Economical Jet Taggers

Equivariant, slim, and quantized

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HEIDELBERG
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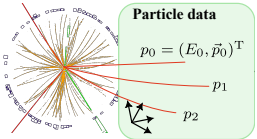
SEIT 1386

Funded by
the European Union

Jet tagging



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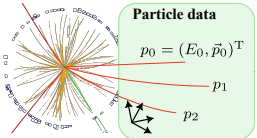

Point cloud $(p_1, \ldots, p_n)$ = set of vectors with additional scalar features

$$v = \begin{pmatrix} E_0 & p_{x,0} & p_{y,0} & p_{z,0} \\ \vdots & & & \\ E_n & p_{x,n} & p_{y,n} & p_{z,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$s = \begin{pmatrix} \mathrm{PID}_0 & \Delta\phi_0 & \Delta\eta_0 & \ldots \\ \vdots & & & \\ \mathrm{PID}_n & \Delta\phi_n & \Delta\eta_n & \ldots \end{pmatrix}$$

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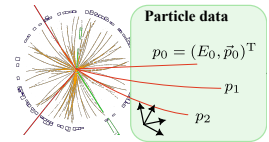

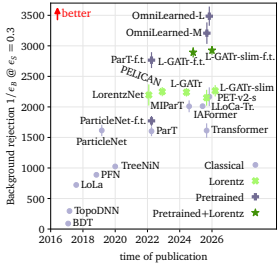

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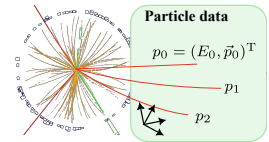

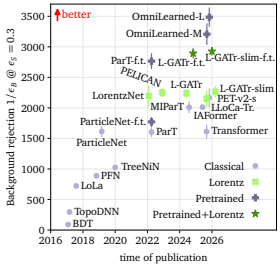

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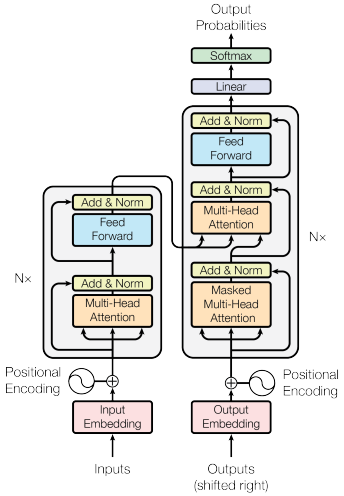
The inverse question

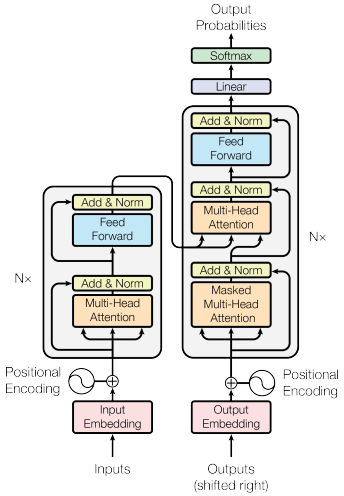
How small and efficient can modern jet taggers get, at limited performance loss?

Standard transformer



Vaswani et al., 2017

Standard transformer



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Linear

$$\text{Linear}(x) = Wx + b$$

Attention

$$A_{ij} = \frac{q_i \cdot k_j}{\sqrt{c}}$$

$$\text{out}_i = \sum_j \text{Softmax}_j(A_{ij})\, v_j$$

Other operations

- Activation function
- Layer norm

L-GATr-slim layers

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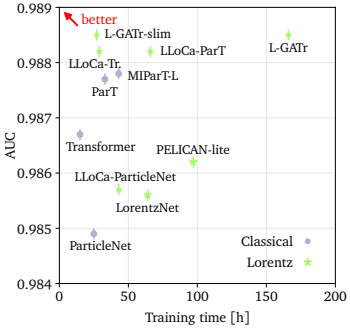
$$\text{out}_i = \sum_j \text{Softmax}_j(A_{ij}) \begin{pmatrix}v_{\mathfrak{s}}\\ v_{\mathfrak{v}}\end{pmatrix}_j$$

