

Application of Generative AI in Heavy Ion Collisions

Yeonju Go^a, Dmitrii Torbunov^a, Jin Huang^a,
Yihui Ren^a, Yi Huang^a, Meifeng Lin^a, Haiwang Yu^a,
Brett Viren^a, Tim Rinn^b, Dennis Perepelitsa^c, Shuhang Li^d

a: Brookhaven National Laboratory

b: Los Alamos National Laboratory

c: University of Colorado Boulder

d: Columbia University

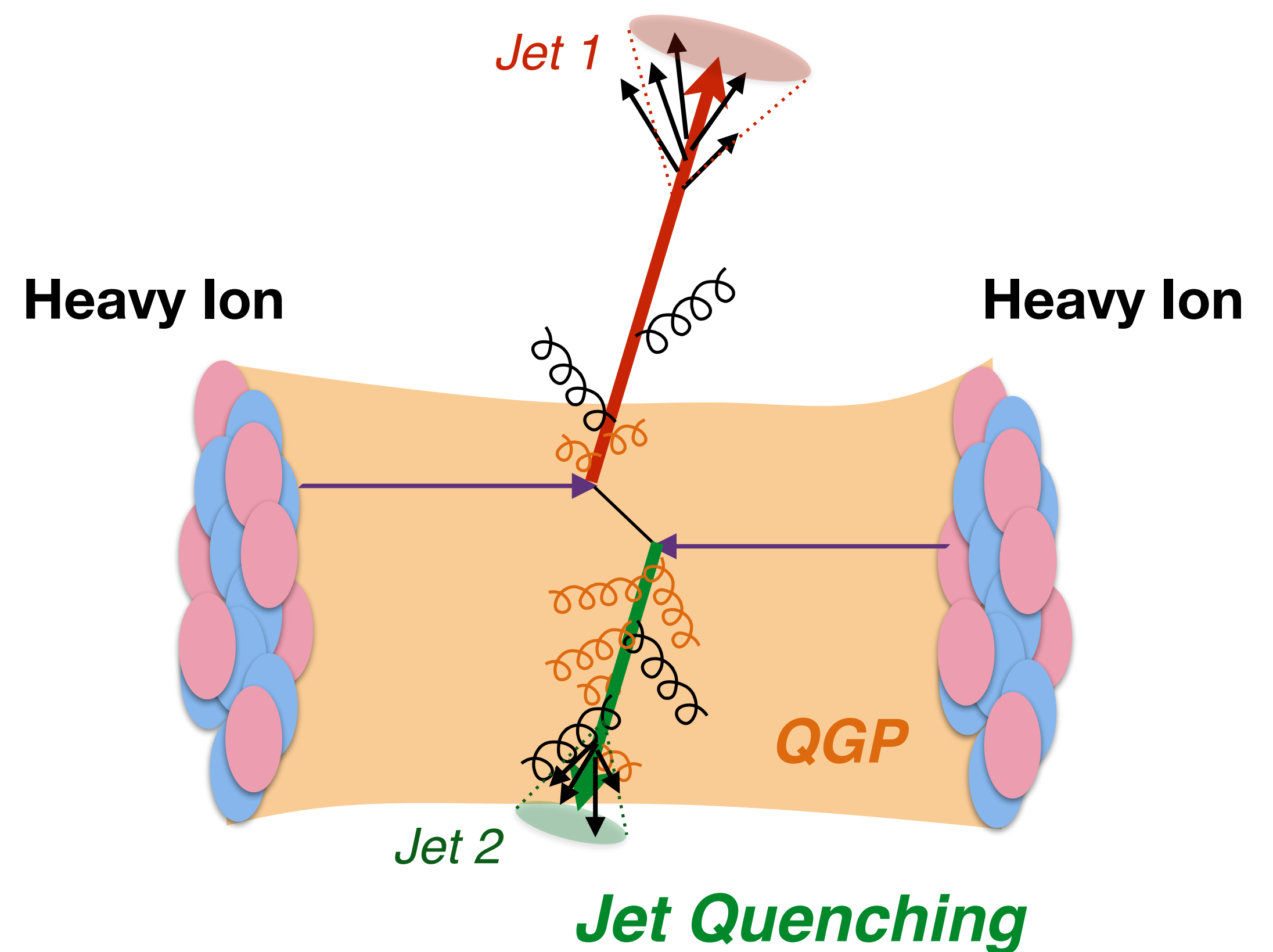
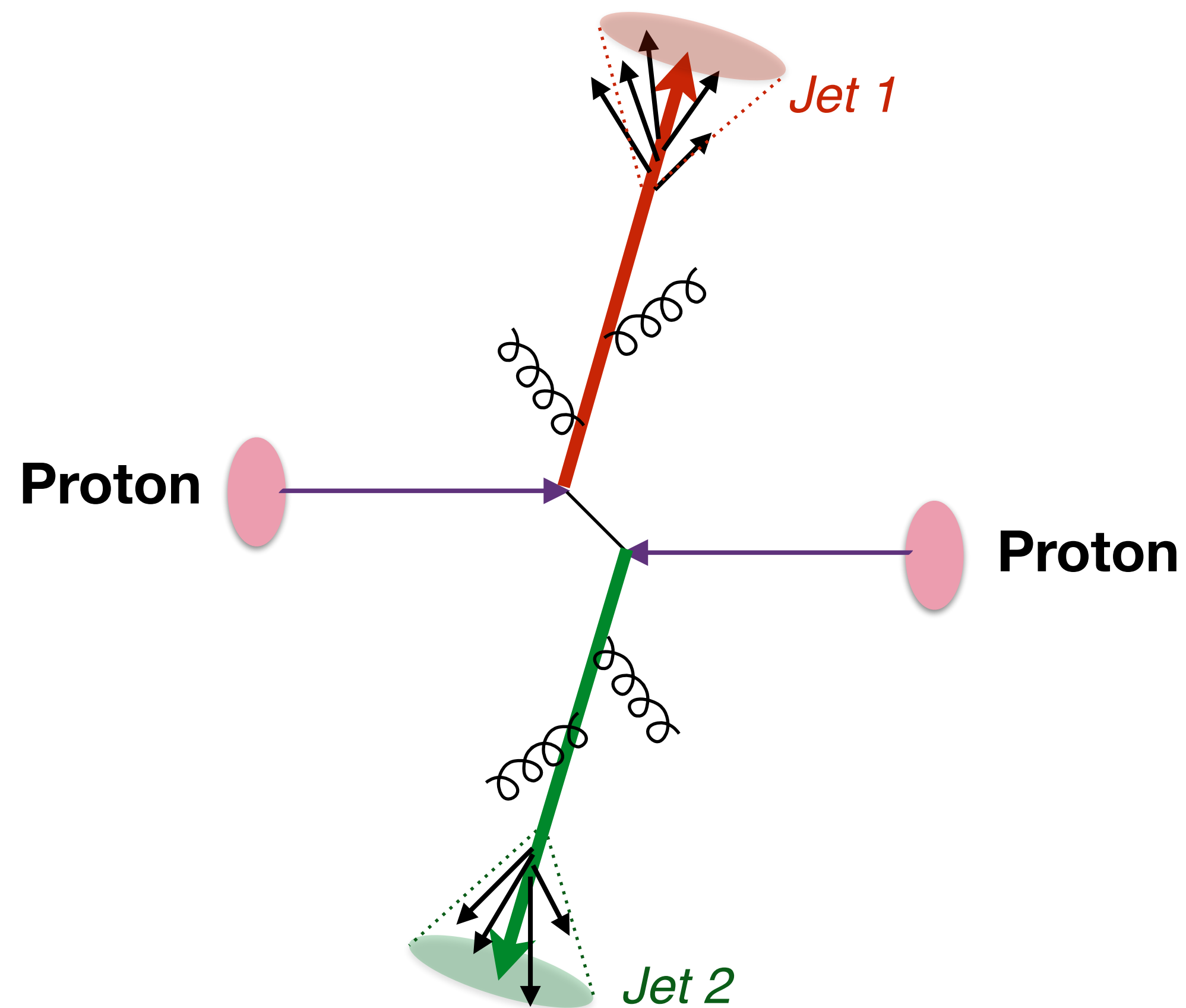
The 11th Workshop of APS Topical Group on Hadronic Physics (GHP)

Anaheim, CA, USA

March 14-16, 2025

Jets in Heavy Ion Collisions (1)

- **Jet quenching**: a phenomenon of jet energy loss and redistribution that happens when a parton go through a hot and dense **quark gluon plasma (QGP)** created in the heavy ion collisions



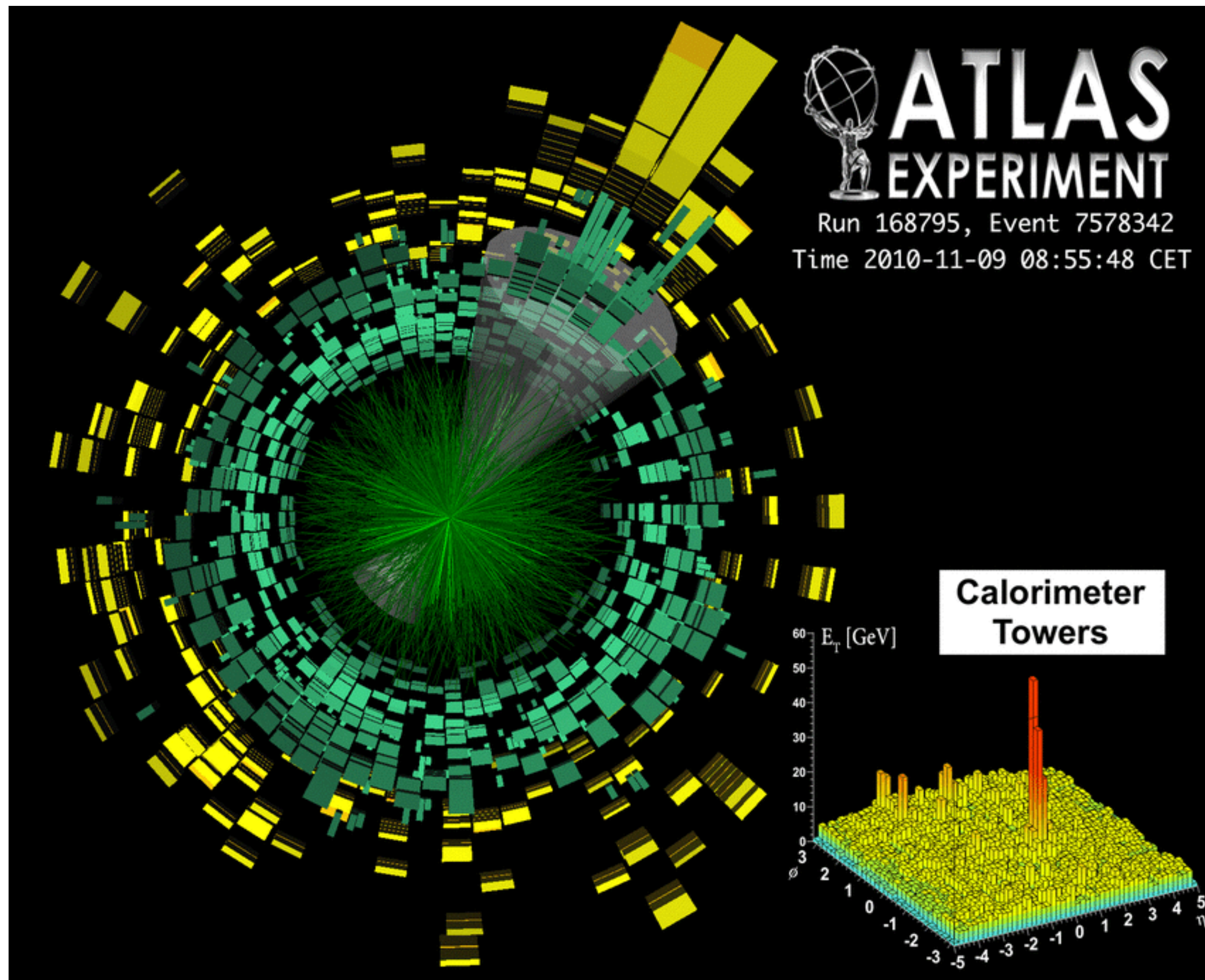
Jets in Heavy Ion Collisions (2)

- MC events with jets in heavy ion collisions
 - ➔ **Pythia jets** are embedded into minimum-bias heavy-ion MC events e.g. **HIJING**
 - ➔ This bulk medium has properties such as collective motion, e.g. flow

Topic 1: HIJING simulation event generation using diffusion model

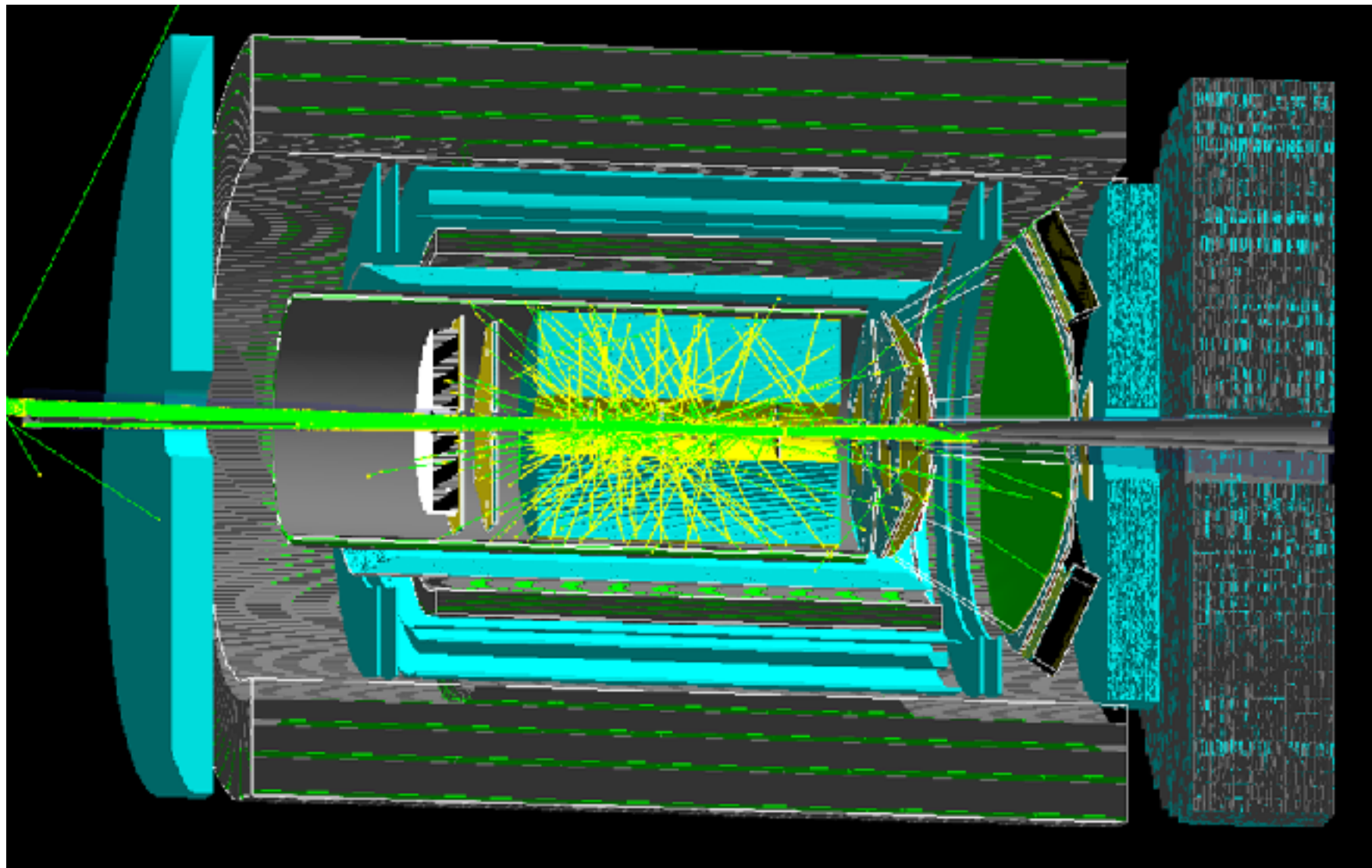
- The huge amount of **underlying event background** produced from multiple nucleon-nucleon collisions has to be **estimated** and **subtracted** from **jet reconstruction**

Topic 2: Jet background subtraction using cycleGAN model

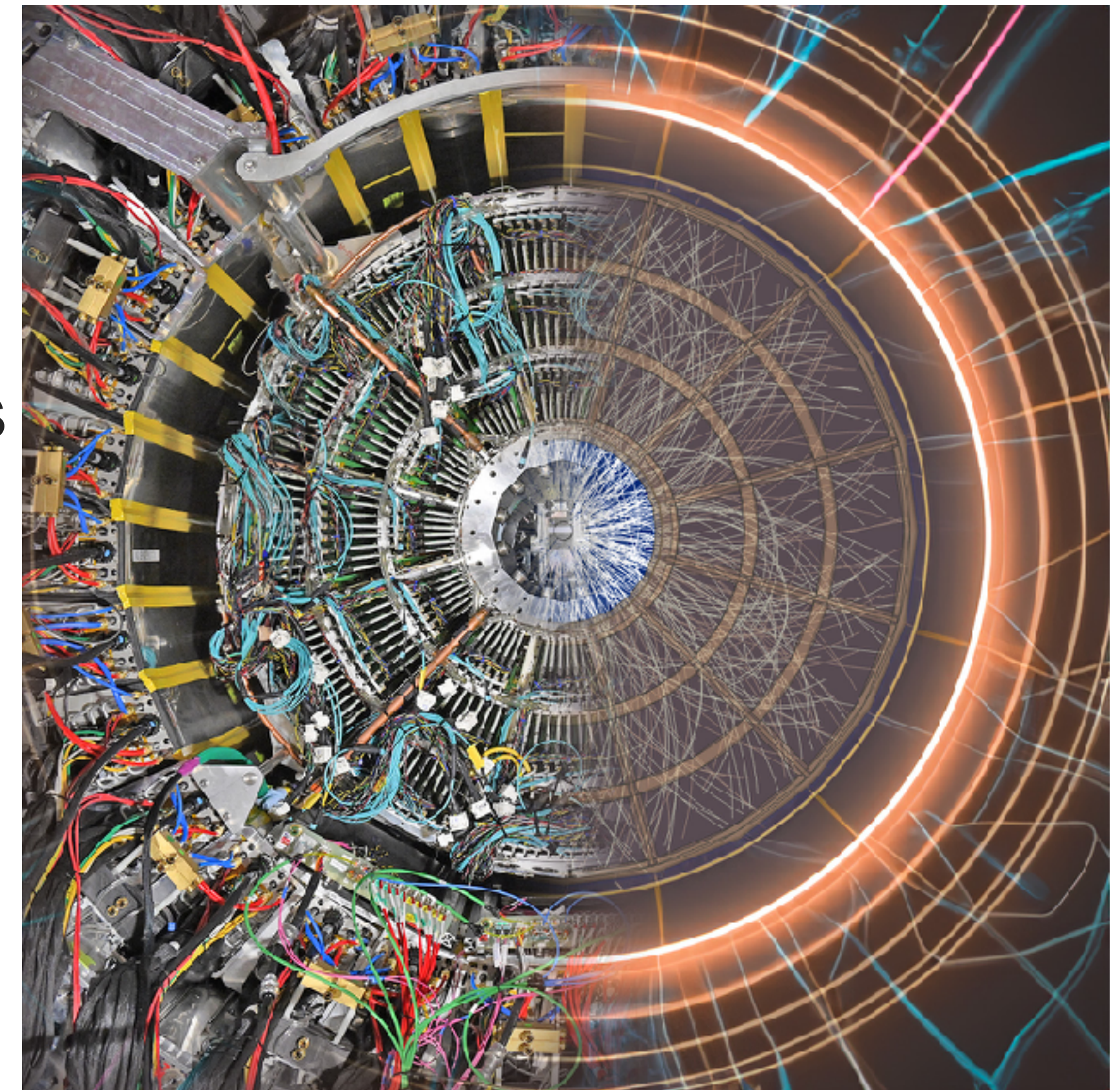


Simulations of Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions

- $O(1000)$ particles in one nuclear collision event + *thousands shower steps* per particle
- ➔ Simulation of the interaction of particles with detectors is **high complexity and computationally intensive work**
- *Electron-Ion Collider* will need a large amount of simulations of full detector with both physics and machine background
- ML can speed up and produce large amount of the heavy ion event simulations!



