



Optimal transport solutions for pileup mitigation at hadron colliders

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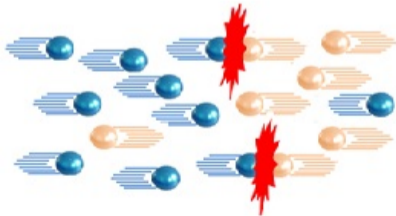
Robustness

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The paradigm of hadron colliders: the CERN LHC



- CERN hosts the biggest and most powerful particle accelerator ever built
 - **Large Hadron Collider: LHC**
- LHC accelerates hadrons (protons) to nearly the speed of light and to **record energy of 13.6 TeV**
- LHC isn't filled with "single" protons, but rather with "**proton bunches**"
- Each particle collision inside the LHC is effectively a "bunch crossing"

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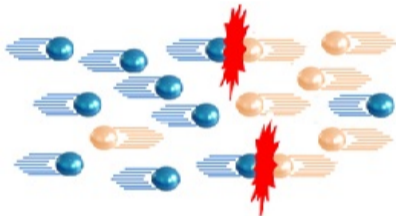
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$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{n^2 N_b \gamma \nu}{4\pi \epsilon_n \beta^*} F$$

- At the LHC, usually interested in rare, **head-on pp collisions**
- Maximize probability of head-on collisions by **squeezing the proton bunches** as much as possible
- **Keep “instantaneous luminosity“ \mathcal{L} high**
- High integrated luminosity \implies more statistics \implies better physics outcome
- **Drawback:** non-negligible probability of having **more than one pp collision** per bunch crossing

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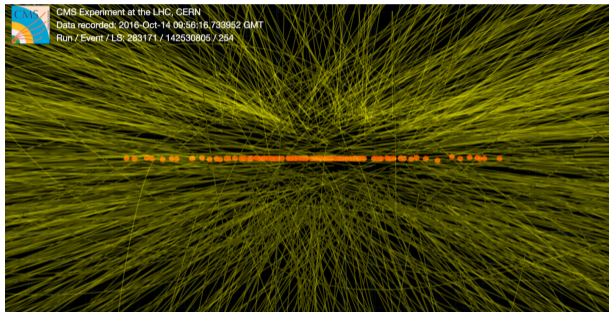
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- Leading vertex: vertex out of which the biggest energy stems
- **Pileup**: additional pp collisions (vertices) superimposing to main collision
- During current LHC data taking period (Run3) **PU** has **reached** $nPU = 60$
PU will reach $nPU = 200$ during High-Luminosity LHC (~ 2029)

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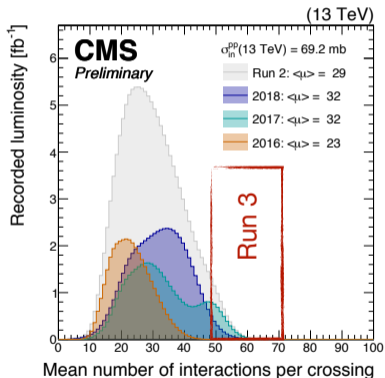
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- Pileup mitigation is crucial at hadron colliders
- Will severely **degrade quality of our measurements** if not properly treated
- Main goal: **reject** particles coming from **pileup vertices**, **keep** particles coming from **leading vertex (LV)**
- **Easy task for charged** particles: use tracking information to disentangle particles
- **Very challenging for neutral** particles

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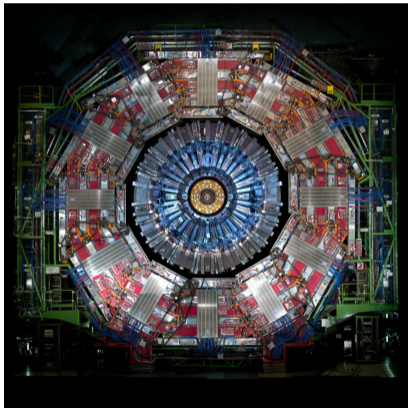
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The paradigm of particle detectors: CMS



- **CMS: Compact Muon Solenoid**
- One of the two “general purpose” LHC experiments
- Specs: $15 \times 15 \times 20 \text{m}^3$, 12500 tonnes
- Broad programme of **precision measurements and searches**
- Sometimes called “the cylindrical onion”:
several layers of subdetectors
- Going outwards: tracker, calorimeters, magnet, muon chambers
- **PU mitigation capabilities strongly depend on subdetectors features**

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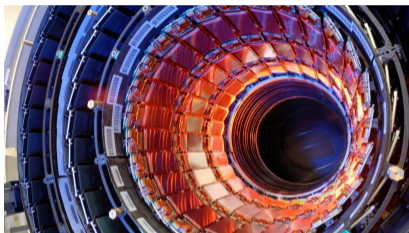
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CMS subdetectors examples: tracker & ECAL



