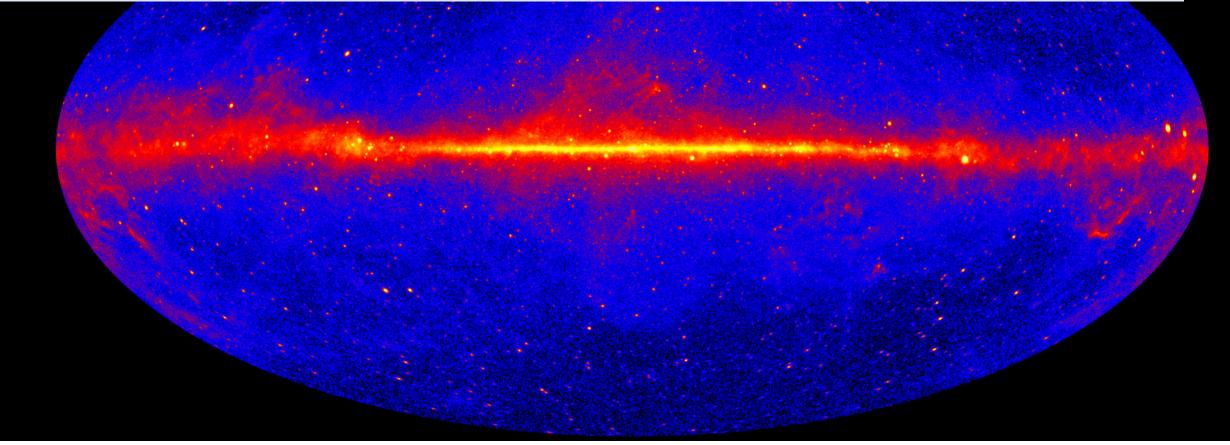
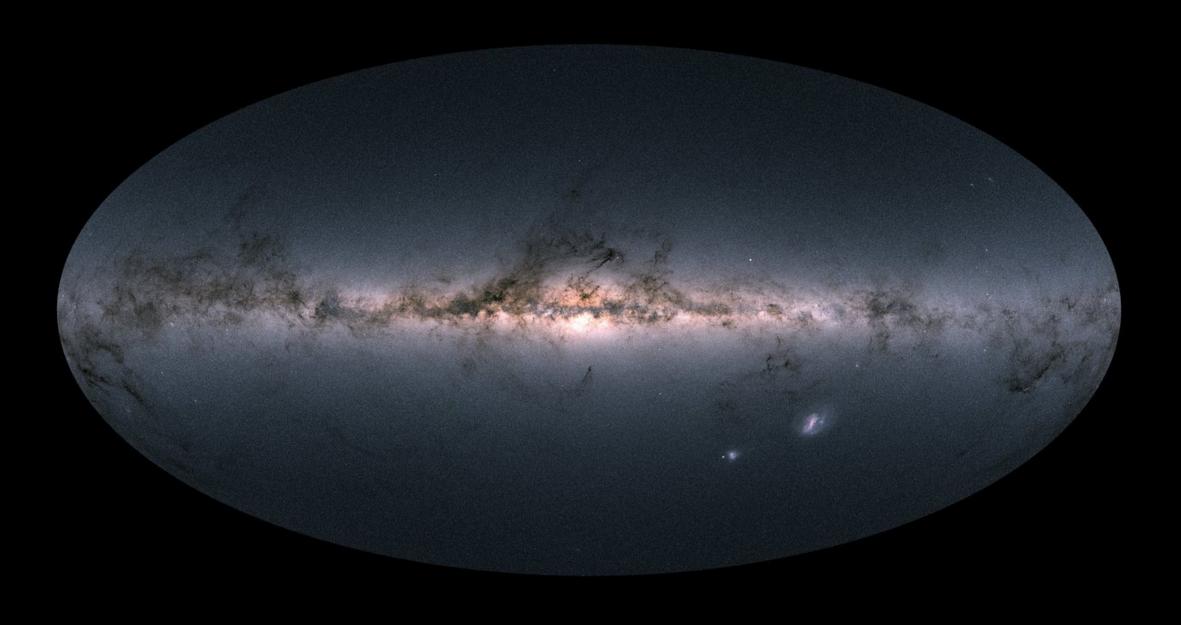
Towards foundation model for astrophysical source detection: An End-to-End Gamma-Ray Data Analysis Pipeline Using Deep Learning

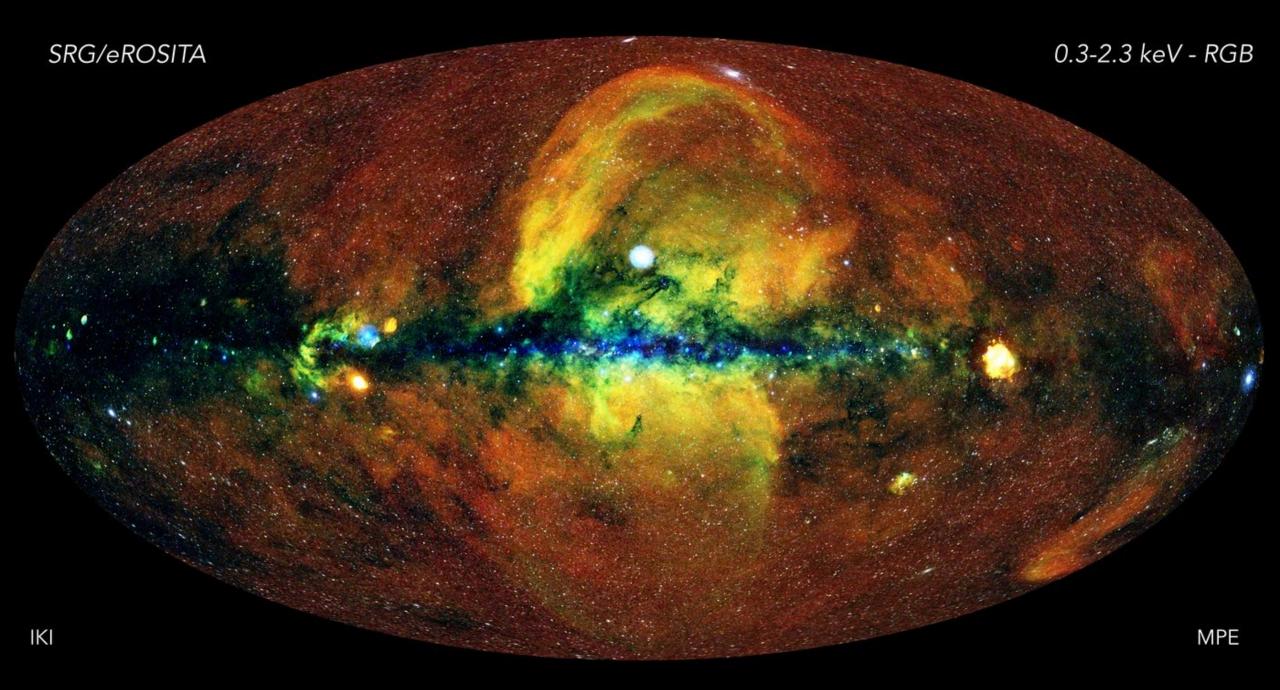


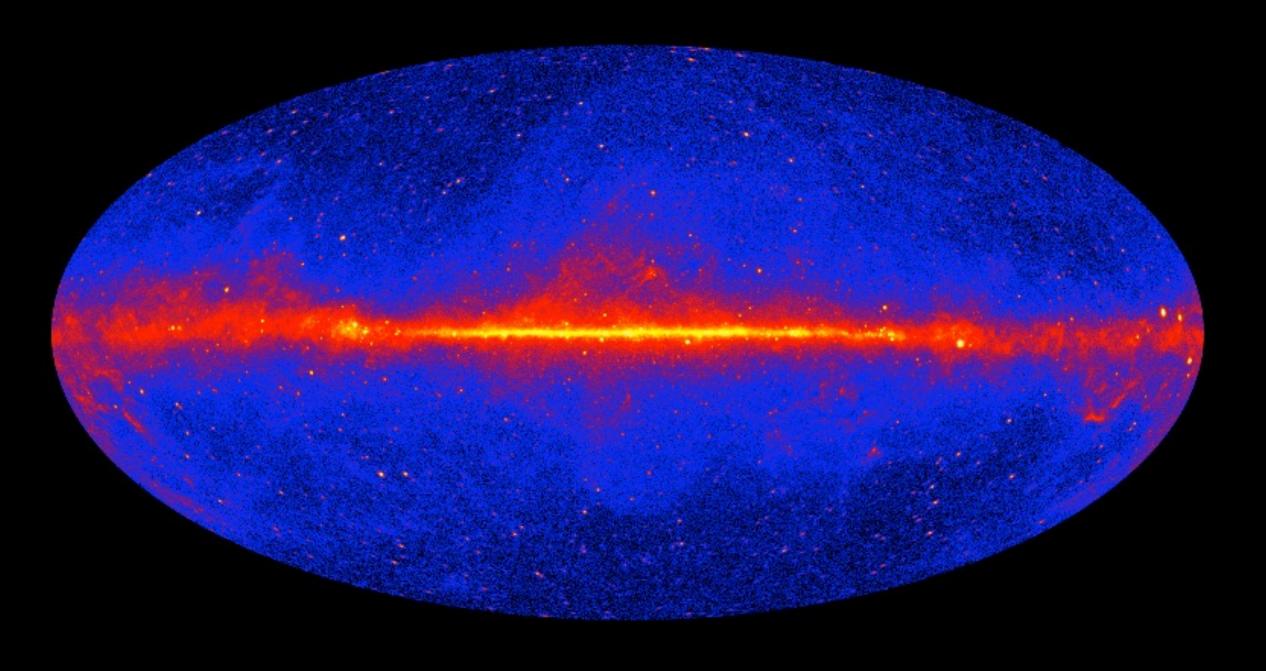


S. Bhattacharyya, S. Caron, D. Malyshev, R. Nicolas, G. Principe, Z. Rokavec, R. Ruiz de Austri, D. Skočaj, F. Stoppa, D. Tabernik, G. Zaharijas

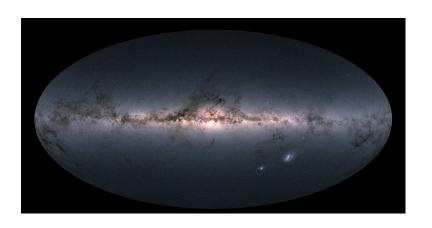


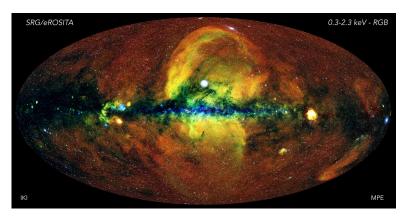


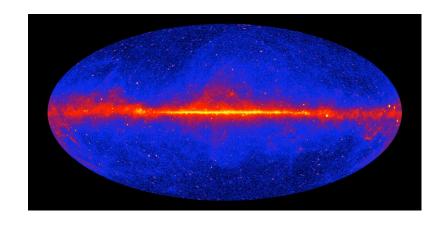




DETECTION OF ASTROPHYSICAL SOURCES ACCROSS WAVELENGTHS







Final goal

Given a sky-map, can a DNN-based pipeline detect localized sources with catalogue properties?

- locations [longitude, latitude deg]
- extension [deg]
- flux [above certain energy/wavelength]

Can these methodologies be applicable across different wavelengths?

