

# Real-time estimation of line-averaged plasma density on EAST using LightGBM

**Yucheng Wang<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Wenhui Hu<sup>1,3</sup>, Bingjia Xiao<sup>1,2,3</sup>,  
Qiping Yuan<sup>1,3</sup>, Ruirui Zhang<sup>1,3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Plasma Physics, Hefei Institutes of Physical Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences

<sup>2</sup> University of Science and Technology of China

<sup>3</sup> Institute of Energy, Hefei Comprehensive National Science Center

\*Email: [yucheng.wang@ipp.ac.cn](mailto:yucheng.wang@ipp.ac.cn)



## Introduction

---

## Methodology

---

## Results

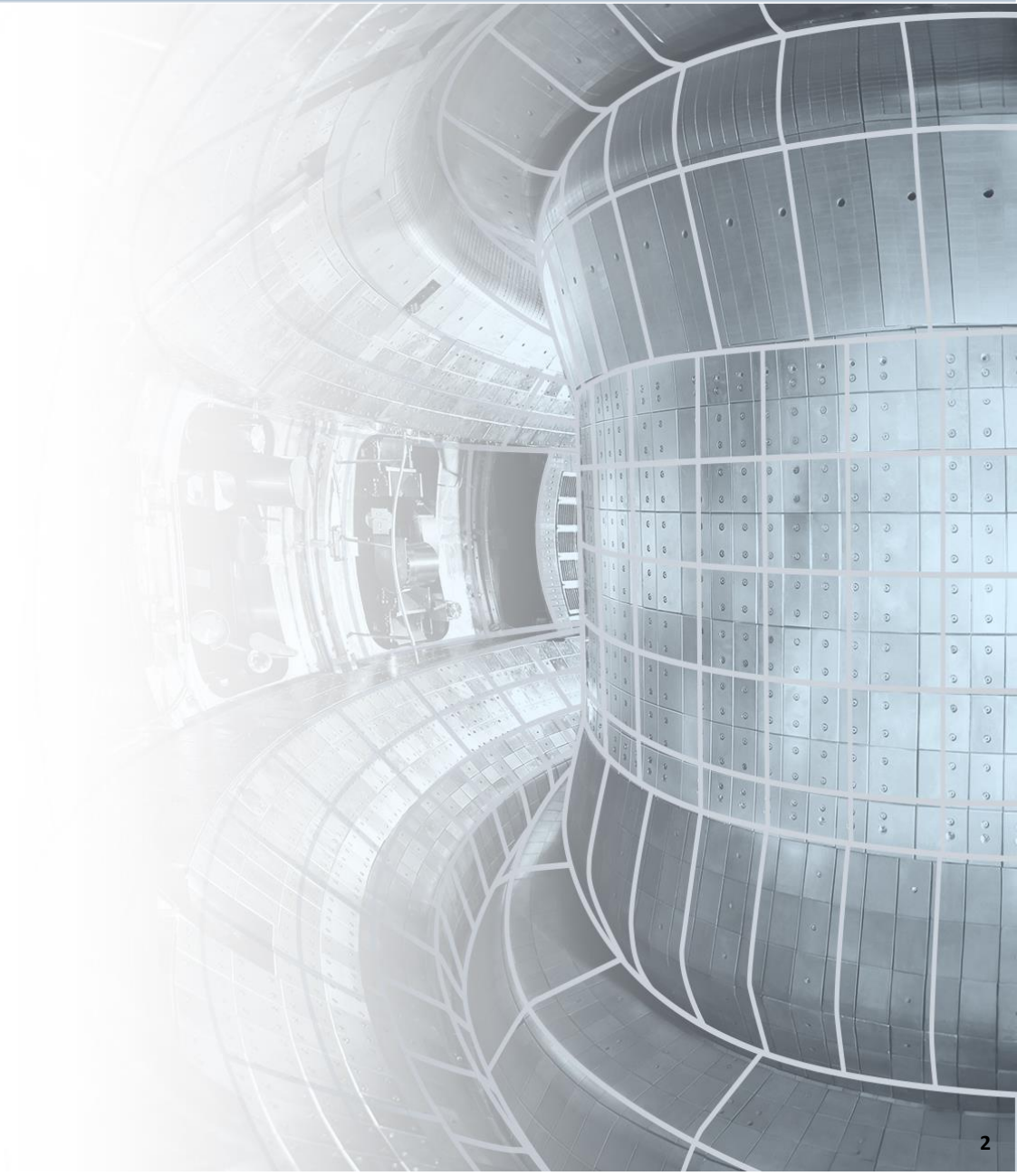
---

## Discussion

---

## Summary

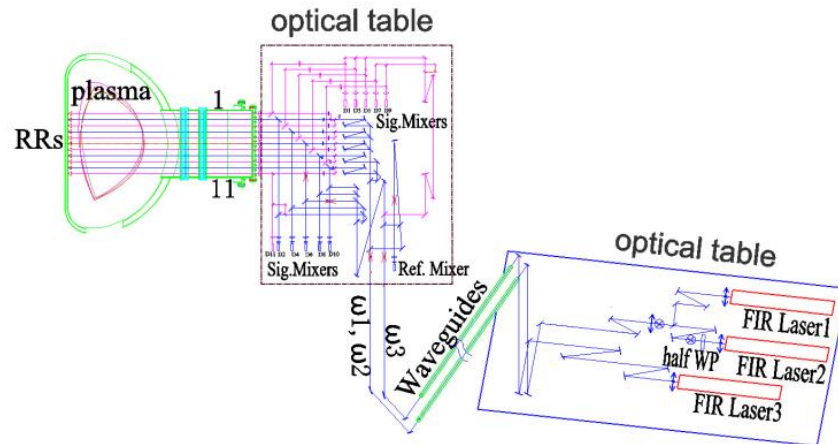
---



In the EAST Tokamak, plasma density is a critical parameter, and its accurate measurement is essential for the success of experiments. Currently, EAST primarily uses two methods to measure plasma density: POINT measurement and HCN (Hydrogen Cyanide) measurement.

