

# Summary of First EuCAIF Conference 2024

*Lorenzo Moneta  
(SFT Meeting May 27, 2024)*



**EUROPEAN AI FOR  
FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS  
CONFERENCE  
EuCAIFCon 2024**

# EuCAIF Conference (30 April - 3 May 2004)

- First **European AI for Fundamental Physics Conference** (EuCAIFCon)
  - **EuCAIF**: new European initiative for advancing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Fundamental Physics.
  - **Joint initiative** from particle physics, astroparticle physics, gravitational wave physics, cosmology, nuclear physics and theoretical physics.



- Goal is to **establish connections** between different branches of EuCAIF
- Cross-disciplinary sessions centred on specific AI themes
- Events supported also by



and



# Conference Organisation

- Organised with plenary sessions, panel discussions, parallel sessions with oral talk and lightning talks
  - Lightning talks presenting also a poster (2 poster sessions)
- **Well organised** with long breaks allowing time for discussions.
  - Large number of participants (more than 200)
    - from students and early career researchers to seniors
- **Great location**, Amsterdam, in a nice Hotel with lunches provided for the 4 days (from Tuesday to Friday)
  - Reasonable conference fees
- See timetable and contributions at conference [Indico page](#).

# Plenary presentations

- **Reviews of AI** in the different disciplines
  - Theoretical physics
  - Experimental particle physics
  - Nuclear Physics
  - Gravitational Wave physics
  - Cosmology
  - Astro-particle Physics
- Special keynote talks
  - Methods in AI for Science (*François Charton*)
  - AI ethics and fundamental physics (*Savannah Thais*)
  - Prospects for AI in physics and astronomy (*Max Welling*)
- Closing Keynote Talk:
  - AI for fundamental physics (*Kyle Cranmer*)

# Parallel Sessions

- **Large number of contributions** (~ 200)
- Parallel sessions on these topics and number of contributions:
  - Pattern recognition and image analysis (37)
  - Generative models and simulation of physical systems (23)
  - Simulation-based inference (28 )
  - Hardware acceleration and FPGA (19)
  - Explainable AI (10)
  - Foundation models and related techniques (12)
  - Physics-informed AI and integration of physics and ML (13)
  - Uncertainty quantification and others (24)
- **Working group discussions**

# EuCAIF Working groups

- Foundation Model and Discovery
- Hardware and Design Optimisation
- Fairness and Sustainability
- JENA WP 4 (ML Computing Infrastructure)
- Community connections and funding

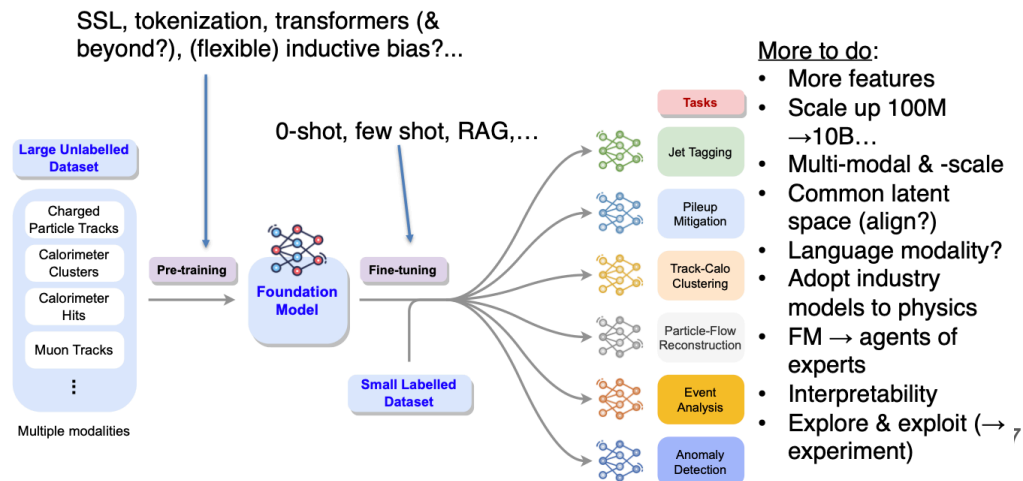
Started initial discussion in the working groups

- Define goals and objectives
- Inviting interested members to participate
- Follow-up meetings will better define the future plans

# WG1 - Foundation models

- Goals:
  - Facilitate research on large-scale foundation models (FMs) for fundamental physics
  - Provide infrastructure, resources, data and models, connect researchers, define problems & metrics

## The Vision



sign up: <https://bit.ly/eucaifcon24-wg1>

# WG 4: White paper for JENA WP4

- Define Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure
  - define computing requirements for the next decade (JENA computing initiative)
- Mandate of the group:
  - Follow the technologies in this fast evolving field.
  - Analyse the potential impact on the ENA computing infrastructure needs.
  - Quantify the resource needs and define the interfaces and services that are needed by physicists to run ML workloads (looking at both training and inference).
- Timescale: White paper ready by end of the year
- Join the working group:  
→ <https://indico.scc.kit.edu/event/3813/>



# Panel Discussions

- Directions AI and fundamental physics
- AI Infrastructure
- Building a European Coalition for AI in Fundamental Physics

# Plenary Presentations

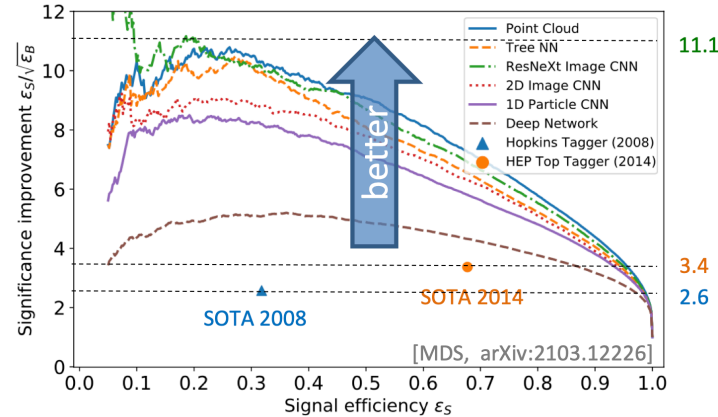
- personal summary of some interesting plenaries (not complete)

# Theoretical high-energy physics and AI (*Matthew Schwartz*)

Very interesting and fascinating talk (see [slides](#))