OUTLINE

1. Gamma-ray analysis pipeline:







2. Optical analysis pipeline

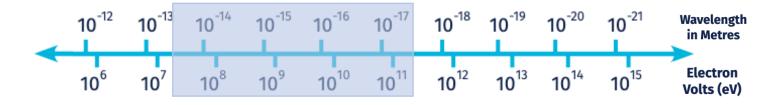


3. Towards foundation model for astrophysical source detection

• Different techniques for gamma-ray detection:



Different techniques for gamma-ray detection:



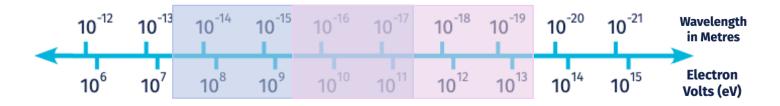
Fermi Large Area Telescope (LAT)



- Space-borne telescope
- Best sensitivity at ~200 GeV
- Angular resolution up to 0.1 deg
- 17 years of all-sky data



Different techniques for gamma-ray detection:



Fermi Large Area Telescope (LAT)



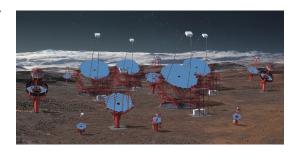
- Space-borne telescope
- Best sensitivity at ~200 GeV
- Angular resolution up to 0.1 deg
- 17 years of all-sky data



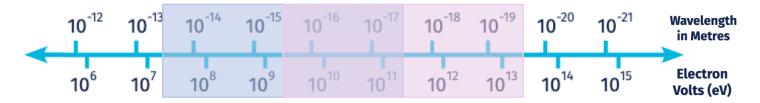
CTAO

Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (CTAO)

- Ground-based telescope array
- Best sensitivity at ~1 TeV
- Angular resolution ~0.05 deg
- Deep dedicated surveys
- O(10) better sensitivity w.r.t. current telescopes



Different techniques for gamma-ray detection:



Fermi Large Area Telescope (LAT)



- Space-borne telescope
- Best sensitivity at ~200 GeV
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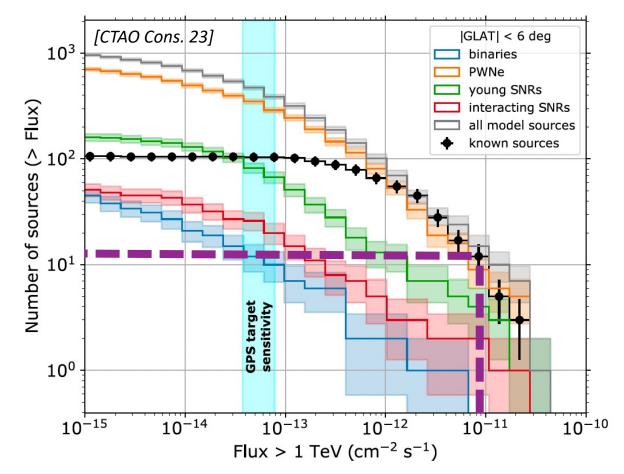




Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (CTAO)

- Ground-based telescope array
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Different techniques for gamma-ray detection:



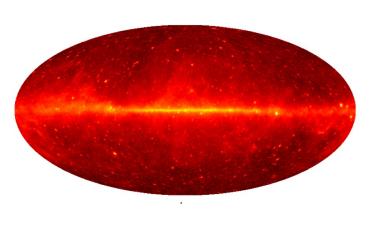
Fermi Large Area Telescope (LAT)

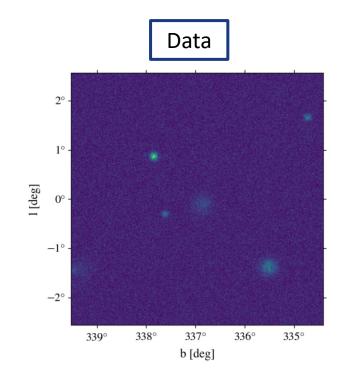


Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (CTAO)

CTAO

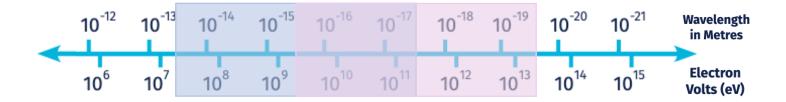


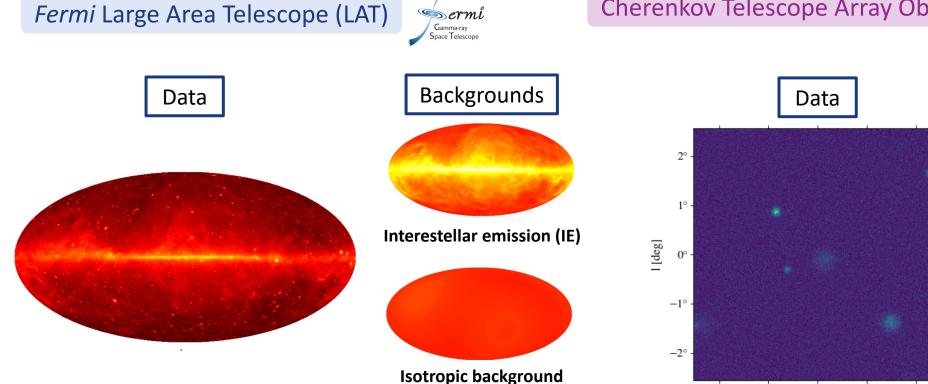




Different techniques for gamma-ray detection:

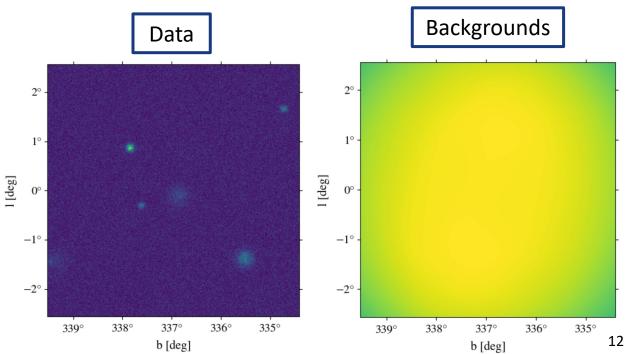
EuCAIFCon 2025



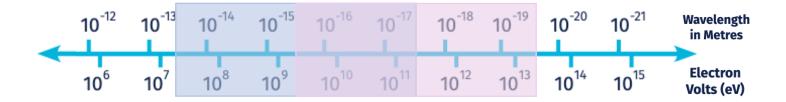


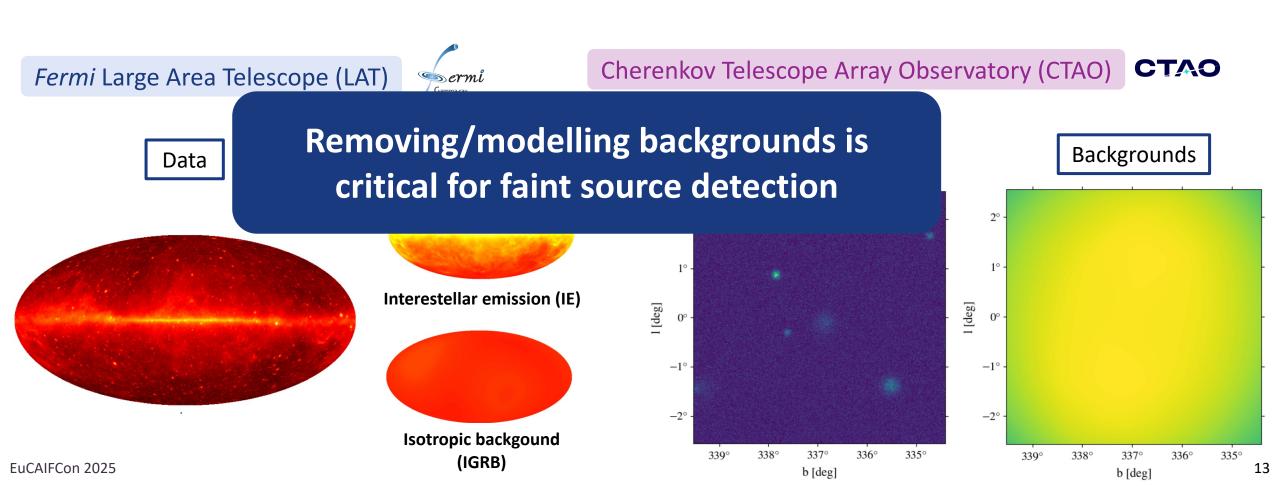
(IGRB)

Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory (CTAO) CTAO



• Different techniques for gamma-ray detection:

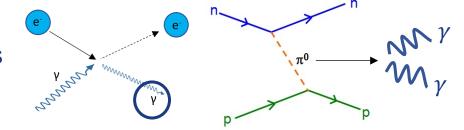




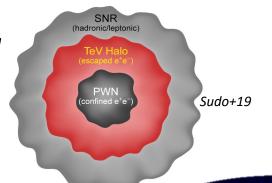
THE GAMMA-RAY SKY: FAINT SOURCES

Study faint gamma-ray sources can lead to different discoveries:

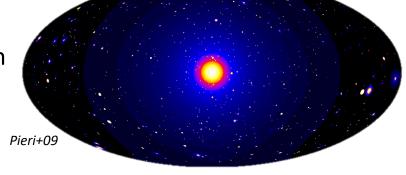
Cosmic ray production & populations



New classes of sources: TeV Halos [Linden+17]



• Fundamental physics: Indirect Dark Matter detection



• Simulation of 10 years of data with collaboration software [fermitools] and population models from previous catalogs [4FGL-DR2] for training

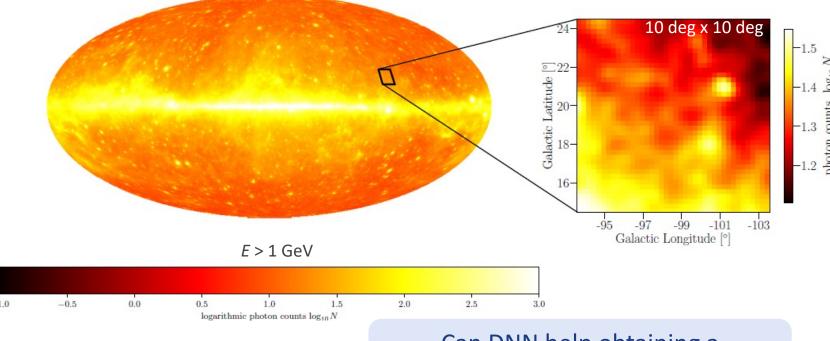
Analyzing gamma-rays of the Galactic Center with deep learning

S. Caron, G. A. Gómez-Vargas, L. Hendriks & R. Austri, JCAP05(2018)058, [arXiv: 1708.06706]

Identification of point sources in gamma rays using U-shaped convolutional neural networks and a data challenge

B. Panes, S. Caron, R. Austri, G. Zaharijas et.al, A&A (A62, 2021), [arXiv: 2103.11068]

- 300 MeV < E < 1 TeV, 6 energy bins
- Spatial resolution increases with energy: from 0.8 deg at 0.3 GeV, to 0.1 deg above 7 GeV
- Test robustness against different IE models



IE small scale structures

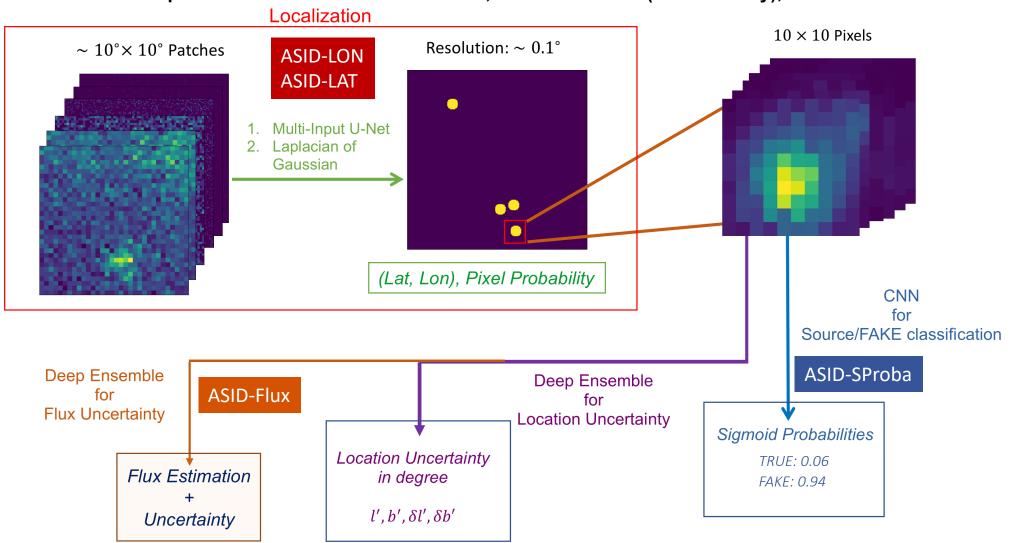


Misidentification of faint sources

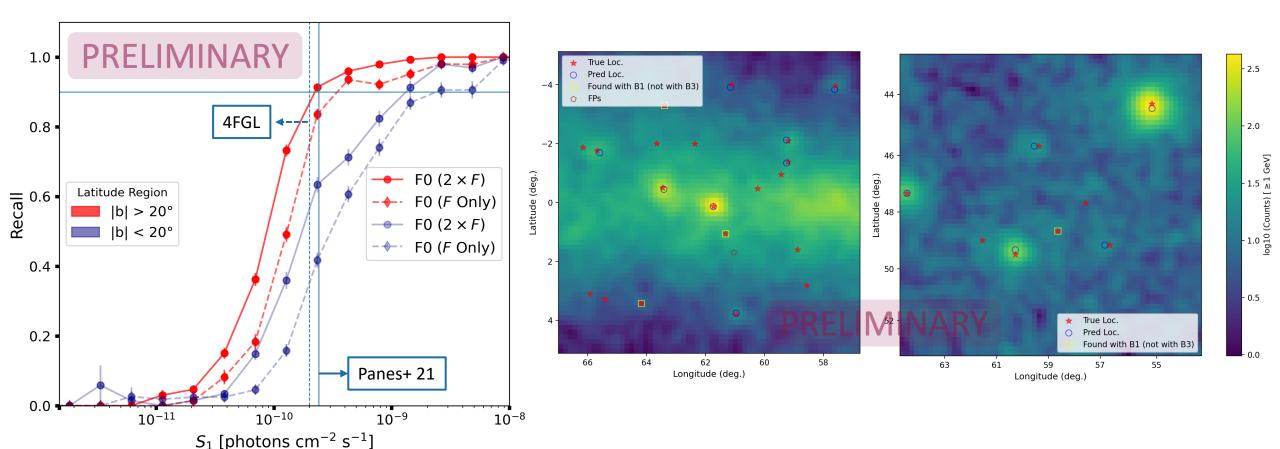


Can DNN help obtaining a background agnostic catalog?

