



A visualization of particle flow, showing a dense stream of multi-colored particles (red, blue, yellow, green) moving through a dark, tunnel-like structure. The particles are scattered and appear to be interacting with the walls of the structure. The background is a dark grid.

Towards Robust End-to-End Machine Learning Particle Flow

Thesis Presentation - ILD Analysis/Software Meeting

Katharina Schäuble, Alessandro Brusamolino, Ulrich Einhaus, Jan Kieseler

20/05/26

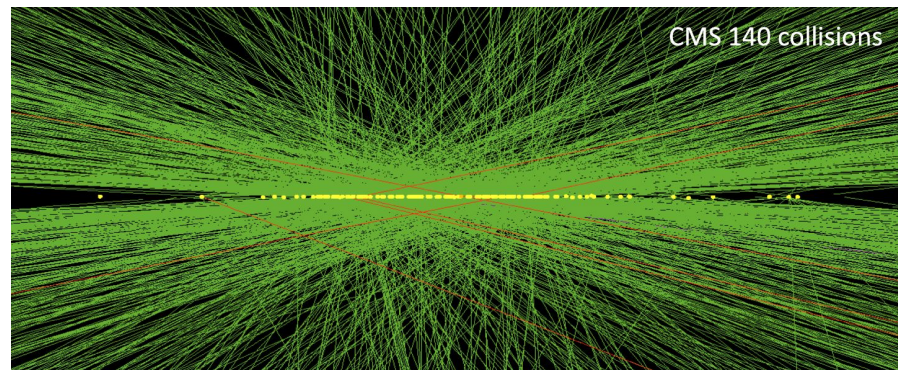
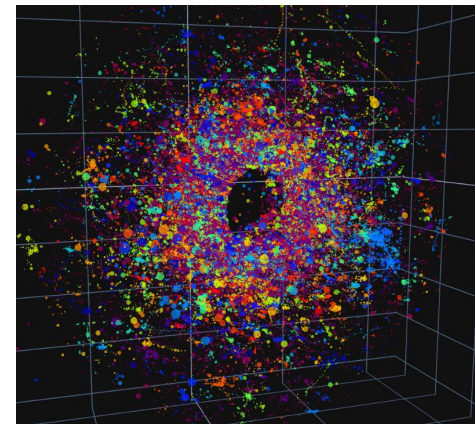
Why do we need ML-based Reconstruction?

Challenges for Reconstruction Algorithms

- **New detector design** with higher granularity and more complex geometry
- HL-LHC challenges reconstruction by increased **pile-up**
 - From ~60 to ~140 collisions per bunch crossing
- **Computing challenges** due higher rates and more complex events

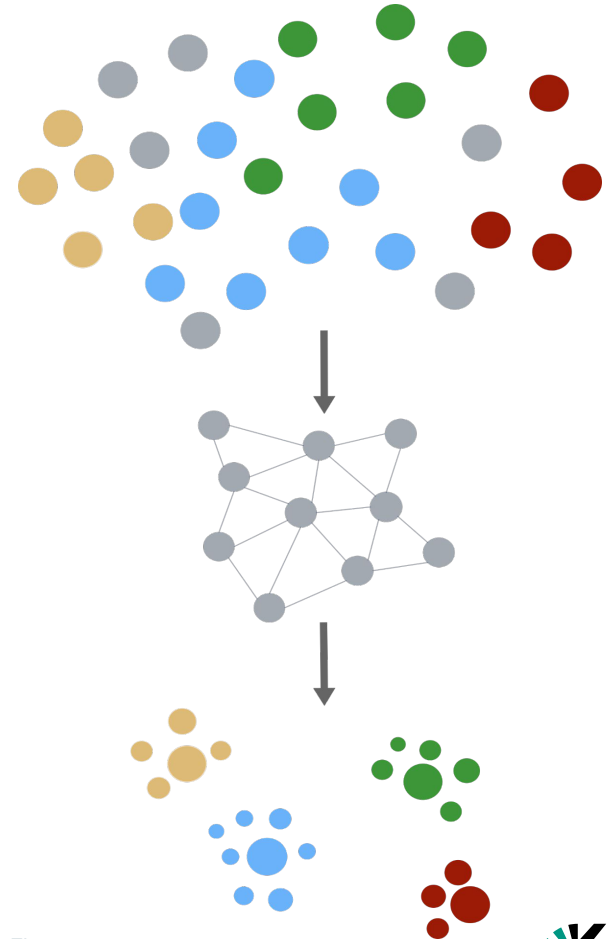


Need for new reconstruction algorithms

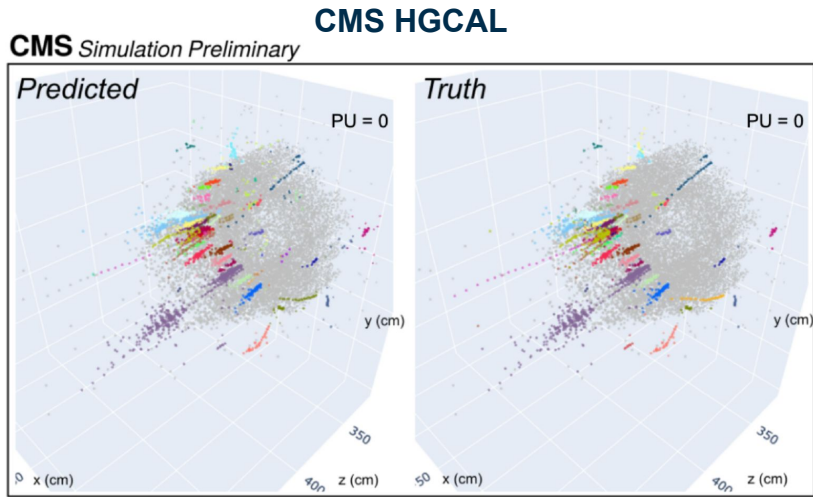


End-to-End Reconstruction

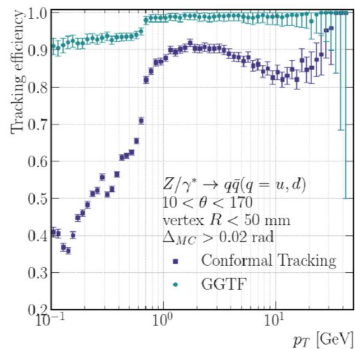
- State of the art ML-based reconstruction using GravNet and Object Condensation [arxiv:2204.01681](https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.01681)
- Traditional approach uses at least two steps: clustering first, then regression for object properties
- End-to-end reconstruction: from detector hits directly to particle candidates with respective properties



Applications of End-to-End ML-based Reconstruction

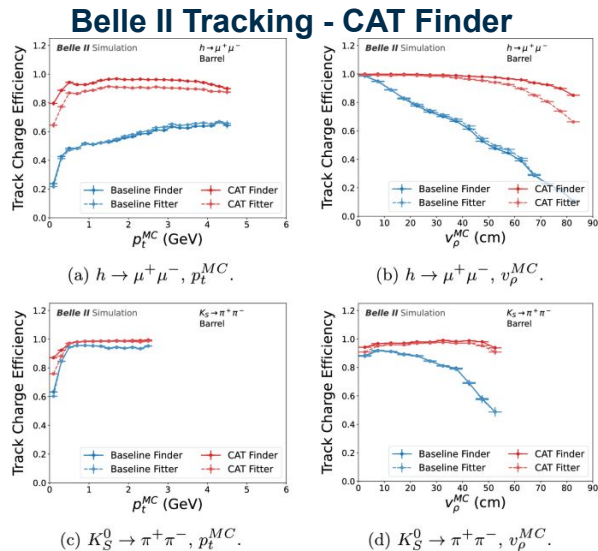


CERN-CMS-DP-2022-004



FCC
CLD Tracking

D.Garcia, et al.
10.1051/epjconf/
202533701125



L. Reuter, et al., [arxiv:2411.13596](https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.13596)

...and many more
 S.R. Qasim, et al.,
 arXiv:1902.07987
 J.Kieseler, arxiv:2002.03605,
 EPJC
 S.R. Qasim, N. Chern. J.
 Kieseler.,
 arXiv:2204.01681,
 S. Battarchaya, et al.,
 arXiv:2203.01189,
 S. Qasim, K. Long, J.K., et al.,
 arXiv:2106.01832
 I. Iiyama, .. J.K., et al,
 arXiv:2008.03601

Reconstruction algorithm already proven
 successful across various applications and is
 adaptable for future detector concepts

