

Upper limits on the isotropic diffuse flux of PeV photons from **Carpet-3** data using **Domain Adaptation**

Nikita Pozdnukhov

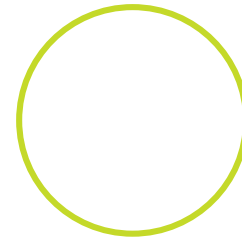
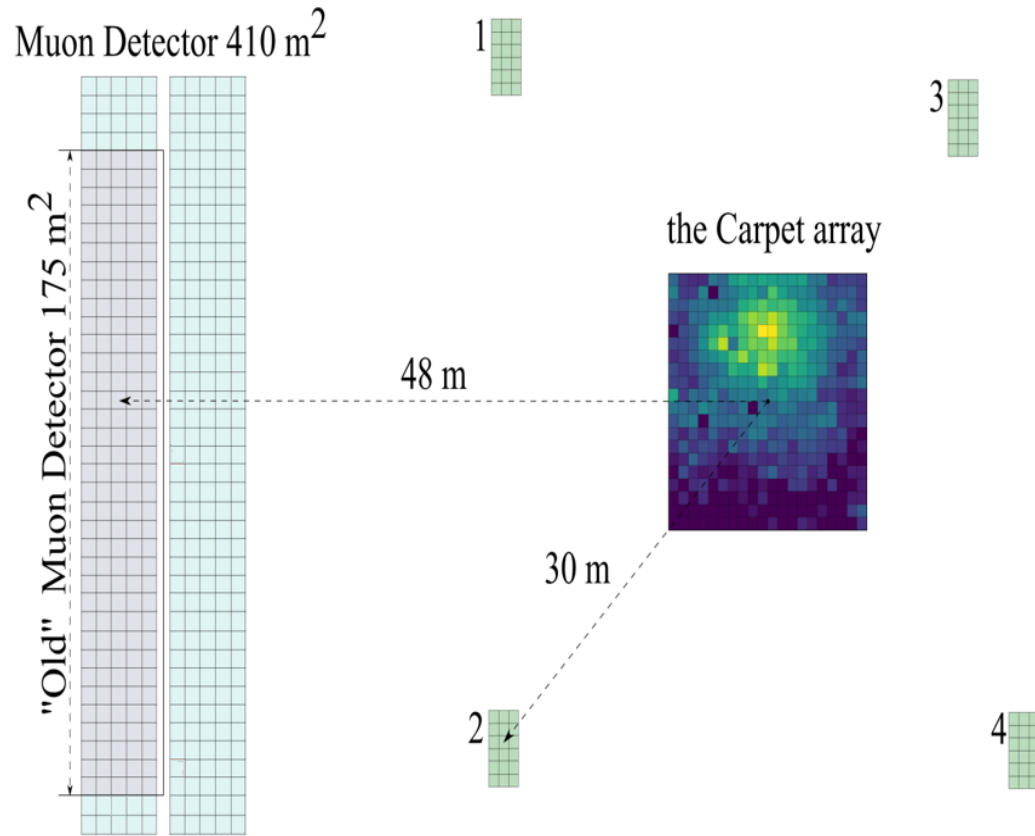
INR RAS

Carpet-3 Collaboration: D. D. Dzhappuev, I. M. Dzaparova, T. A. Dzhatdov, E. A. Gorbacheva, I. S. Karpikov, M. M. Khadzhiev, A. U. Kudzhaev, A. N. Kurenina, A. S. Lidvansky, O. I. Mikhailova, V. B. Petkov, E. I. Podlesnyi, N. A. Pozdnukhov, V. S. Romanenko, G. I. Rubtsov, S. V. Troitsky, I. B. Unatlov, N. A. Vasiliev, A. F. Yanin, K. V. Zhuravleva

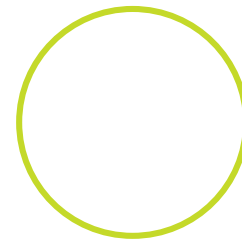
QUARKS-2026

22.05.2026

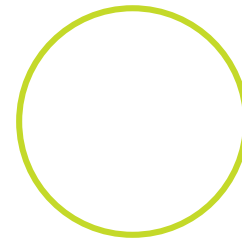
Carpet-3



Ground array
400 liquid scintillator detectors
Total area of 196 m²



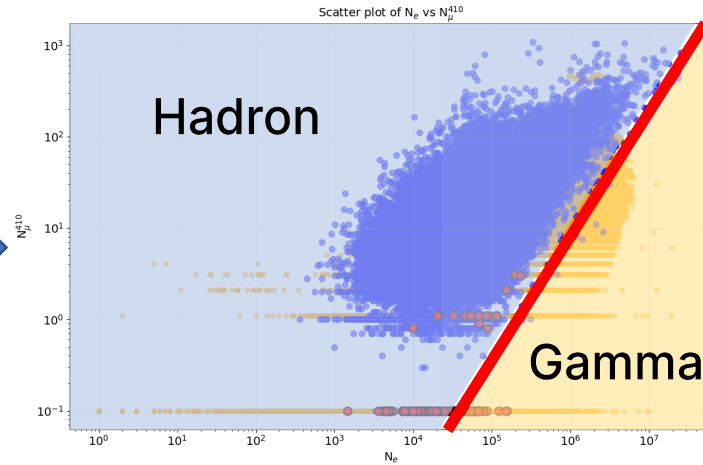
4 outer stations with plastic
scintillator detectors 9 m² each



Underground muon detector
175 m² **old** and 235 m² **new**
Total area of 410 m²

Gamma/hadron separation

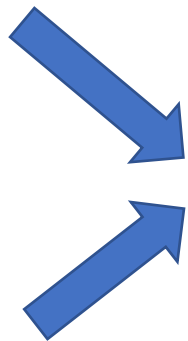
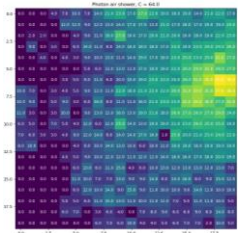
Reconstructed
 N_e, N_μ



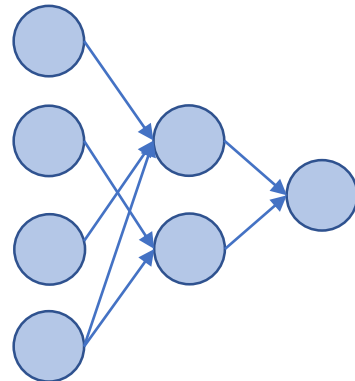
Photon-like events =
muon-poor events

Easy physical interpretation, but
imposes a very harsh cut.
Needs accurate muon density modeling

We can do better – use everything that’s measured!



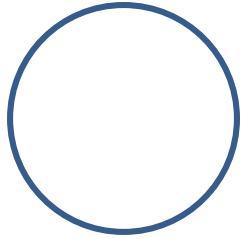
Reconstructed
parameters



Particle type prediction

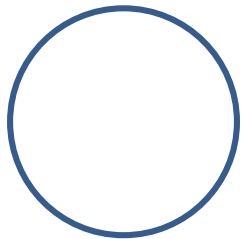
Can separate muon-poor events better
due to more features.
Can capture more intricate differences