- Tracker: detect trajectories of **charged** particles
- Silicon pixels/strips
- Excellent spatial resolution: $\sigma \approx \mu\text{m}$
- **Can disentangle different vertices**



- Electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL): measure energy of electrons/photons
- Lead tungstate (PbWO₄) crystals
- Worse spatial resolution: $\sigma \approx \text{cm}$
- **Cannot disentangle different vertices**

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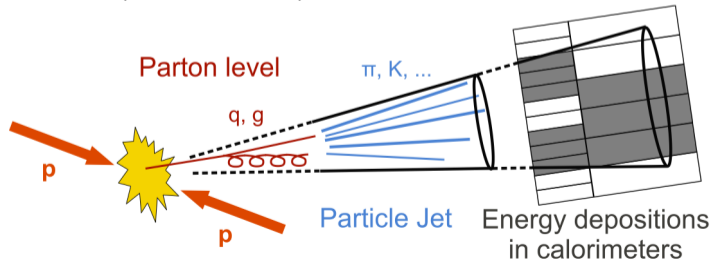
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Physics objects: jets and MET



- Pileup affects all the physics objects, in particular jets and MET
- **Jet**: “spray” of particles (charged and neutral) **produced by** the hadronization of a **quark or a gluon**, clustered with dedicated algorithms
- **MET**: **momentum imbalance** in plane transverse to proton beam direction
- MET can be used to indirectly infer presence of weakly interacting particles
 - Neutrinos
 - New physics (dark matter, ...)?



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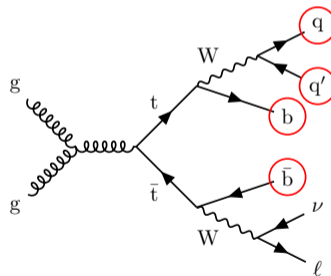
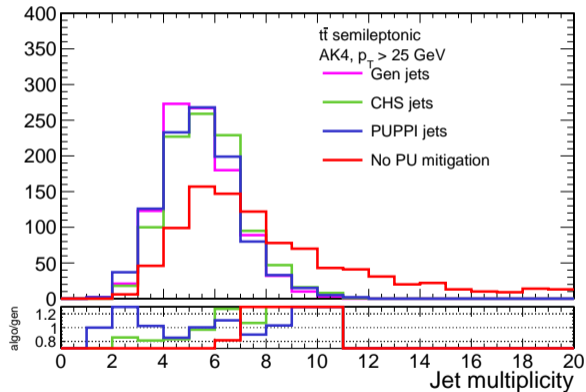
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How bad is pileup?



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State-of-the-art at CMS: PUPPI [JINST 15 P09018]



- Starting from LHC Run3, **default PU mitigation technique** in CMS is **PUPPI**
- Rule-based** algorithm
- Calculates a weight $w \in [0, 1]$ for each particle in the event
 - Encodes the probability for a particle to be LV or not
 - Weight used to **reweight the particle 4-momentum before jet clustering**
- For charged: use tracking information and assign 0 or 1
- For neutrals: build α variable

$$\alpha_i = \log \sum_{j \neq i, \Delta R_{ij} < R_0} \left(\frac{p_{T,j}}{\Delta R_{ij}} \right)^2 \begin{cases} |\eta_i| < 2.5 & j \text{ are all charged particles from LV} \\ |\eta_i| > 2.5 & j \text{ are all kinds of particles} \end{cases}$$

- LV radiation is harder and more collimated than PU \implies higher α than PU

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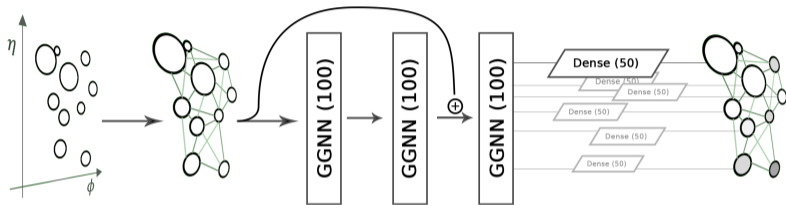
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PUPPI with Machine Learning: PUPPIML [1810.07988]



- PUPPI is based on **local information**: use **GNN** to collect it in **more expressive** ways
- Developed using Delphes (fast detector simulation) at particle-level (before interaction with the detector)
- **Low complexity of fast-sim makes it possible to know if a particle is leading vertex or PU: truth labels available**
- **Fully supervised**: use truth-labels coming from Delphes simulation

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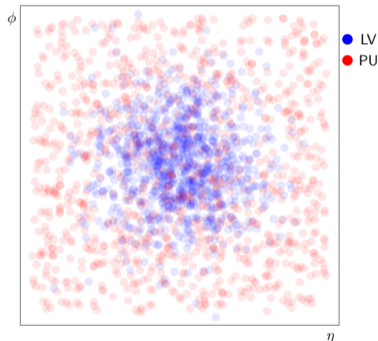
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Truth labels in full-sim?



