





The Dependence of Cooling and Heating Functions on Local Radiation Fields

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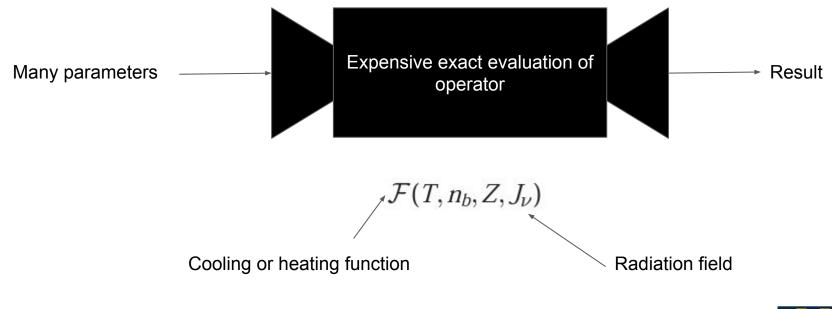
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Approximating operators: general problem







If the operator is linear...

Known solution: principal component analysis (PCA)!





But what is the non-linear version of PCA?

No generic solution, but an opportunity to apply machine learning



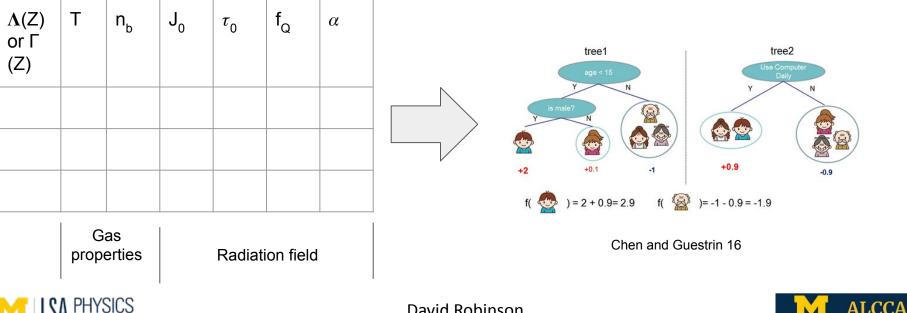


What kind of machine learning approach?

Tabular training data

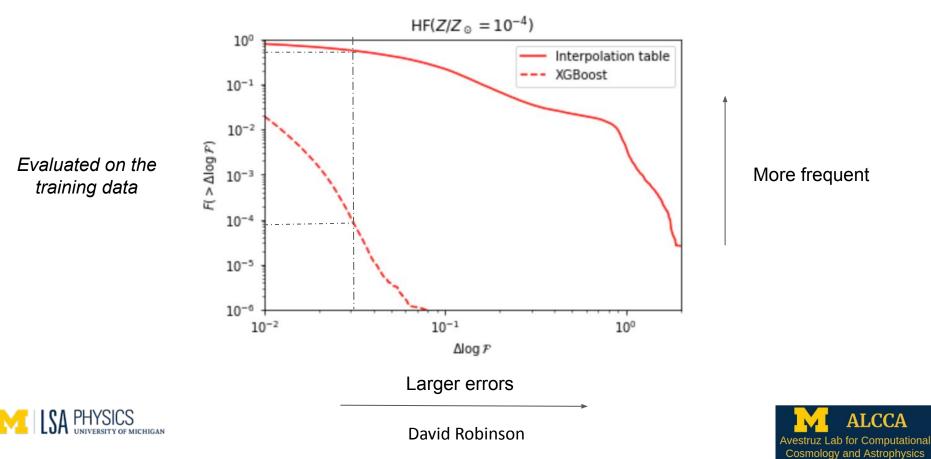
Gradient boosted trees (XGBoost)

Avestruz Lab for Computational Cosmology and Astrophysics



PHYSICS

XGBoost can outperform an interpolation table



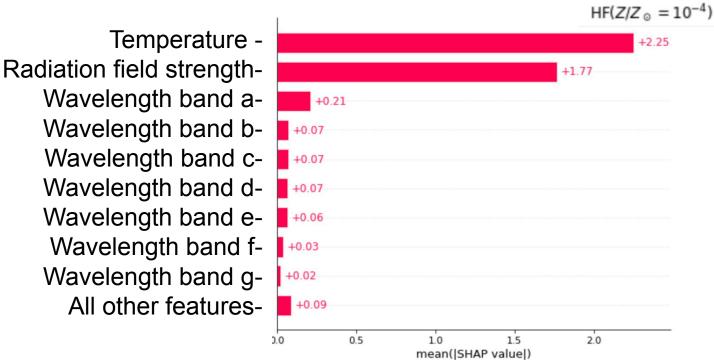
But PCA also tells us which variables are most influential





Feature importances with *shap*

Input features that contribute more to model predictions

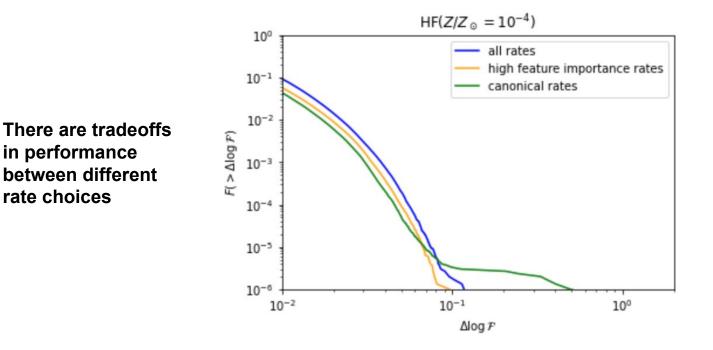


"Average contribution to model prediction"





Are the most important rates more predictive?



Evaluated on test data withheld from training



