

Master's thesis

# Deployment of unsupervised learning in the search for new physics at the LHC with the ATLAS detector

Search for heavy neutrinos at the LHC with the ATLAS detector

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# **Abstract**



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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Data Analysis</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Anomaly detection	3
1.2 Neural Networks	3
1.3 Autoencoders	8
1.4 Variational autoencoders	9
1.5 Other tools and algorithms	11
<b>2 The Standard model and BSM physics</b>	<b>15</b>
2.1 Structure and composition of the Standard Model	16
2.2 BSM model physics	18
<b>3 Implementation</b>	<b>21</b>
3.1 The ATLAS detector	21
3.2 ROOT	24
3.3 Background samples	26
3.4 The dataset features	28
3.5 Code implementation	31
3.6 The chosen neural network architectures	36
3.7 The search strategy	37
<b>4 Results and Discussion</b>	<b>41</b>
4.1 Non signal testing of the regular and variational Autoencoder	41
4.2 Dummy signal testing of the regular and variational Autoencoder	43
4.3 3 lepton ATLAS data analysis	45
4.4 2 lepton ATLAS data analysis	46
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>59</b>



# List of Figures

1.1	Simple neural network diagram drawn using Draw.io. Here the blue dots are the input layer, the green dots are a hidden layer, and the red dots are the output layer. The arrows show the connections between the nodes.	4
1.2	Figures showing different choices of learning rate for a given cost function, with respect to the tunable parameters. Source: Jeremy Jordan, accessed 03.10.22.	6
1.3	Figure depicting a model for an autoencoder. Here the input $\mathbf{x}$ is the original image, $\mathbf{x}'$ is a reconstructed version of $\mathbf{x}$ , $g_\phi$ is the encoder, $f_\theta$ is the decoder, and $z$ is the latent space. Found 14.01.23 here [1].	9
1.4	Figure depicting a model for a variational autoencoder. Found 14.01.23 here [1].	11
1.5	Histogram and ROC curve for two well separated distributions.	13
1.6	Histogram and ROC curve for two poorly separated distributions.	13
2.1	The standard model of elementary particles. Source here. Accessed 07.10.22	15
2.2	Feynman diagram of muon pair production from electron scattering. Here, both $Z$ and $\gamma$ can work as the propagator.	17
2.3	Muon decay into an electron, an electron neutrino and a muon neutrino via the $W^-$ boson. Read the graph from left to right.	17
2.4	Proton-proton collision with heavy neutrino production via SM $W^\pm$ boson into 3 lepton final state. Read the graph from left to right.	18
2.5	Proton-proton collision with heavy neutrino production via right-handed $W_R^\pm$ boson into 3 lepton final state. Read the graph from left to right.	19
3.1	Spherical coordinate definitions with the azimuthal and polar angles $\phi$ and $\theta$ . Here figure 3.1a of the transverse plane shows the z-axis into the paper, whereas figure 3.1b of the longitudinal plane shows the positive x-axis going out of the paper. Source here. Accessed 16.03.23	21
3.2	Figure describing how particles are detected at ATLAS, fetched from ATLAS detector slice (and particle visualisations), by Sascha Mehlhase [2] .	23
3.3	Figure describing the steps to take for data collection at ATLAS, fetched from Hybrid ATLAS Induction Day + Software Tutorial workshop, part Computing and Data preparation, held by S.M Wang [3] .	24
3.4	Figure describing how quarks and gluons are treated in the detector, and thus why we name them jets, fetched from the CMS webpage.	24
3.5	Proton-proton collision showing the $t\bar{t}$ channel. Here the $w$ bosons decay leptonically and one or more jets are misreconstructed as leptons by the detector.	27
3.6	Proton-proton collision showing the Higgs channel. Here the $Z$ bosons decay leptonically.	27
3.7	Proton-proton collision showing the Zeejets channel. Here one of the $Z$ bosons decay leptonically and the $W$ boson decays hadronically.	27
3.8	3 lepton + $e_T^{miss}$ MonteCarlo and ATLAS data comparison	30
3.9	2 lepton + $e_T^{miss}$ MonteCarlo and ATLAS data comparison	31
3.10	Note here that the y axis for the RMM's lack every other label, due to lack of space in the y axis of the plot. If looked more closely upon, one can see that each figure have all RMM cells, just that the labels, which are identical to the x axis label, only show every other. Note also here that the labels only tell which particle are used for that row/column, i.e in figure 3.10b in row 0 column 3 we have the invariant mass of the first and second ljet. The RMM plots were created using Plotly[4].	34
3.11	Megaset structure for the 2lep dataset. This figure generalises to M channels, and N megasets. The more you increase the number of megasets, the smaller each megaset will be in bytesize, but in order to keep the SM MC distribution, it is not recommended to make too small sets.	35

3.12	Small autoencoder architecture.	36
3.13	Large autoencoder architecture.	37
3.14	Small variational autoencoder architecture.	37
3.15	Large variational autoencoder architecture.	38
4.1	AE   Reconstruction error using Higgs channel as signal	41
4.2	AE   Reconstruction error using Singletop channel as signal	42
4.3	AE   Reconstruction error using ttbar channel as signal	42
4.4	VAE   Reconstruction error using Higgs channel as signal	43
4.5	VAE   Reconstruction error using Singletop channel as signal	43
4.6	VAE   Reconstruction error using ttbar channel as signal	44
4.7	AE   Reconstruction error $p_T$ altering of 1.5	44
4.8	AE   Reconstruction error $p_T$ altering of 3	45
4.9	AE   Reconstruction error $p_T$ altering of 5	45
4.10	AE   Reconstruction error $p_T$ altering of 7	46
4.11	AE   Reconstruction error $p_T$ altering of 10	46
4.12	VAE   Reconstruction error $p_T$ altering of 1.5	47
4.13	VAE   Reconstruction error $p_T$ altering of 3	47
4.14	VAE   Reconstruction error $p_T$ altering of 5	48
4.15	VAE   Reconstruction error $p_T$ altering of 7	48
4.16	VAE   Reconstruction error $p_T$ altering of 10	49
4.17	Etmis bump search on the 450 – 300 and 800 – 50 susy signals. The reconstruction error cut is set to 1.	50
4.18	Reconstruction error and etmiss bump search on the 450 – 300 and 800 – 50 susy signals. The reconstruction error cut is set to 1.	51
4.19	ROC curve for both $e_T^{\text{miss}}$ and reconstruction error with the SUSY 450 – 300 signal.	51
4.20		52
21		60
22		61
23		62
24		63
25		64
26		65

# List of Tables

1.1	Notation	5
1.2	Table containing notation used for deriving the mathematical formulas for the neural network [5]	5
2.1	Table showing properties of all the fermions, including name, symbol, antiparticle, spin, charge, generation and mass.	16
3.1	2015 triggers table	32
3.2	2016 triggers table	32
3.3	2017 triggers table	32
3.4	2018 triggers table	32



# Introduction

## Outline of the Thesis

The master thesis is outlined in the following way. The first two chapters are dedicated to the necessary machine learning and standard model physics background required to understand the analysis done and tools used in the thesis. The third chapter goes through the implementation of the project, where the datasets comes from, the ATLAS architecture, the programming libraries, feature choice, and so on. Chapter four goes through the results from the implementation. Chapter five is dedicated to the discussion and interpretation of the results, the pros and cons of the implementation, aspects for future improvement, and other thoughts around the process. The final chapter is dedicated to the conclusion, were the findings are summarized.



# Chapter 1

## Data Analysis

### 1.1 Anomaly detection

Anomaly detection is a tool with a wide range of uses, from time series data, fraud detection or anomalous sensor data. Its main purpose is to detect data which does not conform to some predetermined standard for normal behavior. The predetermined standard varies from situation to situation, both from the context it self and what is expected as an anomaly. Anomalies are typically classified in three categories [6]:

1. Point anomalies
2. Contextual anomalies
3. Collective anomalies

Point anomalies are singular or few outliers from a larger context or group. These anomalies can occur in many situations, are indeed quite important to detect. One such example is Michael Phelps. Phelps is famous for being one of the best swimmers of all time. Along with extensive training, planning and dedication, he has another tool that has helped him, he does not produce much lactic acid. In fact, his body produces so little that he can swim continuously and much more intensive than most other top swimmers. This ability is not common, in fact it is very rare amongst humans, and can be considered a point anomaly. It is important to understand that point anomalies do not have to be singular occurrences. Rather they are extremely rare events that deviate a lot from the expected behavior.

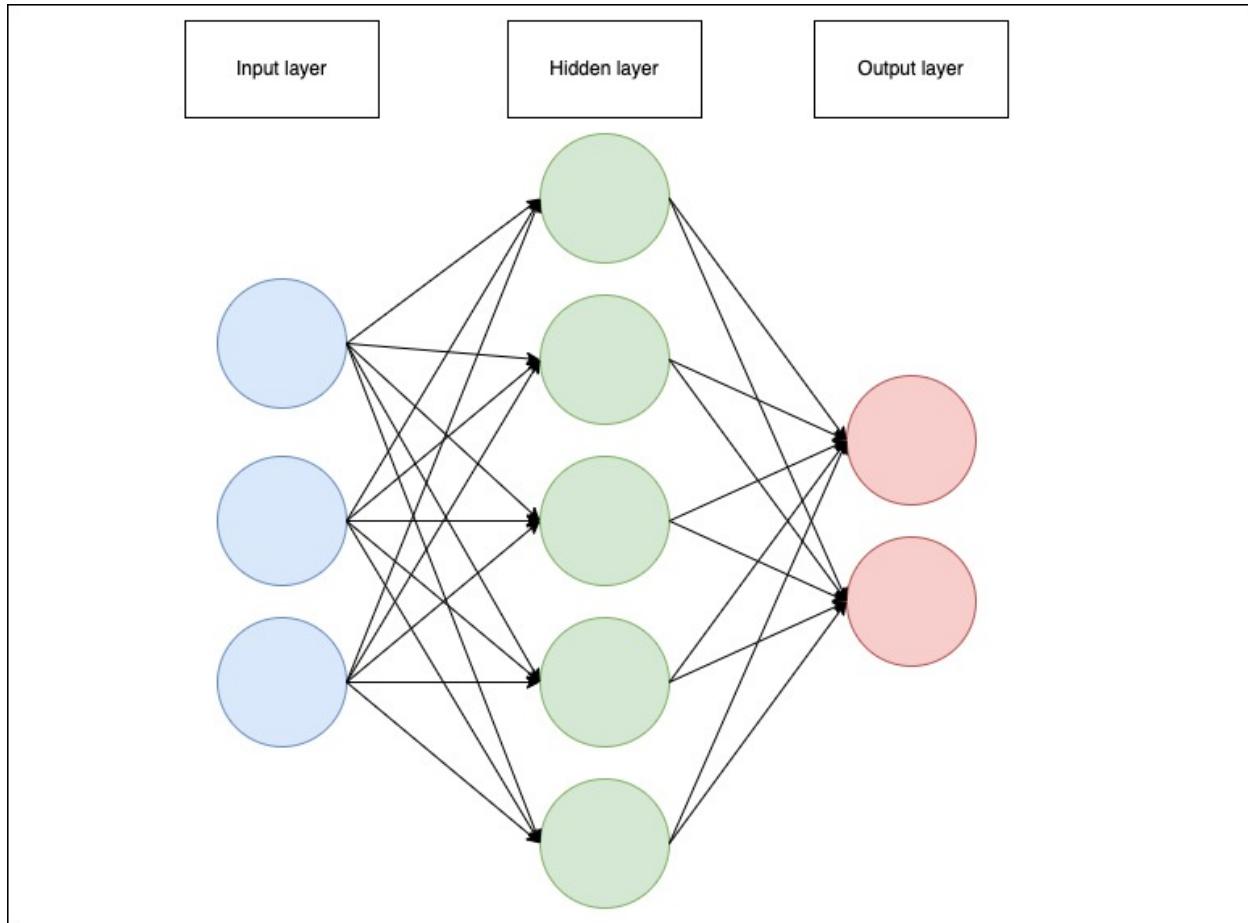
Contextual anomalies are another kind of anomalies, and are defined based on the context of the anomaly and data, rather than as a whole. Suppose you have data on continuous stream of gas in a pipe. The extraction of this gas is day dependent, to the point where the delivery on Saturdays might oscillate between half and 3/4 of that of Monday through Friday, due to shorter work day. Should there one Saturday suddenly flow the same amount as Friday, an analyst think nothing of this, but due to this being a Saturday, the context of this behavior dictates that this be categorized as a contextual anomaly.

The last type of anomaly described by Chandola, Banerjee and Kumar [6] are the collective anomalies. The collective anomalies are anomalies that as a group deviate from the expected behavior of the dataset. In particle physics these anomalies are the only type that are of interest. This is because there are so many sources for anomalous behavior in an experiment that only collective ones are worth investigating. The major problem for such experiments is noise, and noise can be created from a large number of components. This alone is reason enough to only consider collective anomalies. Another reason is that certain processes in particle physics look much alike, but have different cross section, thus one process is much more likely to occur than another. This was one of the main issues with the discovery of the Higgs boson, as Higgs has a background of

### 1.2 Neural Networks

There are several categories of statistical algorithms for data analysis within machine learning. Amongst them are neural networks, which have for the last decade exponentially been used within industry and academia for a number of usecases. From image analysis to weather prediction, these models are used extensively.

Neural networks, or feed forward neural networks (FFNN), are based on a few principles. First, the data is fed forward through the network. The end output is evaluated in some fashion, and corrections are then



**Figure 1.1:** Simple neural network diagram drawn using Draw.io. Here the blue dots are the input layer, the green dots are a hidden layer, and the red dots are the output layer. The arrows shows the connections between the nodes.

back propagated through the network, updating the weights and biases. This "training" is done until a sufficient threshold is met. A general layout of a neural network is displayed in figure 1.1.

The input layer has the same shape of the dataset one uses to train or predict on, with one node for each feature in the dataset. The next layers are the hidden layers. For a given network, the amount of hidden layers can be tuned, as well as the number of nodes per layer. Finally, the last hidden layer is connected to the output layer, which is determined by the aim of the problem. In the case of figure 1.1, this neural network would represent a binary classification problem, in other words, two categories. The nodes in the network interact through so-called weights  $w$  and biases  $b$ . These are known as tunable parameters, which need to be trained on the dataset before any prediction can be made.

In order to avoid confusion, we will adhere to table 1.1 for the notation used in the following sections.

**Table 1.1:** Notation

Matrices and vectors		
Notation	Description	Type
$X$	Design Matrix (input data).	$\mathbb{R}^{N \times \# \text{features}}$
$t$	Target values.	$\mathbb{R}^{N \times \# \text{categories}}$
$y$	Model output, the prediction from our network.	$\mathbb{R}^{N \times \# \text{categories}}$
$W^l$	The weight matrix associated with layer $l$ which handles the connections between layer $l - 1$ and $l$ .	$\mathbb{R}^{n_{l-1} \times n_l}$
$B^l$	The bias vector associated with layer $l$ which handles the biases for all nodes in layer $l$ .	$\mathbb{R}^{n_l \times 1}$
Elements		
$w_{ij}^l$	The weight connecting node $i$ in layer $l - 1$ to node $j$ in layer $l$ .	$\mathbb{R}$
$b_j^l$	Bias acting on node $j$ in layer $l$ .	$\mathbb{R}$
$z_j^l$	Node output before activation on node $j$ on layer $l$ .	$\mathbb{R}$
$a_j^l$	Activated node output on node $j$ on layer $l$ .	$\mathbb{R}$
Functions		
$C$	Cost function	
$\sigma^l$	Activation function associated with layer $l$ .	
Quantities		
$n_l$	The number of nodes in layer $l$ .	
$L$	Number of layers in total with $L - 2$ hidden layers.	
$N$	Total number of data points.	
All indexing starts from 1: $i, j, k, l = 1, 2, \dots$		

**Table 1.2:** Table containing notation used for deriving the mathematical formulas for the neural network [5]

## Gradient descent

Let us now consider a general  $n$ -dimensional problem, with parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_n\}$ . We want the set of  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  such that we minimize a cost function with respect to the data and target. One way to solve this problem is using ordinary least squares. For this approach, the optimal parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{opt}$  are derived from minimizing the cost function, as shown here:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{opt} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{t},$$

where  $\mathbf{X}$  is the design matrix containing the data, and  $\mathbf{t}$  is the target vector. This however leads to a problem. Suppose the design matrix is sufficiently large, then the matrix inversion will get computationally expensive,



**Figure 1.2:** Figures showing different choices of learning rate for a given cost function, with respect to the tunable parameters. Source: [Jeremy Jordan](#), accessed 03.10.22.

or it might not even exist for a given  $\mathbf{X}$ . Thus, an alternative approach is to iteratively approximate the ideal parameters.

Suppose we have a cost function  $C(\boldsymbol{\theta})$  for a given problem. We can approximate the minimum of the cost function by calculating the gradient  $\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}C$  with respect to  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ . The negative of this gradient indicates the direction for the minimum of  $C$  when evaluating it in a specific point  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_i$  in the parameter space [5]. This is formulated as follows

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{i+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_i - \eta \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}C(\boldsymbol{\theta}_i), \quad (1.1)$$

where  $\eta$  is a step size, also called the learning rate. The choice of  $\eta$  is not a trivial case. It is one of several hyperparameters<sup>1</sup> that can be altered, and that highly depend on the given problem. With regards to the learning rate, there are only three situations to consider, shown in figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2 visualizes the relation between the learning rate and the cost function. In the left most figure we note that the learning rate is too small. This leads to many iterations before you reach a minimum. In the right most figure we note that the learning rate is too high, and the result is that we get divergent behavior. Thus the goal is to find the optimal learning rate, shown in the middle figure.

A modified and preferred version of gradient descent is the so called stochastic gradient descent. Regular gradient descent can, for large datasets be quite slow, and is prone to getting stuck in a local minima. To circumvent this issue, mini batches are introduced.

## Feed forwarding

Inference (prediction) and training both use the same feed-forward algorithm. Let's then assume that we have generated a network. The network initializes the weights and biases usually with normal or uniformly distributed values, that can later be tuned. The procedure is to send the data through the network, weighting each connection according to the network's architecture, and produce an output. The procedure can be summarized in the following steps [5]:

- The data is received by the input nodes in the network for each feature.
- Each input node weights the data value according to the connection of each node in the next layer.
- Every node in the hidden layers sums the weighted data values, and adds the bias associated to the given node, denoted as  $z$ .
- This value  $z$  is then sent through an activation function  $\sigma$ , which produces the output of the node, denoted as  $a = \sigma(z)$ .
- This process is repeated for each hidden layer, and it is important to note that the number of nodes in the hidden layers is not dependent on the number of features in the original dataset.
- The last hidden layer then sends the activated values to the output layer, where the number of nodes and choice of activation function depends on the problem to solve.

<sup>1</sup>Give reference to hyperparameters

Mathematically this is expressed as follows:

$$z_j^l = \sum_{i=1}^{n_{l-1}} w_{ij}^l a_i^{l-1} + b_j^l, \quad a_j^l = \sigma^l(z_j^l), \quad (1.2)$$

where  $l$  is the layer index,  $j$  is the node index, and  $i$  is the index of the node in the previous layer, and  $l \neq 1$ , as it is not used on the input layer.

## Backpropagation

The way neural networks learn is conventionally by the use of the backpropagation algorithm, first proposed by Rumelhart et al[7]. This is a bit misleading, as the backpropagation algorithm actually only refers to how to compute the gradient[8]. The algorithm allows us to alter the weights and biases such that we get an ideal output. Assuming a cost function  $C$ , we can calculate the gradient  $\nabla_{w,b}C$ , and use this to back propagate the error correction. The gradient  $\nabla_{w,b}C$  is comprised of two derivatives<sup>2</sup>

:

$$\nabla_{w,b}C = \left( \frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{i,j}^l}, \frac{\partial C}{\partial b_j^l} \right).$$

We have to use the chain rule to calculate the derivatives, and using that the last layer is  $l = L$ , we get the derivative with respect to the weights as

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{i,j}^L} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_j^L} \frac{\partial a_j^L}{\partial z_j^L} \frac{\partial z_j^L}{\partial w_{i,j}^L},$$

where

$$a_j^L = \sigma(z_j^L), \quad z_j^L = \sum_{i=1}^{n_L-1} w_{i,j}^L a_i^{L-1} + b_j^L.$$

This then gives us

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{i,j}^L} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_j^L} \sigma'(z_j^L) a_i^{L-1},$$

where we defined that

$$\sigma'(z_j^L) = \frac{\partial a_j^L}{\partial z_j^L}. \quad (1.3)$$

This derivative is very easy to calculate given a specific cost function and activation function. The derivative with respect to the bias is given as follows:

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_k^L} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_j^L} \frac{\partial a_j^L}{\partial z_j^L} \frac{\partial z_j^L}{\partial b_j^L},$$

which gives us the final expression as

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial b_k^L} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_j^L} \sigma'(z_j^L).$$

We will now introduce a new notation, a local gradient commonly called the "error". It reflects how the rate of change of the cost function depends on the  $j$ 'th node in the  $l$ 'th layer.

$$\delta_j^l \equiv \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^l}.$$

Using this we get the following expression:

$$\delta_j^L = \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^L} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_j^L} \frac{\partial a_j^L}{\partial z_j^L} = \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_j^L} \sigma'(z_j^L),$$

giving us the more compact forms of the derivatives with respect to the weights and biases:

---

<sup>2</sup>NOTE TO SELF:: Note that this calculation is not a generalized algorithm for backpropagation, but rather for a special case using MSE.

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial w_{i,j}^L} = \delta_j^L a_i^{L-1}, \quad \frac{\partial C}{\partial b_j^L} = \delta_j^L.$$

We can now let  $\boldsymbol{\delta}^l$  be the vector of all the errors in the  $l$ 'th layer, and  $\boldsymbol{\delta}^L$  be the vector of all the errors in the last layer. The error in the  $l$ 'th layer can then be expressed as a matrix equation for the last layer as follows:

$$\boldsymbol{\delta}^l = \nabla_a C \odot \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial z^L}, \quad \nabla_a C = \left[ \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_1^L}, \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_2^L}, \dots, \frac{\partial C}{\partial a_n^L} \right]^T.$$

Here  $\odot$  is the Hadamard product (element wise product). This local gradient can now be defined recursively for the  $j$ 'th node in a layer  $l$  as a function of the local error in the next layer:

$$\delta_j^l \equiv \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_j^l} = \sum_k \frac{\partial C}{\partial z_k^{l+1}} \frac{\partial z_k^{l+1}}{\partial z_j^l} = \sum_k \frac{\partial z_k^{l+1}}{\partial z_j^l} \delta_k^{l+1}. \quad (1.4)$$

We also note that

$$z_k^{l+1} = \sum_{j=1}^{n_l} w_{j,k}^{l+1} a_j^l + b_k^{l+1} = \sum_{j=1}^{n_l} w_{j,k}^{l+1} \sigma(z_j^l) + b_k^{l+1},$$

thus the partial derivative is given as

$$\frac{\partial z_k^{l+1}}{\partial z_j^l} = w_{j,k}^{l+1} \sigma'(z_j^l), \quad (1.5)$$

using the substitution from equation 1.3. This allows us to substitute equation 1.5 into equation 1.4 to get the following expression:

$$\delta_j^l = \sum_k w_{j,k}^{l+1} \sigma'(z_j^l) \delta_k^{l+1}. \quad (1.6)$$

Using this we can derive a three step formula for the backpropagation algorithm:

- Compute the local gradient for the last layer,  $\boldsymbol{\delta}^L$ .
- Recursively compute the local gradient for the remaining layers,  $\boldsymbol{\delta}^l$  for  $l = L - 1, L - 2, \dots, 1$ .
- Update the weights and biases for all layers,  $l = 1, 2, \dots, L$ , given the learning rate  $\eta$  as shown below:

$$w_{i,j}^l \leftarrow w_{i,j}^l - \eta \delta_j^l a_i^{l-1},$$

$$b_j^l \leftarrow b_j^l - \eta \delta_j^l.$$

### 1.3 Autoencoders

Autoencoders are a subset of neural networks. Whereas a general neural network in principle can take any shape, autoencoders are more restrictive. This restrictiveness can in its most general sense be condensed into the following points:

- Same number of output categories as input categories
- A latent space with smaller dimensionality than the input/output layer

What we end up with are two funnel shaped parts linked together. The two funnels are called the encoder (left funnel) and decoder (right funnel) respectively. This architecture is not accidental, but rather designed with a very specific solution of problems in mind, reconstruction. A good example to illustrate this is image reconstruction, illustrated in figure 1.3. Suppose you have an image, and want to reconstruct it. By feeding the encoder an image, and comparing the decoder output to the actual image, the autoencoder can tune itself to recreate the images it trains on.

