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# Maximizing the potential of LHC data

— A new frontier in particle physics —

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Università degli Studi Roma Tre  
24 June 2024  
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# Data & Information



- **Data:** Measure N times the length of the table
- **Information:** An estimation on the length of the table

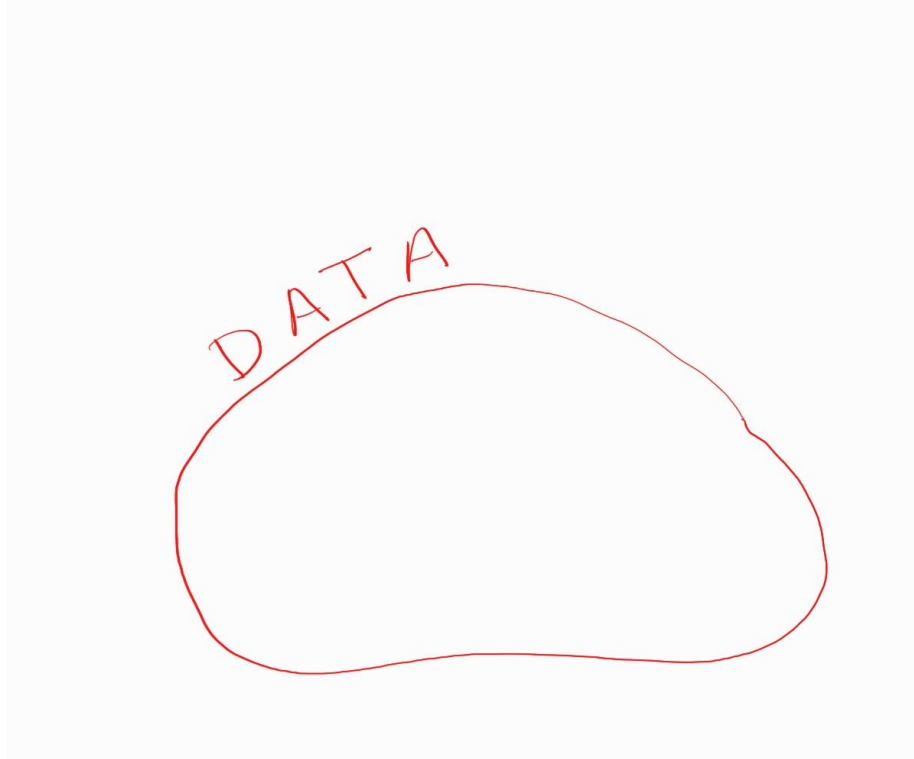
# Data & Information



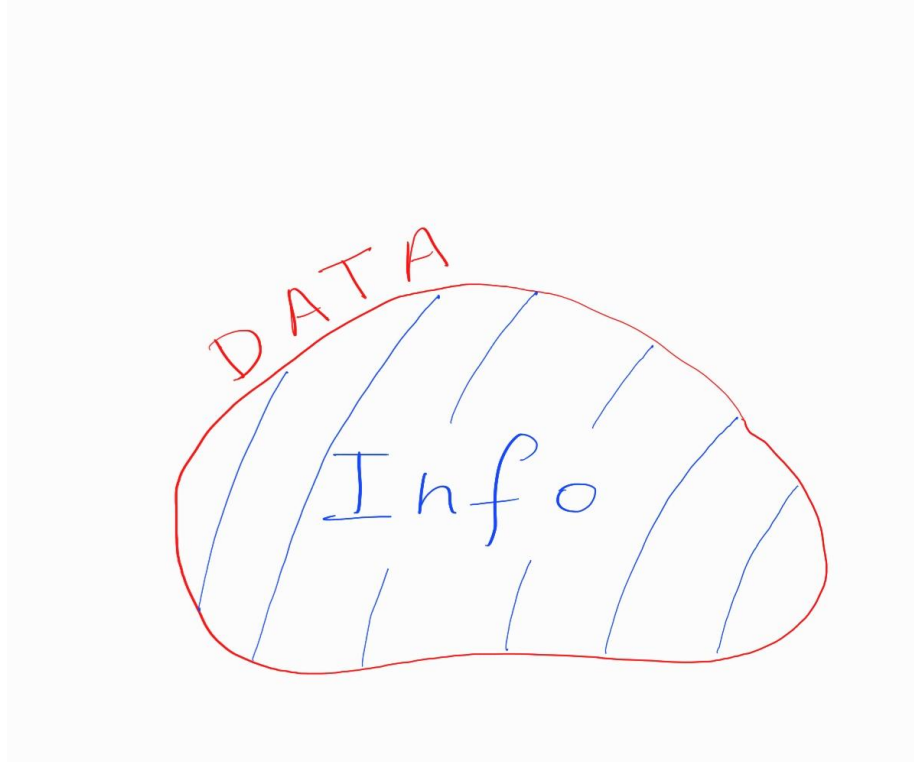
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There is not such a thing as intrinsic information in the Data

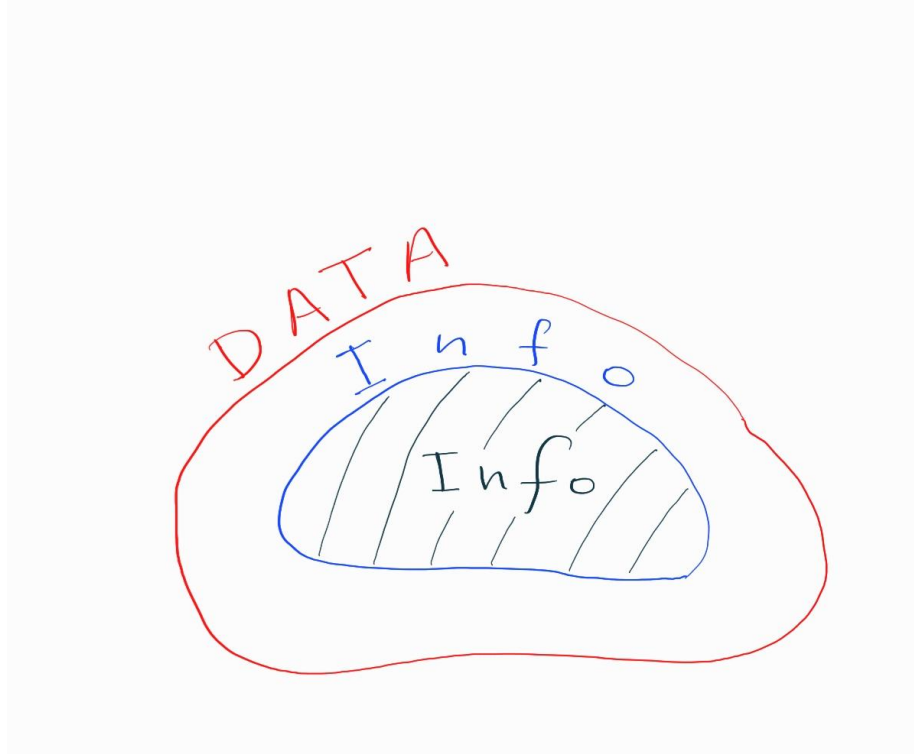
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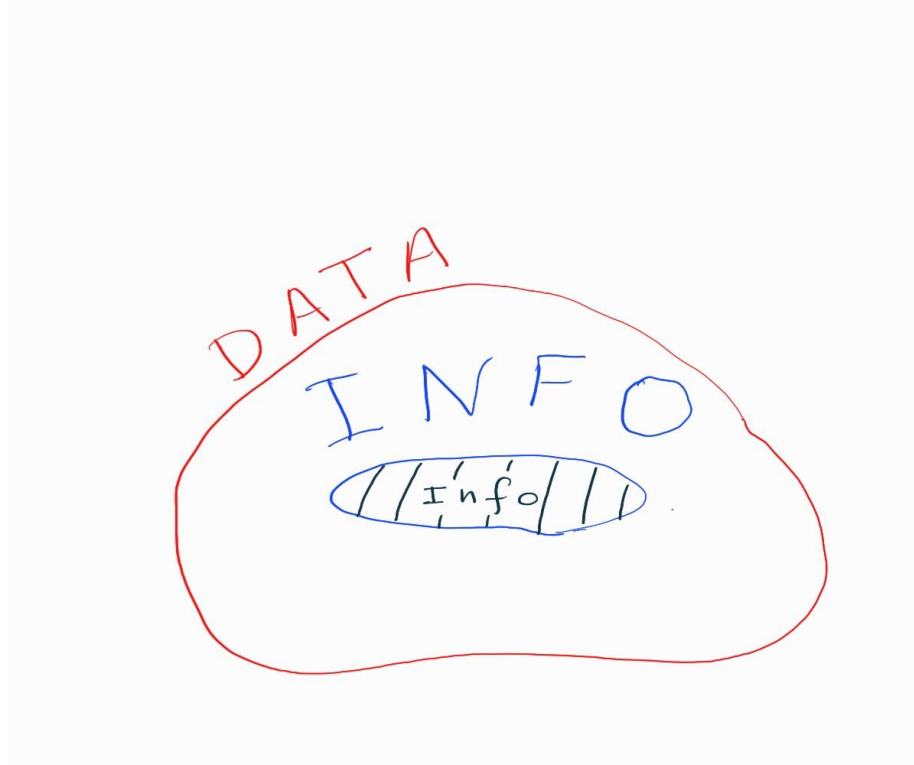
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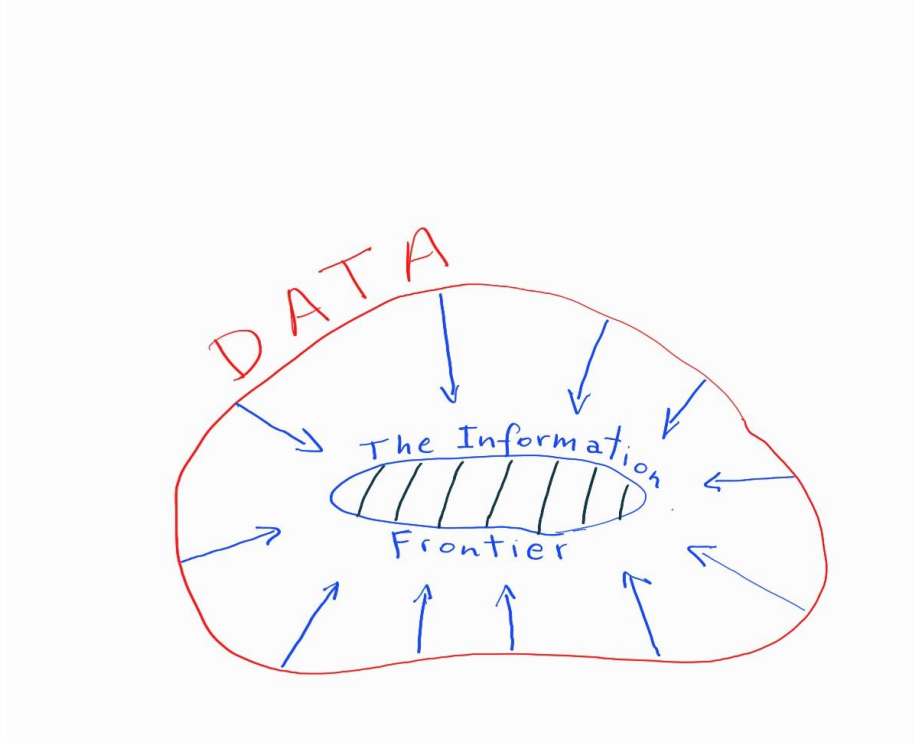
# Data & Information



# The Information Frontier

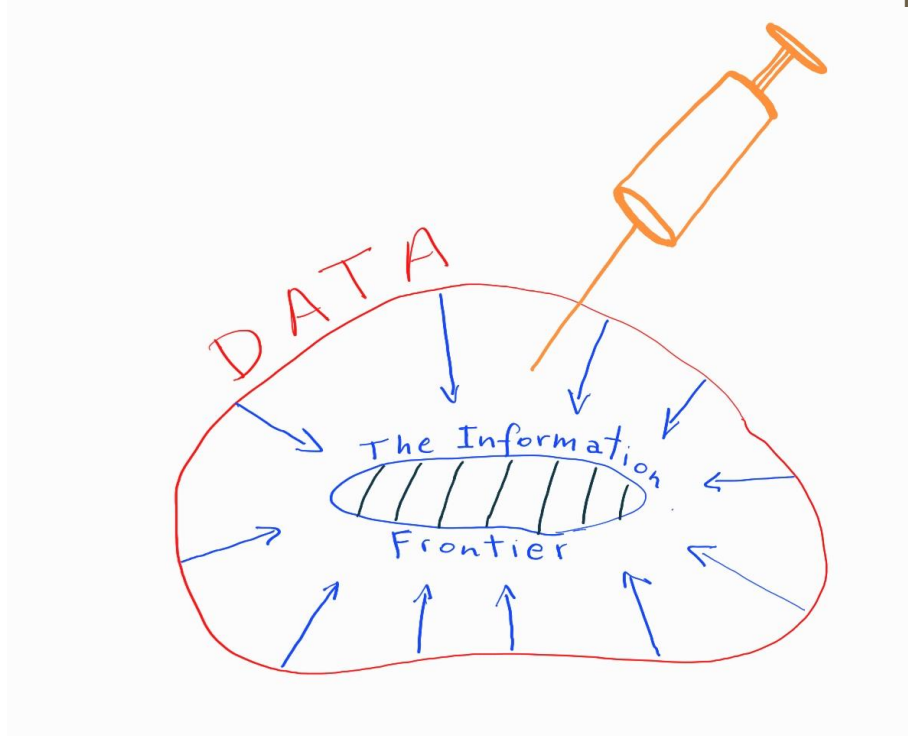


# The Information Frontier





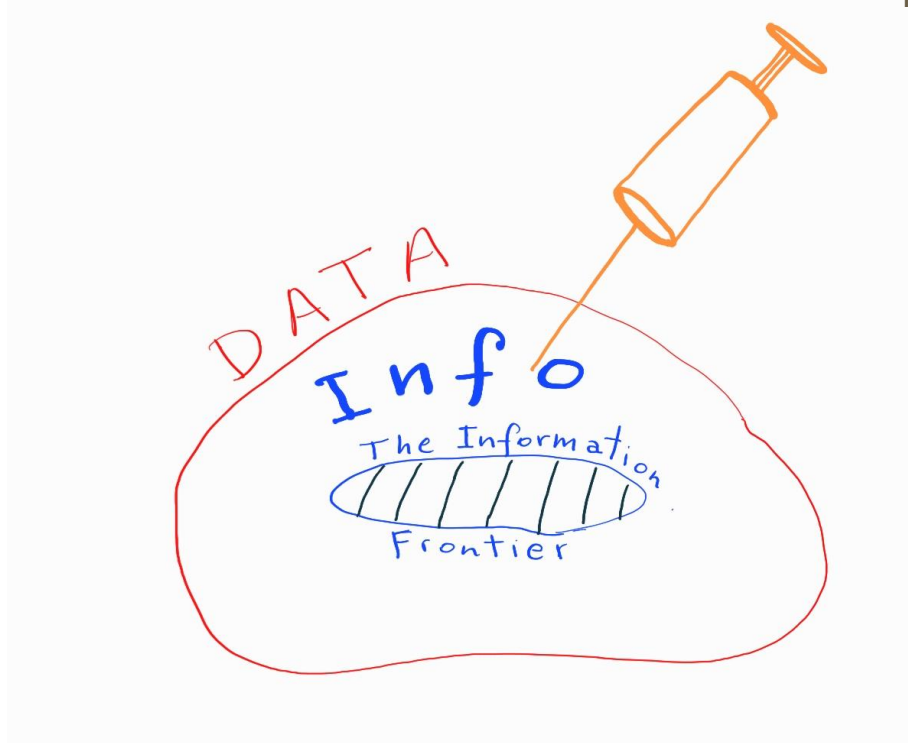
# The Information Frontier



Inject *catalysts*:

- Modeling
- Tools & techniques
- Prior info

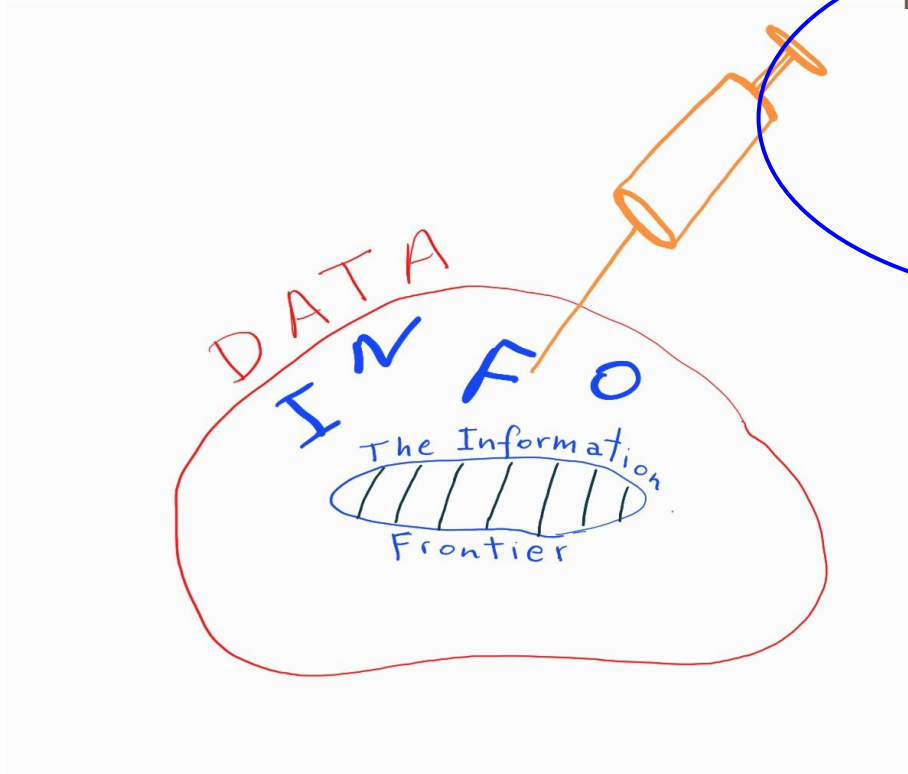
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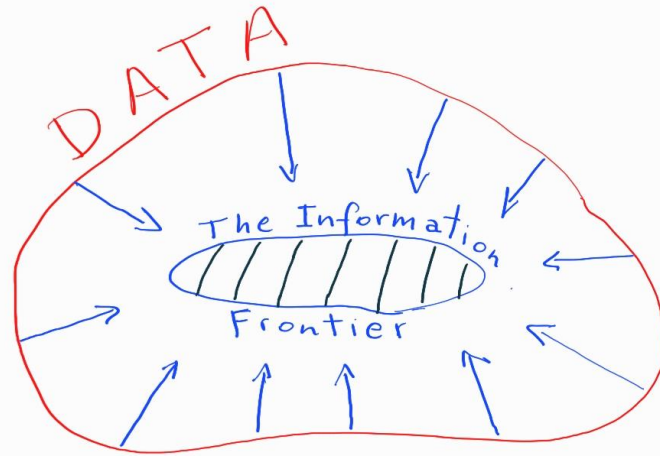


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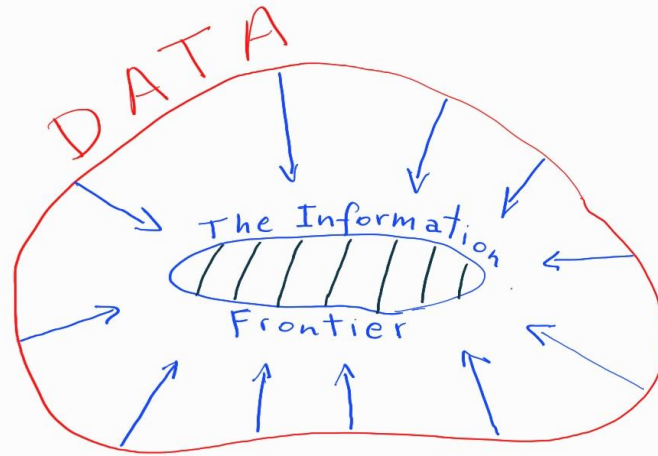
LHC data is very complex and sophisticated



Different tools can explore differently this frontier

# The Information Frontier

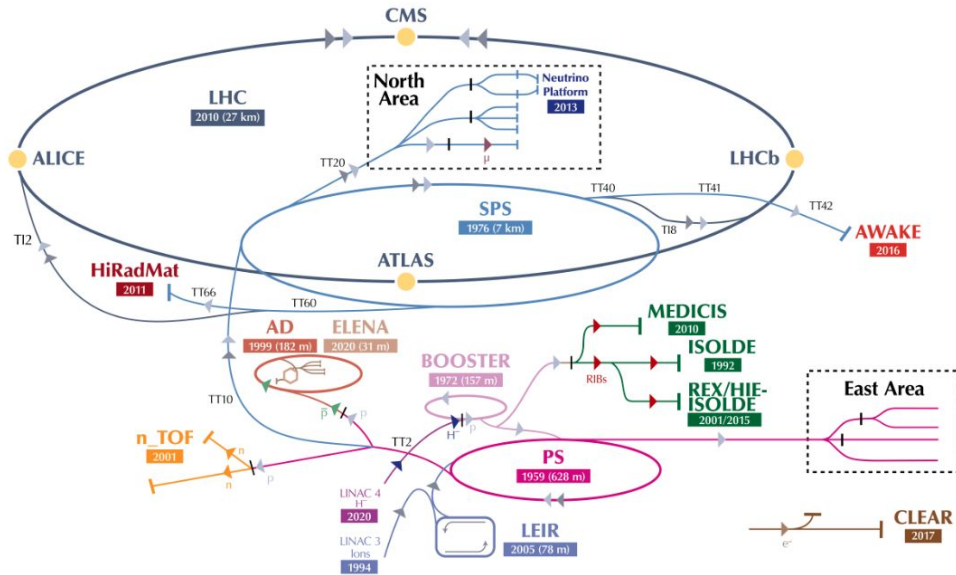
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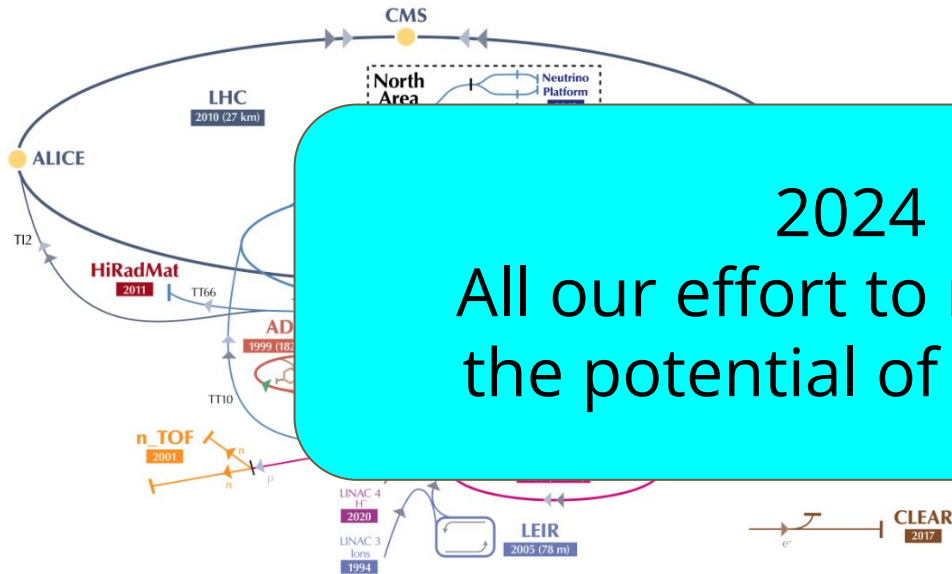
How much effort should we devote to moving the frontier?

