

# Unsupervised Anomaly Detection for High-Energy Physics Using VAEs



AI Model For Physics  
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# Project Overview

Objective: Develop an unsupervised anomaly detection framework using Variational Autoencoders (VAEs) to identify potential new physics phenomena in LHC data.

Focus: Detecting events deviating from the Standard Model (SM) in high-energy physics.

Dataset: Simulated data streams from LHC detectors, including a "blackbox" dataset with new physics events.

# Dataset Description

- Format: Hierarchical Data Format version 5 (HDF5).
- Components:
  - "Particles": Contains event data (N, 19, 4) with N as the number of events.
  - "Particles\_Classes" and "Particles\_Names".
- Physics Objects: MET, electrons, muons, and jets, characterized by transverse momentum (pT), pseudorapidity ( $\eta$ ), and azimuthal angle ( $\phi$ ).



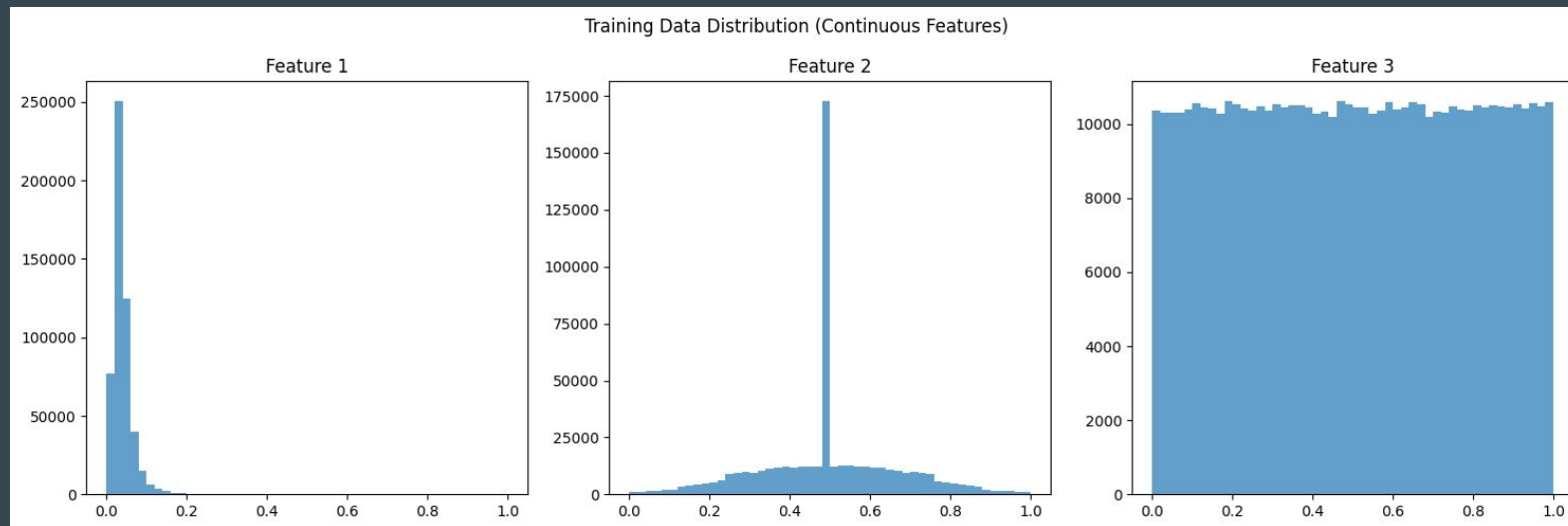
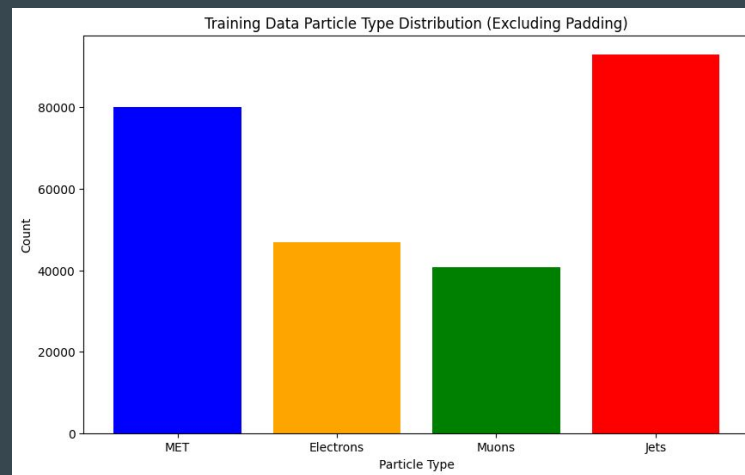
# Data Preprocessing

Normalization: Continuous features normalized using min-max scaling.

