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# Quantum computing applications for HEP

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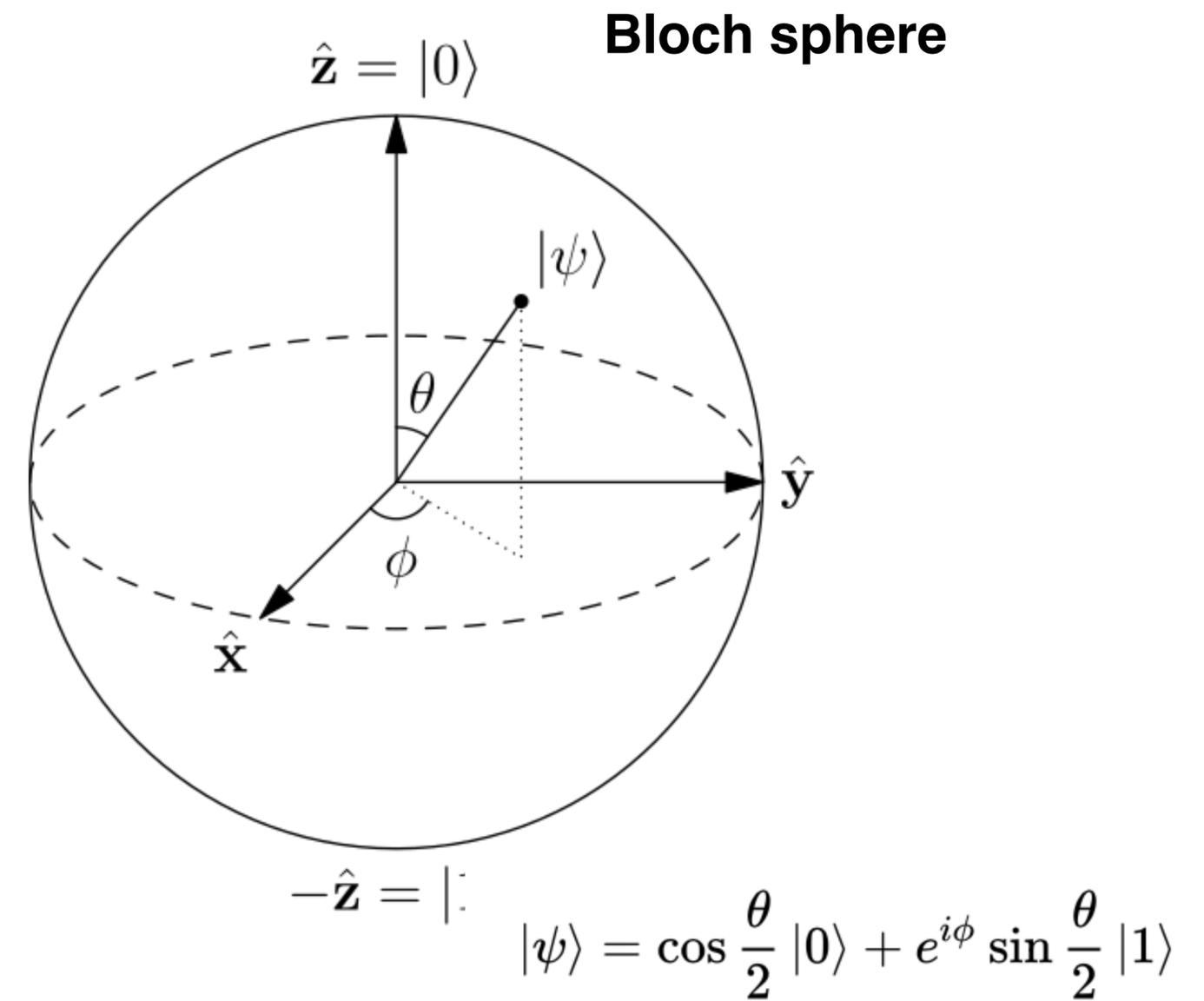
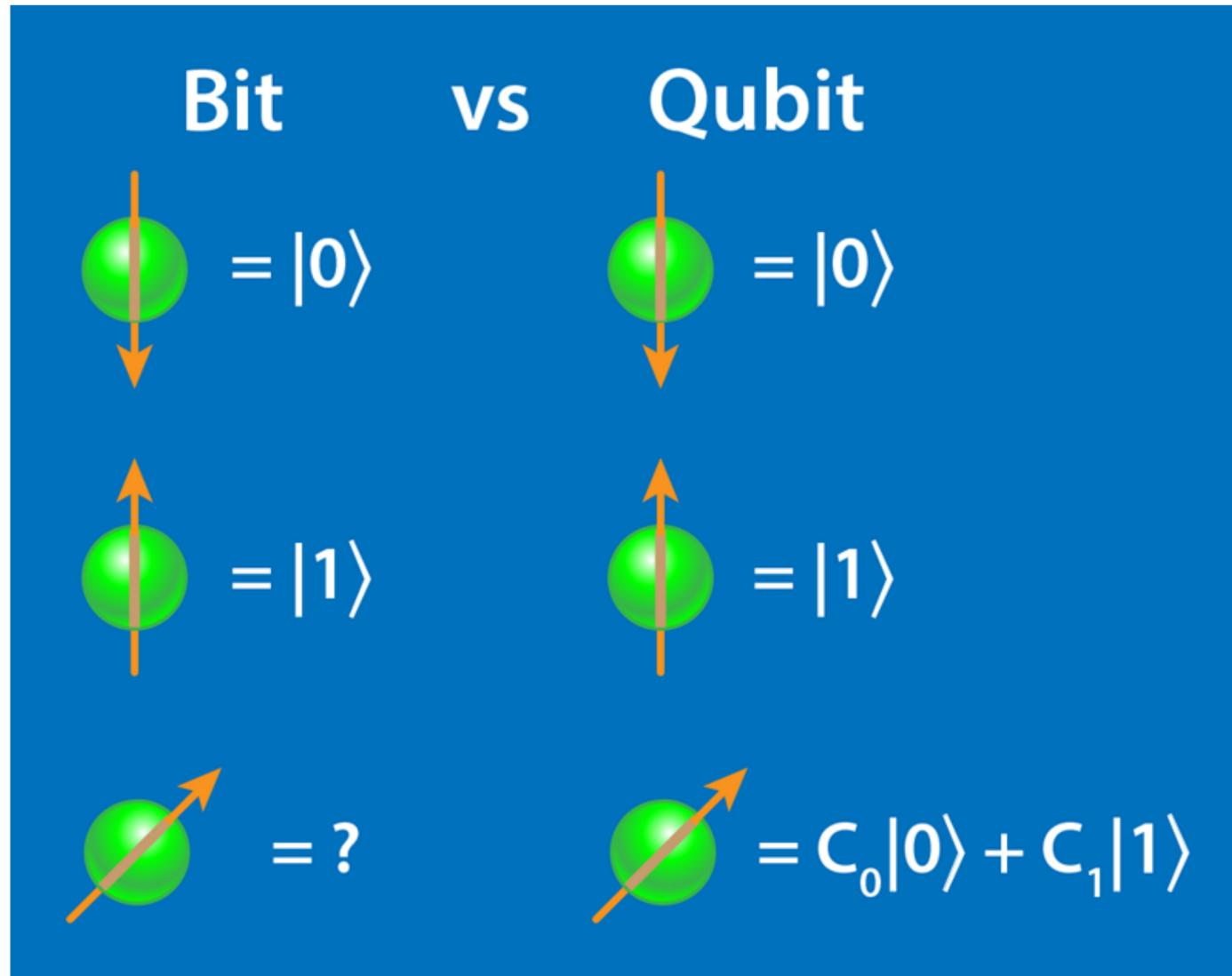


Digital Twins for Nuclear and Particle Physics  
NP-Twins 2024

# Introduction

- The goal of this talk is to give an overview of **Quantum Computing (QC)** applications to High Energy Physics
- Since I am a **user** from the **experimental side** (I work in the LHCb Collaboration), the examples I am going to show are definitely biased by my personal view (apologies for this)
- QC in HEP is now in an exploration and study phase, **you won't see any quantum supremacy in this talk**, just the state-of-the-art and prospects
- In particular, in this presentation I will focus mostly on **Quantum Machine Learning (QML)** applications
- I will briefly introduce some **basics of QC**

# Quantum computing: qubits



**1 Bit:** two possible values, 0 or 1

**1 Qubit:** infinite values, one for each point in a sphere

**But when we read it we always find 0 or 1!**

# Quantum computing: gates

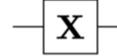
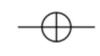
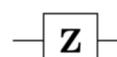
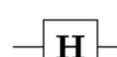
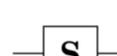
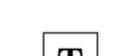
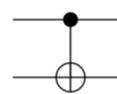
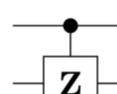
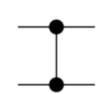
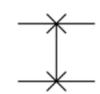
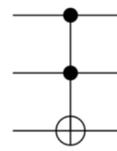
- Evolution of isolated quantum states described by Hamiltonians
- Operations on qubits are unitary matrices
- **The operations are reversible**
- Some classical gates (like OR/AND) cannot be implemented directly

$$H(t)|\psi(t)\rangle = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle$$

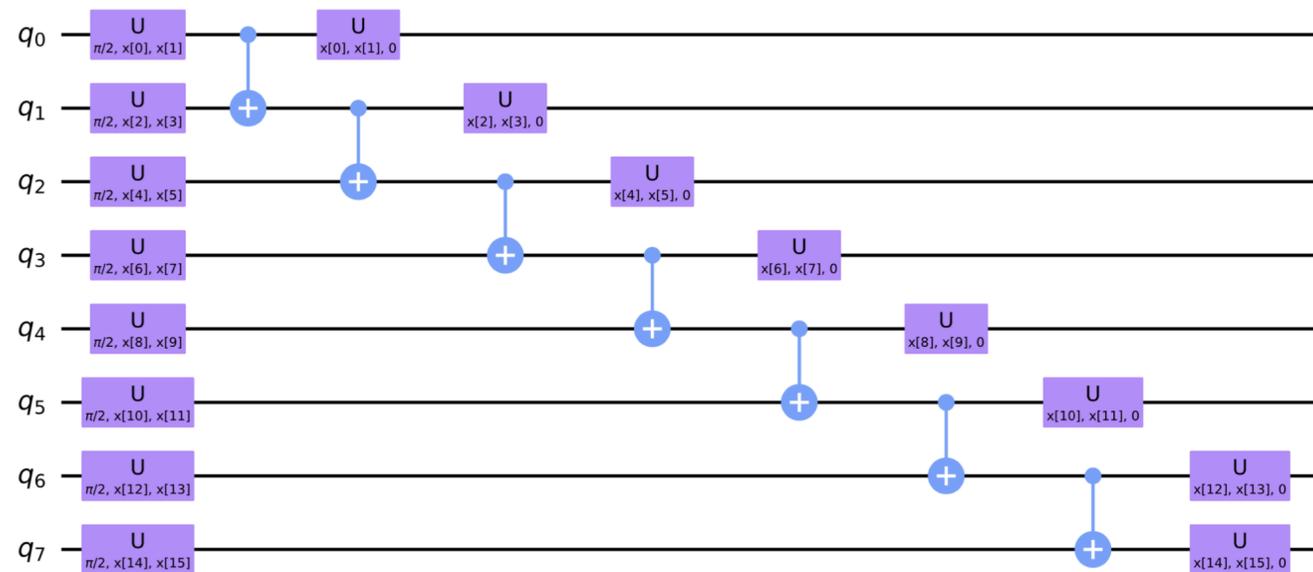
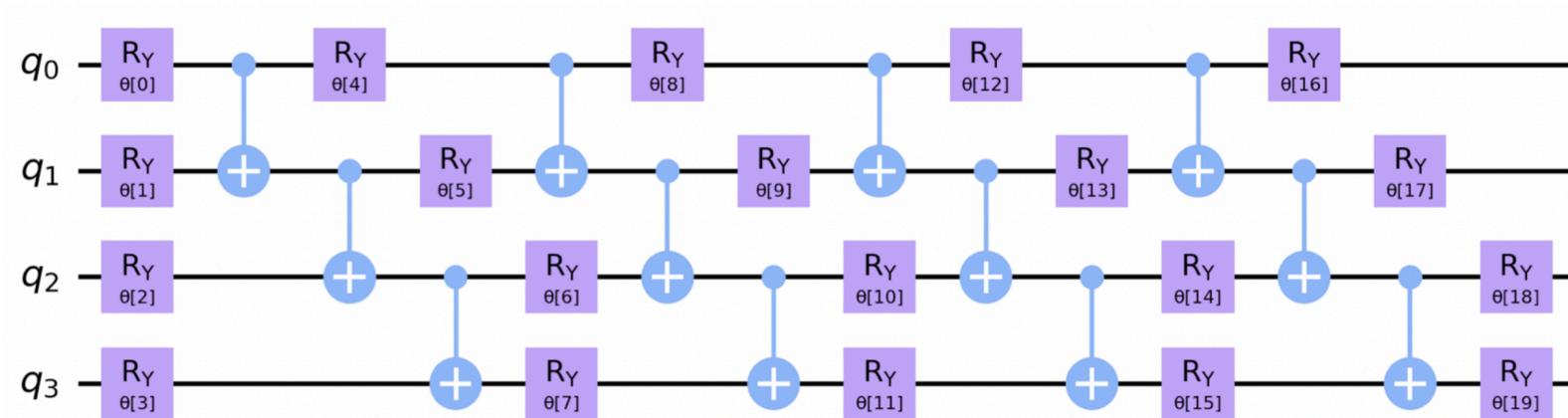
$$UU^\dagger = U^\dagger U = I$$

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a\alpha + b\beta \\ c\alpha + d\beta \end{pmatrix}$$

Operator	Gate(s)	Matrix
Pauli-X (X)	 	$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
Pauli-Y (Y)		$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
Pauli-Z (Z)		$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$
Hadamard (H)		$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$
Phase (S, P)		$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{bmatrix}$
$\pi/8$ (T)		$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\pi/4} \end{bmatrix}$
Controlled Not (CNOT, CX)		$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$
Controlled Z (CZ)	 	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$
SWAP	 	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$
Toffoli (CCNOT, CCX, TOFF)		$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

# Quantum circuits



- Circuits are composed by a sequence of operations on qubits
- Quantum software is programmed by building these circuits
- When they are ported to the quantum hardware they can look very different from the initial design (**transpiling**)

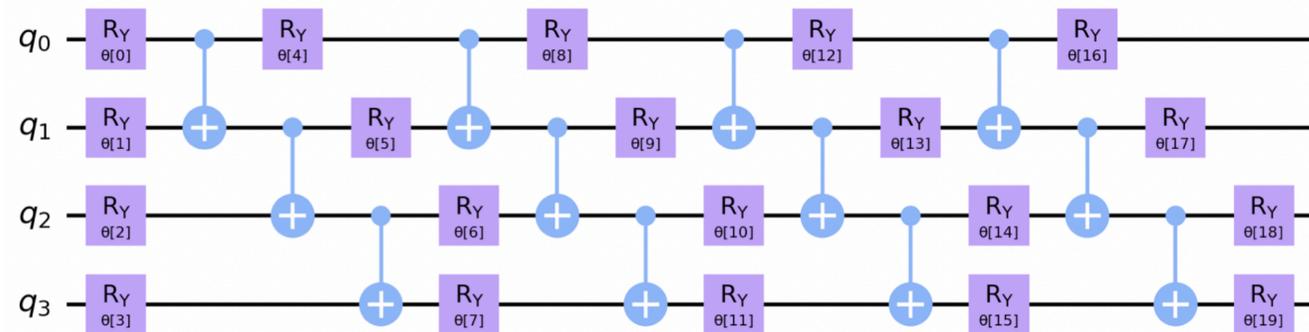
Popular python libraries for implementing Quantum Circuits are **PennyLane/Qiskit**

In particular **Qiskit** is used for tests on IBM hardwares



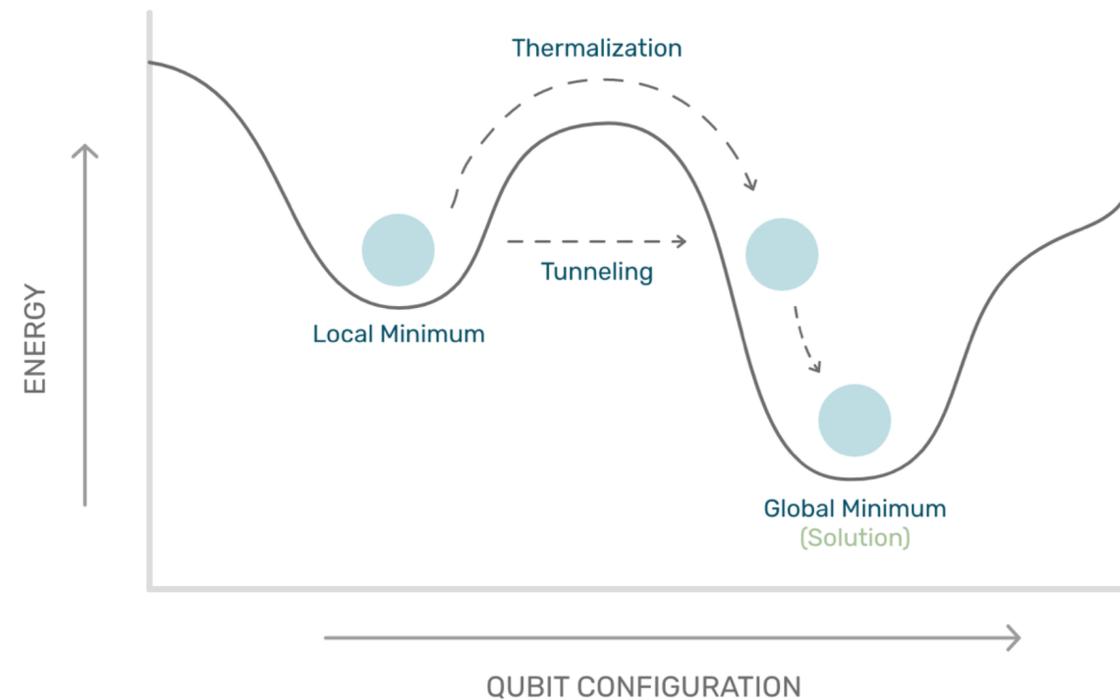
# Gate-based vs quantum annealing

## Gate based quantum computers



All kind of tasks

## Quantum annealers



<https://www.vesselproject.io/life-through-quantum-annealing>

Dedicated to optimization problems

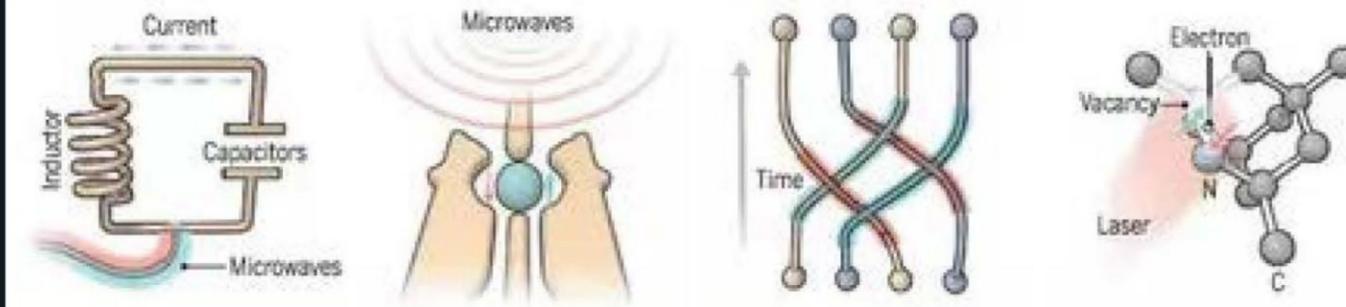
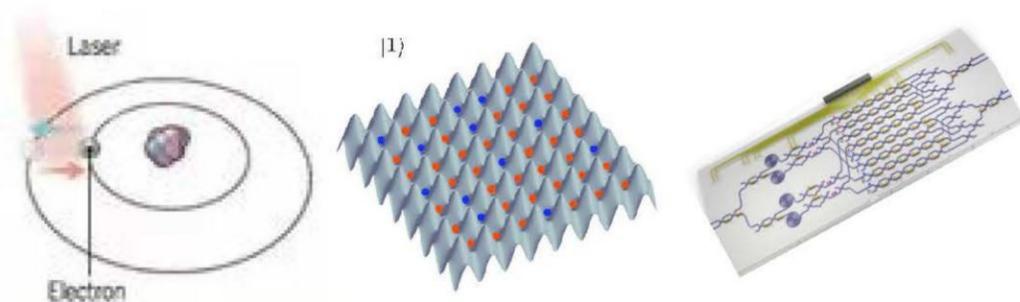


