#### **Statistics for HEP**

Invited lectures, 12th Course on Physics of the LHC (LIP, Lisboa, Portugal)

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#### **Lecture 1**

**Probability and statistics** 

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#### **Practicalities**

- Significantly restructured with respect to the past years
  - Lecture 1: Probability and Statistics (minus hypothesis testing)
  - Lecture 2: Machine Learning (and hypothesis testing)
- More detailed material in my twenty-hours intensive course
  - It may be useful if you tried out the exercises, at your pace!
- Many references here and there, and in the last slide
  - Try to read some of the referenced papers!
  - Unreferenced stuff copyrighted P. Vischia for inclusion in my (finally) upcoming textbook

#### **Statistics answers questions**

The quality of the answer depends on the quality of the question



# ... in a mathematical way

- Theory
  - Approximations
  - Free parameters

- Statistics
  - Estimate parameters
  - Quantify uncertainty
  - Test theories

- Experiment
- Random fluctuations
- Mismeasurements (detector effects, etc)







#### Why does Statistics work?



#### **Probability and Statistics**



#### **Random Experiments**

- A well-defined procedure that produces an observable outcome  $\boldsymbol{x}$  that is not perfectly known
- *S* is the set of all possible outcomes
- S must be simple enough that we can tell whether  $x \in S$  or not
- If we obtain the outcome x, then we say the event defined by  $x \in S$  has occurred



• Repetitions of the experiment must happen under uniform conditions

# Axiomatic definition of probability (Kolmogorov)

- $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ : measure space
  - $\circ~$  a set  $\Omega$  with associated field ( $\sigma ext{-algebra})$   ${\mathcal F}$  and measure P
  - $\circ~$  Define a random event  $A\in \mathcal{F}$  (A is a subset of  $\Omega$ )

#### then:

1. The probability of A is a real number  $P(A) \ge 0$ 2. If  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ , then P(A + B) = P(A) + P(B)3.  $P(\Omega) = 1$  (probability measures are finite)



# Axiomatic definition for propositions (Cox and Jaynes)

- Cox, 1946: start from reasonable premises about propositions
  - $\circ ~~A|B$  is the plausibility of the proposition A given a related proposition B
  - $\circ ~\sim A$  the proposition not-A, i.e. answering "no" to "is A wholly true?"
  - $\circ F(x,y)$  is a function of two variables
  - $\circ S(x)$  a function of one variable
- Two postulates concerning propositions
  - $\circ \ C \cdot B | A = F(C|B \cdot A, B|A)$
  - $\circ \ \sim V|A=S(B|A)$ , i.e.  $(B|A)^m+(\sim B|A)^m=1$
- Jaynes demonstrated that these axioms are formally equivalent to the Kolmogorov ones
  - Continuity as infinite states of knowledge rather than infinite subsets

#### **Game Theory**

#### Independence

## **Frequentist realization**

- Repeat an experiment N times, obtain n times the outcome X
- Probability as empirical limit

 $P(X) = \lim_{N o \infty} rac{n}{N}$ 



# **Subjective ("Bayesian") realization**

- P(X) is the subjective degree of belief in the outcome of a random experiment (in X being true)
  - Update your degree of belief after an experiment
- De Finetti: operative definition, based on the concept of coherent bet
  - Assume that if you bet on X, you win a fixed amount of money if X happens, and nothing (0) if X does not happen

 $P(X) := rac{ ext{The largest amount you are willing to bet}}{ ext{The amount you stand to win}}$ 

• Coherence is when the bet is fair, i.e. it doesn't guarantee an average profit/loss

#### Dutch book

Book	Odds	Probability	Bet	Payout
Trump elected	Even (1 to 1)	1/(1+1) = 0.5	20	20 + 20 = 40
Clinton elected	3 to 1	1/(1+3) = 0.25	10	10 + 30 = 40
All outcomes		0.5 + 0.25 = 0.75	30	40

#### **Random variables...**

- Numeric label for each element in the space of possible outcomes
  - In Physics, we usually assume Nature is continuous, and discreteness comes from our experimental limitations
- Work with probability density functions (p.d.f.s) normalized with respect to the interval

$$f(X):= \lim_{\Delta X o 0} rac{P(X)}{\Delta X}$$
 .

$$P(a < X < b) := \int_a^b f(X) dX$$

## ... in many dimensions

- Joint pdf for many variables: f(X, Y, ...)
- Marginal pdf integrate over the uninteresting variables

 $f_X(X) := \int f(X,Y) dY$ 

• Conditional pdf fix the value of the uninteresting variables

$$f(X|Y):=rac{f(X,Y)}{f_Y(Y)}$$



#### **Bayes Theorem**



• Venn diagrams were also the basis of Kolmogorov approach (Jaynes, 2003)

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#### Independence

- Two events A and B are independent if P(AB) = P(A)P(B)
  - Can be assumed (e.g. assume that coin tosses are independent)
  - Can be derived (verifying that equality holds)
  - $\circ~~$  E.g. if  $A=\{2,4,6\}, B=\{1,2,3,4\},$  we have P(AB)=1/3=P(A)P(B)
- Two disjoint outcomes with positive probability cannot be independent  $P(AB)=P(\emptyset)=0 
  eq P(A)P(B)>0$

#### **Law of Total Probability**

• Bayes theorem is valid for any probability measure

$$P(A|B):=rac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

- Useful decomposition by partitioning S in disjoint sets  $A_i$ 
  - $\circ \ \cap A_i A_j = 0 \qquad orall i, j$
  - $\circ \ \cup_i A_i = S$

$$P(B) = \sum_i P(B \cap A_i) = \sum_i P(B|A_i)P(A_i)$$

• The Bayes theorem becomes

$$P(A|B) := rac{P(B|A)P(A)}{\sum_i P(B|A_i)P(A_i)}$$

#### **A Word of Advice**



#### $P(A|B) \neq P(B|A)$

- $P(have \, TOEFL|speak \, English)$  is very small, say <<1%
- $P(speak \, English | have \, TOEFL)$ , is (hopefully)  $\sim 100\%$

