

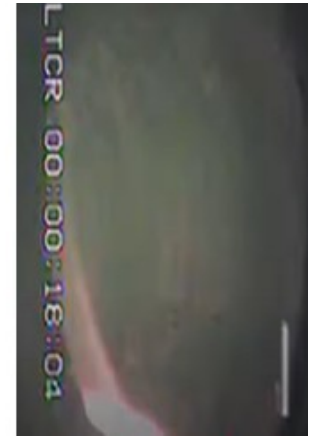
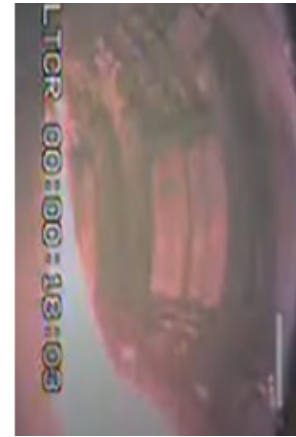
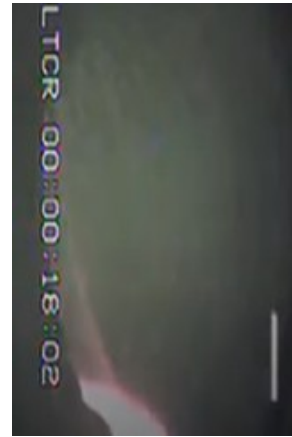
Variability and risk of edge-localized modes at JET using machine learning

J. Alhage, C. Haems, M. Van Damme, Y. Zhang, G. Verdoolaege,
JET Contributors, and the EUROfusion Tokamak Exploitation Team

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September 2025, Shanghai, China

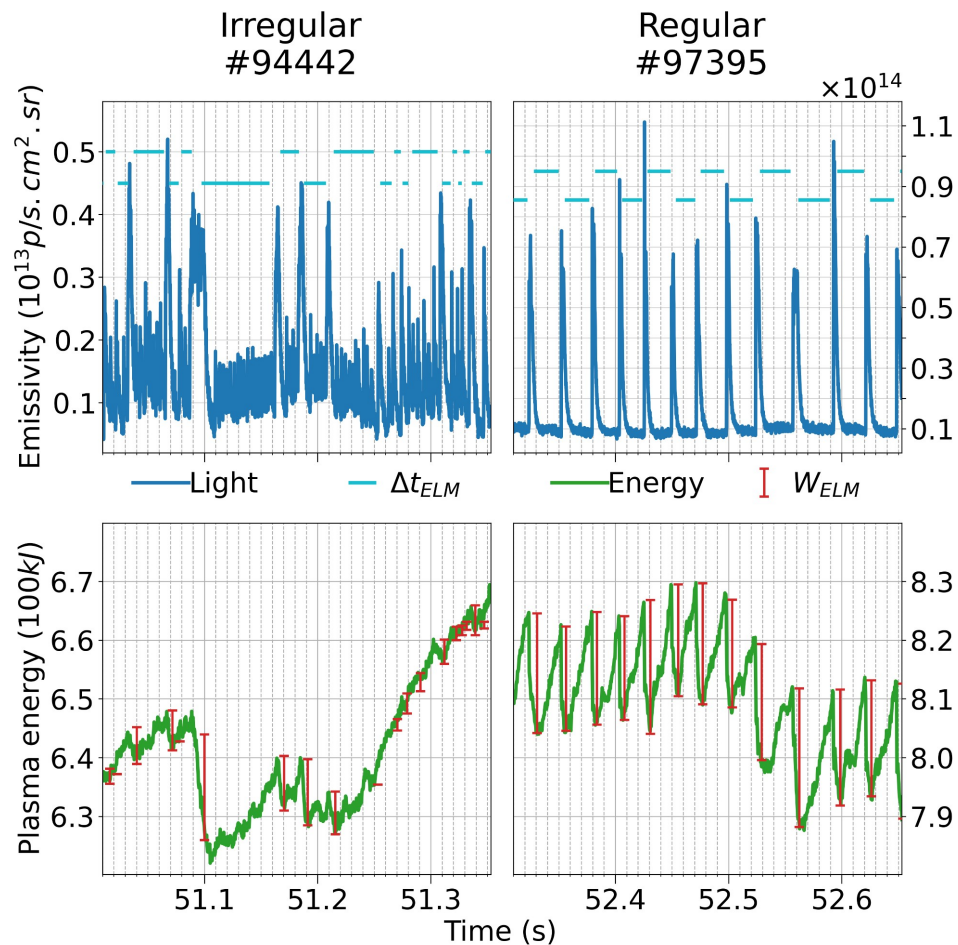
Edge-localized modes

- Type of instability
- Repeating releases of energy and particles from plasma edge.
- Effect is intense heat flux:
 - Duration $< 10\text{ms}$
 - Waiting time $< 30\text{ms}$
 - Energy 2-10% plasma
- Must be regulated to prevent damage to PFC

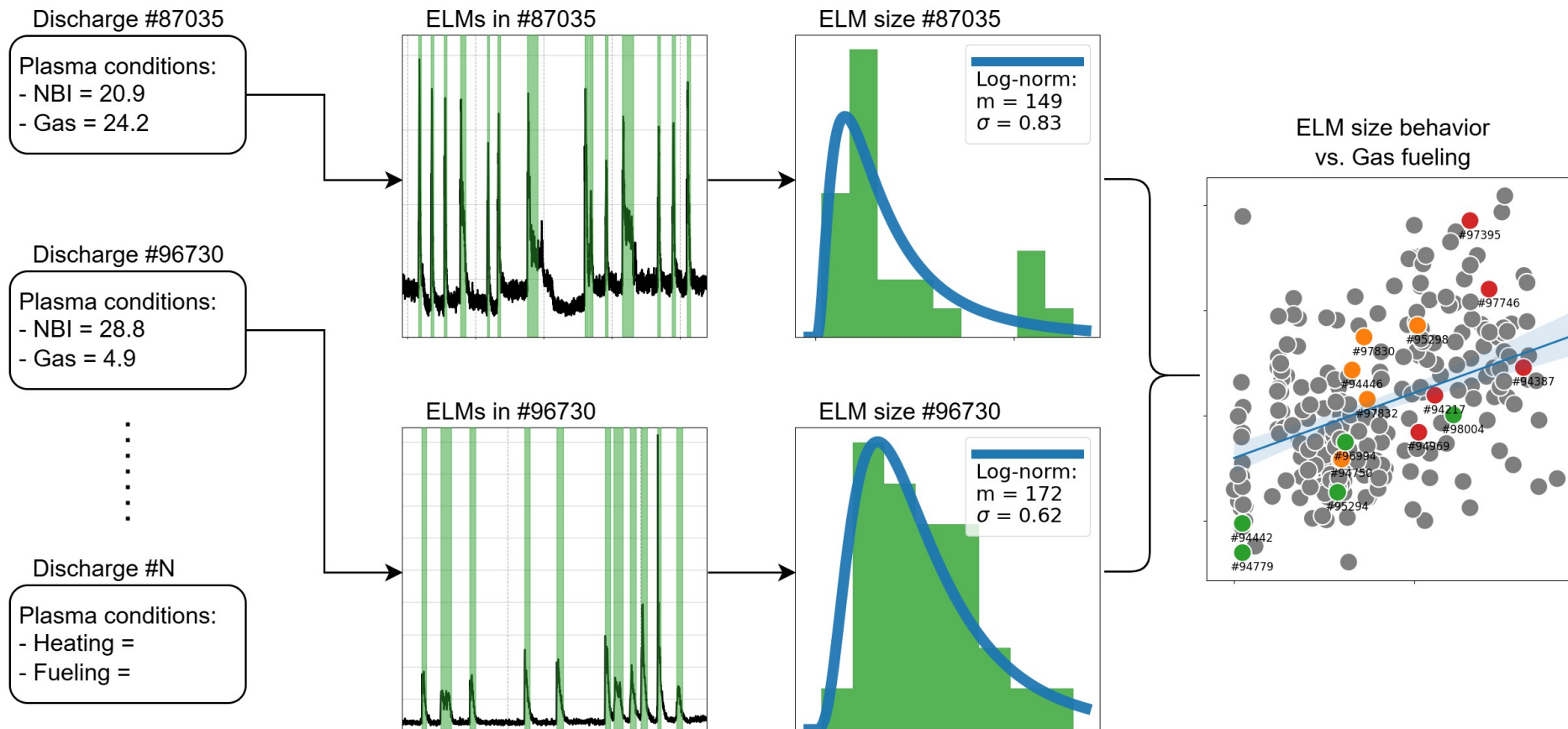


Edge-localized modes

- Behavior varies from pulse to pulse (frequency, energy)
- Depending on experiment conditions
- Motivation:
 - Which, and how, machine and plasma conditions affect ELMs
 - Data driven approach to understand the full variability and find areas of safe operation



Analyze



Data collection

13825 ELMs manually
marked for ML training

214 shots, 270 windows
JET campaign 2019-2021

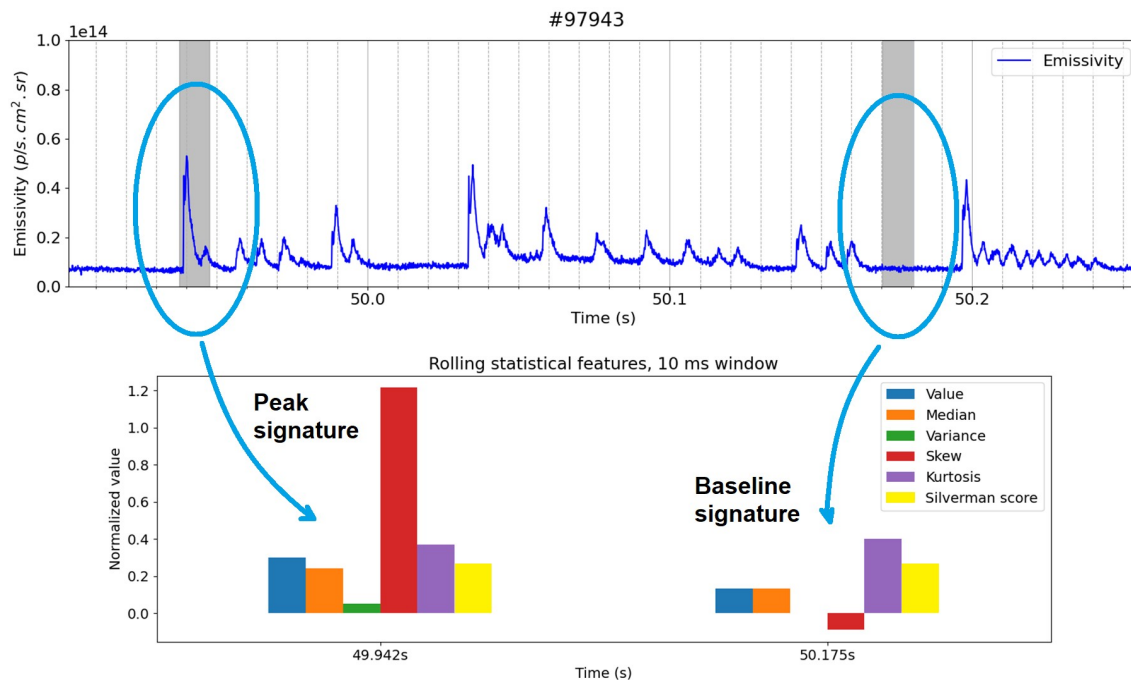
Process PDB-ILW^[1] data
with advanced detection

2000+ windows, 160000+
ELMs from JET 2012-2020

- Operating conditions or major controls:
 I_p , B_t , P_{NBI} , P_{ICRH} , gas, pellets, plasma shape, q_{95}
- ELM behavior:
 - Timing: Bell emissivity
 - Size (proxy): stored energy W