# Quantum computer technologies

## Quantum Computer Technologies

Natural Qubits

Synthetic Qubits



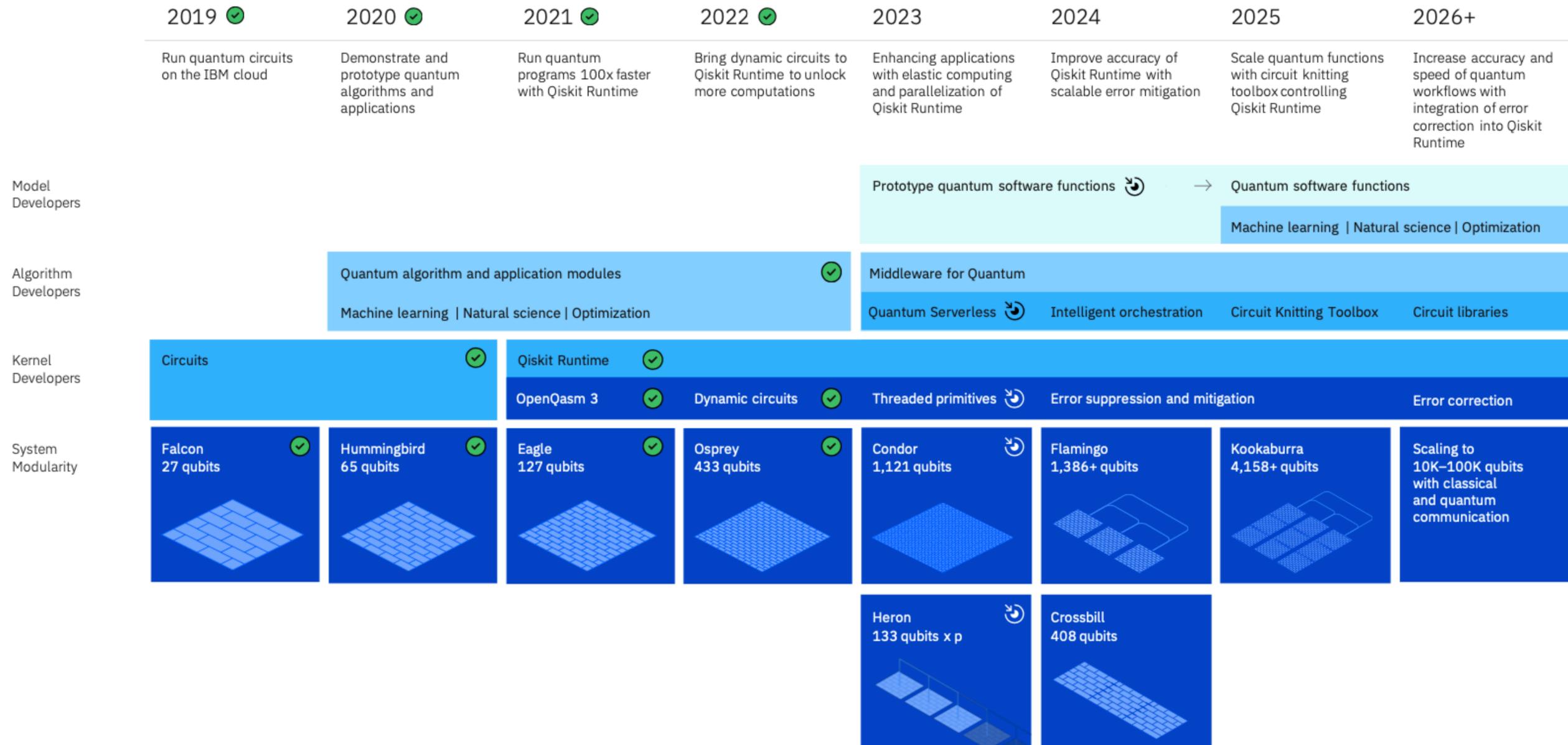
	Trapped Ions	Neutral Atoms	Photonics	Superconducting Loops	Silicon Quantum Dots	Topological Qubits	Diamond Vacancies
<b>Trapped Ions</b> Electrically charged atoms, or ions, are held in place with electric fields. Qubits are stored in electronic states. Ions are pushed with laser beams to allow the qubits to interact.		<b>Neutral Atoms</b> Neutral atoms, like ions, store qubits within electronic states. Laser activates the electrons to create interaction between qubits.	<b>Photonics</b> Photonic qubits (light particles) are sent through a maze of optical channels on a chip to interact. At the end of the maze, the distribution of photons is measured as an output.	<b>Superconducting Loops</b> A resistance-free current oscillates back and forth around a circuit loop. An injected microwave signal excites the current into super-position states.	<b>Silicon Quantum Dots</b> These "artificial atoms" are made by adding an electron to a small piece of pure silicon. Microwaves control the electron's quantum state.	<b>Topological Qubits</b> Quasiparticles can be seen in the behavior of electrons channeled through semi-conductor structures. Their braided paths can encode quantum information.	<b>Diamond Vacancies</b> A nitrogen atom and a vacancy add an electron to a diamond lattice. Its quantum spin state, along with those of nearby carbon nuclei, can be controlled with light.
<b>Qubit Coherence Time (sec)</b>	>1000	1	--	0.00005	0.03	N/A	10
<b>Fidelity</b>	99.9%	97%	--	99.4%	~99%	N/A	99.2%
<b>Qubits Connected</b>	High	Very high; low individual control	--	High	Very Low	N/A	Low
<b>Company Support</b>	IONQ, AQT, Honeywell, Oxford Ionics	Atom Computing, ColdQuanta, QuEra	Psiquantum, Xanadu	Google, IBM, QCI, Rigetti	HRL, Intel, SQC	Microsoft	Quantum Diamond Technologies
<b>Pros</b>	Very stable. Highest achieved gate fidelities.	Many qubits, 2D and maybe 3D.	Linear optical gates, integrated on-chip.	Can lay out physical circuits on chip.	Borrows from existing semiconductor industry.	Greatly reduce errors.	Can operate at room temperature.
<b>Cons</b>	Slow operation. Many lasers are needed.	Hard to program and control individual qubits; prone to noise.	Each program requires its own chip with unique optical channels. No memory.	Must be cooled to near absolute zero. High variability in fabrication. Lots of noise.	Only a few connected. Must be cooled to near absolute zero. High variability in fabrication.	Existence not yet confirmed.	Difficult to create high numbers of qubits, limiting compute capacity.

Source: Science, Dec. 2016

# Quantum computers

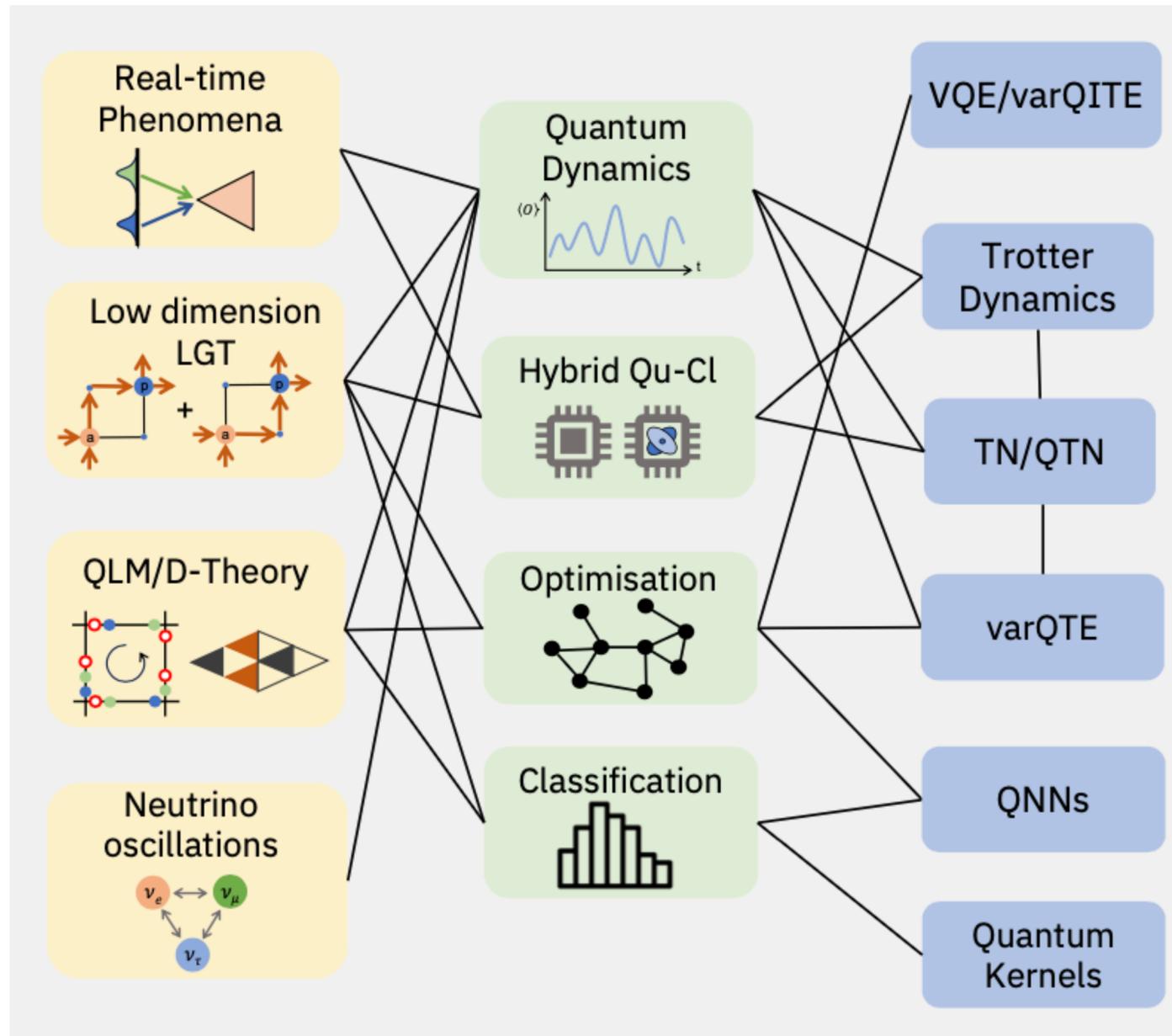
## Development Roadmap

Executed by IBM   
On target 

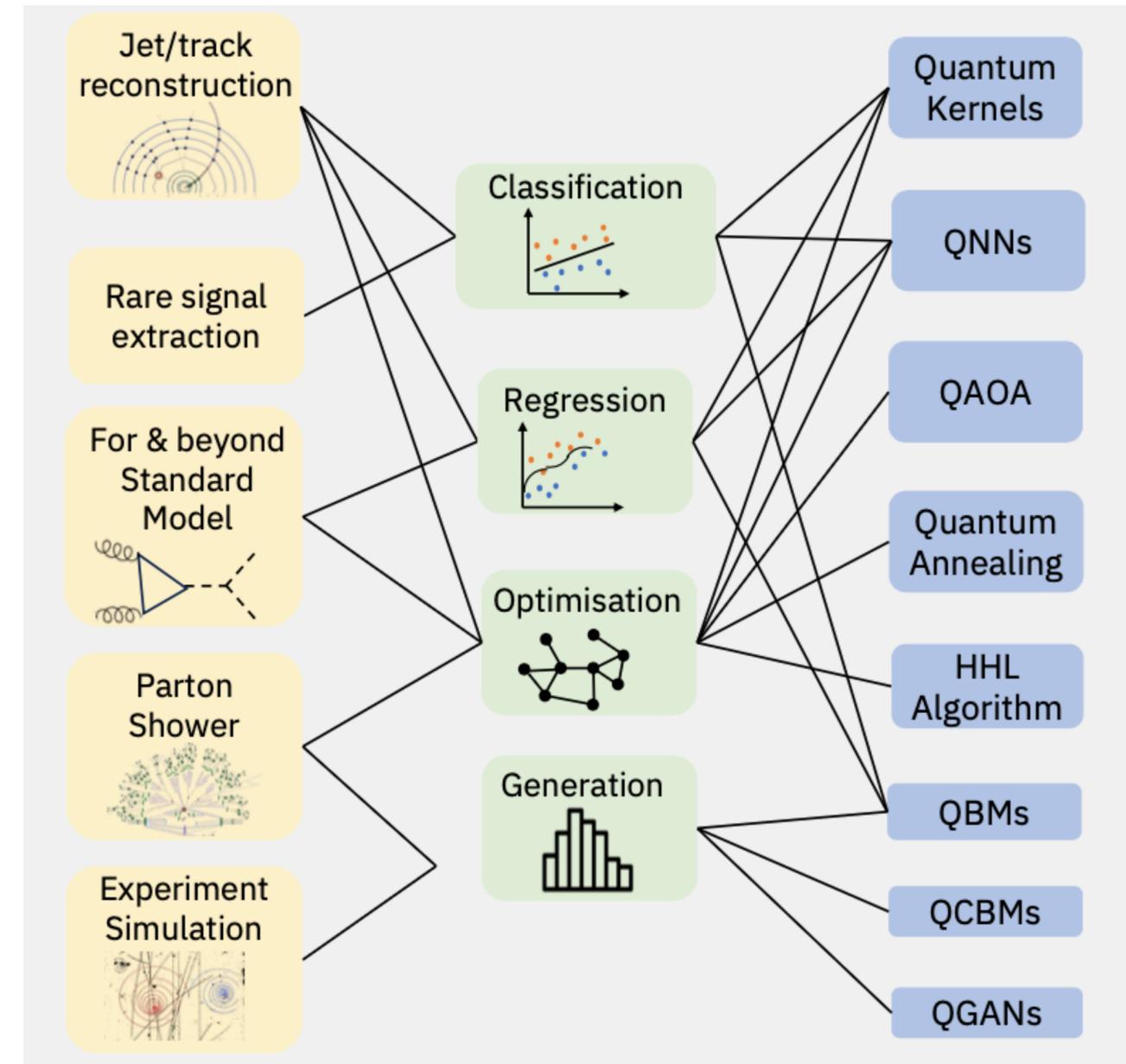


# Quantum computing in HEP

## Theory



## Experiment



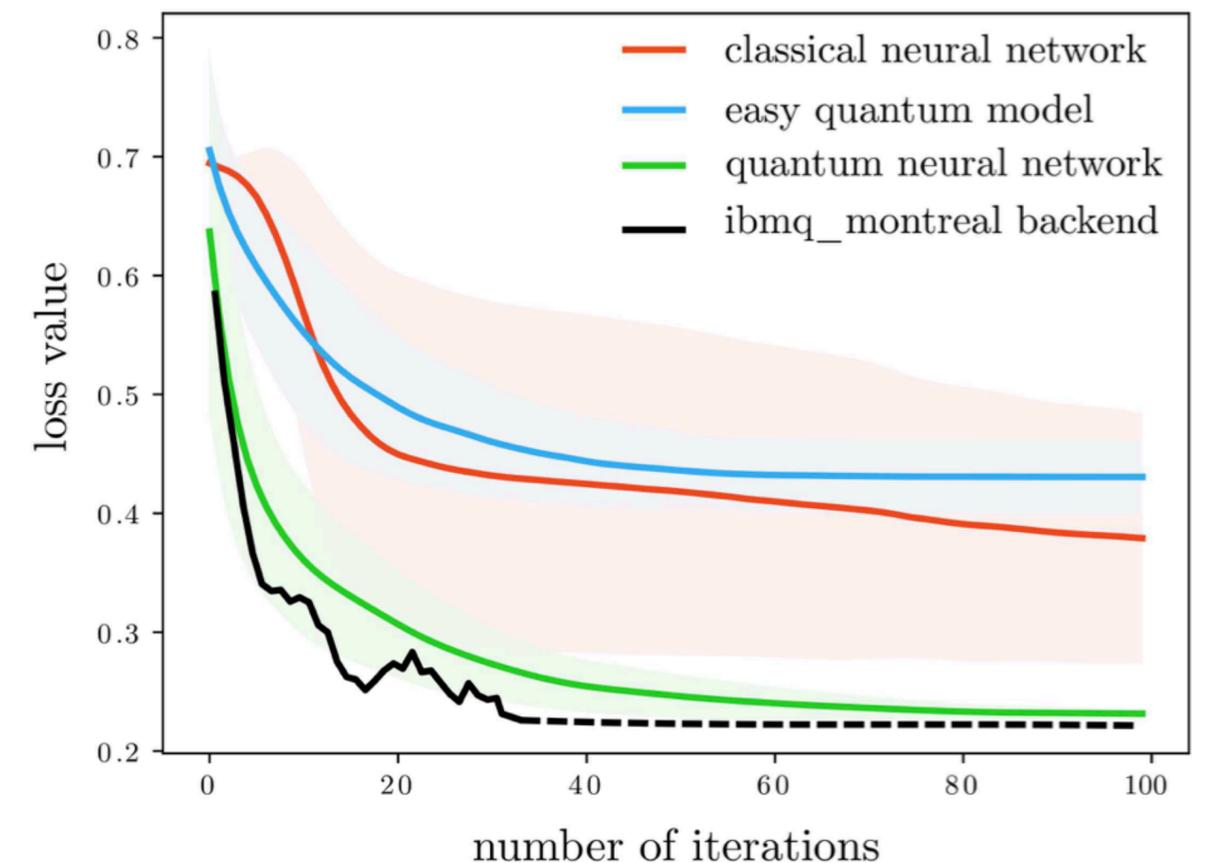
QC4HEP: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.03236>

# Quantum machine learning (QML)

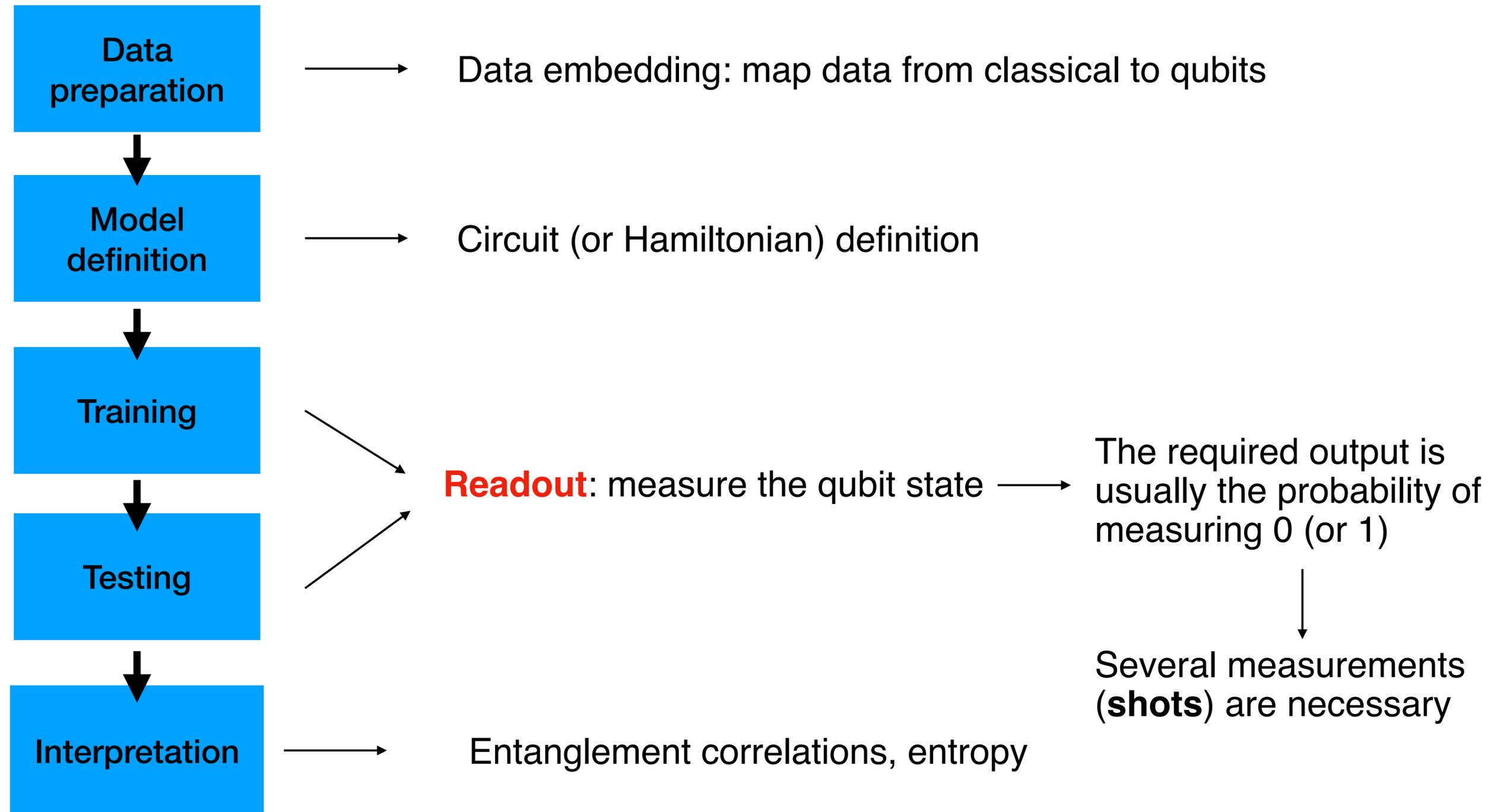
## What could be the possible advantage of QML?