# LHC History



- 1980's: proposal
- 1995: Approved
- 2008: Started
- Huge effort in coordinating technology achievements
- Outstanding effort in all fields to reach one of the the most outstanding machines ever built by mankind

# LHC History



2024  
All our effort to maximize  
the potential of LHC data

- 1980's: proposal
- 1995: Approved
- 2008: Started
- In coordinating achievements effort in all fields of the the most machines ever built

# The carrot of a Discovery!



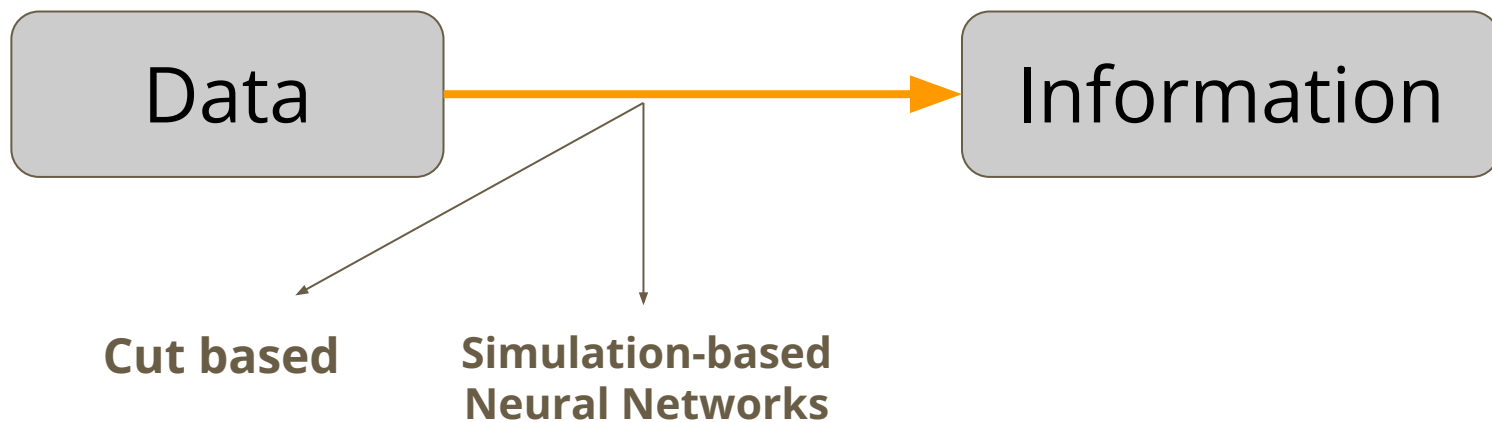
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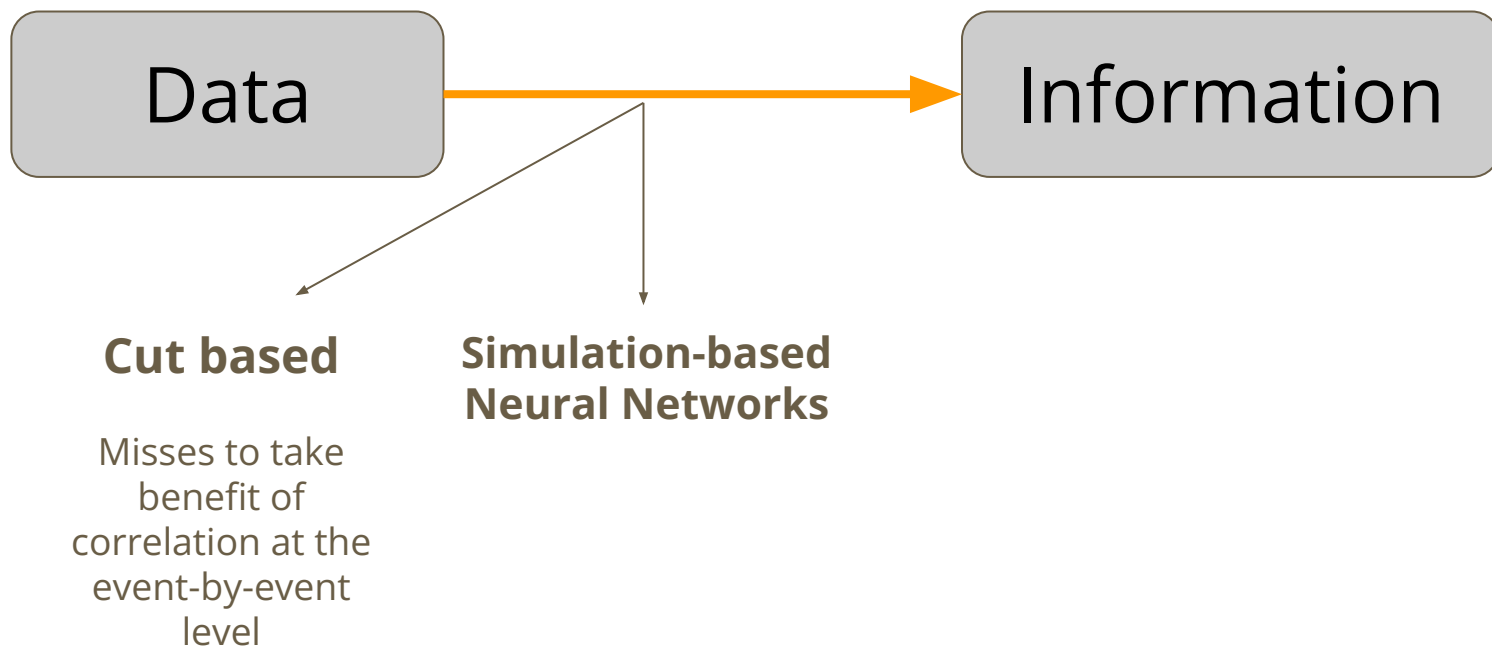
# Typical problem at the LHC



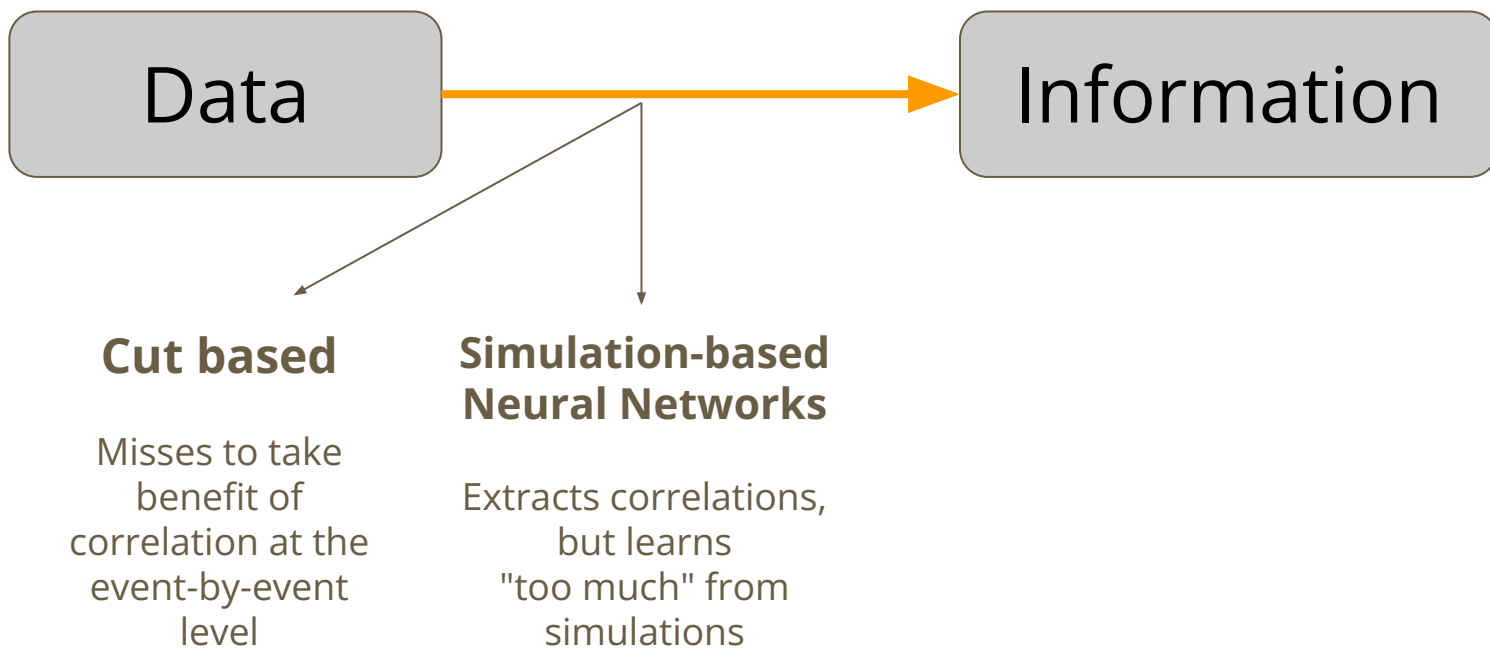
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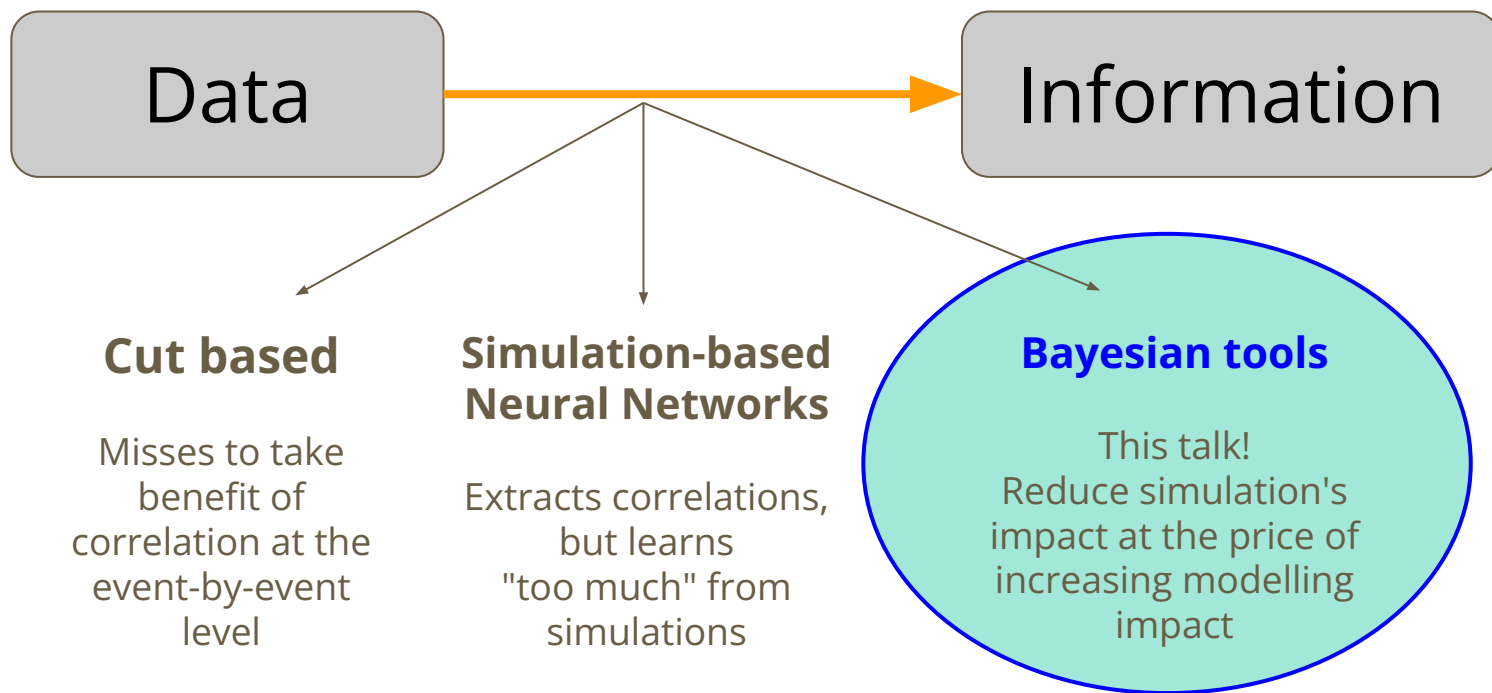
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# Typical problem at the LHC



# Typical problem at the LHC



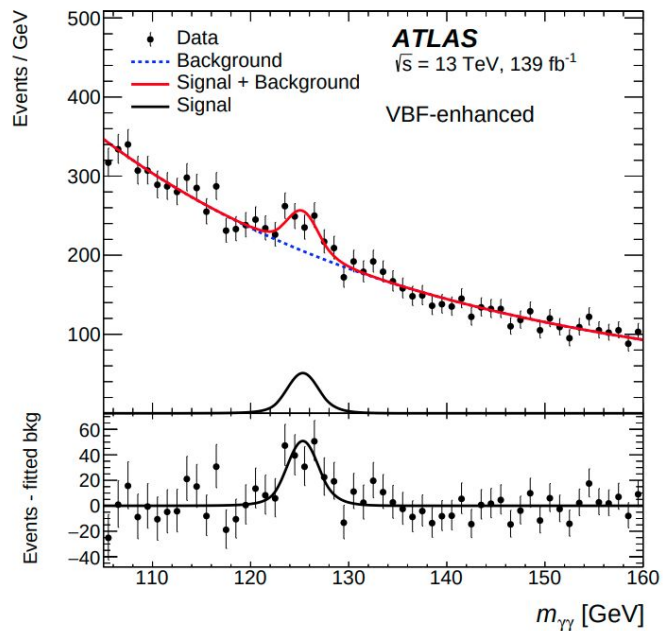
# Summary

- Intro
- ABCD method
- Bayesian techniques
  - No Signal & Background region
  - No hard assignment
  - Probability, correlation and prior-knowledge
- pp → hh → bbbb (inspiration & chimera)
  - Compare ABCD Vs Bayesian: multidimensionality!
  - Exploiting prior knowledge
    - Continuity
    - Unimodality
- Outlook
- Conclusions

# ABCD Method

# Data-driven methods

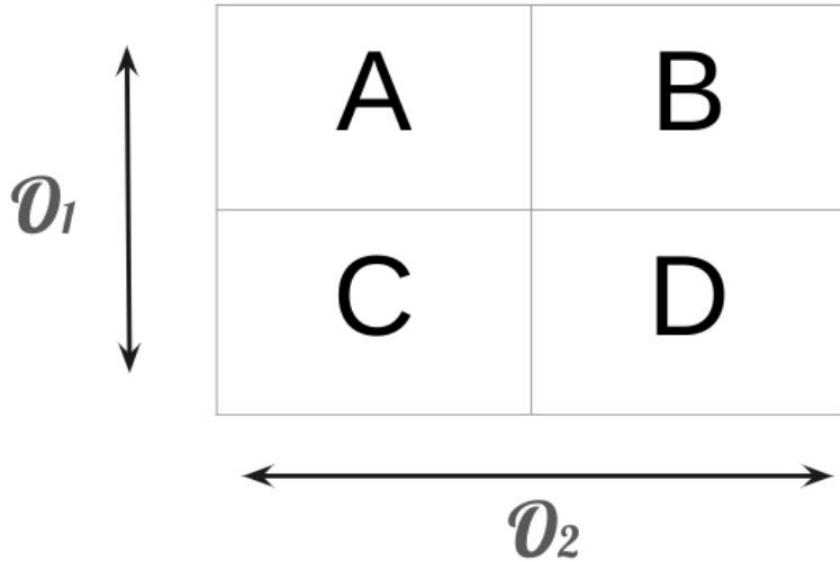
If simulations are not reliable





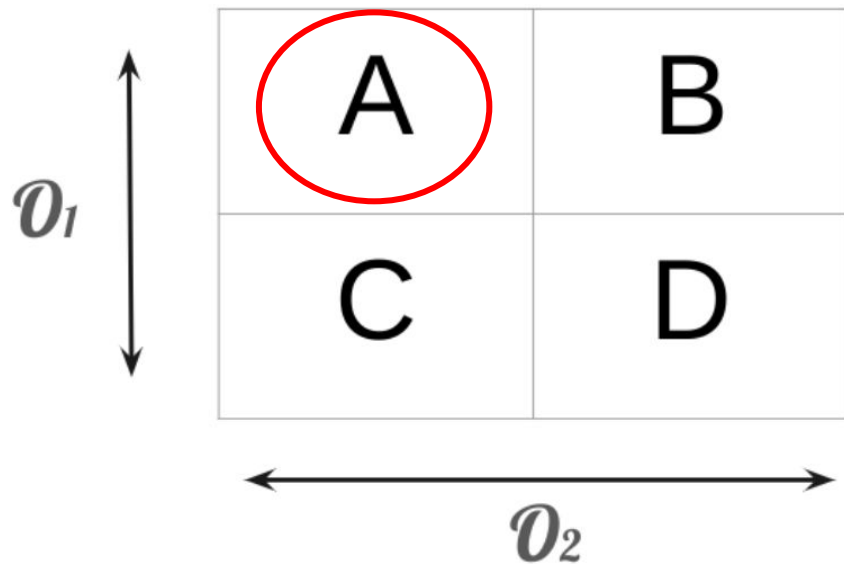
# Data-driven methods

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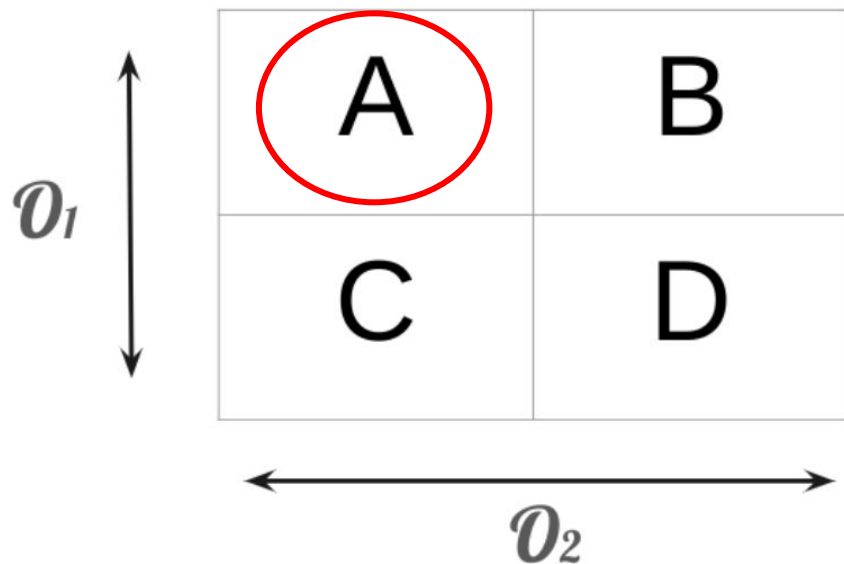
# Data-driven methods

If simulations are not reliable



Signal is only in A  
and its background is  
easily estimated from  
the "*control regions*"

# ABCD data-driven method



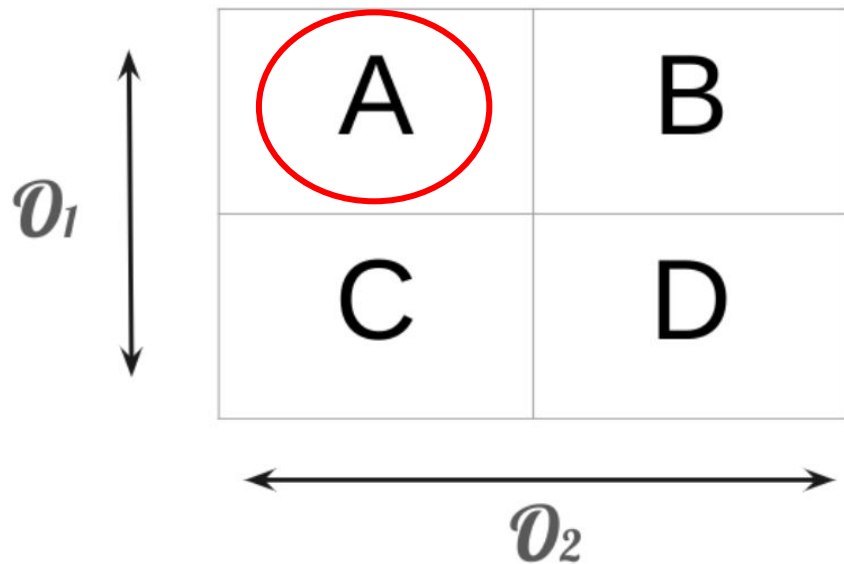
## Quite simple

- 2 independent observables
- Signal restricted to A
- Immediately:

$$N_A(\text{background}) = N_B * N_C / N_D$$

$$\text{Signal} = N_A - N_A(\text{background})$$

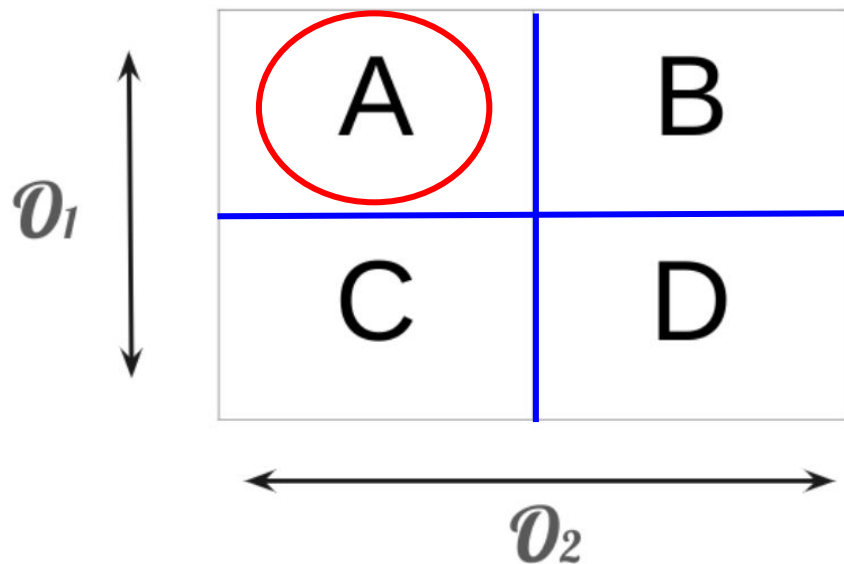
# ABCD data-driven method



To notice:

- Prior-knowledge to define A, B, C & D

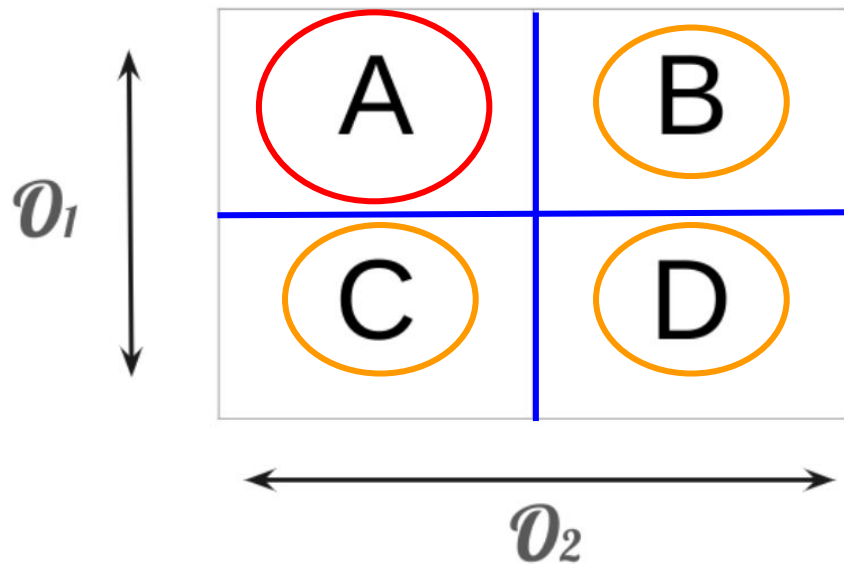
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To notice:

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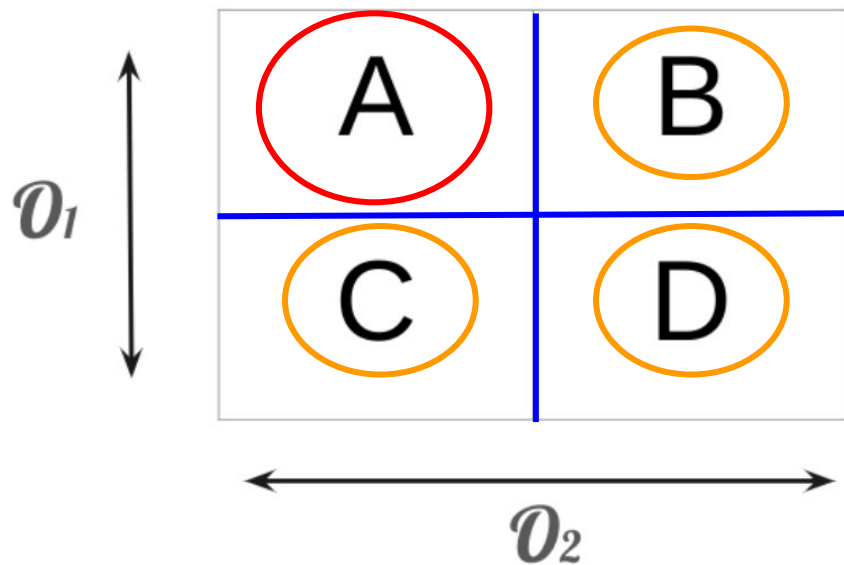
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# ABCD data-driven method



## To notice:

- Prior-knowledge to define A, B, C & D
- Hard cuts (hard assignments)
- Signal and Background regions
- Naturally conflictive hypotheses:
  - Regions close-by to have same distributions
  - Regions far away to avoid signal contamination

# Bayesian Inference

2402.08001

E.A., L.Da Rold, S.  
Tanco, M, Szewc, A.  
Szynekman, S. Tanco, T.  
Tarutina



# Bayesian Inference

**Bayes Theorem:**

$$p(\theta | X) = \frac{p(X | \theta) * p(\theta)}{p(x)}$$

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**Real utility:** ( $X$  = data,  $\theta$ =parameters)

Model data as being  
sampled from a  
clever PDF with  
parameters  $\theta$

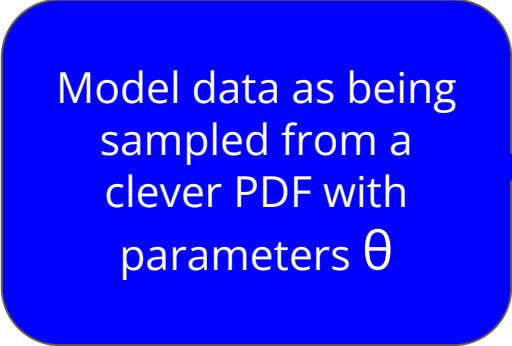
# Bayesian Inference

**Bayes Theorem:**

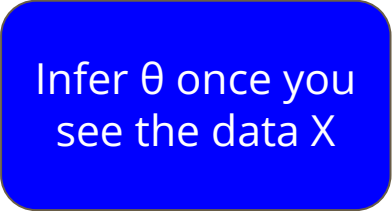
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Infer  $\theta$  once you  
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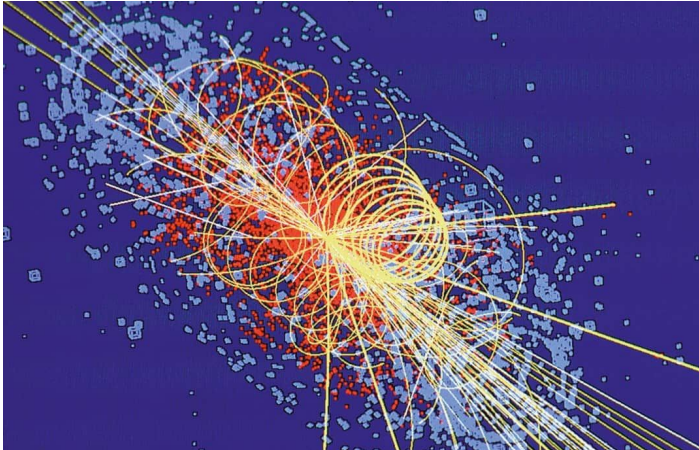
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Model data as being  
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Infer  $\theta$  once you  
see the data  $X$

Connect  $\theta$  to physical  
parameters of  
interest

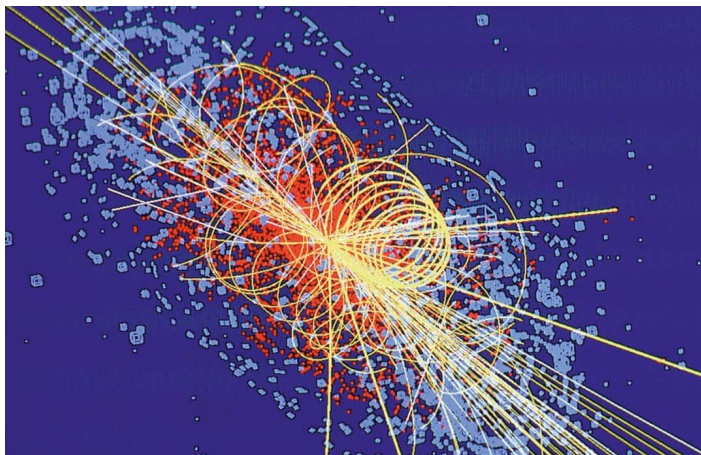
# Bayesian Inference: Mixture models



Dataset X:

- Signal
- Few backgrounds

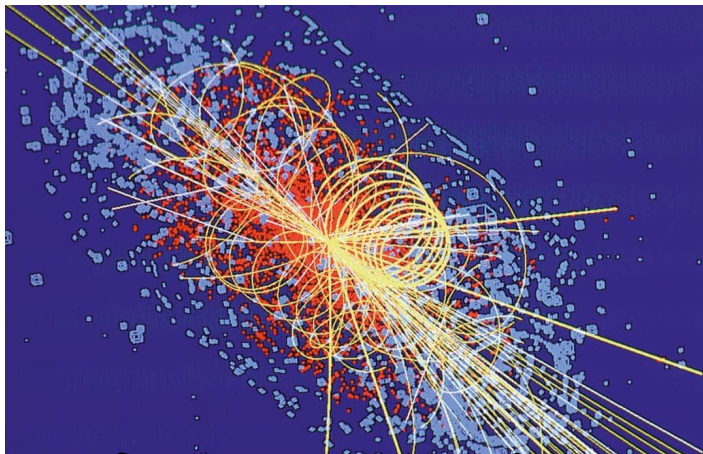
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Dataset X:

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- Each event is either  
signal or one of the backgrounds

# Bayesian Inference: Mixture models



Dataset X:

- Signal
- Few backgrounds
- Each event is either

signal or one of the backgrounds

*How to create  
such a PDF !?*

# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



Graphical representation  
of a PDF to easily visualize  
the internal structure of  
the random variables



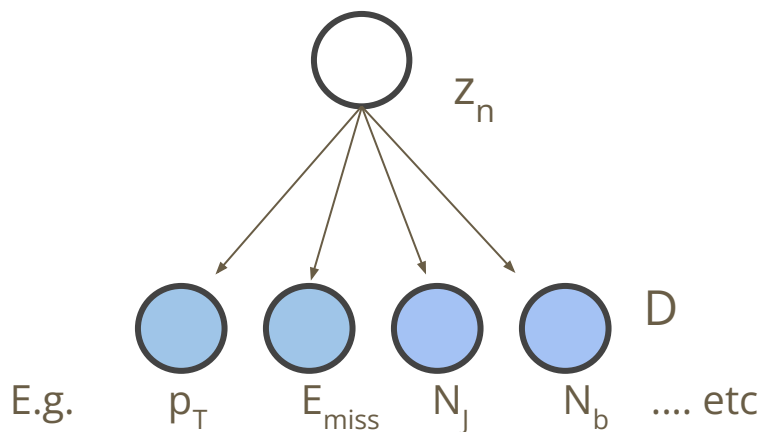
# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models

At each event, sample a multinomial random variable that decides whether is signal or some of the backgrounds

(K classes)

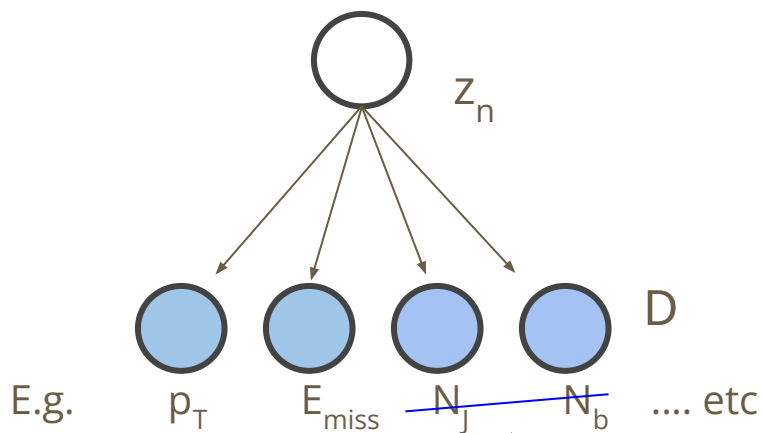


# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



Depending on the class of the event, we sample  $D$  random independent variables of what *we measure*

# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



Depending on the class of the event, we sample  $D$  random independent variables of what *we measure*

Better b-tagging scores...  
even if not calibrated!

# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models

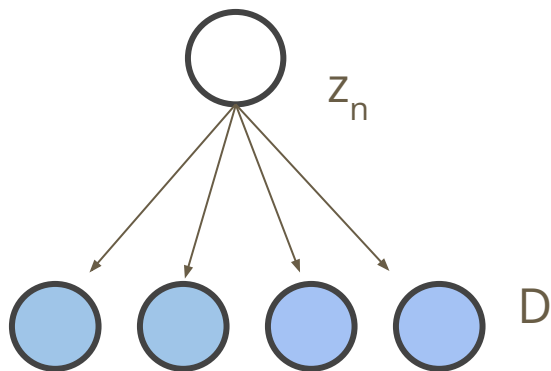
Convention:

**Empty circles:**

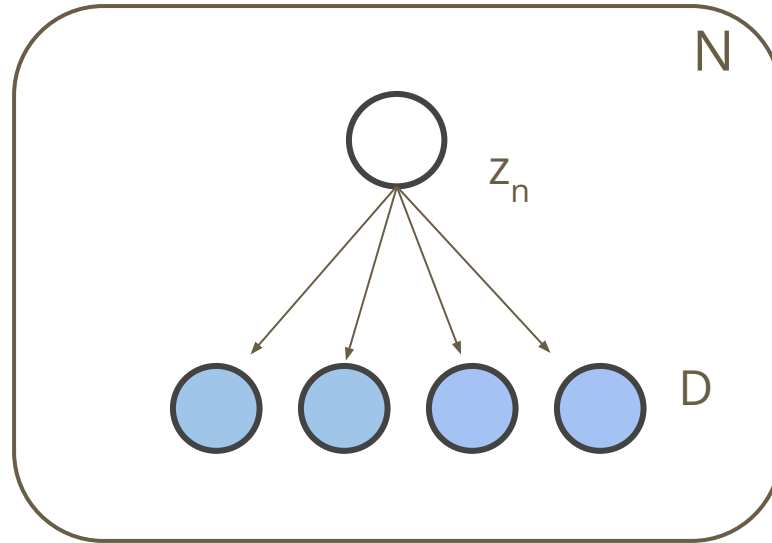
Sampled and unobserved RV

**Filled circles:**

Sampled and observed RV

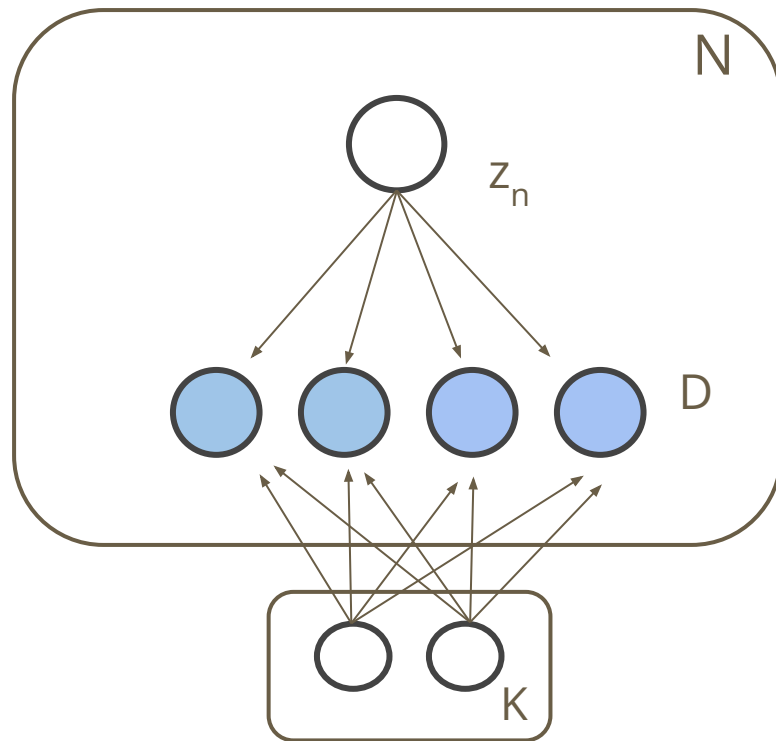


# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



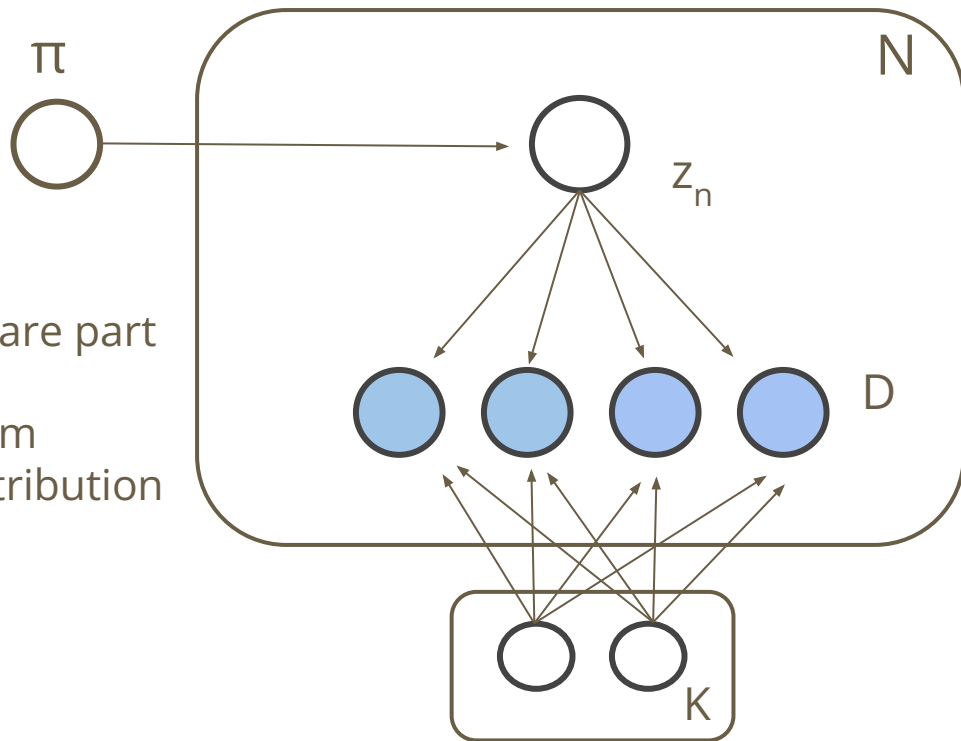
Procedure that is repeated  $N$  times

# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



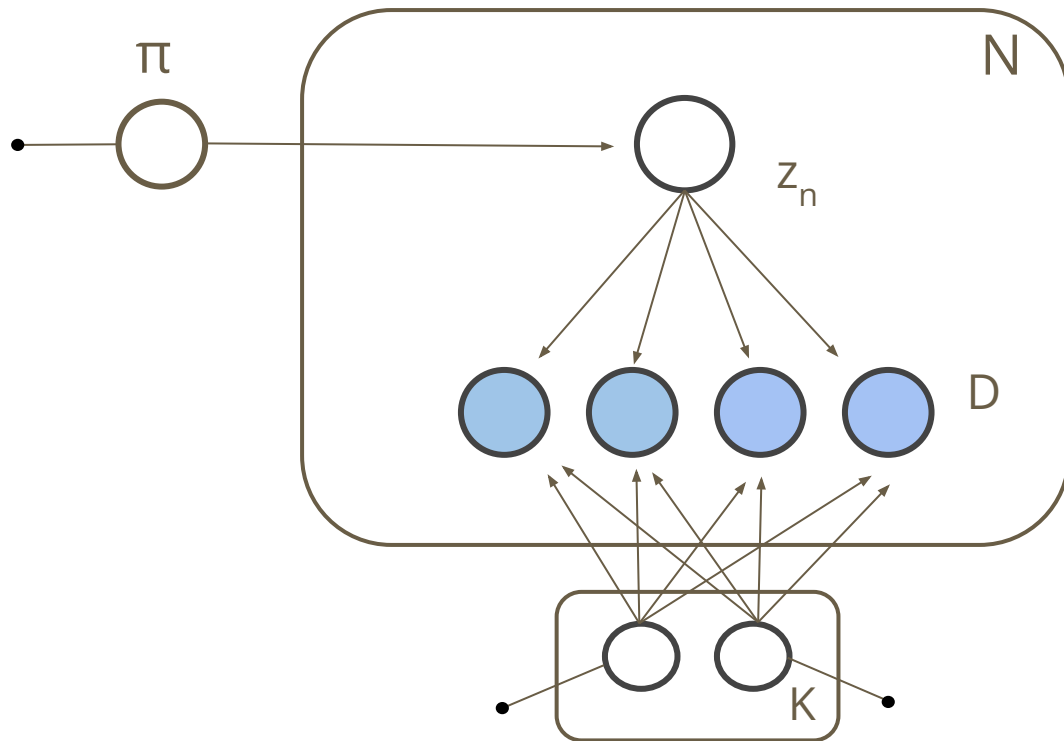
Each one of the  $K$  classes has an *expected distribution* over the measured quantities

# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



Multinomial  
parameters are part  
of the PDF.  
Sampled from  
Dirichlet distribution

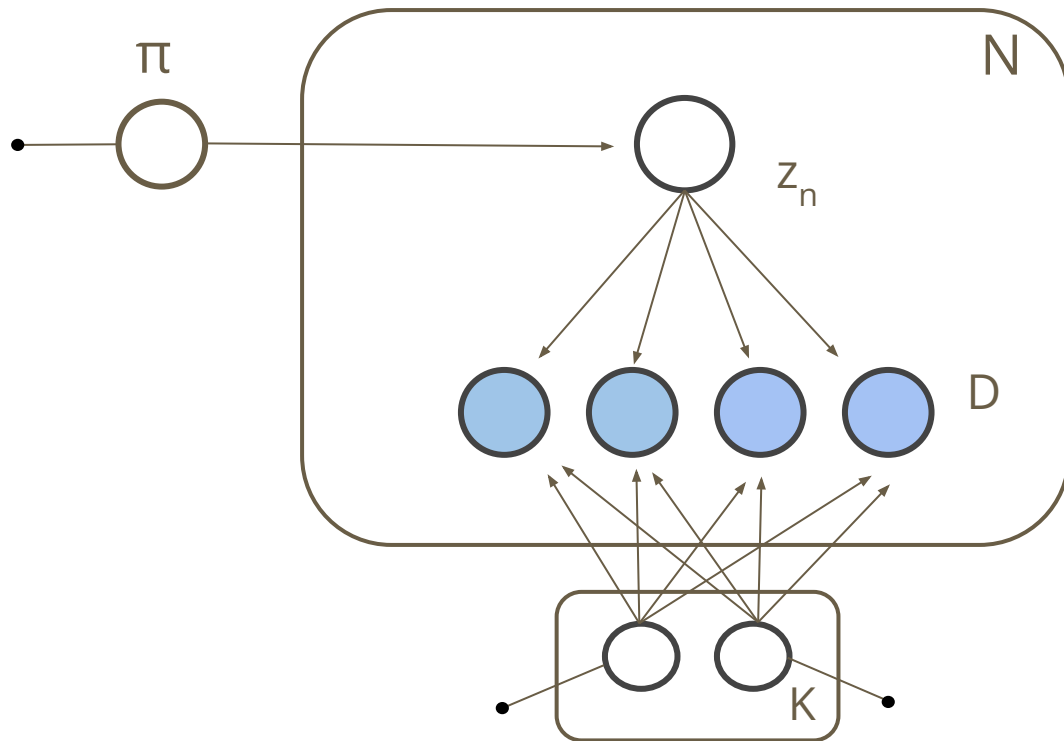
# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



**Mixture Model**



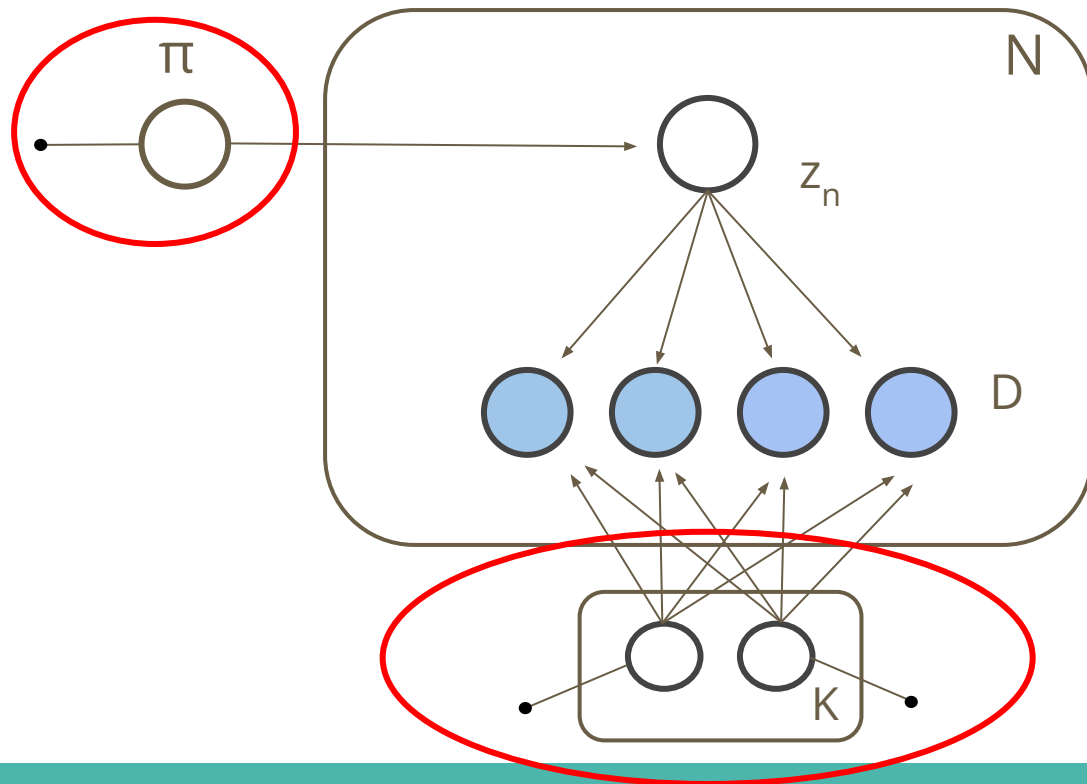
# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



## Mixture Model

- Model data as being sampled from a PDF

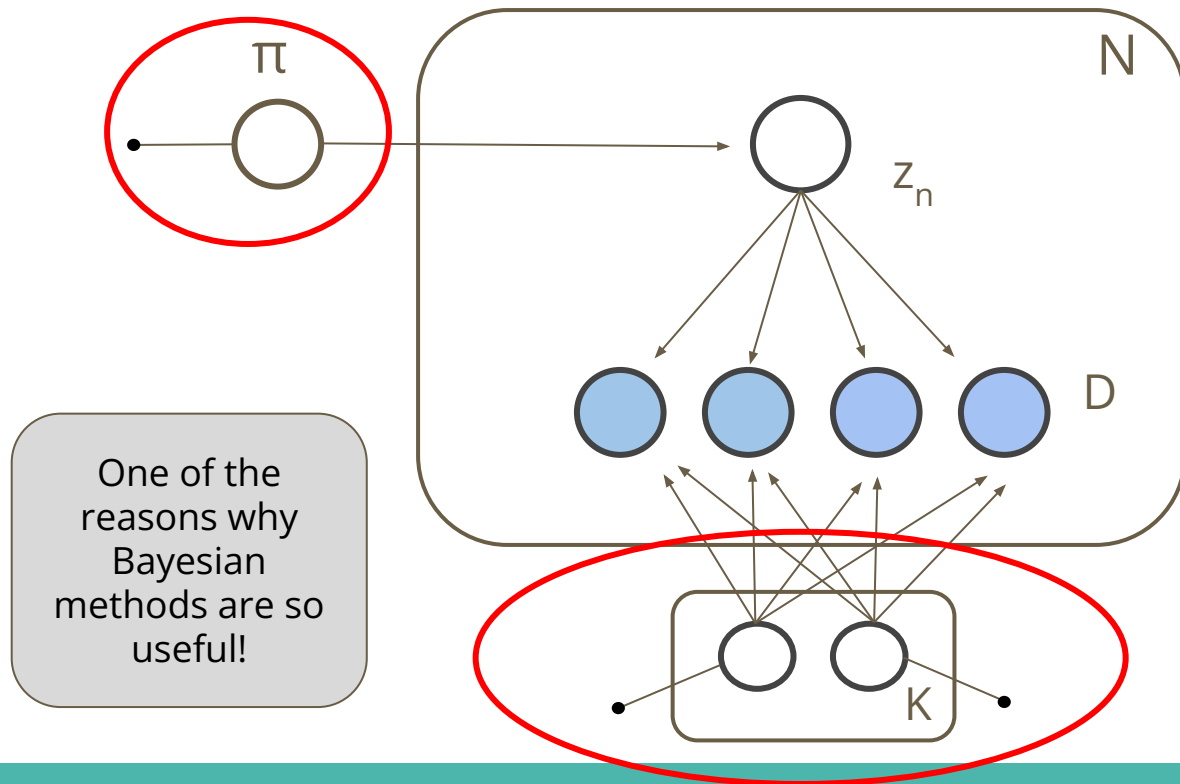
# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



## Mixture Model

- Model data as being sampled from a PDF
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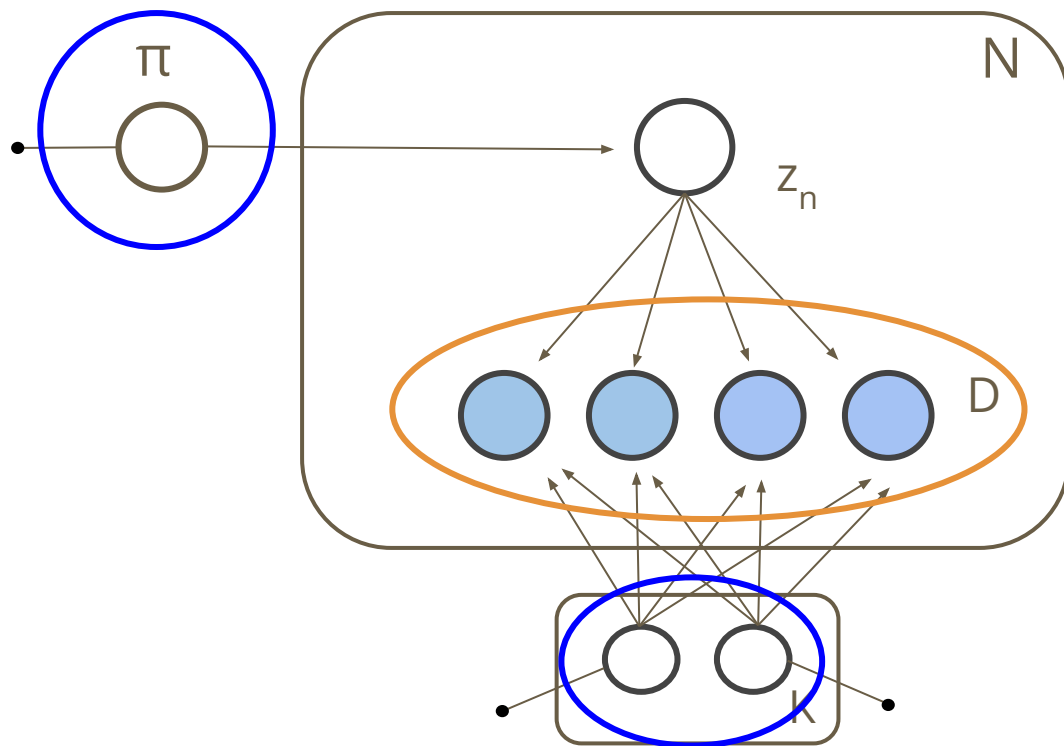
# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



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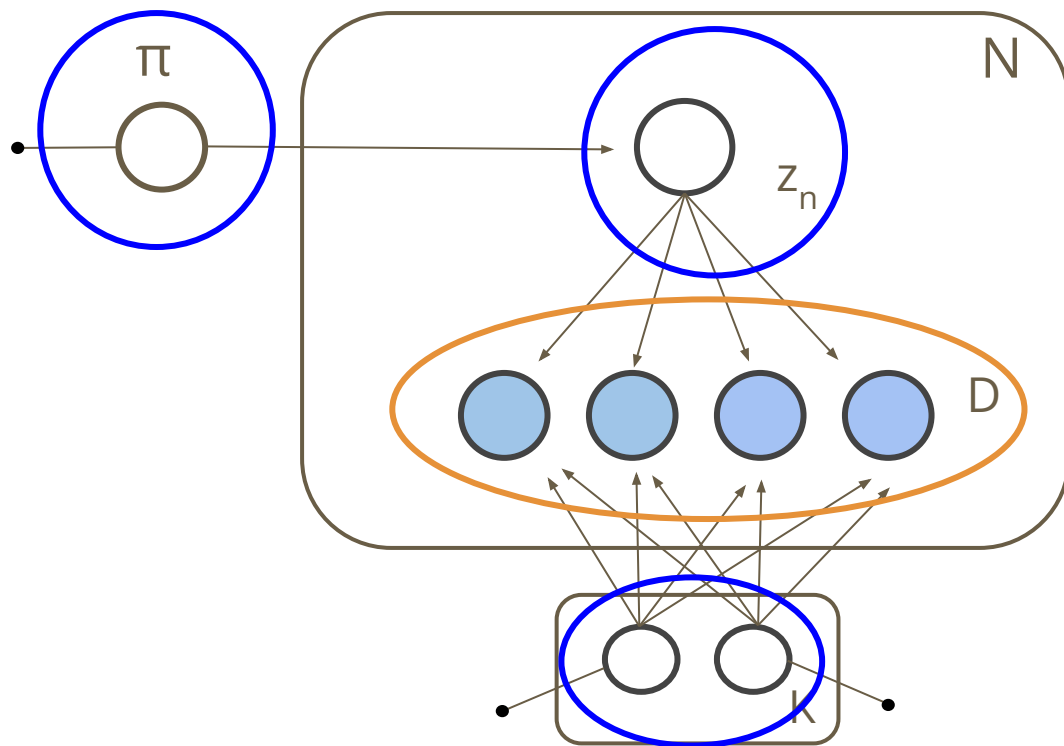


## Mixture Model

- Model data as being sampled from a PDF
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- Infer the parameters conditioned in the observed data

$$p(\theta | X) = p(X | \theta) p(\theta) / p(x)$$

# Bayesian Inference: Graphical models



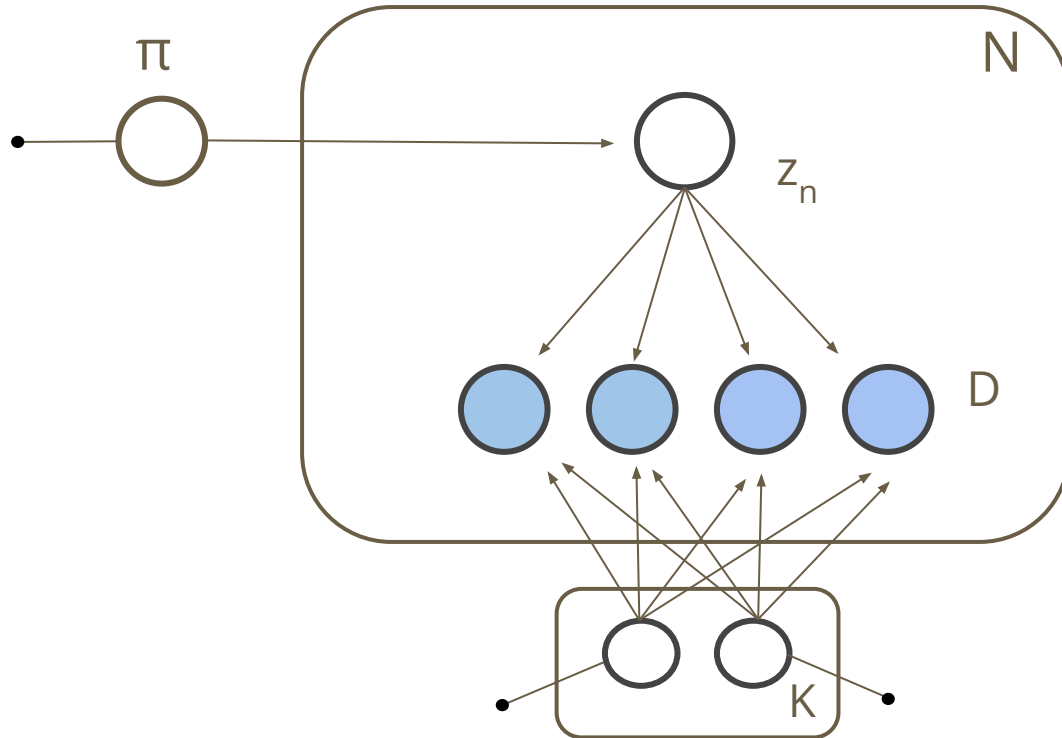
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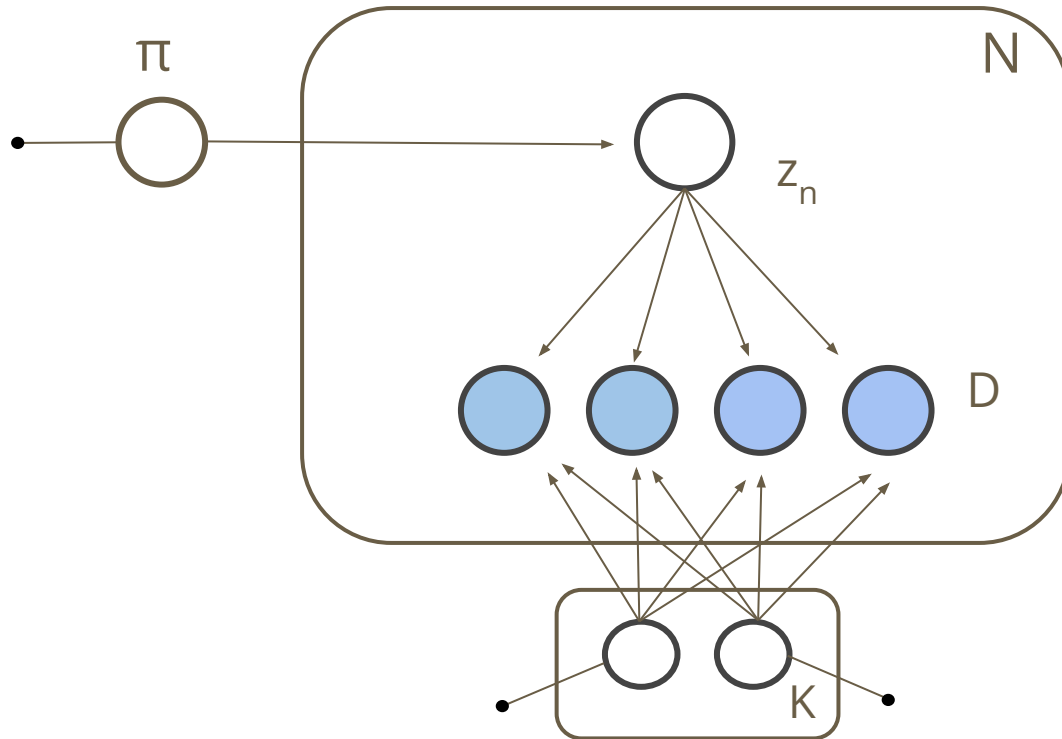
$$p(\theta | X) = p(X | \theta) p(\theta) / p(x)$$

