

# Tools for Unbinned Unfolding

Ryan Milton  
AI4EIC 2025

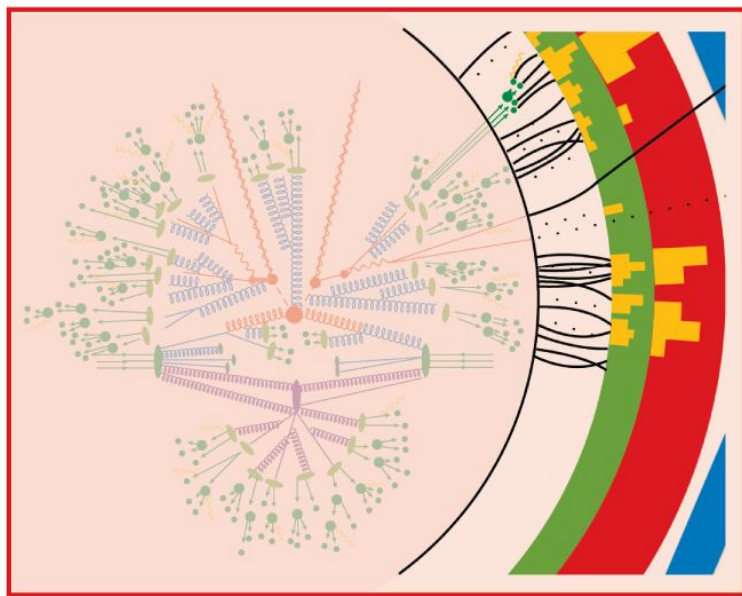
In collaboration with: V. Mikuni, T. Lee, M. Arratia, T. Wamorkar, B. Nachman



