

# *New Physics Searches with Graph-Based Anomaly Detection in High-Energy Collisions*

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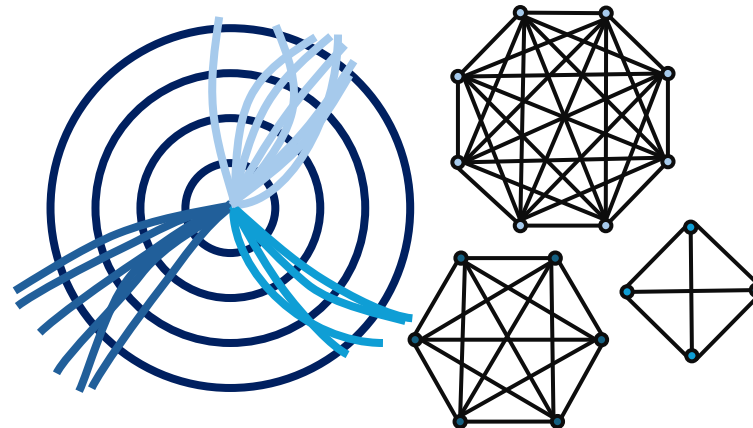
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# Jets as New Physics Probes

## Event level searches:

Examples of searches with focus on **fully hadronic final states**:

- “Search for new heavy resonances decaying to WW, WZ, ZZ, WH or ZH boson pairs in the all-jets final state in proton-proton collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV”
- “Search for diboson resonances in hadronic final states in 139  $fb^{-1}$  of pp collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV with the ATLAS detector”

CMS letter

ATLAS letter

Examining the multijet invariant mass to identify anomalous events

## Jet level searches:

Several works focus on anomaly detection at jet level:

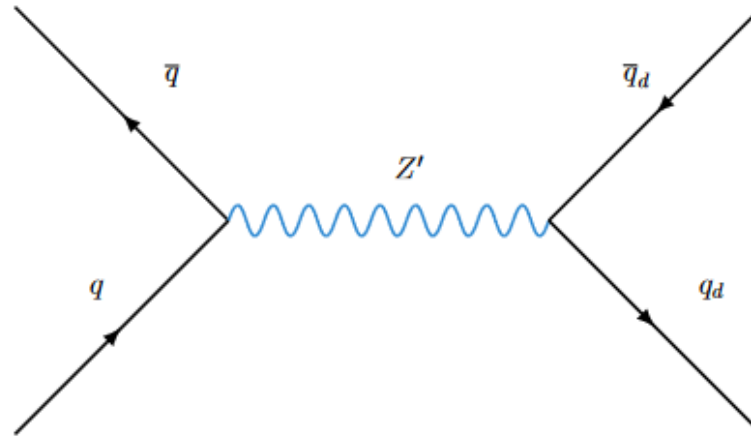
- QCD or what? QCD jets vs. top jets  
CNN based autoencoder on jet images
- Anomalous Jet Identification via Sequence Modeling VRNN model jets as sequences of constituent 4-vectors.
- What’s Anomalous in LHC jets? QCD jets vs. Dark jets  
K-means clustering, Dirichlet VAE, invertible neural networks.

**Dark Jets** > jets with topological differences from QCD jets > **jet-level** identification of anomalous events

# Dark Jets – Hidden Valley Models

- Dark sector with confining force  $SU(N_d)$
- Dark partons, produce a dark shower and hadronize into dark hadrons
- Dark hadrons can decay to SM particles through certain portals, producing a jet-like signal - **Dark Jets**.

Considering resonant production of dark quark pair mediated  $Z'$  :



Hidden group extended from  $SU(N_d)$  to  $SU(N_d) \times U(1)'$



Dark hadrons can decay into **dark photon**  $\gamma'$  pairs. Through kinetic mixing  $\gamma'$  can then decay into SM particles

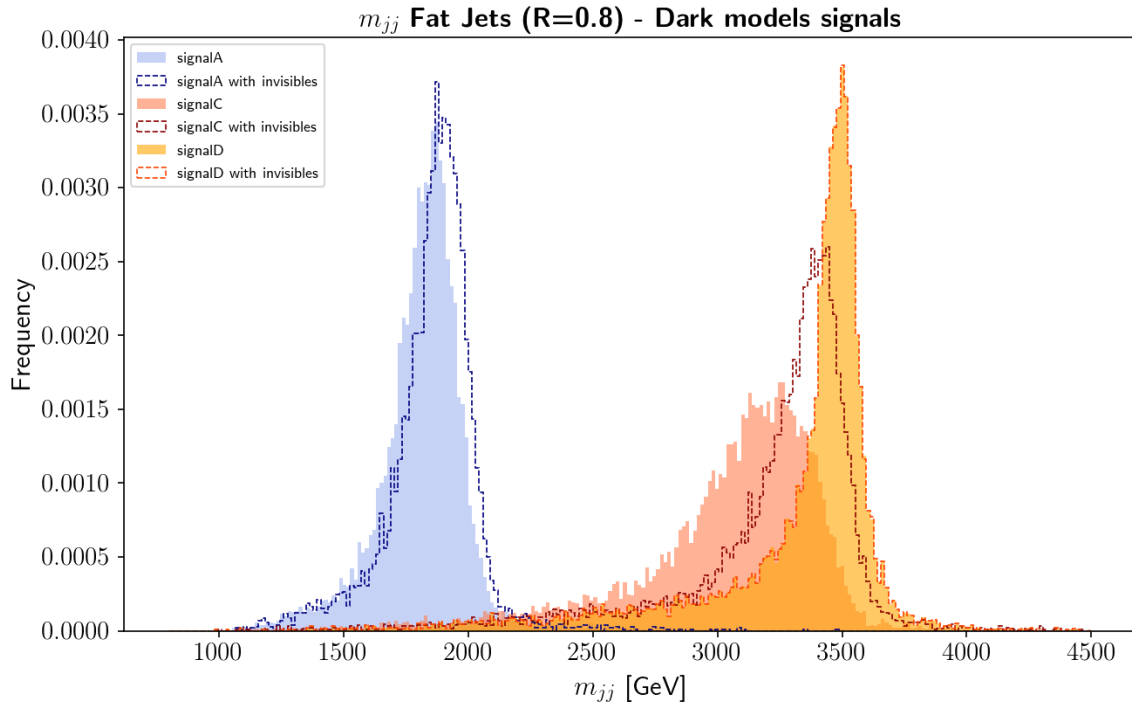
- Dark hadrons stable  $\rightarrow$  certain amount of missing energy  $\rightarrow m_T$  useful for discriminating a dark jet pair
- Most of the dark hadrons decay promptly into SM particles  $\rightarrow$  almost any displaced objects or missing energy

## Dark Jets events production

signal	$N_d$	$n_f$	$\Lambda_d$	$m_{q_d}$	$m_{\pi_d}$	$m_{\rho_d}$	$\pi_d$ decay channel	$\rho_d$ decay channel
A	3	2	15	20	10	50	$\pi_d \rightarrow c\bar{c}$	$\rho_d \rightarrow \pi_d\pi_d$
C	3	2	15	20	10	50	$\pi_d \rightarrow \gamma'\gamma'$	$\rho_d \rightarrow \pi_d\pi_d$
D	6	6	2	2	2	4.67	$\pi_d \rightarrow \gamma'\gamma'$	$\rho_d \rightarrow \pi_d\pi_d$

Benchmark signal models : dark hadrons decay **promptly** into SM particles

Models described at [Tagging a jet from a dark sector with Jet-substructures at colliders](#), where  $n_f$  represents the number of light dark quarks families and  $\Lambda_d$  is the confinement scale



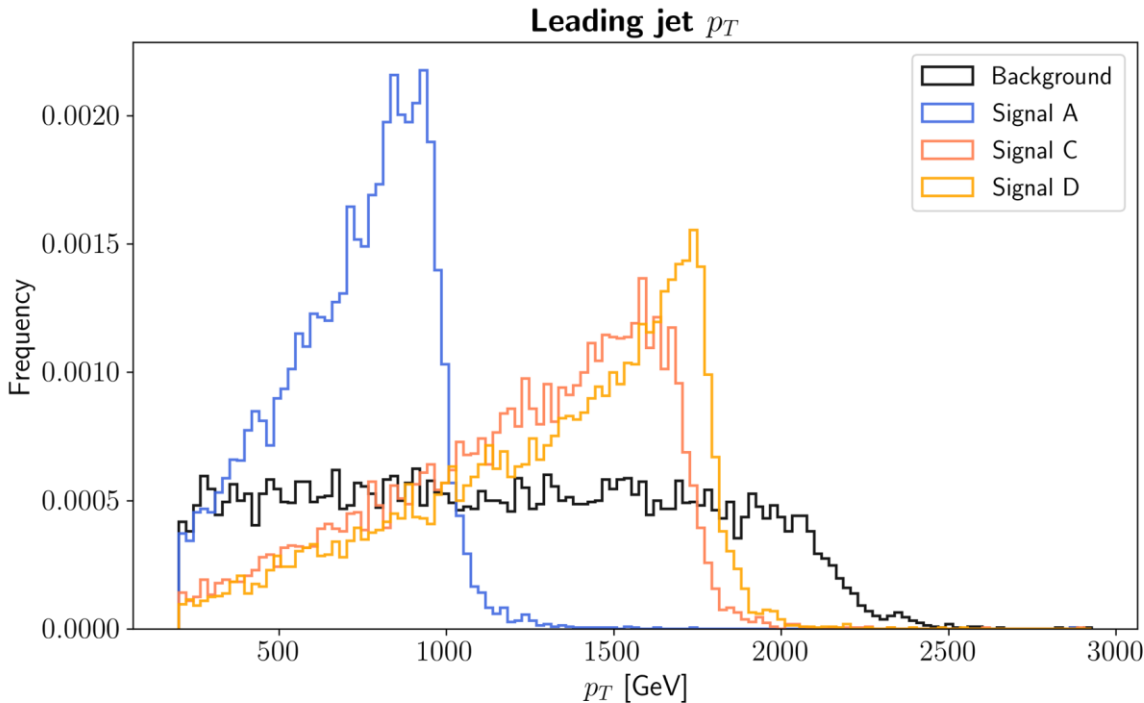
signal A  $m_{Z'}$  = 2000 GeV  
 signal C, D  $m_{Z'}$  = 3500 GeV  
 $\Gamma_{Z'}$  = 0.1 GeV for all signals

signalC,  $m_{\gamma'}$  = 4 GeV  
 signalD,  $m_{\gamma'}$  = 0.7 GeV

40 k events generated for each signal type

Dark jets signals simulation: Pythia8 and Delphes3

## Dark Jets and QCD dijet events production



QCD dijet background simulation: MadGraph5\_aMC, Pythia8 and Delphes3

450 K QCD dijet events produced. 20 slices of 22.5 K events.

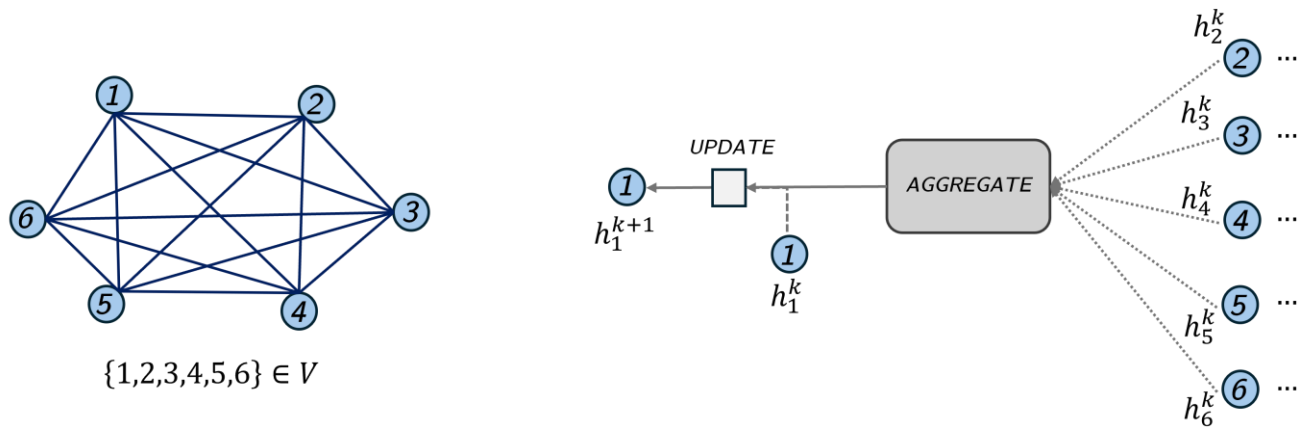
First slice  $150 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 250 \text{ GeV}$ , Last slice  $2050 \text{ GeV} < p_T < 2150 \text{ GeV}$   
Each covering a  $p_T$  range of 100 GeV

### Accessing jet constituents through jet-reclustering:

Default Delphes card settings modified → access inputs of Delphes FastJet module

Output of EFlowMerger module → clustering with pyjet ( $p = -1$ ,  $R = 0.8$ ,  $p_T \text{ min} = 200 \text{ GeV}$ )

# Graph Neural Networks architecture



Schemes adapted from [Graph Neural Networks: Foundations, Frontiers, and Applications](#)

**Message Passage Iteration:** node representations  $h_u^k$ , at iteration  $k$ , **updated** by combining the node information with the **aggregated** message from the neighbouring nodes.

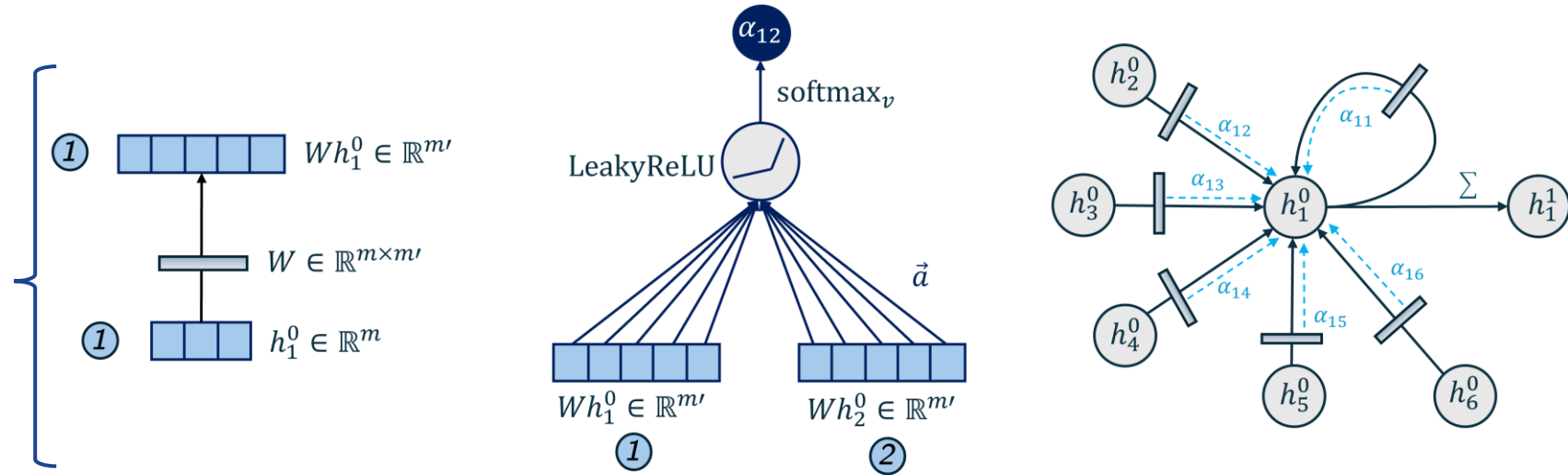
- **GCNs:** use the adjacency matrix  $A$ , to aggregate information of the neighbouring nodes.
- **GATs:** Attention mechanisms dynamically learn the importance of each neighbour node.

# Graph Neural Networks architecture

## Attention Mechanisms:

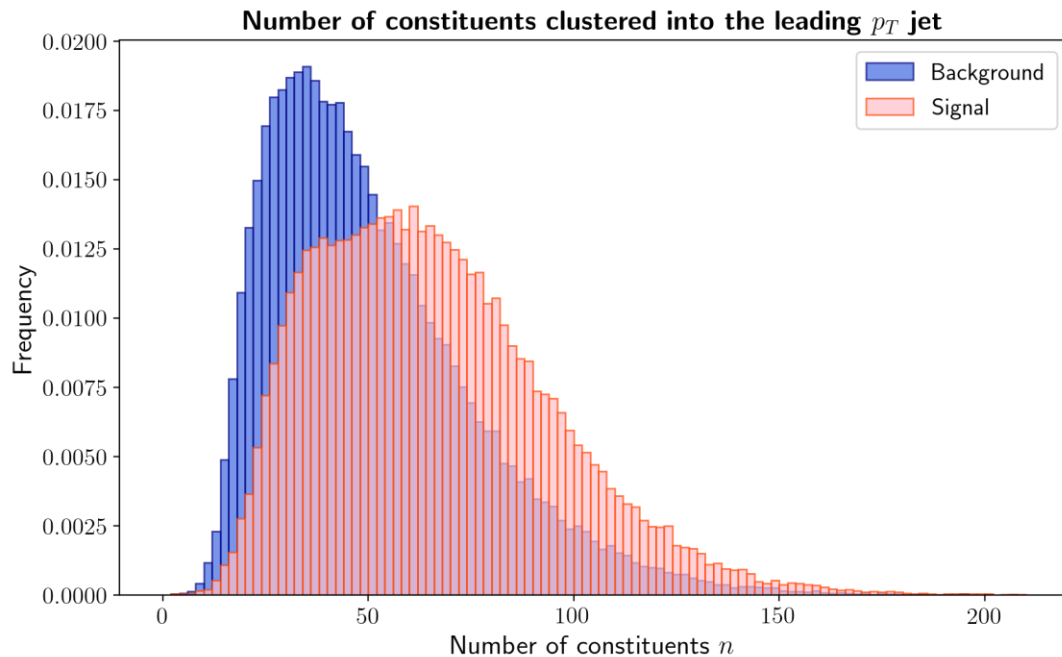
$$\alpha_{u,v} = \text{softmax}_v (\text{LeakyReLU} (a^\top [Wh_u \oplus Wh_v]))$$

$$m_{N(u)} = \sum_{v \in N(u)} \alpha_{u,v} h_v$$



**Pooling layer :** transition from vector node representations to a graph level output

# Creating Graph inputs

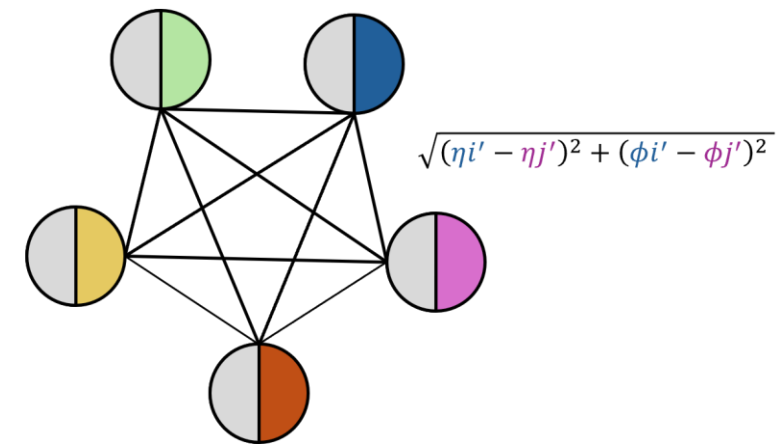
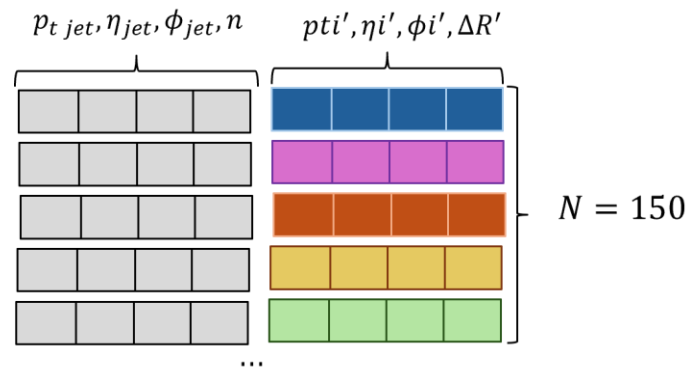


Considering the **most energetic 150 constituents** clustered into the jet after studying the effect of this choice on several leading jet distributions and  $m_{jj}$  distribution.

