

"Hyper-K physics Workshop at D1PC"  
(June 2023)

"MACHINE LEARNING IN PARTICLE PHYSICS"  
Bryan Zaldivar (Valencia)

# Outline

- What does machine learning bring to physics?
- Some examples of different uses of ML for Dark Matter [DISCLAIMER]
- Good practices when applying ML to physics



# MOTIVATION

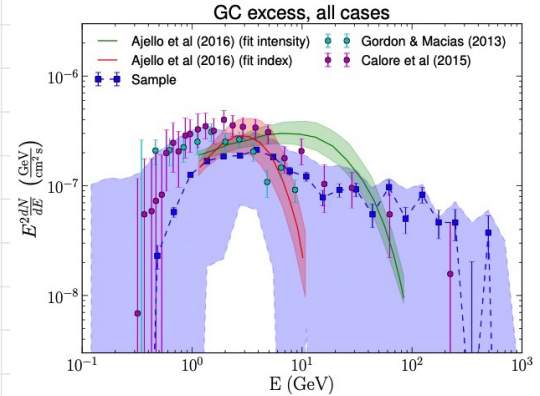
- \* Physical knowledge of background is limited  
(common problem in astrophysics)

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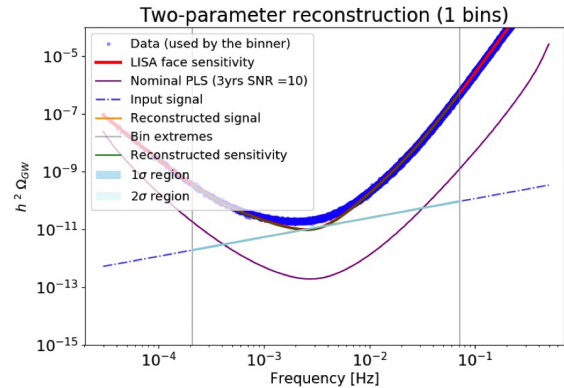
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e.g. •  $\gamma$ -rays  
• GW's

Fermi-LAT, 1704.03910



Caprini et al, 1906.09244



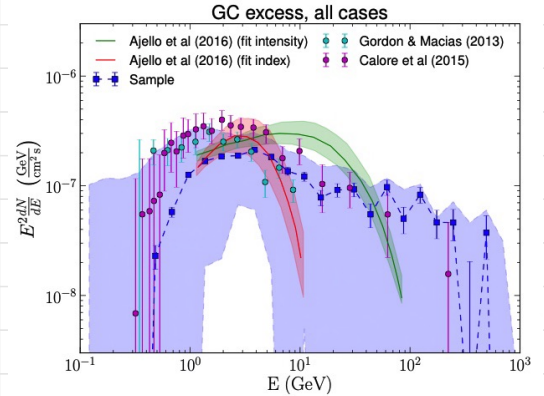
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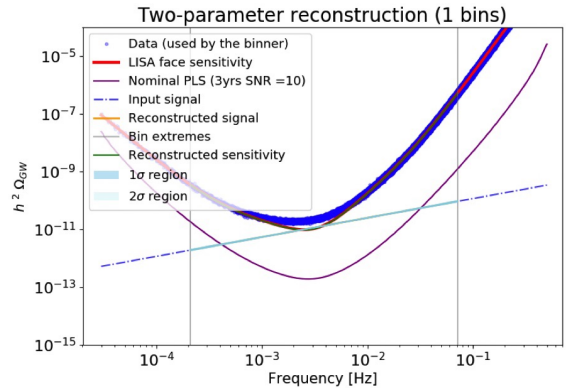
- e.g.
- $\gamma$ -rays
  - GW's

Signal + Background  $\Leftrightarrow$  Data  
 interest (Physical model)  $\Leftrightarrow$  misance (data-driven model)

Fermi-LAT, 1704.03910



Caprini et al, 1906.09244



# MOTIVATION

\* Physics well known, but  
observables very complicated to  
compute

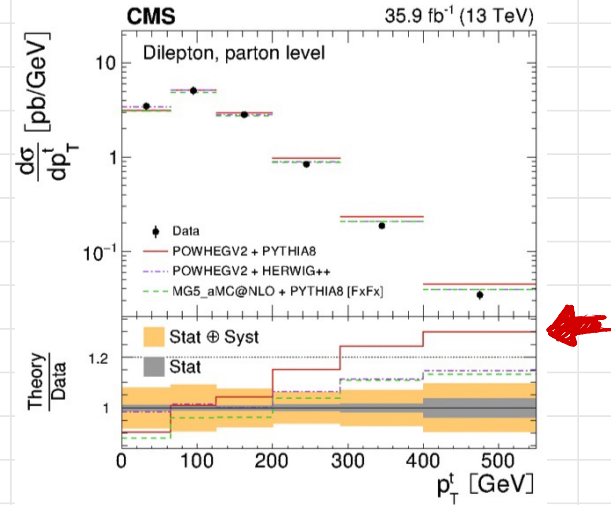
(complex topology, particle  
misidentification, etc)

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TOP-17-014-PAS

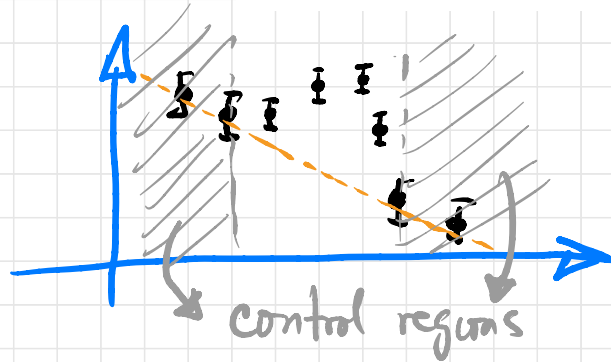


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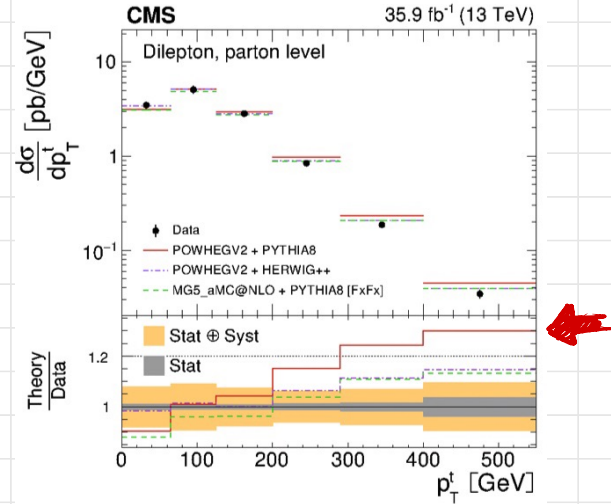
\* Physics well known, but observables very complicated to compute

(complex topology, particle misidentification, etc)

