

The application of machine learning in holographic QCD

Reporter: Xun Chen (陈勋)

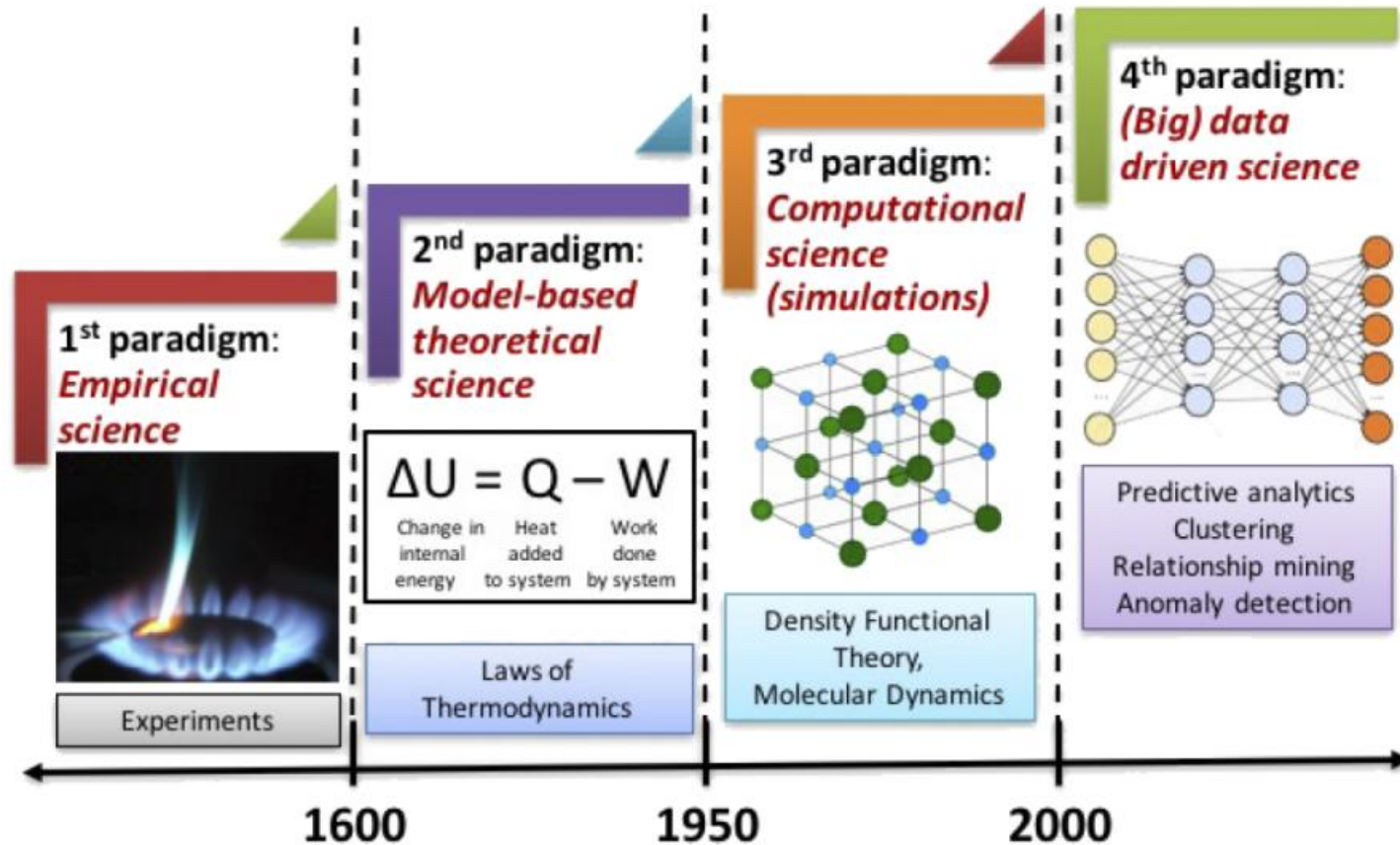
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Date: 27/10/2025

Outline

1. Motivation
2. Three applications in holographic model
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4. Advertisement
5. Acknowledgements