Towards Robust End-to-End Machine Learning Particle Flow

- Reconstruction algorithm successfully adapted to various applications

➡ *How well does the algorithm work?*

➡ *How can GravNet modification improve reconstruction performance?*

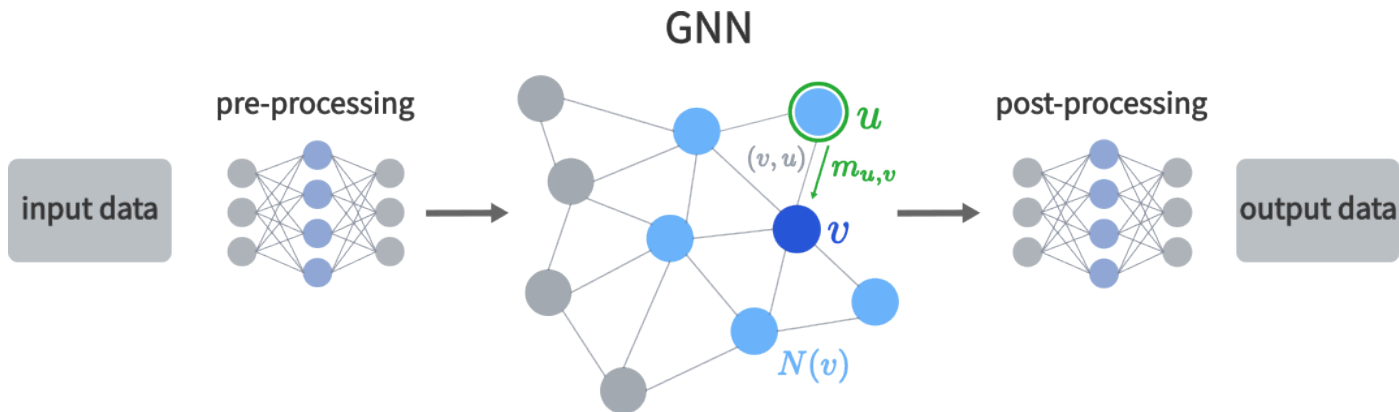
➡ *How to further enhance algorithm robustness?*

How does End-to-End Reconstruction work?

GravNet & Object Condensation

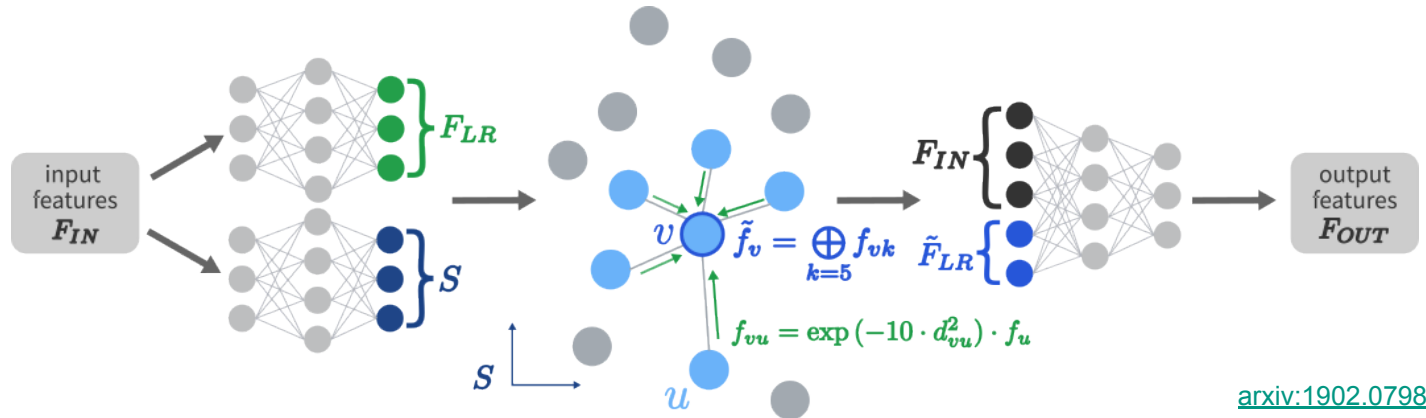
A Brief Introduction to Graph Neural Networks

- GNNs apply Neural Networks to graph-like structures
 - e.g. detector hits as point clouds
- Graph $G(V,E)$ consisting of a set of vertices V and edges E connecting them
 - Both may be attributed with features (e.g. hit energy, timing information)
- Information exchange by aggregating messages from neighboring nodes → **message passing**
- Connecting all vertices is computationally expensive
 - edges can be learned instead → GravNet



GravNet

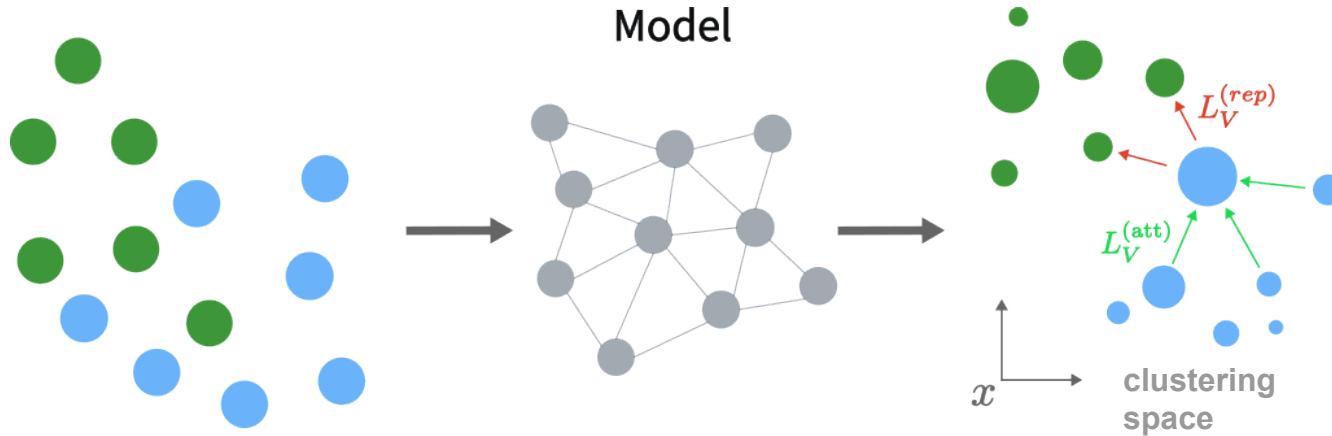
- GravNet: dynamic distance-weighted GNN
- Learnable embedding space and features for building graph topology
- Builds edges dynamically between nearest neighbors
 - Local exchange of information
- Use Euclidean distance between nodes as weights for message passing
 - Distance with Gaussian potential as edge weight \rightarrow rotation invariant in GravNet space
 - Combine features of nearest neighbors with different aggregator functions



[arxiv:1902.07987](https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.07987)

Object Condensation

- Attractive potential for all hits belonging to an object, repulsive potential towards all other hits
- Hit-wise condensation score β for best object representation
- Beta loss to encourage one hit per object \rightarrow **condensation point**
 - Gather all hits around condensation point



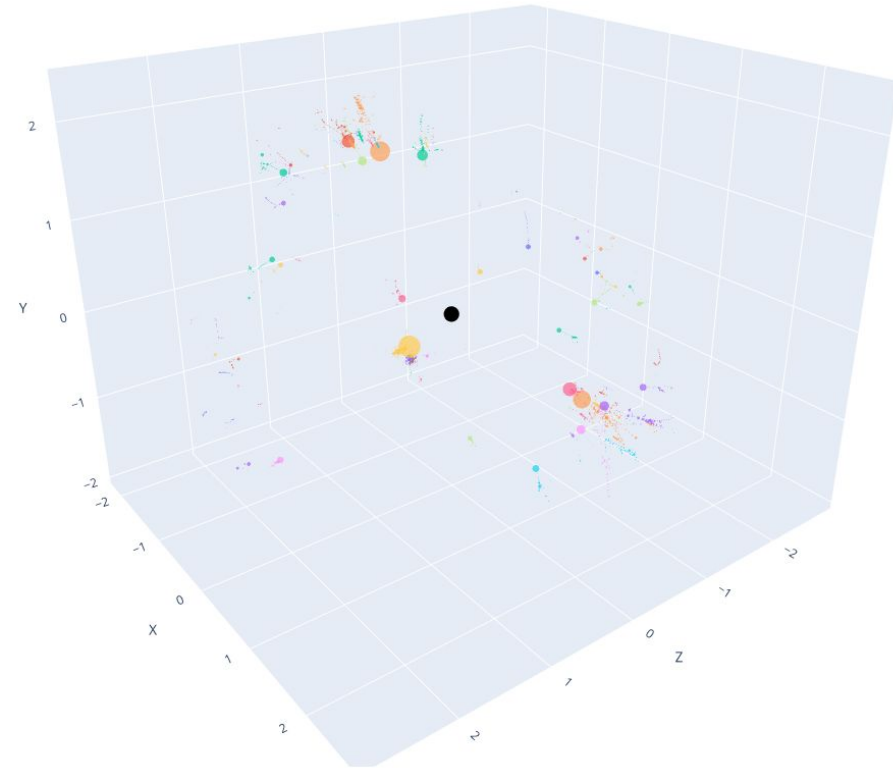
[arxiv:2002.03605](https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.03605)

What can the Reconstruction Algorithm be applied to?

