

# eFPGA-based ML Implementation on Future Collider Detector Readout

## US Higgs Factory Planning

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# Outline

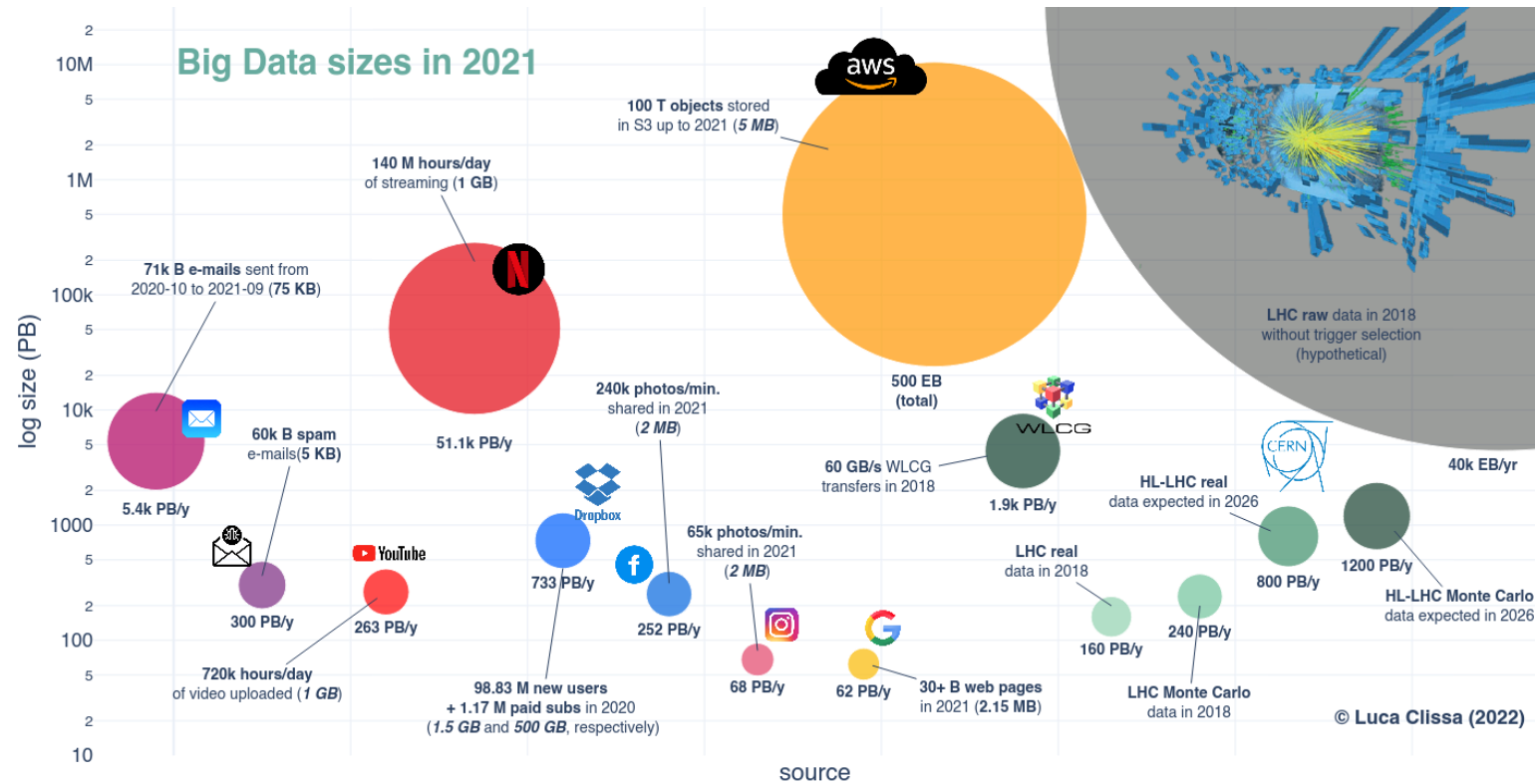
1. Motivation and Physics Context
2. eFPGA Technology
3. Machine Learning at the Front-End:
  1. Proof of concept BDT
  2. Autoencoder for lossy compression and anomaly detection
4. Conclusion and Next Steps

1

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# Motivation and Physics Context

