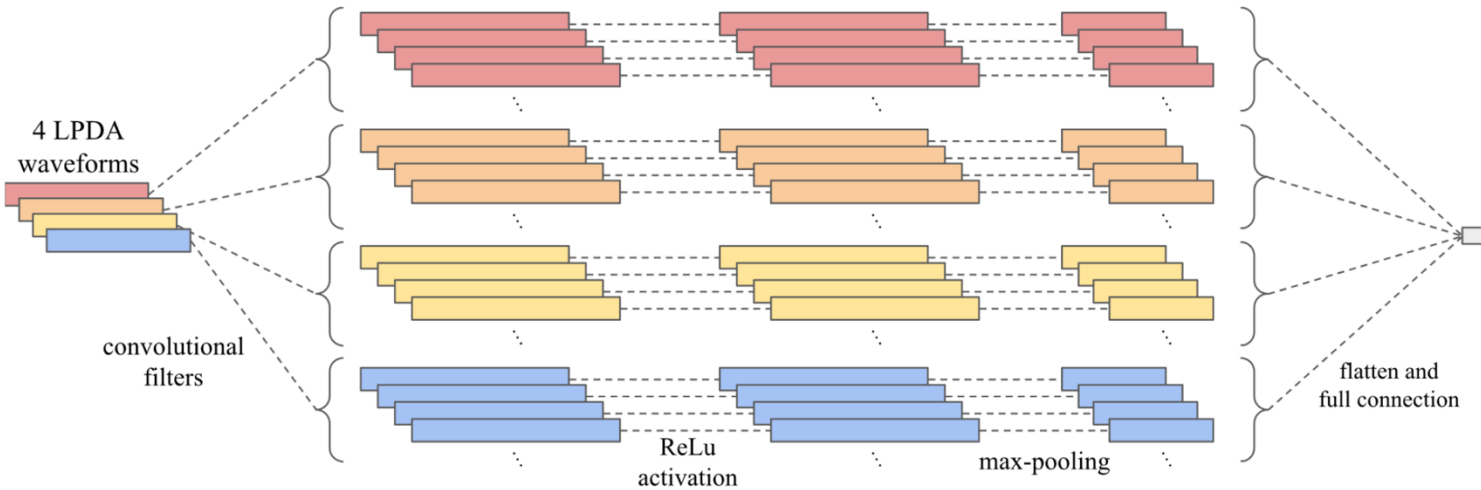




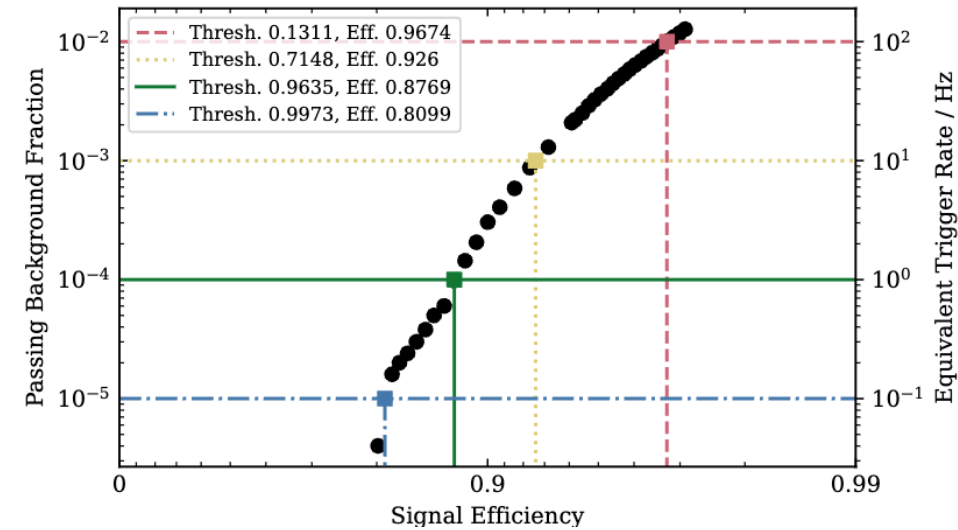
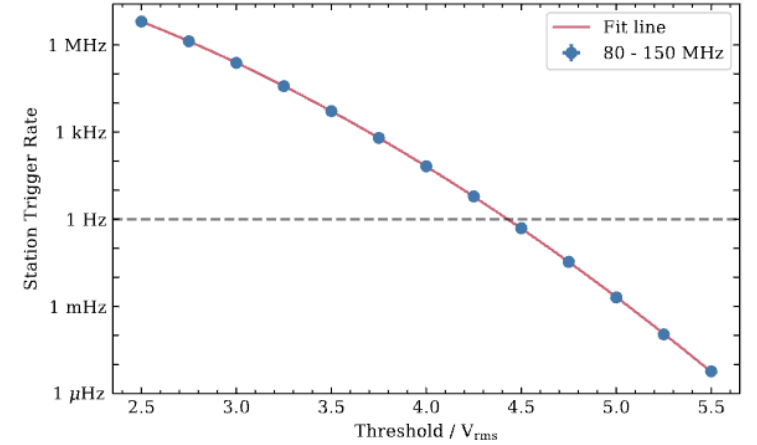
# Option 1: Second Stage Filter



