

# XXVIth International Baldin Seminar on High Energy Physics Problems "Relativistic Nuclear Physics and Quantum Chromodynamics"

<https://indico.jinr.ru/event/5429/>

## Addressing heavy ion collision parameters estimation challenges via neural network techniques

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The authors acknowledge Saint-Petersburg State University for a research project 103821868



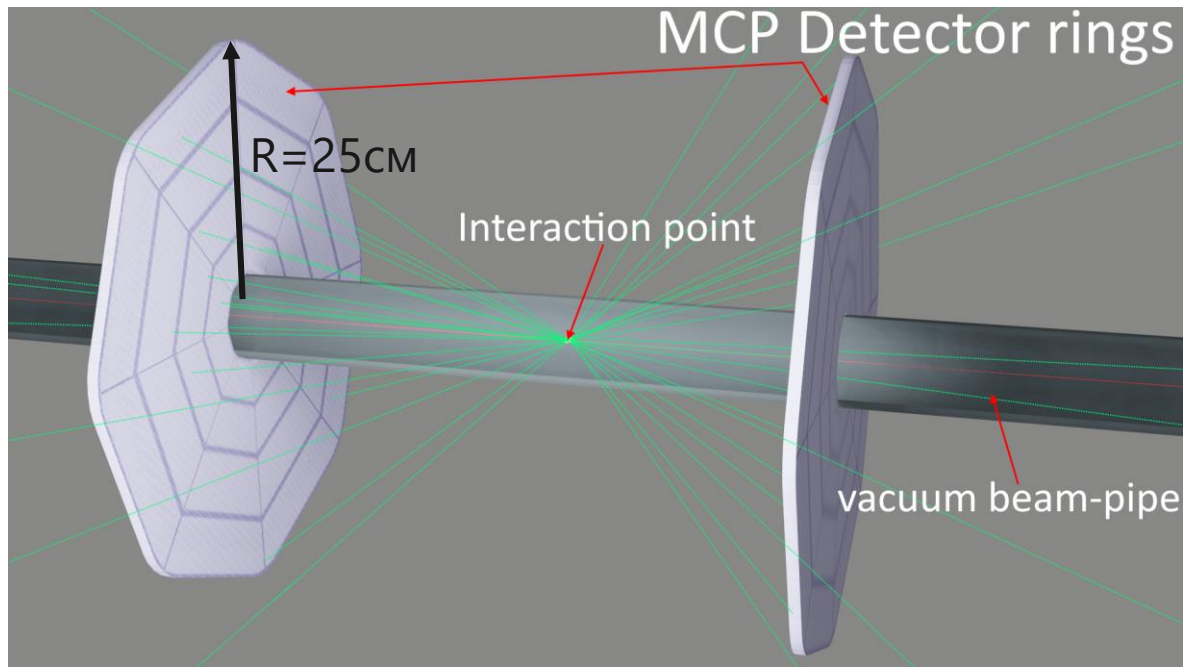
19<sup>th</sup> September 2025



# The problems of event parameters estimation

## Studied problems

- Event-wise estimation of the impact parameter value
- Select head-on collisions (small impact parameter)
- Event-wise estimation of the participants number



Scheme of investigated detectors geometry

Hits information that was used for feature engineering:

- Coordinate of cell, which registered hit
- Particle time of flight ( $\sim 50$ ps accuracy)

We used MC generated data of Au+Au collisions at energies  $\sqrt{s_{NN}} \approx 11$  GeV, which consists of three datasets:

- 200 000 events generated by **QGSM**<sup>1</sup> model
- 360 000 events generated by **EPOS**<sup>2</sup> model
- 50 000 events generated by **PHQMD**<sup>3</sup> model

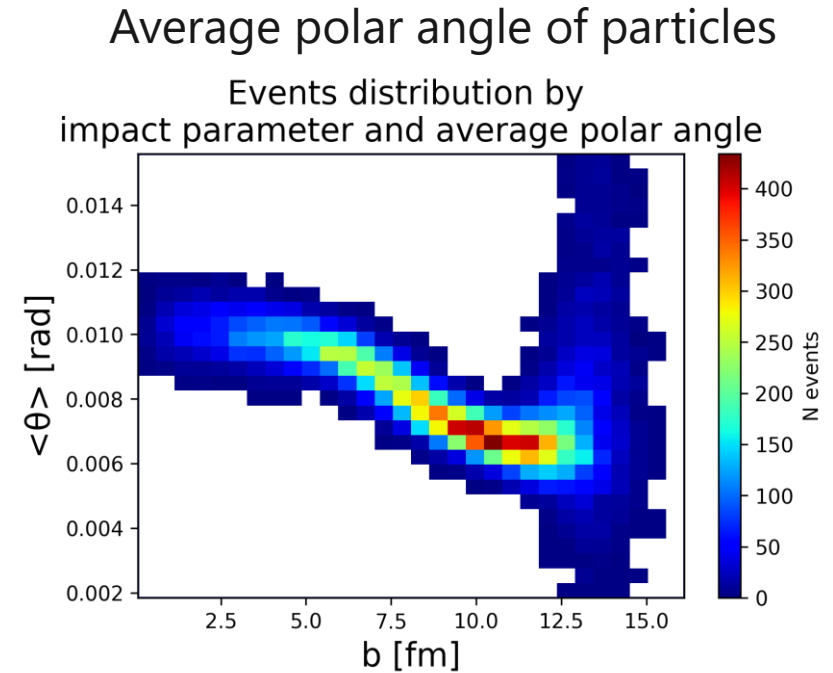
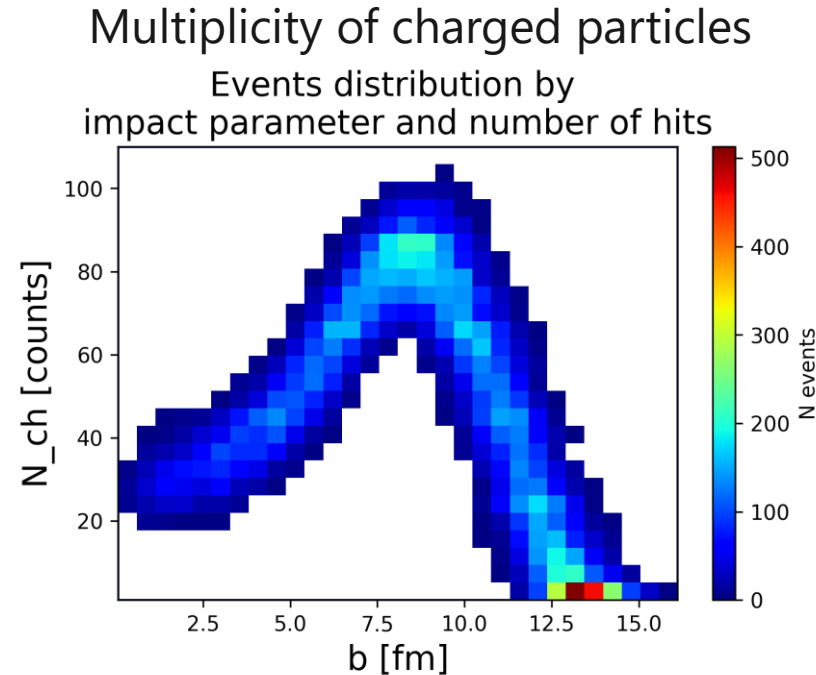
[1] Amelin N. S., Gudima K. K., Toneev V. D. Ultrarelativistic nucleus-nucleus collisions within a dynamical model of independent quark - gluon strings // Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 1990. V. 51(6), P. 1730-1743

[2] Werner, Klaus and Liu, Fu-Ming and Pierog, Tanguy Parton ladder splitting and the rapidity dependence of transverse momentum spectra in deuteron-gold collisions at the BNL Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider  
// Physical Review C 2006, V. 74

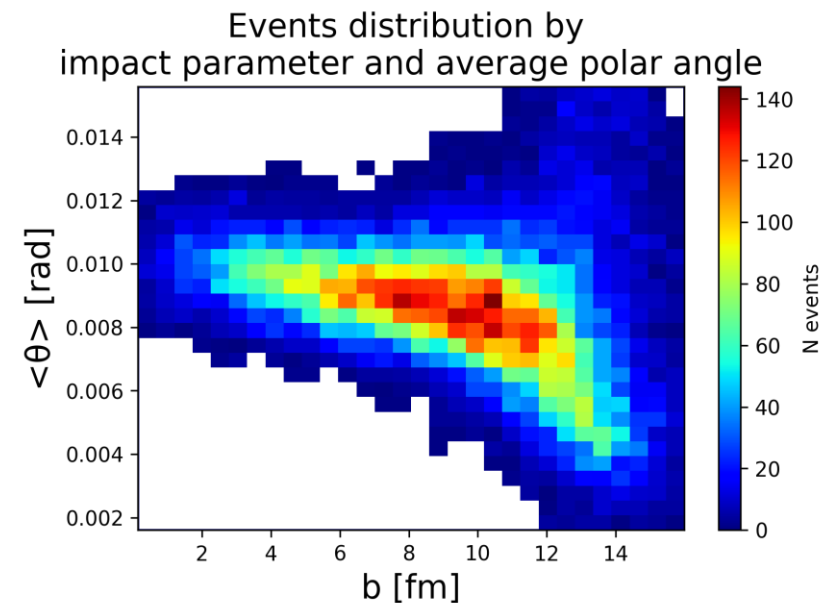
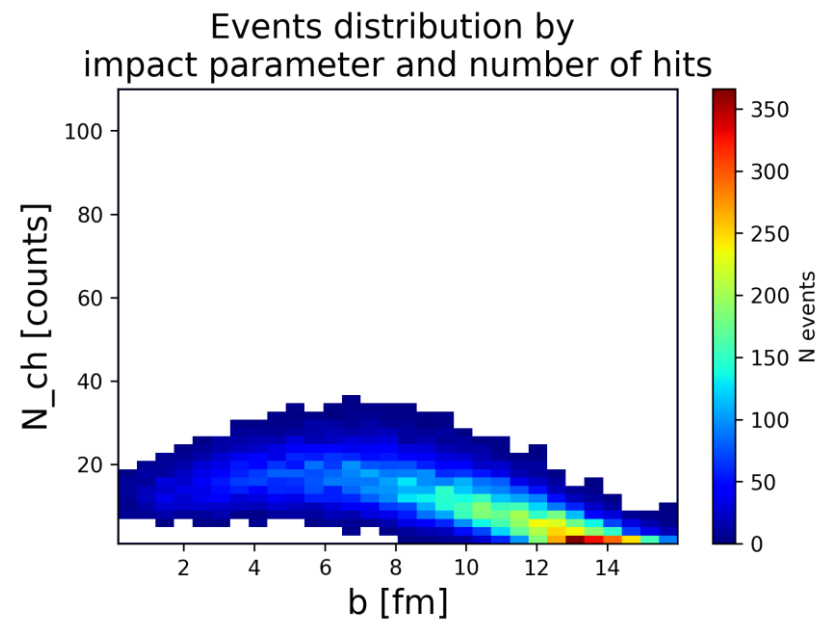
[3] Aichelin, J. and Bratkovskaya, E. and Le Fèvre, A. and Kireyeu, V. and Kolesnikov, V. and Leifels, Y. and Voronyuk, V. and Coci, G., Physical Review C 2020, V. 101

