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Employment

- 01.2022 - present **ETH Zürich (Institute for Particle Physics and Astrophysics)**
SNSF Ambizione fellow, project leader. Group of Günther Dissertori
Research areas: Design and deployment of Machine Learning based anomaly detection algorithm on FPGAs for CMS experiment, anomaly detection for New Physics searches, cross-departmental collaborations on real-time ML
Other: Teaching/Lecturing (particle physics and Machine Learning in Physics), institute outreach responsible, student supervision (doctoral, master, and semester theses)
- 11.2019 - 12.2021 **CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research)**
Senior Research Fellow, Advisor: Maurizio Pierini
Research areas: Optimisation of **machine learning** algorithms for low-latency inference on CMS L1 trigger **FPGAs**, **jet algorithms** on FPGA hardware , searches for anomalous new physics using Machine Learning, **jet substructure** algorithms and **New Physics** searches in diboson final states.

Education

- 02.2015 - 04.2019 **Ph.D. Physics** , University of Zurich / CMS experiment, CERN
"A Novel Multidimensional Search for Diboson Resonances in the Boosted Dijet Final State and Encoding Jet Substructure in a Deep Neural Network ",
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Ben Kilminster, Date 14.03.2019
Thesis committee: Prof. Dr. Jesse Thaler, Dr. Andreas Hinzmann, Prof. Dr. Florencia Canelli
- 09.2012 - 12.2014 **M.S., Physics**, University of Zurich
"A dedicated boosted Higgs boson tagging algorithm at CMS", Advisor: Prof. Dr. Kilminster
- 09.2010 - 06.2012 **B.S., Physics** , University of **Bergen** / Exchange **ETH Zurich**
"Unstable Dark Matter in the Milky Way", Advisor: Prof. Dr. Per Osland

Research highlights

- Real-time ML** **"Autoencoders on field-programmable gate arrays for real-time, unsupervised new physics detection at 40 MHz at the Large Hadron Collider"**, Nature Machine Intelligence volume 4, pages 154–161 (2022)
"Applications and Techniques for Fast Machine Learning in Science", [Frontiers in Big Data](#)
"Fast convolutional neural networks on FPGAs with hls4ml", main author, [Thea Aarrestad et al 2021 Mach. Learn.: Sci. Technol. 2 045015](#)
- Collaborations industry/cross-departmental** **"Automatic deep heterogeneous quantization of Deep Neural Networks for ultra low-area, low-latency inference on the edge at particle colliders"** , main author, CERN/Google collaboration, ([Nature Machine Intelligence \(2021\)](#))
"Within-Camera Multilayer Perceptron DVS Denoising", collaboration with sensor groups of A. Rios-Navarro (Seville), T. Delbruck (UZH/ETH), R. Kastner (San Diego), CVPR 2023

"Real-time semantic segmentation on FPGAs for autonomous vehicles with hls4ml",
Volvo/Zenseact collaboration, Machine Learning: Science and Technology DOI
10.1088/2632-2153/ac9cb5

Physics

"Vector boson scattering processes: Status and prospects", ML for VBS review, Reviews in Physics Volume 8
"LHC physics dataset for unsupervised New Physics detection at 40 MHz", Nature Scientific Data 9, Article number: 118 (2022)
"Improving Variational Autoencoders for New Physics Detection at the LHC With Normalizing Flows", *Front. Big Data*, Sec. Big Data and AI in High Energy
"Detecting long-lived particles trapped in detector material at the LHC", *Phys.Rev.D* 105, L051701
"Searching for diboson resonances in the boosted all-hadronic final state at $s=13$ TeV with CMS", single-author invited review article published in MPLA , [10.1142/S0217732320300141](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.1142/S0217732320300141) (summary of three papers on diboson resonance searches where I was main author)