Domain adaptation

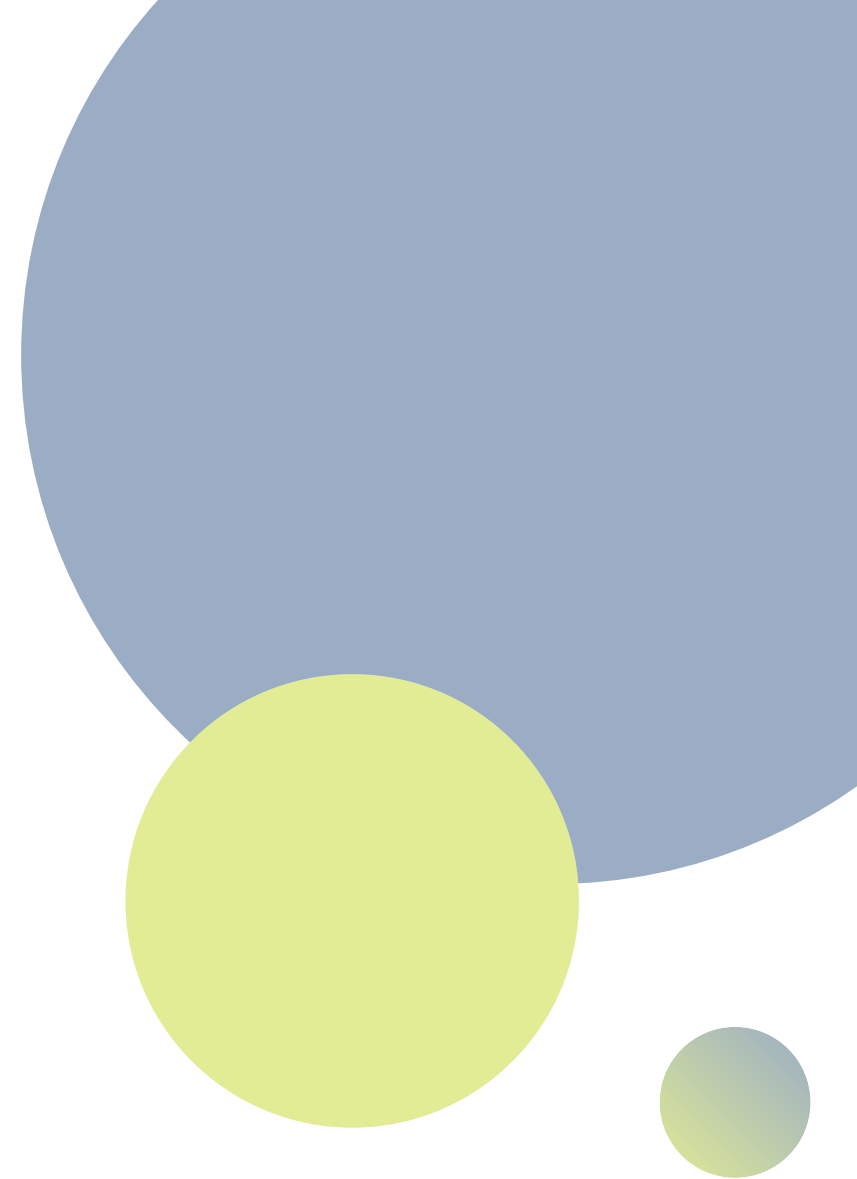


Neural networks require large amounts of training data. Usually, Monte Carlo simulations are used. But what if the target domain is different from the source domain?

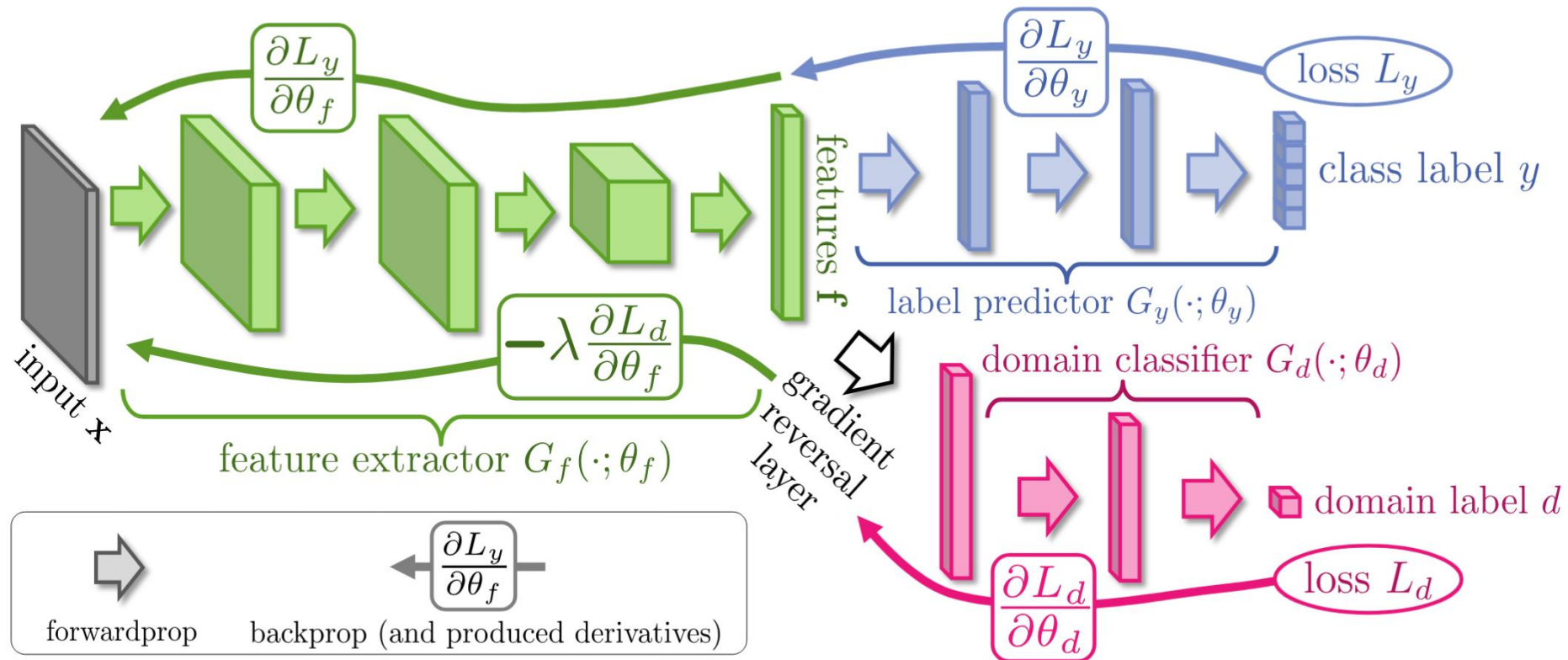
Answer: Domain Adaptation!



The goal is to make the network use domain-invariant features, so examples from MC and Data look the same to the network. Then you can trust the source domain statistics when using it on the target domain.