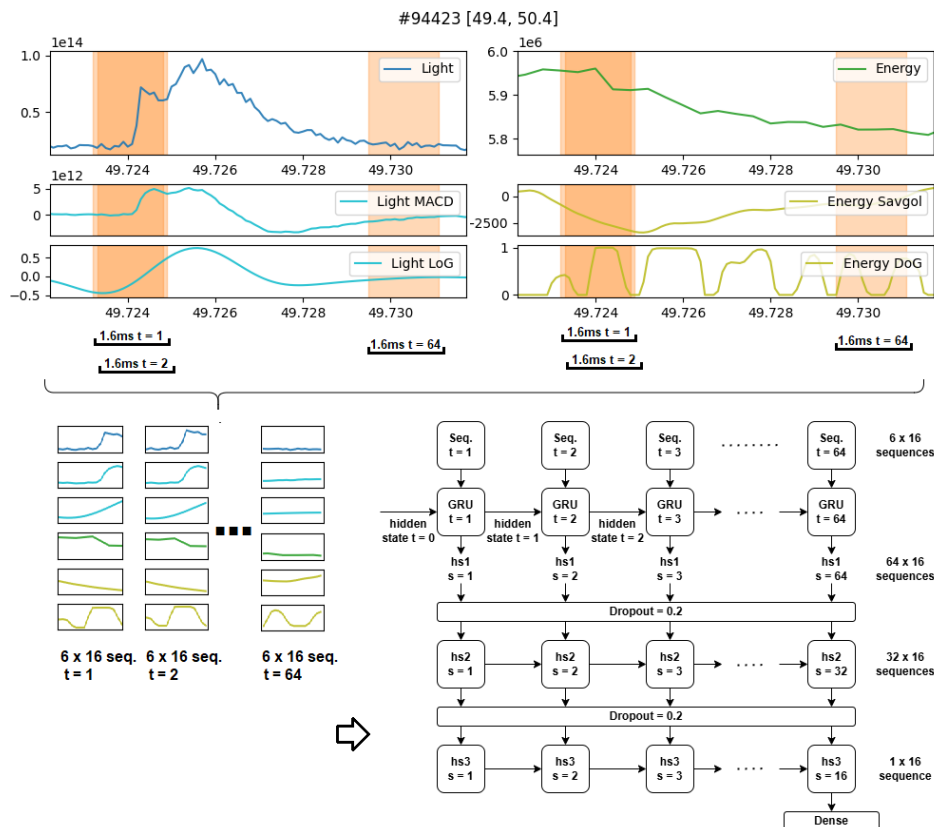
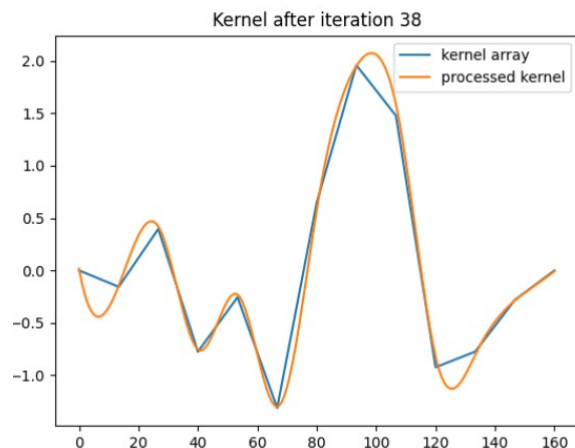
ELM detection

- Differentiate between events and non-events in timeseries
- Not only peaks, but regions with a specific signature



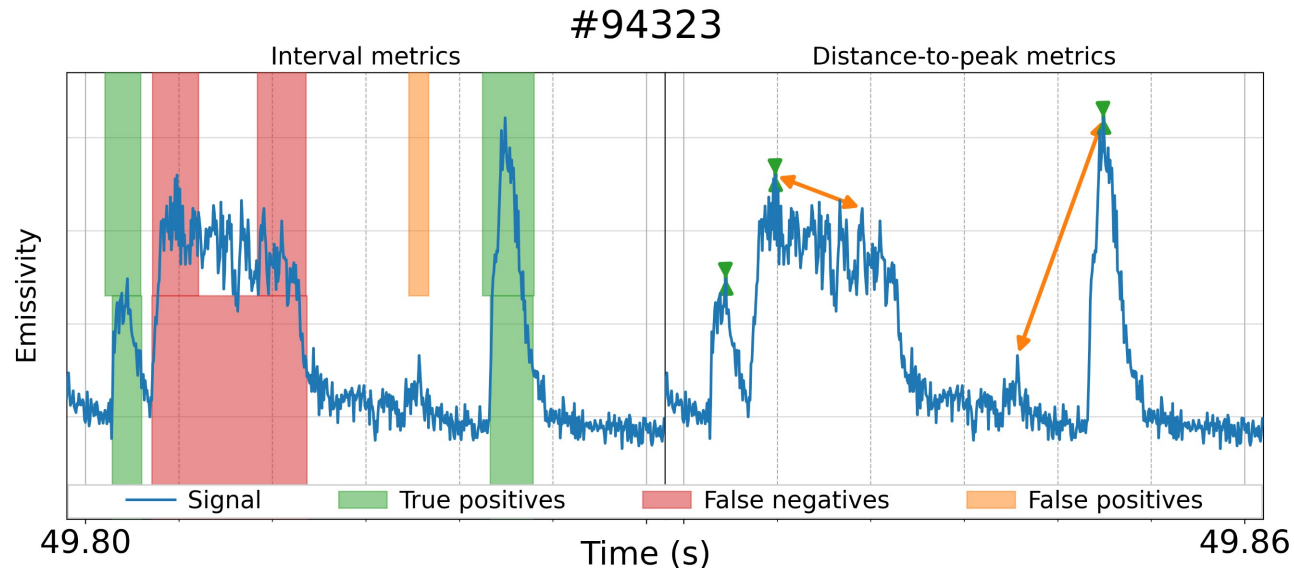
Advanced methods

- Laplacian of Gaussian filter + threshold (2nd order derivative and smoothing) using kernel optimized for ELM shape
- Recurrent neural network (3 x GRU)



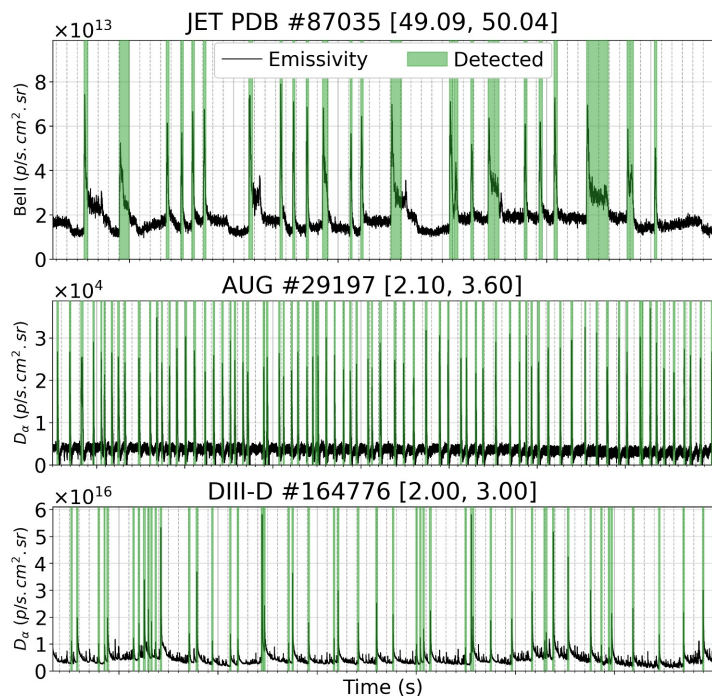
Training and evaluation

- Split data into train/test/validation
- Quantify a correct detection (TP/FP/FN)
- Implement, fine tune, and evaluate
- ELM detection pipeline with master students



Detection performance

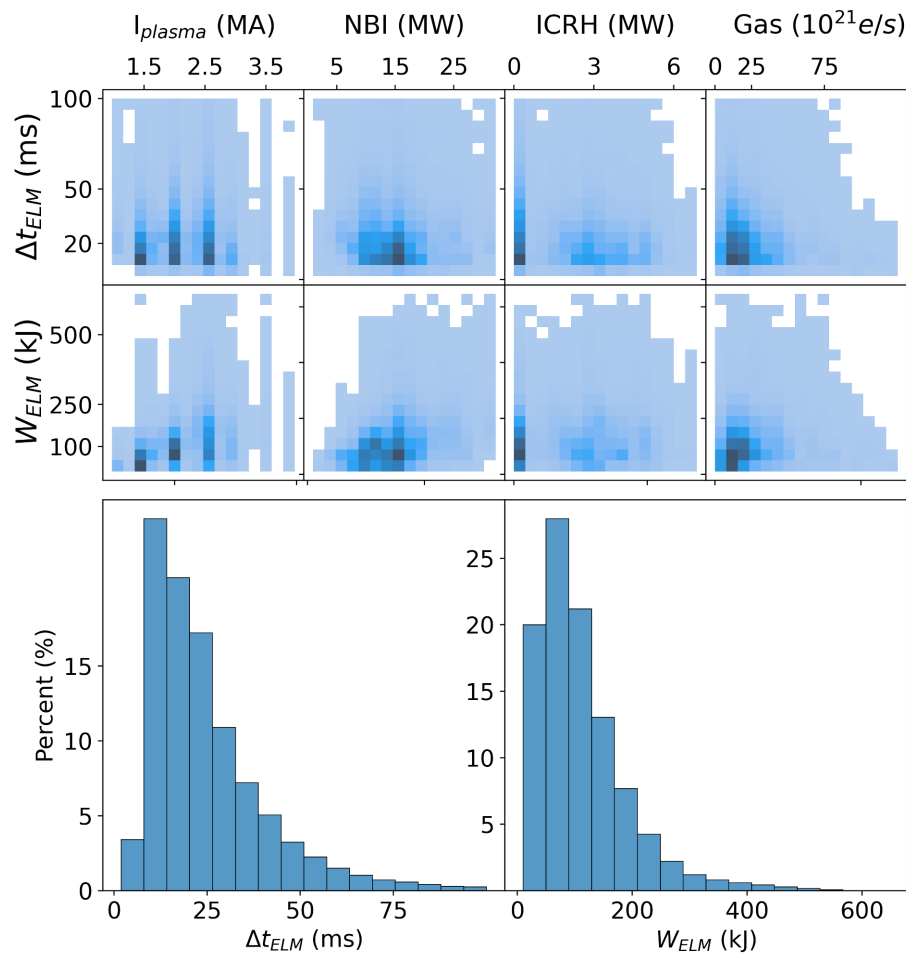
- Good performance
- Tested on other machines



Method	TP (%)	FP (%)
RT	34.41	17.53
MACD	87.17	21.63
Rolling Z-score	89.99	16.39
LoG	86.61	12.79
LoG with doG	80.78	10.91
LoG custom kernel	82.97	9.39
Deconvolution	78.14	70.30
CNN	80.01	16.63
CNN min. filter	73.64	15.64
RNN 64,32,16,1	91.95	15.90
RNN 32,BN,1	85.20	15.69
RNN 8,1	70.66	13.33

