

High-Dimensional Unfolding in Large Backgrounds

2507.06291

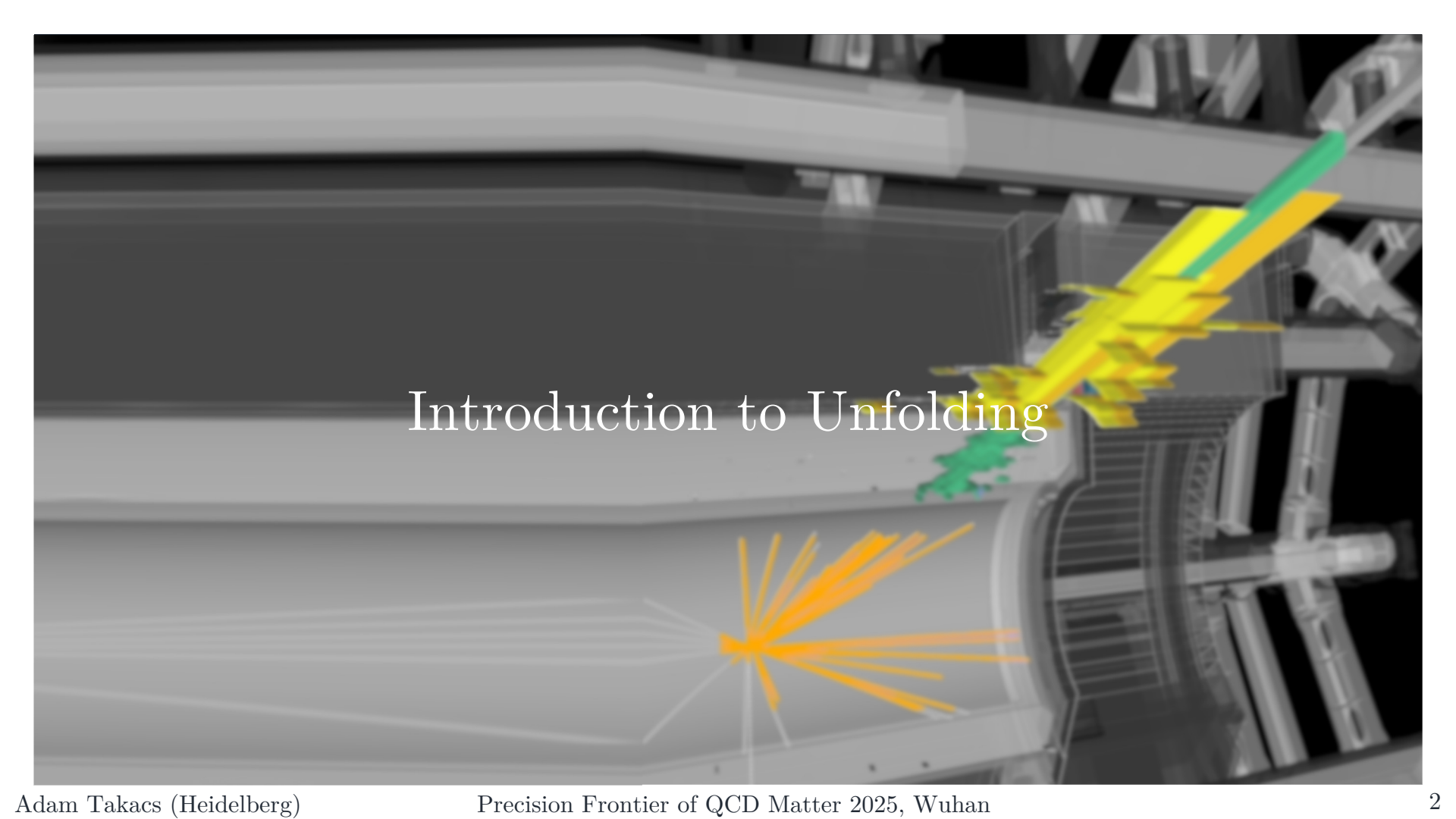
Adam Takacs (Heidelberg University)



with:
Alexandre Falcão



**UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG**
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

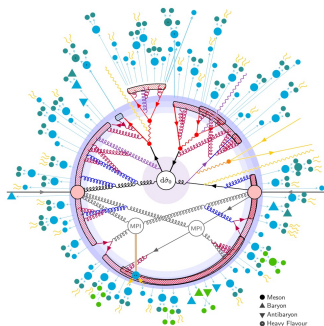
A 3D visualization of a particle detector, likely a calorimeter, showing the reconstruction of particle tracks. The detector is represented by a series of gray, curved segments. Two distinct particle showers are visible: one in the upper right, colored yellow and green, and another in the lower center, colored orange. The text "Introduction to Unfolding" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Introduction to Unfolding

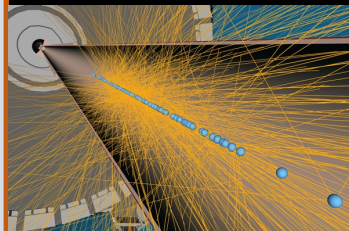
What do experiments measure?