Suitable network: Single CNN layer

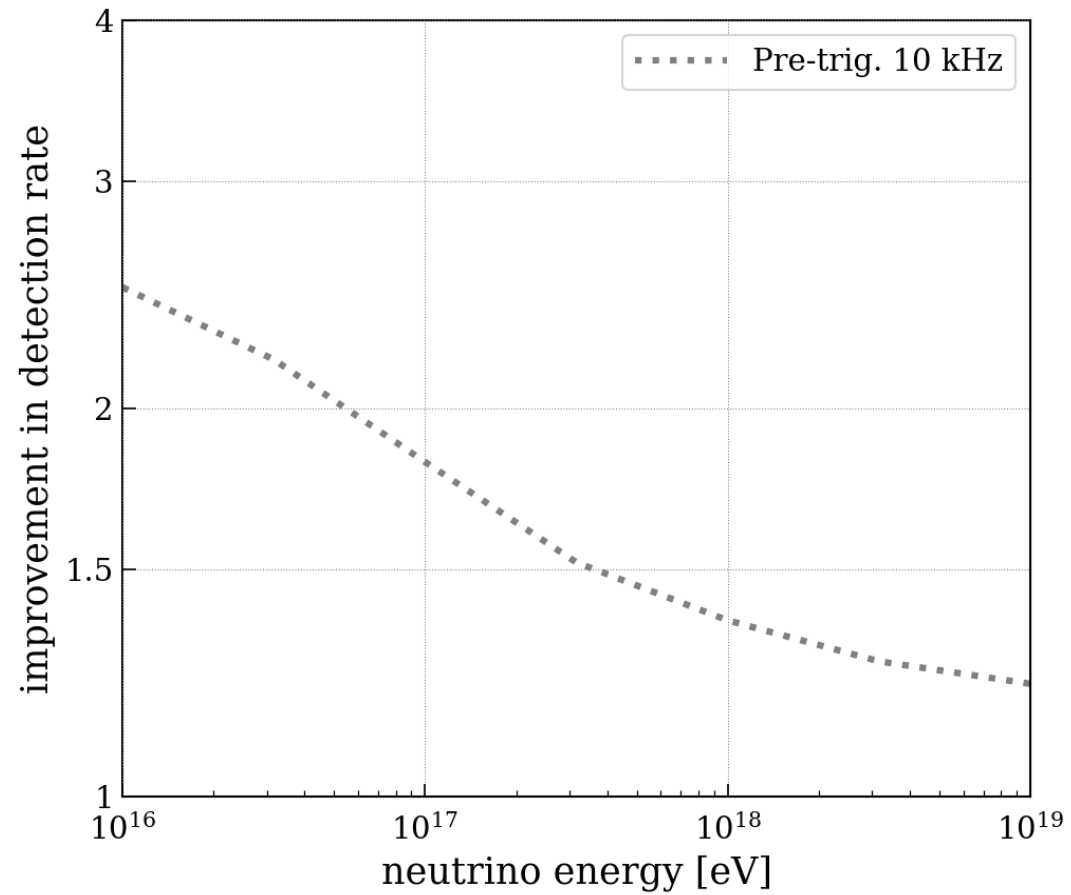


Fits easily on an "old" Cyclone V FPGA

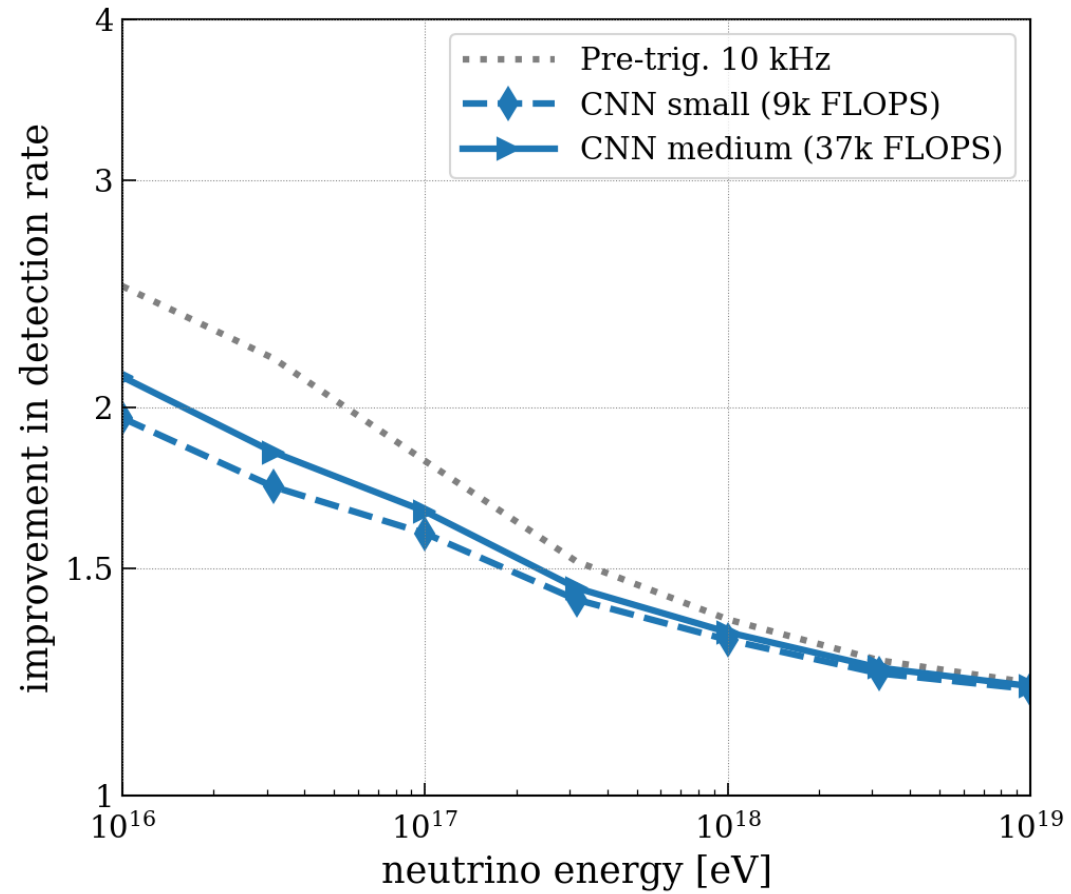


CNN rejects 99.99% of noise at ~90% signal efficiency

# Option 1: Second Stage Filter - Performance



# Option 1: Second Stage Filter - Performance



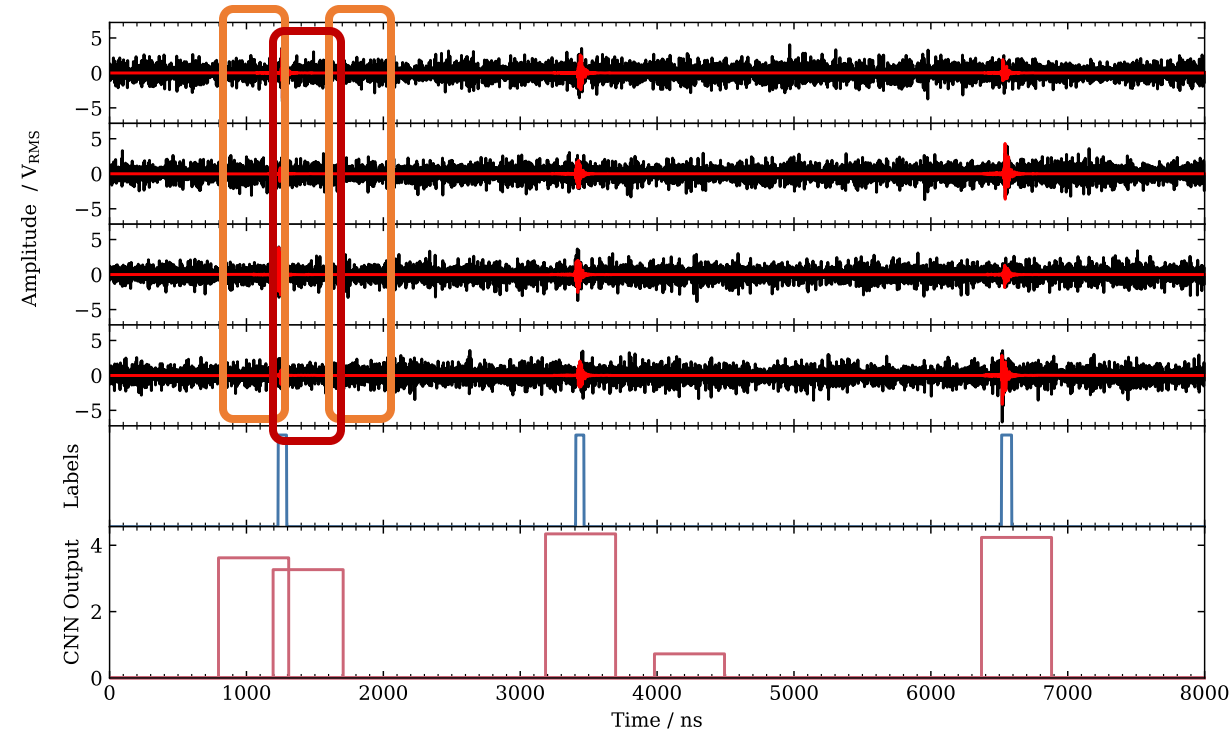


# Option 2: Continuous analysis of data stream

## Real-time Trigger Scheme



- Simplest option:
  - Run CNN on overlapping chunks of data
  - Trigger on CNN output

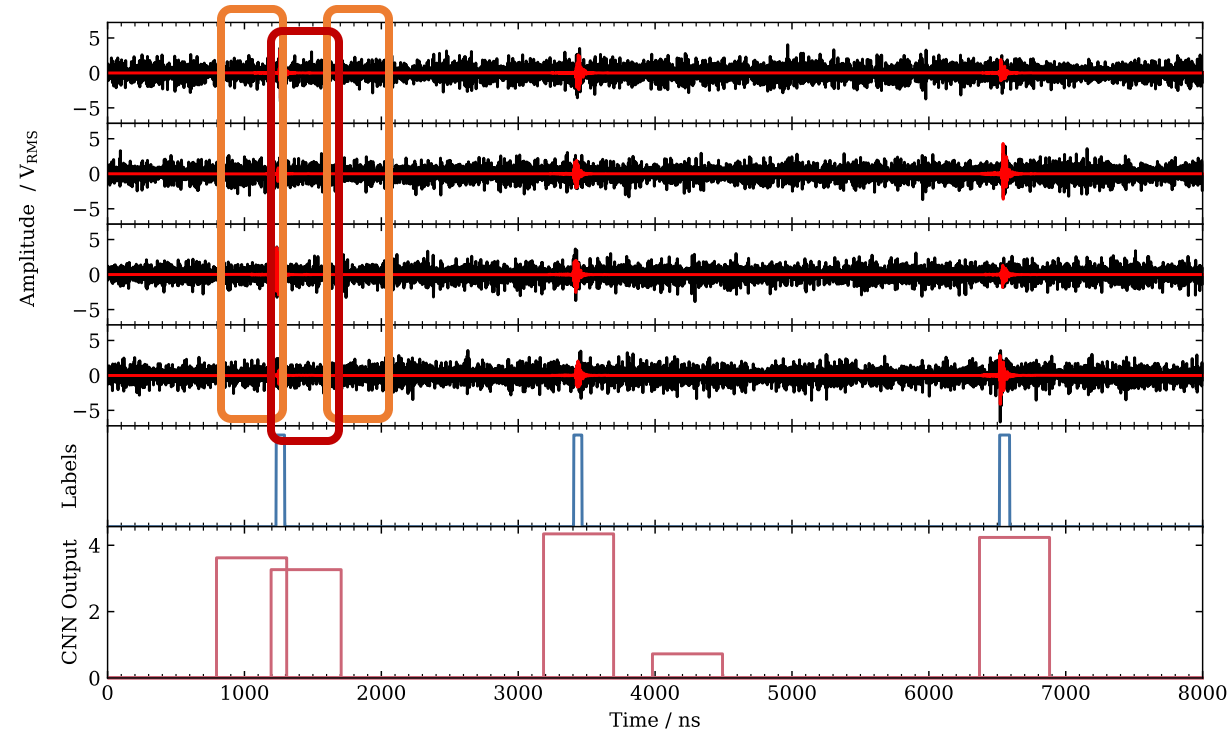


# Option 2: Continuous analysis of data stream

## Real-time Trigger Scheme



- Simplest option:
  - Run CNN on overlapping chunks of data
  - Trigger on CNN output
- Challenge: threshold set to trigger at 1Hz on thermal noise
  - 1 trigger every  $10^9$  samples
  - 1 trigger every 3.9M data chunks
- Solution:
  - No sigmoid activation
  - Hinge loss (penalize wrong predictions)

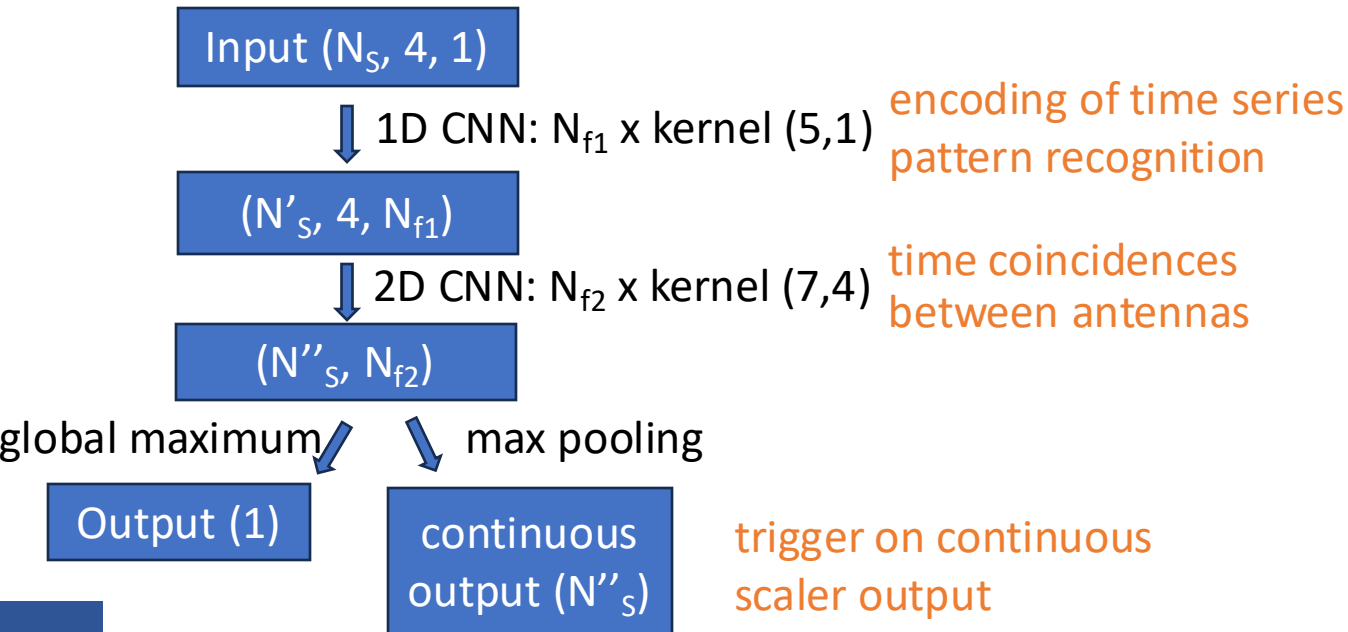


# Option 2: Continuous analysis of data stream

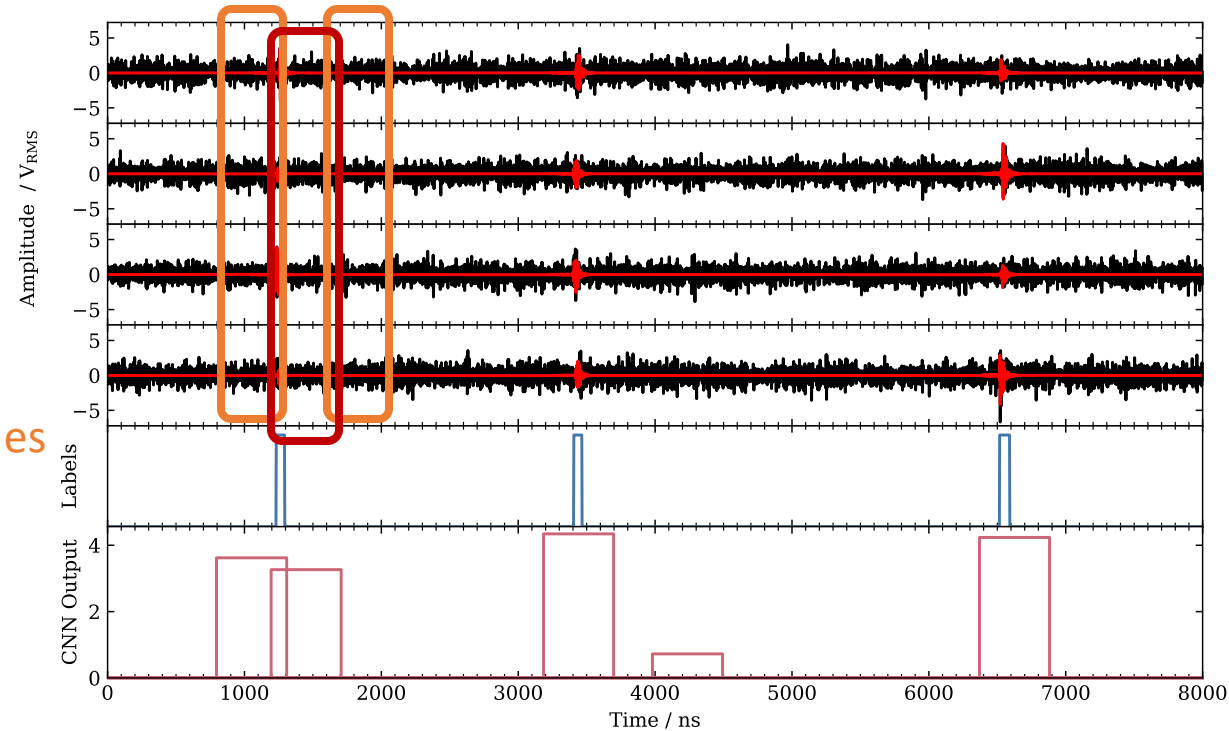
## Real-time Trigger Scheme



- Simplest option:
  - Run CNN on overlapping chunks of data
  - Trigger on CNN output
- Better: Translation invariant network

