



Machine Learning for Event Generation

Sapientia ex machina?

Plan of attack

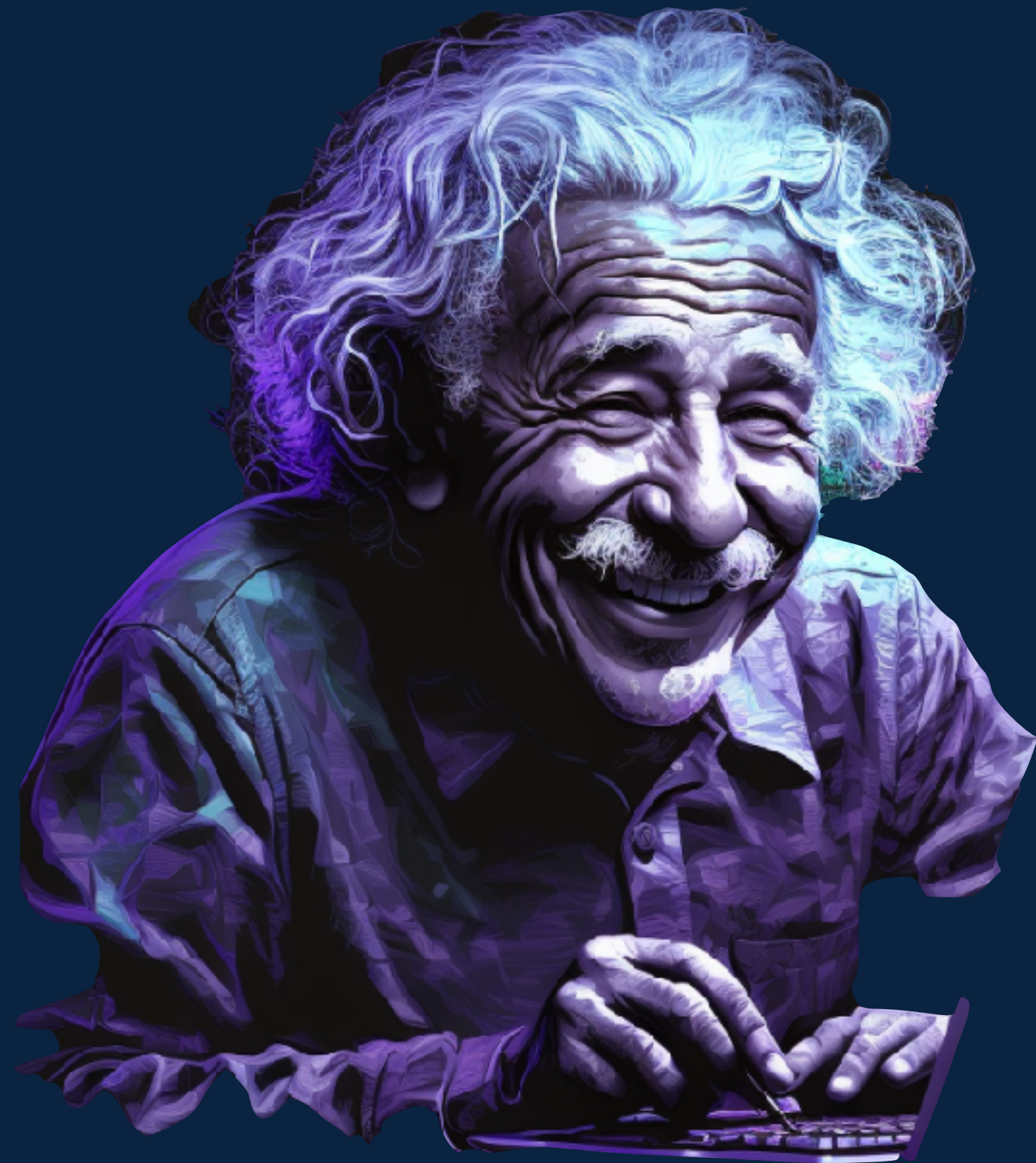
1. Machine learning for particle physics?
2. Normalizing flows
3. MadNIS
4. Summary and discussion

Part I

Machine learning for particle physics?

Why care about ML in particle physics?

Why do we care about ML?



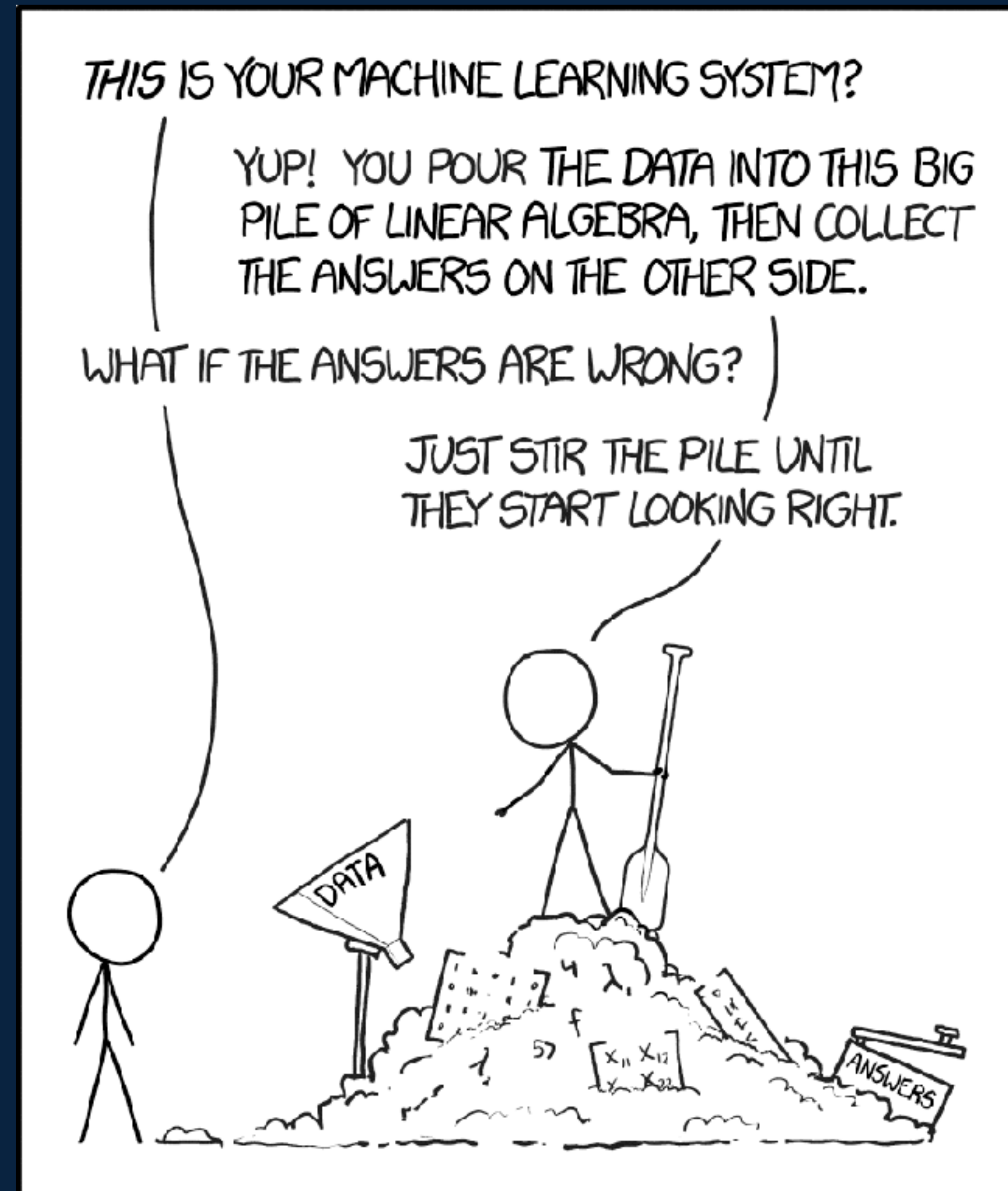
“ We care about machine learning because it can improve data analysis, simulation and modeling, lead to new discoveries, and foster cross-disciplinary collaboration

ChatGPT

How machine learning often feels like

Aim of this lecture:

Giving you the ideas to use it right!



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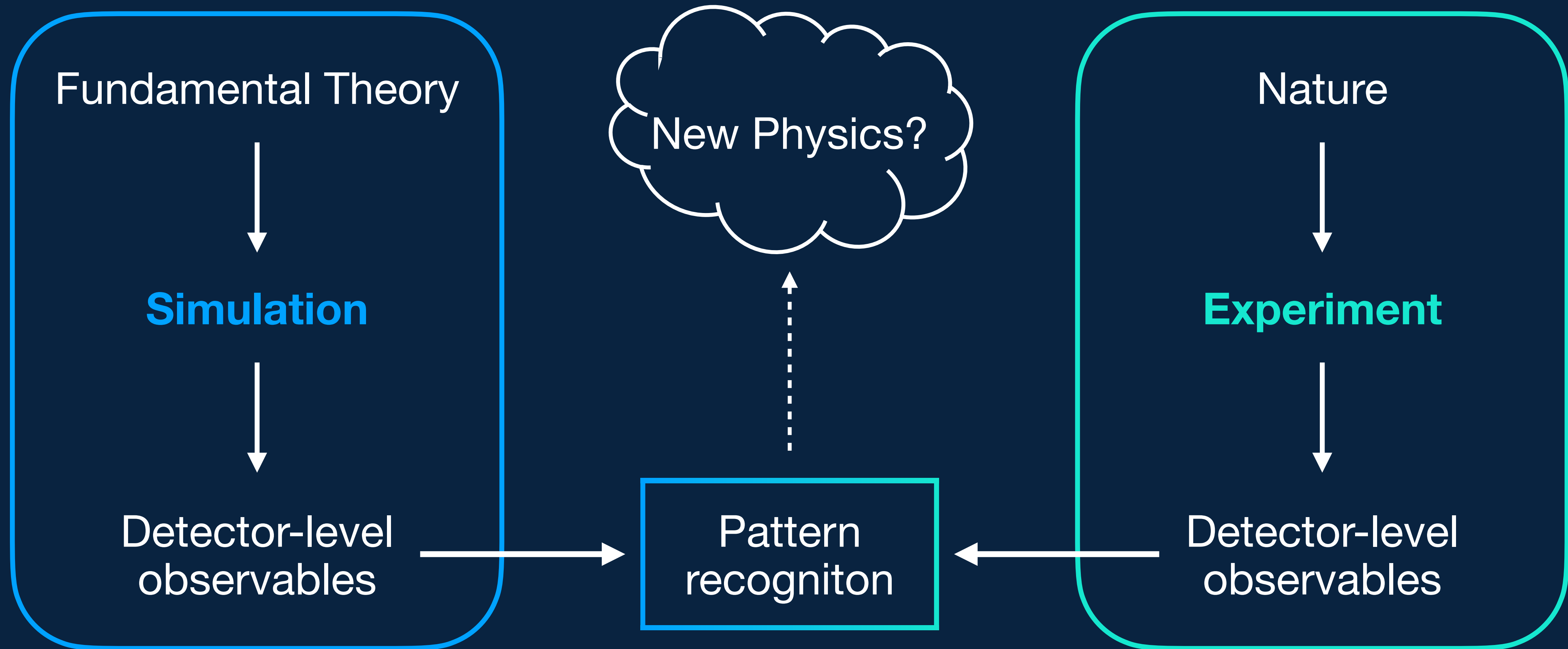
Be aware!

The core of machine learning is to find structure in data - **no more no less!**

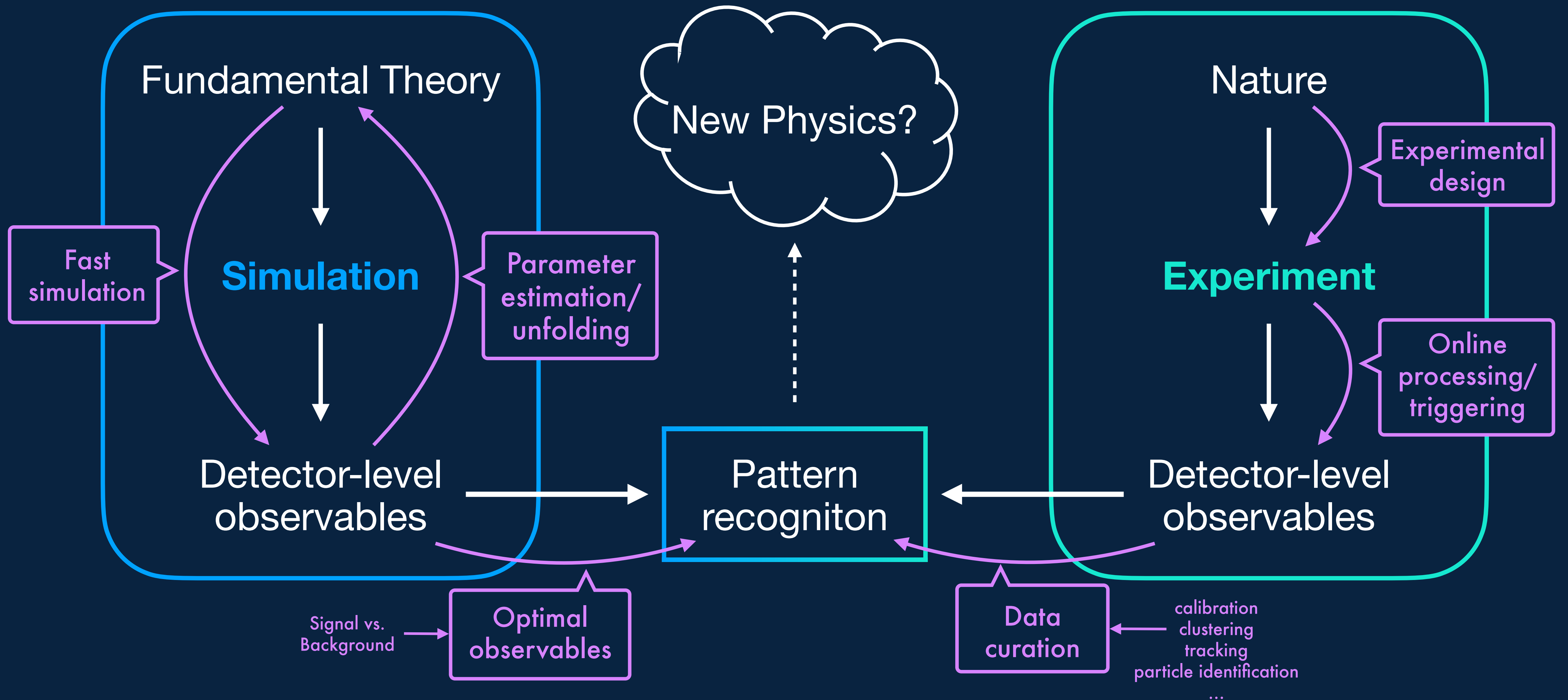


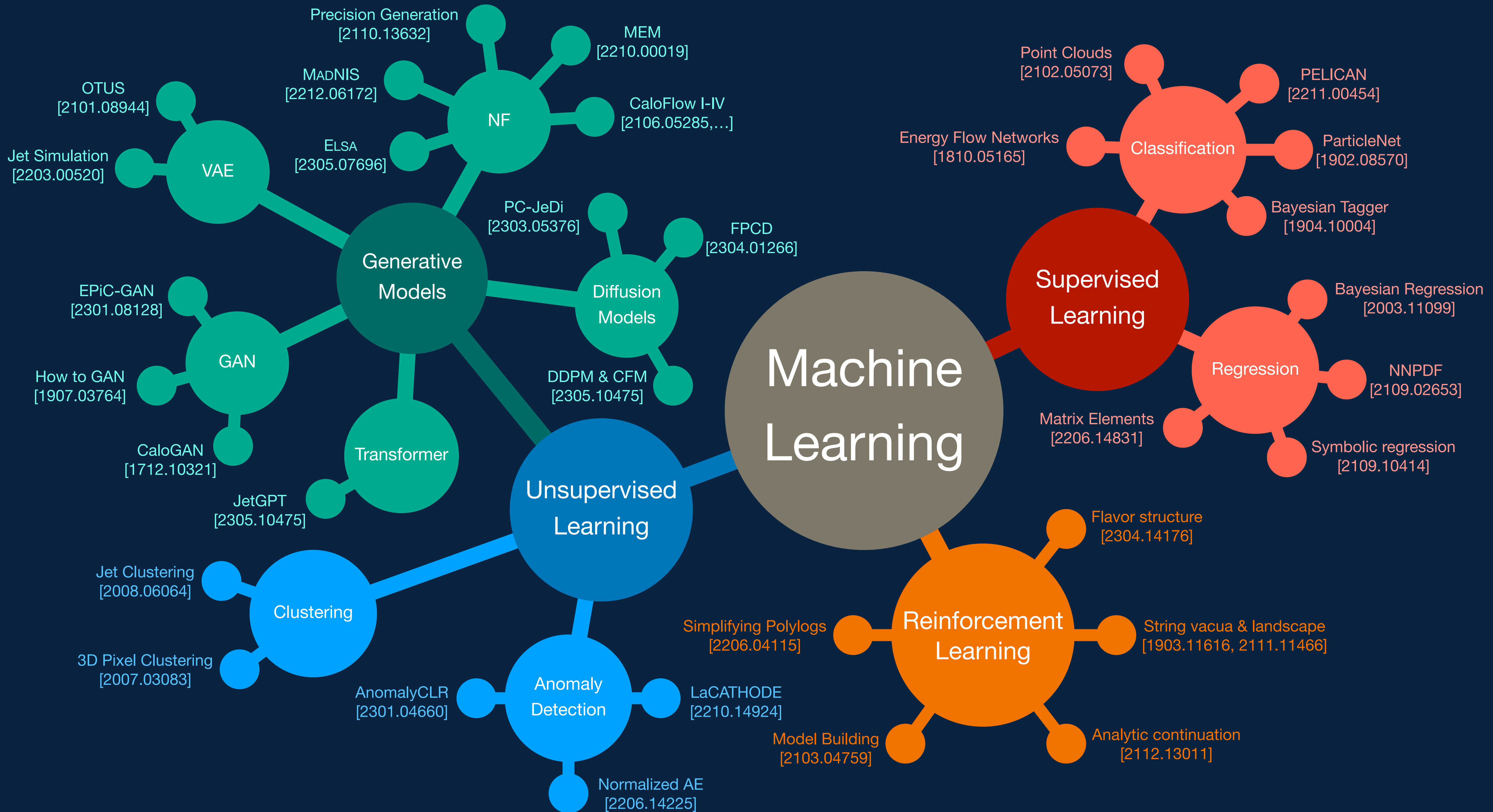
Thanks to machine-learning algorithms,
the robot apocalypse was short-lived.

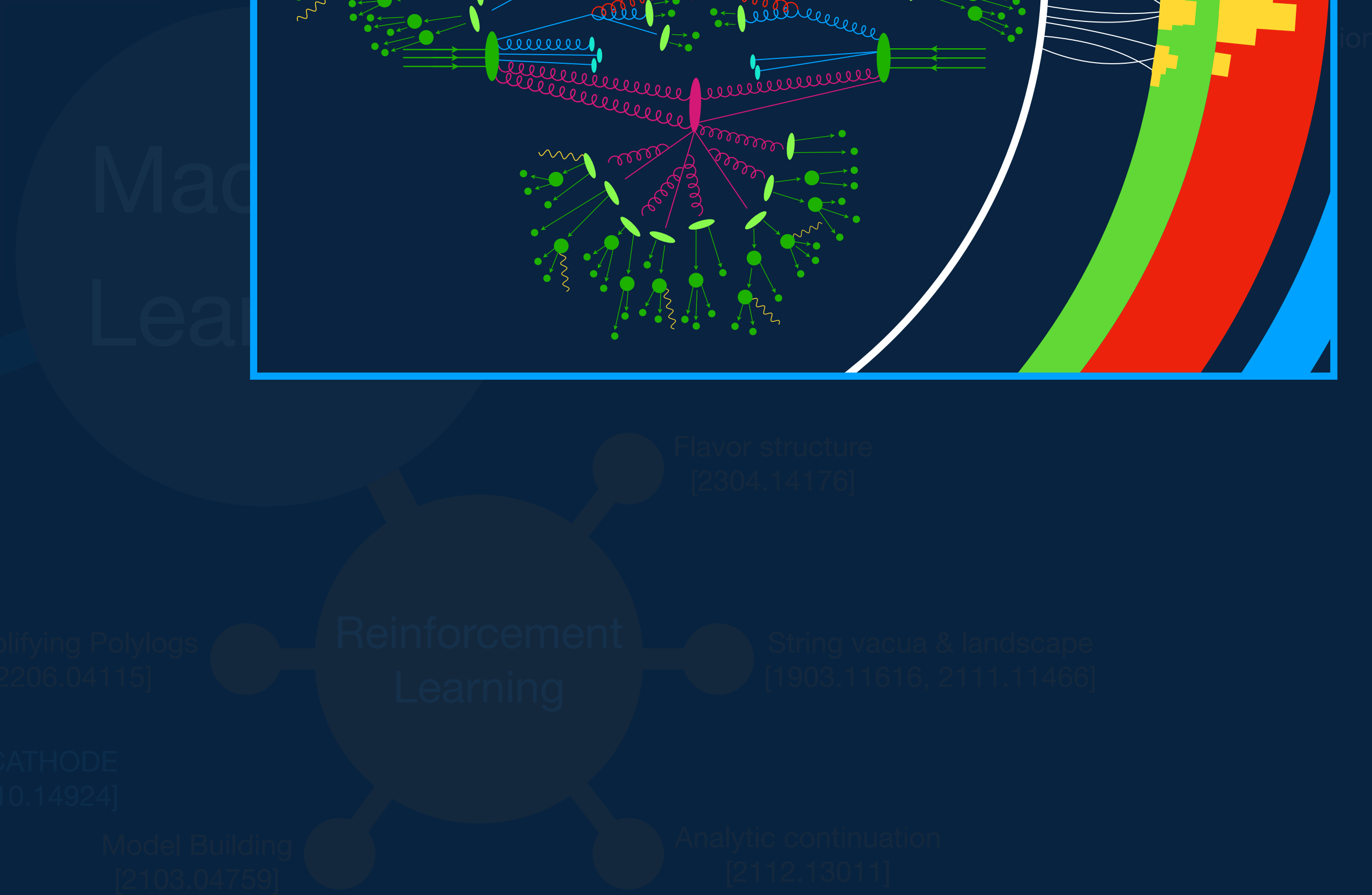
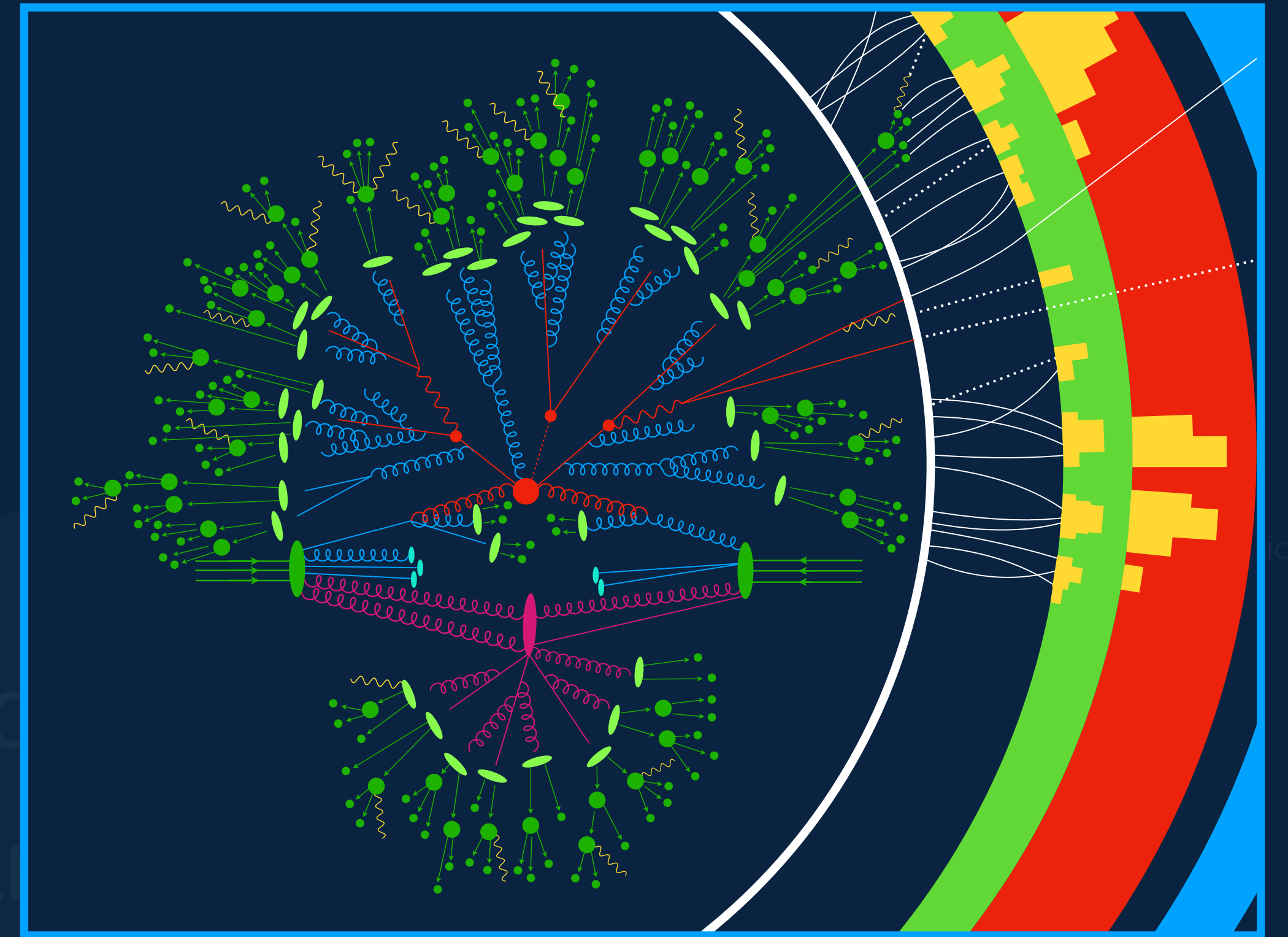
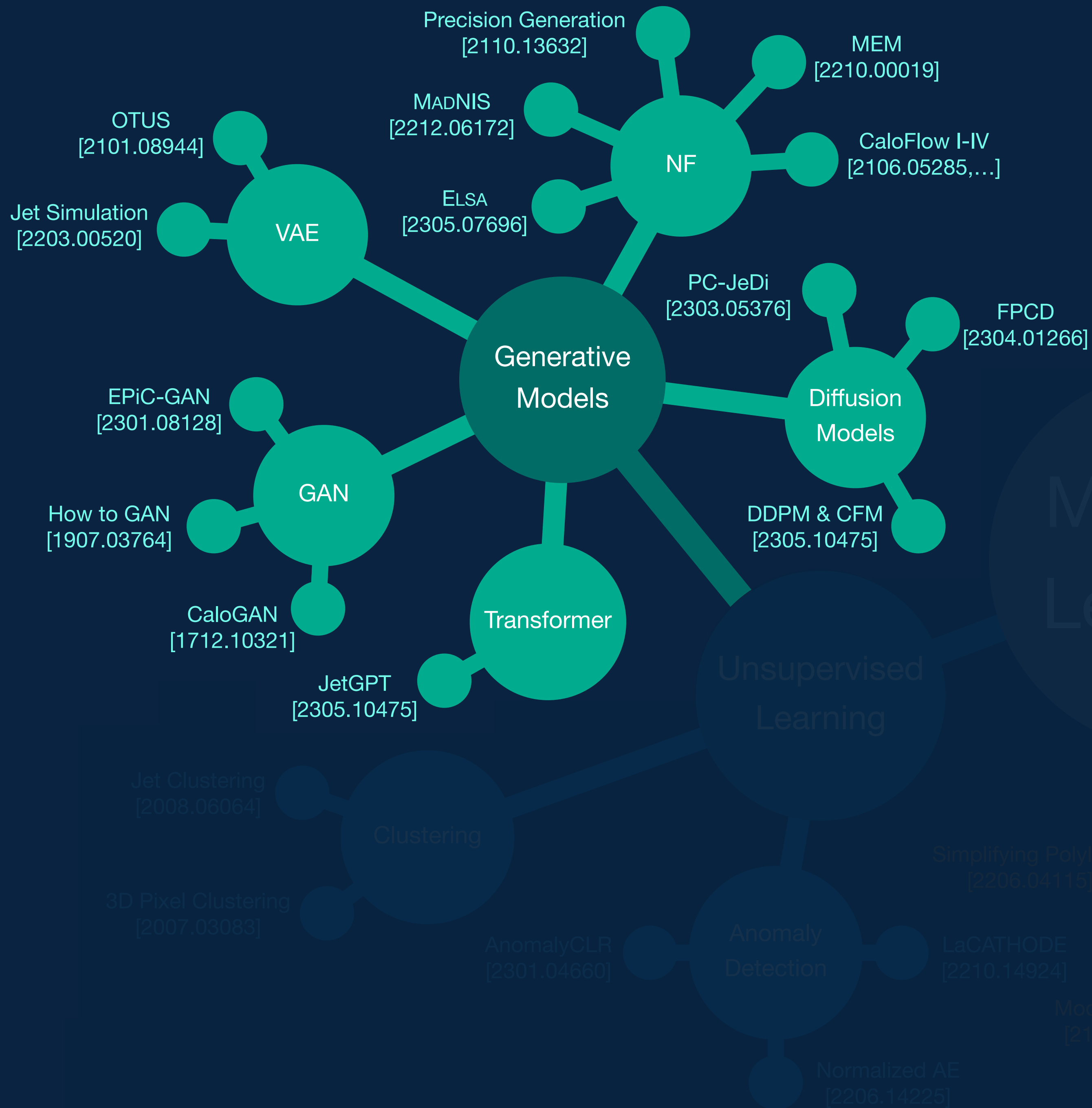
LHC analysis (oversimplified)