EIC CDR

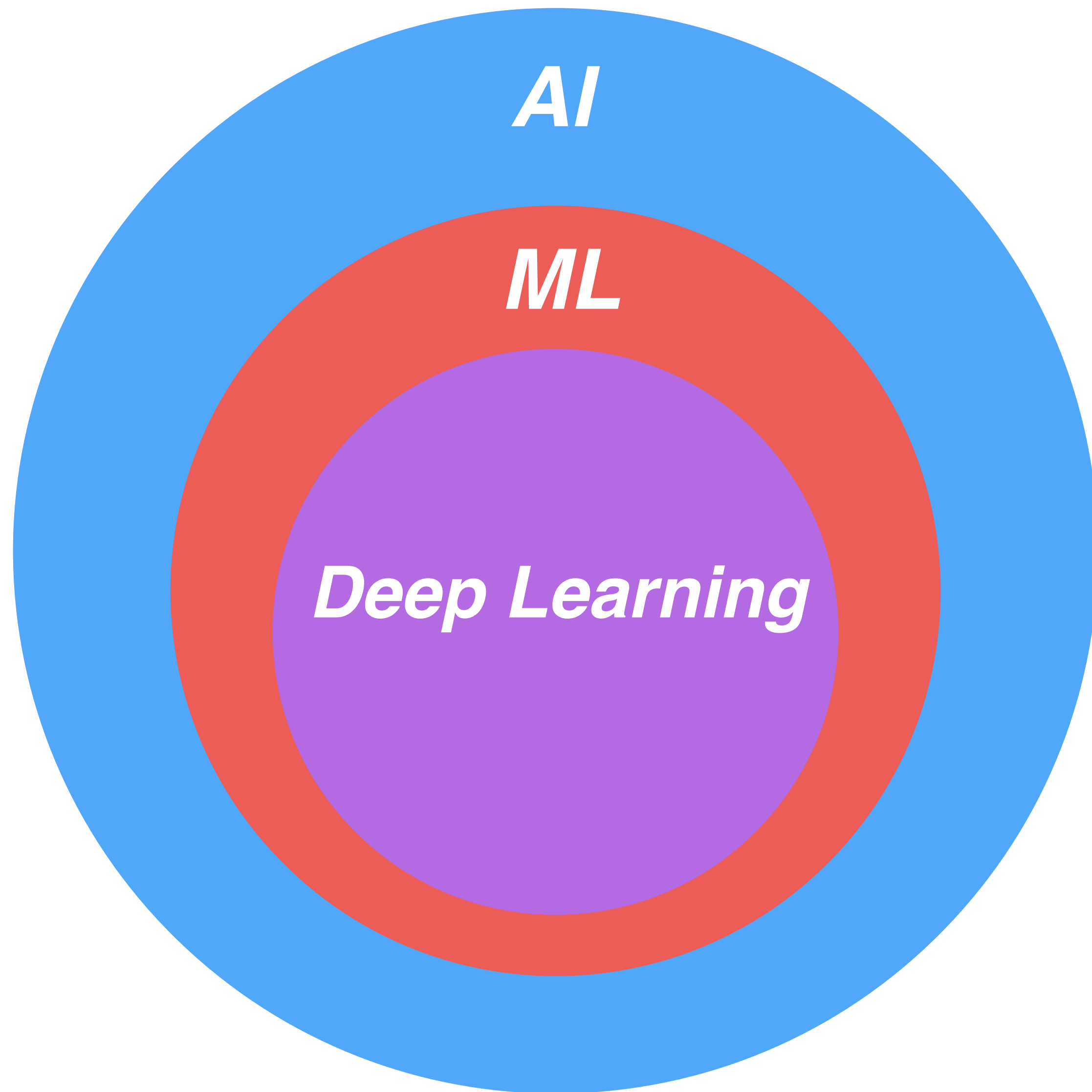


sPHENIX TPC

We introduce **full detector whole-event ML simulations** for heavy ion collisions

Phys. Rev. C 110, 034912

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)



Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- mimic cognitive functions associated with human intelligence
- e.g. see, understand, respond, analyze data, make recommendations, etc

Machine Learning (ML)

- extract knowledge from data and learn from it autonomously
- no explicit programming

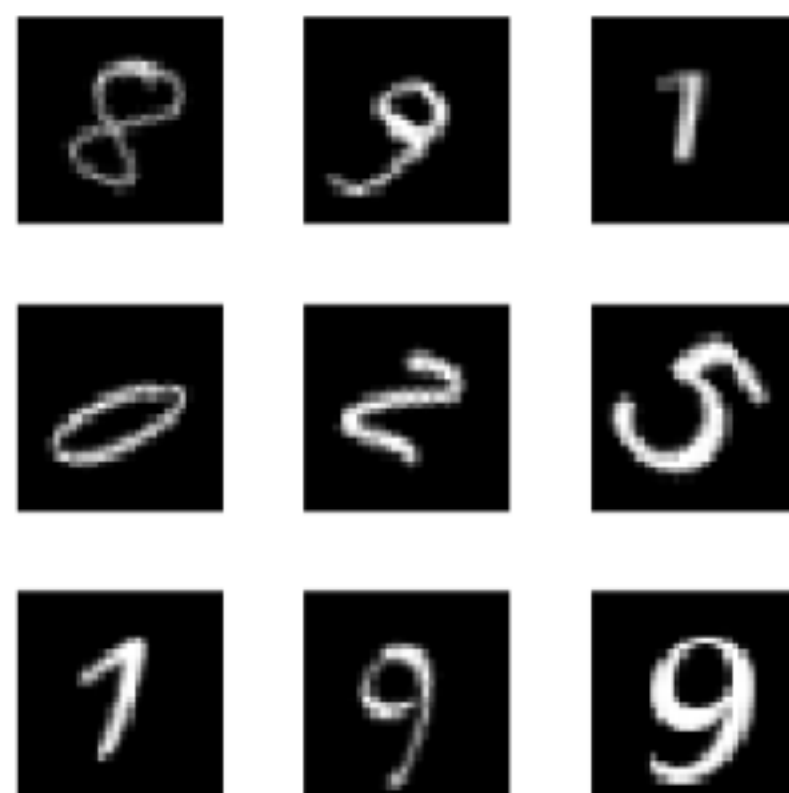
Deep Learning (DL)

- learn based on deep neural network

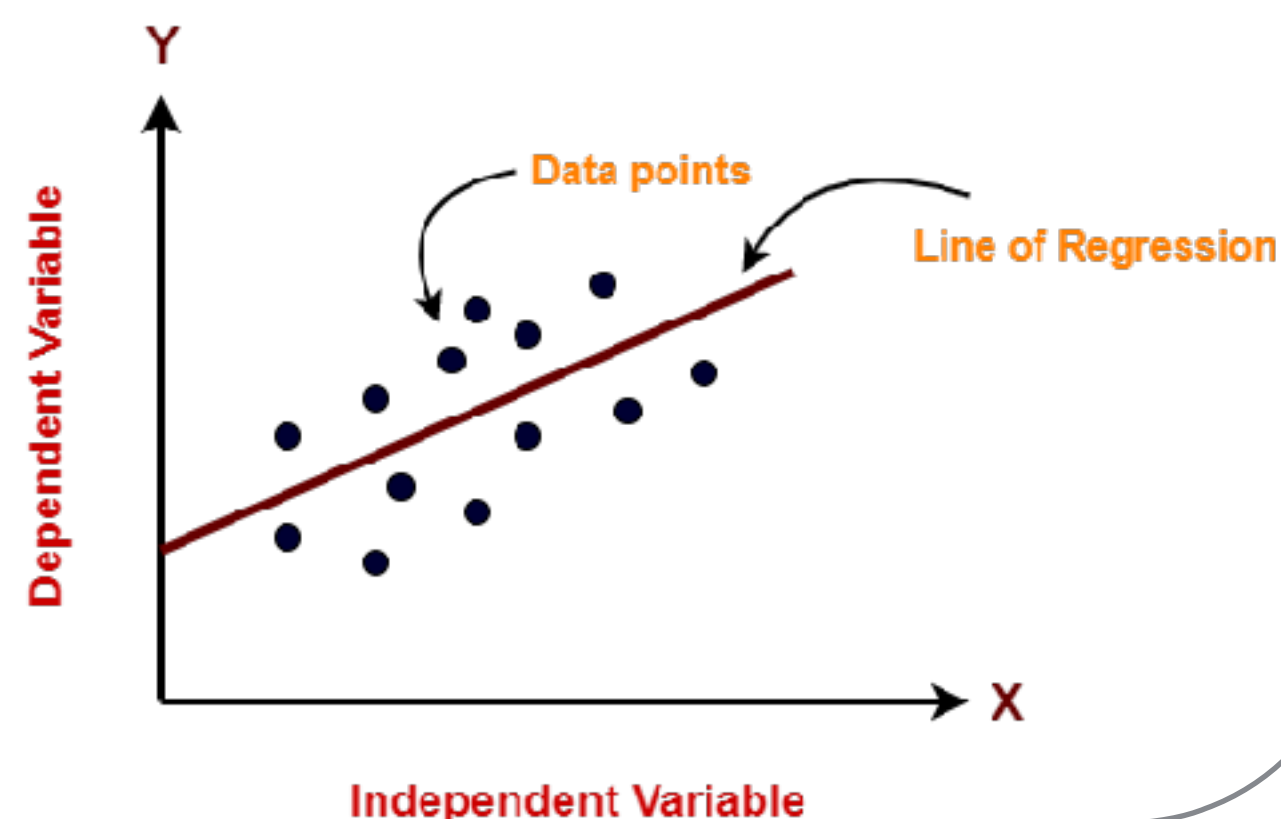
Supervised vs Unsupervised ML

Supervised

- Use **labelled** data
- **Input-output values** are given by human
- Forecast outcomes
- Classification

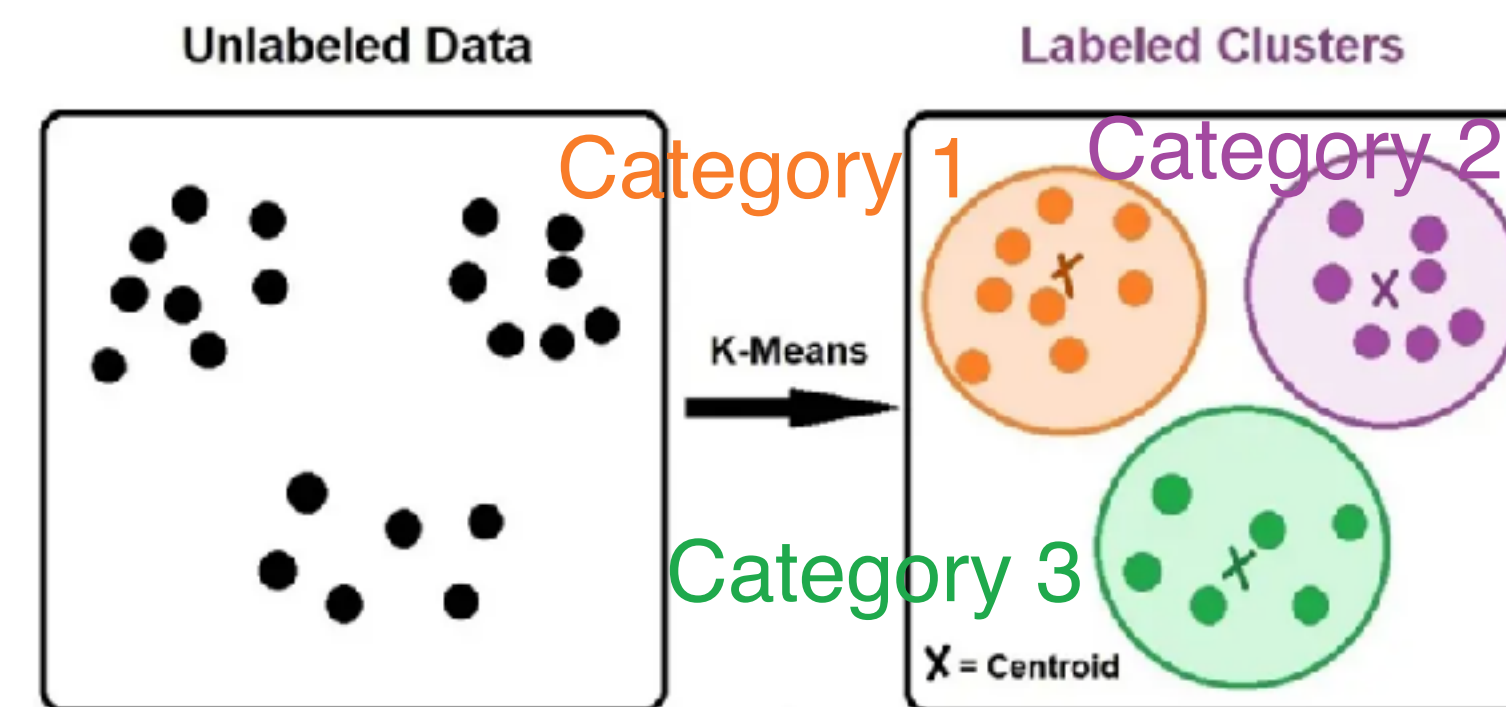


- Regression



Unsupervised

- Use **unlabelled** data
- Grouping and no prediction
- Find **hidden patterns** w/o human intervention
- Clustering



- Association
- Dimension Reduction
- Anomaly detection

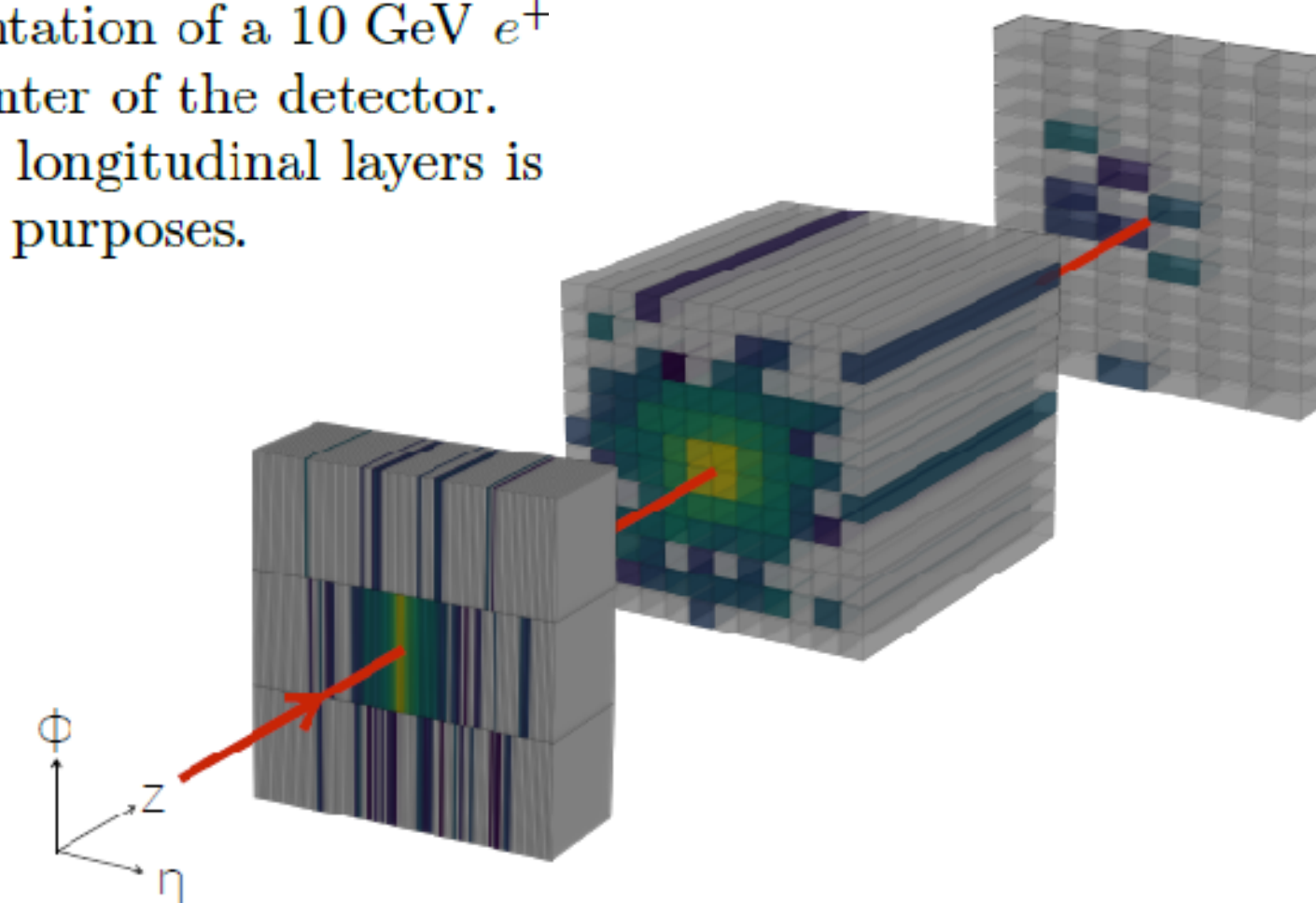
Generative AI Models

- **Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN)**

- actively used in high energy physics
(e.g. *arXiv:1712.1032*, *arXiv:2209.07559*,
EPJC 80 (2020) 688, *arXiv:2210.14245*)

