

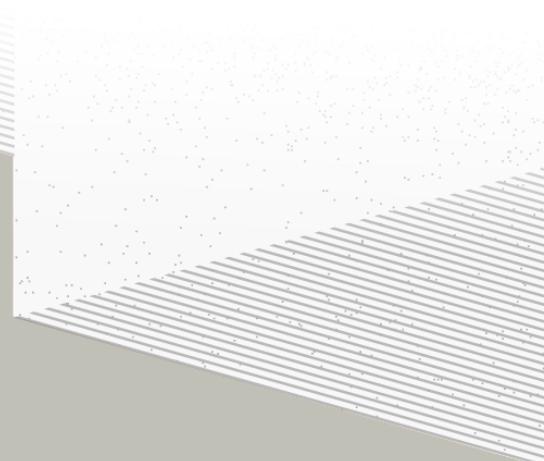
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# THÈSE DE DOCTORAT DE

L'UNIVERSITÉ DE NANTES

ÉCOLE DOCTORALE N°596  
*Matière, Molécules, Matériaux*  
Spécialité : *Physique des particules*



Par

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**Precision measurement of solar neutrino oscillation parameters  
with the JUNO small PMTs system and test of the unitarity of the  
PMNS matrix**

Thèse présentée et soutenue à Nantes, le Too soon and too early at the same time  
Unité de recherche : Laboratoire SUBATECH, UMR 6457

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# <sup>66</sup> Remerciements



# 67 Introduction



<sup>68</sup> **Chapter 1**

<sup>69</sup> **Neutrino physics**

<sup>70</sup> *The neutrino, or  $\nu$  for the close friends, a fascinating and invisible particle. Some will say that dark matter also have those property but at least we are pretty confident that neutrinos exists.*

<sup>71</sup> **1.1 Standard model**

<sup>72</sup> **1.1.1 Limits of the standard model**

<sup>73</sup> **1.2 Historic of the neutrino**

<sup>74</sup> **First theories**

<sup>75</sup> **Discovery**

<sup>76</sup> **Milestones and anomalies**

<sup>77</sup> **1.3 Oscillation**

<sup>78</sup> **1.3.1 Phenomologies**

<sup>79</sup> **1.4 Open questions**

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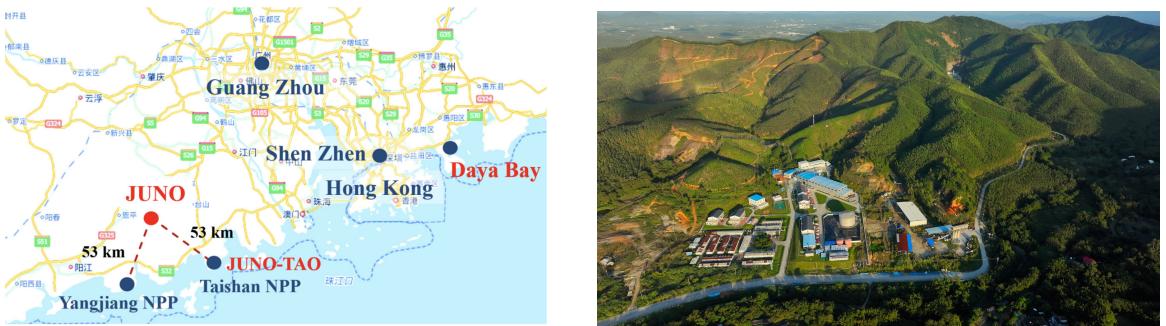
<sup>80</sup> **Chapter 2**

<sup>81</sup> **The JUNO experiment**

<sup>82</sup> *"Ave Juno, rosae rosam, et spiritus rex". It means nothing but I found it in tone.*

<sup>83</sup> The first idea of a medium baseline ( $\sim 52$  km) experiment, was explored in 2008 [1] where it was  
<sup>84</sup> demonstrated that the Neutrino Mass Ordering (NMO) could be determined by a medium baseline  
<sup>85</sup> experiment if  $\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) > 0.005$  without the requirements of accurate knowledge of the reactor  
<sup>86</sup> antineutrino spectra and the value of  $\Delta m_{32}^2$ . From this idea is born the Jiangmen Underground  
<sup>87</sup> Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) experiment.

<sup>88</sup> JUNO is a neutrino detection experiment under construction located in China, in Guangdong prov-  
<sup>89</sup> ing, near the city of Kaiping. Its main objectives are the determination of the mass ordering at the  
<sup>90</sup>  $3\text{-}4\sigma$  level in 6 years of data taking and the measurement at the sub-percent precision of the oscillation  
<sup>91</sup> parameters  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ ,  $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$ ,  $\Delta m_{32}^2$  and with less precision  $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$ [2].



<sup>92</sup> FIGURE 2.1 – **On the left:** Location of the JUNO experiment and its reactor sources in  
<sup>93</sup> southern China. **On the right:** Aerial view of the experimental site

<sup>92</sup> For this JUNO will measure the electronic anti-neutrinos ( $\bar{\nu}_e$ ) flux coming from the nuclear reactors  
<sup>93</sup> of Taishan, Yangjiang, for a total power of  $26.6 \text{ GW}_{th}$ , and the Daya Bay power plant to a lesser  
<sup>94</sup> extent. All of those cores are the second-generation pressurized water reactors CPR1000, which is a  
<sup>95</sup> derivative of Framatome M310. Details about the power plants characteristics and their expected flux  
<sup>96</sup> of  $\bar{\nu}_e$  can be found in the table 2.1. The distance of 53 km has been specifically chosen to maximize  
<sup>97</sup> the disappearance probability of the  $\bar{\nu}_e$ . The data taking is scheduled to start early 2025.

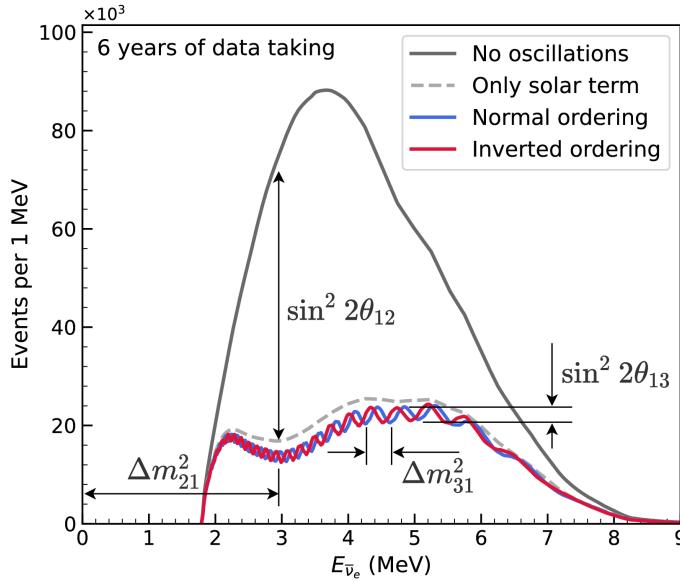


FIGURE 2.2 – Expected number of neutrinos event per MeV in JUNO after 6 years of data taking. The black curve shows the flux if there was no oscillation. The light gray curve shows the oscillation if only the solar terms are taken in account ( $\theta_{12}$ ,  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ ). The blue and red curve shows the spectrum in the case of, respectively, NO and IO. The dependency of the oscillation to the different parameters are schematized by the double sided arrows. We can see the NMO sensitivity by looking at the fine phase shift between the red and the blue curve.

## 98 2.1 Neutrinos physics in JUNO

99 Even if the JUNO design detailed in section 2.2 was optimized for the measurement of the NMO, its  
100 large detection volume, excellent energy resolution and background level and understanding make it  
101 also an excellent detector to measure the flux coming from other neutrino sources. Thus the scientific  
102 program of JUNO extends way over reactor antineutrinos. The following section is an overview of  
103 the different physics topic JUNO will contribute in the coming years.

### 104 2.1.1 Reactor neutrino oscillation for NMO and precise measurements

Previous works [1, 3] shows that oscillation parameters and the NMO can be observed by looking at the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  disappearance energy spectrum coming from medium baseline nuclear reactor. This disappearance probability can be expressed as [2] :

$$P(\bar{\nu}_e \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_e) = 1 - \sin^2 2\theta_{12} c_{13}^4 \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E} - \sin^2 2\theta_{13} \left[ c_{12}^2 \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E} + s_{12}^2 \sin^2 \frac{\Delta m_{32}^2 L}{4E} \right]$$

105 Where  $s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij}$ ,  $c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij}$ ,  $E$  is the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  energy and  $L$  is the baseline. We can see the sensitivity  
106 to the NMO in the dependency to  $\Delta m_{32}^2$  and  $\Delta m_{31}^2$  causing a phase shift of the spectrum as we can  
107 see in the figure 2.2. By carefully adjusting a theoretical spectrum to the data, one can extract the  
108 NMO and the oscillation parameters. The statistic procedure used to adjust the theoretical spectrum  
109 is reviewed in more details in the section 2.7. To reach the desired sensitivity, JUNO must meet  
110 multiple requirements but most notably:

- 111 1. An energy resolution of  $3\%/\sqrt{E(\text{MeV})}$  to be able to distinguish the fine structure of the fast  
 112 oscillation.
- 113 2. An energy precision of 1% in order to not err on the location of the oscillation pattern.
- 114 3. A baseline of  $53 \pm 0.5$  km to maximise the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  oscillation probability.
- 115 4. At least  $\approx 100,000$  events to limit the spectrum distortion due to statistical uncertainties.

116  **$\bar{\nu}_e$  flux coming from nuclear power plants**

117 To get such high measurements precision, it is necessary to have a very good understanding of the  
 118 sources characteristics. For its NMO and precise measurement studies, JUNO will observe the energy  
 119 spectrum of neutrinos coming from the nuclear power plants Taishan and Yangjiang's cores, located  
 120 at 53 km of the detector to maximise the disappearance probability of the  $\bar{\nu}_e$ .

Reactor	Power (GW <sub>th</sub> )	Baseline (km)	IBD Rate (day <sup>-1</sup> )	Relative Flux (%)
Taishan	9.2	52.71	15.1	32.1
Core 1	4.6	52.77	7.5	16.0
Core 2	4.6	52.64	7.6	16.1
Yangjiang	17.4	52.46	29.0	61.5
Core 1	2.9	52.74	4.8	10.1
Core 2	2.9	52.82	4.7	10.1
Core 3	2.9	52.41	4.8	10.3
Core 4	2.9	52.49	4.8	10.2
Core 5	2.9	52.11	4.9	10.4
Core 6	2.9	52.19	4.9	10.4
Daya Bay	17.4	215	3.0	6.4

TABLE 2.1 – Characteristics of the nuclear power plants observed by JUNO. The IBD rate are estimated from the baselines, the reactors full thermal power, selection efficiency and the current knowledge of the oscillation parameters

121 The  $\bar{\nu}_e$  coming from reactors are emitted from  $\beta$ -decay of unstable fission fragments. The Taishan  
 122 and Yangjiang reactors are Pressurised Water Reactor (PWR), the same type as Daya Bay. In those  
 123 type of reactor more the 99.7 % and  $\bar{\nu}_e$  are produced by the fissions of four fuel isotopes  $^{235}\text{U}$ ,  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  
 124  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  and  $^{241}\text{Pu}$ . The neutrino flux per fission of each isotope is determined by the inversion of the  
 125 measured  $\beta$  spectra of fission product [4–8] or by calculation using the nuclear databases [9, 10].

126 The neutrino flux coming from a reactor at a time  $t$  can be predicted using

$$\phi(E_\nu, t)_r = \frac{W_{th}(t)}{\sum_i f_i(t) e_i} \sum_i f_i(t) S_i(E_\nu) \quad (2.1)$$

127 where  $W_{th}(t)$  is the thermal power of the reactor,  $f_i(t)$  is the fraction fission of the  $i$ th isotope,  $e_i$  its  
 128 thermal energy released in each fission and  $S_i(e_\nu)$  the neutrino flux per fission for this isotope. Using  
 129 this method, the flux uncertainty is expected to be of an order of 2-3 % [11].

130 In addition to those prediction, a satellite experiment named TAO[12] will be setup near the reactor  
 131 core Taishan-1 to measure with an energy resolution of 2% at 1 MeV the neutrino flux coming from  
 132 the core, more details can be found in section 2.4.1. It will help identifying unknown fine structure  
 133 and give more insight on the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  flux coming from this reactor.

134 One the open issue about reactor anti-neutrinos flux is the so-called neutrino anomaly [13], an  
 135 unexpected surplus of neutrino emission in the spectra around 5 MeV. Multiples scientists are trying  
 136 to explain this surplus by advanced recalculation of the nuclei model during beta decay [14, 15] but  
 137 no consensus on this issue has been reached yet.

138 **Background in the neutrinos reactor spectrum**

139 Considering the close reactor neutrinos flux as the main signal, the signals that are considered as  
 140 background are:

- 141 — The geoneutrinos producing background in the  $0.511 \sim 2.7$  MeV region.
- 142 — The neutrinos coming from the other nuclear reactors around Earth.

143 In addition to all those physics signal, non-neutrinos signal that would mimic an IBD will also be  
 144 present. It is composed of:

- 145 — The signal coming from radioactive decay ( $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\beta$ ) from natural radioactive isotopes in the  
 146 material of the detector.
- 147 — Cosmogenic event such as fast neutrons and activated isotopes induced by muons passing  
 148 through the detector, most notably the spallation on  $^{12}\text{C}$ .

149 All those events represent a non-negligable part of the spectrum as shown in figure 2.3.

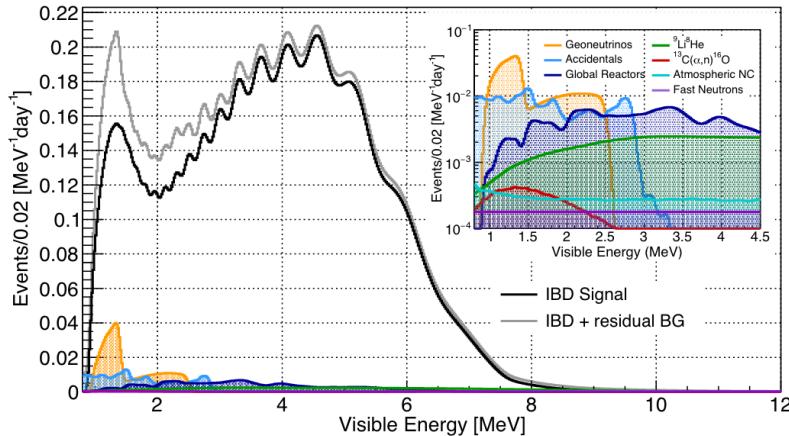


FIGURE 2.3 – Expected visible energy spectrum measured with the LPMT system with (grey) and without (black) backgrounds. The background amount for about 7% of the IBD candidate and are mostly localized below 3 MeV [11]

150 **Identification of the mass ordering**

151 To identify the mass ordering, we adjust the theoretical neutrino energy spectrum under the two  
 152 hypothesis of NO and IO. Those give us two  $\chi^2$ , respectively  $\chi^2_{\text{NO}}$  and  $\chi^2_{\text{IO}}$ . By computing the  
 153 difference  $\Delta\chi^2 = \chi^2_{\text{NO}} - \chi^2_{\text{IO}}$  we can determine the most probable mass ordering and the confidence  
 154 interval: NO if  $\Delta\chi^2 > 0$  and IO if  $\Delta\chi^2 < 0$ . Current studies shows that the expected sensitivity  
 155 the mass ordering would be of  $3.4\sigma$  after 6 years of data taking in nominal setup[2]. More detailed  
 156 explanations about the procedure can be found in the section 2.7.

157 **Precise measurement of the oscillations parameters**

158 The oscillations parameters  $\theta_{12}$ ,  $\theta_{13}$ ,  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ ,  $\Delta m_{31}^2$  are free parameters in the fit of the oscillation  
 159 spectrum. The precision on those parameters have been estimated and are shown in table 2.2. Wee  
 160 see that for  $\theta_{12}$ ,  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ ,  $\Delta m_{31}^2$ , precision at 6 years is better than the reference precision by an order of  
 161 magnitude [11]

	Central Value	PDG 2020	100 days	6 years	20 years
$\Delta m_{31}^2 (\times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2)$	2.5283	$\pm 0.034$ (1.3%)	$\pm 0.021$ (0.8%)	$\pm 0.0047$ (0.2%)	$\pm 0.0029$ (0.1%)
$\Delta m_{21}^2 (\times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2)$	7.53	$\pm 0.18$ (2.4%)	$\pm 0.074$ (1.0%)	$\pm 0.024$ (0.3%)	$\pm 0.017$ (0.2%)
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	0.307	$\pm 0.013$ (4.2%)	$\pm 0.0058$ (1.9%)	$\pm 0.0016$ (0.5%)	$\pm 0.0010$ (0.3%)
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	0.0218	$\pm 0.0007$ (3.2%)	$\pm 0.010$ (47.9%)	$\pm 0.0026$ (12.1%)	$\pm 0.0016$ (7.3%)

TABLE 2.2 – A summary of precision levels for the oscillation parameters. The reference value (PDG 2020 [16]) is compared with 100 days, 6 years and 20 years of JUNO data taking.

### 2.1.2 Other physics

While the design of JUNO is tailored to measure  $\bar{\nu}_e$  coming from nuclear reactor, JUNO will be able to detect neutrinos coming from other sources thus allowing for a wide range of physics studies as detailed in the table 2.3 and in the following sub-sections.

Research	Expected signal	Energy region	Major backgrounds
Reactor antineutrino	60 IBDs/day	0–12 MeV	Radioactivity, cosmic muon
Supernova burst	5000 IBDs at 10 kpc	0–80 MeV	Negligible
DSNB (w/o PSD)	2300 elastic scattering		
Solar neutrino	2–4 IBDs/year	10–40 MeV	Atmospheric $\nu$
Atmospheric neutrino	hundreds per year for ${}^8\text{B}$	0–16 MeV	Radioactivity
Geoneutrino	hundreds per year	0.1–100 GeV	Negligible
	$\approx 400$ per year	0–3 MeV	Reactor $\nu$

TABLE 2.3 – Detectable neutrino signal in JUNO and the expected signal rates and major background sources

### Geoneutrinos

Geoneutrinos designate the antineutrinos coming from the decay of long-lived radioactive elements inside the Earth. The 1.8 MeV threshold necessary for the IBD makes it possible to measure geoneutrinos from  ${}^{238}\text{U}$  and  ${}^{232}\text{Th}$  decay chains. The studies of geoneutrinos can help refine the Earth crust models but is also necessary to characterise their signal, as they are a background to the mass ordering and oscillations parameters studies.

### Atmospheric neutrinos

Atmospheric neutrinos are neutrinos originating from the decay of  $\pi$  and  $K$  particles that are produced in extensive air showers initiated by the interactions of cosmic rays with the Earth atmosphere. Earth is mostly transparent to neutrinos below the PeV energy, thus JUNO will be able to see neutrinos coming from all directions. Their baseline range is large (15km  $\sim$  13000km), they can have energy between 0.1 GeV and 10 TeV and will contain all neutrino and antineutrinos flavour. Their studies is complementary to the reactor antineutrinos and can help refine the constraints on the NMO [2].

### Supernovae burst neutrinos

Neutrinos are crucial component during all stages of stellar collapse and explosion. Detection of neutrinos coming for core collapse supernovae will provide us important informations on the mech-

183 mechanisms at play in those events. Thanks to its 20 kt sensible volume, JUNO has excellent capabilities  
 184 to detect all flavour of the  $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ MeV})$  postshock neutrinos, and using neutrinos of the  $\mathcal{O}(1 \text{ MeV})$   
 185 will give informations about the pre-supernovae neutrinos. All those informations will allow to  
 186 disentangle between the multiple hydro-dynamic models that are currently used to describe the  
 187 different stage of core-collapse supernovae.

### 188 Diffuse supernovae neutrinos background

189 Core-collapse supernovae in our galaxy are rare events, but they frequently occur throughout the  
 190 visible Universe sending burst of neutrinos in direction of the Earth. All those events contributes to  
 191 a low background flux of low-energy neutrinos called the Diffuse Supernovae Neutrino Background  
 192 (DSNB). Its flux and spectrum contains informations about the red-shift dependent supernovae rate,  
 193 the average supernovae neutrino energy and the fraction of black-hole formation in core-collapse su-  
 194 pernovae. Depending of the DSNB model, we can expect 2-4 IBD events per year in the energy range  
 195 above the reactor  $\bar{\nu}_e$  signal, which is competitive with the current Super-Kamiokande+Gadolinium  
 196 phase [17].

### 197 Beyond standard model neutrinos interactions

198 JUNO will also be able to probe for beyond standard model neutrinos interactions. After the main  
 199 physics topics have been accomplished, JUNO could be upgraded to probe for neutrinoless beta  
 200 decay ( $0\nu\beta\beta$ ). The detection of such event would give critical informations about the nature of  
 201 neutrinos, is it a majorana or a dirac particle. JUNO will also be able to probe for neutrinos that  
 202 would come for the decay or annihilation of Dark Matter inside the sun and neutrinos from putative  
 203 primordial black hole. Through the unitary test of the mixing matrix, JUNO will be able to search  
 204 for light sterile neutrinos. Thanks to JUNO sensitivity, multiple other exotic can be performed on  
 205 neutrino related beyond standard model interactions.