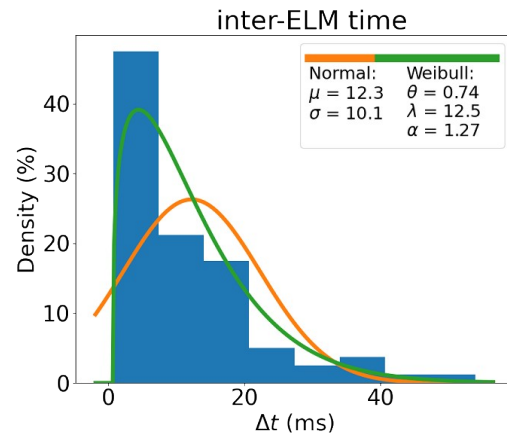
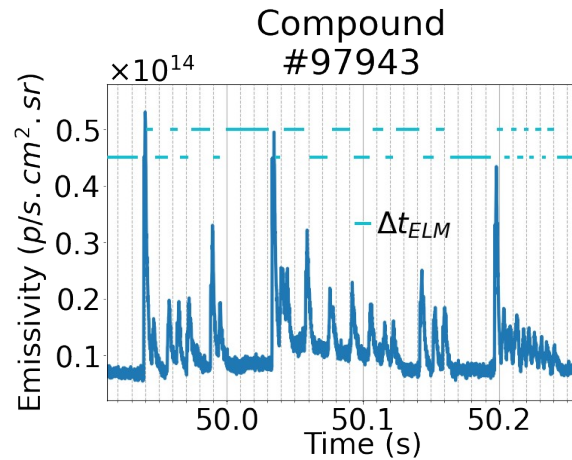
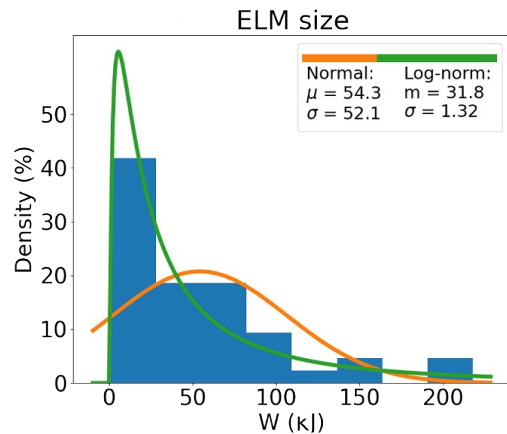
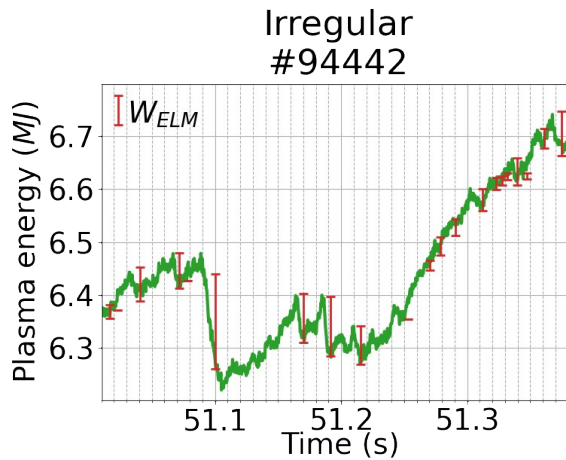
Data summary

- Eliminate outliers
- Natural ELMs
- Remains 90000+ ELMs from 1388 windows
 - ~ 1.5s duration
 - ~ 66 ELMs per sample
- Varied operating conditions



Modeling

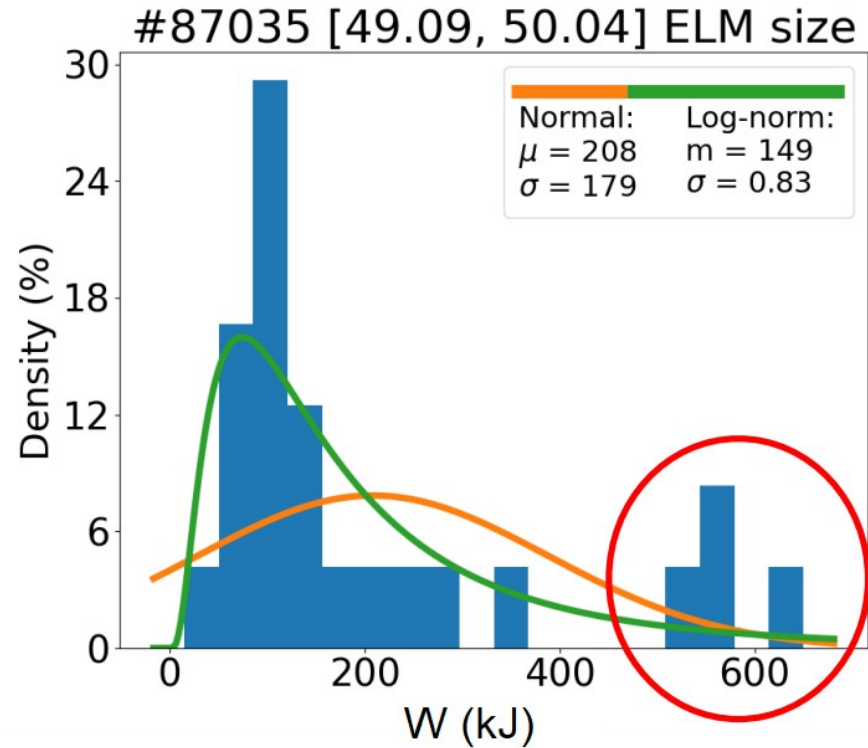
- Collective ELM behavior
- Study ELM timing and ELM losses with distributions
- More info maintained with PDF parameters



Tail behavior

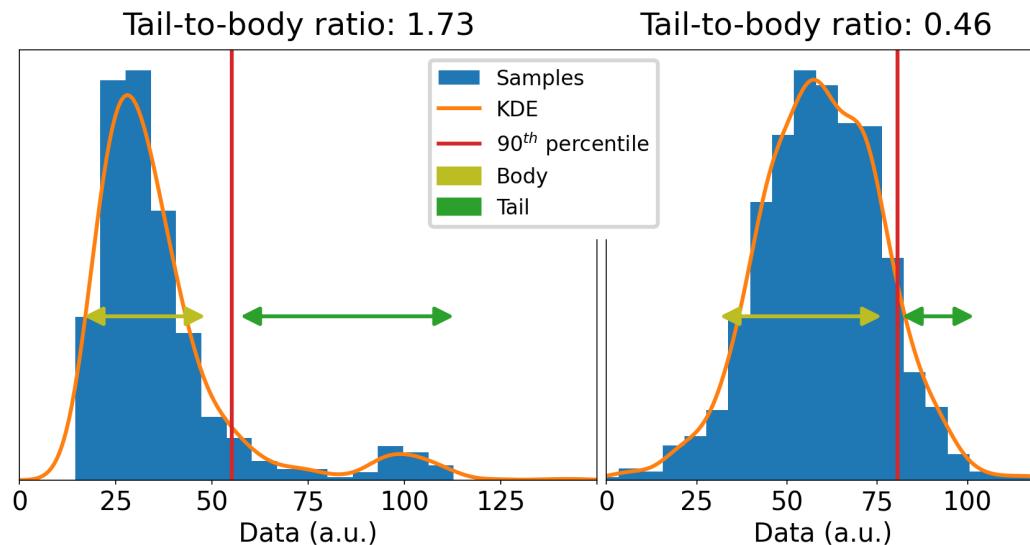
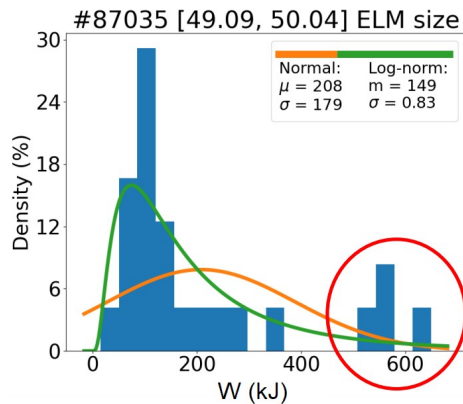
Collective ELM behavior

- Study ELM timing and ELM losses with distributions
- More info maintained with PDF parameters
- Distribution tails show rare but large ELMs = risk



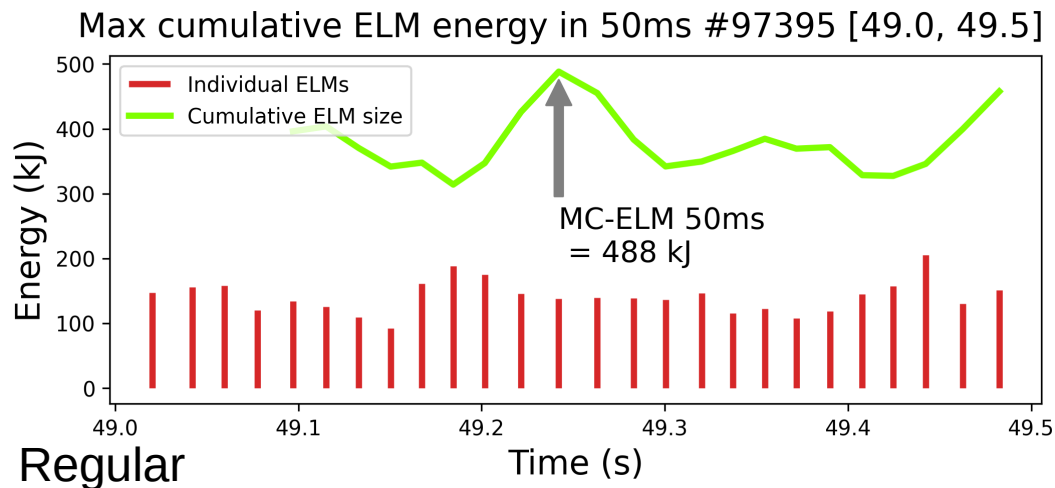
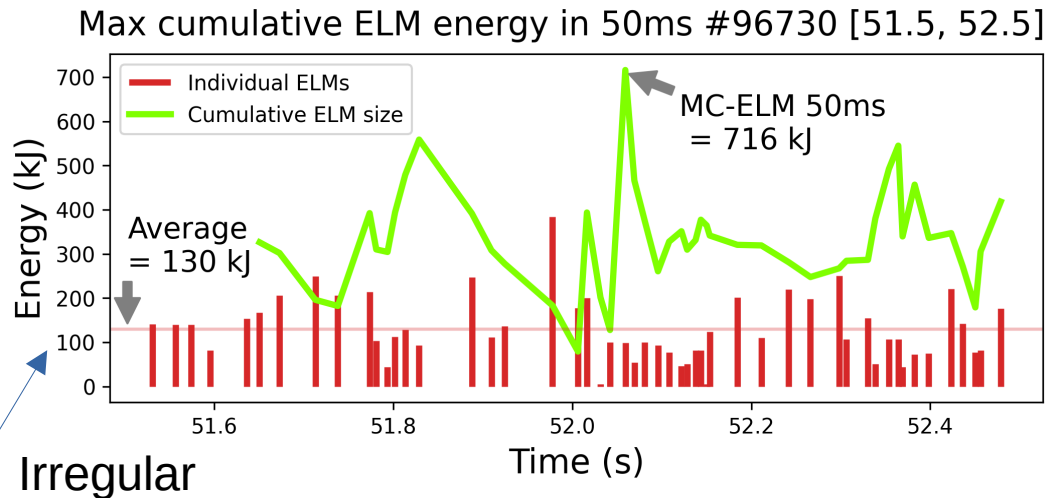
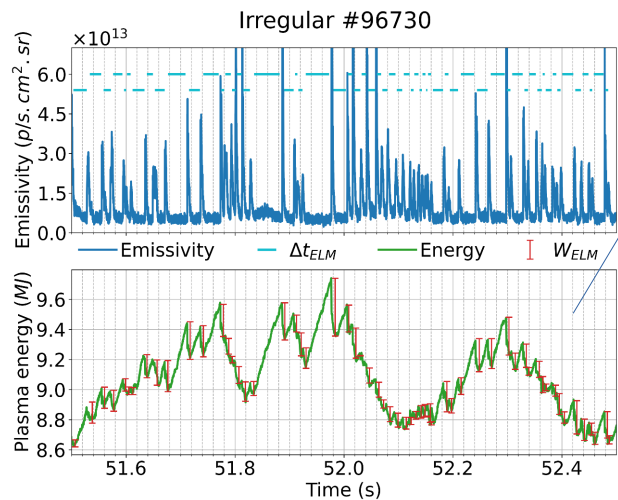
Modeling risk: tail events

- Ways to think of the risk of unforeseen large ELMs
- Tail size (top 10%)
- Tail-to-body ratio of the ELM size



