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Multivariate Methods in Particle Physics: Today and Tomorrow

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ultivariate methods are used routinely in particle physics research to classify objects or to discriminate signal from background.
They have also been used successfully to approximate multivariate functions. Moreover, as is evident from this conference, excellent easy-to-use implementations of these methods exist, making it possible for everyone to deploy these sophisticated methods. From time to time, however, it is helpful to step back and reflect a little on what is being done. That is the aim of this talk. I begin with a brief introduction to the kind of problems such methods address and follow with a survey of a few of the most promising recent developments. The talk ends with a discussion of what I consider to be the outstanding issues and the prospects for future developments.

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