

ESI-Fastlight: a Conditional Normalizing Flow for Fast pfRICH Hitmap Generation

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October 2025

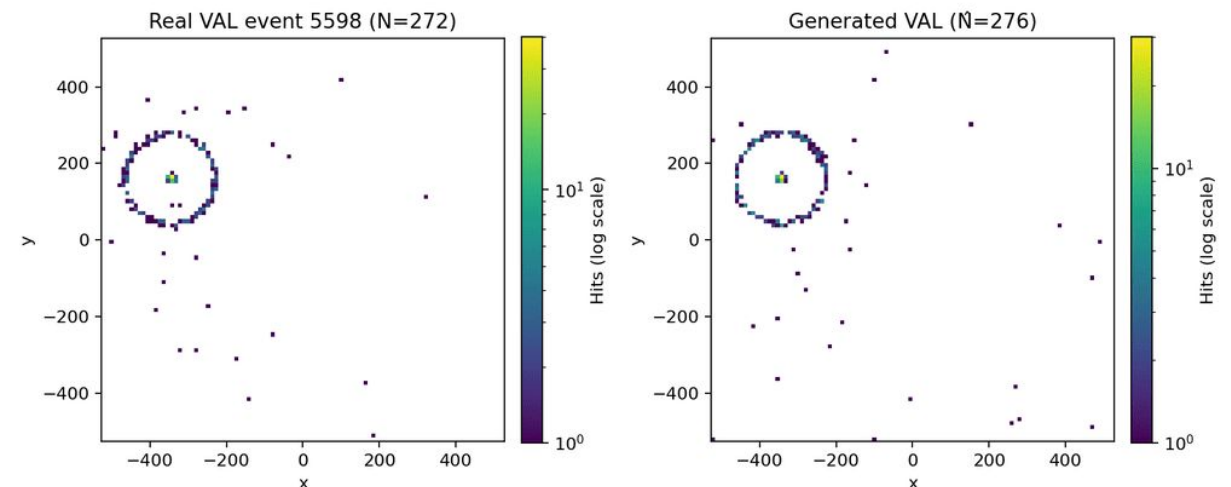
AI4EIC 2025 Workshop, MIT, Boston

ESI-Fastlight¹

- The work is part of a BNL Physics Dept. exploratory R&D project on approaches to improving EIC ePIC simulation
- Goal: realistic pfRICH hitmaps without running Geant4 end-to-end simulation – Utilize ML
 - Input for training: primary momentum, position, hit maps
 - Output of the trained model: realistic hit maps for specified condition (primary params)
- Approach: MLP (multilayer perceptron) + CNF (conditional normalizing flow) with physics-aware priors
- To build the training dataset we used a GPU simulation² to speed up Geant4