## Point Measurement Method

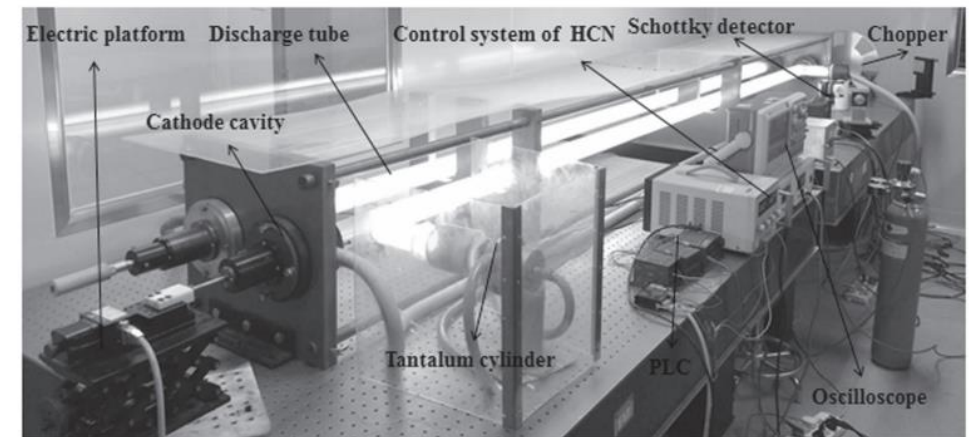
- The point measurement method typically uses microwave reflectometry or laser interferometry to obtain plasma density information.



11 channels optical layout of the EAST POINT system

## HCN Measurement Method

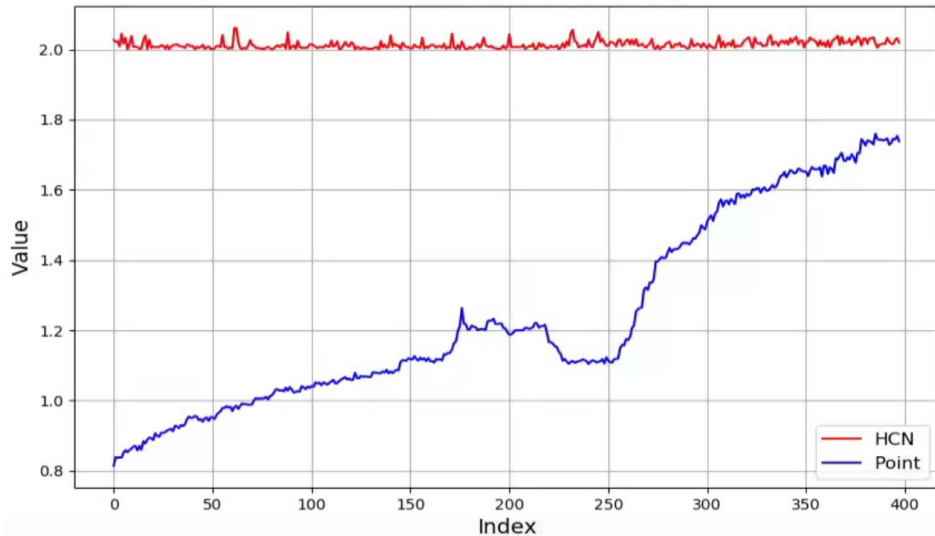
- The HCN measurement method employs an HCN laser interferometer, which infers plasma density by measuring the phase change of the laser as it propagates through the plasma.



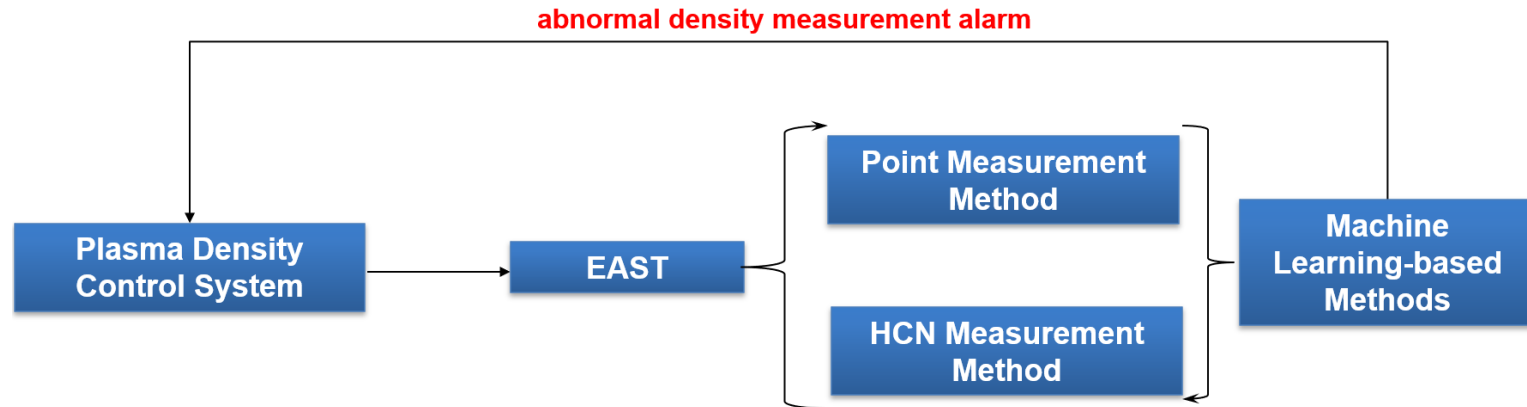
Experimental setup for the bench test of the HCN dual laser interferometer

# Measurement Errors and the Need for Re-estimation

Measurement errors can significantly impact the accurate assessment of plasma density, leading to density control errors and potential plasma disruptions.