# Motivation and Physics Context



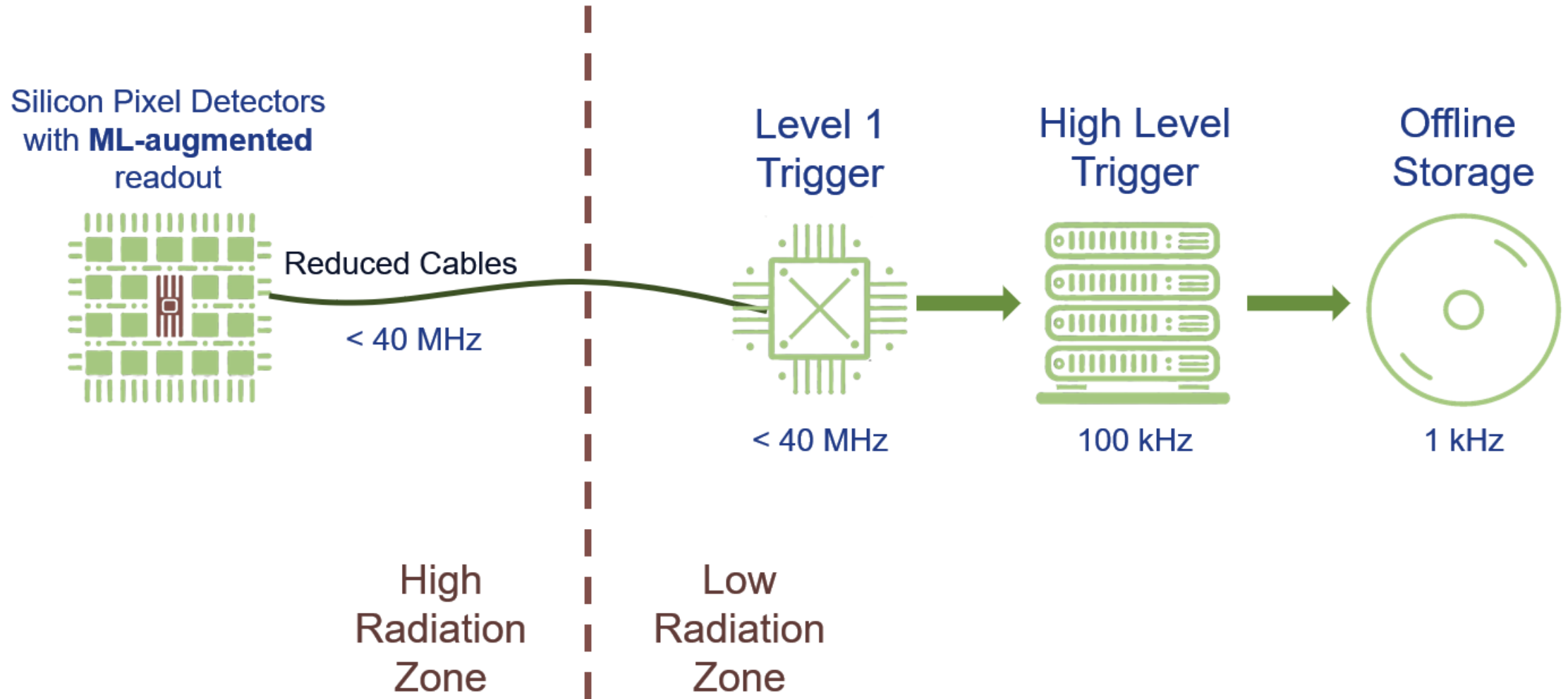
Pixel Detectors on collider:

- O(100) million pixels
- Petabyte per second data rate (more for future colliders!)

Can't send everything off-detector

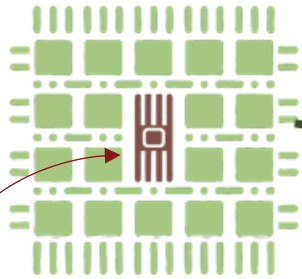
**Challenge:** how to effectively reduce the data volume transmitted off-detector while preserving useful physics information as much as possible?

# ML-augmented readout system



# ML-augmented readout system

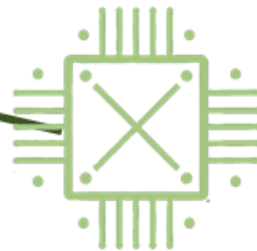
Silicon Pixel Detectors  
with **ML-augmented**  
readout



Reduced Cables

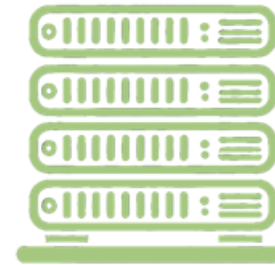
< 40 MHz

Level 1  
Trigger



< 40 MHz

High Level  
Trigger



100 kHz

Offline  
Storage



1 kHz

What technology can run ML at the front-end?