## 206 2.2 The JUNO detector

207 The JUNO detector is a scintillator detector buried 693.35 meters under the ground (1800 meters  
 208 water equivalent). It consist of Central Detector (CD), a water pool and a Top Tracker (TT) as showed  
 209 in figure 2.4a. The CD is an acrylic vessel containing the 20 ktons of Liquid Scintillator (LS). It is  
 210 supported by a stainless steel structure and is immersed in that water pool that is used as shielding  
 211 from external radiation and as a cherenkov detector for the background. The top of the experiment  
 212 is partially covered by the Top Tracker (TT), a plastic scintillator detector which is use to detect the  
 213 atmospheric muons background and is acting as a veto detector.

214 The top of the experiment also host the LS purification system, a water purification system, a ven-  
 215 tilation system to get rid of the potential radon in the air. The CD is observed by two system of  
 216 Photo-Multipliers Tubes (PMT). They are attached to the steel structure and their electronic readout  
 217 is submersed near them. A third system of PMT is also installed on the structure but are facing  
 218 outward of the CD, instrumenting the water to be cherenkov detector. The CD and the cherenkov  
 219 detector are optically separated by Tyvek sheet. A chimney for LS filling and purification and for  
 220 calibration operations connects the CD to the experimental hall from the top.

221 The CD has been dimensioned to meet the requirements presented in section 2.1.1:

- 222 — Its 20 ktons monolithic LS provide a volume sizeable enough, in combination with the ex-  
 223 pected  $\bar{\nu}_e$  flux, to reach the desired statistic in 6 years. Its monolithic nature also allow for a  
 224 full containment of most of the events, preventing the energy loss in non-instrumented parts  
 225 that would arise from a segmented detector.

- 226 — Its large overburden shield it from most of the atmospheric background that would pollute  
227 the signal.  
228 — The localization of the experiment, chosen to maximize the disappearance with a 53km base-  
229 line and in a region that allow two nuclear power plant to be used as sources.

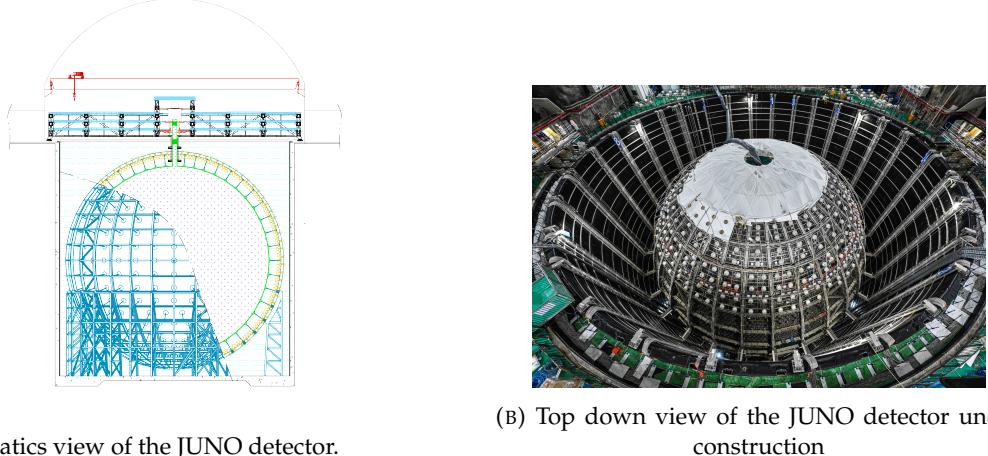


FIGURE 2.4

230 This section cover in details the different components of the detector and the detection systems.

### 231 2.2.1 Detection principle

The CD will detect the neutrino and measure their energy mainly via an Inverse Beta Decay (IBD) interaction with proton mainly from the  $^{12}\text{C}$  and H nucleus in the LS:

$$\bar{\nu}_e + p \rightarrow n + e^+$$

232 Kinematics calculation shows that this interaction has an energy threshold for the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  of  $(m_n + m_e -$   
233  $m_p) \approx 1.806$  MeV [18] where  $m_\lambda$  is the mass of the  $\lambda$  particle. This threshold make the experiment  
234 blind to very low energy neutrinos. The residual energy  $E_\nu - 1.806$  MeV is be distributed as kinetic  
235 energy between the positron and the neutron. The energy of the emitted positron  $E_e$  is given by [18]

$$E_e = \frac{(E_\nu - \delta)(1 + \epsilon_\nu) + \epsilon_\nu \cos \theta \sqrt{(E_\nu - \delta)^2 + \kappa m_e^2}}{\kappa} \quad (2.2)$$

236 where  $\kappa = (1 + \epsilon_\nu)^2 - \epsilon_\nu^2 \cos^2 \theta \approx 1$ ,  $\epsilon_\nu = \frac{E_\nu}{m_p} \ll 1$  and  $\delta = \frac{m_n^2 - m_p^2 - m_e^2}{2m_p} \ll 1$ . We can see from this  
237 equation that the positron energy is strongly correlated to the neutrino energy.

238 The positron and the neutron will then propagate in the detection medium, the Liquid Scintillator  
239 (LS), loosing their kinetic energy by exciting the molecule of the LS (more details in section 2.2.2).  
240 Once stopped, the positron will annihilate with an electron from the medium producing two 511  
241 KeV gamma. Those gamma will themselves interact with the LS, exciting it before being absorbed  
242 by photoelectrical effect. The neutron will be captured by an hydrogen, emitting a 2.2 MeV gamma  
243 in the process. This gamma will also deposit its energy before being absorbed by the LS.

244 The scintillation photons have frequency in the UV and will propagate in the LS, being re-absorbed  
245 and re-emitted by compton effect before finally be captured by PMTs instrumenting the acrylic  
246 sphere. The analog signal of the PMTs digitized by the electronic is the signal of our experiment.

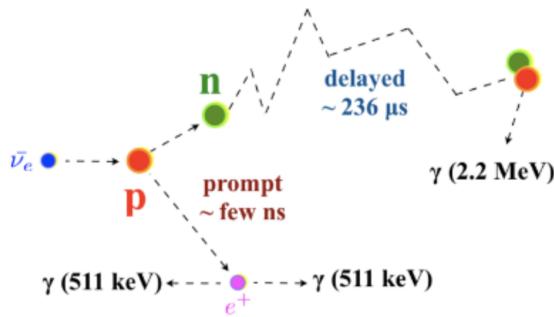


FIGURE 2.5 – Schematics of an IBD interaction in the central detector of JUNO

247 The signal produced by the positron is subsequently called the prompt signal, and the signal coming  
 248 from the neutron the delayed signal. This naming convention come from the fact that the positron  
 249 will deposit its energy rather quickly (few ns) where the neutron will take a bit more time ( $\sim 236 \mu\text{s}$ ).

## 250 2.2.2 Central Detector (CD)

251 The central detector, composed of 20 ktons of Liquid Scintillator (LS), is the main part of JUNO. The  
 252 LS is contained in a spherical acrylic vessel supported by a stainless steel structure. The CD and  
 253 its structural support are submerged in a cylindrical water pool of 43.5m diameter and 44m height.  
 254 We're confident that the water pool provide sufficient buffer protection in every direction against the  
 255 rock radioactivity.

### 256 Acrylic vessel

257 The acrylic vessel is a spherical vessel of inner diameter of 35.4 m and a thickness of 120 mm. It is  
 258 assembled from 265 acrylic panels, thermo bonded together. The acrylic recipes has been carefully  
 259 tuned with extensive R&D to ensure it does not include plasticizer and anti-UV material that would  
 260 stop the scintillation photons. Those panels requires to be pure of radioactive materials to not  
 261 cause background. Current setup where the acrylic panels are molded in cleanrooms of class 10000,  
 262 let us reach a uranium and thorium contamination of <0.5 ppt. The molding and thermoforming  
 263 processes is optimized to increase the assemblage transparency in water to >96%. The acrylic vessel  
 264 is supported by a stainless steel structure via supporting node (fig 2.6). The structure and the nodes  
 265 are designed to be resilient to natural catastrophic events such as earthquake and can support many  
 266 times the effective load of the acrylic vessel.

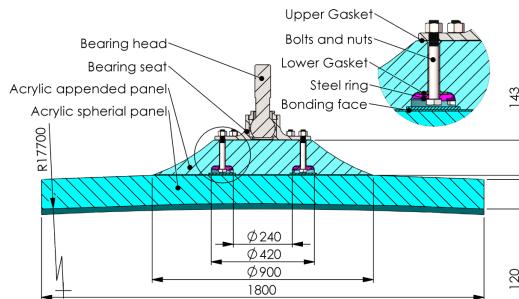


FIGURE 2.6 – Schematics of the supporting node for the acrylic vessel

267 **Liquid scintillator**

268 The Liquid Scintillator (LS) has a similar recipe as the one used in Daya Bay [19] but without gadolinium  
 269 doping. It is made of three components, necessary to shift the wavelength of emitted photons to  
 270 prevent their reabsorption:

- 271 1. The detection medium, the *linear alkylbenzene* (LAB). Selected because of its excellent trans-  
 272 parency, high flash point, low chemical reactivity and good light yield. Accounting for  $\sim$   
 273 98% of the LS, it is the main component with which ionizing particles and gamma interact.  
 274 Charged particles will collide with its electronic cloud transferring energy to the molecules,  
 275 gamma will interact via compton effect with the electronic cloud before finally be absorbed  
 276 via photoelectric effect.
- 277 2. The second component of the LS is the *2,5-diphenyloxazole* (PPO). A fraction of the excitation  
 278 energy of the LAB is transferred to the PPO, mainly via non radiative process [20]. The  
 279 PPO molecules de-excites in the same way, transferring their energy to the bis-MSB. The PPO  
 280 makes for 1.5 % of the LS.
- 281 3. The last component is the *p-bis(o-methylstyryl)-benzene* (bis-MSB). Once excited by the PPO, it  
 282 will emit photon with an average wavelength of  $\sim$  430 nm (full spectrum in figure 2.7) that  
 283 can be detected by our photo-multipliers systems. It amount for  $\sim$  0.5% of the LS.

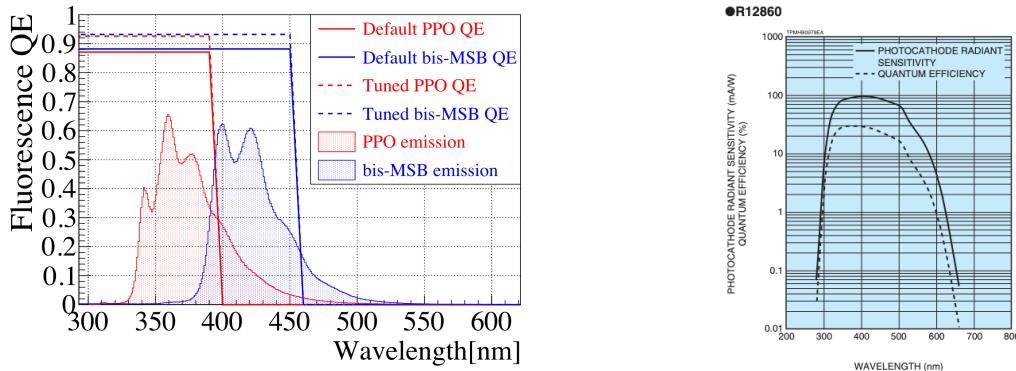


FIGURE 2.7 – On the left: Quantum efficiency (QE) and emission spectrum of the LAB and the bis-MSB [19]. On the right: Sensitivity of the Hamamatsu LPMT depending on the wavelength of the incident photons [21].

284 This formula has been optimized using dedicated studies with a Daya Bay detector [19, 22] to reach  
 285 the requirements for the JUNO experiment:

- 286 — A light yield / MeV of the amount of  $10^4$  photons to maximize the statistic in the energy  
 287 measurement.
- 288 — An attenuation length comparable to the size of the detector to prevent losing photons during  
 289 their propagation in the LS. The final attenuation length is 25.8m [23] to compare with the CD  
 290 diameter of 35.4m.
- 291 — Uranium/Thorium radiopurity to prevent background signal. The reactor neutrino program  
 292 require a contamination fraction  $F < 10^{-15}$  while the solar neutrino program require  $F <$   
 293  $10^{-17}$ .

294 The LS will frequently be purified and tested in the Online Scintillator Internal Radioactivity In-  
 295 vestigation System (OSIRIS) [24] to ensure that the requirements are kept during the lifetime of the  
 296 experiment, more details to be found in section 2.4.2.

<sup>297</sup> **Large Photo-Multipliers Tubes (LPMTs)**

<sup>298</sup> The scintillation light produced by the LS is then collected by Photo-Multipliers Tubes (PMT) that  
<sup>299</sup> transform the incoming photon into an electric signal. As described in figure 2.8, the incident photons  
<sup>300</sup> interact with the photocathode via photoelectric effect producing an electron called a Photo-Electron  
<sup>301</sup> (PE). This PE is then focused on the dynodes where the high voltage will allow it to be multiplied.  
<sup>302</sup> After multiple amplification the resulting charge - in coulomb [C] - is collected by the anode and  
<sup>303</sup> the resulting electric signal can be digitalized by the readout electronics from which the charge and  
<sup>304</sup> timing can be extracted.

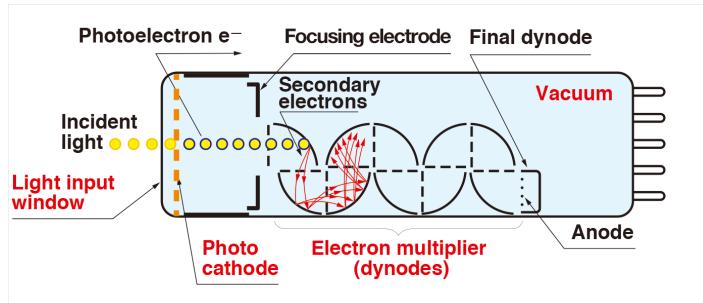


FIGURE 2.8 – Schematic of a PMT

<sup>305</sup> The Large Photo-Multipliers Tubes (LPMT), used in the central detector and in the water pool, are  
<sup>306</sup> 20-inch (50.8 cm) radius PMTs.  $\sim 5000$  dynode-PMTs [21] were produced by the Hamamatsu<sup>®</sup>  
<sup>307</sup> company and  $\sim 15000$  Micro-Channel Plate (MCP) [25] by the NNVT<sup>®</sup> company. This system is  
<sup>308</sup> the one responsible for the energy measurement with a energy resolution of  $3\%/\sqrt{E}$ , resolution  
<sup>309</sup> necessary for the mass ordering measurement. To reach this precision, the system is composed of  
<sup>310</sup> 17612 PMTs quasi uniformly distributed over the detector for a coverage of 75.2% reaching  $\sim 1800$   
<sup>311</sup> PE/MeV or  $\sim 2.3\%$  resolution due to statistic, leaving  $\sim 0.7\%$  for the systematic uncertainties. They  
<sup>312</sup> are located outside the acrylic sphere in the water pool facing the center of the detector. To maintain  
<sup>313</sup> the resolution over the lifetime of the experiment, JUNO require a failure rate  $< 1\%$  over 6 years.

<sup>314</sup> The LPMTs electronic are divided in two parts. One "near", located underwater, in proximity of the  
<sup>315</sup> LPMT to reduce the cable length between the PMT and early electronic. A second one, outside of the  
<sup>316</sup> detector that is responsible for higher level analysis before sending the data to the DAQ.

<sup>317</sup> The light yield per MeV induce that a LPMT can collect between 1 and 1000 PE per event, a wide  
<sup>318</sup> dynamic range, causing non linearity in the PMT response that need to be understood and calibrated,  
<sup>319</sup> see section 2.3 for more details.

<sup>320</sup> **Small Photo-Multipliers Tubes (SPMTs)**

<sup>321</sup> The Small PMT (SPMTs) system is made of 3-inch (7.62 cm) PMTs. They will be used in the CD  
<sup>322</sup> as a secondary detection system. Those 25600 SPMTs will observe the same events as the LPMTs,  
<sup>323</sup> thus sharing the physics and detector systematics up until the photon conversion. With a detector  
<sup>324</sup> coverage of 2.7%, this system will collect  $\sim 43$  PE/MeV for a final energy resolution of  $\sim 17\%$ .  
<sup>325</sup> This resolution is not enough to measure the NMO,  $\theta_{13}$ ,  $\Delta m_{31}^2$  but will be sufficient to independently  
<sup>326</sup> measure  $\theta_{12}$  and  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ .

<sup>327</sup> Due to the low PE rate, SPMTs will be running in photo-counting mode in the reactor range and thus  
<sup>328</sup> will be insensitive to non-linearity effect. Using this property, the intrinsic charge non linearity of  
<sup>329</sup> the LPMTs can be measured by comparing the PE count in the SPMTs and LPMTs [26]. Also, due  
<sup>330</sup> to their smaller size and electronics, SPMTs have a better timing resolutions than the LPMTs. At

331 higher energy range, like supernovae events, LPMTs will saturate where SPMTs due to their lower  
 332 PE collection will to produce a reliable measure of the energy spectrum.

333 The Data Acquisition System (DAQ) is designed to support the event rate of IBD, background, dark  
 334 noise and supplementary storage buffers are present in the LPMT electronics to withstand the event  
 335 rate during supernovae burst.

### 336 2.2.3 Veto detector

337 The CD will be bathed in constant background noise coming from numerous sources : the radioac-  
 338 tivity from surrounding rock and its own components or from the flux of cosmic muons. This  
 339 background needs to be rejected to ensure the purity of the IBD spectrum. To prevent a big part  
 340 of them, JUNO use two veto detector that will tag events as background before CD analysis.

#### 341 Cherenkov in water pool

342 The Water Cherenkov Detector (WCD) is the instrumentation of the water buffer around the CD.  
 343 When high speed charged particles will pass through the water, they will produced cherenkov  
 344 photons. The light will be collected by 2400 MCP LPMTs installed on the outer surface of the CD  
 345 structure. The muons veto strategy is based on a PMT multiplicity condition. WCD PMTs are  
 346 grouped in ten zones: 5 in the top, 5 in the bottom. A veto is raised either when more than 19  
 347 PMTs are triggered in one zone or when two adjacent zones simultaneously trigger more than 13  
 348 PMTs. Using this trigger, we expect to reach a muon detection efficiency of 99.5% while keeping the  
 349 noise at reasonable level.

#### 350 Top tracker

351 The JUNO Top Tracker (TT) is a plastic scintillator detector located on the top of the experiment (see  
 352 figure 2.9). Made from plastic scintillator from OPERA [27] layered horizontally in 3 layers on the  
 353 top of the detector, the TT will be able to detect incoming atmospheric muons. With its coverage,  
 354 about 1/3 of the of all atmospheric muons that passing through the CD will also pass through the 3  
 355 layer of the detector. While it does not cover the majority of the CD, the TT is particularly effective  
 356 to detect muons coming through the filling chimney region which might present difficulties from the  
 other subsystems in some classes of events.

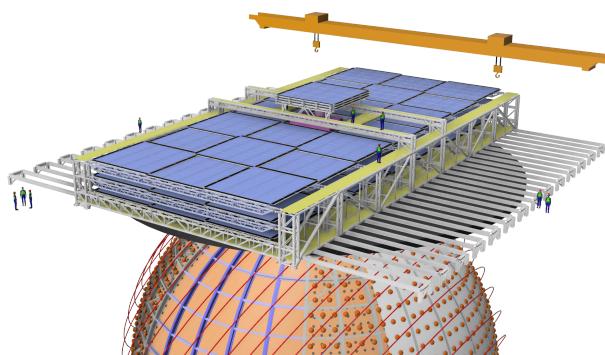


FIGURE 2.9 – The JUNO top tracker

### 358 2.3 Calibration strategy

359 The calibration is a crucial part of the JUNO experiment. Because we are looking at civil reactor  
 360 neutrino it might be impossible to run measurement without signal, it would need to shut down  
 361 every reactor from the Taishan and Yangjiang power plants which is realistically impossible. Because  
 362 of this continuous rate, low frequency signal event, we need high frequency, recognisable sources in  
 363 the energy range of interest : [0-12] MeV for the positron signal and 2.2 MeV for the neutron capture.  
 364 It is expected that the CD response will be different depending on the type of particle, due to the  
 365 interaction with LS, the position on the event and the optical response of the acrylic sphere (see  
 366 section 2.6). We also expect a non-linear energy response of the CD due to the LS properties [19] but  
 367 also due to the saturation of the LPMTs system when collecting a large amount of PE [26].

#### 368 2.3.1 Energy scale calibration

369 While electrons and positrons sources would be ideal, for a large LS detector thin-walled electrons  
 370 or positrons sources could lead to leakage of radionucleides causing radioactive contamination.  
 371 Instead, we consider gamma sources in the range of the prompt energy of IBDs. The sources are  
 372 reported in table 2.4.

