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Application of graph networks to a next generation wide-field gamma-ray observatory in the southern sky

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Application of Graph Networks to a wide-field Water-Cherenkov-based Gamma-Ray Observatory

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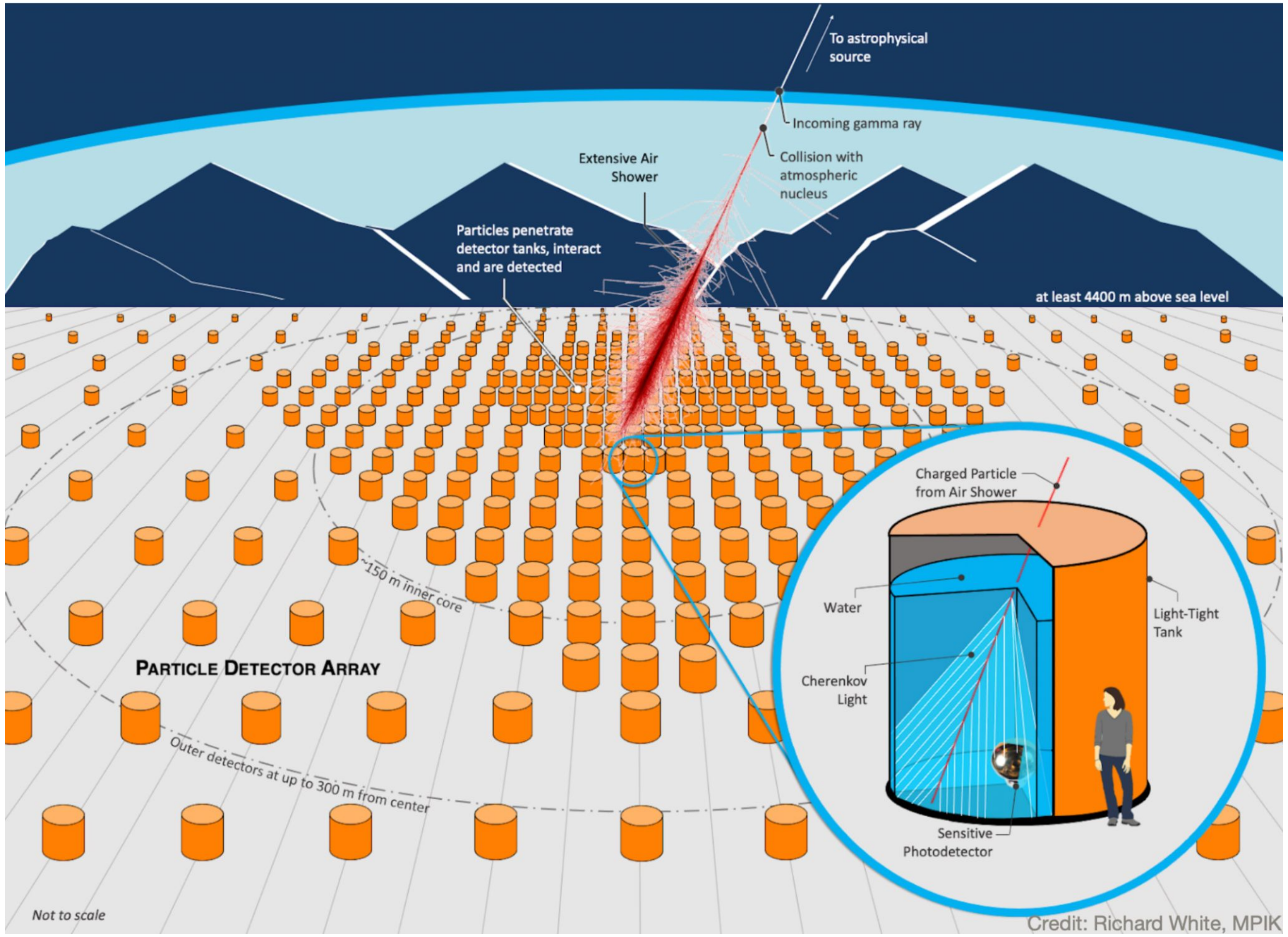
The Southern Wide-field Gamma-Ray Observatory (SWGO)

The Southern Wide-field Gamma-Ray Observatory (SWGO)

- Future **gamma-ray detector** located in Atacama Astronomical Park, **Chile**.
- Ground-level detector array primarily using **water-Cherenkov detector** units
- **Altitude**: 4770m
- Energy range from **hundreds of GeV up to the PeV scale**
- Close to **100% duty cycle** and **order steradian field of view**.



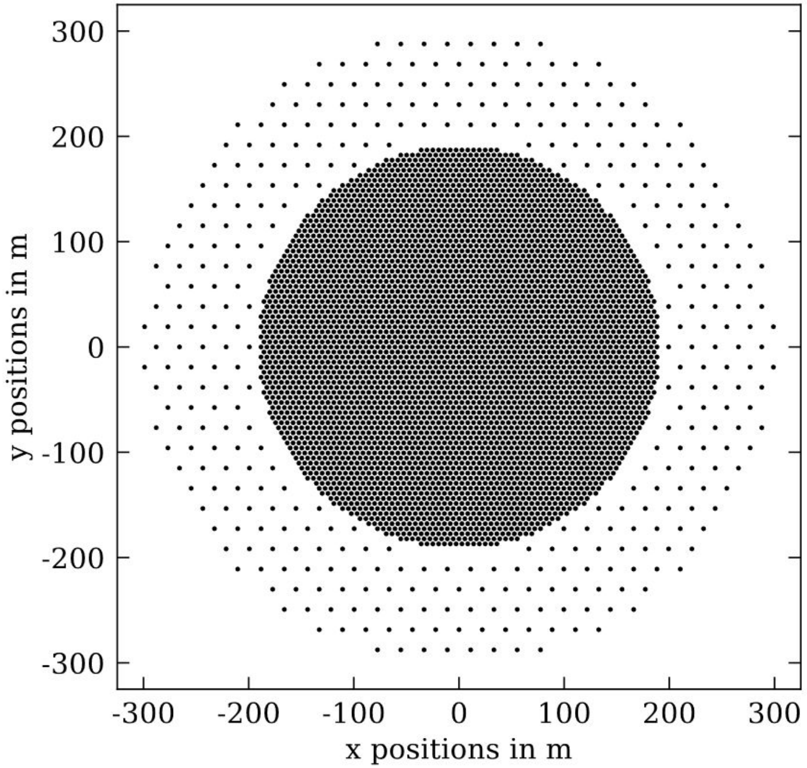
SWGO (2024)

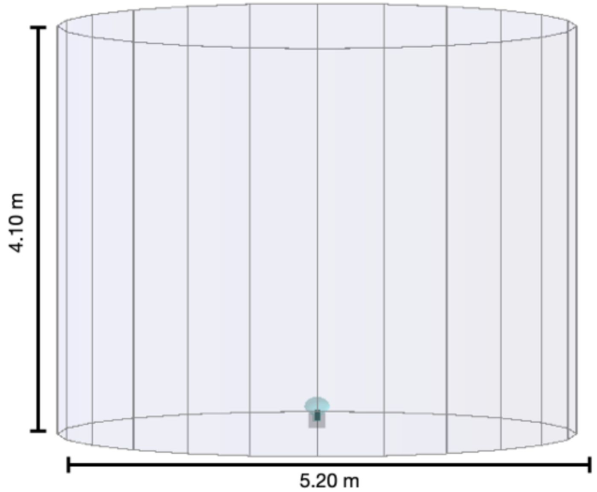
The Southern Wide-field Gamma-Ray Observatory (SWGO)

SWGO still in the **R&D phase**
→ Testing different detector and array designs

One of the possible **candidate designs**:

- Roughly 280,000m^2 (~ 4600 units)
- Two zones: Fill factor 80% and 5%
- Similar style to HAWC tanks