- Infer the latent variables

# Bayesian Inference

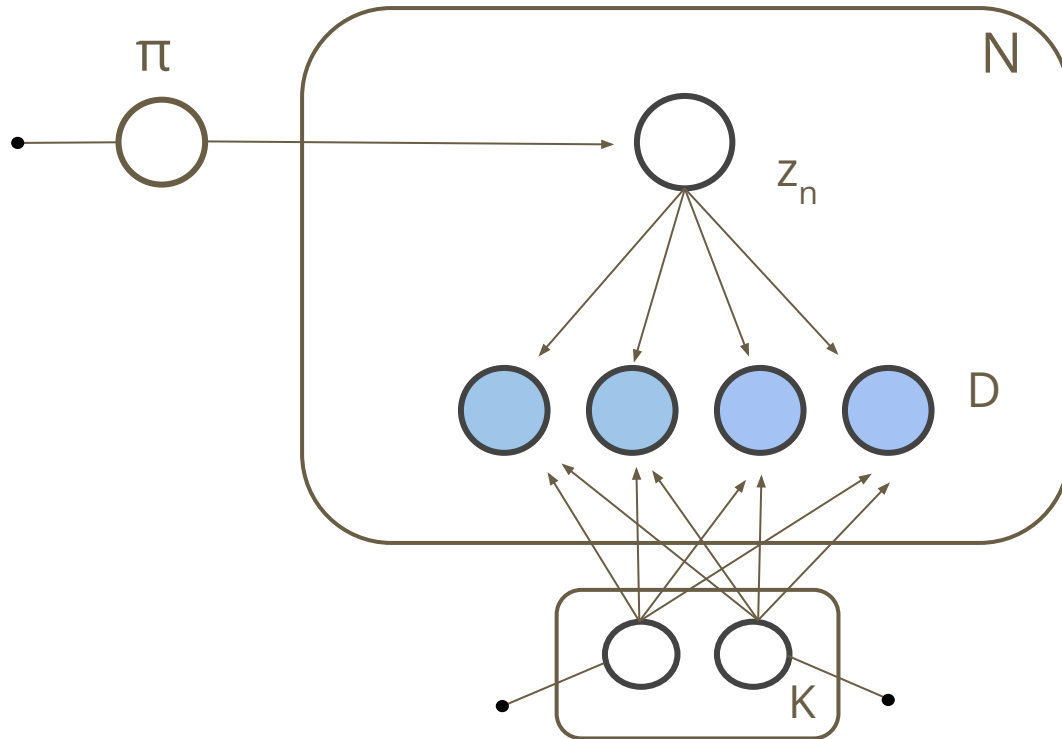


# Bayesian Inference



- No hard cuts

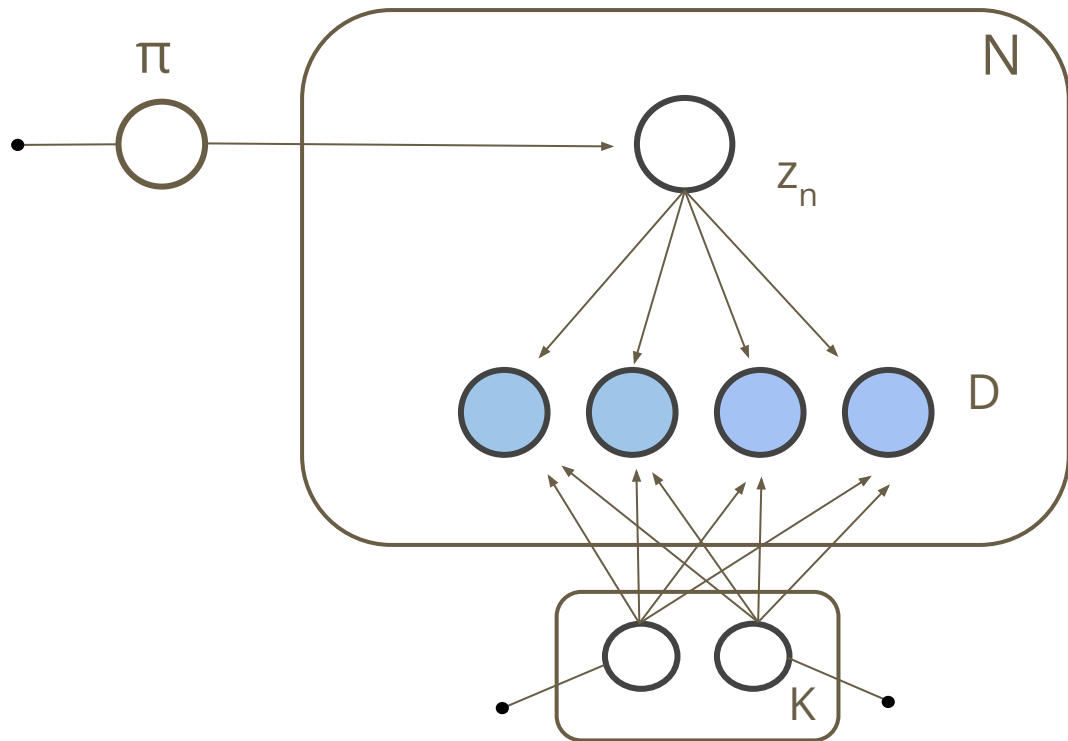
# Bayesian Inference



- No hard cuts
- Soft assignments

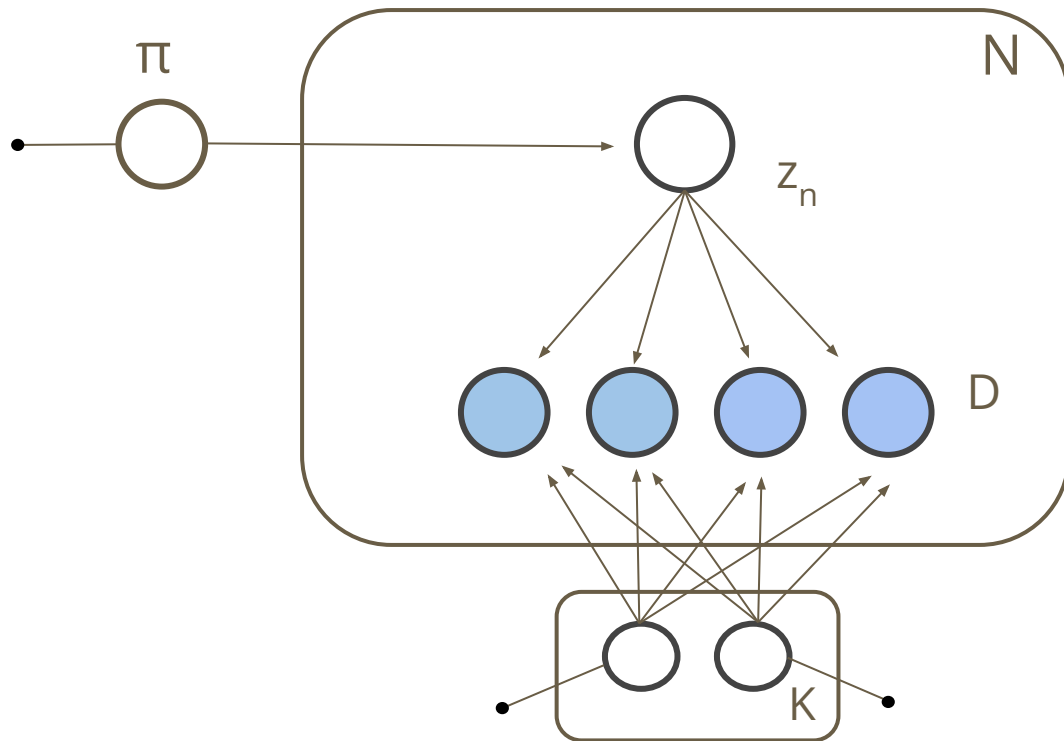


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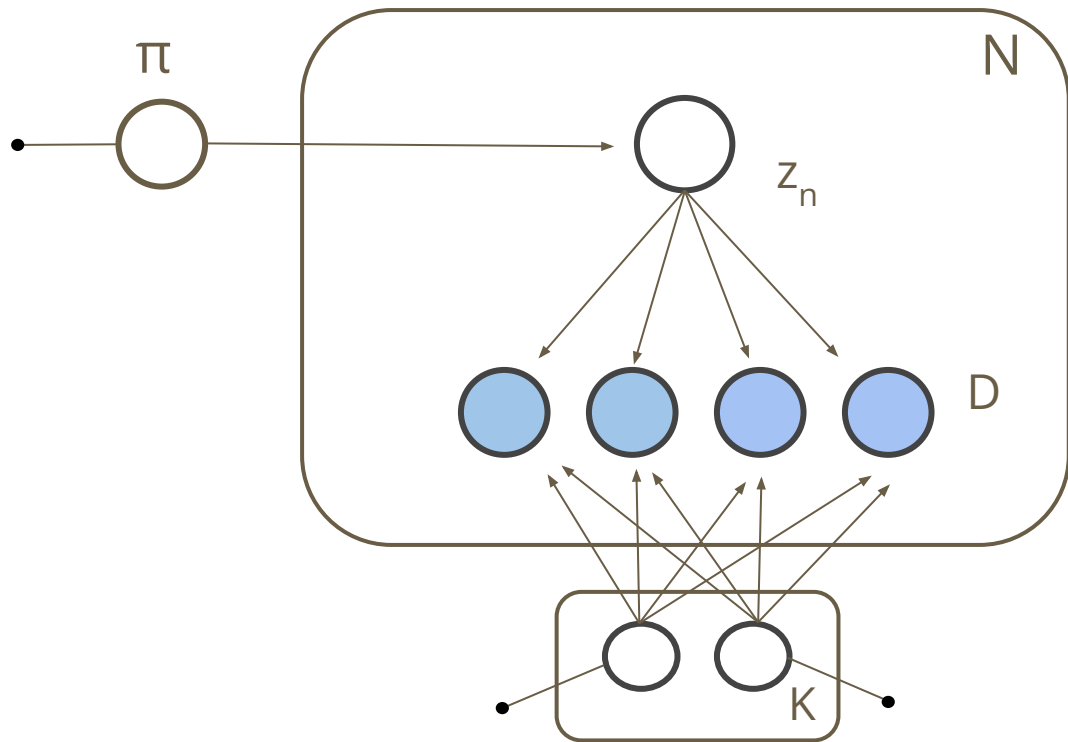
- No hard cuts
- Soft assignments
- No signal/control regions

# Bayesian Inference



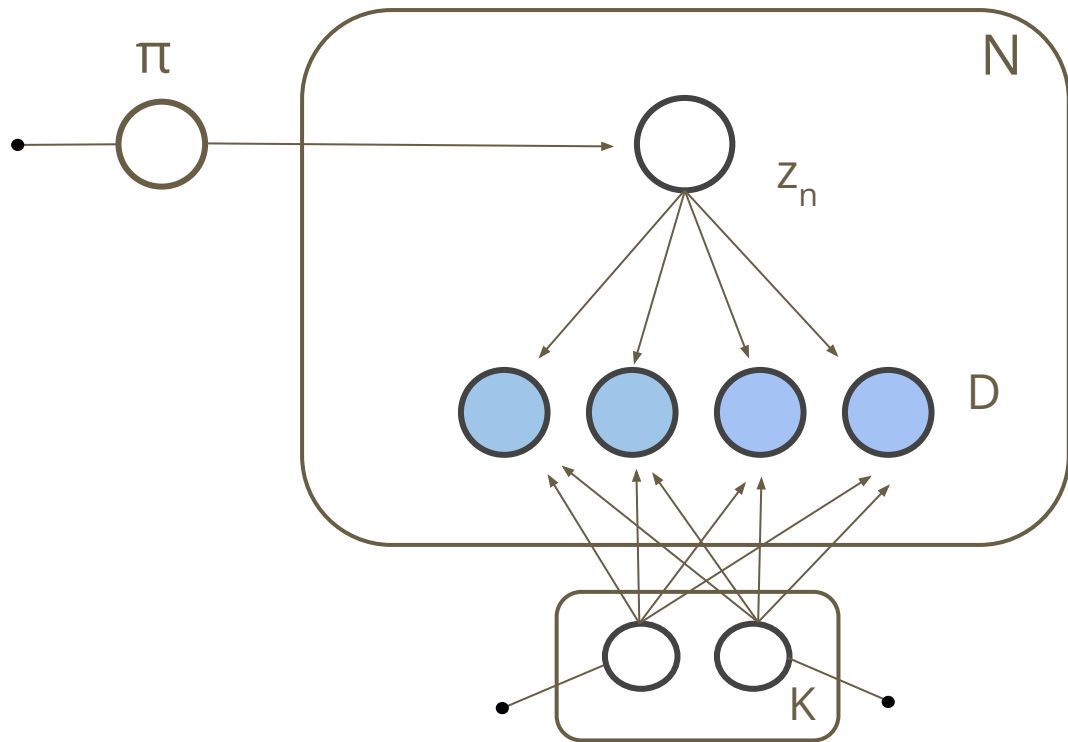
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- K classes & D observables

# Bayesian Inference



- No hard cuts
- Soft assignments
- No signal/control regions
- $K$  classes &  $D$  observables
- Deployment of data internal structure

# Bayesian Inference



- No hard cuts
- Soft assignments
- No signal/control regions
- K classes & D observables
- Deployment of data internal structure
- Controlled injection of prior knowledge

# ABCD Vs Bayesian

## Improvement & Generalization

<b>ABCD</b>	<b>Bayesian framework</b>
2 observables	D observables
Signal & Background	Signal & K-1 backgrounds
Prior knowledge to define A, B, C & D, and get signal events in A	Visualize, understand and exploit <i>internal structure of the data</i> . Plug prior knowledge to <i>simultaneously</i> infer classes fractions and posterior distributions
Separated: signal & control regions	Signal & backgrounds can be mixed in all phase space.

**pp → hh → bbbb**

**(inspiration & chimera)**

2402.08001

E.A., L.Da Rold, S.  
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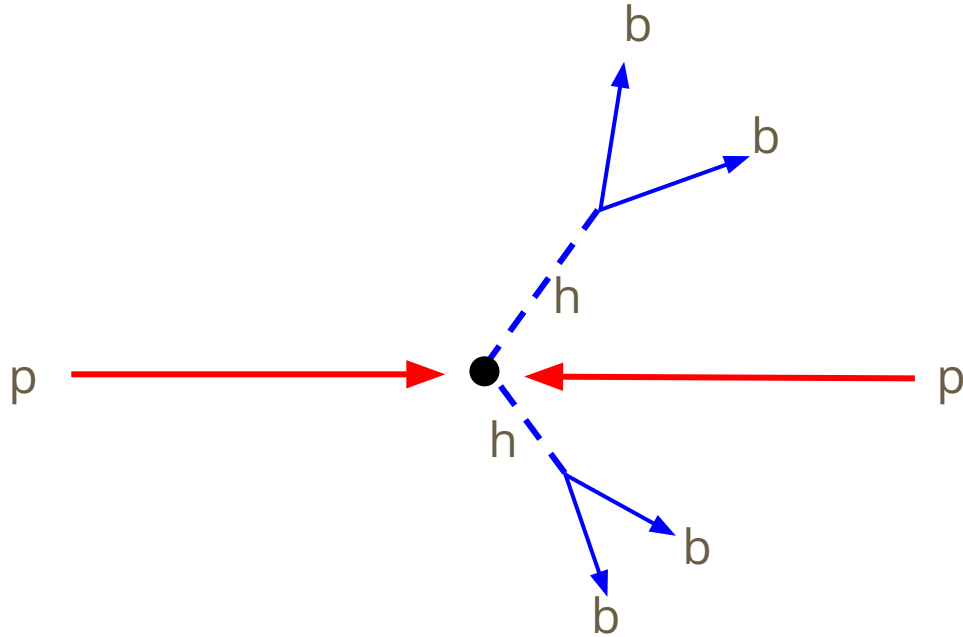
**Disclaimer:**

Toy-model on a toy-problem, just a building block for a chimera enterprise

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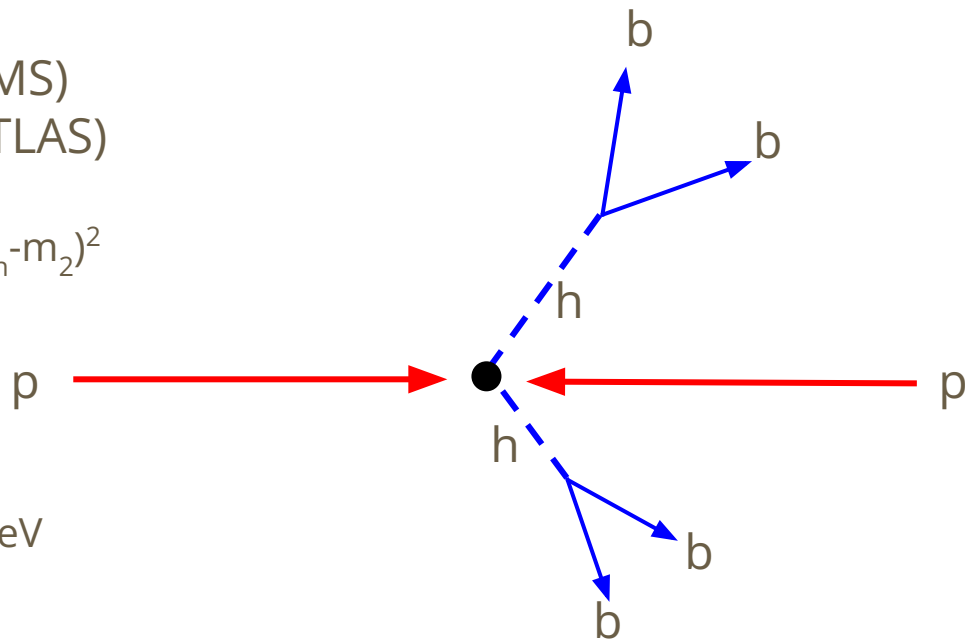
(pictorial)



# pp $\rightarrow$ hh $\rightarrow$ bbbb

2202.09617 (CMS)  
2301.03212 (ATLAS)

$$\chi^2 = (m_h - m_1)^2 + (m_h - m_2)^2$$



$O_1$ :  $\chi >$  or  $<$  25 GeV

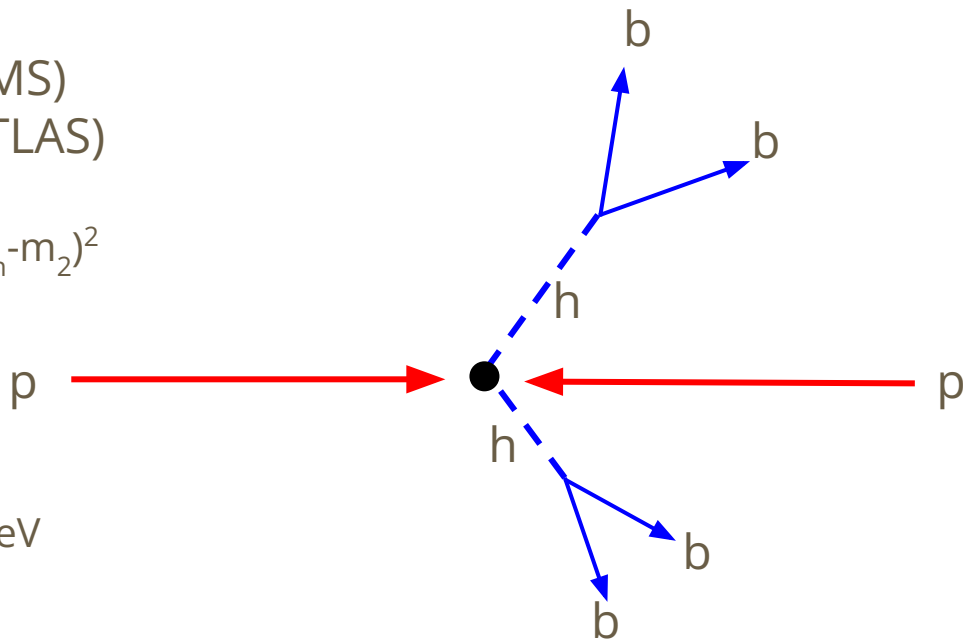
$O_2$ : 3b or 4b

Plus *improvements*

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Plus *improvements*

Bayesian framework

$O_1$ : b-tagging score jet 1

$O_2$ : b-tagging score jet 2

$O_3$ : b-tagging score jet 3

$O_4$ : b-tagging score jet 4

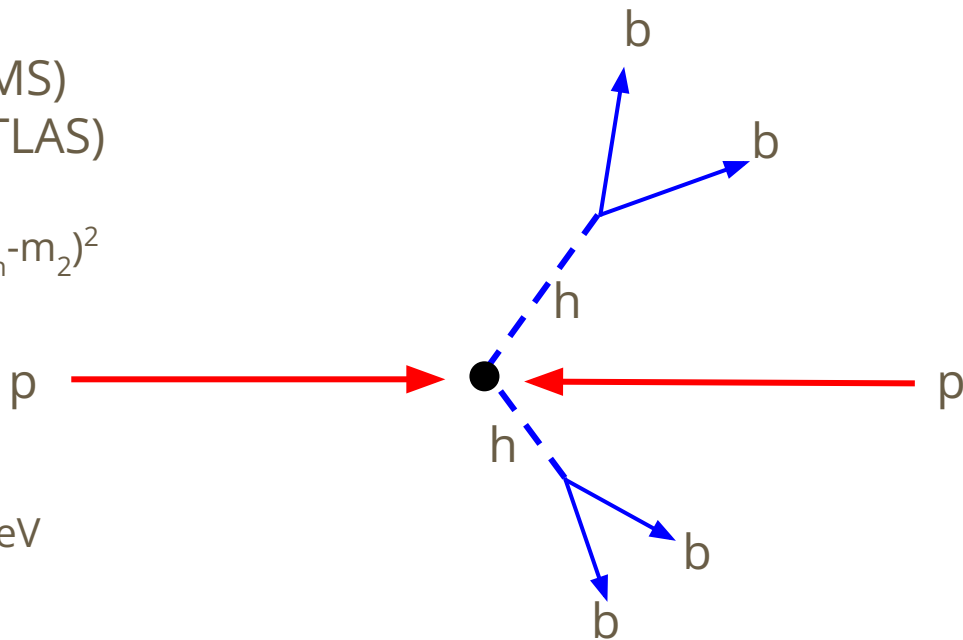
$O_5$ :  $m_1$

$O_6$ :  $m_2$

# pp $\rightarrow$ hh $\rightarrow$ bbbb

2202.09617 (CMS)  
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Plus *improvements*

2D



6D

Bayesian framework

$O_1$ : b-tagging score jet 1

$O_2$ : b-tagging score jet 2

$O_3$ : b-tagging score jet 3

$O_4$ : b-tagging score jet 4

$O_5$ :  $m_1$

$O_6$ :  $m_2$

# Toy-model and Toy-problem

## Setup:

Synthetic signal (bbbb) and backgrounds (bbcc, cccc) and play to distinguish signal using ABCD and Bayesian frameworks

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Synthetic signal (bbbb) and backgrounds (bbcc, cccc) and play to distinguish signal using ABCD and Bayesian frameworks

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20k events, signal is 1%, 0.5% or 0%

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Synthetic signal (**bbbb**) and backgrounds (**bbcc**, **cccc**) and play to distinguish signal using ABCD and Bayesian frameworks

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## Toy problem:

$m_{bb} \sim N(125 \text{ GeV}, 10 \text{ GeV})$  or  $\sim \text{Exp}(0.003/\text{GeV})$

B-tag: 4 x b-scores  $\sim \text{beta}()$ , sampled from either **bbbb**, **bbcc**, **cccc**

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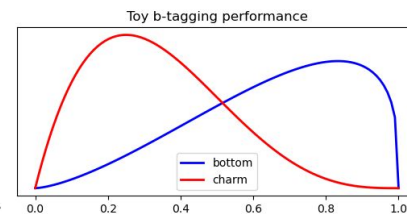
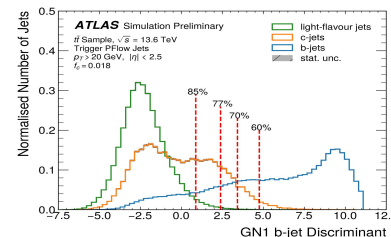
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# Toy-model and Toy-problem

## Setup:

Synthetic signal (**bbbb**) and backgrounds (**bbcc**, **cccc**) and play to distinguish signal using ABCD and Bayesian frameworks

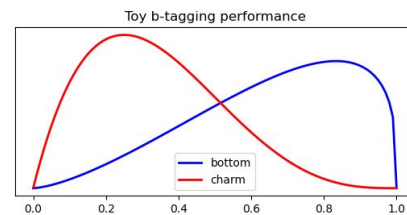
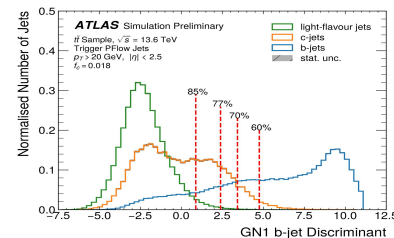
## Data:

20k events, signal is 1%, 0.5% or 0%

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We'll start from biased priors



# Toy-model and Toy-problem

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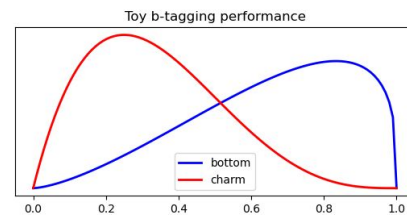
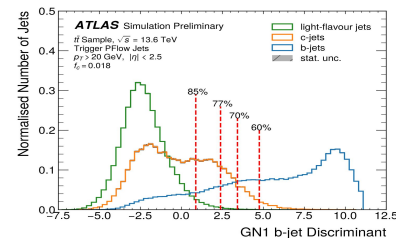
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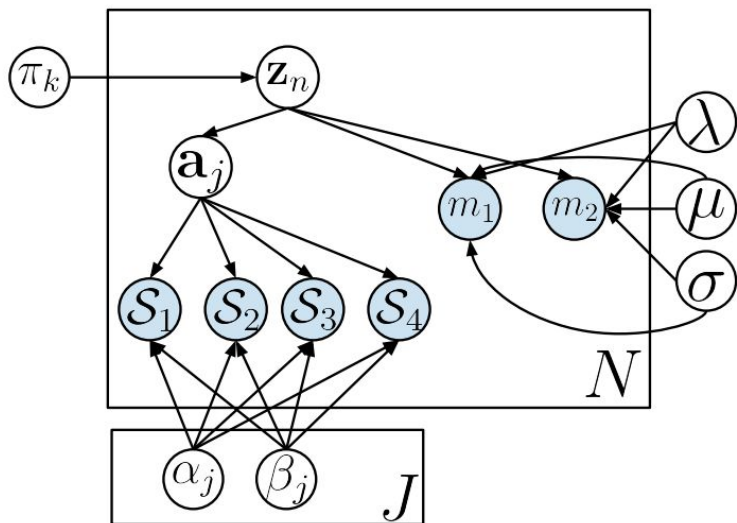