**Adjacency matrix  $A$**  and **node attribute matrix  $X$**  → edges and nodes embeddings

Adjacency matrix  $A$  entries → geometric distance between two constituents.

- Lorentz transformation to the jet rest frame, removing the dependence on  $\phi_{jet}$ .
- Vector input with 604 entries (4 jet level features and 4 constituent features for 150 particles) → Input for baseline DNN and AD models.





# Supervised Deep Learning Models

Using Tensorflow 2.6.2 and Keras API, [Spektral](#) library for graph layers

## GNNs

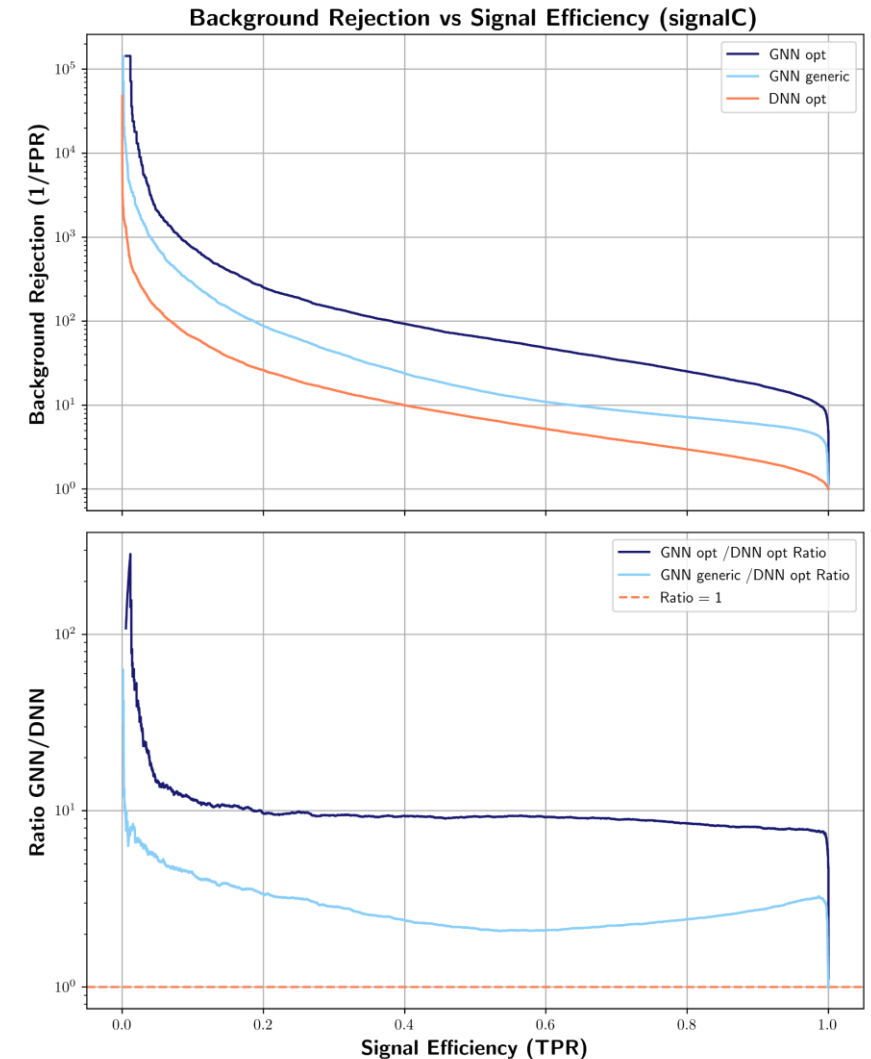
- GAT layers, Global Attention Pooling Layer:

**Optuna optimization**: hyperparameter optimization maximizing the AUC score

**“Generic” GNN model**: based on the best performance across all signals. Single GNN architecture → hyperparameters not optimized for a specific signal type

Model	AUC
<b>GNN Models</b>	
Signal A optimized	0.99
Signal C optimized	0.98
Signal D optimized	0.95
Generic GNN	0.99, 0.92, 0.93
<b>DNN Models</b>	
Signal A optimized	0.93
Signal C optimized	0.80
Signal D optimized	0.77

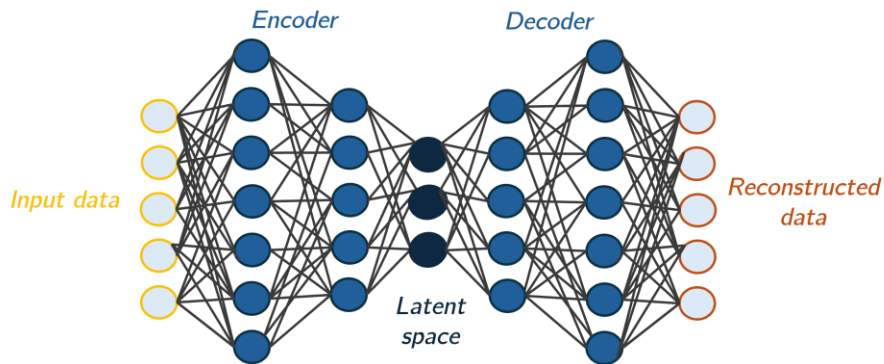
- Higher performance** for the graph-based models in terms of AUC.
- “Generic” GNN still outperforms optimized DNN.
- Highlight the **potential of representing jets as graphs** leveraging attention mechanisms to capture information about jet substructure



# Anomaly Detection Algorithms

Both algorithms are **modular** allowing 2 different approaches:

- Operate on enriched embeddings generated by GNNs
- Directly process raw jet and constituents information.

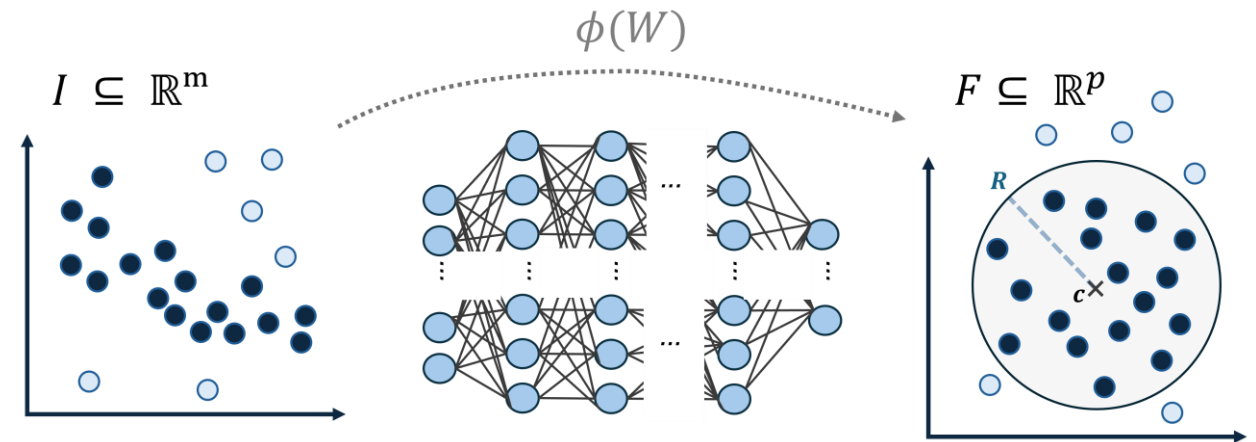


## Autoencoders:

- Encoder-decoder structure
  - Learns an approximate identity function
  - Bottleneck layer compresses input data, limited number of hidden units
  - Loss function measures the discrepancy between input and reconstructed output with MSE
- This loss is used as anomaly score

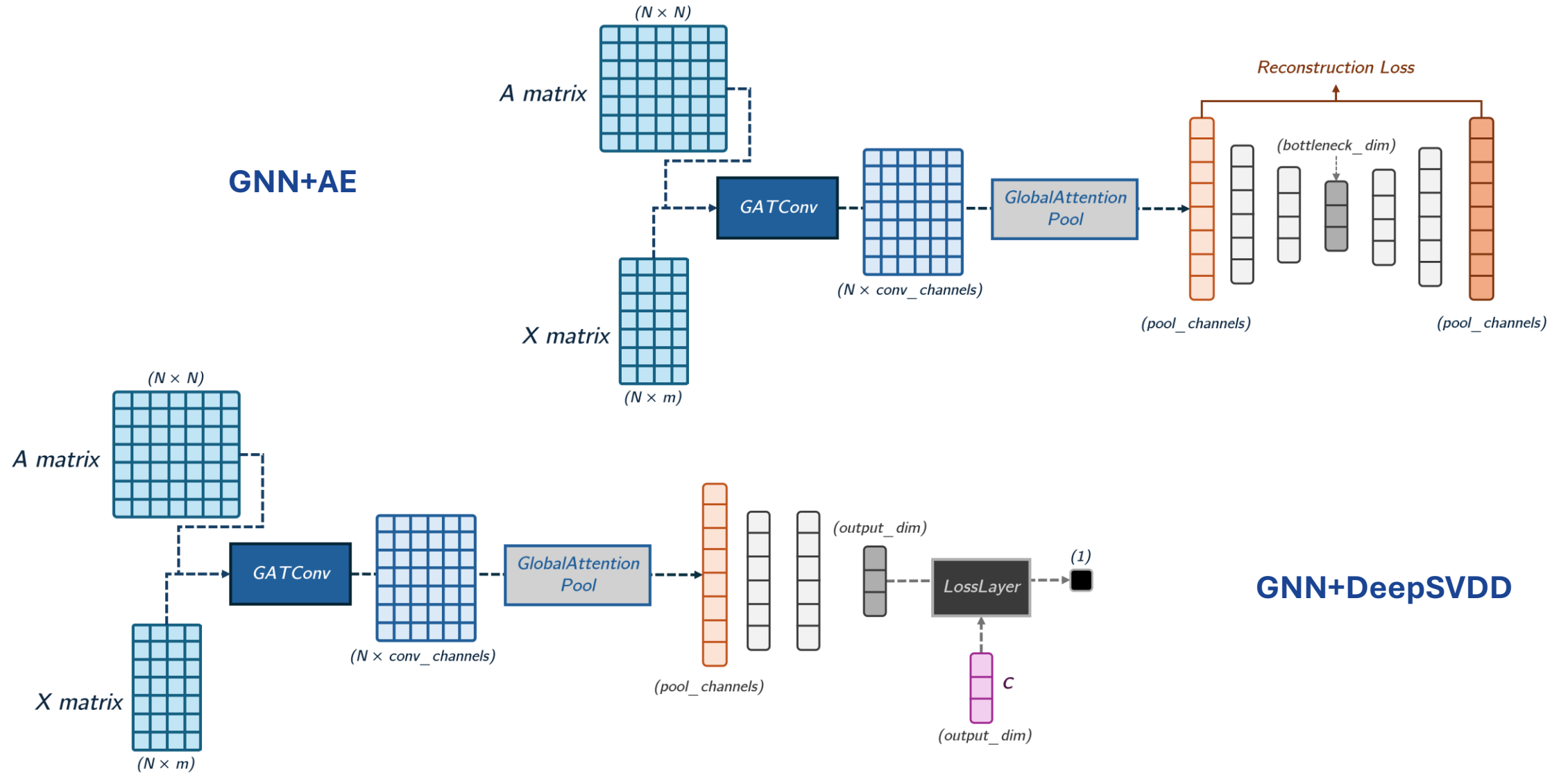
## Deep Support Vector Data Description :

- Trains NN to minimize the volume of a hypersphere enclosing the data's representations
- Directly optimizes for AD by capturing common patterns and mapping data points near the sphere's centre.
- Distance of events in the output space to the sphere's centre is used as anomaly score



Scheme of DeepSVDD adapted from [Deep One-Class Classification](#)

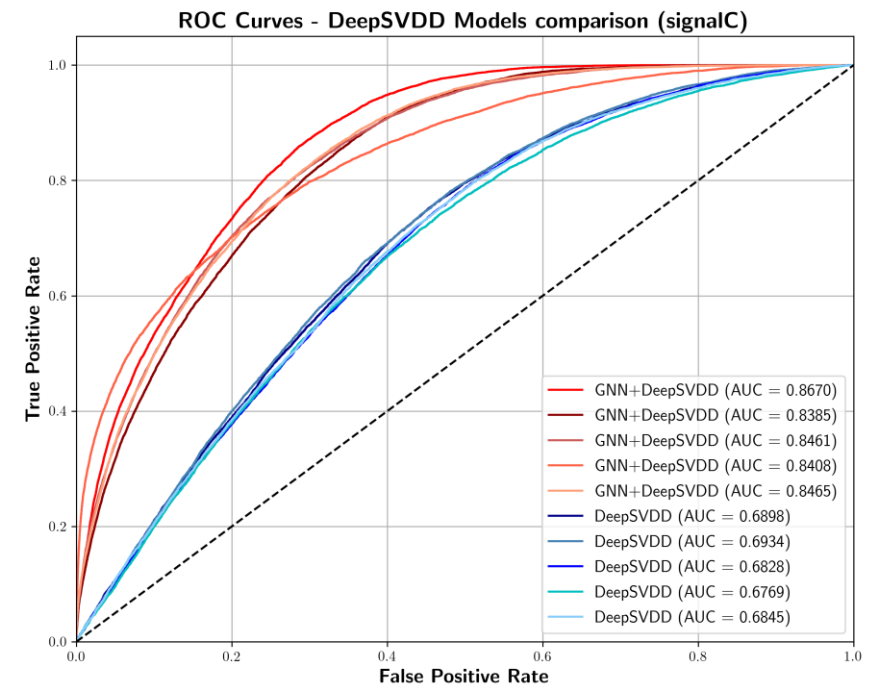
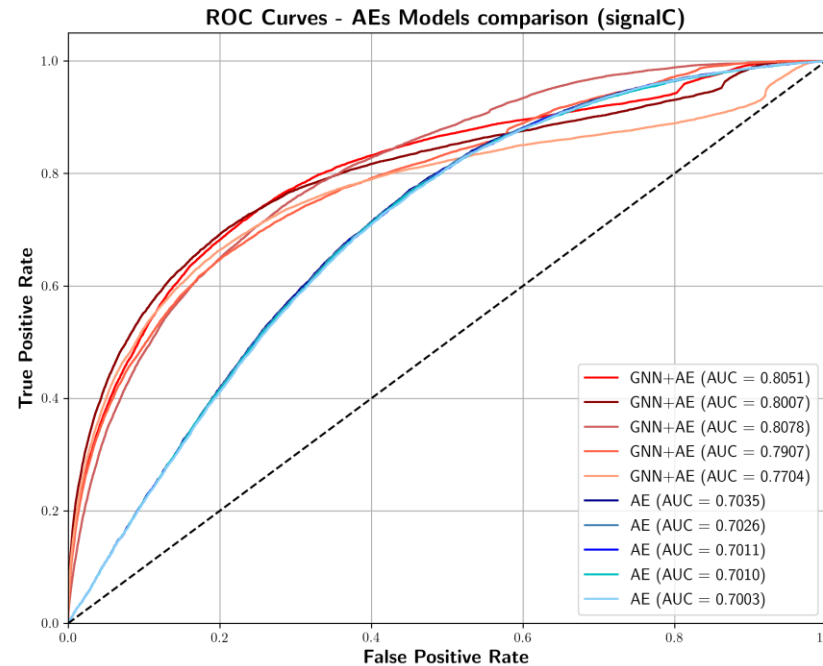
# Architectures for Anomaly Detection



# Performance Comparison: AD Algorithms on different Data Representations

- Train, val sets: only background.
- Test sets: background + specific type of signal.
- To assess how sensitive the performance of the models is on hyperparameters choices: Different combinations of hyperparameters were tested without any optimization strategy.