- Radiation hard
- Low power
- flexible
- Ultra-low latency

High  
Radiation  
Zone

Low  
Radiation  
Zone

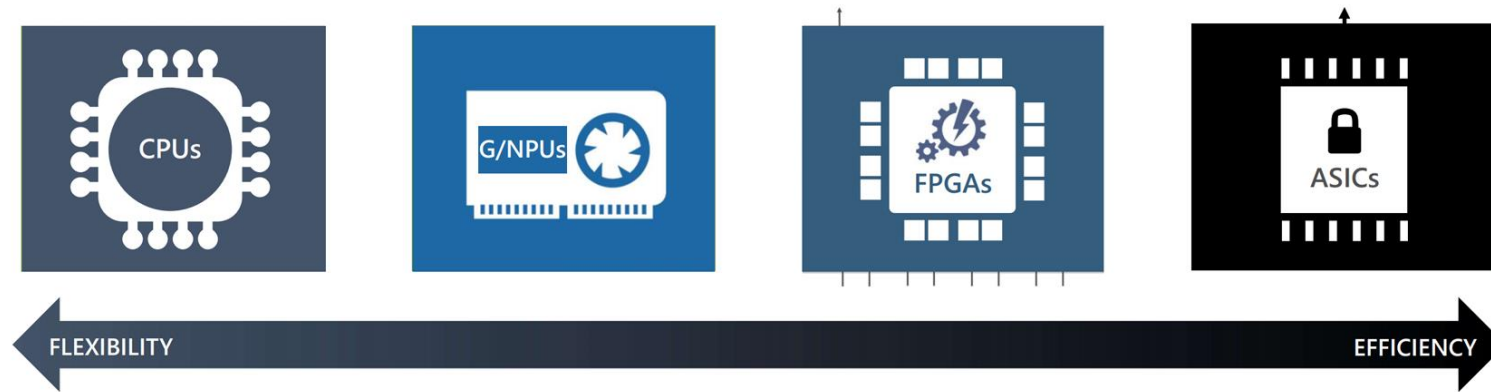
# 2

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## What's Embedded FPGA?

# Compute architectures

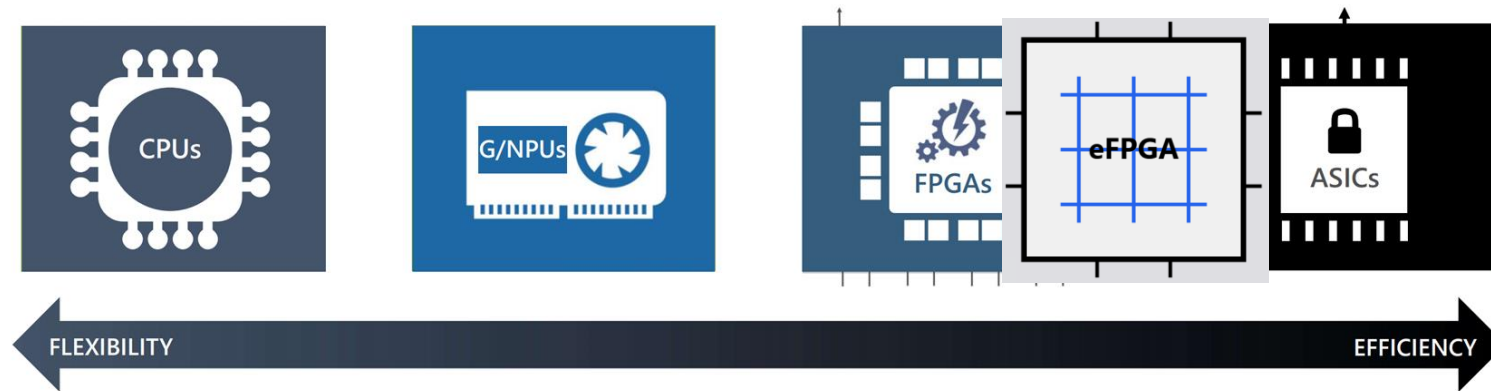
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# Compute architectures

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# Embedded FPGAs (eFPGAs)

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Basic idea is that you can put reconfigurable logic in your ASIC design.

- Full reconfigurability: can be re-configured just like a regular FPGA
- Power Efficiency: ASIC implementation means lower power than FPGA (“best of both worlds”)
- Development Time: “plug-and-play” FPGA fabric into ASIC
- Cost: no need for costly engineer hours or licenses to design an ML chip