Sources / Processes	Type	Radiation
$^{137}\text{Cs}$	$\gamma$	0.0662 MeV
$^{54}\text{Mn}$	$\gamma$	0.835 MeV
$^{60}\text{Co}$	$\gamma$	1.173 + 1.333 MeV
$^{40}\text{K}$	$\gamma$	1.461 MeV
$^{68}\text{Ge}$	$e^+$	annihilation 0.511 + 0.511 MeV
$^{241}\text{Am-Be}$	$n, \gamma$	neutron + 4.43 MeV ( $^{12}\text{C}^*$ )
$^{241}\text{Am-}^{13}\text{C}$	$n, \gamma$	neutron + 6.13 MeV ( $^{16}\text{O}^*$ )
$(n, \gamma)p$	$\gamma$	2.22 MeV
$(n, \gamma)^{12}\text{C}$	$\gamma$	4.94 MeV or 3.68 + 1.26 MeV

TABLE 2.4 – List of sources and their process considered for the energy scale calibration

373 For the  $^{68}\text{Ge}$  source, it will decay in  $^{68}\text{Ga}$  via electron capture, which will itself  $\beta^+$  decay into  $^{68}\text{Zn}$ .  
 374 The positrons will be absorbed by the enclosure so only the annihilation gamma will be released. In  
 375 addition,  $(\alpha, n)$  sources like  $^{241}\text{Am-Be}$  and  $^{241}\text{Am-}^{13}\text{C}$  are used to provide both high energy gamma  
 376 and neutrons, which will later be captured in the LS producing the 2.2 MeV gamma.

377 From this calibration we call  $E_{\text{vis}}$  the "visible energy" that is reconstructed by our current algorithms  
 378 and we compare it to the true energy deposited by the calibration source. The results shown in figure  
 379 2.10 show the expected response of the detector from calibration sources. The non-linearity is clearly  
 380 visible from the  $E_{\text{vis}}/E_{\text{true}}$  shape. See [28] for more details.

#### 381 2.3.2 Calibration system

382 The non-uniformity due to the event position in the detector (more details in section 2.6) will be  
 383 studied using multiples systems that are schematized in figure 2.11. They allow to position sources  
 384 at different location in the CD.

- 385 — For a one-dimension vertical calibration, the Automatic Calibration Unit (ACU) will be able  
 386 to deploy multiple radioactive sources or a pulse laser diffuser ball along the central axis of  
 387 the CD through the top chimney. The source position precision is less than 1cm.

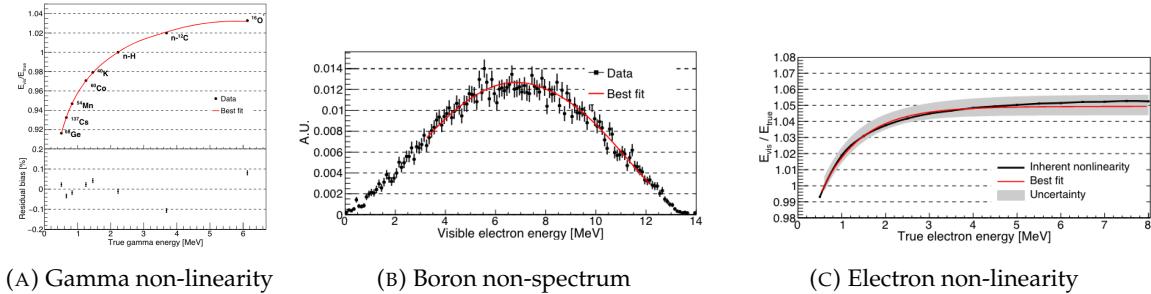


FIGURE 2.10 – Fitted and simulated non linearity of gamma, electron sources and from the  $^{12}\text{B}$  spectrum. Black points are simulated data. Red curves are the best fits

- For off-axis calibration, a calibration source attached to a Cable Loop System (CLS) can be moved on a vertical half-plane by adjusting the length of two connection cable. Two set of CSL will be deployed to provide a 79% effective coverage of a vertical plane.
- A Guiding Tube (GT) will surround the CD to calibrate the non-uniformity of the response at the edge of the detector
- A Remotely Operated under-LS Vehicle (ROV) can be deployed to desired location inside LS for a more precise and comprehensive calibration. The ROV will also be equipped with a camera for inspection of the CD.

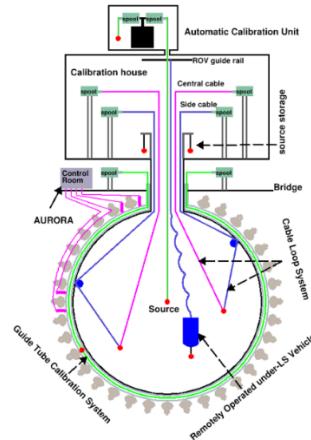


FIGURE 2.11 – Overview of the calibration system

- 396 The preliminary calibration program is depicted in table 2.5.

## 2.4 Satellite detectors

- 398 As introduced in section 2.1.1 and section 2.2.2, the precise knowledge and understanding of the  
 399 detector condition is crucial for the measurements of the NMO and oscillation parameters. Thus two  
 400 satellite detectors will be setup to monitor the experiment condition. TAO to monitor and understand  
 401 the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  flux and spectrum coming from the nuclear reactor and OSIRIS to monitor the LS response.

Program	Purpose	System	Duration [min]
Weekly calibration	Neutron (Am-C)	ACU	63
	Laser	ACU	78
Monthly calibration	Neutron (Am-C)	ACU	120
	Laser	ACU	147
	Neutron (Am-C)	CLS	333
	Neutron (Am-C)	GT	73
Comprehensive calibration	Neutron (Am-C)	ACU, CLS and GT	1942
	Neutron (Am-Be)	ACU	75
	Laser	ACU	391
	$^{68}\text{Ge}$	ACU	75
	$^{137}\text{Cs}$	ACU	75
	$^{54}\text{Mn}$	ACU	75
	$^{60}\text{Co}$	ACU	75
	$^{40}\text{K}$	ACU	158

TABLE 2.5 – Calibration program of the JUNO experiment

#### 402 2.4.1 TAO

403 The Taishan Antineutrino Observatory (TAO) [12, 29] is a ton-level gadolinium doped liquid scin-  
 404 tillator detector that will be located near the Taishan-1 reactor. It aim to measure the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  spectrum at  
 405 very low distance (< 30m) from the reactor to measure a quasi-unoscillated spectrum. TAO also aim  
 406 to provide a major contribution to the so-called reactor anomaly [13]. Its requirement are to the level  
 407 of 2 % energy resolution at 1 MeV.

#### 408 Detector

409 The TAO detector is close, in concept, to the CD of JUNO. It is composed of an acrylic vessel  
 410 containing 2.8 tons of gadolinium-loaded LS instrumented by an array of silicon photomultipliers  
 411 (SiPM) reaching a 95% coverage. To efficiently reduce the dark count of those sensors, the detector  
 412 is cooled to -50 °C. The  $\bar{\nu}_e$  will interact with the LS via IBD, producing scintillation light, that will  
 413 be detected by the SiPMs. From this signal the  $\bar{\nu}_e$  energy and the full spectrum reconstructed. This  
 414 spectrum will then be used by JUNO to calibrate the unoscillated spectrum, most notably the fission  
 415 product fraction that impact the rate and shape of the spectrum. A schema of the detector is presented  
 416 in figure 2.12a.

#### 417 2.4.2 OSIRIS

418 The Online Scintillator Internal Radioactivity Investigation System (OSIRIS) [24] is an ultralow back-  
 419 ground, 20 m<sup>3</sup> LS detector that will be located in JUNO cavern. It aim to monitor the radioactive  
 420 contamination, purity and overall response of the LS before it is injected in JUNO. OSIRIS will  
 421 be located at the end of the purification chain of JUNO, monitoring that the purified LS meet the  
 422 JUNO requirements. The setup is optimized to detect the fast coincidences decay of  $^{214}\text{Bi} - ^{214}\text{Po}$   
 423 and  $^{212}\text{Bi} - ^{212}\text{Po}$ , indicators of the decay chains of U and Th respectively.

#### 424 Detector

425 OSIRIS is composed of an acrylic vessel that will contains 17t of LS. The LS is instrumented by  
 426 a PMT array of 64 20 inch PMTs on the top and the side of the vessel. To reach the necessary

background level required by the LS purity measurements, in addition to being 700m underground in the experiment cavern, the acrylic vessel is immersed in a tank of ultra pure water. The water is itself instrumented by another array of 20 inch PMTs, acting as muon veto. A schema of the detector is presented in figure 2.12b.

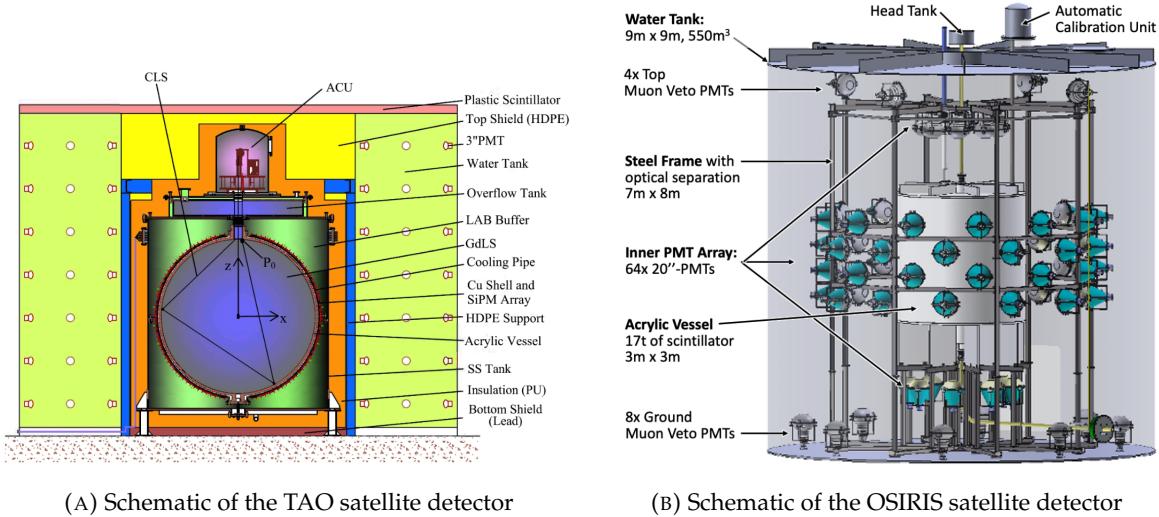


FIGURE 2.12

## 2.5 Software

The simulation, reconstruction and analysis algorithms are all packaged in the JUNO software, subsequently called the software. It is composed of multiple components integrated in the SNiPER [30] framework:

- Various primary particles simulators for the different kind of events, background and calibration sources.
- A Geant4 [31–33] Monte Carlo (MC) simulation containing the detectors geometries, a custom optical model for the LS and the supporting structures of the detectors. The Geant4 simulation integrate all relevant physics process for JUNO, validated by the collaboration. This step of the simulation is commonly called *Detsim* and compute up to the production of photo-electrons in the PMTs. The optics properties of the different materials and detector components have been measured beforehand to be used to define the material and surfaces in the simulation.
- An electronic simulation, simulating the response waveform of the PMTs, tracking it through the digitization process, accounting for effects such as non-linearity, dark noise, Time Transit Spread (TTS), pre-pulsing, after-pulsing and ringing if the waveform. It's also the step handling the event triggers and mixing. This step is commonly referenced as *ElecSim*.
- A waveform reconstruction where the digitized waveform are filtered to remove high-frequency white noise and then deconvoluted to yield time and charge informations of the photons hits on the PMTs. This step is commonly referenced as *Calib*.
- The charge and time informations are used by reconstruction algorithms to reconstruct the interaction vertex and the deposited energy. This step is commonly reported as *Reco*. See section 2.6 for more details on the reconstruction.
- Once the singular events are reconstructed, they go through event pairing and classification to select IBD events. This step is named Event Classification.

- 455 — The purified signal is then analysed by the analysis framework which depend of the physics  
 456 topic of interest.

457 The steps Reco and Event Classification are divided into two category of algorithm. Fast but less  
 458 accurate algorithms that are running during the data taking designated as the *Online* algorithms.  
 459 Those algorithm are used to take the decision to save the event on tape or to throw it away. More  
 460 accurate algorithms that run on batch of events designated *Offline* algorithms. They are used for the  
 461 physics analysis. The Offline Reco will be one of the main topic of interest for this thesis.

## 462 2.6 State of the art of the Offline IBD reconstruction in JUNO

463 The main reconstruction method currently run in JUNO is a data-driven method based on a like-  
 464 lihood maximization [34, 35] using only the LPMTs. The first step is to reconstruct the interaction  
 465 vertex from which the energy reconstruction is dependent. It is also necessary for event pairing and  
 466 classification.

### 467 2.6.1 Interaction vertex reconstruction

468 To start the likelihood maximization, a rough estimation of the vertex and of the event timing is  
 469 needed. We start by estimating the vertex position using a charge based algorithm.

#### 470 Charge based algorithm

471 The charge-based algorithm is basically base on the charge-weighted average of the PMT position.

$$\vec{r}_{cb} = a \cdot \frac{\sum_i q_i \cdot \vec{r}_i}{\sum_i q_i} \quad (2.3)$$

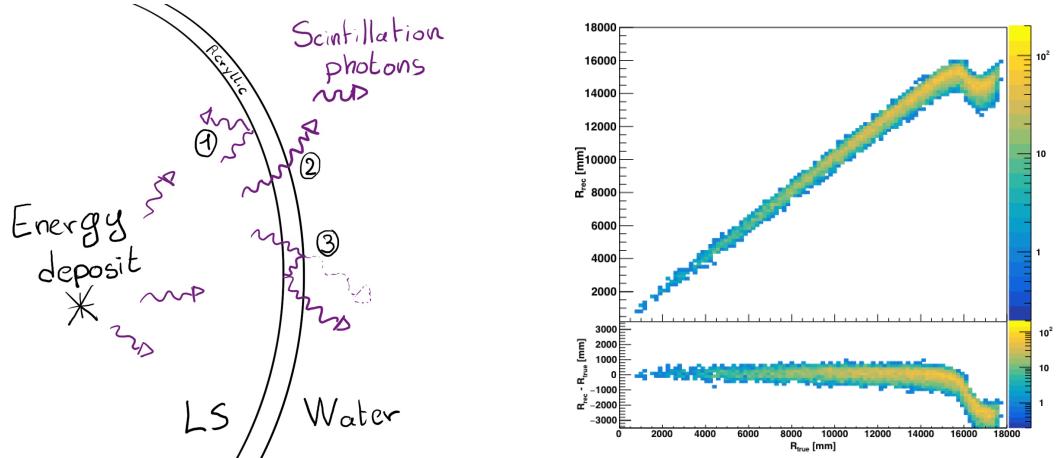
472 Where  $q_i$  is the reconstructed charge of the pulse of the  $i$ th PMT and  $\vec{r}_i$  is its position.  $\vec{r}_0$  is the  
 473 reconstructed interaction position.  $a$  is a scale factor introduced because a weighted average over  
 474 a 3D sphere is inherently biased. Using calibration we can estimate  $a \approx 1.3$  [36]. The results in  
 475 figure 2.13b shows that the reconstruction is biased from around 15m and further. This is due to the  
 476 phenomena called “total reflection area” or TR Area.

477 As depicted in the figure 2.13a the optical photons, given that they have a sufficiently large incidence  
 478 angle, can be deviated of their trajectories when passing through the interfaces LS-acrylic and water-  
 479 acrylic due to the optical index difference. This cause photons to be lost or to be detected by PMT  
 480 further than anticipated if we consider their rectilinear trajectories. This cause the charge barycenter  
 481 the be located closer to the center than the event really is.

482 It is to be noted that charge based algorithm, in addition to be biased near the edge of the detector,  
 483 does not provide any information about the timing of the event. Therefore, a time based algorithm  
 484 needs to be introduced to provide initial values.

#### 485 Time based algorithm

486 The time based algorithm use the distribution of the time of flight corrections  $\Delta t$  (Eq 2.4) of an event  
 487 to reconstruct its vertex and  $t_0$ . It follow the following iterations:



(A) Illustration of the different optical photons reflection scenarios. 1 is the reflection of the photon at the interface LS-acrylic or acrylic-water. 2 is the transmission of the photons through the interfaces. 3 is the conduction of the photon in the acrylic.

(B) Heatmap of  $R_{rec}$  and  $R_{rec} - R_{true}$  as a function of  $R_{true}$  for 4MeV prompt signals uniformly distributed in the detector calculated by the charge based algorithm

FIGURE 2.13

488 1. Use the charge based algorithm to get an initial vertex to start the iteration.

489 2. Calculate the time of flight correction for the  $i$ th PMT using

$$\Delta t_i(j) = t_i - \text{tof}_i(j) \quad (2.4)$$

490 where  $j$  is the iteration step,  $t_i$  is the timing of the  $i$ th PMT, and  $\text{tof}_i$  is the time-of-flight of the  
491 photon considering an rectilinear trajectory and an effective velocity in the LS and water (see  
492 [36] for detailed description of this effective velocity). Plot the  $\Delta t$  distribution and label the  
493 peak position as  $\Delta t^{\text{peak}}$  (see fig 2.14a).

494 3. Calculate a correction vector  $\vec{\delta}[\vec{r}(j)]$  as

$$\vec{\delta}[\vec{r}(j)] = \frac{\sum_i \left( \frac{\Delta t_i(j) - \Delta t^{\text{peak}}(j)}{\text{tof}_i(j)} \right) \cdot (\vec{r}_0(j) - \vec{r}_i)}{N^{\text{peak}}(j)} \quad (2.5)$$

495 where  $\vec{r}_0$  is the vertex position at the beginning of this iteration,  $\vec{r}_i$  is the position of the  $i$ th  
496 PMT. To minimize the effect of scattering, dark noise and reflection, only the pulse happening  
497 in a time window (-10 ns, +5 ns) around  $\Delta t^{\text{peak}}$  are considered.  $N^{\text{peak}}$  is the number of PE  
498 collected in this time-window.

499 4. if  $\vec{\delta}[\vec{r}(j)] < 1\text{mm}$  or  $j \geq 100$ , stop the iteration. Otherwise  $\vec{r}_0(j+1) = \vec{r}_0(j) + \vec{\delta}[\vec{r}(j)]$  and go to  
500 step 2.

501 However because the earliest arrival time is used,  $t_i$  is related to the number photoelectrons  $N_i^{\text{pe}}$   
502 detected by the PMT [37–39]. To reduce bias in the vertex reconstruction, the following equation is  
503 used to correct  $t_i$  into  $t'_i$ :

$$t'_i = t_i - p_0 / \sqrt{N_i^{\text{pe}}} - p_1 - p_2 / N_i^{\text{pe}} \quad (2.6)$$

504 The parameters  $(p_0, p_1, p_2)$  were optimized to (9.42, 0.74, -4.60) for Hamamatsu PMTs and (41.31,  
505 -12.04, -20.02) for NNVT PMTs [36]. The results presented in figure 2.14b shows that the time based

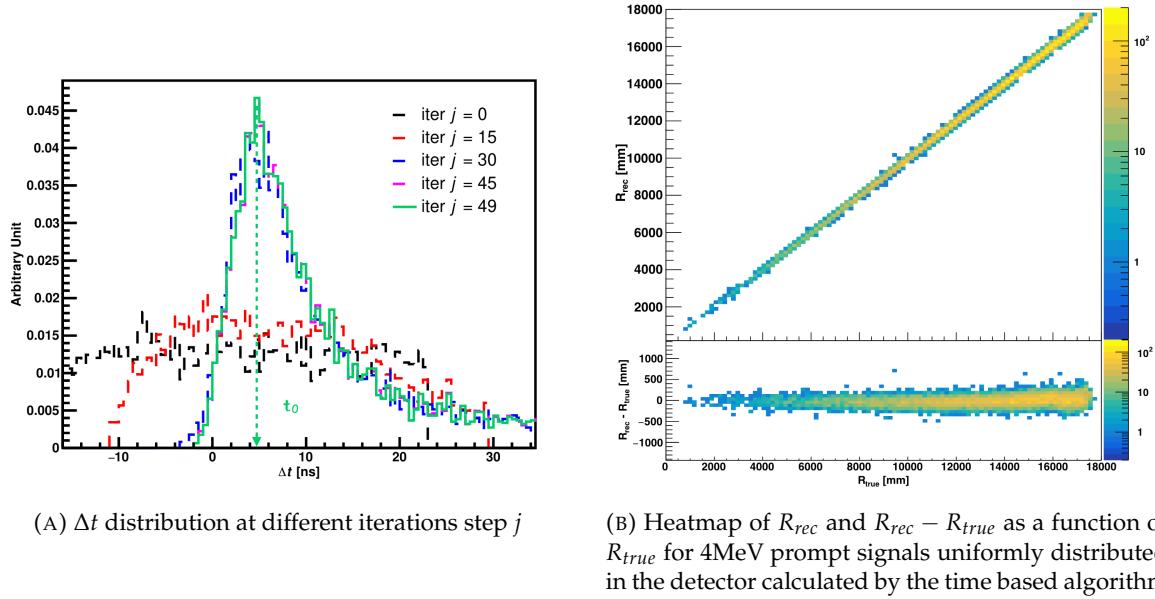
(A)  $\Delta t$  distribution at different iterations step  $j$ (B) Heatmap of  $R_{rec}$  and  $R_{rec} - R_{true}$  as a function of  $R_{true}$  for 4MeV prompt signals uniformly distributed in the detector calculated by the time based algorithm

FIGURE 2.14

506 algorithm provide a more accurate vertex and is unbiased even in the TR area. This results  $(\vec{r}_0, t_0)$  is  
 507 used as initial value for the likelihood algorithm.

