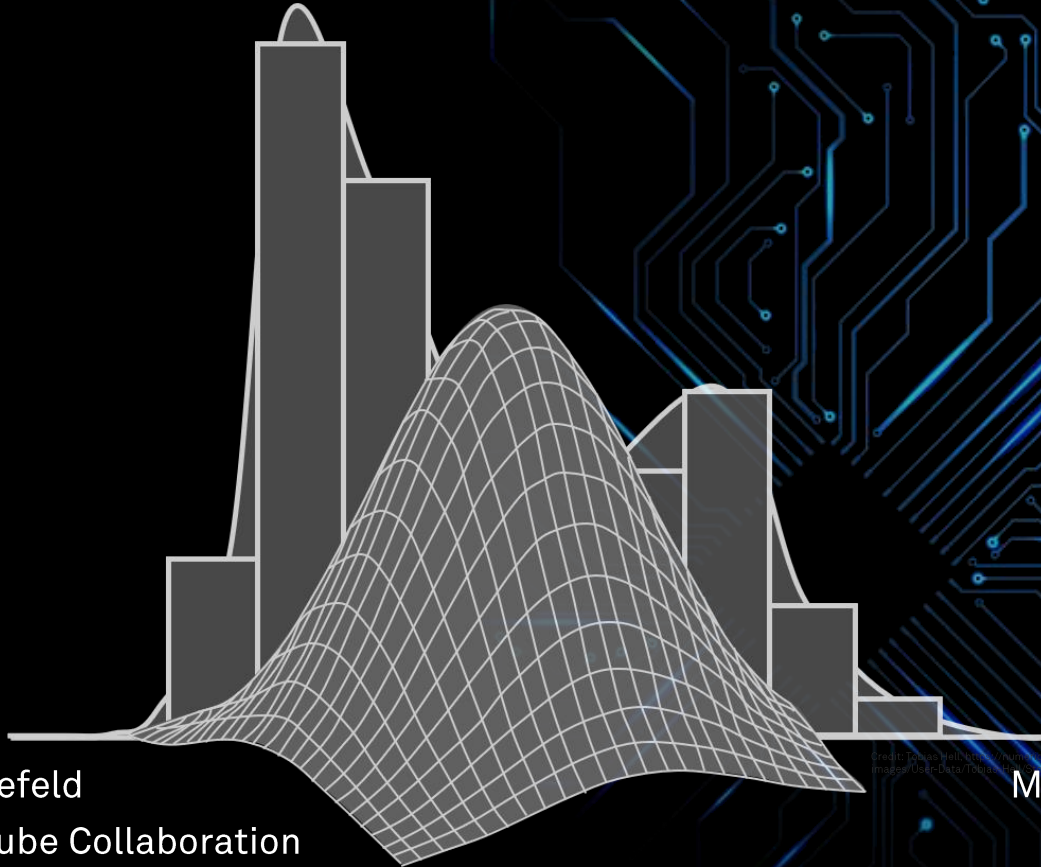


# Interpretable deep learning for event reconstruction in IceCube

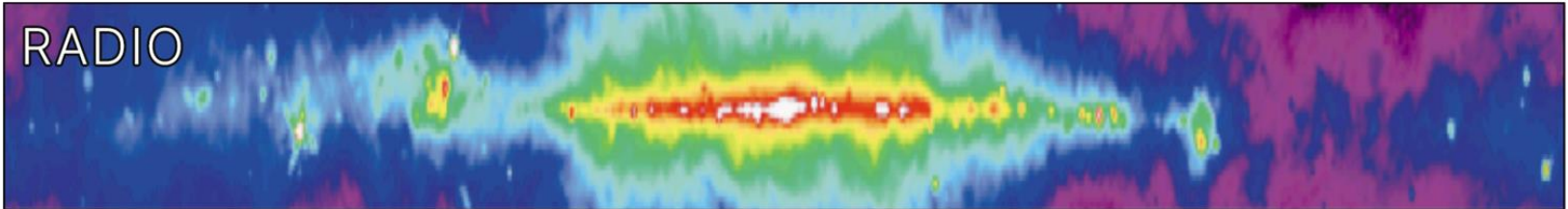


Mirco Hünnefeld  
for the IceCube Collaboration  
mhuennefeld@icecube.wisc.edu

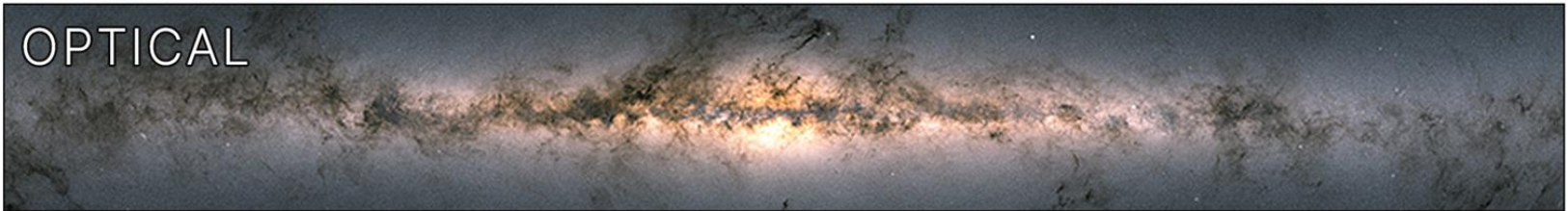
ML for High-Energy Cosmic Particles  
University of Delaware  
January 28, 2025

# Observation of high-energy neutrinos from the Galactic Plane

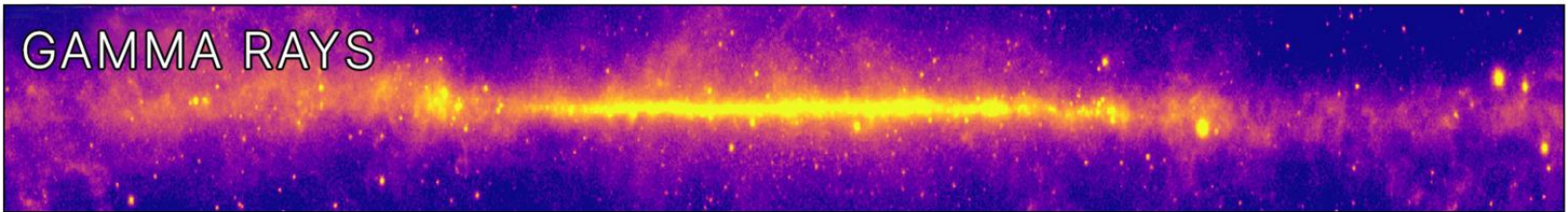
RADIO



OPTICAL



GAMMA RAYS



NEUTRINOS



RESEARCH Published on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**RESEARCH ARTICLES** **Science**

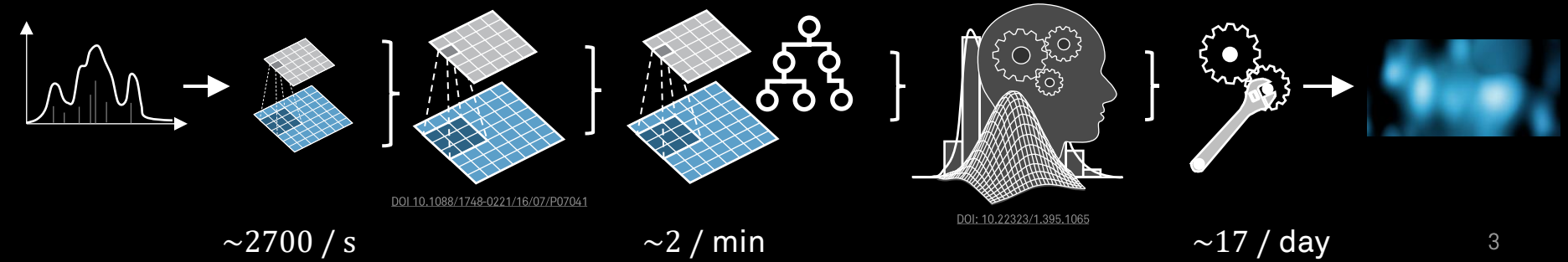
NEUTRINO ASTROPHYSICS

**Observation of high-energy neutrinos from the Galactic plane**

IceCube Collaboration<sup>1</sup>

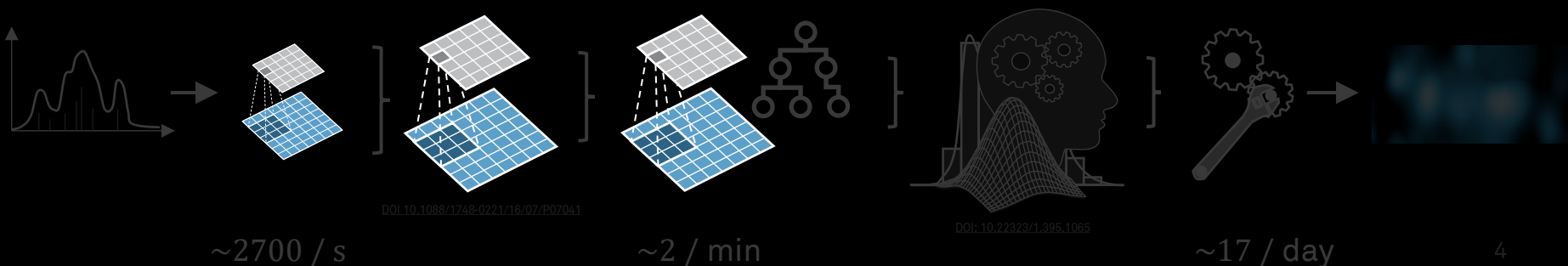
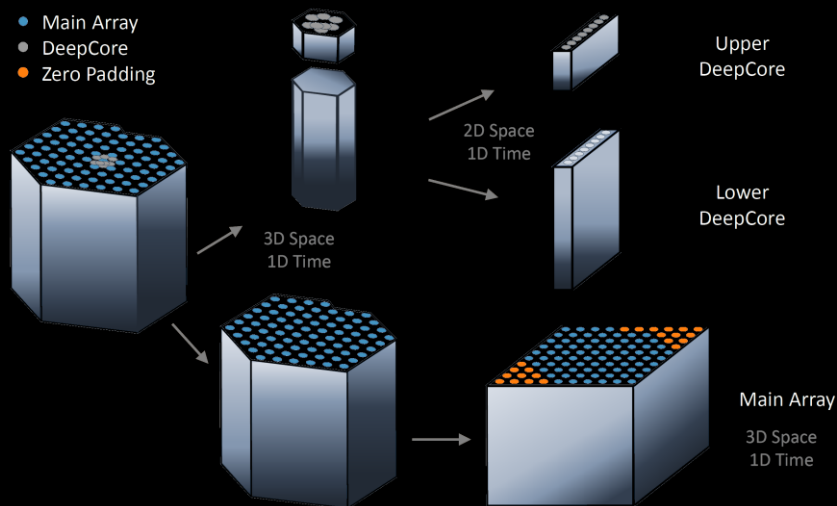
DOI: [10.1126/science.adc9818](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adc9818)

