

# Advanced DL in Science

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# Setting the stage

Personal view

Selection of what I consider interesting & promising

Lots of open-ended questions – like in real research!

At times speculative, provocative, exploratory,...

Let's make it interactive! [I added some questions for you]

Trying to tell you a story of **AI for Science**

...and teach you a bit of ML on the side



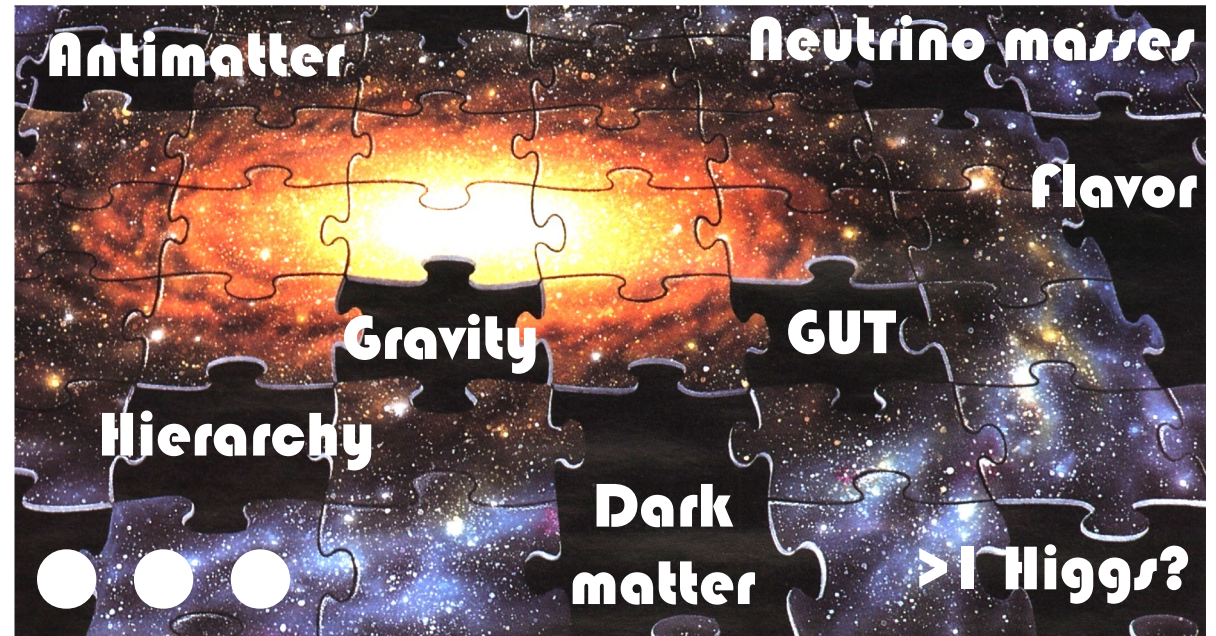
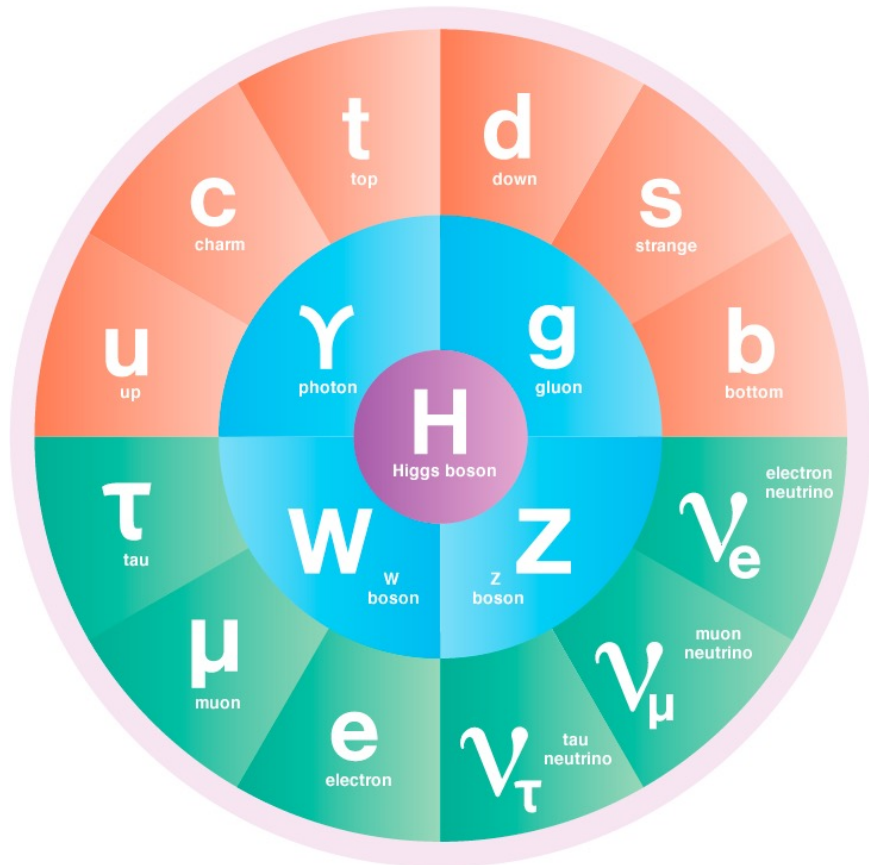
# THE HEP BACKSTORY



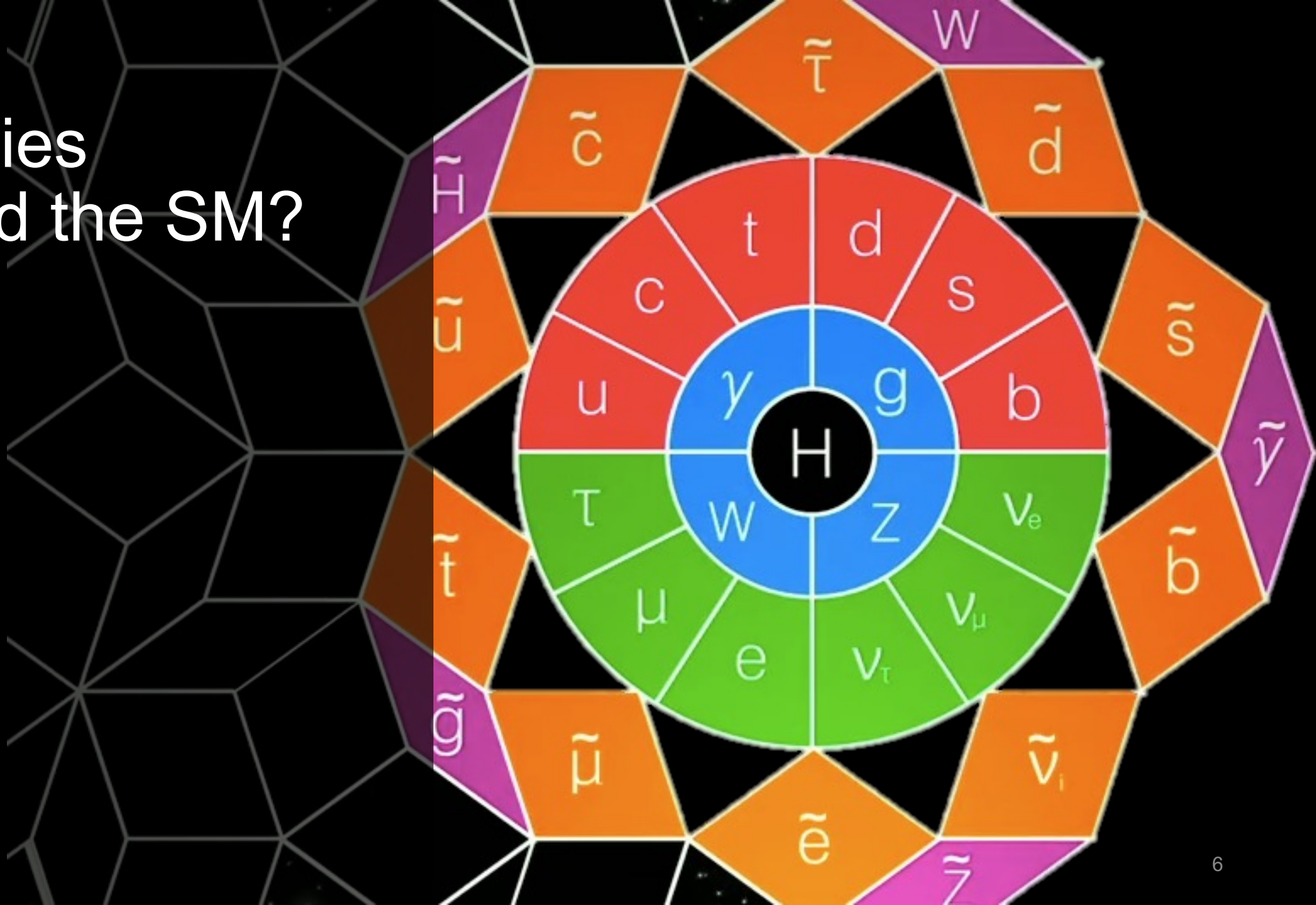
# The SM: blessing & curse...

Confirmed by **every** PP  
experiment **ever** conducted !

Yet, open mysteries remain:



What lies  
beyond the SM?



# LHC interim evaluation

No sign of physics beyond the SM (BSM)

## ATLAS Exotics Searches\* - 95% CL Upper Exclusion Limits

Status: July 2018

ATLAS Preliminary

$$\int \mathcal{L} dt = (3.2 - 79.8) \text{ fb}^{-1}$$

$$\sqrt{s} = 8, 13 \text{ TeV}$$

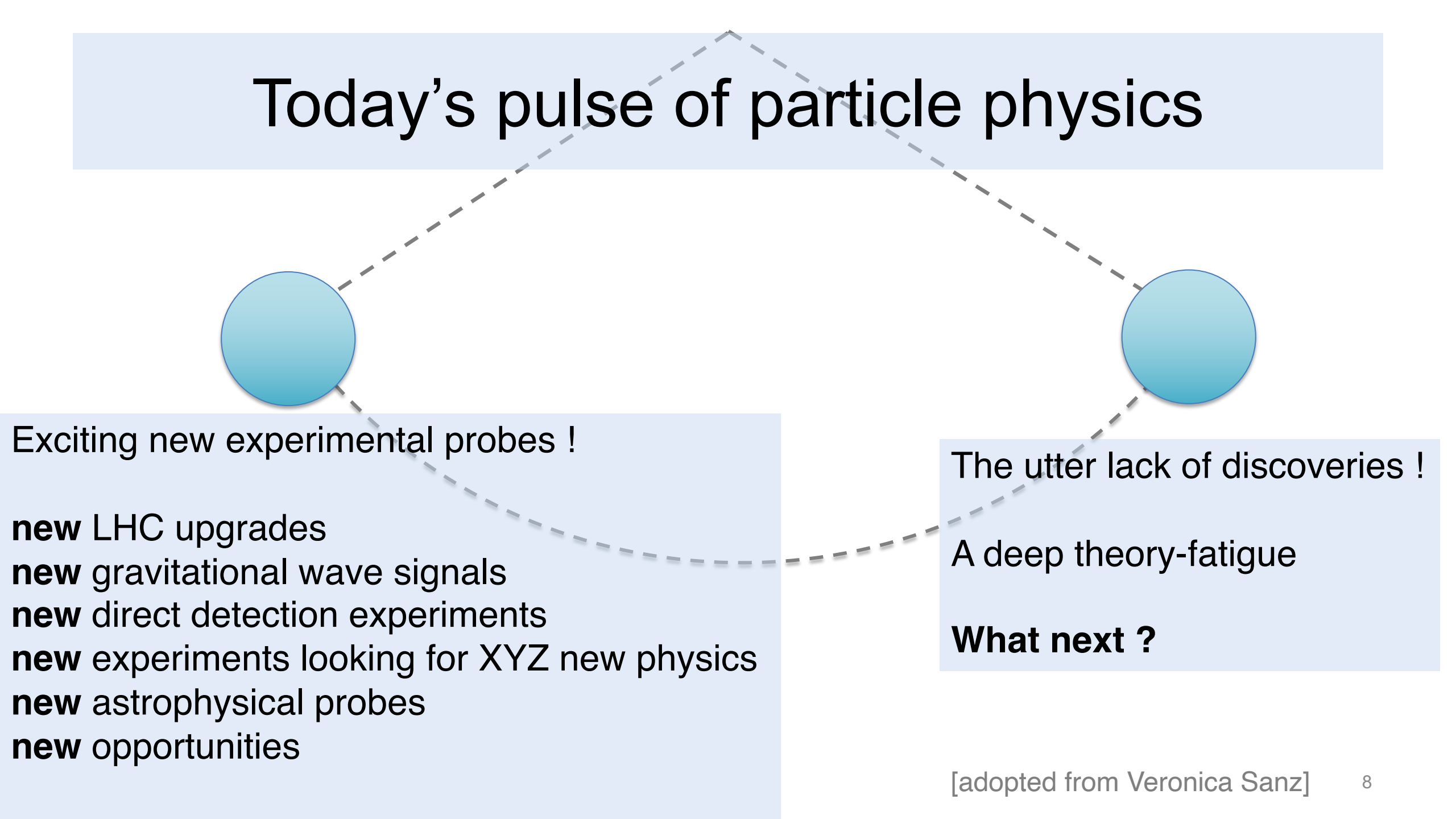
Model	$\ell, \gamma$	Jets <sup>†</sup>	$E_T^{\text{miss}}$	$\int \mathcal{L} dt [\text{fb}^{-1}]$	Limit	Reference	
Extra dimensions	ADD $G_{KK} + g/q$	0 $e, \mu$	1-4 j	Yes	36.1	$M_D$ 7.7 TeV	$n = 2$
	ADD non-resonant $\gamma\gamma$	2 $\gamma$	-	-	36.7	$M_S$ 8.6 TeV	$n = 3$ HLZ NLO
	ADD QBH	-	2 j	-	37.0	$M_{\text{th}}$ 8.9 TeV	$n = 6$
	ADD BH high $\Sigma p_T$	$\geq 1 e, \mu$	$\geq 2 j$	-	3.2	$M_{\text{th}}$ 8.2 TeV	$n = 6, M_D = 3 \text{ TeV, rot BH}$
	ADD BH multijet	-	$\geq 3 j$	-	3.6	$M_{\text{th}}$ 9.55 TeV	$n = 6, M_D = 3 \text{ TeV, rot BH}$
	RS1 $G_{KK} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	2 $\gamma$	-	-	36.7	$G_{KK}$ mass 4.1 TeV	$k/M_{\text{pl}} = 0.1$
	Bulk RS $G_{KK} \rightarrow WW/ZZ$	multi-channel	-	-	36.1	$G_{KK}$ mass 2.3 TeV	$k/M_{\text{pl}} = 1.0$
	Bulk RS $G_{KK} \rightarrow tt$	1 $e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 J/2j$	Yes	36.1	$G_{KK}$ mass 3.8 TeV	$\Gamma/m = 15\%$
	2UED / RPP	1 $e, \mu$	$\geq 2 b, \geq 3 j$	Yes	36.1	$KK$ mass 1.8 TeV	Tier (1,1), $\mathcal{B}(A^{(1,1)} \rightarrow tt) = 1$
	Gauge bosons	SSM $Z' \rightarrow \ell\ell$	2 $e, \mu$	-	-	36.1	$Z'$ mass 4.5 TeV
SSM $Z' \rightarrow \tau\tau$		2 $\tau$	-	-	36.1	$Z'$ mass 2.42 TeV	
Leptophobic $Z' \rightarrow bb$		-	2 b	-	36.1	$Z'$ mass 2.1 TeV	
Leptophobic $Z' \rightarrow tt$		1 $e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 J/2j$	Yes	36.1	$Z'$ mass 3.0 TeV	$\Gamma/m = 1\%$
SSM $W' \rightarrow \ell\nu$		1 $e, \mu$	-	Yes	79.8	$W'$ mass 5.6 TeV	
SSM $W' \rightarrow \nu\nu$		1 $\tau$	-	Yes	36.1	$W'$ mass 3.7 TeV	
HVT $V' \rightarrow WV \rightarrow qq\bar{q}q$ model B		0 $e, \mu$	2 J	-	79.8	$V'$ mass 4.15 TeV	$g_V = 3$
HVT $V' \rightarrow WH/ZH$ model B		multi-channel	-	-	36.1	$V'$ mass 2.93 TeV	$g_V = 3$
LRSM $W'_\mu \rightarrow tb$		multi-channel	-	-	36.1	$W'$ mass 3.25 TeV	
CI		CI $qq\bar{q}q$	-	2 j	-	37.0	$\Lambda$ 21.8 TeV
	CI $\ell\ell q\bar{q}$	2 $e, \mu$	-	-	36.1	$\Lambda$ 40.0 TeV	$\eta_{LL}^{\text{CI}}$
	CI $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$	$\geq 1 e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 j$	Yes	36.1	$\Lambda$ 2.57 TeV	$ C_{4j}  = 4\pi$
DM	Axial-vector mediator (Dirac DM)	0 $e, \mu$	1-4 j	Yes	36.1	$m_{\text{med}}$ 1.55 TeV	$g_a = 0.25, g_s = 1.0, m(\chi) = 1 \text{ GeV}$
	Colored scalar mediator (Dirac DM)	0 $e, \mu$	1-4 j	Yes	36.1	$m_{\text{med}}$ 1.67 TeV	$g = 1.0, m(\chi) = 1 \text{ GeV}$
	$VV\chi\chi$ EFT (Dirac DM)	0 $e, \mu$	1 J, $\leq 1 j$	Yes	3.2	$M_*$ 700 GeV	$m(\chi) < 150 \text{ GeV}$
LQ	Scalar LQ 1 <sup>st</sup> gen	2 $e$	$\geq 2 j$	-	3.2	LQ mass 1.1 TeV	$\beta = 1$
	Scalar LQ 2 <sup>nd</sup> gen	2 $\mu$	$\geq 2 j$	-	3.2	LQ mass 1.05 TeV	$\beta = 1$
	Scalar LQ 3 <sup>rd</sup> gen	1 $e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 3 j$	Yes	20.3	LQ mass 640 GeV	$\beta = 0$
Heavy quarks	VLQ $TT \rightarrow Ht/Zt/Wb + X$	multi-channel	-	-	36.1	T mass 1.37 TeV	SU(2) doublet
	VLQ $BB \rightarrow Wt/Zb + X$	multi-channel	-	-	36.1	B mass 1.34 TeV	ATLAS-CNF-2018-XXX
	VLQ $T_{5/3} T_{5/3} / T_{5/3} \rightarrow Wt + X$	$2(SS) \geq 3 e, \mu \geq 1 b, \geq 1 j$	Yes	36.1	$T_{5/3}$ mass 1.64 TeV	$\mathcal{B}(T_{5/3} \rightarrow Wt) = 1, c(T_{5/3} Wt) = 1$	
	VLQ $Y \rightarrow Wb + X$	1 $e, \mu$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 j$	Yes	3.2	Y mass 1.44 TeV	$\mathcal{B}(Y \rightarrow Wb) = 1, c(YWb) = 1/\sqrt{2}$
	VLQ $B \rightarrow Hb + X$	0 $e, \mu, 2 \gamma$	$\geq 1 b, \geq 1 j$	Yes	79.8	B mass 1.21 TeV	$\kappa_B = 0.5$
Excited fermions	Excited quark $q^* \rightarrow qg$	-	2 j	-	37.0	$q^*$ mass 6.0 TeV	only $u^*$ and $d^*$ , $\Lambda = m(q^*)$
Excited quark $q^* \rightarrow q\gamma$	1 $\gamma$	1 j	-	36.7	$q^*$ mass 5.3 TeV	only $u^*$ and $d^*$ , $\Lambda = m(q^*)$	
Excited quark $b^* \rightarrow bg$	-	1 b, 1 j	-	36.1	$b^*$ mass 2.6 TeV		
Excited lepton $\ell^*$	3 $e, \mu$	-	-	20.3	$\ell^*$ mass 3.0 TeV	$\Lambda = 3.0 \text{ TeV}$	
Excited lepton $\nu^*$	3 $e, \mu, \tau$	-	-	20.3	$\nu^*$ mass 1.6 TeV	$\Lambda = 1.6 \text{ TeV}$	
Other	Type III Seesaw	1 $e, \mu$	$\geq 2 j$	Yes	79.8	$N^0$ mass 560 GeV	$m(W_{\text{eff}}) = 2.4 \text{ TeV, no mixing}$
	LRSM Majorana $\nu$	2 $e, \mu$	2 j	-	20.3	$N^0$ mass 2.0 TeV	DY production
	Higgs triplet $H^{\pm\pm} \rightarrow \ell\ell$	2,3,4 $e, \mu$ (SS)	-	-	36.1	$H^{\pm\pm}$ mass 870 GeV	$\mathcal{B}(H^{\pm\pm} \rightarrow \ell\tau) = 1$
	Higgs triplet $H^{\pm\pm} \rightarrow \ell\tau$	3 $e, \mu, \tau$	-	-	20.3	$H^{\pm\pm}$ mass 400 GeV	$\mathcal{B}(H^{\pm\pm} \rightarrow \ell\tau) = 1$
	Monotop (non-res prod)	1 $e, \mu$	1 b	Yes	20.3	spin-1 invisible particle mass 657 GeV	$\mathcal{B}_{\text{non-res}} = 0.2$
	Multi-charged particles	-	-	-	20.3	multi-charged particle mass 785 GeV	DY production, $ q  = 5e$
Magnetic monopoles	-	-	-	7.0	monopole mass 1.34 TeV	DY production, $ g  = 1g_D, \text{spin } 1/2$	

\*Only a selection of the available mass limits on new states or phenomena is shown.

†Small-radius (large-radius) jets are denoted by the letter j (J).



# Today's pulse of particle physics



Exciting new experimental probes !

- new** LHC upgrades
- new** gravitational wave signals
- new** direct detection experiments
- new** experiments looking for XYZ new physics
- new** astrophysical probes
- new** opportunities

The utter lack of discoveries !

A deep theory-fatigue

**What next ?**

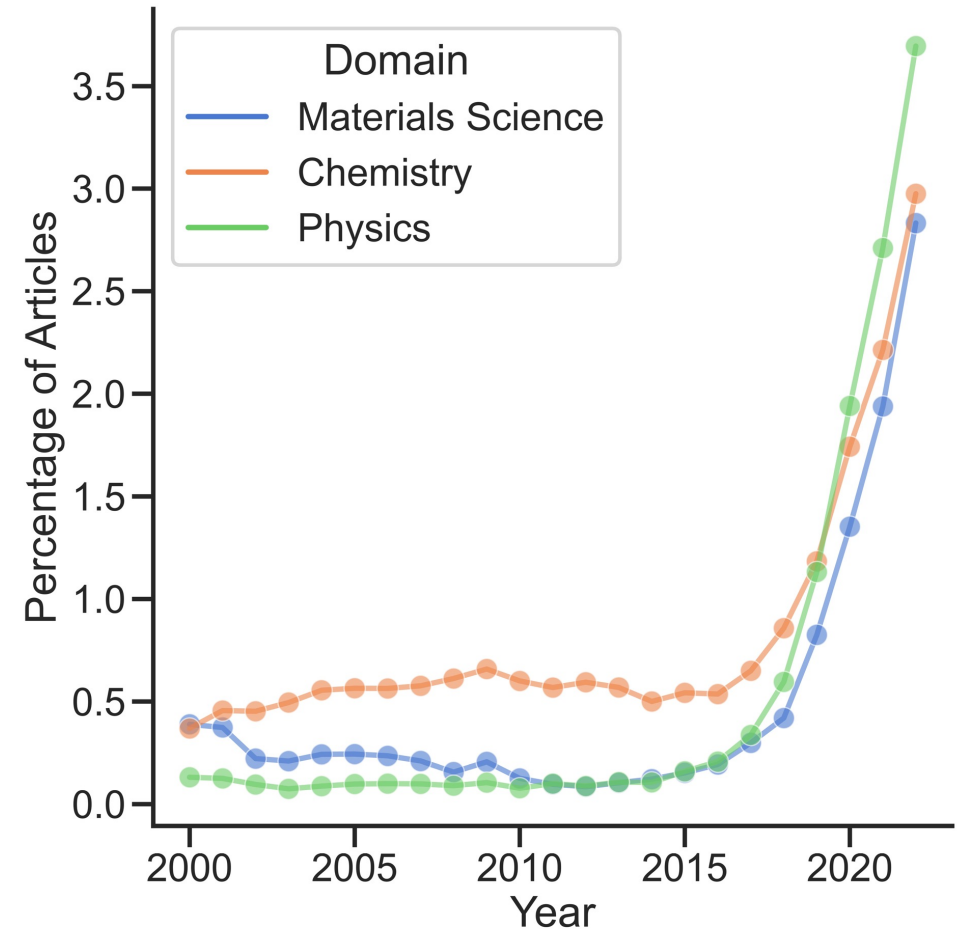
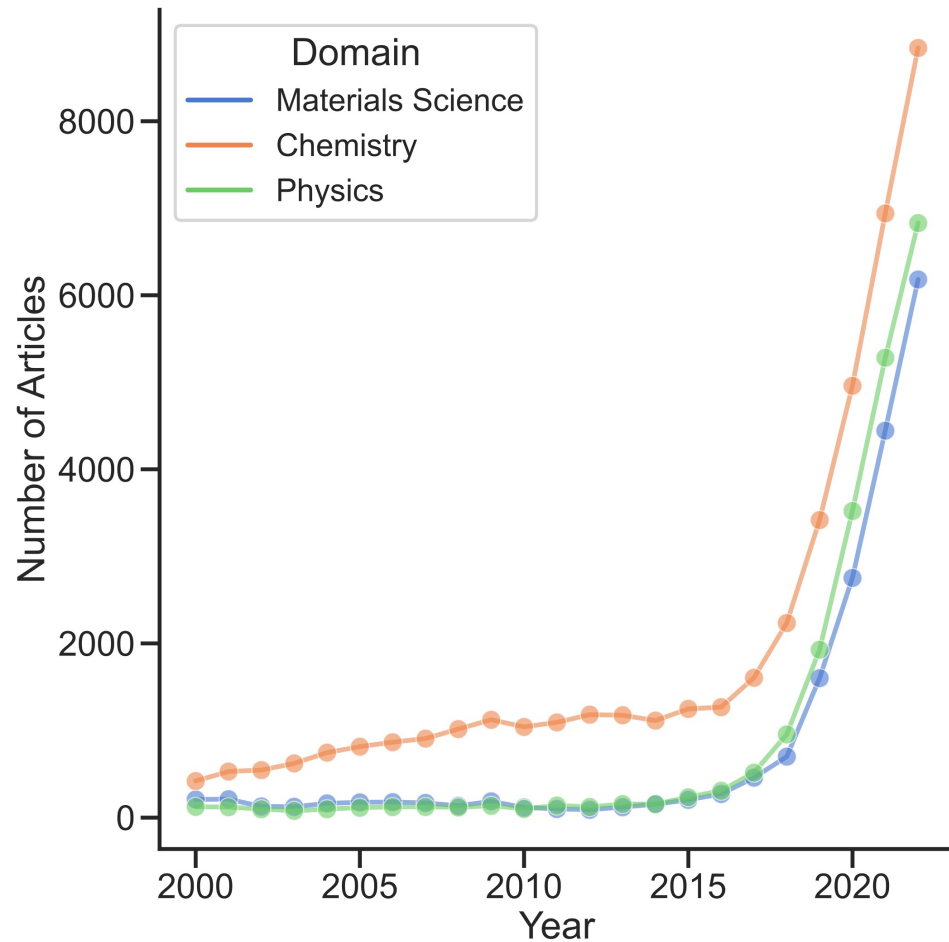