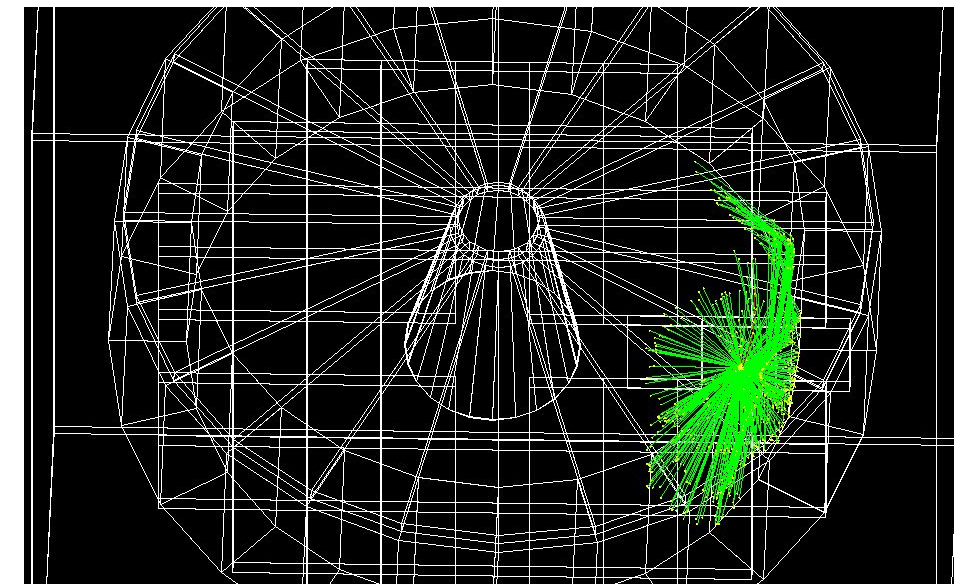
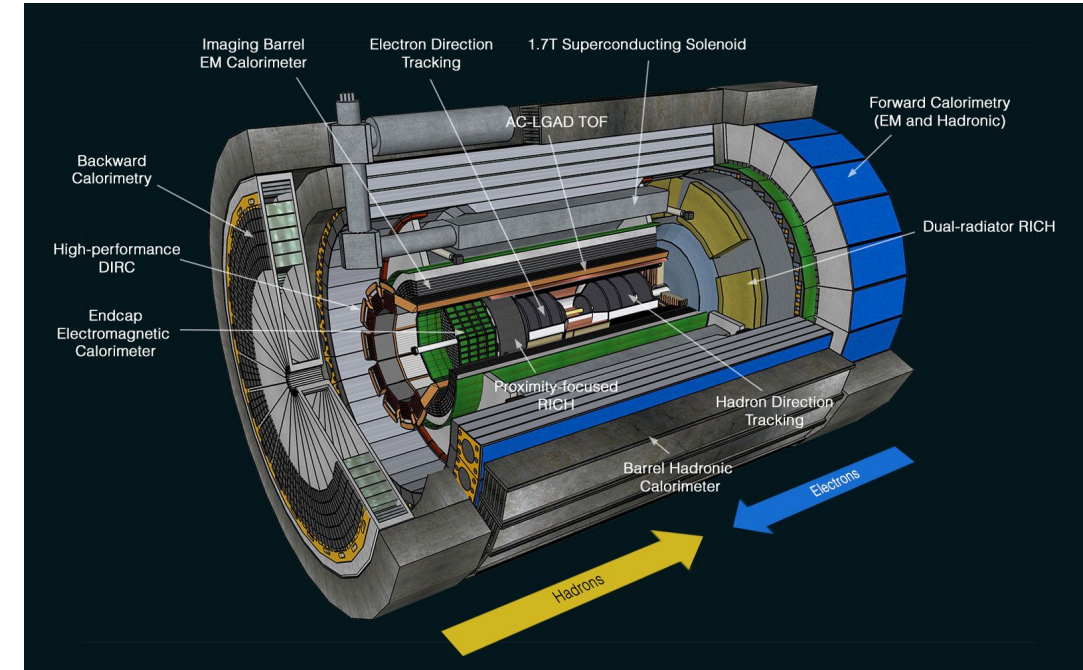
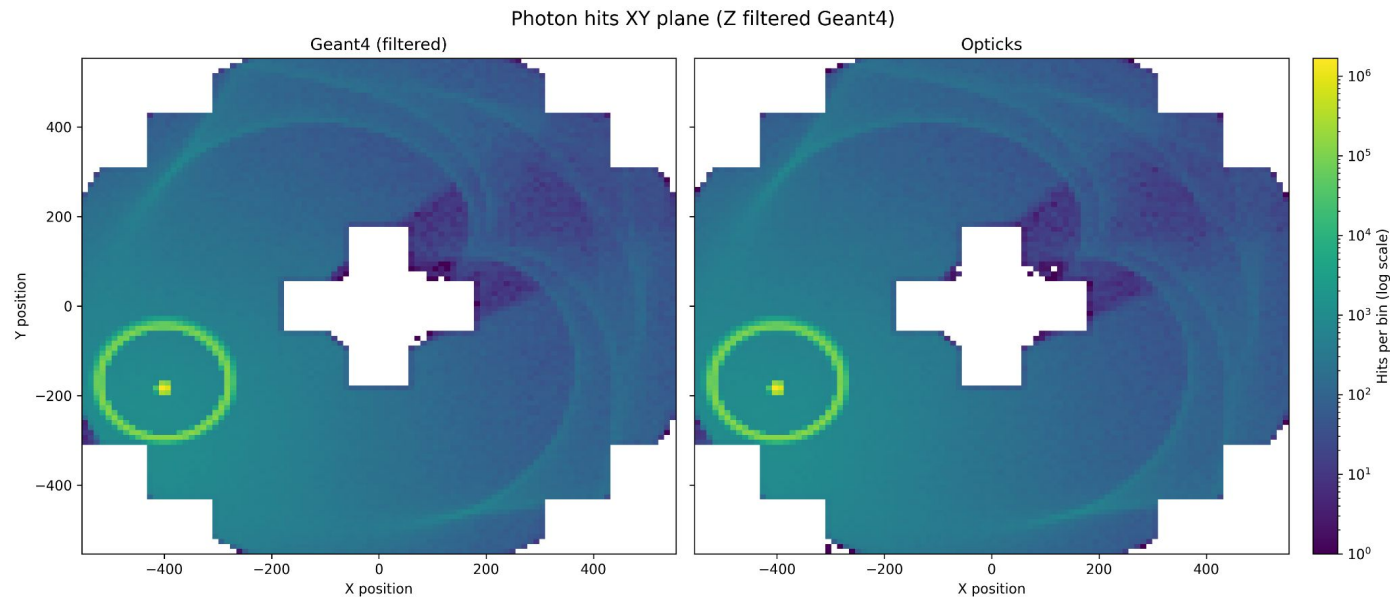
¹<https://github.com/BNLNPPS/esi-fastlight>