*HCN and Point Measurement for Shot 134605*



*Structure of the Density Estimation System*



**Introduction**

---

**Methodology**

---

**Results**

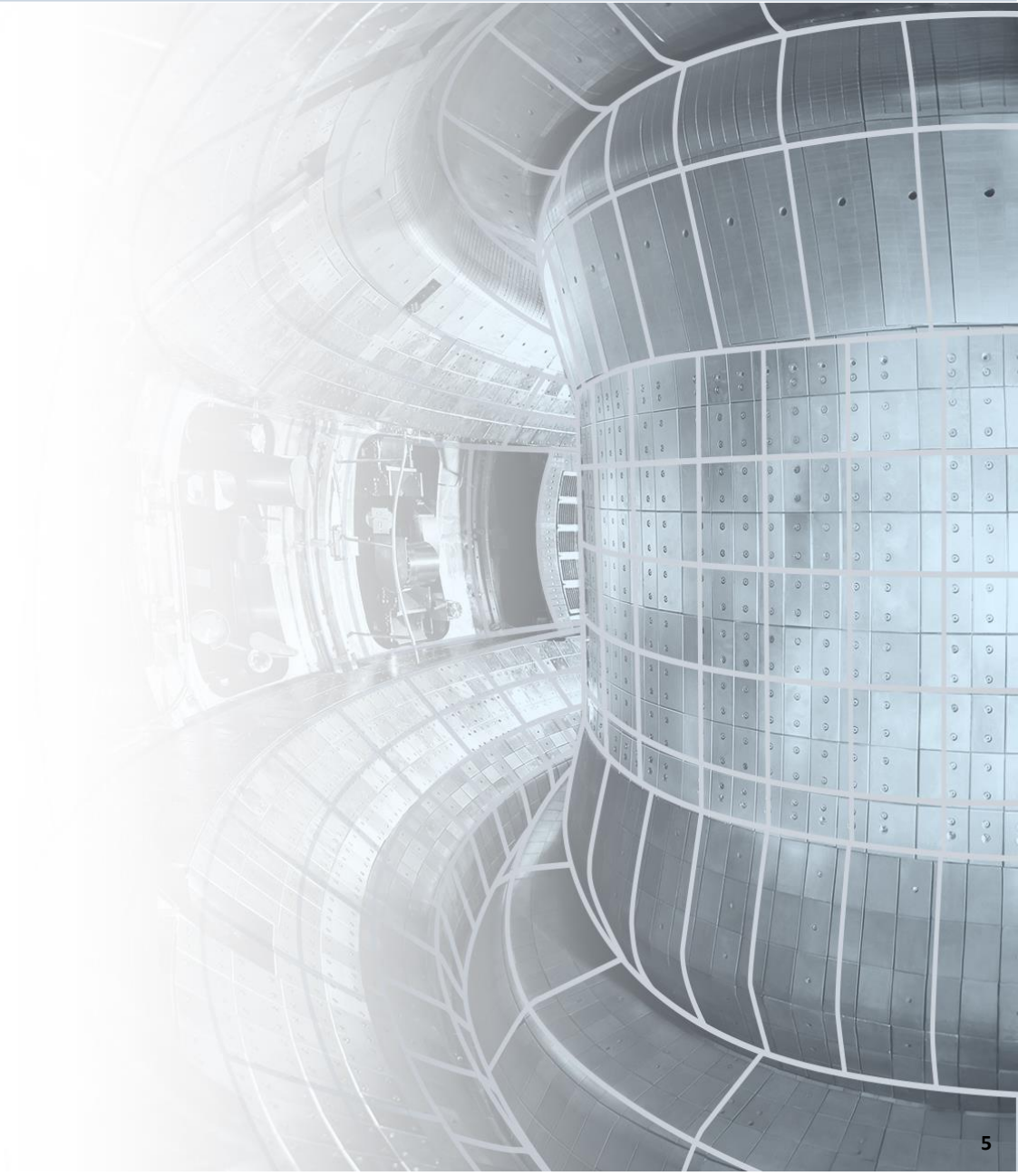
---

**Discussion**

---

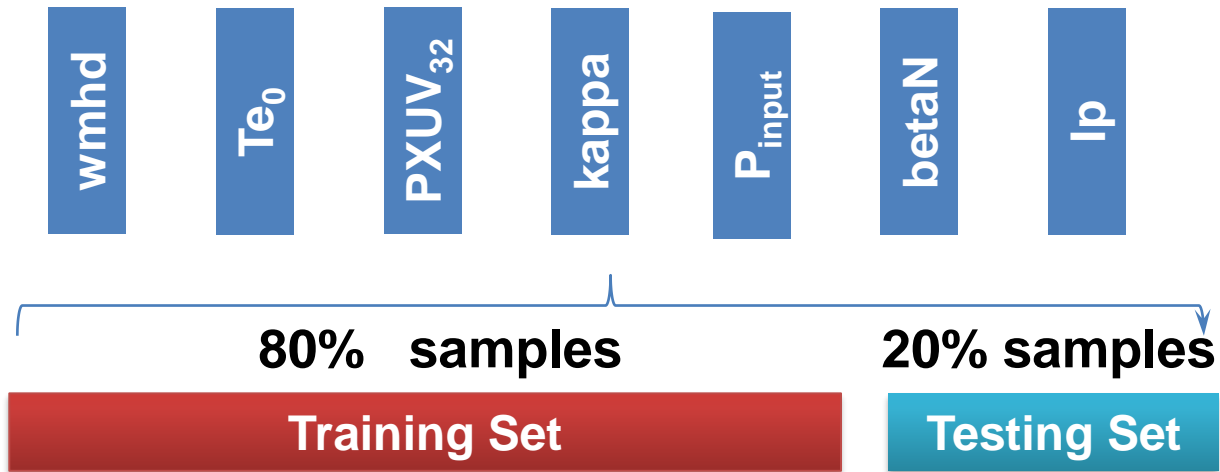
**Summary**

---



# Data Collection

To determine the reliability of the density signal used for density feedback control and still obtain relatively reliable density information to meet control requirements, this study applied the ensemble learning algorithm LightGBM to estimate plasma density information.