SOTA performance of L-GATr-slim



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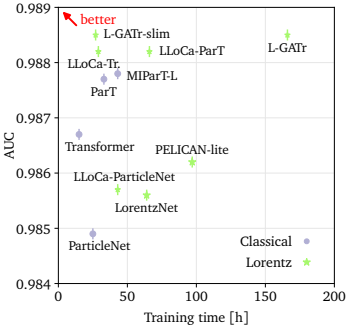

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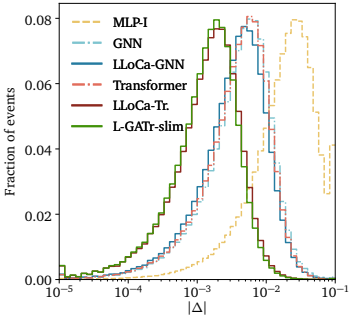

Amplitude regression

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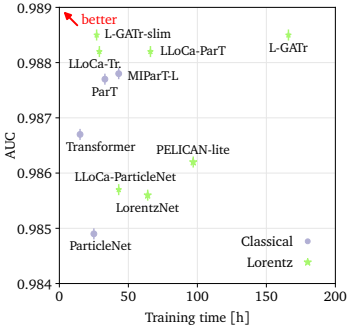

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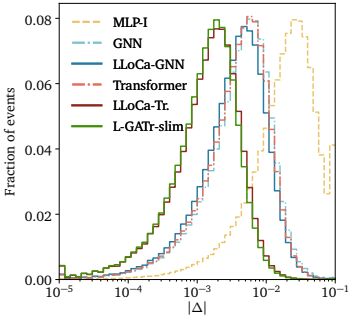

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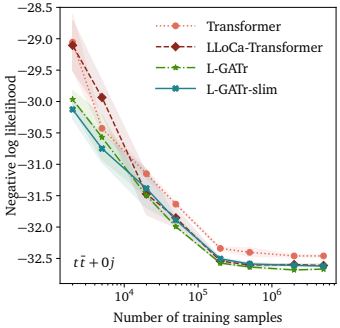
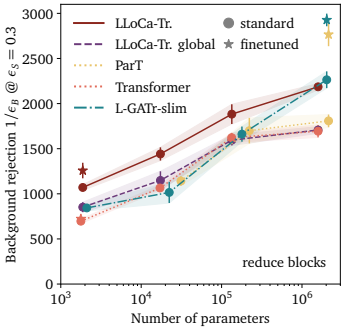


Event generation

Downscaling

Top taggers from $O(10^6)$ down to $\mathbf{O(10^3)}$ **parameters**



Fewer blocks: $10 \to 1$

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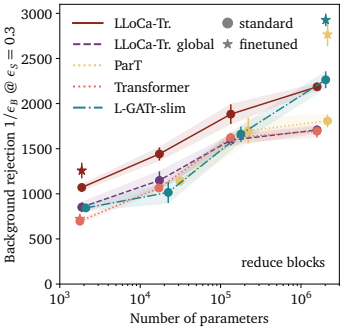

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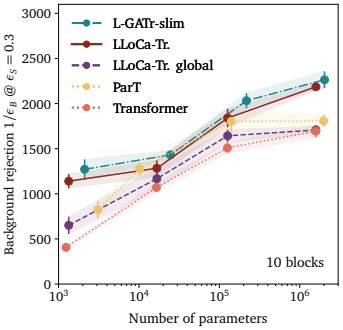

Narrower blocks: reduce latent dims

Quantization savings

Matrix multiplications dominate the cost: run them at lower precision.

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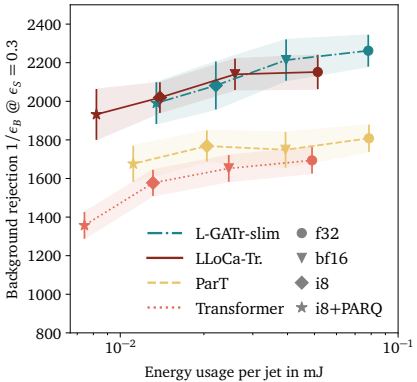

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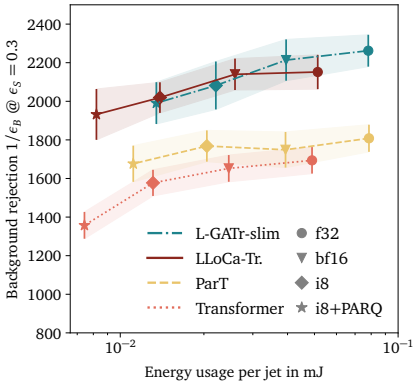

