

# Interpretable time series foundation models for anomaly prediction in sPHENIX

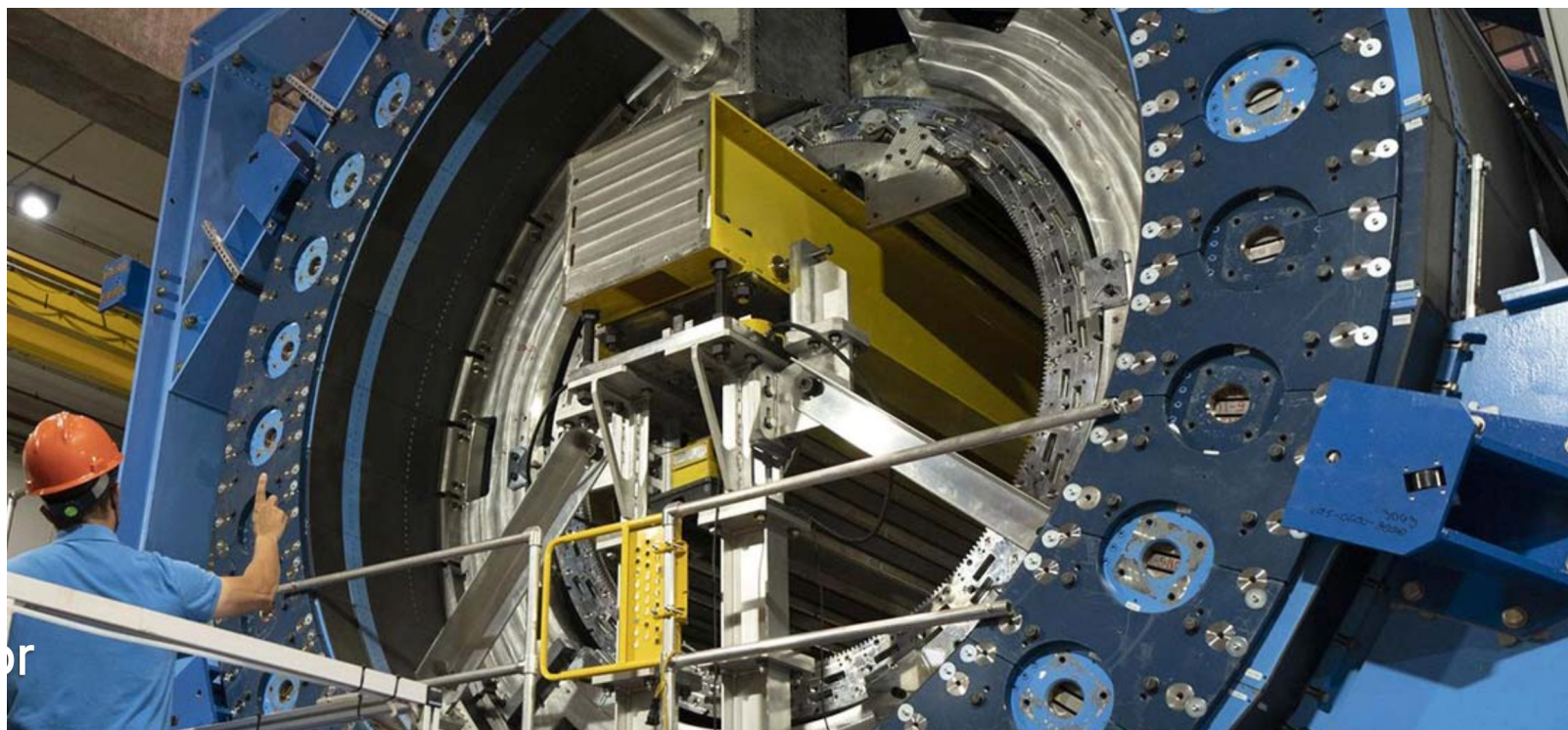
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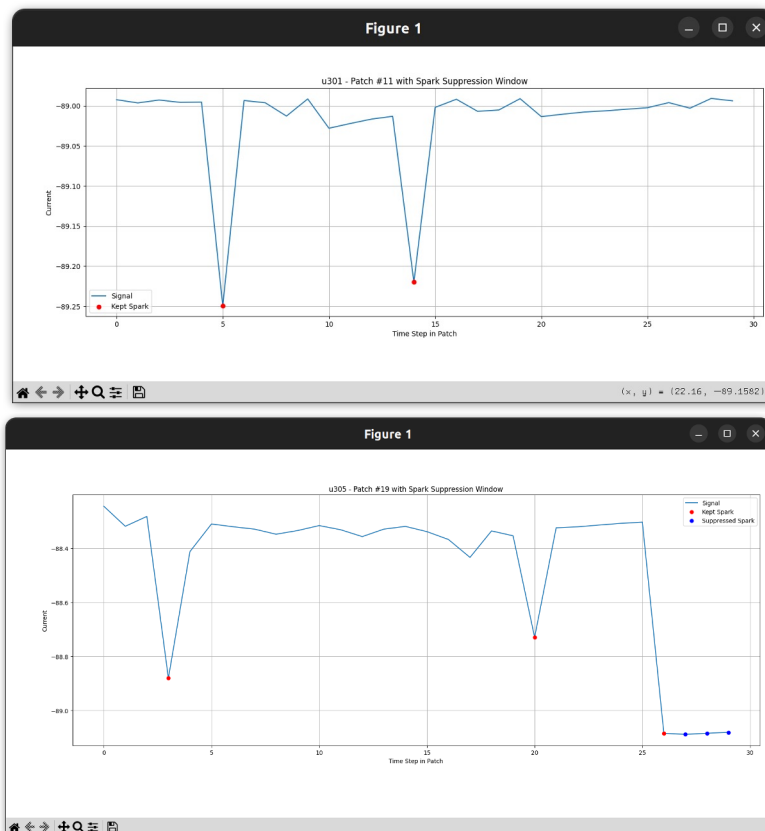
6/18/2025 @AD4HEP Workshop