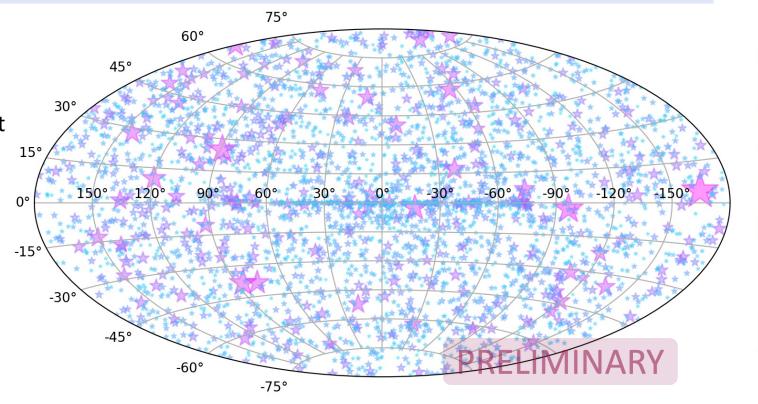
Complete Workflow of Source Location, Flux Estimation (+Uncertainty), Classification



- Flux sensitivity of ASID is comparable to the 4FGL-DR2 detection threshold and to our previous work
- To test the robustness against different IEM models, use the pipeline trained with B1 IEM and test it with catalogs prepared using B1 and B2 IEMs separately



- Comparison with 4FGL-DR2 catalog:
 - For sources with $\sigma >$ 20, more than 90% association independent on latitude
 - For sources with 20 < σ < 10 and
 |b| > 20 deg, 90% association
 - For sources with $20 < \sigma < 10$ and |b| < 20 deg, 77% association



- 2.5

0.5

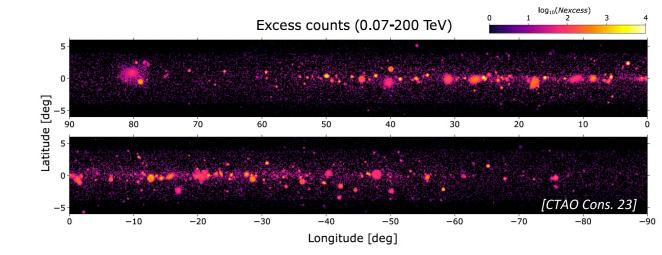
Final catalog-like product

ASID-LON	ASID-LAT	ASID-SC	ASID-SProba	ASID-Flux	DR2-Name
$^{\circ}$ (deg.)	$^{\circ}$ (deg.)	Binary Class $(0/1)$	Sigmoid Probability	ph. $cm^{-2}s^{-1}$	
287.603	-0.627	0	3.18e - 12	6.037e - 8	4FGL J1045.1-5940
304.097	-45.137	0	2.69e - 4	2.827e - 10	4FGL J0040.7-7157
349.823	9.238	0	3.94e-4	2.627e - 10	4FGL J1643.3-3148
:	:	:	:	:	:

Improvement of CTAO sensitivity will imply detection of:

Fainter sources Larger sources

Crowded regions will be extremely complex to analyze



Improvement of CTAO sensitivity will imply detection of:

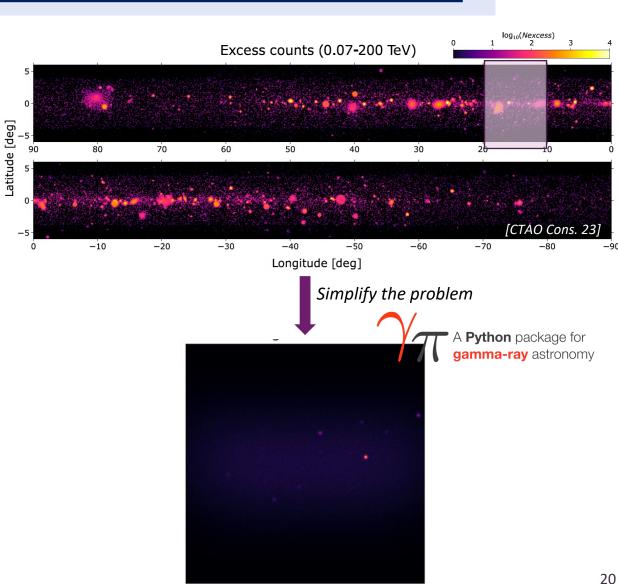
Fainter sources

Crowded regions will be extremely complex to analyze

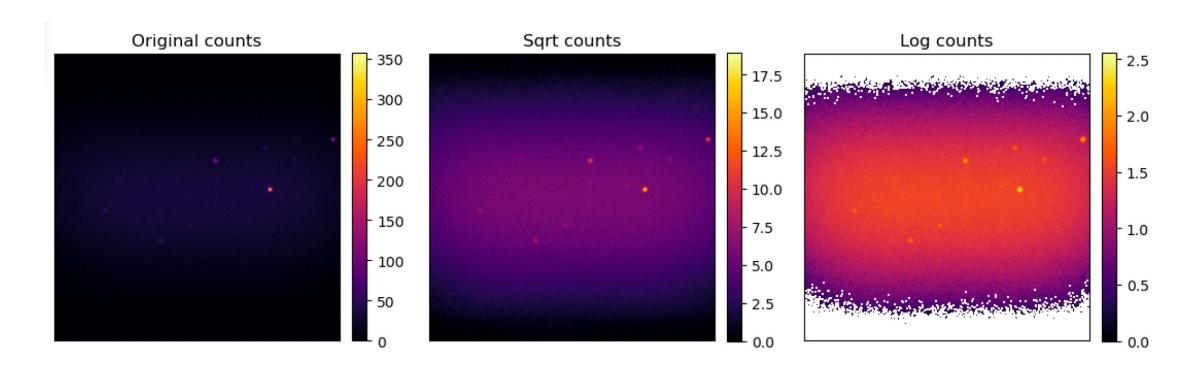
Simplify the problem

- Simulate a toy gamma-ray sky with only point-like sources
- Keep the original spatial and spectral distribution of sources
- One patch: 10 x 10 deg (512 x 512 pix), 3 energy bins

Proof of concept: Learn how to improve detection and localization of sources in CTAO toy-simulation



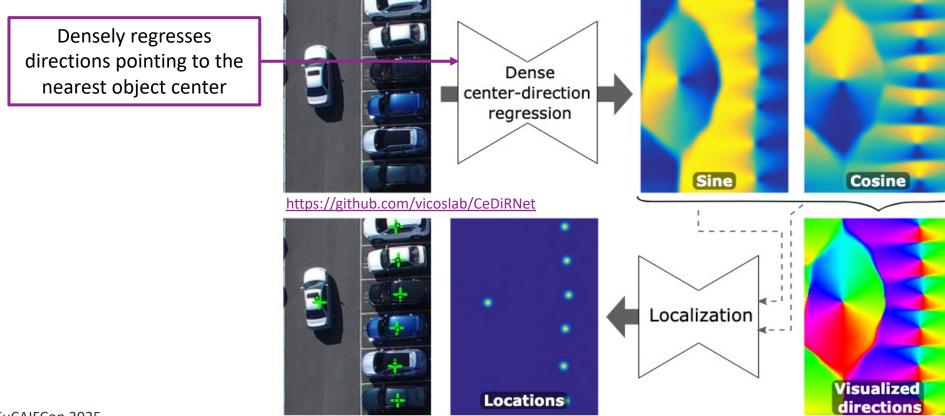
- 1. Image scaling using ASID
- Naturally enhances contrast between sources and background



2. Dense center-direction regression approach

Dense Center-Direction Regression for Object Counting and Localization with Point Supervision,

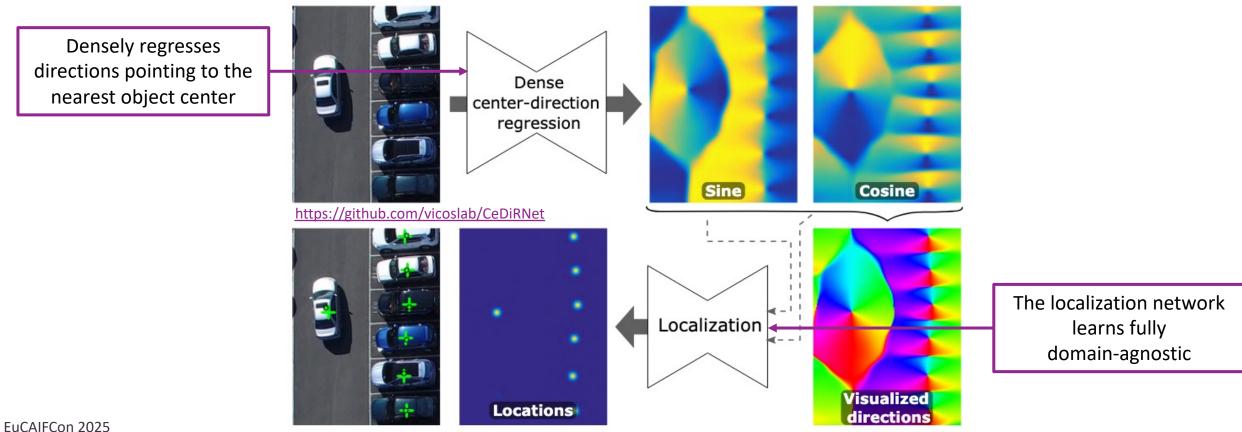
D. Tabernik, J. Muhovič, D. Skočaj, J. Pat. Cog. 2024, 110540, [arXiv:2408.14457]



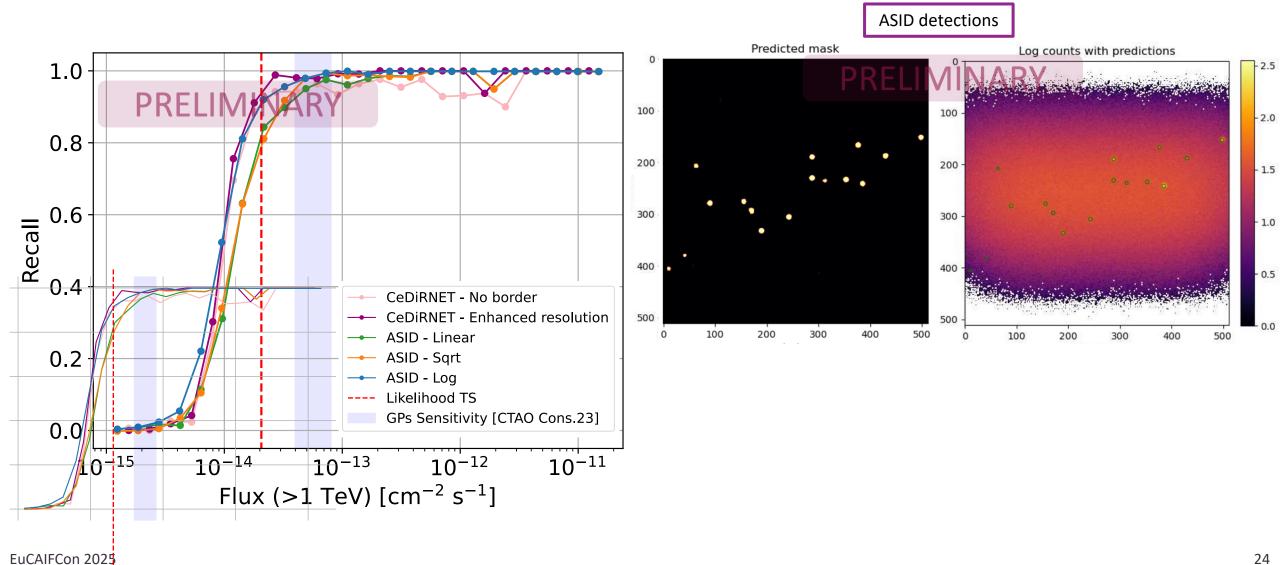
Dense center-direction regression approach