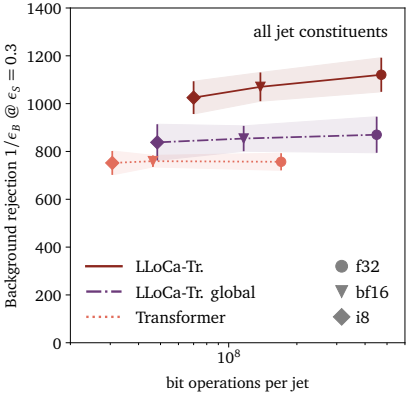

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arXiv
2512.17011

Poster 68

Backup: weight quantization as a regularizer

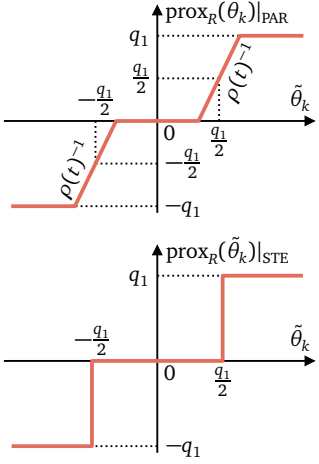
Push weights to ternary $\{0, \pm q\}$.

Constraint via proximal gradient

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QAT}} = \mathcal{L} + \lambda \sum_k R(\theta_k)$$

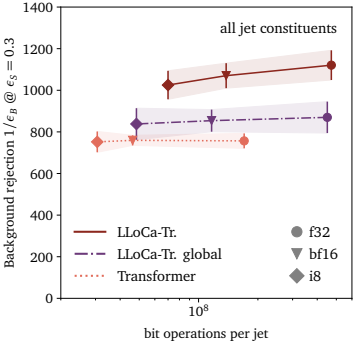
applied as a post-update map $\text{prox}_R(\tilde{\theta}_k)$

- **PARQ**: anneal map identity $\rightarrow$ step
- **STE**: hard step, special case

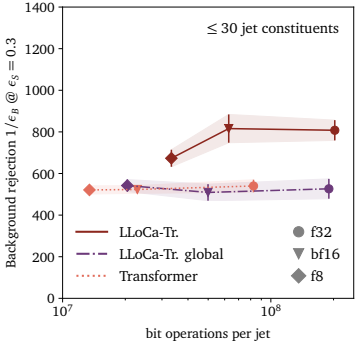


Backup: towards trigger-level tagging

Minimal LLoCa-Transformer: 1 block, 16-dim latent, static `int8`



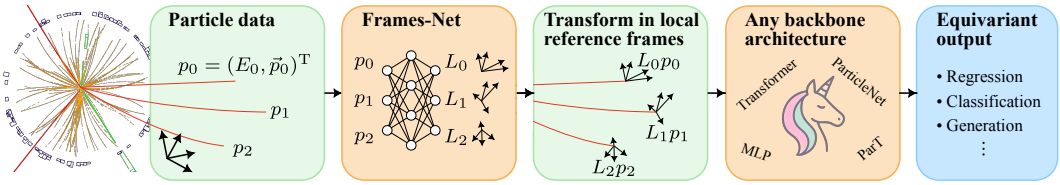
All constituents



30 leading constituents

Backup: L-GATr-slim building blocks

$$\mathrm{GLU}\begin{pmatrix}\mathfrak{s}\\ v\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}\mathrm{GELU}(\mathrm{Linear}(\mathfrak{s})) \cdot \mathrm{Linear}(\mathfrak{s})\\ \mathrm{GELU}(\langle \mathrm{Linear}(v), \mathrm{Linear}(v)\rangle) \cdot \mathrm{Linear}(v)\end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathrm{RMSNorm}\begin{pmatrix}\mathfrak{s}\\ v\end{pmatrix} = \left(\frac{1}{c_v + c_\mathfrak{s}}\left(\sum_{c=1}^{c_v} |\langle v_c, v_c\rangle|^2 + \sum_{c=1}^{c_\mathfrak{s}} \mathfrak{s}_c^2\right) + \epsilon\right)^{-1/2}\begin{pmatrix}\mathfrak{s}\\ v\end{pmatrix}$$

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