# NEUTRINOS



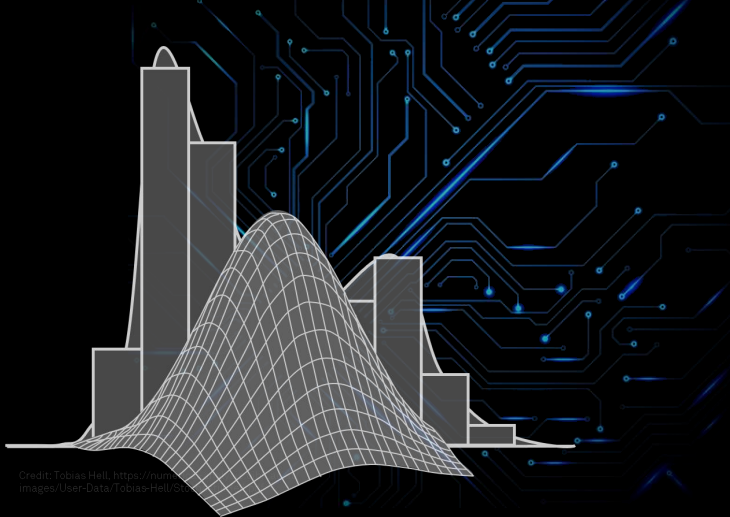
# Convolutional Neural Networks

- Workhorse of event selection
  - Classification & regression tasks
  - Fast and reliable
  - Hexagonal convolution kernels
  - Uncertainty quantification
- Exploit translational invariance



# Event-Generator

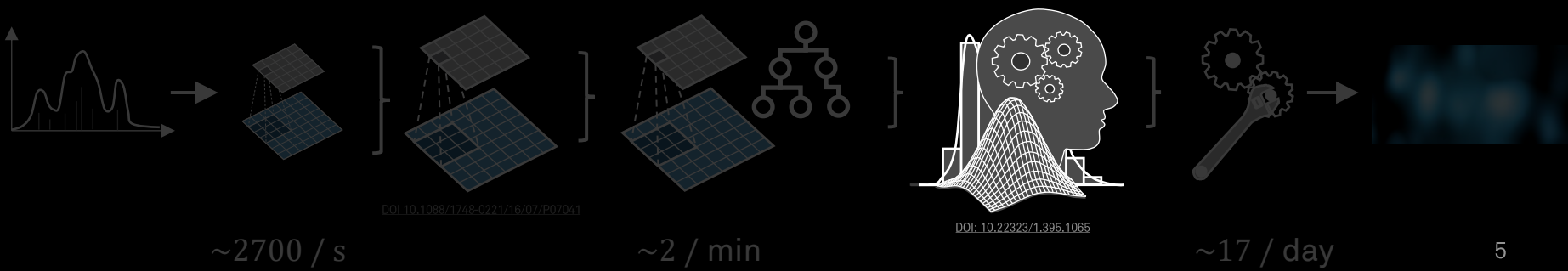
Combining Maximum-Likelihood with Deep Learning



Credit: Tobias Hill, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/User-Data/Tobias-Hill-1065>

DOI: [10.22323/1.395.1065](https://doi.org/10.22323/1.395.1065)

- Improved performance
  - Robust
  - Interpretable
  - Uncertainty quantification
  - Fast simulations
- Leverage domain knowledge



DOI: [10.1088/1748-0221/18/07/P07041](https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-0221/18/07/P07041)

DOI: [10.22323/1.395.1065](https://doi.org/10.22323/1.395.1065)

# Talk Outline

## Importance of Domain Knowledge and Symmetries

### Event Reconstruction in IceCube

- The IceCube Neutrino Observatory
- Data format and challenges
- Convolutional neural networks

### Combining Maximum-Likelihood with Deep Learning

- Maximum-Likelihood Estimation
- Exploiting available symmetries and domain knowledge
- Interpretability and Generalization

### Ongoing and future work

### Conclusions

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# Deep Learning (DL) in a Nutshell


- ① DL performs a mapping from inputs to outputs

$$f: I \rightarrow O$$

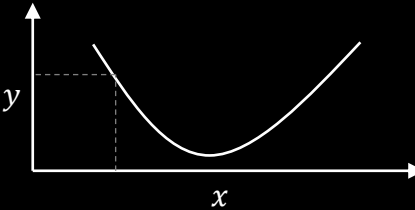
Input $I$	Output $O$
$x = 3$	$y = 12$



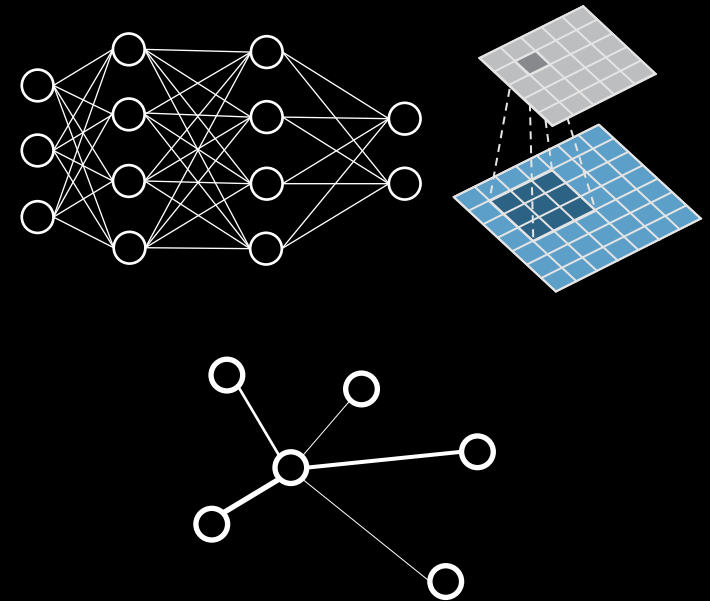
Can you explain deep learning in one sentence?



Deep learning is a subset of machine learning that uses artificial neural networks to model and understand complex patterns and relationships in data.

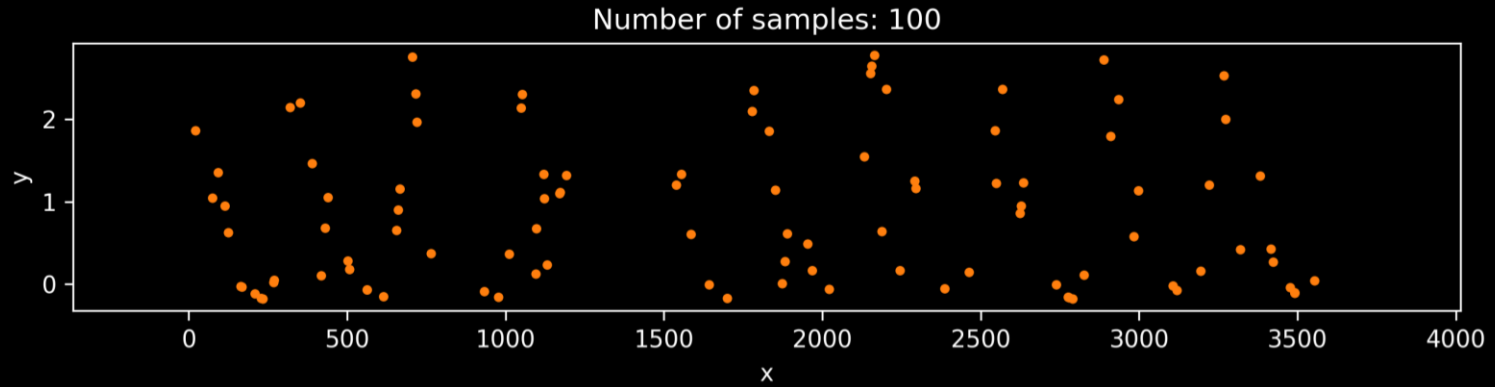


- ② Different architectures utilize different symmetries and domain knowledge

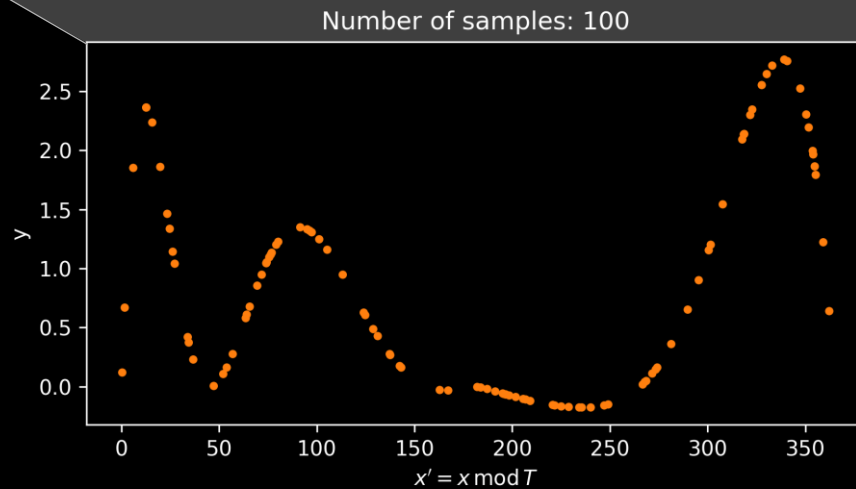
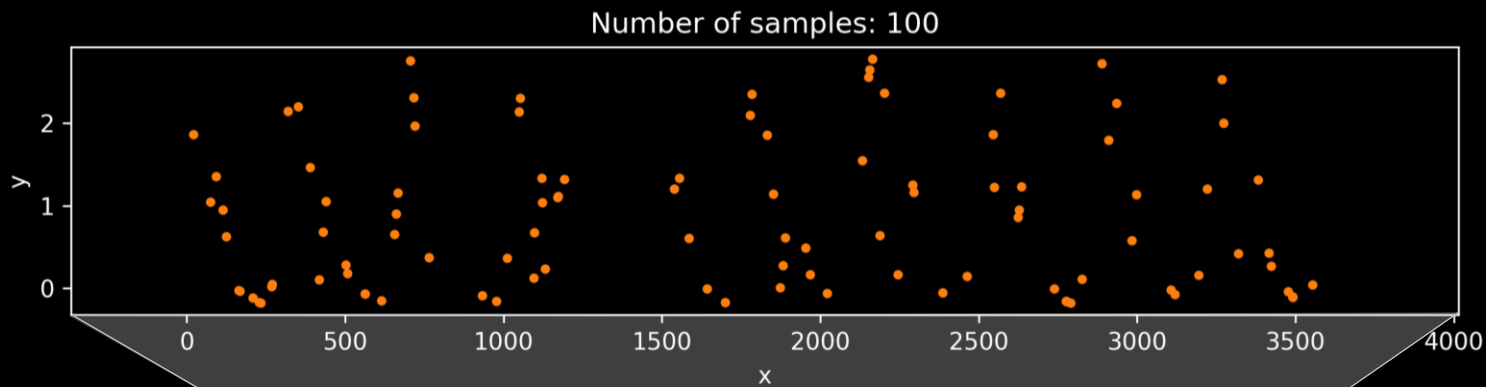