# Examples of input data: Multiplicity of charged particles and their average angle

**QGSM:**

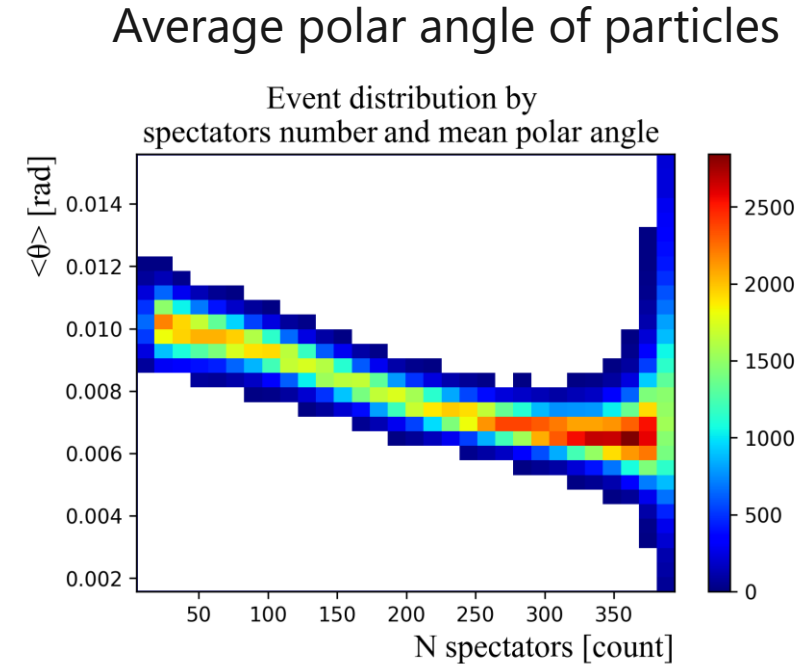
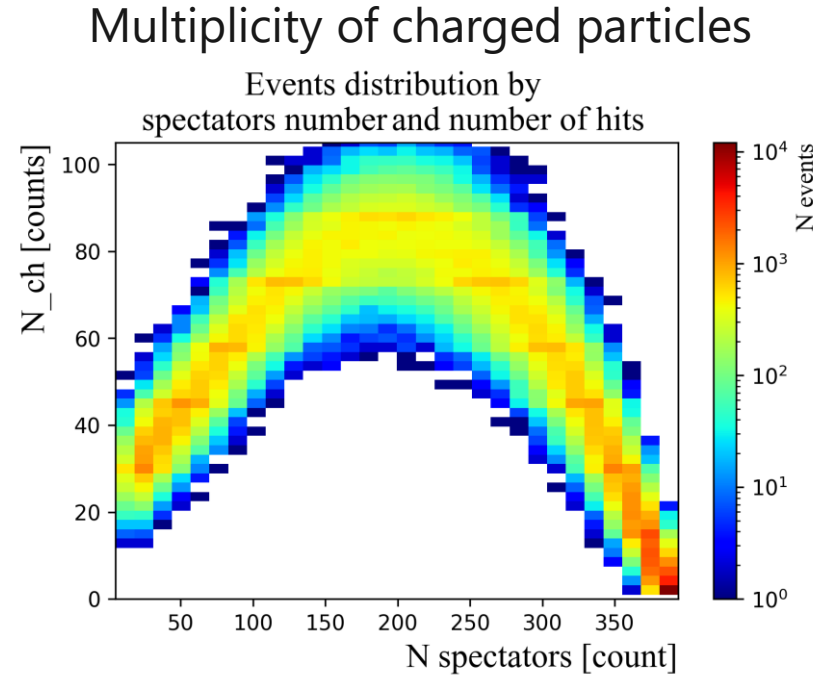


**EPOS:**

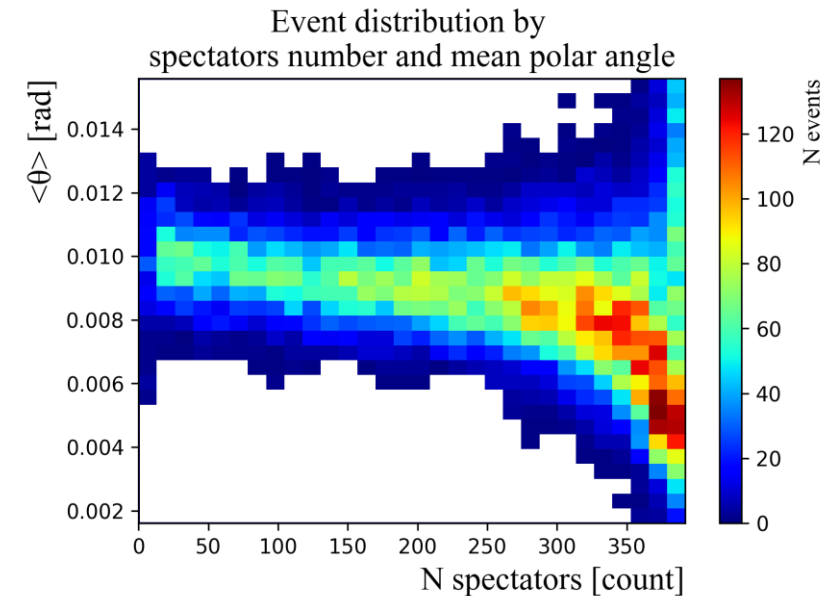
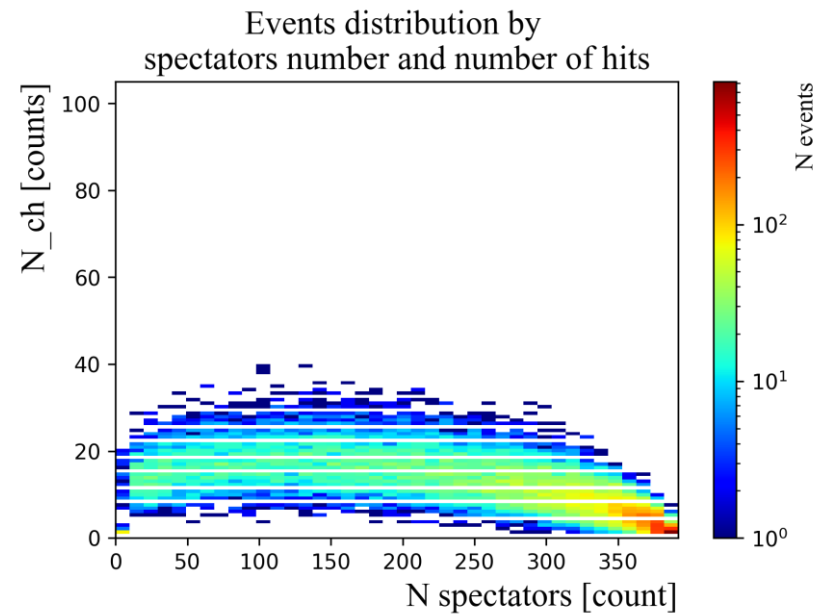


# Examples of input data: Multiplicity of charged particles and their average angle

**QGSM:**



**EPOS:**



# Examples of input data: Spectators

## QGSM:

We choose spectators by two filters:

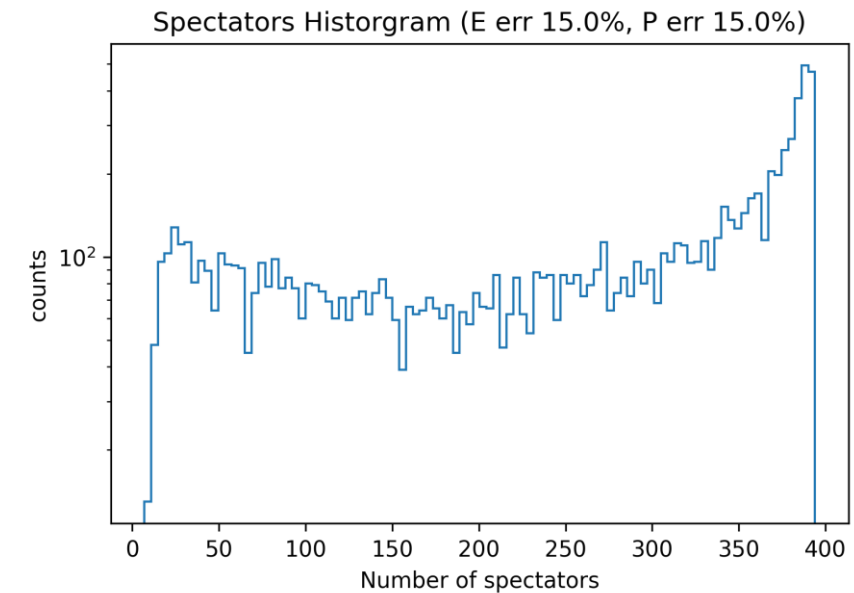
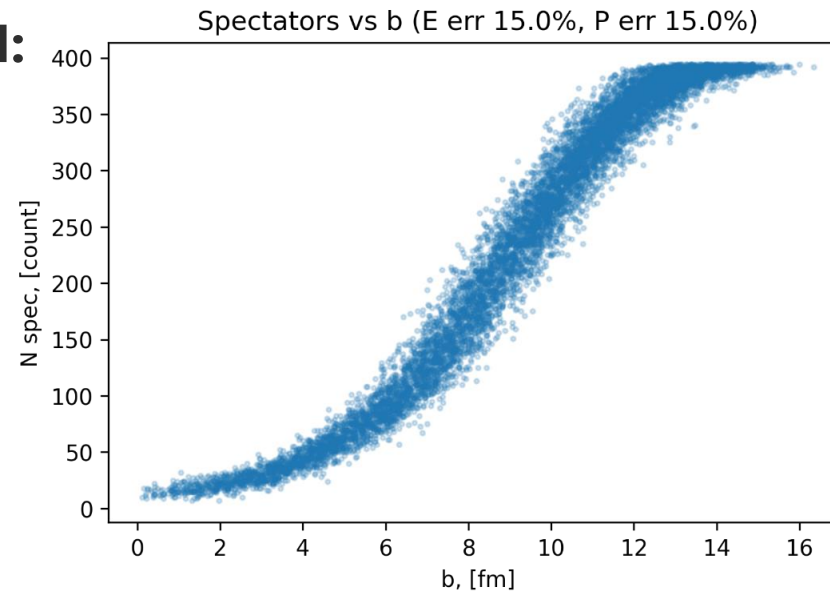
- Energy filter:

$$1 - \frac{E}{E_0} < E_{err}$$

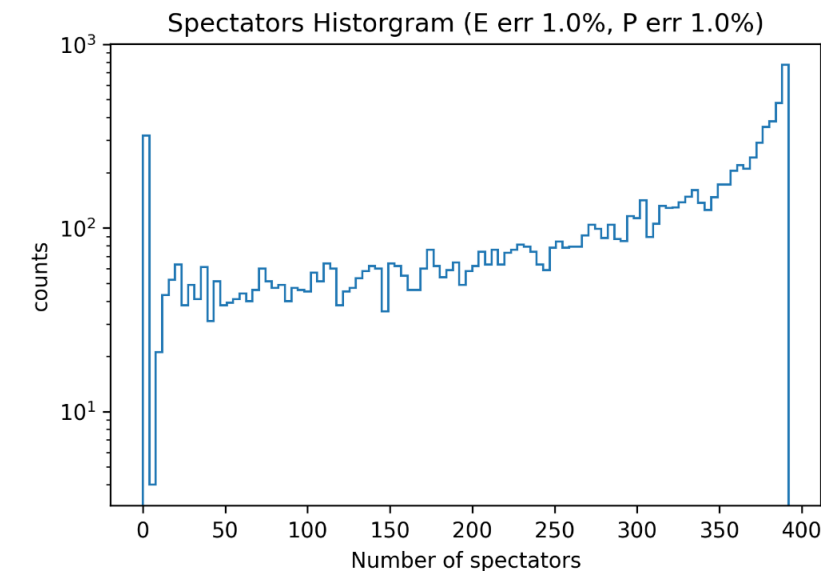
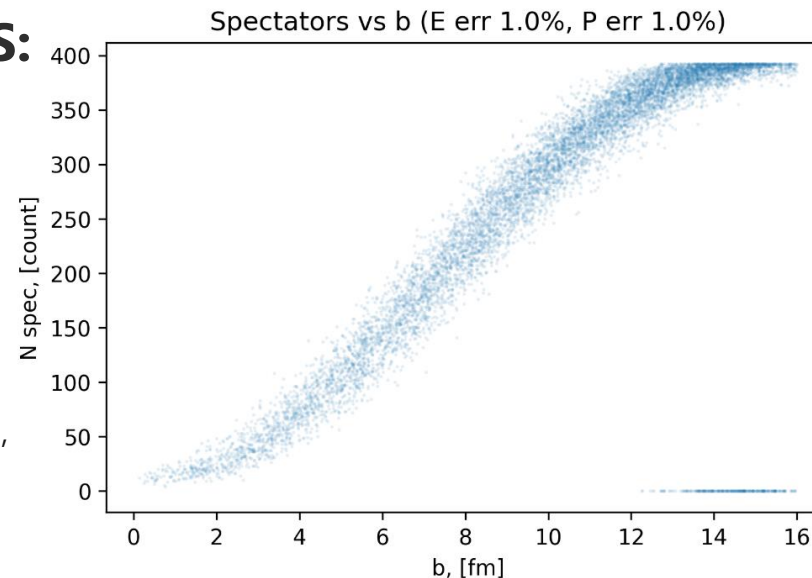
- Momentum filter

$$\frac{p_T}{p_0} < P_{err}$$

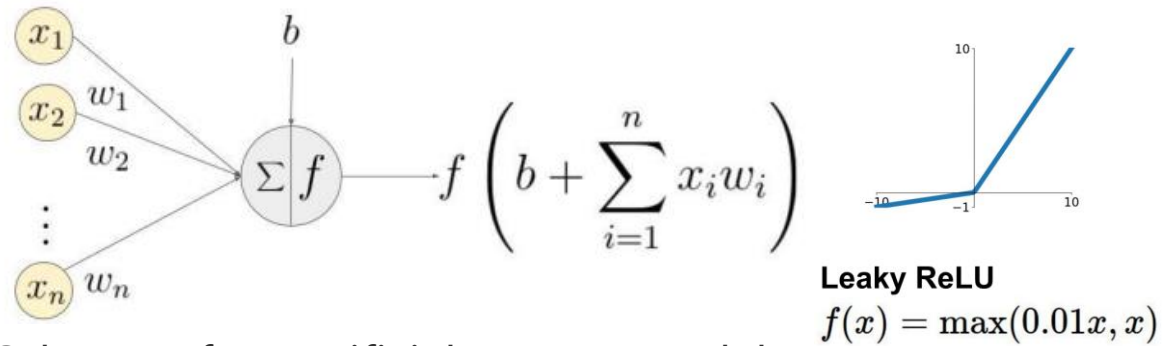
$E_0$  — particle energy before collision,  
 $E$  — particle energy after collision,  
 $p_T$  — particle transverse momentum after collision,  
 $p_0$  — particle momentum before collision,  
 $E_{err}, P_{err}$  — set filter value for energy and momentum respectively