- **Critical issue:** truth labels for neutrals **not available in Geant4** full-scale simulations
 - For charged, use tracker
- High complexity **full-sim** makes it **extremely hard to get truth labels**
- Truth label **definition** can **even be ambiguous**
 - Merged neutral deposits can't be disentangled
- **Previous approaches can't be exported to ATLAS/CMS**

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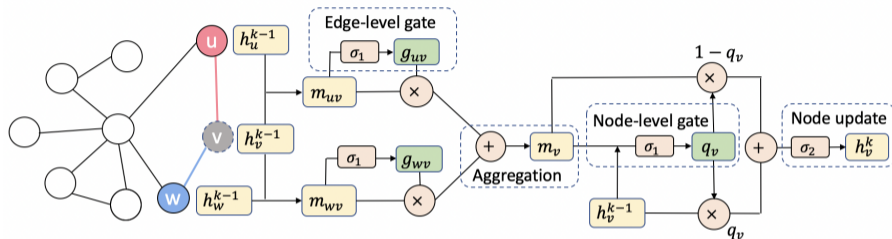
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Semi-supervised PUPPI [2203.15823]



- PUPPI is based on **local information**: use **GNN** to collect it in **more expressive** ways
- Developed at Delphes particle-level (before interaction with the detector)
- **Semi-supervised**: train on charged (labels exist in Geant4 as well, from tracking), apply on neutrals
- Can train on data, but **requires extrapolations** (charged \rightarrow neutrals, central \rightarrow forward)

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Overview of PU mitigation techniques



- Currently in use (e.g., CMS): **PUPPI** [[JINST 15 P09018](#)]
 - **Rule-based** algorithm
- Nature and complexity of task inspired **machine-learning-based approaches**
 - PUPPIML: use GNN, rely on Delphes truth labels [[1810.07988](#)]
 - Semi-supervised PUPPI: train on charged, apply on neutrals, rely on extrapolations [[2203.15823](#)]
- **Recurring problem**: lack of truth **labels for neutrals** in full simulation
- We developed a **new ML-based approach** to overcome this bottleneck
 - Use **Attention-Based Cloud Network** (ABCNet, [[2001.05311](#)]) **combined with optimal transport** concepts
 - **TOTAL: Training Optimal Transport with Attention Learning**
- Train model on a Delphes-based simulation of the CMS Phase2 detector

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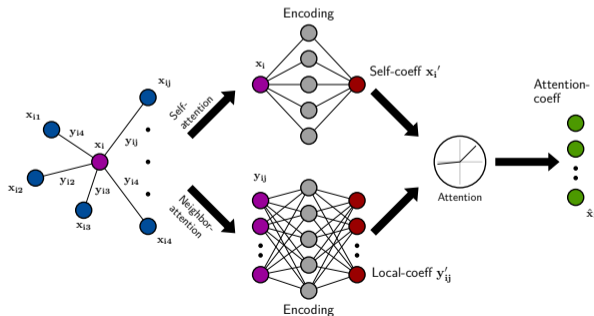
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Attention-Based Cloud network



- ABCNet is an **graph neural network** enhanced **with attention mechanisms**
 - Treat particle collision data as a set of permutation-invariant objects
 - Attention mechanisms filter out the particles that are not relevant for the learning process
- Implemented inside custom **graph attention pooling layers** (GAPLayers)



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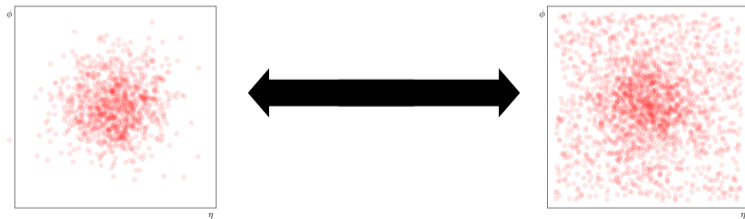
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A novel approach to PU mitigation



- Definition of truth labels is highly non trivial in simulations at hadron colliders
- **Our approach:** simulate **identical** proton-proton **collisions in two scenarios**
 - ① Only the hard interaction is simulated: **no-PU sample**
 - ② Pileup is superimposed to the hard interaction: **PU sample**
- **Do not assign per-particle labels:** rather just assign a “global“ label to samples
- Train network to **learn differences between the two samples**



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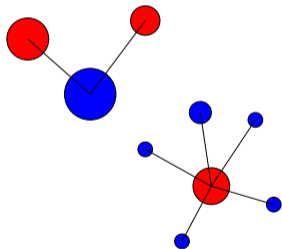
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How to learn: OT concepts for a loss function



- We build a custom **loss inspired by optimal transport** ideas (OT)