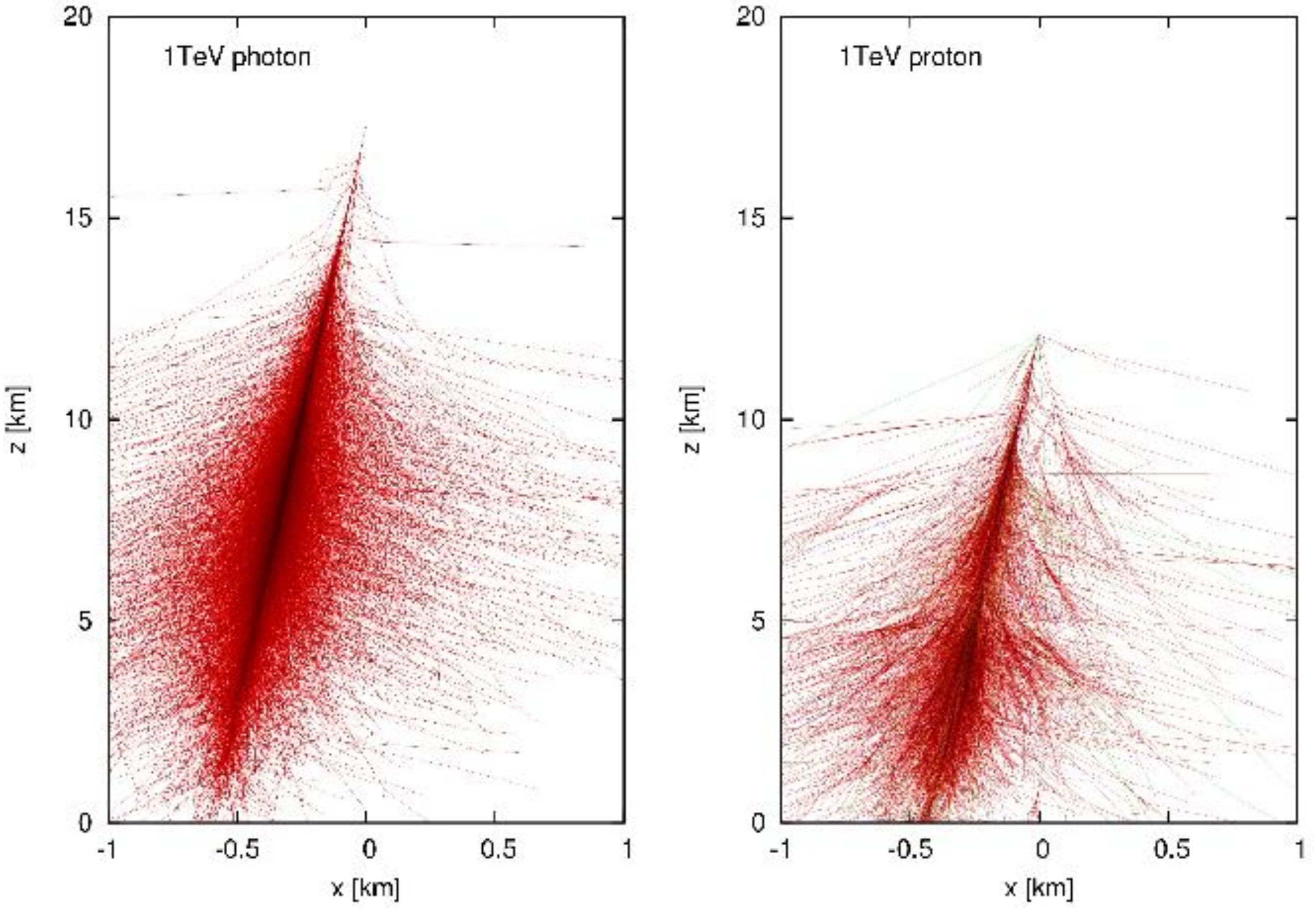


The Southern Wide-field Gamma-Ray Observatory (SWGO)

- Want to **characterize gamma rays** as good as possible!
- Need to **avoid cosmic rays**!

Our tasks:

1. γ / hadron separation
2. Energy reconstruction of gamma rays



Barnacka et al. (2012)

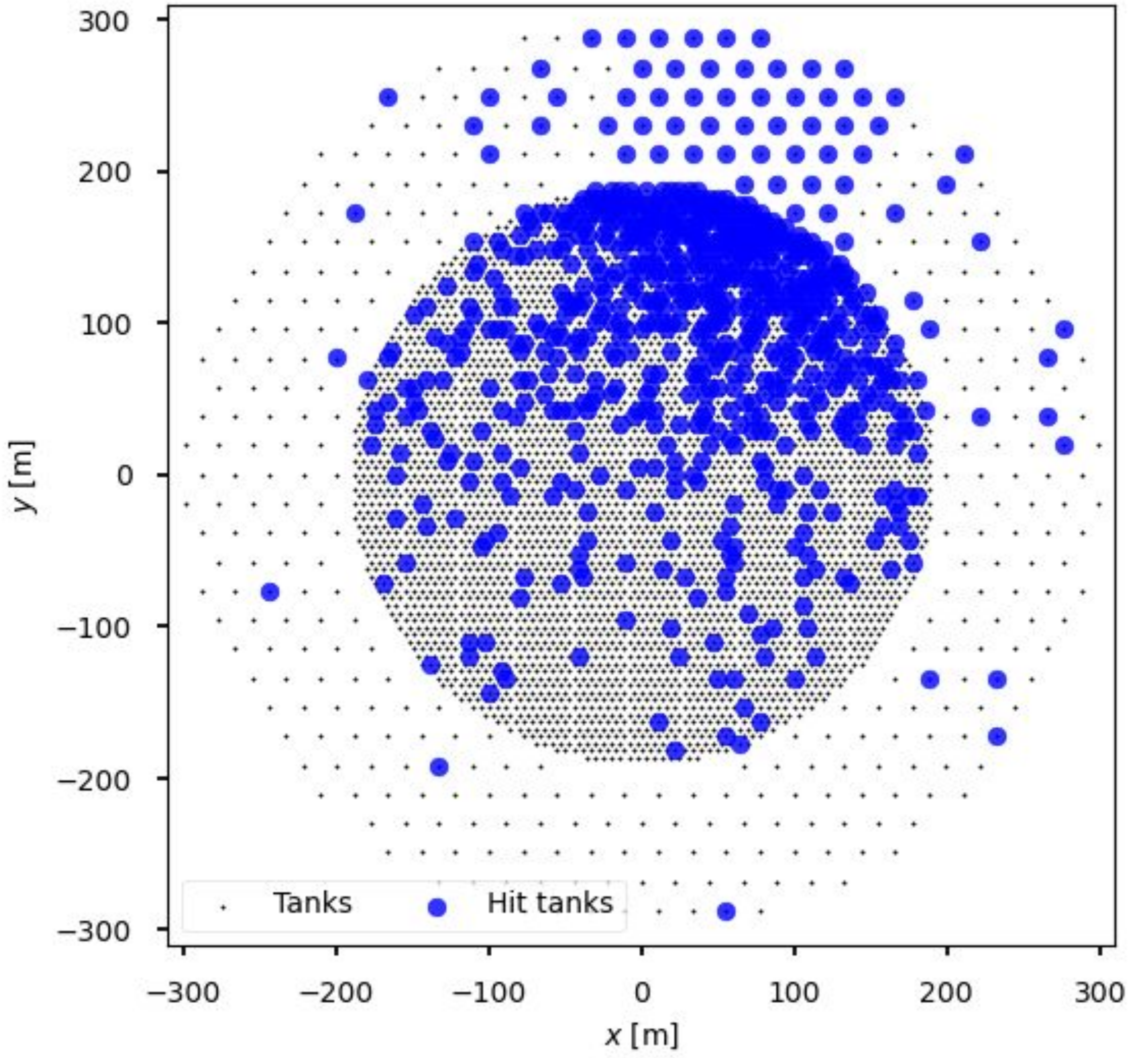
Why Graph Neural Networks?

Example shower footprint

Measured shower profile on the ground depends on:

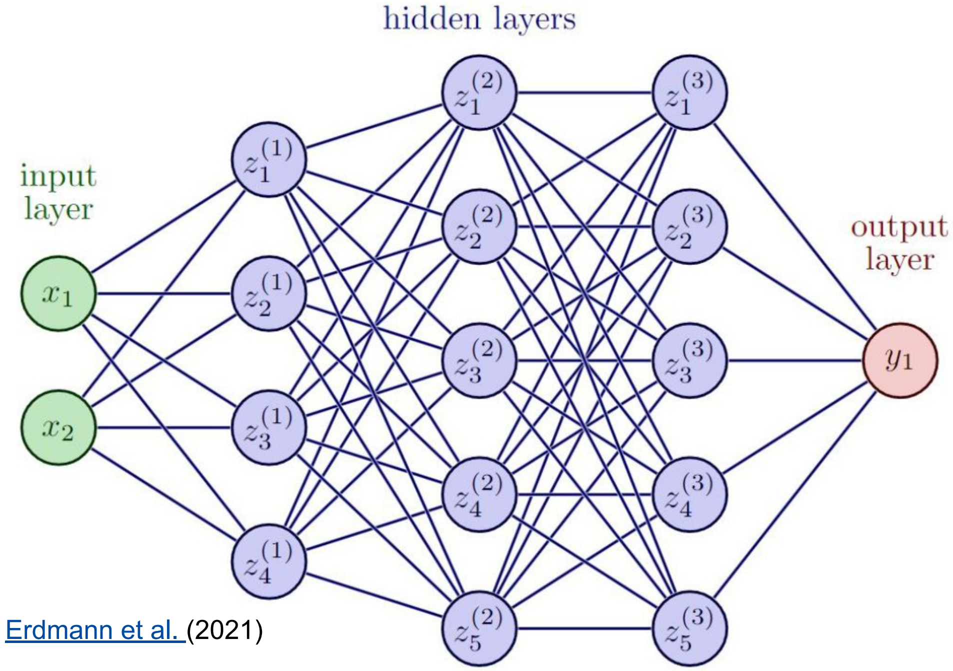
- Energy of shower
- Incoming zenith angle
- Position