Also, in use as hardware accelerators



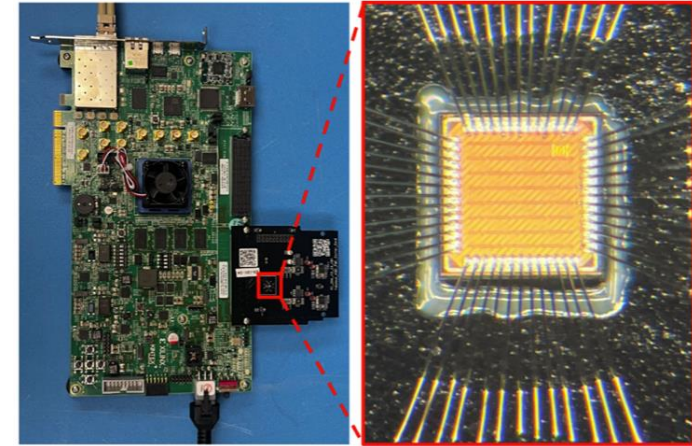
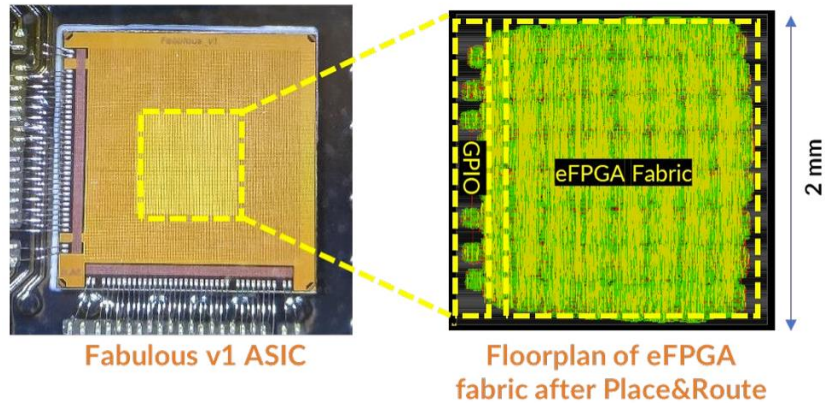
**Open source**

**(e)FPGA generators**

Why they are included by default  
in Google’s programs?

See [Larry Ruckman's \(CPAD 2024\)](#) talk for more

# eFPGA Development at SLAC



- SLAC's Technology Innovation Directorate (TID) demonstrated an eFPGA design in a 130nm CMOS Multi-Process Wafer (v0)
- Subsequently designed a version 1 “proof-of-concept” eFPGA in 28nm CMOS in 2023 (v1), 1mm x 1mm

Results are published on [2024 JINST 19 P08023](#)

Both are designed with open-source framework “FABulous” from University of Manchester. **Low cost and barrier to entry for institutions to participate in microelectronics design.**



# 3

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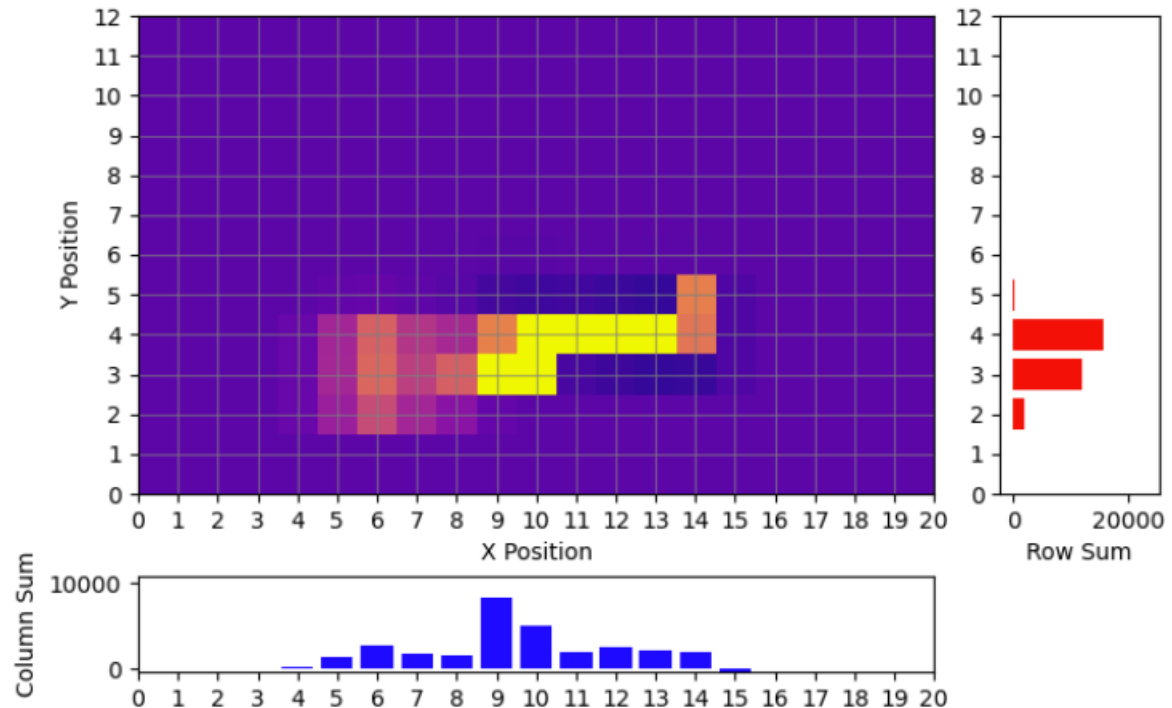
## Machine Learning at the Front-End

# Smart Pixel Dataset

We used the Smart Pixel Dataset\*, which are pixel clusters produced by charged particles (pions) with real kinematics from CMS Run 2.