- OT example: the **Earth Mover's Distance** is the minimum work to move **earth** to fill some **holes**

$$EMD(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \min_f W(f, \vec{x}, \vec{y})$$

- With OT you can **match distributions** (e.g., earth-holes)
- We want to match the distributions for the no-PU particles and **PU particles weighted by an ABCNet weight** ($\vec{\omega}$)

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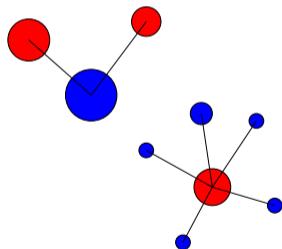
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Limitation of the EMD loss function



- Using the **EMD loss comes with some limitations**



- We consider 9000 particles per event
- High computational cost:** feasible flows f are 9000×9000 matrices
- Can only match **3D distributions**
- We use a modified loss to
 - Match higher-dimensionality distributions**
 - Solve OT efficiently
- Sliced Wasserstein Distance (SWD)**

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Efficient OT: sliced Wasserstein distance (SWD)



- The optimal transport problem has a **closed form for 1D problems**:

$$W_c(p_X, p_Y) = \int_0^1 c\left(P_X^{-1}(\tau), P_Y^{-1}(\tau)\right) d\tau$$

where p_X, p_Y are 1D PDFs, $P_X(\tau), P_Y(\tau)$ are the respective CDFs and $c(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the transportation cost function

- No guarantee that the integral is solvable (it depends on the form of $c(\cdot, \cdot)$)
- The **integral can always be approximated** by the finite sum

$$\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M c\left(P_X^{-1}(\tau_m), P_Y^{-1}(\tau_m)\right), \quad \tau_m = \frac{2m-1}{2M}$$

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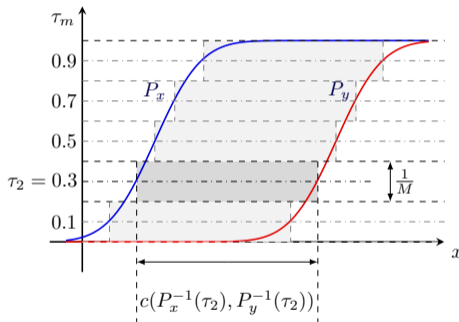
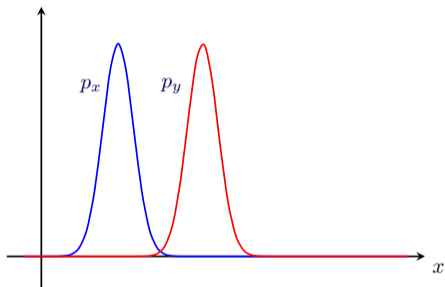
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Example: $M = 5$



• $m \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} \implies \tau_m = \frac{2m-1}{2M} \in \{0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9\}$

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Efficient OT: sliced Wasserstein distance (SWD)



- In the **special case of discrete distributions** (discrete in nature, or resulting from a sampling), PDFs are sums of Dirac's deltas

$$p_x = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \delta(x - x_m); \quad p_y = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \delta(y - y_m);$$

- The integral of a Dirac's delta is the Heaviside's step function $\Theta \implies \implies$ CDFs are Heaviside functions

$$P_x(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t p_x(z) dz = \frac{1}{M} \int_{-\infty}^t \sum_{m=1}^M \delta(z - x_m) dz = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M \Theta(t - x_m)$$

- **If we sort the samples by feature**, the CDFs become a **sum of steps**

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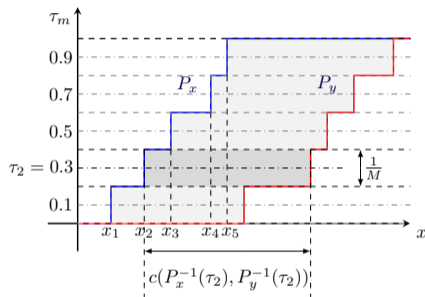
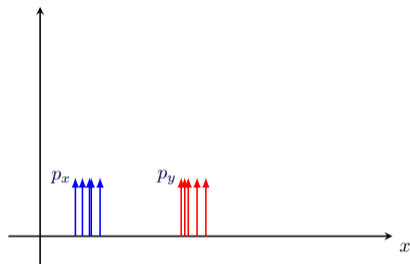
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- $m \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} \implies \tau_m = \frac{2m-1}{2M} \in \{0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9\}$

- Note that

$$P_x^{-1}(\tau_m) = x_m; \quad P_y^{-1}(\tau_m) = y_m$$

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- Note that

$$P_x^{-1}(\tau_m) = x_m; \quad P_y^{-1}(\tau_m) = y_m$$

- Therefore

$$W_c(p_X, p_Y) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M c(P_X^{-1}(\tau_m), P_Y^{-1}(\tau_m)) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M c(x_m, y_m)$$

