

Group Equivariance in Infrared and Collinear Safe Graph Neural Networks



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Inductive Bias I: Infrared and Collinear safety

Int. J. Mod. Phys. A12 (1997) 5411-5529

JHEP 04 (2018) 013

JHEP 01 (2019) 121

Phys. Rev. D 103, 074022 (2021)

JHEP 09 (2023) 135

Any IRC safe observable can be expanded in terms of C (calorimeter) - correlators

$$\mathcal{O} \approx \sum_{N=0}^{N_{max}} \mathcal{C}_N^{f_N} \quad \mathcal{C}_N^{f_N} = \sum_{i_1} \sum_{i_2} \dots \sum_{i_N} E_{i_1} E_{i_2} \dots E_{i_N} f_N(\hat{p}_{i_1}, \hat{p}_{i_2}, \dots, \hat{p}_{i_N})$$

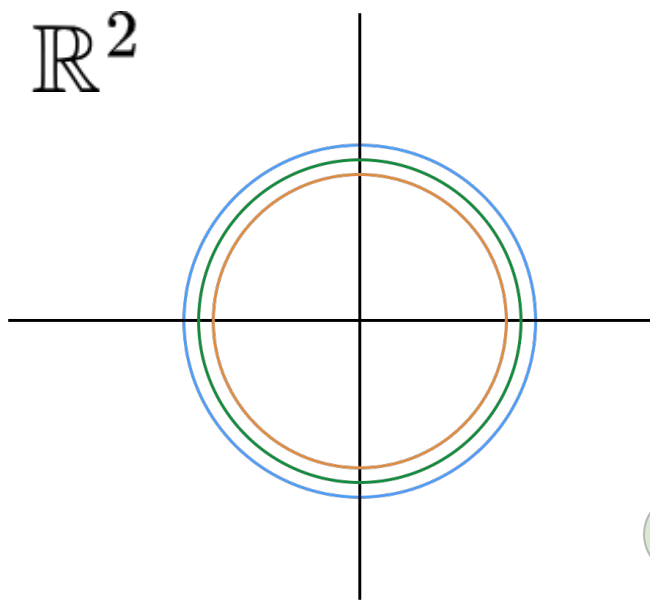
For hadron colliders: $E_i \rightarrow p_{Ti}, \hat{p}_i = (y, \phi)$

f_N = Permutation invariant with respect to its arguments

$$\sum_{i=1}^{|\mathcal{S}|} \rightarrow \mathcal{S} = \{p_1^\mu, p_2^\mu, \dots\} \quad (\text{set of particles/calorimeter hits})$$

$|\mathcal{S}|$ finite but not fixed for each measured jet/event

Inductive Bias II: Group Symmetries



$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

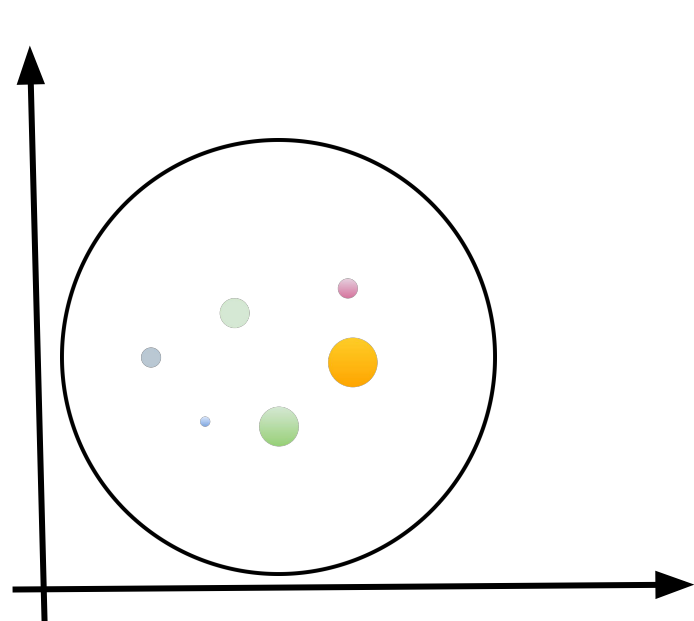
SO(2) group action

$$\mathbf{X}' = \rho(\theta) \mathbf{X}$$

SO(2) invariant target $f(x', y') = f(x, y)$

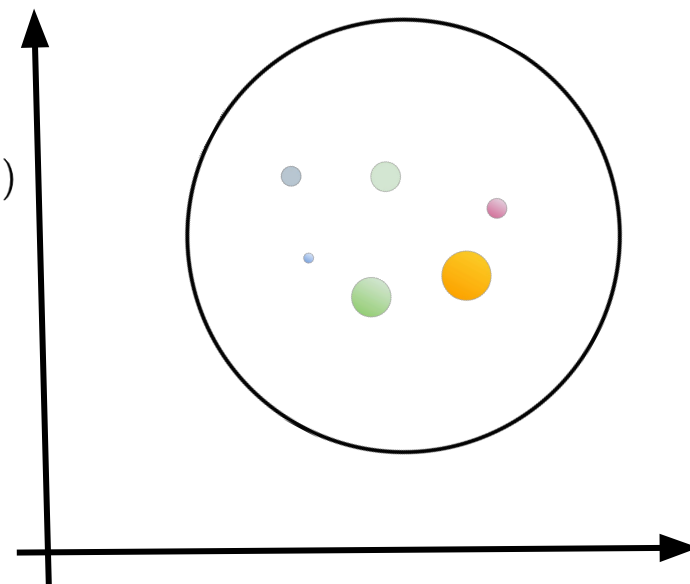
$\hat{f}(r, \theta) = \text{No bias}$ $\hat{f}(r) = \text{SO(2) biased}$

