

AI 4 physics



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IJCLab-Orsay

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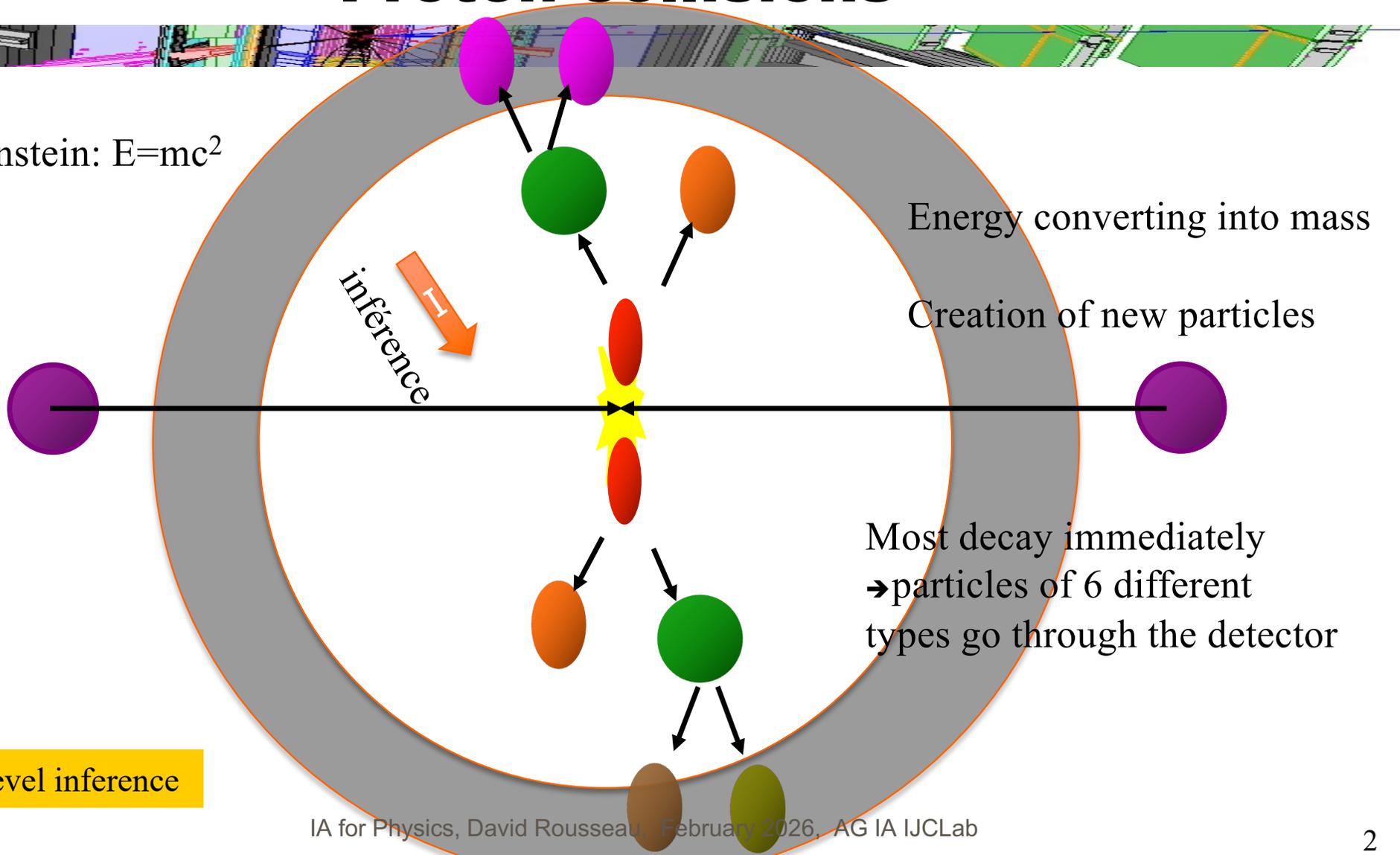
AG IA, février 2026





Proton collisions

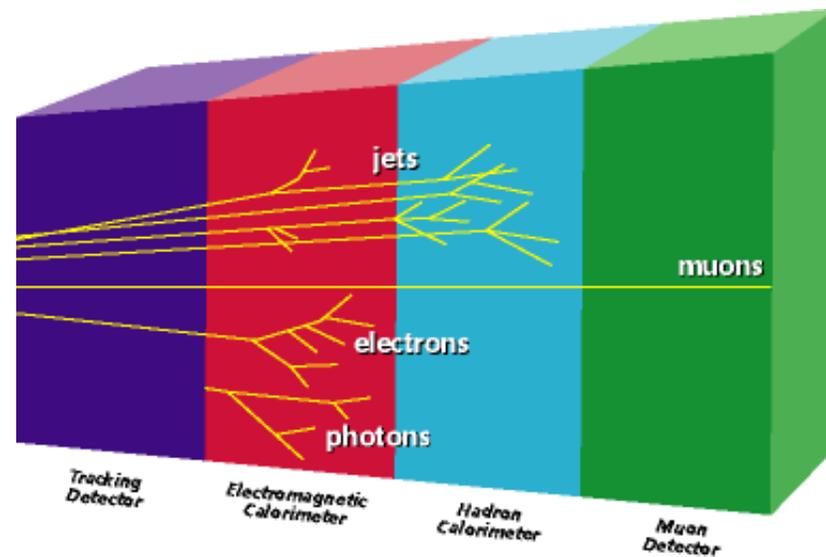
Young Einstein: $E=mc^2$



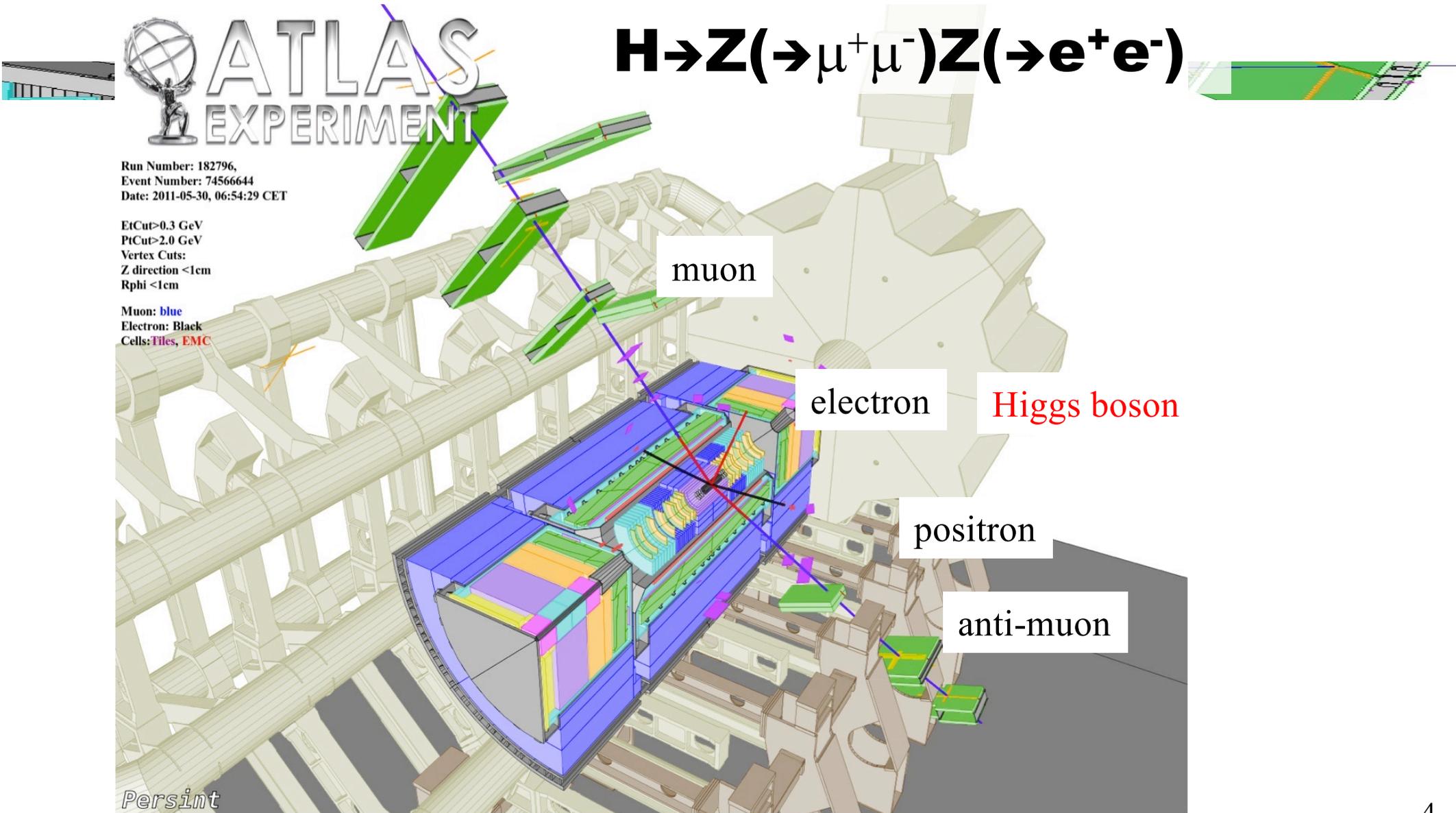
Event level inference

Particle-level inference

- Particles identified (pattern)
- And measured : 3D direction and energy, origin



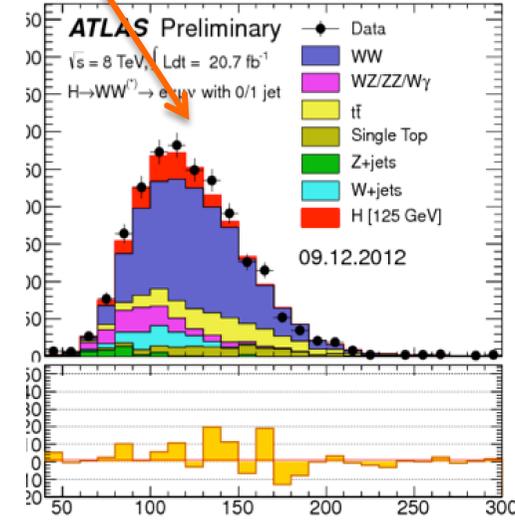
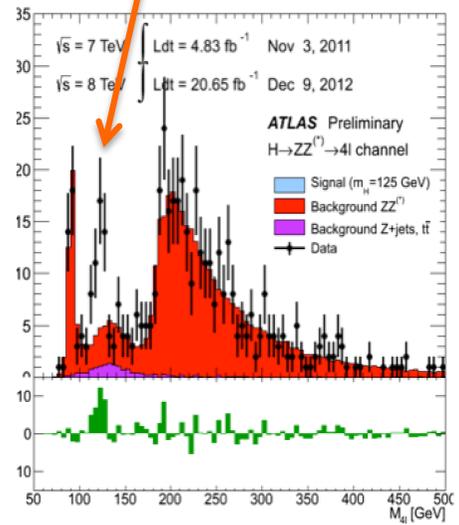
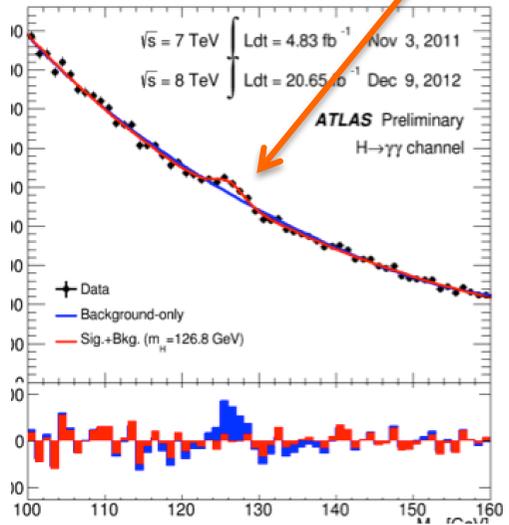
Particle level inference



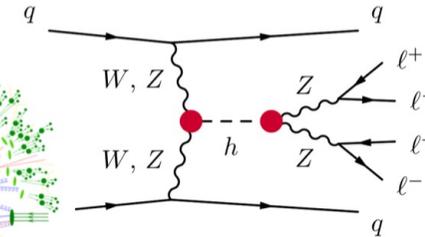
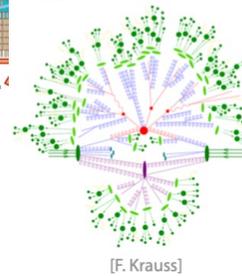
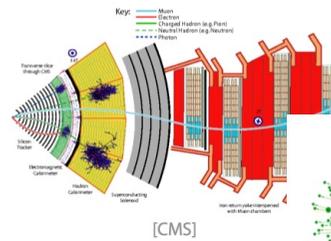
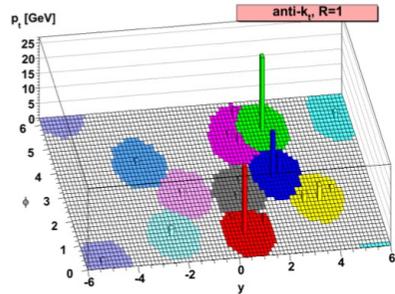
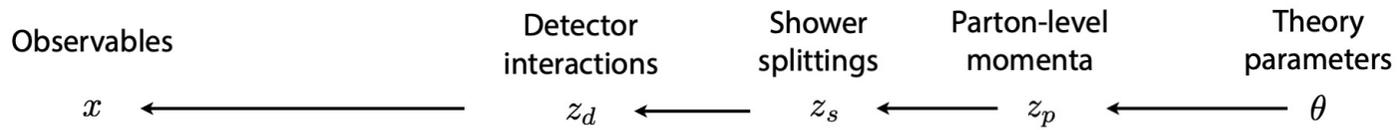
To « see » the Higgs boson



Experiment level inference



Modélisation et Inference

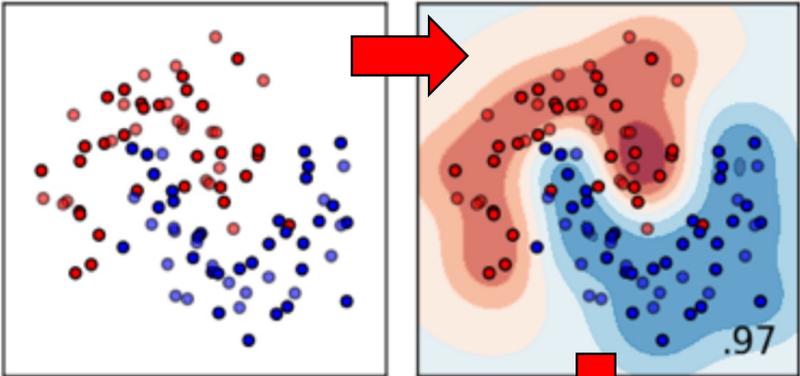


Evolution \leftarrow

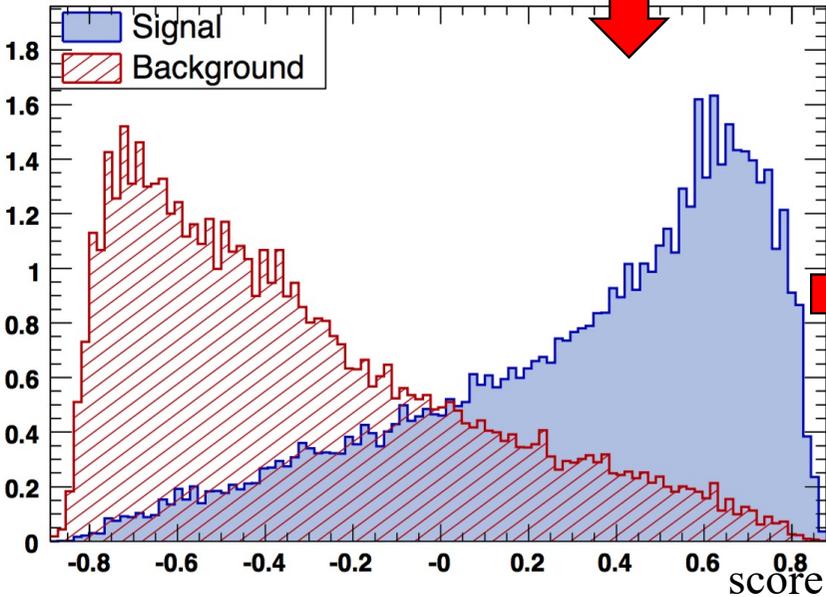


Inference

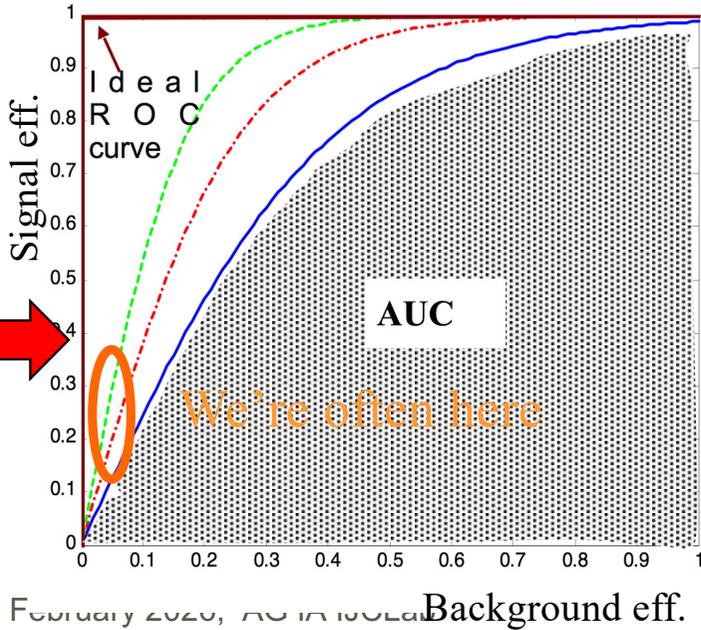
Classifier basics



Train on Signal and Background Monte-Carlo
 → learn the separation between S and B distribution
 Optimize a score from most background like to most signal like.



AUC : Area Under the (ROC) Curve



Données Tabulaires



	Sepal.Length	Sepal.Width	Petal.Length	Petal.Width	Species
1	5.1	3.5	1.4	0.2	setosa
2	4.9	3.0	1.4	0.2	setosa
3	4.7	3.2	1.3	0.2	setosa

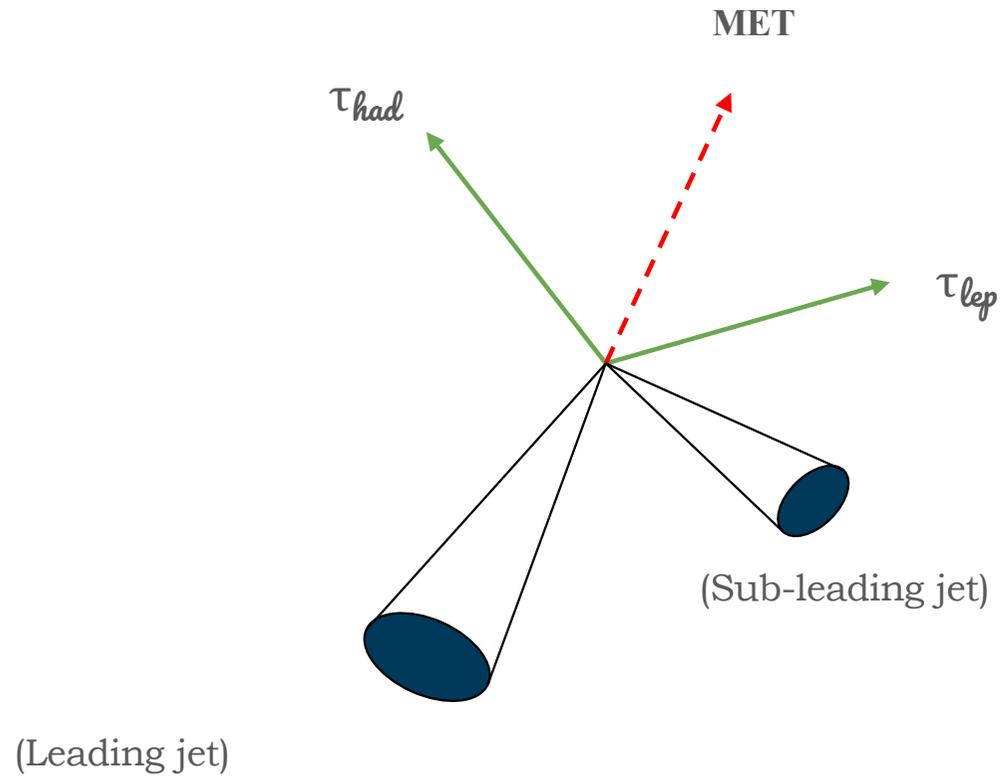
```
df = pd.read_csv('assets/train.csv')
df.head()
```

	PassengerId	Survived	Pclass	Name	Sex	Age	SibSp	Parch	Ticket
0	1	0	3	Braund, Mr. Owen Harris	male	22.0	1	0	A/5 2117
1	2	1	1	Cumings, Mrs. John Bradley (Florence Briggs Th...	female	38.0	1	0	PC 17596
2	3	1	3	Heikkinen, Miss. Laina	female	26.0	0	0	STON/O2 3101282
3	4	1	1	Futrelle, Mrs. Jacques Heath (Lily May Peel)	female	35.0	1	0	113803
4	5	0	3	Allen, Mr. William Henry	male	35.0	0	0	373450

	dijet_invmass	dijet_deltaeta	jet_pt_0	jet_pt_1	eta_zepp_ZZ	min_dR_jZ
39	502.338409	3.694098	140.582153	43.095196	1.529987	1.799823
76	166.194427	0.426846	171.107452	81.588737	0.663560	1.020612
97	269.543396	2.568801	81.123795	64.938507	0.404464	0.050431
107	130.786301	0.119691	171.627014	31.095165	1.329497	0.539539
129	139.976868	2.145803	51.312862	37.323059	3.293238	0.423458

- Qq dizaines de variables (=colonnes)
- Arbre de Décision Boosté (BDT) pour apprendre une ou plusieurs colonnes a partir des autres
- → fonctionne très bien

Four-momentum final state : $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$



Four Momentum final state

ASCII csv file, with mixture of Higgs to tautau signal and corresponding background, from official GEANT4 ATLAS simulation

Weight and signal/background (for training dataset only)

weight (fully normalised)

label : « s » or « b »

Event features

DER_mass_MMC

DER_mass_transverse_met_lep

DER_mass_vis

DER_pt_h

DER_deltaeta_jet_jet

DER_mass_jet_jet

DER_prodelta_jet_jet

DER_deltar_tau_lep

DER_pt_tot

DER_sum_pt

DER_pt_ratio_lep_tau

DER_met_phi_centrality

DER_lep_eta_centrality

} VBF
signature

Primitive 3-vectors allowing to compute the conf note variables (mass neglected),

16 independent variables:

PRI_tau_pt

PRI_tau_eta

PRI_tau_phi

PRI_lep_pt

PRI_lep_eta

PRI_lep_phi

PRI_met

PRI_met_phi

PRI_met_sumet

PRI_jet_num (0,1,2,3, capped at 3)