### 508 Time likelihood algorithm

509 The time likelihood algorithm use the residual time expressed as follow

$$t_{\text{res}}^i(\vec{r}_0, t_0) = t_i - \text{tof}_i - t_0 \quad (2.7)$$

510 In a first order approximation, the scintillator time response Probability Density Function (PDF) can  
 511 be described as the emission time profile of the scintillation photons, the Time Transit Spread (TTS)  
 512 and the dark noise of the PMTs. The emission time profile  $f(t_{\text{res}})$  is described like

$$f(t_{\text{res}}) = \sum_k \frac{\rho_k}{\tau_k} e^{-\frac{t_{\text{res}}}{\tau_k}}, \sum_k \rho_k = 1 \quad (2.8)$$

513 as the sum of the  $k$  component that emit light in the LS each one characterised by it's decay time  $\tau_k$   
 514 and intensity fraction  $\rho_k$ . The TTS component is expressed as a gaussian convolution

$$g(t_{\text{res}}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(t_{\text{res}}-\nu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \cdot f(t_{\text{res}}) \quad (2.9)$$

515 where  $\sigma$  is the TTS of PMTs and  $\nu$  is the average transit time. The dark noise is not correlated with any  
 516 physical events and considered as constant rate over the time window considered  $T$ . By normalizing  
 517 the dark noise probability  $\epsilon(t_{\text{res}})$  as  $\int_T \epsilon(t_{\text{res}}) dt_{\text{res}} = \epsilon_{\text{dn}}$ , it can be integrated in the PDF as

$$p(t_{\text{res}}) = (1 - \epsilon_{\text{dn}}) \cdot g(t_{\text{res}}) + \epsilon(t_{\text{res}}) \quad (2.10)$$

518 The distribution of the residual time  $t_{\text{res}}$  of an event can then be compared to  $p(t_{\text{res}})$  and the best

519 fitting vertex  $\vec{r}_0$  and  $t_0$  can be chosen by minimizing

$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{r}_0, t_0) = -\ln \left( \prod_i p(t_{\text{res}}^i) \right) \quad (2.11)$$

520 The parameter of Eq. 2.10 can be measured experimentally. The results shown in figure 2.15 used  
 521 PDF from monte carlo simulation. The results shows that  $R_{\text{rec}} - R_{\text{true}}$  is biased depending on the  
 522 energy. While this could be corrected using calibration, another algorithm based on charge likelihood  
 523 was developed to correct this problem.

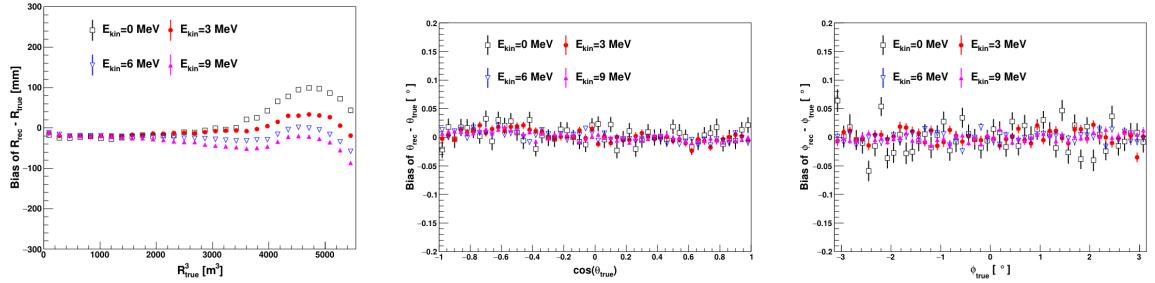


FIGURE 2.15 – Bias of the reconstructed radius  $R$  (left),  $\theta$  (middle) and  $\phi$  (right) for multiple energies by the time likelihood algorithm

#### 524 Charge likelihood algorithm

525 Similarly to the time likelihood algorithms that use a timing PDF, the charge likelihood algorithm  
 526 use a PE PDF for each PMT depending on the energy and position of the event. With  $\mu(\vec{r}_0, E)$  the  
 527 mean expected number of PE detected by each PMT, the probability to observe  $N_{pe}$  in a PMT follow  
 528 a Poisson distribution. Thus

- 529 — The probability to observe no hit ( $N_{pe} = 0$ ) in the  $j$ th PMT is  $P_{\text{nohit}}^j(\vec{r}_0, E) = e^{-\mu_j}$
- 530 — The probability to observe  $N_{pe} \neq 0$  in the  $i$ th PMT is  $P_{\text{hit}}^i(\vec{r}_0, E) = \frac{\mu^{N_{pe}} e^{-\mu_i}}{N_{pe}!}$

531 Therefore, the probability to observe a specific hit pattern can be expressed as

$$P(\vec{r}_0, E) = \prod_j P_{\text{nohit}}^j(\vec{r}_0, E) \cdot \prod_i P_{\text{hit}}^i(\vec{r}_0, E) \quad (2.12)$$

532 The best fit values of  $\vec{R}_0$  and  $E$  can then be calculated by minimizing the negative log-likelihood

$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{r}_0, E) = -\ln(P(\vec{r}_0, E)) \quad (2.13)$$

533 In principle,  $\mu_i(\vec{r}_0, E)$  could be expressed

$$\mu_i(\vec{r}_0, E) = Y \cdot \frac{\Omega(\vec{r}_0, r_i)}{4\pi} \cdot \epsilon_i \cdot f(\theta_i) \cdot e^{-\sum_m \frac{d_m}{\zeta_m}} \cdot E + \delta_i \quad (2.14)$$

534 where  $Y$  is the energy scale factor,  $\Omega(\vec{r}_0, r_i)$  is the solid angle of the  $i$ th PMT,  $\epsilon_i$  is its detection  
 535 efficiency,  $f(\theta_i)$  its angular response,  $\zeta_m$  is the attenuation length in the materials and  $\delta_i$  the expected  
 536 number of dark noise.

537 However Eq. 2.14 assume that the scintillation light yield is linear with energy and describe poorly  
 538 the contribution of indirect light, shadow effect due to the supporting structure and the total reflec-

tion effects. The solution is to use data driven methods to produce the pdf by using the calibrations sources and position described in section 2.3. In the results presented in figures 2.16, the PDF was produced using MC simulation and 29 specific calibrations position [36] along the Z-axis of the detector. We see that the charge likelihood algorithm show little bias in the TR area and a better

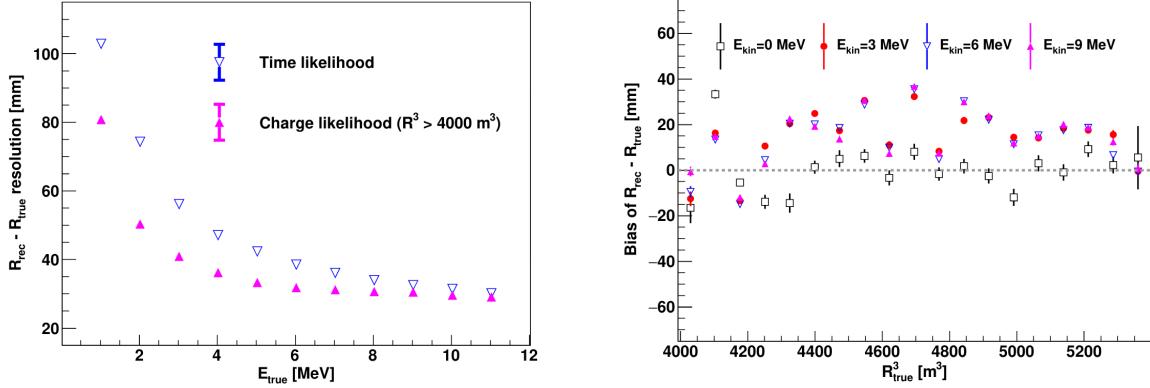


FIGURE 2.16 – On the left: Resolution of the reconstructed  $R$  as a function of the energy in the TR area ( $R^3 > 4000 \text{ m}^3 \equiv R > 16 \text{ m}$ ) by the charge and time likelihood algorithms. On the right: Bias of the reconstructed  $R$  in the TR area for different energies by the charge likelihood algorithm

resolution than the time likelihood. The figure 2.17 shows the radial resolution of the different algorithm presented for this section, we can see the refinement at each step and that the charge likelihood yield the best results.

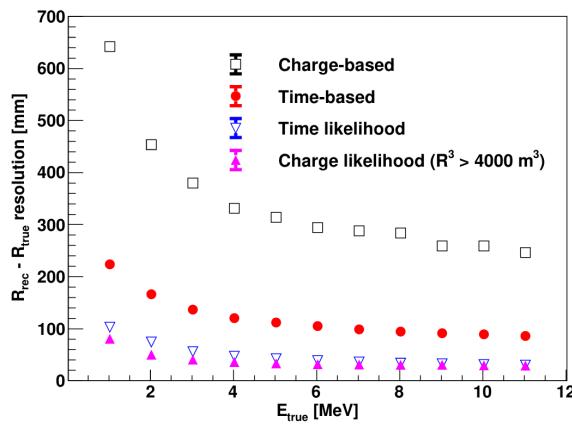


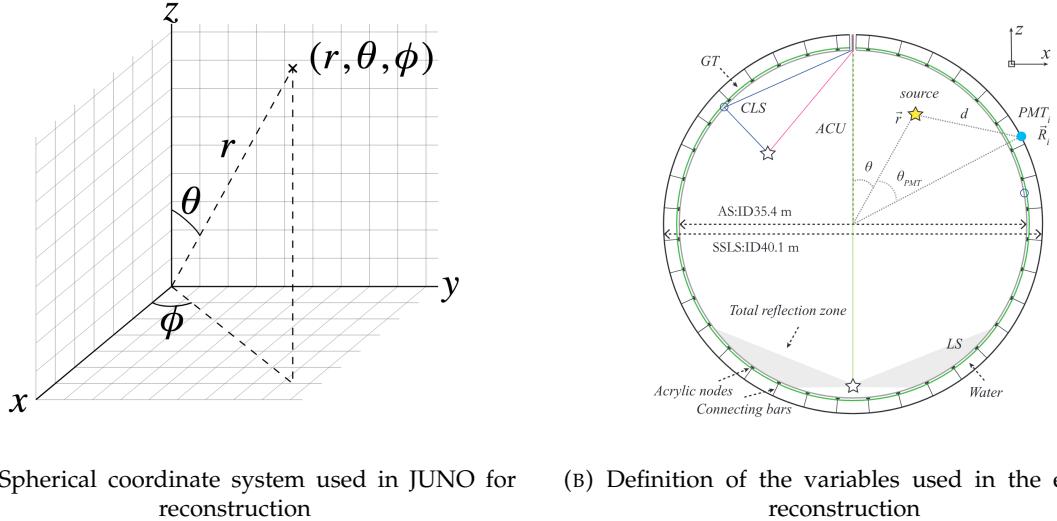
FIGURE 2.17 – Radial resolution of the different vertex reconstruction algorithms as a function of the energy

The charge based likelihood algorithms already give use some information on the energy as Eq. 2.13 is minimized but the energy can be further refined as shown in the next section.

## 2.6.2 Energy reconstruction

As explained in section 2.1.1, energy resolution is crucial for the NMO and oscillation parameters measurements. Thus the energy reconstruction algorithm should take into consideration as much

detector effect as possible. The following method is a data driven method based on calibration samples inspired by the charge likelihood algorithm described above [40].



(A) Spherical coordinate system used in JUNO for reconstruction

(B) Definition of the variables used in the energy reconstruction

FIGURE 2.18

### 553 Charge estimation

554 The most important element in the energy reconstruction is  $\mu_i(\vec{r}_0, E)$  described in Eq. 2.14. For  
 555 realistic cases, we also need to take into account the electronics effect that were omitted in the  
 556 previous section. Those effect will cause a charge smearing due to the uncertainties in the  $N_{pe}$   
 557 reconstruction. Thus we define  $\hat{\mu}^L(\vec{r}_0, E)$  which is the expected  $N_{pe}/E$  in the whole detector for an  
 558 event with visible energy  $E_{vis}$  and position  $\vec{r}_0$ . The position of the event and PMTs are now defined  
 559 using  $(r, \theta, \theta_{pmt})$  as defined in figure 2.18b.

$$\hat{\mu}(r, \theta, \theta_{pmt}, E_{vis}) = \frac{1}{E_{vis}} \frac{1}{M} \sum_i^M \frac{\bar{q}_i - \mu_i^D}{\text{DE}_i}, \quad \mu_i^D = \text{DNR}_i \cdot L \quad (2.15)$$

560 where  $i$  runs over the PMTs with the same  $\theta_{pmt}$ ,  $\text{DE}_i$  is the detection efficiency of the  $i$ th PMT.  $\mu_i^D$   
 561 is the expected number of dark noise photoelectrons in the time window  $L$ . The time window have  
 562 been optimized to  $L = 280$  ns [40].  $\bar{q}_i$  is the average recorded photoelectrons in the time window  
 563 and  $\hat{Q}_i$  is the expected average charge for 1 photoelectron. The  $N_{pe}$  map is constructed following the  
 564 procedure described in [35].

### 565 Time estimation

566 The second important observable is the hit time of photons that was previously defined in Eq. 2.7. It  
 567 is here refined as

$$t_r = t_h - \text{tof} - t_0 = t_{LS} + t_{TT} \quad (2.16)$$

568 where  $t_h$  is the time of hit,  $t_{LS}$  is the scintillation time and  $t_{TT}$  the transit time of PMTs that is described  
 569 by a gaussian

$$t_{TT} = \mathcal{N}(\overline{\mu_{TT} + t_d}, \sigma_{TT}) \quad (2.17)$$

570 where  $\mu_{TT}$  is the mean transit time in PMTs,  $\sigma_{TT}$  is the Transit Time Spread (TTS) of the PMTs and  $t_d$   
 571 is the delay time in the electronics. The effective refraction index of the LS is also corrected to take  
 572 into account the propagation distance in the detector.

573 The timing PDF  $P_T(t_r|r, d, \mu_l, \mu_d, k)$  can now be generated using calibration sources [40]. This PDF  
 574 describe the probability that the residual time of the first photon hit is in  $[t_r, t_r + \delta]$  with  $r$  the radius  
 575 of the event vertex,  $d = |\vec{r} - \vec{r}_{PMT}|$  the propagation distance,  $\mu_l$  and  $\mu_d$  the expected number of PE  
 576 and dark noise in the electronic reading window and  $k$  is the detected number of PE.

577 Now let denote  $f(t, r, d)$  the probability density function of "photoelectron hit a time t" for an event  
 578 happening at  $r$  where the photons traveled the distance  $d$  in the LS

$$F(t, r, d) = \int_t^L f(t', r, d) dt' \quad (2.18)$$

579 Based on the PDF for one photon  $k = 1$ , one can define

$$P_T^l(t|k = n) = I_n^l [f_l(t) F_l^{n-1}(t)] \quad (2.19)$$

580 where the indicator  $l$  means that the photons comes from the LS and  $I_n^l$  a normalisation factor. To this  
 581 pdf we add the probability to have photons coming from the dark noise indicated by the indicator  $d$   
 582 using

$$f_d(t) = 1/L, F_d(t) = 1 - \frac{t}{L} \quad (2.20)$$

583 and so for the case where only one photon is detected by the PMT ( $k = 1$ )

$$P_T(t|\mu_l, \mu_d, k = 1) = I_1[P(1, \mu_l)P(0, \mu_d)f_l(t) + P(0, \mu_l)P(1, \mu_d)f_d(t)] \quad (2.21)$$

584 where  $P(k_\alpha, \mu_\alpha)$  is the Poisson probability to detect  $k_\alpha$  PE from  $\alpha \in \{l, d\}$  with the condition  $k_l + k_d = k$ .

586 Now that we have the individual timing and charge probability we can construct the charge likelihood  
 587 referred as QMLE:

$$\mathcal{L}(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N | \vec{r}, E_{vis}) = \prod_{j \in \text{unfired}} e^{-\mu_j} \prod_{i \in \text{fired}} \left( \sum_{k=1}^K P_Q(q_i|k) \cdot P(k, \mu_i) \right) \quad (2.22)$$

588 where  $\mu_i = E_{vis}\hat{\mu}_i^L + \mu_i^D$  and  $P(k, \mu_i)$  is the Poisson probability of observing  $k$  PE.  $P_Q(q_i|k)$  is the  
 589 charge pdf for  $k$  PE. And we can also construct the time likelihood referred as TMLE:

$$\mathcal{L}(t_{1,r}, t_{2,r}, \dots, t_{N,r} | \vec{r}, t_0) = \prod_{i \in \text{hit}} \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K P_T(t_{i,r}|r, d, \mu_i^l, \mu_i^d, k) \cdot P(k, \mu_i^l + \mu_i^d)}{\sum_{k=1}^K P(k, \mu_i^l + \mu_i^d)} \quad (2.23)$$

590 where  $K$  is cut to 20 PE and hit is the set of hits satisfying  $-100 < t_{i,r} < 500$  ns.

591 Merging those two likelihood give the charge-time likelihood QTMLLE

$$\mathcal{L}(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N; t_{1,r}, t_{2,r}, \dots, t_{N,r} | \vec{r}, t_0, E_{vis}) = \mathcal{L}(q_1, q_2, \dots, q_N | \vec{r}, E_{vis}) \cdot \mathcal{L}(t_{1,r}, t_{2,r}, \dots, t_{N,r} | \vec{r}, t_0) \quad (2.24)$$

592 The radial and energy resolutions of the different likelihood are presented in figure 2.19 (from [40]).  
 593 We can see the improvement of adding the time information to the vertex reconstruction and that  
 594 an increase in vertex precision can bring improvement in the energy resolution, especially at low  
 595 energies.

596 Data driven methods prove to be performant in the energy and vertex reconstruction given that we  
 597 have enough calibrations sources to produce the PDF. In the next section, we'll see another type of

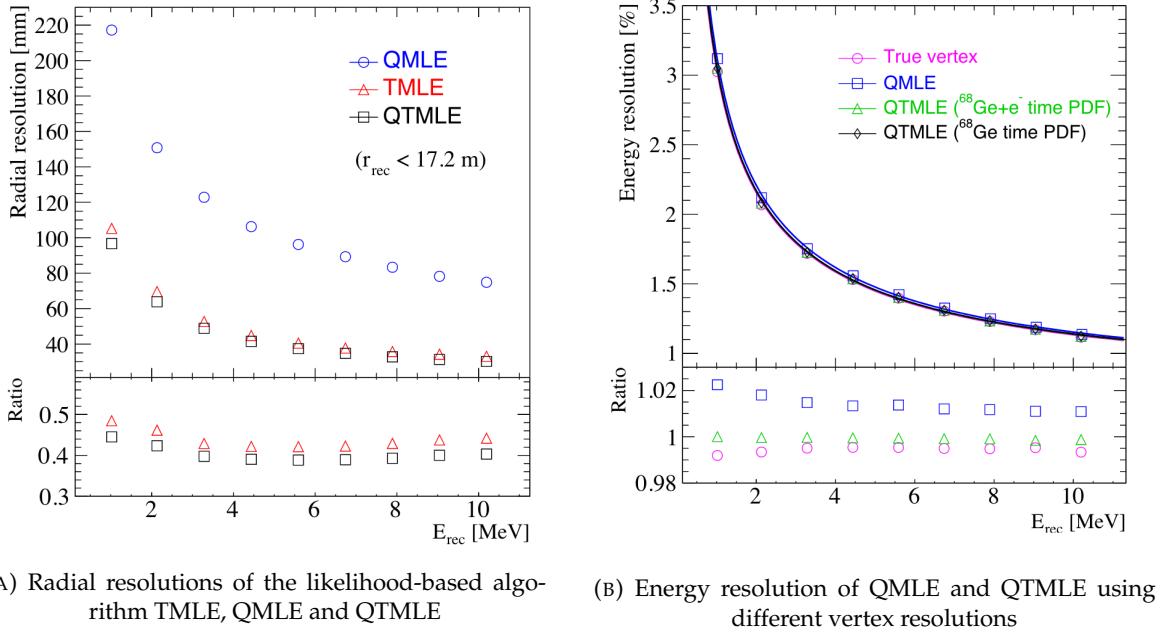


FIGURE 2.19

598 data-driven method based on machine learning.

### 599 2.6.3 Machine learning for reconstruction

600 Machine learning (ML) is family of data-driven algorithms that are inferring behavior and results  
 601 from a training dataset. A overview of methods and detailed explanation of the Neural Network  
 602 (NN) subfamily can be found in Chapter 3.

603 The power of ML is the ability to model complex response to a specific problem. In JUNO the  
 604 reconstruction problematic can be expressed as follow: knowing that each PMT, large or small,  
 605 detected a given number of PE  $Q$  at a given time  $t$  and their position is  $x, y, z$  where did the energy  
 606 was deposited and how much energy was it, modeling a function that naively goes:

$$\mathbb{R}^{5 \times N_{\text{pmt}}} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^4 \quad (2.25)$$

607 It is worth pointing that while this is already a lot in informations, this is not the rawest representa-  
 608 tion of the experiment. We could indeed replace the charge and time by the waveform in the time  
 609 window of the event but that would lead to an input representation size that would exceed our  
 610 computational limits. Also, due to those computational limits, most of the ML algorithm reduce this  
 611 input phase space either by structurally encoding the information (pictures, graph), by aggregating  
 612 it (mean, variance, ...) or by exploiting invariance and equivariance of the experiment (rotational  
 613 invariance due to the sphericity, ...).

614 For machine learning to converge to performant algorithm, a large dataset exploring all the phase  
 615 space of interest is needed. For the following studies, data from the monte carlo simulation presented  
 616 in section 2.5 are used for training. When the detector will be finished calibrations sources will be  
 617 complementarily be used.