Motivation



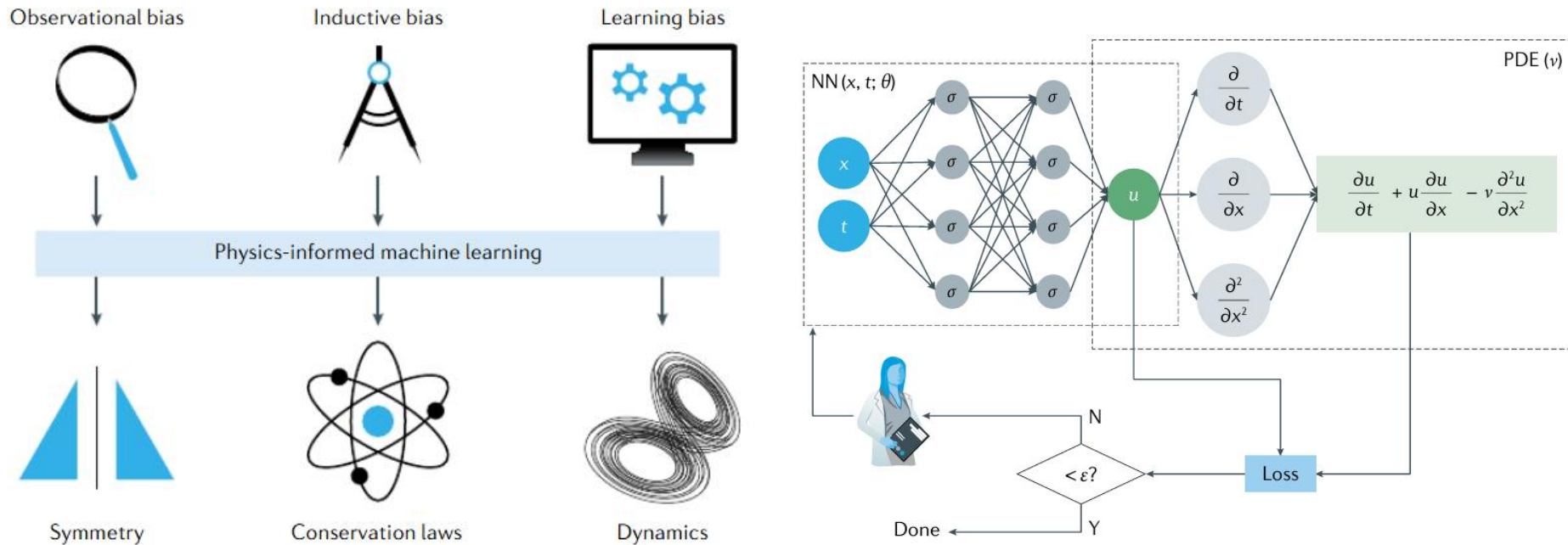
The Fourth Paradigm, Data-intensive Scientific Discovery

Tony Hey, Communications in Computer and Information Science (CCIS), volume 317

Motivation

Physics Informed Machine Learning,

George Em Karniadakis, Ioannis G. Kevrekidis, Sifan Wang and Liu Yang
Nature Reviews Physics volume 3, pages 422–440 (2021)



Application I:

Automatically determining the model parameters

Loss function:

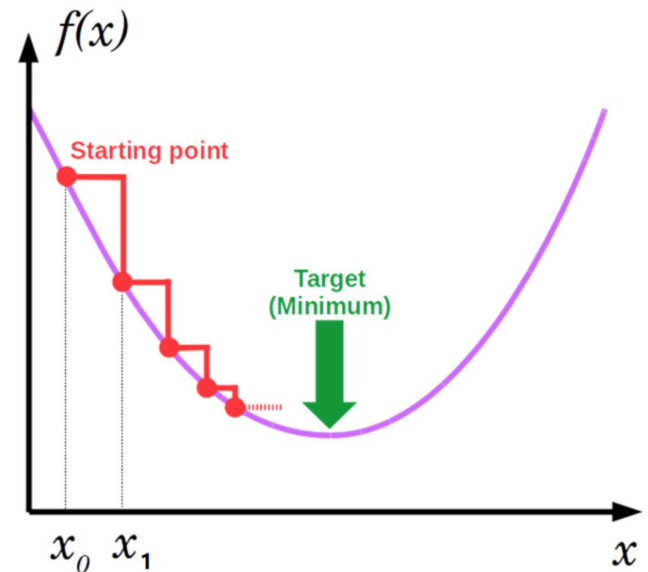
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{N} \sum (y_{pre} - y_{exp})^2$$

To minimize $f(x)$, parameters are updated as:

where: $w_{new} = w - \eta \cdot \nabla f(x)$

η = learning rate (step size)

$\nabla f(x)$ = gradient at current point



Xun Chen, Mei Huang, Machine learning holographic black hole from lattice QCD equation of state, Phys.Rev.D 109 (2024) 5, L051902.

Xun Chen, Mei Huang, Flavor dependent critical endpoint from holographic QCD through machine learning, JHEP 02 (2025) 123.

Einstein-Maxwell-Dilaton model (gravitational model)

$$S_b = \frac{1}{16\pi G_5} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} \left[R - \frac{f(\phi)}{4} F^2 - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - V(\phi) \right].$$

$f(\phi)$ is the gauge kinetic function coupled with the Maxwell field.
(dertermining the dependent of [chemical potential](#).)

$V(\phi)$ is the potential of the dilaton field. (Simulating the QCD properties at [finite temperature](#).)

Ansatz of metric
$$ds^2 = \frac{L^2 e^{2A(z)}}{z^2} \left[-g(z) dt^2 + \frac{dz^2}{g(z)} + d\vec{x}^2 \right]$$

$f(\phi)$ and $V(\phi)$ are unknown function, which need to be fixed.