Mathematically this is represented as follows[1]. Using the annotations of each component in figure 1.3 the decoded information is defined as follows

$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{g}_\phi(\mathbf{x}),$$



**Figure 1.3:** Figure depicting a model for an autoencoder. Here the input  $\mathbf{x}$  is the original image,  $\mathbf{x}'$  is a reconstructed version of  $\mathbf{x}$ ,  $g_\phi$  is the encoder,  $f_\theta$  is the decoder, and  $\mathbf{z}$  is the latent space. Found 14.01.23 [here](#) [1].

and the reconstruction given as

$$\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{f}_\theta(\mathbf{g}_\phi(\mathbf{x})).$$

The parameters  $(\phi, \theta)$  are the tuneable parameters adjusted according to the loss function. In our case, the goal is reconstruction without copying, thus we can simply use mean squared error, given as

$$L_{AE}(\phi, \theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (\mathbf{x}^i - \mathbf{f}_\theta(\mathbf{g}_\phi(\mathbf{x}^i)))^2. \quad (1.7)$$

## 1.4 Variational autoencoders

Another popular method for reconstruction is the so called variational autoencoder. The work by Kingman and Welling [9] showed how one can use the variational bayesian approach for efficient approximate posterior inference, leading to the use of variational autoencoders. Here, contrary to regular autoencoders, the latent space is thought of as a distribution. In the context of reconstruction, this means that we want to create a latent space distribution based on the true distribution in the data, and use this latent space distribution to then generate data given that latent space.

### Variational Bayes

Let's assume some dataset  $X = \{\mathbf{x}^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^N$  with  $N$  samples for a variable  $\mathbf{x}$ , and also assume that the generation of the data comes from some random variable  $\mathbf{z}$ . We also assume that this variable  $\mathbf{z}$  is generated from a prior distribution  $p_\theta(\mathbf{z})$  and that the data is then generated from a conditional distribution  $p_\theta(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z})$ , and that both their respective probability density functions are sufficiently differentiable with respect to parameters  $\theta$  and  $\mathbf{z}$ . We then have that the true posterior distribution is given by  $p_\theta(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}) = p_\theta(\mathbf{z})p_\theta(\mathbf{x}|\mathbf{z})/p_\theta(\mathbf{x})$ . The work done by Kingman and Welling [9] was motivated by the fact that  $p_\theta(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})$  more often than not is intractable<sup>3</sup>, thus instead we will try to approximate the true posterior with a variational approximation  $p_\theta(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x}) \approx q_\phi(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})$ . It can from here on out be useful to think of  $q_\phi(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})$  as a probabilistic encoder, as it for a given data point  $\mathbf{x}$  will produce a distribution over possible values for  $\mathbf{z}$ , the latent space, that the datapoint could have been generated from. Similarly, it can be useful to think of the  $p_\theta(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{x})$  as a probabilistic decoder, as it for a given  $\mathbf{z}$  will produce a distribution over possible values for  $\mathbf{x}$ .

<sup>3</sup>Intractability here refers to the inability to evaluate or differentiate a given distribution or function, or difficulty with solving a problem due to a large parameter space or finding the global optimum of a complex function.

### The variational bound

It can be shown that the marginal likelihood can be written as follows:

$$\log p_\theta(x^{(i)}) = D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x^{(i)})||p_\theta(z|x^{(i)})) + \mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi; x^{(i)}), \quad (1.8)$$

where the first term on the right hand side is the Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence<sup>4</sup> and the second term is the evidence lower bound (ELBO) on the marginal likelihood. As the KL divergence is non-negative, the ELBO will always be equal to or less than the marginal likelihood, written below:

$$\log p_\theta(x^{(i)}) \geq \mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi; x^{(i)}) = \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(z|x)}[-\log q_\phi(x|z) + \log p_\theta(x|z)]. \quad (1.9)$$

Rewriting we get that the ELBO is given as:

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi; x^{(i)}) = -D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x^{(i)})||p_\theta(z|x^{(i)})) + \mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(z|x^{(i)})}[\log p_\theta(x^{(i)}|z)], \quad (1.10)$$

which is also known as the loss function for variational inference. As a loss function, this needs to be differentiated with respect to  $(\phi, \theta)$ , but as shown by Kingman and Welling [9], the common method using Monte Carlo gradient estimator have high variance, and thus is not ideal.

### The Stochastic gradient variational bayes (SGVB) estimator

Kingman and Welling [9] instead proposes a practical estimator that both deals with effectiveness with large datasets, as well as the issue of intractability. This estimator is called the stochastic gradient variational bayes (SGVB) estimator, and first assumes an approximate posterior  $q_\phi(z|x)$ . Under certain conditions, as shown in subsection 1.4, we can reparameterize this approximate posterior to a random variable  $\tilde{z} \sim q_\theta(z|x)$ , by doing a differentiable transformation  $g_\phi(\epsilon|x)$ , such that

$$\tilde{z} = g_\phi(\epsilon|x), \quad \epsilon \sim p(\epsilon),$$

where  $\epsilon$  is a noise variable.

Using Monte Carlo estimates of expectations of a function  $f(z)$  with respect to  $q_\theta(z|x)$ , Kingman and Welling [9] shows that:

$$\mathbb{E}_{q_\theta(z|x^{(i)})}[f(z)] = \mathbb{E}_{p(\epsilon)}[f(g_\phi(\epsilon, x^{(i)}))] \approx \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L f(g_\phi(\epsilon^{(l)}, x^{(i)})), \quad (1.11)$$

where  $\epsilon^{(l)} \sim p(\epsilon)$ . Using this technique, and assuming that the KL divergence  $D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x^{(i)})||p_\theta(z|x^{(i)}))$  can be integrated analytically, we only get one term in equation 1.10 that requires estimation by sampling:  $\mathbb{E}_{q_\phi(z|x^{(i)})}[\log p_\theta(x^{(i)}|z)]$ . What we end up with is a version of the SGVB estimator:  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}^B(\theta, \phi; x^{(i)}) \simeq \mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi; x^{(i)})$ . This is given as:

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi; x^{(i)}) = -D_{KL}(q_\phi(z|x^{(i)})||p_\theta(z)) + \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L (\log p_\theta(x^{(i)}|z^{(i,l)})), \quad (1.12)$$

where  $z^{(i,l)} = g_\phi(\epsilon^{(i,l)}, x^{(i)})$  and  $\epsilon^{(i)} \sim p(\epsilon)$ . What we now have is a loss function that contains two terms. The first term, the KL divergence, acts as a regularizer, whereas the other term acts as a negative reconstruction error. In fact, we have here two objectives, we want to minimize the ELBO,  $\mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi; x^{(i)})$ , by minimizing the KL divergence and maximizing the expected log-likelihood.

### Reparameterization

If the latent space is assumed to be a continuous variable sampled from a conditional continuous distribution  $z \sim q_\phi(z|x)$ , then we can reparametrize  $z$  as a deterministic variable. This is very useful as we then can rewrite the expectation of the conditional distribution such that the Monte Carlo estimate of the expectation is differentiable with respect to the parameters  $\phi$ . The proof can be found in the article [9]. Now let's take the example of the univariate Gaussian distribution. First, let  $z \sim p(z|x) = \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ . Then, a reparametrization of  $z$  can be  $z = \mu + \sigma\epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ . Thus

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathcal{N}(z;\mu,\sigma^2)}[f(z)] \simeq \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L f(\mu + \sigma\epsilon^{(l)}).$$

---

<sup>4</sup>The KL divergence is a measure of how one probability distribution is different from a second, reference probability distribution. It is often used as a distance measure between two probability distributions.

## Variational autoencoders

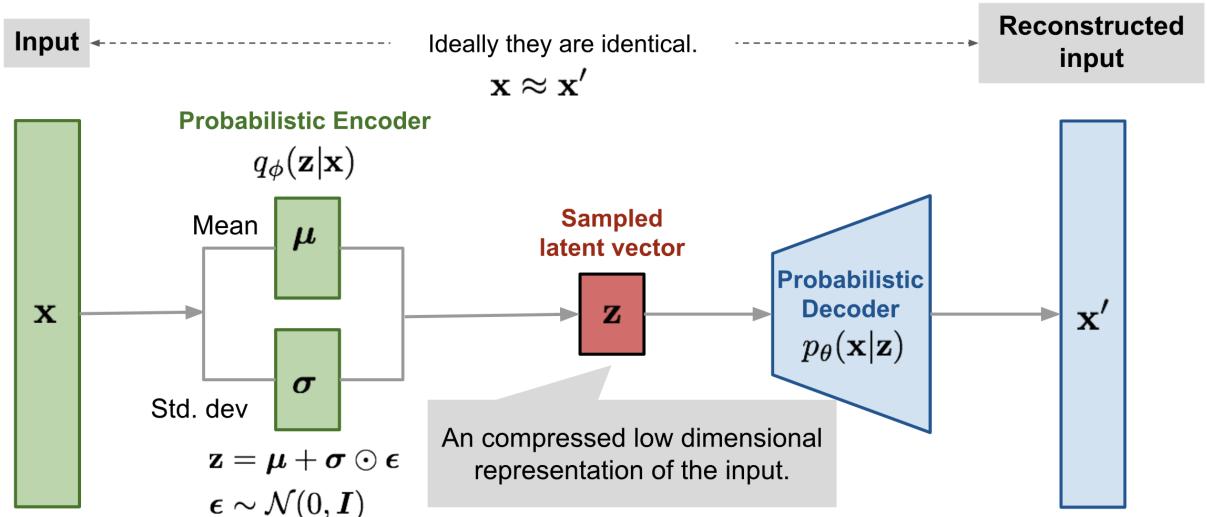
Now, this variational bayes can then be used to create a variational autoencoder. This contains two neural networks, the generative model  $p_\theta(x|z)$ , as well as the probabilistic encoder  $q_\phi(z|x)$ , which is used to approximate the posterior  $p_\theta(z|x)$ . We now let the prior over the latent space be a multivariate Gaussian, lacking parameters:  $p_\theta(z) = \mathcal{N}(z; 0, I)$ . We also have that  $p_\theta(x|z)$  is a multivariate Gaussian, with a distribution generated from  $z$ , whilst  $p_\theta(z|x)$  is in fact intractable. If we now assume that the true (intractable) posterior is a Gaussian with approximately diagonal covariance, we can let the variational approximate posterior be a multivariate Gaussian:

$$\log q_\theta(z|x^{(i)}) = \log \mathcal{N}(z; \mu^{(i)}, \sigma^{2(i)}I), \quad (1.13)$$

where the mean and standard deviation are given by the neural network. Now, we sample from the approximate posterior  $z^{(i,l)} \sim q_\theta(z|x^{(i)})$  where  $z^{(i,l)} = g_\phi(x^{(i)}, \epsilon^{(l)}) = \mu^{(i)} + \sigma^{(i)} \odot \epsilon^{(l)}$ ,  $\epsilon^{(l)} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$  and  $\odot$  is the elementwise product. If both the prior  $p_\theta(z)$  and  $q_\theta(z|x)$  are Gaussian, the KL divergence can be computed analytically, and it can then be shown[9] that the variational approximate posterior is:

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta, \phi; x^{(i)}) \simeq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^J (1 + \log((\sigma_j^{(i)})^2) - (\mu_j^{(i)})^2 - (\sigma_j^{(i)})^2) + \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L \log p_\theta(x^{(i)}|z^{(i,l)}), \quad (1.14)$$

where  $z^{(i,l)} = \mu^{(i)} + \sigma^{(i)} \odot \epsilon^{(l)}$  and  $\epsilon^{(l)} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$ .



**Figure 1.4:** Figure depicting a model for a variational autoencoder. Found 14.01.23 [here](#) [1].

Figure 1.4 is a graphical representation of the variational autoencoder. The encoder is a neural network, which takes the input  $x$  and maps the input to a latent space by creating a Gaussian distribution. The decoder is a neural network, which takes the latent space  $z$  and outputs the parameters of a Gaussian distribution for the data. The loss function is given by equation 1.14.

## 1.5 Other tools and algorithms

### Adaptable moment estimation (ADAM) Optimizer

Stochastic gradient descent, though very useful, lack the ability to adapt to the feature space. One algorithm that address this issue is the ADAM optimizer[10]. The Adaptable moment estimation (ADAM) algorithm uses stochastic gradient descent, but with an adaptive learning rate. This learning rate is adjusted by calculating estimates for the first and second moment<sup>5</sup>. Thus, a large gradient would indicate close proximity to a minimum in feature space, thus a lower learning rate would yield a more accurate result, whereas a small gradient would suggest far proximity to a local minimum, and thus a larger learning rate would increase the chance of approaching a minimum.

<sup>5</sup>In statistics the first moment is the expectation value for a distribution,  $E[X - \mu]$ . The second moment is the expectation value of the distribution squared, i.e the variance,  $E[(X - \mu)^2]$

## Hyperband

Hyperband is a tool for hyperparameter optimization[11]. Hyperparameter optimization is of high importance in the search for ideal structures and architectures when using neural networks, as there is not a way to find an a priori setup for a given problem. Several algorithms are used, from random search, grid search, and bayesian optimization. Hyperband is an algorithm proposed by L. Li et al. It focuses on using successful halving[12] but at the same time doing a grid search for how to allocate resources. Successive halving focuses on testing n configurations, and removing the bottom half, thus (hopefully) quickly converging to the ideal combination. However, it is not easy to a priori know the number of configurations n, and how much resources one needs, r, to quickly find the ideal set. This is where Hyperband comes in. In essence, it fetches and tries different combinations of r resources (time, data set subsampling or feature subsampling) and n configurations, to determine the ideal set of hyperparameters via successive halving, yielding 5x to 30x speedup compared to Bayesian optimization. One drawback for this algorithm is that one cannot guarantee that the configuration is optimal, but rather that it is good enough.

## Activation functions

Several activation functions are used in neural networks, and how one chooses the best combination for a given problem is not trivial. This leads often to the use of tuning. Below are a list of the functions used in this thesis, as well as their mathematical definitions.

1.  $\text{sigmoid}(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$
2.  $\tanh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$
3.  $\text{ReLU}(x) = \max(0, x)$
4.  $\text{LeakyReLU}(x) = \max(\alpha x, x)$
5.  $\text{Softmax}(x) = \frac{e^x}{\sum_{i=1}^n e^x}$
6.  $\text{Linear}(x) = x$

## ROC curve

One way to measure the effectiveness of a prediction for a machine learning algorithm is with the use of a ROC curve. The ROC curve is a plot of the true positive rate (TPR) against the false positive rate (FPR) which will be defined shortly. Suppose a classifier  $\mathcal{M}$  does a binary classification of positive and negative. If  $\mathcal{M}$  predicts a positive label, and the instance is indeed positive, we define this as a *true positive*. The same goes for negative prediction of a negative instance, which is defined as a *true negative*. Then there is the case where  $\mathcal{M}$  predicts a negative label when the instance is positive, defined as a *false negative*, and vice versa is then defined as a *false positive*[13]. Now, the TPR is defined as the ratio of true positives to the total number of positive instances, i.e

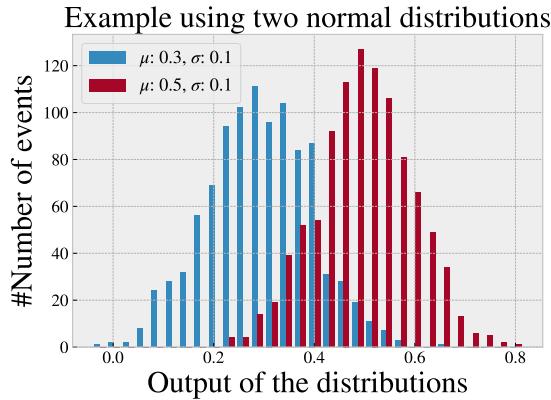
$$\text{TPR} = \frac{\text{TP}}{\text{TP} + \text{FN}},$$

and the FPR is defined as the ratio of false positives to the total number of negative instances, i.e

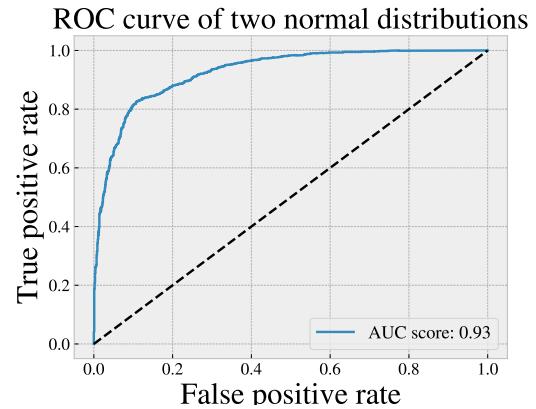
$$\text{FPR} = \frac{\text{FP}}{\text{FP} + \text{TN}}.$$

Using this, we get a plot that tells us how well the classifier performs. As the goal usually is it to have a high TPR and a low FPR, the more "north west"[13] of the plot the curve is, the better. Below are two examples of a ROC curve and the classifier output it is calculated from. For simplicity, the classifier output is in this case just two normal distributions with the mean and standard deviation listed in the legend of the distribution plots.

In figure 1.5 we have a histogram showing two distributions that are well separated, and the ROC curve that is calculated based on those distributions. If we compare this to figure 1.6, we see that the better separation of the two distributions, the better ROC curve. This is a useful tool to use with the autoencoder, as it provides valuable insight beyond just looking at the output distributions.

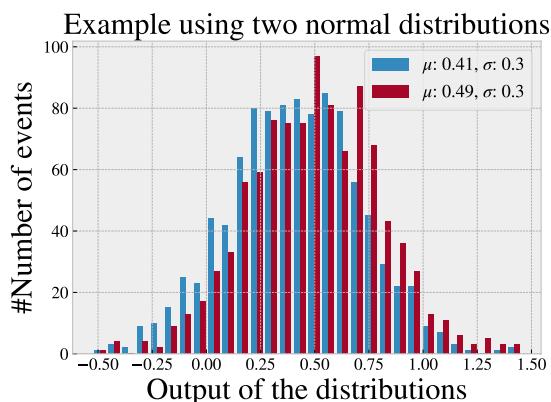


- (a) Histogram showing good separation. Here the left distribution is calculated using a mean of 0.3 and a standard deviation of 0.1, and the right distribution is calculated using a mean of 0.5 and a standard deviation of 0.1.

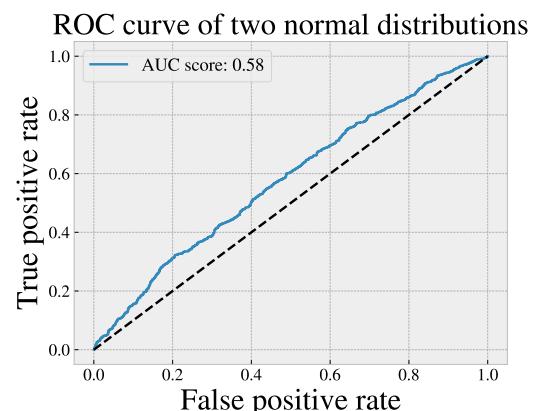


- (b) ROC curve based on the two distributions to the left. Here we get an area under the curve score of 0.92, which is very good.

**Figure 1.5:** Histogram and ROC curve for two well separated distributions.



- (a) Histogram showing bad separation. Here the left distribution is calculated using a mean of 0.41 and a standard deviation of 0.3, and the right distribution is calculated using a mean of 0.49 and a standard deviation of 0.3.



- (b) ROC curve based on the two distributions to the left. Here we get an area under the curve score of 0.58, which is not a good classification score.

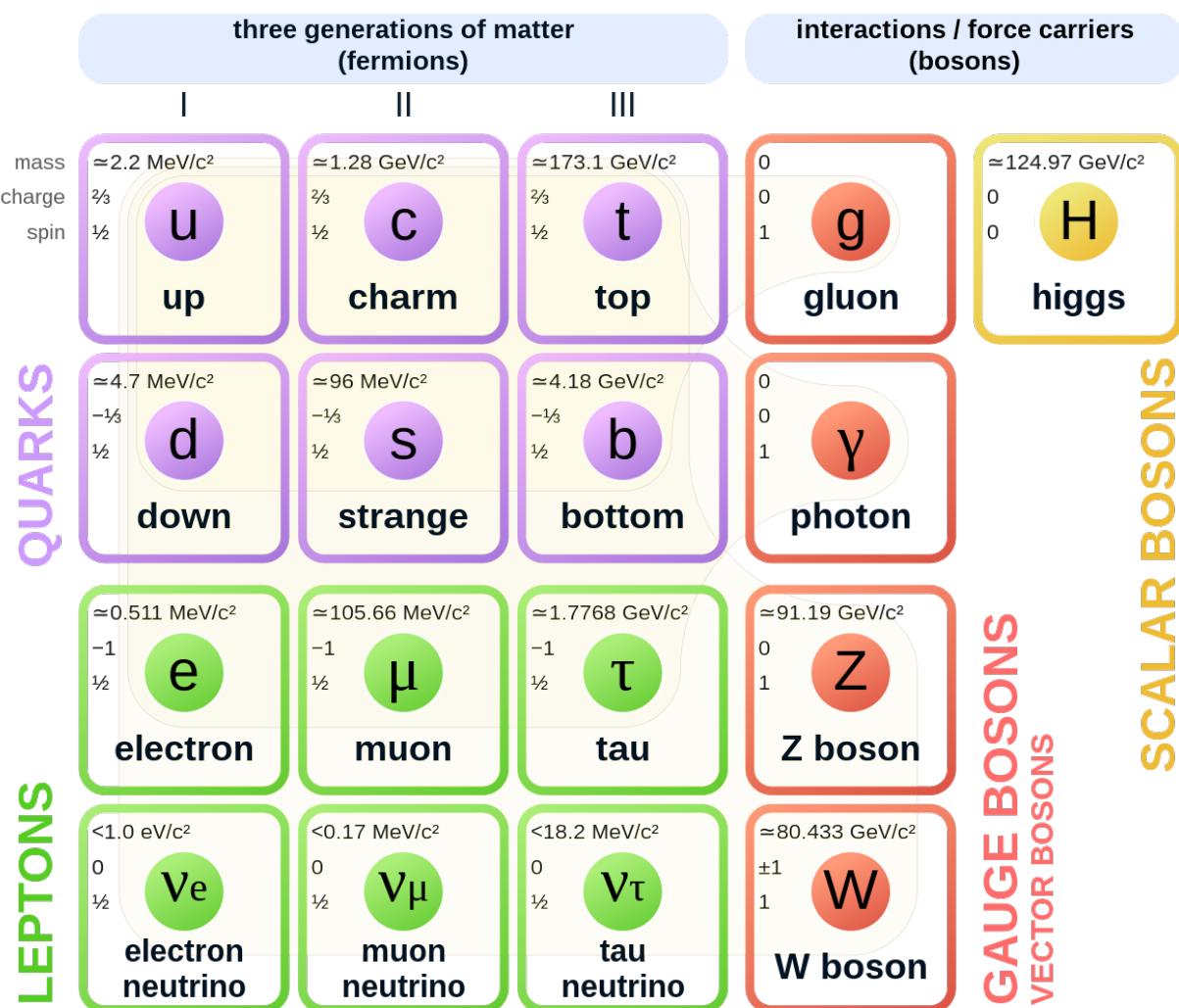
**Figure 1.6:** Histogram and ROC curve for two poorly separated distributions.



# Chapter 2

# The Standard model and BSM physics

# Standard Model of Elementary Particles



**Figure 2.1:** The standard model of elementary particles. Source [here](#). Accessed 07.10.22

## 2.1 Structure and composition of the Standard Model

This section will describe the standard model in a phenomenological way, as the mathematics and physical reasoning behind the theory is not of great importance to understand the work presented here, nor the results or discussion. For a more technical explanation, read (Pich, 2008)[14] for a well written paper containing some more standard model fundamentals, as well as summarizing the experimental status regarding the standard model. For more mathematical understanding of the standard model, Peskin and Schroeder's "An introduction to Quantum Field theory" (Peskin and Schroeder, 1995)[15] is highly recommended. Finally, see Thomson's "Modern Particle physics" (Thomson, 2013)[16] for a very comprehensive and up-to-date book that is easy to read and understand.

The standard model is to physicists what the periodic table is to chemists, and is to this day the most fundamental description of matter as we know it at the subatomic scale. It is comprised of two parent class particles, fermions and bosons, where fermions are comprised of quarks and leptons. The model contains 6 leptons, 6 quarks coming in 3 colors each, 4 gauge bosons mediating the electroweak interactions ( $\gamma, W^\pm, Z^0$ ), 8 gluons behind the strong interaction and one scalar Higgs explaining particle masses, all of which are shown in figure 2.1.