618 **Boosted Decision Tree (BDT)**

619 On of the most classic ML method used in physics in last years is the Boosted Decision Tree (see  
 620 chapter 3.1). They have been explored for vertex reconstruction [41] et for energy reconstruction [41,  
 621 42].

622 For vertex and energy reconstruction a BDT was developed using the aggregated informations pre-  
 623 sented in 2.6.

Parameter	description
$nHits$	Total number of hits
$x_{cc}, y_{cc}, z_{cc}, R_{cc}$	Coordinates of the center of charge
$ht_{mean}, ht_{std}$	Hit time mean and standard deviation

TABLE 2.6 – Features used by the BDT for vertex reconstruction

624 Its reconstruction performances are presented in figure 2.21.

625 A second and more advanced BDT, subsequently named BDTE, that only reconstruct energy use a  
 626 different set of features [42]. They are presented in the table 2.7

627 **Neural Network (NN)**

628 The physics have shown a rising for Neural Network (NN) in the past years for event reconstruction,  
 629 notably in the neutrino community [43–46]. Three type of neural networks have explored for event  
 630 reconstruction in JUNO Deep Neural Network (DNN), Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) and  
 631 Graph Network (GNN). More explanation about those neural network can be found in chapter 3.

632 The CNN are using 2D projection of the detector representing it as an image with two channel, one  
 633 for the charge  $Q$  and one for the time  $t$ . The position of the PMTs is structurally encoded in the pixel  
 634 containing the information of this PMT. In [41], the pixel is chosen based on a transformation of  $\theta$   
 635 and  $\phi$  coordinates to the 2D plane and rounded to the nearest pixel. A sufficiently large image has  
 636 been chosen to prevent two PMT to be located in the same pixel. An example of this projection can  
 637 be found in figure 2.20. The performances of the CNN can be found in figure 2.21.

638 Using 2D have the upside of encoding a large part of the informations structurally but loose the rota-  
 639 tional invariance of the detector. It also give undefined information to the neural network (what is a  
 640 pixel without PMT ? What should be its charge and time ?), cause deformation in the representation  
 641 of the detector (sides of projection) and loose topological informations.

642 One of the way to present structurally the sphericity of JUNO to a NN is to use a graph: A collection  
 643 of objects  $V$  called nodes and relations  $E$  called edges, each relation associated to a couple  $v_1, v_2$

AccumCharge	$ht_{5\%-2\%}$
$R_{cht}$	$pe_{mean}$
$z_{cc}$	$J_{cht}$
$pe_{std}$	$\phi_{cc}$
nPMTs	$ht_{35\%-30\%}$
$ht_{kurtosis}$	$ht_{20\%-15\%}$
$ht_{25\%-20\%}$	$pe_{35\%}$
$R_{cc}$	$ht_{30\%-25\%}$

TABLE 2.7 – Features used by the BDTE algorithm.  $pe$  and  $ht$  reference the charge  
 and hit-time distribution respectively and the percentages are the quantiles of those  
 distributions.  $cht$  and  $cc$  reference the barycenters of hit time and charge respectively

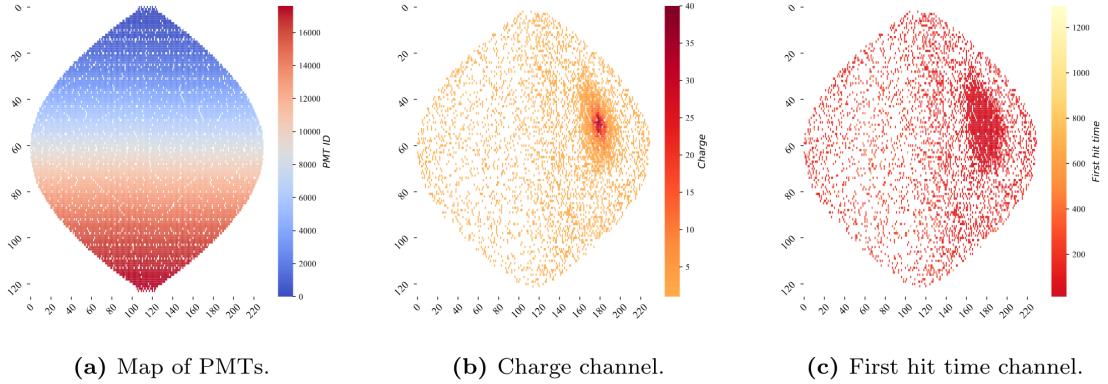


FIGURE 2.20 – Projection of the LPMTs in JUNO on a 2D plane. (a) Show the distribution of all PMTs and (b) and (c) are example of what the charge and time channel looks like respectively

644 forming the graph  $G(E, V)$ . Nodes and edges can hold informations or features. In [41] the nodes,  
 645 are geometrical region of the detector as defined by the HealPix [47]. The features of the nodes are  
 646 aggregated informations from the PMTs it contains. The edges contains geographic informations of  
 647 the nodes relative positions.

648 This data representation has the advantages to keep the topology of the detector intact. It also permit  
 649 the use of rotational invariant algorithms for the NN, thus taking advantage of the symmetries of the  
 650 detector.

651 The neural network then process the graph using Chebyshev Convolutions [48]. The performances  
 652 of the GNN are presented in figure 2.21.

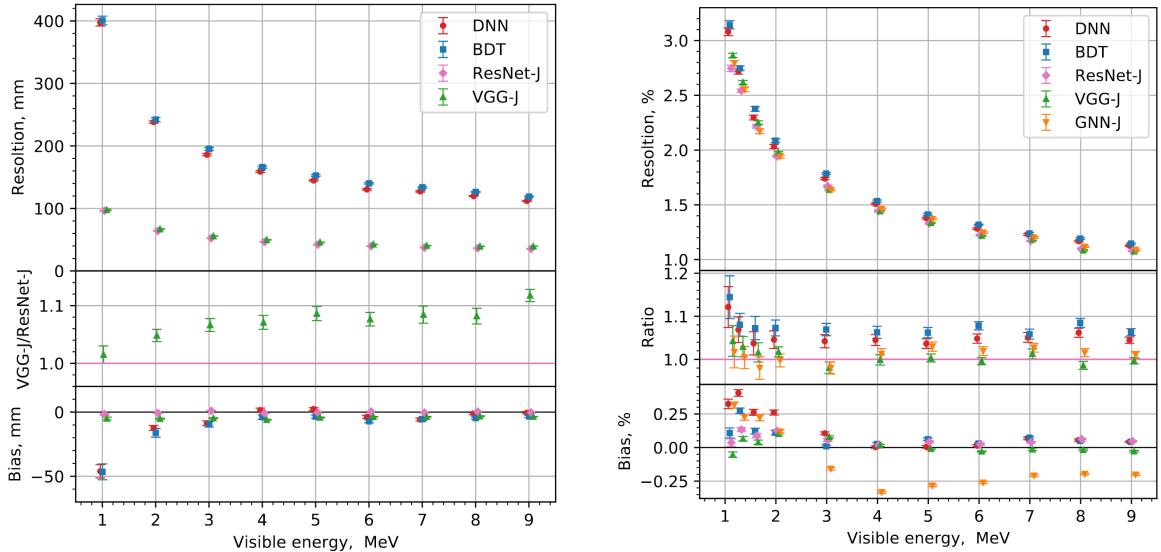


FIGURE 2.21 – Radial (left) and energy (right) resolutions of different ML algorithms. The results presented here are from [41]. DNN is a deep neural network, BDT is a BDT, ResNet-J and VGG-J are CNN and GNN-J is a GNN.

653 Overall ML algorithms show similar performances as classical algorithms in term of energy recon-  
 654 structions with the more complex structure CNN and GNN showing better performances than BDT

and DNN. For vertex reconstruction, the BDT and DNN show poor performance while CNN are on the level of the classical algorithms.

## 2.7 JUNO sensitivity to NMO and precise measurements

Now that the event have been reconstructed, selected and that the non-IBD background have been rejected, we have access to the measured energy flux from JUNO. We consider two spectra, the one measured by the LPMT system and the one measured by the SPMT system. This give rise to three possible analysis: A LPMT only analysis, a SPMT only analysis and a joint analysis. This joint analysis is the subject of the chapter 7 of this thesis.

The following details about JUNO measurement is common to the three analysis. The details and specific of the joint analysis are detailed in chapter 7.

### 2.7.1 Theoretical spectrum

To extract the oscillation parameters and the NMO from the measured spectrum, it is compared to a theoretical spectrum. This theoretical spectrum is produced based on the theory of the three flavour oscillation (see section 1.3), the measurements of the calibration and satellite experiments and Monte Carlo simulation:

- The absolute flux and the fission product fraction calibrated by TAO.
- The estimation of the neutrinos flux from other sources, such as the geoneutrinos, by theoretical model.
- The computed cross-section of  $\bar{\nu}_e$  and the LS.
- The estimation of mislabelled event, such as fast neutron events from cosmic muons, using Monte Carlo simulation.
- The measured bias and resolution of the LPMT and SPMT system by the calibration.
- The time dependent reactor parameters (age of fuel, instantaneous power of the reactors, etc...)

These systematics parameters come with their uncertainties that need to be taken into account by the fitting framework. This theoretical spectrum will, in the end, depend of the oscillation parameters of interest  $\theta_{13}$ ,  $\theta_{12}$ ,  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ ,  $\Delta m_{31}^2$ . Noise parameters can be included in the parameters spectrum such as the earth density  $\rho$  between the power plants and JUNO.

### 2.7.2 Fitting procedure

The theoretical and measured spectra are represented as two histograms depending on the energy. The theoretical spectrum is adjusted with the data using a  $\chi^2$  minimization where  $\chi^2$  is naively defined as

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \frac{(N_{th}^i - N_{data}^i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} \quad (2.26)$$

where  $N_{th}^i$  is the number event in the  $i$ th bin of the theoretical spectrum,  $N_{data}^i$  is the number of event in the  $i$ th bin of the measured spectrum and  $\sigma_i$  is the uncertainty of this bin. Two classic statistic test exist Pearson and Neyman where the difference is the estimation of  $\sigma_i$  parameters.

This  $\sigma_i$  is composed of the systematics uncertainties discussed above but also from the statistic uncertainty of the spectrum. Considering a Poisson process, the statistic uncertainty is estimated as  $\sigma_{stat}^i = \sqrt{N^i}$ . In a Pearson test,  $N^i \equiv N_{th}^i$  whereas in a Neyman test  $N^i \equiv N_{data}^i$ . Under the assumption that the content of each bin follow a Gaussian distribution (a Poisson with high enough statistic), the two test are equivalent. But studies on Monte Carlo spectrum showed that the Pearson

and Neyman statistic are biased in opposite direction. It is easily visible where, for the same data, Pearson will prefer a higher  $N_{th}^i$  to reduce the ratio  $\frac{1}{N_{th}^i}$  whereas Neyman will prefer a lower  $N_{th}^i$  to reduce the  $(N_{th}^i - N_{data}^i)$  term.

This problematic can be circumvented by summing the two test, yielding the CNP statistic test and/or by adding a term

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \frac{(N_{th}^i - N_{data}^i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} - \ln |\mathbf{V}| \quad (2.27)$$

where  $V$  is the covariance matrix of the theoretical spectrum yielding the PearsonV and CNPV statistic test.

The  $\chi^2$  is minimized by exploring the parameter phase space via gradient descent.

### 2.7.3 Physics results

The oscillation parameters are directly extracted from the minimization procedure and the error can be estimated directly from the procedure. For the NMO, the data are fitted under the two assumption of NO and IO. The difference in  $\chi^2$  give us the preferred ordering and the significance of our test. Latest studies show that the precision on oscillation parameters after six year of data taking will be of 0.2%, 0.3%, 0.5% and 12.1% for  $\Delta m_{31}^2$ ,  $\Delta m_{21}^2$ ,  $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$  and  $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$  respectively [11]. The expected sensitivity to mass ordering is  $3\sigma$  after 6 years [49].

## 2.8 Summary

JUNO is one the biggest new generation neutrino experiment. Its goal, the measurements of oscillation parameters with unprecedeted precision and an NMO preference at the 3 sigma confidence level, needs an in depth knowledge and understanding of the detector and the physics at hand. The characterisation and calibration of the detector are of the utmost importance and the understanding of the detector response in its resolution and bias is capital to be able to correctly carry the high precision physics analysis of the neutrino oscillation.

In this thesis, I explore the usage of data-driven reconstruction methods to validate and optimize the reconstruction of IBD events in JUNO in the chapters 4, 5 and 6 and the usage of the dual calorimetry in the detection of possible mis-modelisation in the theoretical spectrum 7.



<sup>719</sup> **Chapter 3**

<sup>720</sup> **Machine learning and Artificial  
Neural Network**

<sup>721</sup>

<sup>722</sup> *"I have the shape of a human being and organs equivalent to those of a human being. My organs, in fact, are identical to some of those in a prostheticized human being. I have contributed artistically, literally, and scientifically to human culture as much as any human being now alive. What more can one ask?"*

*Isaac Asimov, The Complete Robot*

<sup>723</sup> Machine Learning (ML) and more specifically Neural Network (NN) are families of data-driven <sup>724</sup> algorithm. They are used to model complex distributions from a finite dataset to extract a generalist <sup>725</sup> behavior. They learn, adapt their intrinsic parameters, interactively by computing its performance <sup>726</sup> or loss on those dataset. They take advantage of simple microscopic operation such as if condition or <sup>727</sup> non-continuous but differentiable function like ReLU. Through optimizers and the combination of a <sup>728</sup> lot of those microscopic operations, they can obtain complex and precise behaviours.

<sup>729</sup> They are now widely used in a wide variety of domain including natural language processing, <sup>730</sup> computer vision, speech recognition and, the subject of this thesis, scientific studies.

<sup>731</sup> We found them in particle physics, either as the main algorithm or as secondary algorithm, for event <sup>732</sup> reconstruction, event classification, waveform reconstruction, etc..., domains where the underlying <sup>733</sup> physic and detector process is complex and highly dimensional. Physicists have traditionally been <sup>734</sup> forced to use simplifications or assumptions to ease the development of algorithms or equations <sup>735</sup> (a good example is the algorithm presented in section 2.6) where machine learning could refine and <sup>736</sup> take into account those effects, provided that they have enough data and computing power.

<sup>737</sup> This chapter present an overview of the different kind of machine learning methods and neural <sup>738</sup> networks that will be discussed in this thesis.

<sup>739</sup> **3.1 Boosted Decision Tree (BDT)**

<sup>740</sup> One of the most classic machine learning algorithm used in particle physics is Boosted Decision Tree <sup>741</sup> (BDT) [50] (or more recently Gradient Boosting Machine [51]). The principle of a BDT is fairly simple <sup>742</sup> : based on a set of observables, a serie of decisions, represented as node in a tree, are taken by the <sup>743</sup> algorithm. Each decision point, or node, takes its decision based on a set of trainable parameters <sup>744</sup> leading to a subtree of decision. The process is repeated until it reach the final node, yielding the <sup>745</sup> prediction. A simplistic example is given in figure 3.1.

<sup>746</sup> The training procedure follow a simple score reward procedure. During the training phase the <sup>747</sup> prediction of the BDT is compared to a known truth about the data. The score is then used to

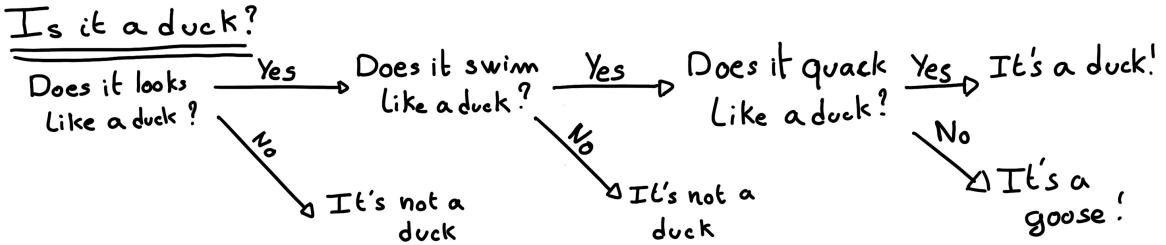


FIGURE 3.1 – Example of a BDT that determine if the given object is a duck

748 backpropagate corrections to the parameters of the tree. Modern BDT use gradient boosting where  
 749 the gradient of the loss is calculated for each of the BDT parameters. Following the gradient descent,  
 750 we can reach the, hopefully, global minima of the loss for our set of parameters.

## 751 3.2 Artificial Neural Network (NN)

752 One other big family of machine learning algorithm is the artificial Neural Networks (NN). The idea  
 753 of developing automates which component mimic, in a simplistic way, the behavior of biological  
 754 neurons emerge in 1959 with the paper “*What the Frog’s Eye Tells the Frog’s Brain*” [52]. They develop  
 755 an automate where each component possess an *activation function*. Each one of those component then  
 756 transmit its information to the other following a certain efficiency or *weight*. Those works influenced  
 757 scientist and notably Frank Rosenblatt who published in 1958 what is considered the first neural  
 758 network model the Perceptron [53].

759 Modern neural network still nowadays use the neuron metaphor to represent neural network, but  
 760 approach them as a graph where the nodes are neurons possessing an activation function and edges  
 761 holding the weights, or *parameters* in modern literature, between those nodes. Most of the modern  
 762 neural network work with the principle of neurons layers. Each neurons belong to a layer and takes  
 763 input from the preceding layer and forward it result to next layer. For example the most basic set  
 764 layer is the fully connected layer where each of its neurons is connected to every other neurons of  
 765 the precessing layer. All the neurons posses the same activation function  $F$ . The connection between  
 766 two the two layers is expressed as a tensor  $T_j^i$  where  $i$  is the index of the precedent layer and  $j$  the  
 767 index of the current layer. The propagation from the layer  $I$  to  $J$  is then described as

$$J_j = F_j(T_j^i I_i + B_j) \quad (3.1)$$

768 where the learning parameters are the tensor  $T_j^i$  and the bias tensor  $B_j$ . This is the fundamental  
 769 component of the Fully Connected Deep NN (FCDNN) family presented in section 3.2.1. Most of the  
 770 modern neural networks use gradient descent to optimize their parameters, i.e. the gradient of the  
 771 parameter  $\theta$  in respect of the loss function  $\mathcal{L}$  is subtracted to it

$$\theta_{i+1} = \theta_i - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta} \quad (3.2)$$

772  $i$  being the training iteration index. This needs the expression of  $\mathcal{L}$  dependent of  $\theta$  to be differentiable,  
 773 thus the layer and their activation function also need to be differentiable. This simple gradient  
 774 descent, designated as Stochastic Gradient Descent (SGD), can be completed with first and second  
 775 order momentum like with the Adam optimizer [54] (more details in section 3.2.5).

776 This description of neural networks as layer introduced the principle of *depth* and *width*, the number  
 777 of layers in the NN and the number of neurons in each layer respectively. Those quantities that not

778 directly used for the computation of the results but describe the NN or its training are designated as  
 779 *hyperparameters*.

780 The loss  $\mathcal{L}$  described above is a score representing how well the NN is doing. As seen above, it  
 781 needs to be differentiable with respect to the parameter of the NN. Depending if we try to minimize  
 782 or maximize it, it need to posses a minima or a maxima. For example when doing *regression*, i.e.  
 783 produce a scalar result, a common loss is the Mean Square Error (MSE). Let  $i$  be our dataset,  $y_i$  be the  
 784 target scalar,  $x_i$  the input data and  $f(x_i, \theta)$  the result of the network. The network here is modelled by  
 785  $f$ , and its parameter by the set

$$\mathcal{L} := MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i^N (y_i - f(x_i))^2 \quad (3.3)$$

786 Another common loss function is the Mean Absolute Error (MAE)

$$\mathcal{L} := MAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i^N |y_i - f(x_i)| \quad (3.4)$$

### 787 3.2.1 Fully Connected Deep Neural Network (FCDNN)

788 Fully Connected Deep Neural Network (FCDNN) architecture is the natural evolution of the Perceptron.  
 789 The input data is represented as a first order tensor  $I_j$  and then fed forward to multiple fully  
 790 connected layers (Eq 3.1) as presented in the figure 3.2a. Most of the time, the classic ReLU function

$$\text{ReLU}(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3.5)$$

791 is used as activation function. Prelu and Sigmoid are also popular choices:

$$\text{Sigmoid}(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}} \quad (3.6) \quad \text{PReLU}(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ \alpha x & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3.7)$$

793 The reasoning behind ReLU and PReLU is that with enough of them, you can mimic any continuous  
 794 function as illustrated in figure 3.2b. Sigmoid is more used in case of classification, its behavior going  
 795 hand in hand with the Cross Entropy loss function used in classification problems.

796 Due to its simplicity, FCDNN are also used as basic pieces for more complex architectures such as  
 797 the CNN and GNN that will be presented in the next section.

### 798 3.2.2 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

799 Convolutional Neural Networks are a family of neural networks that use discrete convolution filters,  
 800 as illustrated in an example in figure 3.3, to process the input data, often images. They have the  
 801 advantage to be translation invariant by construction, this mean that they are capable of detecting  
 802 oriented features independently of their location on the image. The learning parameters are located  
 803 in the filters, the network thus learn the optimal filters to extract the desired features. 2D CNN,  
 804 where the filters are second order tensors that span over third order tensors, are commonly used in  
 805 image recognition [55] for classification or regression problematics.