IRC Safety + Symmetries on the rapidity-azimuth plane



$$z_i = \frac{p_{ti}}{\sum_j p_{tj}}$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{p_x}{p_y}\right)$$



$$y = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{E+p_z}{E-p_z}$$

$$(z_i, \mathbf{x}_i) \mapsto (z_i, \mathbf{R}(\theta) \mathbf{x}_i + \mathbf{t})$$

Inductive Bias: Function Space

Assumptions on the nature of the problem through which one biases the possible solutions to always follow a certain property (Strong), or prefer (Weak) some solutions over others

Σ_W = Set of functions represented by a model class

W = Parameter space to tune to reach a viable solution Θ_0

1. The class of functions accessible via Σ_W

2. Given an initial point $\Theta \sim P_W(\Theta)$ prefer some Θ_0 over others

Inductive Bias: Input Domain

Target function: $f : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ Approximator : $\hat{f} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$

$[x]_f = \text{Fibres of } f$

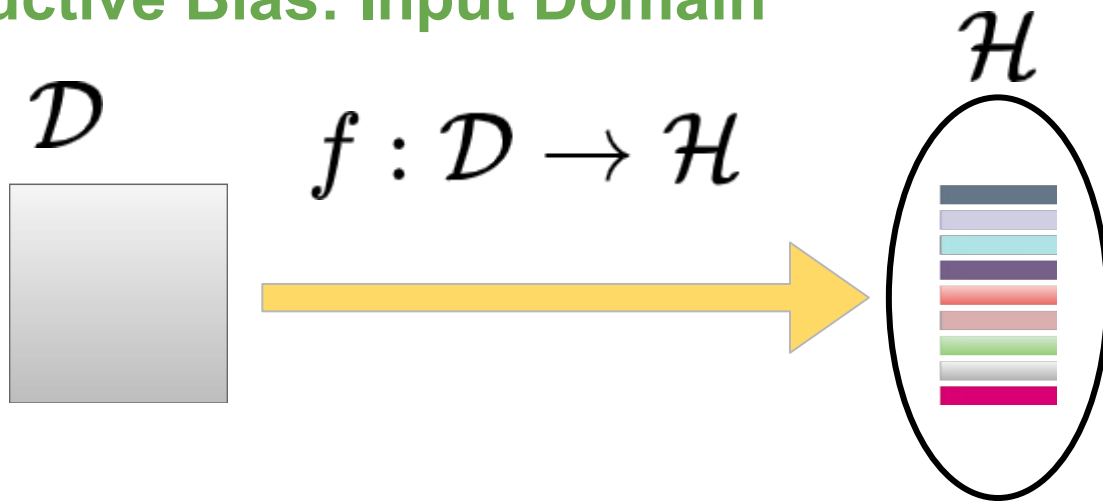
1. Find the partition $[\mathbf{x}]_f$

2. Match $\hat{f}([\mathbf{x}]_f) = f([\mathbf{x}]_f) \quad \forall \quad [\mathbf{x}]_f$

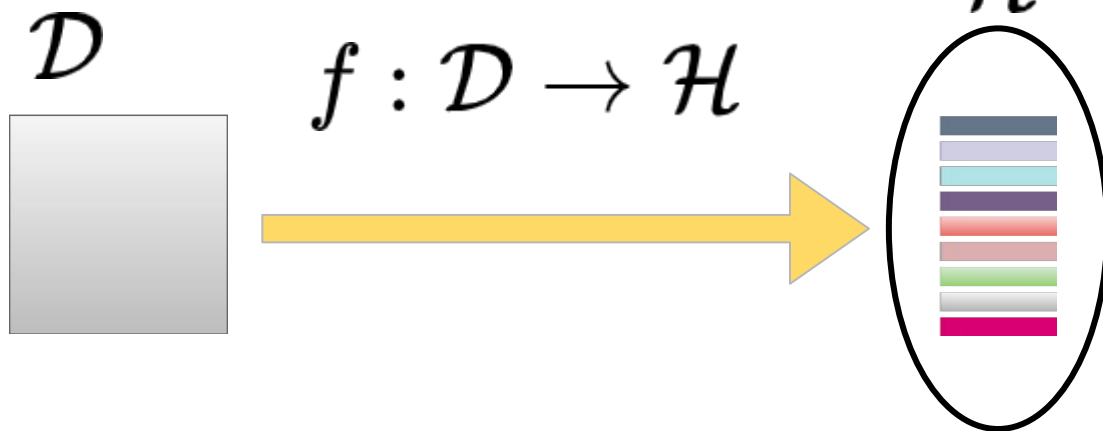
A strong inductive bias is the assumption of a partition $[\mathbf{x}]_{\sim}$ on $\mathcal{D}$ such that $\hat{f} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ cannot be unequal within a single $[\mathbf{x}]_{\sim}$.