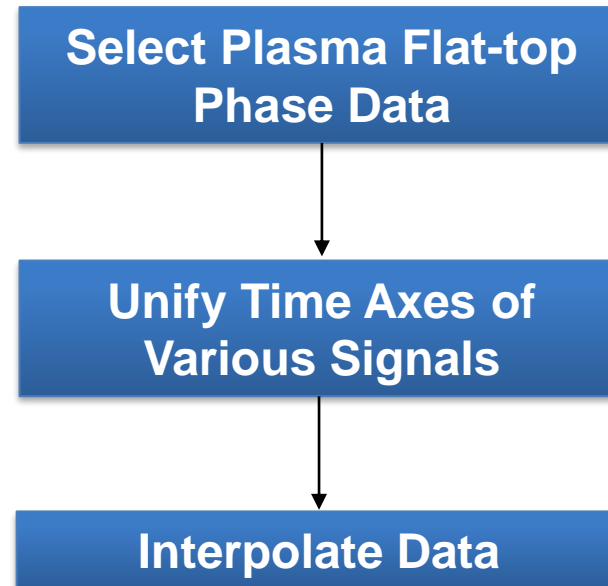


*Model Input Features and Physical Descriptions*

Features	Physical Descriptions	Units
$\beta_{N}$	beta ratio	None
$li$	plasma internal inductance	None
$wmhd$	plasma stored energy	MJ
$TE_0$	Te at plasma center	eV
$PXUV_{32}$	radiation power of horizontal central channel of fast bolometer system	KW
$I_p$	plasma current	MA
$P_{input}$	total power	KW

# Data Preprocess

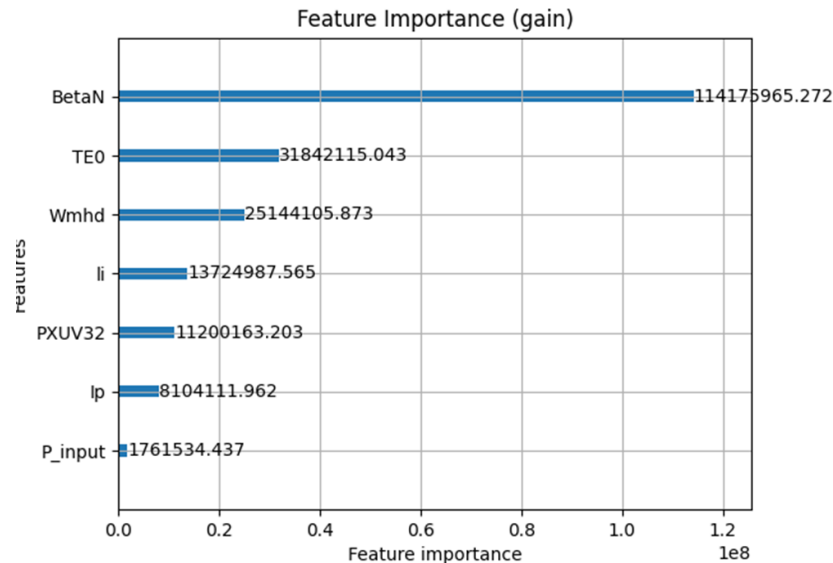
- First, data from the plasma flat-top phase are selected for regression.
- Next, the time axes of various signals are unified.
- After unifying the time axes, the data undergo interpolation.



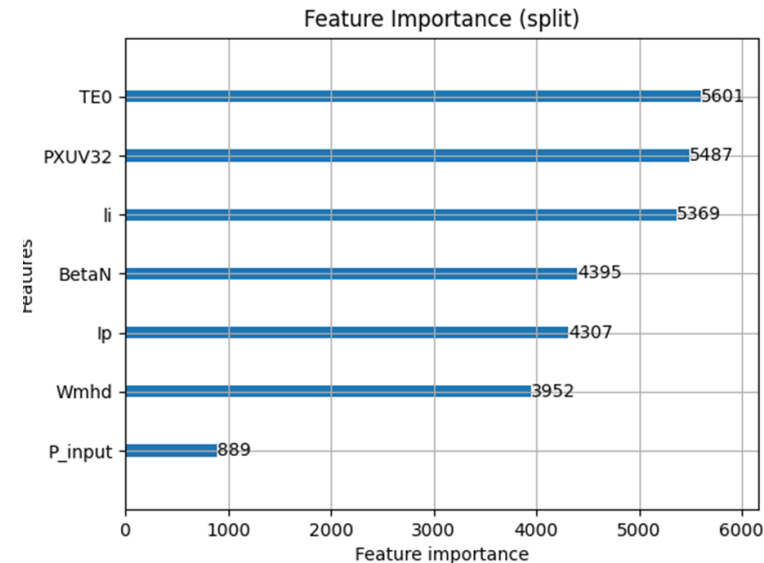
*Data Preprocessing Workflow*

# Model Training and Evaluation

- The model chosen for this study is the LightGBM model. LightGBM is an efficient gradient boosting framework that uses tree-based learning algorithms. It is particularly well-suited for tasks that involve large datasets and require high accuracy.
- The Left Figure shows the feature importance (gain) in a LightGBM model. The horizontal bar chart indicates the relative importance of various features in terms of gain, which measures the contribution of each feature to reducing the loss function. The Right Figure shows the feature importance (split) in a LightGBM model. This horizontal bar chart reflects the frequency with which each feature is used to split the data across all trees in the model.



