



Institute of  
Space Sciences  
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DE MAEZTU

EAS 2022 Valencia - June 29

# Pulsar population synthesis with multi-modal machine learning



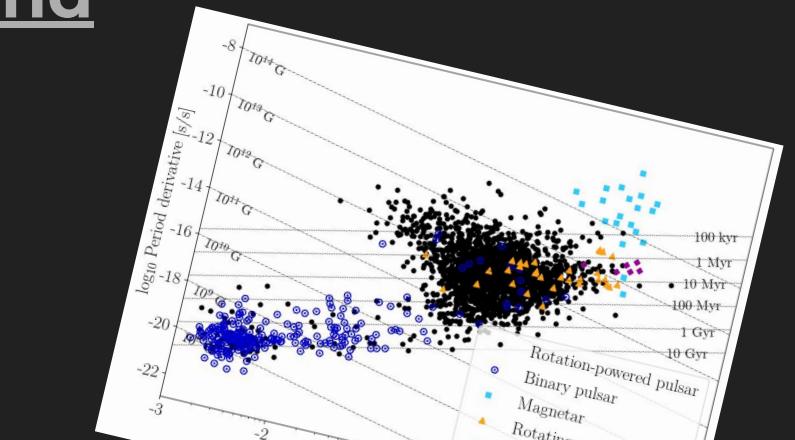
Dr. Vanessa Gruber ([gruber@ice.csic.es](mailto:gruber@ice.csic.es))

in collaboration with Michele Ronchi,  
Celsa Pardo Araujo, Nanda Rea & José Pons



# Background

- We have detected **~3,000 pulsars**, with ~2,000 being isolated. They have diverse characteristics, visible in different parts of electromagnetic spectrum → **neutron star zoo**.
- **Galactic core-collapse supernova rate** is insufficient for independent formation of these classes (Keane & Kramer 2008) → **evolutionary links** (e.g., Viganò et al. 2013)?

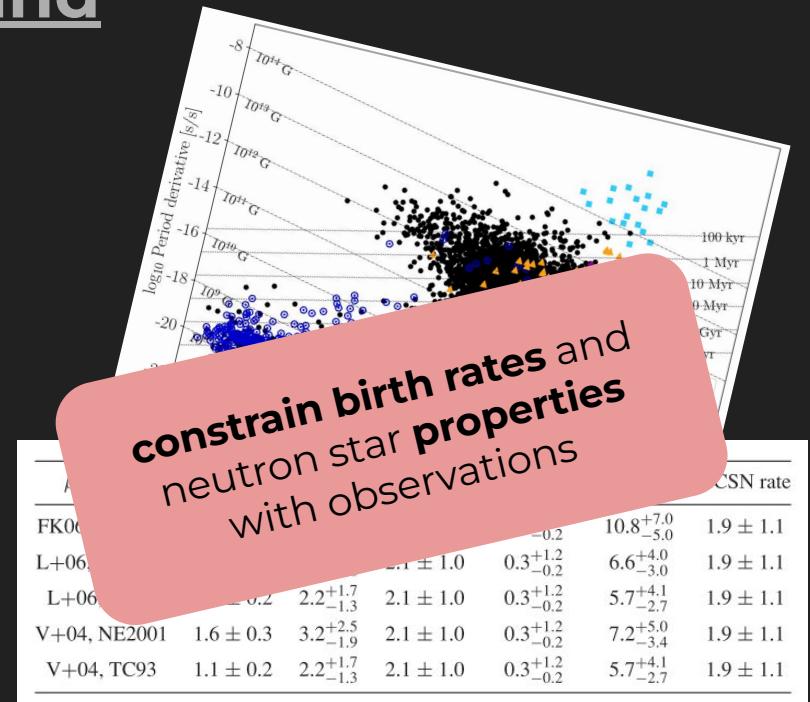


| $\beta_{\text{PSR}}, n_e$ | PSRs          | RRATs               | XDINSs        | Magnetars           | Total                | CCSN rate     |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| FK06, NE2001              | $2.8 \pm 0.5$ | $5.6^{+4.3}_{-3.3}$ | $2.1 \pm 1.0$ | $0.3^{+1.2}_{-0.2}$ | $10.8^{+7.0}_{-5.0}$ | $1.9 \pm 1.1$ |
| L+06, NE2001              | $1.4 \pm 0.2$ | $2.8^{+1.6}_{-1.6}$ | $2.1 \pm 1.0$ | $0.3^{+1.2}_{-0.2}$ | $6.6^{+4.0}_{-3.0}$  | $1.9 \pm 1.1$ |
| L+06, TC93                | $1.1 \pm 0.2$ | $2.2^{+1.7}_{-1.3}$ | $2.1 \pm 1.0$ | $0.3^{+1.2}_{-0.2}$ | $5.7^{+4.1}_{-2.7}$  | $1.9 \pm 1.1$ |
| V+04, NE2001              | $1.6 \pm 0.3$ | $3.2^{+2.5}_{-1.9}$ | $2.1 \pm 1.0$ | $0.3^{+1.2}_{-0.2}$ | $7.2^{+5.0}_{-3.4}$  | $1.9 \pm 1.1$ |
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NS birth vs. Galactic CCSN rates  
(Keane & Manchester 2008).