Measurement = True signal + Background + Detector effects

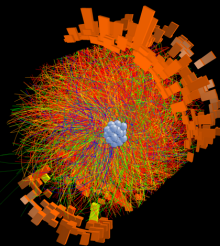
- Higgs.
- HI bulk
- jets



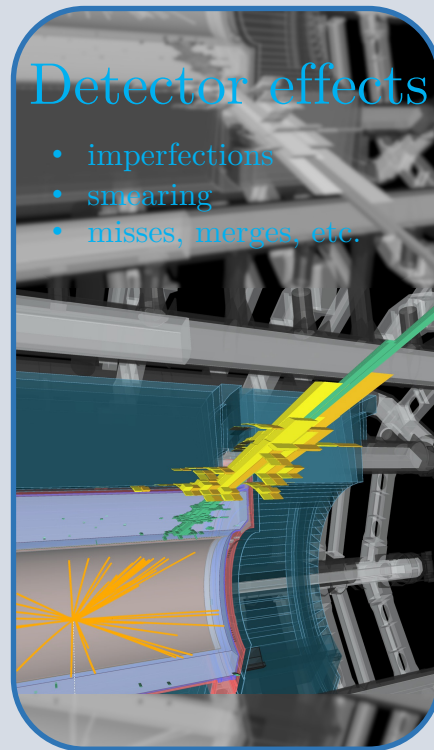
- pile-up



- underlying event

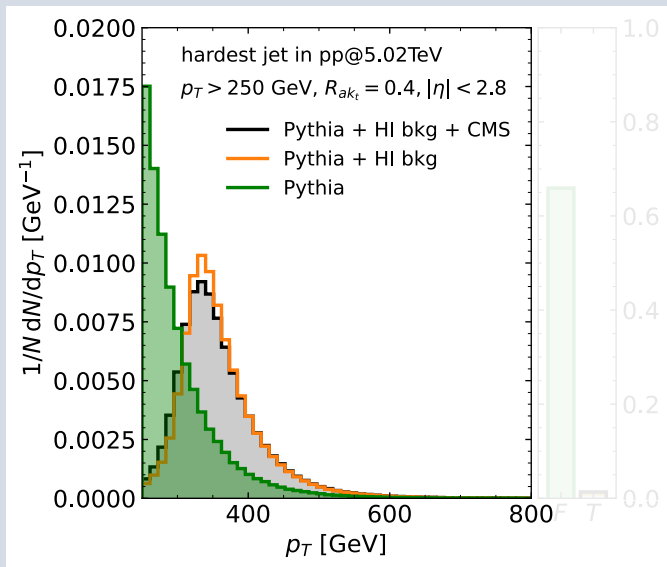


- imperfections
- smearing
- misses, merges, etc.

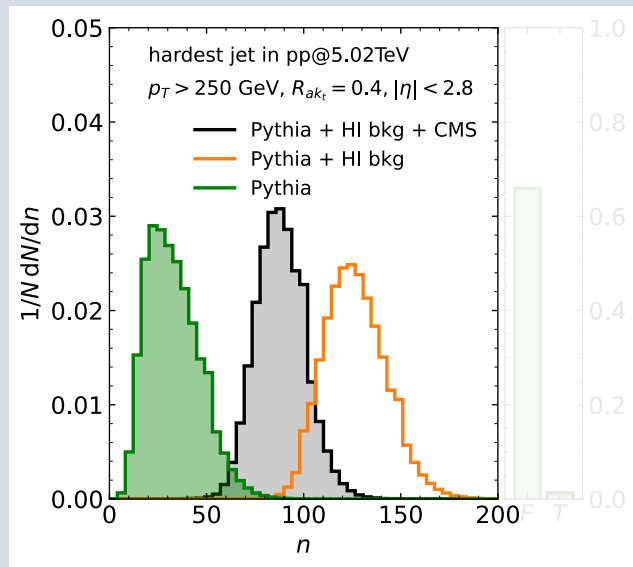


What do experiments measure?

Example: **Pythia jets** + **HI background** + CMS detector simulation



- HI bkg. adds to the jet energy.
- Detectors lose energy.



- HI bkg. adds to the jet multiplicity.
- Detectors lose particles.

Unfolding algorithm

[(Iterative) Bayesian Unfolding, D'Agostini 1994,2010]

Unfolding = correcting for bkg. and detector effects

Inference task:

$$x(t_i) = \sum_j p(t_i|m_j) x(m_j)$$

truth count in t_i bin prob. of $m_j \rightarrow t_i$ measured count in m_j bin

(likelihood-free inference)

Bayesian inference:

$$p(t_i|m_j) = \frac{p(m_j|t_i)p_0(t_i)}{p_0(m_j)}$$

Forward simulation: prob. of $t_i \rightarrow m_j$ priors

Bayesian $\rightarrow$ Maximum likelihood unfolding:

$$x(t_i) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n(t_i) = \sum_j \frac{p(m_j|t_i)p_{n-1}(t_i)}{p_{n-1}(m_j)} x(m_j)$$

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what we have:

- MC samples
- Det simulations

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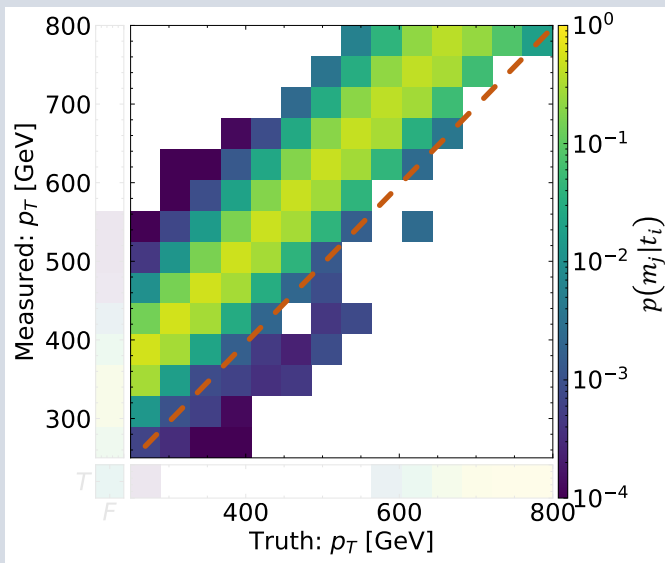
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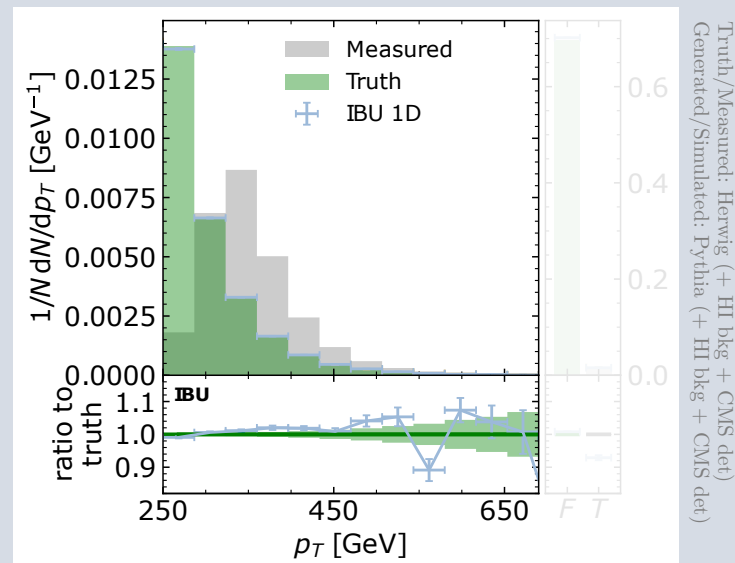
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Unfolding algorithm