- **Runtime speedup**, both in training and inference
- **Representational power**: exponential advantage of Hilbert space
- **Explainability**: open the black box by measuring entanglement correlations
- Catch **unknown** (quantum?) **correlations** of our data

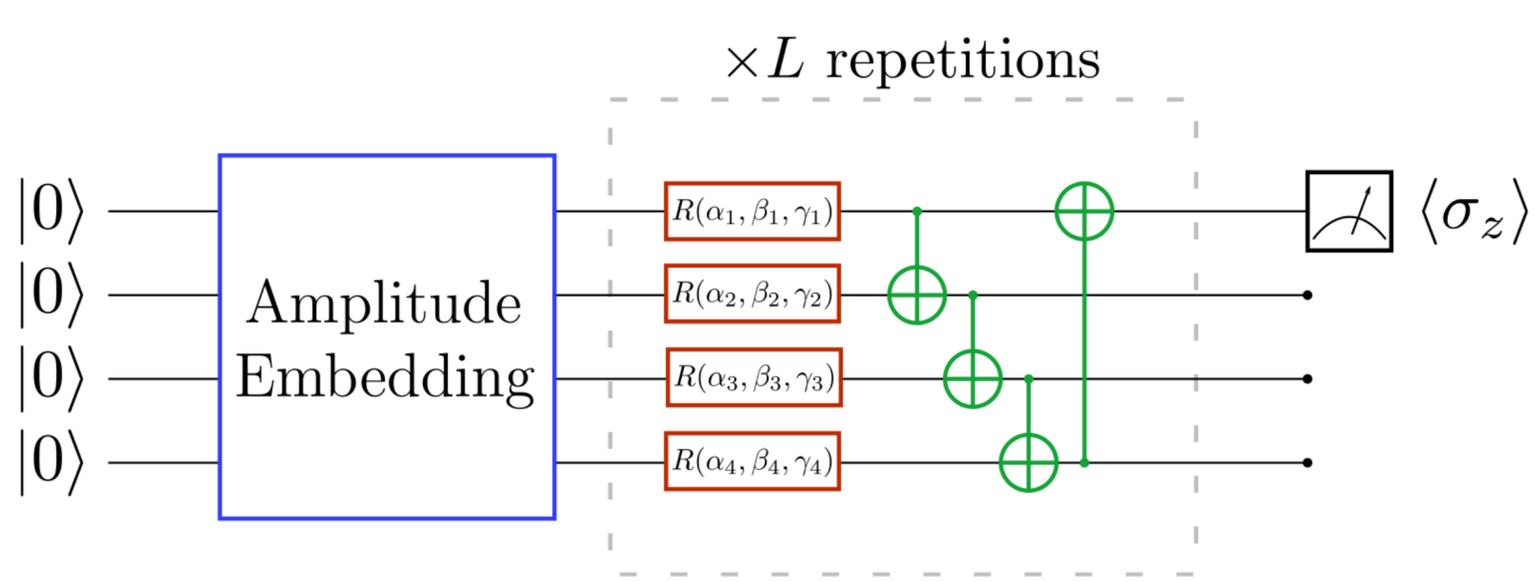
*Nature Computational Science volume 1, pages 403–409 (2021)*



# QML: a possible working flow



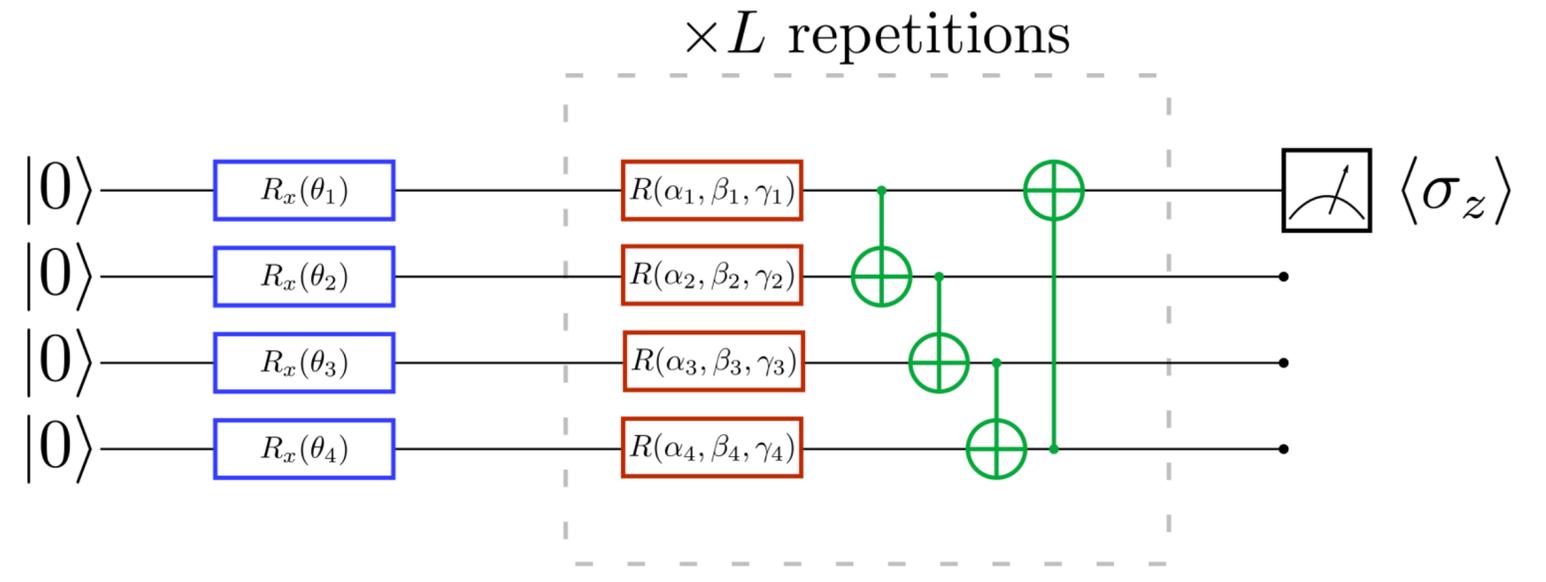
# QML: data embedding (example)



**Amplitude encoder:  $2^n$  features in  $n$  qubits**

$$|x\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{2^n} x_i |n_i\rangle$$

**exponential compression**

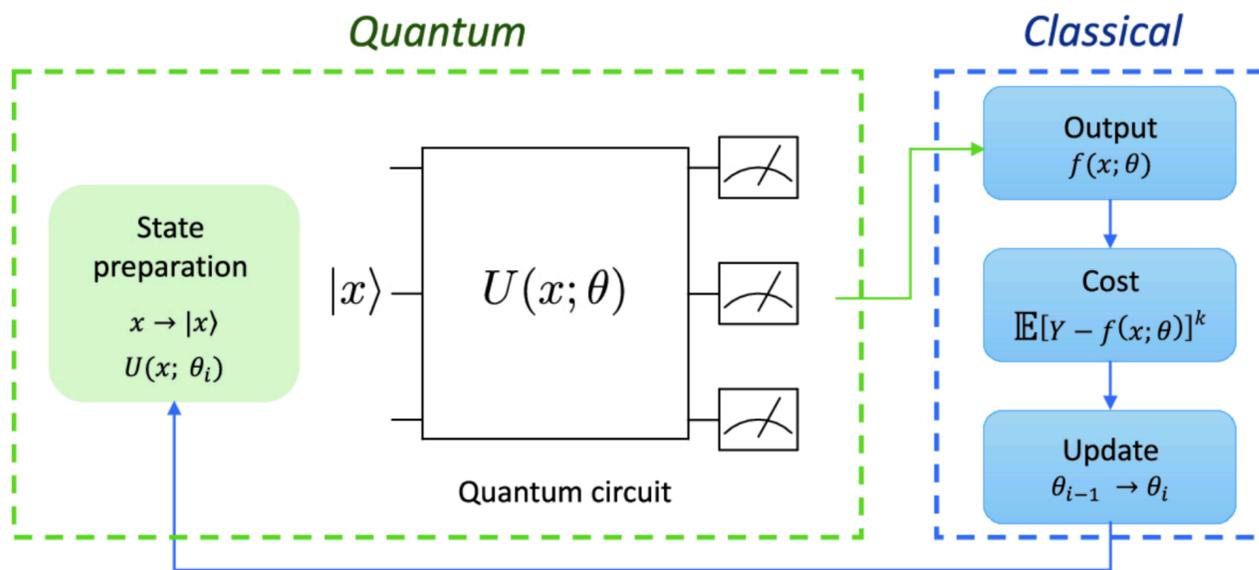


**Angle embedding: one rotational gate per feature (#features=#qubits)**

**Polynomial compression**

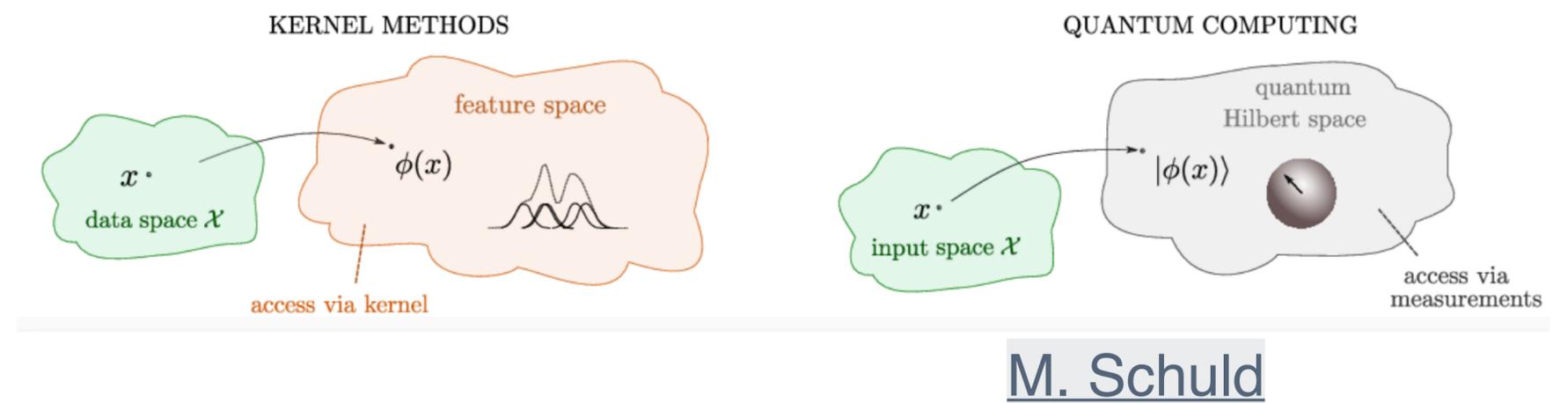
# QML: models

## Variational Quantum Circuit



Example: Quantum Neural Networks

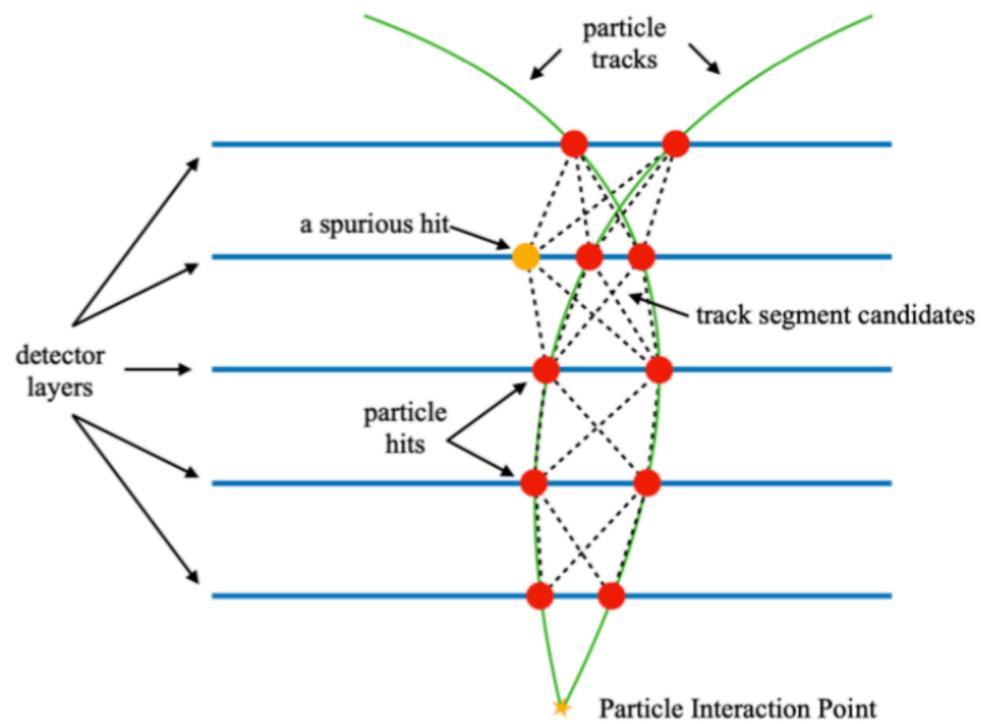
## Kernel methods



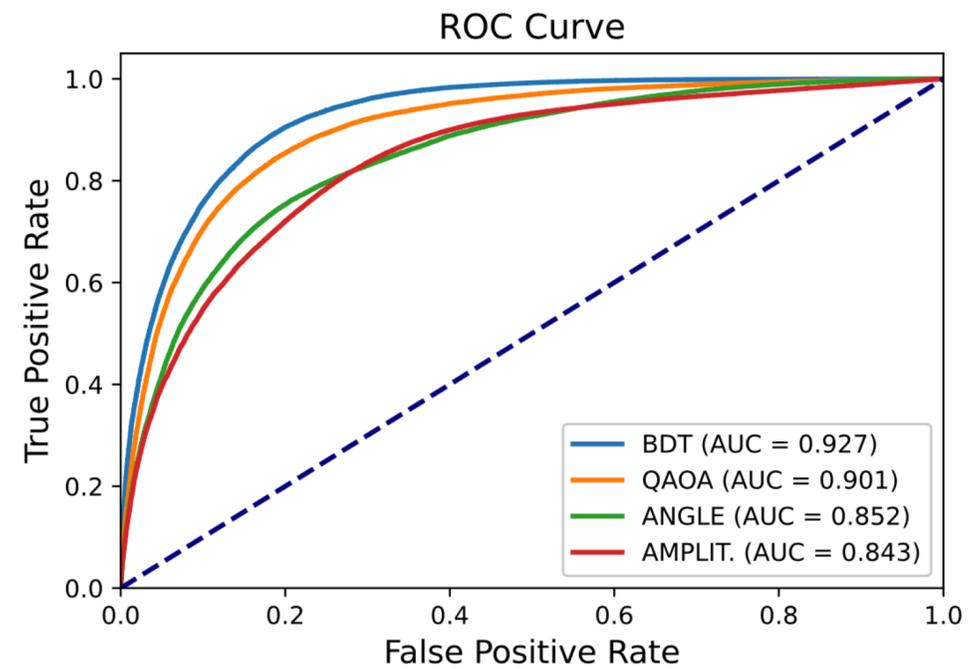
Example: Quantum Support Vector Machines

# QML: examples in HEP

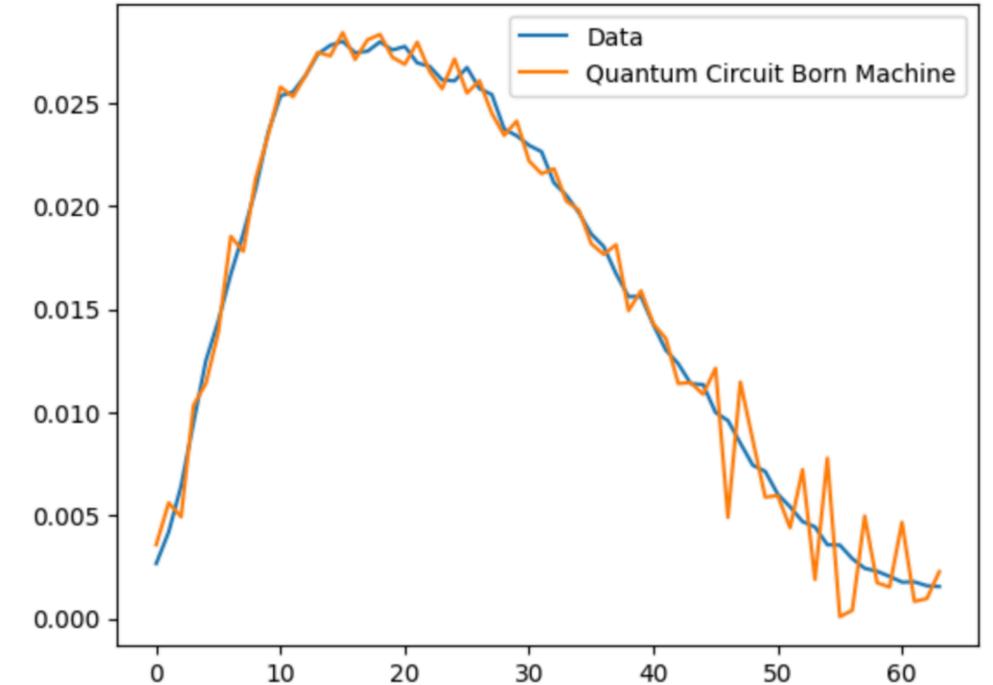
## Tracking



## Classification



## Generative



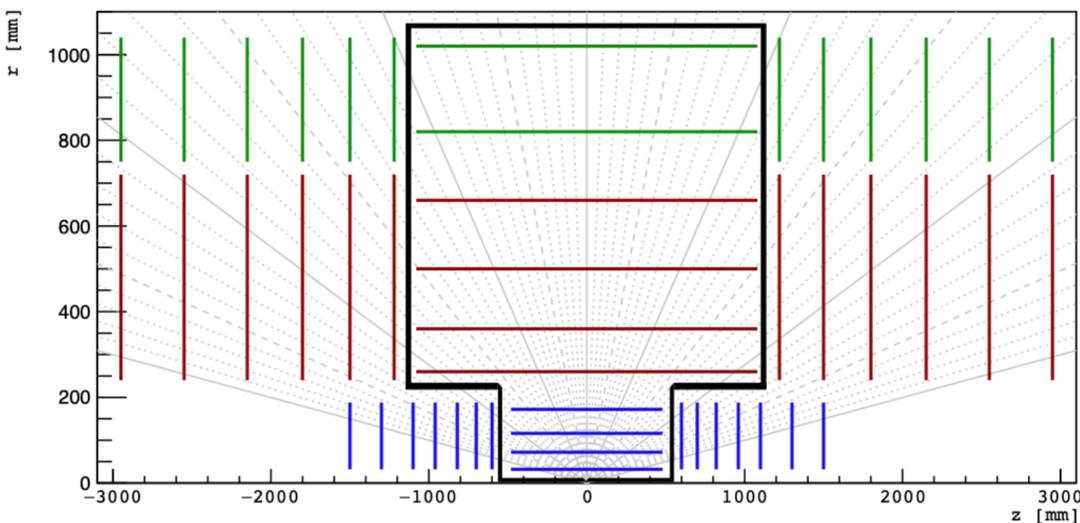
The image features a complex network of glowing blue lines and circular nodes on a black background. The nodes are arranged in a somewhat regular grid-like pattern, with lines connecting them to form a web of interconnected paths. The overall effect is that of a digital or data network.

**Tracking**

# QML: tracking with Quantum Graph Neural Networks

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2012.01379.pdf>

TrackML dataset from CERN  
Kaggle Tracking Machine  
Learning challenge

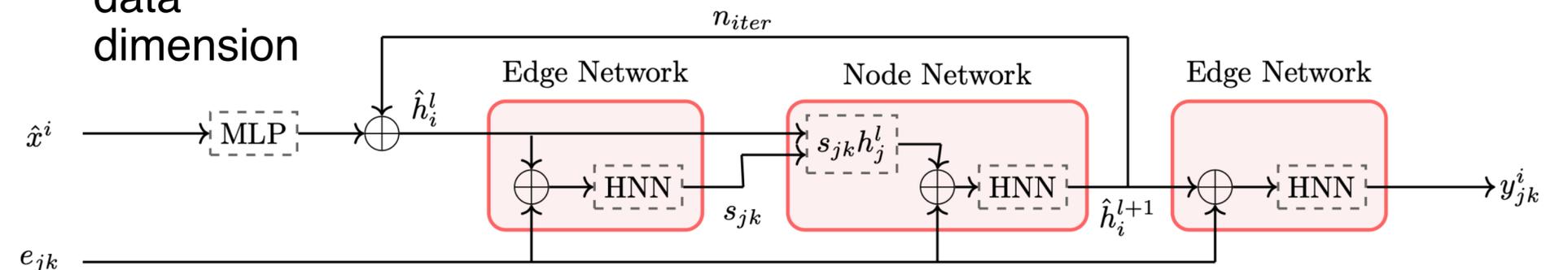


Data are graphs of connected hits

- Hits are **nodes**
- Tracks that connects hits (with geometric constraints) are **edges**

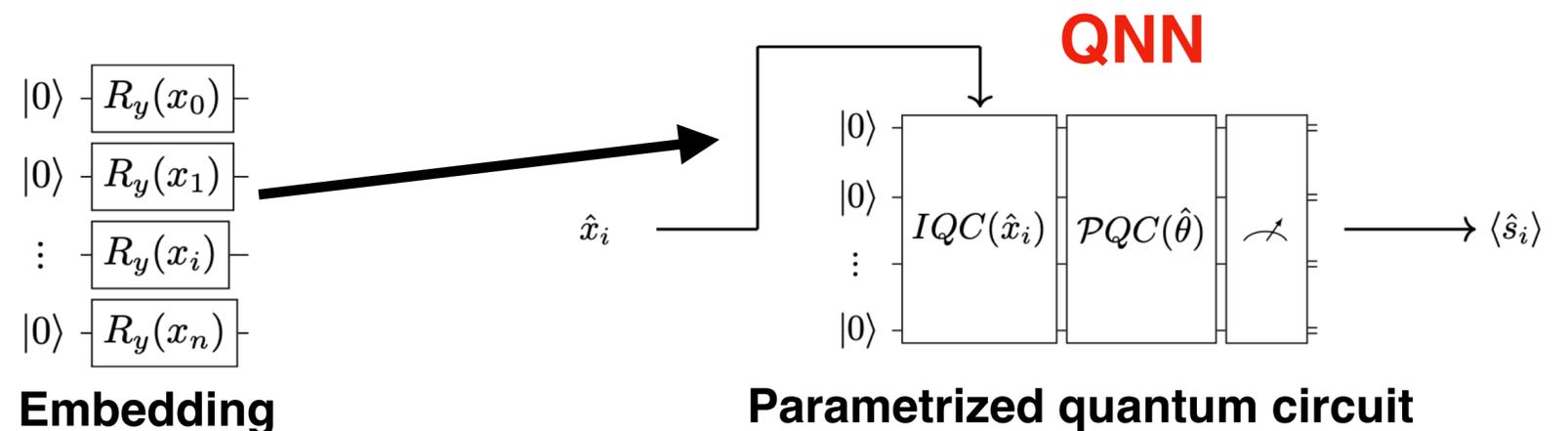
MLP:  
increase  
data  
dimension

Quantum-classical hybrid architecture



**Edge network:** QNN with edges as inputs, and has as outputs probabilities for edges to be true (edge features)

**Node network:** Edges are weighted with edge features. Triplets of connected nodes are built, and fed to a QNN. QNN provides updated nodes as outputs.