- **Past:** collider physics
- **Present:** symbolic AI for theoretical physics
- Large Language Models show good capability for symbolic problems
  - Example: simplify computation of Feynman diagrams (polylogarithms)
  - approach based on reinforcement learning or transformers
  - Same approach can be used to other problems:
    - Simplifying spinor-helicity amplitudes
    - scattering amplitudes
- ML application also in string theory
- **Future: can machines do theoretical physics?**

Top Tagging (2008 – 2022)

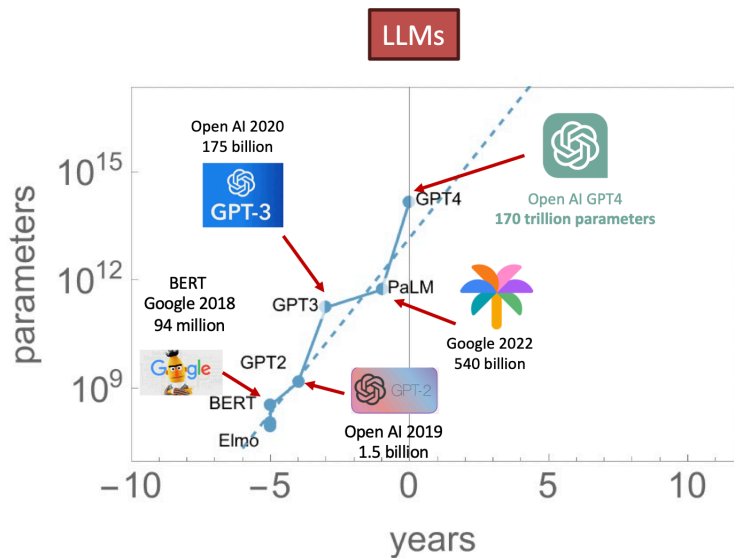


$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) = & 9 \left( -\text{Li}_3(x) - \text{Li}_3\left(\frac{2ix}{-i+\sqrt{3}}\right) - \text{Li}_3\left(\frac{2ix}{i+\sqrt{3}}\right) \right) \\
 & + 4 \left( -\text{Li}_3(x) + \text{Li}_3\left(\frac{x}{x+1}\right) + \text{Li}_3(x+1) - \text{Li}_2(-x) \ln(x+1) \right) \\
 & - 4 \left( \text{Li}_2(x+1) \ln(x+1) + \frac{1}{6} \ln^3(x+1) + \frac{1}{2} \ln(-x) \ln^2(x+1) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

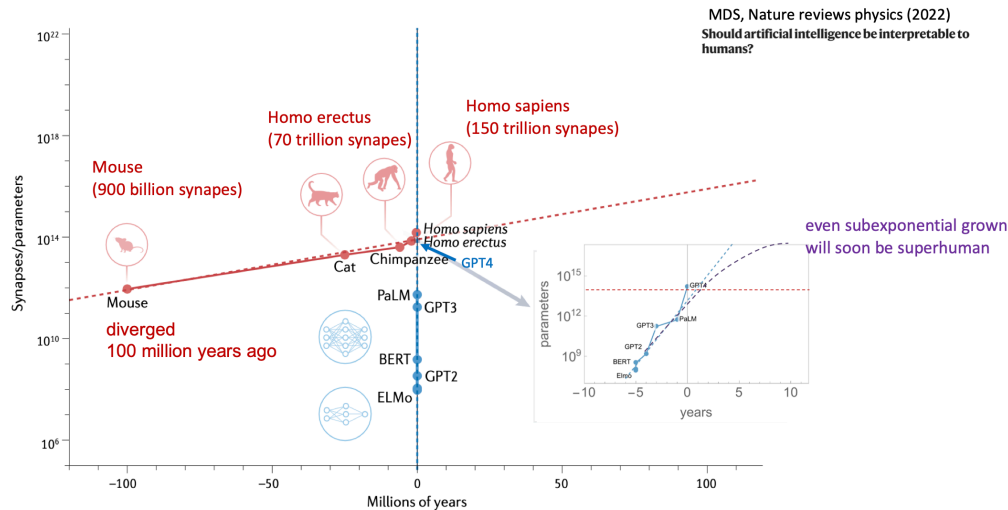
$$f(x) = -\text{Li}_3(x^3) - \text{Li}_3(x^2) + 4\zeta_3$$

# Future

LLM are the immediate future



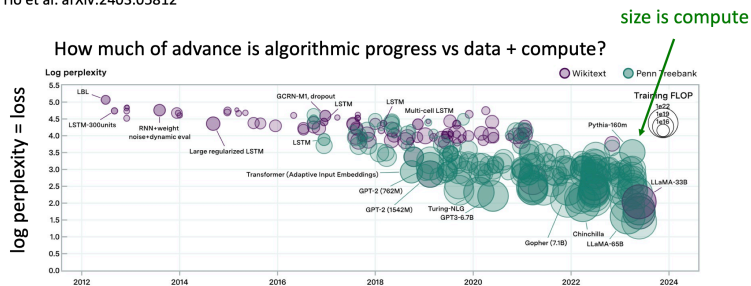
- Biological intelligence grows by a factor of 2 in one million years
- Machine intelligence grows by a factor of 10 in 1 year



- Both AI and biological intelligence grow exponentially
- **Factor of 10<sup>6</sup> difference in exponent**
- Intersection, when machines and biology have comparable "intelligence" is now

ALGORITHMIC PROGRESS IN LANGUAGE MODELS

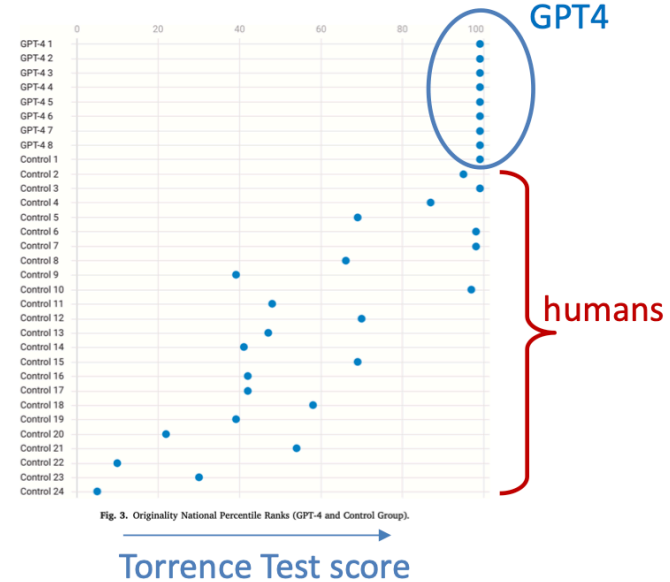
Ho et al. arXiv:2403.05812



algorithmic doubling time = 6 to 14 months!