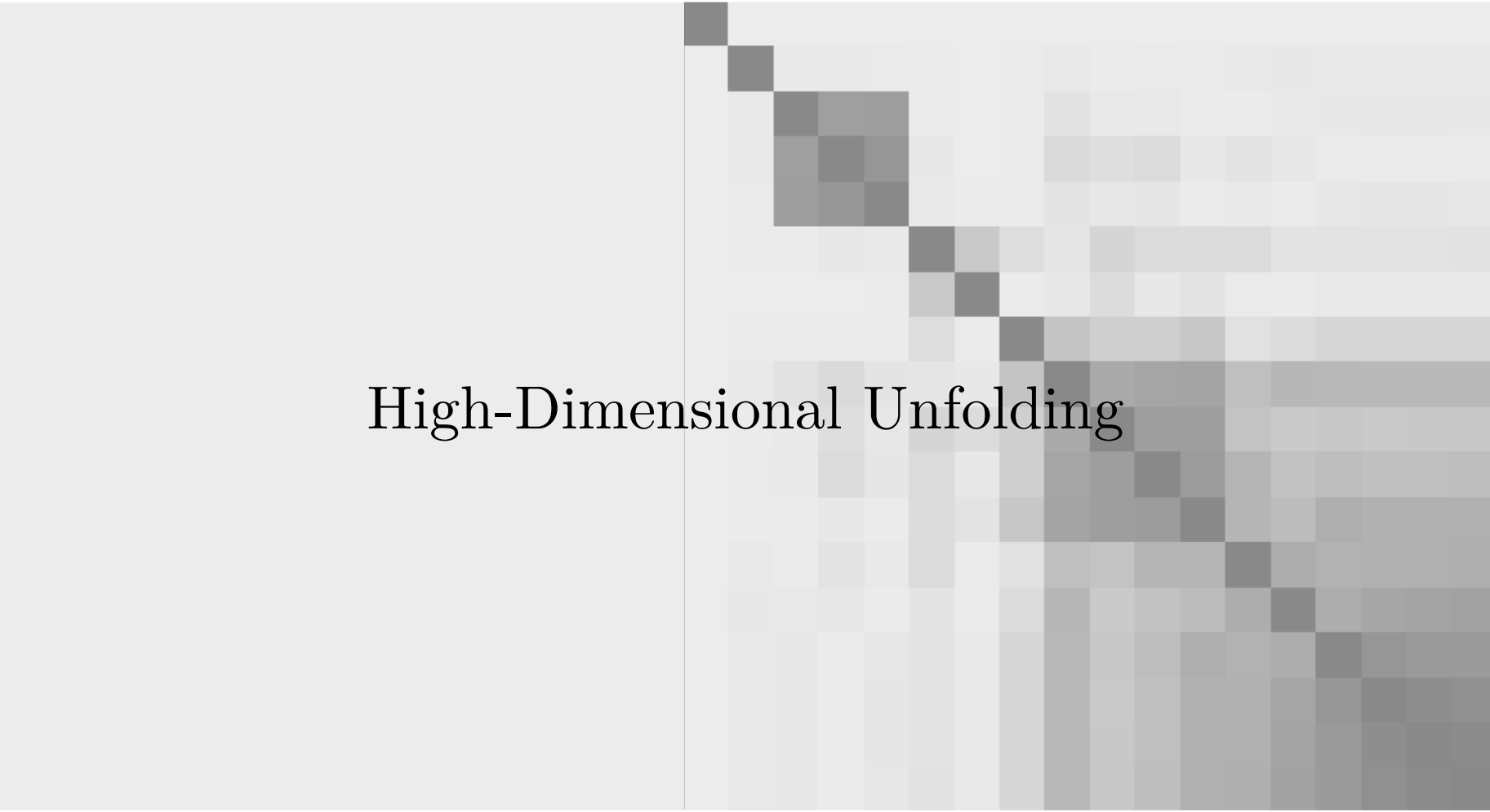
Example: Pythia jets + HI background + CMS detector simulation



- Response mx: Pythia (+ HI bkg + CMS det)
- Unfolding Herwig (+ HI bkg + CMS det)



- Important statistical uncertainty.
- Deviations here contribute to sys. unc!



High-Dimensional Unfolding

Unfolding algorithm in high-dimension

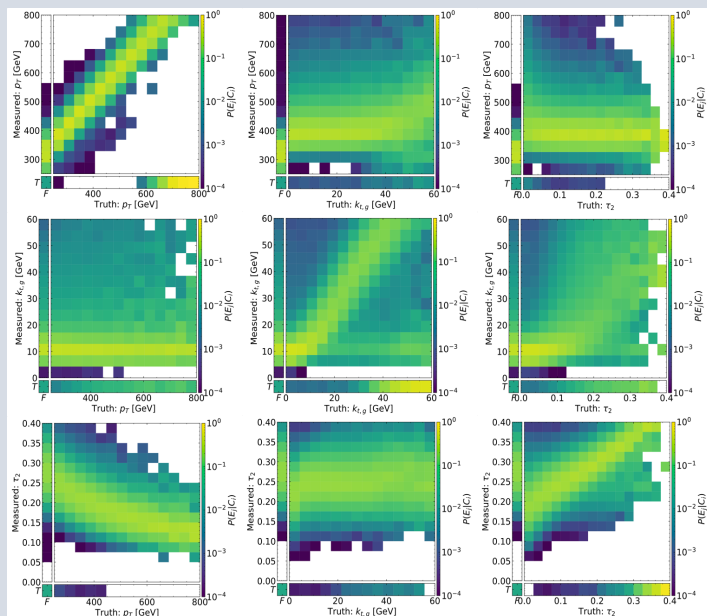
Same inference procedure:

$$x([t_{i_1}, t_{i_2}, \dots]) = \sum_j p([t_{i_1}, \dots] | [m_{j_1}, \dots]) x([m_{j_1}, m_{j_2}, \dots])$$

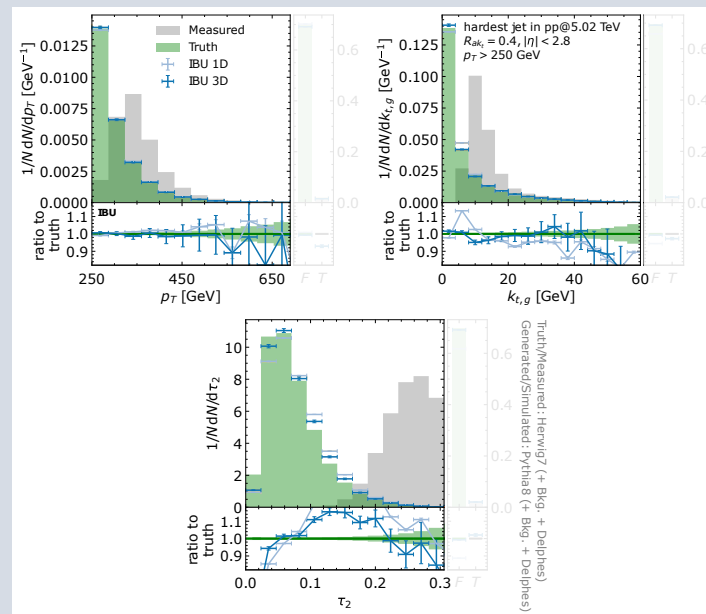
↑
prob. of
[m_j, ...] → [t_i, ...]