# Utilizing Domain Knowledge



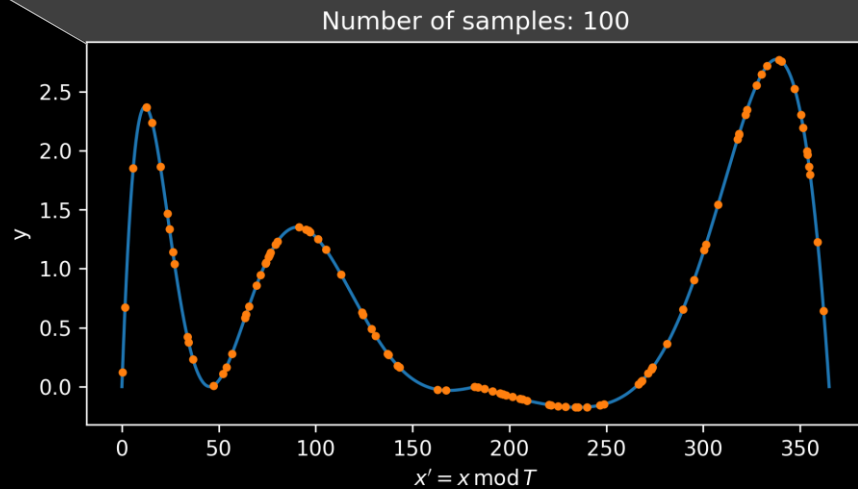
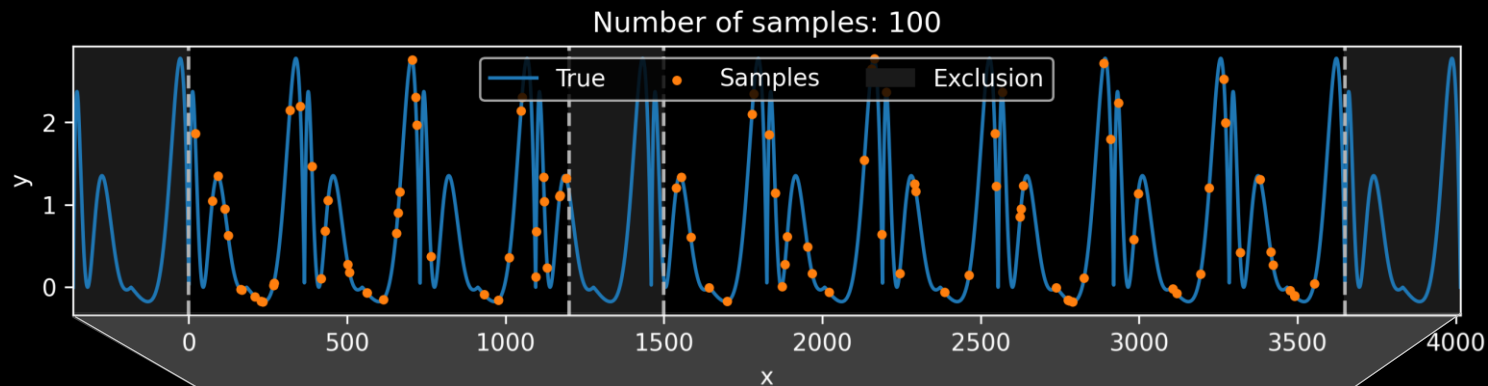
# Utilizing Domain Knowledge



Exploit Periodicity:

$$x' = x \bmod T$$

# Utilizing Domain Knowledge



Exploit Periodicity:

$$x' = x \bmod T$$

# Talk Outline

## Importance of Domain Knowledge and Symmetries

### Event Reconstruction in IceCube

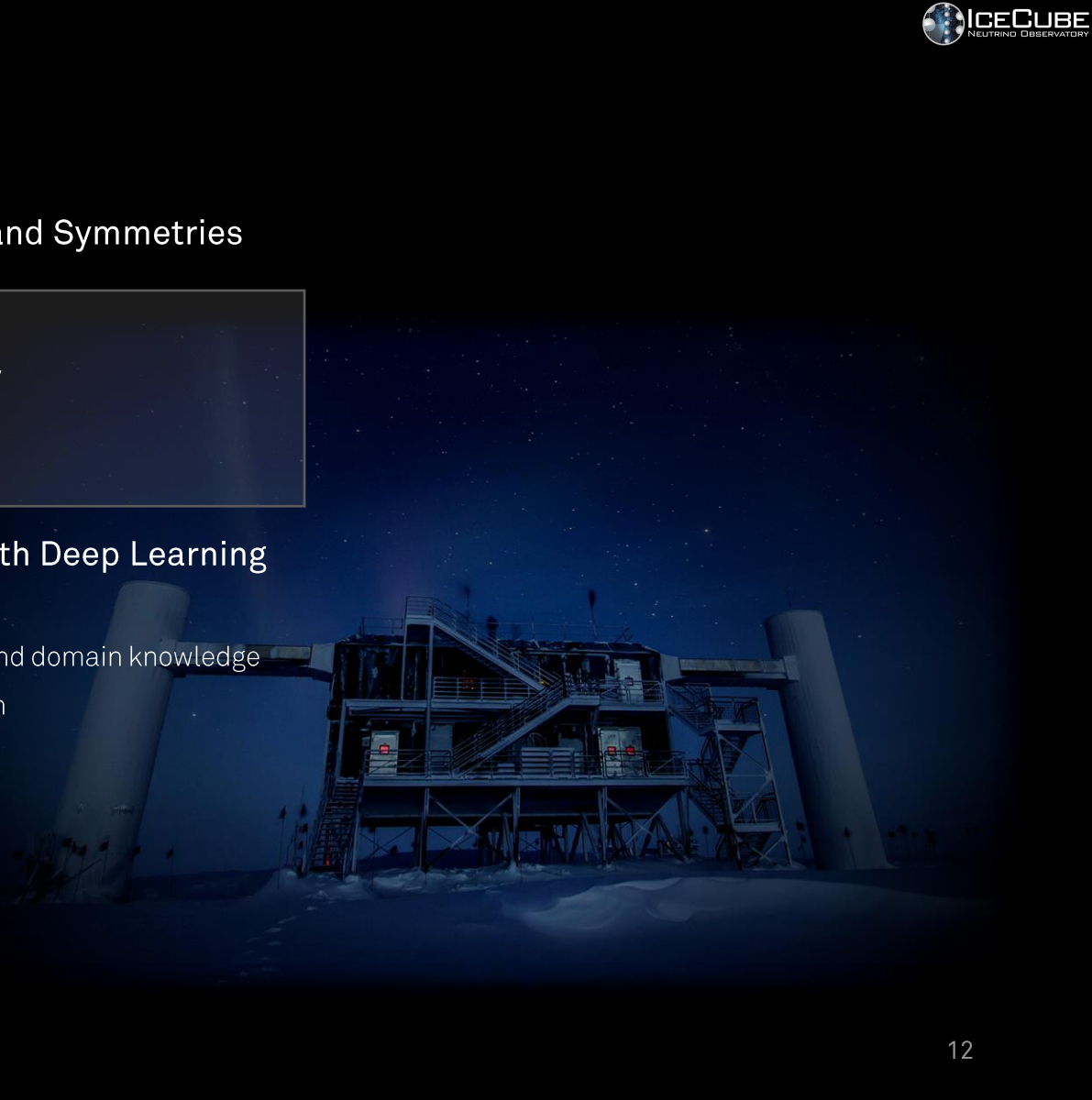
- The IceCube Neutrino Observatory
- Data format and challenges
- Convolutional neural networks

### Combining Maximum-Likelihood with Deep Learning

- Maximum-Likelihood Estimation
- Exploiting available symmetries and domain knowledge
- Interpretability and Generalization

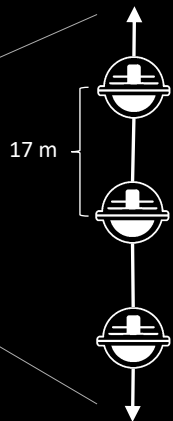
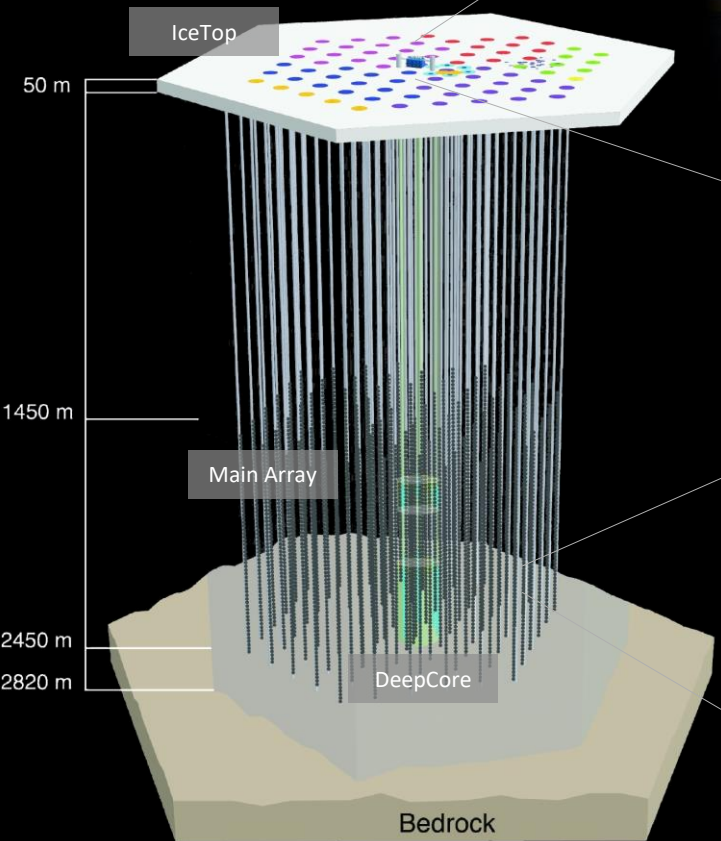
### Ongoing and future work

### Conclusions

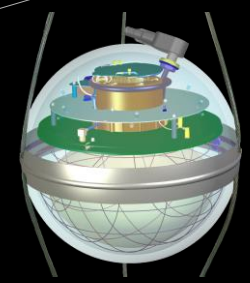




Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, Antarctica

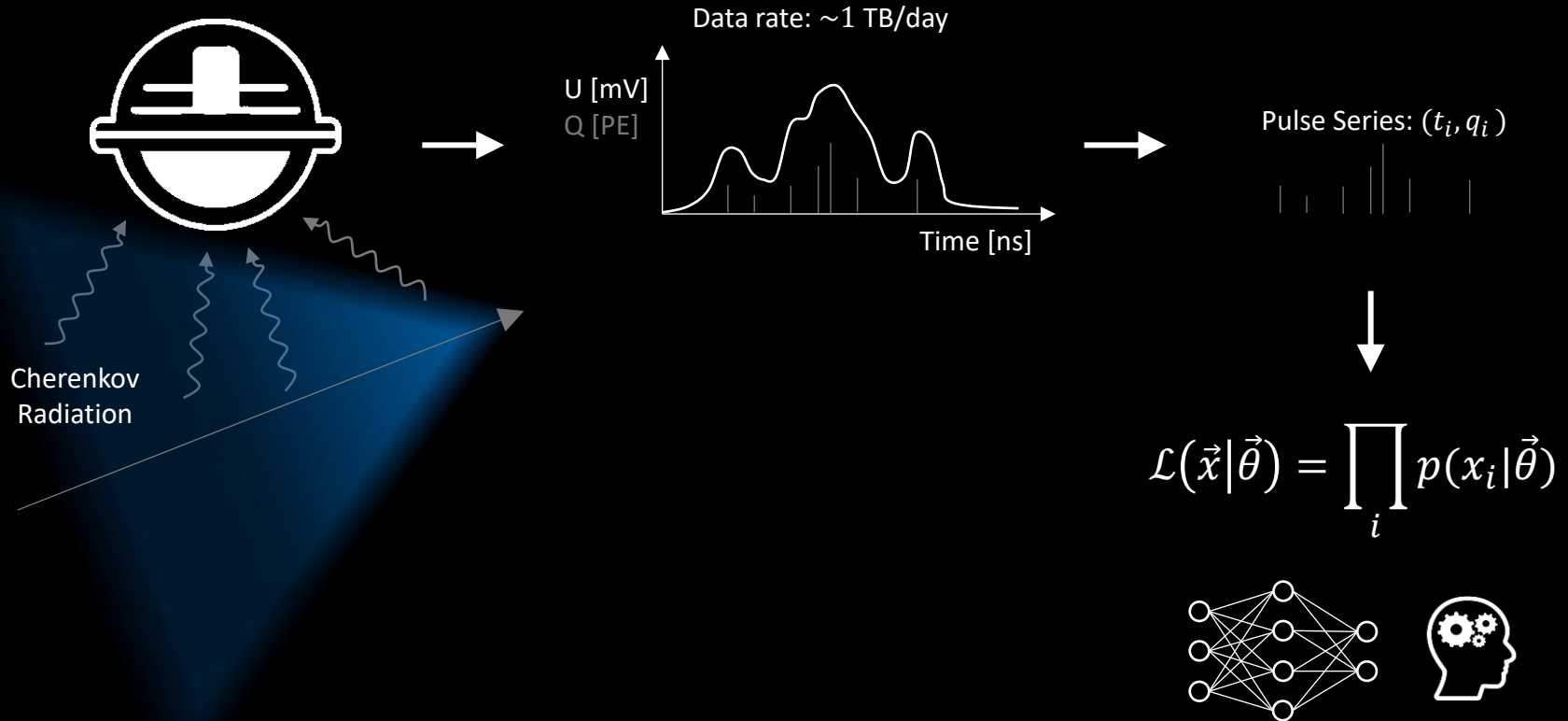


86 Strings:  
78 Main Array  
8 DeepCore



5160 Digital Optical Modules (DOMs)

# Detection Mechanism

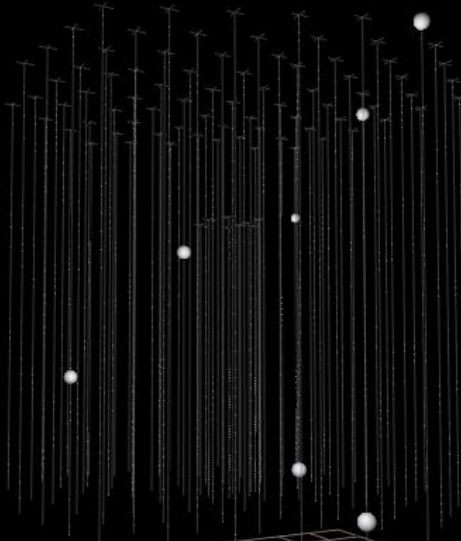


# Event Topologies

## Track Event



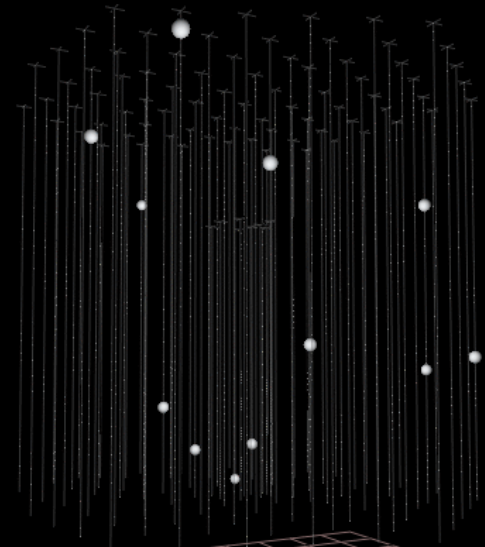
ICECUBE  
t = 9900 ns



## Cascade Event



ICECUBE  
t = 9800 ns



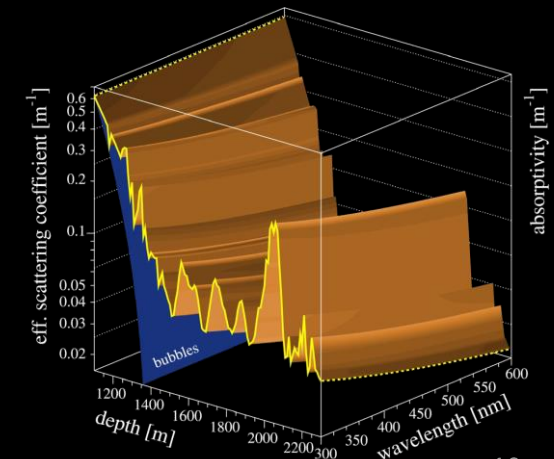
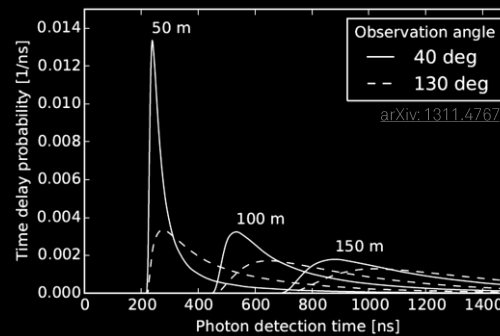
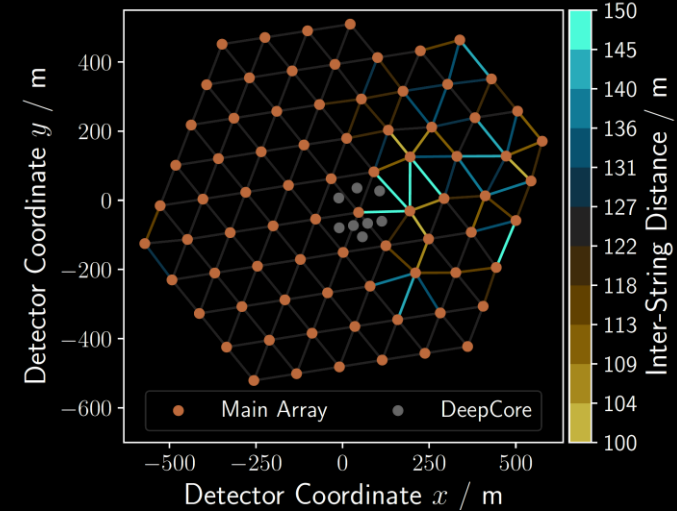
① Event Classification  
Topology? Neutrino?

② Event Reconstruction  
Direction? Energy? Vertex?

Ratio of signal to background: ~ 1: 100 million

# What do we know about our Data?

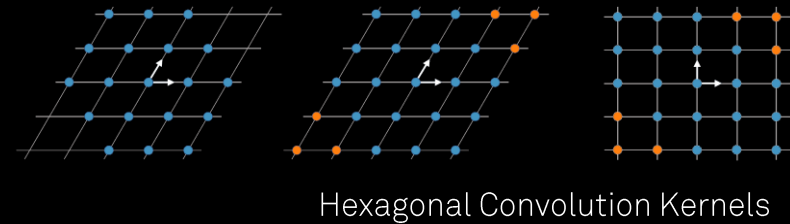
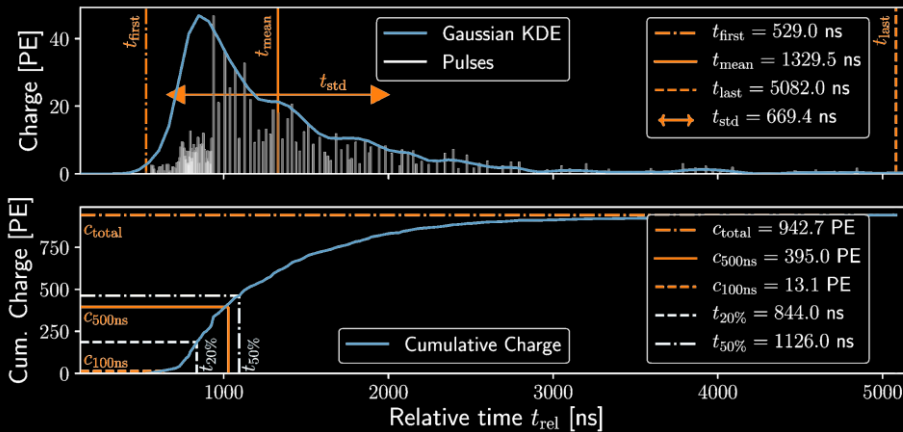
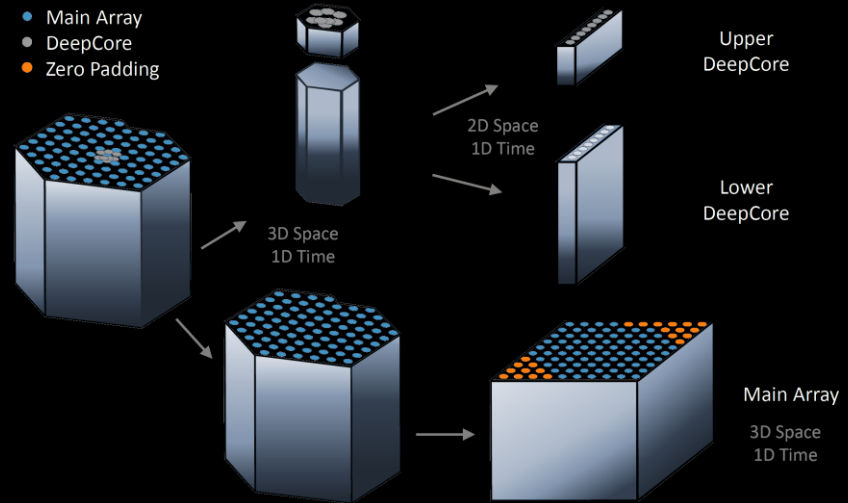
- Detector geometry:
  - 3 detector parts: main array, upper & lower DeepCore
  - Deviations from symmetric detector grid
- Underlying physics of neutrino interaction are invariant under translation and rotation
- Inhomogeneous photon propagation due to dust impurities and crystal structure of ice
- Light yield scales linearly with deposited energy
- General shape of photon arrival time PDF
- Photons (and in good approximation: the measured pulses) are independent of each other





# Convolutional Neural Networks

- Workhorse of event selection
  - Classification & regression tasks
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  - Hexagonal convolution kernels
  - Uncertainty quantification
- Exploit translational invariance



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### Combining Maximum-Likelihood with Deep Learning

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- Exploiting available symmetries and domain knowledge
- Interpretability and Generalization

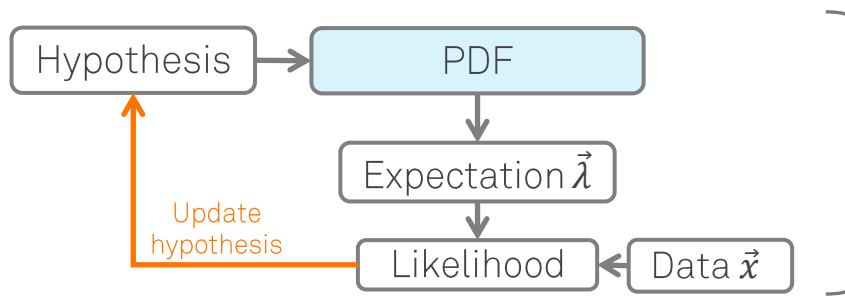
### Ongoing and future work

### Conclusions



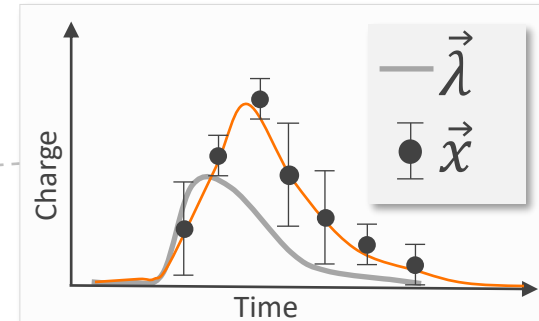
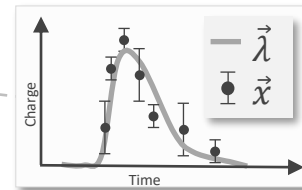
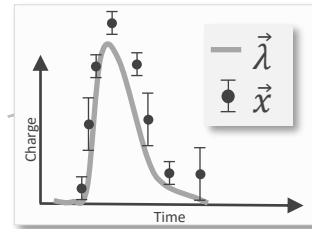
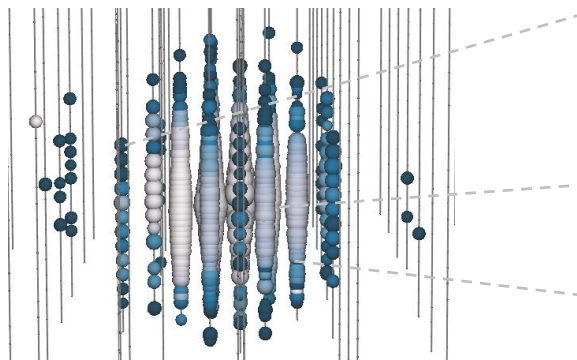


# Event-Generator: Combining Maximum-Likelihood with DL

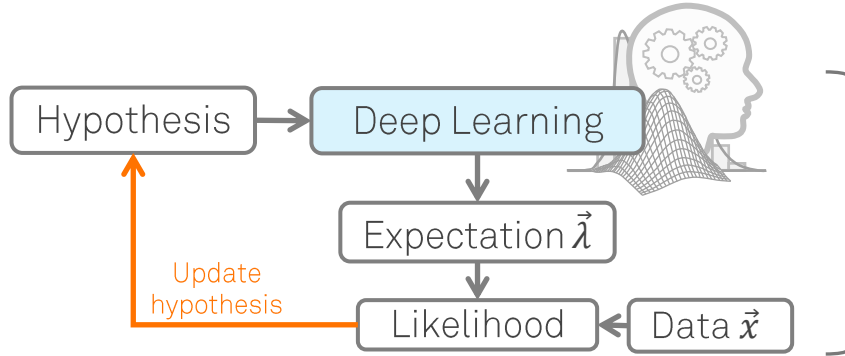


Hybrid reconstruction method:

- Combines maximum-likelihood estimation with deep learning
- Modeling of high-dimensional PDFs via generative model
- Exploits available information and symmetries
- **Robust and interpretable Deep Learning**

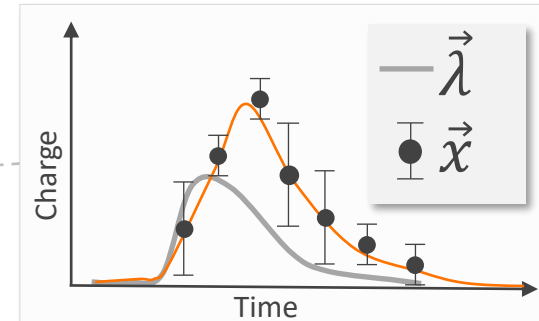
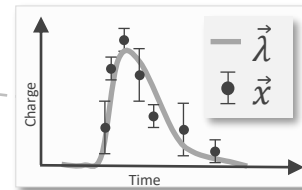
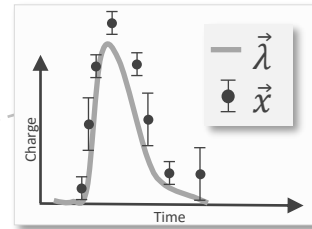
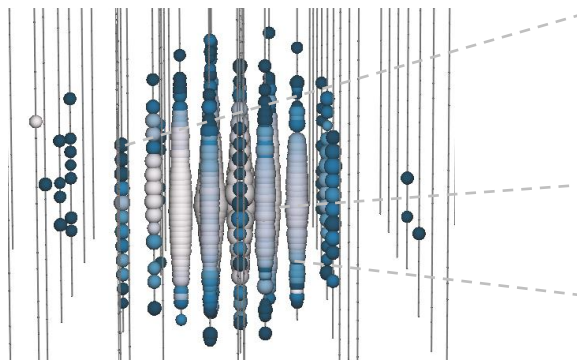


# Event-Generator: Combining Maximum-Likelihood with DL



Hybrid reconstruction method:

- Combines maximum-likelihood estimation with deep learning
- Modeling of high-dimensional PDFs via generative model
- Exploits available information and symmetries
- **Robust and interpretable Deep Learning**



# Event-Generator: Architecture

Generator NN learns mapping:

$$f: \vec{\theta} \rightarrow \vec{\lambda}, \vec{p}(t_i | \vec{\theta})$$

$\vec{\theta}$ : source parameters

$\vec{\lambda}$ : expected DOM charge

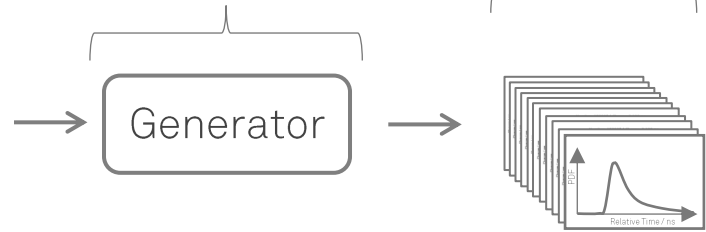
$\vec{p}(t_i | \theta)$ : pulse arrival PDFs

Example: Cascade Hypothesis

$$\vec{\theta} = (x, y, z, \varphi, \theta, E, t)$$

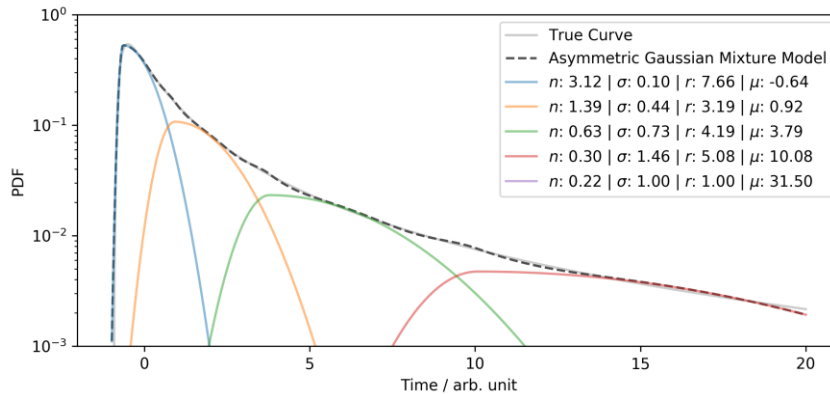
Neural Network that maps input [?, 7] to output [?, 5160, n] with number of mixture model components n

5160 PDFs for each of the DOMs



~200k output variables

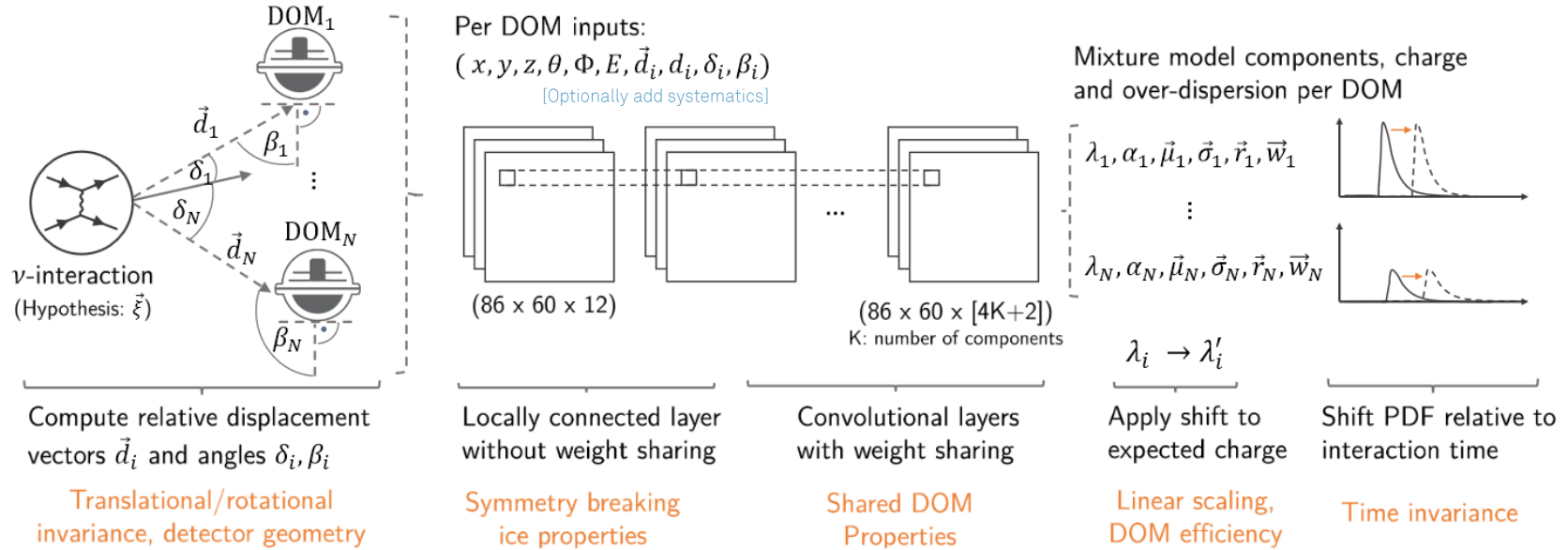
Parameterization of pulse arrival time PDF:



$$g(x | \mu, \sigma, r) = \begin{cases} N \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), & x \leq \mu \\ N \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2(\sigma r)^2}\right), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$N = \frac{2}{\sqrt{(2\pi) \cdot \sigma(r+1)}}$$

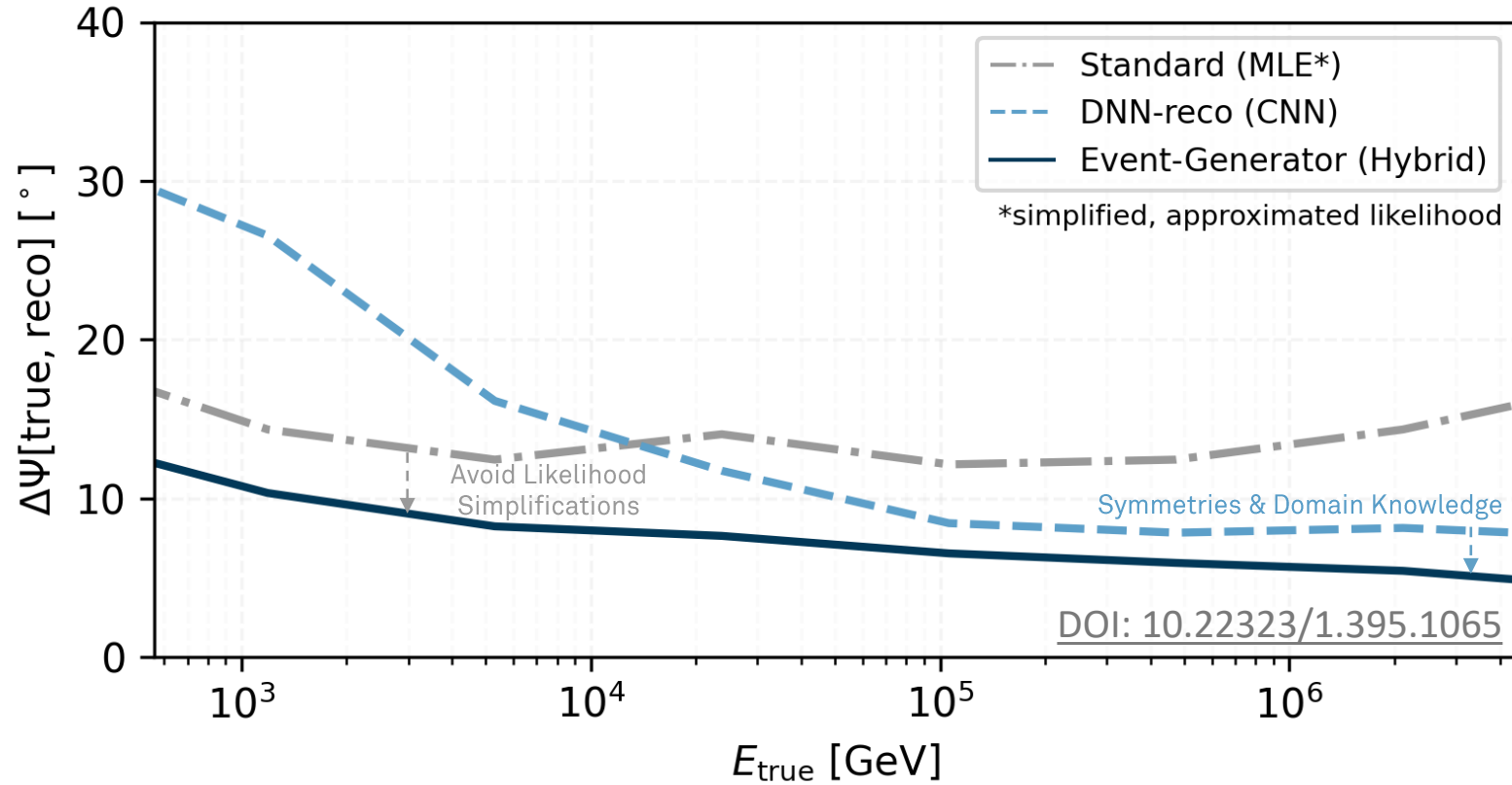
# Event-Generator: Example Architecture for Cascades



DOI: [10.22323/1.395.1065](https://doi.org/10.22323/1.395.1065)

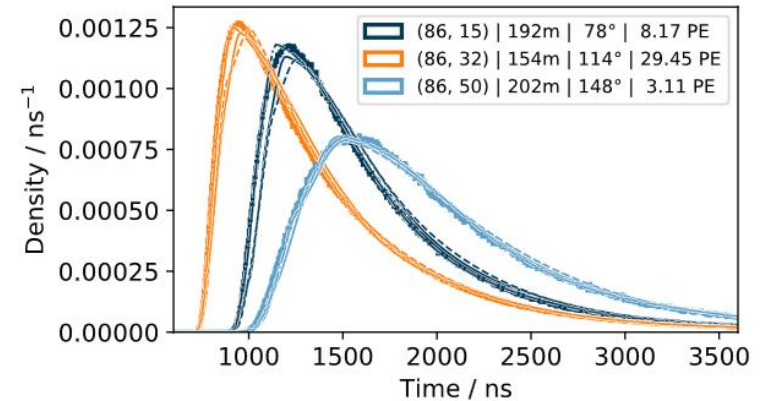
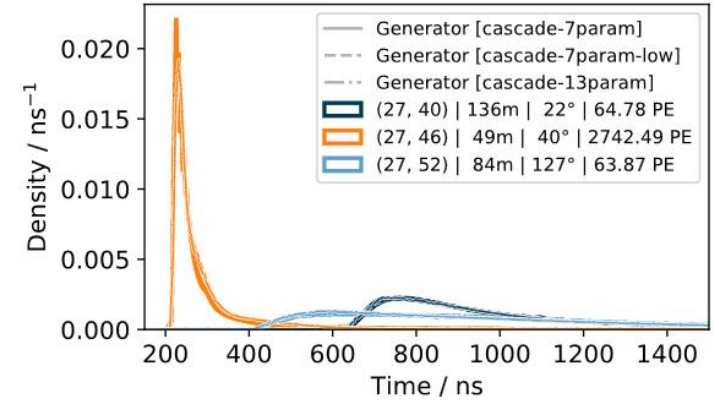
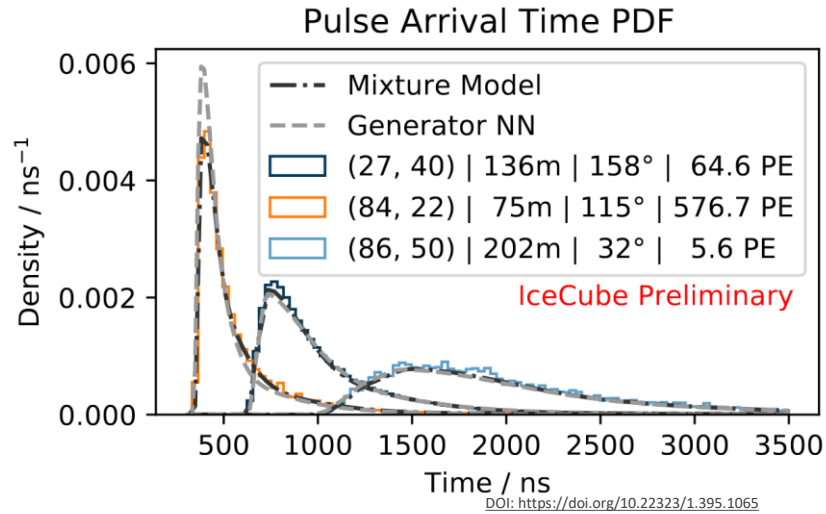
- Can decouple physics and detector effects
- Easier to include information in forward direction when not convolved with detector response yet
- We know how to do this – we simulate the data!

# Event-Generator: Improved Performance

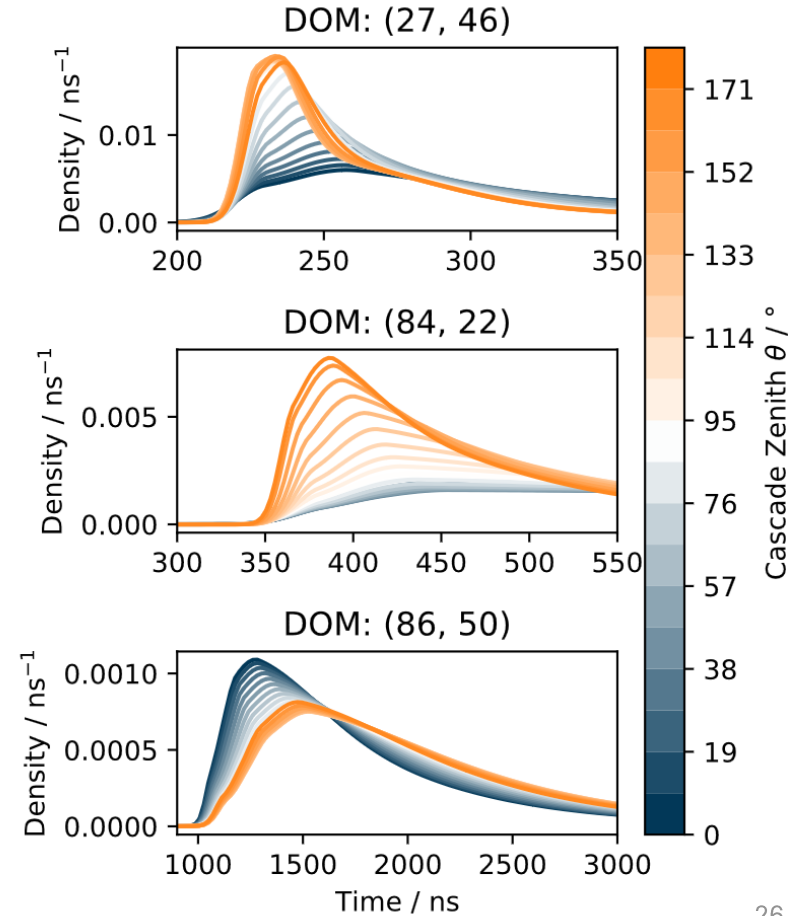
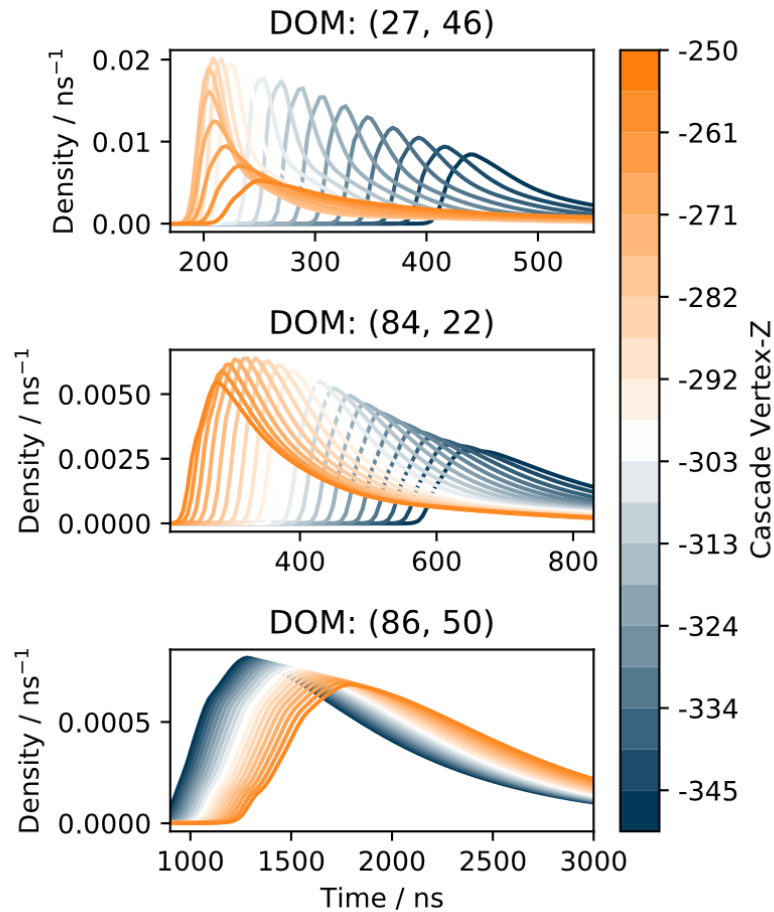




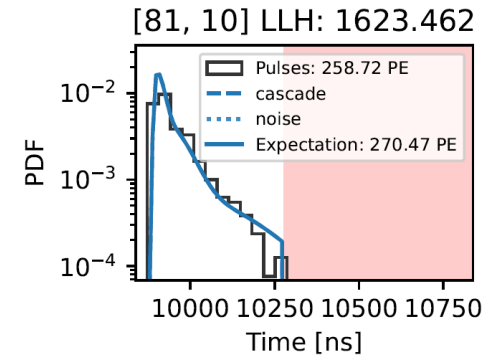
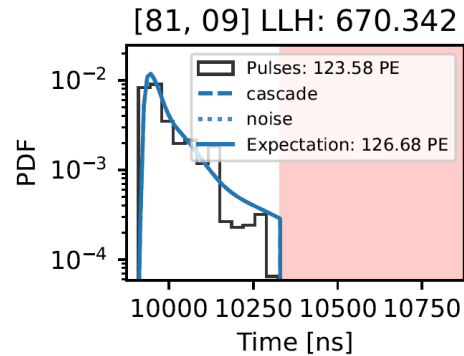
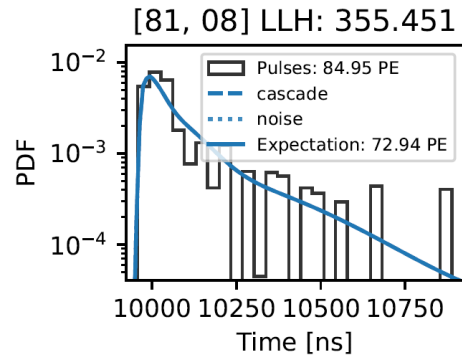
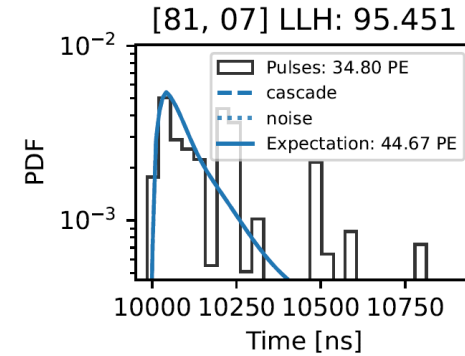
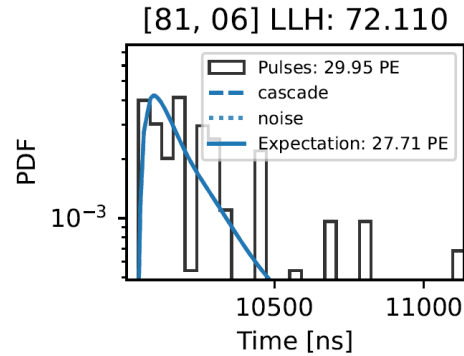
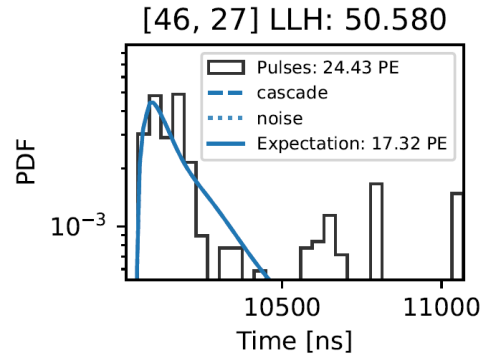
# Event-Generator: Interpretability and Generalization