*Feature Importance by Gain*



*Feature Importance by Split*



**Introduction**

---

**Methodology**

---

**Results**

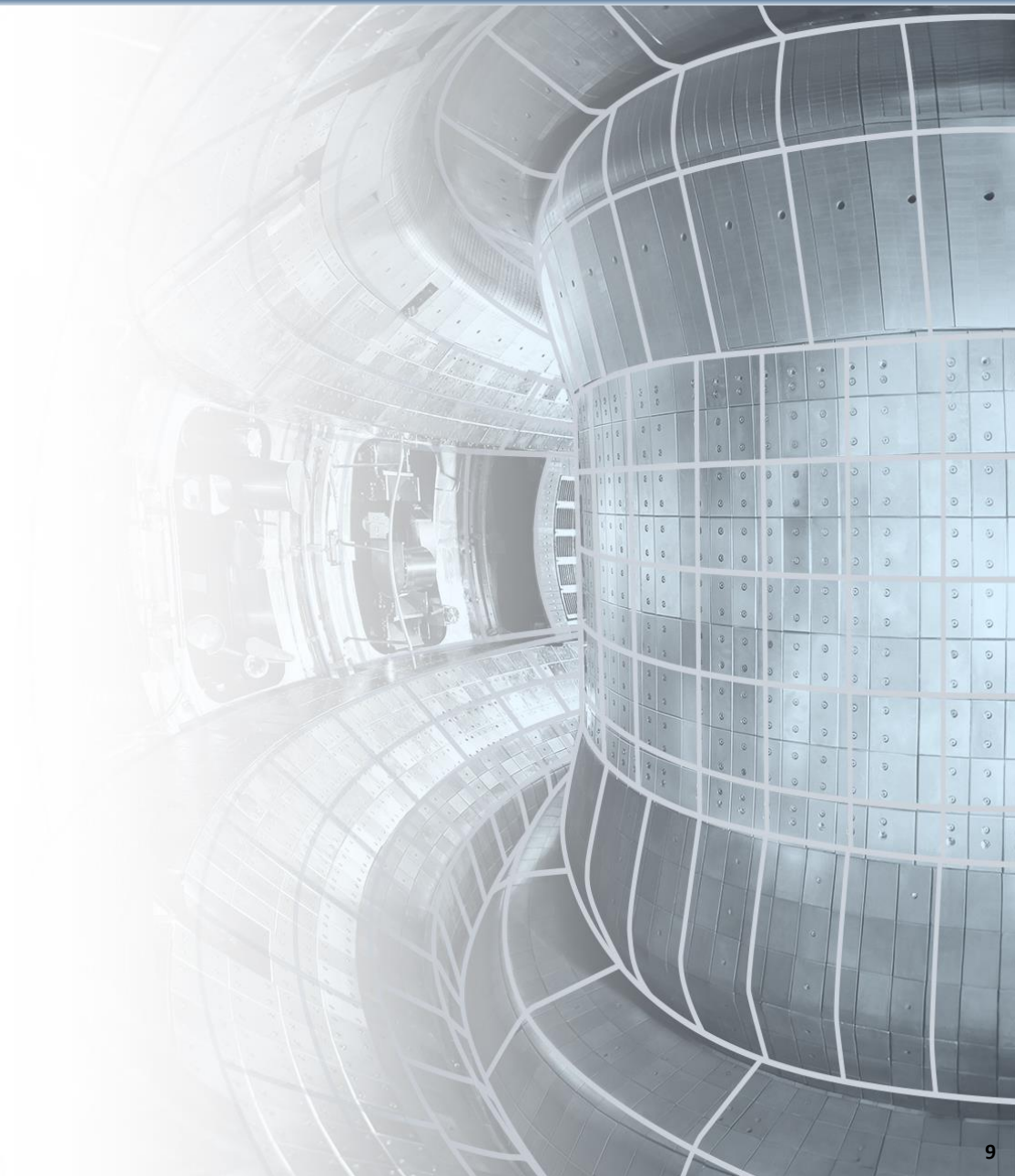
---

**Discussion**

---

**Summary**

---



These results highlight the effectiveness of the LightGBM model in providing accurate and fast plasma density estimations, which are essential for the successful operation and control of the EAST tokamak. The low error rates and high explanatory power of the model, combined with its rapid prediction capability, make it a valuable tool for real-time plasma density feedback control.

## *Performance Metrics of the LightGBM Model*

Metric	Result
MAPE	8.44%
RMSE	0.36
$R^2$ Score	0.83
Training Time (s)	0.275
Prediction Time (ms)	0.260