One-Hot Encoding: Categorical features, representing particle types.

Data Split:

- Training (SM data)
- Validation (hyperparameter tuning)
- Testing (BSM data)
- Blackbox data for final evaluation.



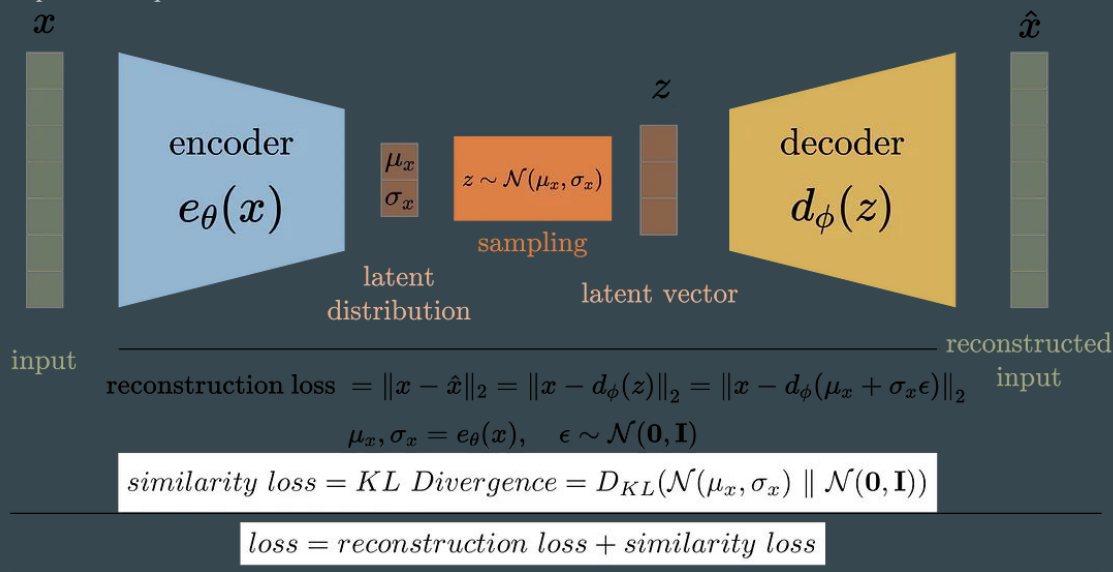
# Methodology: Variational Auto Encoders (VAEs)

Structure: VAEs learn parameters of a probability distribution (mean and variance) for latent vectors.

Regularization: Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence for normal distribution approximation.

Training: Minimize reconstruction errors, flag high errors as potential anomalies.

Hyperparameter Tuning: Used Optuna for optimization.



```

def loss_function(x, x_recon, mu, logvar, epoch=None, recon_loss_history=None, kld_weight_final=0.01, start_kld_epoch=10, reconstruction_loss_threshold=0.1):
    recon_loss = F.mse_loss(x_recon, x, reduction='sum')

    # KL divergence loss calculation
    kld_loss = -0.5 * torch.sum(1 + logvar - mu.pow(2) - logvar.exp())

    # If we are in testing mode (no epoch or recon_loss_history), use fixed KLD weight
    if epoch is None or recon_loss_history is None:
        kld_weight = kld_weight_final # Fixed KLD weight for testing
    else:
        # Sigmoid-based gradual introduction of KLD weight during training
        if epoch >= start_kld_epoch and recon_loss_history[-1] <= reconstruction_loss_threshold:
            # Convert to tensor before applying torch.exp
            kld_weight = kld_weight_final / (1 + torch.exp(-0.2 * torch.tensor(float(epoch - start_kld_epoch), device=x.device)))
        else:
            kld_weight = 0.0 # No KLD until reconstruction loss improves sufficiently

    total_loss = recon_loss + kld_weight * kld_loss
    return total_loss, recon_loss, kld_loss