Unfolding algorithm in high-dimension

Example:



- Response mx of Pythia vs measured.
- Cross correlations $p_T, k_{t,g}, \tau_2$!



- Simultaneous unfolding of 3 observables.
- **Unfolding improves from 1d $\rightarrow$ 3d.**

Unfolding algorithm in high-dimension

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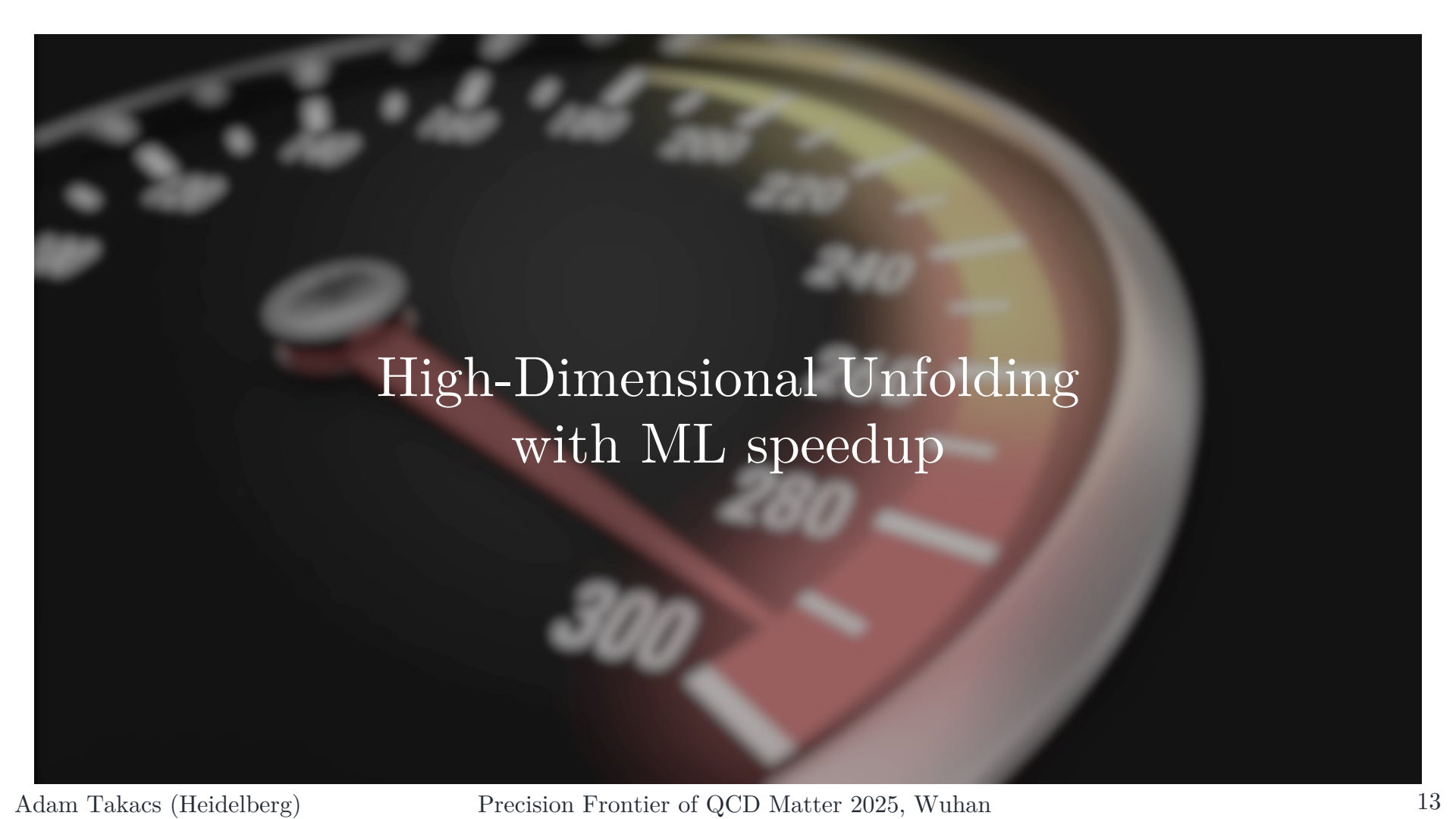
↑
prob. of
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Going to higher dimensions?

1. Statistical uncertainties?
2. Convergence?
3. Computation power? 1M events, 8 obs, 10 bins:

1 PiB = 1000 TB!

```
numpy.core._exceptions.MemoryError: Unable to allocate 326. PiB for  
an array with shape (45949729863572161,) and data type float64
```



High-Dimensional Unfolding with ML speedup

An algorithm for high-dimensions

[OmniFold: Andreassen, Komiske, Metodiev, Nachman, Thaler, [1911.09107](#), [2105.04448](#)]

- Rewrite with likelihood ratios:

$$p_n(t_i) = \sum_j \frac{p(m_j|t_i) p_{n-1}(t_i)}{p_{n-1}(m_j)} p(m_j) \longrightarrow \frac{p_n(t_i)}{p_{n-1}(t_i)} = \sum_j p(m_j|t_i) \frac{p(m_j)}{p_{n-1}(m_j)}$$

probability ratios

- Likelihood ratios = optimum problem: $\operatorname{argmin}_{c(m)} (L(c(m))) \leftrightarrow \frac{p(m)}{p_{n-1}(m)}$

$$L[c(m)] = - \int dm [p(m) \log(c(m)) + p_{n-1}(m) \log(1 - c(m))]$$

- Using events: $p(m) = \sum_i \delta(m - m_i)$

$$L[c(m)] = - \sum_i \delta_{i=\text{meas}} \log(c(m_i)) + \delta_{i=\text{sim}_{n-1}} \log(1 - c(m_i))$$

- Optimum problem $\equiv$ training a NN classifier (OmniFold)

OmniFold-HI: efficiency, bkg counts, Trash, and Fake events, stat and sys uncertainties.