#### **Another Word of Advice**



# P(outcome), P(hypothesis)

- Frequentist probability (Fisher) always refers to outcomes in repeated experiments
  - $\circ \ P(hypothesis)$  is undefined
  - Criticism: statistical procedures rely on complicated constructions (pseudodata from hypotetical experiments)
- Bayesian probability assigns probabilities also to hypotheses
  - Statistical procedures intrinsically simpler
  - Criticism: subjectivity



## **Intrinsically different statements**

- The probability for the hypothesis to be true, given the observed data I collected, is 80%
- The probability that, when sampling many times from the hypothesis, I would obtain pseudodata similar to the data I have observed is 80%

## **Some history**

- Bayes' 1763 (posthumous) article explains the theorem in a game of pool
- A full system for subjective probabilities was (likely independently) developed and used by Laplace
- Laplace in a sense is the actual father of Bayesian statistics



Stigler (1996) and McGrayne (2011)

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# **The Obligatory COVID-19 slide**

- Mortal disease
  - *D*: the patient is diseased (sick)
  - $\circ$  *H*: the patient is healthy

- Diagnostic test
  - +: the patient flags positive to the disease
  - —: the patient flags negative to the disease

- A very good test
  - P(+|D) = 0.99
  - $\circ P(+|H) = 0.01$

# **The Obligatory COVID-19 slide**

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- A very good test
  - P(+|D) = 0.99
  - $\circ P(+|H) = 0.01$
- You take the test and you flag positive: do you have the disease?

$$P(D|+) = rac{P(+|D)P(D)}{P(+)} = rac{P(+|D)P(D)}{P(+|D)P(D)+P(+|H)P(H)}$$

- We need the incidence of the disease in the population, P(D)!
  - $\circ~P(D)=0.001$  (very rare disease): then P(D|+)=0.0902, which is fairly small
  - $\circ~P(D)=0.01$  (only a factor 10 more likely): then P(D|+)=0.50 , which is pretty high
  - P(D) = 0.1: then P(D|+) = 0.92, almost certainty! Pietro Vischia - Statistics for HEP (12th Course on Physics of the LHC, Lisboa, Portugal) - 2023.03.23-24 --- 25 / 139

# **Naming Bayes**

$$P(Hert ec X):=rac{P(ec Xert H)\pi(H)}{P(ec X)}$$

- $\vec{X}$ , the vector of observed data
- $P(ec{X}|H)$ , the likelihood function, encoding the result of the experiment
- $\pi(H)$ , the probability we assign to H before the experiment
- $P(ec{X})$ , the probability of the data
  - usually expressed using the law of total probability

 $\sum_i P(ec{X}|H_i) = 1$ 

• often omitted when normalization is not important, i.e. searching for mode rather than integral

$$P(H|ec{X}) \propto P(ec{X}|H) \pi(H)$$

- $P(H|ec{X})$ , the posterior probability, after the experiment
  - $\circ~$  For a parametric H( heta), often written P( heta)

## **Prior, Likelihood, and Posterior**

• Likelihood is always the same: usually it is the frequentist answer



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#### **Priors to represent boundaries**

- Can encode physical boundaries in the model
  - positivity of the mass of a particle
  - cross section is positive definite
- Strong assumptions on the model can hide weaknesses or anomalies
  - $\circ$  a transition probability such as  $V_{tb}$  is defined in [0,1] only if you assume the standard model



# **Representing ignorance**

• Ignorance depends on the parameterization



• Elicitation of expert opinion

#### • Jeffreys priors

- Compute information on the parameter
- Find a parameterization that keeps it constant

# **Information (Fisher)**

- Information should increase with the number of observations
  - 2x data, 2x information (if data are independent)
- Information should be conditional on the hypothesis we are studying

 $\circ~~I=I( heta)$ , irrelevant data should carry zero information on heta

- Information should be related to precision
  - Larger information should lead to better precision

• Formal equivalence with other definitions (e.g. Shannon)

## **The Likelihood Principle**

• Data sample  $ec{x}_{obs}$ 

$$\mathcal{L}(ec{x}; heta) = P(ec{x}| heta)|_{ec{x}obs}$$

- The likelihood function  $L(\vec{x}; \theta)$  contains all the information available in the data sample relevant for the estimation of  $\theta$ 
  - $\circ~$  Automatically satisfied by Bayesian statistics:  $P( hetaert ec x; heta) \propto L(ec x; heta) imes \pi( heta)$
  - Frequentist typically make inference in terms of hypothetical data (likelihood not the only source of information)
- Does randomness arise from our imperfect knowledge or is it an intrinsic property of Nature?

## **Likelihood and Fisher Information**

- Define Fisher information via the curvature of the likelihood function,  $\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}(X;\theta)}{\partial \theta^2}$ 
  - Larger when there are more data
  - Conditional on the parameter studied
  - Larger when the spread is smaller (larger precision)



#### More formally...

- Score:  $S(X; \theta) = rac{\partial}{\partial heta} ln L(X; heta)$
- Fisher information as variance of the score

$$I( heta) = E \Big[ \Big( rac{\partial}{\partial heta} ln L(X; heta) \Big)^2 | heta_{true} \Big] = \int \Big( rac{\partial}{\partial heta} ln f(x| heta) \Big)^2 f(x| heta) dx \geq 0$$

• Under some regularity conditions (twice differentiability, differentiability of integral, support indep. on  $\theta$ )

$$I( heta) = -E \Big[ \Big( rac{\partial^2}{\partial heta^2} ln L(X; heta) \Big)^2 | heta_{true} \Big]$$

## **Jeffreys Priors and Information**

• Reparameterization: 
$$heta o heta'( heta)$$
, when  $\pi( heta') := E\left[\left(rac{\partial lnN}{\partial heta'}
ight)^2
ight]$ 

$$\begin{aligned} \pi(\theta) &= \pi(\theta') \left| \frac{d\theta'}{d\theta} \right| \propto \sqrt{E\left[ \left( \frac{\partial \ln N}{\partial \theta'} \right)^2 \right] \left| \frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial \theta} \right|} = \sqrt{E\left[ \left( \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \theta'} \frac{\partial \theta'}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right]} \\ &= \sqrt{E\left[ \left( \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right]} = \sqrt{I(\theta)} \end{aligned}$$

- To keep information constant, define prior via the information
  - Location parameters: uniform prior
  - Scale parameters: prior  $\propto \frac{1}{\theta}$
  - Poisson processes: prior  $\propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{\theta}}$
- The authors of STAN maintain a nice set of recommendations on priors