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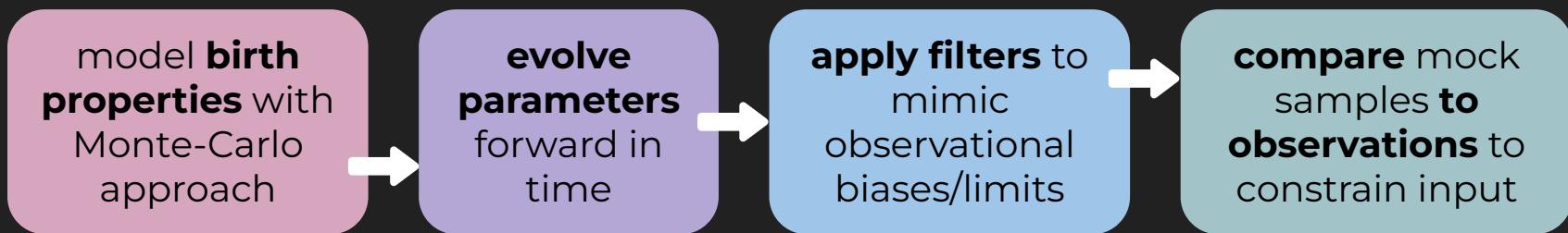
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NS birth vs. Galactic CCSN rates  
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# Pulsar Population Synthesis

- We only **observe** a very **small fraction** of the  $\sim 10^9$  **neutron stars** expected in the Milky Way. Instead of looking at individual pulsars, population synthesis focuses on the **entire population** (e.g. Faucher-Giguère & Kaspi 2006, Lorimer et al. 2006, Gullón et al. 2014, Cieślar et al. 2020):



- Method provides e.g. **birth rates** and **initial v / P / B distributions**.



focus on **Deep Learning (DL)** for the **comparison**

# DL Proof-of-concept Study - Ronchi et al. (2021)

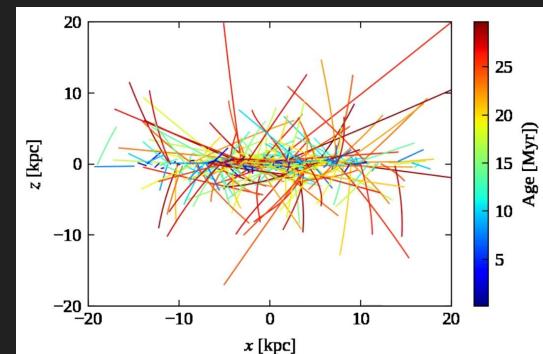
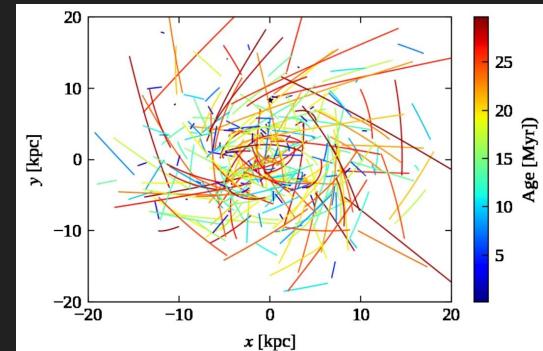
- Focus on **positional & velocity evolution** and follow earlier works using an updated spiral-arm (Yao et al. 2017) and Galactic model (Marchetti et al. 2019) plus rigid Galaxy rotation.
- Evolve  **$10^5$  stars** for (up to)  **$10^7$  yr** varying

exponential **scale height**  $h_c$  for birth distance from plane



**dispersion**  $\sigma_k$  of Maxwell distribution for kick velocities

to obtain 16,384 **mock populations**. Extract images (labelled by  $h_c, \sigma_k$ ) as **training data** for a **convolutional neural network (CNN)**.



Galactic evolution tracks for  $h_c = 0.18$  kpc,  $\sigma_k = 265$  km/s.