PRI_jet_leading_pt

PRI_jet_leading_eta

PRI_jet_leading_phi

PRI_jet_subleading_pt

PRI_jet_subleading_eta

PRI_jet_subleading_phi

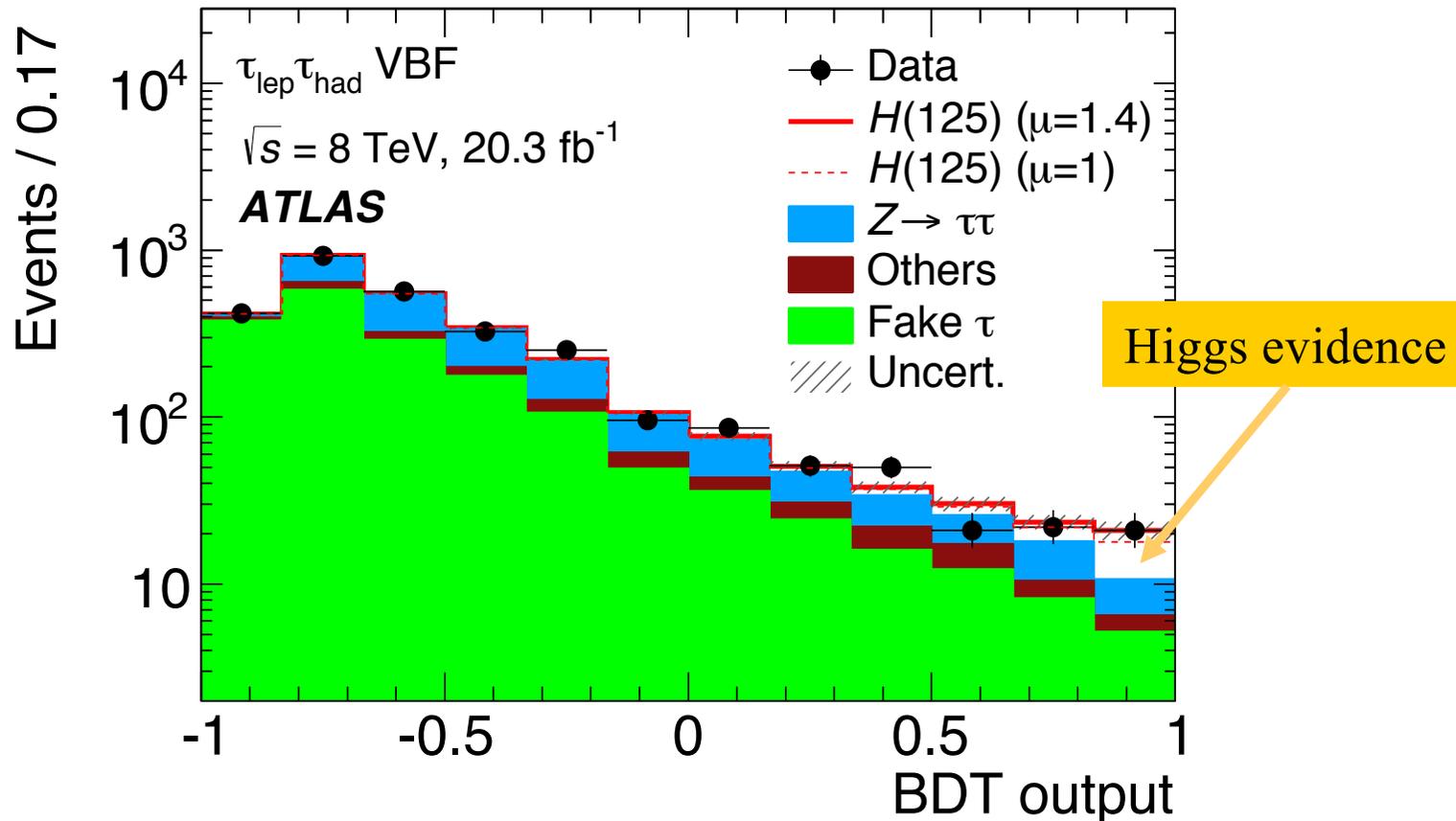
PRI_jet_all_pt

} VBF
signature

Classifier

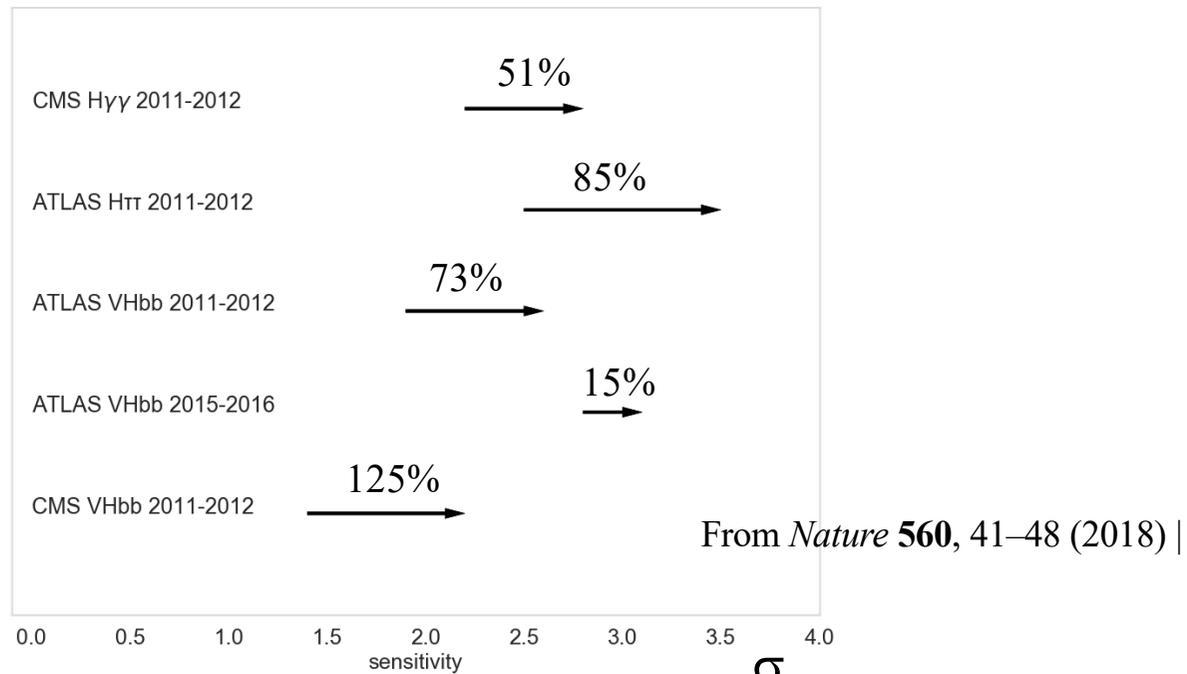
JHEP 04, 117 (2015) 1501.04943

BDT using ~dozen of high level variables



ML on Higgs Physics

- At LHC, Machine Learning used almost since first data taking (2010) for reconstruction and analysis
- For example, impact on Higgs boson sensitivity at LHC:



→ ~50% gain on LHC running

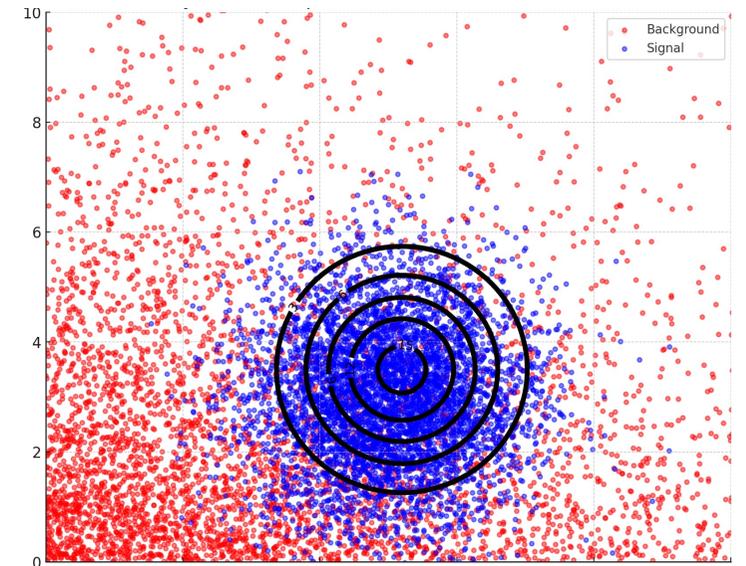
IA for Physics, David Rousseau, February 2026, AG IA IJCLab

No miracle

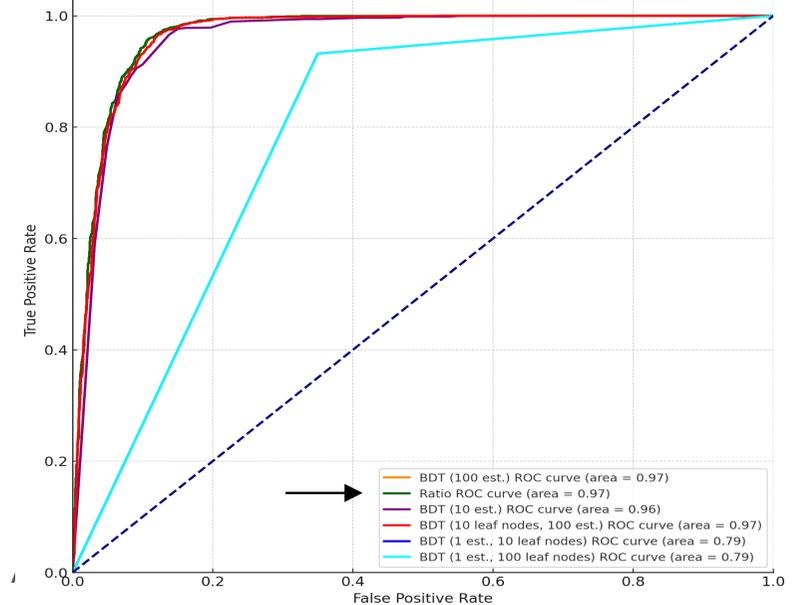


- ❑ ML (nor Artificial Intelligence) does not do any miracles
- ❑ For selecting Signal vs Background and underlying distributions are known, nothing beats density ratio! (often called "Bayesian limit"):
 - $\text{pdf}_S(x)/\text{pdf}_B(x)$
- ❑ OK but quite often $L_S L_B$ are unknown
 - ❑ + x is n-dimensional
- ❑ ML starts to be interesting when there is no proper model

*Toy model :
gauss signal on
exponential
background
Contour lines of
density ratio*

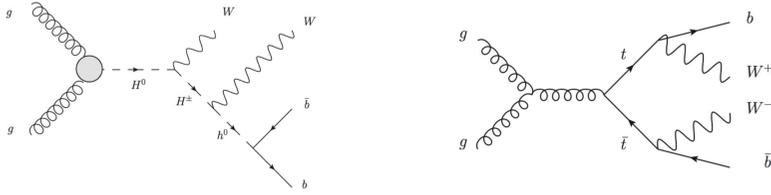


Comparison of ROC Curves with Different BDT Configurations

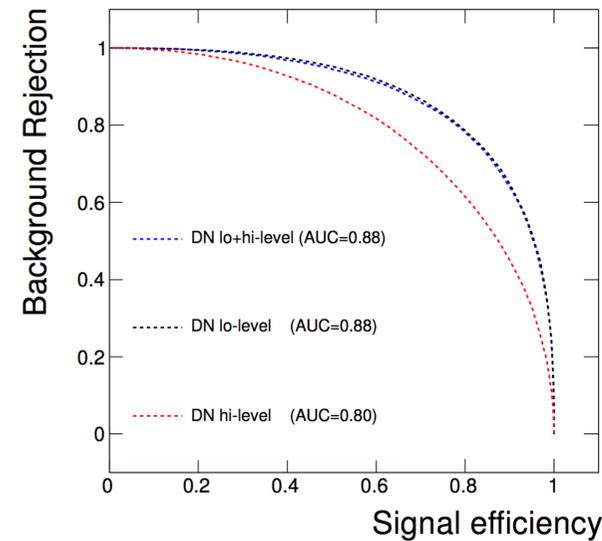
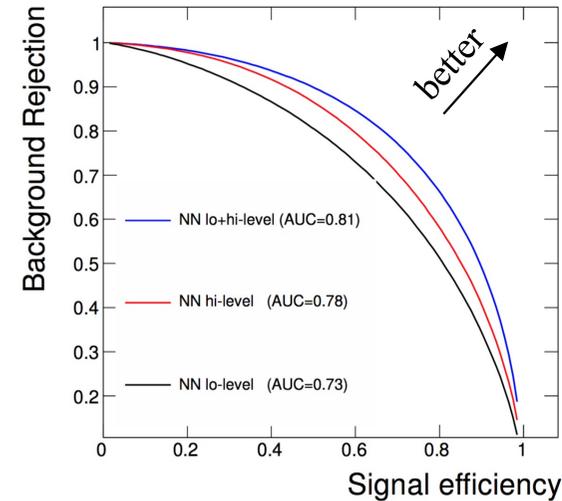


Deep learning for analysis

1402.4735 Baldi, Sadowski, Whiteson



- ❑ MSSM at LHC : $H^0 \rightarrow WWbb$ vs $tt \rightarrow WWbb$
- ❑ Low level variables:
 - 4-momentum vector
- ❑ High level variables:
 - Pairwise invariant masses
- ❑ Deep NN outperforms NN, and does not need high level variables
- ❑ DNN learns the physics ?
- ❑ Gros problème : 10 Millions d'événements pour entrainer, 100 x ce qui est disponible d'habitude



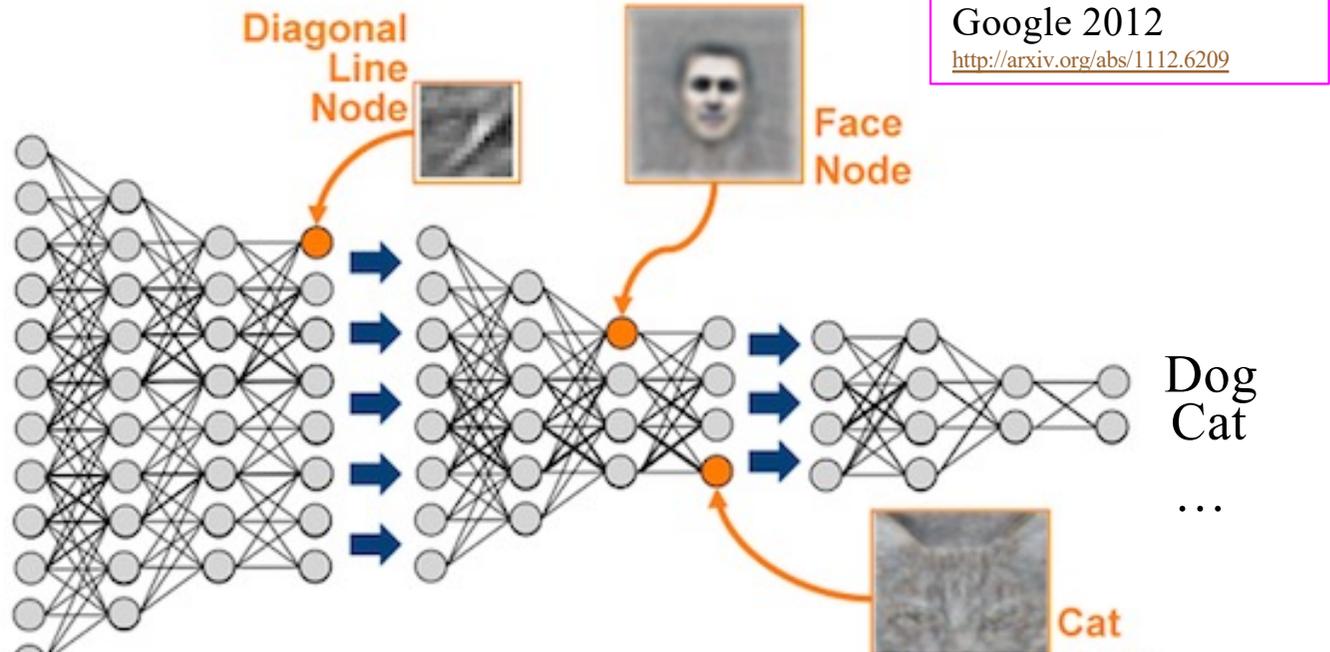
Neural Network sur des images



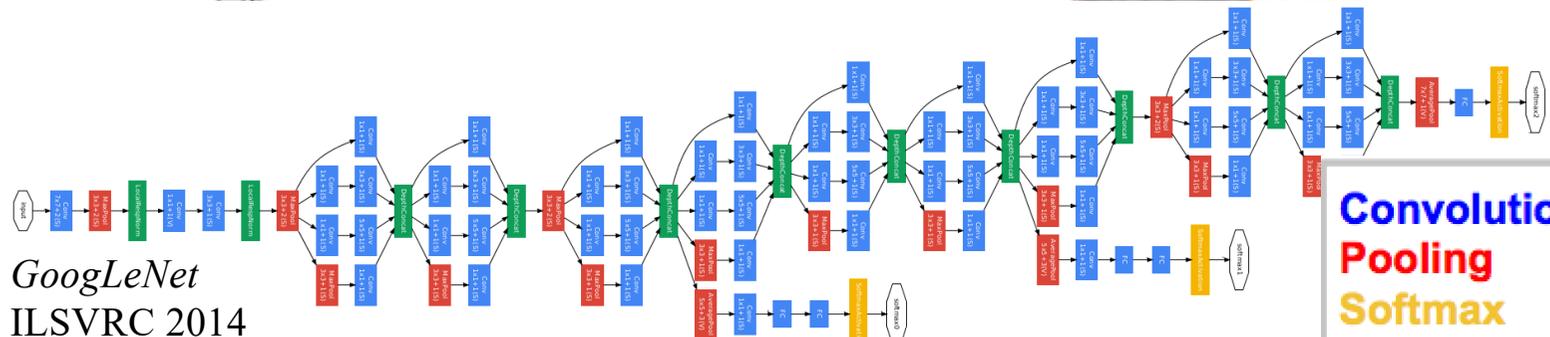
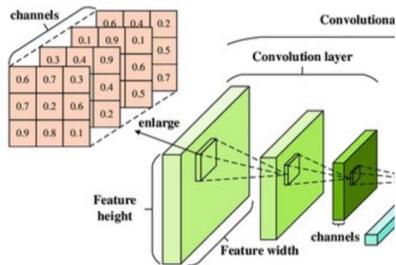
Réseau convolutionnel



Convolutional Neural Network



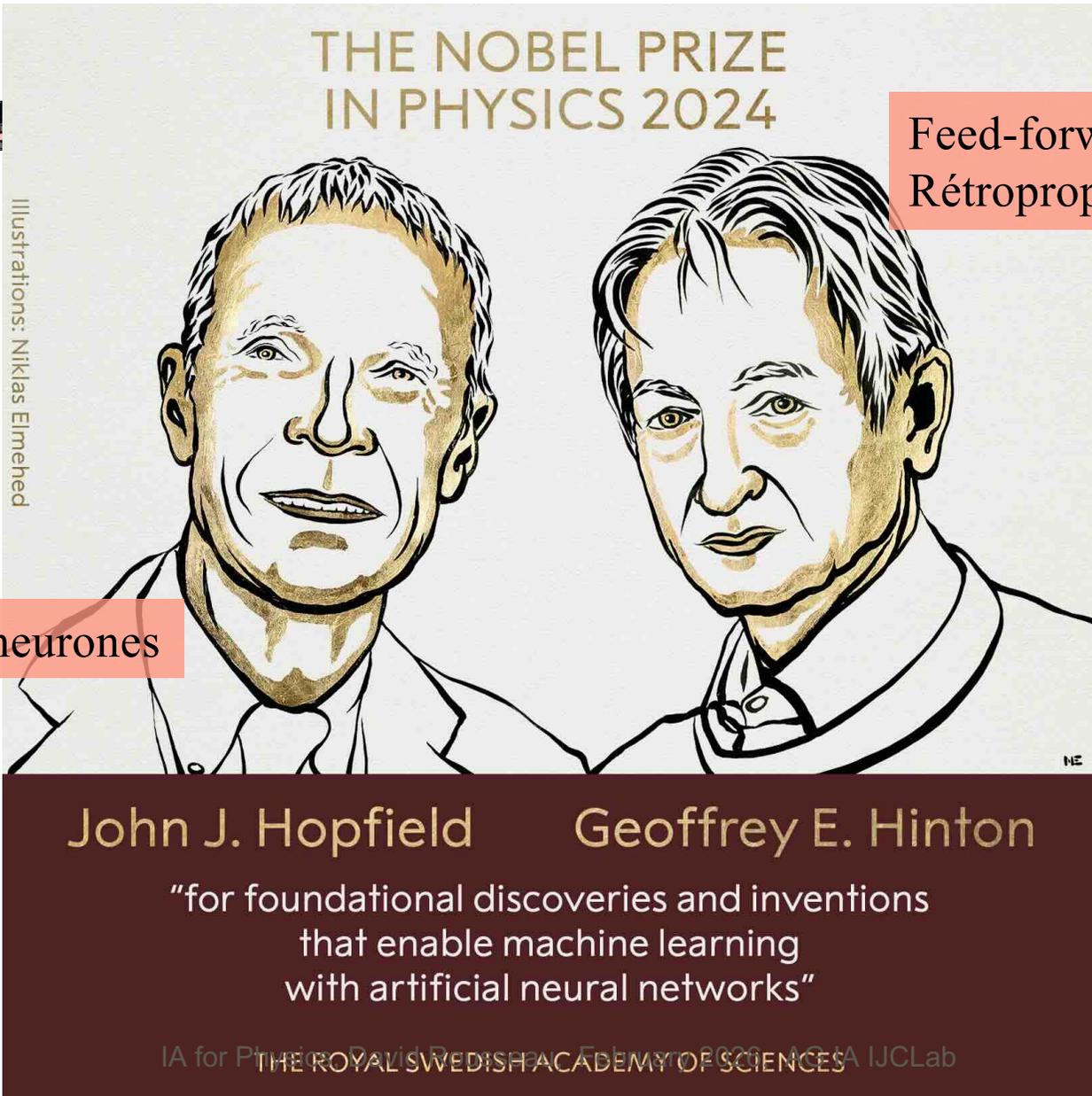
Google 2012
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1112.6209>



GoogLeNet
 ILSVRC 2014

Winner IA IOP PHYSICS, DAVID ROUSSEAU, FEBRUARY 2020, AG IA IJCLAU

Convolution
 Pooling
 Softmax
 Other



Feed-forward NN
Rétropropagation du gradient

Réseau de neurones

[Press release](#)



TURING
A.M.