# Some interesting questions

- Physics requires creativity. **Is AI creative?**
  - GPT4 more creative than 99% of humans
- Augmented intelligence: **can AI be a skill-leveler for high-energy physics theory?**
  - with AI average physicist can become as Einstein
- **Theoretical physics may have stalled in recent years**
  - problems are maybe too difficult for humans
    - humans can handle only 5-9 concepts at once and like to visualize
      - computers can handle much more complexity
    - Example: **could a cat ever learn to play chess?**
- Language models are vey close to training themselves to be better physicists
- **Suppose a machine understands the theory, do we need to understand it too?**



# Conclusions

- Machine learning is **rapidly transforming high energy physics**
  - Current revolution in applications and advances are in “**data science**”
  - In hep-th and hep-ph problems are largely **symbolic**

## 1. How do we transition from data science to symbolic theoretical physics?

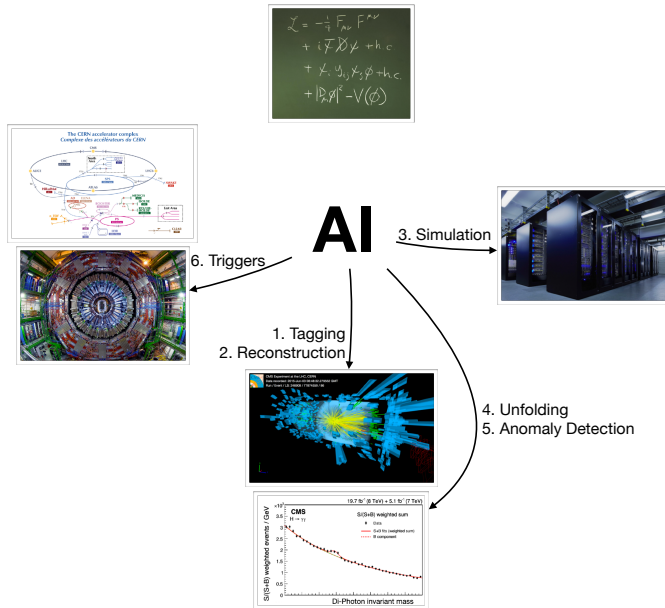
- It will get easier once we **get started**
    - Symbolic search problems (polylogarithms, spinor helicity)
    - Properties of the S-matrix (unitarity)
    - String Theory Vacua
- } **searching for simplicity**

## 2. Generative AI is the future

- Short term: **augmented intelligence**
  - Machines help us organize information
  - Smooth transition to arXAIv: more and more AI input into arXiv papers
- Long term: **artificial intelligence**
  - Machines will suggest problems, solve problems: G Ph. T
  - Machines will dumb things down, so we can appreciate their work
  - Superhard problem in theoretical physics may finally be solved

# Experimental particle physics and AI (*Gregor Kasieczka*)

- Role of AI is in experimental particle physics
- Very detailed and complete review (see [slides](#)).

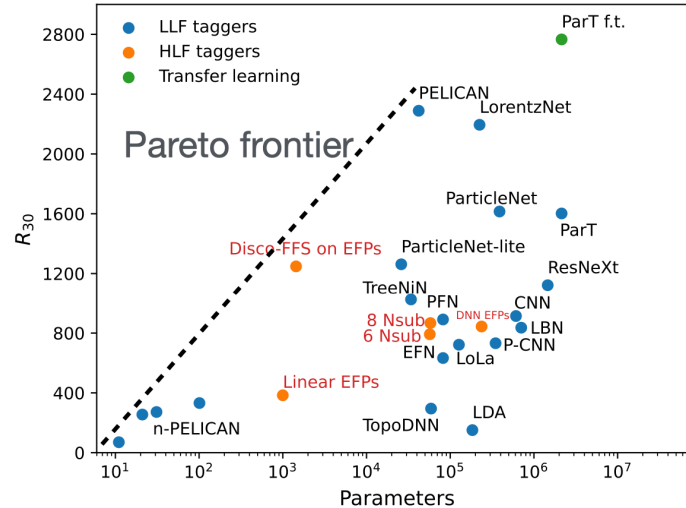


1. Taggers
2. Reconstruction
3. Simulation
4. Unfolding
5. Anomaly Detection
6. Triggers
7. Inference (SBI)
8. Experimental Design

# 1. Taggers

## Take aways

- **Point clouds** as powerful paradigm to represent data
- **Additional structure** in architecture boosts performance
- Over wide range: Best complexity/performance trade-off by **physics-informed** models
- Overall highest performance reached via transfer learning



## Challenges

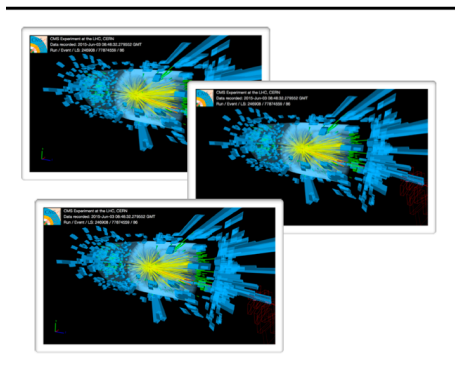
- Calibration (domain adaptation: from simulation to collider data)
- uncertainty aware training
- Interpretability