We'll start from biased priors

Important  
prior-knowledge

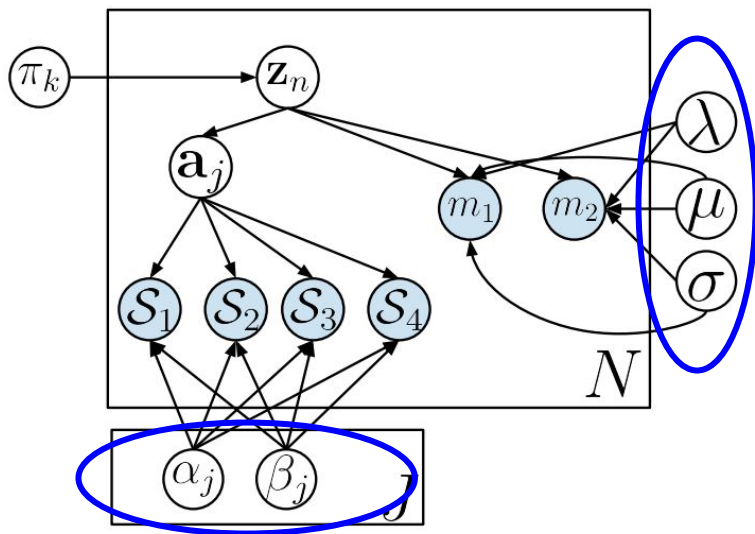
# Bayes @ Toy-problem

6 Observables

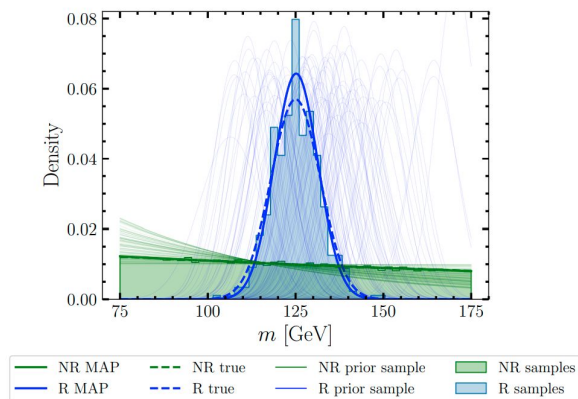
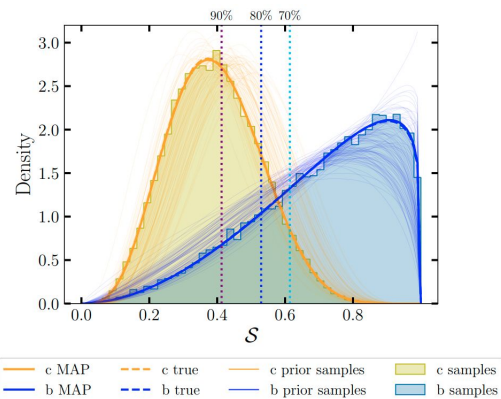


# Bayes @ Toy-problem

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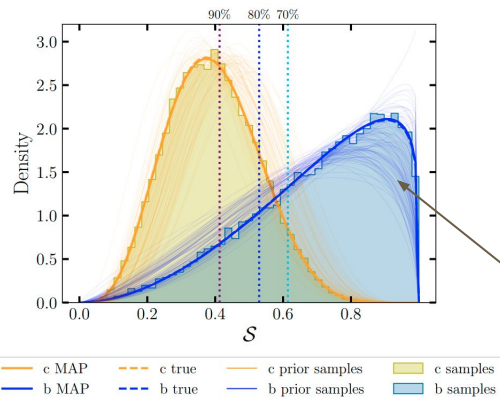
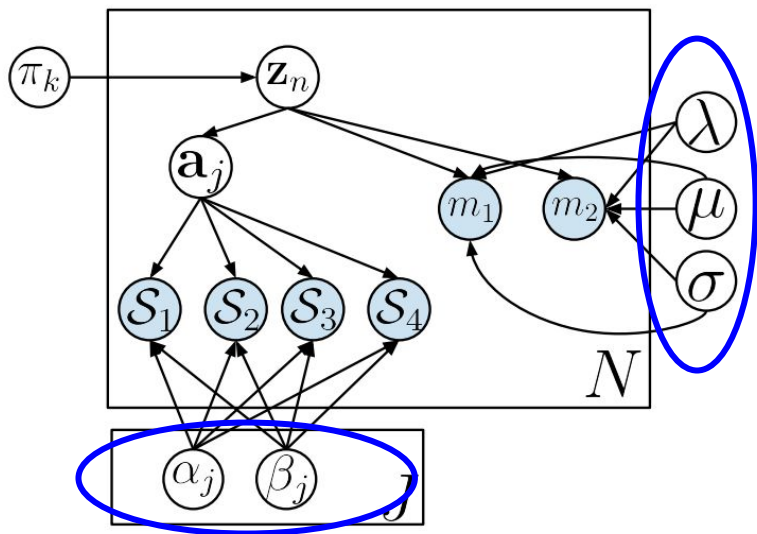


Inference results

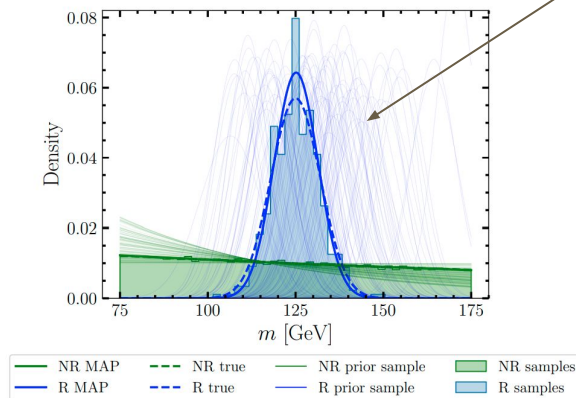


# Bayes @ Toy-problem

6 Observables



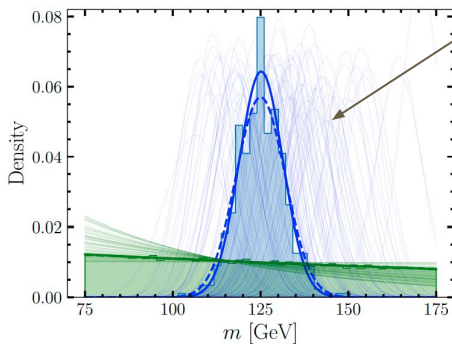
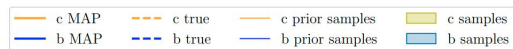
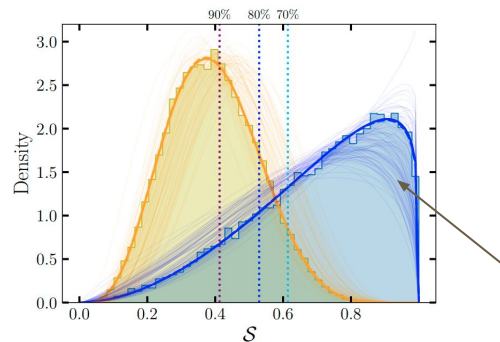
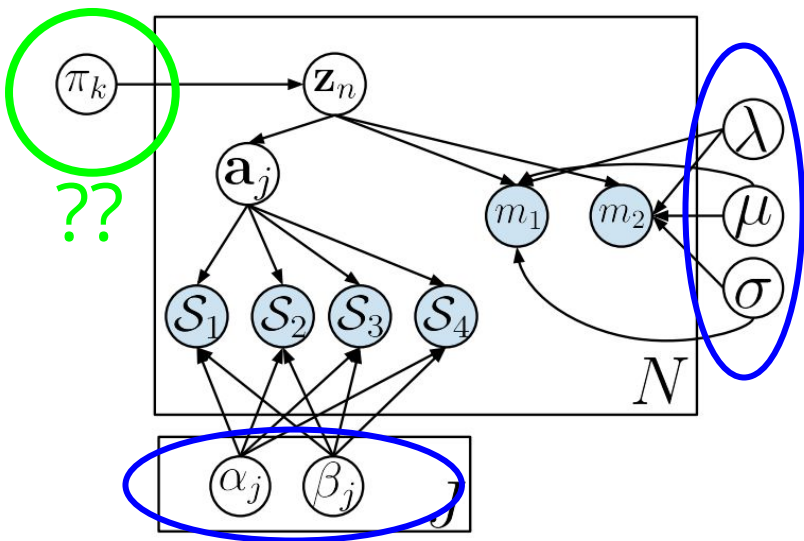
Inference results



Biased priors,  
but inference  
gets correct  
curves!

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6 Observables

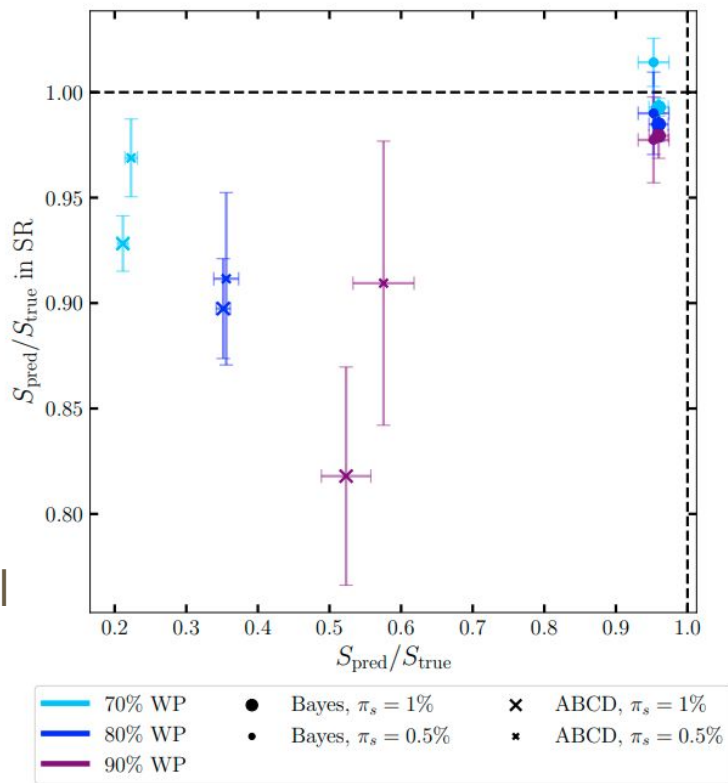


Inference results

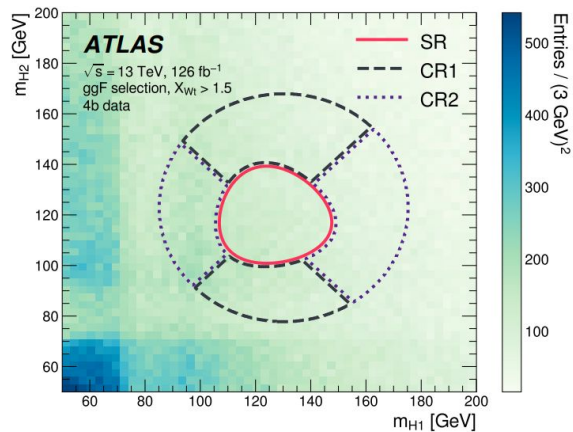
Biased priors, but inference gets correct curves!

# ABCD Vs Bayesian framework

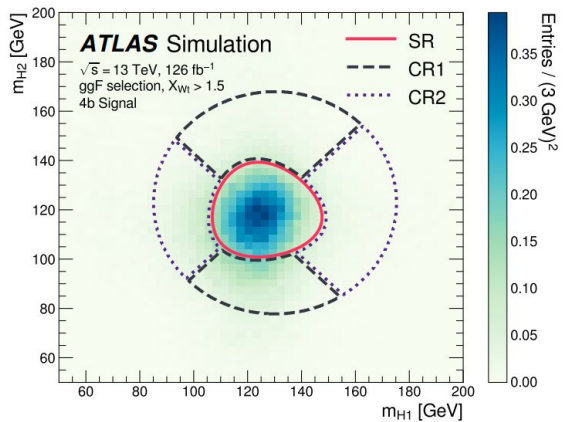
1% &  
0.5%  
signal



# Experimental current status

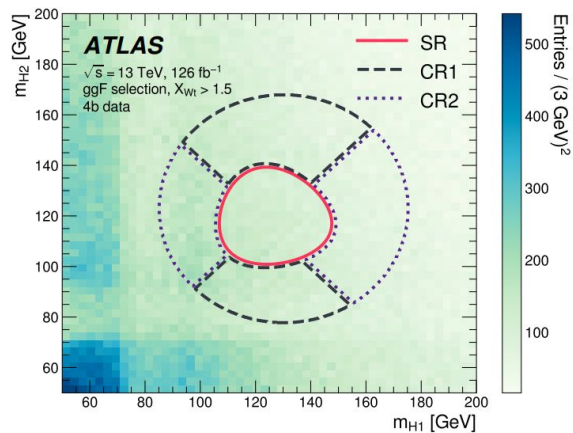


Data

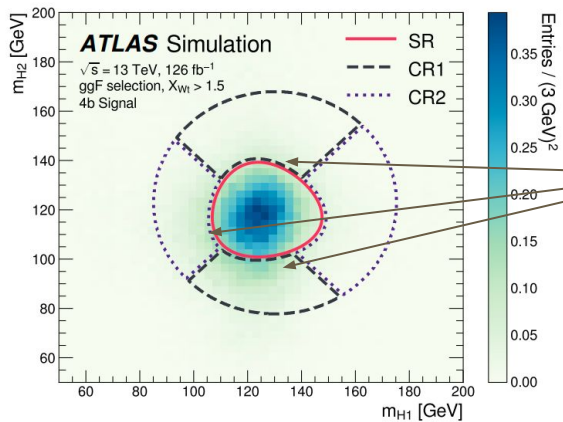


Signal @simulations

# Experimental current status



Data



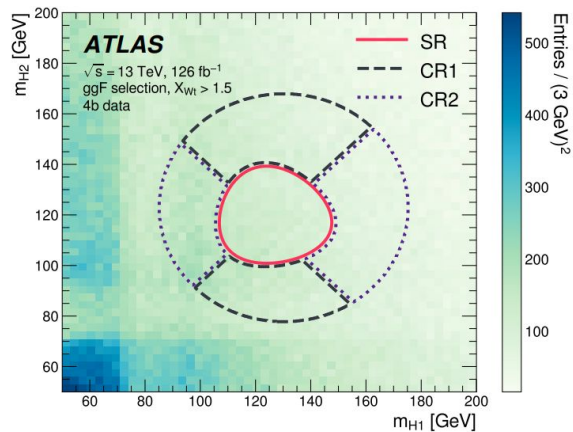
Signal @simulations

Missing 10-15% of signal !!

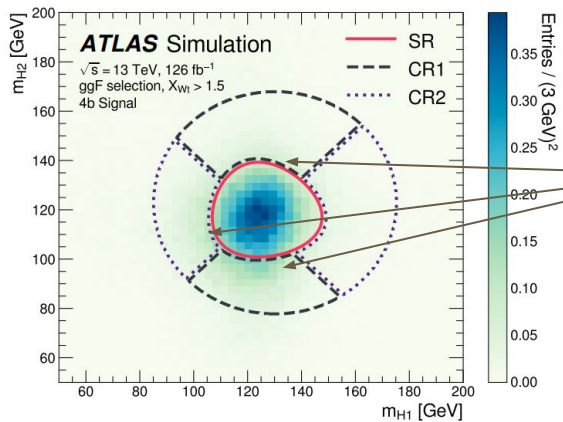
(many Eur!)



# Experimental current status



Data



Signal @simulations

Missing 10-15% of signal !!

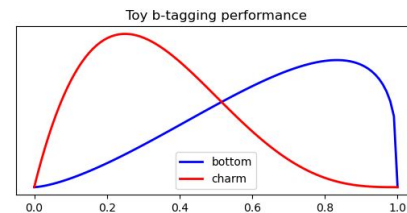
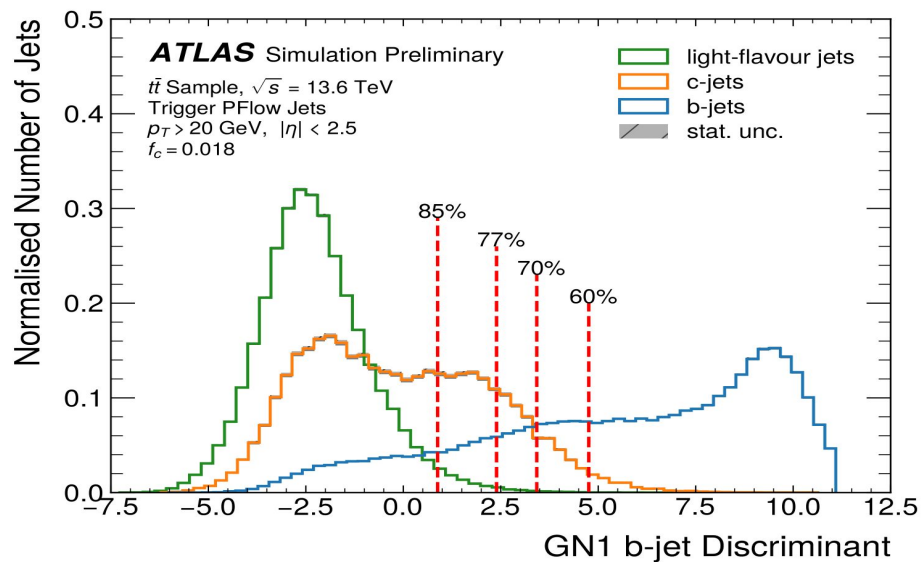
(many Eur!)

Much more is lost by requiring 4 b-tags at  $\text{eff}=0.77!!$

$(0.77^4=0.35)$

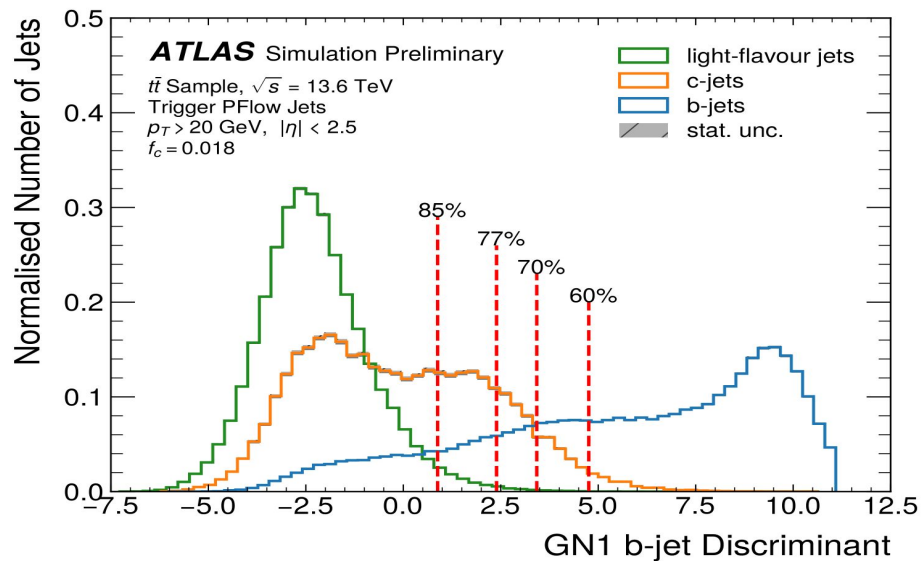
# Bayesian exploitation of continuity and unimodality

# Exploit Continuity and Unimodality



Previous work

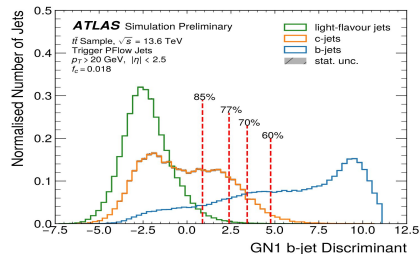
# Exploit Continuity and Unimodality



We'll infer these continuous arbitrary distributions!

**The leverage:** continuity, unimodality & multidimensionality!

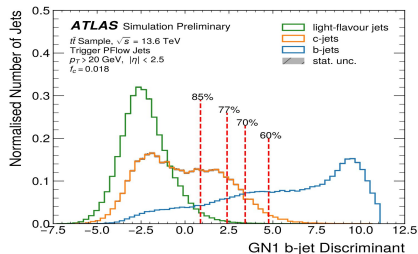
# Gaussian Processes



$$f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^k * \det(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})}} * e^{-\frac{1}{2} * ((\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu})^T \cdot \text{inv}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \cdot (\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu}))}$$

We bin the score  
and  $\mathbf{x}$  contains the  
distribution values  
in each bin

# Gaussian Processes



We bin the score and  $\mathbf{x}$  contains the distribution values in each bin

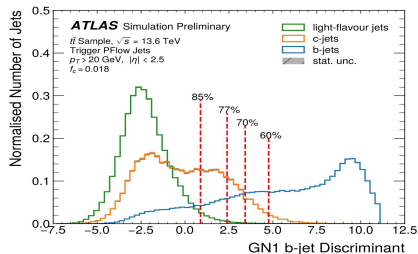
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Each bin is sampled around some expected  $\mu$

Define uncertainty and how related are neighbouring bins: Continuity!

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0.5 & 0 & \dots \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 0.5 & 0 & \dots \\ 0.5 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0.5 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0.5 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 0.5 & 0 & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

# Gaussian Processes



We bin the score and  $\mathbf{x}$  contains the distribution values in each bin

We can sample continuous curves around a central curve with very few hyperparameters

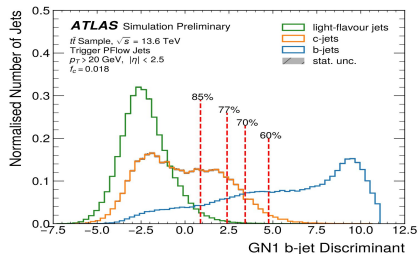
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# Gaussian Processes



We bin the score and  $\mathbf{x}$  contains the distribution values in each bin

Prior information

We can sample **continuous** curves around a central curve with very few hyperparameters

$$f(\mathbf{x}; \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^k * \det(\boldsymbol{\Sigma})}} * e^{-\frac{1}{2} * ((\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu})^T * \text{inv}(\boldsymbol{\Sigma}) * (\mathbf{x}-\boldsymbol{\mu}))}$$

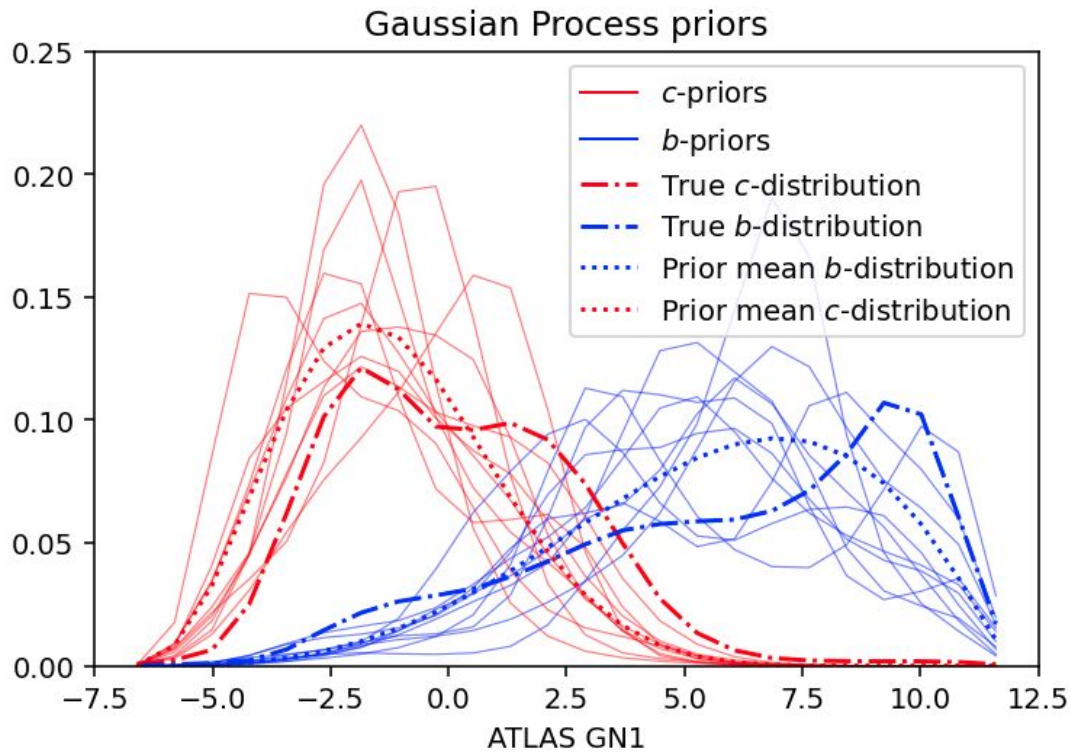
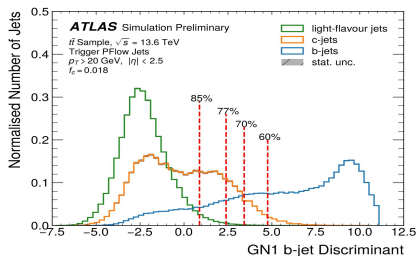
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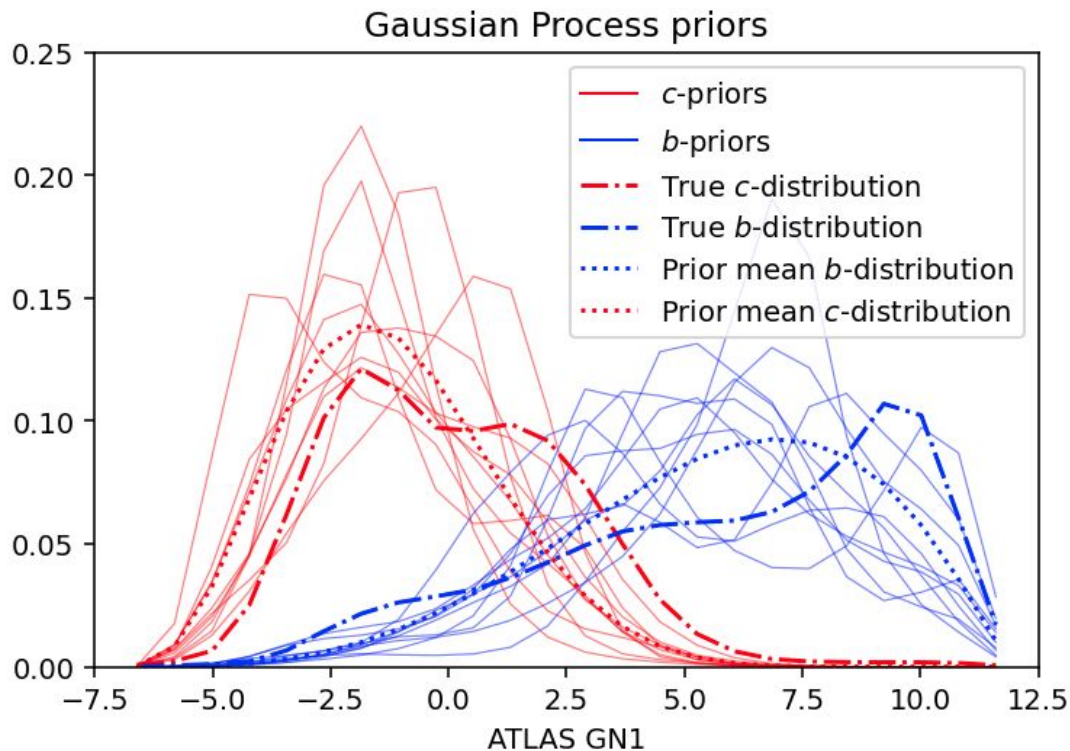
# Gaussian Processes