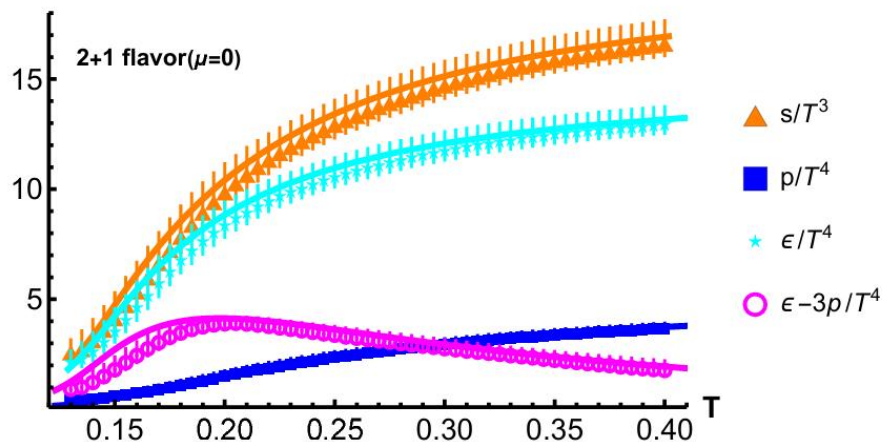
Equally, we assume the form of $A(z)$ and $f(z)$:

$$A(z) = d * \ln(az^2 + 1) + d * \ln(bz^4 + 1), \quad f(z) = e^{cz^2 - A(z) + k}.$$

with undetermining parameters: a, b, c, d, k

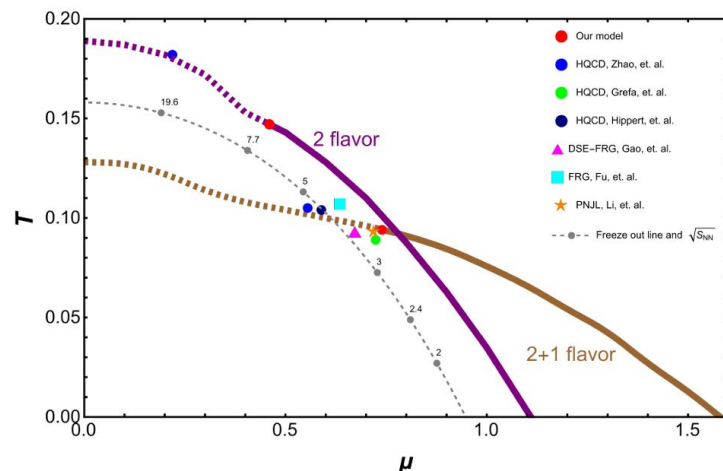
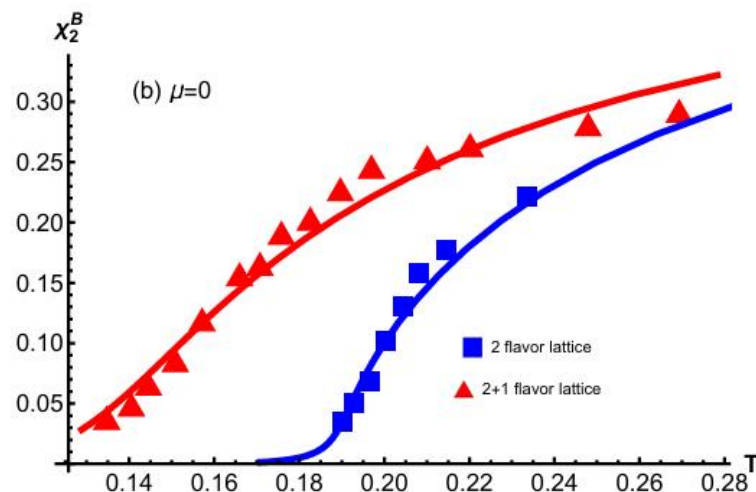
entropy: $s = \frac{e^{3A(z_h)}}{4G_5 z_h^3}.$ Baryon number susceptibility $\chi_2^B = \frac{1}{T^2} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial \mu}.$

QCD equation of state from lattice



	a	b	c	d	k	G_5	T_c
$N_f = 0$	0	0.072	0	-0.584	0	1.326	0.265
$N_f = 2$	0.067	0.023	-0.377	-0.382	0	0.885	0.189
$N_f = 2 + 1$	0.204	0.013	-0.264	-0.173	-0.824	0.400	0.128