Assume a quotient topology on the domain $\pi : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}/\sim$

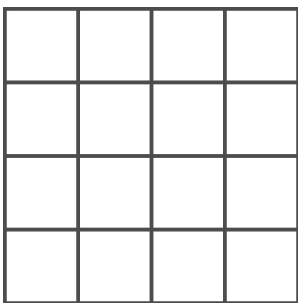
Inductive Bias: Input Domain



Inductive Bias: Input Domain



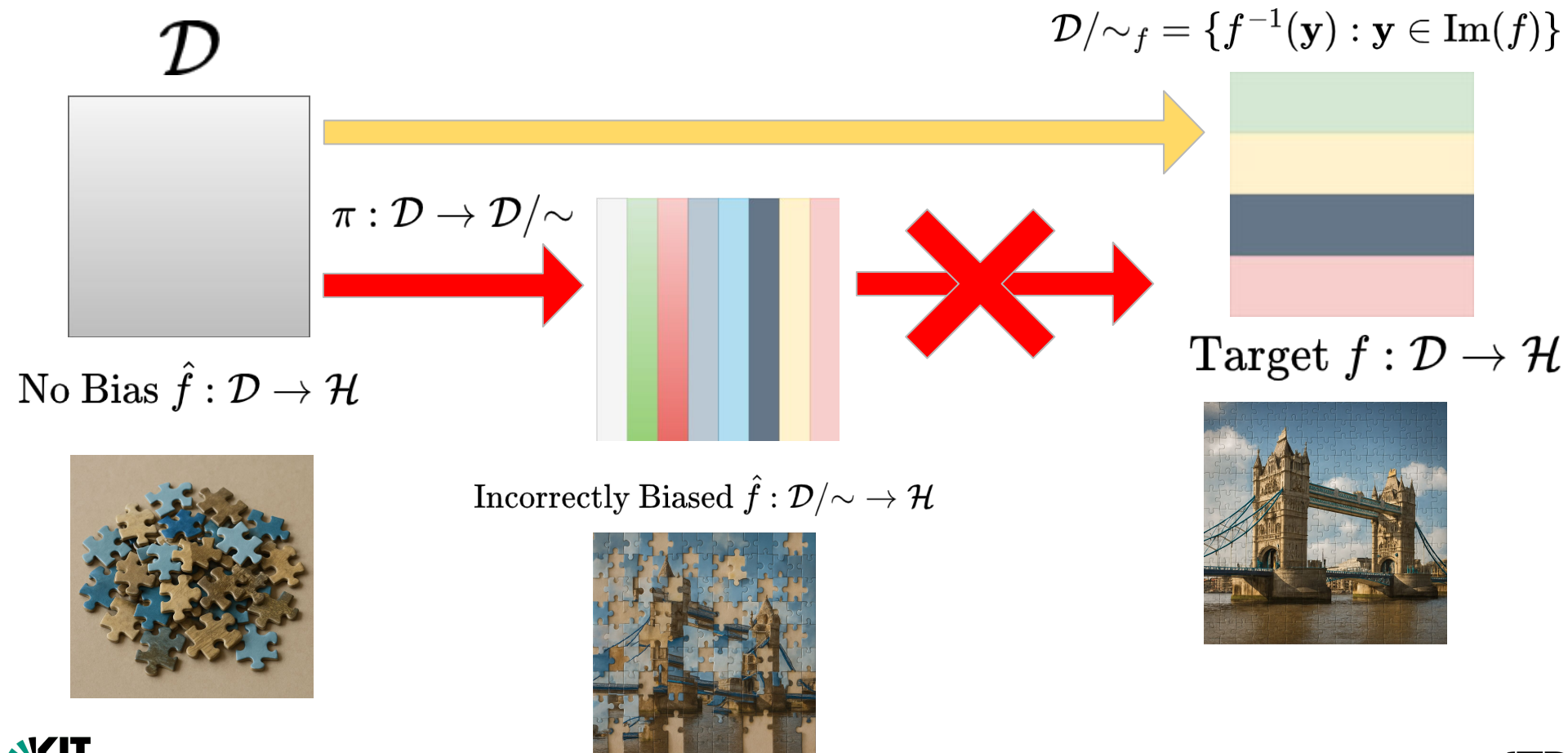
Known domain partition where
target function must be equal



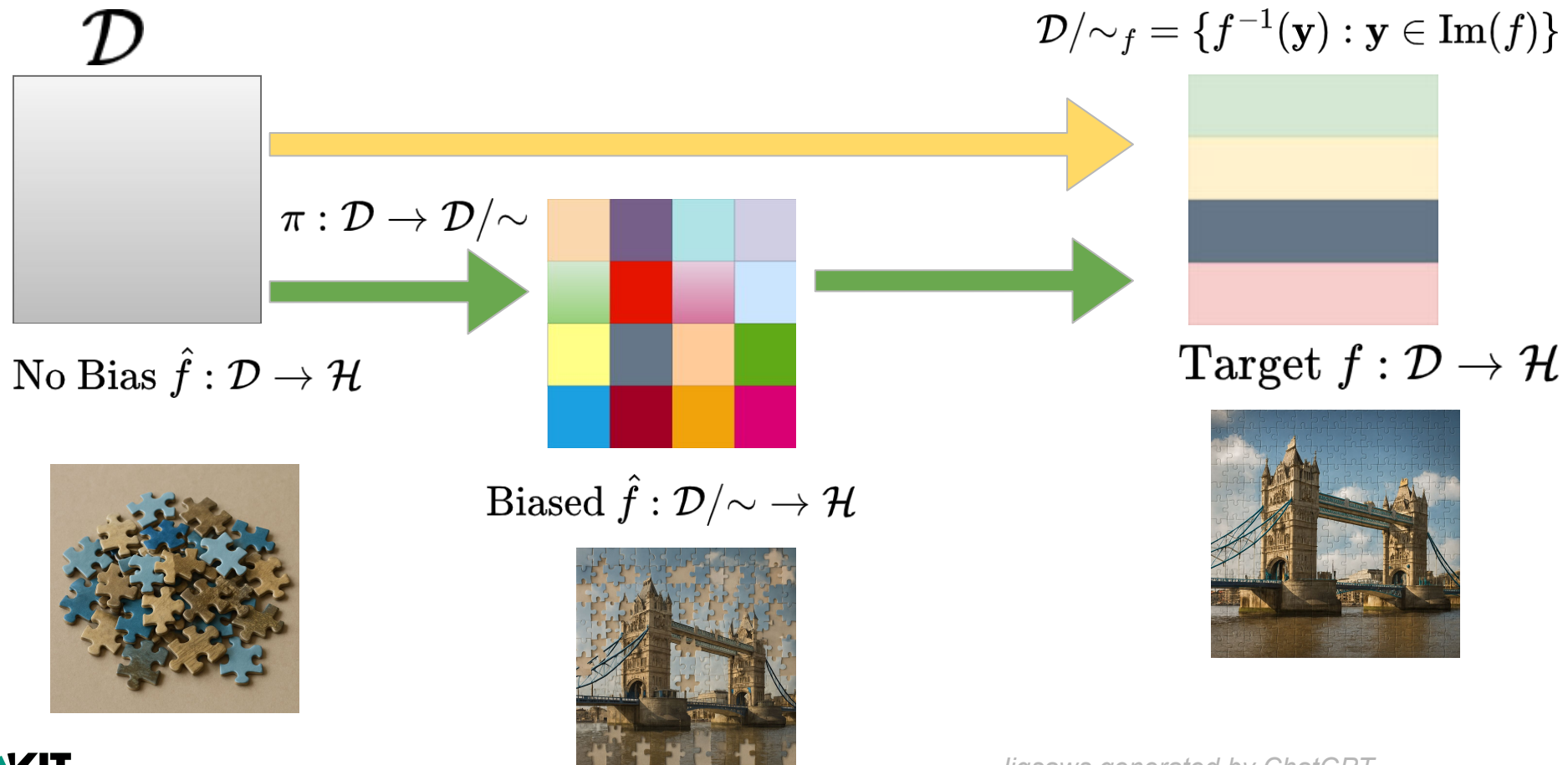
Target function's value
is unknown in most of
the domain