Data-driven methods to infer the background from inter/extrapolations



TOP-17-014-PAS



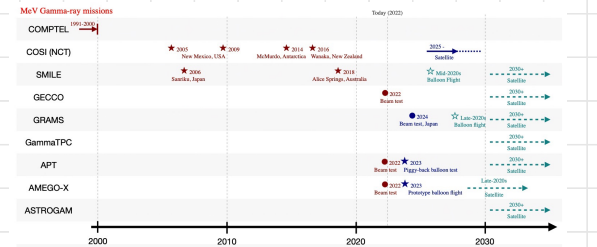
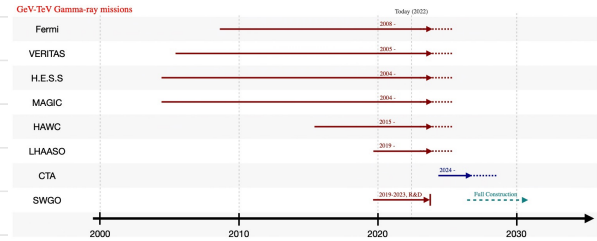
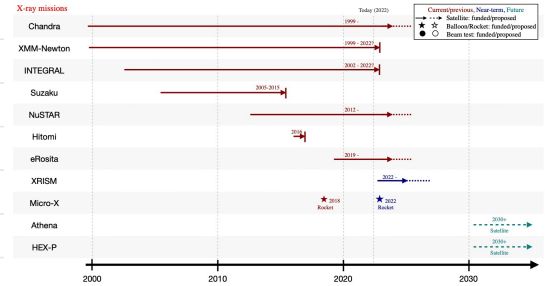
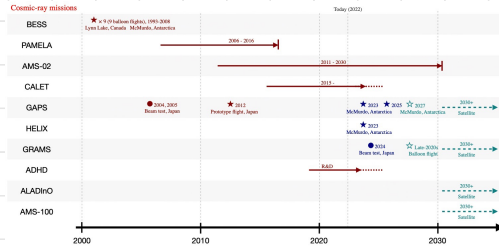
# MOTIVATION

Snowmass, 2209.07426

Name	Technology	Target	Active Mass	Experiment Location	Start Ops	End Ops
<b>Currently Running or Under Construction</b>						
LZ	TPC	LXe	7,000 kg	SNOLAB	2021	2030
Frankfurt	TPC	LXe	4,000 kg	CJPL	2021	2025
XENONnT	TPC	LXe	7,000 kg	LNGS	2021	2025
DEAP-3600	Scintillator	NaI	3,000 kg	SNOLAB	2016	2025
DarkSide-20k	TPC	LAr	20 t	LNGS	2019	2025
DAMA/LIBRA	Scintillator	LaF <sub>3</sub>	250 kg	LNGS	2009	2025
ANASIS-12	Scintillator	NaI	112 kg	China	2017	2022
SABRE-Pd	Scintillator	NaI	5 kg	LNGS	2021	2022
COSINE-200	Scintillator	NaI	200 kg	YangYang	2022	2025
CDEX-10	Ionization (TR)	Ge	10 kg	CJPL	2014	
EDELWEISS II (Brq. Pd)	Cryo Ionization / HV	Ge	30 kg	LSM	2019	
SuperGEM	Cryo Ionization / HV	Ge/Si	5 kg/1 kg	SNOLAB	2020	2022
CUITE	Cryo Ionization / HV	Ge/Si	11 kg/2 kg	SNOLAB	2021	2024
SuperGEMs	Cryo Ionization / HV	Ge/Si	11 kg/2 kg	SNOLAB	2021	2024
CREST-II (HW Test)	Ballroom Scintillation	CMOS	35 kg	SNOLAB	2020	
PICO-40	Bubble Chamber	CFB	35 kg	SNOLAB	2020	
NEWS-G	Gas Drift	CHI		SNOLAB	2020	2025
DARWIN proto-type	CCD Strip	Si	18 kg	LSM	2022	2023
DARWIN	CCD Strip	Si	1 kg	LSM	2024	2025
SENSEI	CCD Strip	Si	2 g	Fermilab	2019	2020
SENSEI	CCD Strip	Si	100 g	SNOLAB	2021	2023

Name	Technology	Target	Active Mass	Experiment Location	Start Ops	End Ops
<b>Planned</b>						
SABRE (North)	Scintillator	NaI	50 kg	LNGS	2022	2027
SABRE (South)	Scintillator	NaI	50 kg	SNOLAB	2022	2027
COSINE-300 South Pole	Scintillator	NaI	300 kg	South Pole	2023	
COSINUS	Ballroom Scintillator	NaI	LNGS	2023		
Darwin / XLZD (US LXe G2)	TPC	LXe	50,000 kg	undetermined	2028	2033
ARGO	TPC or Scintillator	LAr	300 t	SNOLAB	2030	2035
CDEX-100 / IT	Ionization (TR)	Ge	100,1000 kg	CJPL	202X	
PICO-500	Bubble Chamber	CFB	430 kg	SNOLAB	2021	
<b>Concept or R&amp;D</b>						
Oscura	CCD Strip	Si	10 kg Si	SNOLAB	2025	2028
SBC	Bubble Chamber	LAr	1 t	SNOLAB	2028	
SNOWBALL	Supercooled Liquid H <sub>2</sub> O	LAr	1.5 t			
DarkSide-LowMass	TPC	LAr		China	Inst.	
THESEUS	Cryo TES	Lik, SiO <sub>2</sub> , Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> , FeAs <sub>2</sub>		At. Energy	undetermined	2026
CYGN0	Gas Drift	He + CF <sub>4</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub>	0.5 - 1 kg	LNGS	2024	
CYGNUS	Gas Drift	He + CF <sub>4</sub>		Multiple sites		
Windline	Accelerometer array	He + CF <sub>4</sub>		Multiple sites		
MAGNETON	Cryogenic MMC	Diamond, Sapphire, etc.				