Thanks to my collaborators from BNL, RPI.

# Monitoring the Detector



# Time Series Data and Anomalies



Sensory Data (multivariate time series):

1. TPC central membrane current and voltage.
2. Current and voltage measurements for each Gas Electron Multiplier (GEM) modules
3. 15 other beam conditions
4. Collected every 4 seconds

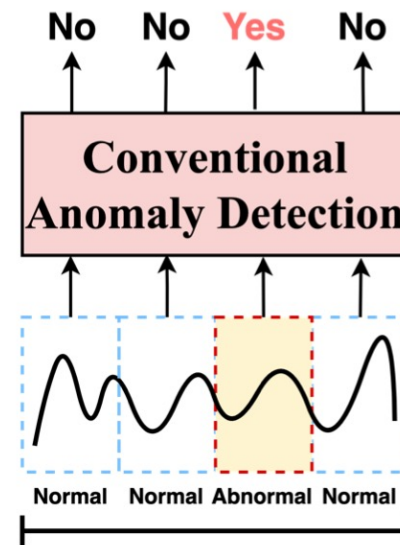
Anomalies (sparks):

1. Definition: significant drop of current/voltage compared to previous history



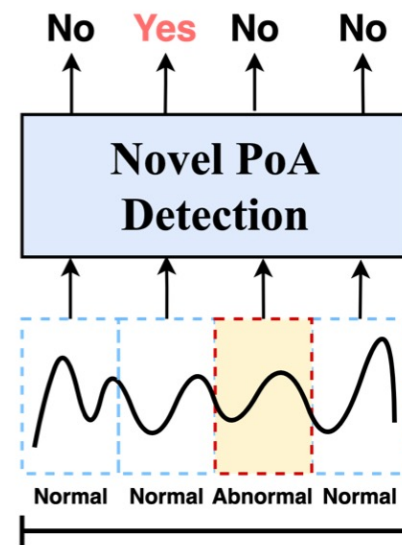
# Anomaly Prediction

- Assume there is an anomaly event at time window  $t$
- Anomaly Detection
  - Given the data  $S_t$  at  $t$ , is  $S_t$  anomaly?
- Anomaly Prediction
  - Given the data  $S_{t-1}$ , is  $S_t$  anomaly?
  - i.e.  $S_{t-1}$  is a precursor of anomaly (PoA)