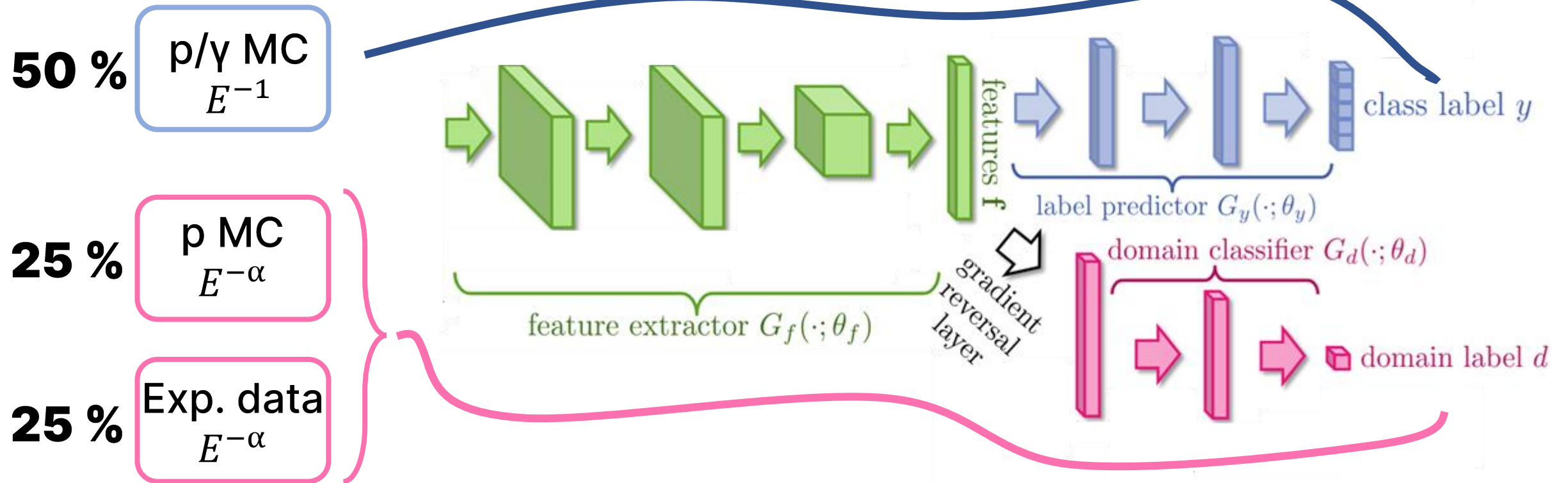


Domain adaptation-2



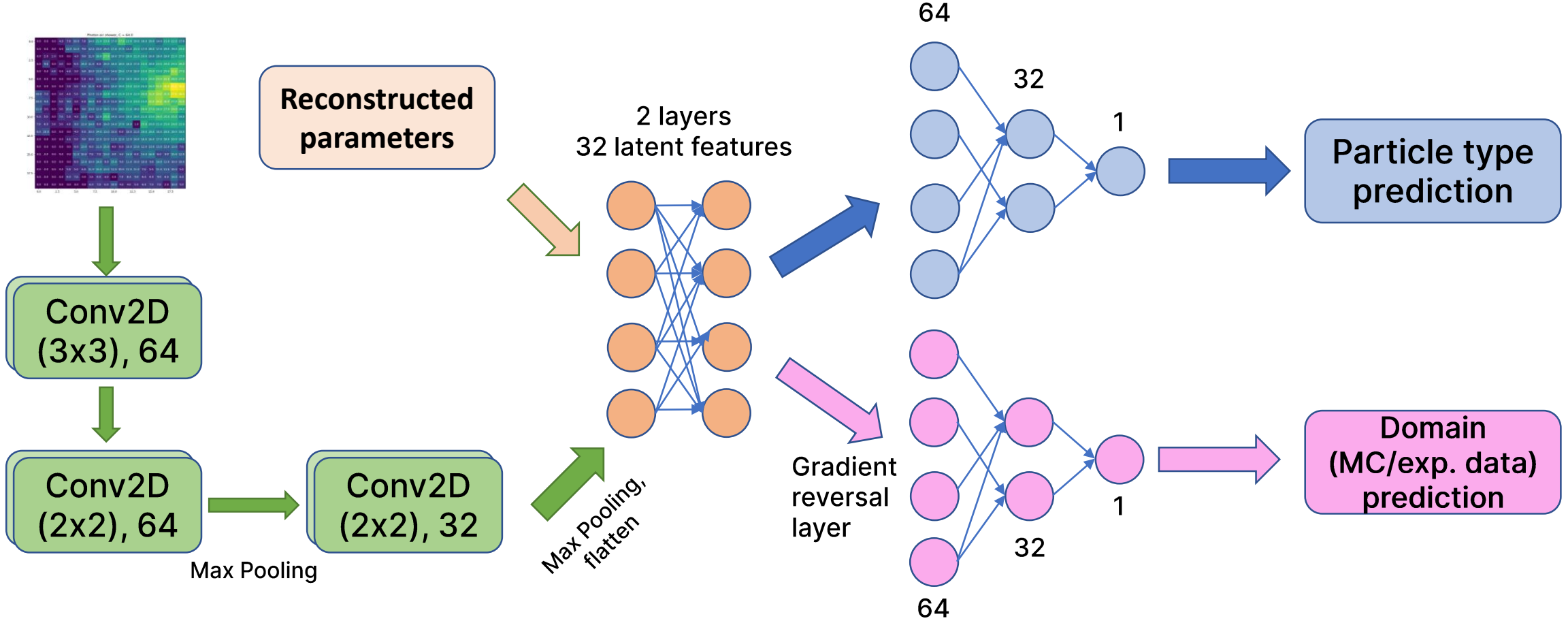
Unsupervised domain adaptation (Ganin, Lempitsky 2015) – train the network with examples from both domains to predict the class and domain. Gradient reversal maximizes the domain loss gained from the feature extractor – this makes the feature distributions similar and excludes domain-specific features.

Data Flow



Monte-Carlo and real data are separate – the network learns to predict the class only on MC, but learns to predict the domain on data and proton MC similar to data. This is important because of different energy spectra.

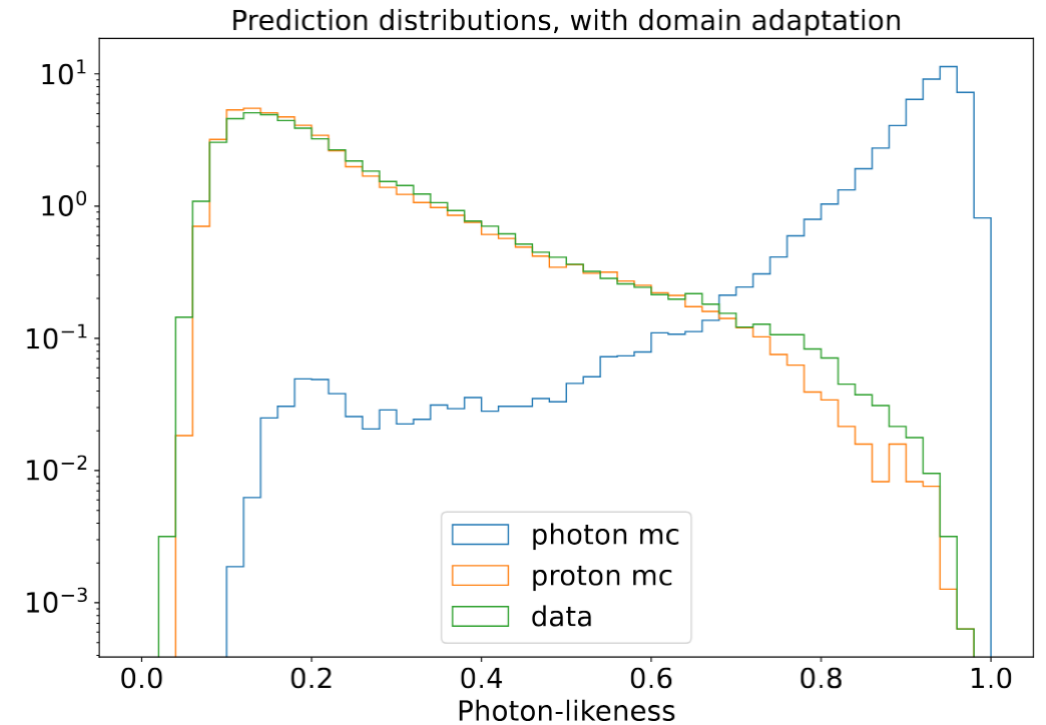
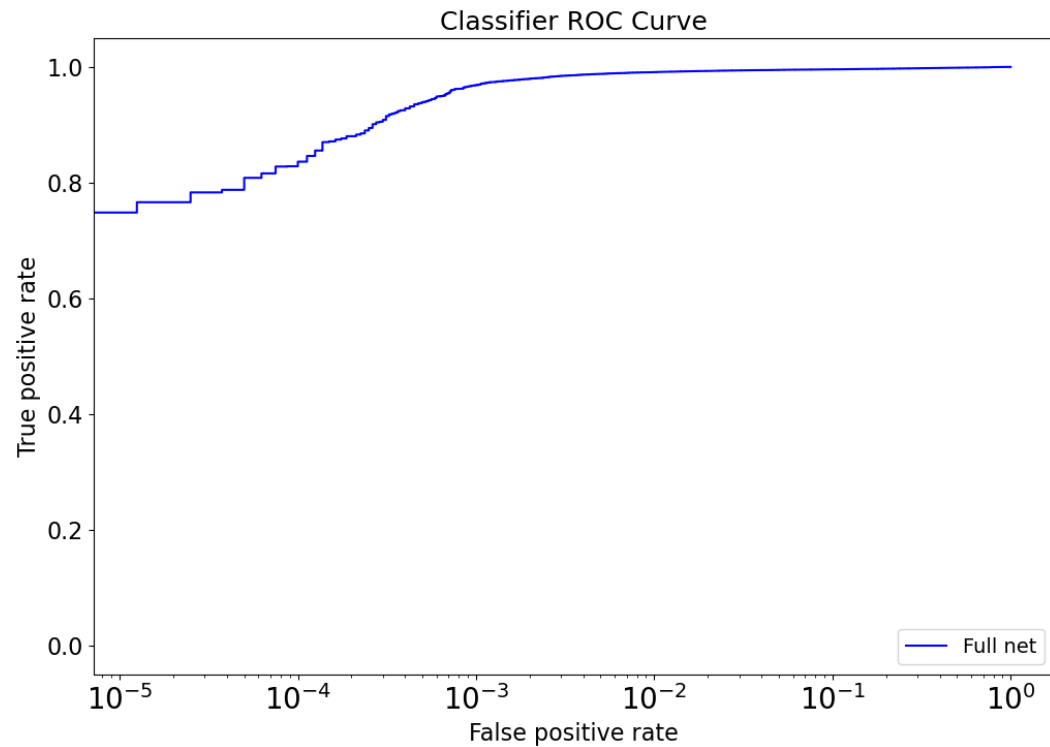
Network Architecture



Hybrid network – central detector array is processed by CNN, reconstruction added later