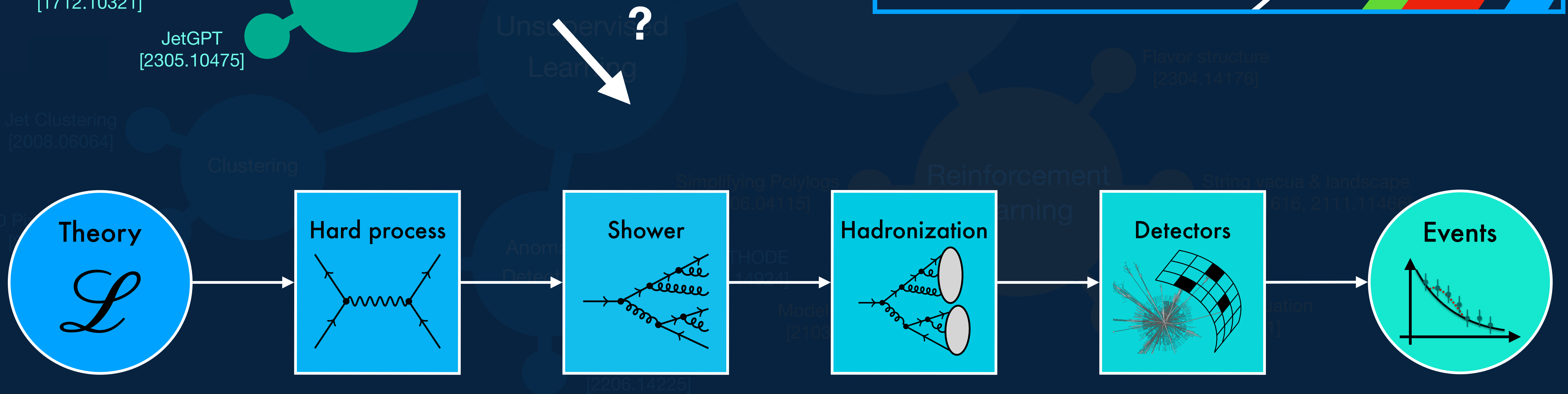
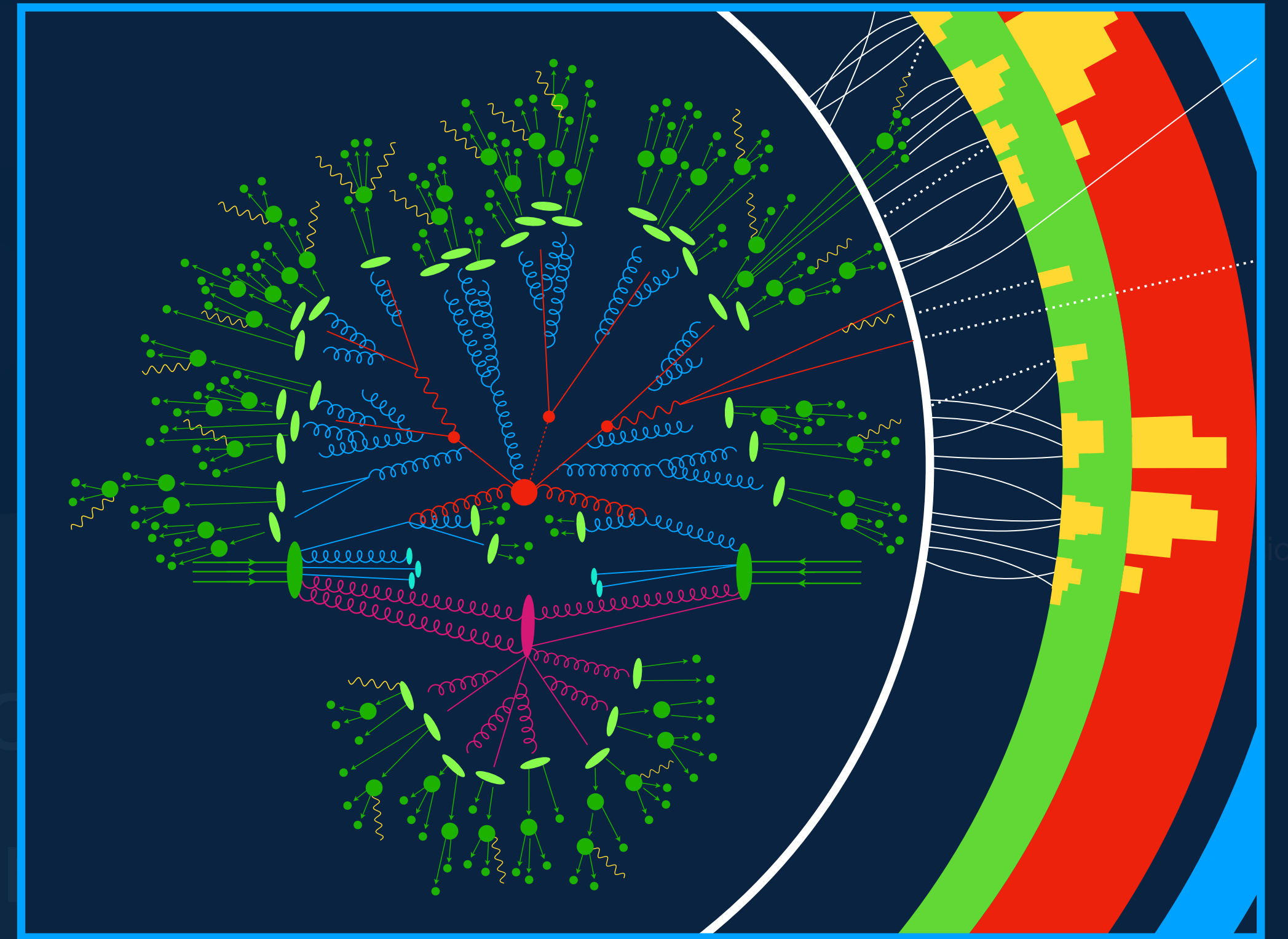
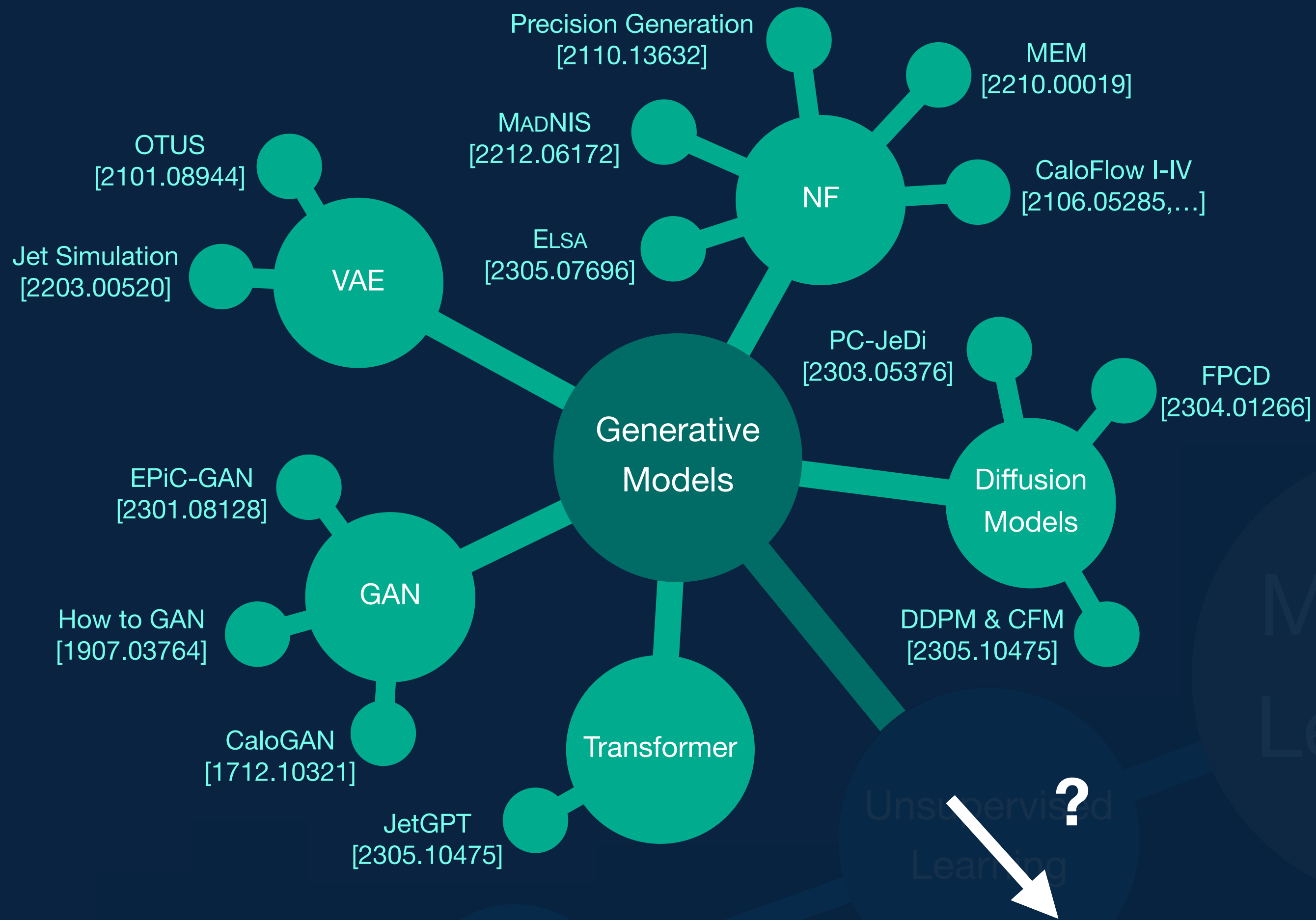


LHC analysis + ML

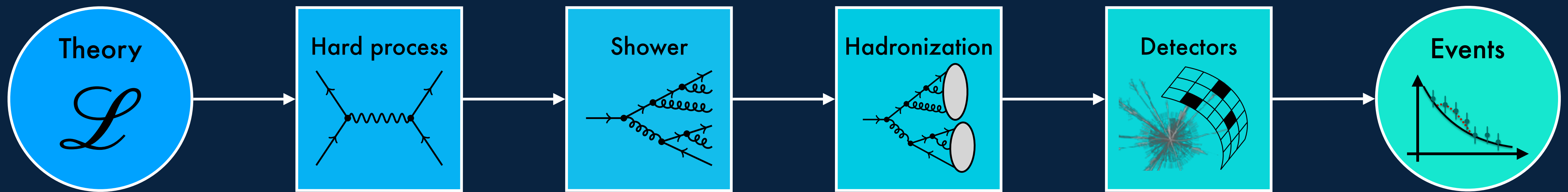




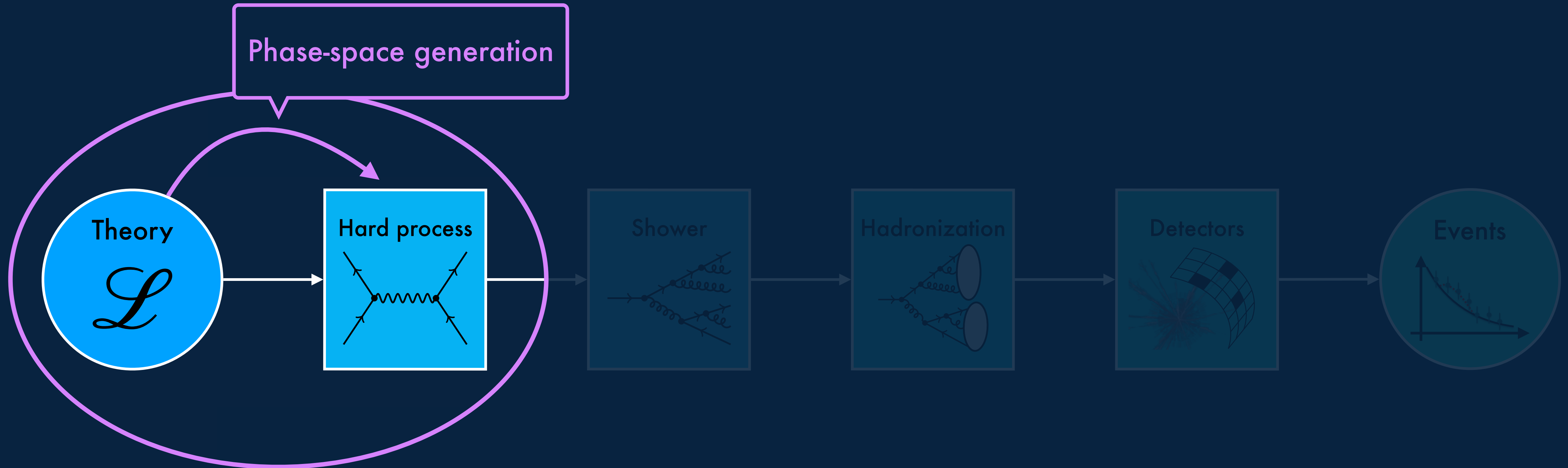




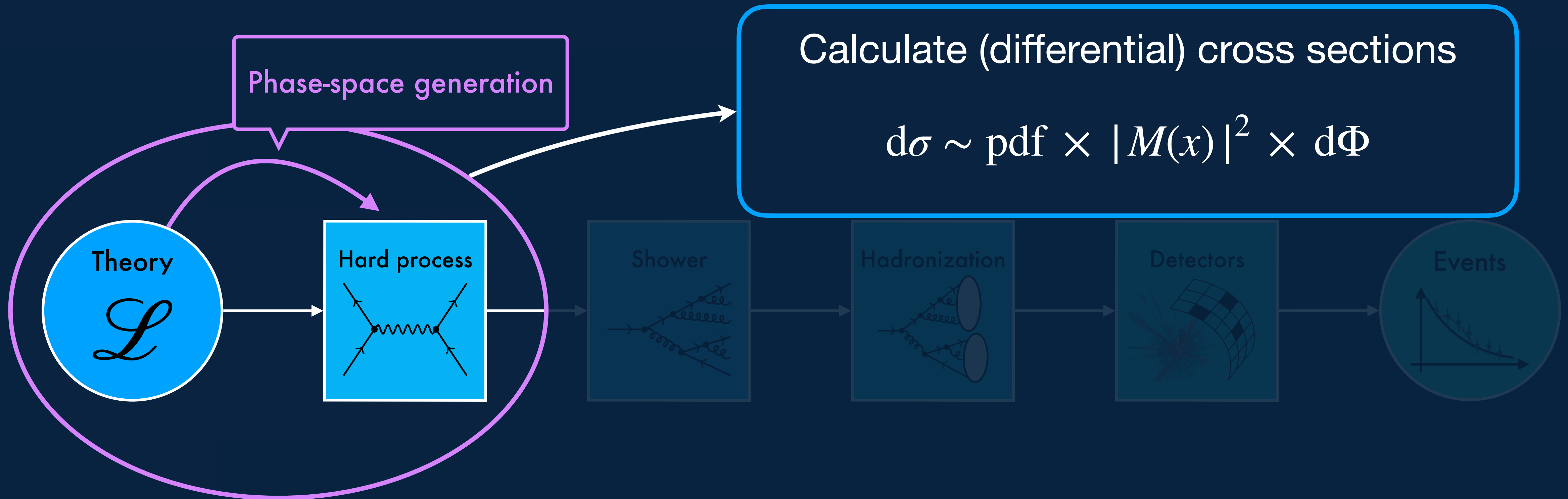
ML improved simulations



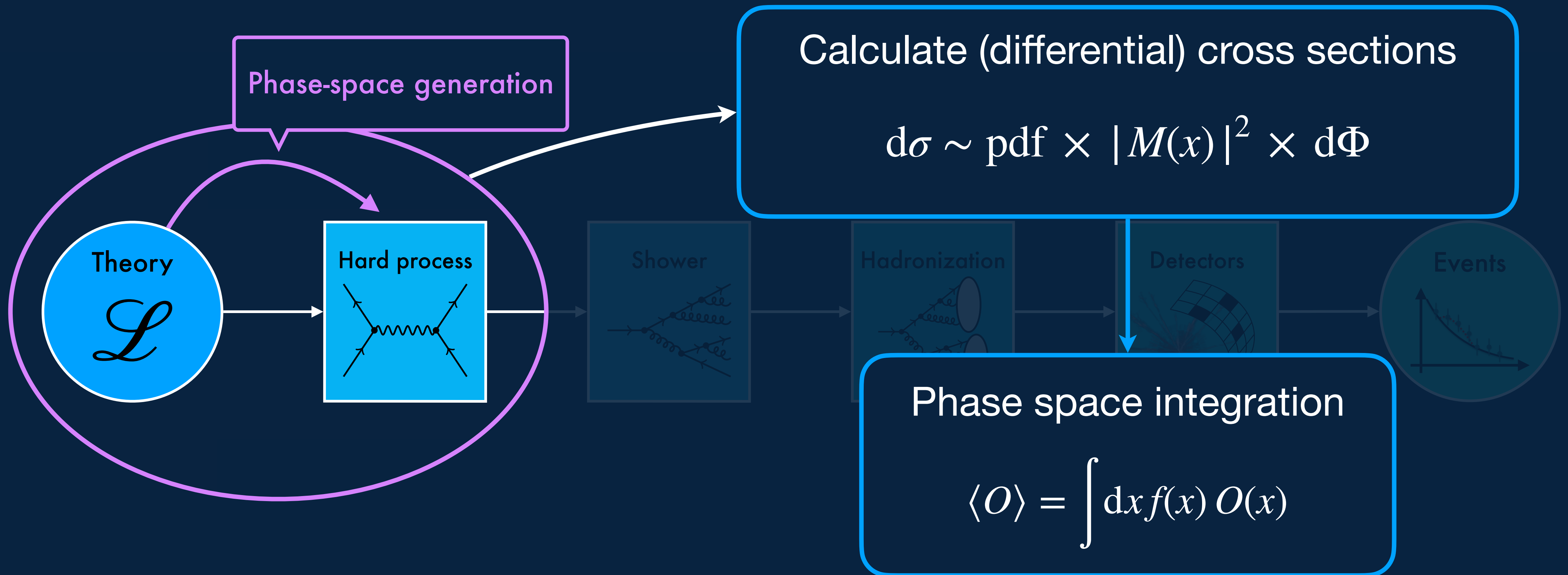
ML improved simulations



ML improved simulations

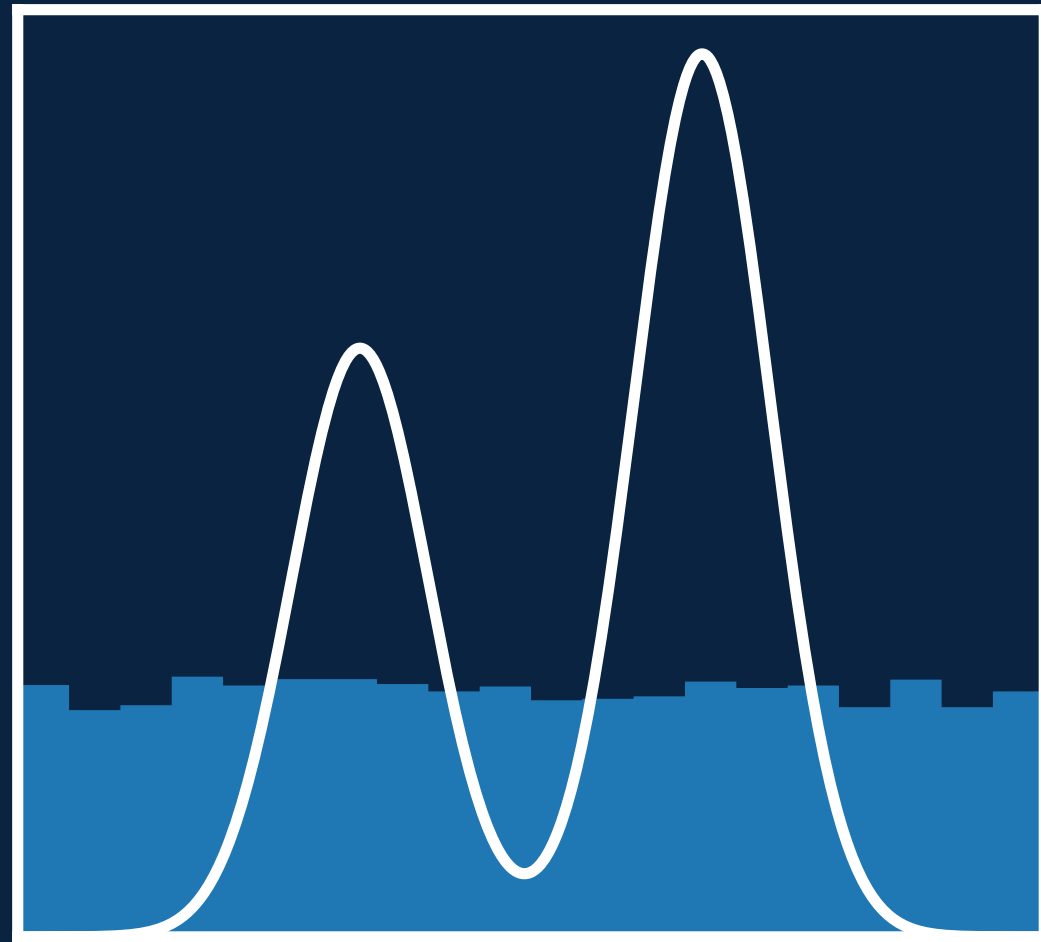


ML improved simulations



Monte Carlo integration

$$I = \int dx f(x)$$

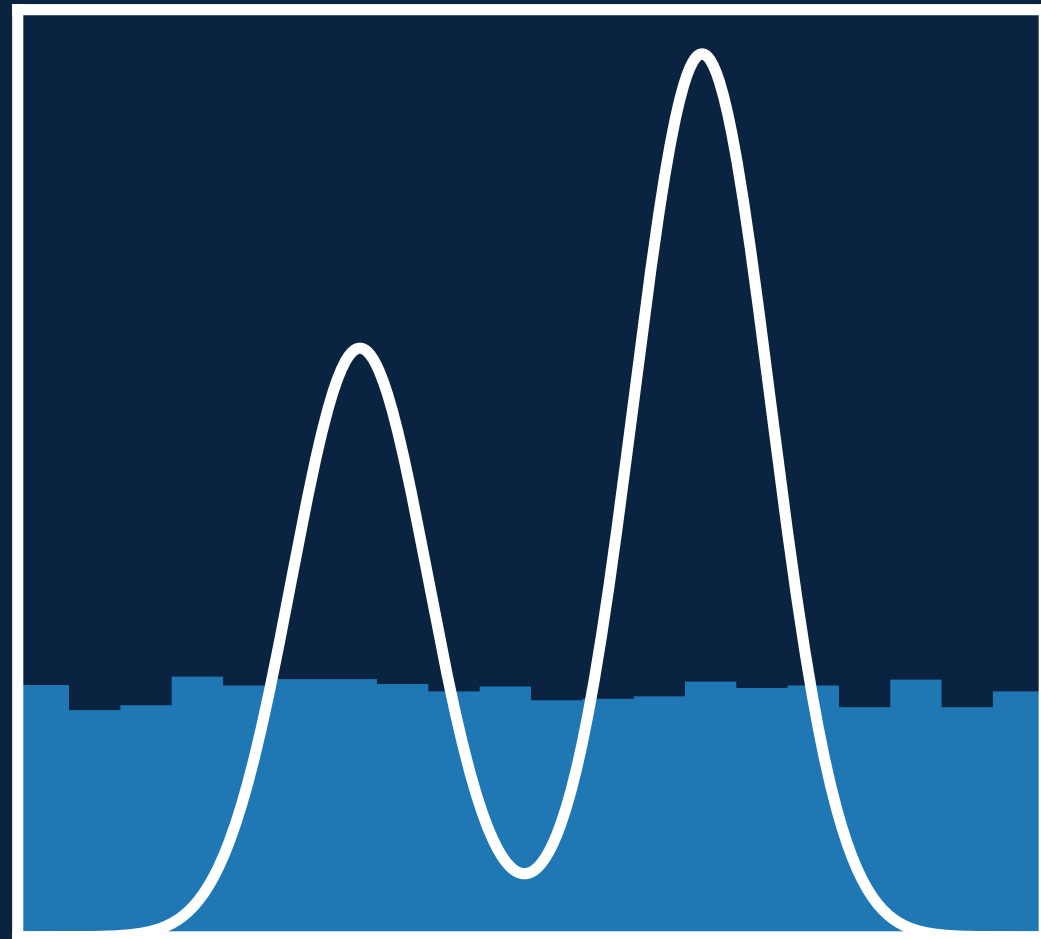


Flat sampling:
inefficient

$$I = \langle f(x) \rangle_{x \sim \text{unif}}$$

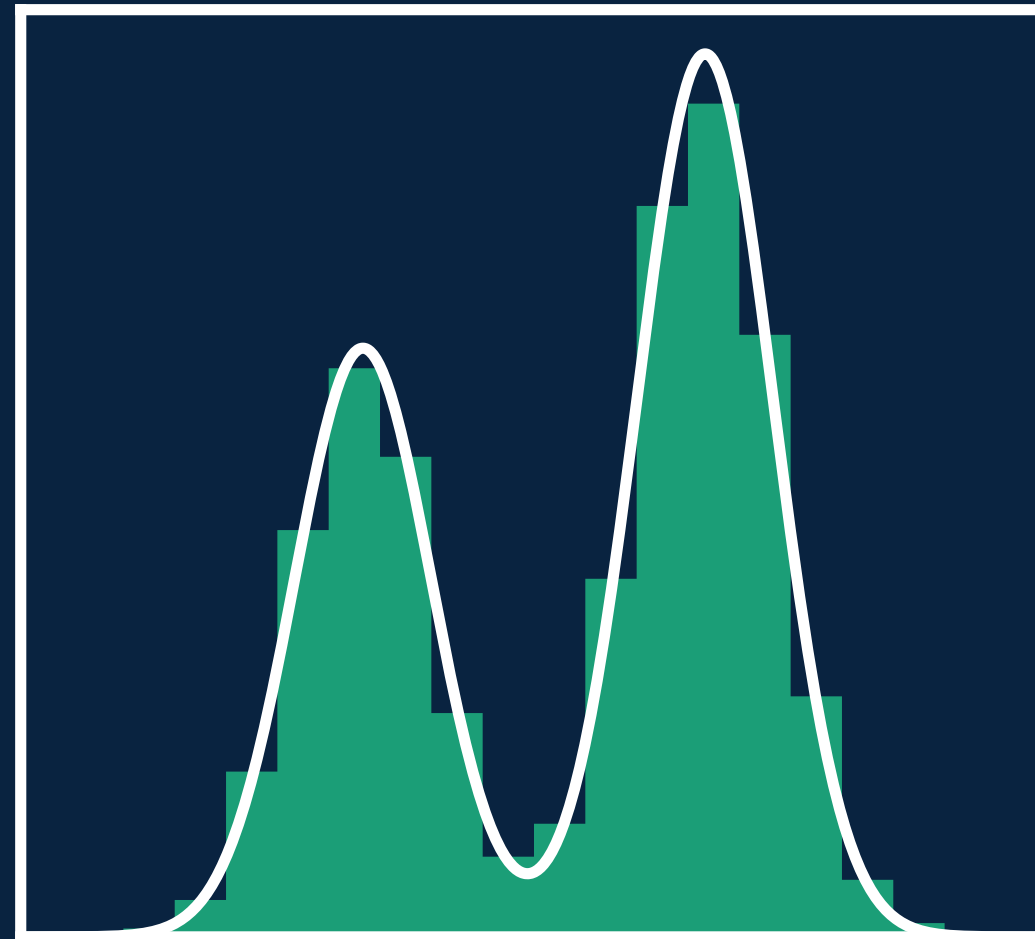
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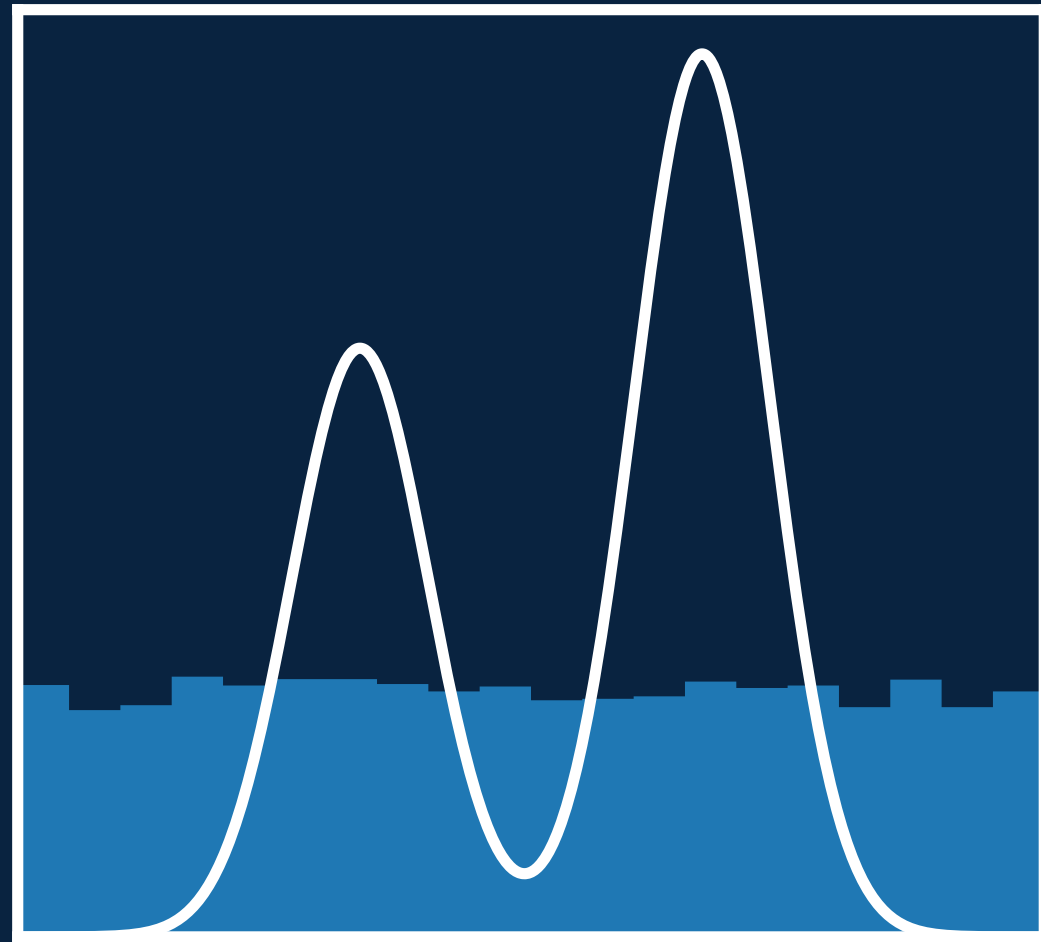


Importance sampling:
find g close to f

$$I = \left\langle \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right\rangle_{x \sim g(x)}$$