### Fermions

The fermions are the building blocks of matter, and contain two types of particles, leptons and quarks. the up and down quarks form protons and neutrons, which together with electrons forms the atoms around us. Fermions, unlike bosons, are spin half particles. The fermions are grouped into three so called families:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \nu_e & u \\ e^- & d' \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \nu_\mu & c \\ \mu^- & s' \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{bmatrix} \nu_\tau & t \\ \tau^- & b' \end{bmatrix}$$

Note that the left column contains the leptons. whilst the right column contains the quarks. Within the left column, the subscripted  $\nu$  denotes what kind of neutrino that corresponds to the given lepton. Here, the first family consists of the electron, the electron neutrino, the up and down quarks. The second family consists of the muon and the muon neutrino, the charm and strange quarks. The third family consists of the tau and the tau neutrino, the top and bottom quarks. The masses of these particles increases for each particle in the matrix as the family number increases, i.e the muon is heavier than the electron, and the tau is heavier than the muon, and so on for the other charged fermions. It is not known whether or not the neutrinos follow this pattern as well due to their very low mass. Below is a table with specific properties of the fermions.

**Table 2.1:** Table showing properties of all the fermions, including name, symbol, antiparticle, spin, charge, generation and mass.

Generation	Name	Symbol	Antiparticle	Spin	Charge	Mass (MeV/c <sup>2</sup> )
Quarks						
1	up	u	$\bar{u}$	1/2	2/3	$2.2^{+0.6}_{-0.4}$
	down	d	$\bar{d}$	1/2	-1/3	$4.6^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$
2	charm	c	$\bar{c}$	1/2	2/3	$1280 \pm 30$
	strange	s	$\bar{s}$	1/2	-1/3	$96^{+8}_{-4}$
3	top	t	$\bar{t}$	1/2	2/3	$172100 \pm 600$
	bottom	b	$\bar{b}$	1/2	-1/3	$4180^{+40}_{-30}$
Leptons						
1	electron	$e^-$	$\bar{e}^-$	1/2	-1	0.511
	electron neutrino	$\nu_e$	$\bar{\nu}_e$	1/2	0	< 0.0000022
2	muon	$\mu^-$	$\bar{\mu}^-$	1/2	-1	105.7
	muon neutrino	$\nu_\mu$	$\bar{\nu}_\mu$	1/2	0	< 0.170
3	tau	$\tau^-$	$\bar{\tau}$	1/2	-1	$1776.86 \pm 0.12$
	tau neutrino	$\nu_\tau$	$\bar{\nu}_\tau$	1/2	0	< 15.5

Another mystery regarding the neutrinos is in relation to anti particles. To each particle corresponds an antiparticle, i.e for  $l^- \rightarrow l^+$ ,  $q \rightarrow \bar{q}$ , where the anti particle and particle are different. With neutrinos however it is not known whether or not the neutrinos and antineutrinos are the same particle  $\nu = \bar{\nu}$  (Majorana neutrino), or if they are different  $\nu \neq \bar{\nu}$  (Dirac neutrino).

Quarks are fractional charge particles, with defined charge of either 2/3 or -1/3, as shown in table 2.1. They are the "main" building blocks of protons and neutrons, and are bound by the strong force, the

strongest of the four fundamental forces. The force mediator is the gluon. The other half of fermions are the leptons. They are split into the charged leptons (electrons, muons and taus), and the uncharged leptons (neutrinos). The charged leptons can interact via the electroweak force, where the Z, W bosons as well as the photon can be a mediator. Note that the neutrinos can only interact through the weak force.

## Bosons

Bosons are integer number spin particles, with spin 0, 1, 2, .... Within bosons there are so called elementary bosons, some of which are force carriers or mediators such as the  $W^\pm$ , Z and the photon. The Higgs boson is also an elementary scalar boson, but is not a force carrier. It provides masses for the fermions via a process called spontaneous symmetry breaking[14]. Other bosons are so called composite bosons, mesons ( $q\bar{q}$ ) and baryons ( $qqq$ ) which are particles constructed by even or half integer spin. Bosons also have antiparticles, where  $(\gamma, g, H^0, Z^0)$  are equal to their respective antiparticle, and the  $W^- \rightarrow W^+$  are not equal.

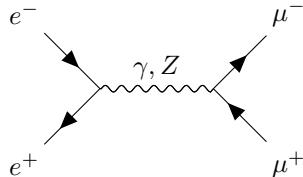
## Left and right handedness

Particles in the standard model are subject to a quantum mechanical property called chirality. Chirality is a property that describes a particle's ability to be superimposed on its mirror image. If a particle has chirality, it cannot be superimposed on its mirror image by any combination of translation, rotation, and reflection operations. [17]

## Feynman diagrams

A graphical way to understand particle interactions are through so called Feynman diagrams. Feynman diagrams are drawn based on the Feynman rules for a given Lagrangian[14][18], and each component can be linked to a part in the Lagrangian for the system.

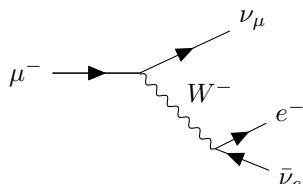
**Figure 2.2:** Feynman diagram of muon pair production from electron scattering. Here, both Z and  $\gamma$  can work as the propagator.



In figure 2.2 we have a Feynman diagram describing electron-positron annihilation into muon-antimuon pairs. In this thesis, all diagrams will be interpreted from left to right, i.e figure 2.2. The diagram contains all the components in the Lagrangian, and arrows, curly lines and so on all have its own meaning. A straight line with an arrow usually means a fermion, where the direction of the arrow tells if the particle (arrow towards the vertex) is an anti particle (arrow away from the vertex). There is often also a propagator between the left and right side of the Feynman diagram, and they depend on the processes we want to study. In the diagram above we have lepton scattering, thus we can both have the photon and the Z-boson as a propagator. This process is called a neutral current[14], as the total charge coming out of the interaction is 0. As with neutral currents, we also have so called charged currents, where the sum of charge is not 0. Note that we only require charge conservation, thus there is nothing wrong with either having a neutral or a charged current, as long as charge conservation is preserved.

Feynman diagrams is not only used for visualizing scatterings, they can also visualize decays. An example is provided in figure 2.3.

**Figure 2.3:** Muon decay into an electron, an electron neutrino and a muon neutrino via the  $W^-$  boson. Read the graph from left to right.



Here we have a decay of a muon into an electron and two neutrinos, through a charged current.

The examples above in figure 2.2 and 2.3 show interactions with the electroweak force, but along with the electroweak interactions, are also the quantum chromodynamics (QCD), responsible for interactions between quarks and gluons. A strange property of QCD, is that the coupling constant  $\alpha_S$ , unlike the  $\alpha_{EM}$  for electromagnetism, gets stronger as the energy decreases. This is because QCD (and weak interactions) are based on non-abelian groups[15], thus to study such interactions, one needs to create collisions at very high energies.

## Some limitations

All though the standard model has had great success comparing with experiments, there are still several problems not addressed by it. One example is gravity, the standard model as described above, does not and cannot incorporate gravity in a quantized way. There are models that try, without success so far, to address this problem, but they supplement the standard model, and does not derive it from it.

The problem that will be addressed in this thesis is a curious property of the weak interaction, namely that parity is broken. Parity as a mathematical operation is equivalent to the spatial inversion through the origin[16]:

$$x \rightarrow -x. \quad (2.1)$$

In other words, parity can be thought of as left-right symmetry, or mirror symmetry. Breaking of parity is observed in weak currents, where the mediator of the charged currents,  $W^\pm$  only interacts with left handed fermions and right handed antifermions. In the standard model, neutrinos are assumed to be massless, and the righthanded neutrinos are sterile, i.e they do not interact in the standard model.

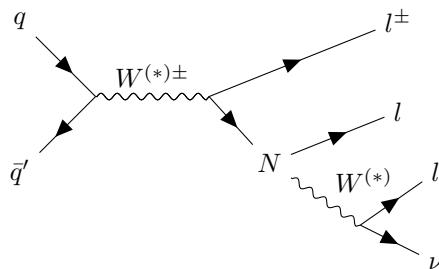
This asymmetry is strange, and hints towards new physics that perhaps can restore the parity breaking at much higher energies. Another note to make is that it has been experimentally verified that the neutrinos are massive[19], with an upper limit on the mass for the anti electron neutrino of  $m_\nu < 0.8\text{eV}c^2$  at 90% confidence level. This is somewhat problematic, as the tiny masses of the neutrinos are not predicted by the standard model.

## 2.2 BSM model physics

### Heavy neutrinos

Parity symmetry is suggested to be restored at high energies by the introduction of a right handed weak symmetry, leading to right handed weak charged bosons,  $W_R'^\pm$ . These mediators, as with the rest, decays faster than the detection ability at the LHC<sup>6</sup>, thus evidence of such a boson would come from the detection of the decay of a heavy neutrino. Heavy neutrinos can be produced in proton proton collisions through either the right handed  $W_R'^\pm$  bosons or the SM  $W^\pm$  bosons, under given conditions.

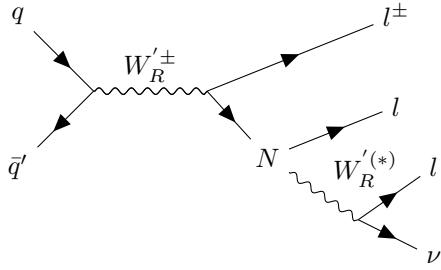
**Figure 2.4:** Proton-proton collision with heavy neutrino production via SM  $W^\pm$  boson into 3 lepton final state.  
Read the graph from left to right.



Note that the right most  $W$  and  $W_R$  bosons have an asterix as a superfix. This is because the bosons can be virtual. This means that if the mass of the heavy neutrino is less than the  $W$  boson, it cannot produce it, but it can produce a virtual one such that the decay still happens.

<sup>6</sup>Large Hadron Collider at CERN

**Figure 2.5:** Proton-proton collision with heavy neutrino production via right-handed  $W_R^\pm$  boson into 3 lepton final state. Read the graph from left to right.



## Supersymmetry

Supersymmetry is another BSM theory that attempts to solve two other problems that the standard model has. First, the hierarchy problem . As the standard model is a perturbative theory, the Higgs mass increases at higher energies. The problem is that when you approach higher and higher energies, this mass goes to infinity, which is not physical. Supersymmetry solves this problem. The theory introduces a supersymmetric partner to each particle in the standard model. The result is that the contributions to the Higgs mass from fermions and bosons mainly cancel, thus fixing the hierarchy problem. Another problem we have with the standard model is that it does not have a field for dark matter. Some supersymmetry models have a dark matter candidate, thus the Supersymmetry search is quite large at CERN.



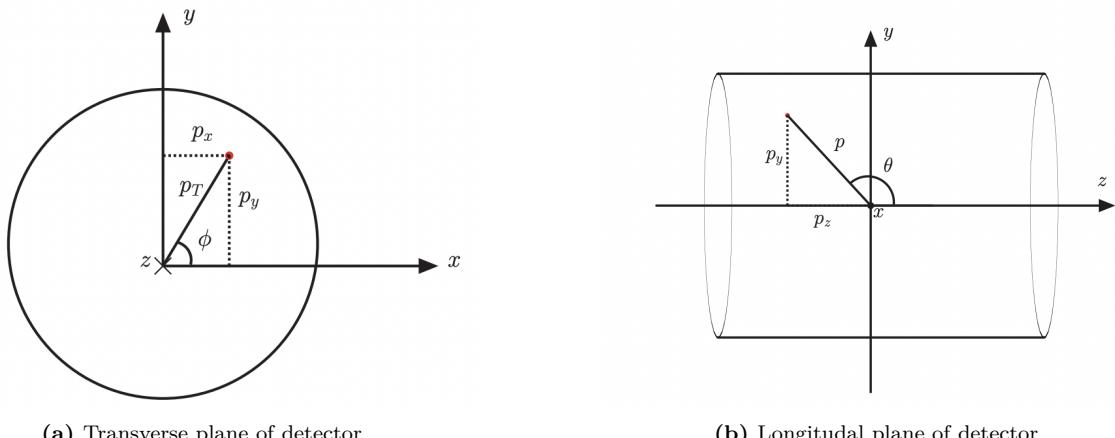
# Chapter 3

## Implementation

### 3.1 The ATLAS detector

#### Kinematics and detector geometry

Before one can analyse the data, it has to be collected and processed in a detector. The data used in this thesis are generated from proton-proton collisions in the ATLAS detector at the LHC. The ATLAS inner detector itself is a solenoid, and the kinematic variables are measured based on the following coordinate system. The z-axis is defined to go along the center axis of the solenoid, where as the y axis points upwards in the detector and the x axis radially outwards from the center axis. This allows for all transverse variables to be defined in the x-y plane[20]. From this we construct the azimuthal and polar angles  $\phi$  and  $\theta$ , where the azimuthal angle  $\phi$ [21] is the angle around the z-axis, and the polar angle  $\theta$  is the angle from the z-axis, as shown in figure 3.1.



**Figure 3.1:** Spherical coordinate definitions with the azimuthal and polar angles  $\phi$  and  $\theta$ . Here figure 3.1a of the transverse plane shows the z-axis into the paper, whereas figure 3.1b of the longitudinal plane shows the positive x-axis going out of the paper. Source [here](#). Accessed 16.03.23

In figure 3.1 the kinematic variables for proton-proton collisions are described by the energy, rest mass and momentum, given as  $E$ ,  $m$ , and  $\mathbf{p} = (p_x, p_y, p_z)$  respectively. As the particles move with very high energy, we will use the relativistic 4 momentum, given as  $\mathbf{P} = (E, \mathbf{p})$ . We also have that

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}},$$

where  $\gamma$  is the Lorentz factor, and  $\beta = \frac{v}{c}$ , which gives us the following definitions for energy  $E = \gamma m$  and momentum  $\mathbf{p} = \beta \gamma m$ [20]. From this we can derive the energy momentum formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{p}^2 &= \beta^2 \gamma^2 m^2 \\
\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2 &= m^2 (\beta^2 \gamma^2 + 1) \\
\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2 &= m^2 \gamma^2 \\
\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2 &= E^2
\end{aligned}$$

$$E = \sqrt{p^2 + m^2}. \quad (3.1)$$

It can be shown that the phase space of a particle is given by[22]:

$$d\mathbf{p} = dp_x dp_y dp_z = p^2 dp d\Omega = dp_z p_T dp_T d\phi, \quad (3.2)$$

where  $p_z$  is the momentum along the beam direction,  $p_T$  is the projected momentum on the transverse plane, and  $\Omega$  is the solid angle. An analog to the relativistic longitudinal velocity is the rapidity  $y$ . To define this we have that the relativistic generalization of equation 3.2 is given by:

$$d^4 p \delta(E^2 - p^2 - m^2) = d\mathbf{p} \frac{1}{E} = p_T dp_T d\phi dy, \quad dy = \frac{dp_z}{E}.$$

Using the fact that  $p = \sqrt{p_T^2 + p_z^2}$  and equation 3.1 we can integrate  $dy$  to get the rapidity:

$$\begin{aligned}
\int dy &= \int \frac{dp_z}{\sqrt{p_T^2 + p_z^2 + m^2}} \\
y &= \cosh^{-1} \left( \frac{E}{\sqrt{p_T^2 + m^2}} \right)
\end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

For particles with little to no mass relative to the transverse momentum, we have that  $p_T^2 + m^2 \approx p_T^2$  where  $p_T = E \sin(\theta)$ , which gives us the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned}
\cosh(y) &= \frac{1}{\sin(\theta)}, \\
\sinh(y) &= \frac{1}{\tan(\theta)}, \\
\tanh(y) &= \cos(\theta).
\end{aligned}$$

which can be used to show that  $e^{-y} = \tan \frac{\theta}{2}$ . From this we define the pseudorapidity  $\eta$  as:

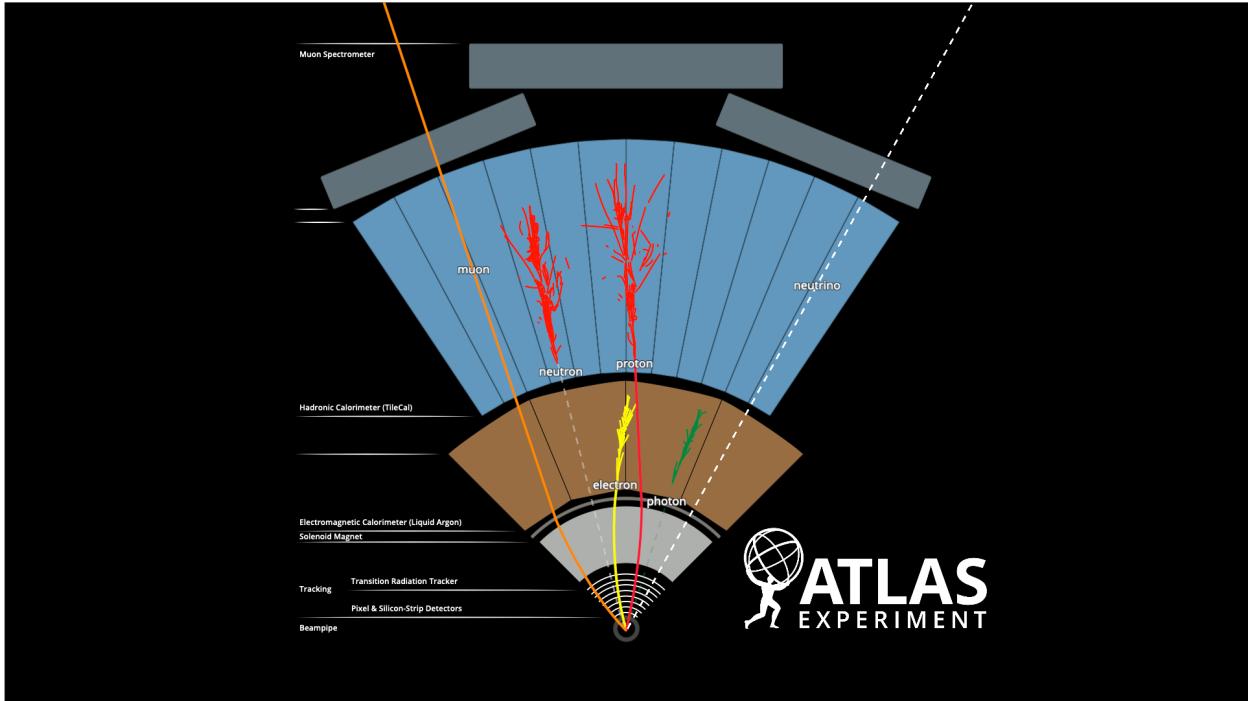
$$\eta = -\ln \left( \tan \frac{\theta}{2} \right), \quad (3.4)$$

which is, in the relativistic limit, the same as the rapidity  $y$ . A useful property of the pseudorapidity is that the phase space of a single particle is uniformly distributed for both  $\eta$  and  $\phi$ , making them good features to compare overlap between SM MC and ATLAS data[20].

## Data collection

The features used in this analysis are computed with or fetched from the features from the detector itself. Such features include the momentum, energy, angles etc, all of which are either directly measured or computed based on the measurements in the detector. In figure 3.2 a visualization shows how different particles move through the detector and how they are detected. For example, energy deposits are measured using calorimeters, and the different particles have calorimeters specially designed for them. Charged particles leaves tracks in the inner tracking device. Thus, electrons leaves tracks in the inner tracker and deposits energy in the electromagnetic calorimeter, the muons leaves tracks in the inner detector and deposits energy in the muon detector. The photons only deposits energy in the electromagnetic calorimeter. Hadrons like protons and neutrons deposits energy in the electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters, and charged hadrons also leaves tracks in the inner tracker. This is shown in figure 3.2.

The ATLAS detector have a few thousand selection stages before the data is stored. In order to reach the highest intensity of collisions, the LHC accelerates packets of around  $10^{11}$  protons, and collides them at a rate of 25 nanoseconds, yeilding a collision rate of 40 MHz[3]. [23]



**Figure 3.2:** Figure describing how particles are detected at ATLAS, fetched from [ATLAS detector slice \(and particle visualisations\)](#), by Sascha Mehlhase [2] .

### Data preparation

During datagathering at the ATLAS detector, triggers on the hardware and software level select out the events that are of most interest. On the order of 99% or more of the recorded events are discarded, with about 1 in 40000 events being accepted, as the amount of recorded events simply is too high to realistically analyse. Also, a lot of the events are of no interest for new physics analysis anyways as they for example might have to little energy. Once the trigger selection is done, the data is reconstructed. This means that the objects in the recorded events are through software algorithms reconstructed into particles, jets, photons etc. The reconstruction is done based on the tracks and measurements in the detector, but it is not perfect, and can lead to fake leptons or jets. By fake it is meant that an object might look like a lepton but is in reality a jet or vice versa[24]. Once the reconstruction is done, further slimming of the n-tuples are done. Derivations are slimmings of the n-tuples where the selection of events are further reduced to match the needs of the different analysis groups.

The SM MC go through parts of the same process. These events are first generated and then run through the detector to simulate actual events. Once that is done, the events can be reconstructed and go through derivations just like the pp-collision data, to be used in analysis.

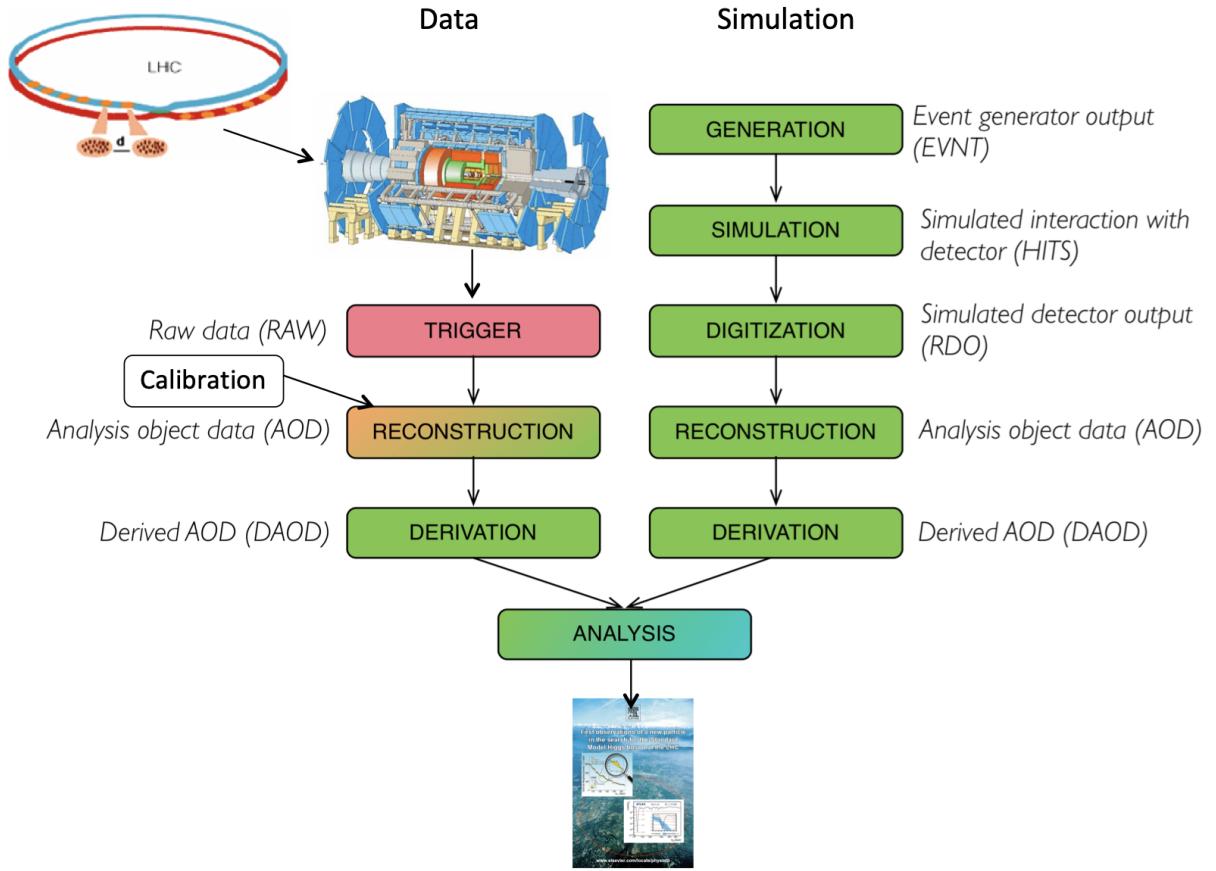
### Jets

Photons and electrons are detected in the electromagnetic calorimeter, and are easy to track and detect as they separate easily. Quarks, however, are bound by QCD and thus cannot be separated as individual particles. An illustration of how quarks and gluons materialise as jets during a proton-proton collision is shown below in figure 3.4.