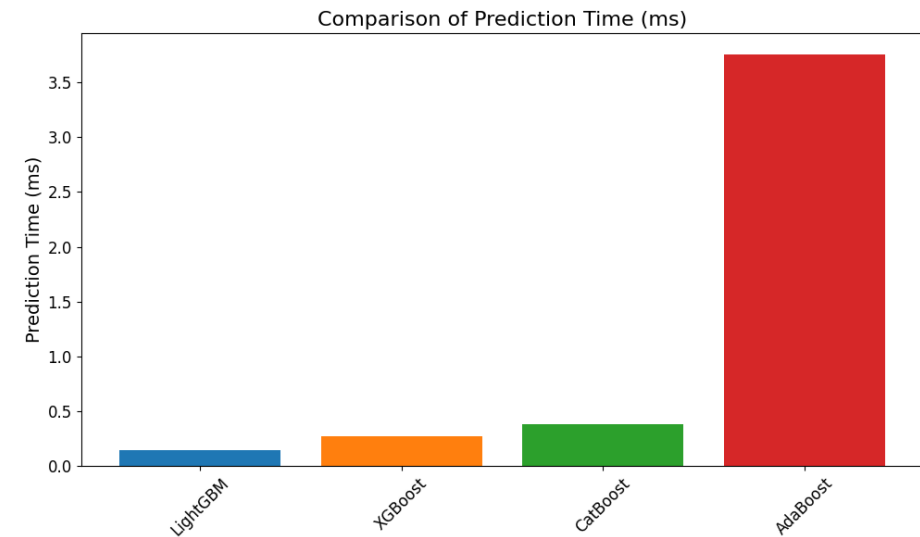
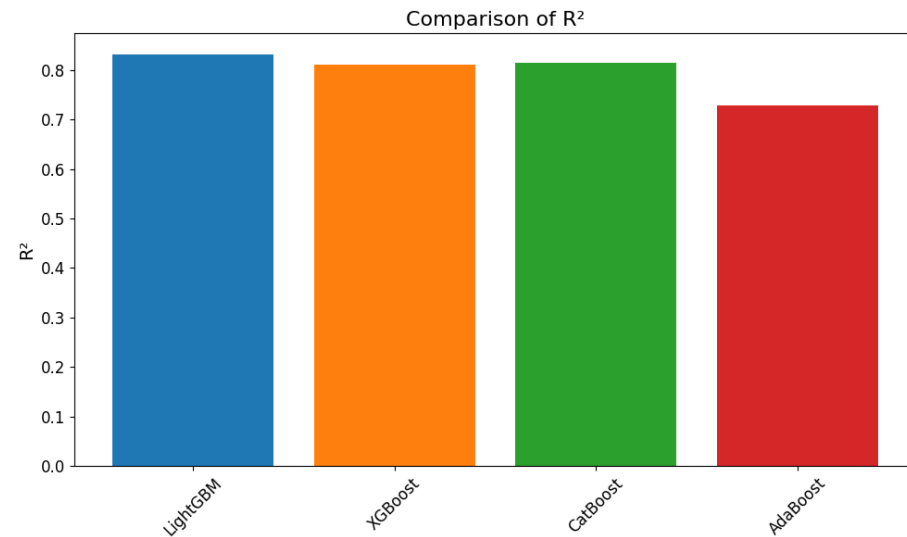
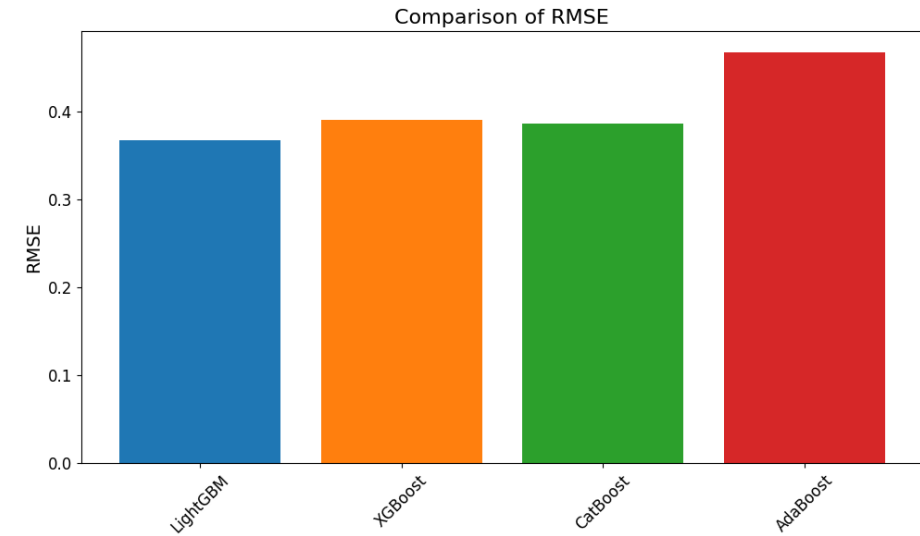
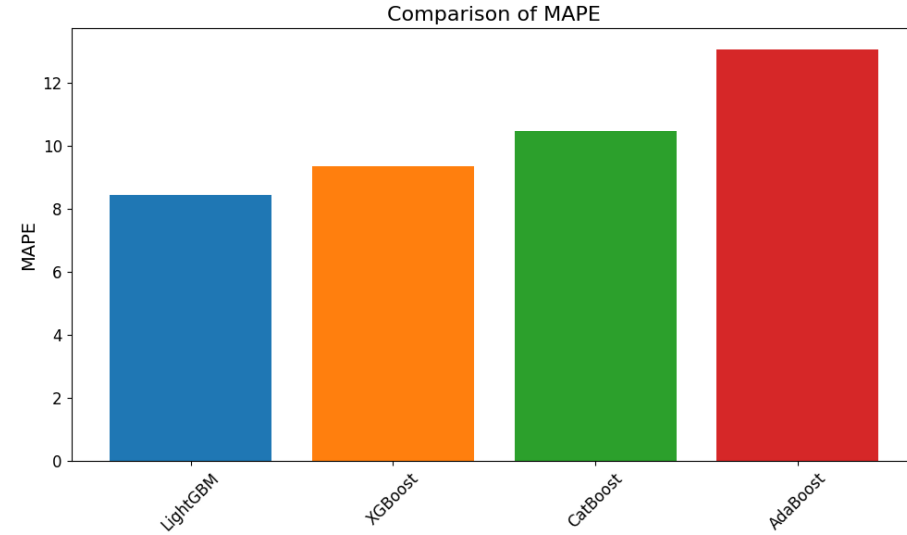
# Model Performance Metrics

The performance of the LightGBM model was compared with other machine learning models. The results are summarized in the table below:

*Performance Comparison of Machine Learning Models*

Model	MAPE	RMSE	$R^2$	Training Time (s)	Inference Time (ms)
LightGBM	<b>8.44%</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>0.275</b>	<b>0.262</b>
XGBoost	9.35%	0.39	0.874	0.298	0.348
CatBoost	10.46%	0.38	0.874	1.189	0.385
AdaBoost	13.06%	0.46	0.944	240.787	3.760

