



# Unbiased detection of data departures from expectations with machine learning

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# Goodness of fit in High Energy Physics

Detector  
malfunctioning ?

Reconstruction  
Bugs ?

**Unexpected Physics**  
Beyond the  
Standard Model ?

Experiment



Simulation

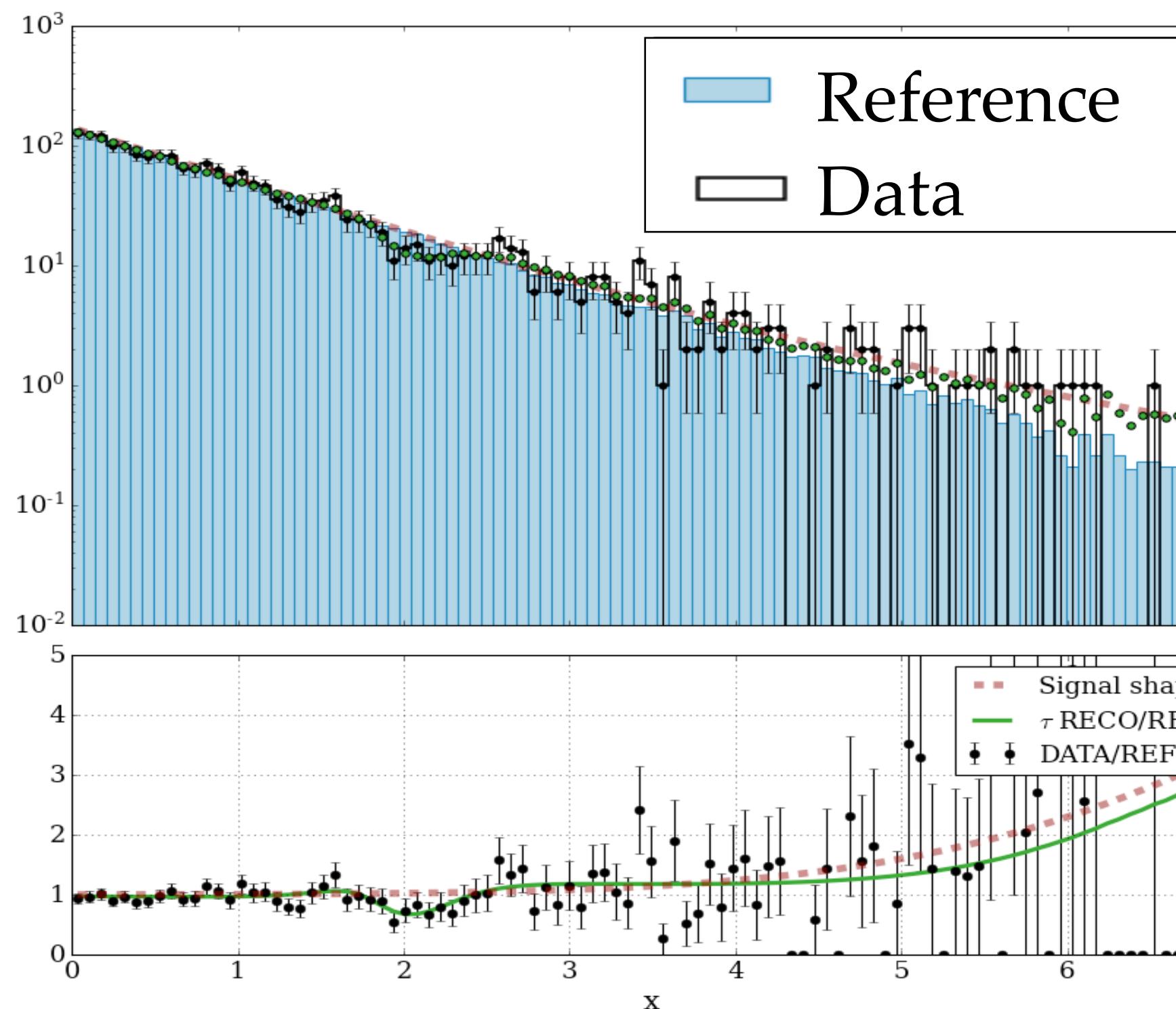


Can we trust our  
simulations ?

Are two simulators  
equivalent ?

# Goodness of fit in High Energy Physics

These are problems of **Goodness of Fit**:



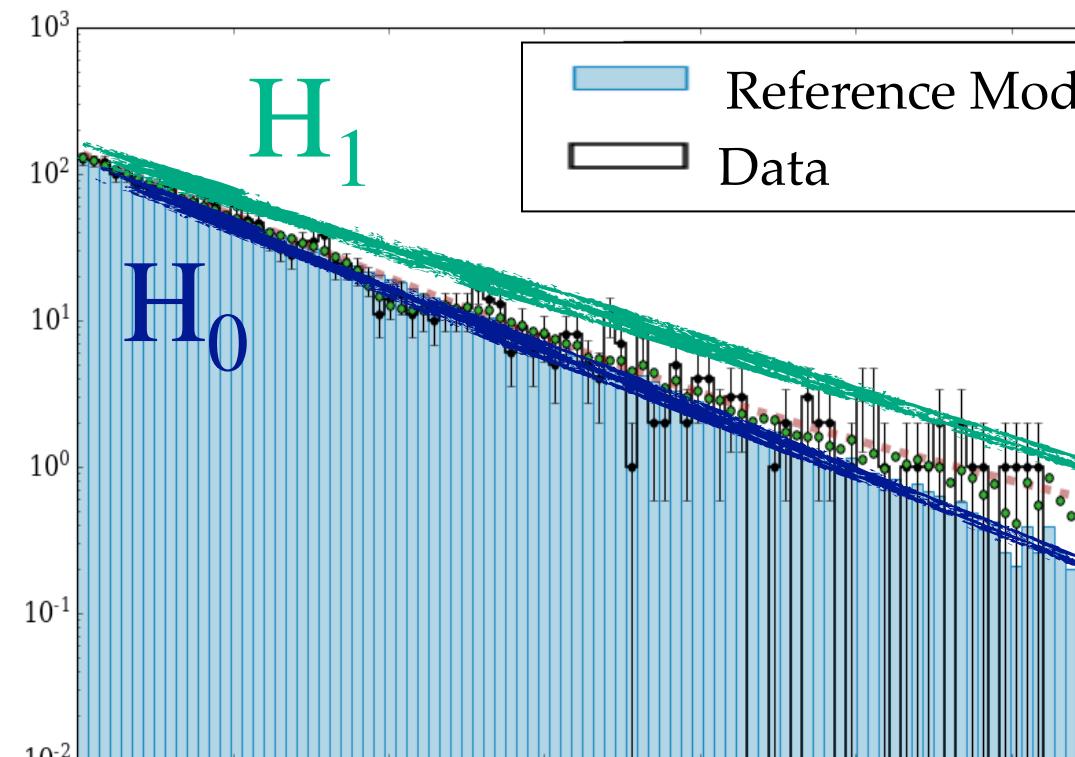
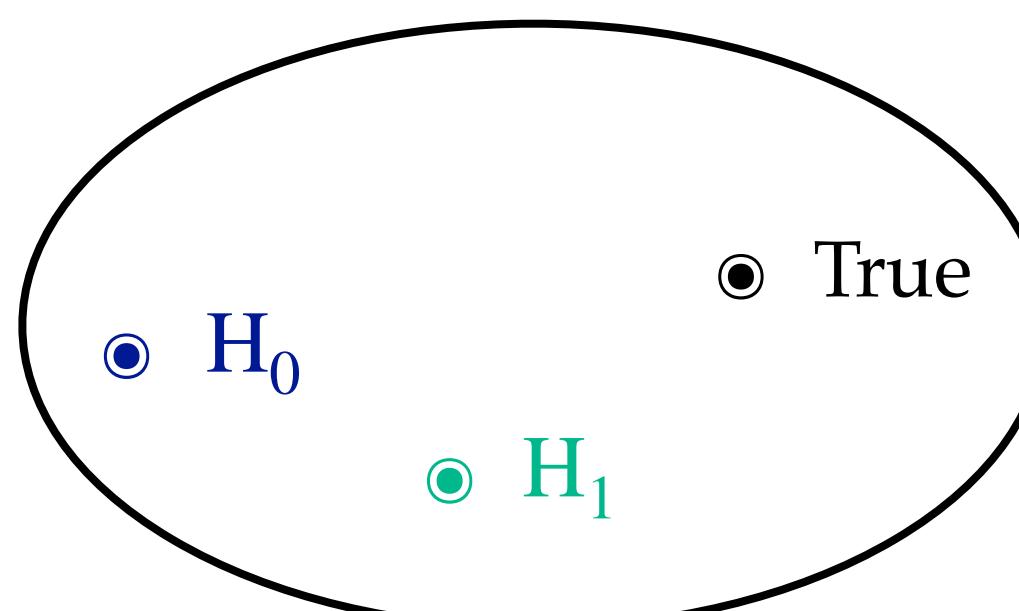
- **Data:** experimental measurements of the natural process
  - **Reference model:** expected nominal behaviour of the data  
(Standard Model, normal operating condition of a detector...).
- Most of the times not known in close form:  
Reference sample → two-sample test

How well does the model fit the data?

# Likelihood ratio test in High Energy Physics

...traditionally solved in HEP as a **hypothesis test** based on likelihoods ratio

→ Model-dependent approaches

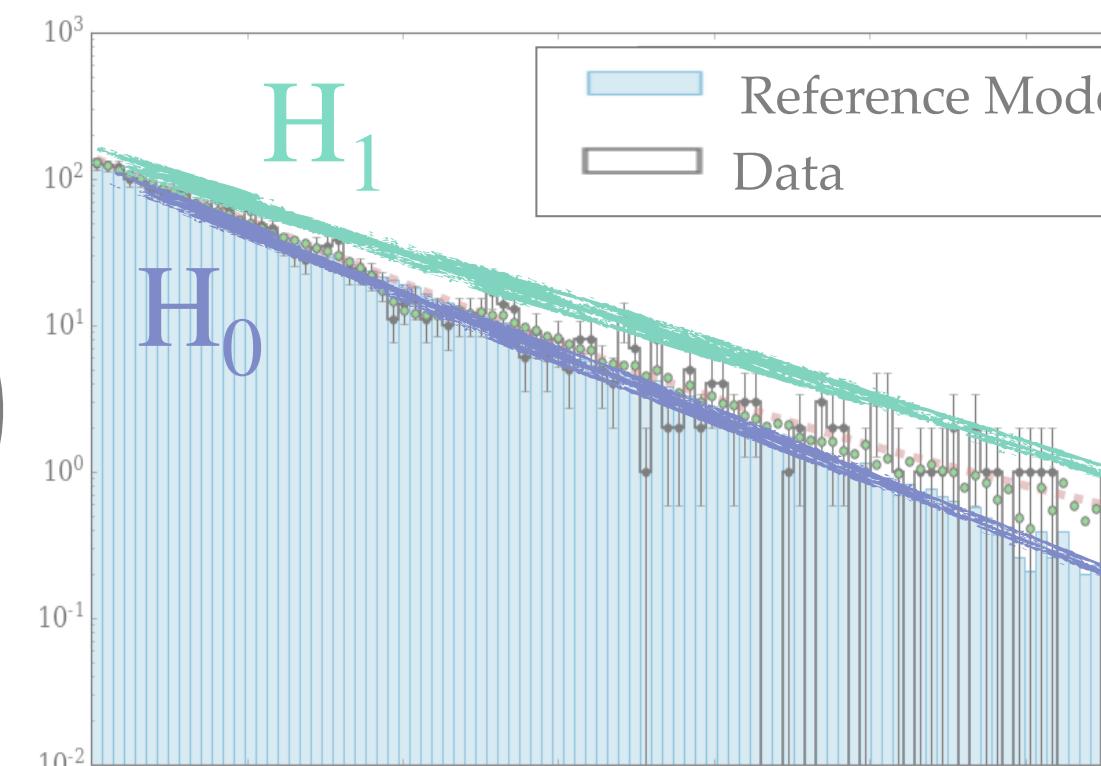
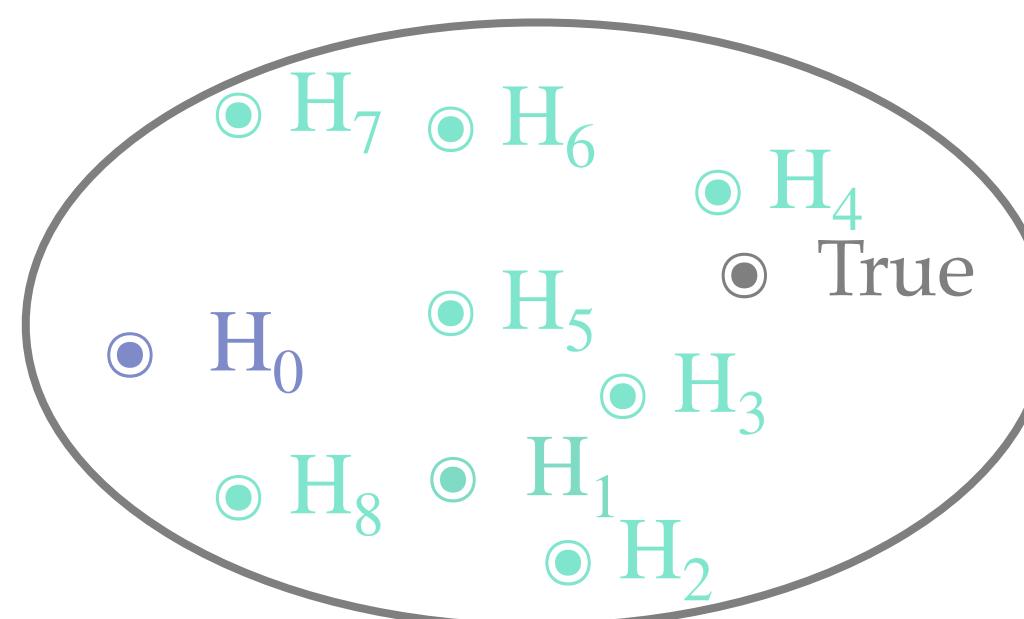