Both prediction heads are identical, both have 32 latent features as input

Classifier metrics

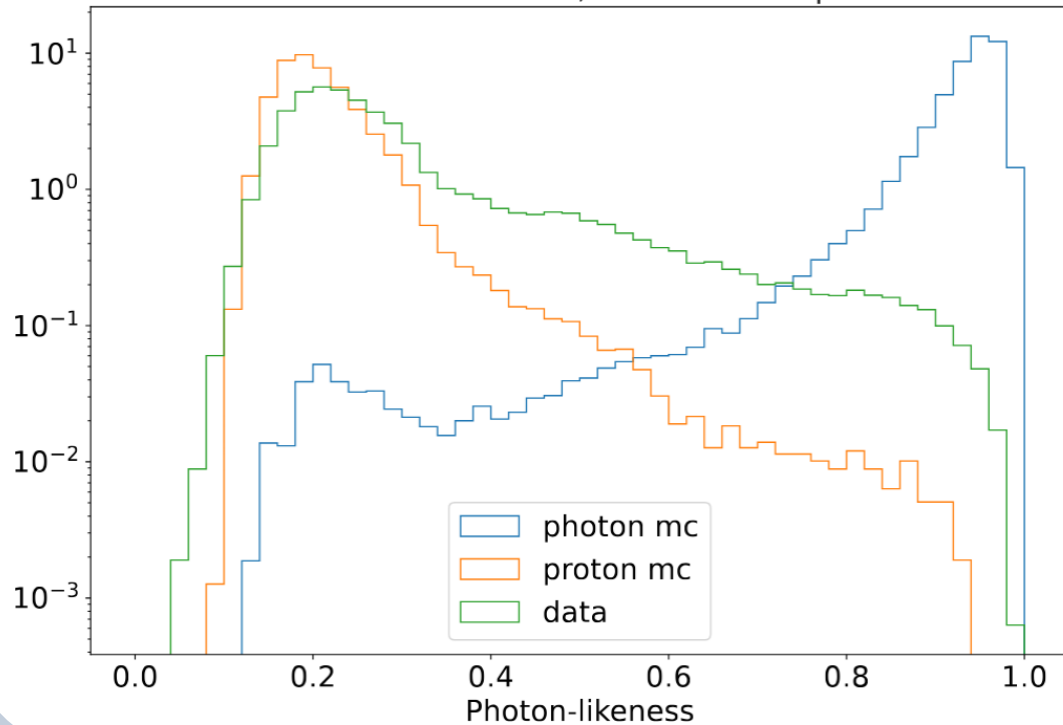


ROC curve on the test set
(160 000 events)

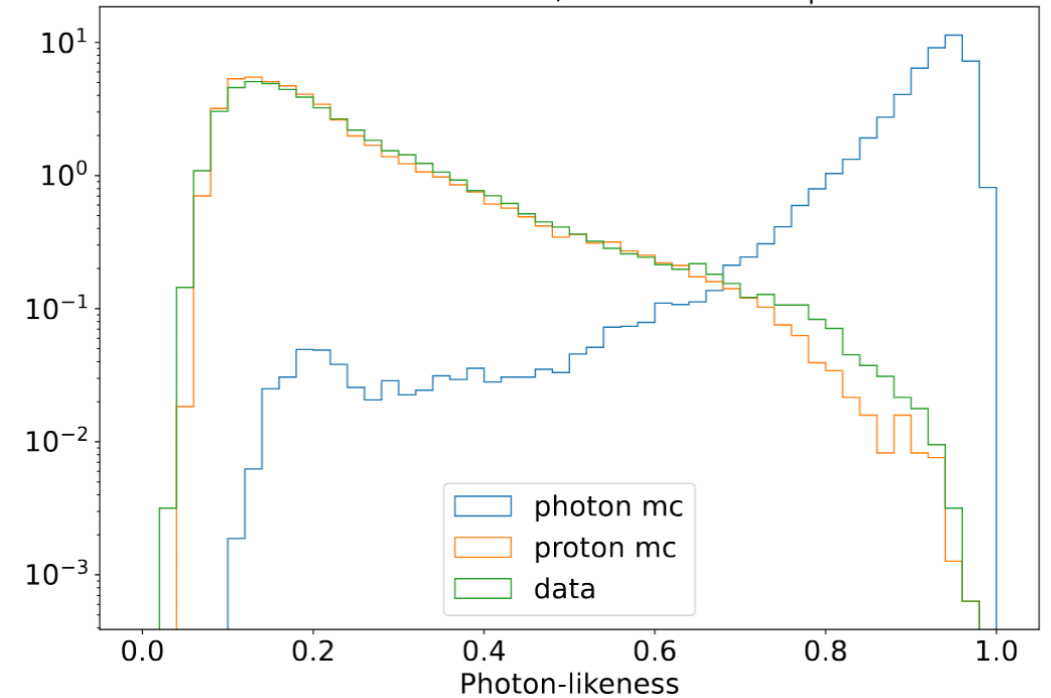
Predictions distribution on **data**,
proton mc and **proton/gamma mc**

Classifier metrics - 2

Prediction distributions, no domain adaptation



Prediction distributions, with domain adaptation

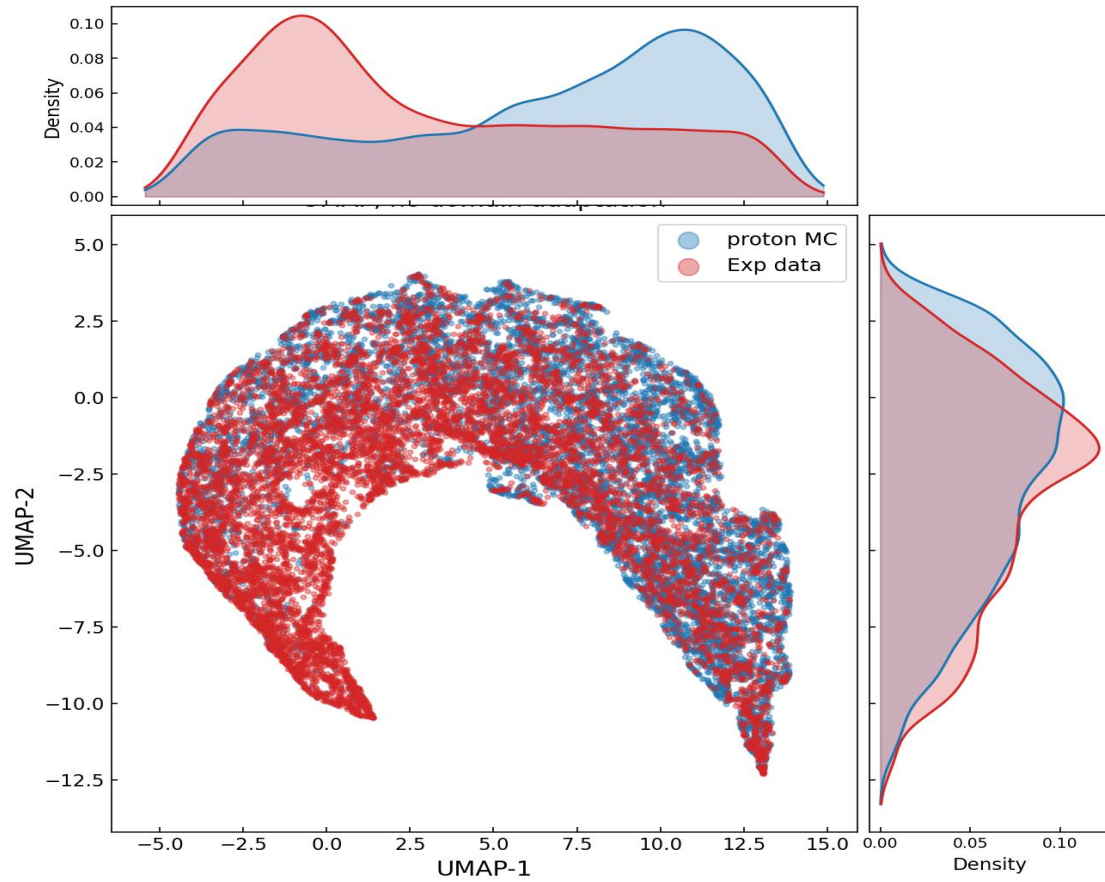


Predictions distribution on **data**,
proton mc and **gamma mc**
(no domain adaptation)

