

Enhancing low energy reconstruction and classification in KM3NeT/ORCA with transformers

28/11/2025, Caen
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On behalf of the KM3NeT collaboration













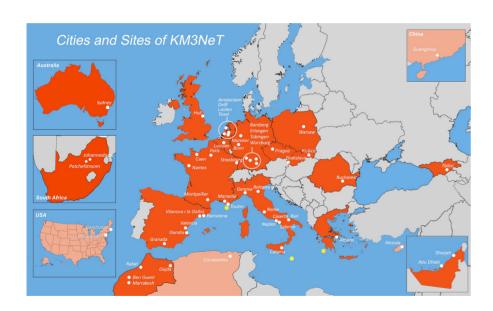
Overview

- 1. KM3NeT: neutrino telescopes
- 2. Reconstruction challenges in KM3NeT
- 3. Transformers for reconstruction
- 4. Multi-detector reconstruction in KM3NeT/ORCA
- 5. Conclusions

KM3NeT

KM3NeT is an **international collaboration**

- 22 countries
- 65 partner institutes
- ~250 members



Two undersea neutrino telescopes

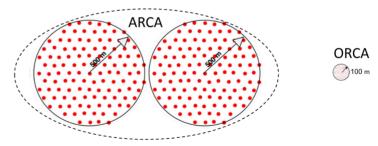
KM3NeT/ARCA

- Optimized for 1 TeV 10 PeV
- Identify high-energy neutrino sources in the Universe.
- 36m vertical spacing and 90m horizontal spacing

KM3NeT/ORCA

- Optimized for 1 100 GeV
- Determine the mass ordering of neutrinos.
- 9m vertical spacing and 20m horizontal spacing

Currently under construction: ORCA33 (29%), ARCA51 (22%)



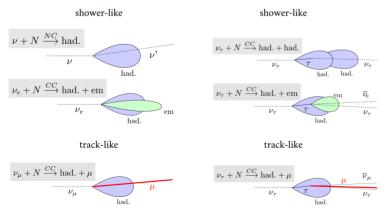
KM3NeT: neutrino telescopes

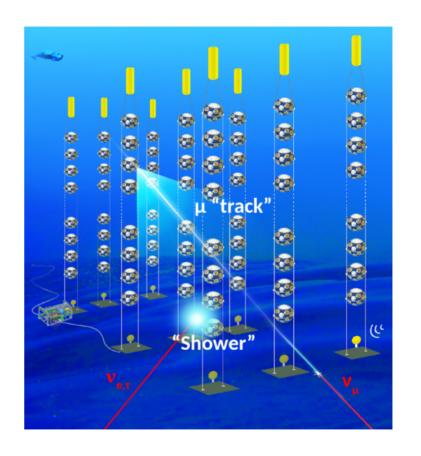
Same **technology**:

- 1 (2) building block(s) for ORCA (ARCA)
- 115 vertical detection units (DUs) per block
- 18 digital optical modules (DOMs) per DU
- 31" PMTs per DOM

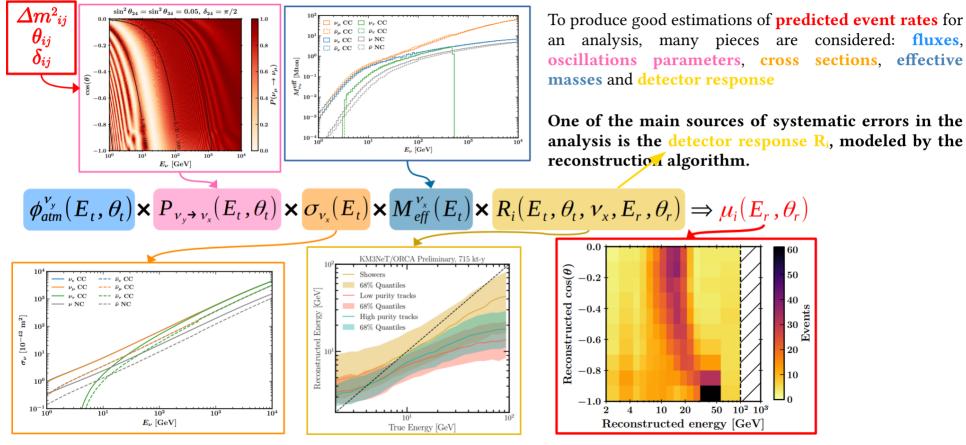
Same **detection principle**:

Light collection from **Cherenkov radiation** emitted by particles traveling faster than the speed of light in water





Importance of a good reconstruction



IN2P3/IRFU ML workshop

I. Mozún-Mateo - LPC Caen

Challenges of neutrino physics in ORCA

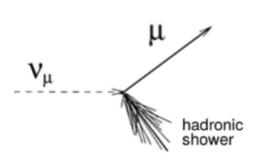
Reconstruct neutrinos from light

Maximum Likelihood Fit (MLF) algorithms

- Reconstruct under track or shower hypothesis
- Do not reconstruct the neutrino itself

nuT model beyond MLF

- Directly reconstruct neutrino
- Simultaneously reconstruct all hypothesis

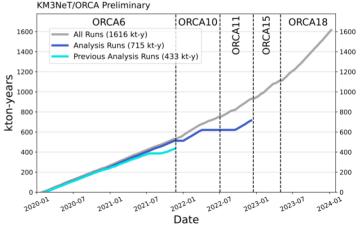


A growing detector

Realistic Monte Carlo samples are generated based on actual data-taking runs, capturing the complexities of deep-sea conditions

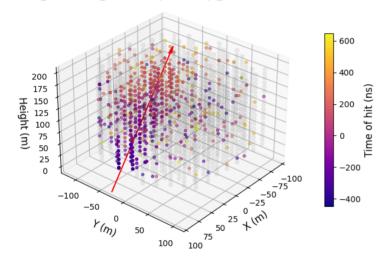
Need to use data and computing resources efficiently

Pre-trained models are leveraged to propagate information across configurations



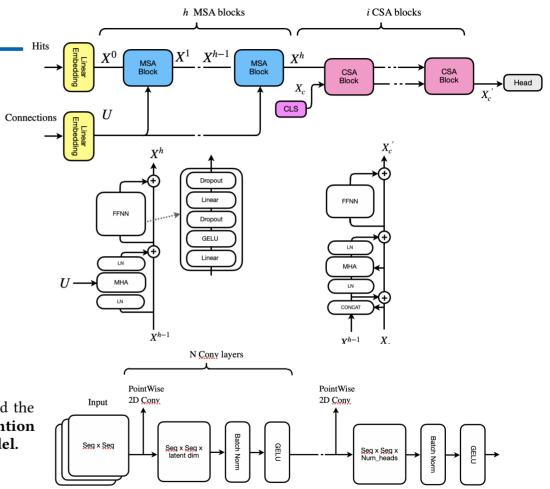
nuT architecture

The input data is the low-level hit information that composes the light pattern detected in the telescope, composed by **all type of hits**.



The information is processed in parallel by the transformer and the high-level information is extracted in the attention blocks. **Attention masks provide detector and physics knowledge to the model.**

The class token is an abstract representation of the event.

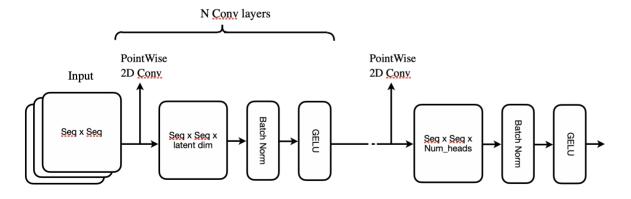


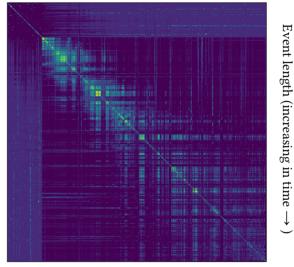
Attention masks

Detector and physics information introduced in the model through pairwise relationships

- Causality: space-time relativistic distance
- **Distance**: euclidean distance
- Coincidence: channel coincidence for DU, DOM and PMT in the **self-attention mechanism**

$$Attn(Q, K, V) = SoftMax \left(\frac{Q \cdot K^{T}}{\sqrt{d}} + U \right) \cdot V$$





Event length (increasing in time \rightarrow)

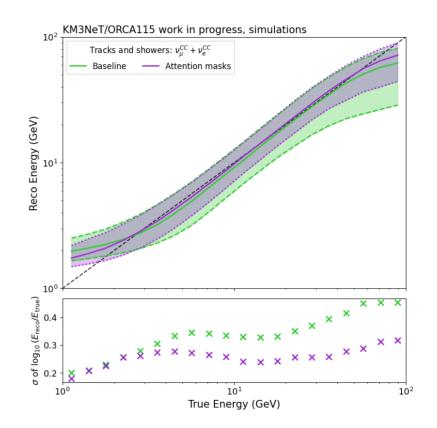
The attention mask show clear patterns of light pulses coming from a charged particle or from optical background → **The model understands the physics**

Attention masks

Detector and physics information introduced in the model through pairwise relationships in the **self-attention mechanism**.

Improvements in energy reconstruction:

- Better energy estimation at low energies.
- Better energy estimation at high energies.
- Less spreading of predicted energies.

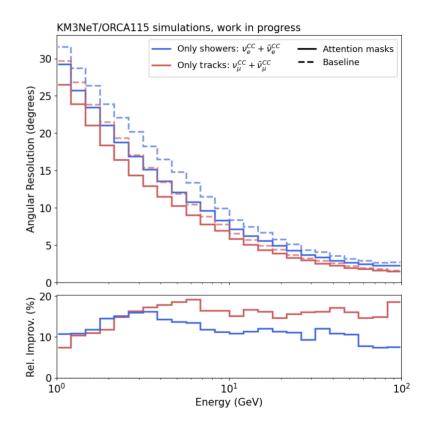


Attention masks

Detector and physics information introduced in the model through pairwise relationships in the **self-attention mechanism**.

Improvements in direction reconstruction:

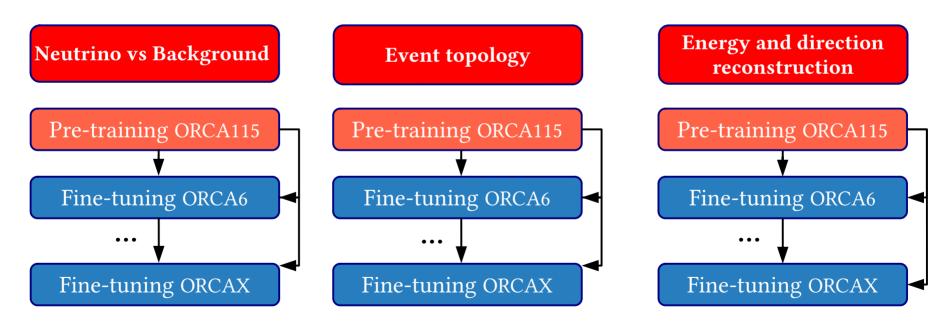
- Improvement of 10% for track-like events.
- ~10% improvement at low energies for showers.
- Above 15% improvement above 10 GeV for showers.



Learning approach for KM3NeT/ORCA

Motivation: the transformer is a language model

- KM3NeT/ORCA115 is the final detector, having all the possible neutrino physics encapsulated
- The information about KM3NeT/ORCA115 is used to understand our current detector
- All the knowledge will be retained when fine-tuning on other smaller configurations

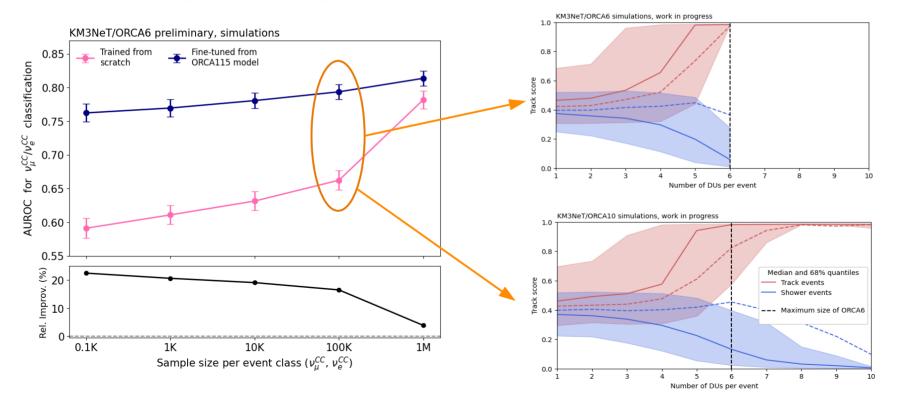


A growing detector

Realistic Monte Carlo samples are generated based on actual data-taking runs, capturing the complexities of deep-sea conditions

Pre-trained models are leveraged to propagate information across configurations w.r.t. models trained from scratch

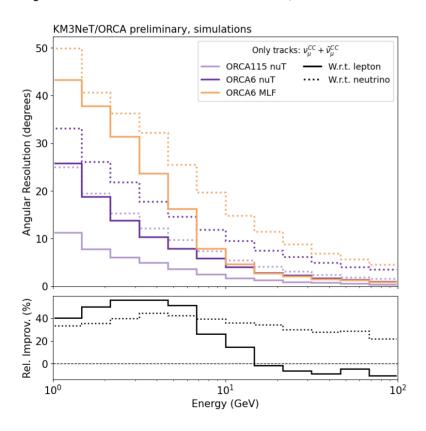
Better discrimination power when adding more lines

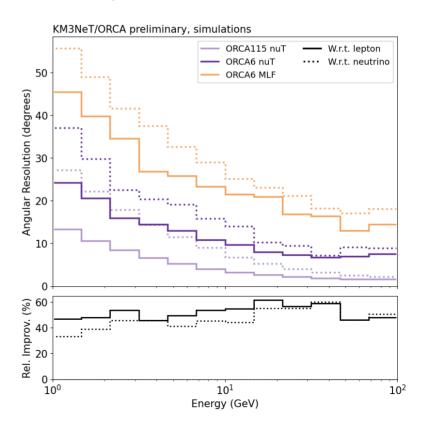


Reconstruction of neutrinos: angular resolution

MLF: <10° resolution above 10 GeV

nuT: improved resolution w.r.t. neutrino (+30% for tracks, +40% for showers)

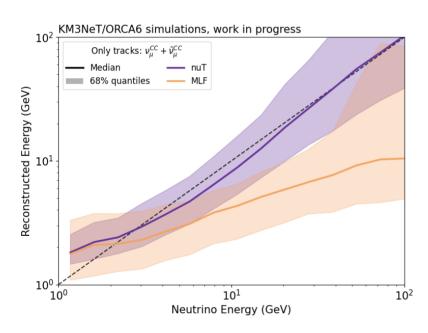


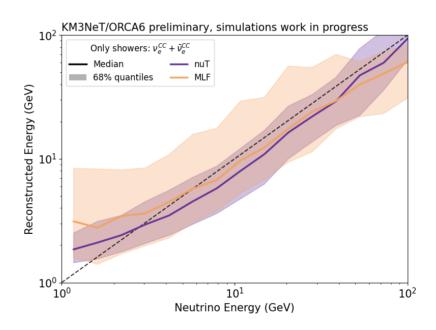


Reconstruction of neutrinos: energy estimation

MLF: underestimation in track reconstruction from missing hadronic component, compensated in pure shower events **nuT**: accounts for visible and non-visible energy

Saturation effect at high energies due to event containment

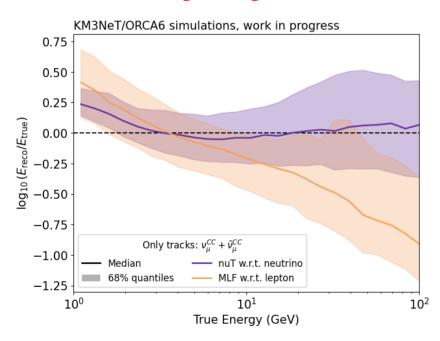


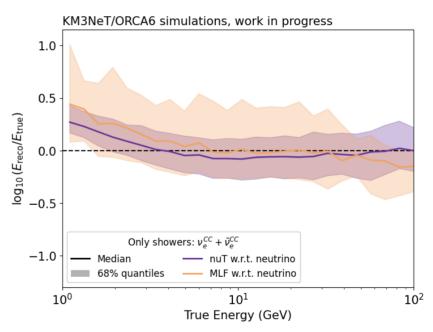


Reconstruction of neutrinos: energy resolution

MLF: underestimation in track reconstruction from missing hadronic component, compensated in pure shower events **nuT**: compromise found when reconstructing tracks and showers simultaneously

Saturation effect at high energies due to event containment





Conclusions

Transformers in KM3NeT

- Reconstruct directly neutrino properties accounting simultaneously for track and shower hypothesis
- Attention masks:
 - Introduce physics and detector knowledge in the model
 - Boost training and increase performance

Propagate information across telescopes through fine-tuning

- Transformers are particularly effective to deal with small detectors and very limited data
- Information propagated across detectors
- Speeds up training and boosts model robustness

Thank you for your attention!