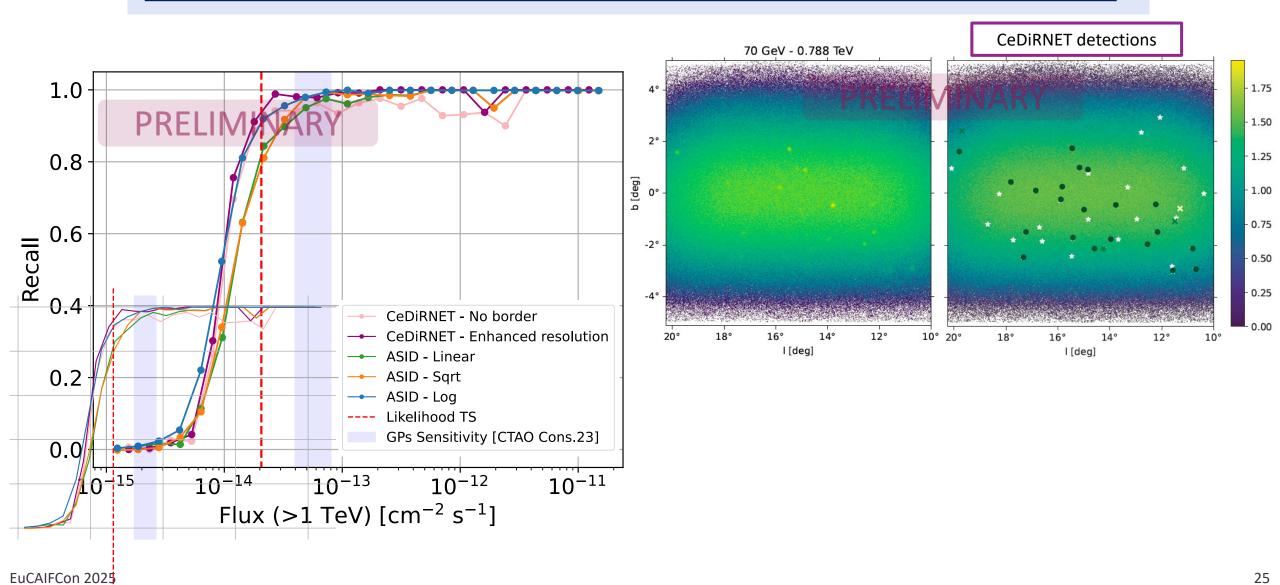
Dense Center-Direction Regression for Object Counting and Localization with Point Supervision,

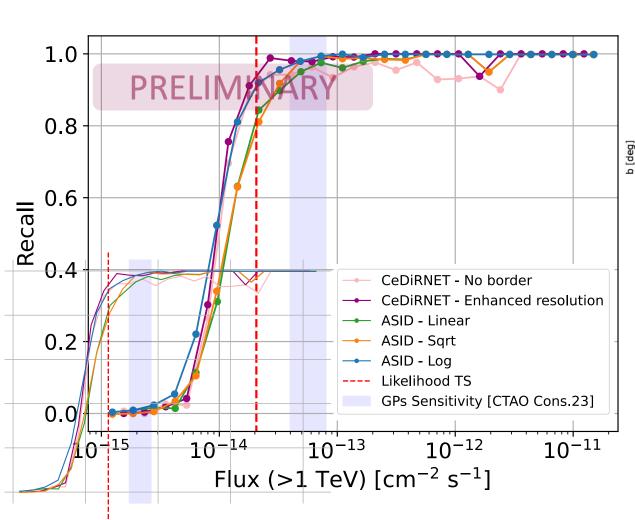
D. Tabernik, J. Muhovič, D. Skočaj, J. Pat. Cog. 2024, 110540, [arXiv:2408.14457]

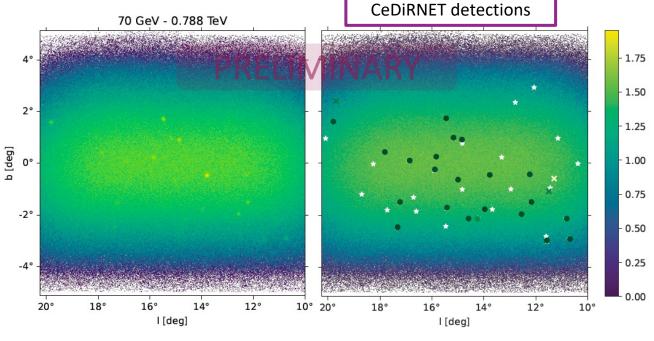


23









- On going work:
 - Denoising pipeline (U-Net, diffusion model...)
 - Realistic CTAO data (across the GP, state-of-the-art models for populations of sources)
 - Detection of extended & overlapping sources

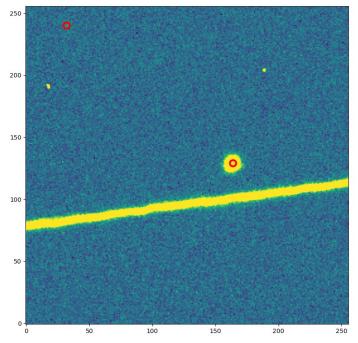
- Trained and tested with MeerLICHT data
 - 65 cm optical telescope with FoV = 2.7 deg²
 - Images of fields with different source densities:
 - 1. Omega Cen. globular cluster,
 - 2. Fornax galaxy cluster
 - 3. "Empty" field
 - Each field is divided into 1681 patches of 256 × 256 pixels (total of 5043 patches)
- Automatic rejection of CR contaminants, satellite trails...

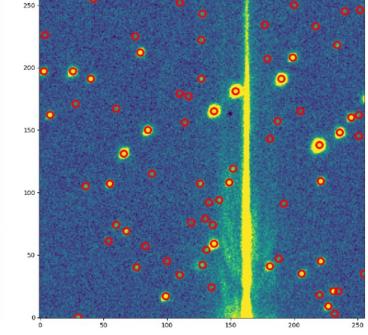
Can we extend the pipeline to other wavelengths?

- Trained and tested with MeerLICHT data
 - 65 cm optical telescope with FoV = 2.7 deg²
 - Images of fields with different source densities:
 - 1. Omega Cen. globular cluster,
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Can we extend the pipeline to other wavelengths?

ASID-Light: Fast Optical Source Localization via U-Net and Laplacian of Gaussian F. Stoppa et. al., A&A (A109, 2022), [arXiv: 2202.00489]

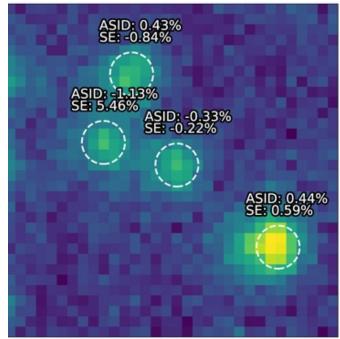


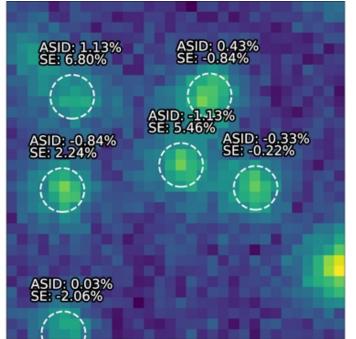


- Once localized, estimate flux with uncertainties (single band image cutout)
- Performs better in crowded field compared to source extractor; well-calibrated uncertainty

ASID-FE: Flux Estimation & Uncertainty Characterization F. Stoppa et.al., A&A (A108, 2023), [arXiv: 2305.14495]

Predicted flux percentage error

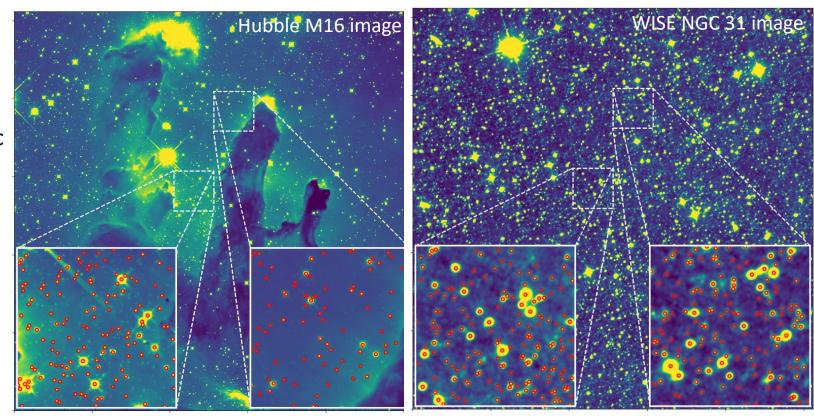




Trained and tested with MeerLICHT data

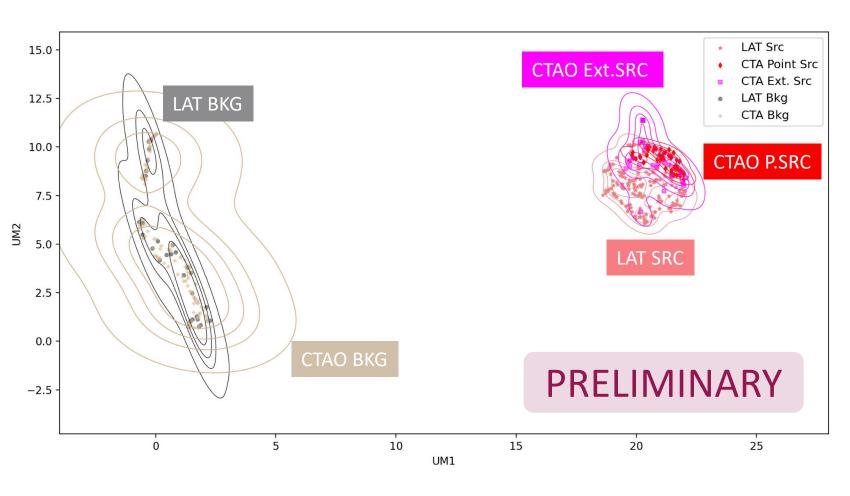
- Try transfer learning with Hubble data
 - Hubble PSF: 0.11 arcsec
 - MeerLICHT telescope PSF: 2-3 arcssec
- Try transfer learning with WISE infrared data

First hints: is it possible to build a foundational model for source detection across wavelengths?

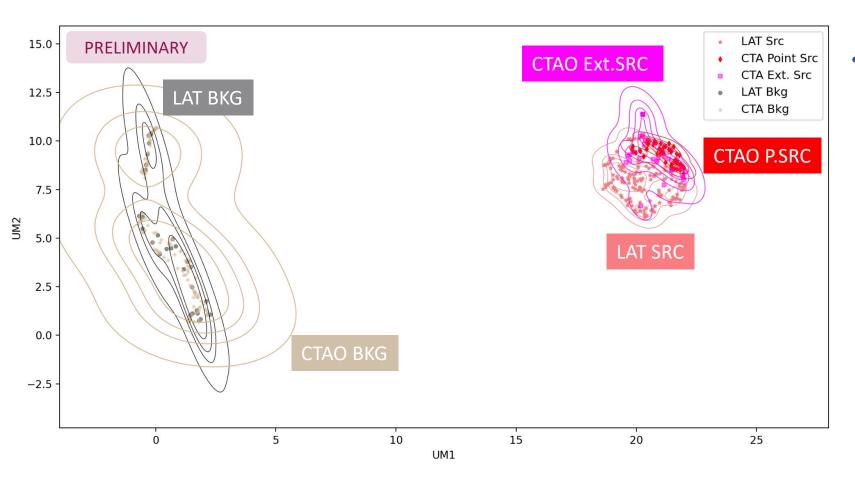


ASID-Light [arXiv: 2202.00489]

ASID-FE [arXiv: 2305.14495]