```

```

# Parameters to control the ramp-up
start_kld_epoch = 10 # Start introducing KLD only after this epoch
reconstruction_loss_threshold = 0.1 # Start KLD only if reconstruction loss falls below this threshold

```

```

# VAE Model Definition
class VAE(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, input_dim, latent_dim):
        super(VAE, self).__init__()
        self.encoder = nn.Sequential([
            nn.Linear(input_dim, 256),
            nn.LeakyReLU(0.1),
            nn.Dropout(0.1),
            nn.Linear(256, 128),
            nn.LeakyReLU(0.1),
            nn.Linear(128, latent_dim * 2) # Output mu and logvar
        ])

        self.decoder = nn.Sequential(
            nn.Linear(latent_dim, 128),
            nn.LeakyReLU(0.1),
            nn.Linear(128, 256),
            nn.LeakyReLU(0.1),
            nn.Linear(256, input_dim),
            nn.Sigmoid() # Normalize output
        )

    def reparameterize(self, mu, logvar):
        std = torch.exp(0.5 * logvar)
        eps = torch.randn_like(std)
        return mu + eps * std

    def forward(self, x):
        h = self.encoder(x)
        mu, logvar = torch.chunk(h, 2, dim=1)
        z = self.reparameterize(mu, logvar)
        x_recon = self.decoder(z)
        return x_recon, mu, logvar

# Xavier Initialization Function
def weights_init(m):
    if isinstance(m, nn.Linear):
        torch.nn.init.xavier_normal_(m.weight)
        if m.bias is not None:
            torch.nn.init.zeros_(m.bias)

```

# Results

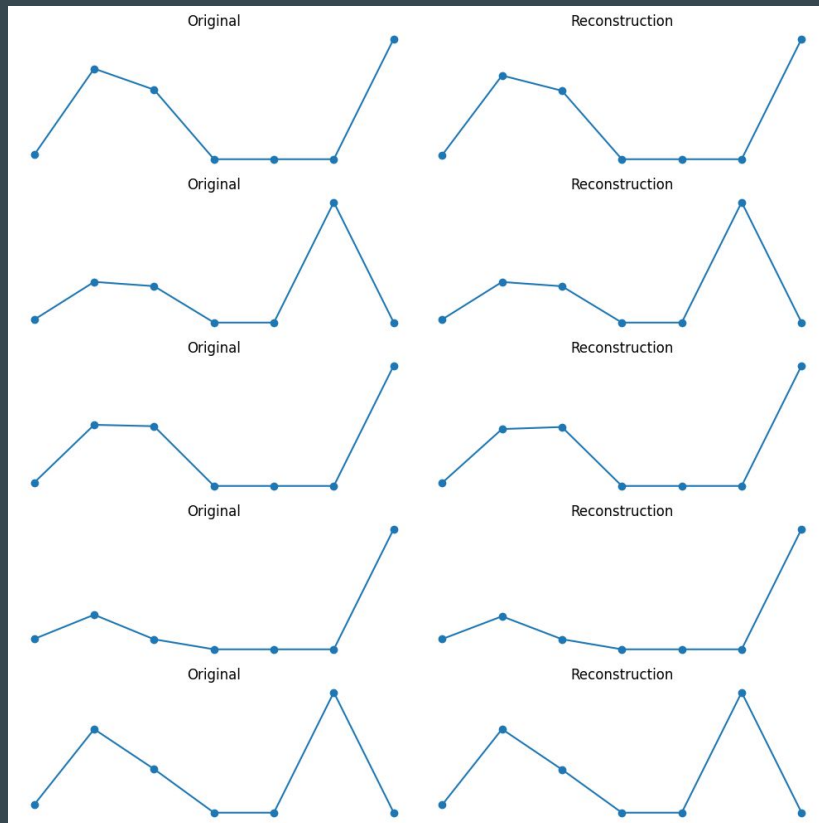
**Anomaly Detection:** Assessed by calculating reconstruction error for each event.

