

# ML and AI in Particle Physics and Astronomy: Some Recent Examples and Next Steps

Sascha Caron (RU and Nikhef)

# disclaimer

- This is not all we do:
  - Great paper by Jochem Kip and Zhongyi on “Neutrino signals from DM” and Neutrino-DM interplay → next seminar?
  - Work in ATLAS on 4-top and triggering...

# Scientific discovery: The 5th paradigm ?

- **First paradigm : Empiric / Observation**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> paradigm : Theoretical Models (analytically solvable?)**

# Scientific discovery: The 5th paradigm ?

- **First paradigm : Empiric / Observation**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> paradigm : Theoretical Models (analytically solvable?)**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> paradigm (1970s): Simulation / Numerical computation**



# Scientific discovery: The 5th paradigm ?

- **First paradigm : Empiric / Observation**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> paradigm : Theoretical Models (analytically solvable?)**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> paradigm (1970s): Simulation / Numerical computation**
- **2018 The Fourth Paradigm: Data-Intensive Scientific Discovery (Jim Gray), Data and Machine Learning -→ but also **hype****
- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/publication/fourth-paradigm-data-intensive-scientific-discovery>

# Scientific discovery: The 5th paradigm ?

- **First paradigm : Empiric / Observation**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> paradigm : Theoretical Models (analytically solvable?)**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> paradigm (1970s): Simulation / Numerical computation**
- **2018 The Fourth Paradigm: Data-Intensive Scientific Discovery (Jim Gray), Data and Machine Learning -→ but also **hype****
- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/publication/fourth-paradigm-data-intensive-scientific-discovery>
- **June 2022: AI4Science to empower **the fifth paradigm of scientific discovery** (Christopher Bishop, QFT thesis), AI trained on scientific **simulators** (machine learning, quantum physics, computational chemistry, molecular biology, fluid dynamics, software engineering, and other disciplines)**
- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/blog/ai4science-to-empower-the-fifth-paradigm-of-scientific-discovery/>

Some of examples of our work in 2021-2022

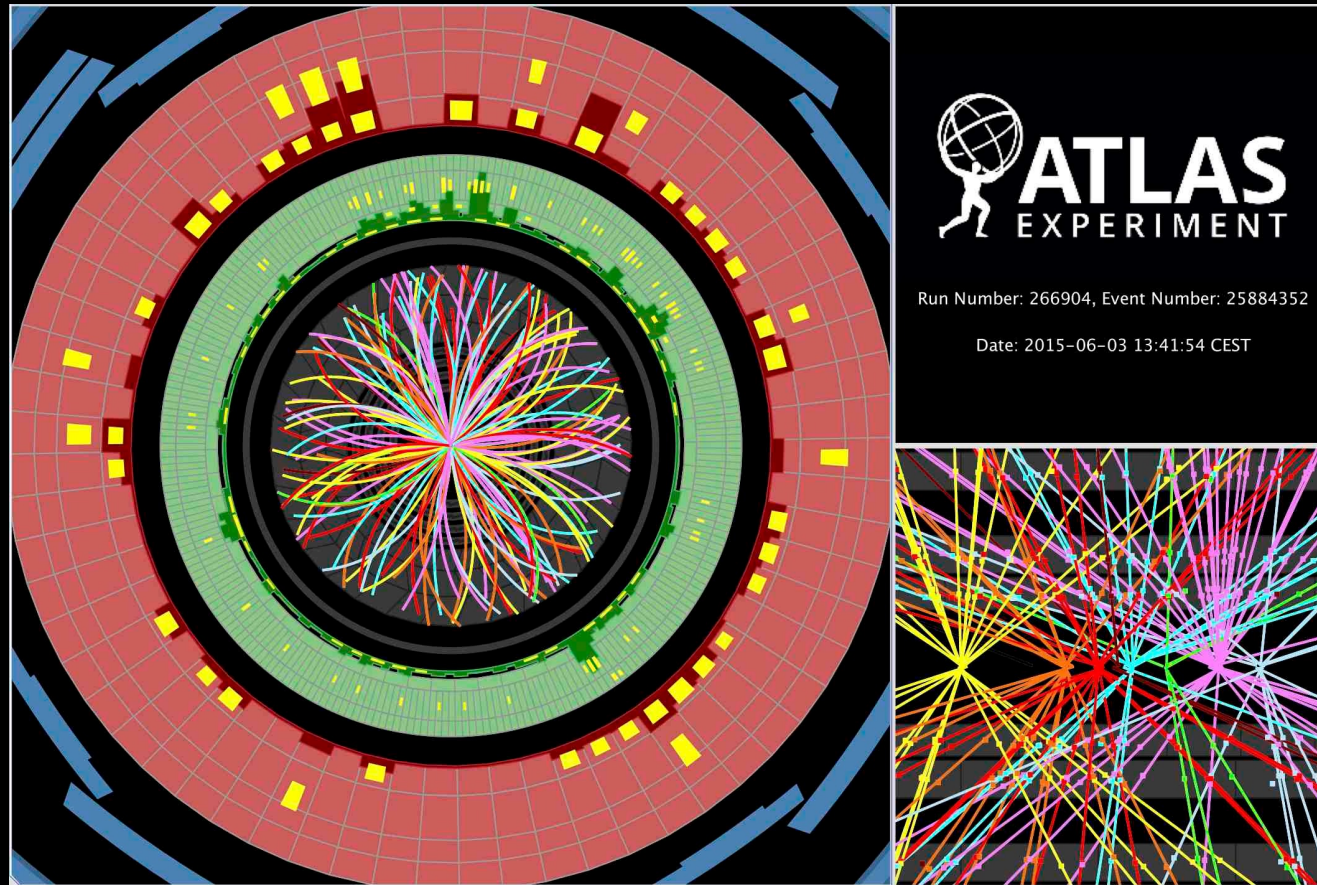


## LHC searches - New approach: Hyperclass of models

→ Learn the simulated density function of our combined prejudice (or prior) of new physics

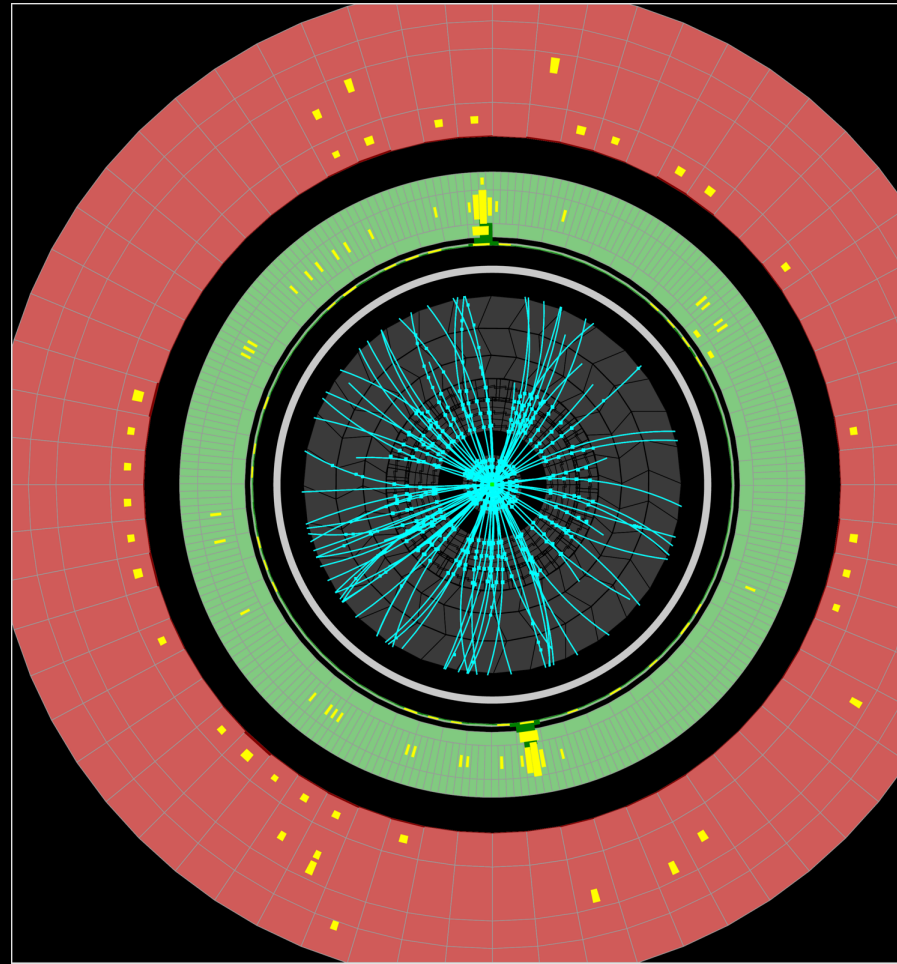


# Most events look like this...



Event from LHC run-2

# 1 in $>1000$ billion events looks like this

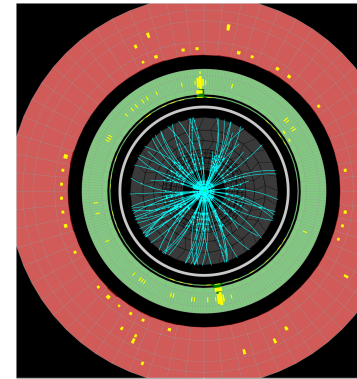


Mass of the Higgs is reconstructed with photon energies

Higgs to 2 photon candidate with mass of 125 GeV

# Traditional approach Model driven

1. Pick a model of new physics
2. Simplify
3. Pick a likely (?) set of parameters
4. Make a prediction  $\rightarrow p_{\text{BSM}}(x)$
5. Train **classifier ( $p_{\text{BSM}}(x)$  vs  $p_{\text{SM}}(x)$ )** to test the prediction
6. Hypothesis test with data | old model vs data | new model on classifier output
7. Exclude the model parameter point ?
8. Go to 3 or 1



Idea: **Extend model-by-model supervised search for new physics**

What can we change / improve ?

Found 3 more directions (are there more?):

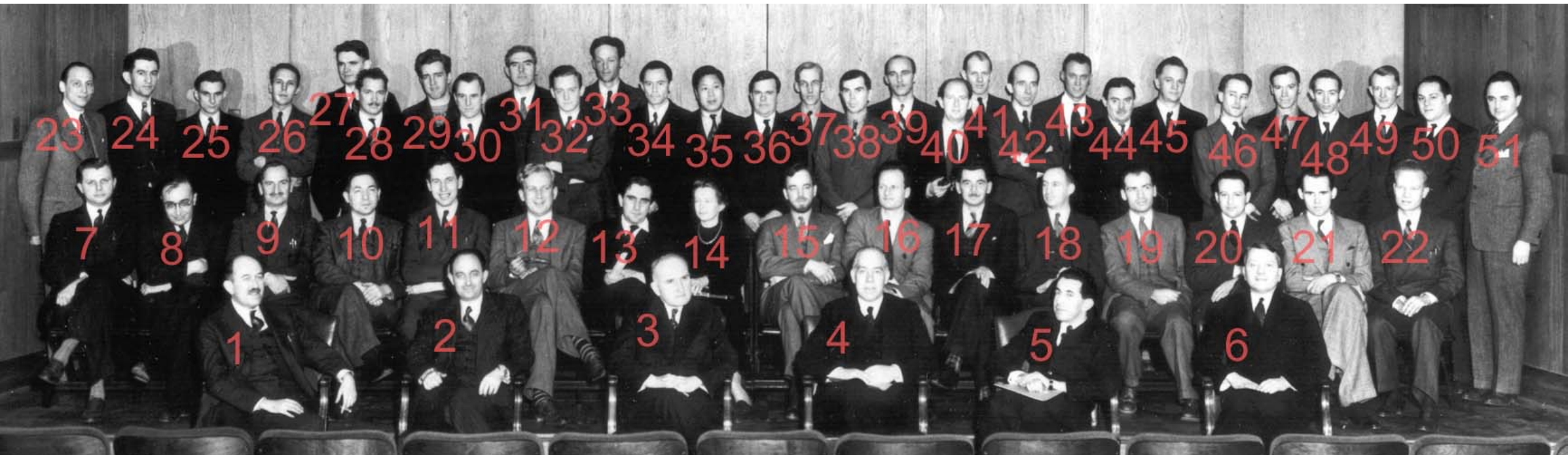
- Look systematically in all data for new physics (brute force) -> 2018 Jeroen in ATLAS
- Hyper-class augmentation: Train a ML classifier on many simulated models of new physics → 2022 Zhongy, Roberto
- Anomaly detection: Train ML classifier only on known physics -> 5 pheno since 2019, work in ATLAS with Polina and Clara



# Search via “Hyperclass: Mixture of theories”

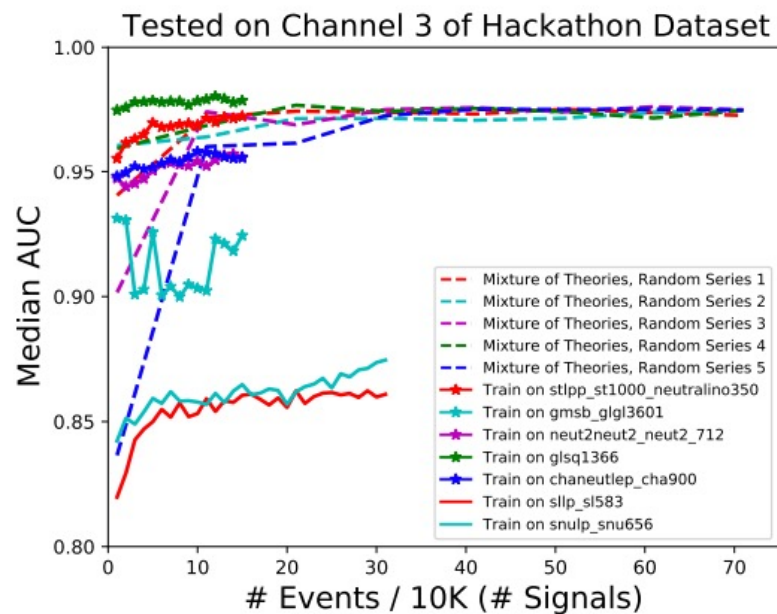
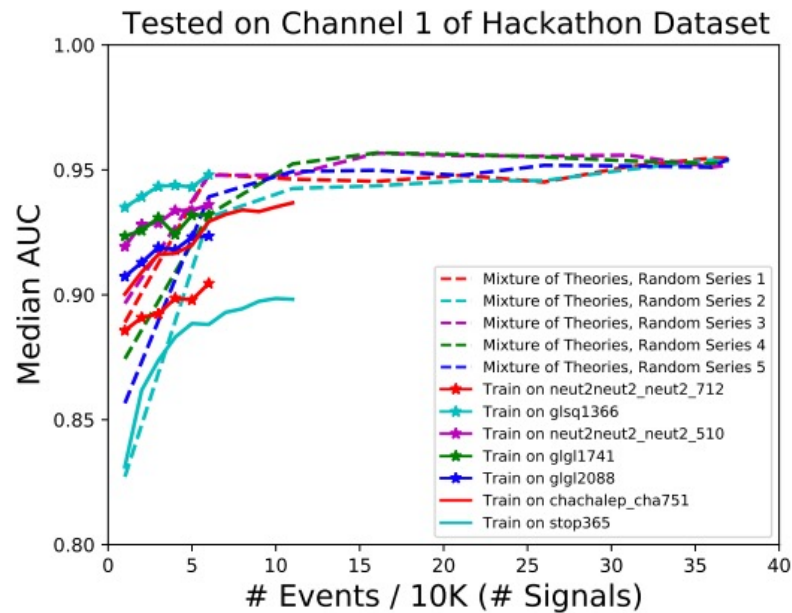
Assume the model/parameter set is not the correct one, but includes some knowledge about the new phenomenon we expect in the data..