- Clear distinction between:
 - Gamma-ray sources
 - Gamma-ray backgrounds

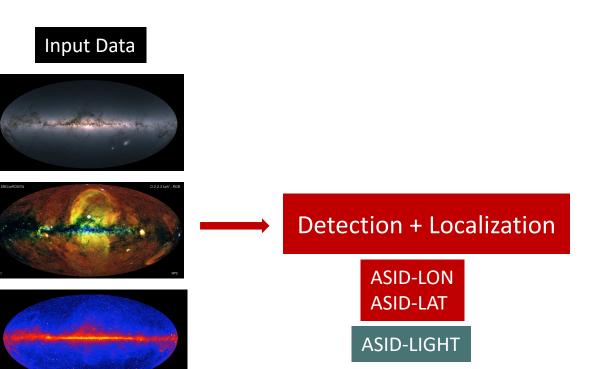


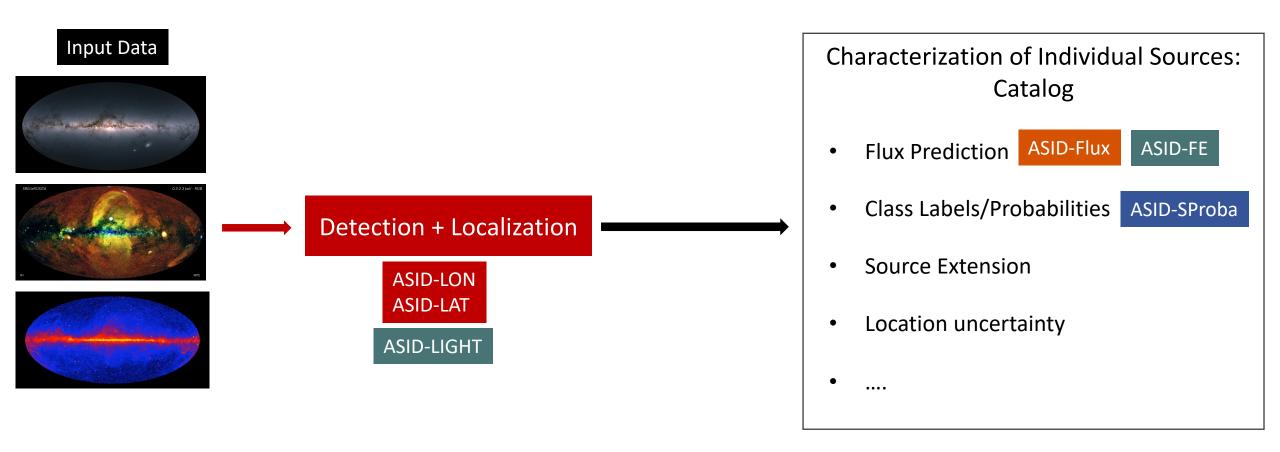
- Clear distinction between:
 - Gamma-ray sources
 - Gamma-ray backgrounds

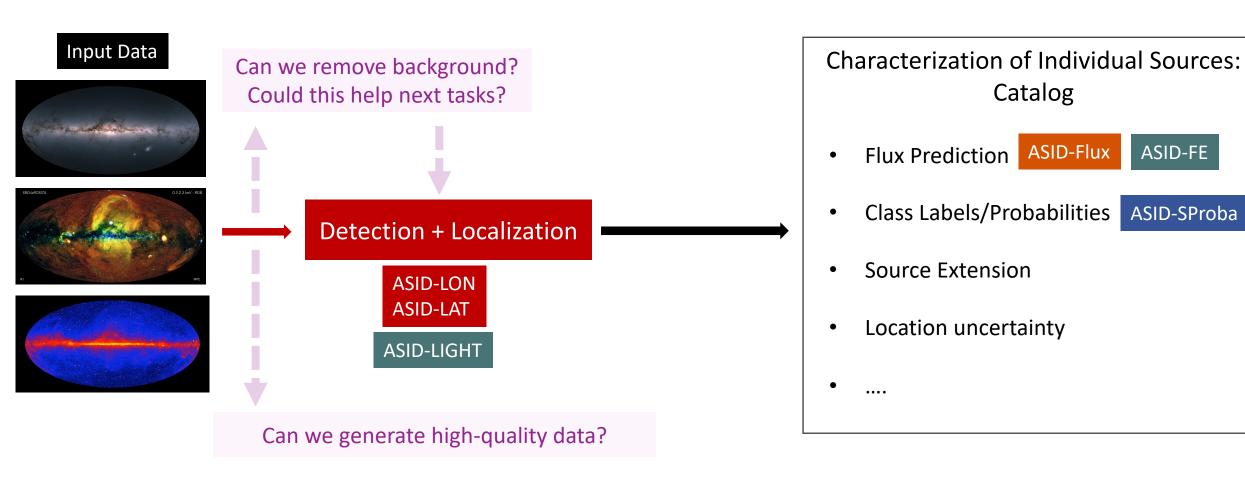


Next steps:

- Include datapoints from other wavelengths in latent space
- Tokenization









International Conference Al for SCIENCE 2025 joined by SMASHing Conference https://ai4science.si/ 22-26 September 2025 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Important dates for thematic tracks (<u>excluding</u> Discovery Science conference):



28th Discovery Science Conference



Al & Digital Humanities

Al & Life Sciences

Al & Environmental Science

Al & Physics





Thanks for your attention!



EuCAIFCon 2025

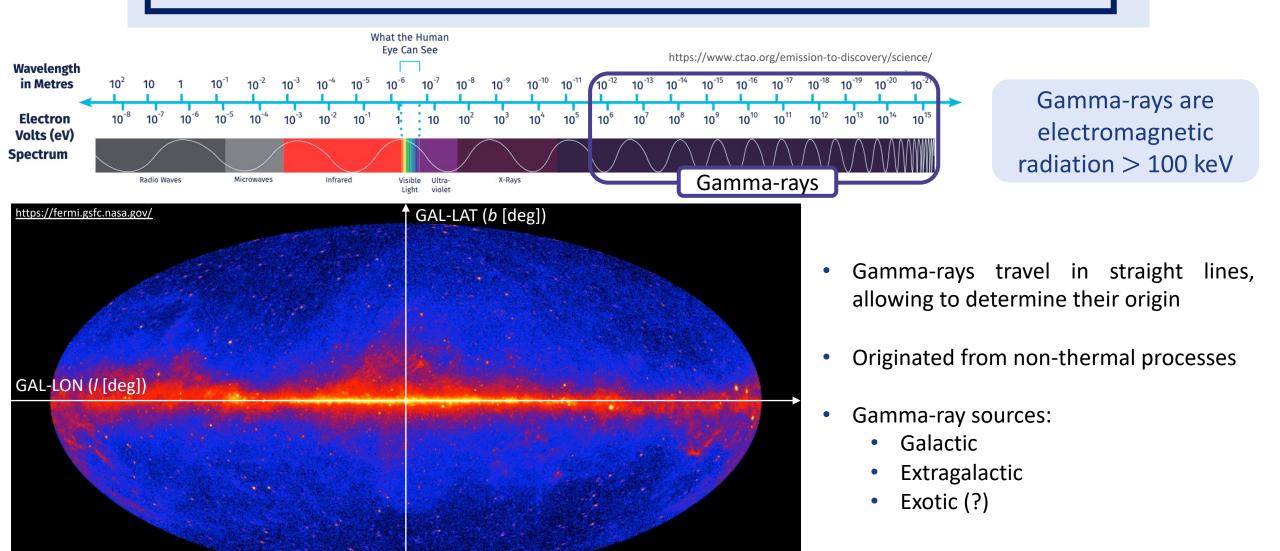




Back up slides



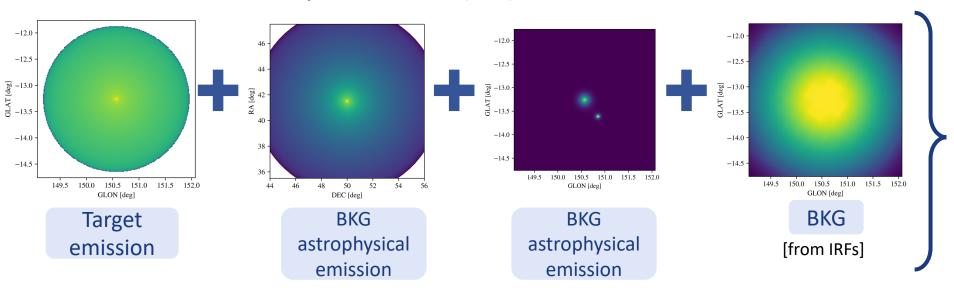
THE GAMMA-RAY SKY



Gamma-ray emission > 1 GeV from 12 years

GAMMA-RAY STANDARD ANALYSIS

 Includes all expected gamma-ray sources: Target + Astrophysical Backgrounds (BKG) + BKG from Instrument Response Function (IRFs)



Most realistic physical scenario

Use likelihood ratio test to fit the models to the simulated data:

$$\ln \mathcal{L}(\vec{\theta}|D) = \sum_{i} \tilde{M}_{i}(\vec{\theta}) - d_{i} \ln(\tilde{M}_{i}(\vec{\theta}))$$
Poissonian likelihood for each parameter
$$TS = 2 \log \left[\frac{\mathcal{L}\left(A_{\chi}, \hat{\hat{\nu}}\right)}{\mathcal{L}_{\text{null}}\left(A_{\chi} = 0, \hat{\nu}\right)} \right]$$

• *TS* < 25 → No signal

ML TO DETECT FAINT GAMMA-RAY SOURCES

Standard gamma-ray analysis:

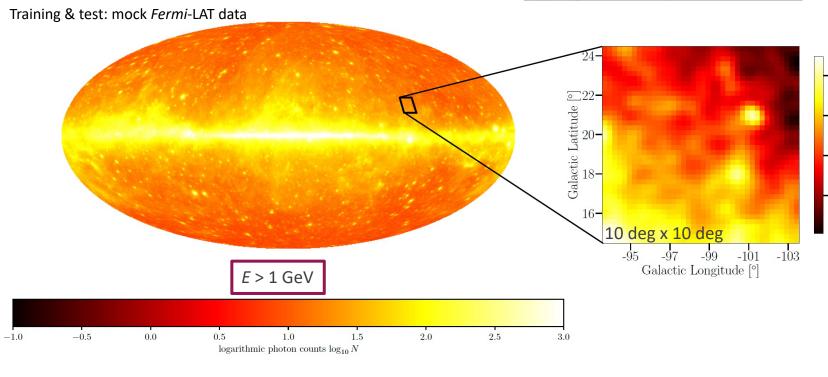




Lack of knowledge of backgrounds can introduce strong biases

AutoSourceID (ASID) [Panes+21]

https://github.com/bapanes/AutoSourceID



- CNN pipeline based on U-Net algorithms
- Goal: detect and classify point-like sources
- 1. Detection: U-NET + clustering algorithm (*k-means*, Centroid-NET)
- 2. Classification: deep NN to classify different sources (from energy features)

ASID METHODOLY FOR DETECTION OF POINT-LIKE SOURCES

AutoSourceID (ASID) [Panes+21]

https://github.com/bapanes/AutoSourceID

ML tool to directly analyse gamma-ray image datasets

U-NET scheme

 Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) pipeline based on U-Net algorithms

Goal: detect (localize) point-like sources

Semantic segmentation

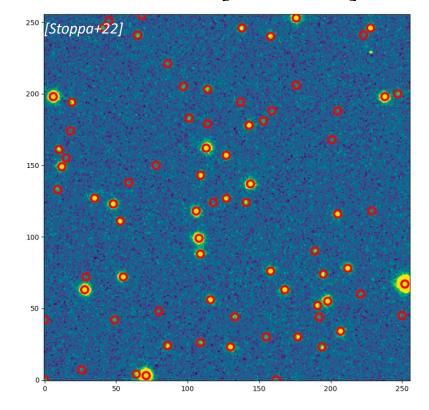
- U-Net produces segmented regions around point sources
- For each input patch there is per-pixel classification (background vs. foreground)
- Label scores: ~1 (for pixels in the region around a point source) and ~0 (otherwise)
- To translate this to positions, apply a clustering algorithm

ML TO DETECT FAINT GAMMA-RAY SOURCES

Localization

Laplacian of Gaussian filter

LoG
$$(x, y; \sigma^2) = -\frac{1}{\pi \sigma^4} \left[1 - \frac{x^2 + y^2}{2\sigma^2} \right] e^{-\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

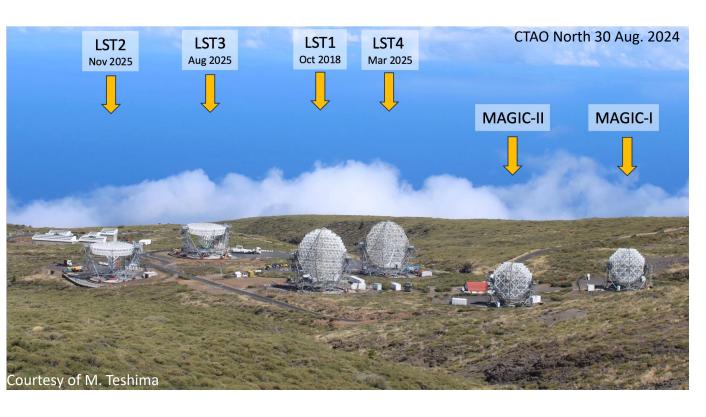


AutoSourceID-Light (ASID-L) [Stoppa+22]

https://github.com/FiorenSt/AutoSourceID-Light

ML TO DETECT FAINT GAMMA-RAY SOURCES: CTAO

- Future of Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes for VHE gamma-ray astronomy
- 2 arrays: Northern Array (La Palma, Spain) and Southern Array (Paranal, Chile)
- First LST already in operations!