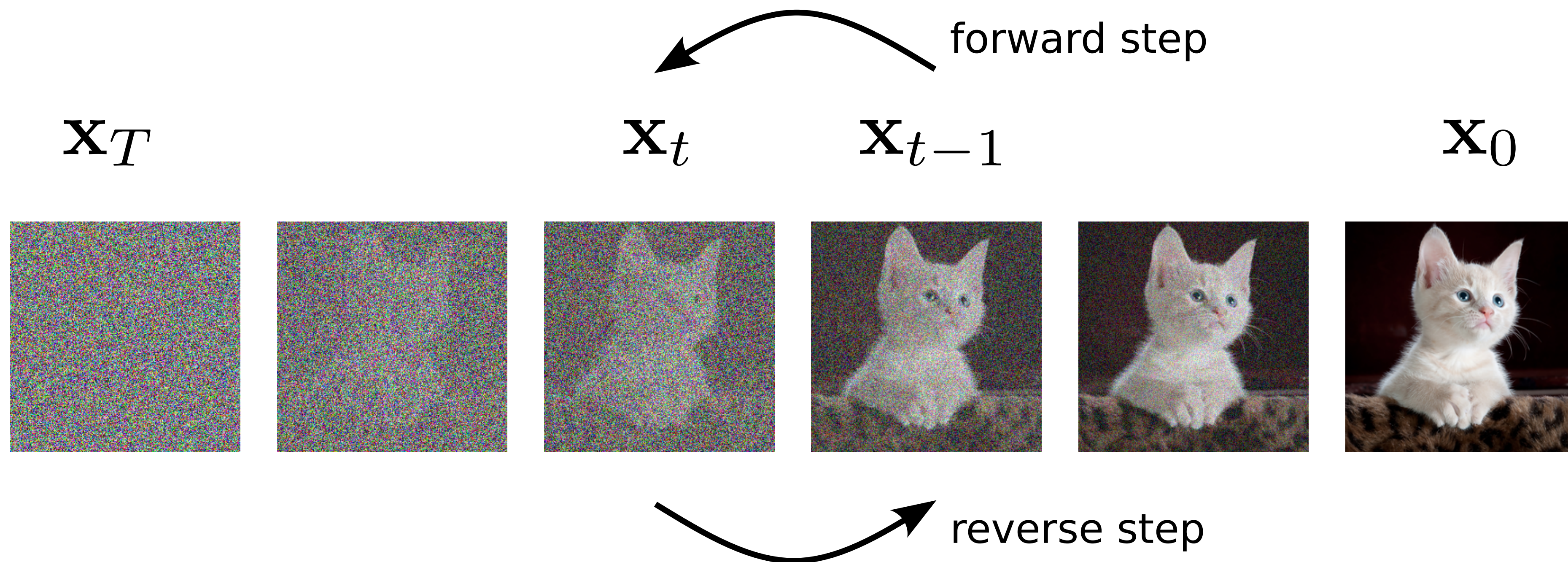
- **Diffusion Models:** text-to-image generation in industry
(e.g. StableDiffusion, Midjourney, Dalle-2)

FIG. 2: Three-dimensional representation of a 10 GeV e^+ incident perpendicular to the center of the detector. Not-to-scale separation among the longitudinal layers is added for visualization purposes.



Denoising Diffusion Probabilistic Model (DDPM)

- DDPM provides *high quality data from random noise*
- **Forward** process: add random gaussian noise
- **Reverse** process: use neural network and generate data
- In real application, $O(1,000)$ steps are used



sPHENIX Detector at RHIC



Tracking System

TPC
INTT
MVTX

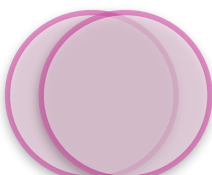
Calorimeters

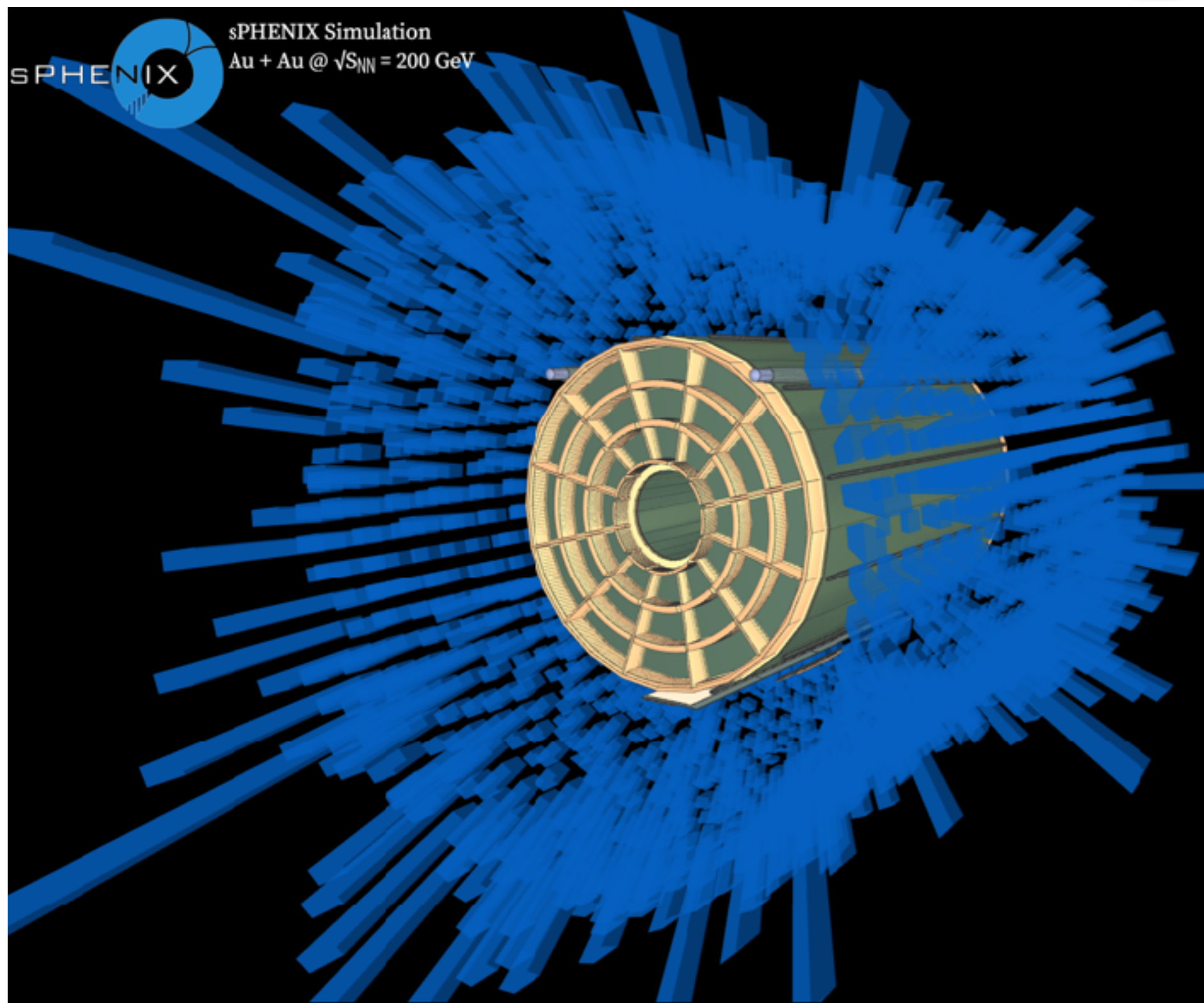
Electromagnetic
Inner Hadronic
Outer Hadronic

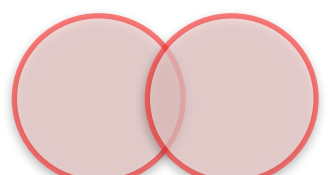
- Data taking began last year!
- High-precision **tracking system** + Hermetic Electromagnetic & Hadronic **calorimeters**

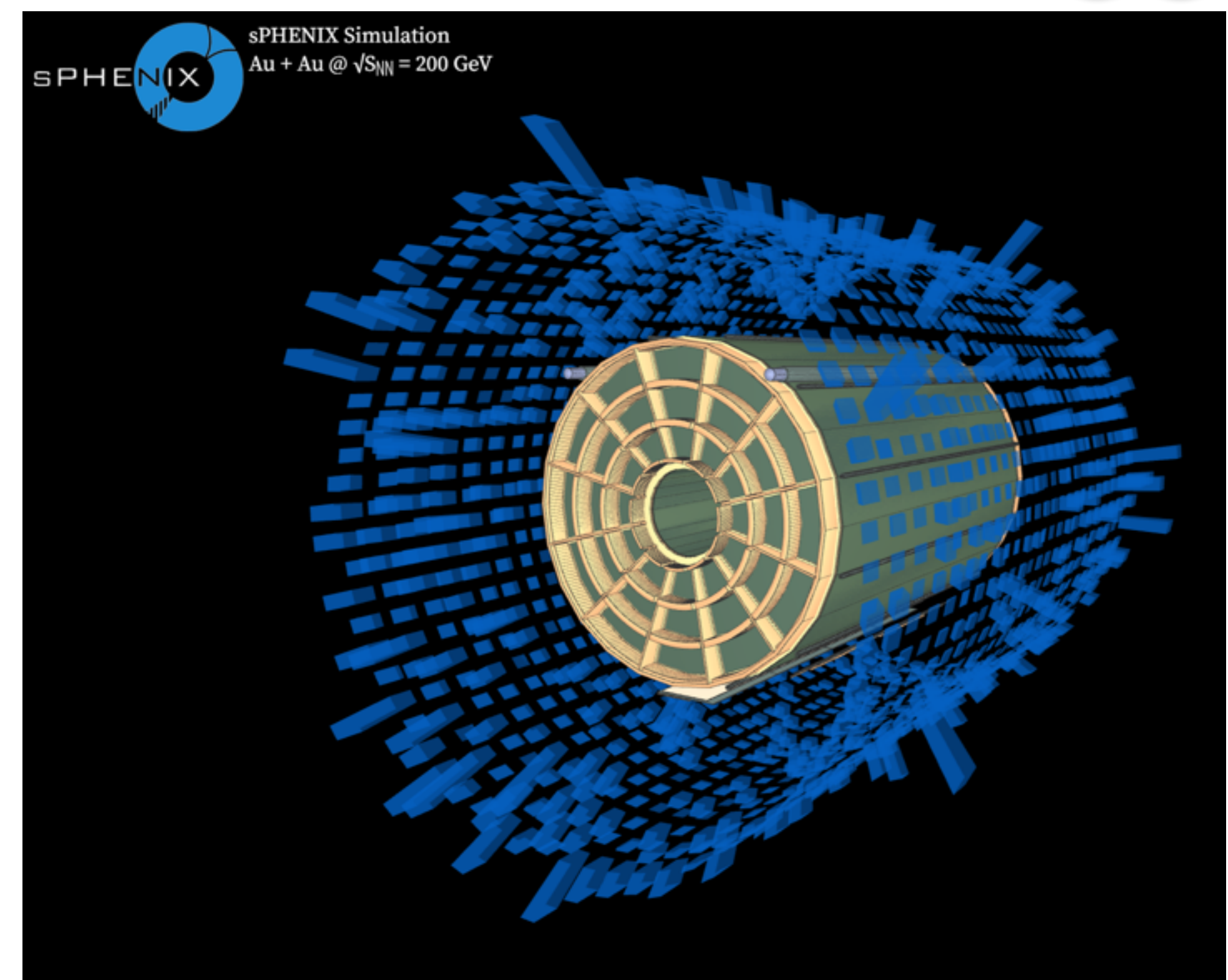
Heavy Ion Collision Event

- **HIJING** Monte Carlo event generator for Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}}=200$ GeV
- **Geant4** full detector simulation with the sPHENIX geometry

Head-on collision (0-10% Centrality) 

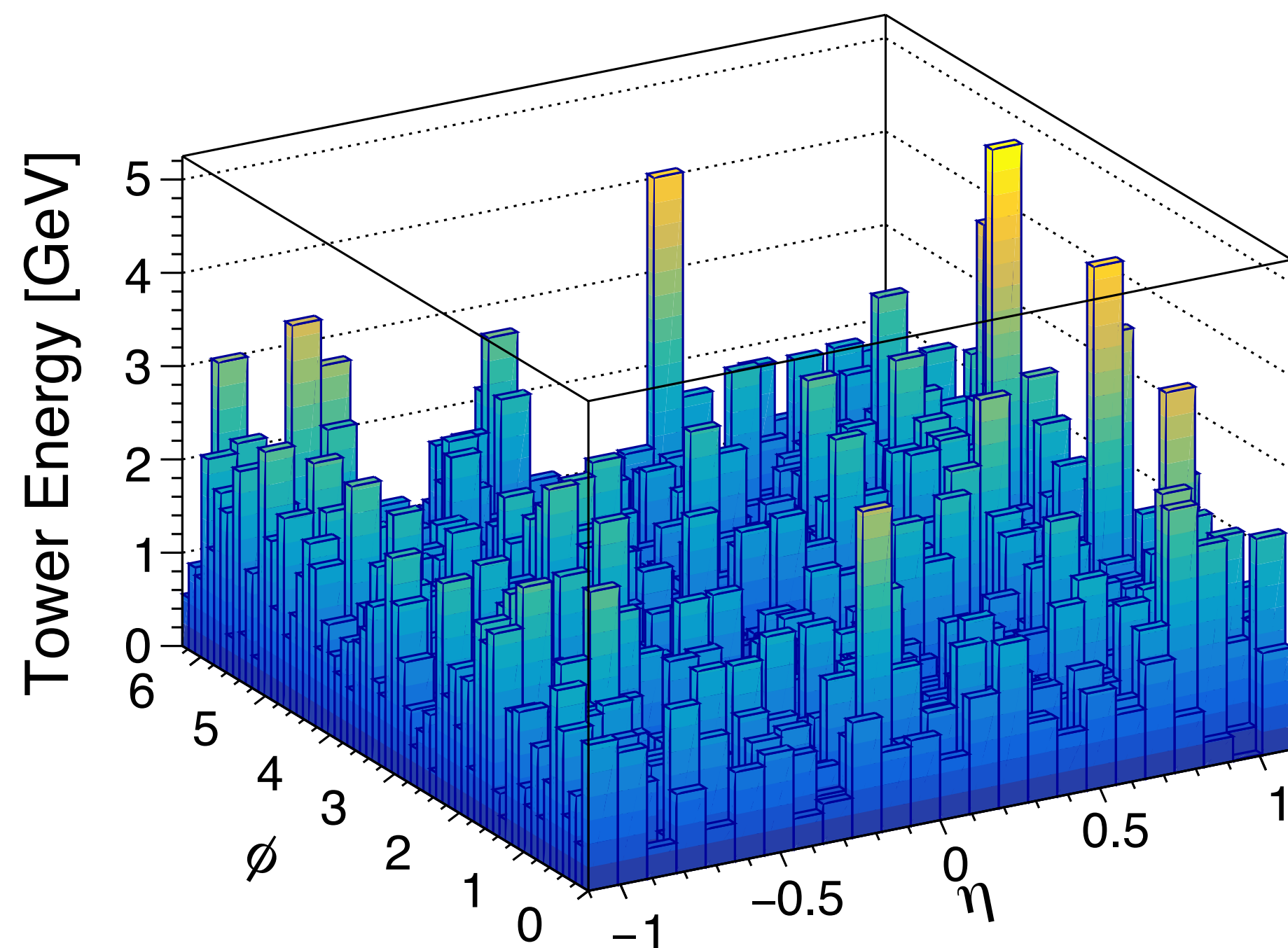
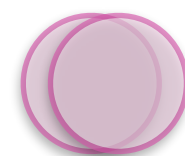


Side collision (40-50% Centrality) 