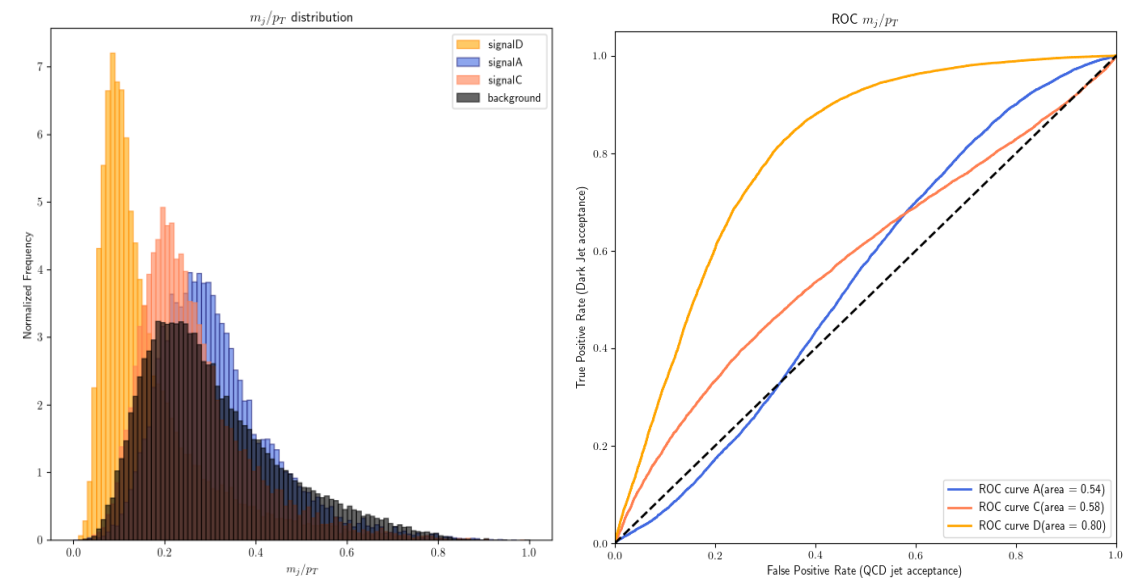
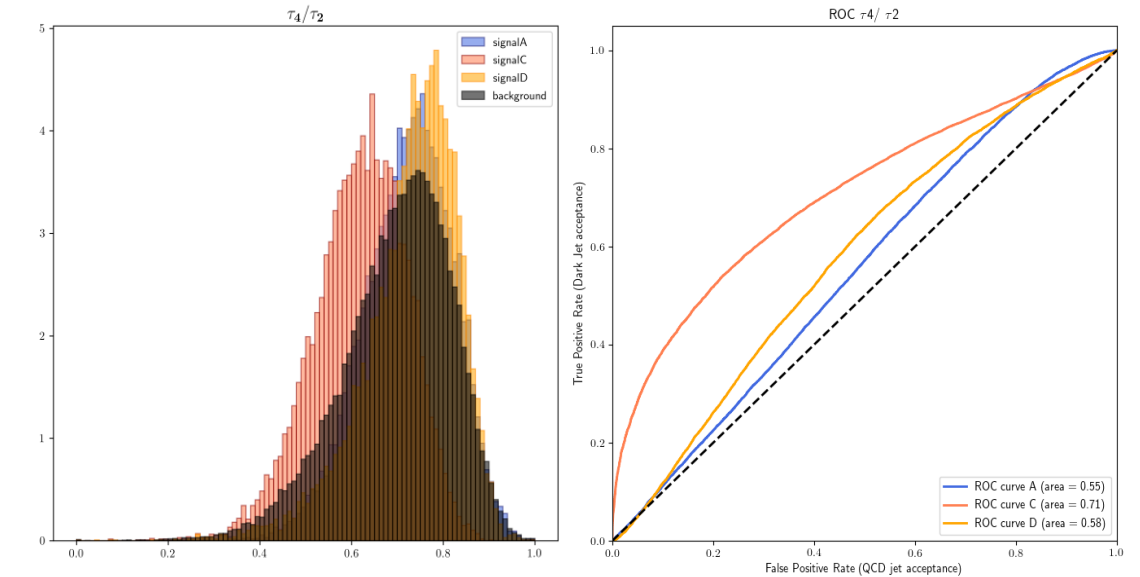
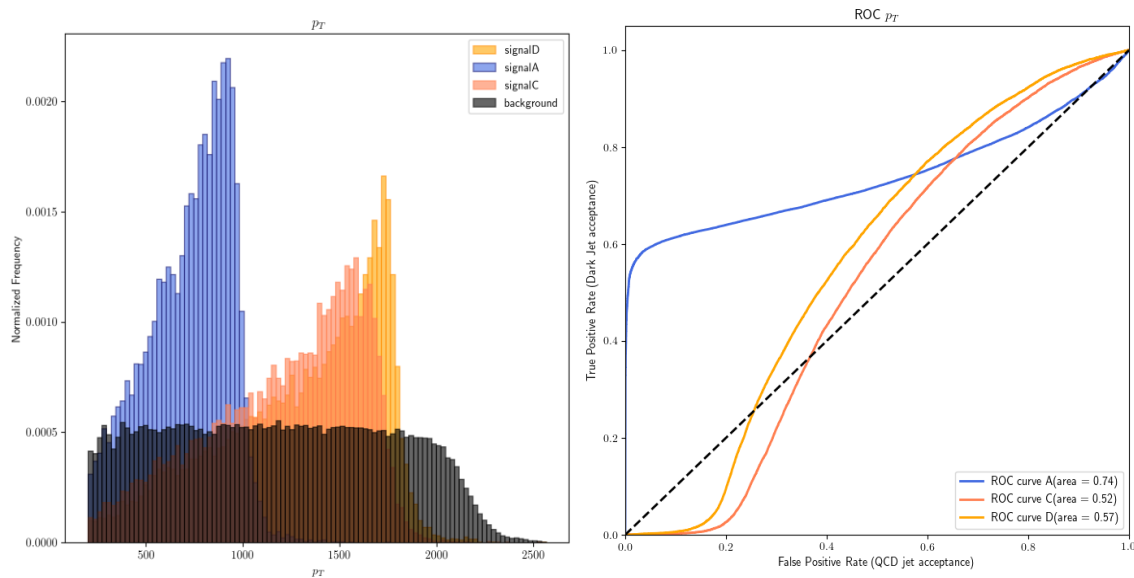
**GNN based AD models outperform AEs and DeepSVDDs in terms of AUC**



- All graph-based models have **only one graph convolution layer**. Increasing this value causes an **over-smoothing** problem
- The choice of hyperparameters and **architectural variations** have a **greater impact on GNN-based models** compared to AEs and DeepSVDDs
- GNN+DeepSVDDs show a **more robust** performance than GNN+AE models with higher AUC and no discontinuities in the ROC curves

# Performance Comparison of Deep Learning Methods with Classifiers Based on Discriminant Jet Features

- Feature-based classifiers – interpretable alternatives to deep learning models.
- Graph-based model-agnostic models outperform these classifiers
- Jet substructure features isolate a single signal



- Graphs capture structural information of jets that models receiving vector inputs do not.
- The attention mechanisms extract a vector embedding with discriminative features.
- Attempting to input the relational weights between constituents in vector input would increase complexity + number of trainable parameters

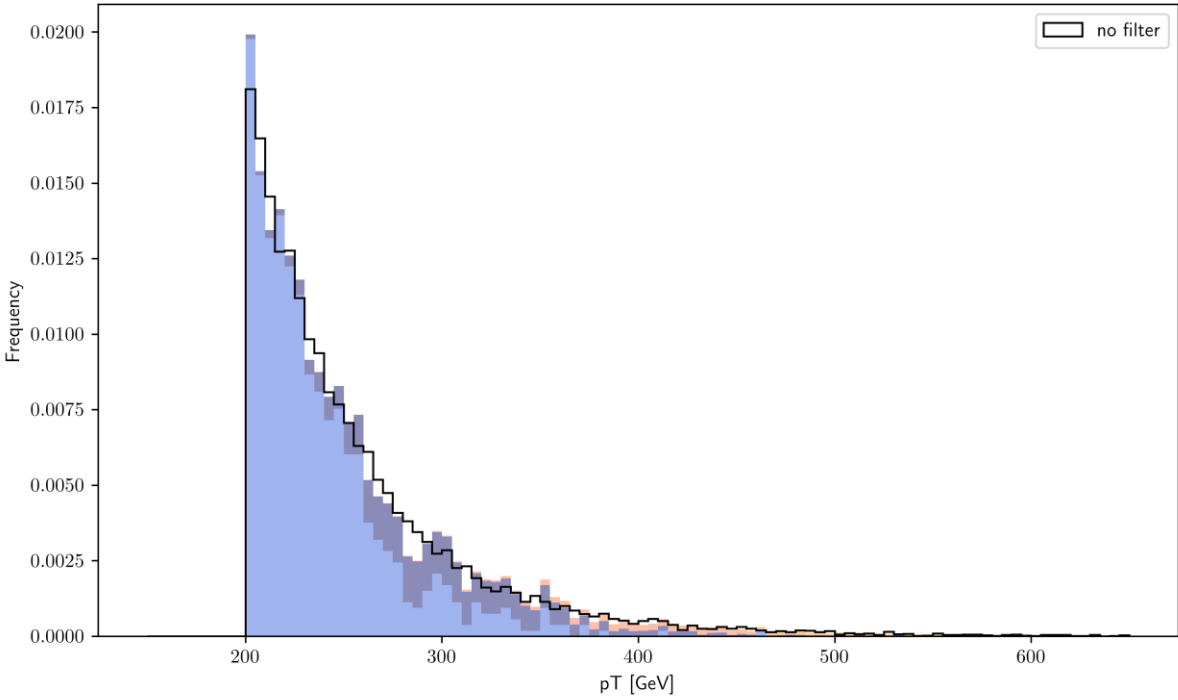
*Thank you for your attention!*

*Back-Up Slides*

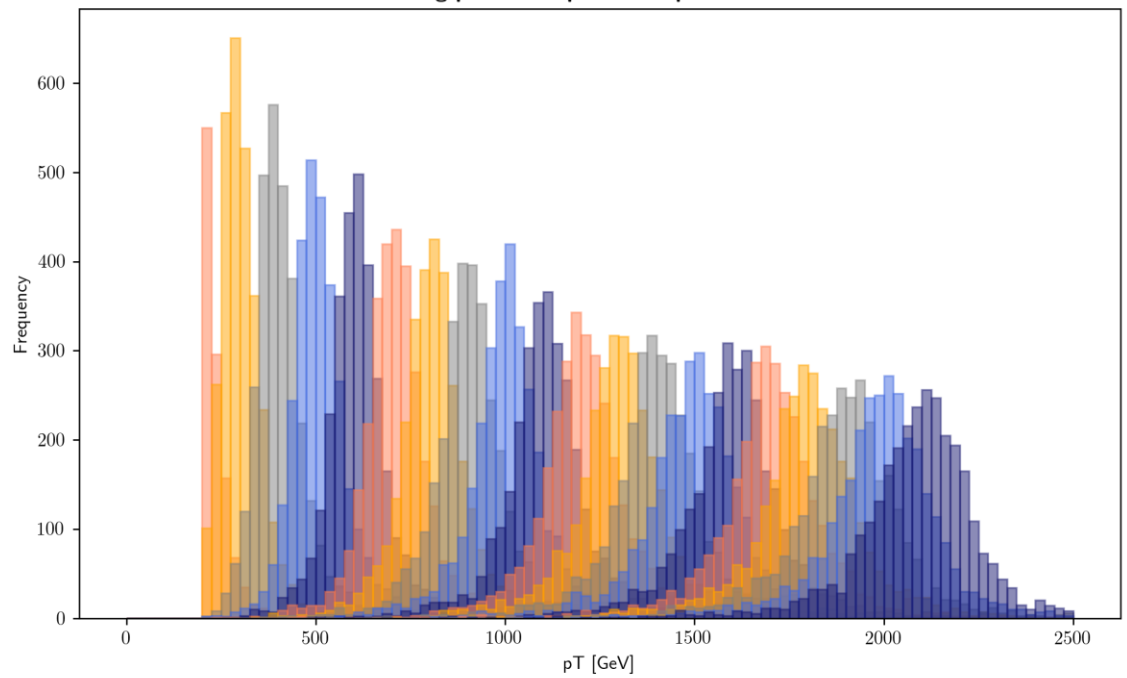


# Background production in slices

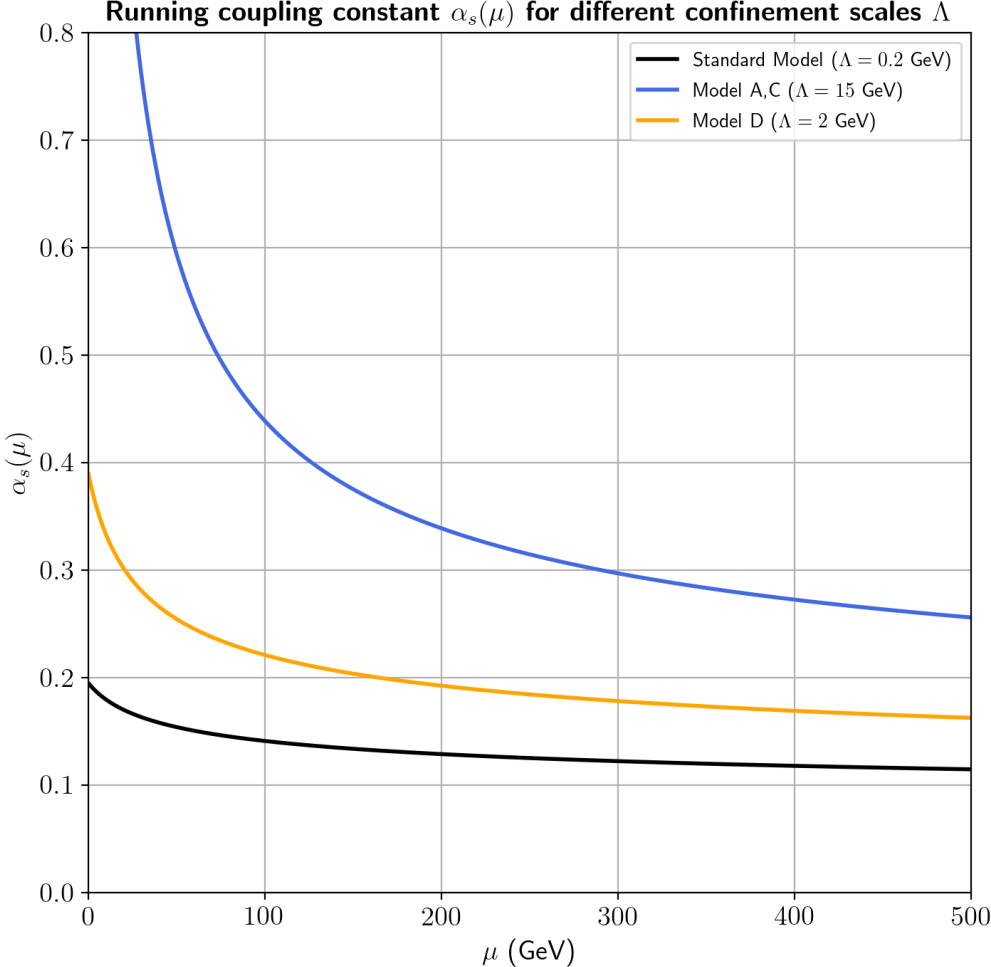
Stacked slices distribution vs no filter data distribution