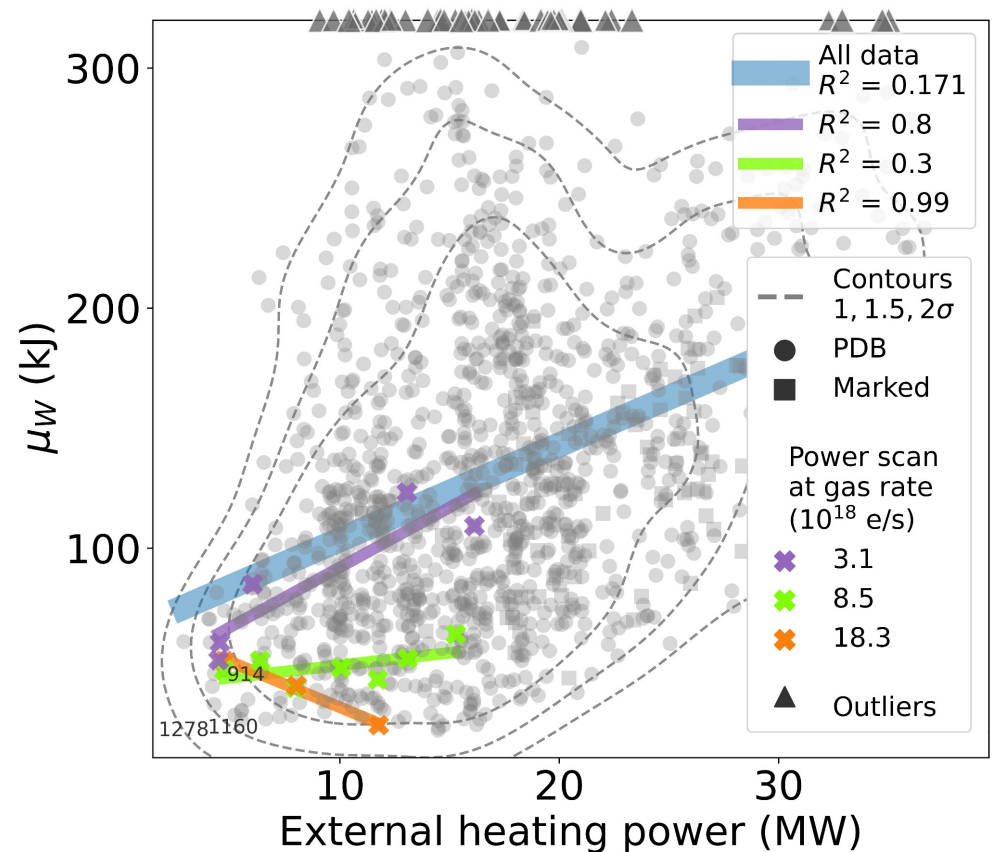
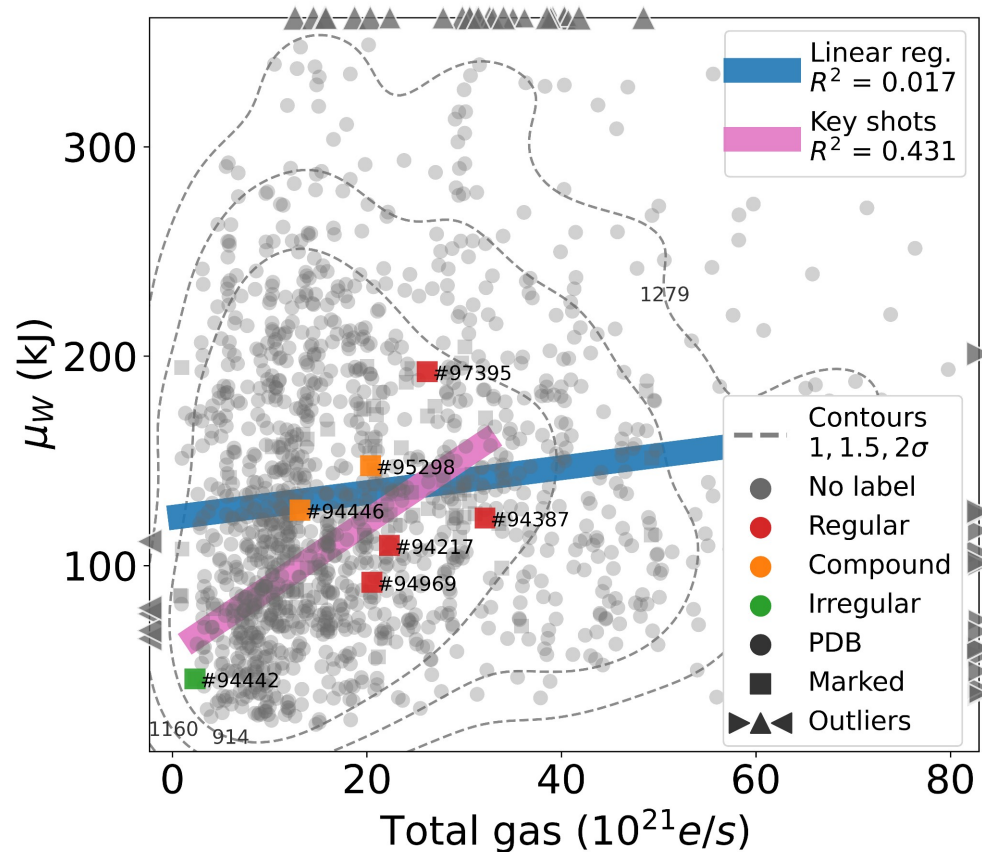
Modeling risk

- Several ELMs of varied size accumulate energy
- Response time of actuators



Analysis: regression maps

A R Field et al 2020 Plasma Phys.
Control. Fusion 62 055010

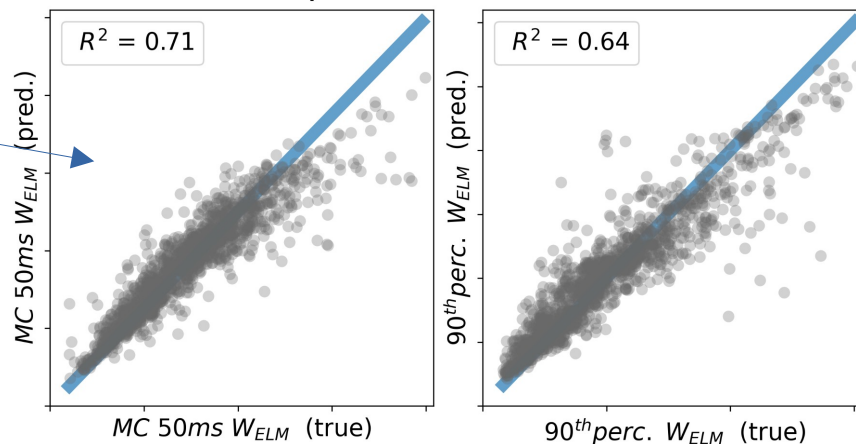


Analysis: multi-regression

- Models:
 - Linear regression
 - k-NN (k = 5%)
 - SVM regression
 - Random forests
- Reasonable fits for prediction
- Cross-validated (2/3)
- Forward selection
- Improvement in R^2

	Regression model	R2 score	\pm
ELM size MC 50ms	Forest	0.686	0.05
ELM size top 10%	Forest	0.64	0.072
ELM size mean	Forest	0.623	0.06
ELM size std	Forest	0.602	0.093
ELM size MC 50ms	Linear	0.565	0.049
	⋮		

Random forest regression
depth 10, 100 trees



Analysis: feature importance

- Impact of each input on R^2 and percentage error
- Model-averaged feature weights

	Plasma current	Safety factor q95	Ext. heating power	ICRH power proportion	Gas fuel. throughput	Upper triangularity
ELM size MC 50ms	0.33	0.05	0.56	0	0.01	0.07
ELM size top 10%	0.48	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.08	0.24
ELM size mean	0.45	0.01	0.07	0.02	0.09	0.25
ELM size std	0.47	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.07	0.24

Summary

- Data:
 - 13000+ marked ELMs
 - Detection 90% accurate
 - 1500+ shots processed
- ELM behavior:
 - Features quantifying variability and risk
- Regression:
 - Complex relationship
 - Local effects, focus on subsets
- Explainable/interpretable data techniques

Which plasma parameters influence ELM behavior?



How do plasma parameters influence ELM behavior?



Summary

- Data:
 - 13000+ marked ELMs
 - Detection 90% accurate
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- ELM behavior:
 - Features quantifying variability and risk
- Regression:
 - Complex relationship
 - Local effects, focus on subsets
- Explainable/interpretable data techniques
- Applicable to other machine subsystems
- Detection framework open source

Which plasma parameters influence ELM behavior?



How do plasma parameters influence ELM behavior?