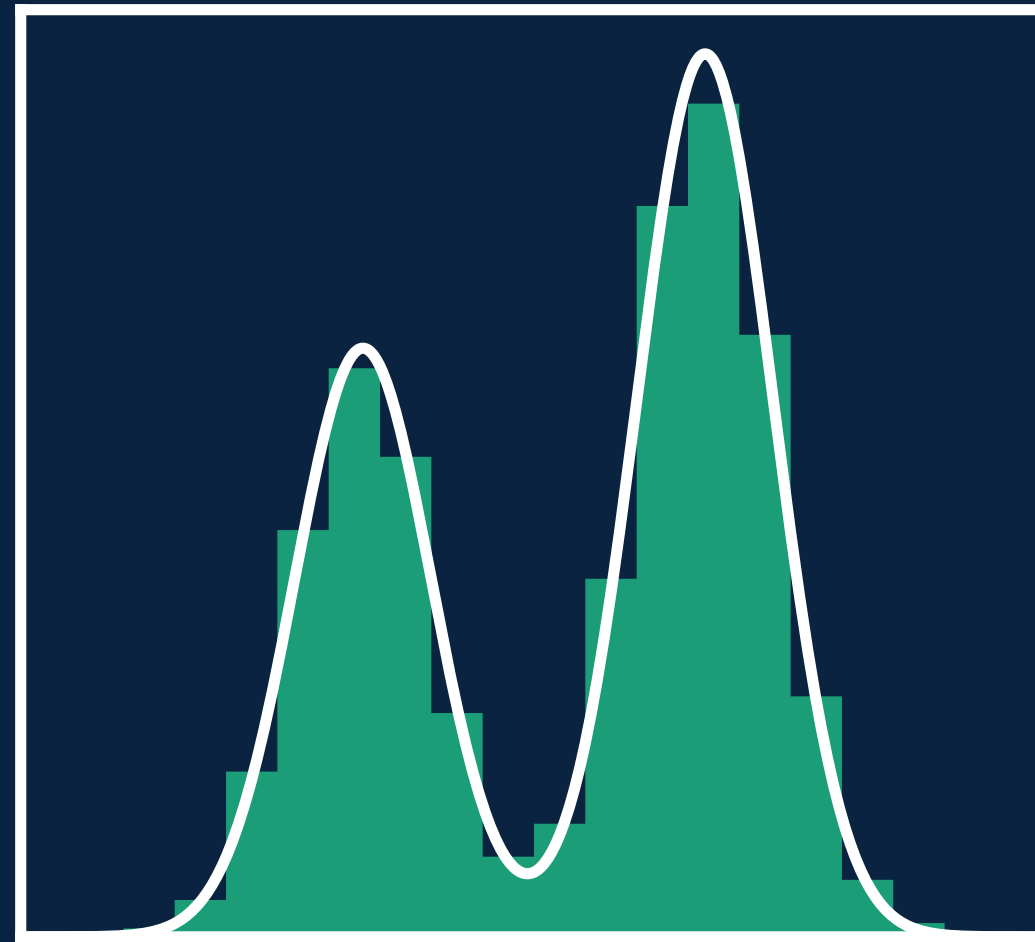
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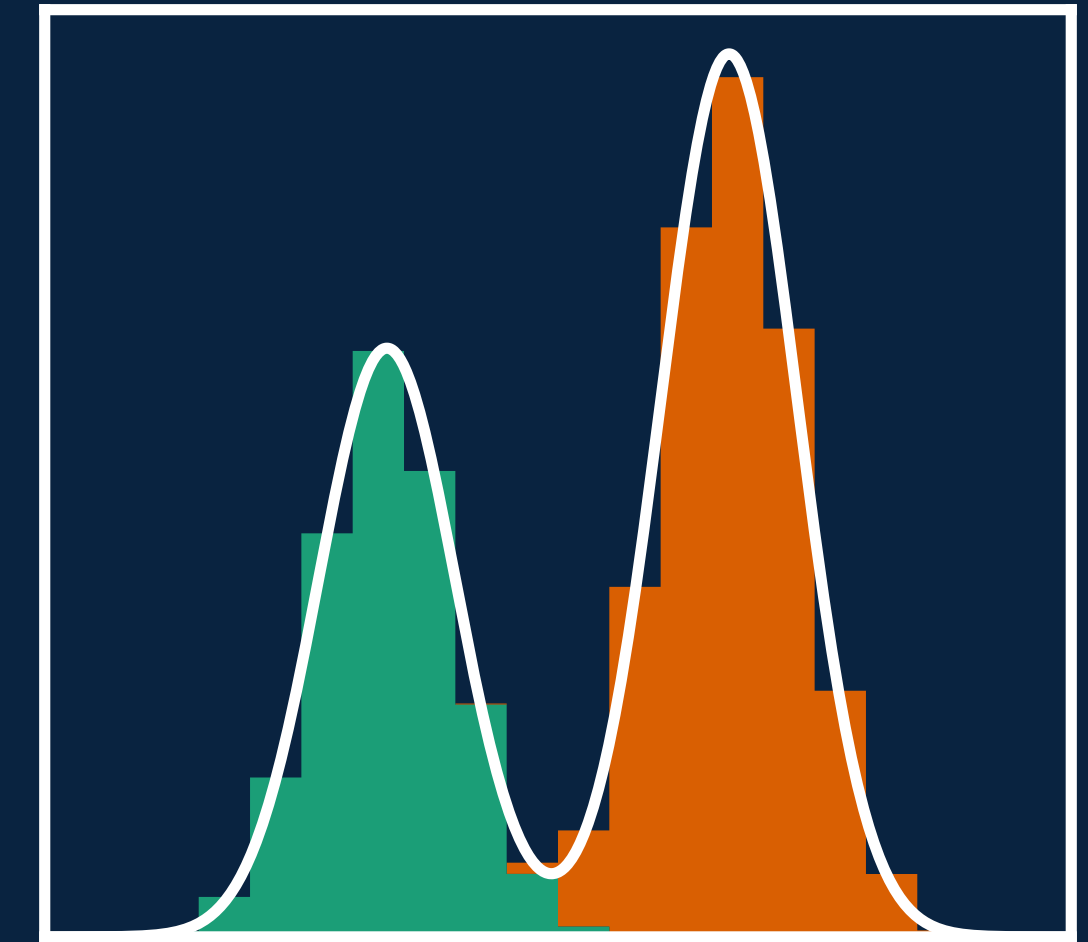
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Importance sampling:
find g close to f

$$I = \left\langle \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right\rangle_{x \sim g(x)}$$



Multi-channel:
one map for each channel

$$I = \sum_i \left\langle \alpha_i(x) \frac{f(x)}{g_i(x)} \right\rangle_{x \sim g_i(x)}$$

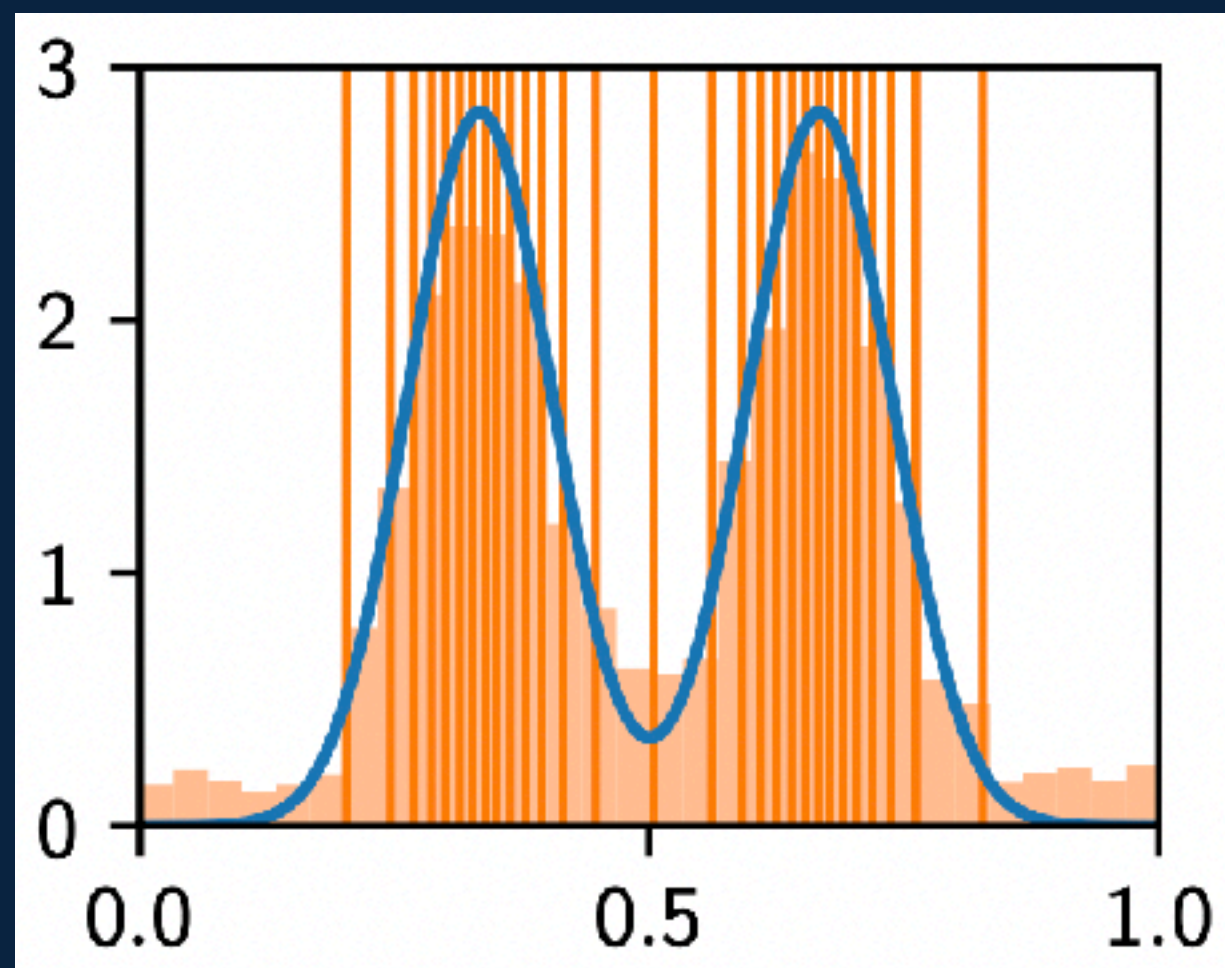
Importance sampling — VEGAS

Factorize probability

$$p(x) = p(x_1) \cdots p(x_n)$$



Fit bins with equal probability
and varying width



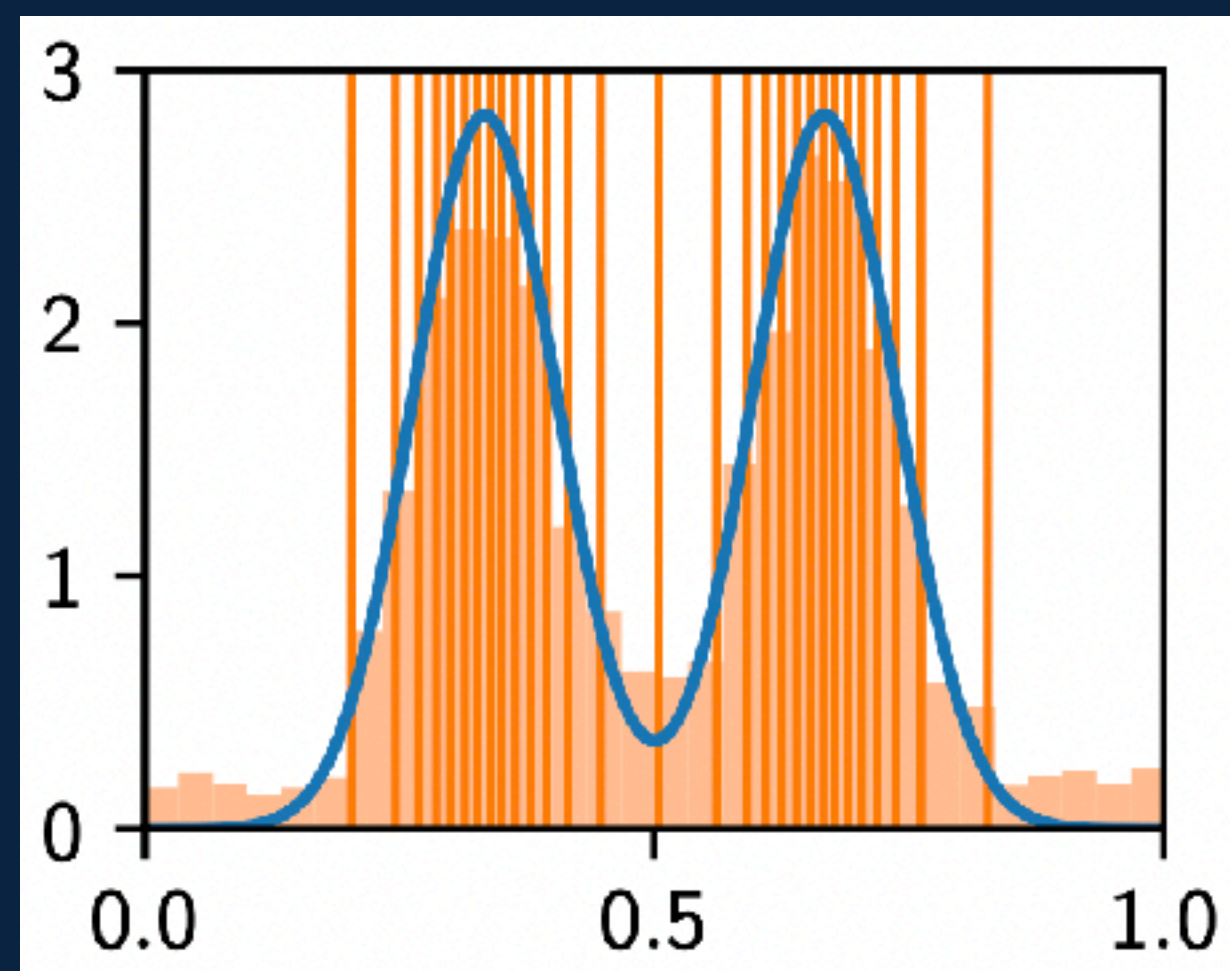
Importance sampling — VEGAS

Factorize probability

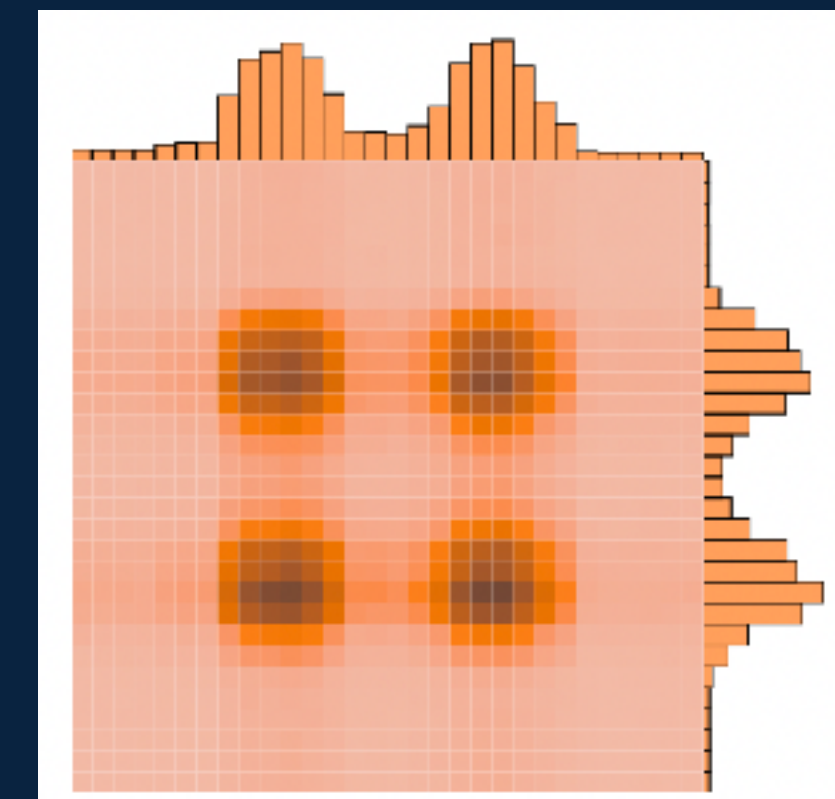
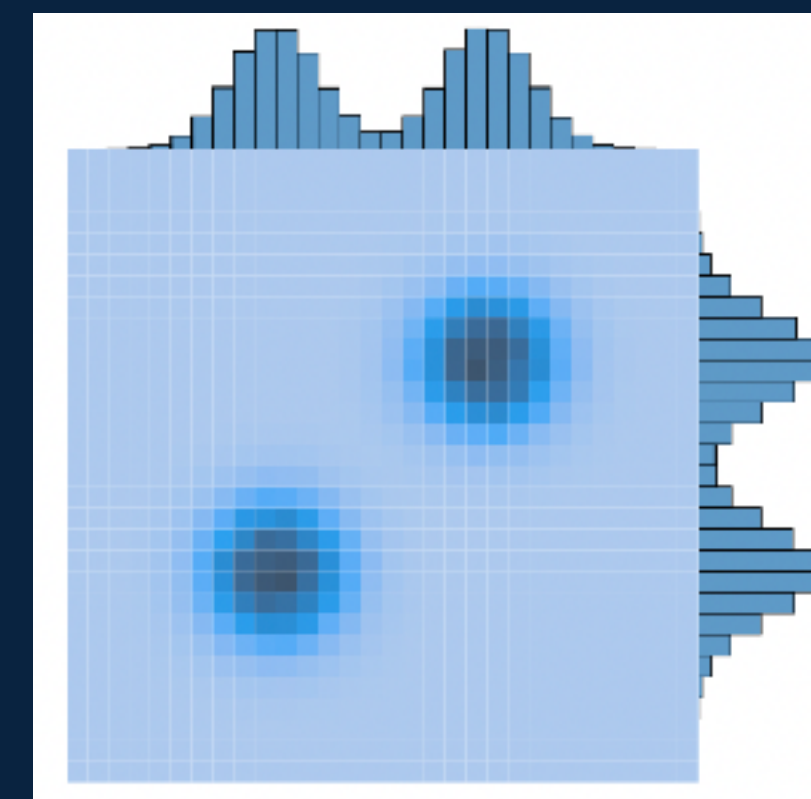
$$p(x) = p(x_1) \cdots p(x_n)$$



Fit bins with equal probability
and varying width



- ⊕ Computationally cheap
- ⊖ High-dim and rich peaking functions
→ **slow convergence**
- ⊖ Peaks not aligned with grid axes
→ **phantom peaks**

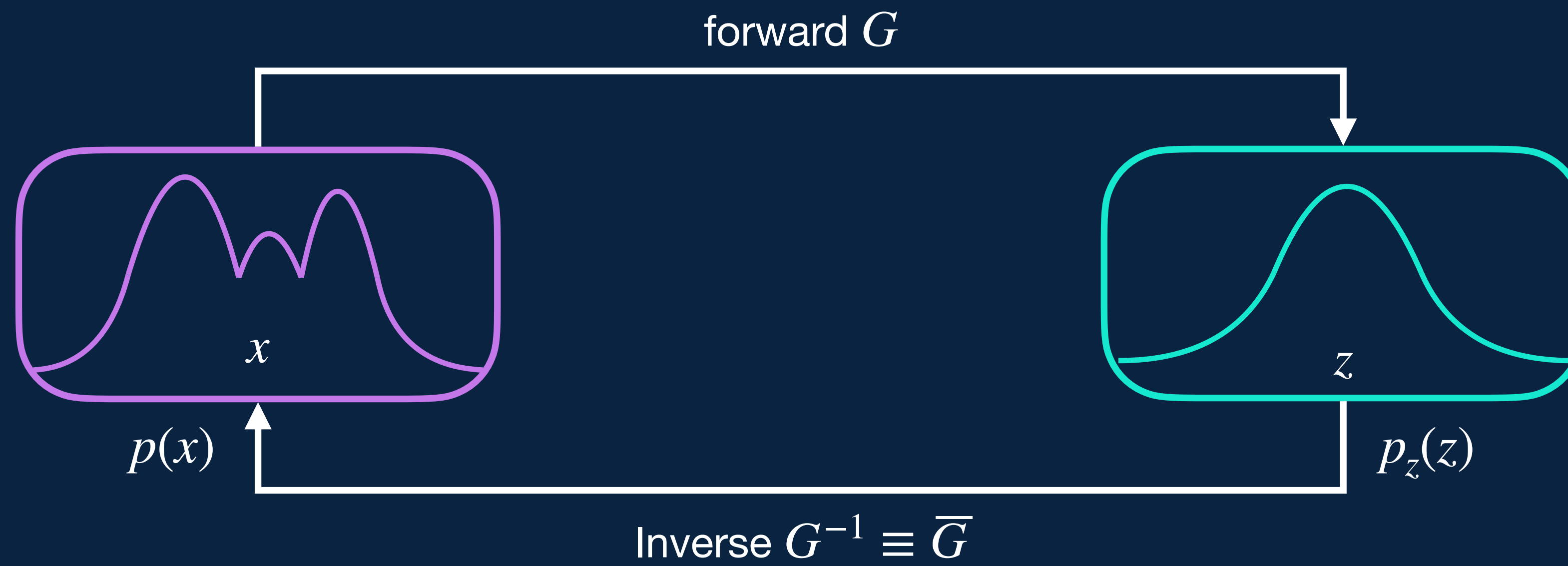


How can we do better?

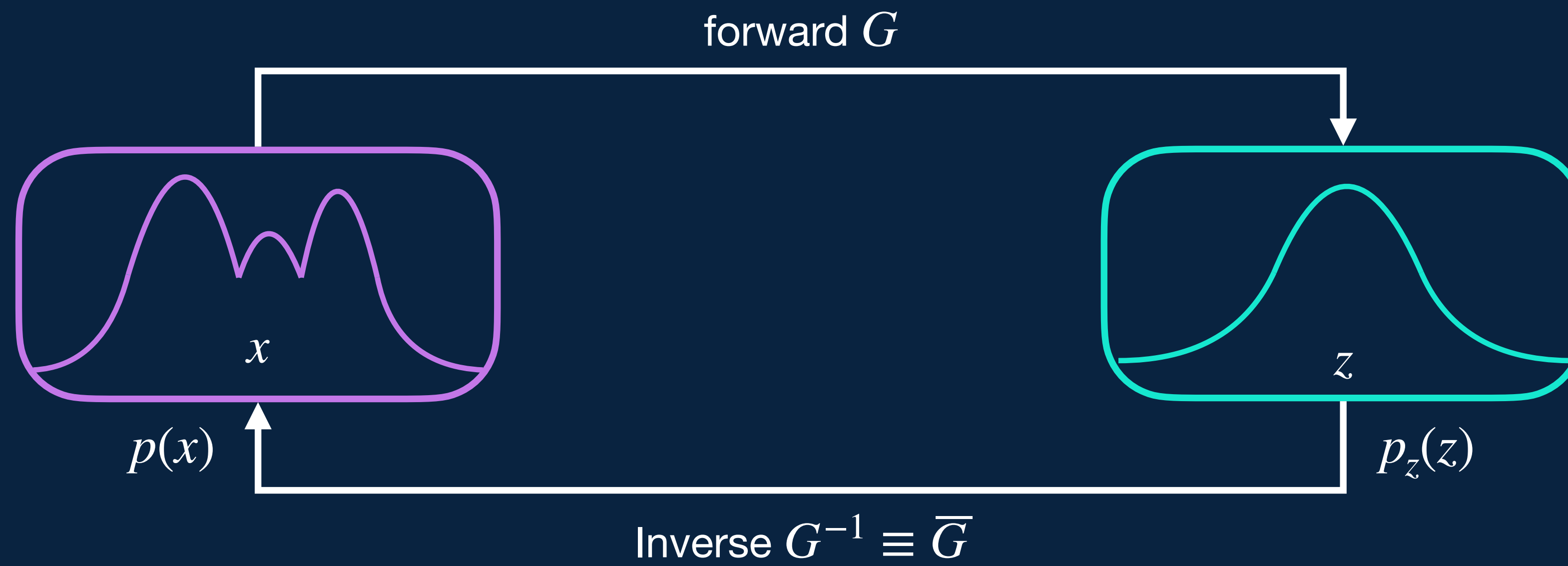
Part II

Normalizing Flows

Normalizing flow — Basics



Normalizing flow — Basics



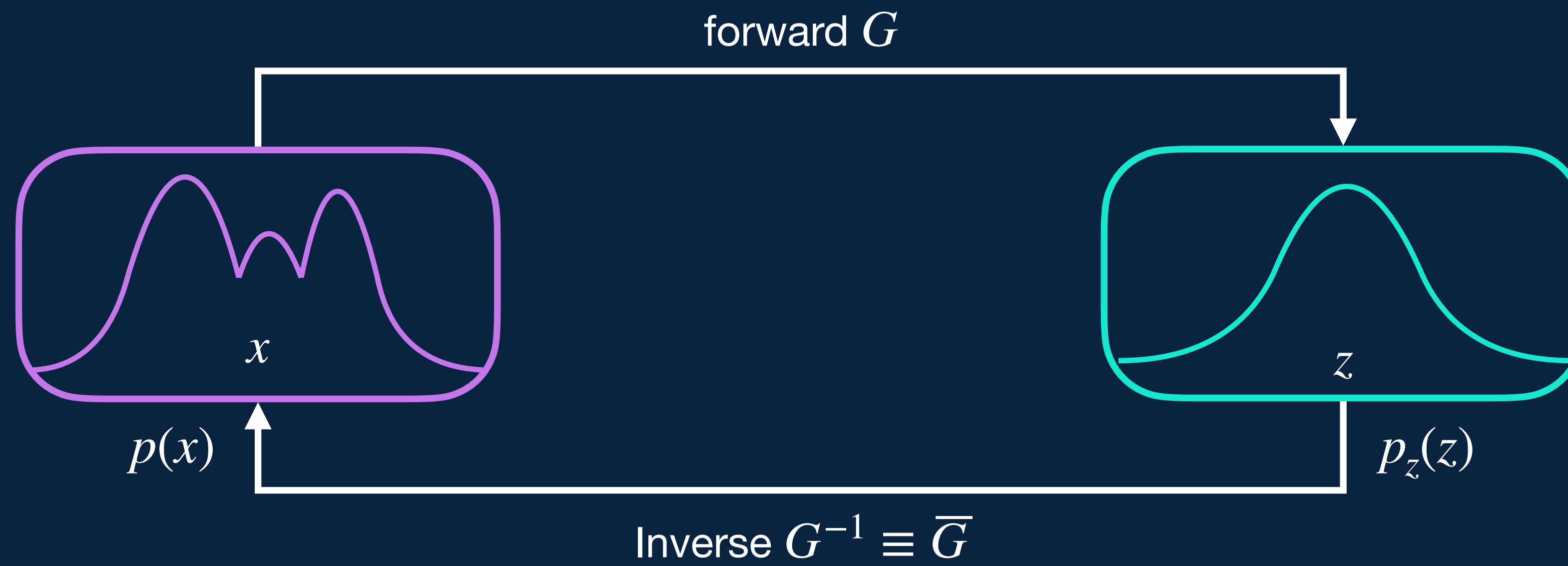
Conservation of probability:

$$p(x) dx = p_z(z) dz$$

with

$$z = G(x) \quad x = \bar{G}(z)$$

Normalizing flow — Basics



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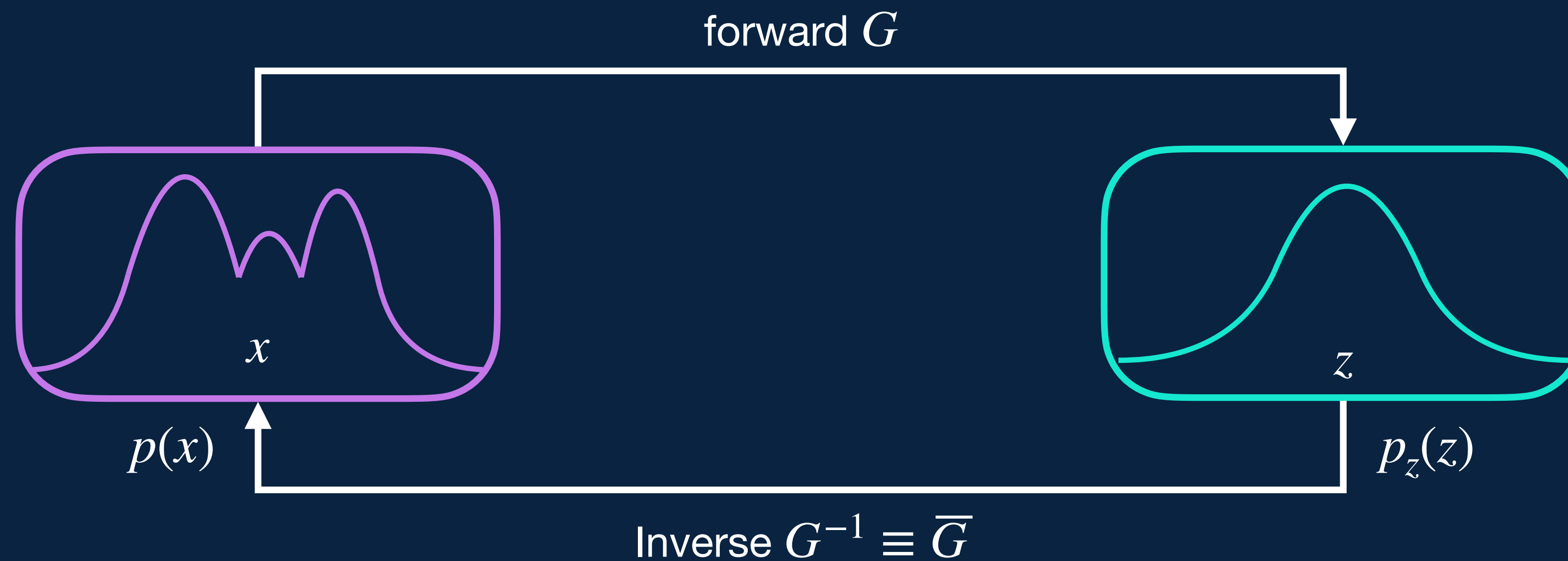
with

$$z = G(z) \quad x = \bar{G}(x)$$

Change-of-variables formula:

$$p_\theta(x) = p_z(z = G_\theta(x)) \cdot \left| \frac{\partial G_\theta(x)}{\partial x} \right|$$

Normalizing flow — Basics



Conservation of probability:

$$p(x) dx = p_z(z) dz$$

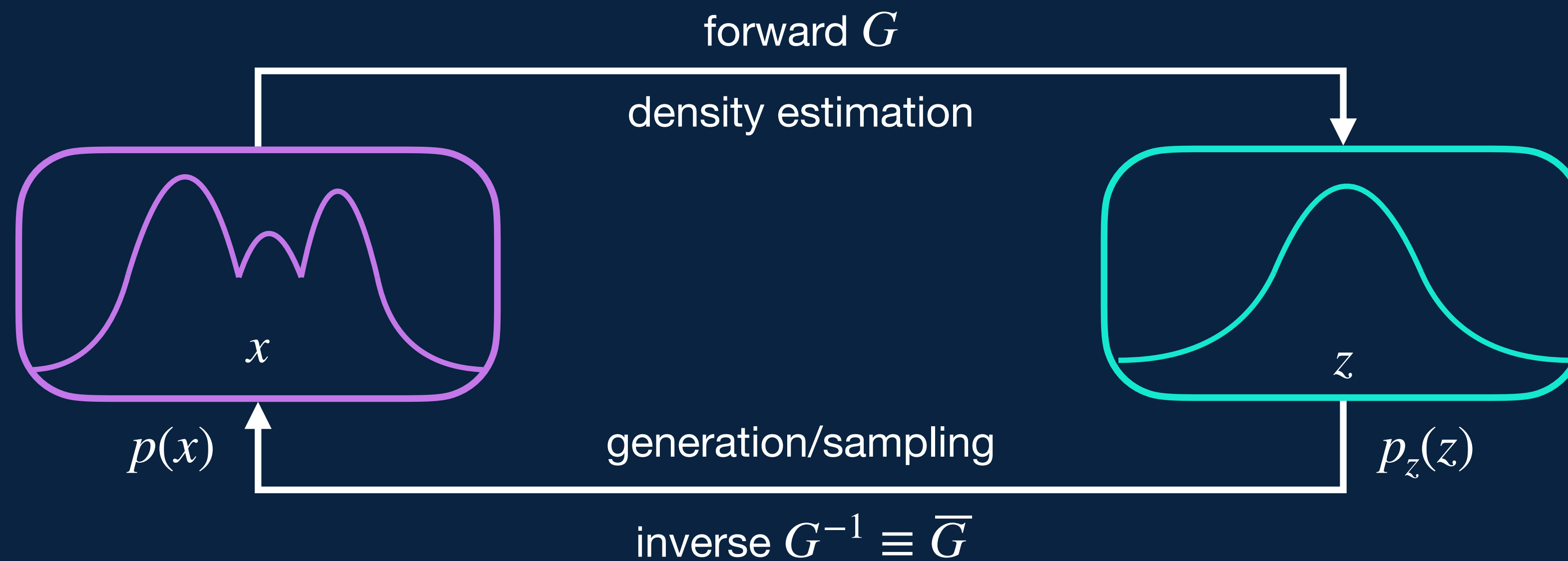
with

$$z = G(z) \quad x = \bar{G}(x)$$

Change-of-variables formula:

$$\log p_\theta(x) = \log p_z(z = G_\theta(x)) + \log \left| \frac{\partial G_\theta(x)}{\partial x} \right|$$