²<https://github.com/BNLNPPS/eic-opticks>



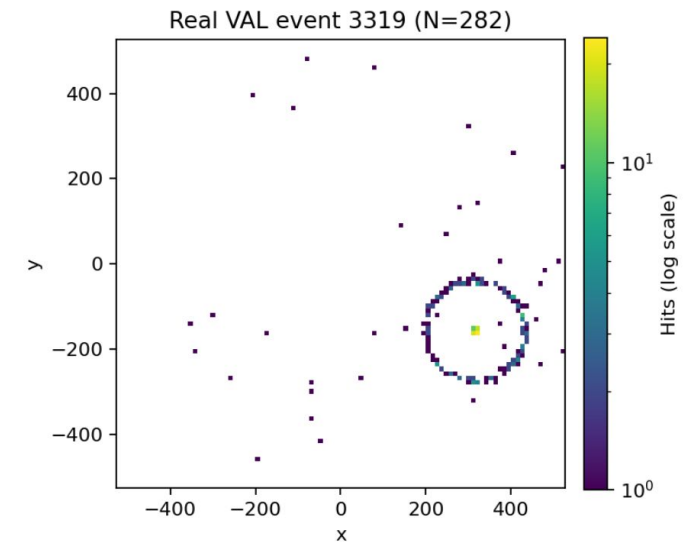
EIC-Opticks with pfRICH geometry

- EIC-Opticks is able to simulate Cherenkov and scintillation photons
- 50k 5 MeV/c $e^- \rightarrow \sim 50\text{M}$ photons
 - Single thread G4 CPU vs EIC-Opticks
148 \pm 9x speedup
 - 20 threads MT G4 CPU vs EIC-Opticks
9.3 \pm 0.5x speedup