Leading pT FatJet per slice - pT distribution

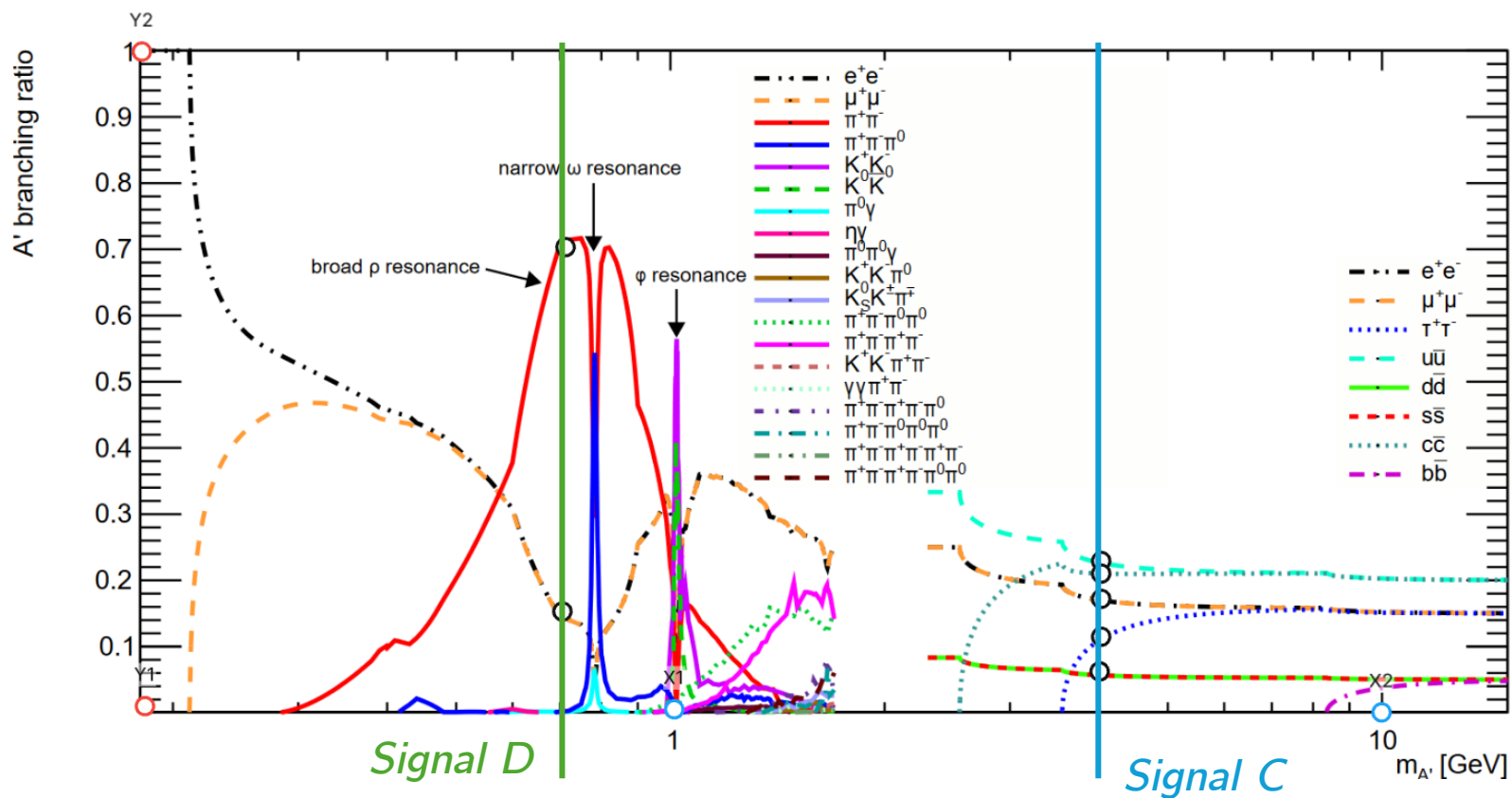


# Running coupling $\alpha_s$ for different confinement scales

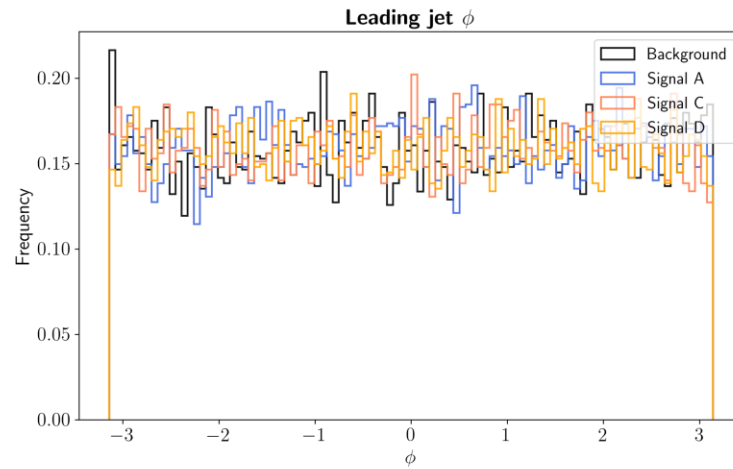
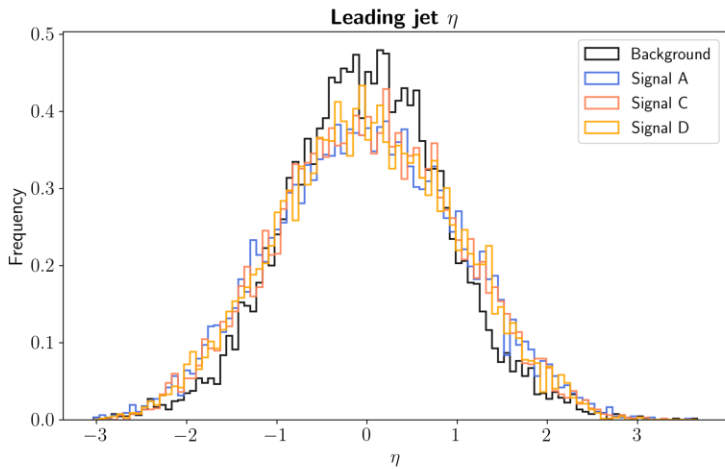
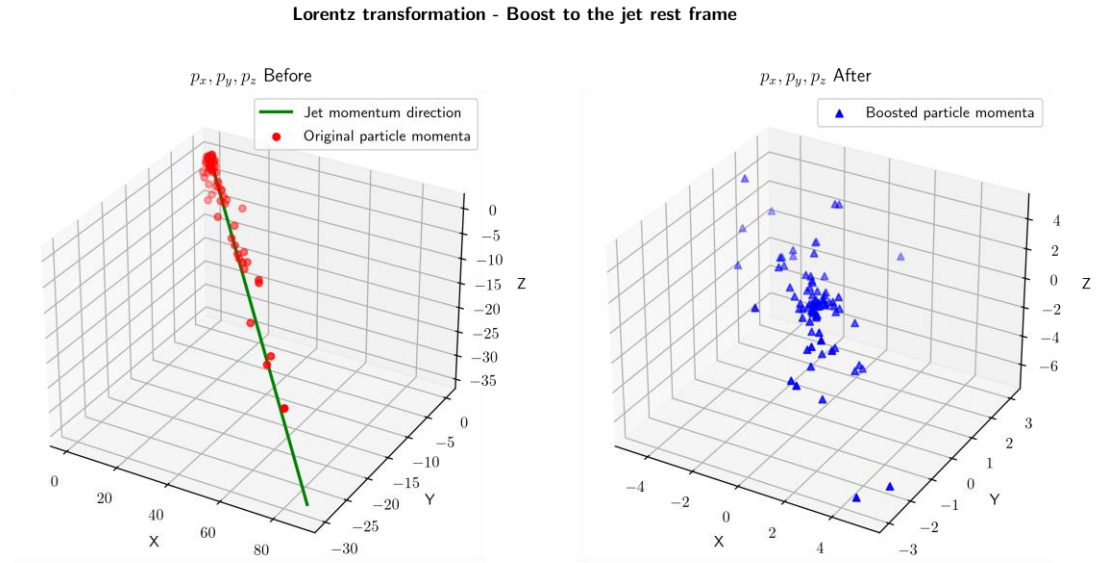
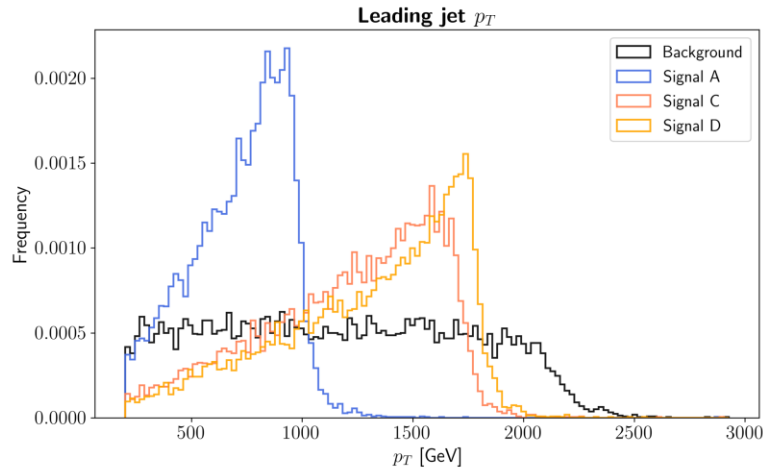


$\alpha_s$  running coupling in dark sector and SM QCD running coupling

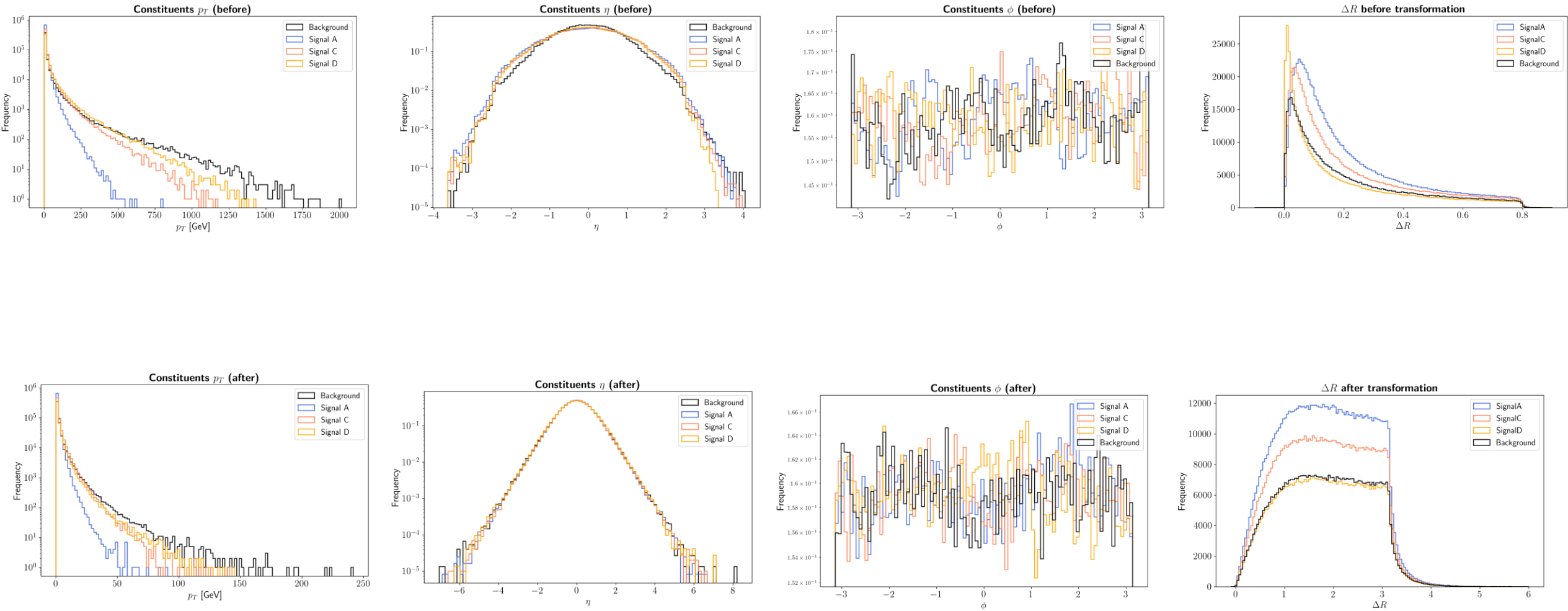
# Branching Ratios of dark $\gamma'$ decays for different $m_{\gamma'}$



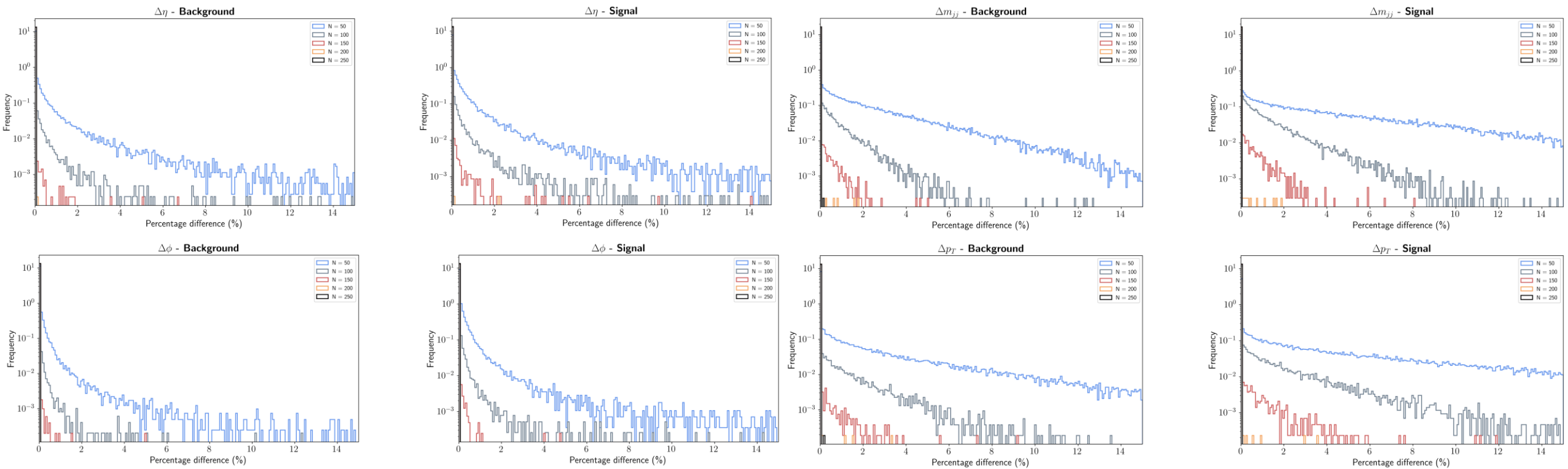
# Leading $p_T$ features and Lorentz transformation to jet rest frame example



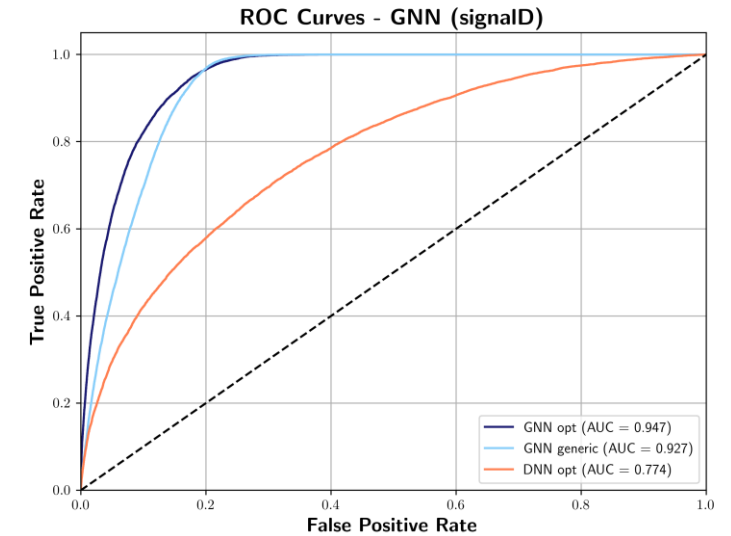
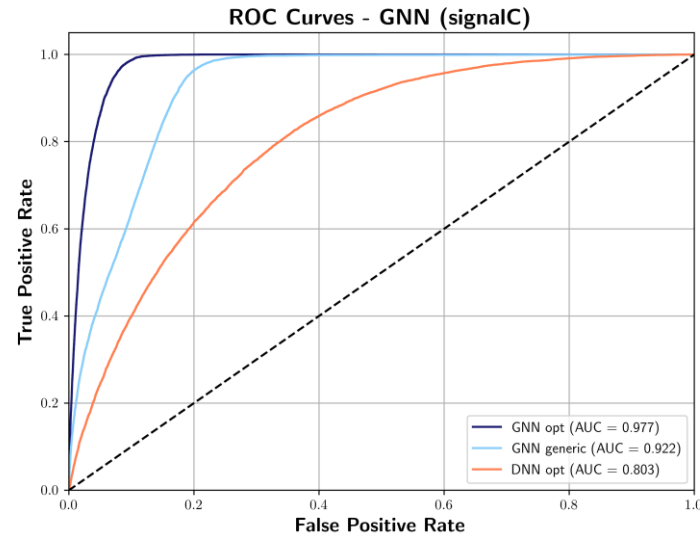
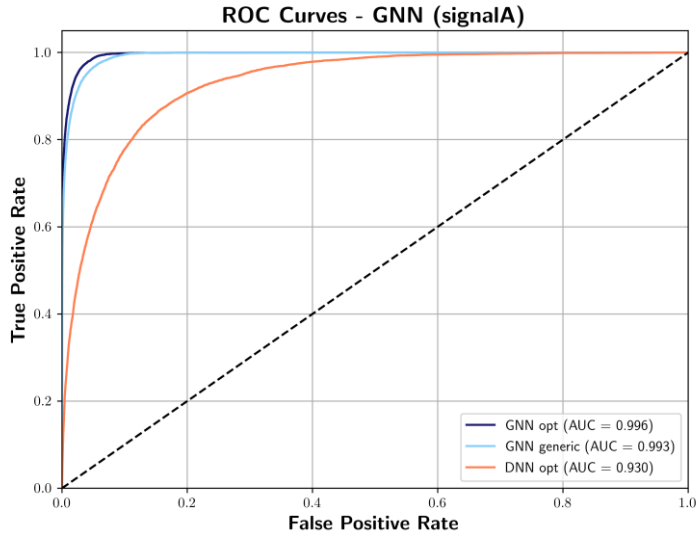
# Constituent Level Features before and after the Lorentz Transformation



# Percentage differences in jet features and $m_{jj}$ considering the $N$ most energetic constituents



# Supervised Learning Models Results



model	attn_heads	n_conv_layers	channels_conv	channels_pool	n_dense_neurons	n_dense_layers	learning_rate	AUC
Signal A optimized	4	2	17	5	104	1	6.694e-04	0.996
Signal C optimized	3	2	28	75	7	4	9.541e-04	0.976
Signal D optimized	4	1	13	21	14	3	7.1065e-06	0.946
generic	2	2	15	100	35	3	1.000e-05	0.993, 0.920, 0.926

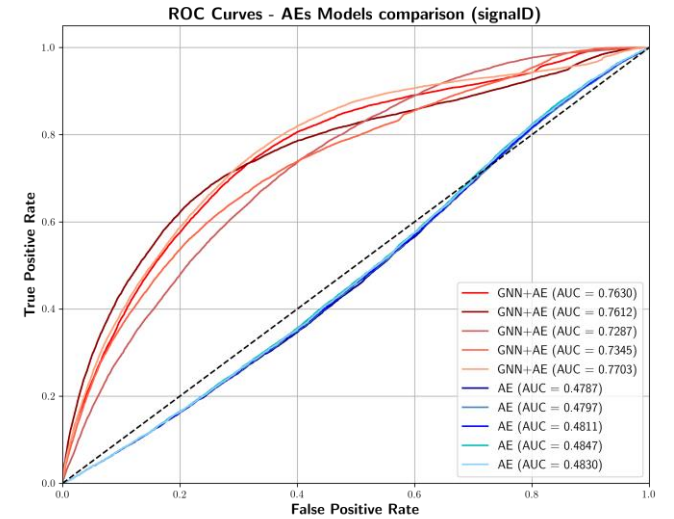
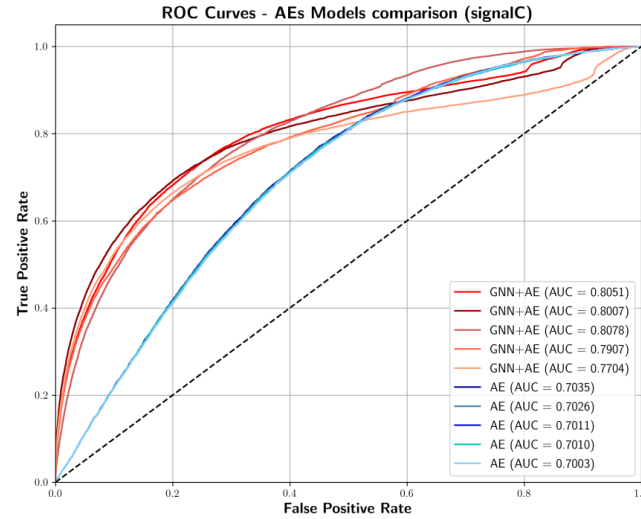
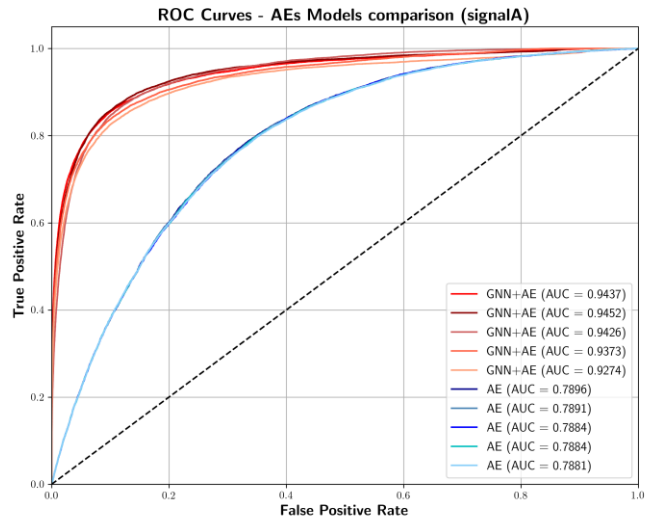
**Table 1.1:** Hyperparameters of Supervised GNN models

model	n_dense_neurons	n_dense_layers	learning_rate	AUC
Signal A optimized	5	1	4.848e-05	0.930
Signal C optimized	9	2	6.254e-04	0.803
Signal D optimized	37	4	5.797e-04	0.774

**Table 1.2:** Hyperparameters of Supervised DNN models

$$z_{\mathcal{G}} = \sum_{u \in \mathcal{V}} \sigma(W_1 z_u + b_1) \odot (W_2 z_u + b_2)$$

# AD models : GNN+AE vs. AE



model	attn_heads	n_conv_layers	channels_conv	channels_pool	n_encoder_layers	bottleneck_dim	AUC (Signal A)	AUC (Signal C)	AUC (Signal D)
3	1	1	15	250	3	62	0.943	0.808	0.729
9	2	1	15	200	1	60	0.945	0.801	0.761
10	1	1	15	300	3	75	0.944	0.805	0.763
12	2	1	25	200	2	55	0.927	0.770	0.770
20	1	1	15	300	3	80	0.937	0.791	0.735