- 0.5 Millions of  $20 \times 13 \times 21$  (time  $\times$  y position  $\times$  X position) 2D "video" + y-local ( $y_0$ )
- 13 truth info: positions, pT, angles...

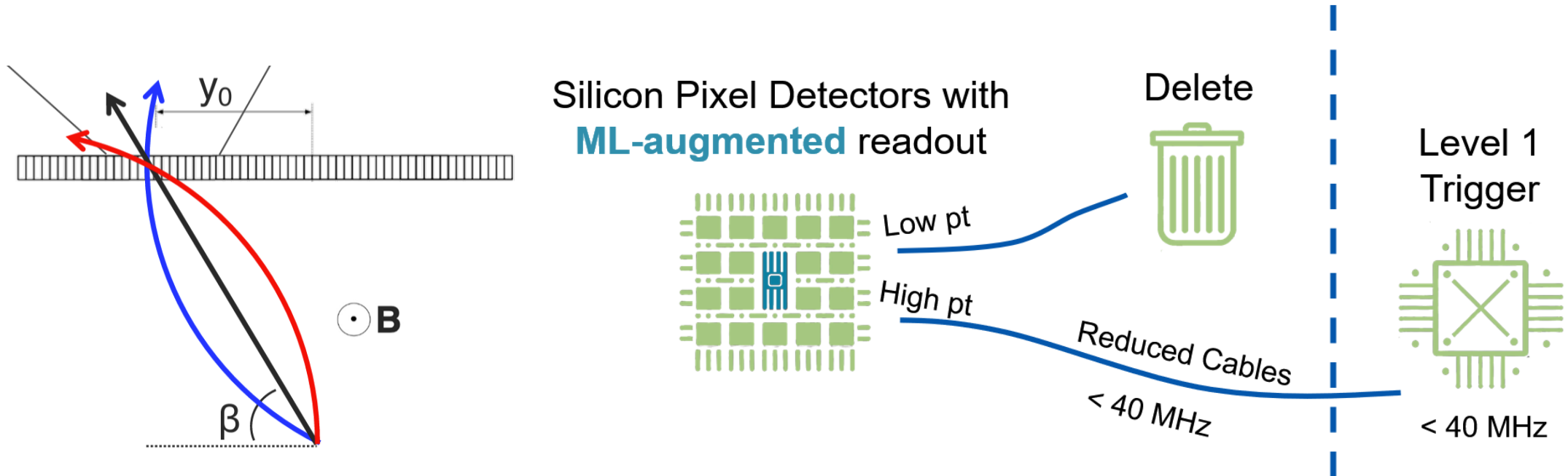
Timestep: 4 | Data Point: 19 | pt: -0.23



\* <https://zenodo.org/records/7331128>

# Proof-of-concept study

Reduce data rate by momentum classification using a **Boosted Decision Tree** with conifer.



# Proof-of-concept Results

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We train a BDT to classify tracks with transverse momentum larger than 2 GeV, quantize and implement on the v1 eFPGA in 28nm CMOS. Use only 294 LUTs and nothing else (BRAM\_18K, DSP, FF, URAM). Latency under 25ns. **Hardware test achieves 100% accuracy compared to expected output!**

Published [2024 JINST 19 P08023](#)

Journal of Instrumentation

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PAPER

Embedded FPGA developments in 130 nm and 28 nm CMOS for machine learning in particle detector readout

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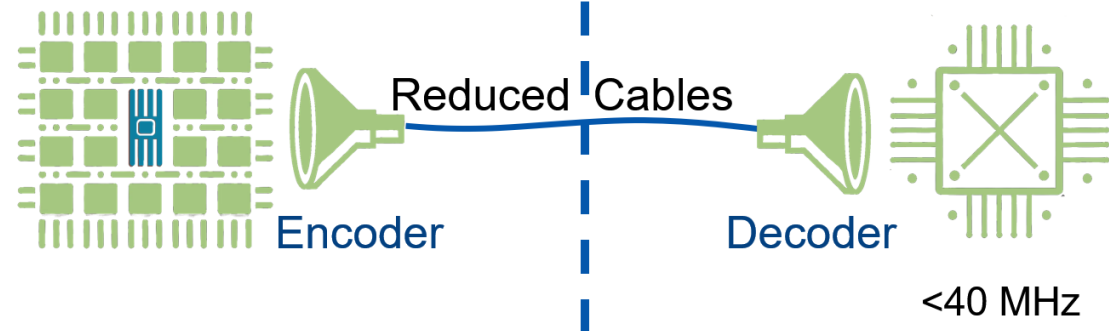


# Variational Autoencoder for readout

Variational Autoencoder is a type of neural network which learns to compress and reconstruct input data. We propose to use them for **off-detector data compression** and **anomaly detection** for readout system.

