

LHC Theory as Fun Data Science

Tilman Plehn

Universität Heidelberg

Benasque, September 2022

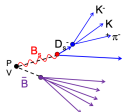


Modern LHC physics

Classic motivation

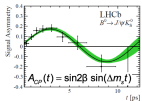
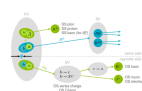
- dark matter
- baryogenesis
- Higgs VEV

Flavor Tagging und CP

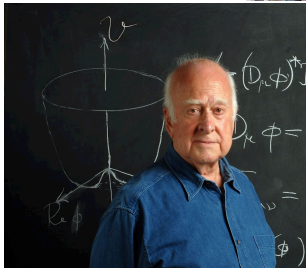


$$\sin 2\beta = 0.73 \pm 0.08$$

Julian Tarek Wisohli,
Doktorarbeit TU DO 2013



Kevin Heinecke, Masterarbeit 2016



Modern LHC physics

Classic motivation

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LHC physics

- fundamental questions
- huge data set
- complete uncertainty control
- first-principle precision simulations



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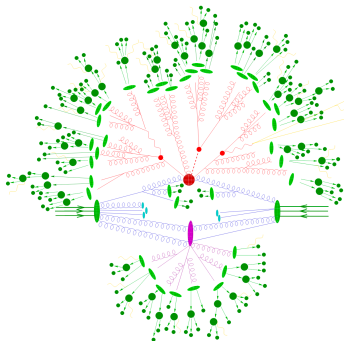
Traditional methods

- discover in rates
- unveil little black holes
- find supersymmetry
- travel extra dimensions
- measure couplings

First-principle simulations

- start with Lagrangian
- calculate scattering using QFT
- simulate events
- simulate detectors

→ LHC events in virtual worlds



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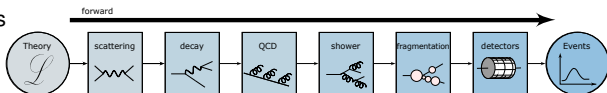
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BSM searches

- compare simulations and data
 - analyze data systematically [SMEFT]
 - understand LHC dataset [SM or BSM]
 - publish useable results
- With a little help from data science...



Ask a data scientist

LHC questions

- How to get from 3 PB/s to 300 MB/s?



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Data compression [Netflix]



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- How to analyze events with 4-vectors?



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Graph neural networks [Cars]



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 - ...
- [How can we contribute to data science?](#)



Shortest ML-intro ever

Fit-like approximation

- approximate known $f(x)$ using $f_\theta(x)$
- no parametrization, just very many values θ
- new representation/latent space θ

Construction and control

- define (well-defined) loss function
- minimize loss to find best θ
- compare $x \rightarrow f_\theta(x)$ for training/test data

LHC applications

- regression $x \rightarrow f_\theta(x)$
- classification $x \rightarrow f_\theta(x) \in [0, 1]$
- generation $r \sim \mathcal{N} \rightarrow f_\theta(r)$
- conditional generation $r \sim \mathcal{N} \rightarrow f_\theta(r|x)$
- ...

→ [Transforming numerical science](#)

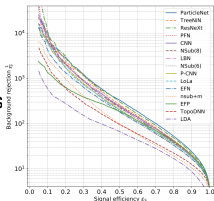


ML-applications for analysis

Top tagging [supervised classification]

- ‘hello world’ of LHC-ML
- the end of QCD
- different NN-architectures

→ Non-NN left in the dust...



SciPost Physics

Submission

The Machine Learning Landscape of Top Taggers

G. Kaselka¹, T. Plehn², A. Butter³, K. Craner⁴, D. DeLorain⁵, B. M. Eidel⁶, M. Fairhead⁷, D. A. Ferguson⁸, W. Florko⁹, C. Gao¹, L. Gornik¹⁰, J. F. Kerner¹¹, P. T. Komke¹², S. Loto¹³, A. Loto¹³, S. Macchi¹⁴, E. M. Metodiev¹⁵, L. Moore¹⁶, B. Nishida^{1,17}, K. Nishimura^{1,17}, J. Puckert¹⁸, H. Qiu¹, S. Ratti¹⁹, M. Rieger²⁰, D. Rizzo²¹, J. M. Thompson²², and S. Varma²³

- ¹ Institut für Experimentelle Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
- ² Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
- ³ Center for Cosmology and Particle Physics and Center for Data Science, NYU, USA
- ⁴ NHEEC, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, Rutgers, The State University of NJ, USA
- ⁵ Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Czechia
- ⁶ Theoretical Particle Physics and Cosmology, King's College London, United Kingdom
- ⁷ Department of Physics and Astronomy, The University of British Columbia, Canada
- ⁸ Department of Physics, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA
- ⁹ Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- ¹⁰ Center for Theoretical Physics, MIT, Cambridge, USA
- ¹¹ CP3, Universitat Catàlana de Leuven, Leuven-la-Neuve, Belgium
- ¹² Physics Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, USA
- ¹³ Simons Inst. for the Theory of Computing, University of California, Berkeley, USA
- ¹⁴ National Institute for Subatomic Physics (NIKHEF), Amsterdam, Netherlands
- ¹⁵ LPTHE, CNRS & Sorbonne Université, Paris, France
- ¹⁶ III. Physikalisches Institut A, RWTH Aachen University, Germany

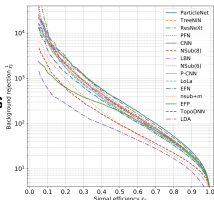


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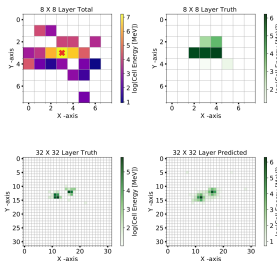
G. Kaselka (ed.), T. Plehn (ed.), A. Bhatti¹, K. Craner², D. Debnath³, B. M. Dillon⁴, M. Fairhead⁵, D. A. Faroughy⁶, W. Florkow⁷, C. Gay¹, L. Gornik⁸, J. F. Kerner^{9,10}, P. T. Komar¹¹, S. Lital¹², A. Lital¹², S. Macchioni¹³, E. M. Metodiev¹⁴, L. Moore¹⁵, B. Natusse^{1,16}, K. Natarajaratnam¹⁶, J. Pflueger¹⁶, H. Qiu¹, Y. Ruan¹⁶, M. Sauer¹⁶, D. Sidi¹⁶, J. M. Thompson¹⁶, and S. Varma¹⁶