Sensitivity (and **optimality**) guaranteed  
(according to Neyman and Pearson)  
only if the data do follow the chosen  
alternative

$$t(\mathcal{D}) = 2 \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D} | H_1)}{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D} | H_0)}$$

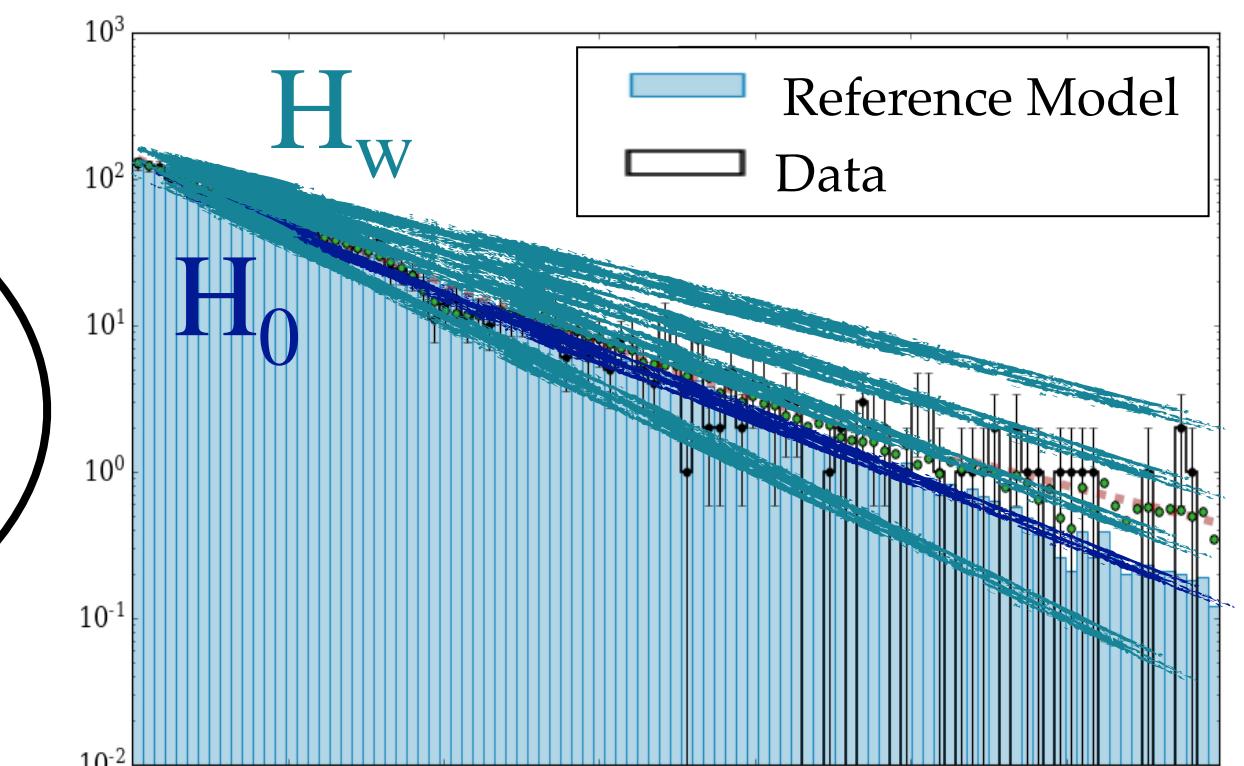
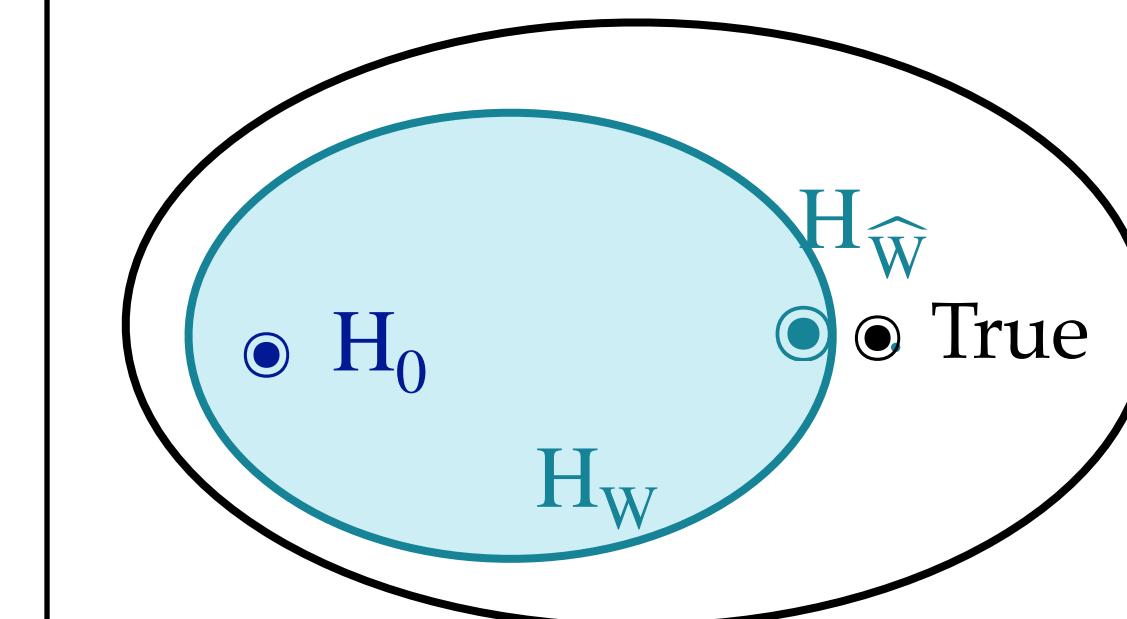
# Likelihood ratio test in High Energy Physics

→ Model-dependent approaches



$$t(\mathcal{D}) = 2 \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D} | H_1)}{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D} | H_0)}$$

→ Model-*in*dependent approaches



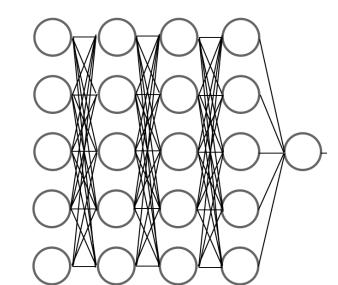
$$t(\mathcal{D}) = \max_{\mathbf{w}} \left[ 2 \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D} | H_{\mathbf{w}})}{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D} | H_0)} \right]$$

# Likelihood ratio as a Goodness of fit test

## Machine learning based

Expand the family of alternatives to increase the chance of containing the True data distribution

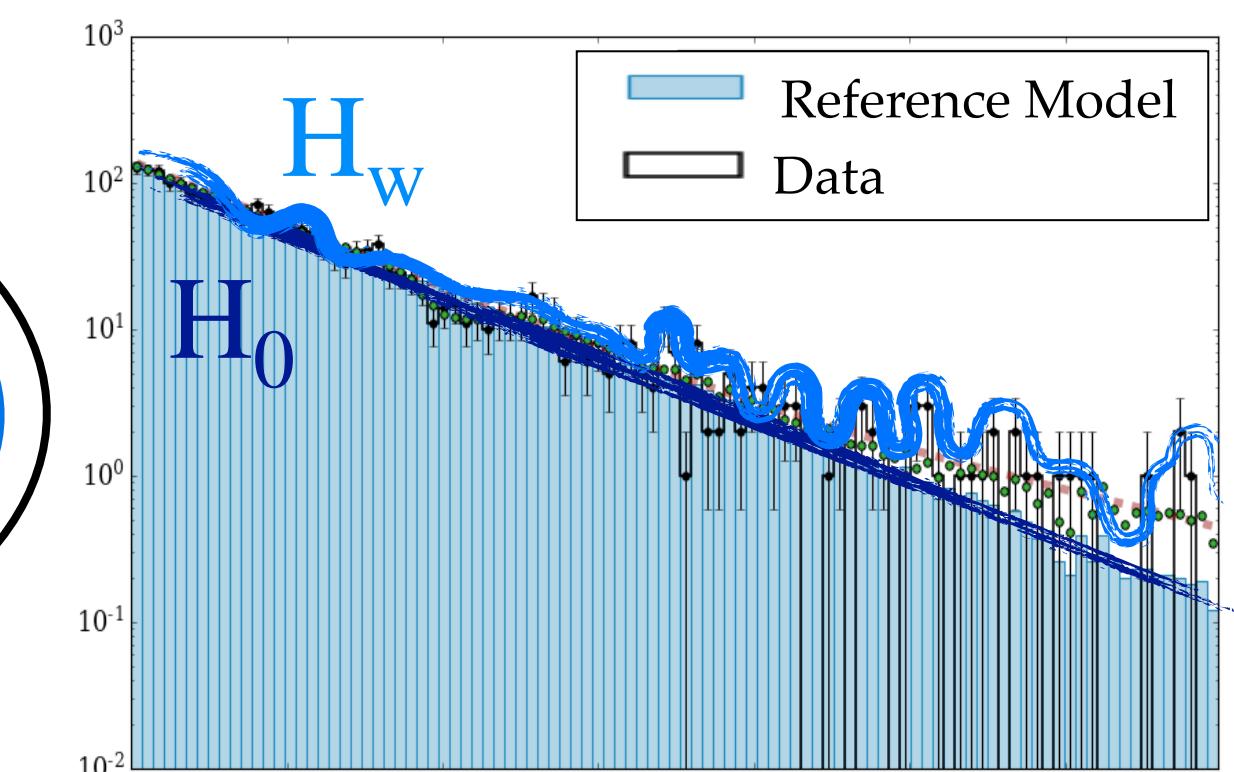
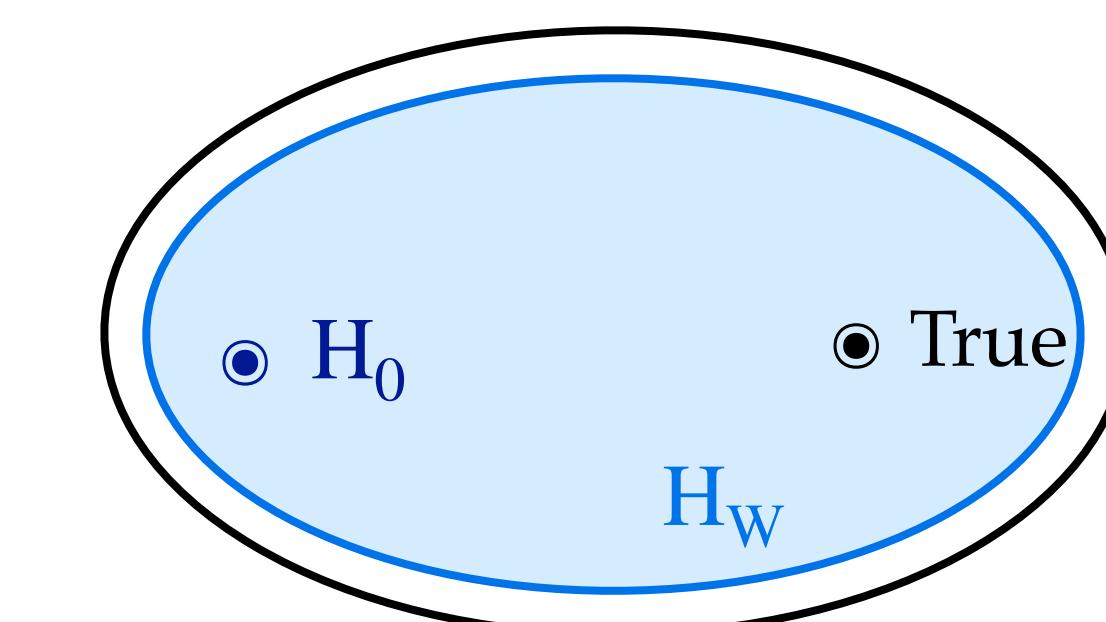
## New Physics Learning Machine