AWARD
2018



YOSHUA BENGIO,
GEOFFREY E. HINTON
AND YANN LECUN

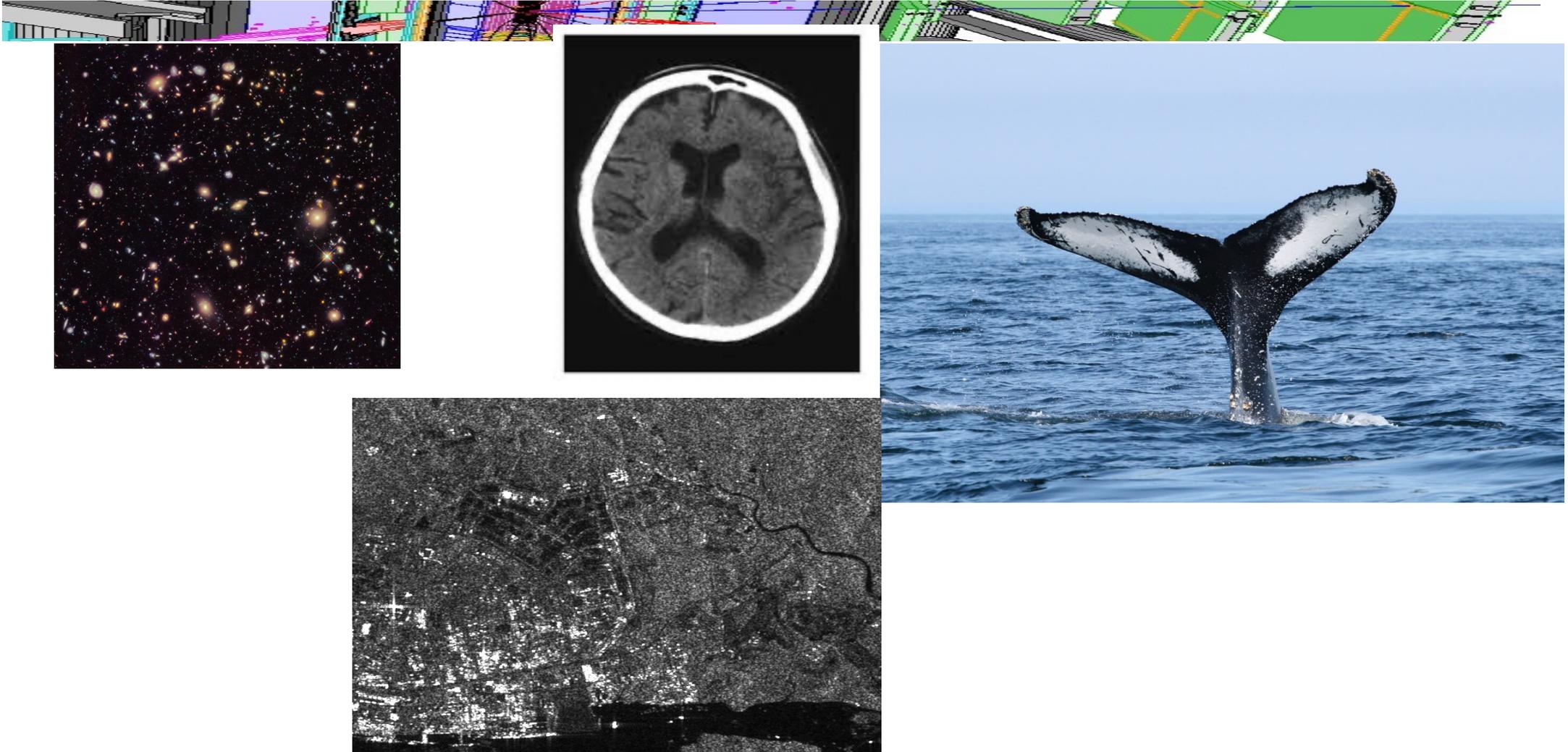
Feed-forward NN
Rétropropagation du gradient

NN Convolutionnel

NN Convolutionnel

For conceptual and engineering
breakthroughs that have made
deep neural networks a critical
component of computing

Applications innombrables NN Convolutionnels



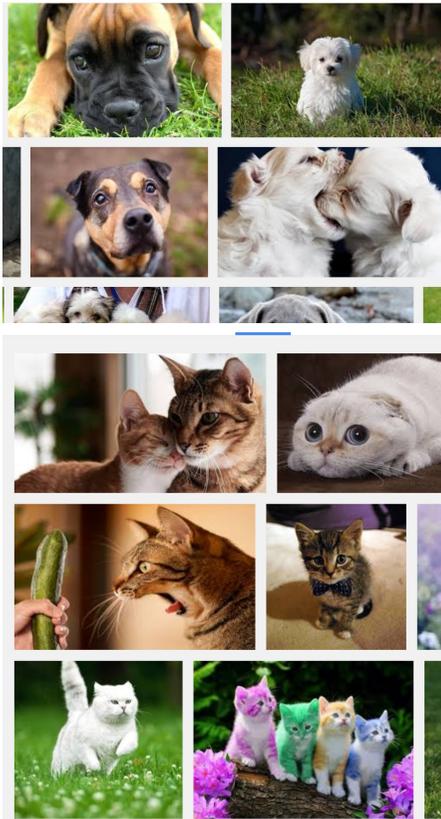
Jet Images



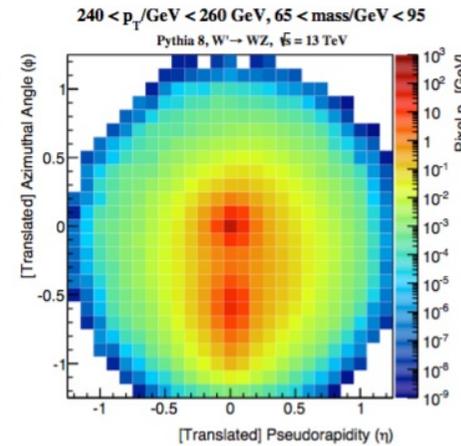
[arXiv 1511.05190](https://arxiv.org/abs/1511.05190) de Oliveira, Kagan, Mackey, Nachman, Schwartzman



- Distinguish boosted W jets from QCD
- Particle level simulation
- Réseau convolutionnel

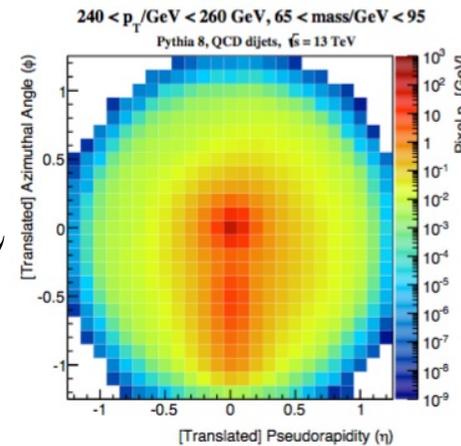


Boosted $W \rightarrow qq$ jet



Images moyennes

QCD

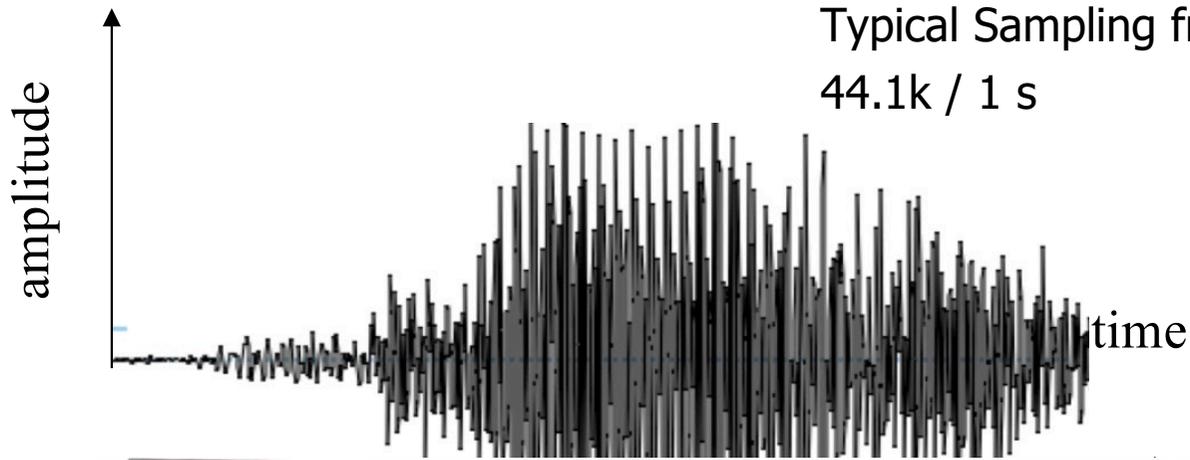


Pas de suite,
 approche trop naïve

Les données scientifiques ne sont souvent pas des images

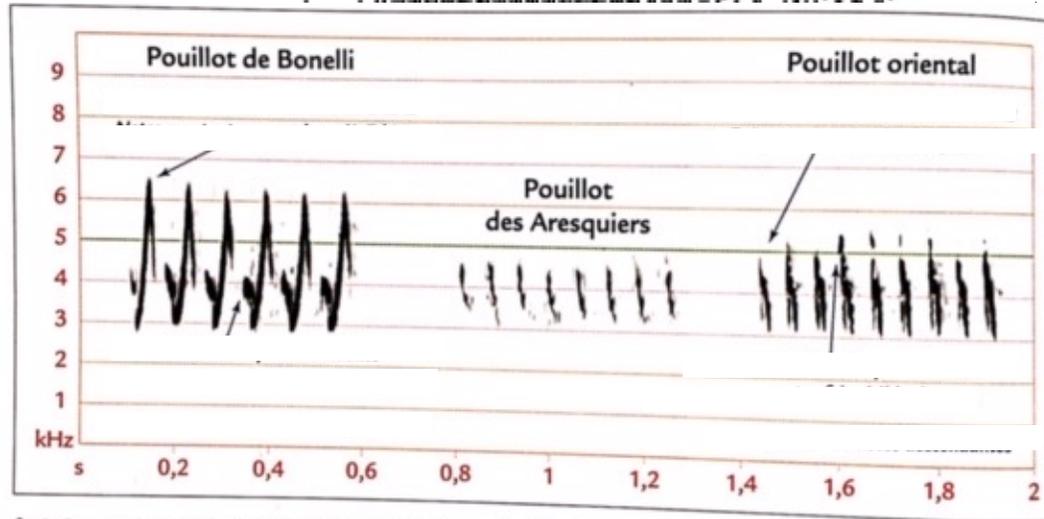


Inputs



Typical Sampling frequency 44.1kHz
44.1k / 1 s

General comment :
preparing the data

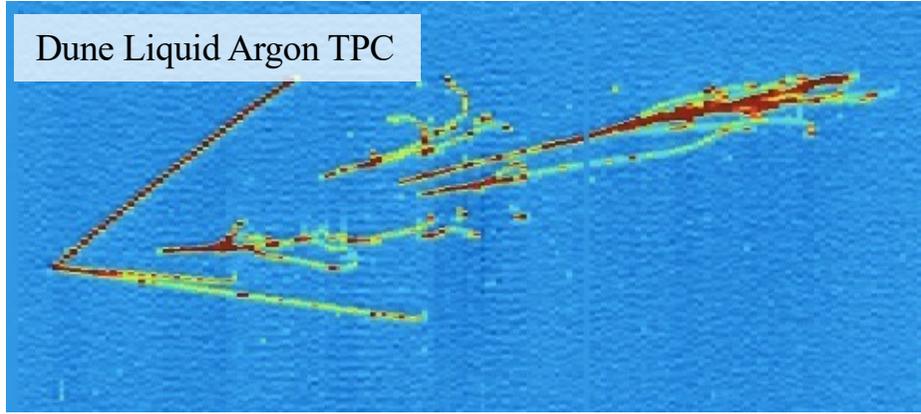


→ images



<https://environnement.ijclab.in2p3.fr/2024/06/17/sorties-nature-bio-diversite>

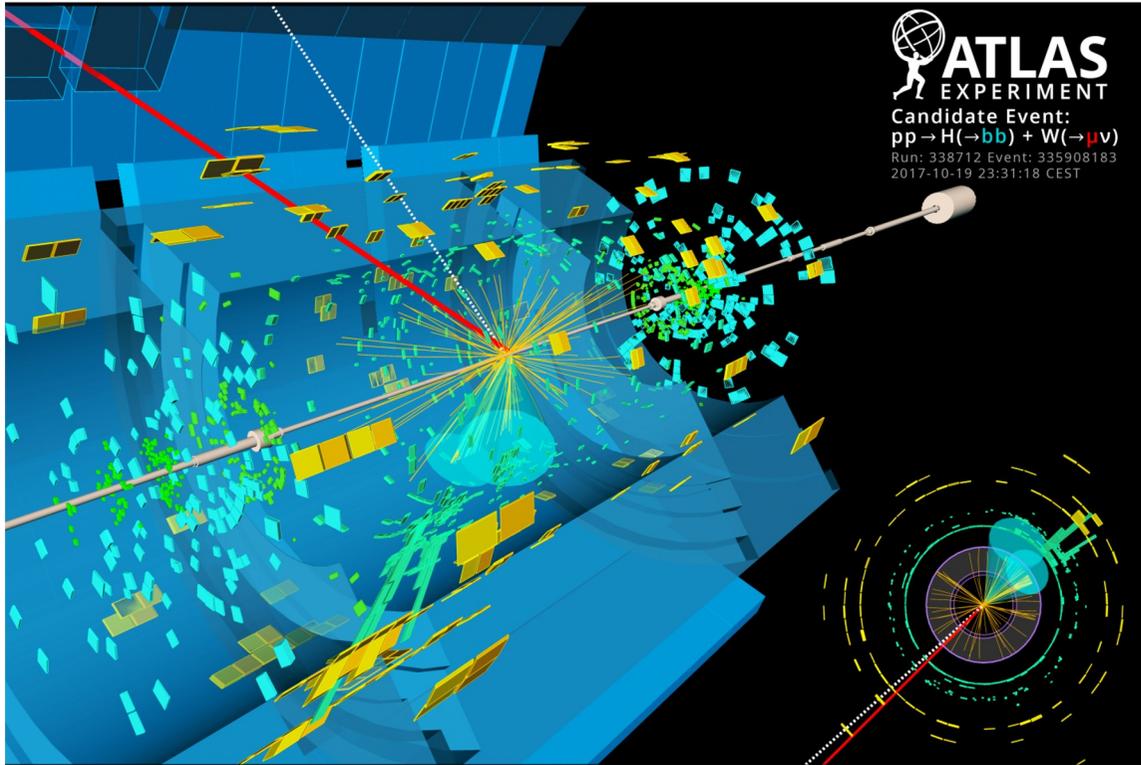
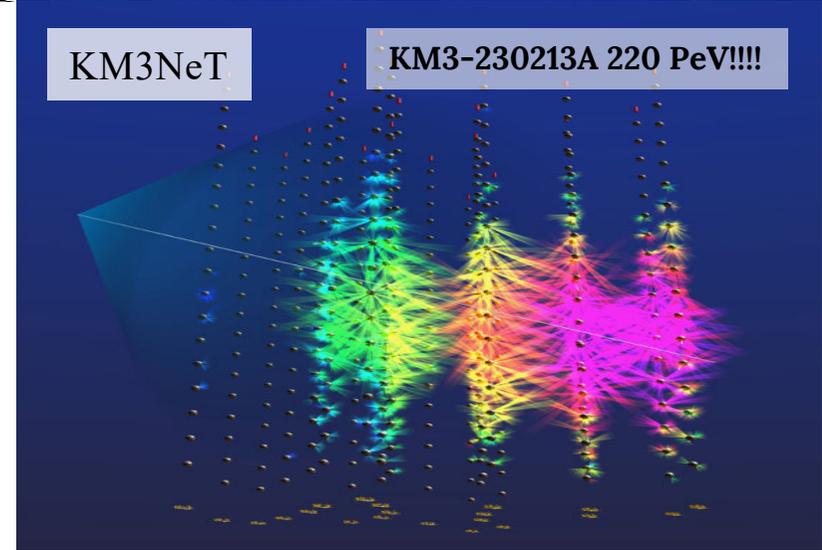
Dune Liquid Argon TPC



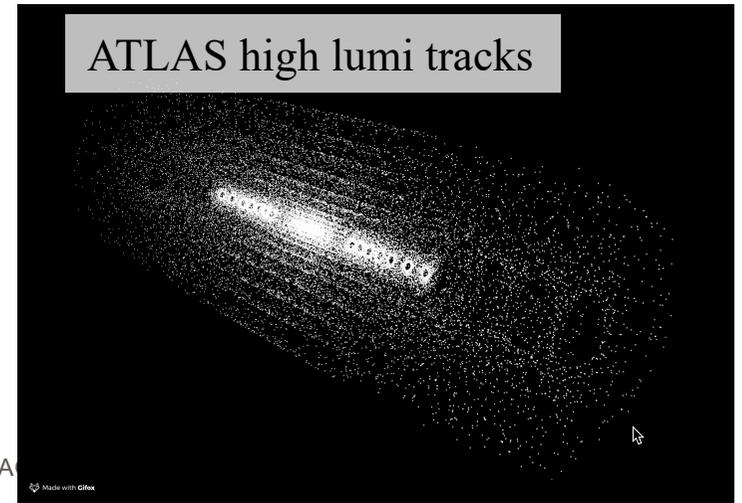
Des images, pas les données

KM3NeT

KM3-230213A 220 PeV!!!!



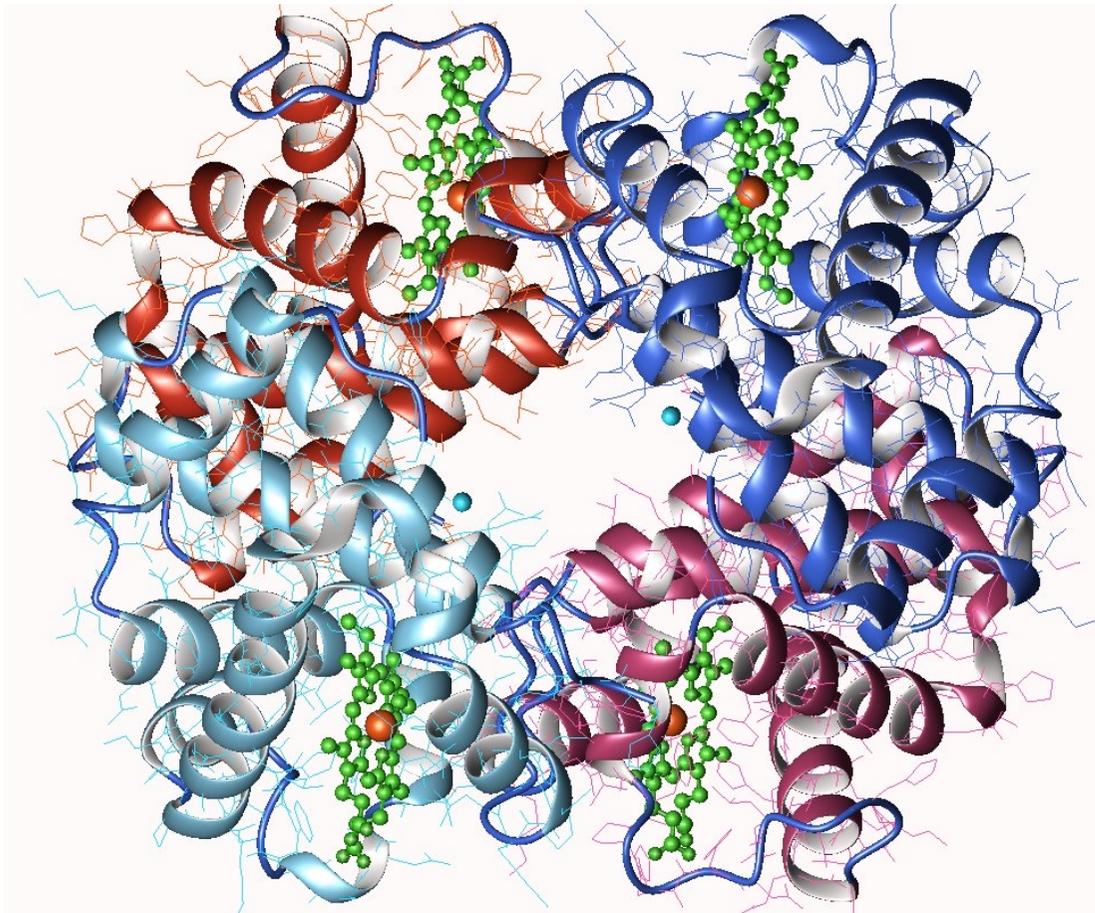
ATLAS high lumi tracks



February 2026, A

Une image, pas les données

Structure de l'hémoglobine



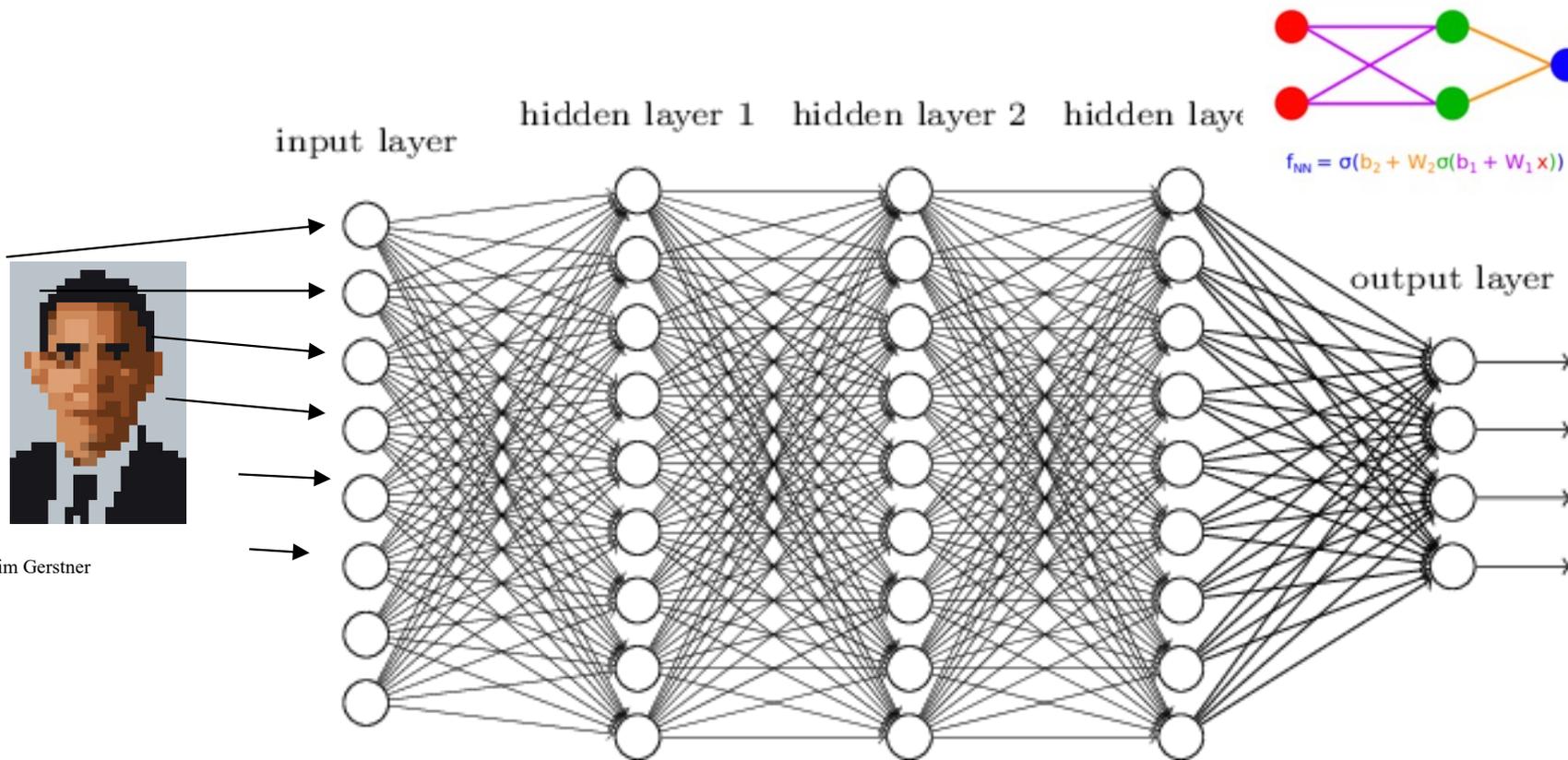
Par Deposition authors: Fermi, G., Perutz, M.F.;
visualization author: User:Astrojan —
<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/3hbb>,
CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=48714519>