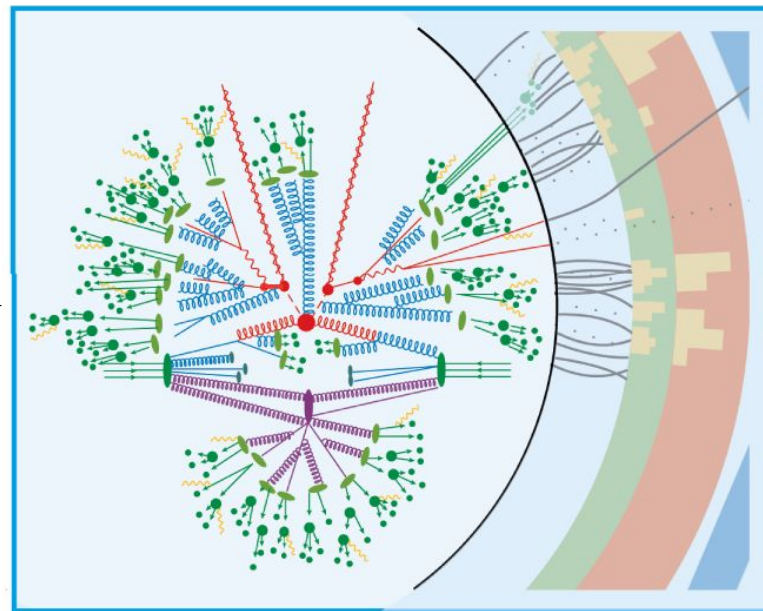
NSF CSSI 2311666

# Overview of unfolding

- Objective: Remove detector distortions from experimental data



Experimental data



Physics information

Binned unfolding

$$m = R t$$

# Binned unfolding

$$m = Rt$$

Measured  
data



# Binned unfolding

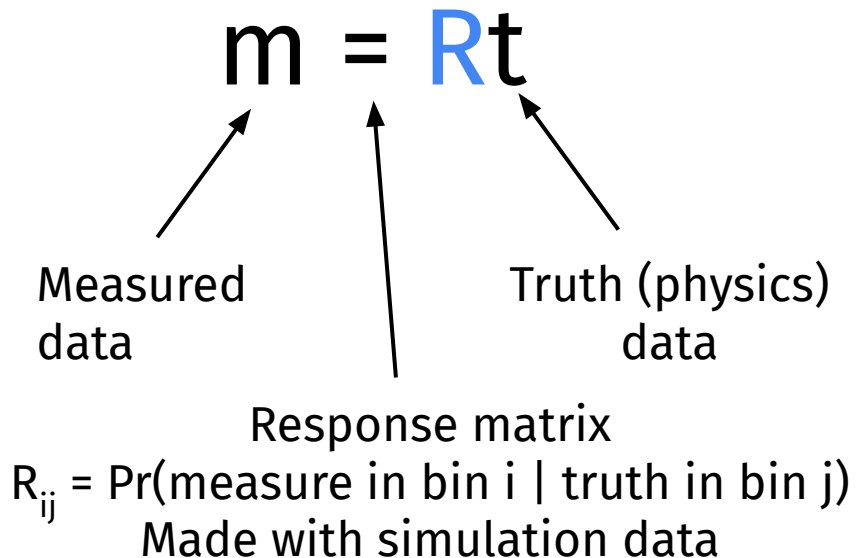
$$m = R t$$

Measured data

Truth (physics) data

The diagram illustrates the equation  $m = R t$ . The variable  $m$  is labeled 'Measured data' with an arrow pointing to it. The variable  $t$  is labeled 'Truth (physics) data' with an arrow pointing to it. The matrix  $R$  is highlighted in blue.