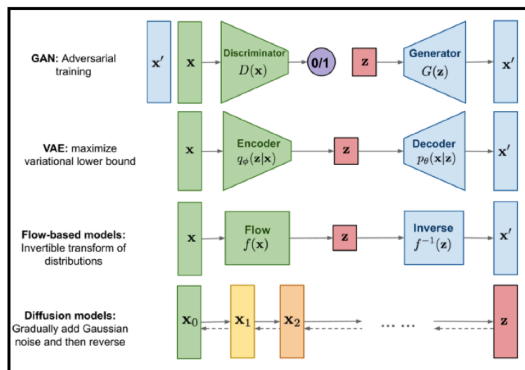
# 3. Simulation

## Strategy

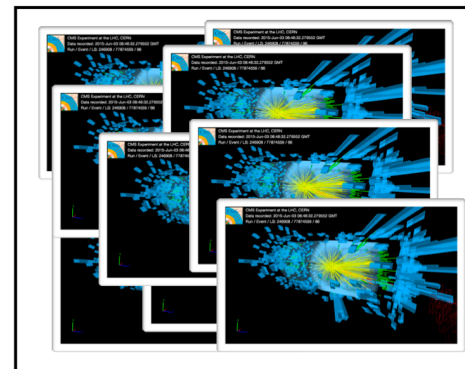
1. Use classical simulation or collider data as input



2. Train generative surrogate



3. Oversample



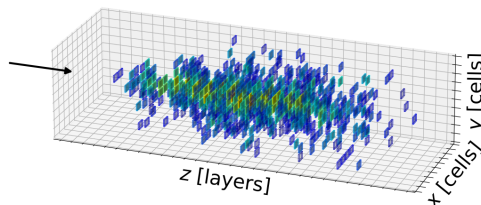
## Main Targets

- Event level kinematics
- Jet constituents
- Calorimeter showers
- pile-up interactions

Fixed Grid

vs

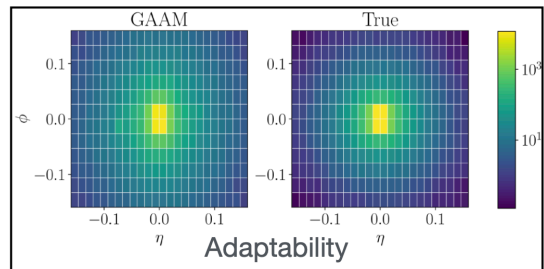
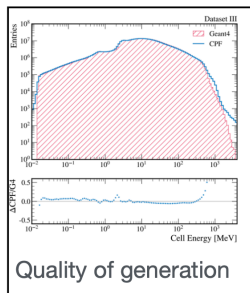
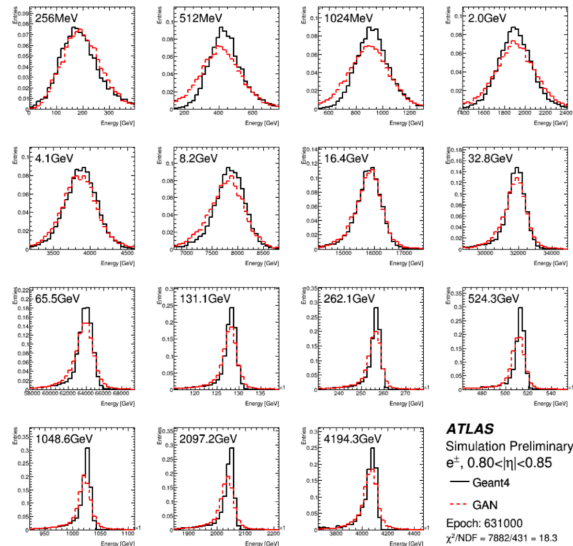
Point Cloud



Example: CaloClouds using diffusion

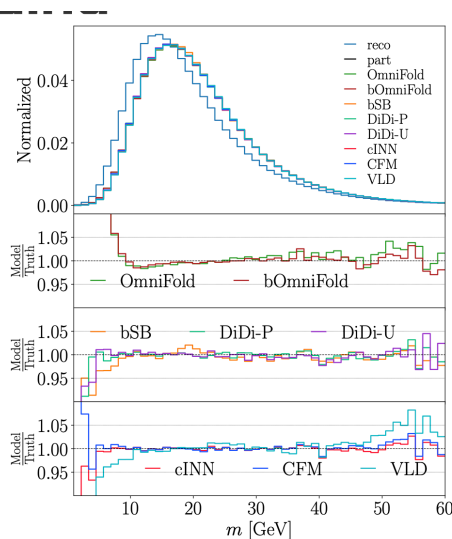
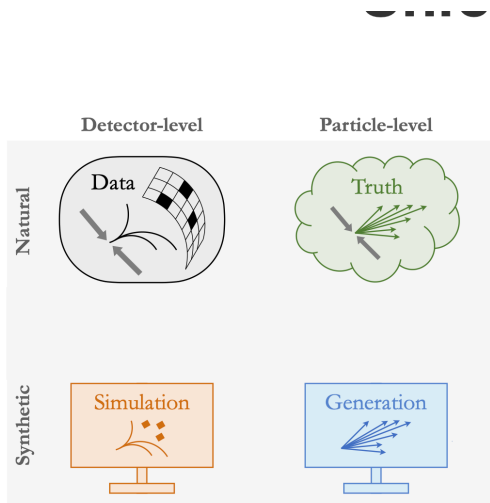
# 3. Simulation

- **Application:** used in ATLAS (FastCaloGAN in ATLF3)
- **Future outlook:**
  - Importance of public datasets to compare algorithms (e.g CaloChallenge 2023)
- Some challenges:
  - Quality of generation
  - Complexity of samples
  - Integration in Geant4
  - Adaptability

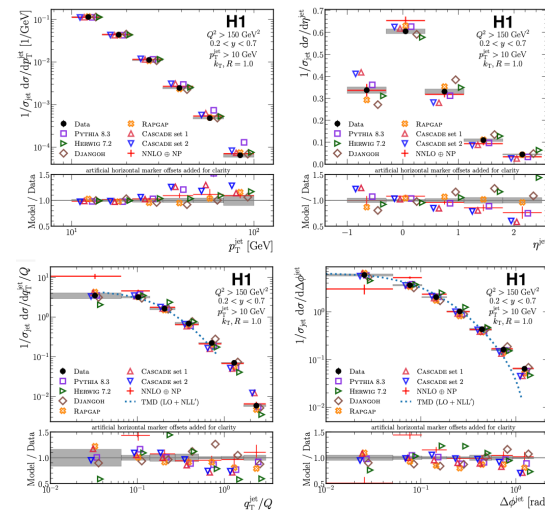


# 4. Unfolding

- 2 approaches:
  - Reweighting based on classifiers
  - Morphing based on diffusion or generative models