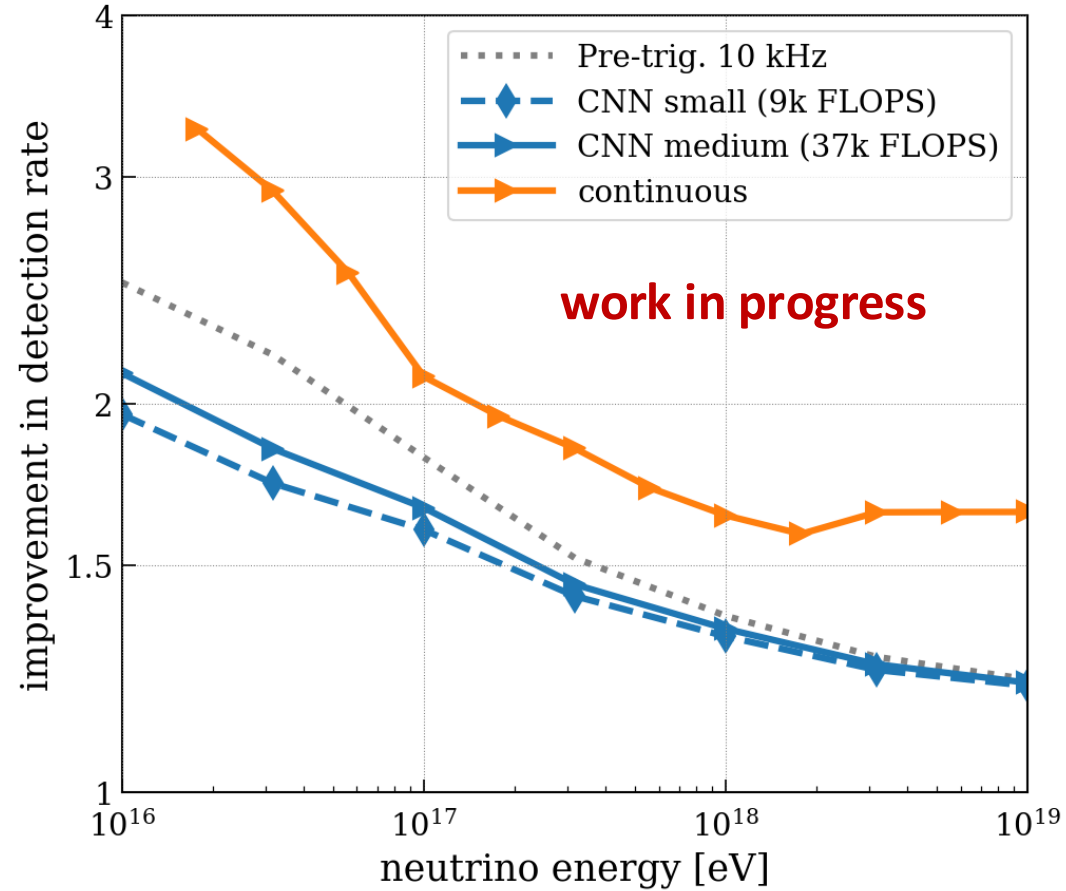


trigger on continuous scaler output  
reduced sampling rate due to striding

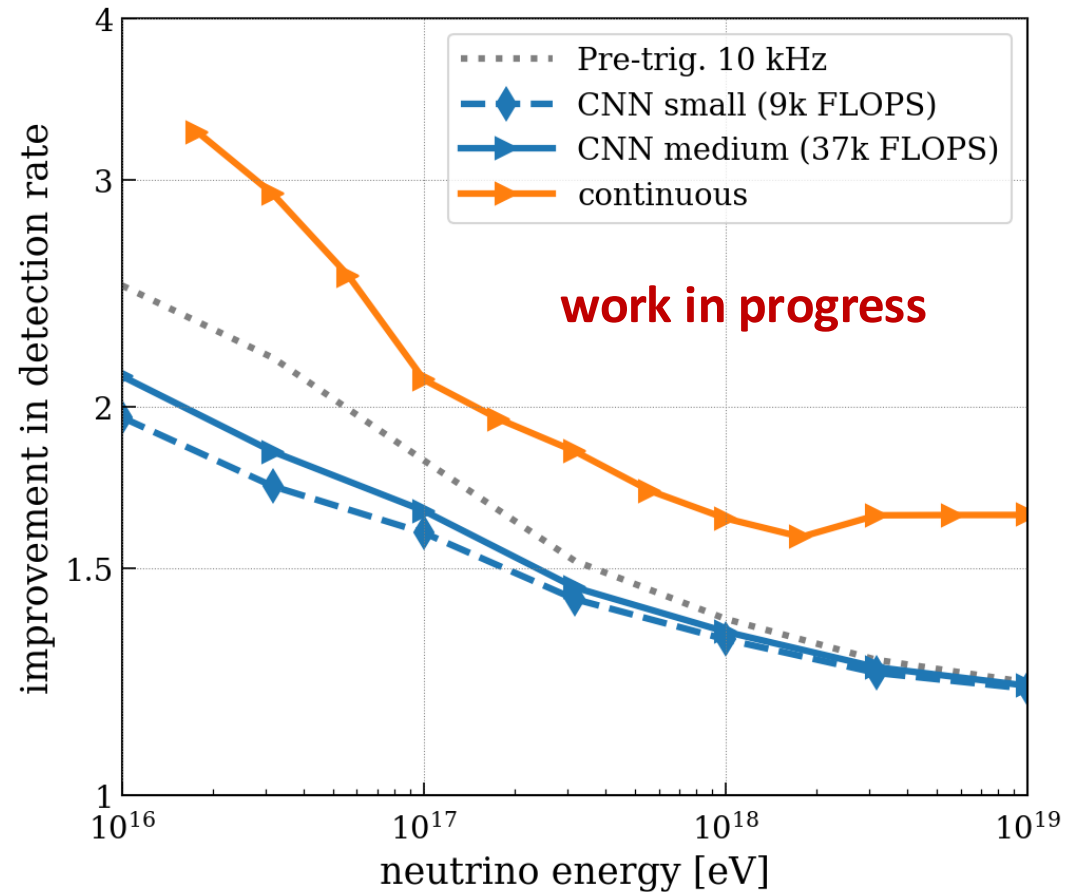




# Option 2: Continuous analysis of data stream

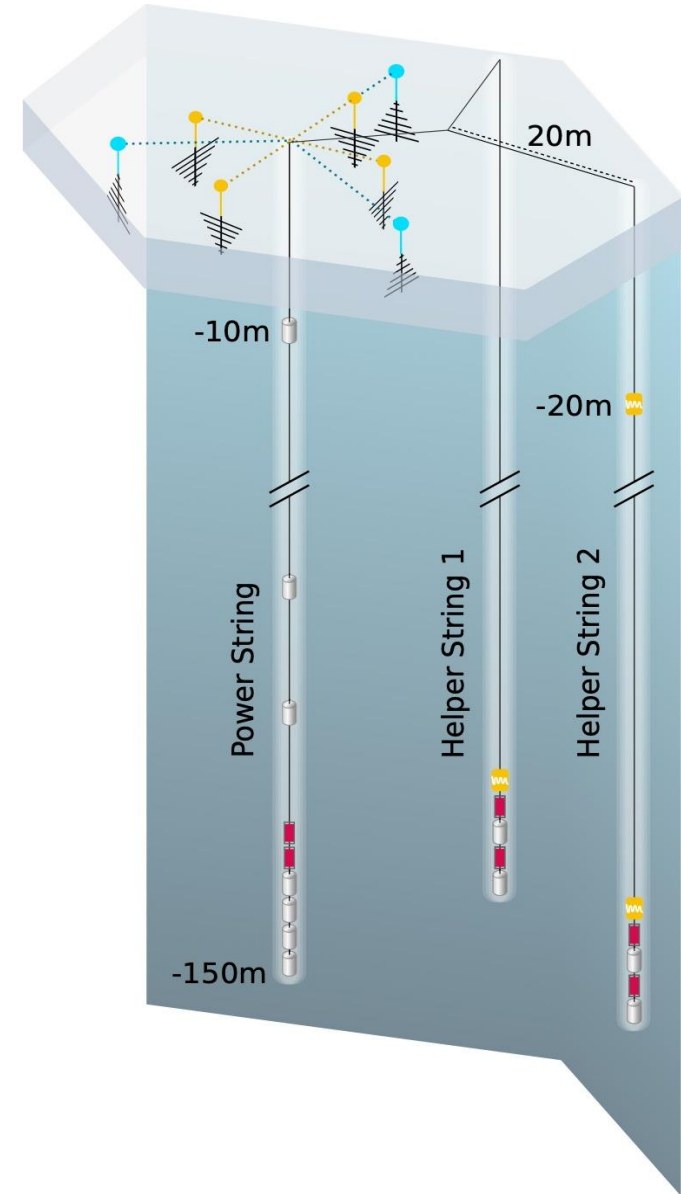


# Option 2: Continuous analysis of data stream



- Future improvements:  
More computing for same power budget  
→ **Neuromorphic Computing**  
(collaboration with Tommaso Dorigo and Fredrik Sandin)

# End-To-End Optimization

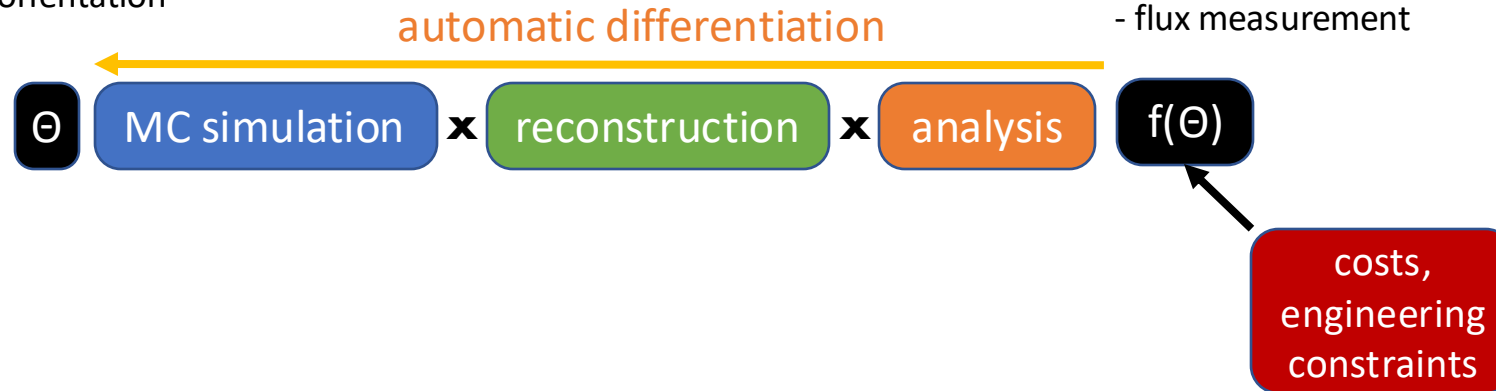




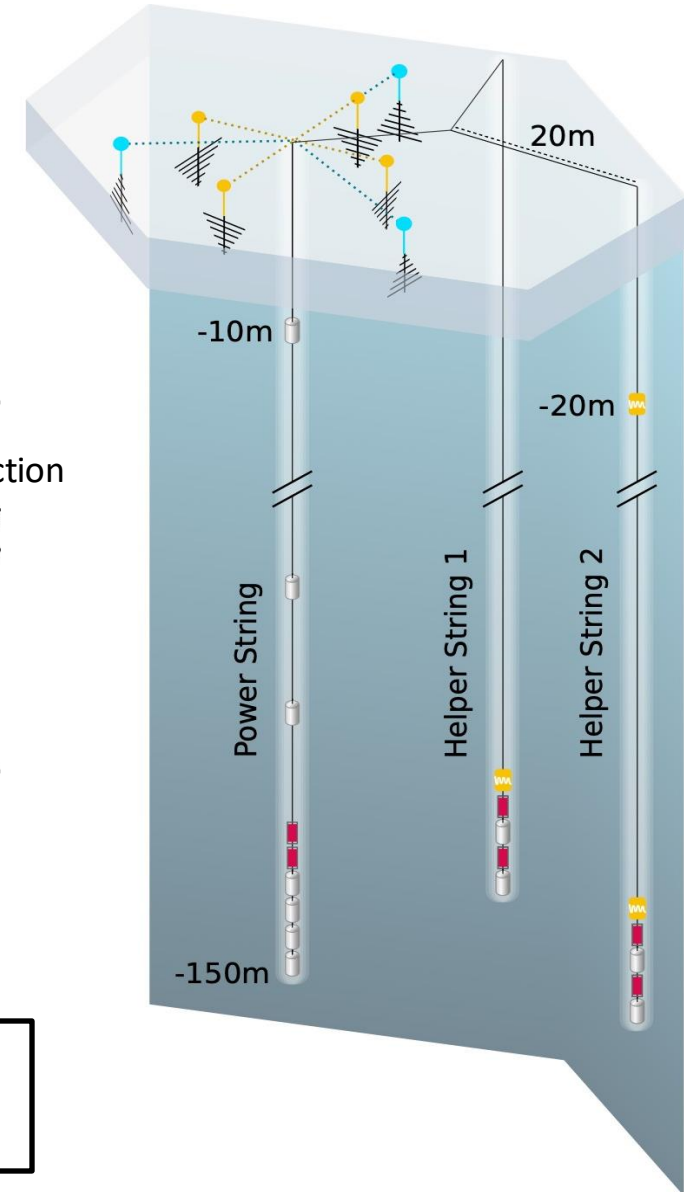
# End-To-End Optimization

- Deep learning and differential programming can build an end-to-end optimization pipeline
- Direct optimization of science objective

detector parameters, e.g.,  
- antenna positions  
- antenna orientation



science output, e.g.,  
- neutrino-nucleon cross-section  
- source discovery  
- flux measurement