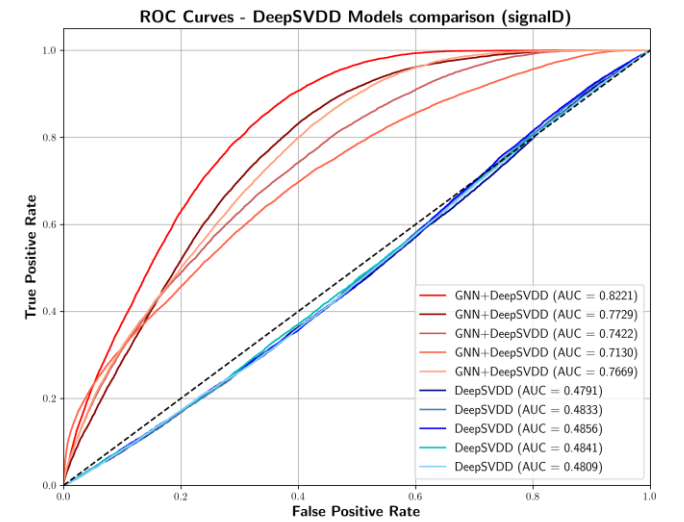
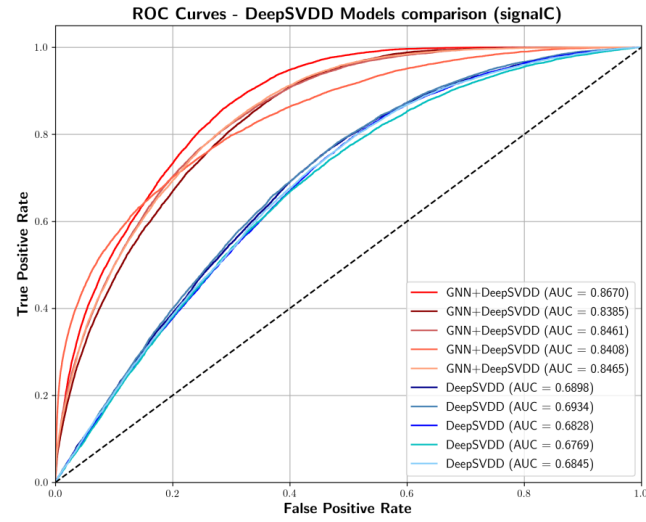
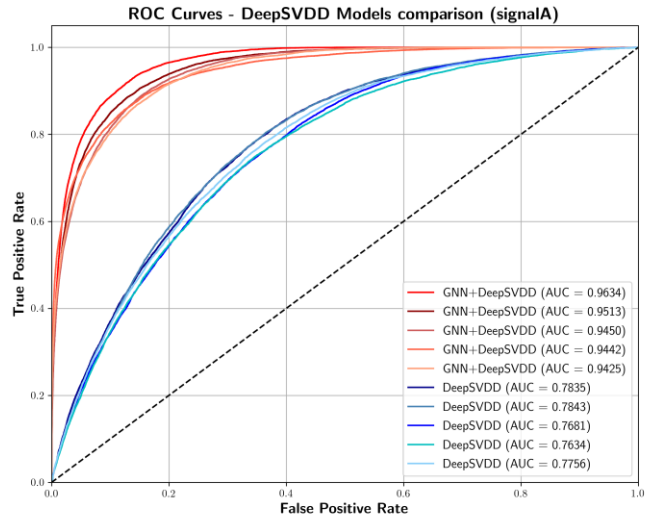
**Table 1.3:** Hyperparameters of GNN+AEs models that have the best performance evaluated across different signals

model	n_neurons_dense	n_encoder_layers	bottleneck_dim	AUC (Signal A)	AUC (Signal C)	AUC (Signal D)
1	600	2	150	0.789	0.704	0.479
2	500	2	125	0.754	0.789	0.483
3	400	1	100	0.788	0.700	0.484
9	10	2	5	0.788	0.701	0.485
20	400	2	100	0.788	0.701	0.481

**Table 1.4:** Hyperparameters of AE models that have the best performance evaluated across different signals



# AD models : GNN+DeepSVDD vs. DeepSVDD



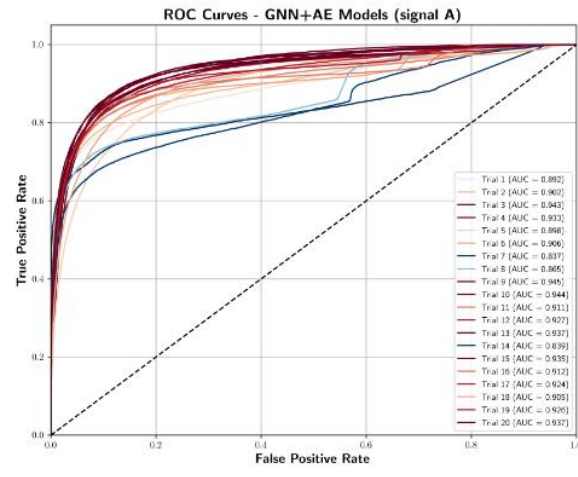
model	attn_heads	n_conv_layers	channels_conv	channels_pool	n_dense_neurons	n_dense_layers	output_dim	AUC (Signal A)	AUC (Signal C)	AUC (Signal D)
1	1	1	15	100	64	2	32	0.963	0.867	0.822
5	1	1	30	200	80	3	64	0.945	0.835	0.736
9	1	1	50	150	100	3	75	0.955	0.836	0.729
10	1	1	25	100	64	4	64	0.956	0.852	0.798
15	3	1	15	100	64	2	64	0.951	0.839	0.773

**Table 1.5:** Hyperparameters of GNN+DeepSVDD models that have the best performance evaluated across different signals

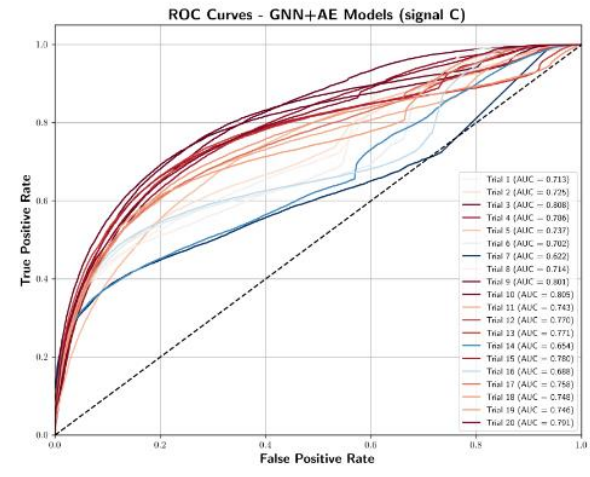
model	n_neurons_dense	n_encoder_layers	output_dim	AUC (Signal A)	AUC (Signal C)	AUC (Signal D)
5	80	2	64	0.783	0.690	0.479
8	120	2	64	0.783	0.693	0.483
11	150	2	32	0.768	0.683	0.483
13	150	3	64	0.763	0.677	0.484
18	100	2	16	0.776	0.685	0.481

**Table 1.6:** Hyperparameters of DeepSVDD models that have the best performance evaluated across different signals

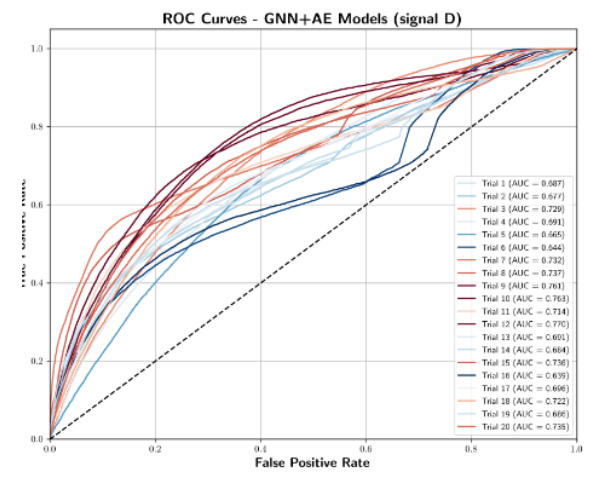
# AD models : Different Hyperparameter combinations for AEs



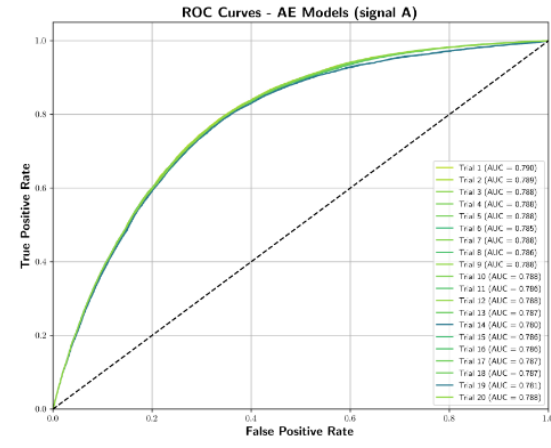
(a) ROC Curve GNNs+AEs signal A



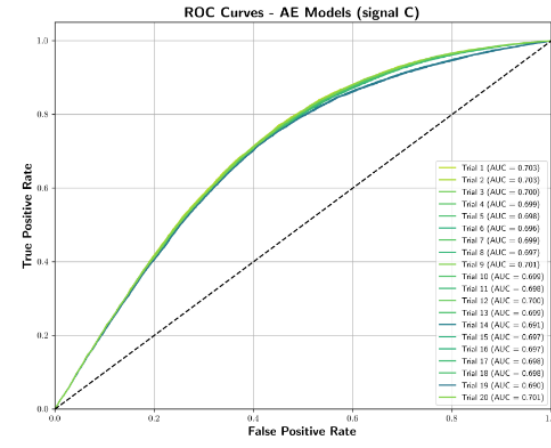
(b) ROC Curve GNNs+AEs signal C



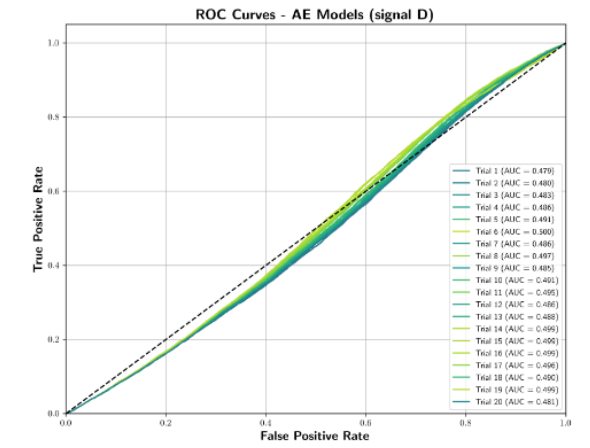
(c) ROC Curve GNNs+AEs



(a) ROC Curve AEs signal A

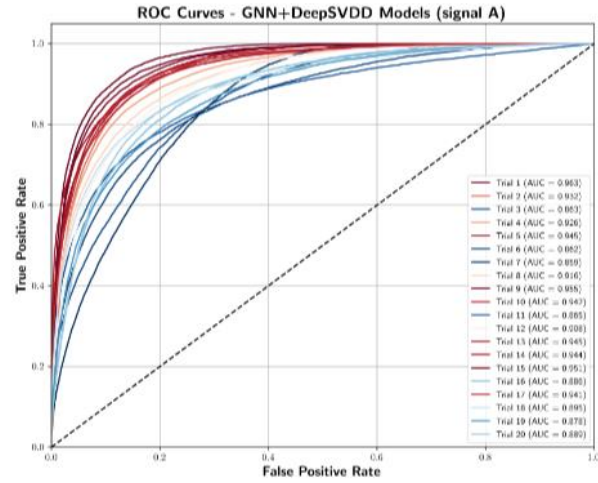


(b) ROC Curve AEs signal C

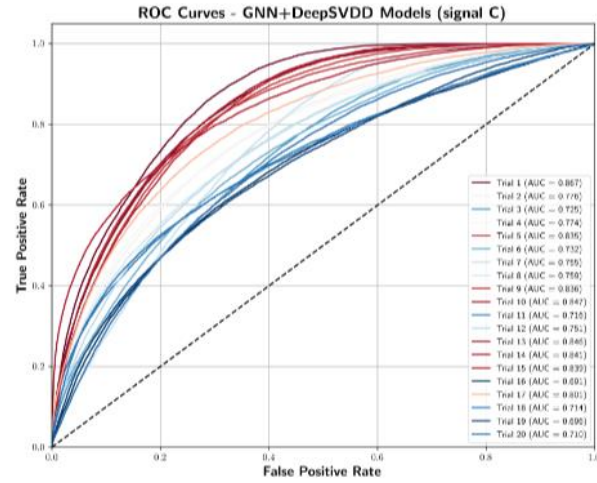


(c) ROC Curve AEs signal D

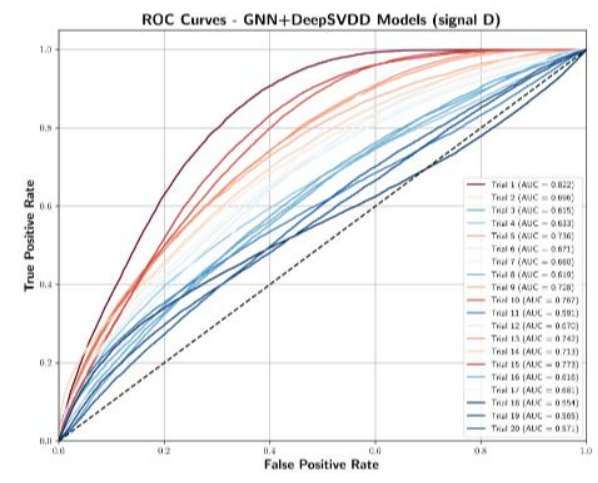
# AD models : Different Hyperparameter combinations for DeepSVDDs