Input time series

(a) Anomaly detection



Input time series

(b) PoA detection

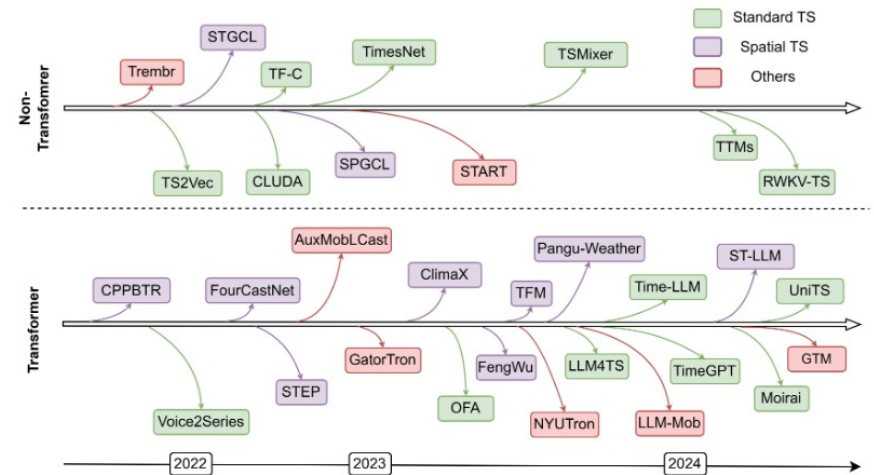
Fig from (Jhin et al. 2023).

# Foundation Models

- (Generalizable) Foundation Models are reshaping the AI Research
  - Language (LLMs) and Vision
    - GPT-4, Claude3.5, Gemini 2.0, LLAMA3, ...
    - DINO, SAM, CLIP, LLAVA...
  - Other domains/modalities
    - Code, Medical domain, Protein, DNA...
- Challenges on Time Series
  - Too diverse across domains
  - What are the tokens?
  - Backbone Model
    - How to encode structure information?
    - Is it scalable, expressive, interpretable?
  - What are the pretraining objectives?

# Schemes of Time Series Foundation Models

- Backbones
  - Transformer (PatchTST, Autoformer), Convolution (TimesNet), MLP (Dlinear, TSmixer)
- Pretrain time series foundation model
  - Across different tasks
  - Across different domains
- Inference on a new domain/task
  - Linear probing
  - Fine tuning
- However, interpretability?
  - Continuous representation of variables
  - No meaningful tokens

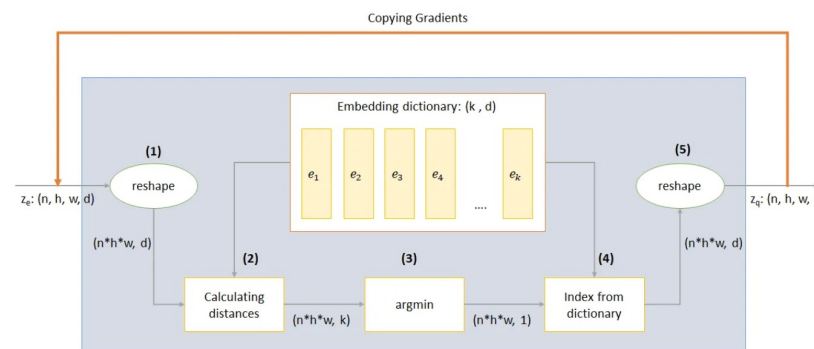
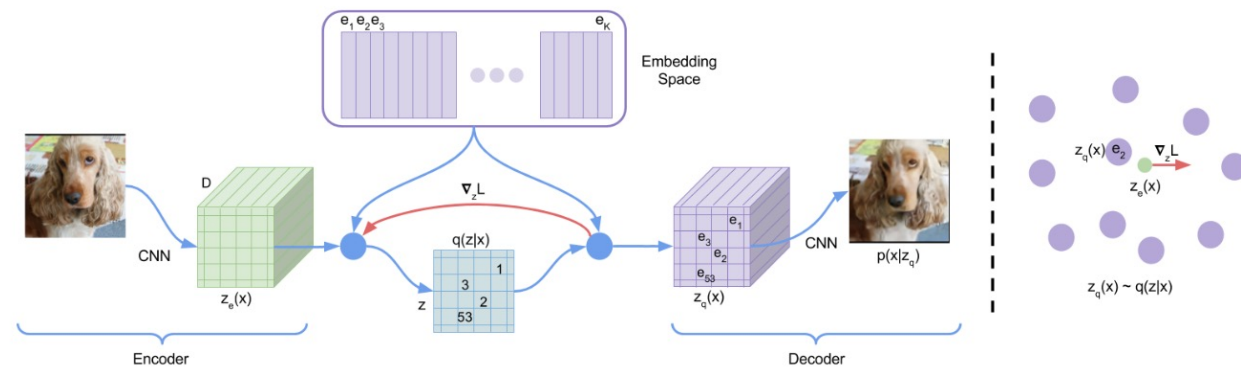