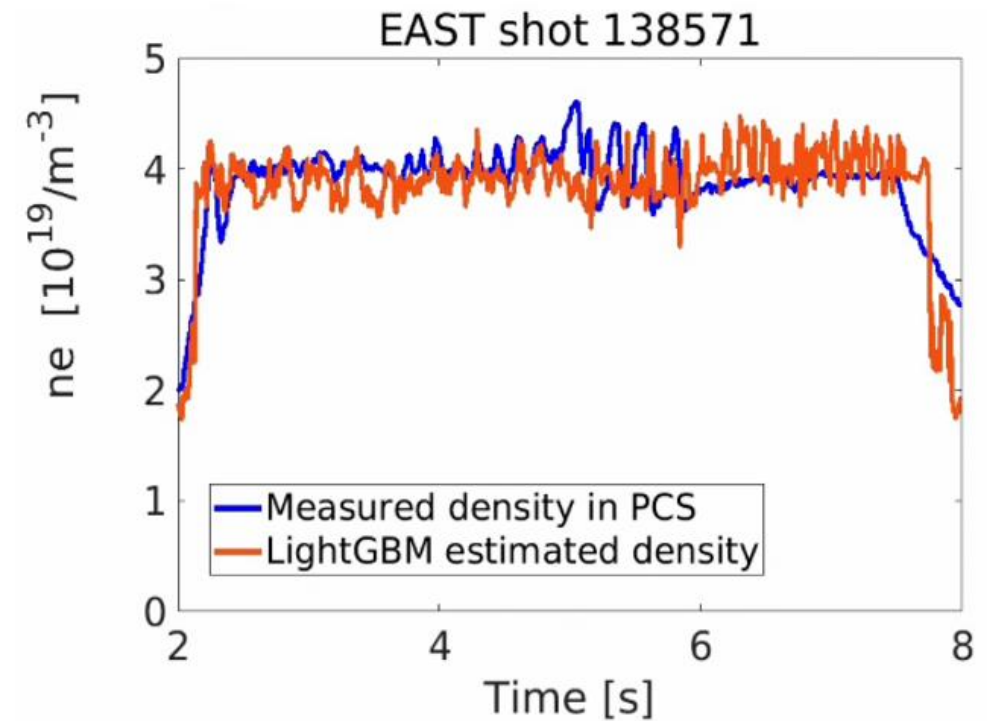
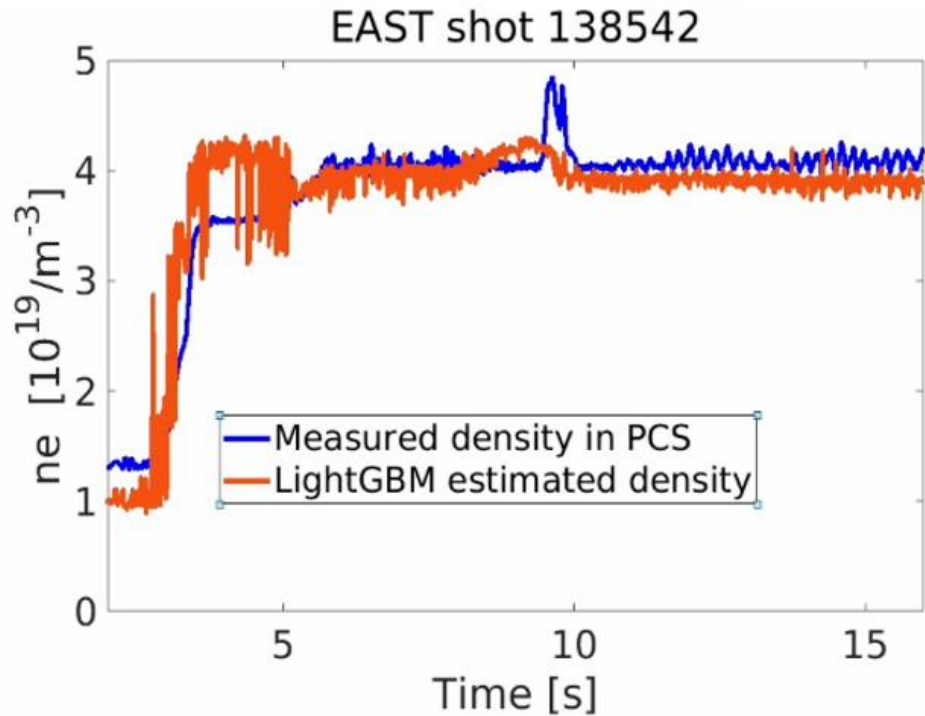
# Comparison with Other Methods



Performance Comparison of Machine Learning Models

# Test Results

- The comparison results for two specific shots, EAST shot 138542 and EAST shot 138571, are illustrated in the figures below.



*The comparison results for two specific shots, EAST shot 138542 and EAST shot 138571*