Experiment	Final state	Threshold/sensitivity	Field of view	Location
<b>Current experiments</b>				
Fermi	Photons	10 MeV - 10 <sup>5</sup> GeV	Wide	Space
HESS	Photons	30 GeV - 100 TeV	Targeted	Namibia
VERITAS	Photons	85 GeV - > 30 TeV	Targeted	USA
MAGIC	Photons	30 GeV - 100 TeV	Targeted	Spain
HAWC	Photons	300 GeV - >100 TeV	Wide	Mexico
LHAASO (partial)	Photons	10 TeV - 10 PeV	Wide	China
KASCADE	Photons	100 TeV - 10 PeV	Wide	Germany
KASCADE-Grande	Photons	10 - 100 PeV	Wide	Italy
Pierre Auger Observatory	Photons	1 EeV - 1 ZeV	Wide	Argentina
Telescope Array	Photons	1 - 100 EeV	Wide	USA
IceCube	Neutrinos	100 TeV - 100 EeV	Wide	Antarctica
ANITA	Neutrinos	EeV - ZeV	Wide	Antarctica
Pierre Auger Observatory	Photons & Neutrinos	1 EeV - 1 ZeV	Wide	Argentina
<b>Future experiments</b>				
CTA	Photons	20 GeV - 300 TeV	Targeted	Chile & Spain
SWGO	Photons	100 GeV - 1 PeV	Wide	South America
IceCube-Gen2	Neutrinos	10 TeV - 100 EeV	Wide	Antarctica
LHAASO (full)	Photons	100 GeV - 10 PeV	Wide	China
KM3NeT	Neutrinos	100 GeV - 10 PeV	Wide	Mediterranean Sea
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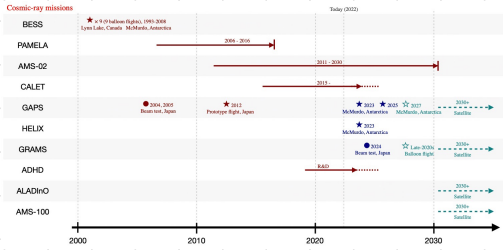
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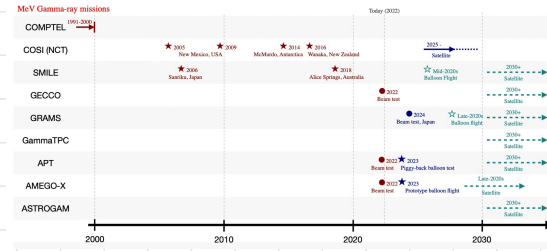
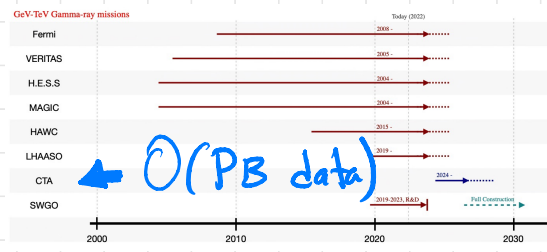
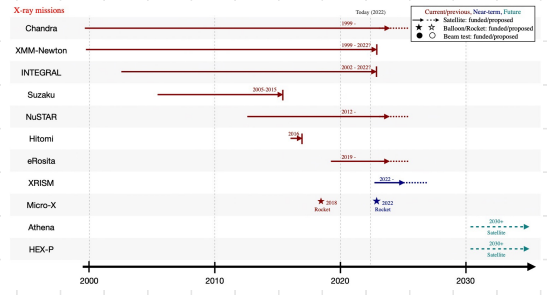
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SuperDMB	Cryo Ionization / HV	Ge/Si	11 kg/2 kg	SNOLAB	2021	2028
CRESST-III (HW Tests)	Bolometer Scintillation	CaWO4		LNGS	2020	
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ALBERTINA	TPC	He		China Inst. At. Energy	undetermined	2026
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$O(40)$  experiments operative in near future!





# MOTIVATION

\* Statistical bottleneck

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- More complex datasets



More complex physical modeling



More complex simulators

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More complex physical modeling



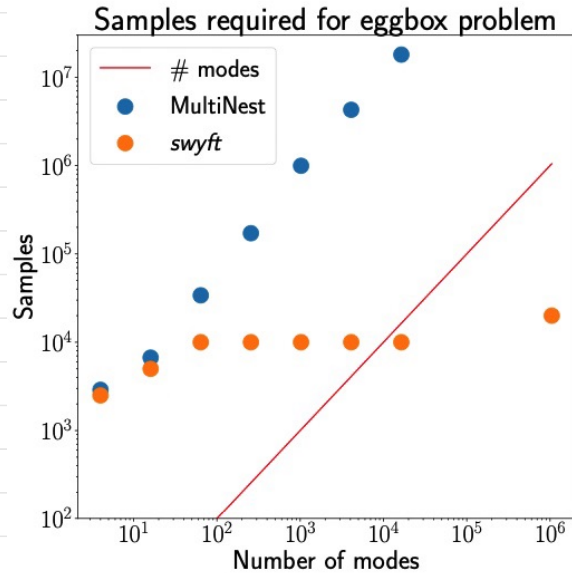
More complex simulators



Better statistical treatment!

- better scaling
- more descriptive
- higher statistical power

Miller et al, 2011.13951



# MOTIVATION

\* Hints about the underlying physics

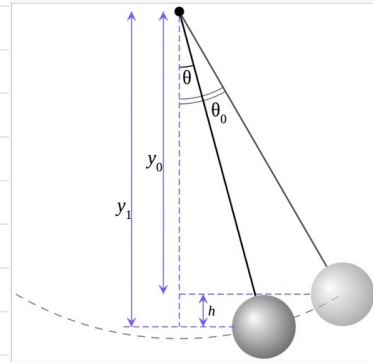
# MOTIVATION

\* Hints about the underlying physics

# physical variables

• The intrinsic dimension of

- Single pendulum : 2
- Lava lamp : ?

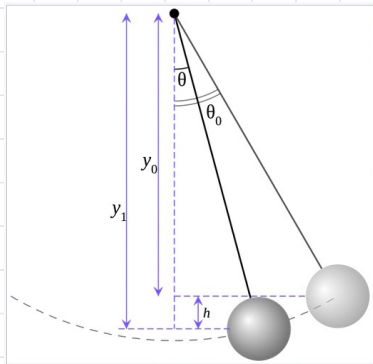


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\* Hints about the underlying physics

# physical variables

- The intrinsic dimension of
  - Single pendulum : 2
  - Lava lamp : ?



ID = 7-8

Statistical model (ML)

(see 2112.10755)

# DARK MATTER WITH MACHINE LEARNING

[likely same trend in other areas]

iNSPIRE HEP

literature

(t dark matter and t Neural network) or (t dark matter and t learning) or (t dark matter and t data-driven) or (t dark r

Literature

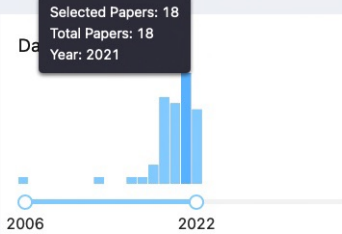
Authors

Jobs

Seminars

Conferences

More...