Universal approximator  
(NN, kernel methods, ...)

$$n(x|H_w) = e^{f(x;w)} n(x|R_0)$$

→ Model-*in*dependent approaches



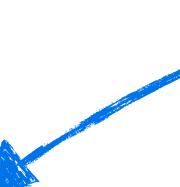
$$t(\mathcal{D}) = \max_w \left[ 2 \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D} | H_w)}{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D} | H_0)} \right]$$

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

Main Idea: Maximum Likelihood from Minimal Loss

Test statistic

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{t}(\mathcal{D}) &= 2 \max_{\mathbf{w}} \log \left[ \frac{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D} | H_{\mathbf{w}})}{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D} | R_0)} \right] = 2 \max_{\mathbf{w}} \left\{ \log \left[ \frac{e^{-N(\mathbf{w})}}{e^{-N(R)}} \prod_{i=1}^{N_D} \frac{n(x_i | \mathbf{w})}{n(x_i | R)} \right] \right\} \\ &= -2 \min_{\mathbf{w}} \{ \bar{L}[f(\cdot; \mathbf{w})] \}\end{aligned}$$



Loss function

$$\bar{L}[f(x; \mathbf{w})] = - \sum_{x \in \mathcal{D}} [f(x; \mathbf{w})] + \sum_{x \in \mathcal{R}} w_x [e^{f(x; \mathbf{w})} - 1]$$

$\mathbf{w}$ : trainable parameters on the NN model  
 $D$ : data sample  
 $R$ : reference sample (built according to the  $R_0$  hypothesis); could be weighted ( $w$ )

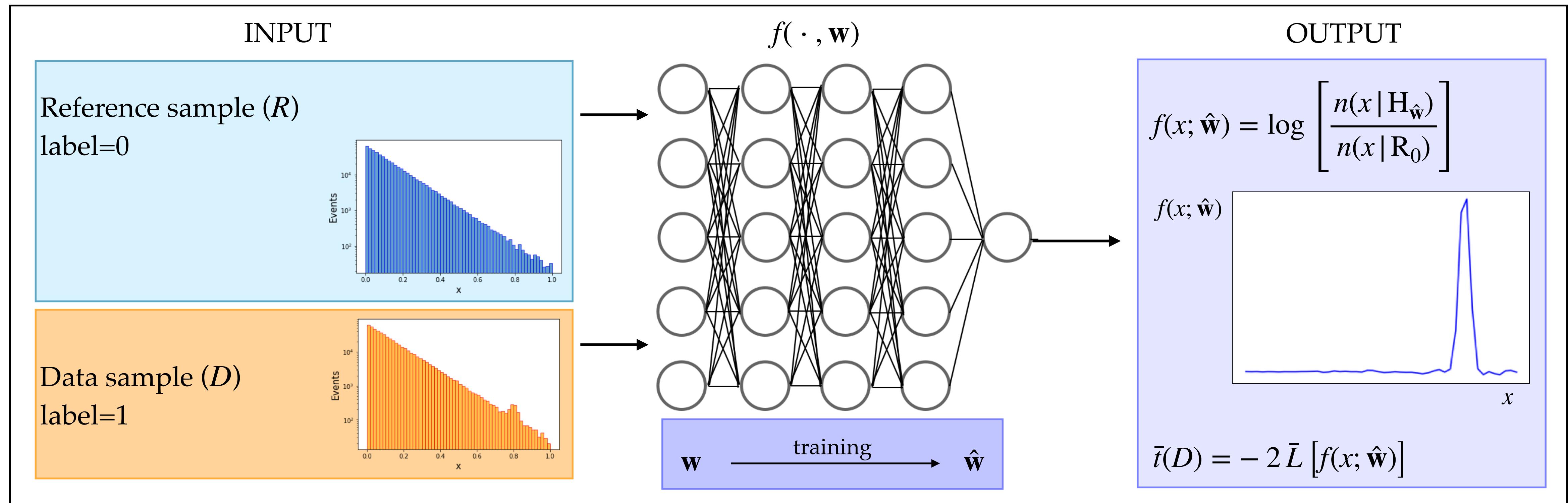
Assumptions:

- $N_R \gg N_D$  the statistical fluctuations of the reference sample are negligible.
- the weights of the reference sample ( $w$ ) are such that the reference sample is normalised to match the data sample luminosity  $\sum_{x \in R} w_x = N(R_0)$

“Learning New Physics from a Machine” [Phys. Rev. D](#)

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

Learning the alternative from the data:

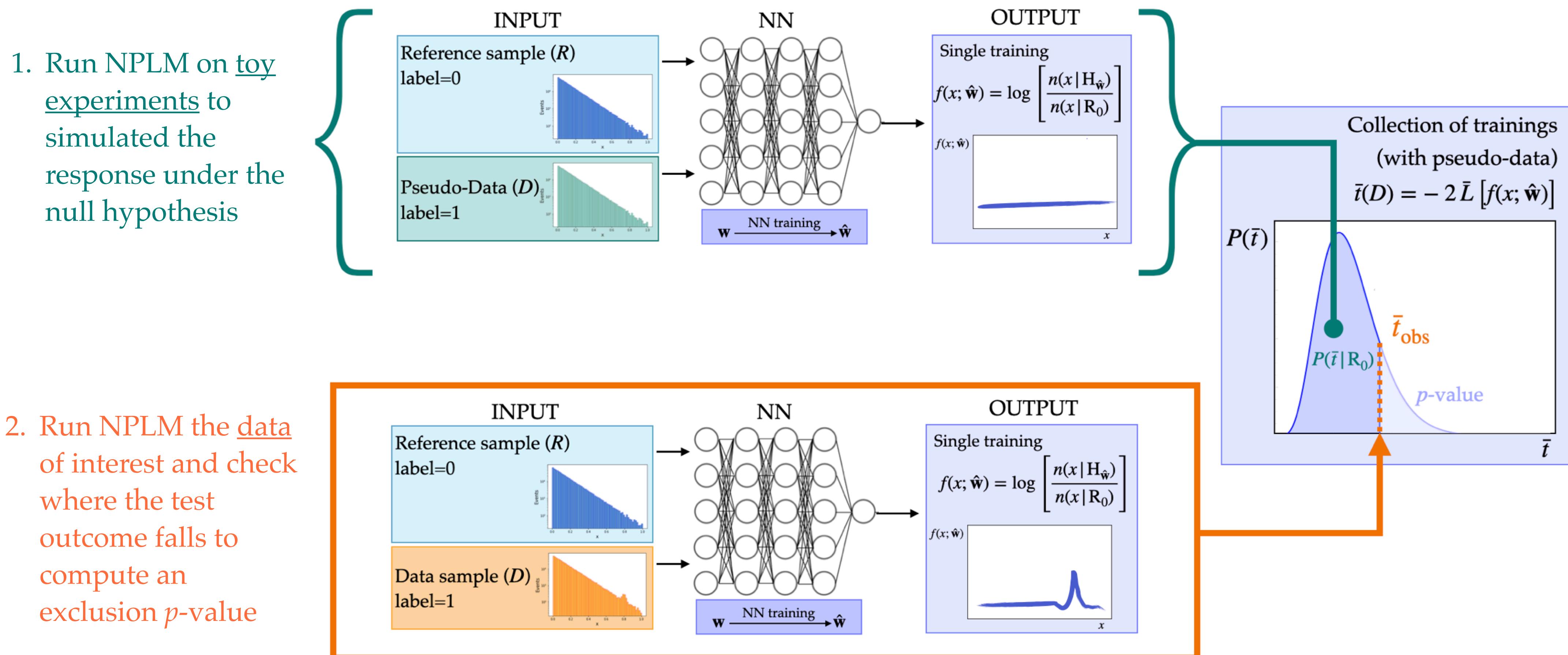


**Unbinned input data**

**Interpretability**  
Where is the anomaly and how does it look like

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

Frequentist  $p$ -value (aka calibration):

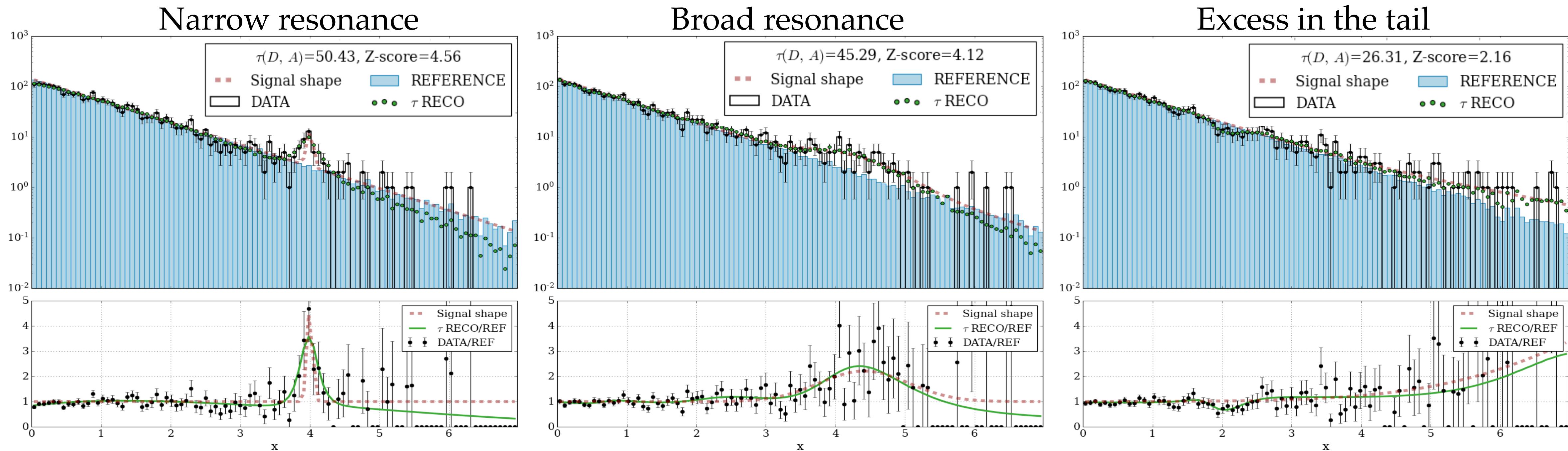


"Learning New Physics from a Machine" [Phys. Rev. D](#)

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

Sensitivity to multiple discrepancy sources at once (**global** p-value)