Maybe we should **mix the knowledge of the theory community.**



# Our approach Model driven

1. Pick many “model of new physics”
2. Pick many likely (?) sets of parameters!
3. Make many predictions
4. Mix them
5. Train a classifier (NN, BDT) on  $\sum_i^N w_i p_{S,i}(x)$  vs  $p_{\text{SM}}(x)$
6. Hypothesis test in signal region data | SM



Mixture theories outperforms  
“on average”  
compared to single theory training

→ See later for comparison with  
other approaches

With Zhongyi Zhang, Roberto di Austri





Search for new physics at LHC/ATLAS

Anomaly detection: Out of distribution

→ Learn the density function of the physical simulator

# Anomaly detection

1. Pick **no** “new physics model”
2. Learn the background model
3. Train ML classifier to test the prediction (is event background or not?)
4. Hypothesis test with data | background model on classifier output
5. Exclude the background model?

In which variable should you search?  
Need a variable to "flag" an outlier



# Is the data in the simulation ?

- Autoencoder:

data  $\rightarrow$  Simulation<sup>-1</sup>  $\rightarrow$  code  $\rightarrow$  Simulation  $\rightarrow$  data'

- $\rightarrow$  Is data = data' or distance in latent space from target
- $\rightarrow$  Is this a good question ?
- $\rightarrow$  Is this the best approach ?
- $\rightarrow$  Comparison

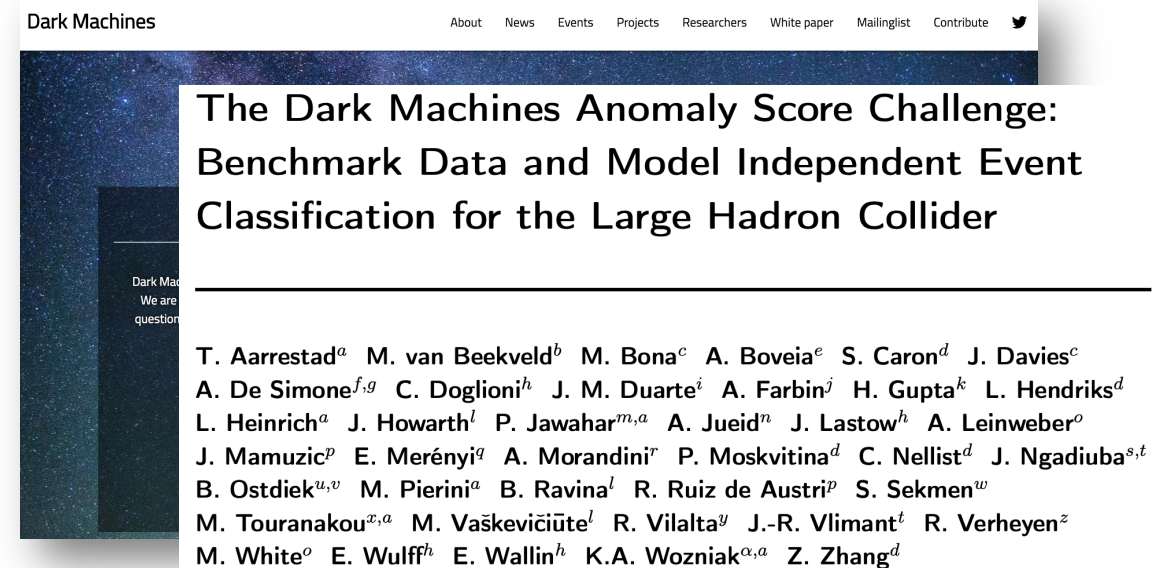
# Comparisons of approaches

Darkmachines ([www.darkmachines.org](http://www.darkmachines.org)) anomaly score challenge:

Objective → compare different approaches to define an “event- by-event” anomaly score

Event data:

4-vectors, jets, leptons, charge, photons



*Different to*

*LHC Olympics (full signal and bump hunting / density comparisons with a few signals + background expectation)*



# Results (on arxiv

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.14027>)

Compared performance of **>20 methods** to define anomalies

With > 1000 hyperparameter settings (i.e. algorithms to define anomalies)

Using

>20 signals

Using

> **1 Billion LHC events**

Using

A secret dataset (labels are still blind, *only Melissa van Beekveld (Oxford) knows*)

**Task:** Classify 100000s of events as SM or not by assigning a **score between 0 and 1...**

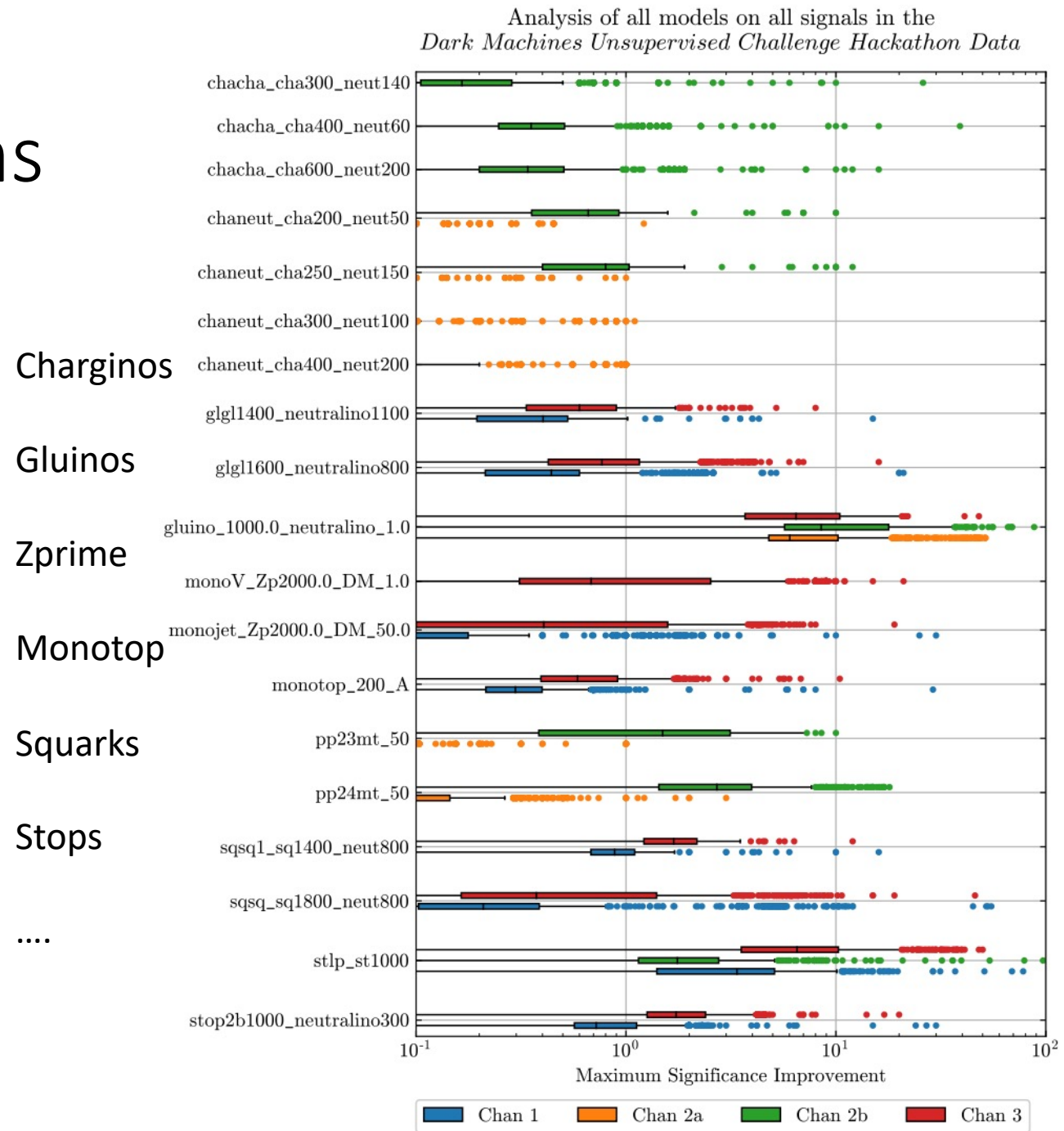
Figure of merit: **By how much can we improve the significance for that signal  
i.e. Significance Improvement SI per signal**

$$\sigma'_S = \frac{S'}{\sqrt{B'}} = \frac{\epsilon_S S}{\sqrt{\epsilon_B B}} = \frac{\epsilon_S}{\sqrt{\epsilon_B}} \sigma_S \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{SI} \equiv \frac{\epsilon_S}{\sqrt{\epsilon_B}};$$

Organizers:

C. Doglioni, M. Pierini, S.C

Many signals  
many algorithms  
many channels

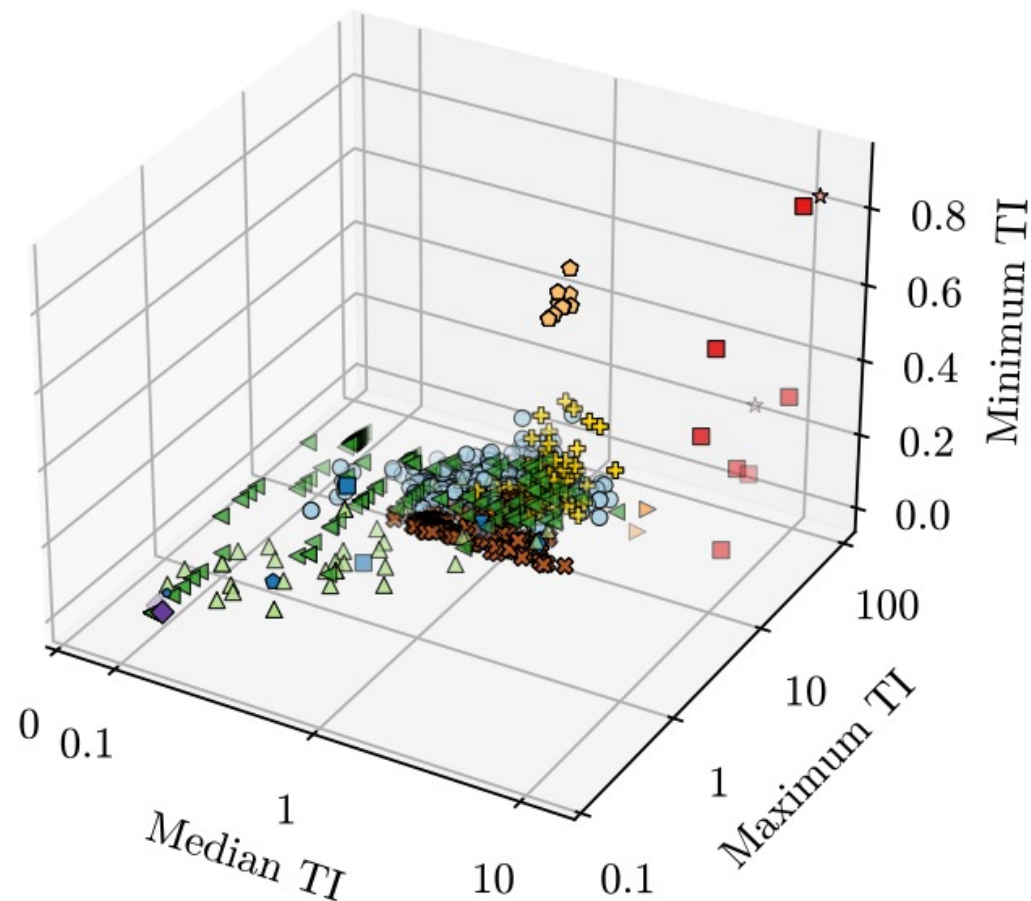


# Summary plot

TI =  
Total Improvement. (over many signals)

(median, max and min  
Improvement of many  
toy signals)

→ **Good algorithms have  
large max, min and mean TI**



Latent Space	Planar	KDE	Deep SVDD
ALAD	SNF	VAE	Deep Set
DAGMM	IAF	Flow	CNN( $\beta$ )VAE
ConvVAE	ConvF	Combined	SimpleAE

# Summary plot

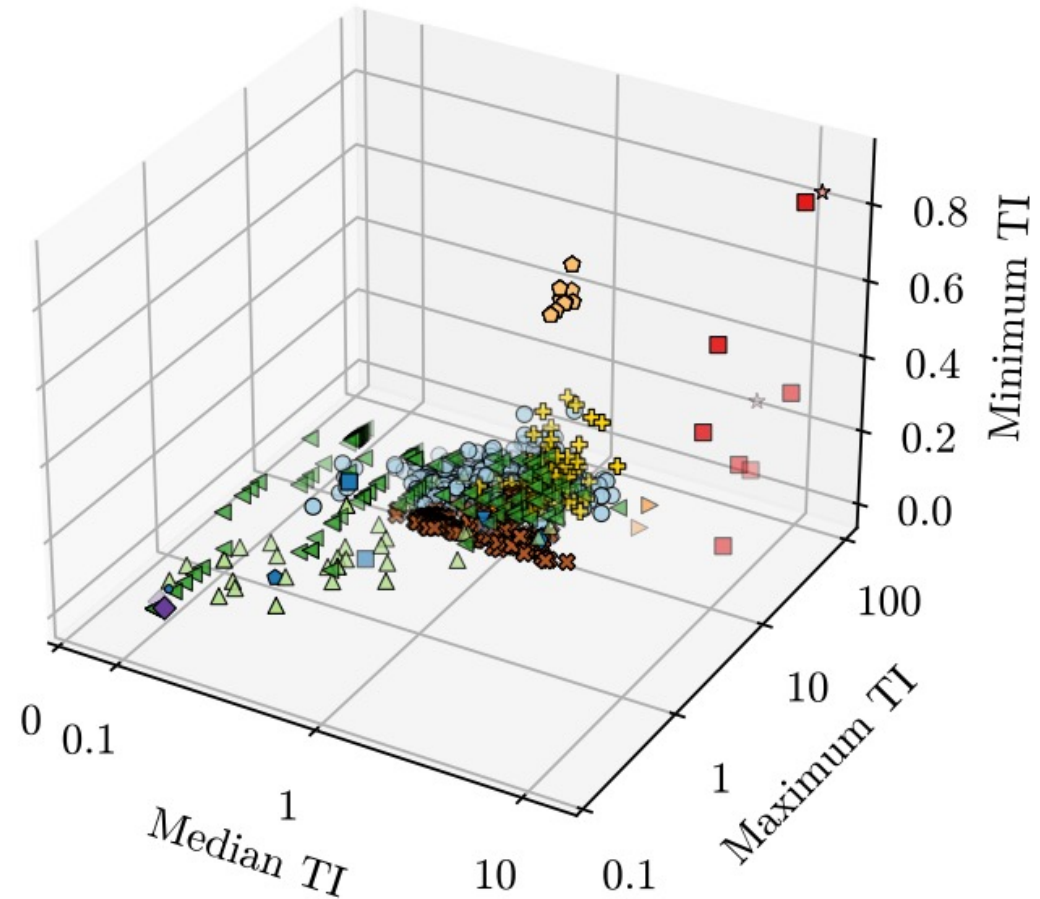
TI =  
Total Improvement. (over many signals)

(median, max and min  
Improvement of many  
toy signals)

→ Good algorithms have  
large max, min and mean TI

→ **DeepSVDD, Flow, Combined, DeepSets**  
largely outperform  
traditional approaches (e.g. KDE),  
but also all autoencoder and VAEs !!