# Binned unfolding



# Binned unfolding

$$\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{t}$$

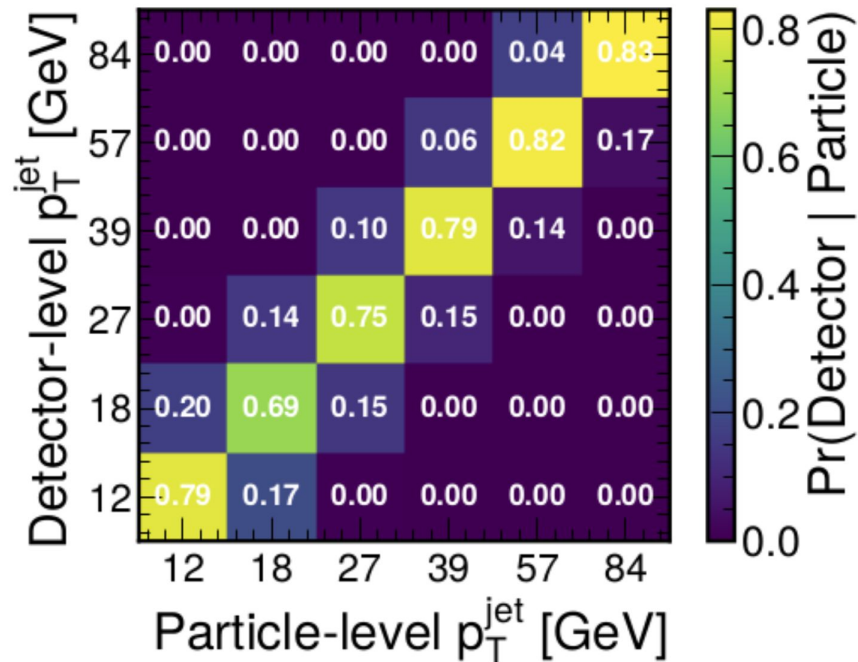
Measured data

Truth (physics) data

Response matrix

$R_{ij} = \text{Pr}(\text{measure in bin } i \mid \text{truth in bin } j)$

Made with simulation data



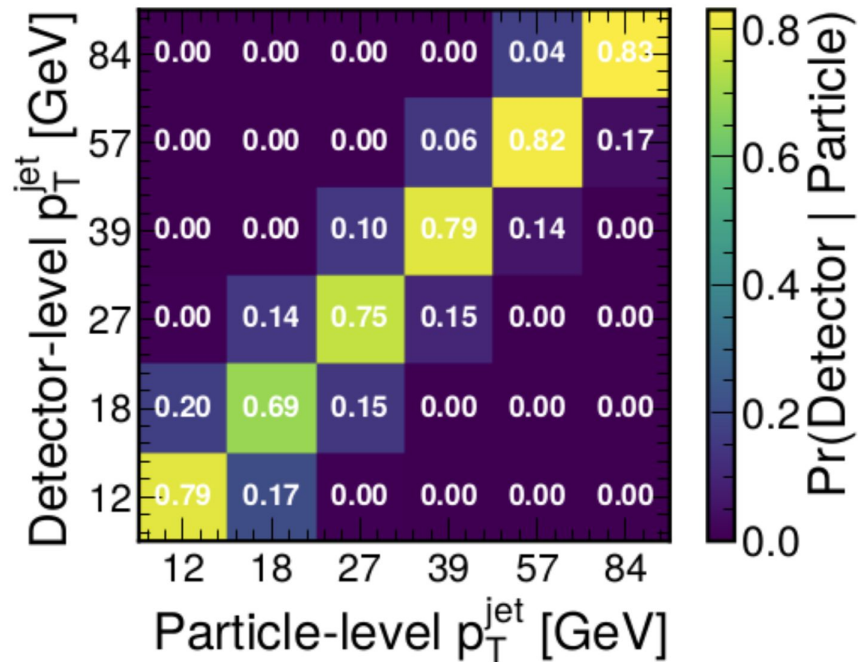
Example of response matrix

## Binned unfolding

$$\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{t}$$



$$\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{R}^{-1}\mathbf{m}$$



Example of response matrix



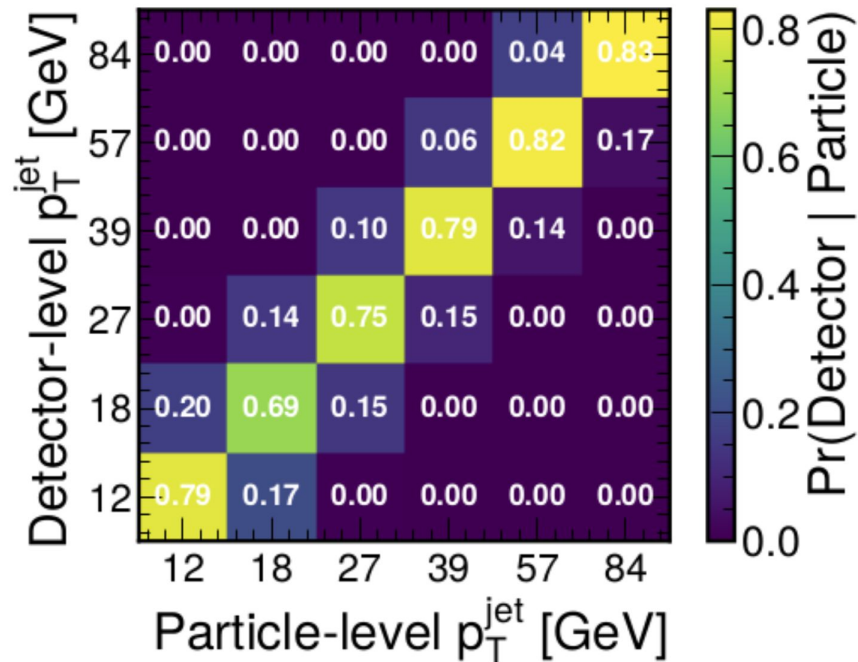
## Binned unfolding

$$\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{t}$$



$$\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{R}^{-1}\mathbf{m}$$

Main idea of binned unfolding is to  
~invert the response matrix!