Architectures spécialisées



simplest Neural Networks

- Simple dense NN : a structure-less vector or matrix is transformed from layer to layer (Convolution NN : use neighbouring information)

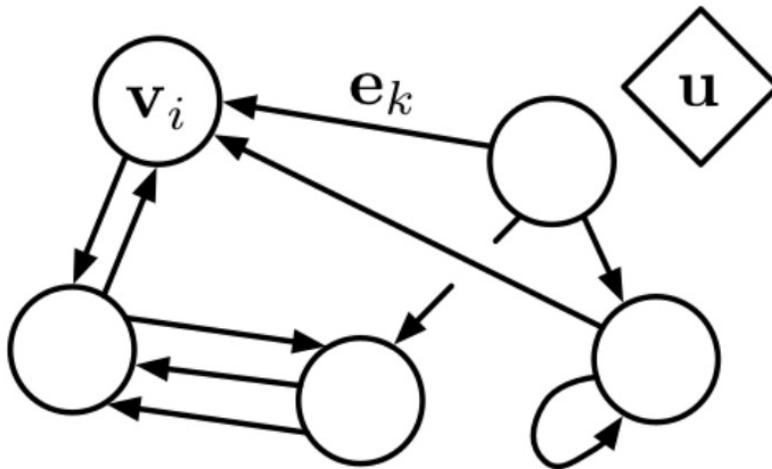


© Tim Gerstner

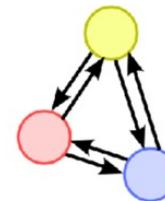
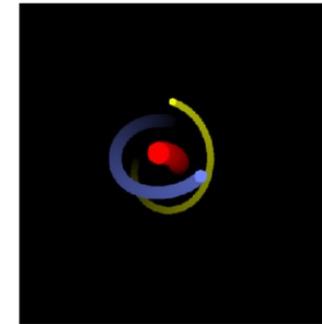
Graph Neural Networks (GNN)

□ Now some structure:

- v_i : nodes
- e_k : edges
- u : global



n-body



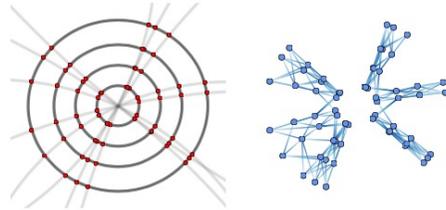
Nodes: bodies

Edges: gravitational forces

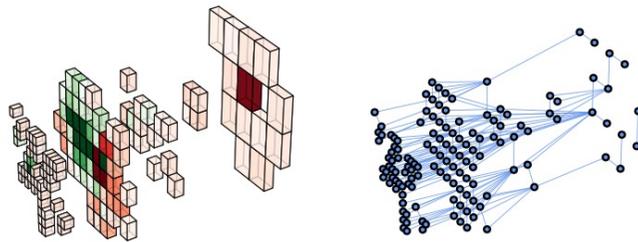
Global : potential energy

Graph to HEP data

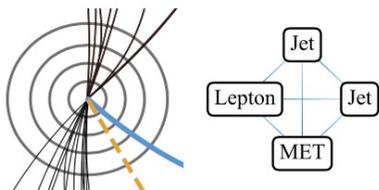
[from 2007.13681](#)



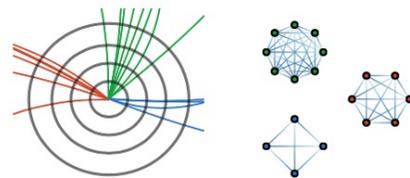
(a)



(b)



(c)

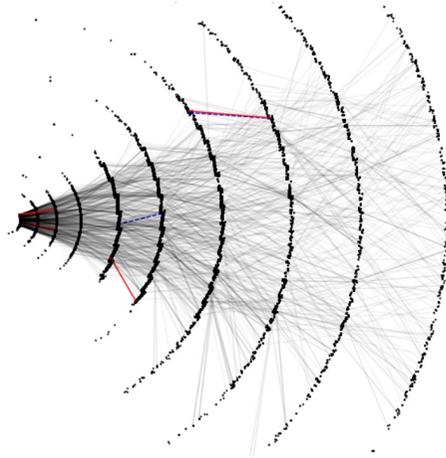


(d)

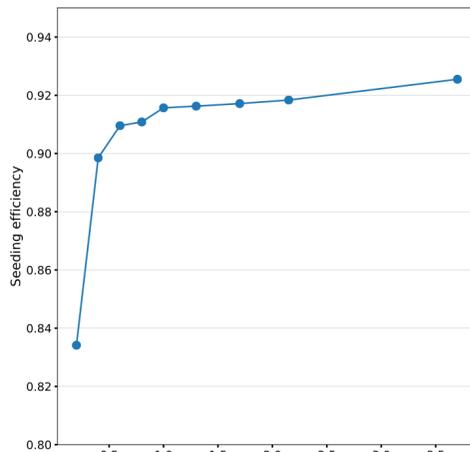
- Construction du graphe en fonction du problème
- Nouvelle évolution Transformers : corrélations entre les objets → construction du graphe

Track Seeding with GNN

2007.00149



- Build edges between neighbour
- Then GNN trained to classify double and triplet
- High efficiency reached with subsecond computing time (also very parallelisable)
- → can be used as a filtering stage before traditional Kalman filter



ics, David Rousseau, February 2026, AG IA IJCLab

Intermède



Aparté on ML in Physics history

Computer Physics Communications 49 (1988) 429–448
North-Holland, Amsterdam

NEURAL NETWORKS AND CELLULAR AUTOMATA IN EXPERIMENTAL HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS

B. DENBY

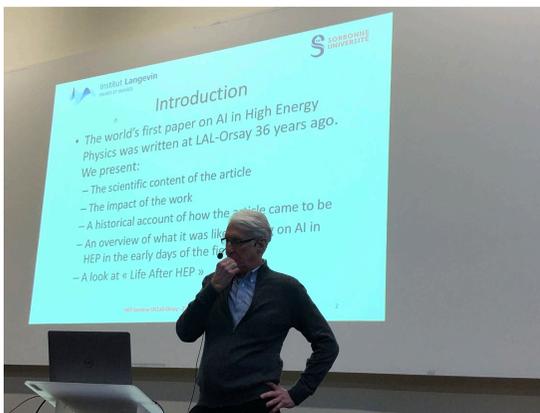
Laboratoire de l'Accélérateur Linéaire, Orsay, France

Received 20 September 1987; in revised form 28 December 1987



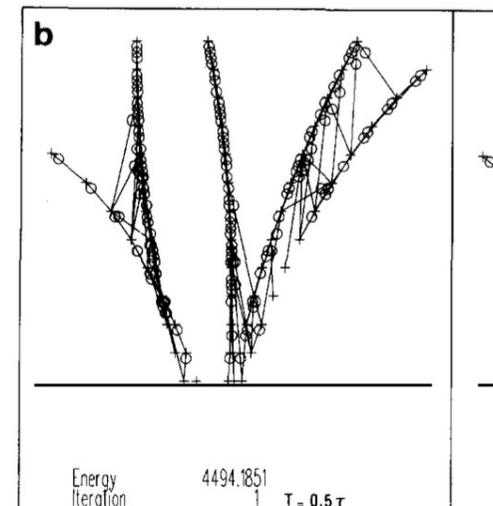
Bruce Denby

- 1987 Very first known paper on Neural Net in High Energy Physics



B. Denby seminar
at ex-LAL in 2023

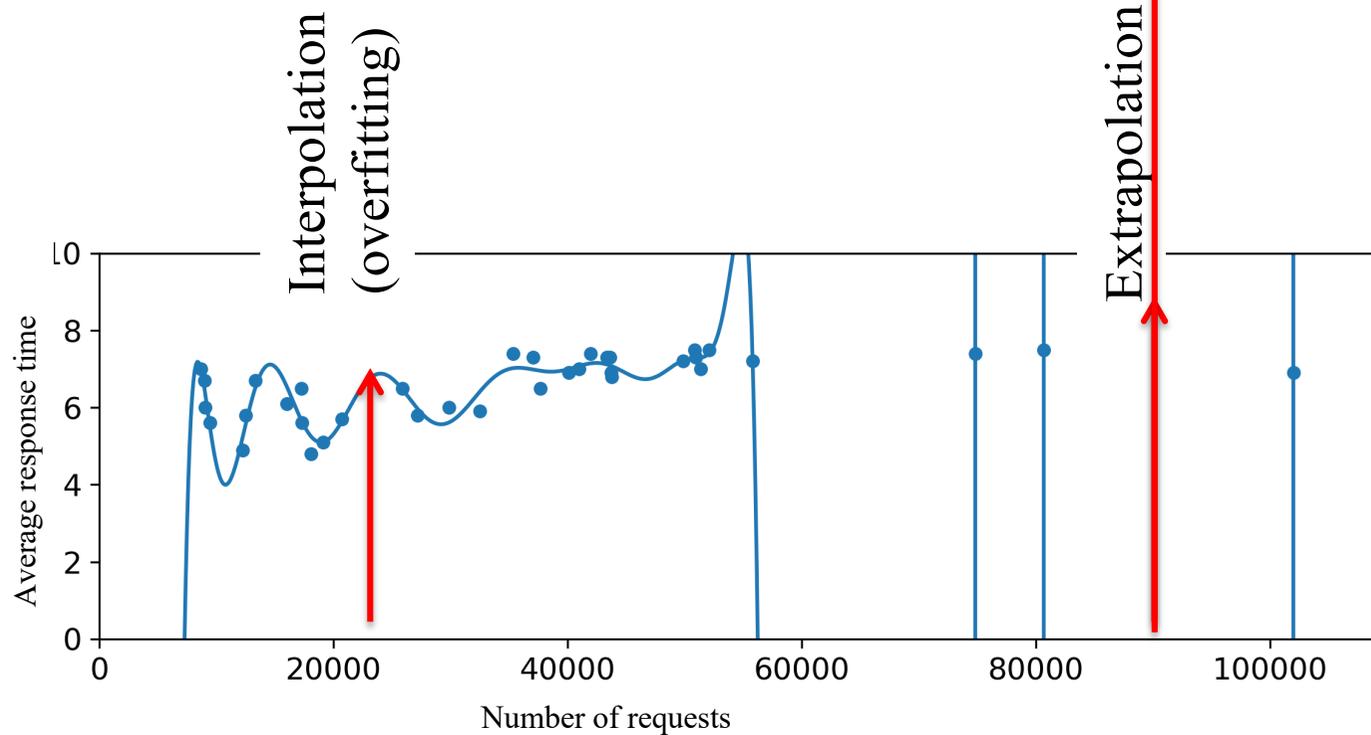
IA for Physics, David Rousseau, February 2026,



NN interpolation



Interpolation vs Extrapolation

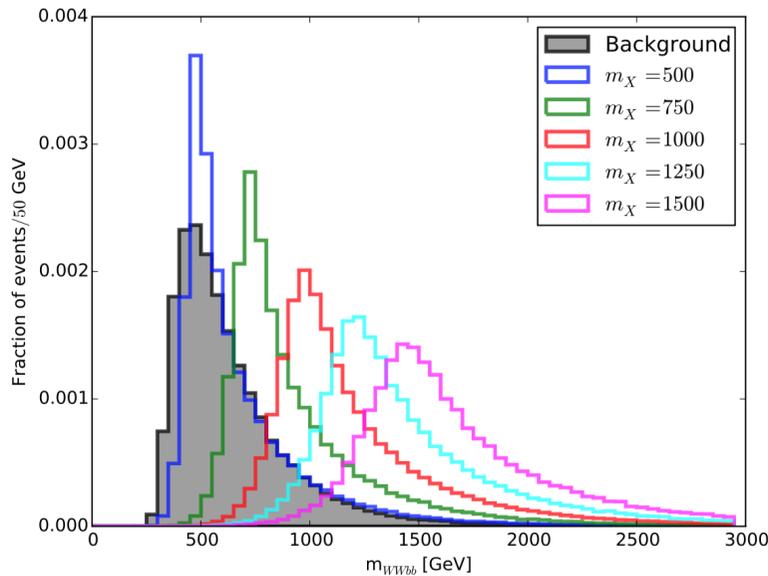
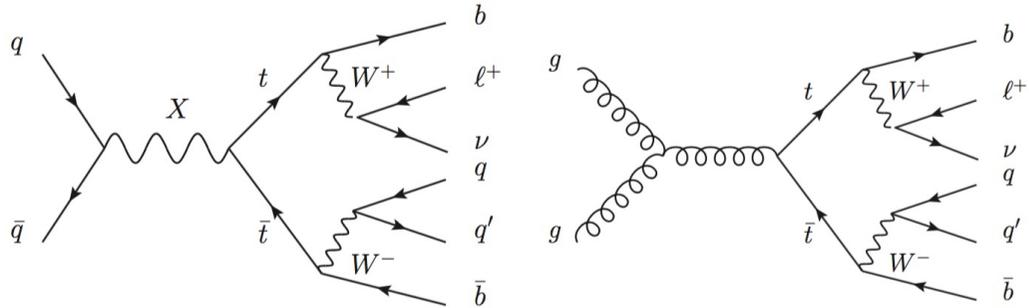


Interpolation is easier than extrapolation

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Parameterised learning

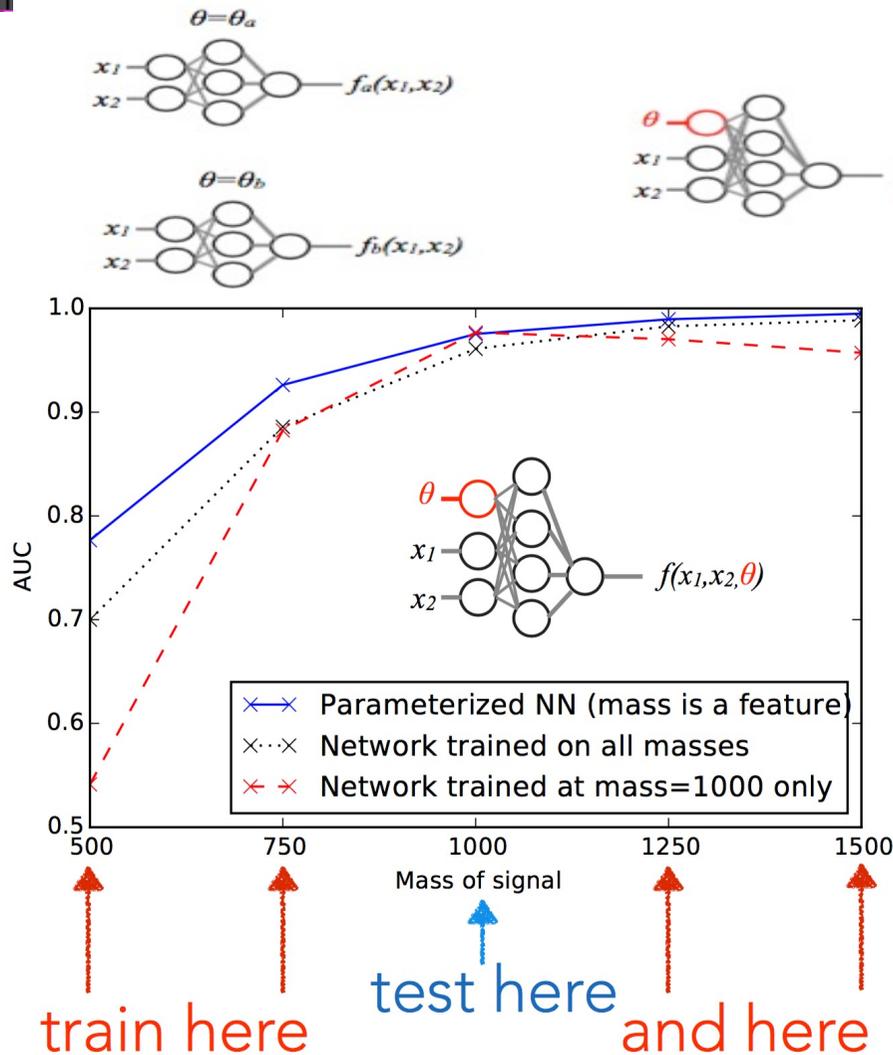
1601.07913 Baldi, Cranmer, Faucett, Sadowksi, Whiteson



□ Typical case: looking for a particle of unknown mass

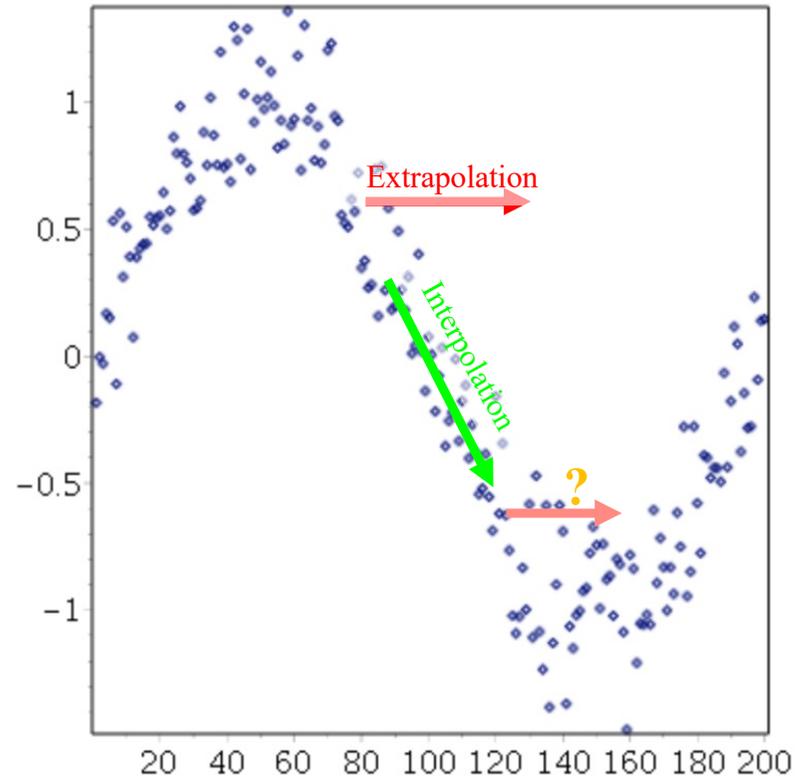
□ E.g. here $t\bar{t}$ decay

Parameterised learning (2)



- Train on 28 features plus true mass
- Parameterised NN as good as single mass training
- → clean interpolation
- (mass just an example)
- Used by CMS $b\bar{b}l\nu l \nu$ search
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1708.04188.pdf>
- Nowadays commonly used in searches

Interpolation vs Extrapolation



Interpolation/Extrapolation already ill-defined in 2D, what about large dimensions ?

Modèles substitutifs



Quand l'IA ne fait pas mieux mais beaucoup plus vite

Théorème d'universalité

- ❑ Théorème mathématique 1991

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_approximation_theorem

- ❑ Toute fonction continue $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$

- ❑ ... peut être approximée suffisamment bien

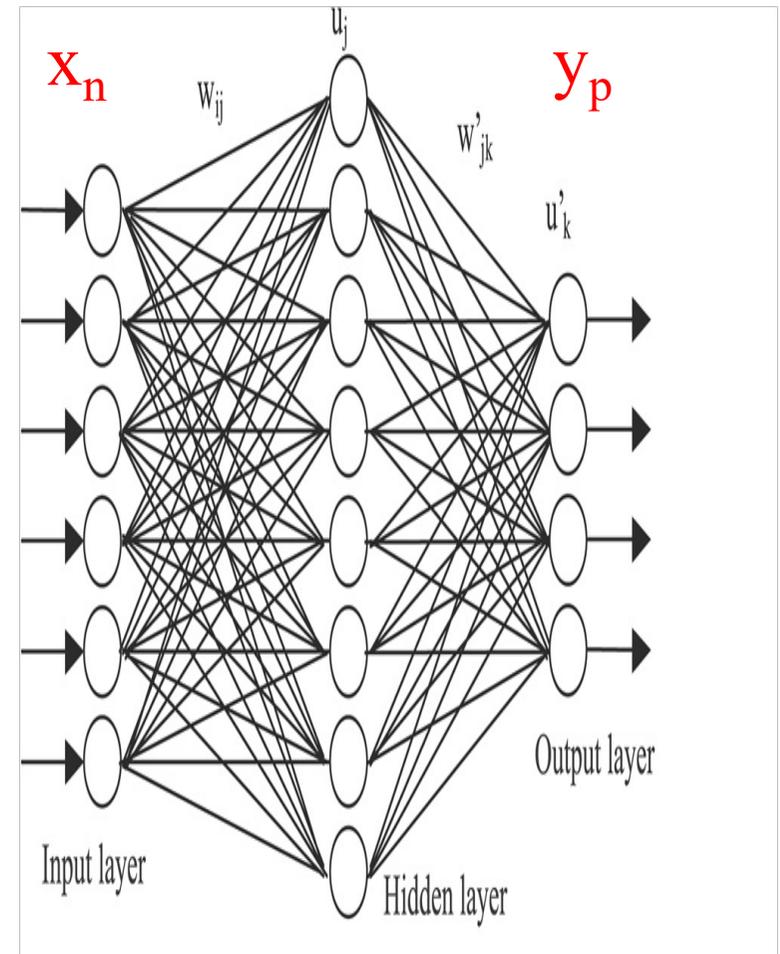
- ❑ ... avec un NN à une couche cachée avec un nombre suffisant de neurones

- ❑ (Ne dit rien sur la construction)

- ❑ → on peut entraîner un NN à émuler un calculateur existant complexe

- ❑ → gains en vitesse x10... x100000

- ❑ (mais précision... mais excursion...)