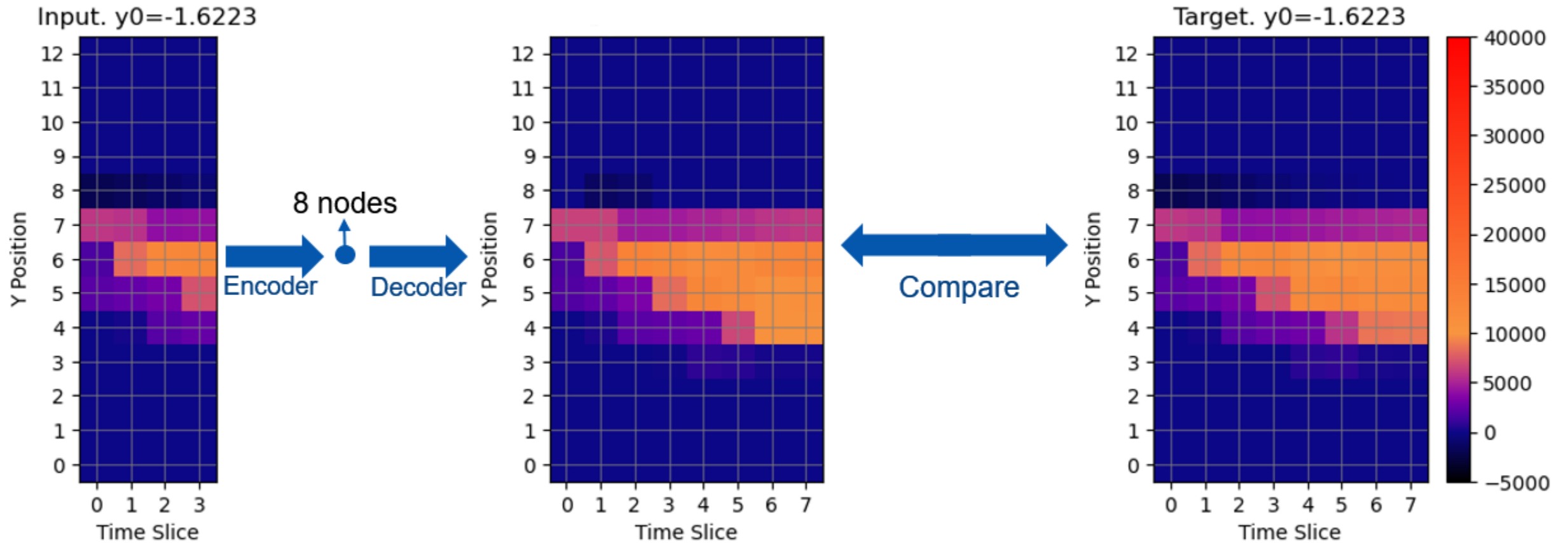
- Latency constraint <25 ns
- Within eFPGA limited resources