An algorithm for high-dimensions

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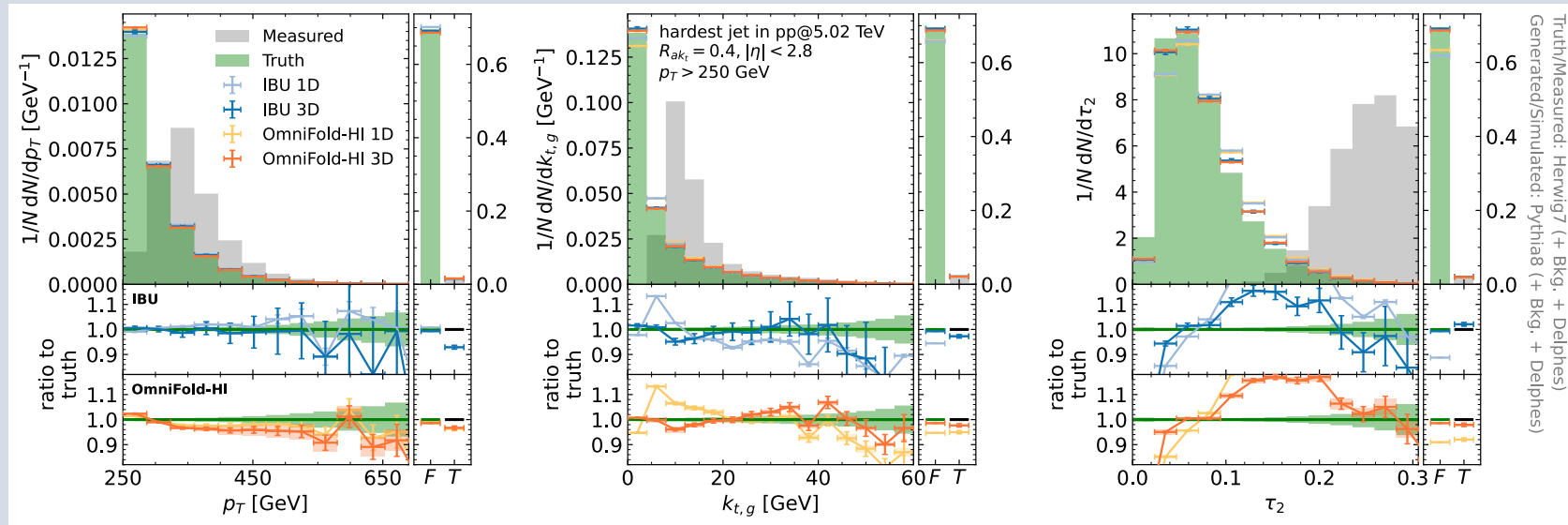
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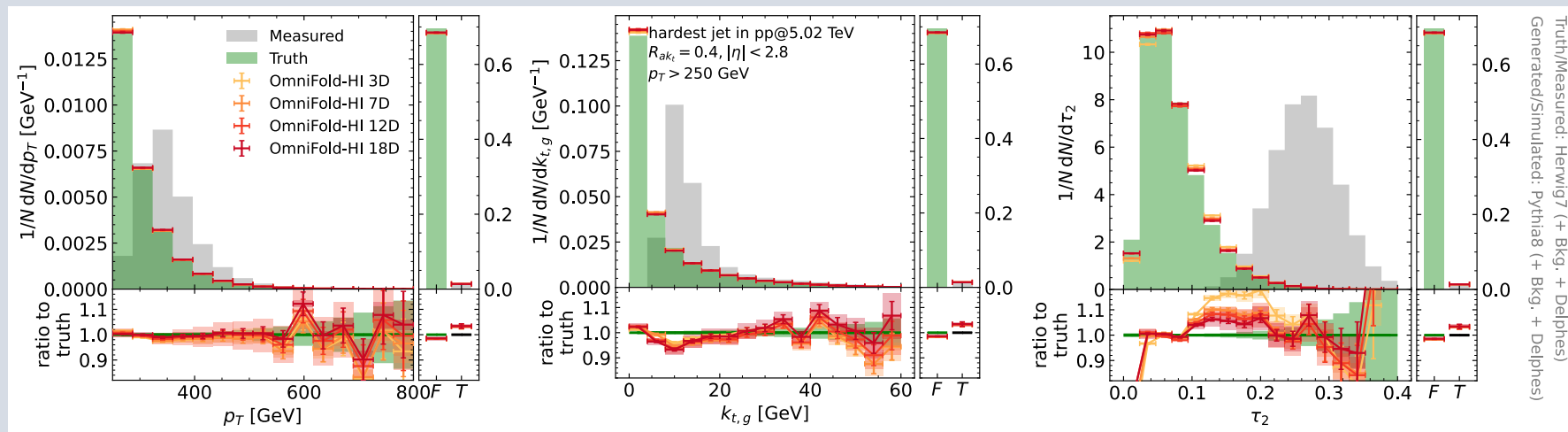
Example:



- IBU and OmniFold-HI agrees in 1d and 3d!
- Understanding stat. and sys uncertainties for NN!