Example: 1D exponential distribution



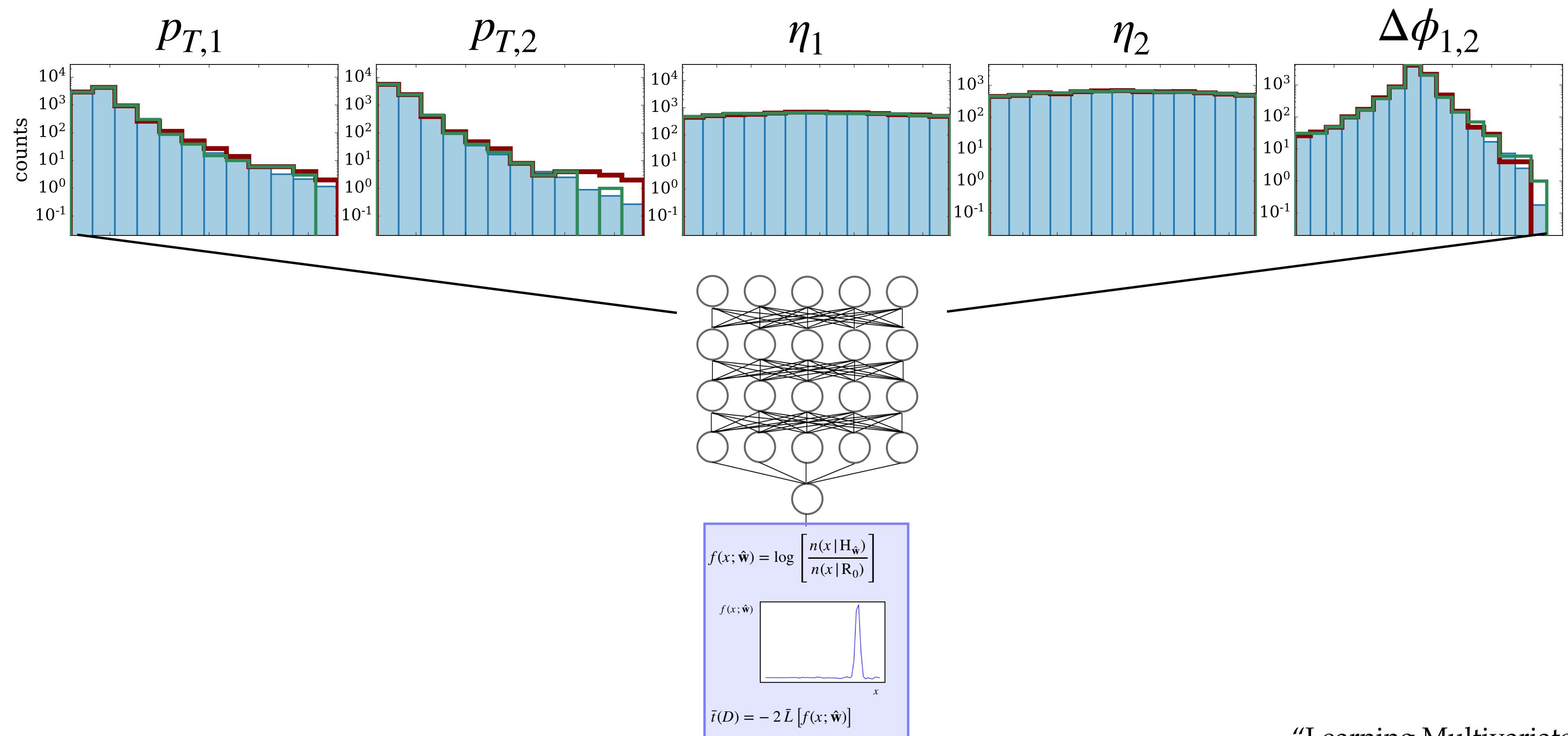
Signal reconstruction with the NN:  $n(x | H_{\hat{w}}) = n(x | R_0) e^{f(x; \hat{w})}$

Architecture: [1-4-1] (13 dof), weigh clipping 9,  $N_{\text{bkg}} = 2000$

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

## Multivariate analysis

Example: 5D analysis of a dimuon final state at the LHC



"Learning Multivariate New Physics" [Eur. Phys. J. C](#)

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

## Dealing with **imperfect** Reference models

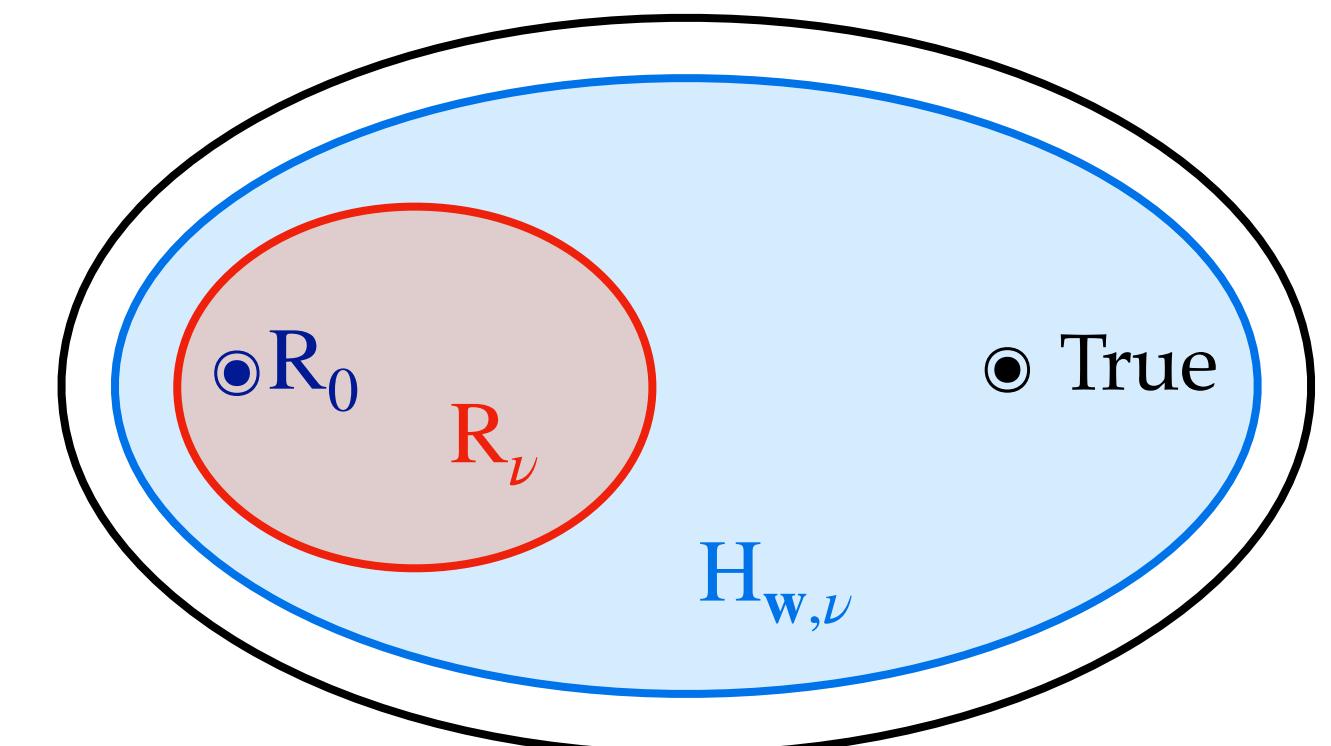
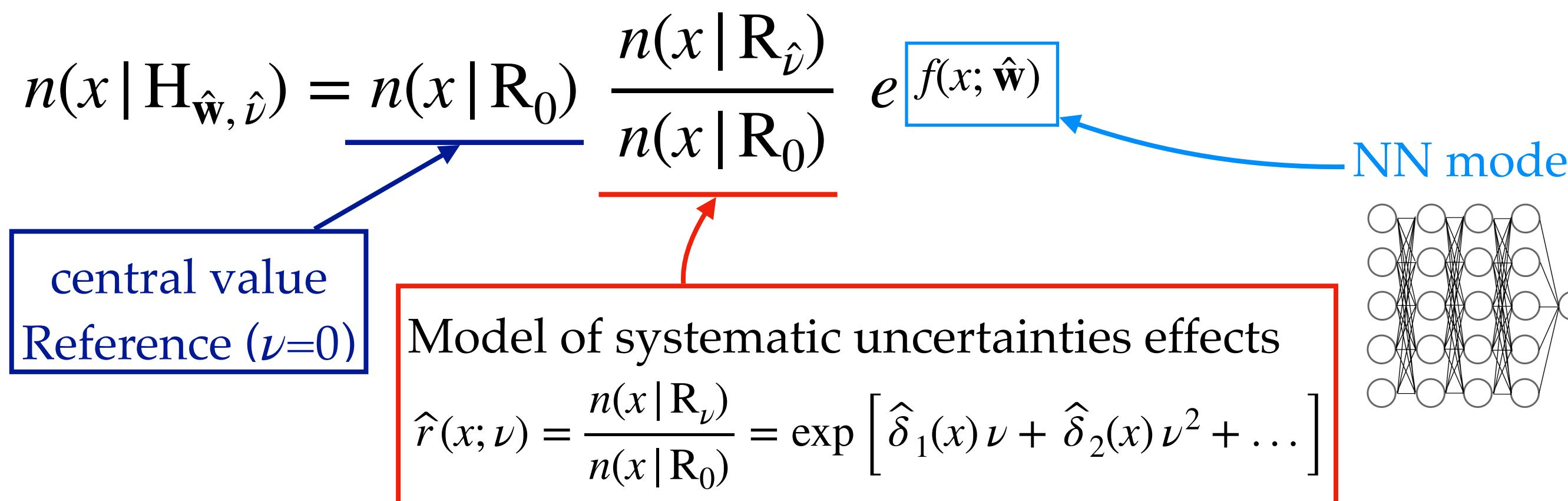
Maximum-Likelihood-ratio test statistic:

$$t(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) = 2 \log \left[ \frac{\max_{\mathbf{w}, \boldsymbol{\nu}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{w}}, \boldsymbol{\nu} | \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})}{\max_{\boldsymbol{\nu}} \mathcal{L}(R_{\boldsymbol{\nu}} | \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})} \right] = 2 \log \left[ \frac{\max_{\mathbf{w}, \boldsymbol{\nu}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{w}}, \boldsymbol{\nu} | \mathcal{D}) \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\nu} | \mathcal{A})}{\max_{\boldsymbol{\nu}} \mathcal{L}(R_{\boldsymbol{\nu}} | \mathcal{D}) \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\nu} | \mathcal{A})} \right]$$

$$= \tau(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) - \Delta(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})$$

- $R_{\boldsymbol{\nu}}$  : reference hypothesis (null)
- $H_{\mathbf{w}, \boldsymbol{\nu}}$  : alternative hypothesis
- $\mathbf{w}$  : trainable parameters on the NN model
- $\boldsymbol{\nu}$  : set of **nuisance parameters** modelling the uncertainties effects
- $\mathcal{D}$  : data sample
- $\mathcal{A}$  : **auxiliary sample** (used to constrain  $\boldsymbol{\nu}$ )

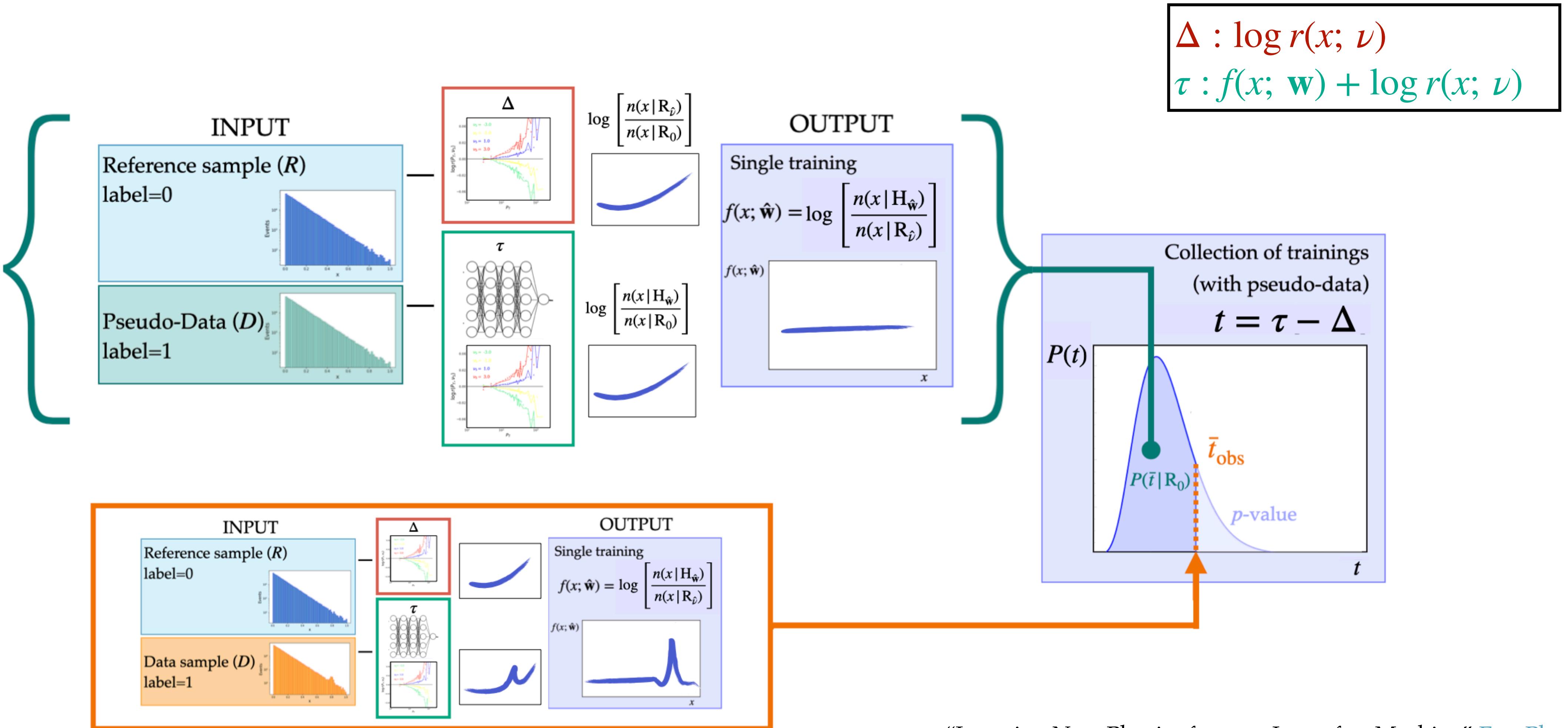
Parametrisation of the alternative hypothesis:



"Learning New Physics from an Imperfect Machine" [Eur. Phys. J. C](#)

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

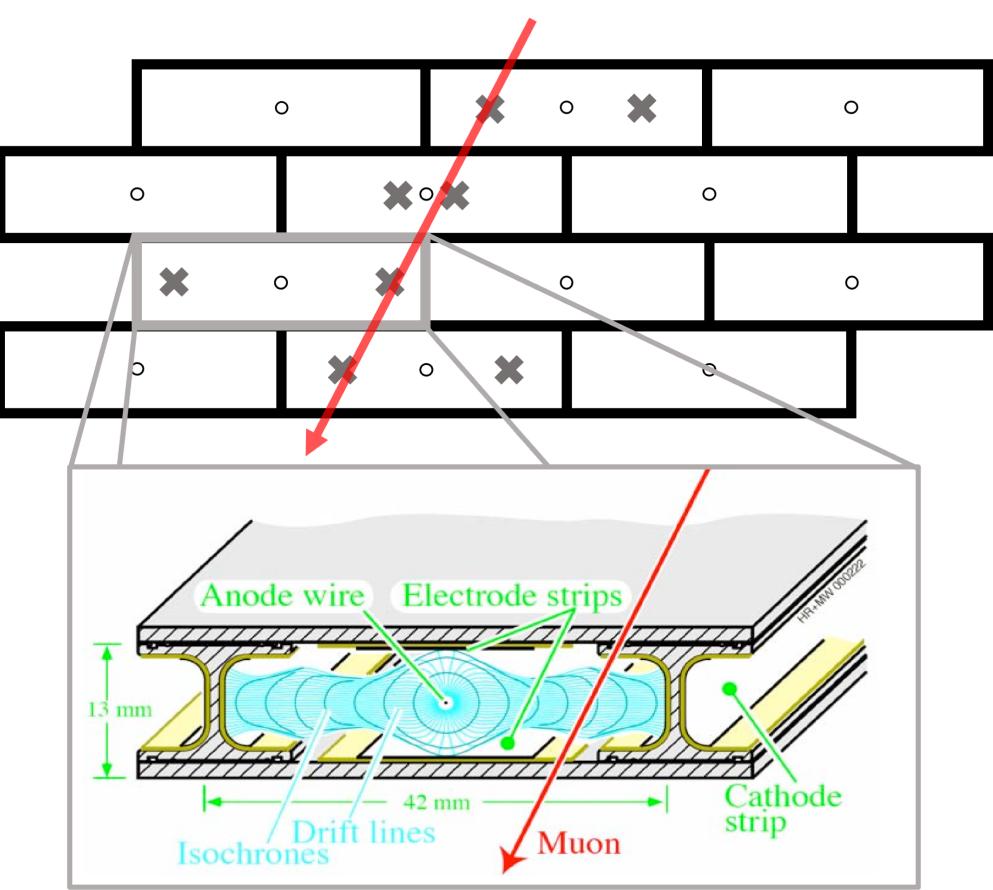
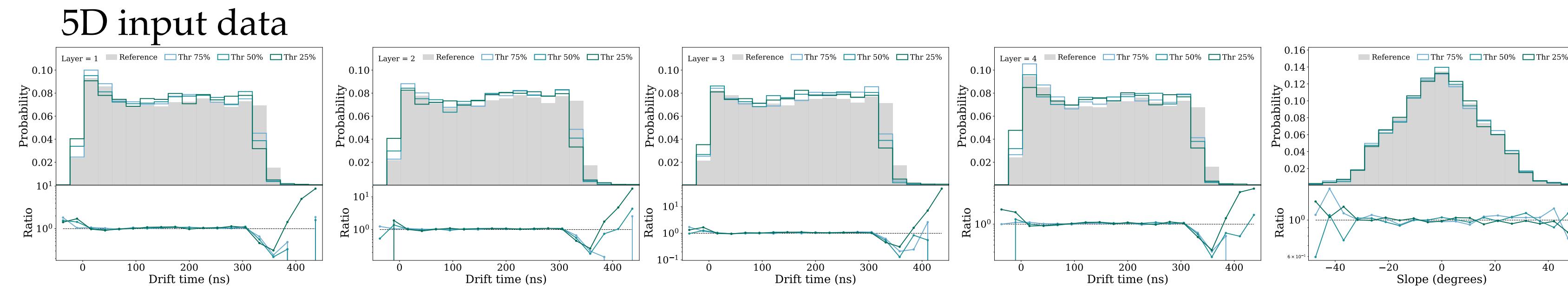
Dealing with **imperfect** Reference models



# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

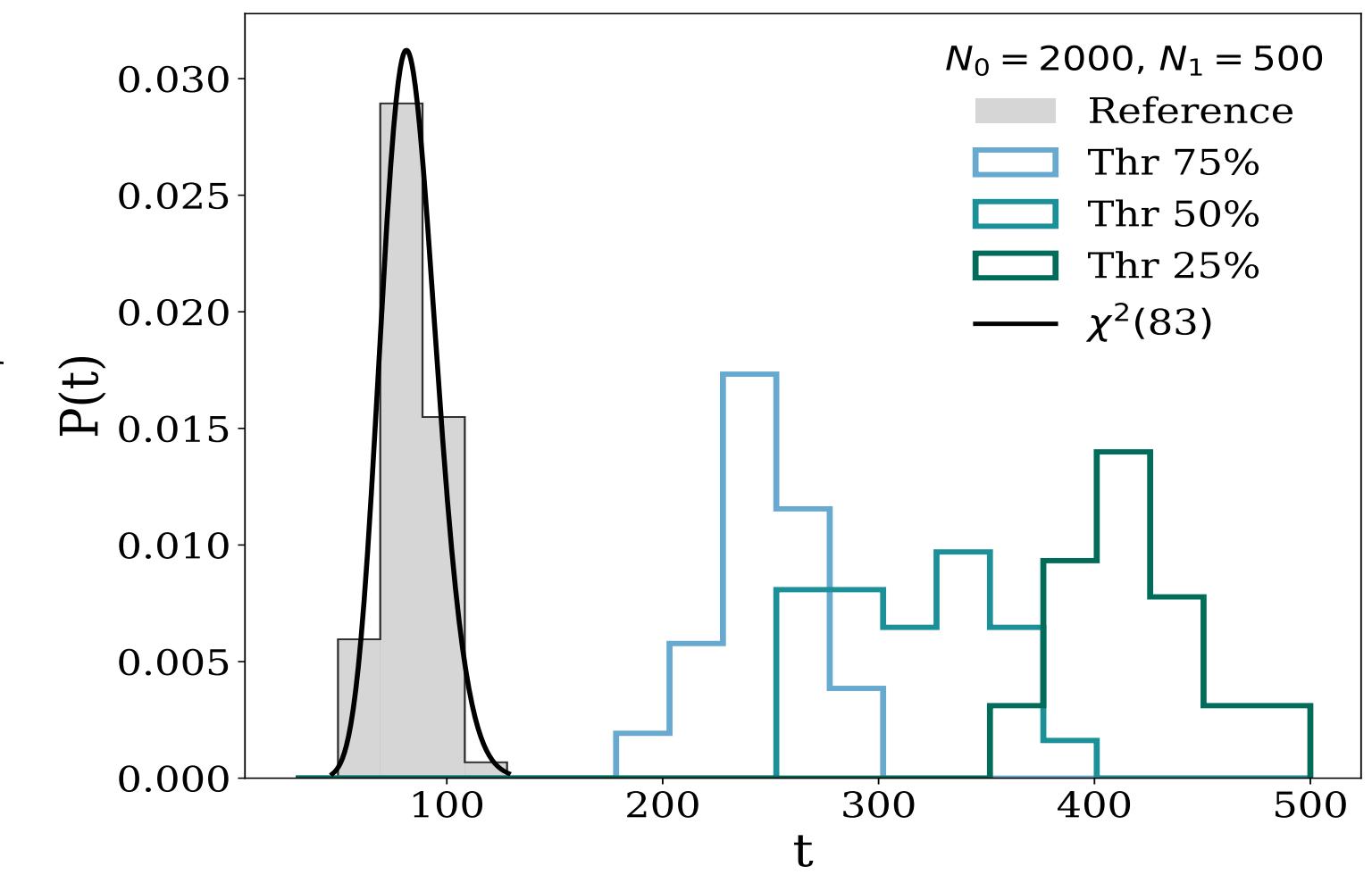
**Efficient** computation: kernel methods on GPUs ([Eur. Phys. J. C, 82\(10\)](#))

Example: Online Data Quality monitoring of a Drift Tube Chamber



- **Reference sample:** long run in optimal conditions
- **Anomalous samples:** short runs acquired in presence of a controlled anomaly in the value of the **threshold tension** of the DT chamber

More about this in our recent preprint [arXiv:2303.05413](#),  
and Matteo's [talk](#) this afternoon!



# Summary

- End-to-end strategy to test a model **Goodness of Fit** to the data.
- **Interpretability**: a posteriori signal characterisation
- **Global p-value**: one test to detect them all
- **Multivariate**
- **Systematic uncertainties** for imperfect Reference models
- **Fast execution**: kernel methods with GPU

# Outlook

- **Fast execution** + **systematics uncertainties**
- Model and model hyper-parameters selection: **regularisation** vs. **flexibility**
- More **applications** in (and out) the HEP scope:
  - Model-independent BSM searches at the LHC
  - (Quasi) online data quality monitoring
  - Validation of data generators
  - ???

# References

- “Learning new physics from a machine” [Phys. Rev. D 99, 015014](#) (d’Agnolo, Wulzer)
- “Learning multivariate new physics” [Eur. Phys. J. C 81, 89 \(2021\)](#) (d’Agnolo, Grosso, Pierini, Wulzer, Zanetti)
- “Learning new physics from an imperfect machine” [Eur. Phys. J. C 82, 275 \(2022\)](#) (d’Agnolo, Grosso, Pierini, Wulzer, Zanetti)
- “Learning new physics efficiently with nonparametric methods” [Eur. Phys. J. C, 82\(10\)](#) (Letizia, Grosso et al.)
- “Fast kernel methods for Data Quality Monitoring as a goodness-of-fit test” [arXiv:2303.05413](#) (Lai, Letizia, Grosso et al.)

# Getting started with NPLM

- [NPLM package](#): python-based package to run the NPLM analysis strategy
- [Tutorial](#) on 1D toy model for getting started

**NPLM 0.0.6**

[pip install NPLM](#)

Released: Feb 1, 2022

package to run the New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM) algorithm.

**Navigation**

- Project description
- Release history
- Download files

**Project description**

**NPLM\_package**

a package to implement the New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM) algorithm