→ Can trigger between tens and thousands of tanks



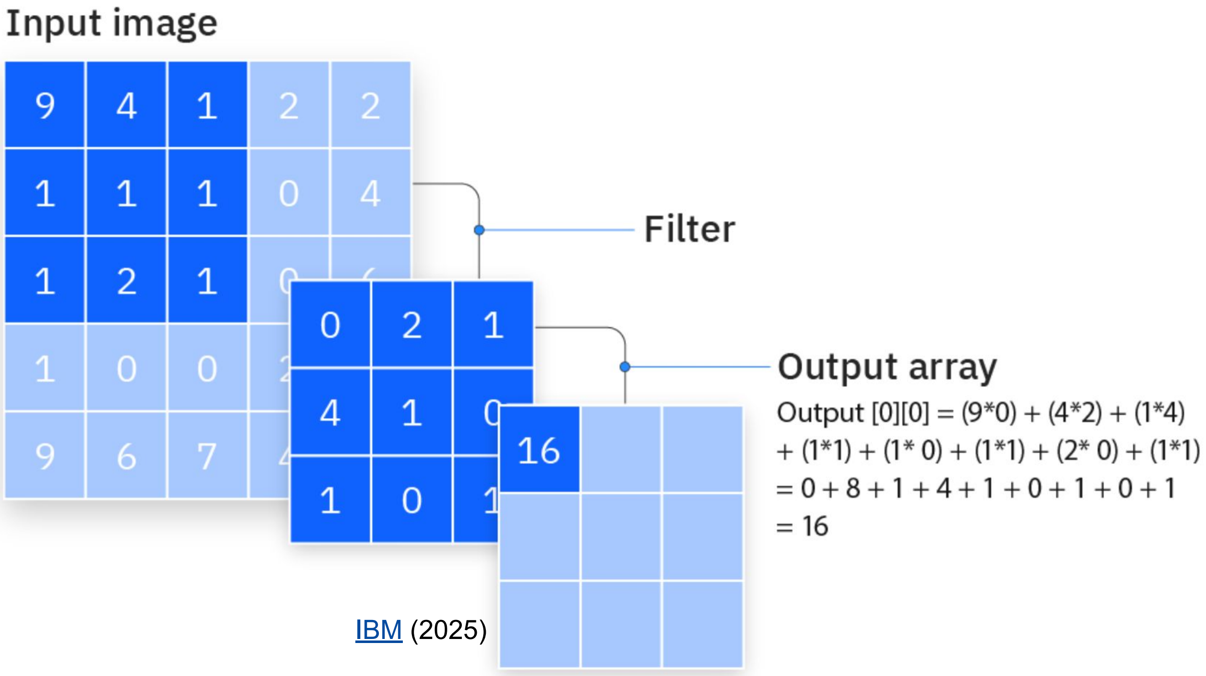
Deep neural networks

Fully connected network



Erdmann et al. (2021)

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)



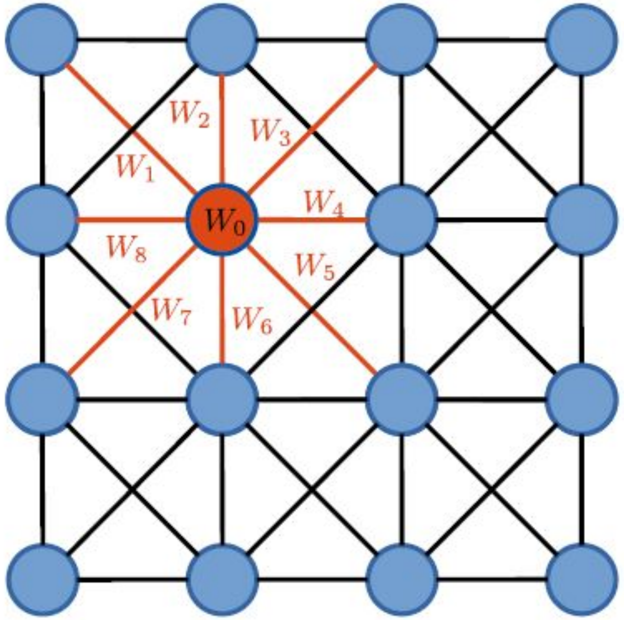
IBM (2025)

→ **Problematic for large datasets**

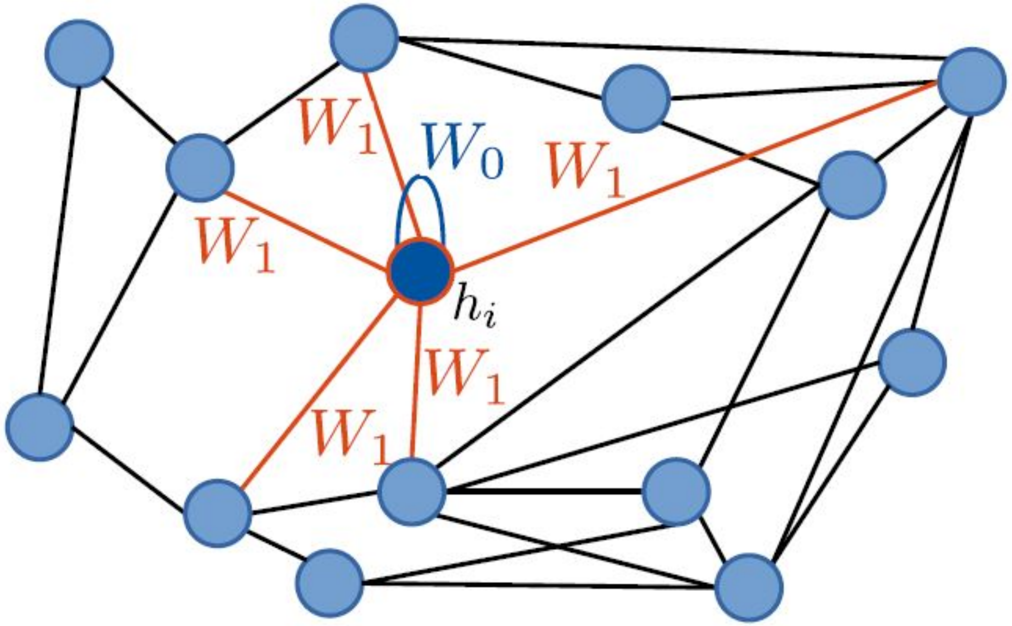
→ **Bound to regular grid structure**

Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)

CNNs



GNNs



Propagation: $h_i^{(l+1)} = \sigma(h_i^{(l)} W_0^{(l)} + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}_i} \frac{1}{c_{ij}} h_j^{(l)} W_1^{(l)})$

→ **GNNs can be applied to non-regular grids**

Erdmann et al. (2021)

Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)

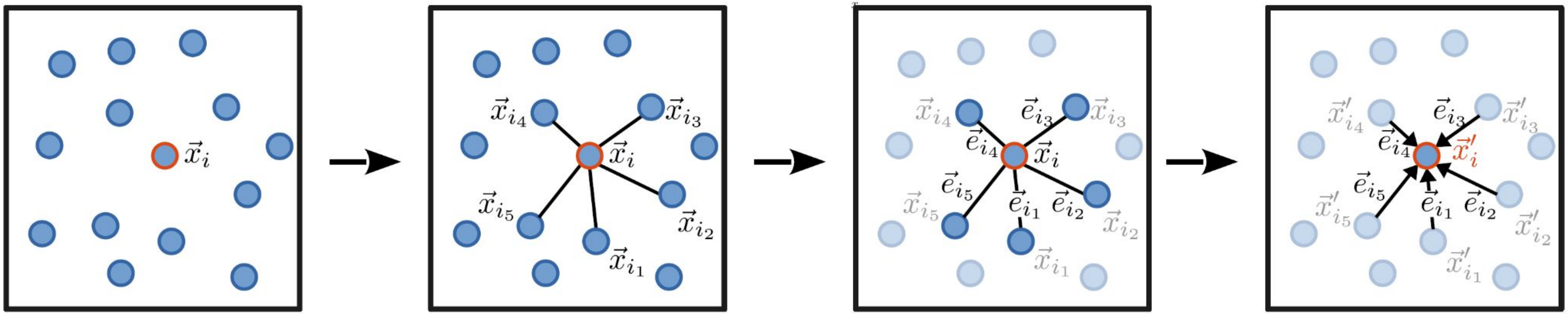
EdgeConvolutions

Create point cloud

Construct directed graph for each point

Estimate edge features with kernel function

Aggregate over neighborhood



Erdmann et al. (2021)

$$\mathbf{x}_i' = \sigma\left(\mathop{\square}_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} h_{\mathbf{\Theta}}(\mathbf{x}_i \,\|\, \mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i) \right)$$