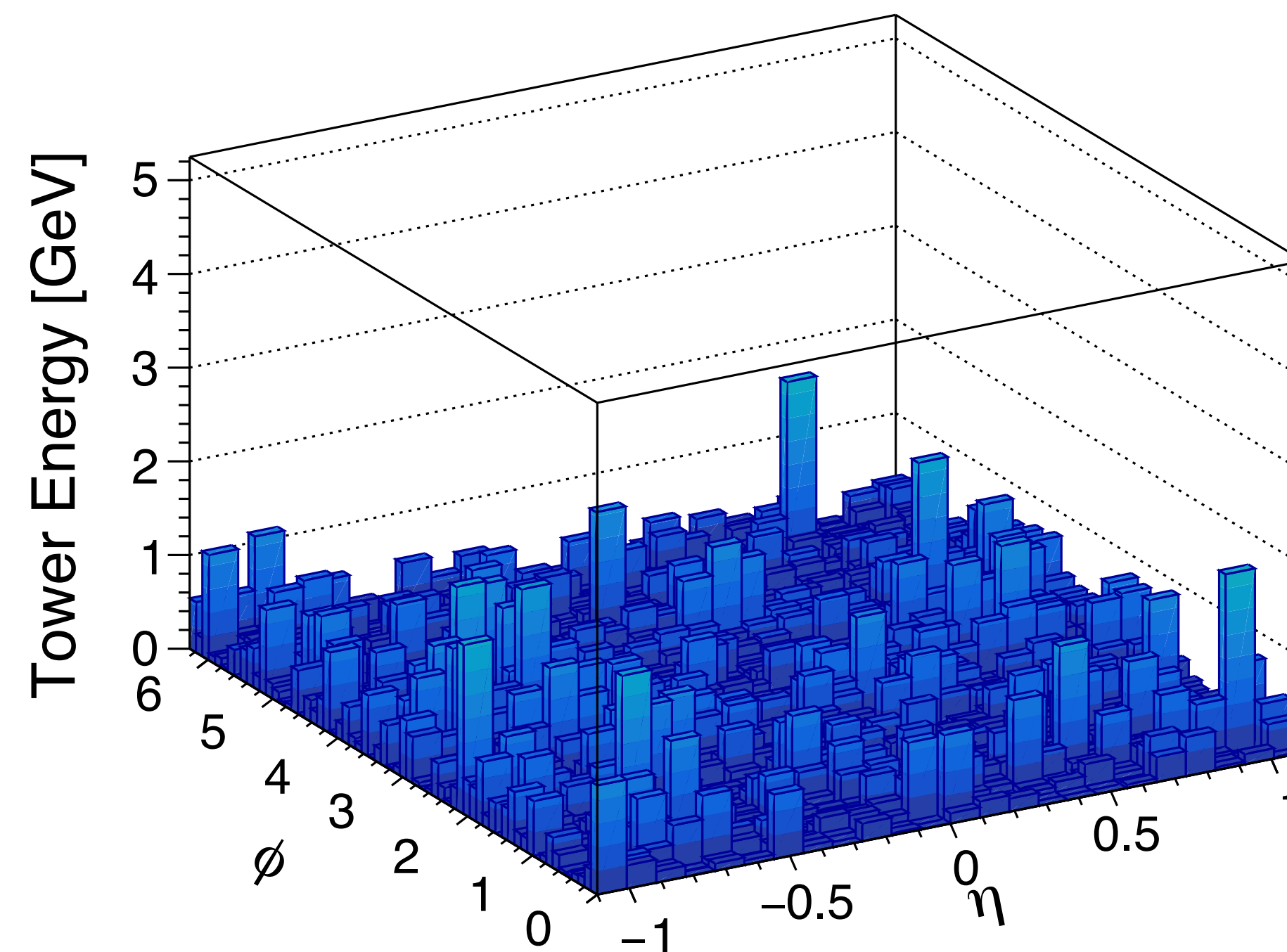
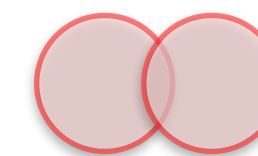


Tower Energy Distributions

0-10% Centrality



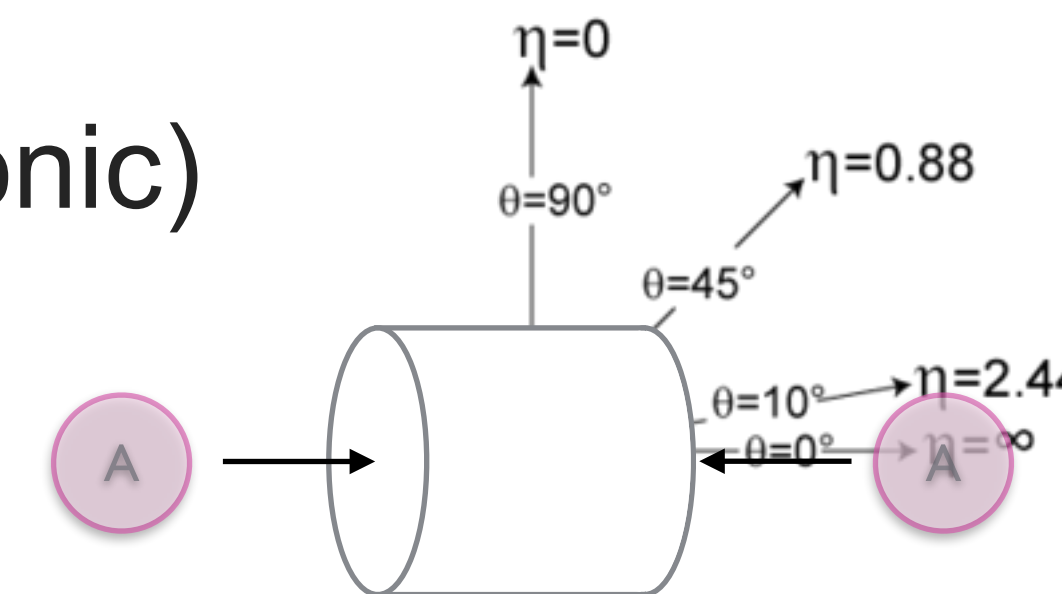
40-50% Centrality



- Full calorimeter **towers** (Electromagnetic + Inner hadronic + Outer hadronic)

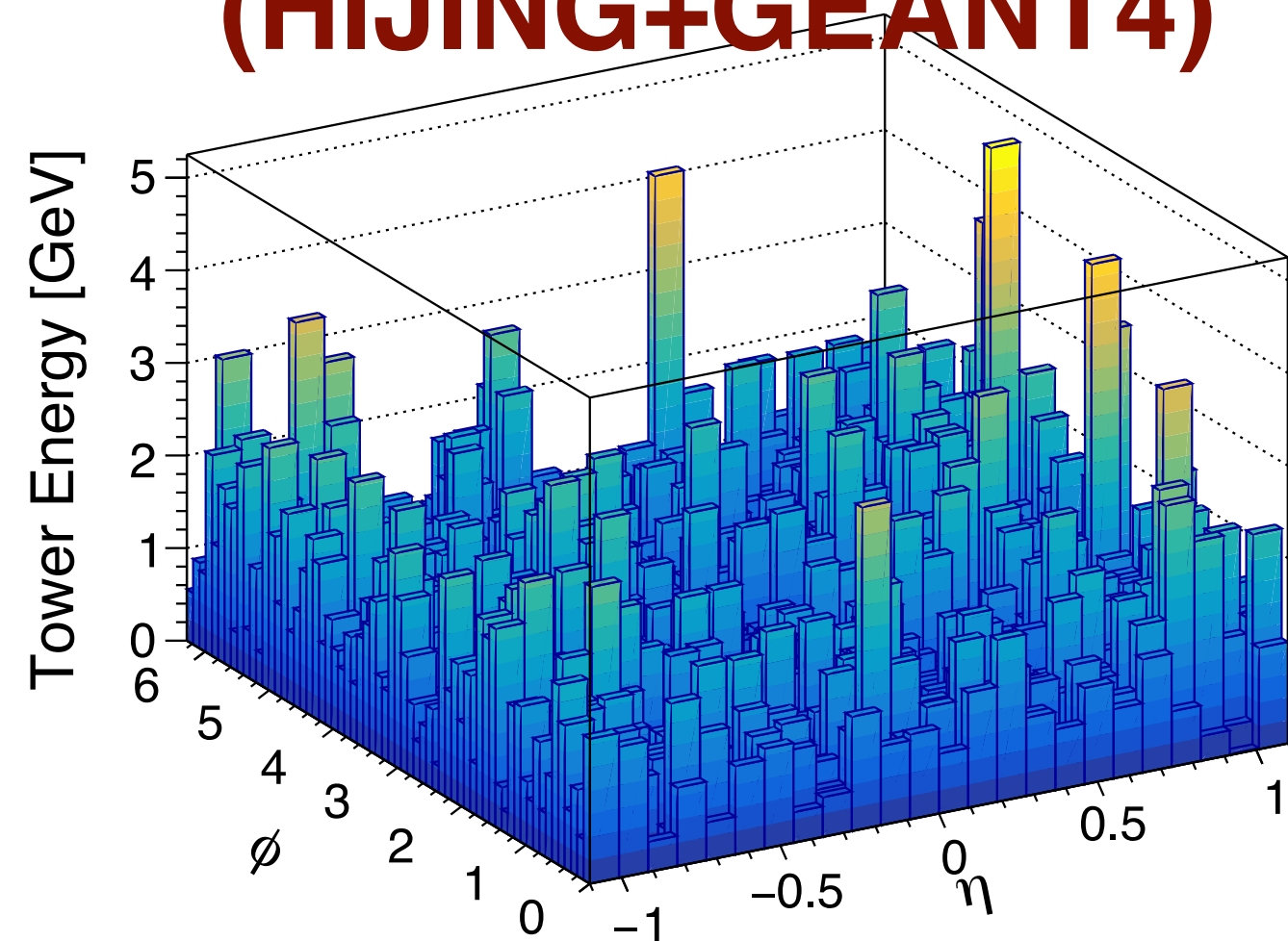
→ $-1.1 < \eta < 1.1$, $0 < \phi < 2\pi$

→ (24 x 64) bins in (η, ϕ)

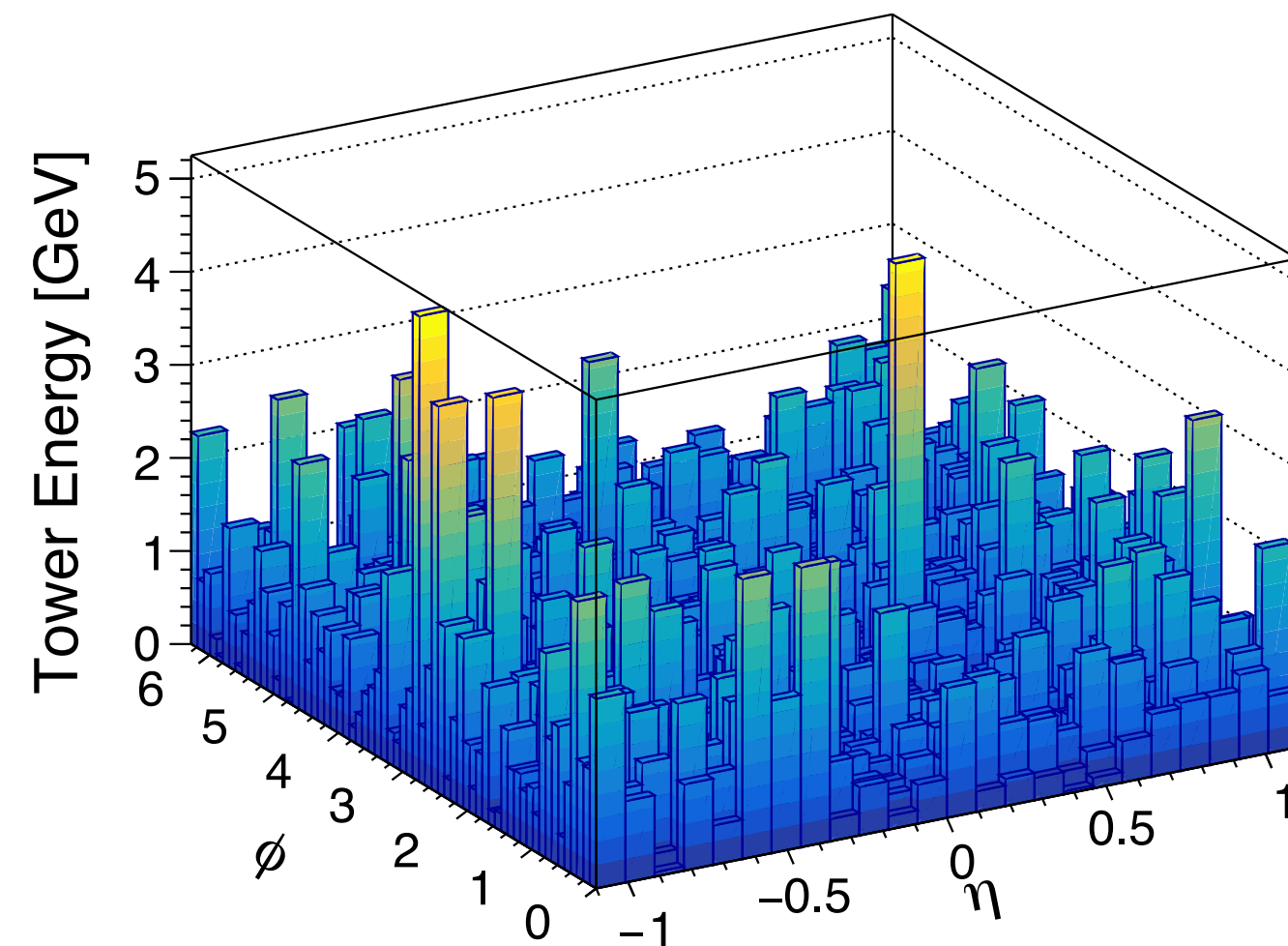


Display of Generated Events

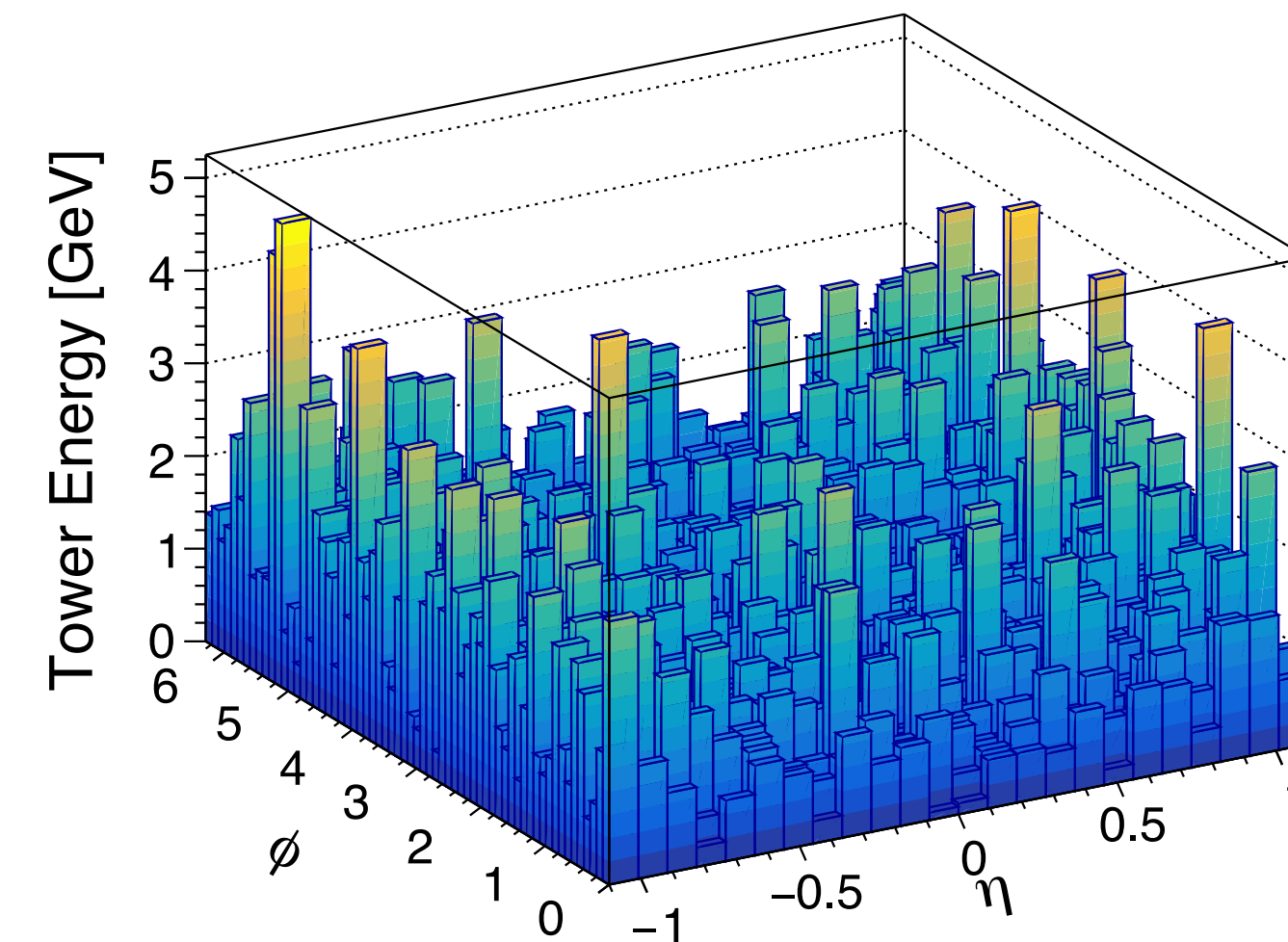
**Training sample
(HIJING+GEANT4)**



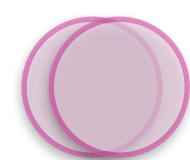
Generated (DDPM)