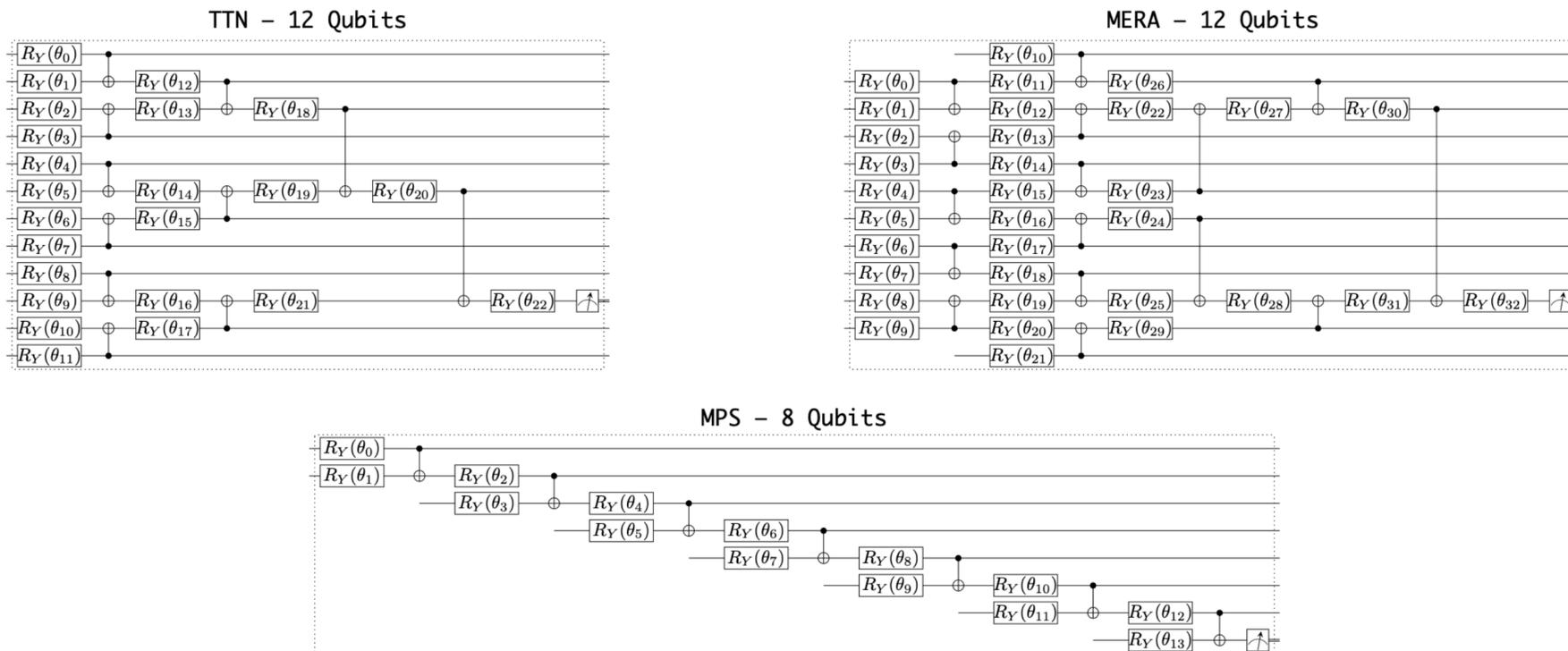


Embedding

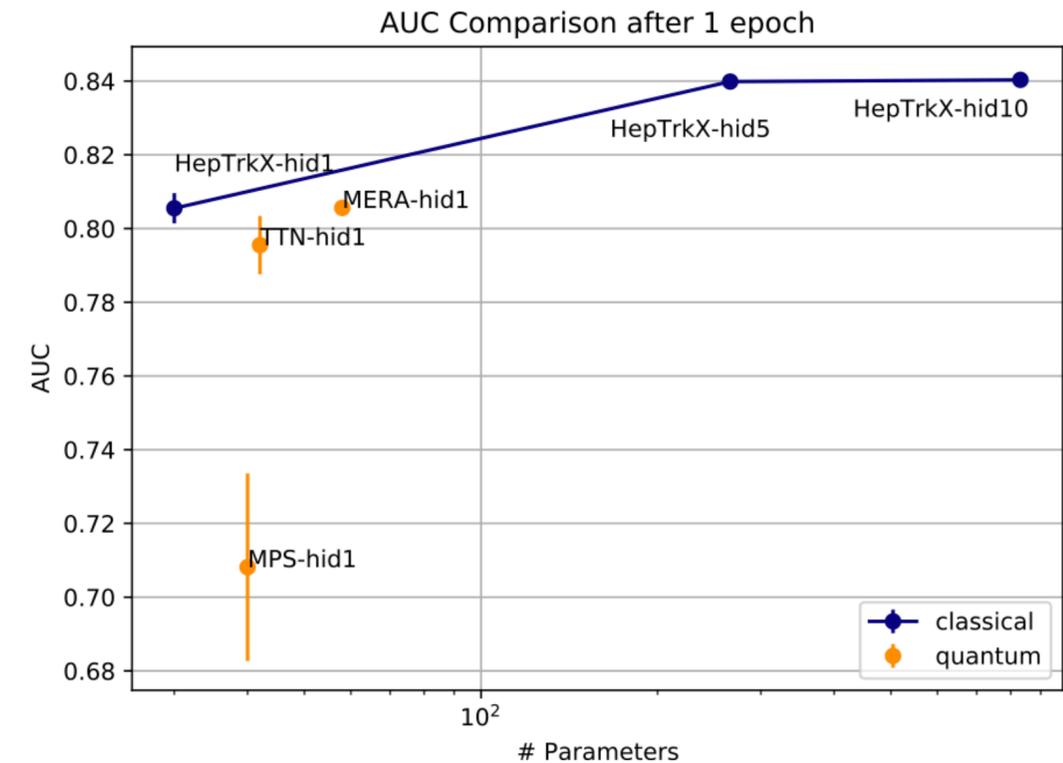
Parametrized quantum circuit

# QML: tracking with Quantum Graph Neural Networks

Different variational quantum circuits architectures are trained



Trained to obtain the best true-fake tracks separation

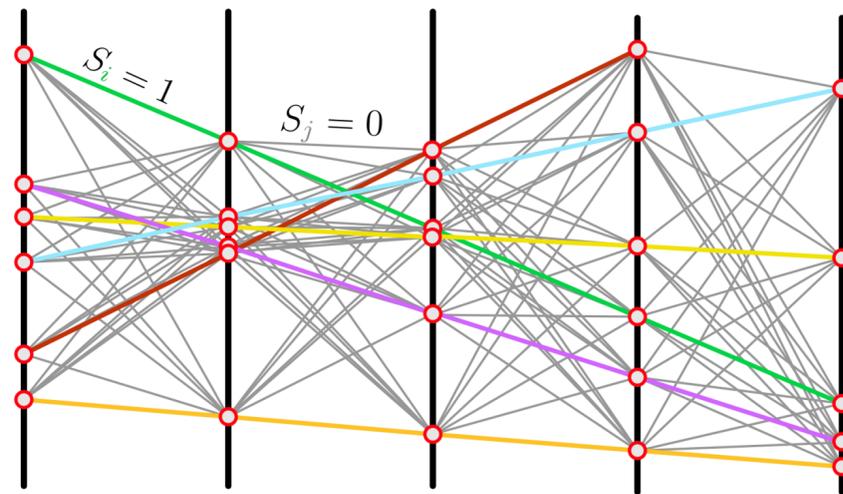
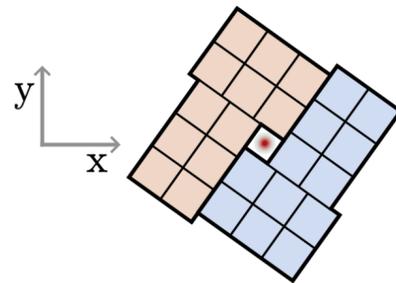
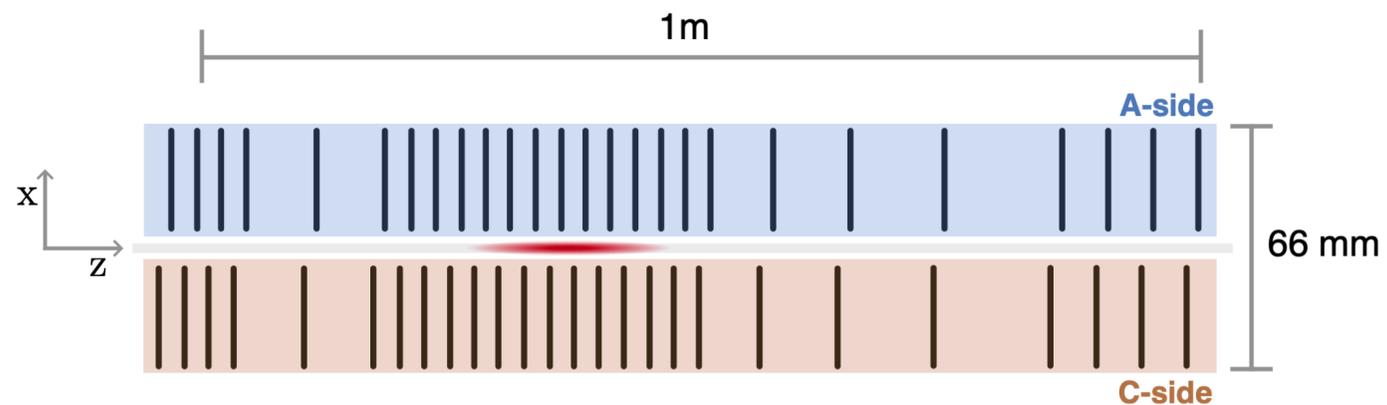


Comparison with classical GNN after 1 epoch.

QGNN trained on CPU/GPU (long training time)

# Tracking at LHCb

Vertex detector tracking at LHCb



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2308.00619.pdf>

$$\mathcal{H}(\mathbf{S}) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} A_{ij} S_i S_j + \sum_i b_i S_i = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{S},$$

$$S_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the doublet is part of a track} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

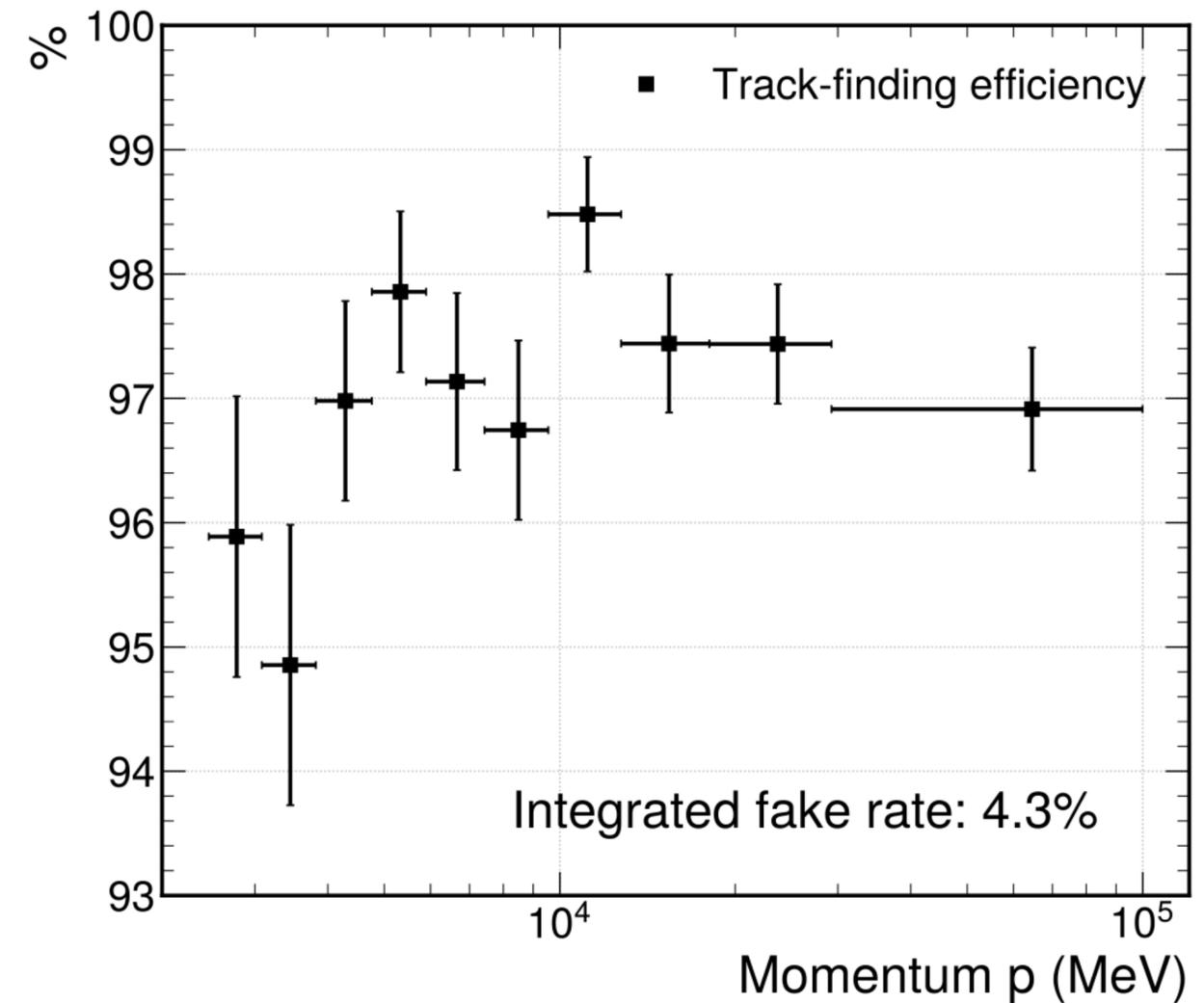
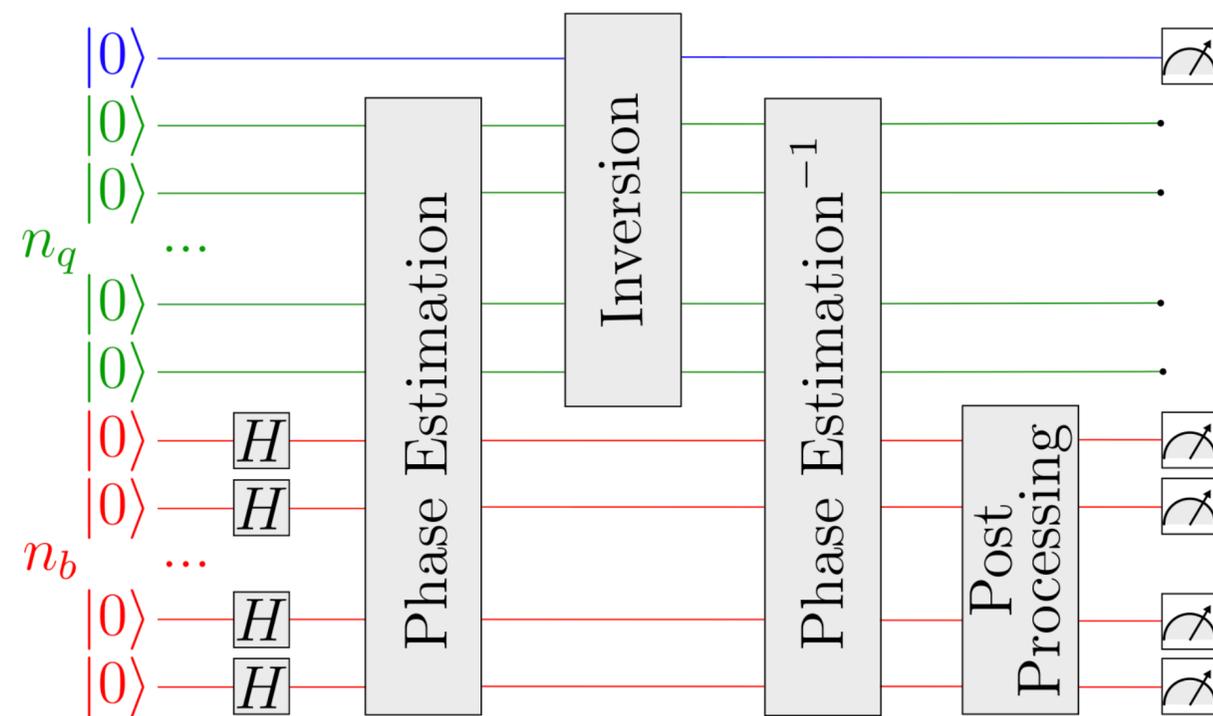
Ising Hamiltonian: the minimum is the solution of tracking problem

Probably not machine learning in the strict sense, because we are minimizing a Hamiltonian and not a loss function

It is necessary to solve a  $N \times N$  linear system of equations, with  $N$  number of doublets

# Tracking at LHCb

HHL quantum algorithm for solving linear problems



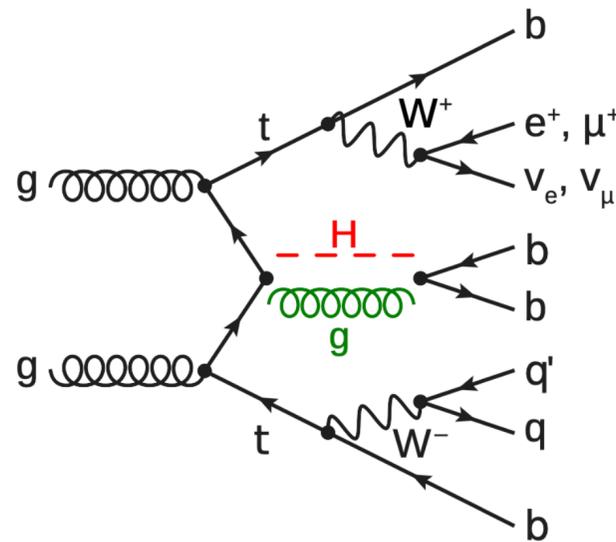
The background of the image is a complex network of glowing blue lines and circular nodes. The nodes are of varying sizes and are interconnected by thin, bright blue lines, creating a web-like structure. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and technological, with a strong emphasis on connectivity and data flow. The word "Classification" is overlaid on the left side of the image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

# Classification

# QML: Higgs classification

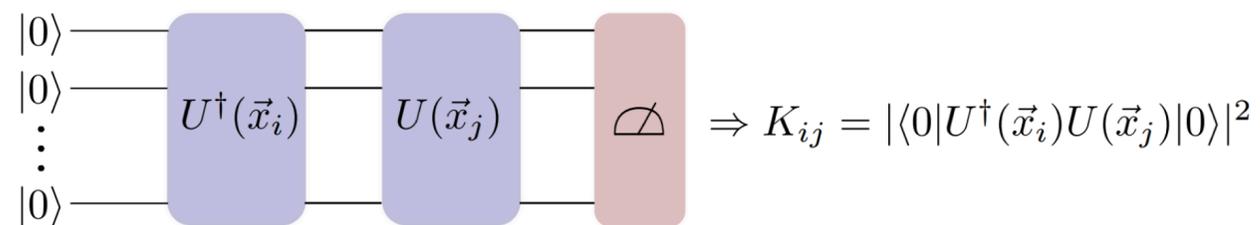
Classification of  $t\bar{t}H(b\bar{b})$  versus the dominant  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$  background