- The **1D OT problem is reduced to a sorting** of the 1D feature
 - Fast and easy to solve**

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CHECKPOINT

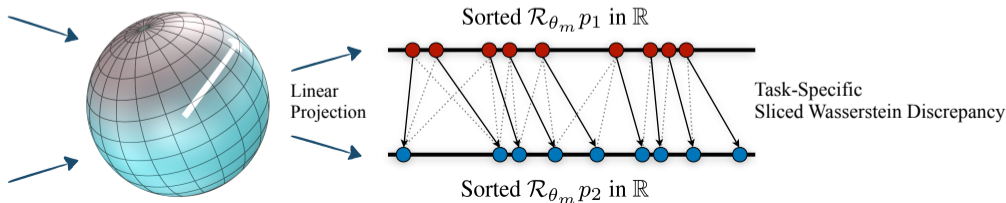
- ① Optimal transport problem has a closed form in 1D
- ② For sampled distributions, the problem is reduced to a sorting of the 1D feature
- ③ Particles have multi-dimensional distributions though. How to apply this?



Efficient OT: sliced Wasserstein distance (SWD)

- Each particle is a sample from a n -D feature space
- **SWD**: take n -D feature space and **project (slice)** it to 1D
- Project on a vector belonging to S^{n-1}
- For robustness, take **multiple random slices**

- Now can **solve the 1D OT problem for each slice**
- **Sort particles by slice**
- The **average on all slices and particles** becomes the **loss function**



Energy conservation in OT: MET constraint



- SWD focuses on the optimal matching between individual particles in no-PU and PU samples
 - No guarantee that energy is conserved between the two
- Add an **event-level MET constraint** term to the loss
 - Enforce energies in no-PU and PU events to be similar
- Final loss function:

$$\mathcal{OT} = \text{SWD}(\vec{x}_p \cdot \vec{\omega}, \vec{x}_{np}) + \lambda \times \text{MSE}(\text{MET}(\vec{x}_p \cdot \vec{\omega}), \text{MET}(\vec{x}_{np}))$$

where \vec{x}_p = PU sample; \vec{x}_{np} = no-PU sample; MSE = mean squared error

- λ can be tuned to include/exclude MET constraint

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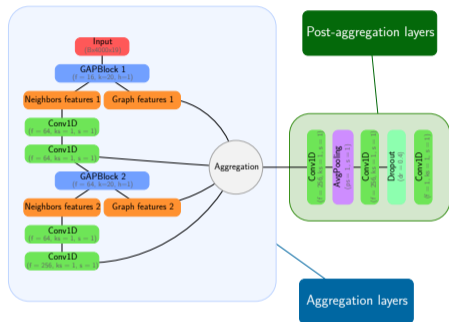
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The model



- Train on **300k events**, equally split between QCD multijet, $t\bar{t}$ dileptonic and VBF Higgs(4ν) processes
- Consider **9000 particles per event** (zero-padding included)
- Gather the **20 k-nearest neighbors** for each particle when building graph

- **9 input features:**

- (p_T, η, ϕ, E)
- Charge
- PDG ID
- dXY & dZ impact parameters
- Track label

- **Loss:** $\mathcal{OT}(\vec{x}_p \cdot \vec{\omega}, \vec{x}_{np})$

- **Cost function:** squared distance

- **Sliced features:** (p_T, η, ϕ, E)

- **Output:** per-particle weight $\vec{\omega}$

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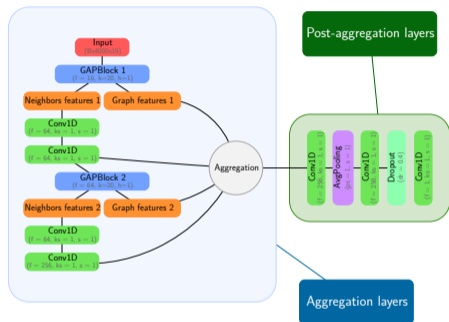
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The model



- **Compare TOTAL with PUPPI and no-PU** scenario
- **Reweight** each particle's 4-momentum by the network weight
 - À-la-PUPPI
- **Cluster** TOTAL jets and TOTAL MET

- We define the resolution as:

$$\delta = \frac{q_{75\%} - q_{25\%}}{2}$$

where $q_{X\%}$ is the X-th quantile of the considered response distribution

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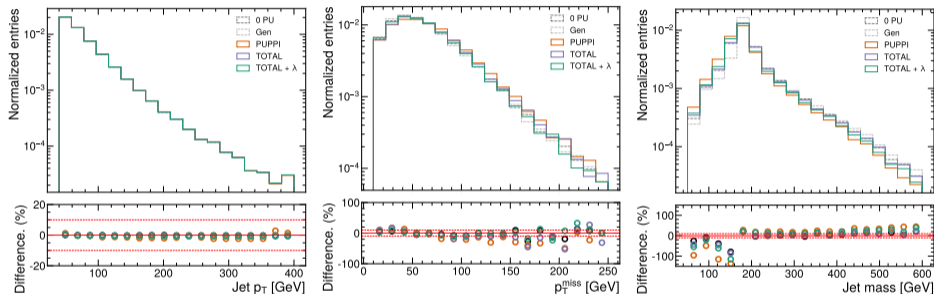
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Results: observables distributions