→ github.com/infusion-ugent

Thank you

`orcid.org/0009-0003-5702-939X`

`jerome.alhage@ugent.be`



*inf*usion

 FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
AND ARCHITECTURE

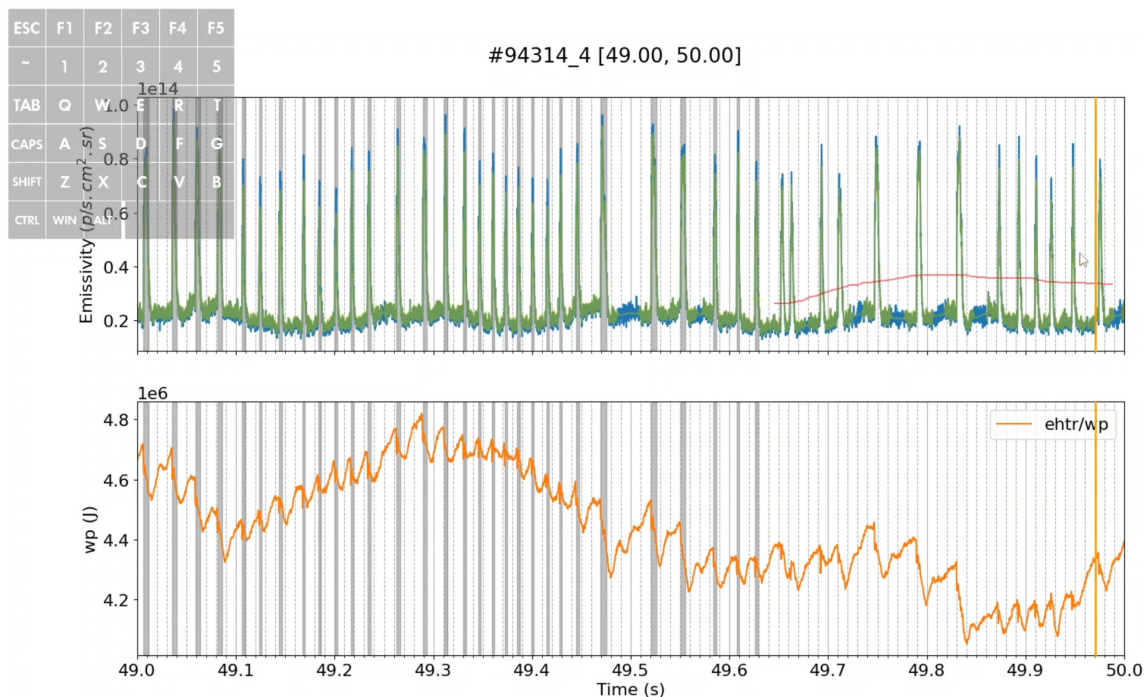


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ELM labeling GUI

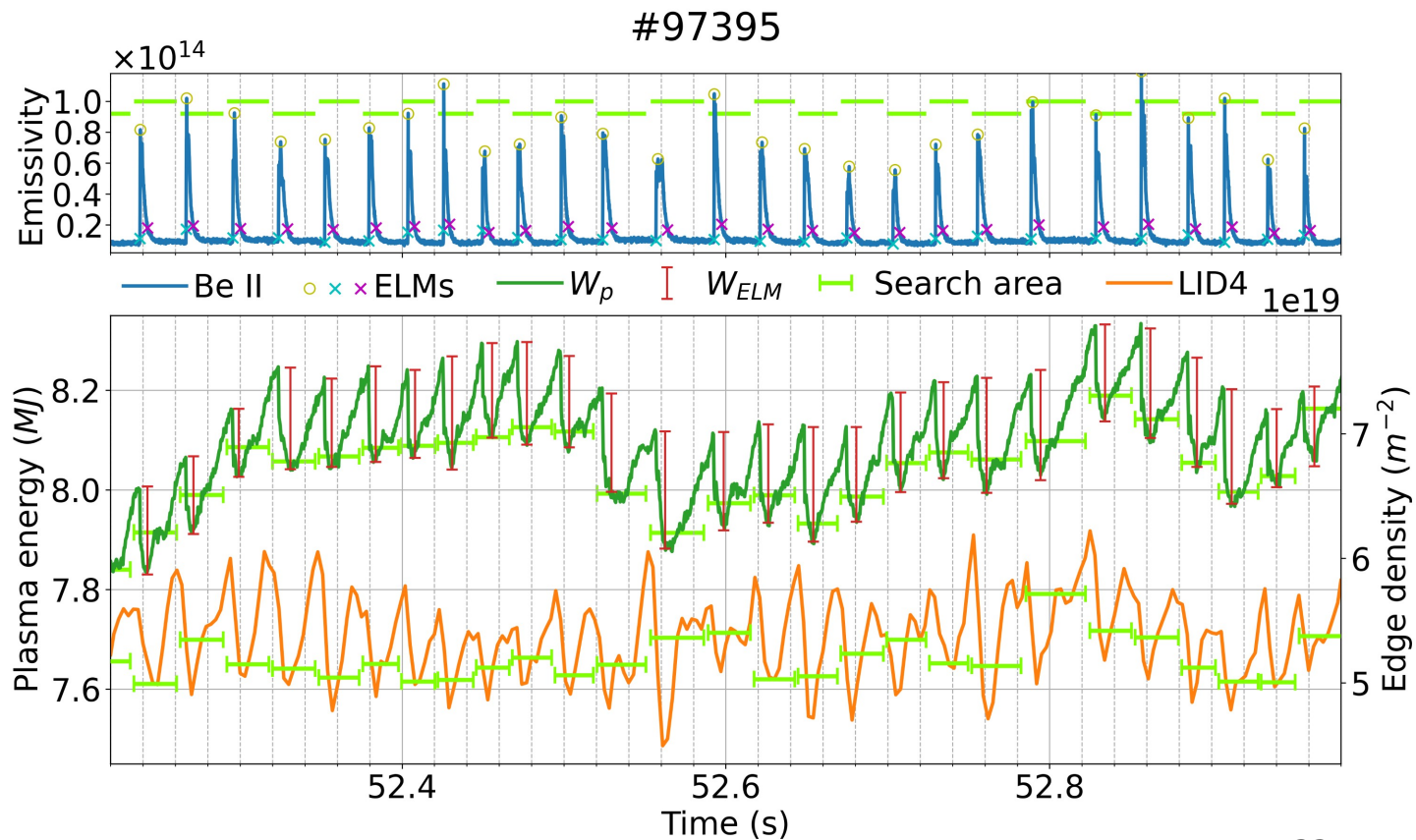
- Semi-automated, using keyboard and mouse
- Draw lines on emissivity signal, peaks above lines are ELMs if they correspond to a drop in the (high-res) plasma energy
- Can manually position cursor for compound ELMs
- Clean afterward by merging peaks, filtering small ones...



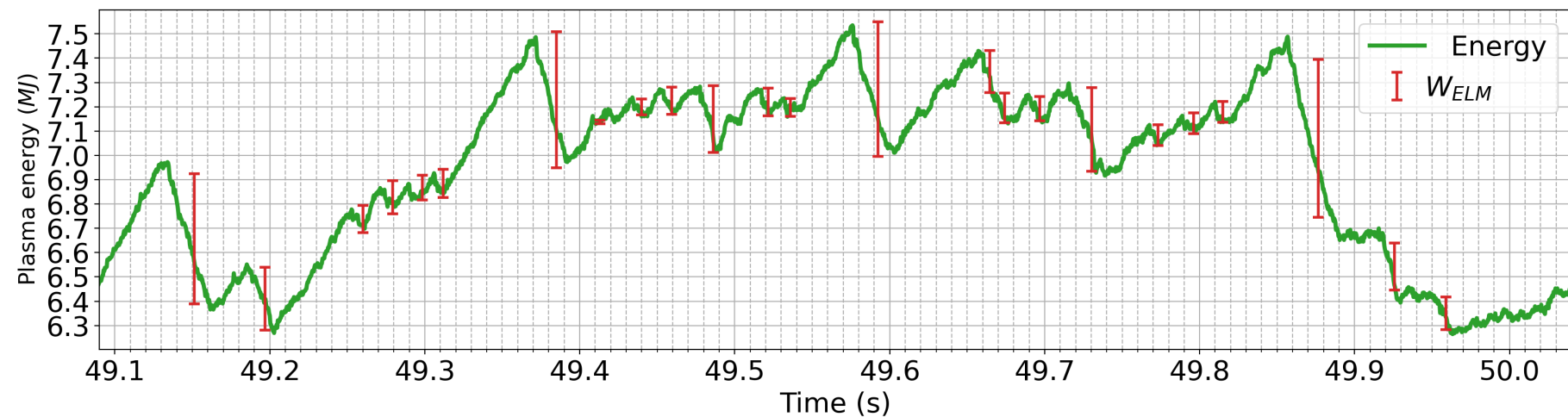
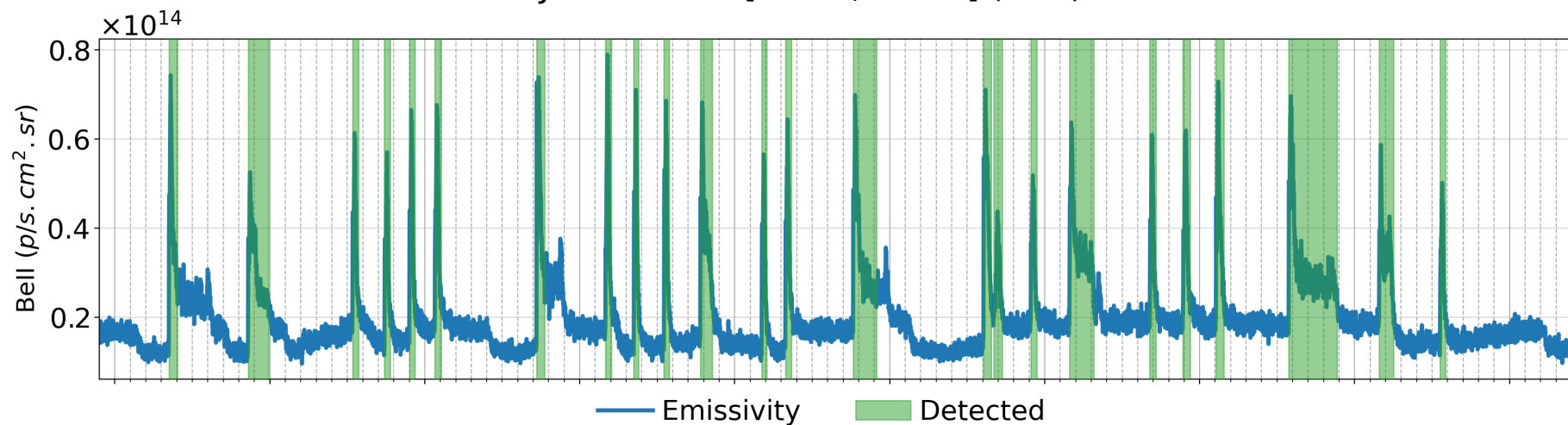
ELM size

Steps

- Calculate inter-ELM time upper limit n
($n = dt$ 90th percentile)
- Calculate avg. ELM duration m
- Detrend W_p using rolling mean (lag = $2*n$)
- Search area start is 80% of previous cycle
(max: ELM start - m)
- Search area stop is 80% of current cycle
(max: ELM end + n)



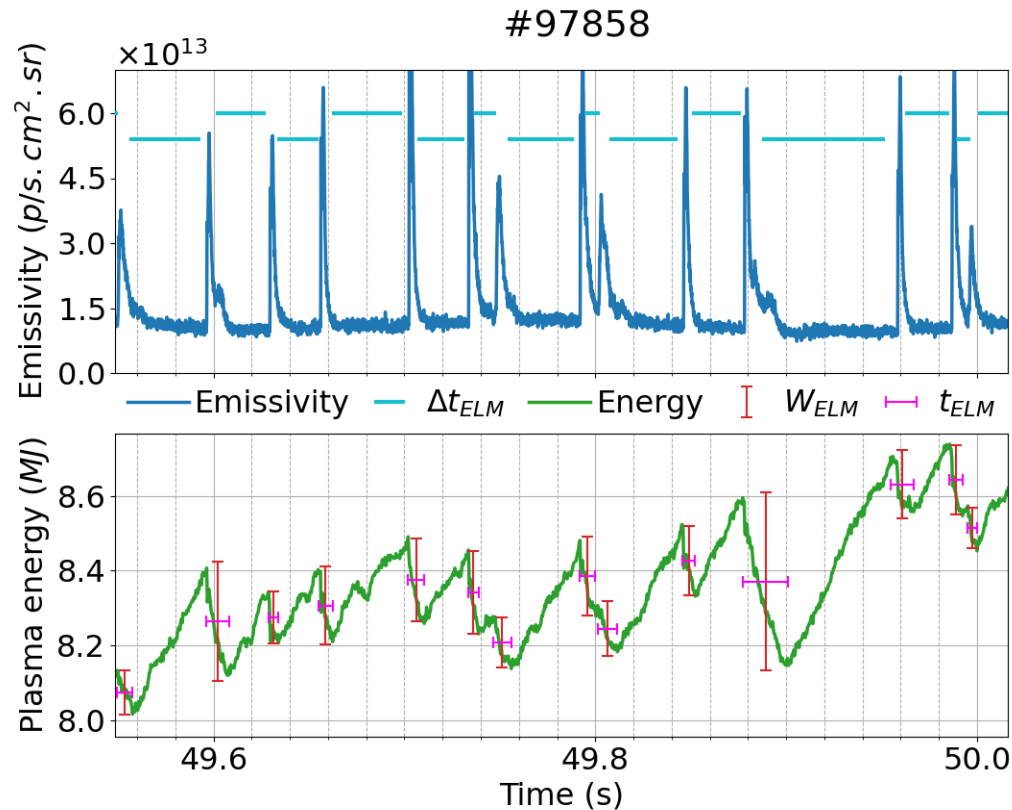
JET #87035 [49.09, 50.04] (PDB)



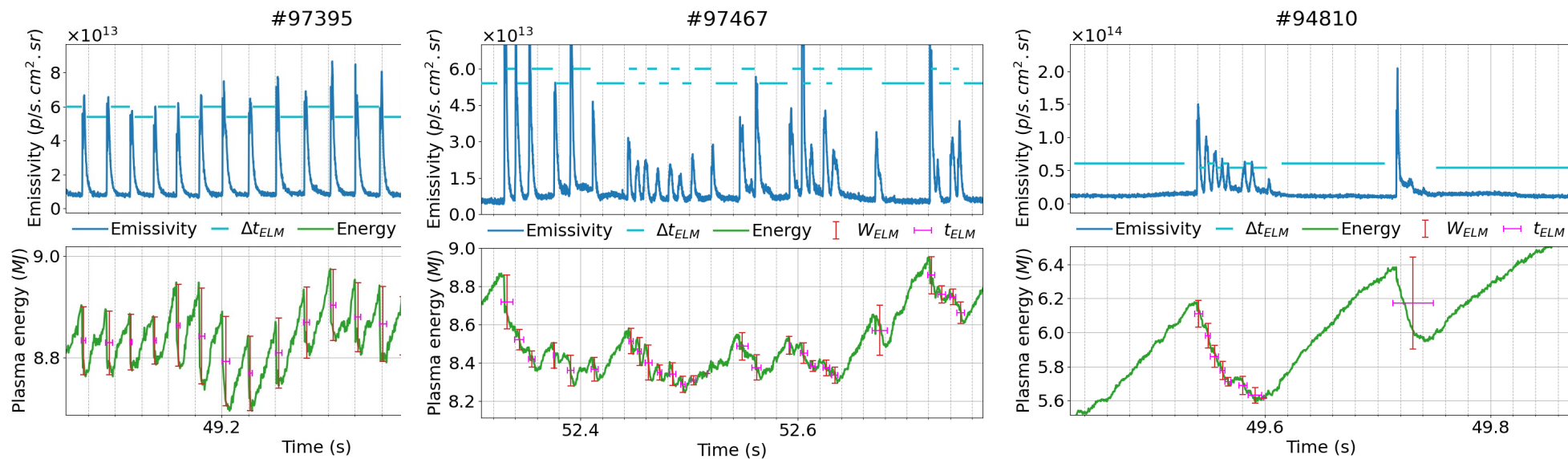
ELM power

How calculated

- ELM size \sim the drop in plasma stored energy W_p (green signal)
- ELM power is the drop energy (red) divided by the drop time (pink)
- Also calculate the max instantaneous ELM power (from derivative)