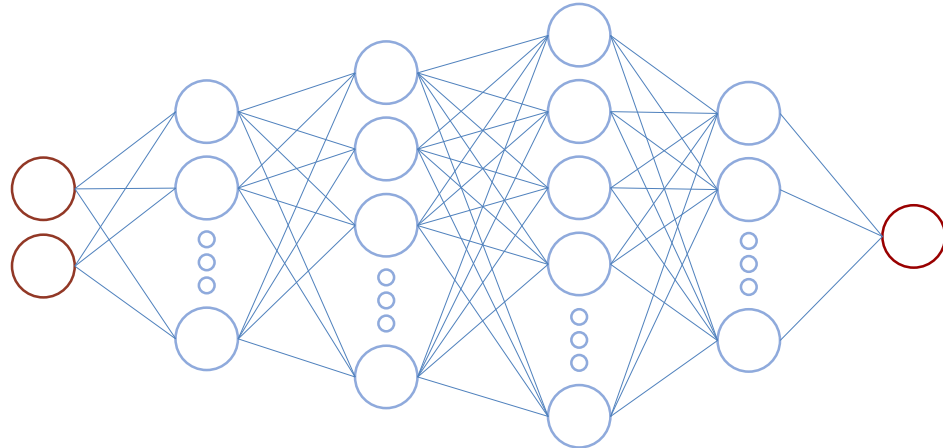
## EPOS:



# Used artificial neural networks



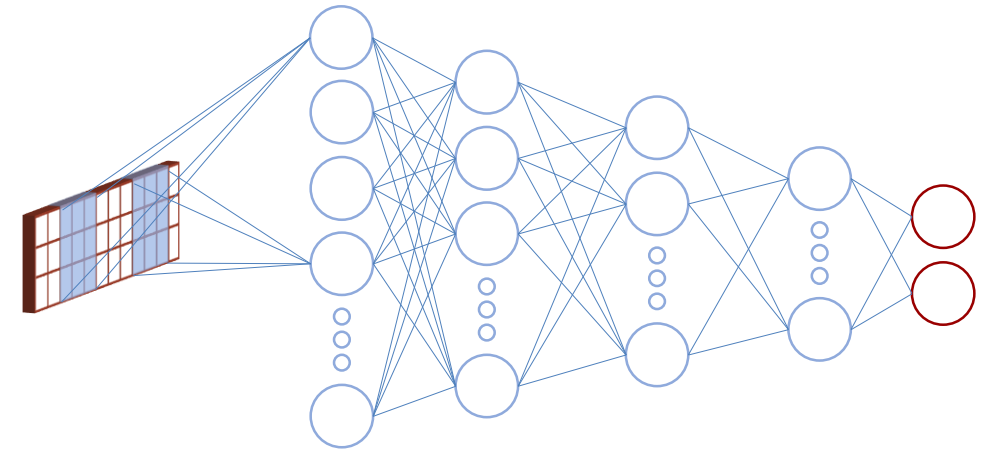
Scheme of an artificial neuron model



Example of used dense neural network architecture, solving regression problem.

Input – 2 event features, 4 hidden layers (4, 8, 16, 4 neurons), output – 1 neuron – estimated impact parameter value

Leaky ReLU activation function. Optimizer – Adam. Optimized functions – mean squared error, binary cross entropy.



Example of used dense neural network with convolutional layer, solving classification problem.

Input – Table of particles information (3x150 features), convolutional layer (16 filters 3x6), 3 hidden layers (128, 64, 32 neurons), output – 2 neurons – probabilities of an event belonging to each class.

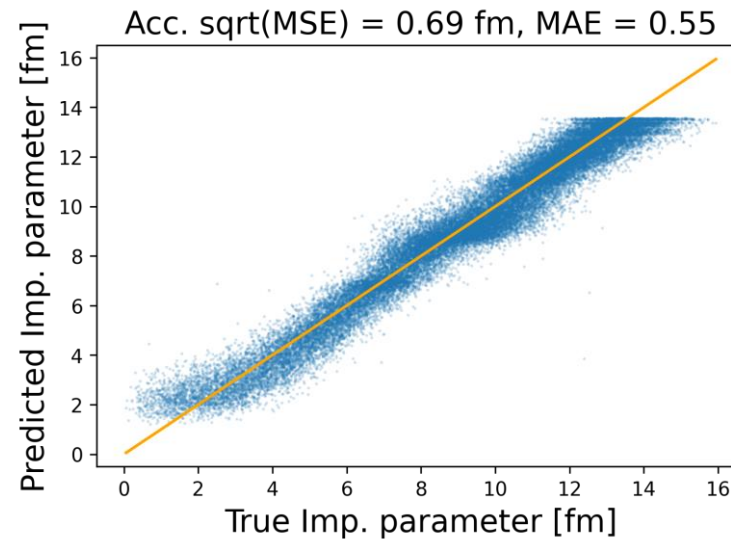


# Simple network trained on separate datasets

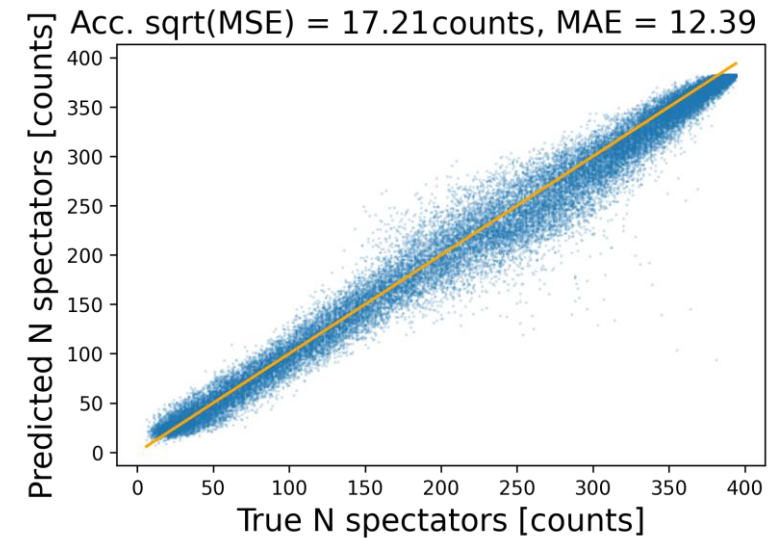
Here we trained the model on QGSM dataset, and performed tests on the three datasets available: QGSM, EPOS.

QGSM

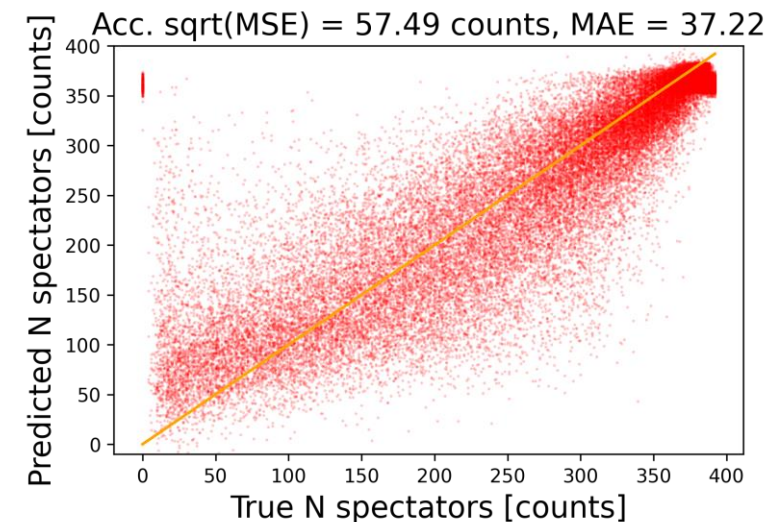
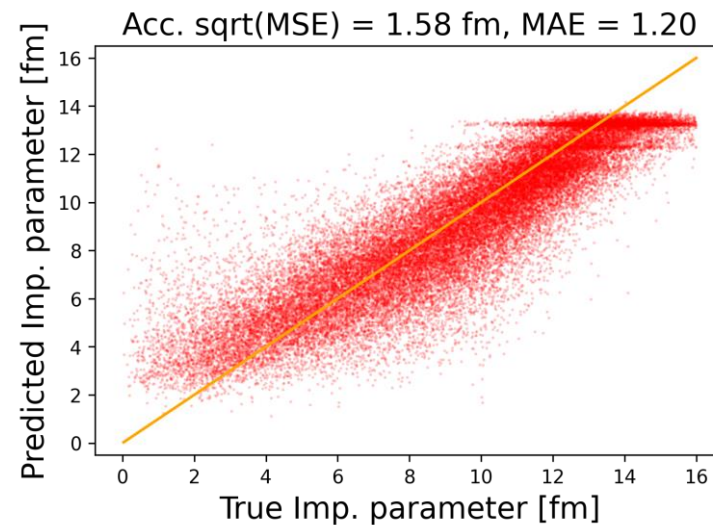
Impact parameter:



Spectators number :



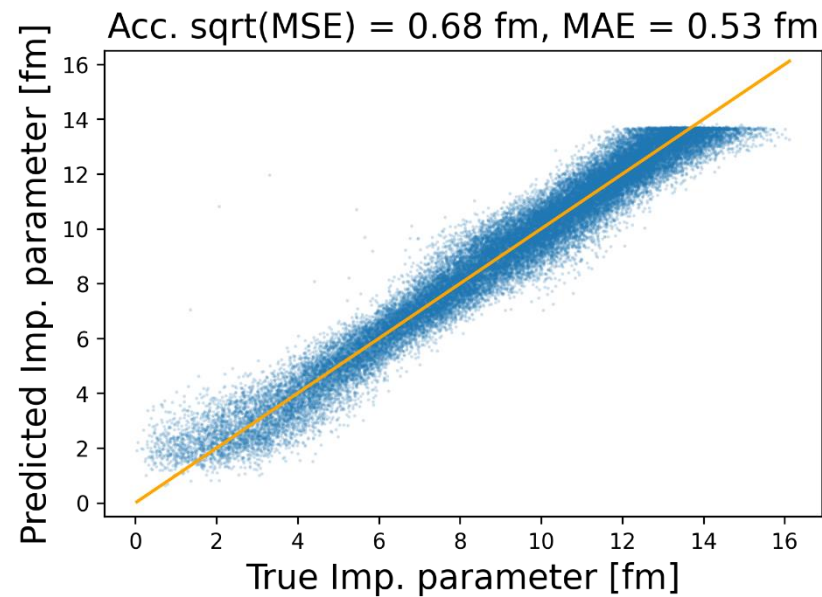
EPOS



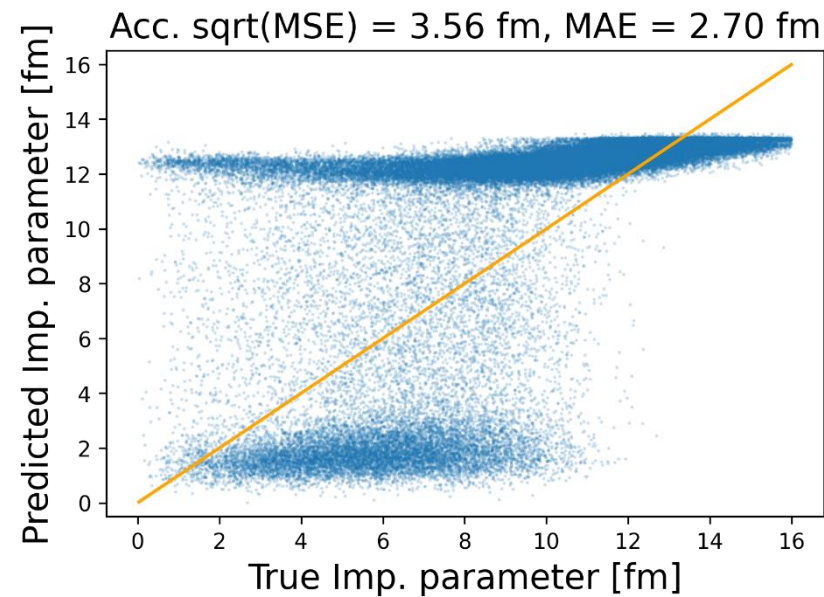
# Simple network trained on QGSM dataset, impact parameter

Here we trained the model on QGSM dataset, and performed tests on the three datasets available: QGSM, EPOS and PHQMD.