Normalizing flow — Basics



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with

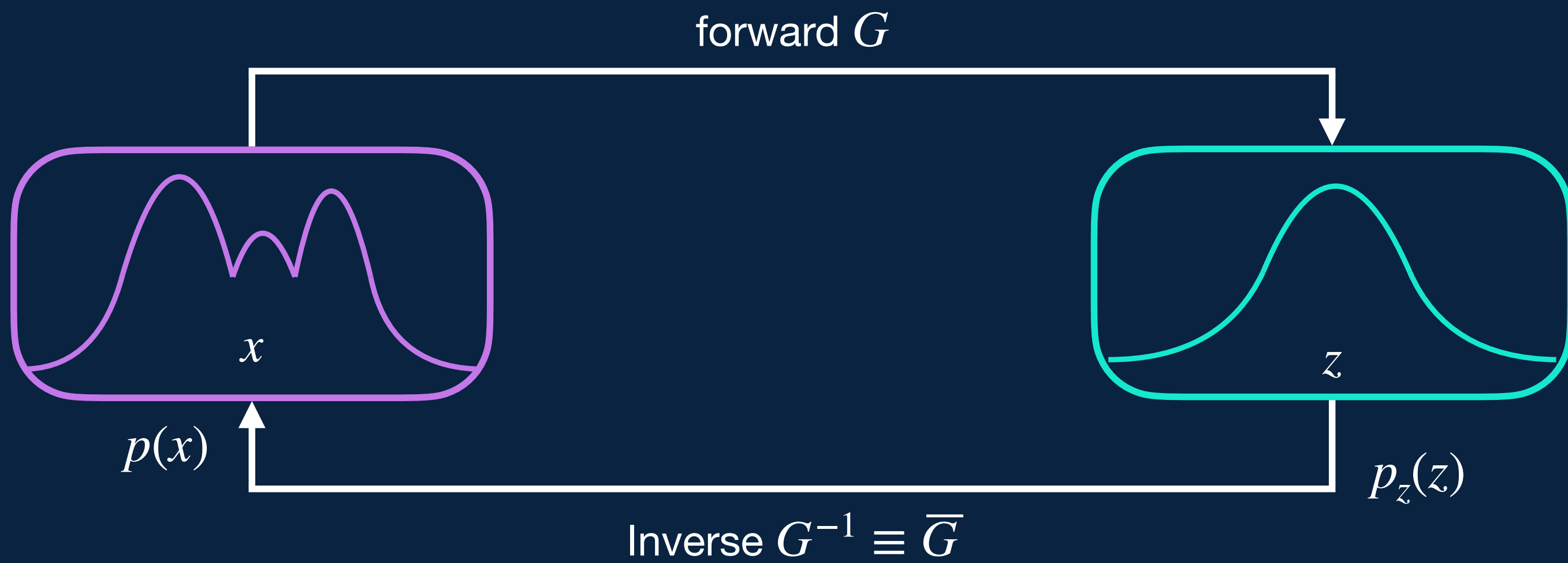
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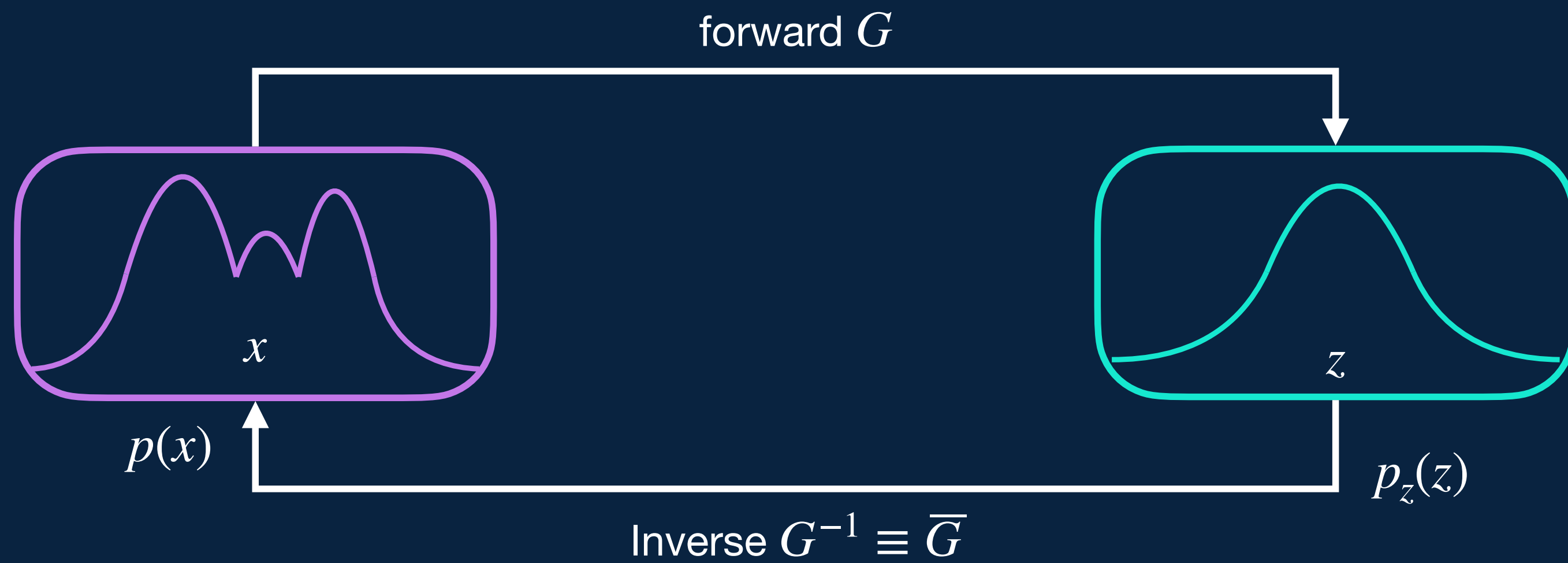
How to train it?

Normalizing flow — Training



$$\log p_\theta(x) = \log p_z(z = G_\theta(x)) + \log \left| \frac{\partial G_\theta(x)}{\partial x} \right|$$

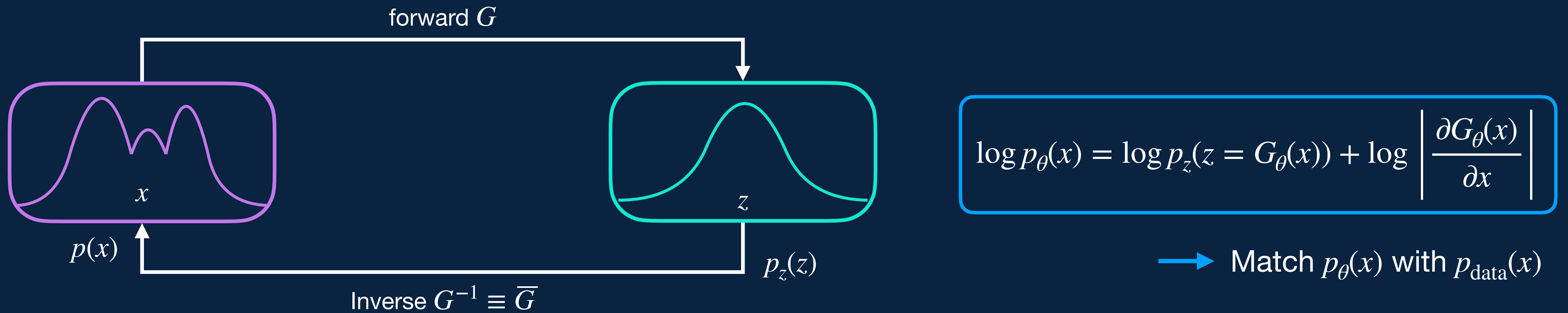
Normalizing flow — Training



$$\log p_\theta(x) = \log p_z(z = G_\theta(x)) + \log \left| \frac{\partial G_\theta(x)}{\partial x} \right|$$

→ Match $p_\theta(x)$ with $p_{\text{data}}(x)$

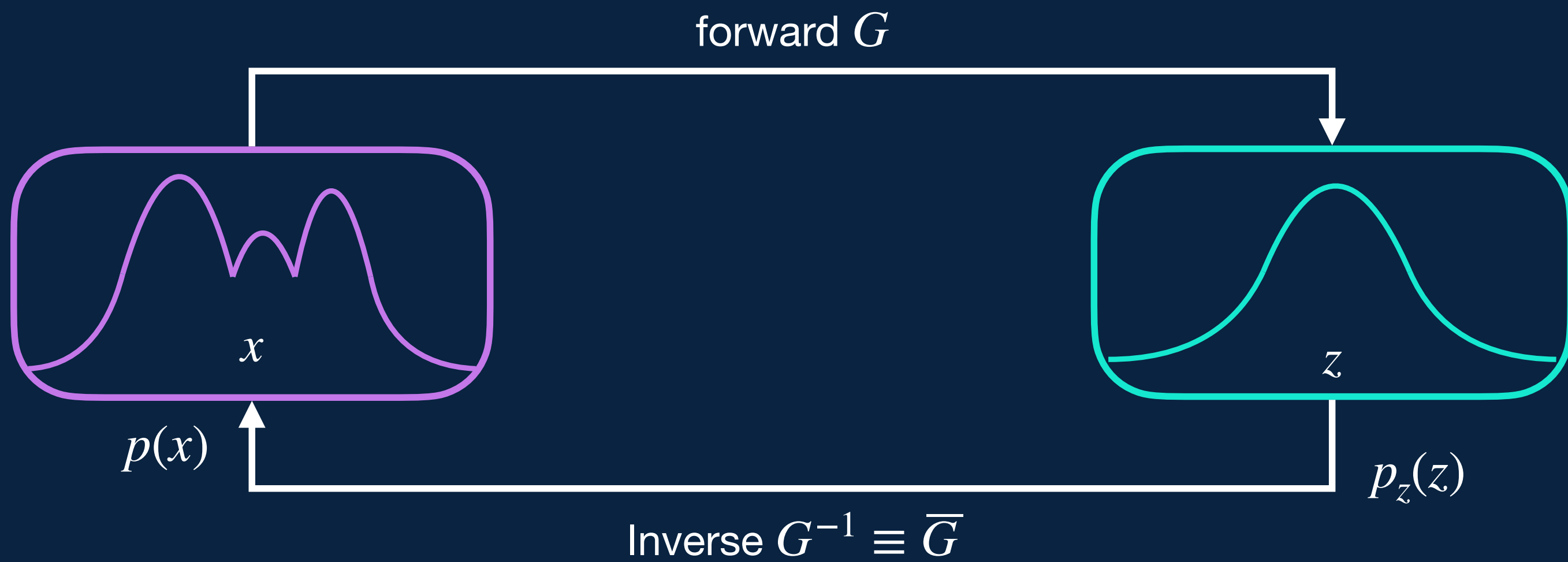
Normalizing flow — Training



Kullback-Leibler divergence:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{KL}(p_{\text{data}}(x) | p_\theta(x)) &= \int dx p_{\text{data}}(x) \log \frac{p_{\text{data}}(x)}{p_\theta(x)} \\ &= - \int dx p_{\text{data}}(x) \log p_\theta(x) + \int dx p_{\text{data}}(x) p_{\text{data}}(x) \end{aligned}$$

Normalizing flow — Training



$$\log p_\theta(x) = \log p_z(z = G_\theta(x)) + \log \left| \frac{\partial G_\theta(x)}{\partial x} \right|$$

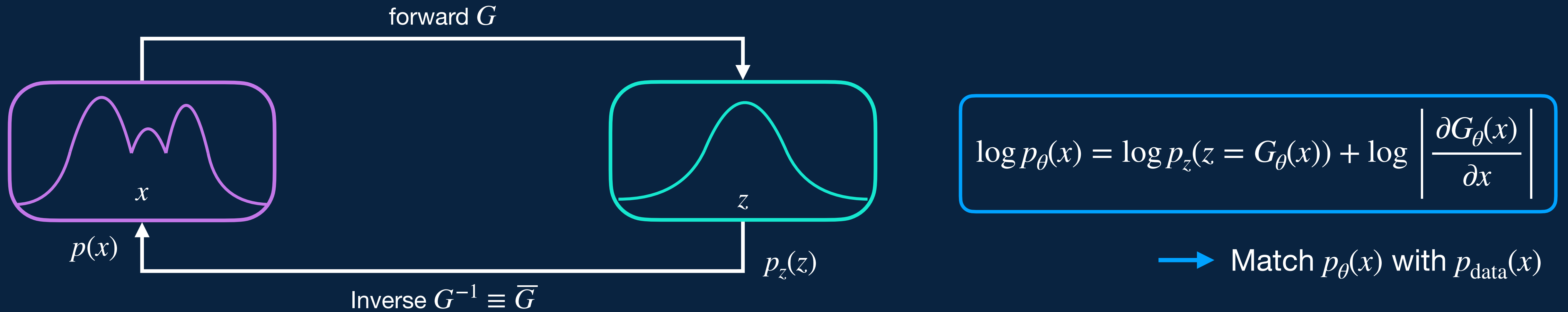
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No θ dependence

Normalizing flow — Training



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No θ dependence

Negative log-likelihood loss:

$$L_{\text{NLL}} = - \int dx p_{\text{data}}(x) \log p_\theta(x) \approx \langle -\log p_\theta(x) \rangle_{x \sim p_{\text{data}}}$$

Tractable Jacobian?

$$\log p_{\theta}(x) = \log p_z(z = G_{\theta}(x)) + \log \left| \frac{\partial G_{\theta}(x)}{\partial x} \right| \rightarrow \text{Requires tractable Jacobian!}$$

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In general: $g(x) = \left| \frac{\partial G_{\theta}(x)}{\partial x} \right|$ is $d \times d$ matrix \rightarrow Scales with $\mathcal{O}(d^3)$ 😞

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Solution: **Autoregressive transformations** $z = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ \vdots \\ z_d \end{pmatrix} \quad x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_d \end{pmatrix}$

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$$\begin{aligned} z_1 &\equiv z_1(x_1) \\ z_2 &\equiv z_2(x_1, x_2) \\ &\vdots \\ z_d &\equiv z_d(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_d) \end{aligned}$$

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$$J_{ij}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial z_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial z_2}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial z_d}{\partial x_1} \\ 0 & \frac{\partial z_2}{\partial x_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial z_d}{\partial x_1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & \frac{\partial z_d}{\partial x_d} \end{pmatrix}$$

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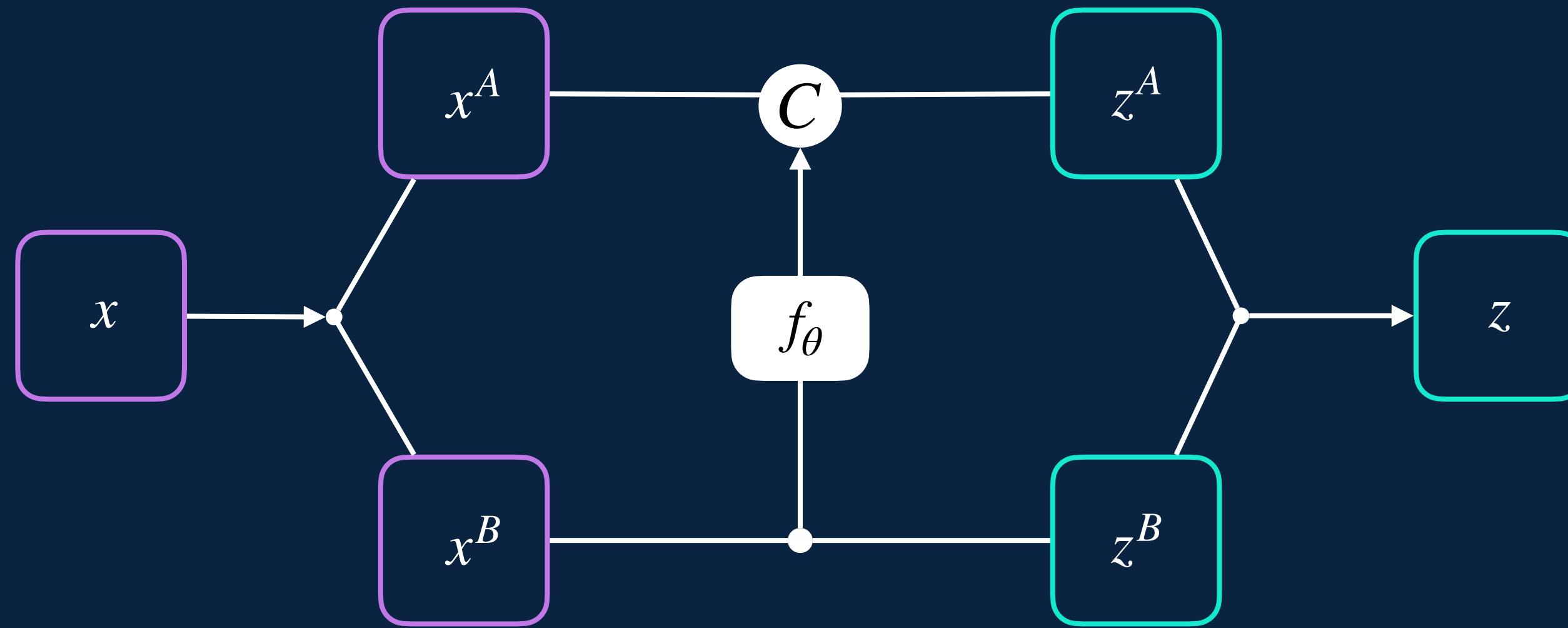
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$$\det J = \prod_i J_{ii} \sim \mathcal{O}(d) \text{ 😊}$$

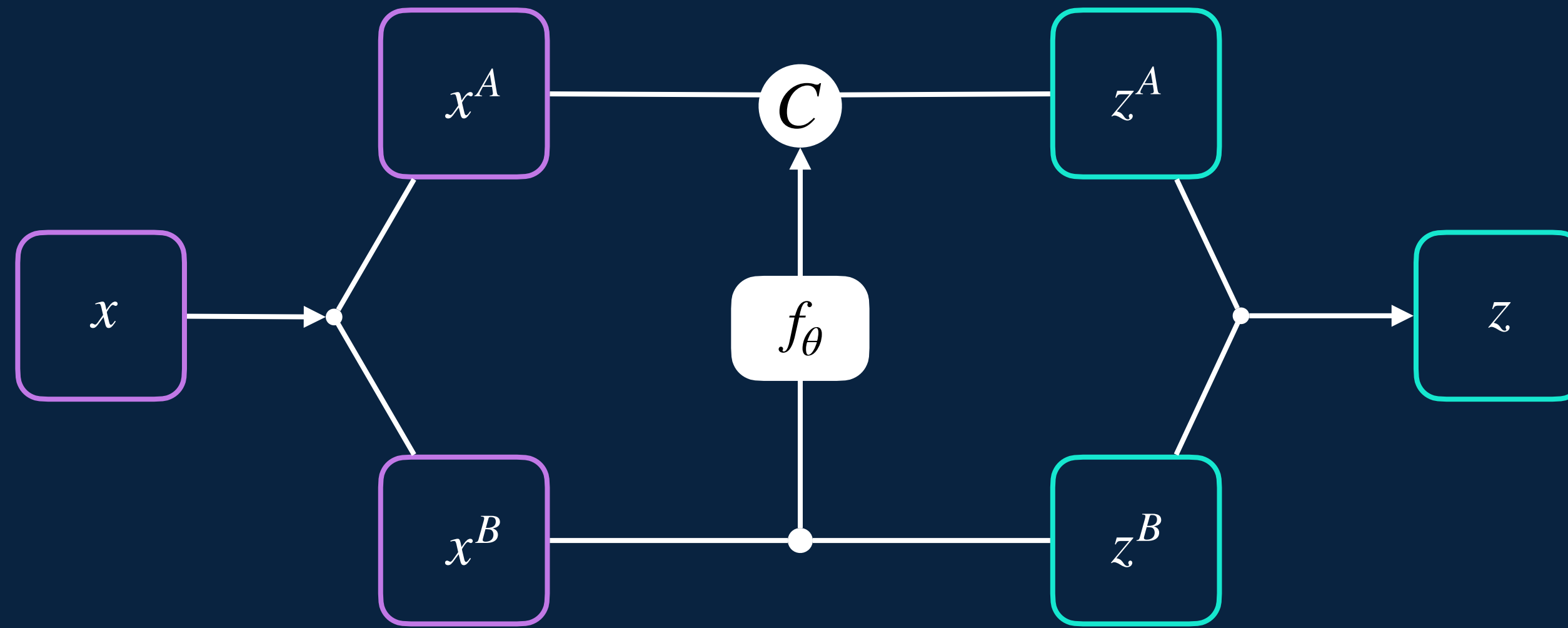
Coupling block



Forward pass:

$$z^A = C(x^A; f_\theta(x^B))$$
$$z^B = x^B$$

Coupling block

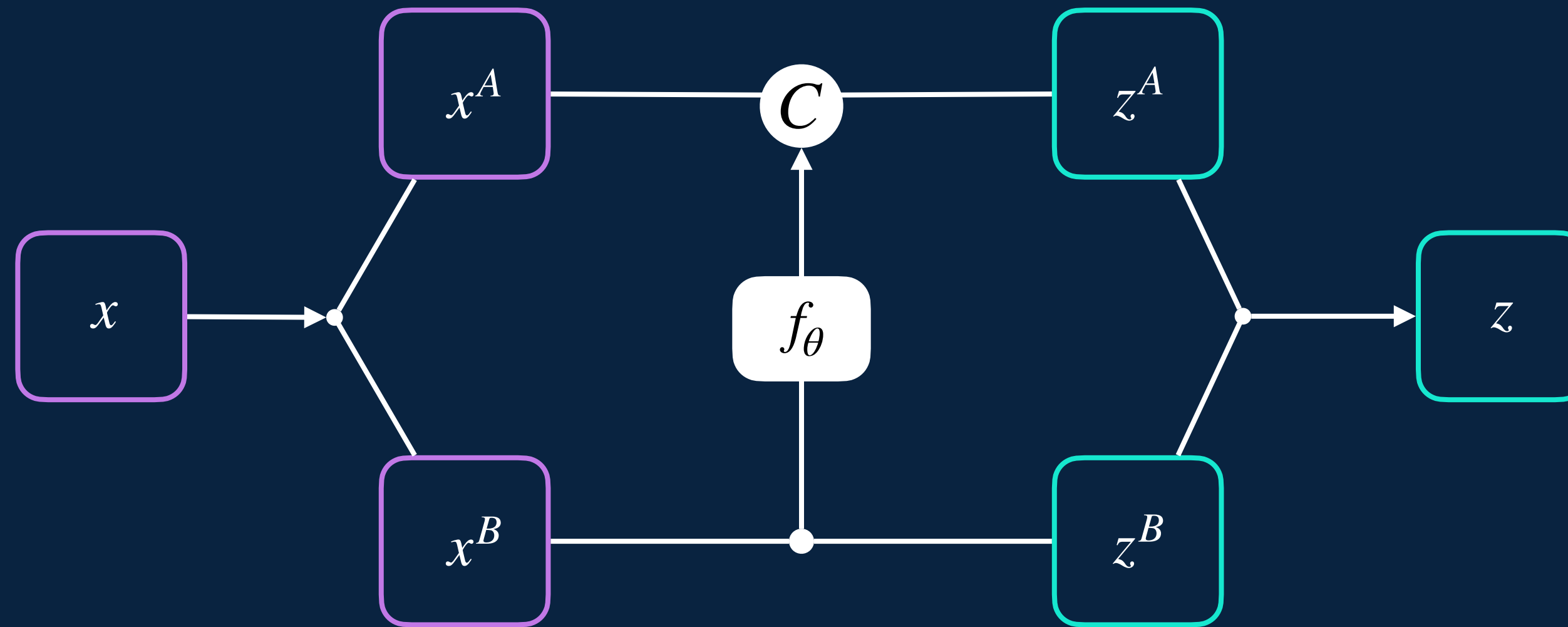


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$$J_{ij}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial C}{\partial x^A} & \frac{\partial C}{\partial f_\theta} \frac{\partial f_\theta}{\partial x^B} \\ 0 & I_m \end{pmatrix}$$

Coupling block



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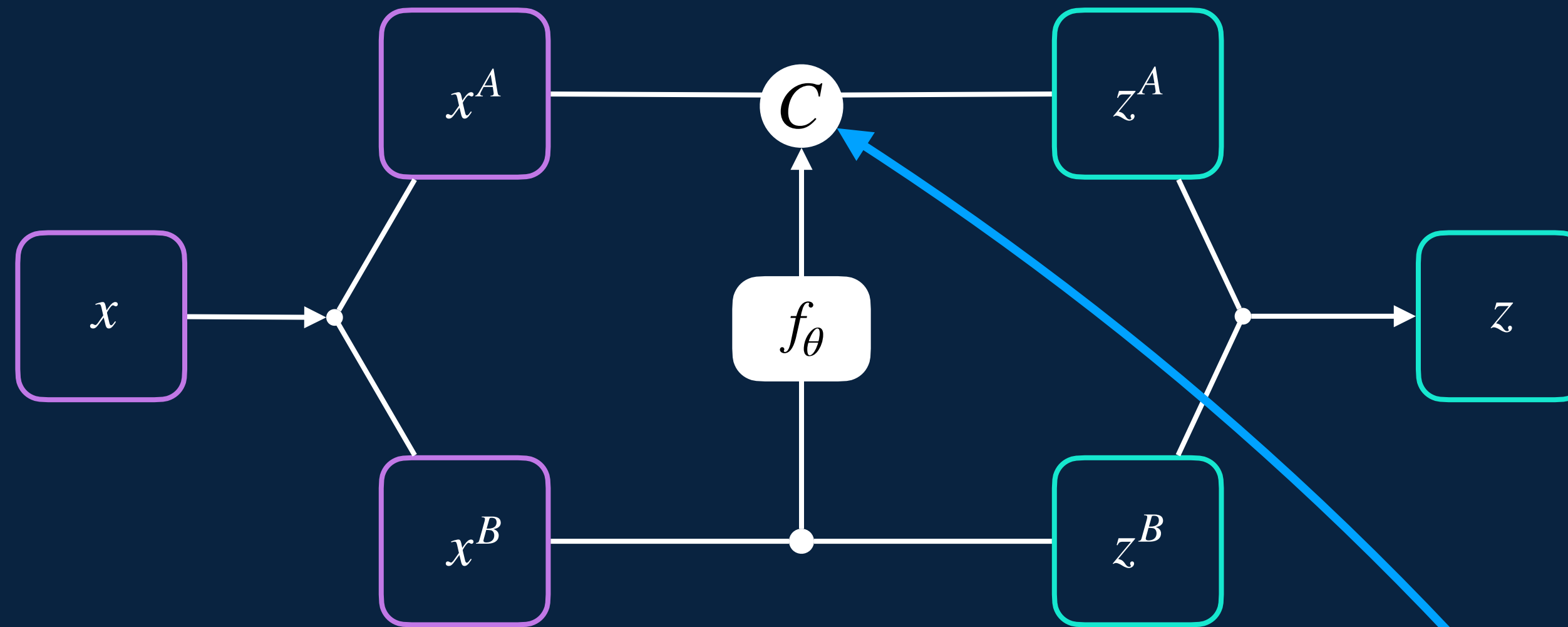
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Inverse pass:

$$\begin{aligned} x^A &= C^{-1}(z^A; f_\theta(z^B)) \\ x^B &= z^B \end{aligned}$$

Coupling block



Forward pass:

$$\begin{aligned} z^A &= C(x^A; f_\theta(x^B)) \\ z^B &= x^B \end{aligned}$$

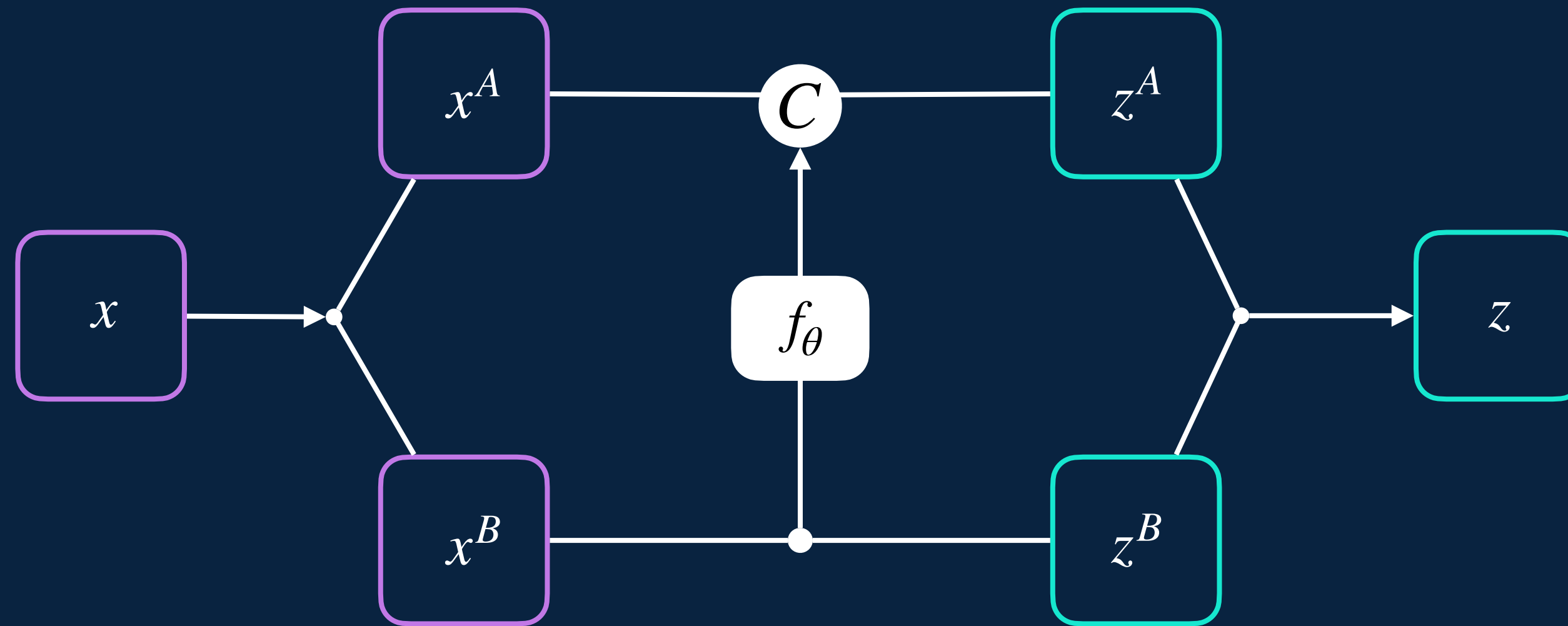
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What is the function C ?