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2104.07692.pdf>



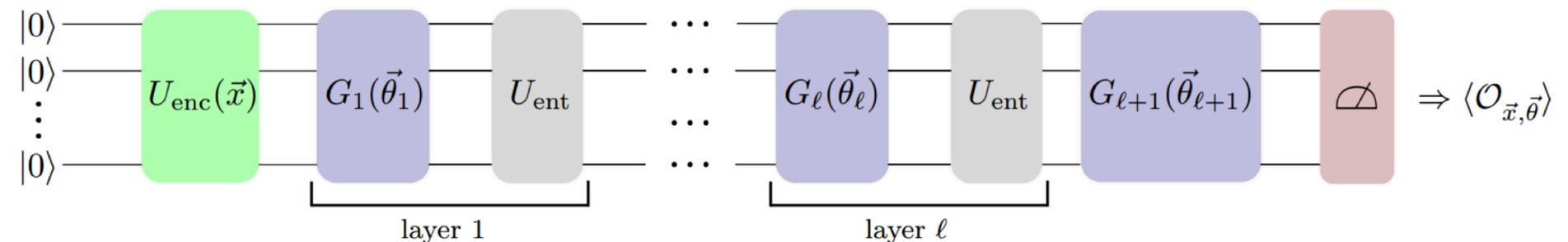
- Data from simulation with CMS Delphes
- 67 input features are reduced to 12 (8 in latent space) with a classical neural network Auto-encoder
- Two approaches are used for the QML classification: Quantum Support Vector Machine, and Variational Quantum Circuit

## Quantum Support Vector Machine

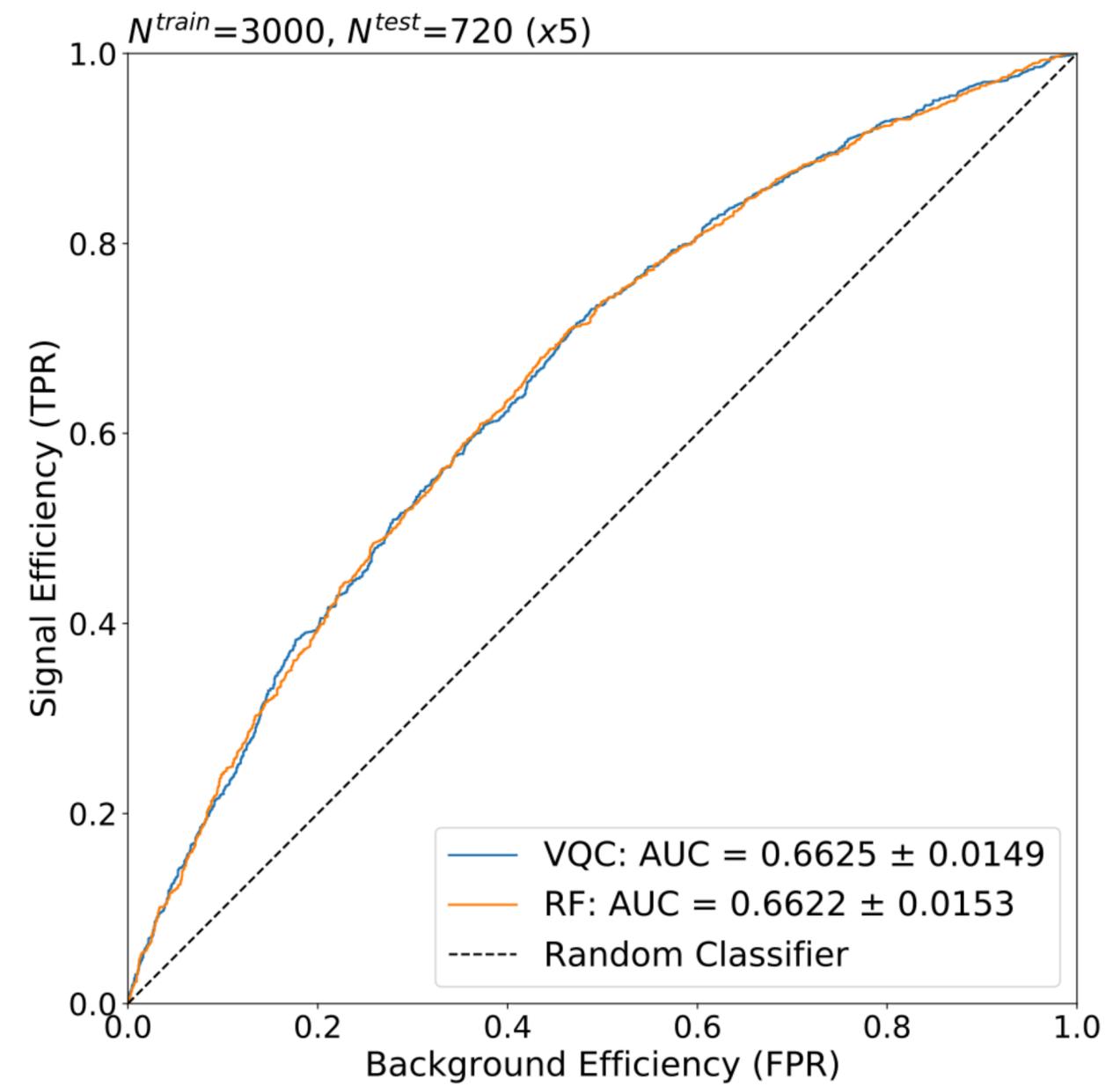
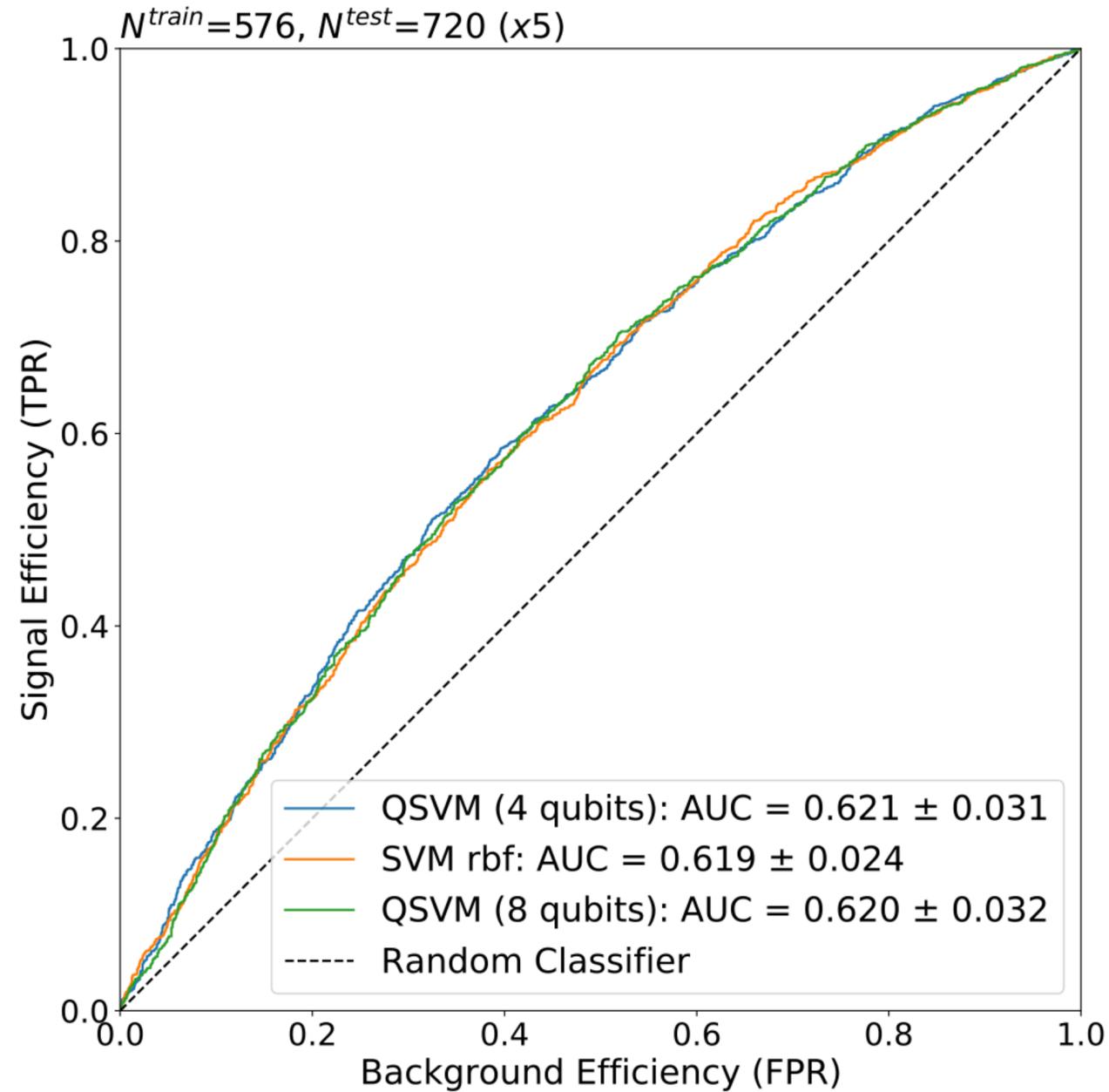


Kernel: internal product of the Hilbert space, obtained as measurement

## Variational Quantum Circuit with L layers



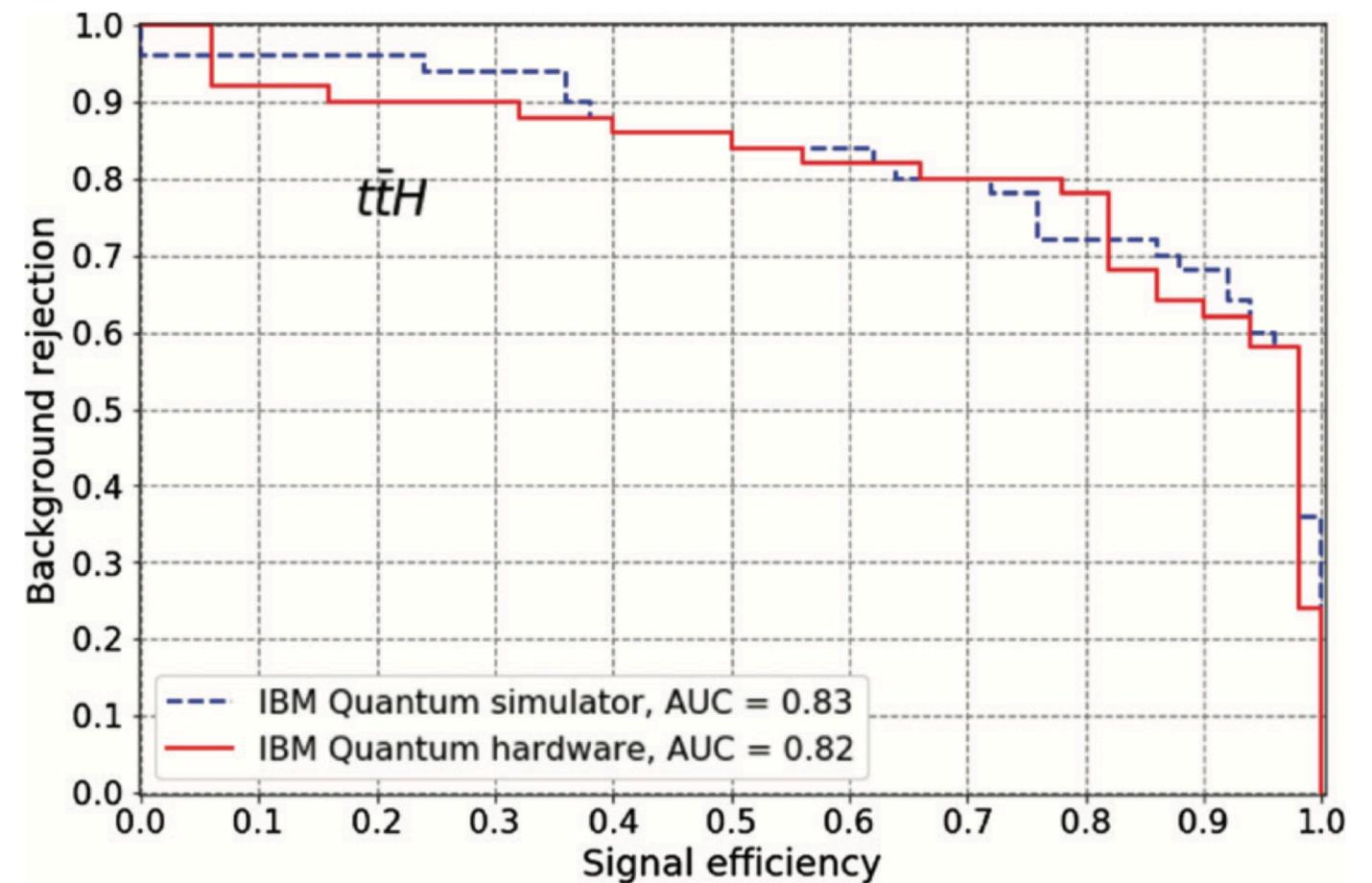
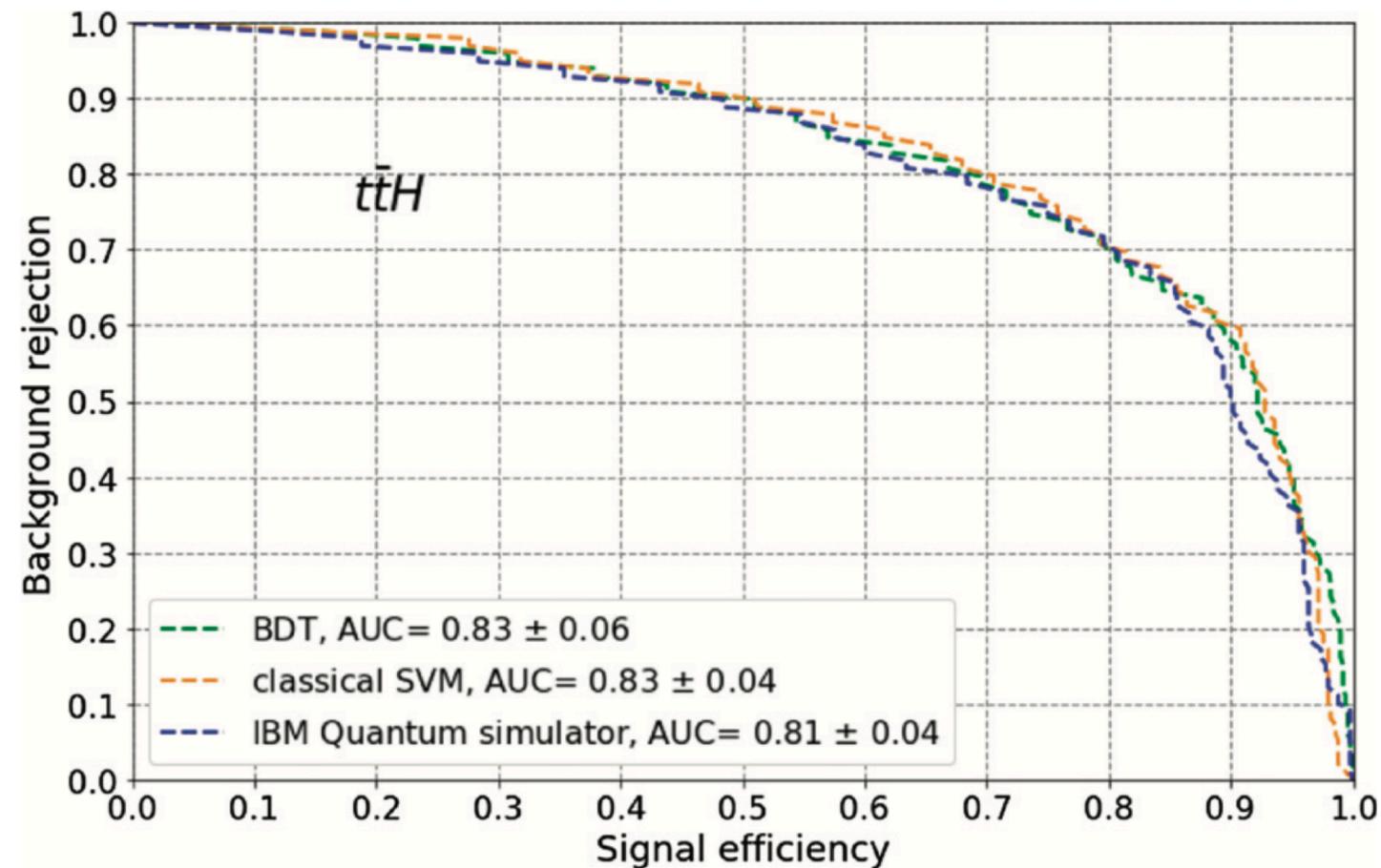
# QML: Higgs classification



# QML: Higgs classification

Higgs classification on IBM quantum simulator and quantum hardware (10 qubit)

<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1361-6471/ac1391/pdf>



Trained and evaluated in hardware. Simulator and hardware have a similar performance

# QML: Higgs classification

Classification of  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  versus diphoton background by using a **programmable quantum annealer**

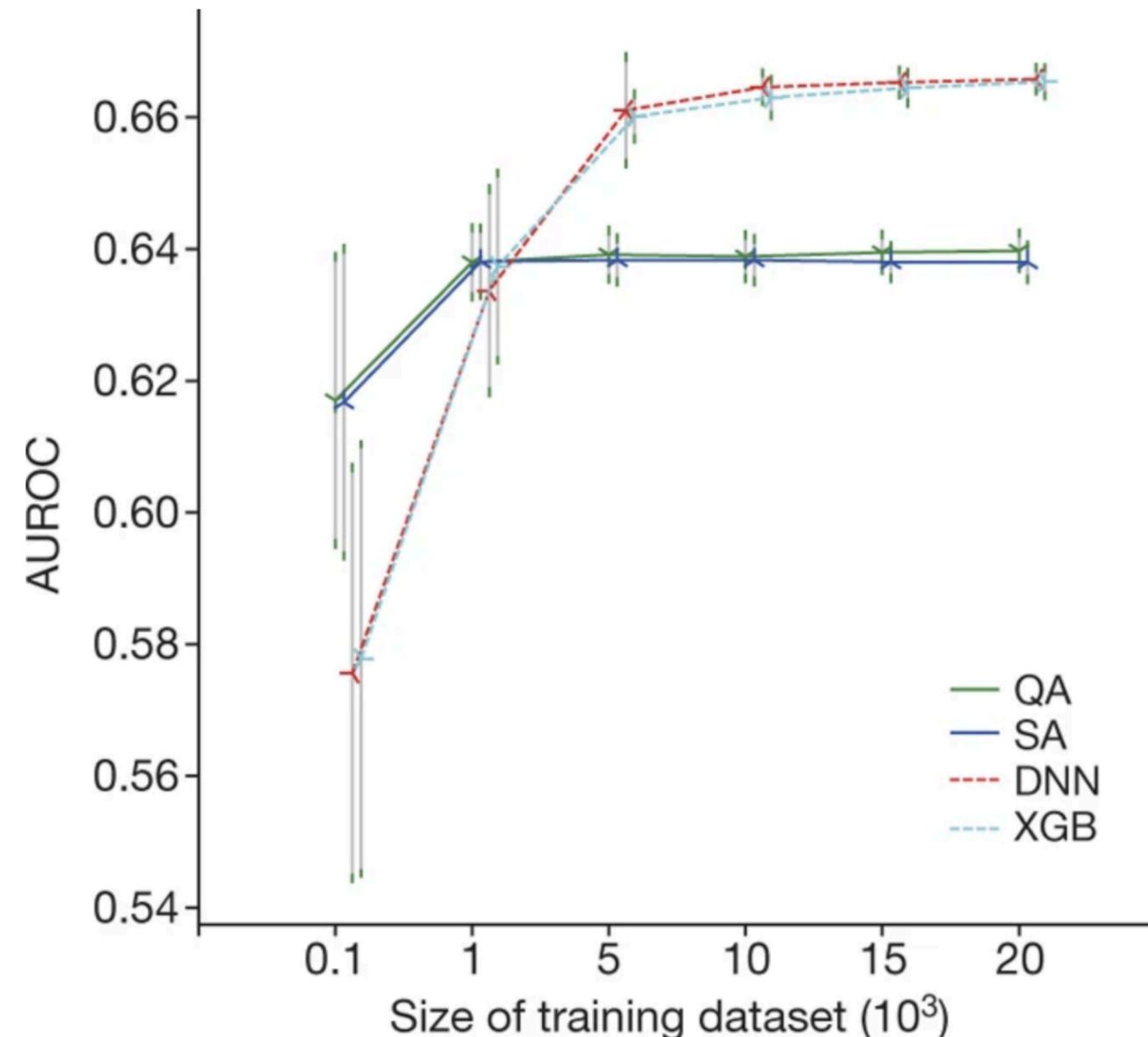
## Quantum annealing (QA)

$$H = \sum_{i,j} J_{ij} s_i s_j + \sum_i h_i s_i$$


$i$  and  $j$  are event indexes,  $J_{ij}$  and  $h_i$  are constructed from dataset and true labels