→ Expected improvements: up to three times more precise measurement of neutrino direction and energy

# Likelihood Reconstruction

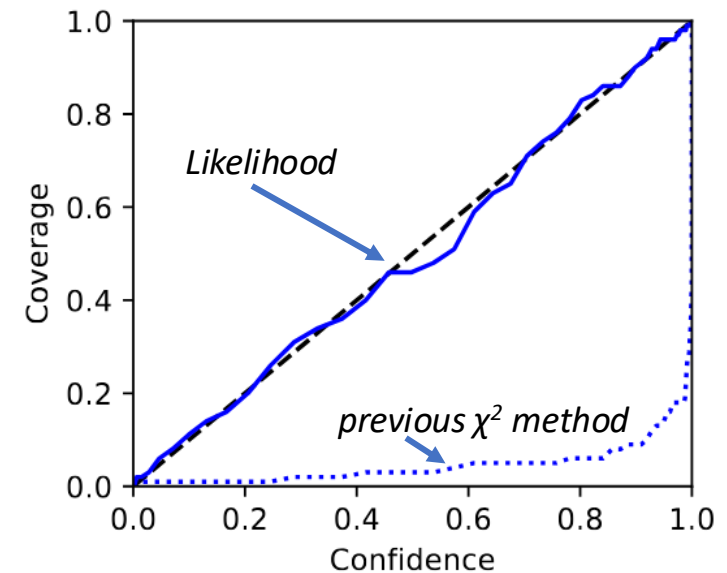
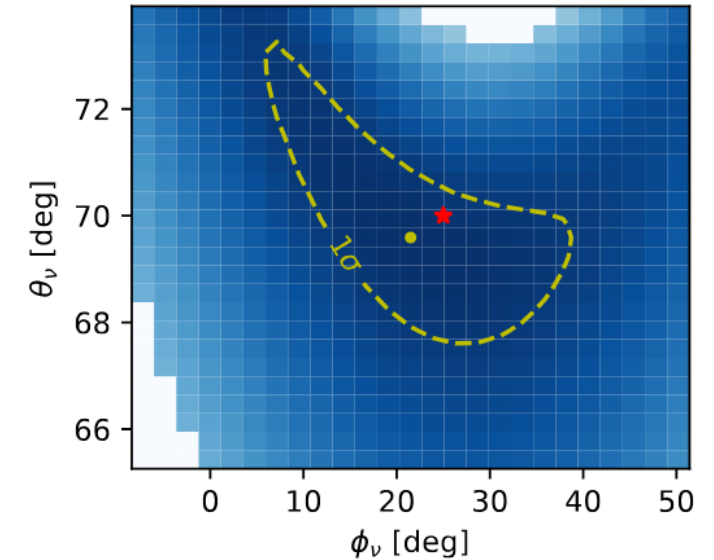
- Likelihood for Radio Neutrino Detectors:

$$p(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\theta}), \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^{n_t} |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\theta}))^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\theta}))\right)$$

Signal  
Trace      Noise

- Key ingredient: Bandwidth-limited noise can be modeled as multi-variate Gaussian
- Minimize to get best-fit parameters and uncertainties

$$-2 \ln \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\theta}); \mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \sum_{\text{ant.}} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\theta}))^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}(\boldsymbol{\theta})) + \text{const}$$



# Uncertainty Estimation using Fisher Information

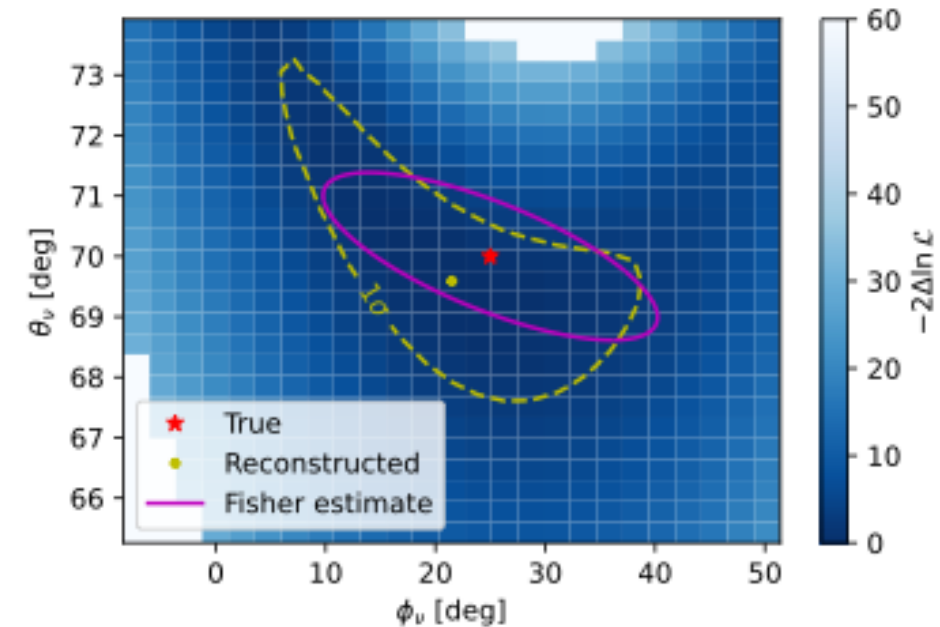
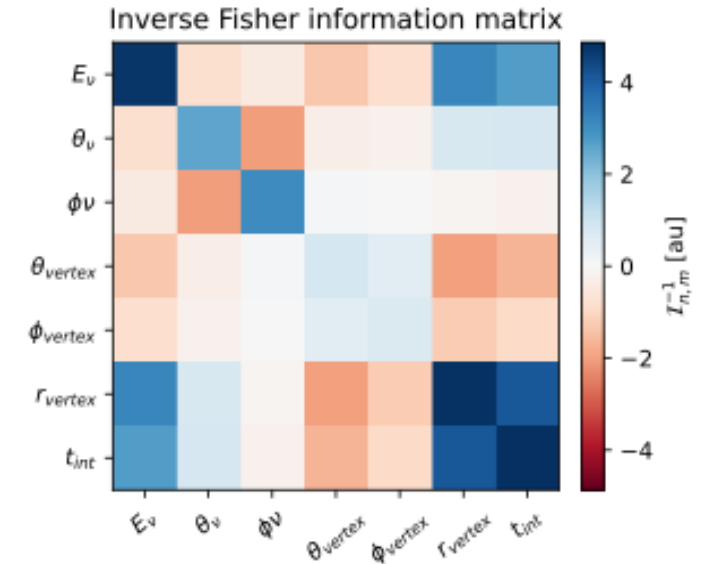
- Fisher Information Matrix can be calculated directly from signal model

$$\mathcal{I}_{m,n} = \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}^T}{\partial \theta_m} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\mu}}{\partial \theta_n}$$

- Inverse gives uncertainty estimate through Cramer-Rao bound
- -> Fast uncertainty estimate for any detector configuration

- Remaining steps to achieve differentiability:

- Differentiable signal model
  - Electric field generation from particle showers  
→ see Phillips's talk
  - Signal propagation through ice (ongoing)





Main science objectives of UHE neutrino astronomy:

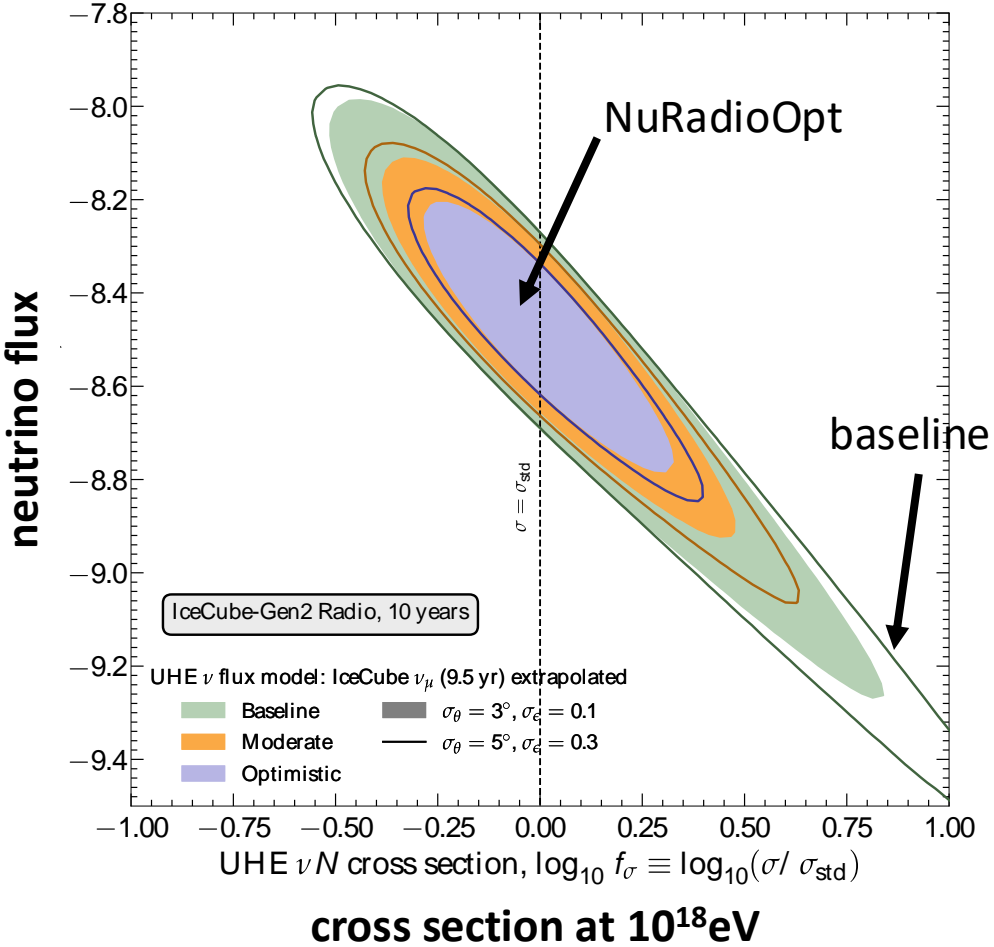
Neutrino-Nucleon Cross Section

Diffuse Flux

Point Sources

# Impact of NuRadioOpt

→ 3x more precise measurement



based on V. Valera, M. Bustamante, C. Glaser, JHEP 06 (2022) 105

## Main science objectives of UHE neutrino astronomy:

Neutrino-Nucleon  
Cross Section

→ 3x more precise measurement

*V. Valera, M. Bustamante, C. Glaser, JHEP 06 105 (2022)*

Diffuse Flux

→ expedite the detection of UHE neutrino fluxes  
by up to a factor of five

*V. Valera, M. Bustamante, C. Glaser, PRD 107, 043019 (2023)*

Point Sources

→ identify sources from deeper in our Universe,  
increasing the observable volume by a factor of three