# Gaussian Processes

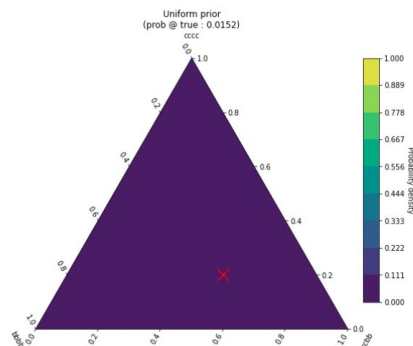
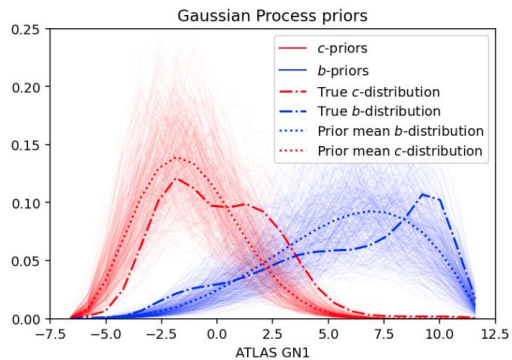
## The game:

- Starts with biased prior
- The data will shift the posterior to the most likely distribution, which should be the true
- Leverage:
  - Multidimensionality
  - Continuity
  - bbbb, ccbb, cccc



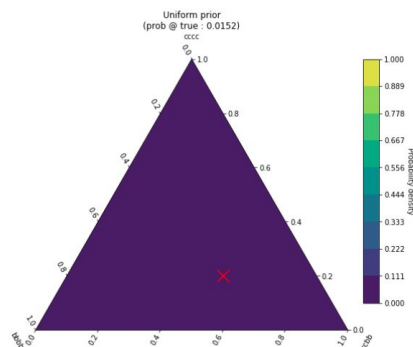
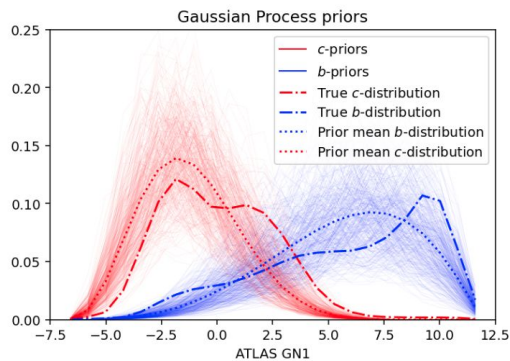
# Gaussian Processes: Results

This is how we start

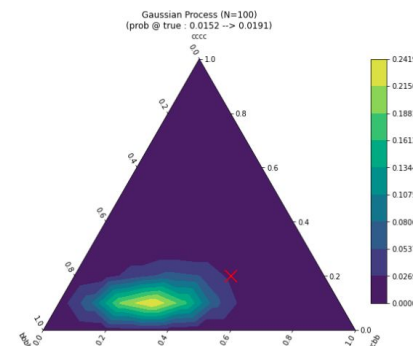
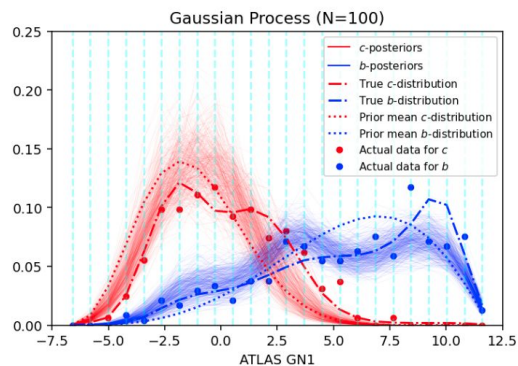


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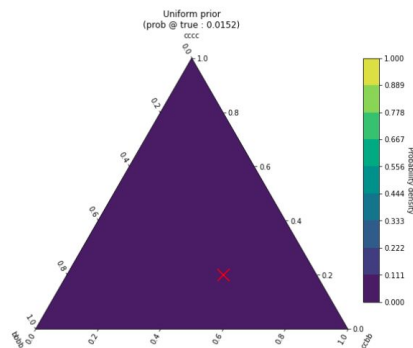
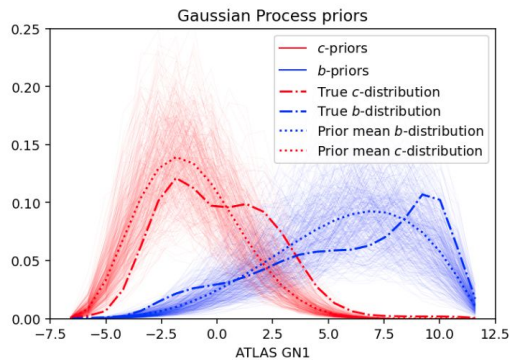


After seeing 100 events

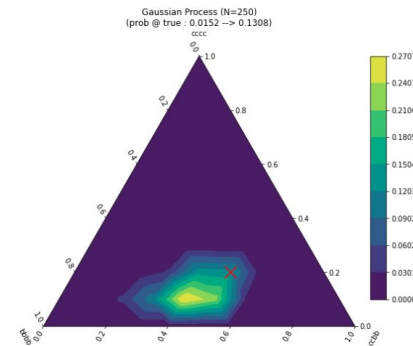
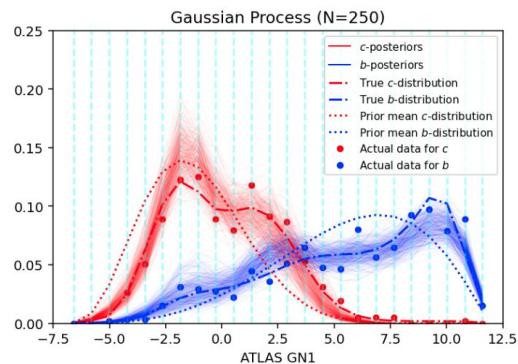


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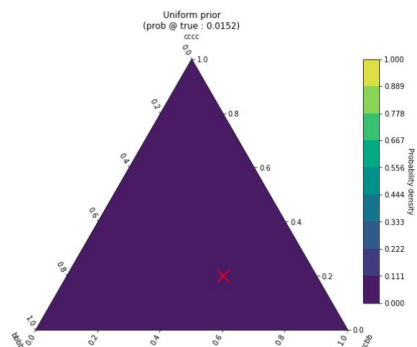
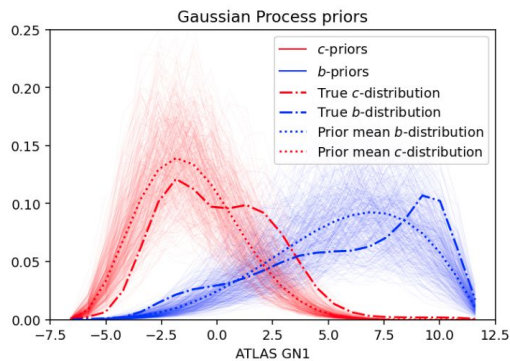


After seeing 250 events

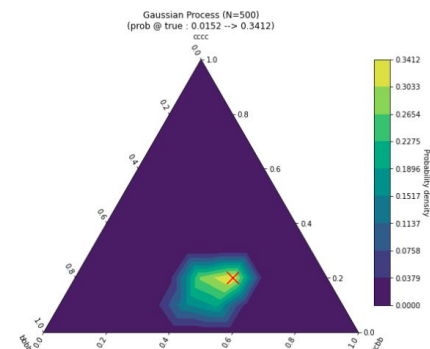
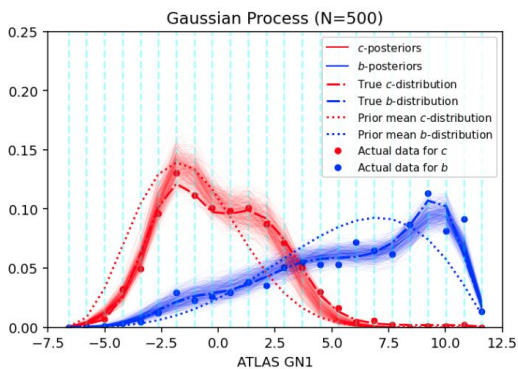


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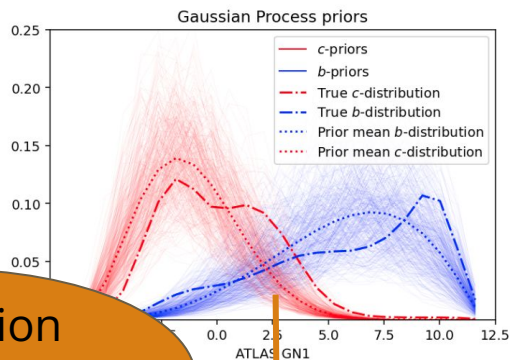


After seeing 500 events



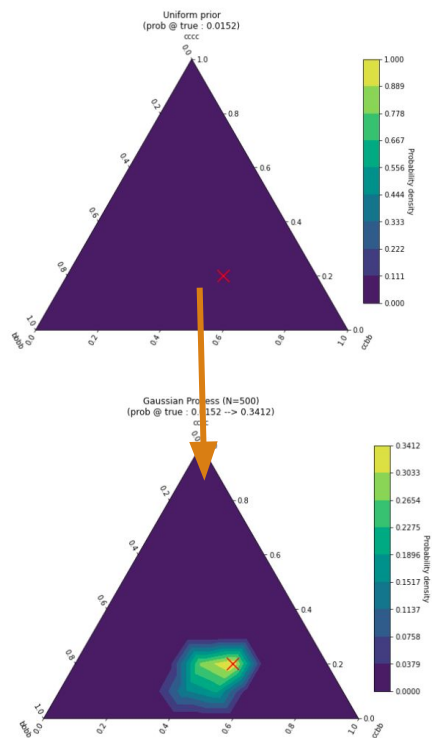
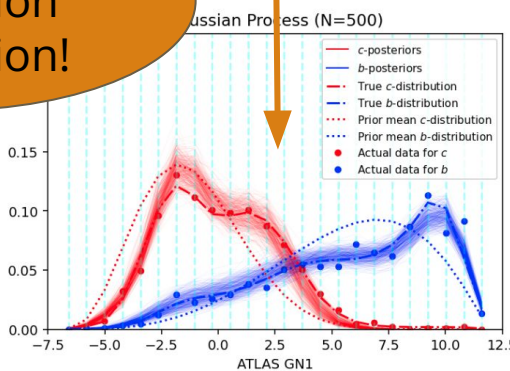
# Gaussian Processes: Results

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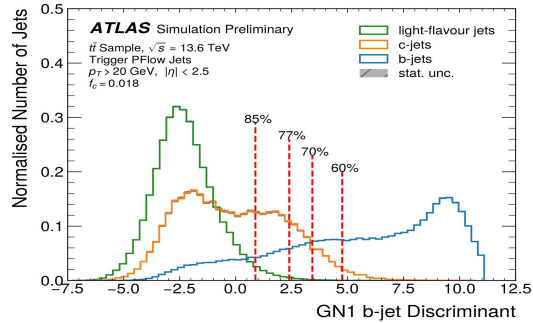


Correlation correlation correlation!

After seeing 500 events



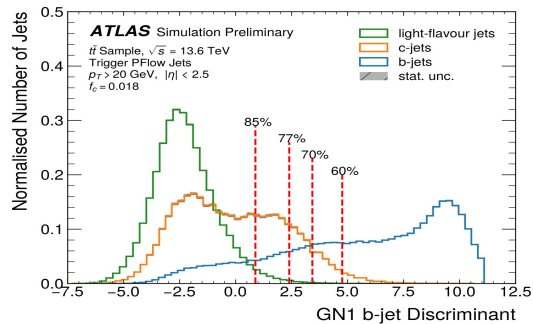
# Unimodal model



How to sample unimodal arbitrary continuous curves?



# Unimodal model

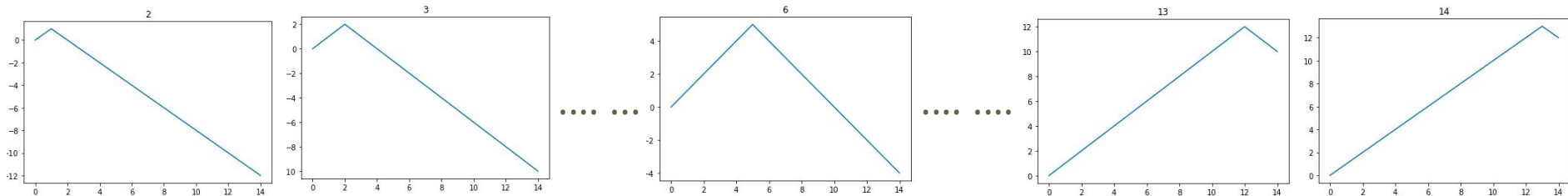


Prior information!

How to sample **unimodal** arbitrary **continuous** curves?

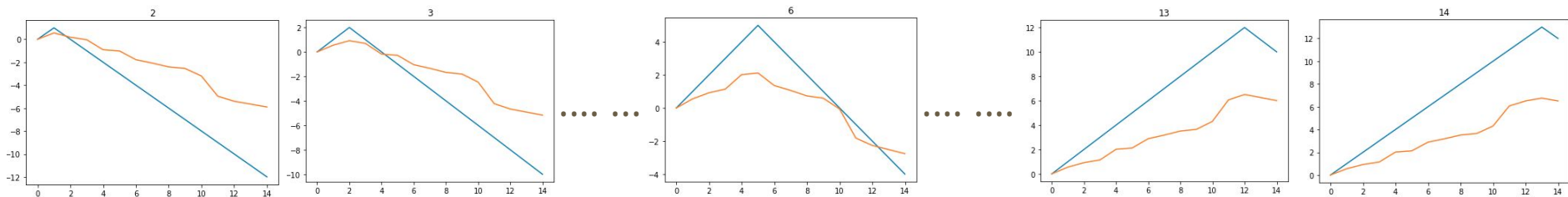
# Unimodal model

Construct strict linear unimodal, one for each bin



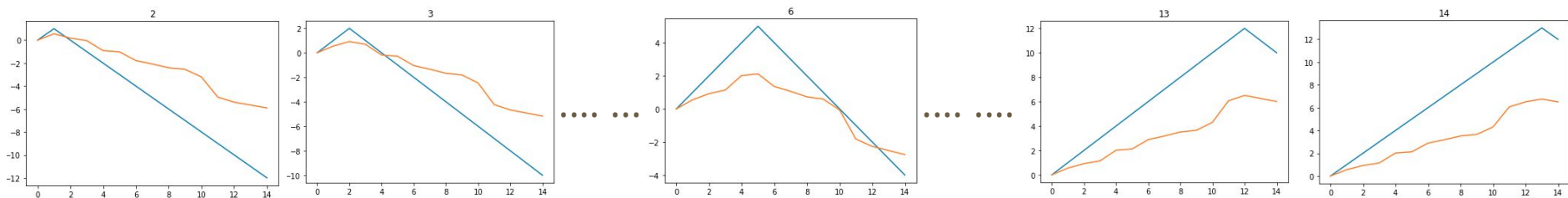
# Unimodal model

Allow for randomness with a half normal  $|N(0,0.5)|$  at each step

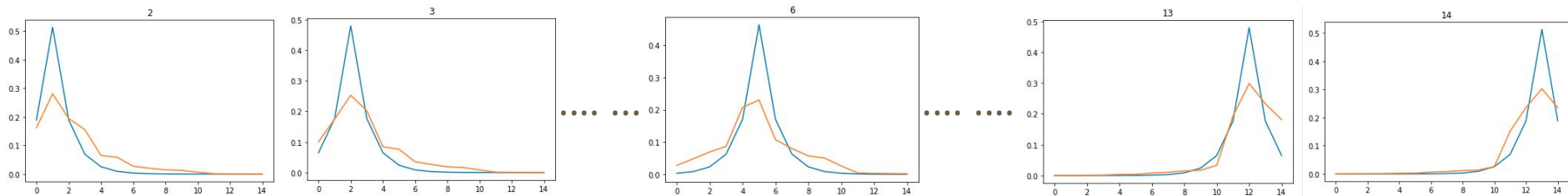


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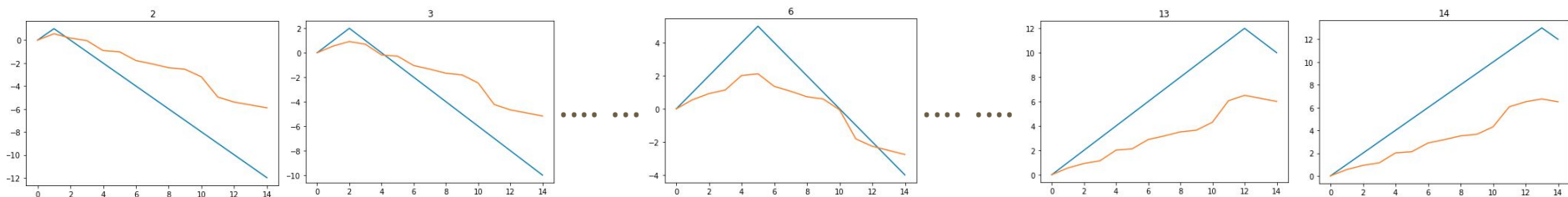


Apply *softmax()* to make them integrate to unity

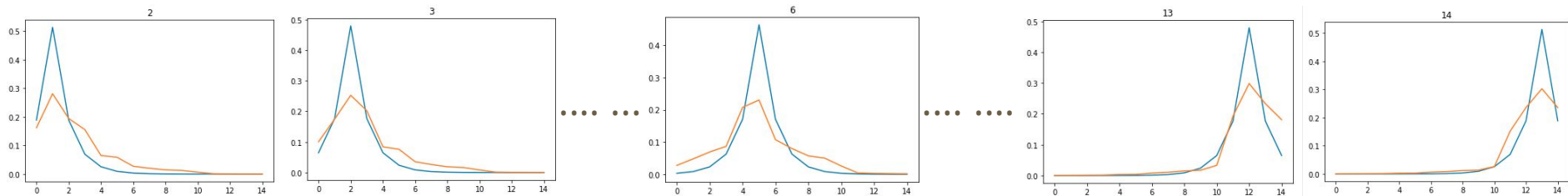


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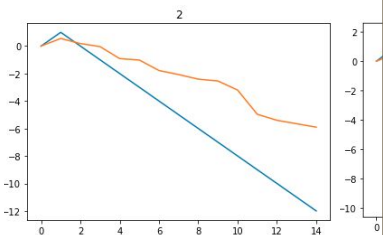
Apply *softmax()* to make them integrate to unity



How to have unimodal at any bin and with some freedom of shape in other bins?

# Unimodal model

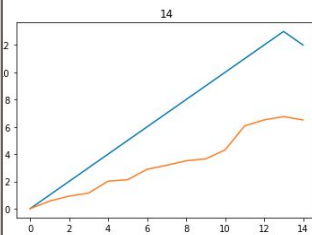
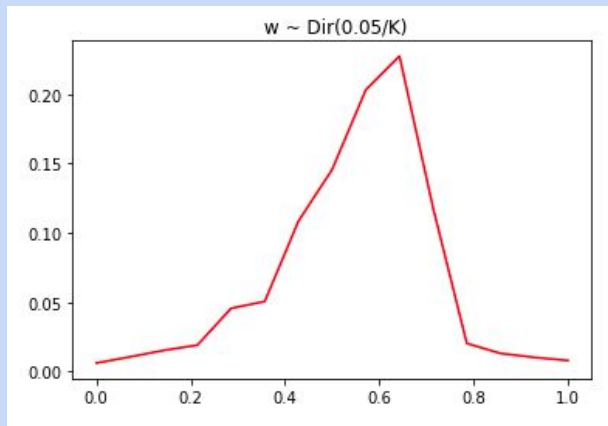
Allow for random



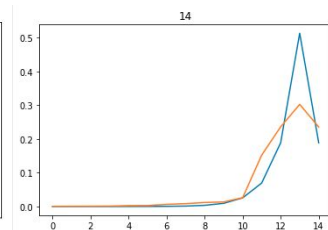
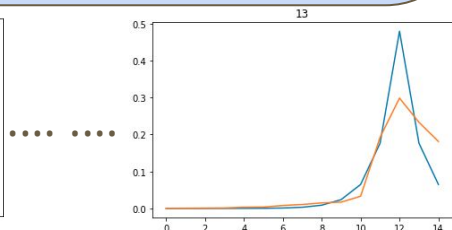
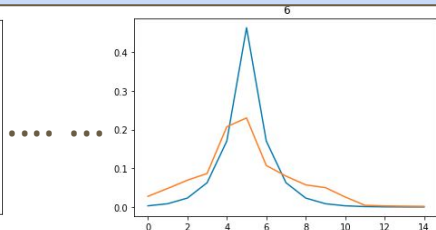
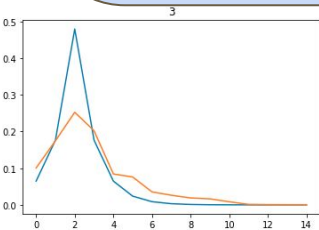
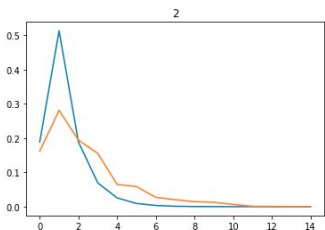
Sum orange curves weighted by

$w \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha)$

With  $\alpha$  small



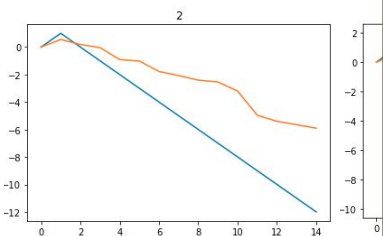
Apply softmax() to



How to have unimodal at any bin and with some freedom of shape in other bins?

# Unimodal model

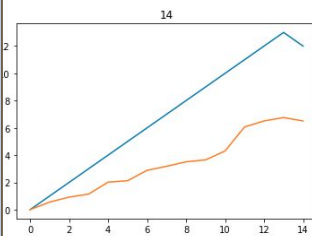
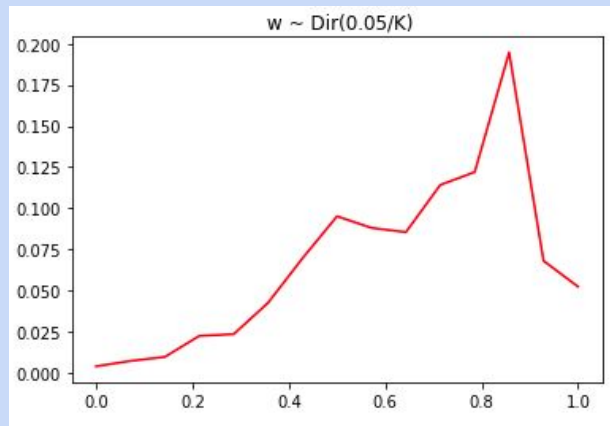
Allow for random



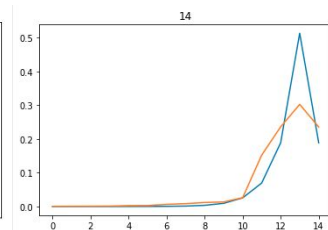
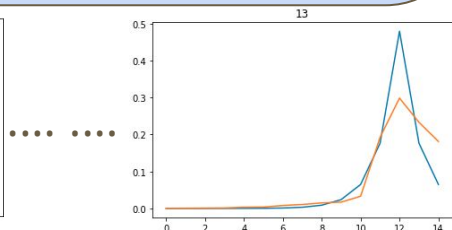
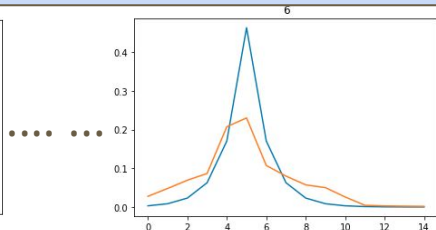
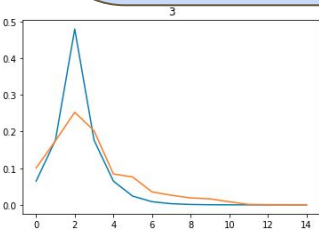
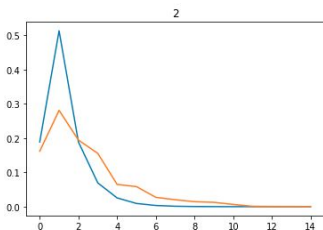
Sum orange curves weighted by

$w \sim \text{Dirichlet}(\alpha)$

With  $\alpha$  small



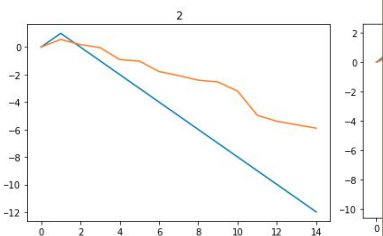
Apply softmax() to



How to have unimodal at any bin and with some freedom of shape in other bins?

# Unimodal model

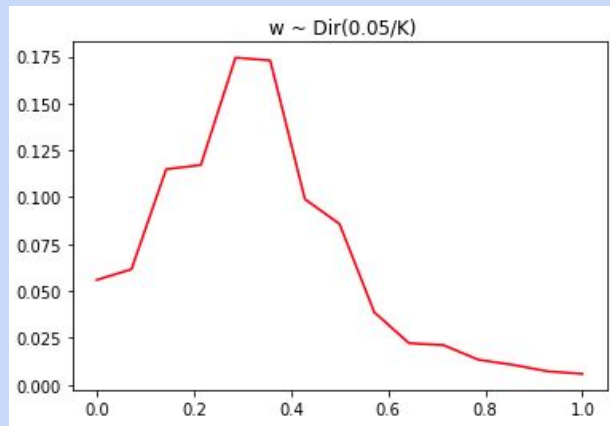
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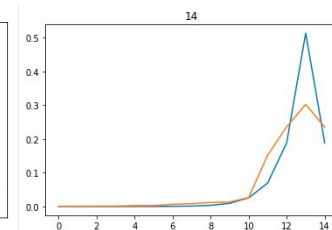
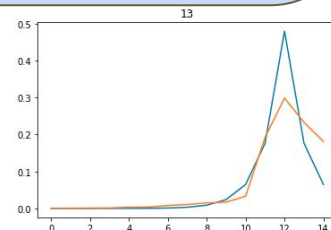
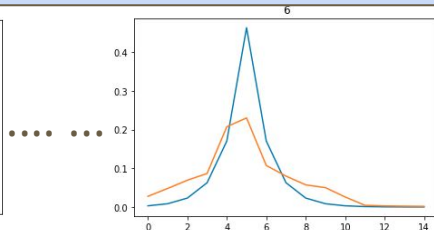
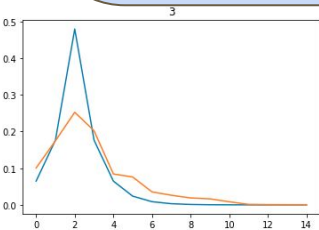
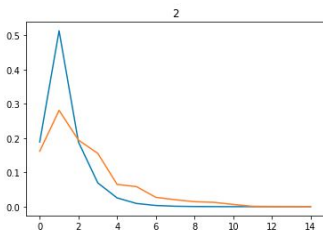
Sum orange curves weighted by

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With  $\alpha$  small



Apply *softmax()* to

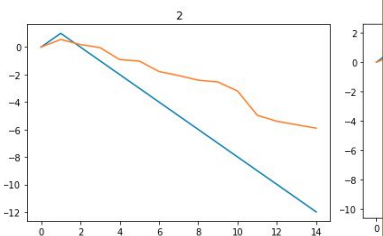


How to have unimodal at any bin and with some freedom of shape in other bins?