Why ? --> **decoder seems not to be needed!**



Latent Space	Planar	KDE	Deep SVDD
ALAD	SNF	VAE	Deep Set
DAGMM	IAF	Flow	CNN( $\beta$ )VAE
ConvVAE	ConvF	Combined	SimpleAE

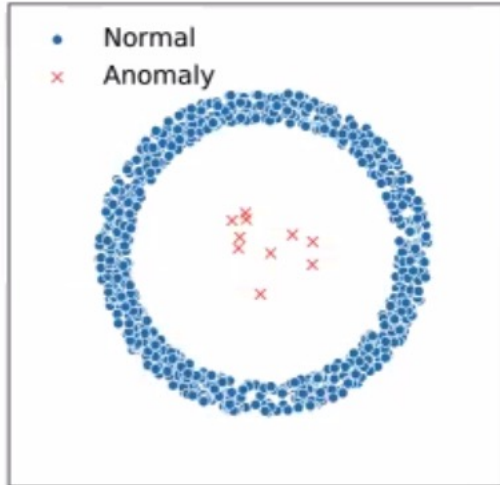
# Rare and Different

## **Idea:**

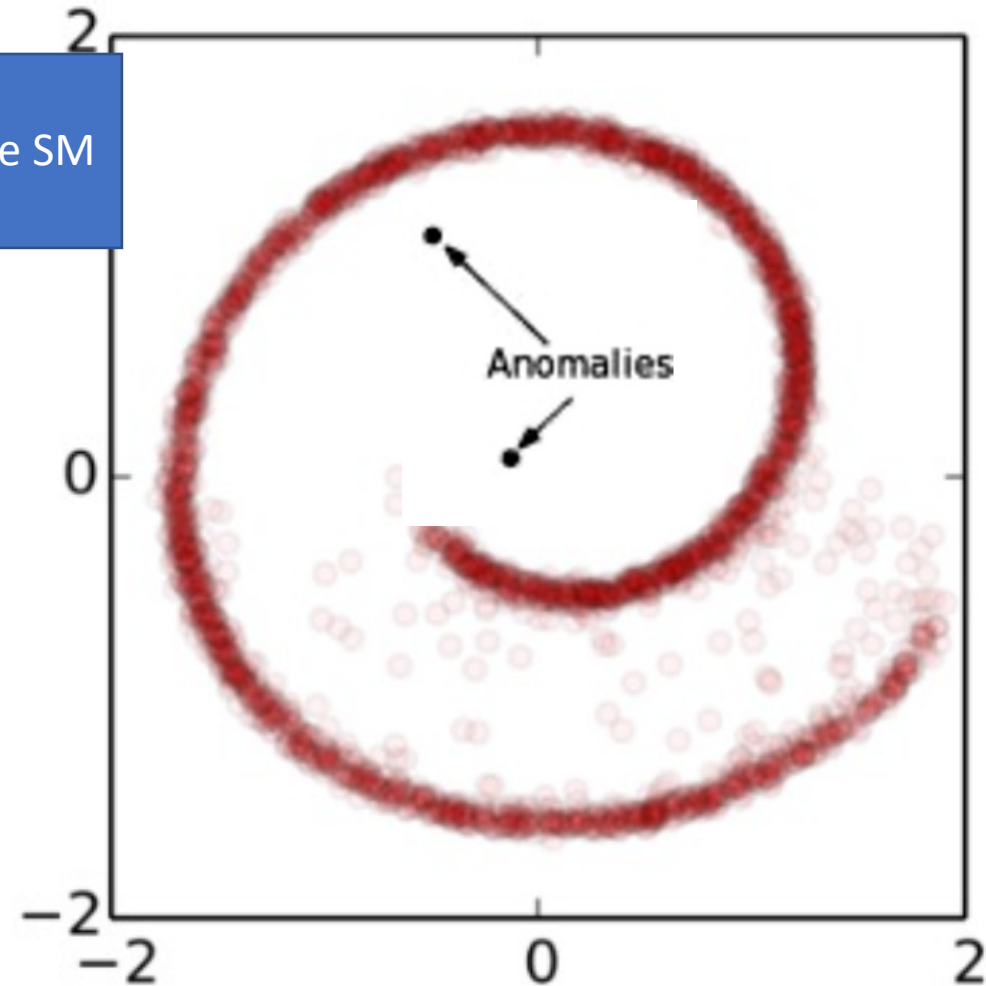
Anomalies can be either rare, meaning that these events are a minority in the normal dataset, or different, meaning they have values that are not inside the dataset.

**We quantify and combine these two properties/objectives**

# Rare $\rightarrow$ Density estimation



Idea:  
Signal region is region outside the SM  
/simulation

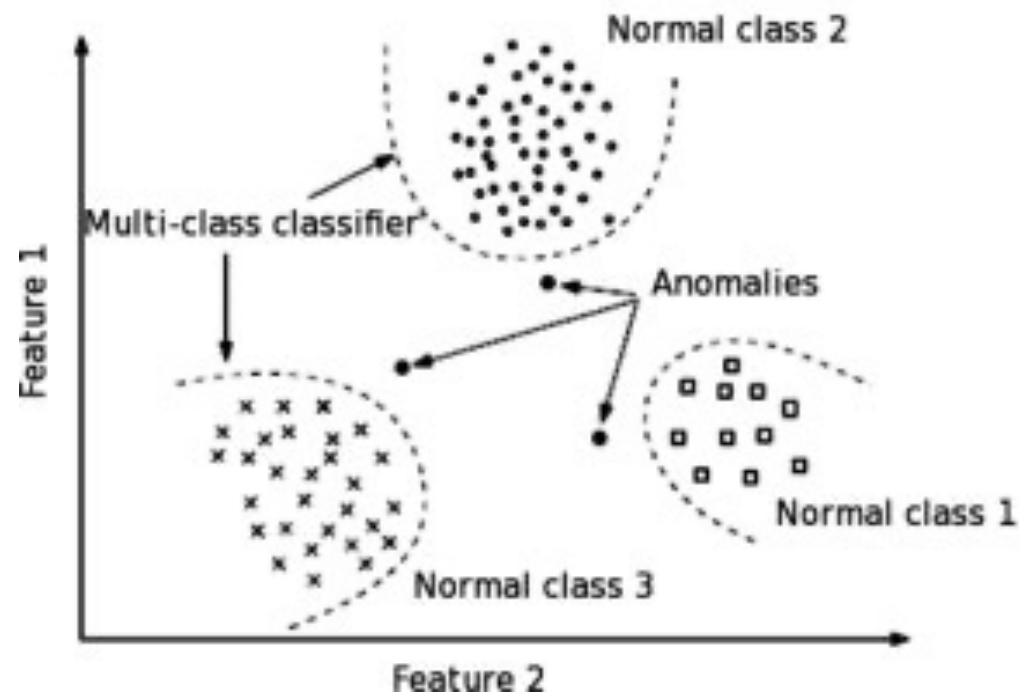


Series of paper on flow models from RU :

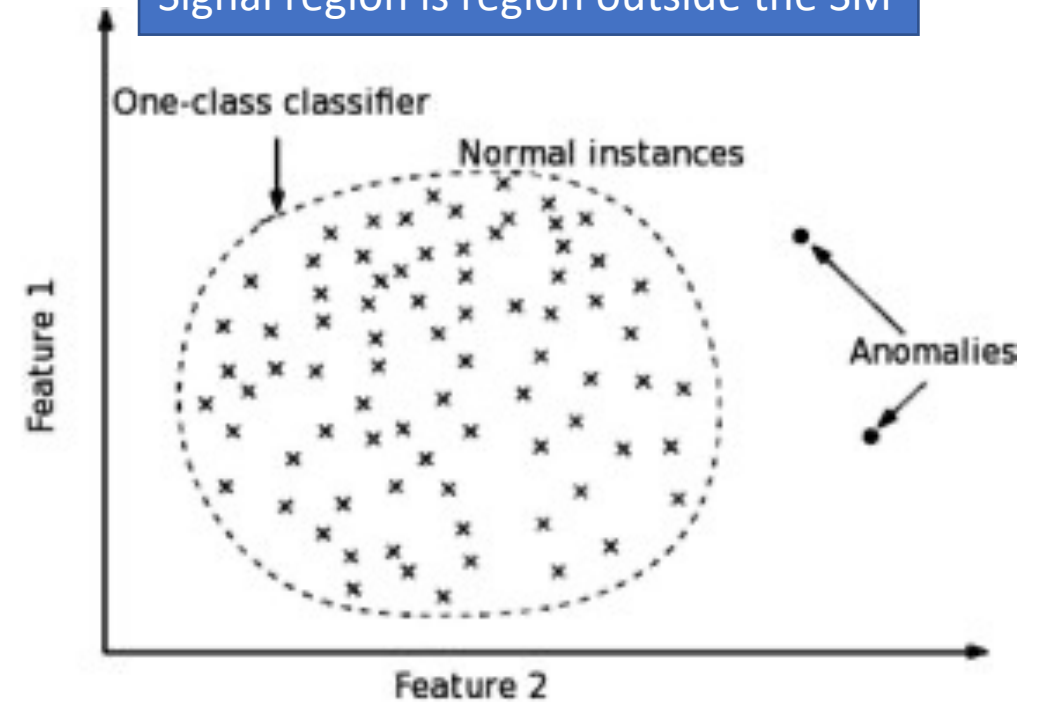
- Bob and Rob Verheyen 2021
- Luc Hendris, SC, Rob Verheyen, 2021
- Rob Verheyen : Surjective normalizing flows work even,  
better as anomaly detectors...

$\rightarrow$  <https://inspirehep.net/literature/2077178>

# Different ? One class classification



Idea:  
Signal region is region outside the SM





# Different? Deep SVDD

Alternatively one could try to pass the events through a trained “filter” that only allows events to pass if they belong to the training data

Here: Deep SVDD

$X \rightarrow \text{Network} \rightarrow 42$

Anomaly score:

Difference from 42 !

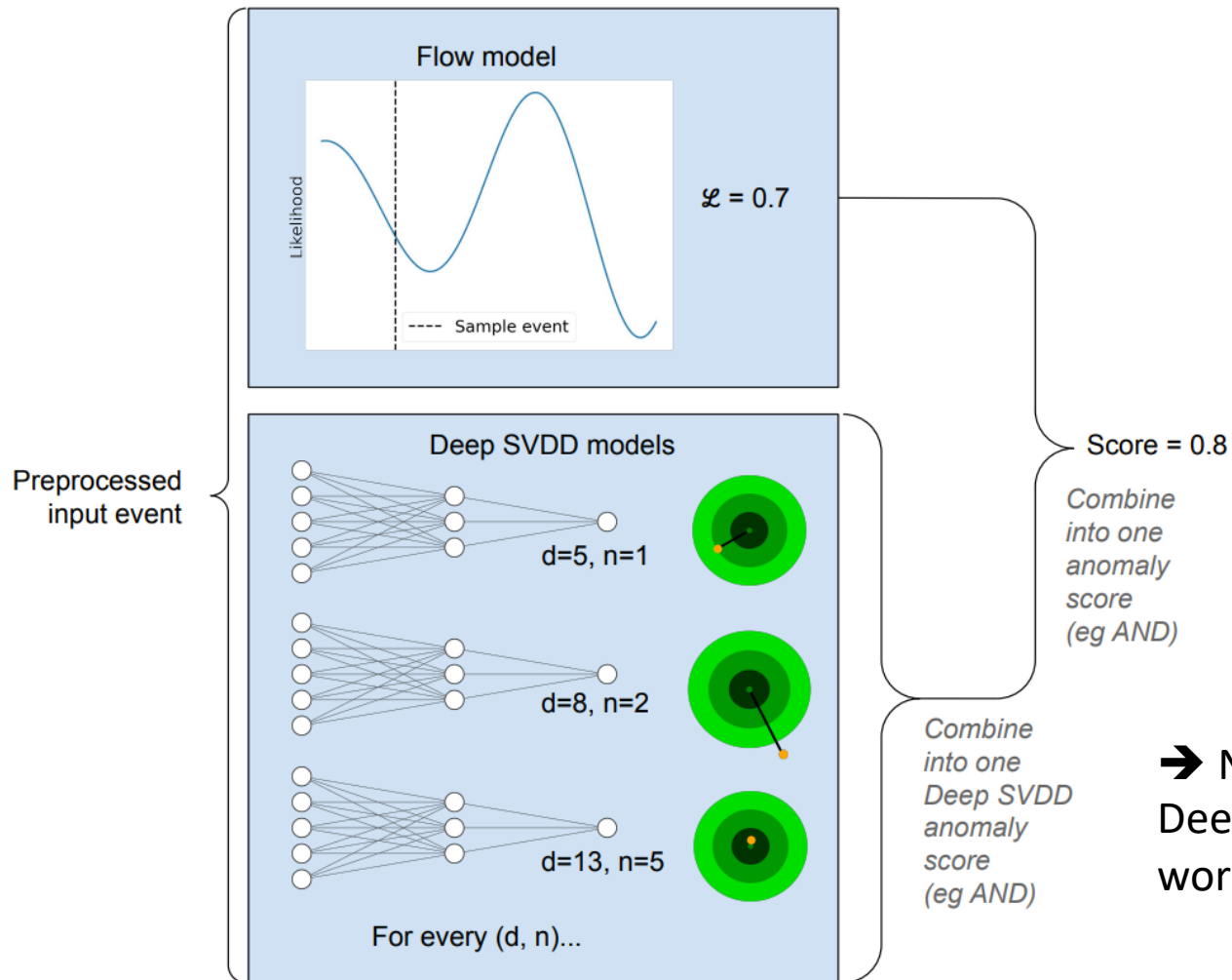
The Deep SVDD network is similar to the encoder component of an autoencoder. The loss is defined as

$$s(x) = O_n^d - \text{Model}(x), \quad (3)$$


where the model maps the input  $x$  to the same tensor shape as the manifold  $O$ . In our case,  $O$  is a vector of identical scalar values, with the subscript  $n$  defining the scalar value and superscript  $d$  the number of elements in the vector. For example,  $O_3^4$  identifies the vector  $(3, 3, 3, 3)$ . The optimisation of the Deep SVDD model is fundamentally very simple: it is a NN that receives some input  $x$  and transforms it to some output  $O_n^d$ .