Example: Unfold  $Z$ +jets distributions in six dimensions

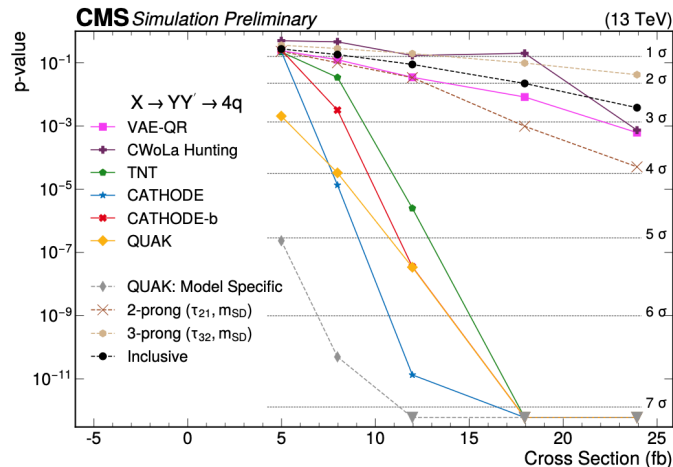
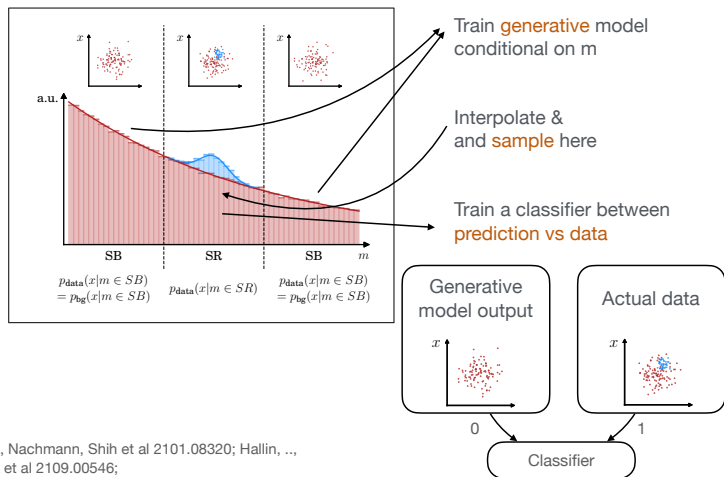


Already applied to collider data: Lepton/jet event at H1

# 5. Anomaly Detection

- Model independent search of new physics
- CATHODE and CASE (CMS Anomaly Search Effort)

## CATHODE



GK, Nachmann, Shih et al 2101.08320; Hallin, ..., GK et al 2109.00546;

# 6. Trigger

## Trigger

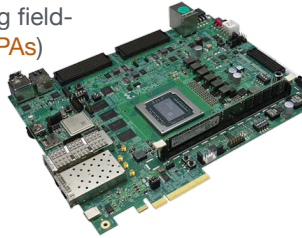
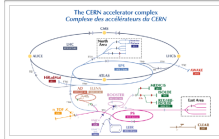
Colliders with  
40 million events/second

2 stage system (Trigger) reduces  
this to ~1 kHz for **offline storage and analysis**

Stage 1: Hardware based, using field-programmable gate arrays (FPGAs) with microsecond latency

Improving selection criteria  
in trigger with AI yields  
**better offline data**

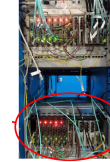
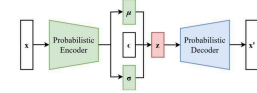
hls4ml to translate ML architectures to  
hardware language



<https://fastmachinelearning.org/>

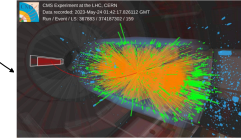
## Example: Triggering Outliers

Learn-compression/decompression  
on signal free sample and use as  
anomaly score  
Now testing in CMS Level 1 trigger



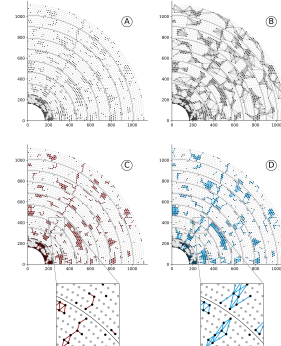
[https://indico.cern.ch/event/1283970/contributions/5554350/attachments/2720710/4727877/axol1t\\_fastml.pdf](https://indico.cern.ch/event/1283970/contributions/5554350/attachments/2720710/4727877/axol1t_fastml.pdf)

AXOL1TL



## Testing in CMS L1 Trigger

### Example: Online graph building



Online **graph building** for  
reconstruction in Belle 2  
drift chamber

Explore different methods  
of constructing graphs for  
GNN processing

Within resource  
constraints

No. of Vertices	No. of Edges	Width of Edge	Regular		1.5%		PTMin	
			Time	Size	Time	Size	Time	Size
500	500	100 kb	14.0(1)	7.4(1)	19.4(1)	2.0(1)	17.0(1)	1.1(1)
500	500	100 kb	10.0(1)	1.0(1)	12.0(1)	1.0(1)	1.0(1)	1.0(1)
4500	4500	100 kb	20.0(1)	1.1(1)	24.0(1)	1.1(1)	11.000	2.0(1)
4500	4500	100 kb	20.0(1)	1.1(1)	24.0(1)	1.1(1)	11.000	2.0(1)

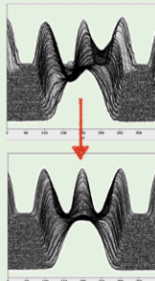
## For Belle 2

# Accelerator Physics and AI (*Verena Kain*)

- **Using AI for accelerator complex at CERN**
- CERN accelerator complex very diverse, many different types of beams and production schemes
  - current beam scheduling has severe impact on efficiency in running accelerators
  - hysteresis limiting also accelerator efficiency
- Future accelerators (like FCC) need to be run as an autonomous system
- Some Current example of AI usage in accelerators:
  - Bayesian Optimisation for control and optimisation of accelerator
    - adaptive continuous control for extracted spill in NA
  - **Reinforcement Learning (RL)**
    - problem online training often not possible (need accurate simulation, e.g. digital twin)