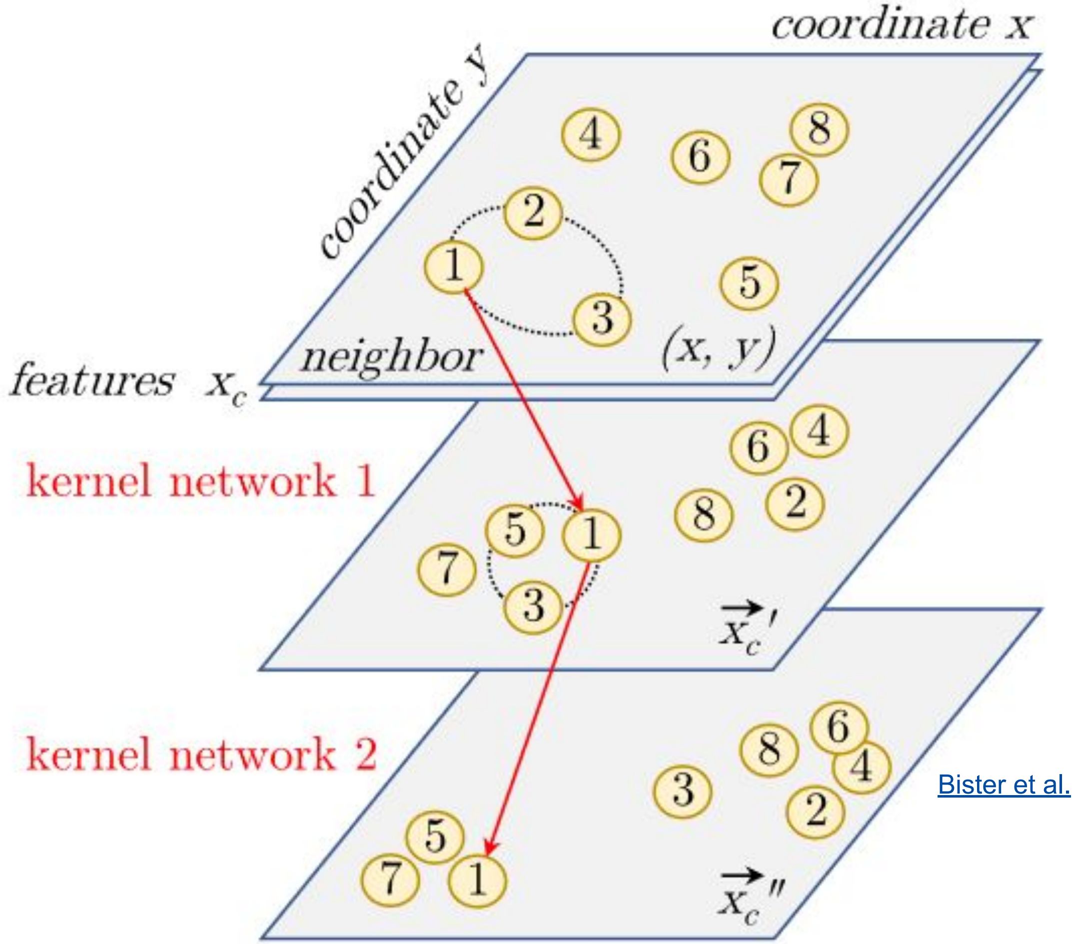
Graph Neural Networks (GNNs)

DynamicEdgeConvolutions

- Update neighbours in feature space for each layer

- Nodes with similar features become neighbours

→ Extract global features



Bister et al. (2021)

GNNs for SWGO

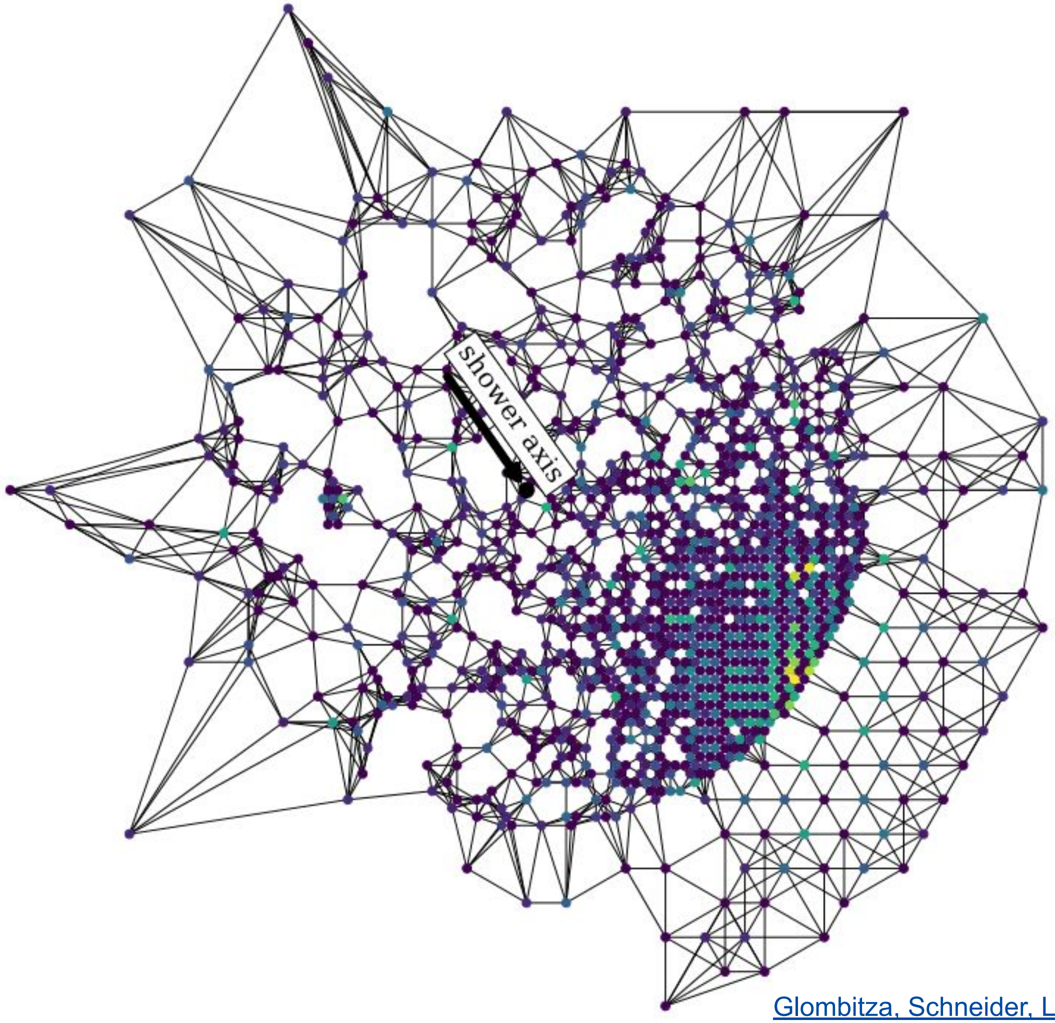
Application of GNNs to SWGO

Inputs

- **Nodes as triggered tanks**
  → Different for each event

- **4 inputs** per tank:
  - *x and y position* of each triggered tank
  - *Arrival times* of first Cherenkov photon measured in PMT
  - *Charge* measured in each tank

- ***k*NN** clustering:
  6 neighbours and self loop



Glombitza, Schneider, Leitl, Funk, van Eldik (2024)

Application of GNNs to SWGO

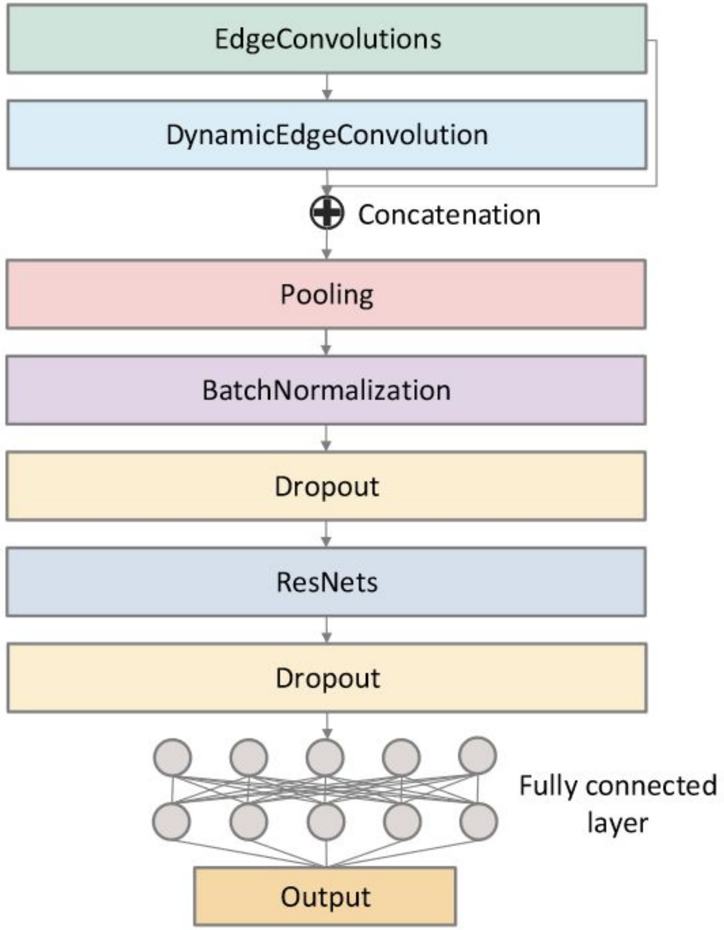
Network structure

- NVIDIA A40/A100 GPUs

- Implementation using PyTorch_Geometric

- ~ 500k trainable parameters

→ Performed a small hyperparameter search for the γ / **hadron separation** and **energy reconstruction**