# Rare and Different



➔ Need an ensemble of Deep SVDDs to make it work



**Compare them all (besides brute force)**

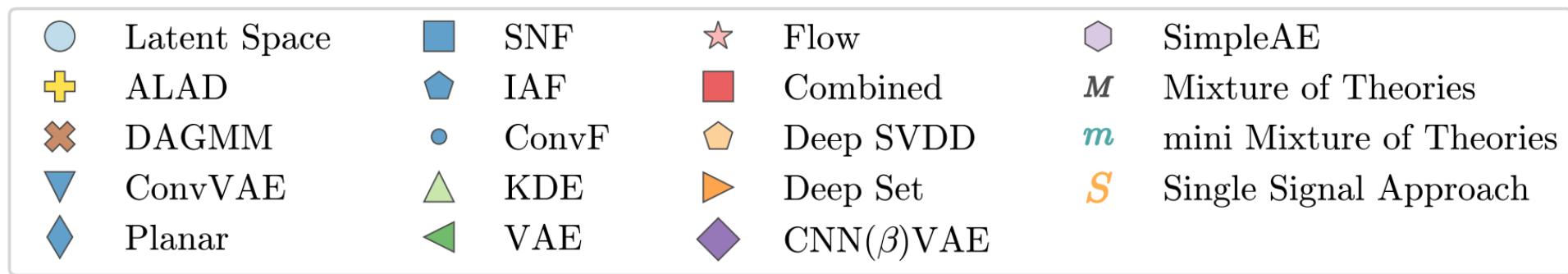
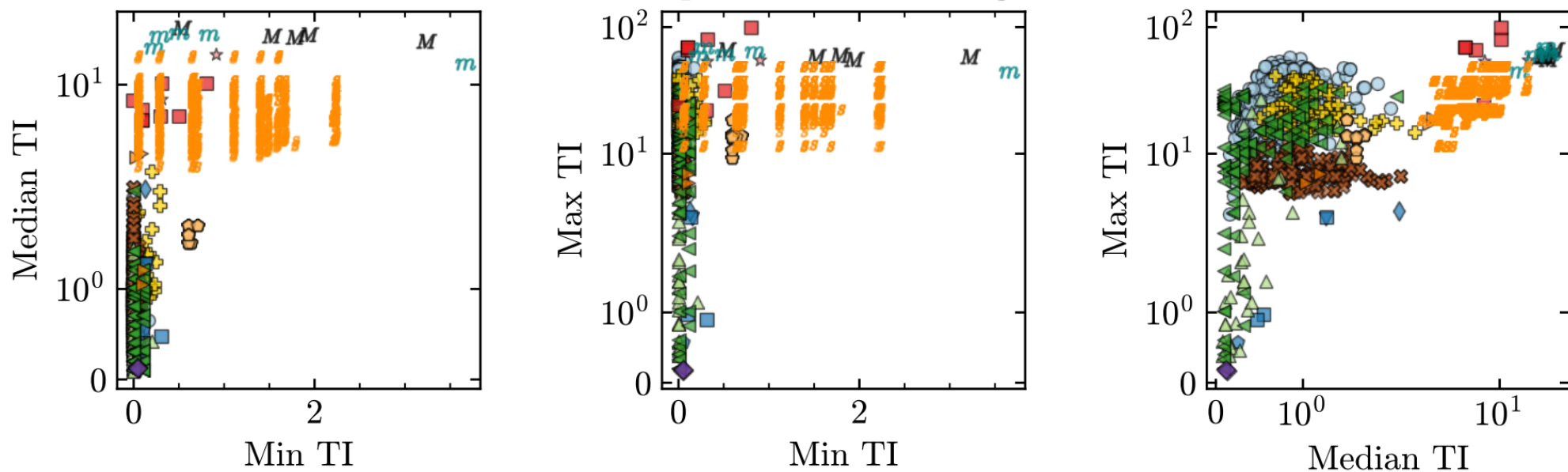
# Compare them all

Compared:

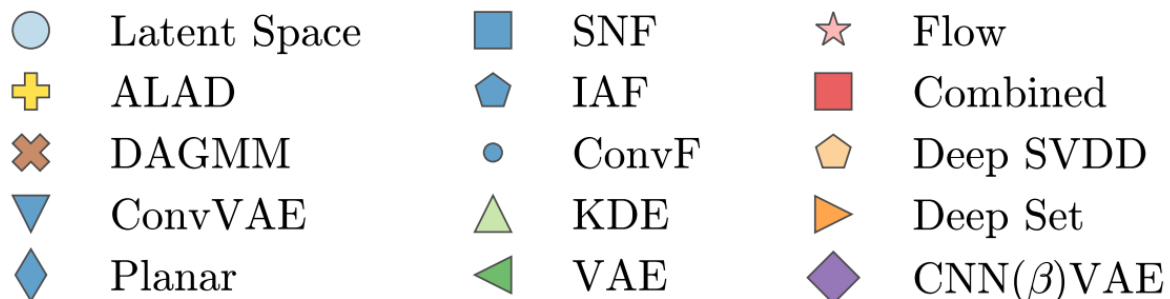
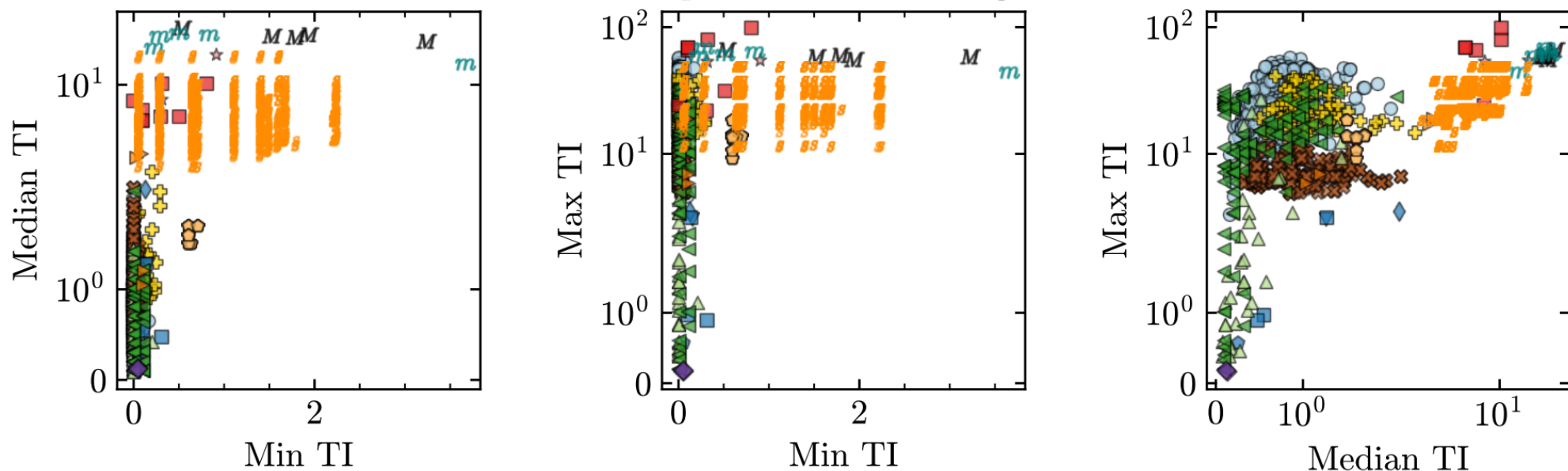
- Supervise approaches (100s trained on different “single” signals)
- Mixture of Theory approach
- Unsupervised approaches

Who wins?

Total Improvement for models over all signals on  
*Dark Machines Unsupervised Challenge Hackathon Data*



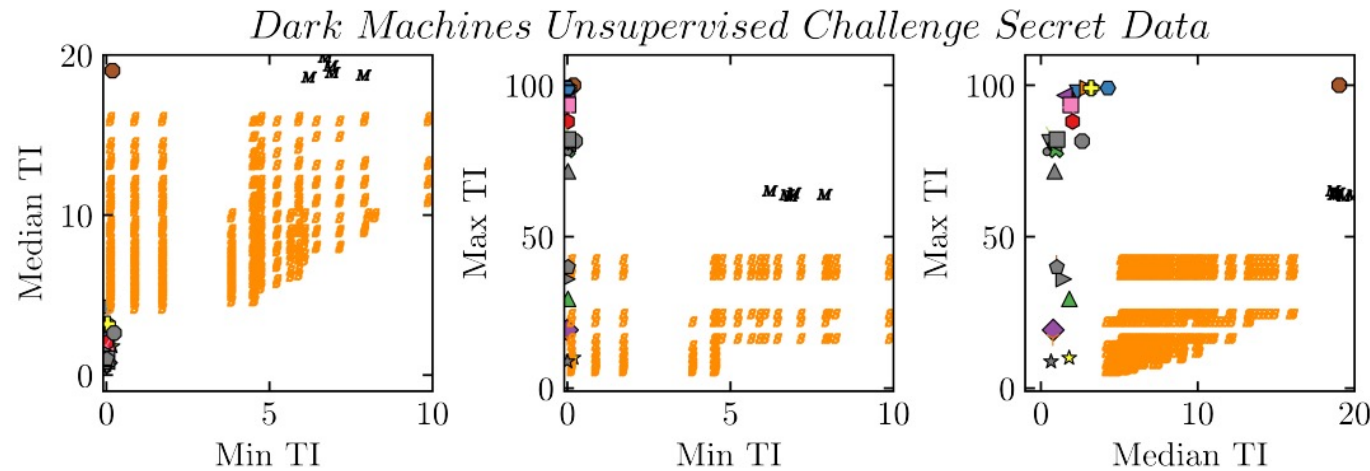
Total Improvement for models over all signals on  
*Dark Machines Unsupervised Challenge Hackathon Data*



- Modern DL outperforms traditional techniques
- AE not the optimal tools (no decoder needed)
- Flow models work very good
- Combined (rare+different) works good
- Supervised approaches outperform many AE's etc.
- Mixed signal approach outperform all supervised approaches



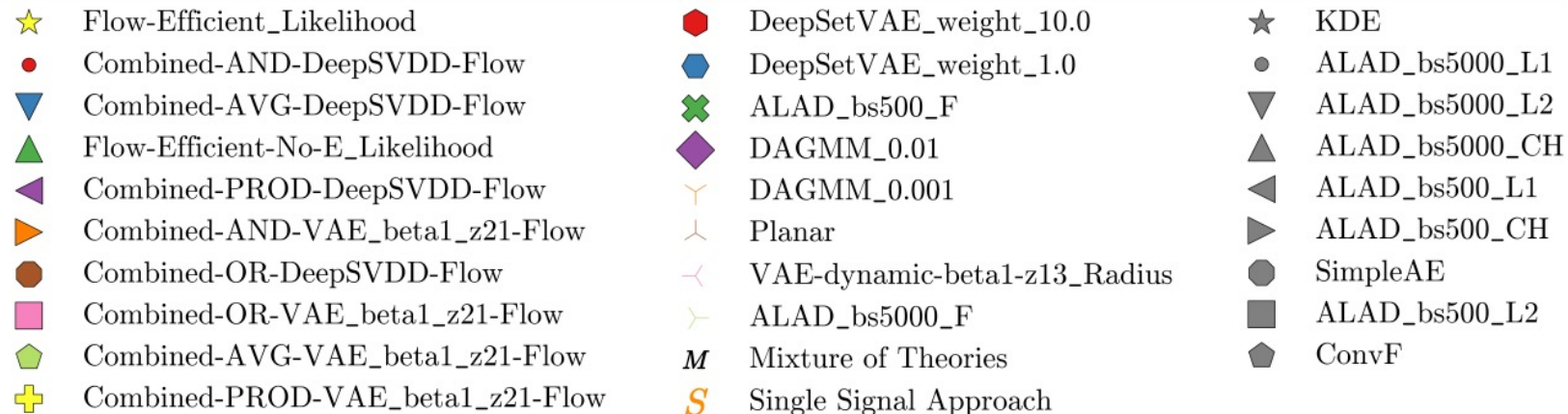
# Secret dataset!!