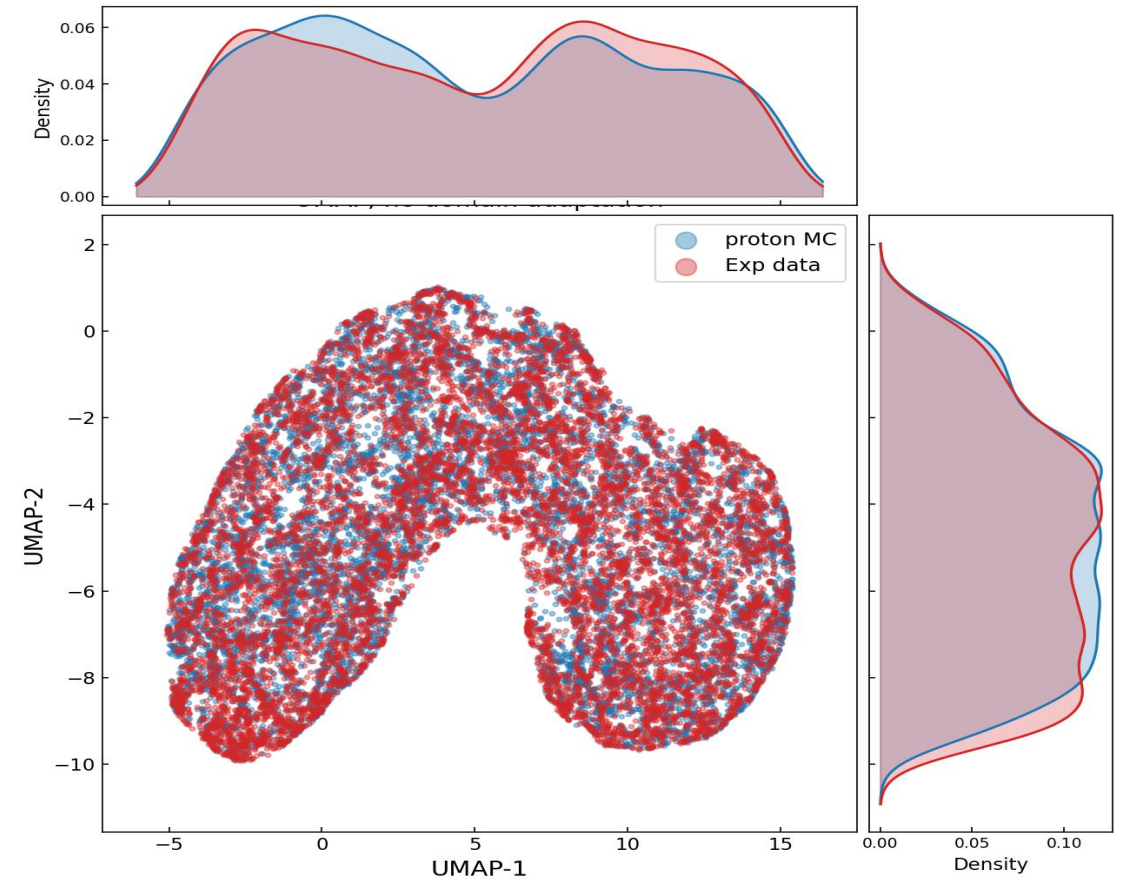
Predictions distribution on **data**,
proton mc and **gamma mc**
(with domain adaptation)

Domain adaptation effects

UMAP without domain adaptation



UMAP with domain adaptation



Domain adaptation makes the feature distributions closer

Isotropic diffuse photon flux upper limits

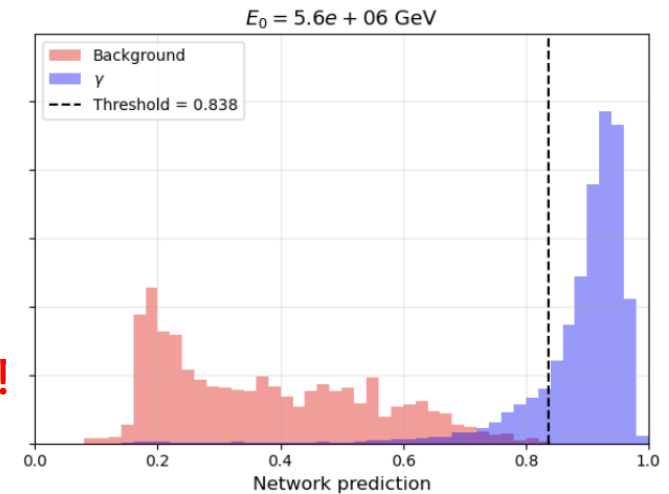
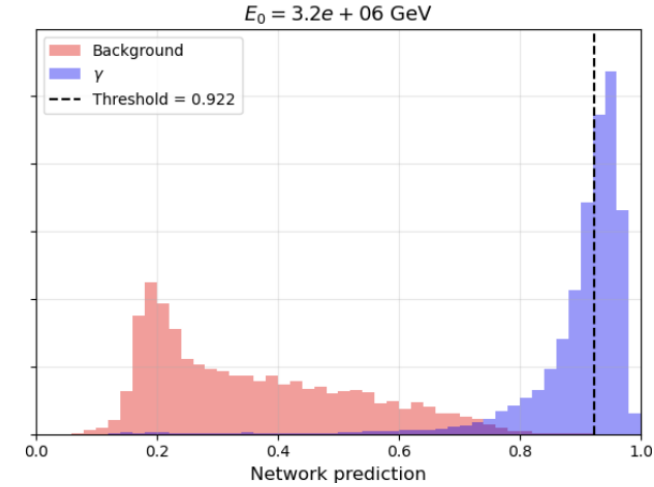
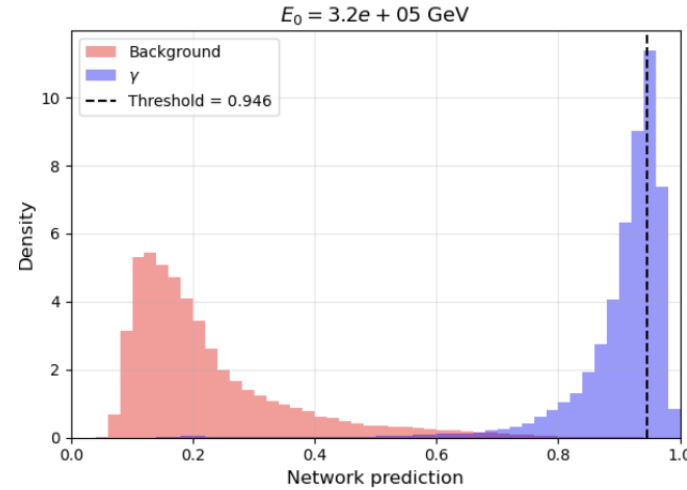
Limits are set mainly by background events

Main procedure:

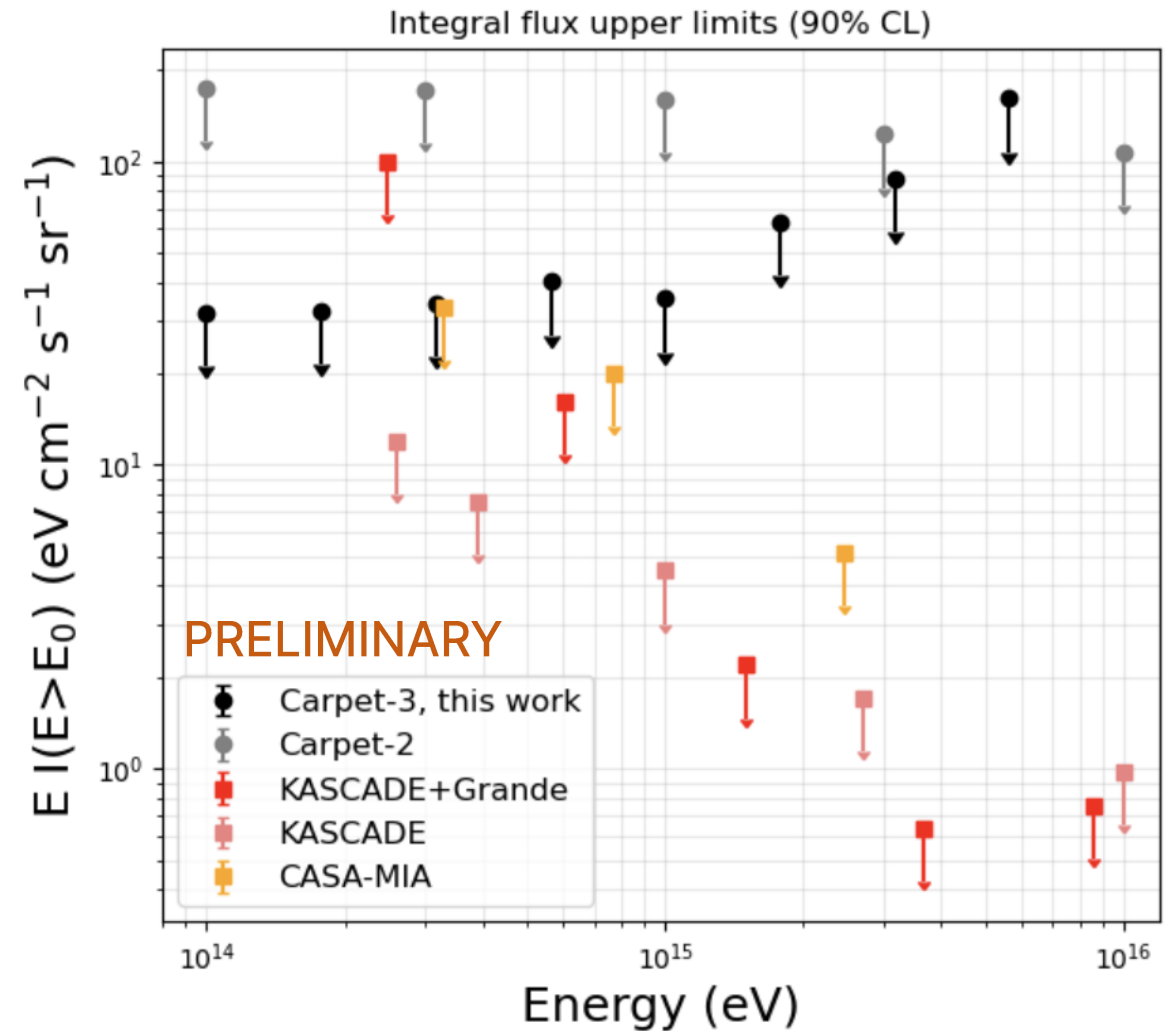
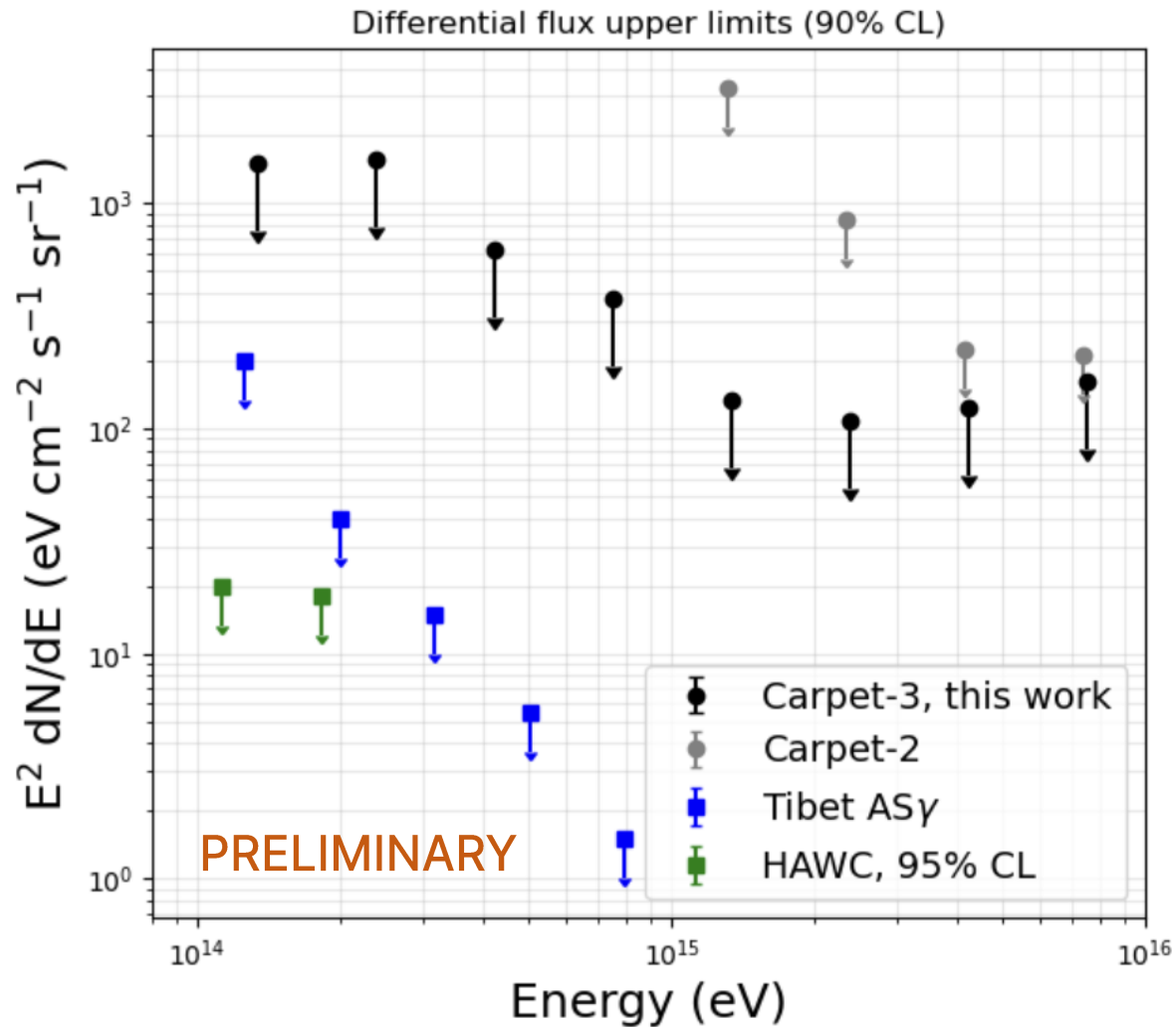
- Run predictions on experimental-like MC
- Calculate N_{bkg}^{90} at 90% CL in each energy bin (assuming Poisson statistics)

- Minimize $\frac{N_{bkg}^{90}(\xi)}{Efficiency(\xi)}$ for each bin

Different thresholds at different energies!



Isotropic diffuse photon flux upper limits

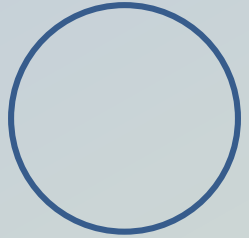


Differential (left) and integral (right) diffuse photon flux upper limits.

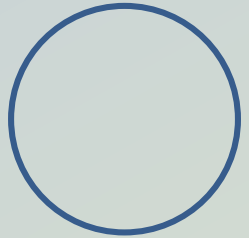
This work – in black. Carpet-2 limits – in grey.

E^{-2} spectrum is assumed. Exposure time is 1076 days.

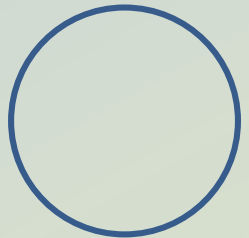
Conclusions



Neural networks improve gamma/hadron discrimination, especially at lower energies



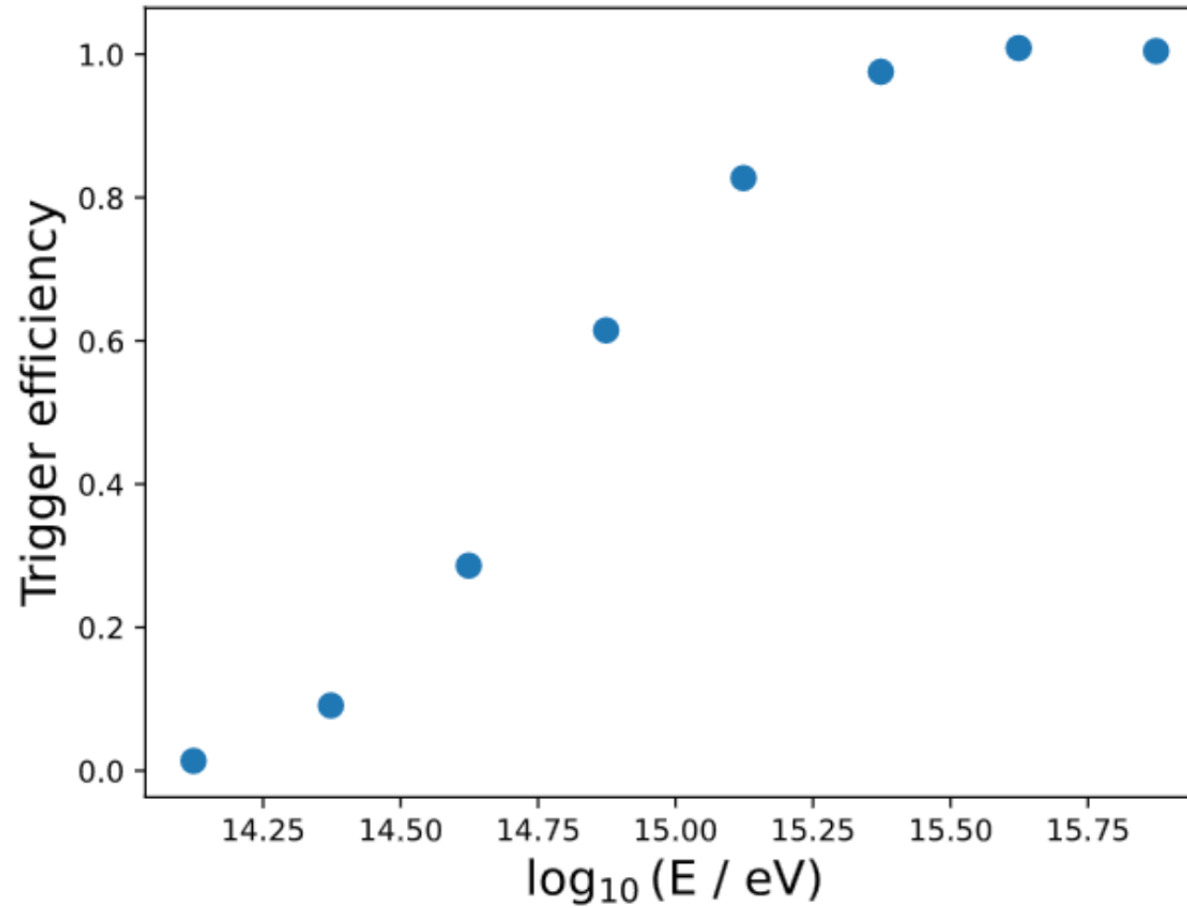
Domain adaptation is crucial in making network predictions reliable when training on imperfect Monte-Carlo