Coupling block



Forward pass:

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Inverse pass:

$$\begin{aligned} x^A &= C^{-1}(z^A; f_\theta(z^B)) \\ x^B &= z^B \end{aligned}$$

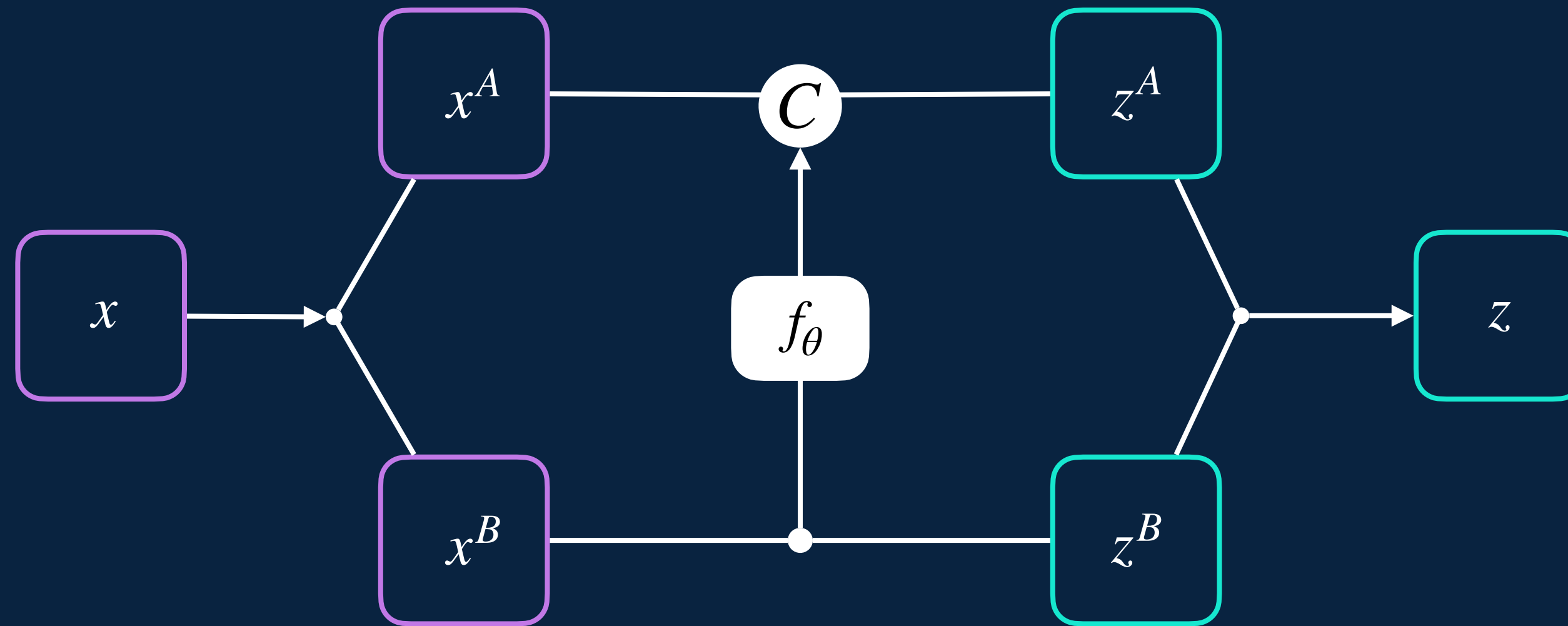
$$J_{ij}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial C}{\partial x^A} & \frac{\partial C}{\partial f_\theta} \frac{\partial f_\theta}{\partial x^B} \\ 0 & I_m \end{pmatrix}$$

Affine
[1605.08803]

$$C^A = \alpha_\theta(x^B) \cdot x^A + \mu_\theta(x^B)$$

parametrized by NN

Coupling block



Forward pass:

$$\begin{aligned} z^A &= C(x^A; f_\theta(x^B)) \\ z^B &= x^B \end{aligned}$$

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Affine

[1605.08803]

$$C^A = \alpha_\theta(x^B) \cdot x^A + \mu_\theta(x^B)$$

Quadratic

[1808.03856]

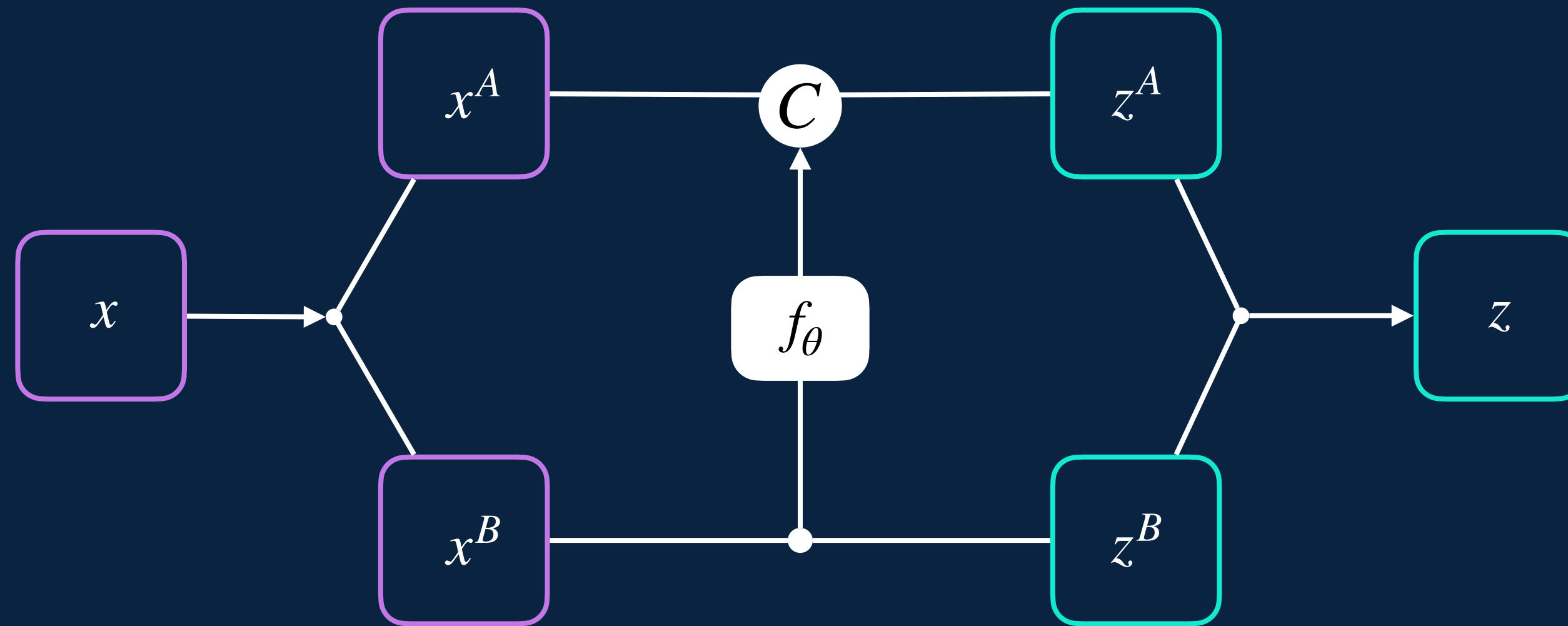
$$C = a x^2 + b x + c$$

Rational quadratic

[1906.04032]

$$C = \frac{a x^2 + b x + c}{d x^2 + e x + f}$$

Coupling block



Forward pass:

$$\begin{aligned} z^A &= C(x^A; f_\theta(x^B)) \\ z^B &= x^B \end{aligned}$$

$$J_{ij}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial C}{\partial x^A} & \frac{\partial C}{\partial f_\theta} \frac{\partial f_\theta}{\partial x^B} \\ 0 & I_m \end{pmatrix}$$

Inverse pass:

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Affine [1605.03803]	$C^A = \alpha_\theta(x^B) \cdot x^A + \mu_\theta(x^B)$
Quadratic [1808.03856]	$C = ax^2 + bx + c$
Rational quadratic [1906.04032]	$C = \frac{ax^2 + bx + c}{dx^2 + ex + f}$

Part III — MadNIS

Neural Importance Sampling

[2212.06172]



MadNIS — Basic functionality

$$I = \sum_i \left\langle \alpha_i(x) \frac{f(x)}{g_i(x)} \right\rangle_{x \sim g_i(x)}$$

MadNIS – Basic functionality

$$I = \sum_i \left\langle \alpha_i(x) \frac{f(x)}{g_i(x)} \right\rangle_{x \sim g_i(x)}$$



Use physics knowledge to construct channel and mappings

MadNIS — Basic functionality

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Use physics knowledge to construct channel and mappings



Normalizing flow to
refine channel mappings



Fully connected network
to refine channel weights

MadNIS – Basic functionality

$$I = \sum_i \left\langle \alpha_i(x) \frac{f(x)}{g_i(x)} \right\rangle_{x \sim g_i(x)}$$



Use physics knowledge to construct channel and mappings



Normalizing flow to refine channel mappings



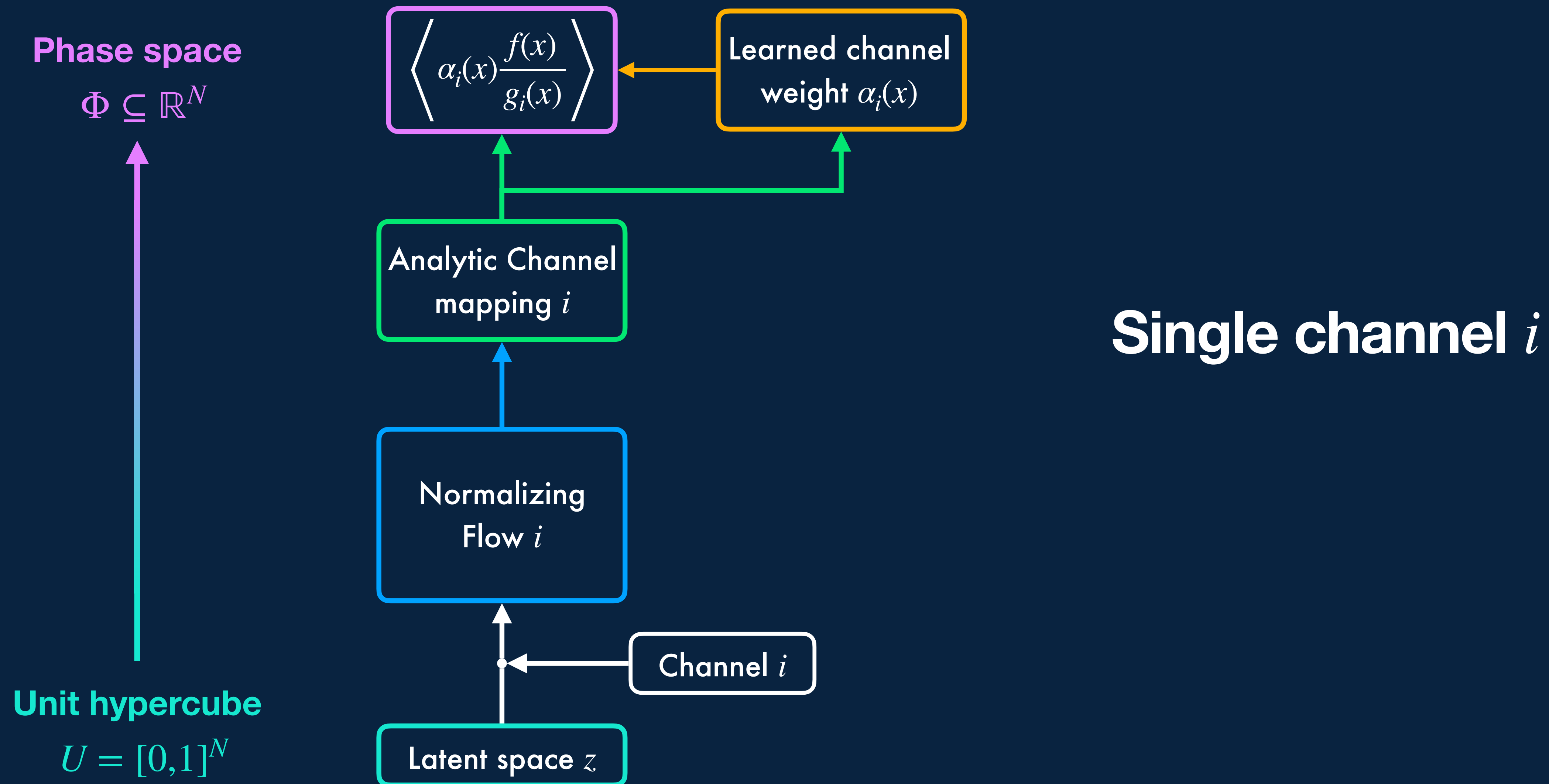
Fully connected network to refine channel weights



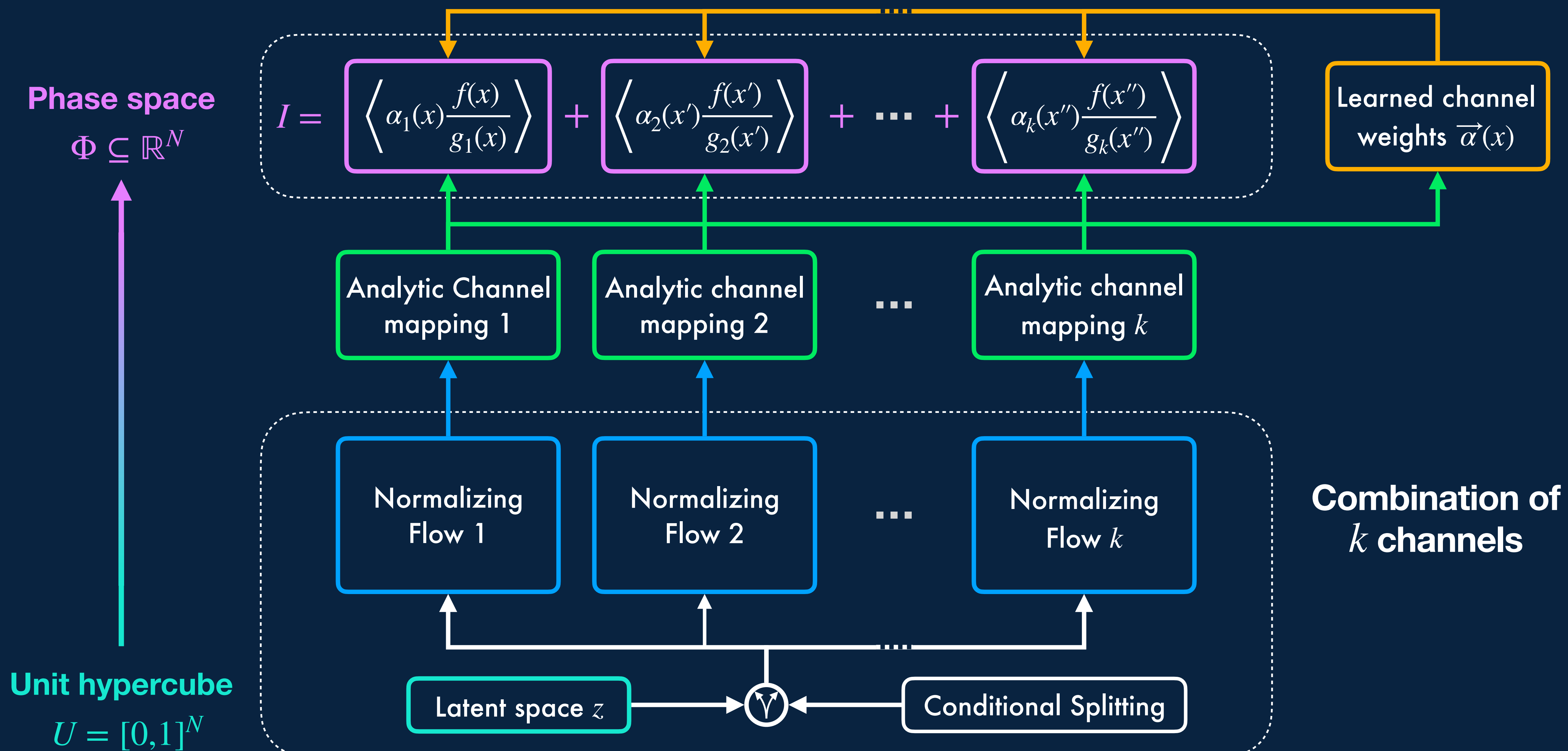
Update simultaneously with variance as loss function



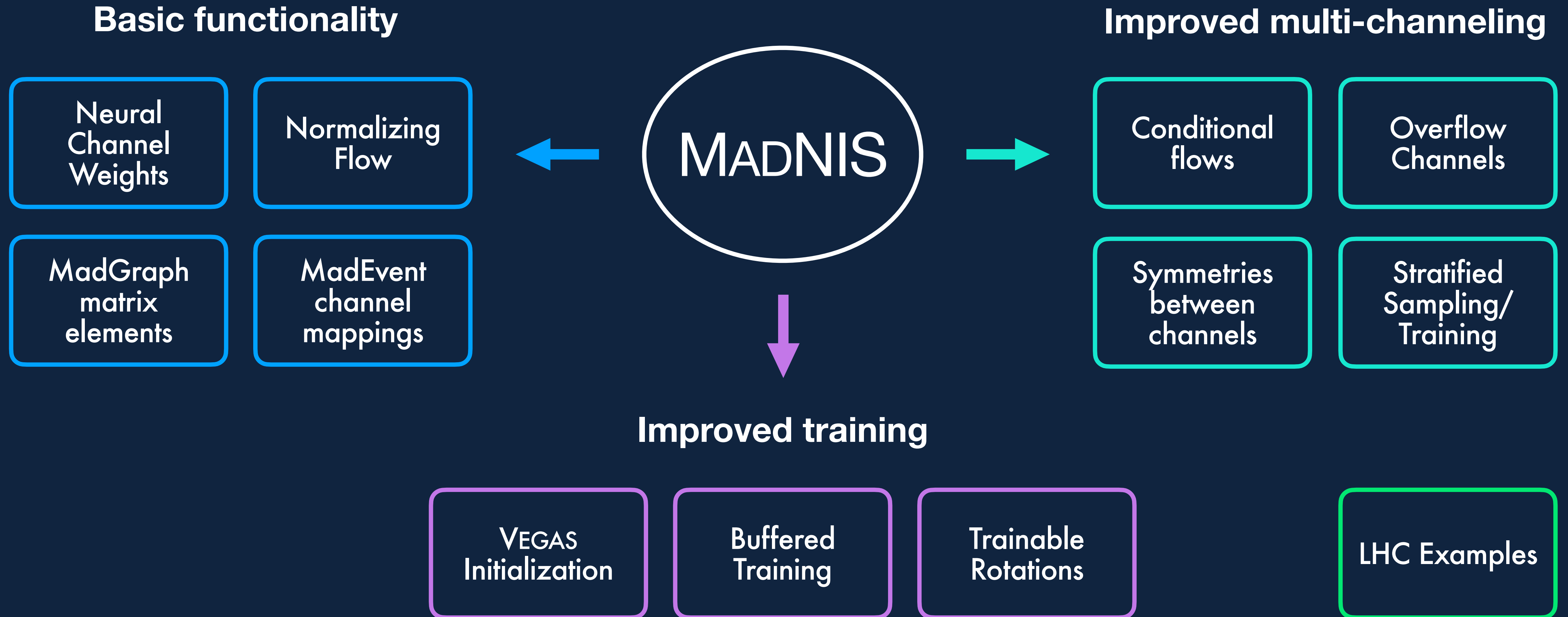
MadNIS – Basic functionality



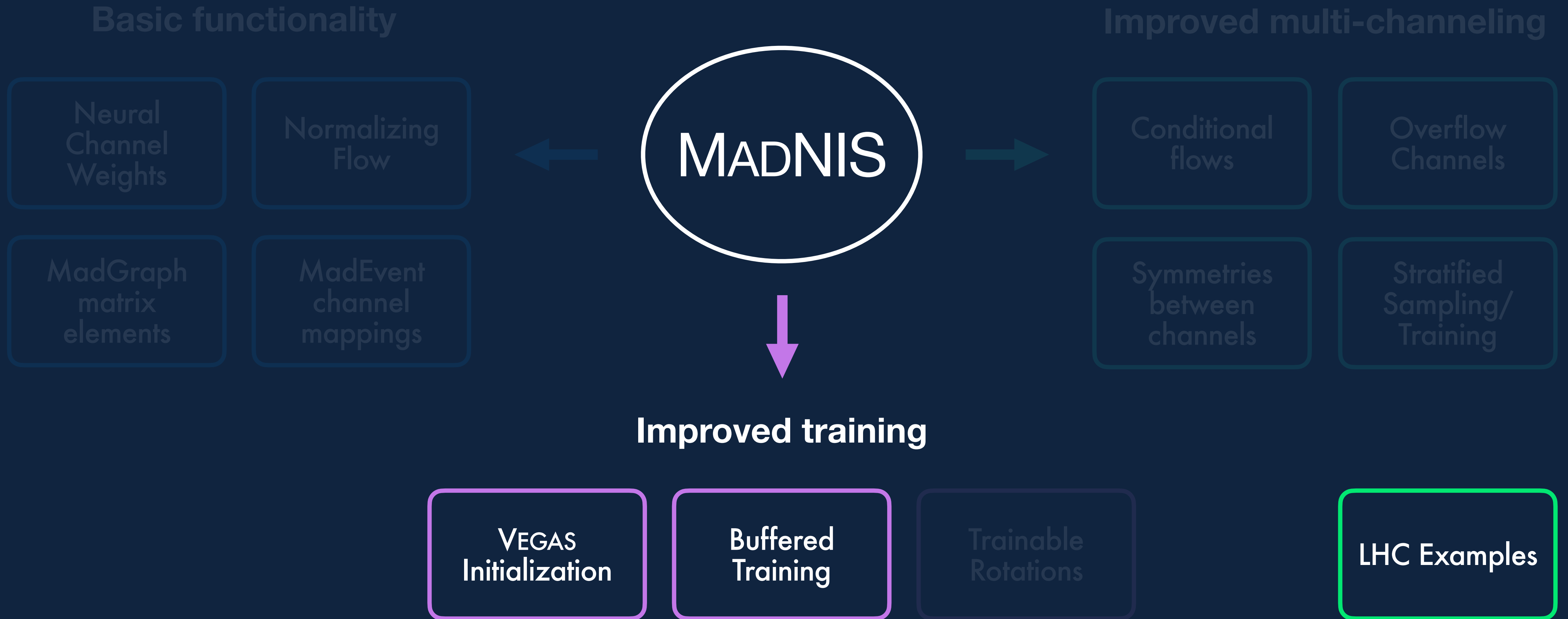
MadNIS – Basic functionality



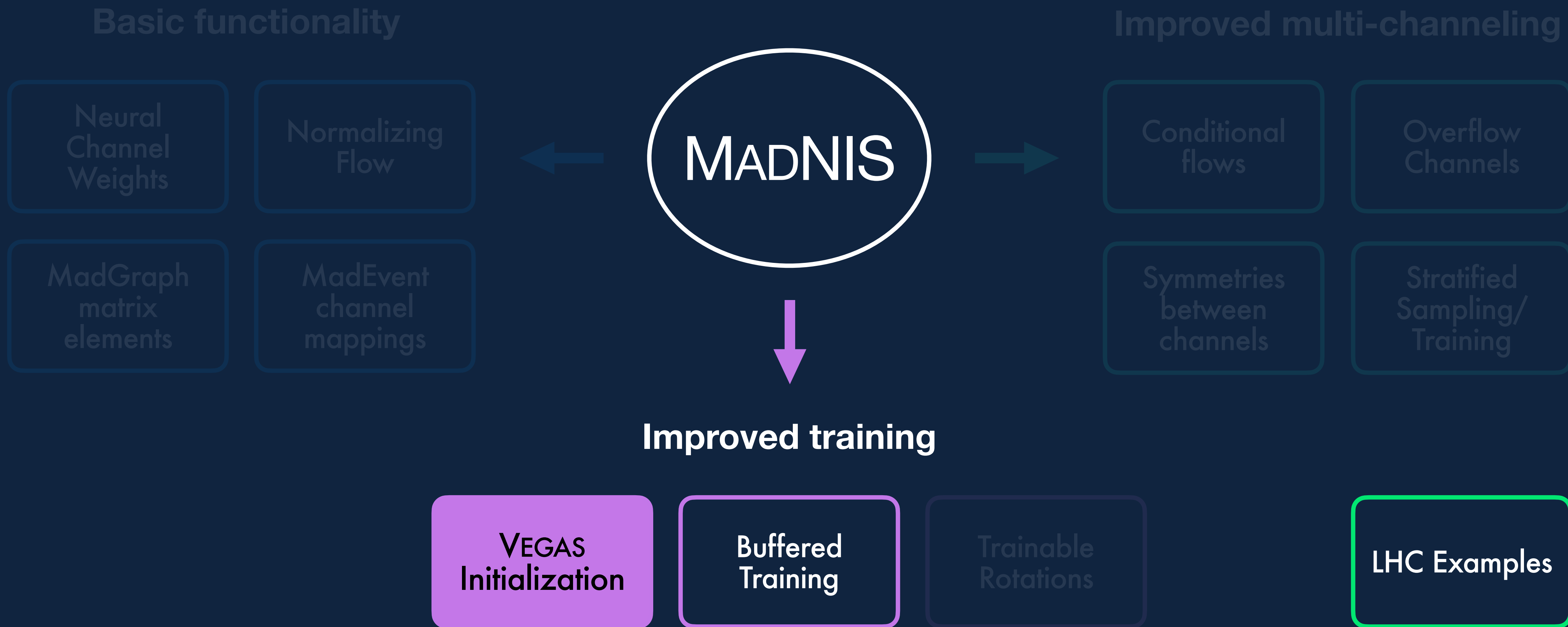
MadNIS — Overview



MadNIS — Overview



VEGAS initialization



VEGAS initialization

	VEGAS	Flow
Training	Fast	Slow
Correlations	No	Yes



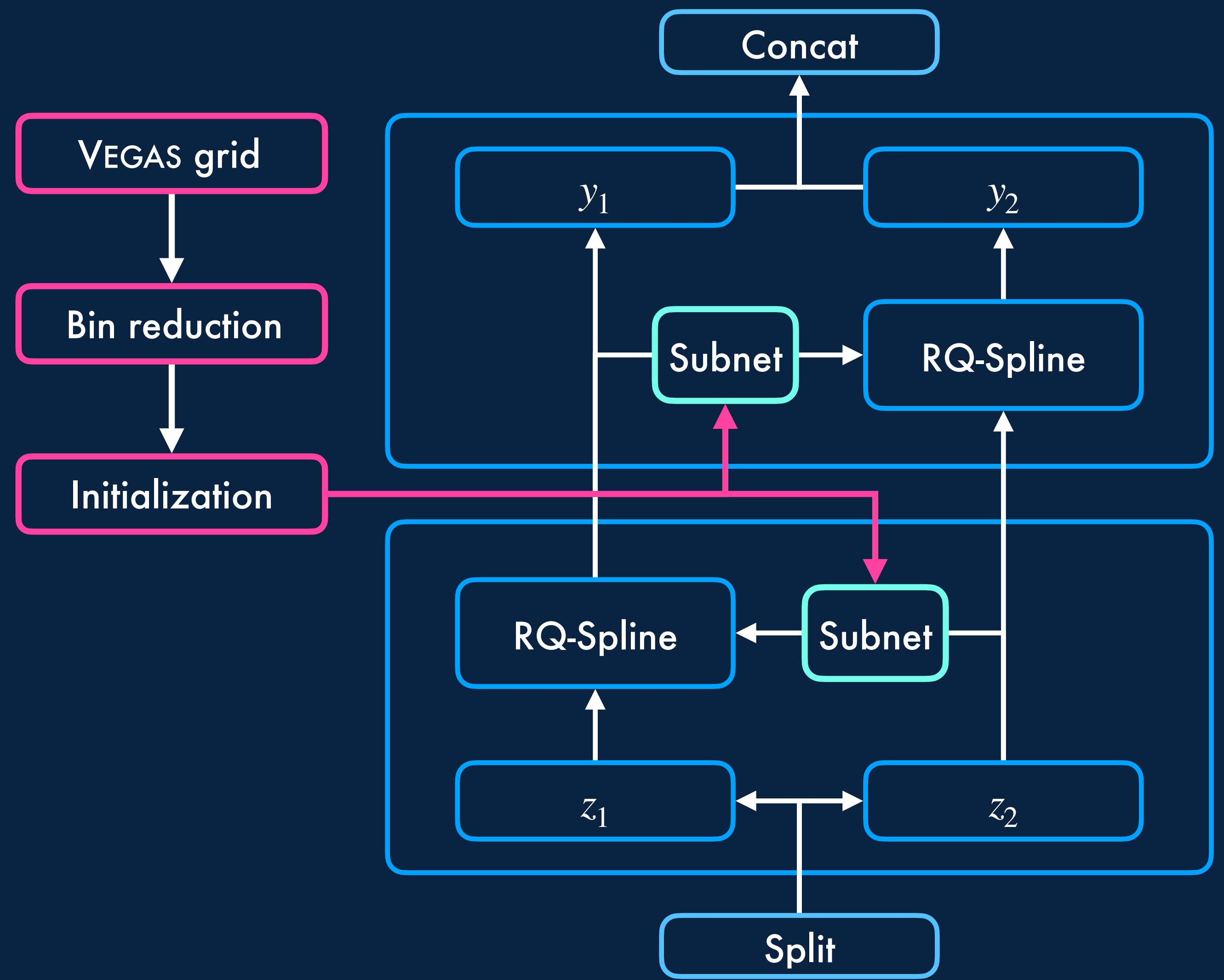
Combine advantages:
Pre-trained VEGAS grid as
starting point for flow training