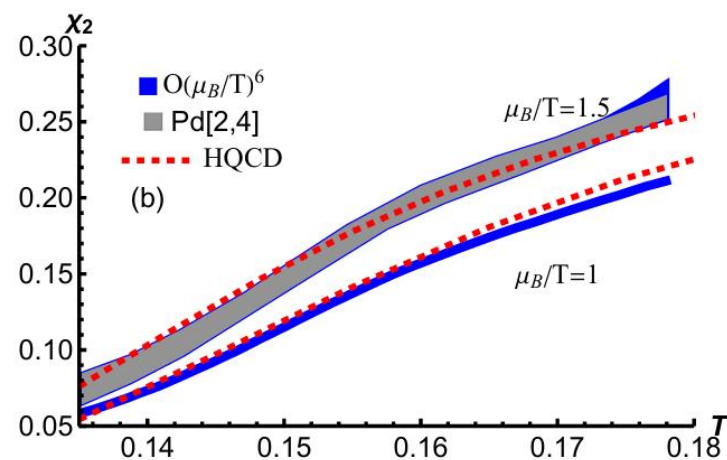
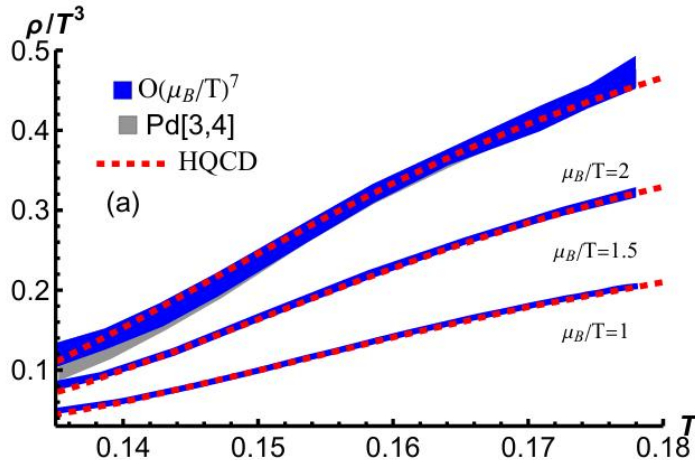
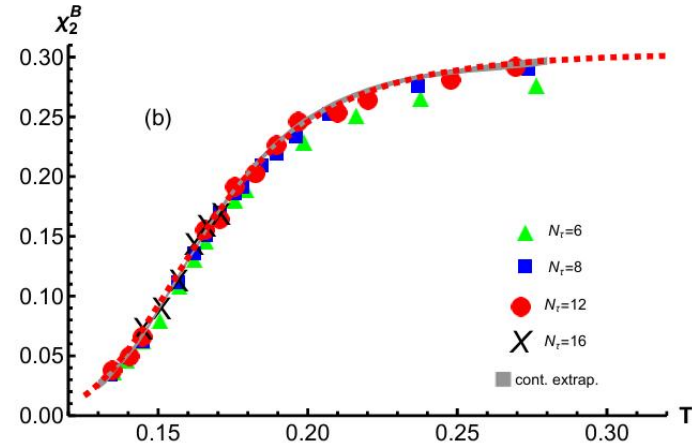
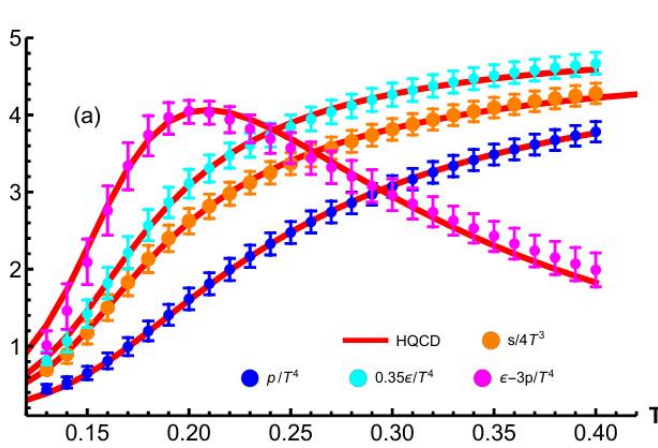
Baryon number susceptibility