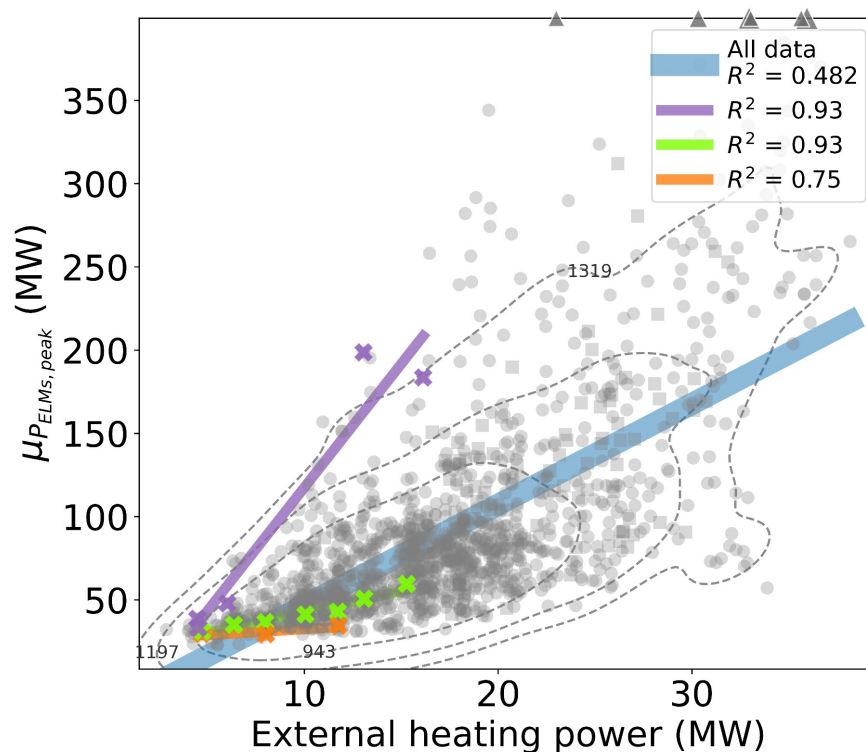
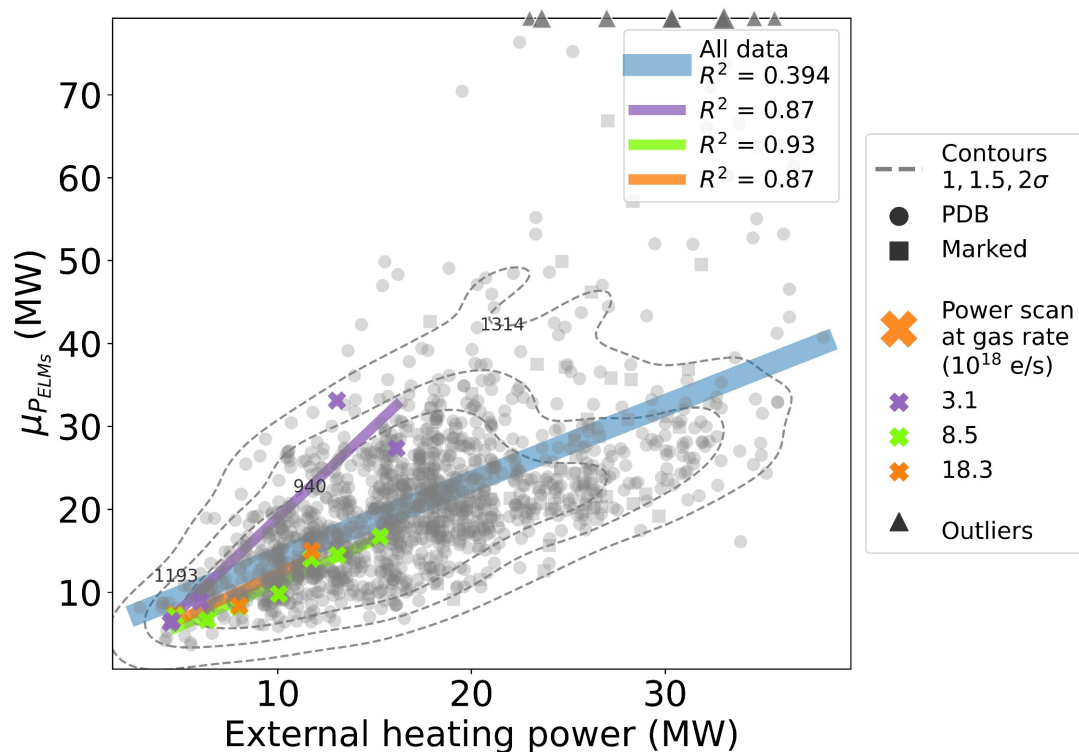


ELM power



ELM power

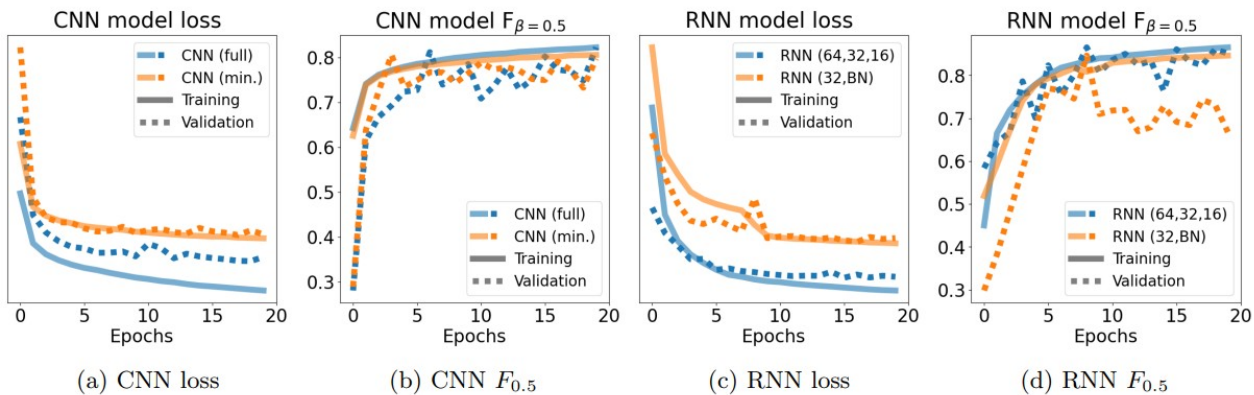
- ELM power increases with increased heating power.
- Rate of increase depends on machine parameters (ex: gas rate).



Detection benchmark

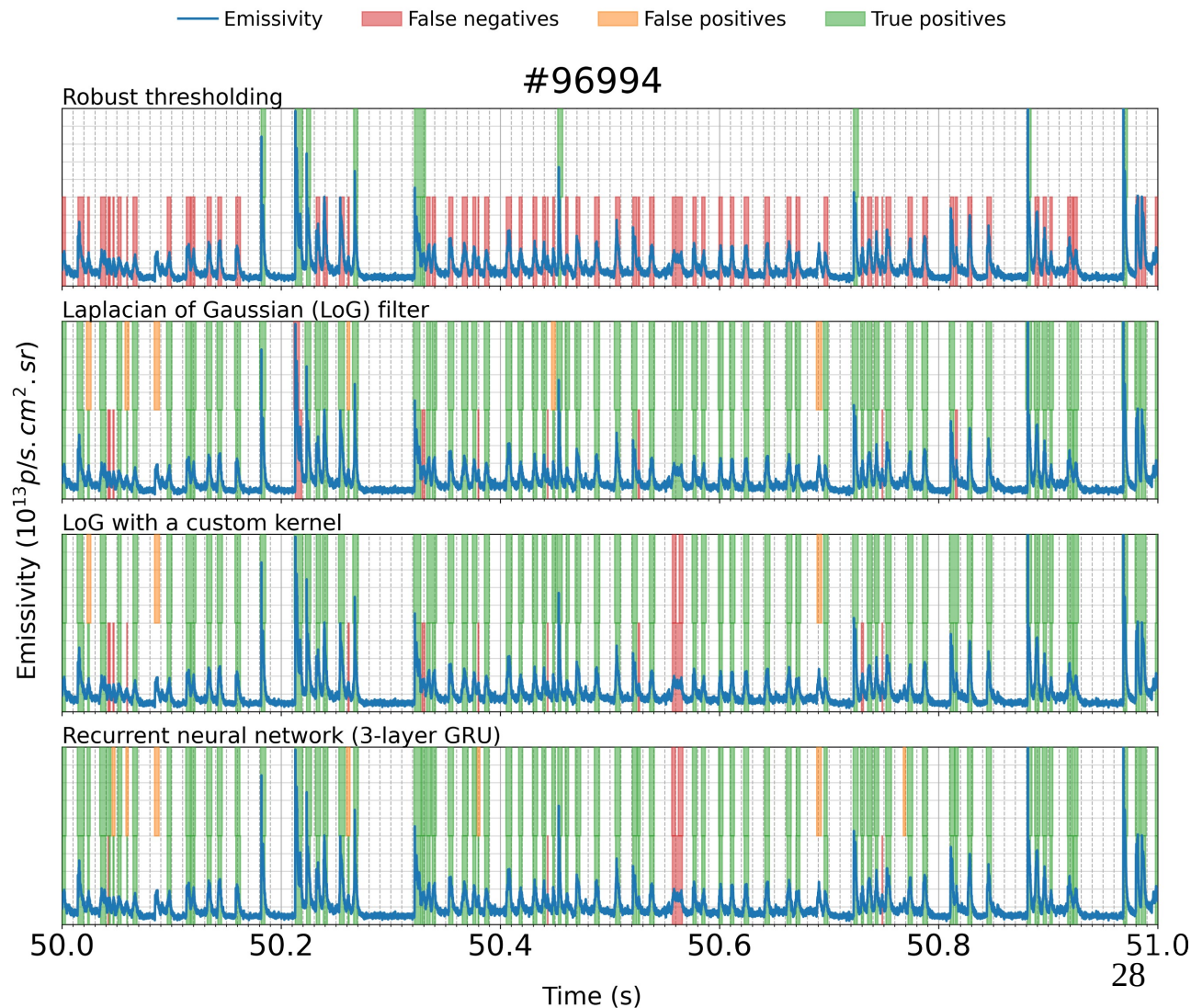
- CNN stops learning
- RNN GRU-3 still room for improvement (20 epochs)
- LoG-CK good for real-time

Method	CNN	RNN	non-NN
Training time per epoch	3 h	2 h	-
Inference time per second	3.76 s	1.63 s	approx. 50 ms
Number of parameters	812818	25916	<20