VEGAS initialization

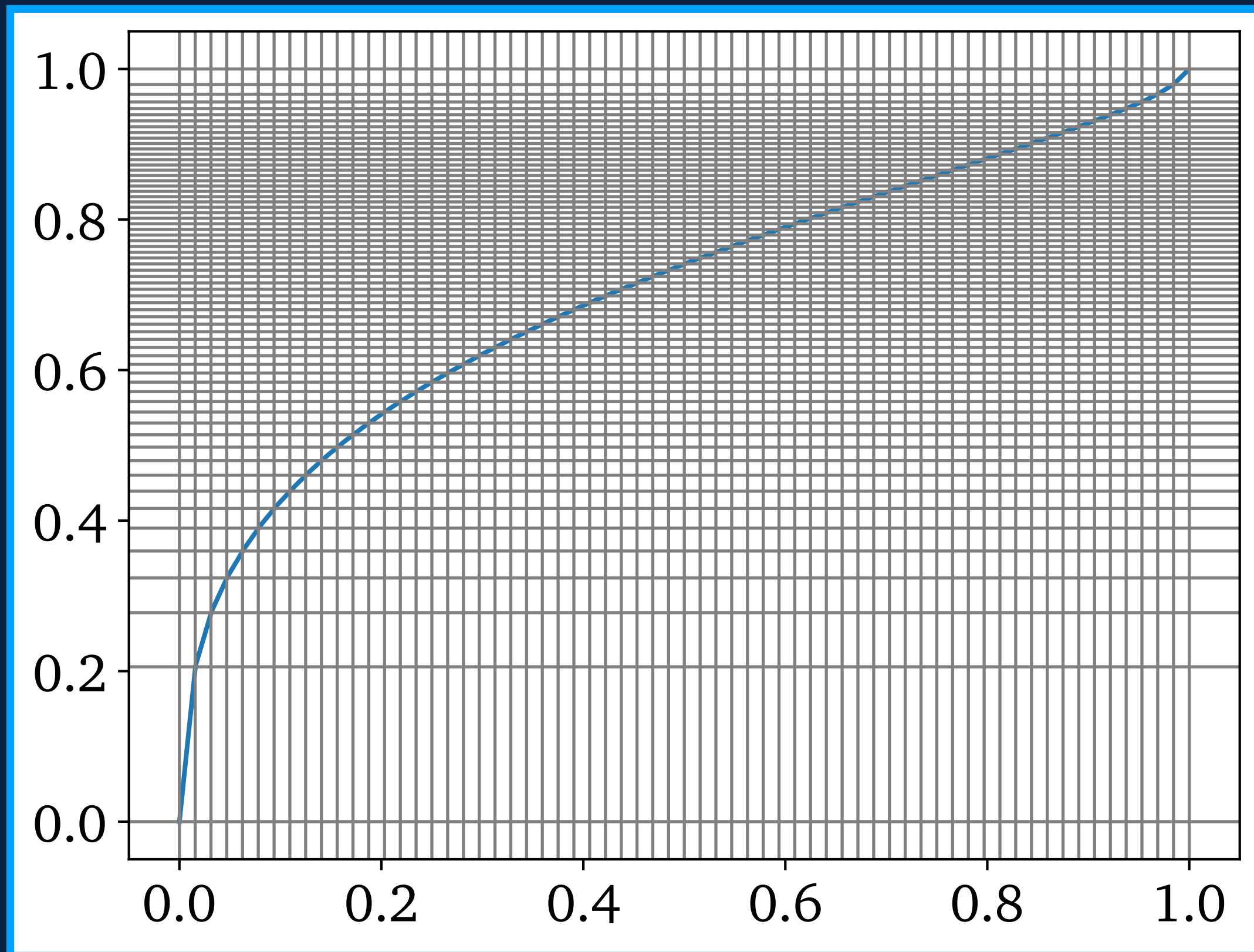
	VEGAS	Flow
Training	Fast	Slow
Correlations	No	Yes