**Figure 1: Roadmaps of representative TSFMs.**

From Liang et al. 2024

# Background: Discrete Neural Representation

- VQ-VAE  
(Oord et al. 2017)



It enables better image/video generation/understanding, better global structure, more efficient generation

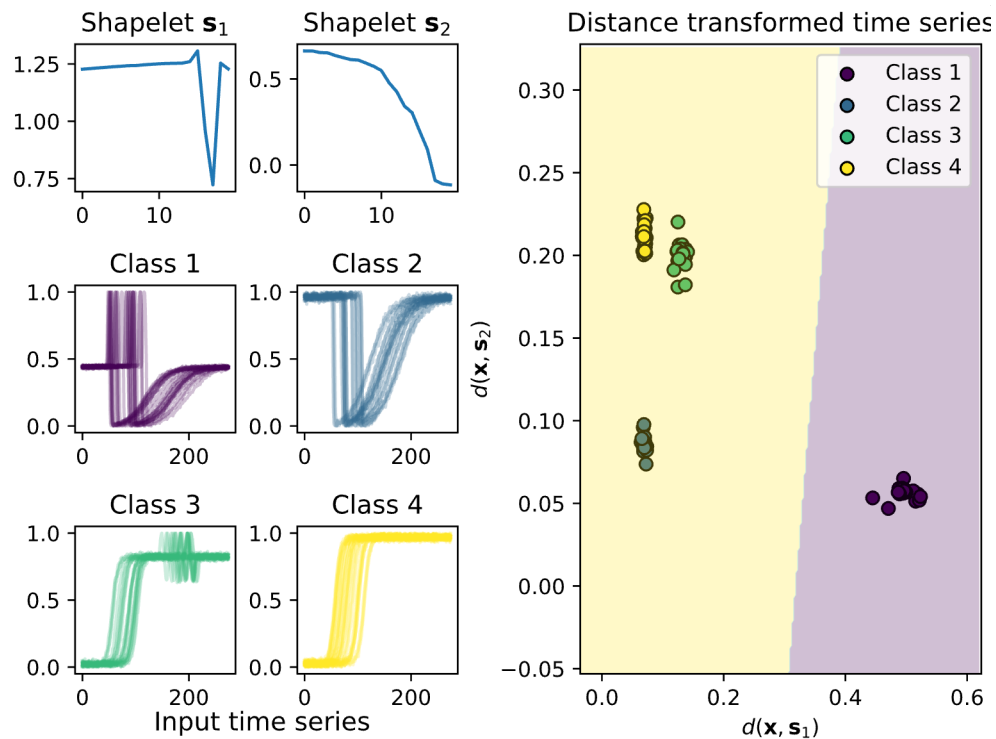


# Shapes as Tokens

- Codebooks in VQ-VAE
  - Still not physically meaningful
  - However, possible to replace the codebook with meaningful shapes
- A relevant concept: shapelet
  - Shapelets are defined as “subsequences that are in some sense maximally representative of a class”.
  - Each time series  $x$  can be represented as the vector of distances to all shapelets  $\langle d(x, s_1), d(x, s_2), \dots \rangle$



# Example Shapelets



- Problems
  - Not generalizable
  - Scale/length sensitive
- Solution
  - We define a new concept “shape” which exclude scale, offset, position and information

# Shape Token Representation

- An attribute tuple is a shape with meta information
  - Shapes are shared across data
  - other meta info helps define its reconstruction

For a univariate TS  $x$ , a subsequence  $s_k$  can be represented by an attribute tuple  $\tau_k = (z_k, \mu_k, \sigma_k, t_k, l_k)$  where

- $z_k \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{\text{code}}}$  is the code for abstracted shape of  $s_k$ ,
- $\mu_k \in \mathbb{R}^1$  is the offset of  $s_k$ ,
- $\sigma_k \in \mathbb{R}^1$  is the scale (standard deviation) of  $s_k$  and  $\sigma_k > 0$ ,
- $t_k \in \mathbb{R}^1$  is the relative starting position of  $s_k$  in  $x$  and  $0 \leq t \leq T - l_{\min}$ ,
- $l_k \in \mathbb{R}^1$  is the relative length of  $s_k$  w.r.t. to the length of  $x$  and  $l_{\min} \leq l \leq T - t_k$ .