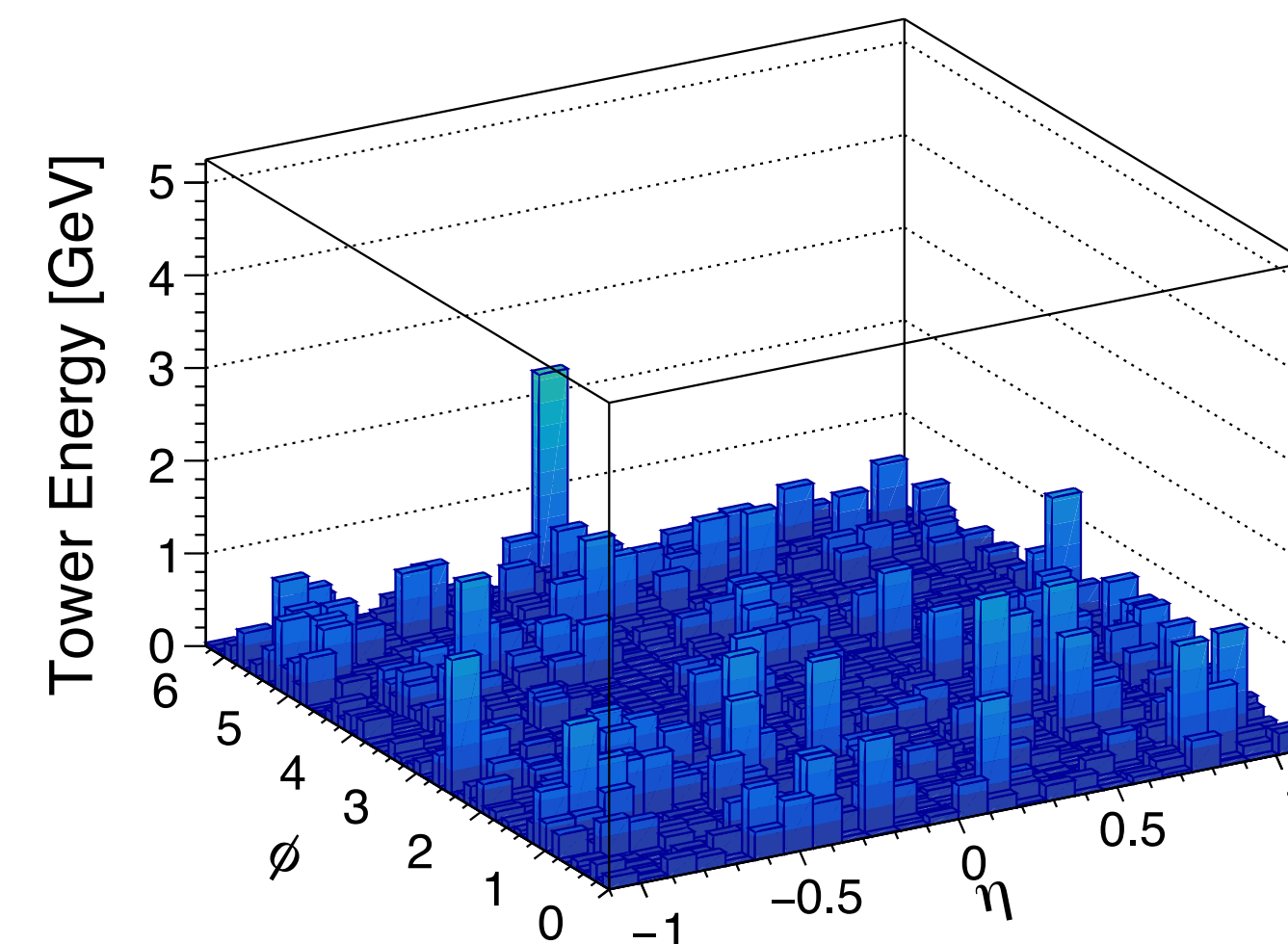
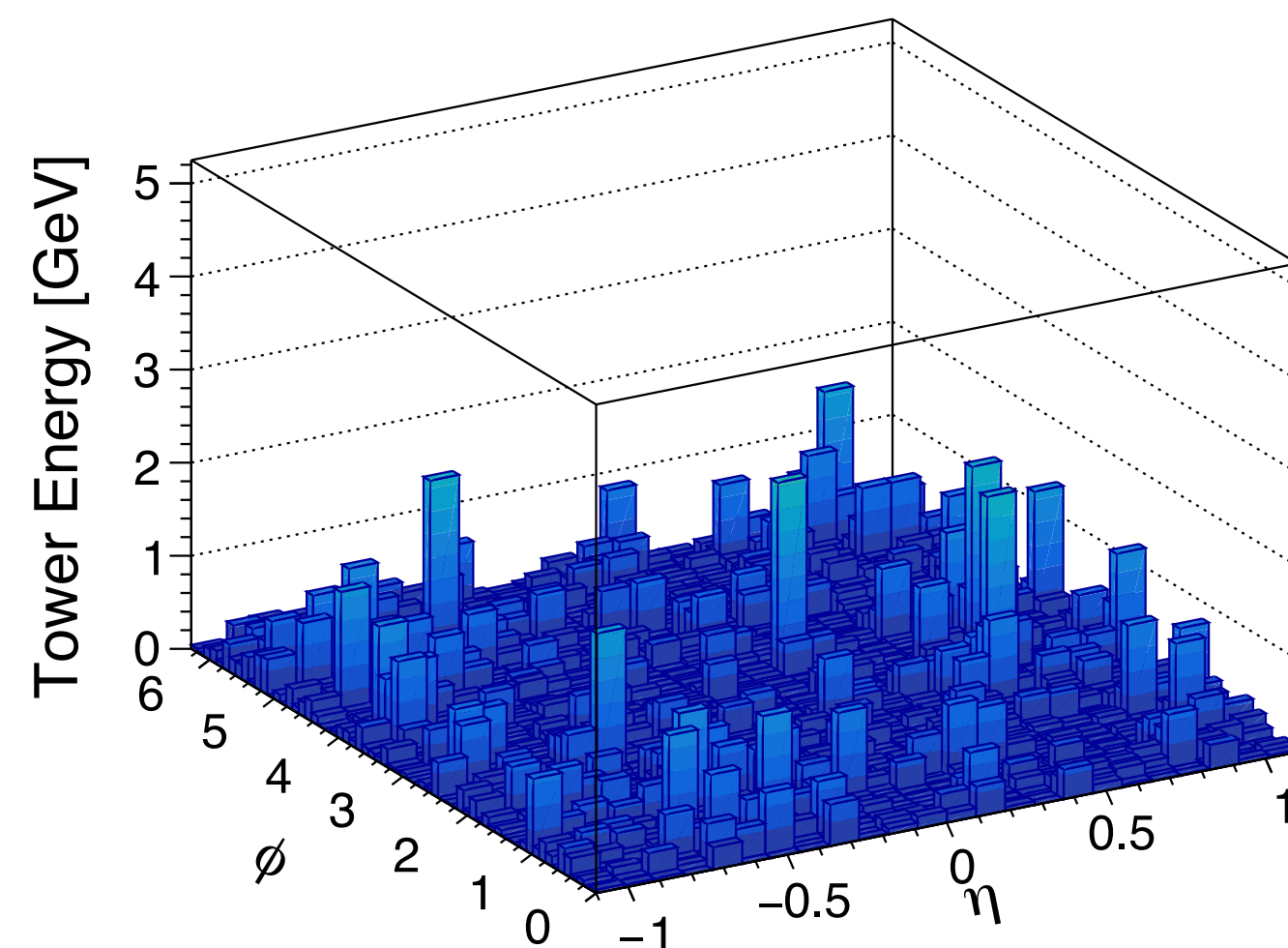
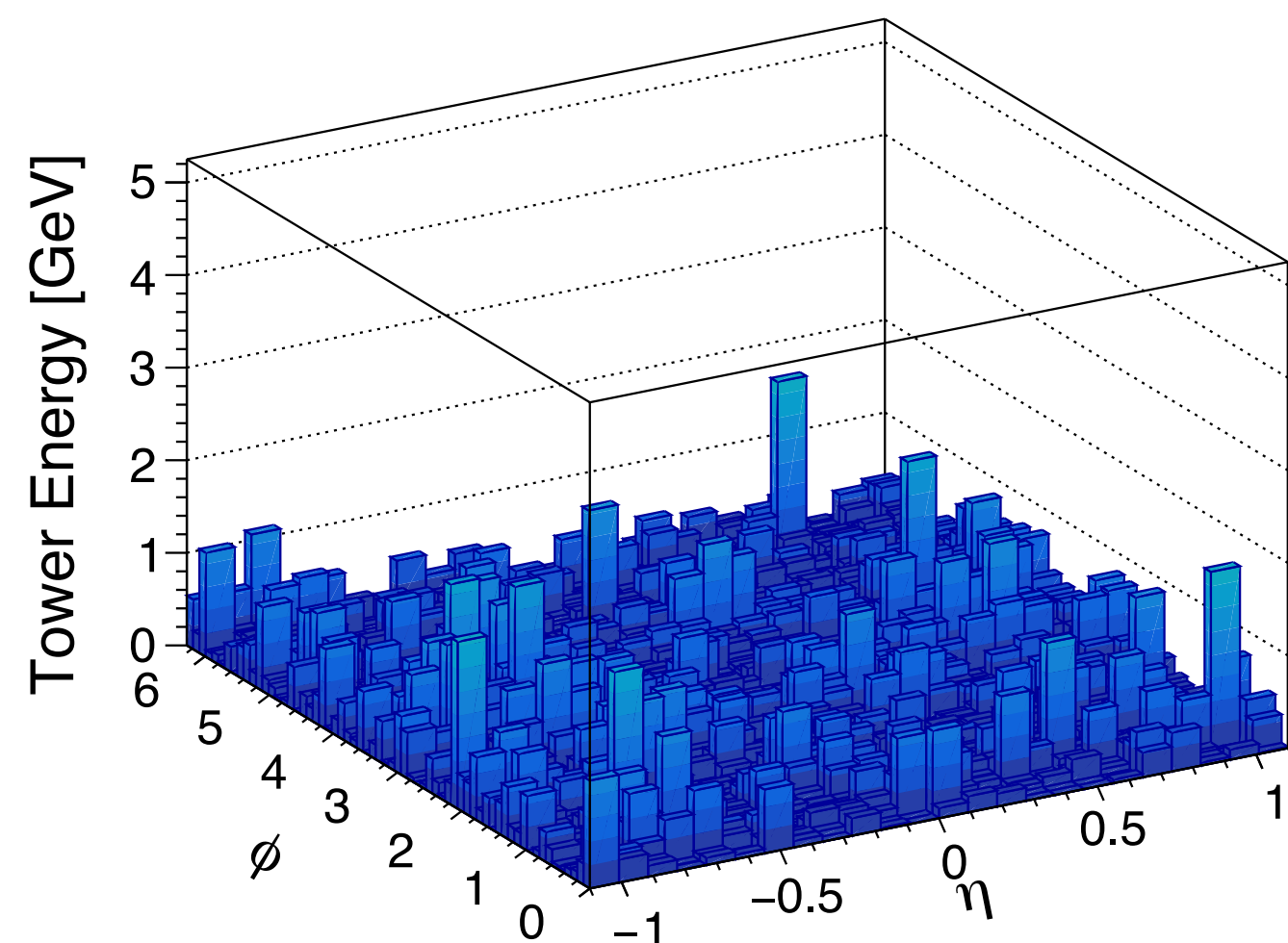
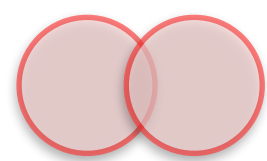
Generated (GAN)



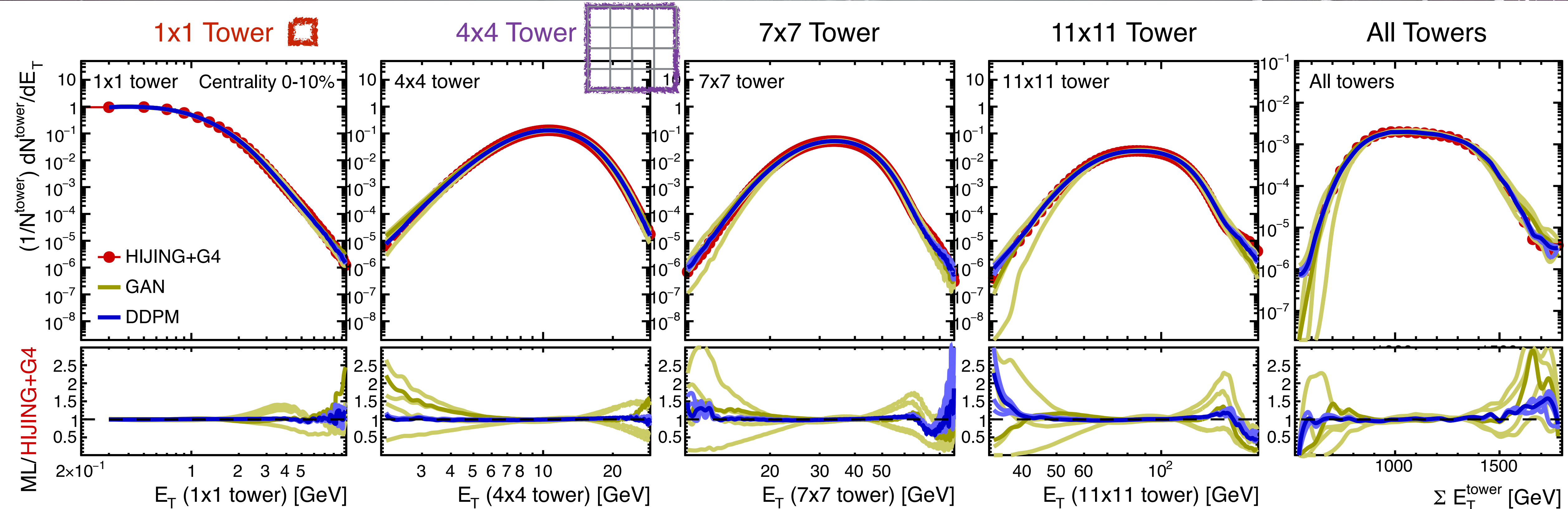
**0-10%
Centrality**



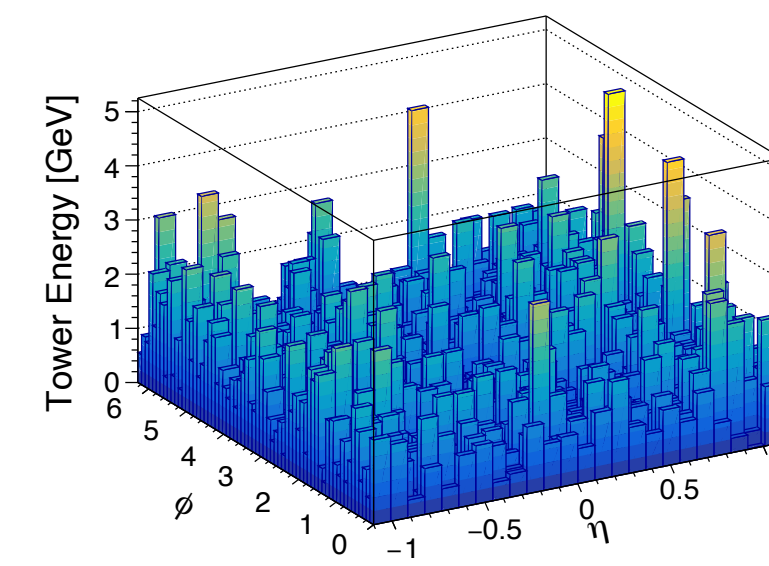
**40-50%
Centrality**



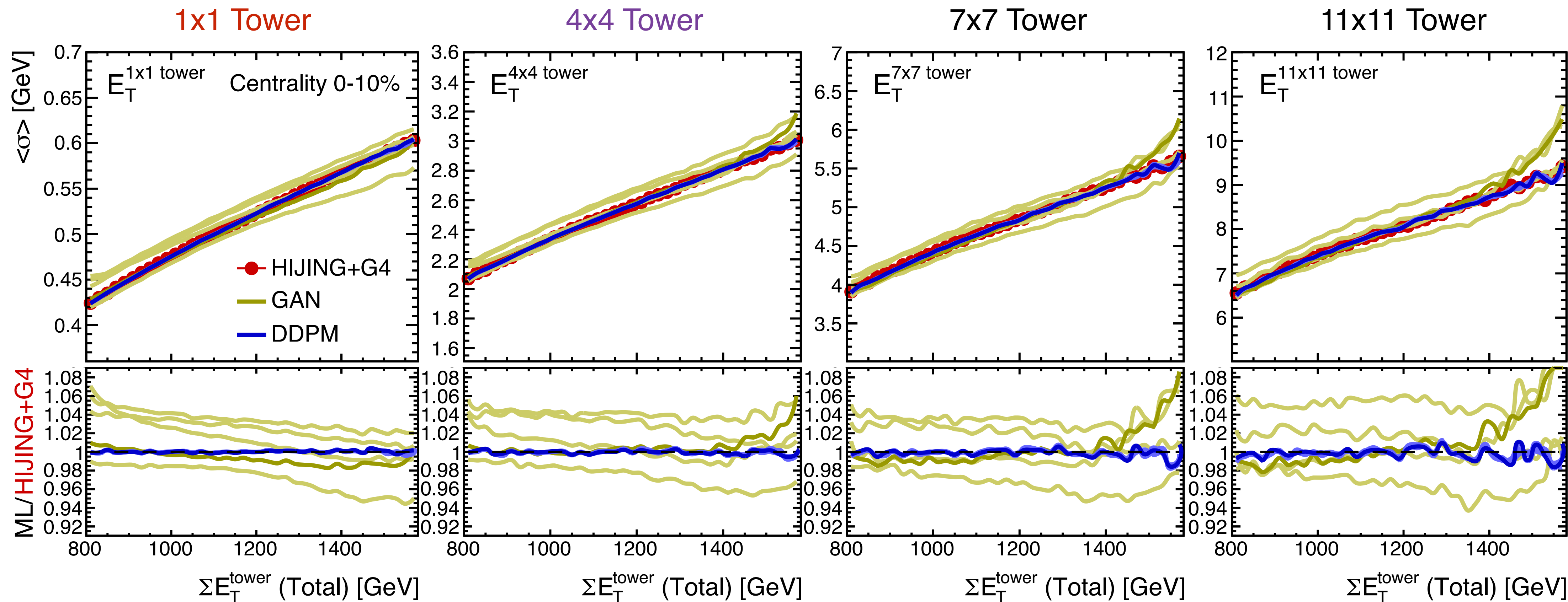
Performance: Transverse Energy (0-10%)



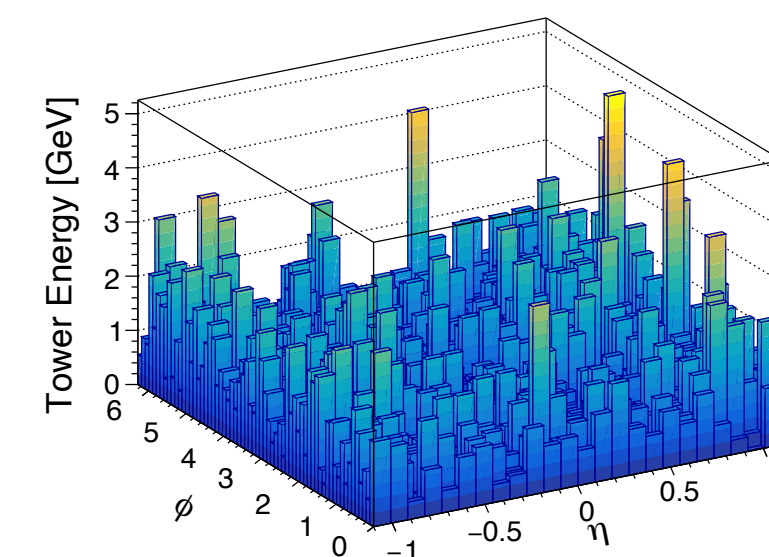
- Each model is retrained 5 times with different random seeds
- **HIJING+Geant4** used as training data (600k events) and testing data (100k events)
- Both **DDPM** and **GAN** reproduce the data distribution where the data are abundant
- **DDPM** outperforms **GAN** in overall distribution w/ great stability and accuracy