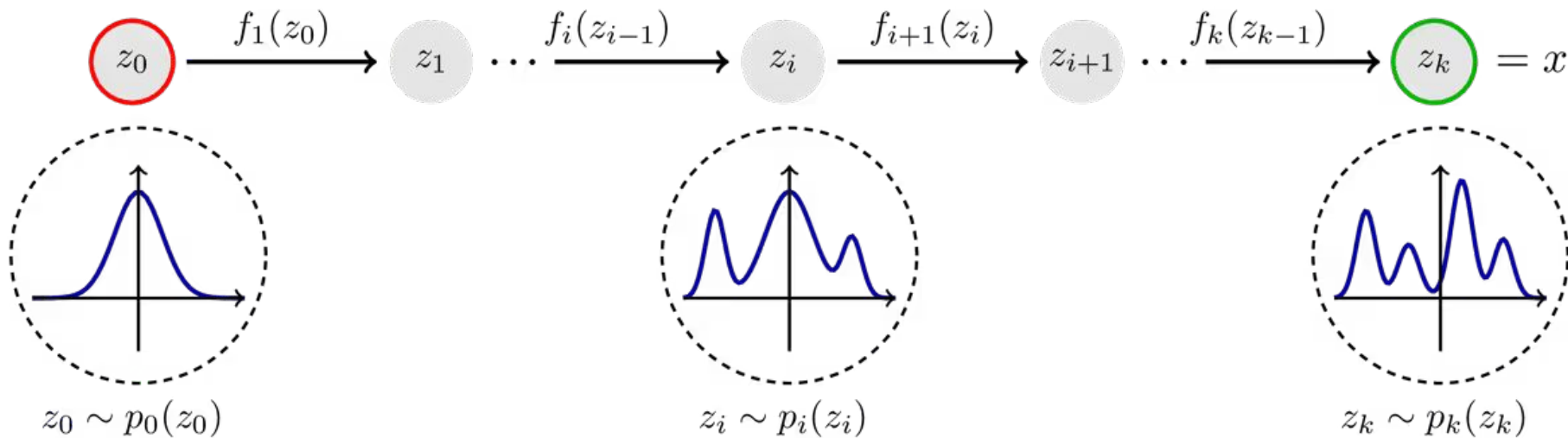
The input data and preprocessing

- Inputs:
 - Hit map, containing a few hundred coordinates (2D)
 - Information on the primary particle (7 conditioners):
 - Kinetic energy
 - Origin
 - Momentum vector
- Preprocessing:
 - Kinetic energy is translated to scale of Cherenkov ring
 - Center prediction: a small MLP predicts the ring center
 - Hits are “shifted” so the ring would be in center
 - Translation handling: the CNF’s vector field sees centered hits, so the flow learns shape



Conditional Normalizing Flow explanation

- Normalizing Flow Idea: “Construct complex distributions from simple ones via a flow of successive invertible transformations”
 - 1. Define an underlying PDF (probability density function) in latent space
 - 2. Find the transformation/flow that describes the measured datasets by transforming the defined PDF
 - 3. Likelihood maximization is used to fit the transformation/flow parameters
 - 4. Invert the transformation flow -> Can create realistic samples
- An example of set of transformations that map Gaussian to complex PDF:



CNF explanation

- Our prior:

- Ring
- Tight Gaussian
- Very wide Gaussian

$$p(z | c) = \underbrace{w_{\text{ring}}(c) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} S(c) \|z - \mu(c)\|} \exp\left[-\frac{(\|z - \mu(c)\| - R(c))^2}{2 S(c)^2}\right]}_{p_{\text{ring}}(z | c)} + \underbrace{w_{\text{center}}(c) \frac{1}{2\pi \sigma(c)^2} \exp\left[-\frac{\|z - \mu(c)\|^2}{2 \sigma(c)^2}\right]}_{p_{\text{center}}(z | c)} + \underbrace{w_{\text{noise}}(c) \frac{1}{2\pi \tau^2} \exp\left[-\frac{\|z\|^2}{2 \tau^2}\right]}_{p_{\text{noise}}(z)}$$