*D. F. G. Fiorillo, V. Valera, M. Bustamante, JCAP03(2023)026*

## Main science objectives of UHE neutrino astronomy:

# Impact of NuRadioOpt

Neutrino-Nucleon  
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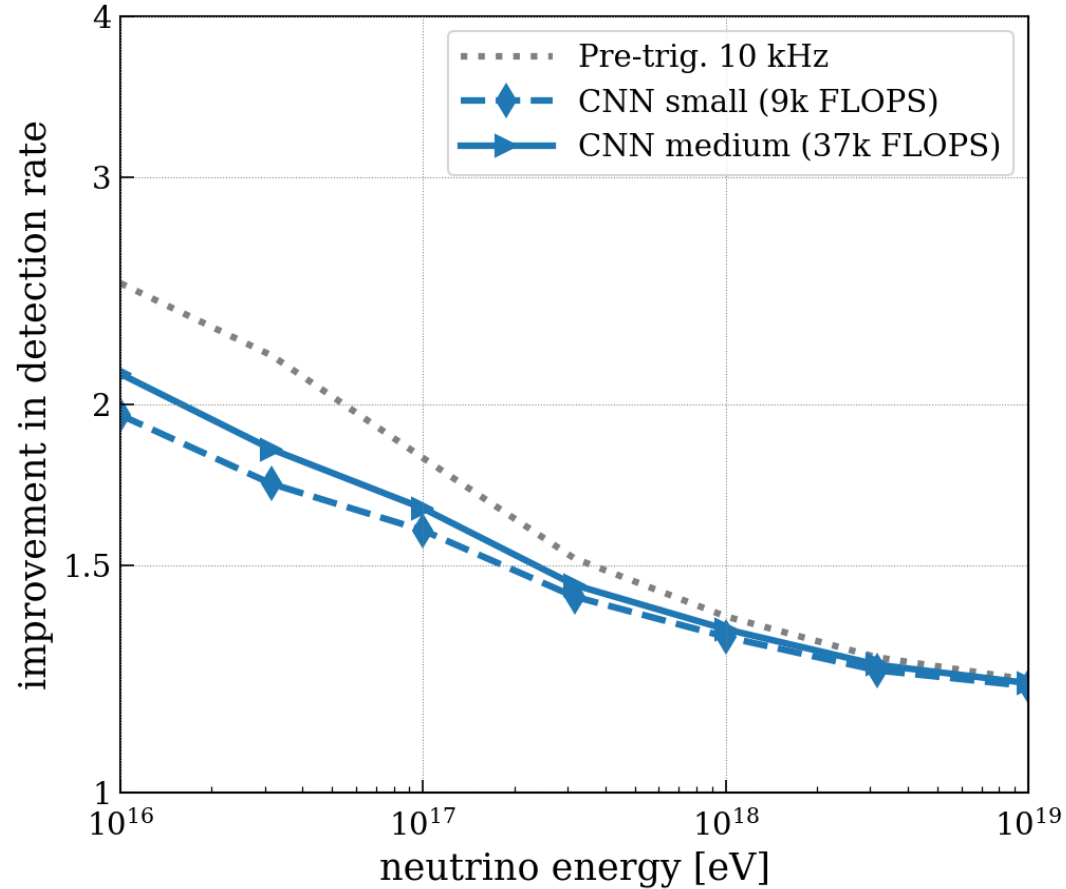
*D. F. G. Fiorillo, V. Valera, M. Bustamante, JCAP03(2023)026*

- **Improvements equivalent to building a more than three times larger detector** at essentially no additional costs
- because we are already at the limit of logistical resources at the South Pole, **NuRadioOpt is the only option to accelerate UHE neutrino science in the next decade**

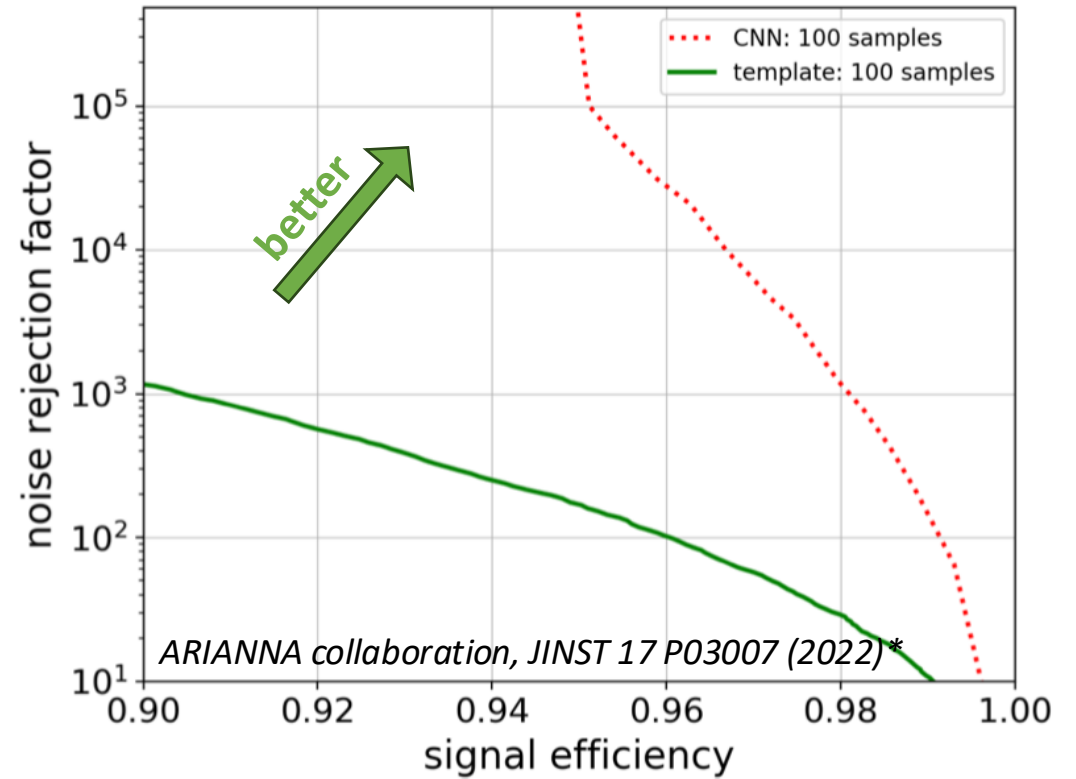
# Bonus slides



# Option 1: Second Stage Filter - Performance

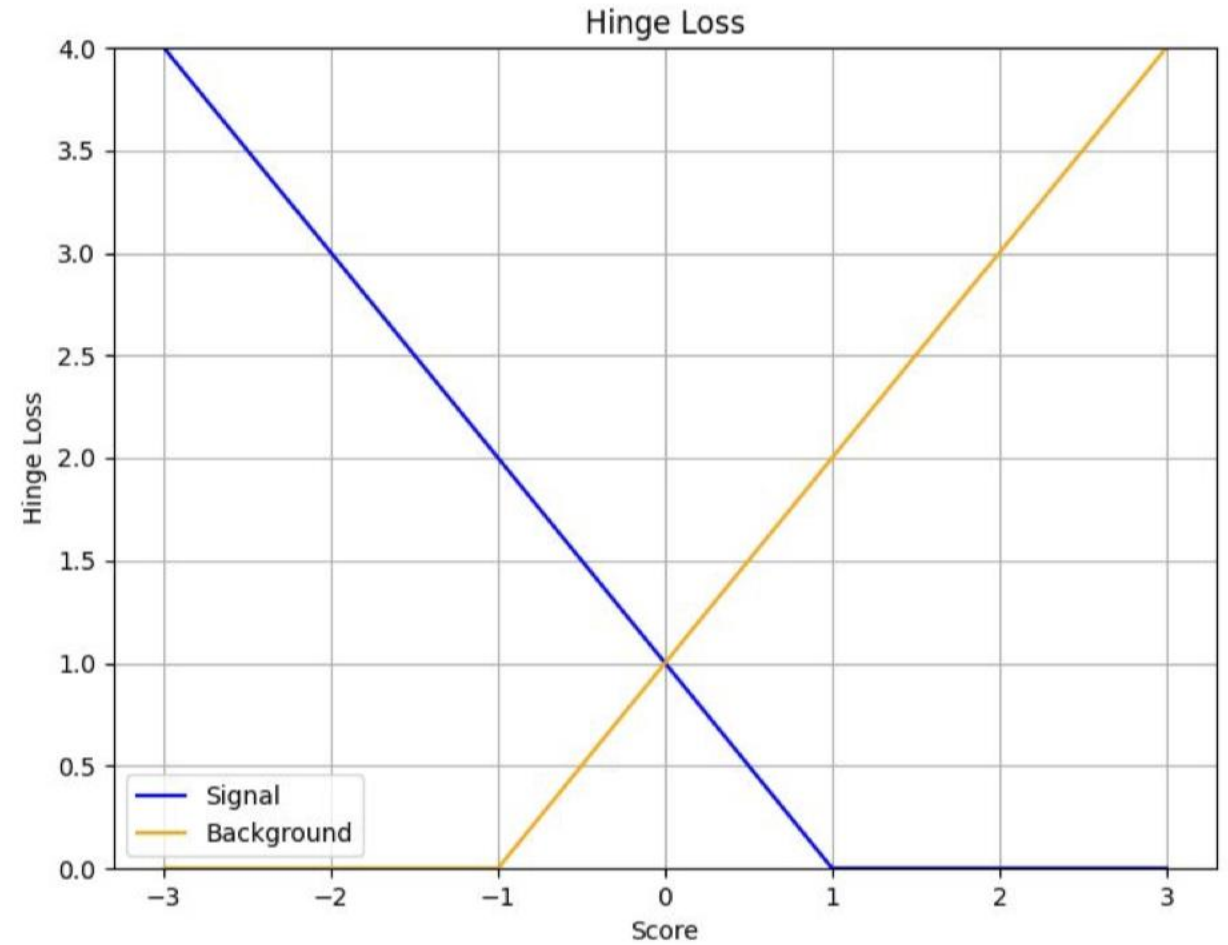


CNN substantially better than template-matching for same runtime



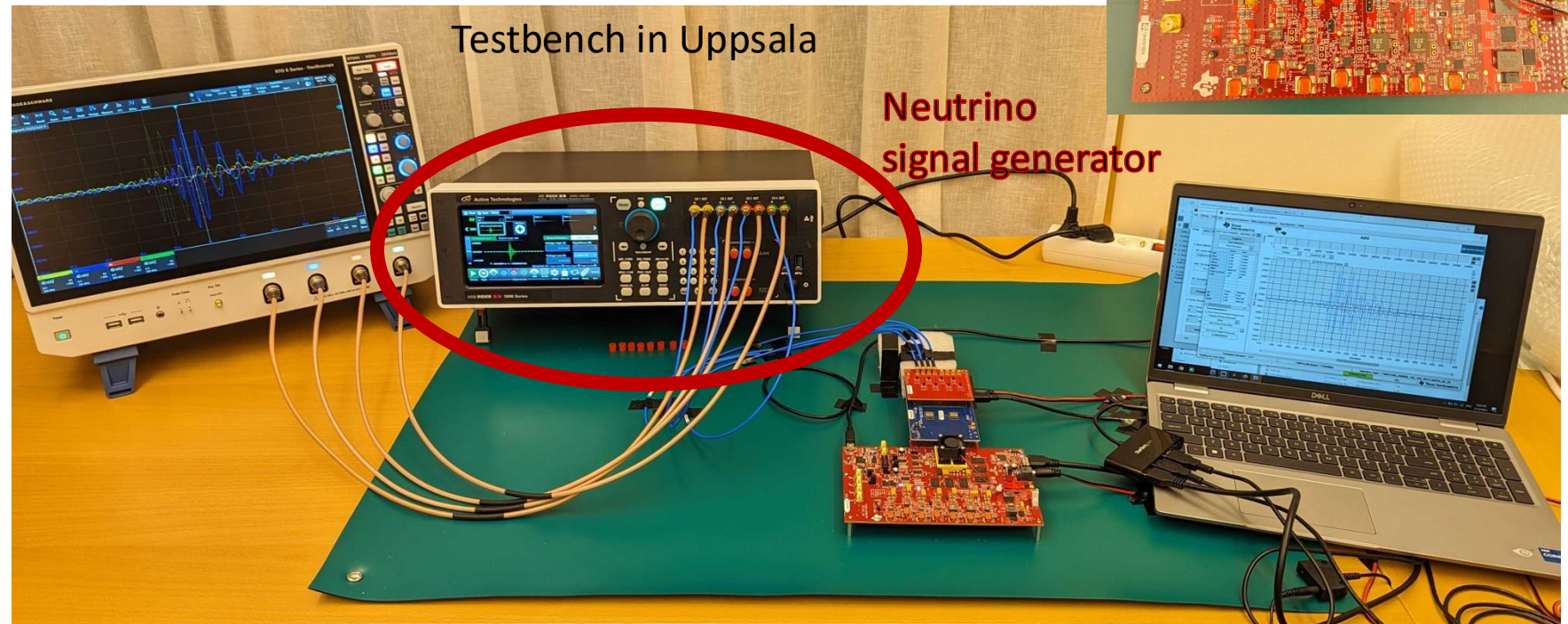
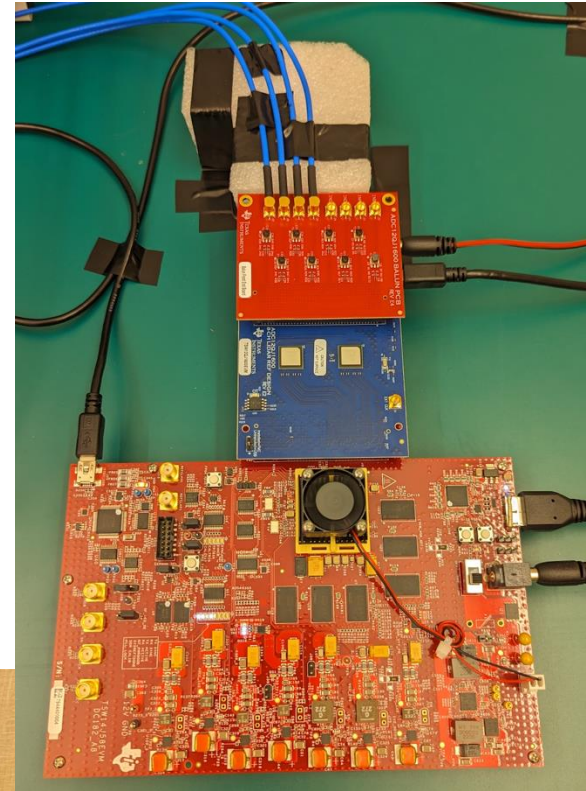
# Hinge Loss