CTAO

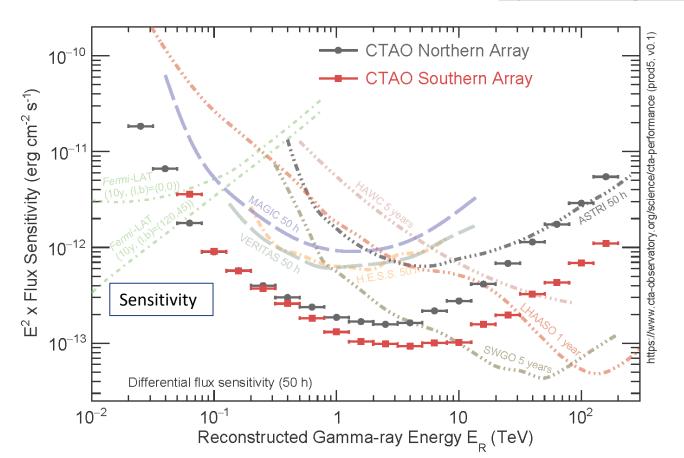
ML TO DETECT FAINT GAMMA-RAY SOURCES: CTAO

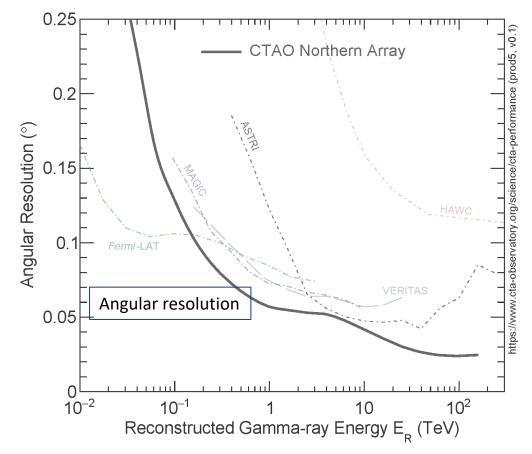
• We need to prepare for the data & analysis: we will for sure detect fainter sources, ML (U-Net) can help

Preliminary Performance Capabilities of the Alpha Configuration



https://www.ctao.org/for-scientists/performance/





ABOUT THE CTAO DATA

- We generate the data (telescope is under construction phase)
- We only have one sky
- Data is generated according to state-of-the-art physical models on the population of the different kind of sources that we know
- We only have simulated data (we use most updated characterization of the detector to make it as realistic as possible)
- To increase number of data, we take advantage of the uncertainty in populations, making realizations of the sky given the models
- This means we have as training data as many as we need (reasonable in space and time)

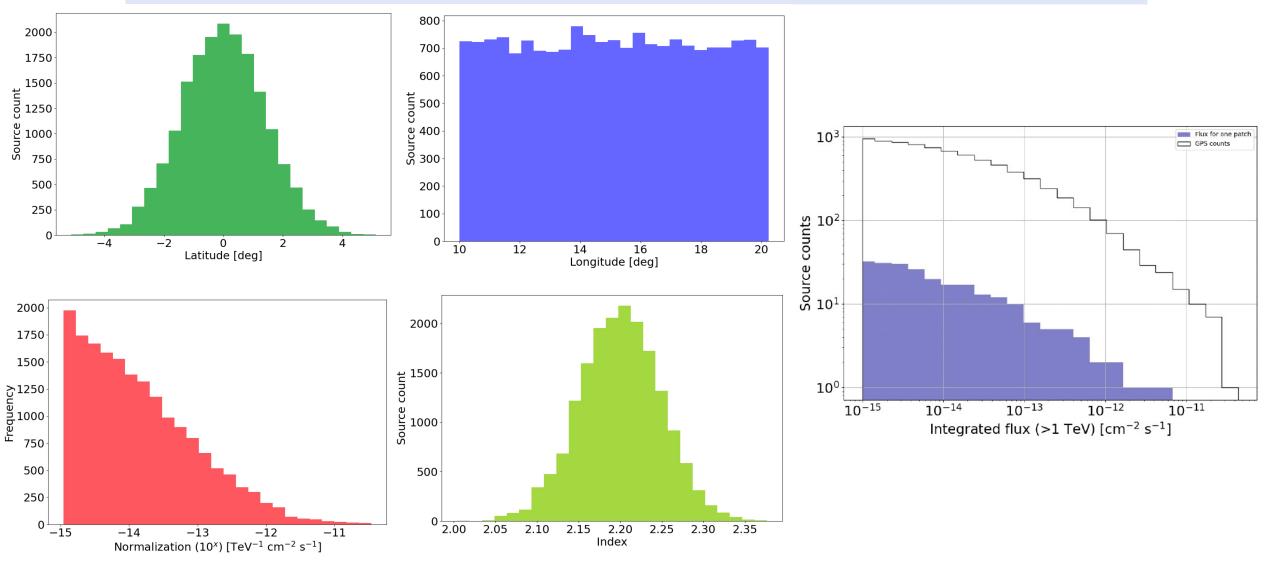
ABOUT THE DATA: PRELIMINARY TOY SIMULATIONS

- Observation plan in [2310.02828] and the corresponding GPS pointings list from the GPS repository (non-equilateral double-row pattern and duration 30 min per pointing)
- IRFs prod5-v0.1 (South_z20_50h)
- The RoI centered on (15.12 deg, 0 deg) in gal. coords. and 10.24 x 10.24 deg^2
- The spatial binning 0.02deg
- Energy bins range from 0.07 TeV to 100 TeV logarithmically binned in 3 (70 GeV 0.788 TeV, 0.788 TeV 8.88 TeV, 8.88 TeV 100 TeV)
- Always same patch

SIMS

- number of sources randomly between [20, 40]
- 10 < *l* < 20.24 deg
- -5.12 < b < 5.12 deg, with a variance of 1.4 so most of sources in |b| < 1 deg
- Each source follows power-law spectral distribution dN/dE = K0(E/E0)-γ
- To obtain the distributions of the parameters used GammaCat
- E0 fixed at 1 TeV, and γ has a normal distribution with a mean of 2.2 and variance of 0.05
- KO was modeled as 10^x TeV-1 cm-2 s-1, where x was adjusted so that the resulting cumulative distribution of integrated source flux above 1 TeV aligned with the same distribution of all model sources from the GPS paper

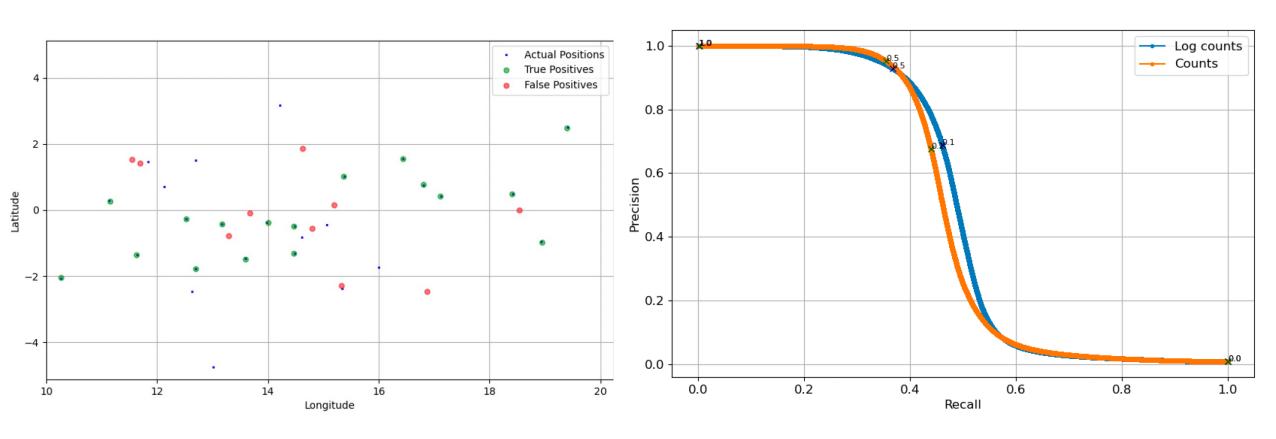
ABOUT THE DATA: PRELIMINARY TOY SIMULATIONS



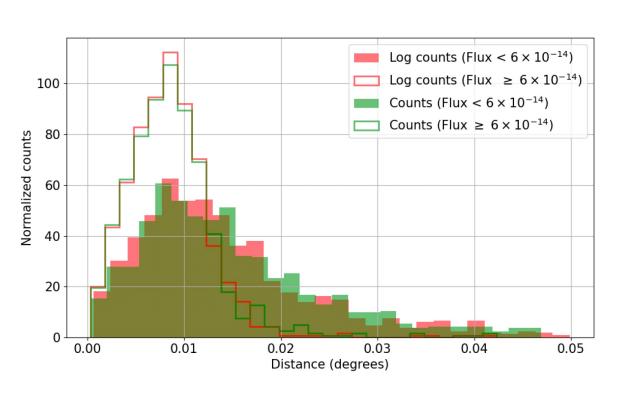
CTAO EXTRA-RESULTS: PRELIMINARY TOY SIMULATIONS

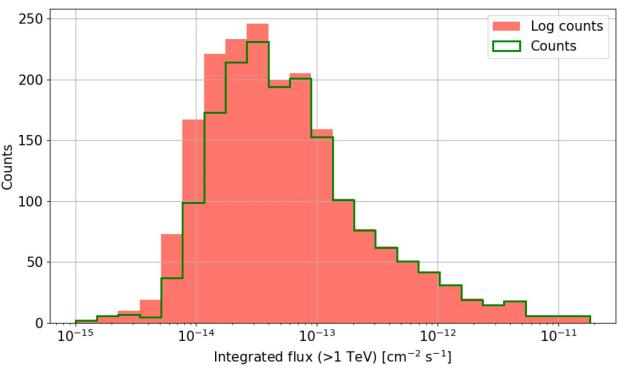
$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP}$$

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$



CTAO EXTRA-RESULTS: PRELIMINARY TOY SIMULATIONS





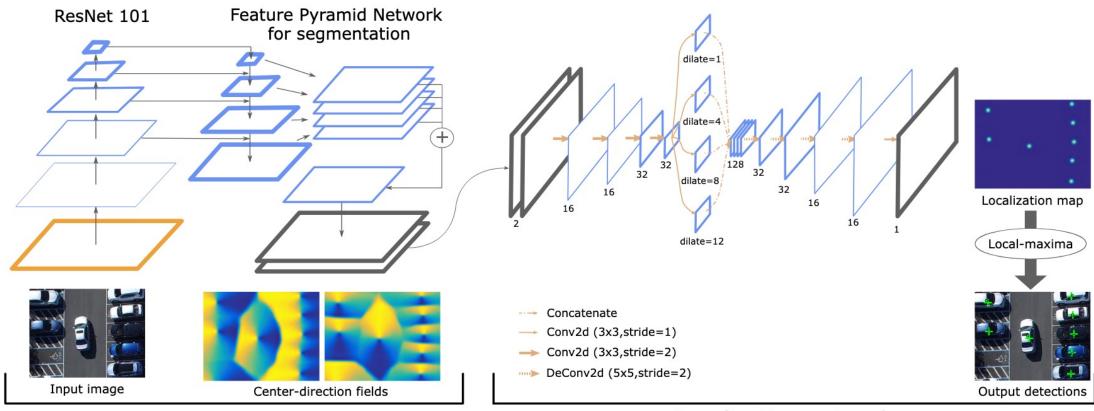
Distribution of separations of predicted sources from true sources below a separation threshold of 0.05°. Only original counts and log-transformed counts are included and for each we plot for separations of sources with flux below and above the GPS sensitivity

Integrated flux (> 1TeV) distribution of true recovered sources by the algorithm.