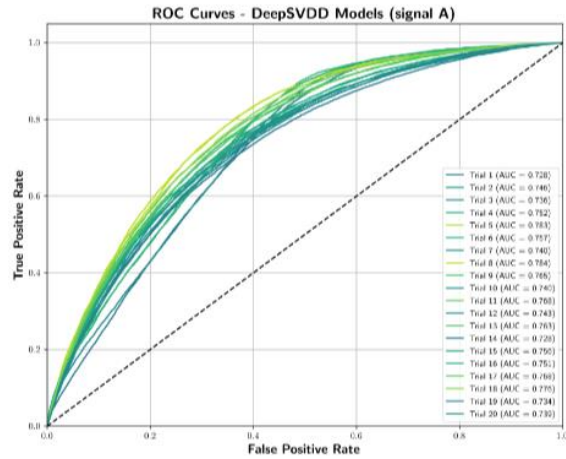
(a) ROC Curve GNNs+DeepSVDD signal A



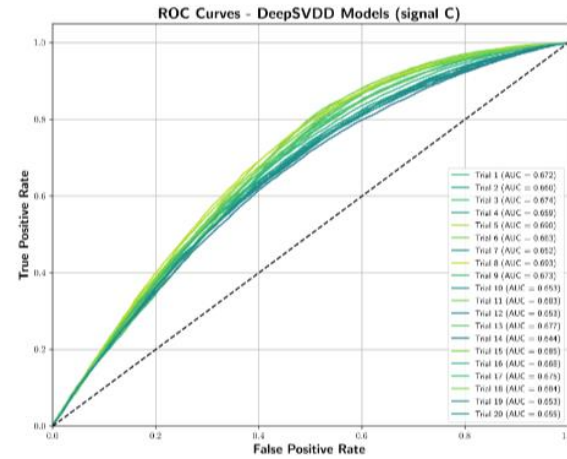
(b) ROC Curve GNNs+DeepSVDD signal C



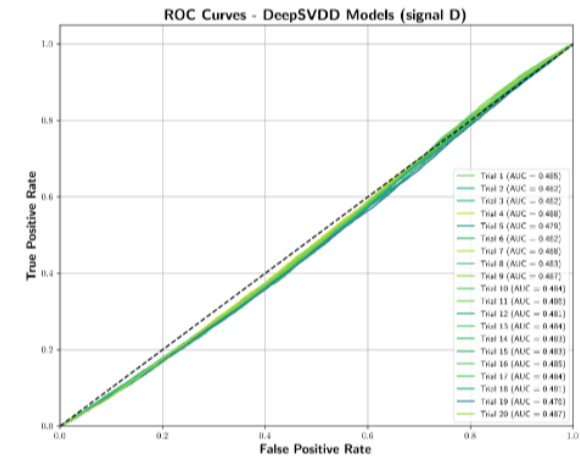
(c) ROC Curve GNNs+DeepSVDD



(a) ROC Curve DeepSVDDs signal A

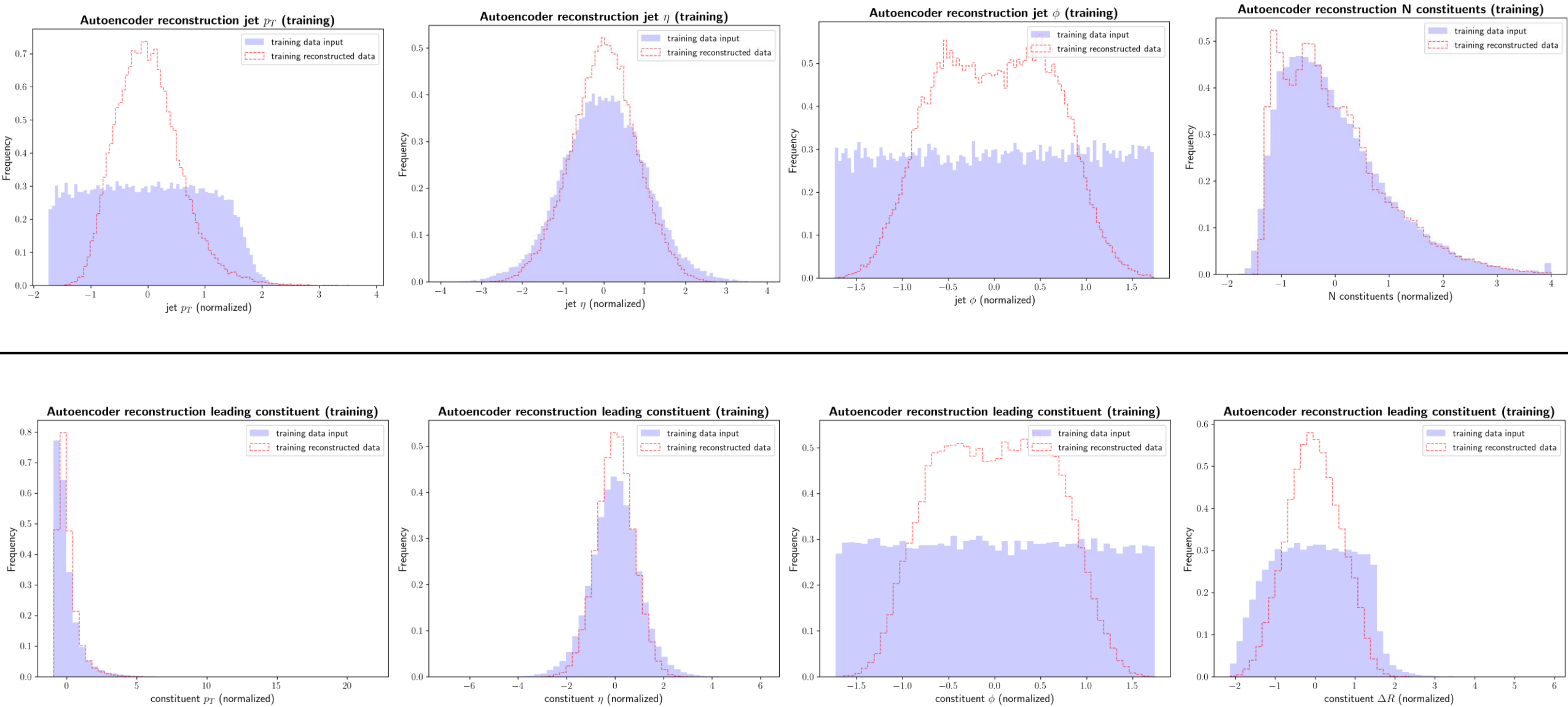


(b) ROC Curve DeepSVDDs signal C

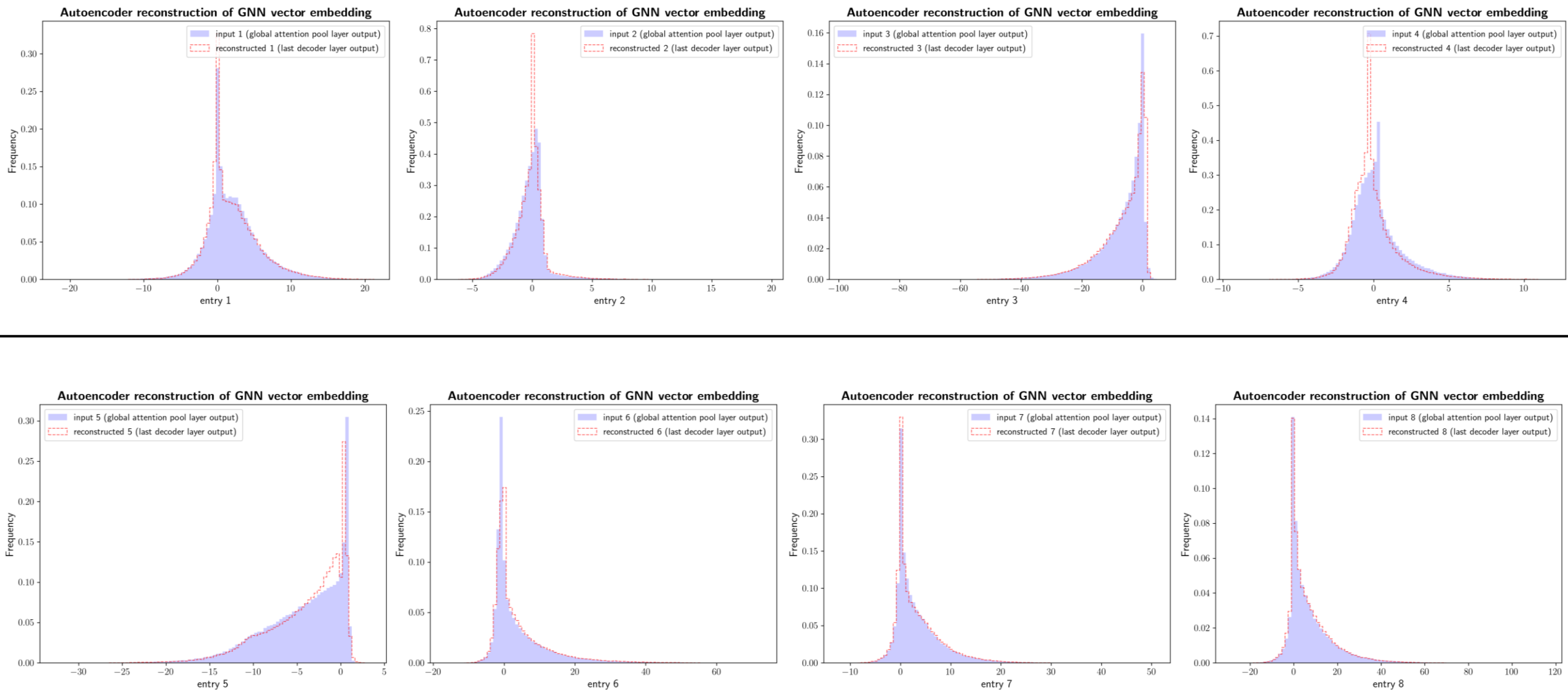


(c) ROC Curve DeepSVDDs signal D

# Normal Autoencoder reconstruction (Jet and leading $p_T$ constituent features)

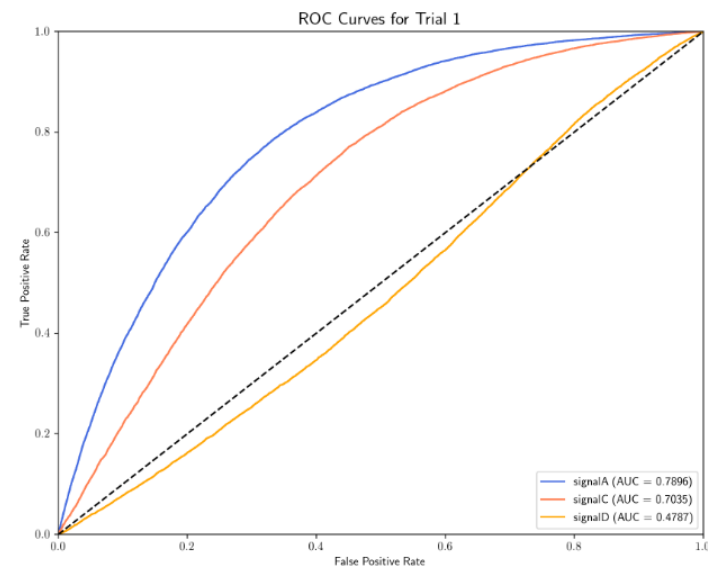
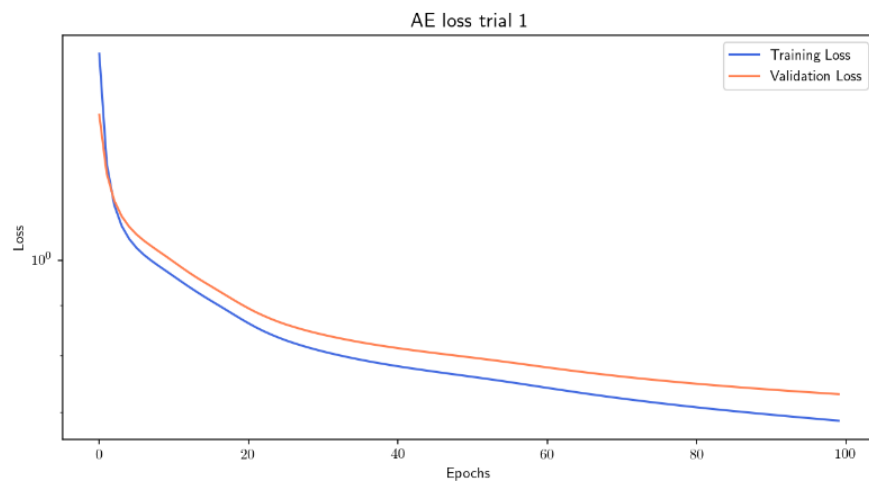


# GNN Autoencoder reconstruction (First 8 entries of graph pooling layer output)

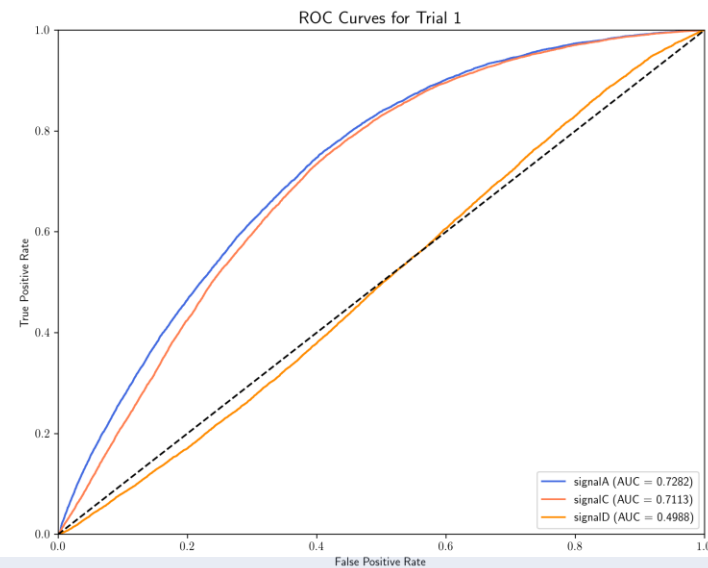
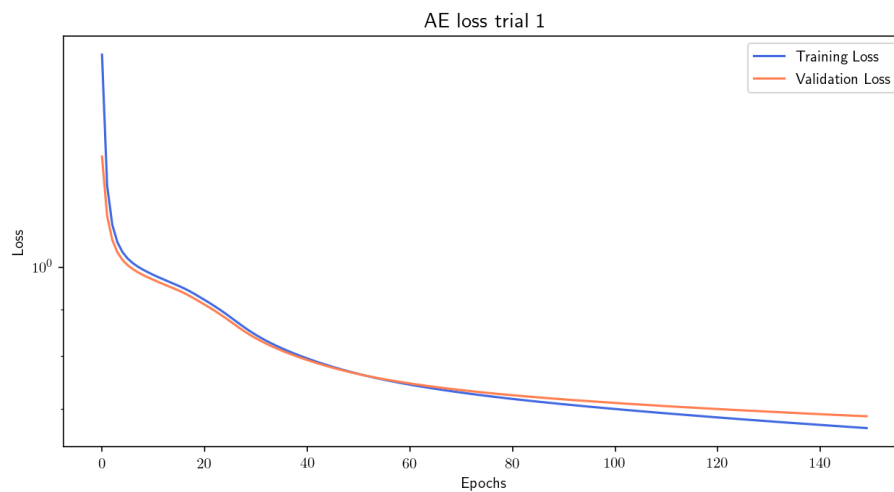


# Normal Autoencoder performance receiving $(p_T, \eta, \phi)$ vs $(p_x, p_y, p_z)$

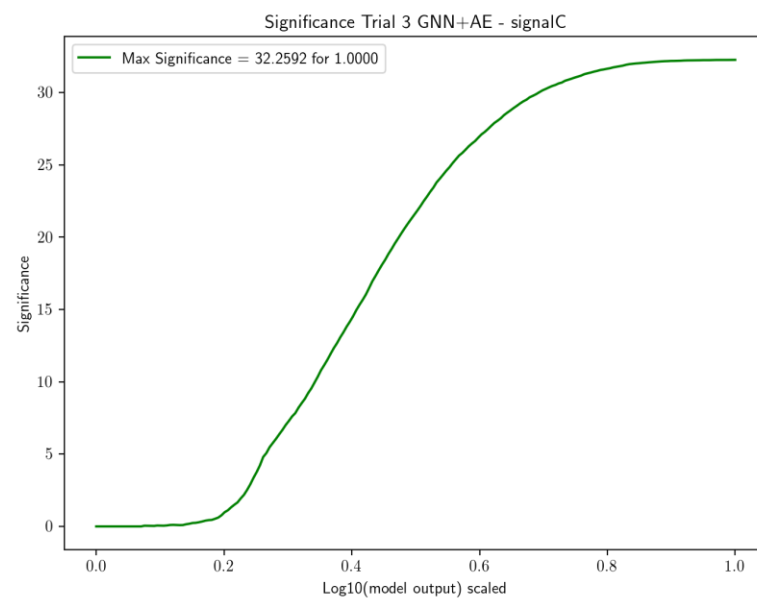
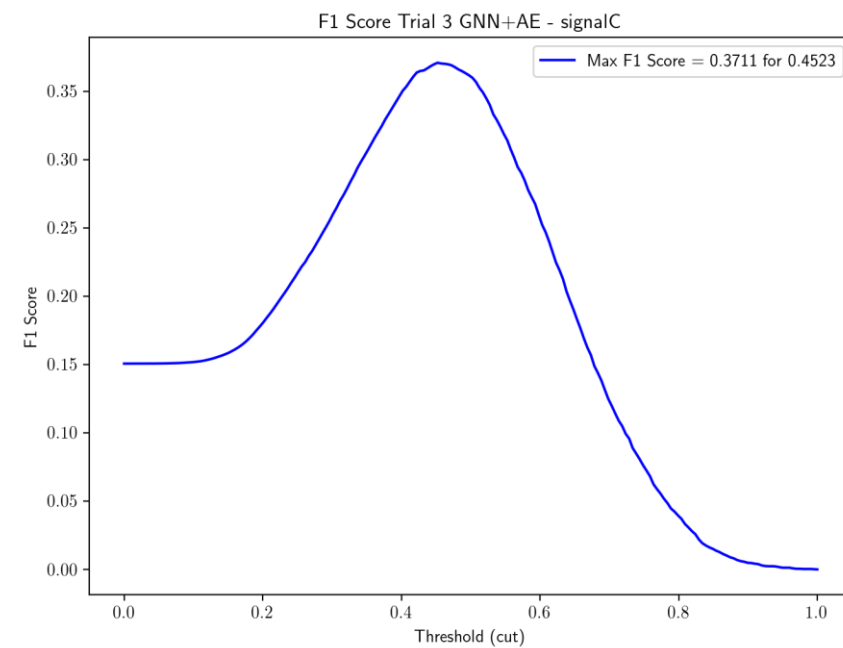
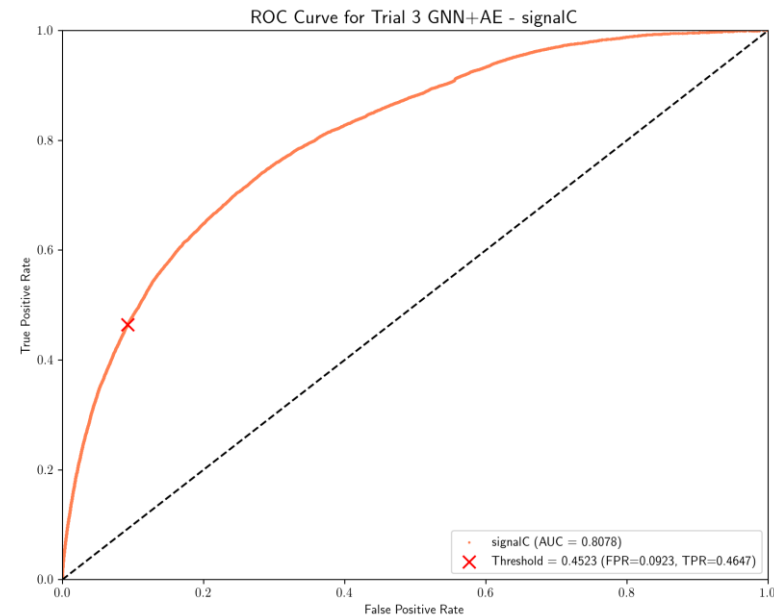
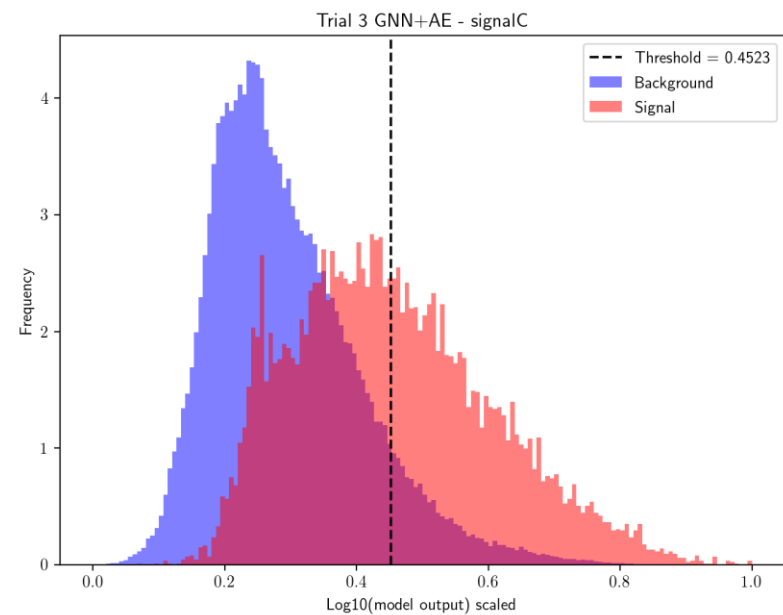
Angular



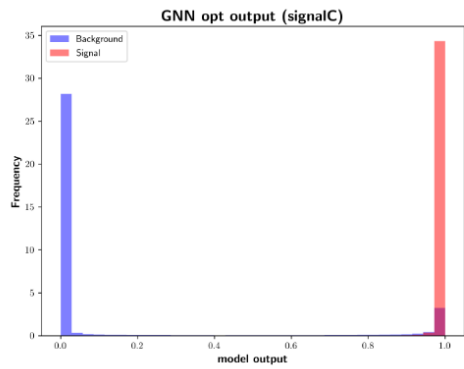
Cartesians



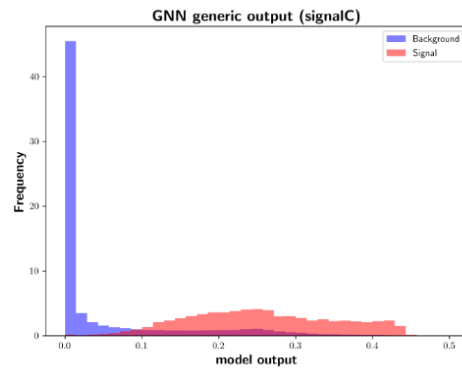
# Finding the best working point for AD models as classifiers:



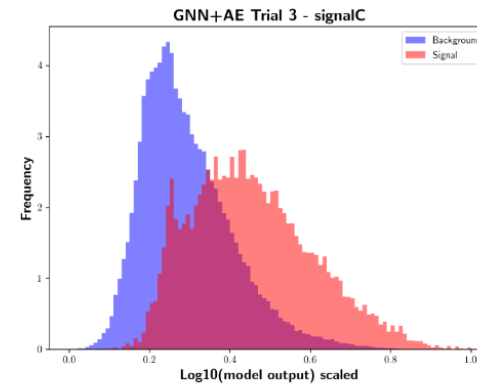
# Outputs of Deep Learning Models for signal C