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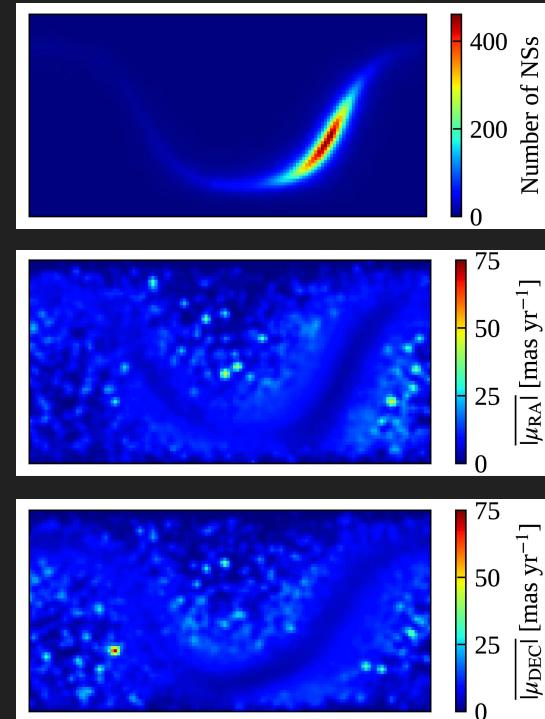
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Stellar density and velocities in ICRS coordinates.

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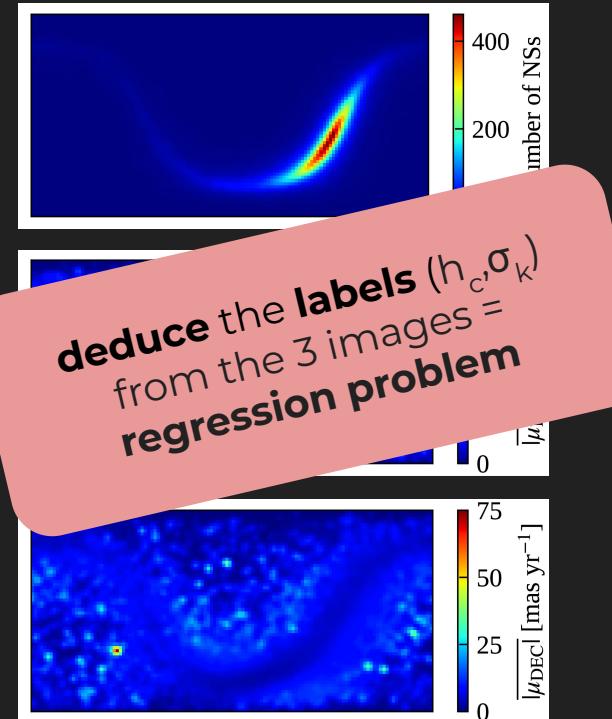
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**height  $h_c$**  for birth  
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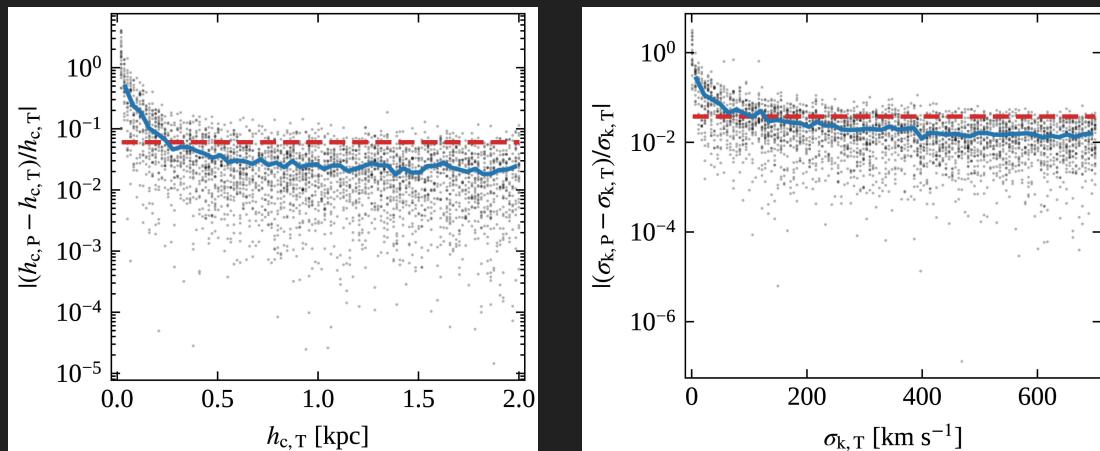
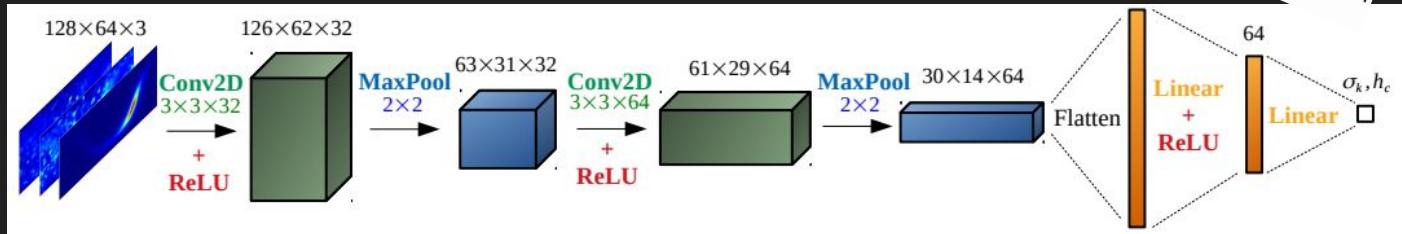
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# DL Proof-of-concept Study: Results