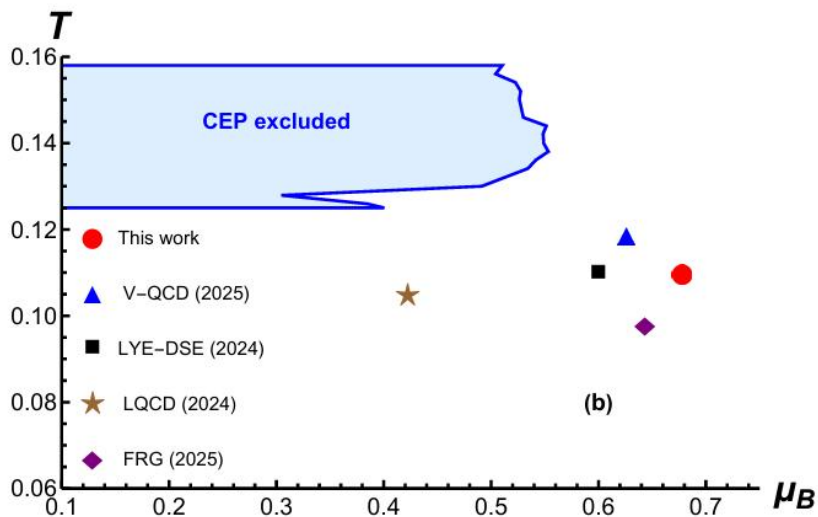
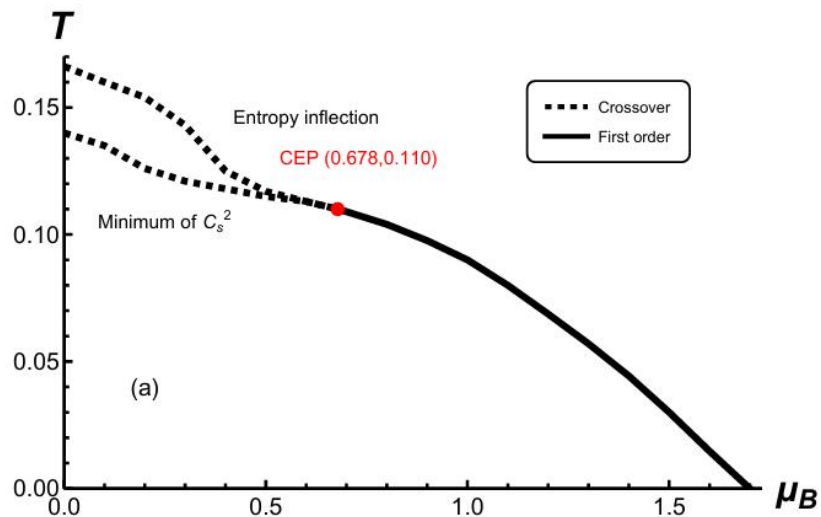
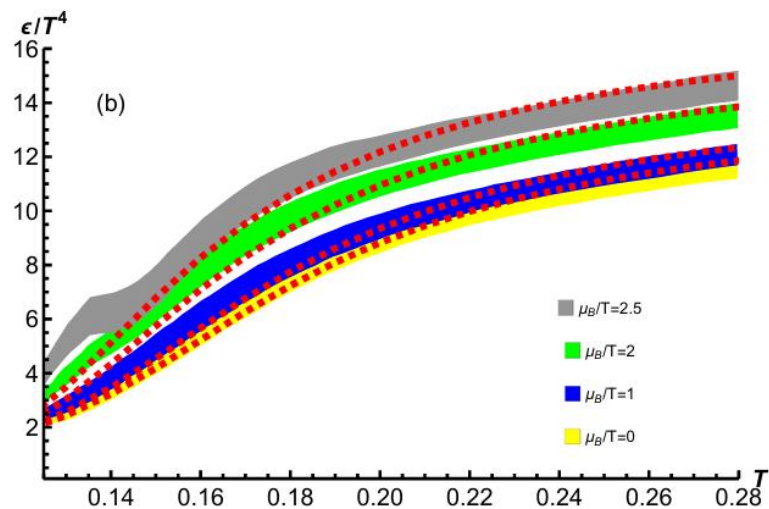
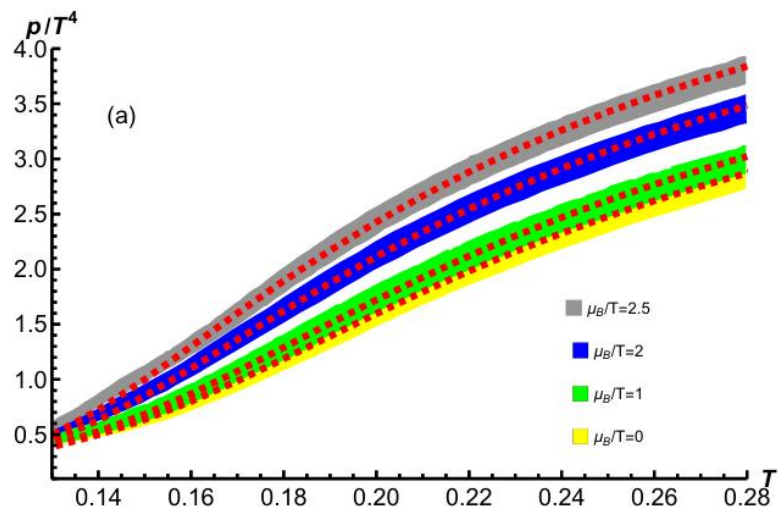


Data-Driven Refinement of an Analytical Holographic Model for the QCD Phase Transition (In preparation)

Xun Chen, Floriana Giannuzzi, Stefano Nicotri

4





Application II:

Including the **error bar** in the model

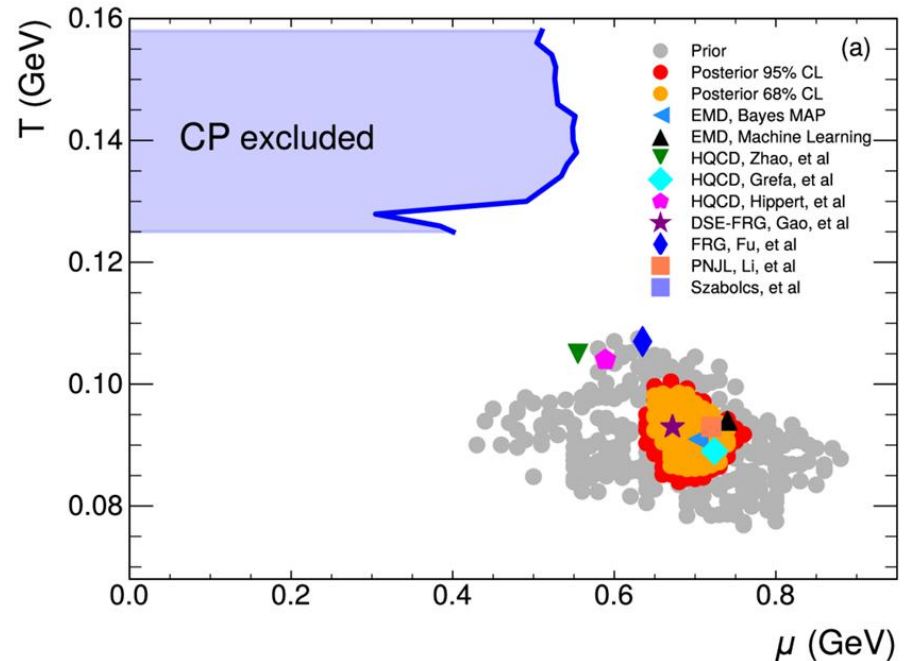
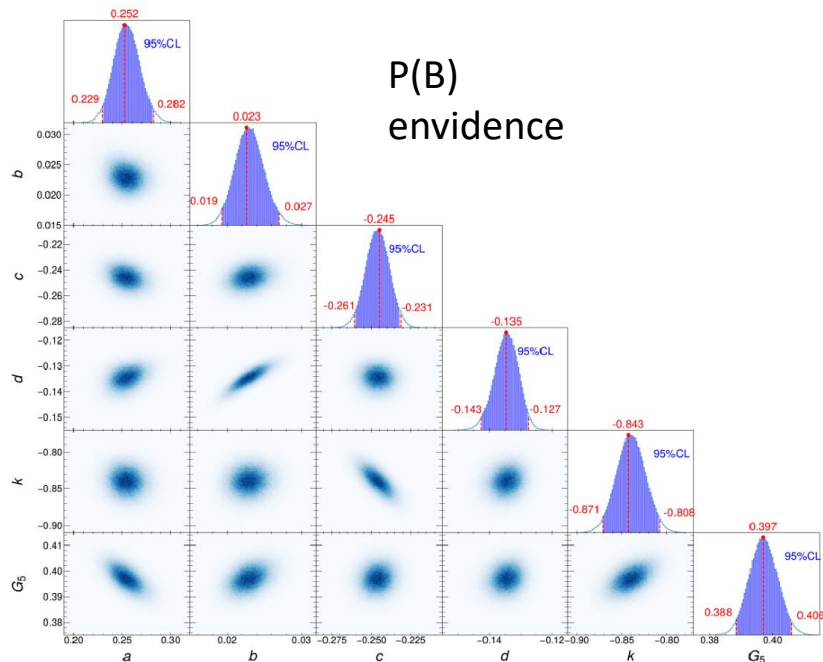
Bayesian Inference of the Critical Endpoint in 2+1-Flavor System from Holographic QCD,