Combine advantages:
Pre-trained VEGAS grid as starting point for flow training

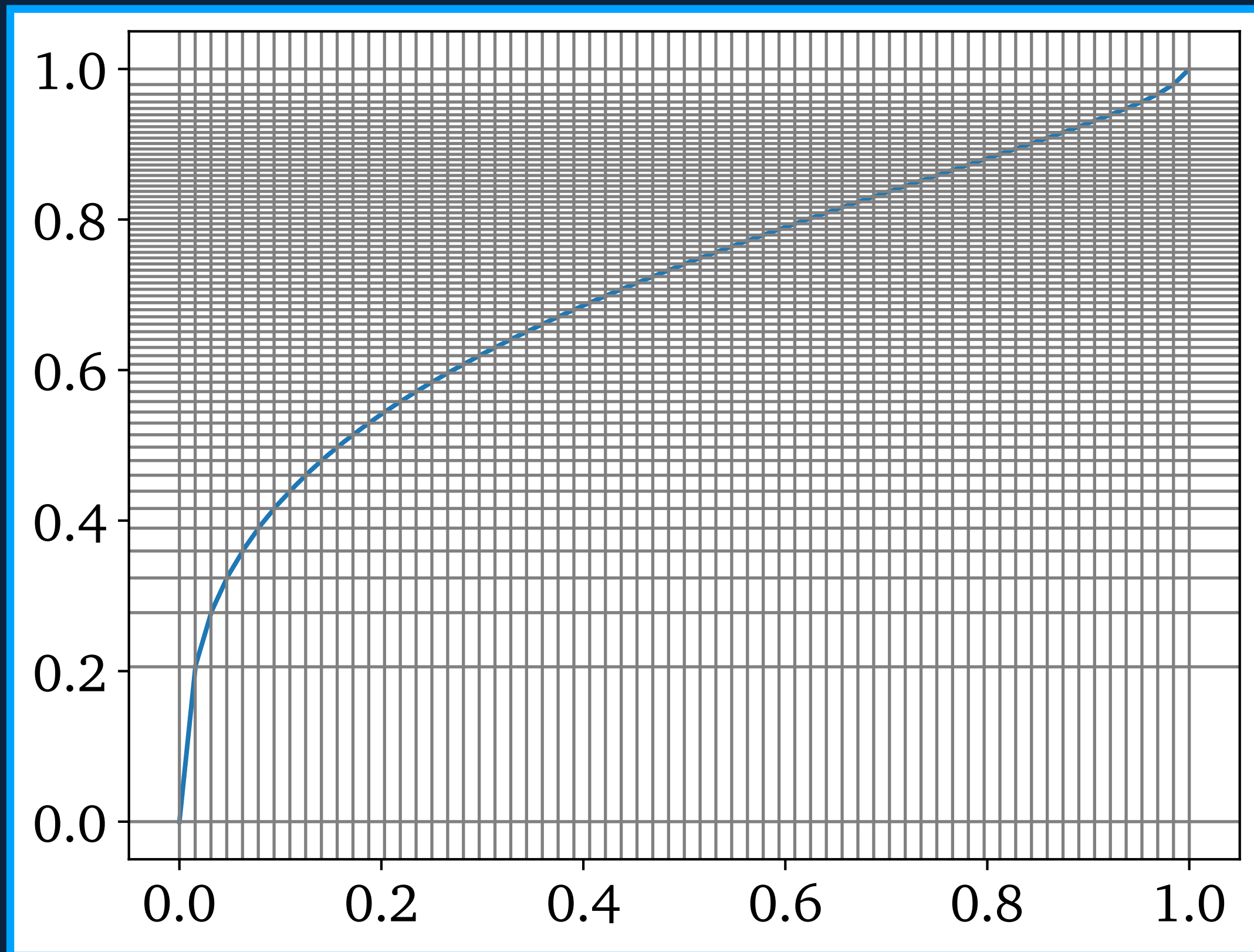


Bin reduction

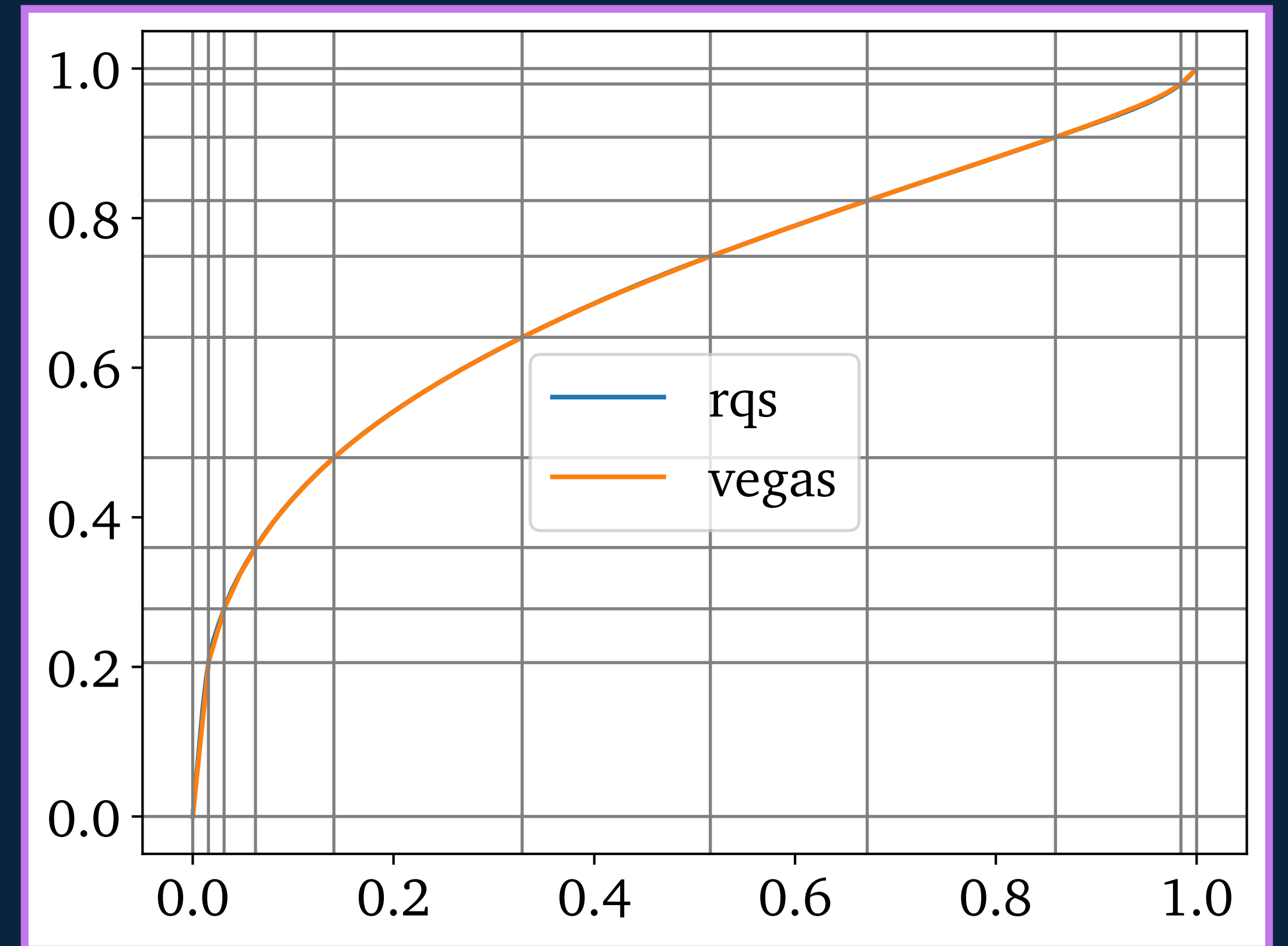


64 VEGAS bins

Bin reduction



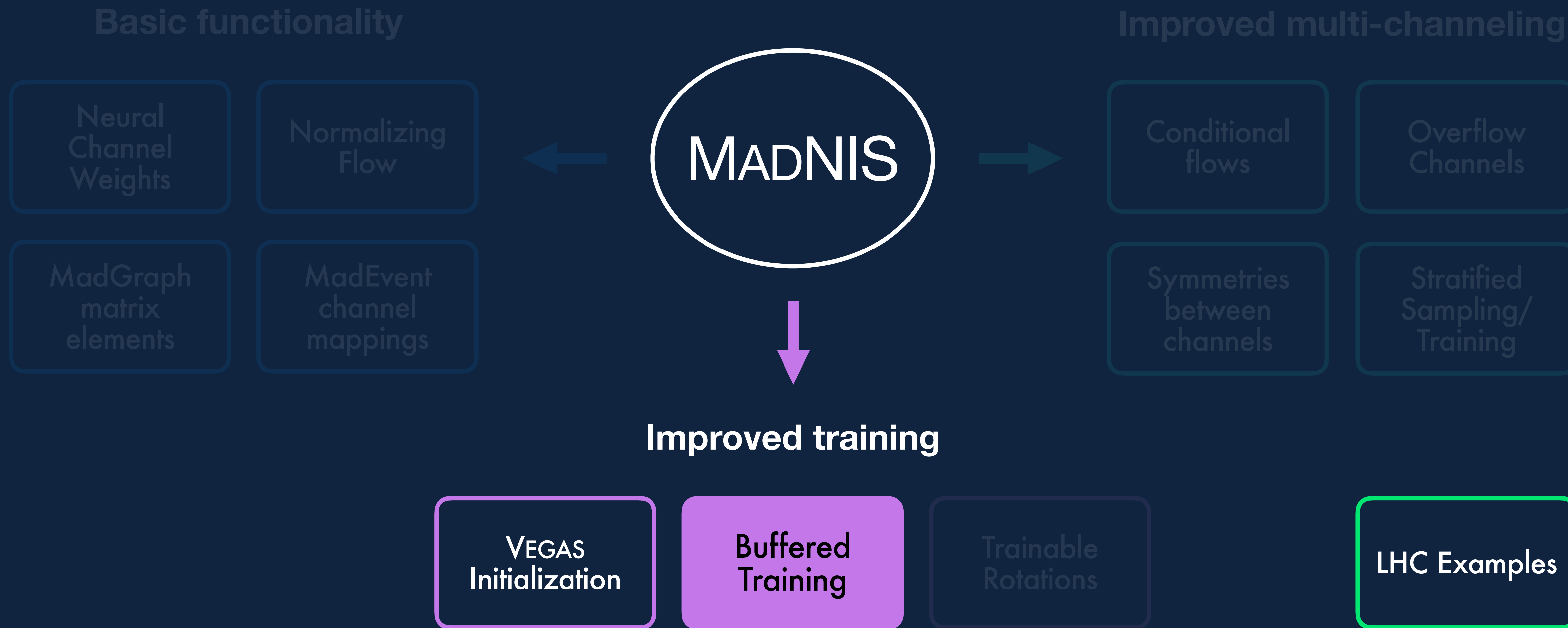
64 VEGAS bins



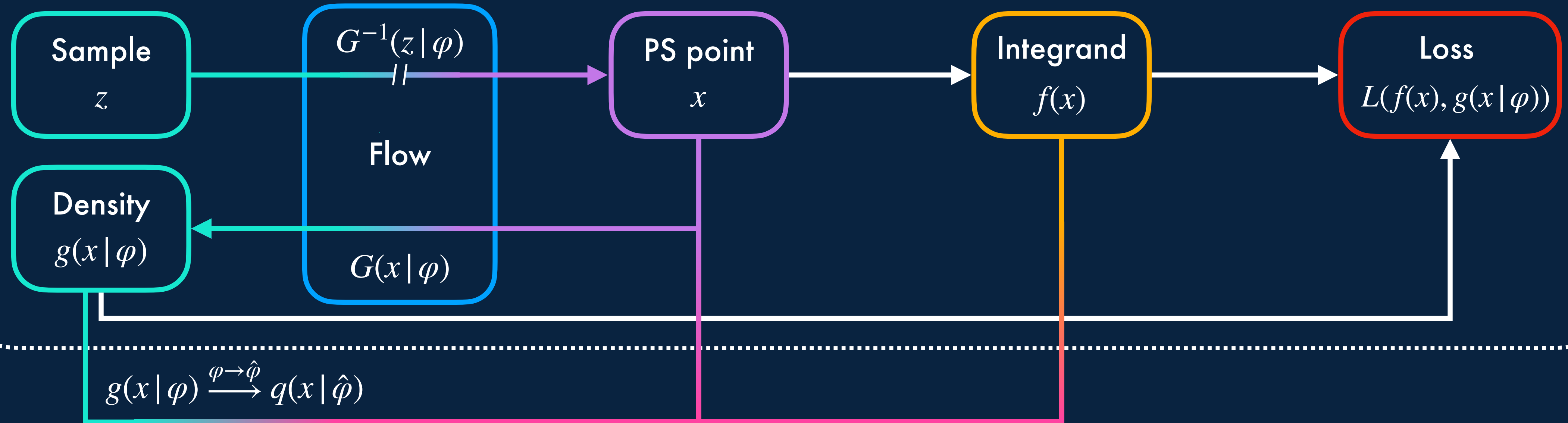
10 RQS bins



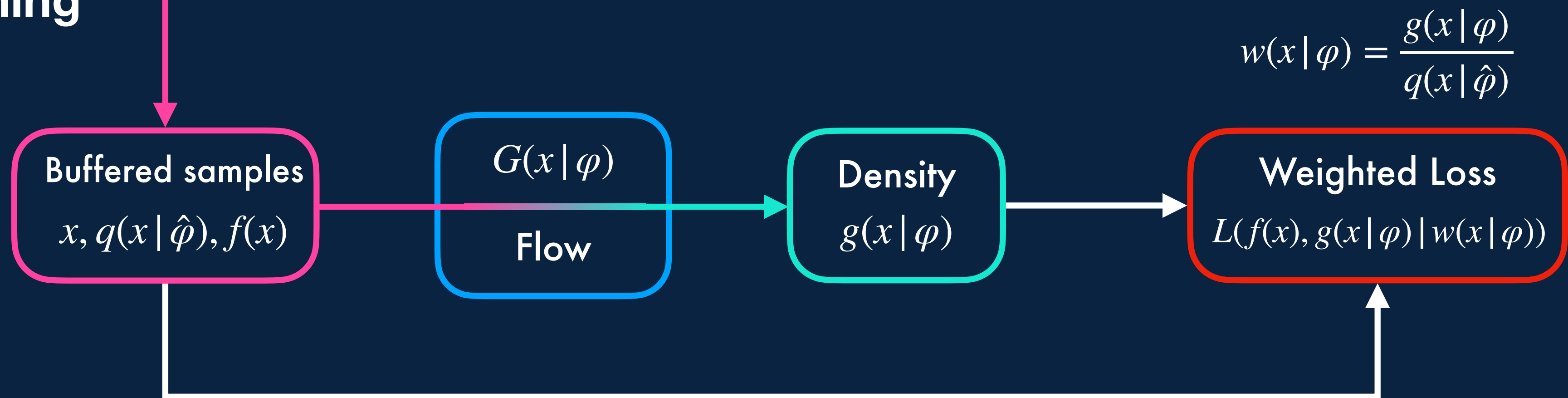
Buffered training



Online Training



Buffered Training



Buffered training

Training algorithm

generate new samples, train on them,
save samples



train on saved samples n times

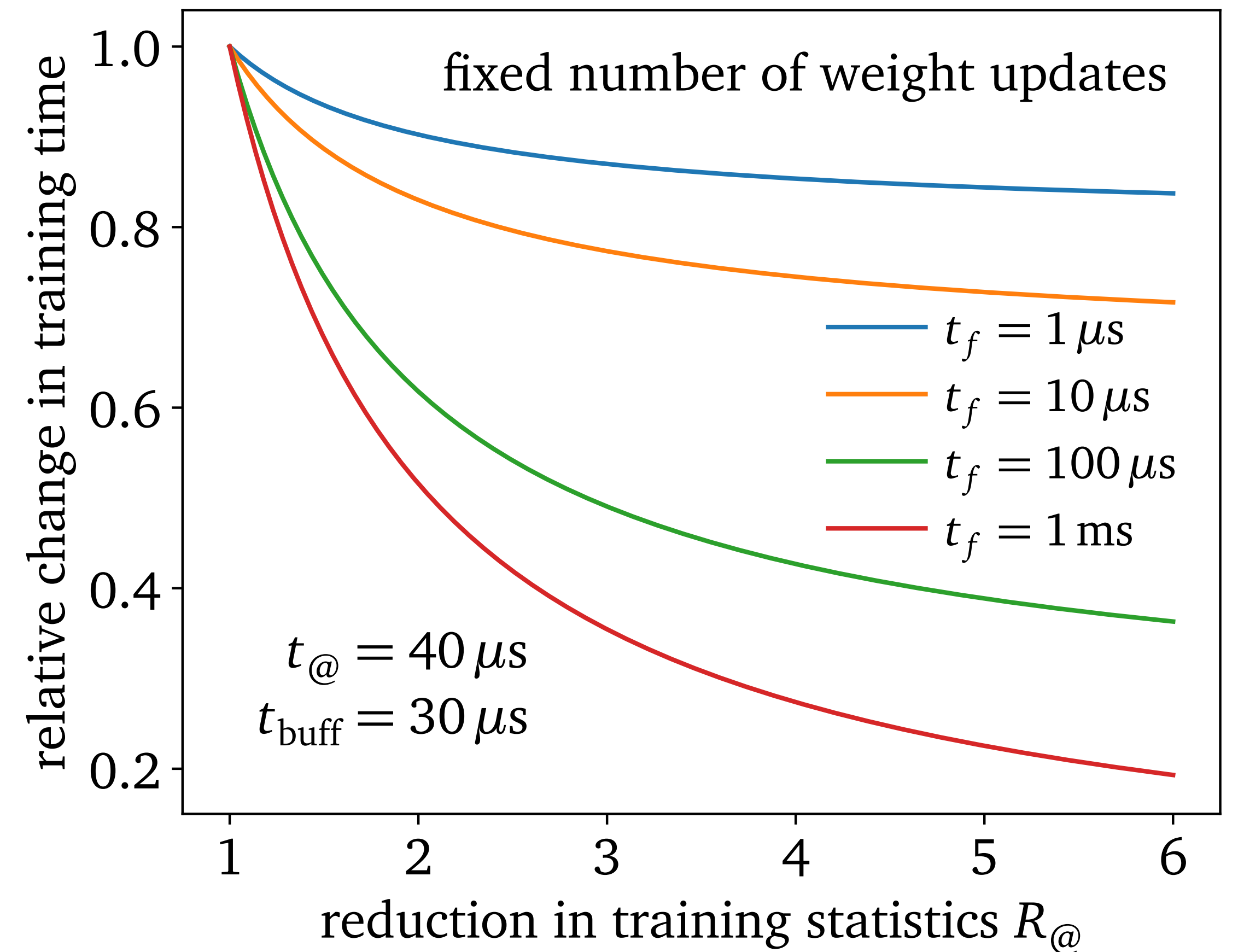


repeat

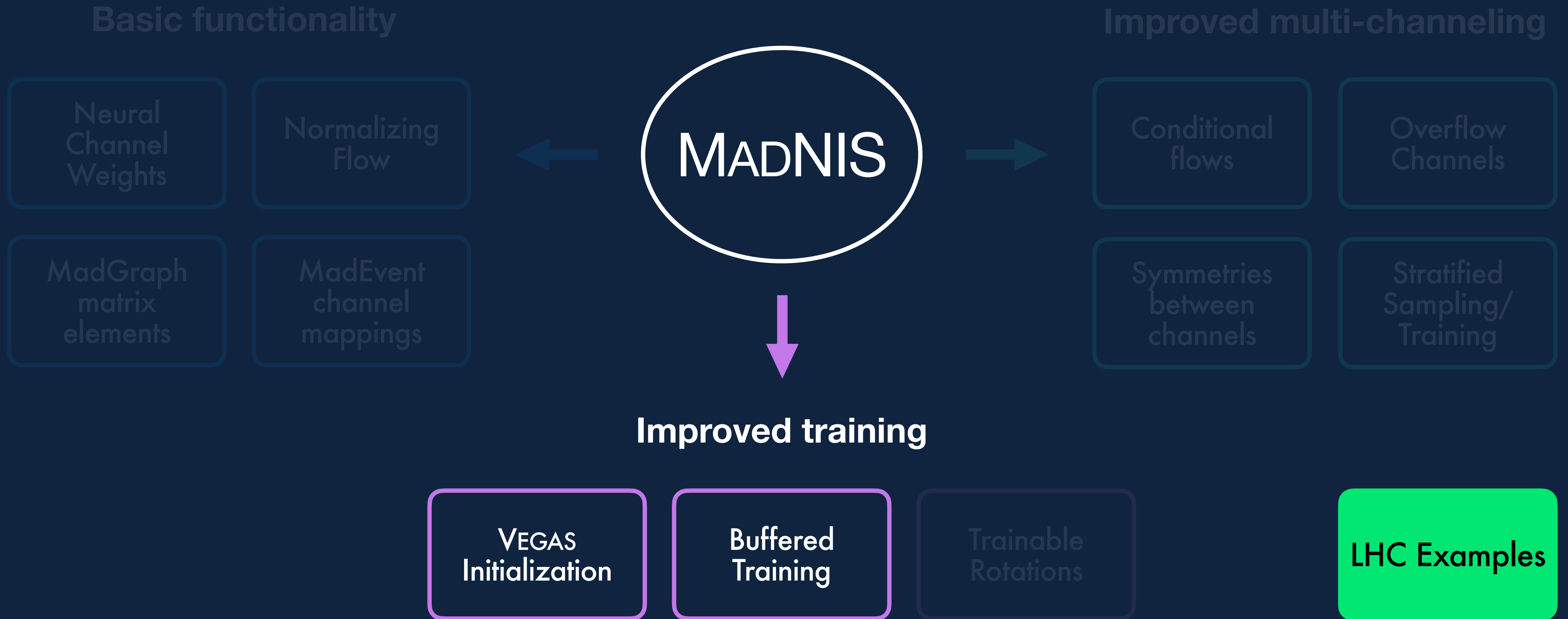


Reduction in training statistics by

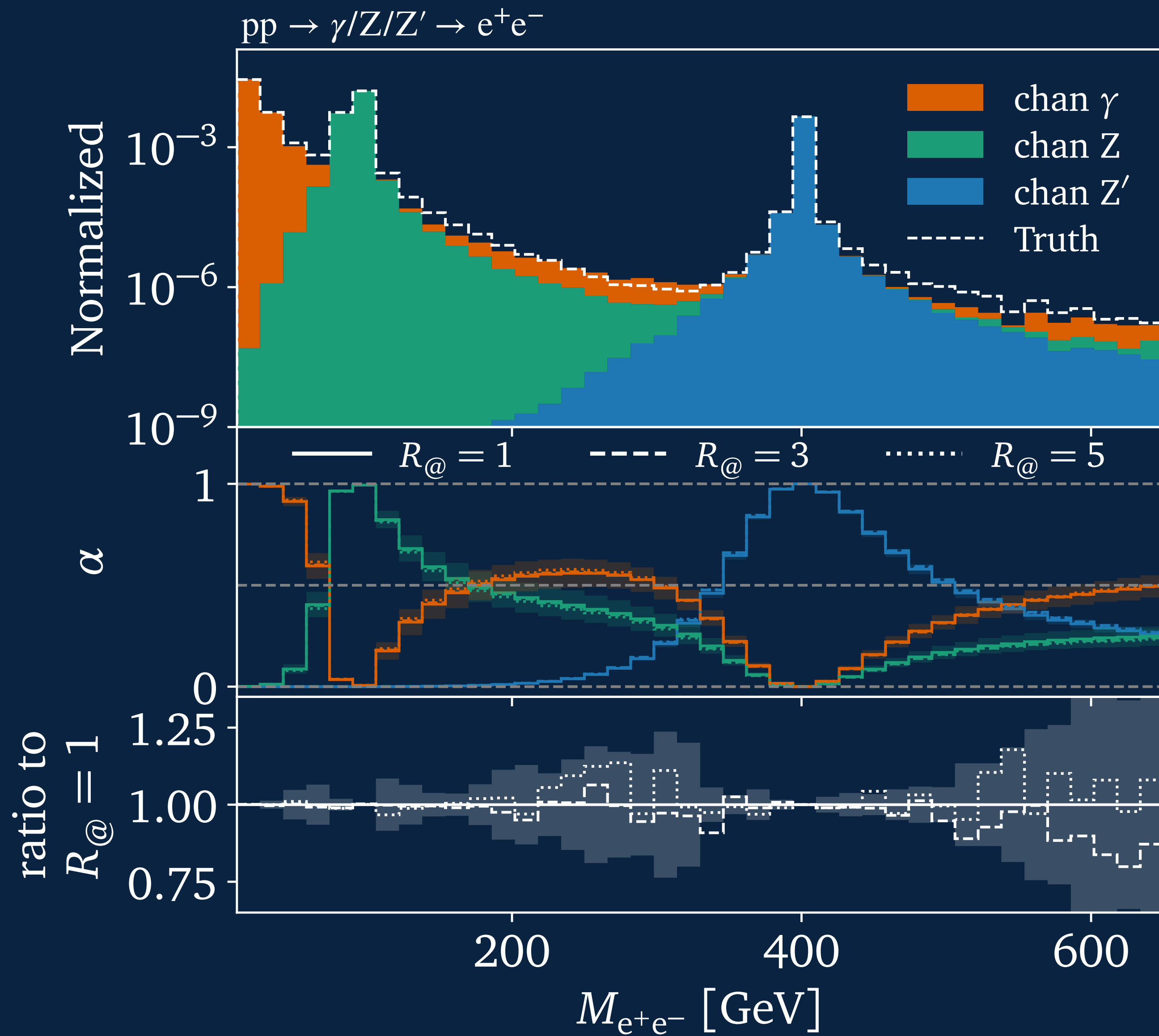
$$R_{@} = n + 1$$



LHC examples

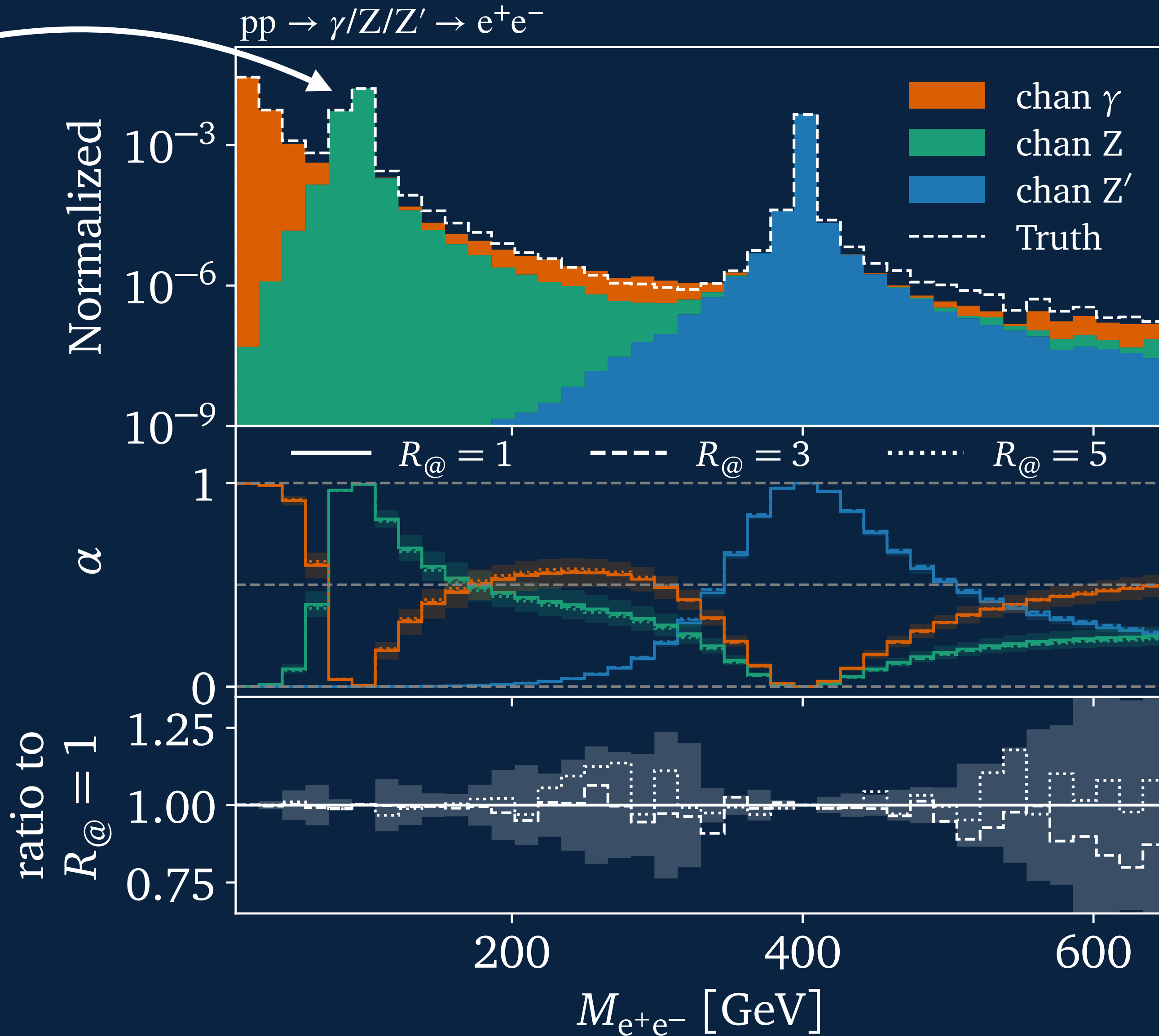


LHC example I — Drell-Yan

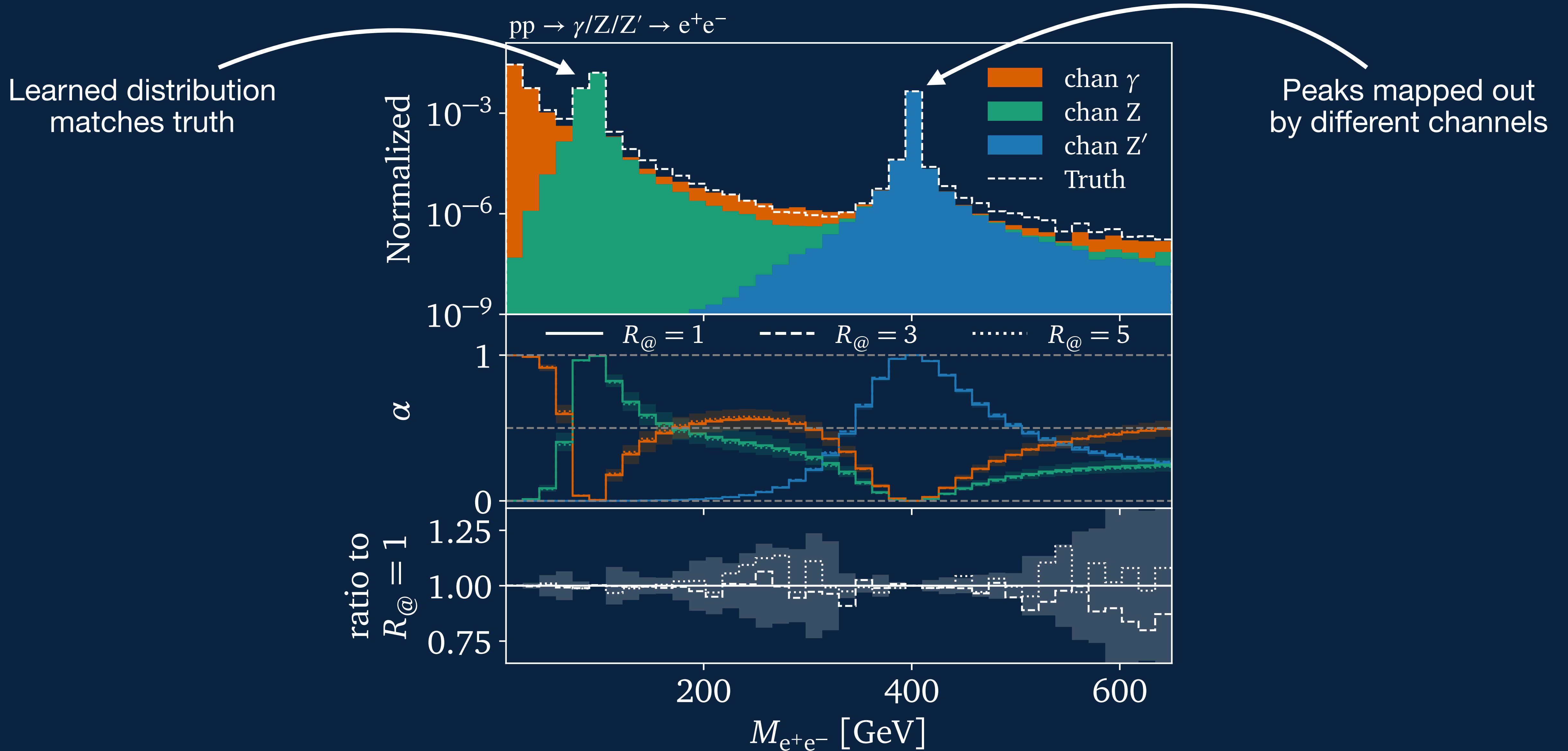


LHC example I — Drell-Yan

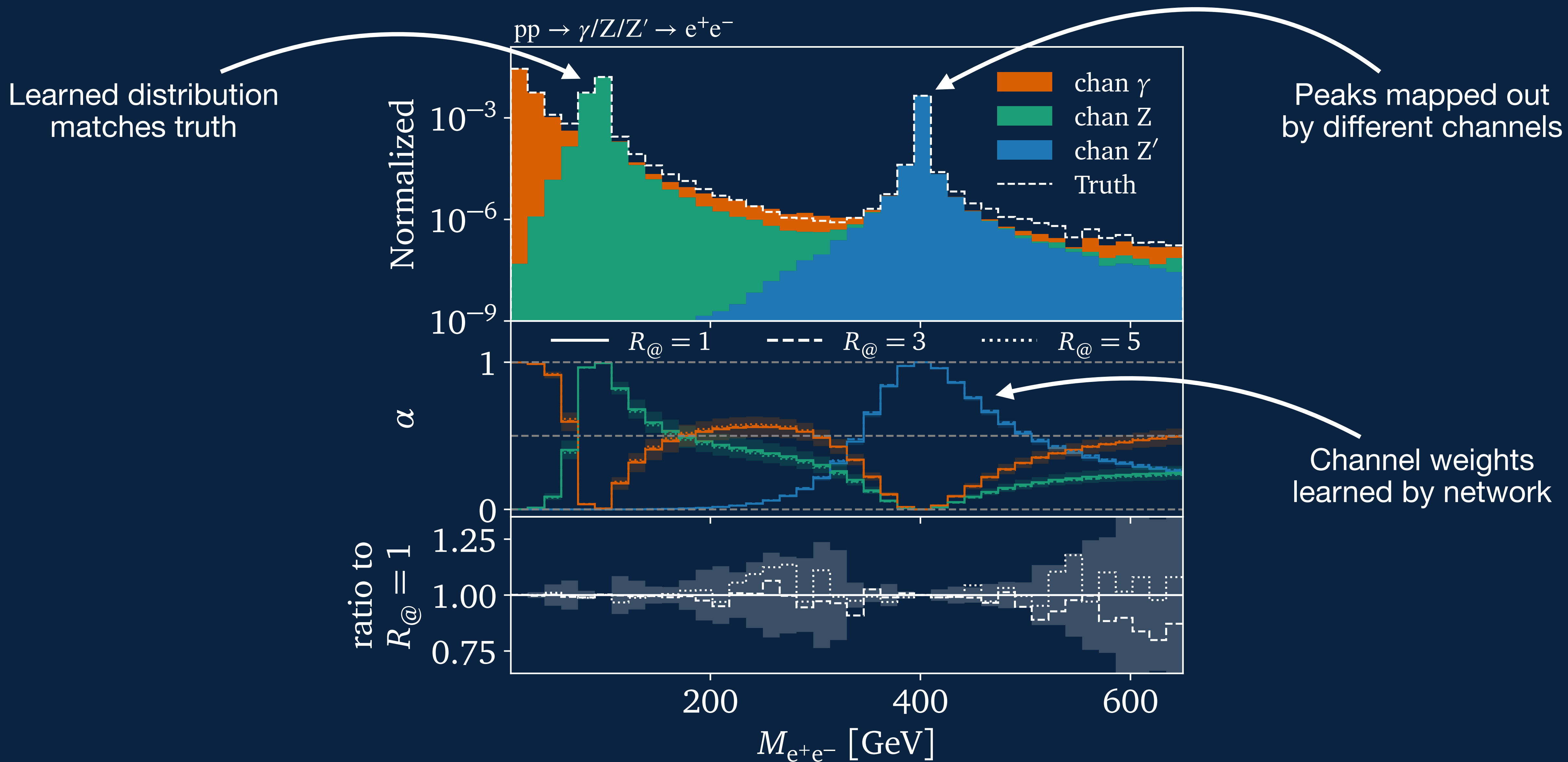
Learned distribution
matches truth



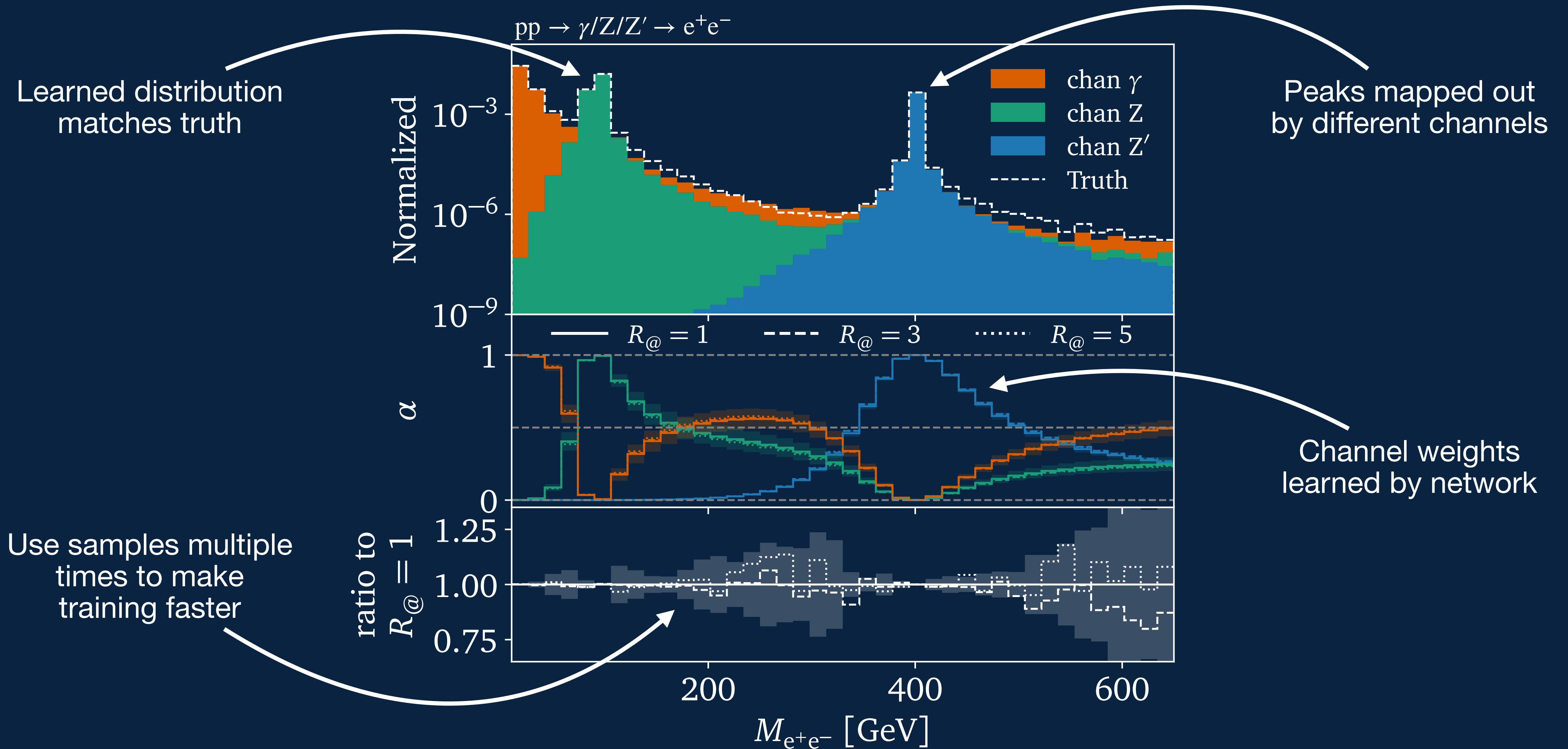
LHC example I — Drell-Yan



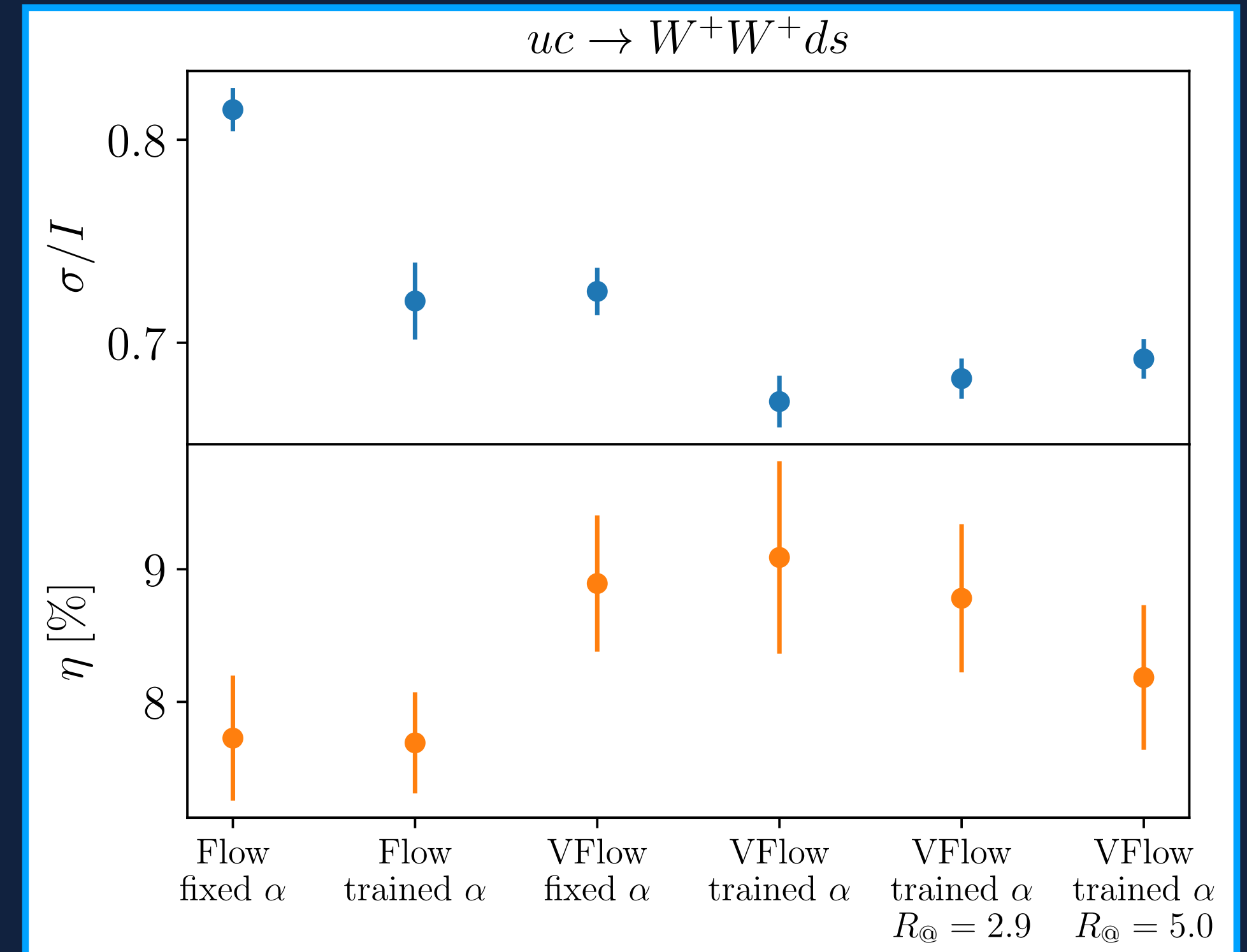
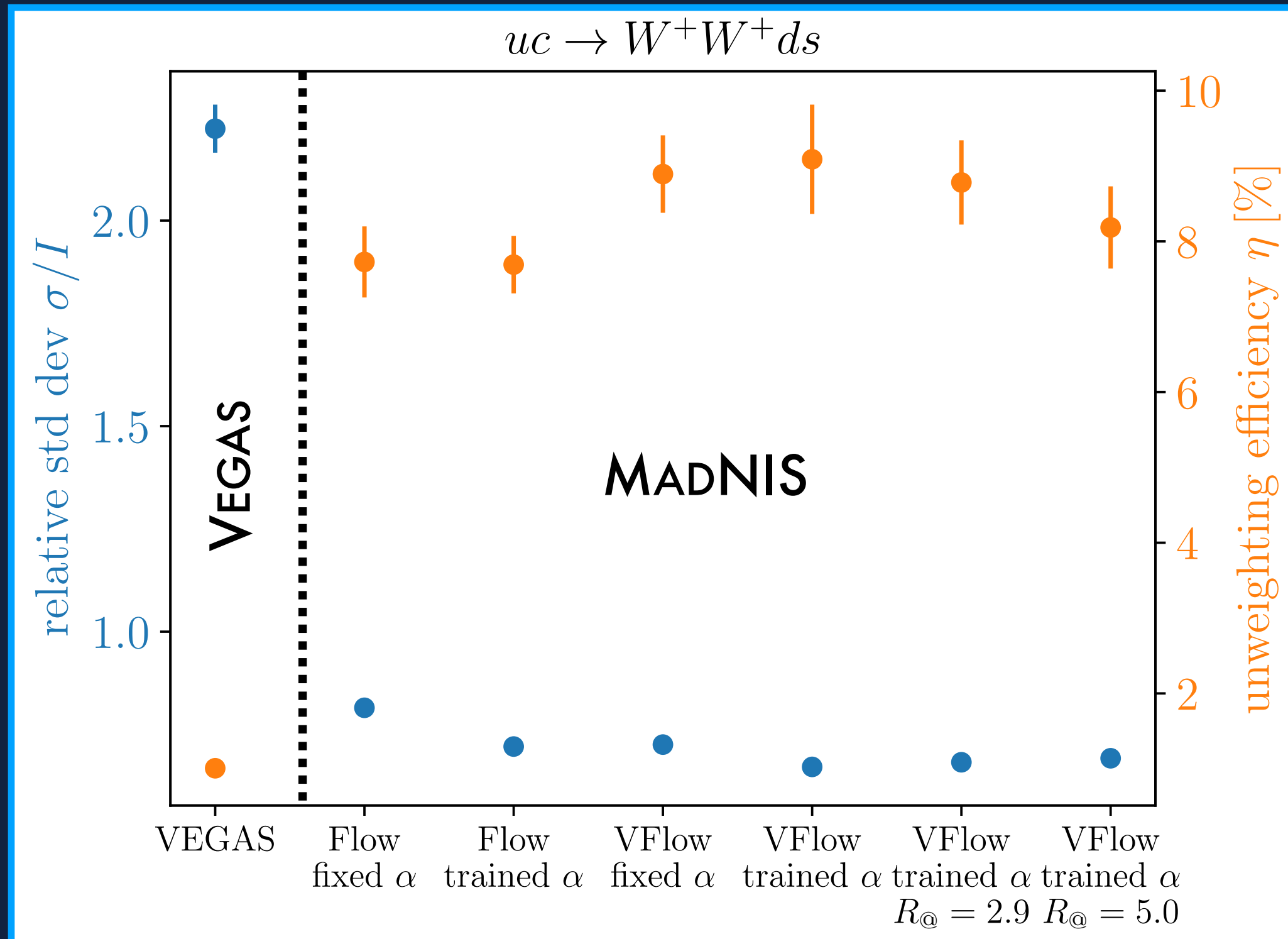
LHC example I — Drell-Yan



LHC example I — Drell-Yan

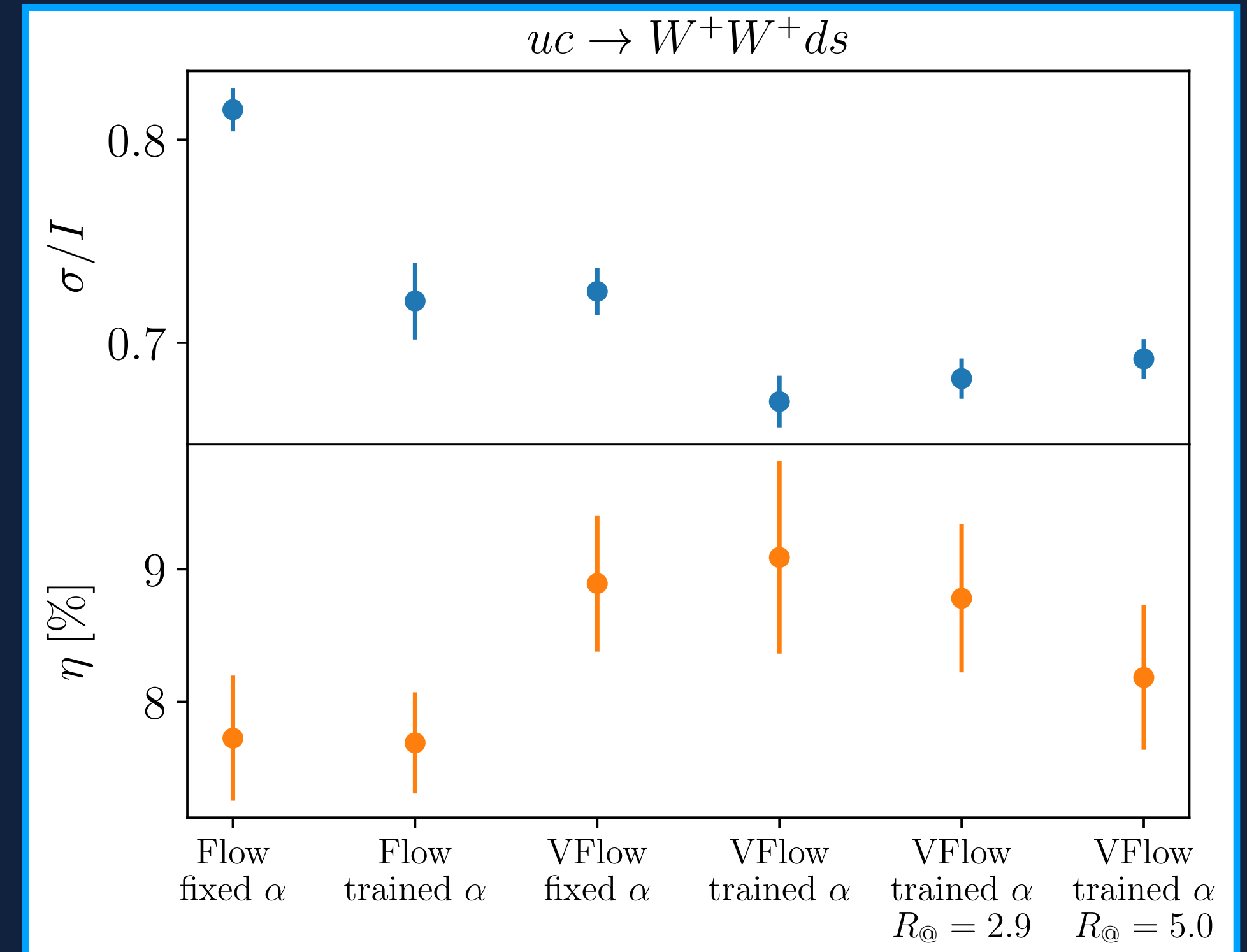
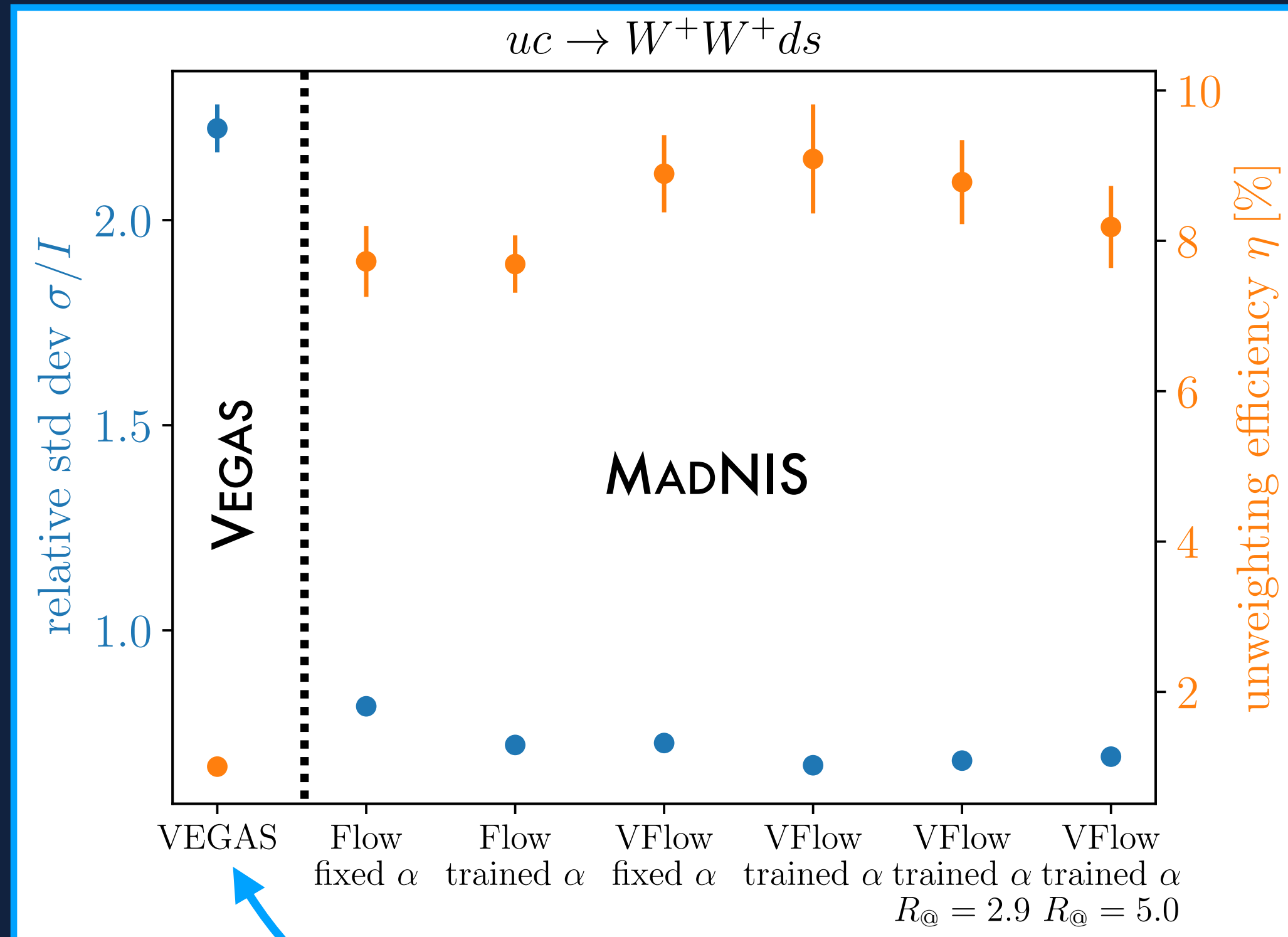


LHC example II – VBS



(preliminary)

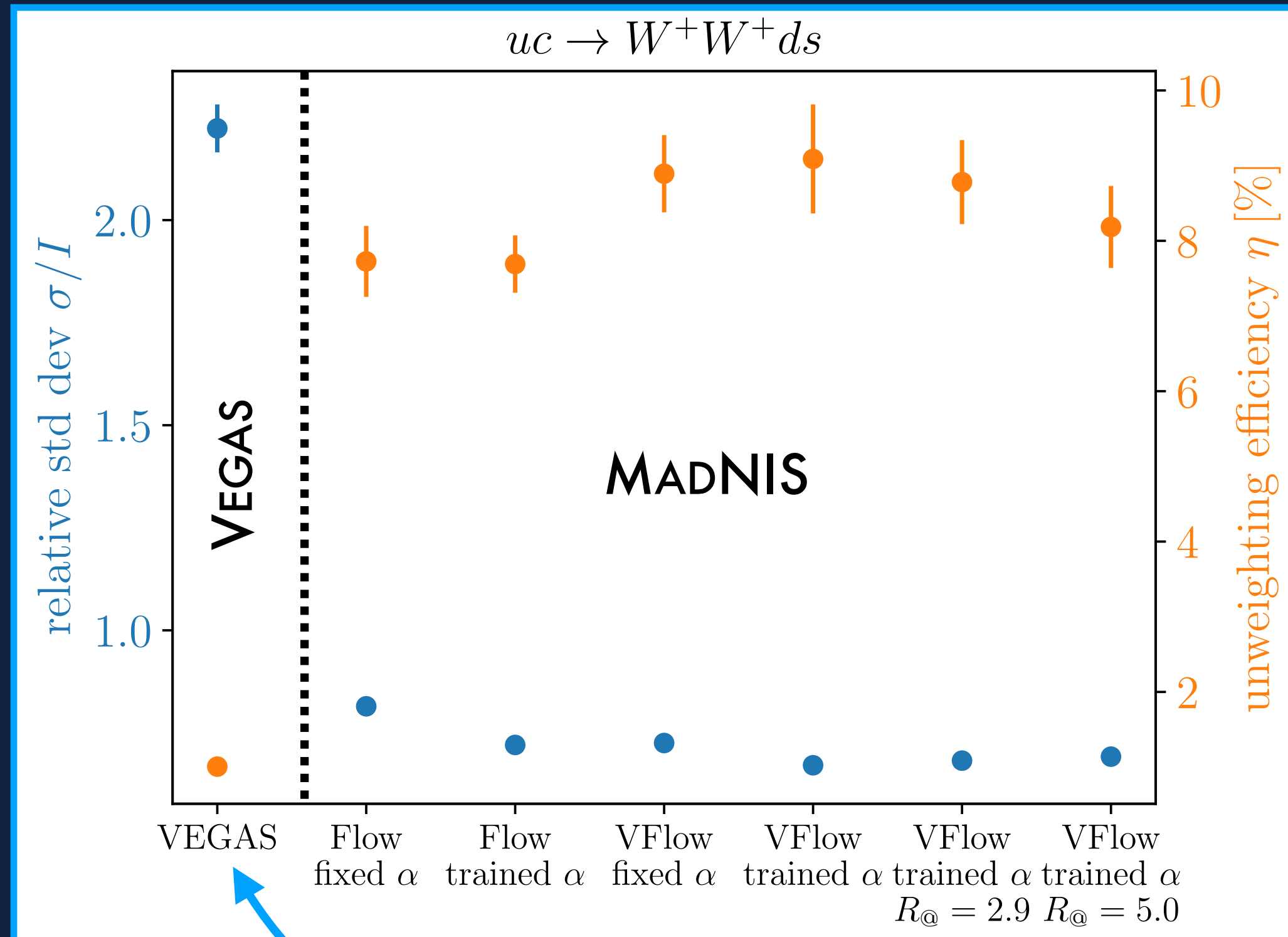
LHC example II – VBS



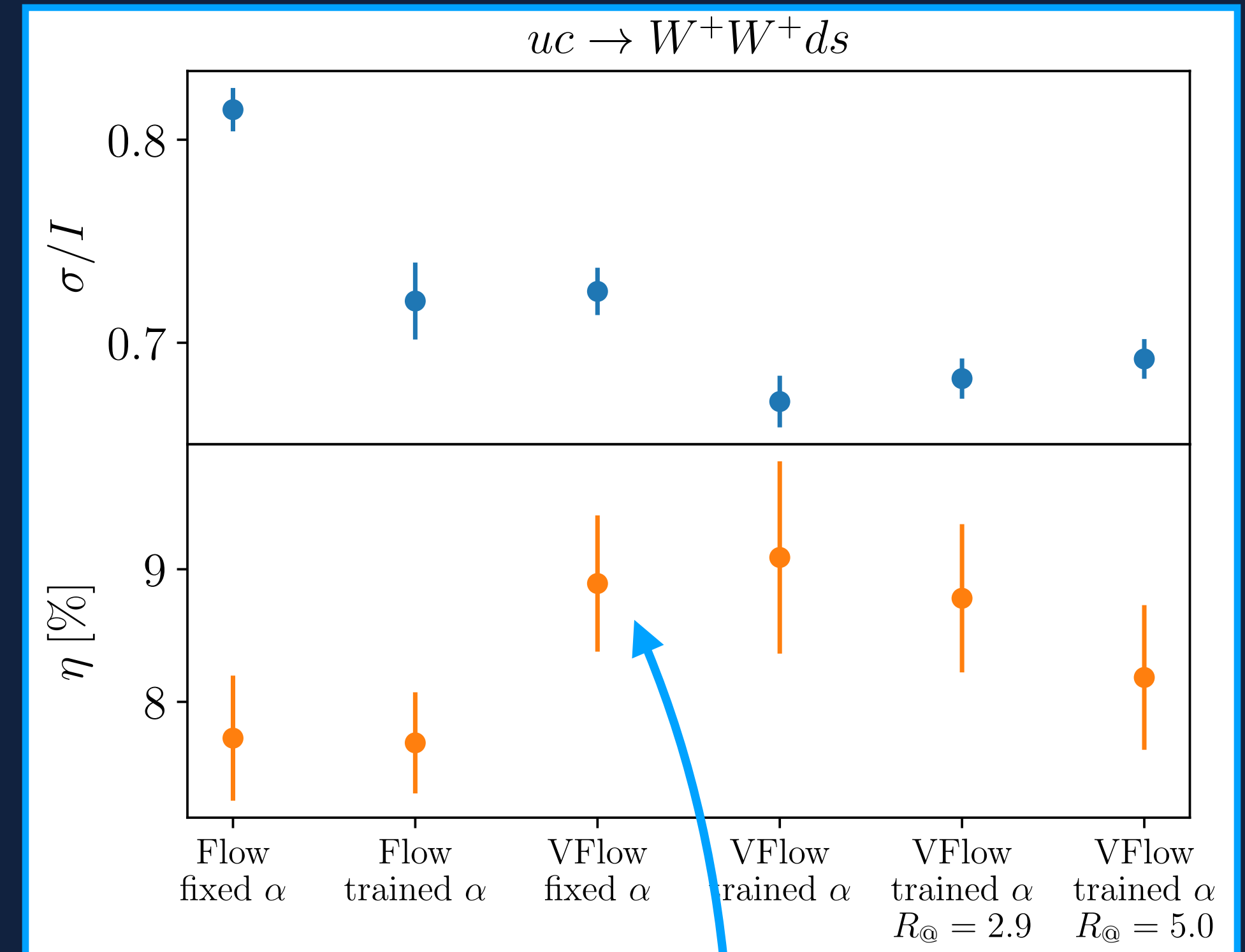
(preliminary)