Example of response matrix

# Binned unfolding

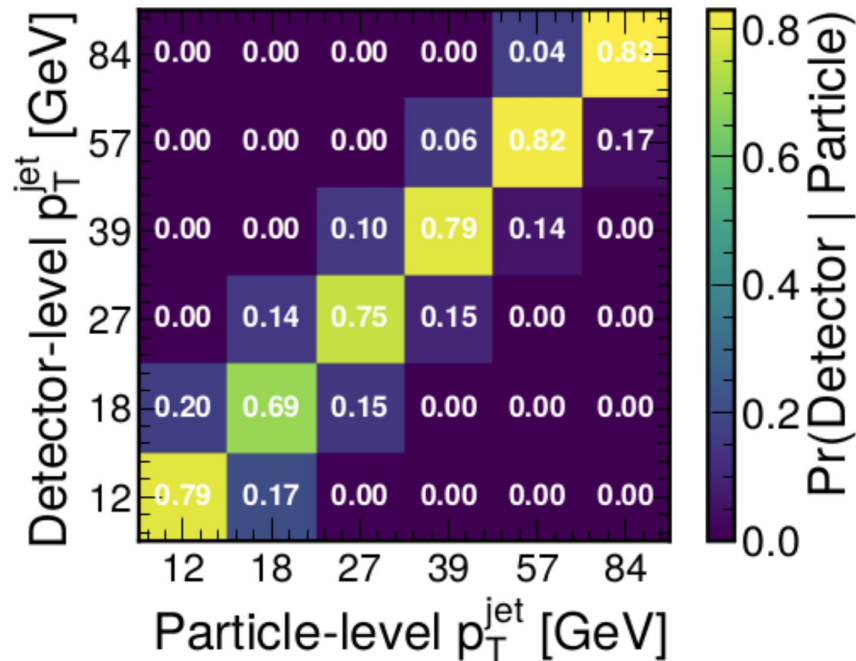
$$\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{R}\mathbf{t}$$



Examples:  
Singular value  
decomposition,  
Iterative Bayesian  
unfolding

$$\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{R}^{-1}\mathbf{m}$$

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Example of response matrix

# Drawbacks of binned unfolding

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- How to define optimal binning?
  - Must be chosen before unfolding procedure
  - Binning choices makes it difficult to compare between experiments and to publish data

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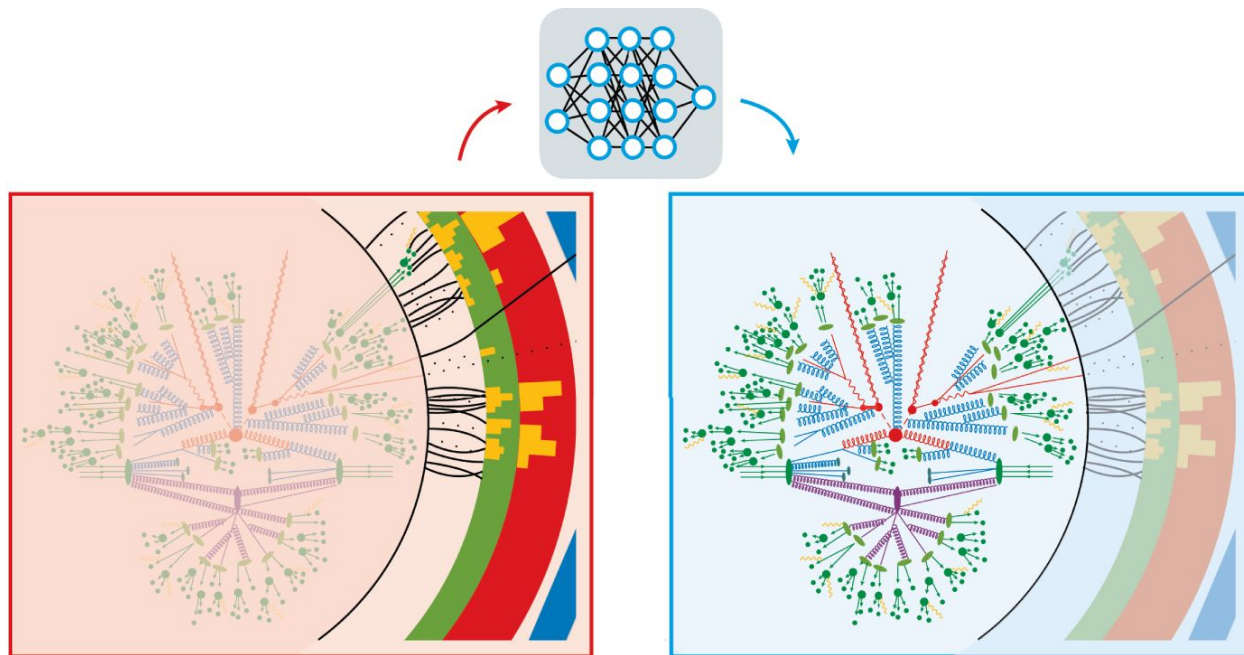
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- Difficult to scale histograms to multiple dimensions by including multiple distributions