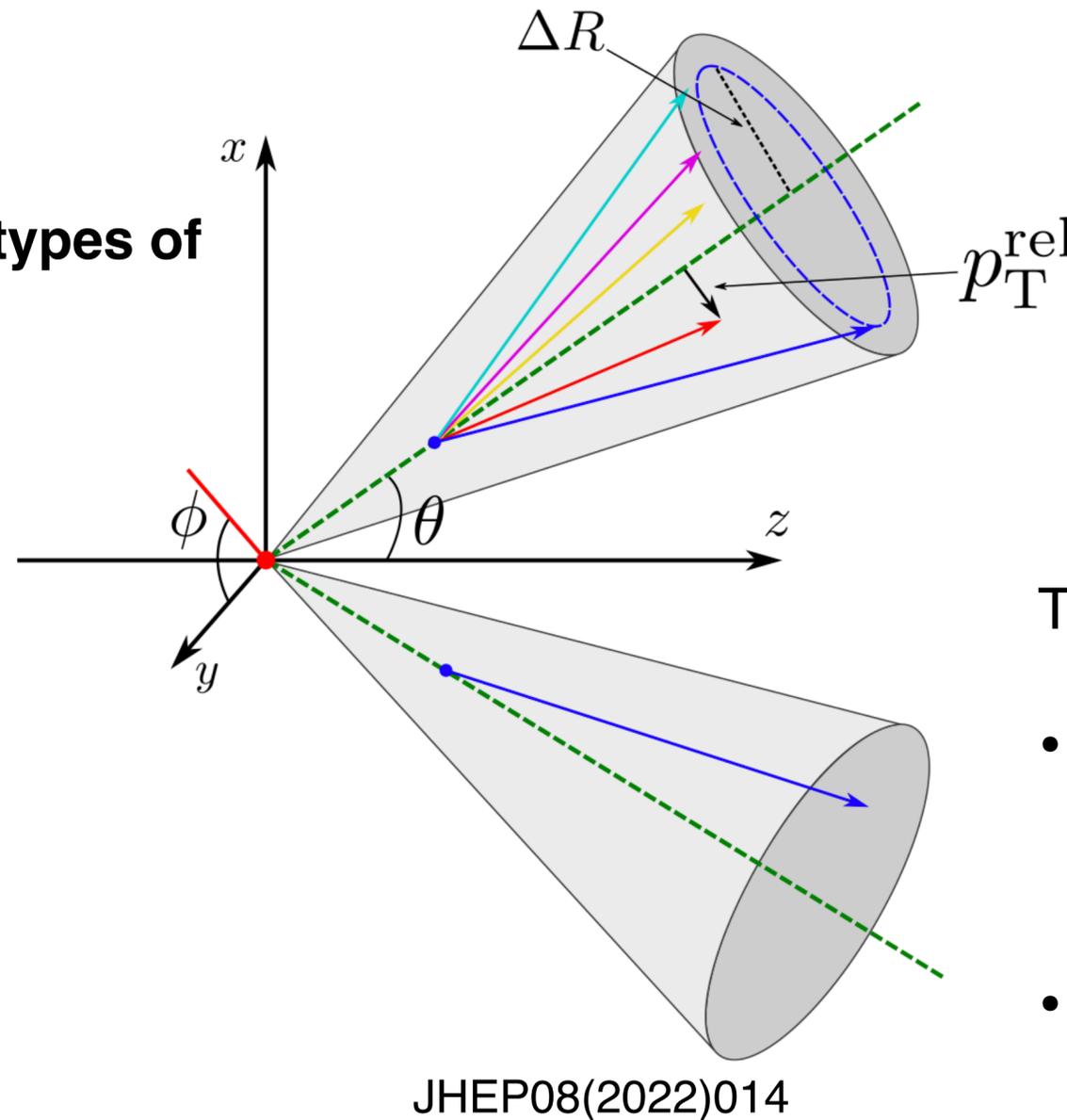
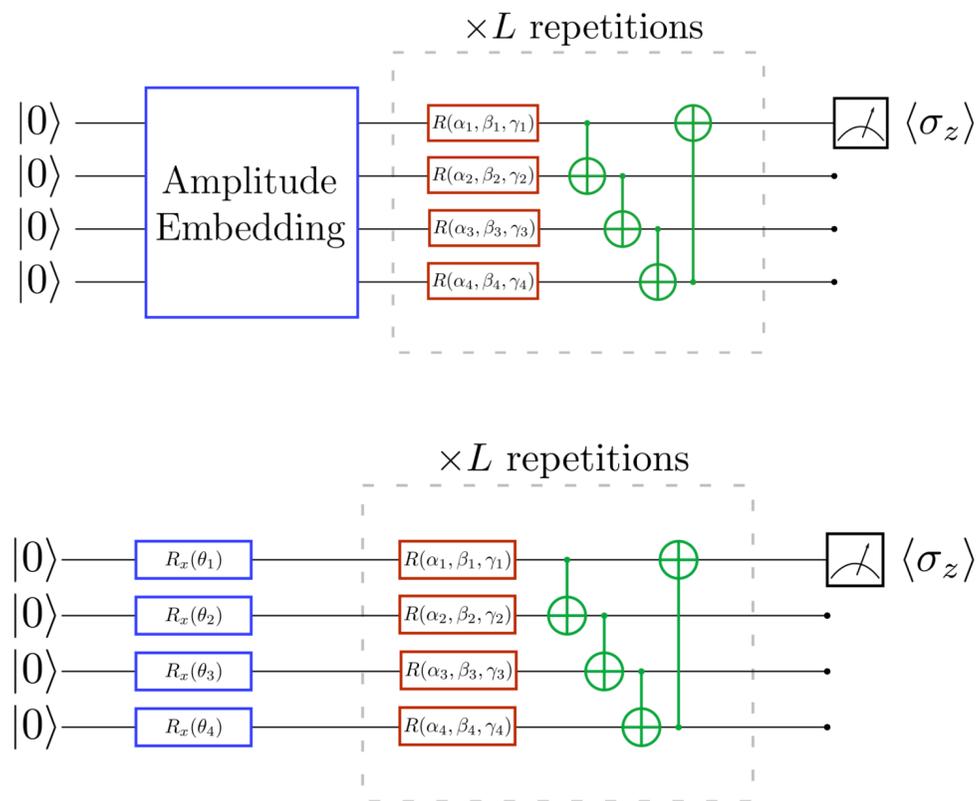
- DNN performs better than QA for large datasets (but still comparable)
- QA achieve the asymptotic performance with a smaller dataset than DNN

*Nature 550 (2017) 7676, 375-379*



# QML: b-jet tagging at LHCb

- Study performed with official LHCb full simulation
- Classification of b and  $\bar{b}$  jets
- Variational Quantum Circuits with **different types of data embedding** are tested

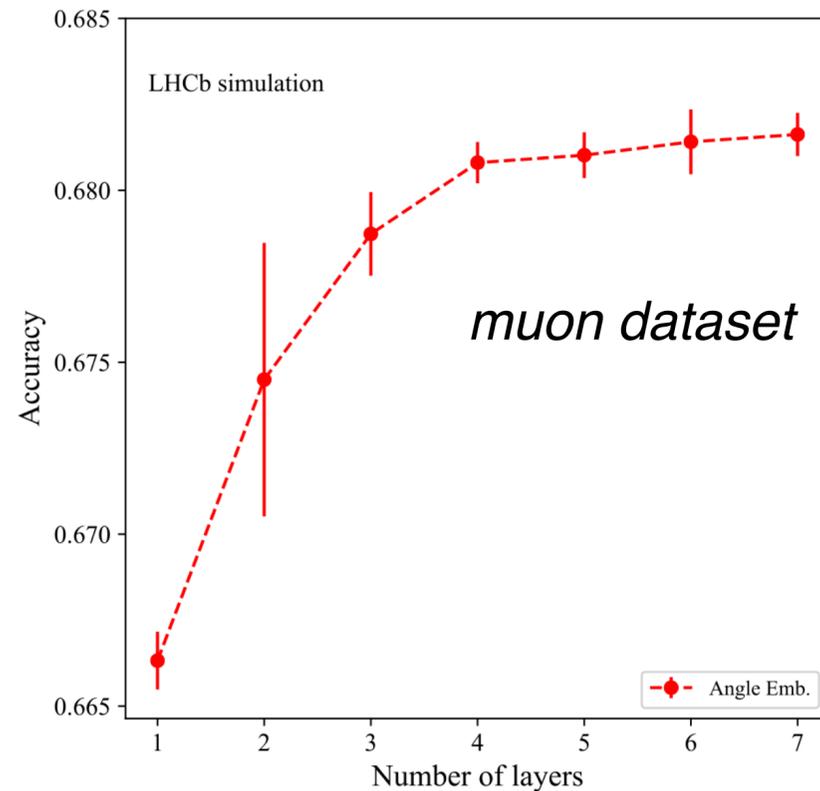


A total of 16 features related to the jet substructure are considered

Two datasets/set of features:

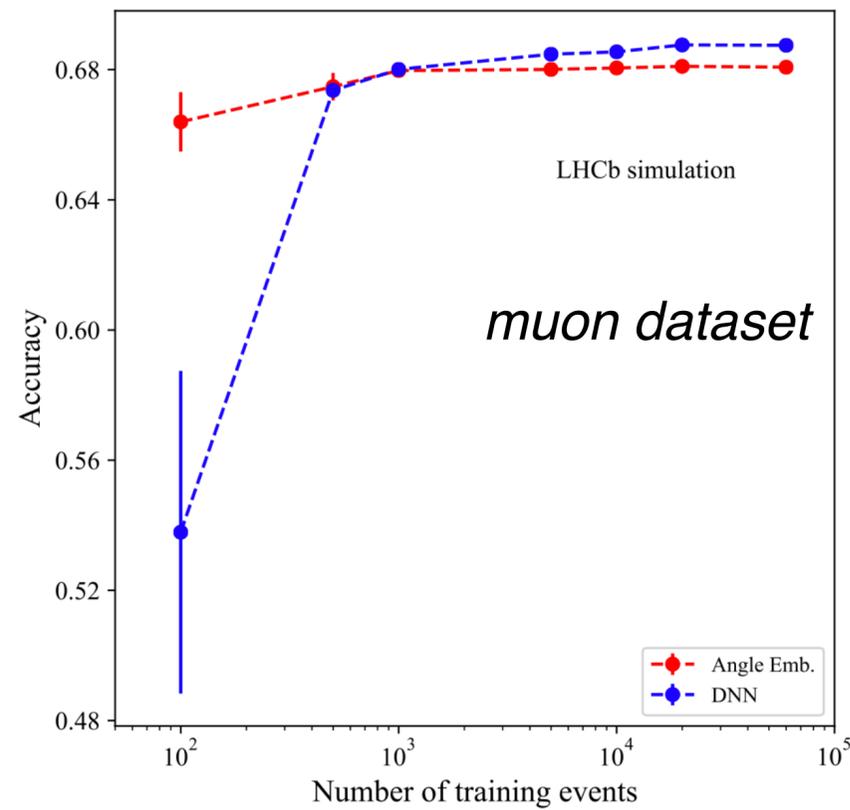
- **Muon dataset:** jets with at least one muon, 3 muon features+jet charge
- **Complete dataset:** all jets, 15 particle features+jet charge

# QML: b-jet tagging at LHCb



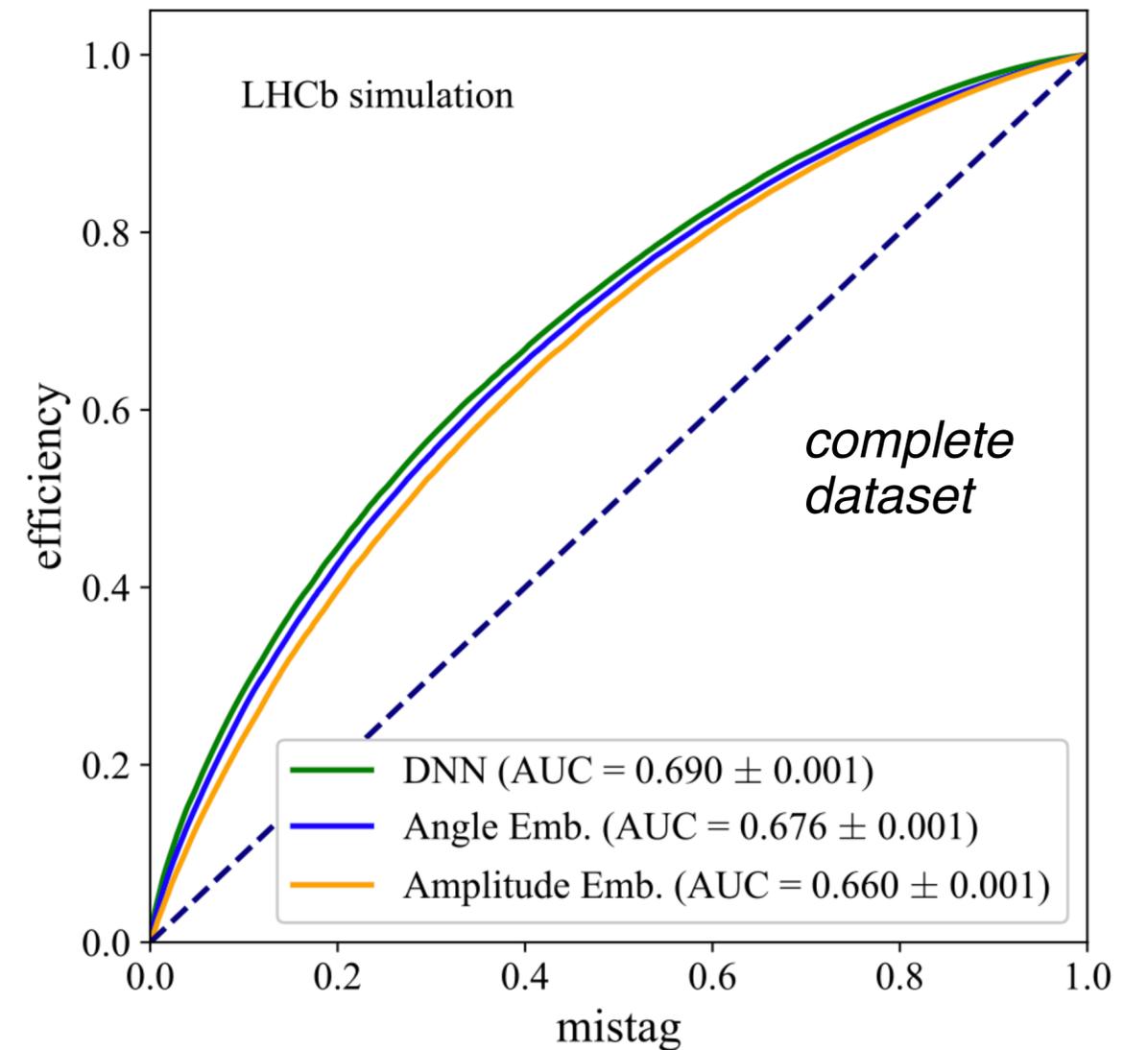
↓

Different number of rotational layers tested: **the accuracy saturates after few layers**



↓

Compared to a classical DNN, **the quantum classifier requires less training events to achieve the same accuracy**

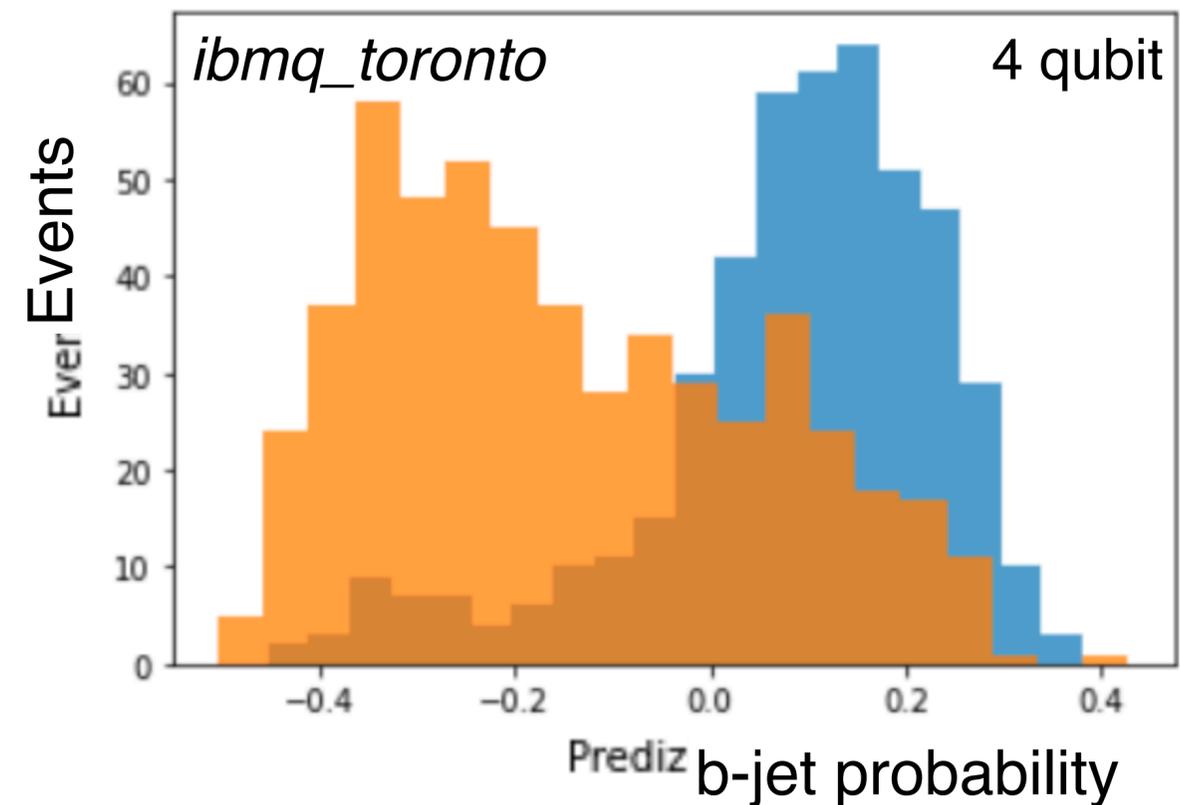
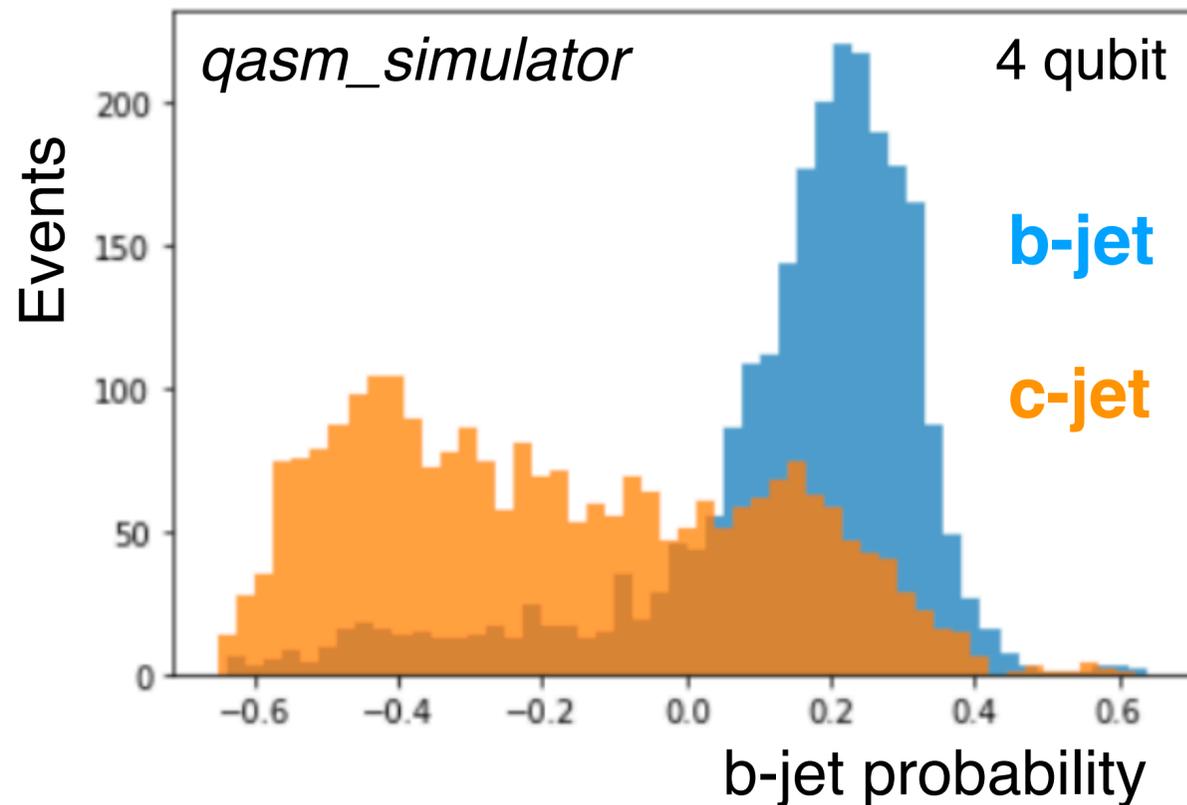