First Carpet-3 upper limits on diffuse isotropic photon flux are presented. Neural networks allowed it to outperform Carpet-2 in a shorter time.
New strongest integral limits at $E > 100$ TeV, differential limits at $E > 1$ PeV

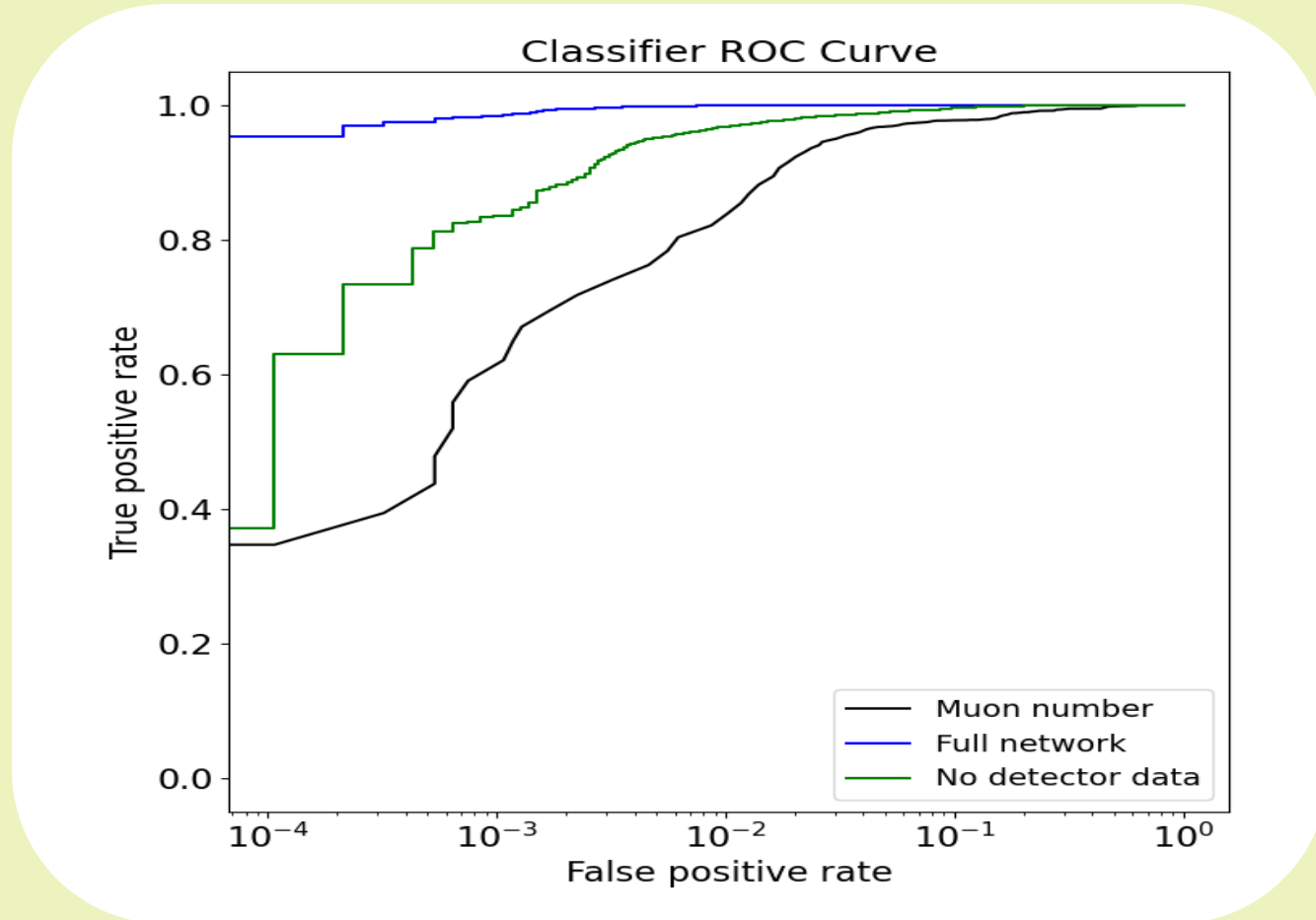
Backup slides

Carpet-3 efficiency



Carpet-3 trigger efficiency for gamma-ray primaries

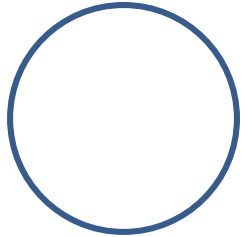
Comparison with simpler methods



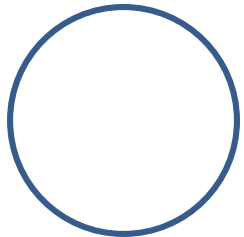
ROC-curves. **Blue** – full network (described earlier), **green** – no central array data, **black** – muon number only.

Raw central detector data improves background rejection by an order of magnitude!

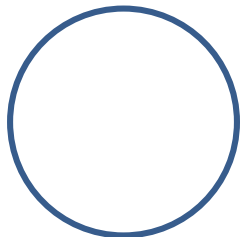
Monte-Carlo simulations



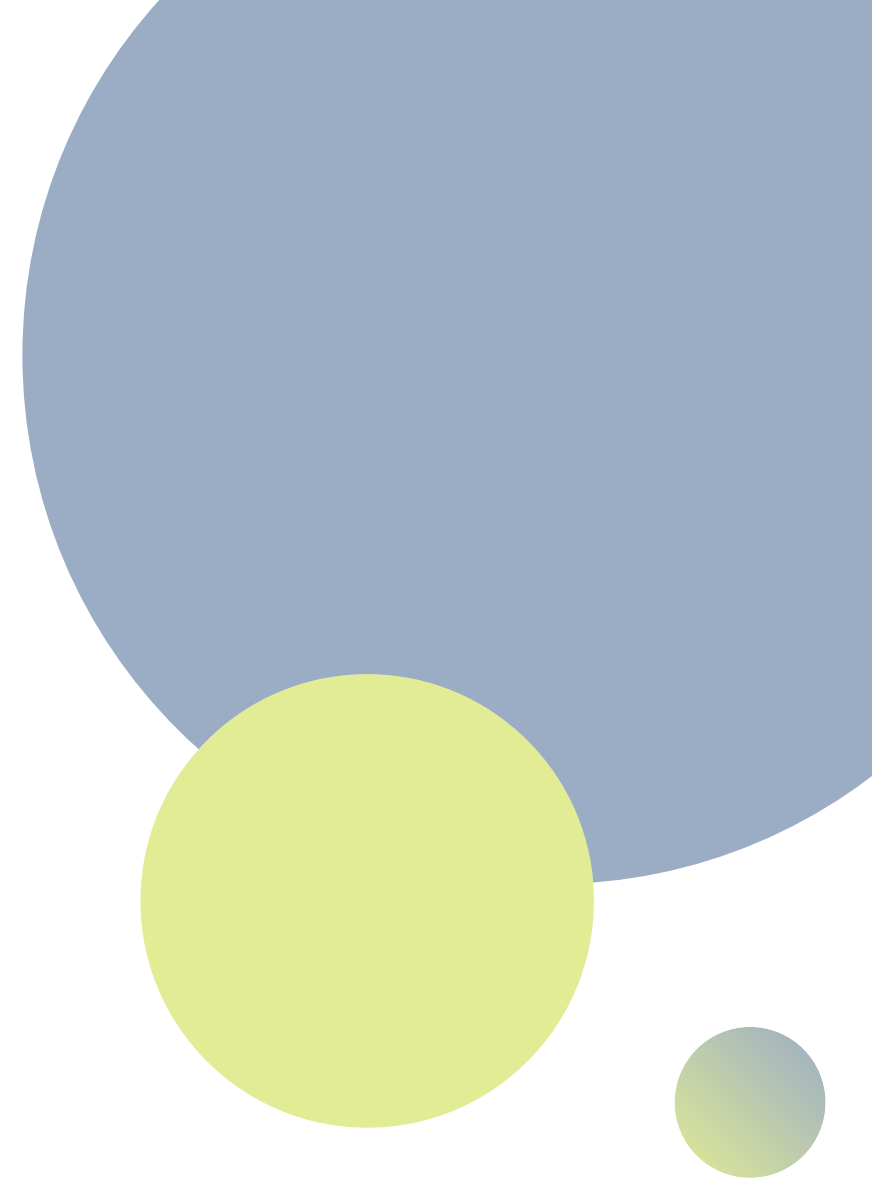
CORSIKA+QGSJETII-04:
15 000 proton and 15 000 gamma showers