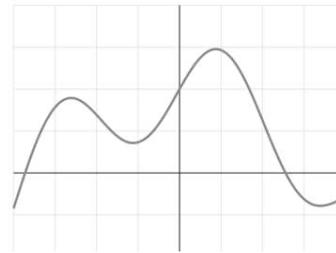


Universal Theorem at work

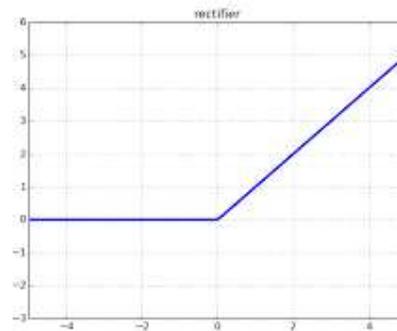


Universal approximation

We can approximate any $f \in \mathcal{C}([a, b], \mathbb{R})$ with a linear combination of translated/scaled ReLU functions



$\text{relu}(x) = x$ if $x > 0$ & 0 otherwise



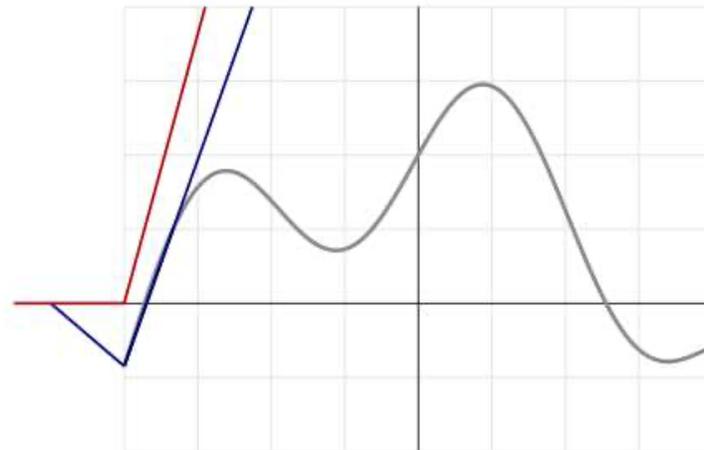
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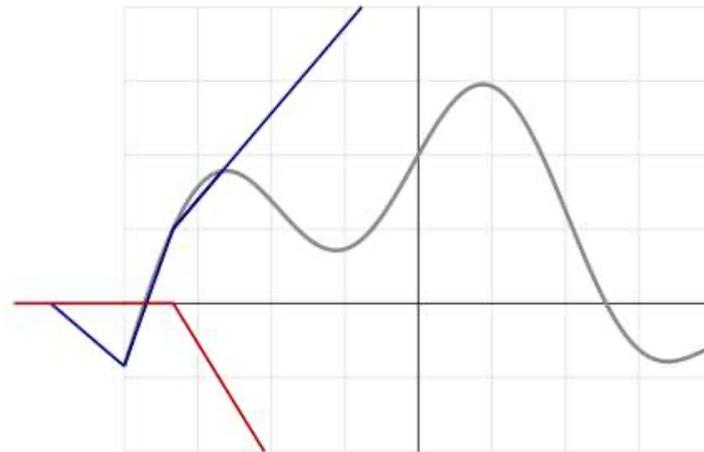
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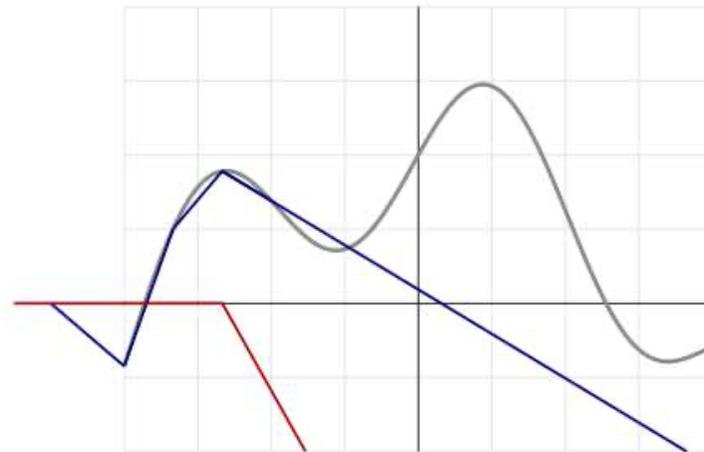
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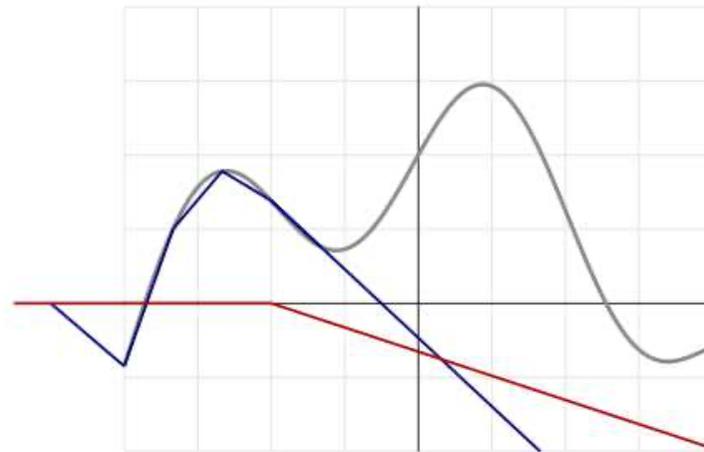
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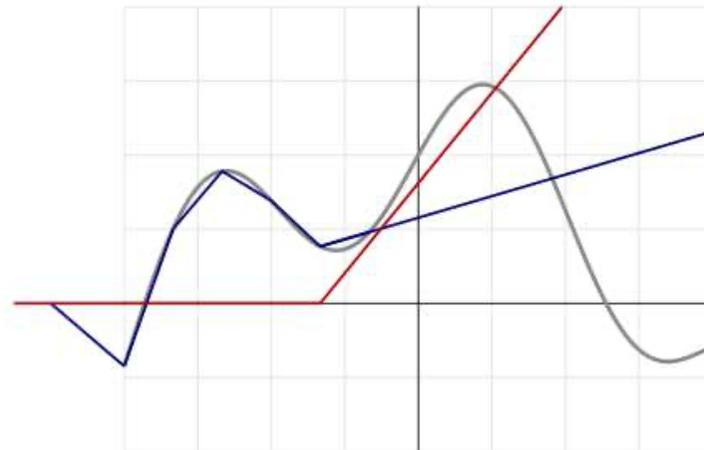
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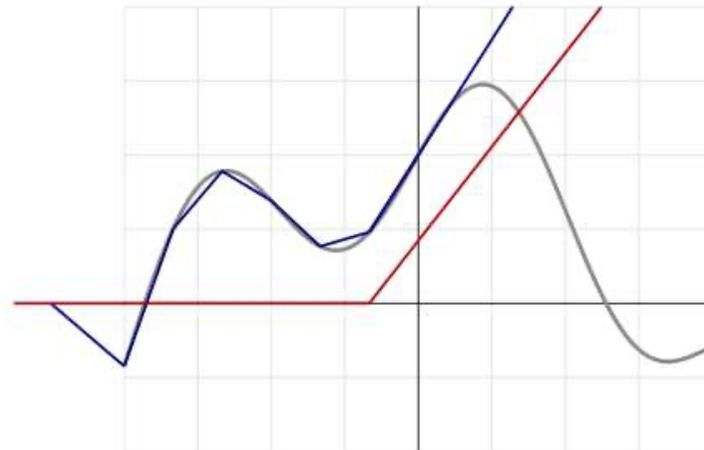
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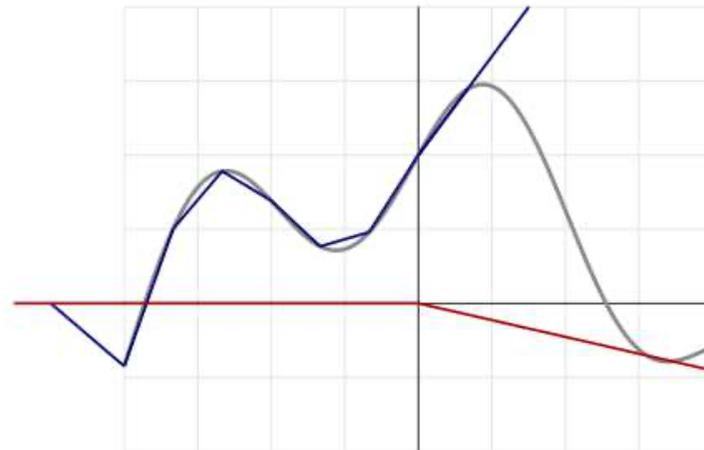
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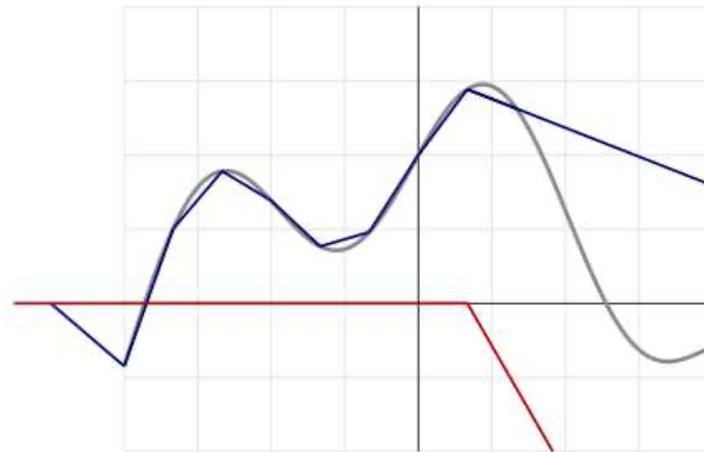
Universal approximation

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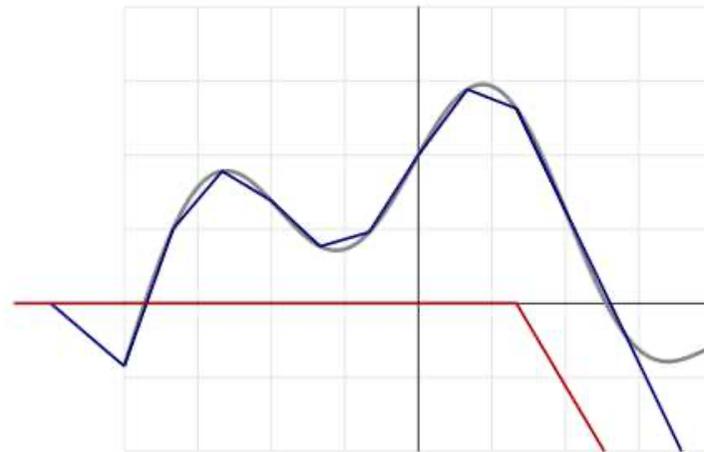
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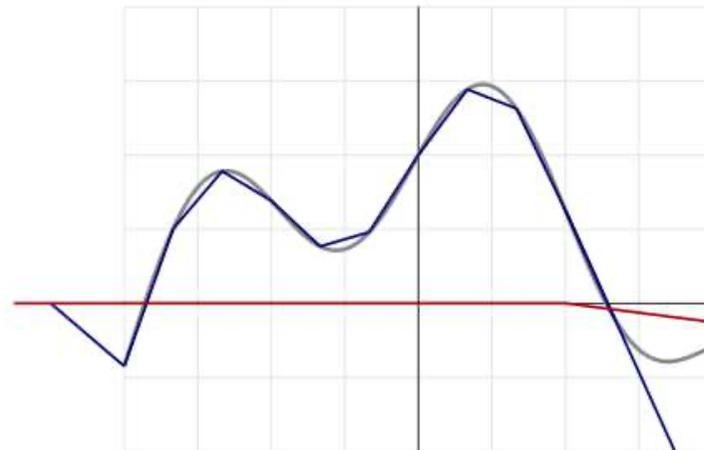
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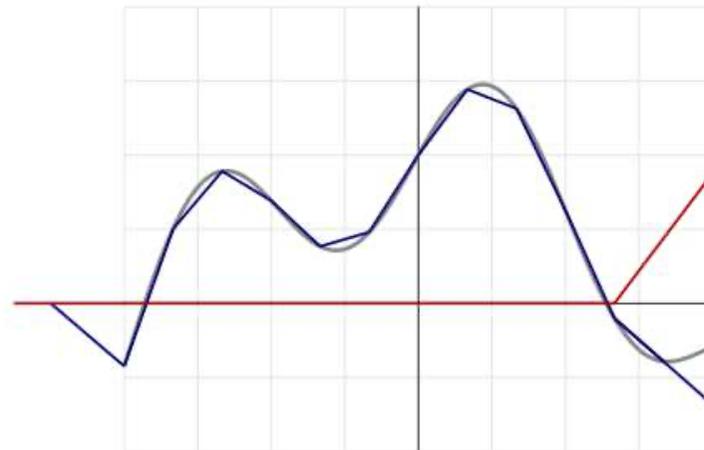
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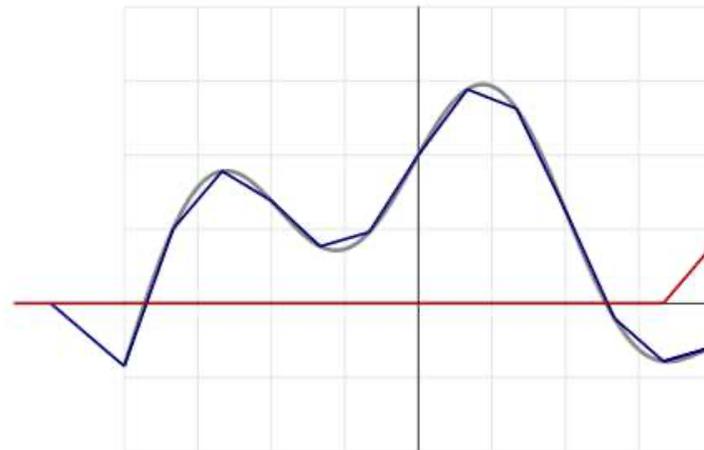
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Universal approximation

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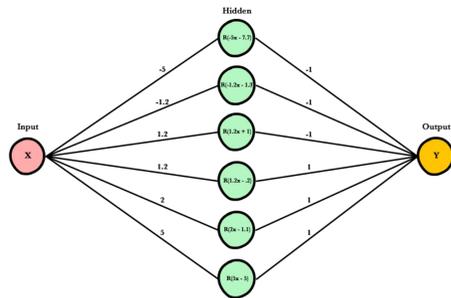
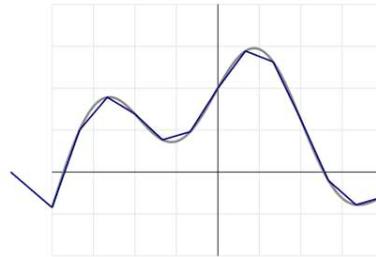


Universal Theorem at work



Universal approximation

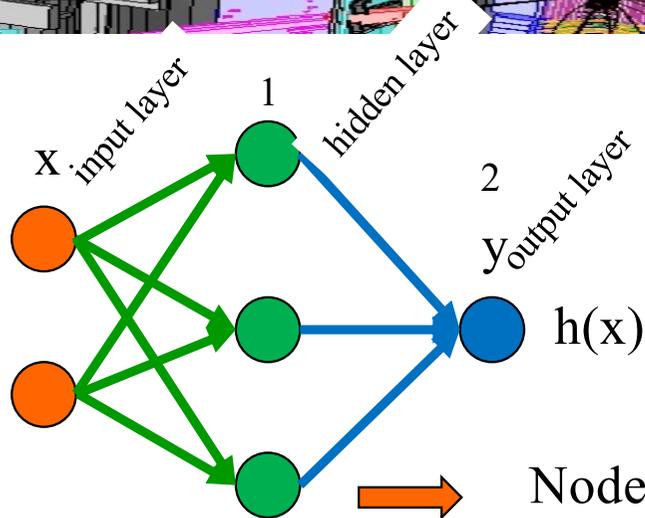
We can approximate any $f \in \mathcal{C}([a, b], \mathbb{R})$ with a linear combination of translated/scaled ReLU functions



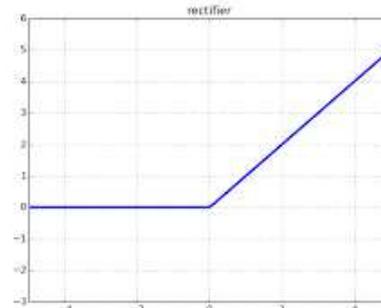
$$y = \sum_i \text{Relu}(a_i \times x + b_i)$$

$\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ generalised to $\mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$

Simple NN as a math function



activation function (non linear!)



$$\text{Node}_j = \sigma(b_j + \sum w_{ij}x_i)$$

$$h(x) = \sigma(b^2 + W^2 \sigma(b^1 + W^1 x))$$

Beware: superscript are layer indices!

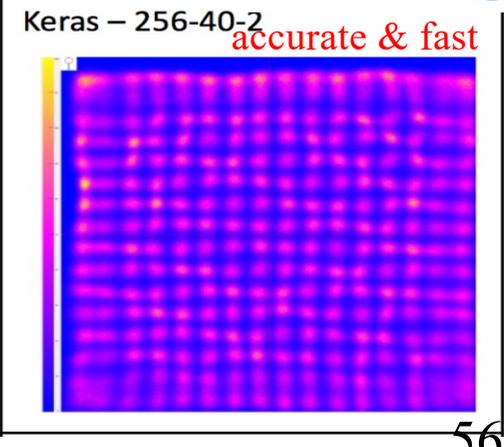
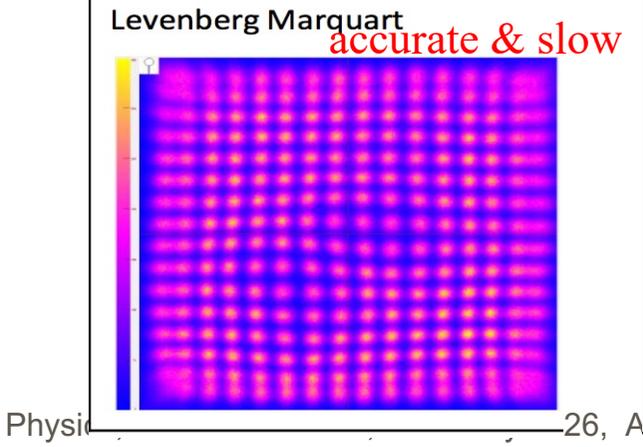
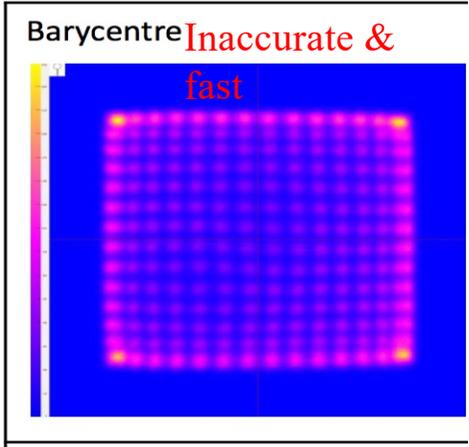
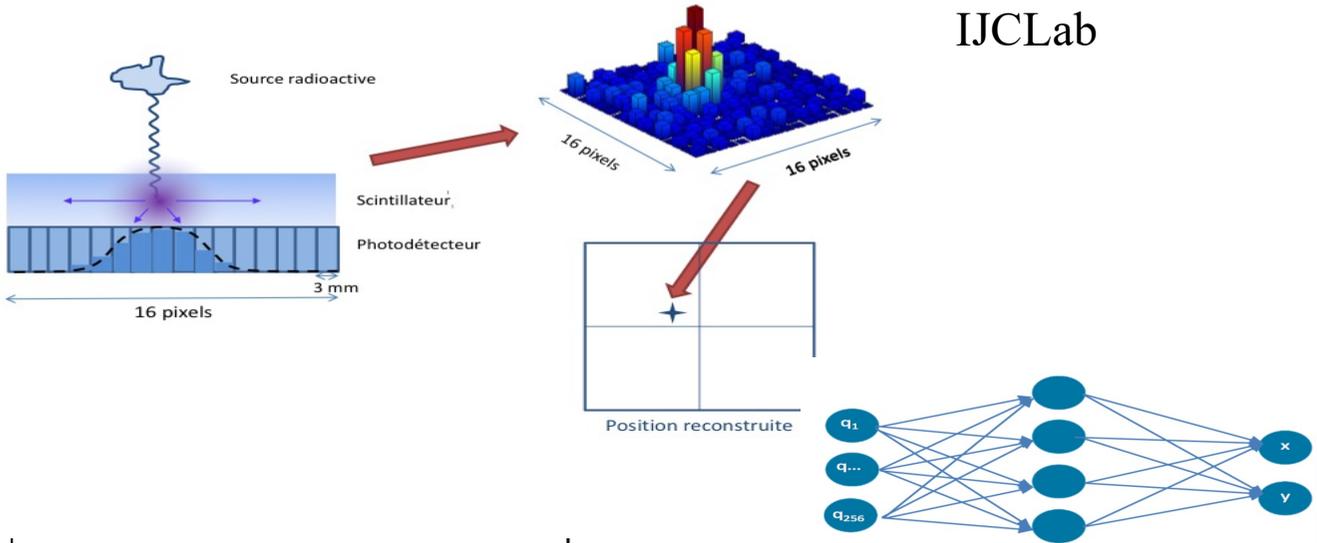
Now with dimensions

$$h(x_{(2)}) = \sigma(b_{(1)}^2 + W_{(1,3)}^2 \sigma(b_{(3)}^1 + W_{(3,2)}^1 x_{(2)}))$$