Incorrect Inductive Bias



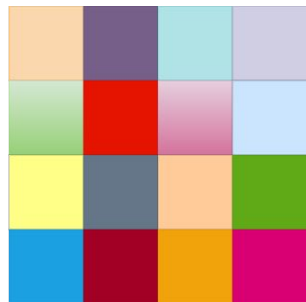
Correct Inductive Bias



Jigsaws generated by ChatGPT
ML4Jets 2026

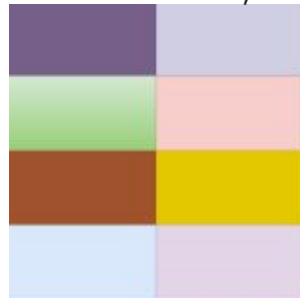
Compatible Inductive Biases

$$\pi : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}/\sim$$



$$\bar{\pi} : \mathcal{D}/\equiv \rightarrow \mathcal{D}/\simeq$$

$$\tilde{\pi} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}/\simeq$$



$$\mathcal{D}/\sim_f = \{f^{-1}(\mathbf{y}) : \mathbf{y} \in \text{Im}(f)\}$$



$$\text{Target } f : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$$

$$\text{Biased } \hat{f} : \mathcal{D}/\sim \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$$



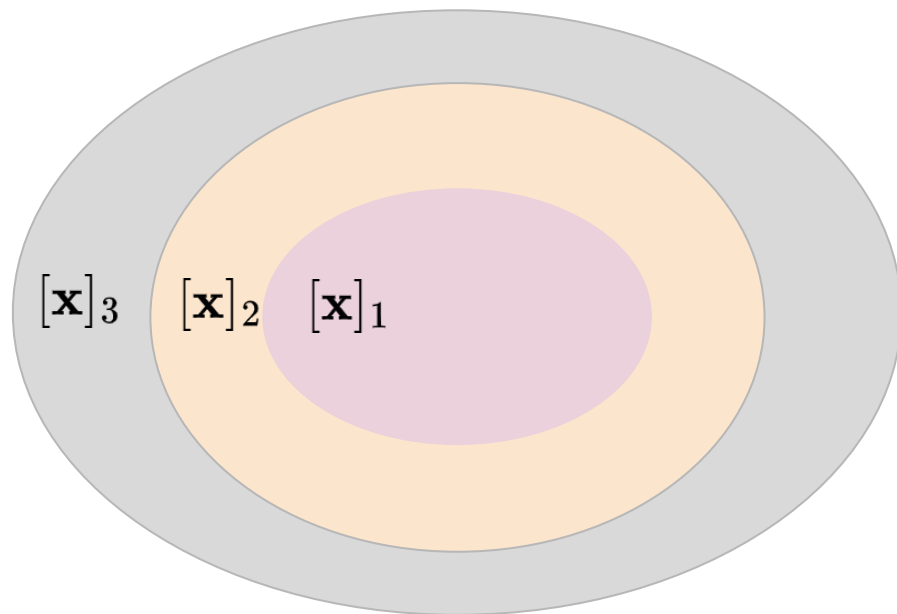
$$\text{More biased } \tilde{f} : \mathcal{D}/\simeq \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$$