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# **Location and Dispersion**

- Draw inference on a population using a sample of experiment outcomes
  - Location ("where are most values concentrated at?")
  - Dispersion ("how spread are the values around the center?")
- Types of uncertainty
  - Error: deviation from the true value (bias)
  - Uncertainty: spread of the sampling distribution

- Sources of uncertainty
  - Random ("statistical"): randomness manifests as distribution spread
  - Systematic: wrong measurement manifests as bias



# **Binomial Distribution**

- Discrete variable: r, positive integer  $\leq N$
- Parameters:
  - $\circ$  *N*, positive integer
  - $\circ p, 0 \leq p \leq 1$
- Probability function:  $P(r) = {N \choose r} p^r (1-p)^{N-r}$ , r = 0, 1, ..., N
- E(r) = Np, V(r) = Np(1 p)
- Usage: probability of finding exactly *r* successes in N trials



• The distribution of the number of events in a single bin of a histogram is binomial (if the bin contents are independent)

# **Poisson Distribution**

- Discrete variable: *r*, positive integer
- Parameter:  $\mu$ , positive real number
- Probability function:  $P(r) = rac{\mu^r e^{-\mu}}{r!}$
- $E(r) = \mu$ ,  $V(r) = \mu$
- Usage: probability of finding exactly *r* events in a given amount of time, if events occur at a constant rate.



# **Gaussian ("Normal") Distribution**

- Variable: X, real number
- Parameters:
  - $\mu$ , real number
  - $\circ \sigma$ , positive real number
- Probability function:  $f(X) = N(\mu, \sigma^2) = rac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} exp \left[ -rac{1}{2} rac{(X-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2} 
  ight]$
- $E(X) = \mu$ ,  $V(X) = \sigma^2$
- Usage: describes the distribution of independent random variables. It is also the high-something limit for many other distributions





- Parameter: integer N>0 {\emptysem degrees of freedom}
- Continuous variable  $X\in \mathcal{R}$
- p.d.f., expected value, variance

$$egin{aligned} f(X) &= rac{rac{1}{2} \left(rac{X}{2}
ight)^{rac{A^*}{2}-1} e^{-rac{X}{2}}}{\Gamma\left(rac{N}{2}
ight)} \ E[r] &= N \ V(r) &= 2N \end{aligned}$$

• It describes the distribution of the sum of the squares of a random variable,  $\sum_{i=1}^{N} X_i^2$ 



• Reminder:  $\Gamma() := \frac{N!}{r!(N-r)!}$ 

# Asymptotically



#### **Estimate location and dispersion**

- Expected value:  $E[X]:=\int_\Omega Xf(X)dX$  (or  $E[X]:=\sum_i X_iP(X_i)$  in the discrete case)
  - Extended to generic functions of a random variable:  $E[g]:=\int_{\Omega}g(X)f(X)dX$
- Mean of X is  $\mu := E[X]$
- Variance of X is  $\sigma_X^2 := V(X) := E[(X \mu)^2] = E[X^2] (E[X])^2 = E[X^2] \mu^2$
- Extension to more variables is trivial, and gives rise to the concept of
- Covariance (or error matrix) of two variables:  $V_{XY} = E[(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)] = E[XY] - \mu_X \mu_Y = \int XY f(X, Y) dX dY - \mu_X \mu_Y$ 
  - $\circ~$  Symmetric, and  $V_{XX}=\sigma_X^2$
  - Correlation coefficient  $ho_{XY} = rac{V_{XY}}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y}$



•  $ho_{XY}$  is related to the angle in a linear regression of X on Y (or viceversa)



**Fig. 1.9** Scatter plots of random variables x and y with (a) a positive correlation,  $\rho = 0.75$ , (b) a negative correlation,  $\rho = -0.75$ , (c)  $\rho = 0.95$ , and (d)  $\rho = 0.25$ . For all four cases the standard deviations of x and y are  $\sigma_x = \sigma_y = 1$ .

#### ... but:

• Several nonlinear correlations may yield the same  $ho_{XY}$  (and other summary statistics)



#### **Linear correlation is weak**

- X and Y are independent if the occurrence of one does not affect the probability of occurrence of the other
  - $\circ X, Y$  independent  $\implies 
    ho_{XY} = 0$
  - $\circ 
    ho_{XY} = 0 
    ightarrow X, Y$  independent



#### **Mutual information**

$$egin{aligned} I(X;Y) &= \sum_{y\in Y} \ &\sum_{x\in X} p(x,y) log\left(rac{p(x,y)}{p_1(x)p_2(y)}
ight) \end{aligned}$$

- General notion of correlation linked to the information that X and Y share
  - Symmetric: I(X;Y) = I(Y;X)
  - $\circ I(X;Y) = 0$  if and only if X and Y are totally independent



• Related to entropy

I(X;Y) = H(X) - H(X|Y)= H(Y) - H(Y|X)= H(X) + H(Y) - H(X,Y)

#### **Causal inference**

• Disentangle with interventions on Directed Acyclic Graphs





*Figure 6. Seeing*: DAGs are used to encode conditional independencies. The first three DAGs encode the same associations. *Doing*: DAGs are causal. All of them encode distinct causal assumptions.

#### **Estimators**

- $x=(x_1,...,x_N)$  of N statistically independent observations  $x_i\sim f(x)$ 
  - Determine some parameter heta of f(x)
  - $\circ x, heta$  in general are vectors
- Estimator is a function of the observed data that returns numerical values  $\hat{\theta}$  for the vector  $\theta$ .
- (Asymptotic) Consistency:  $\lim_{N
  ightarrow\infty}\hat{ heta}= heta_{true}$
- Unbiasedness: the bias is zero
  - $\circ~~$  Bias:  $b:=E[\hat{ heta}]- heta_{true}$
  - $\circ~$  If bias known:  $\hat{ heta}'=\hat{ heta}-b$ , so b'=0
- Efficiency: smallest possible  $V[\hat{ heta}]$



Robustness: insensitivity from small

deviations from the underlying p.d.f.