An algorithm for high-dimensions

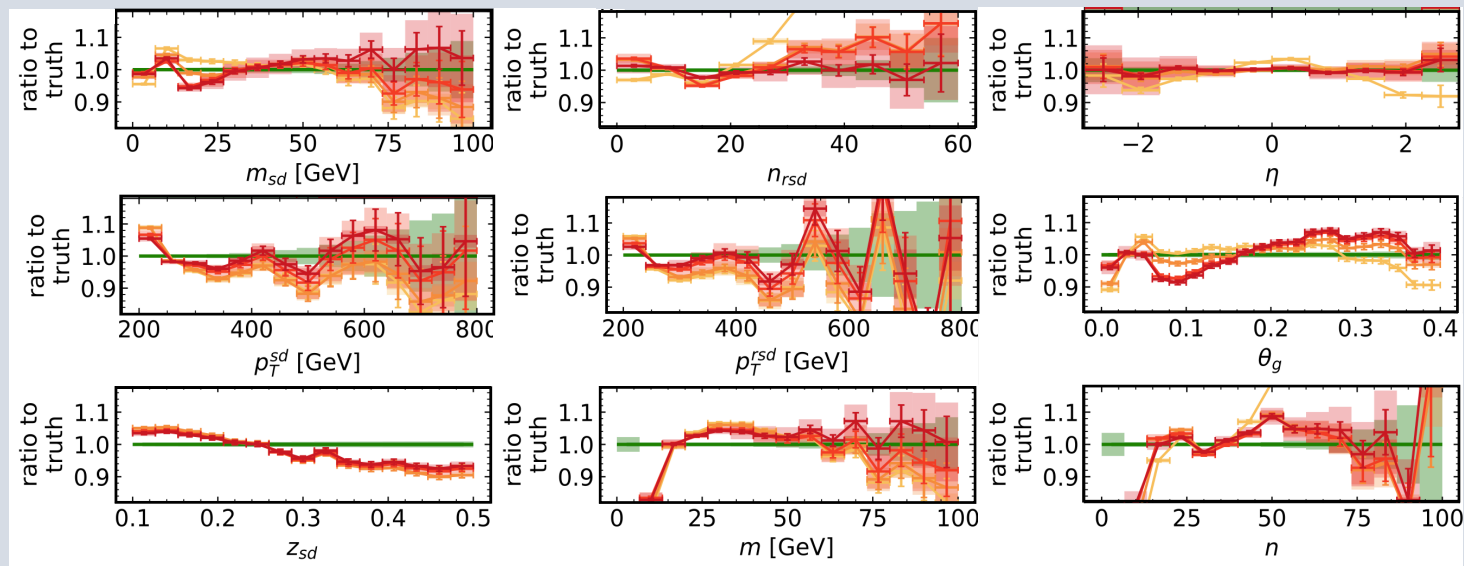
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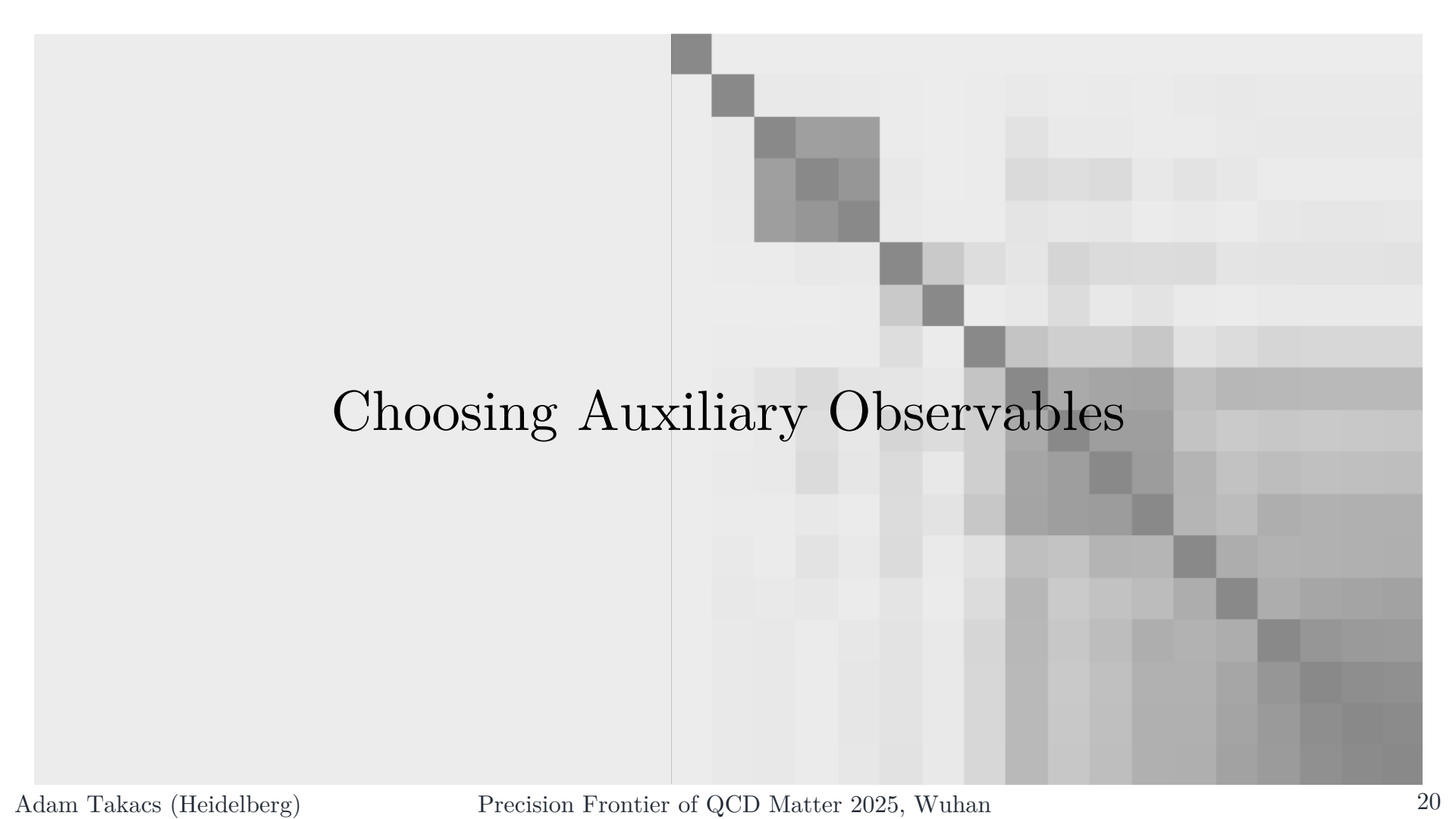
- Unfolding in higher dimensions.
- Going to 18d improves performance!
- Improvement in difficult observables: m_{jet}, n_{jet}

An algorithm for high-dimensions

Example:



- Unfolding in higher dimensions.
- Going to 18d improves performance!
- Improvement in difficult observables: m_{jet}, n_{jet}

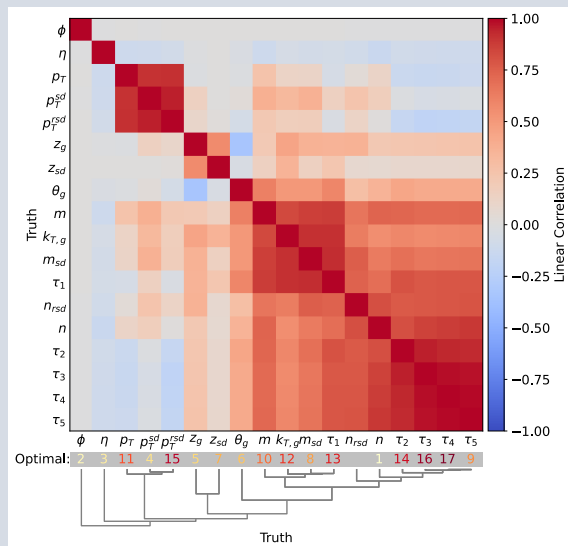


Choosing Auxiliary Observables

How to choose observables?

Auxiliary observables

(selection based on correlation distances)



Integrate to calibration

Jet calibration:

1. Correct the jet 4-momentum:

$$p_{jet}^{\mu, reco}, \text{ many event obs.} \rightarrow p_{jet}^{\mu, true}$$

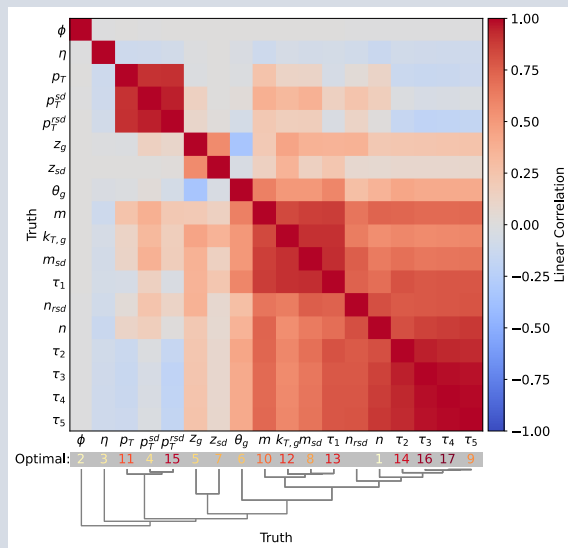
2. Unfold the rest.