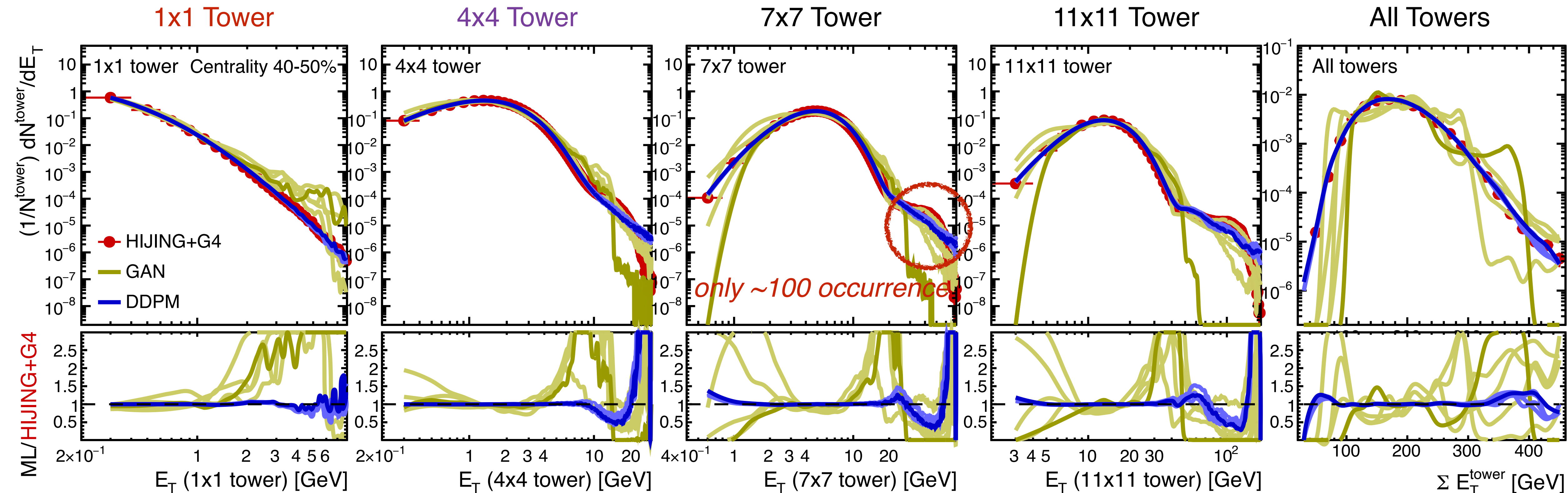
Performance: Transverse Energy Fluctuation (0-10%)



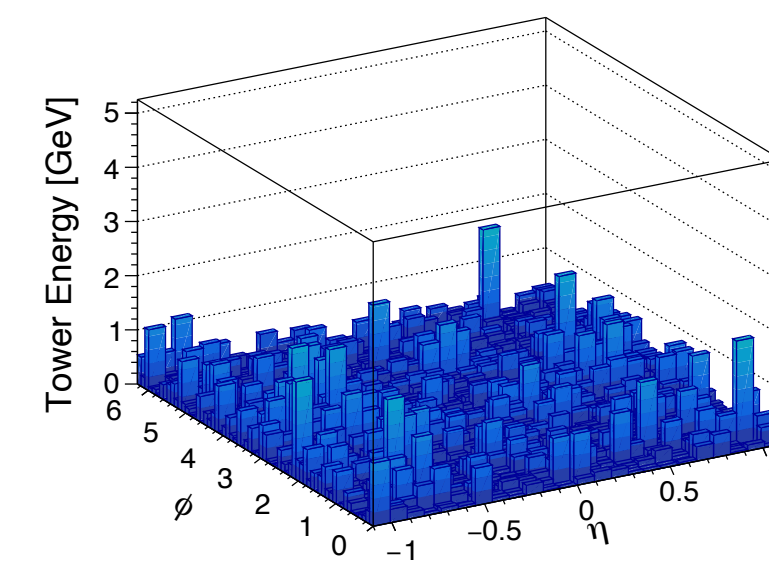
- **GAN** fails to describe fluctuation
- **DDPM** outperforms **GAN** w/ great stability, a few percent-level accuracy



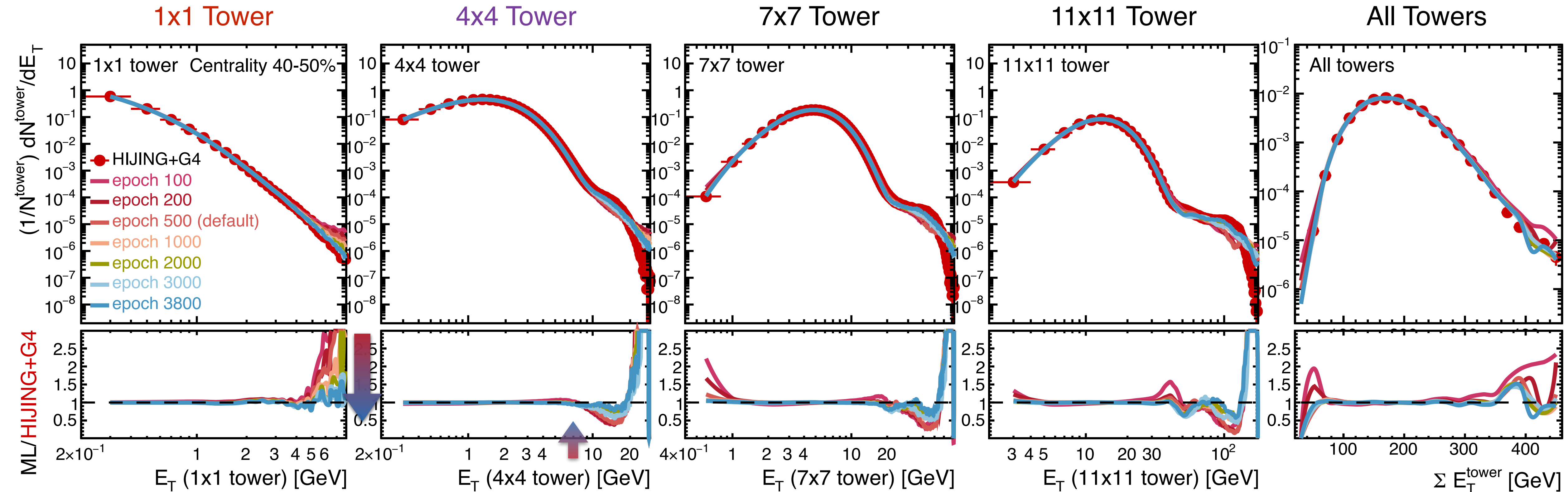
Performance: Transverse Energy (40-50%)



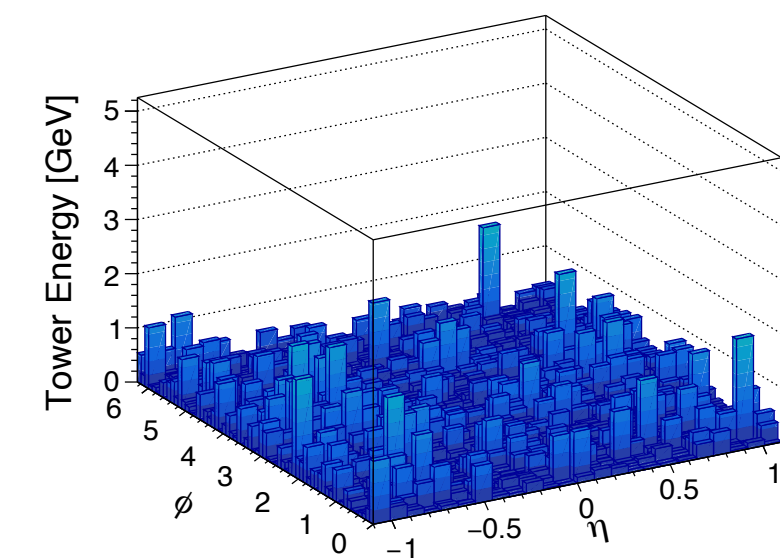
- DDPM outperforms GAN
 - ➔ great stability, good agreement with HIJING+G4 at high probability region
- Non-gaussian rare tail at the high energy region → challenge to reproduce



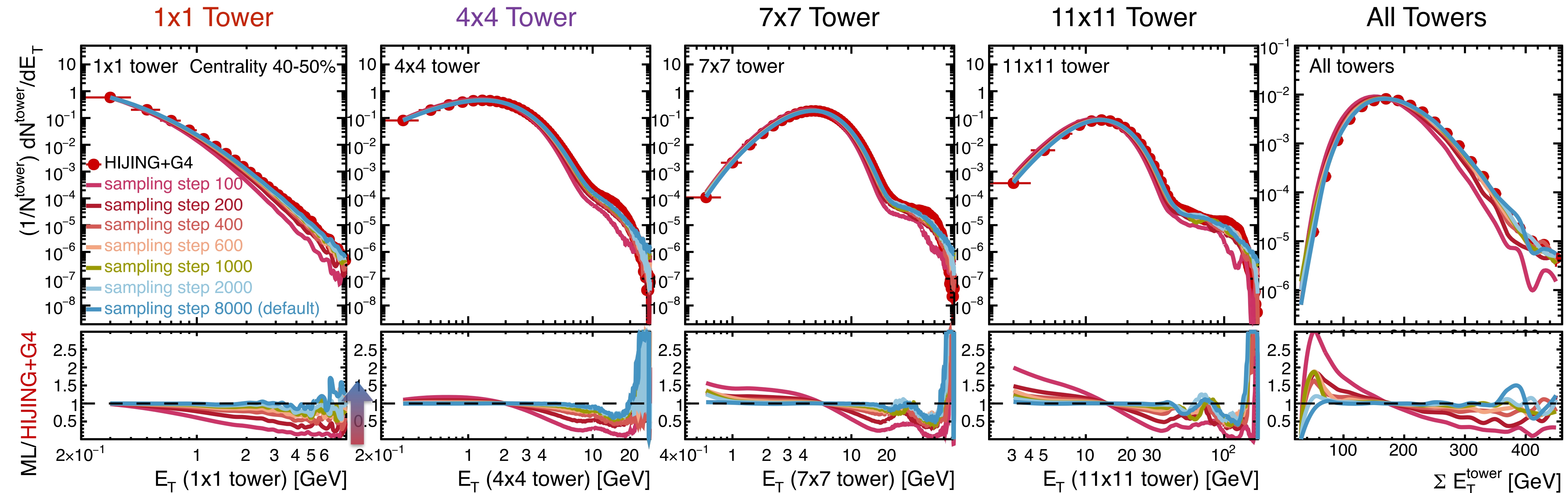
Trade-off between Training time and Fidelity



- epoch \sim training duration
- **DDPM** models with the **higher epochs** give **better performance!**
- ➔ but, the **higher the epochs**, the *longer the training time*



Trade-off between Generation time and Fidelity



- **DDPM** models with the **higher de-noising steps** give **better performance!**
➔ but, the **higher the de-noising**, the *longer the generation time*

How long does it take to simulate a large sample?

	Generating time	Speedup	CPU/GPU
HIJING + GEANT4 (Conventional)	40 minutes / event	1	Single CPU
DDPM	1.34 s / event	~1,800X	NVIDIA RTX A6000
GAN	0.42 ms / event	~5,700,000X	NVIDIA RTX A6000

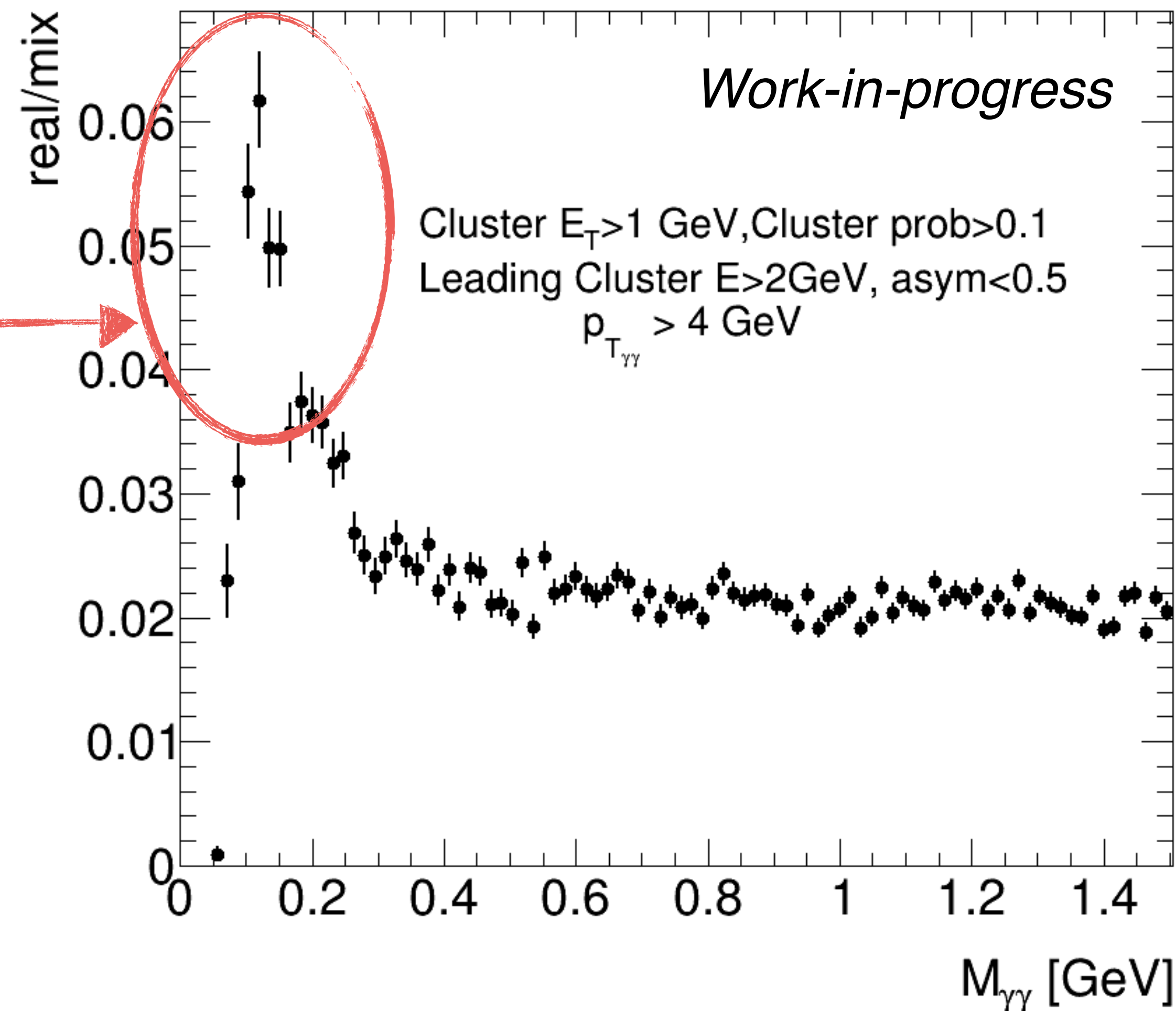
- **GAN** is faster, but the **DDPM** exhibits high fidelity in describing the truth ground (**HIJING+GEANT4**)
- **DDPM** provide a speedup of $O(100)$, considering a 32-core CPU equivalent to a GPU

Application and Future Plan

- We can train the model using a relatively modest number (*at the level of millions*) and then accelerate the production of much larger samples (*at the level of billions*)

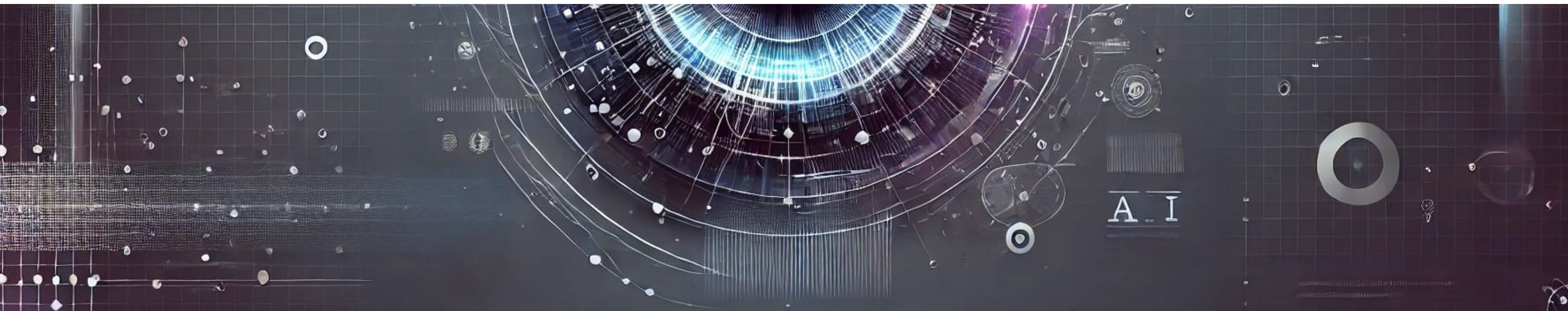
π^0 peak reconstructed using simulation samples generated by DDPM

- Can DDPM describe more complex features of heavy ion collisions?
→ **Resonance, flow** can be reproduced by DDPM! (work-in-progress)
- Similar approach applicable to other experiments e.g. EIC