- Jet p_T and MET in semileptonic $t\bar{t}$ (left, center); AK8 jet mass in $Z' \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ fully hadronic (right)
- No biases/distortions/sculpting for TOTAL

TOTAL PU mitigation

F. Lemmi

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PUPPIML

SSPUPPI

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Inclusive resolutions

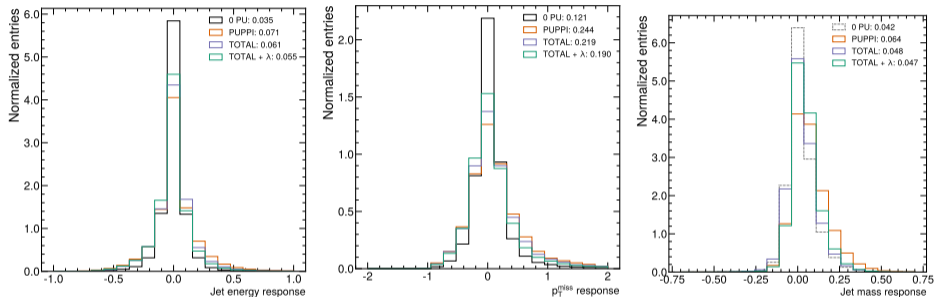
Differential resolutions

Robustness

Physics impact

Conclusions

Inclusive resolutions



- Jet p_T and MET response in semileptonic $t\bar{t}$ (left, center); AK8 jet mass response in $Z' \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ fully hadronic (right)
- $\approx 20\%$ improvement in jet p_T and MET resolution; $\approx 30\%$ improvement in mass resolution wrt PUPPI

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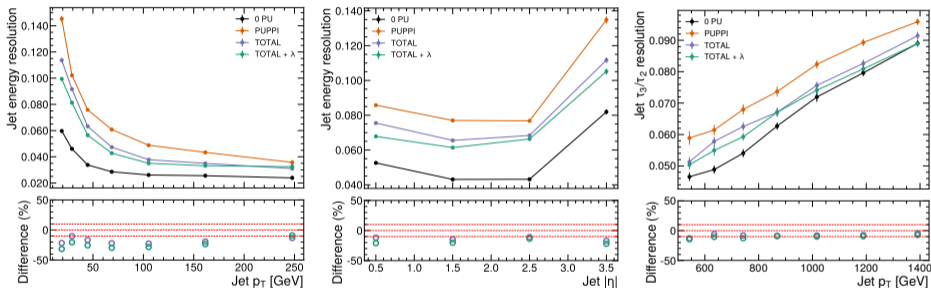
Differential resolutions

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Differential resolutions



- Jet p_T resolution vs jet p_T in semileptonic $t\bar{t}$ (left); jet p_T resolution vs jet $|\eta|$, in QCD (center); τ_3/τ_2 resolution vs jet p_T in $Z' \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ fully hadronic (right)
- Improvement up to $\approx 30\%$ wrt PUPPI

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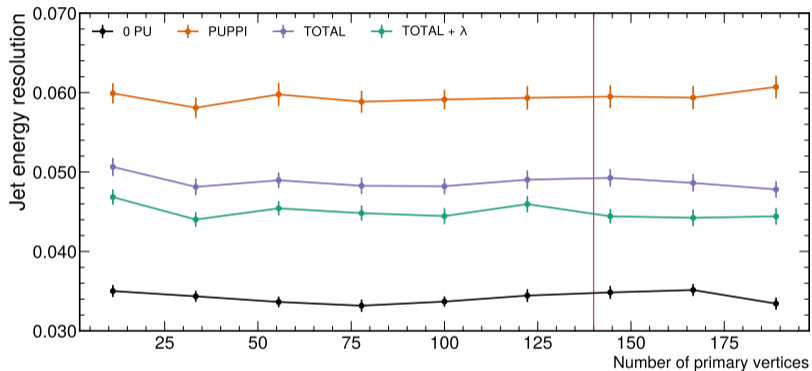
Inclusive resolutions