# Unimodal model

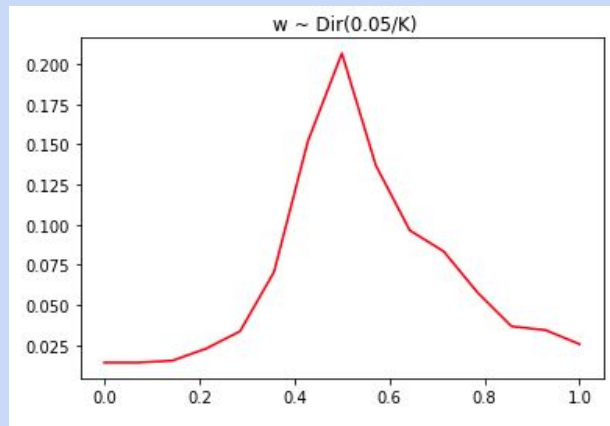
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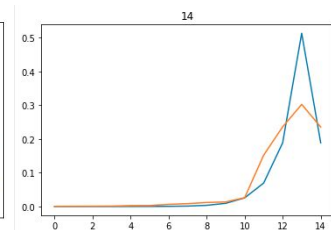
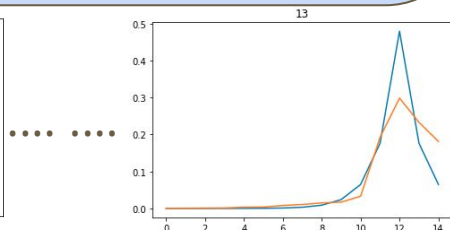
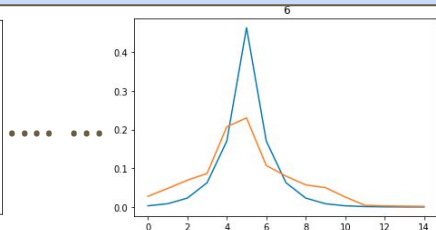
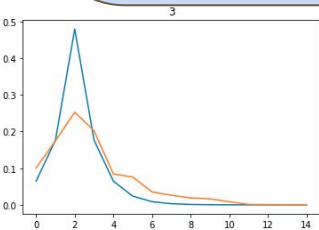
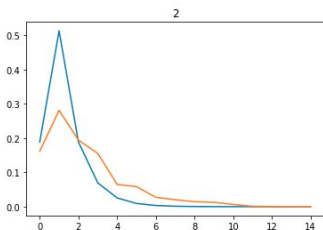
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weighted by

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With  $\alpha$  small



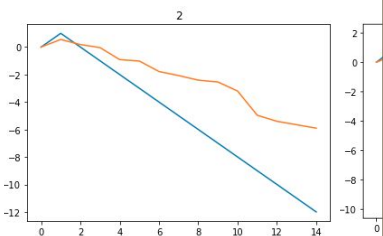
Apply softmax() to



How to have unimodal at any bin and with some freedom of shape in other bins?

# Unimodal model

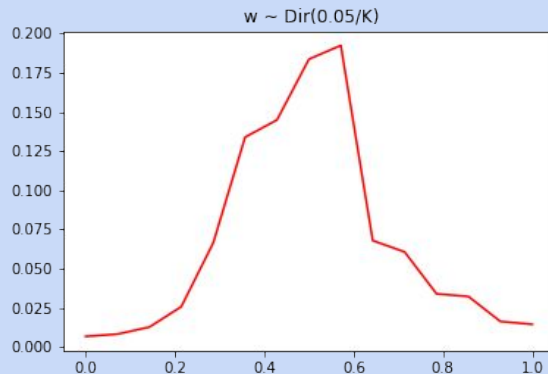
Allow for random



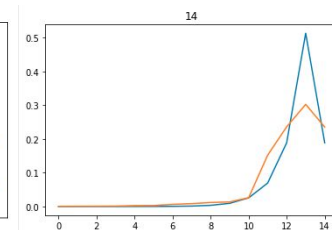
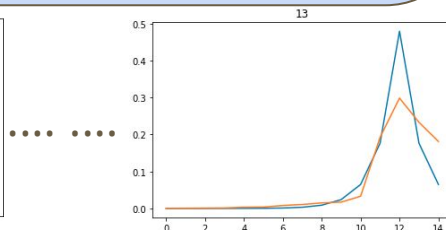
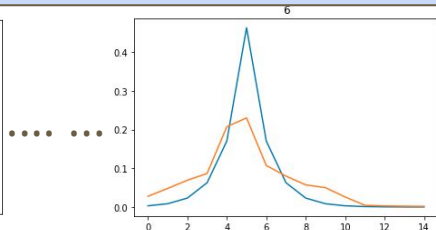
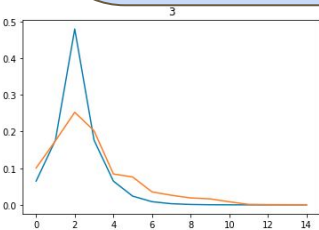
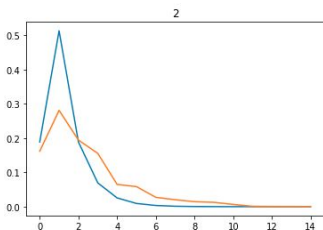
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With  $\alpha$  small



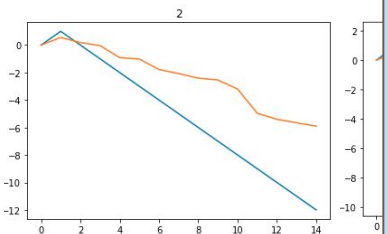
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# Unimodal model

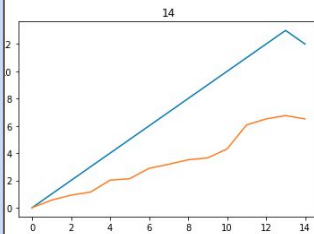
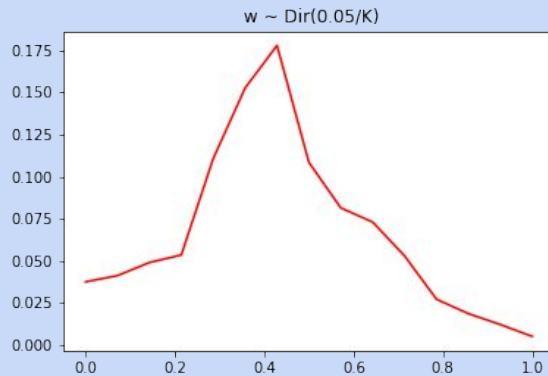
Allow for random



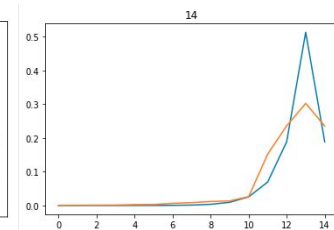
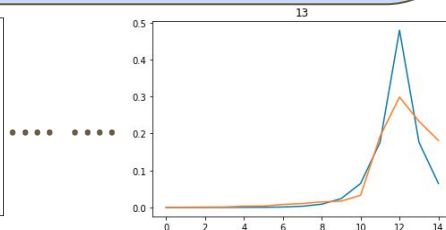
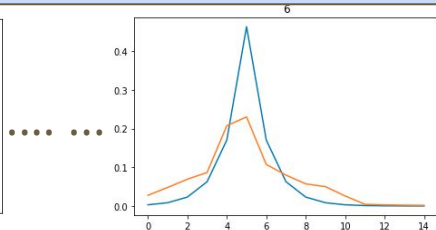
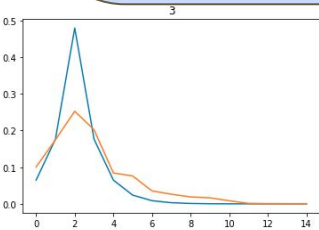
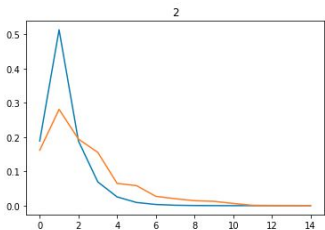
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With  $\alpha$  small



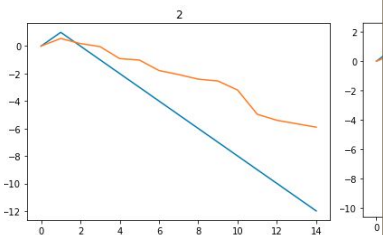
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# Unimodal model

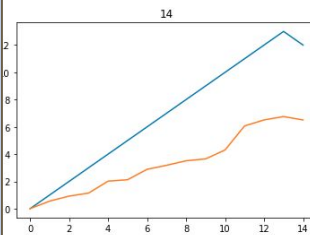
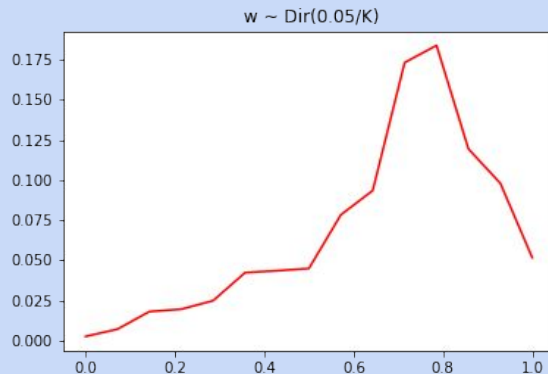
Allow for random



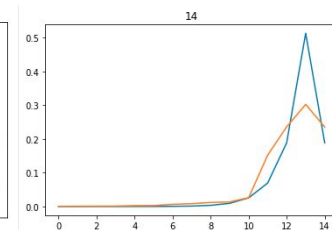
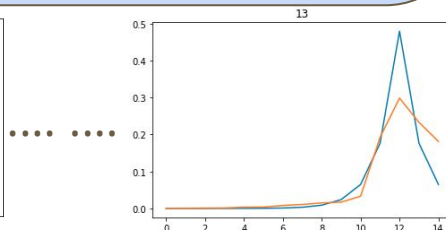
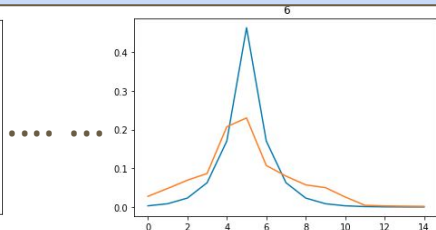
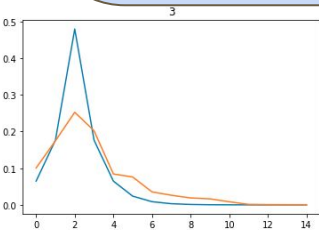
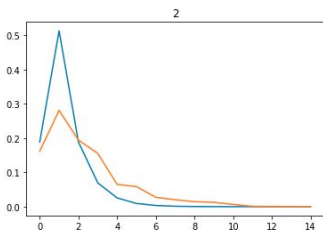
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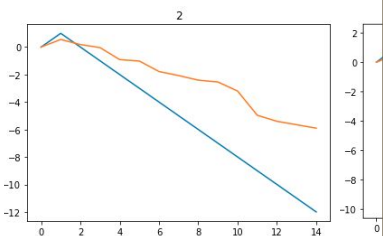
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# Unimodal model

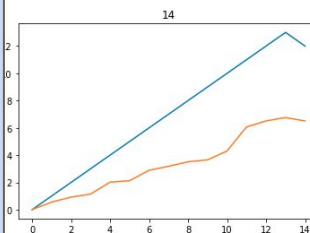
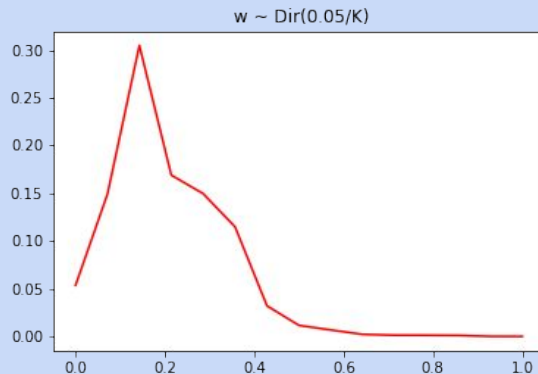
Allow for random



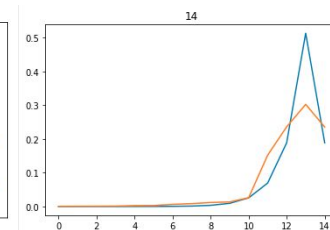
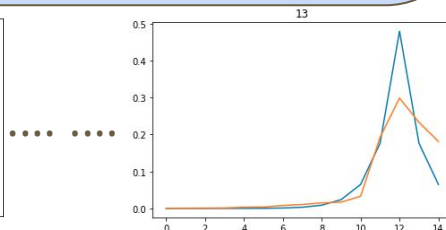
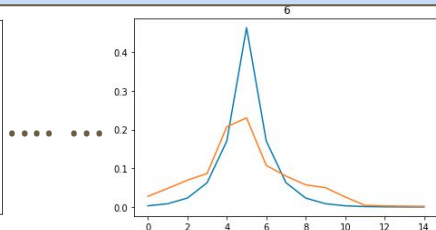
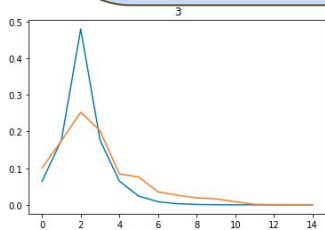
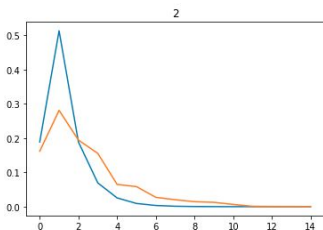
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With  $\alpha$  small

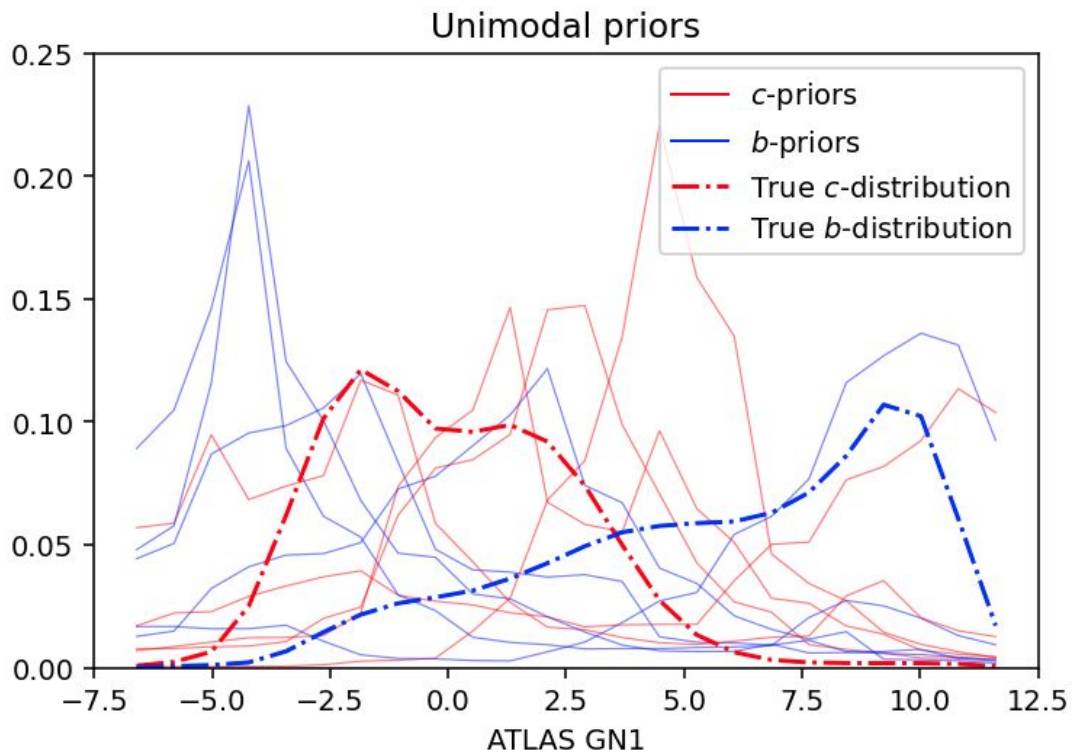


Apply *softmax()* to



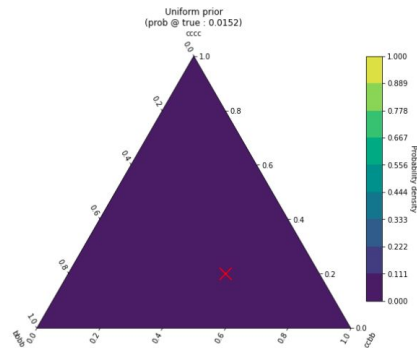
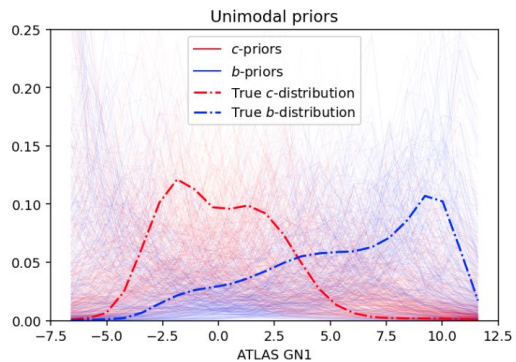
How to have unimodal at any bin and with some freedom of shape in other bins?

# Unimodal model



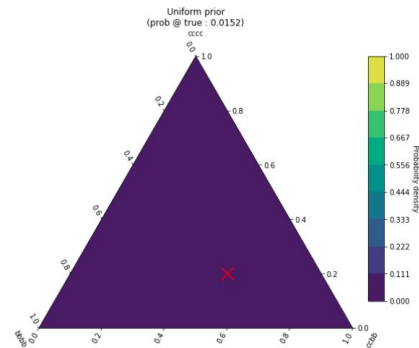
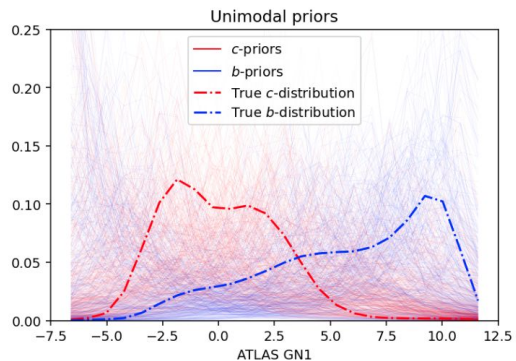
# Unimodal model: Results

This is how we start

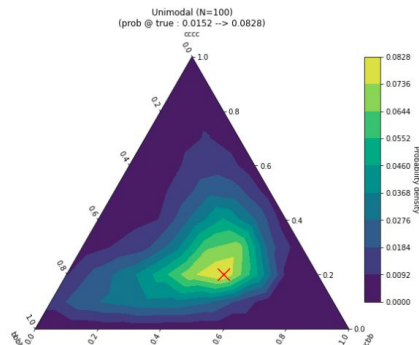
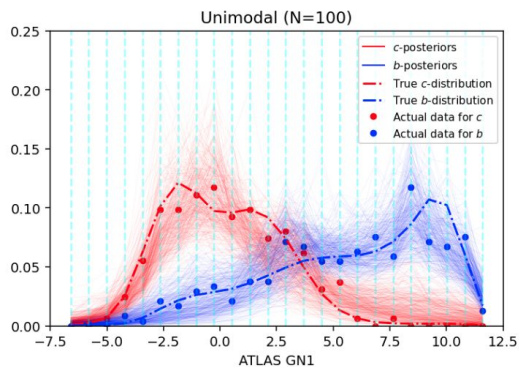


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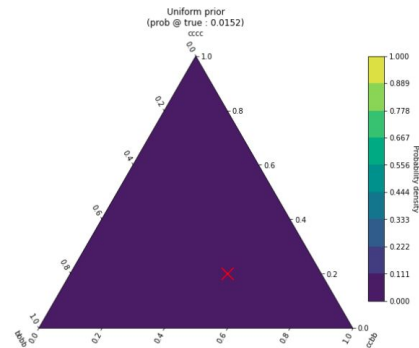
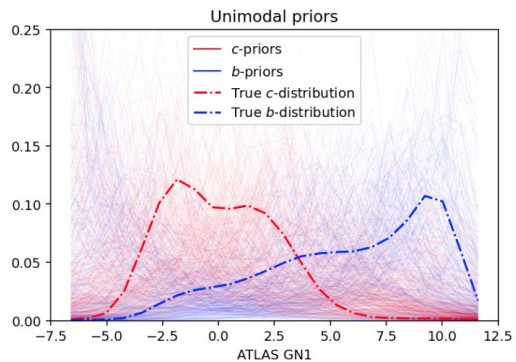
After seeing 100 events



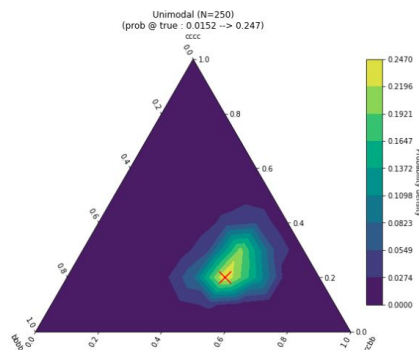
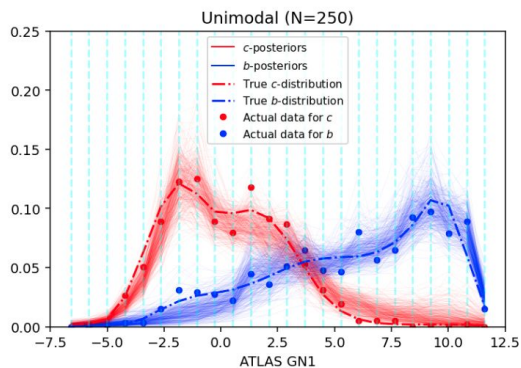


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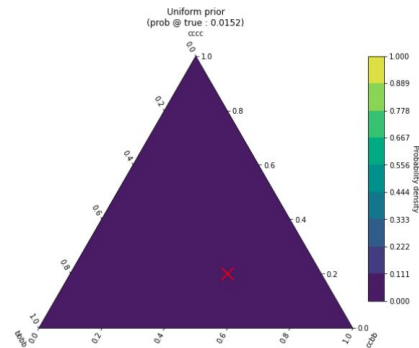
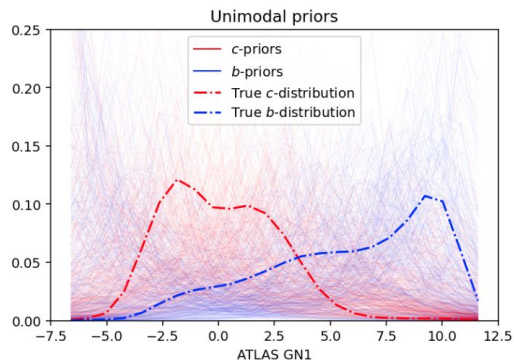


After seeing 250 events

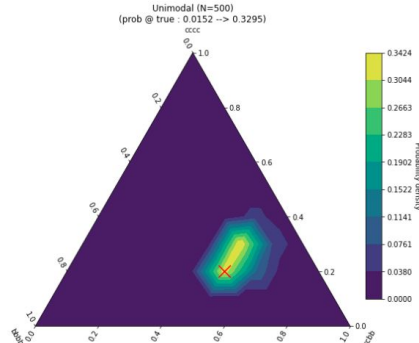
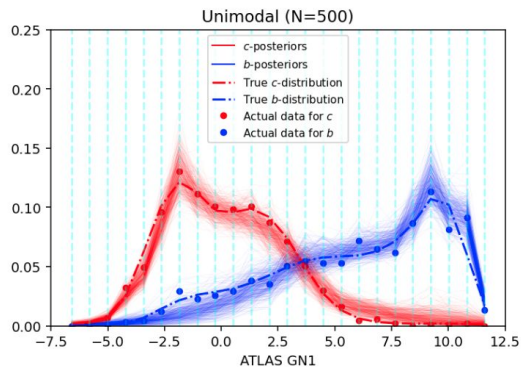


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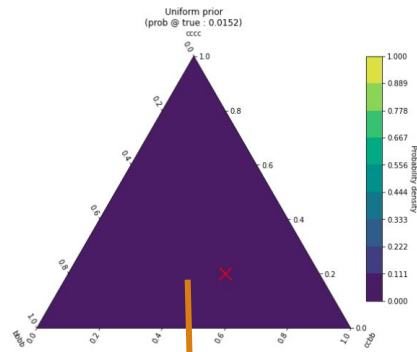
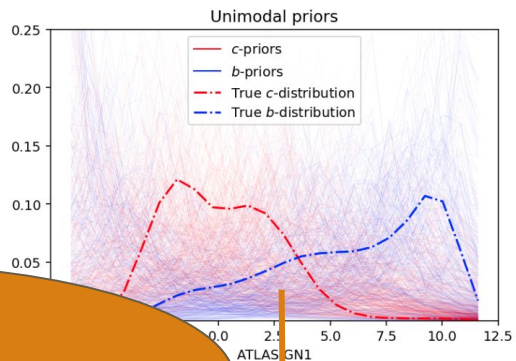


After seeing 500 events



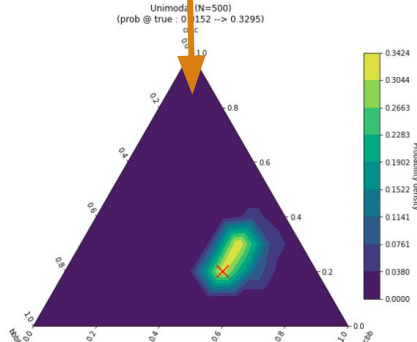
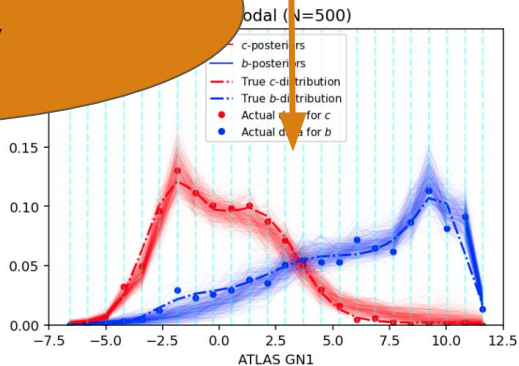
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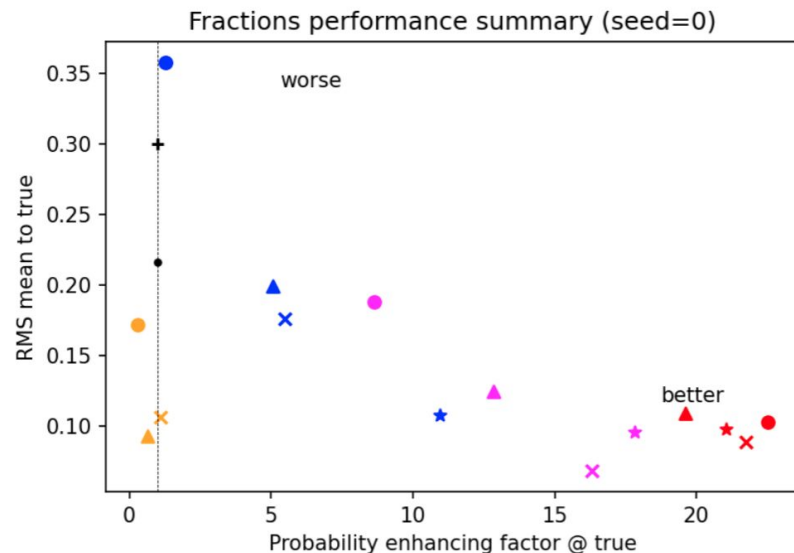
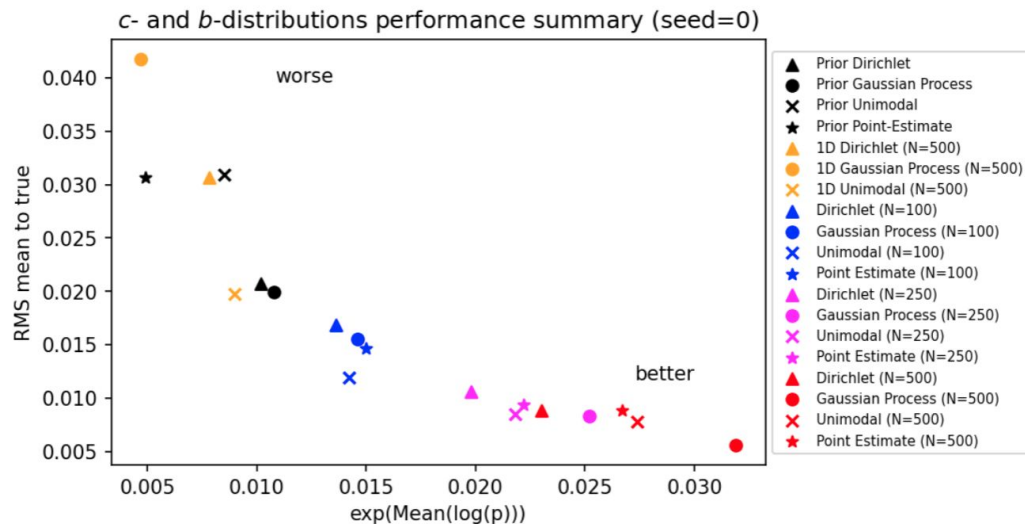