- The weights are learned on the conditions

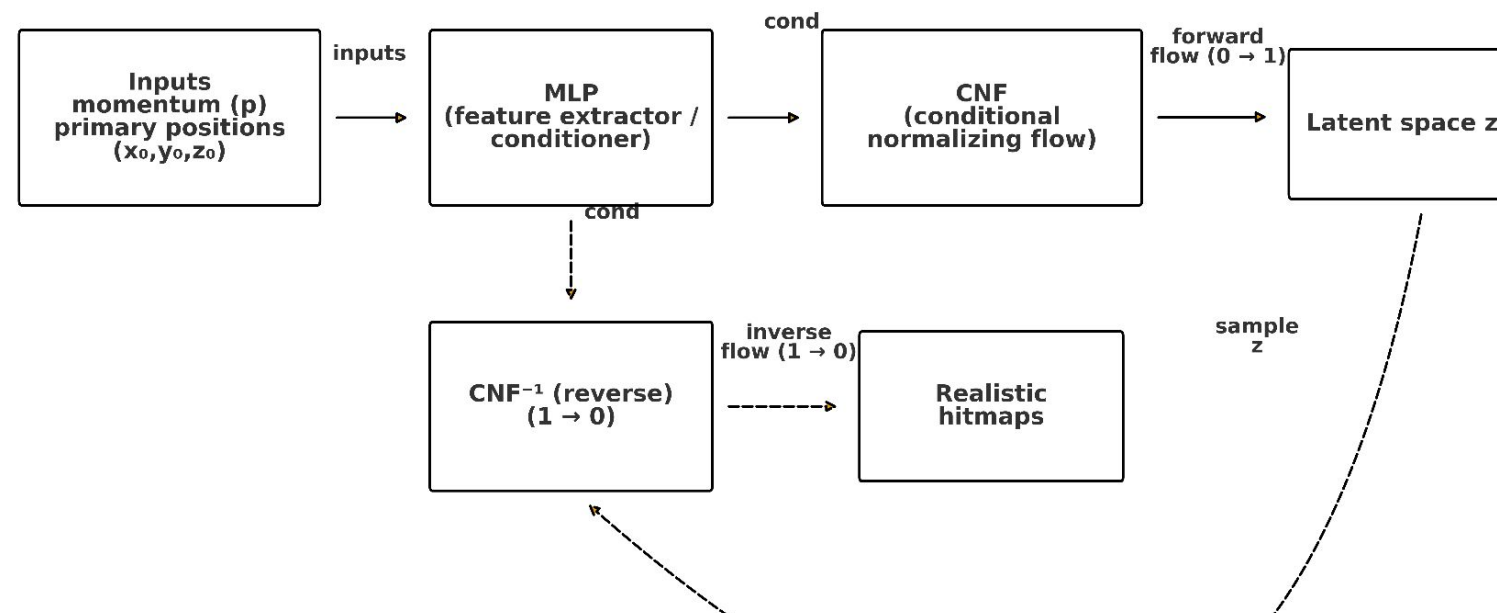
- Loss main terms:

- Hit NLL (negative log likelihood): fit observed hits
- Mixture prior: regularizer against degeneracy
- Count NLL: Total hits per event N

$$\mathcal{L} = \underbrace{\left[-\log p_0(z_0) + \int_0^1 \text{Tr}(\partial f_\theta / \partial z_t) dt \right]}_{\text{Hit NLL}} + \lambda_m \mathcal{L}_{\text{mix}} + \lambda_N \mathcal{L}_{\text{count}}$$