- No sigmoid activation
- Penalize (only) wrong predictions

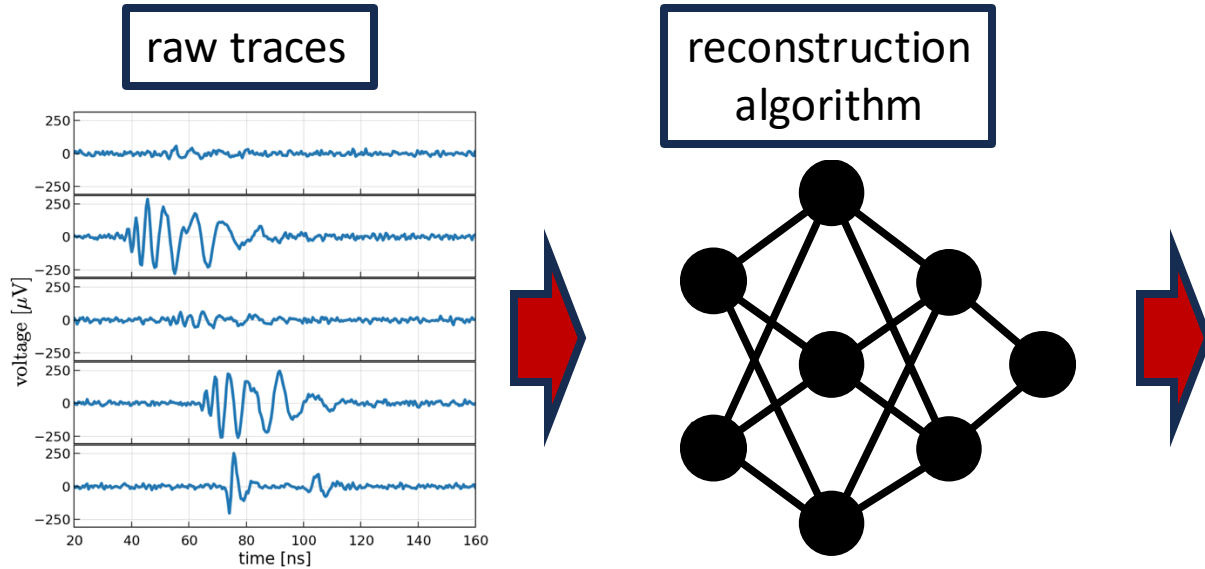


# New DAQ Development

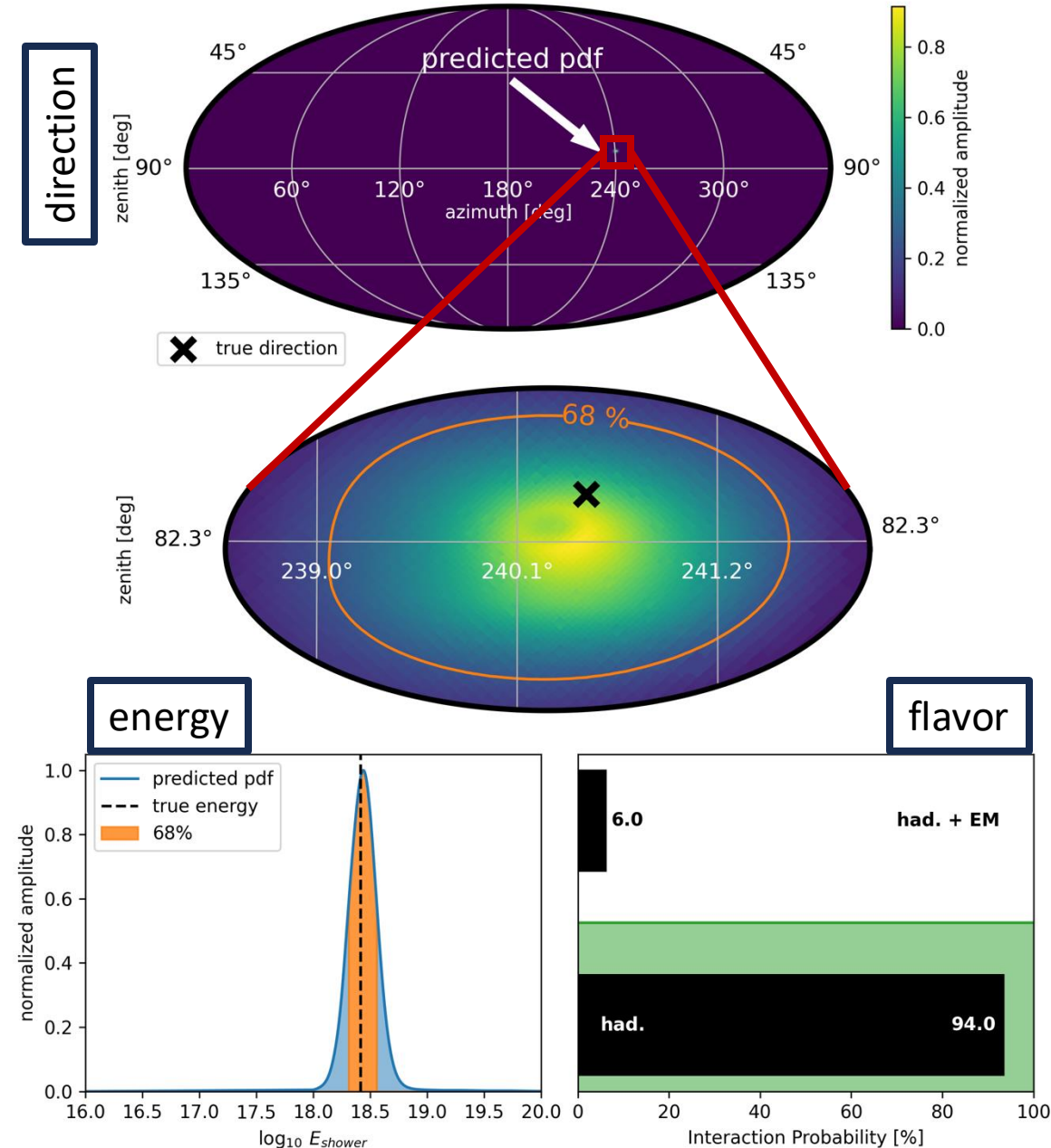
- New ADC generation (JESD204B interface)
  - High speed and low power ( $\sim 1\text{GHz}$ , 12bit at 0.5W/channel)
  - Simpler compared to custom ASICs of previous hardware
  - Better data quality and opportunities for advanced triggers
- Also looking into Neuromorphic Computing (with Tommaso Dorigo + Fredrik Sandin)



# Deep-Learning Reconstruction using Normalizing Flows (Simulation-Based Inference)



## Single Event Reconstruction

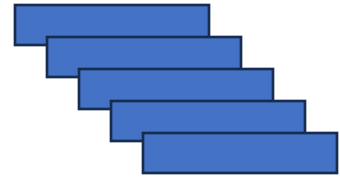




# Model architecture

## Model Shallow:

1 x 5 x 512



## Model Deep:

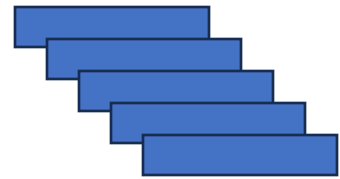
1 x 16 x 2046



# Model architecture

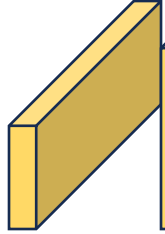
## Model Shallow:

1 x 5 x 512



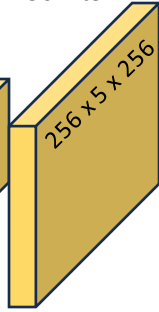
### CNN1

4x 1d-conv  
64 filter  
kernel (1 x 16),  
average pooling



### CNN2

4x 1d-conv  
kernel (1 x 16),  
256 filter



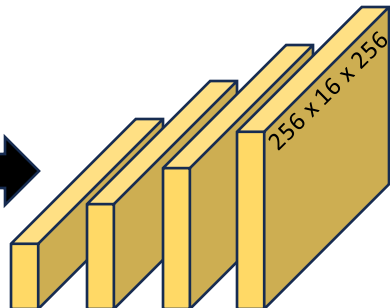
## Model Deep:

1 x 16 x 2046



### CNN1

4x 1d-conv, 32 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling



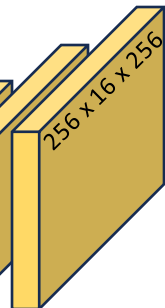
### CNN2

4x 1d-conv, 64 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling



### CNN3

4x 1d-conv, 128 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

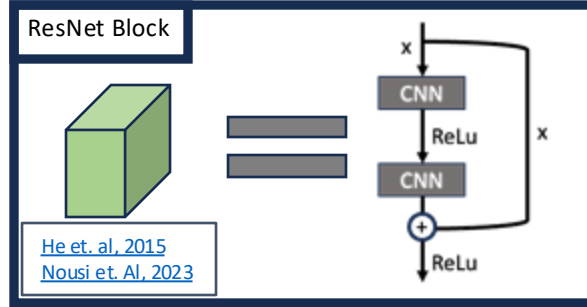


### CNN4

4x 1d-conv, 256 filter, kernel (1 x 16)

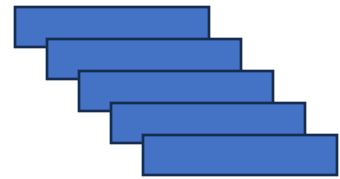


# Model architecture



## Model Shallow:

1 x 5 x 512

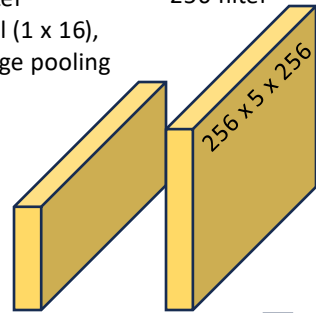


### CNN1

4x 1d-conv  
64 filter  
kernel (1 x 16),  
average pooling

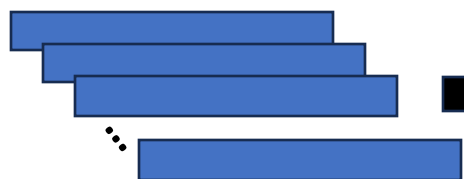
### CNN2

4x 1d-conv  
kernel (1 x 16),  
256 filter



## Model Deep:

1 x 16 x 2046

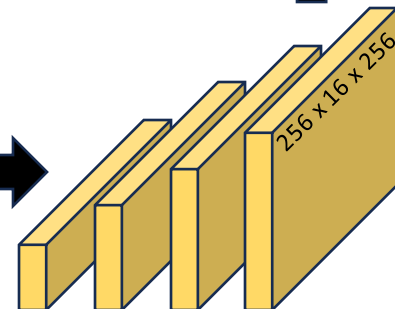


CNN1 4x 1d-conv, 32 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

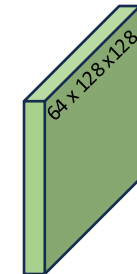
CNN2 4x 1d-conv, 64 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