Jigsaws generated by ChatGPT
ML4Jets 2026

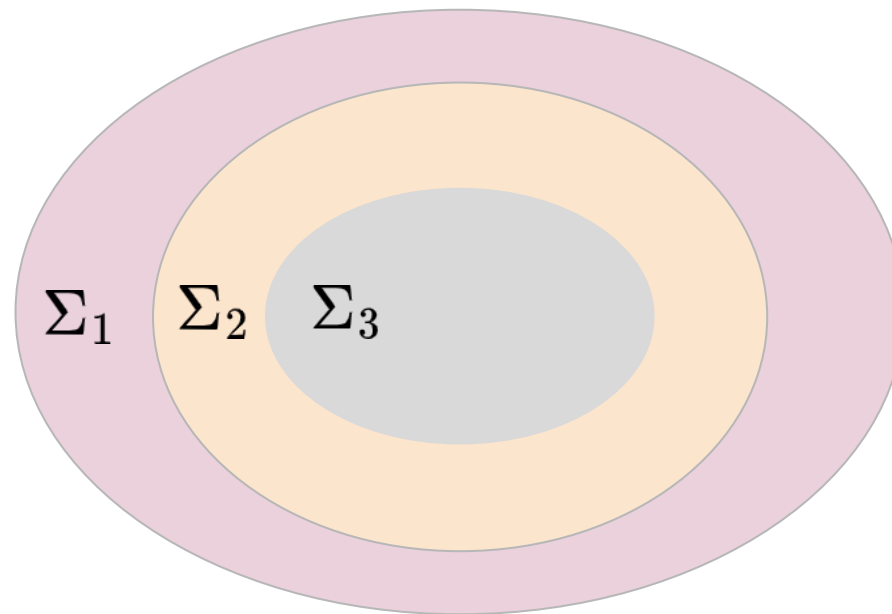
Strength of Inductive biases

Domain Partition $[\mathbf{x}]_{\sim}$



$$[\mathbf{x}]_1 \subsetneq [\mathbf{x}]_2 \subsetneq [\mathbf{x}]_3$$

Function Space Σ_W



$$\Sigma_1 \supsetneq \Sigma_2 \supsetneq \Sigma_3$$

Infra-red and Collinear (IRC) Safe observables

For an observable $\mathcal{O}_n$ defined on n particles.

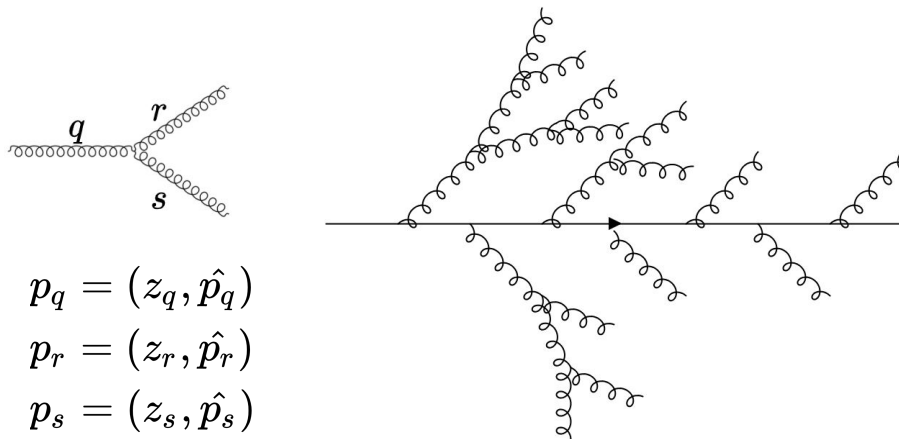
$$z_i = \frac{E_i}{\sum_j E_j}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{n+1}(p_a, \dots, p_b, \mathbf{p}_r, \mathbf{p}_s, p_c, \dots) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_n(p_a, \dots, p_b, \mathbf{p}_q, p_c, \dots)$$

In the infra-red ($z_r \rightarrow 0$ or $z_s \rightarrow 0$) or collinear limits ($\Delta_{rs} \rightarrow 0$)

$$z_i = \frac{p_{ti}}{\sum_j p_{tj}}$$

For a splitting: $q \rightarrow r + s$



$$p_q = (z_q, \hat{p}_q)$$

$$p_r = (z_r, \hat{p}_r)$$

$$p_s = (z_s, \hat{p}_s)$$

Calculable in pQCD!!

=> concentrates on information of the hard interaction

=> relatively insensitive to low-energy non-perturbative effects

Infra-red and Collinear (IRC) Safe observables

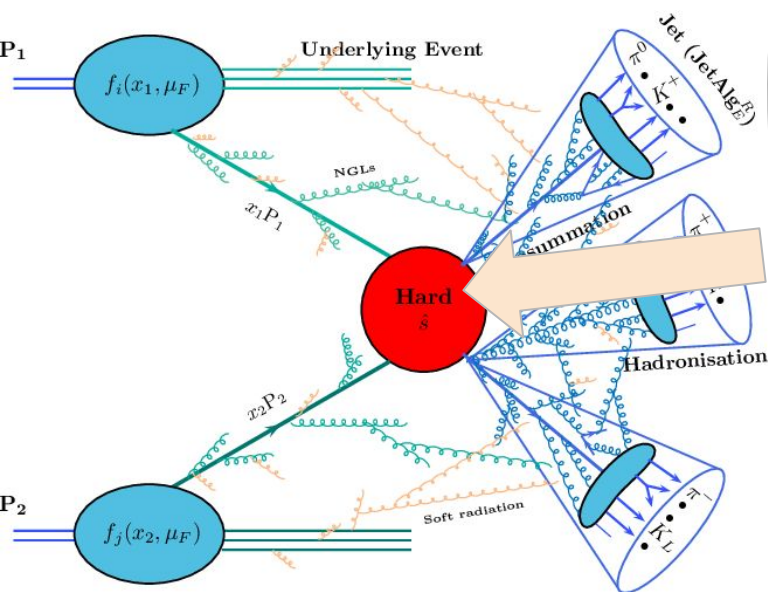
For an observable $\mathcal{O}_n$ defined on n particles.

$$z_i = \frac{E_i}{\sum_j E_j}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{n+1}(p_a, \dots, p_b, \mathbf{p}_r, \mathbf{p}_s, p_c, \dots) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_n(p_a, \dots, p_b, \mathbf{p}_q, p_c, \dots)$$

In the infra-red ($z_r \rightarrow 0$ or $z_s \rightarrow 0$) or collinear limits ($\Delta_{rs} \rightarrow 0$)

$$z_i = \frac{p_{ti}}{\sum_j p_{tj}}$$



Observations

Calculable in pQCD!!