Differential resolutions

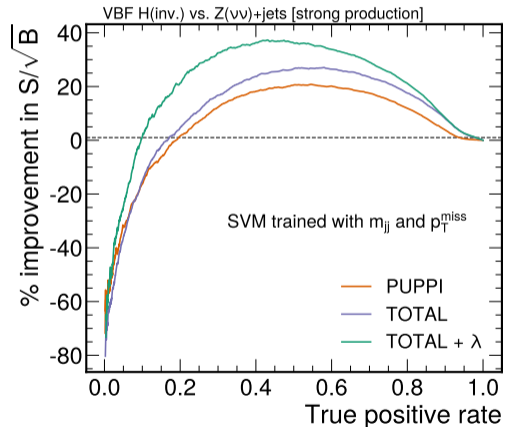
Robustness

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Conclusions



- Evaluate resolution on **processes and PU scenarios unseen during training**
- Network is trained on QCD+ $t\bar{t}$ +VBF with $\langle \text{NPV} \rangle = 140$
- Evaluate on W+jets production, flat NPV between 0 and 200



- **Search for invisible Higgs decays**
 - Signal: VBF Higgs to invisible
 - Background: strong production of $Z(\nu\nu)$
- **Train linear classifier** with MET and m_{jj} as inputs
- Plot **improvement in significance**
- Improvement of $\approx 15\%$
 - Consistent with improvement on single objects

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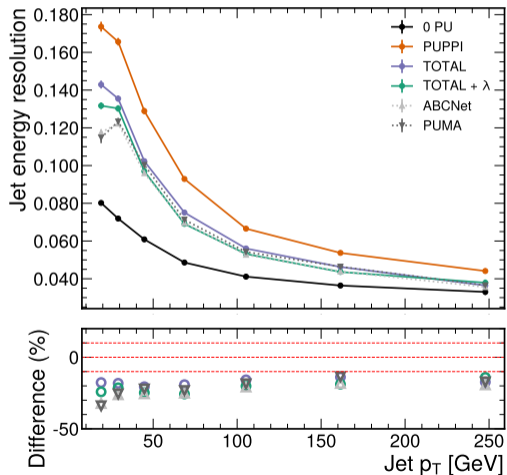
Differential resolutions

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Comparison with fully supervised network



- Use Delphes truth labels to compare OT approach with fully-supervised approach
- Train ABCNet with truth labels
- Compare with TOTAL, PUPPI and PUMA [[Mach. Learn.: Sci. Technol. 3 025012](#)]
- Little to no loss in performance when using OT
- Dramatic conceptual advantage of no use of truth labels

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Conclusions



- Presented a **novel algorithm to reject PU particles** at high-intensity hadron colliders
 - Trained and tested on Delphes simulation of Phase2 CMS detector
- We are Training Optimal Transport with Attention Learning: **TOTAL**
- We **solved the longstanding problem of neutral labels** in PU mitigation
- **We do not rely on explicit, per-particle labeling**
 - Can be used in Geant4: ATLAS, CMS, ...
- **Learning happens through OT in a self-supervised fashion**
- TOTAL acronym has no “pileup” in it. **Very general approach**
- Our **approach can be expanded** to a wide range of denoising problems
 - Only needed input is a reliable simulation of signal and noise

TOTAL PU mitigation

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Thank you!
Questions?

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Backup slides



- Starting from LHC Run3, **default PU mitigation technique** in CMS is **PUPPI**
- Rule-based** algorithm
- Calculates a weight $w \in [0, 1]$ for each particle in the event
 - Encodes the probability for a particle to be LV or not
 - Weight used to **reweight the particle 4-momentum before jet clustering**
- For charged: use tracking information and assign 0 or 1
- For neutrals: build α variable

$$\alpha_i = \log \sum_{j \neq i, \Delta R_{ij} < R_0} \left(\frac{p_{T,j}}{\Delta R_{ij}} \right)^2 \begin{cases} |\eta_i| < 2.5 & j \text{ are all charged particles from LV} \\ |\eta_i| > 2.5 & j \text{ are all kinds of particles} \end{cases}$$

- LV radiation is harder and more collimated than PU \implies higher α than PU



- To translate into a weight, compare each particle's α with the mean and RMS of PU particles

$$\text{signed}\chi_i^2 = \frac{(\alpha_i - \bar{\alpha}_{\text{PU}})|\alpha_i - \bar{\alpha}_{\text{PU}}|}{(\alpha_{\text{PU}}^{\text{RMS}})^2}$$