ILD Detector

ILD Dataset

- Proposed ILD design optimized for Particle Flow analyses
- Dataset of $e^+e^- \rightarrow q\bar{q}$ events at 250 GeV
- Truth definition: reconstruction targets are defined at the boundary between the tracking system and calorimeter
 - If multiple showers deposited energy in one cell assign to shower with highest deposition
 - for each shower assign unique index
- Hits in calorimeter and include track as additional hit at boundary between tracker and calorimeter



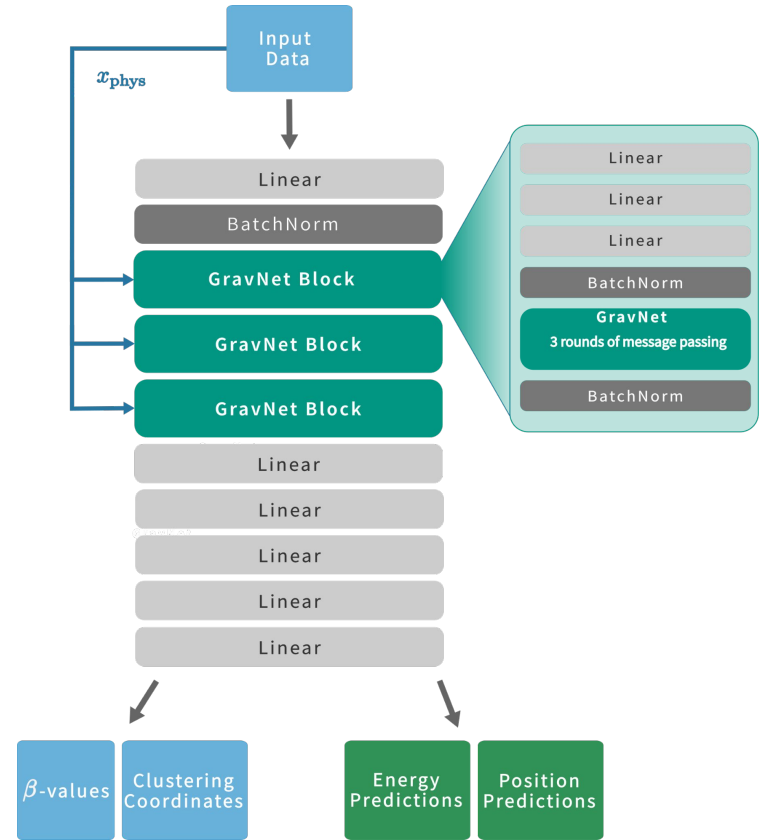
Model and Training

- Model inputs: $x, y, z, r_{xy}, \theta, \eta, E, isTrack$ (calo or tracker hit)
- Model outputs: coordinates in cluster space, β scores, energy predictions, position predictions
- Losses:

- Object Condensation losses (repulsive and attractive potential losses, β loss)

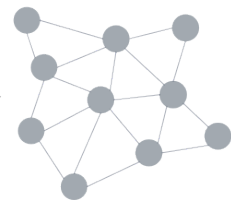
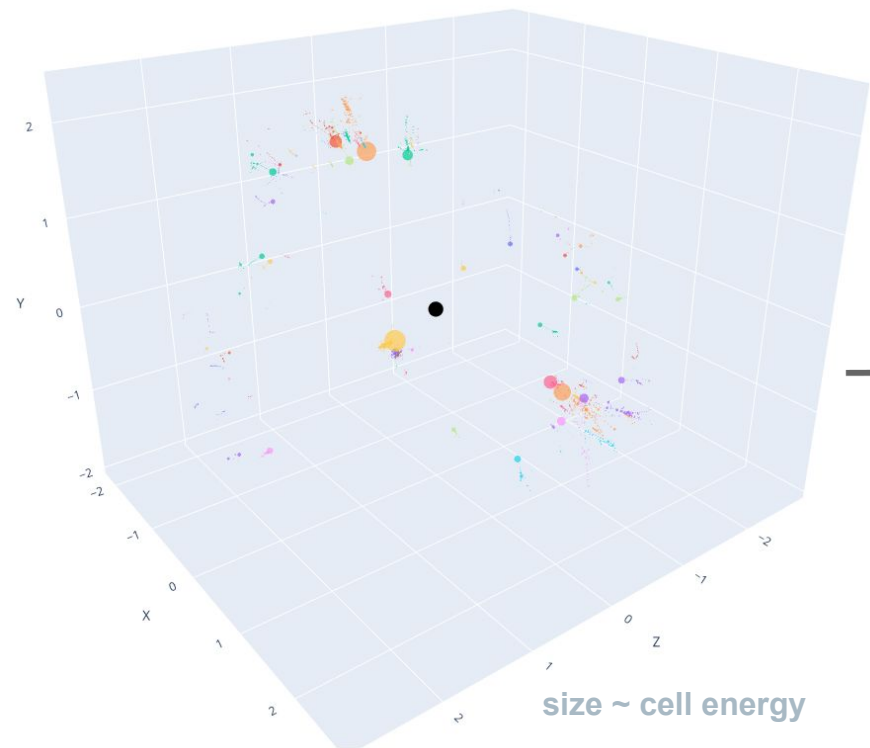
- Energy loss $L_E = \ln \left(\frac{(E_{true} - E_{pred})^2}{E_{true}} + 1 \right)$

