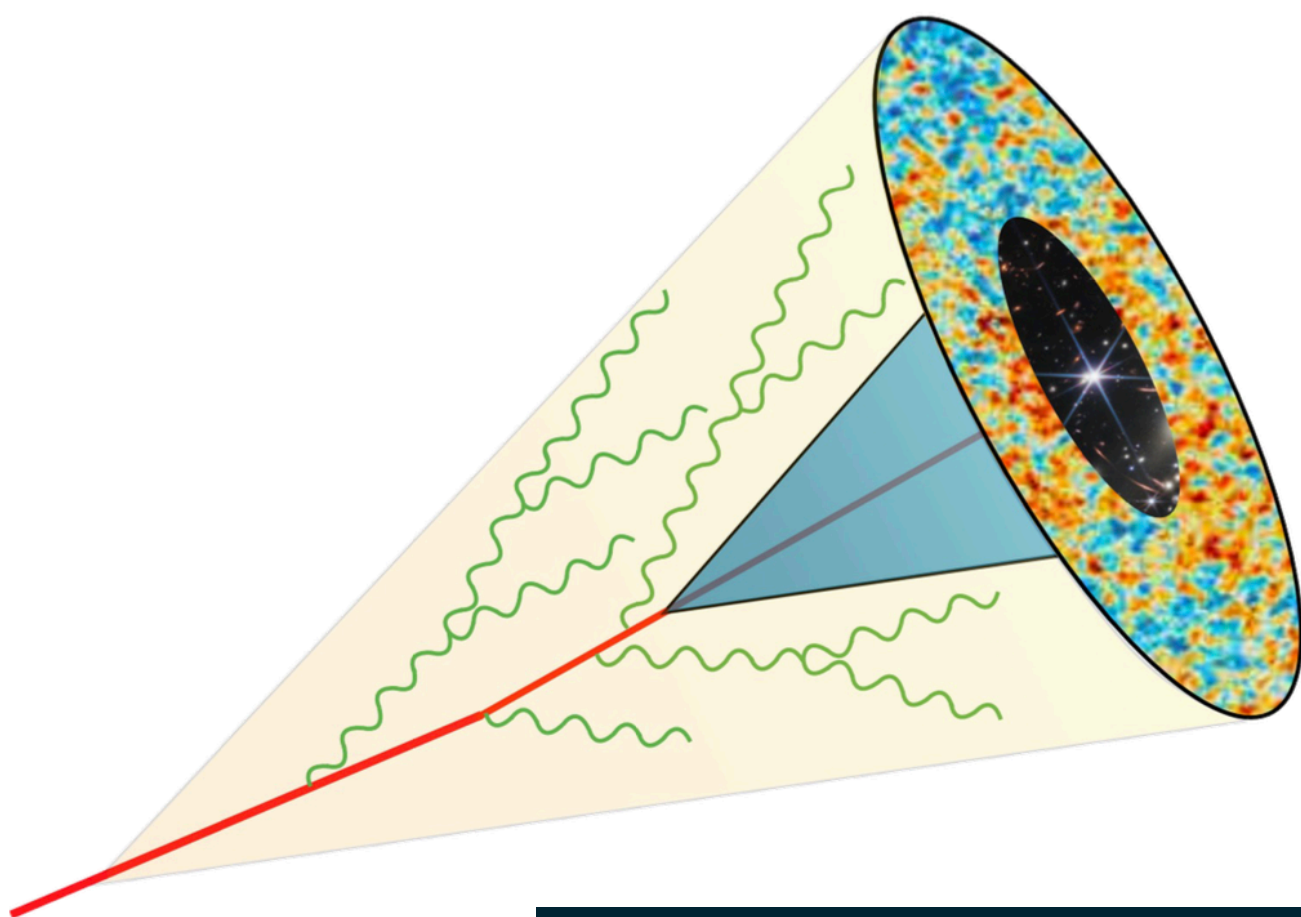
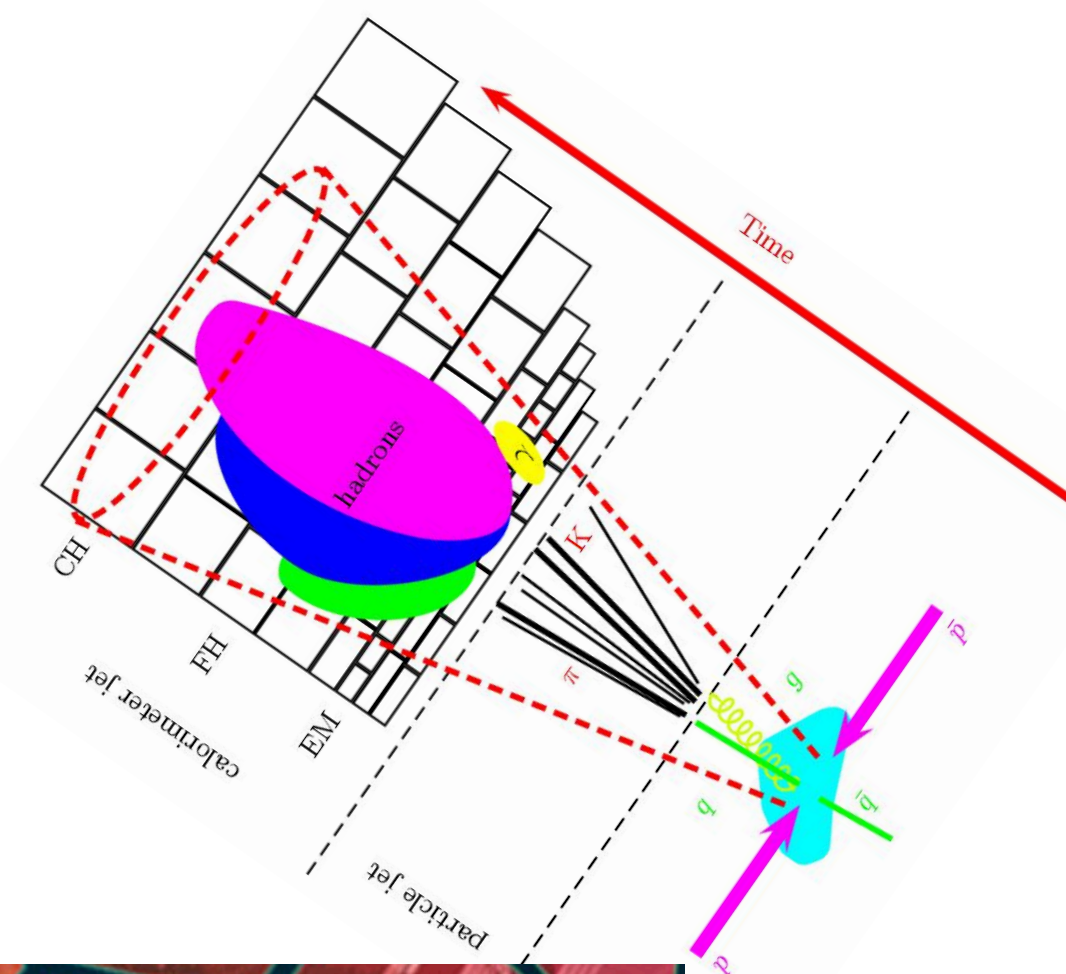


# Preparing the Jet-AI/ML Landscape for the EIC



Raghav (Rithya)  
Kunnawalkam Elayavalli (she/they)  
Vanderbilt University  
Data Science Institute  
[raghavke.me](http://raghavke.me)



2025 RHIC/AGS ANNUAL USERS' MEETING

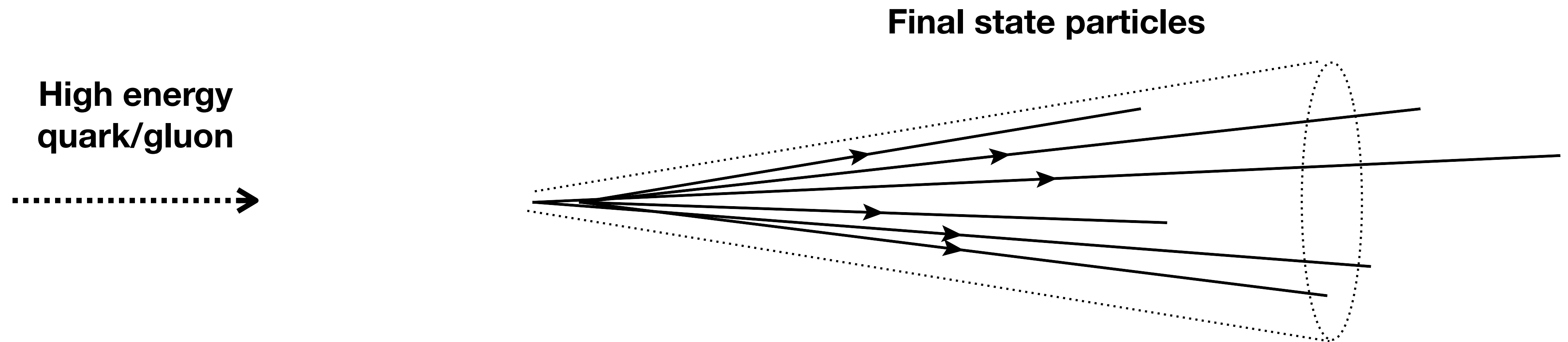
**RHIC 25:**  
A quarter century of discovery  
May 20–23, 2025

# Why Jets and Why AI/ML



# Basics - what are Jets?

How we observe quarks/gluons in nature

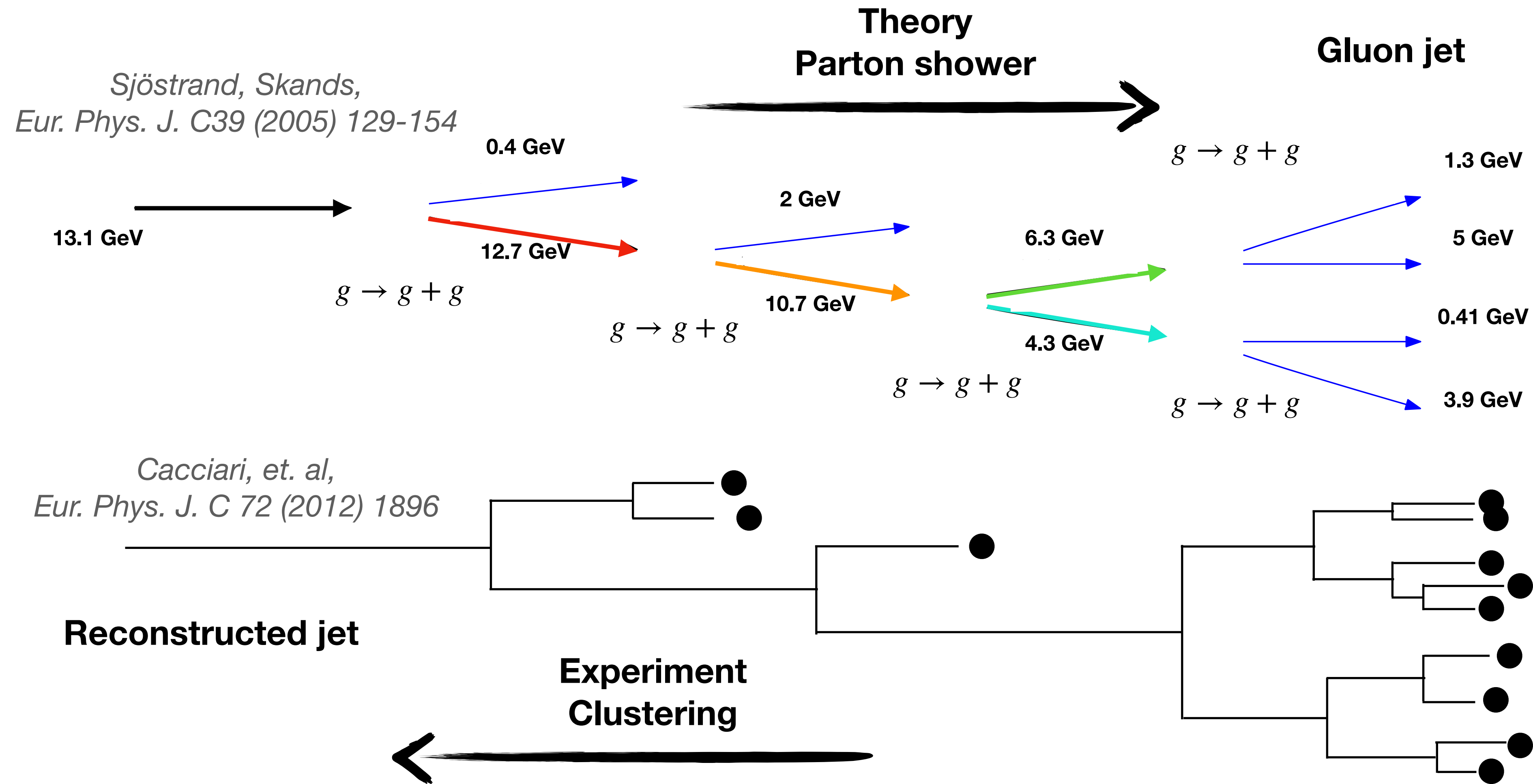


Collimated collection of hadrons resulting from the '**metamorphosis**' of partons due to fragmentation and hadronization

*Gaillard et. al, Nucl. Phys. B111 (1976) 253-271*



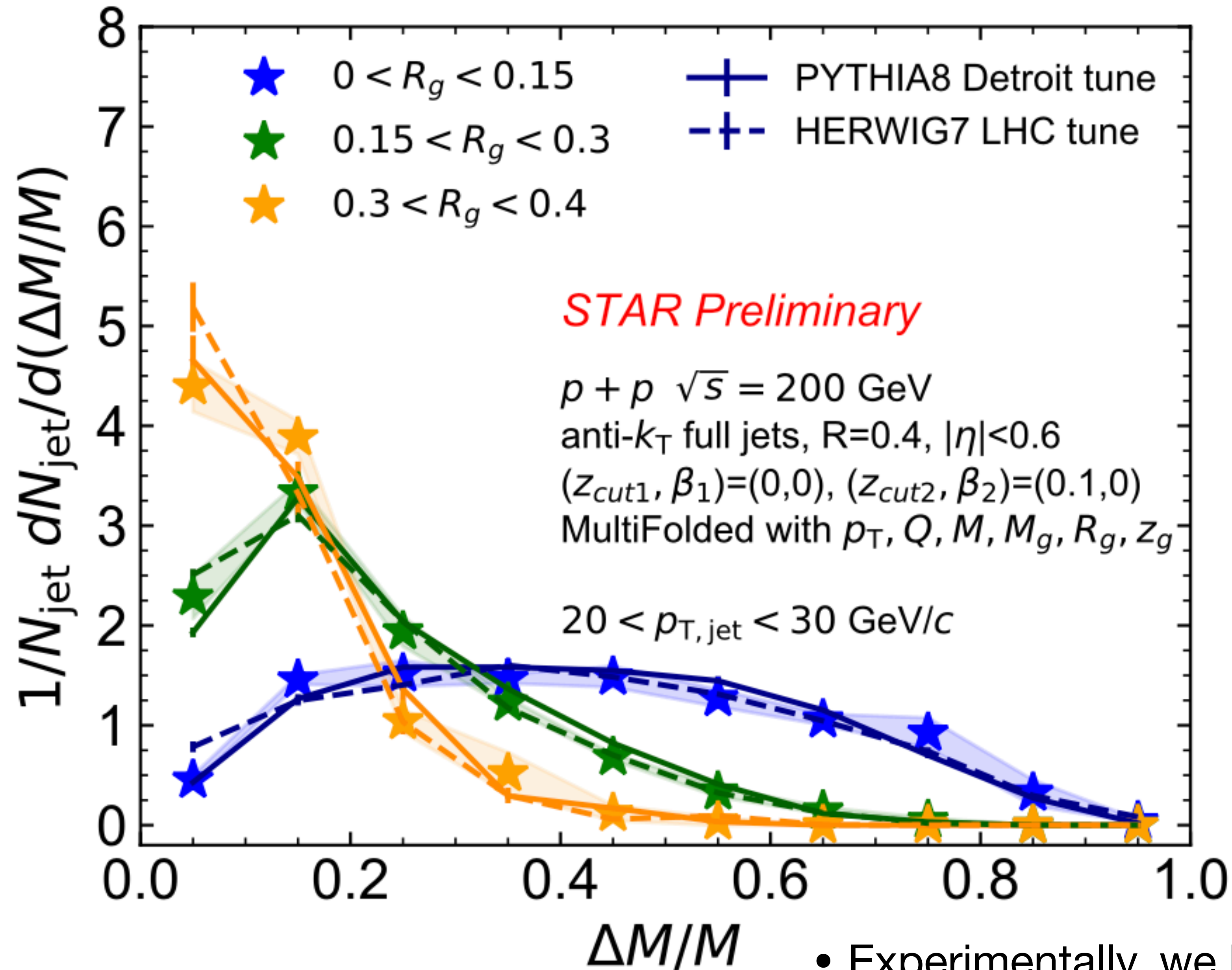
# Jet correspondence



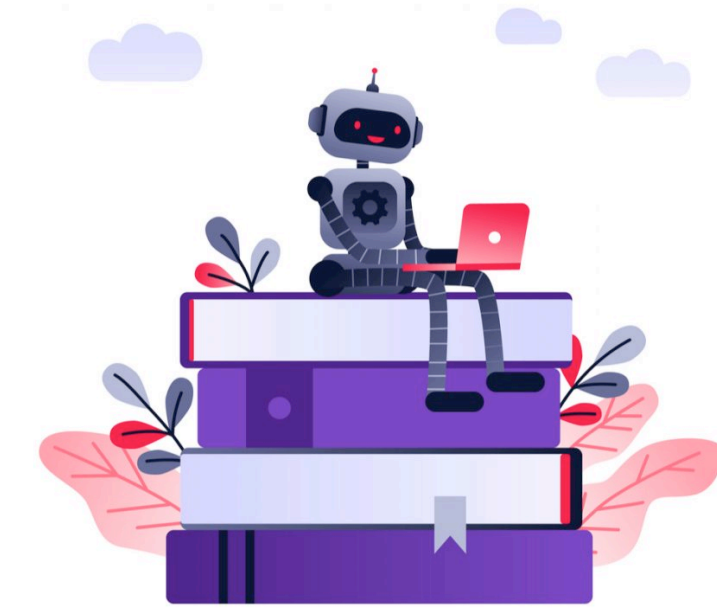


# Fundamental question - why AI/ML?

- Jets are user defined objects - \*varied\* representation phase-space
- Multi-scale objects, in both its energy and angle



Multifold allowed  
us to measure this!