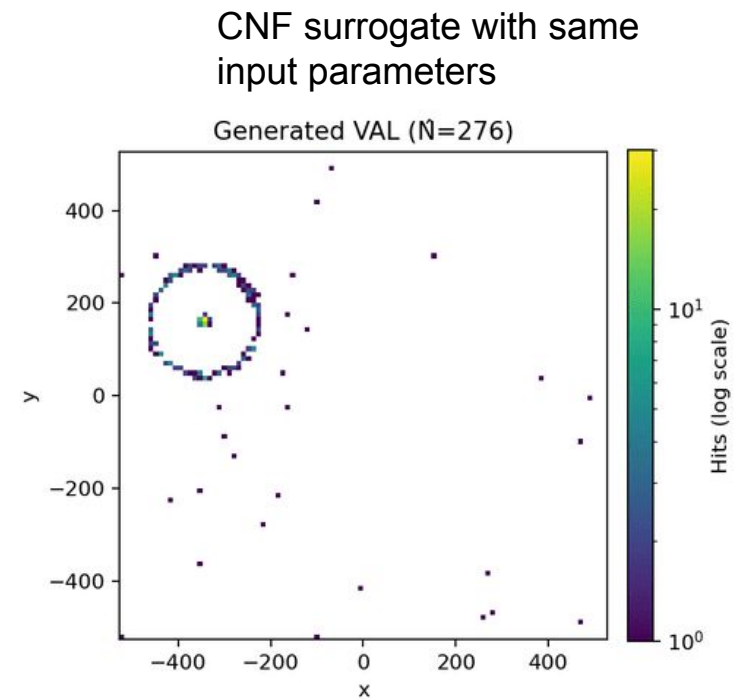
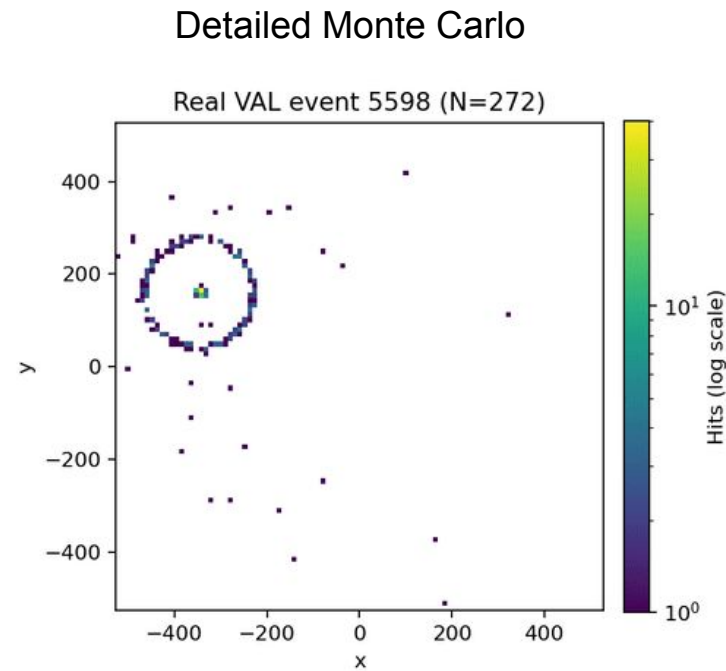
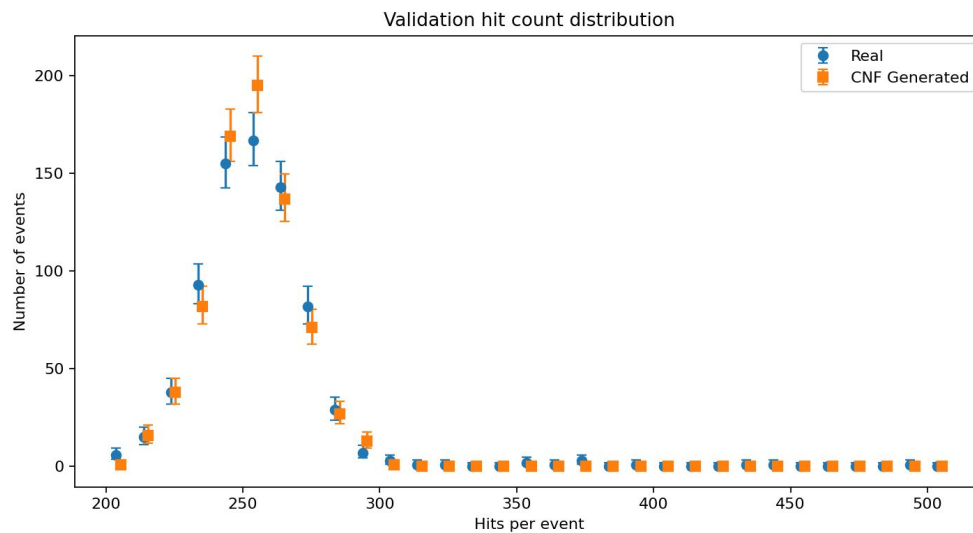
Architecture

- ~10k trainable parameters
- 6 MLP heads to determine:
 - Center position, center width, ring radius, ring thickness
 - Prior mixture weights
 - Poisson count head
- Core MLP:
 - Vector field that maps hits between data and latent space
 - Used to determine PDF for a given set of conditioners



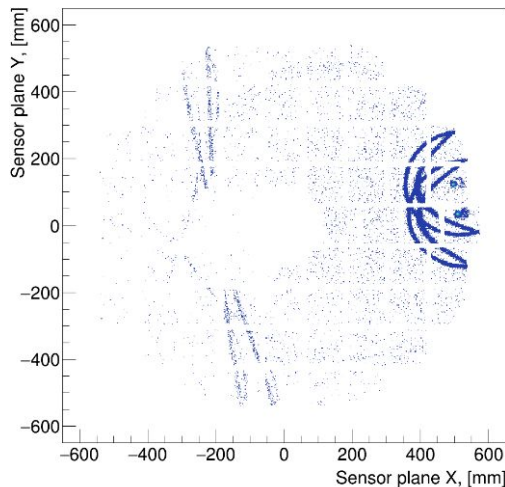
Results and outlook

- Network is currently capable of generating events with one ring
 - Model is ~100kB saved