- Position loss $L_{pos} = \sum_i^3 (x_{true}^{(i)} - x_{pred}^{(i)})^2$

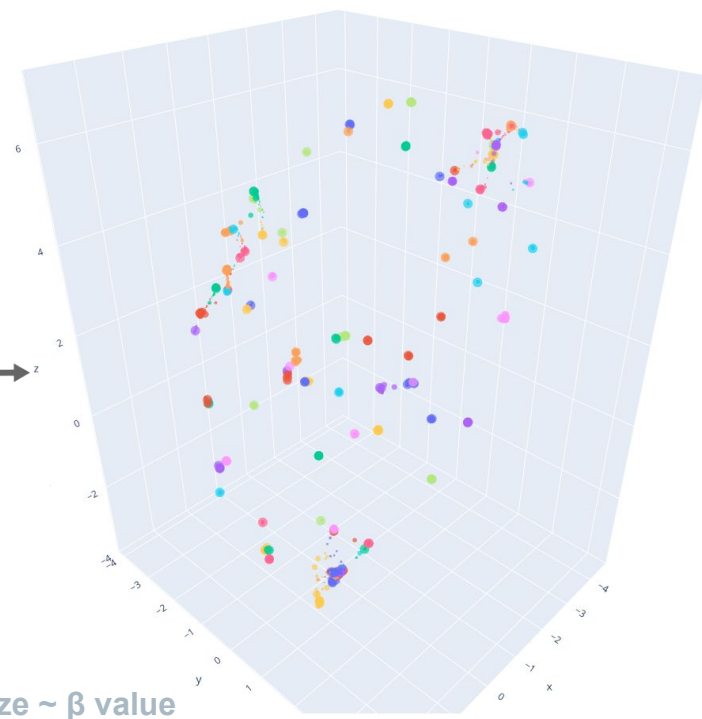


Clustering Results

Model Input

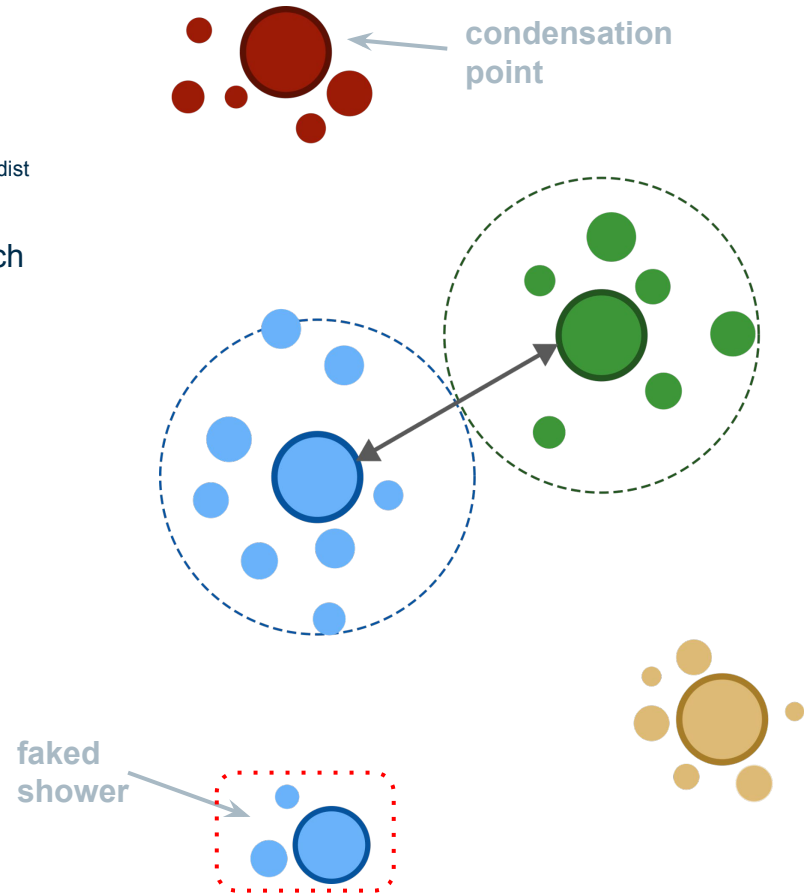


Model Output in Clustering Space



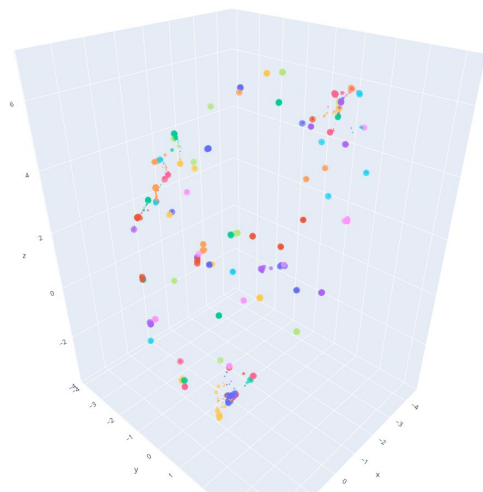
Clustering Results

- Select condensation points from clustered hits
 - Thresholds on beta score t_β and distance w.r.t. each other t_{dist}
- Match predicted to true particles based on index
 - For multiple condensation points with same index only match one with highest beta score, the other one is considered a faked shower



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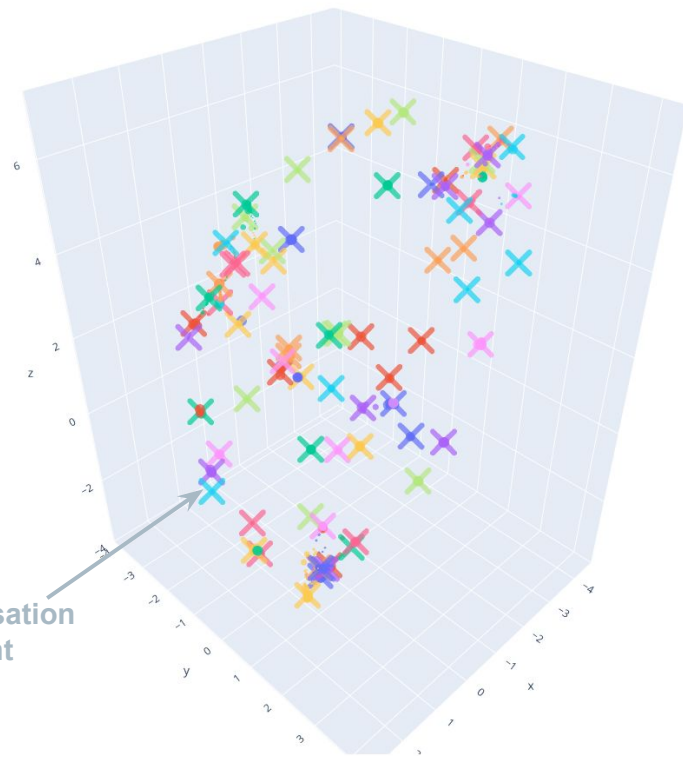
$t_\beta = 0.9$ $t_{\text{dist}} = 0.2$

A large grey arrow points from the left plot to the right plot, indicating the process of selecting condensation points based on the thresholds $t_\beta = 0.9$ and $t_{\text{dist}} = 0.2$.

Condensation point

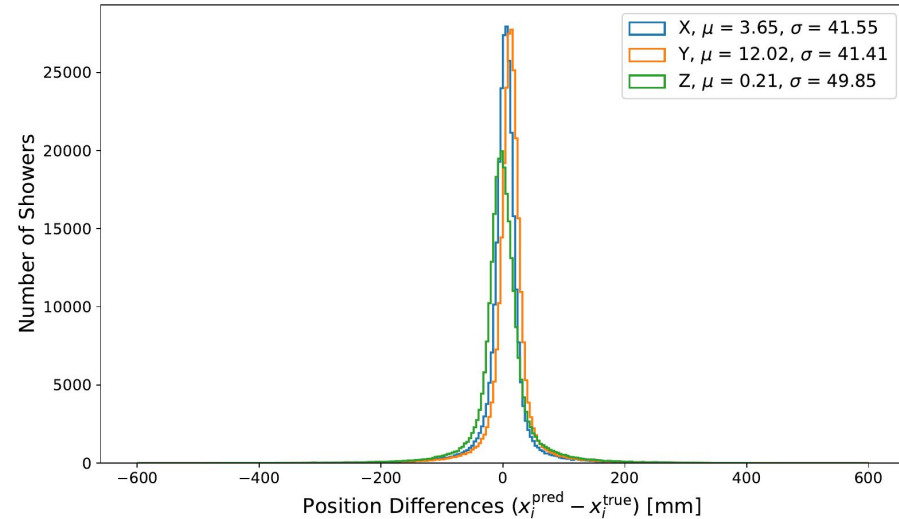
A grey arrow points from the text 'Condensation point' to a specific point in the right plot, which is marked with a blue 'x'.

Clustering Space



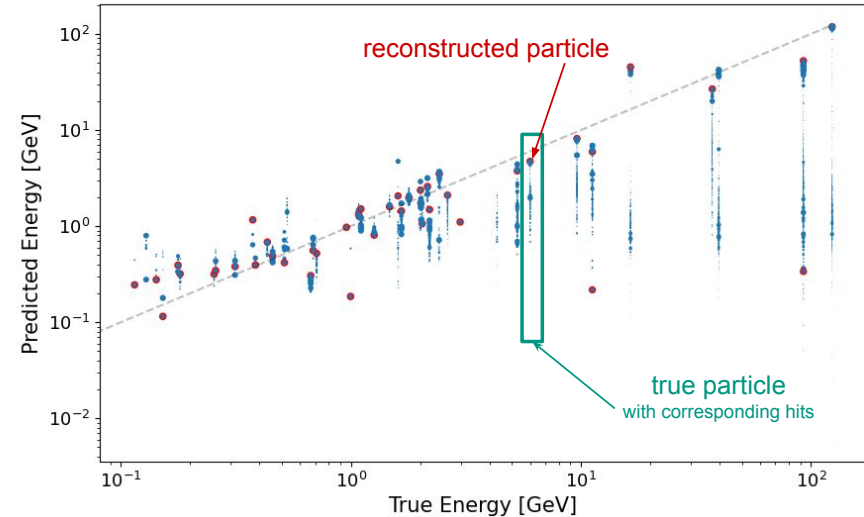
Reconstruction Performance

- Select condensation points above minimal beta score t_β and distance w.r.t. each other t_{dist}
- Match predicted to true particles based on index
 - If multiple showers with same index are reconstructed only match one with highest beta score, the other one is considered a faked shower
- Position predictions yield resolution $\sim O(\text{cm})$



Reconstruction Performance

- Select condensation points above minimal beta score t_β and distance w.r.t. each other t_{dist}
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 - If multiple showers with same index are reconstructed only match one with highest beta score, the other one is considered a faked shower
- Position predictions yield resolution $\sim O(\text{cm})$
- Energy predictions:
 - Model tends to predict higher values for low-energy showers and lower energies for energetic showers



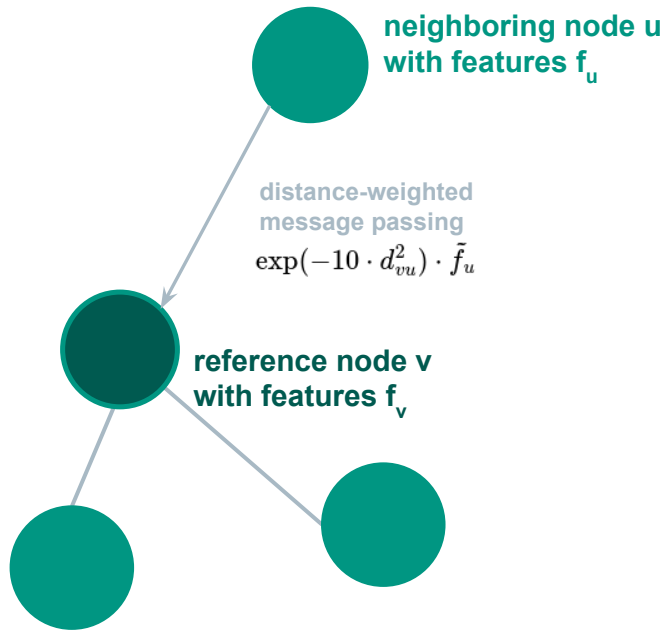
How can we improve GravNet for Reconstruction?