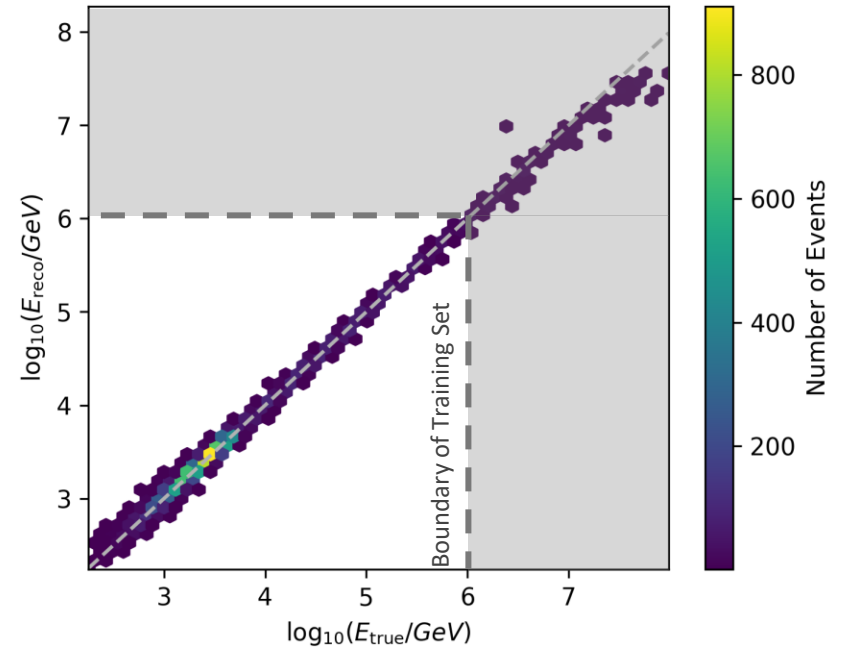
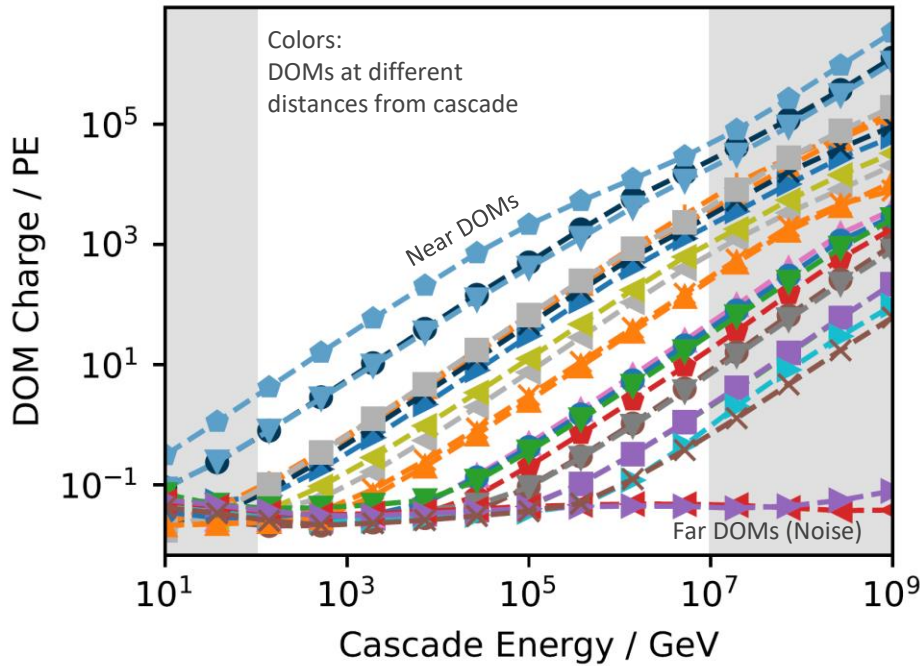
# Event-Generator: Interpretability and Generalization



# Event-Generator: Interpretability and Generalization

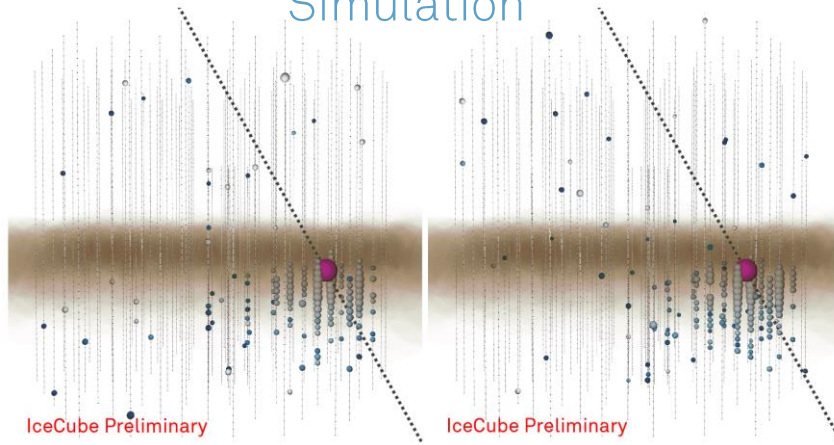


# Event-Generator: extrapolating beyond the training data



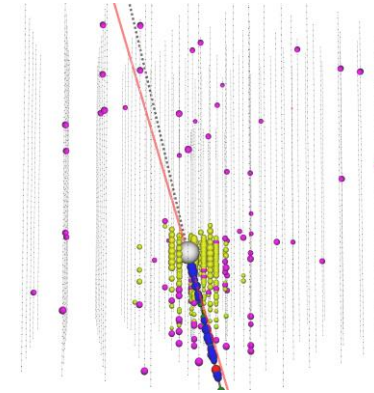
# Event-Generator: Additional Applications

## Simulation

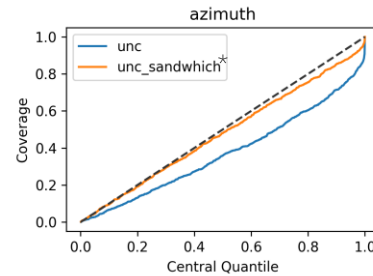
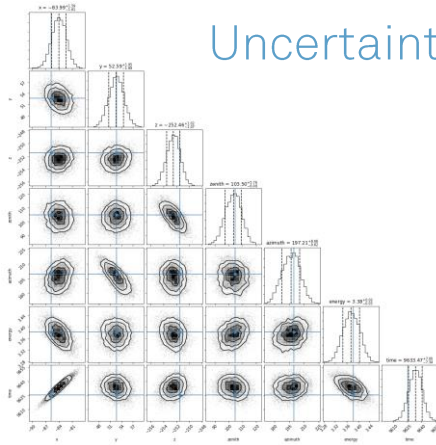


DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22323/1.395.1065>

## Goodness-of-fit



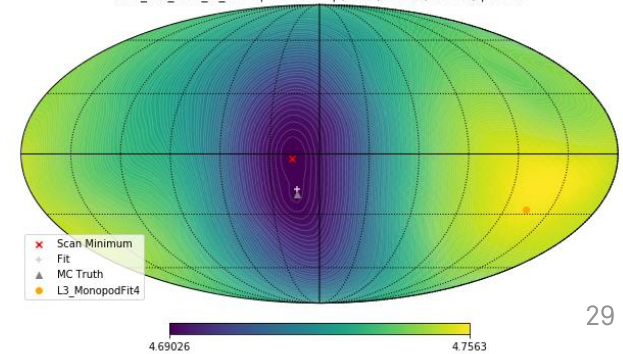
## Uncertainty Estimation



\*<http://www.stat.umn.edu/geyer/5601/notes/sand.pdf>

## Likelihood Scans

NuE\_low\_cscd\_l3\_4004 | 2224 GeV | (-27m, -106m, -130m) | L: 3m



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- Maximum-Likelihood Estimation
- Exploiting available symmetries and domain knowledge
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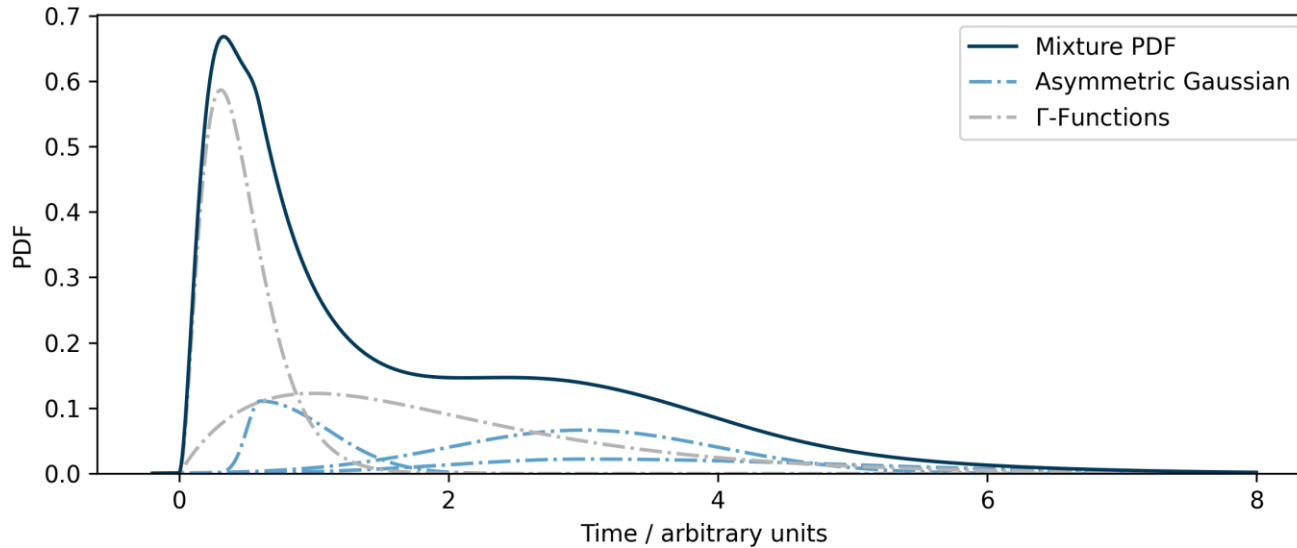
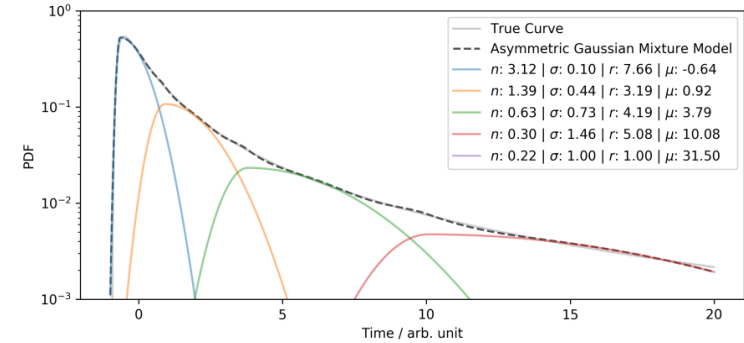
### Ongoing and future work

### Conclusions

# Event-Generator: more flexible time PDFs

## Arrival time PDFs:

- Previously: mixture model of asymmetric Gaussians
  - Now: mixture model of any basis PDF
  - Option to include learnable time PDF parameterizations
    - Example: normalizing flow
- ➔ More accurate modelling of arrival time PDFs



# Event-Generator: nested event hypotheses

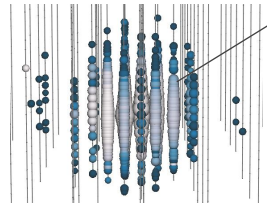
## Source Class

Defines an arbitrary light source

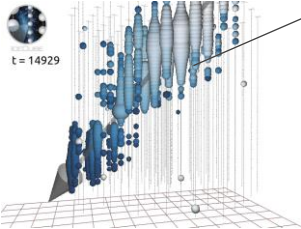
$$f: \vec{\theta} \rightarrow \vec{\lambda}, \vec{p}(t_i|\vec{\theta})$$

$\vec{\theta}$ : source parameters  
 $\vec{\lambda}$ : expected DOM charge  
 $\vec{p}(t_i|\vec{\theta})$ : pulse arrival PDFs

Cascade



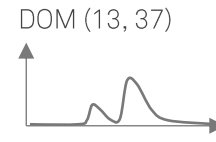
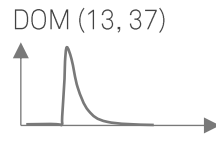
Track segment/Muon



Double-bang

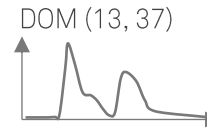
Flasher

...



## MultiSource Class

Arbitrary collection of light sources defined by (nested) Source and/or MultiSource objects



Examples:

- Muons (cascades + track segments)
- Muon bundle (muons)
- Coincident events

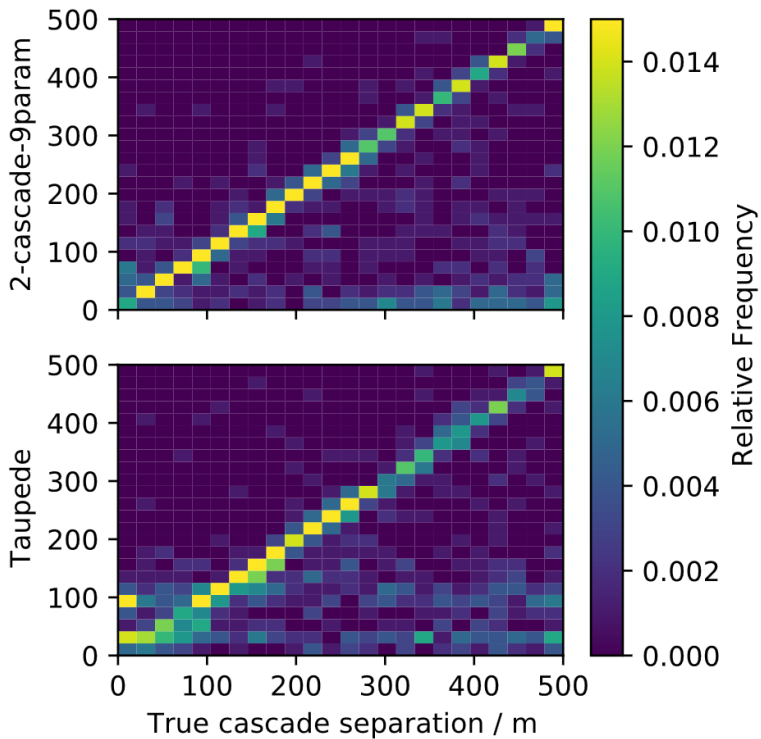
### Event-Generator:

- Framework to compose arbitrary event hypotheses
- Framework ensures compatibility of objects, version control, and reproducibility
- Provides tools to reconstruct, perform scans, estimate uncertainties, simulate events, interpret and investigate results, create and train new light source models

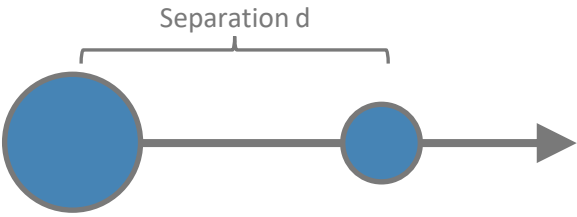


# Event-Generator: Double Cascade Reconstruction

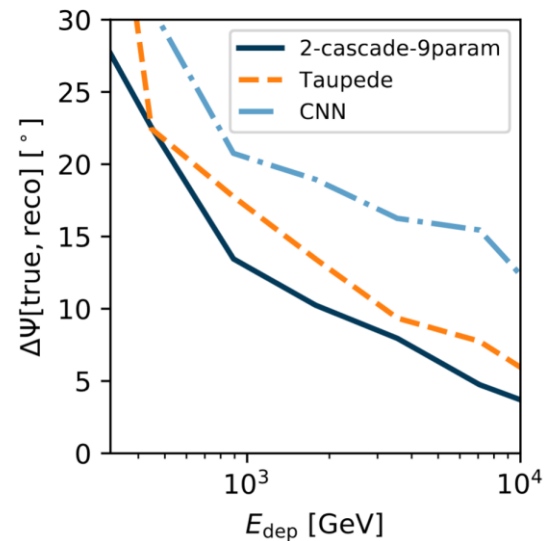
## Double Cascade Separation



## Double Cascade



## Angular Resolution



# Event-Generator: Track Reconstruction

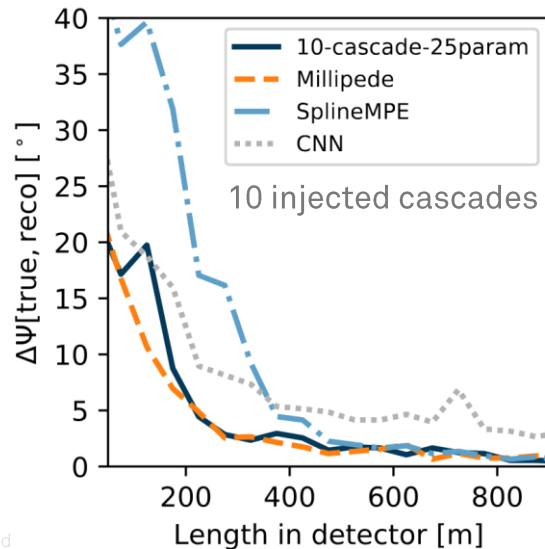
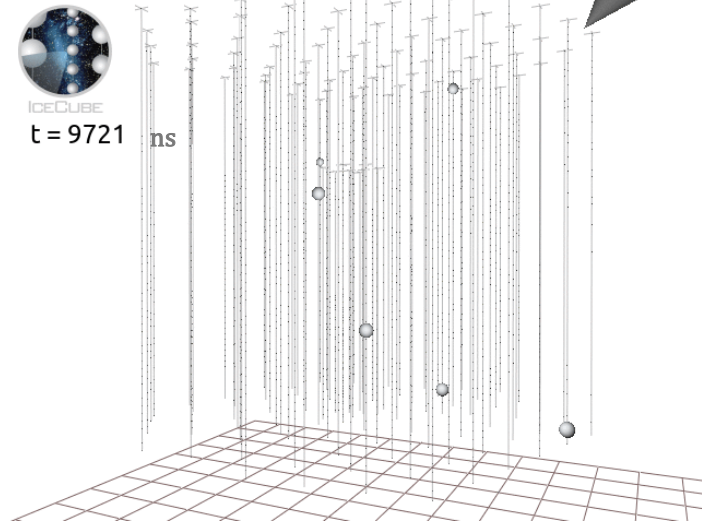
## Track reconstruction:

- Hypothesis consists of:
  - Track vertex location and time, direction and energy/length
  - Energy depositions along track (e.g.: individual cascades)

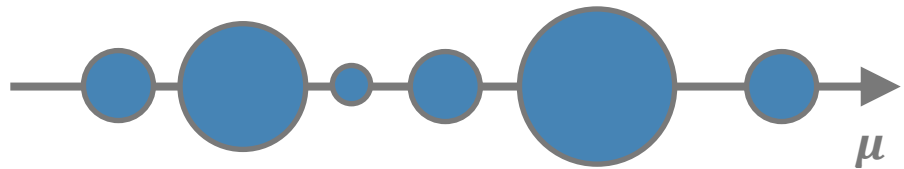
## Challenges:

- For accurate description of event  $O(100)$  cascades are required!
- Current implementation runs into runtime and memory issues
- High number of parameters: difficult minimization!

## Entering $\mu$



## Track Parameterization



# Talk Outline

## Importance of Domain Knowledge and Symmetries

### Event Reconstruction in IceCube

- The IceCube Neutrino Observatory
- Data format and challenges

### Convolutional Neural Networks

- Exploit approximate translational invariance

### Combining Maximum-Likelihood with Deep Learning

- Maximum-Likelihood Estimation
- Exploiting available symmetries and domain knowledge

## Ongoing and future work

## Conclusions

# Conclusions

## Utilization of Domain Knowledge and Symmetries:

- Reduces problem complexity
- Promotes robustness and generalizability
- Enhances interpretability

## Event-Generator Framework:

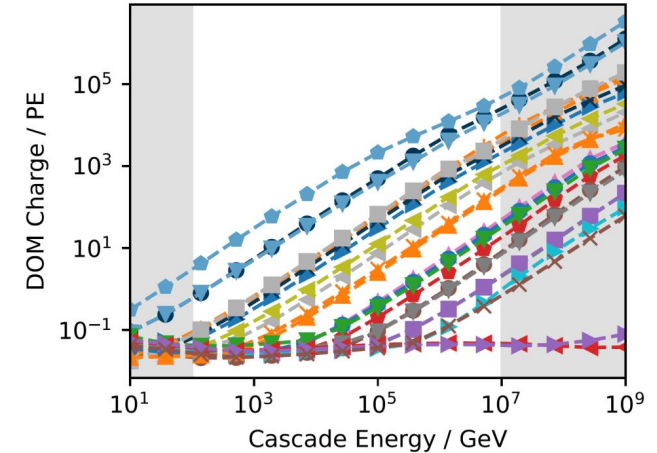
- Interpretable and robust DL via utilization of domain knowledge
- Support for arbitrary event hypotheses:
  - Mostly focused on cascades so far
  - Started to look deeper into tracks
- Versatile tool: reconstruction, stimulation, uncertainty estimation, sky scans, investigating/interpreting results

## Ongoing and future work:

- Updates and improvements to Event-Generator framework
- Event selection for track-like event topologies

➔ Analyses benefit from a combination of different DL methods

Extrapolating beyond training data



Improved performance