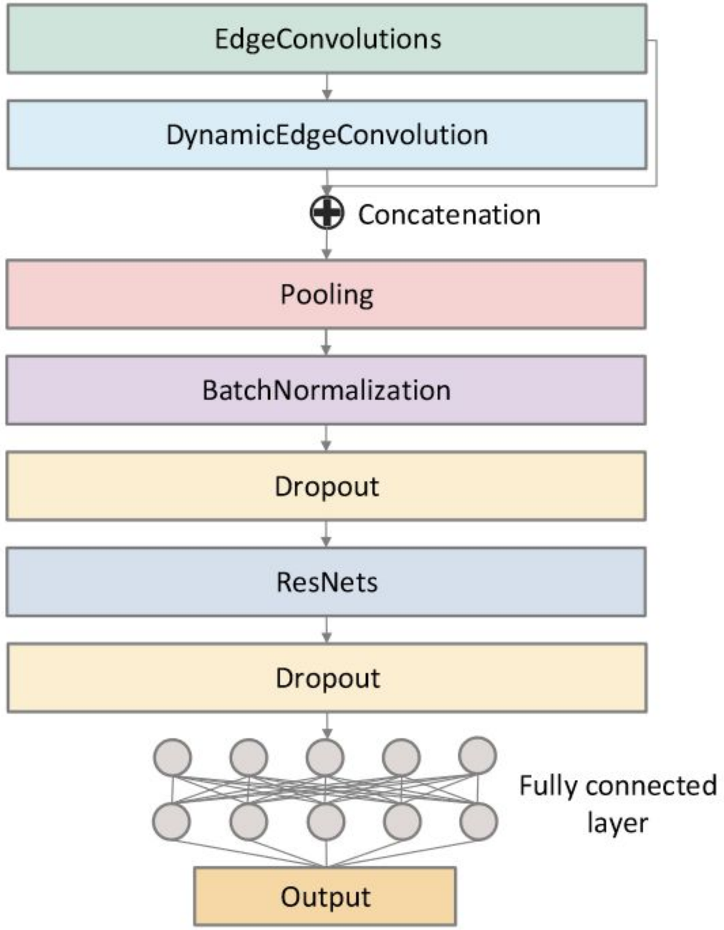
Glombitza, Schneider, Leitl, Funk, van Eldik (2024)

Application of GNNs to SWGO

Network structure

- **Hyperparameter search** (70 trainings each):
  - Learning rate
  - Decay factor
  - Batchsize
  - Weight decay
  - n_{EdgeConv}
  - $n_{\mathrm{DynEdgeConv}}$
  - n_{feat}
  - n_{ResNet}
  - Batchnorm
  - Dropout
  - $n_{k\mathrm{NN,DynEdgeConv}}$

- Trainings running up to 24h



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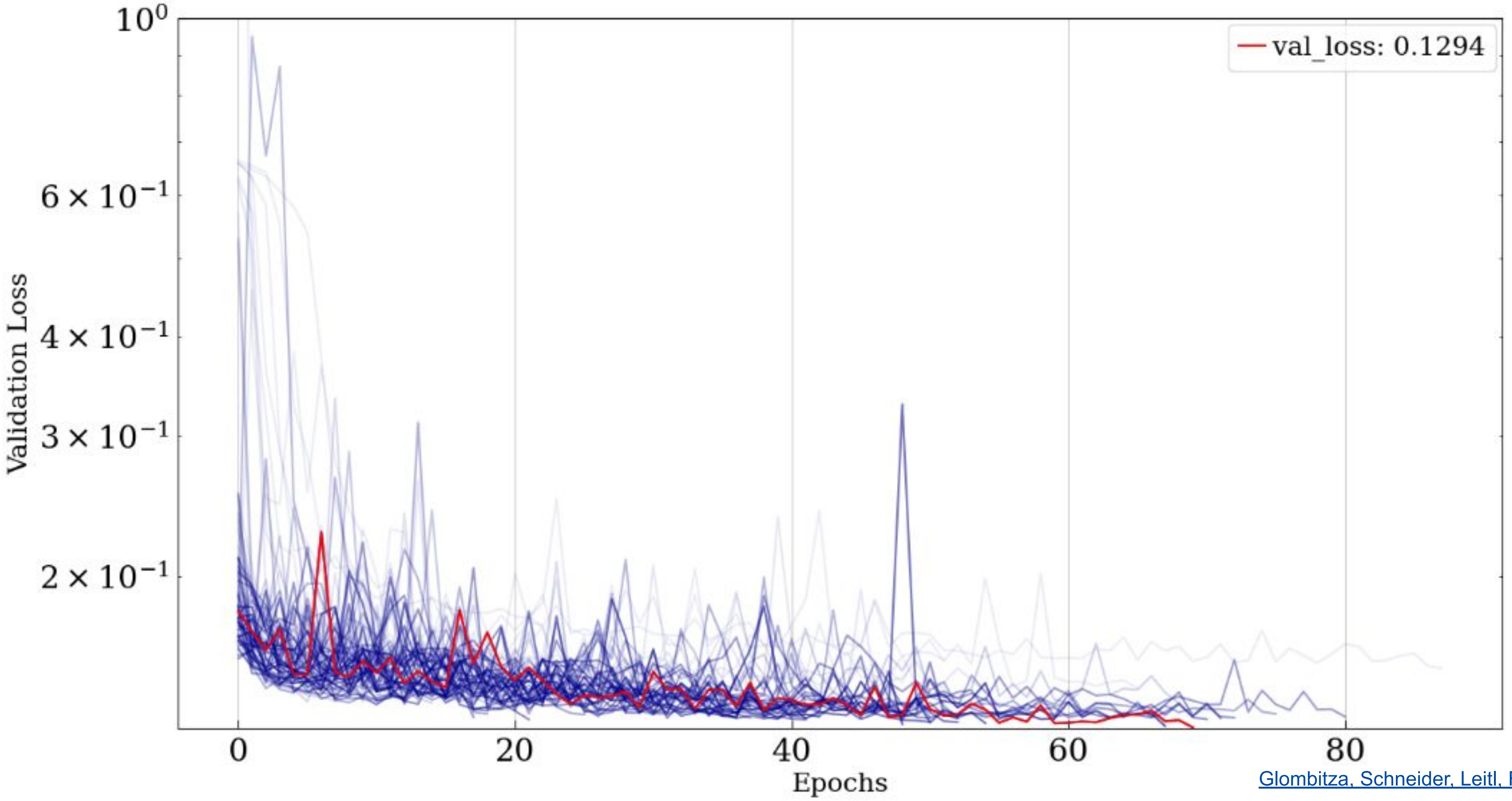
Hyperparameter search

Validation losses



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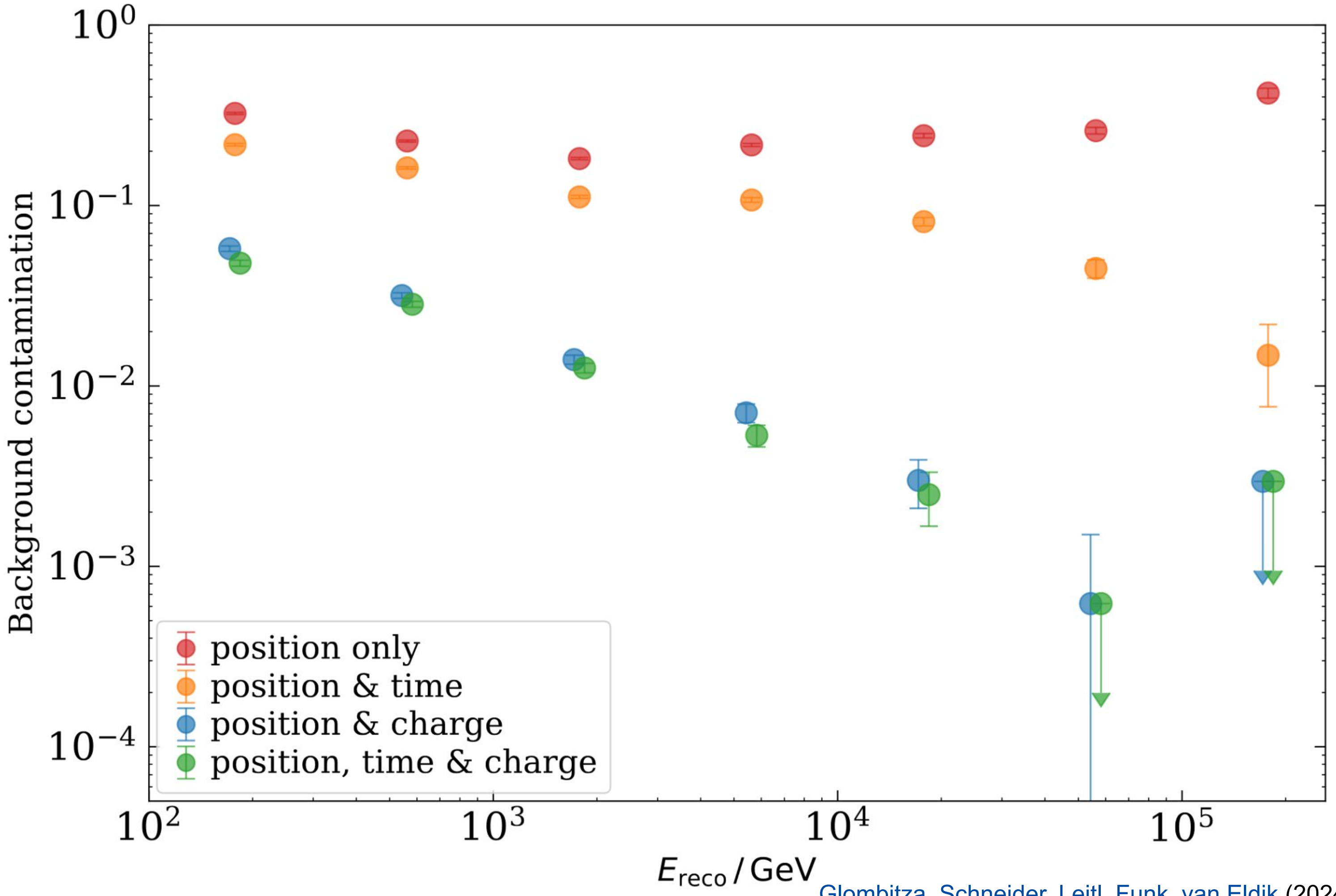
γ / hadron separation