- Use **charged particles** for $\bar{\alpha}_{\text{PU}}$ and $(\alpha_{\text{PU}}^{\text{RMS}})^2$ computation
- Finally, assume $\text{signed}\chi^2$ follows a χ^2 distribution and assign weight based on CDF

$$w_i = F_{\chi^2, \text{NDF}=1}(\text{signed}\chi^2)$$

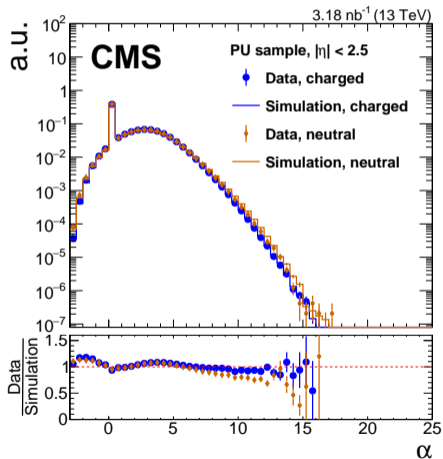
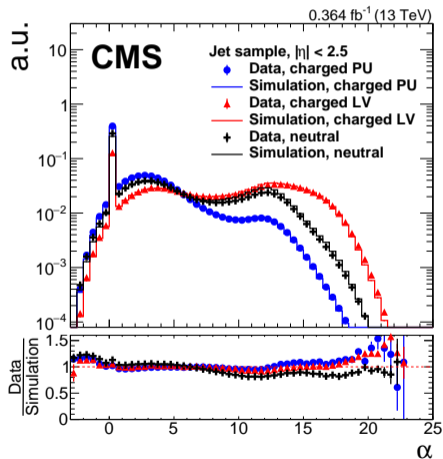
- **LV particle** \implies large $\text{signed}\chi^2 \implies$ large CDF \implies **large weight**
- **PU particle** \implies small $\text{signed}\chi^2 \implies$ small CDF \implies **small weight**

State-of-the-art at CMS: PUPPI [1407.6013]



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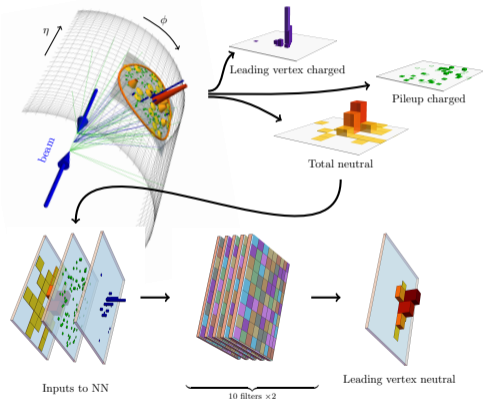
PileUp Mitigation with Machine Learning: PUMML

[1707.08600]

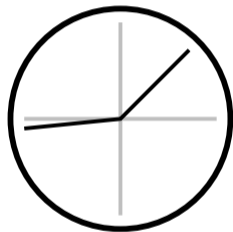


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- **Treat jets as squared images, use CNNs**
- Input is a three-channel image
 - Charged radiation from LV
 - Charged radiation from PU
 - Total neutral radiation
- Output is regressed neutral radiation from LV
- Image-based approach **overlooks complex detector geometry**



Attention

- Add together self- (x'_i) and local- (y'_{ij}) coefficients and apply non-linearity

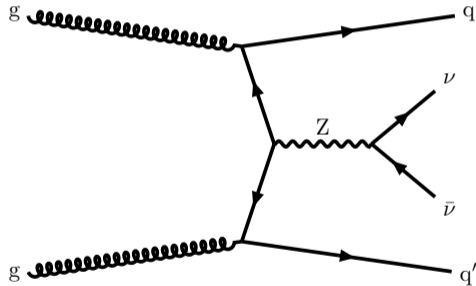
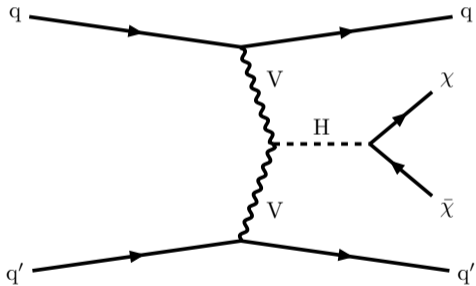
$$c_{ij} = \text{LeakyRelu}(x'_i + y'_{ij})$$

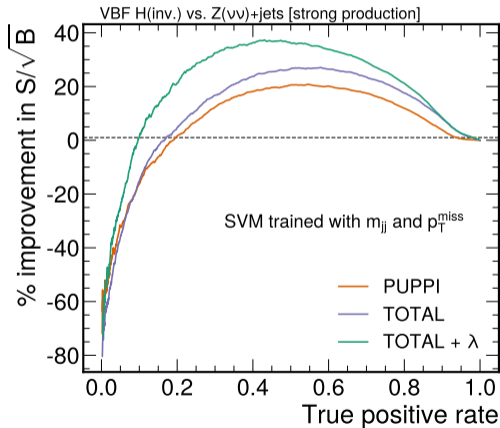
- Align coefficients c_{ij} by applying SoftMax

$$c'_{ij} = \frac{\exp(c_{ij})}{\sum_k \exp(c_{ik})}$$

- Get attention coefficients by multiplying y'_{ij} by c'_{ij}

$$\hat{x}_i = \text{Relu} \left(\sum_j c'_{ij} y'_{ij} \right)$$





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