# Drawbacks of binned unfolding

- How to define optimal binning?
  - Must be chosen before unfolding procedure
  - Binning choices makes it difficult to compare between experiments and to publish data
- Difficult to scale histograms to multiple dimensions by including multiple distributions
- Integrate over quantities thought to be irrelevant for a specific analysis
  - For other observables, like those motivated by future theoretical insight, may have to repeat analysis from scratch

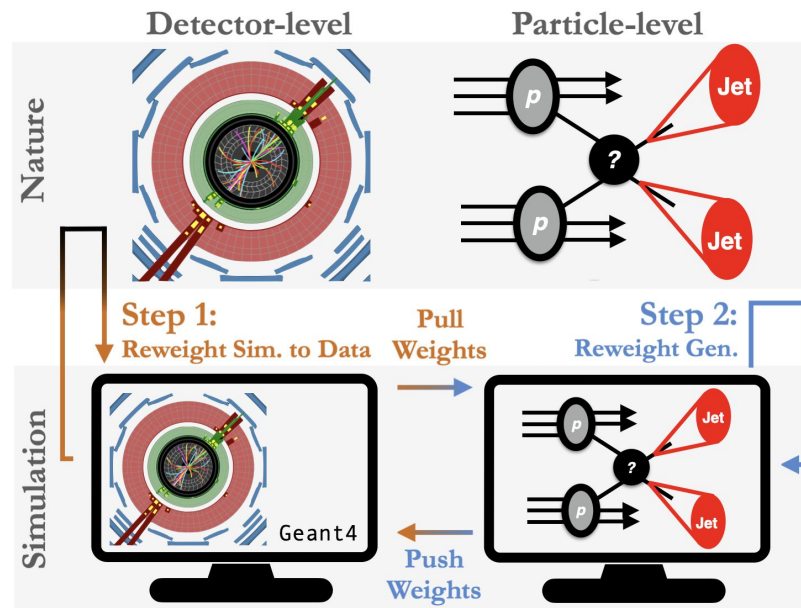
# Unbinned unfolding motivation

- Motivates an unbinned unfolding method using machine learning
- Naturally unbinned and can handle high dimensions



# Unbinned unfolding with OmniFold

- Iterative Bayesian Unfolding (IBU) is a popular binned unfolding algorithm
- Each iteration can be broken down into two steps
- In each step, a likelihood ratio is approximated
- Can estimate these two ratios using classifiers instead
- Use these likelihood ratios as unfolding weights!



Adapted from A. Andreassen, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **124**, 182001 (2020)



# Applications of OmniFold

- OmniFold has been applied to many experimental analyses!

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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **128**, 132002 (2022)

**Measurement of Lepton-Jet Correlation in Deep-Inelastic Scattering with the H1 Detector Using Machine Learning for Unfolding**

Measurement of event shapes in minimum bias events from pp collisions at 13 TeV

The CMS Collaboration

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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **133**, 261803 (2024)

**Simultaneous Unbinned Differential Cross-Section Measurement of Twenty-Four Z + jets Kinematic Observables with the ATLAS Detector**

G. Aad *et al.*<sup>\*</sup>  
(ATLAS Collaboration)

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PHYSICAL REVIEW D **108**, L031103 (2023)

**Multidifferential study of identified charged hadron distributions in Z-tagged jets in proton-proton collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV**

R. Aaij *et al.*<sup>\*</sup>  
(LHCb Collaboration)

Measurement of CollinearDrop jet mass and its correlation with SoftDrop groomed jet substructure observables in  $\sqrt{s} = 200$  GeV *pp* collisions by STAR

YOUQI SONG (WRIGHT LABORATORY, YALE UNIVERSITY)

*on behalf of the STAR Collaboration*

# Status of unbinned unfolding tools

- [PyPi omnifold](#):
  - Architectures: Multilayer perceptron (MLP) , point-edge transformer (PET)
  - Any number of dimensions
  - May need GPUs to train
- [RooUnfold inspired omnifold](#) (also has a Python interface):
  - Architecture: Boosted decision tree (BDT)
  - Low dimensional unfolding
  - Simple set-up: No data preprocessing, no GPUs needed

## PAPER

### Tools for unbinned unfolding

Ryan Milton, Vinicius Mikuni, Trevin Lee, Miguel Arratia, Tanvi Wamorkar and Benjamin Nachman

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[Journal of Instrumentation](#), Volume 20, May 2025

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**DOI** 10.1088/1748-0221/20/05/P05034

**omnifold 0.1.36**

`pip install omnifold`



OmniFold, a library to perform unbinned and high-dimensional unfolding for HEP.