$p_T$  vs  $Q$  vs  $M$  vs  $z_g$  vs  $R_g$  vs  $M_g$

Youqi Song (Yale) @ DIS 2023

Andreassen et.al

Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 182001 (2020)

6D unfolded simultaneously  
via MultiFold machine learning  
technique

- Experimentally, we have shown virtuality loss along the direction of the jet - AI/ML unfolding made possible

# Fundamental question - why AI/ML?

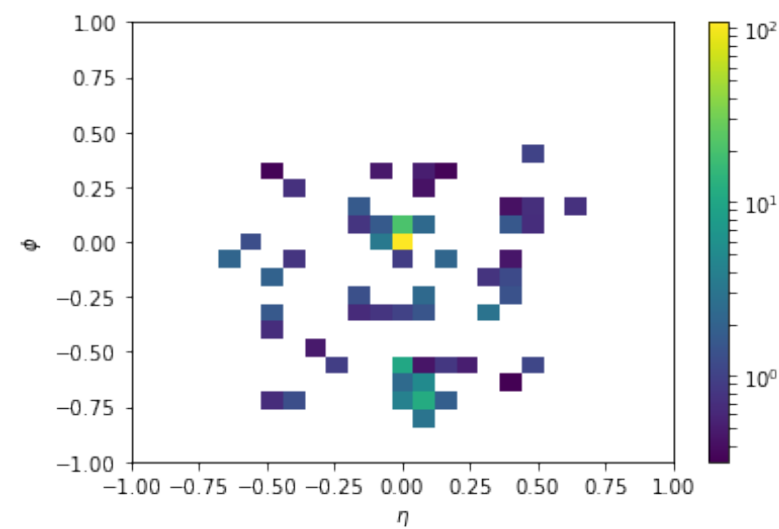
- Jets are user defined objects - \*varied\* representation phase-space
- Multi-scale objects, in both its energy and angle
- Every single jet goes through a perturbative parton shower followed by a non-perturbative process of hadronization which results in fragmentation
- Basic assertion - the information content within jets is multi-dimensional
- We have specific questions - lets use specific models to answer those



# Birth of a jet

# Can we tag the flavor of the jets?

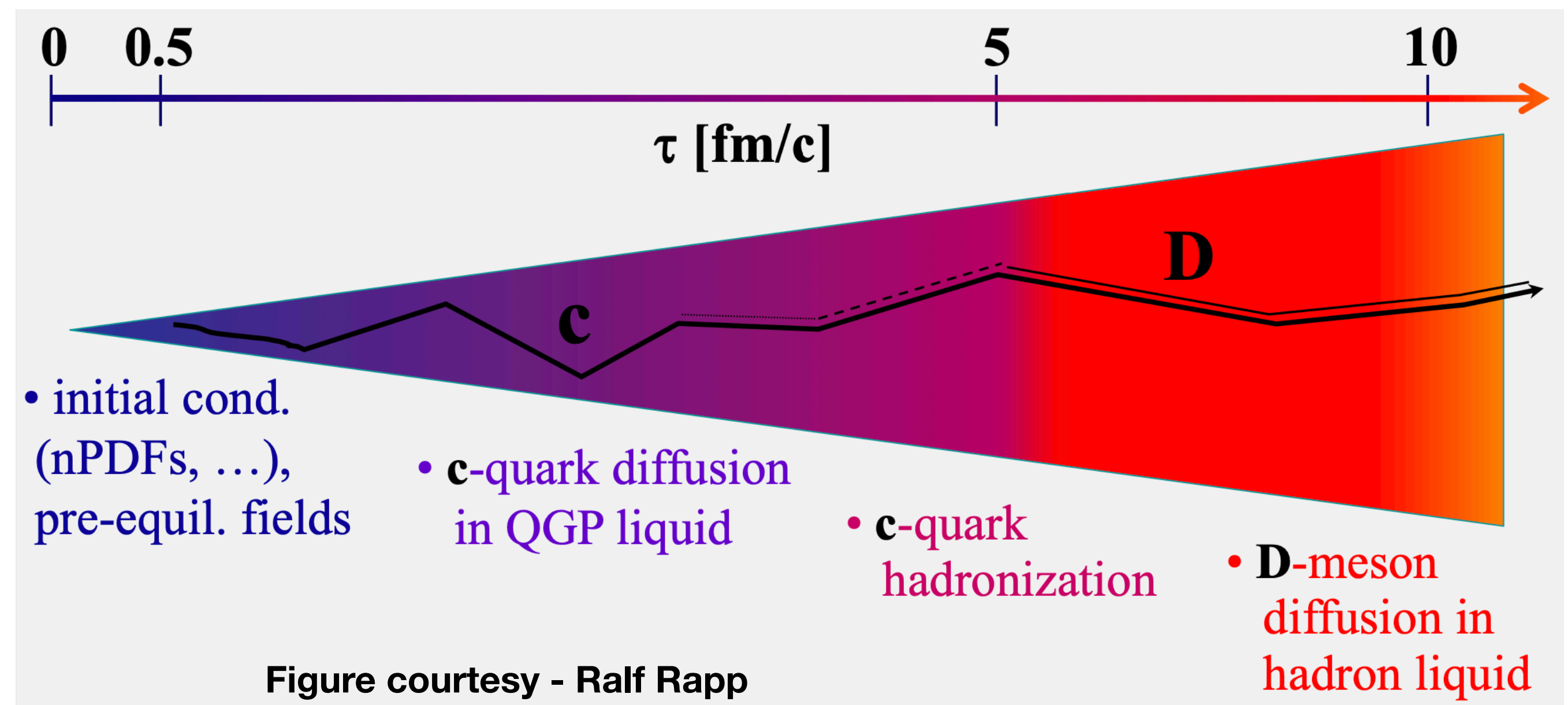
- What do we learn from this - flavor dependent fragmentation
- Proton's PDF and possibly extending all the way to GPDs
- Can we find the mother q/g?



Vertexing  
DCA<sub>XY</sub>, DCA<sub>Z</sub>

Tracking  
 $p_T$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\phi$

Fragmentation  
 $z$ ,  $\Delta R$ ,  $z\Delta R^2$





# NetVLAD

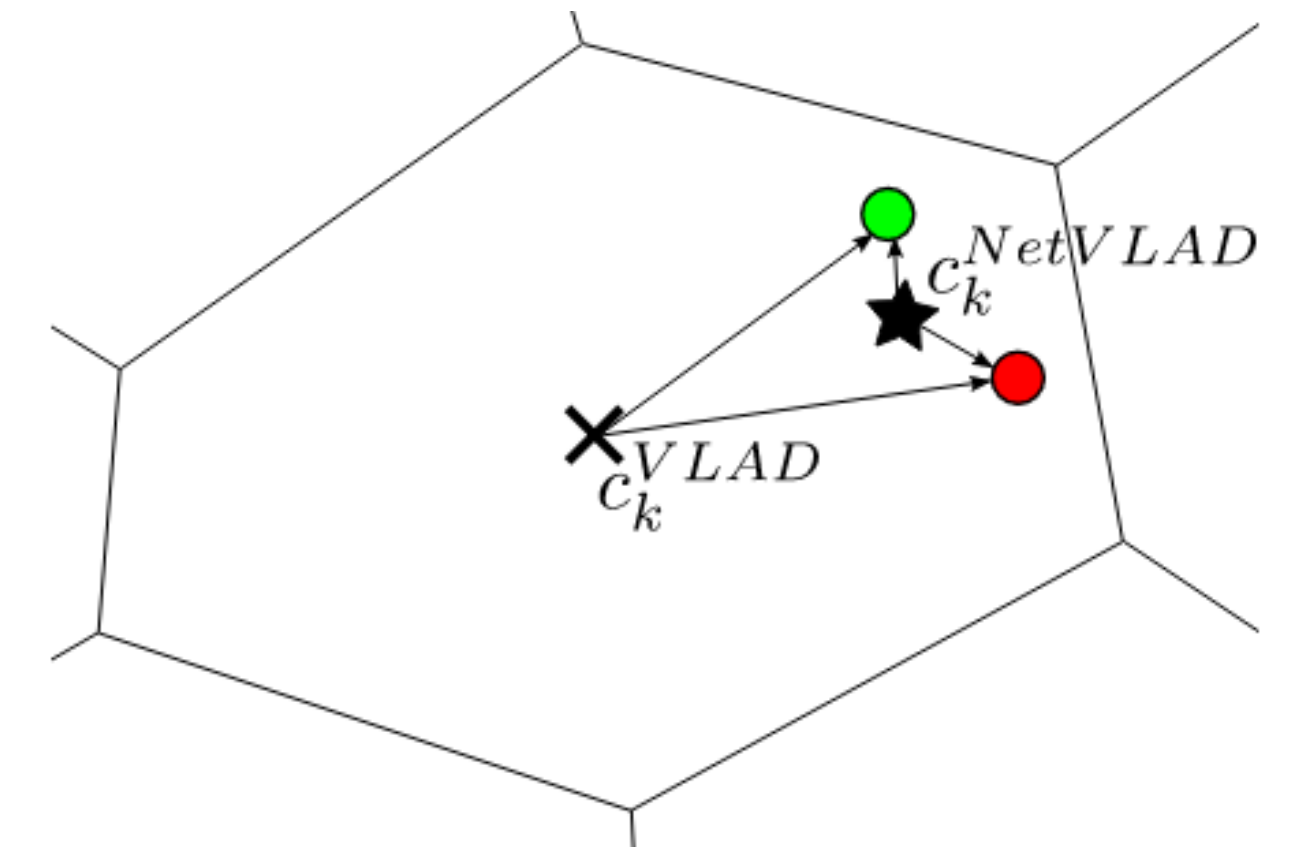
Arandjelović et. al 1511.07247



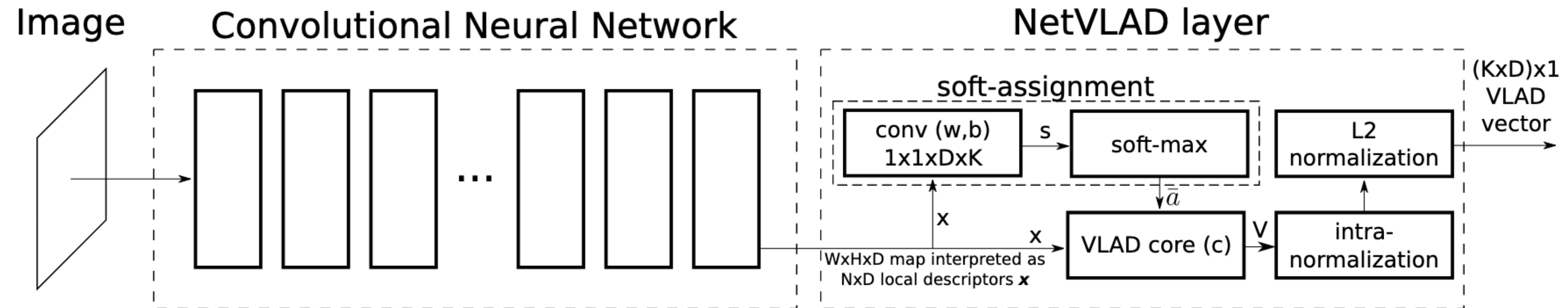
(a) Mobile phone query



(b) Retrieved image of same place

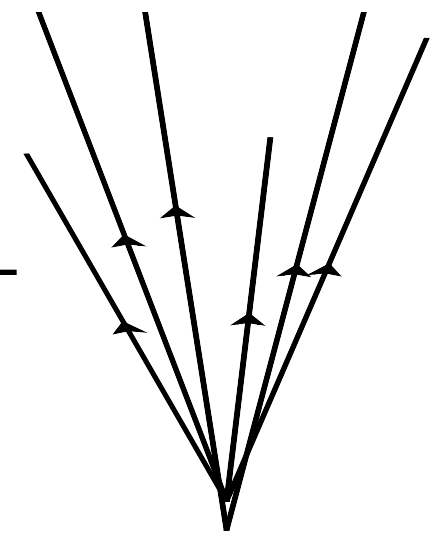


- CNN architecture for weakly supervised place recognition





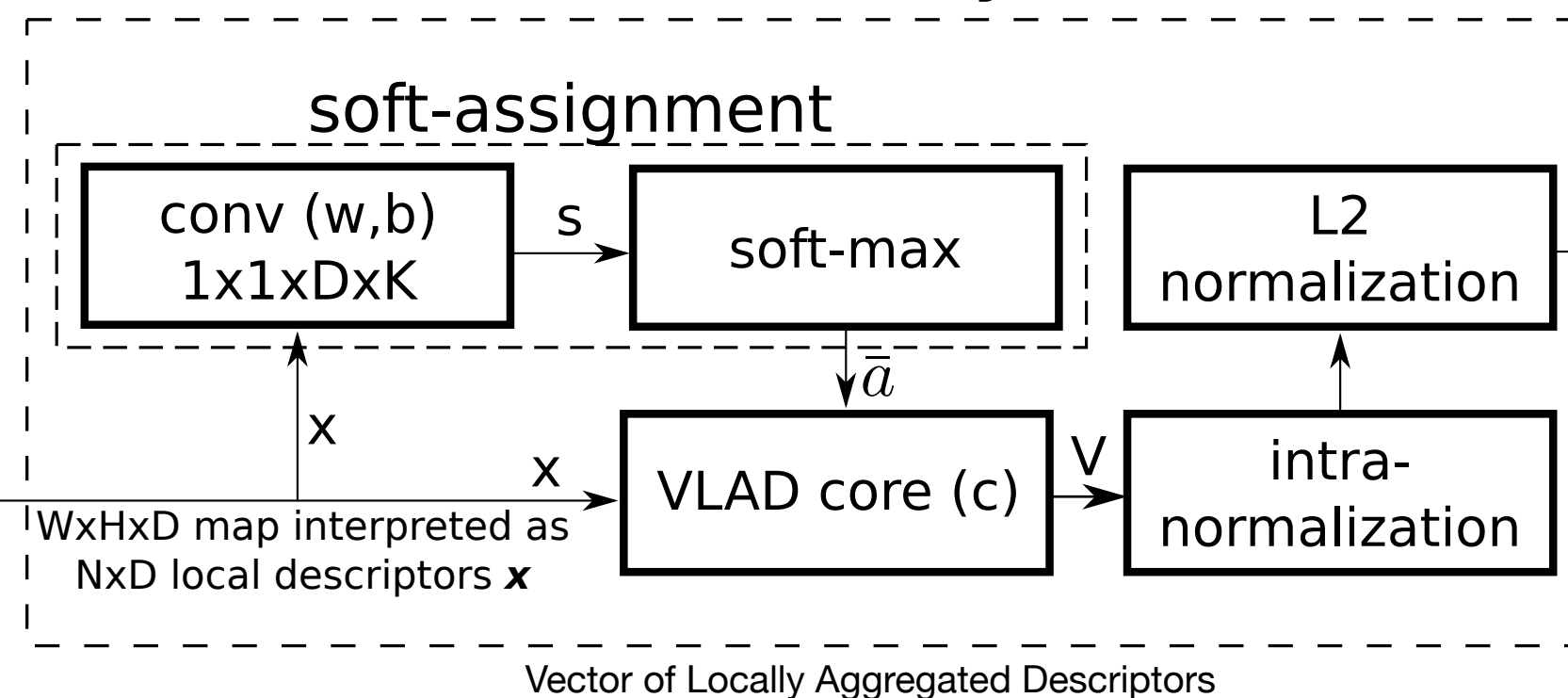
# Tagging Heavy-Flavor JetVLAD



$$\mathcal{J} = \{(p_{T,i}, \eta_i, \phi_i, \dots)\}_{i=1}^n,$$

$$V(:, k) = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{e^{w_k^T x_i + b_k}}{\sum_{k'} e^{w_{k'}^T x_i + b_{k'}}} (x_i - c_k)$$

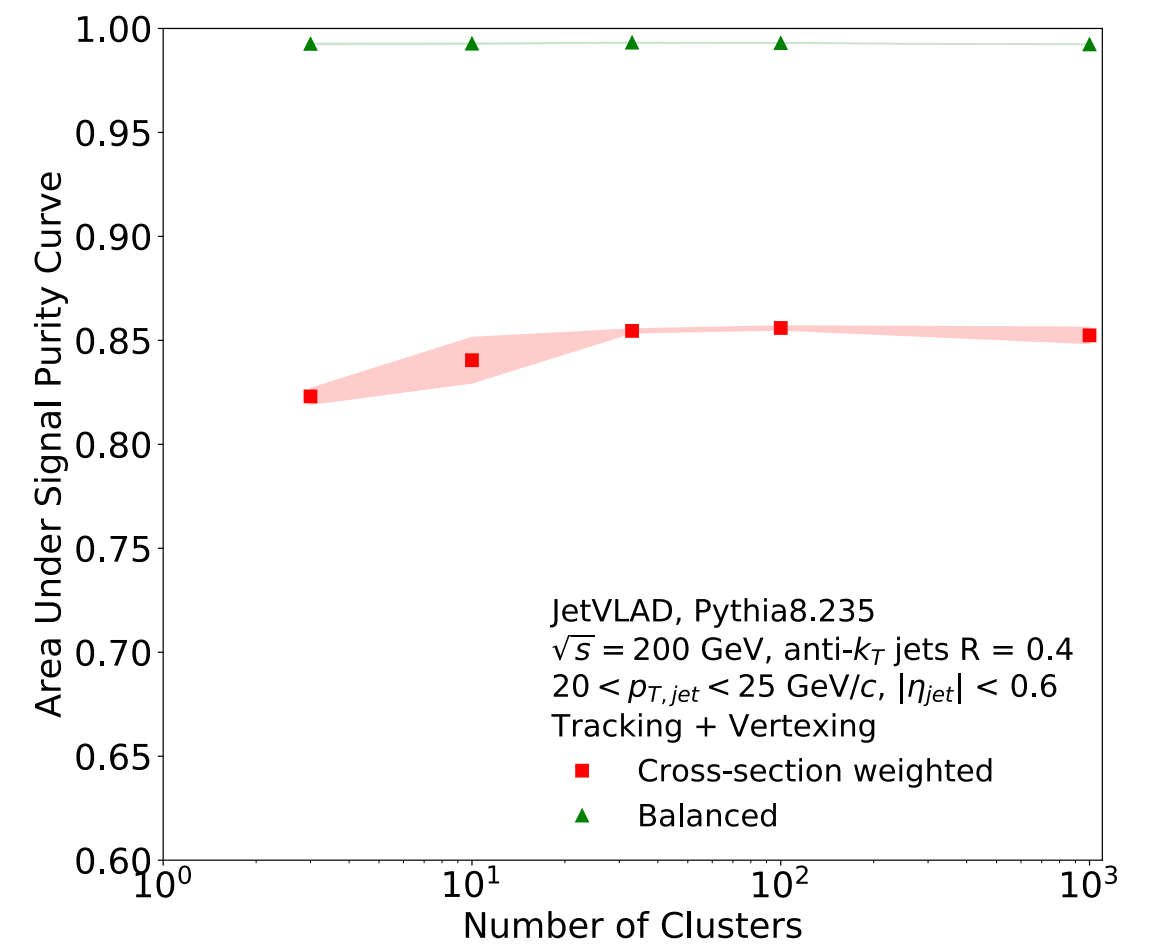
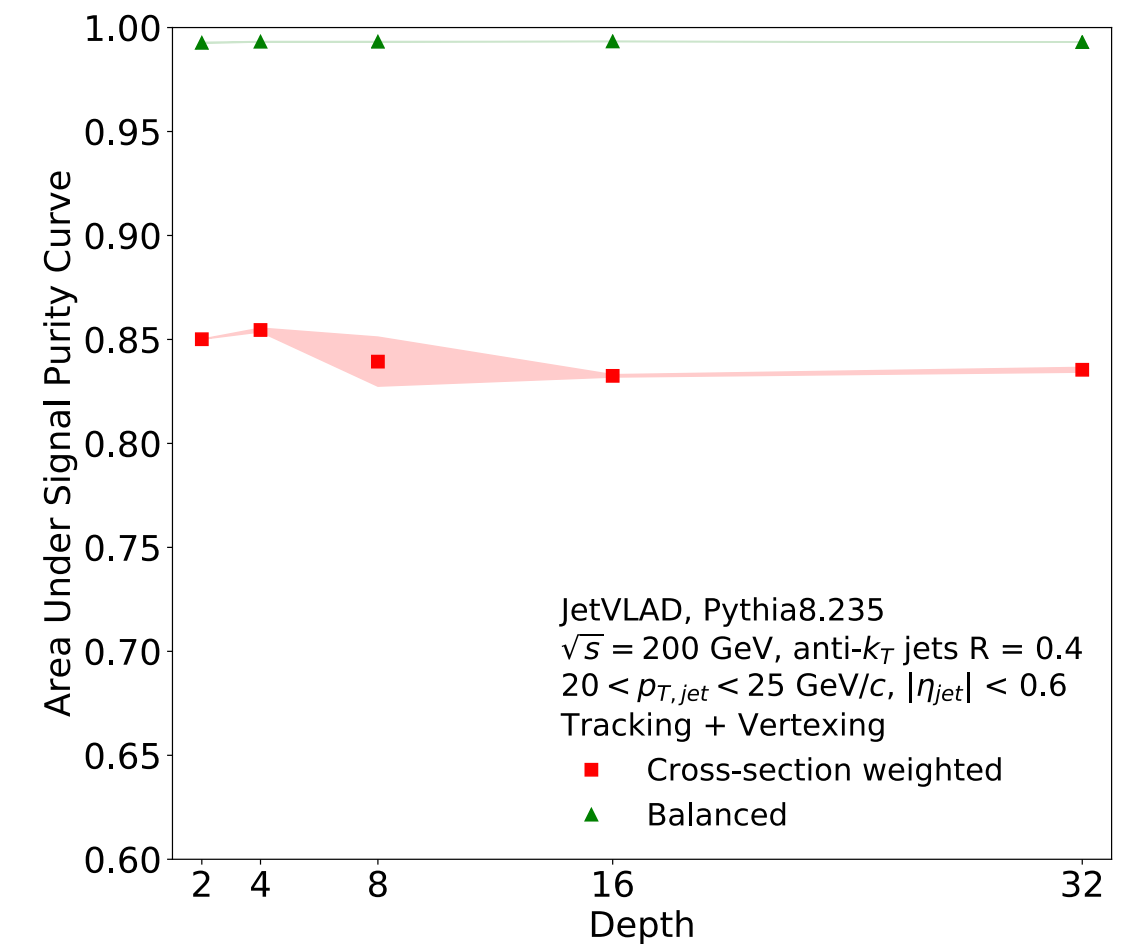
NetVLAD layer