806 The convolution layers are commonly chained [56], reducing the input dimension while increasing  
 807 the number of filters. The idea behind is that the first layers will process local informations and the  
 808 latest layers will process more global informations. To try to preserve the amount of information, we  
 809 tend to double the numbers of filters for each division of the input data. The results of the convolution

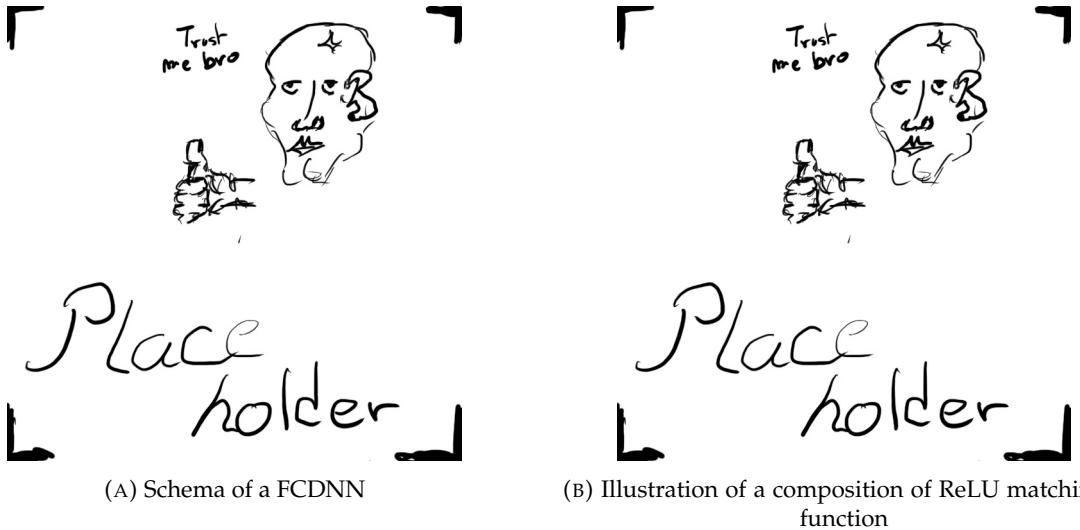


FIGURE 3.2

filters is commonly then flattened and feed to a smaller FCDNN which will process the filters results to yield the desired output.

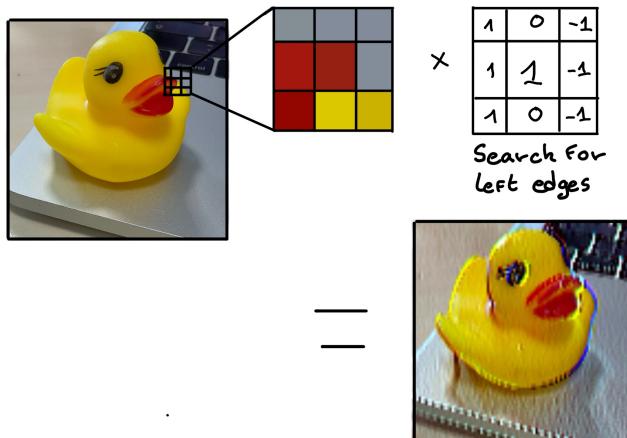


FIGURE 3.3 – Illustration of the effect of a convolution filter. Here we apply a filter with the aim do detect left edges. We see in the resulting image that the left edges of the duck are bright yellow where the right edges are dark blue indicating the contour of the object. The convolution was calculated using [57].

As an example, let's take the Pytorch [58] example for the MNIST [59], a dataset of black and white images of handwritten digits. Those images are  $28 \times 28$  pixels with only one channel corresponding to the grey level of the pixel. Example of images from this dataset are presented in figure 3.4a

A schema of the CNN used in the Pytorch example is presented in figure 3.4b. Using this schema as a reference, the trained network is made of:

- 817 1. A convolutional layer of  $(3 \times 3)$  filters yielding 32 channels. A bias parameter is applied  
818 to each channel for a total of  $(32 \cdot (3 \times 3) + 32) = 320$  parameters. The resulting image is  
819  $(26 \times 26 \times 32)$  (26 per 26 pixels with 32 channels). The ReLU activation function is applied to  
820 each pixel.
- 821 2. A second convolutional layer of  $(3 \times 3)$  filters yielding 64 channels. This channel also posses

822 a bias parameter for a total of  $(64 \cdot (3 \times 3) + 64) = 640$  parameters. Resulting image is  $(24 \times$   
 823  $24 \times 64)$ . Also with with a ReLU activation function.

824 3. Then comes a  $(2 \times 2)$  max pool layer with a stride of 1 meaning that for each channel the max  
 825 value of pixels in a  $(2 \times 2)$  block is condensed in a single resulting pixel. The resulting image  
 826 is  $(12 \times 12 \times 64)$ .

827 4. This image goes through a dropout layer which will set the pixel to 0 with a probability of  
 828 0.25. This help prevent overtraining of the neural network (see section 3.2.6 for more details).

829 5. The data is the flattened i.e. condensed into a vector of  $(12 \times 12 \times 64) = 9216$  values.

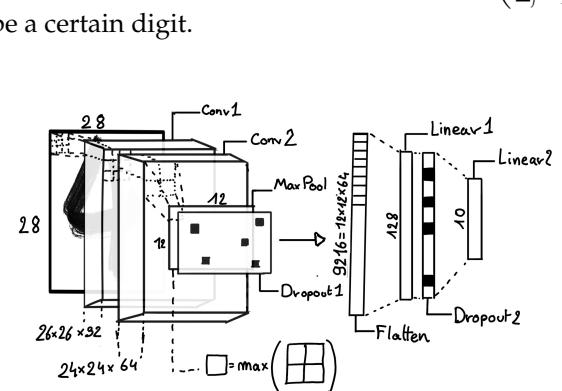
830 6. Then comes a fully connected linear layer (Eq. 3.1) with a ReLU activation that output 128  
 831 feature. It needs  $(9216 \cdot 128) + 128 = 1'179'776$  parameters.

832 7. This 128 item vector goes through another dropout layer with a probability of 0.5

833 8. The vector is then transformed through a linear layer with ReLU activation. It output 10  
 834 values, one for each digit class  $(0, 1, 2, \dots, 9)$ . It need  $(128 \cdot 10) + 128 = 1408$  parameters.

835 9. Finally the 10 values are normalized using a log softmax function  $\text{LogSoftmax}(x_i) = \log \left( \frac{\exp(x_i)}{\sum_j \exp(x_j)} \right)$   
 836 to give the probability of the input image to be a certain digit.

0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0  
 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1  
 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2  
 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3  
 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4  
 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5  
 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6  
 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7  
 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8  
 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9



(A) Example of images in the MNIST dataset

(B) Schema of the CNN used in Pytorch example to process the MNIST dataset

FIGURE 3.4

837 The final network needs 1'182'144 parameters or, if we consider each parameters to be a double  
 838 precision floating point, 9.45 MB of data. To gives a order of magnitude, such neural network is  
 839 considered "simple", train in a matter of minutes on T4 GPU [60] (14 epochs) and reach an accuracy  
 840 in its prediction of 99%.

### 841 3.2.3 Graph Neural Network (GNN)

842 Graph neural network is a family of neural network where the data is represented as a graph  $G(\mathcal{N}, \mathcal{E})$   
 843 composed of vertex or node  $n \in \mathcal{N}$  and edges  $e \in \mathcal{E}$ . The edges are associated to two nodes  $(u, v) \in$   
 844  $\mathcal{N}^2$ , "connecting" them. The node and the edges can hold features, commonly represented as vector  
 845  $n \in \mathbb{R}^{k_n}$ ,  $e \in \mathbb{R}^{k_e}$ . We can thus define a graph using two tensors  $A_e^{ij}$  the adjacency tensors that hold  
 846 the features  $e$  of the edge connecting the node  $i$  and  $j$  and the tensor  $N_v^i$  that hold the features  $v$  of a  
 847 node  $i$ .

848 To efficiently manipulate such object we need to structurally encode their property in the neural  
 849 network architecture: each node is equivalent (as opposite to ordered data in a vector), each node has  
 850 a set of neighbours, ... One of this method is the message passing algorithm presented historically

851 in “Neural Message Passing for Quantum Chemistry” [61]. In this algorithm, with each layer of  
 852 message passing a new set of features is computed for each node following

$$n_i^{k+1} = \phi_u(n_i^k, \square_j \phi_m(n_i^k, n_j^k, e_{ij}^k)); n_j \in \mathcal{N}'_i \quad (3.8)$$

853 where  $\phi_u$  is a differentiable update function,  $\square_j$  is a differentiable aggregation function and  $\phi_m$  is a  
 854 differentiable message function.  $\mathcal{N}'_i = \{n_j \in \mathcal{N} | (n_i, n_j) \in \mathcal{E}\}$  is the set of neighbours of  $n_i$ , i.e. the  
 855 nodes  $n_j$  from which it exist an edge  $e_{i,j} \rightarrow (n_i, n_j)$ .  $k$  is the layer on which the message passing  
 856 algorithm is applied.  $\square$  need also a few other property if we want to keep the graph property, most  
 857 notably the permutational invariance of its parameters (example: mean, std, sum, ...).

858 The edges features can also be updated, either by directly taking the results of  $\phi_m$  or by using another  
 859 message function  $\phi_e$ .

860 Message passing is a very generic way of describing the process of GNN and it can be specialized  
 861 for convolutional filtering [48], diffusion [62] and many other specific operation. GNN are used in a  
 862 wide variety of application such as regression problematics, node classification, edge classification,  
 863 node and edge prediction, ...

864 It is a very versatile but complex tool.

### 865 3.2.4 Adversarial Neural Network (ANN)

866 The adversarial machine learning, Adversarial Neural Networks (ANN) in the case of neural net-  
 867 work, is a family of unsupervised machine learning algorithms where the learning algorithm (gen-  
 868 erator) is competing against another algorithm (discriminator). Taking the example of Generative  
 869 Adversarial Networks, concept initially developed by Goodfellow et al. [63], the discriminator goal  
 870 is to discriminate between data coming from a reference dataset and data produced by the generator.  
 871 The generator goal, on the other hand, is to produce data that the discriminator would not be able to  
 872 differentiate from data from the reference dataset. The expression of duality between the two models  
 873 is represented in the loss where, at least a part of it, is driven by the results of the discriminator.

### 874 3.2.5 Training procedure

875 A neural network without the adequate training is like an empty shell. If the parameters are not  
 876 optimized they are, most of the time, initialized to random number and so the output will just be  
 877 random. The training is a key step in the production of a solid and reliable NN. This section aim to  
 878 give an overview of the different concept and tools used in the training of our neural networks.

#### 879 Training lifecycle

880 The training of NN does not follow strict rules, you could imagine totally different lifecycle but I will  
 881 describe here the one used in this thesis, the most common one.

882 The training is split into *epochs* during which the NN will train on a set of subsamples called *batch*.  
 883 The size of those batch is called *batch size*, a.k.a. the number of data it contains (how many images,  
 884 how many events,...). Each process of a batch is called a *step*. At the end of each epochs, the neural  
 885 network is evaluated over a validation dataset. This validation dataset is not used for training (no  
 886 gradient of the loss is computed) and is used as reference for the network performance and monitor  
 887 overtraining (see section 3.2.6). Most of the time, the parameters are updated at each step using the  
 888 mean loss over the batch and the optimizer hyperparameters are updated at each epochs.

889 **The optimizer**

890 As briefly introduced section 3.2, the parameters of the neural network are optimized using the  
 891 gradient descent method. We calculate the gradient of the mean loss over the batch with respect  
 892 of each parameters and we update the parameters in accord to minimize the loss. The gradient is  
 893 computed backward from the loss up to the first layer parameters using the chain rule:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta_1} = \frac{\partial \theta_2}{\partial \theta_1} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta_2} = \frac{\partial \theta_2}{\partial \theta_1} \frac{\partial \theta_3}{\partial \theta_2} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta_3} = \frac{\partial \theta_2}{\partial \theta_1} \prod_{i=2}^{N-1} \frac{\partial \theta_{i+1}}{\partial \theta_i} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta_N} \quad (3.9)$$

894 where  $\theta$  is a parameter,  $i$  is the layer index. We see here that the gradient of the first layer is dependent  
 895 of the gradient of all the following layers. We thus need to compute the gradient closest to loss first  
 896 before computing the gradient of the earlier layers. This is called the *backward propagation*.

897 This update of the parameters is done following an optimizer policy. Those optimizers depends on  
 898 hyperparameters. The ones used in this thesis are:

- 899 1. SGD (Stochastic Gradient Descent). This is the simplest optimizer, it depend on only one  
 900 hyperparameter, the learning rate  $\lambda$  (LR) and update the parameters  $\theta$  following

$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \lambda \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta} \Big|_{\theta_t} \quad (3.10)$$

901 where  $t$  is the step index. It is a powerful optimizer but is very sensible to local minima of the  
 902 loss in the parameters phase space as illustrated in figure 3.5a.

- 903 2. Adam [54]. The concept is, in short, to have and SGD but with momentum. Adam possess  
 904 two momentum  $m(\beta_1)$  and  $v(\beta_2)$  which are respectively proportional to  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta}$  and  $(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta})^2$ .  $\beta_1$   
 905 and  $\beta_2$  are hyperparameters that dictate the moment update at each optimization step. The  
 906 parameters are then upgraded following

$$m_{t+1} = \beta_1 m_t + (1 - \beta_1) \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta} \quad (3.11)$$

$$v_{t+1} = \beta_2 v_t + (1 - \beta_2) \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \quad (3.12)$$

$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \lambda \frac{m_{t+1}}{\sqrt{v_{t+1}} + \epsilon} \quad (3.13)$$

907 where  $\epsilon$  is a small number to prevent divergence when  $v$  is close to 0. These momentums  
 908 allow to overcome small local minima in the parameters phase space as illustrated in figure  
 909 3.5a.

910 The LR is a crucial parameter in the training of NN, as illustrated in figure 3.6. To prevent possible  
 911 issues, we setup scheduler policies.

912 **Scheduler policies**

913 Sometimes we want to update our hyperparameters or take a set of action during the training  
 914 procedure. We use for this scheduler policies, for example a common policy is a decrease of the  
 915 learning rate after each epochs. The reasoning is that if the learning rate is too high, the optimizer  
 916 will continuously miss the minimum and oscillate around it (figure 3.6a). By reducing the learning  
 917 rate, we allow it to make more fine steps in the parameters phase space, hopefully converging to the  
 918 true minima.

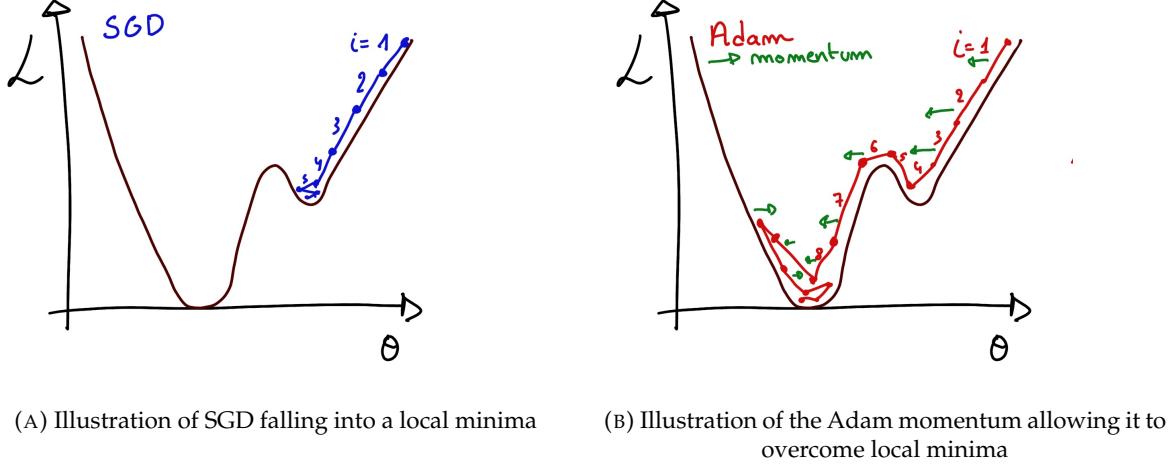


FIGURE 3.5

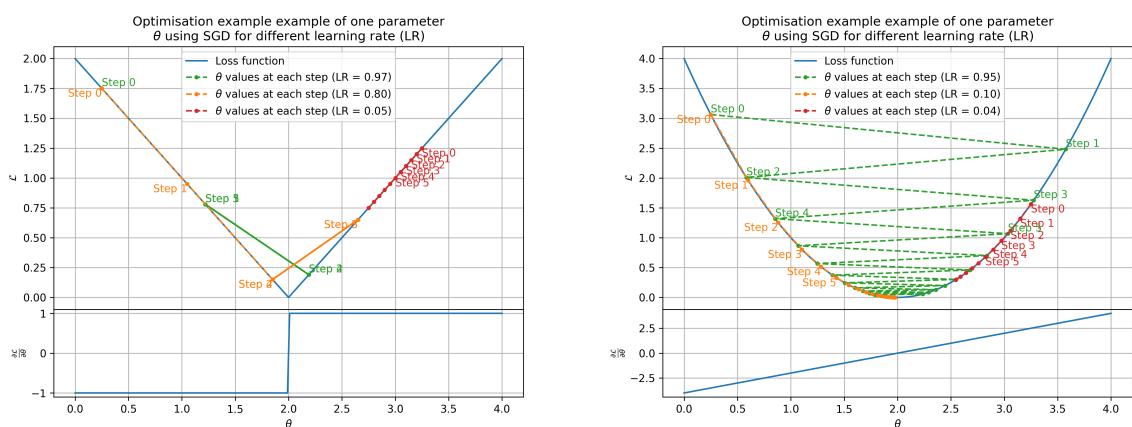
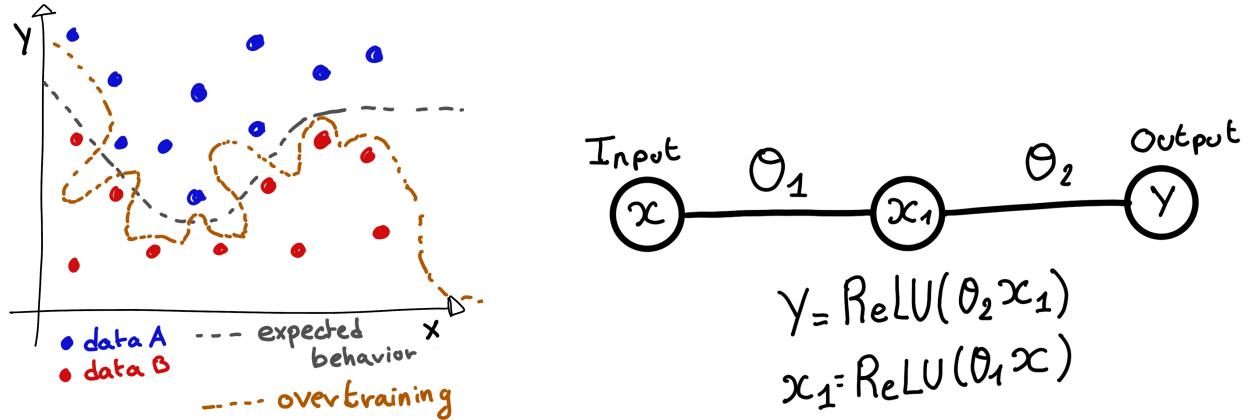
(A) Illustration of the SGD optimizer on one parameter  $\theta$  on the MAE Loss. We see here that it has trouble reaching the minima due to the gradient being constant.(B) Illustration of the SGD optimizer on one parameter  $\theta$  on the MAE Loss. We see two different behavior: A smooth one (orange and red) when the LR is small enough and a more chaotic one when the LR is too high.

FIGURE 3.6 – Illustration of the SGD optimizer. In blue is the value of the loss function, orange, green and red are the path taken by the optimized parameter during the training for different LR.



(A) Illustration of overtraining. The task at hand is to determine depending on two input variable  $x$  and  $y$  if the data belong to the dataset  $A$  or the dataset  $B$ . The expected boundary between the two dataset is represented in grey. A possible boundary learnt by overtraining is represented in brown.

(B) Illustration of a very simple NN

FIGURE 3.7

915 Another policy that is often used is the save of the best model. In some situations, the loss value after  
 916 each epoch will strongly oscillate or even worsen. This policy allows us to keep the best version  
 917 of the model attained during the training phase.

### 918 3.2.6 Potential pitfalls

919 Apart from being stuck in local minima, there are also other behaviors and effects we want to prevent  
 920 during training.

#### 921 Overtraining

922 This happens when the network learns the specificities of the training dataset instead of a more general  
 923 representation of the underlying data distribution. This can happen if there is not enough data  
 924 in comparison to the number of learning parameters, if the data contains some specific signatures  
 925 specific to the training dataset or if it trains for too long on the same dataset. This behavior is illustrated  
 926 in figure 3.7a. Overtraining can be fought in multiple ways, for example:

- 927 — **More data.** By having more data in the training dataset, the network will not be able to learn the  
 928 specificities of every data.
- 929 — **Less parameters.** By reducing the number of parameters, we reduce the computing and  
 930 learning capacities of the network. This will force it to fallback to generalist behaviors.
- 931 — **Dropout.** This technique implies to randomly set part of the neural network to 0. By doing  
 932 this, we force the redundancy in its computing capability and, in a way, modify the data  
 933 decreasing the possibility for specific learning.
- 934 — **Early stopping.** During the training we monitor the network performance over a validation  
 935 dataset. The network does not train on this dataset and thus cannot learn its specificities. If  
 936 the loss on the training dataset diverges too much from the loss on the validation dataset, we  
 937 can stop the training earlier to prevent it from overtraining.