CEDIRNET METHODOLY

• Algorithm CeDirNet: https://github.com/vicoslab/CeDiRNet

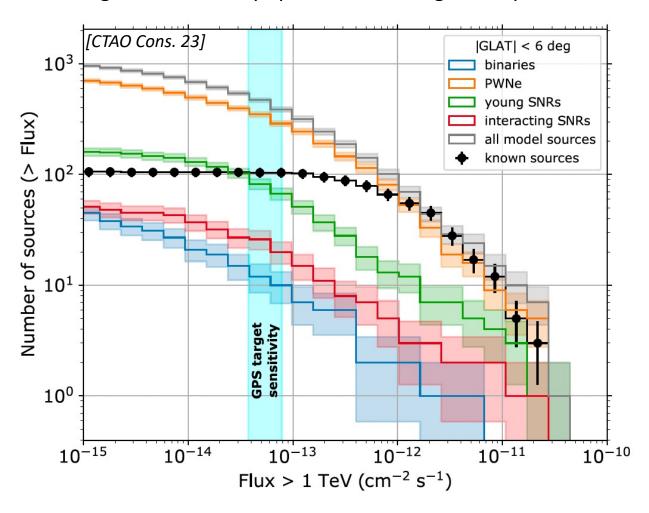
[Tabernik, Muhovič & Skočaj 24]



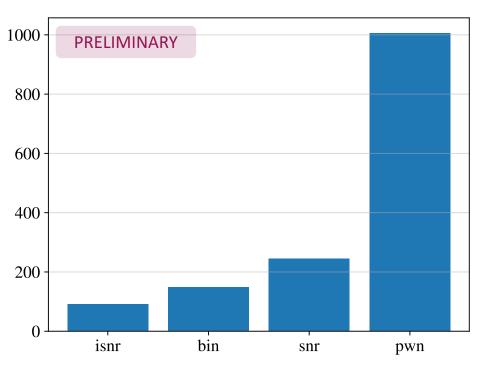
Center-direction regression network

Localization network

Original simulated population on the galactic plane

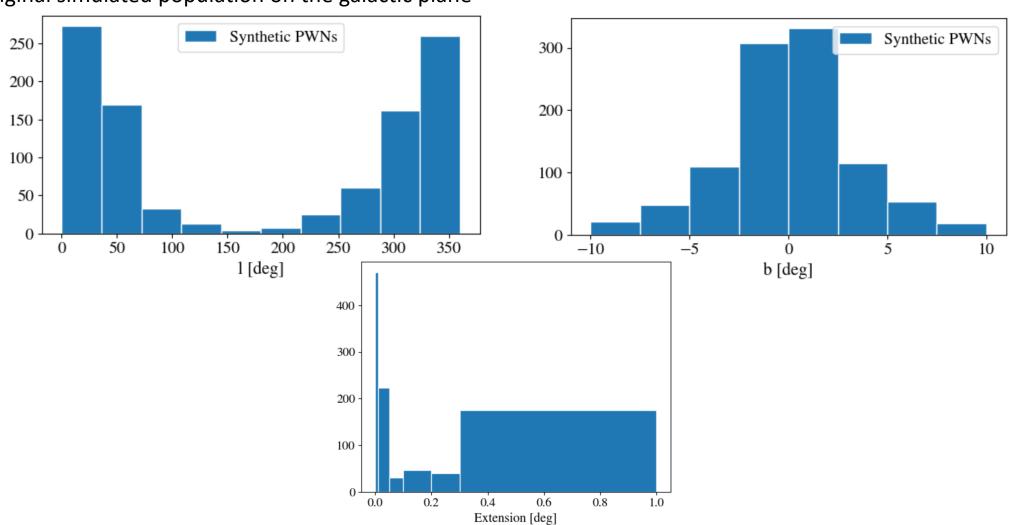


- We need several realizations (simulations) of the GP
- Extract the physical distributions of the sample

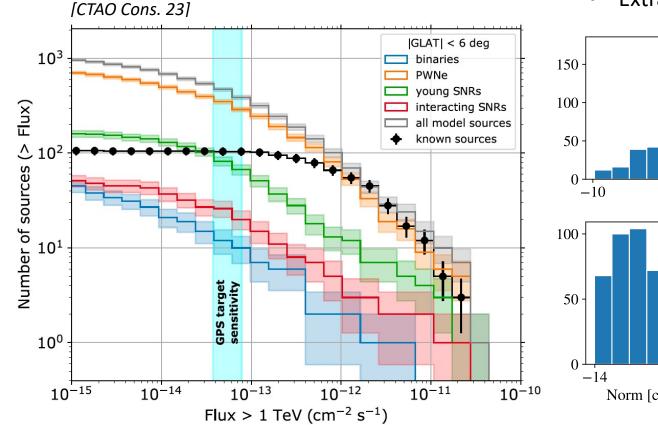


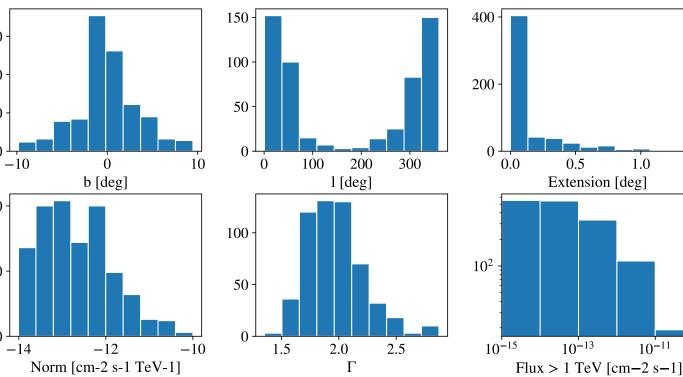
The difference between types is not on the image but on the spectrum (flux vs. energy)

Original simulated population on the galactic plane



- Original simulated population on the galactic plane
- We need several realizations (simulations) of the GP
- Extract the physical distributions of the sample $\phi(E)=\phi_0\cdot \phi(E)$



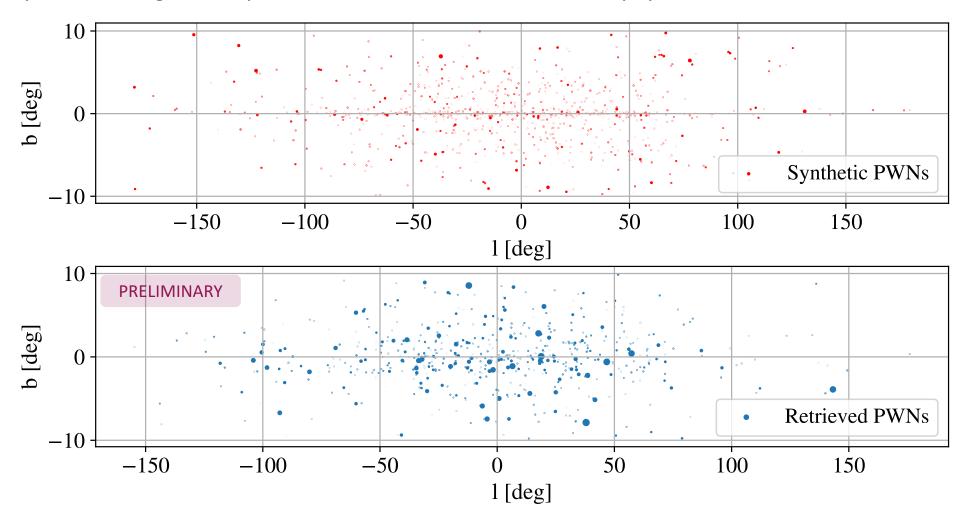


Sources fainter than 1/3 of target sensitivity are removed

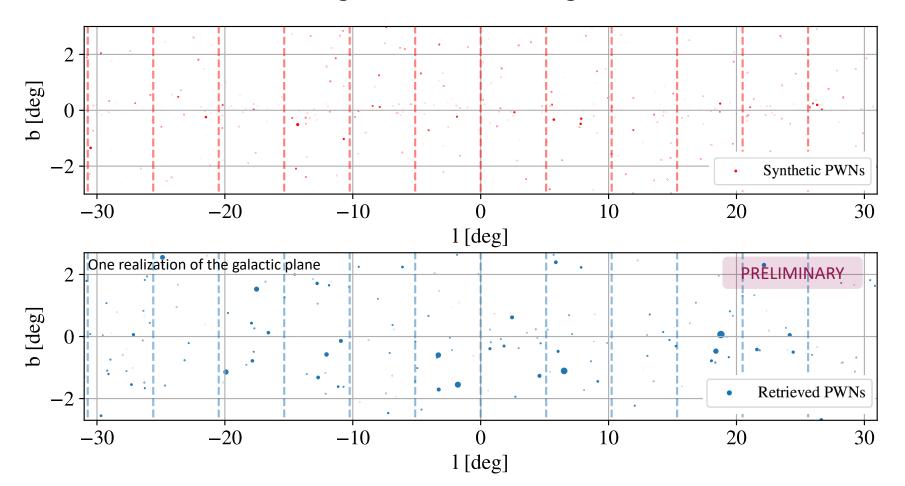
 10^{-11}

1.0

Comparison of original sample vs. one drawn realization from the physical distributions



- Focus on the most crowded region
- Cover through patches: $-30 < l < 30 \deg$ $-2.5 < b < 2.5 \deg$

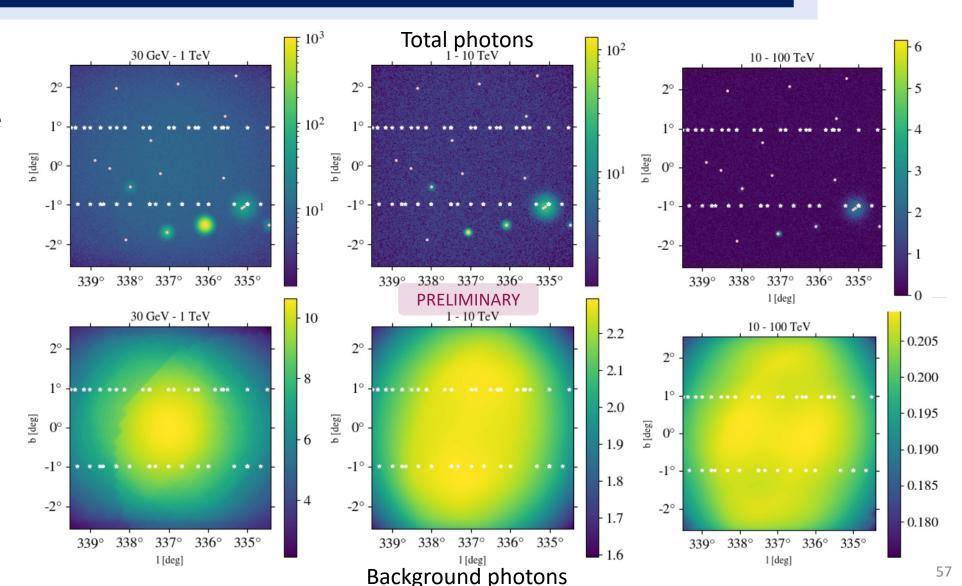




- Cover the galactic plane through patches
- $-30 < l < 30 \deg$
- $-2.5 < b < 2.5 \deg$
- 12 patches per each complete simulation of the galactic plane

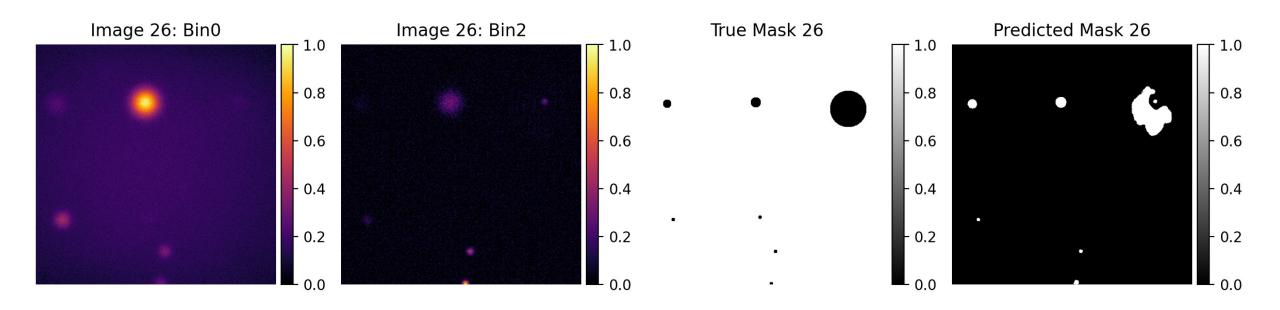
 $512 \text{ pix} \times 512 \text{ pix}$ $5.12 \text{ deg} \times 5.12 \text{ deg}$

 3 energy bins (following the instrument's sensitivity)



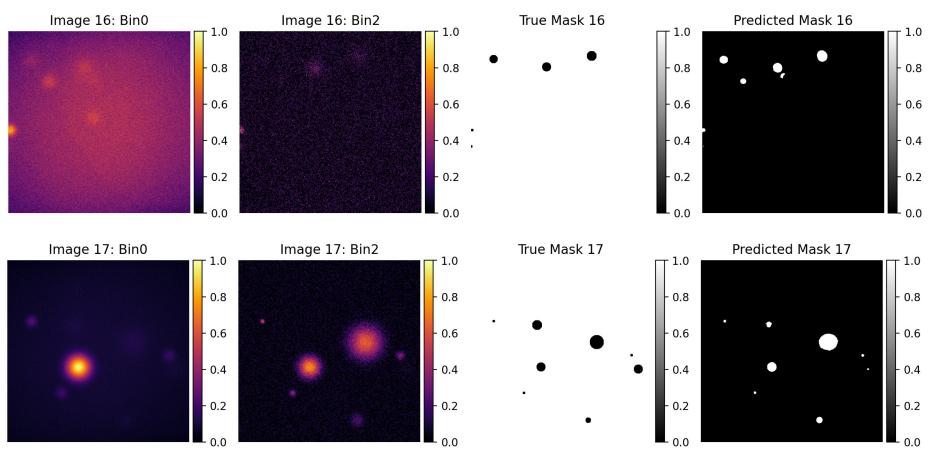
CTAO EXTRA-RESULTS: FIRST TRIALS USING ASID

Running U-Net + LoG is problematic, since the mask we use for training, have an extension the original sigma used
for generating the simulation, and some sources lay behind the larger ones, confusing the segmentation part