Jet Background Subtraction using CycleGAN

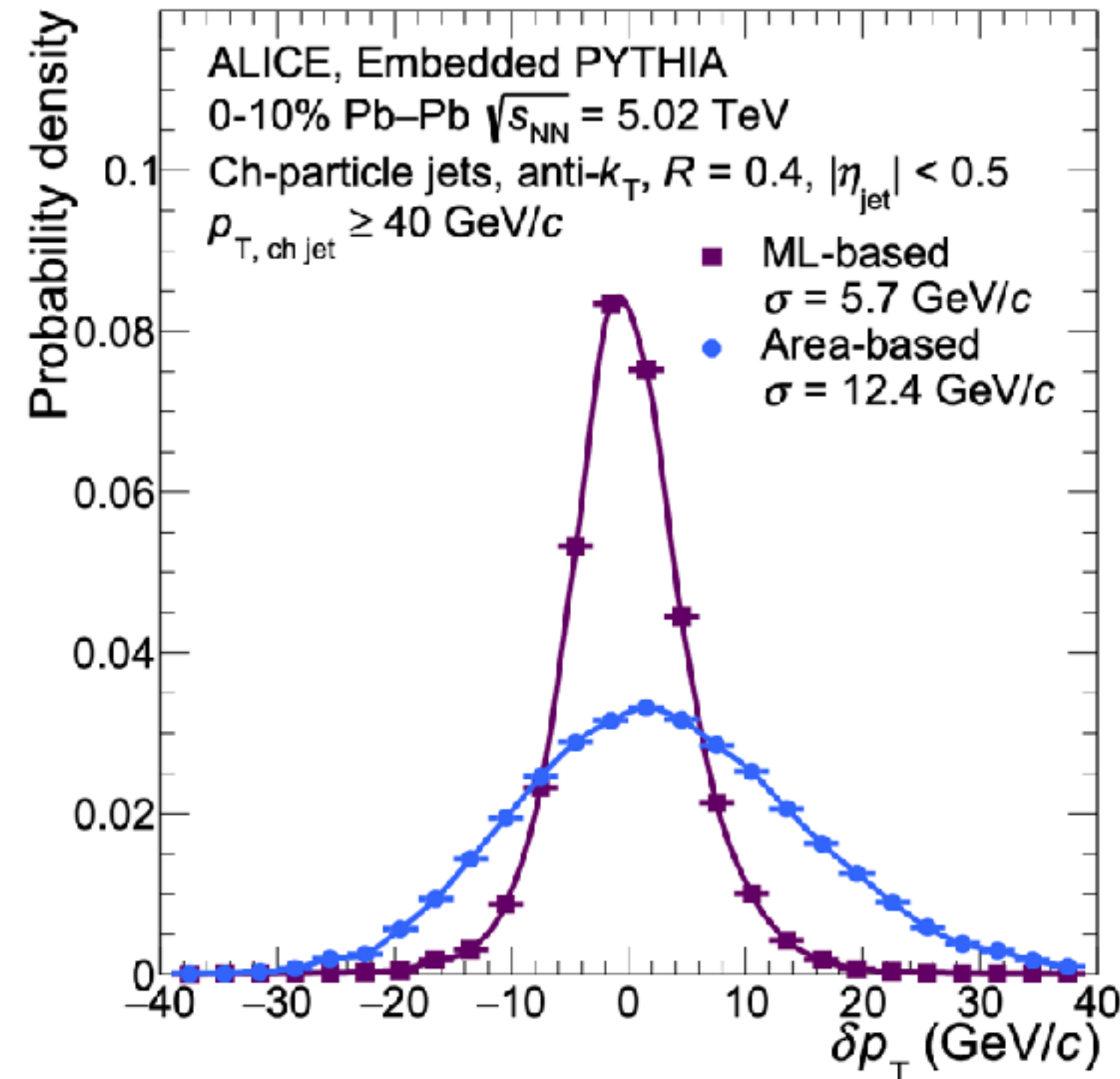


Jet Background Subtraction Using AI

- Previous works on jet background subtraction using ML showed improved jet energy resolution, however,
 - ➔ **supervised learning**: regression task based on “labelled” maps
 - ➔ train using jet substructure; trained on *unquenched jet* substructure, applied on *quenched jet* substructure → **bias**
 - ➔ map to low-dimensional distributions quantity, e.g. p_T , → don't preserve the full substructure information

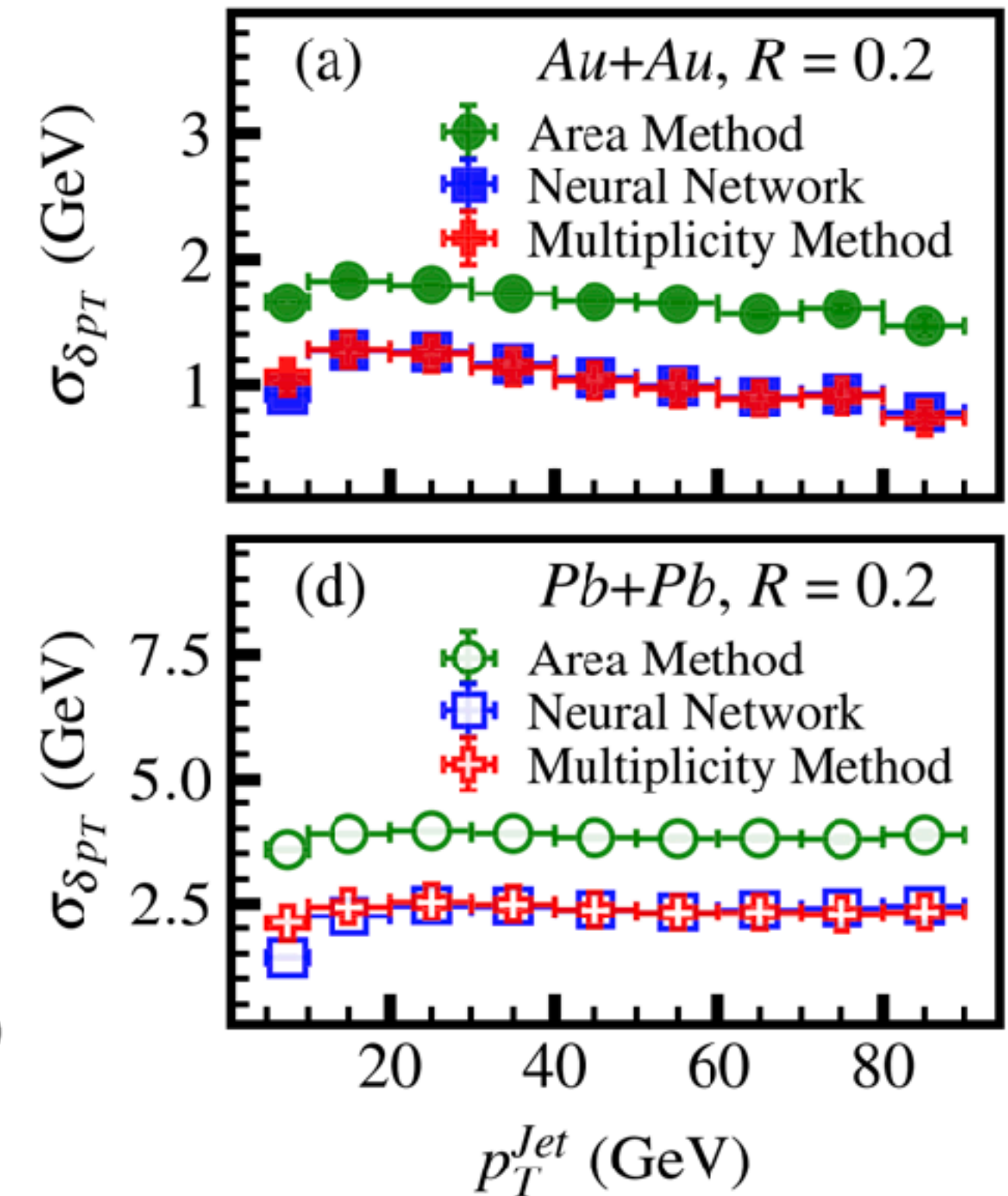
- **New approach** is to use **unsupervised generative AI**
 - ➔ to **preserve the higher dimensional information**
 - ➔ to **bridge gap between MC (used in training) and data**

ALICE: shallow neural network



PLB 849 (2024) 138412

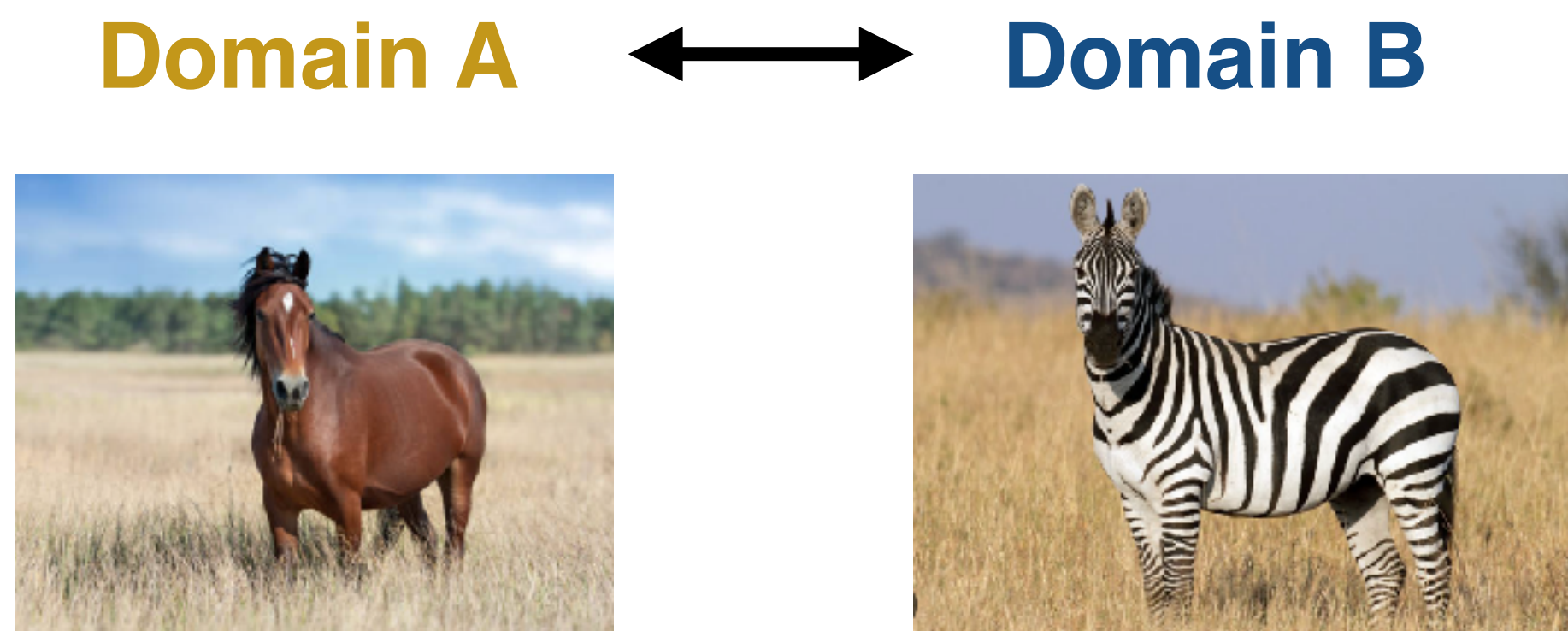
deep neural network



PRC 108, L021901

Cycle-consistent GAN

- Self-supervised learning, Unpaired image-to-image translation
- Minimizing **cycle-consistency loss** in addition to adversarial loss



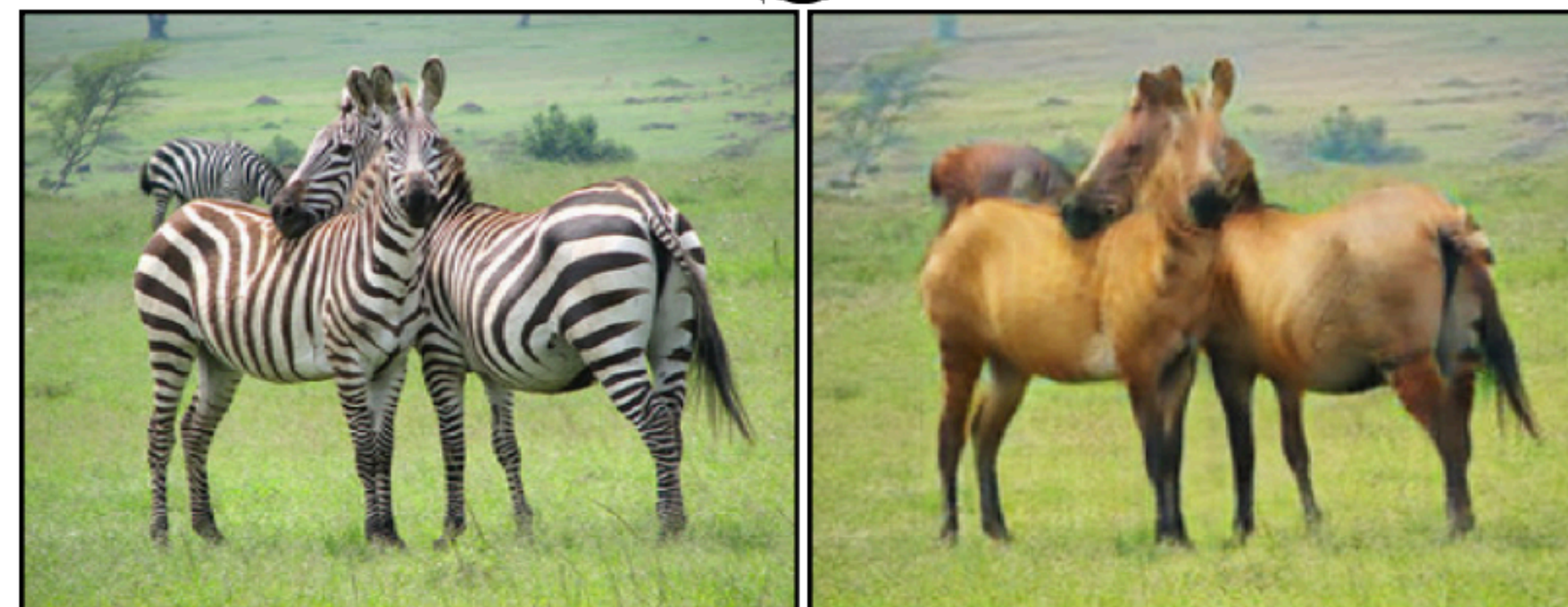
Adversarial Loss

- $A \rightarrow B \sim B?$
- $B \rightarrow A \sim A?$

Cycle-consistency Loss

- $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow A \sim A?$
- $B \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \sim B?$

Zebras ↔ Horses



zebra → horse

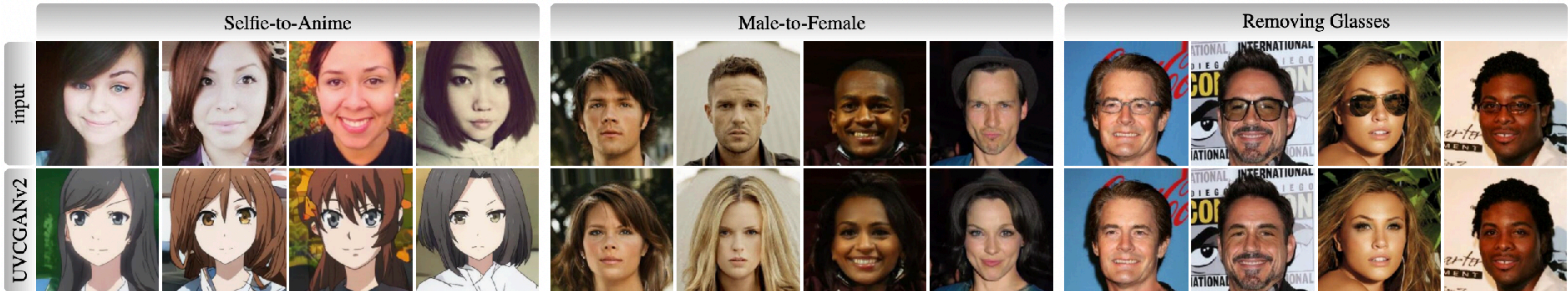


horse → zebra

arXiv:1703.10593

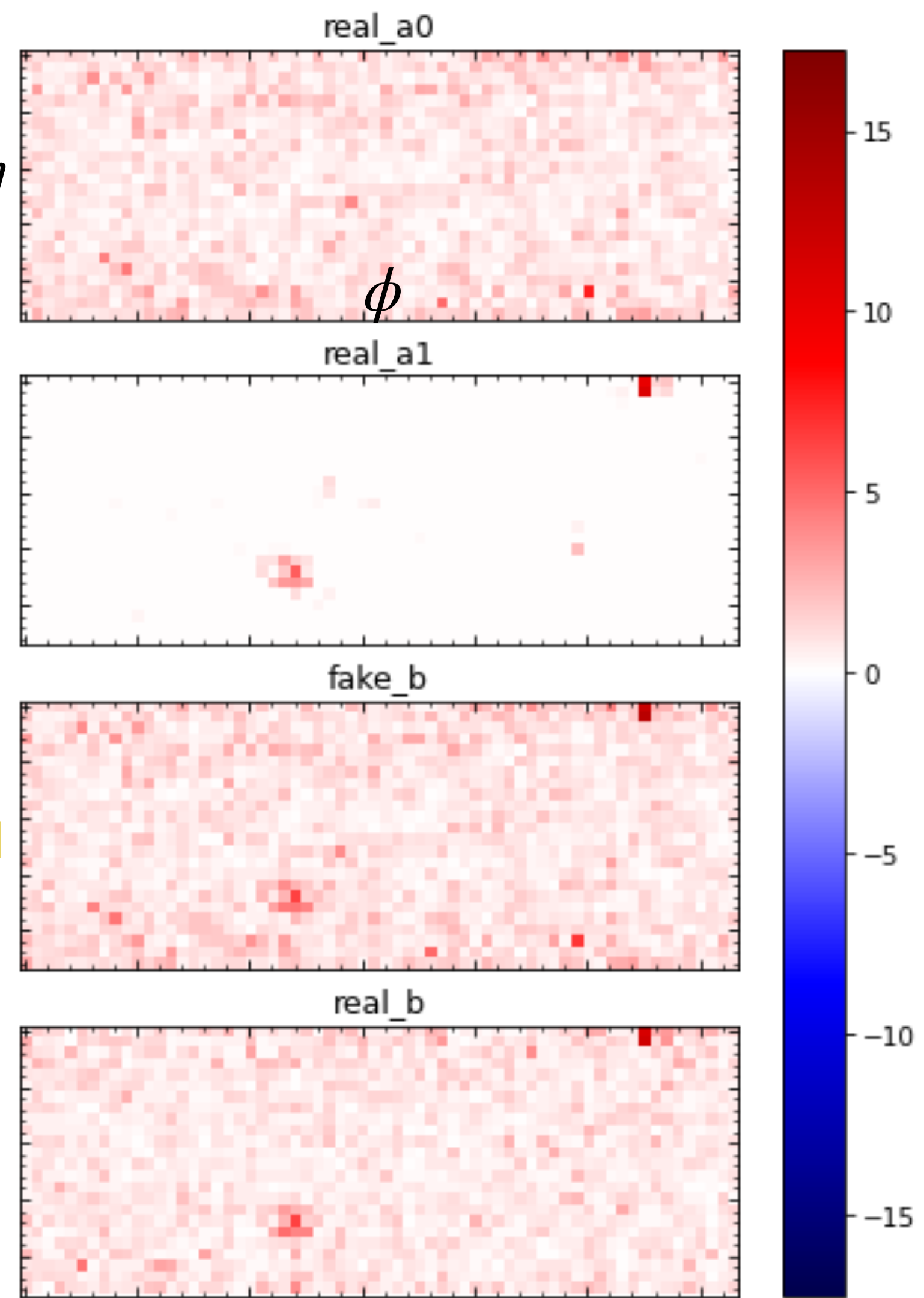
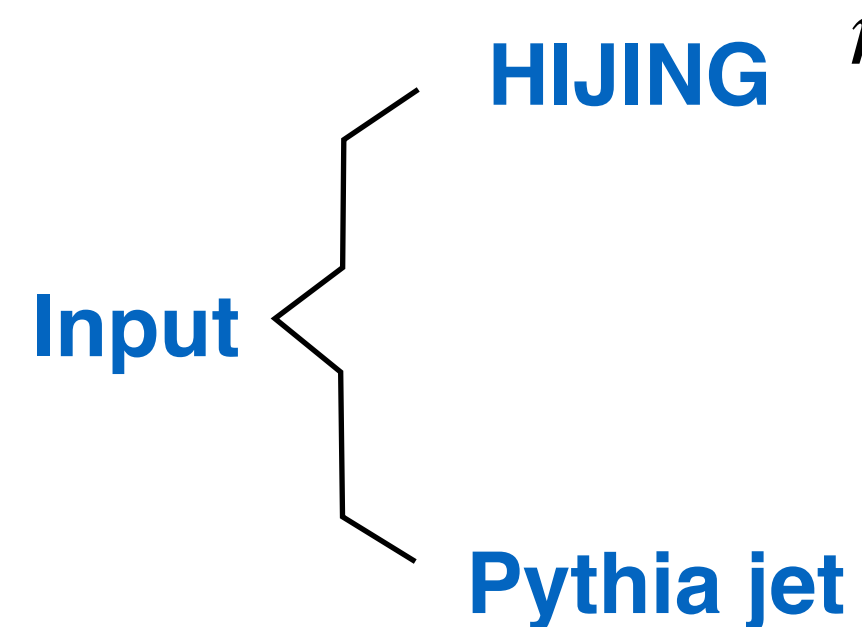
UVCGAN