CNN3 4x 1d-conv, 128 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

CNN4 4x 1d-conv, 256 filter, kernel (1 x 16)



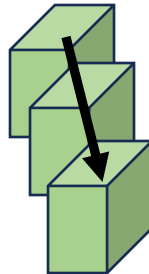
Reshape



### ResNet-1

1x conv, 64 filter  
Stride 2  
kernel (7 x 7)

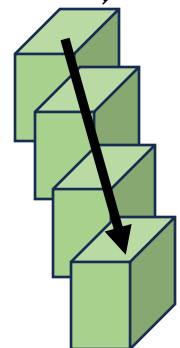
Max Pooling  
64 x 64 x 64



### ResNet-2

3x ResNet Block  
64 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

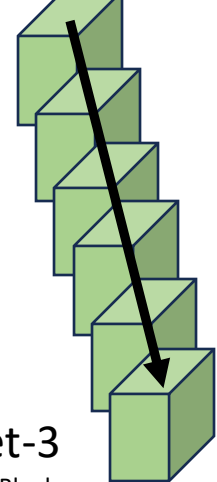
Down sampling  
128 x 32 x 32



### ResNet-3

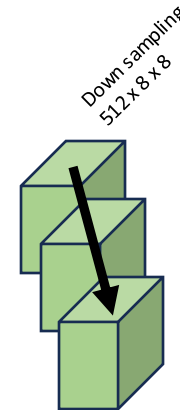
4x ResNet Block  
128 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

Down sampling  
256 x 16 x 16



### ResNet-4

6x ResNet Block  
256 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)



### ResNet-5

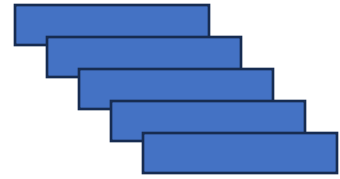
3x ResNet Block  
512 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

Adaptive Pooling - 512

# Model architecture

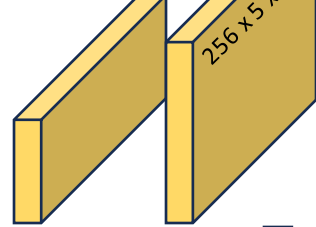
## Model Shallow:

1 x 5 x 512



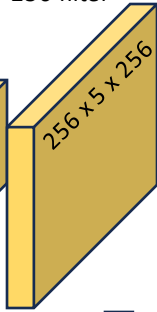
### CNN1

4x 1d-conv  
64 filter  
kernel (1 x 16),  
average pooling



### CNN2

4x 1d-conv  
kernel (1 x 16),  
256 filter



## Model Deep:

1 x 16 x 2046



### CNN1

4x 1d-conv, 32 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

CNN2 4x 1d-conv, 64 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

CNN3 4x 1d-conv, 128 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

CNN4 4x 1d-conv, 256 filter, kernel (1 x 16)

### ResNet-1

1x conv, 64 filter  
Stride 2  
kernel (7 x 7)

### ResNet-2

3x ResNet Block  
64 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

### ResNet-3

4x ResNet Block  
128 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

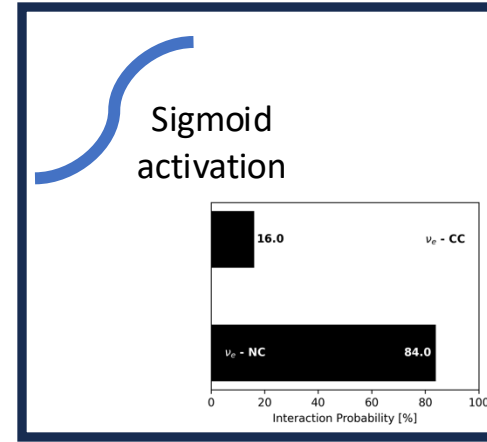
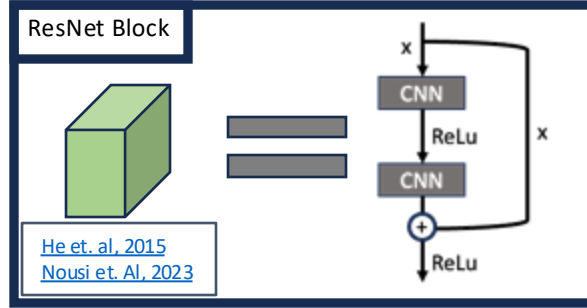
### ResNet-4

6x ResNet Block  
256 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

### ResNet-5

3x ResNet Block  
512 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

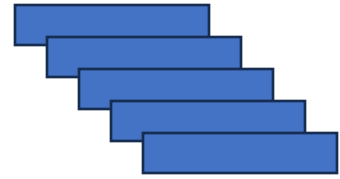
Adaptive Pooling - 512



# Model architecture

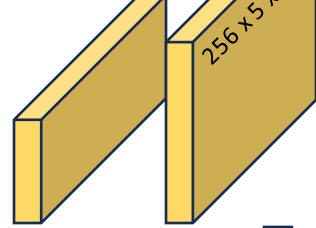
## Model Shallow:

1 x 5 x 512



### CNN1

4x 1d-conv  
64 filter  
kernel (1 x 16),  
average pooling



### CNN2

4x 1d-conv  
kernel (1 x 16),  
256 filter



## Model Deep:

1 x 16 x 2046

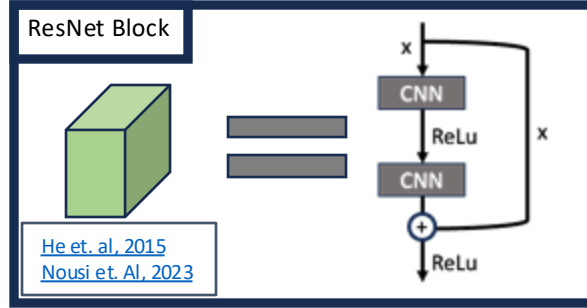


**CNN1** 4x 1d-conv, 32 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

**CNN2** 4x 1d-conv, 64 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

**CNN3** 4x 1d-conv, 128 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

**CNN4** 4x 1d-conv, 256 filter, kernel (1 x 16)



### ResNet-1

1x conv, 64 filter  
Stride 2  
kernel (7 x 7)

### ResNet-2

3x ResNet Block  
64 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

### ResNet-3

4x ResNet Block  
128 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

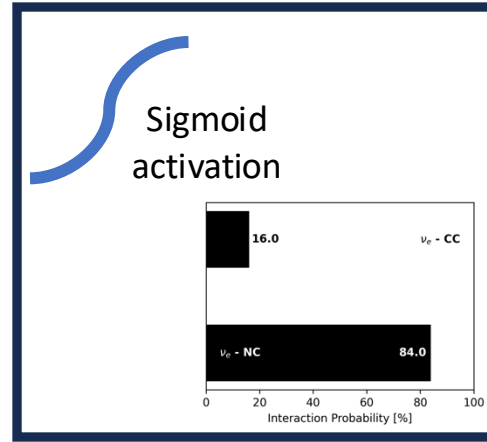
### ResNet-4

6x ResNet Block  
256 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

### ResNet-5

3x ResNet Block  
512 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

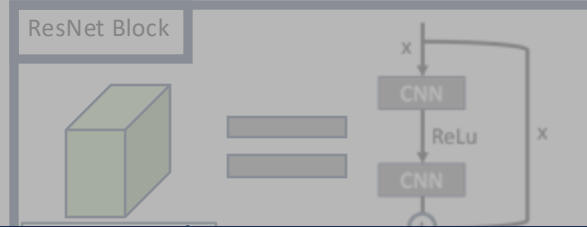
Adaptive Pooling - 512



Normalizing Flows  
[github.com/thoglu/jammy\\_flows](https://github.com/thoglu/jammy_flows)

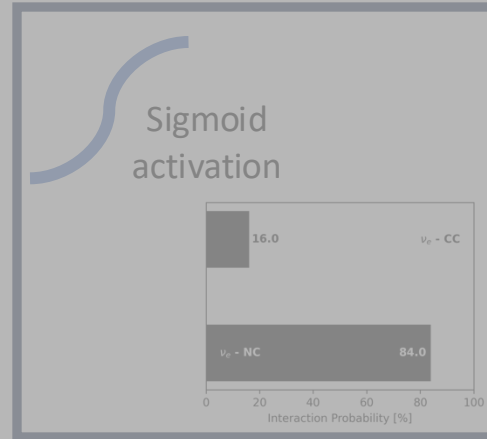
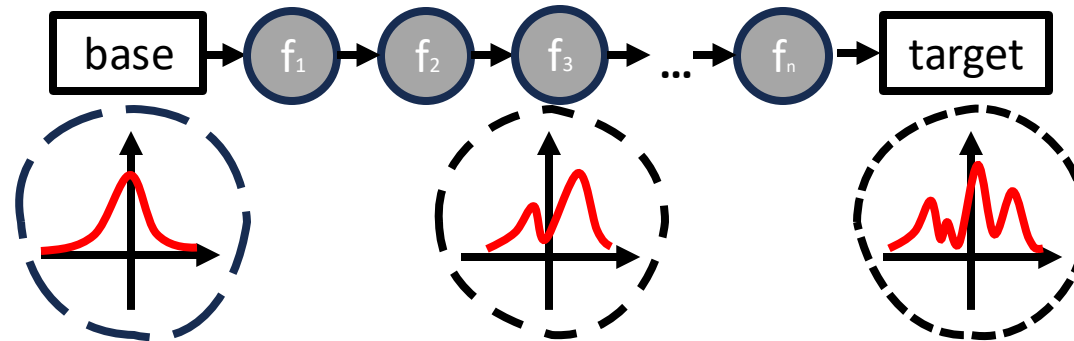


# Model architecture



## Normalizing Flow

- A **function that maps** a gaussian PDF to a non-gaussian target PDF
- Parameters of the flow can be learned by a **neural network**
- Can model **complex PDF shapes**



Normalizing Flows  
[github.com/thoglu/jammy\\_flows](https://github.com/thoglu/jammy_flows)

### Model Shallow:

1 x 5 x 512

CNN1

4x 1d-conv  
64 filter  
kernel (1 x 16)  
average pooling

CNN2

4x 1d-conv

### Model Deep:

1 x 16 x 2046

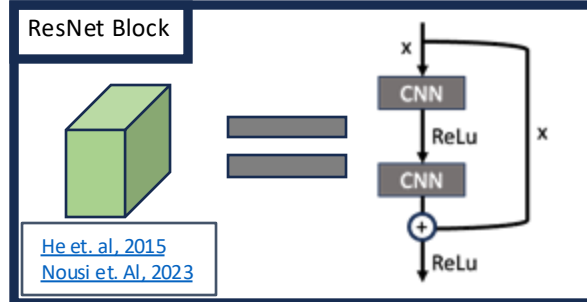
CNN1 4x 1d-conv, 32 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

CNN2 4x 1d-conv, 64 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

CNN3 4x 1d-conv, 128 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

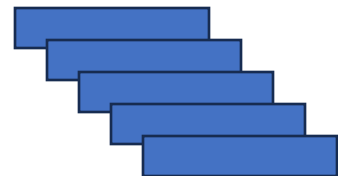
CNN4 4x 1d-conv, 256 filter, kernel (1 x 16)

# Model architecture



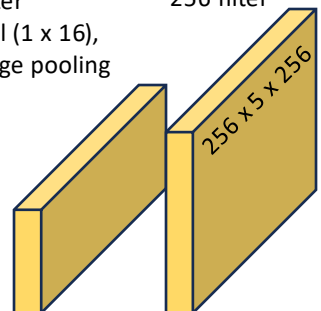
## Model Shallow:

1 x 5 x 512



### CNN1

4x 1d-conv  
64 filter  
kernel (1 x 16),  
average pooling



### CNN2

4x 1d-conv  
kernel (1 x 16),  
256 filter



## Model Deep:

1 x 16 x 2046



CNN1 4x 1d-conv, 32 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

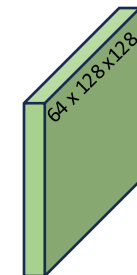
CNN2 4x 1d-conv, 64 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