Jitka Mrazkova  
PhD student @ NPI



Georgy Ponimatkin  
PhD. In ML @  
Ecole des Ponts  
ParisTech



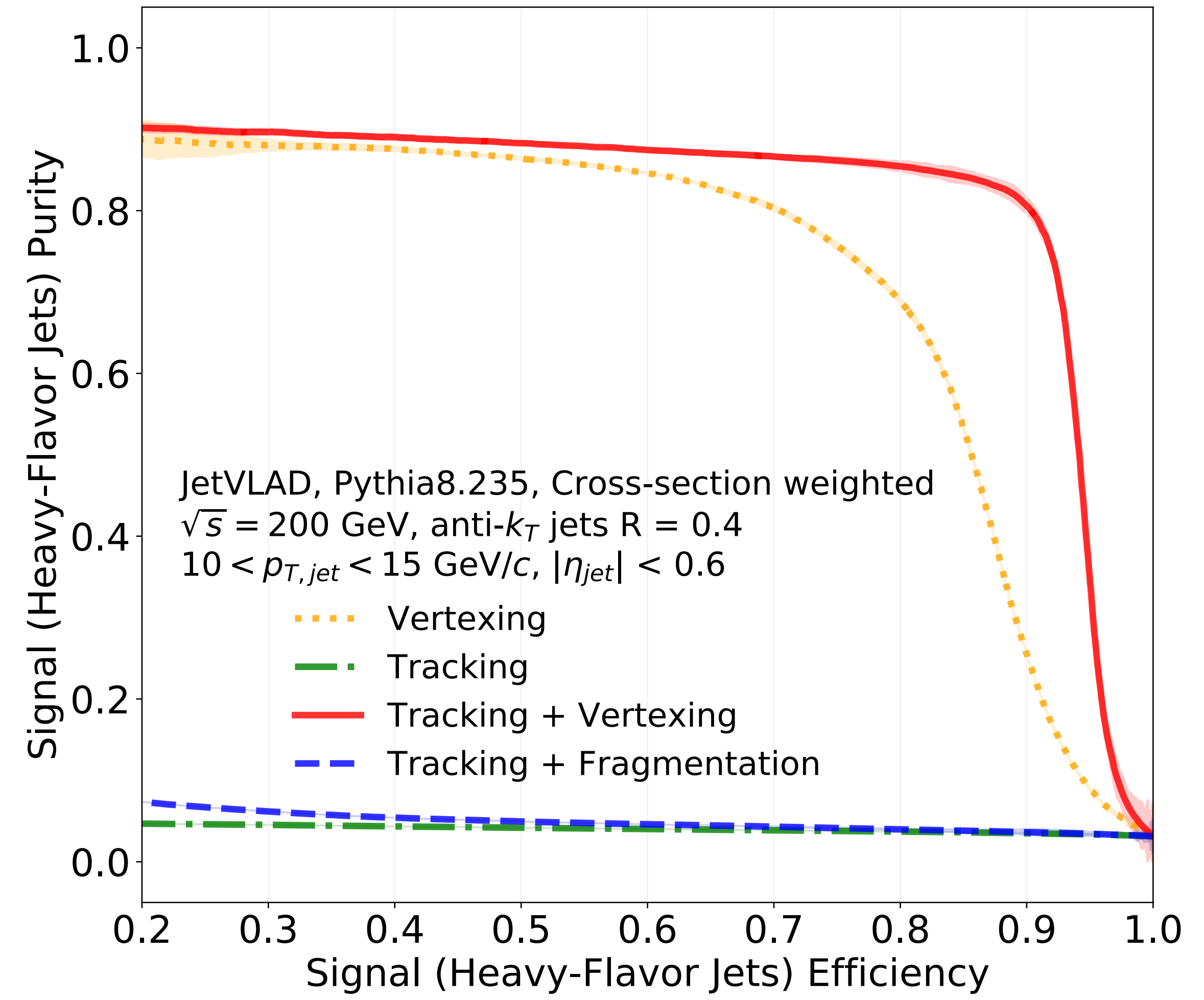
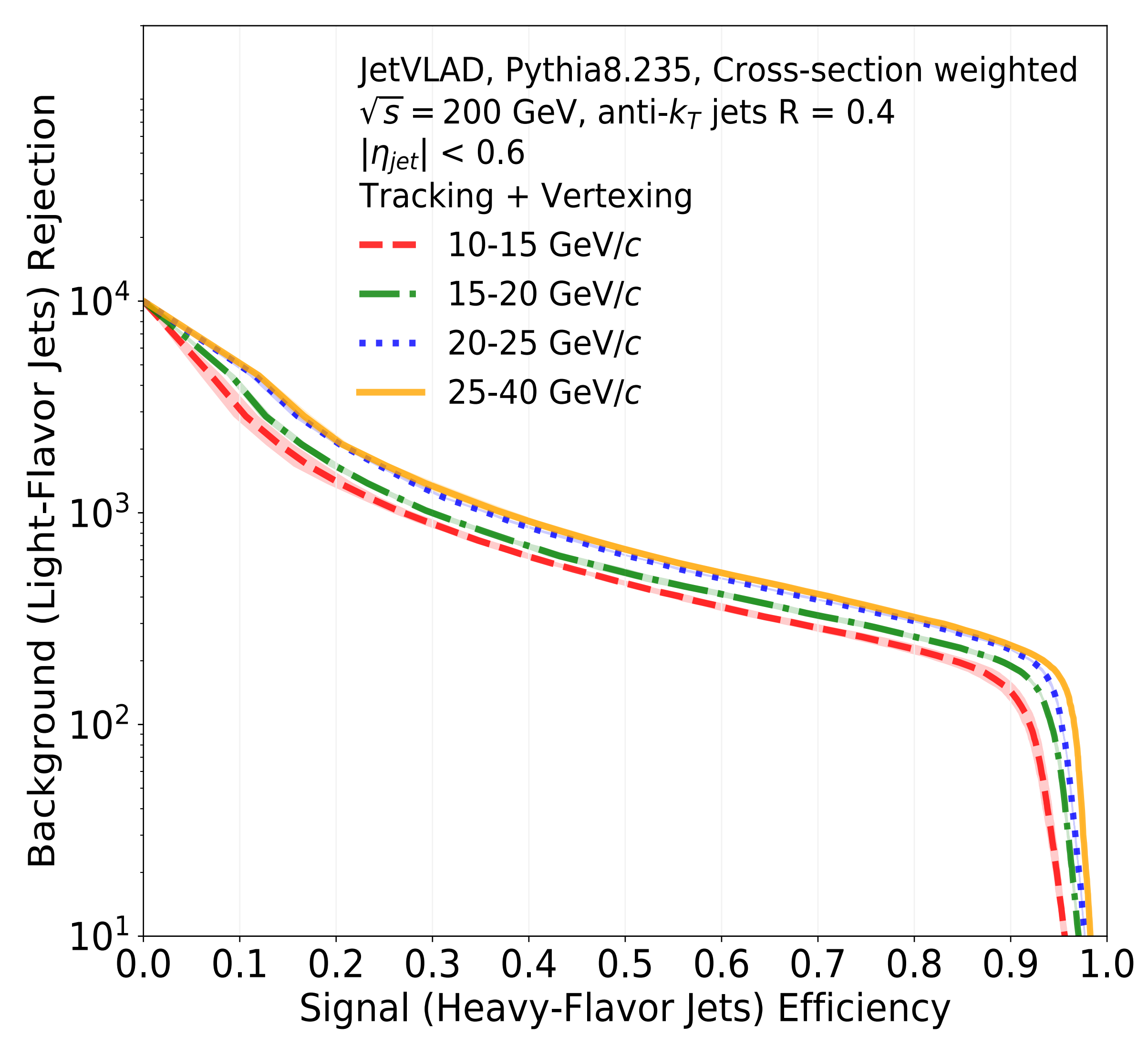
D - Depth  
K - # Clusters

- impact of varying the random weights for each trainable parameters - probes the inbuilt uncertainty for your optimized model

Ponimatkin, et. al JINST 2005.01842

Total of 111608 trainable parameters

# Performance benchmarks



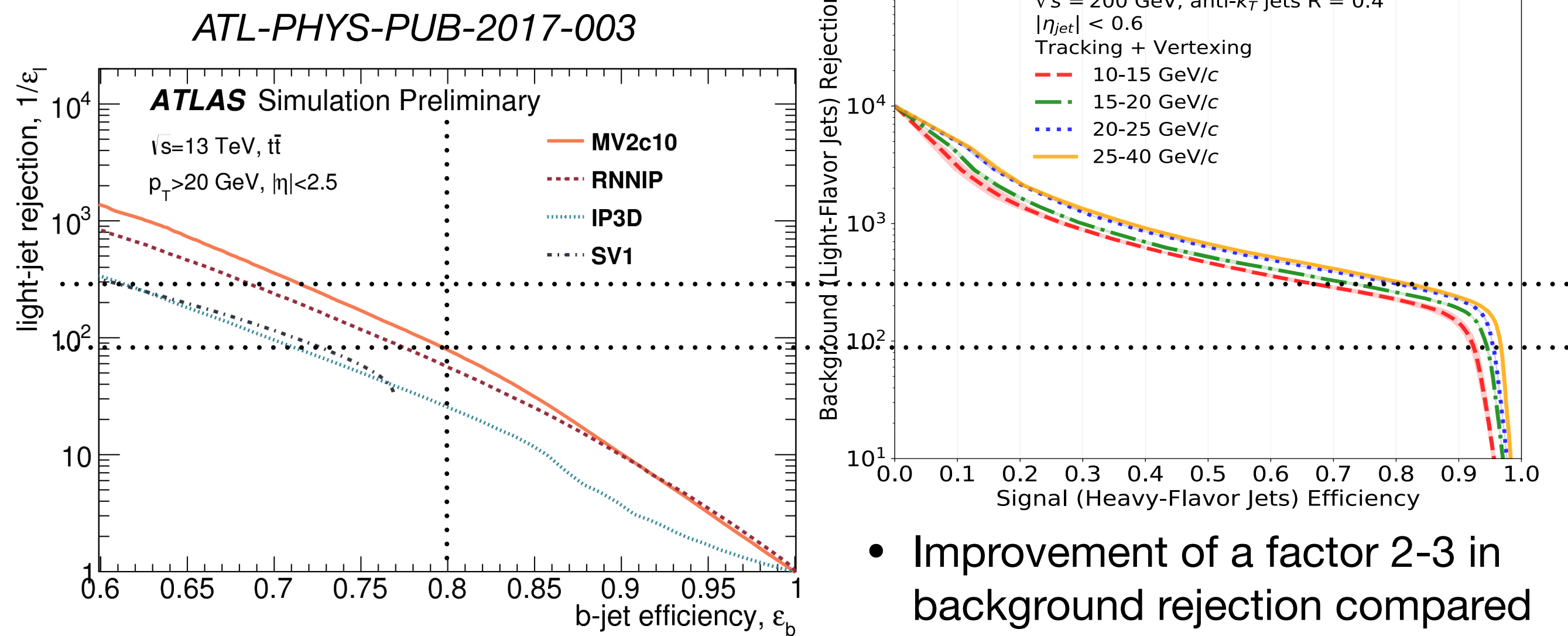
- Improvement (factor of 2) attributed to algorithmic differences primarily in comparison to RNN (which are quite hard to train)



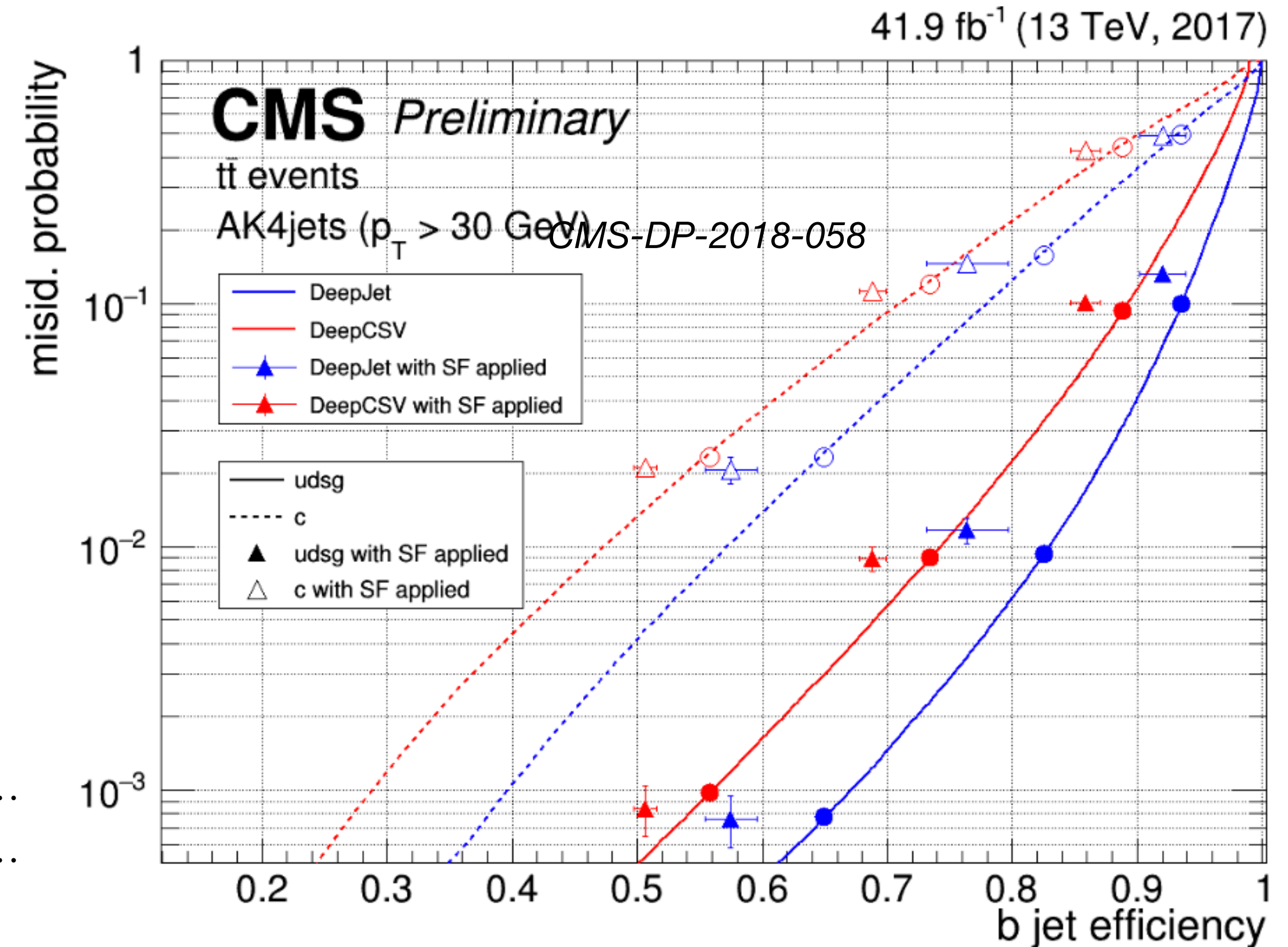
# Performance benchmarks

## Comparison w/ ATLAS and CMS

- Recurrent neural network along with IP3



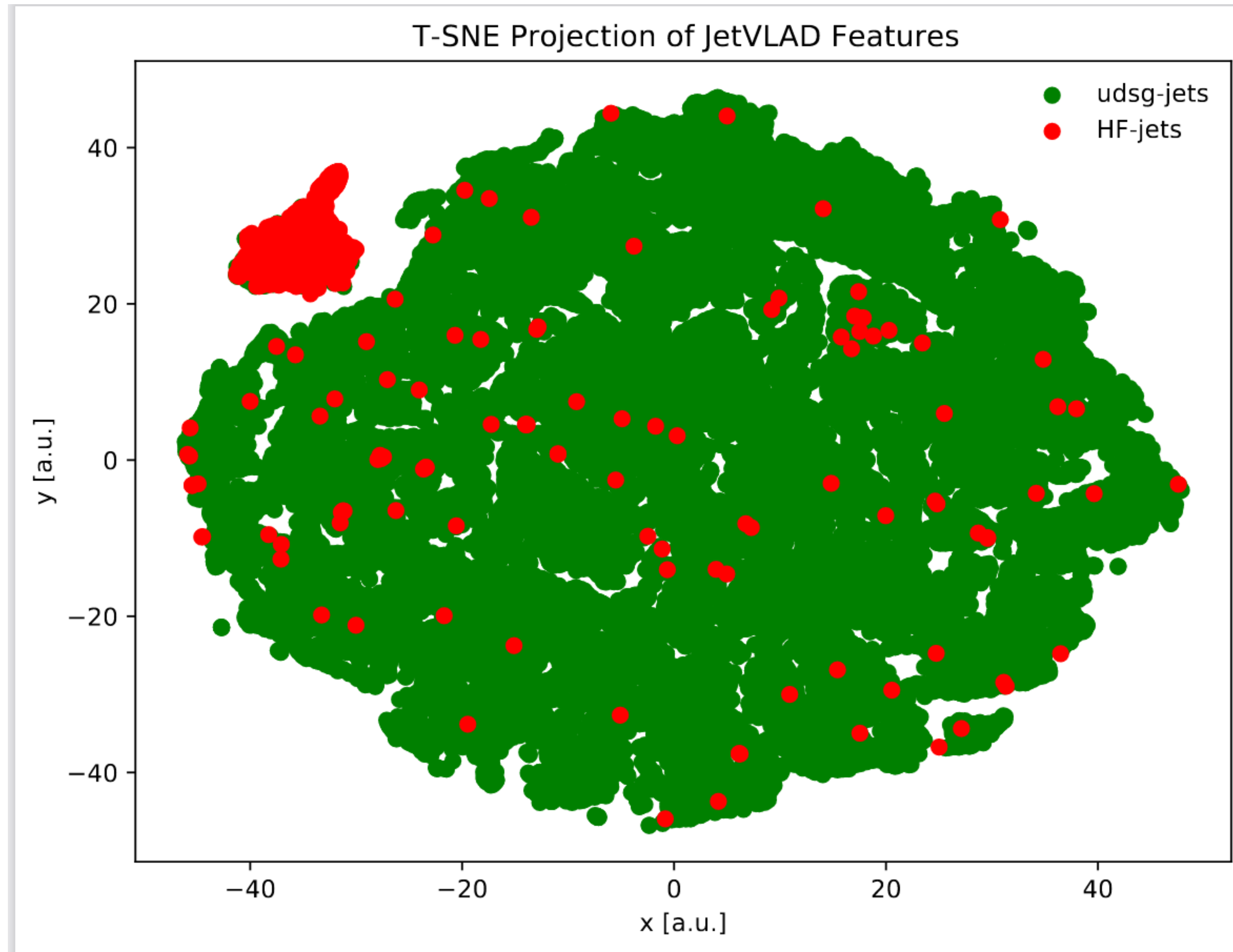
- Improvement of a factor 2-3 in background rejection compared to current leading models!