# **Sufficient statistic**

- Test statistic: a function of the data (a quantity derived from the data sample)
- $X \sim f(X| heta)$  , then T(X) is sufficient for heta if f(X|T) is independent of heta
- T carries as much information about heta as the original data X
  - $\circ~$  Data X with model M and statistic T(X) with model M' provide the same inference
- Rao-Blackwell theorem: if g(X) is an estimator for  $\theta$  and T is sufficient, then E[g(X)|T(X)] is never a worse estimator of  $\theta$ 
  - $\circ~$  Build a ballpark estimator g(X), then condition on some T(X) to obtain a better estimator
- Sufficiency Principle: if T(X) = T(Y), then X and Y provide same inference about  $\theta$ 
  - Implications for data storage, computation requirements, etc.





#### **The Maximum Likelihood Method**

•  $x = (x_1,...,x_N)$  of N statistically independent observations  $x_i \sim f(x)$ 

$$L(x; heta) = \prod_{i=1}^N f(x_i, heta)$$

• Maximum-likelihood estimator is  $heta_{ML}$  such that

$$heta_{ML}:=argmax heta\Big(L(x, heta)\Big)$$

- Numerically, best to minimize:  $-lnL(x; heta) = -\sum_{i=1}^N lnf(xi, heta)$ 
  - Fred James' Minuit's MINOS routine powers e.g. RooFit
- The MLE is:
  - Consistent:  $\lim_{N o \infty} heta_{ML} = heta_{true}$ ;
  - $\circ~$  Unbiased: only asymptotically.  $ec{b}\propto rac{1}{N}$  , so  $ec{b}=0$  only for  $N
    ightarrow\infty$ ;
  - Efficient:  $V[\theta_{ML}] = \frac{1}{I(\theta)}$
  - $\circ~$  Invariant under  $\psi = g( heta) : \hat{\psi}_{ML} = g( heta_{ML})$

#### **MLE for Nuclear Decay**

- Nuclear decay with half-life  $\tau$ 
  - $f(t; au)=rac{1}{ au}e^{-rac{t}{ au}}$  $E[f] = \tau$  $V[f] = \tau^2$
- Sample  $t_i \sim f(t; \tau)$ , obtaining  $f(t_1, ...t_N; \tau) = \prod_i f(t_i; \tau) = L(\tau)$

$$rac{\partial ln L( au)}{\partial au} = \sum_i \left( -rac{1}{ au} + rac{t_i}{ au^2} 
ight) \equiv 0 \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \hat{ au}(t_1,...,t_N) = rac{1}{N} \sum_i t_i$$

- Unbiased:  $b = E[\hat{ au}] E[f] = au au = 0$
- Variance depends on samples:  $V[\hat{ au}] = V \left| rac{1}{N} \sum_i t_i \right| = rac{1}{N^2} \sum_i V[t_i] = rac{ au^2}{N}$

Estimator	Consistent	Unbiased	Efficient
$\hat{ au} = \hat{ au}_{ML} = rac{t_1 + + t_N}{N}$	Yes	Yes	Yes
$\hat{ au} = rac{t_1++t_N}{N-1}$	Yes	No	No
$\hat{ au} = t_i$	No	Yes	No

- Cannot have both zero bias and the smallest variance
- Information acts on the curvature of the likelihood, which represents the precision
  - Information is a limiting factor for the variance

**Bias-variance tradeoff** 

Rao-Cramer-Frechet (RCF) bound

 $V[\hat{ heta}] \geq rac{(1+\partial b/\partial heta)^2}{-Eig[\partial^2 lnL/\partial heta^2ig]}$ 

• Fisher Information Matrix

 $I_{ij}=Eig[\partial^2 lnL/\partial heta_i\partial heta_jig]$ 

$$argmin_{x,y}ig(f(x,y)ig)_y
eq argmin_yig(f(x,y)ig)$$



#### **Approximate variance**

$$V[\hat{ heta}] \geq rac{\left(1+rac{\partial b}{\partial heta}
ight)^2}{-E\left[rac{\partial^2 lnL}{\partial heta^2}
ight]}$$

• MLE is efficient and asymptotically unbiased

$$V[ heta_{ML}]\simeq rac{1}{-E\left[rac{\partial^2 lnL}{\partial heta^2}
ight]}igert heta= heta ML$$

• For a Gaussian pdf  $f(x; heta) = N(\mu,\sigma)$ 

$$L( heta) = ln \Big[ - rac{(x- heta)^2}{2\sigma^2} \Big]$$

•  $L(\theta_{1\sigma}) - \hat{\theta}_{ML} = 1/2$ , and the area enclosed in  $[\theta_{ML} - \sigma, \theta_{ML} + \sigma]$  will be 68.3%.

## **Confidence interval**

- An interval with a fixed probability content  $P((\theta_{ML} - \theta_{true})^2 \le \sigma)) = 68.3\%$   $P(-\sigma \le \theta_{ML} - \theta_{true} \le \sigma) = 68.3\%$  $P(\theta_{ML} - \sigma \le \theta_{true} \le \theta_{ML} + \sigma) = 68.3\%$
- Practical prescription
  - Point estimate by computing the MLE
  - Confidence interval by taking the range delimited by the crossings of the likelihood function with <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> (for 68.3% probability content, or 2 for 95% probability content), etc)



- MLE is invariant for monotonic transformations of  $\theta$ 
  - Likelihood crossings can be used also for asymmetric likelihood functions
  - Intervals exact only to  $\mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{N})$

Image from James, 2nd ed.

#### **Normal approximation**

• Good only to  $\mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{N})$ :

$$L(x; heta) \propto exp \Big[ -rac{1}{2} ( heta - heta_{ML})^T H( heta - heta_{ML}) \Big]$$



# **Likelihood in many dimensions**

- Elliptical contours correspond to gaussian Likelihoods
  - The closer to MLE, the more elliptical the contours, even in nonlinear problems
  - Minimizers just follow the contour regardless of nonlinearity
- Crossings (contours) adapted to areas under N-dimensional gaussians



# **Profiling for systematic uncertainties**

- Once upon a time, cross sections were:  $\sigma = rac{N_{data} N_{bkg}}{\epsilon L}$ 
  - $\circ~~N_{sig}$  estimated from  $N_{data}-N_{bkg}$  for the measured integrated luminosity L
  - $\circ~$  Uncertainties in the acceptance  $\epsilon$  propagated to the result for  $\sigma$
- Nowadays,  $p(x|\mu, \theta)$  pdf for the observable x to assume a certain value in a single event
  - $\circ \ \mu := rac{\sigma}{\sigma_{pred}}$  parameter of interest
  - $\circ$  heta nuisance parameters representing all the uncertainties affecting the measurement
  - $\circ$  Many events:  $\prod_{e=1}^n p(x_e|\mu, heta)$
- The number of events in the data set is however a Poisson random variable itself!

• Marked Poisson Model  $f(X|
u(\mu, heta),\mu, heta)=Pois(n|
u(\mu, heta))\prod_{e=1}^n p(x_e|\mu, heta)$ 

# Uncertainties as nuisance parameters

- Incorporate systematic uncertainties as nuisance parameter  $\theta$  (Conway, 2011)
  - constraint interpreted as (typically Gaussian) prior coming from the auxiliary measurement
- MLE still depends on nuisance parameters:  $\hat{\mu} := argmax_{\mu}\mathcal{L}(\mu, heta; X)$

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{n}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}^{\boldsymbol{0}} | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \prod_{i \in bins} \mathcal{P}(n_i | \boldsymbol{\mu} S_i(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) + B_i(\boldsymbol{\alpha})) \times \prod_{j \in syst} \mathcal{G}(\alpha_j^0 | \alpha_j, \delta \alpha_j)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{n}, 0 | \boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}) = \prod_{i \in bins} \mathcal{P}(n_i | \boldsymbol{\mu} S_i(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) + B_i(\boldsymbol{\alpha})) \times \prod_{j \in syst} \mathcal{G}(0 | \alpha_j, 1)$$

#### **Sidebands**

 $egin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{full}(s,b) = \ \mathcal{P}(N_{SR}|s+b) imes \mathcal{P}(N_{CR}| ilde{ au} \cdot b) \end{aligned}$ 



- Example subsidiary measurement of the background rate:
  - 8% systematic uncertainty in the MC rates
  - $\hat{b}$ : measured background rate
  - $\circ \; \mathcal{G}( ilde{b}|b, 0.08) \, \mathcal{L}_{full}(s, b) = \mathcal{P}(N_{SR}|s+b) imes \mathcal{G}( ilde{b}|b, 0.08)$

### **The Likelihood Ratio:**

$$\lambda(\mu):=rac{\mathcal{L}(\mu,\hat{\hat{ heta}})}{\mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu},\hat{ heta})}$$

- Profiling: eliminate dependence on  $\theta$  by taking conditional MLEs
  - Bayesian marginalize Demortier, 2002



-  $\lambda(\mu)$  distribution by toy data, or use Wilks theorem:  $\lambda(\mu) \sim exp ig|$  - $\frac{1}{2}\chi^{2}\left[\left(1+\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}\right)\right) \text{ under some regularity conditions}\right]$ Pietro Vischia - Statistics for HEP (12th Course on Physics of the LHC, Lisboa, Portugal) - 2023.03.23-24 --- 60/139

#### What is a nuisance parameter?



#### **Pulls and Constraints**

- Pull: difference of the post-fit and pre-fit values of the parameter, normalized to the pre-fit uncertainty:  $pull := \frac{\hat{\theta} \theta}{\delta \theta}$
- Constraint: the ratio between the post-fit and the pre-fit uncertainty in the nuisance parameter.



#### **Correlation and Significance**

- What worries you the most?
  - $\circ~$  A pull with very small constraint:  $heta_{prefit}=0\pm1, heta_{postfit}=1\pm0.9$
  - $\circ~$  The same pull with a strong constraint:  $heta_{prefit}=0\pm1, heta_{postfit}=1\pm0.2$

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- Compare the shift to its uncertainty
- Indipendent measurements: the compatibility C is

$$C=\Delta heta/\sigma_{\Delta heta}=rac{ heta_2- heta_1}{\sqrt{\sigma_1^2+\sigma_2^2}}$$

- First case C=0.74, second case C=0.98 (larger, still within uncertainty)
- These are not independent measurements! Worst-case scenario formula:

$$C=\Delta heta/\sigma_{\Delta heta}=rac{ heta_2- heta_1}{\sqrt{\sigma_1^2-\sigma_2^2}}$$

- First case, C=2.29, second case C=1.02
- The same pull is more significant if there is (almost no) constraint!!!

# Impacts on the post-fit $\mu$

- Fix each  $\theta$  to its post-fit value  $\hat{\theta}$  plus/minus its pre(post)fit uncertainty  $\delta\theta$  ( $\delta\hat{\theta}$ )
- Reperform the fit for  $\mu$
- Impact is  $\hat{\mu} \hat{\mu}(\hat{ heta})$  (should give perfect result on Asimov dataset)



#### **Breakdown of uncertainties**

- Amount of uncertainty on  $\mu$  imputable to a given source of uncertainty
  - Modern version of Fisher's formalization of the ANOVA concept
  - the constituent causes fractions or percentages of the total variance which they together produce (Fisher, 1919)
  - the variance contributed by each term, and by which the residual variance is reduced when that term is removed (Fisher, 1921)
- Freeze a set of  $\hat{\theta}_i$  to  $\hat{\theta}_i$
- Repeat the fit, uncertainty on  $\mu$  is smaller
- Contribution of  $\theta_i$  to the overall uncertainty as squared difference
- Statistical uncertainty by freezing all nuisance parameters



### Which is the "correct" constraint?



#### **Confidence intervals**

- Probability content: solve  $eta = P(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b f(X| heta) dX$  for a and b
  - A method yielding interval with the desired  $\beta$ , has coverage





# **Checking for coverage**

- Operative definition of coverage probability
  - Fraction of times, over a set of (usually hypothetical) measurements, that the resulting interval covers the true value of the parameter
  - Obtain the sampling distribution of the confidence intervals using toy data
- Nominal coverage: the one you have built your method around
- Actual coverage: the one you calculate from the sampling distribution
  - $\circ~$  Toy experiment: sample N times for a known value of  $heta_{true}$
  - Compute interval for each experiment
  - Count fractions of intervals containing  $heta_{true}$
- Nominal and actual coverage should agre if all assumptions of method are valid
  - Undercoverage: intervals smaller than proper ones
  - Overcoverage: intervals larger than proper ones

#### **Discrete Case**

- Probability content  $P(a \leq X \leq b) = \sum_a^b f(X| heta) dX \leq eta$
- Binomial: find  $(r_{low},r_{high})$  such that  $\sum_{r=r_{low}}^{r=r_{high}} {r \choose N} p^r (1-p)^{N-r} \leq 1-lpha$ 
  - $\circ$  Gaussian approximation:  $p\pm Z_{1-lpha/2}\sqrt{rac{p(1-p)}{N}}$
  - Clopper Pearson: invert two single-tailed binomial tests



#### **The Neyman construction**

- Unique solutions to finding confidence intervals are infinite
  - Let's suppose we have chosen a way
- Build horizontally: for each (hypothetical) value of heta, determine  $t_1( heta), t_2( heta)$ such that  $\int_{t_1}^{t_2} P(t| heta) dt = eta$
- Read vertically: from the observed value  $t_0$ , determine  $[\theta_L, \theta^U]$  by intersection
- Intrinsically frequentist procedure



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## **Flip-flopping**

- Gaussian measurement ( variance 1) of  $\mu > 0$  (physical bound)
- Individual prescriptions are self-consistent
  - 90% central limit (solid lines)
  - 90% upper limit (single dashed line)
- Mixed choices (after looking at data) are problematic
- Unphysical values and empty intervals: choose 90% central interval, measure  $x_{obs} = -2.0$ 
  - Interval empty, yet with the desired coverage



# The Feldman-Cousins Ordering Principle

- Unified approach for determining interval for  $\mu=\mu_0$ 
  - Include in order by largest  $\ell(x) = rac{P(x|\mu_0)}{P(x|\hat{\mu})}$
  - $\circ \; \hat{\mu}$  value of  $\mu$  which maximizes  $P(x|\mu)$  within the physical region
  - $\circ \; \hat{\mu}$  remains equal to zero for  $\mu < 1.65$ , yielding deviation w.r.t. central intervals
- Minimizes Type II error (likelihood ratio for simple test is the most powerful test)
- Solves the problem of empty intervals
- Avoids flip-flopping in choosing an ordering prescription



## **Bayesian intervals**

- Often numerically identical to frequentist confidence intervals
  - Much simple derivation
  - Interpretation is different: {\em credible intervals}
  - Posterior density summarizes the complete knowledge about heta
- Highest Probability Density intervals
  - Work out of the box for multimodal distributions and for physical constraints

Fig. 1 Simple examples of central (*black*) and highest probability density (*red*) intervals. The intervals coincide for a symmetric distribution, otherwise the HPD interval is shorter. The three examples are a normal distribution, a gamma with shape parameter 3, and the marginal posterior density for a variance parameter in a hierarchical model. (Color figure online)



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### **Test of hypotheses**

- Hypothesis: a complete rule that defines probabilities for data.
- Statistical test: a proposition on compatibility of  $H_0$  with the available data.
  - $\circ \ X \in \Omega$  a test statistic
  - $\circ~$  Critical region W: if  $X\in W$ , reject  $H_0$ , Acceptance region>: if  $X\in \Omega-W$ , accept  $H_0$
  - $\circ~$  Level of significance (size of the test):  $P(X \in W | H_0) = lpha$



#### **Alternative hypothesis and power**

- Need an alternative to solve ambiguities
- Power of the test
  - $\circ \ P(X \in W | H_1) = 1 \beta$
  - $\circ~~$  Power eta is such that  $P(X\in \Omega-W|H_1)=eta$



#### **Families of Tests**

- Varying  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  results in families of tests
- In one dimension, likelihood ratio (Neyman-Pearson) test is the most powerful test, given by

$$\ell(X, heta_0, heta_1):=rac{f(X| heta_1)}{f(X| heta_0)}\geq c_lpha$$



#### **Bayesian Model Selection**

- $M_0$  and  $M_1$  predict  $heta extsf{>} : P( heta | x, M) = rac{P(x | heta, M) P( heta | M)}{P(x | M)}$ 
  - $\circ~$  Bayesian evidence (Model likelihood)  $P(x|M) = \int P(x| heta,M) P( heta|M) d heta$
  - $\circ$  Posterior for  $M_0$ :  $P(M_0|x)=rac{P(x|M_0)\pi(M_0)}{P(x)}$ , posterior for  $M_1$ :  $P(M_1|x)=rac{P(x|M_1)\pi(M_1)}{P(x)}$
  - Posterior odds:  $\frac{P(M_0|x)}{P(M_1|x)} = \frac{P(x|M_0)\pi(M_0)}{P(x|M_1)\pi(M_1)}$
  - Bayes factor:  $B_{01} := rac{P(x|M_0)}{P(x|M_1)}$
  - $\circ~$  Posterior odds = Bayes Factor  $\times$  prior odds
- Turing (IJ Good, 1975): deciban as the smallest change of evidence human mind can discern

#### Jeffreys

к	dHart	bits	Strength of evidence	
< 10 <sup>0</sup>	0	—	Negative (supports M <sub>2</sub> )	
$10^0\ to\ 10^{1/2}$	0 to 5	0 to 1.6	.6 Barely worth mentioning	
$10^{1/2}$ to $10^{1}$	5 to 10	1.6 to 3.3	Substantial	
$10^1 to \ 10^{3/2}$	10 to 15	3.3 to 5.0	Strong	
$10^{3/2}$ to $10^2$	15 to 20	5.0 to 6.6	Very strong	
> 10 <sup>2</sup>	> 20	> 6.6	Decisive	

#### Kass and Raftery

log <sub>10</sub> K	к	Strength of evidence
0 to 1/2	1 to 3.2	Not worth more than a bare mention
1/2 to 1	3.2 to 10	Substantial
1 to 2	10 to 100	Strong
> 2	> 100	Decisive

#### Trotta

InB	relative odds	favoured model's probability	Interpretation
< 1.0	< 3:1	< 0.750	not worth mentioning
< 2.5	< 12:1	0.923	weak
< 5.0	< 150:1	0.993	moderate
> 5.0	> 150:1	> 0.993	strong

## **Discourage nonpredictive models**

- The Bayes Factor penalizes excessive model complexity
- Highly predictive models are rewarded, broadly-non-null priors are penalized



#### **P-values**

- Probability of obtaining a fluctuation with test statistic  $q_{obs}$  or larger, under the null hypothesis  $H_0$ 
  - $\circ~$  Need the distribution of test statistic under \hzero either with toys or asymptotic approximation (if  $N_{obs}$  is large, then  $q\sim\chi^2(1)$ )



#### **Beyond frequentism: CLs**

• 
$$CL_s := \frac{CL_{s+b}}{CL_b}$$

- Exclude the signal hypothesis at confidence level CL if  $1-CL_s \leq CL$
- Ratio of p-values is not a p-value
- Denominator prevents excluding signals for which there is no sensitivity
- Formally corresponds to have  $H_0 = H( heta! = 0)$  and test it against  $H_1 = H( heta = 0)$



#### From a scans to limits

- Scan the \$CLsteststatisticasafunctionofthePOI(typically\mu = \sigma{obs}/\sigma{pred}\$)
- Find intersection with the desired confidence level
- (eventually) convert the limit on  $\mu$  back to a cross section



## From a limit to hypothesis testing

- Apply the  $CL_s$  method to each Higgs mass hypothesis
- Show the  $CL_s$  test statistic for each value of the fixed hypothesis
- Green/yellow bands indicate the  $\pm 1\sigma$  and  $\pm 2\sigma$  intervals for the expected values under B-only hypothesis
  - $\circ$  Obtained by taking the quantiles of the B-only hypothesis



# From a limit to hypothesis testing

- CLs limit on  $\mu$  as a function of mass hypothesis
- p-value of excess
- Fitted signal strength peaks at excess



#### **Duality**

Meme generated with memegenerator

- Acceptance region set of values of the test statistic for which we don't reject  $H_0$  at significance level  $\alpha$
- 100(1-lpha)% confidence interval: set of \*values of the parameter heta for which we don't reject  $H_0$  (if  $H_0$  is assumed true)



## AI, the eternal buzzword?

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Machine Learning (ML)
- Statistical Learning



## We Try to Understand the Universe



## $\mathbf{Fundamental} \rightarrow \mathbf{Applied}$

- X/ $\gamma$  detectors (Xrays, PET)
- Hadron therapy and proton CT
- Vacuum technology
- Cryogenics
- Art
- WWW



- GPS
- Satellites
- Solar panels
- Airport security scanners
- Space watch (avoid asteroids)





## $\textbf{Applied} \rightarrow \textbf{Fundamental}$



## **Al: from Applied to Fundamental**

Bulletin of Mathematical Biology Vol. 52, No. 1/2, pp. 99-115, 1990. Printed in Great Britain. 0092-8240/90\$3.00 + 0.00 Pergamon Press plc Society for Mathematical Biology

### A LOGICAL CALCULUS OF THE IDEAS IMMANENT IN NERVOUS ACTIVITY\*

WARREN S. MCCULLOCH AND WALTER PITTS University of Illinois, College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry at the Illinois Neuropsychiatric Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, U.S.A.

Because of the "all-or-none" character of nervous activity, neural events and the relations among them can be treated by means of propositional logic. It is found that the behavior of every net can be described in these terms, with the addition of more complicated logical means for nets containing circles; and that for any logical expression satisfying certain conditions, one can find a net behaving in the fashion it describes. It is shown that many particular choices among possible neurophysiological assumptions are equivalent, in the sense that for every net behaving under one assumption, there exists another net which behaves under the other and gives the same results, although perhaps not in the same time. Various applications of the calculus are discussed.

### **Understanding Data**

Vast amounts of data are being generated in many fields, and the statistician's job is to make sense of it all: to extract important patterns and trends, and understand "what the data says." We call this learning from data. (Hastie, Tibshirani, Friedman, Springer 2017)



#### **Functions Describe the World**

• Interpolation



#### **Sometimes too well**

• Generalization



## **Think in Millions of Dimensions**



### **Easy or difficult?**

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[vischia@lxplus797 ~]\$ python dump_cpTree.py Info in <tcanvas::makedefcanvas>:</tcanvas::makedefcanvas>		
LING IN <\Lanvas::makeberLanvas>: created default (Lanvas with hame ci		
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	***********	******
	* 40.820312 *	
* 56350 * 1 * 280.82870 * 93.600341 * 59.040779 * -1.360351 * 0.7332763 * -0.819335 * -2.826171 * 0.7969970 <b>* 318.</b> 3358 * 2.5146484	* 40.820312 *	
* 56350 * 2 * 280.82870 * 93.600341 * 59.040779 * -1.360351 * 0.7332763 * -0.819335 * -2.826171 * 0.7969970 -3 109 7 23.0358 * 2.5146484	* 40.820312 *	0.8255668 *
* 56350 * 3 * 280.82870 * 93.600341 * 59.040779 * -1.360351 * 0.7332763 * -0.819335 * -2.826171 * 0.7969970 🕶 3.16097 * 113.03358 * 2.5146484	* 40.820312 *	0.8255668 *
* 79791 * 0 * 67.791183 * 42.294036 * 17.310911 * -1.846923 * 1.4458007 * -0.762207 * -0.628540 * -2.910644 * 2.9912109 * 8.8895807 * -1.773925	* 94.398437 *	-99 *
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🕴 Row 🔹 Instance * Lep1 pt.L * Lep2 pt.L * Lep3 pt.L * Lep1 eta. * Lep2 eta. * Lep3 eta. * Lep1 phi. * Lep2 phi. * Lep3 phi. * 🗤 met.met * met phi.m	* weight CP *	HTT score *
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> o setecteu entites		

## **Easy or difficult?**





## **Mapping Improves Understanding**



#### **Representations Make Tasks Easier**





#### **Learn Representations**



#### **Convolutional networks**



#### **Intermediate representations**



## **Morphology of galaxies**



#### **Representations of galaxies...**



#### ...work pretty well



#### **Semantic representations**





**Image Recognition** 

**Semantic Segmentation** 



**Object Detection** 



**Instance Segmentation** 

#### Account for the time component



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## **Real-time segmentation**



#### **Collide Protons...**

- The kinetic energy of two 88k tons aircraft carriers, each at 10km/h
- Packed into a transverse section of 16 micron