# Application to jet measurements

- Test unfolding quality using closure test
  - Use two Monte Carlo simulations so we know what the truth looks like!
- Use Pythia as Monte Carlo (Gen/Sim), Herwig as pseudodata (“Truth”/“Data”) to get unfolded jet observables
- Using Delphes fast simulation of CMS detector

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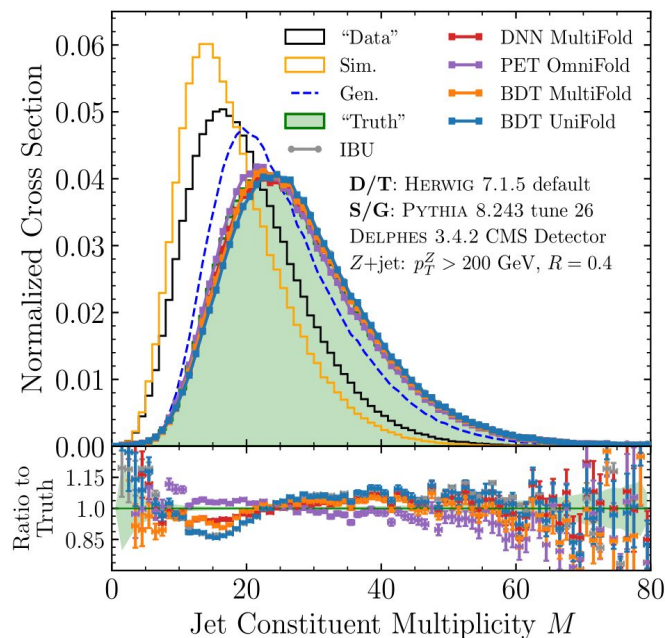
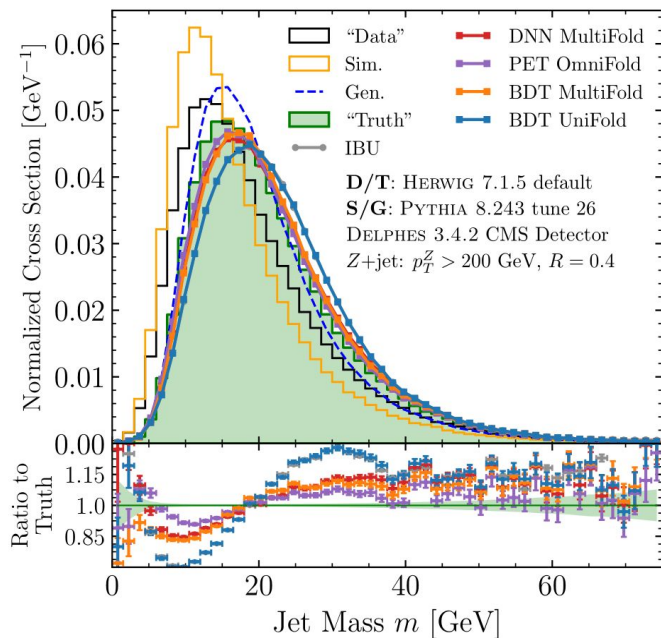
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IBU	N/A	Individual jet observables	Binned

# Performance on jet observables

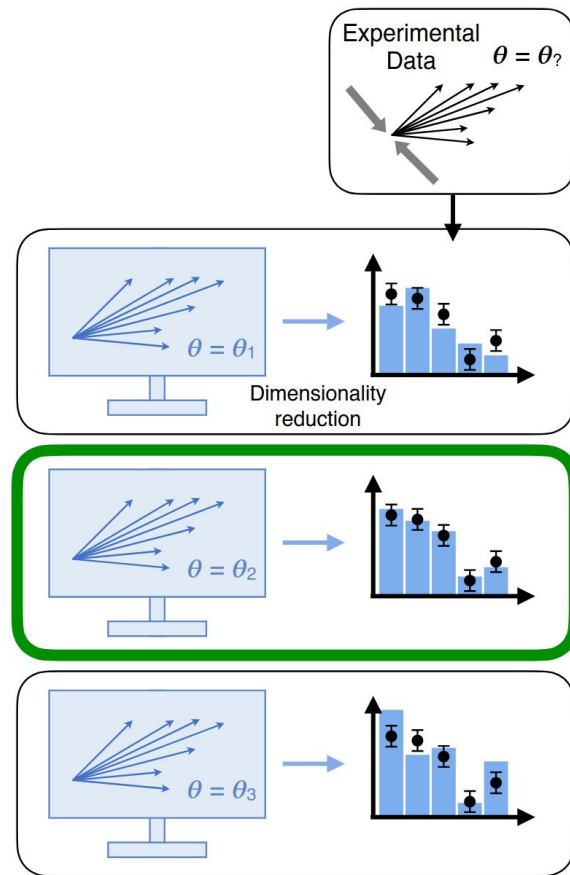
- Trying to match the “Truth” distributions by applying weights to Gen
- Other jet observables in paper: Width, Soft Drop mass, N-subjettiness ratio, groomed jet momentum fraction





# Binned inference

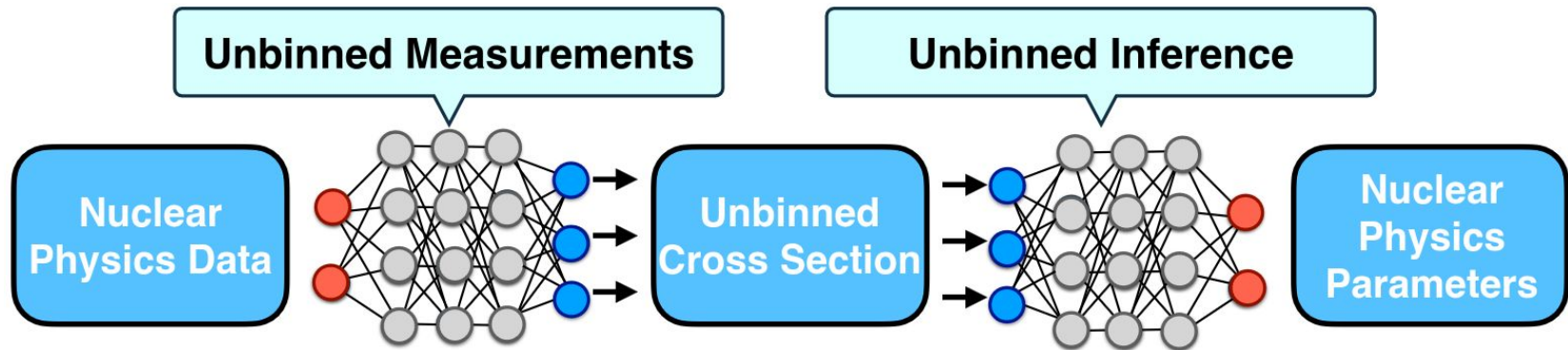
- To go from measurements to matching with theory, need to do inference
- Typically, a functional form is assumed and parameters are fit
  - Computationally expensive and depends on binning



Conventional inference

# ML-based inference

- New approach: Train a model to output probability of data given parameters of PDFs and correlations
- Use this model with unbinned unfolded data!