Calibration is an inference task!
Combine with unfolding.

How to choose observables?

Auxiliary observables

(selection based on correlation distances)



Integrate to calibration

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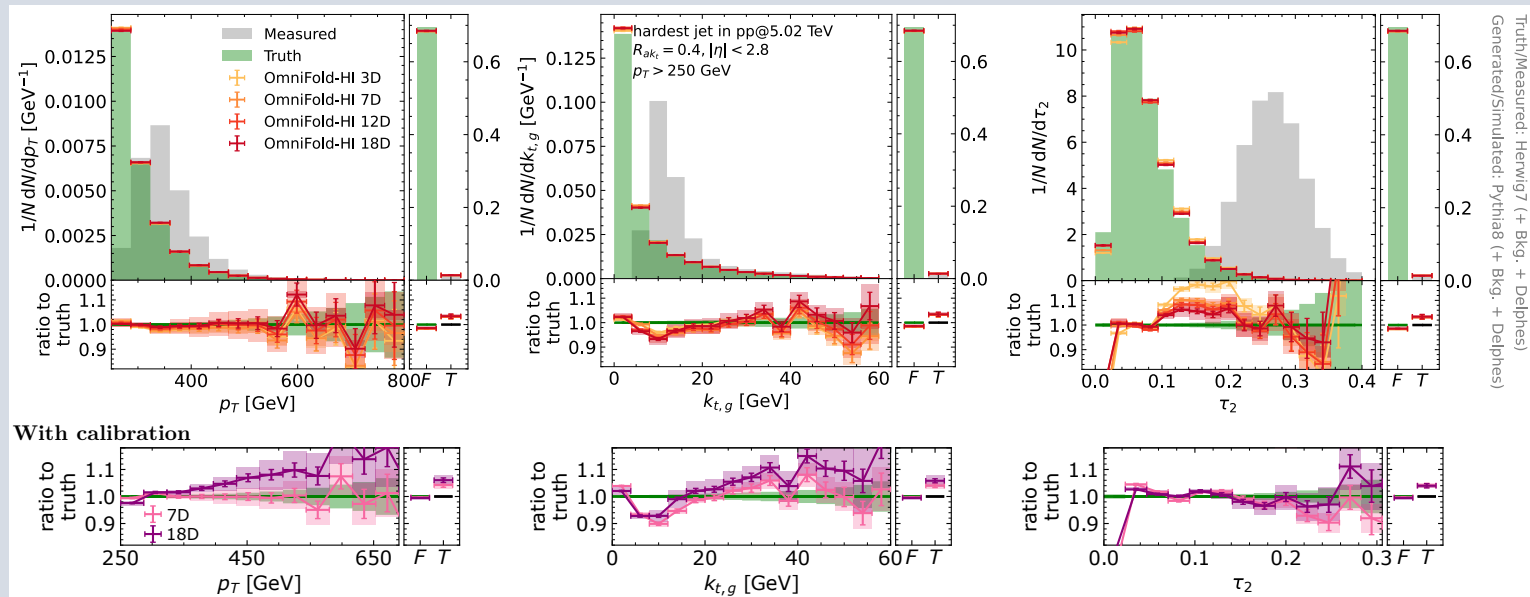
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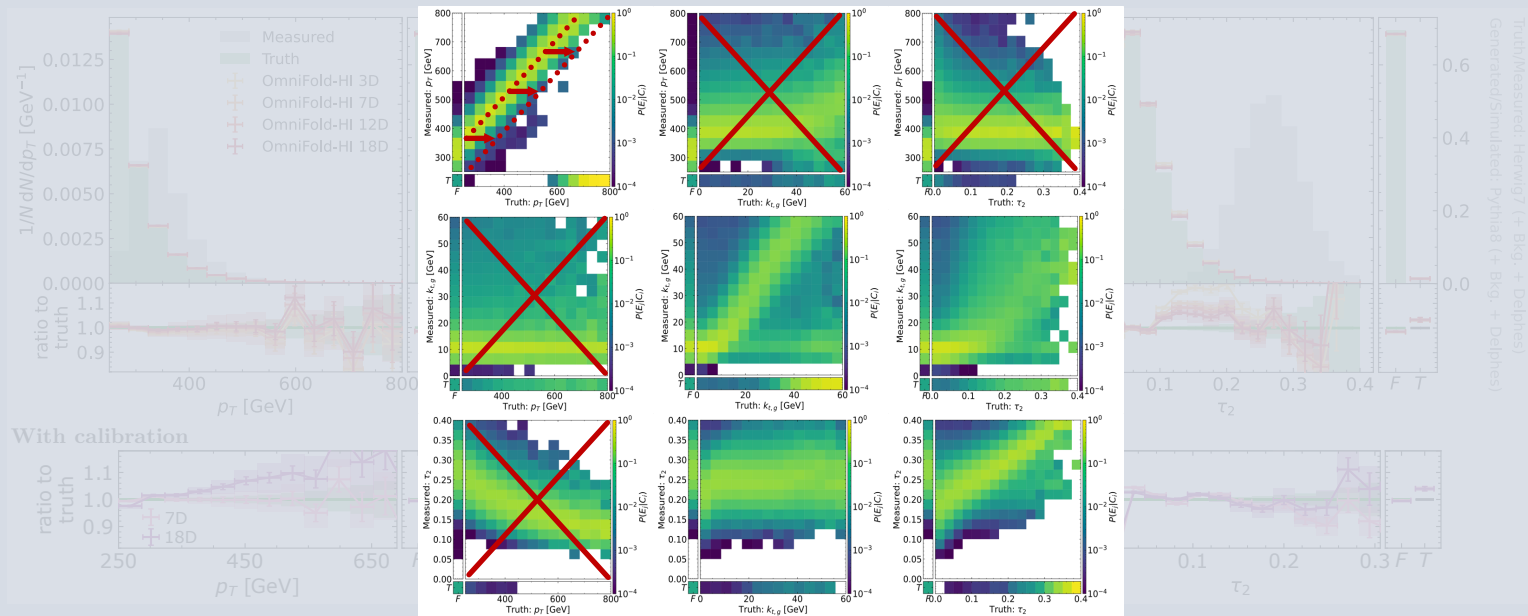
Calibration is an inference task!
Combine with unfolding.

How to choose observables?



- Calibration worsens the performance.

How to choose observables?



- Calibration worsens the performance in high dims.