**Introduction**

---

**Methodology**

---

**Results**

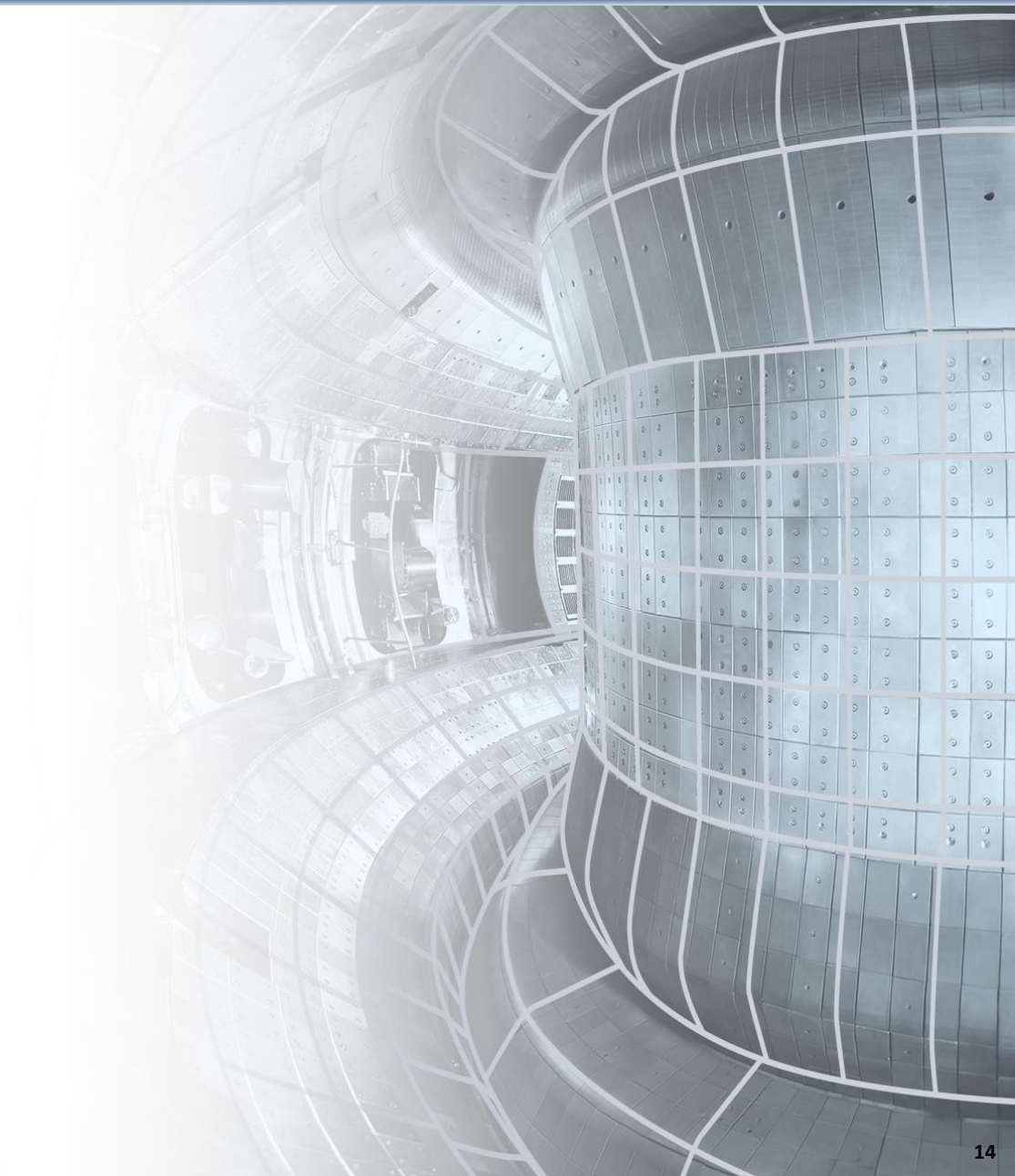
---

**Discussion**

---

**Summary**

---



- **Limitations of LightGBM for Plasma Density Prediction:**
  - High Error in Real-Time Computation
  - Insufficient Training Data
  - Inherent Limitations of LightGBM
  
- **Future Work:**
  - Expand the Training Dataset
  - Enhance Model Accuracy
  - Implement Robust Validation Techniques

**Introduction**

---

**Methodology**

---

**Results**

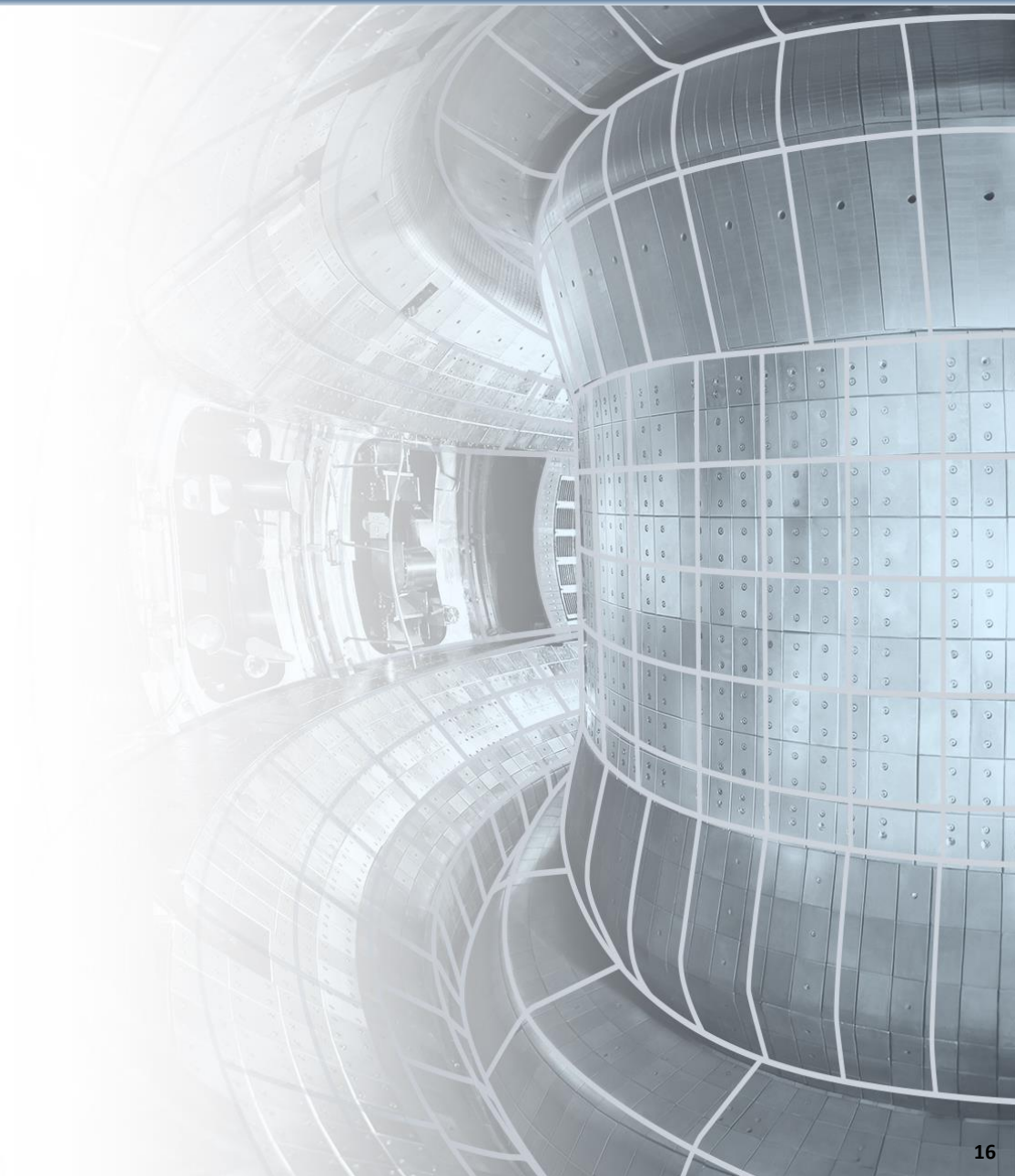
---

**Discussion**

---

**Summary**

---





We applied the LightGBM model for real-time plasma density estimation on the EAST tokamak, addressing limitations of current methods with its efficiency and accuracy.



Our methodology involved collecting data from EAST experiments, preprocessing it, and achieving strong performance metrics with LightGBM, including a MAPE of 20.5% and a rapid prediction time of 0.260 milliseconds.



Despite these successes, we identified limitations such as higher errors during rapid plasma changes. Future work will focus on expanding the dataset and exploring other models to further improve accuracy and robustness.





**Thank you !**