- **UVCGAN** (UNet Vision Transformer cycle-consistent Generative Adversarial Network)
 - ➔ **unpaired** image-to-image translation; bridging gap between simulation and data reference
 - ➔ arXiv:2303.16280 [cs.CV]



Jet Background Subtraction (1)

- Calorimeter η vs ϕ images are generated by UVCGAN for two domains
 - ➔ **A domain**: Pythia and HIJING, separately
 - ➔ **B domain**: Pythia + HIJING
- A-to-B is qualitatively described well



A → B Generated by UVCGAN

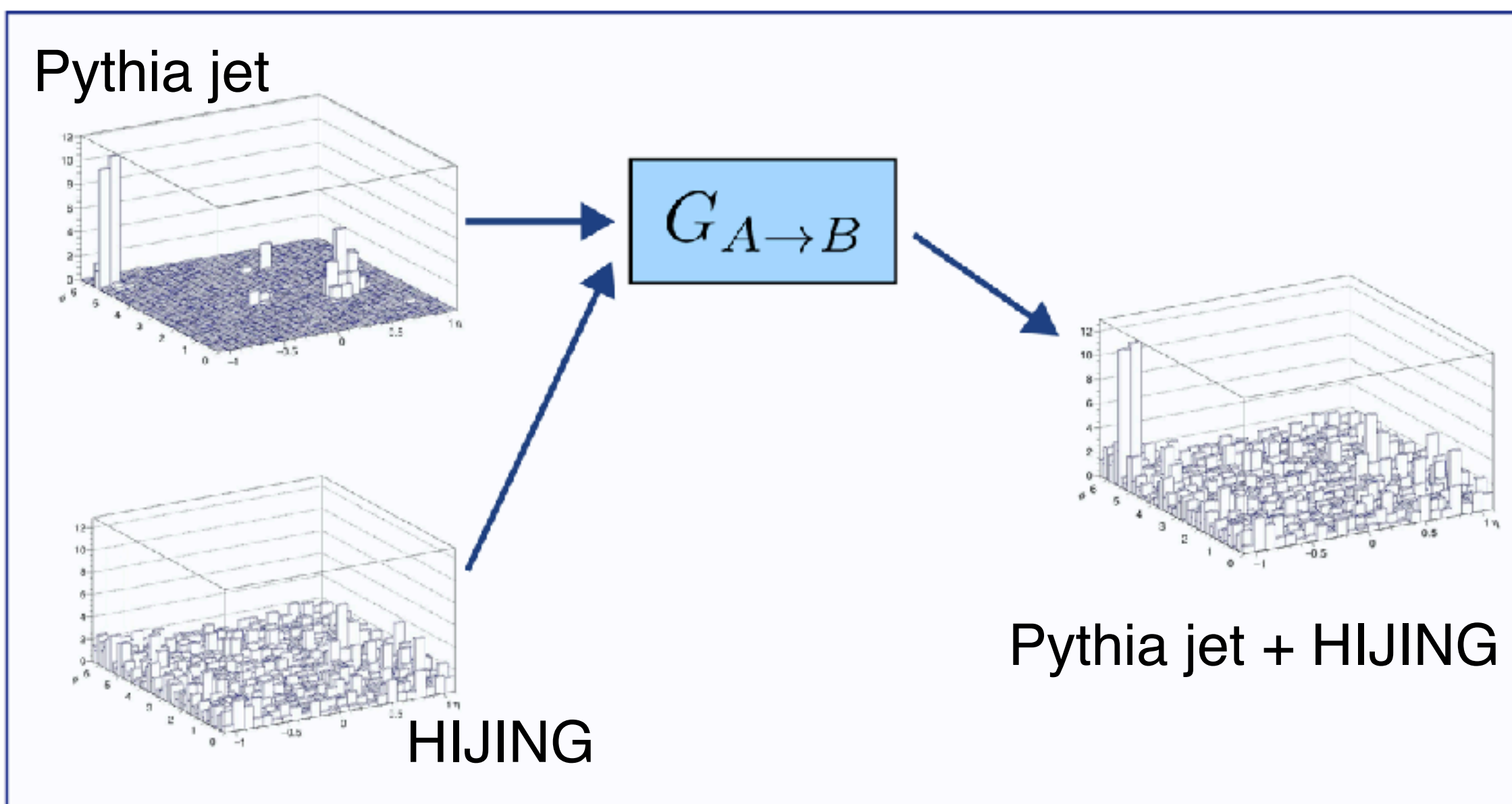
Reference Pythia + HIJING

Work-in-progress

(a) $A \rightarrow B$

A

B



Jet Background Subtraction (2)

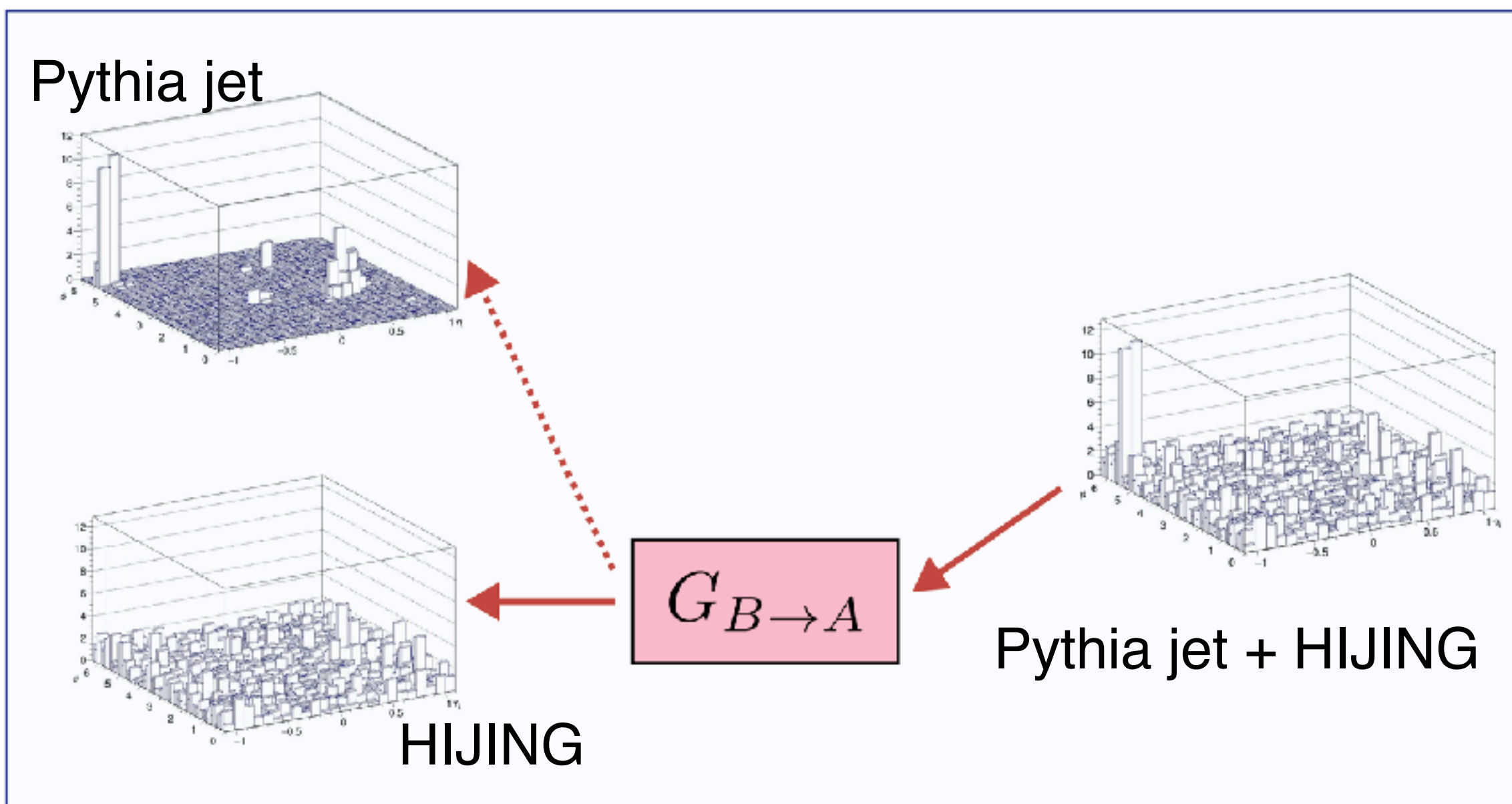
- **B-to-A (jet background subtraction)** is also qualitatively described well !

(Input) **HIJING+Pythia**

A

B

B → **A** generated by **UVCGAN**

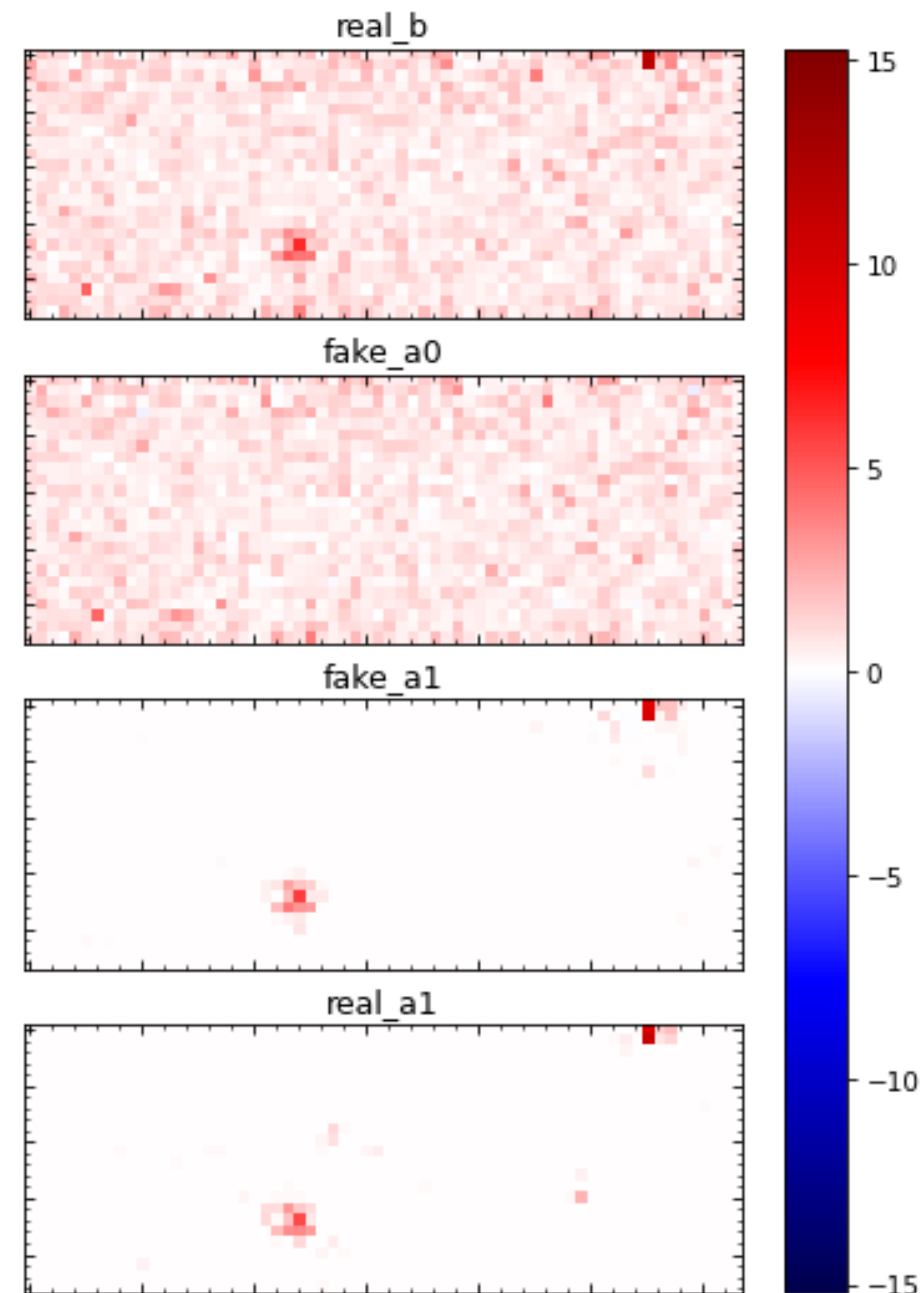


Background (HIJING)

Jets

Reference Pythia jet

Work-in-progress



(b) $B \rightarrow A$

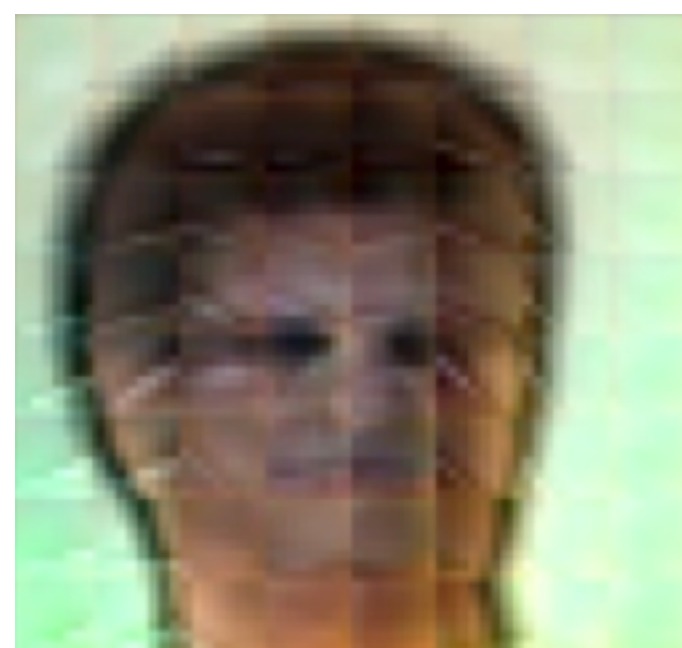
Summary and Conclusion

- **Generative AI** are useful for high energy (nuclear) experiments, e.g.
 - ➔ speed up and produce large amount of the heavy ion event simulations!
 - ➔ subtract large amount of background from jet event
 - ➔ ...
- **Diffusion model (DDPM)** was used to generate the whole-event, full-detector simulated calorimeter data in high fidelity for the first time in heavy ion collisions *Phys. Rev. C 110, 034912*
 - ➔ **GAN** used as a reference
 - ➔ **DDPM** outperforms **GAN** for scientific fidelity
 - ➔ trade-off found between training / generation duration and the quality of reproducing the rare feature
- For the first time, a **unsupervised generative AI** is used for **jet background subtraction** in heavy ion collisions; *cycle-consistent GAN for image-to-image translation*
 - ➔ *can bridge gap between the data and simulation*
 - ➔ *first look is very promising. arxiv:2505.XXXX Stay tuned!*

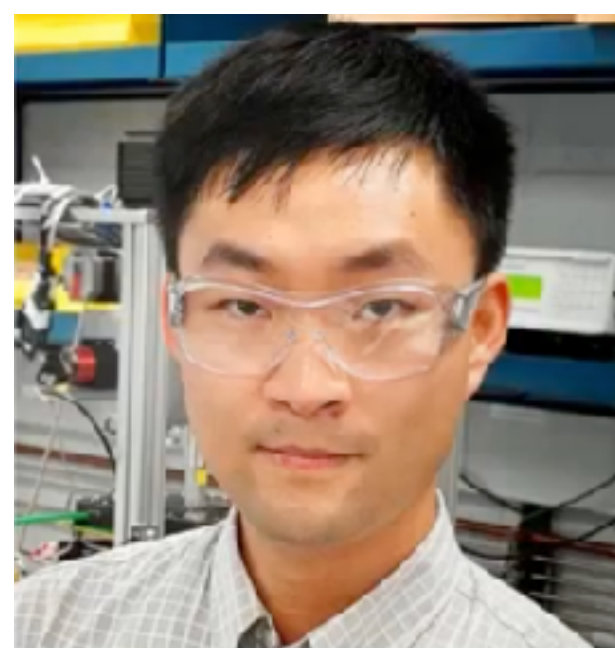
Our Team



Yeonju Go



Dmitrii Torbunov



Jin Huang



Yihui Ren



Dennis Perepelitsa



Shuhang Li



Tim Rinn



Yi Huang



Haiwang Yu



Shinjae Yoo



Meifeng Lin



Brett Viren

- Contacts:
{ygo,
dtorbunov,
jhuang, yren}
@bnl.gov

Acknowledgement

- *The LDRD Program at Brookhaven National Laboratory, sponsored by DOE's Office of Science under Contract DE-SC0012704, supported this work.*
- *We thank the sPHENIX collaboration for access to the simulated dataset, which was used in the training and validation of our algorithm.*



BACKUP