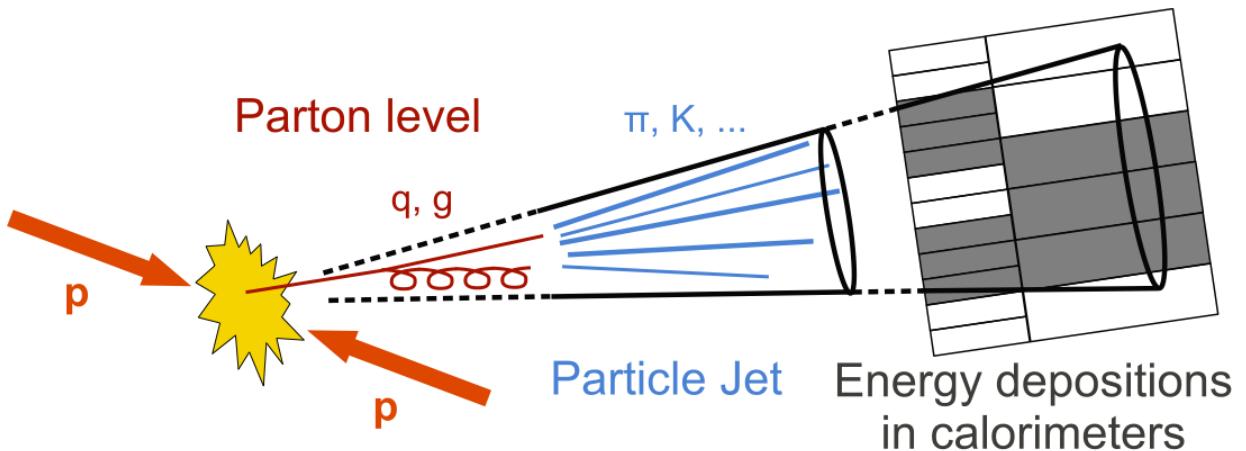
In a proton-proton collision, the quarks and gluons forms stable or unstable hadrons such that the color confinement<sup>7</sup> is upheld. These then decay to other stable hadrons that can be tracked, and these tracks are called jets. This is particularly difficult because one wants to isolate which hadrons came from the original quark in the Feynman diagram. Another point to make is that some quarks are of higher interest than others. For example, the b jet, coming from a b quark, is a good indicator for certain processes, thus identifying such particles is of huge interest.

<sup>7</sup>Add link to a source or explanation for this.

# Steps from Data Collection to Physics Results



**Figure 3.3:** Figure describing the steps to take for data collection at ATLAS, fetched from [Hybrid ATLAS Induction Day + Software Tutorial workshop](#), part [Computing and Data preparation](#), held by S.M Wang [3] .



**Figure 3.4:** Figure describing how quarks and gluons are treated in the detector, and thus why we name them jets, fetched from [the CMS webpage](#).

### 3.2 ROOT

It is a lot. [25]

## ROOT, memory management etc.

## N tuples

The main datastructure of ROOT is the so called N tuple structure. This datastructure contains each property for each type of particle in a given event, yeilding a ragged structure.

	$jetP_T$	$jetPhi$	$lepP_T$	$lepPhi$	Rowlength
0	[120.2, 57]	[1.2, 0.5]	[223.3, 57.5, 9.7]	[0.545, 0.2, -0.3]	10
1	[, ]	[, ]	[121.343, 89.323]	[0.886, -0.855]	4
2	[86.112]	[86.112]	[57.75, 34.5]	[0.33, 0.255]	6

## RDataFrame

[26]

RDataFrame's main purpose is to make reading and handling of root files easier, especially in relation to modern machine learning tools and their respective frameworks and environments. This is done by creating a dataframe like structure of the root n-tuples, and then lazily<sup>8</sup> apply contraints to the data. Using PyROOT, RDataFrame can be accessed in Python, as the functionality is wrapped around a C++ class. Below is an example of how to create a RDataFrame object, apply a cut and then create a column for later use. Here, good leptons are defined first, denoted as "ele\_SG" and "muo\_SG". A cut is then applied where we require that the number of good leptons is always 3. Finally, a column is created where the combination of type of leptons in the 3 lepton system is stored, as well as creating a histogram containing the results for that given channel<sup>9</sup> k. Notice here that if the variable already exist as a column in the dataframe, arithmetic and logic can be applied directly using those columns to create new one. More complicated variables, such as the flavor combination for the leptons, or the invariant mass of two particles must be found or calculated using C++ functions. An example of such a function is shown below the python code listing.

```

1 import ROOT as R
2
3 R.EnableImplicitMT(200)
4 R.gROOT.ProcessLine(".L helperFunctions.cxx+")
5 R.gSystem.AddDynamicPath(str(dynamic_path))
6 R.gInterpreter.Declare(
7     '#include "helperFunctions.h"'
8 ) # Header with the definition of the myFilter function
9 R.gSystem.Load("helperFunctions_cxx.so") # Library with the myFilter function
10
11 df_mc = getDataFrames(mypath_mc)
12 df_data = getDataFrames(mypath_data)
13 df = {**df_mc, **df_data}
14
15 for k in df.keys():
16
17     # Signal leptons
18     df[k] = df[k].Define(
19         "ele_SG",
20         "ele_BL && lepIsoLoose_VarRad && lepTight && (lepDOSig <= 5 && lepDOSig >= -5)",
21     )
22     df[k] = df[k].Define(
23         "muo_SG",
24         "muo_BL && lepIsoLoose_VarRad && (lepDOSig <= 3 && lepDOSig >= -3)",
25     )
26     df[k] = df[k].Define("isGoodLep", "ele_SG || muo_SG")
27     df[k] = df[k].Define(
28         "nlep_SG", "ROOT::VecOps::Sum(ele_SG)+ROOT::VecOps::Sum(muo_SG)"
29     )
30
31     df[k] = df[k].Filter("nlep_SG == 3", "3 SG leptons")
32
33     # Define flavor combination based on
34     df[k] = df[k].Define("flcomp", "flavourComp3L(lepFlavor[ele_SG || muo_SG])")
35     histo[f"flcomp_{k}"] = df[k].Histo1D(
36         (
37             f"h_flcomp_{k}",
38             f"h_flcomp_{k}",

```

<sup>8</sup>In this context lazily means that the functions and or cuts are done first after all have been registered, see [ROOT guidelines](#) for more.

<sup>9</sup>A channel here refers to a certain decay channel. The standard model has several, and some look more alike than others. One example is the Higgs decay channel, with possible decays such as two photons, W bosons or Z bosons.

```

39         len(fldic.keys()),
40         0,
41         len(fldic.keys()),
42     ),
43     "flcomp",
44     "wgt_SG",
45 )
46
1 double getM(VecF_t &pt_i, VecF_t &eta_i, VecF_t &phi_i, VecF_t &e_i,
2             VecF_t &pt_j, VecF_t &eta_j, VecF_t &phi_j, VecF_t &e_j,
3             int i, int j)
4 {
5     /* Gets the invariant mass between two particles, be it jets or leptons */
6
7     const auto size_i = int(pt_i.size());
8     const auto size_j = int(pt_j.size());
9
10    if (size_i == 0 || size_j == 0){return 0.;}
11    if (i > size_i-1){return 0.;}
12    if (j > size_j-1){return 0.;}
13
14    TLorentzVector p1;
15    TLorentzVector p2;
16
17    p1.SetPtEtaPhiM(pt_i[i], eta_i[i], phi_i[i], e_i[i]);
18    p2.SetPtEtaPhiM(pt_j[j], eta_j[j], phi_j[j], e_j[j]);
19
20    double inv_mass = (p1 + p2).M();
21
22    return inv_mass;
23 }

```

Using ROOT we can create Lorentzvectors to calculate a number of properties, such as the invariant mass of two particles.

```

1 import pandas as pd
2
3 cols = df.keys()
4
5 for k in cols:
6
7     print(f"Transforming {k}.ROOT to numpy")
8     numpy = df[k].AsNumpy(DATAFRAME_COLS)
9     print(f"Numpy conversion done for {k}.ROOT")
10    df1 = pd.DataFrame(data=numpy)
11    print(f"Transformation done")
12
13
14    df1.to_hdf(
15        PATH_TO_STORE + f"/{k}_3lep_df_forML_bkg_signal_fromRDF.hdf5", "mini"
16    )

```

Once a dataframe has been created, the columns chosen and histograms are drawn, the dataframe can be converted to a pandas dataframe, which is a very popular choice for data structure when doing data analysis in python. Here the new pandas dataframe is stored as hdf5[27] files, for later use.

### 3.3 Background samples

#### 3 lepton + $e_T^{miss}$ background MonteCarlo

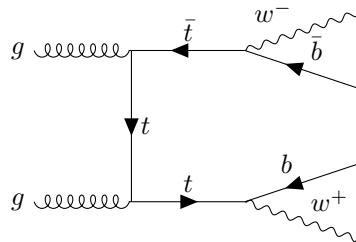
To look for anomalies in the three lepton final state we need to train on background MonteCarlo samples with that specific final state. This means in a sense that we want the autoencoder to learn what is expected from the Standard model in terms of this final state. The 3 lepton background MonteCarlo contains the following channels:

1. Wjets
2. Triboson
3. Higgs

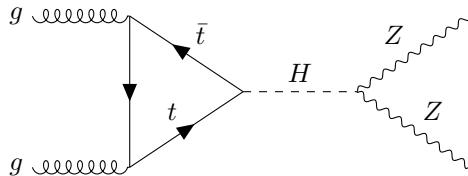
4. Zttjets
5. Zmmjets
6. Zeejets
7. SingleTop
8. TopOther
9. ttbar
10. Diboson2L
11. Diboson3L
12. Diboson4L

Below are three examples of what some of the samples contains. The selected ones are likely Feynman diagrams for  $t\bar{t}$ , Higgs and Zeejets channels.

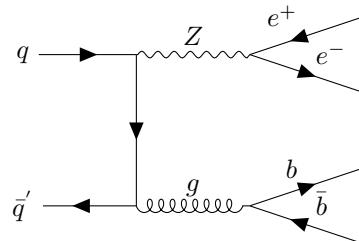
**Figure 3.5:** Proton-proton collision showing the  $t\bar{t}$  channel. Here the  $w$  bosons decay leptonically and one or more jets are misreconstructed as leptons by the detector.



**Figure 3.6:** Proton-proton collision showing the Higgs channel. Here the  $Z$  bosons decay leptonically.



**Figure 3.7:** Proton-proton collision showing the Zeejets channel. Here one of the  $Z$  bosons decay leptonically and the  $W$  boson decays hadronically.



## 2 lepton + $e_T^{miss}$ background MonteCarlo

1. singletop
2. Diboson
3. Zeejets

4. Zmmjets
5. Zttjets
6. Wjets
7. ttbar

Below are two examples of what some of the samples contains. The selected ones are likely Feynman diagrams for  $t\bar{t}$  and diboson.

### 3.4 The dataset features

#### The Rapidity-Mass matrix (RMM)

Most of the features in the analysis are elements in the so called Rapidity-Mass matrix (RMM) inspired by the work of Chekanov [28].

The RMM is a convenient structure to create a feature space for the dataset. It contains information of various reconstructed objects and their combinations about mass, rapidity, momenta and missing transverse energy, all of which are useful in searches for new physics[29] in HEP. One example of an analysis that have used some of the features from the RMM is demonstrated in [30]. The main reason however for using this structure is the systematic layout and automated featurespace, that maintains low to no correlation between the cells in the matrix, as this is ideal when using neural networks.

Its composition is determined as a square matrix of  $1 + \sum_{i=1}^T N_i$  columns and rows, where T is the total number of objects (i.e jets, electrons etc.), and  $N_i$  is the multiplicity of a given object. In the case of the same number of a given object for all objects, we can denote the RMM matrix as a TmNn matrix, where m is the multiplicity of T, and n is the number of particle per type. Thus there is already room for evaluation, as the combination of number of objects and the number of each object type highly affects the analysis as well as computational resources. Each cell in the matrix contains information about either single or two particle properties. This could in principle be generalized to three particle properties, which would make a three dimensional RMM. The scope of thesis will for simplicity only cover the two dimensional case. An example is shown in matrix 3.5.

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{e}_T^{miss} & m_T(j_1) & m_T(j_2) & m_T(e_1) & m_T(e_2) \\ h_L(j_1) & \mathbf{e}_T(j_1) & m(j_1, j_2) & m(j_1, e_1) & m(j_1, e_2) \\ h_L(j_2) & h(j_2, j_1) & \delta\mathbf{e}_T(j_2) & m(j_2, e_1) & m(j_2, e_2) \\ h_L(e_1) & h(e_1, j_1) & h(e_1, j_2) & \mathbf{e}_T(e_1) & m(e_1, e_2) \\ h_L(e_2) & h(e_2, j_1) & h(e_2, j_2) & h(e_2, e_1) & \delta\mathbf{e}_T(e_2) \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.5)$$

In matrix 3.5 we have the RMM matrix for a T2N2 system, in other words we have two types of particles, jets <sup>10</sup> and electrons, where each type has two particles. The matrix itself is partitioned into three parts. The diagonal represents energy properties, the upper triangular represents mass properties, and the lower triangular represents longitudinal properties related to rapidity. The diagonal has three different properties,  $\mathbf{e}_T^{miss}$ ,  $\mathbf{e}_T$  and  $\delta\mathbf{e}_T$ .  $\mathbf{e}_T^{miss}$  is placed in the (0, 0) position in the matrix. It accounts for the missing transverse energy for the system, which is of high interest for this analysis due to the search for heavy neutrinos.  $\mathbf{e}_T$  is the transverse energy defined as

$$\mathbf{e}_T = \sqrt{m^2 + p_T^2} \quad (3.6)$$

but for light particles such as electrons, this can be approximated to  $\mathbf{e}_T \approx p_T$ .  $\delta\mathbf{e}_T$  is the transverse energy imbalance. It is defined as

$$\delta\mathbf{e}_T = \frac{E_T(i_n - 1) - E_T(i_n)}{E_T(i_n - 1) + E_T(i_n)}, \quad n = 2, \dots, N. \quad (3.7)$$

The first column in the RMM matrix, with the exception of the first element, is related to the longitudinal property of the given particle. It is defined as

$$h_L(i_n) = C(\cosh(y) - 1),$$

where C is a constant to ensure that the average  $h_L(i_n)$  values do not deviate too much from the ranges of the invariant masses of the transverse masses, found to be 0.15, as it ensures that rapidity ranges in the

<sup>10</sup>Jets here can both be b- or ljets. Ljet is defined as jets with jetdl1r < 0.665, where as bjet77 is defined as jets with jetdl1r >= 2.195, where jetdl1r is a machine learning output from a network trained to distinguish b- and ljets.

range  $[-2.5, 2.5]$  produces  $h_L(i_n)$  values in the  $[0, 1]$  interval[28].  $y$  is the rapidity of the particle, and  $i_n$  is the particle number. On the lower triangle we have the longitudinal properties of the combinations of particles. Similar to  $h_L(i_n)$ , this property is defined as

$$h(i_n, j_k) = C(\cosh(\Delta y) - 1),$$

where  $\Delta y = y_{i_n} - y_{j_k}$  is the rapidity difference for particle  $i_n$  and  $j_k$ .

## Tabular and sparse data

A consequence of using the RMM structure is that the data and Monte Carlo are sparse. This is due to the fact that the RMM allows for the variety of final states of the reconstructed events, i.e. that one event has two jets, zero b-jets, one electron and two muons, whereas another event can have 4 jets, 3 b-jets and three electrons. This means that the RMM matrix for each event will have a different size, and for neural networks this is a problem. To solve this problem, Chekanov simply pads the missing values with 0s[28].

## MonteCarlo and data comparison

Before we can start the analysis, we need to compare the MonteCarlo and data. This is done to ensure that the measured features used are reconstructed well by the MonteCarlo training samples we use. As described by R. Stuart Geiger et al. [31], the concept of "Garbage in, garbage out" is of key importance in computer science, and indeed important in high energy physics. To ensure that the models we train actually learn physical processes, the training set must represent the physics "status quo". If the training samples do not match the physical reality, we regard it, in the context of high energy physics, as garbage in, which will in turn give garbage out. The Monte Carlo standard model simulations are indeed very good, but they are numerical approximations, and can sometimes be off. Thus, every feature that will be used for training have to be checked before being used. This is done by comparing the distributions of the features in the MonteCarlo and ATLAS data. MonteCarlo simulations are based on the actual theory itself, and comparisons with data taken from ATLAS and other detectors alike are necessary to prove that the standard model is a good model.

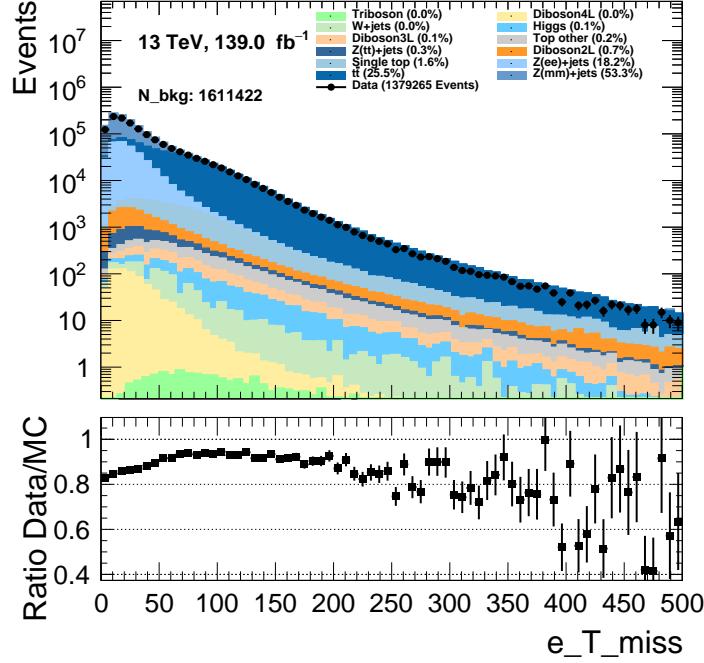
Now, if we compare all SM MonteCarlo and ATLAS data, we would usually expect there to be a good overlap. To ensure that the standard model MonteCarlo actually represents the physics, we create signal and background regions to optimize for a signal and/or background. If we can create a background region where we believe with very high certainty that only standard model processes can occur, and we get a good match, we usually conclude that the MonteCarlo is good enough. Now, for this thesis, simply comparing all ATLAS data to all standard model MonteCarlo is enough, as this data batch has been analysed by the ATLAS collaboration for multiple years without finding any new physics, concluding that if the signals are there, they are too small for so called visual cuts. Traditional searches have only excluded some models, which is why machine learning is getting more popular. The hope is that the signal, whatever it might be, can be revealed with clever feature engineering and smart machine learning algorithms. Particle physics differs here from more day to day machine learning as the target data is unlabeled.

In figure 3.8 two features have been selected to visualize the comparison between Monte Carlo and ATLAS data,  $e_T^{miss}$  and  $m(e_{l0}, e_{l1})$  in the 3 lepton +  $e_T^{miss}$  dataset. We see that both  $e_T^{miss}$  and  $m(e_{l0}, e_{l1})$  satisfy a good ratio between Monte Carlo and ATLAS data, thus we can safely move forward with the analysis. All features were checked, and can be found in the Github repository for this thesis at [Figures/Histo\\_var\\_check<sup>11</sup>](#) under the 3lep folder.

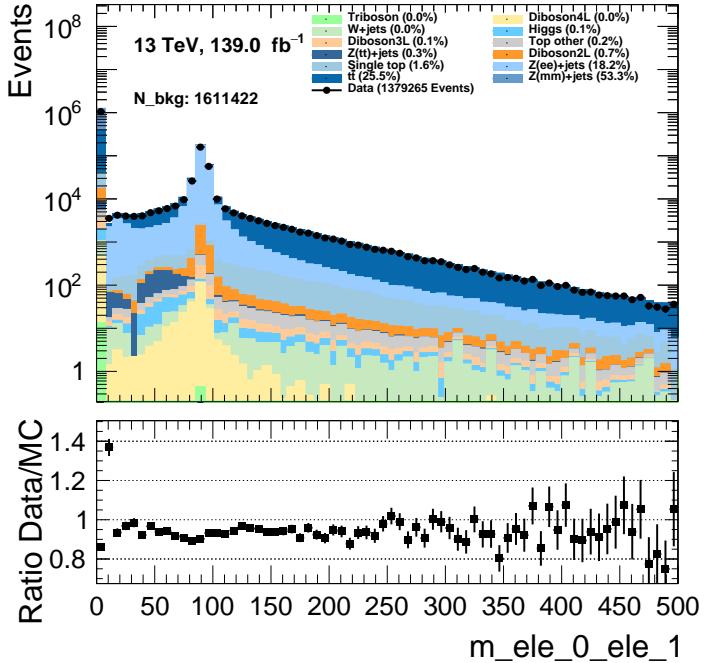
The same checks were done for the 2 lepton +  $e_T^{miss}$  dataset. In figure 3.9 we see that the features  $e_T^{miss}$  and  $m(e_{l0}, e_{l1})$  do not satisfy the same ratio between SM MC and ATLAS data, as with the 3 lepton +  $e_T^{miss}$  case. It is suspected that the trigger matching and triggers are not implemented properly, but neither the author or the supervisors have found a solution to the issue, and due to time constraints, chose to move forward with the analysis regardless. Thus, for all results regarding the 2 lepton +  $e_T^{miss}$  dataset should be interpreted with this in mind. One attempt can be shown in figure 3.9b where a cut on the invariant mass above 70 GeV of at least the two leptons with the highest energy, to try to accommodate the trigger issue. It did not seem to work. All features were checked, and can be found in the Github repository for this thesis at [Figures/Histo\\_var\\_check<sup>12</sup>](#) under the 2lep folder.

<sup>11</sup>Full link: [https://github.com/Gadangadang/MasterThesis/tree/main/Figures/histo\\_var\\_check/LEP3](https://github.com/Gadangadang/MasterThesis/tree/main/Figures/histo_var_check/LEP3)

<sup>12</sup>Full link: [https://github.com/Gadangadang/MasterThesis/tree/main/Figures/histo\\_var\\_check/LEP2](https://github.com/Gadangadang/MasterThesis/tree/main/Figures/histo_var_check/LEP2)



(a) Missing transverse energy for the three lepton final state in GeV. The histogram contains the entire Run 2 dataset.

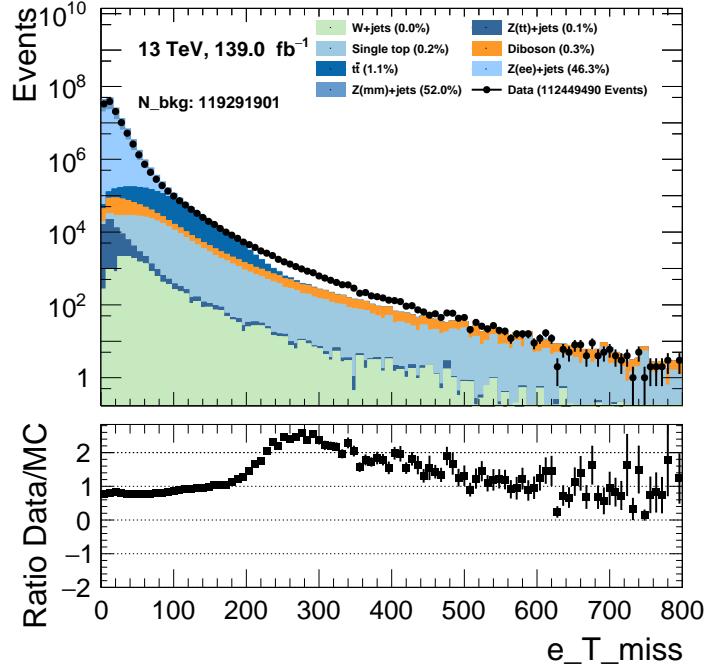


(b) Invariant mass for the first and second electron in GeV. The histogram contains the entire Run 2 dataset.