# VQShape<sup>[1]</sup>: an interpretable time series foundation model

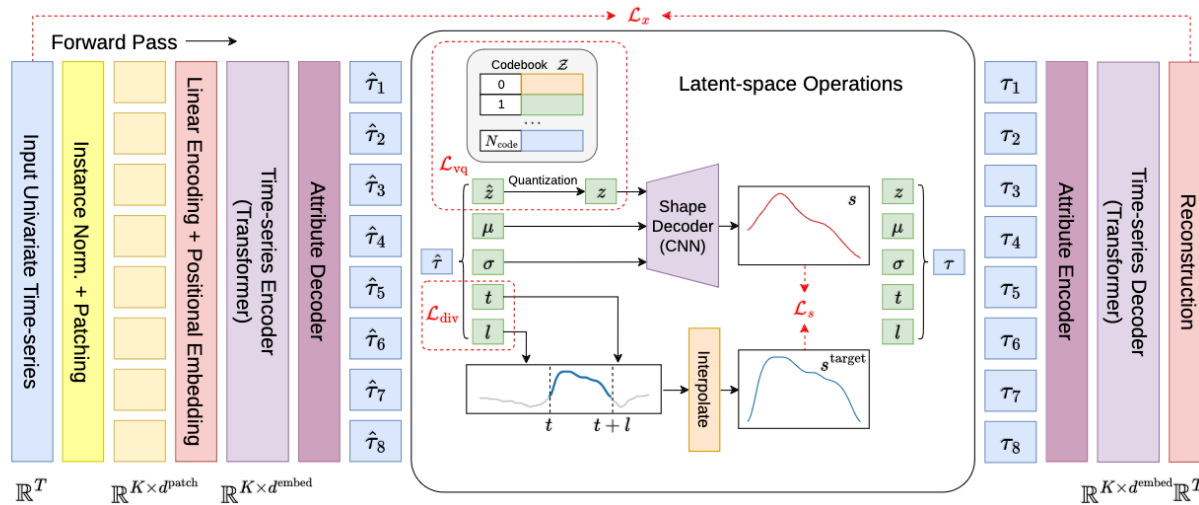


Figure 1: Overview of VQShape

## Key Ideas:

- Shapes should be reused, but can be scaled in different time series
- Shape code can reconstruct a time series subsequence defined by the attribute tuple
- The combination of shapes can reconstruct original time series

[1] Wen et al. "Abstracted Shapes as Tokens -- A Generalizable and Interpretable Model for Time-series Classification". NeurIPS 2024.

# Components

- 1. Time series encoding
  - Backbone: PatchTST
  - Output  $K$  embeddings
- 2. Attribute decoding
  - Take one embedding vector  $h_k$

$$\hat{\tau}_k = (\hat{z}_k, \mu_k, \sigma_k, t_k, l_k) = \mathcal{A}_{\text{dec}}(h_k), \text{ where } \begin{cases} \hat{z}_k = f_z(h_k), \\ \mu_k = f_\mu(h_k), \\ \sigma_k = \text{softplus}(f_\sigma(h_k)), \\ t_k = \text{sigmoid}(f_t(h_k)) \cdot (1 - l_{\min}), \\ l_k = \text{sigmoid}(f_l(h_k)) \cdot (1 - t_k) + l_{\min}. \end{cases}$$

- 3. map shape to codebook (vector quantization)

$$z_k = \arg \min_{z_q \in \mathcal{Z}} \|\hat{z}_k - z_q\|.$$

# Pretraining objective

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pretrain}} = \lambda_x \mathcal{L}_x + \lambda_s \mathcal{L}_s + \lambda_{\text{vq}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{vq}} + \lambda_{\text{div}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{div}}$$

- $L_x$  is reconstruction loss of time series
- $L_s$  is reconstruction loss of subsequences
- $L_{\text{vq}}$  is vector quantization loss
  - To ensure codebook coverage, we add entropy regularization