Translation Invariance & Self-Attention

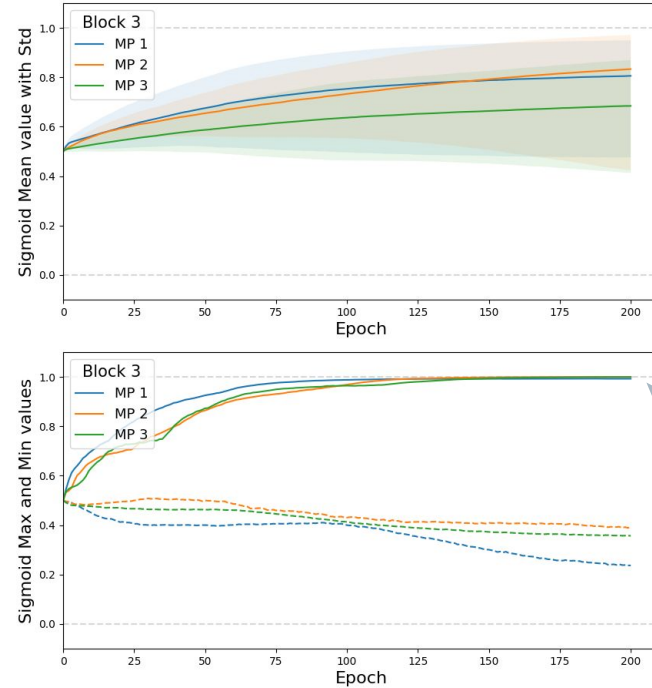
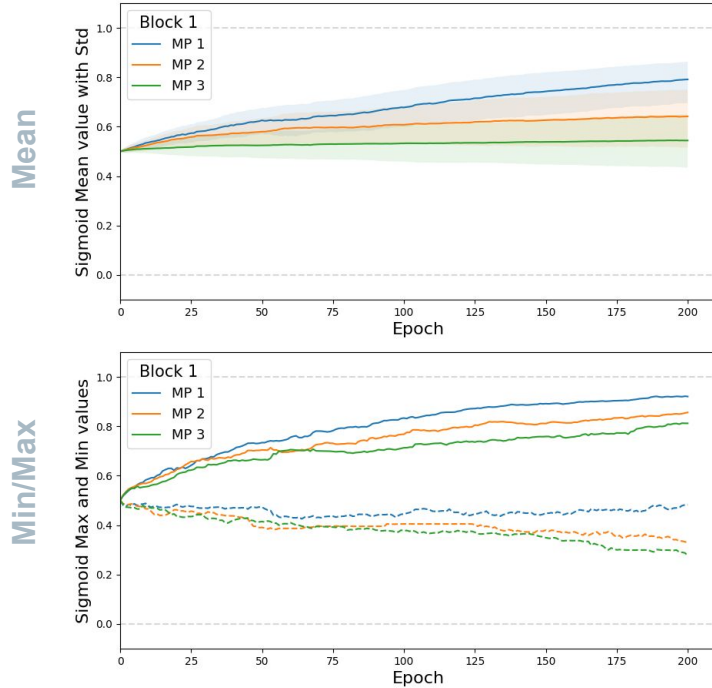
Translation Invariant GravNet

- Showers show similar structure independent of detector location
 - Embed this into network architecture
- Make message passing translation invariant in the GravNet feature space
 - Only pass relative information
- Distance-weighted message passing $\exp(-10 \cdot d_{vu}^2) \cdot \tilde{f}_u$
 - 'Standard' $\tilde{f}_u = f_u$
 - Translation invariant $\tilde{f}_u = f_u - f_v$
- Make translation invariance learnable for the model by introducing it as a parameter $\tilde{f}_u = f_u - \text{sigmoid}(a) \cdot f_v$
 - Apply sigmoid to keep parameter between $[0, 1]$
 - Let model choose between full translation invariance and none

vector



Learnable Translation Invariance

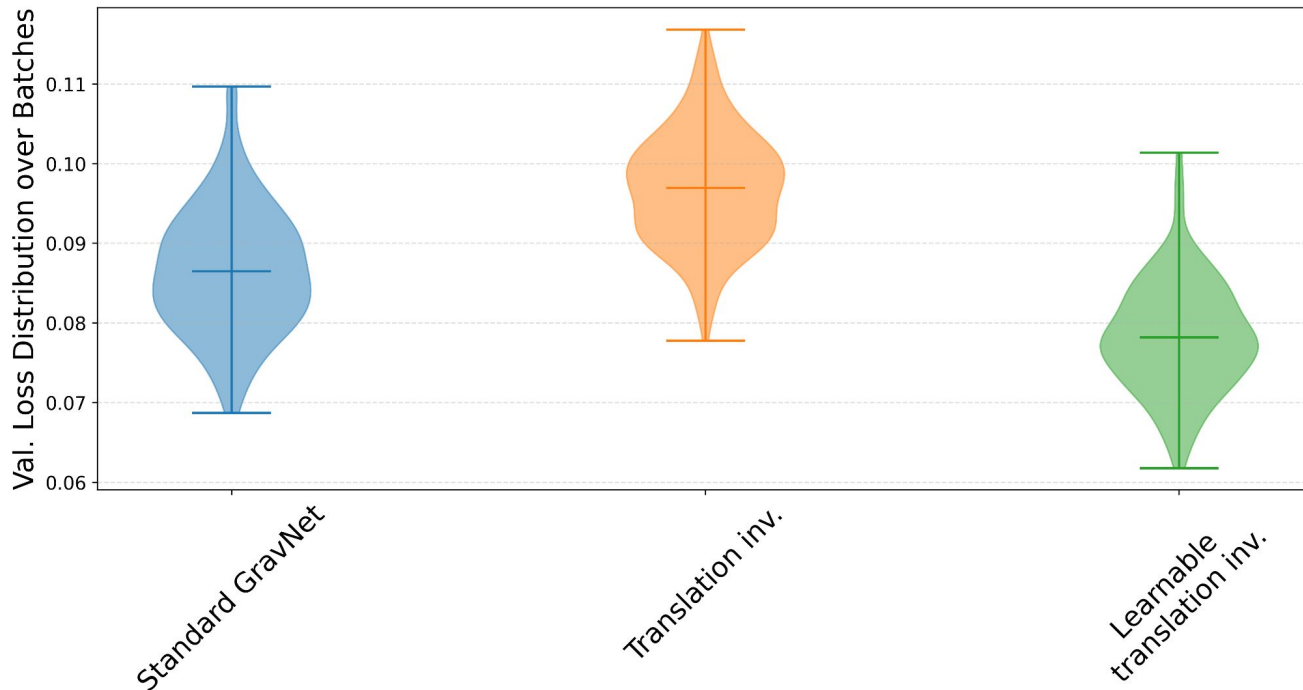


- Learnable translation invariance parameter introduced for every message passing step (of each GravNet block) individually



GravNet can explicitly learn translation invariance, but is not optimal choice for all parameters

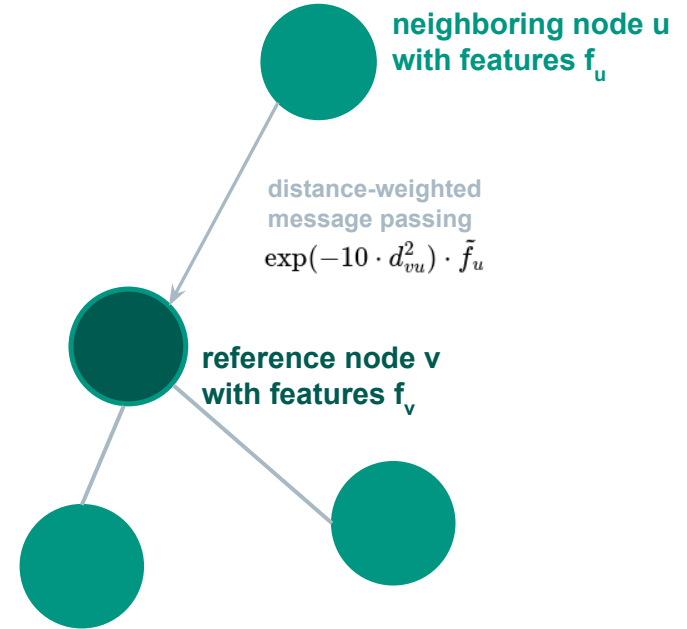
Learnable Translation Invariance - Comparison



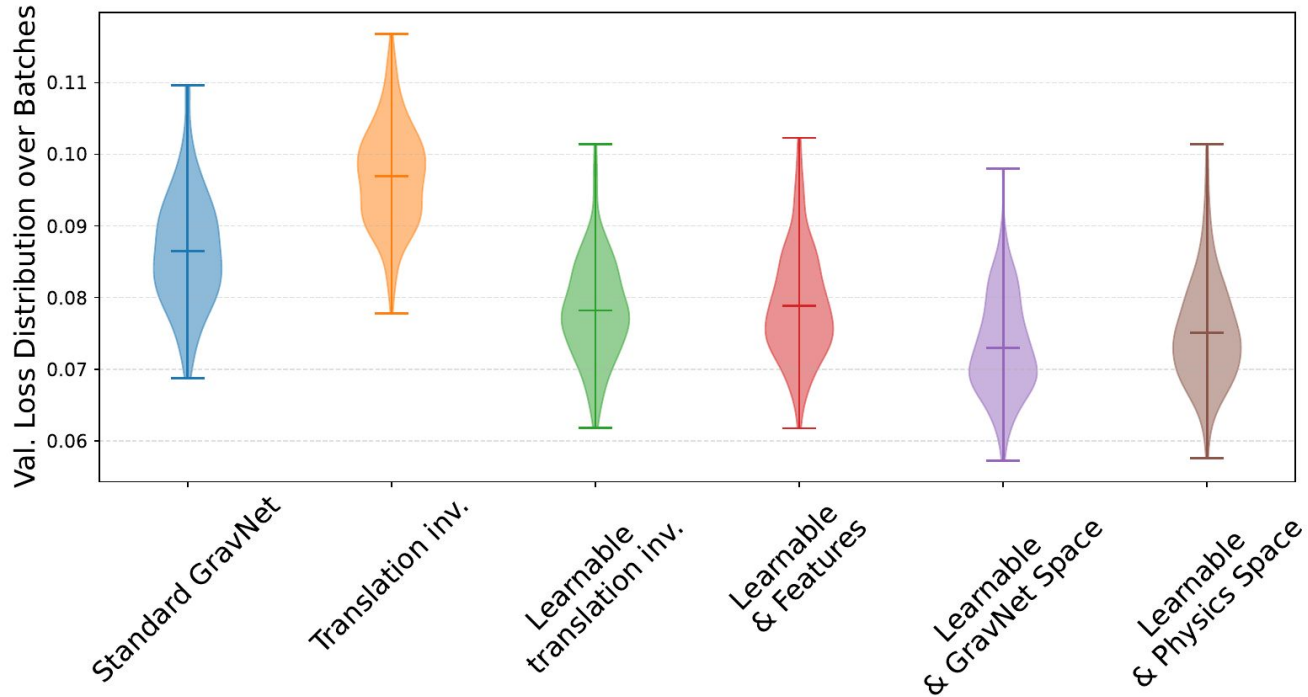
Introducing (learnable) translation invariance yields no significant improvement

Translation Invariant GravNet

- Make message passing translation invariant by only passing relative information
- Distance-weighted message passing $\exp(-10 \cdot d_{vu}^2) \cdot \tilde{f}_u$
 - 'Standard' $\tilde{f}_u = f_u$
 - Translation equivariant $\tilde{f}_u = f_u - f_v$
 - Learnable parameter $\tilde{f}_u = f_u - \text{sigmoid}(a) \cdot f_v$ ← vector
 - Depending on features $\tilde{f}_u = f_u - \text{sigmoid}(a \cdot f_v) \cdot f_v$
 - Depending on GravNet space $\tilde{f}_u = f_u - \text{sigmoid}(A \cdot s_v) \cdot f_v$
 - Depending of physical space $\tilde{f}_u = f_u - \text{sigmoid}(A \cdot x_v) \cdot f_v$ ← matrix



Learnable Translation Invariance - Full Comparison

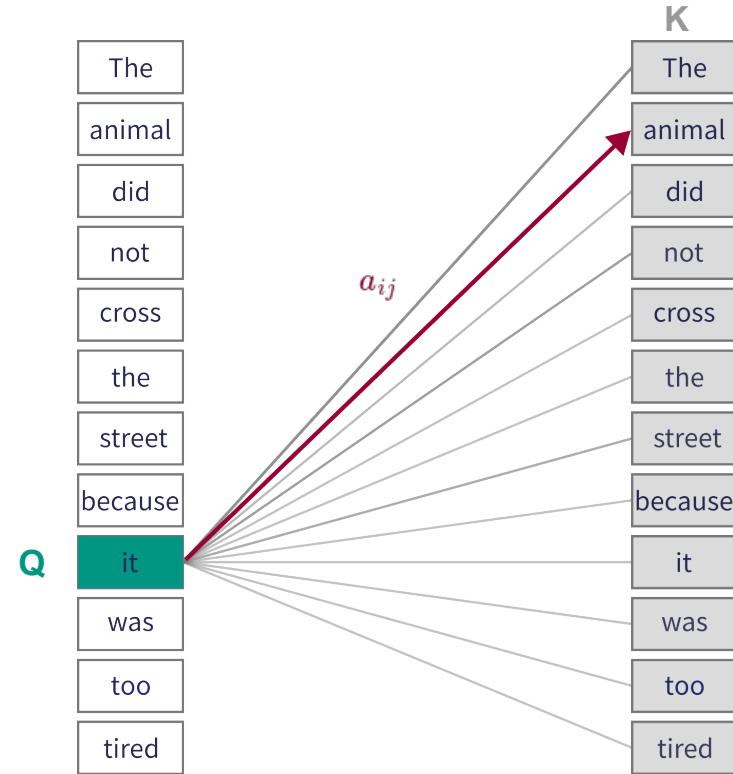


Introducing (learnable) translation invariance yields no significant improvement

A Brief Introduction to Attention

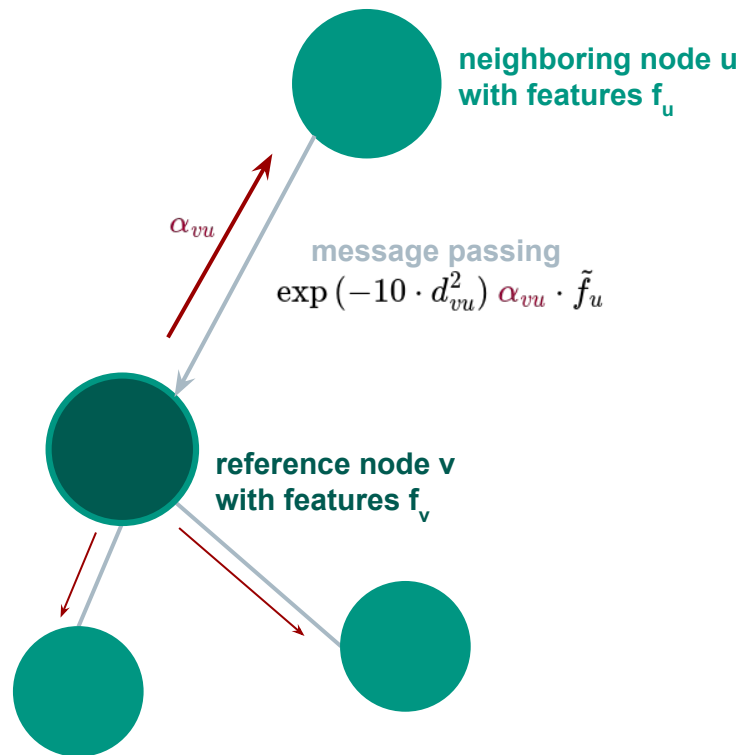
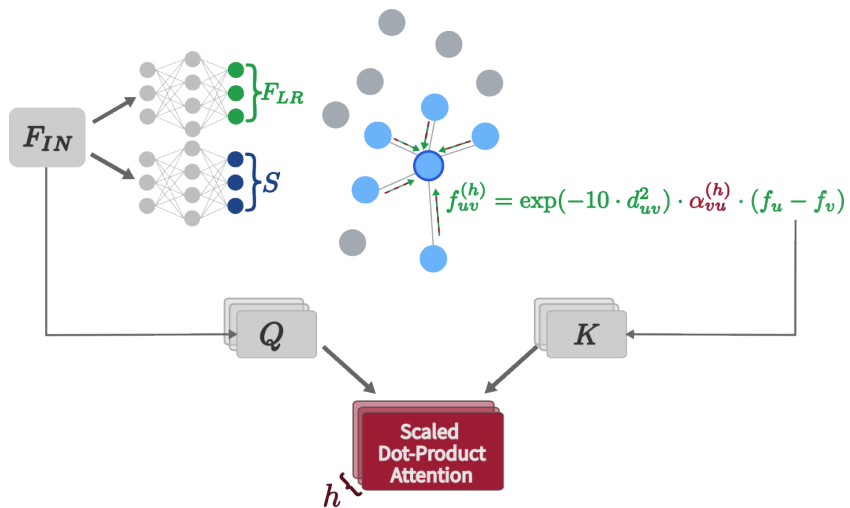
- Attention is a powerful operation that forms basis of transformers like ChatGPT
- Goal: determine importance of each element in a sequence relative to all other elements
- Self-attention: assign learnable weights based relevance of elements to each other
- Originally introduced for Natural Language Processing and used in Transformer architecture ([arxiv:1706.03762](https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.03762))
- Attention score determined is by key and query pairs
 - Scaled dot-product attention $a(Q, K) = \frac{Q \cdot K}{\sqrt{d_{\text{att}}}}$
- GravNet's distance-weighted message passing as form of attention

$$\exp(-10 \cdot d_{vu}^2) \cdot \bar{f}_u$$

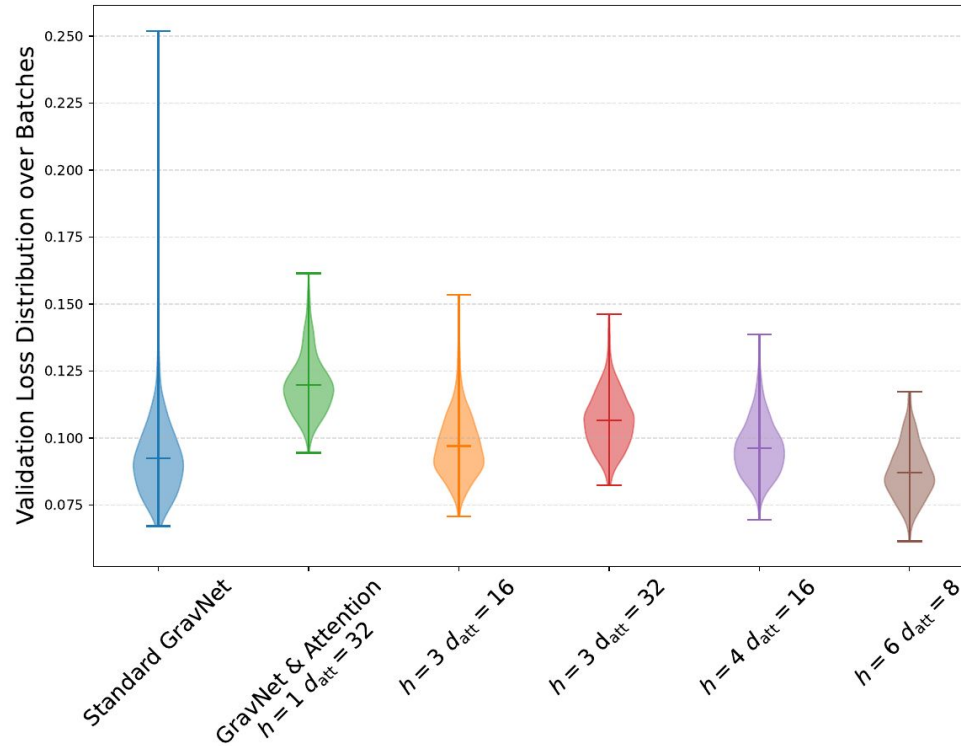


GravNet with Self-Attention

- Combine distance weight with learned attention score
 - Each node attending to its neighbors
- Compute multiple representations of queries and keys in parallel
 - Multi-head attention



GravNet with Attention

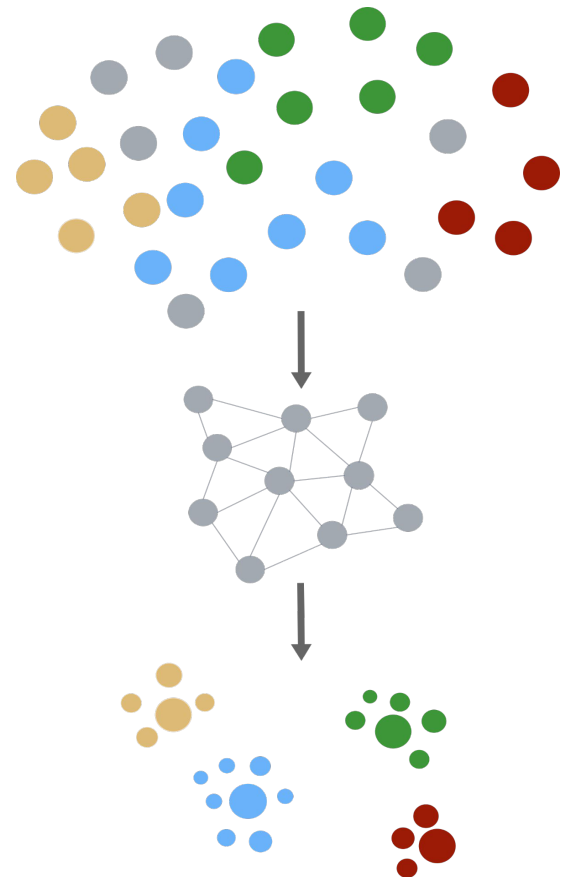


Standard GravNet yields comparable results across different combinations of heads and attention dimensions - and is significantly less resource-demanding!

How can we improve GravNet for reconstruction?

- GravNet-based algorithm can be applied to highly-granular detector concepts like ILD
 - No significant benefit from explicit translation invariance
 - GravNet proves sufficiently powerful; with self-attention increasing resource demands but offering no significant improvement (so far)

 - Strictly local information exchange makes GravNet generalisable
- ➡ *How can the algorithm's robustness be improved?*



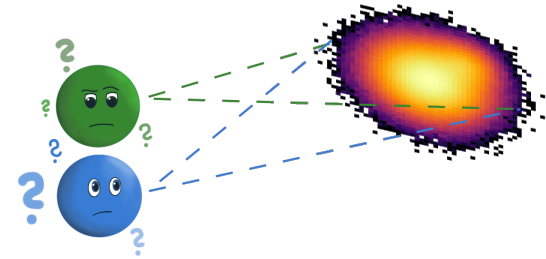
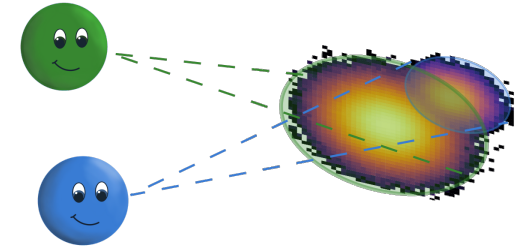
How can we improve the Reconstruction Target?

Truth Definition and Merging

Truth Definition

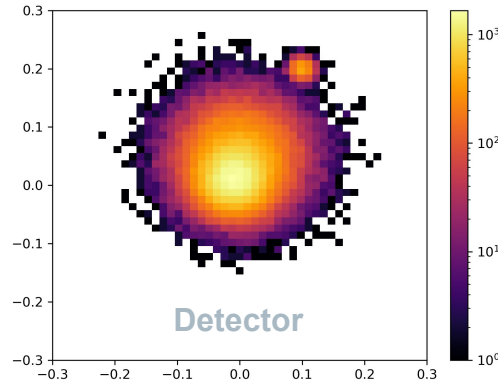
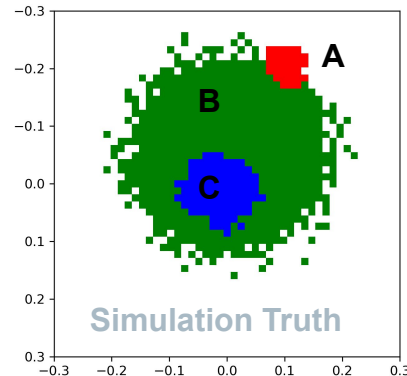
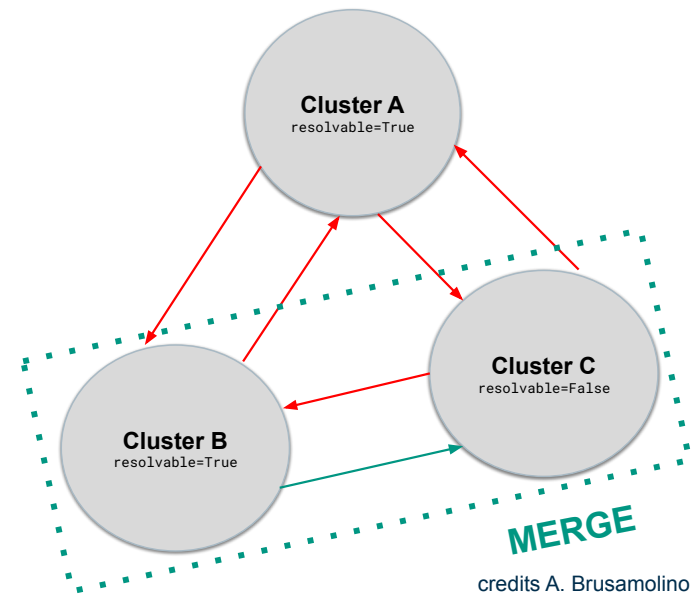
- Need for a robust reconstruction algorithm
 - Reliance on prior assumptions reduces ability to generalise to different physics scenarios
- Truth information is crucial for reconstruction algorithms
 - Impact on performance and development of reconstruction algorithms
- Define truth that embeds detector constraints, relying on what we consider resolvable by the detector
- Redefining reconstruction targets reduces sample bias and improves algorithm robustness