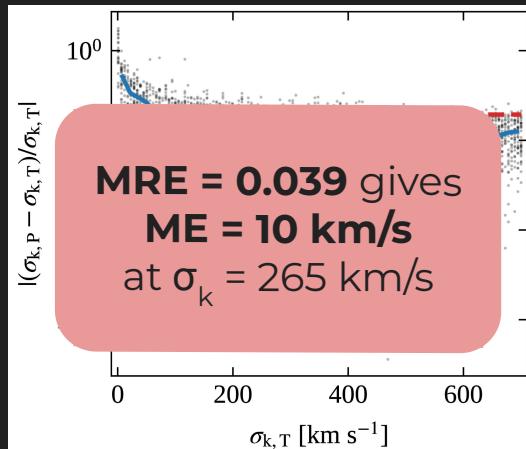
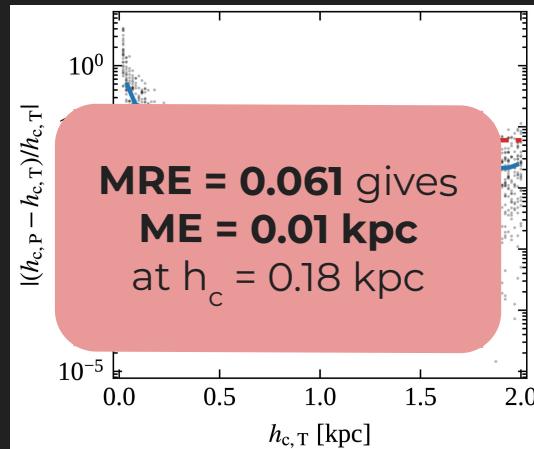
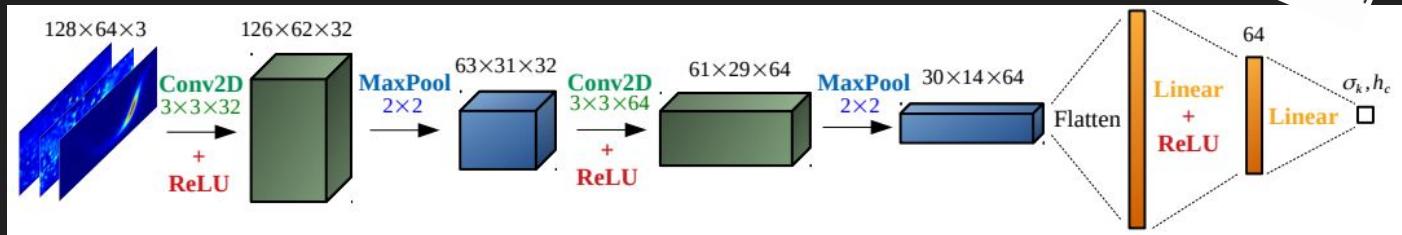
CNN architecture and results from Ronchi et al. (2021).



- We use **RMSE** as loss function & validation metric, **Kaiming initialisation**, **Adam** for gradient-descent optimisation, and **80 / 20%** for the training / validation process.

