

- **Introduce Dark Matter and XENON Collaboration & Experiment**

- Give details regarding the physics, historical observations of dark matter, and what it means if we successfully make a direct detection
  - \* Effects of dark matter were observed through gravitational lensing, cosmic microwave background, and galaxy formation
  - \* Dark matter is difficult to detect outside of its large scale gravitational effects
  - \* Requires keV sensitivity if we hope to make a direct detection of it
  - \* Making a direct detection allows us to learn the mass and match this to theory
- Give details on what the XENON collab. and experiment are.
  - \* Detector is a dual phase TPC using 1 ton of xenon
  - \* Located at LNGS
  - \* 2 science runs (caused by earthquake)
  - \* 258 photomultiplier tubes
  - \* 1 meter diameter
  - \* Most sensitive dark matter direct detection experiment (soon to be overcome by its successor XENONnT)
  - \* What is the fiducial volume
    - Cover where it is (plot)
    - Cover how big it is (exact volume)
    - Cover why it is there (volume of most radio-purity and therefore the most confident)

- **Introduce observations from XENON1T and project idea**

- Example hit pattern from simulation and/or experiment
  - \* Simulation can show the true position of an event
  - \* Experiment can show noise/background that is difficult to overcome
- What is position reconstruction, why is it important
  - \* Based on the signal seen by the photomultiplier tubes, we're trying to figure out where an event originated from
  - \* Allows for quick removal of data that is outside the fiducial volume of the detector
- What are the old position reconstruction algorithms

- \* Multi-Layer Perceptron
- \* Charged Weighted Sum
- \* Max PMT
- \* Problems with these were accuracy and reconstructing positions outside the detector
- Why is it difficult to achieve accurate reconstructions
  - \* Difficult for the machine to learn that there is a wall to the detector
  - \* There is less information given the to PMTs that are near the wall of the detector
  - \* PMTs will break at some point during the science run, so we'll start to receive less information
  - \* Each event is not perfect and contains background events that are not easy to filter out
- **What is a Neural Network, a Convolutional Neural Network, and a Graph Convolutional Neural Network**
  - Explain the idea of what a neural network is
    - \* How it came about as an analogy to animal brains and the neurons in them
    - \* How it can be useful to our problem as shown by the Multi-Layer Perceptron
  - Explain what a convolutional neural network is and why we can't use it
    - \* Convolutional neural networks have generally been applied to images
    - \* For input, they require data in a rectangular format, such as an image matrix where each pixel is a value in a matrix
    - \* They are able to preserve locality of pixels when trying to learn about the image
    - \* Our data cannot easily be made into a rectangular format; there is no analogous image matrix for our data
    - \* How can we preserve locality of PMTs like a convolutional neural network does?
  - Explain what a graph convolutional neural network is
    - \* Makes use of a graph data structure instead of rectangular data structures, which is a format any dataset can use

- \* Give a simple example (4-5 nodes) of how a graph convolutional neural network works
- \* They have mainly been used for classification, but we will be using it for regression
- \* Our PMTs are the nodes in the graph
- \* These nodes take the amount of light seen by each PMT for an event as a feature
- \* The edges between nodes preserve the locality if we do it correctly
- Explain how our approach to a graph convolutional neural network is
  - \* Show the graph structures we considered and chose
  - \* Show the network structure that we chose
  - \* Came to this network structure based on the successful convolutional neural networks

## • Simulation Data

- Optical Simulation
  - \* 989,875 events: 791,900 training, 197,975 validation
  - \* 0.8:0.2 :: training:validation
  - \* 1,000 photons were events
  - \* True position of events are a random, uniform distribution within the detector
  - \* All PMTs are working
  - \* There are no background events, only the main signal is present

## • Results

- Many plots of the results of our network on the optical simulation
  - \* Resolution histograms for  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $R$
  - \* True positions of events that were reconstructed greater than 1 cm away
  - \* 2D resolution histogram
  - \* Histogram of poorly reconstructed radius and the true radius
- Identify where it succeeded and where it failed
  - \* Success: All events within the detector
  - \* Success: Did not normalize the simulation data before inputting

- \* Success: Outperforms a Multi-Layer Perceptron with similar count of trainable parameters
- \* Failure: Still produced positions that were greater than 1 cm away from the true position
- \* Failure: These poor position reconstructions are primarily along the wall and is the same as problem as the Multi-Layer Perceptron

## • Conclusions & Future Work

- Can we address these failures?
  - \* We think that a graph convolutional neural network is not the best answer
  - \* A graph neural network in the broader sense could still perform better
- Should graph neural networks see use in other experiments
  - \* This is one of the earliest applications of a graph convolutional neural network for regression in particle physics, and it did well
  - \* Graph Neural Networks have a place in particle physics for detectors with awkward data structures
  - \* The broader graph neural networks can and still should be researched for their applicability
  - \* Still possible to research what the most optimal graph structure is for a given detector