Unweighting efficiency improved up to factor ~ 9 compared to VEGAS

LHC example II – VBS



Unweighting efficiency improved up to factor ~ 9 compared to VEGAS

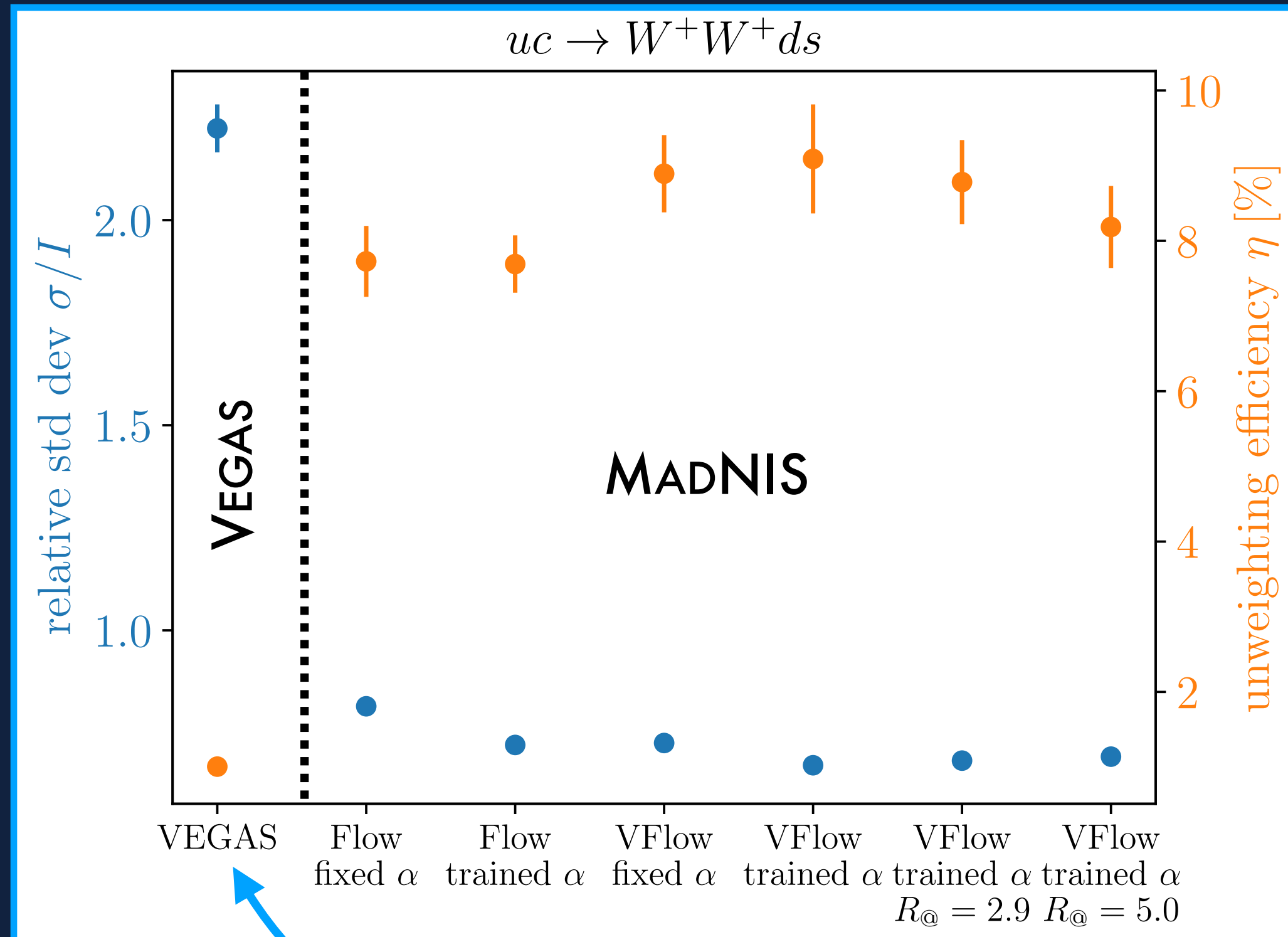


Big improvement from VEGAS initialization

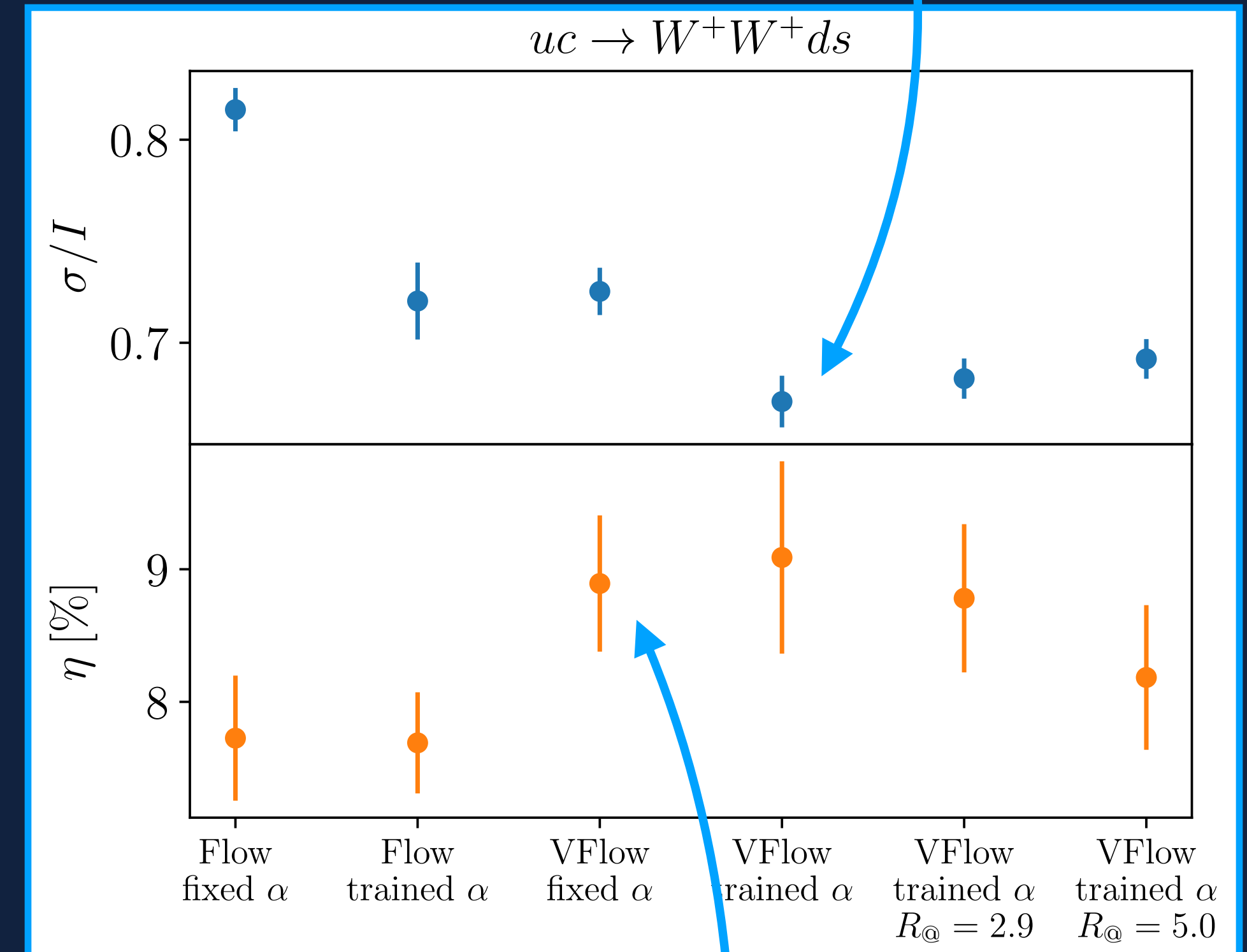
(preliminary)

LHC example II – VBS

Significant improvement
from trained channel weights



Unweighting efficiency improved
up to factor ~ 9 compared to VEGAS

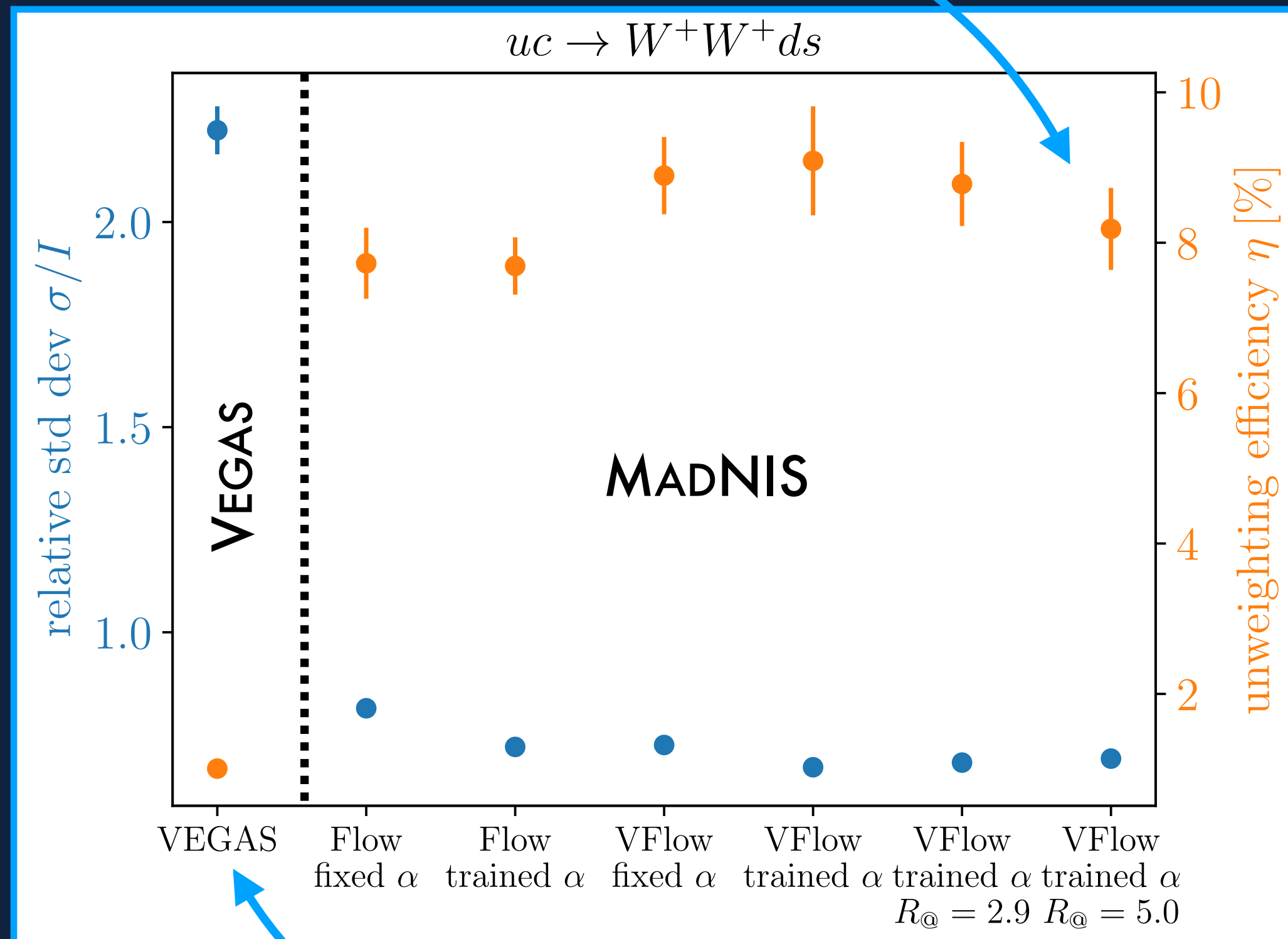


Big improvement from
VEGAS initialization

(preliminary)

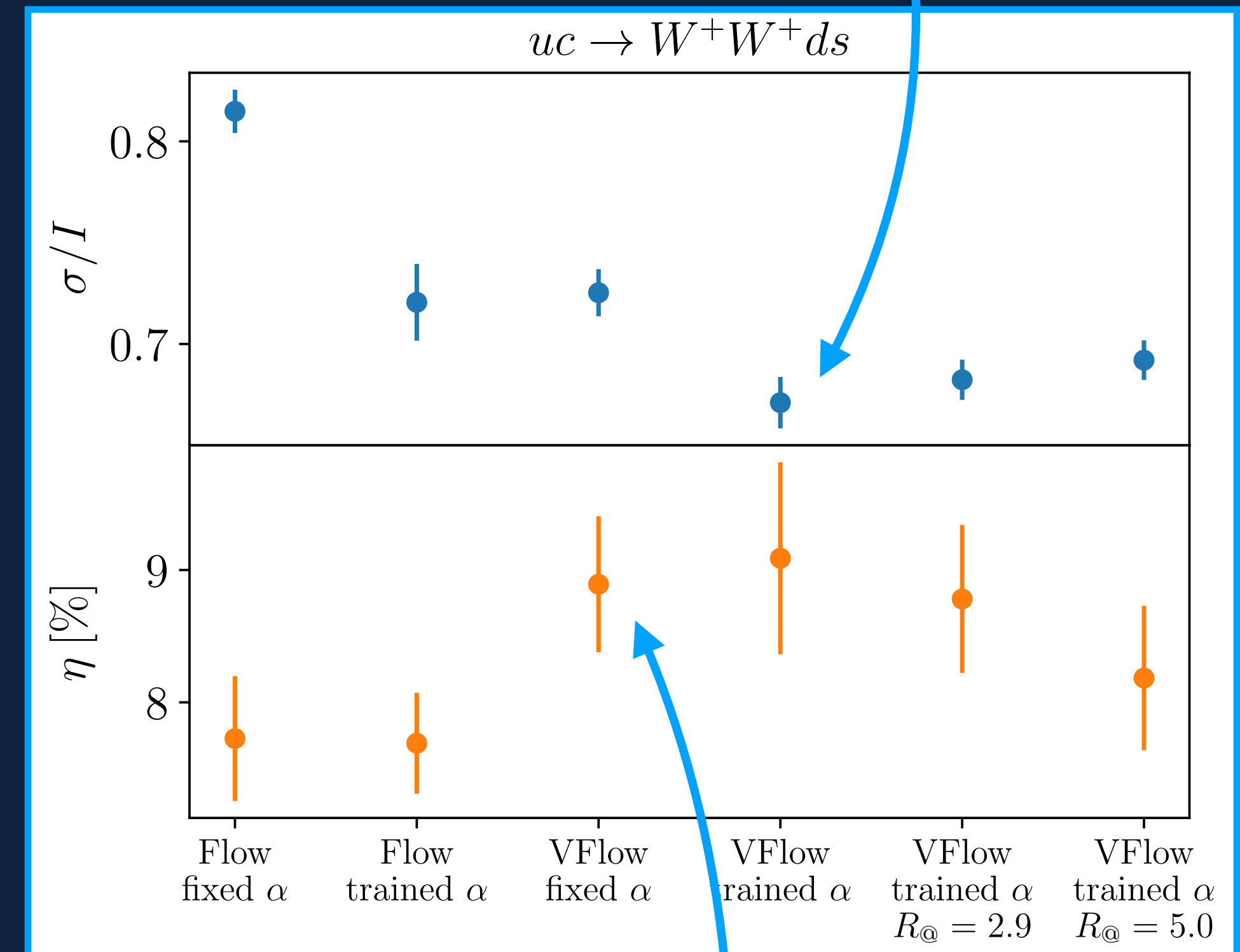
LHC example II – VBS

Buffered training: small effect on performance, much faster training



Unweighting efficiency improved up to factor ~ 9 compared to VEGAS

Significant improvement from trained channel weights

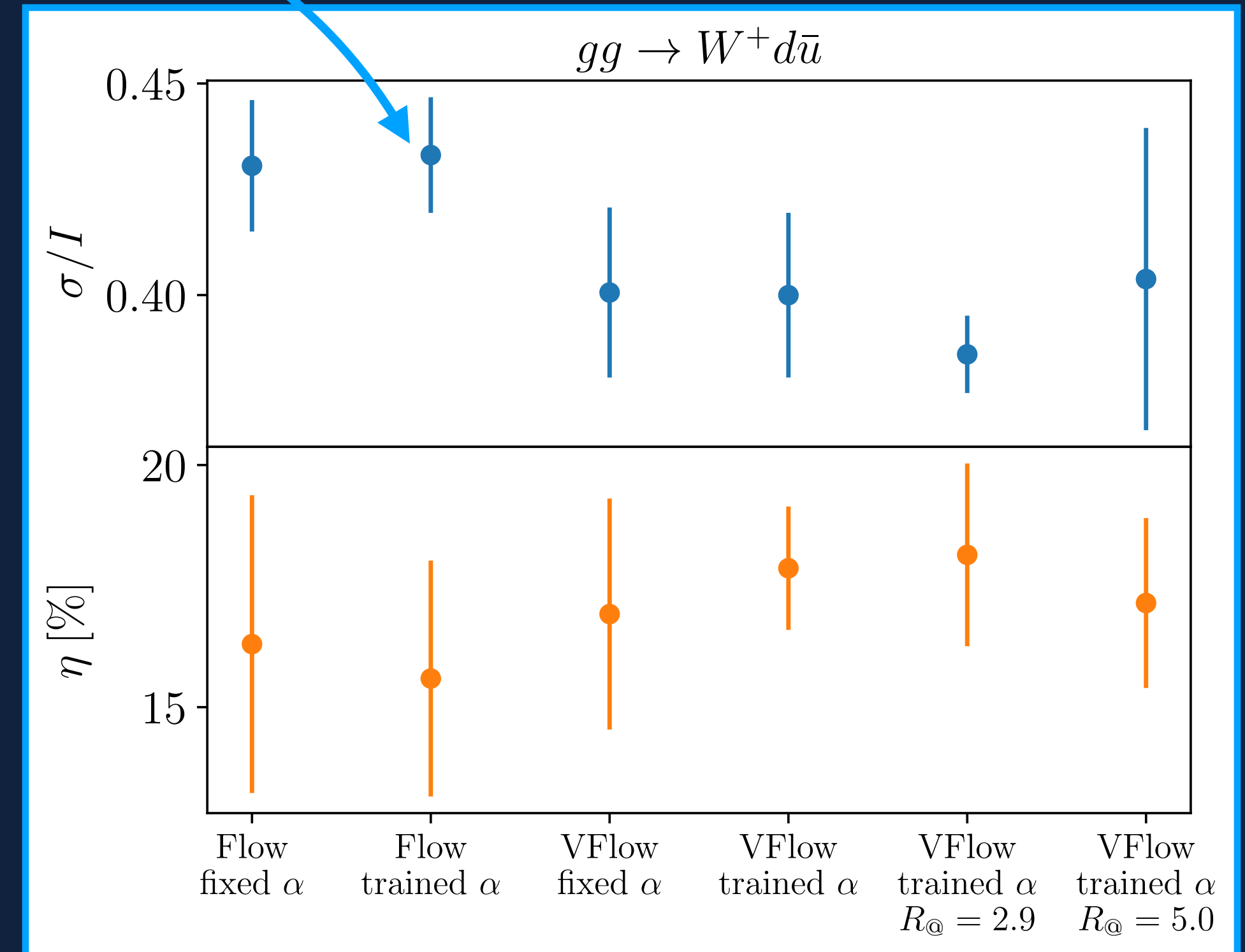
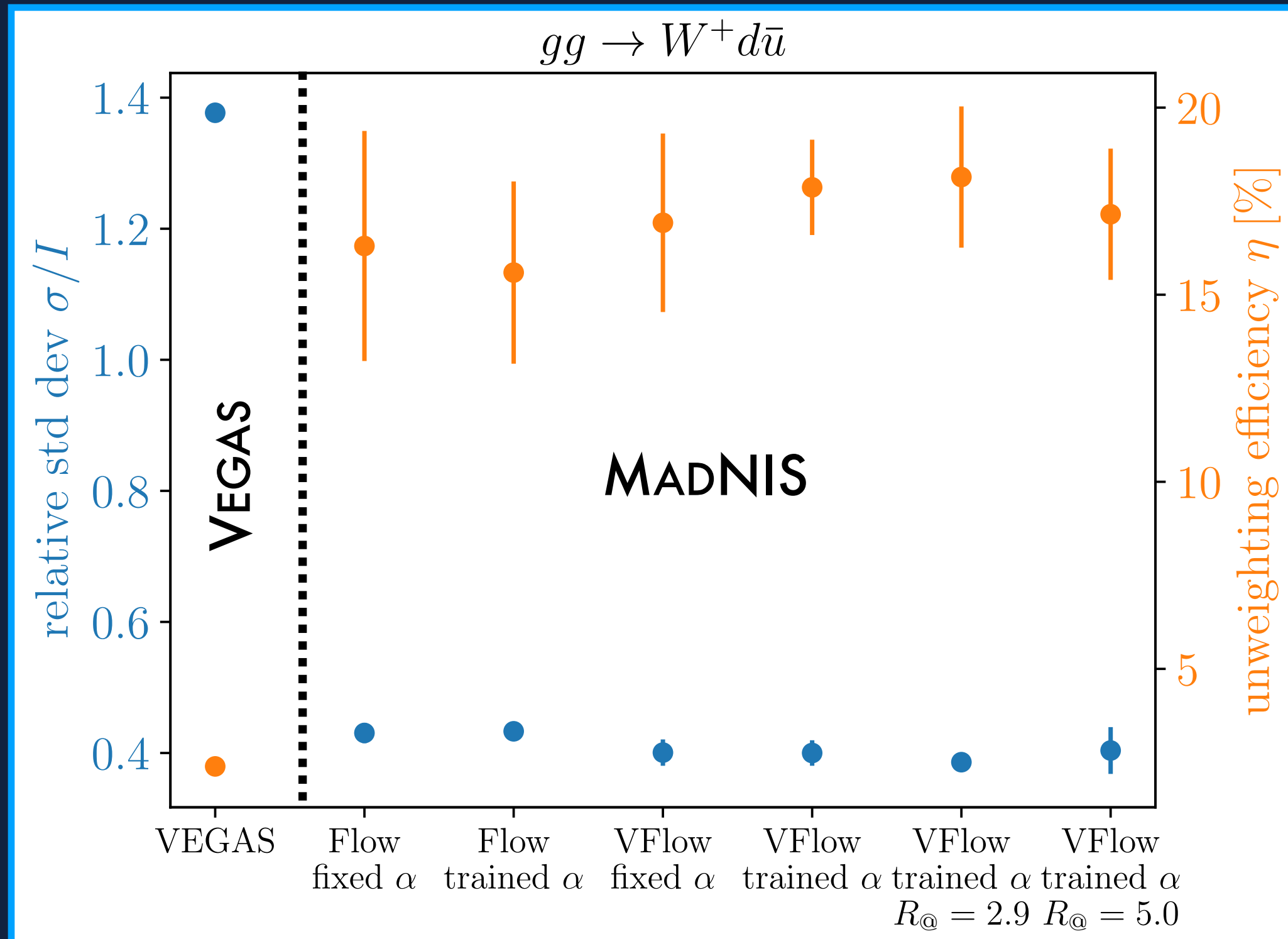


Big improvement from VEGAS initialization

(preliminary)

LHC example III — W + 2 jets

Process has small interference terms
→ no significant improvement from trained channel weights



Otherwise similar to results for VBS

(preliminary)

Summary and Outlook

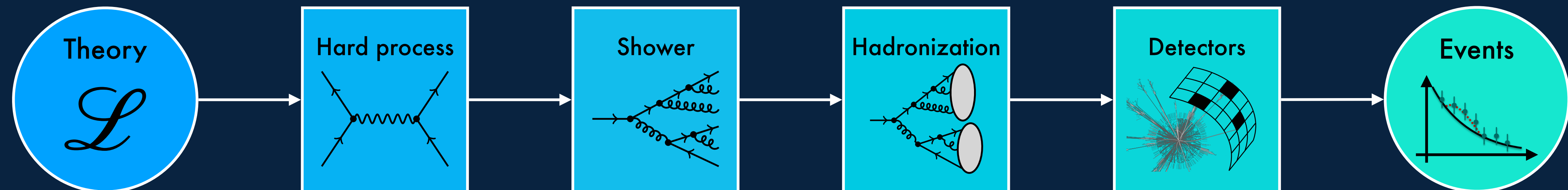


Take-home message

- **Fast** and **precise** predictions with ML-based simulations
- Normalizing flows provide statistically **well-defined likelihoods** for inference
- Account for **uncertainties** with **Bayesian neural networks**

Future exercises

- **Full integration** of ML-based simulations into standard tools → **MadGraph**,....
- Make everything run on the **GPU and differentiable** (MadJax - Heinrich et al. [[2203.00057](#)])



Summary and Outlook



Machine learning and LHC event generation

Anja Butter^{1,2}, Tilman Plehn¹, Steffen Schumann³, Simon Badger⁴, Sascha Caron^{5,6}, Kyle Cranmer^{7,8}, Francesco Armando Di Bello⁹, Etienne Dreyer¹⁰, Stefano Forte¹¹, Sanmay Ganguly¹², Dorival Gonçalves¹³, Eilam Gross¹⁰, Theo Heimel¹, Gudrun Heinrich¹⁴, Lukas Heinrich¹⁵, Alexander Held¹⁶, Stefan Höche¹⁷, Jessica N. Howard¹⁸, Philip Ilten¹⁹, Joshua Isaacson¹⁷, Timo Janßen³, Stephen Jones²⁰, Marumi Kado^{9,21}, Michael Kagan²², Gregor Kasieczka²³, Felix Kling²⁴, Sabine Kraml²⁵, Claudius Krause²⁶, Frank Krauss²⁰, Kevin Kröniger²⁷, Rahool Kumar Barman¹³, Michel Luchmann¹, Vitaly Magerya¹⁴, Daniel Maitre²⁰, Bogdan Malaescu², Fabio Maltoni^{28,29}, Till Martini³⁰, Olivier Mattelaer²⁸, Benjamin Nachman^{31,32}, Sebastian Pitz¹, Juan Rojo^{6,33}, Matthew Schwartz³⁴, David Shih²⁵, Frank Siegert³⁵, Roy Stegeman¹¹, Bob Stienen⁵, Jesse Thaler³⁶, Rob Verheyen³⁷, Daniel Whiteson¹⁸, Ramon Winterhalder²⁸, and Jure Zupan¹⁹

Abstract

First-principle simulations are at the heart of the high-energy physics research program. They link the vast data output of multi-purpose detectors with fundamental theory predictions and interpretation. This review illustrates a wide range of applications of modern machine learning to event generation and simulation-based inference, including conceptual developments driven by the specific requirements of particle physics. New ideas and tools developed at the interface of particle physics and machine learning will improve the speed and precision of forward simulations, handle the complexity of collision data, and enhance inference as an inverse simulation problem.

collision data, and enhance inference as an inverse simulation problem. New ideas and tools developed at the interface of particle physics and machine learning will improve the speed and precision of forward simulations, handle the complexity of collision data, and enhance inference as an inverse simulation problem.

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- Make everything run on the **GPU and differentiable** (MadJax - Heinrich et al. [[2203.00057](#)])
- More details in our **Snowmass report**



Summary and Outlook



HEP ML Living Review

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A Living Review of Machine Learning for Particle Physics

Modern machine learning techniques, including deep learning, is rapidly being applied, adapted, and developed for high energy physics. The goal of this document is to provide a nearly comprehensive list of citations for those developing and applying these approaches to experimental, phenomenological, or theoretical analyses. As a living document, it will be updated as often as possible to incorporate the latest developments. A list of proper (unchanging) reviews can be found within. Papers are grouped into a small set of topics to be as useful as possible. Suggestions are most welcome.

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Reviews

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- Classical papers
- Datasets

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 - Lattice Gauge Theory
 - Function Approximation
 - Symbolic Regression
- Equivariant networks.

Equivariant networks:
Symbolic Regression
Function Approximation
Lattice Gauge Theory (and related)

Future exercises

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- Make everything run on the **GPU and differentiable** (MadJax - Heinrich et al. [[2203.00057](#)])
- More details in our **Snowmass report**
- Stay tuned for many other **ML4HEP applications**