Correlation + unimodality knowledge

After seeing 500 events

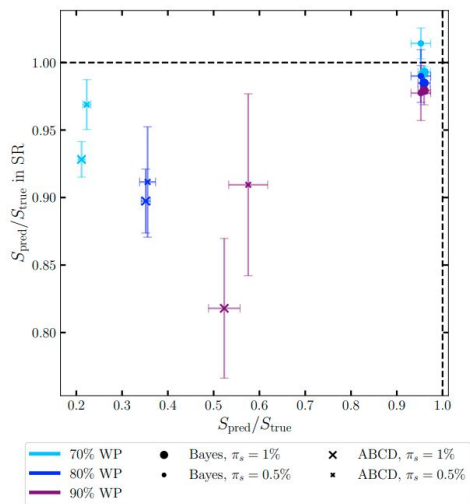


# Exploiting prior info: summary results



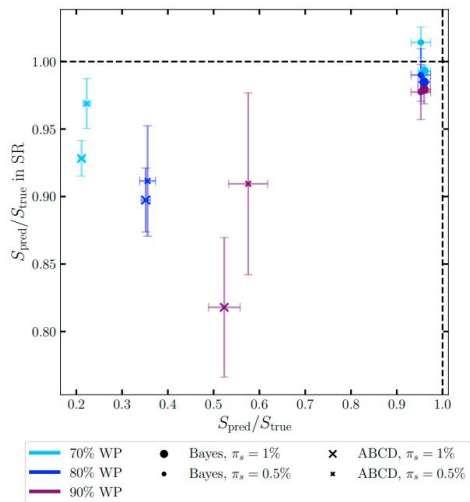
# Outlook & Conclusions

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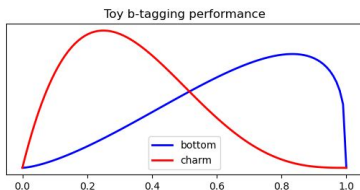
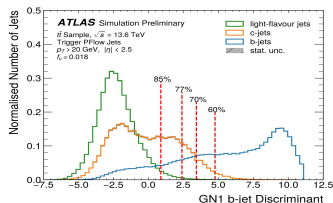


- Bayesian framework generalizes and improves ABCD method
- Bayesian is a sophisticated data-driven method that exploits multidimensionality +
- Toy-model on a toy-problem inspired in  $pp > hh > bbbb$

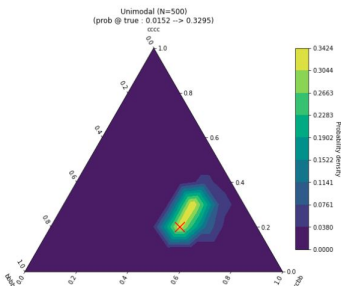
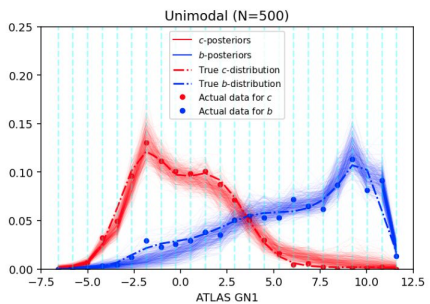
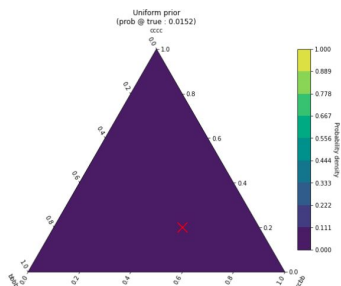
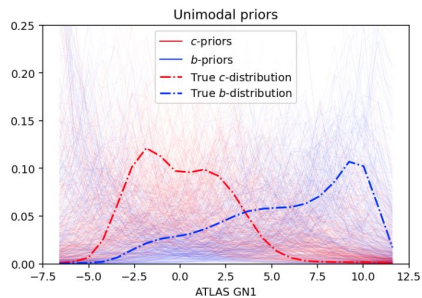
# Outlook & Conclusions



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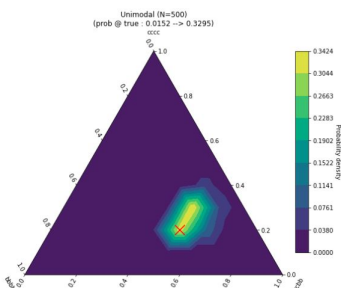
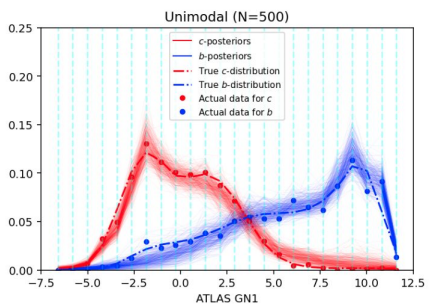
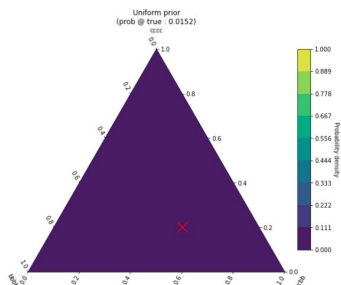
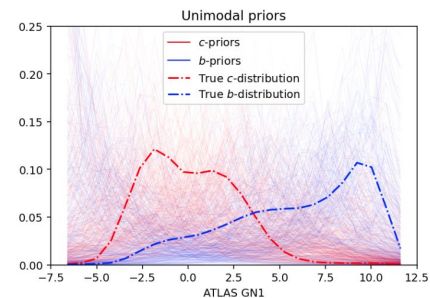
# Outlook & Conclusions



- Fully exploit continuity & unimodality
- Leveraged by
  - Multidimensionality
  - bbbb, bbcc, cccc

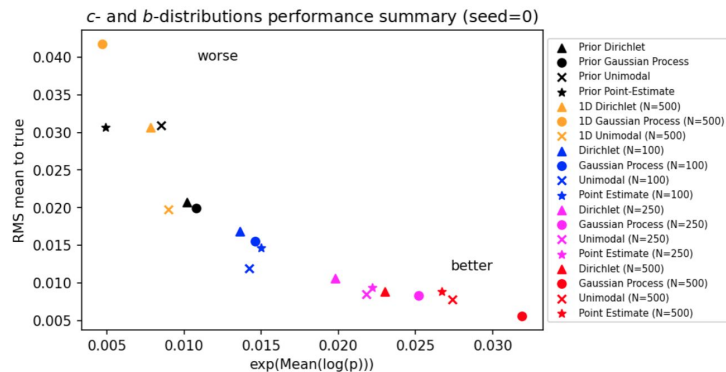
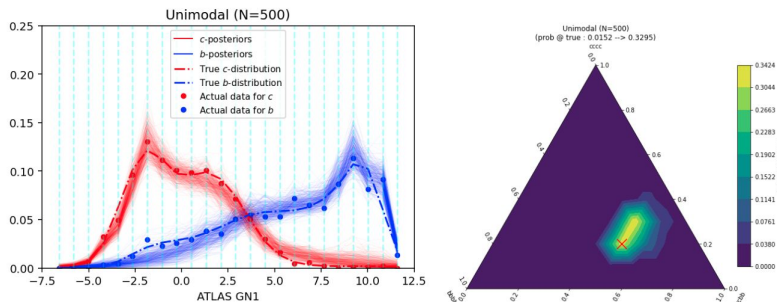


# Outlook & Conclusions



- Fully exploit continuity & unimodality
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  - Multidimensionality
  - bbbb, bbcc, cccc
- We are extracting correct distributions and fractions
- Using very few assumptions
- Reducing simulations impact

# Outlook & Conclusions

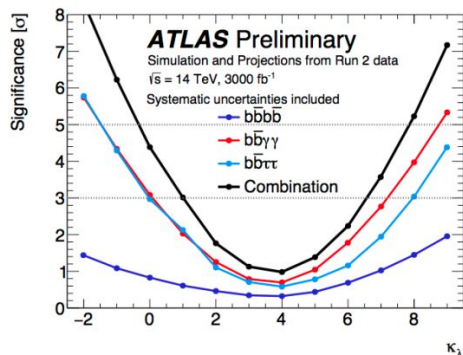


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  - bbbb, bbcc, cccc
- We are extracting correct distributions and fractions
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# Outlook & Conclusions

Expected significance for SM HH production

	Statistical-only		Statistical + Systematic	
	ATLAS	CMS	ATLAS	CMS
$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$	1.4	1.2	0.61	0.95
$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau\tau$	2.5 $\rightarrow$ 4.0	1.6	2.1 $\rightarrow$ 2.8	1.4
$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$	2.1 $\rightarrow$ 2.3	1.8	2.0 $\rightarrow$ 2.2	1.8 $\rightarrow$ 2.2
$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}VV(l\nu\nu)$	-	0.59	-	0.56
$HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}ZZ(AI)$	-	0.37	-	0.37
combined	3.5	2.8	3.0 $\rightarrow$ 3.2	2.6
	Combined		Combined	
mmm..	4.5		4.0	



$pp > hh > b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$

- Challenging, beautiful, attractive
- Huge enterprise to ride
  - Systematics (pile-up, etc)
  - More backgrounds
  - Integrate steps in unique Bayes
  - etc
- This could also improve  $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$  &  $b\bar{b}\tau\tau$ !
- Caution with "I'm a rabbit, i'm a rabbit" effect (see back-up slides)

# Outlook & Conclusions

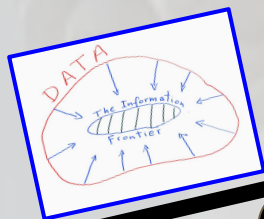
- Bayesian tools look promising
- No hard cuts. No signal & background regions. No hard-assignments
- Go *analytic* and *probabilistic*!
- Multidimensionality: correlation, correlation, correlation!
- There is more info in the data than what is currently being used ?
- A different approach that may increase  $pp > hh$  sensitivity  
(We can talk much more about hh!)

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change  $S/\sqrt{B}$   
thinking

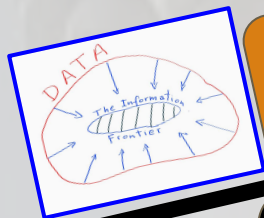
# The Information Frontier



- Modeling
- Prior-knowledge
- Structured priors
- Techniques & tools
- Multidimensionality
- Correlation

$$p(\theta | X) = p(X | \theta) p(\theta) / p(X)$$

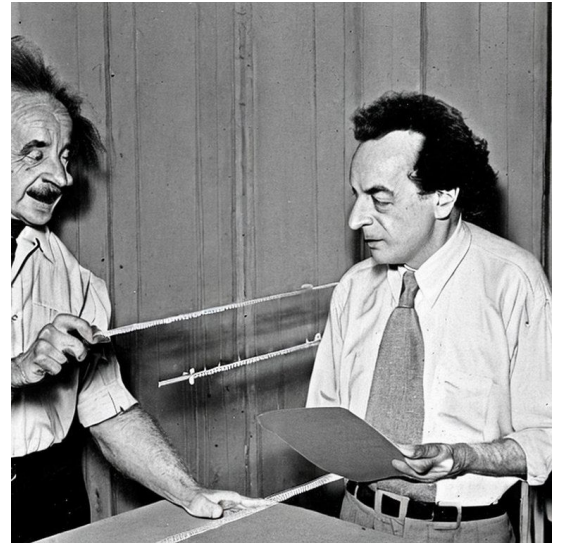
# The Information Frontier



Thank you!!

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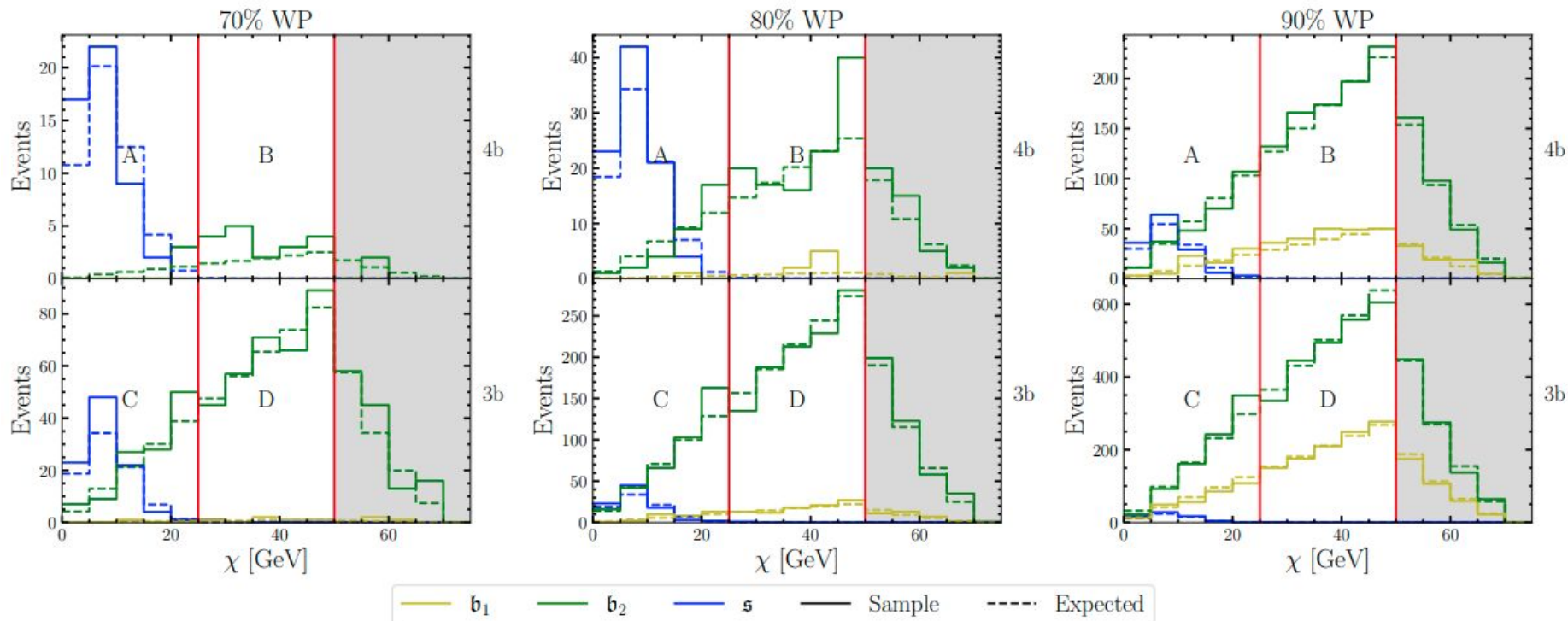
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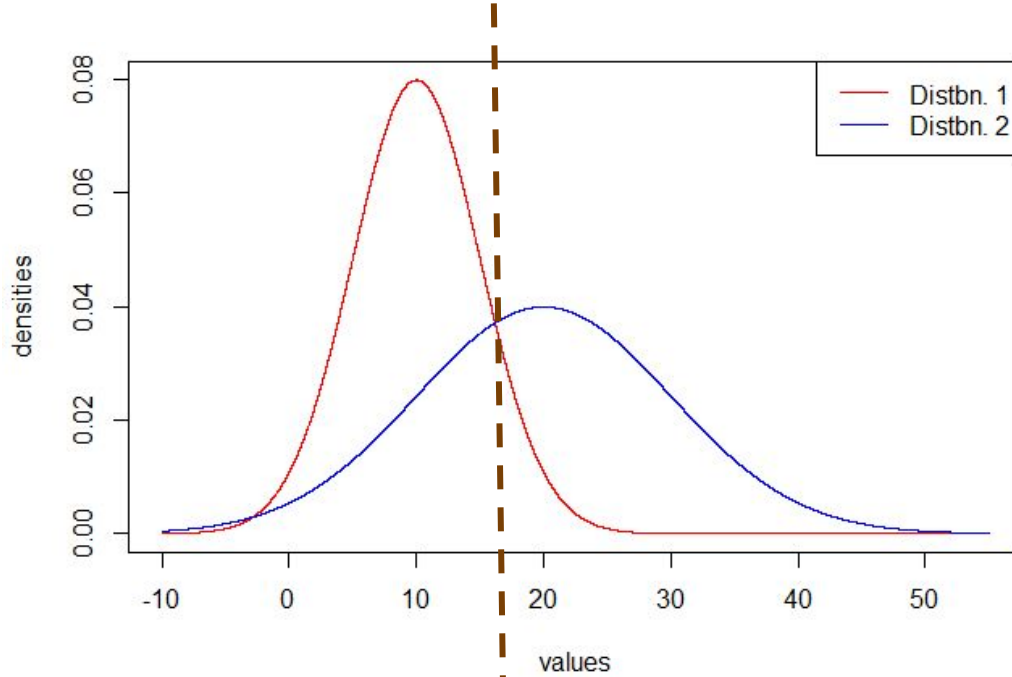


# Backup slides

# ABCD for WP = 70%, 80% and 90%



# Hard- Vs Soft-assignment

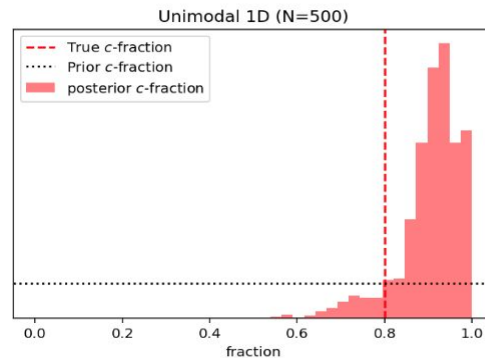
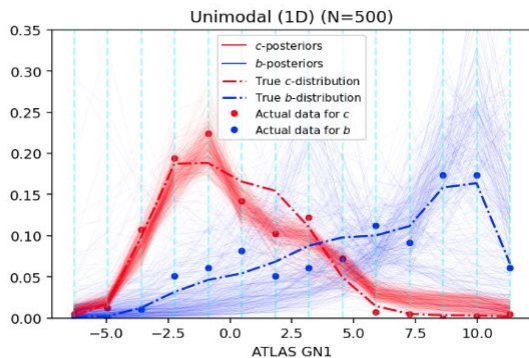
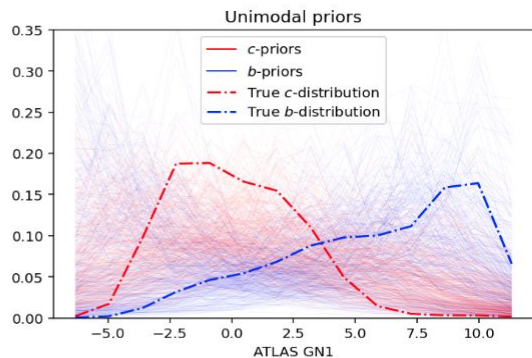
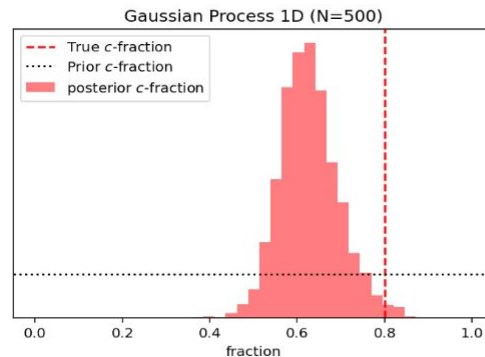
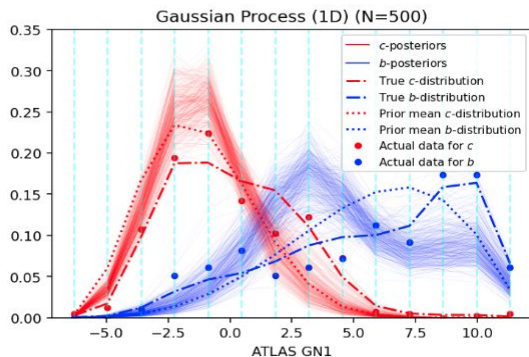
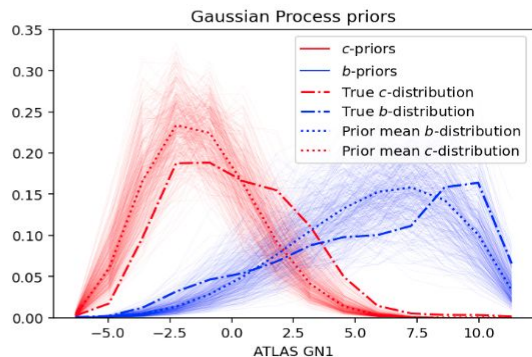


The only way of having same number of events is if blue area on the left equals red area on the right. Very unlikely.

And even in that case the behaviors are different

# 1D inference problem

The problem has non-identification



# Joke

Scotland Yard, FBI and Argentine Federal police are in the world's final Police-detective Contest, in which a rabbit is set free and it has to be found.

First day, FBI takes 2hs and finds the rabbit. How did you do it? Well.. we computed the wind, the trees distribution and the genetic pattern, and we knew where it was going to be. Clap clap clap.... 🙌🙌🙌

Second day, Scotland Yard takes 30m! How did you do it?! Well, quite easy, we knew its shape, its skills, the forest distribution, we plugged everything to our AI, and we knew exactly where to find it. Woow... 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌!!!!

And then the third day came the Argentine Federal Police... 30m.. Nothing... 2hs..nothing....10hs... nothing....1 day...nothing... 2days... nothing!!! And after a week they arrived.... [page down]

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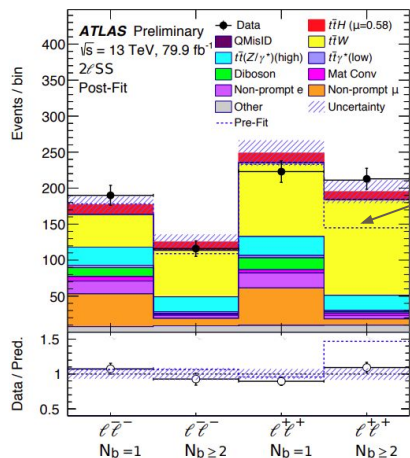
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- **Theory:** SM or BSM
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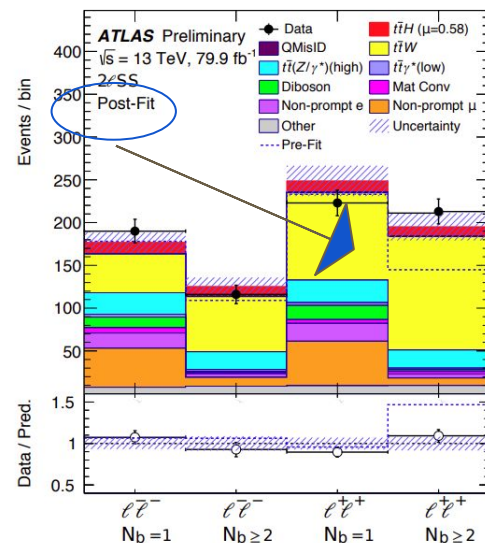
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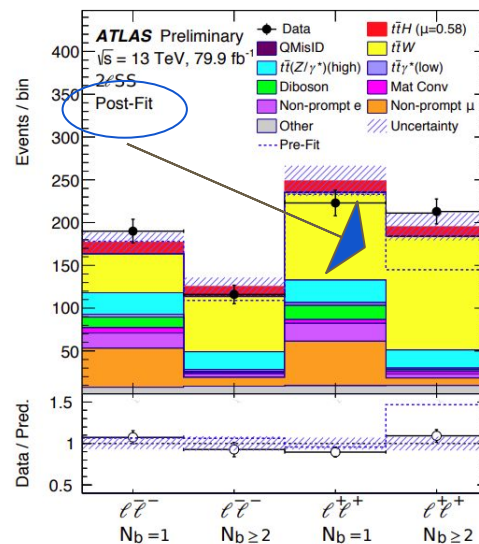
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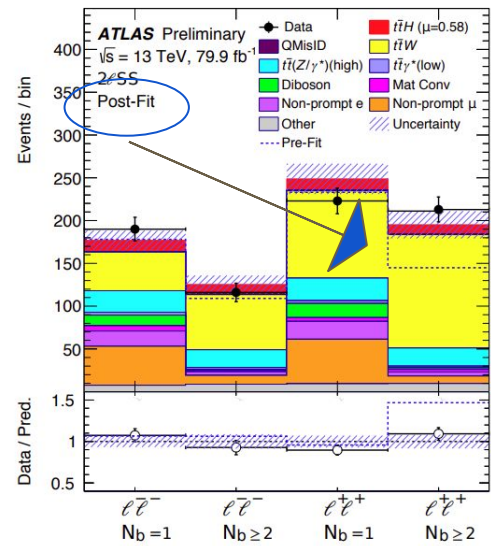
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**Statistics > Machine Learning***[Submitted on 28 May 2024]*

# Is machine learning good or bad for the natural sciences?

[David W. Hogg](#) (NYU, MPIA, Flatiron), [Soledad Villar](#) (JHU, Flatiron)

Machine learning (ML) methods are having a huge impact across all of the sciences. However, ML has a strong ontology - in which only the data exist - and a strong epistemology - in which a model is considered good if it performs well on held-out training data. These philosophies are in strong conflict with both standard practices and key philosophies in the natural sciences. Here, we identify some locations for ML in the natural sciences at which the ontology and epistemology are valuable. For example, when an expressive machine learning model is used in a causal inference to represent the effects of confounders, such as foregrounds, backgrounds, or instrument calibration parameters, the model capacity and loose philosophy of ML can make the results more trustworthy. We also show that there are contexts in which the introduction of ML introduces strong, unwanted statistical biases. For one, when ML models are used to emulate physical (or first-principles) simulations, they introduce strong confirmation biases. For another, when expressive regressions are used to label datasets, those labels cannot be used in downstream joint or ensemble analyses without taking on uncontrolled biases. The question in the title is being asked of all of the natural sciences; that is, we are calling on the scientific communities to take a step back and consider the role and value of ML in their fields; the (partial) answers we give here come from the particular perspective of physics.