- DeepJet includes all secondary vertex info and particles along with global event features
- Improvement (factor of 2) attributed to algorithmic differences primarily in comparison to RNN (which are quite hard to train)



# Performance benchmarks



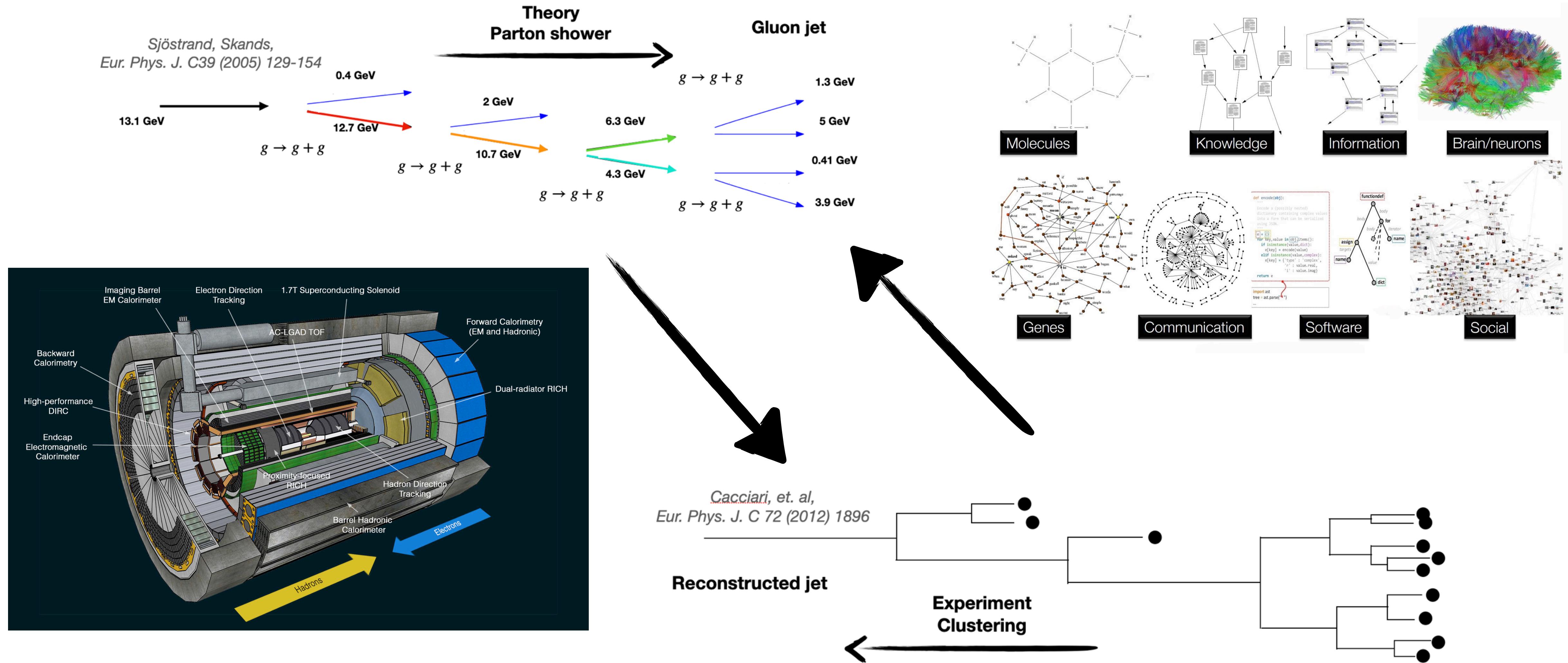
## T-SNE projection

- Arbitrary projection from multi-dimensional phase-space to a 2D
- Isolated regions of overlap
- Further exploration in progress!

# Evolution of a jet



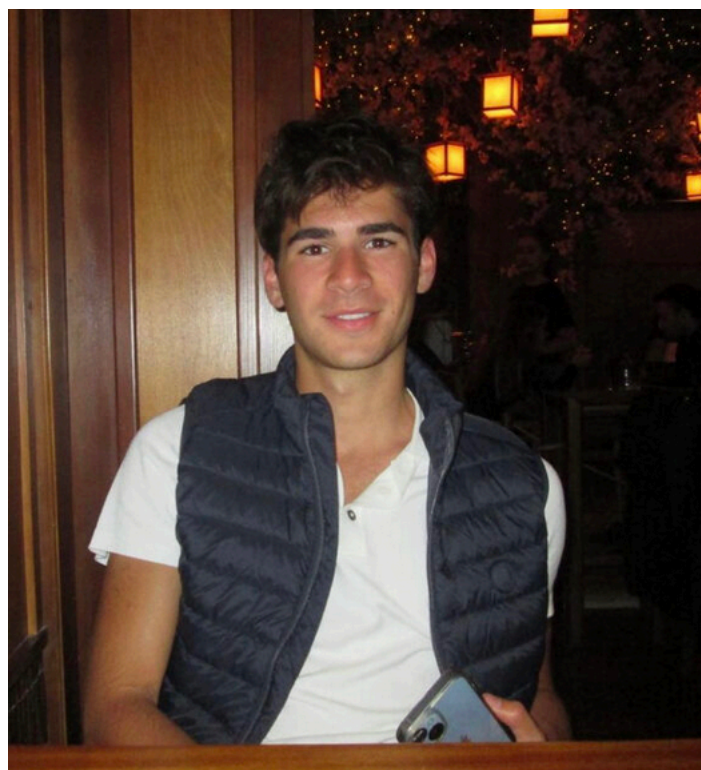
# Can we pick out fragmentation patterns?





# Multi dimensional pattern recognition

- if there are changes to a jet's fragmentation, is that represented in the information space of a jet?
- Can we identify what those changes or 'effects' are specifically compared to a well understood baseline (read  $pp$  or ideally  $ep$ )?
- Can we translate those effects to a 'cause'?
- Once we build up a library of possible causes, can we isolate specific sub-population of jets for future differential studies?



# Jets as connected graphs

Michael Taleb, Umar Soheil Qureshi,  
Vandy Class of 2026 Vandy Class of 2025

## Event Generation (PYTHIA 8.312)

- $pp$  beams with  $\sqrt{s} = 14$  TeV.
- Photon-tagged events  $qg \rightarrow q\gamma$ .
- $\hat{p}_T > 1000$  GeV.
- Anti- $k_t$   $R = 0.8$  parton-level and hadron-level jets.
- Visible final-state particles.
- $1000 < \text{Jet } p_\perp < 2000$  GeV.
- 100K events to ensure sufficient statistics.



[pythia.org/latest-manual/welcome.html](http://pythia.org/latest-manual/welcome.html)

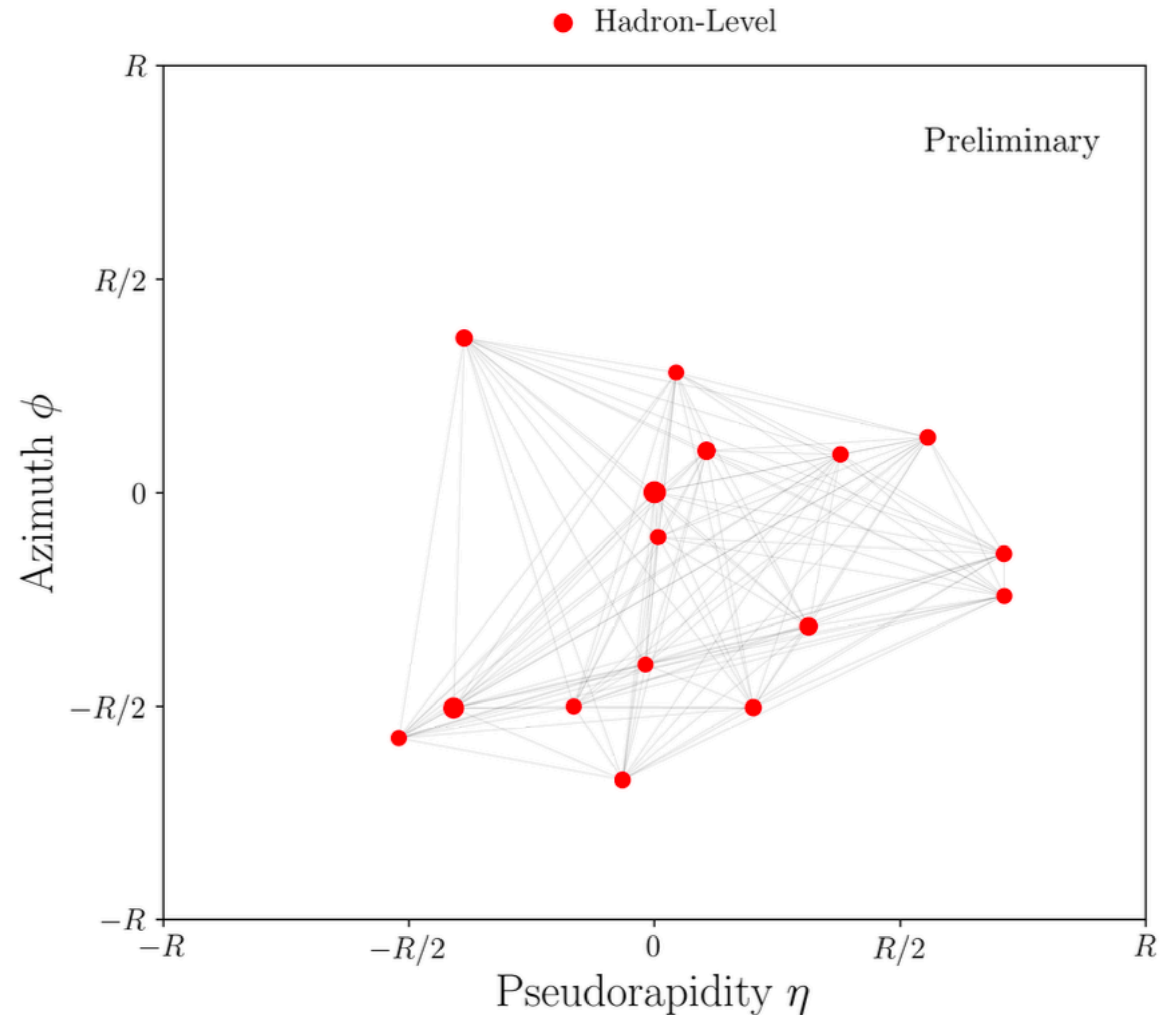
## Graph Representation of Pythia Quark Jets

Jets represented as graphs, connected by  $\Delta R$ :

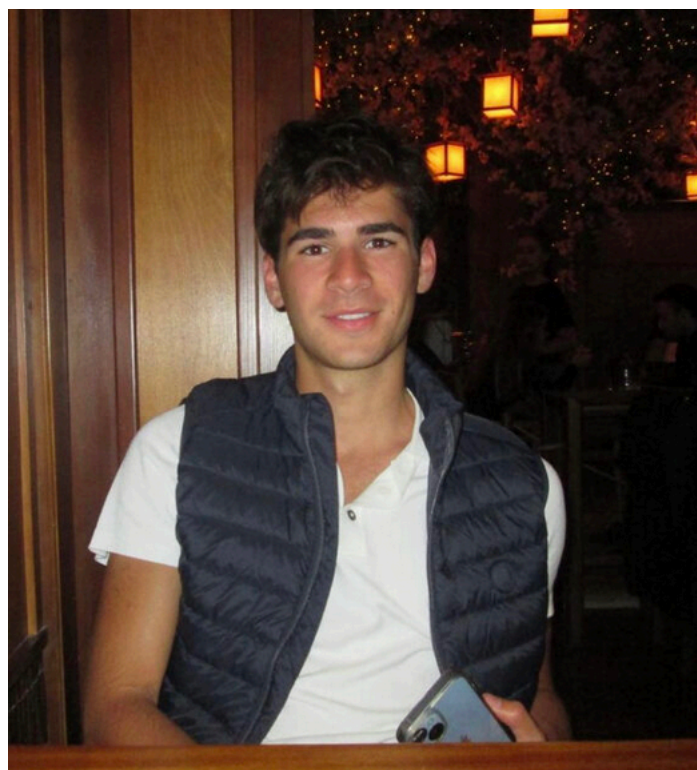
$$\text{Vertices : } \mathcal{J} = \left\{ (p_\perp^i, \eta^i, \phi^i)_{i=1}^n \right\}$$

$$\text{Edges : } E = \left\{ \Delta R(i, j)_{i,j=1}^n, i \neq j \right\}$$

Fully connected graphs, no self-loops.







# Jets as connected graphs

Michael Taleb, Umar Soheil Qureshi,  
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[pythia.org/latest-manual/welcome.html](http://pythia.org/latest-manual/welcome.html)

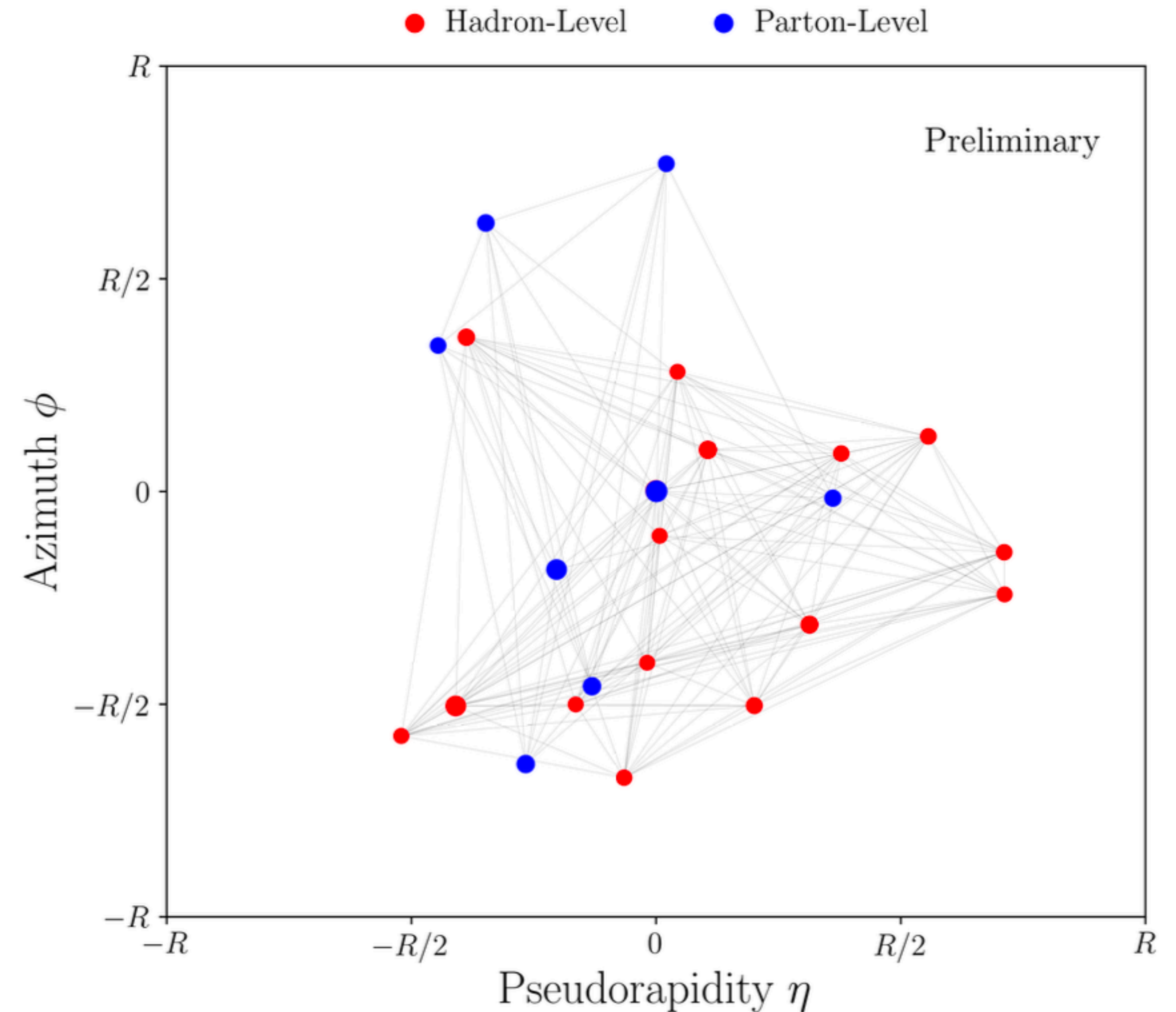
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$$\text{Edges : } E = \left\{ \Delta R(i, j)_{i,j=1}^n, i \neq j \right\}$$

Fully connected graphs, no self-loops.





# Mapping one graph to another graph via latent space representation

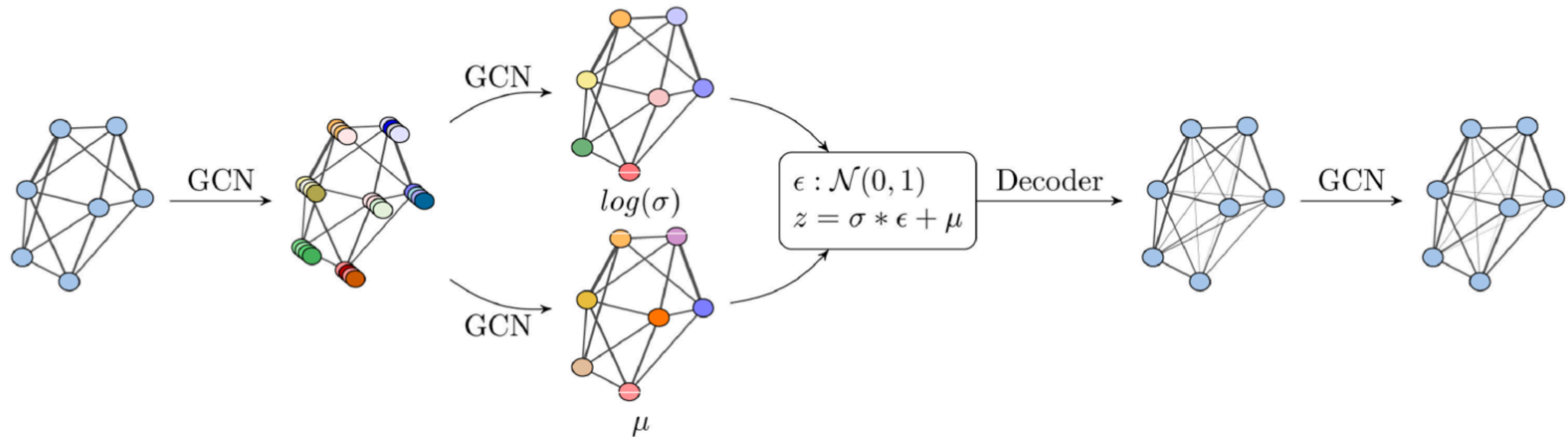
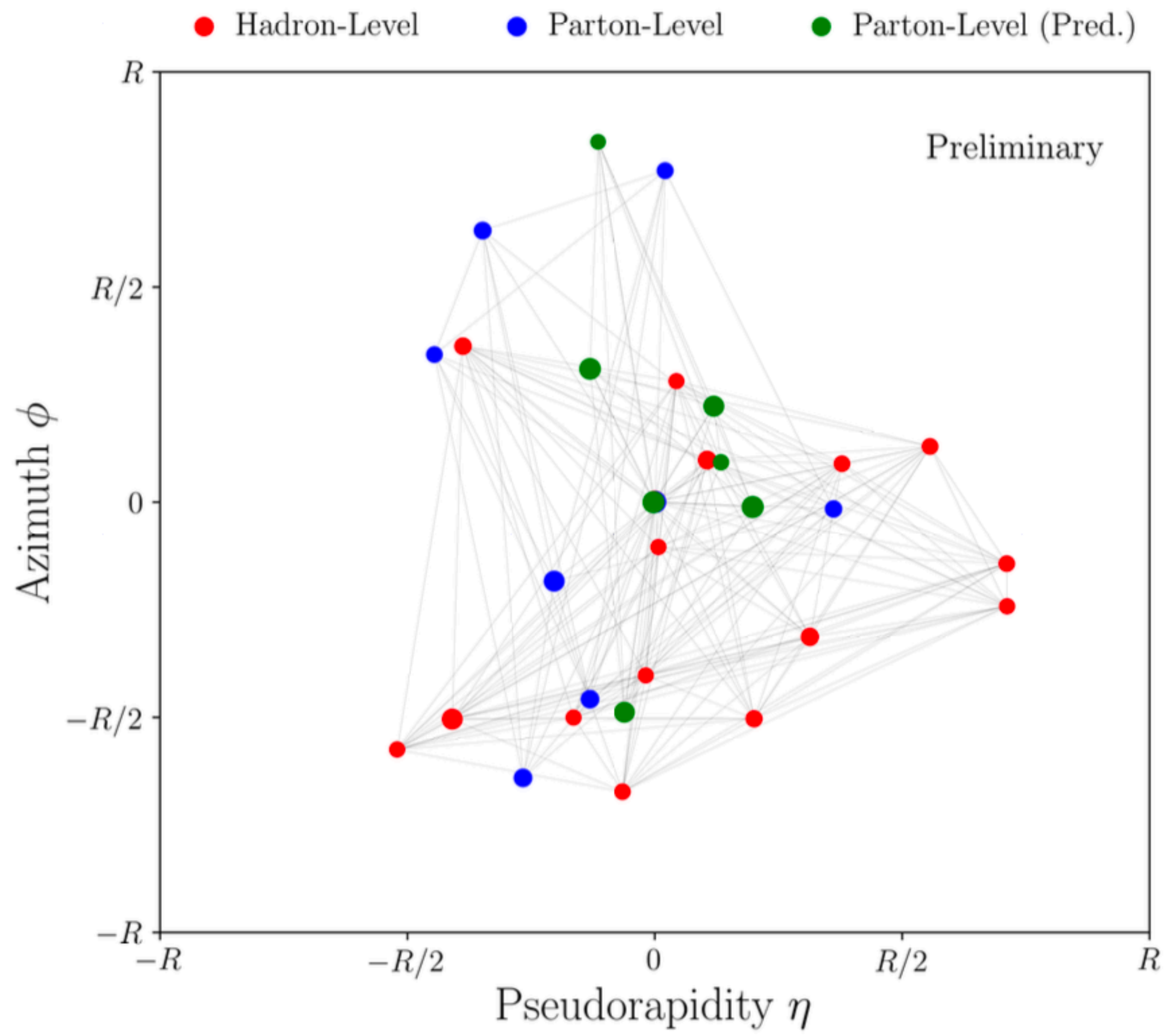


Image Credit: Tina Behrouzi et. al.