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{vq}} = \underbrace{\|\hat{z} - \text{sg}(z)\|_2^2 + \lambda_{\text{commit}} \|\text{sg}(\hat{z}) - z\|_2^2}_{\text{quantization}} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[H(q(\hat{z}, \mathcal{Z}))] - H(\mathbb{E}[q(\hat{z}, \mathcal{Z})])}_{\text{codebook usage}}$$

- $L_{\text{div}}$  ensures attribute tuples have diverse positions and scales

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{div}} = \frac{1}{K^2} \sum_{k_1=1}^K \sum_{k_2=1}^K \mathbb{1}(k_1 \neq k_2) \text{relu}(\epsilon - \|\kappa(t_{k_1}, l_{k_1}) - \kappa(t_{k_2}, l_{k_2})\|_2^2),$$

$$\text{where } \kappa(t_k, l_k) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(t_k \pi) \cdot \ln(l_k) / \ln(l_{\min}) \\ \sin(t_k \pi) \cdot \ln(l_k) / \ln(l_{\min}) \end{bmatrix}.$$



# Example Shapes

## Example Shapes and Time Series

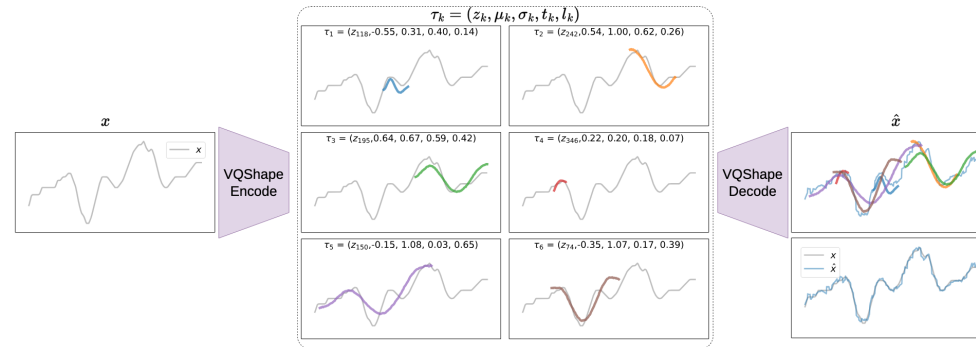
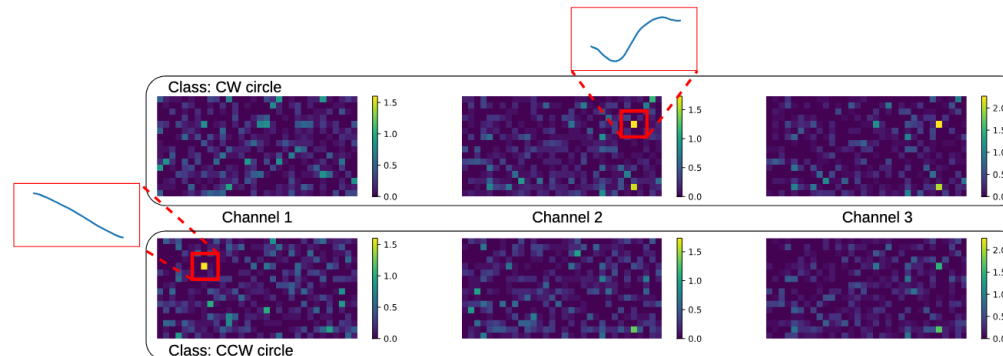


Figure 3: An example of abstracted shapes and their attributes (i.e., token representations) extracted by VQShape. For better presentation, we visualize 6 of the 64 shapes.