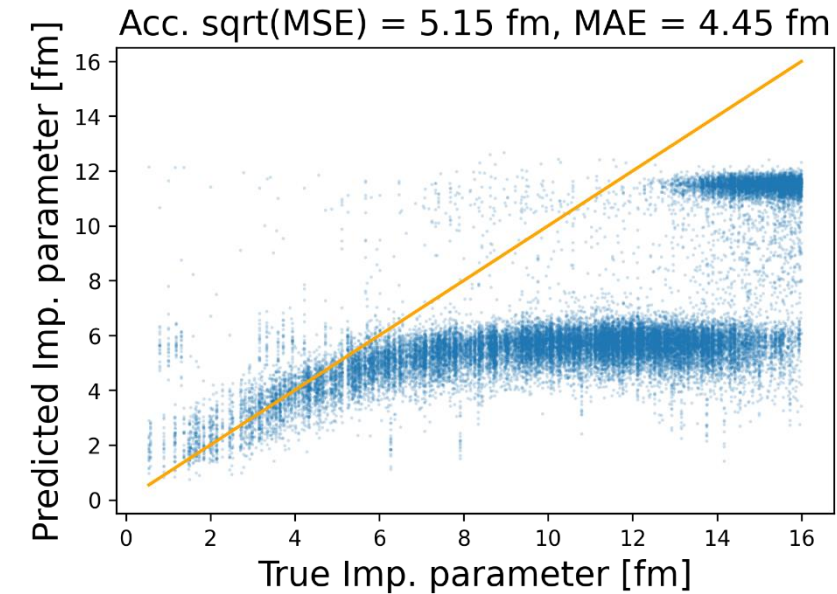
Tests on: QGSM



EPOS



PHQMD





# Search for universal event characteristics

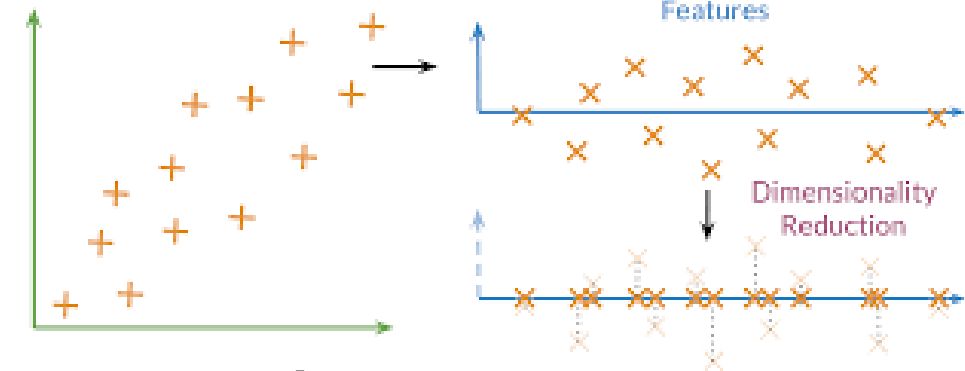
Here we create algorithms to extract features from datasets individually.

Extracted features are useful for impact parameter estimation, but do not solve generator-dependence problem

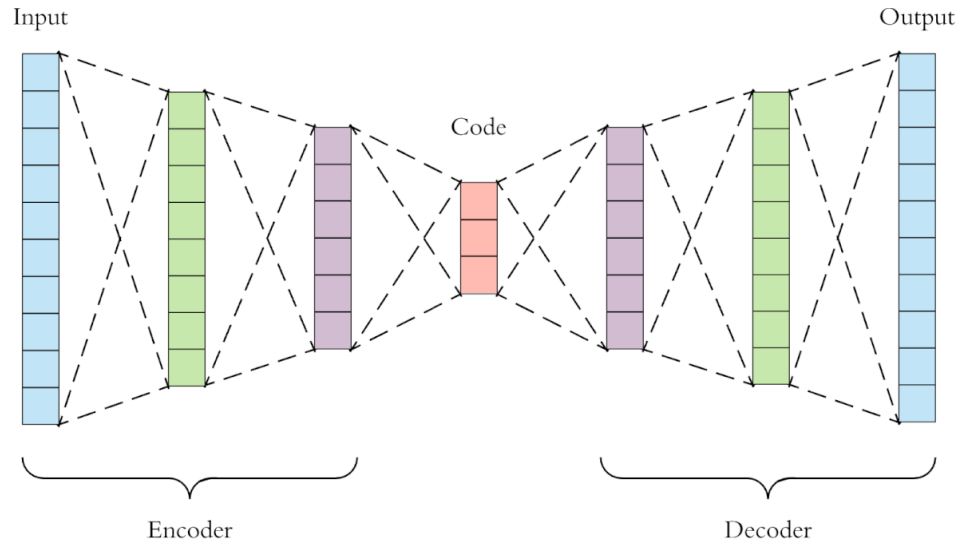
## PCA:

The idea of method

Principal Component Analysis

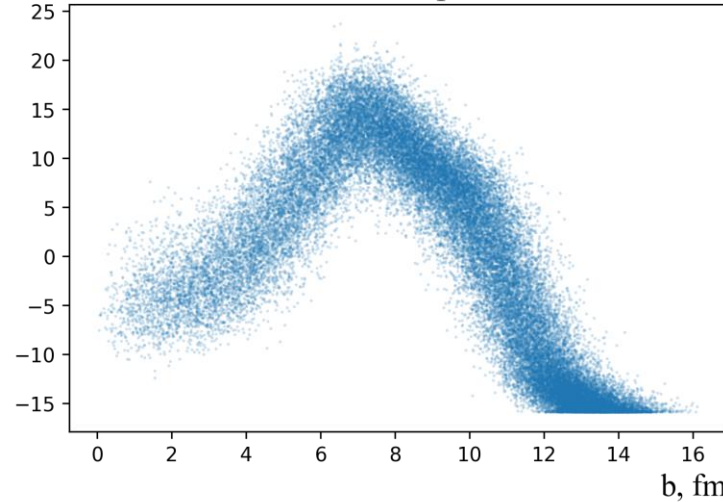


## Auto-encoder:



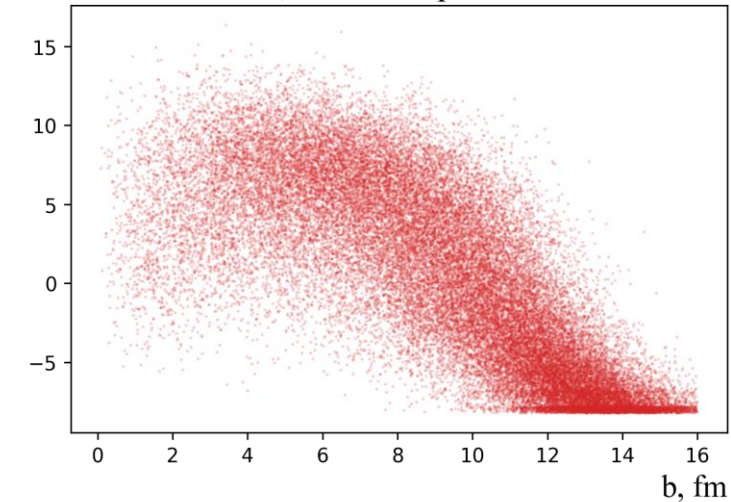
## QGSM:

PCA Feature № 1, feature explained variance: 0.303

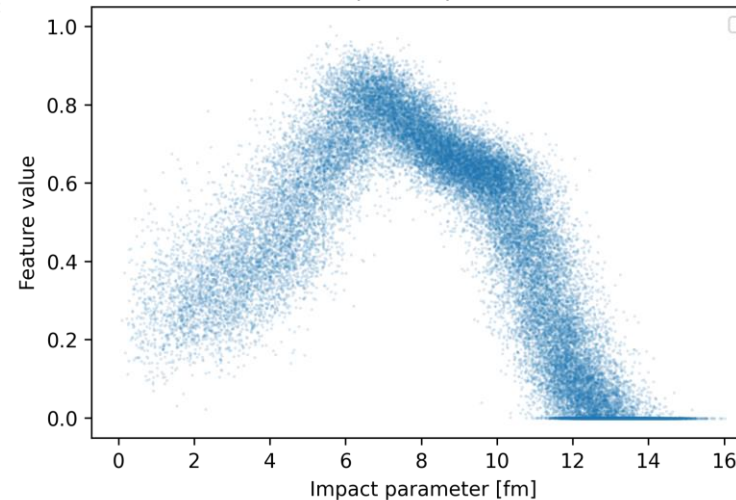


## EPOS:

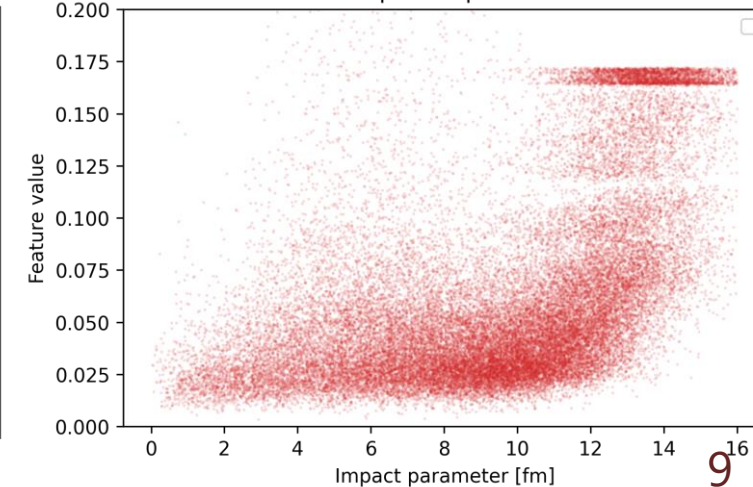
PCA Feature № 1, feature explained variance: 0.349



Hidden space representation



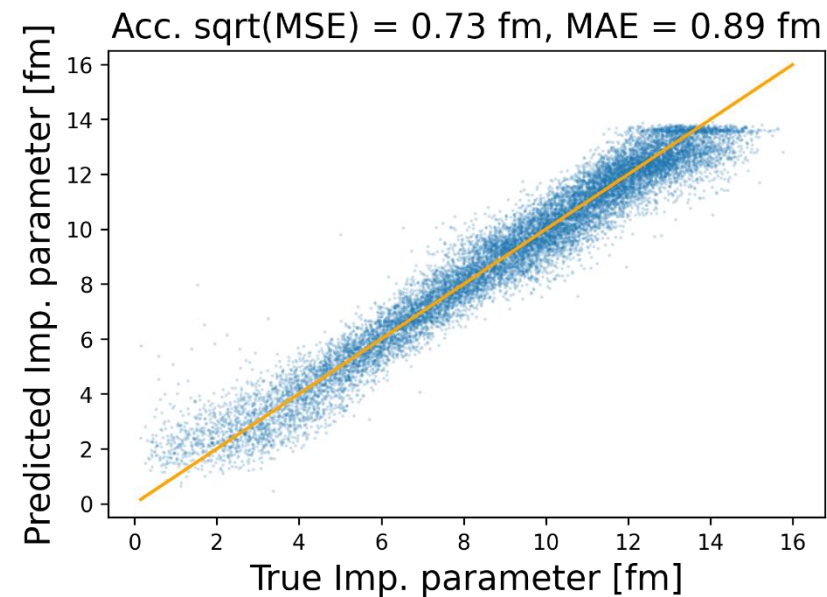
Hidden space representation



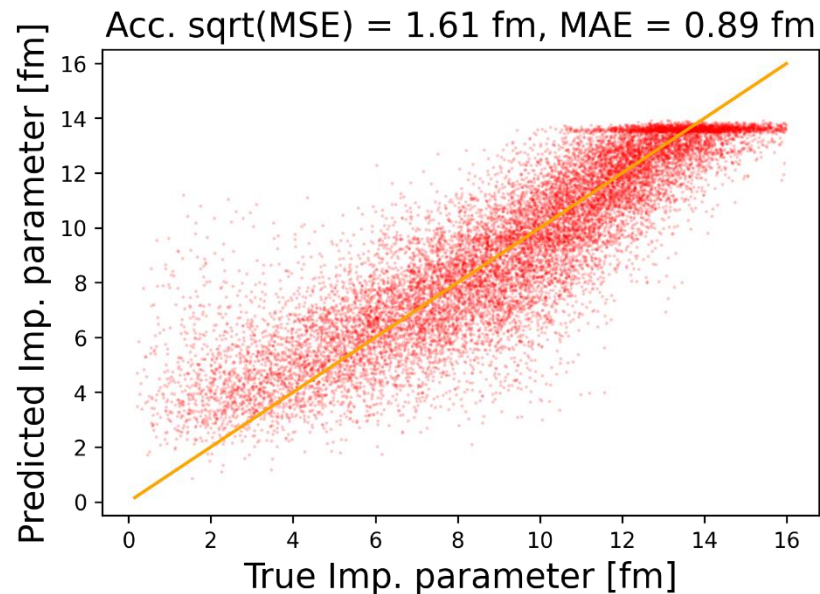
# Simple network trained on QGSM+EPOS mixed dataset, impact parameter

Here we trained the model on mixed 1:1 QGSM and EPOS dataset, and performed tests on the three datasets available: QGSM, EPOS and PHQMD.

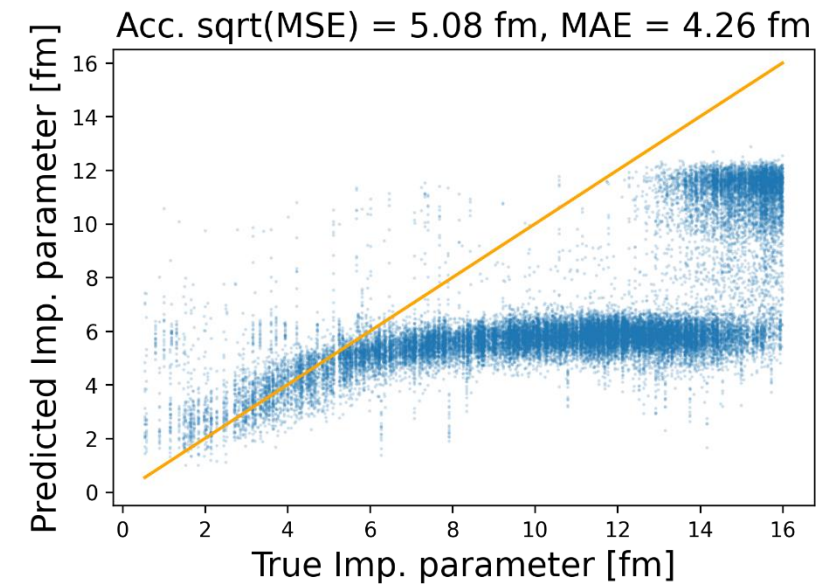
Tests on: **QGSM**



**EPOS**



**PHQMD**

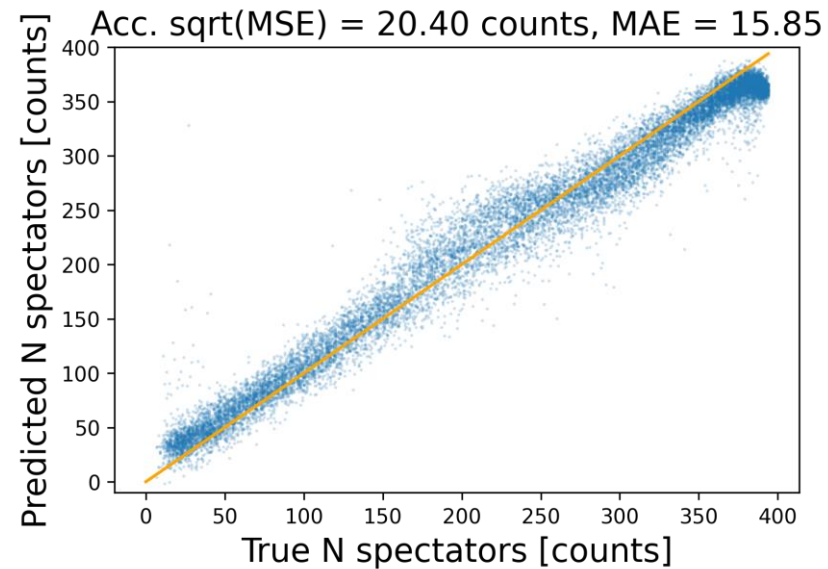


# Simple network trained on QGSM+EPOS mixed dataset, spectators

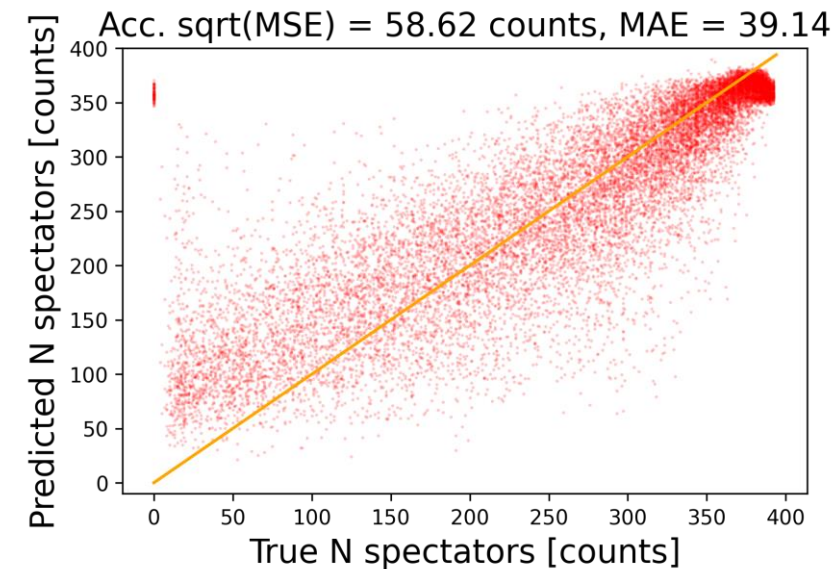
Here we trained the model on mixed 1:1 QGSM and EPOS dataset, and performed tests on the three datasets available: QGSM, EPOS.

Tests on:

QGSM

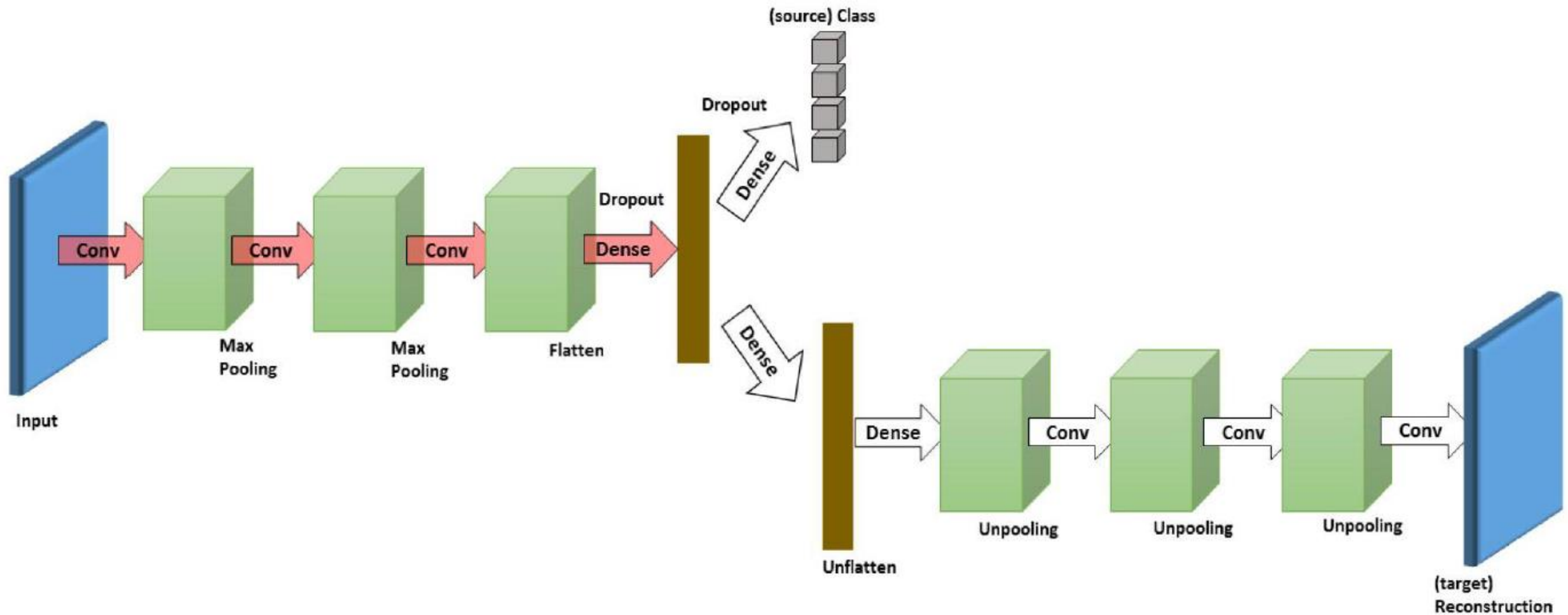


EPOS



# The deep reconstruction neural network (DRNN)<sup>1</sup>

The idea is to train a neural network on a mixed dataset that can simultaneously estimate the impact parameter and reconstruct the input data to preserve most important information.

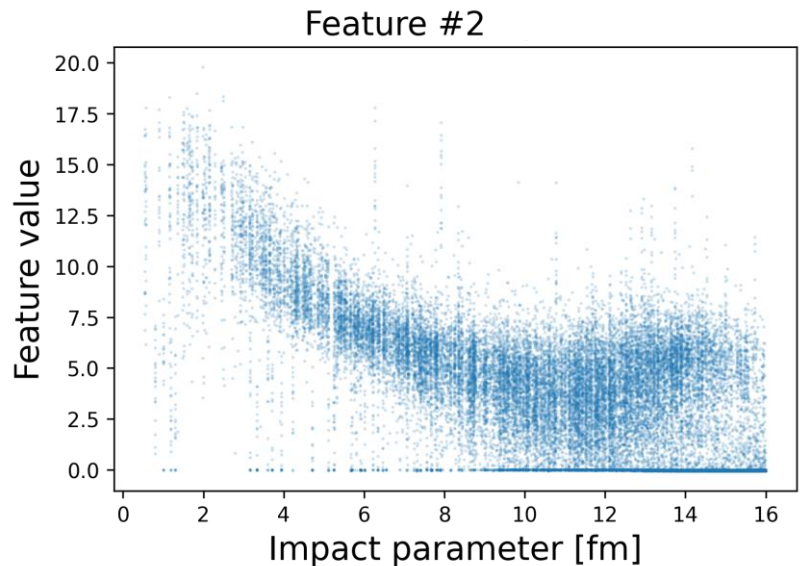
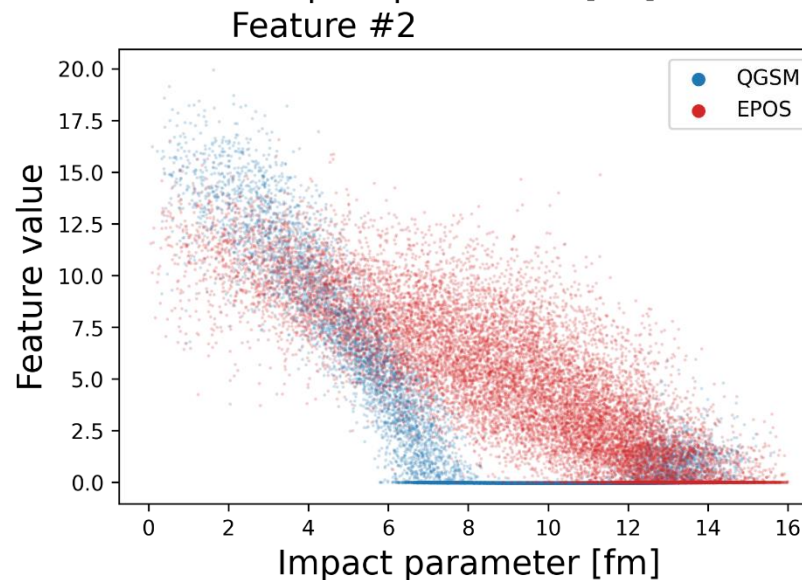
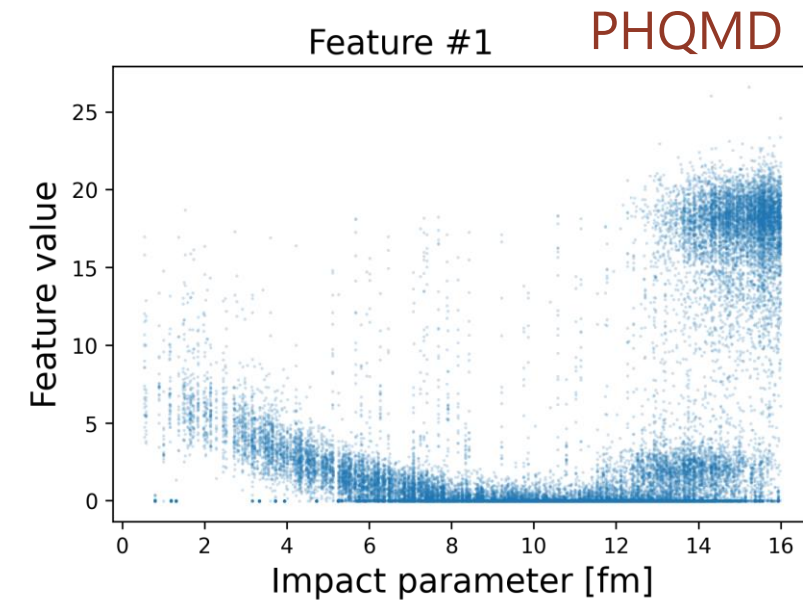
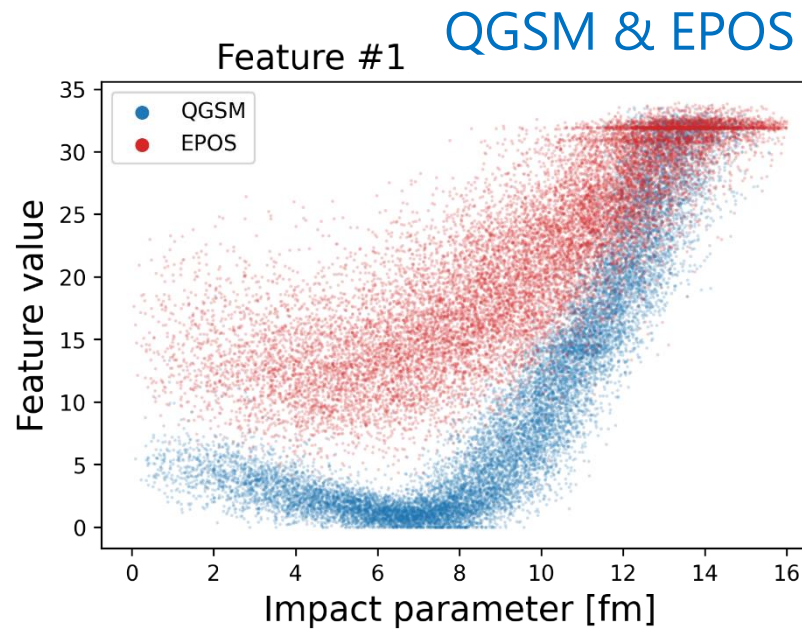


[1] Mei Wang, Weihong Deng, "Deep visual domain adaptation: A survey", Neurocomputing, 2018, V. 312, P. 135-153, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neucom.2018.05.083>



# The deep reconstruction neural network, impact parameter. New features.

Extracted features look more simple but impact parameter dependence is quite obvious.

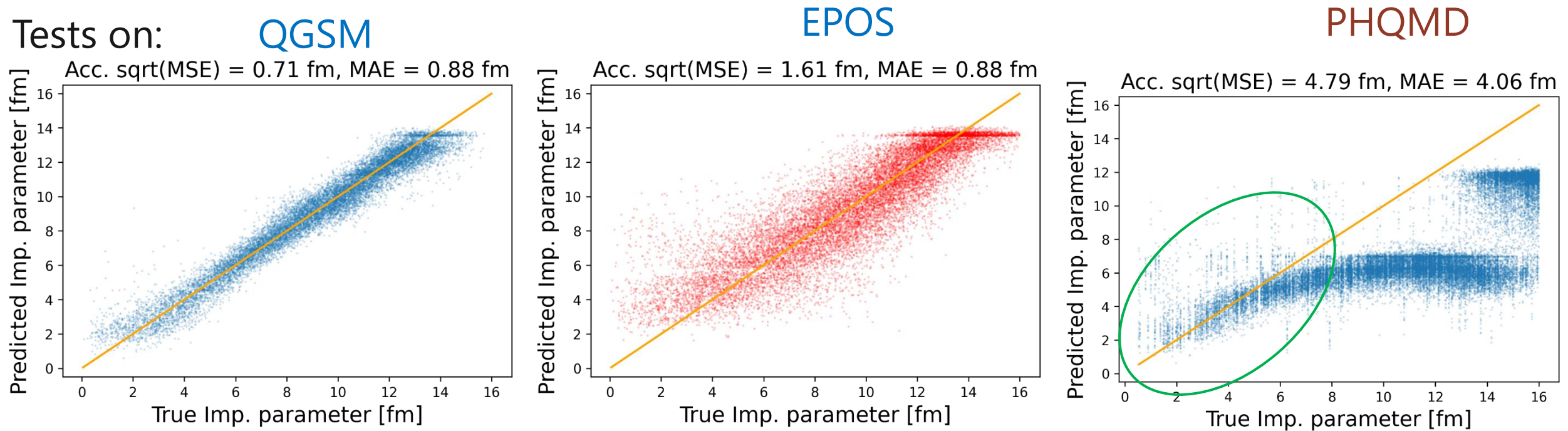




# The deep reconstruction neural network, impact parameter. Results.

Here we trained the DRNN model on mixed QGSM and EPOS dataset, and performed tests on the three datasets available: QGSM, EPOS and PHQMD.

The results show better accuracy, especially for the regions of small impact parameter, less than 7 fm.

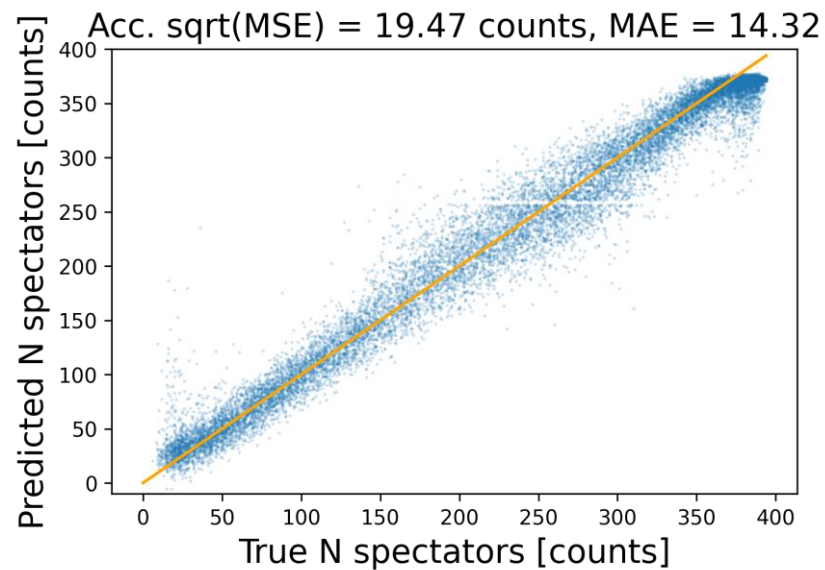


# The deep reconstruction neural network, spectators. Results.

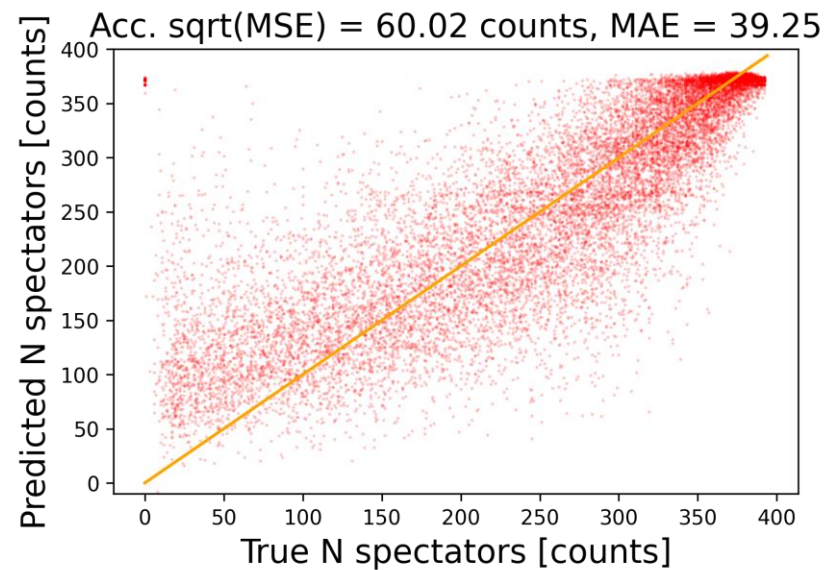
Here we trained the DRNN model on mixed QGSM and EPOS dataset, and performed tests on the two datasets available: QGSM, EPOS

Tests on:

QGSM

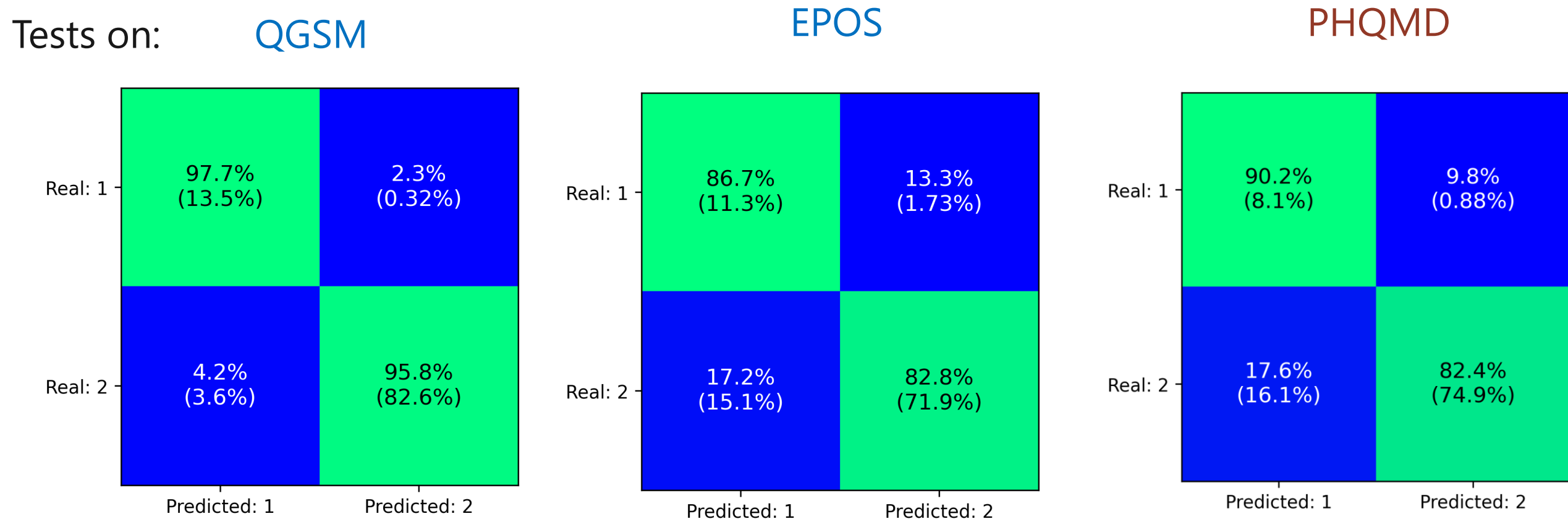


EPOS



# The deep reconstruction neural network, impact parameter. Results for the classification problem.

Here we trained the DRNN model on mixed **QGSM** and **EPOS** dataset to label the events with impact parameter **<5 fm** (binary classification problem), and performed tests on the three datasets available: QGSM, EPOS and PHQMD.