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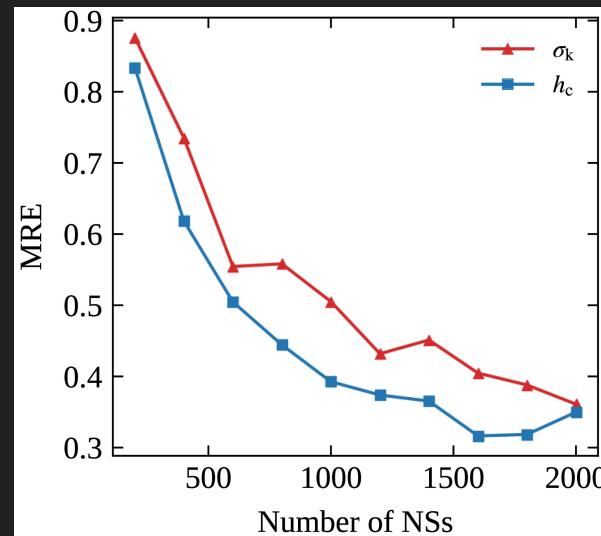
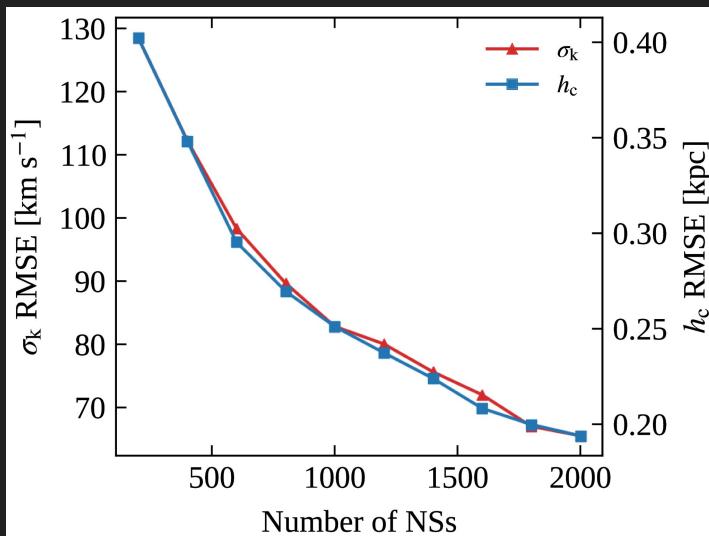
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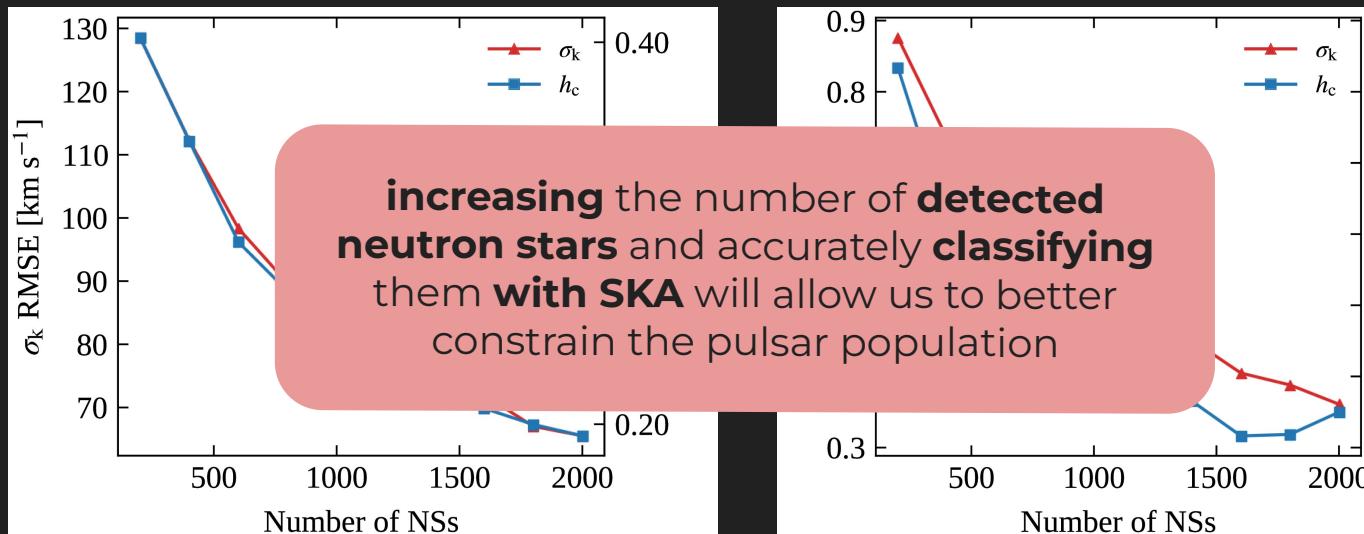
# DL Proof-of-concept Study: Selection Biases

- Analyse the **CNN's predictive power** as a function of available data points (i.e. NSs) by resampling our fiducial simulation to **incorporate selection biases** from NSs with **proper-motion measurements**.