CNN3 4x 1d-conv, 128 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

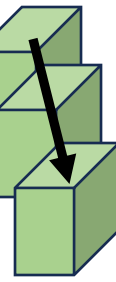
CNN4 4x 1d-conv, 256 filter, kernel (1 x 16)

### ResNet-1

1x conv, 64 filter  
Stride 2  
kernel (7 x 7)



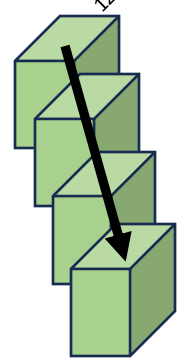
Max Pooling  
64 x 64 x 64



### ResNet-2

3x ResNet Block  
64 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

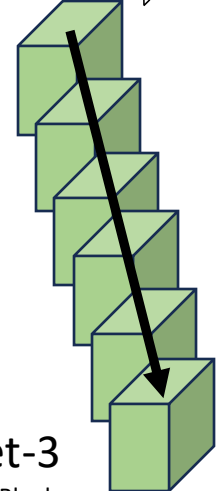
Down sampling  
128 x 32 x 32



### ResNet-3

4x ResNet Block  
128 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

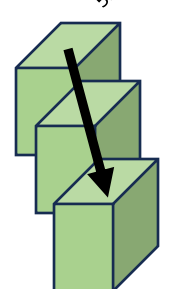
Down sampling  
256 x 16 x 16



### ResNet-4

6x ResNet Block  
256 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

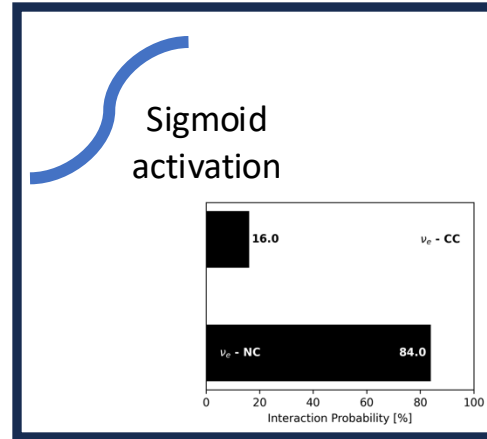
Down sampling  
512 x 8 x 8



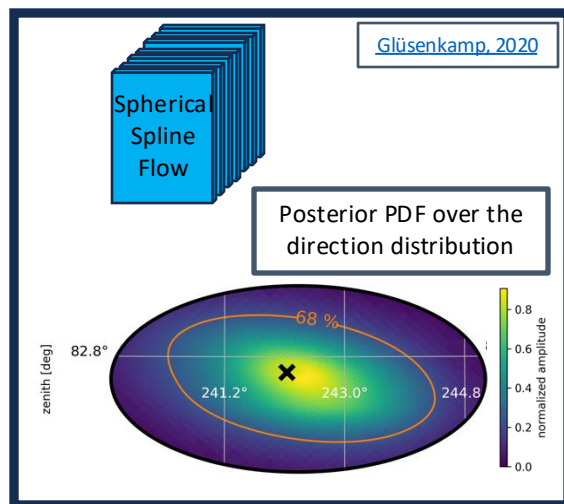
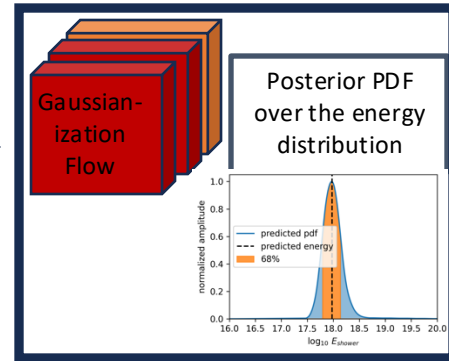
### ResNet-5

3x ResNet Block  
512 filter  
kernel (3 x 3)

Adaptive Pooling - 512



Normalizing Flows  
[github.com/thoglu/jammy\\_flows](https://github.com/thoglu/jammy_flows)

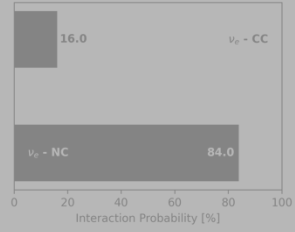


# Model architecture

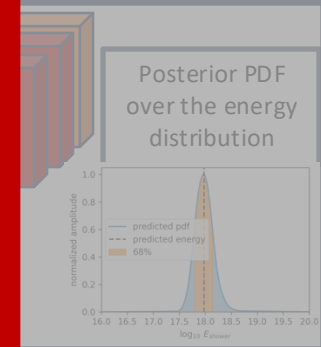
CNN2



Sigmoid activation

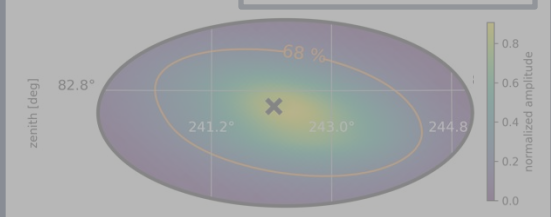


Normalizing Flows  
[/thoglu/jammy\\_flows](#)



Glüsenkamp, 2020

Posterior PDF over the direction distribution



## Improvements to previous reconstructions:

1. Normalizing flows return **full posterior PDFs** allowing for event-by-event uncertainties ([Glüsenkamp, EPJ-C, 2024](#))
2. Factor 10x improvement in angular resolution (compared to previous best reconstruction of deep stations)
3. **No analysis cuts are needed** – all neutrino events can be used
4. **One model** (per station type) to predict all parameters

Model Shallow:

1 x 5 x 512



Model Deep:

1 x 16 x 2046



CNN1 4x 1d-conv, 32 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

CNN2 4x 1d-conv, 64 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

CNN3 4x 1d-conv, 128 filter, kernel (1 x 16), average pooling

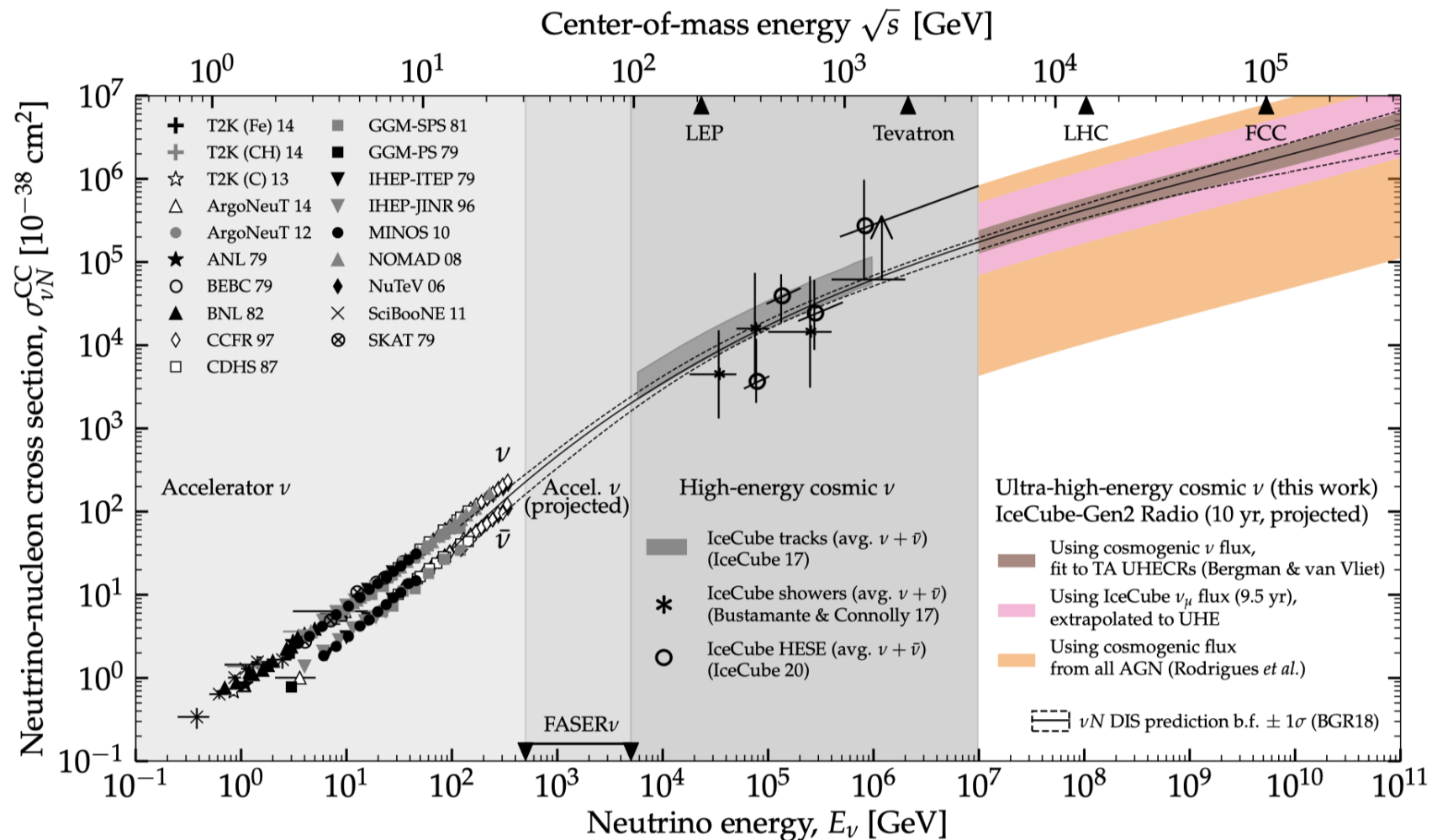
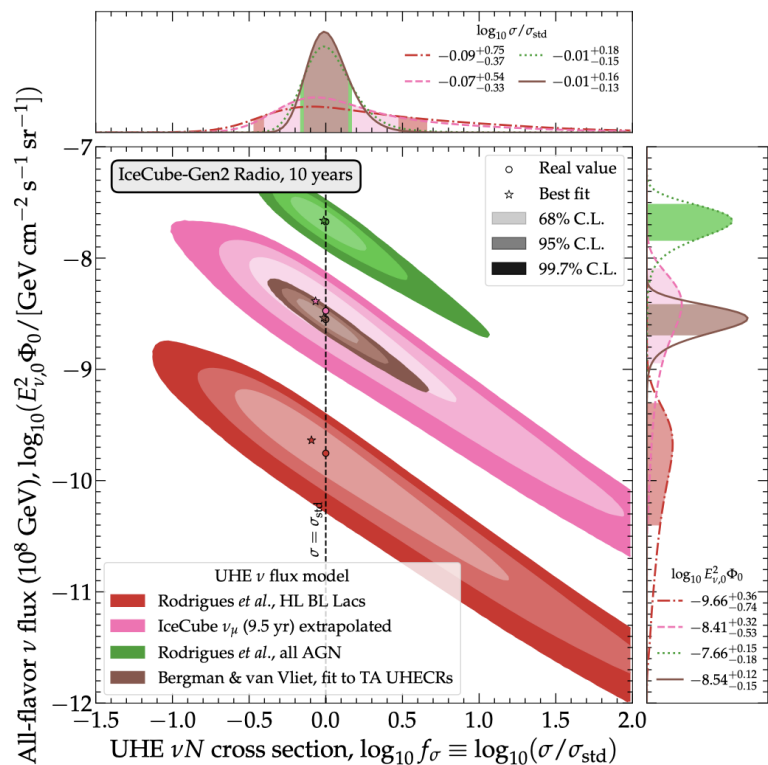
CNN4 4x 1d-conv, 256 filter, kernel (1 x 16)

# Science Overview: Cross Section

- Sensitivity comes from Earth attenuation
  - Angular resolution important
  - Horizontal events important

$$N_\nu(E_\nu, \theta_z) \propto \Phi_\nu(E_\nu) \sigma(E_\nu) e^{-L(\theta_z)/L_{\nu N}(E_\nu, \theta_z)}$$

$$L_{\nu N} \equiv (\sigma n_N)^{-1}$$



# Current Trigger

- Shallow:
  - high/low threshold crossing trigger for each LPDA
  - additional 2/4 time coincidence required
  - effective threshold  $\sim 4x V_{rms}$
- Deep: Phased array
  - coherently summed waveforms to increase SNR by  $\sqrt{n_{antennas}}$
  - power integration trigger
  - effective threshold  $\sim 2-3^* \times V_{rms}$