Best:

*Best supervised  
Mixed-model*

*outperform  
supervised and  
simple unsupervised*





**Classify LHC events with new methods? (for ATLAS)**

**→ Train NNs on simulation of LHC events**

# ATLAS physics: Classification

Comparison of different NN structures  
To classify events as 4top or background  
→ Quite significant improvement  
expected to current baseline  
with dedicated  
"multi-head self-attention"+physics  
based NNs

*(guess that 4 sigma can become 6 sigma expected  
significance, just by better NN...)*

*Next steps: finish paper, implement in ATLAS, switch loss function to anomaly detection*

Preliminary numbers

Classifier	AUC	Accuracy
ParT (pair int.)	0.870	0.786
LightGBM (pair int.)	0.840	0.760
ParT (no pair int.)	0.840	0.759
LightGBM (no pair int.)	0.831	0.750
1D CNN	0.831	0.750
FCN	0.829	0.744
PN	0.825	0.747
Unoptimised FCN	0.822	0.746

**Figure:** AUC and accuracy of all tested classifiers

Working here with  
Luc Bultjes, Polina, Clara, Rob, Roberto, Zhonghy



# Transformers is all you need

---

## Attention Is All You Need

---

**Ashish Vaswani\***  
Google Brain  
avaswani@google.com

**Noam Shazeer\***  
Google Brain  
noam@google.com

**Niki Parmar\***  
Google Research  
nikip@google.com

**Jakob Uszkoreit\***  
Google Research  
usz@google.com

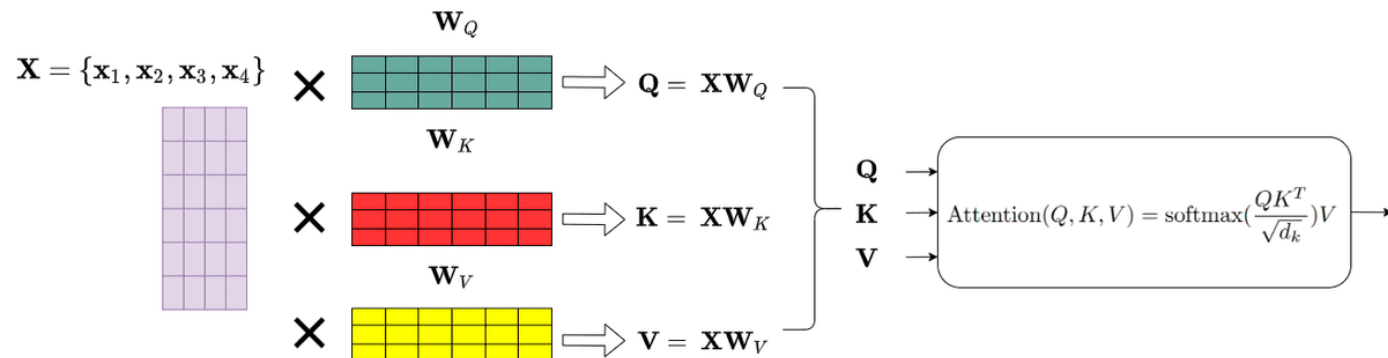
**Llion Jones\***  
Google Research  
llion@google.com

**Aidan N. Gomez\*<sup>†</sup>**  
University of Toronto  
aidan@cs.toronto.edu

**Łukasz Kaiser\***  
Google Brain  
lukaszkaizer@google.com

**Illia Polosukhin\*<sup>‡</sup>**  
illia.polosukhin@gmail.com

### Abstract

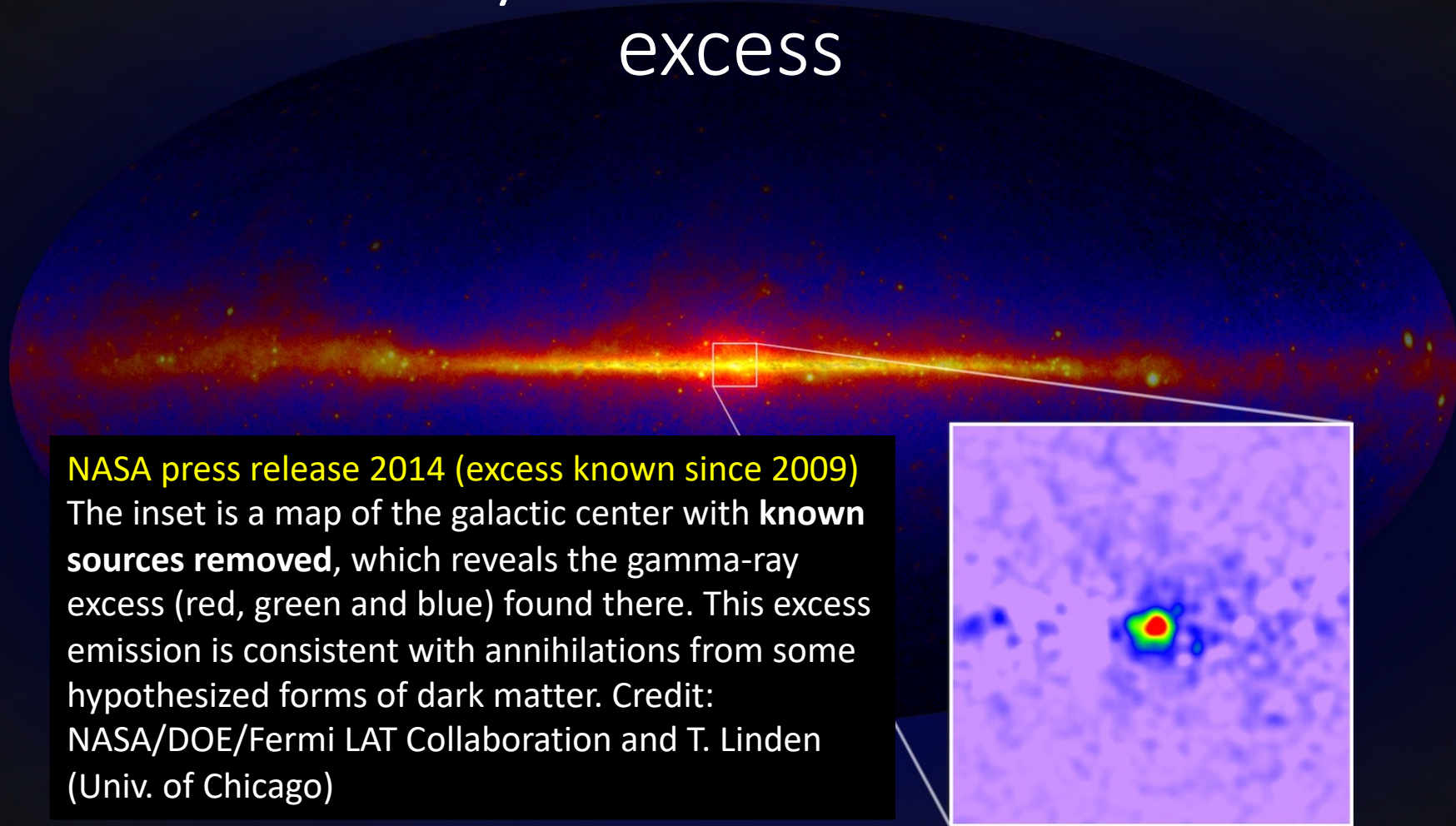




Gamma rays: Galactic Center and the reality gap

→ Do we see Dark Matter in the center of our galaxy ?

# Gamma rays & the Galactic Center excess



Official paper in 2015

**Fermi-LAT Observations of High-Energy Gamma-Ray Emission Toward the Galactic Center**

Fermi-LAT Collaboration (M. Ajello (Clemson U.) *et al.*). Nov 9, 2015. 29 pp.

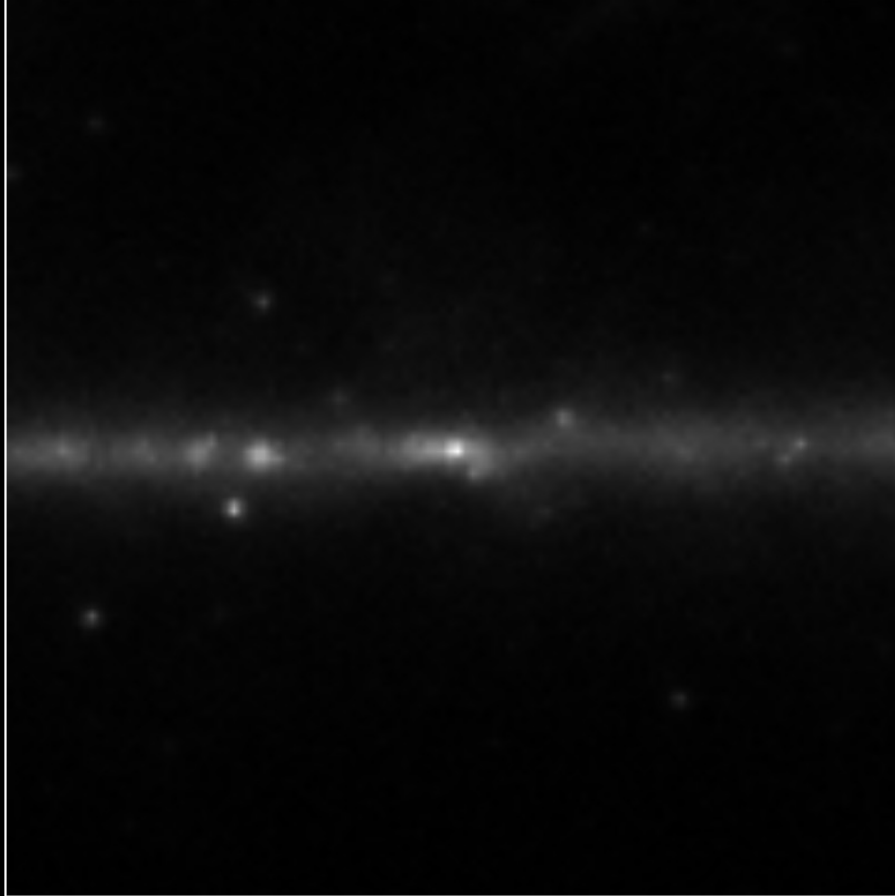
e-Print: [arXiv:1511.02938](https://arxiv.org/abs/1511.02938) [astro-ph.HE] | [PDF](#)



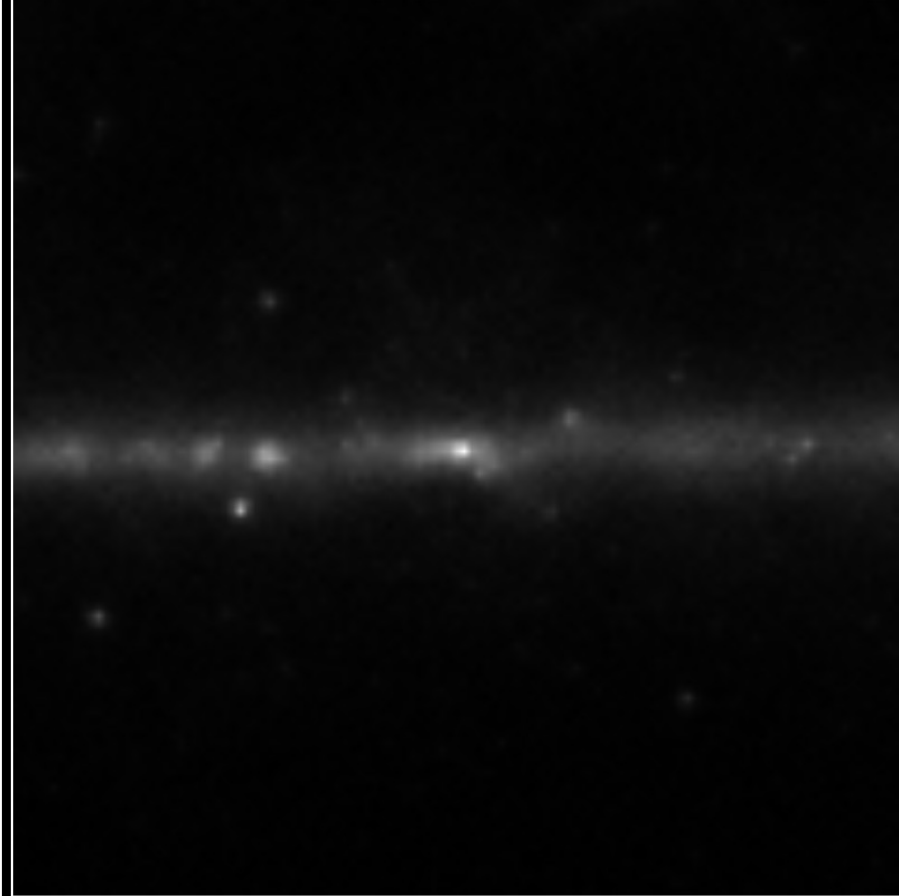
# Guess the fraction of point sources

[www.mydarkmachine.org](http://www.mydarkmachine.org)

What is this fraction?



This is 0.5



Your prediction:

Invert image: ☐

Guess

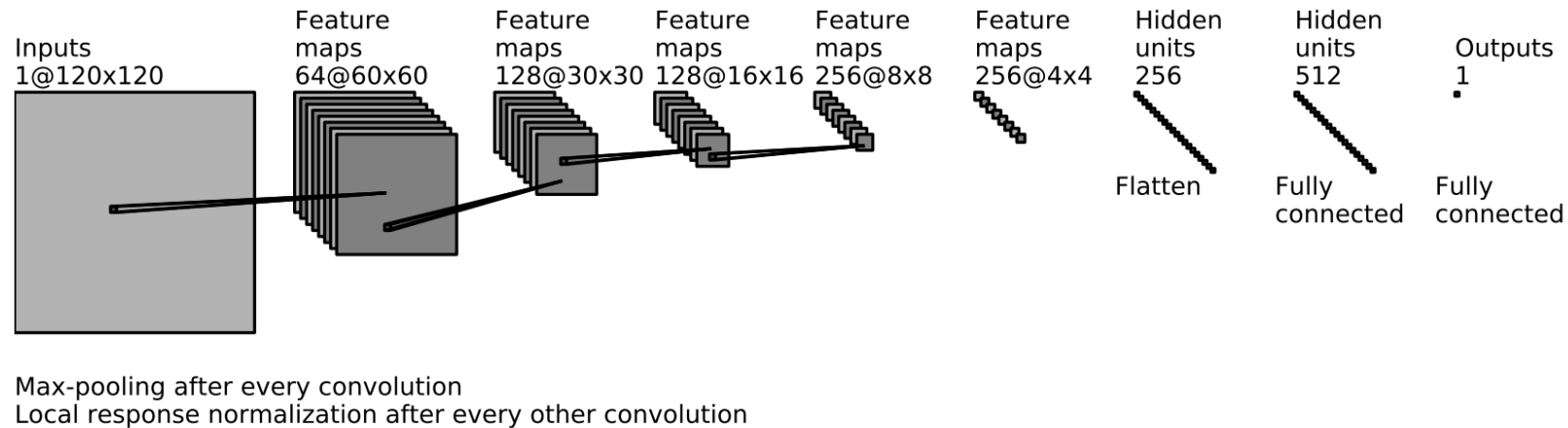
Simulation with Parameters → Pictures

First idea: Train Conv Network for

Pictures → Parameters

Does this work ? Does it work better than conventional methods ? Why ?

# Our 2017 convolutional network



**Figure 6:** Visualization of the convolutional neural network. The network consists of an input layer, 5 convolutional + pooling layers, 2 fully connected layers and finally an output layer.

Can a NN determine the number of **unresolved** point sources relative to isotropic radiation ?

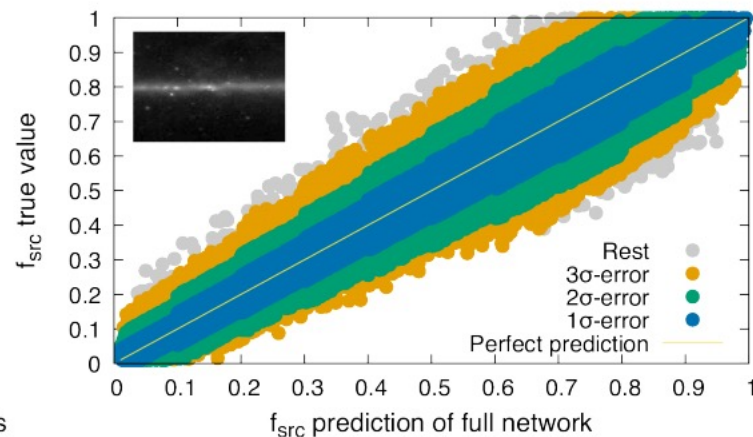
•Published in: *JCAP* 05 (2018) 058, e-Print: [1708.06706](#) [astro-ph.HE]



What is this fraction?