Silicon Pixel Detectors with  
**ML-enhanced** readout



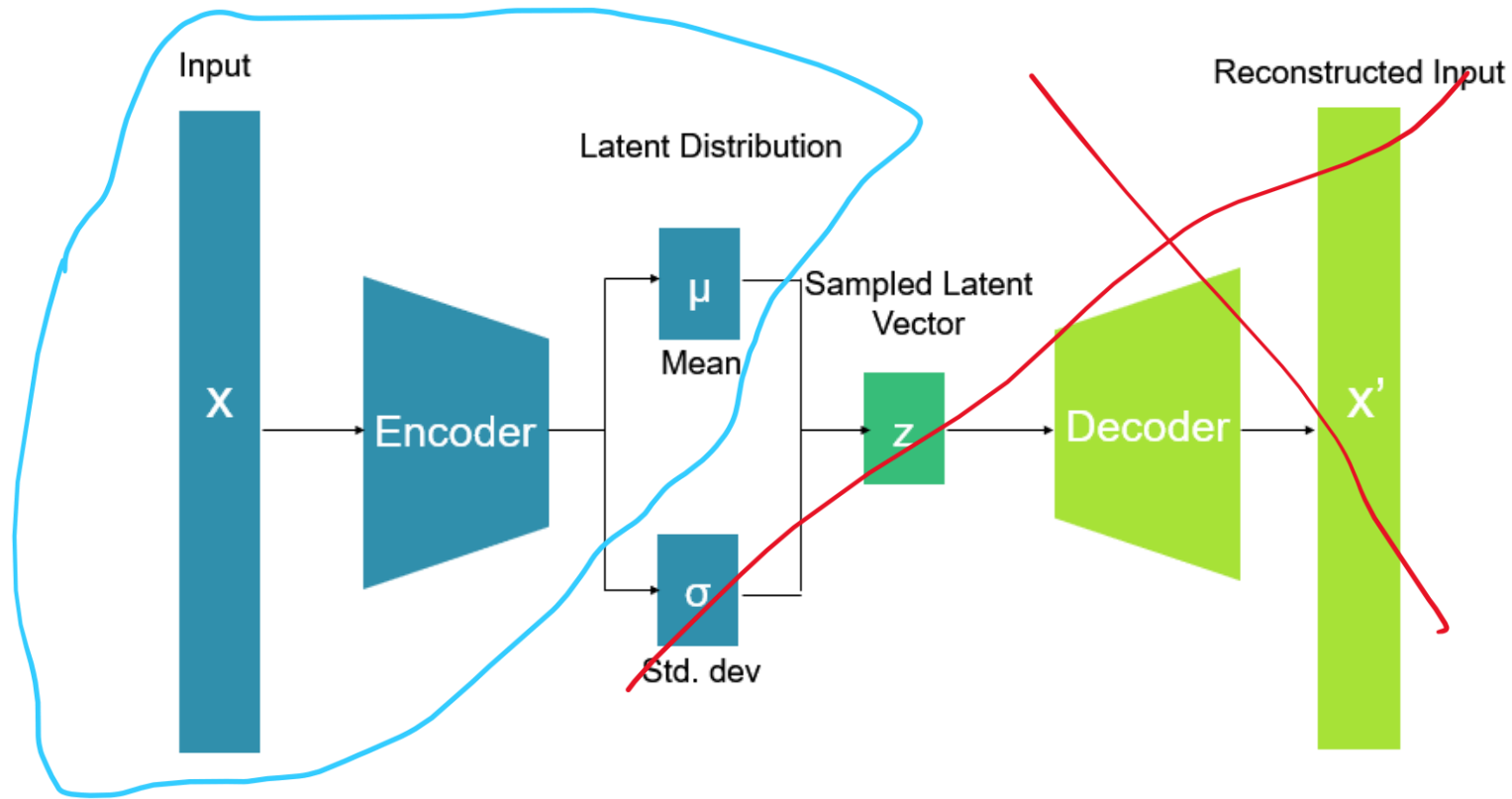


# Example reconstruction



The model learns to reconstruct the whole piece with only 4 time slices!