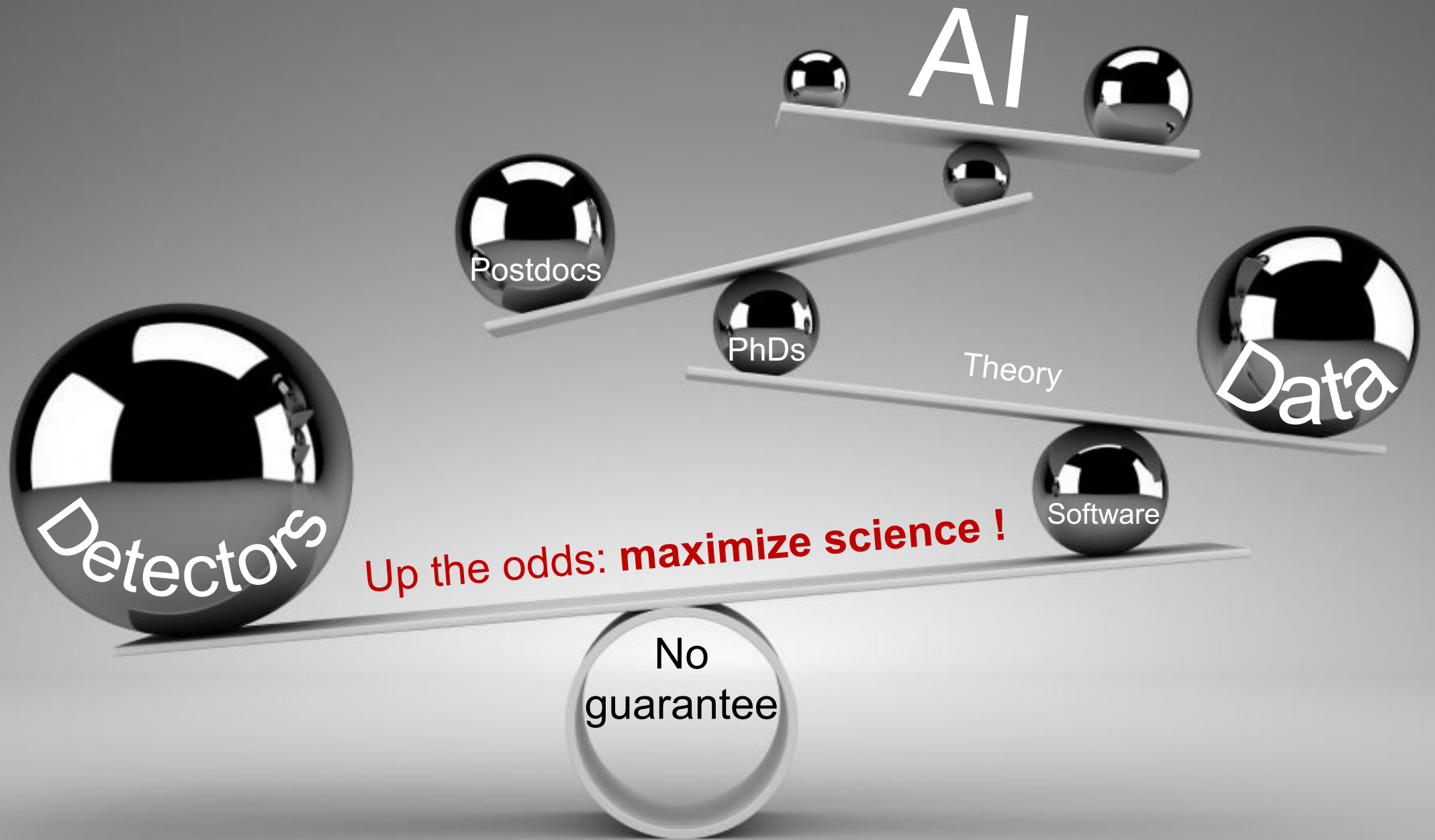
# THE RISE OF AI / ML

# Machine learning

- Statistical algorithms to **model** data & perform **tasks** without explicit instructions
- Thrives on *big data*
- Generalizes to unseen examples

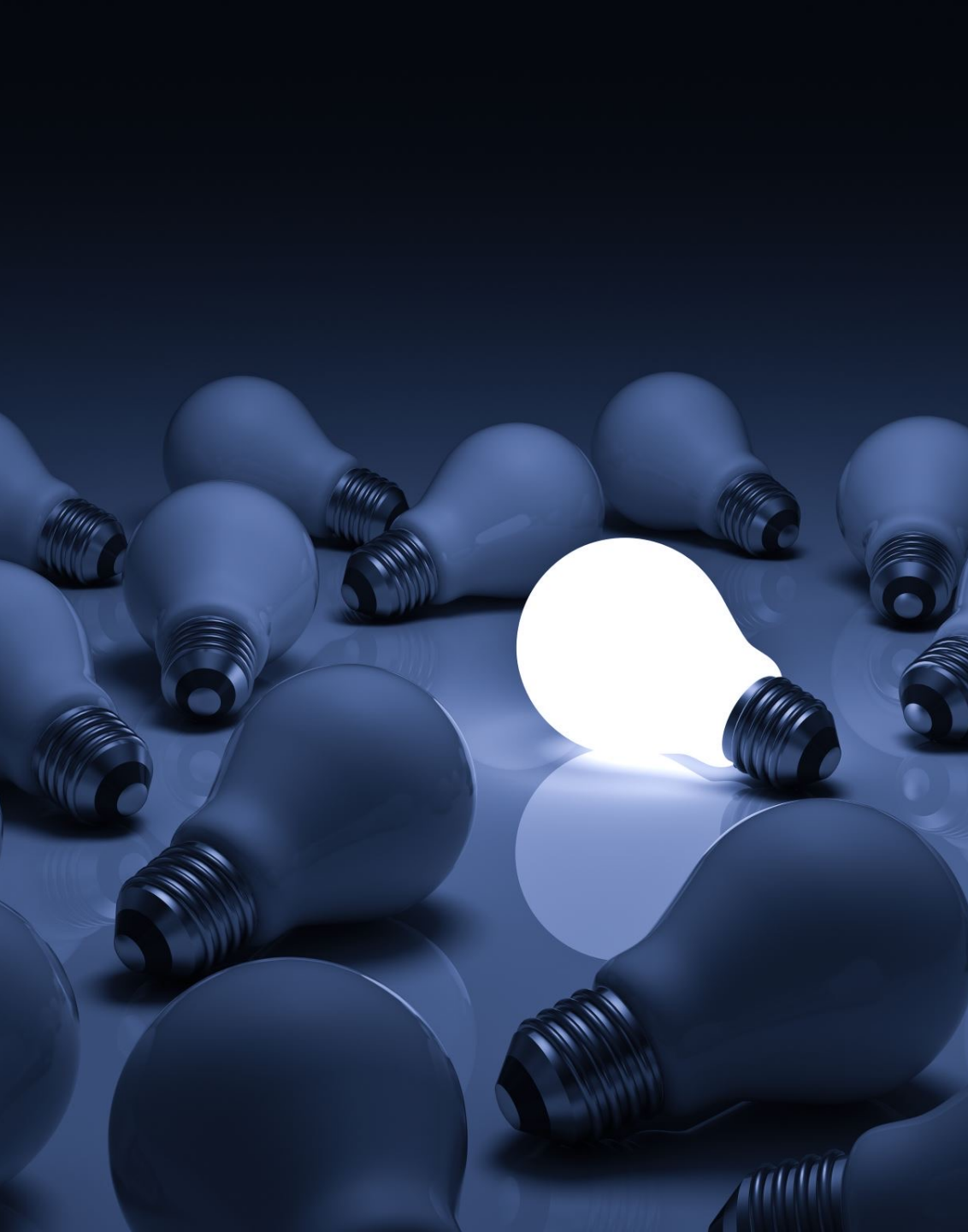
# AI/ML in Science has taken off !





Research is exploration





*With great tools comes  
great responsibility*

AI = opportunity

Think big !

The background features several overlapping grey silhouettes of human heads in profile, facing right. Each head contains a large black question mark. In the center, a lightbulb icon is drawn in a blue line-art style, with short lines radiating from its top half to indicate it is glowing. The text "WHAT DO YOU THINK?" is centered over the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Why are you a scientist?

Join at  
**slido.com**  
**#8223 694**



<https://app.sli.do/event/bg2PknbgUbHxvRJEo34CYE>

How do you choose  
what question to work on?

[don't answer "because my supervisor told me so"]

# Why ML?

[What are your expectations & hopes?]

Someone gives you 100 billion dollars  
**What science** do you invest in?

# Why become a scientist?

- Curiosity – learn about & comprehend nature
- You are good at it
- Solve puzzles
- Design tools [to maximize efficiency of science]
- Publish, teaching, outreach,...



# What makes fundamental research interesting?

- It connects to **nature**
- You **can** make progress on it [knowledge gain gradient]
- It's **la mode** – someone else thinks it's interesting

[Matt Schwartz, EuCAIFCon 2024]

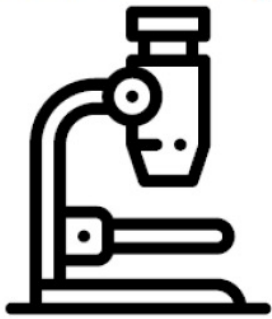
- Research metric?

$$\frac{\textit{knowledge gain}}{\textit{resources used}}$$

# What is scientific understanding?

## Three Dimensions of Computer-Assisted Scientific Understanding

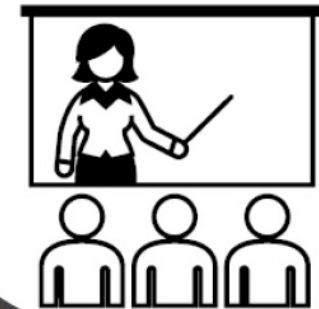
Computational  
Microscope



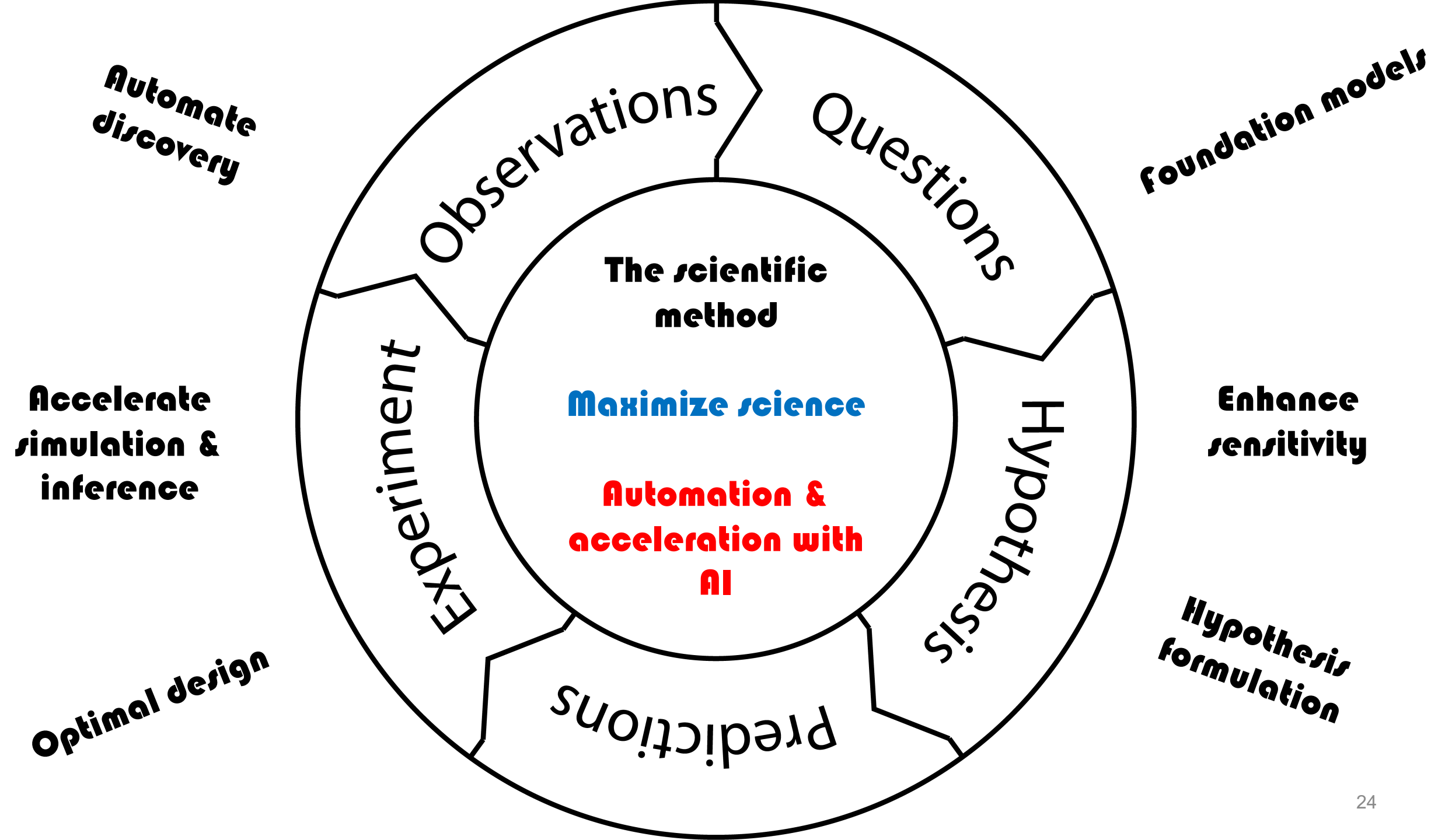
Resource of  
Inspiration



Agent of  
Understanding



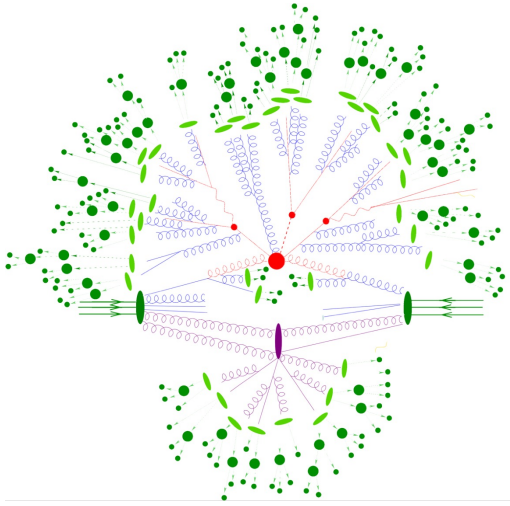
*How to optimize the scientific method?*



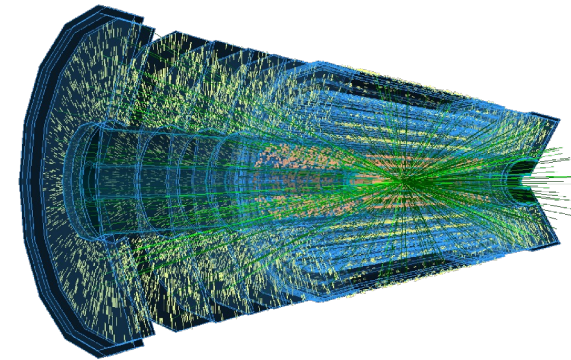
Back to HEP

# WHAT IS HOLDING US BACK?

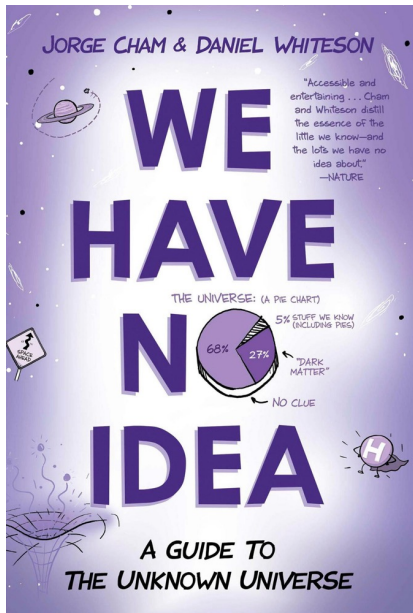
# High energy physics challenges



Complex,  
high-dimensional  
& sparse data



Cannot calculate  $P(\text{data}|\text{theory})$   
Slow simulation / limited accuracy



Search for the unknown

# Hypothesis testing

Example Higgs boson discovery

$H_0$ : no Higgs

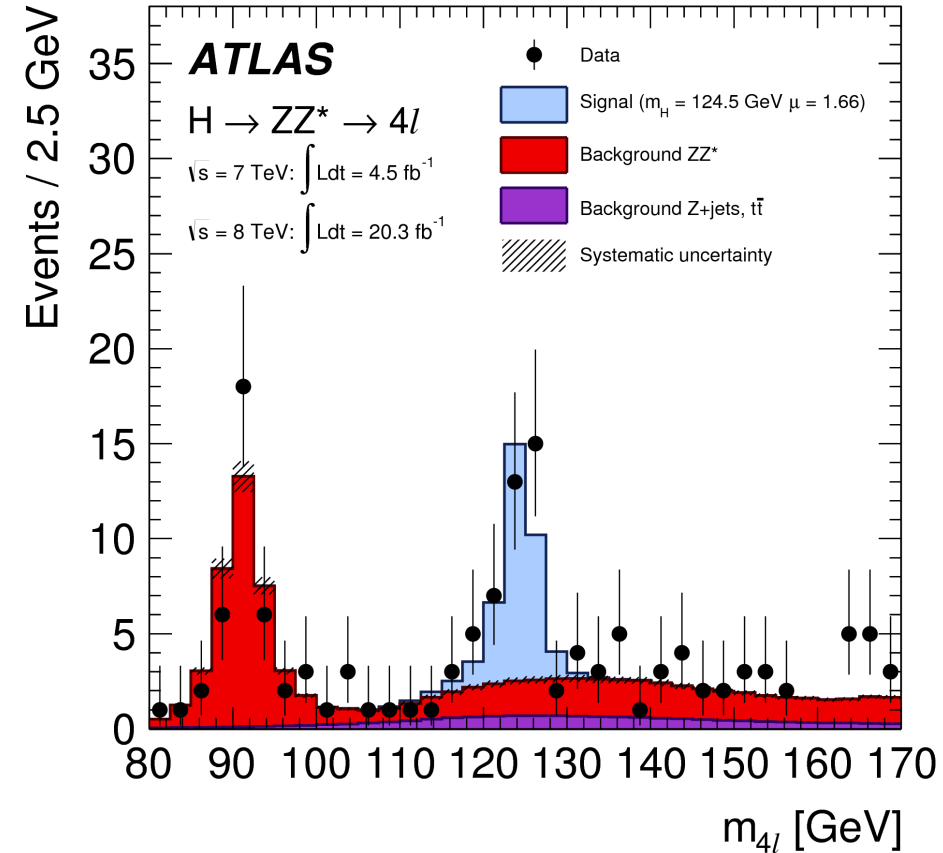
$H_1$ :  $H_0$  + Higgs

Neyman-Pearson lemma:  
best\* statistics is the **likelihood ratio**

$$\frac{P(x|H_1)}{P(x|H_0)} > k_\alpha$$

data

theory

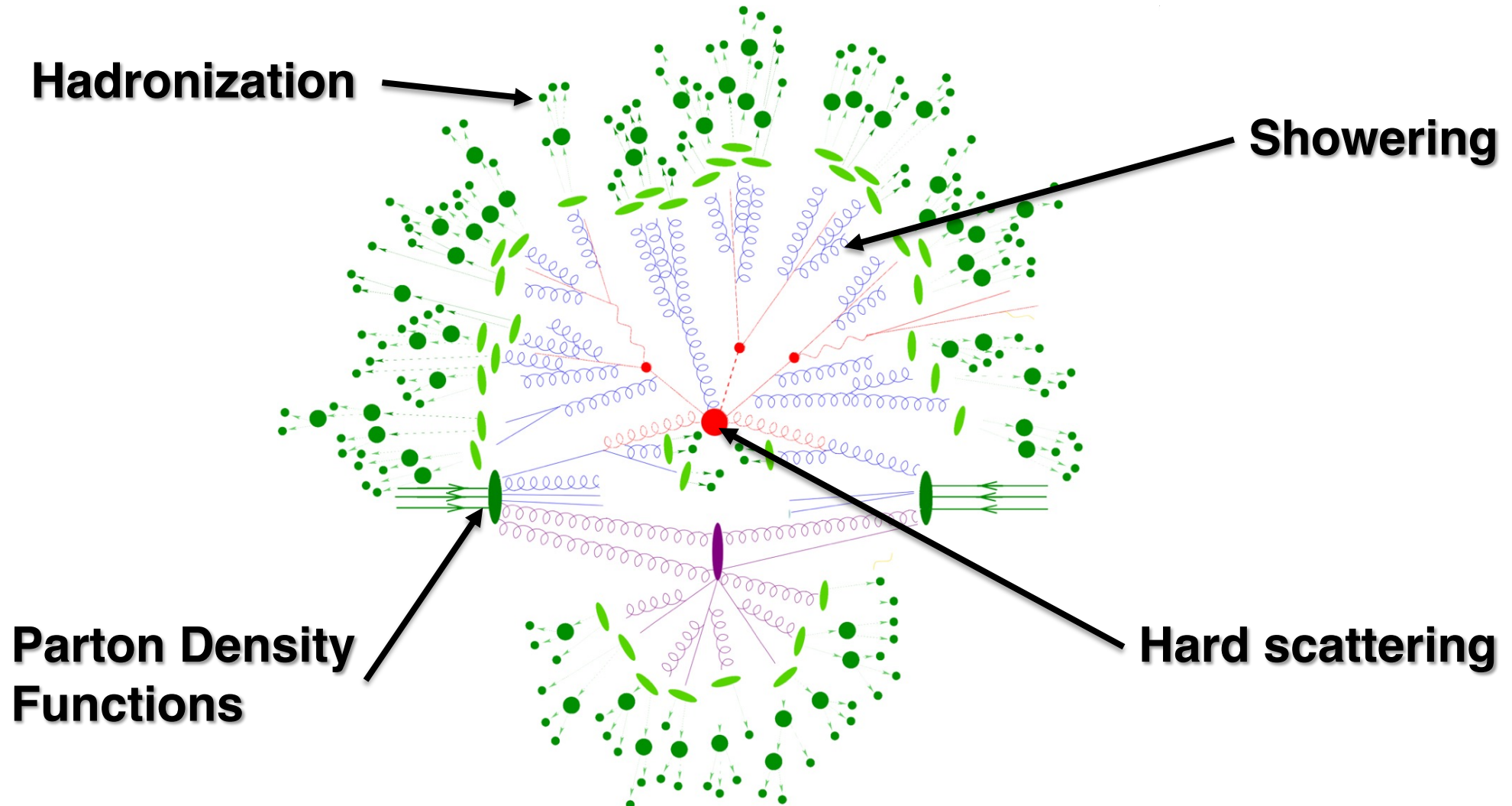


[Phys. Rev. D. 90 (2014) 052004]

\*Gives smallest missed discovery rate for fixed false discovery rate



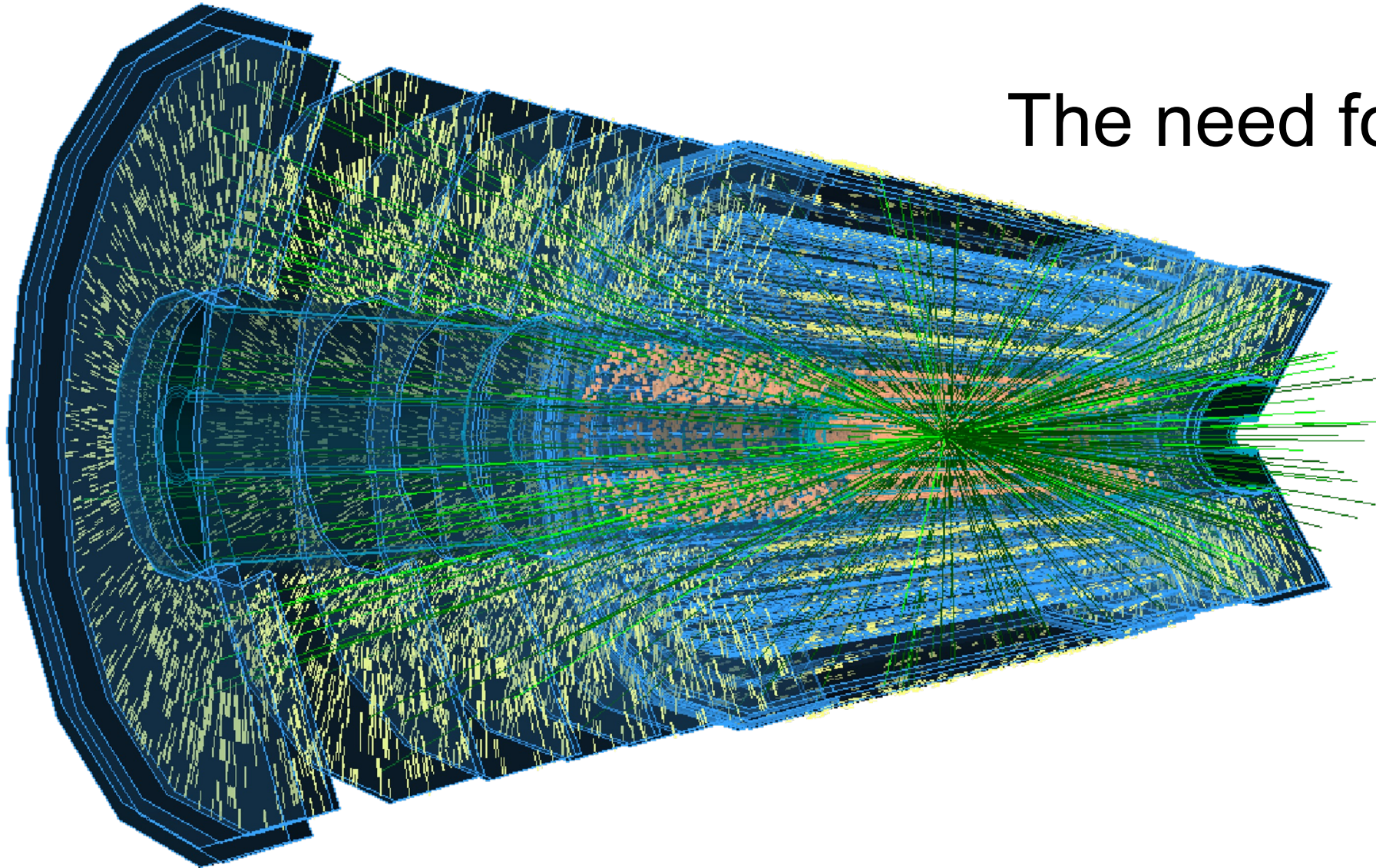
# Cannot calculate $P(\text{data}|\text{theory})$



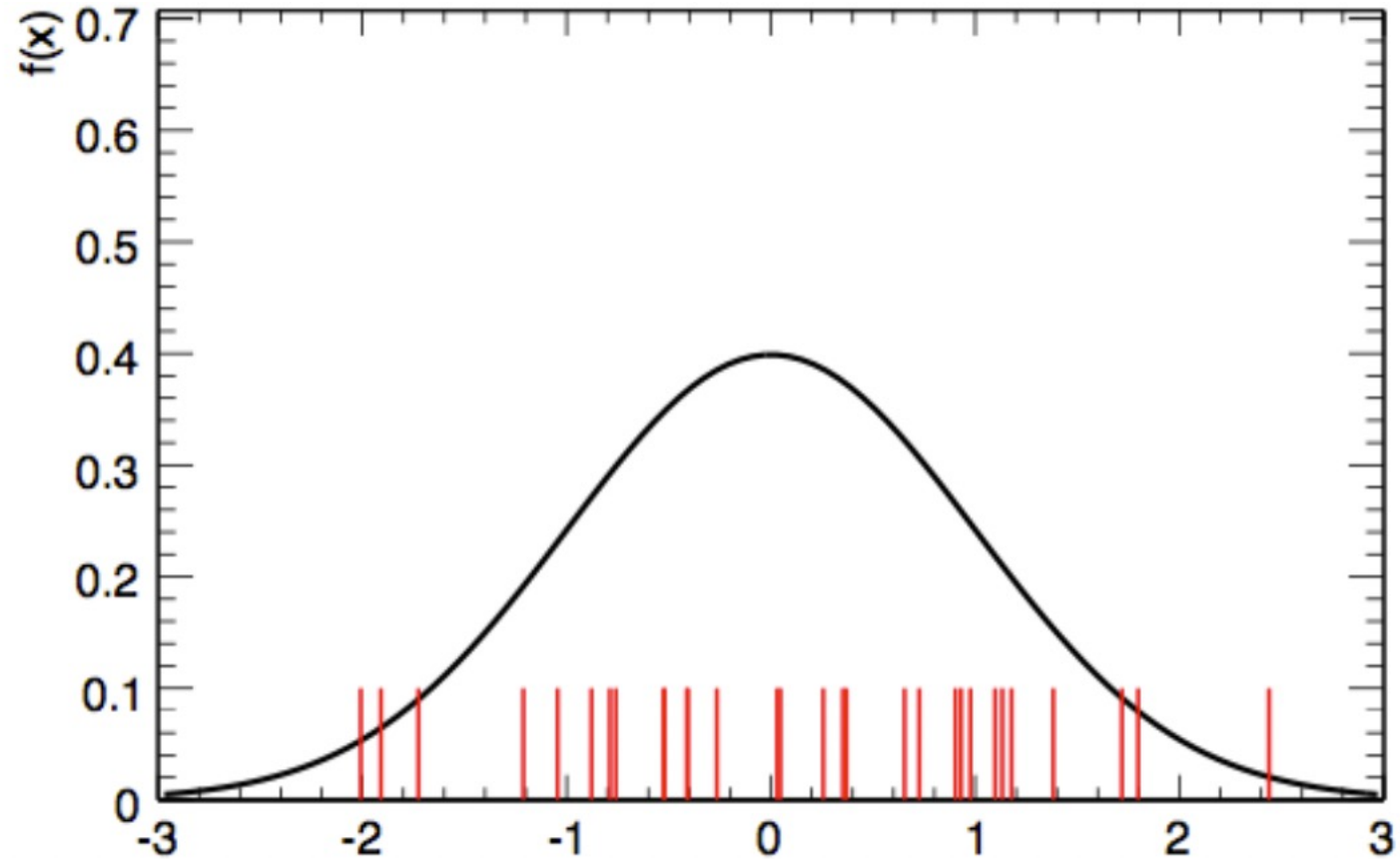


# Can simulate $P(\text{data}|\text{theory})$

The need for synthetic data:  
MC simulation

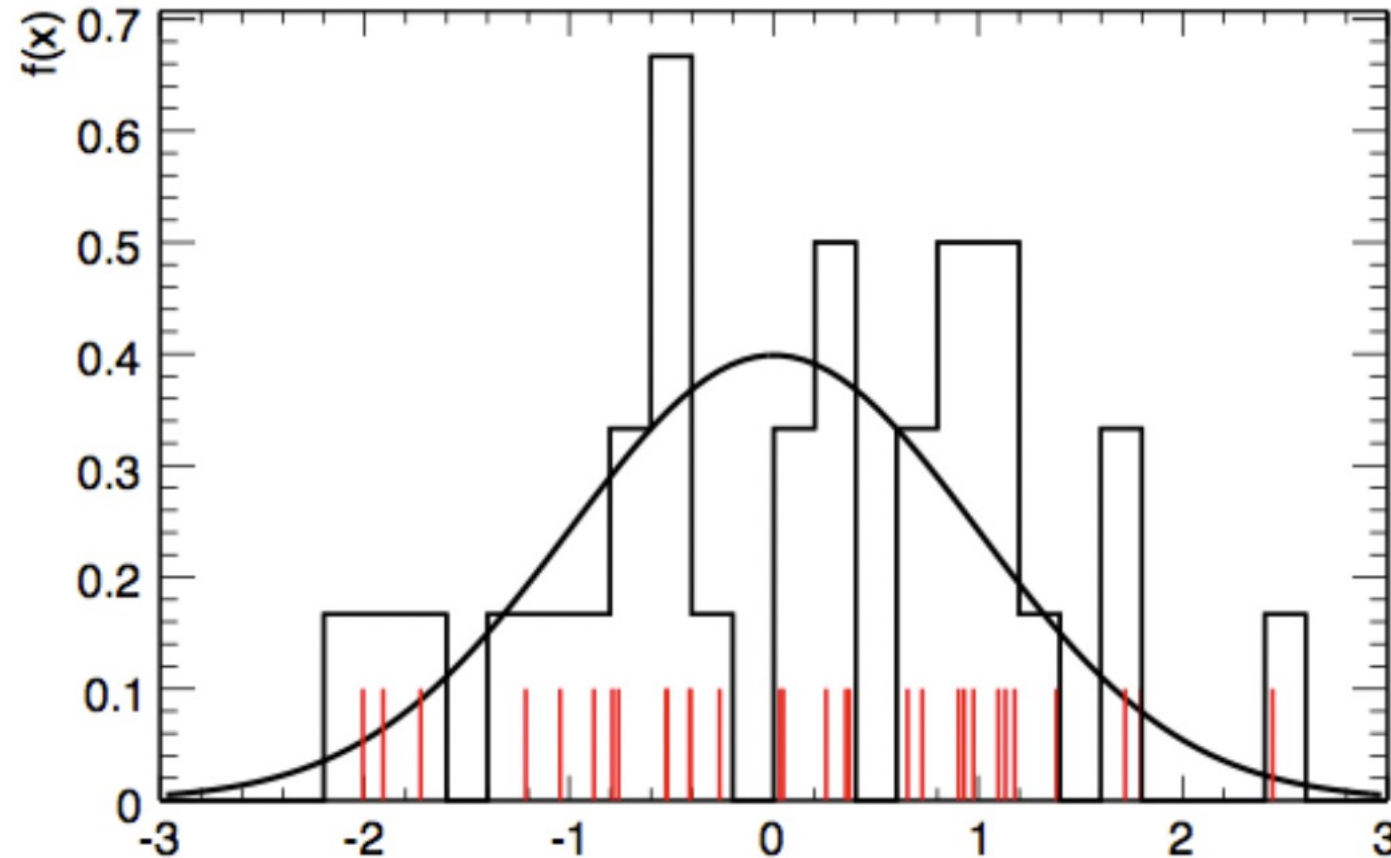


# Tou example: draw events from 1D Gauss



[K. Cranmer]

# Histogram $\sim P(\mathbf{data}|\mathbf{theory})$



[K. Cranmer]

**O(100)** events needed to describe 1D distribution

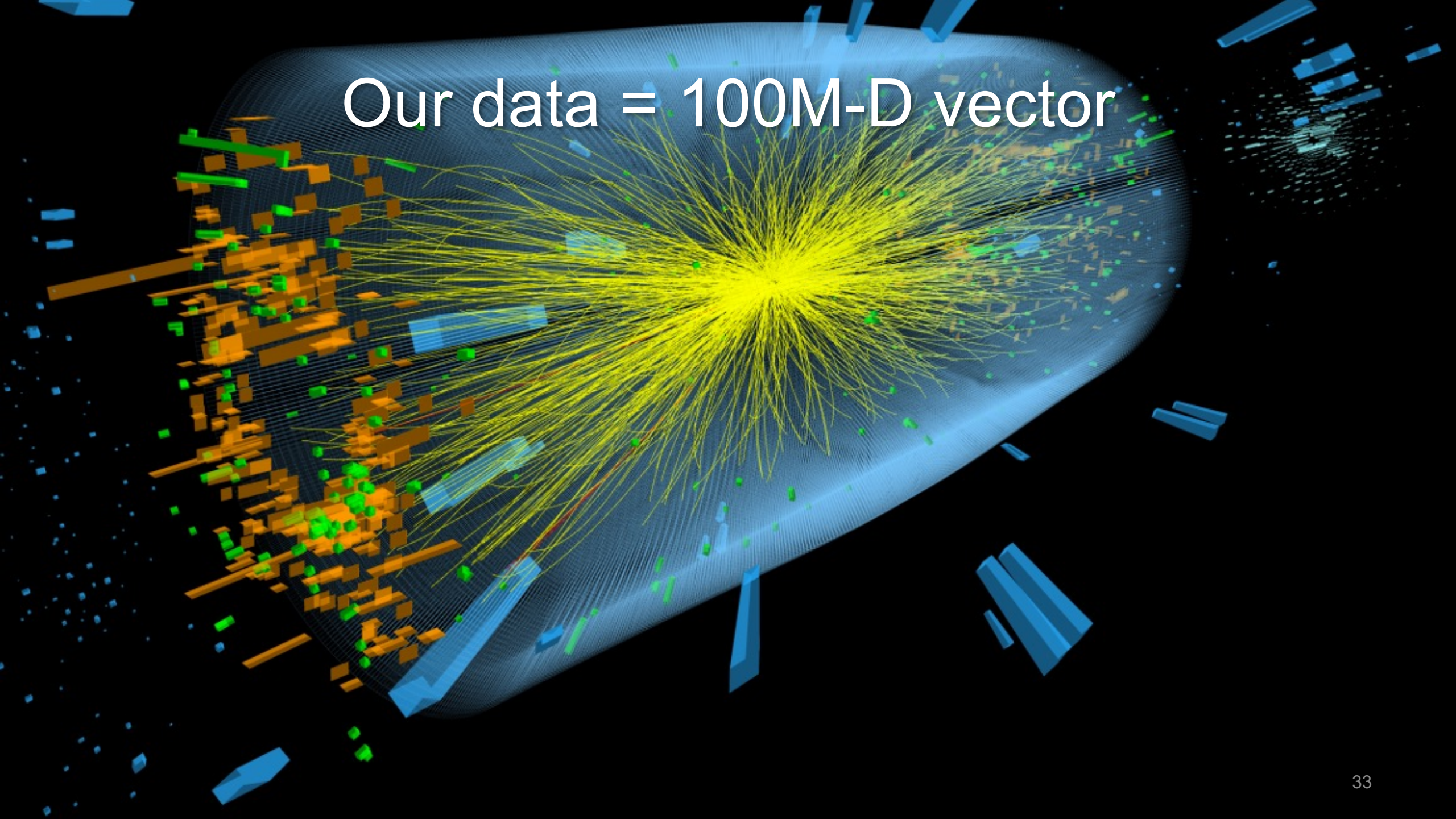
And for an n-D distribution?

$$O(100^n)$$

Curse of dimensionality



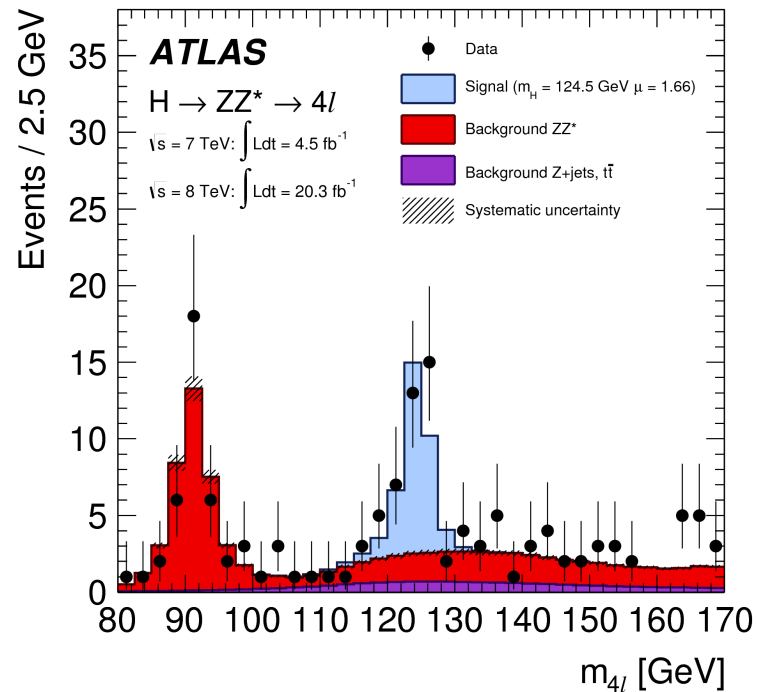
Our data = 100M-D vector



# Sufficient test statistics?

Project to O(1) dimension

*Meaningful representation*



No guarantee of optimality !

$p(x)$

$1D < x < 100M-D$

# Control dimensionality with ML

**ML = learning generic functions**

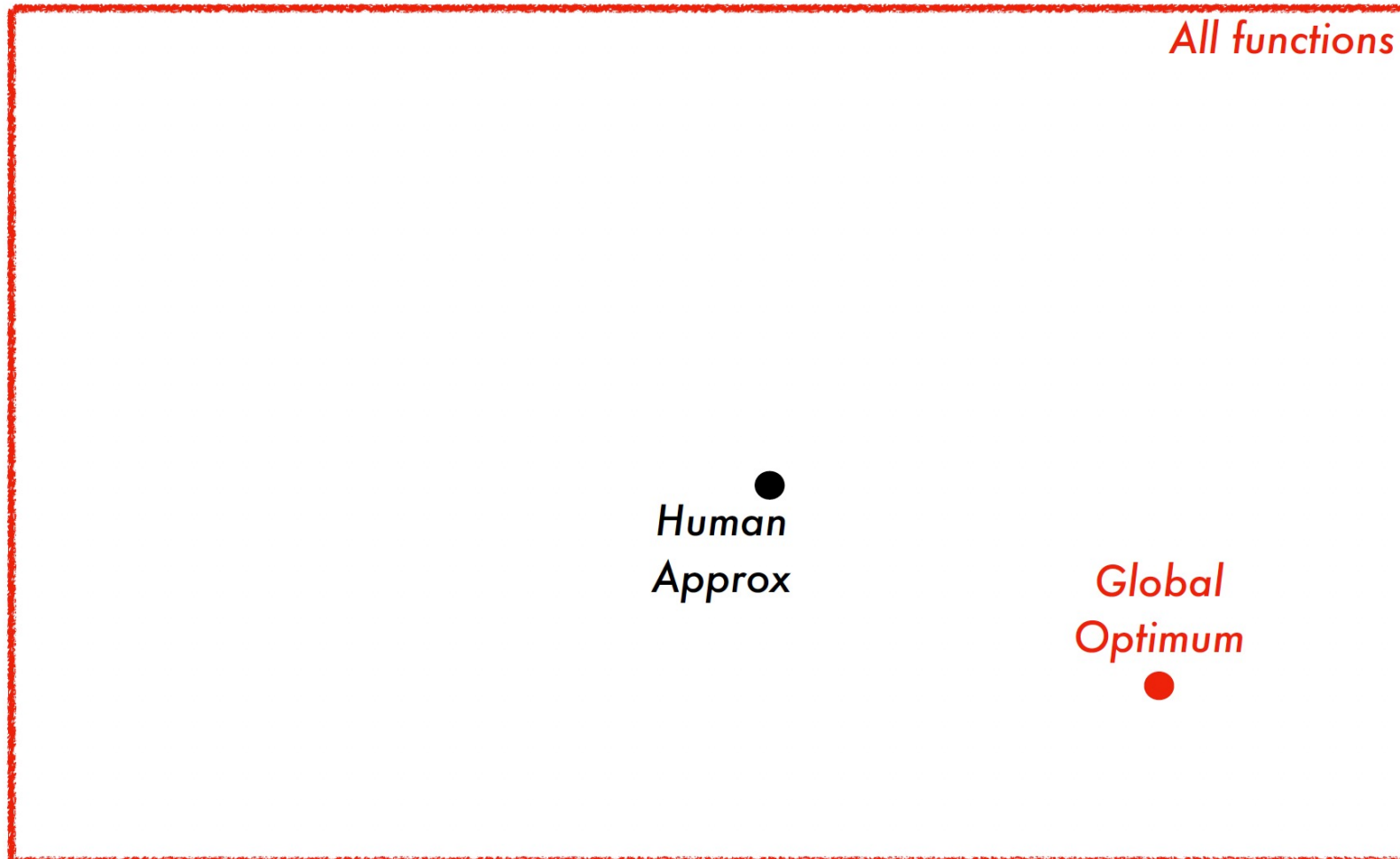
# Functional space



[D. Whiteson]

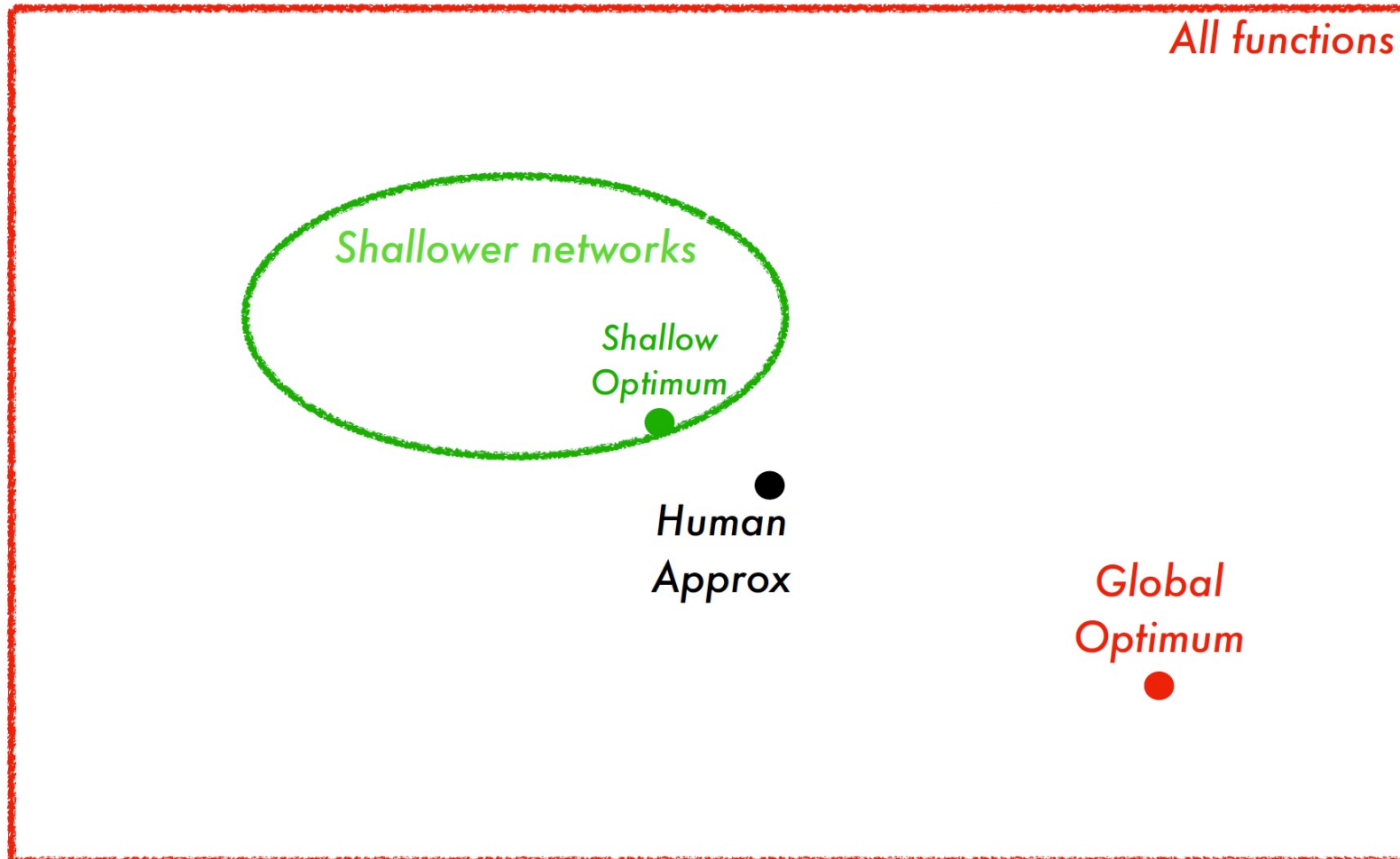


# Human approximation



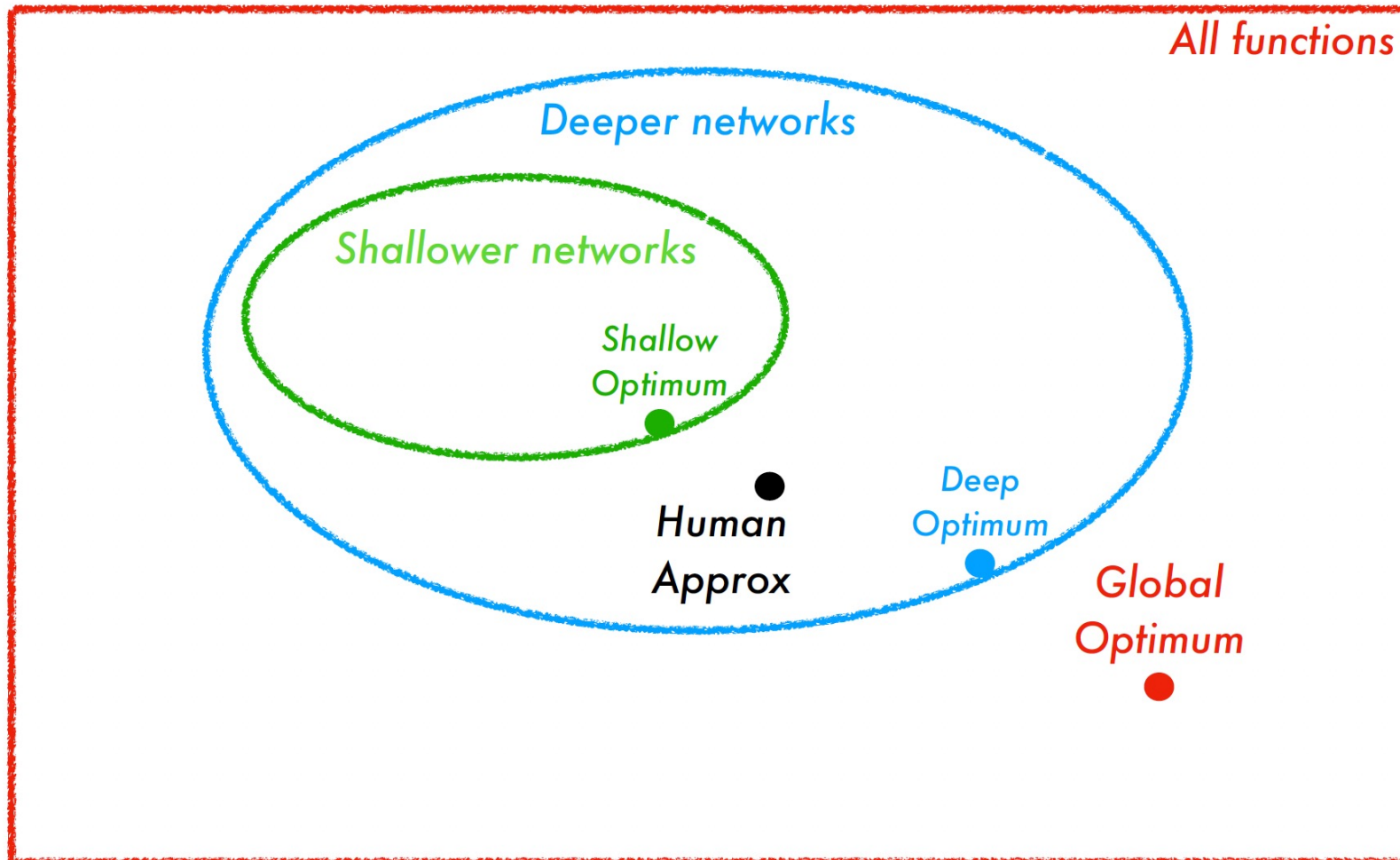
[D. Whiteson]

# Shallow space



[D. Whiteson]

# Deep space



[D. Whiteson]

# Supervised vs unsupervised learning

## Supervised

**Data:**  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$   
 $\mathbf{x}$  is data,  $\mathbf{y}$  is label

**Goal:** learn mapping  $\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}$

**Examples:**  
classification, regression

## Unsupervised

**Data:**  $\mathbf{x}$   
 $\mathbf{x}$  is data, no labels !

**Goal:** learn underlying (hidden) structure of data

**Examples:**  
Clustering, compression, generation

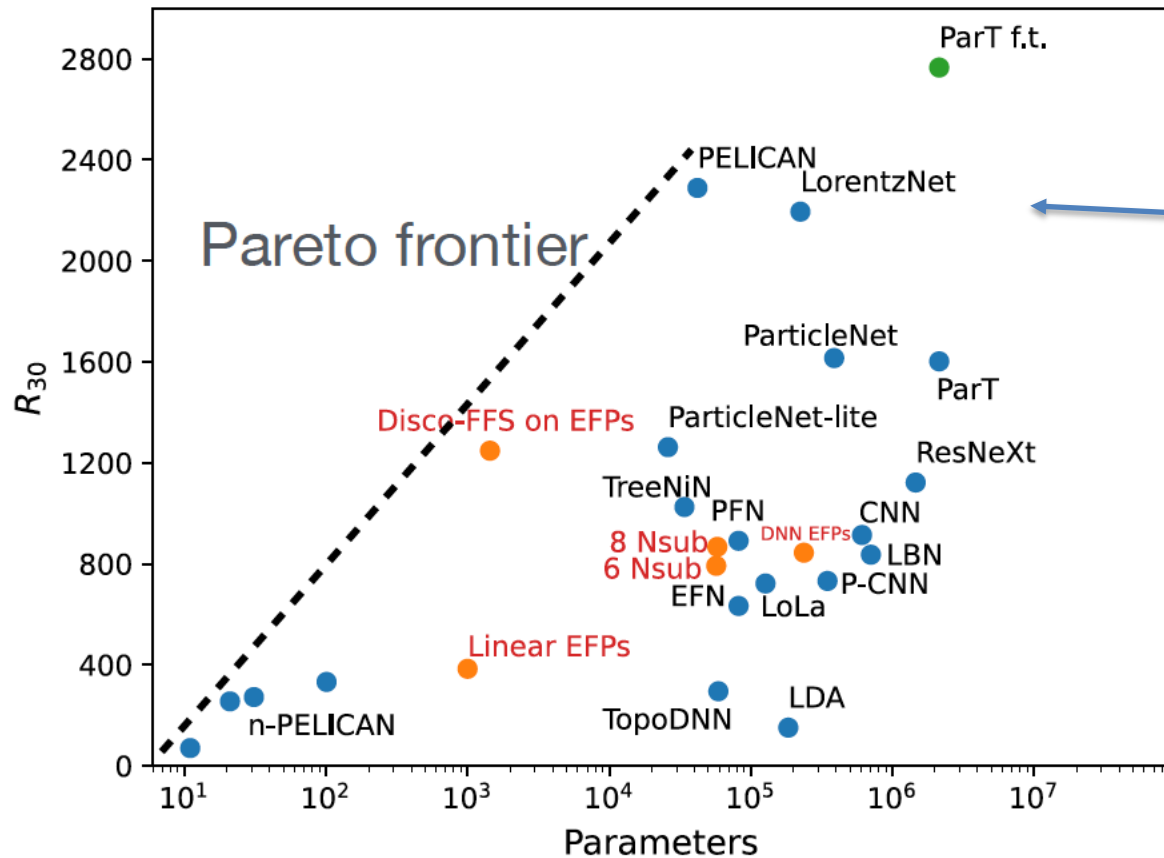


# State of the art of supervised

Example: **classification**

# The *frontier* of classification

Top tagger comparison:  $R_{30}$  = BG rejection for 30% efficiency vs. #parameters



Transformers rule the world

Inductive bias (Lorentz invariance, symmetries,...):

- More parameter efficient
- **BUT** less performant

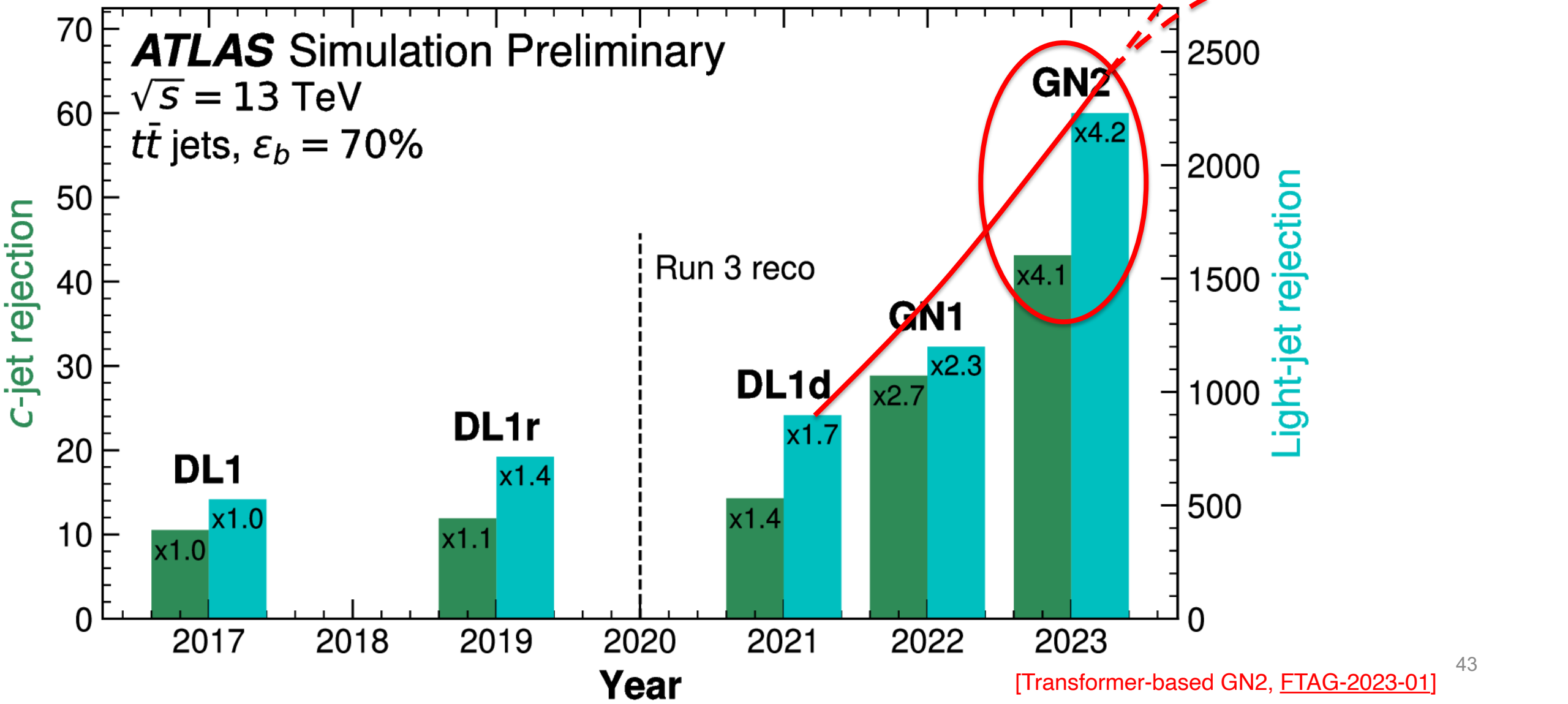
The bitter lesson vs. heroic domain-specific modeling efforts

Exact symmetries in latent space – hard to learn  
**Only approximate symmetries in data space**

[G. Kasieczka, EuCAIF 2024]



# Enhance sensitivity

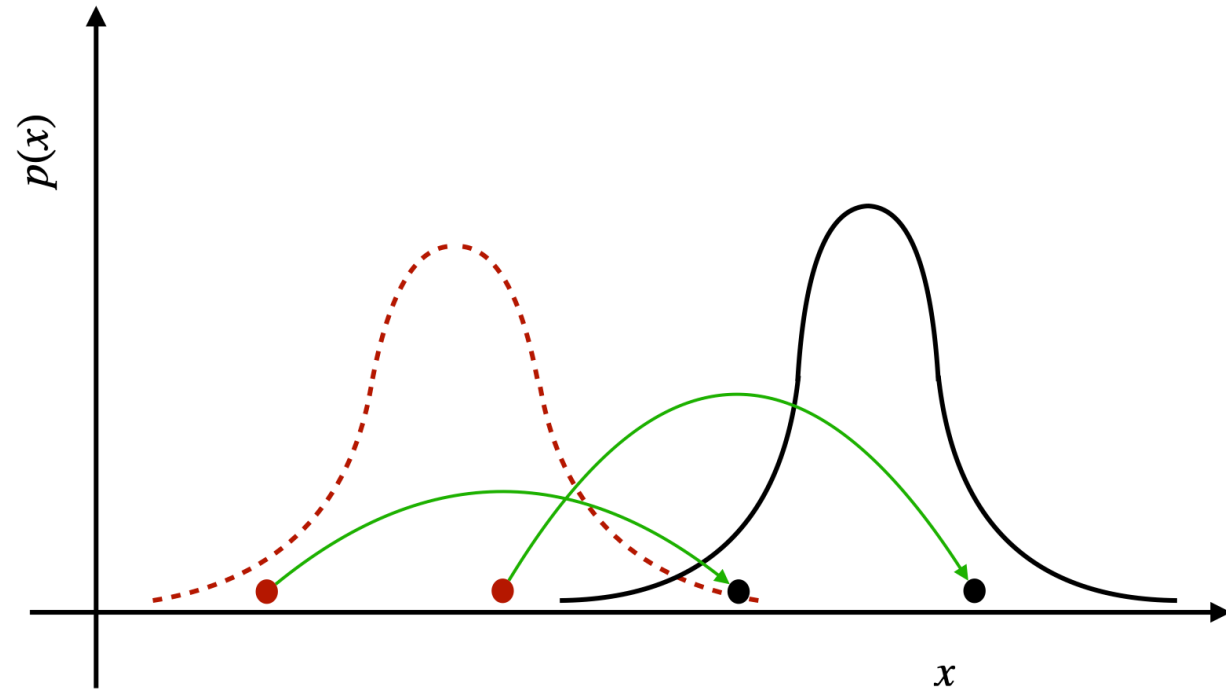
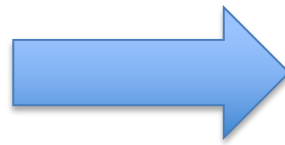
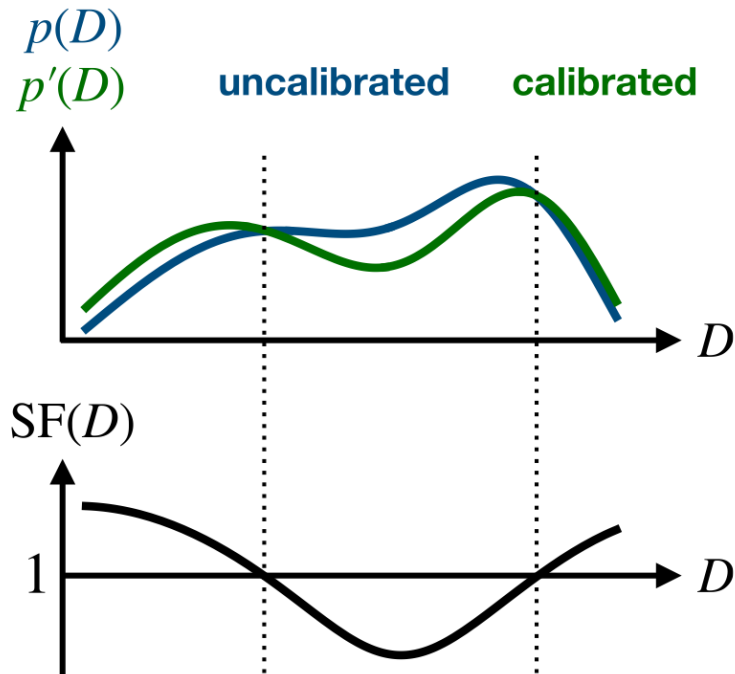


# Domain adaptation: calibrate synthetic to real data

1. Reweighting with ratios [“scale factors”]

- Non-overlapping support
- Battle curse of dimensionality\*

2. “Transport your problems away”

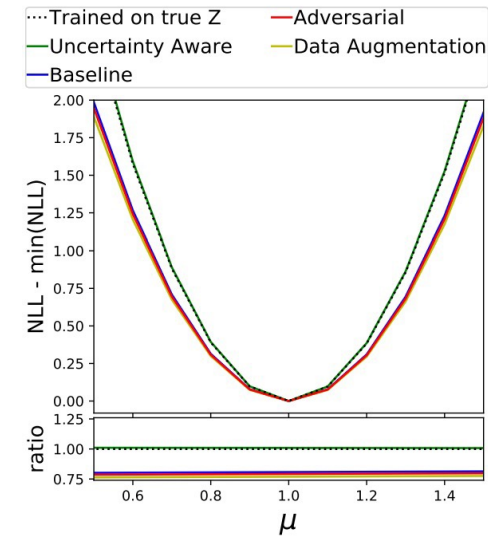
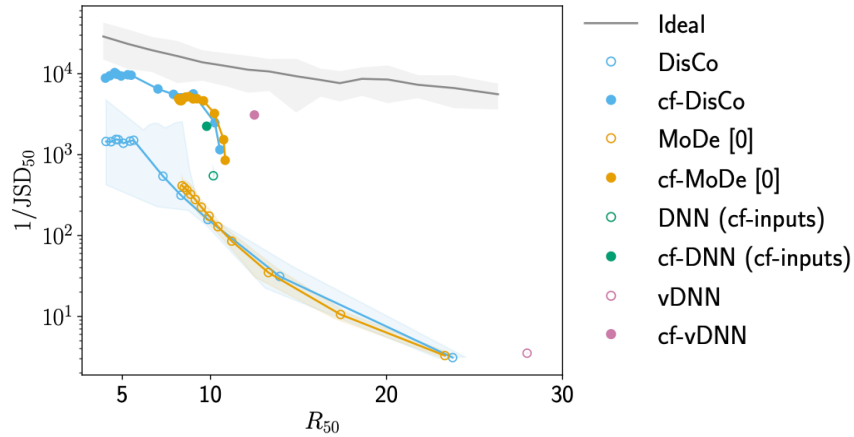


(b)

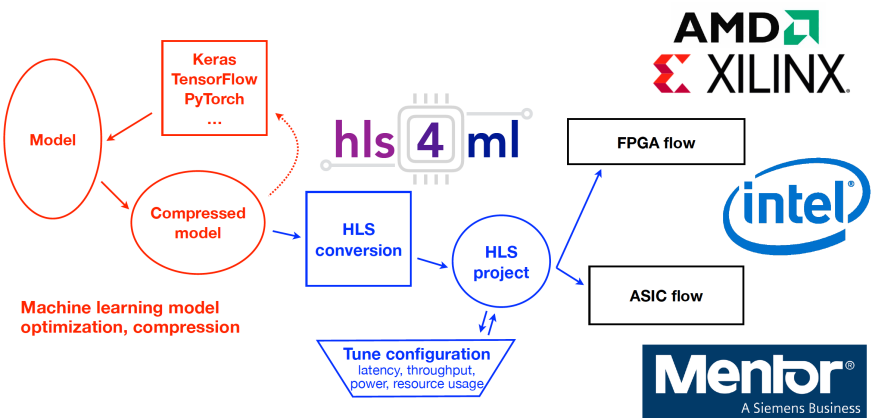
[\*e.g. using classifiers [1506.02169](#)]

# Many more challenges

Decorrelation  
*[Ethical AI in Science]*  
 [e.g. [2211.02486](#)]  
 More in a few slides!



Making scientific decisions in the presence of uncertainties  
 [e.g. [2105.08742](#)]



Offline → online  
 [On-the-edge,  
[1804.06913](#), [hls4ml](#)]

# INTERPRETABILITY

# Which face is real?



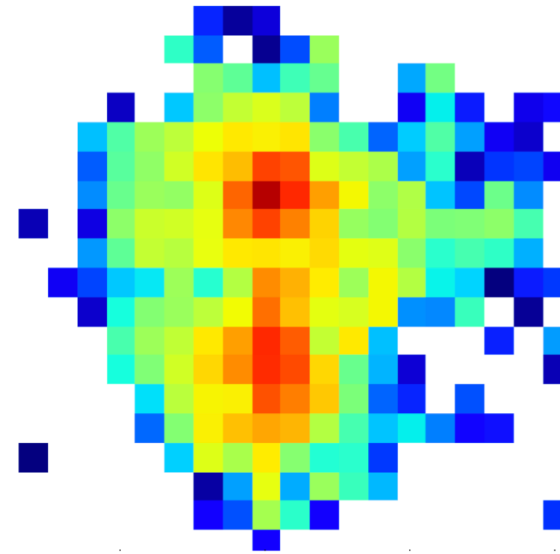
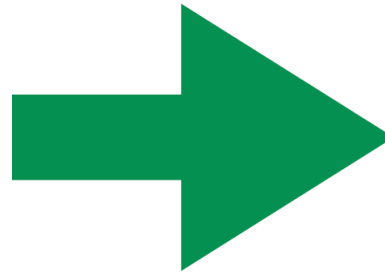
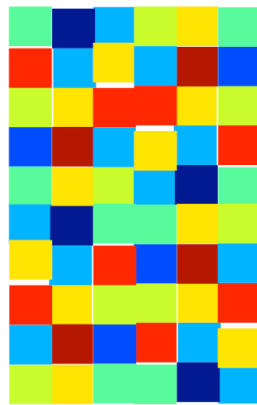
<https://thispersondoesnotexist.com>

# Why generative models?

- Density estimation & outlier detection
- Data compression
- Mapping from one domain to another
  - Language translation, text-to-speech,...
- Representation learning
- Understanding the data
- ...

# The ML toolbox: generative models

Fast **surrogate model**\* which maps random numbers to structure



\*Deep generative NN model:

- Variational Autoencoders (VAEs)
- Generative Adversarial Network (GANs)
- Normalizing Flows (NFs)
- Diffusion models

$$p_{\text{model}} \approx p_{\text{data}}$$

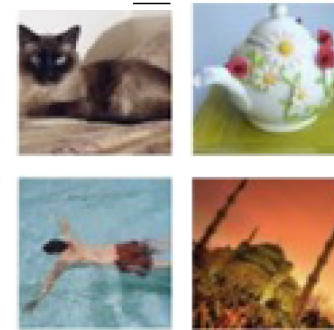


# Example: image generation

Train on  $p_{data}(x)$



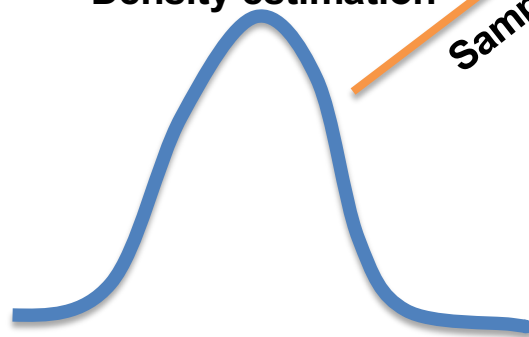
Generate new samples  $p_{model}(x)$



Density estimation

Sample from distribution

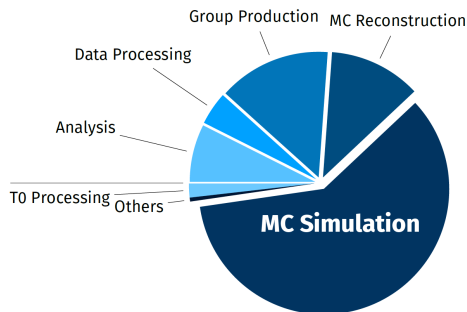
$$p_{model} \approx p_{data}$$



# Faces



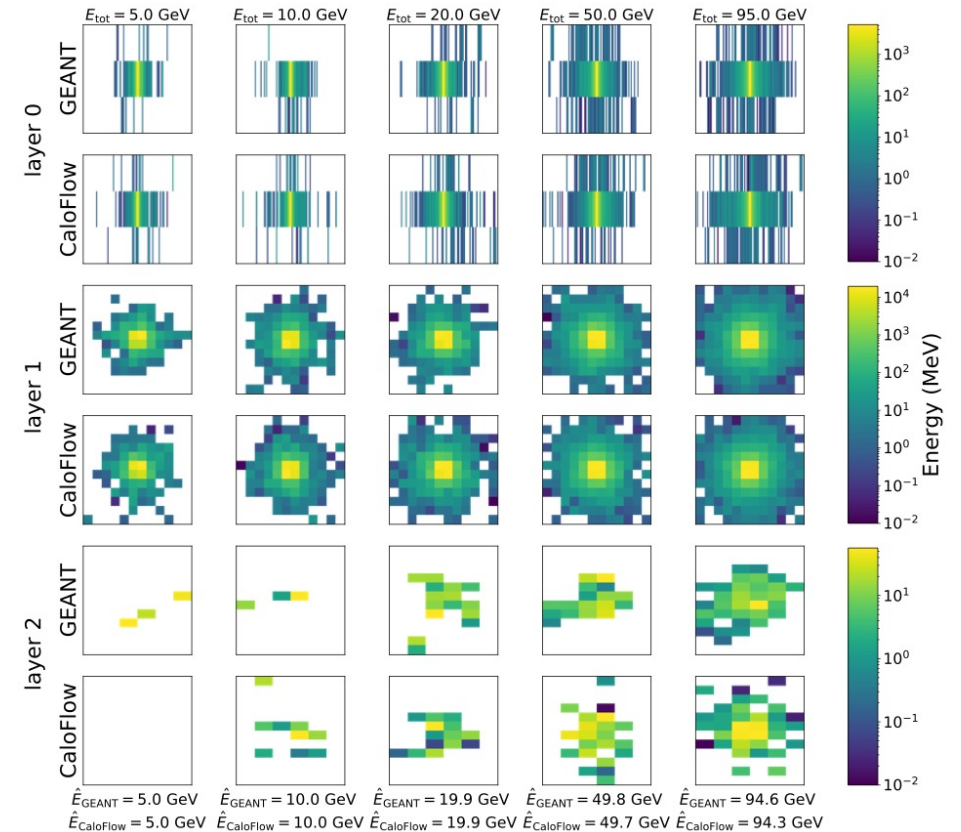
[Karras et al., 2018]



## Considerations:

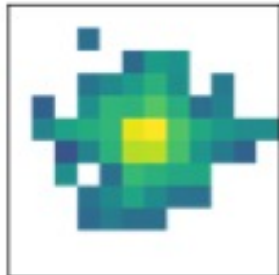
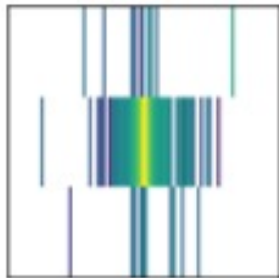
- Fast
- High fidelity
- Sample rare events [tails]
- Conditional sampling [e.g.  $p(\text{model} | \text{prompt})$ ]

# Detector images

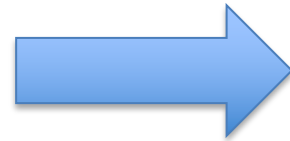


[[2210.06204](#), [CaloFlow](#), ...]

# Images $\rightarrow$ Point cloud



Decouple modeling  
from detector geometry

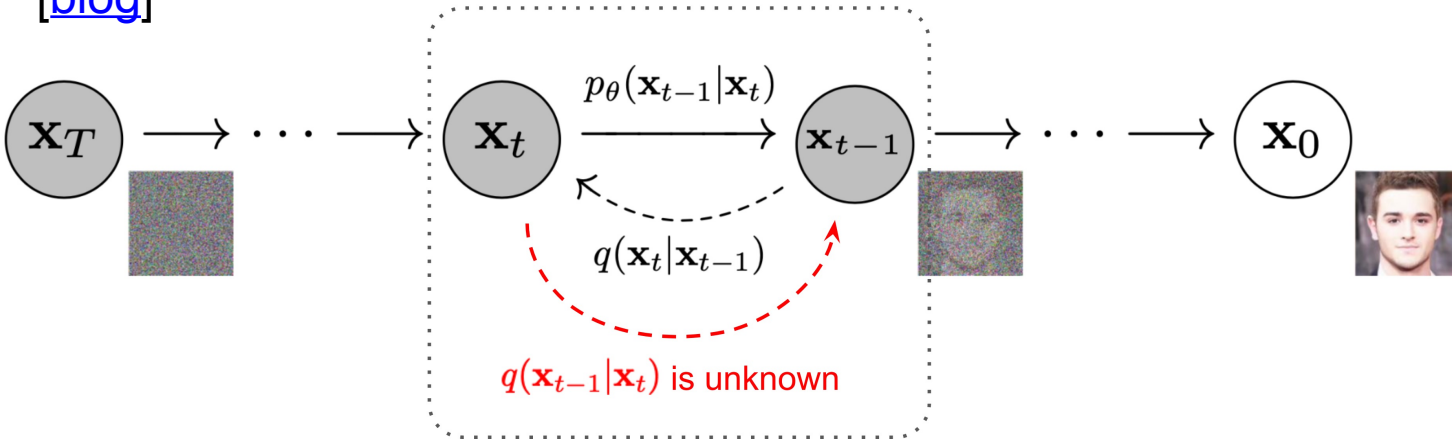


- Addresses sparsity issue
- Promotes portable solutions

# Point cloud diffusion

[[blog](#)]

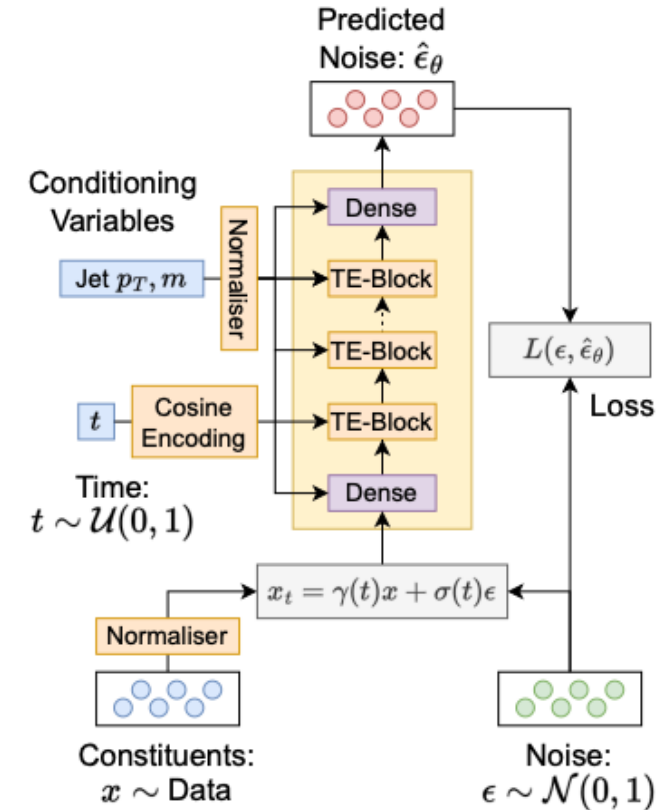
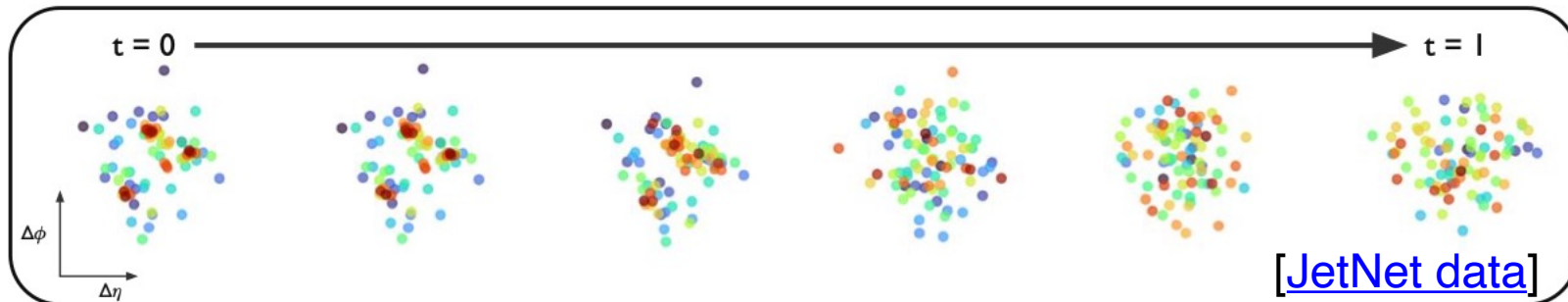
[[PC-JeDi](#)]



Gradually add Gaussian noise (right-to-left=forward)

Reverse “learn the noise”

1000  $\rightarrow$  100  $\rightarrow$  ~few steps (over last ~year)



Transformer Encoder (TE) Block

[See also [2206.11898](#),...] <sup>52</sup>

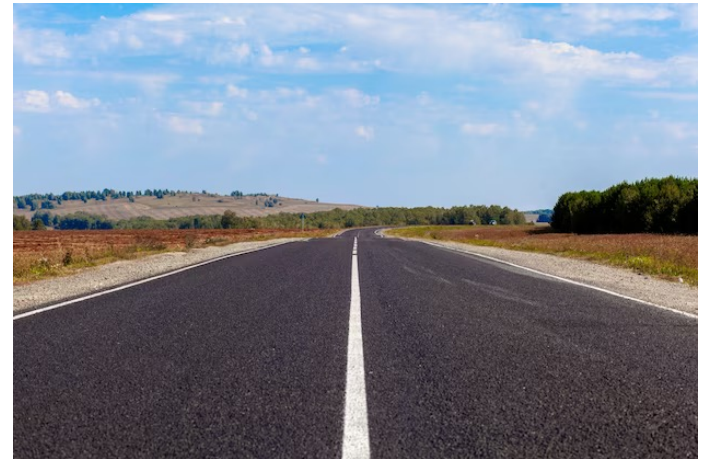
# Outlier detection

**Task:** detect new or rare events

**Solution:** outlier detection

Example: **autonomous driving**

**Normal data:** sunny, highway, straight road



**Outliers:**



Edge cases



Harsh weather



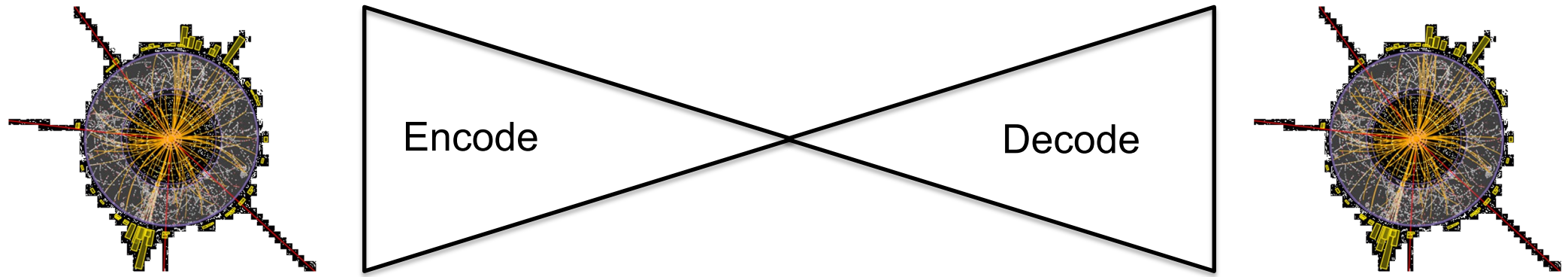
Pedestrians



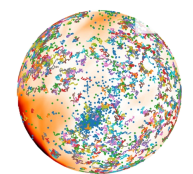
# Outlier detection with autoencoders – does it work?

Not ready for prime time!

Train on *normal* (=SM)



Poor reconstruction = *anomaly*



[NAE]

## Challenges:

- Outlier in high-dimensional space
- Performance ~ leading feature separation
- How to add physics priors without becoming supervised

Jet level [[1808.08979](#), [1808.08992](#),  
[2007.01850](#), [2301.04660](#)...]  
Event level [[1806.02350](#), [2105.14027](#)...]



# Debiasing

Uncover **underlying feature space** in data

Possibility to correct for existing biases in the data



Homogeneous skin color & pose

vs

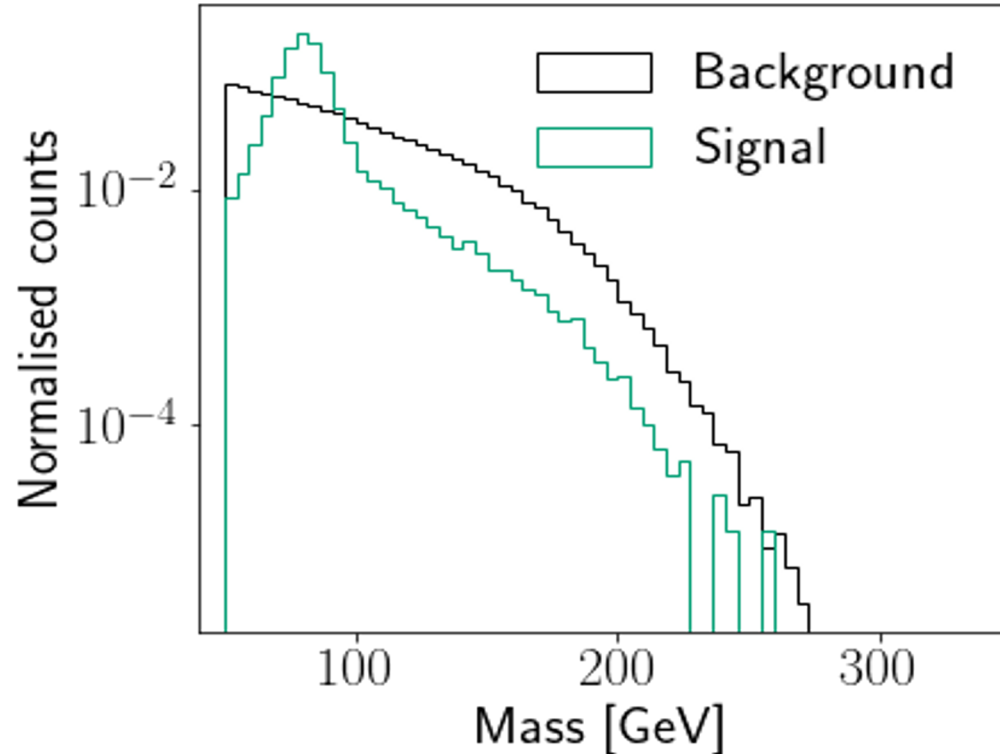


Diverse skin color, pose, illumination,...

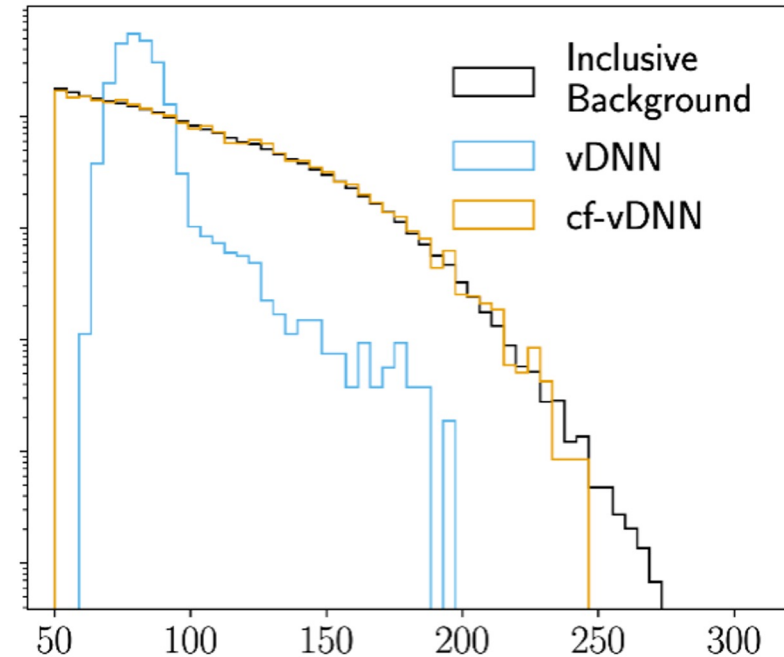
⇒ **Fairness, decorrelation**

# Issue: background sculpting for bump hunting

## Signal



## Background after cut on classifier

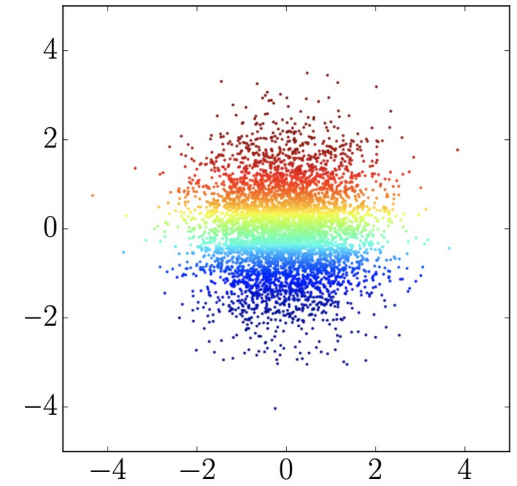
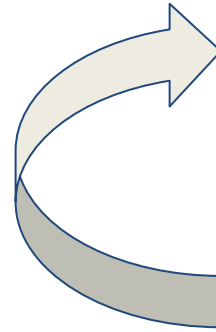


Goal: decorrelate background from mass

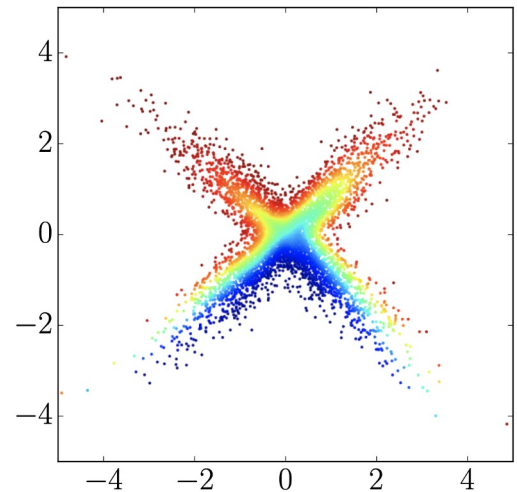
# Decorrelation with normalizing flows

- A flow is a map between distributions
- It is invertible: no change in separation power !
- Can be made conditional

$T(x)$



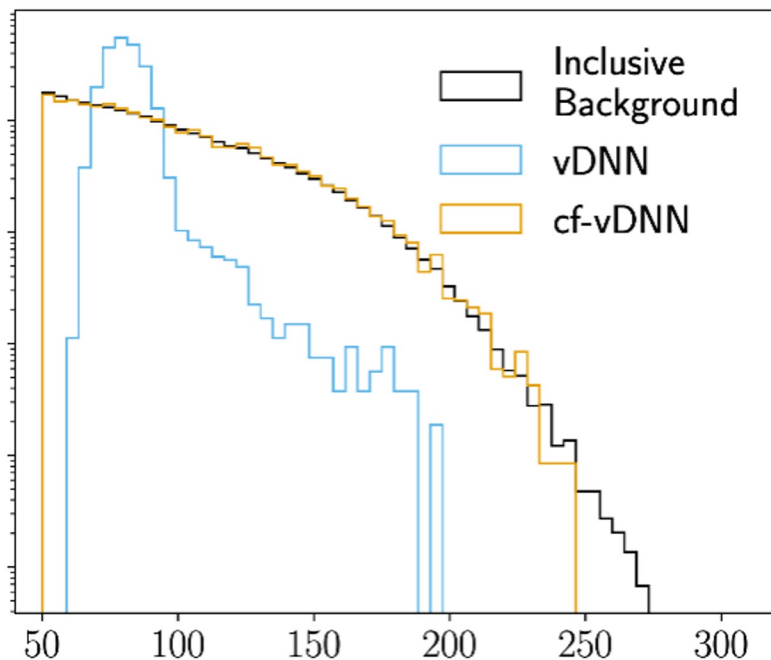
$p_\theta$



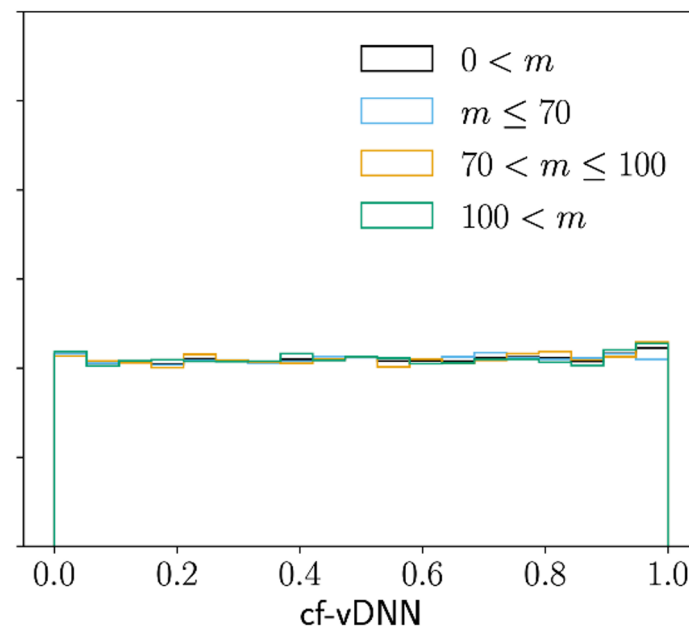
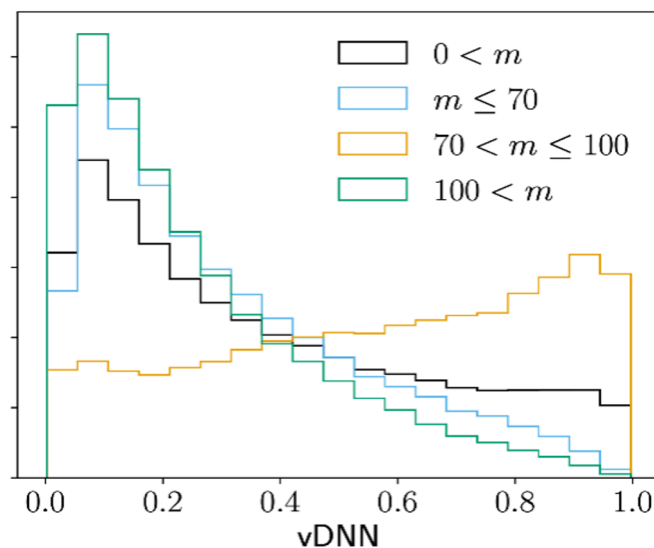
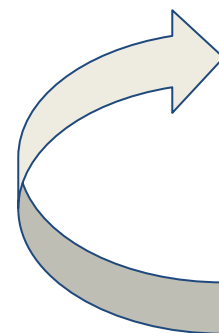
$p(x)$

# Train a flow to learn $p(\text{vDNN} \mid m)$

Decorrelated background



$T(x)$



[[2211.02486](#), [2307.05187](#)]



# Explore & interpret learned feature space

L0 D0 *Animal type*



L0 D4 *Pose, Animal type*



L1 D3 *Shadow*



[InfoSCC-GAN]

L0 D1 *Animal type*



L1 D0 *Background, Animal type*



L1 D4 *Light*



L0 D2 *Orientation, Animal type*



L1 D1 *Fur color, Animal type*



L5 D0 *Background*



L0 D3 *Scale, Animal type*



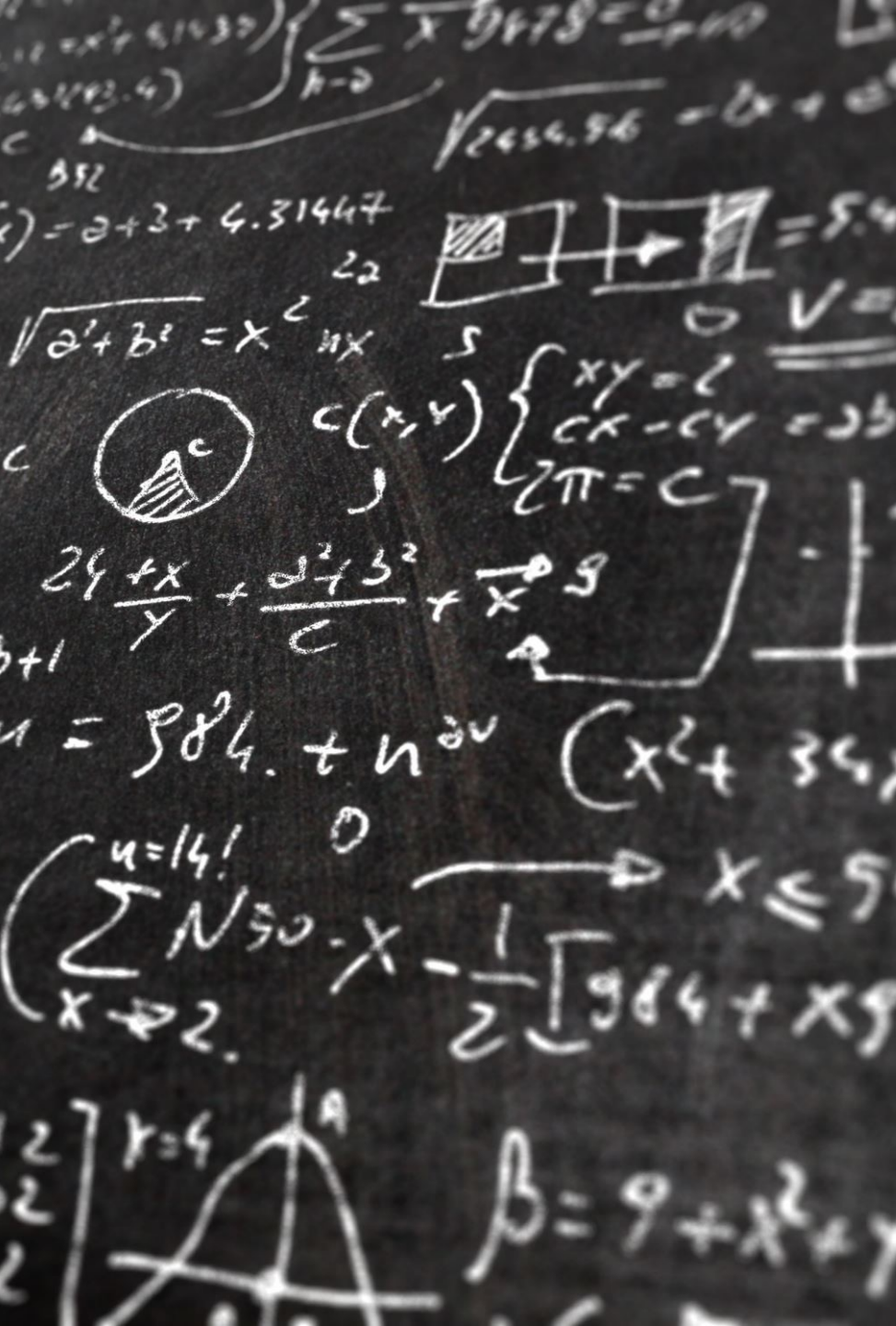
L1 D2 *Background*



L5 D1 *Background*

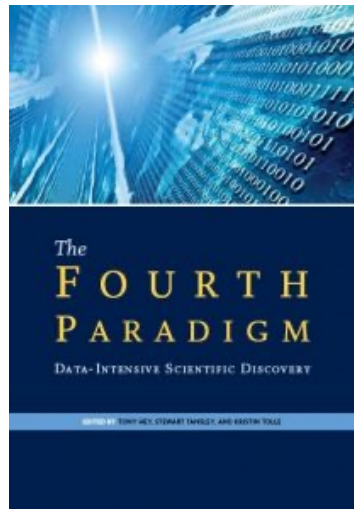






# The 4 paradigms of scientific discovery

1. Observation of natural phenomena
2. Theoretical models of nature
3. Numerical computation
4. Data-intensive scientific discovery



Jim Gray





*“All physics is known, but the equations are too difficult to be solved.”*

- Paul Dirac, 1929 (paraphrased)

The **5<sup>th</sup>** paradigm:  
tackle this challenge with ML

# Long list of hard-to-model systems

- Schrödinger's equation for "large" systems
- Quantum chemistry
- Material design ( $\sim 10^{180}$  stable materials)
- Molecule design ( $\sim 10^{60}$  small-molecule drug candidates)
- Fluid dynamics
- Weather
- Climate
- Fusion
- The Universe
- **LHC collisions: particles interactions with the ATLAS detector**
- **Experiment design**
- ...

Challenge: how to explore these vast spaces?

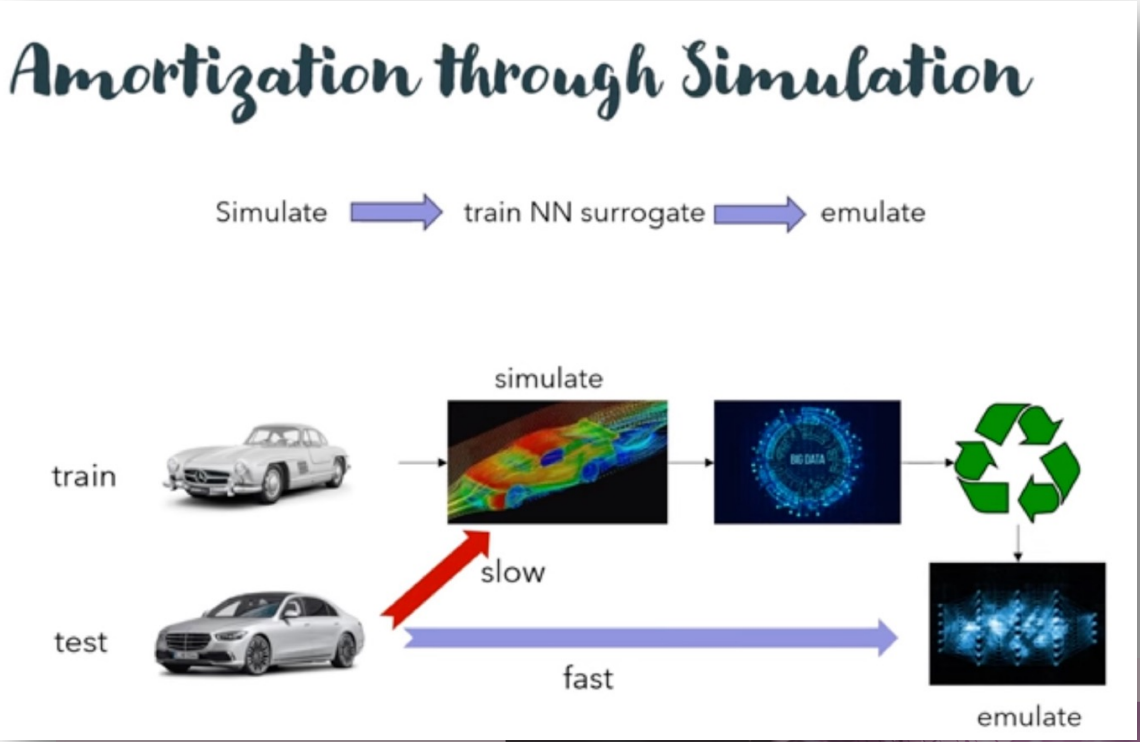
# The 5<sup>th</sup> paradigm: new ML simulators

- *Classical* simulators are great !
  - They encapsulate ALL our understanding to model complex systems
- But they are typically
  - Prohibitively costly
  - Non-differentiable
- **ML to rescue: generative models** as effective emulators
  - Data representation (image, time series, point cloud)
  - Inductive bias (symmetries)
  - Differentiable for automation (design, optimisation, inference)
  - Low computing cost

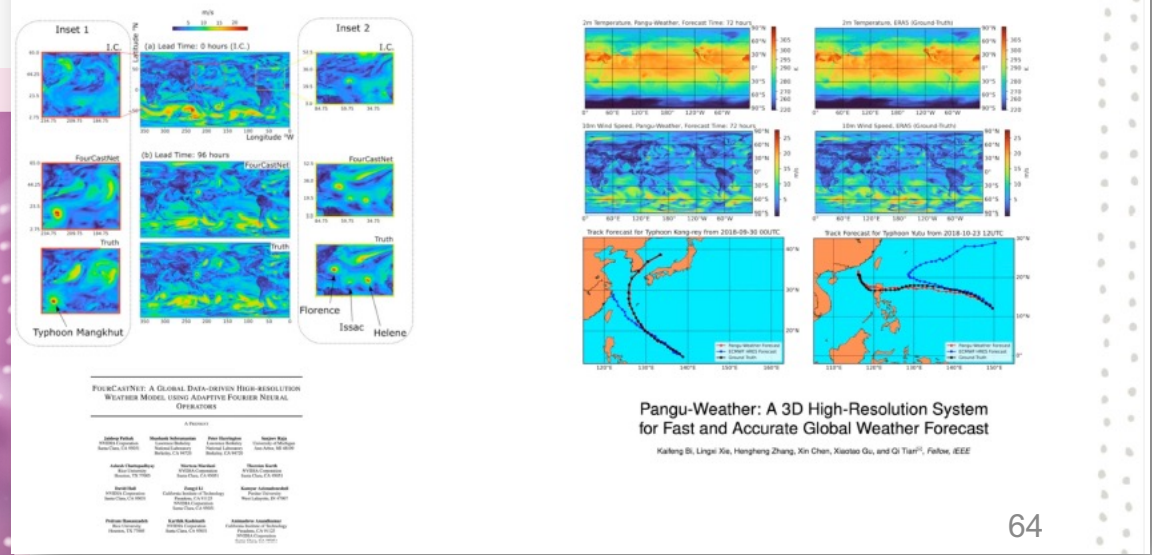
# Simulation & emulators



Max Welling  
@ EuCAIFCon 2024



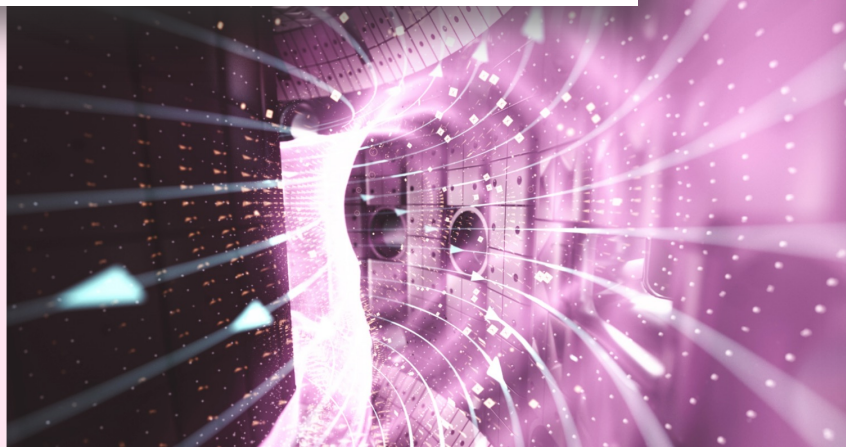
## NN predicts the Weather 10,000 times faster



Research  
Accelerating fusion science through learned plasma control

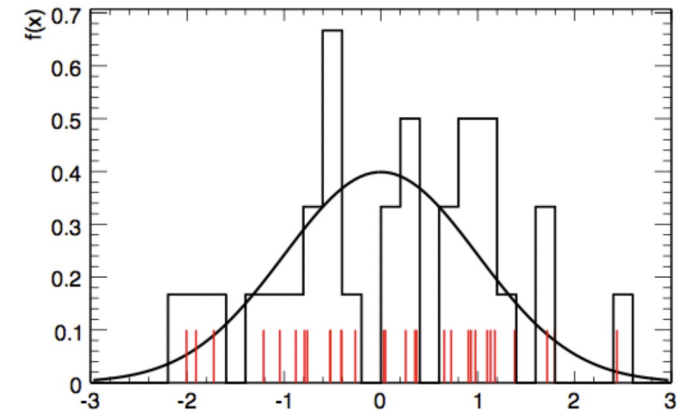
February 16, 2022

[DeepMind blog]

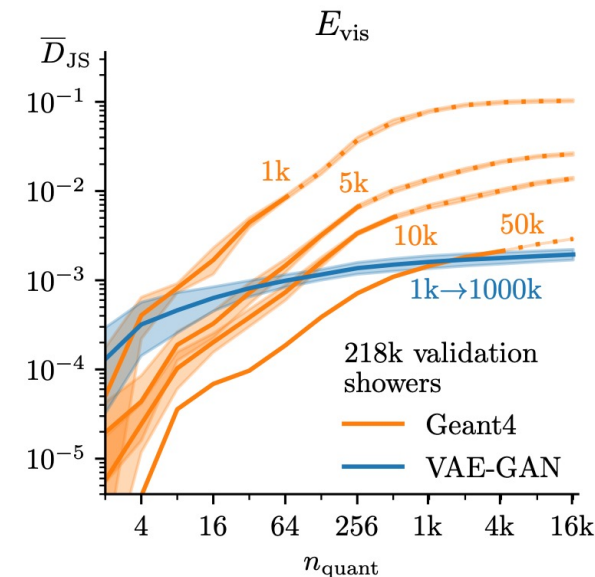


# What does a GenModel actually learn?

- Data memorization?
  - Overfitting does NOT seem to be a problem
- The mechanism underlying this amazing performance is **poorly understood**



- Related to underlying **strong inductive bias**
  - [[GANplification](#)]



$D_{JS}$  Jensen-Shannon divergence:  
How well reproduce the truth density

Smaller is better

Train GenModel on 1k and produce  
1000k examples

~better than 50k real data

# Implicit inductive bias

Generative models let us estimate the probabilities of data occurrences

- even in *non-populated* regions of data space (sparsity)



# Evaluation of generative models

- **Comparing multivariate (high-dim joint) distributions is *hard***
- No *best* GOF test with power against *all* alternative hypotheses
  - Need to know *relevant* alternatives  $p_1$
- Set of *practical* tests to establish *trust*
  - Reproducible
  - Standardizable (image, point cloud)
  - Computationally efficient
  - Interpretable
  - Pragmatic: *good enough* if OK for task at hand
- Typical problems
  - GAN: mode collapse [diversity]
  - VAE: blurriness [quality]

$$p_{\text{model}} \approx p_{\text{data}} \quad ?$$

# Search for the Unknown

BSM stubbornly  
resists discovery

ATLAS + CMS =  $O(1000)$  search papers

**$O(8'000)$  person years**

~2 years per analysis

Average of ~4 people

**Best use of resources ?**



Who thinks we can do better?

# No. 1 Priority

Maximize  
Discovery  
Potential

Given available (human &  
compute) resources

# How much **signature** space have we explored?

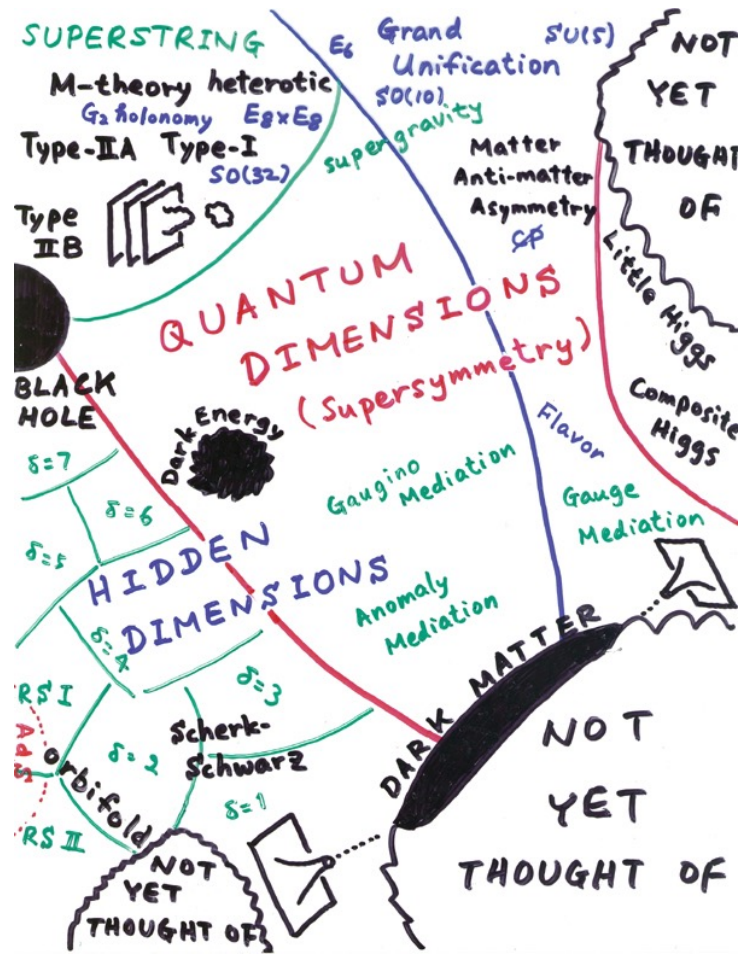
	$e$	$\mu$	$\tau$	$q/g$	$b$	$t$	$\gamma$	$Z/W$	$H$	BSM $\rightarrow$ SM <sub>1</sub> $\times$ SM <sub>1</sub>				BSM $\rightarrow$ SM <sub>1</sub> $\times$ SM <sub>2</sub>			BSM $\rightarrow$ complex			
										$q/g$	$\gamma/\pi^0$ 's	$b$	...	$tZ/H$	$bH$	...	$\tau qq'$	$eqq'$	$\mu qq'$	...
$e$	[37, 38]	[39, 40]	[39]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	[41]	[42]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	[43, 44]	$\emptyset$
$\mu$		[37, 38]	[39]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	[41]	[42]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	[43, 44]
$\tau$			[45, 46]	$\emptyset$	[47]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	[48, 49]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$q/g$				[29, 30, 50, 51]	[52]	$\emptyset$	[53, 54]	[55]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$b$					[29, 52, 56]	[57]	[54]	[58]	[59]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	[60]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$t$						[61]	$\emptyset$	[62]	[63]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	[64]	[60]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$\gamma$							[65, 66]	[67-69]	[68, 70]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$Z/W$								[71]	[71]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
$H$									[72, 73]	[74]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
BSM $\rightarrow$ SM <sub>1</sub> $\times$ SM <sub>1</sub>	$q/g$									$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
	$\gamma/\pi^0$ 's										[75]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
	$b$											[76, 77]	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$	$\emptyset$
	$\vdots$																			
$\vdots$																				

Vast signature space **unexplored**

[1907.06659]



# How to quantify *coverage*?



- What theory prior? [Bayesian vs. Frequentist]
- How to interpret “model-agnostic” null results?
- Pragmatic metric?

$$\frac{\text{Maximum model space coverage}}{\text{Minimal set of searches}} \sim \frac{\# \text{ excluded signal points}}{\# \text{ searches}}$$

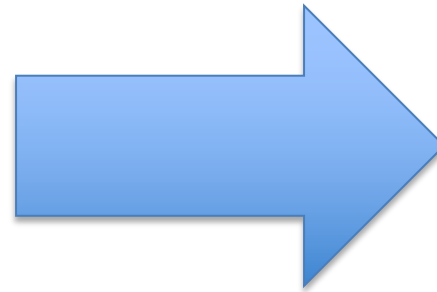
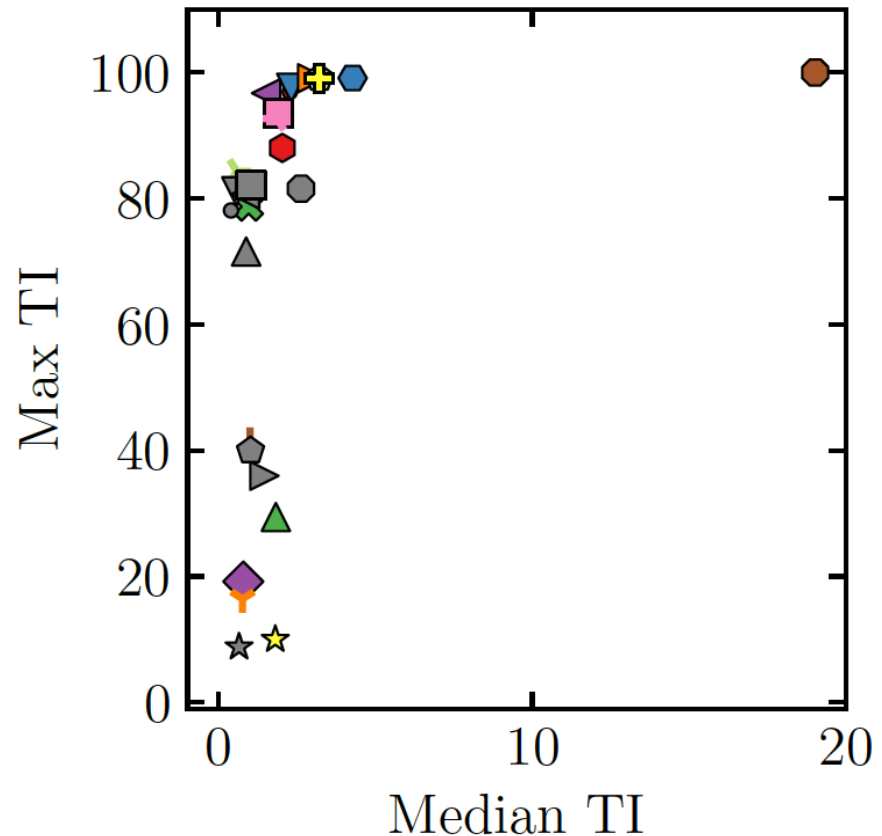
- Benchmark dependence
- Correlation of final states [stop, 3<sup>rd</sup> gen LQ,  $t\bar{t}$ +MET]
- Volume in *embedded space* [2208.05484]

What is the next best search given all existing search results?

# Poor man's assessment: *benchmarking*

Compromise:

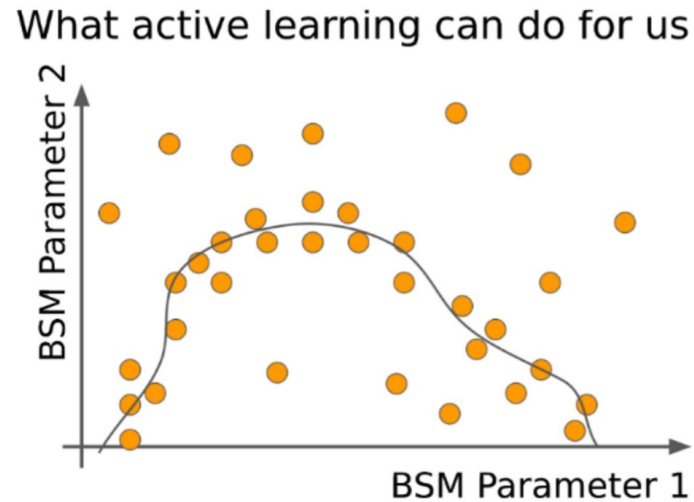
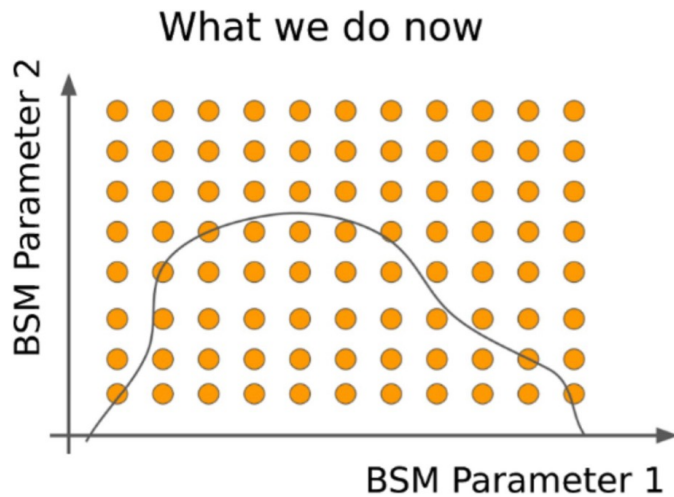
average over “many” benchmarks



Make analysis  
**reinterpretable** for  
any future benchmark

[Need to provide  
models & likelihoods]

# Smart sampling with active learning



Thrives on  
high-dimensional  
theory space

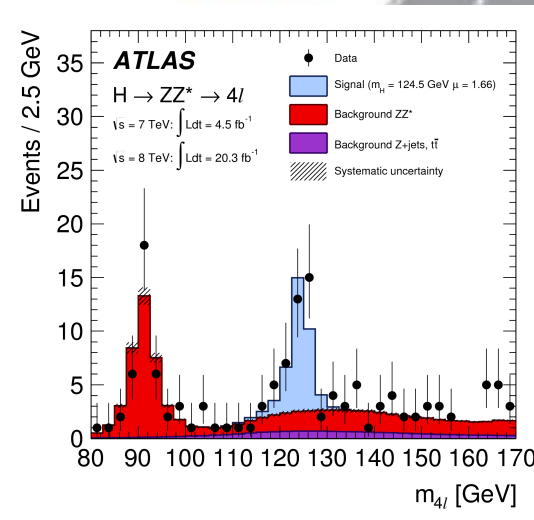
→ Simulate on demand

# Search for the Unknown Part 2

# Our powerhouse: 2-hypothesis test

Works great if you know what you're looking for !

## Higgs



SUSY, etc.

## Top

## W boson

Neyman-Pearson Lemma:

Best test statistics is likelihood ratio =  $p_1/p_0$

[Sketch: A. Wulzer]

JORGE CHAM & DANIEL WHITESON



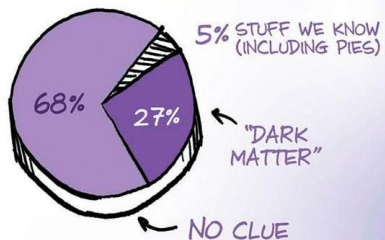
WE

"Accessible and entertaining ... Cham and Whiteson distill the essence of the little we know—and the lots we have no idea about."  
—NATURE

HAVE

THE UNIVERSE: (A PIE CHART)

N



IDEA



A GUIDE TO  
THE UNKNOWN UNIVERSE

We don't know what  
we're looking for

No *trust* in  $p_1$  = playing  
the lottery!

$p_0$  = SM

$p_1$  = *everything else*



**Ideal test:**  $p_0$  &  $p_1$  known (with high stats)  
→ 1 single LH test (sufficient test statistics)

**Optimal if:**

- $p_0 \sim \text{SM}$
- $p_1 \sim \text{true BSM}$

**Add realism:**

- Finite stats
- Mismodeling
- $p_1$  NOT known  
→ *Factorize* problem

$p_0 \sim \text{MC}$ :

- Limited accuracy
- Limited statistics

$$\frac{p_1}{p_0}$$

$p_1$  assumptions inform

- Event selection
- Feature choice

$p_0 \sim \text{in-situ BG estimate}$ :

- CATHODE
- CURTAINS
- SALAD
- FETA

$p_1$  choices:

- Simplified MC model
- Parametric model (fit, NN,...)
- Learn  $p_1$  from data → [NPLM](#)
- Approximate LH ratio with CWoLa classifier

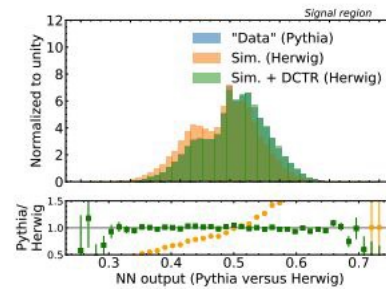
# Learning high-D background templates\*

Learn from simulation

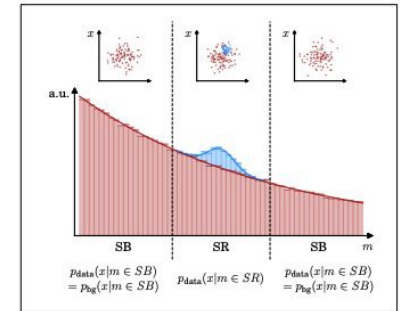
Learn from data (SB)

Modeling the likelihood ratio

SALAD



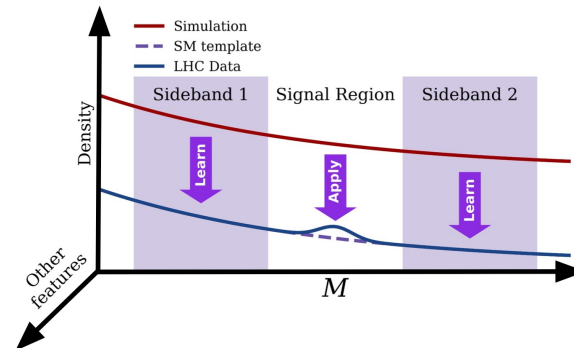
CATHODE\*



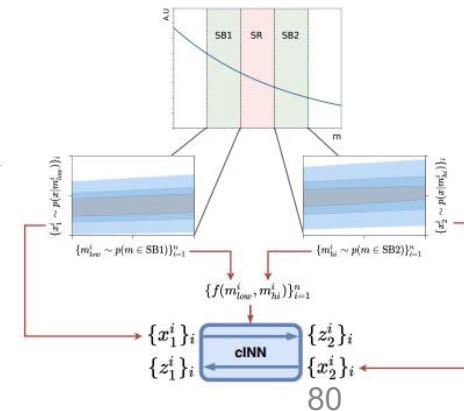
[\*see also [LaCATHODE](#) & [ANODE](#)]

Morphing the features

FETA

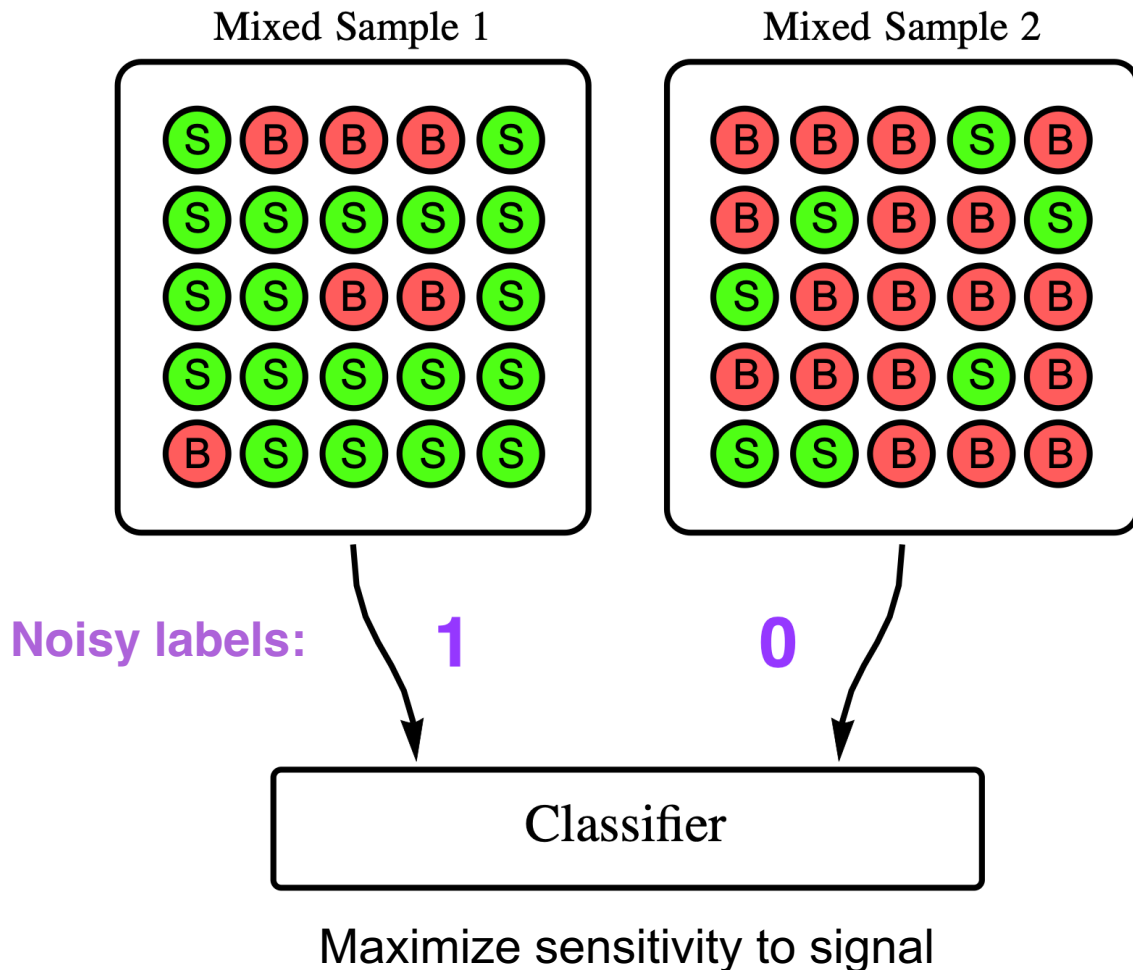


CURTAINS & Flow4Flows



[\*Fidelity of simulation alone insufficient]

# Classification without labeling (CWoLa)



Abandon notion of *event label*

Noisy labels to be **S** or **B**

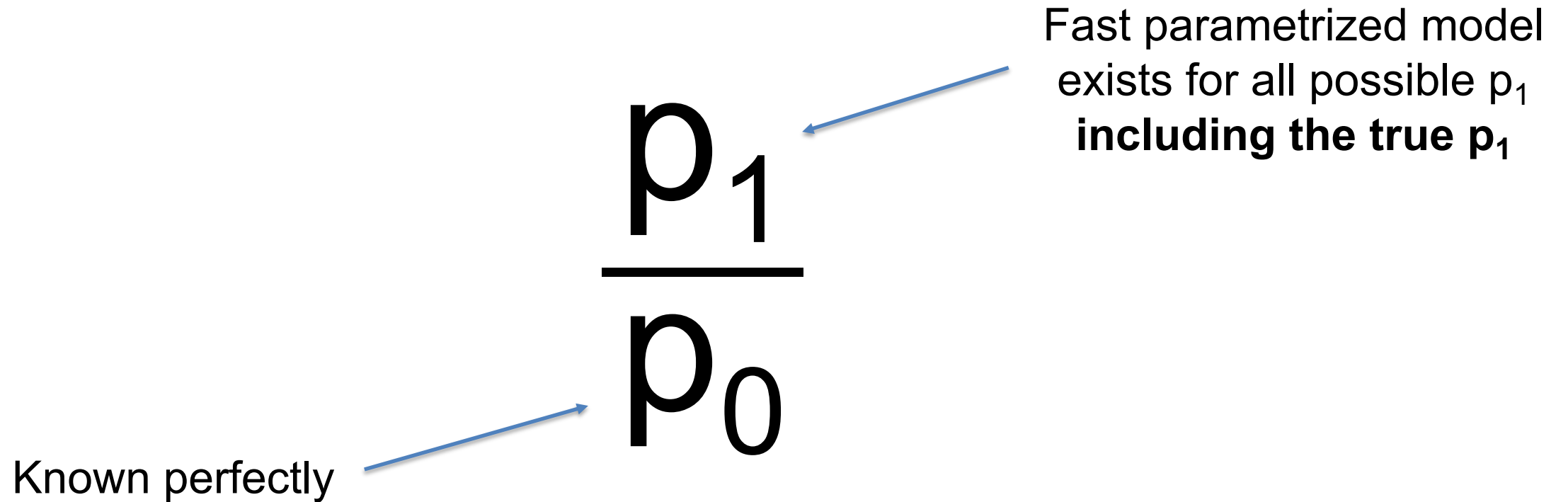
Bump hunt [[1902.02634](#)]

ATLAS analysis [[2005.02983](#)]

Beyond resonances

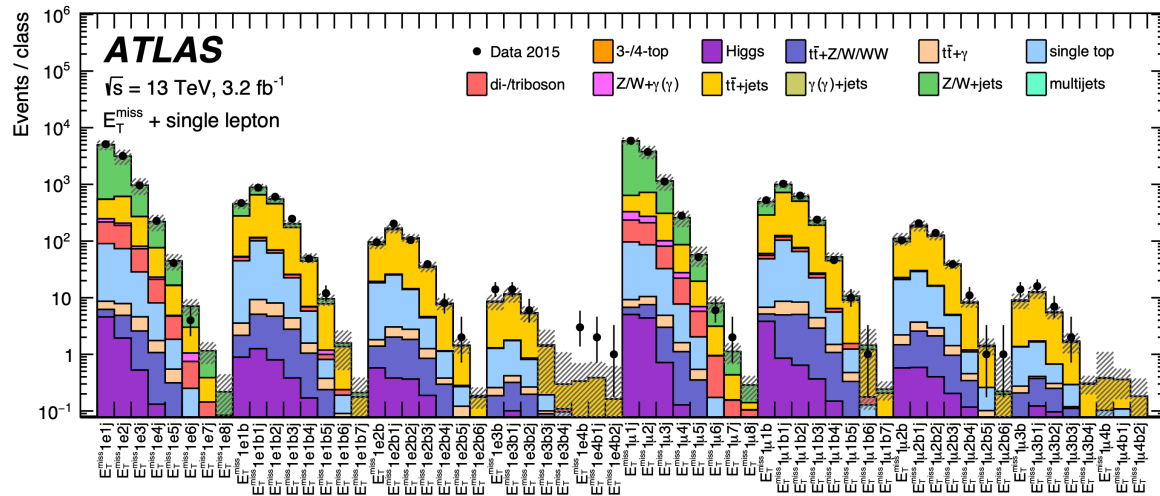
e.g. symmetries [[2203.07529](#)]

# Gedankenexperiment



How to design the optimal search strategy?

# A question of automation



$10^5$  signal region [[1807.07447](https://arxiv.org/abs/1807.07447)]

- One classifier?
- Event selection?
- Feature space?
- Data slicing [# tests]?
  - Look elsewhere effect
- Dial up/down the physics prior?
- Interpretation w/o benchmarks?

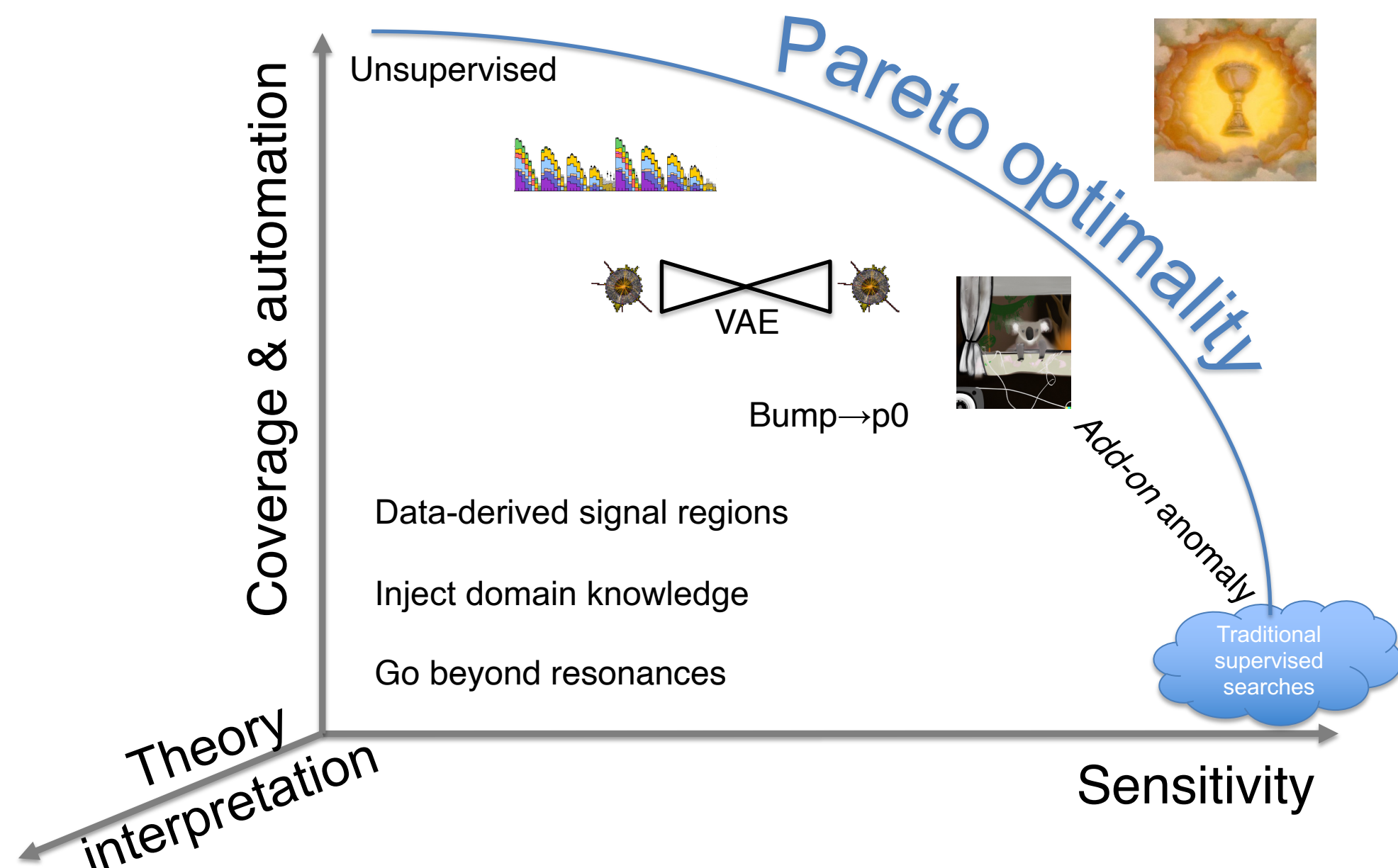
Lots of open questions & room for YOU to make a BIG impact

# Optimal search for the unknown

- Trade-off between **generality** and **specificity**
- Knob to tune pareto optimality between the endpoints: **supervised & unsupervised**
- What **metric** to assess performance – should **not** be known models
- What's the **follow-up strategy** after an “anomalous” signal ?
  - Balance cost of follow-up against frequency alerts ?



# Diverse Search Strategy



# Concept → Production

[Innovate → Exploit]

# Use in Experiment!

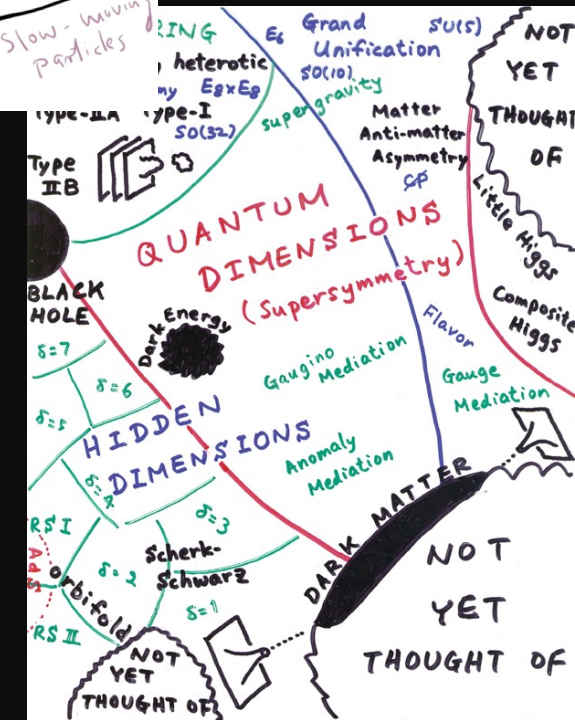
# Scientists model the world

# The usefulness of a common latent space



## Signatures

## Theory



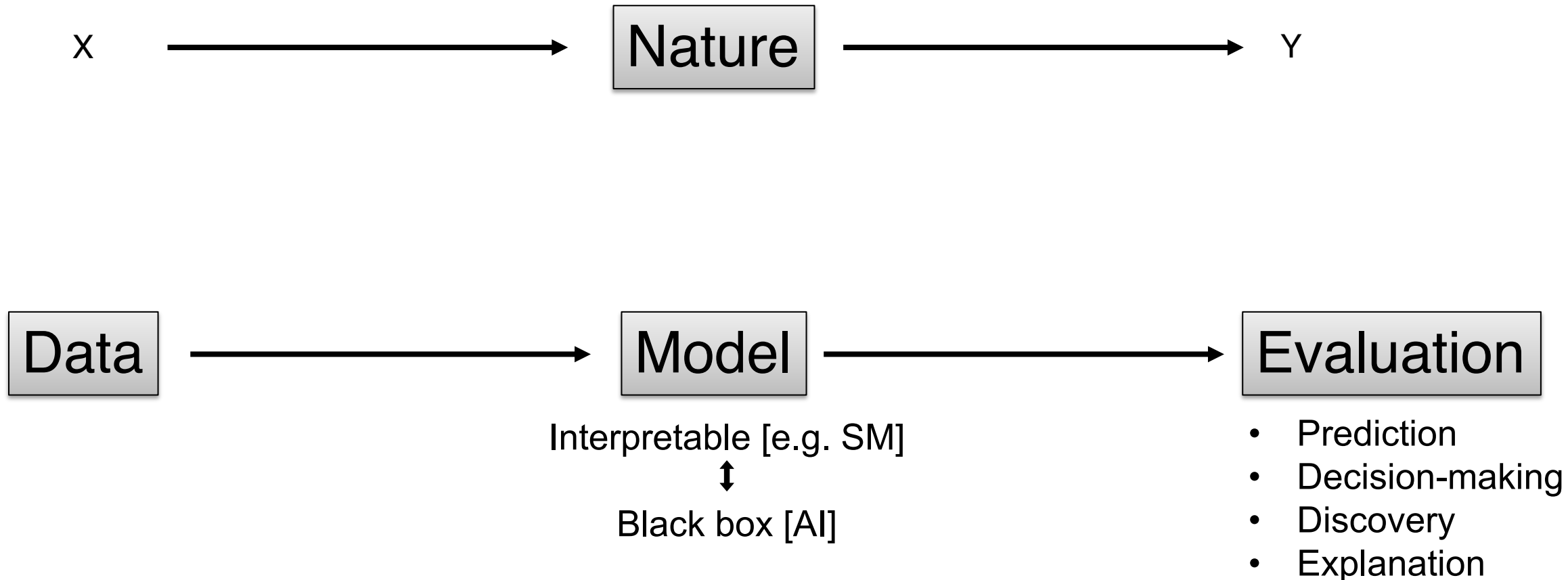


*All models are wrong, but some are are useful.*

– GEORGE BOX

*Useful* in what sense?

# Statistical Modeling

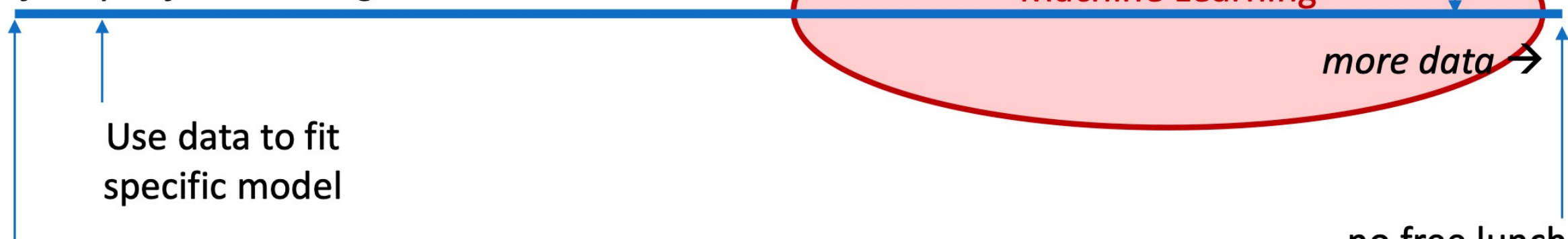


Geoff Hinton



There exists some “universal” learning algorithm that can learn **anything**: language, vision, speech, etc. The brain is based on it, and we’re working on uncovering it. (Hint: the brain uses neural networks)

Expert knowledge:  
*full specific knowledge*



Use data to fit  
specific model

Expert Systems: **Physics laws**  
(no data at all)

no free lunch



David  
Wolpert

There is no “free lunch”: no learning is possible without *some* prior assumption about the structure of the problem (prior knowledge)



## 5. THE USE OF DATA MODELS

Statistician in applied research consider data modeling as the template for statistical analysis: Faced with an applied problem, think of a data model. This enterprise has at its heart the belief that a ~~statistician~~, by imagination and by looking at the data, can invent a reasonably good parametric class of models for a complex mechanism devised by nature. Then parameters are estimated and conclusions are drawn. But when a model is fit to data to draw quantitative conclusions:

- The conclusions are about the model's mechanism, and not about nature's mechanism.

It follows that:

- If the model is a poor emulation of nature, the conclusions may be wrong.

physicist

## 7.1 A New Research Community

In the mid-1980s two powerful new algorithms for fitting data became available: neural nets and decision trees. A new research community using these tools sprang up. Their goal was predictive accuracy. The community consisted of young computer scientists, physicists and engineers plus a few aging statisticians. They began using the new tools in working on complex prediction problems where it was obvious that data models were not applicable: speech recognition, image recognition, nonlinear time series prediction, handwriting recognition, prediction in financial markets.

Their interests range over many fields that were once considered happy hunting grounds for statisticians and have turned out thousands of interesting research papers related to applications and methodology. A large majority of the papers analyze real data. The criterion for any model is what is the predictive accuracy. An idea of the range of research of this group can be got by looking at the *Proceedings of the Neural Information Processing Systems Conference* (their main yearly meeting) or at the *Machine Learning Journal*.

# Model vs. task culture

## **Model culture**

Data first [e.g. LHC]

Goal: build a data model (x, y)

Evaluate: generalization

## **Task culture**

Task first [e.g. cats vs. dogs]

Goal: best possible task fulfillment

Evaluate: on task

Used to drive most of the AI breakthroughs [e.g. AlphaFold]

Physicists do both !

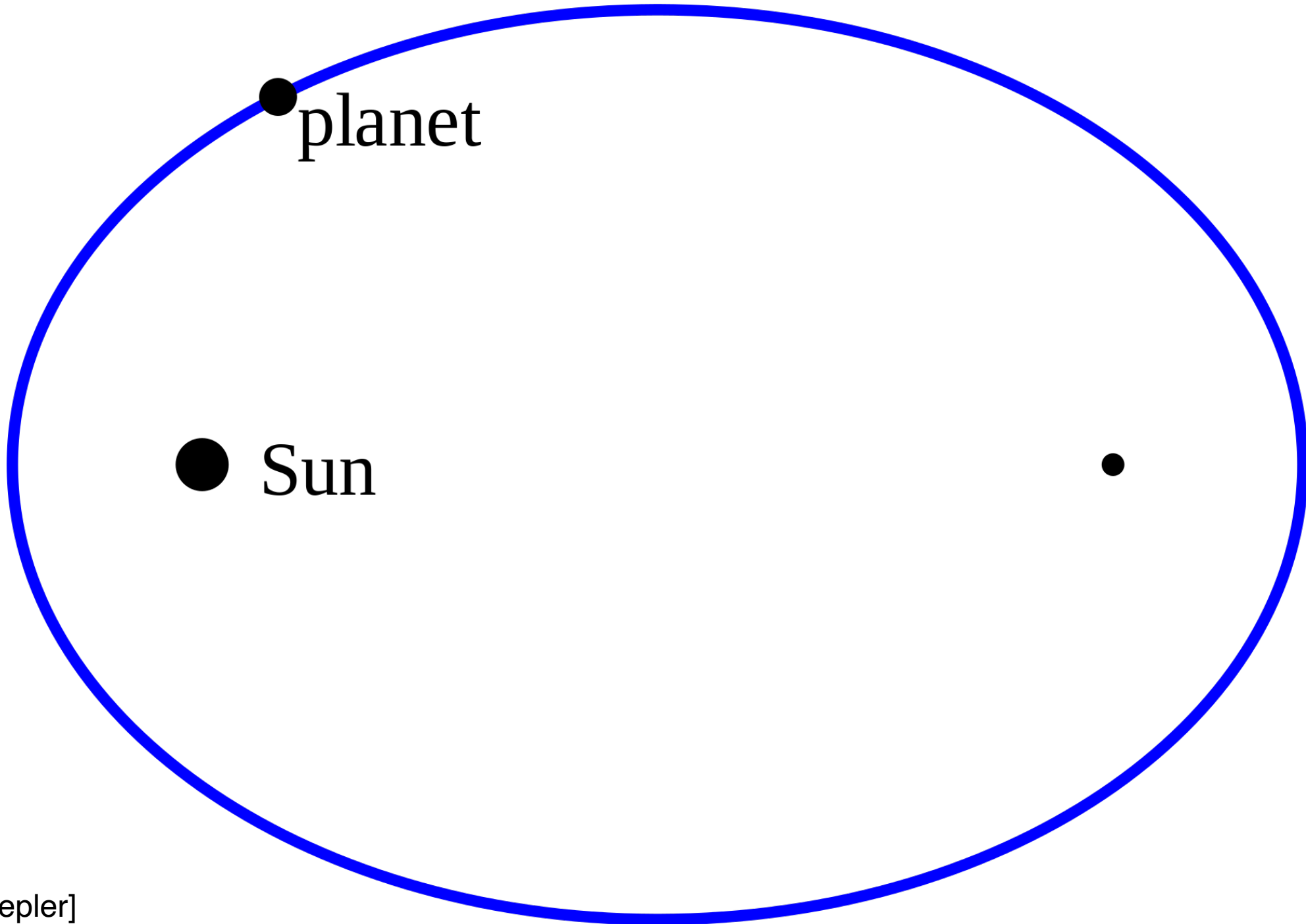
# The *essence* of science?

Prediction machine

Finding new regularities

Learning saves computational resources

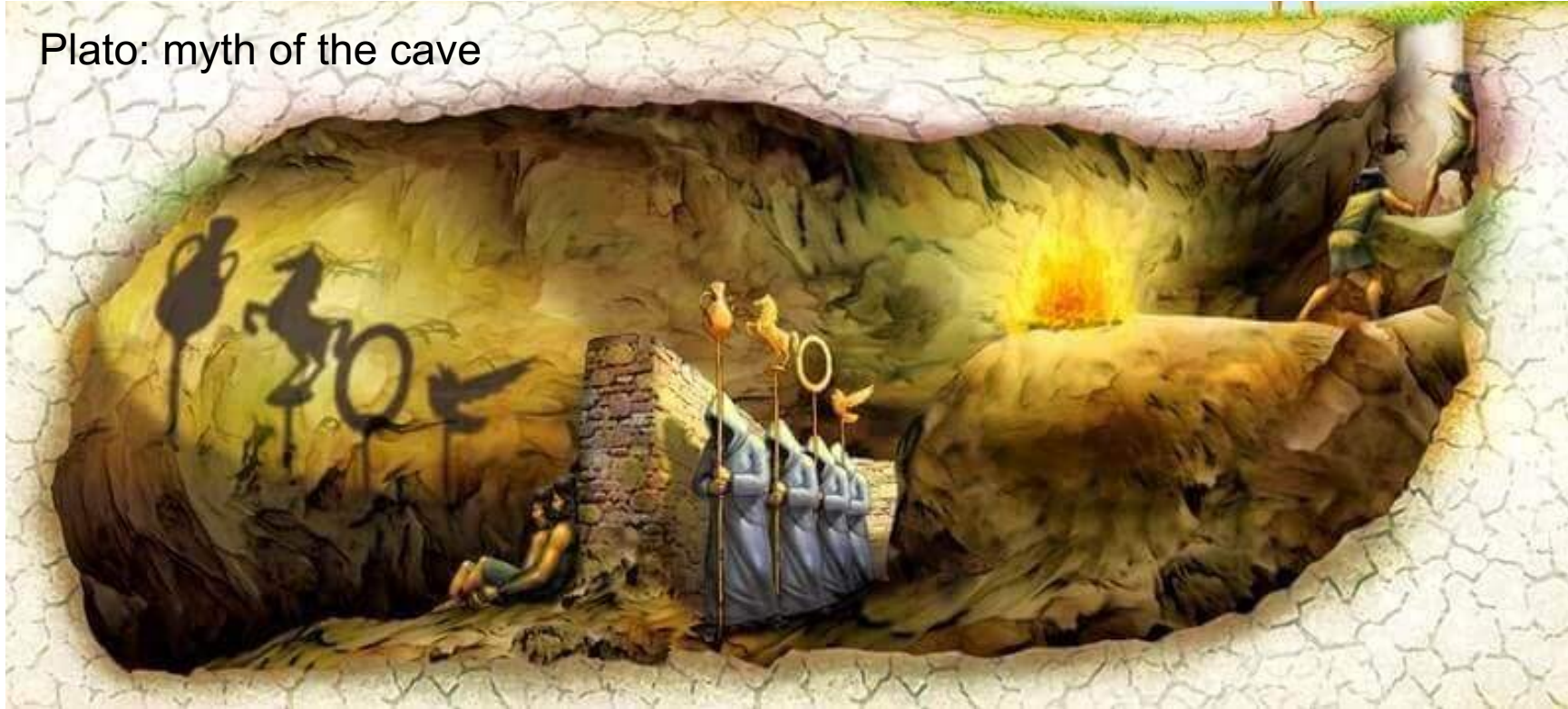
Reduce dimensionality of problem





# Learning *meaningful* **latent** representations

Plato: myth of the cave



The quest of science:

Learn true underlying objects (latent variables)

from observed data (shadows)

The promise of foundation models



# THE WORLD BEYOND OUR CURRENT REACH OF SCIENCE

Access to this *hidden* world with AI?



An underwater photograph of two humpback whales swimming in deep blue water. The whales are positioned diagonally, with one in the upper half and one in the lower half of the frame. The water is clear, and light rays are visible filtering down from the surface. The whales' dark, mottled skin and characteristic humps are clearly visible.

Will we ever be able to talk to  
whales?

# Imagine an **AI oracle**...

- ...which would give the true answer to any question !
- Such an oracle would revolutionize science and technology as we know them
- Would scientists be satisfied?
  - No. But what if it's the best we will get?
  - What if the *theory of everything* is “beyond human comprehension”
  - Does it matter if a **human** or an **AI** writes a popular science book
    - And explains it to you like a 5-year-old?

# Recap: what is a generative model?

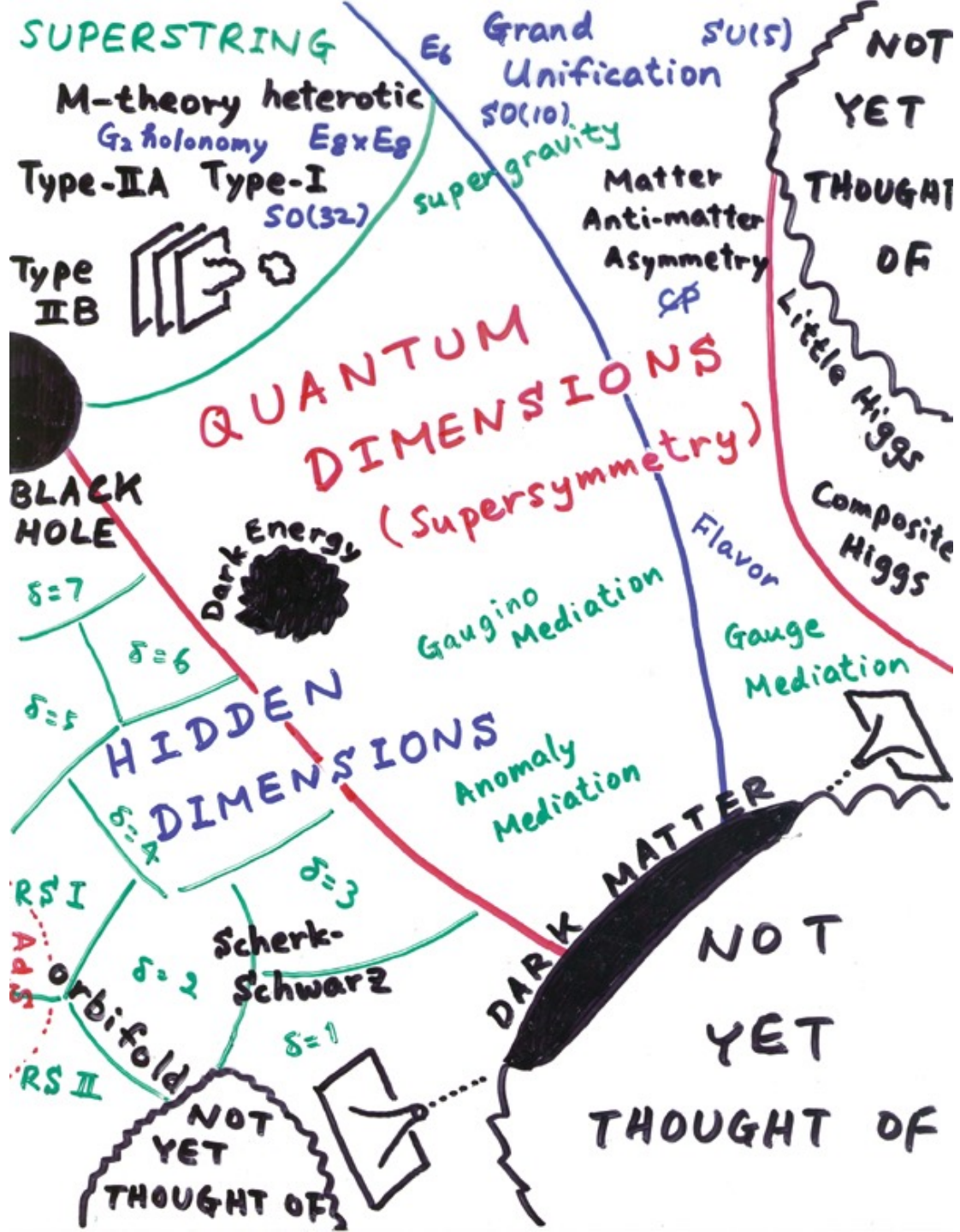
An **implicit model** that describes how data was generated [probability density]

[there is no model-less model]

[ChatGPT = implicit model of human-language text]

[DALL.E2 = implicit model of natural images]





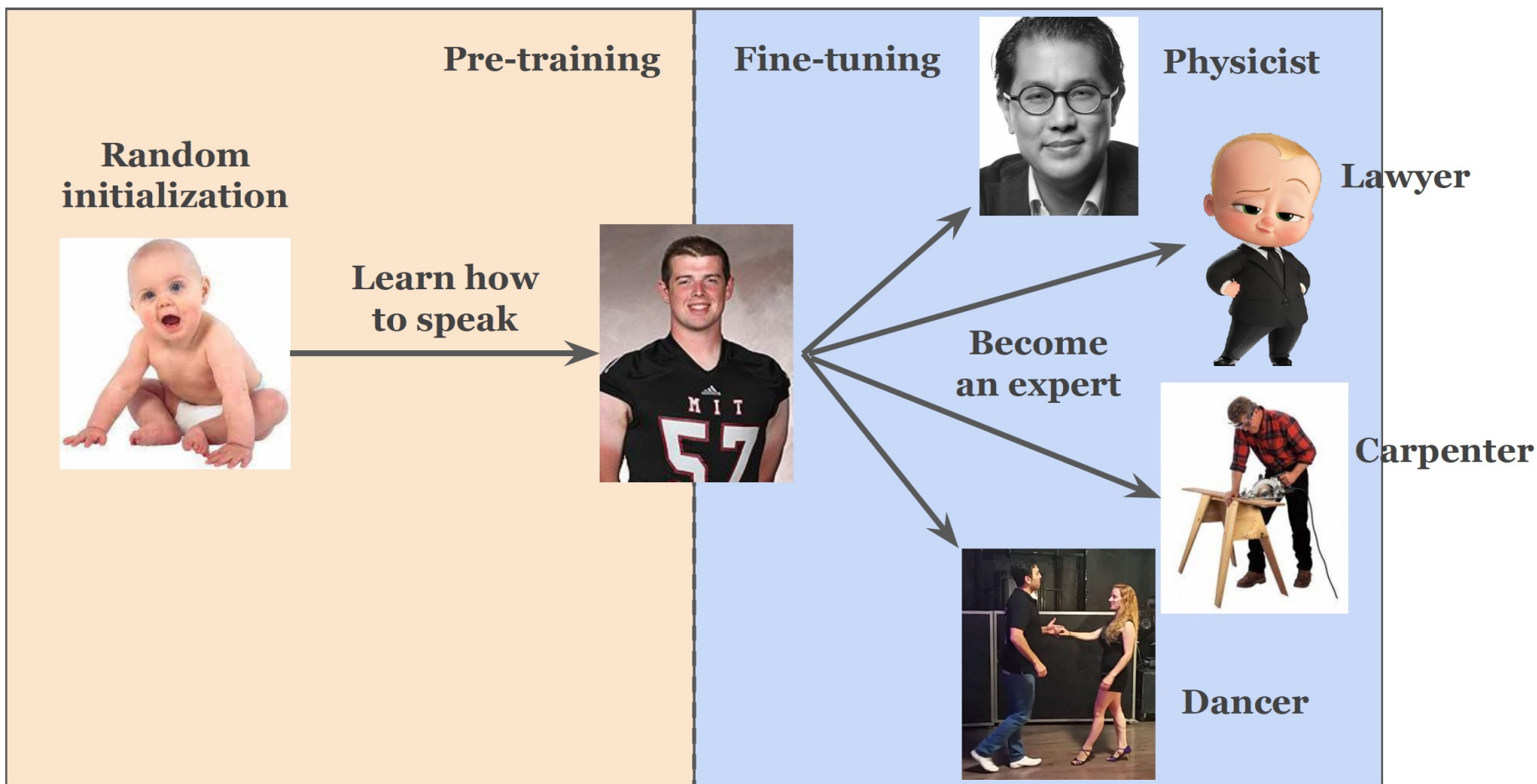
...and we want a *model* of our natural world !

Theory-driven: human ingenuity

Data-learned: foundation models



# The idea of a foundation model (FM)



1. **Pre-train** on big unlabeled data

2. **Fine-tune** on labeled data + transfer learning

[Image credit: Kazuhiro Terao]

# Characteristic features of a FM

**Pre-train** using SSL – no labels needed !

**Encode** in meaningful data representation

**Transferrable & finetunable:** adopt to multiple downstream tasks

**Multimodality:** common embedding / no pairing needed

FMs = stochastic generative models with high expressiveness and outstanding interpolation and generalization power in ultra-sparse training data spaces of high dimensionality.

# Pre-training



[2002.05709]

Augmentation [[Re-sim](#)]

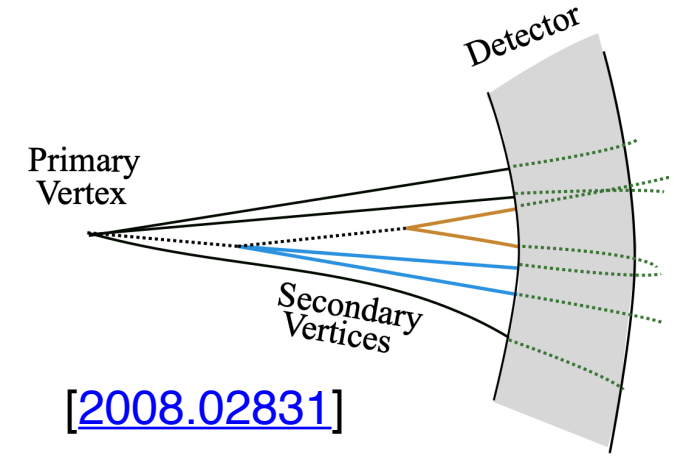
Masking [next word prediction]

Novel physics-inspired training schemes?

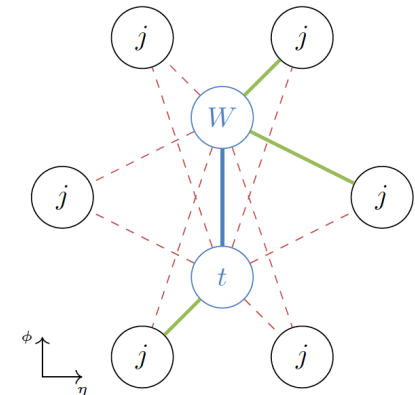
Train using auxiliary tasks?

Encode physics [*flexible* prior]

**Evaluation:** go beyond downstream task?



[2008.02831]



[2303.13937]

(b) Topograph

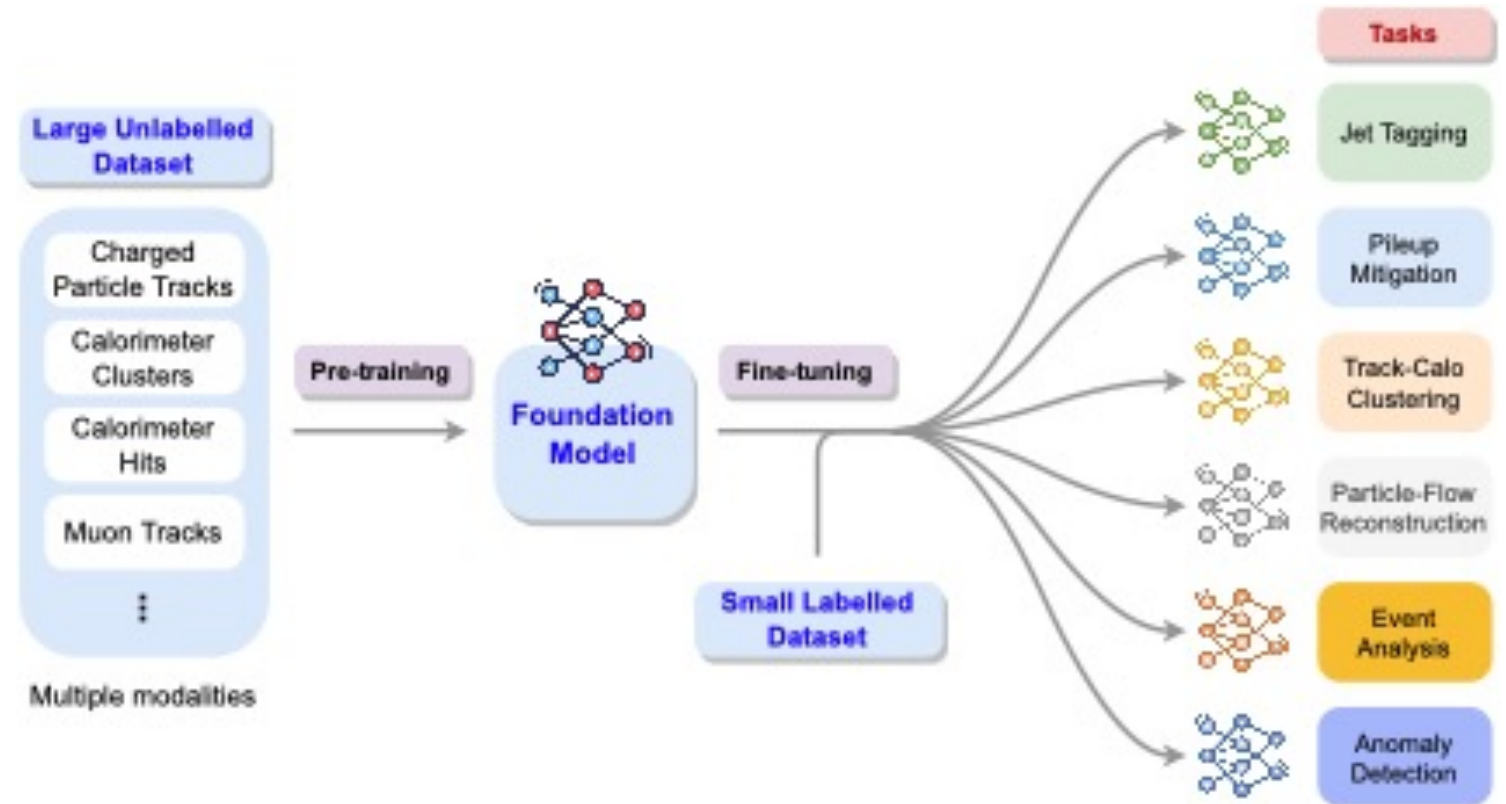
# Example: masked particle modeling

Pre-training task:

Mask & predict constituents of a jet

Fine-tune for downstream tasks:

- Classification
- Weak supervision
- ...



# We have **our own** embedding spaces

**Reconstruction** = common embedding space of our data

**Theory space** = multi-modal common embedding space

## What do FMs add to this?

- **End-to-end**
- **Differentiable**
- **Democratize AI** – commonly trained
- **Common** model across subdetectors, experiments, domains,...

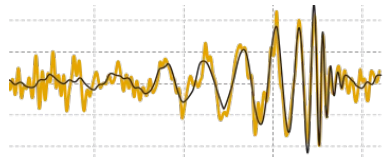
# FM trend: **task** culture → **model** culture

- Implicit model of the data
- Task-specific → generalizes across tasks
- **Model first** – then downstream tasks
  
- **AI oracle** ⇔ **interpretability**
  - Machine *understands* & explains it to *5-year-old [us]*
  - Symbolic regression → map to our *simple* description of math symbols
  - Limitation of human brain:
    - Humans can only hold 5-9 concepts in working memory at once [length of equation]
    - 2D visualization for human eyes ⇔ model of the universe



# ML interpretability for science

## Science

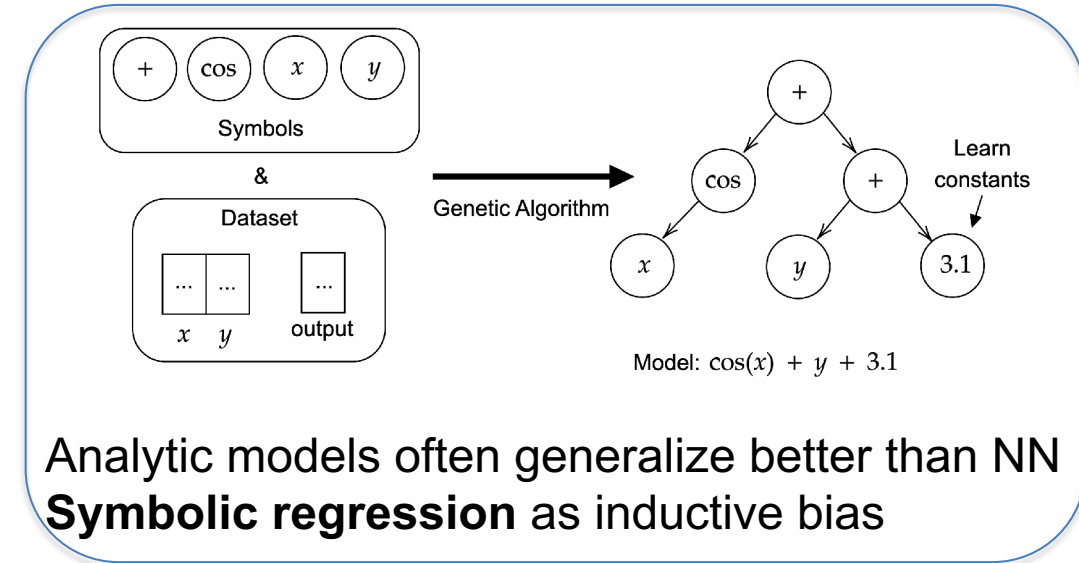


$$h = \frac{2G}{c^4} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2 Q}{\partial t^2}$$

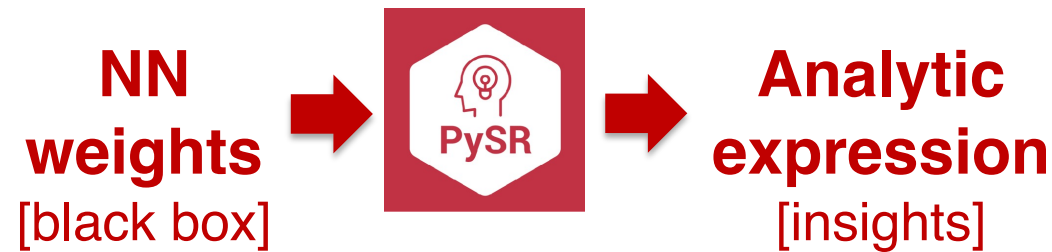
## Computer vision



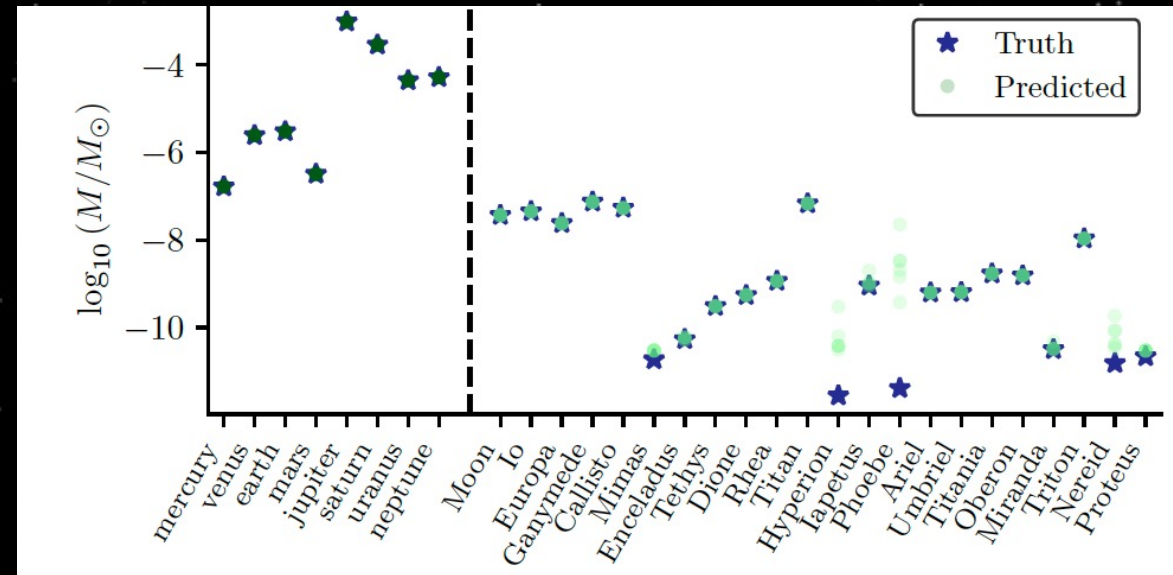
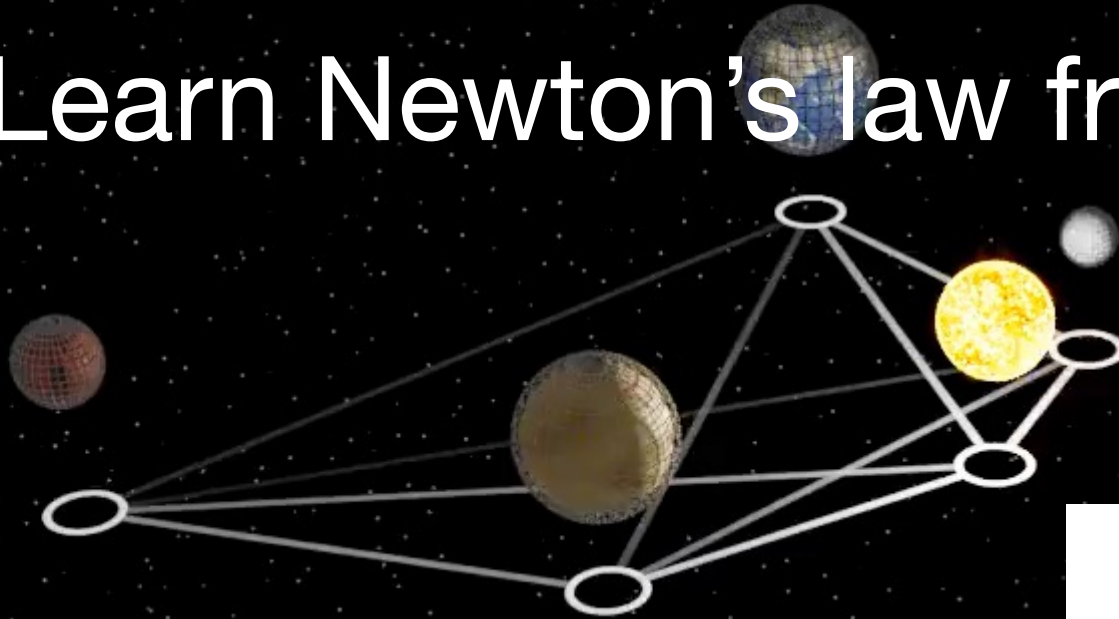
???



Analytic models often generalize better than NN  
**Symbolic regression** as inductive bias



# Learn Newton's law from solar system



GNN → PySR → Learn masses + dynamics

# Search for the Unknown Part 3

# LOOKING UNDER THE LAMPPOST

LOST YOUR  
KEYS?

YEAH,  
I LOST THEM OVER  
THERE BUT THE  
LIGHT'S BETTER HERE



Foundation models for discovery

**Common / portable** model [efficient]

**Accelerate** with surrogate models

**Automation Automation Automation**

Technology → automation → human evolution

**The Industrial Revolution (18th Century):**

Manual work ⇒ operating machinery

**The Information Age (Late 20th Century):**

Specialized knowledge in programming, data analysis, & more

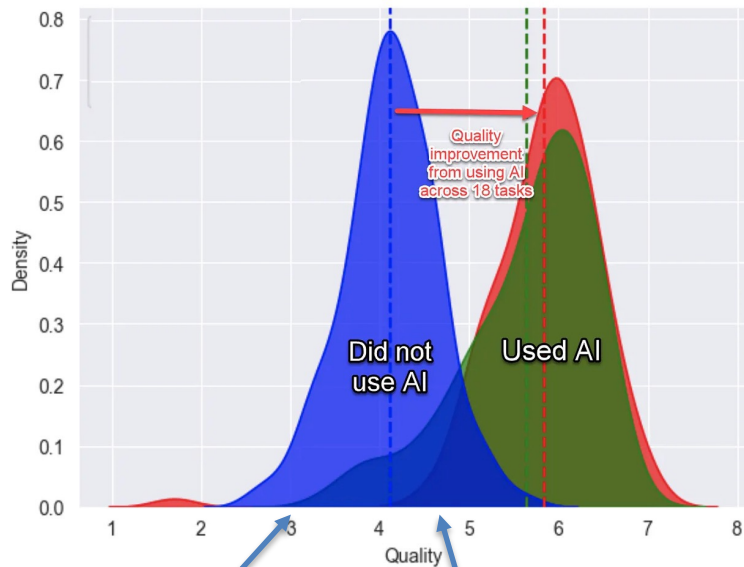
**AI & ML (21st Century):**

Need for human expert knowledge, human-AI collaboration, (personalized) human augmentation, building trust [e.g. diagnosis]



# AI → skill evolution & skill leveler

LLMs augment human intelligence:

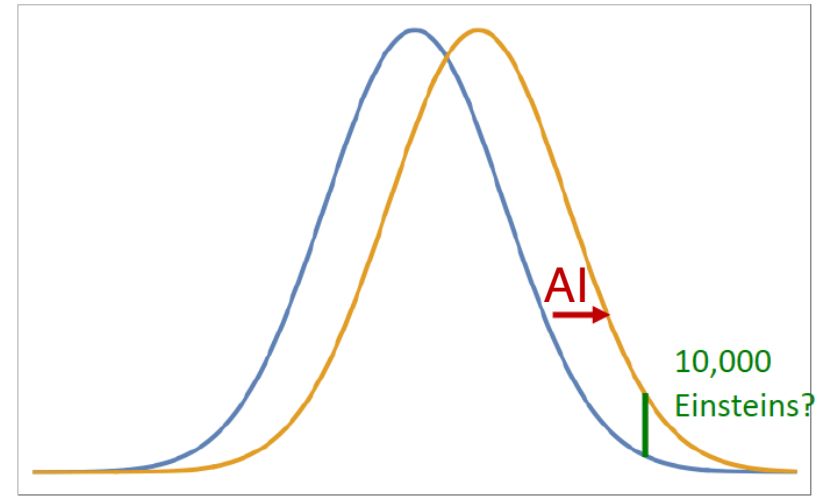
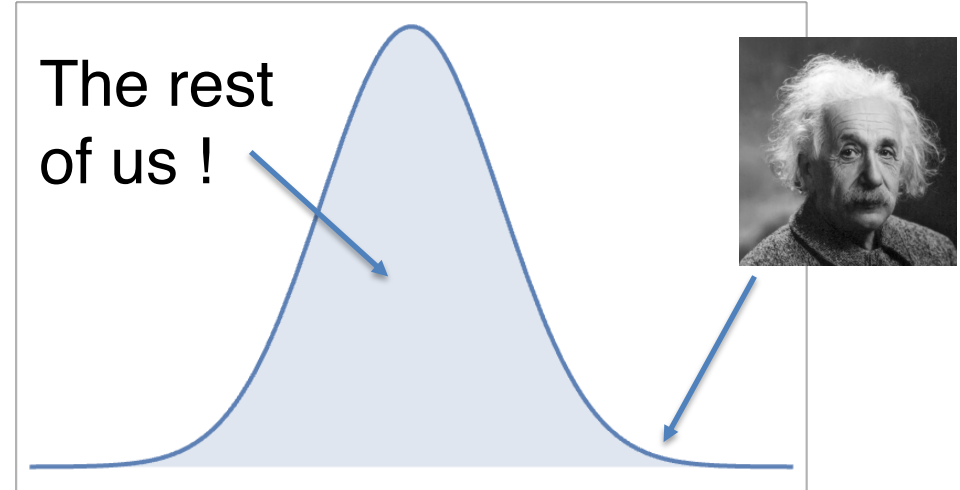
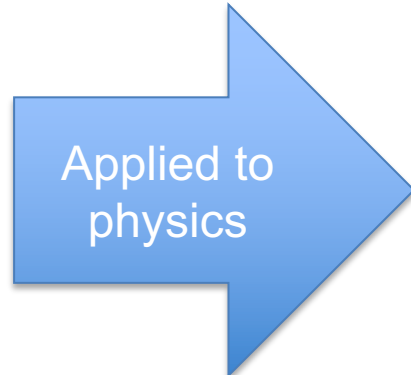


Distribution of output quality across all the tasks. The blue group did not use AI, the green and red groups used AI, the red group got some additional training on how to use AI.

bottom half improved 43%

top half improved 17%

⇒ Skill leveler



[Matt Schwartz, EuCAIFCon 2024]

# Humans are *mixtures of experts*

- Specialize in subset of input data
- Jointly perform complex tasks
  
- Same trend in AI:
  - Increased model capacity
  - Reduced computational burden
  - Faster training

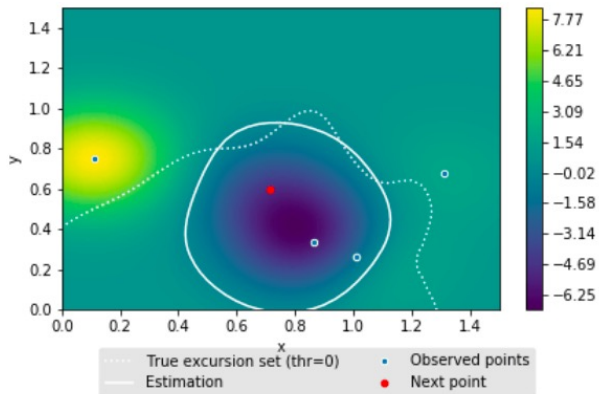
What if secrets of nature are NOT  
in *our current data*?

$$p(\text{theory} \mid \text{data}) = \frac{p(\text{data} \mid \text{theory})p(\text{theory})}{p(\text{data})}$$

[\[Lukas Heinrich - Detector design using differential programming\]](#)

Ultimate goal:  
Learning about Nature

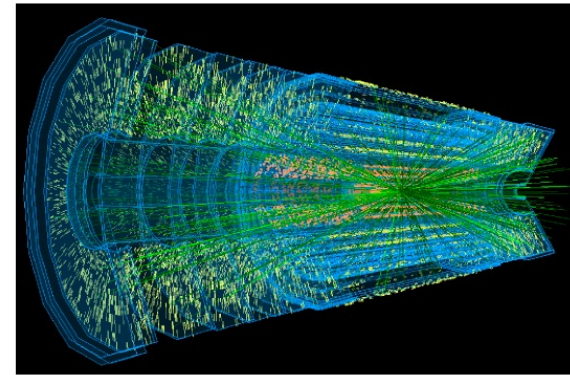
# Optimizing the science output



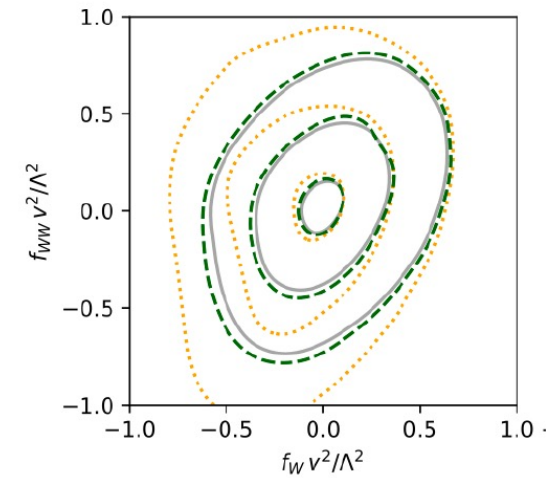
*Optimal Theory  
Exploration*



*Optimal Data Taking /  
Experiment Operations*

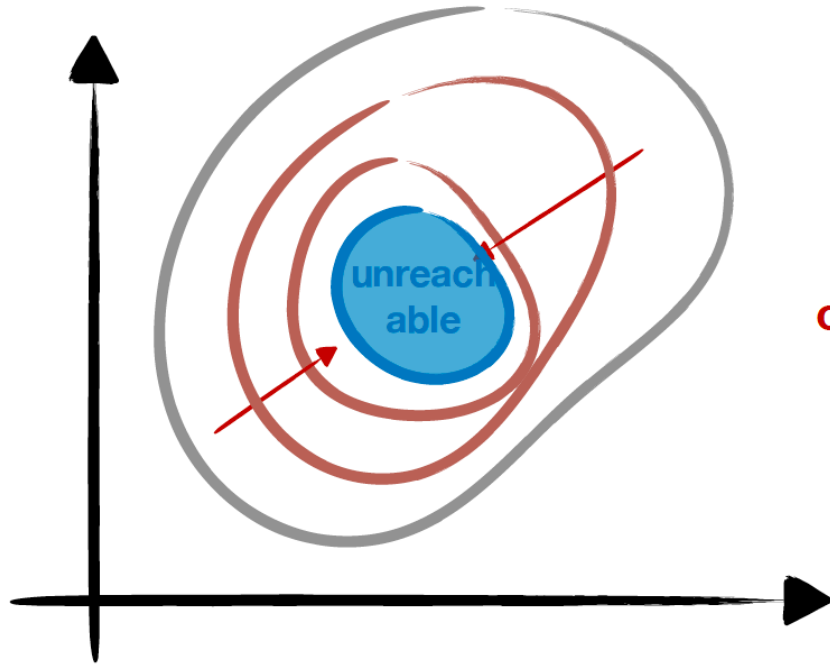


*Optimal  
Reconstruction*



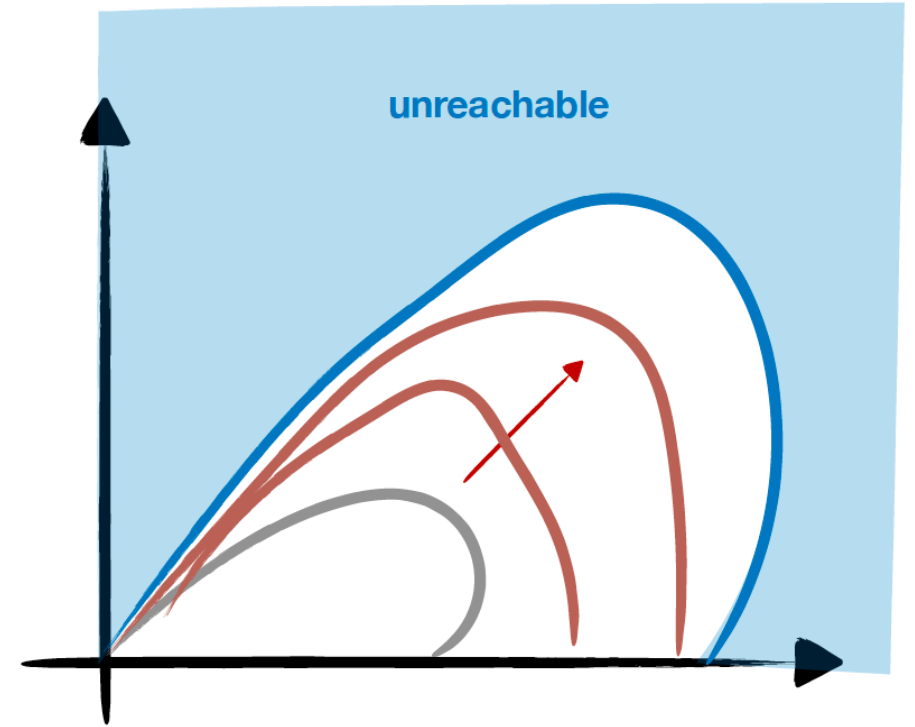
*Optimal  
Analysis*

# Natural limit: true posterior $p(\text{theory} \mid \text{data})$



*Measurements*  
(e.g. Higgs Couplings)

unoptimized  
optimized (e.g. w/ ML)

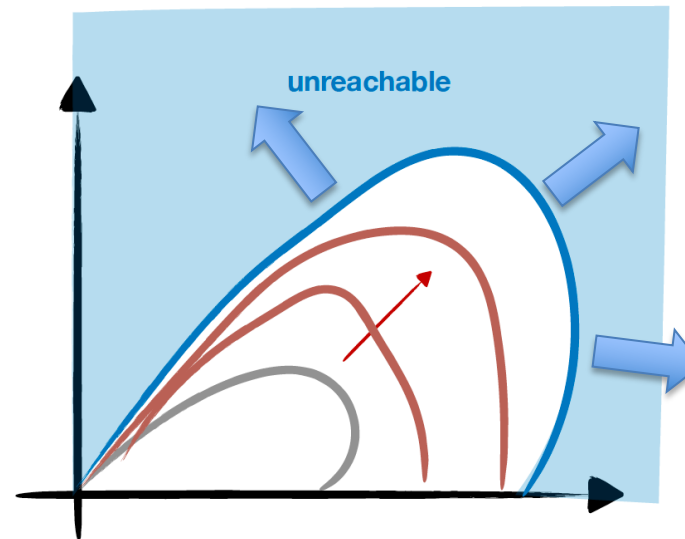
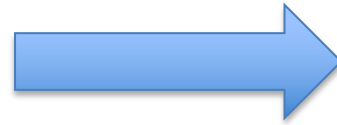


*Searches*  
(e.g. Supersymmetry)

**Need better data**



# Design new *optimal* detector to optimize $p(\text{theory} \mid \text{data})$



# Need design-conditional model $p(x | \theta, \mathbf{D})$

Approximate  $p(x | \theta, \mathbf{D})$  using **generative model**

→ **Fast**

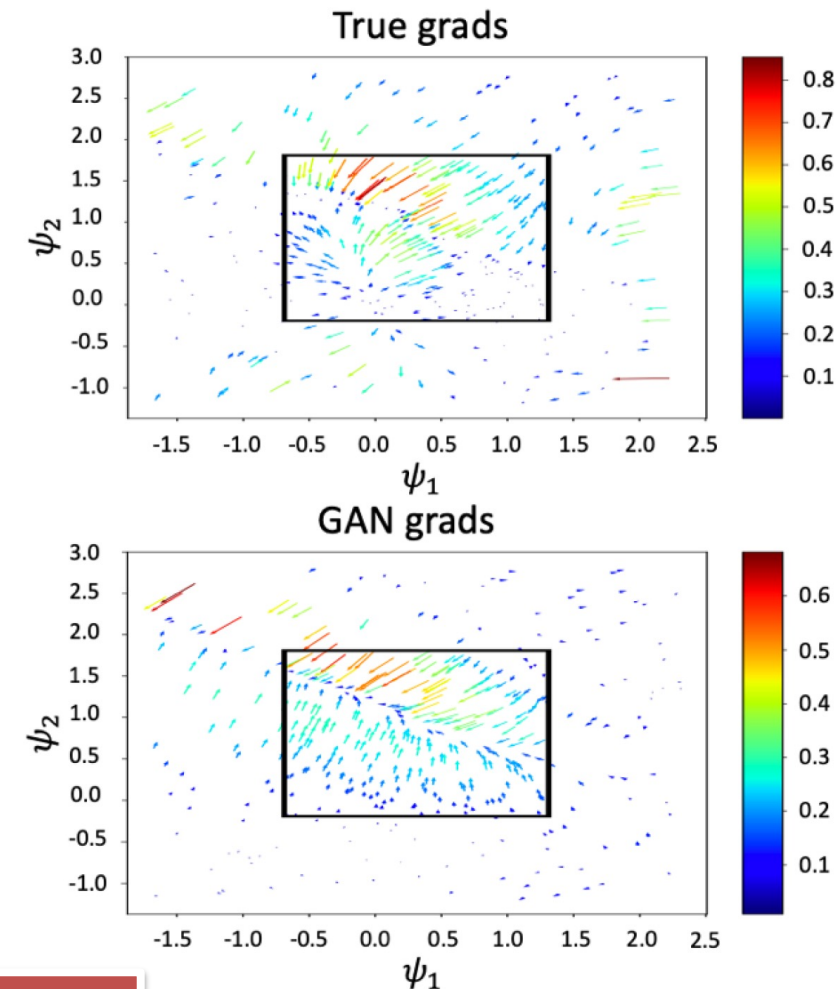
→ **Differentiable**

Challenge:

$p(x | \mathbf{D})$  without already exploring all design space  $\mathbf{D}$

Solution:

train local models as you optimize [[2002.04632](#)]



Optimal design = exciting frontier in ML@HEP





# COMMUNITY EFFORTS

Get organized



# MACHINE LEARNING in SCIENCE

BRIDGING DATA-DRIVEN & MECHANISTIC MODELLING APPROACHES

SNAPSHOTS  
of AI in  
SCIENCE

BUILDING  
EFFECTIVE  
SIMULATIONS

CONNECTING  
DATA to  
CAUSALITY

ENCODING  
DOMAIN  
KNOWLEDGE

an  
EMERGING  
RESEARCH  
AGENDA

the ML for  
SCIENCE  
ECOSYSTEM

AI for SCIENCE  
ROADMAP

PARTICIPATE

LEARNING from  
RECENT EXPERIENCE

CONNECTING  
DATA to CAUSAL

THIS CONFERENCE  
WAS HELD at  
SCHLOSS DAGSTUHL  
19 - 23 SEPTEMBER,  
2022.

## REAL WORLD APPLICATIONS

EXAMPLES of MACHINE LEARNING APPLICATIONS  
in SCIENCE can be FOUND ACROSS a WIDE SPECTRUM  
of SCIENTIFIC STUDY - from ATOMIC to ASTRONOMICAL!

### IN EARTH SCIENCES...

INTEGRATING  
OBSERVATIONAL  
DATA w/ PHYSICS-  
INFORMED  
MODELLING -  
ACROSS SCALES

THIS ABILITY  
can HELP us BETTER  
UNDERSTAND the  
IMPLICATIONS of  
CLIMATE CHANGE!

HYBRID MODELS  
can HELP FORE-  
CAST the IMPACT  
of CLIMATE  
CHANGE on  
DIFFERENT  
LANDSCAPES

TOOL-KITS to  
MAKE ICE-MELT  
MODELS more  
ACCURATE

DIFFERENT DOMAINS  
have SPECIFIC NEEDS  
from ML TOOLS!

### IN PHYSICAL SCIENCES...

NEURAL NETWORKS  
can HELP w/ COMPLEX  
PREDICTIONS

ML MODELS can  
HELP EXTRACT  
INSIGHTS from  
MACROSCOPIC  
PATTERNS in  
the UNIVERSE

ML TOOLS help FIND  
NEW APPROACHES  
to FIND APPROXIMATE  
NUMERICAL SOL.  
in DIFFUSION MODELING

THIS is  
USEFUL  
ACROSS  
MULTIPLE  
DOMAINS!

### IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES...

COMBINING  
STATISTICAL &  
MECHANISTIC  
APPROACHES to  
RECONSTRUCT  
GENE DYNAMICS

ALLOWS RESEARCHERS  
to PREDICT CELL  
SPECIALIZATION &  
ASSOC. GENETIC  
CHANGES!

STREAMLINING  
the MODEL DEFINITION  
PROCESS to RAPIDLY  
DEVELOP SIMULATIONS  
of COMPLEX STRUCTURES  
like BRAINS or  
NERVOUS SYSTEMS

### IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES...

COLLABORATING  
ACROSS DOMAINS  
& FROM FARMERS  
to BUILD a ROBUST  
SYSTEM for  
ANALYZING  
POULTRY FECAL  
SAMPLES

REQUIRES  
CAREFUL CALIBRATION  
of INPUT SOURCES

APPLYING ML  
to ANALYZE  
MULTIPLE INPUTS  
to ESTIMATE  
H & BIOMASS of  
TREES

USING ML INSIGHTS  
from SATELLITES  
to MANAGE VECTOR  
BORNE ILLNESSES

MODELS have  
INHERENT ASSUMPTIONS,  
WHICH SHOULD be  
made TRANSPARENT  
to USER GROUPS







EUROPEAN AI FOR  
FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS  
CONFERENCE  
EuCAIFCon 2024

**Bottom-up, community consensus, organized**

**You can shape the future of AI in Science**

We have a **compelling AI-in-PP story** to tell

Put PP on the global AI4Science map

Convince **our** community: AI4Science = future

Make AI4Science accessible to general public





# EuCAIF mission



Facilitate research, provide infrastructure, resources, data, models, connect researchers, define problems & metrics

Topic of interest:

Large-scale foundation models for fundamental physics

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/eucaifcon24-wg1> & provide input

*“New directions in science are launched by new tools much more often than by new concepts.”*

- Freeman Dyson

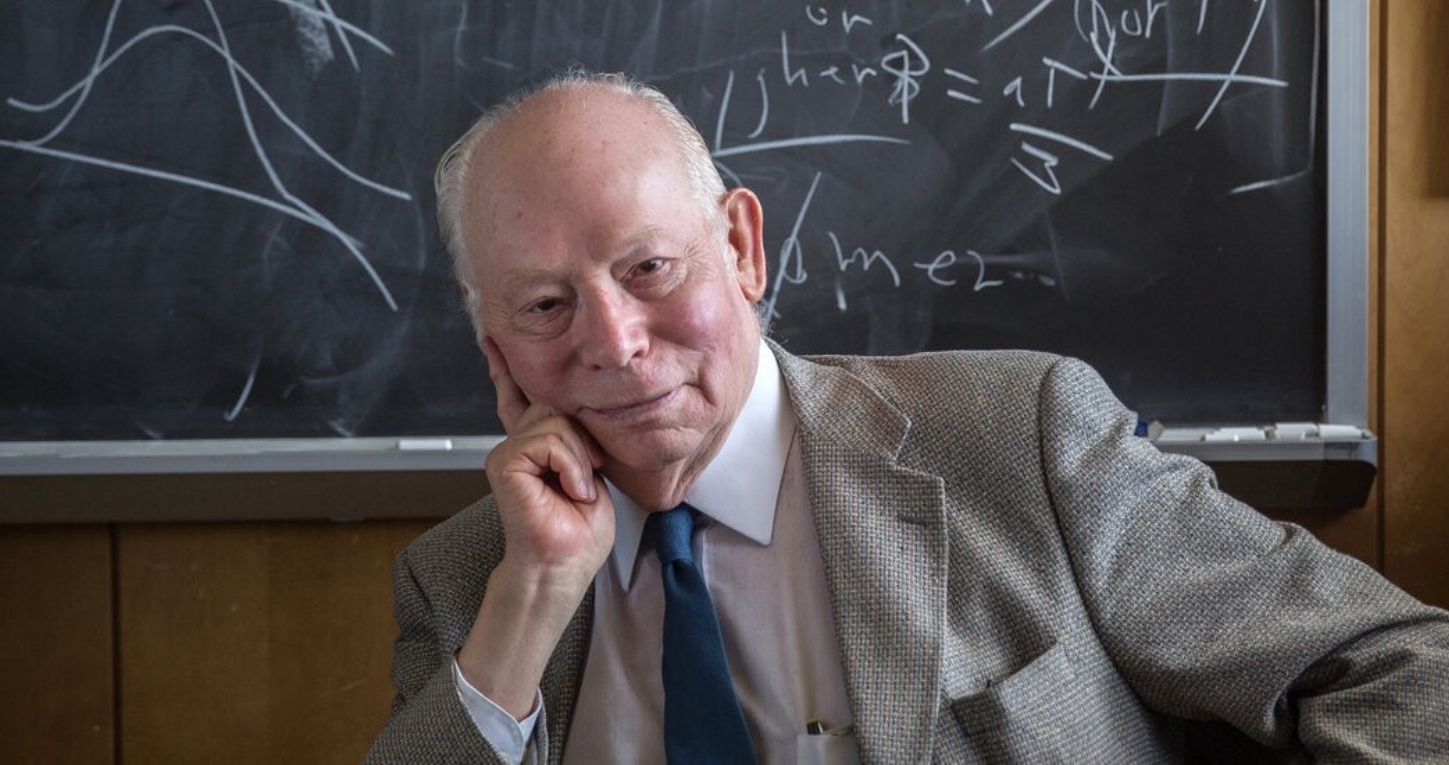




*“Solving intelligence, and then  
using that to solve everything else.”*

- Demis Hassabis, Google DeepMind





*“Go for the messes –  
that’s where the action is.”*

- Steven Weinberg

*“Deep Learning today reminiscent of the field  
of particle physics before the Standard  
Model: veritable zoo of ~~particles~~ but few  
unifying principles.”*

*NN architectures*

- Michael Bronstein on geometric deep learning (freely quoted)



# Concluding remarks

Science evolves

ML is one of our sharpest tools

Formulate open-ended questions

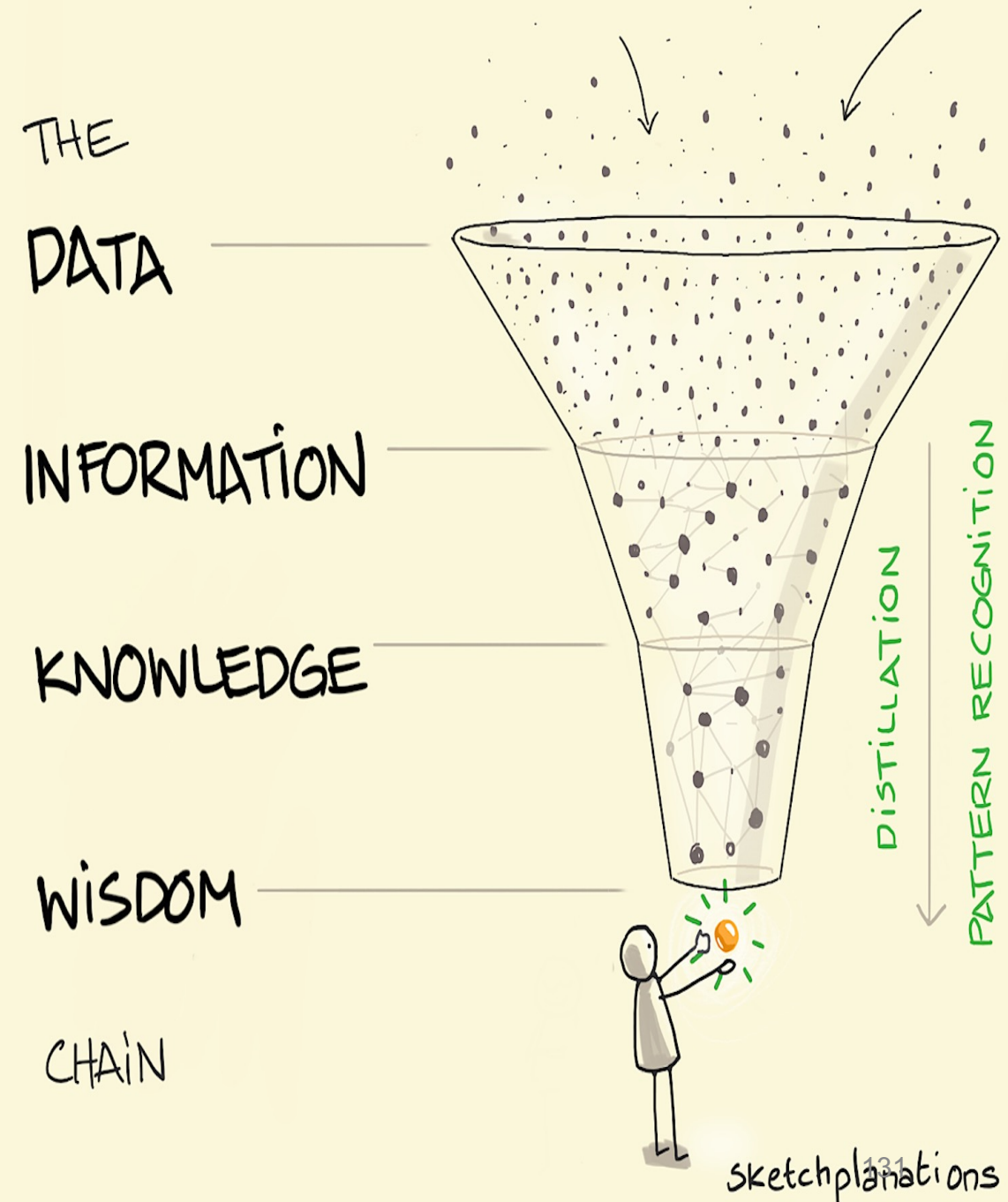
Tackle big goals as a community

Value human resources → automation

Concept → production

AI for scientific discovery

**Need all you bright minds !**



**Thank you !**