- 1 Institut für Experimentelle Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
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Particle flow [classification, super-resolution]

- mother of jet tools
- combined detector channels
- similar studies in CMS

→ Seriously impressive



Towards a Computer Vision Particle Flow *

Francesco Armando Di Belle^{1,2}, Samay Ganguly^{3,4}, Eliam Gross⁵, Marumi Kado^{6,7}, Michael Pitt⁸, Lorenzo Santi¹, Jonathan Shlomi⁹

¹Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Israel

²CERN, CH 1211, Geneva 23, Switzerland

³Università di Roma Sapienza, Piazza Aldo Moro, 2, 00185 Roma, Italy & INFN, Italy

⁴Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS/IN2P3, ICLab, 91145, Orsay, France

Fig. 7: An event display of total energy shower (within topocluster), as captured by a calorimeter layer of 8×8 granularity, along with the location of the track, denoted by a red cross (left) and the same shower is captured by a calorimeter layer of 32×32 granularity (middle). The bottom right panel shows the corresponding event predicted by the NN. The figure shows that the shower originating from a $m^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ is resolved by a 32×32 granularity layer.

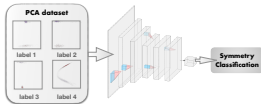


Symmetries

Learning symmetries [representation, visualization]

- (particle) physics is all symmetries
- identify symmetries in 2D systems [paintings]
- CNN on PCAs of penultimate network layers

→ Networks represent data patterns



Symmetry invariance AI
Gabriella Basso^{1,2}, Johannes Heine¹, and Verónica Ruiz^{1,3}
¹ Department de Física Teòrica and IFIC, Universitat de València, C.S.I.C., E-46100 Burjassot, Spain and
² Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QJ, UK

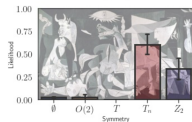
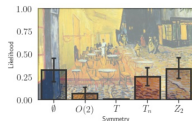
We explore whether Neural Networks (NN) can discover the presence of symmetries in their own representational space. For this, we train hierarchical ConvNet deep neural networks with convolutional feature maps, followed by fully connected layers. We use the output from the penultimate layer of all these NNs, projected to their dimension, as the input for a symmetry classification task, and show that information on symmetry had indeed been identified by the original NN without guidance. As an interesting application of this procedure, we identify the presence and kind of symmetry in artistic paintings from different approaches to those of Poggio, Pollock and Van Gogh.

1. INTRODUCTION

Observations are crucial to the understanding of nature of Physics. The discovery of a symmetry signals the existence of a fundamental principle and constrains itself to the laws of physical laws and reflects onto. Indeed, all known fundamental laws of Physics can be derived from an action of invariance under a transformation. This is recognized in Galilean relativity, Special relativity and quantum field theories, quantum special and general relativity as well as the gauge theories of the fundamental forces in Particle Physics.

After of Elmore⁴, from this simple representation of the data, Boer Tveit was able to detect the laws of physics which exhibit a certain symmetry, we build a simple, elegant and clear neural network architecture of the nature of original features from the original collection of observations. From dimensionality theory point, we can understand that Tveit's laws can be obtained from the group of symmetry as an discrete algebra called Lie Algebra.

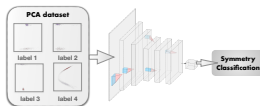
This idea in this paper is to lay the foundation for an automatic, or artificial intelligence (AI), version of the Right invariance group between Hecke and Dirac's. A theoretical work central implications of the group.



Symmetries

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- (particle) physics is all symmetries
 - identify symmetries in 2D systems [paintings]
 - CNN on PCAs of penultimate network layers
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Symmetry aware AI

Galina Barenzani¹, Johannes Heuer¹, and Verónica Rosner²

¹ Department of Physics, Technical University of Munich (TUM), Munich, Germany, and

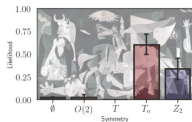
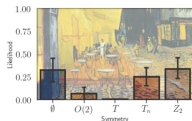
² Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Texas, Arlington, TX, U.S.A.

We explore whether Symbolic Neural Networks (SNNs) can discover the presence of symmetries in high-dimensional data. For this, we train SNNs on different physical and non-physical datasets. Symmetries which are not obvious to humans are discovered. We use the output from the last hidden layer of the SNN, projected to two dimensions, to train a CNN to identify the symmetries. We show that this approach can identify symmetries that were not identified by the original SNN without post-processing. As an interdisciplinary application of this procedure, we identify the presence and kind of symmetry in certain paintings from different styles such as those of Picasso, Pollock and Van Gogh.

1. INTRODUCTION

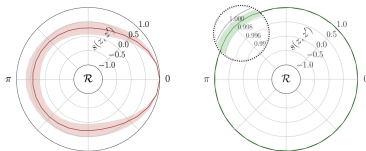
Representations are central to the understanding of nature. The discovery of a symmetry implies the existence of a fundamental principle and essentially leads to the laws of physics and, in quantum field theory, all known fundamental laws of Physics can be derived from an action of invariant under a transformation. This is exemplified in Galilean relativity, Maxwell's equations for electromagnetism, Einstein's special and general relativity, as well as our best theory of the fundamental forces in Particle Physics.

One idea in this paper is to let the foundation for an unsupervised, or self-supervised (SSL), version of the Right-Interpretability only between Heuer and Rosner.
A technical background implementation of the sym-



Symmetric networks [contrastive learning, transformer network]

- rotations, translations, permutations, soft splittings, collinear splittings
 - learn symmetries/augmentations
- Symmetry-aware latent space



Full Paper

Abstract

Symmetries, Safety, and Self-Supervision

Barry M. DeMa¹, Gregor Kasnig², Hans Christian¹, Tibben Pitlor¹, Peter Schramm², and Lorenz Vogl¹

¹ Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

² Heidelberg Collaboratory for Image Processing, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

August 11, 2021

Abstract

Collider searches face the challenge of defining a representation of high-dimensional data such that physical constraints are satisfied, the discriminating features are retained, and the choice of representation is non-optimistic agnostic. We introduce SelfCLR to solve the mapping from low-level data to optimized observables through self-supervised contrastive learning. As an example, we construct a data representation for top and QCD jets using a permutation-invariant transformer-encoder network and visualize its symmetry properties. We compare the SelfCLR representation with alternative representations using linear classifier tests and find it to work quite well.



Non-QCD and parton densities

Anomaly searches [unsupervised training, see later]

- train on QCD-jets, SM-events
 - look for non-QCD jets, non-SM events
- Spirit of LHC

arXiv:2004.04729
hep-th/2004.04729

Better Latent Spaces for Better Autoencoders

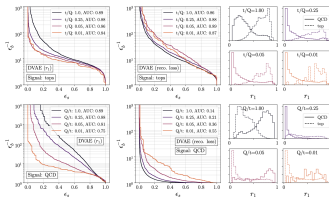
Henry M. Henn¹, Tilman Plehn¹, Christof Sauer², and Peter Sorensen³,

¹Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
²Physalisches Institut, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
³Heidelberg Collaboratory for Inverse Processing, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

April 20, 2020

Abstract

Autoencoders as tools behind anomaly searches at the LHC face the structural problem that they only work in one direction, reconstructing jets with higher complexity but not the other way around. To address this, we derive classifiers from the latent space of (restricted) autoencoders, specifically in Gaussian mixtures and Dirichlet latent spaces. In particular, the Dirichlet setup solves the problem and improves both the performance and the interpretability of the networks.



Non-QCD and parton densities

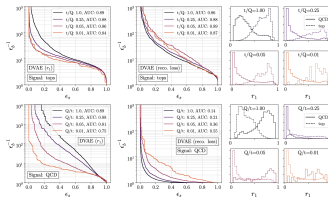
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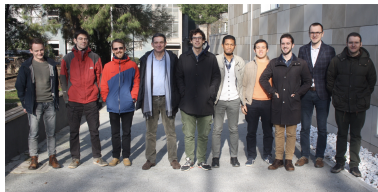
Abstract

Autoencoders have become an essential tool at the LHC for the structural problem that they only work in one direction, reconstructing jets with higher complexity but not the other way around. To address this, we derive classifiers from the latent space of (multivariate) autoencoders, specifically in Gaussian mixtures and Dirichlet latent spaces. In particular, the Dirichlet setup solves the problem and improves both the performance and the interpretability of the autoencoders.



NNPDF/N3PDF parton densities [full blast]

- starting point: pdfs without functional ansatz
 - moving on: cutting-edge ML everywhere
- Leaders in ML-theory



A data-based parametrization of parton distribution functions

Stefano Caronni^{1,2}, Juan Cruz-Martinez¹, and Ralf Seidelmann³

¹ INFN, Dipartimento di Fisica, Università degli Studi di Milano and INFN Sezione di Milano.

² DESY, Theoretical Physics Department, DESY Zeuthen, 13505, Germany.

³ Quantum Research Center, Technology Innovation Institute, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Received date / Revised version date

Abstract. Since the first determination of a structure function study decades ago, all methodologies used to determine structure functions or parton distribution functions (PDFs) have required a certain prior knowledge as part of the parametrization. The NNPDF collaboration pioneered the use of neural networks to overcome the inherent bias of constraining the space of solutions with a fixed functional form while still keeping the same common practice as a parametrization. Over the years various, increasingly sophisticated, techniques have been introduced to constrain the effect of the prior on the PDF determination. In this paper we present a methodology to constrain the predictive capability, identify significantly overfitting the methodology without a loss of efficiency and finding good agreement with previous results.

PACS: 12.20.-m Quantum chromodynamics - 12.20.-m Phenomenological models - 02.30.+v Neural Networks



Speeding up Sherpa [sampling]

- precision simulations limiting factor for Runs 3&4
- unweighting critical

→ Phase space sampling

	$gg \rightarrow Higgs$	$gg \rightarrow \tilde{t}\tilde{t}^*$	$gg \rightarrow \tilde{t}\tilde{t}^*$	$gg \rightarrow Higgs$
σ_{tot}	$1.1e-2$	$7.3e-3$	$6.8e-3$	$4.6e-4$
σ_{full}^{MC}	$8.7e-3$	$5.8e-3$	$4.7e-3$	$3.0e-4$
$(\sigma_{full}/\sigma_{MC})$	3032	2017	189	64
ρ_{full}^{MC}	52.03	32.52	49.75	236.19
ρ_{full}^{MC}	$2.4e-2$	$3.5e-2$	$2.1e-2$	$1.5e-2$
ρ_{MC}^{MC}	0.0669	0.9364	0.9364	0.9561
ρ_{MC}^{MC}	2.21	4.80	1.47	0.19
ρ_{MC}^{MC}	30.40	19.14	27.75	35.34
ρ_{MC}^{MC}	$4.3e-2$	$6.4e-2$	$3.1e-2$	$7.1e-2$
ρ_{MC}^{MC}	0.0663	0.9366	0.9363	0.9321
ρ_{MC}^{MC}	3.90	8.26	3.91	2.22

Table 6: Performance measure for partonic channels contributing to $gg \rightarrow 3$ jets production at the LHC.

SciPost Physics

Submission

MCNET-21-13

Accelerating Monte Carlo event generation – rejection sampling using neural network event-weight estimates

K. Dönig¹, T. Jocher², S. Schenker², F. Segret¹

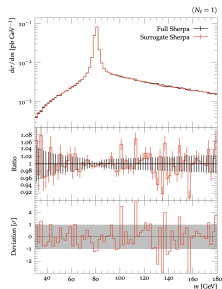
¹ Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, TU Dresden, Dresden, Germany

² Institut für Theoretische Physik, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany

September 27, 2021

Abstract

The generation of unit-weight events for complex scattering processes presents a severe challenge to modern Monte Carlo event generators. Even when using sophisticated phase-space sampling techniques adapted to the underlying transition matrix elements, the efficiency for generating unit-weight events from weighted samples can become a limiting factor in practical applications. Here we present a novel two-staged unweighting procedure that makes use of a neural-network surrogate for the full event weight. The algorithm can significantly accelerate the unweighting process, while it still guarantees unbiased sampling from the correct target distribution. We apply, validate and benchmark the new approach in high-multiplicity LHC production processes, including $2W+4$ jets and $2t+3$ jets, where we find speed-up factors up to ten.



Events and amplitudes

Speeding up Sherpa [sampling]

- precision simulations limiting factor for Runs 3&4
 - unweighting critical
- Phase space sampling

	$gg \rightarrow Higgs$	$gg \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	$gg \rightarrow Z\gamma$	$gg \rightarrow Higgs$	$gg \rightarrow Higgs$
r_{full}	$1.1e-2$	$7.3e-3$	$6.8e-3$	$6.6e-4$	
$r_{1+1,full}$	$8.7e-3$	$5.8e-3$	$4.7e-3$	$3.0e-4$	
$(r_{full})/(r_{1+1,full})$	30013	3017	199	54	
r_{1+1}^{full}	32.03	32.12	49.75	286.19	
$r_{1+1}^{full,mc}$	$3.4e-2$	$3.8e-2$	$3.1e-2$	$3.0e-3$	
$r_{1+1}^{full,mc}$	0.9889	0.9884	0.9994	0.9981	
$r_{1+1}^{full,mc}$	2.21	1.89	1.47	0.19	
$r_{1+1}^{full,mc}$	30.03	19.14	27.38	35.34	
$r_{1+1}^{full,mc}$	$4.3e-2$	$4.4e-2$	$3.1e-2$	$2.1e-2$	
$r_{1+1}^{full,mc}$	0.9563	0.9900	0.9943	0.9821	
$r_{1+1}^{full,mc}$	3.90	8.26	3.91	2.22	

Table 6: Performance measure for partonic channels contributing to $gg \rightarrow 3$ jet production at the LHC.

SciPost Physics

MCNET-21-33

Accelerating Monte Carlo event generation – rejection sampling using neural network event-weight estimates

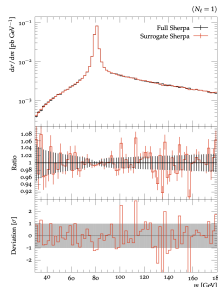
K. Dauterl¹, T. Jausen², S. Schwanze², F. Siegel¹

¹ Institut für Kern- und Teilchenphysik, TU Dresden, Dresden, Germany
² Institut für Theoretische Physik, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany

September 27, 2021

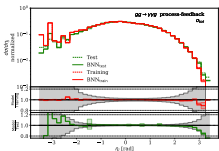
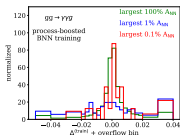
Abstract

The generation of unit-weight events for complex scattering processes presents a severe challenge to modern Monte Carlo event generators. Even when using sophisticated phase-space sampling techniques adapted to the underlying transition matrix elements, the efficiency for generating unit-weight events from weighted samples can become a limiting factor in practical applications. Here we present a novel neurological unweighting procedure that makes use of a neural-network surrogate for the full event weight. The algorithm can significantly accelerate the unweighting process, while it still guarantees unbiased sampling from the correct target distribution. We apply, validate and benchmark the new approach in high-multiplicity LHC production processes, including $2W+4$ jets and $l\bar{l}+3$ jets, where we find speed-up factors up to ten.



Speeding up amplitudes [precision regression]

- loop-amplitudes expensive
 - interpolation standard
- Network amplitudes



PREPARED FOR SUBMISSION TO JHEP

IFPP/20/138

Optimising simulations for diphoton production at hadron colliders using amplitude neural networks

Joseph Ayala¹, Bulut^{2,3}, Sivan Balder², Ryan Meade⁴

¹Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology, Department of Physics, Durham University, Durham, UK, Durham, United Kingdom

²Institute for Data Science, Durham University, Durham, UK, Durham, United Kingdom

³Department of Physics and Arnold Sommerfeld Center, Universität zu Tübingen, and DESY, Notke 85, 22607, Hamburg, Germany

⁴E-mail: j.p.bulut@durham.ac.uk, simeon.balder@tu-tu.de, ryan.meade@durham.ac.uk

ABSTRACT: Machine learning technology has the potential to drastically optimize event generation and simulation. We continue to investigate the use of neural networks to approximate matrix elements for high-multiplicity scattering processes. We focus on the case of loop-induced diphoton production through gluon fusion, and develop a modular simulation method that can be applied to hadronic collider observables. Neural networks are trained using the on-loop amplitudes implemented in the `MadGraph5` library, and interfaced to the Sherpa Monte Carlo event generator, where we perform a detailed study for $2+3$ and $2+4$ scattering orders. We also consider how the trained networks perform when varying the kinematic cuts affecting the phase space and the reliability of the neural network simulations.



Invertible event generation and errors

Unfolding and inversion [conditional normalizing flows, see later]

- shower/hadronization unfolded by jet algorithm
- detector/decays unfolded e.g. in tops
- calibrated inverse sampling

→ **Backwards generation**

arXiv:2010.07888

arXiv:2010.07888

Invertible Networks or Partons to Detector and Back Again

Marek Białynicki-Birula¹, Andrzej Białynicki-Birula¹, George Katsoulis¹, Tilman Plehn¹, Anand Romo^{1,2}, Roman Winterhalder¹, Lucien Antoniazzi³, and Ulrich Klöbe³

¹ Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

² Heidelberg Collaboratory for Image Processing, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

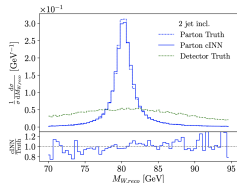
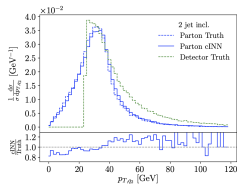
³ Institut für Experimentelle Physik, Universität Hamburg, Germany

biar@itp.uni-heidelberg.de

October 2, 2020

Abstract

For simulations where the forward and the inverse directions have a physics meaning, invertible neural networks are especially useful. A conditional INN can invert a detector simulation in terms of high-level observables, specifically for ZW production at the LHC. It allows for a personal statistical interpretation. Here, we show for a variable number of QCD jets. We model detector effects and QCD radiation to a pre-defined hard process, again with a per-event probabilistic interpretation over parton-level phase space.



Invertible event generation and errors

Unfolding and inversion [conditional normalizing flows, see later]

- shower/hadronization unfolded by jet algorithm
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→ Backwards generation

SitPHEP Physics Submission

Invertible Networks or Partons to Detector and Back Again

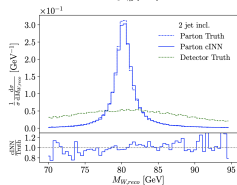
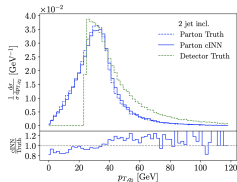
Marc Delgado¹, Anja Bhattar¹, Georg Katsoulis¹, Tilman Plehn¹, Armand Raaijmakers^{1,2}, Rainer Winterhalder¹, Lyman Aronson³, and Ulrich Klöck²

¹ Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
² Heidelberg Collaboratory for Image Processing, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
³ Institut für Experimentelle Physik, Universität Hamburg, Germany
 bhattar@thphys.uni-heidelberg.de

October 2, 2020

Abstract

For simulations where the forward and the inverse directions have a physics meaning, invertible neural networks are especially useful. A conditional INN can invert a detector simulation to some of high-level observables, specifically the EW production at the LHC. It allows for a per-event statistical interpretation. Next, we show for a variable number of QCD jets. We submit detector effects and QCD radiation to a generative latent process, again with a per-event probabilistic interpretation over parton-level phase space.



Generative networks with uncertainties [Bayesian discriminator-flows]

- control through discriminator [GAN-like]
- uncertainties through Bayesian networks

→ Precision & control

SitPHEP Physics Submission

Generative Networks for Precision Enthusiasts

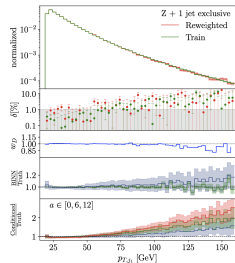
Anja Bhattar¹, Theo Hainke¹, Sander Harnwick¹, Tilman Plehn¹, Armand Raaijmakers¹, and Sophia Venz¹

¹ Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
² Heidelberg Collaboratory for Image Processing, Universität Heidelberg, Germany

November 16, 2021

Abstract

Generative networks are opening new avenues in fast event generation for the LHC. We show how generative flow networks can reach percent-level precision for kinematic distributions, how they can be trained jointly with a discriminator, and how this discriminator improves the generation. Our joint training relies on a novel coupling of the two networks which does not require a Nash equilibrium. We then estimate the generation uncertainty through a Bayesian network using and through conditional data augmentation, while the discriminator ensures that there are no systematic biases compared to the training data.



String landscape and learned formulas

Navigating string landscape [reinforcement learning]

- searching for viable vacua
 - high dimensions, unknown global structure
- **Model space sampling**

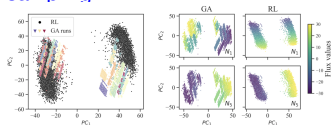


Figure 1: *Left:* Cluster structure in dimensionally reduced flux samples for RL and 25 GA runs (PCA on all samples of GA and RL). The colors indicate individual GA runs. *Right:* Dependence on flux (input) values (N_1 and N_2 respectively) in relation to principal components for a PCA fit of the individual output of GA and RL.

Probing the Structure of String Theory Vacua with Genetic Algorithms and Reinforcement Learning

Alex Cule
University of Amsterdam
a.a.cule@uva.nl

Sven Krippendorfer
Arnold Sommerfeld Center for Theoretical Physics
LMU Munich
sven.krippendorfer@physik.uni-muenchen.de

Andreas Schachner
Centre for Mathematical Sciences
University of Cambridge
as273@cam.ac.uk

Gary Shiu
University of Wisconsin-Madison
shiu@physics.wisc.edu

Abstract

Identifying string theory vacua with desired physical properties at low energies requires searching through high-dimensional solution spaces – collectively referred to as the string landscape. We highlight that this search problem is amenable to reinforcement learning and genetic algorithms. In the context of flux vacua, we are able to reveal novel features (including previously unidentified symmetries) in the string theory solutions required for properties such as the string coupling. In order to identify these features robustly, we combine results from both search methods, which we argue is imperative for reducing sampling bias.



String landscape and learned formulas

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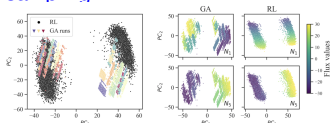


Figure 1: *Left*: Cluster structure in dimensionally reduced flux samples for RL and 25 GA runs (PCA on all samples of GA and RL). The colors indicate individual GA runs. *Right*: Dependence on flux (input) values (N_3 and N_5 respectively) in relation to principal components for a PCA fit of the individual output of GA and RL.

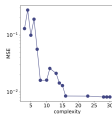
Learning formulas [genetic algorithm, symbolic regression, see later]

- approximate numerical function through formula
- example: score/optimal observables

→ **Useful approximate formulas**

compl	dx/f	function	MSE
3	1	$a \Delta\phi$	$1.30 \cdot 10^{-1}$
4	1	$\sin(a\Delta\phi)$	$2.75 \cdot 10^{-1}$
5	1	$a\Delta\phi r_{p,1}$	$9.90 \cdot 10^{-2}$
6	1	$-r_{p,1} \sin(\Delta\phi + a)$	$1.90 \cdot 10^{-1}$
7	1	$(-r_{p,1} - a) \sin(\sin(\Delta\phi))$	$5.63 \cdot 10^{-2}$
8	1	$(-a - r_{p,2}) r_{p,2} \sin(\Delta\phi)$	$1.61 \cdot 10^{-2}$
14	2	$r_{p,1}(a\Delta\phi - \sin(\sin(\Delta\phi)))(r_{p,2} + b)$	$1.44 \cdot 10^{-2}$
15	3	$(-r_{p,2}(a\Delta\phi^2 + r_{p,1}) + b) \sin(\Delta\phi + c)$	$1.30 \cdot 10^{-2}$
16	4	$-r_{p,1}(a - b\Delta\phi)(r_{p,2} + c) \sin(\Delta\phi + d)$	$8.50 \cdot 10^{-3}$
28	7	$(r_{p,2} + a)(br_{p,1}(c - \Delta\phi) - r_{p,1}(\Delta\phi) + r_{p,2} + f) \sin(\Delta\phi + g)$	$8.18 \cdot 10^{-3}$

Table 8: Score hall of fame for simplified WBF Higgs production with $f_{WBF} = 0$, including a optimization fit.



Probing the Structure of String Theory Vacua with Genetic Algorithms and Reinforcement Learning

Alex Cole
University of Amsterdam
a.w.cole@uva.nl

Sven Krippendorf
Arnold Sommerfeld Center for Theoretical Physics
LMU Munich
sven.krippendorf@physik.uni-muenchen.de

Andreas Schachner
Center for Mathematical Sciences
University of Cambridge
as2073@cam.ac.uk

Gary Shiu
University of Wisconsin-Madison
shiu@physics.wisc.edu

Abstract

Identifying string theory vacua with desired physical properties at low energies requires searching through high-dimensional solution spaces – collectively referred to as the string landscape. We highlight that this search problem is amenable to reinforcement learning and genetic algorithms. In the context of flux vacua, we are able to reveal novel features (suggesting previously unidentified symmetries) in the string theory solutions required for properties such as flux coupling. In order to identify these features robustly, we combine results from both search methods, which we argue is imperative for reducing sampling bias.

SciPost Physics

Submission

Back to the Formula — LHC Edition

Aris Butter¹, Tilman Plehn², Nathalie Seybelmas³, and Johann Boehmer²

¹ Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Germany
² Center for Data Science, New York University, New York, United States
nathalie@seibelmas.de

November 16, 2021

Abstract

While neural networks offer an attractive way to numerically encode functions, actual formulas remain the language of theoretical particle physics. We use symbolic regression trained on matrix-element information to extract, for instance, optimal LHC observables. This way we invert the usual simulation paradigm and extract easily interpretable formulas from complex simulated data. We introduce the method using the effect of a dimension-8 coefficient on associated ZH production. We then validate it for the known case of CP-violation in weak-boson-fusion Higgs production, including detector effects.

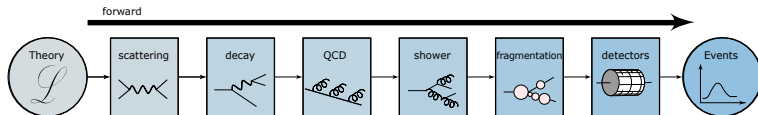
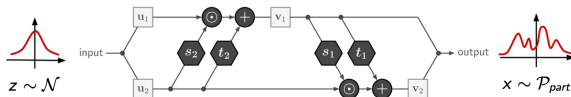


Modern generative networks

Normalizing flows — INN

- phase space density estimation
- trained on event samples
- Gaussian latent space
- bijective mapping
- known Jacobian
- log-likelihood loss

→ Better for physics than VAEs and GANs



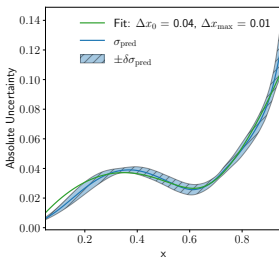
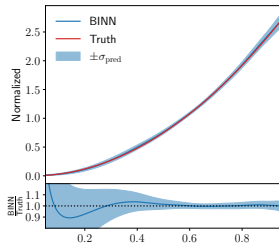
Modern generative networks

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Bayesian networks with uncertainties

- network weight distributions [Gal (2016)]
 - sample for output [efficient ensembling]
 - working for regression, classification
 - events with error bars [density & uncertainty maps]
 - 2D: wedge ramp, kicker ramp,...
- Bayesian INNs just fits with error bars



Modern generative networks

Normalizing flows — INN

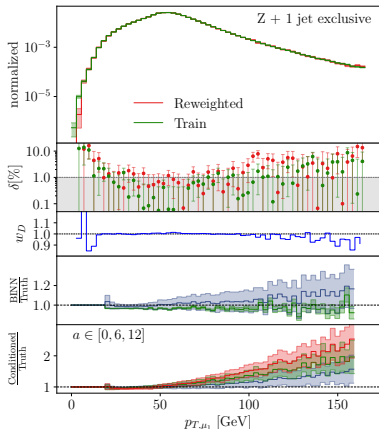
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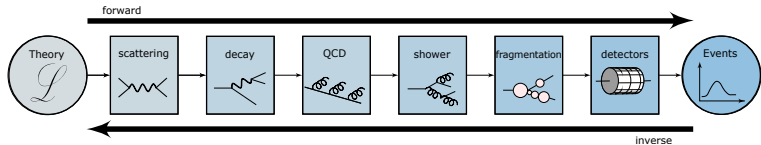
→ Bayesian INNs just fits with error bars



Inverse simulation

Invertible ML-simulation

- forward: $r \rightarrow$ events trained on model
- inverse: $r \rightarrow$ anything trained on model, conditioned on event



Inverse simulation

Invertible ML-simulation

- forward: $r \rightarrow$ events trained on model
- inverse: $r \rightarrow$ anything trained on model, conditioned on event
- individual steps known problems

detector unfolding

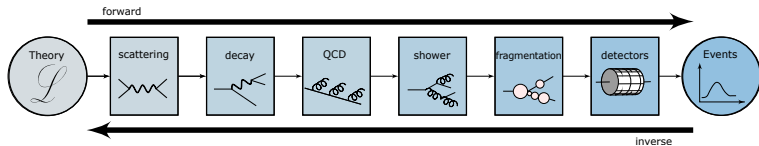
unfolding to QCD parton means jet algorithm

unfolding jet radiation known combinatorics problem

unfolding to hard process standard in top groups [needed for global analyses]

matrix element method an old dream

- improved through coherent ML-method
- **Free choice of data-theory inference point**



Inverting to hard process

Conditional INN

- partonic events from $\{r\}$, given detector event
- loss based on likelihood, Bayes' theorem, Jacobian

$$L = - \langle \log p(\theta | x_p, x_d) \rangle_{x_p, x_d}$$

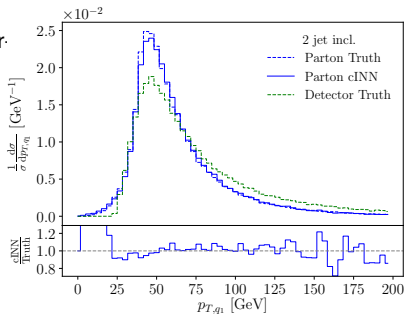
$$= - \left\langle \log p(g(x_p, x_d)) + \log \left| \frac{\partial g(x_p, x_d)}{\partial x_p} \right| \right\rangle_{x_p, x_d} - \log p(\theta) + \text{const.}$$

- eventually to be combined with reweighting

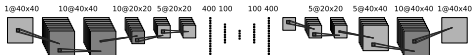
→ Stable and statistically calibrated

Undo QCD jet radiation in $pp \rightarrow ZW$ +jets

- nasty jet combinatorics, missing higher.
 - hard process given and relevant
 - jet radiation universal QCD
 - ME vs PS jets from network
- Report measurement where it matters



Learning background only

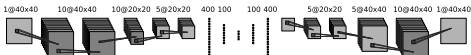


Unsupervised classification

- train on background only
extract unknown signal from reconstruction error
 - reconstruct QCD jets → top jets hard to describe
 - reconstruct top jets → QCD jets just simple top-like jet
- Symmetric performance $S \leftrightarrow B$?



Learning background only

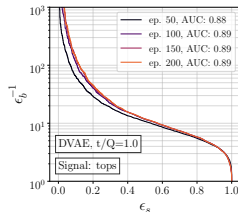
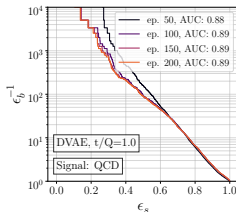
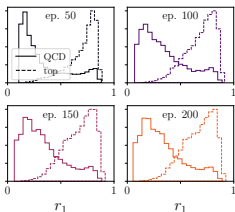


Unsupervised classification

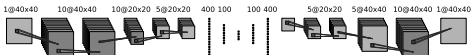
- train on background only
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- \rightarrow Symmetric performance $S \leftrightarrow B?$

Moving to latent space

- anomaly score from latent space?
- VAE \rightarrow does not work
- GMVAE \rightarrow does not work
- Dirichlet VAE \rightarrow works okay
- density estimation \rightarrow does not work



Learning background only



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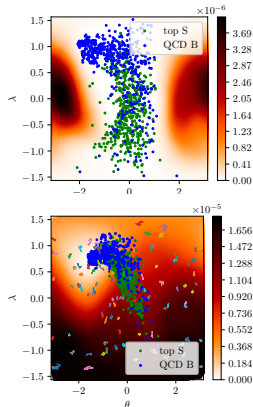
Normalized autoencoder [penalize missing features]

- normalized probability loss
- Boltzmann mapping [$E_\theta = \text{MSE}$]

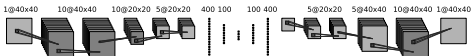
$$p_\theta(x) = \frac{e^{-E_\theta(x)}}{Z_\theta}$$

$$L = -\langle \log p_\theta(x) \rangle = \langle E_\theta(x) + \log Z_\theta \rangle$$

- inducing background metric
 - small MSE for data, large MSE for model
 - Z_θ from (Langevin) Markov Chain
- Symmetric autoencoder, at last



Learning background only



Unsupervised classification

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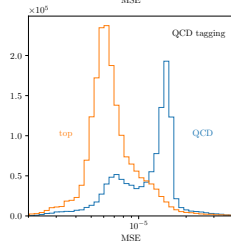
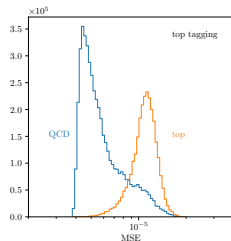
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Optimal observables

Measure model parameter θ optimally

- single-event likelihood

$$p(x|\theta) = \frac{1}{\sigma_{\text{tot}}(\theta)} \frac{d^m \sigma(x|\theta)}{dx^m}$$

- expanded in θ around θ_0 , define score

$$\log \frac{p(x|\theta)}{p(x|\theta_0)} \approx (\theta - \theta_0) \left. \nabla_{\theta} \log p(x|\theta) \right|_{\theta_0} \equiv (\theta - \theta_0) t(x|\theta_0) \equiv (\theta - \theta_0) \mathcal{O}^{\text{opt}}(x)$$

- leading order parton level

$$p(x|\theta) \approx |\mathcal{M}|_0^2 + \theta |\mathcal{M}|_{\text{int}}^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad t(x|\theta_0) \sim \frac{|\mathcal{M}|_{\text{int}}^2}{|\mathcal{M}|_0^2}$$



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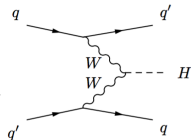
CP-violating Higgs production

- unique CP-observable

$$t \propto \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} k_1^\mu k_2^\nu q_1^\rho q_2^\sigma \text{sign} [(k_1 - k_2) \cdot (q_1 - q_2)] \xrightarrow{\text{lab frame}} \sin \Delta\phi_{jj}$$

- CP-effect in $\Delta\phi_{jj}$
D6-effect in $p_{T,j}$

⇒ **Key LHC observable**



PySR

Analytic formula for score

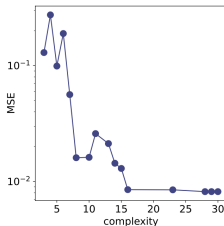
- function to approximate $t(x|\theta)$
- phase space parameters $x_p = p_T/m_H, \Delta\eta, \Delta\phi$ [node]
- operators $\sin x, x^2, x^3, x + y, x - y, x * y, x/y$ [node]
- represent formula as tree [complexity = number of nodes]

⇒ Figures of merit

$$\text{MSE} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [g_i(x) - t(x, z|\theta)]^2 \rightarrow \text{MSE} + \text{parsimony} \cdot \text{complexity}$$

Score around Standard Model

compl	dof	function	MSE
3	1	$a \Delta\phi$	$1.30 \cdot 10^{-1}$
4	1	$\sin(a\Delta\phi)$	$2.75 \cdot 10^{-1}$
5	1	$a\Delta\phi x_{p,1}$	$9.93 \cdot 10^{-2}$
6	1	$-x_{p,1} \sin(\Delta\phi + a)$	$1.90 \cdot 10^{-1}$
7	1	$(-x_{p,1} - a) \sin(\sin(\Delta\phi))$	$5.63 \cdot 10^{-2}$
8	1	$(a - x_{p,1}) x_{p,2} \sin(\Delta\phi)$	$1.61 \cdot 10^{-2}$
14	2	$x_{p,1} (a\Delta\phi - \sin(\sin(\Delta\phi))) (x_{p,2} + b)$	$1.44 \cdot 10^{-2}$
15	3	$-(x_{p,2} (a\Delta\eta^2 + x_{p,1}) + b) \sin(\Delta\phi + c)$	$1.30 \cdot 10^{-2}$
16	4	$-x_{p,1} (a - b\Delta\eta) (x_{p,2} + c) \sin(\Delta\phi + d)$	$8.50 \cdot 10^{-3}$
28	7	$(x_{p,2} + a) (bx_{p,1} (c - \Delta\phi) - x_{p,1} (d\Delta\eta + ex_{p,2} + f) \sin(\Delta\phi + g))$	$8.18 \cdot 10^{-3}$



PySR

Analytic formula for score

- function to approximate $t(x|\theta)$
- phase space parameters $x_p = p_T/m_H, \Delta\eta, \Delta\phi$ [node]
- operators $\sin x, x^2, x^3, x + y, x - y, x * y, x/y$ [node]
- represent formula as tree [complexity = number of nodes]

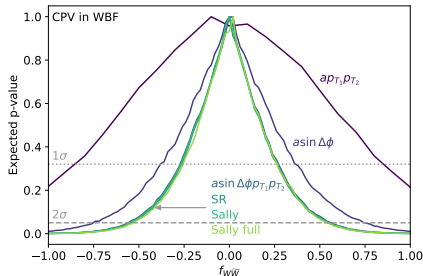
⇒ **Figures of merit**

$$\text{MSE} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [g_i(x) - t(x, z|\theta)]^2 \rightarrow \text{MSE} + \text{parsimony} \cdot \text{complexity}$$

Score around Standard Model

- expected limits:
very wrong formula
wrong formula
right formula
MadMiner
- same within statistical limitation

⇒ **New optimal observables next**



ML for LHC Theory

ML-applications in LHC physics

- just another numerical tool for a numerical field
 - driven by money from data science, medical research
 - goals are...
 - ...improve established tasks
 - ...develop new tools for established tasks
 - ...transform through new ideas
 - [link](#) to growing Heidelberg lecture notes
- [Turn HL-LHC into fun!](#)

Machine Learning and LHC Event Generation

Anja Butter^{1,2}, Tilman Plehn¹, Steffen Schumann³ (Editors),
 Simon Badger⁴, Sascha Caron⁵, Kyle Cranmer^{7,8}, Francesco Armando Di Bello⁹,
 Etienne Dreyer¹⁰, Stefano Forte¹¹, Sanmay Ganguly¹², Dorival Gonçalves¹³, Eilam Grosz¹⁶,
 Theo Heindel¹, Gudrun Heinrich¹⁴, Lukas Heinrich¹⁵, Alexander Held¹⁶, Stefan Høche¹⁷,
 Jessica N. Howard¹⁸, Philip Ilten¹⁹, Joshua Isaacson¹⁷, Timo Janßen², Stephen Jones²⁰,
 Marumi Kado^{21,22}, Michael Kagan²³, Gregor Kasieczka²³, Felix Kling²⁴, Sabine Kraml²⁵,
 Claudius Krause²⁶, Frank Krauss²⁷, Kevin Kröninger²⁷, Rahul Kumar Barmann¹³,
 Michel Luchmann¹, Vitaly Magerya¹⁴, Daniel Maître²⁸, Bogdan Malaescu²,
 Fabio Maltoni^{28,29}, Till Martin³⁰, Olivier Mattelaer²⁸, Benjamin Nachman^{31,32},
 Sebastian Pitz¹, Juan Rojo^{33,34}, Matthew Schwartz³⁵, David Shih¹⁶, Frank Siegert³⁶,
 Roy Stegeman¹¹, Bob Stienen⁵, Jesse Thaler³⁷, Rob Verheyen³⁸, Daniel Whiteson¹⁸,
 Ramon Winterhalder³⁸, and Jure Zupan¹⁹

Abstract

First-principle simulations are at the heart of the high-energy physics research program. They link the vast data output of multi-purpose detectors with fundamental theory predictions and interpretation. This review illustrates a wide range of applications of modern machine learning to event generation and simulation-based inference, including conceptual developments driven by the specific requirements of particle physics. New ideas and tools developed at the interface of particle physics and machine learning will improve the speed and precision of forward simulations, handle the complexity of collision data, and enhance inference as an inverse simulation problem.

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