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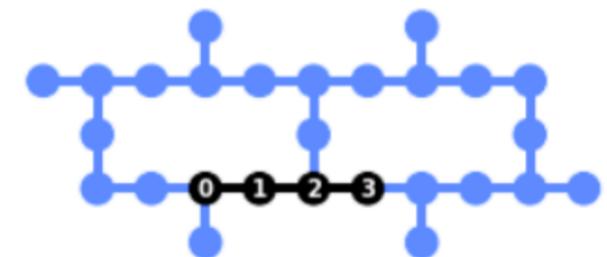
**The DNN and the quantum circuits show similar ROC areas**

# QML: b-jet tagging at LHCb

- The evaluation of the pre-trained quantum circuit for b vs c has been performed on **IBM hardware**
- b-jet probability: probability to obtain 0 by measuring the output qubit (1000 shots per event)
- For this task the circuit has been implemented using the **Qiskit** library, (angle embedding is considered)
- **The probability distributions show some differences, but the discriminating power is similar**

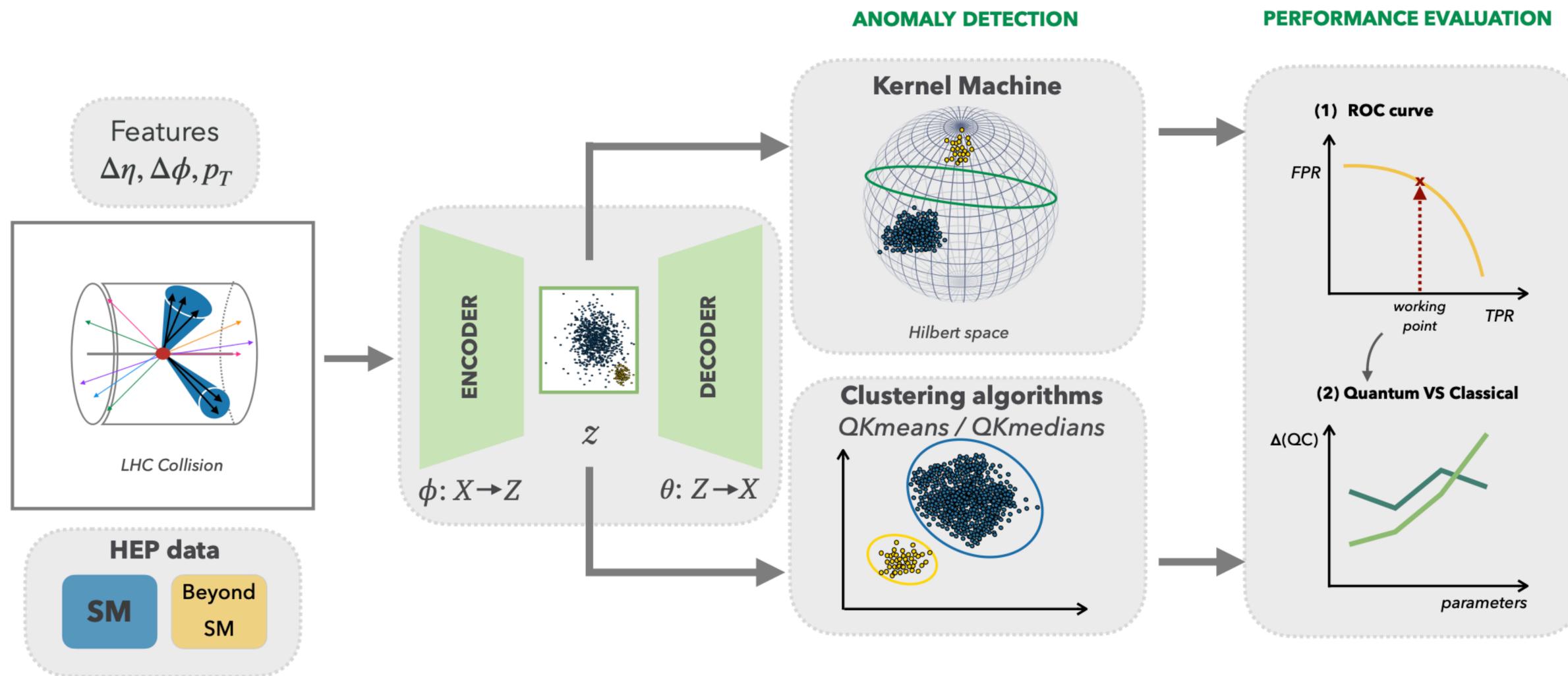


**ibmq\_toronto 27 qubits**



# QML: anomaly detection

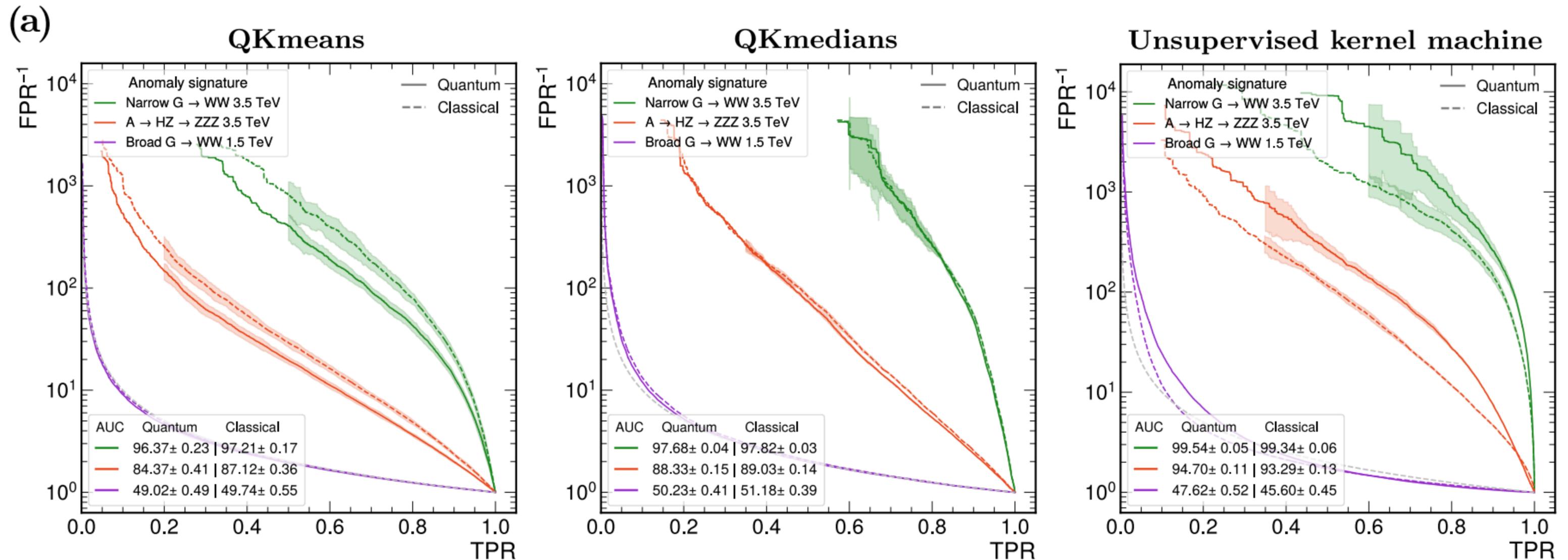
- **Example of unsupervised QML:** new physics is searched as deviation from the Standard Model prediction
- Anomaly detection in **dijet events**, dataset from CMS Delphes simulation



<https://arxiv.org/abs/2301.10780>

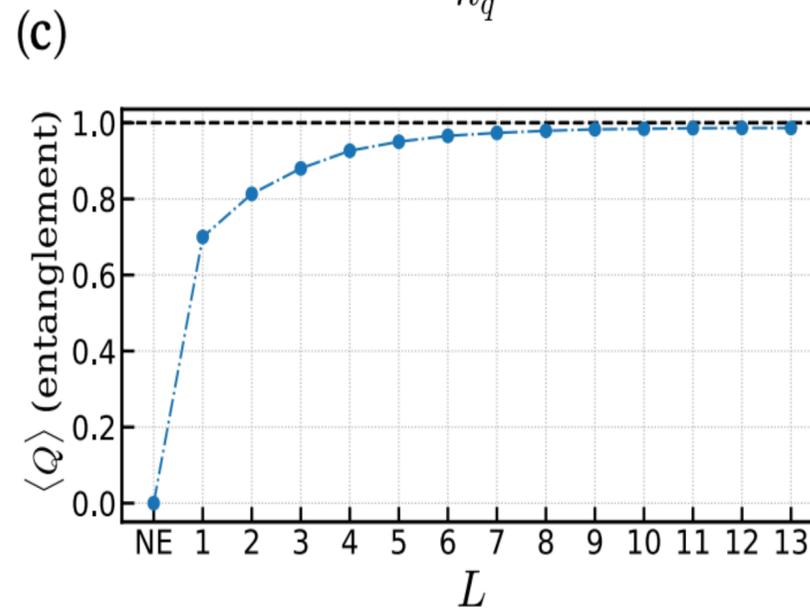
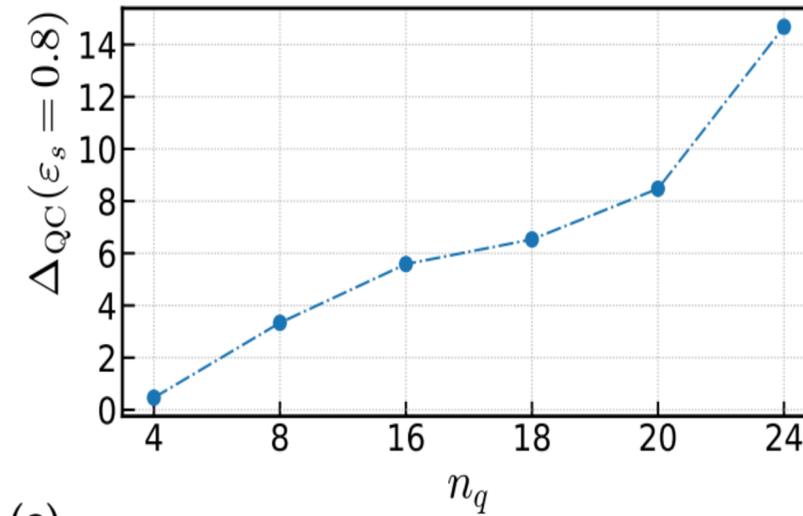
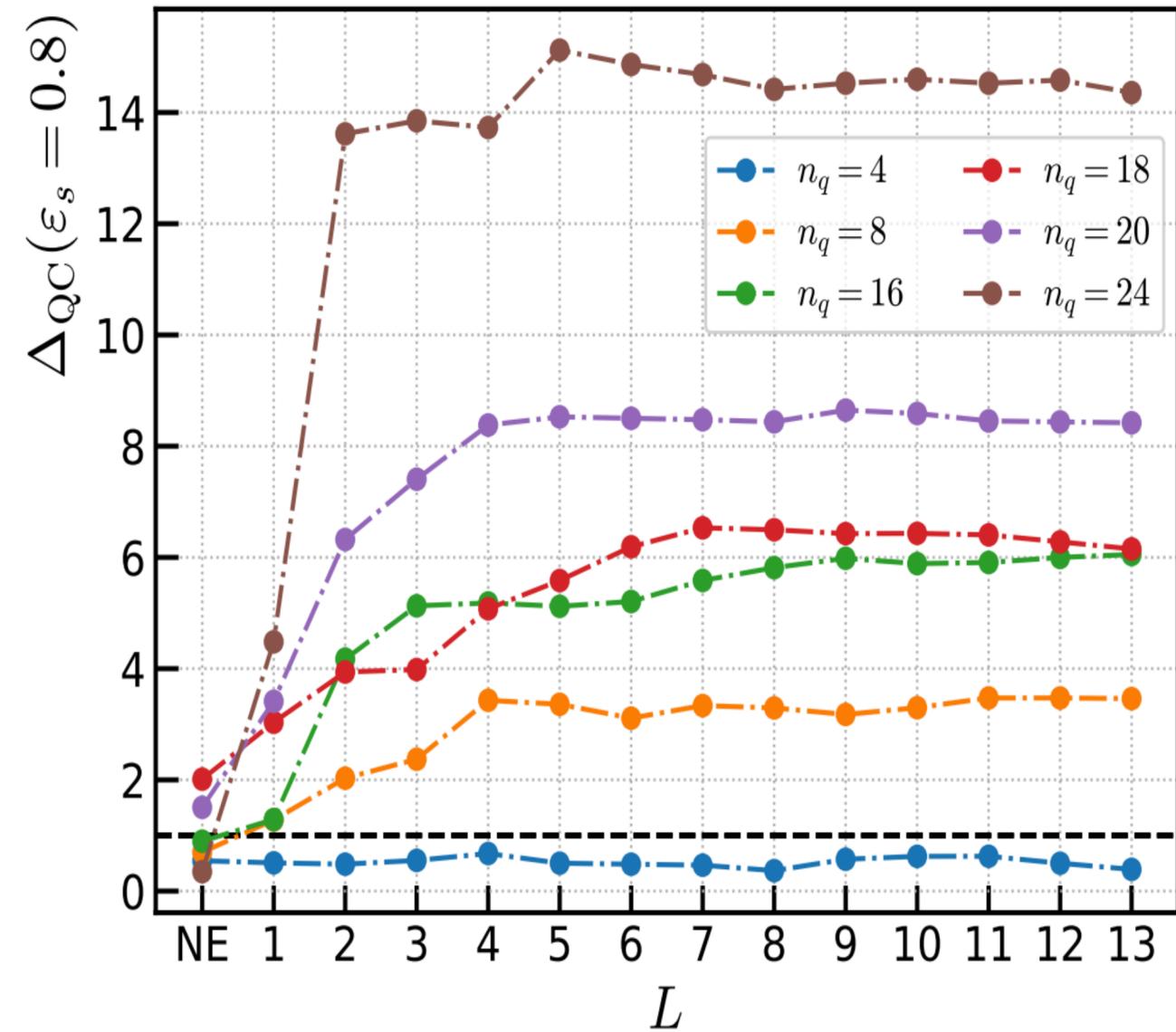
# QML: anomaly detection

One of the first examples of quantum advantage in HEP!

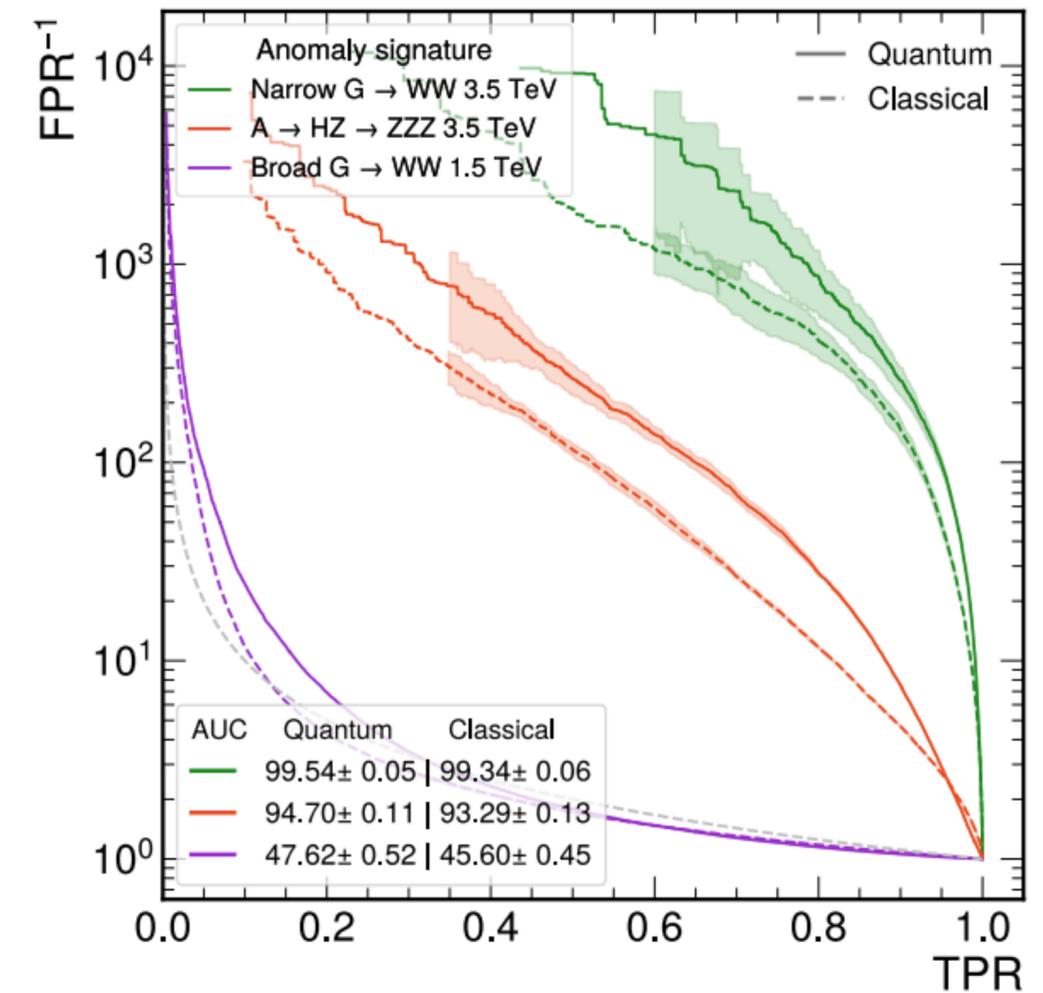


# QML: anomaly detection

One of the first examples of quantum advantage in HEP!



## Unsupervised kernel machine



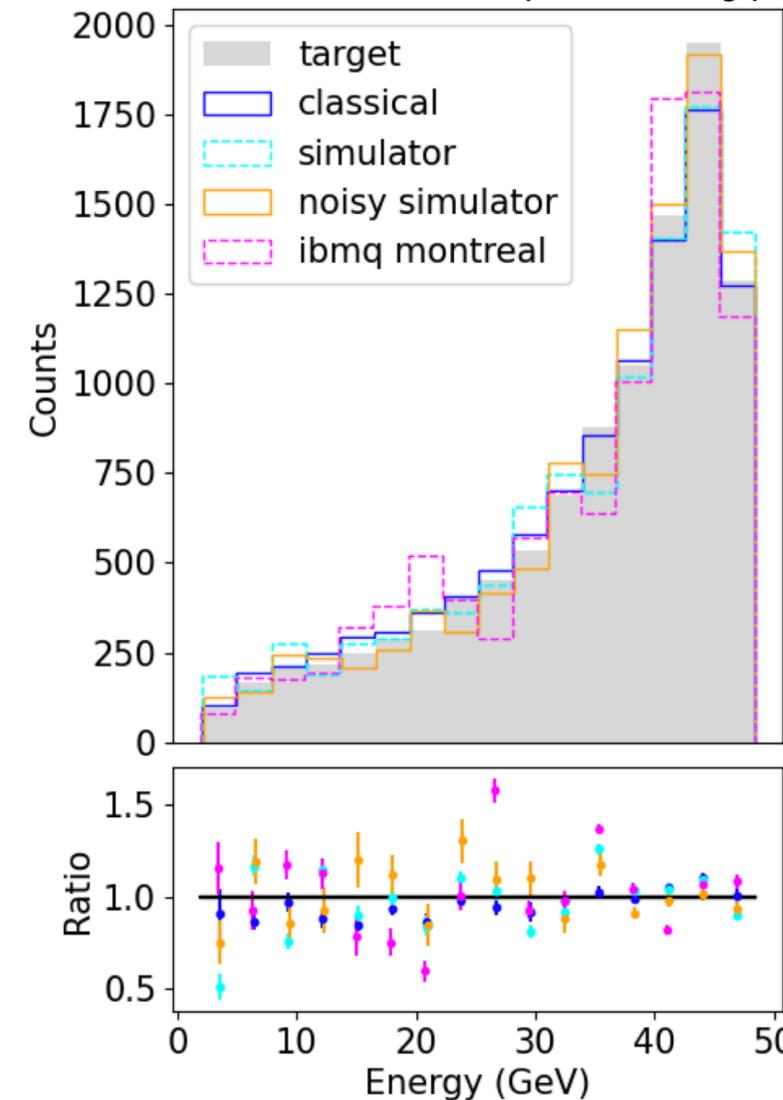


# Generative QML

# Generative QML: Quantum Born Machines

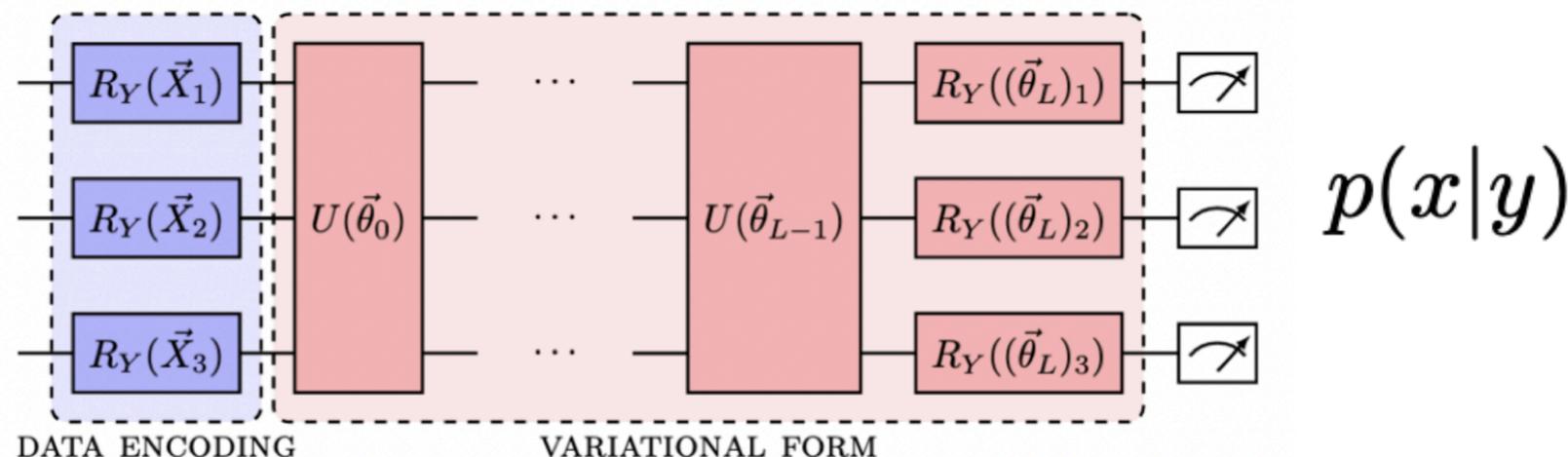
- **Quantum Circuit Born Machines (QCBM)** make use of the stochastic nature of quantum measurements, no classical analogs
- Each base element of the quantum space is mapped to a specific configuration of the system we want to simulate  $\rightarrow p_{\theta}(x) = |\langle x|\psi(\theta)\rangle|^2$
- As an example if we have N qubits we can simulate a distribution in  $2^N$  bins
- Variational Quantum Circuits are trained to obtain the best compatibility with respect to the original dataset. **The initial state has a negligible impact.**

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2205.07674.pdf>



Example: Muonic Force Carriers energy distribution

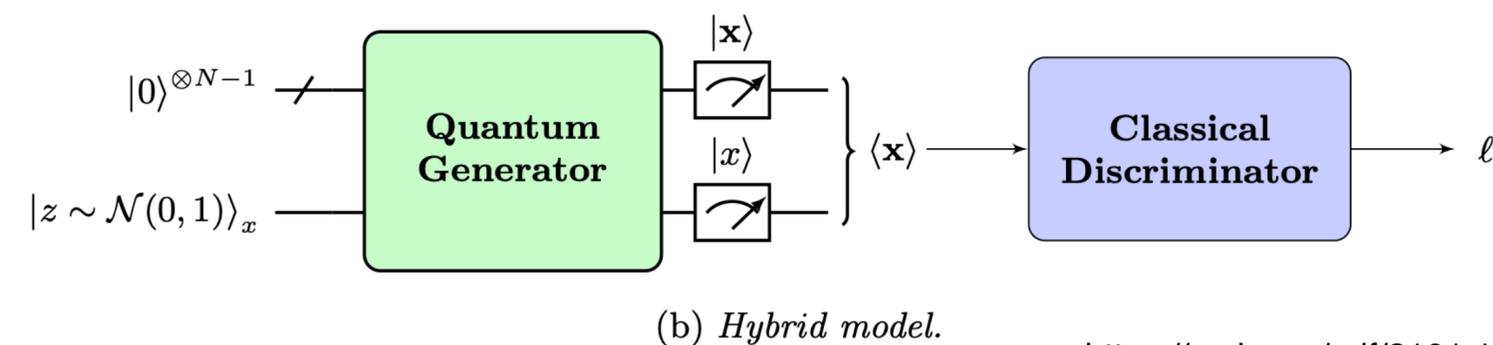
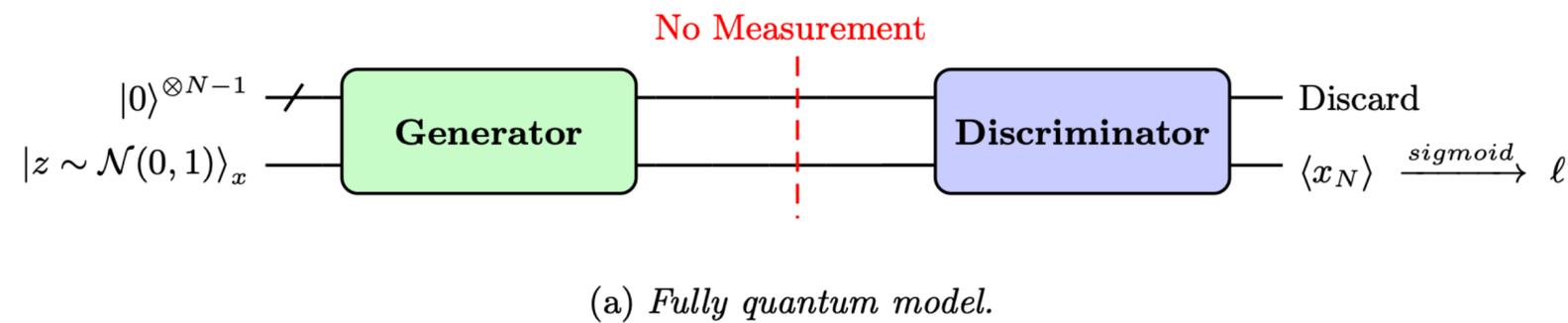
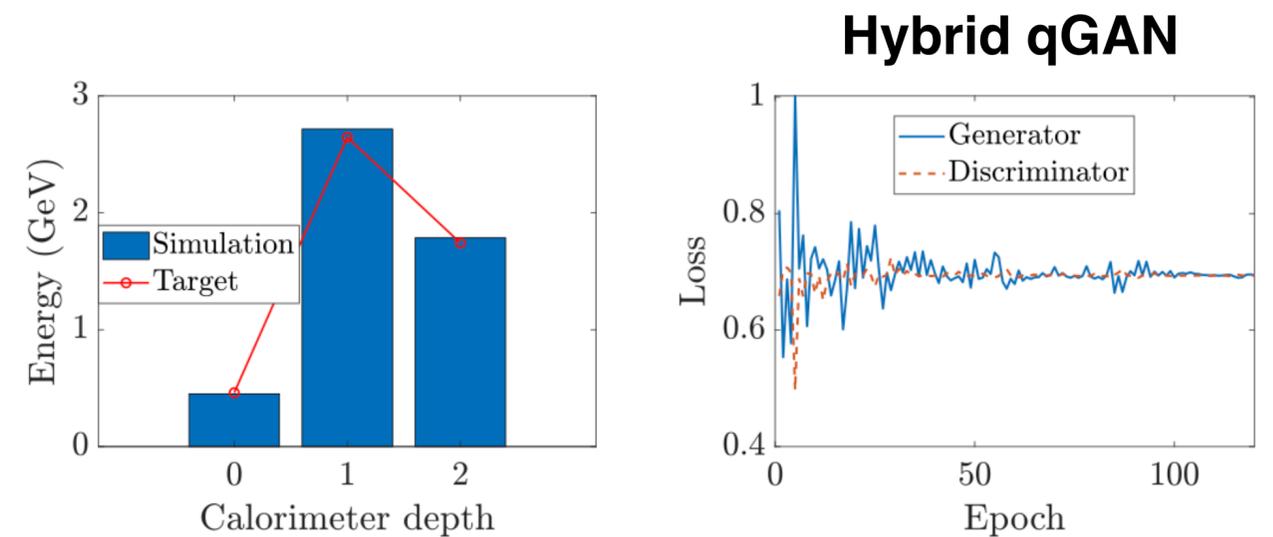
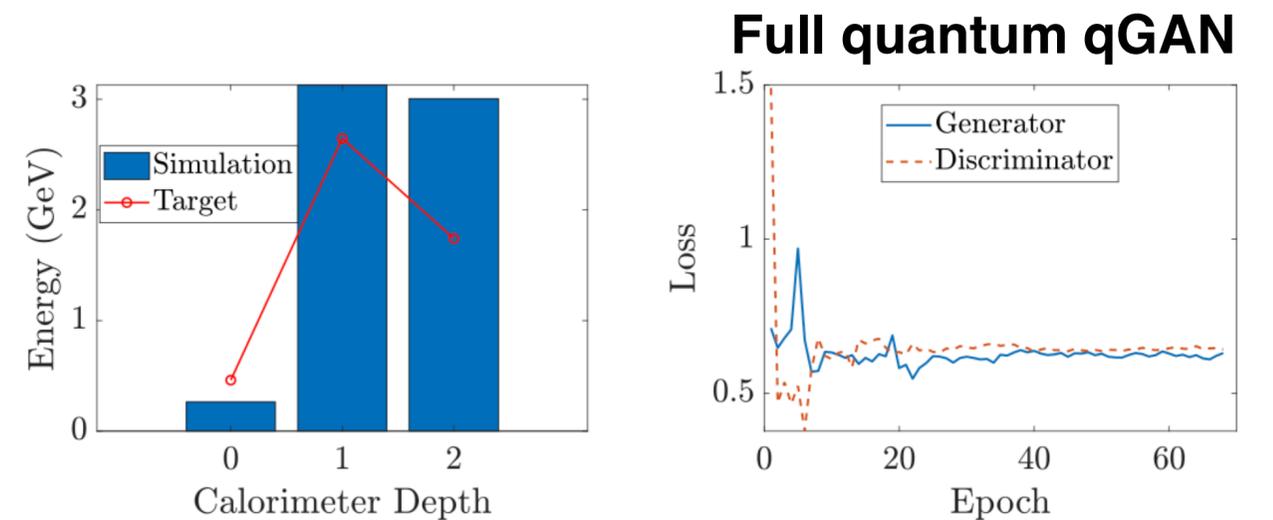
**Conditional Born Machines: conditions are given in input to the circuit**



QCBM are pretty stable and reliable, but many qubits are needed for multi-dimensional simulations

# Generative QML: qGAN

- **Quantum Generative Adversarial Networks:** a quantum generator is trained against a discriminator (classical or quantum)
- In general, GAN (not only qGAN) could replace time-consuming program as Geant4
- With qGAN,  $N$  qubits can be used to simulate  $2^N$  features (NOT  $2^N$  configurations as in Born Machines)
- The problem is the stability and convergence: it is useful to increase the latent space dimension, e.g. adding ancillary qubits



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2101.11132.pdf>



**Possible future prospects**

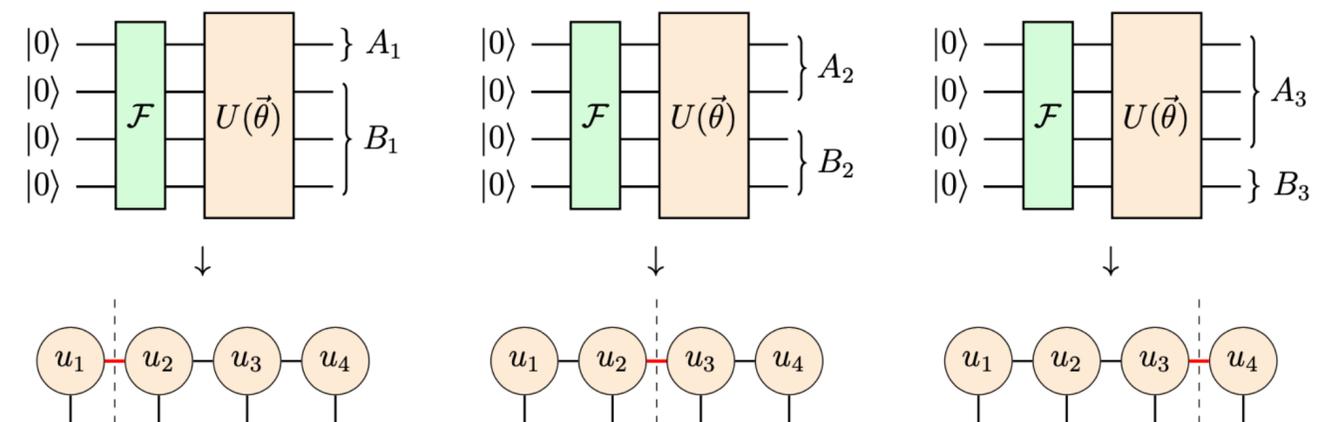
# Prospects: entanglement and correlations

- **Quantum circuits could give us more information on data than classical machine learning** by measuring **entanglement entropy**
- **Benchmarking:** the entropy is correlated with its expressibility and can be used to **optimize the circuit:** choice of circuit design, embedding scheme, cost function and data preprocessing
- **Entanglement-based models:** the circuit can be trained to obtain characteristic wave-functions of the two categories. **Measurement of entanglement entropy can be used to determine meaningful quantities, like feature importance and correlations**

**Von Neumann entropy between quantum bipartitions A and B.**  $\rho_A$  is the reduced density matrix of A, obtained by tracing out the degrees of freedom of B

$$S(\rho_A) = -\text{Tr}(\rho_A \log(\rho_A))$$

## Definition of bipartition in a 4-qubit circuit

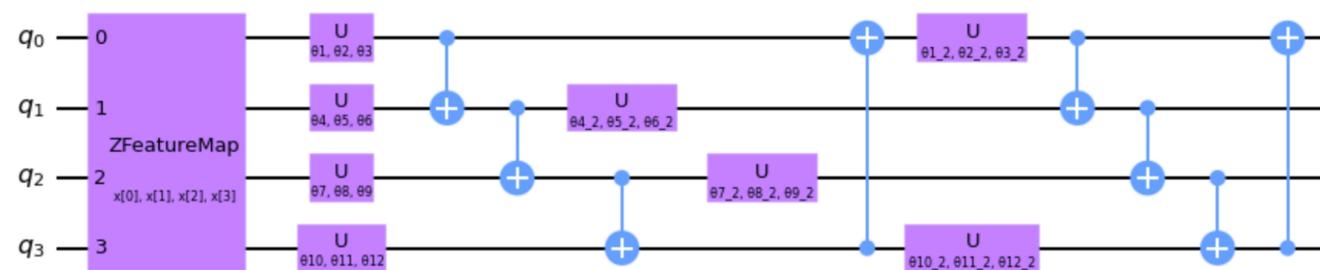
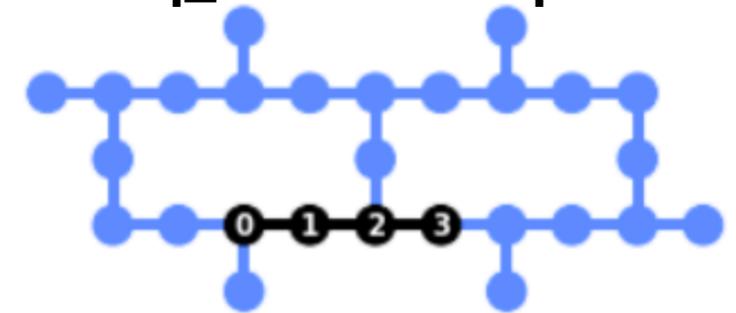


from S. Monaco master thesis

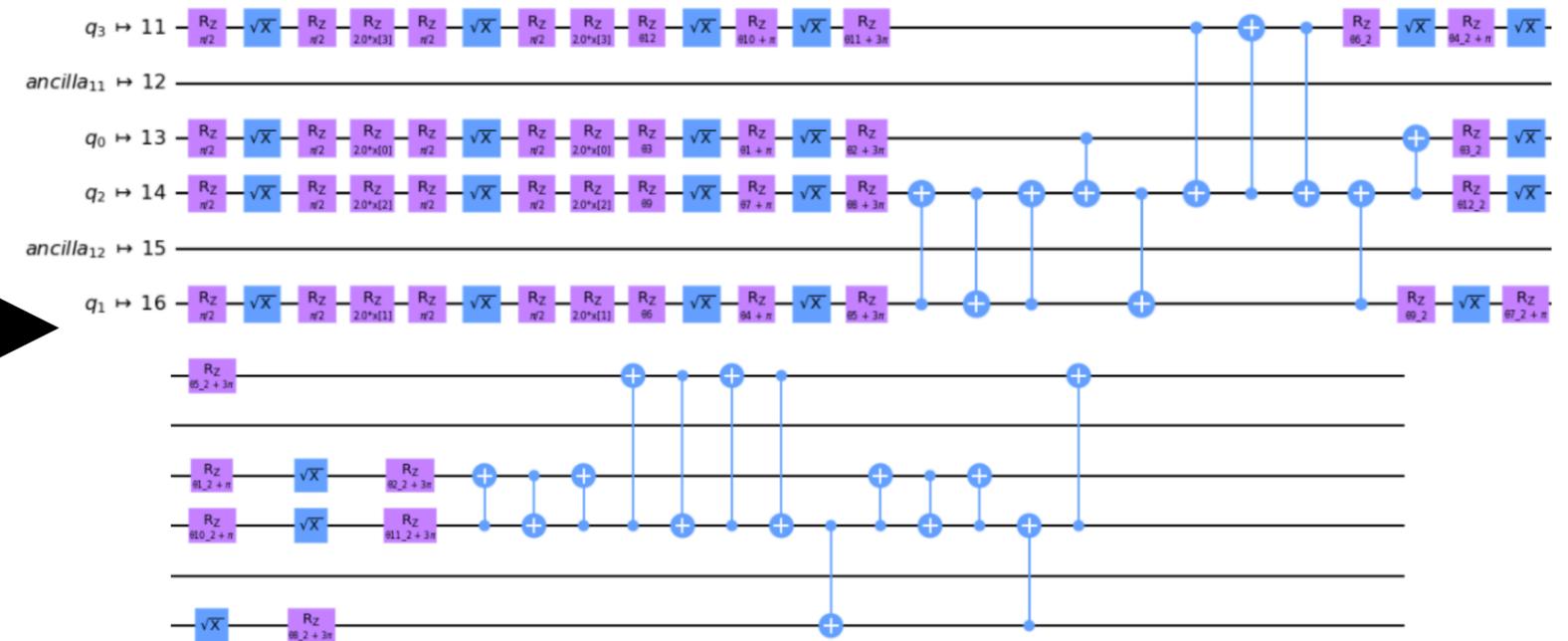
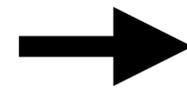
# Prospects: circuit optimization

- When circuits are ported to the hardware, they look very different from the original design: the implementation depends on the qubit connections, geometry and native gates
- The optimization is done with the **transpiler**
- However we should try to perform an accurate circuit design to improve the **timing performance, impact of the noise** etc.

ibmq\_toronto 27 qubits



4-qubit angle embedding circuit

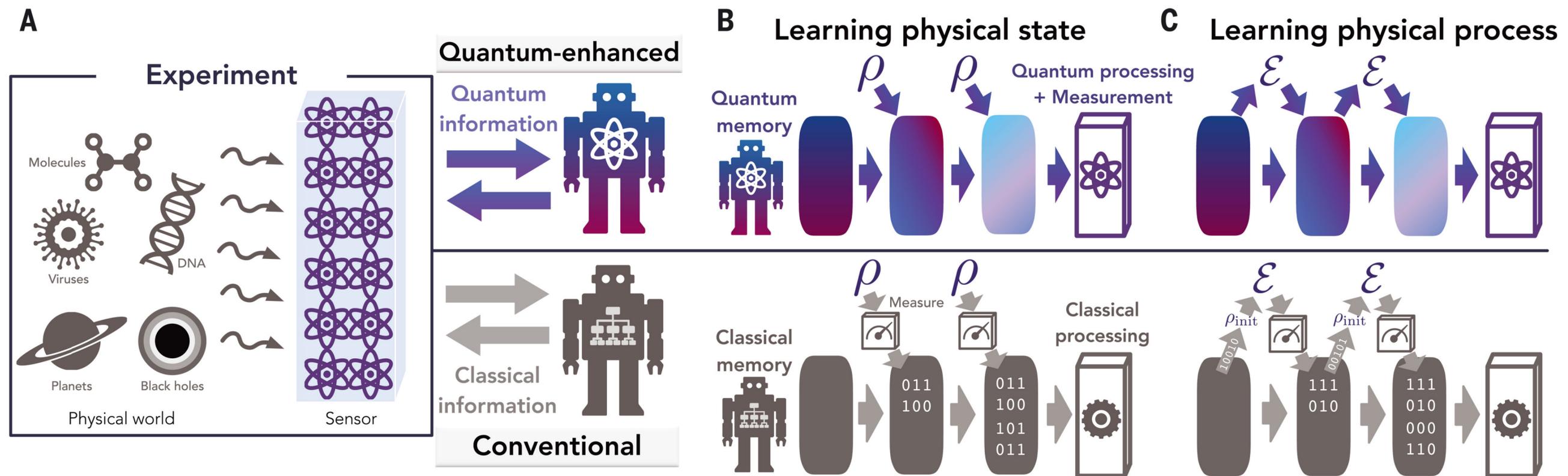


Same circuit on the ibmq\_toronto hardware

# Prospects: quantum data

- Treatment of classical data with QML is not yet clear
- Analyze **quantum data** with QML could lead to a real advantage (e.g. quantum sensors in the long term)

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# Conclusions

- The number of QC and QML applications in HEP is rapidly increasing
- **A real quantum advantage over classical algorithm is not yet established**
- We are at in the R&D phase, but **performance comparable to classical algorithms are already achievable**
- The availability of quantum computers, the number of qubits are currently limitation factors, simulators are not efficient with a high number of qubits
- The prospects on quantum hardware from the industries look promising
- **Many research directions:** data embedding, entropy, circuit optimization etc.



**Thanks for your attention!**