=> concentrates on information of the hard interaction

=> relatively insensitive to low-energy non-perturbative effects

IRC Safety: quotient under indistinguishability of jets/events

Two Jets are equivalent if they can not be **Observationally Distinguished***

$$\pi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}/\sim$$

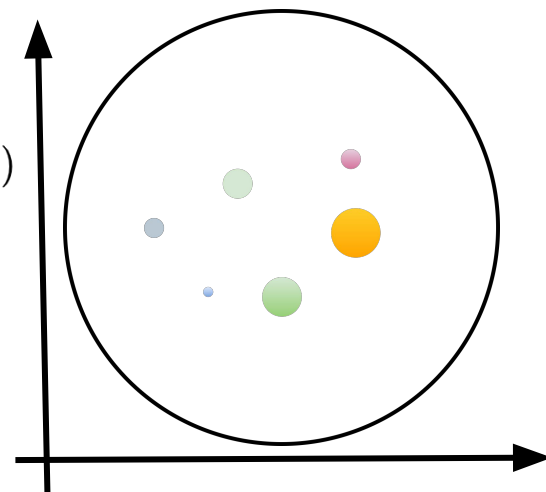
Continuity of $\mathcal{O} : \mathcal{X}/\sim \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$

$$\mathcal{O}_{n+1}(p_a, \dots, p_b, \mathbf{p}_r, \mathbf{p}_s, p_c, \dots) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_n(p_a, \dots, p_b, \mathbf{p}_q, p_c, \dots)$$

In the infra-red ($z_r \rightarrow 0$ or $z_s \rightarrow 0$) or collinear limits ($\Delta_{rs} \rightarrow 0$)

$$z_i = \frac{p_{ti}}{\sum_j p_{tj}}$$

$$\phi = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{p_x}{p_y}\right)$$



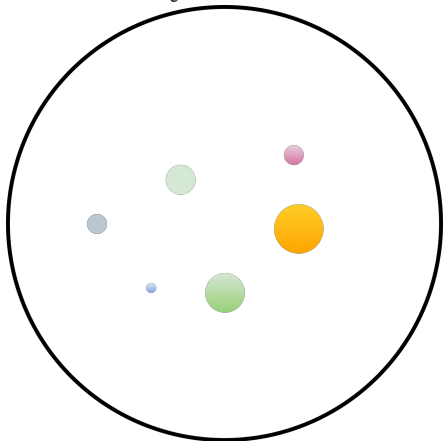
$$y = \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{E+p_z}{E-p_z}$$

$$p_t = \sqrt{p_x^2 + p_y^2}$$

Conservation of Collinearity

$$z_i = \frac{p_i^t}{\sum_j p_j^t}$$

$$h_i^{(0)} \equiv \hat{p}_i$$



IRC safe

$$\mathbf{H}_0 = \sum_i z_i \hat{p}_i$$

Node update Operation

Node update conserves collinearity if:

$$z_q = z_r + z_s \text{ and } \hat{p}_q = \hat{p}_r = \hat{p}_s \\ \implies h_q^{(1)} = h_r^{(1)} = h_s^{(1)}$$

$$z_q = z_r + z_s \text{ and } h_q^{(l)} = h_r^{(l)} = h_s^{(l)} \\ \implies h_q^{(l+1)} = h_r^{(l+1)} = h_s^{(l+1)}$$

$$h_i^{(1)} = \Phi_\theta(h_1^{(0)}, h_2^{(0)}, \dots, h_n^{(0)})$$

IRC safe jet features

$$\mathbf{H}_l = \sum_i z_i h_i^{(l)}$$

JHEP 02 (2022) 060

Front.Artif.Intell. 5 (2022) 943135

JHEP 01 (2024) 113

JHEP 07 (2024) 245 (*)

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E(2) and O(2) equivariance and IRC safety

$$\omega_j^{(\mathcal{N}[i])} = \frac{p_T^j}{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{N}[i]} p_T^k}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{m}_{ij}^{(l+1)} &= \Phi_e^{(l+1)}(\mathbf{h}_i^{(l)}, \mathbf{h}_j^{(l)}, |\mathbf{x}_i^{(l)} - \mathbf{x}_j^{(l)}|^2) \quad , \\ \mathbf{x}_i^{(l+1)} &= \mathbf{x}_i^{(l)} + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}[i]} \omega_j^{(\mathcal{N}[i])} (\mathbf{x}_i^{(l)} - \mathbf{x}_j^{(l)}) \Phi_x^{(l+1)}(\mathbf{m}_{ij}^{(l+1)}) \quad , \\ \mathbf{m}_i^{(l+1)} &= \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}[i]} \omega_j^{(\mathcal{N}[i])} \mathbf{m}_{ij}^{(l+1)} \quad , \\ \mathbf{h}_i^{(l+1)} &= \Phi_h^{(l+1)}(\mathbf{h}_i^{(l)}, \mathbf{m}_i^{(l+1)}) \quad .\end{aligned}$$

28. 4. 20

$\mathbf{x}_i^{(\cdot)}$ = Vector node representation

$\mathbf{h}_i^{(\cdot)}$ = Scalar node representation

[arxiv:2102.09844 Satorras et. al](https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.09844)

Hierarchy of Inductive Biases

On the Jet representation we have:

1. **Permutation Invariant**
2. **Infrared and Collinear Safety**
3. **IRC Safety + O(2) Invariance**
4. **IRC Safety + E(2) Invariance**