Number of authors

- Single author 7
- 10 authors or less 61

Exclude RPP

- Exclude Review of Particle Physics 64

Document Type

- article 47
- published 37

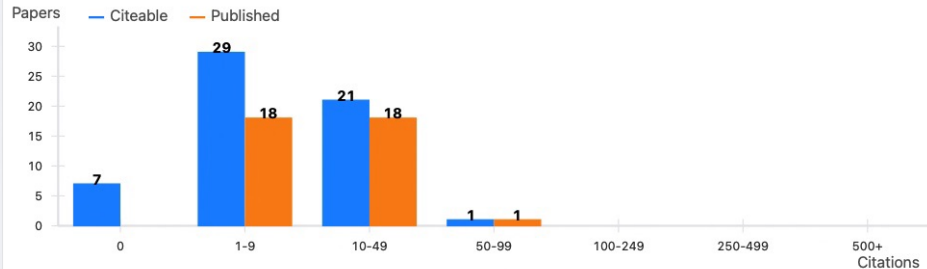
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Citation Summary  Most Recent

Citation Summary

Exclude self-citations

	Citeable	Published
Papers	58	37
Citations	624	550
h-index	15	15
Citations/paper (avg)	10.8	14.9



Two main ML paradigms  
used in physics



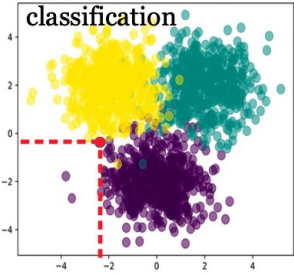
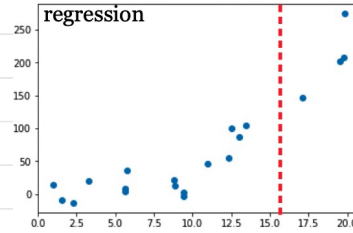
# SUPERVISED LEARNING

## Tasks

1) Estimate underlying distribution

$$y(\vec{x}) \sim p(f(\vec{x}; \vec{\theta}), \sigma)$$

$$\text{data} = \{ \vec{x}_i, y_i \}$$



# SUPERVISED LEARNING

## Tasks

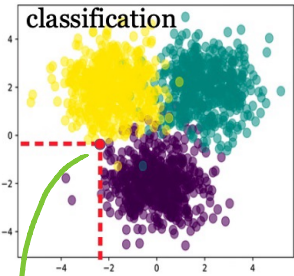
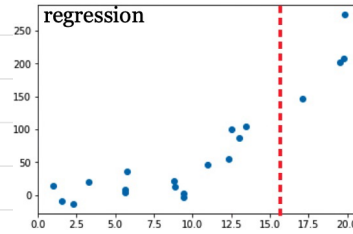
1) Estimate underlying distribution

$$y(\vec{x}) \sim \mathcal{P}(f(\vec{x}; \vec{\theta}), \sigma)$$

- Assume shape of  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  
estimate  $f(\vec{x}; \vec{\theta})$  with a ML model

[useful for estimating nuisance contributions,  
(c.f. Motivation #1)]

$$\text{data} = \{ \vec{x}_i, y_i \}$$



2) Prediction  
for new  $\vec{x}$

# SUPERVISED LEARNING

## Tasks

1) Estimate underlying distribution

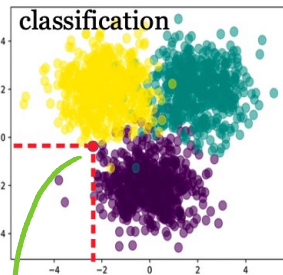
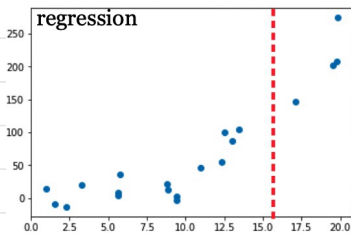
$$y(\vec{x}) \sim \mathcal{P}(f(\vec{x}; \vec{\theta}), \sigma)$$

- Assume shape of  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  
estimate  $f(\vec{x}; \vec{\theta})$  with a ML model

[useful for estimating nuisance contributions,  
(c.f. Motivation #1)]

- $f(\vec{x}; \vec{\theta})$  given by a physics model (infer physical parameters  $\vec{\theta}$ )  
Estimate shape of  $\mathcal{P}$  with a ML procedure

$$\text{data} = \{ \vec{x}_i, y_i \}$$

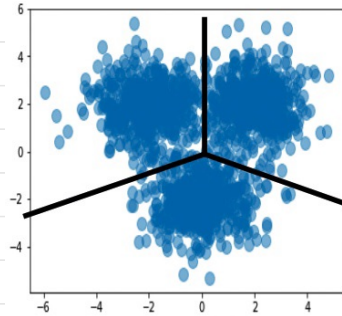


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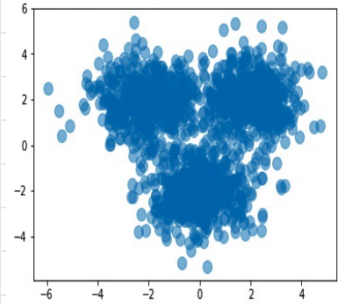
# UNSUPERVISED LEARNING

## Tasks

- 1) Clusterize the data  
(very useful e.g. in collider physics)



$$\text{data} = \{ \vec{x}_i \}$$



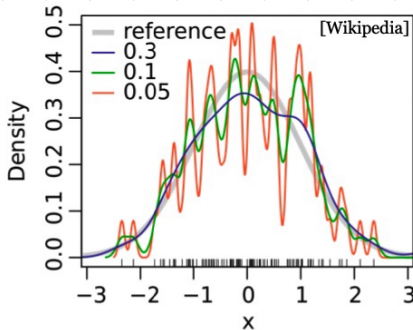
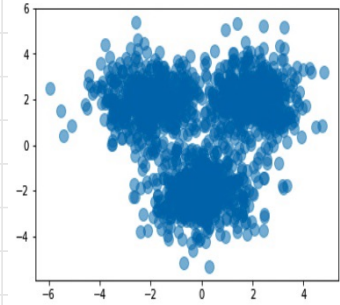
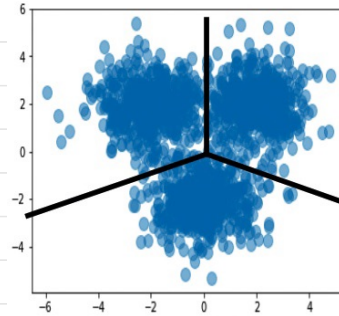
# UNSUPERVISED LEARNING

## Tasks

1) Clusterize the data  
(very useful e.g. in collider physics)

2) Probability density estimation  
(astrophysics, cosmology, everywhere...)

$$\text{data} = \{ \vec{x}_i \}$$

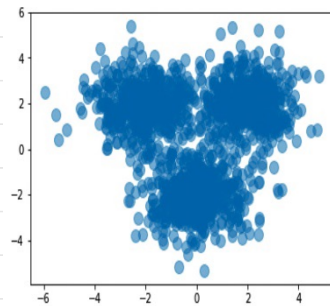
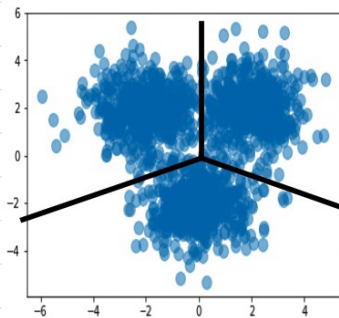


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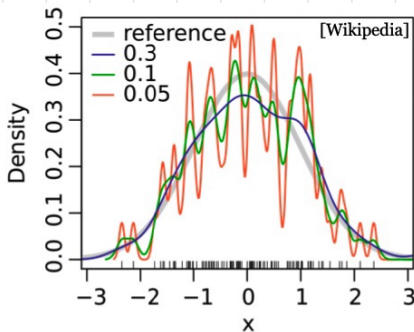
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## Tasks

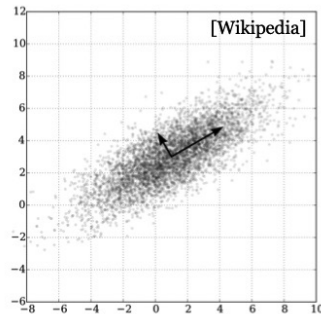
1) Clusterize the data  
(very useful e.g. in collider physics)



2) Probability density estimation  
(astrophysics, cosmology, everywhere...)



3) Dimensionality reduction  
(everywhere)



Some examples of applications

[ by no means exhaustive!! ]

① DM searches at the LHC (Banerjee et al, 1705.02327)

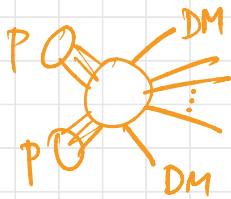


# I DM searches at the LHC (Banerjee et al, 1705.02327)

- What is the motivating issue?

Final state topology may be quite complex

⇒ potentially large phase space!



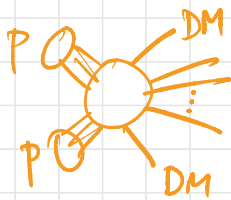
traditional analyses  
(e.g. cut-based)  
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• What is the motivating issue?

Final state topology may be quite complex

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traditional analyses  
(e.g. cut-based)  
may give poor performance

• How to address it?

Frame it into a ML  
classification problem

(optimize signal-to-background ratio)

ML classifier is an approx to the <sup>(formally)</sup> the

$$TS = \frac{p(x|H_0)}{p(x|H_1)}$$

} highest  
statistical  
power

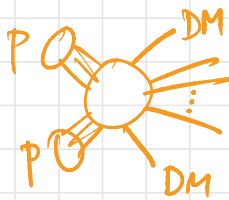
→ Neural network, Boosted Decision Trees, ...

# I DM searches at the LHC (Banerjee et al, 1705.02327)

- What is the motivating issue?

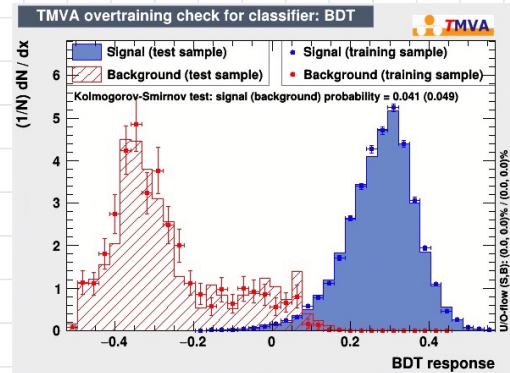
Final state topology may be quite complex

⇒ potentially large phase space!



traditional analyses  
(e.g. cut-based)  
may give poor performance

simple case study with a monojet signal



- How to address it?

Frame it into a ML classification problem

(optimize signal-to-bckg ratio)

ML classifier is an approx to the (formally)

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② Direct Detection searches (Herrero-Garcia et al  
2110.12248)

## ② Direct Detection searches (Herrero-Garcia et al 2110.12248)

### Motivation

A priori different DM candidates will produce different patterns in detectors

Seems complicated to consider all possible types of signals

# II Direct Detection searches (Herrero-Garcia et al 2110.12248)

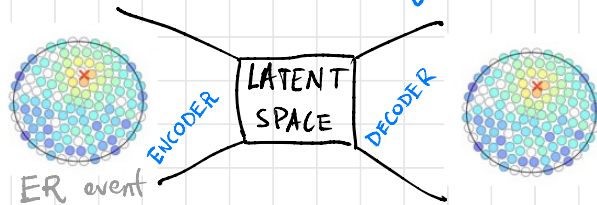
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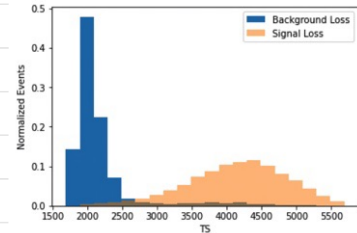
Solution: "Anomaly awareness" (unsupervised)  
[2007.14462]

1) Train a NN to learn the background



2) Feed it with signal events

The resulting distribution should be distinguishable from the bckg one



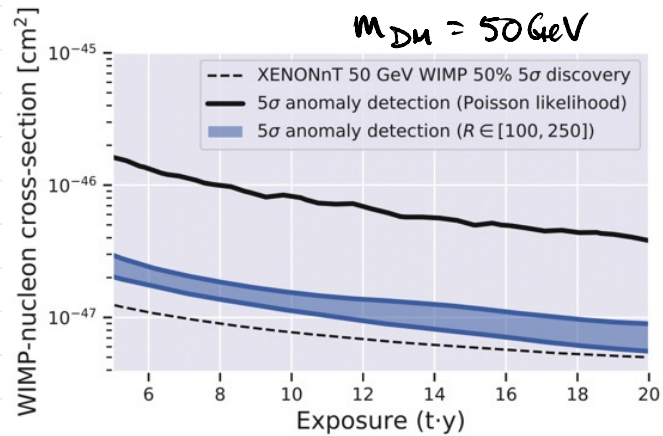
# II Direct Detection searches (Herrero-Garcia et al 2110.12248)

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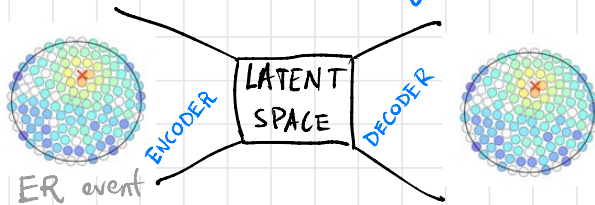
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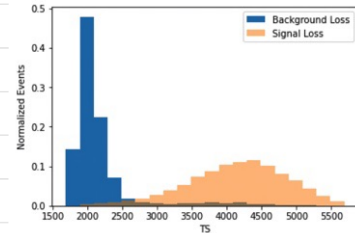


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III

Indirect Detection Searches  
(modeling the background)

(Calore, Serpico, Zaldar,  
1803.05508)