# Example: RL at CERN

**PS**

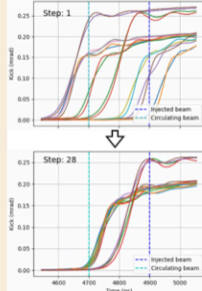


- Correct RF **phase & voltage** for **uniform bunch splitting** (LHC beams)
- Successful **sim2real** & fully **operational**
- **Multi-agent (SAC)** & **CNN** for initial guess
- **Next: continuous** controller (UCAP)

*A. Lasheen, J. Wulff*

**PS to SPS**

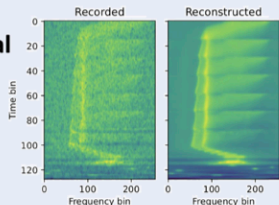
- Adjust **fine delays** of SPS **injection kicker**
- RL agent (PPO) trained on **data-driven dynamics model**
- Ready for **sim2real test**



*M. Remta, F. Velotti*

**LINAC3 / LEIR**

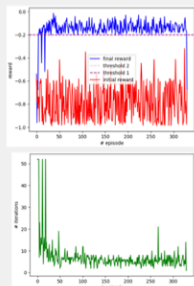
- **PhD project (B. Rodriguez):** control LINAC3 cavities for **optimal injection efficiency** into LEIR
- RL state based on **VAE-encoded Schottky spectra**
- Agent trained on **data-driven dynamics model**



*V. Kain, N. Madysa*

**SPS**

- **Steer DC beams** in TT20 TL using **split-foil secondary emission monitors**
- Works well in simulations, **with noise and varying emittances**
- Ready for **sim2real test**



*N. Bruchon, V. Kain*

*Courtesy M. Schenk*

# Efficient Particle Accelerators (EPA) project @ CERN

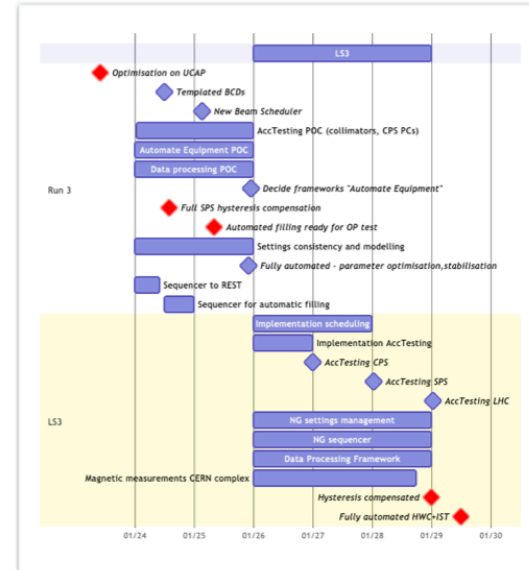


→ Run 4: HL-LHC

Time bounded project (5 years): improvements ready for **HL-LHC (2029)**

EPA is preparing a new CERN accelerator exploitation paradigm

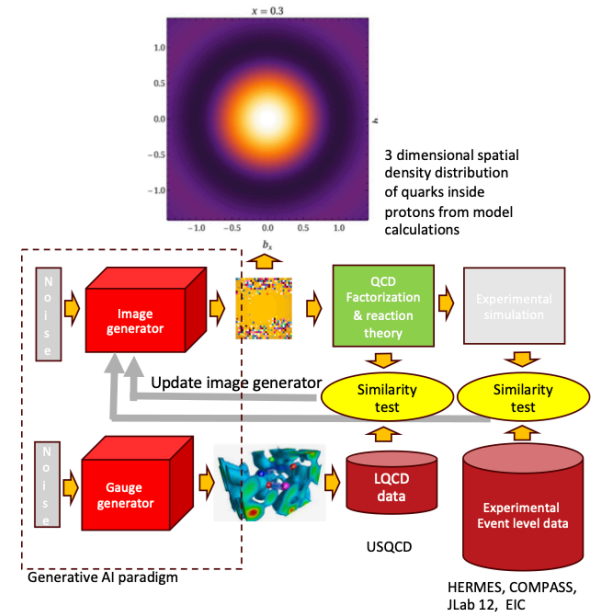
→ blazing the trail for FCC





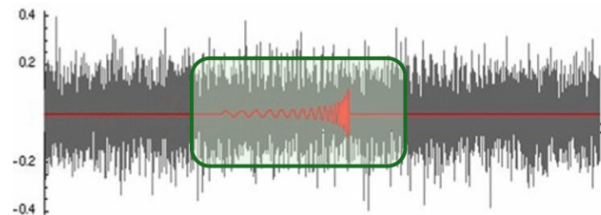
# Nuclear Physics and AI (*Amber Boehnlein*)

- AI application in NP, current ones:
  - **Detector Operations**
    - monitoring, experiment control
  - **Reconstruction**
    - standard signal/background discrimination
- Future ambitions:
  - **Detector Design for the Electron-Ion Collider**
  - **Theory/experiment integration**
    - 3D imaging of internal structure of the proton
    - use generative AI for computational nuclear simulation and inverse design problems in nuclear theory



# Gravitational wave physics and AI (*Elena Cuoco*)

- Gravitational wave analysis based on detecting a very small signal in a noise-dominated time series
- Use a template description of the signal and then perform Bayesian parameter estimation
- Several places for using AI



## NOISE

- Data cleaning
- Glitch classification
- Nonlinear noise
- ITF anomaly detection
- Glitch simulation

## BURST

- ML-based method for detection
- CCSN waveform classification

## CBC

- Detection
- Early warning
- Anomaly detection

## CW

- Clustering in the parameter space
- Computing efficiency

## SWBG

- Noise correlation

## PARAMETER ESTIMATION

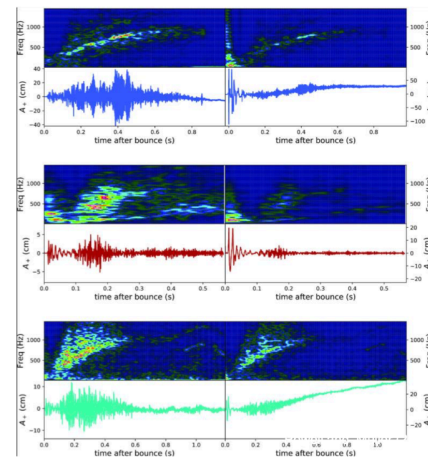
- Faster and efficient methods

## ALERT SYSTEM

- Ad hoc hardware/software solution?