Exemple : β, γ camera pour chirurgie

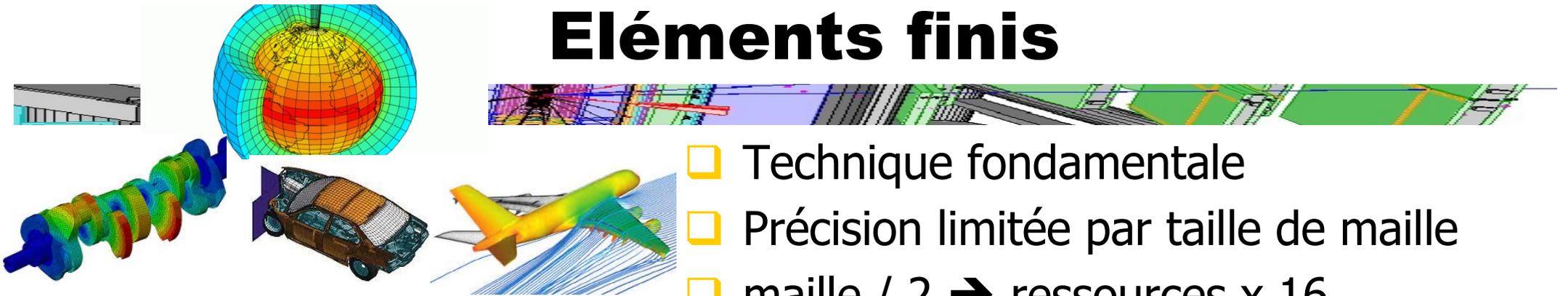
Françoise Bouvet
IJCLab



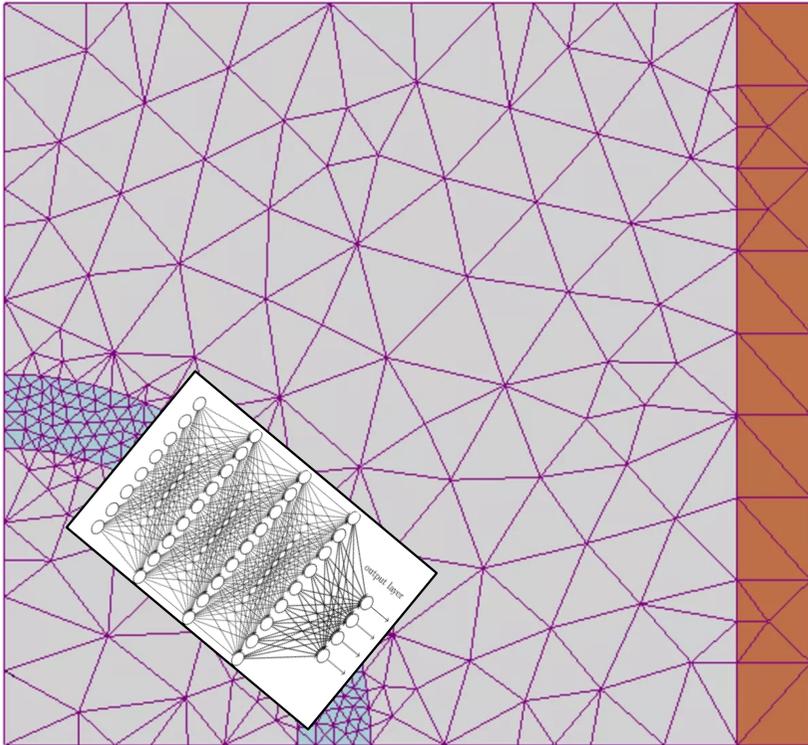
Eléments finis



Eléments finis



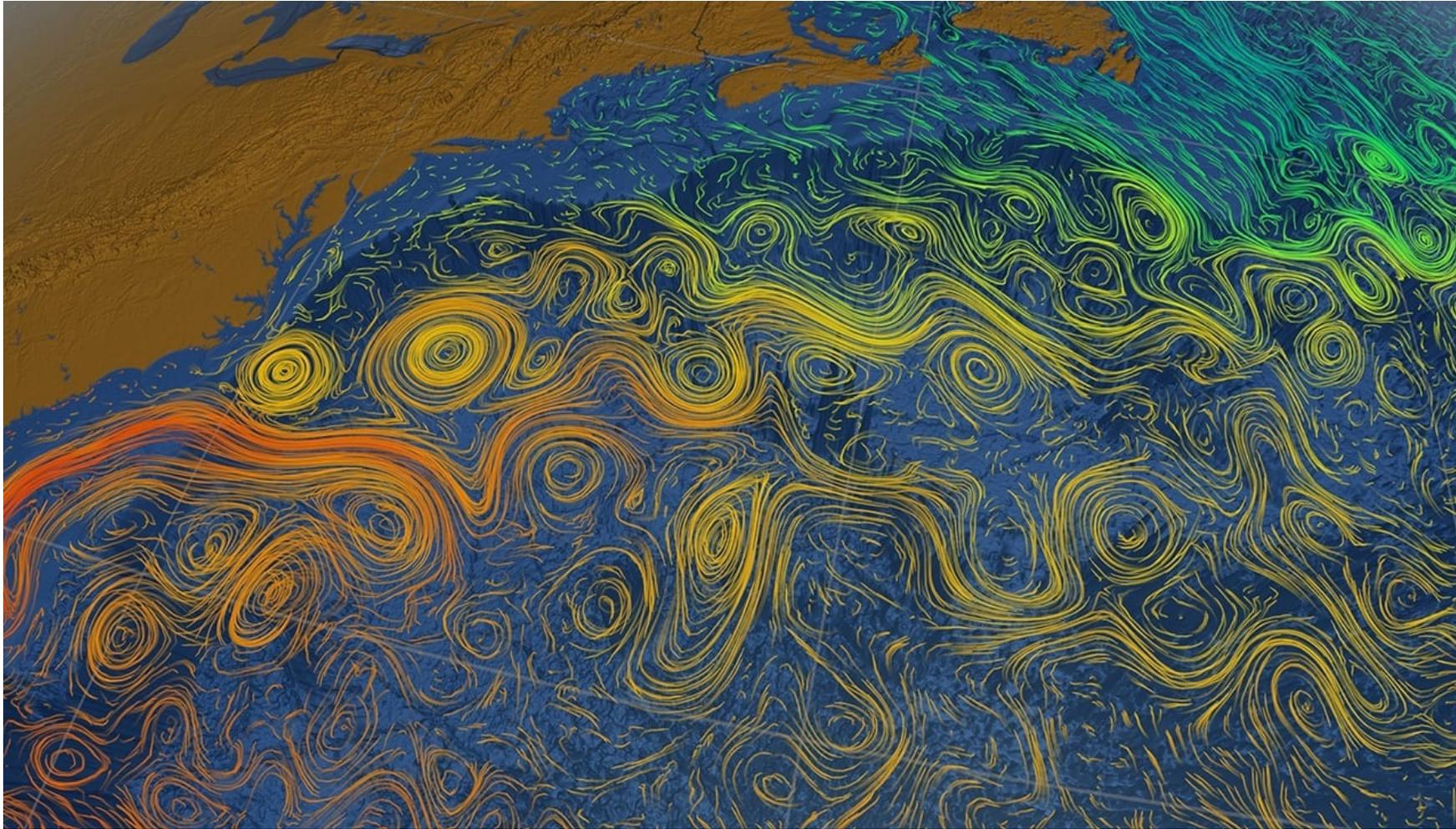
- ❑ Technique fondamentale
- ❑ Précision limitée par taille de maille
- ❑ maille / 2 → ressources x 16 (mémoire, temps de calcul)
- ❑ Au lieu de réduire la maille, entraîner un réseau de neurone à reproduire un modèle à petite maille



Application océanographie

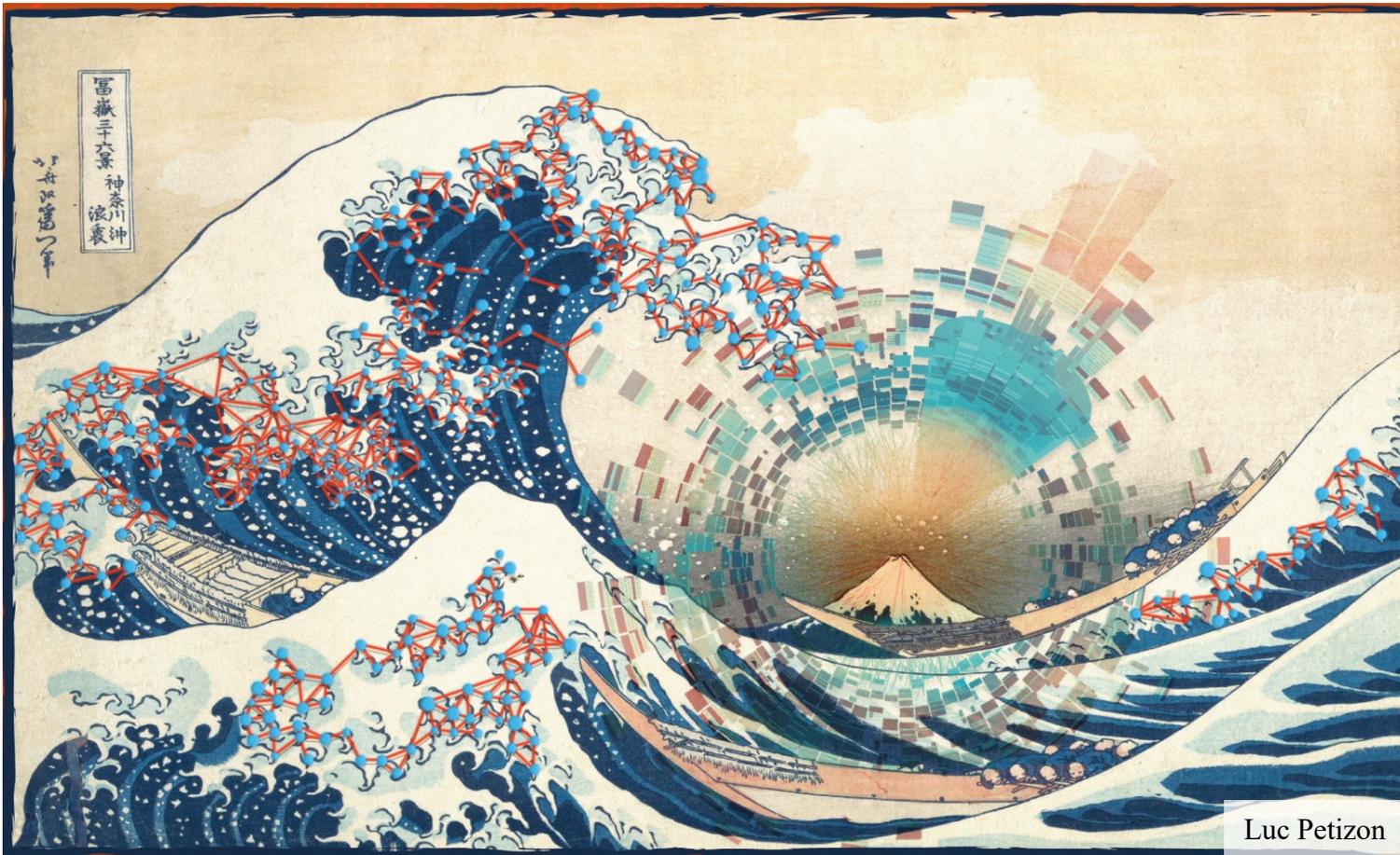


NASA



IA for Physics, David Rousseau, February 2026, AG IA IJCLab

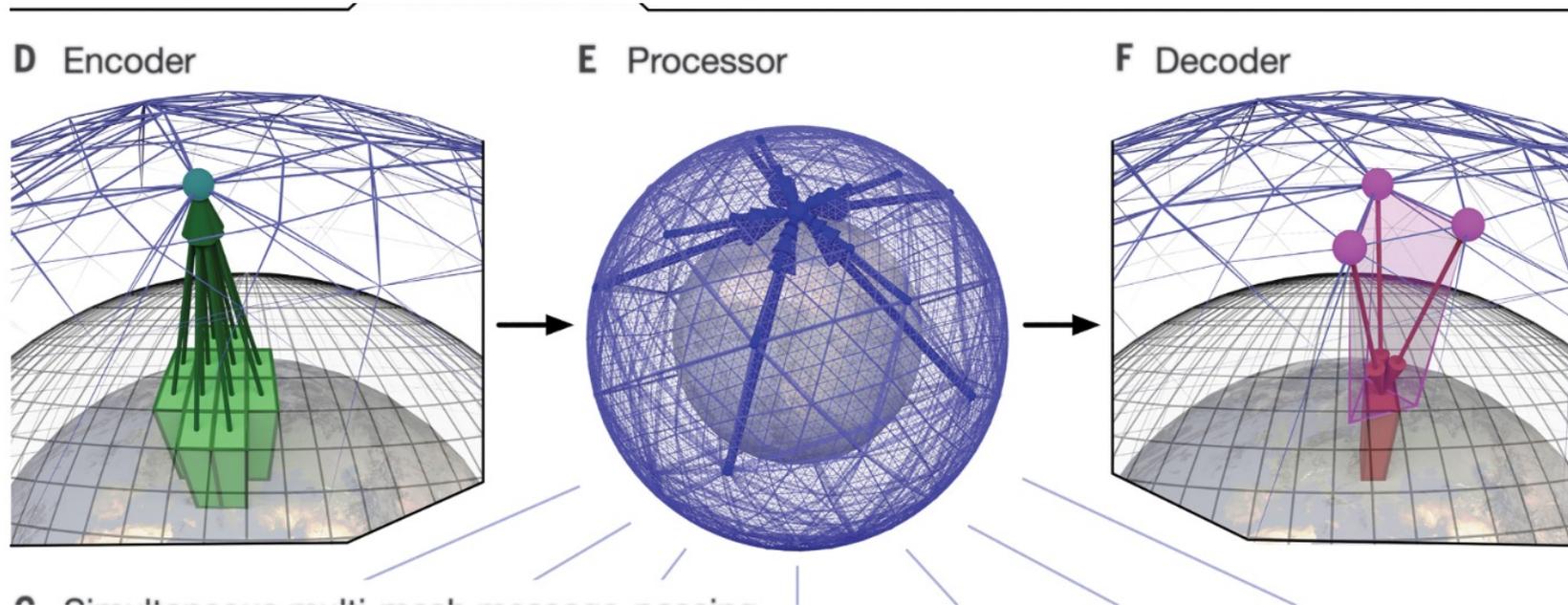
Modéliser l'inconnu



Si un phénomène n'est pas calculable, entrainer un réseau de neurones sur des données expérimentales pour l'émuler

Ex: étude vague scélérate
Hokusai

Modèle Météo GraphCast Deepmind



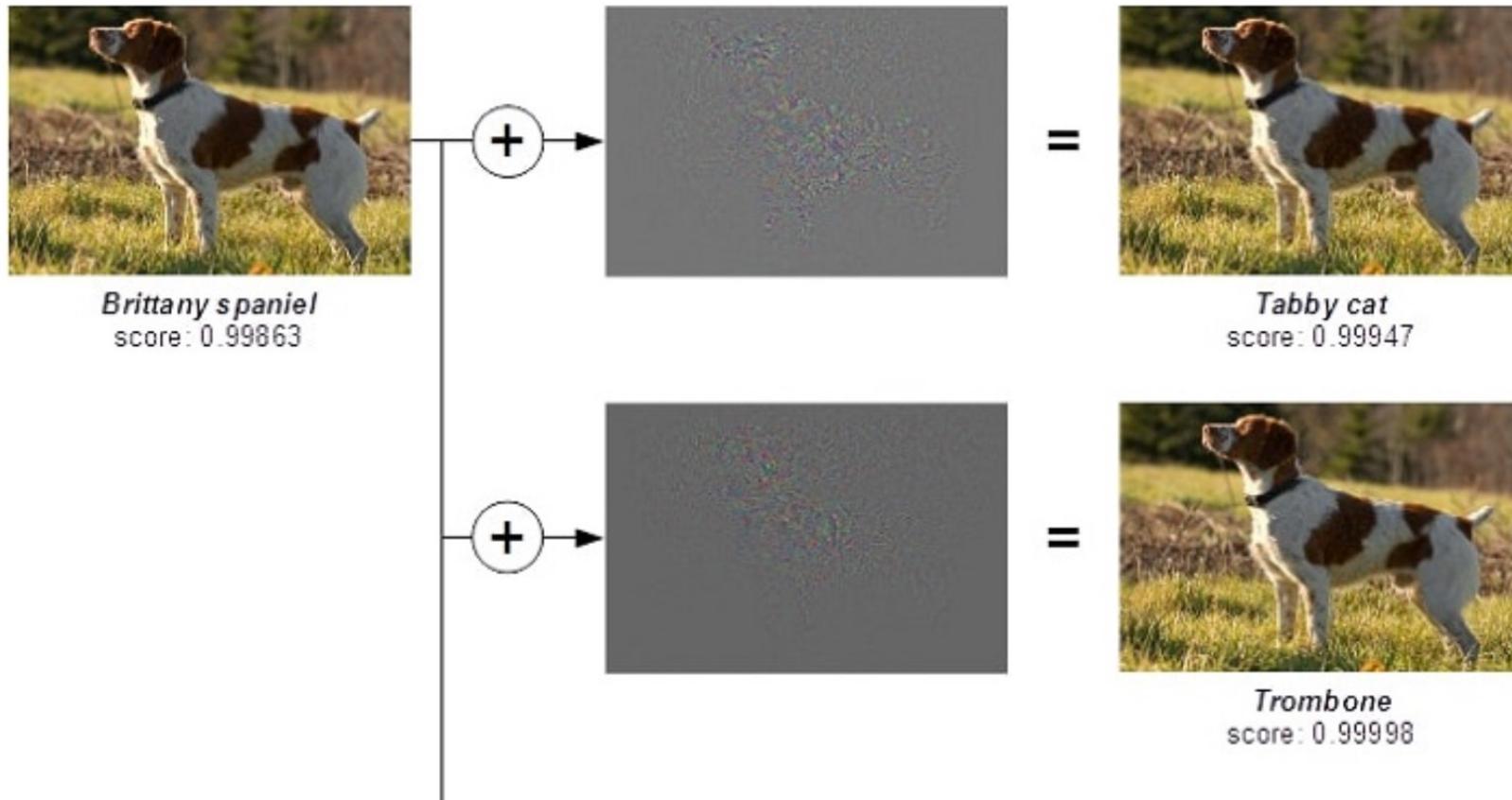
Prédiction à 10 jours en qq minutes, plus fiables que modèles traditionnels (mais pas d' »assimilation »)

Intermezzo on Adversarial examples



Adversarial examples

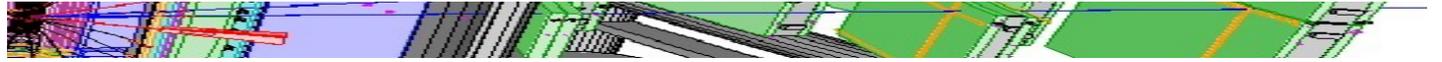
- Subtle non random alteration of an image fooling a classifier



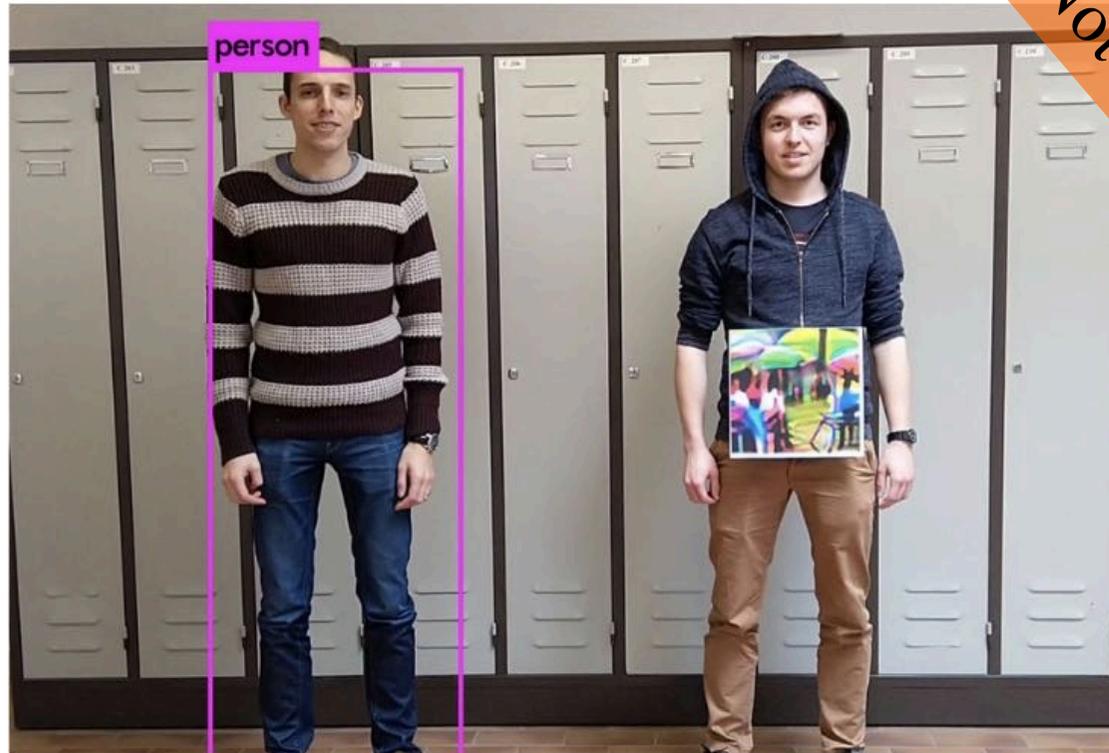
Adversarial examples (2)



[the verge 2019/04/23](#) (see also video)



- ❑ Extraneous object
- ❑ → more worrying, for HEP it would be e.g. a glitch in the data which is not simulated



Not a problem for physics

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Adversarial examples

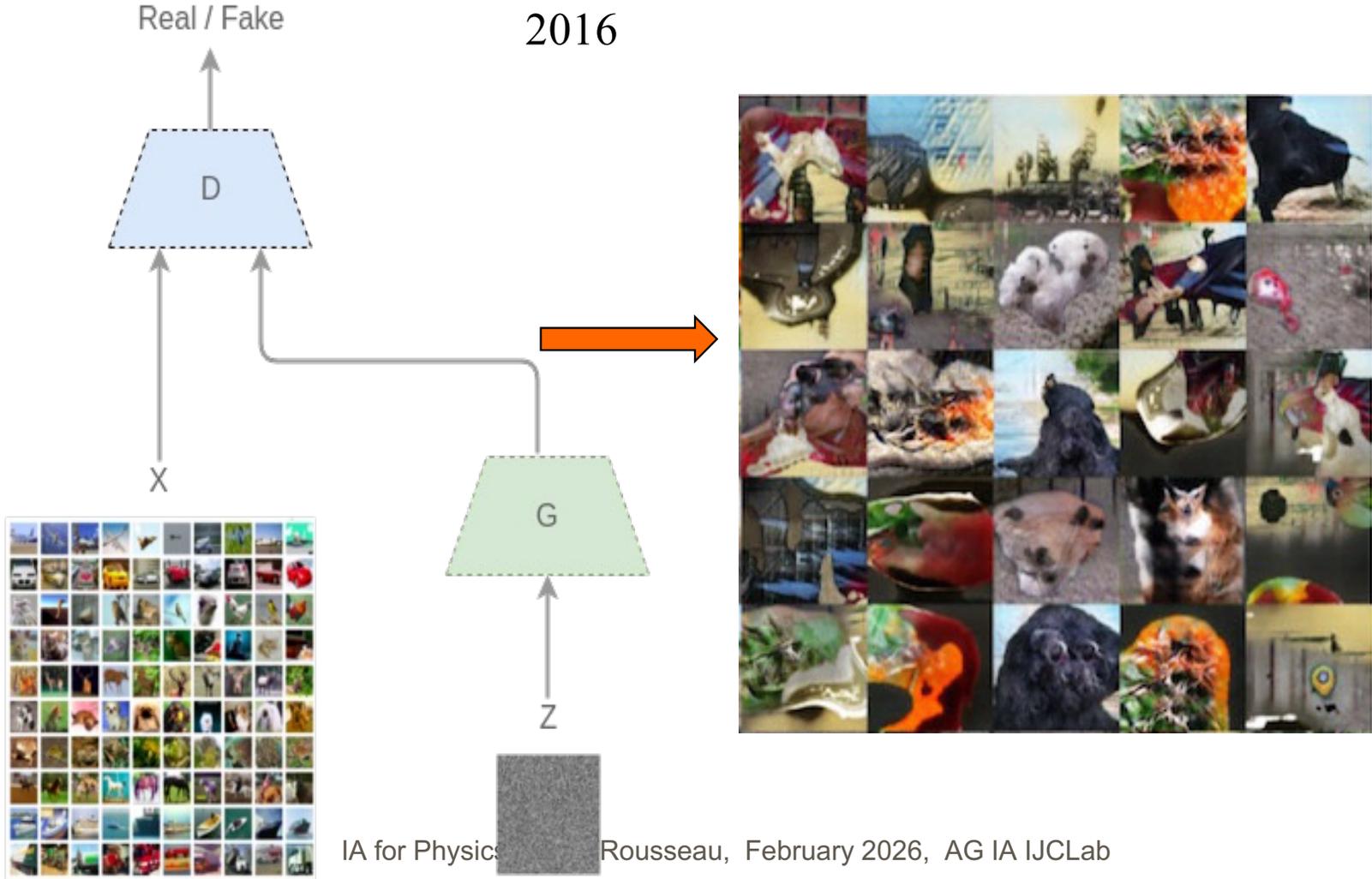


- ❑ Like an optical illusion for a NN
- ❑ Tuned for a specific known NN → can still fool other NN (share a common behavior)
- ❑ Dangerous for physics if we rely more and more on NN ?
- ❑ Definition : « inputs that are specifically designed to cause the target model to produce erroneous outputs »
- ❑ we could not think of a case a detector or physics glitch would fulfill the definition above



Modèles génératifs

Generative Adversarial Network



Condition GAN

Text to image

this small bird has a pink breast and crown, and black primaries and secondaries.



this magnificent fellow is almost all black with a red crest, and white cheek patch.