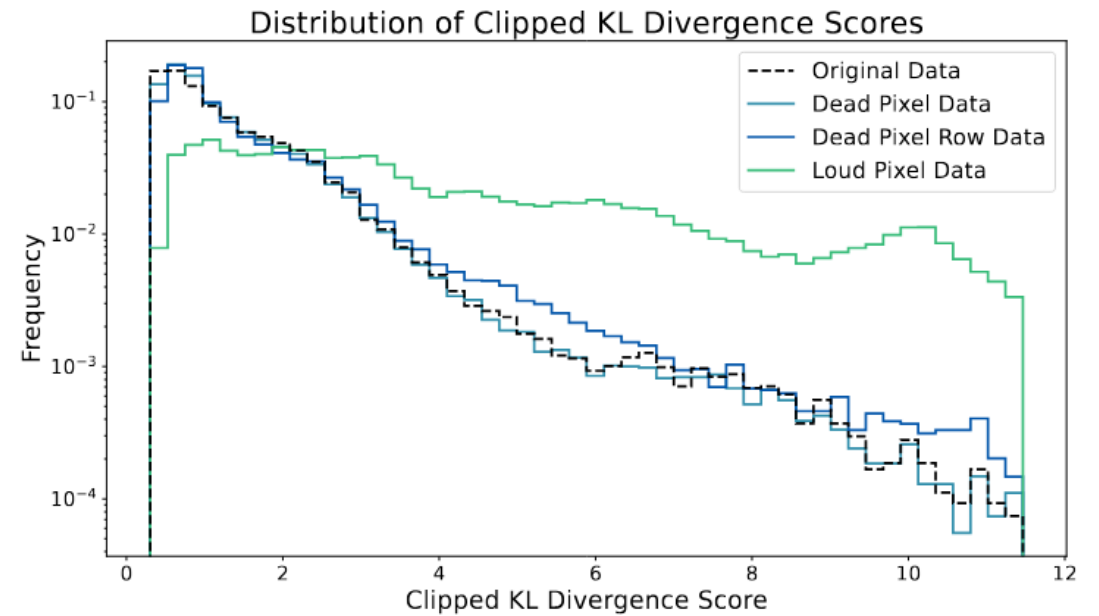
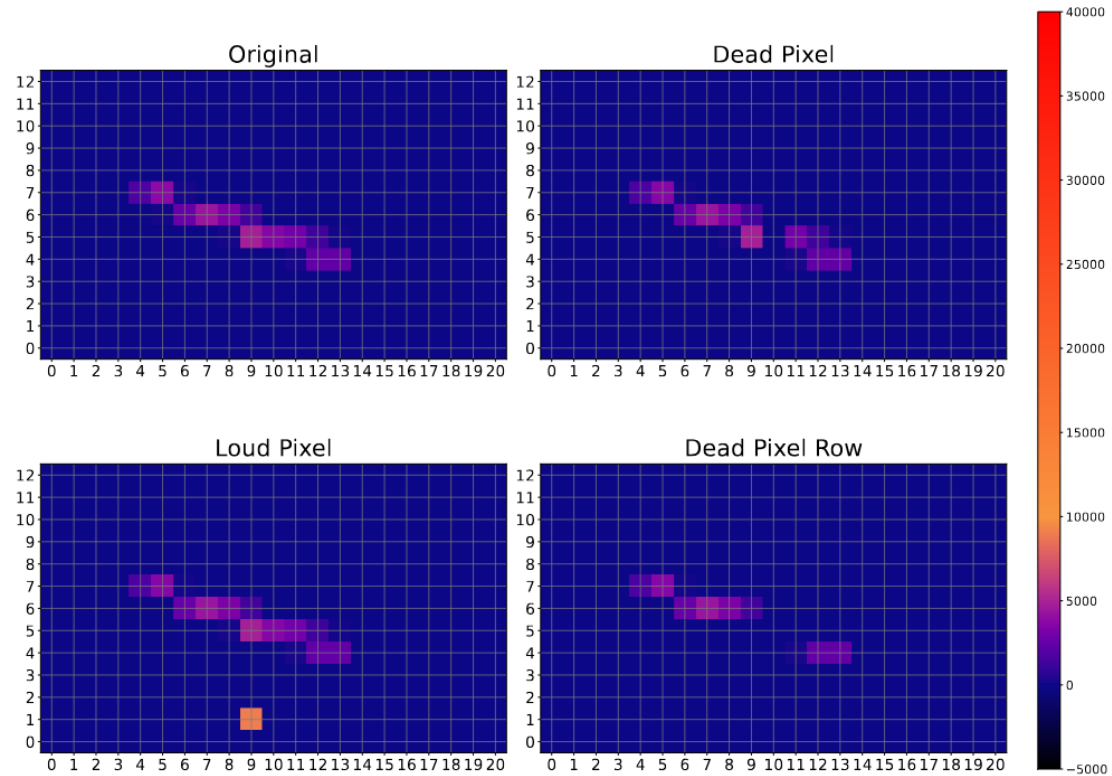
# Variational Autoencoder (VAE)



Kullback–Leibler divergence(KL) is a regularization term in training loss which helped shape the latent distribution into gaussian. Then the clipped KL divergence can be used as anomaly score with only the mean.

$$2 \cdot \text{KL} = \sum_i \mu_i^2 + \sigma_i^2 - 1 - \log \sigma_i^2$$

# VAE for Defect monitoring



Clipped KLD can be used to capture detector defects.

Results on [arXiv 2411.01118](https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.01118) and submitted to JHEP.

# 4

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## Conclusions and Next steps

# Conclusions and Next steps

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- Real-time machine learning embedded directly in particle detector hardware could revolutionize how these instruments operate at future colliders.
- Highly generalizable: can apply to any input data format
  - Applications under study: silicon trackers/calorimeters, drift chambers, dual readout, hardware accelerators, common electronics
- Expressions of interest submitted to CPAD RDC4 (electronics), FCC, US Higgs Factory
  - Team: SLAC, LBNL, Baylor University, Fermilab, University of Hawaii, University of Michigan
- Future work (1-5 years):
  - Tape out larger eFPGA for more complex algorithms, hardware verification, and power studies
  - Implement radiation-hardness and/or cryogenic tolerance in open-source design frameworks
  - Develop experiment-specific prototypes for Higgs factory & more
  - Resources needed: AI-ASIC engineer design hours, physicist hours, M&S for tape outs
- Hope to deliver eFPGAs as a viable readout technology for future Higgs factory detector designs!