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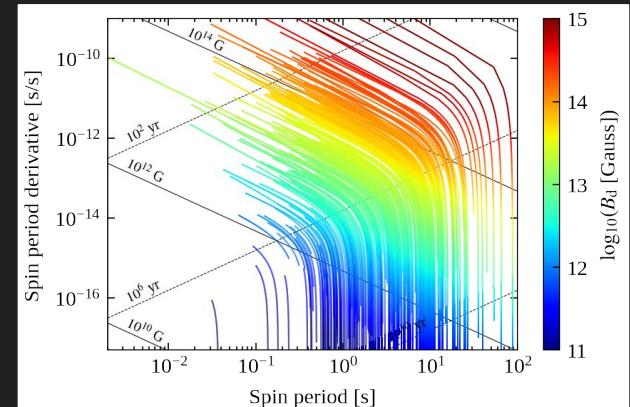
# Magneto-rotational Evolution & Emission

- Model **additional information** to constrain population properties further:

**predict  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\dot{\mathbf{P}}$  by modelling magneto-rotational evolution**



solve **ODEs for  $\mathbf{B}$ ,  $\mathbf{P}$ ,  $\chi$**   
(Aguilera et al. 2008,  
Philippov et al. 2014)



- Combine with an **emission model** and **survey detectability limits** to determine observability. This produces mock **P-dot populations**, which we compare to the observed pulsar sample with CNNs.

Evolution tracks in  $\dot{\mathbf{P}}\mathbf{P}$ -plane.  
Objects are born on top left.

# Magneto-rotational Evolution & Emission

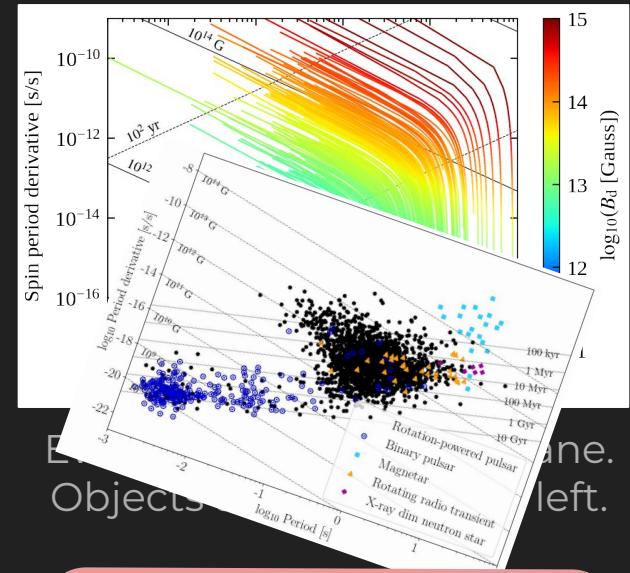
- Model **additional information** to constrain population properties further:

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solve **ODEs for  $B$ ,  $P$ ,  $\dot{x}$**   
(Aguilera et al. 2008,  
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- Combine with an **emission model** and **survey detectability limits** to determine observability. This produces mock  **$P\dot{P}$  populations**, which we compare to the observed pulsar sample with CNNs.



**infer** information about the **initial  $P$  &  $B$  distributions** and magnetic field evolution

# Multi-modal DL

- Different **parts of the pulsar population** are observed in **different wavebands**: observations provide **complementary information** about the same underlying neutron star population.
- In computer science, this concept is known as **multi-modal learning**.

**different neural networks** are suitable to analyse **different types of observations**

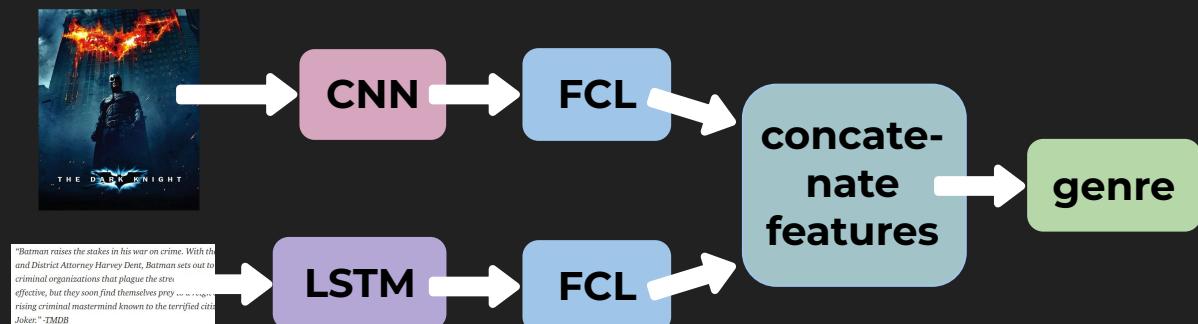
*"Batman raises the stakes in his war on crime. With the help of Lt. Jim Gordon and District Attorney Harvey Dent, Batman sets out to dismantle the remaining criminal organizations that plague the streets. The partnership proves to be effective, but they soon find themselves prey to a reign of chaos unleashed by a rising criminal mastermind known to the terrified citizens of Gotham as the Joker." -TMDB*



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Multi-modal learning architecture combining information from movie poster plus description (credit: TMDB) to predict the genre of a movie.