Phys.Rev.D 112 (2025) 2, 026019

Liqiang Zhu, Xun Chen, Kai Zhou, Hanzhong Zhang, Mei Huang,

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A) \cdot P(A)}{P(B)}$$

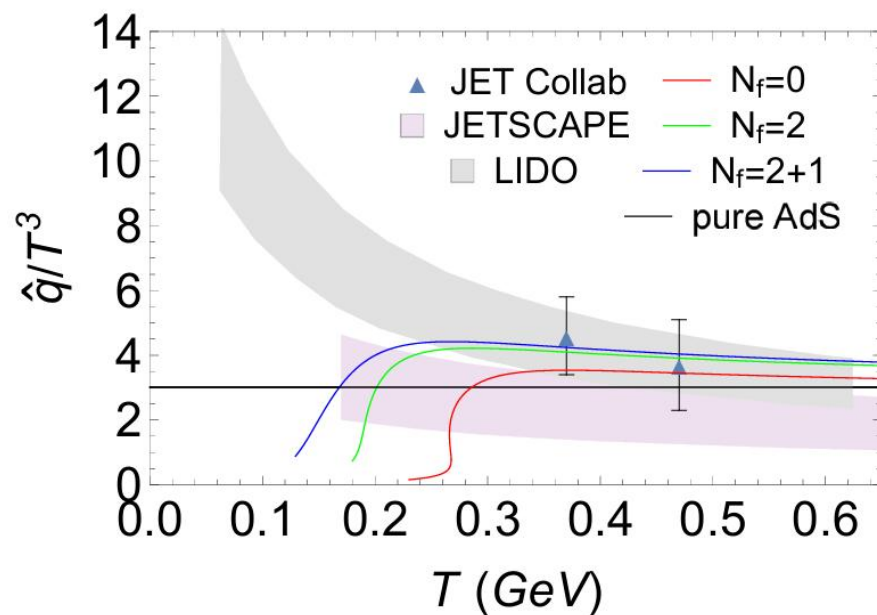
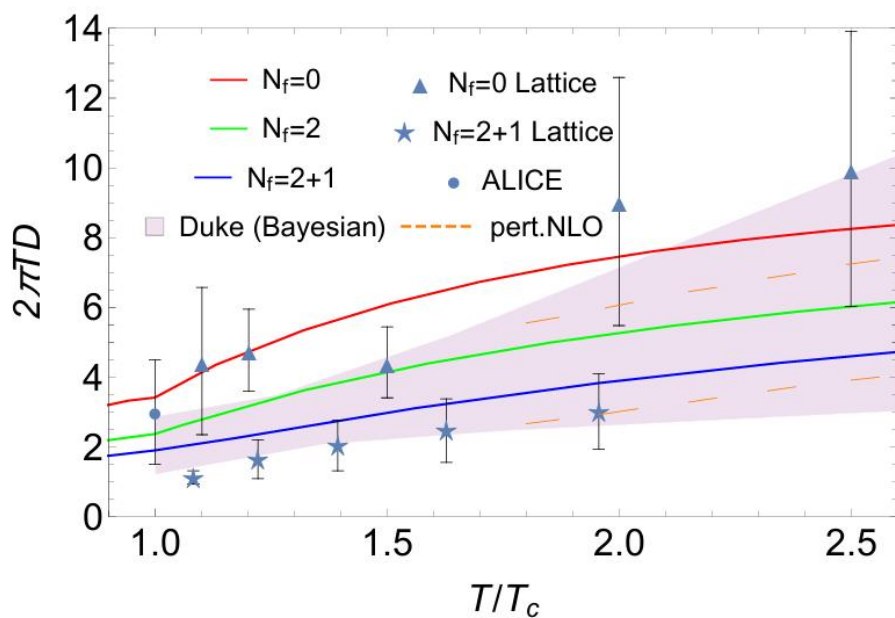
$P(A)$ prior, $P(B|A)$ likelihood, $P(A|B)$ posterior



Exploring transport properties of quark-gluon plasma in flavor-dependent systems with a holographic model

Phys.Rev.D 111 (2025) 8, 086033

Bing Chen, **Xun Chen**, Xiaohua Li, Zhou-Run Zhu, Kai Zhou



Universal Approximation Theorem

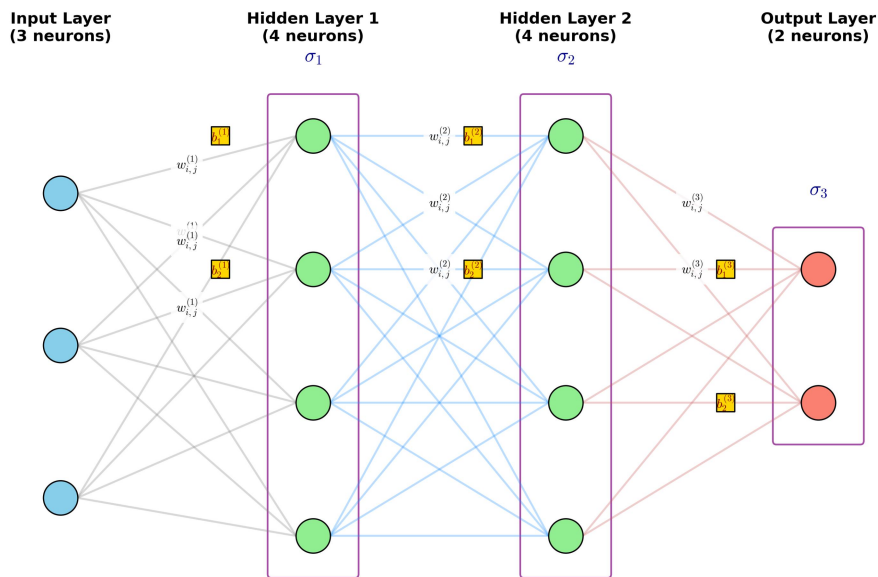
$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \sigma(w_i x + b_i).$$

σ : activation function

w : weight

b : bias

When N is sufficiently large, $f(x)$ can approximate any function arbitrarily closely.