# Conclusions

1. **Hidden dependencies** — With the help of artificial neural networks, it has become possible to extract hidden patterns in data from different sources.
2. **Domain adaptation** — Several domain adaptation techniques we investigated. While some of them showed results worse than for simple mixed dataset training, the “Deep reconstruction neural network” outperformed other approaches, demonstrating good generalization on new dataset for collisions with small impact parameter.
3. **New methods are worth researching** — Investigated methods are capable of working simultaneously with data from different event generators, and their performance can be tuned with data from other generators.
4. **Detector generalization** — We performed computational experiments addressing MCP detectors but the techniques can be applied to detectors of other types.

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# Table of NN performance on separate dataset training on impact parameter estimation

Here we train model on one dataset at a time and used detector system consisting of pair of rings with  $R=25\text{cm}$ ,  $r=2.5\text{cm}$ ,  $L=4\text{m}$ ,  $\Delta t=50\text{ps}$ , 352 cells.

Event features (Number of features)	Binary classificatory threshold [fm]	QGSM			EPOS		
		RMSE [fm] (lower is better)	TPR [%] (higher is better)	FPR [%] (lower is better)	RMSE [fm] (lower is better)	TPR [%] (higher is better)	FPR [%] (lower is better)
Multiplicity + angle (2)	5	0,77	97,7	5,8	2,06	88,1	38,1
Multiplicity + angle (2)	1		98,9	8,8		77,2	21,1
Time of flight (3x150) (full info)	5	<b><u>0,68</u></b>	<b><u>98,6</u></b>	<b><u>4,3</u></b>	<b><u>1,53</u></b>	<b><u>91,7</u></b>	<b><u>16,4</u></b>
Time of flight (3x150) (full info)	1		90,3	6,2		94,0	17,8

Results demonstrate, that using table of registered particles with information about their spatial and temporal distributions shows better result than simple features. While trained on separate datasets network learns to estimate impact parameter only on data from exactly that dataset.

RMSE – root of mean squared error, TPR – true positive rate, FPR – false positive rate.

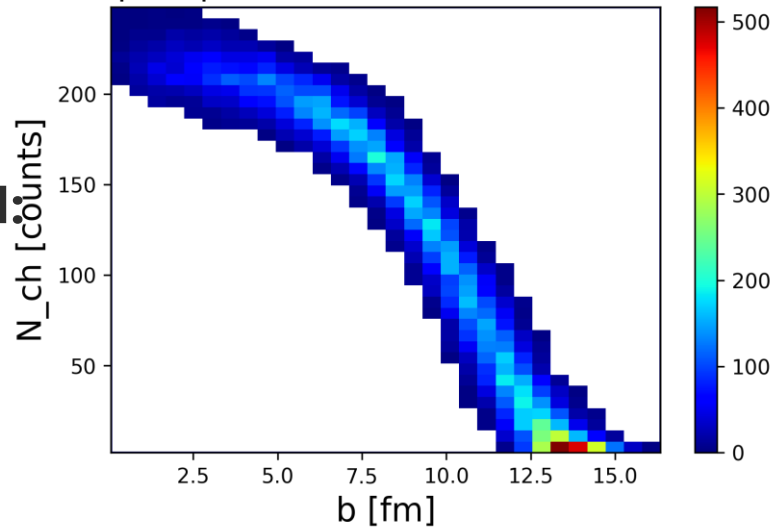


# Examples of input data: Multiplicity of charged particles and their average angle

QGSM

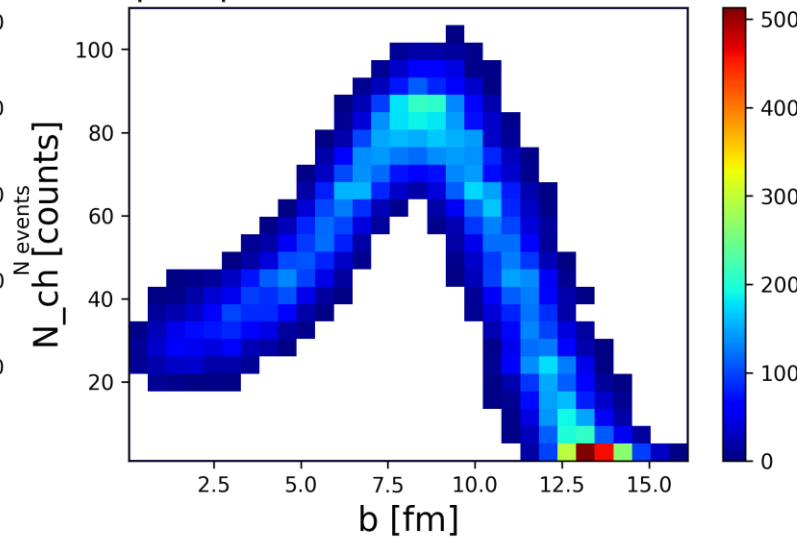
Multiplicity,  $R=1\text{m}$

Events distribution by impact parameter and number of hits



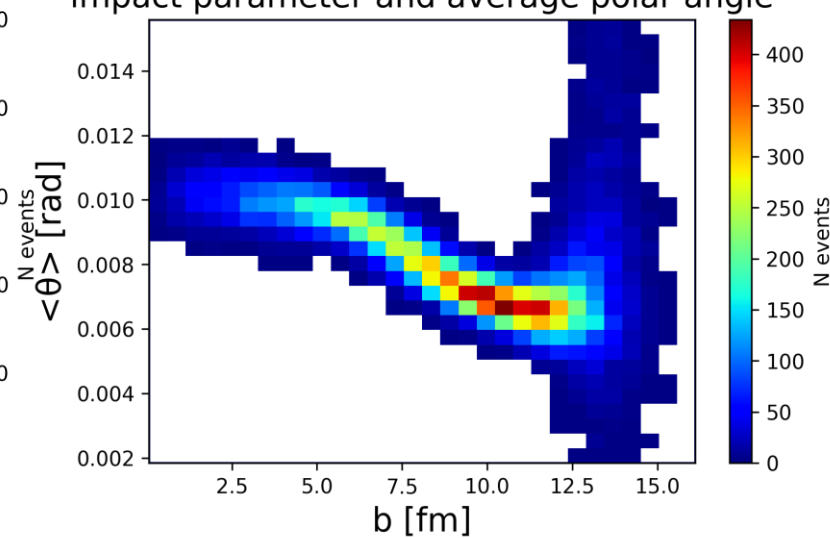
Multiplicity,  $R=0.25\text{m}$

Events distribution by impact parameter and number of hits



Average angle

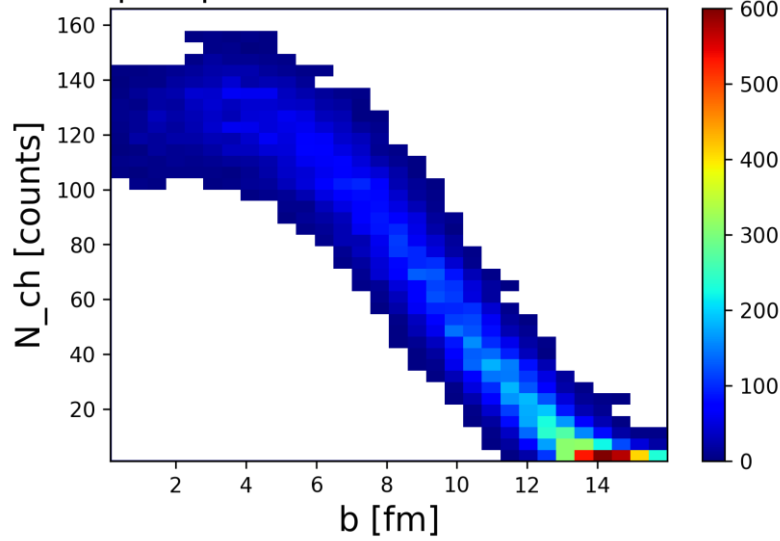
Events distribution by impact parameter and average polar angle



EPOS:

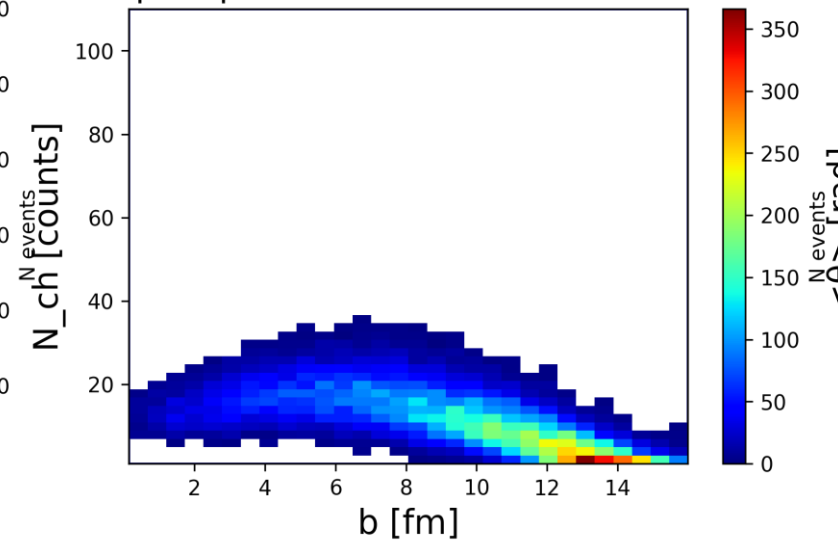
Events distribution by

impact parameter and number of hits



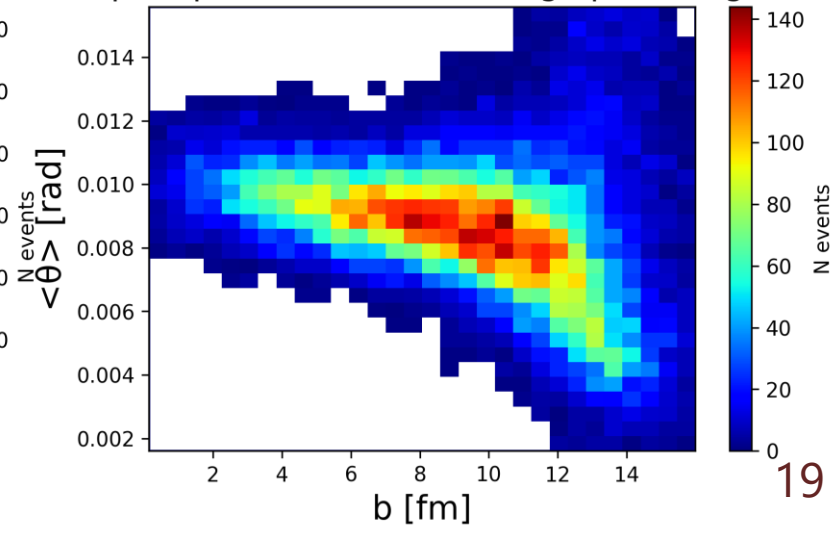
Events distribution by

impact parameter and number of hits

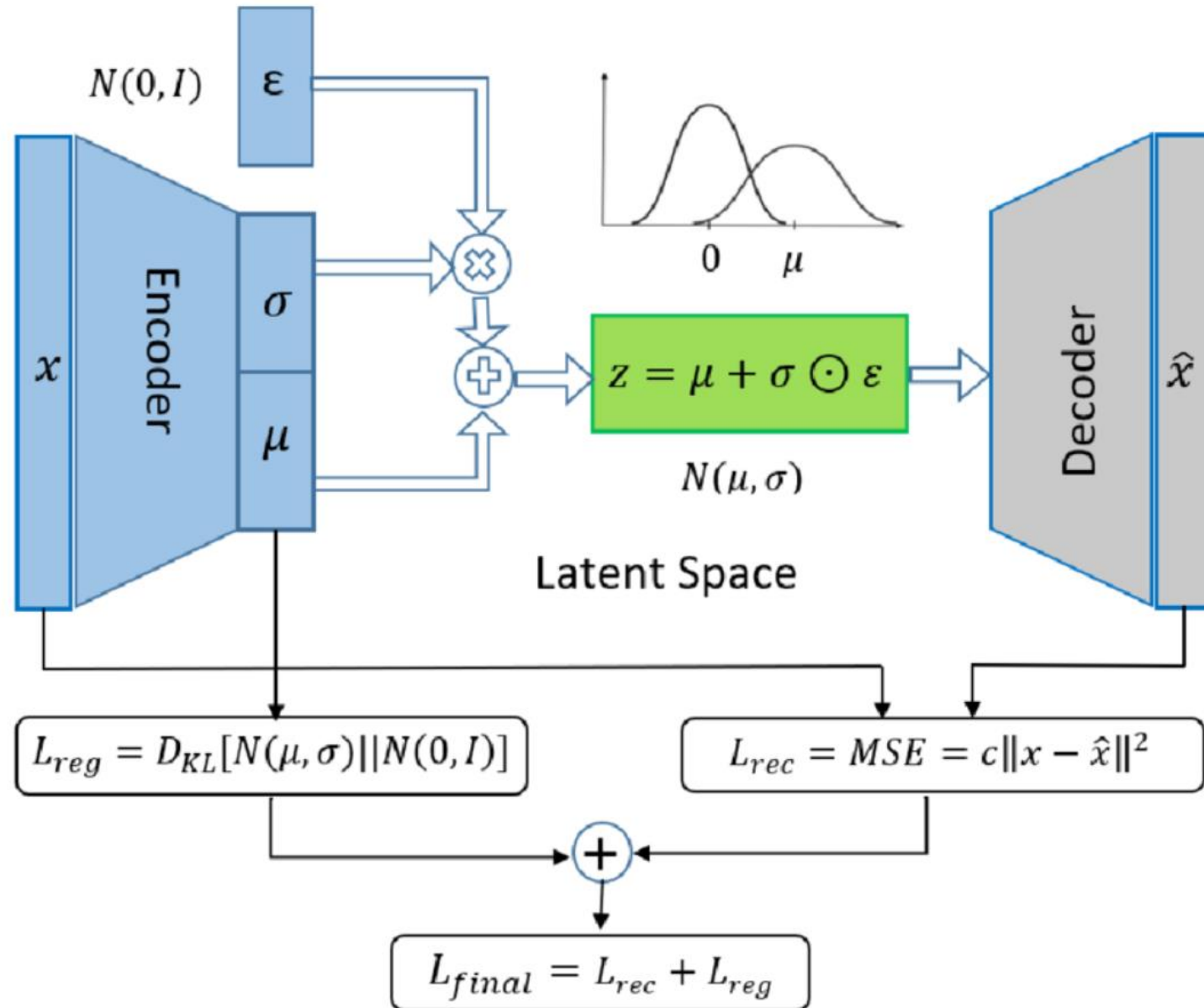


Events distribution by

impact parameter and average polar angle

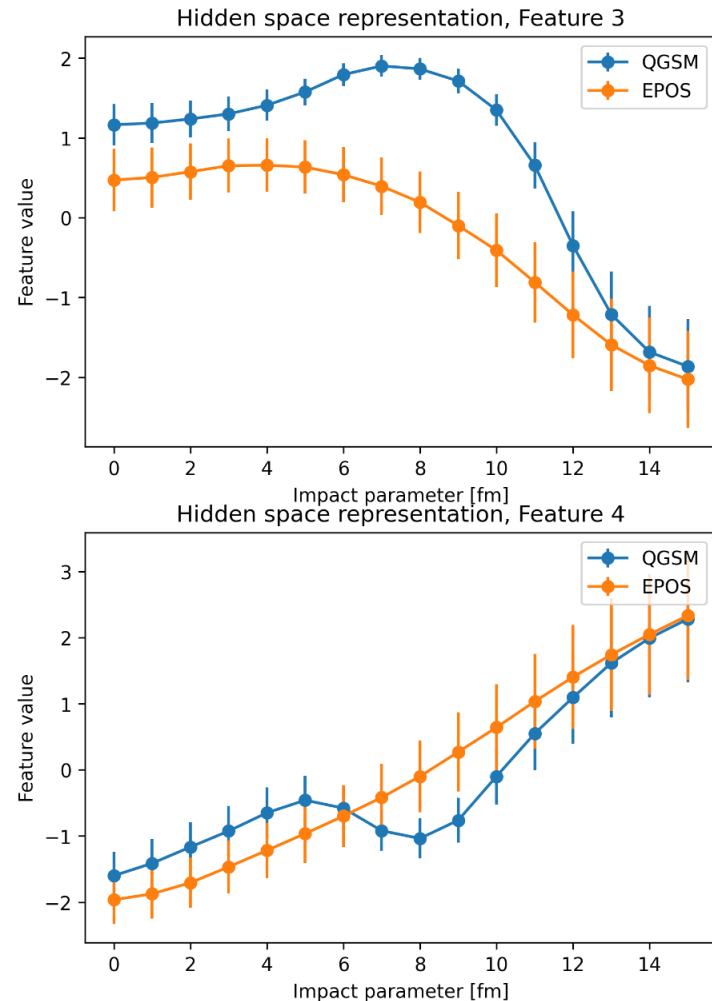


# Using variational autoencoder (VAE) as the domain adaptation technique



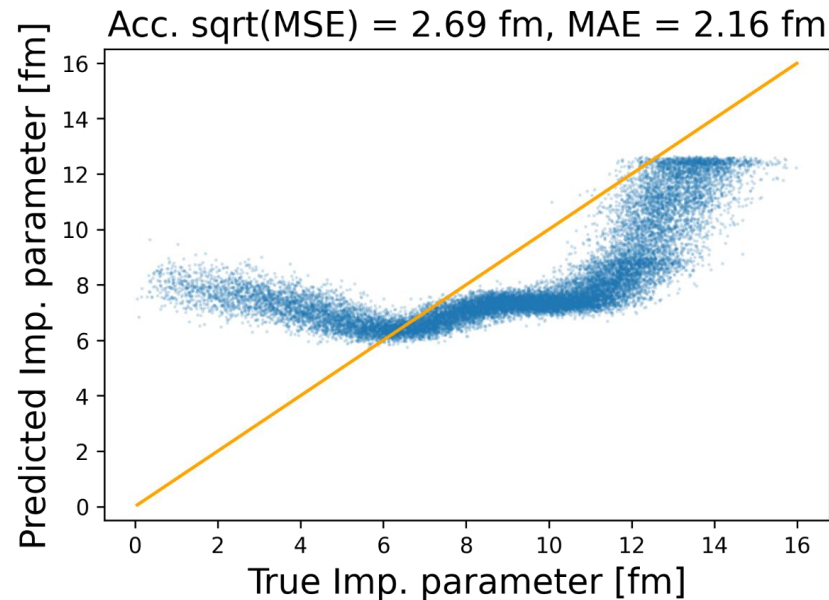
# Variational autoencoder results

While the use of variational autoencoders can result in meaningful event features, the results of impact parameter estimation are worse than with other techniques.

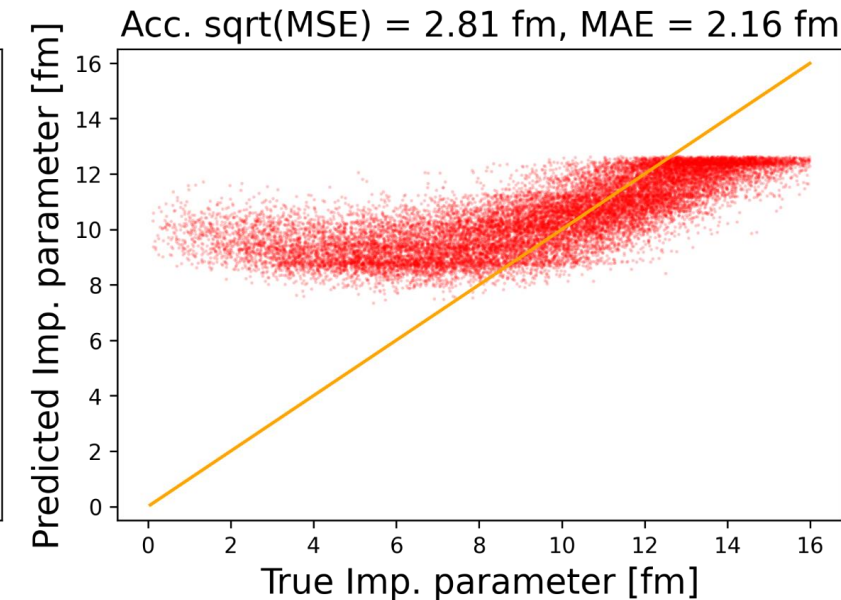


VAE features

QGSM



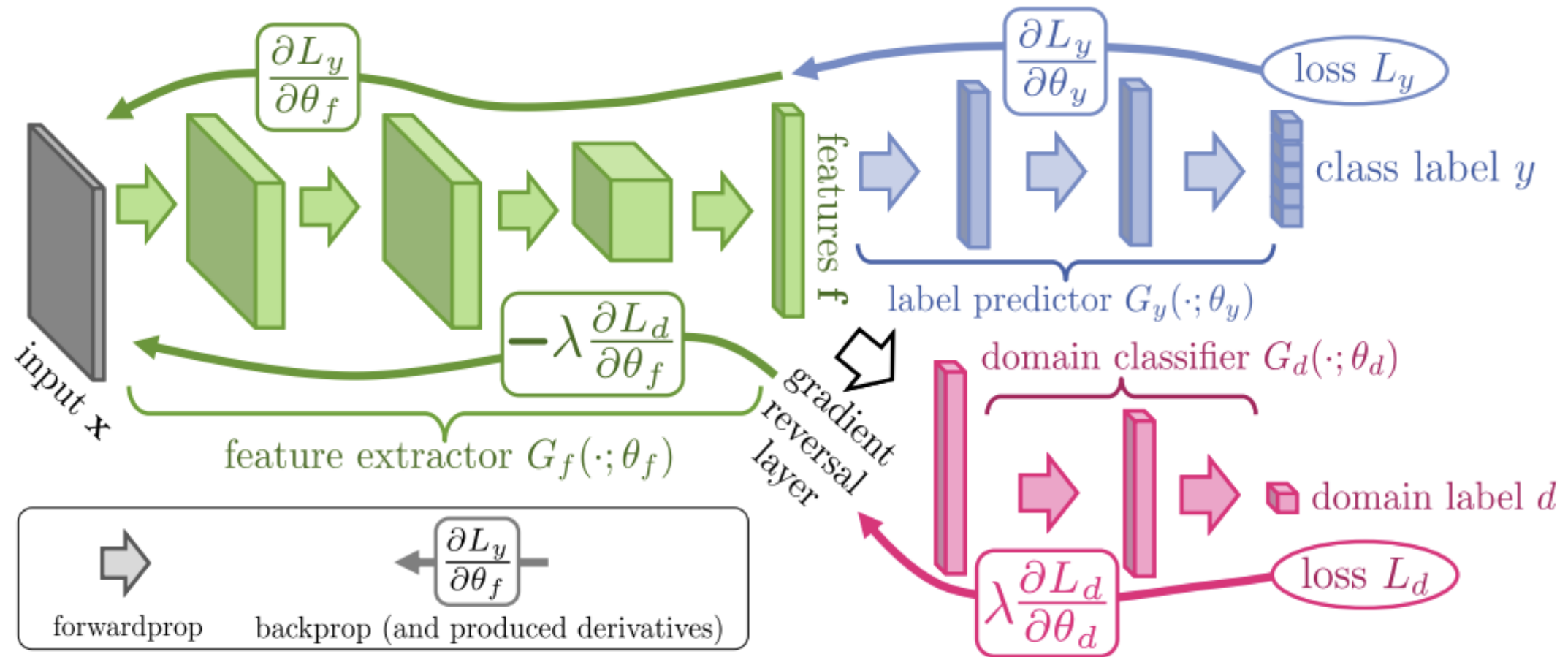
EPOS



Regression results

# Domain adaptation: Domain-adversarial neural network<sup>1</sup>

The idea is to train a neural network on a mixed dataset that can simultaneously estimate the impact parameter and not distinguish which generator the event came from.



[1] Mei Wang, Weihong Deng, "Deep visual domain adaptation: A survey", Neurocomputing, 2018, V. 312, P. 135-153, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neucom.2018.05.083>

# Domain-adversarial neural network, extracted features

Extracted features for two datasets do blend, however impact parameter estimation is worse than for simple mixed dataset training, so it is not enough.