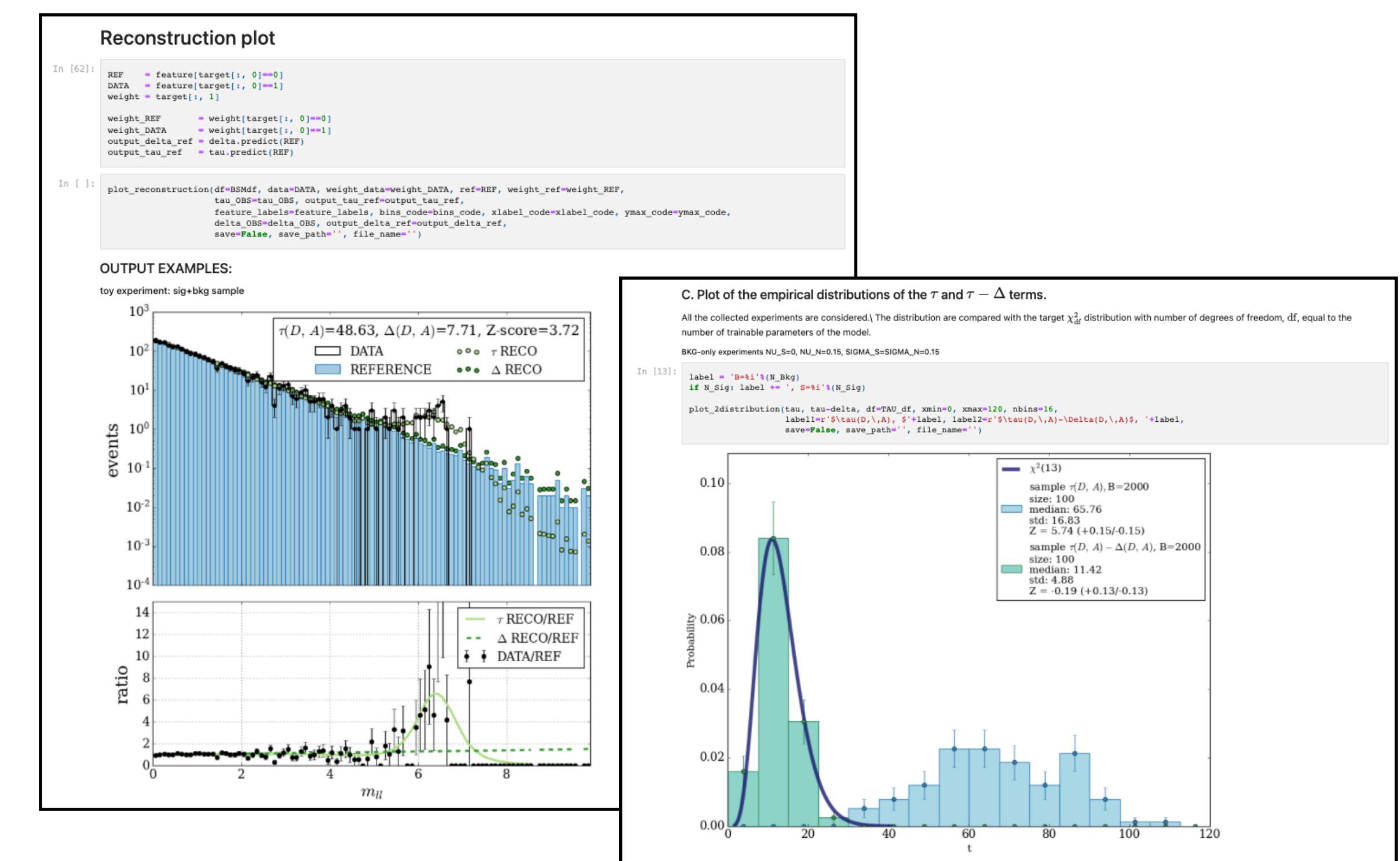
**Short description:**

NPLM is a strategy to detect data departures from a given reference model, with no prior bias on the nature of the new physics model responsible for the discrepancy. The method employs neural networks, leveraging their virtues as flexible function approximants, but builds its foundations directly on the canonical likelihood-ratio approach to hypothesis testing. The algorithm compares observations with an auxiliary set of reference-distributed events, possibly obtained with a Monte Carlo event generator. It returns a p-value, which measures the compatibility of the reference model with the data. It also identifies the most discrepant phase-space region of the dataset, to be selected for further investigation. Imperfections due to mis-modelling in the reference dataset can be taken into account straightforwardly as nuisance parameters.

**Related works:**

- "Learning New Physics from a Machine" ([Phys. Rev. D](#))
- "Learning Multivariate New Physics" ([Eur. Phys. J. C](#))
- "Learning New Physics from an Imperfect Machine" ([arXiv](#))

View statistics for this project via [Libraries.io](#), or by using [our public dataset on Google BigQuery](#).



# Backup slides

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

## Controlling type I errors: NN model regularisation

Due to the **finite size** of the training samples, the **sparsity** of the data (especially in multivariate problems) and the **ill-definition of the loss** (unbounded from below), the distribution of  $t(D)$  under  $R_0$  doesn't converge to a stable configuration naturally (hope for the emergence of a  $\chi^2$ ).

→ a (NN) MODEL **REGULARIZATION** procedure can solve this problem!

The regularisation enforces a level of *smoothness* in the model, preventing from “overfitting” sparse data points in the sample.

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

## Controlling type I errors: NN model regularisation

**Weight clipping parameter:**

Upper boundary to the magnitude that each trainable parameter can assume during the training.



For a chosen NN architecture, **tuning the weight clipping** allows to recover a good agreement of the empirical distribution of  $t$  under  $R_0$  with a **target  $\chi^2_{|w|}$**  distribution.

Example:  
NN model: 5-7-7-1,  
Number of parameters: 106

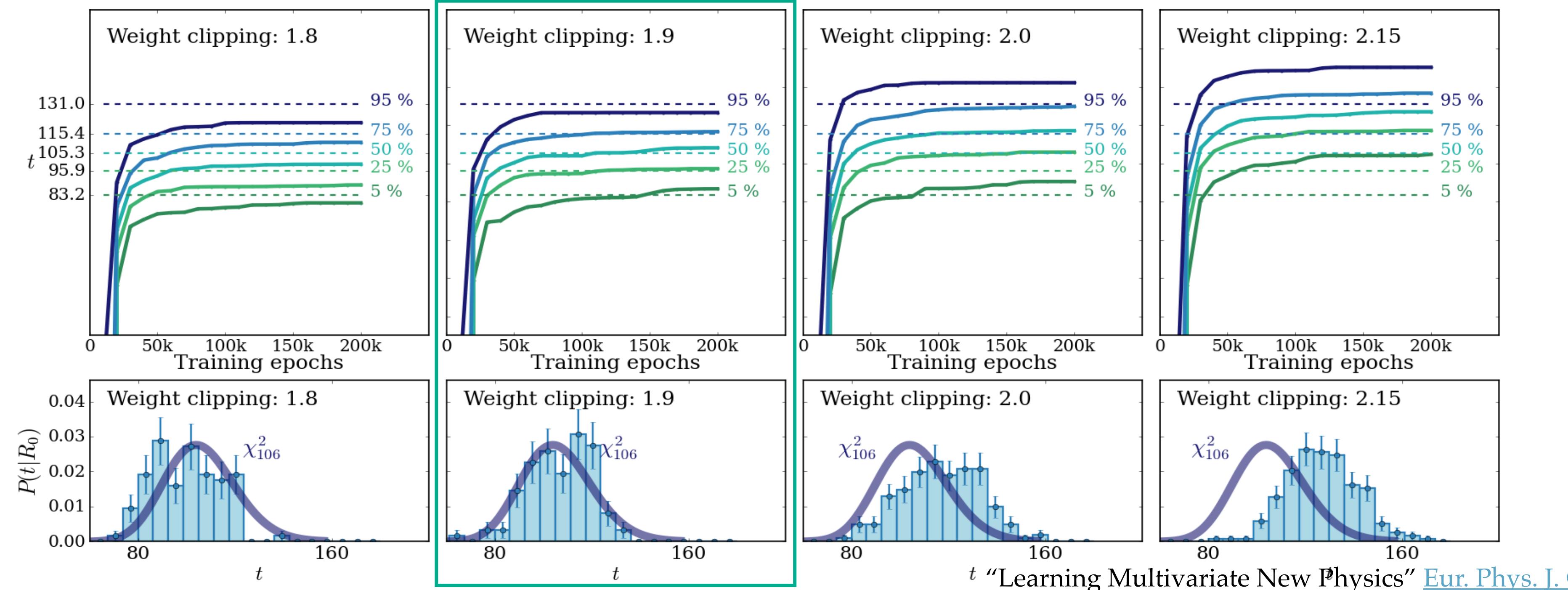
Legend:

Percentiles of the empirical  $\bar{t}$  distribution under  $R_0$

Percentiles of the target  $\chi^2_{|w|}$

Empirical  $\bar{t}$  distribution under  $R_0$

Target  $\chi^2_{|w|}$



# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

Maximum-Likelihood-ratio test statistic:

$$t(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) = 2 \log \left[ \frac{\max_{\mathbf{w}, \boldsymbol{\nu}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{w}}, \boldsymbol{\nu} | \mathcal{D}) \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\nu} | \mathcal{A})}{\max_{\boldsymbol{\nu}} \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}_{\boldsymbol{\nu}} | \mathcal{D}) \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\nu} | \mathcal{A})} \right] \cdot \frac{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}_0 | \mathcal{D}) \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{0} | \mathcal{A})}{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}_0 | \mathcal{D}) \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{0} | \mathcal{A})}$$

$$= \tau(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) - \Delta(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A})$$

- $\mathbf{R}_{\boldsymbol{\nu}}$  : reference hypothesis (null)
- $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{w}, \boldsymbol{\nu}}$  : alternative hypothesis
- $\mathbf{w}$  : trainable parameters on the NN model
- $\boldsymbol{\nu}$  : set of nuisance parameters modelling the uncertainties effects
- $\mathcal{D}$  : data sample
- $\mathcal{A}$  : auxiliary sample (used to constrain  $\boldsymbol{\nu}$ )

Tau term:

$$\tau(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) = 2 \max_{\mathbf{w}, \boldsymbol{\nu}} \log \left[ \frac{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{w}}, \boldsymbol{\nu} | \mathcal{D}) \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\nu} | \mathcal{A})}{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}_0 | \mathcal{D}) \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{0} | \mathcal{A})} \right] = -2 \min_{\mathbf{w}, \boldsymbol{\nu}} L \left[ f(x, \mathbf{w}), \boldsymbol{\nu}; \hat{\delta}(x) \right]$$

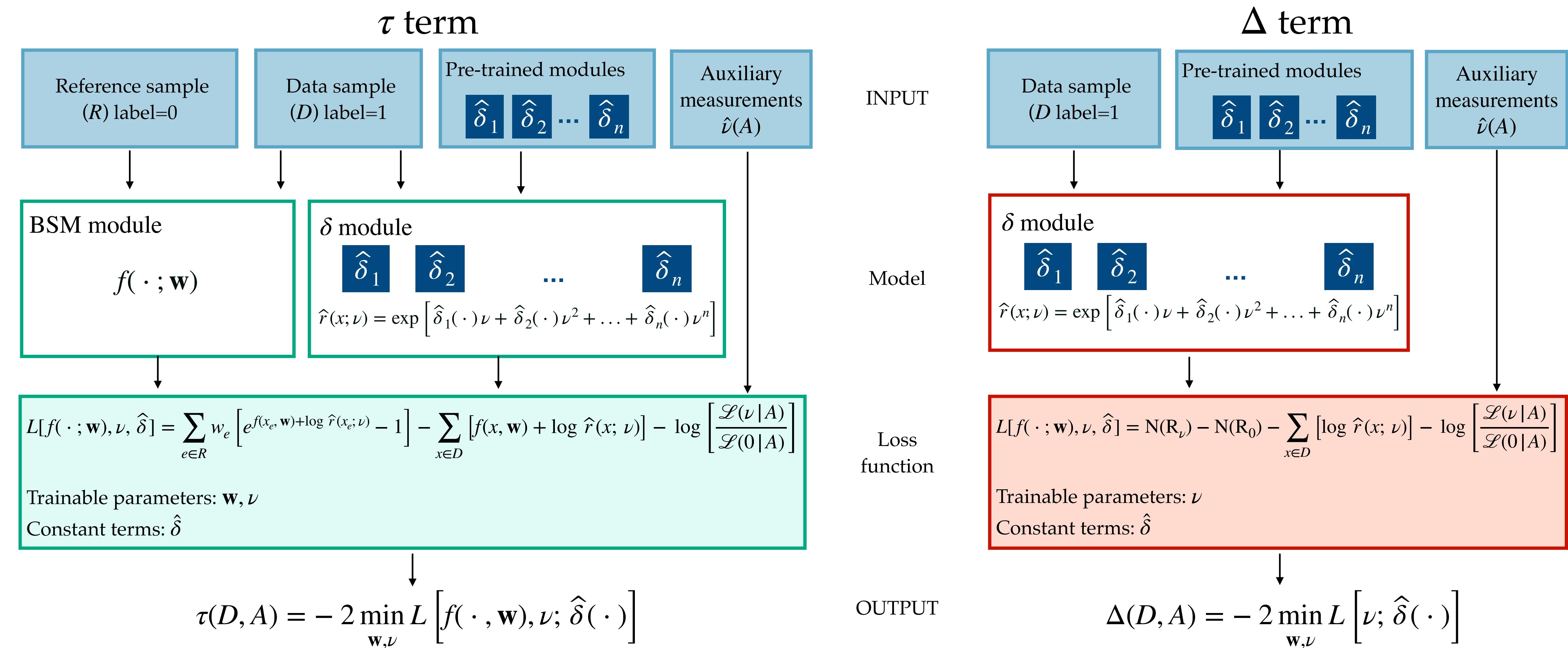
Depends on the NN model,  
sensitive to New Physics

Delta term:

$$\Delta(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{A}) = 2 \max_{\boldsymbol{\nu}} \log \left[ \frac{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}_{\boldsymbol{\nu}} | \mathcal{D}) \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\nu} | \mathcal{A})}{\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{R}_0 | \mathcal{D}) \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{0} | \mathcal{A})} \right] = -2 \min_{\boldsymbol{\nu}} L \left[ \boldsymbol{\nu}; \hat{\delta}(x) \right]$$