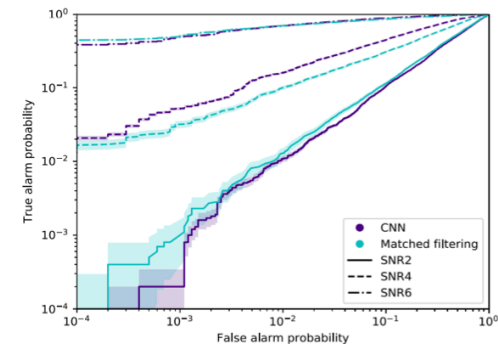
# Some examples of AI in GW:

- **Classifying different signals** from core collapsed supernovae (CCSN) using CNN and LSTM (time series is like an image in time-frequency domain)
- **Gravitational Wave modelling**: waveform building using AI (e.g Gaussian process)
- **CBC** (Compact binary coalescence) **detection** using ML
- **Anomaly detection** (using auto-encoder based algorithms)
- **Parameter estimation** using autoregressive normalising flows



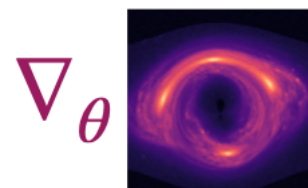
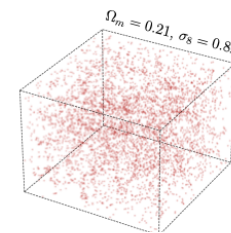
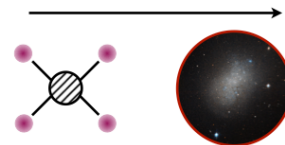
Matching Matched Filtering with Deep Networks for Gravitational-Wave Astronomy

Hunter Gabbard,<sup>1</sup> Michael Williams, Fergus Hayes, and Chris Messenger  
*SUPA, School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United Kingdom*

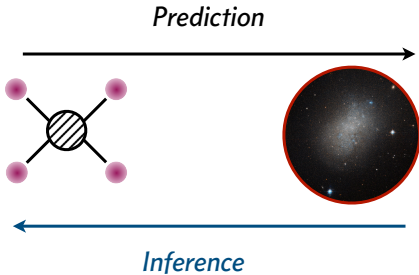


# Astroparticle Physics and AI (*Siddarth Mishra-Sharma*)

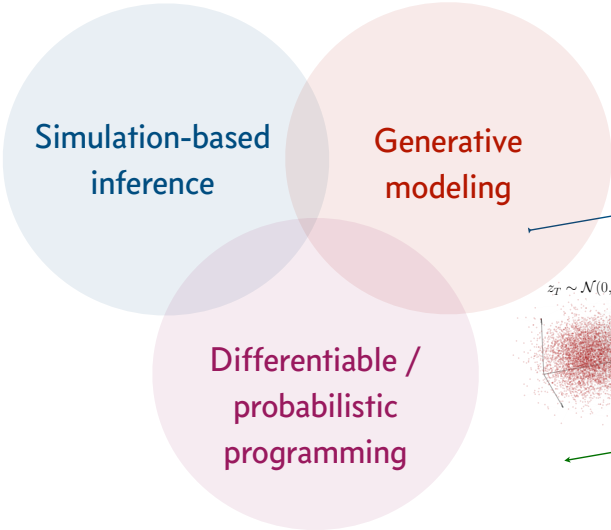
- A large amount of data is coming:
  - e.g. Vera Rubin observatory, Euclid, Next Generation CMB, etc..
- The ability to make robust conclusions is often limited by the challenges in connection theory to data
- Main AI usage:
  - **Simulation-based inference**
    - for inverting complex physical simulators
    - several applications existing
  - **Generative models**
    - for capturing the distribution of complex data
    - used to construct likelihood
  - **Differentiable and probabilistic programming**
    - for specifying models and enabling flexible inference
    - enable end-to-end gradient based optimisation



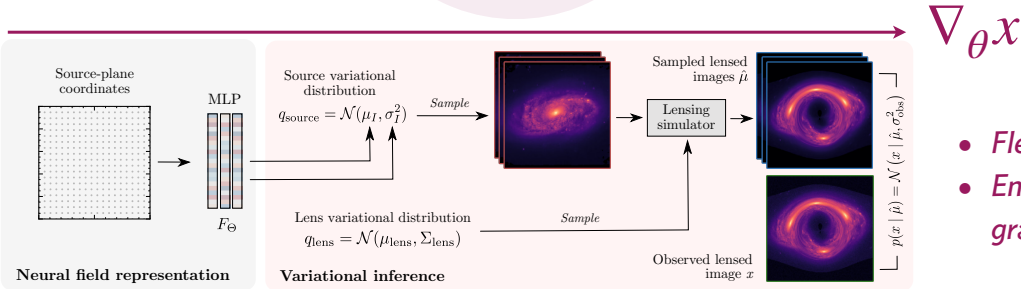
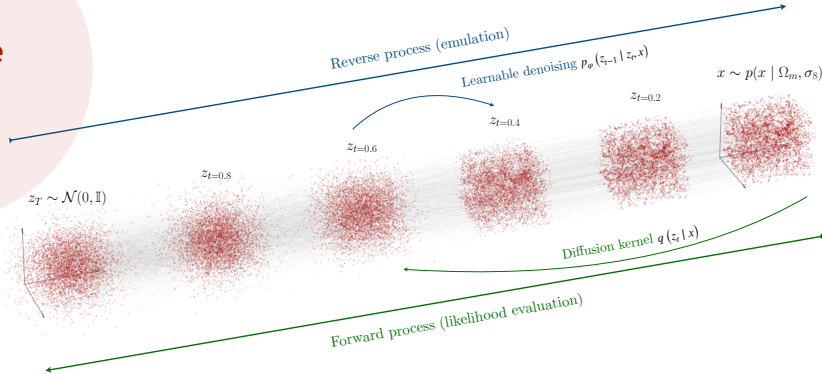
# Conclusions



- Invert complex physical simulators
- Directly work with high-dim data



- Encode complex physical distribution
- Uses end-to-end or as physical priors
- Compute data-sim compatibility