## Example Shapes in Classification



# Experient Results on UEA Benchmarks

	Classical		Supervised					Unsupervised Representation				Pre-trained		
	DTW	STRF	DLinear	Autoformer	FEDformer	PatchTST	TimesNet	TS-TCC	TST	T-Rep	TS2Vec	MOMENT	UniTS	VQShape
<b>Statistics with N/A</b>														
Mean Accuracy	0.648	0.660	0.635	0.570	0.612	0.669	0.710	0.682	0.630	0.719	0.712	0.686	0.629	<b>0.723</b>
Median Accuracy	0.711	0.679	0.673	0.553	0.586	0.756	0.797	0.753	0.620	0.804	<b>0.812</b>	0.759	0.684	0.810
Mean Rank	7.138	7.828	8.690	9.448	7.750	8.296	5.143	7.172	8.448	5.207	<b>4.897</b>	5.929	9.828	5.621
Median Rank	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	5.0	8.0	9.0	4.0	<b>3.0</b>	5.5	10.0	5.0
Num. Top-1	3	2	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	4	<b>6</b>	5	0	<b>6</b>
Num. Top-3	8	5	5	0	8	2	8	5	4	12	<b>16</b>	11	0	9
Num. Win/Tie	14	20	22	25	19	20	14	18	20	15	13	13	25	-
Num. Lose	15	9	7	4	9	7	14	11	9	14	16	15	4	-
Wilcoxon p-value	0.206	0.023	0.002	0.000	0.051	0.000	0.898	0.156	0.022	0.536	0.576	0.733	0.000	-
<b>Statistics without N/A</b>														
Mean Accuracy	0.642	0.658	0.635	0.561	0.601	0.657	0.703	0.669	0.623	0.710	0.704	0.688	0.618	<b>0.720</b>
Median Accuracy	0.714	0.712	0.690	0.552	0.585	0.739	0.797	0.752	0.638	0.802	0.748	0.759	0.679	<b>0.812</b>
Mean Rank	7.231	7.692	8.923	9.462	7.731	8.346	5.308	7.538	8.462	5.192	<b>5.038</b>	5.885	10.115	5.538
Median Rank	6.5	7.5	9.5	9.5	8.0	8.5	5.000	8.0	9.5	4.5	<b>3.0</b>	5.5	10.5	4.5
Num. Top-1	3	2	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	3	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	0	<b>5</b>
Num. Top-3	7	5	5	0	8	2	7	4	4	10	<b>14</b>	10	0	8
Num. Win/Tie	13	18	20	22	17	20	13	17	19	14	12	12	23	-
Num. Lose	13	8	6	4	9	6	13	9	7	12	14	14	3	-
Wilcoxon p-value	0.187	0.036	0.001	0.001	0.111	0.001	0.803	0.094	0.036	0.653	0.696	1.000	0.000	-

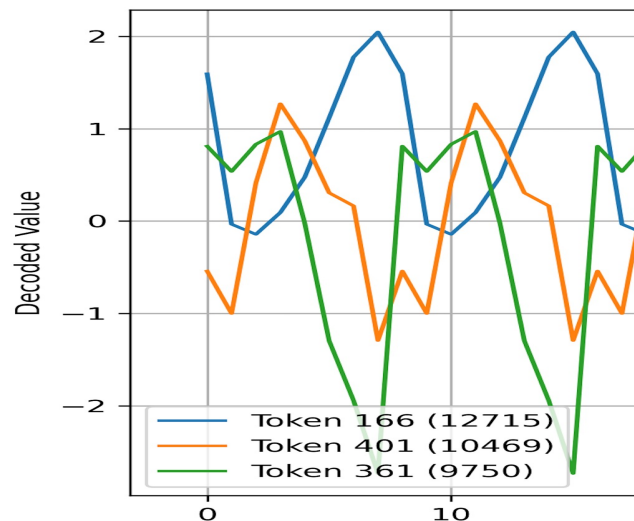


# Performance for Anomaly Prediction

<i>Model</i>	<i>Precision</i>	<i>Recall</i>	<i>F1-Score</i>
Transformer	0.53	0.51	0.52
LightGBM	0.81	0.61	0.69
<b>VQShape</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.78</b>

1. Transformer underfit due to small training data
2. VQShape is better due to pretraining on other datasets, it can even achieve 0.76 F1 by only adding a linear probing.

## Top Activated Codebook Tokens from VQShape



Here we visualize the reconstructed shapes of 3 frequently activated codebook tokens.

These shapes represent the most common local signal patterns captured by the VQShape.

# Ongoing and Future work

- Ongoing work
  - Adding graphs to connect all sensor variables
    - Demonstrated useful in our previous works (Ma et al. UAI 2023)
  - Designing a new self-supervised learning framework which are more suitable for the anomaly detection/prediction task
  - Adding more data to capture bigger sparks and more patterns
- Future work
  - Online adaptation
  - Move to other AD tasks (e.g. JETs)

Thank you!

Looking forward to questions and  
potential collaboration!