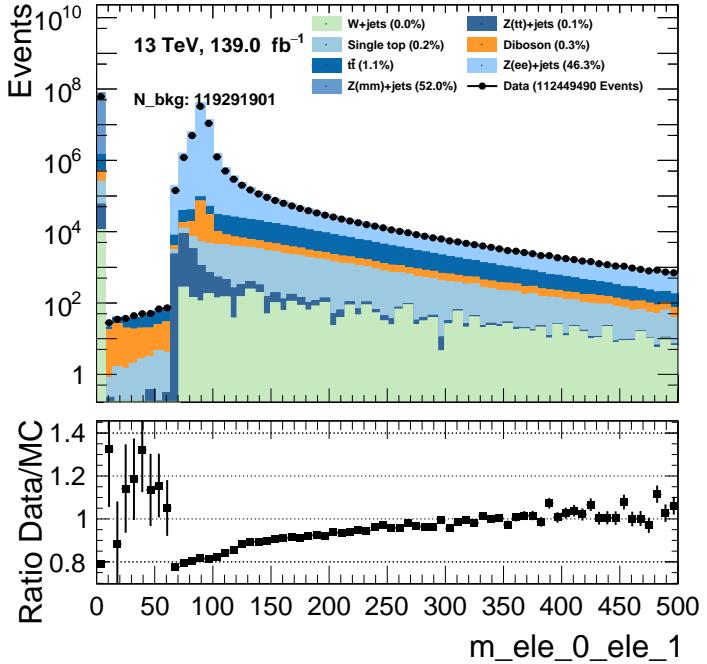
**Figure 3.8:** Comparison of the MonteCarlo and data for the three lepton +  $e_T^{miss}$  final state with the features  $e_T^{miss}$  and flavor composition.

## Triggers

The following triggers where implemented for the 2 lepton +  $e_T^{miss}$  and 3 lepton +  $e_T^{miss}$  dataset are written below:



(a) Missing transverse energy for the three lepton final state in GeV. The histogram contains the entire Run 2 dataset. Note here the lack of good overlap from about 200-500 GeV.



(b) Invariant mass for the first and second electron in GeV. The histogram contains the entire Run 2 dataset. Note the sharp reduction of events from 10-70 GeV.

**Figure 3.9:** Comparison of the MonteCarlo and data for the 2 lepton +  $e_T^{miss}$  final state with the features  $e_T^{miss}$  and flavor composition.

### 3.5 Code implementation

**Table 3.1:** Triggers used in the 2015 MonteCarlo and ATLAS data samples for the 2 lepton 0  $e_T^{miss}$  dataset.

	Name	Description
2015	<i>HLT_2e15_lhvloose_nod0_L12EM13VH</i>	
	<i>HLT_2e12_lhloose_L12EM10VH</i>	
	<i>HLT_2mu10</i>	
	<i>HLT_mu18_mu8noL1</i>	
	<i>HLT_e17_lhloose_mu14</i>	
	<i>HLT_e7_lhmedium_mu24</i>	

**Table 3.2:** Triggers used in the 2016 MonteCarlo and ATLAS data samples for the 2 lepton 0  $e_T^{miss}$  dataset.

	Name	Description
2016	<i>HLT_2e15_lhvloose_nod0_L12EM13VH</i>	
	<i>HLT_2e17_lhvloose_nod0</i>	
	<i>HLT_2mu10</i>	
	<i>HLT_2mu14</i>	
	<i>HLT_mu20_mu8noL1</i>	
	<i>HLT_mu22_mu8noL1</i>	
	<i>HLT_e17_lhloose_nod0_mu14</i>	
	<i>HLT_e24_lhmedium_nod0_L1EM20VHI_mu8noL1</i>	
	<i>HLT_e7_lhmedium_nod0_mu24</i>	

**Table 3.3:** Triggers used in the 2017 MonteCarlo and ATLAS data samples for the 2 lepton 0  $e_T^{miss}$  dataset.

	Name	Description
2017	<i>HLT_2e17_lhvloose_nod0_L12EM15VHI</i>	
	<i>HLT_2e24_lhvloose_nod0</i>	
	<i>HLT_2mu14</i>	
	<i>HLT_mu22_mu8noL1</i>	
	<i>HLT_e17_lhloose_nod0_mu14</i>	
	<i>HLT_e26_lhmedium_nod0_mu8noL1</i>	
	<i>HLT_e7_lhmedium_nod0_mu24</i>	

**Table 3.4:** Triggers used in the 2018 MonteCarlo and ATLAS data samples for the 2 lepton 0  $e_T^{miss}$  dataset.

	Name	Description
2018	<i>HLT_2e17_lhvloose_nod0_L12EM15VHI</i>	
	<i>HLT_2e24_lhvloose_nod0</i>	
	<i>HLT_2mu14</i>	
	<i>HLT_mu22_mu8noL1</i>	
	<i>HLT_e17_lhloose_nod0_mu14</i>	
	<i>HLT_e26_lhmedium_nod0_mu8noL1</i>	
	<i>HLT_e7_lhmedium_nod0_mu24</i>	

## Machine learning implementation

The machine learning analysis was written with Keras[32] using the Tensorflow api[33]. The machine learning structure was written using a functional structure<sup>13</sup>. In practise, this model could just as well have been written as a Sequential model<sup>14</sup>, but at a cost of flexibility and lack of potential non-linear structure in the architecture. The code consists of one general class for the autoencoder, where the different testing cases are different classes inheriting from the parent class.

<sup>13</sup>Functional structure uses a function call for layers, i.e for layers a,b, then b(a) will connect the two layers, and equals a sequential link a → b. This allows for more flexible structures. More on the functional api can be found [here](#).

<sup>14</sup>Sequential structure adds layers in sequence, i.e for layers a, b, c we have that a → b → c, with a strict structure. This allows for more organized code. More on sequential models can be found [here](#).

## Construction of a neural network in Tensorflow

Using the functional structure, a general neural network in the Tensorflow API can be constructed as shown below.

```

1 import tensorflow as tf
2
3
4 inputs = tf.keras.layers.Input(shape=data_shape, name="input")
5
6 # First hidden layer
7 First_layer = tf.keras.layers.Dense(
8     units=30,
9     activation="relu"
10 )(inputs)
11
12 # Second hidden layer
13 Second_layer = tf.keras.layers.Dense(
14     units=45,
15     activation="relu"
16 )(First_layer)
17
18 # Third hidden layer
19 output_layer = tf.keras.layers.Dense(
20     units=1,
21     activation="sigmoid"
22 )(Second_layer)
23
24
25 # Model definition
26 nn_model = tf.keras.Model(inputs, output_layer, name="nn_model")
27
28 hp_learning_rate = 0.0015
29 optimizer = tf.keras.optimizers.Adam(hp_learning_rate)
30 nn_model.compile(loss="mse", optimizer=optimizer, metrics=["mse"])

```

The neural network here contains one input layer, two hidden layers, and an output layer. The choice of nodes and activation functions are arbitrary here as the use case has not been defined. Note that this is exactly the same as the previous example, but using the sequential structure.

```

1 import tensorflow as tf
2
3 nn_model = tf.keras.Sequential(
4     [
5         tf.keras.layers.Dense(30, activation="relu", input_shape=data_shape),
6         tf.keras.layers.Dense(45, activation="relu"),
7         tf.keras.layers.Dense(1, activation="sigmoid"),
8     ]
9 )
10
11 hp_learning_rate = 0.0015
12 optimizer = tf.keras.optimizers.Adam(hp_learning_rate)
13 nn_model.compile(loss="mse", optimizer=optimizer, metrics=["mse"])

```

## Data handling python side

### Implementation of the RMM matrix

An example of the RMM matrices used in this thesis is shown in figure 3.10 below:

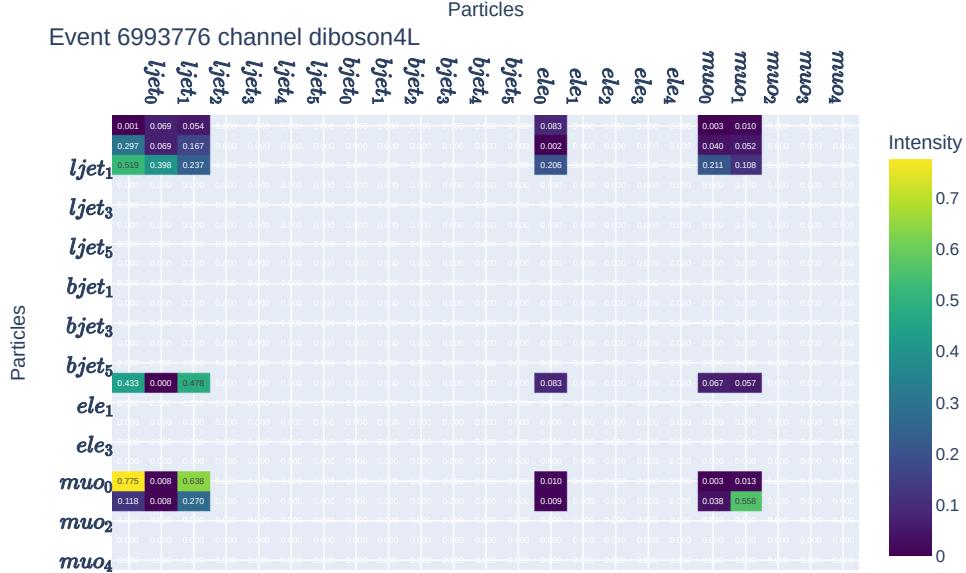
In figure 3.10 we see two RMM matrices created from two different channels in the MonteCarlo samples. This RMM is of type T4N5<sup>15</sup>. For easier interpretability, the gray area corresponds to a missing value, leading to so called "islands" in the RMM matrix.

### Setup for 3 lepton dataset

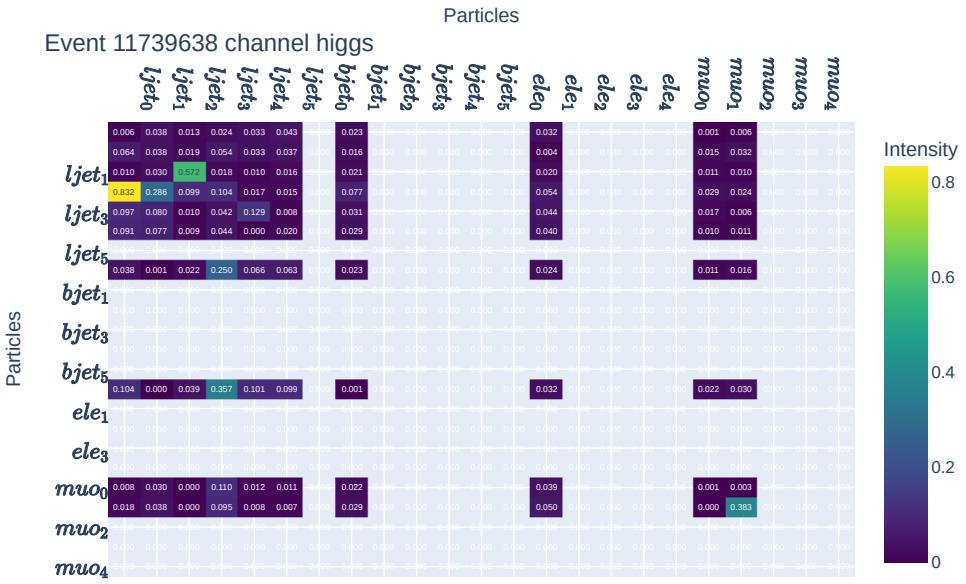
The 3 lepton dataset is about 96 Giga bytes of data when implementing the RMM structure for 6 b- and ljets, 5 electrons and 5 muons. The dataset is converted from a ROOT RDataframe to a Pandas dataframe[34] for

---

<sup>15</sup>T4 → 4 particle types: bjets, ljets, electrons and muons. N5 → 5 particles per particle type. Note here that we have 5 particles only for the leptons, and 6 particles for each of the types of jets.



(a) RMM matrix for event number 6993776 from the MonteCarlo diboson4L sample. Each feature is scaled based on a fit for that feature for all events in the training set ( $\approx 80\%$  of total MC). This sample contains two ljets, one electron and two muons.



(b) RMM matrix for event number 11739638 from the MonteCarlo Higgs sample. Each feature is scaled based on a fit for that feature for all events in the training set ( $\approx 80\%$  of total MC). This sample contains five ljets, one bjet, one electron and two muons.

**Figure 3.10:** Note here that the y axis for the RMM's lack every other label, due to lack of space in the y axis of the plot. If looked more closely upon, one can see that each figure have all RMM cells, just that the labels, which are identical to the x axis label, only show every other. Note also here that the labels only tell which particle are used for that row/column, i.e in figure 3.10b in row 0 column 3 we have the invariant mass of the first and second ljet. The RMM plots were created using Plotly[4].

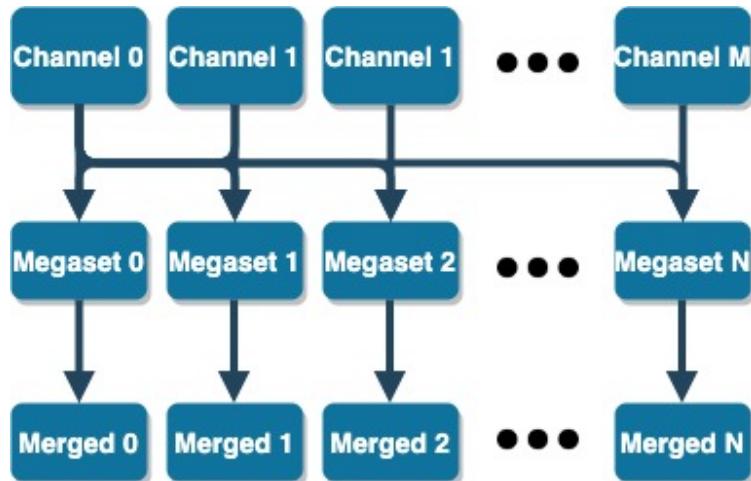
further preprocessing. Having added the channel column in the dataset<sup>16</sup>, the channel categories, weights,

<sup>16</sup>This column would in a fully supervised setting be used as a target vector, but in this thesis it will only be used for legends in histograms and to index out certain channels in the validation and training set.

missing transverse energy and trilepton mass<sup>17</sup> as well as the RMM structure are divided into a training and validation/test set in an 80-20 split. This was done using the `".fit_transform()"` and `".transform()` functions from the Scikit-learn library[35]. The training and validation/test set are then converted to numpy arrays[36] for faster loading and easier indexing, and saved as `".npy"` files. This allows for faster reuse of the arrays.

### Setup via iterative training for 2 lepton dataset

The two lepton dataset contains about 1.5 - 2 Terra bytes of data when implementing the RMM structure for 6 b- and ljets, 5 electrons and 5 muons, as for the 3 lepton dataset. This is too much to hold in memory at the same time, thus it had to be split into several smaller datasets, called megasets. Below is a figure visualizing the structure used.



**Figure 3.11:** Megaset structure for the 2lep dataset. This figure generalises to M channels, and N megasets. The more you increase the number of megasets, the smaller each megaset will be in bytesize, but in order to keep the SM MC distribution, it is not recommended to make too small sets.

In figure 3.11 we see a generalized dividing structure. In the case of this thesis, each channel was divided into 10 equal parts, and stored in their respective folder. Pandas is not built for very large datasets, not running in a parallelized way. To handle this, the library Polars<sup>18</sup> [37] was used instead. When all channels were split, a merging was done combining all the channels in a given megaset to a separate dataset. The selection of events from each channel was done randomly, which is important, as we want to the best of our ability keep the distribution signature of the entire dataset in each megaset. If not, the model will be biased towards those datasets with the most events. Once each of the megasets were merged, the training could begin in an iterative fashion. Because Tensorflow is statically compiled, you cannot call the fit function over and over again. Instead, the weights trained based on one megaset is stored and reloaded into a new model, thus the weights are still trained on the entire set, but in a batch like manner.

```
1 for megaset in range(self.totmegasets):
2
3     ## Load model
4     if SMALL:
5         self.AE_model = nn_model.getModel()
6     else:
7         self.AE_model = nn_model.getModelBig()
8
9     if megaset != 0:
10        self.AE_model.load_weights('./checkpoints/Megabatch_checkpoint')
11
12
13     ## Run Training
14     with tf.device("/GPU:0"):
15
16         tf.config.optimizer.set_jit("autoclustering")
17
18         self.AE_model.fit(
```

<sup>17</sup>Invariant mass of three leptons. This is assured to exist from event selection in the 3 lepton dataset.

<sup>18</sup>Polars uses all available cores on the system and has excellent memory handling capability, see [Polaris User Guide](#).

```

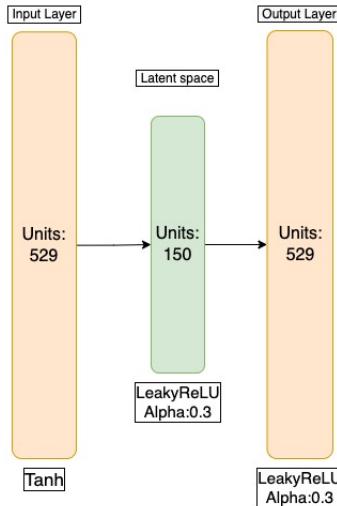
19     xtrain,
20     xtrain,
21     epochs=self.epochs,
22     batch_size=self.b_size,
23     validation_data=(xval, xval),
24     sample_weight=x_train_weights,
25   )
26
27
28   self.AE_model.save_weights('./checkpoints/Megabatch_checkpoint')

```

## 3.6 The chosen neural network architectures

### The regular Autoencoder

Below are the two models used for the regular autoencoder.



**Figure 3.12:** Small autoencoder architecture.

In figure 3.12 we have the small autoencoder. It consists of an input and output layer of 529 nodes, with one latent space layer of 150 nodes. The activation functions for the input, latent space and output are the Tanh and LeakyReLU with  $\alpha = 0.3$  respectively,

In figure 3.13 we have the large autoencoder. It consists of an input and output layer of 529 nodes, with three hidden layers of 450, 300 and 200 nodes respectively in the encoder and three hidden layers of 200, 300 and 450 respectively. The activation functions for the input and ouput layers are the Tanh and LeakyReLU with  $\alpha = 0.3$  respectively. The hidden layers in the encoder have the activation functions Tanh, LeakyReLU with  $\alpha = 0.3$  and ReLU respectively. The hidden layers in the decoder have the activation functions ReLU, LeakyReLU with  $\alpha = 0.3$  and Tanh respectively. The latent space has 150 nodes, with the LeakyReLU activation function with  $\alpha = 0.3$ .

### The variational Autoencoder

Below are the two models used for the variational autoencoder.

In figure 3.14 we have the small variational autoencoder. It consists of an input and output layer of 529 nodes, with one latent space layer of 150 nodes sampling from a mean and variance layer of same size. The activation functions for the input and output are the Tanh and LeakyReLU with  $\alpha = 0.3$  respectively.

In figure 3.15 we have the large autoencoder. It consists of an input and output layer of 529 nodes, with three hidden layers of 400, 300 and 200 nodes respectively in the encoder and three hidden layers of 200, 300 and 400 respectively. The activation functions for the input and ouput layers are the ReLU and Sigmoid respectively. The hidden layers in the encoder have the activation functions Tanh, ReLU, LeakyReLU with  $\alpha = 0.3$  respectively. The hidden layers in the decoder have the activation functions LeakyReLU with  $\alpha = 0.3$ , ReLU and Tanh respectively.

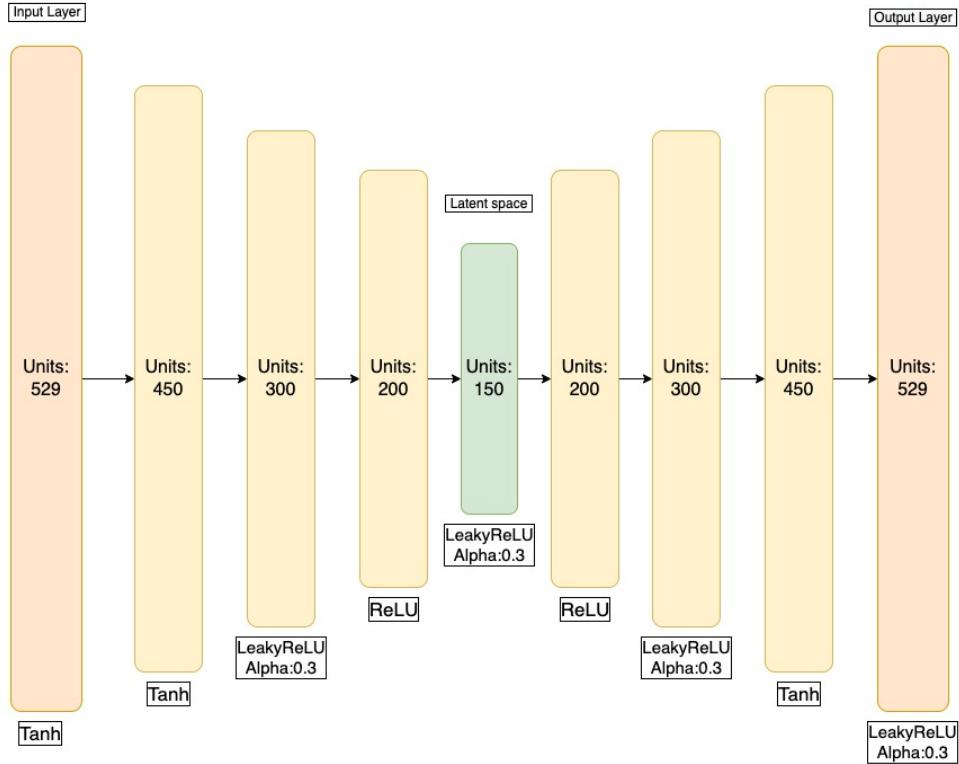


Figure 3.13: Large autoencoder architecture.

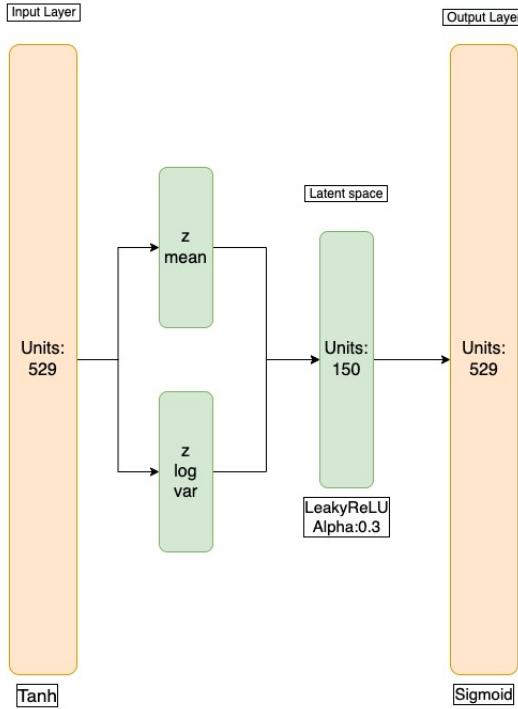
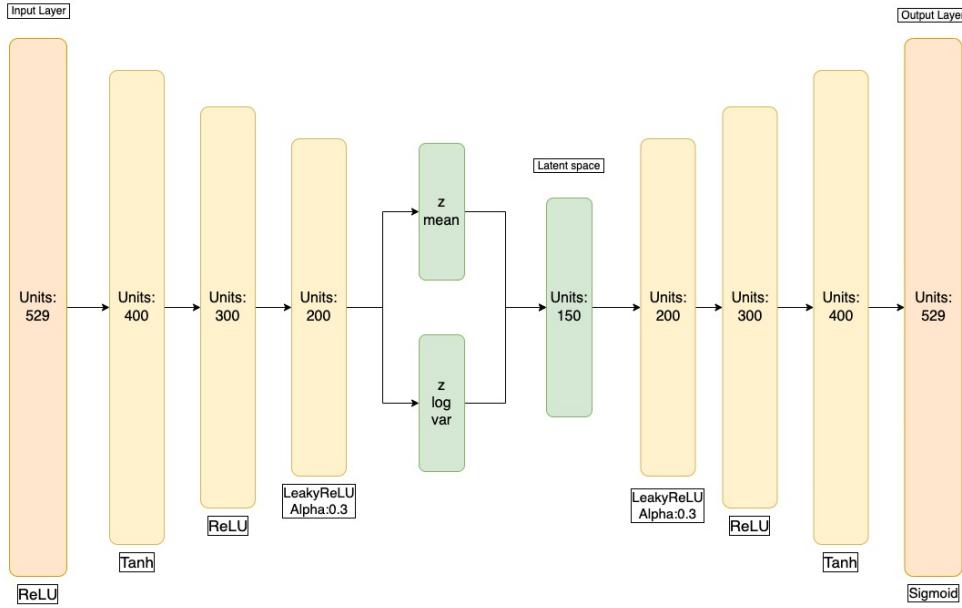


Figure 3.14: Small variational autoencoder architecture.