Outreach highlights

Schools

"Accelerating Discovery with Machine Learning at CERN", invited lecturer at Machine Learning Summer School, Krakow, [MLSS^S](https://mlss.cern.ch/) (co-lecturers Michael Bronstein, Marco Cuturi, Christoph Weniger etc.), >100 participants
Lecture series on Machine Learning at Herbstschule fur Hochenergiephysik Maria Laach
"Machine Learning at CERN", invited lecture at [Lake Como School of Advanced Studies](https://www.lakecomo.ch/)
"Fast inference with HLS4ML: Machine Learning with FPGA at LHC" [INFN FPGA School](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/)
"Machine Learning at CERN", lecture for NGO MBUCO who promotes science in NGO countries, <https://www.bmuco.org/post/machine-learning-at-cern-dr-thea-aarrestad>
"Particles and fields at the LHC", lecture for high school students in Nepal organised by Initiatives for Girls in Physics Nepal, <https://youtu.be/TWGSYiYW47I>

Invited seminars

"Real-time Machine Learning in particle physics", [CERN EP/IT Data Science Seminar](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/) for ~500 participants
"Ultrafast Machine Learning Inference at the Large Hadron Collider" [IPA Colloquium](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/)
"Machine Learning Applications: An Experimental Perspective" [Semivisible Jet Workshop](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/)
"Fast Machine Learning at LHC", [Origins Data Science Lab](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/), Technical University of Munich
"Fast Machine Learning at the LHC", [Milano Bicocca Phenomenology Seminar](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/)
"Ultrafast ML Inference in FPGAs at the LHC", [University of Bonn Physics Seminar](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/)
"Ultrafast Machine Learning Inference in FPGAs at the LHC", [DESY Data Science Seminar](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/)

Conference talks

"Fast inferences", invited speaker at [LHCP 2023](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/)
"Recent developments in Machine Learning in Particle Physics", invited talk [Spåtind 2023](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/)
"Machine Learning for VBS", invited talk at VBS at Snowmass, indico.cern.ch/event/980773/
"Nanosecond Inference Engines for Particle Detectors", invited talk at 30th International Workshop on Logic and Synthesis ([IWLS2021](https://indico.cern.ch/event/980773/))
"Designing Nanosecond Inference Engines for the Particle Collider", invited talk at 6th Workshop on Energy Efficient Machine Learning and Cognitive Computing, <https://www.emc2-ai.org/virtual-20>

Theses supervised

PhD	"Scouting for anomalous events with unsupervised AI in the CMS hardware trigger", PhD thesis of Patrick Odagiu at ETH Zurich, co-supervised with Günther Dissertori, ongoing
Master	"AXOL1TL: Real-time anomaly detection in the CMS hardware trigger", master thesis of Chang Sun ETH Zürich, co-supervised with Günther Dissertori, grade: 6 "Latency and resource-aware decision trees for faster FPGA inference at the LHC", master thesis of Andrew Oliver, co-supervised with M. Guillaume-Bert (Google) and G. Dissertori (ETH Zurich), ongoing
Bachelor	"Deep Neural Network to Identify High-Energy B Hadrons via their Hit Multiplicity Increase through Pixel Detection Layers", UZH Bachelor Thesis, main supervisor M. Sommerhalder, Feb-Aug 2018, github.com/msommerh/bTag_HitCount
Other	"Detecting long-lived particles trapped in detector material at the LHC", CERN summer student project of Jasmine Simms, co-supervised with Juliette Alimena, published in Phys.Rev.D 105, L051701 "Convolutional Autoencoders for Anomaly Detection in the L1 Trigger" CERN Student 2020, Sierra Weyhmiller, co-supervisor, https://indico.cern.ch/event/947570/ "Variational autoencoders with Normalizing Flows for anomalous event detection, DIANA-HEP fellow, co-supervisor, Pratik Jawahar, " arxiv.org/abs/2105.14027 "A Deep Neural Network capable of discriminating between jets coming from the decay of longitudinally and transversely polarized W or Z bosons with a large Lorentz boost", CERN Summer Student, main supervisor, July 2018, Jan De Boer, Copenhagen University, https://cds.cern.ch/record/2650187

References

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Research Staff, CERN

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Staff Researcher, California Institute of Technology (Caltech)

Ben Kilminster (ben.kilminster@physik.uzh.ch)

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Professor, Johns Hopkins University

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Professor, ETH Zurich