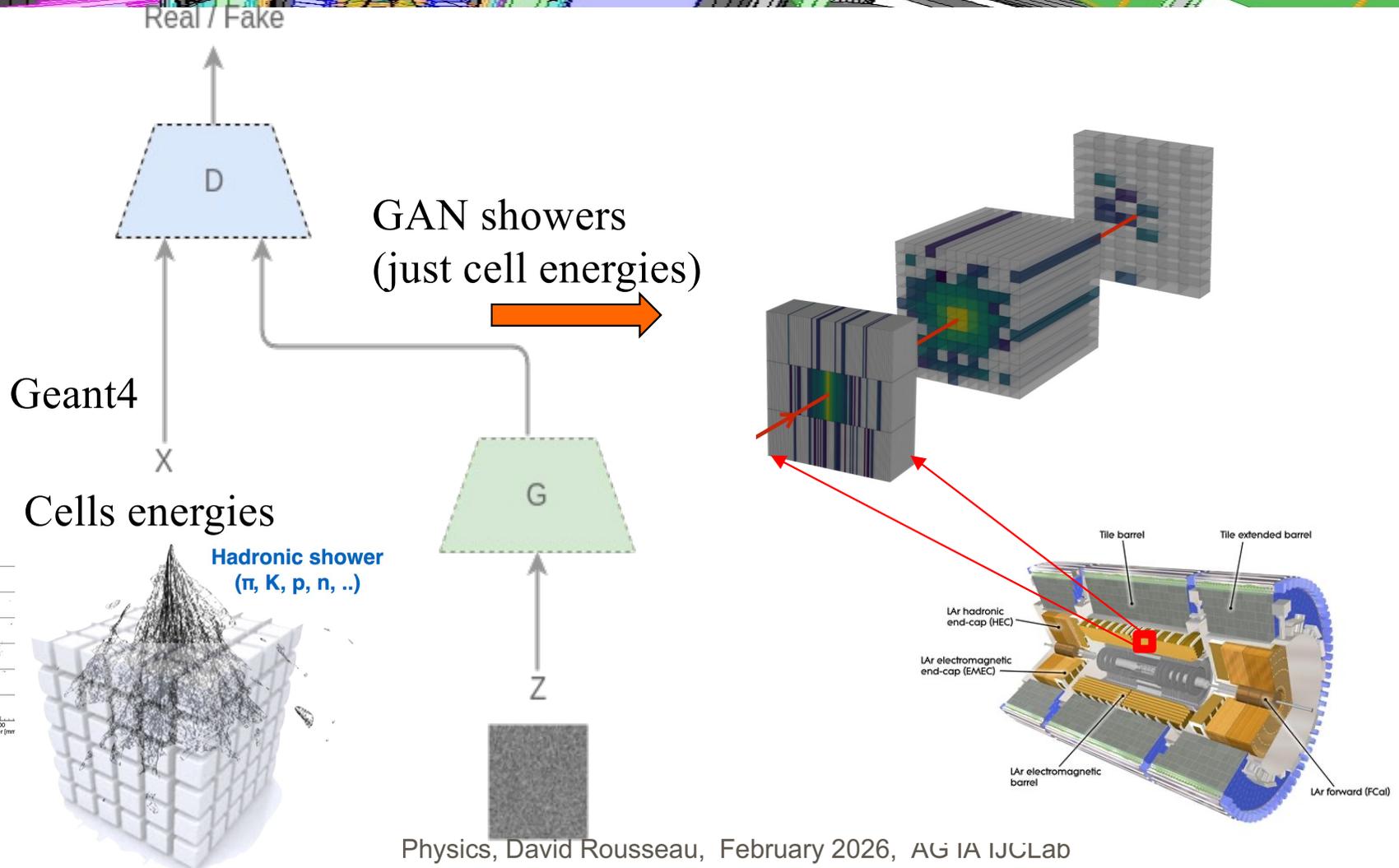
the flower has petals that are bright pinkish purple with white stigma



this white and yellow flower have thin white petals and a round yellow stamen

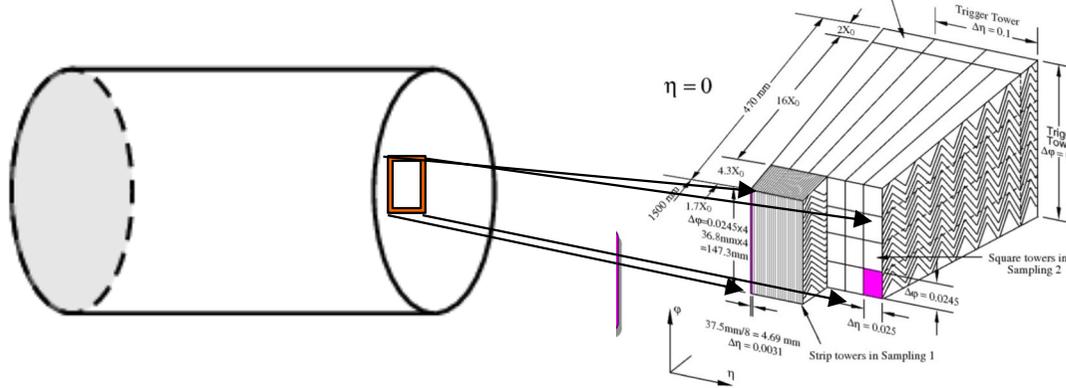


GAN for simulation



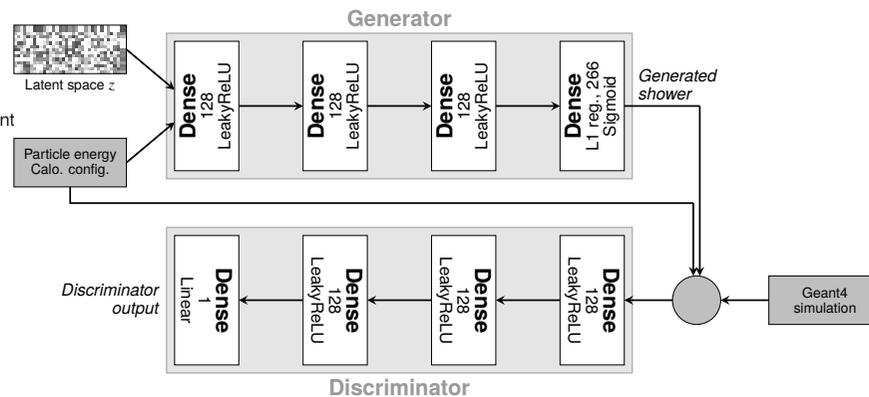
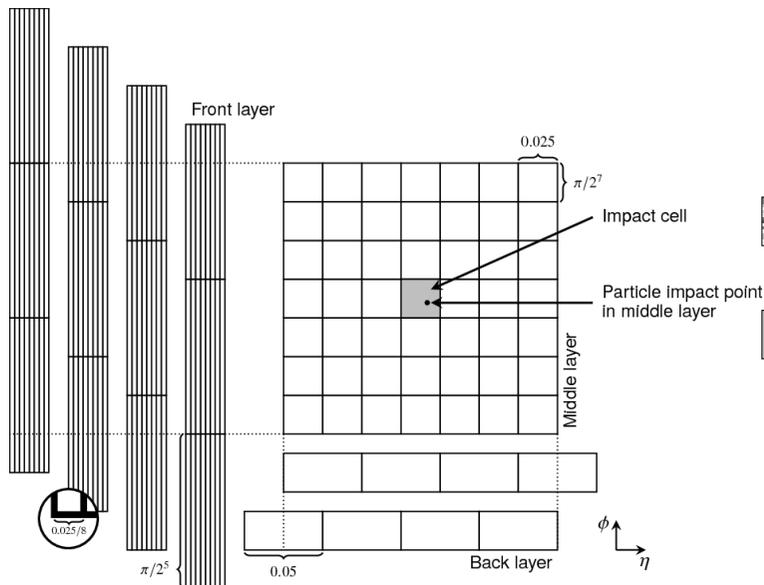
ATLAS calo simulation

ATLAS Collaboration, [arXiv:1712.10321](https://arxiv.org/abs/1712.10321)

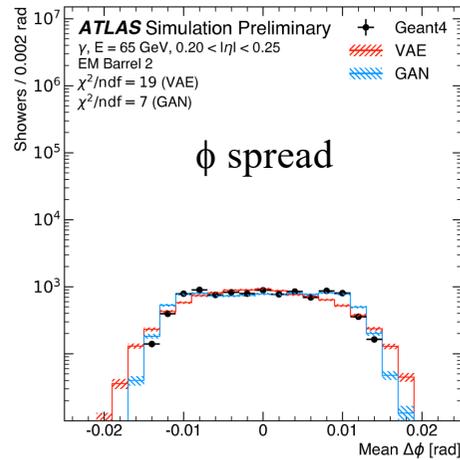
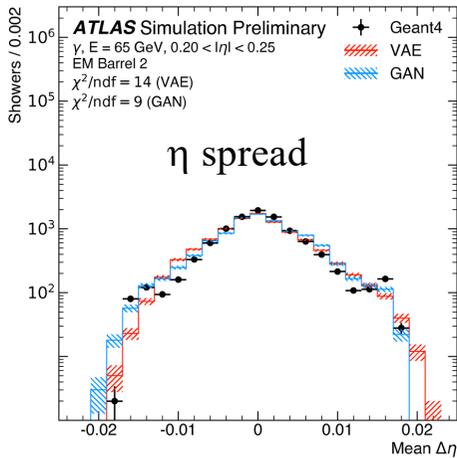
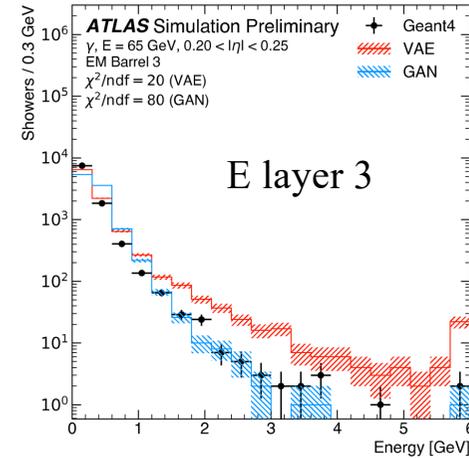
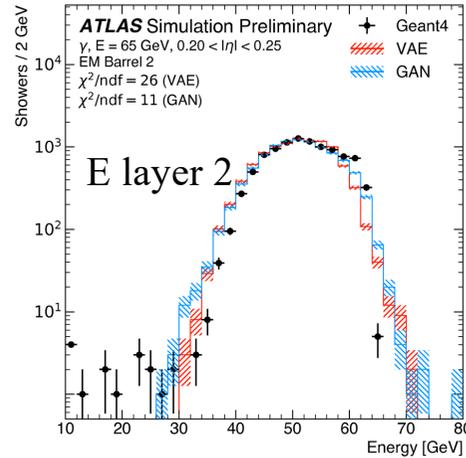
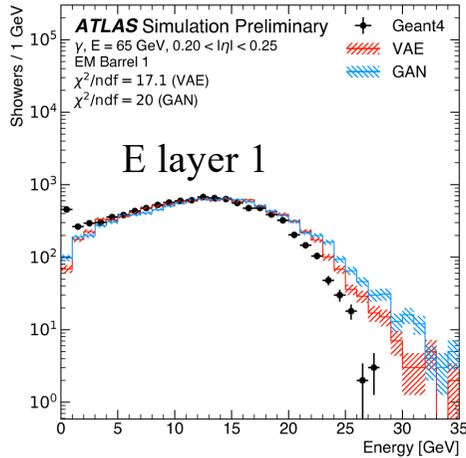


With major contribution from Gilles Louppe U Liège

+ η, ϕ translation
177000 cells \rightarrow 266 cells



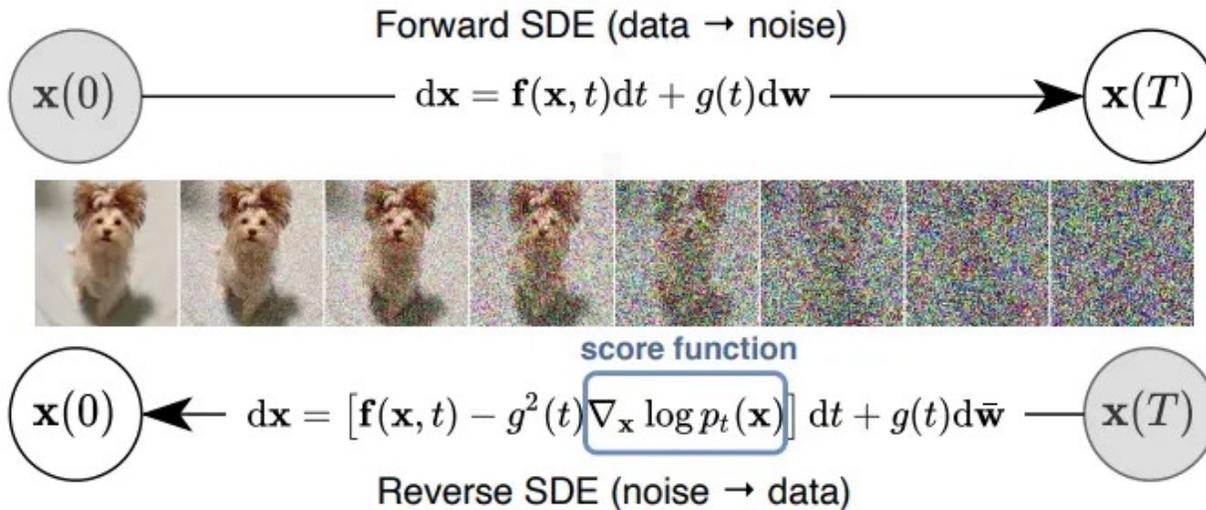
Results



Works reasonably well,
but not good enough
Training very tricky

So much progress since 2016

See [nice introduction](#) #Dall-e Diffusion



an espresso machine that makes coffee from human souls, artstation



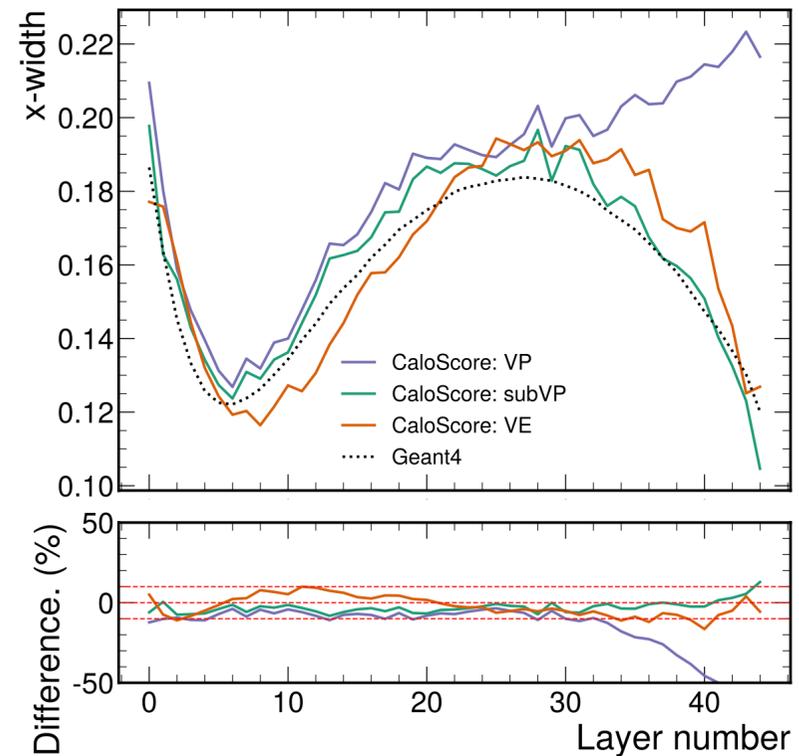
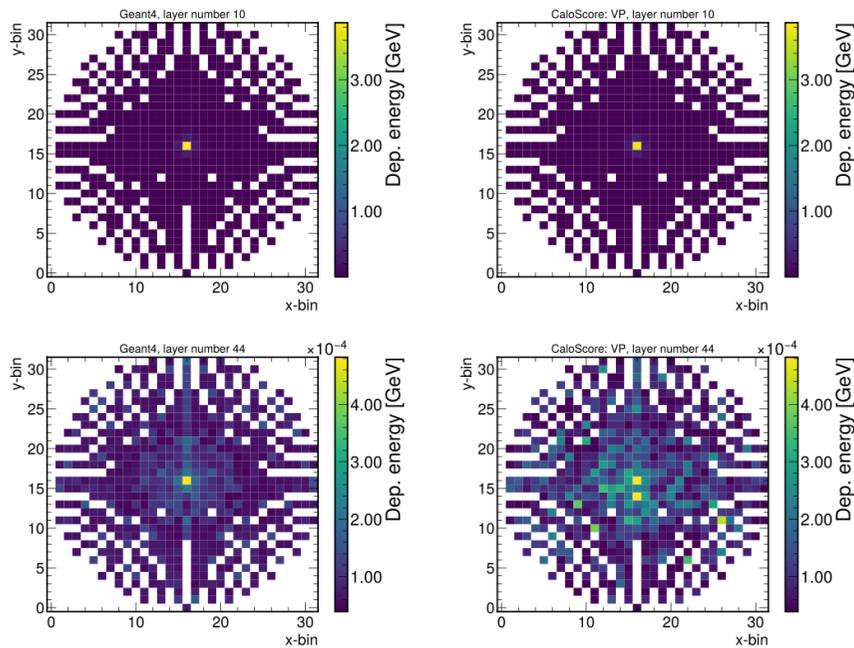
panda mad scientist mixing sparkling chemicals, artstation

GAN becoming obsolete, can we do something (serious) with diffusion model ?

Simulation with diffusion model

Mikuli, Nachman

- On CaloChallenge dataset
- seems to work, claim it is easier to train
- However inference (=generation) slower

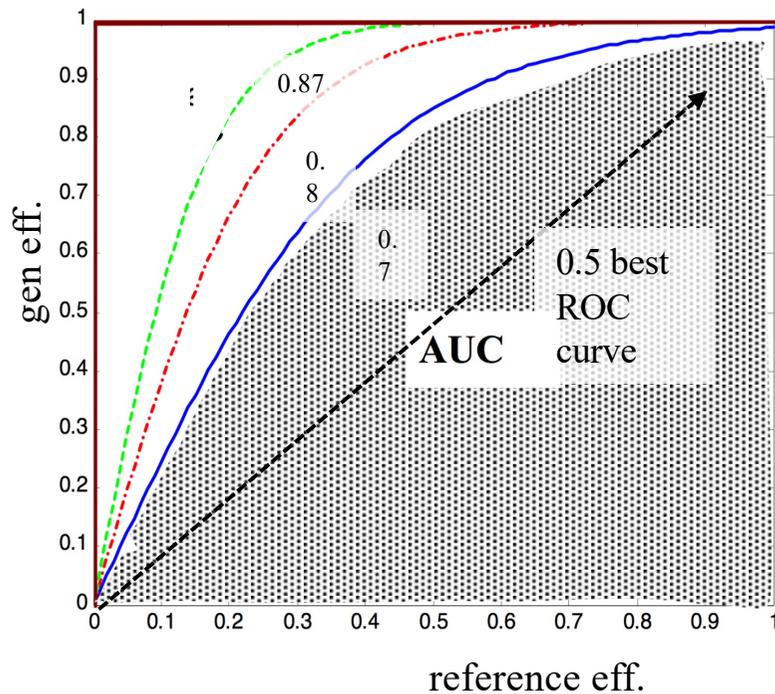


How to evaluate a generative model



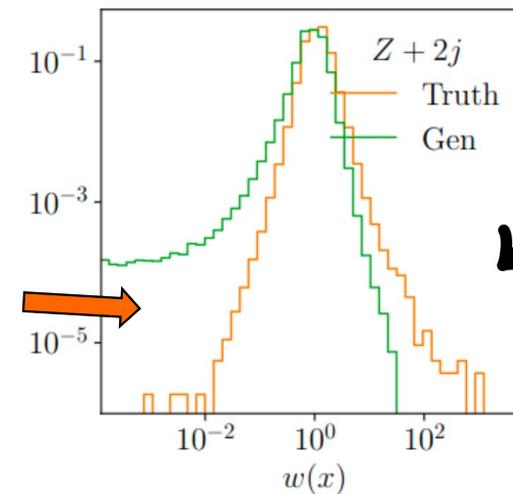
- ❑ For text or image generation, subjective human evaluation « by eye »
- ❑ For science we should be more quantitative:
- ❑ train a classifier to distinguish the generative model from reference=truth :