This is 0.5

Network can generalize over randomness



(b) Prediction of the full network versus true values.

Your prediction:

Invert image: ☐

Truth: 0.052

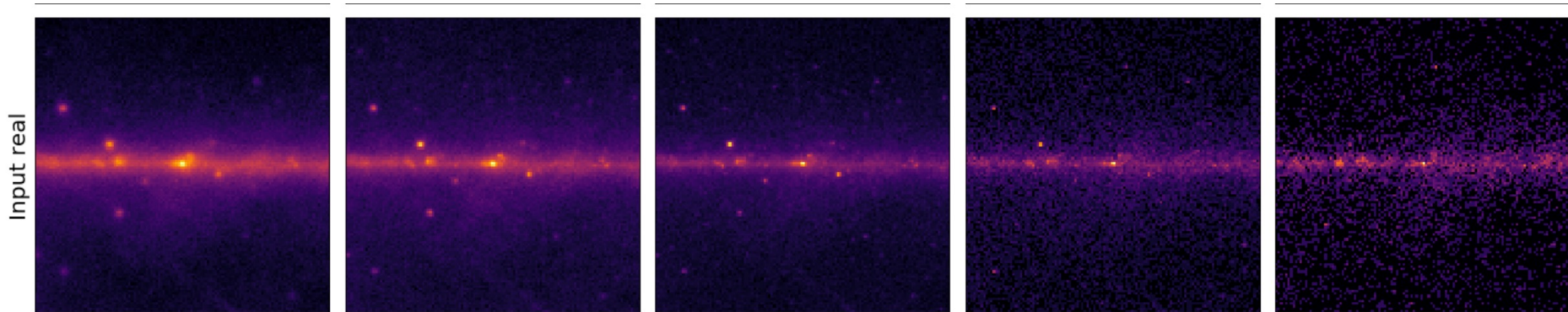
Network: 0.1230

Your guess: 0.5

Who is better? The network

Interpretation here is frequentists and relies on the model to be correct (uncertainties from toy experiments, no p-value yet)

Today: More wavelengths →  
Bayesian determination of 25  
parameters

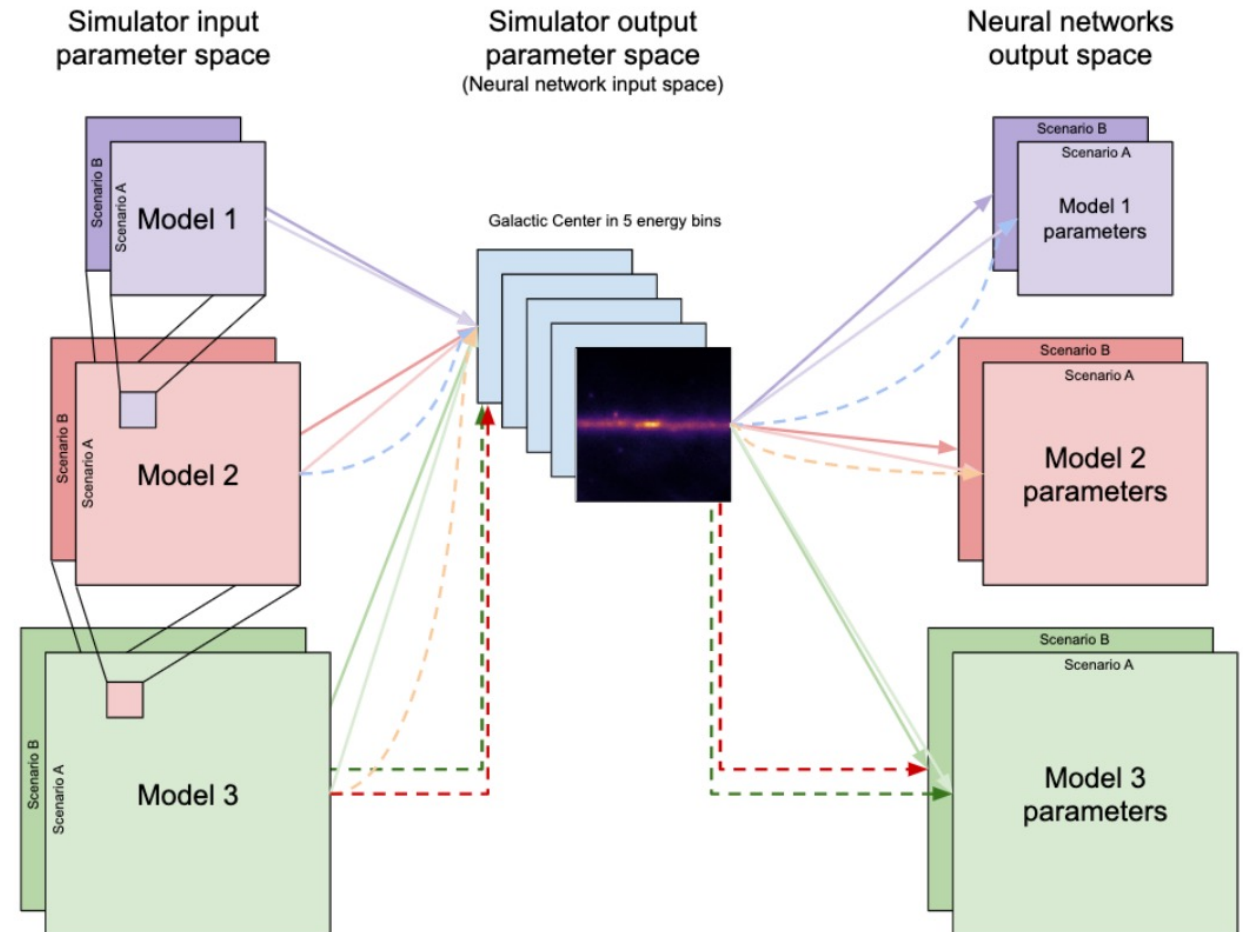


LET NETWORK OUTPUT all parameters AND all  
uncertainties

# New paper after 5 years !

RU Internal / in Fermi-LAT review:

Idea: Test more complex simulations, learn the best simulations from data, for the first time include all uncertainties (also “out of simulation”)



# Gamma rays: Galactic Center and the reality gap

Our new 2022 NN can regress here 25 parameters at once

And NN has learned its uncertainty with deep ensemble networks

(discussion also with Laurens Sluiterman, E. Cator)

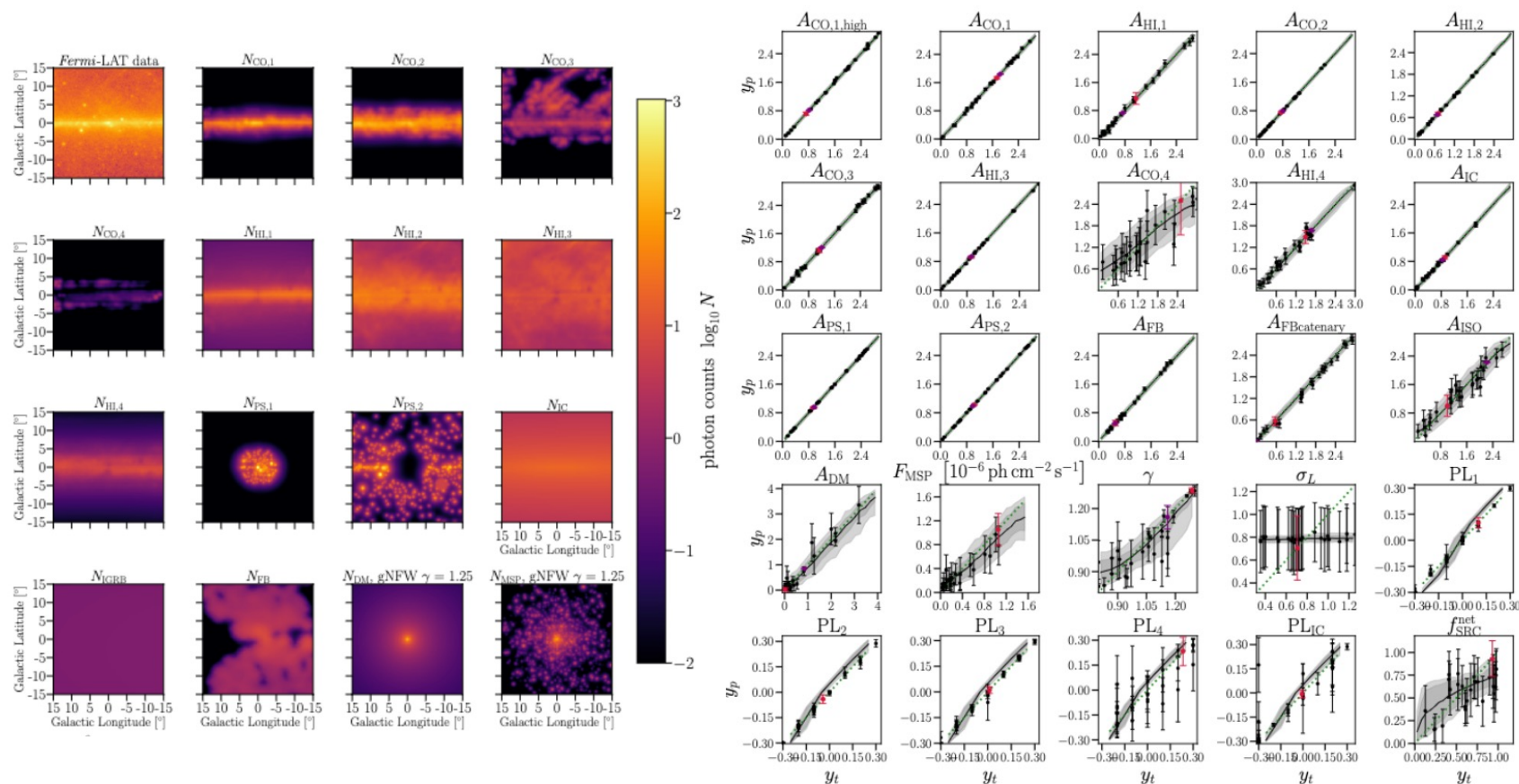
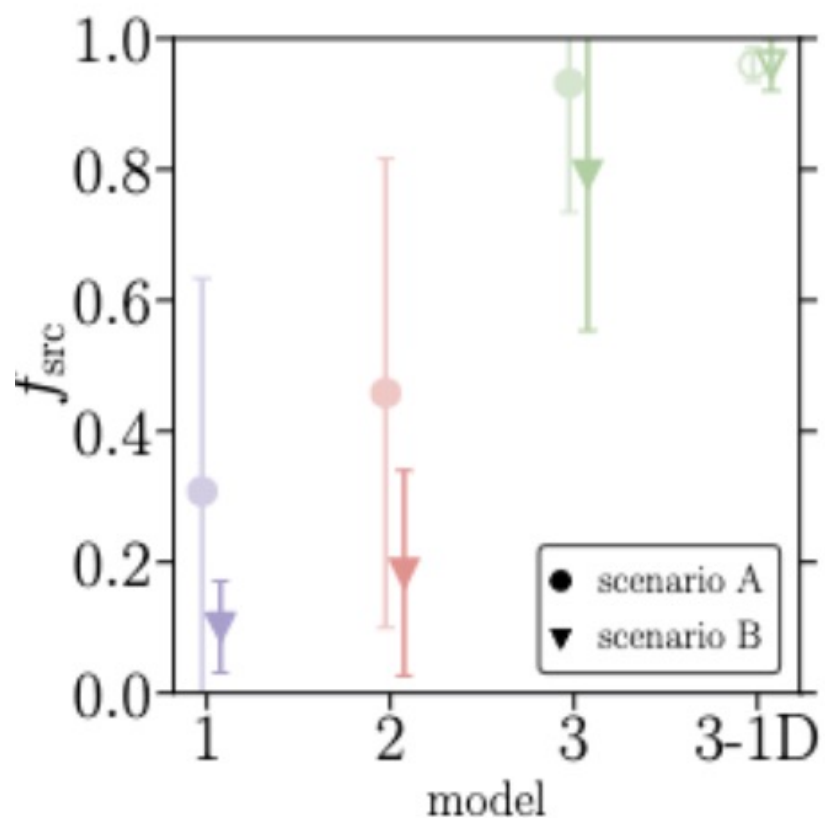


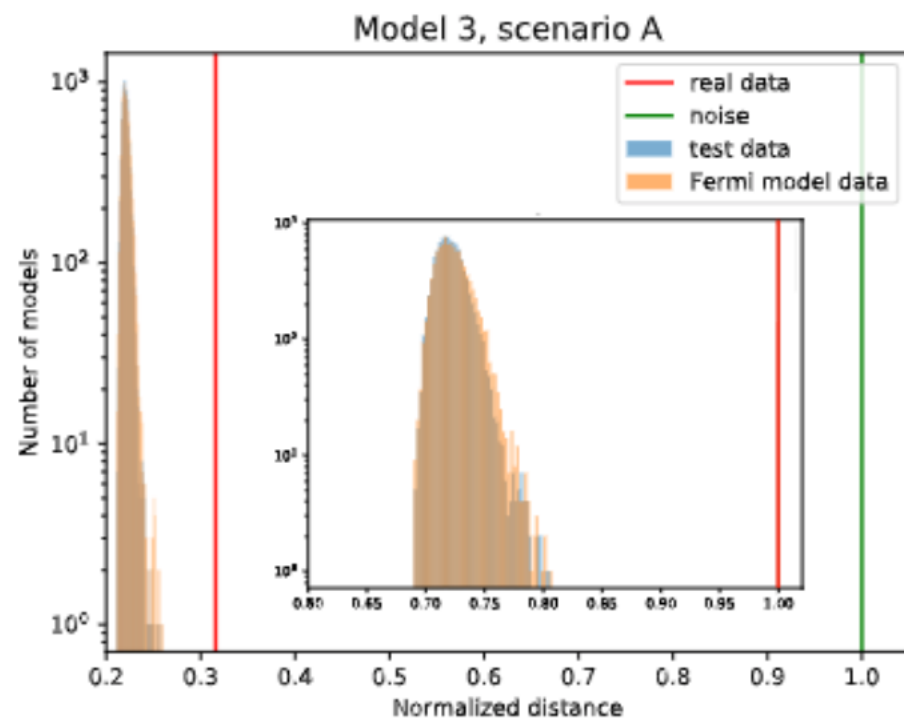
Figure 8: The same as Fig. 4, but in the context of Model 3 (Scenario A).