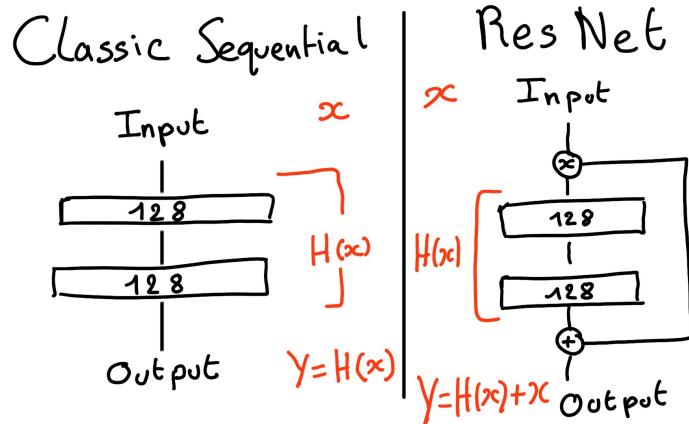


FIGURE 3.8 – Illustration of the ResNet framework

938 **Gradient vanishing**

939 Gradient vanishing is the effect of the gradient being so small for the upper layer that the parameters  
 940 are barely updated after each step. This cause the network to be unable to converge to the minima.

941 This comes from the way the gradient descent is calculated. Imagine a simple network composed of  
 942 three fully connected layers: the input layer, a intermediate layer and the output layer. Let  $L$  be the  
 943 loss,  $\theta_1$  the parameter between the input and the intermediate layer and  $\theta_2$  the parameter between  
 944 the intermediate and output layer. This network is schematized in figure 3.7b.

945 The gradient for  $\theta_1$  will be computed using the chain rule presented in equation 3.9. Because  $\theta_1$   
 946 depends on  $\theta_2$ , if the gradient of  $\theta_2$  is small, so will be the gradient of  $\theta_1$ . Now if we would have  
 947 much more layer, we can see how the subsequent multiplication of small gradients would lead to  
 948 very small update of the parameters thus "vanishing gradient".

949 Multiple actions can be taken to prevent this effect such as:

- 950 — **Batch normalization:** In this case we apply a normalization layer that will normalize the data  
 951 so that, let  $D$  be the data,  $\langle D \rangle = 0$  and  $\sigma_D = 1$ . This help the weight of the network to  
 952 maintain an appropriate scale.
- 953 — **Residual Network (ResNet) [64]:** Residual network is a technique for neural network in  
 954 which, instead of just sequentially feeding the results of each layer to the next one, you ask  
 955 each layer to calculate the residual of the input data. This technique is illustrated in figure 3.8.

956 **Chapter 4**

957 **Image recognition for IBD  
958 reconstruction with the SPMT system**

959 *Dave - Give me the position and momentum, HAL.*

*HAL - I'm afraid I can't do that Dave.*

*Dave - What's the problem ?*

*HAL - I think you know what the problem is just as well as I do.*

*Dave - What are you talking about, HAL?*

*HAL -  $\sigma_x \sigma_p \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}$*

960 As explained in chapter 2, JUNO is an experiment composed of two systems, the Large Photomul-  
961 tiplier (LPMT) and the Small Photomultiplier (SPMT). Both of the system observe the same physics  
962 event inside of the same medium but they differ in their photo-coverage, respectively 75.2% and  
963 2.7%, their dynamic range (see section 2.2.2, a thousands versus a few dozen, and their front-end  
964 electronics (see section 2.2.2).

965 They are complementary in their strengths and weaknesses and support each other. One important  
966 point is their differences in expected resolution, the LPMT system outperform largely the SPMT  
967 system but is subject to effects such as charge non linearity [28] that could bias the reconstruction,  
968 effect that the SPMT system is impervious to. This topic will be studied in more detail in chapter 7.  
969 Also, due to the dynamic range of the LPMT, in case of high energy and high density event such as  
970 core-collapse supernova, the LPMT system could saturate and the lower photo-coverage become a  
971 benefit.

972 Thus, although event reconstruction algorithm and physics analysis combines both LPMT and SPMT  
973 systems, individual approach are key studies to understand the detector and ensure their reliability.  
974 This topic will also be studied in more details in chapter 7. The subject of this chapter is to propose  
975 a machine learning algorithm for the SPMT reconstruction based on Convolutional Neural Network  
976 (CNN).

977 **4.1 Motivations**

978 As explained in chapter 3, Machine Learning (ML) algorithms shine when modeling highly dimen-  
979 sional data from a given dataset. In our case, we have access to complete monte-carlo simulation of  
980 our detector to produce arbitrary large datasets that could represent multiple years of data taking.  
981 Ideally ML algorithms would be able to consider the entirety of the information in the detector  
982 and converge on the best parameters to yield optimal results, while classical methods where the  
983 algorithms could be biased by the prior knowledge of the detector and physics processes. To study

984 this potential phenomena, we will compare our machine algorithm to a classical reconstruction  
 985 method developed for energy and vertex reconstruction [65].

986 We have access to a very detailed simulation of the detector (section 2.5) that will allow us to simulate  
 987 arbitrary large dataset of data while giving access to the all the physics parameters of the event. Those  
 988 parameters include the target of our reconstruction algorithms: the vertex and position at with the  
 989 event happened. As introduced above, we hope that the ML algorithm will be able to used all the  
 990 informations in the event, meaning that potential mismodelings in our simulation could be exploited  
 991 by the algorithm. This specific subject will be studied in chapter 6.

## 992 4.2 Method and model

993 One of simplest way to look at JUNO data is to consider the detector as an array of geometrically  
 994 distributed sensors on a sphere. Their repartition is almost homogeneous, on this sphere surface  
 995 providing an almost equal amount of information per unit surface on this sphere. It is then tempting  
 996 to represent the detector as a spherical image with the PMT in place of pixel. Two events with two  
 997 different energy or position would produce two different images.

998 The most common approach in machine learning for image processing and image recognition is the  
 999 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN). It is widely used in research and industry [56, 66–68] due to  
 1000 its strengths (see section 3.2.2) and has proven its relevance in image processing.

1001 Some CNN are developed to process spherical images [69] but for the sake of simplicity and as a  
 1002 first approach we decided to go with a planar projection of the detector, approach that has proven its  
 1003 efficiency using the LPMT system (see section 2.6.3). The details about this planar projection will be  
 1004 discussed in section 4.2.2.

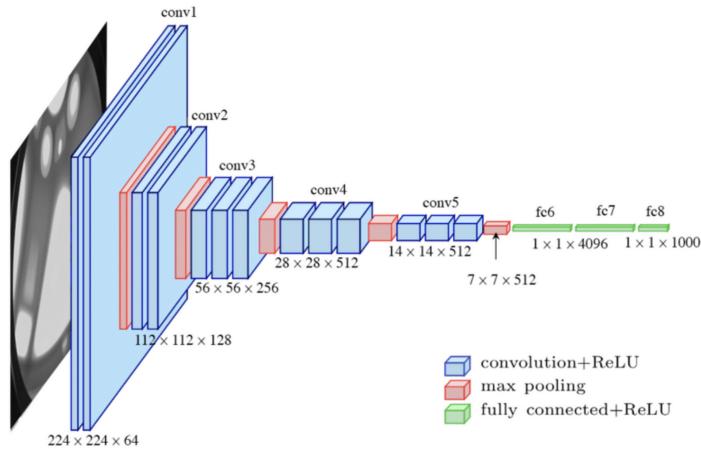


FIGURE 4.1 – Graphic representation of the VGG-16 architecture, presenting the different kind of layer composing the architecture.

### 1005 4.2.1 Model

1006 The architecture we use is derived from the VGG-16 architecture [56] illustrated in figure 4.1. We  
 1007 define a set of hyperparameters that will define the size, complexity and computational power of the  
 1008 NN. The chose hyperparameters are detailed below and their values are presented in table 4.1.

- 1009 —  $N_{blocks}$ : the number of convolution blocks, a block being composed of two convolutional  
1010 layers with  $3 \times 3$  filters using ReLU activation function, a  $3 \times 3$  max-pooling layer (except for  
1011 the last block) and a dropout layer.
- 1012 —  $N_{channels}$ : The number of channels in the first block. The number of channels in the subse-  
1013 quent blocks are calculated using  $N_{channels}^i = 2^i * N_{channels}$ ,  $i \in [1..N_{blocks}]$ .
- 1014 — **FCDNN configuration:** The result of the last convolution layer is flattened then fed to a  
1015 FCDNN. Its configuration is expressed as a sequence of fully connected linear layer using  
1016 the PReLU activation function. For example  $2 * 1024 + 2 * 512$  is the sequence of 2 layers  
1017 with a width of 1024 followed by 2 other layers with a width of 512. Finally the last layer  
1018 is a 4 neurons wide linear layers without activation function. Each neurons of the last layer  
1019 represent a component of the interaction vertex: Energy, X, Y, Z.
- 1020 — **Loss:** The loss function. In this work we study two different loss function  $(E + V)$  and  $(E_r +$   
1021  $V_r)$  detailed below.

$$(E + V)(E, x, y, z) = \left\langle (E - E_{true})^2 + 0.85 \sum_{\lambda \in [x, y, z]} (\lambda - \lambda_{true})^2 \right\rangle \quad (4.1)$$

$$(E_r + V_r)(E, x, y, z) = \left\langle \frac{(E - E_{true})^2}{E_{true}} + \frac{10}{R} \sum_{\lambda \in [x, y, z]} (\lambda - \lambda_{true})^2 \right\rangle \quad (4.2)$$

1022 where  $R$  is the radius of the CD. With the energy in MeV and the distance in meters, we use the factor  
1023 0.85 and 10 to equilibrate the two term of the loss function so they have the same magnitude.

- 1024 — The loss function  $(E + V)$  is close to a simple Mean Squared Error (MSE). MSE is one of the  
1025 most basic loss function, the derivative is simple and continuous in every point. It is a strong  
1026 starting point to explore the possibility of CNNs.
- 1027 —  $(E_r + V_r)$  can be see as a relative MSE.

1028 The idea is that: due to the inherent statistic uncertainty over the number of collected Number of  
1029 Photo Electrons (NPE), the absolute resolution  $\sigma(E - E_{true})$  will be larger at higher energy than at  
1030 low energy. But we expect the *relative* energy resolution  $\frac{\sigma(E - E_{true})}{E_{true}}$  to be smaller at high energy than  
1031 lower energy as illustrated in figure 2.19. Because of this, by using simple MSE the most important  
1032 part in the loss come from the high energy part of the dataset whereas with a relative MSE, the most  
1033 important become the low energy events in the dataset. We hope that by using a relative MSE, the  
1034 neural network will focus on low energy events where the reconstruction is considered the hardest  
1035 part of the dataset.

1036 On top those generated models, we define 4 hand tailored models:

- 1037 — “gen\_0”:  $N_{blocks} = 4$ ,  $N_{channels} = 64$ , FCDNN configuration:  $1024 * 2 + 512 * 2$ , Loss :=  $E + V$
- 1038 — “gen\_1”:  $N_{blocks} = 4$ ,  $N_{channels} = 64$ , FCDNN configuration:  $1024 * 2 + 512 * 2$ , Loss :=  $E_r + V_r$
- 1039 — “gen\_2”:  $N_{blocks} = 5$ ,  $N_{channels} = 64$ , FCDNN configuration:  $4096 * 2 + 1024 * 2$ , Loss :=  $E + V$
- 1040 — “gen\_3”:  $N_{blocks} = 5$ ,  $N_{channels} = 64$ , FCDNN configuration:  $4096 * 2 + 1024 * 2$ , Loss :=  $E_r + V_r$

$N_{blocks}$	{2, 3, 4}
$N_{channels}$	{32, 64, 128}
FCDNN configurations	$2 * 1024$ $2 * 2048 + 2 * 1024$ $3 * 2048 + 3 * 512$ $2 * 4096$
Loss	{ $E + V$ , $E_r + V_r$ }

TABLE 4.1 – Sets of hyperparameters values considered in this study

1041 Each combination of those hyperparameters (for example ( $N_{blocks} = 2$ ,  $N_{channels} = 32$ , FCDNN =  
1042  $(2 * 1024)$ , Loss =  $(E + V)$ )), subsequently designated as configurations, is then tested and compared

to each other over an analysis sample. We cannot use the mean loss because we consider multiple loss functions, there is no guarantee that comparison of their numerical value will be meaningful. We use multiple observables to rank the performances of each configuration:

- The mean absolute energy error  $\langle E \rangle = \langle |E - E_{true}| \rangle$ . It is an indicator of the energy bias of our reconstruction.
- The standard deviation of the energy error  $\sigma E = \sigma(E - E_{true})$ . This the indicator on our precision in energy reconstruction.
- The mean distance between the reconstructed vertex and the true vertex  $\langle V \rangle = \langle |\vec{V} - \vec{V}_{true}| \rangle$ . This an indicator of the bias and precision of our vertex reconstruction.
- The standard deviation of the distance between the true and reconstructed vertex  $\sigma V = \sigma|\vec{V} - \vec{V}_{true}|$ . This is an indicator if the precision in our vertex reconstruction.

## 4.2.2 Data representation

This data is represented as  $240 \times 240$  images, equivalent to third order tensor, with a charge  $Q$  channel and a time  $t$  channel. The SPMTs are then projected on the plane as illustrated in figure 4.2. The  $x$  position is proportional to  $\theta$  and the  $y$  position is defined by  $\phi \sin \theta$  in spherical coordinates.  $\theta = 0$  is defined as being the top of the detector and  $\phi = 0$  is defined as an arbitrary direction in the detector. In practice, this is the  $\phi = 0$  given by the MC simulation.

$$x = \left\lfloor \frac{\theta \cdot H}{\pi} \right\rfloor, \theta \in [0, \pi] \quad (4.3)$$

$$y = \left\lfloor \frac{(\phi + \pi) \sin \theta \cdot W}{2\pi} \right\rfloor, \phi \in [-\pi, \pi], \theta \in [0, \pi] \quad (4.4)$$

where  $H$  is the height of the image,  $W$  the width of the image and  $(0, 0)$  the top left corner of the image.

When two SPMTs are in the same pixel, the charges are summed and the lowest of the hit-time is chosen. The SPMTs being located close to each other, we expect the time difference between two successive physics signals, two photons being collected, to be small. The first hit time is chosen because it can be considered as the relative propagation time of the photons that went the "straightest", i.e. that went under the less perturbation of the two. The only potential problem in using this first time come from the Dark Noise (DN). Its time distribution is uniform over the signal and could come before a signal hit on the other SPMT in the pixel. In that case, the time information in the pixel become irrelevant and we lose the timing information for this part of the detector. As illustrated in figure 4.2 the dimension have been chosen optimized so that at most two SPMTs are in the same pixel while keeping the number of empty pixels relatively low to prevent this kind of issue.

While it could be possible to use larger images (more pixel) to prevent overlapping, keeping image small images gives multiple advantages:

- As presented in section 4.2.1, the convolution filter we use are  $3 \times 3$  convolution filter, meaning that if SPMTs would be separated by more than one pixel, the first filter would only see one SPMT per filter. This behavior would be kind of counterproductive as the first convolution block would basically be a transmission layer and would just induce noise in the data.
- It keep the network relatively small, while this do not impact the convolution layers, the flatten operation just before the FCDNN make the number parameters in the first layer of it dependent on the size of the image.
- It reduce the number of empty pixel in the image.

The question of empty pixel is an important question in this data representation. Their is two kind of empty pixel in the data.

1084 The first kind is pixel that contain a SPMT but the SPMT did not get hit nor registered any dark noise  
 1085 during the event. In this case, the charge channel is zero, which have a physical meaning but then  
 1086 come the question of the time layer. One could argue that the correct time would be infinity (or the  
 1087 largest number our memory allows us) because the hit “never” happened, so extremely far from the  
 1088 time of the event. This cause numerical problem as large number, in the linear operation that are  
 1089 happening in the convolution layers, are more significant than smaller value. We could try to encode  
 1090 this feature in another way but no number have any significance due to our time being relative to  
 1091 the trigger of the experiment so -1 for example is out of question. Float and Double gives us access  
 1092 to special value such as NaN (Not a Number) [70] but the behavior is to propagate the NaN which  
 1093 leaves us with NaN for energy and position. We choose to keep the value 0 because it’s the absorbing  
 1094 element of multiplication, absorbing the “information” of the parameter it would be multiplied by.  
 1095 It also can be thought as no activation in the ReLU activation function.

1096 The second kind of pixel is pixel that do not represent parts of the detector such as the corners of  
 1097 the images. The question is basically the same, what to put in the charge and the time channel. The  
 1098 decision is to set the charge and time at 0 following the reasoning presented above. Its important  
 1099 to keep in mind that the fact that a part of the detector that has not been hit is also an information:  
 1100 There is no signal in this part of the detector. This problematic will be explored in more details in  
 1101 chapter 5.

1102 Another problematic that happens with this representation, and this is not dependent of the chosen  
 1103 projection, is the deformation in the edges of the image and the loss of the neighbouring information  
 1104 in the for the SPMTs at the edge of the image  $\phi \sim 180^\circ$ . This deformation and neighbouring loss  
 1105 could be partially circumvented as explained in section 4.4

### 1106 4.2.3 Dataset

1107 In this study we will discuss two datasets of one millions events:

- 1108 — **J21**: The first one comes from the JUNO official mc simulation J21v1r0-Pre2 (released the  
 1109 18th August 2021). This historical version is the one on which the NN the classical algorithm  
 1110 presented in [65] was developed. This dataset is used as a reference for comparison to  
 1111 classical algorithm. The data in this dataset is *detsim* level (see section 2.5), so where only  
 1112 the physic is simulated. The charge and time biases and uncertainties are added using toy  
 1113 MC adjusted using [25, 71].
- 1114 — **J23**: The second comes from the JUNO official monte-carlo simulations J23.0.1-rc8.dc1 (re-  
 1115 leased the 7th January 2024). The data is *calib* level (see section 2.5). Here the charge waveform  
 1116 integration, time window resolution and trigger decision are all simulated inside the software.  
 1117 This dataset is more realistic and is used to confirm the performance of our algorithm.

1118 To put in perspective this amount of data, the expected IBD rate in JUNO is 47 / days. Taking into  
 1119 account the calibration time, and the source reactor shutdown, it amounts to  $\sim 94'000$  IBD events  
 1120 in 6 years. With this million of event, we are training the equivalent of  $\sim 10$  years of data. With  
 1121 this amount we reach a density of  $4783 \frac{\text{event}}{\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{MeV}}$ , meaning our dataset is representative of the multiple  
 1122 event scenarios that could be happening in the detector.

1123 While we expect and hope the monte-carlo simulation to give a realistic representation of the  
 1124 detector, there could be effect, even after the fine-tuning on calibration data, that the simulation  
 1125 cannot handle. Thus, once the calibration will be available, we will need to evaluate, and if needed  
 1126 retrain, the network on calibration data to establish definitive performances.

1127 The data used during this analysis is monte carlo data using the official JUNO simulation software  
 1128 (see section 2.5 for details). The simulated data is composed of positron events, uniformly distributed  
 1129 in the CD volume and in kinetic energy over  $E_k \in [0; 9]$  MeV producing a deposited energy  $E_{dep} \in$   
 1130  $[1.022; 10.022]$  MeV. This is done to mimic the signal produced by the IBD prompt signal. Uniform

1131 distribution are used so that the CNN does not learn a potential energy distribution, favoring some  
1132 part of the energy spectrum instead of other.

1133 Those events can be considered as “optimistic” as there is no pile-up with potential background or  
1134 other IBD.

1135 **4.2.4 Data characteristics**

1136 To delve a bit into the kind of data we will use, you can find in figure 4.2 the repartition of the SPMTs  
1137 in the image. The color represent the number of SPMTs per pixel.