Performance for different input features

- **Training output:**
  Score that indicates likelihood of particle type

- **Background contamination:**
  Fraction of protons relative to the simulated number of protons misclassified as gamma rays

→ **Position, time & charge** information yields the **best results**



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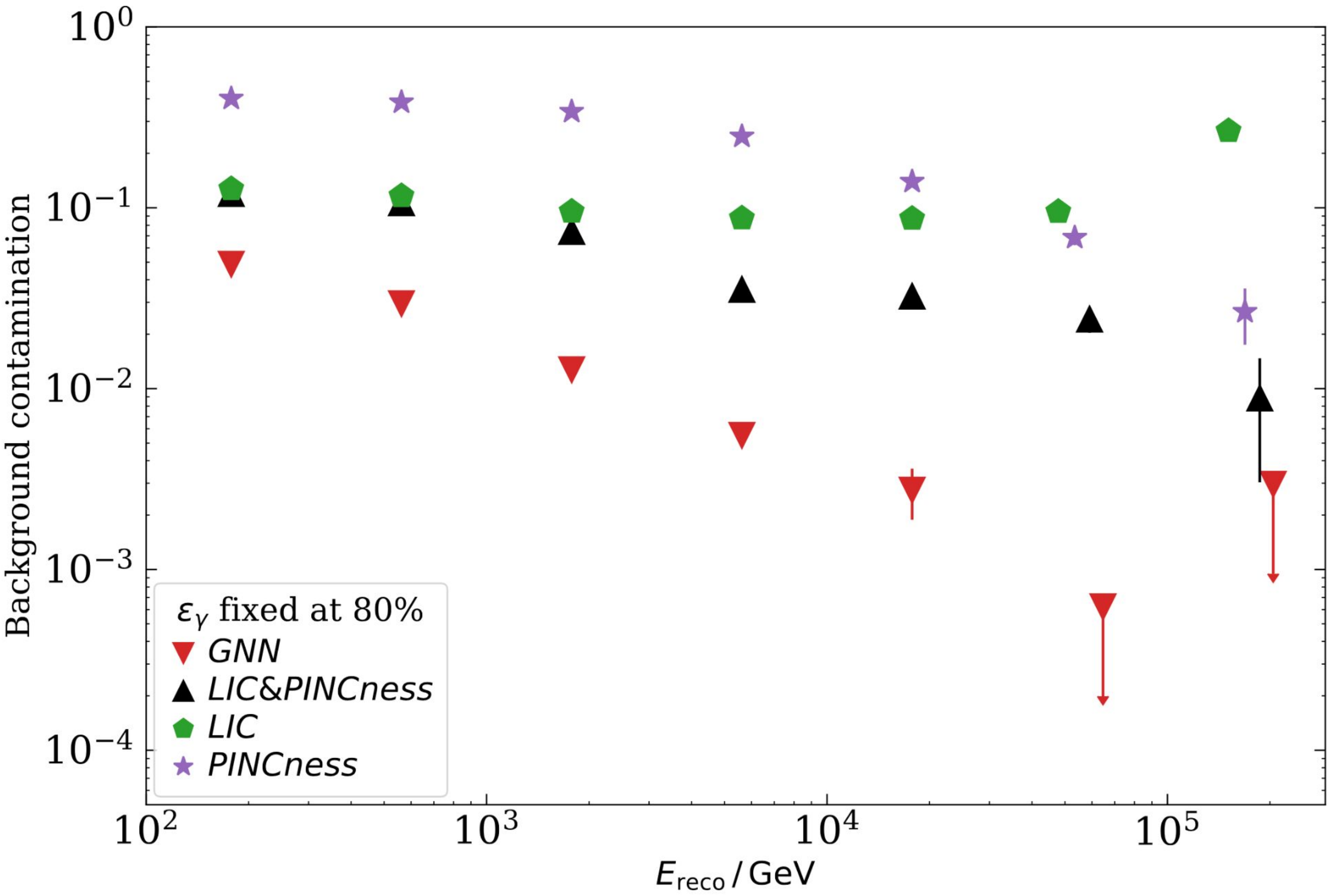
γ / hadron separation

Performance estimation

- LIC and PINCness as **standard parameters**

- Background rejection of **GNN surpasses standard methods** in all energy ranges

→ **Improvement by a factor of two** at low energies and **one order of magnitude** at high energies



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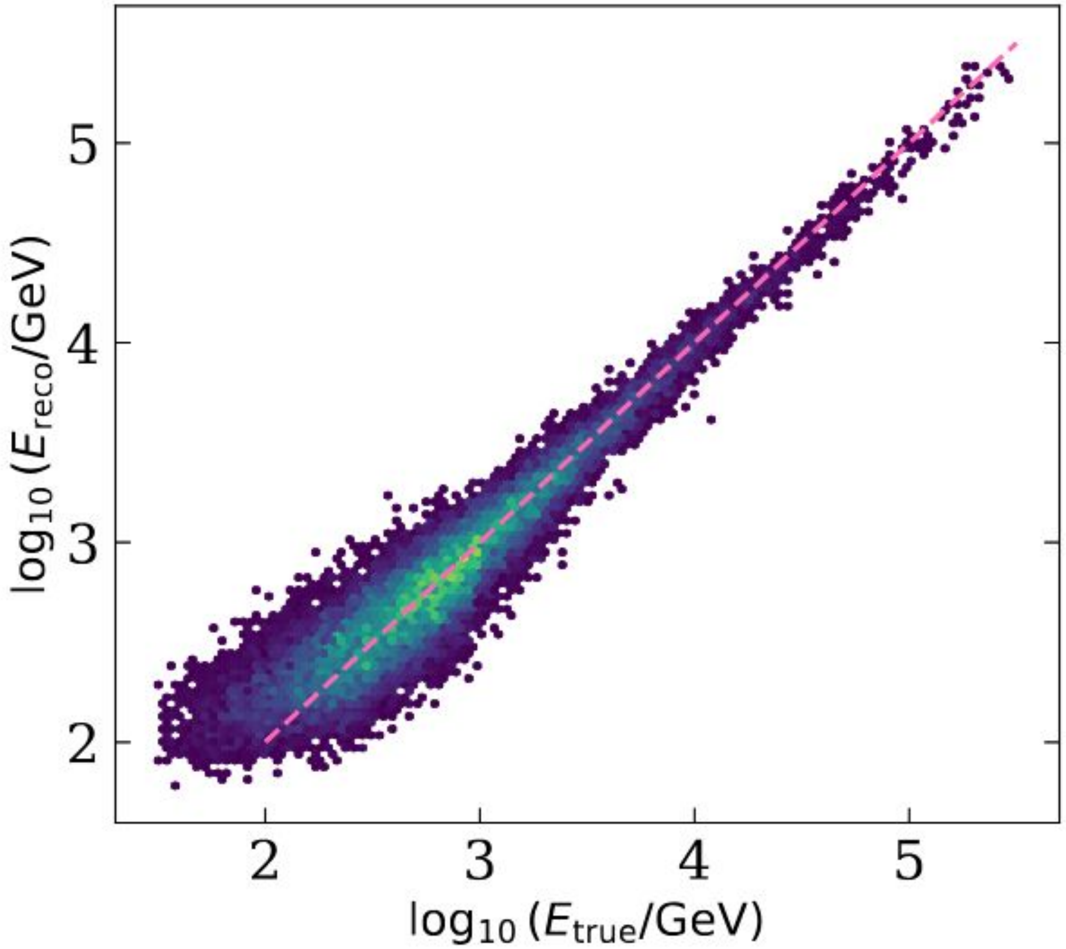
Energy reconstruction

Dispersion matrix

- **Training output**: $\log_{10}(E_{reco}/\mathrm{GeV})$

- Ideal curve: $\log_{10}(E_{true}/\mathrm{GeV}) = \log_{10}(E_{reco}/\mathrm{GeV})$

→ **Good agreement** between **reconstructed** and **true energy** in dispersion matrix