### 3.7 The search strategy

The strategy used to look for anomalies in the three lepton + missing energy final state is presented as follows. First, the MonteCarlo and ATLAS data for training and inference are constructed with the RMM from section 3.4 as features. After scaling and splitting, 80% of the MC will be used for training the neural network, and the remaining 20% will be used for inference. To separate the anomalies, the reconstruction



**Figure 3.15:** Large variational autoencoder architecture.

error of the input data will create a distribution. The same will then be done for a test signal, and eventually the ATLAS data. The ATLAS data is completely unlabeled which makes validation difficult. However, the test signals are labeled, thus we can analyze the reconstruction error distribution of those signals as a weak<sup>19</sup> validation of performance when later running on ATLAS data.

Standard analyses creates what is called a signal region. The signal region is a region in the feature space where the signal is maximized. We use this region to calculate the significance of a result in the search, which is really the only metric that is of use. The statistical uncertainty and noise is proportional to the amount of SM MC, thus with lower amounts of SM MC, the better the significance will be. Using the reconstruction error, the autoencoder can create its own signal region, namely the areas of high reconstruction error. A cut here will then be used to separate the anomalies from the Standard model in for example missing transverse energy, or other features of interest.

To avoid bias by the author, some of the test signals should contain some signal samples that the creator of the model has not seen before, to ensure no changes have been made to the network to adjust for that signal. ROC curves will then be used to evaluate the binary classification ability of the autoencoder.

## Initial testings

Before testing the AE and VAE on signal samples, it was of interest to test the sensitivity of the two models on alterations on the Monte Carlo. This can be thought of as initial testing.

### Channel removing

As the goal of the autoencoder is to reconstruct data it has looked on, one idea was to remove one of the channels in the standard model. The idea was that some of the channels differ enough in the final states they produce and thus the RMMs for the events in the given selection. All channels were tested on as signal, but one can expect some to have more similar results than others.

### Altering transverse momentum

Another idea for anomaly detection testing with the MonteCarlo was to alter the transverse momentum of some of the particles. Random events were selected and had the transverse energy changed, in accordance with equation 3.6. The hope is that especially events with above 5 time increase in transverse momentum

<sup>19</sup>Weak means here that although the test signals can provide valuable insight in how the autoencoder can separate anomalies, we must be cautious about generalizing the evaluation value of those results. There are many contributing factors that affect the reconstruction error separation, which will be such as similarities with the Standard model, large amounts of missing energy, high energy particles and more, discussed in chapter 4.

should be picked up. Note that by changing the transverse momentum, the change in transverse energy also changes. From equation 3.7 we have that a scale change  $k$  in  $p_T$  yields the following new relation:

$$\delta e_T^k = \frac{kE_T(i_n - 1) - E_T(i_n)}{kE_T(i_n - 1) + E_T(i_n)}, n = 2, \dots, N. \quad (3.8)$$

Thus, both the transverse energy and the change in transverse energy is changed for this test.

### Feature shuffling

Another idea was to shuffle the features of the events. This is done by randomly selecting a feature and swapping it with another feature. This will create fake and unphysical events, which should be picked up by the autoencoder.

### Dummy data

The last idea was to create dummy data. This is done by selecting both a percentage of the rows and columns, and swapping them, making the data unphysical.



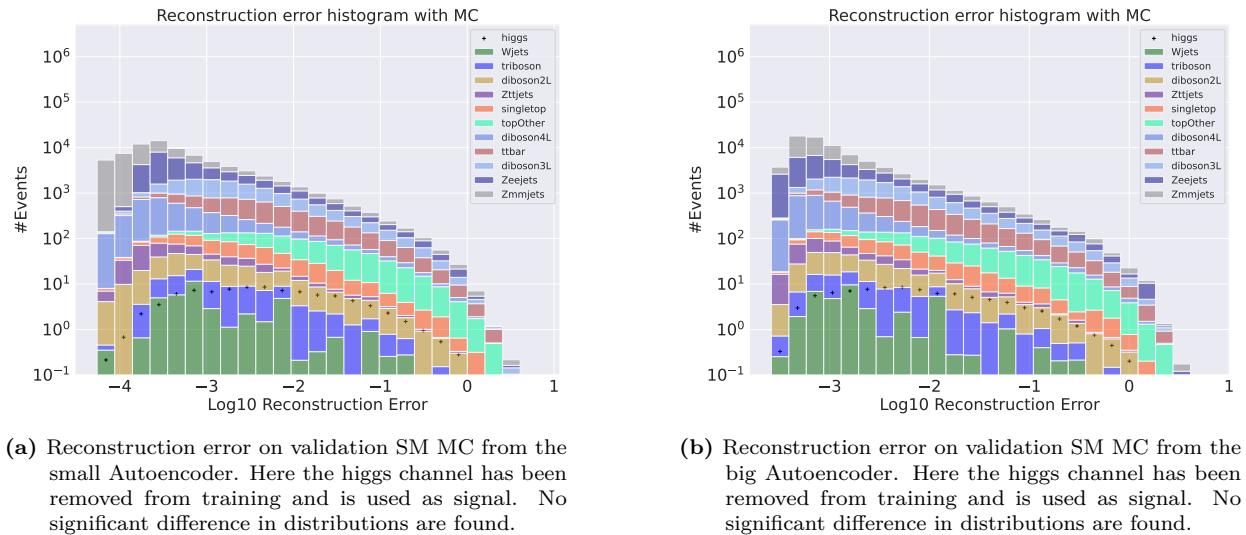
# Chapter 4

## Results and Discussion

### 4.1 Non signal testing of the regular and variational Autoencoder

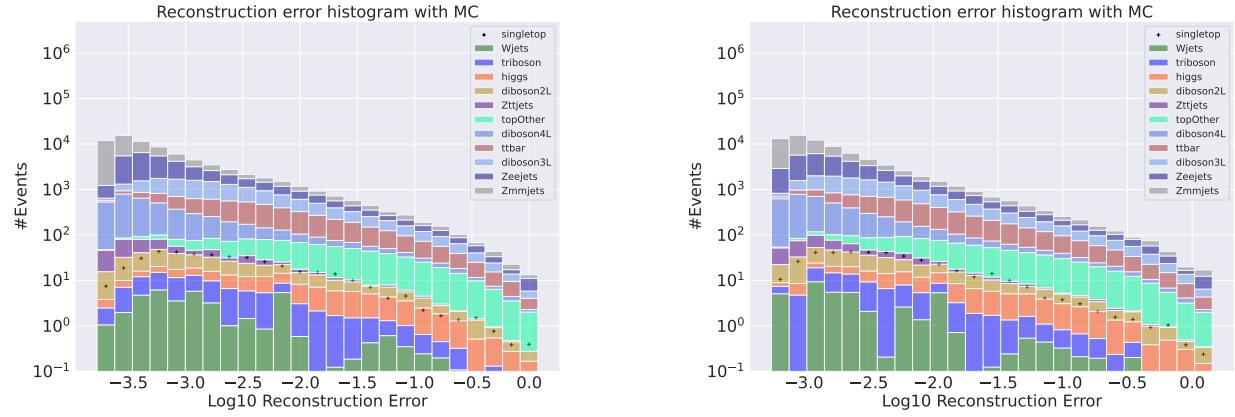
#### Channel removing

Both the large and small regular and variational autoencoder produced results, and are shown below. The Higgs, singletop and ttbar channels have been selected here, as they are from a physics stand point the channels that looks most unlike the other channels.



**Figure 4.1:** Reconstruction error distributions for the small (to the left) and large (to the right) autoencoder using the Higgs channel as a signal, and training the autoencoder on the remaining channels.

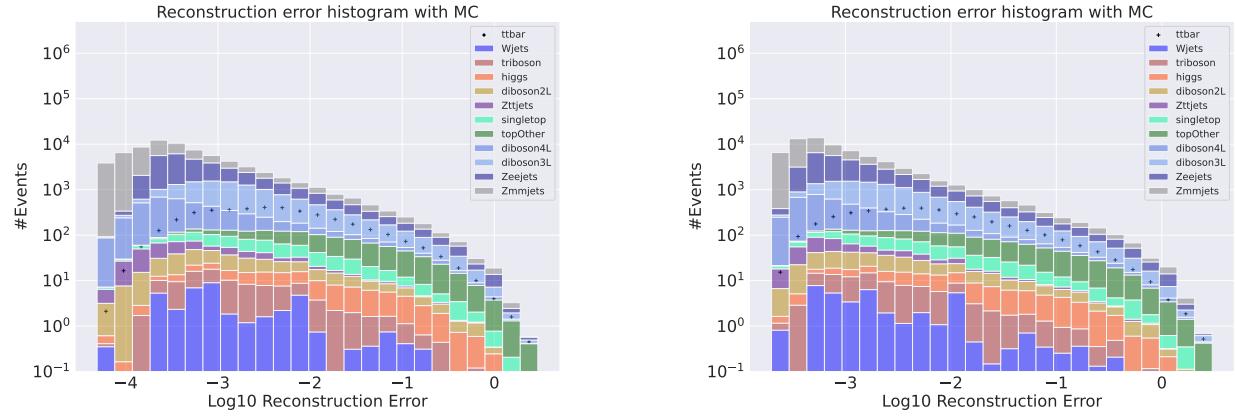
In figures 4.1 to 4.6 we have the reconstruction error distributions for the SM MC using Higgs, singletop and ttbar as signal samples for the small (to the left) and the big (to the right) regular and variational autoencoder. It is clear from figures that the reconstruction error distributions for the removed SM channel and the remaining SM MC are very similar. The same behavior is also shown for the other channels, which can be found in appendix 2. All though the two models struggled to get a separation of reconstruction error distributions, the regular autoencoder seems to have a more shifted pattern of reconstruction to lower values than the variational autoencoder. In fact, the regular autoencoder's reconstruction error distribution peak is about 3 order of magnitude lower than the variational autoencoder's error distribution peak. There could be several reasons for this, one of which is that the variational autoencoder requires more input data to approximate the distribution, as well as the fact that the balance between the KL divergence and MSE loss can be difficult to handle[38]. This can lead to poor performance of the network. It should be noted that all though the three channels selected here, as well as the rest in appendix 2, do not differ that much from one another, and the hopes were not high that the networks would be able to separate the two distributions created. However it does provide us with a baseline, as well as insight for what to expect if we were to test on signals that looks a lot like some channels.



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small Autoencoder. Here the singletop channel has been removed from training and is used as signal. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big Autoencoder. Here the singletop channel has been removed from training and is used as signal. No significant difference in distributions are found.

**Figure 4.2:** Reconstruction error distributions for the small (to the left) and large (to the right) autoencoder using the Singletop channel as a signal, and training the autoencoder on the remaining channels.



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small Autoencoder. Here the ttbar channel has been removed from training and is used as signal. No significant difference in distributions are found.

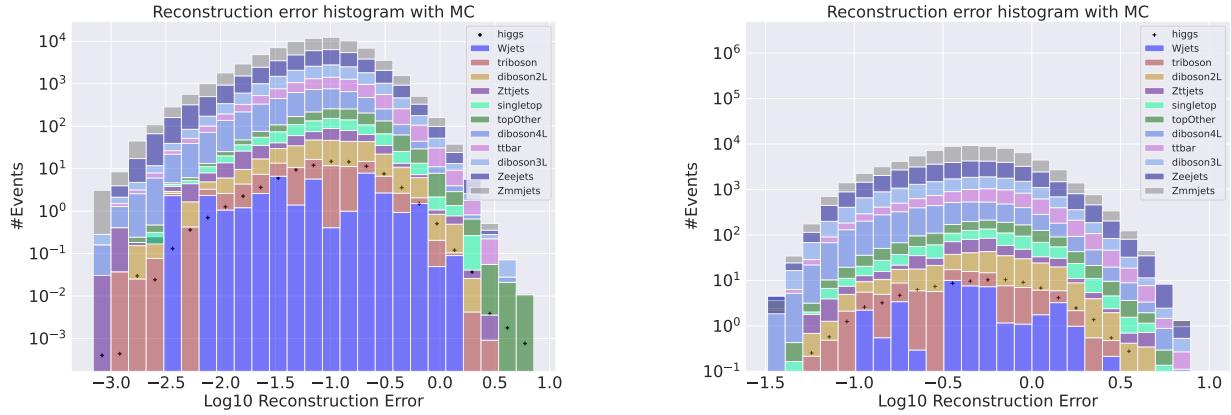
(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big Autoencoder. Here the ttbar channel has been removed from training and is used as signal. No significant difference in distributions are found.

**Figure 4.3:** Reconstruction error distributions for the small (to the left) and large (to the right) autoencoder using the ttbar channel as a signal, and training the autoencoder on the remaining channels.

## Altering of transverse momentum

Altering the transverse momentum of some particles would in the extreme be anomalous and the hypothesis was that some of those trends would be picked up by the autoencoder. Several scales for the transverse momentum were used, with the following results.

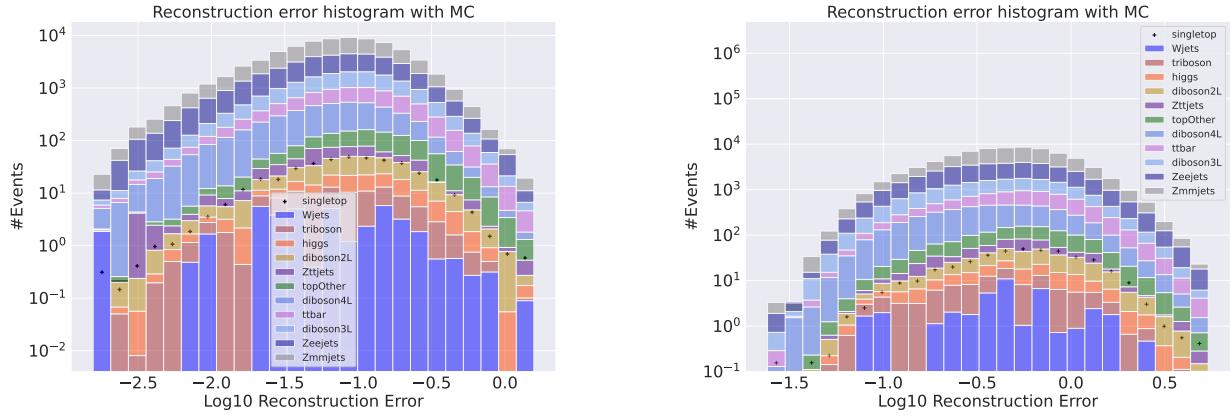
The first thing to notice here is that, as with the channel removal, the distribution shape of the output from the regular autoencoder compared to the variational autoencoder is different. The shape from the regular autoencoder is clearly shifted to the left end, with low reconstruction error compared to the shape from the variational autoencoder, where the peak of the distribution is around 1. From the  $p_T$  altering test we also see here that the variational autoencoder falls short to the regular one. It is also interesting to observe here that the high  $p_T$  events are picked up as anomalous from both autoencoders, with both shallow and deep structure. In the regular autoencoder it is arguably even separated distributions. This is also a good sign as it indicates that the network has learned which ranges the  $p_T$  should be in for the 3 lepton plus missing energy final state. The most extreme case is as expected in the case where the  $p_T$  is multiplied by 10, and the  $\delta e_T^{10}$ , there is a clear separation in reconstruction error distributions for the signal and background for the deep regular autoencoder, and a slightly more subtle separation of reconstruction error distributions for the shallow regular autoencoder. In the variational autoencoder, the separation is not as clear, but the signal is still picked up as anomalous. The peaks are separated, but not to the same degree.



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small variational Autoencoder. Here the higgs channel has been removed from training and is used as signal. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big variational Autoencoder. Here the higgs channel has been removed from training and is used as signal. No significant difference in distributions are found.

**Figure 4.4:** Reconstruction error distributions for the small (to the left) and large (to the right) autoencoder using the Higgs channel as a signal, and training the autoencoder on the remaining channels.



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small variational Autoencoder. Here the singletop channel has been removed from training and is used as signal. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big variational Autoencoder. Here the singletop channel has been removed from training and is used as signal. No significant difference in distributions are found.

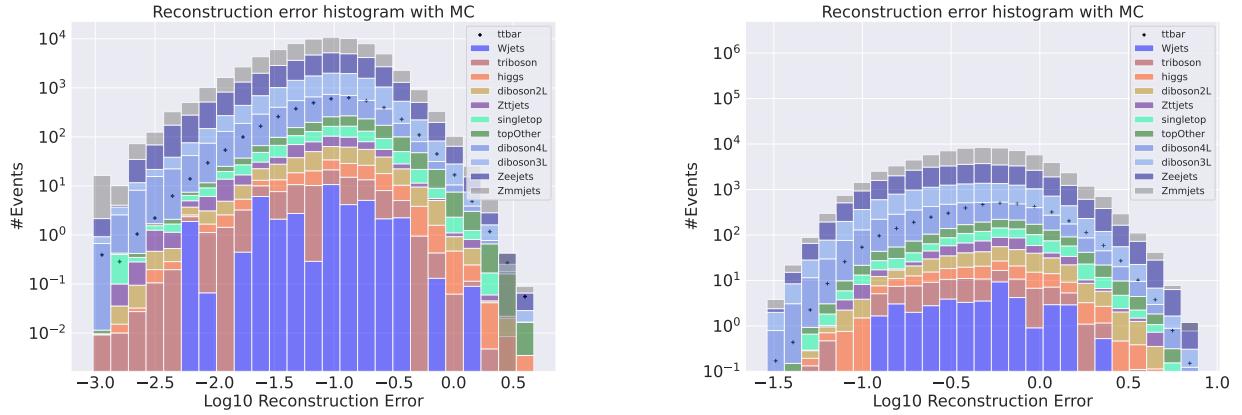
**Figure 4.5:** Reconstruction error distributions for the small (to the left) and large (to the right) autoencoder using the Singletop channel as a signal, and training the autoencoder on the remaining channels.

## 4.2 Dummy signal testing of the regular and variational Autoencoder

Another important part of benchmarking the algorithm is to test it on a signal sample. This is the closest test we can do before we no longer can alter the algorithm, as that would be supervised learning. Results from both the regular and the variational autoencoder are shown below.

### Autoencoder

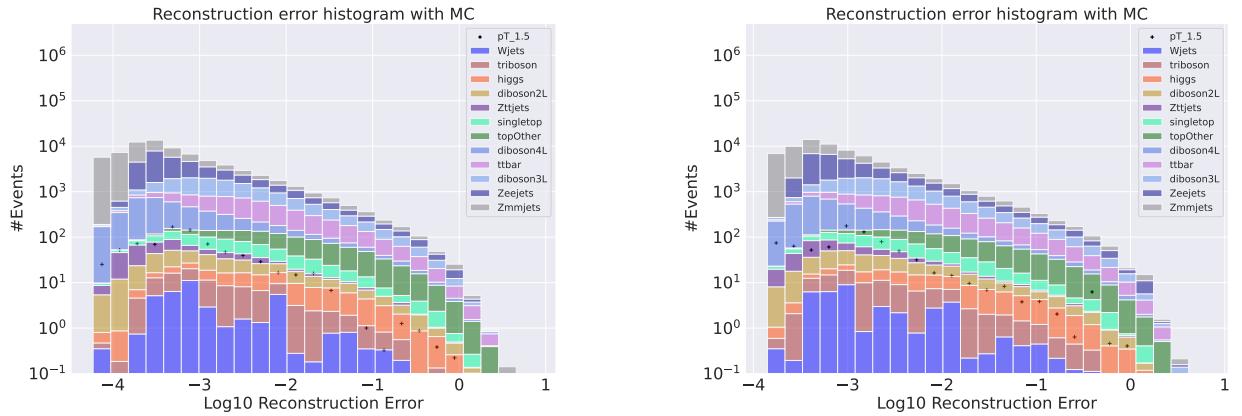
### Variational Autoencoder



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small variational Autoencoder. Here the ttbar channel has been removed from training and is used as signal. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big variational Autoencoder. Here the ttbar channel has been removed from training and is used as signal. No significant difference in distributions are found.

**Figure 4.6:** Reconstruction error distributions for the small (to the left) and large (to the right) autoencoder using the ttbar channel as a signal, and training the autoencoder on the remaining channels.



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small regular Autoencoder. Here the signal is a sub-sample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 1.5. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

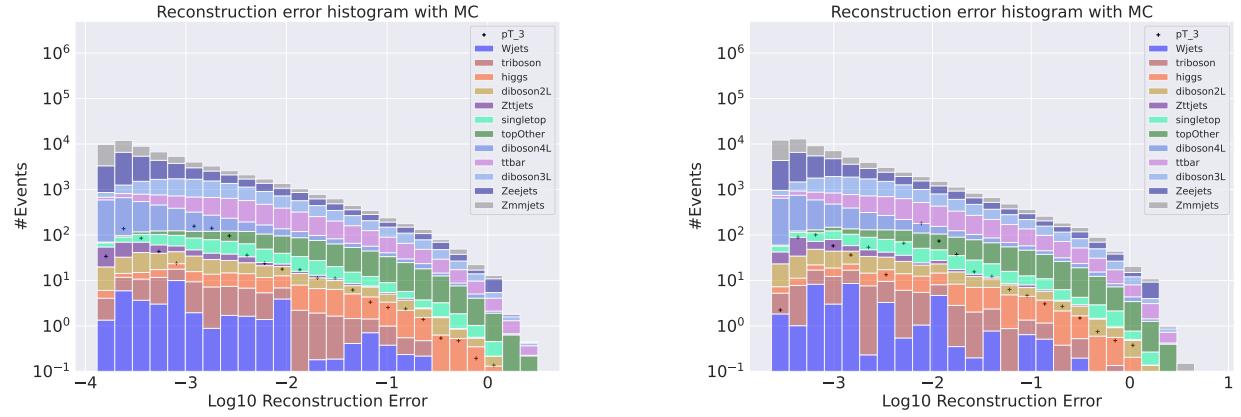
(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big regular Autoencoder. Here the signal is a sub-sample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 1.5. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

**Figure 4.7:** Reconstruction error on validation SM MC using randomly selected events from all SM MC channels for the small and big regular autoencoder.  $p_T$  is scaled by 1.5.

## ROC curves on $e_T^{miss}$ and reconstruction error

Now based on the reconstruction error on the SUSY signals, especially the one in figure 4.17b, it is tempting to declare that the autoencoder has done a good job reconstructing the standard model and a poor job on the SUSY signal, resulting in a separation of distributions. However, there is one thing we need to remember. The SUSY signals have very high  $e_T^{miss}$ , so much so that one can separate them by eye on that distribution alone. This is presented in the figure below:

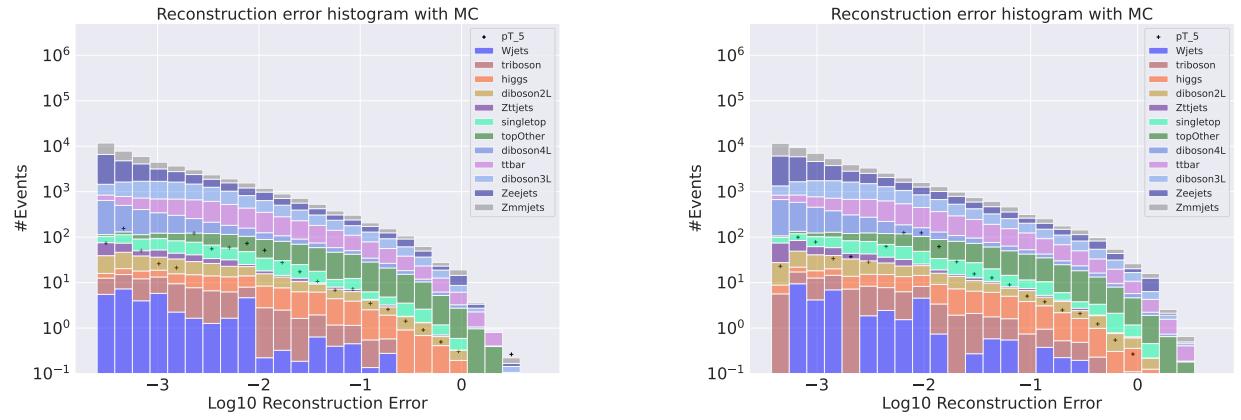
From figure 4.19 and 4.20 we see that even though the reconstruction error is a good discriminator for the SM MC and the SUSY signals,  $e_T^{miss}$  provides better separation. This is because the SUSY signals have very high  $e_T^{miss}$ , so much so that one can separate them by eye on that distribution alone. The interpretation of this is that the autoencoder has shown it can be used for the purpose of separating the SM MC from the SUSY signals, but not to the level of using just  $e_T^{miss}$ . The same behavior is shown for the small autoencoder in the appendix, as well as for the small and large variational autoencoder.