**Blackbox Dataset:** Used to test model's ability to detect unknown anomalies (BSM events).

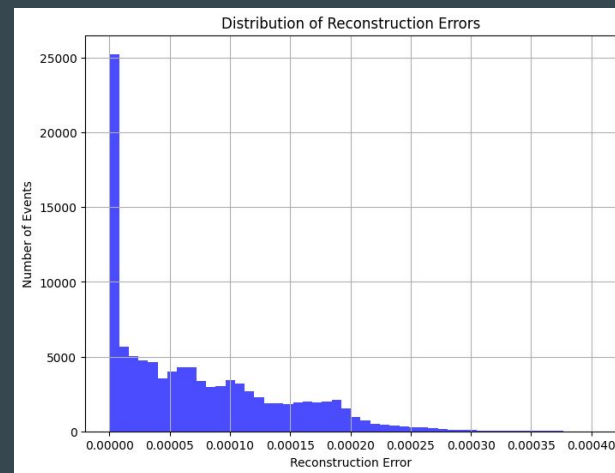
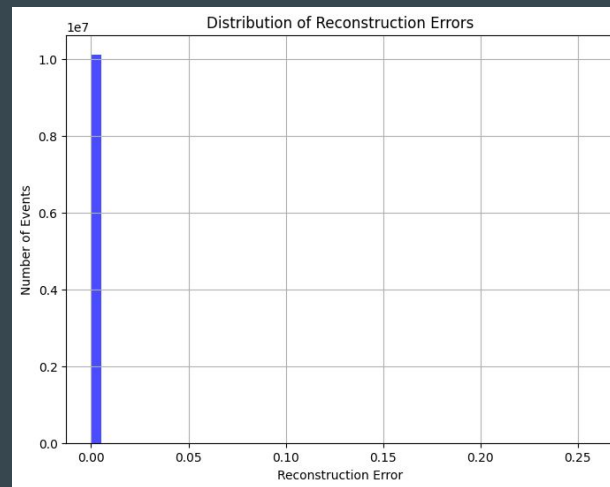
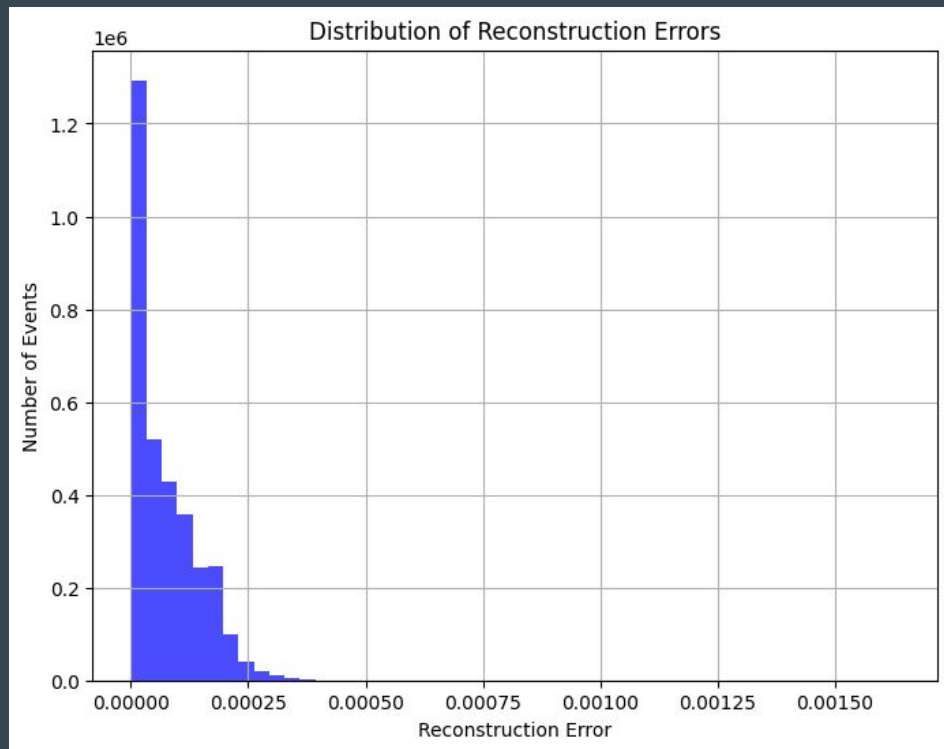
**VAE Effectiveness:** Reconstructed normal events, forming clusters in the latent space.

**Anomalies:** Scattered within clusters, indicating some level of detection but not entirely separated.

**Limitation:** No access to ground truth labels for blackbox data, limiting full evaluation of model performance.







t-SNE of Latent Space with Anomalies