# III Indirect Detection Searches (modeling the background)

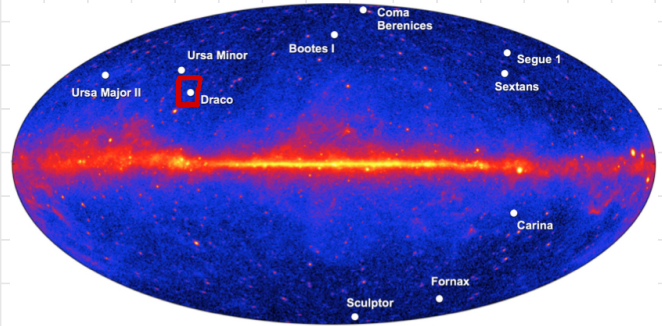
(Calore, Serpico, Zaldarriaga, 1903.05508)

## Fermi $\gamma$ -rays at dSphs

### Motivation

1) Typical bckg estimation has limitations

- \* Templates are biased (limited knowledge of physics)
- \* Local fitting of templates (no global consistency)
- \* No clear way of accounting for prediction uncertainties

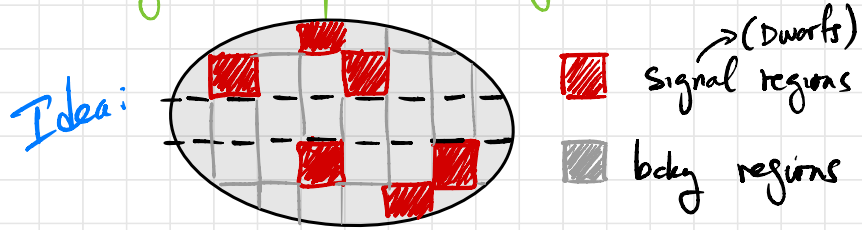


(Calore, Serpico, Zaldar, 1803.05508) cont...

Aiming for a global, unbiased estimator of the  
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(Calore, Serpico, Zaldar, 1803.05508) cont...

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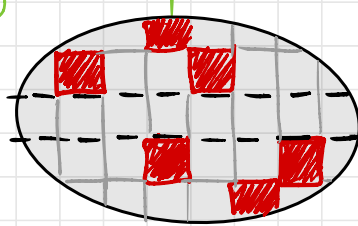


(Calore, Serpico, Zaldar, 1803.05508) cont...

Aiming for a global, unbiased estimator of the background probability distribution

Data =  $\{ \vec{x}_i, y_i \}_{i=1}^N$   
N → all pixels of the sky  
spatial coordinates →  $\vec{x}_i$   
counts →  $y_i$

Idea:



→ (Dwarfs)  
Signal regions  
bckg regions

$$p(\vec{x}, y) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i k_\alpha(\vec{x} - \vec{x}_i) \cdot g_\beta(y - y_i)$$

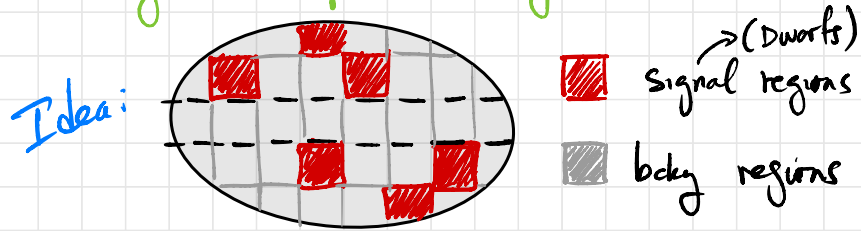
↳ unbiased estimator of the true PDF

$k_\alpha(\cdot), g_\beta(\cdot)$ : kernel functions

(Calore, Serpico, Zaldar, 1803.05508) cont...

Aiming for a global, unbiased estimator of the background probability distribution

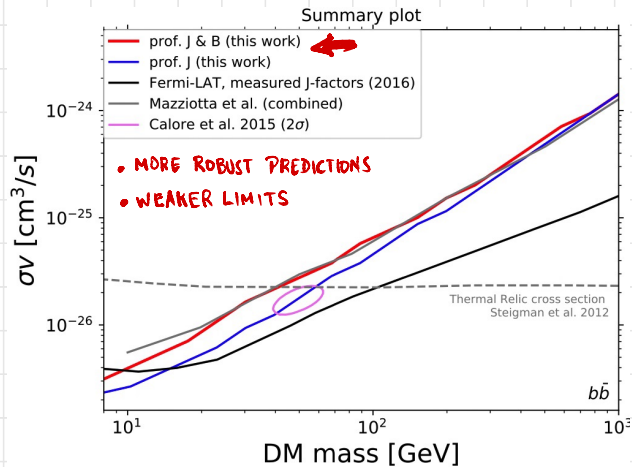
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(IV) DM searches from Fermi's unidentified PLS's  
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(Gammaldi et al, 2207.09307)

- 4FGL catalog  $\approx$  5000 sources  
(pulsars, quasars, blazars, ...)

$\Rightarrow$  1/3 are unID's

Is DM  
shining  
there?

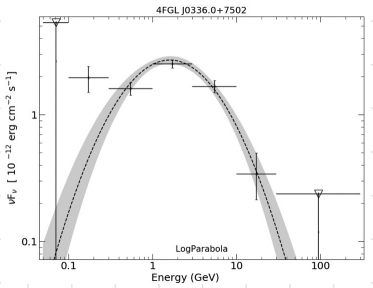
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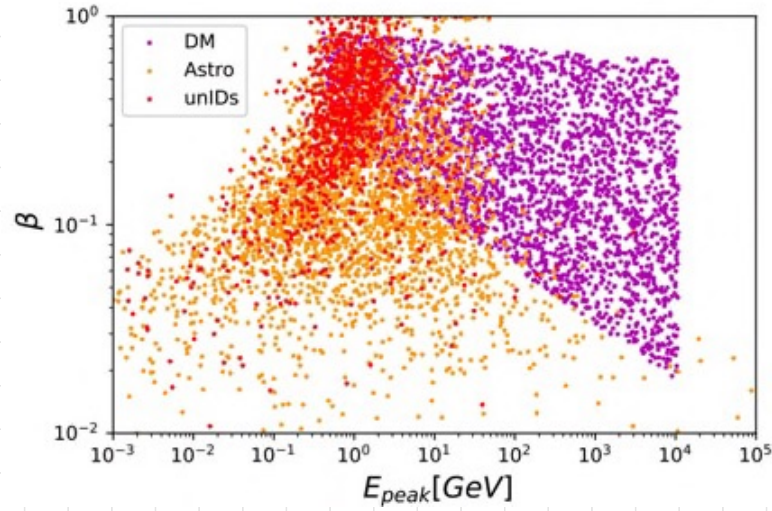
- 4FGL catalog  $\approx$  5000 sources  
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$\Rightarrow$  1/3 are unID's } Is DM shining there?

Astrophysical sources vs. Dark Matter sources



- ✓✓ Energy spectrum
- ✓ X Exp. uncertainties
- ✓ X Detection significance



Idea: DM inherits statistical properties of the unID's



(Gammaldi et al, 2207.09307) cont...