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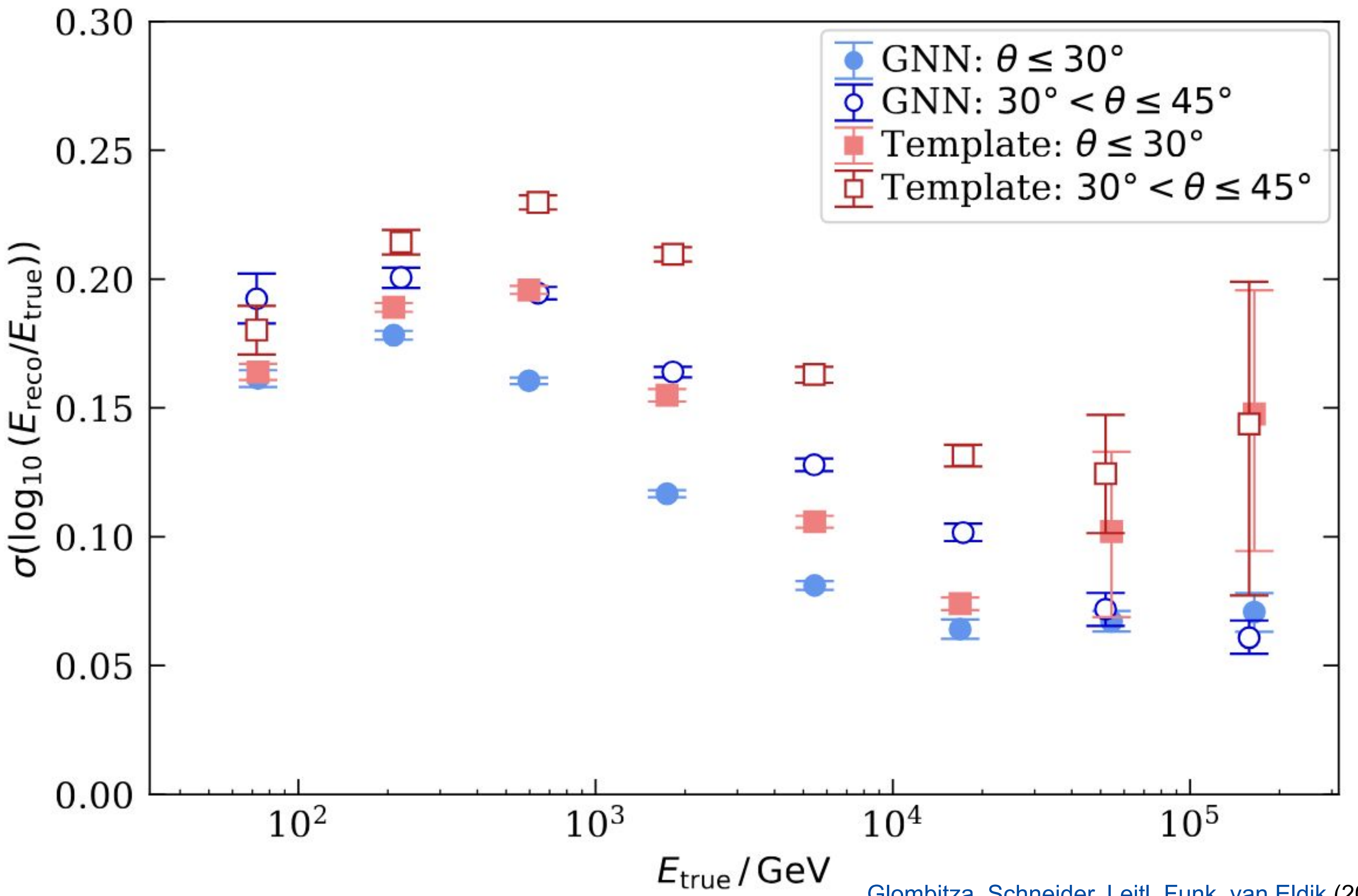
Energy reconstruction

Performance estimation

- **Energy resolution** as RMS of $\log_{10}(E_{reco}/E_{true})$

- Compare both to the current **template-based standard method**

→ **GNN outperforming** current **standard method** over the whole energy range



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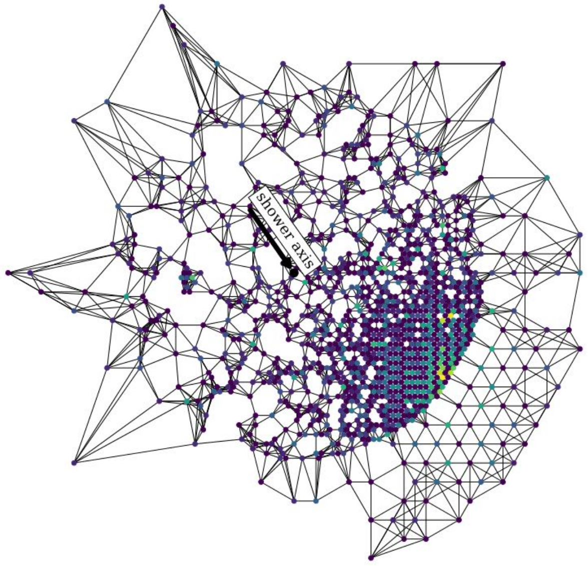
Summary

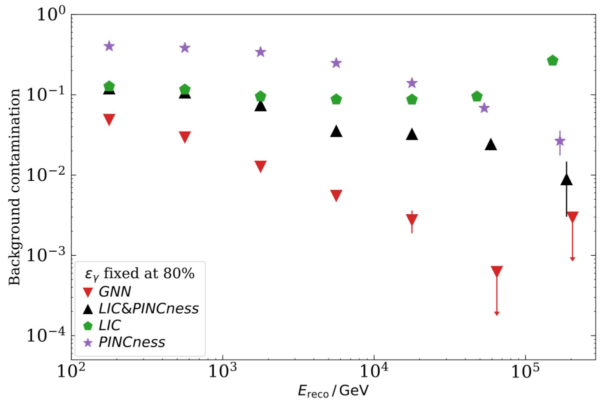
Successfully applied Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) to an SWGO candidate configuration:

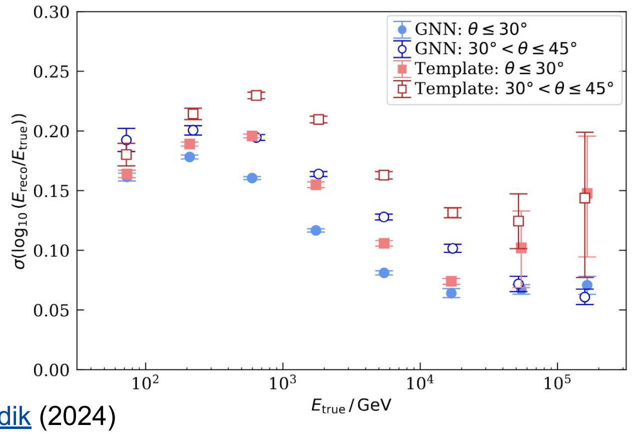
- γ / hadron separation
- Energy reconstruction

→ **Great improvements** compared to **current standard methods** over the whole energy range

→ Further Details in our paper:
Glombitza, Schneider, Leitl, Funk, van Eldik (2024)







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What we are working on now:

- Applied GNNs to other candidate configurations
  → Networks robust when changing configurations
- GNNs for direction reconstruction, Vision Transformers, …

Thank you for your attention!

Backup

γ / hadron separation

Current standard method: LIC and PINCness

Compare performance of GNN with parameters used by HAWC:
LIC as logarithm of inverse of *compactness* [1]

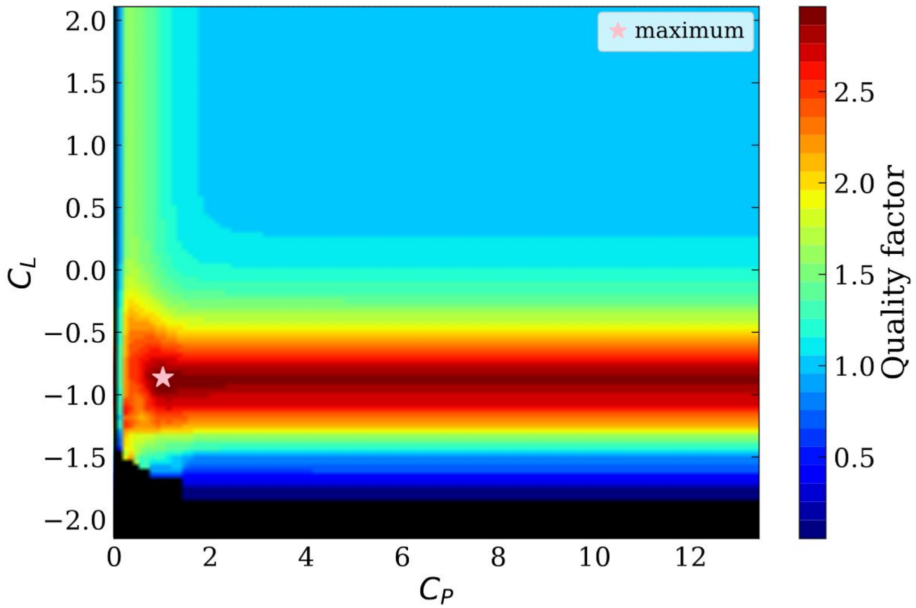
$$\mathrm{LIC} = \log_{10}\left(\frac{CxPE_{40}}{n_{\mathrm{hit}}}\right)$$

with $CxPE_{40}$ as largest charge measured in PMT at least 40m from shower core and n_{hit} number or tanks hit in event

and
$$\mathrm{PINCness} = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=0}^{N}\frac{\left(\log_{10}(q_i) - \langle\log_{10}(q_i)\rangle\right)^2}{\sigma^2}$$

with σ as charge uncertainty and q_i as the charge of the i-th PMT triggered in an event [2].