Purely SM term, sensitive only to  
uncertainties related discrepancies

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

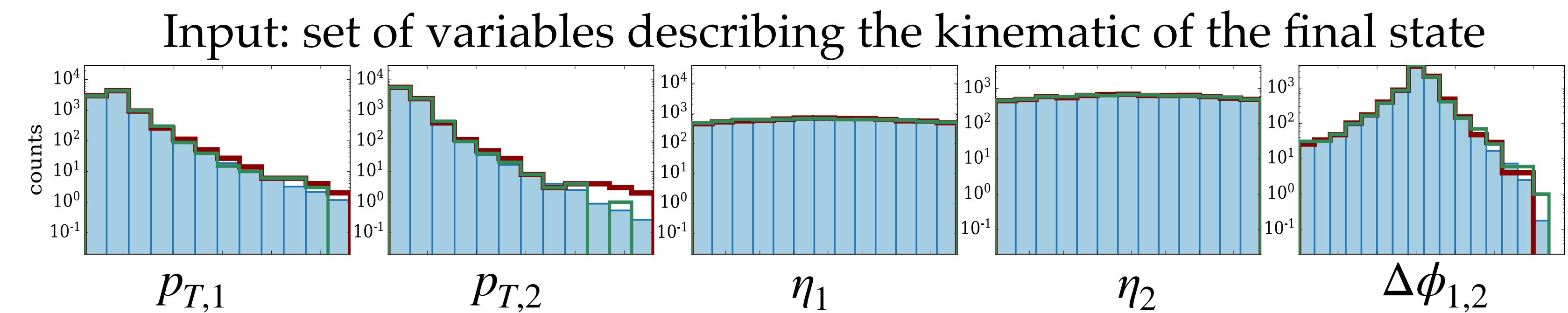


# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

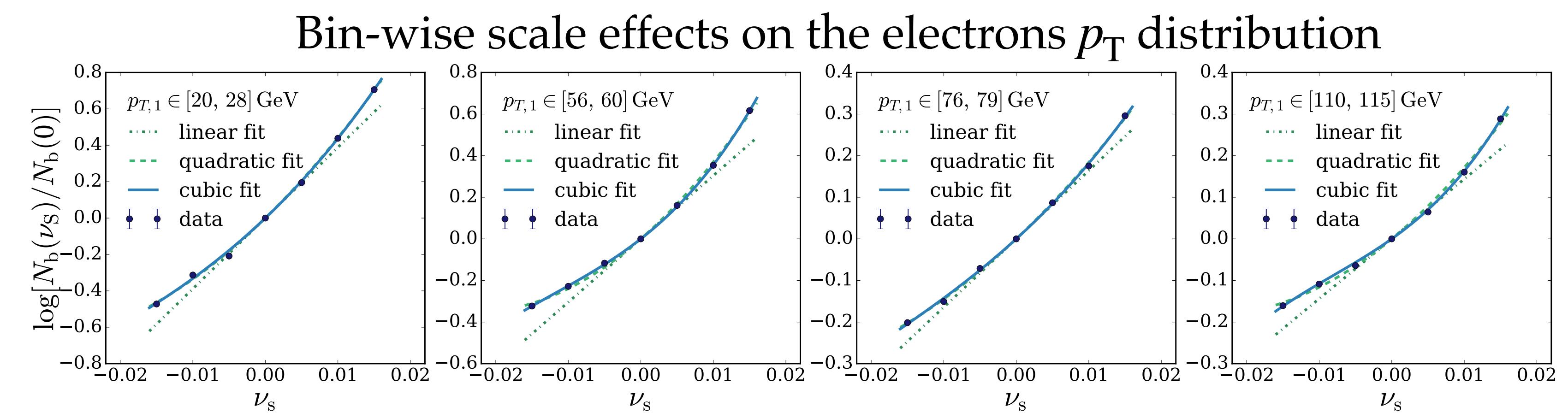
Modelling the family of Reference hypotheses: shape effects

1) Preliminary study: Binned analysis to determine the proper order for the Taylor's expansion

Example:  
Two-body final state  
(5D analysis)



- Right order of approximation
- Where and how many instances are needed



# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

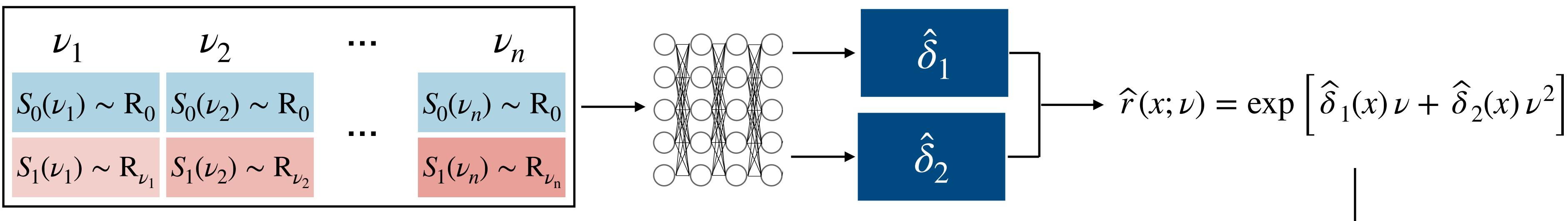
Modelling the family of Reference hypotheses: shape effects

2) Taylor's expansion learning: Training a neural network model to learn each coefficient of the Taylor's expansion of

$$r(x; \nu) = \frac{n(x | R_\nu)}{n(x | R_0)}$$

Parametrised classifier

Input samples



Loss function\*

$$L[\hat{\delta}(\cdot)] = \sum_{\nu_i} \left[ \sum_{e \in S_0(\nu_i)} w_e c(x_e)^2 + \sum_{e \in S_1(\nu_i)} w_e [1 - c(x_e)]^2 \right], \quad c(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \hat{r}(x; \nu)}$$

\* Parametrized classifiers for optimal EFT sensitivity [arXiv:2007.10356](https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.10356)

# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

Controlling type I errors: validation of the  $(\tau - \Delta)$  procedure

“Toy Data” : test the procedure on simulated toys following the Reference (SM) hypothesis with generation value for the nuisance parameters  $\nu^* = \pm\sigma_\nu$ :

$$\mathcal{D} \sim R_{\nu^*}, \quad \nu^* = \pm\sigma_\nu$$

The  $t(D)$  distribution under the reference hypothesis  $R_{\nu^*}$  is **compatible with the  $\chi^2_{|w|}$**  (found by regularizing) for values of the true nuisance parameters within the uncertainty ( $\nu^* = \pm\sigma_\nu$ ).

**$t$  does **not depend** on the true value of the nuisance parameters!**

We can build a *frequentist* test statistic targeting the  $\chi^2_{|w|}$ .

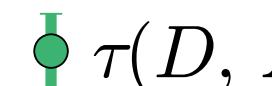
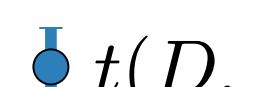
# New Physics Learning Machine (NPLM)

## Controlling type I errors: validation of the $(\tau - \Delta)$ procedure

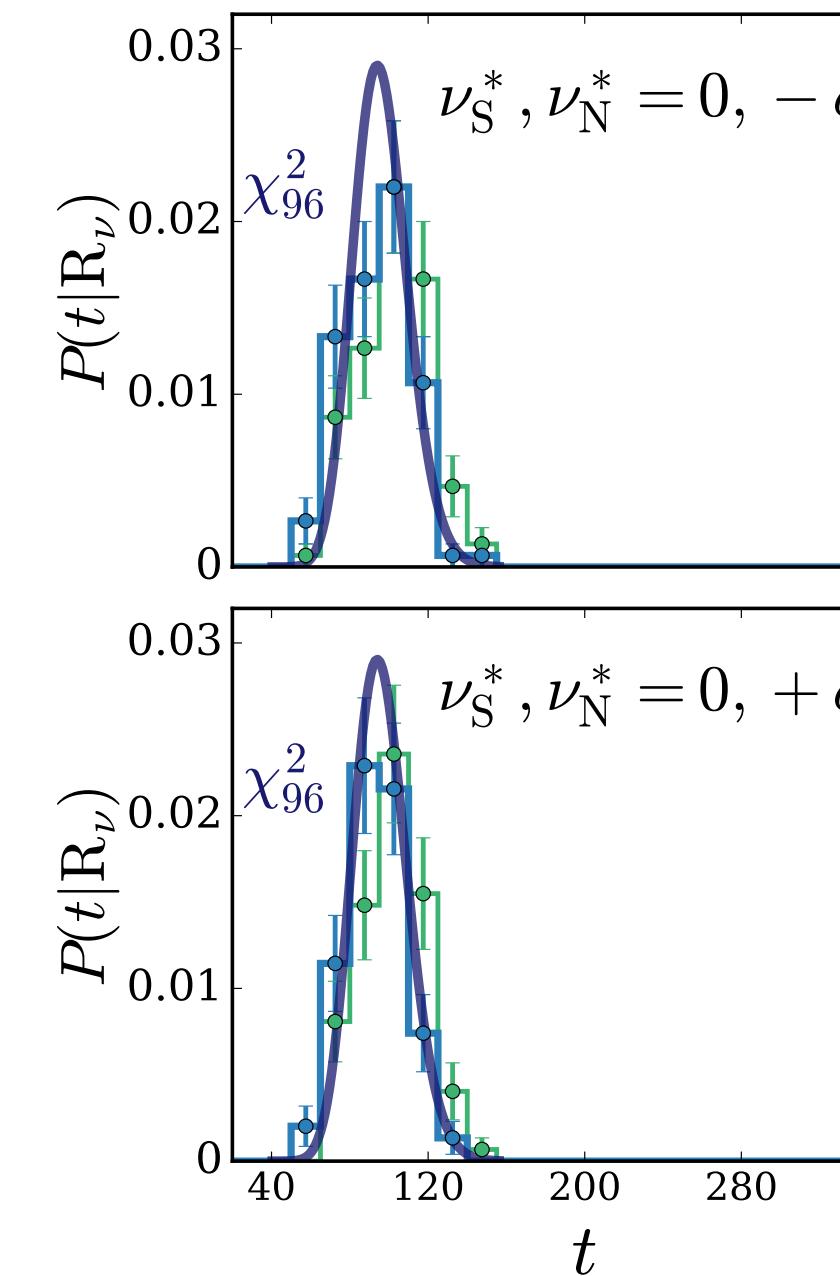
Reference sample:  $R \sim R_0$

Data sample:  $D \sim R_{\nu^*}$

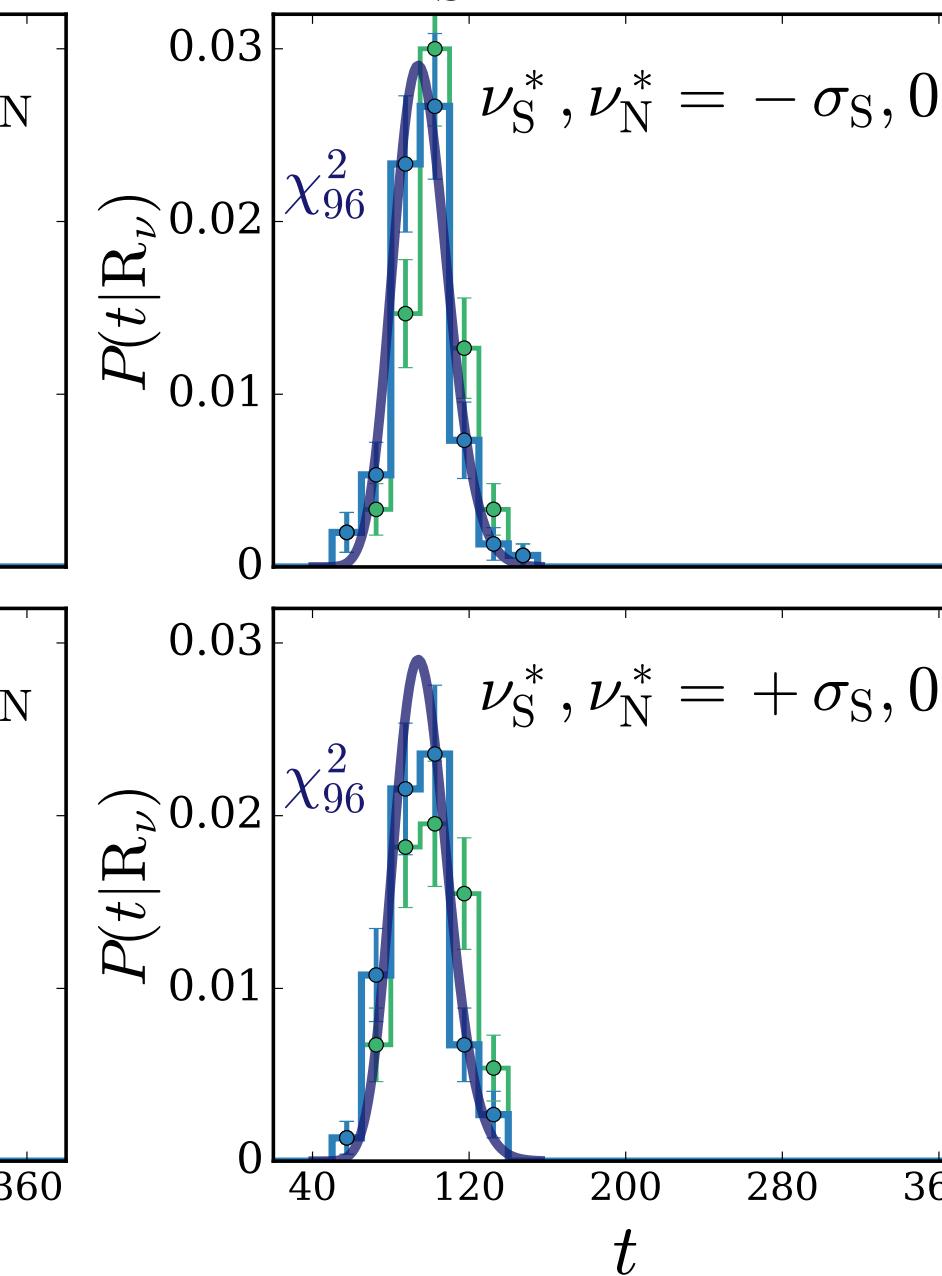
Example:  
NN [5-5-5-5-1]  
#trainable parameters = 96  
weight clipping = 2.16

  $\tau(D, A)$   
  $t(D, A) = \tau(D, A) - \Delta(D, A)$

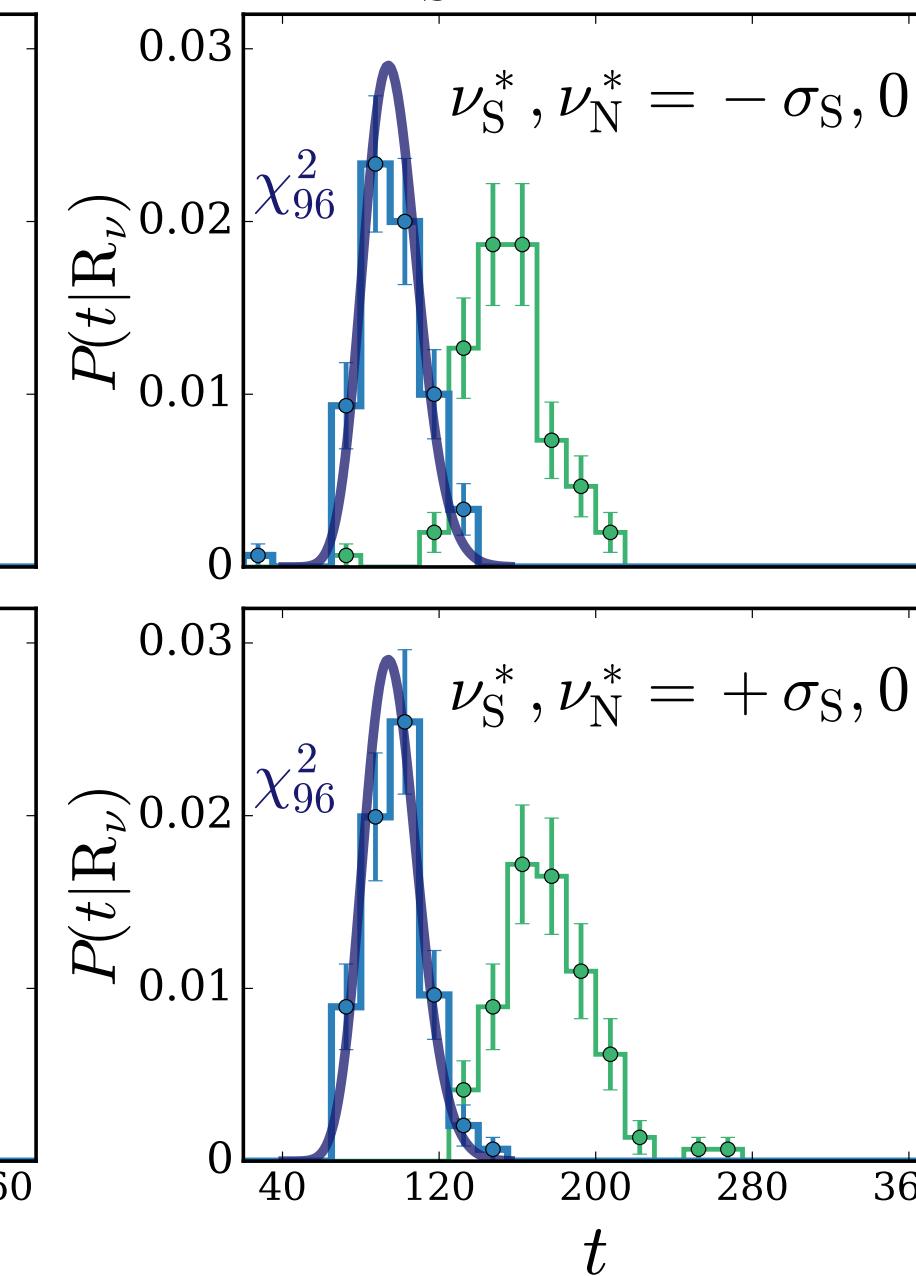
Normalization uncertainty  
 $\sigma_N = 2.5 \%$



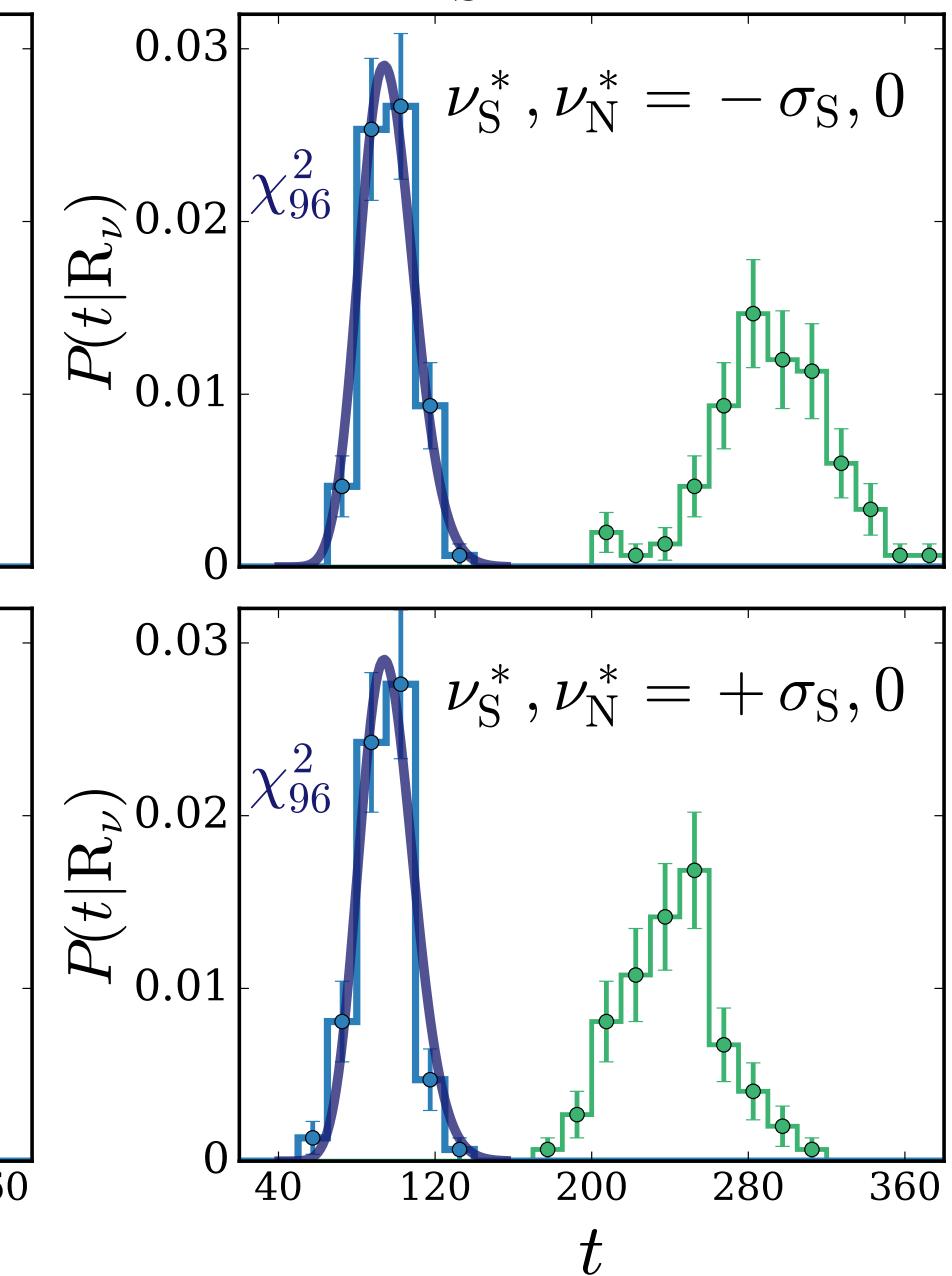
Scale uncertainty  
Muon-like regime  
 $\sigma_S = 0.05 \%$



Scale uncertainty  
Electron-like regime  
 $\sigma_S = 0.3 \%$

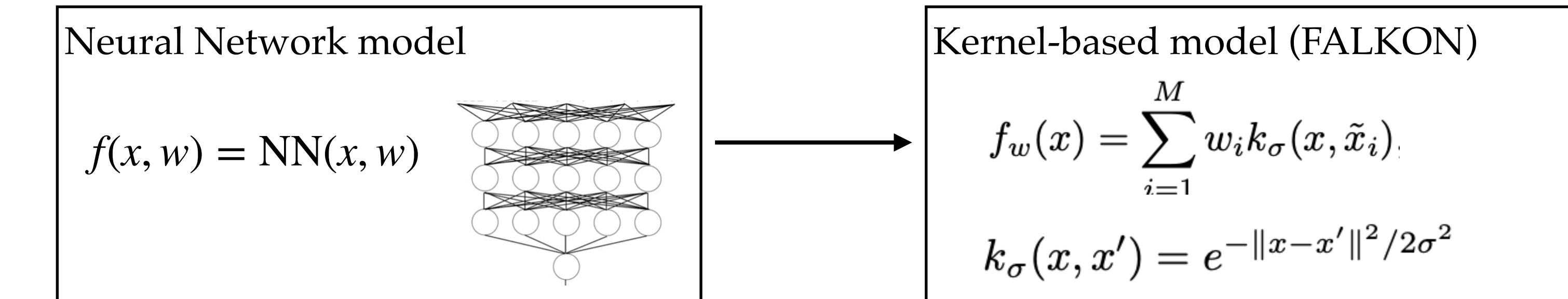


Scale uncertainty  
Tau-like regime  
 $\sigma_S = 3 \%$



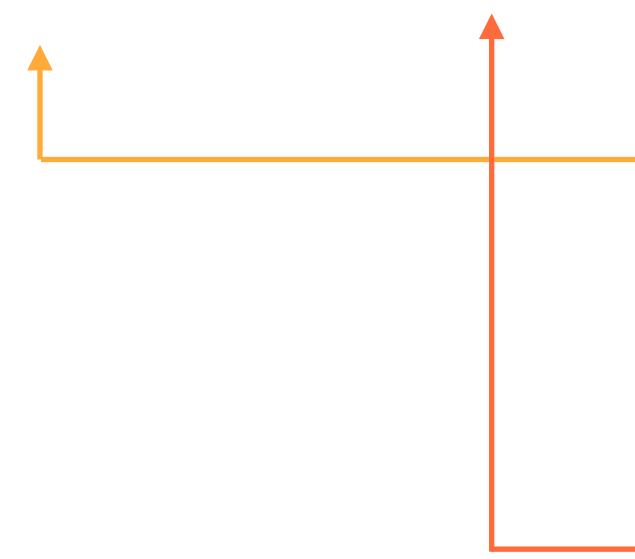
# Training speed up: kernel methods

- NN model replaced with kernels:



- NPLM loss replaced with a weighted cross entropy loss

$$\hat{L}(f_w) + \lambda R(f_w)$$



Weighted cross entropy:

$$\hat{L}(f_w) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N a_0(1 - y) \log \left( 1 + e^{f(x)} \right) + a_1 y \log \left( 1 + e^{-f(x)} \right)$$

Regularization term:

$$R(f_w) = \sum_{ij} w_i w_j k_\sigma(x_i, x_j)$$

This is also a smoothness requirement!

- Different heuristic to select the model hyperparameters ( $M, \sigma, \lambda$ )
- Online training on GPU: drastic drop of training time!
- (Systematic uncertainties not yet implemented)