AUC : Area Under the (ROC) Curve



$$w = \frac{p_{gen}}{p_{truth}} \quad \text{with calibrated classifier}$$

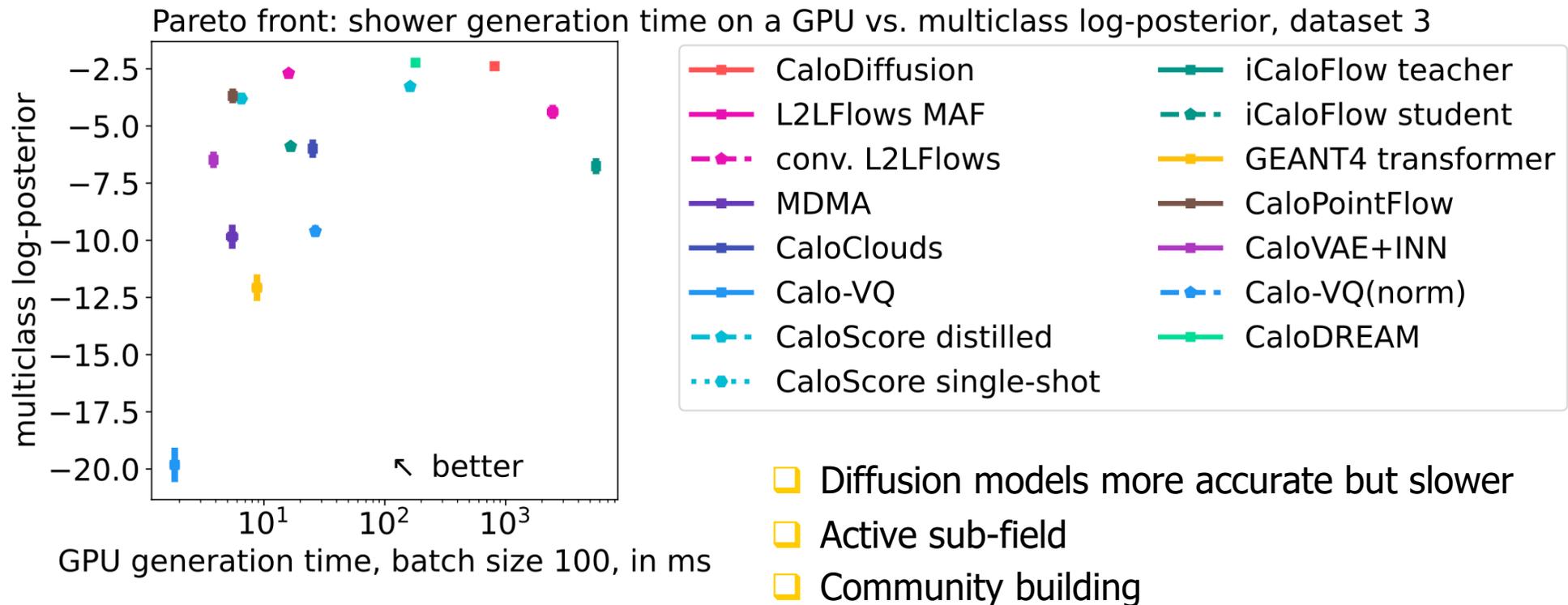
mis-modelled feature



missed feature

CaloChallenge results

C. Krause et al, CaloChallenge 2022 final paper arXiv:2410.21611

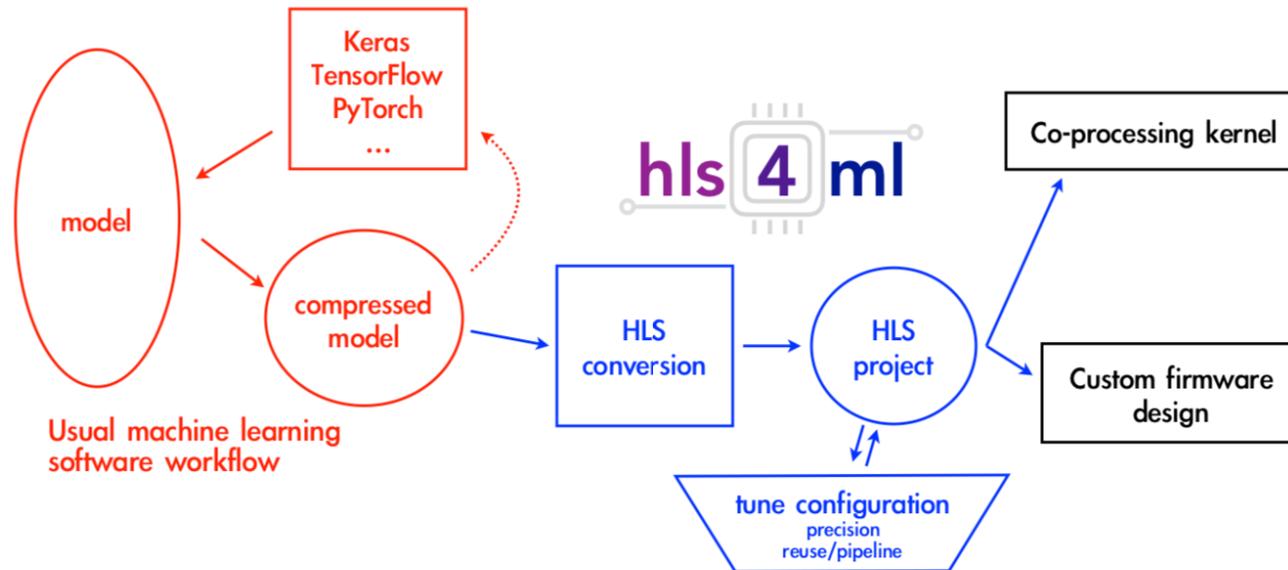


Fast Machine Learning



ML for DAQ/trigger

- ❑ Growing use of ML in trigger/readout
- ❑ Classifiers (BDT or NN) maybe long to train but evaluation is very fast
- ❑ Can be implemented on GPU or FPGA
 - GBDT on FPGA
 - NN on FPGA : hls4ML ([arXiv:1804.06913](https://arxiv.org/abs/1804.06913))
- ❑ Manpower efficient, few experts can code directly for GPU or FPGA. However experts are still better (see CPPM work for ATLAS LArg [arXiv:2510.11469](https://arxiv.org/abs/2510.11469))

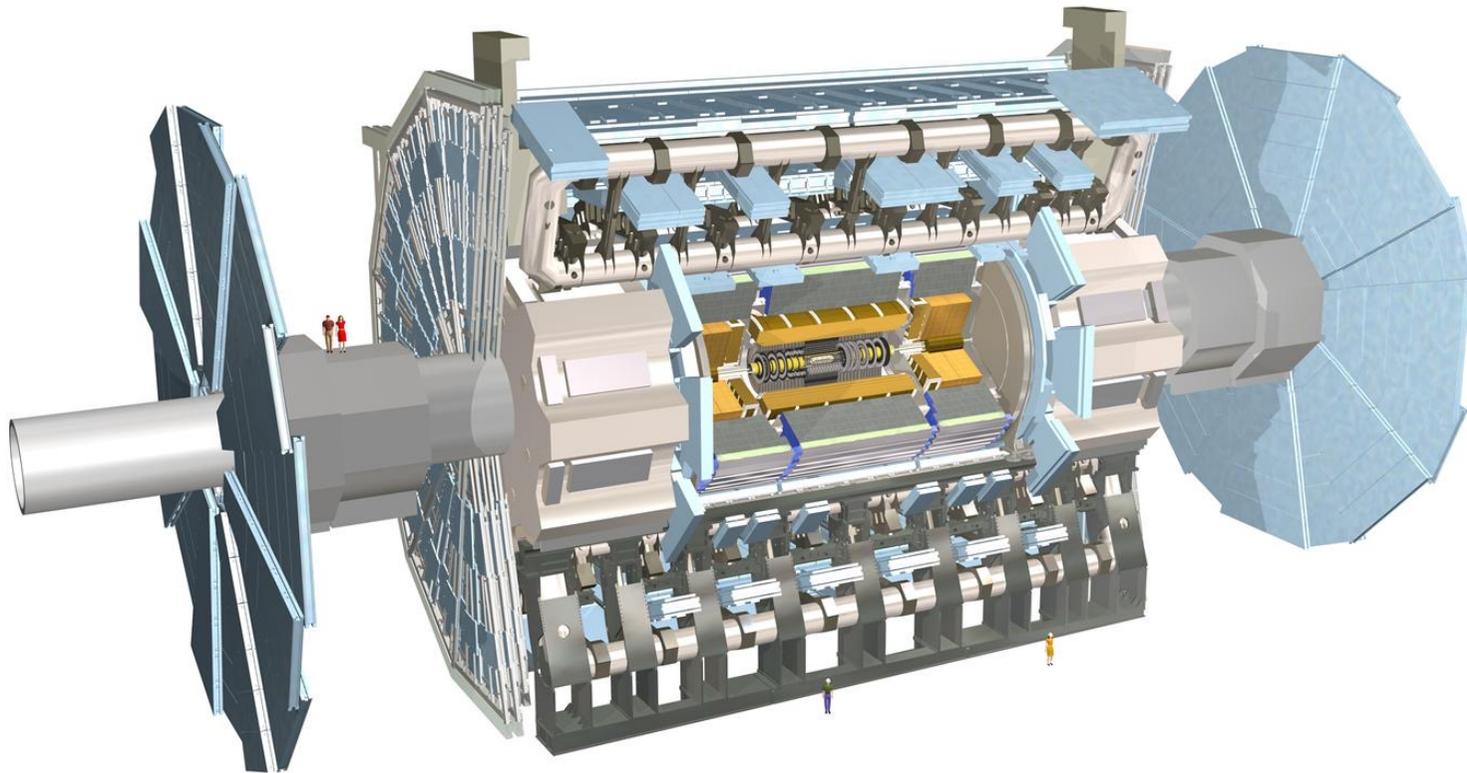


Experiment design



ATLAS experiment

Currently taking data at the LHC, designed in 1992



IA for Physics, David Rousseau, February 2026, AG IA IJCLab



- Currently : we are developing AI techniques to analyse the data of current/near future experiments
- Future : use AI to design new experiments

Topological Design Optimisation



- ❑ Whole field of industry, boosted by 3D-printing capabilities, and by AI
- ❑ Given geometrical, stiffness and feasibility constraints, how to optimise cost ?
- ❑ → future experiments will be designed with AI, cf MODE collaboration

Incertitudes



Peut-être la mesure la plus complexe

Combined Measurement of the Higgs Boson Mass in pp
Collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV with the ATLAS and CMS
Experiments

(ATLAS Collaboration)[†]

(CMS Collaboration)[‡]

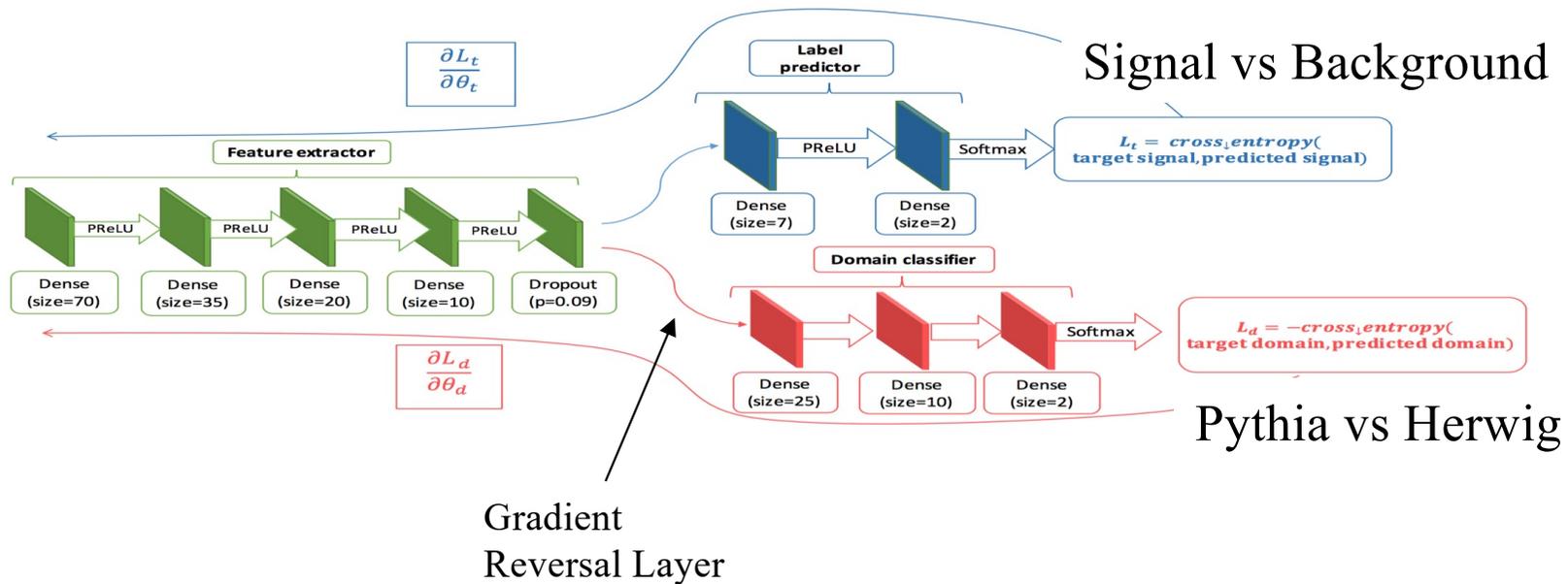
(Received 25 March 2015; published 14 May 2015)

A measurement of the Higgs boson mass is presented based on the combined data samples of the ATLAS and CMS experiments at the CERN LHC in the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ decay channels. The results are obtained from a simultaneous fit to the reconstructed invariant mass peaks in the two channels and for the two experiments. The measured masses from the individual channels and the two experiments are found to be consistent among themselves. The combined measured mass of the Higgs boson is $m_H = 125.09 \pm 0.21$ (stat) ± 0.11 (syst) GeV.

Réd. d'incertitude par entraînement adversaire



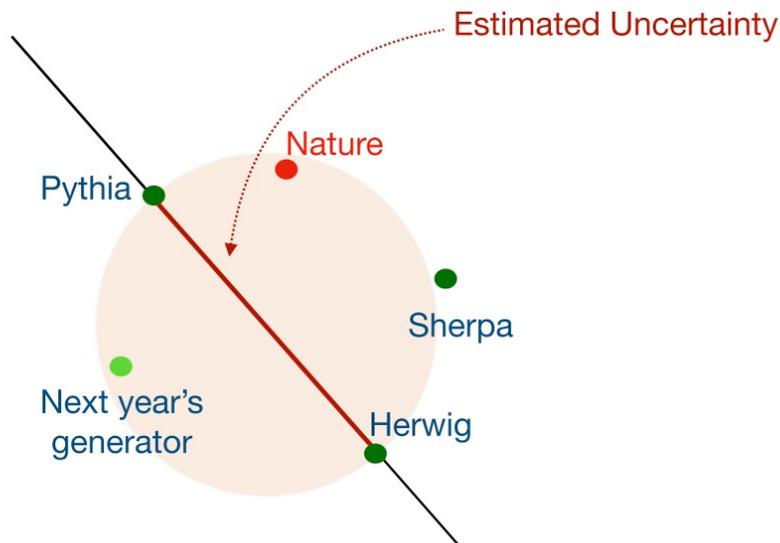
Inspired from 1505.07818 Ganin et al :



Les idées simples ne marchent pas

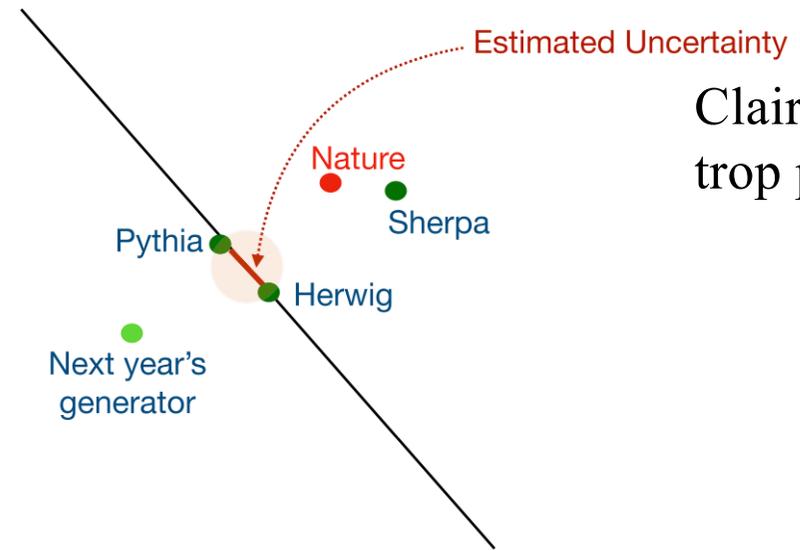
Ghosh & Nachman EPJC 82 46 (2022)

Without Decorrelation



Contraintes par 70 ans de données de Physique des particules

With Decorrelation



Clairement trop petite !

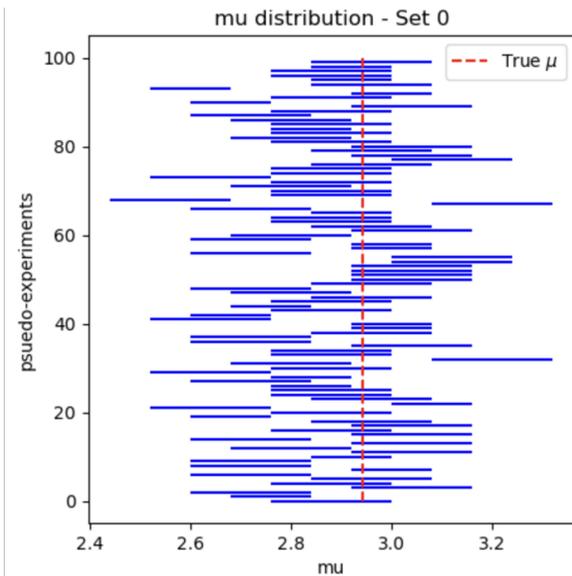
Loi de Goodhart "Quand un indicateur devient un objectif, ce n'est plus un bon indicateur."

Fair Universe

□ Une compétition pour un modèle évaluant un Intervalle de Confiance

□ <https://fair-universe.lbl.gov>

Task:				Fact Sheet Answers	Higgs Uncertainty Challenge			
#	Participant	Entries	Date of last entry	Method Name	Quantile Score	Interval	Coverage	Detailed Results
1	ragansu	30	2024-01-22	Histogram_10	1.45	0.226	0.57	👁
2	ragansu	30	2024-01-22	One_bin NLL	1.07	0.333	0.57	👁
3	laurensstu	20	2023-12-01	cheat7	0.68	0.504	0.63	👁
4	laurensstu	20	2023-12-01	cheat7	0.61	0.544	0.68	👁
5	laurensstu	20	2023-12-01	cheat4	0.31	0.732	0.61	👁
6	laurensstu	20	2023-12-01	cheat4	0.16	0.852	0.71	👁
7	laurensstu	20	2023-12-01	Cheat2	-0.44	1.55	0.62	👁
8	laurensstu	20	2023-12-01	Cheat2	-0.74	1.375	0.55	👁
9	ragansu	30	2024-01-22	tes_finder	-0.95	1.124	0.54	👁
10	laurensstu	20	2023-12-01	Cheat2	-1.59	1.325	0.53	👁
11	Ihsan Ullah	4	2024-01-18	Sascha sys aware 8	-2.69	0.329	0.47	👁
12	Rafal Maselek	10	2023-12-01	1binNLL	-2.9	1.233	0.5	👁
13	ihsanchalearn	16	2023-12-18	1 bin NLL	-2.9	1.233	0.5	👁
14	Rafal Maselek	10	2023-12-01	1binNLL	-2.9	1.233	0.5	👁
15	ihsanchalearn	16	2023-12-18	Sascha sys aware 8	-3.01	0.33	0.46	👁

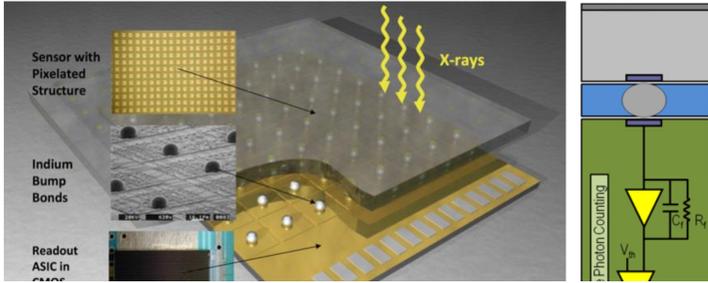
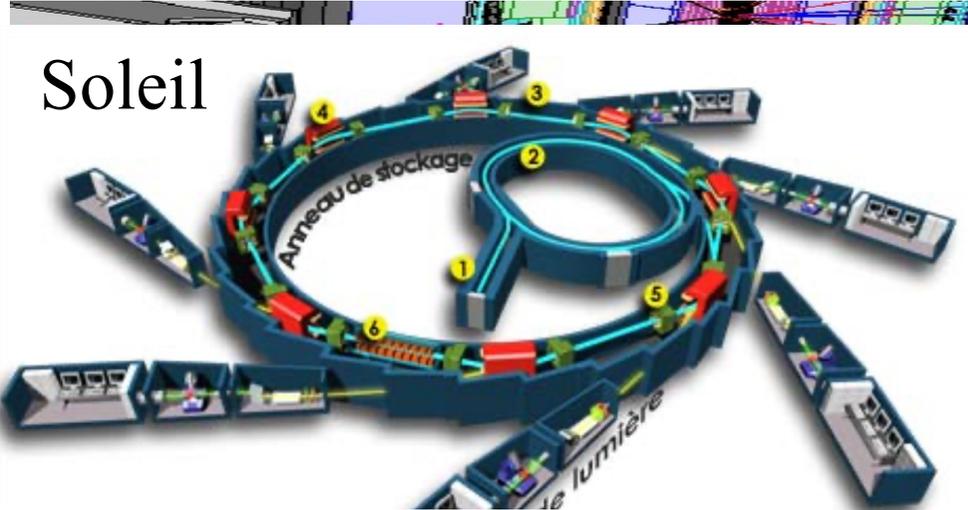


IA peut être très simple



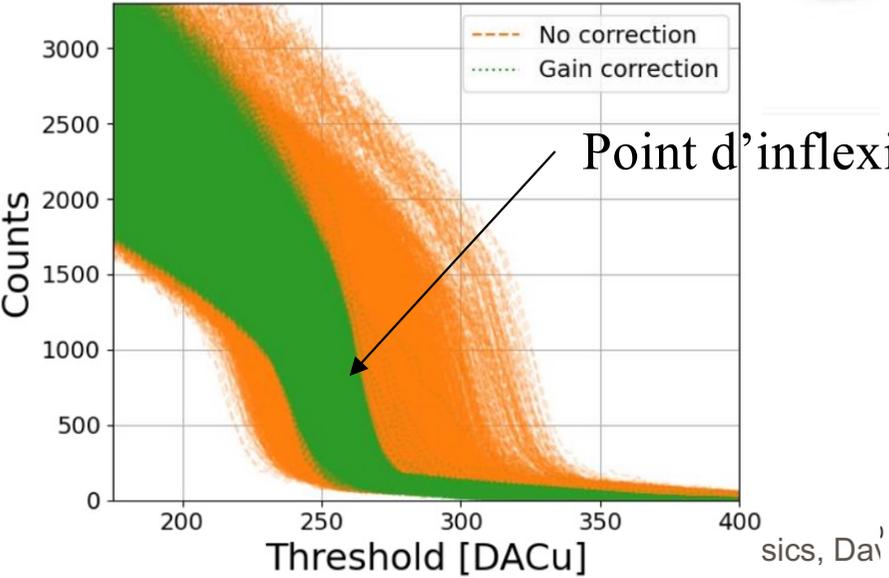
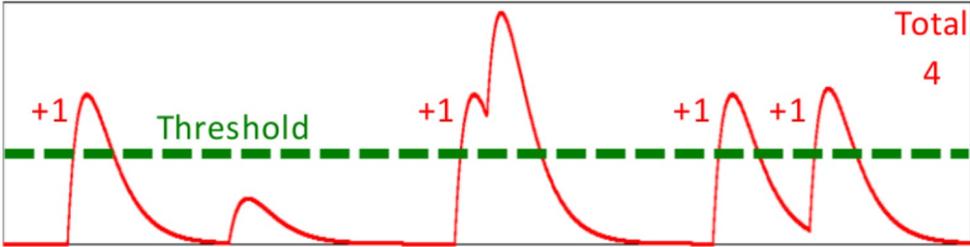
Impact IA »simple«

Soleil

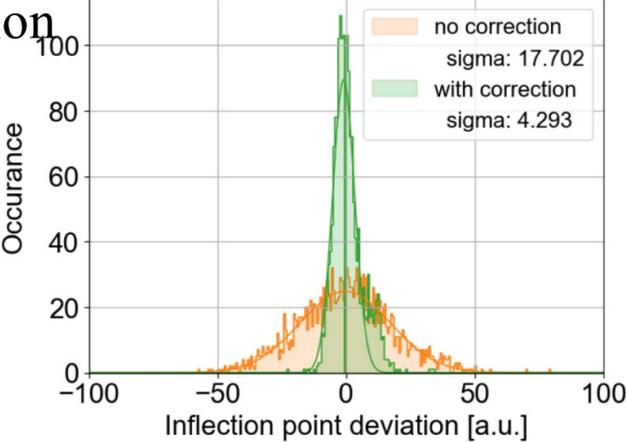


François Caud (Dataia), Marie Andrä, Martin Chauvin, Arkadiusz Dawiec (SOLEIL)

Photon counting detector



Dispersion of inflection points at 9.9 keV



-] Calibration « classique » : 1 journée
-] Random forest : 1/2h