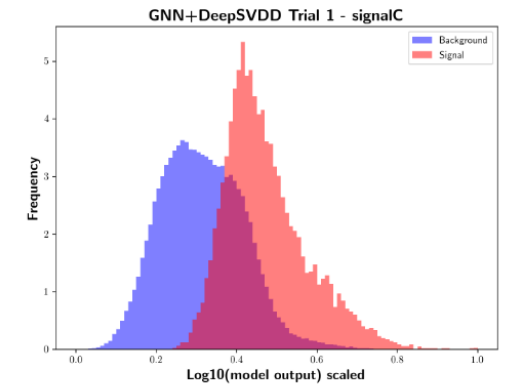
(a) Output Supervised GNN optimized



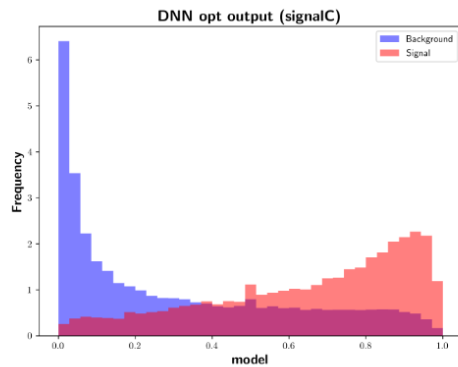
(b) Output Supervised GNN generic



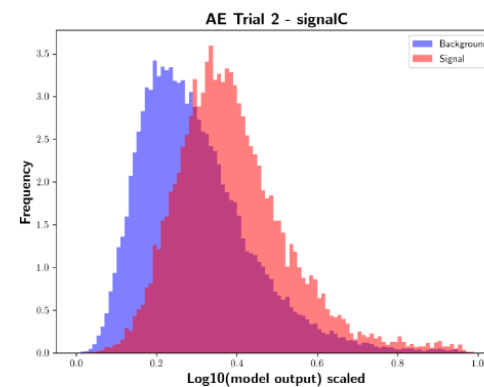
(a) GNN+AE output



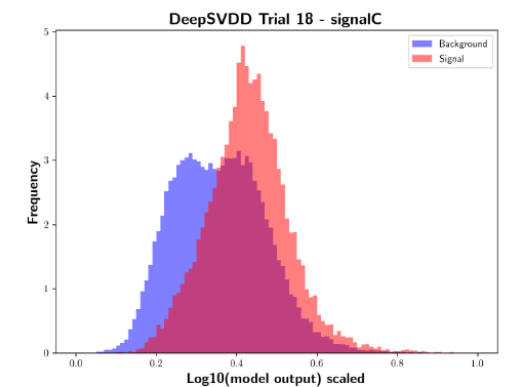
(b) GNN + DeepSVDD output



(c) Output Supervised DNN optimized



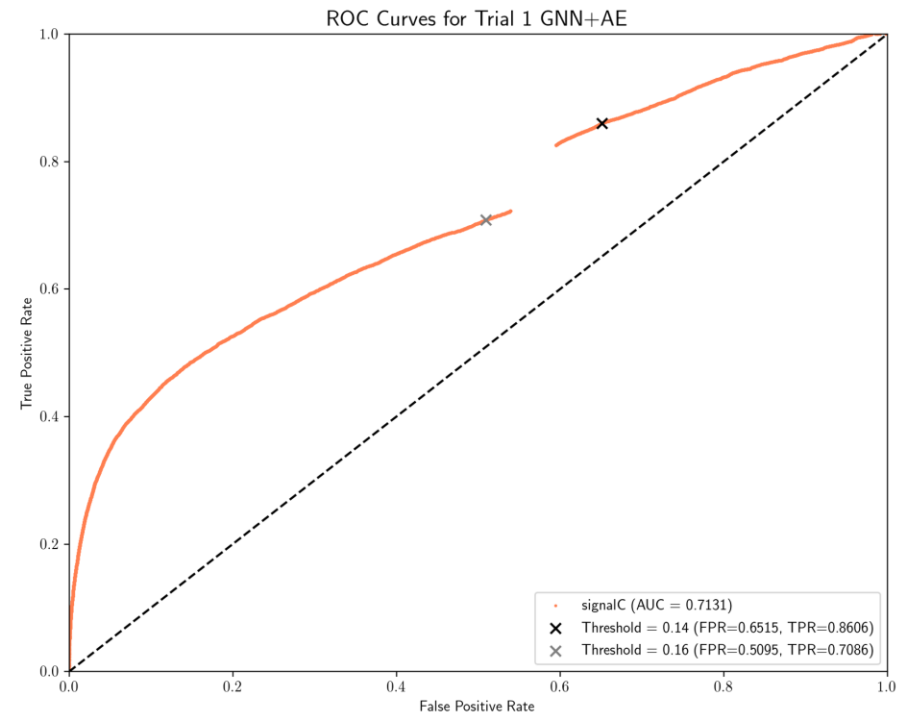
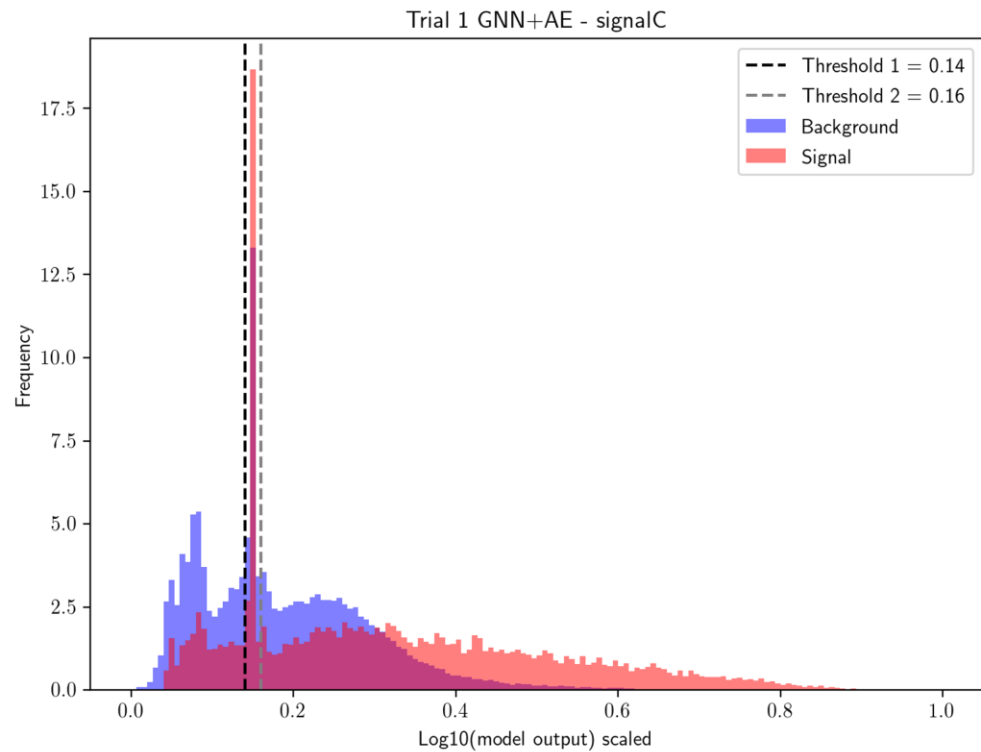
(c) AE output



(d) DeepSVDD output



# ROC curves discontinuities in a few of GNN+AE models

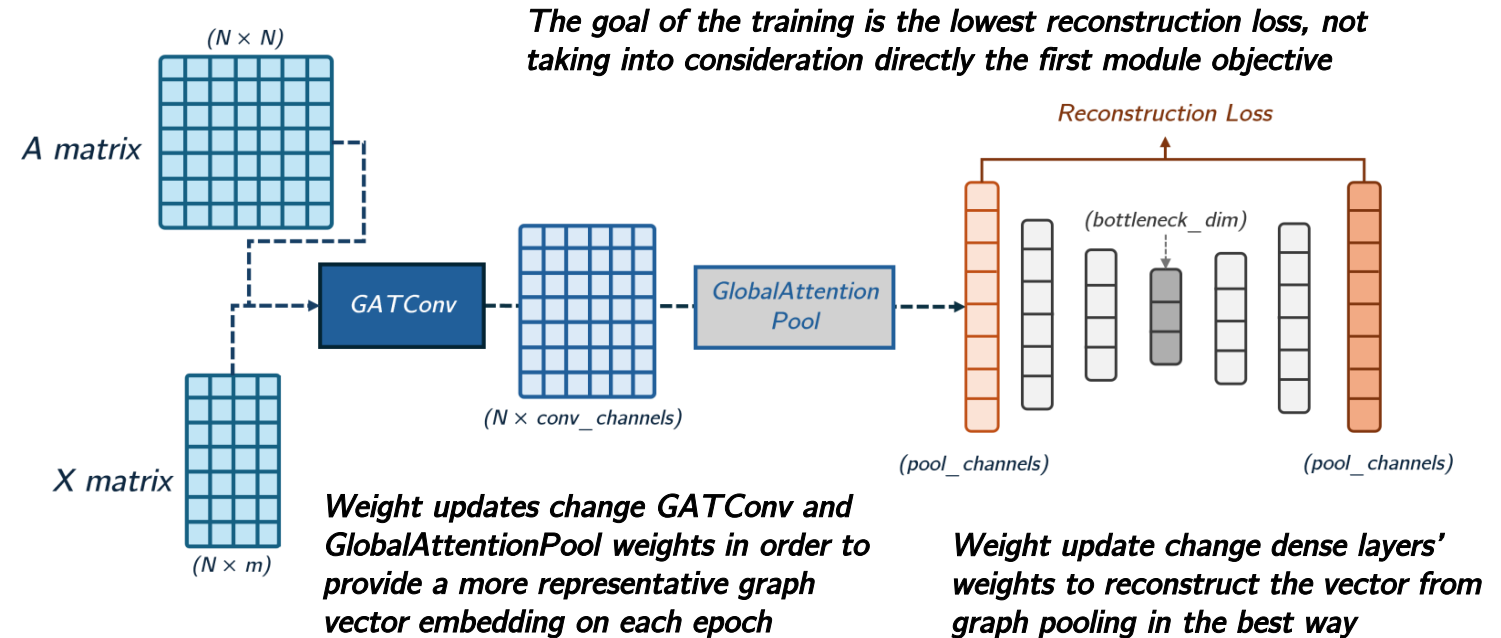


- **background peak** in a specific score, the threshold after the peak increases TN and decreases FP abruptly lowering FPR discontinuously (horizontal shift)
- **signal peak** in a specific score, the threshold after the peak increases FN and decreases TP abruptly decreasing TPR quickly (vertical shift)

# Training GNN+AE in phases

## Training in phases (freezing layers) vs Training all layers in simultaneous – GNN+AE models

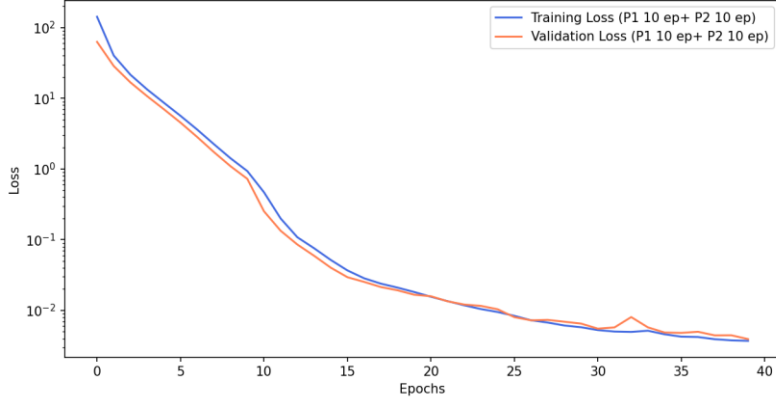
*If we train the graph module layers first , not updating the weights of the dense layers and then fix the weights of the graph layers updating the AE module, would this impact the performance of the models?*



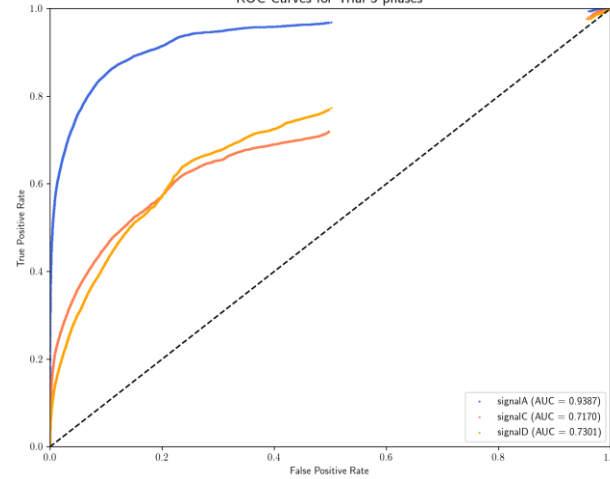
*The AE module is trying to reconstruct a vector that is changing the information on each entry on every training epoch - it is pointing to a "moving target"*

# Training GNN+AE in phases

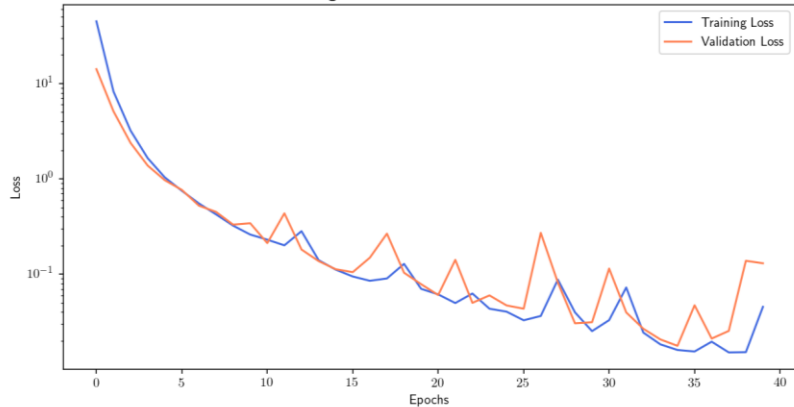
Training and Validation Loss for Trial 3



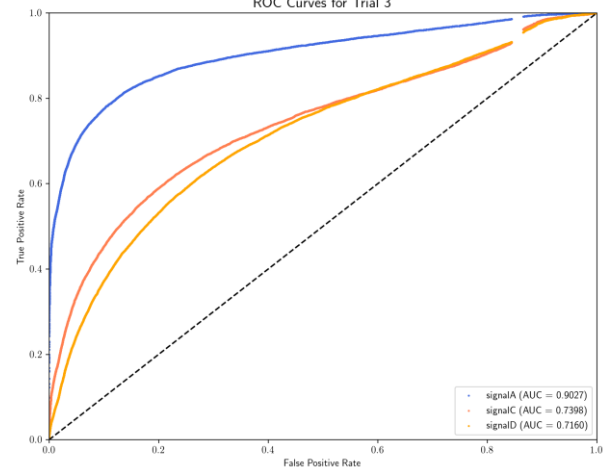
ROC Curves for Trial 3 phases



Training and Validation Loss for Trial 3



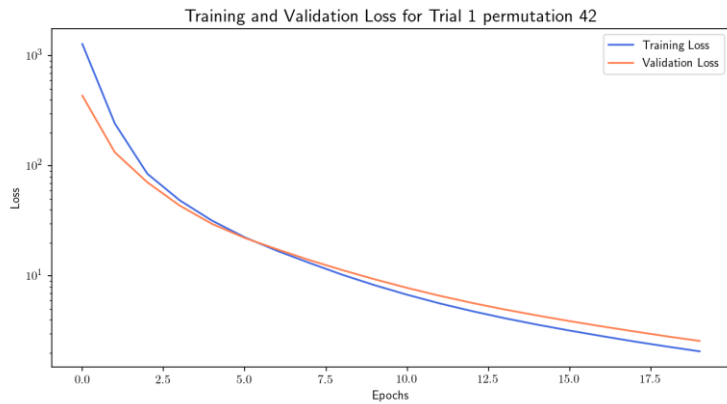
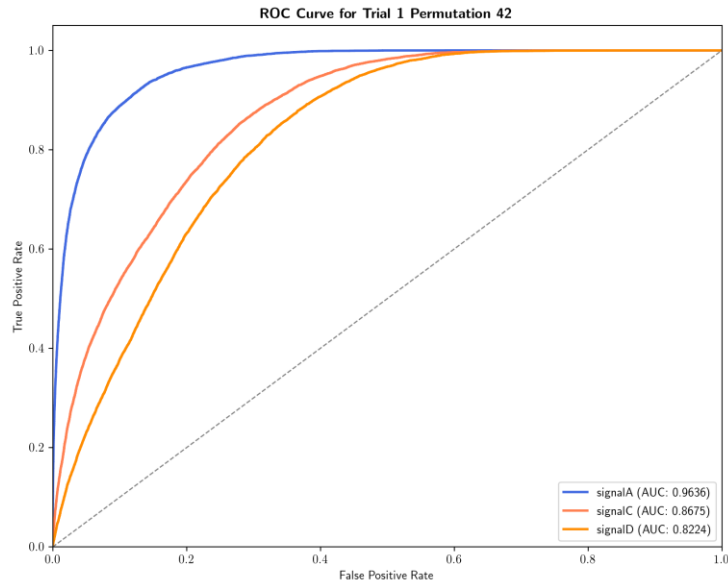
ROC Curves for Trial 3



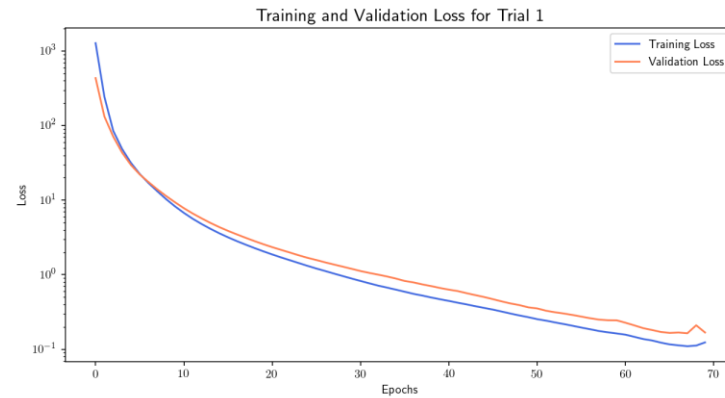
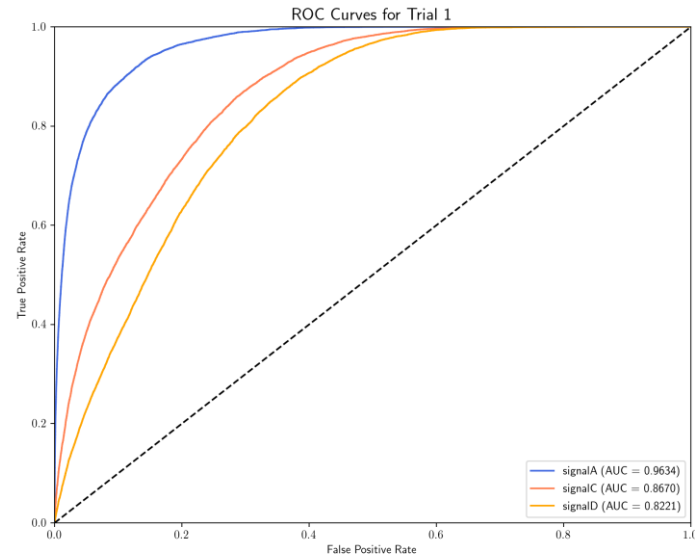
- Training with phases, which involves "freezing" the AE dense layers during the initial epochs to update the graph layer weights and then reversing the process, does not improve the performance of the AD models in any trial. It also does not significantly reduce the AUC values for the different signals.
- Training with phases shows less oscillations in the loss during training, compared to training all layers simultaneously. For this comparison, models that train all layers at the same models that train all layers at once were given increased patience for validation loss increasing.
- In the original models, patience was set to the minimum (patience = 1 epoch). Increasing the patience did not lead to higher AUC values.
- Models trained with phases show more a more pronounced problem with background/signal peaks in the specific AD score than models that train all layers at once. Models trained with high patience but without phased training exhibit this issue more clearly than the original models with a low epoch number.