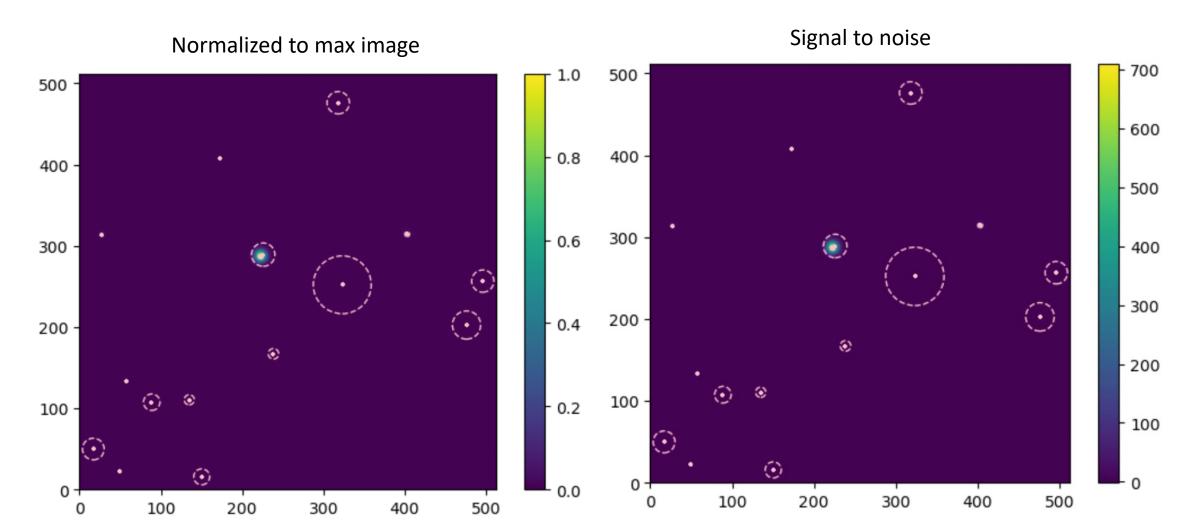


CTAO EXTRA-RESULTS: FIRST TRIALS USING ASID

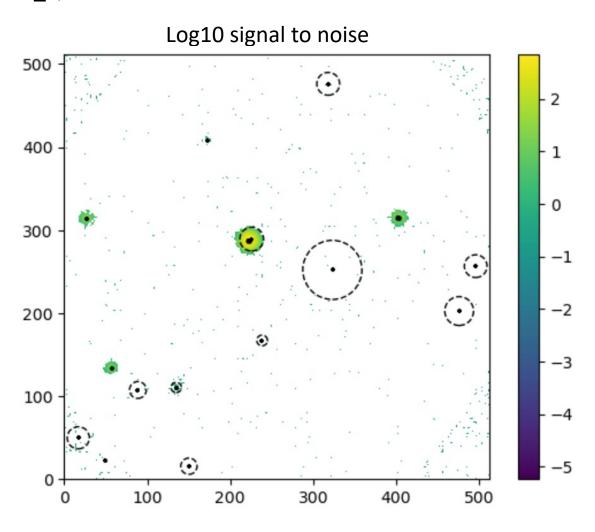
Approach 1: Remove from the training the fainter sources, with a different flux threshold depending on each size, original size then should more or less correspond to size in last energy bin, for point-like source we use value of CTAO PSF at those energies (0.05 deg)



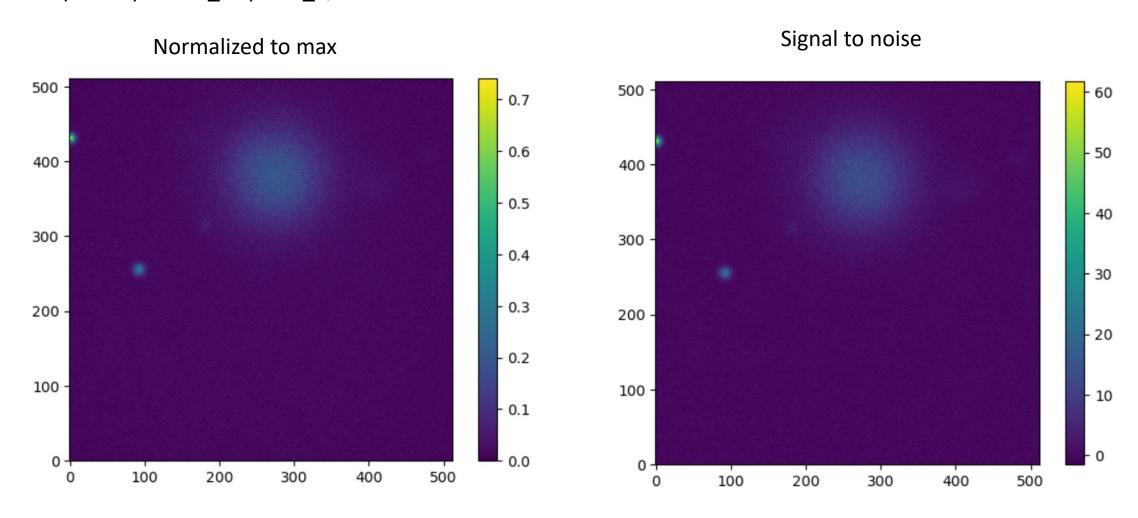
Example for patches_v1 patch_0, bin 1



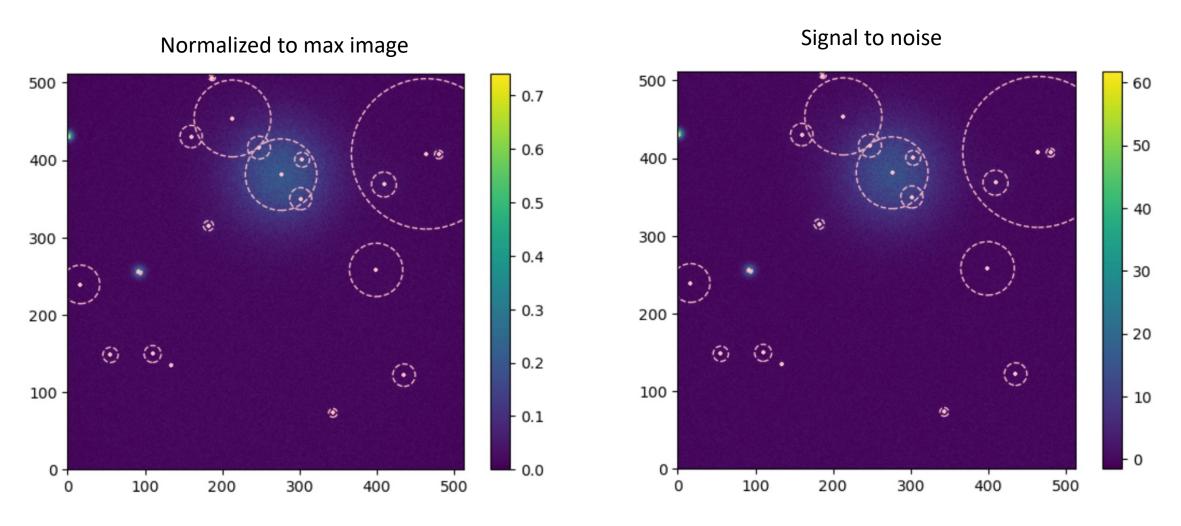
Example for patches_v1 patch_0, bin 1



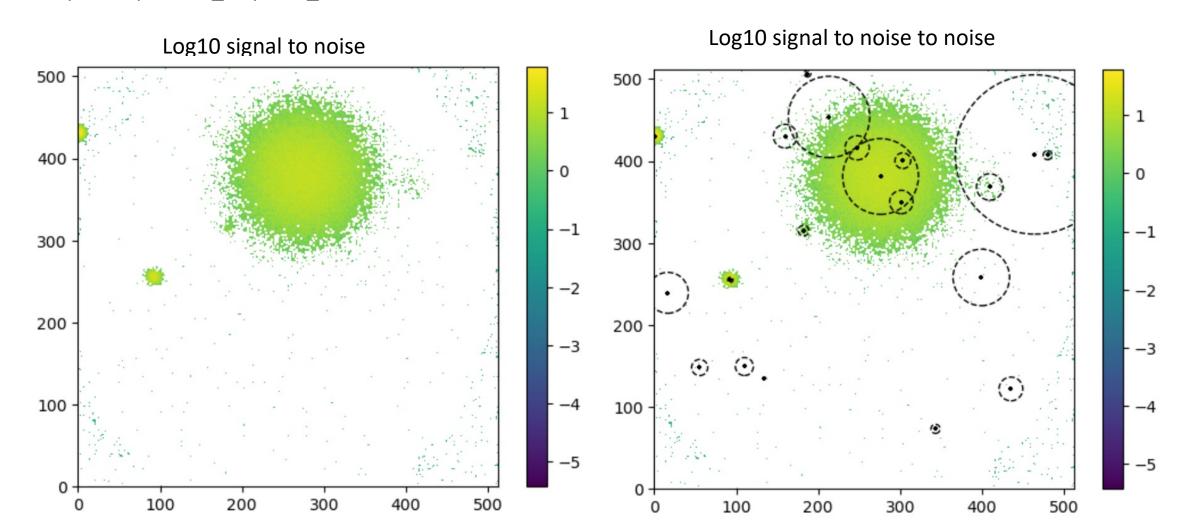
Example for patches_v1 patch_1, bin 1



Example for patches_v1 patch_1, bin 1



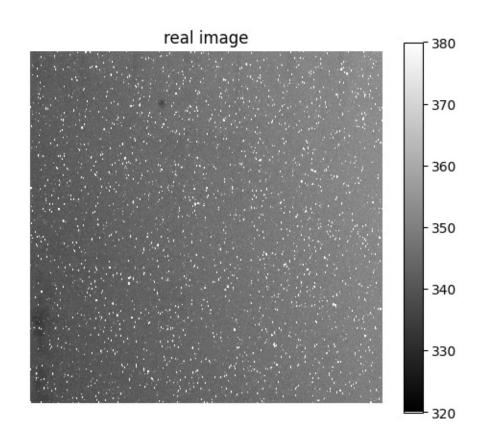
Example for patches_v1 patch_1, bin 1

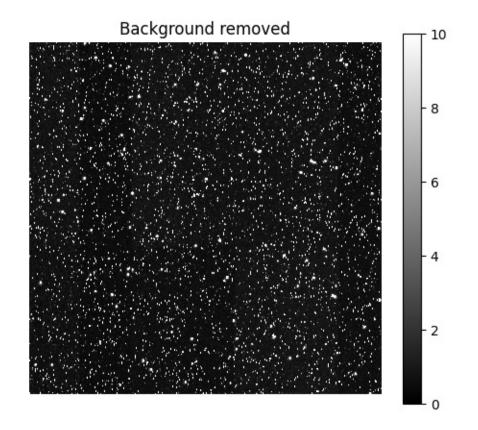


TOWARDS FOUNDATION MODEL FOR ASTROPHYSICAL SOURCE DETECTION

Background removal: Optical Data

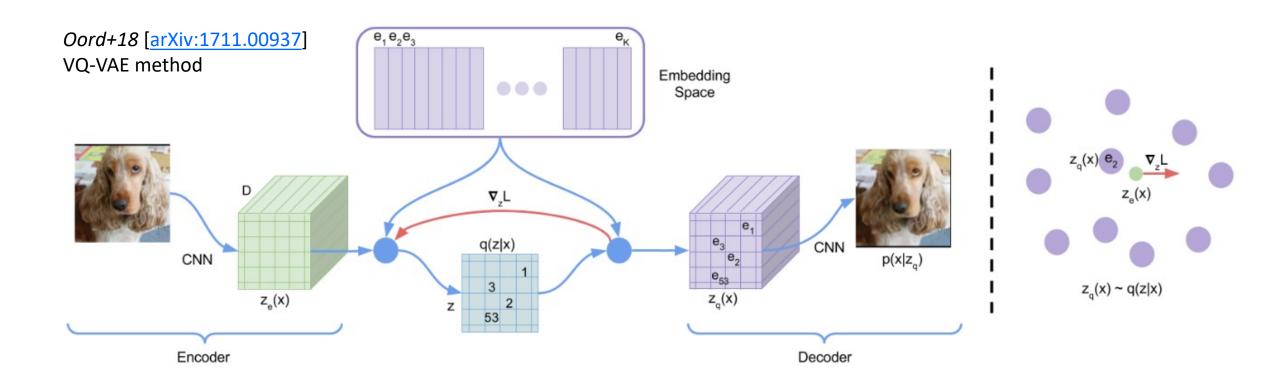
Model: Denoising Diffusion (Attention U-net as backbone)





TOWARDS FOUNDATION MODEL FOR ASTROPHYSICAL SOURCE DETECTION

Through the embedding matrix we try to find most important words Find most important features in latent space



TOWARDS FOUNDATION MODEL FOR ASTROPHYSICAL SOURCE DETECTION

Main objective:

