

SEARCH FOR ELECTRON NEUTRINOS AT THE SND@LHC

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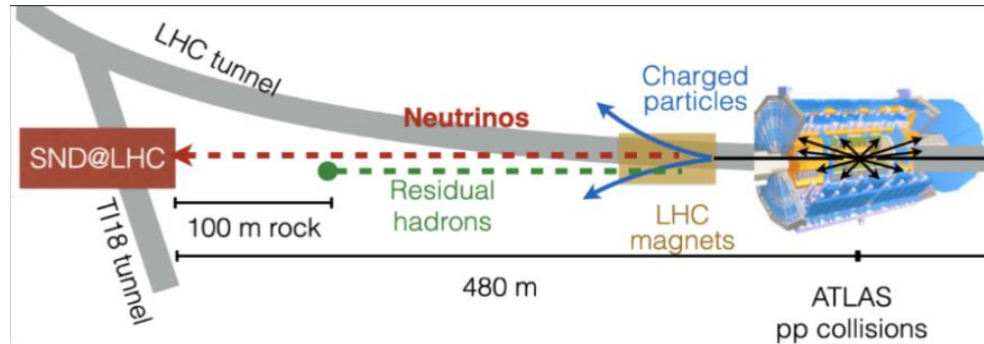
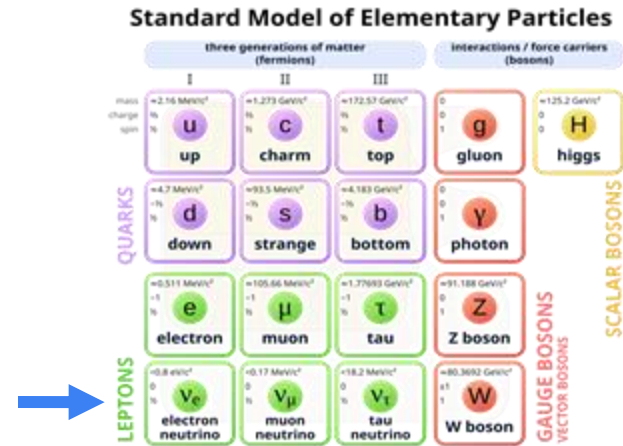
LIP-Laboratory of Instrumentation and experimental particle physics, Lisboa
Internship Program Workshop 2026
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04/09/2026



LABORATÓRIO DE INSTRUMENTAÇÃO
E FÍSICA EXPERIMENTAL DE PARTÍCULAS

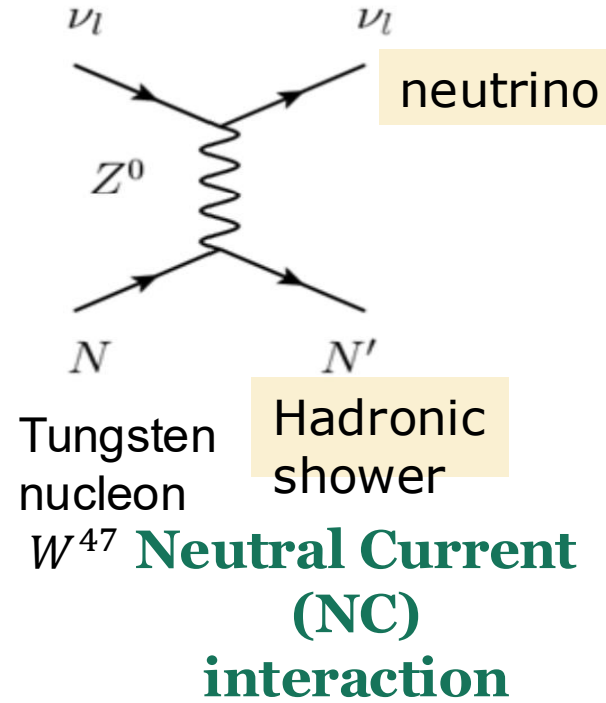
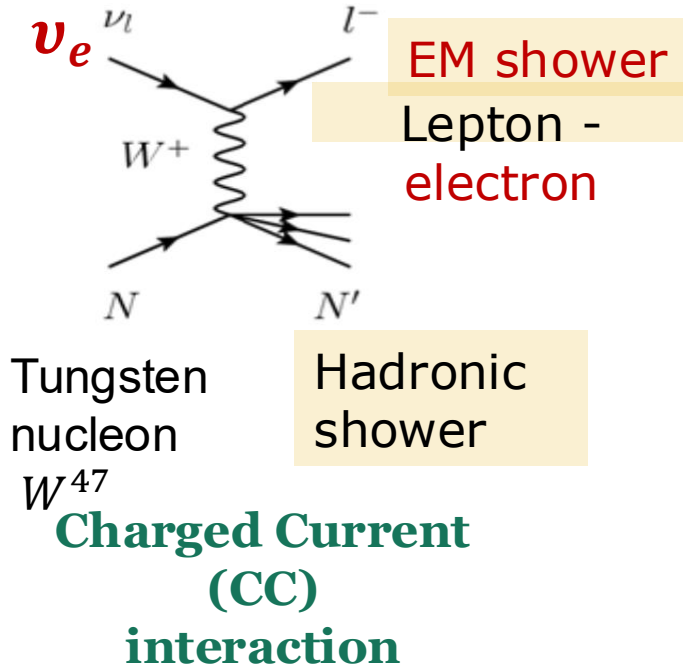
Motivation

- 2nd most abundant particle in the universe
- Traditionally studied in processes such as nuclear beta decay or nuclear reactors
- First observation of electron neutrinos in proton-proton collisions, produced at **ATLAS, LHC**- unique neutrino measurements!



What are neutrinos and how can we identify them?

- Identification using the outgoing lepton – **Electron (EM shower)**
- Separate signal (charged current) the background (neutral current) using **topological signal selection**



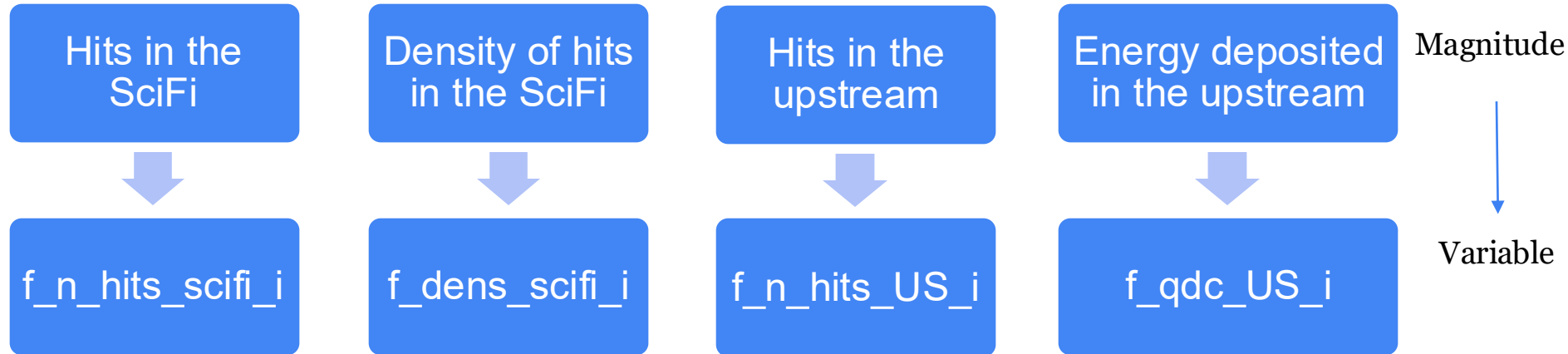
Collision
axis

-
- The diagram is divided into two main sections: "Interaction point" and "Neutrino detector".
- Interaction point:** This section shows the production of a D meson. Two incoming protons (p) are shown on the left, each containing a blue circle representing a nucleus. They interact via gluons (g) to produce a charm quark (c) and an anti-charm quark ($\bar{c}$). The charm quark then combines with a light quark (q) to form a D meson. The D meson is shown as a circle containing a blue quark and a yellow antiquark. It decays into a charm quark (c) and a light quark (q).
- Neutrino detector:** This section shows the decay of the D meson into a charm quark (c) and a light quark (q). The charm quark then decays into a neutrino (ν_e) and a W^+ boson. The W^+ boson decays into an electron (e^-) and a quark (u or d). The neutrino (ν_e) is shown as a red arrow pointing towards the "Neutrino detector".



Variables studied

The characteristics of the detector let us measure the following magnitudes:



- Studying the variables we can reconstruct the interaction- identification of the incoming particle!

Idea: Implementation of neural network in an existing model

Input layer

Multiple hidden layer

Output layer



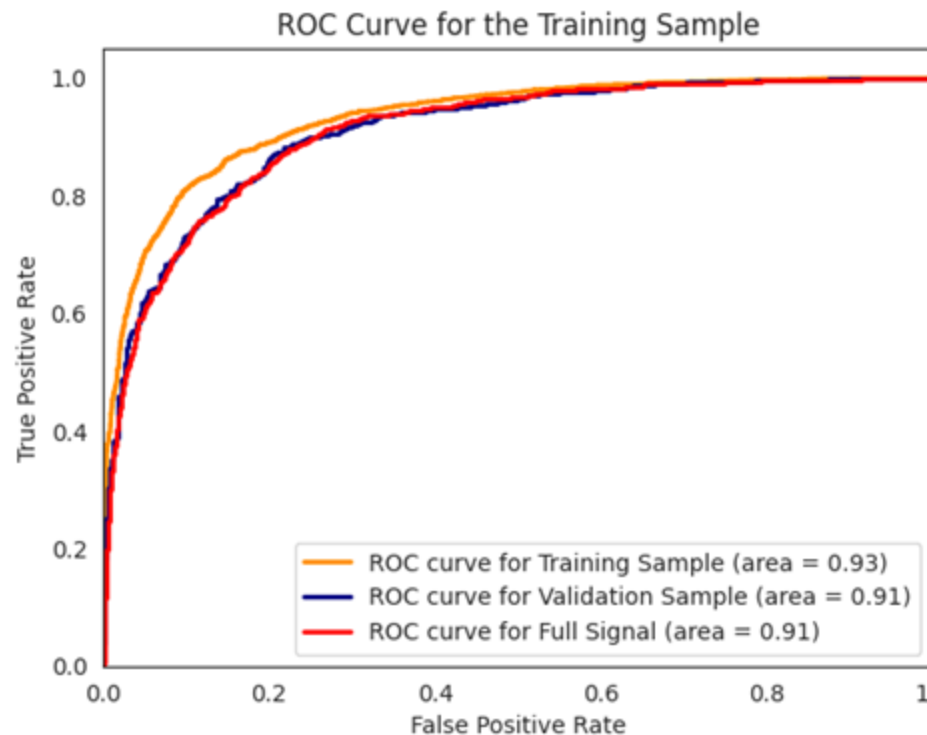
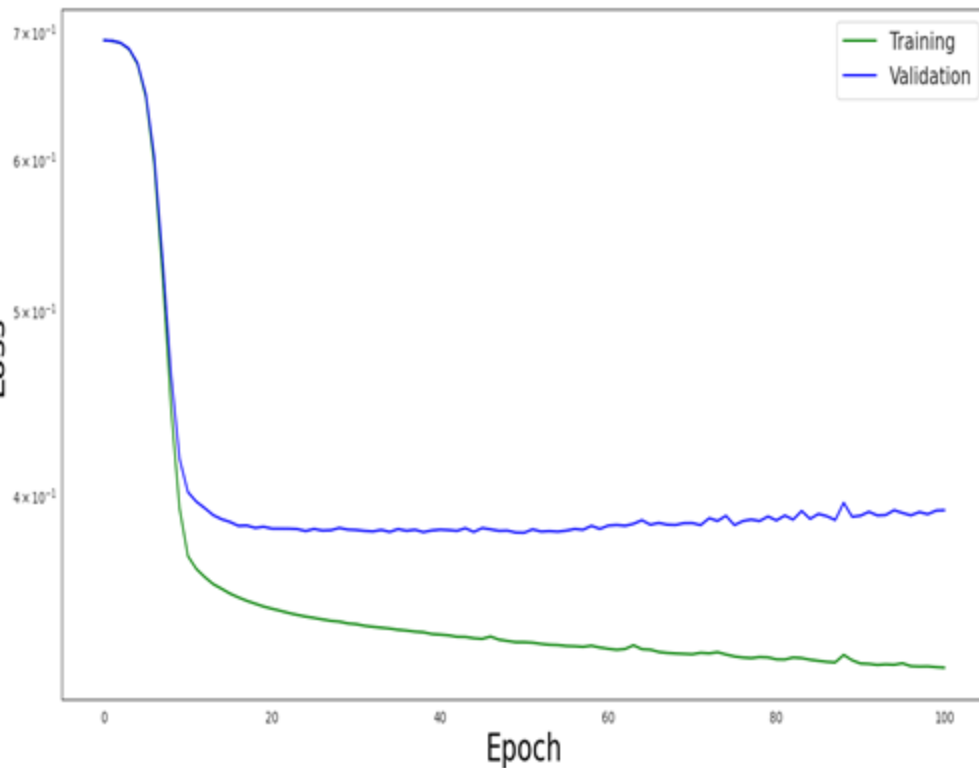
Training options and classifier : basic structure of the neural network

Binary classifier for signal and background events

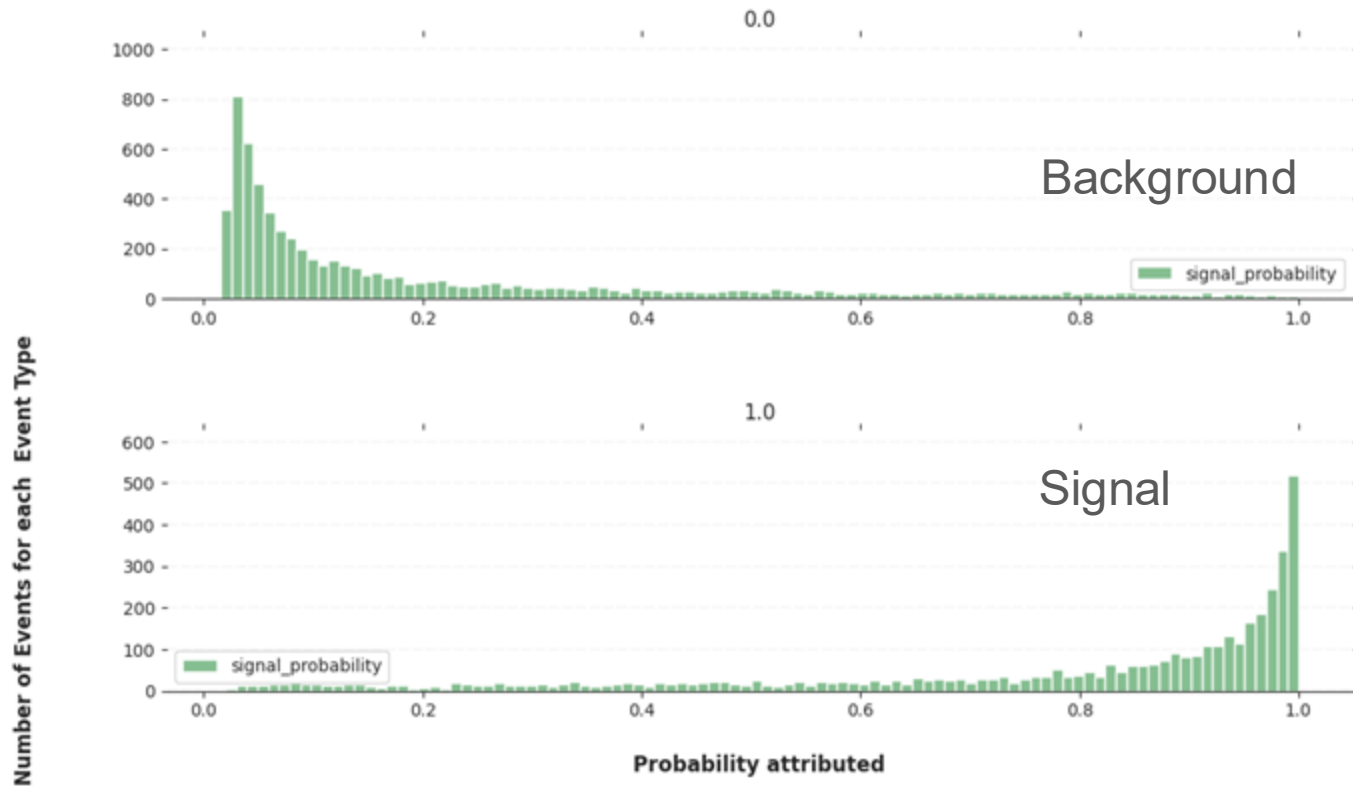
- **Input features:** input data coming from MC simulations are standardized before training
- **Activation function:** ReLU $f(x)=\max[0,x]$ in hidden layers
- **Classifier:** sequential dense neural network: 3 hidden layers of depth and a width of 20 units each
- **Output layer:** a single sigmoid neuron returns the event signal probability

Training of the data:

Ensemble all the variables and events in a pandas dataframe, from 2022 and 2024.
Split data in 2 sections: training and validation, examine it in 1000 epochs.



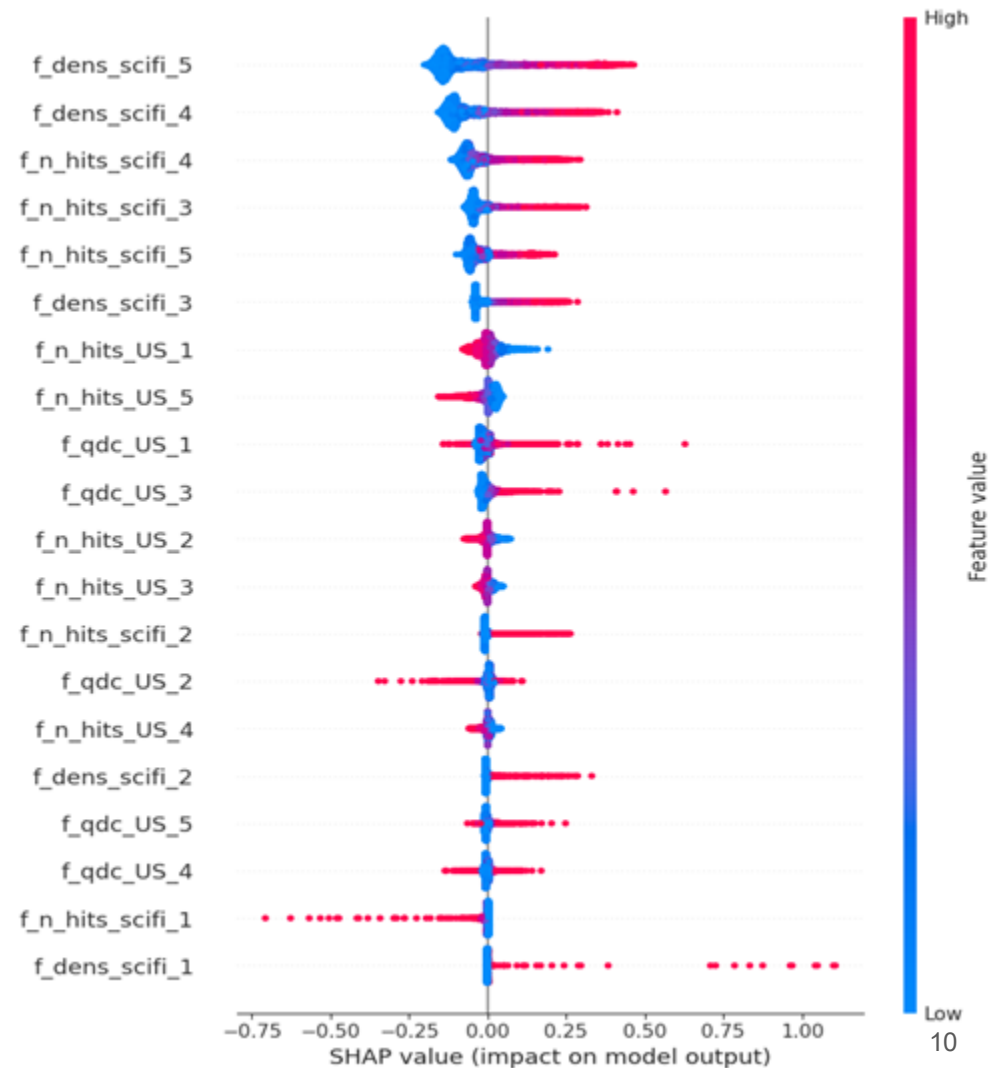
Output of the neural network: assign a probability of each event from 0 to 1, being 0 background and 1 signal



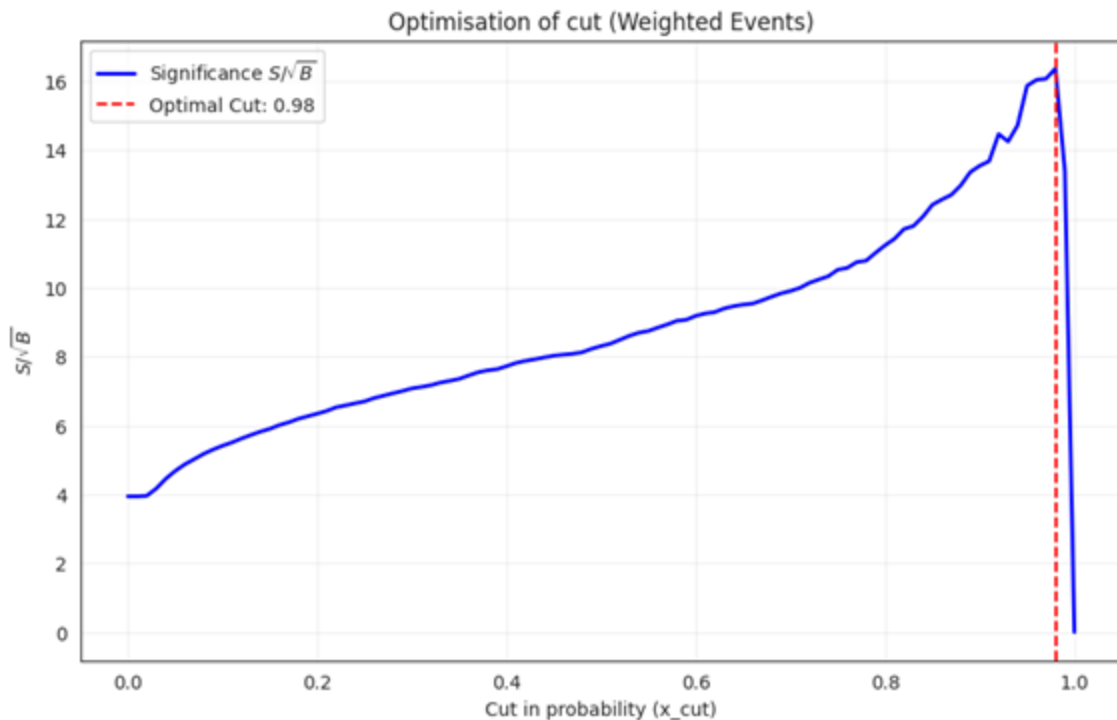
But how does the NN knows what probability assign?

SHAP values: impact on the model output

- Higher value of the feature: redder; else bluer
- Higher separation from the origin: better discrimination (right as signal and left as background)
- Ordered by importance from higher to lower



To improve the significance of the data: establish a cut



The best ratio $S/\sqrt{B}$ is 16.36 obtained with a cut of 0.98

Total retained yield: 5.63 events (8.64%)

Retained signal: 5.52 events (22.08%)

Retained background: 0.11 events (0.28%)

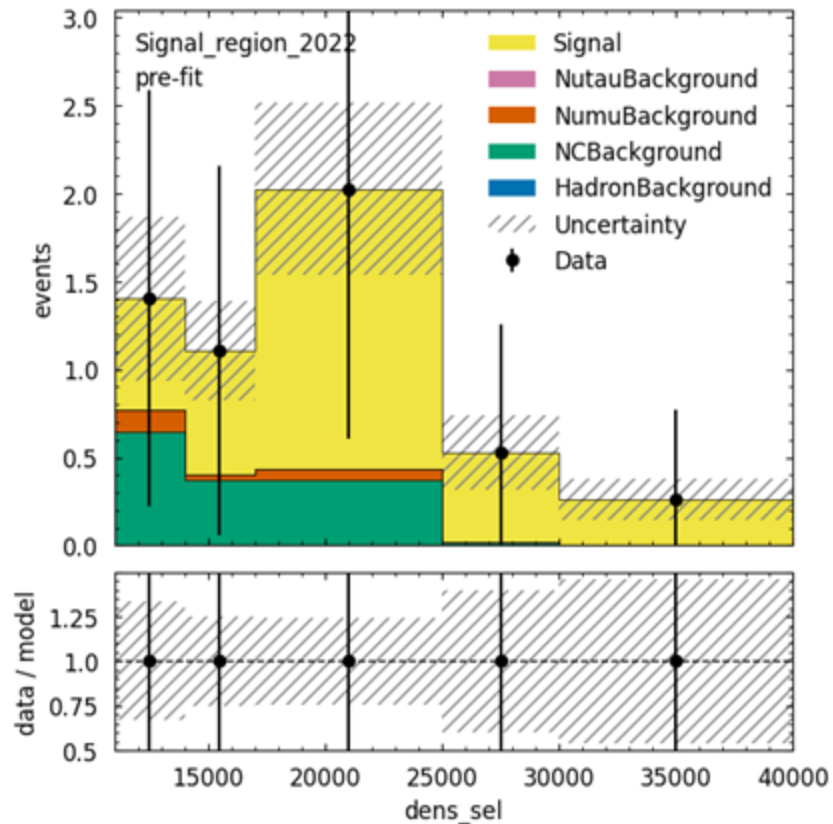
- We will try to find the cut that gives us the best significance without losing a lot of information on how precisely we can measure signal

After analysing several cuts in the probability...

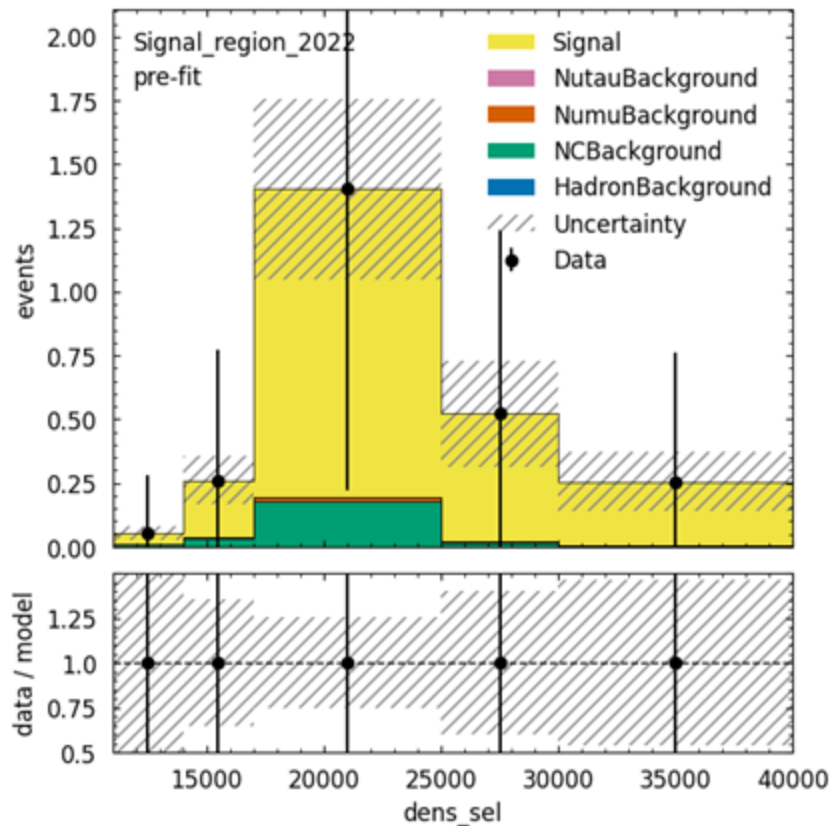
Cut	Exp significance (asimov data)	Signal_norm (asimov data)
0	4.762	1.0000+/-0.4370
0.60	4.709	1.000 +/- 0.435
0.70	4.770	1.000 +/- 0.435
0.75	4.819	1.000 +/- 0.435
0.80	4.862	1.0000 +/- 0.445
0.825	4.838	1.000 +/- 0.446
0.85	4.897	1.0000 +/- 0.453
0.875	4.887	1.0000 +/- 0.468
0.90	4.800	1.0000 +/- 0.484

2022 region: pre-fit (asimov data)

Before NN cut

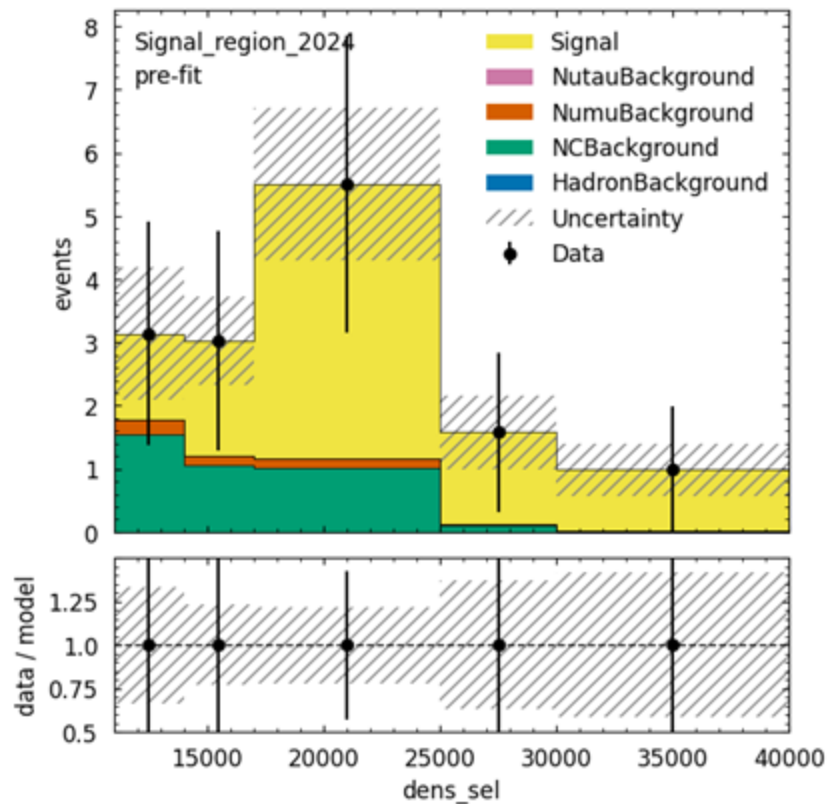


After NN cut (0.85)

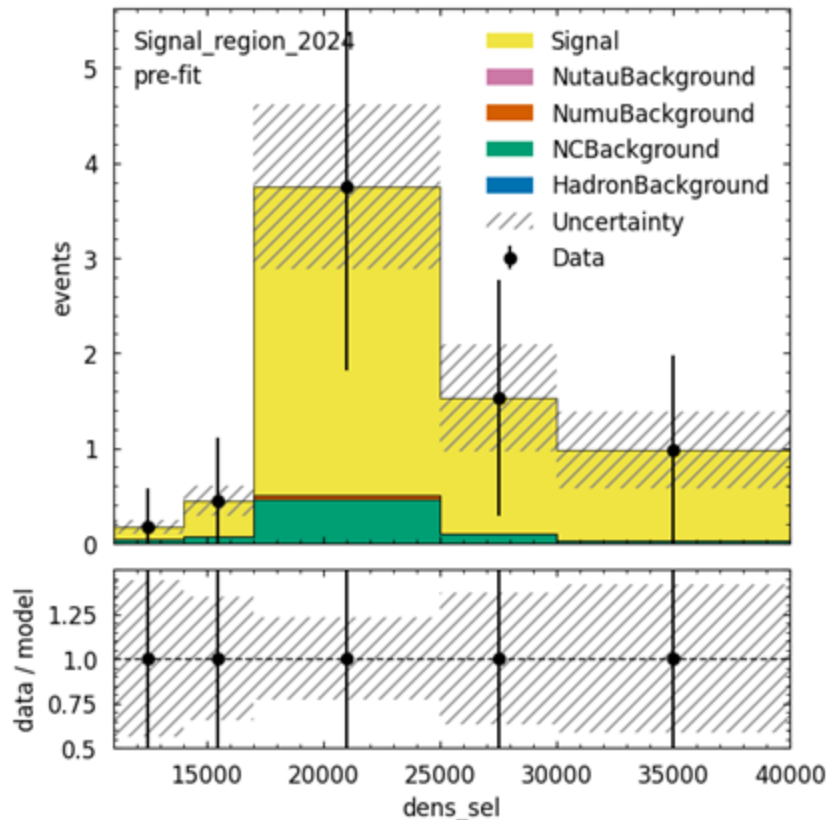


2024 region: pre fit

Before NN cut



After NN cut (0.85)



Conclusions and possible next steps...

- Studied variables for neutrino identification at SND@LHC
- Significance improvement when measuring simulations of electron neutrino
- Evaluate the NN on other samples/ real data
- Look for possible updates in the detector on the best SHAP values

Questions?