A standard classification problem?

Not so : input data have uncertainties

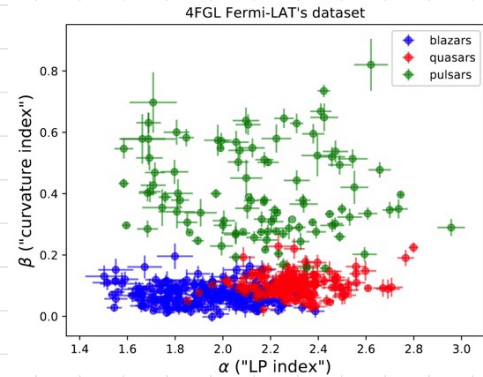
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[Villacampa et al, 2001.10523]



Gaussian  
Process model

$\vec{X} \sim N(\vec{\mu}, \vec{\sigma})$   
latent variables to be inferred

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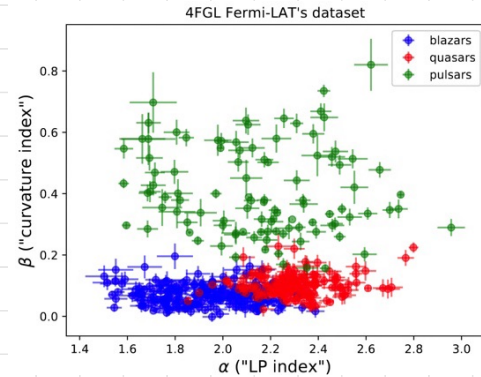
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- Another way  $\Rightarrow$  uncertainties as separate input variables

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\* Train a NN  
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\* NN output is  
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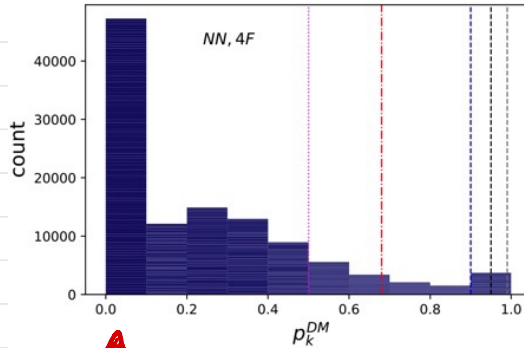
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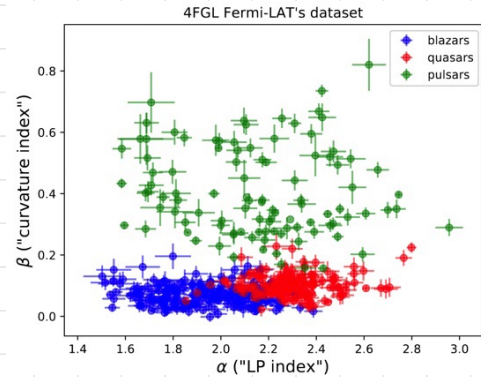
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$\uparrow$  No statistically significant evidence for DM



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⑤

Warm dark matter mass from strong lensing

(Annu Montel et al,  
2205.09126)

## ⑤ Warm dark matter mass from strong lensing

What is the motivating issue?

Characterizing collective subhalo properties from gravitational lensing is very difficult!

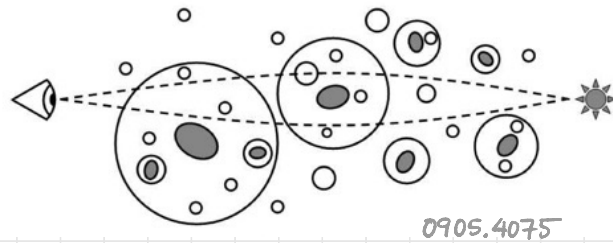
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Characterizing collective subhalo properties from gravitational lensing is very difficult!

(Annu Moncl et al,  
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- nuisance
- Size and position of the main lens
  - Brightness distribution and position of the source
  - Position, mass, distance, etc of all the subhalos
- ⇒ Warm dark matter mass ~~is~~ parameter of interest

Typical MCMC algorithms don't scale well with dimensionality of the param. space

(Anaw Montel et al, 2205.09126) cont...

- getting samples from  $p(\vec{\theta}, \vec{\alpha} | \text{data})$  is typically intractable



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Alternative

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$$p(\text{data} | \vec{\theta}) = \int d\vec{\alpha} p(\text{data} | \vec{\alpha}, \vec{\theta}) p(\vec{\alpha} | \vec{\theta}) \Rightarrow \text{also intractable!}$$

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Solution

Estimate  $p(\vec{\theta} | \text{data})$  directly  
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⇓  
no need to evaluate the  
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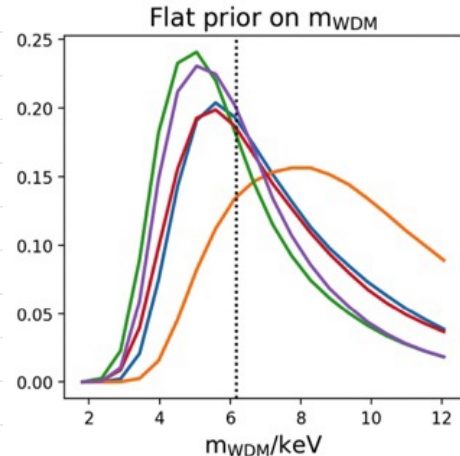
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Infering  
the  
warm DM  
mass  $\Rightarrow$



Important warnings to  
beware of



i) Occam's razor



## i) Occam's razor

- (DNNs)
- Facts:
- Very large models have built-in overfitting control
  - Data scientists typically adopt a (motivated by industry problems) "one-hammer-for-all" strategy
  - Many physics applications adopting the same strategy

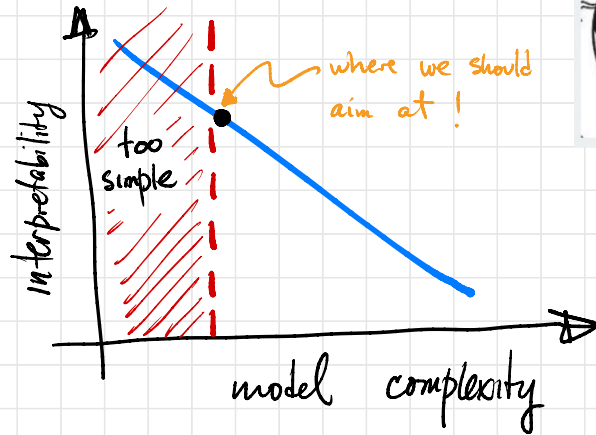


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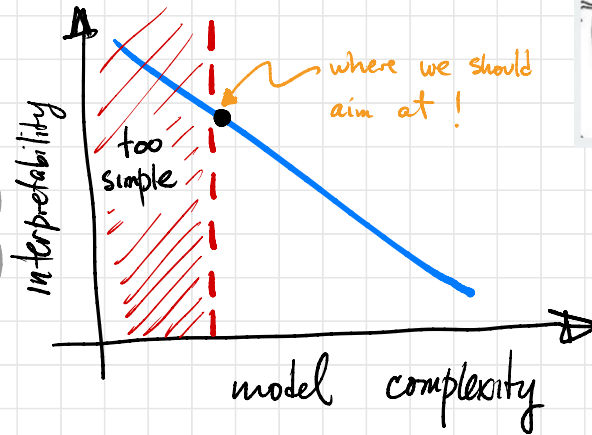
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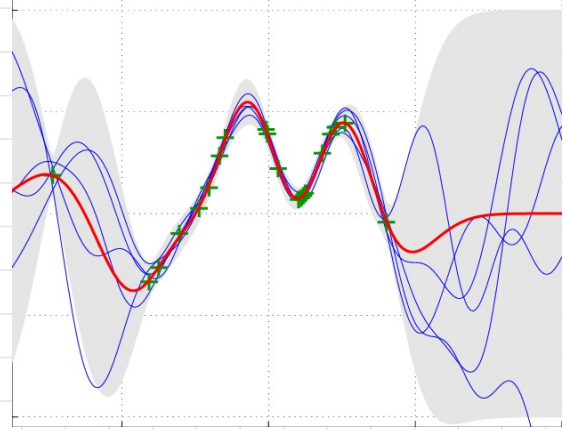
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Remember that polynomials are also -as neural nets- Universal approximators !!



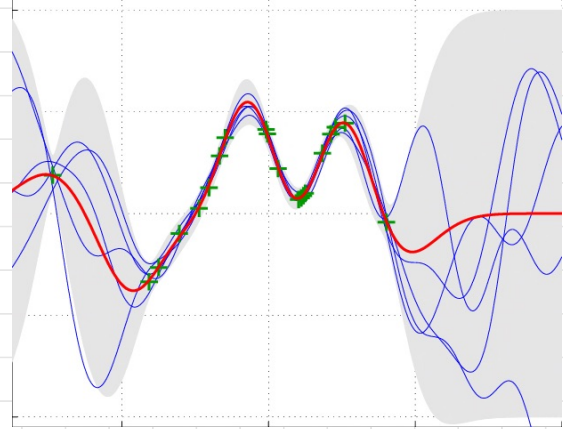


ii) Uncertainties related to the modeling itself  
(a.k.a. "epistemic" uncertainties)



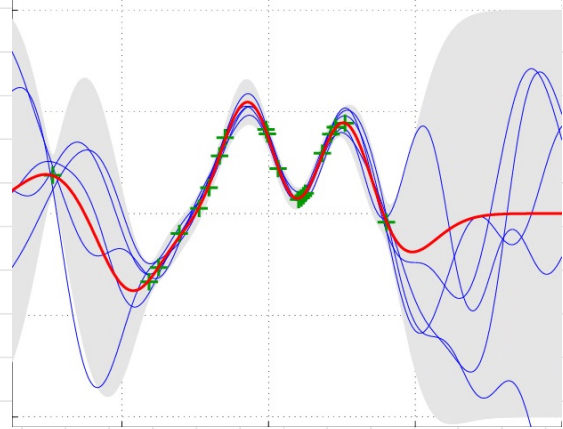
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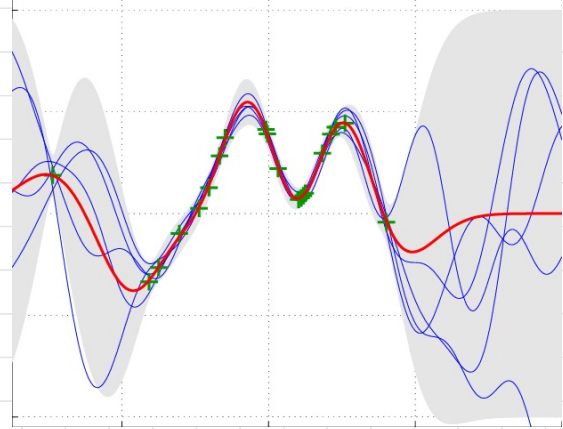
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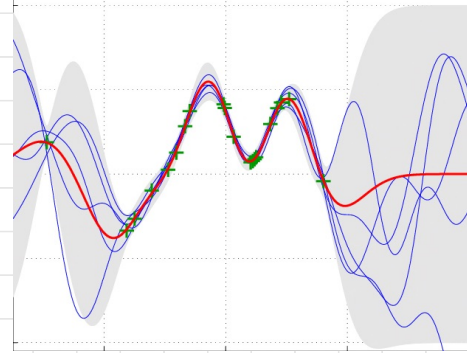
- Epistemic uncertainties could be dominant in regions with few/no data points (worse for more expressive models)
- The larger the model, the more challenging is the uncertainty estimate (large body of dedicated literature)
- Cats don't have error bars (maybe)  
but in science, uncertainty estimation is mandatory!



### iii) ML predictions vs. physical plausibility

How many of these possible solutions are physically meaningful?

[a priori no physics knowledge]



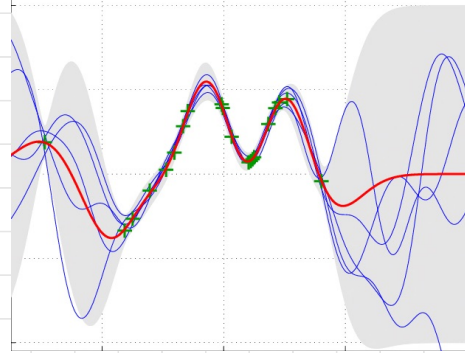
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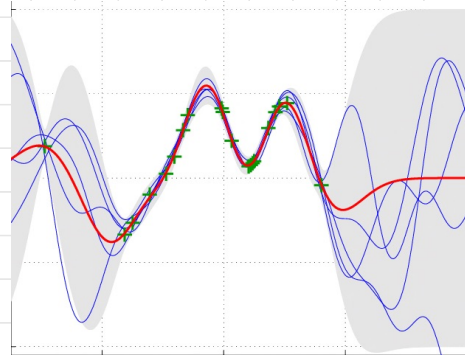
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Data  
 $\{ \vec{x}_i, y_i \}$

Loss function Partial diff. eq.

Statistical (ML) model  
 $P(y | f_{ML}(\vec{x}, \vec{\theta}))$

$$-\ln P(y | f_{ML}) + F(f_{ML}, \partial_{\vec{x}} f_{ML})$$

## Take-home messages

- \* ML is proving to be an essential tool in modern physics (unfortunately embedded in a gigantic hype)
- \* As physicists, we have the responsibility to make use of such tools in a scientific meaningful way
- \* ML for science still in its infancy
  - ⇒ A lot to do in Physics-ML symbiosis