**different neural networks** are suitable to analyse **different types of observations**

# Conclusions

pulsar **population synthesis** constrains birth rates of different neutron star classes and **birth properties** of the entire population

complementary information from different wavelengths can be **combined in a multi-modal network**

Deep Learning with **CNNs** is a promising tool to **infer birth properties** from the current population

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES AND/OR COME AND TALK TO US!!

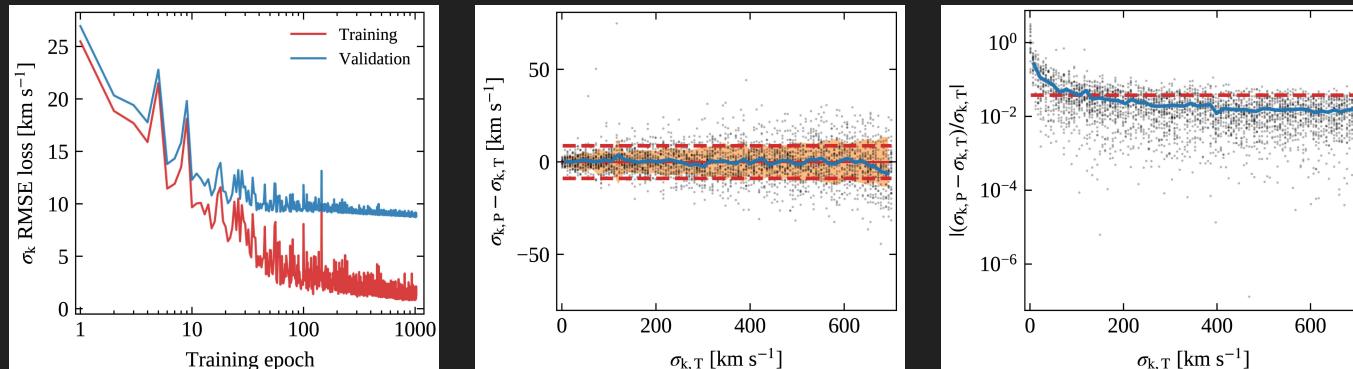
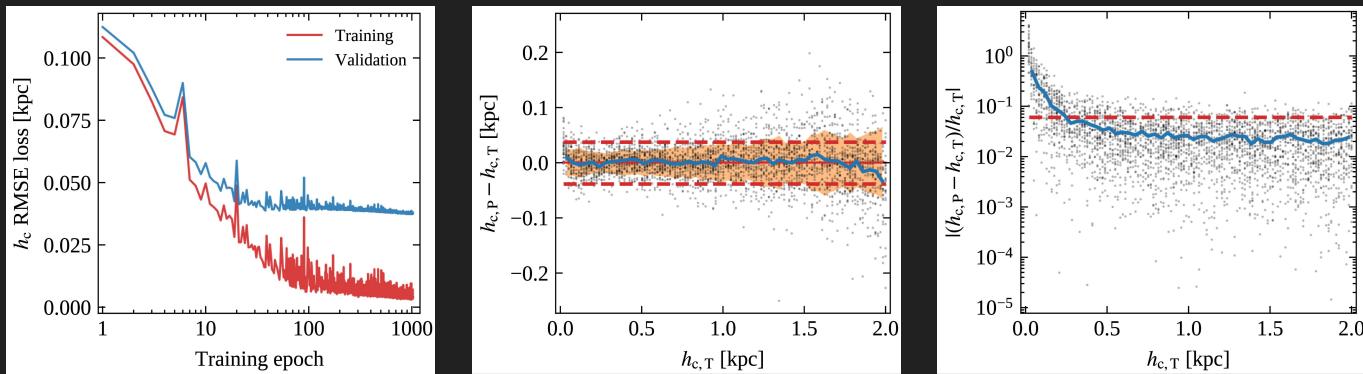