 Merged truth information



Shower Merging Algorithm

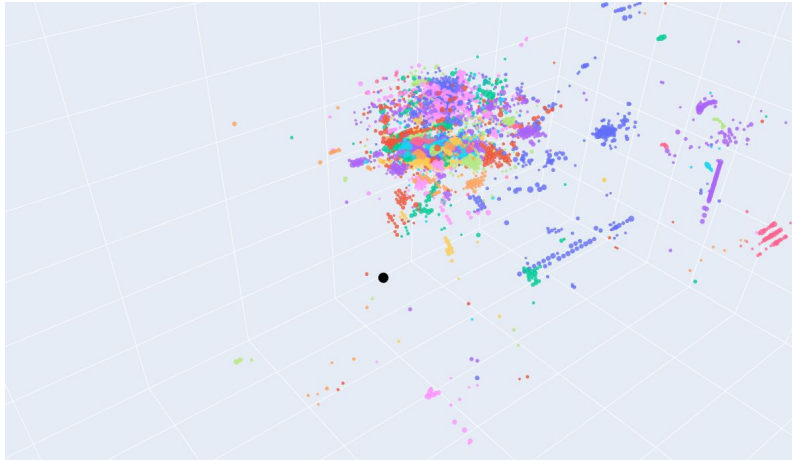
- Resolvable showers: high amount of energy that is not shared with other showers
- Merge non-resolvable showers if they share a significant amount of energy
- Compute resolvability and connection scores based on hits and energy fractions
- Build a graph with showers as node and edges
 - Only edges between non-resolvable showers and from resolvable to non-resolvable showers are valid for merging
 - Sorting edges by connection type → ensures IRC safety



DICE Dataset

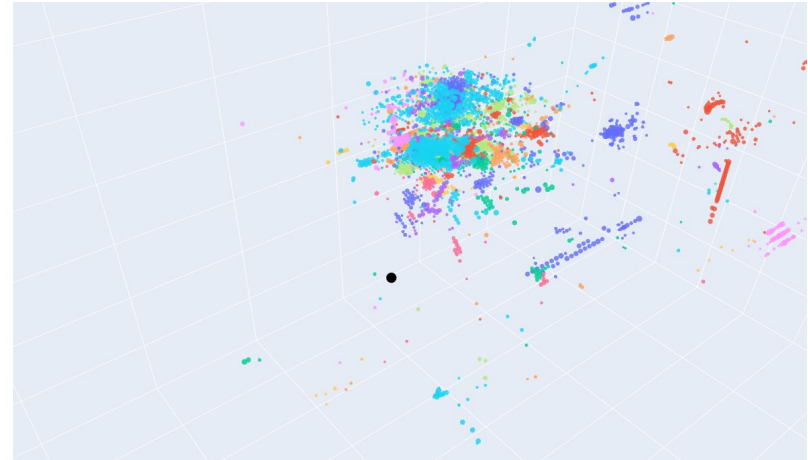


- DICE: GEANT4 based simulated detector inspired by CMS calorimeters, tracker only serves as interaction material
- To evaluate merging algorithm create “simple” single jet dataset from top quarks
- Train models on datasets with different resolvability thresholds
 - Resolvability score = average cell energy fraction of a shower



unmerged event

Shower
Merging
→



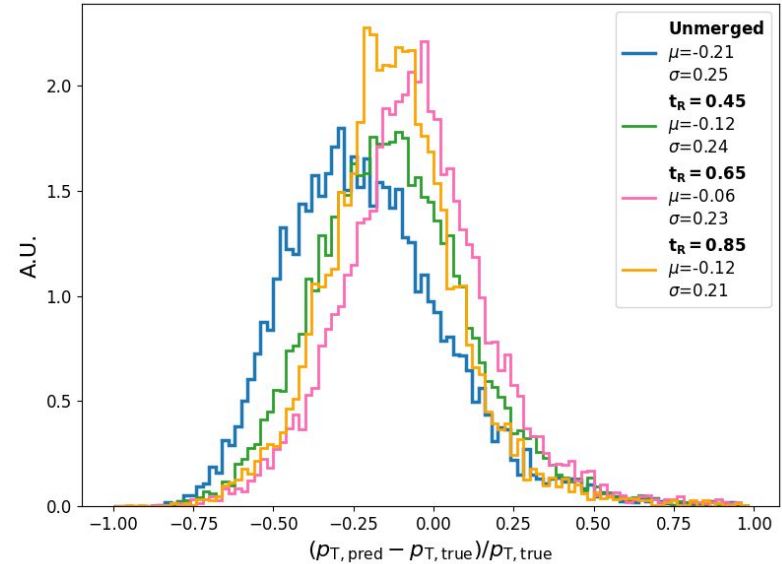
high resolvability threshold (0.85)

Merging Evaluation

- Evaluate reconstruction performance on jet metrics
 - Not affected by shower-level truth definitions
- Compare performance of merged truth definitions with different resolvability thresholds to unmerged truth



Merging consistently outperforms models trained on unmerged truth

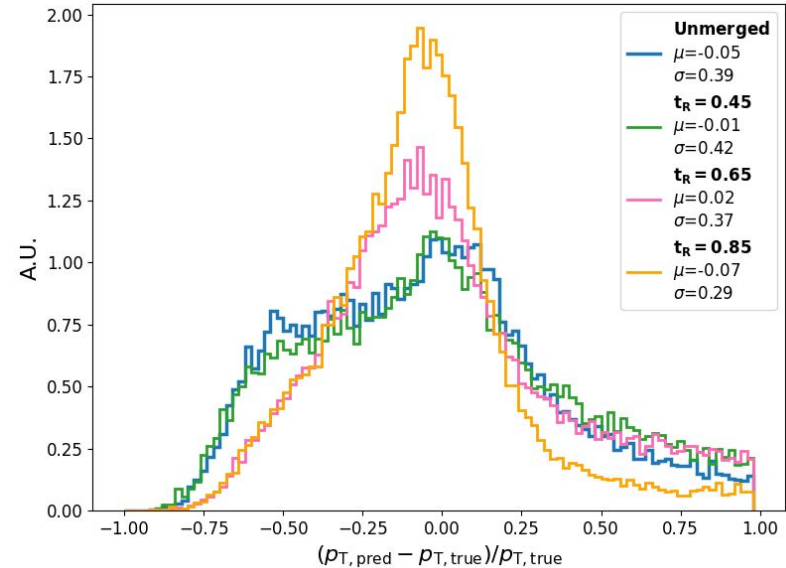


Generalisation Capabilities Beyond Training Data

- Merging algorithm aims for improved model robustness when extrapolating to unseen physics
- Evaluate trained models on different physical processes
 - Studied tau single-jet events
- Models trained on merged truth definition can outperform unmerged truth

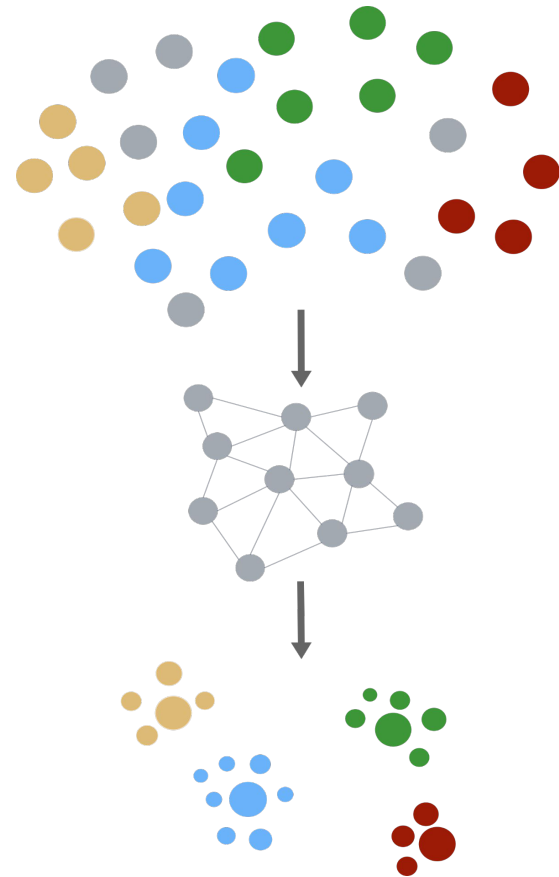


Detector-aware truth definition improves model robustness



Thesis Summary

- Reconstruction algorithm widely applicable and can be used for new detector designs → ILD detector
- GravNet architecture does not seem to profit from extensions through translation invariance or resource-demanding self-attention (on the ILD dataset)
- Generalisability can be enhanced by detector-aware truth definition, yielding improved physics performance



Thank you for your attention!