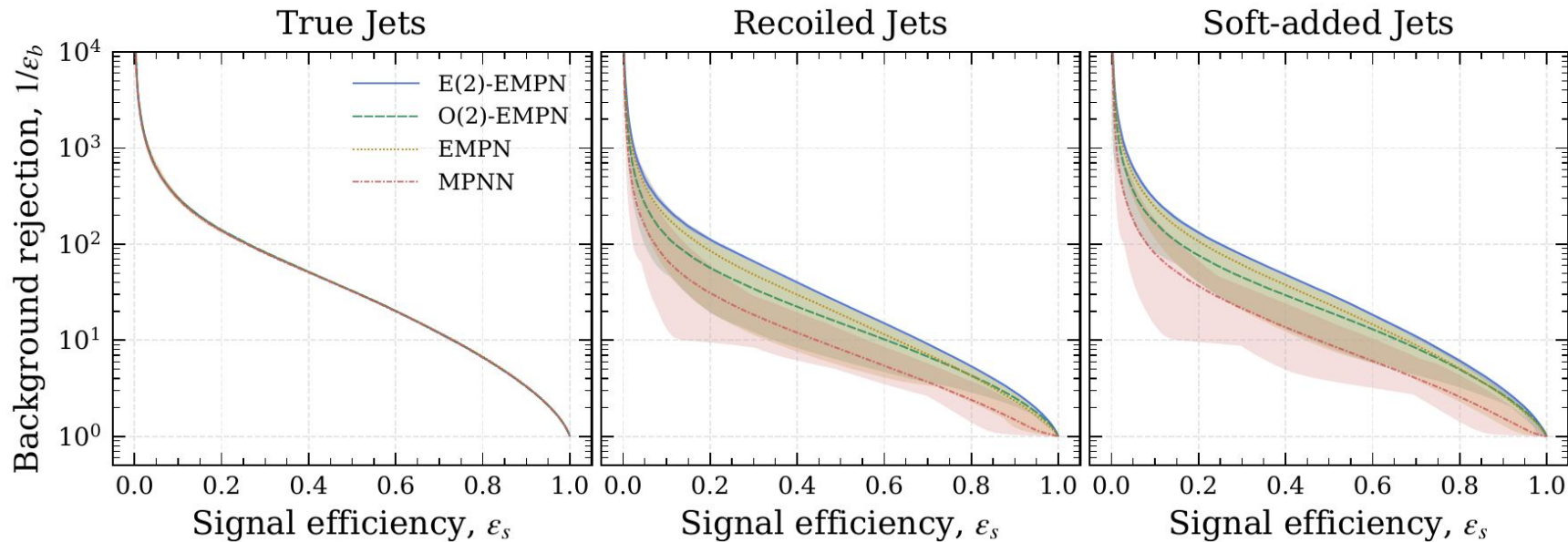
$$[\mathbf{X}]_1 \subsetneq [\mathbf{X}]_2 \subsetneq [\mathbf{X}]_3 \subsetneq [\mathbf{X}]_4$$

$$\mathbf{X} = (z_1, \Delta y_1, \Delta \phi_1, z_2, \Delta y_2, \Delta \phi_2, \dots, z_n, \Delta y_n, \Delta \phi_n, \dots)$$

ROC Variability: Quark vs Gluons

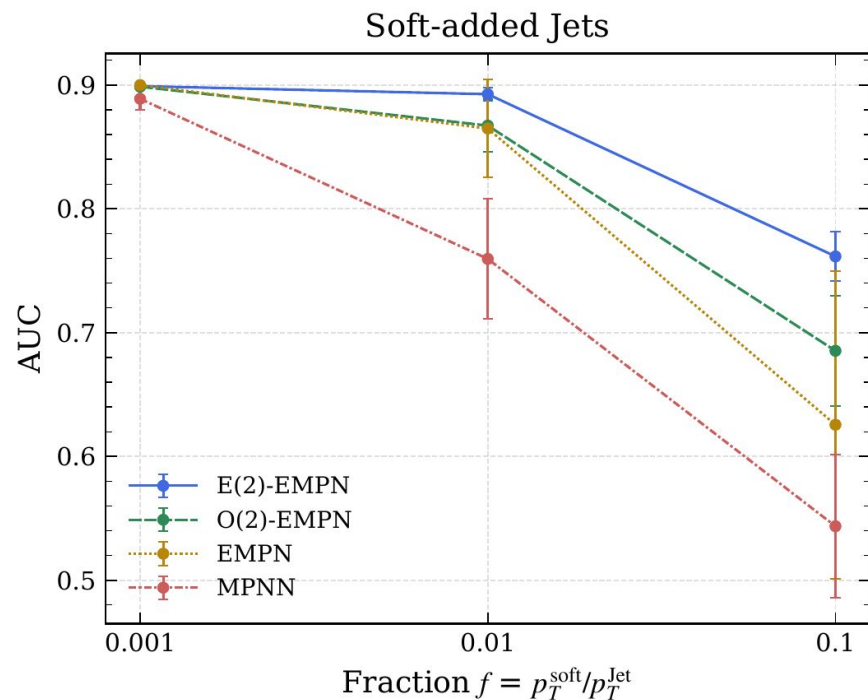
Recoil against a soft emission
outside the jet