# The finding

What is the fraction of point sources for this simulation?




Is the data in the simulation ?



Can we also determine the point sources directly?

Yes, other project (shown already some time ago)... show you next astrosourceid applied to astronomy data





Astronomy and gamma rays: autosourceID

→ Automatically identification of astronomical objects

# Automatic ID of astrophysical objects: AutosourceID, slides by Fiorenzo Stoppa

IDEA: FASTER / REALTIME ID OF ASTRONOMIC SOURCES

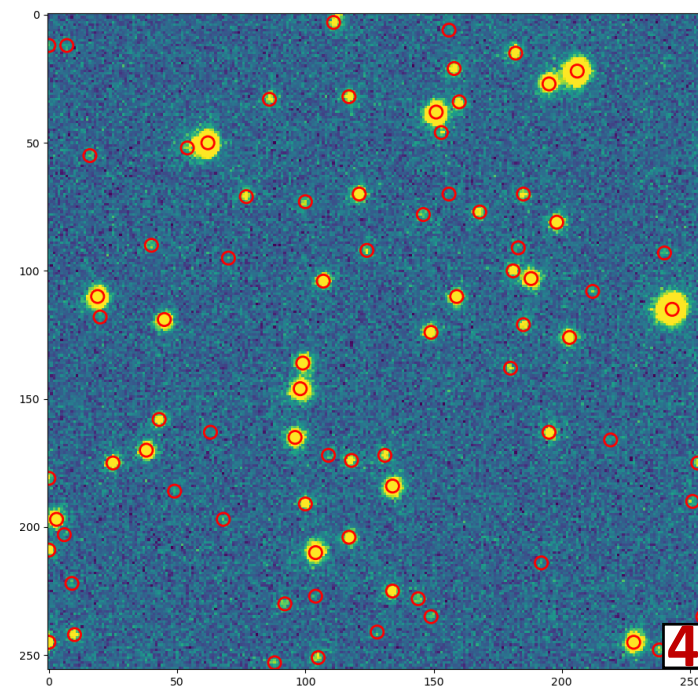
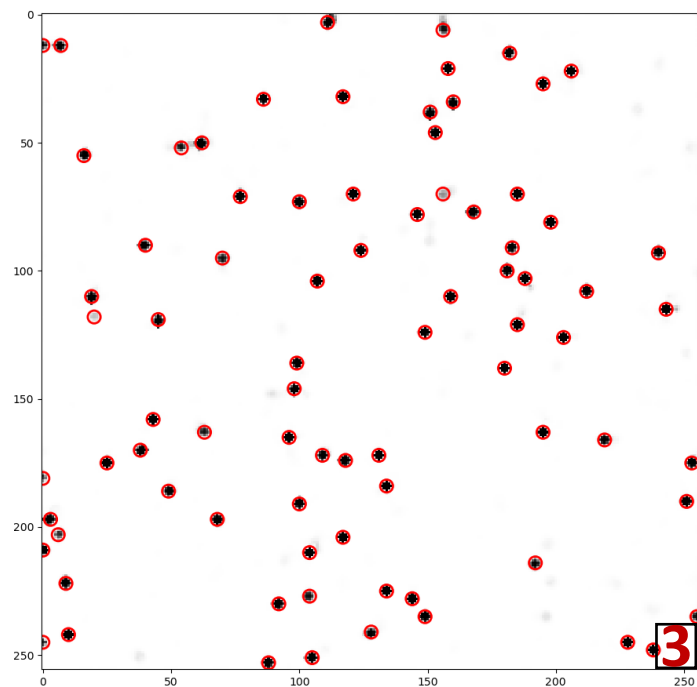
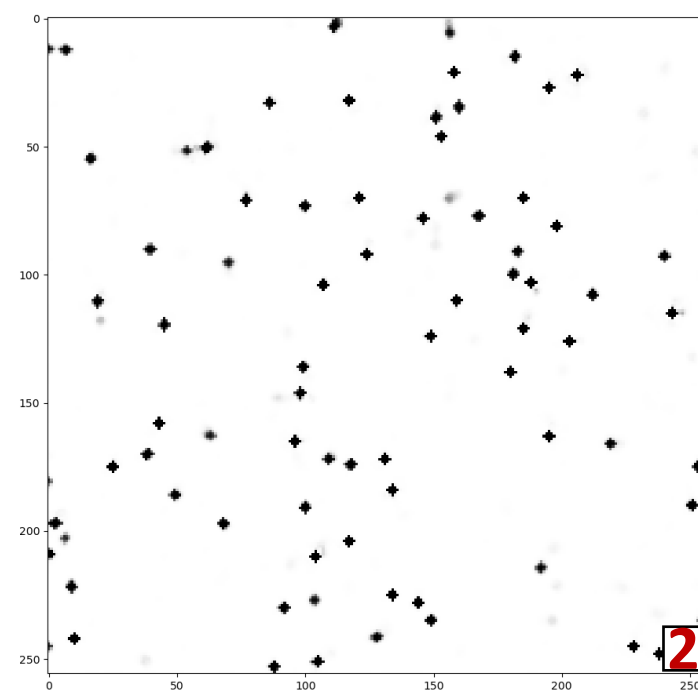
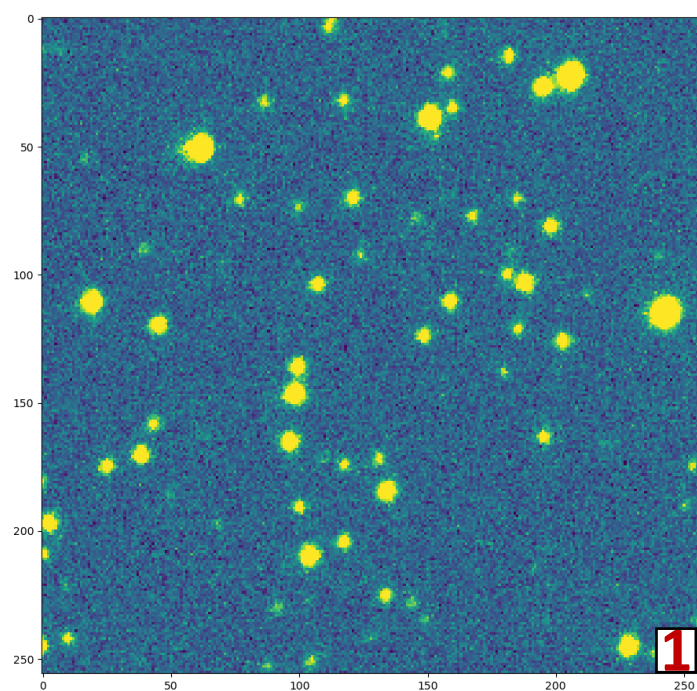
Full field (10.5k x 10.5k pixels) is 3.7 seconds for AutosourceID and 120 for SExtractor.

**Train the ML** on the simulation and/or the astronomer.

Machine Learning is not necessarily the problem here,  
Machine learning can be the solution ! → Less Energy

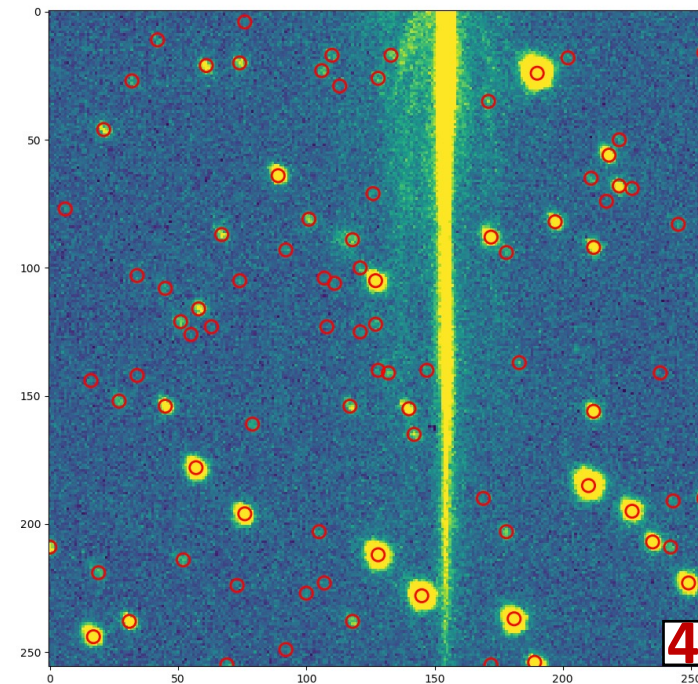
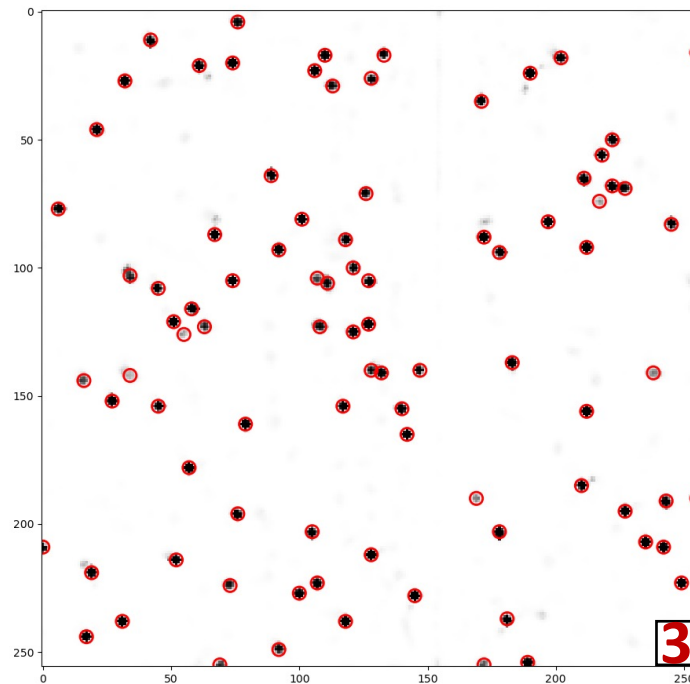
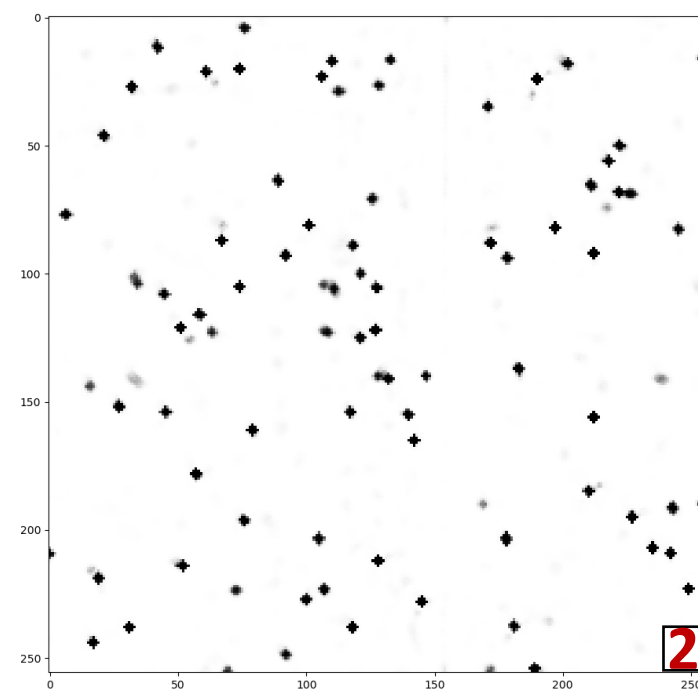
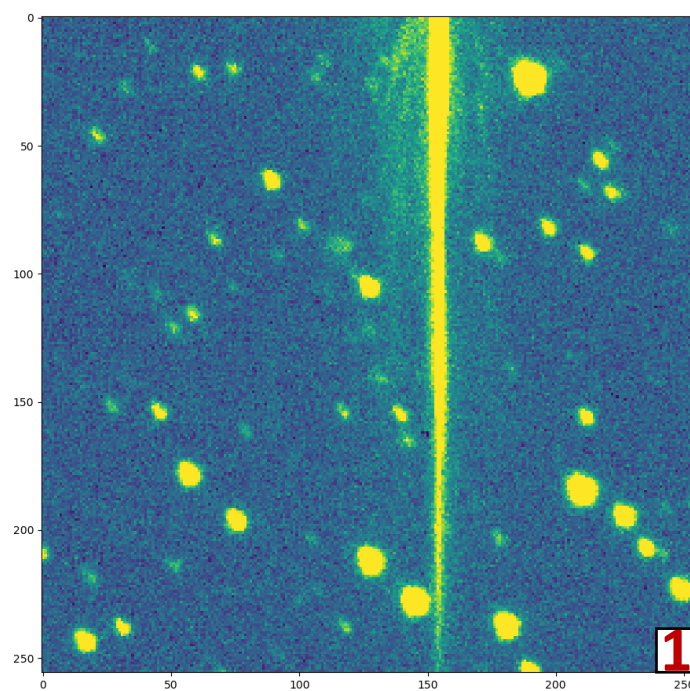


- 1** Input optical
- 2** image
- 3** Predicted mask
- 4** Laplacian of Gaussian Results





- 1** Input optical
- 2** image
- 3** Predicted mask
- 4** Laplacian of Gaussian Results

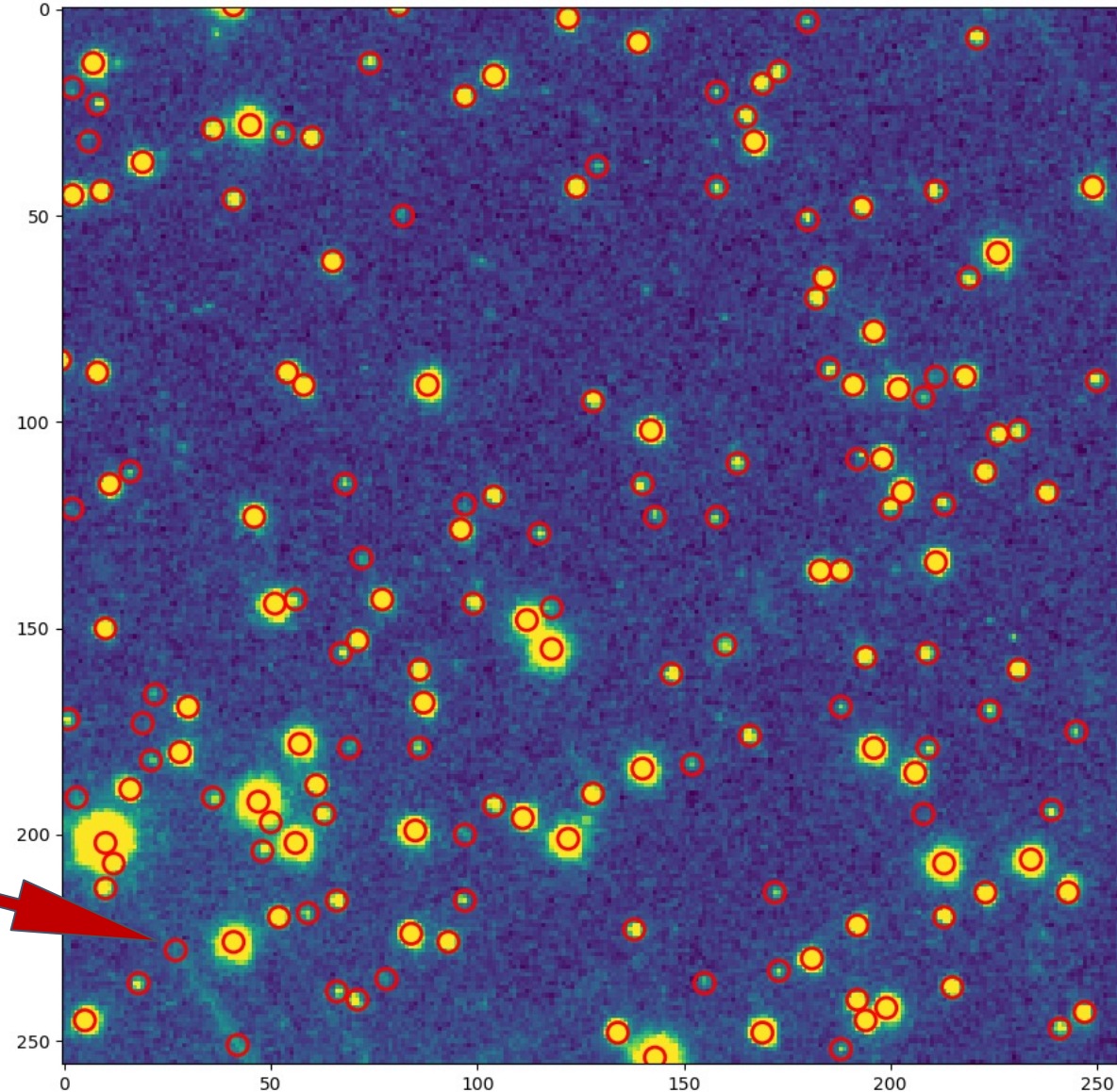


# Hubble HD images

Most of the visible sources correctly localized.

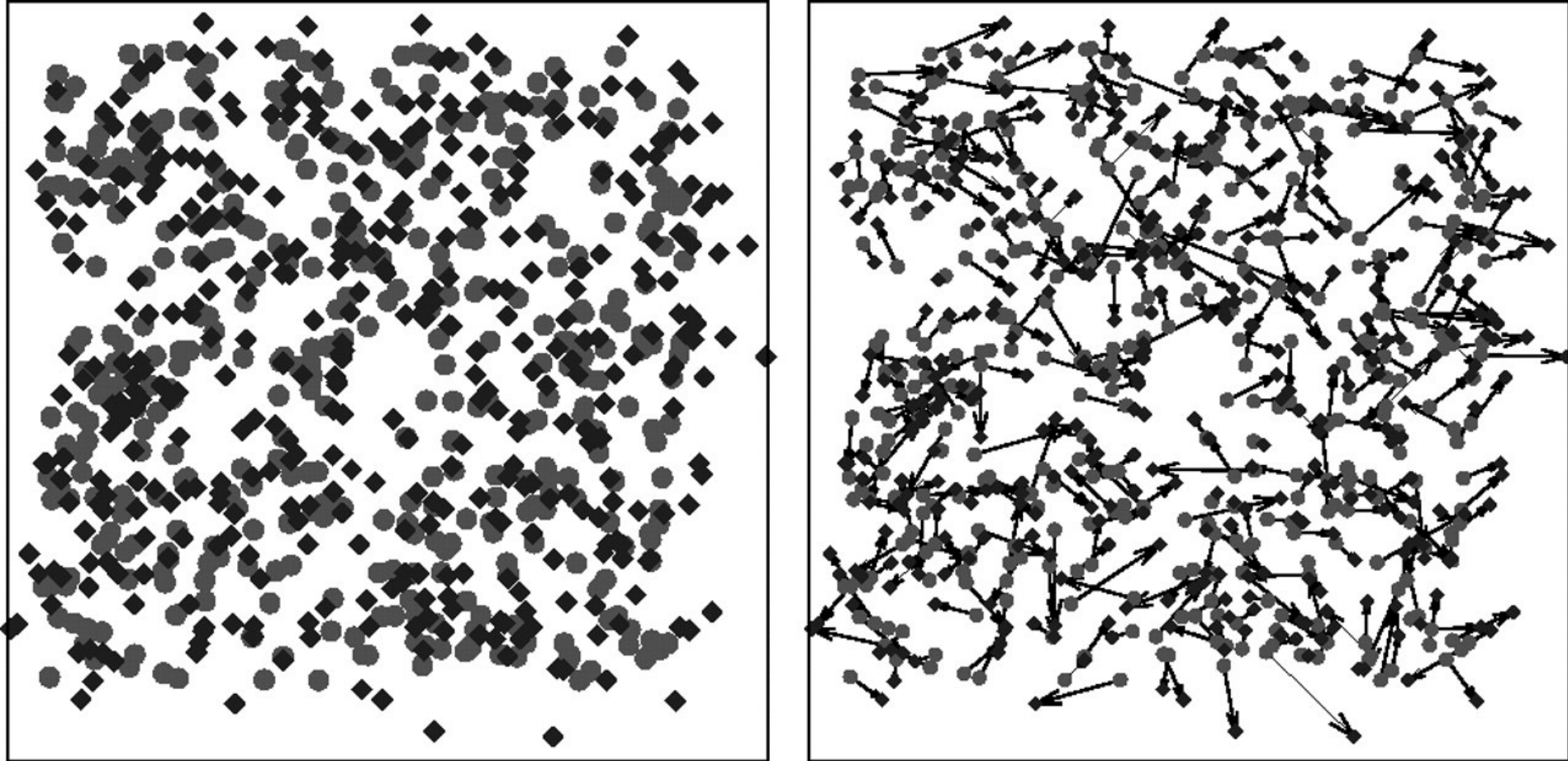
Small problems with a diffraction spike

• *Astron.Astrophys.* 662 (2022) A109,  
With Astro department  
(mainly Fiorenzo Stoppa)





# ATLAS: tracking $\rightarrow$ inference at 40 MHz ?



Idea : Train u-nets to go from **(almost) ALL pixels**  $\rightarrow$  **(almost) ALL tracks** (including ALL uncertainties) in one step  
Do this on dedicated hardware accelerators (GPUs, FPGAs, neuromorphic, future quantum ?)  $\rightarrow$  **CODE?**

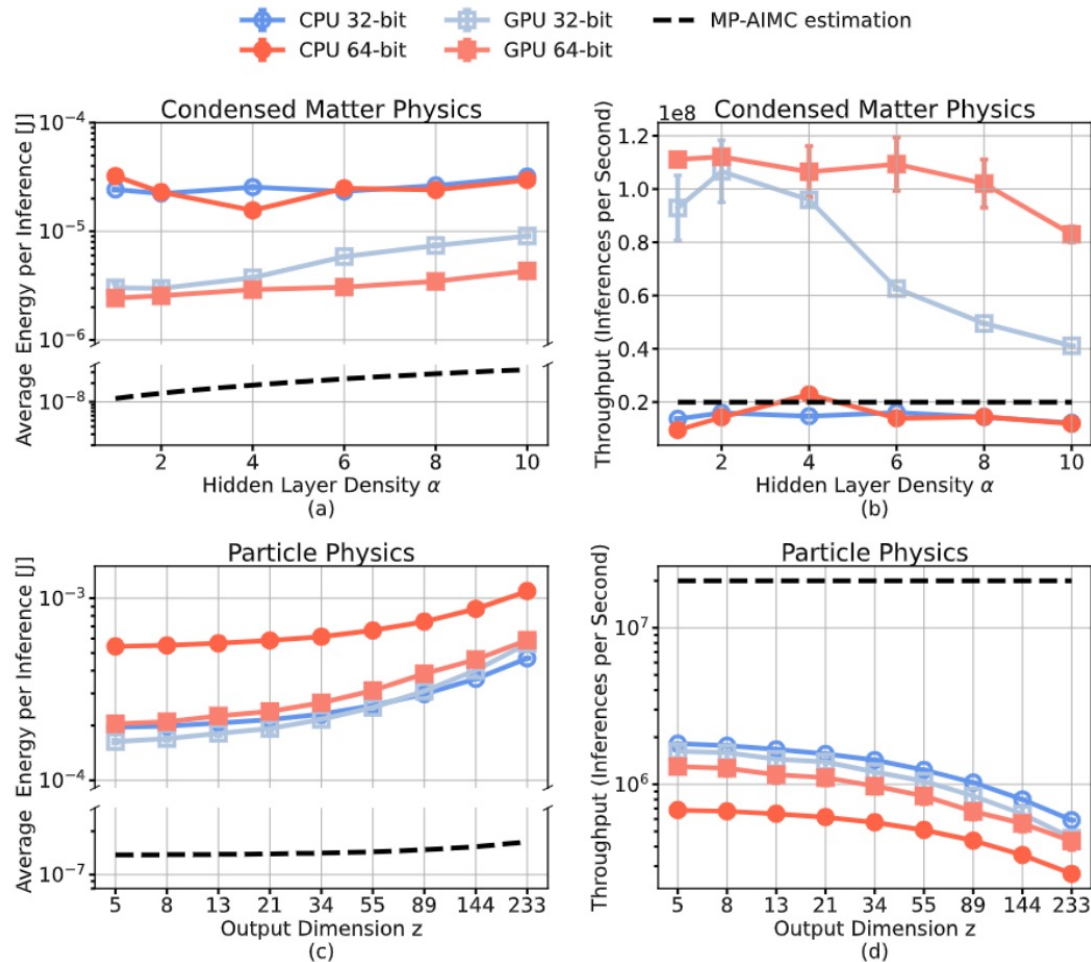


Neuromorphic computing

→ **The next step: Print scientific Neural Networks on computer chips**



# LHC etc. : Neuromorphic Computing on AIMC architecture with IBM and IMM



How fast can neuromorphic chips process scientific data?  
 → ATLAS trigger  
 How much energy do they consume ?

*(also compare to quantum hardware, maybe enourmous gain!)*

## Benchmarking energy consumption and latency for neuromorphic computing in condensed matter and particle physics

Dominique J. Kösters,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Bryan A. Kortman,<sup>1,4</sup> Irem Boybat,<sup>3</sup> Elena Ferro,<sup>3,5</sup> Sagar Dolas,<sup>6</sup> Roberto Ruiz de Austri,<sup>7</sup> Johan Kwisthout,<sup>8</sup> Hans Hilgengkamp,<sup>1,9</sup> Theo Rasing,<sup>10</sup> Heike Riel,<sup>3</sup> Abu Sebastian,<sup>3</sup> Sascha Caron,<sup>4,11</sup> and Johan H. Mentink<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Twente, Faculty of Science and Technology, P.O. Box 217 7500 AE, Enschede, The Netherlands

<sup>2</sup>Radboud University, Institute for Molecules and Materials, Heyendaalseweg 135, 6525 AJ, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

<sup>3</sup>IBM Research Europe - Zürich, 8803 Rüschlikon, Säumerstrasse 4, Switzerland

<sup>4</sup>Nikhef, P.O.Box 41882 1098 XG Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<sup>5</sup>Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich, Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, Gloriastrasse 35, 8092 Zürich, Switzerland

<sup>6</sup>SURF Cooperation, Innovation Team, Moreelespark 48, 3511 EP, Utrecht, The Netherlands

<sup>7</sup>University of Valencia-CSIC, Instituto de Física Corpuscular, Parc Científic UV, c/ Catedrático José Beltrán 2, E-46980 Paterna, Spain

<sup>8</sup>Radboud University, Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour, P.O. Box 9104 6500 HE, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

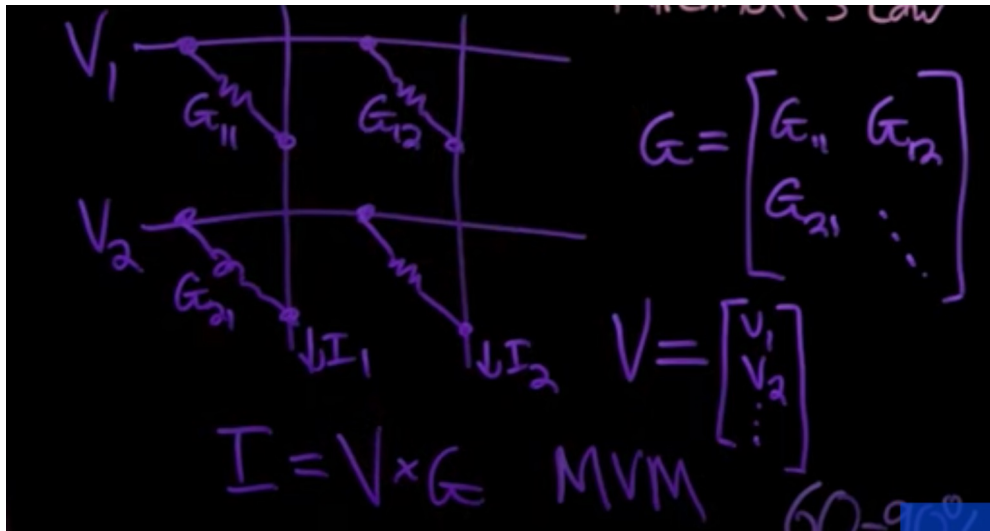
Answering referee comments

→ published in a few weeks

# Neuromorphic computing

I = current  
V = voltage  
G = resistances

NN =



Various approaches ranging from classical FPGA, ASICs to In memory computing (previous slide), spiking NN on chips (Inter Loihi) or even photonic !  
Etc.

- Need dedicated study, will likely become highly important for computational science
- Main topic of our NWA proposal “datascope” (was nextgraspp before)
- RU could become a leader here ?

(source IBM video)



Next steps: philosophy and chatbots

→ **Let's look 10 years ahead: What is the future of AI in physics ?**

# Next steps: philosophy and chatbots

With Henk de Regt (philosophy of science), Kristian Gonzalez and Tom Claasen (causal discovery, ICIS)

Questions:

- Science Bot → Assume (build?) SIRI/ALEXA (Bert/GPT3 etc) that can ask scientific questions:

How to make causal relations, how to trust this machine, what do scientist want, do we like that this is a “Googlebot (made by google) or HEPbot (made by HEP community)”

- Sustainability of computational science



# Summary

- Actually these are not all projects (really a lot of interesting things to work on)
- Hope to convince you (a bit) that ML is interesting for HEP, astronomy, sustainability , FNWI and Nikhef....