# Permuting the input objects

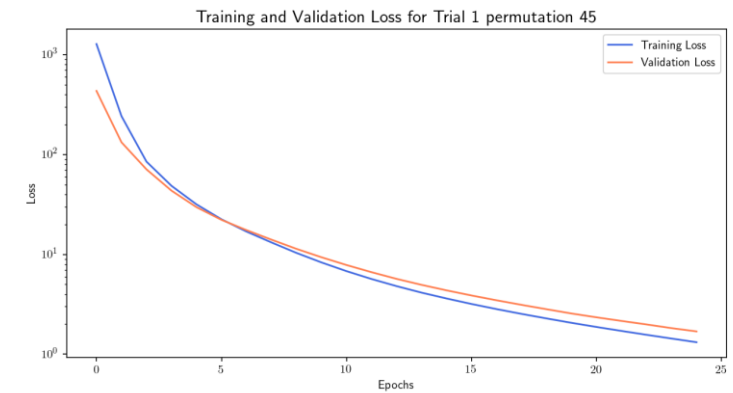
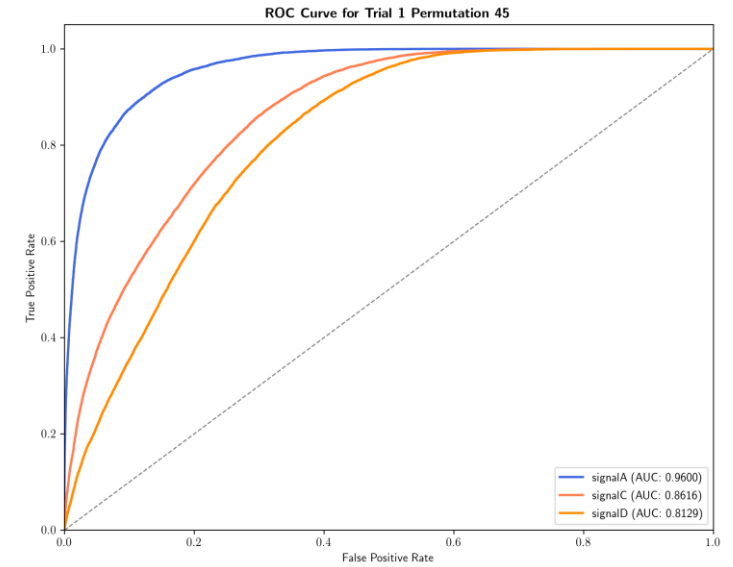
Permuted ordered inputs 1  
**Trial 1 – GNN+DeepSVDDs**



Pt ordered inputs  
**Trial 1 – GNN+DeepSVDDs**

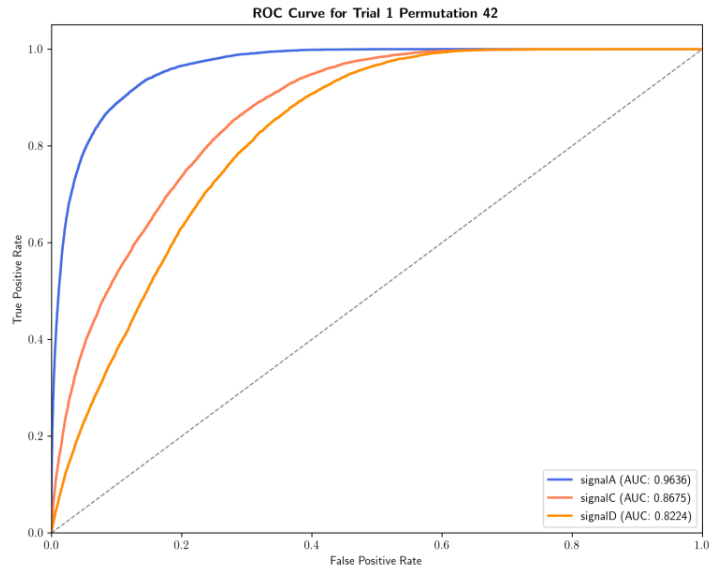


Permuted ordered inputs 2  
**Trial 1 – GNN+DeepSVDDs**

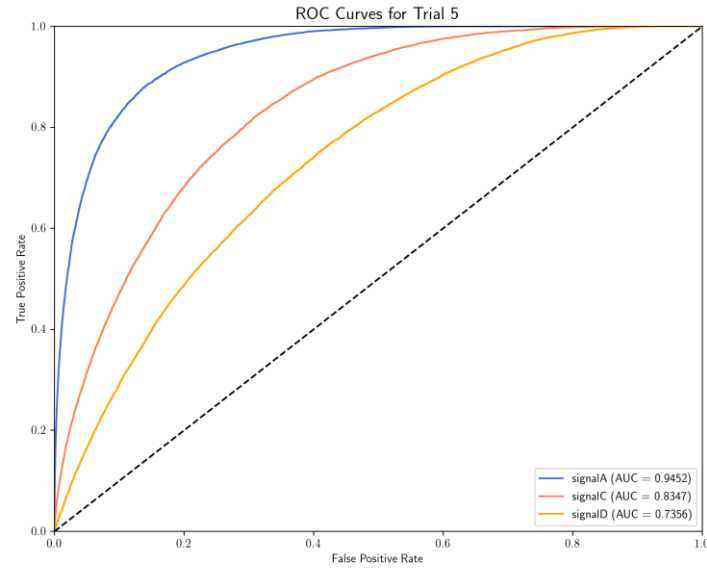


# Permuting the input objects

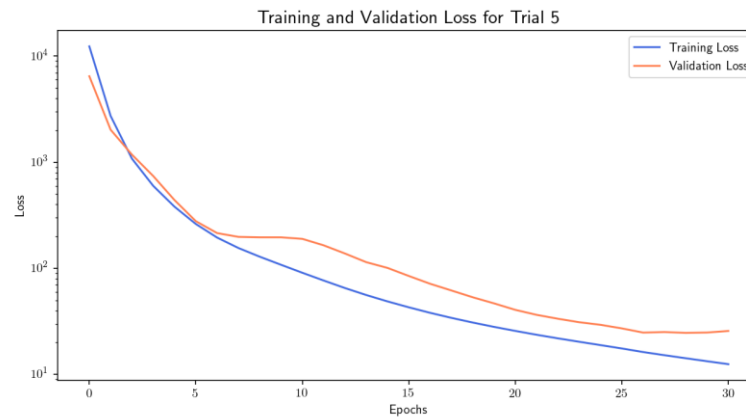
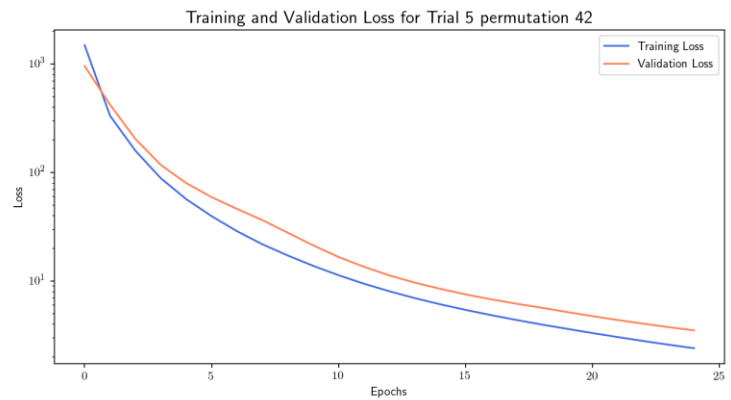
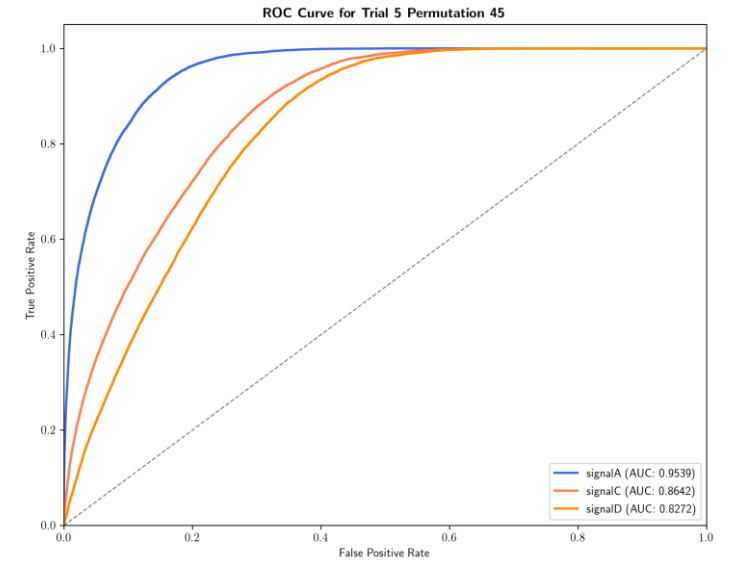
Permuted ordered inputs 1  
**Trial 5 – GNN+DeepSVDDs**



Pt ordered inputs  
**Trial 5 – GNN+DeepSVDDs**

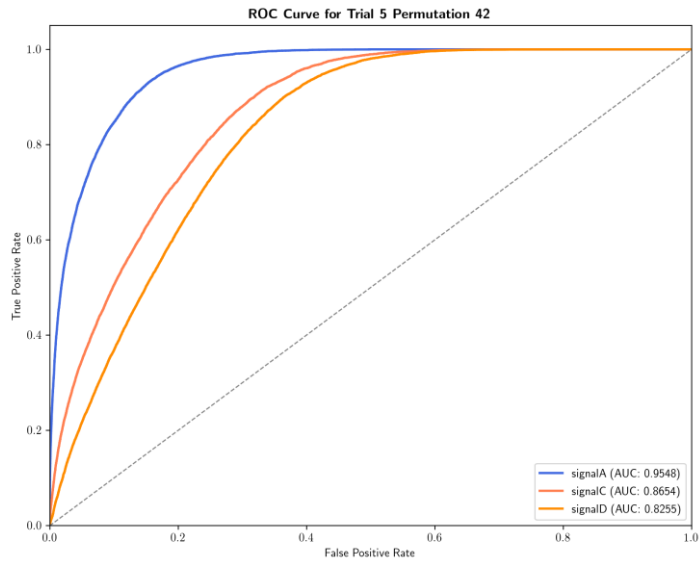


Permuted ordered inputs 2  
**Trial 5 – GNN+DeepSVDDs**

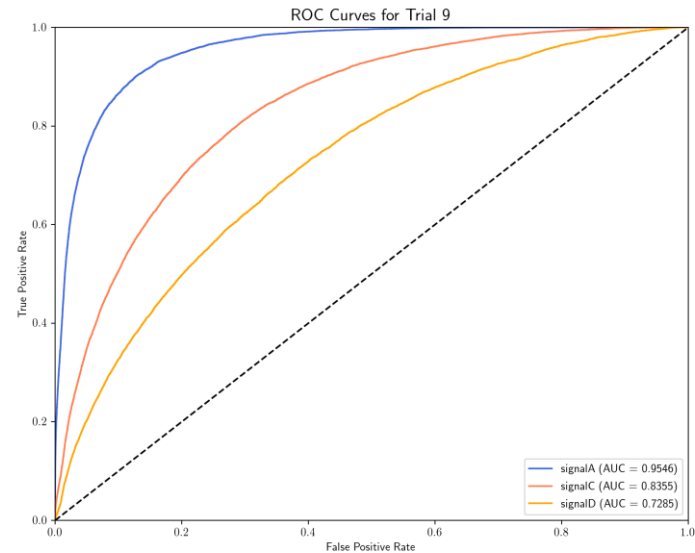


# Permuting the input objects

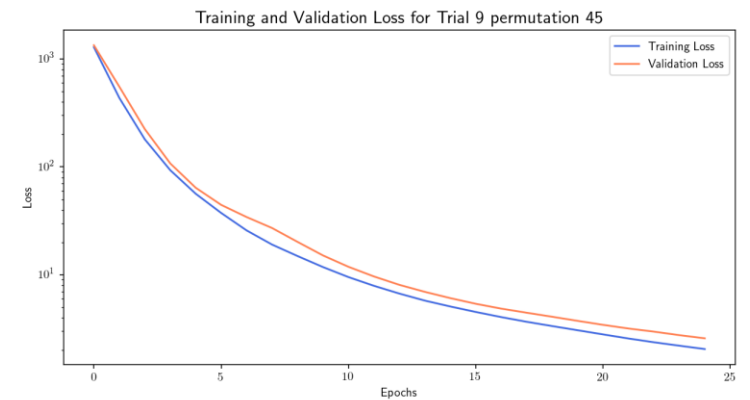
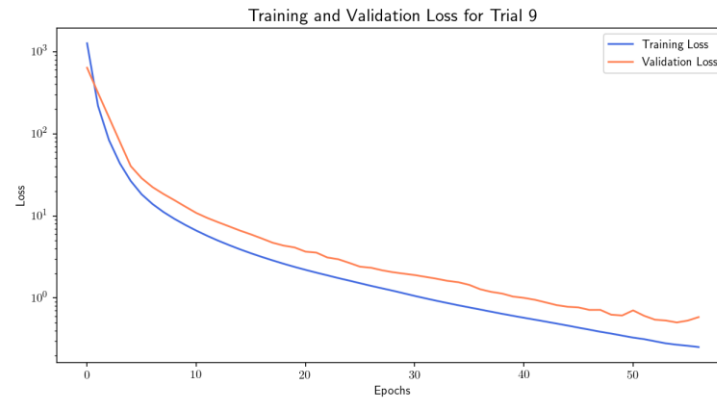
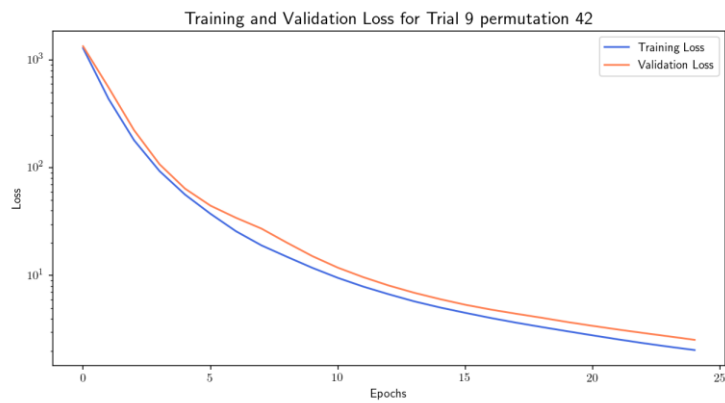
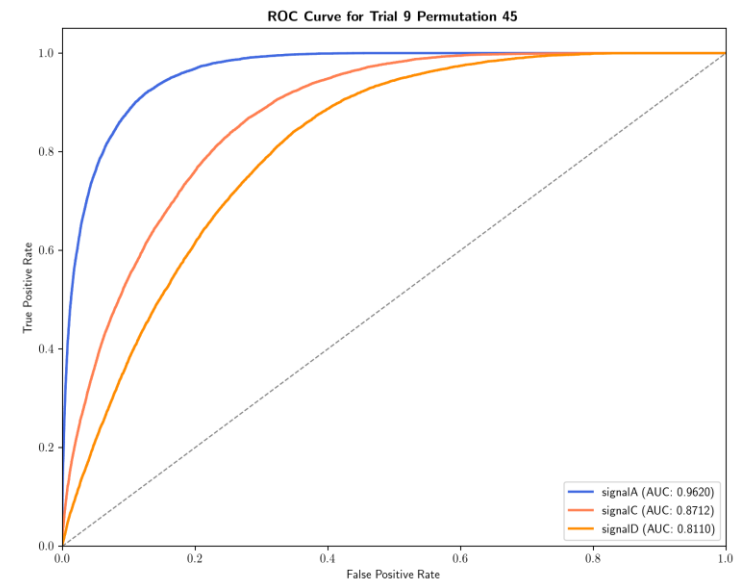
Permuted ordered inputs 1  
**Trial 9 – GNN+DeepSVDDs**



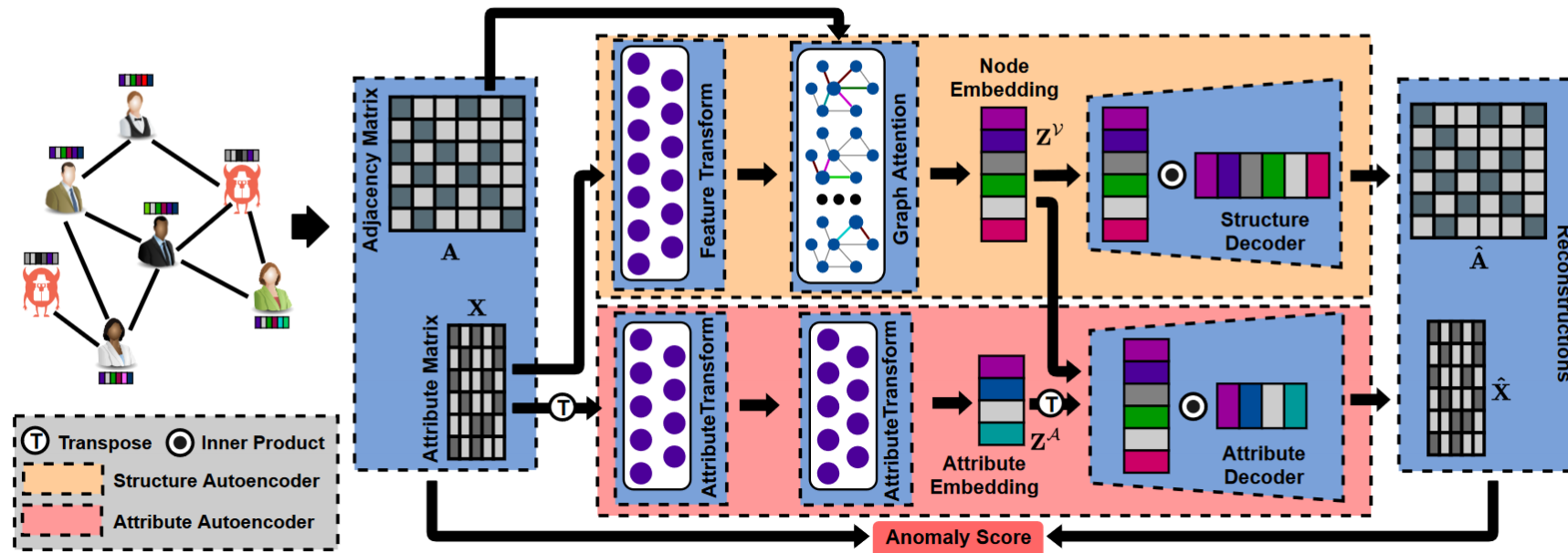
Pt ordered inputs  
**Trial 9 – GNN+DeepSVDDs**



Permuted ordered inputs 2  
**Trial 9 – GNN+DeepSVDDs**



# Pygod – Pytorch implemented models that use GNN+AE



*Anomaly DAE*

- DOMINANT
- CONAD