100 TeV – 10 PeV, E^{-1} spectrum



~**500 000** events after passing all the quality cuts and reconstruction



Neural network architecture

Convolutional part for the central array, fully connected classifier network

Used features: energy deposition in central carpet detectors (20x20 detector grid),

N_e , N_μ^{175} , N_μ^{410} , shower axis coordinates, arrival direction, shower clumpiness \mathcal{C}

TODO: Cool and fancy architecture picture

Shower «clumpiness»

A parameter that measures the non-uniformity of the lateral particle density [Conceicao et al:2022]:

$$C = \sum_k \frac{2}{N_k(N_k - 1)} \cdot \frac{1}{\langle S_k \rangle} \sum_{i < j} (S_{ik} - S_{jk})^2$$

This variable is sensitive to clusters in the lateral particle distribution

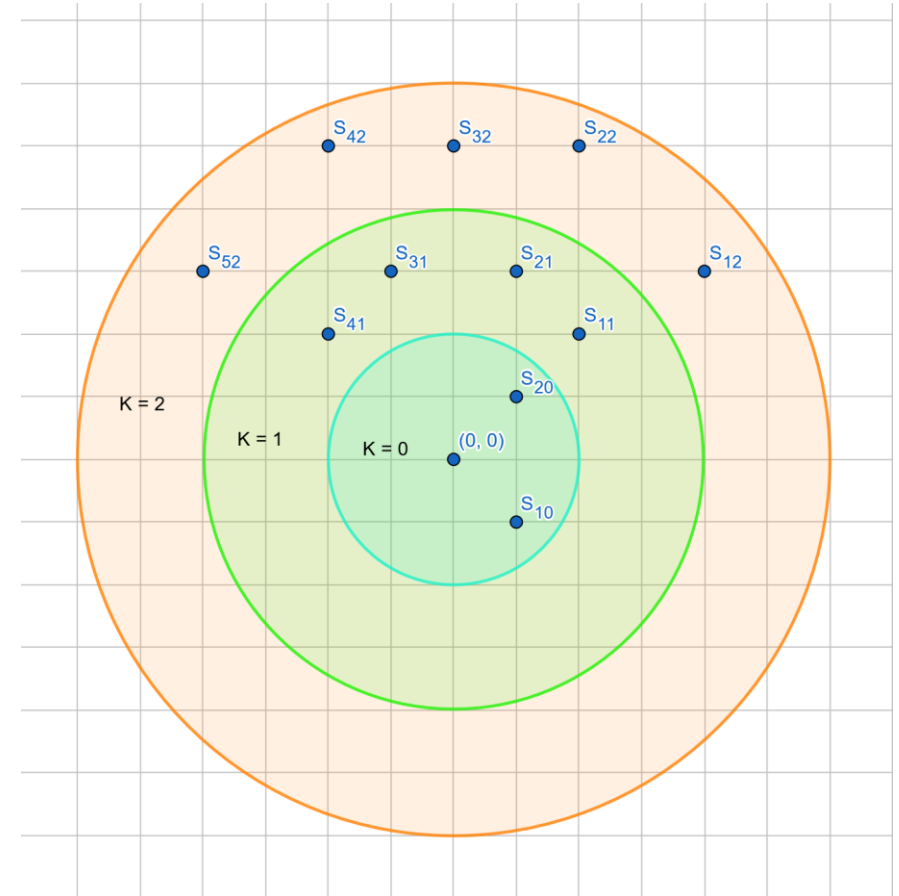
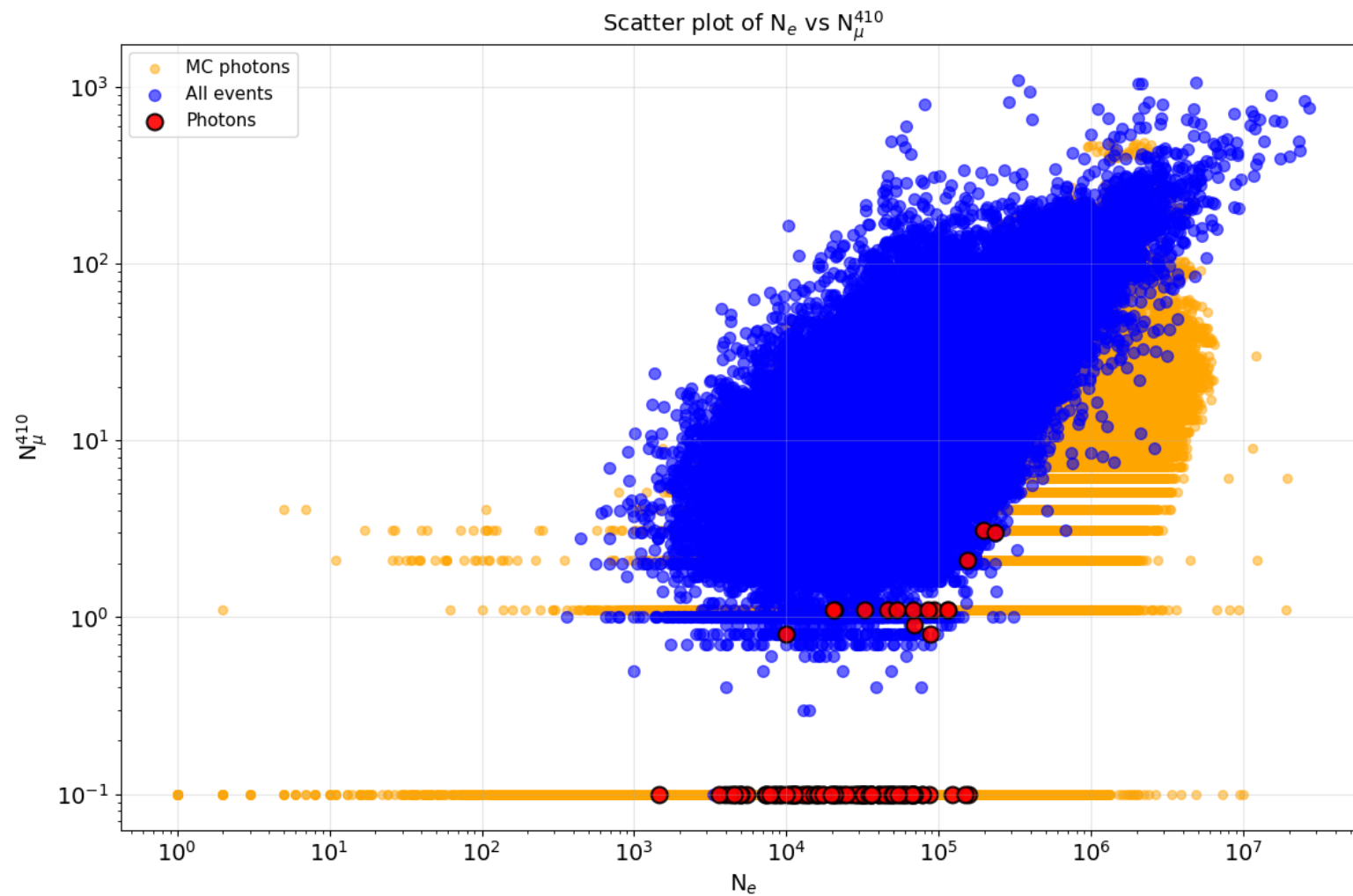


Illustration. Rings are centered on the shower axis.

Photon candidate events



Photon events (in red) on a $N_e - N_\mu$ scatter plot.

Photon MC in orange