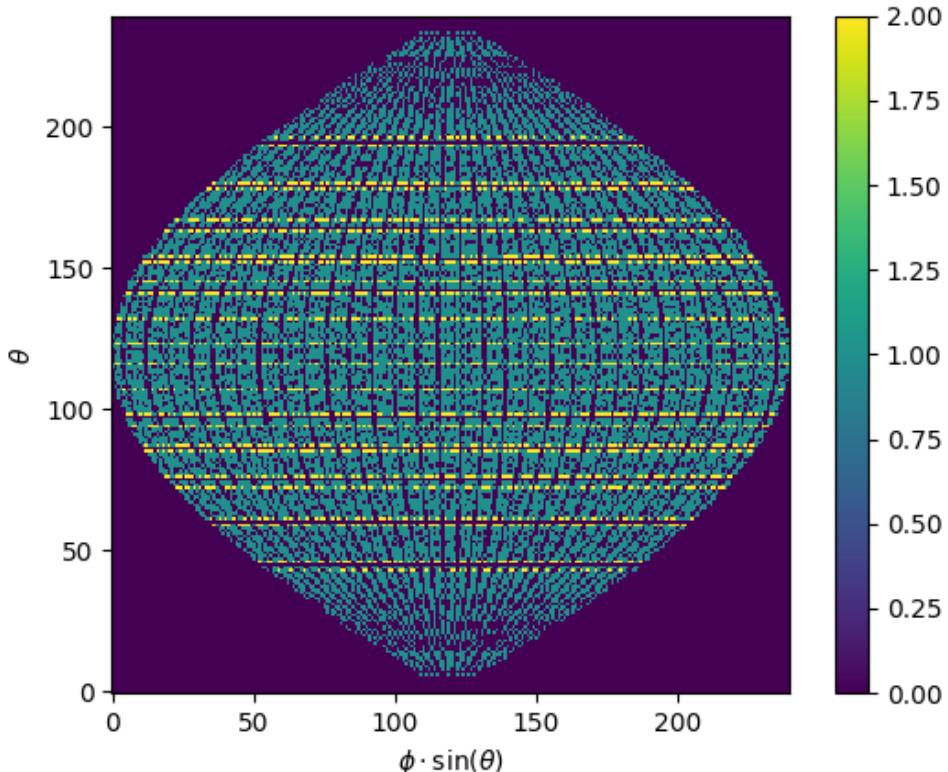


FIGURE 4.2 – Repartition of SPMTs in the image projection. The color scale is the number of SPMTs per pixel

1138 In figures 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 are presented events from J23 for different positions and energies.  
1139 We see some characteristics and we can instinctively understand how the CNN could discriminate  
1140 different situations.

To give an idea of the strength of the signal in comparison to the dark noise background, figure 4.7a present the distribution of the ration NPE over the deposited energy. Assuming a linear response of the LS we can model:

$$NPE_{tot} = E_{dep} \cdot P_{mev} + D_N \quad (4.5)$$

$$\frac{NPE_{tot}}{E_{dep}} = P_{mev} + \frac{D_N}{E_{dep}} \quad (4.6)$$

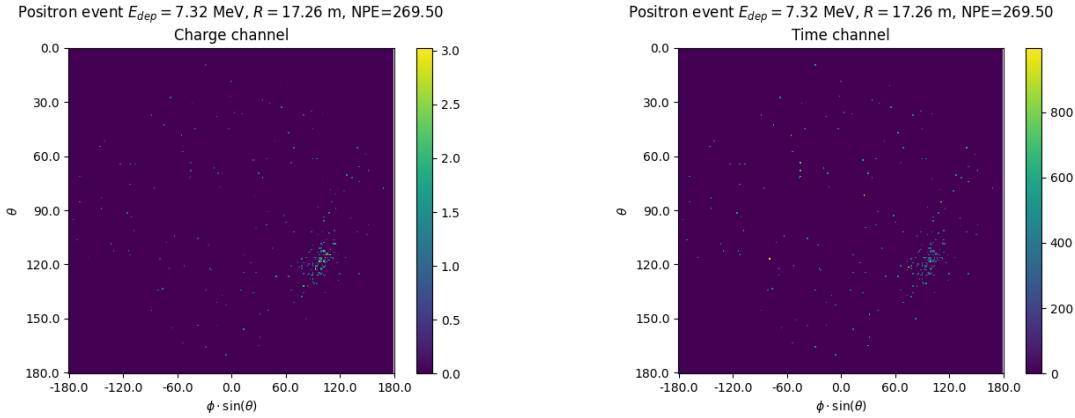


FIGURE 4.3 – Example of a high energy, radial event. We see a concentration of the charge on the bottom right of the image, clear indication of a high radius event. **On the left:** the charge channel. The color is the charge in each pixel in NPE equivalent. **On the right:** The time channel in nanoseconds.

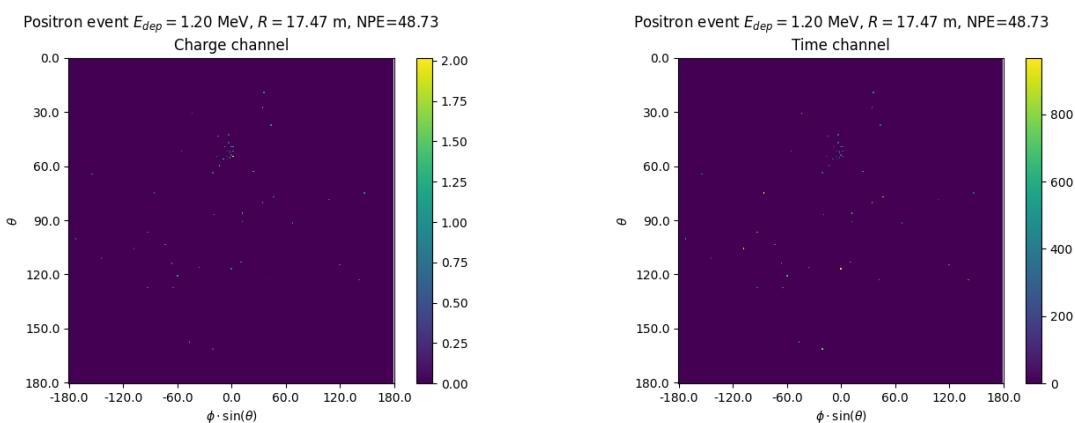


FIGURE 4.4 – Example of a low energy, radial event. The signal here is way less explicit, we can kind of guess that the event is located in the top middle of the image. **On the left:** the charge channel. The color is the charge in each pixel in NPE equivalent. **On the right:** The time channel in nanoseconds.

where  $NPE_{tot}$  is the total number of PE detected by the event,  $P_{mev}$  is the mean number of PE detected per MeV and  $D_N$  is the dark noise contribution that is considered energy independent. In the case where the readout time window is dependent of the energy the dark noise contribution become energy dependant, also the LS response is realistically energy dependant but figure 4.7a shows that we have heavily dominated by statistical uncertainties which is why we are using this simple model.

The fit gives shows a light yield of 40.78 PE/MeV and a dark noise contribution of 4.29 NPE. As shown in figure 4.7b, the physics makes for 90% of the signal at low energy.

## 4.3 Results

Before presenting the results, let's discuss the different observables.

The events are considered point-like in this study. The target truth position, or vertex, is the mean po-

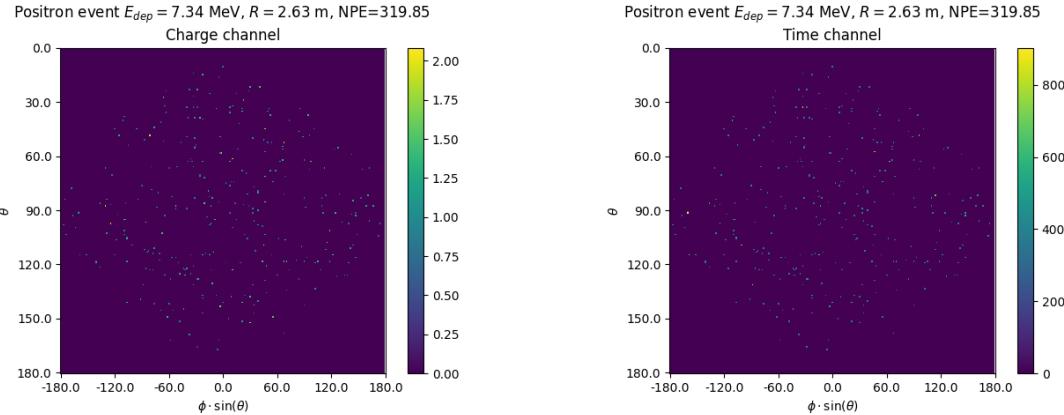


FIGURE 4.5 – Example of a high energy, central event. In this image we can see a lot of signal but uniformly spread, this is indicative of a central event. **On the left:** the charge channel. The color is the charge in each pixel in NPE equivalent. **On the right:** The time channel in nanoseconds.

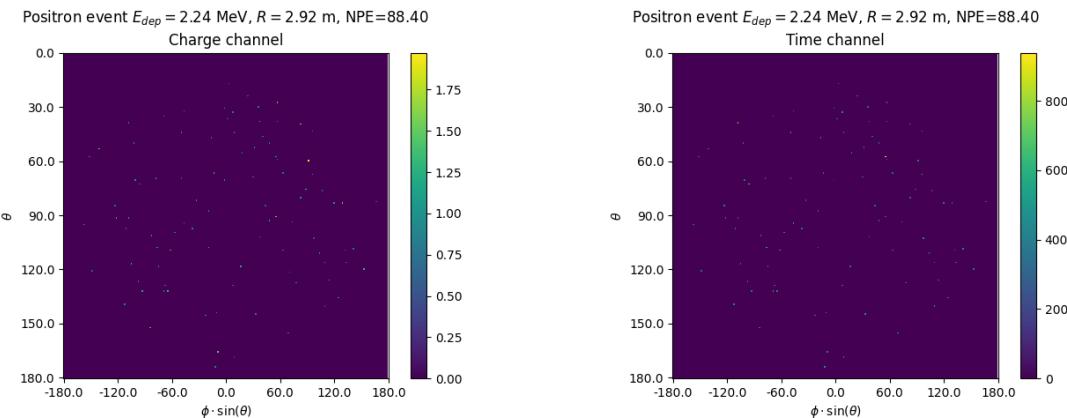
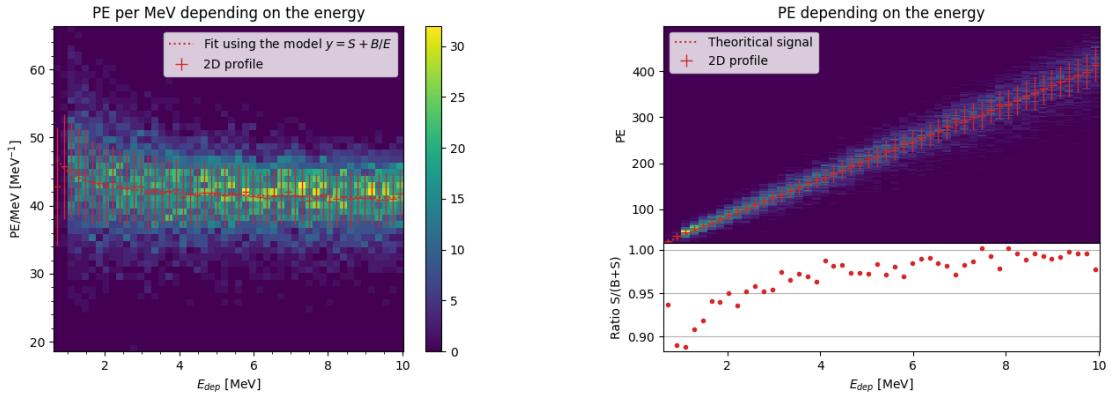


FIGURE 4.6 – Example of a low energy, central event. Here there is no clear signal, the uniformity of the distribution should make it central. **On the left:** the charge channel. The color is the charge in each pixel in NPE equivalent. **On the right:** The time channel in nanoseconds.

sition of the energy deposits of the positron and the two annihilation gammas. Due to the symmetries of the detector, we mainly considered and discuss the bias and precision evolution depending of the radius  $R$  but we will still monitor the performances depending of the spheric angle  $\theta$  and  $\phi$ . From the detector construction and effect we expect relative important dependencies in radius thanks to the TR area effect presented in section 2.6 and the possibility for the positron or the gammas to escape from the CD for near the edge events. We also expect dependence in  $\theta$ , the top of the experiment being non-instrumented due to the filling chimney. It is also to be noted that the events in the dataset are uniformly distributed in the CD, and so are uniformly distributed in  $R^3$  and  $\phi$ . The  $\theta$  distribution is not uniform and we will have more event for  $\theta \sim 90^\circ$  than  $\theta \sim 0^\circ$  or  $\theta \sim 180^\circ$ .

We define multiple energy in JUNO:

- $E_\nu$ : The energy of the neutrino.
- $E_k$ : The kinetic energy of the resulting positron from the IBD.
- $E_{dep}$ : The deposited energy of the positron and the two annihilation gammas.
- $E_{vis}$ : The equivalent visible energy, so  $E_{dep}$  after the detector effect such as the absorption of scintillation photons by the LS and the LS response non-linearity.



(A) Distribution of PE/MeV in the J23 Dataset. This distribution is profiled and fitted using equation 4.6

(B) On top: Distribution of PE vs Energy. On bottom: Using the values extracted in 4.7a, we calculate the ration signal over background + signal

FIGURE 4.7

—  $E_{rec}$ : The reconstructed energy by the reconstruction algorithm. The expected value depend on the algorithm we discuss about. For example the algorithm presented in section 2.6 is reconstructing  $E_{rec}$  while the ones presented in section 2.6.3 reconstruct  $E_{dep}$ .

In this study, we will set  $E_{rec}$  as our target for energy reconstruction. This choice is motivated by the ease with which we can retrieve this information in the monte-carlo data while  $E_{vis}$  is less trivial to retrieve.

### 4.3.1 J21 results

Those results comes from the “gen\_30” model, meaning then 30th model generated using the table 4.1 or

— “gen\_30”:  $N_{blocks} = 3$ ,  $N_{channels} = 32$ , FCDNN configuration:  $2048 * 2 + 1024 * 2$ , Loss :=  $E + V$ . The performances of its reconstruction are presented in blue in figure 4.8. Superimposed in black is the performances of the classical algorithm from [65]. By looking at the figure 4.8a and 4.8b, the CNN has similar performances in its energy resolution with the exception of high and low energy event.

This is explained by looking at the true and reconstructed energy distributions in figure 4.9. We see that the distribution are similar for energy between 3 and 8 MeV but there is an excess of reconstructed energies around 1.5 and 9 MeV while a lack of reconstructed energy for 1 and 10 MeV. The neural network seems to learn the energy distribution and learn that it exist almost no event with an energy inferior to 1.022 MeV and not event with an energy superior to 10 MeV. The first observation is a physics phenomena: for a positron, its minimum deposited energy is the mass energy coming from its annihilation with an electron 1.022 MeV. There is a few event with energies inferior to 1.022 MeV, in those case the annihilation gammas or even the positron escape the detector. The deposited energy in the LS is thus only a fraction of the energy is deposited. The second observation is indeed true in this dataset but has no physical meaning, it is an arbitrary limit because the physics region of interest is mainly between 1 and 9 MeV of deposited energy (figure 2.2). By learning the energy distribution, the CNN pull event from the border of it to more central value. That’s why the energy resolution is better: the events are pulled in a small energy region, thus a small variance but the bias become very high (figure 4.8a).

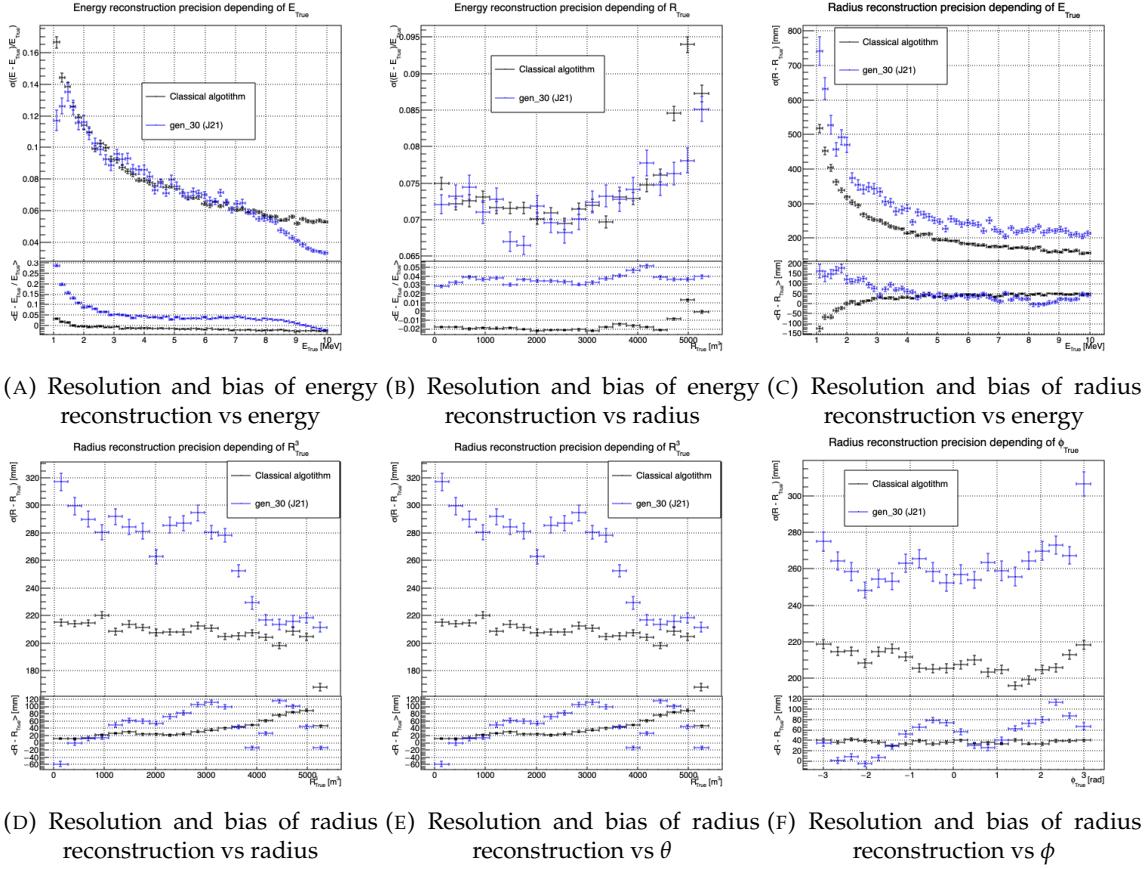


FIGURE 4.8 – Reconstruction performance of the “gen\_30” model on J21 data and its comparison to the performances of the classic algorithm “Classical algorithm” from [65]. The top part of each plot is the resolution and the bottom part is the bias.

## 1193 4.4 Prospect

## 1194 4.5 Conclusion

1195 Intoduction next chapter

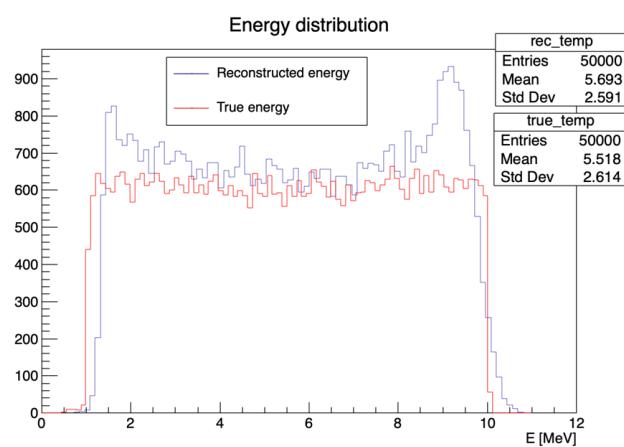


FIGURE 4.9 – Distribution of “gen\_30” reconstructed energy and true energy of the analysis dataset (J21)



<sup>1196</sup> **Chapter 5**

<sup>1197</sup> **Graph representation of JUNO for IBD  
reconstruction with the LPMT system**

<sup>1198</sup>



<sup>1199</sup> **Chapter 6**<sup>1200</sup> **Reliability of machine learning  
methods**  
<sup>1201</sup><sup>1202</sup>

*"Psychohistory was the quintessence of sociology; it was the science of human behavior reduced to mathematical equations. The individual human being is unpredictable, but the reactions of human mobs, Seldon found, could be treated statistically"*

*Isaac Asimov, Second Foundation*



<sup>1203</sup> **Chapter 7**

<sup>1204</sup> **Joint fit between the SPMT and LPMT  
spectra**

<sup>1205</sup>



<sup>1206</sup> Chapter 8

<sup>1207</sup> Conclusion



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# <sup>1350</sup> List of Abbreviations

<b>ACU</b>	Automatic Calibration Unit
<b>BDT</b>	Boosted Decision Tree
<b>CD</b>	Central Detector
<b>CLS</b>	Cable Loop System
<b>CNN</b>	Convolutional NN
<b>DNN</b>	Deep NN
<b>DN</b>	Dark Noise
<b>FCDNN</b>	Fully Connected Deep NN
<b>GNN</b>	Graph NN
<b>GT</b>	Guiding Tube
<b>IBD</b>	Inverse Beta Decay
<b>IO</b>	Inverse Ordering
<b>JUNO</b>	Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory
<b>LPMT</b>	Large PMT
<b>LR</b>	Learning Rate
<b>LS</b>	Liquid Scintillator
<b>MC</b>	Monte Carlo simulation
<b>ML</b>	Machine Learning
<b>MSE</b>	Mean Squared Error
<b>NMO</b>	Neutrino Mass Ordering
<b>NN</b>	Neural Network
<b>NO</b>	Normal Ordering
<b>NPE</b>	Number of Photo Electron
<b>OSIRIS</b>	Online Scintillator Internal Radioactivity Investigation System
<b>PE</b>	Photo Electron
<b>PMT</b>	Photo-Multipliers Tubes
<b>PReLU</b>	Parametrized Rectified Linear Unit
<b>ROV</b>	Remotely Operated under-LS Vehicle
<b>ReLU</b>	Rectified Linear Unit
<b>ResNet</b>	Residual Network
<b>SGD</b>	Stochastic Gradient Descent
<b>SPMT</b>	Small PMT
<b>TAO</b>	Taishan Antineutrino Oservatory
<b>TR Area</b>	Total Reflexion Area
<b>TTS</b>	Time Transit Spread
<b>TT</b>	Top Tracker
<b>WCD</b>	Water Cherenkov Detector



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