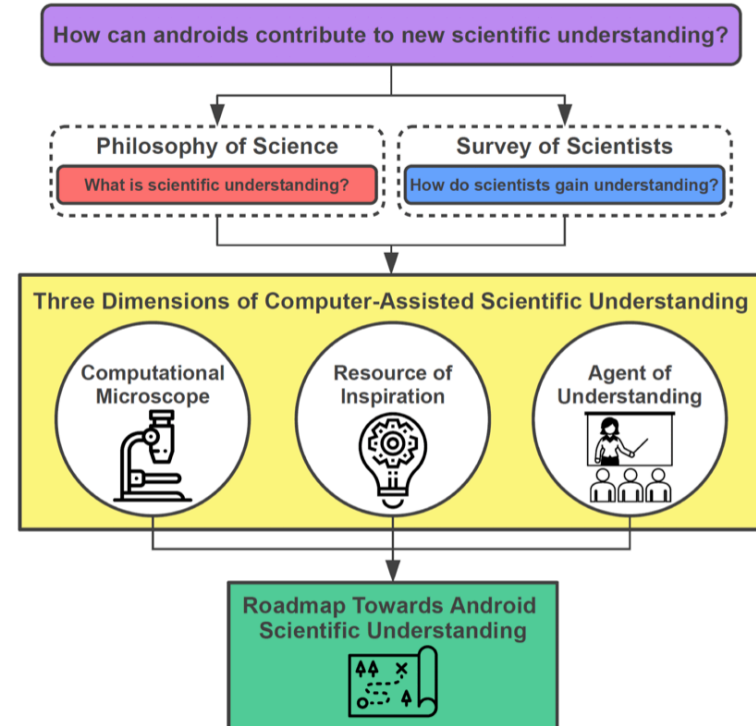
- Flexible specification of model components
- Enable high-dimensional optimization using gradient-based inference techniques

# Final Keynote: AI for fundamental physics (Kyle Cranmer)

- **AI/ML as emulators of complex simulations**
- **Scientific understanding**

How does AI enable or enhance scientific understanding?

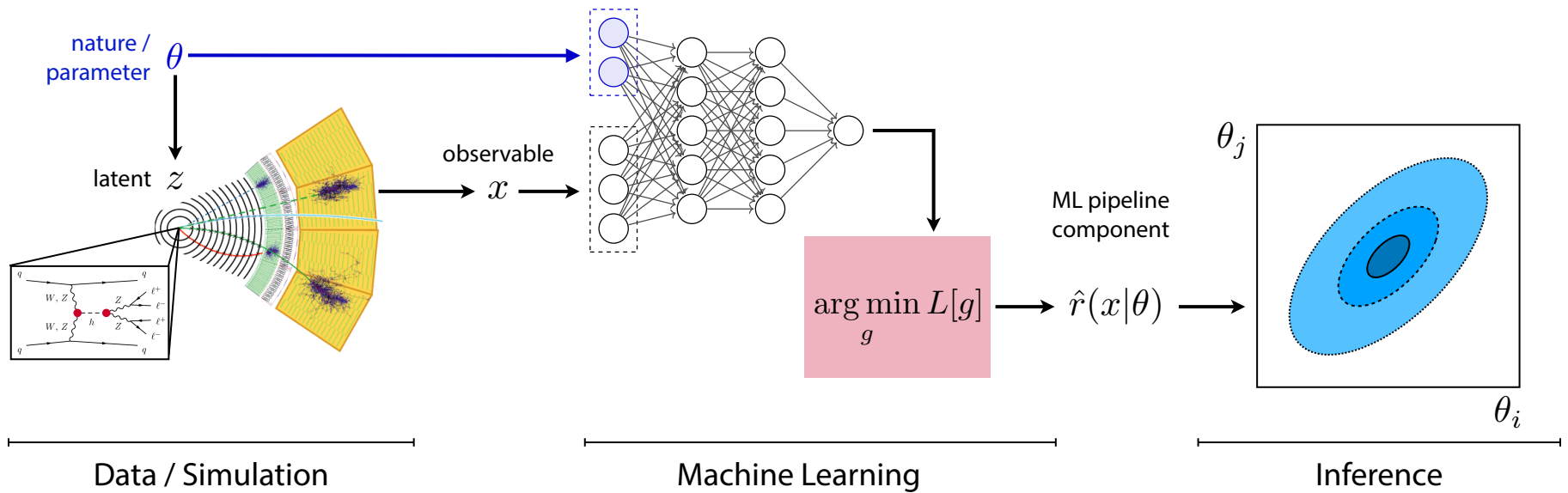
  - computational microscope (providing information)
  - resource of inspiration expanding human scope
  - agent of understanding replacing human in generalising observations
    - human less essential here
- **Use of ML in Physics vs Molecules & Materials**
  - Many use of AI aimed at material and drug discovery
  - In physics ML is a component in data analysis pipeline
    - mistakes matter, need uncertainty quantification



# Simulation-Based Inference

Deep learning and neural density estimation are effective at learning approximate surrogates for the likelihood and posterior, **revolutionizing principled statistical inference in science!**

- Removes the need for hand-engineered summary statistics that sacrifice power



# Parallel Presentations

- Several diverse contributions especially from students and early career researchers.
- A lot on AI applications on fast simulation, simulation base inference, and pattern recognition



# Parallel (Poster) contributions: b-hive (*Niclas Eich*)

- b-hive: a **modular ML training framework** for state-of-the-art object- tagging within the Python ecosystem at the CMS experiment
  - **Full end-end pipeline:** from ROOT file to training ML models
    - Deploying state of the art models (Particle Net, Transformers)
  - Pythonic framework
    - use coffee, awkward and numpy
    - support Tensorflow and PyTorch



TensorFlow



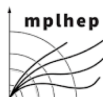
python



PyTorch



matplotlib



see more at [CERN-CMS-DP-2024-20](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2871412/files/CERN-CMS-DP-2024-20)

# Conclusions

- Great conference with every expert of ML/AI in HEP and fundamental physics.
  - A large number of interesting contributions
  - Good occasion to talk to many people in AI/ML community
  - Thank you for the organisers  
(*Sacha Caron and Cristoph Weniger*)
- The next conference will be organised next year (in Cagliari, Italy)