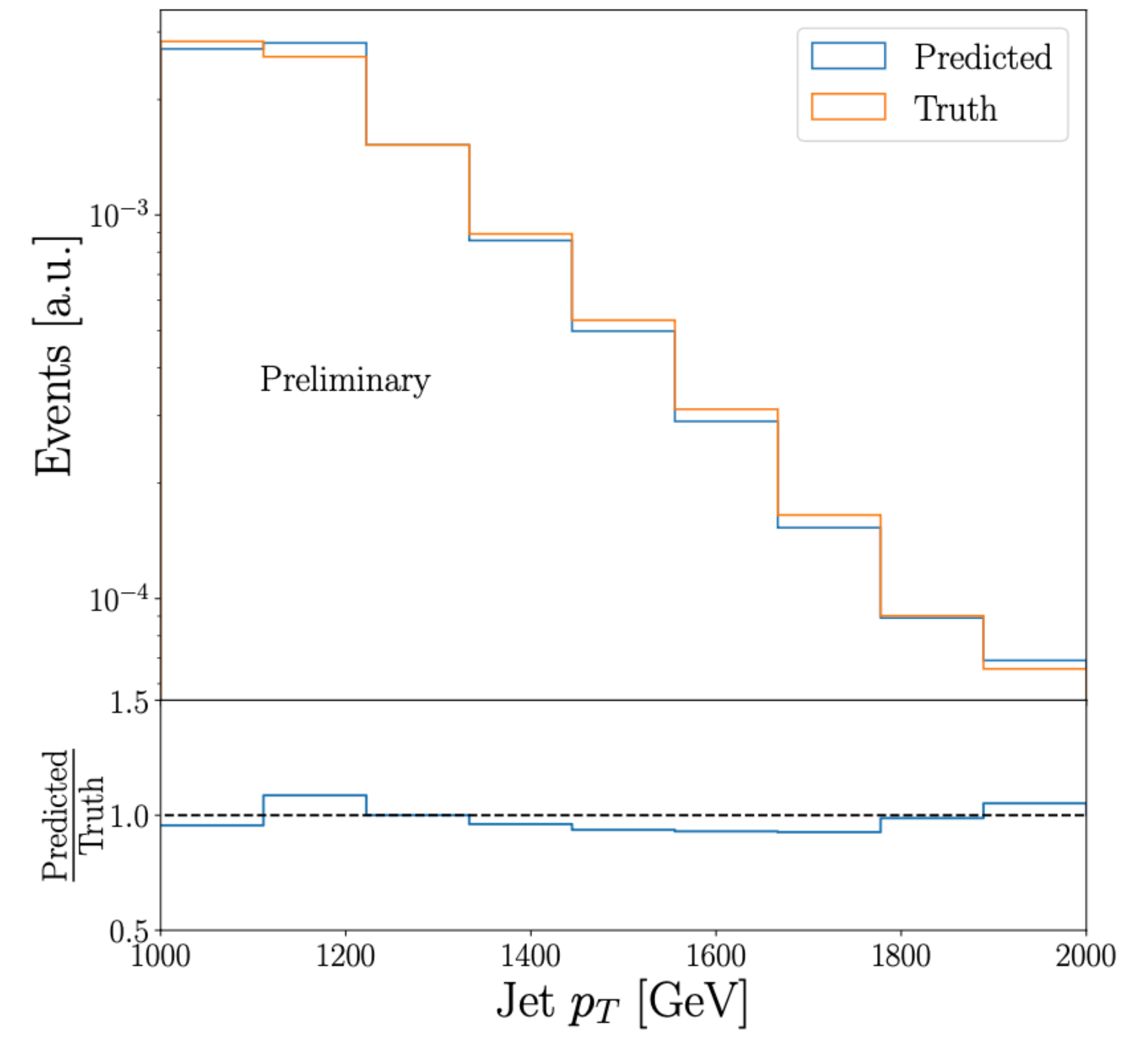
## Variational Graph Autoencoder (VGAE)

- Input hadron-level jets  $\mathcal{H}$ .
- Output parton-level jets  $\mathcal{P}$ .

- Encoder: learns an embedding  $(z, \mu)$  for  $\mathcal{H}$  in latent space.
- Decoder: learns reconstructing parton-level jets  $\mathcal{P}$  from embedding.

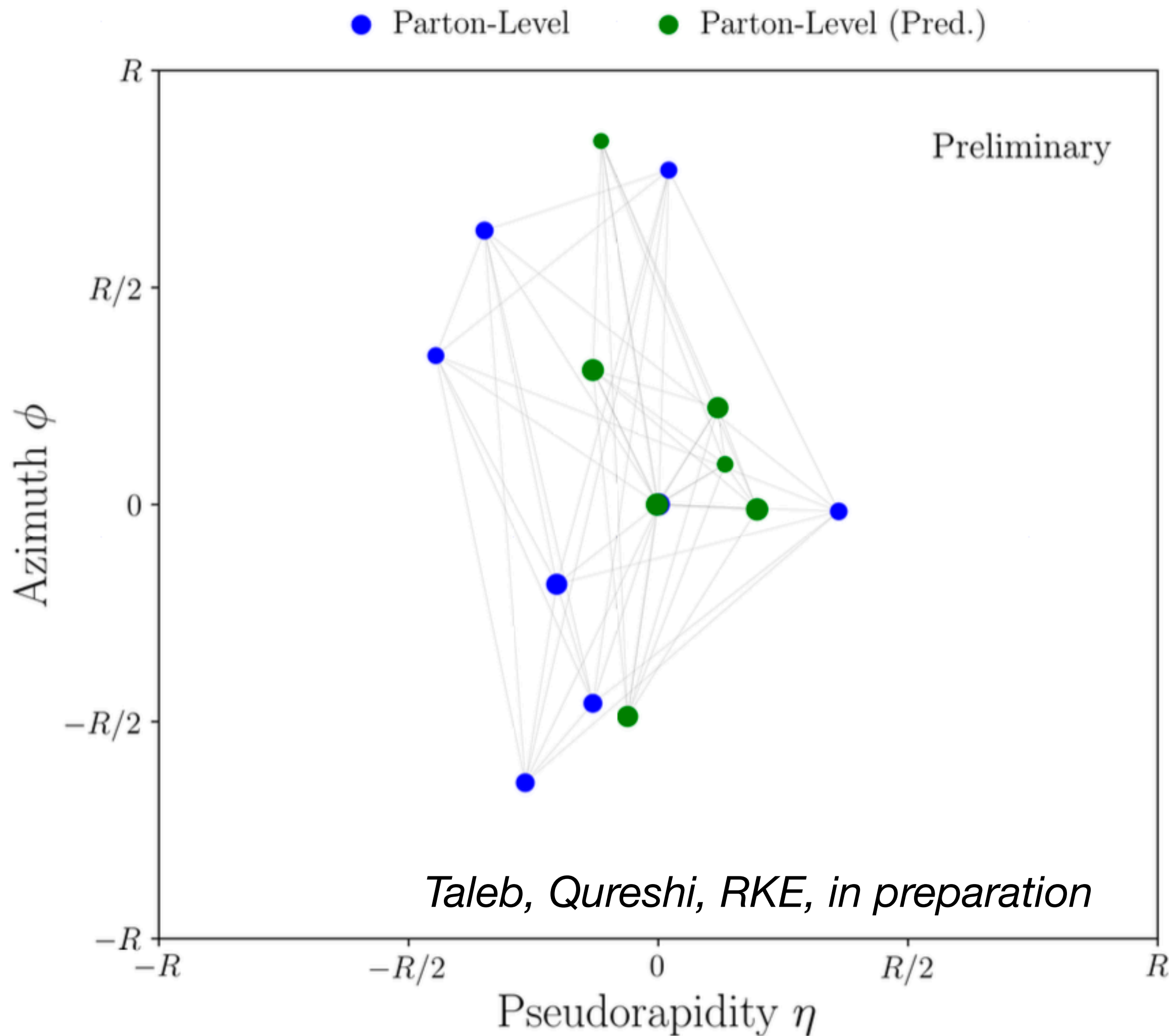


# Predicted Parton level Jet



- We can more/less get the scalar jet momenta, but...

# How similar are these?



## EMD Metric (PRL 123.041801)

- Quantifies the distance between two jets.
- The minimum “energy” required to rearrange a jet  $\mathcal{G}$  to  $\mathcal{G}'$ .

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}') = \min_{\{f_{ij} \geq 0\}} \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^{M'} f_{ij} \left( \frac{\Delta R_{ij}}{R} \right) + \left| \sum_{i=1}^M E_i - \sum_{j=1}^{M'} E'_j \right|,$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{M'} f_{ij} \leq E_i, \quad \sum_{i=1}^M f_{ij} \leq E'_j, \quad \sum_{i=1}^M \sum_{j=1}^{M'} f_{ij} = E_{\min},$$

$\mathcal{E}(\hat{\mathcal{P}}, \mathcal{P})$  gives a discrepancy measure between reconstructed graphs  $\hat{\mathcal{P}}$  and the ground truth  $\mathcal{P}$ .

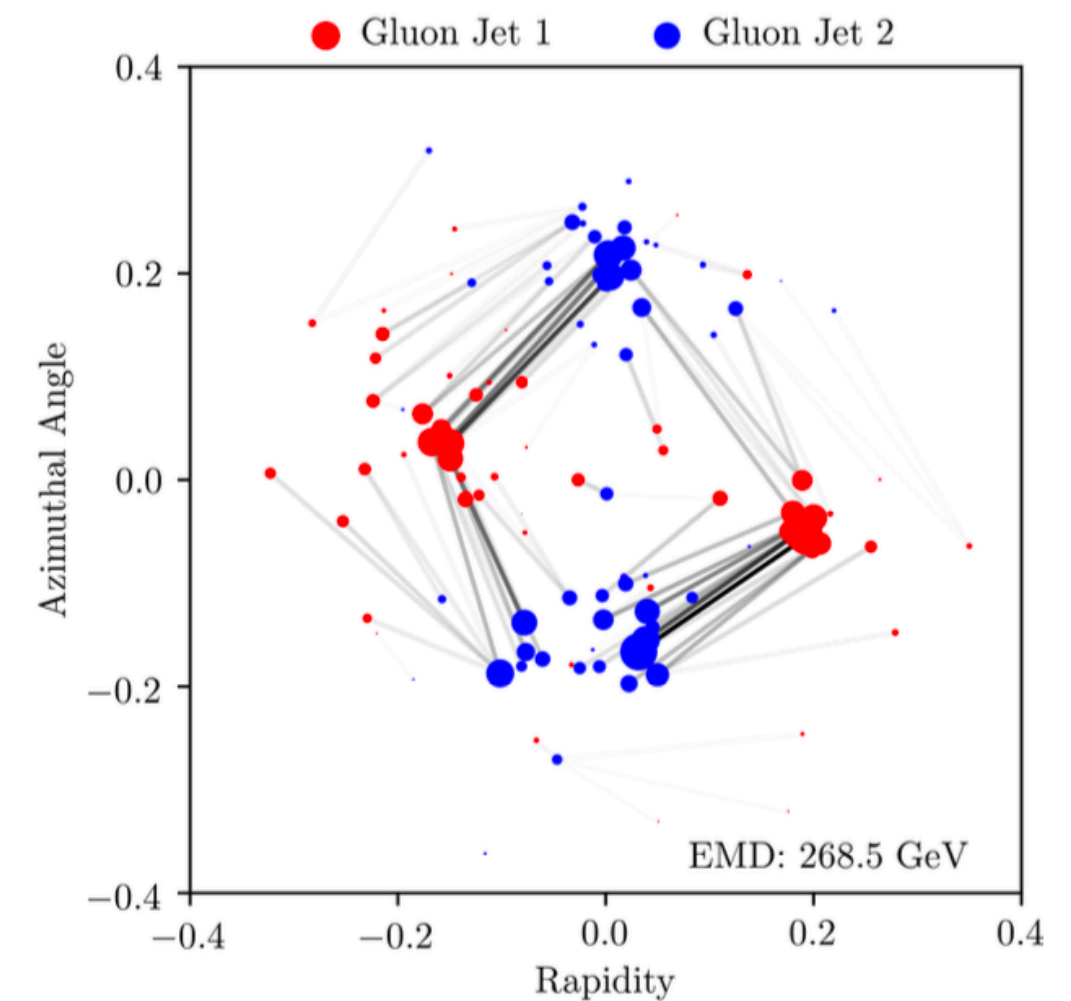
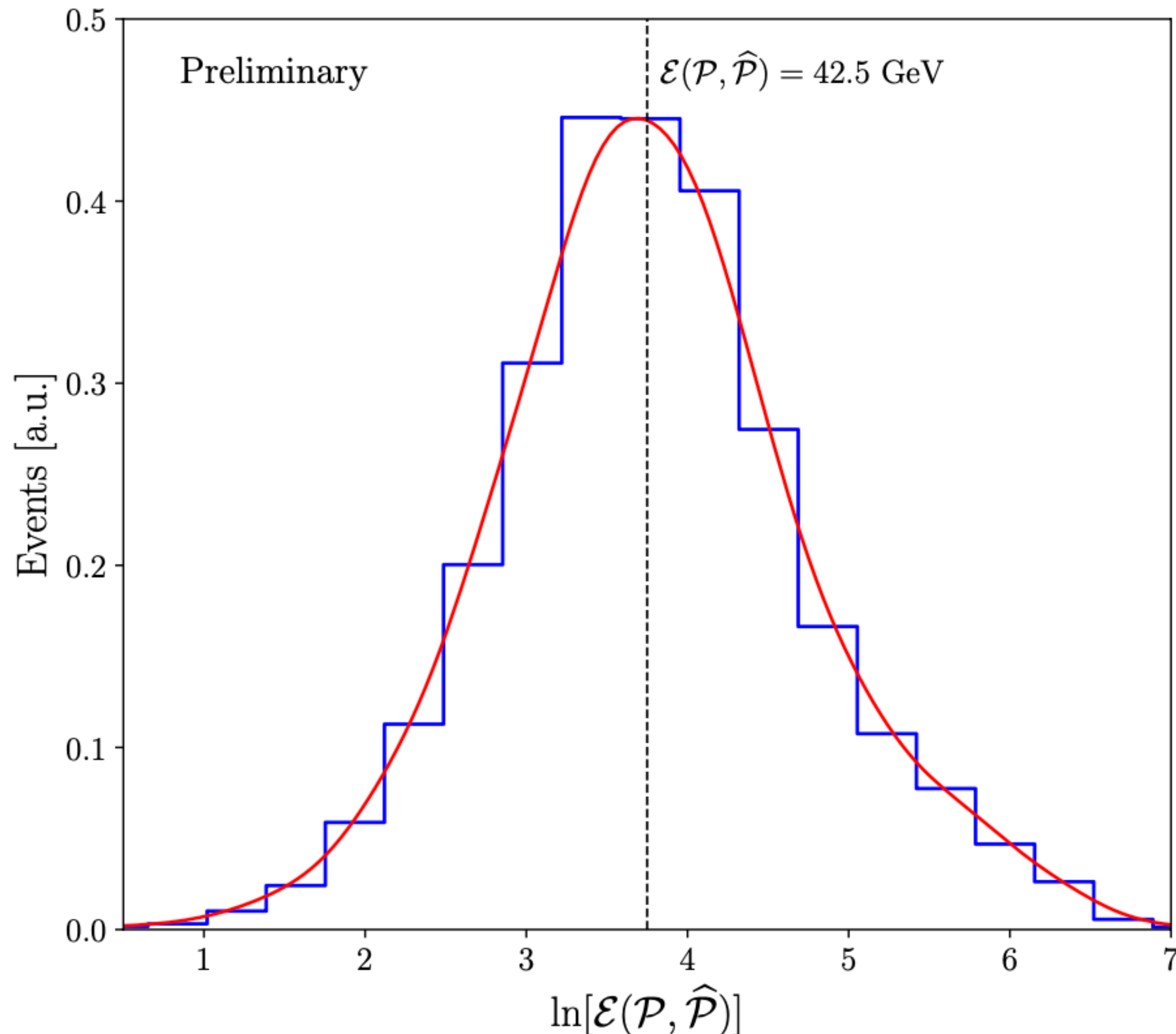


Figure 5: EMD between two gluon jets.

- EMD essentially estimates how much ‘work’ you need to move one to another





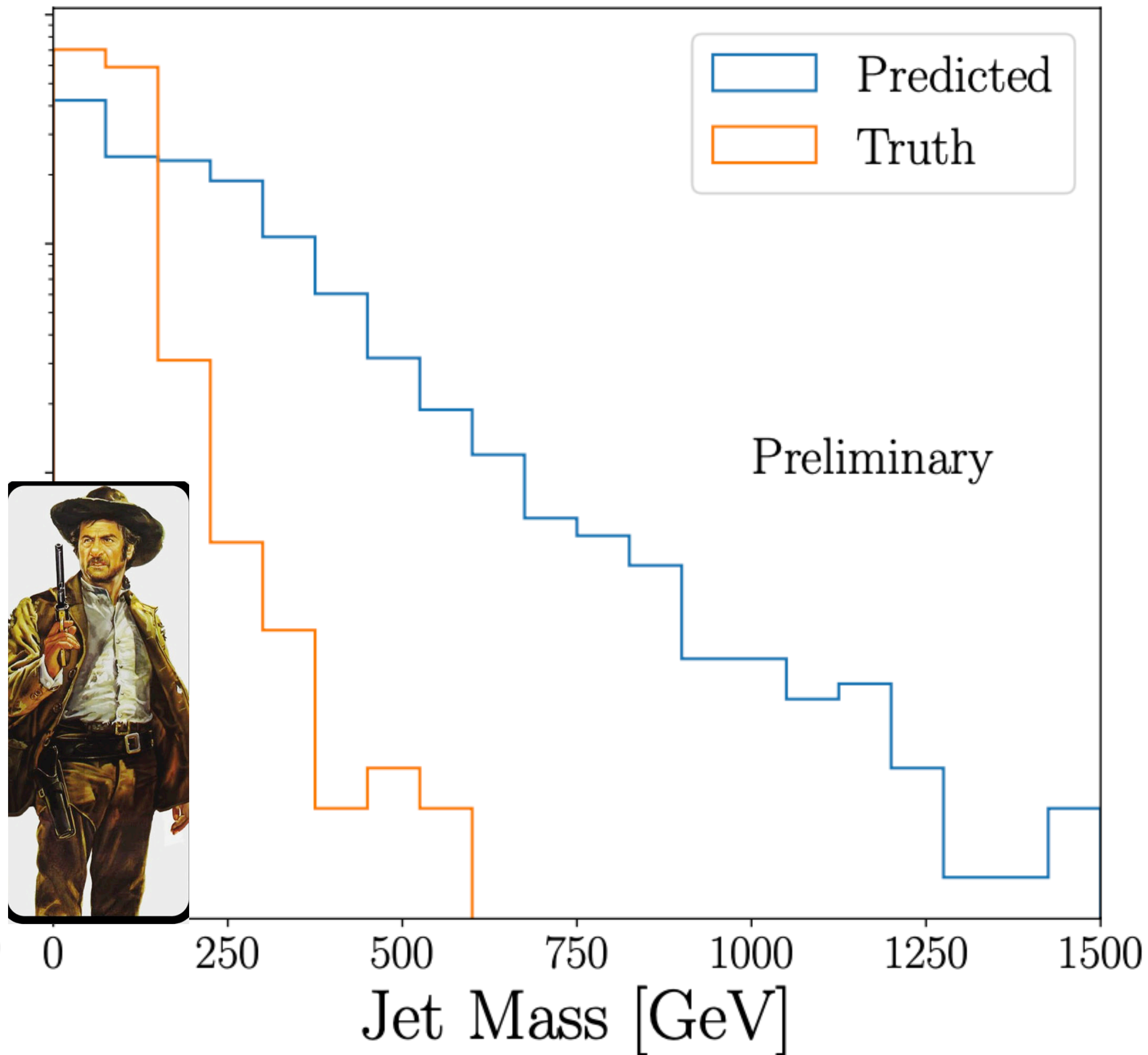
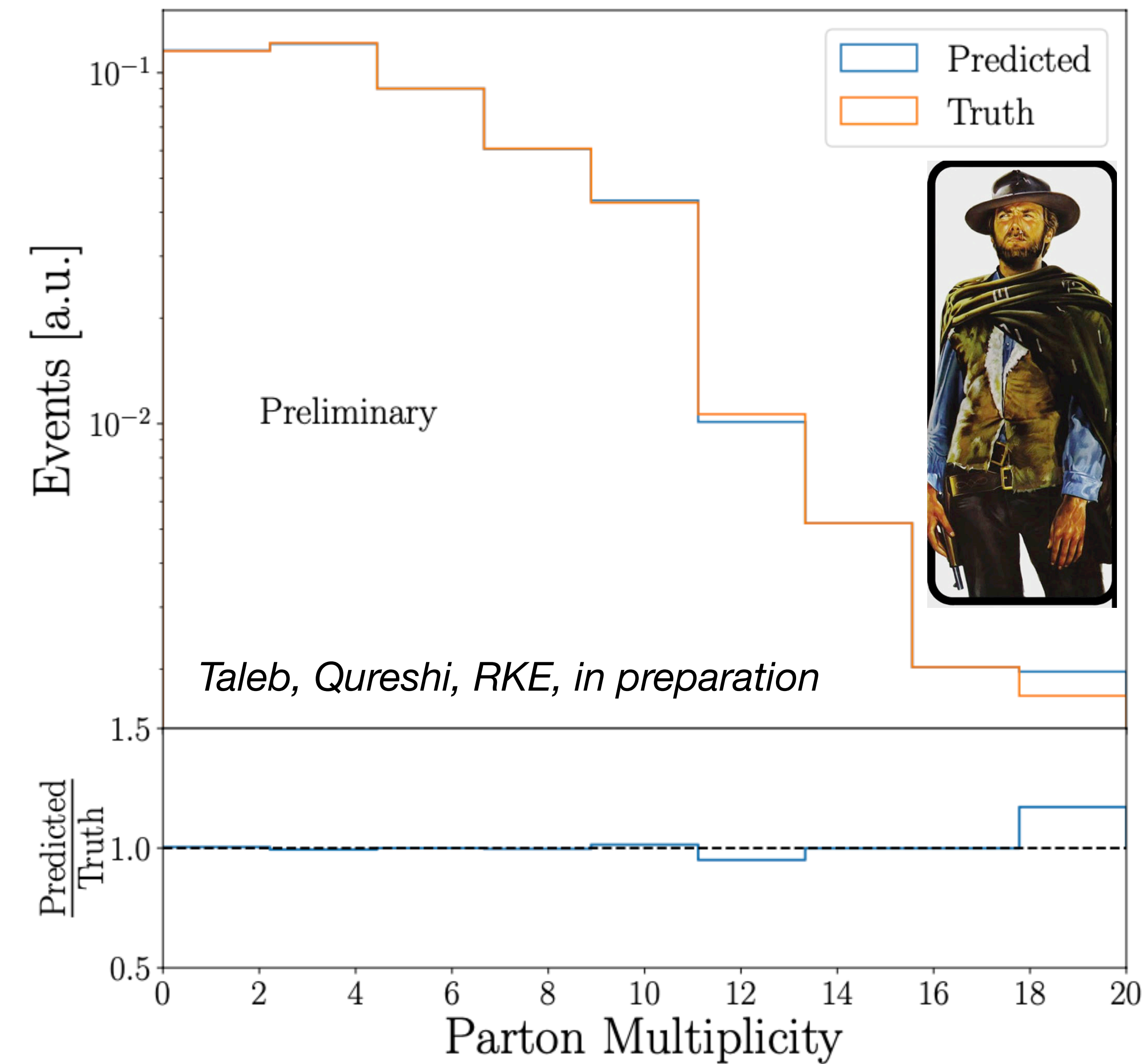
Predicted jets close to ground truth (Pythia)!

Benchmark EMDs:

- Good:  $\ln \mathcal{E} \leq 4$ 
  - Jets are similar.
- Fair:  $4 \leq \ln \mathcal{E} \leq 5.5$ 
  - Jets are fairly similar.
- **Bad:  $\ln \mathcal{E} \geq 5.5$** 
  - Jets are disparate.

# Good

# Ugly



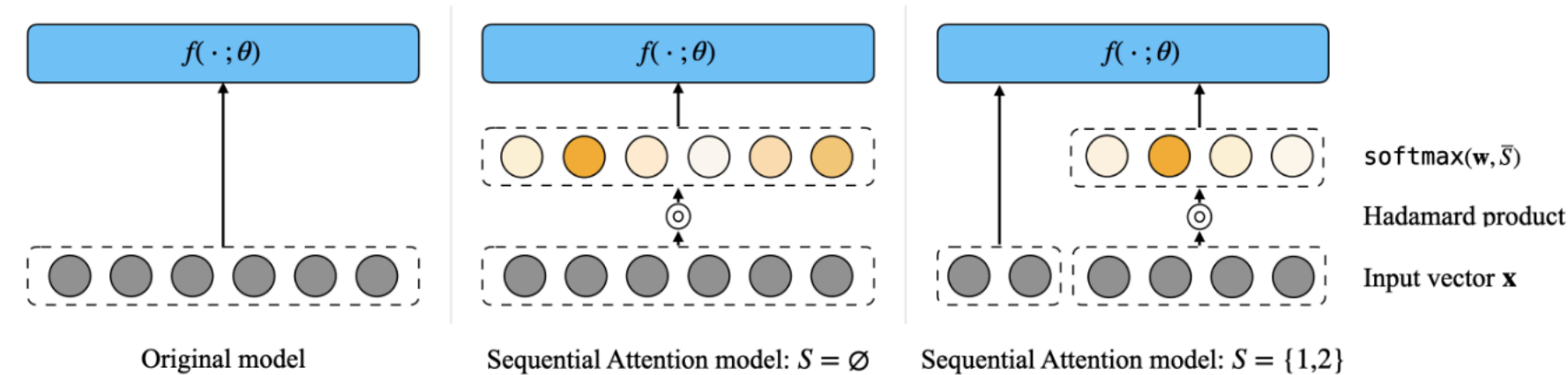


# Detour - Can we identify jets that have modified fragmentation



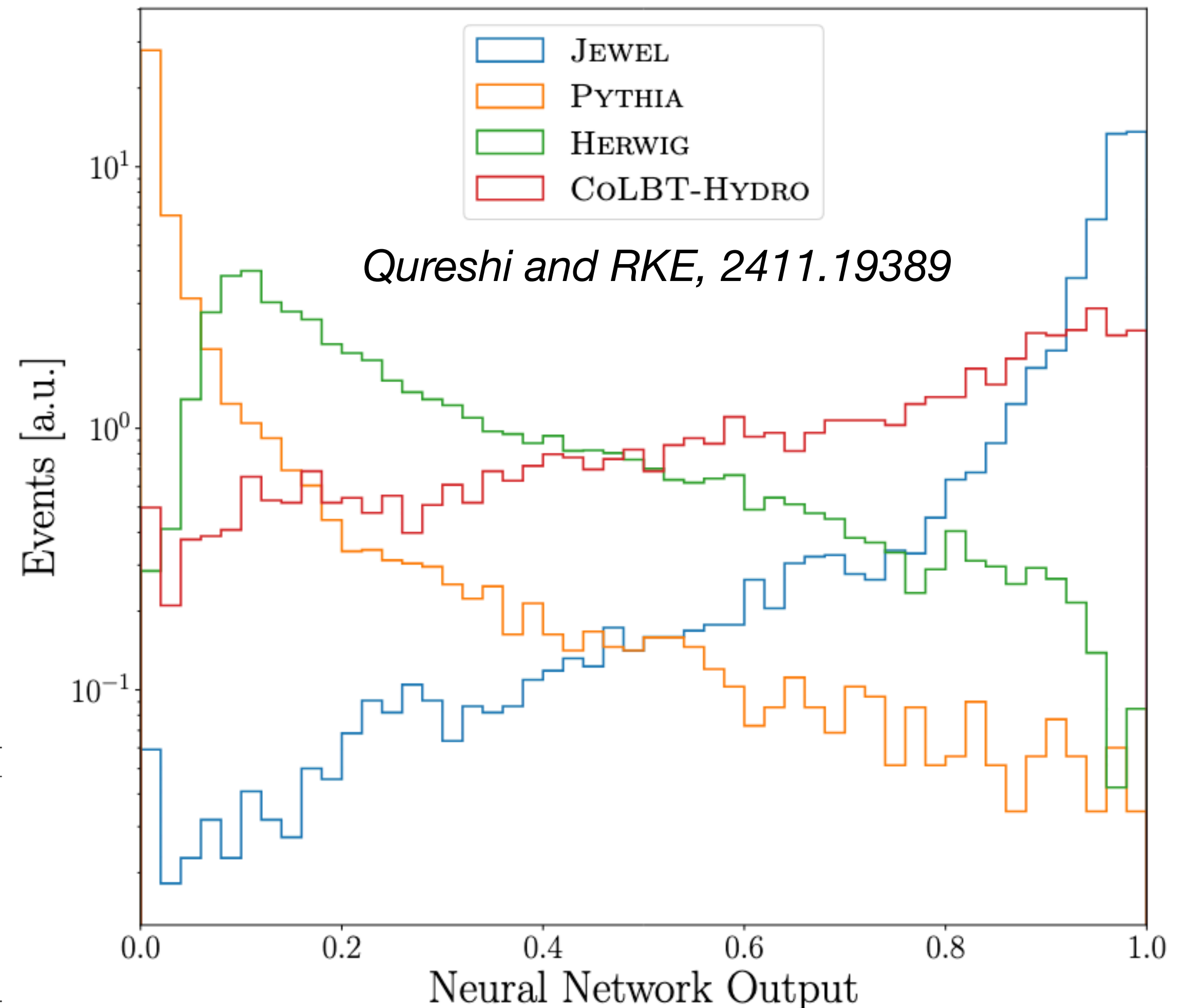
Umar Soheil Qureshi,  
Vandy Class of 2025

Yasuda, T et. al 2209.14881



- greedy forward selection algorithm, which repeatedly selects the feature with the largest marginal improvement
- introducing a new set of trainable variables  $w \in \mathbb{R}^d$  that represent feature importance

Model	Thermal Background	Detector Effects	Pileup	Performance (AUC)	Reference
Energy Flow Network	×	×	×	0.67	<a href="#">[32]</a>
Particle Flow Network	×	×	×	0.86	<a href="#">[32]</a>
Particle Flow Network	✓	×	×	0.75	<a href="#">[32]</a>
Long-Short Term Memory	✓	×	×	0.76	<a href="#">[30]</a>
Long-Short Term Memory	✓	×	×	0.74	<a href="#">[31]</a>
Multi-Layer Perceptron	✓	×	×	0.73	<a href="#">[31]</a>
Autoencoder + Decision Tree	✓	×	×	0.70	<a href="#">[33]</a>
Convolutional NN	✓	×	×	0.75	<a href="#">[31]</a>
<b>Sequential Attention</b>	✓	✓	✓	<b>0.95</b>	Our Study





# Detour - Can we identify jets that have modified fragmentation



*Umar Soheil Qureshi,  
Vandy Class of 2025*

- Not all inputs are made the same
- Motivate selective observables to go and measure!

$$\mathcal{J} = \{n, m, p_{\perp}, z_g, R_g, k_{\perp}, m_g\} \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \{p_{\perp}^i, \eta^i, \phi^i, \text{PID}^i\}$$

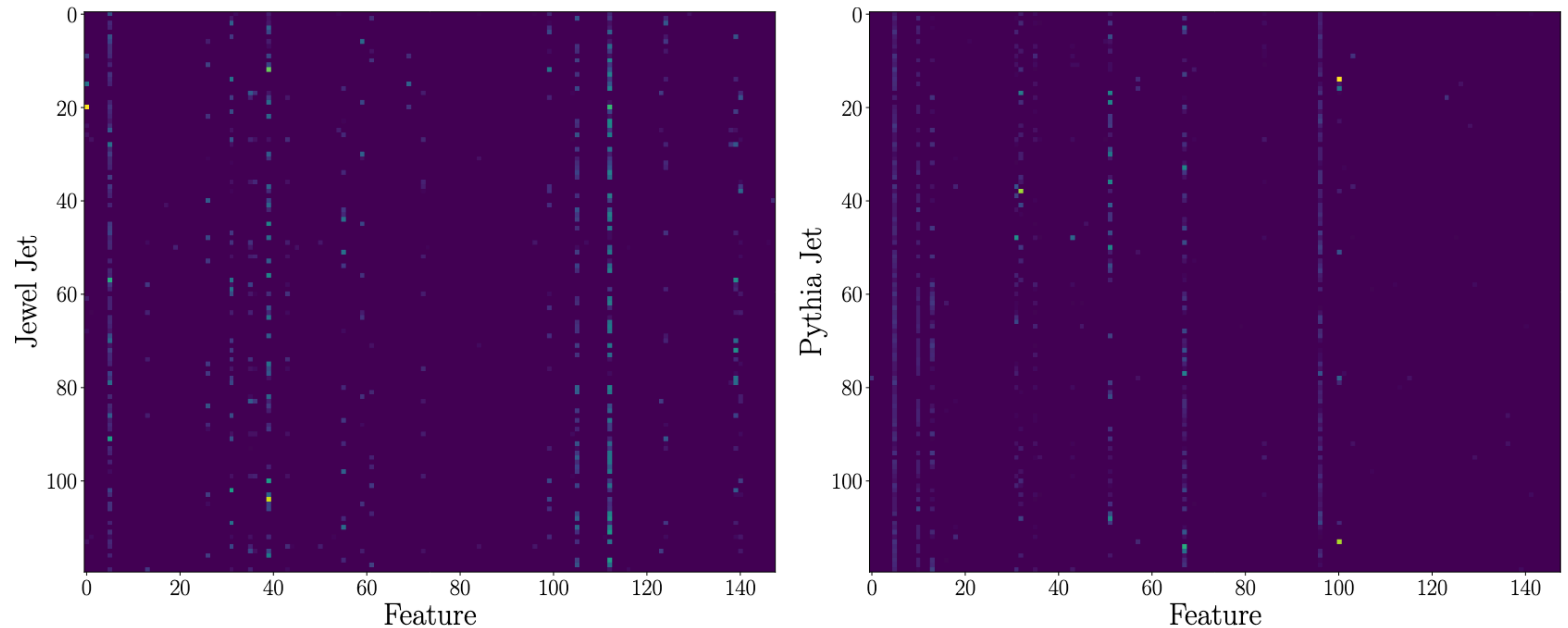


FIG. 4. Heatmap illustrations of the aggregate feature mask (Eq. [8](#)) for the first 125 JEWEL (left) and PYTHIA (right) truth jets. The sparsity in feature activation highlights the attention-based mechanism's focus on relevant features for classification.

Jet in a  
background



# Signal vs background





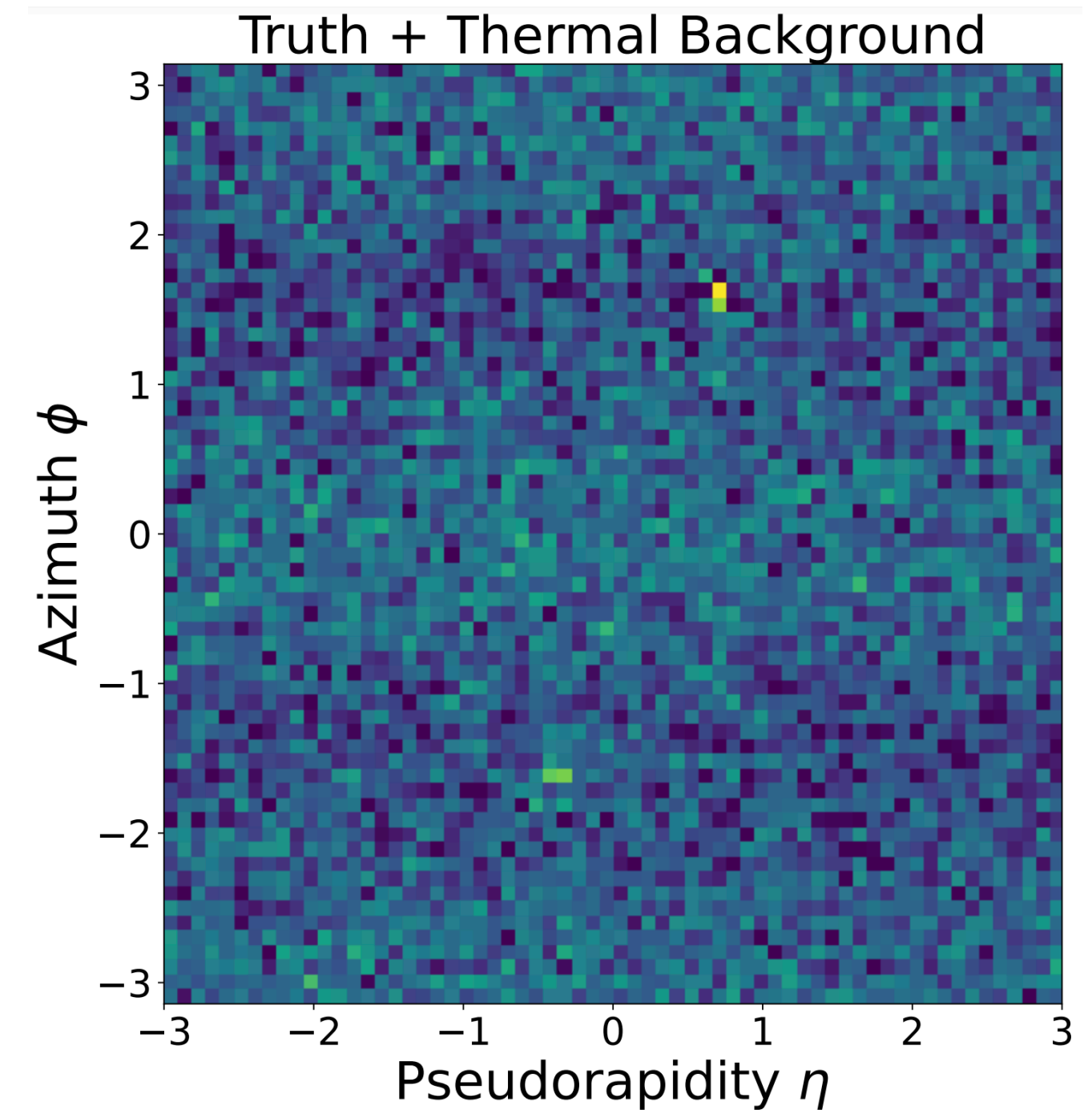
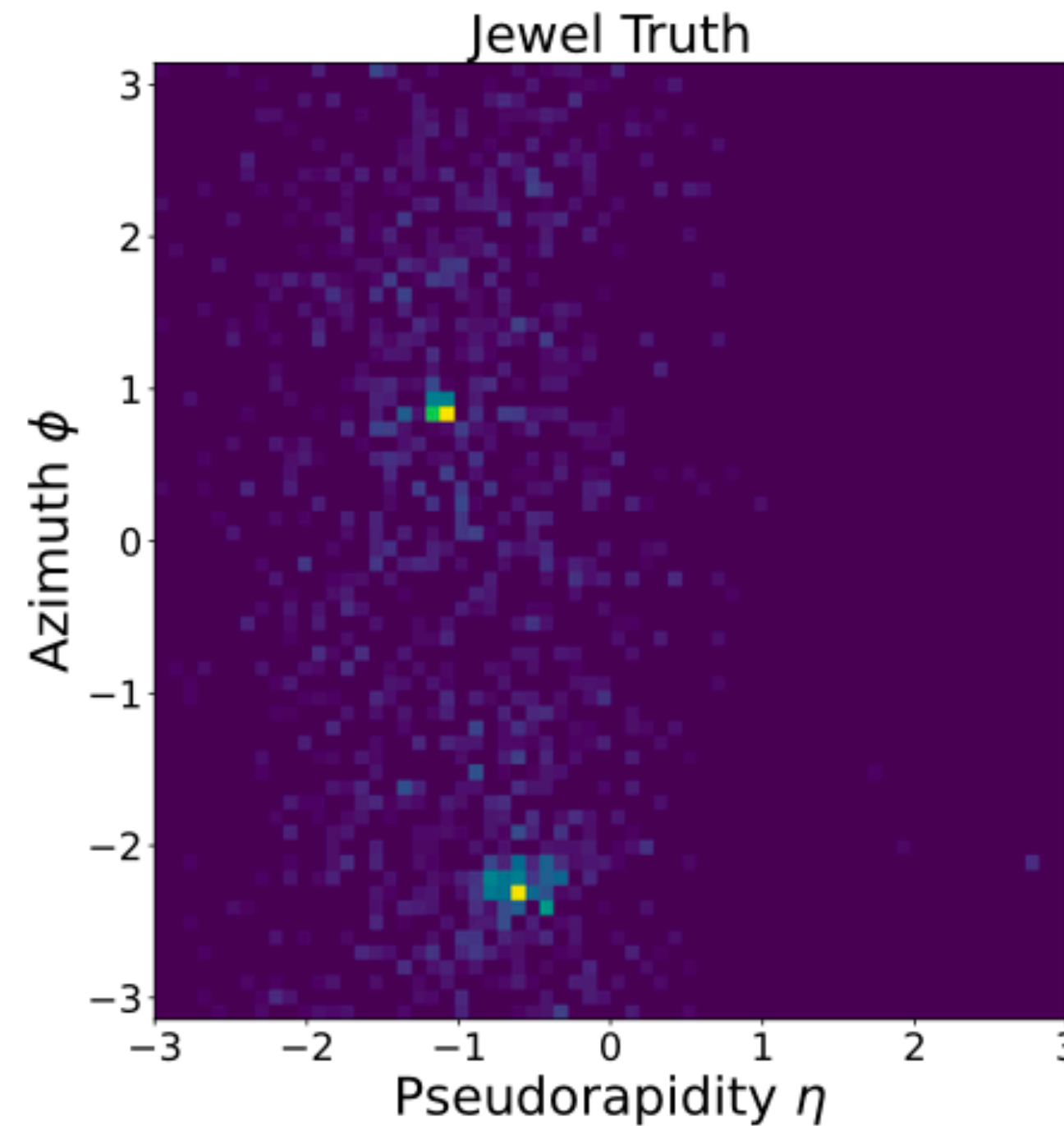
# Events as noisy images

## Event Generation (JEWEL)

- $\sqrt{s_{\text{NN}}} = 5.02$  TeV PbPb beams.
- Dijets at 0-10% centrality.
- $\hat{p}_{\text{T}} > 100$  GeV.
- 100K events to ensure sufficient statistics for ML training.

## Thermal Background

- 15k particles uniform over  $|\eta| < 3$ .
- $\phi$ -Modulation with  $v_2 = 0.05$ .
- Boltzmann distribution in  $p_{\text{T}}$  with  $\langle p_{\text{T}} \rangle = 1.2$  GeV.



## Image Representations

- Dijet events as images in the  $(\eta, \phi) \in [-3, 3] \times [-\pi, \pi]$  plane.

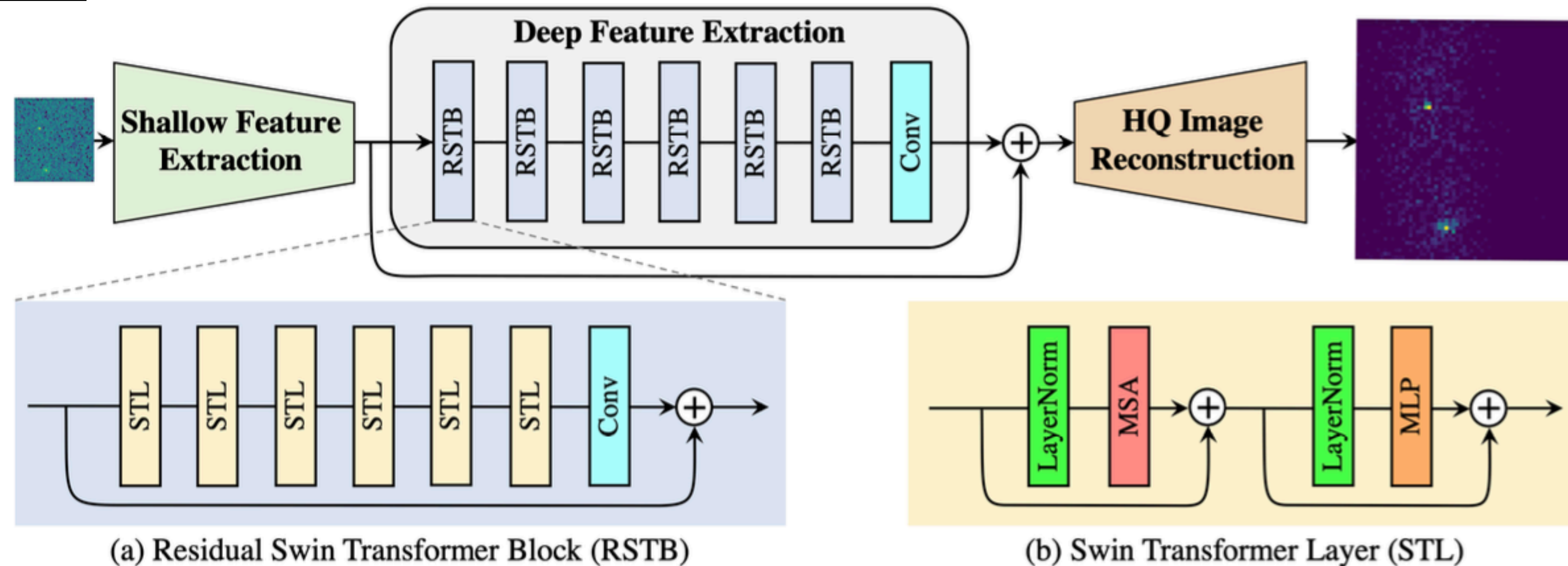
Umar Soheil Qureshi,  
Vandy Class of 2025





# Hierarchical Vision Transformer using Shifted Windows

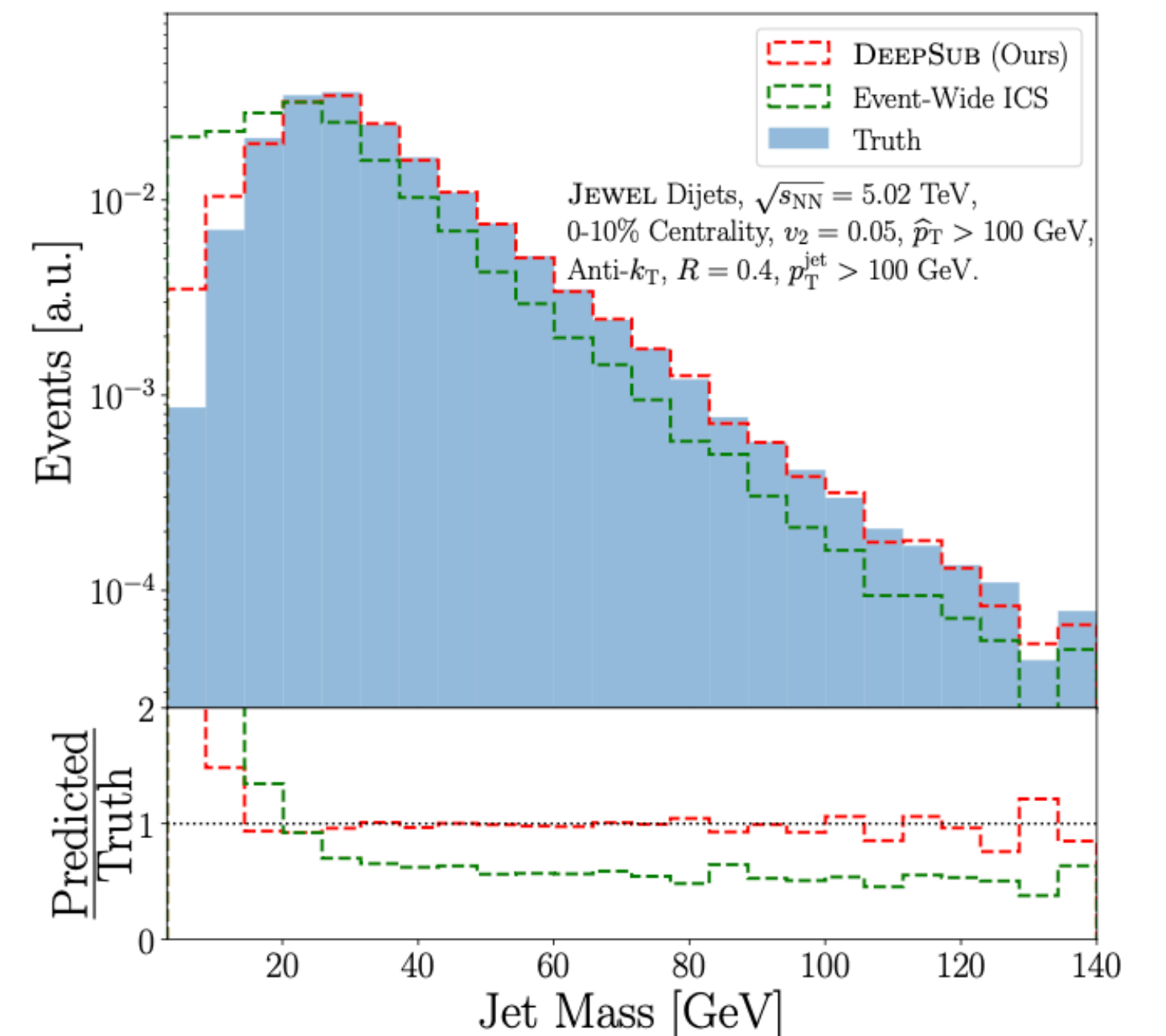
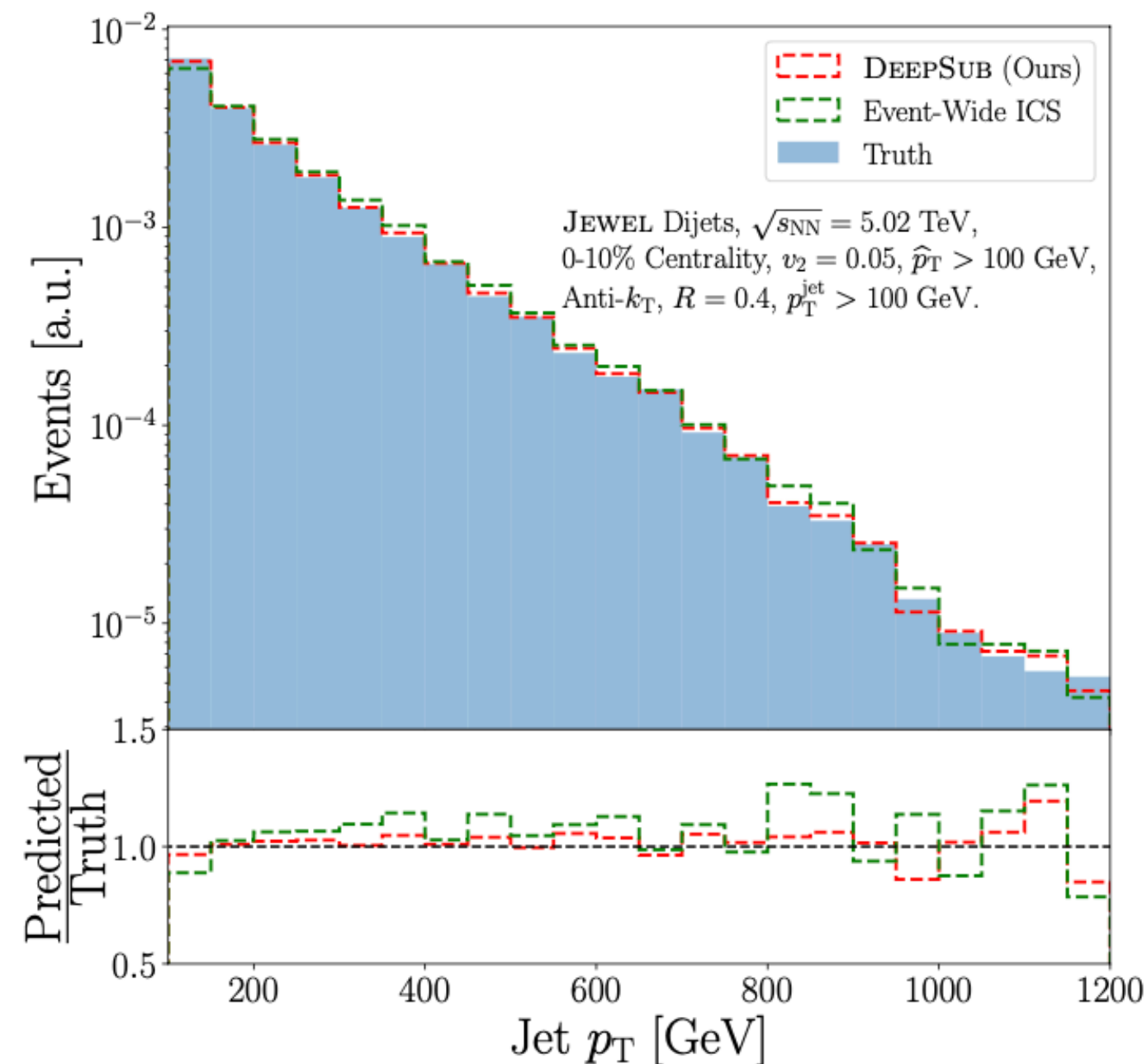
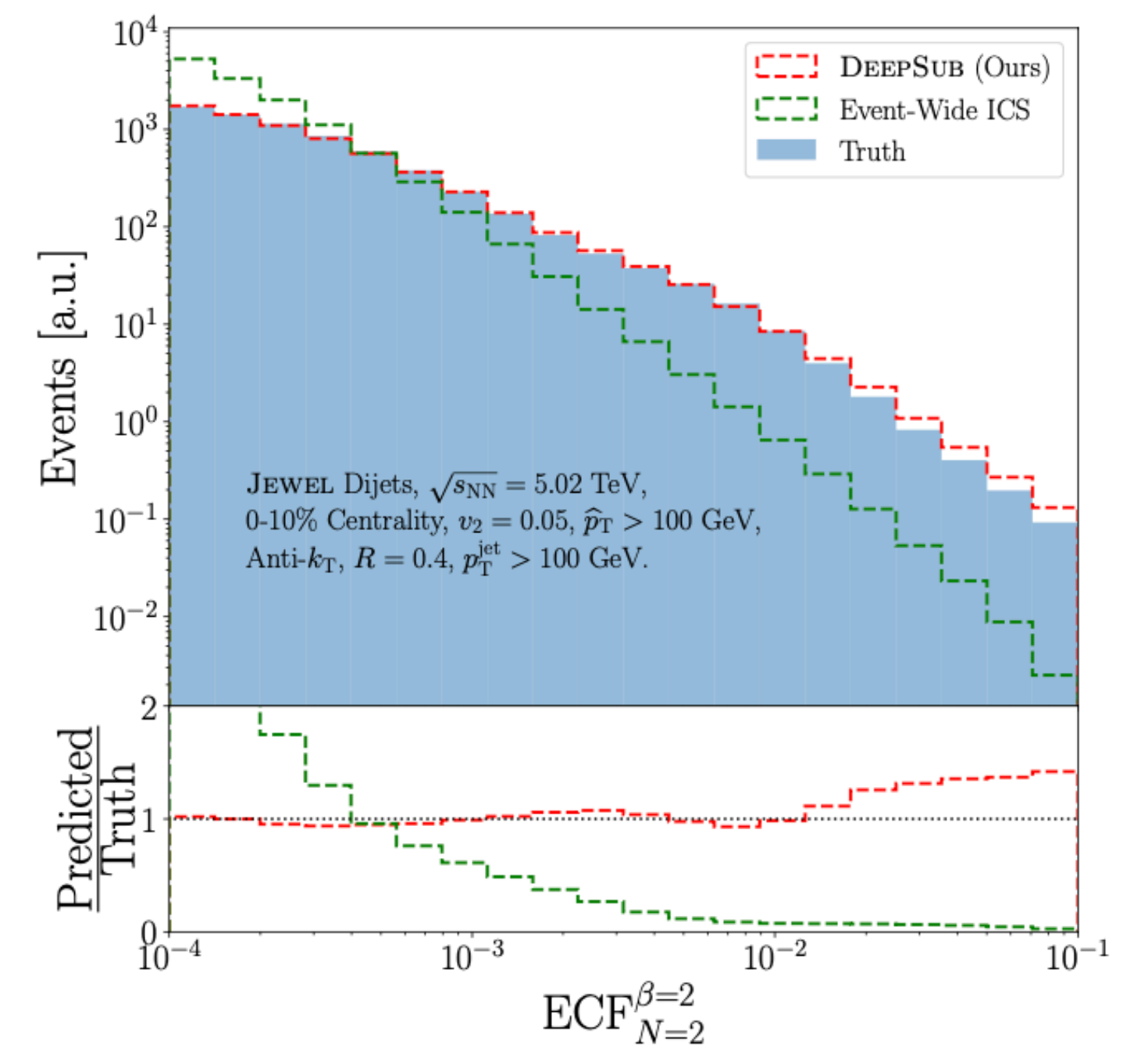
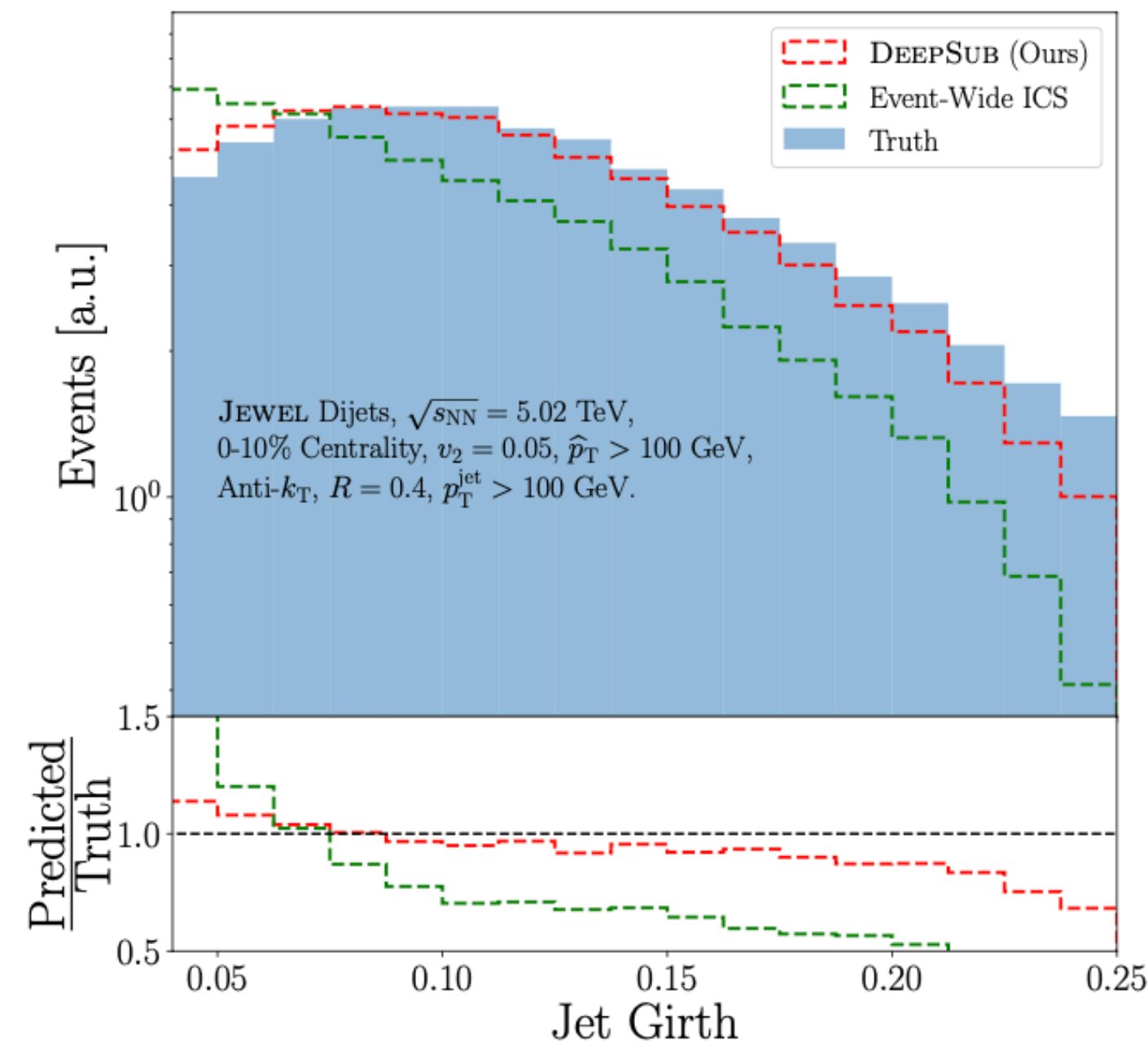
Liu, Ze et.al [2103.14030](#)



- The shifted windowing scheme brings greater efficiency by limiting self-attention computation to non-overlapping local windows while also allowing for cross-window connection.
- This hierarchical architecture has the flexibility to model at various scales and has linear computational complexity with respect to image size.

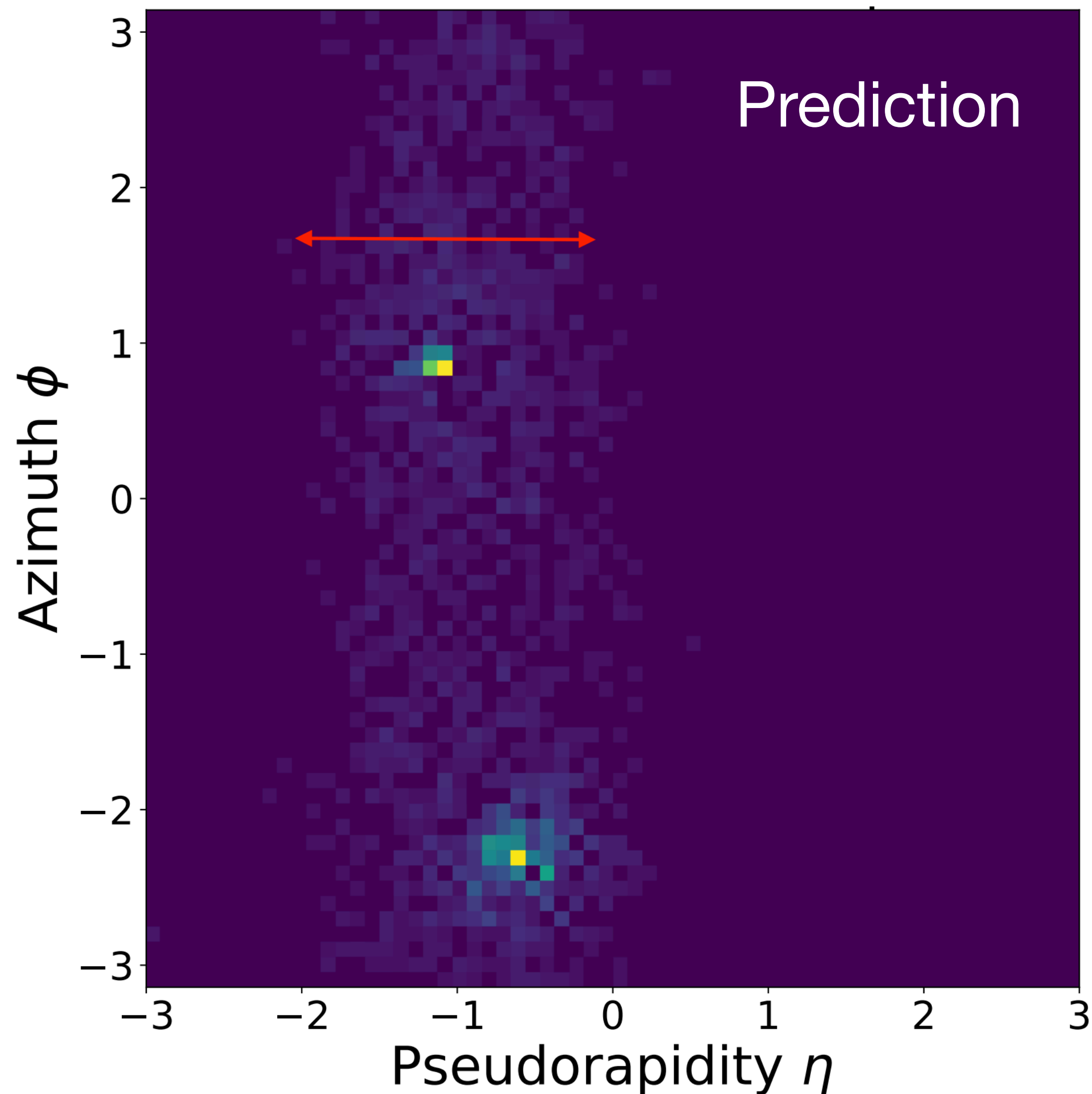
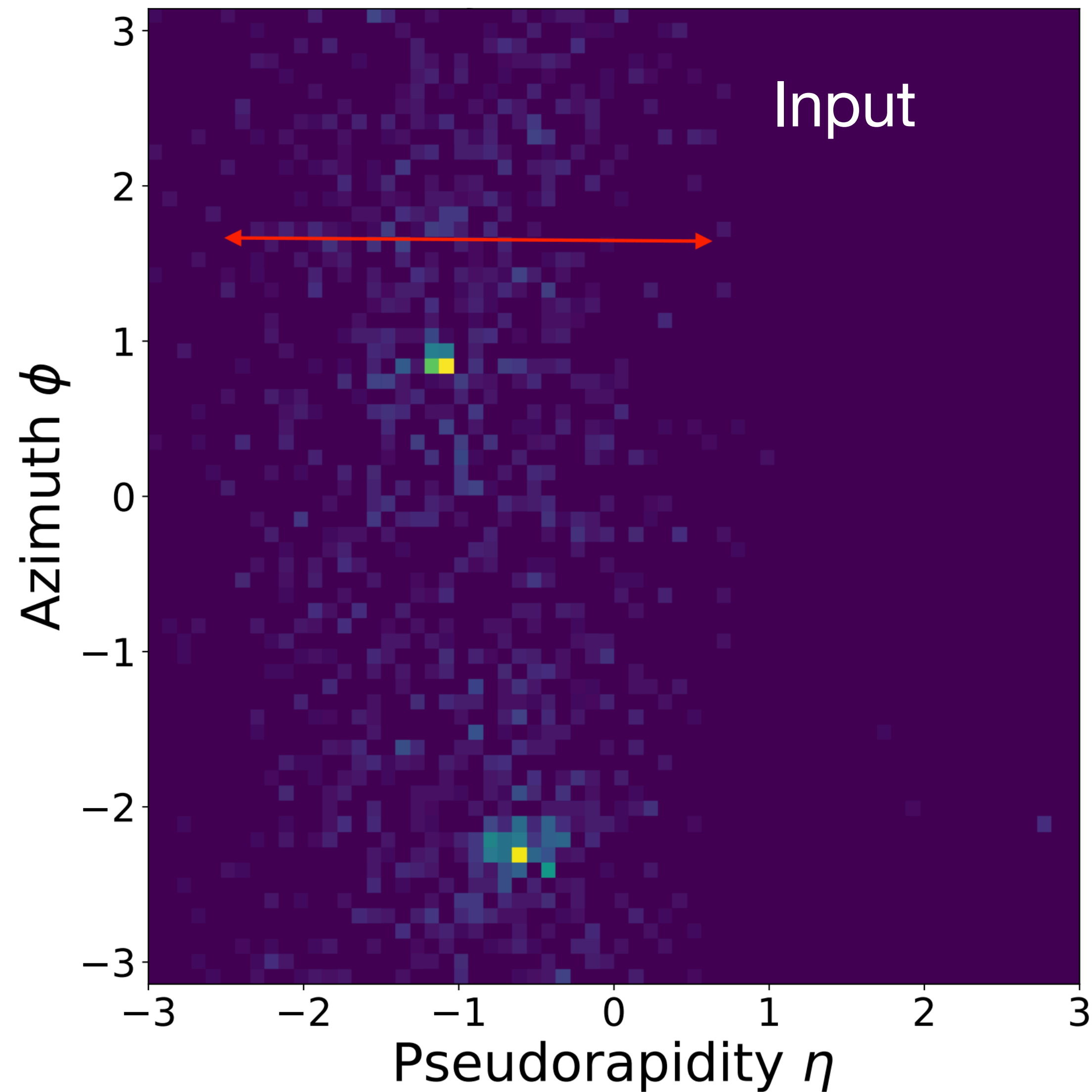
# DEEPSUB vs Consti-Sub

- Jets almost always have steeply falling distributions which make it hard for model predictions to get right
- Scalar quantities as always are *\*very\** good, BUT 4-momentum distributions are difficult since they are sensitive to low  $p_T$  objects

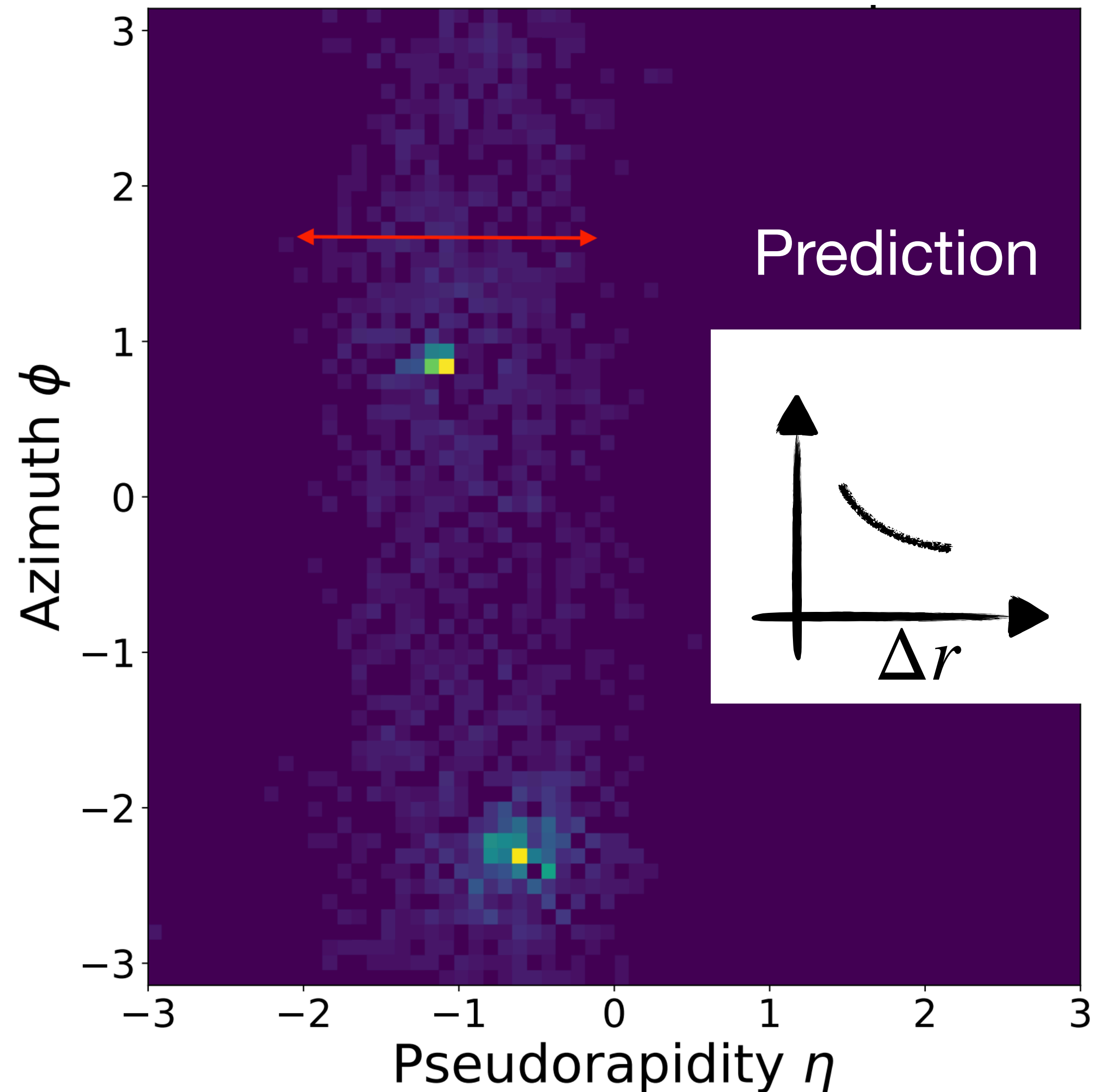
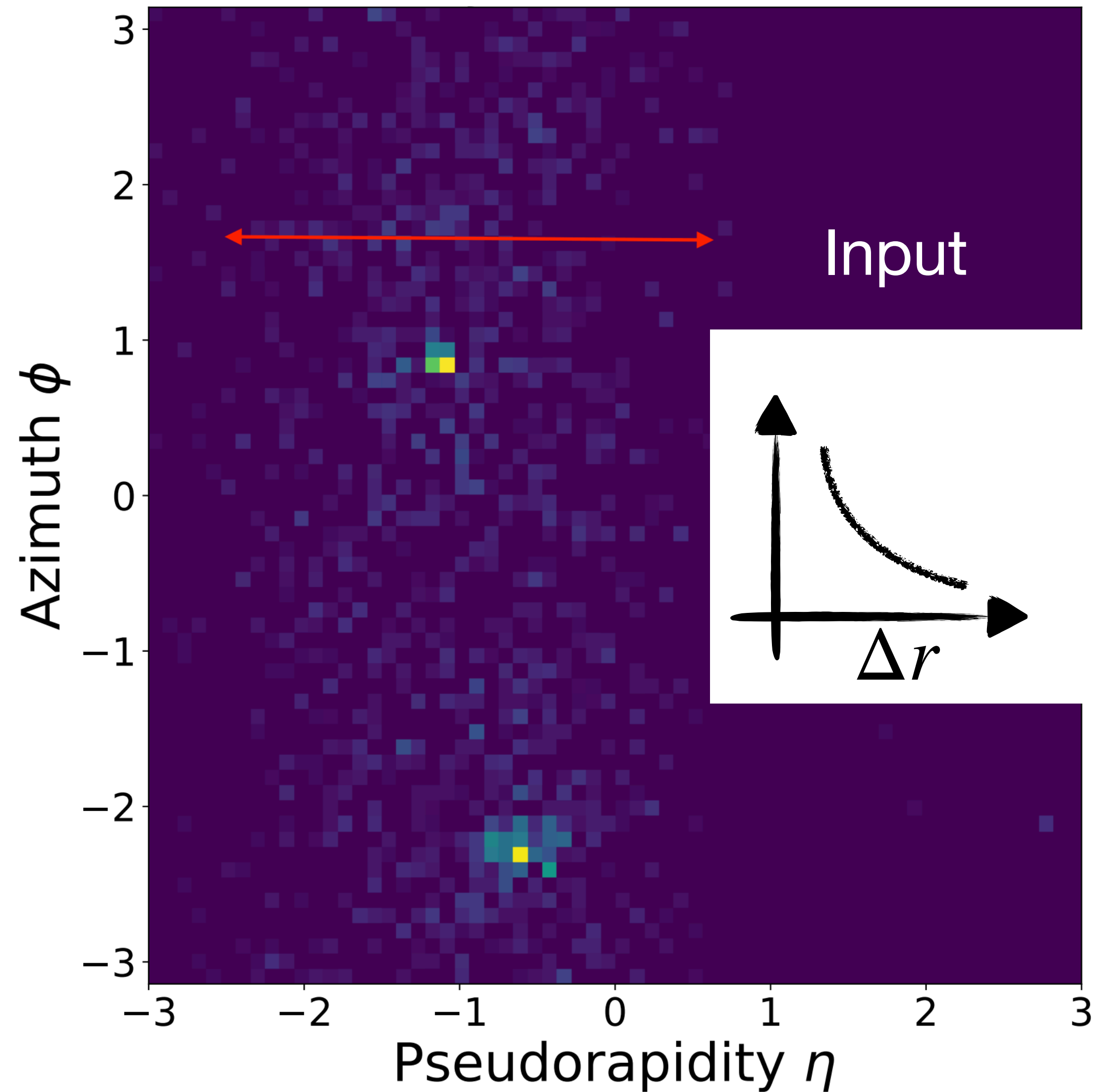




# Whats wrong here?



# Need physics-motivated loss functions





# Conclusion

- We are on the roadmap towards discovery with the EIC
- We are building systems now that will enable fast physics extraction with specific models that answer specific questions
- **Very few questions are solved out of the box**
- Jets are multi-scale, multi-dimensional, information (n) sparse but dimensionally dense and are a good laboratory for study these questions
- **Different jets are different - we need physics motivated models**
- EIC will teach us a lot of physics - but it will also be a very pure baseline for comparison with current pp or pA or AA jets!