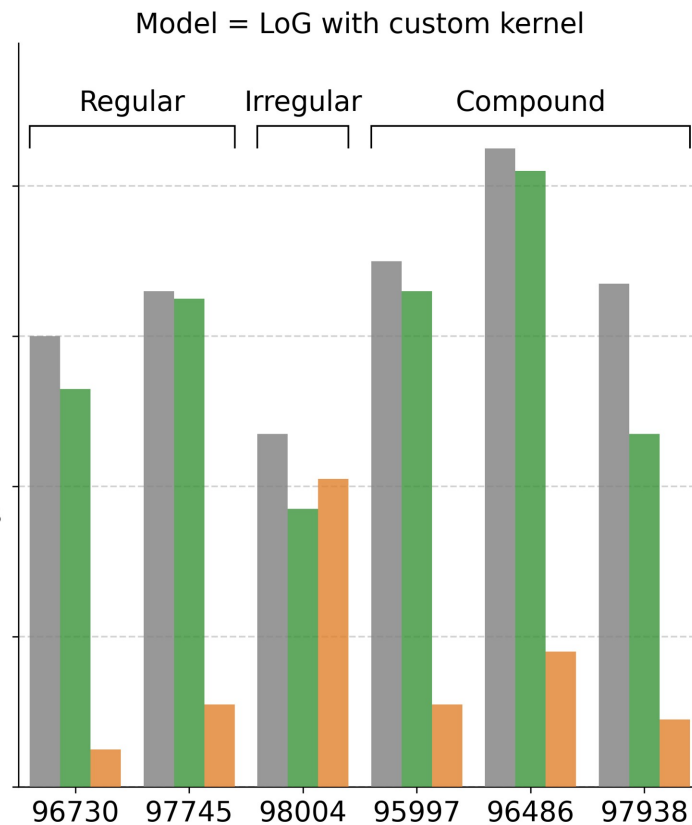
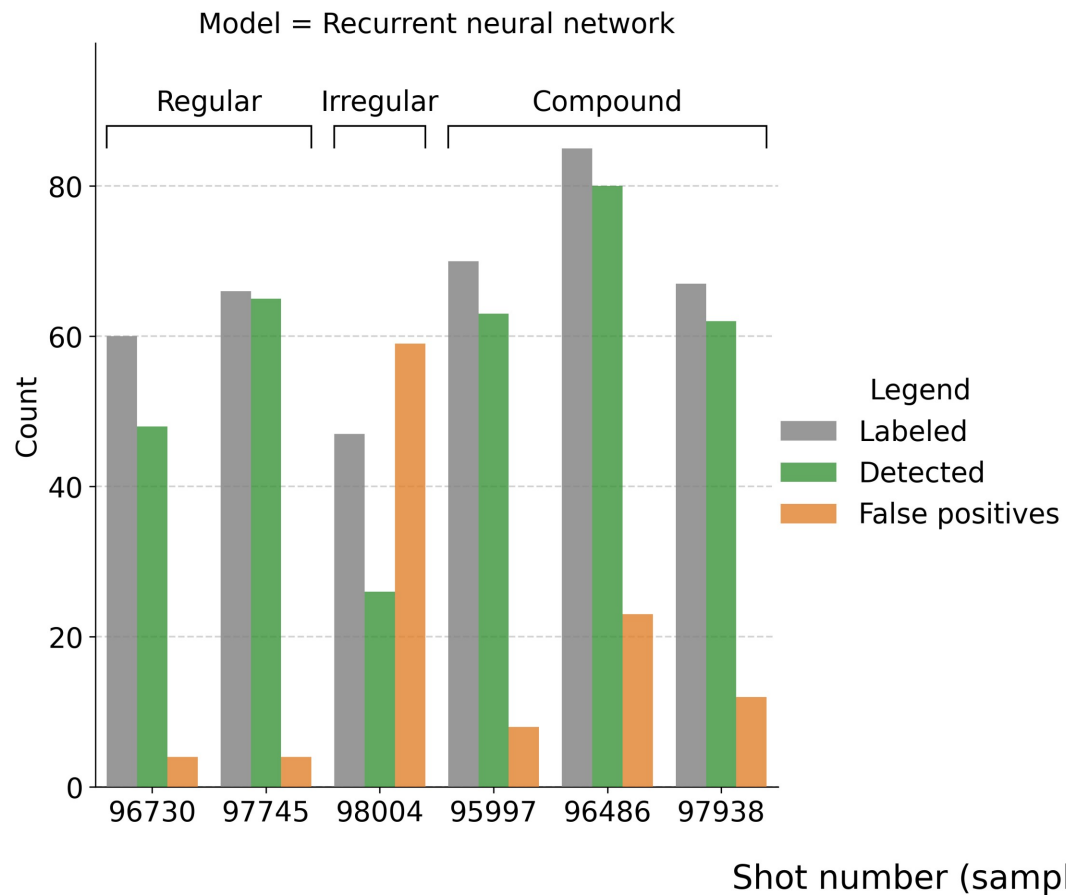


Detection preview

- RNN is proof-of-concept with great potential
- Prefer LoG-CK for simplicity, false positives

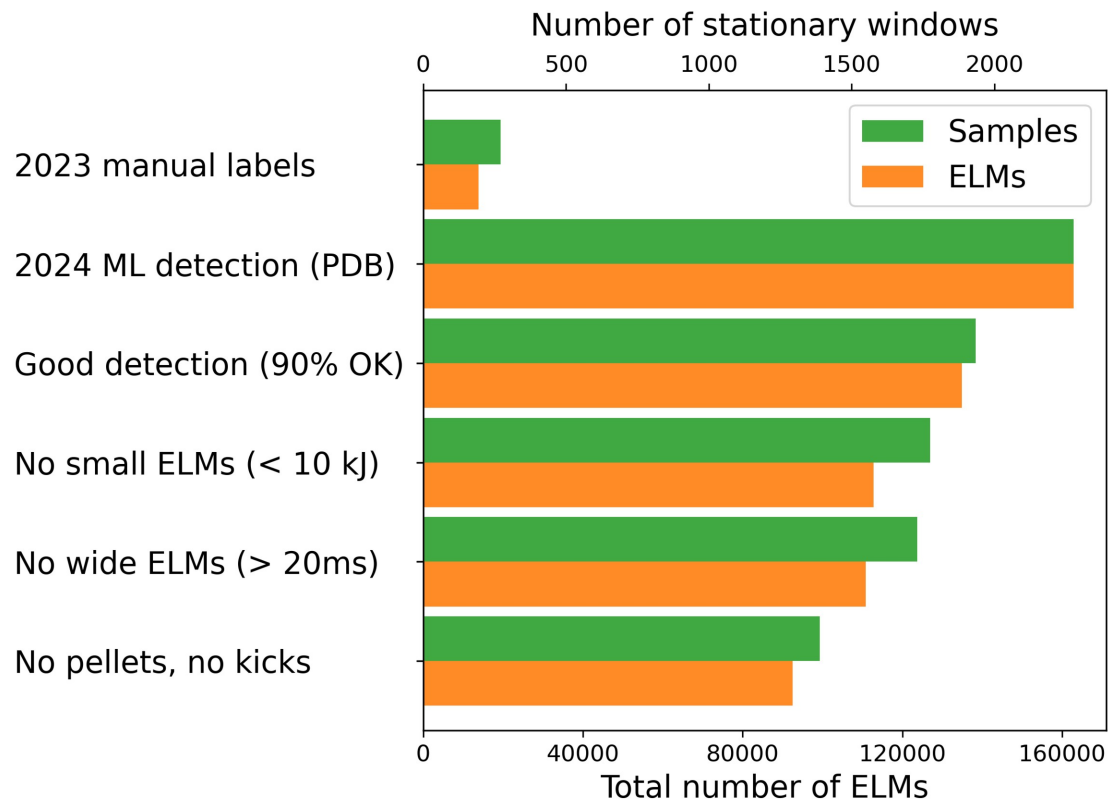


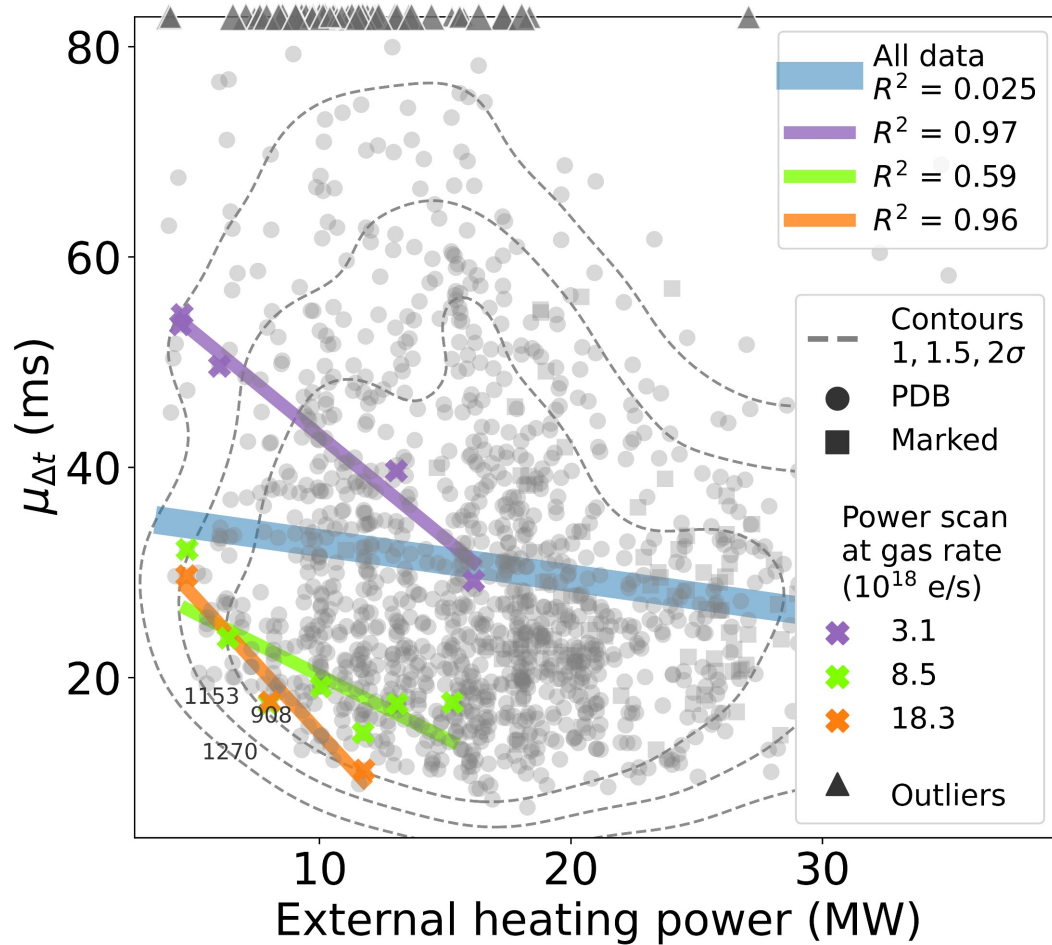
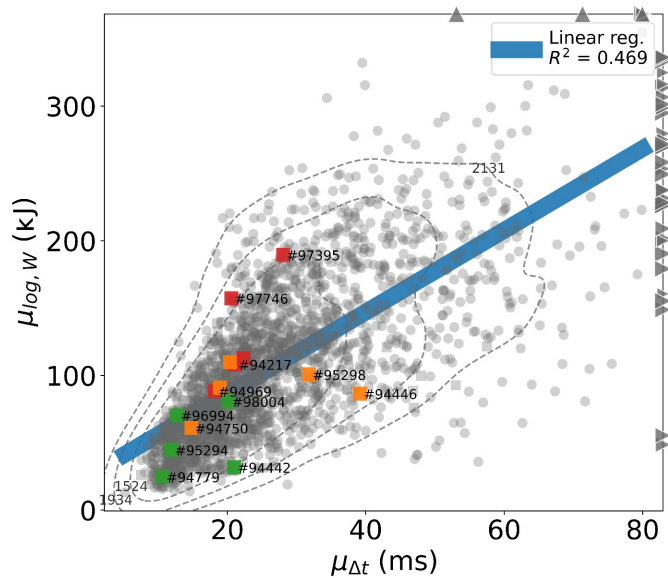
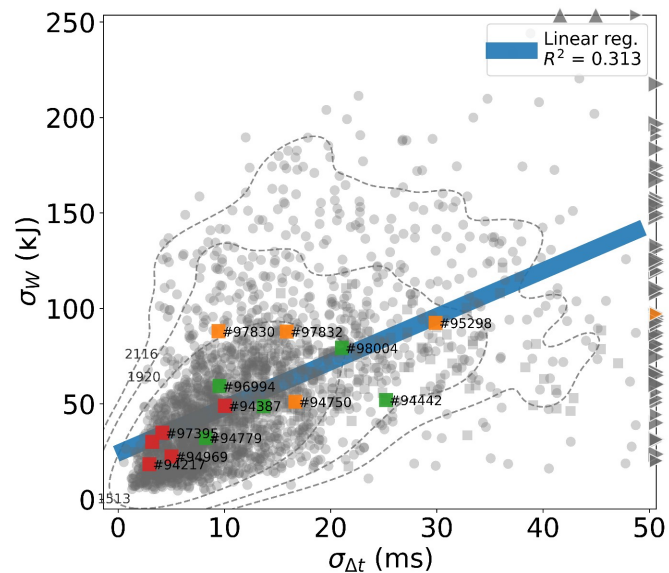
Detection breakdown