# **To See What Happens**



# **40 Million Times per Second**



## **Quark fragmentation**







#### ... in the detector...



# ...exploiting relationships



# **Plug the Physics into the Al**

• Physics-aware differential equations solving



## **Graphs Represent Structure**



# **CMS High-granularity calorimeter**

- 6 million cells with  $\sim 3mm$  spatial resolution, over  $600m^2$  of sensors
- Non-projective geometry

Learning representations of irregular particle-detector geometry with distance-weighted graph networks









(d)

#### **Graphs for water simulation**



# **Reinforcement learning**



#### From Videogames...



# ...to Physics

• Reward models consistent with the observed quark properties

charges	$\mathcal{Q} = egin{pmatrix} Q_1 & Q_2 & Q_3 & u_1 & u_2 & u_3 & d_1 & d_2 & d_3 & H & \phi \ \hline q & 6 & 4 & 3 & -2 & 2 & 4 & -3 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$		
$\mathcal{O}(1)$ coeff.	$ (a_{ij}) \simeq \begin{pmatrix} -1.975 & 1.284 & -1.219 \\ 1.875 & -1.802 & -0.639 \\ 0.592 & 1.772 & 0.982 \end{pmatrix} (b_{ij}) \simeq \begin{pmatrix} -1.349 & 1.042 & 1.200 \\ 1.632 & 0.830 & -1.758 \\ -1.259 & -1.085 & 1.949 \end{pmatrix} $		
VEV, Value	$v_1\simeq 0.224 \ , \qquad {\cal V}({\cal Q})\simeq -0.598$		
charges	$\mathcal{Q} = egin{pmatrix} Q_1 & Q_2 & Q_3 & u_1 & u_2 & u_3 & d_1 & d_2 & d_3 & H & \phi \ \hline 1 & 2 & 0 & -1 & -3 & 1 & -3 & -5 & -4 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$		
$\mathcal{O}(1)$ coeff.	$ (a_{ij}) \simeq \begin{pmatrix} -0.601 & 1.996 & 0.537 \\ -0.976 & -1.498 & -1.156 \\ 1.513 & 1.565 & 0.982 \end{pmatrix}  (b_{ij}) \simeq \begin{pmatrix} 0.740 & -1.581 & -1.664 \\ -1.199 & -1.383 & 0.542 \\ 0.968 & 0.679 & -1.153 \end{pmatrix} $		
VEV, value	$v_1\simeq 0.158 \ , \qquad \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{Q})\simeq -0.621$		

## **Invertible networks**





#### **Correct Detector Noise**

• Correct detector observation noise to recover source distribution



Figure 5: Neural Empirical Bayes for detector correction in collider physics. (a) The source distribution  $p(\mathbf{x})$  is shown in blue against the estimated source distribution  $q_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$  in black. (b) Posterior distribution obtained with rejection sampling, with generating source sample  $\mathbf{x}$  indicated in red. (c) Calibration curves for each jet property obtained with rejection sampling on 10000 observations. In (a) and (b), contours represent the 68-95-99.7% levels.

#### Interpretability



## **Transformers**

• The engine behind GPT3



#### **Transformers**



## **Translate Problems into Solutions**

• Symbolic integration: find the analytic formula for the area of the curve



	Integration (BWD)	ODE (order 1)	ODE (order 2)
Mathematica (30s)	84.0	77.2	61.6
Matlab	65.2	-	-
Maple	67.4	-	-
Beam size 1	98.4	81.2	40.8
Beam size 10	99.6	94.0	73.2
Beam size 50	99.6	97.0	81.0





# **QML in fundamental research**

- So far, mostly as good as classical methods
- Must identify use cases where a quantum approach can be more effective



#### **The Detectors of the Present**



## **The Detectors of the Future**

- Optimize/learn by finding the minimum of a function  $\mathcal{L}:\mathbb{R}^n
  ightarrow\mathbb{R}$
- Output represents performance on a physics goal or a constraint (e.g. cost)



## **The Detectors of the Future**

• Joint optimization yields in general different solution than optimization of individual features



#### **The Detectors of the Future**



#### MODE

• Creation (11.2020) and rapid expansion of the MODE Collaboration

#### https://mode-collaboration.github.io/

• Joint effort of particle physicists, nuclear physicists, astrophysicists, and computer scientists

At INFN and Universitá of Padova Dr. Tommaso Dorigo, Dr. Pablo De Castro Manzano, Dr. Lukas Layer, Dr. Giles Strong, Dr. Mia Tosi, and Dr. Hevjin Yarar

At Université catholique de Louvain Dr. Andrea Giammanco, Prof. Christophe Delaere, Mr. Maxime Lagrange, and Dr. Pietro Vischia

At Université Clermont Auvergne, Prof. Julien Donini, and Mr. Federico Nardi (joint with Universitá di Padova)

At the Higher School of Economics of Moscow, Prof. Andrey Ustyuzhanin, Dr. Alexey Boldyrev, Dr. Denis Derkach, and Dr. Fedor Ratnikov At the Instituto de Física de Cantabria, Dr. Pablo Martínez Ruíz del Árbol

At CERN, Dr. Jan Kieseler

At University of Oxford Dr. Atilim Gunes Baydin

At New York University Prof. Kyle Cranmer At Université de Liège Prof. Gilles Louppe

At GSI Dr. Anastasios Belias

At Rutgers University Dr. Claudius Krause

At Uppsala Universitet Prof. Christian Glaser

At TU-München, Prof. Lukas Heinrich and Mr. Max Lamparth

At Durham University Dr. Patrick Stowell

At Lebanese University Prof. Haitham Zaraket

28 people 15 institutions

2022

2019 10 people 4 institutions

for a synergic research plan of potential interest of the JENAS group

T. Dorigo, D. Boumediene, C. Delaere, D. Derkach, J. Donini,

A. Giammanco, R. Rossin, M. Tosi, A. Ustyuzhanin, P. Vischia,

Coordinator
Steering Board

December 3, 2019

#### **Artificial Brain**



## **Artificial General Intelligence?**



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# Not yet.

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# My efforts in the next years

- Exploration of high-dimensional spaces via gradient descent, eventually powered by quantum algorithms
- Realistic neurons (spiking networks on neuromorphic circuits)
- Applications to experiment design and to heart diseases
- If you are interested in collaborating, drop me an email!