Summary: unfolding in high-dimensions

1. Introduction to unfolding (likelihood-free inference)
2. OmniFold to unfold in high dimensions

Better performance is already in use in pp: [OmniFold [1911.09107](#), [2105.04448](#)]

[H1 [2108.12376](#), [2303.13620](#)]

[LHCb [2208.11691](#)]

[STAR [2307.07718](#), [2403.13921](#)]

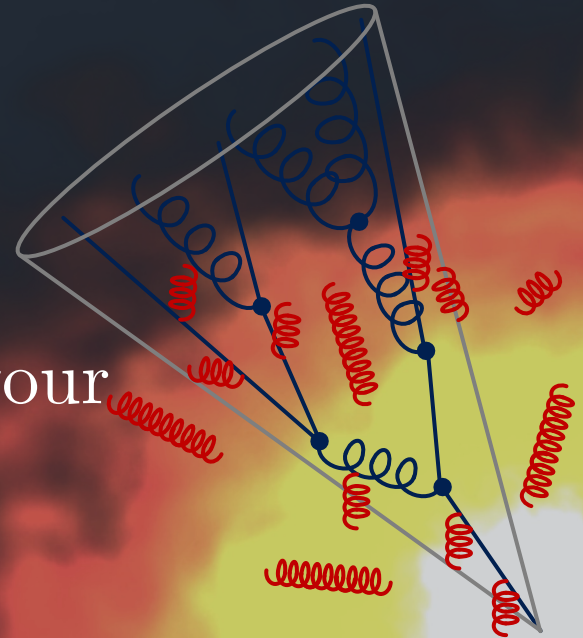
[ATLAS [2405.20041](#), [2502.02062](#)]

[CMS [2505.17850](#)]

OmniFold-HI improvements: derivation, bkg, efficiency, uncertainties → ready for HI pheno!
[[2507.06291](#), <https://github.com/OmniFoldHI>]

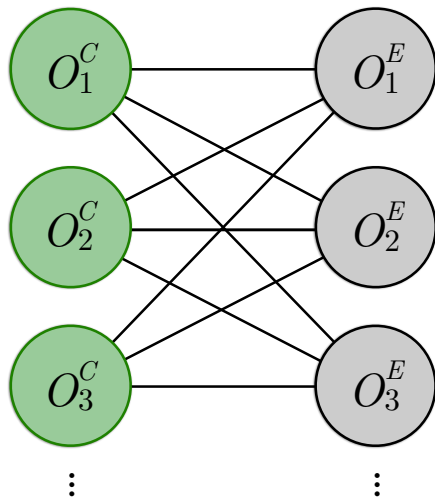
3. Strategy to choose auxiliary observables
4. Improved workflow by unifying: calibration + bkg subtraction + unfolding.

Thank you for your
attention!

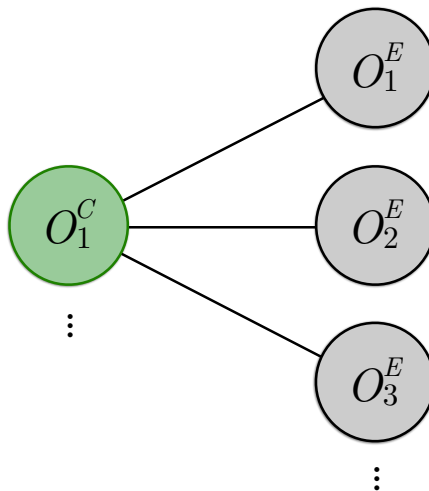


Unfolding as a general inference

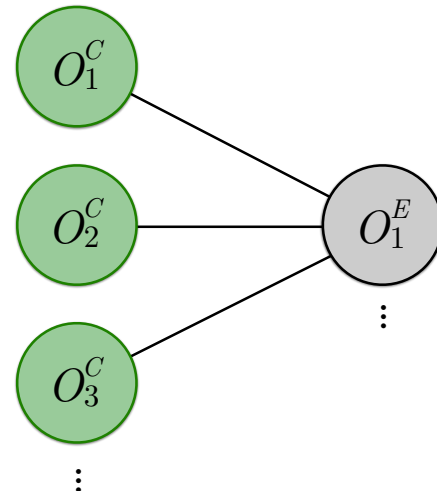
Unfolding



Calibration

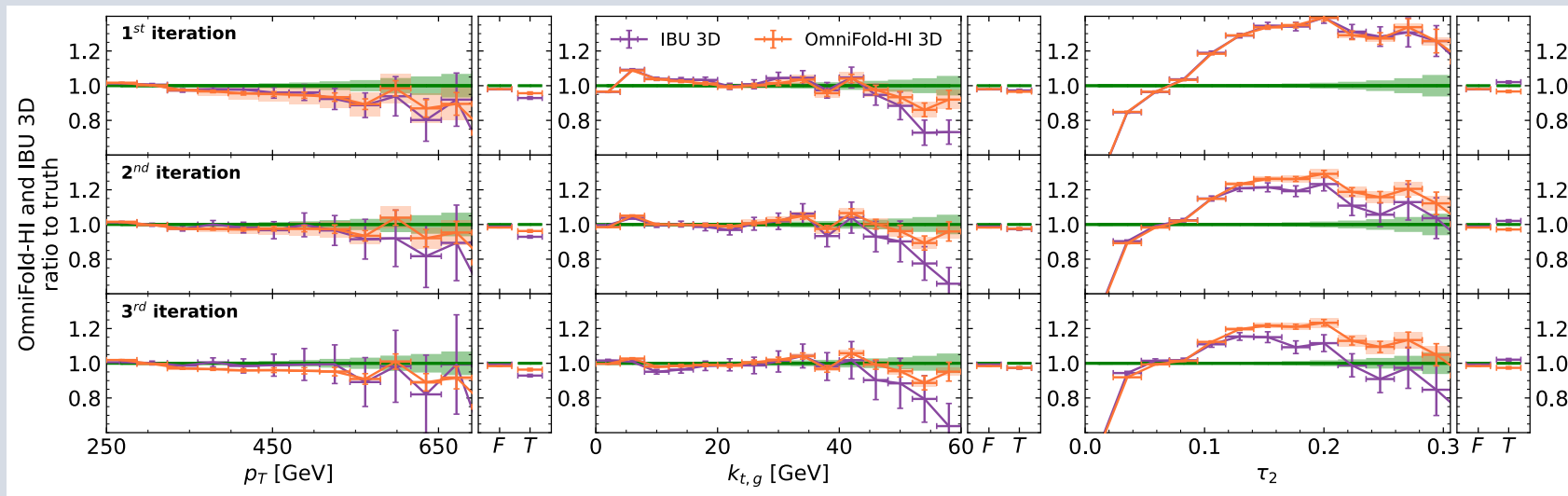


Classification



IBU vs OmniFold

Example:



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- IBU and OmniFold-HI agrees!
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