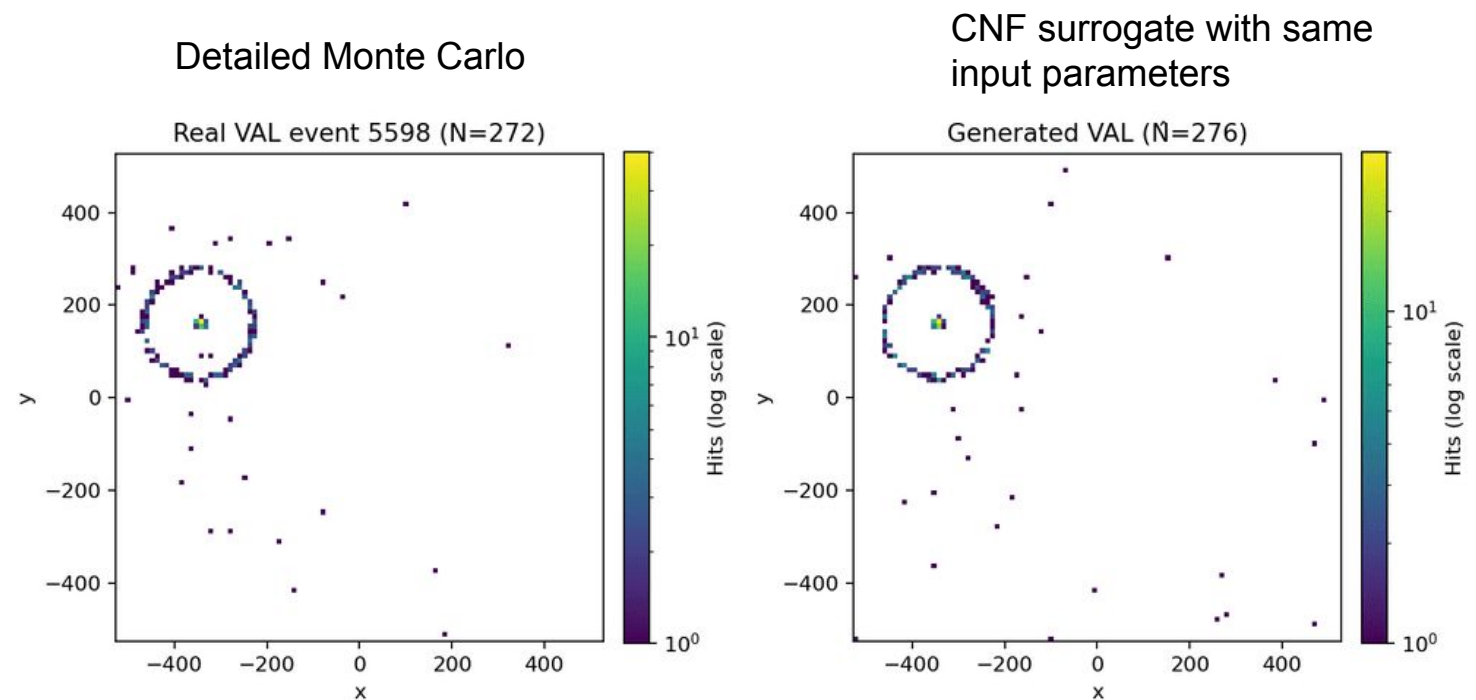
Results and outlook

- Network is currently capable of generating events with one ring
 - Model is ~100kB saved
 - Need to allow multiple rings
 - Train for pions, kaons and protons
- Investigate reconstruction?
- Investigate folded rings edge case
- PID? Reconstruction?



Brian Page

2023 Electron-Ion Collider User Group meeting



Thank you for your attention!