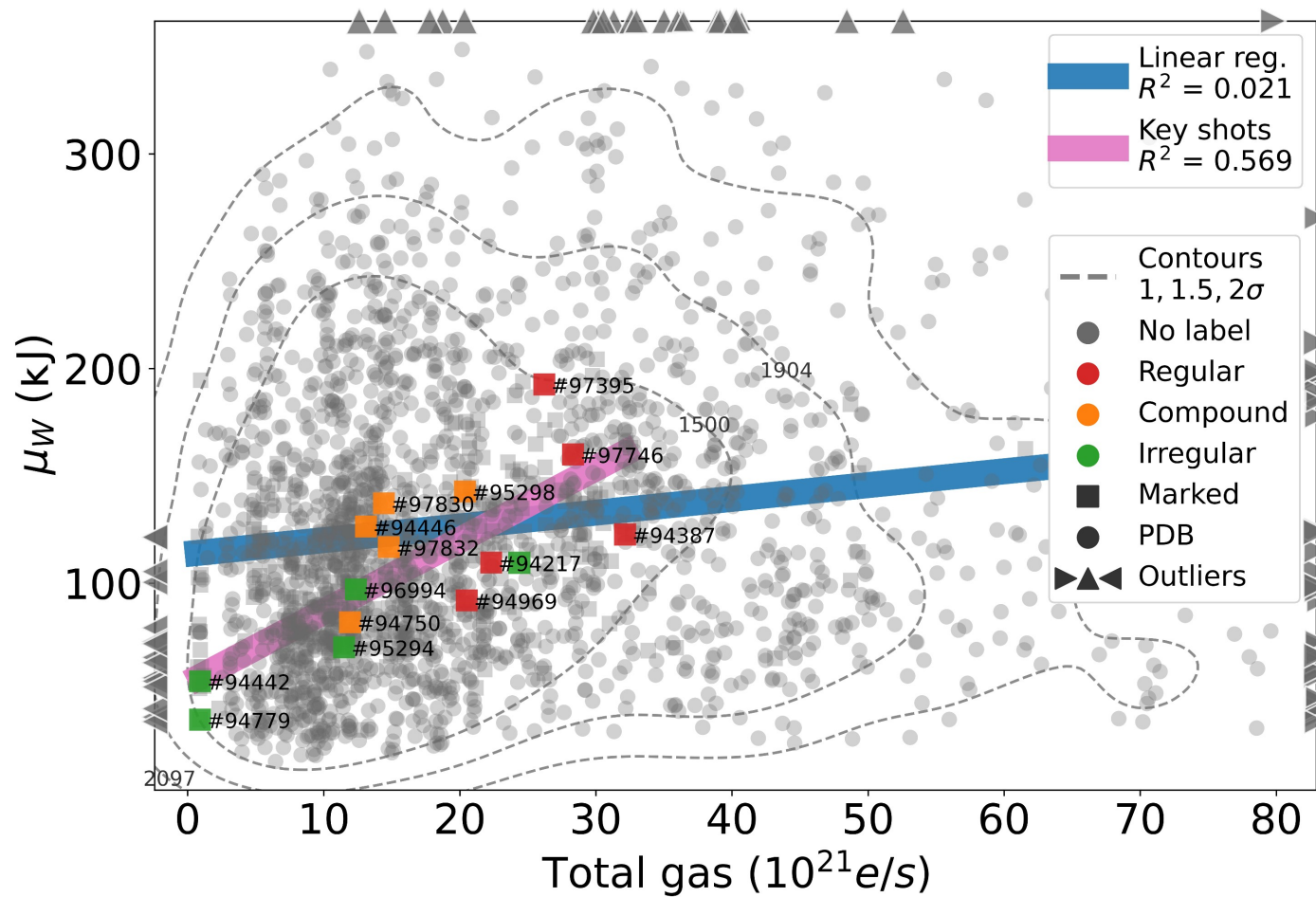


Data selection

- Distilled 90000+ ELMs from 1388 windows
~ 1.5s duration
~ 66 ELMs per sample
- Natural ELMs
- Varied operating conditions







Regression: feature selection

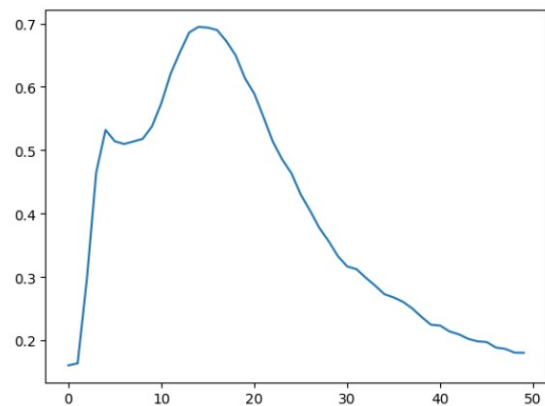
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 - Linear regression
 - KNN (k = 5%)
 - SVM regression
 - Random forests
- Reasonable fits for prediction
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- Improvement in R^2

	Regression model	R2 score
ELM size MC 50ms	Forest	0.686
ELM size top 10%	Forest	0.64
ELM size mean	Forest	0.623
ELM size std	Forest	0.602
ELM size MC 50ms	Linear	0.565

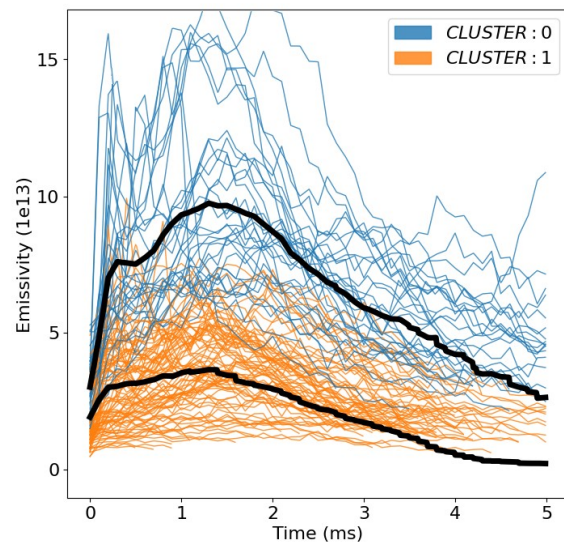
⋮

Plasma current	Safety factor q95	Ext. heating power	ICRH power proportion	Gas fuel. throughput	Upper triangularity
0.424	0.083	0.121		0.008	0.039
0.264	0.019		0.011	0.115	0.17
0.218	0.018		0.007	0.129	0.196
0.278	0.076	0.005	0.013	0.055	0.15
0.099		0.447			0.012

Feature selection



ELM shape clustering

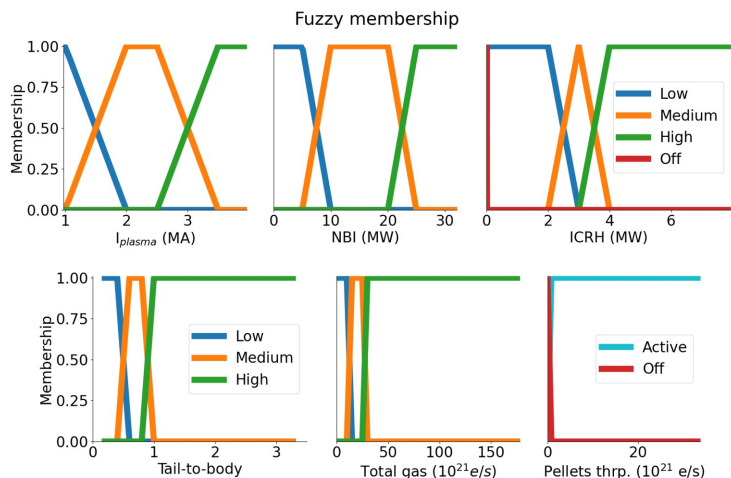


n_clusters	cluster label	ELM size (kJ)	ELM size (%)	peak width (ms)	peak height (1e13 p/s.cm2.sr)	peak skew	count
2	0	135.6	2	5	11.8	0.2	3931
2	1	81.6	1.1	3.3	4.2	0	9923
3	0	185.3	2.6	5.2	16.5	0.3	1330
3	1	108.3	1.6	4.6	8.5	0.1	4200
3	2	77.1	1	3.2	3.6	0	8324
4	0	202.6	2.7	5.2	18.7	0.4	859
4	1	121.2	1.9	5.1	10	0.1	2522
4	2	101.8	1.4	4	6.6	0.1	4061
4	3	70.1	0.9	3	3.1	0	6412
5	0	203.9	2.7	5.1	19.2	0.4	782
5	1	134.1	2.1	6	9.9	0.1	1420
5	2	102.6	1.5	4	9.5	0.2	2287
5	3	100.9	1.3	4.1	5.4	0.1	4220
5	4	64.6	0.8	2.7	2.8	-0.1	5145
6	0	204.8	2.7	5.1	19.3	0.4	763
6	1	135.8	2.1	6	10.1	0.1	1386
6	2	102.8	1.6	4	9.5	0.2	2209
6	3	86.7	1.1	3	6.1	0.1	2360
6	4	109.7	1.5	5	4.7	0	2362
6	5	64.4	0.8	2.7	2.7	-0.1	4774

n_clusters	class_variance
2	0.028%
3	0.000%
4	0.058%
5	0.063%
6	21.962%

Regression: fuzzy logic

- Predict when the tail ratio (risk) will be high:
 - Fuzzy classes (wiki)
 - Rules partition the dataset (parts with no support hidden)

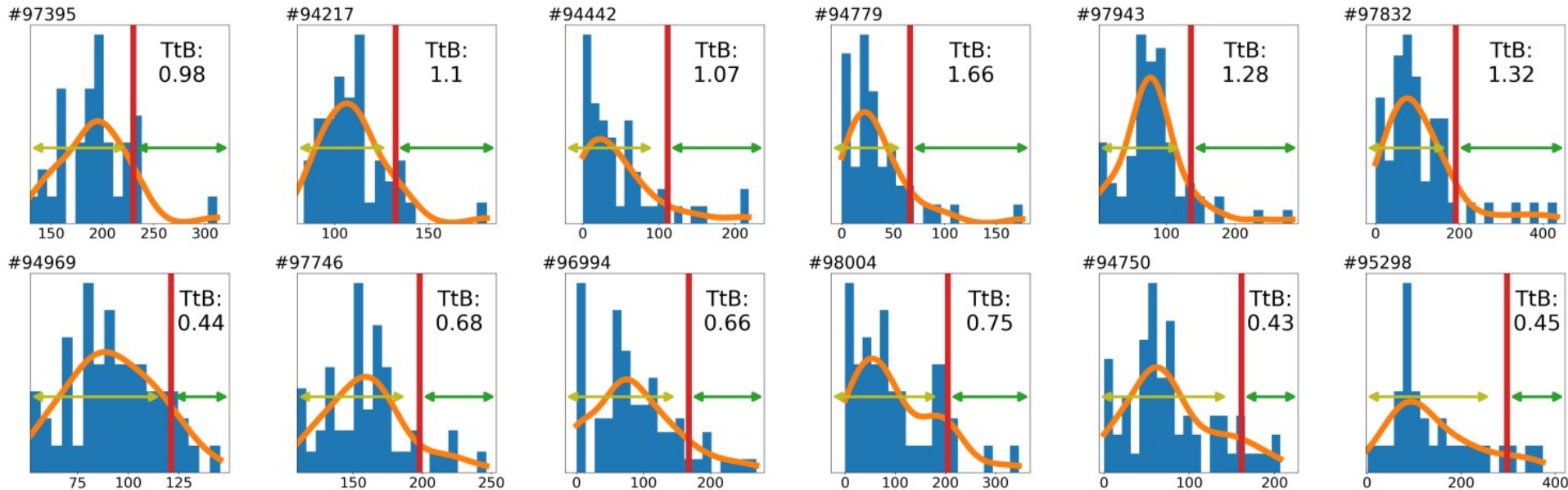


Heating			Fueling		Rule		
I_{plasma}	NBI	ICRH	Gas	Pellets	Support	Degree (%)	Tail ratio
High	High	High	Low	Active	36	75.0	High
High	High	High	Medium	Active	18	65.8	High
High	High	Medium	Medium	Active	19	74.5	High

....

Medium	High	High	Medium	Off	51	67.9	Medium
Medium	High	Low	High	Off	22	74.9	Medium
Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Off	72	61.3	Medium
Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Off	39	63.9	Medium
Medium	Medium	High	Low	-	53	49.6	Medium
Medium	High	Medium	Medium	-	38	45.3	Medium

....



lpla \ TTB	High	Mid	Low
High	52	42	42
Mid	223	618	947
Low	27	116	206