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small regular Autoencoder. Here the signal is a sub-sample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 3. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big regular Autoencoder. Here the signal is a sub-sample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 3. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

**Figure 4.8:** Reconstruction error on validation SM MC using randomly selected events from all SM MC channels for the small and big regular autoencoder.  $p_T$  is scaled by 3.



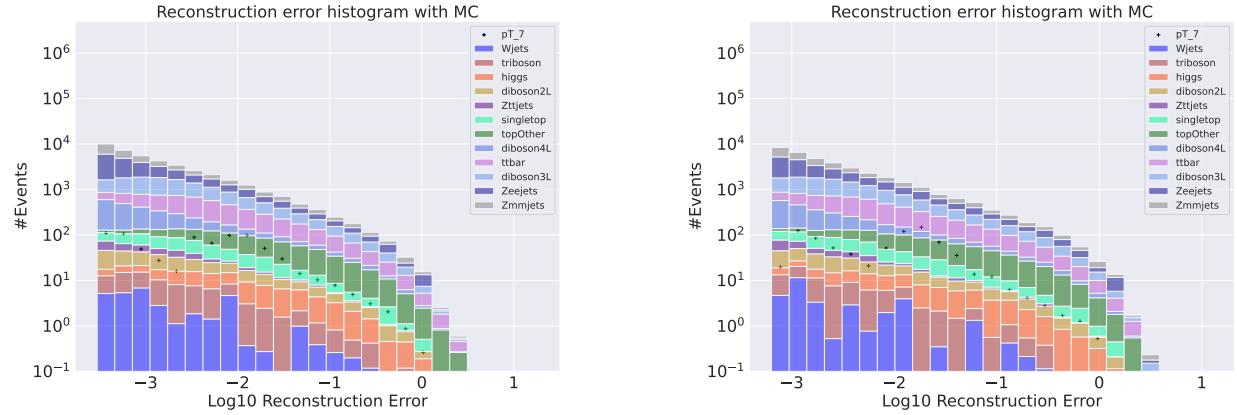
(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small regular Autoencoder. Here the signal is a sub-sample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 5. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big regular Autoencoder. Here the signal is a sub-sample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 5. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

**Figure 4.9:** Reconstruction error on validation SM MC using randomly selected events from all SM MC channels for the small and big regular autoencoder.  $p_T$  is scaled by 5.

### 4.3 3 lepton ATLAS data analysis

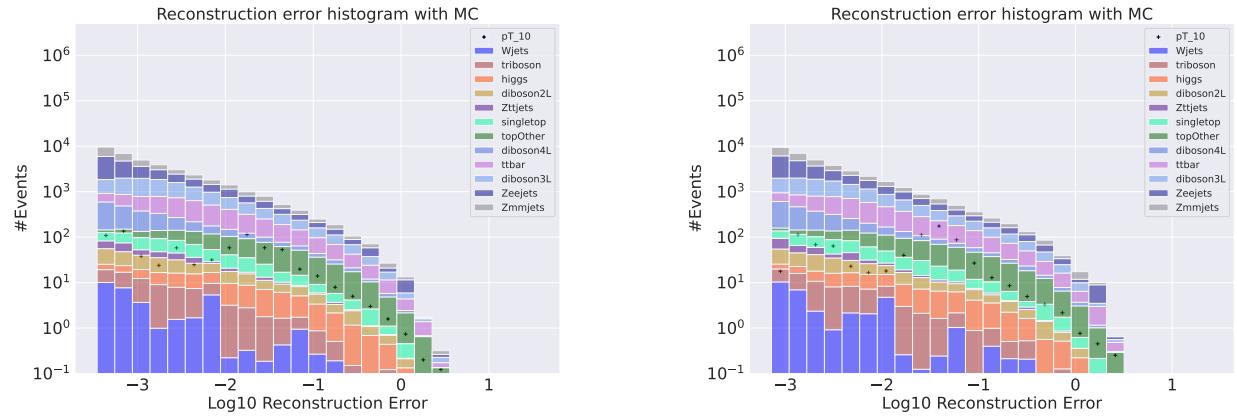
#### Heavy neutrino signal testing of the regular and variational Autoencoder



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small regular Autoencoder. Here the signal is a sub-sample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 7. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big regular Autoencoder. Here the signal is a sub-sample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 7. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

**Figure 4.10:** Reconstruction error on validation SM MC using randomly selected events from all SM MC channels for the small and big regular autoencoder.  $p_T$  is scaled by 7.

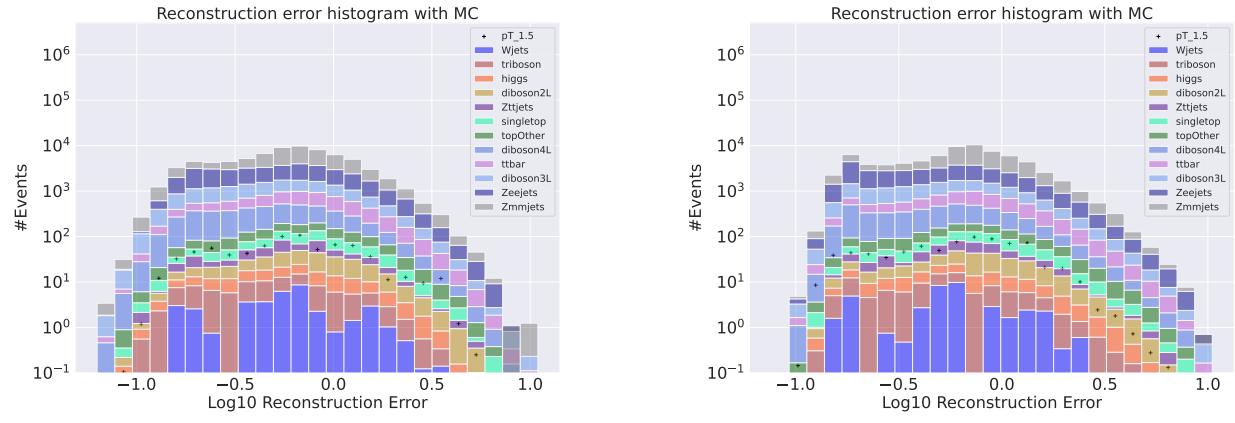


(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small regular Autoencoder. Here the signal is a sub-sample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 10. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big regular Autoencoder. Here the signal is a sub-sample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 10. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

**Figure 4.11:** Reconstruction error on validation SM MC using randomly selected events from all SM MC channels for the small and big regular autoencoder.  $p_T$  is scaled by 10.

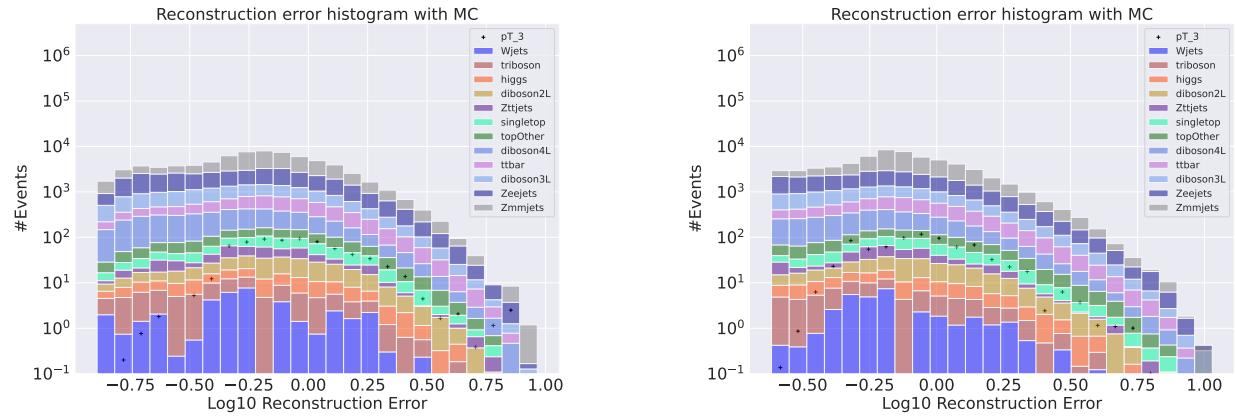
## 4.4 2 lepton ATLAS data analysis



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small variational Autoencoder. Here the signal is a subsample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 1.5. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big variational Autoencoder. Here the signal is a subsample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 1.5. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

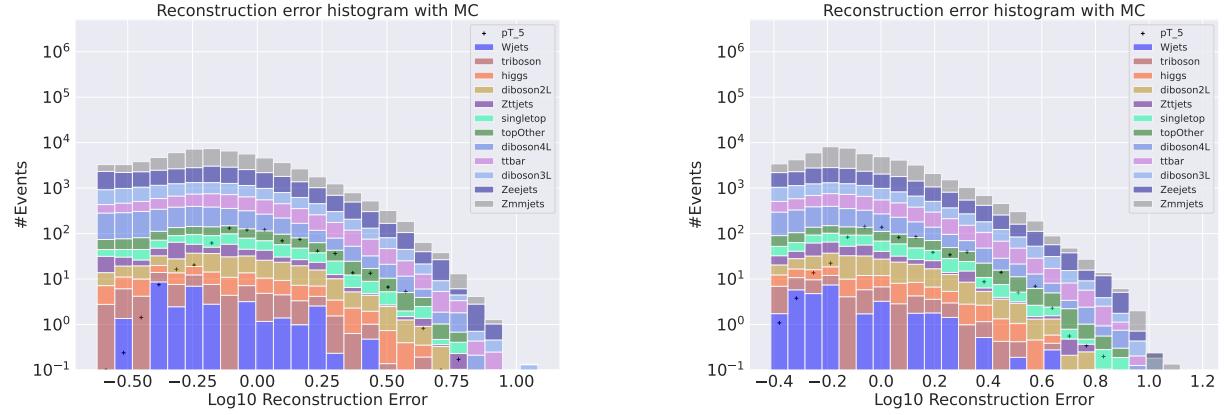
**Figure 4.12:** Reconstruction error on validation SM MC using randomly selected events from all SM MC channels for the small and big variational autoencoder.  $p_T$  is scaled by 1.5.



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small variational Autoencoder. Here the signal is a subsample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 3. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big variational Autoencoder. Here the signal is a subsample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 3. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

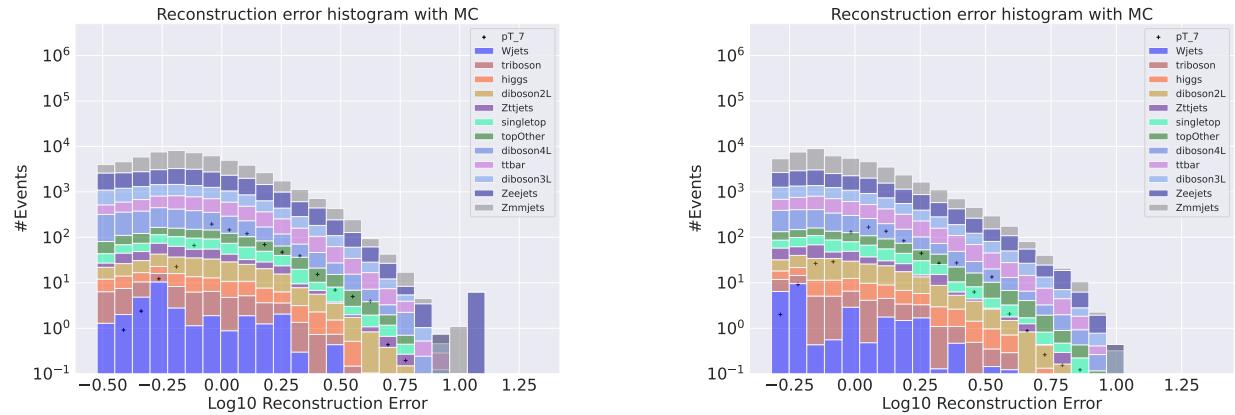
**Figure 4.13:** Reconstruction error on validation SM MC using randomly selected events from all SM MC channels for the small and big variational autoencoder.  $p_T$  is scaled by 3.



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small variational Autoencoder. Here the signal is a subsample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 5. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big variational Autoencoder. Here the signal is a subsample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 5. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

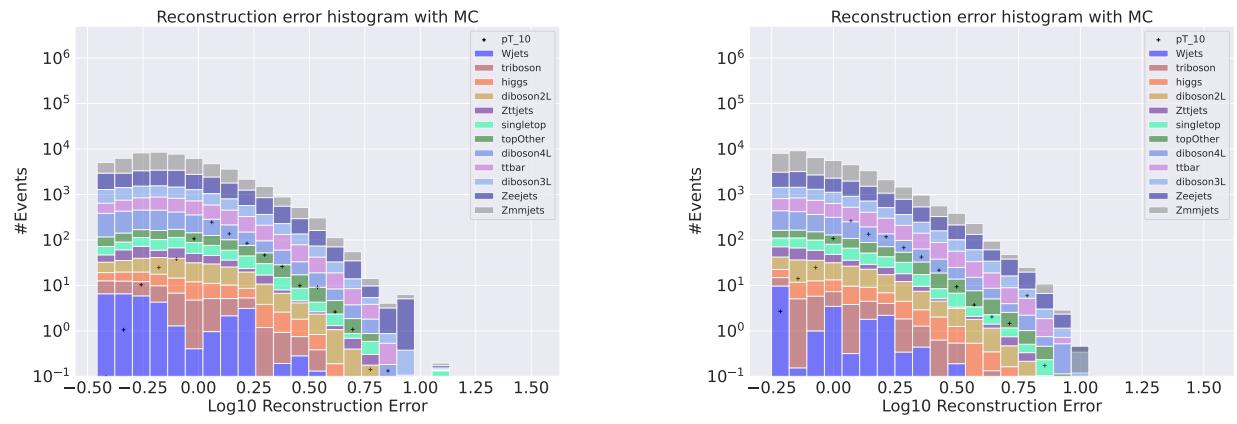
**Figure 4.14:** Reconstruction error on validation SM MC using randomly selected events from all SM MC channels for the small and big variational autoencoder.  $p_T$  is scaled by 5.



(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small variational Autoencoder. Here the signal is a subsample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 7. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big variational Autoencoder. Here the signal is a subsample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 7. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

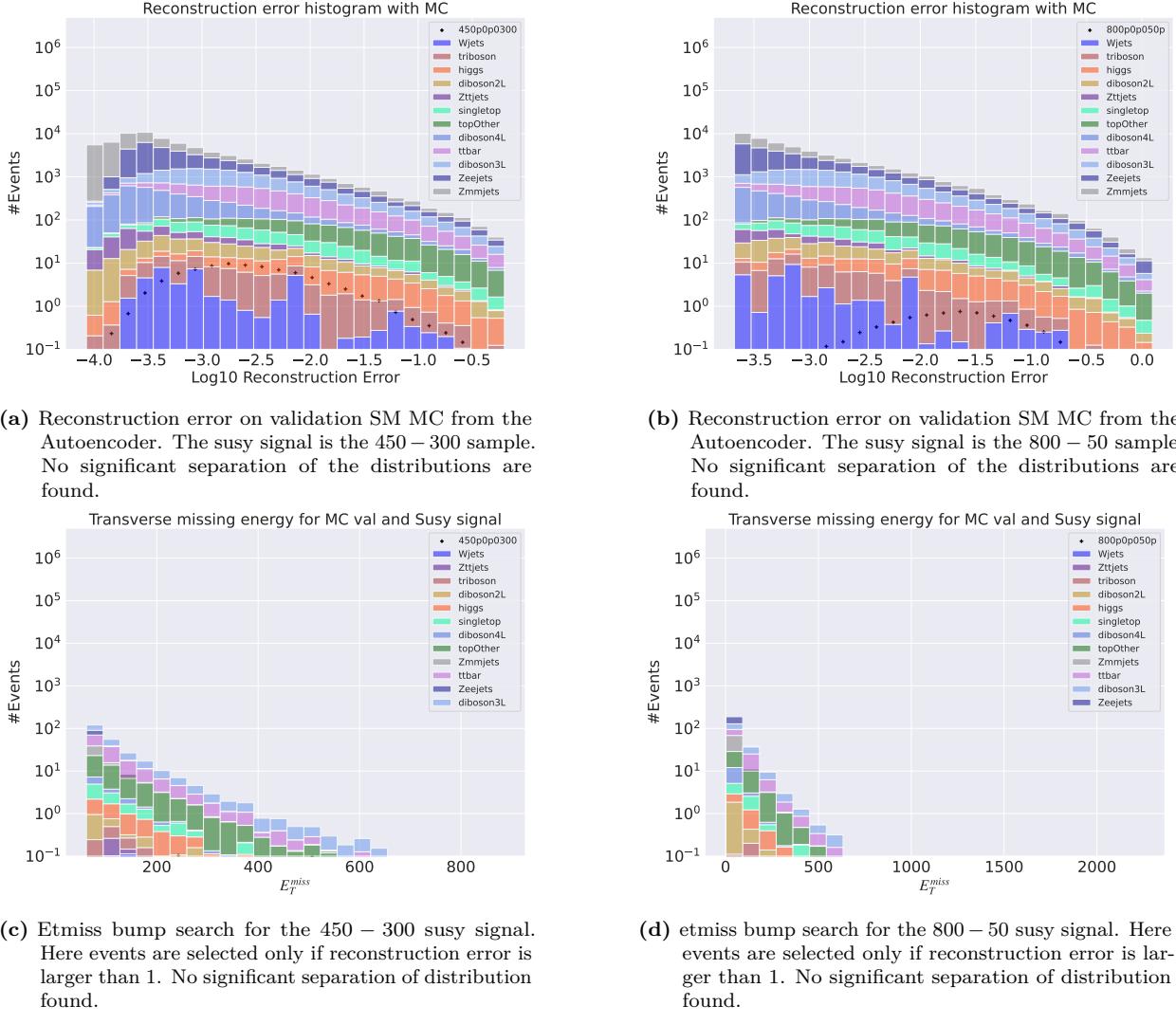
**Figure 4.15:** Reconstruction error on validation SM MC using randomly selected events from all SM MC channels for the small and big variational autoencoder.  $p_T$  is scaled by 7.



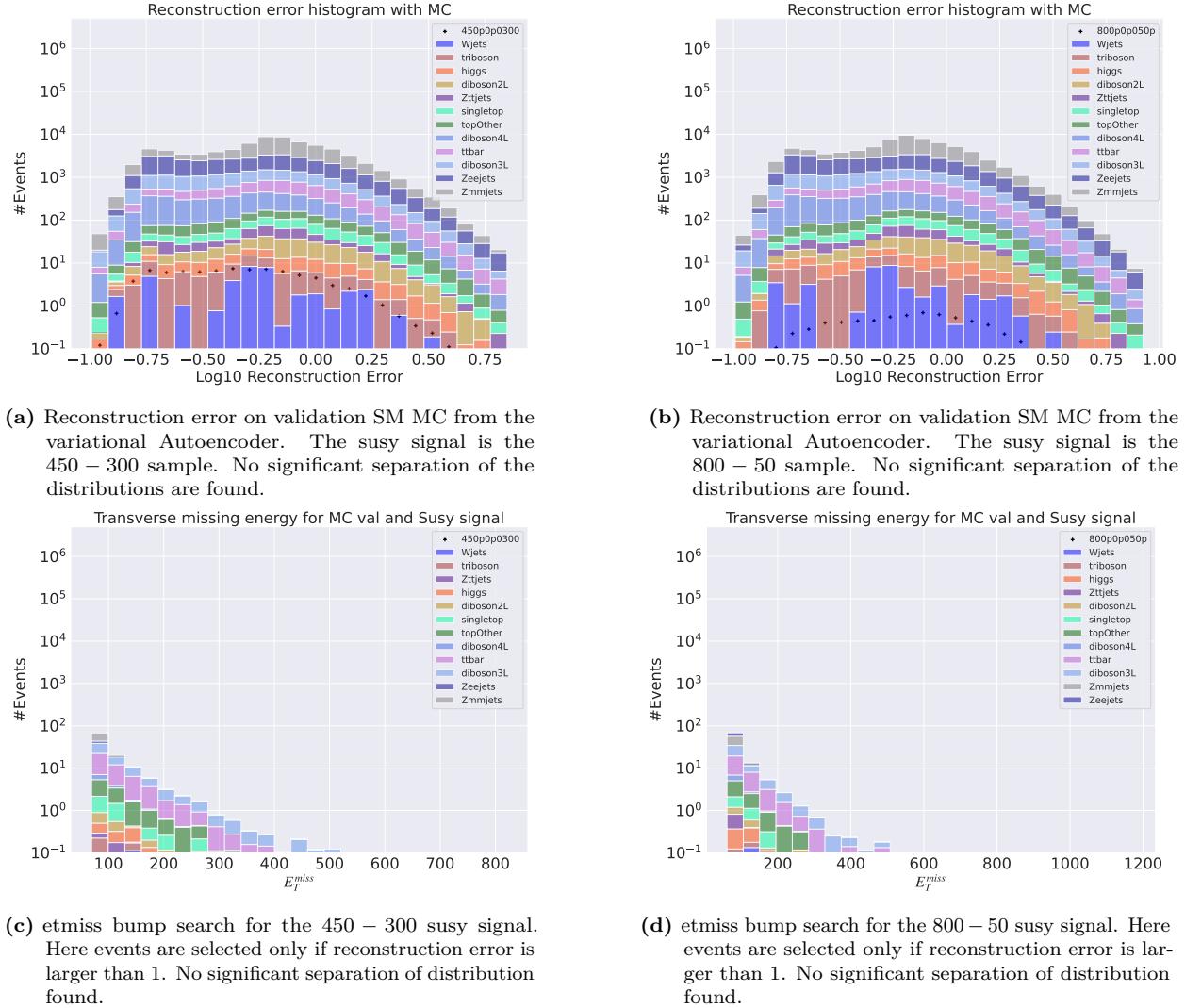
(a) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the small variational Autoencoder. Here the signal is a subsample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 10. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

(b) Reconstruction error on validation SM MC from the big variational Autoencoder. Here the signal is a subsample of the validation set where the transverse momentum of the first electron and the first muon has been increased with a scale of 10. The change of transverse energy has thusly also been changed according to the scaling of transverse momentum. No significant difference in distributions are found.

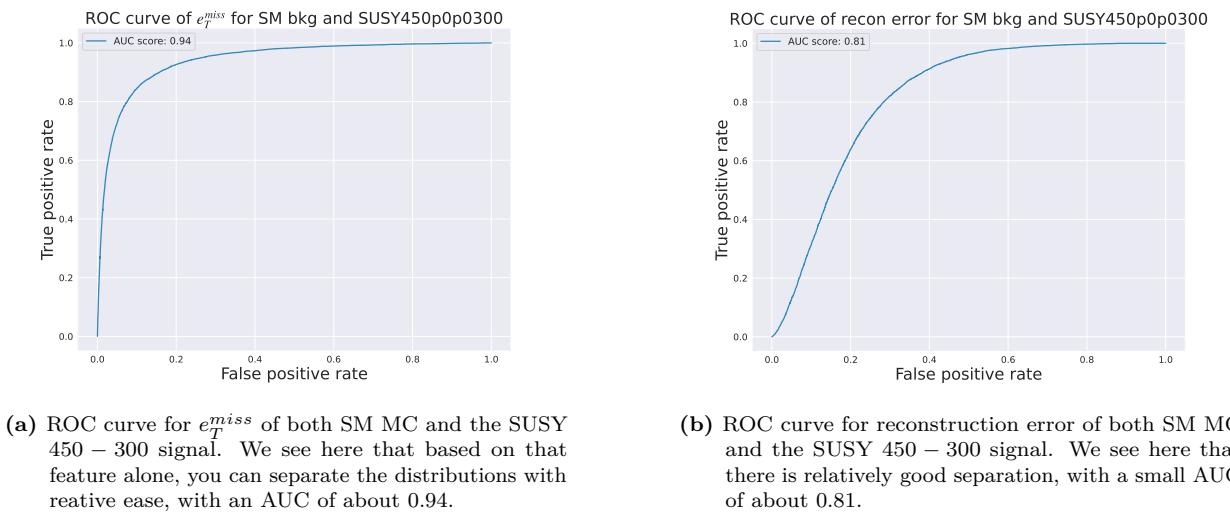
**Figure 4.16:** Reconstruction error on validation SM MC using randomly selected events from all SM MC channels for the small and big variational autoencoder.  $p_T$  is scaled by 1.5.



**Figure 4.17:** Etmiss bump search on the 450 – 300 and 800 – 50 susy signals. The reconstruction error cut is set to 1.



**Figure 4.18:** Reconstruction error and etmiss bump search on the 450 – 300 and 800 – 50 susy signals. The reconstruction error cut is set to 1.



**Figure 4.19:** ROC curve for both  $e_T^{miss}$  and reconstruction error with the SUSY 450 – 300 signal.

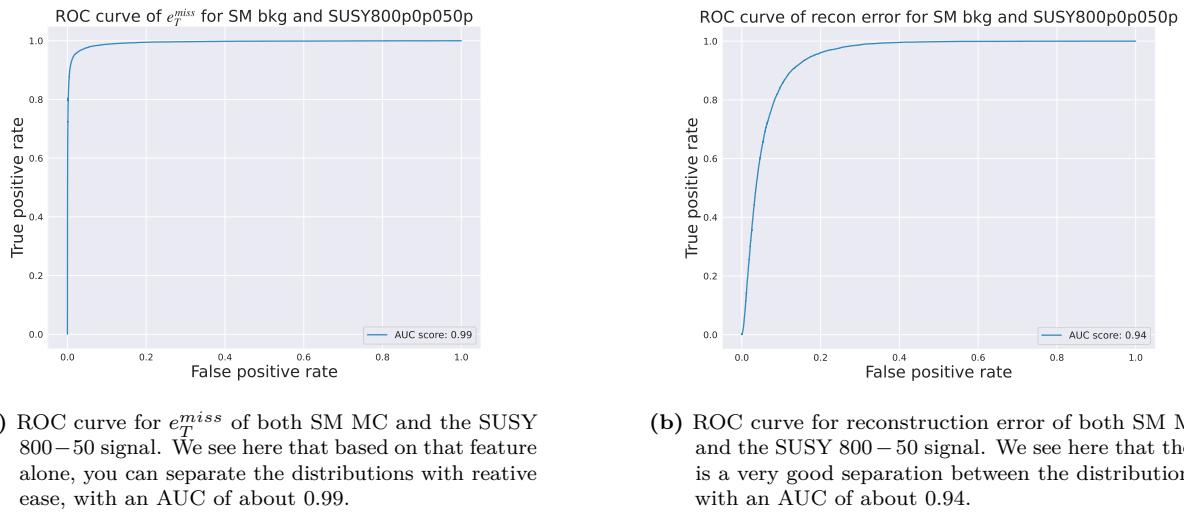


Figure 4.20

# Conclusion

Future work, more work



# Appendices



# Appendix A



# Appendix B

Channel removal testing

Regular autoencoder

Variational autoencoder

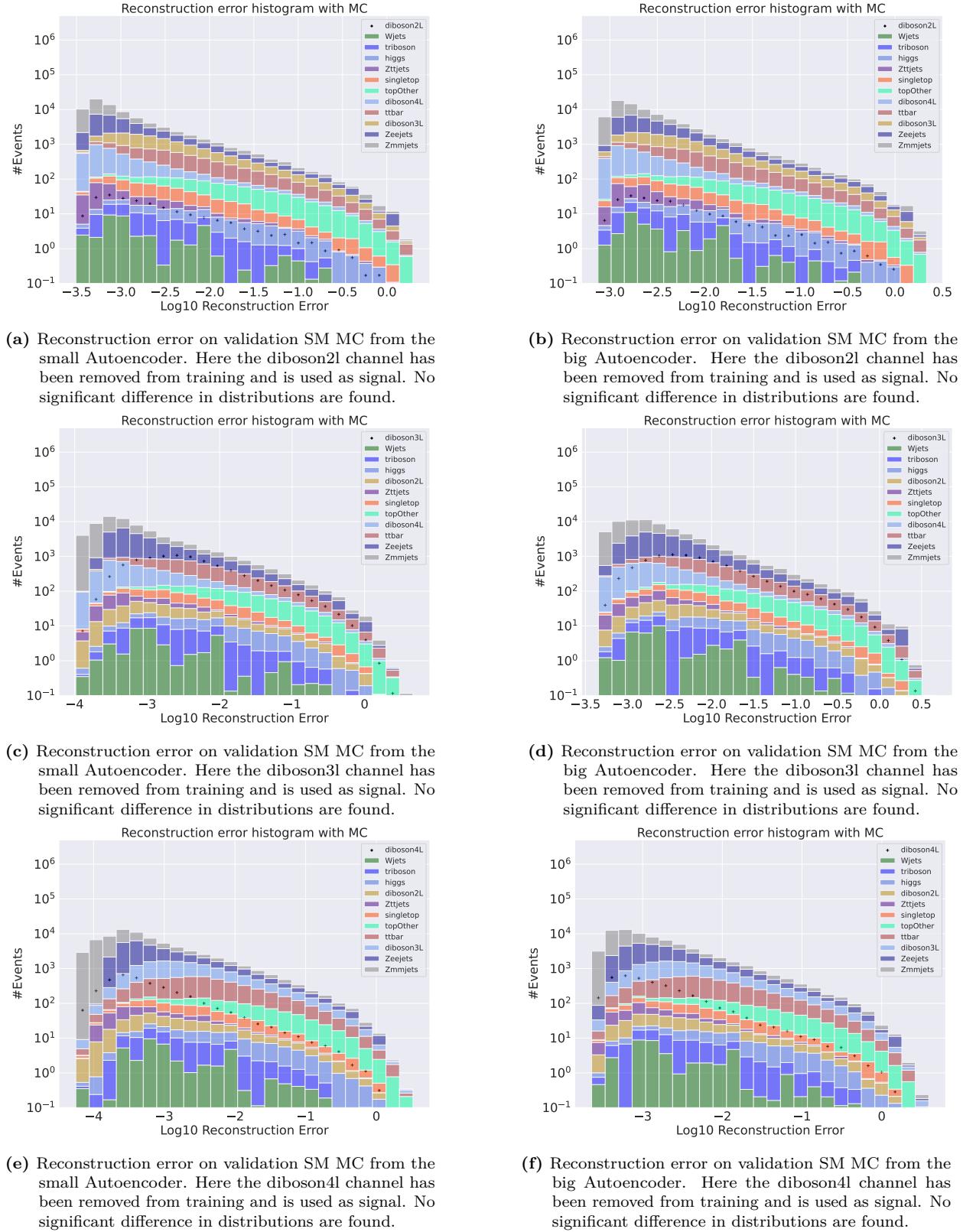


Figure 21

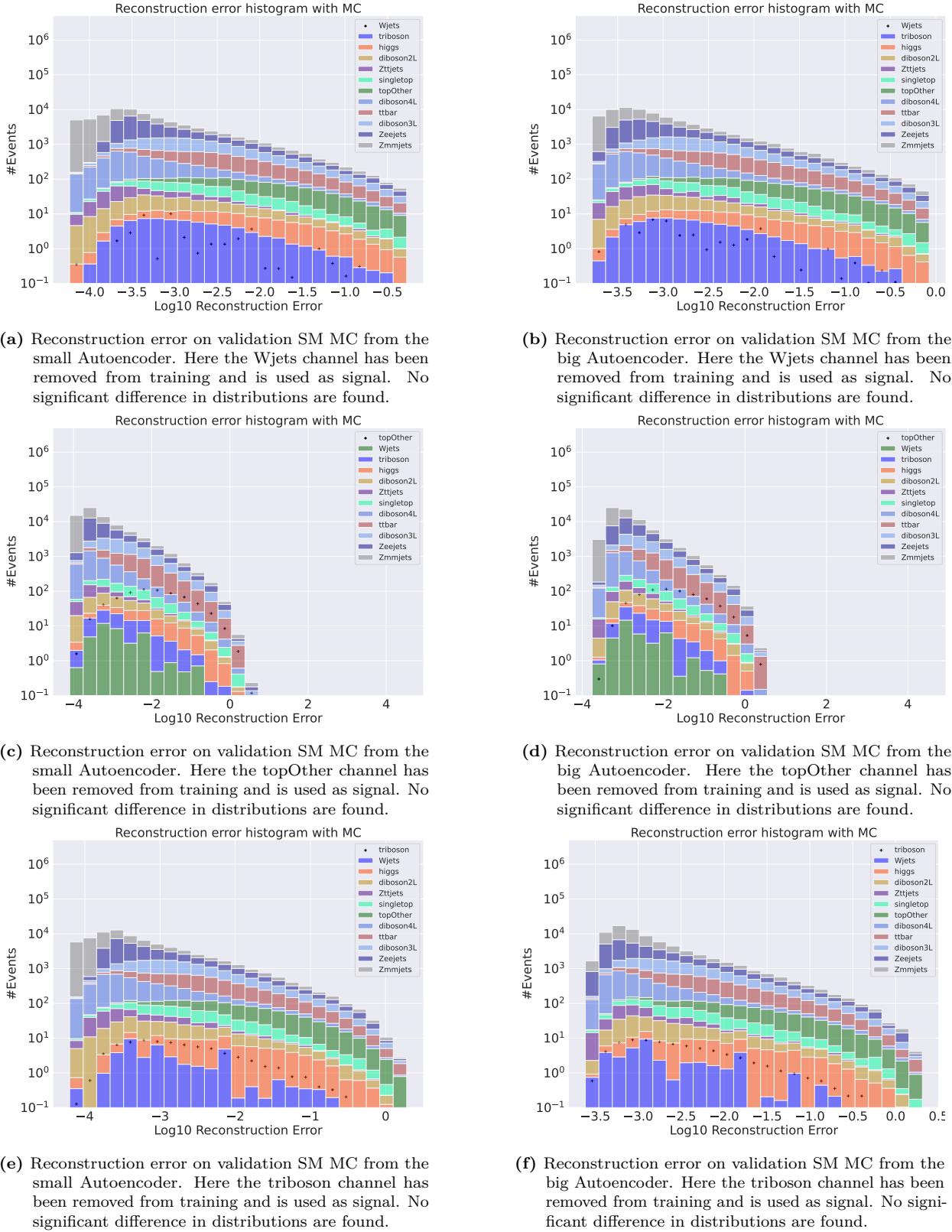


Figure 22

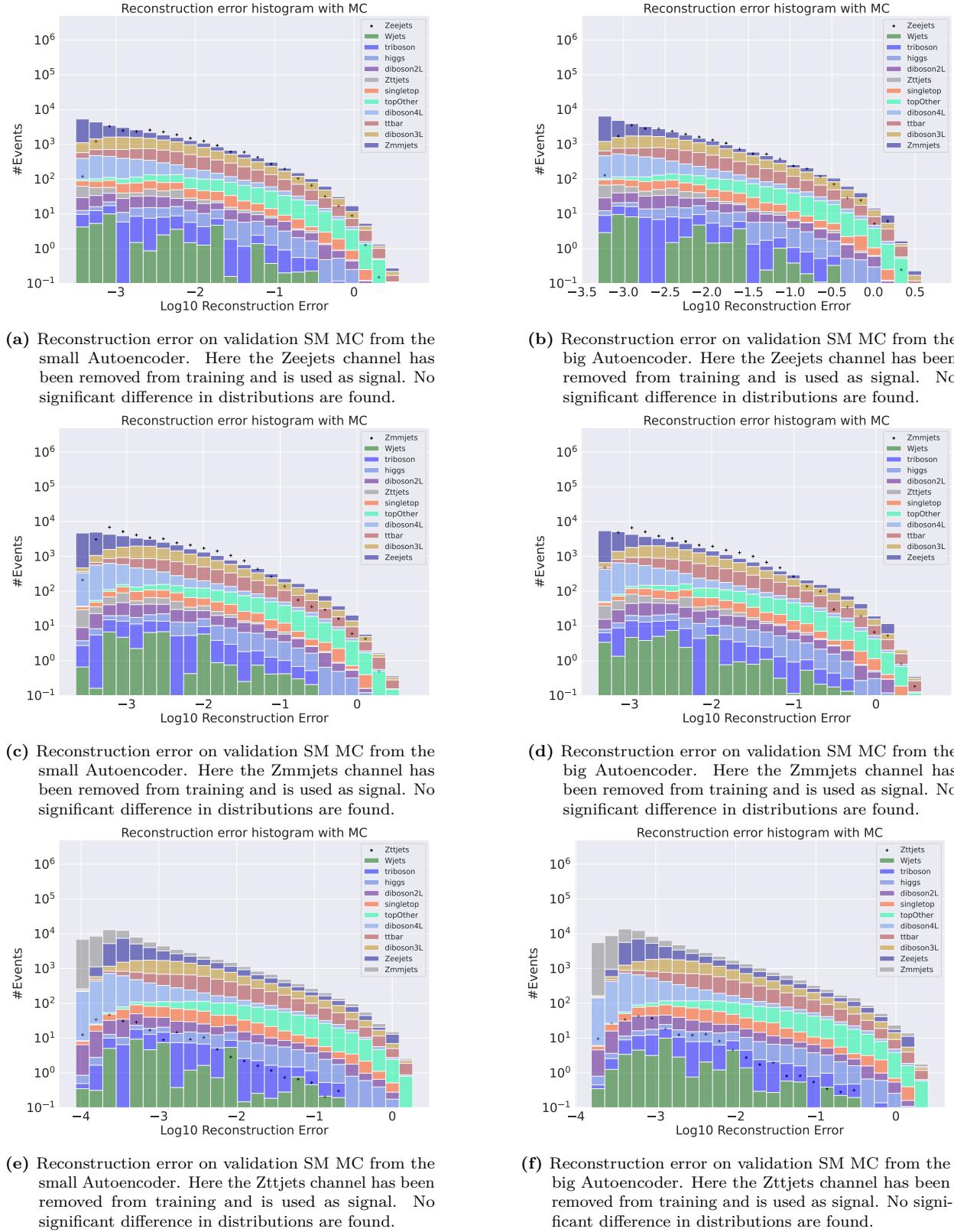


Figure 23

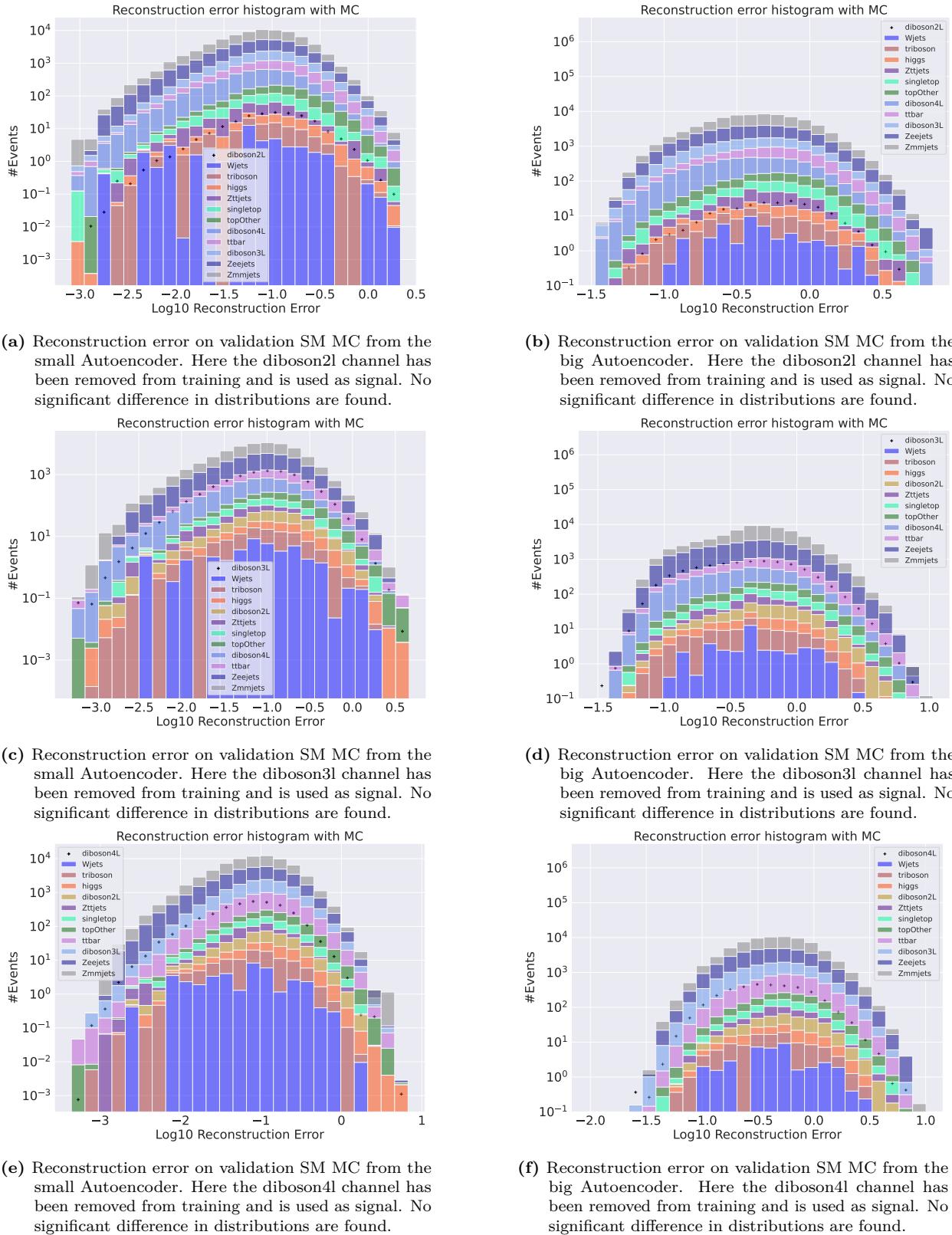


Figure 24

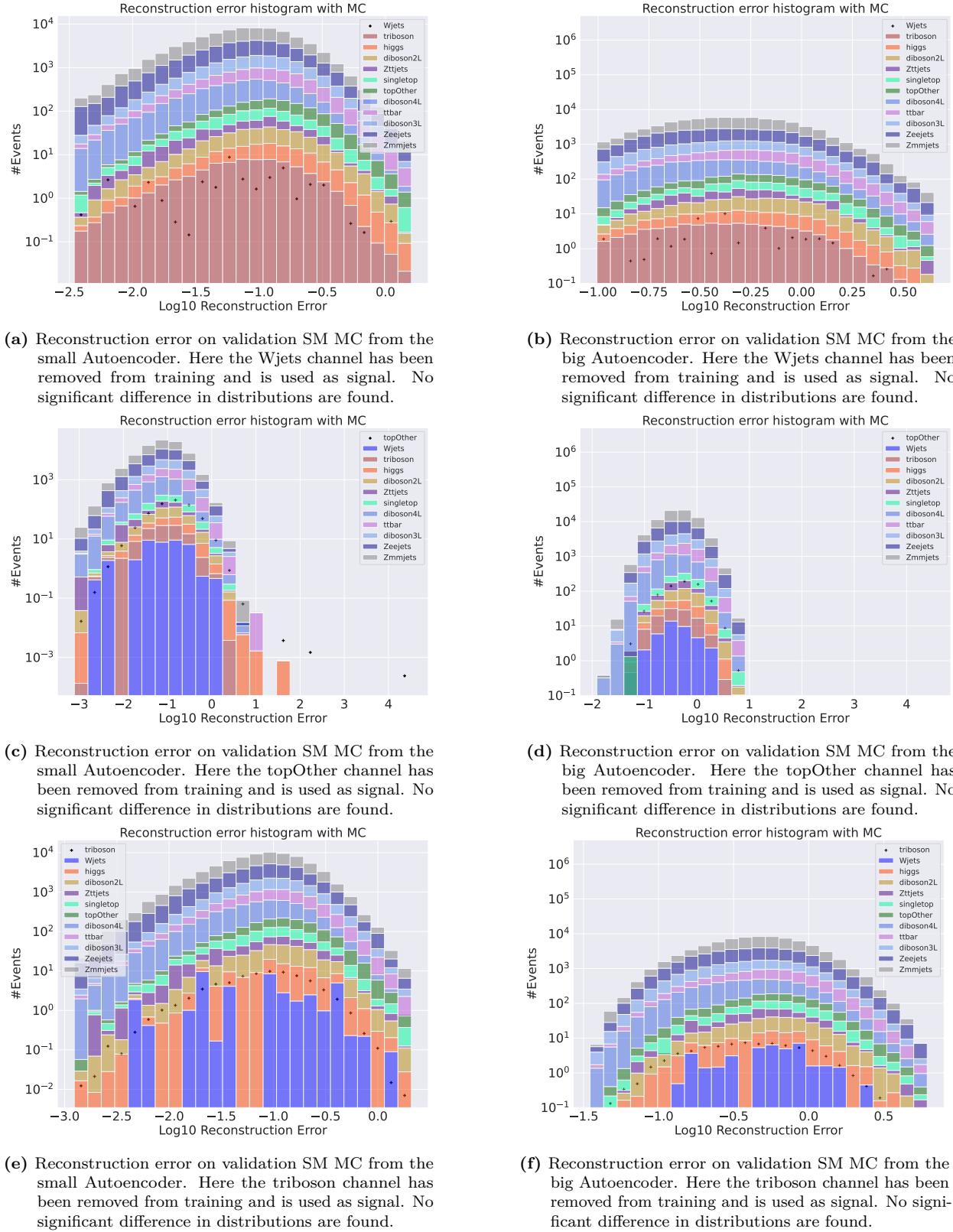


Figure 25

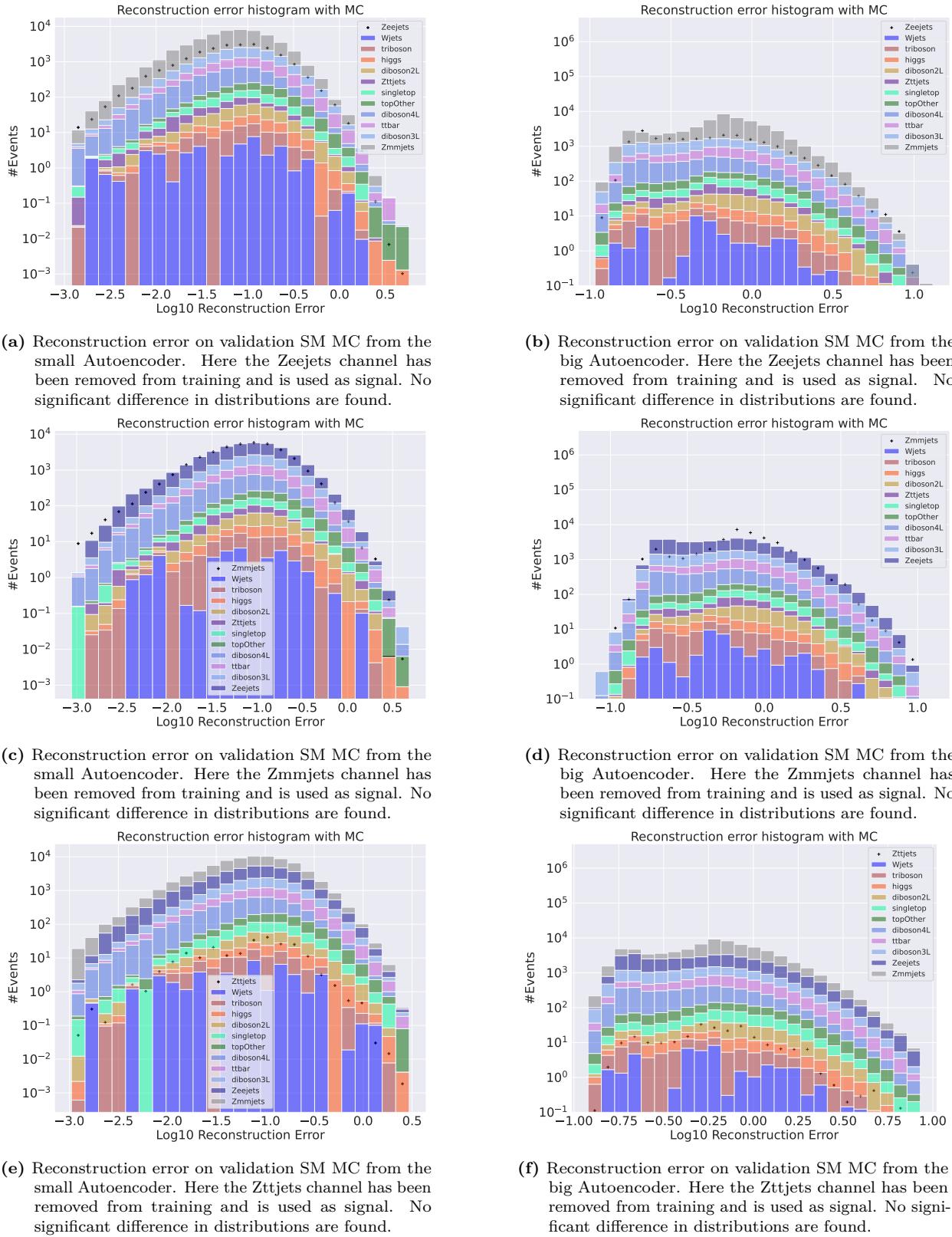


Figure 26



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