# Back-up Slides

# Ronchi et al. (2021) - Training Results

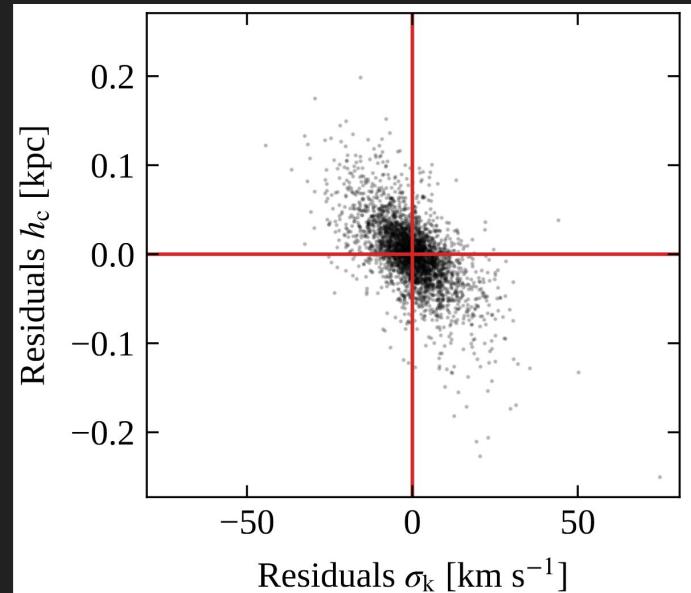
CNN validation  
results for  $h_c$ :  
 $\text{RMSE} = 0.038 \text{ kpc}$   
&  $\text{MRE} = 0.061$ .



CNN validation  
results for  $\sigma_k$ :  
 $\text{RMSE} = 8.8 \text{ km/s}$   
&  $\text{MRE} = 0.039$ .

# Ronchi et al. (2021) - Degeneracy

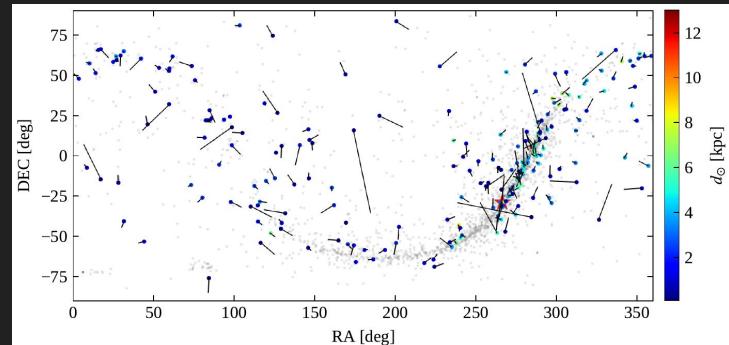
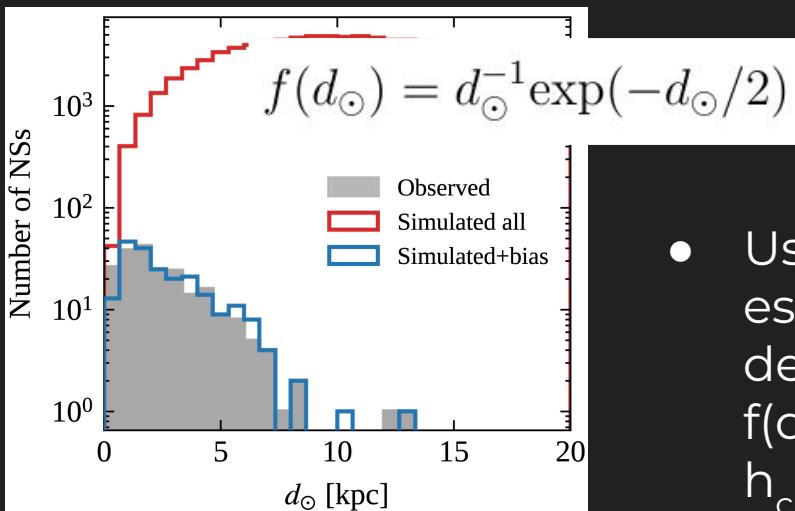
- Histogramming **distances from the Galactic plane** for current mock pulsar populations, we note a **degeneracy between  $h_c$  and  $\sigma_k$** : large scale heights combined with small velocity dispersions lead to same outcomes as small scale heights with large velocity dispersions.
- **CNN recovers the degeneracy!**



We find an anticorrelation between the residuals in  $h_c$  and  $\sigma_k$ .

# Ronchi et al. (2021) - Selection Function

- To incorporate selection effects & observational biases, we use a **phenomenological approach** to reanalyse the CNN performance.



216 isolated NSs with proper motions.

- Use proper motion and distance estimates for 216 isolated pulsars to deduce **empirical selection function**  $f(d_{\odot})$  and **resample population** with  $h_c = 0.18$  kpc and  $\sigma_k = 265$  km/s.