Additional wide-angle soft
emission within the jet

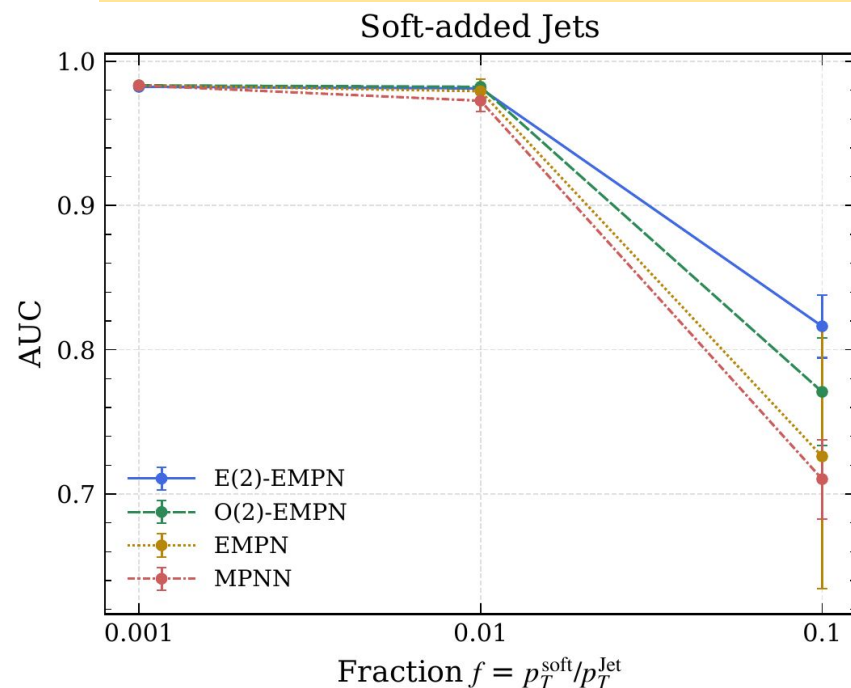


AUC Variability

Quark vs Gluon (R=0.4)



Top vs QCD (R=0.8)

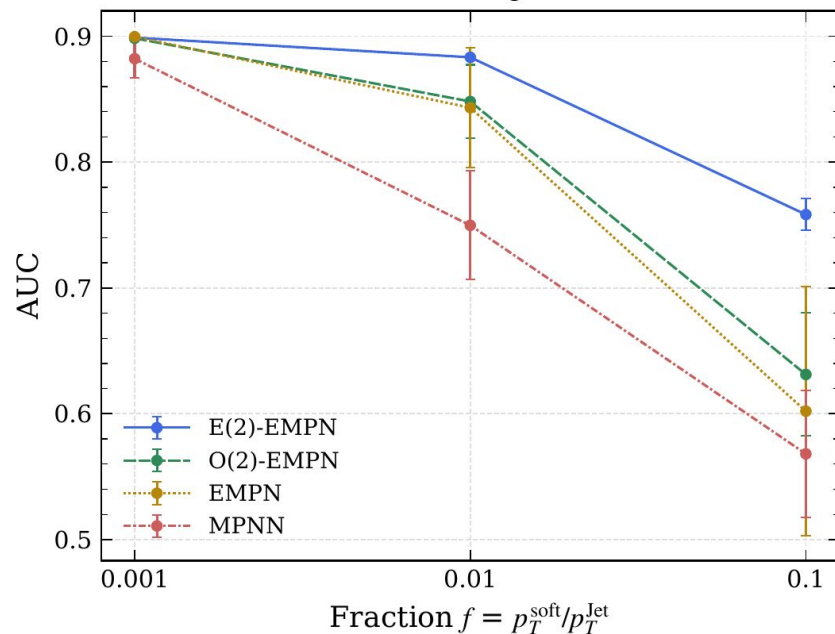


Add wide-angle soft particle to jet

AUC Variability

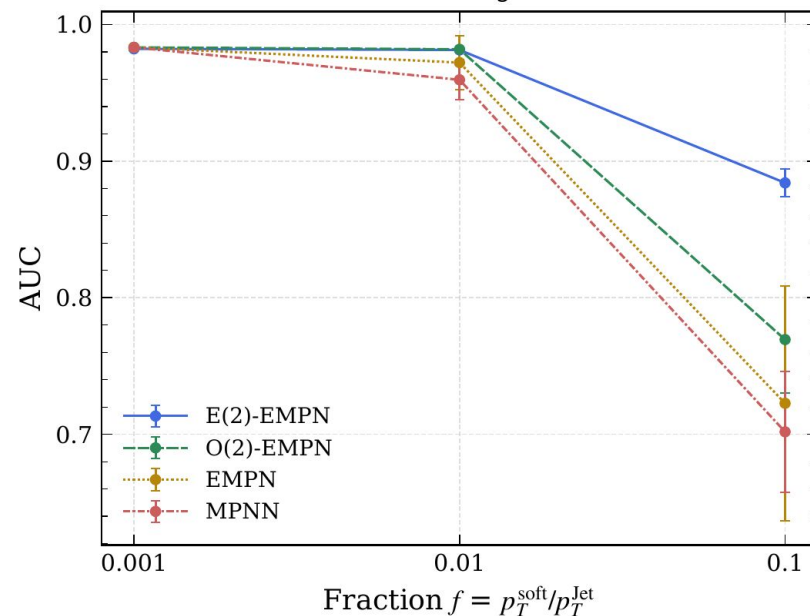
Quark vs Gluon (R=0.4)

Recoiled Jets



Top vs QCD (R=0.8)

Recoiled Jets



Recoil against a soft emission

Summary

- ***Strong Inductive Biases*** can be viewed as an assumption of equivalence
- *IRC safe tagging algorithms in general **reduce in raw performance***
- ***Gains on resilience*** [check out Pareto frontier studies on **arxiv:2509.19431** and **arxiv:2510.06314**]
- **Infrared and collinear safety** coupled with **E(2) invariance** shows highest stability under single particle soft recoil and emissions
 - All order effects?
 - Non Perturbative effects?