→ Find the cuts for LIC (C_L) and PINCness (C_P) for our dataset by optimizing the quality factor in each energy bin



(a) $2.5 \leq \log_{10}\left(E_{\mathrm{reco}}/\mathrm{GeV}\right) < 3.0$

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Energy reconstruction

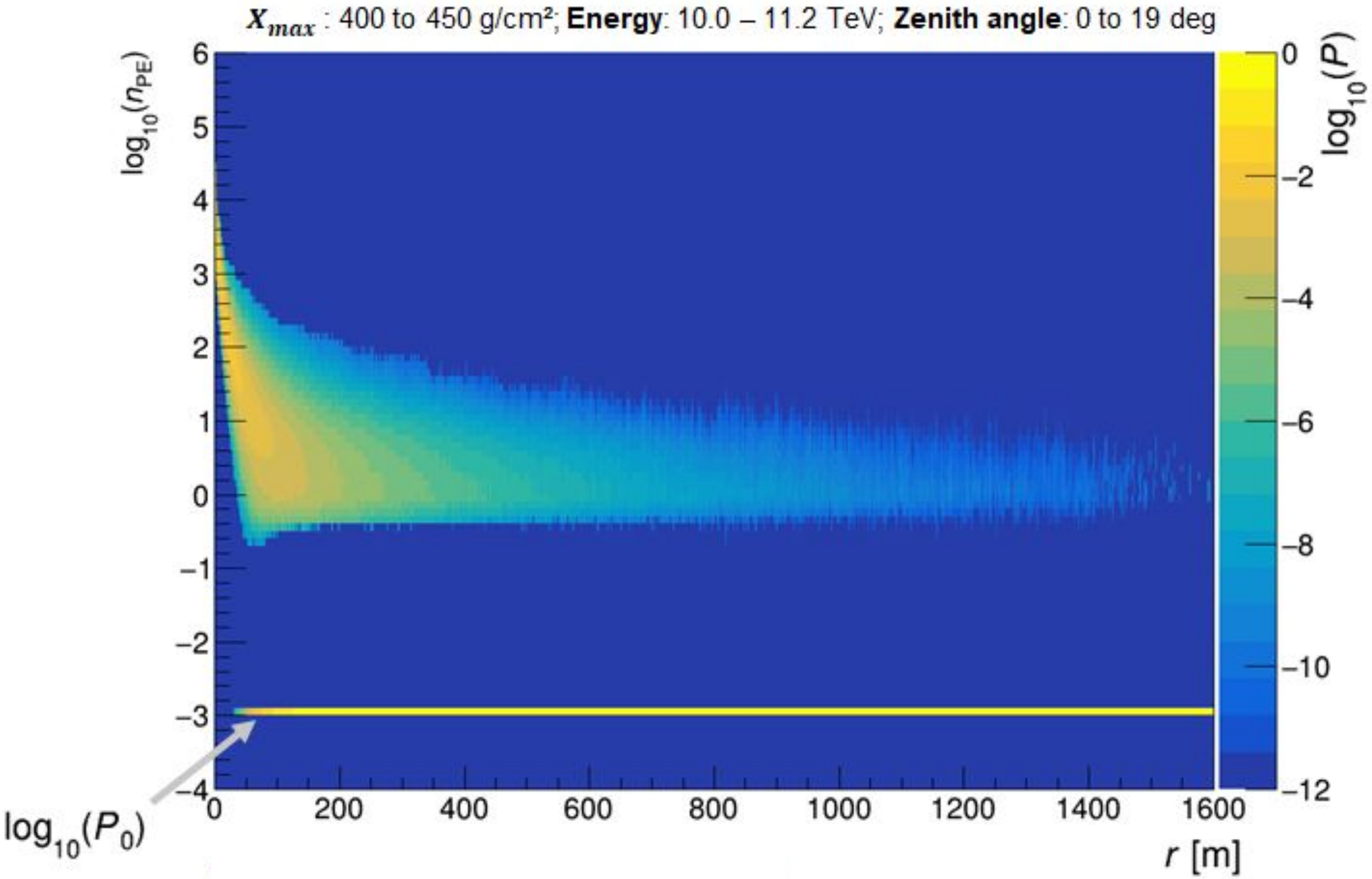
Current standard method: Template-based reconstruction [3][4]

- Templates:
  MC simulations of gamma-induced EAS binned in X_{max}, E and θ

- Save the information if a tank did not measure any charge $\log_{10}(P_0)$

- Minimise log-likelihood to get best fit parameters

$$\log L = -2 \sum_i \log(F(\log_{10}(N_{\mathrm{PE}})_i, r_i, X_{\max}, E|\theta, \phi))$$

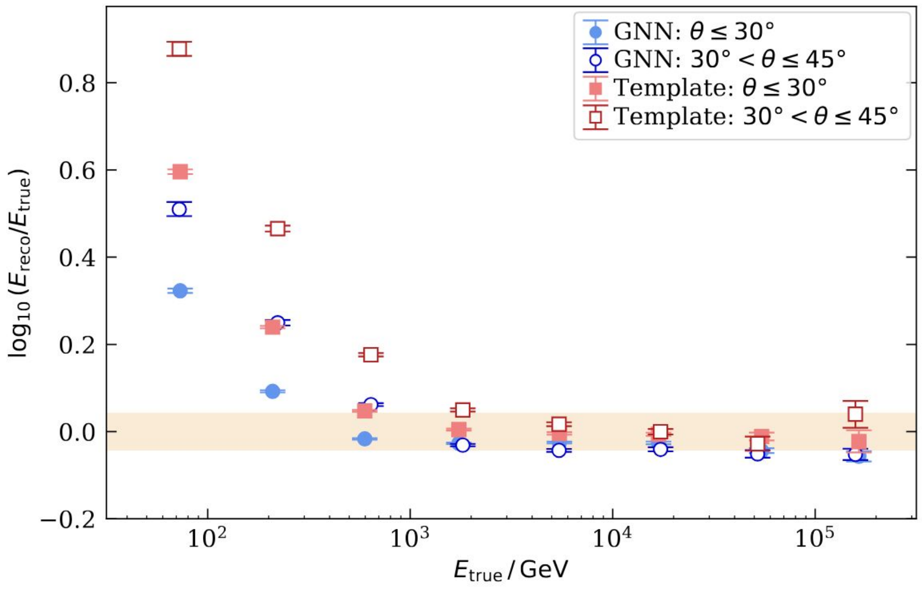


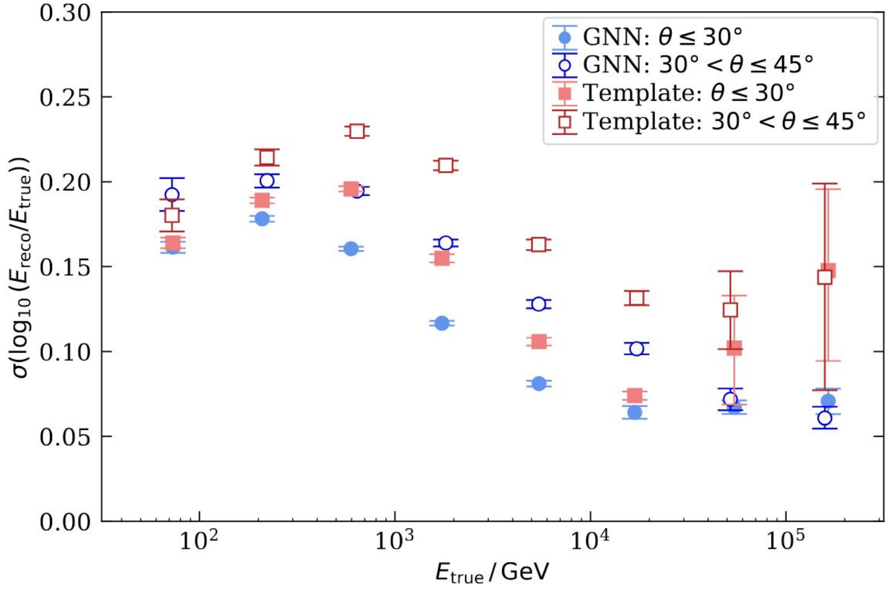
Energy reconstruction
Performance estimation

Estimate performance via

- **Energy bias** as mean of $\log_{10}(E_{reco}/E_{true})$
- **Energy resolution** as RMS of $\log_{10}(E_{reco}/E_{true})$

and compare both to the **current template-based standard method**





→ **GNN outperforming current standard method over the whole energy range**

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