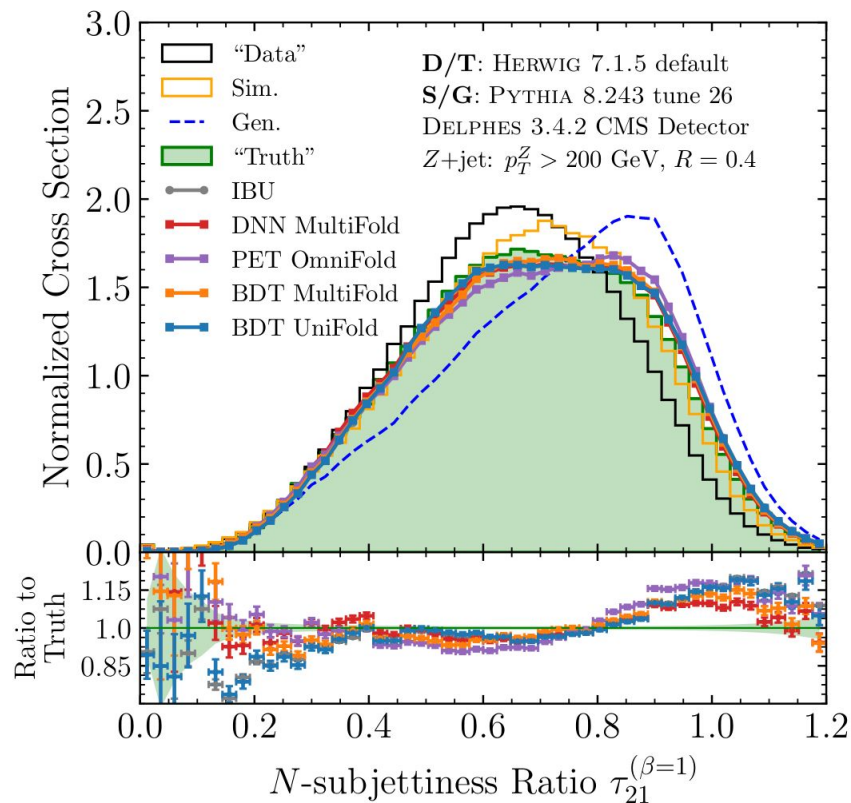
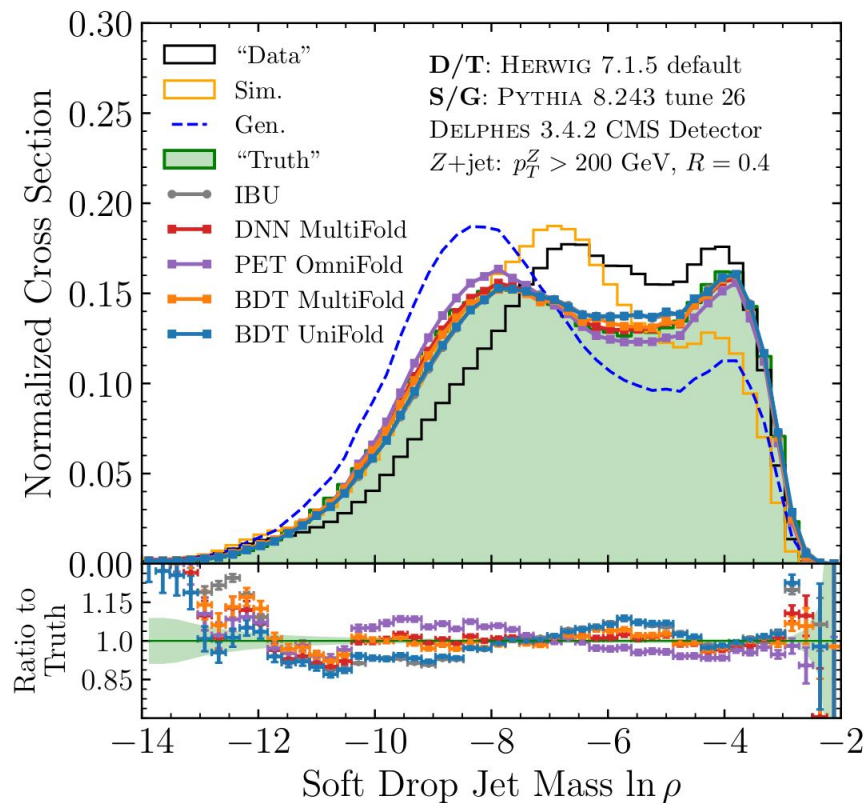


# Summary and outlook

- Binned unfolding is limited, motivating an ML unbinned unfolding approach
  - With ML: Maintain correlations, high dimensional unfolding, no reliance on bin definitions. Also better for data preservation.
- We have developed powerful and easy to use tools to do unbinned unfolding
- These tools prove effective in unfolding jet observables in comparison to traditional binned methods
- Can create a fully unbinned pipeline with unbinned inference
- Incorporation of BDT OmniFold into RooUnfold is ongoing

**Thank you!**

# Backup: Other jet observables



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