Multilayer Perceptron (MLP) Architecture



Data-Driven Einstein-Dilaton Model for Pure Yang-Mills Thermodynamics and Glueball Spectrum

Arxiv: 2507.06729

Xun Chen, Yidian Chen, Kai Zhou

$$A(z) = d * \ln(az^2 + 1) + d * \ln(bz^4 + 1),$$

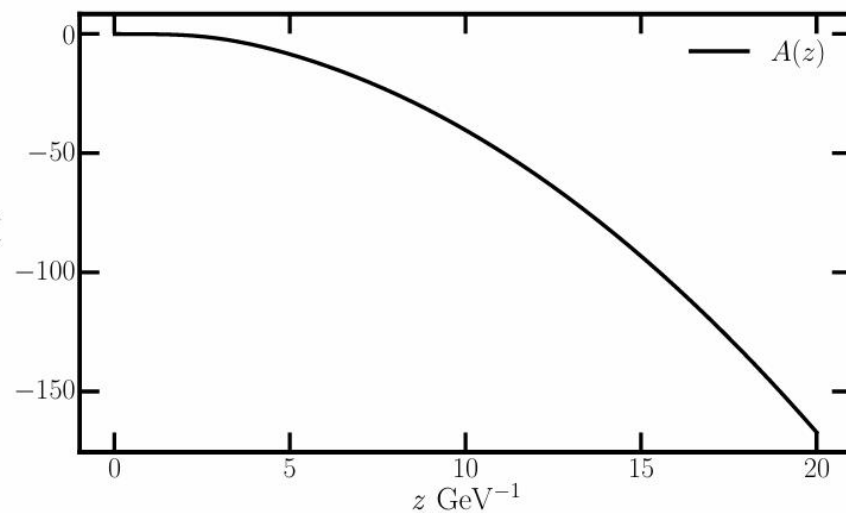
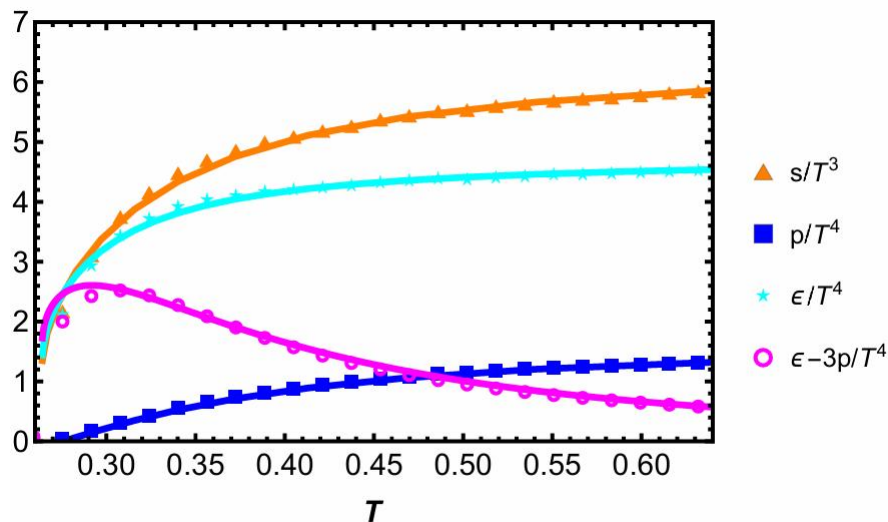
$A(z) \rightarrow$ Nueral network

$$S_\psi = \int d^5x \sqrt{g_s} e^{-\Phi} \left[\frac{1}{2} \partial_M \psi \partial^M \psi + \frac{1}{2} M_5^2 \psi^2 \right]$$

$$-\tilde{\psi}_n'' + V_g(z) \tilde{\psi}_n = m_n^2 \tilde{\psi}_n,$$

$m_0 = 1.475 \text{ GeV}$ (groundstate) and
 $m_1 = 2.775 \text{ GeV}$ (first excitedstate) from lattice QCD

Inverse problem



State	Lat1	Lat2	Lat3	Our model
0^{++}	1475(30)(65)	1653(26)	1730(50)(80)	1791
0^{++*}	2755(70)(120)	2842(40)	2670(180)(130)	2751
0^{++**}	3370(100)(150)	—	—	3500
0^{++***}	3990(210)(180)	—	—	4122

Application III: Can we get the analytical function from data with neural network?

Multi-Layer Perceptrons (MLP) and Kolmogorov-Arnold Network (KAN)

Ziming Liu, et al, arXiv: 2404.19756

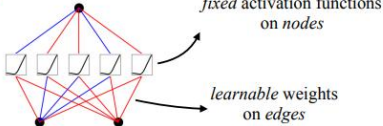
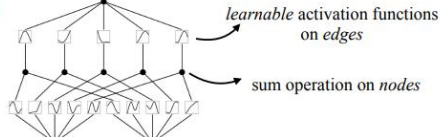
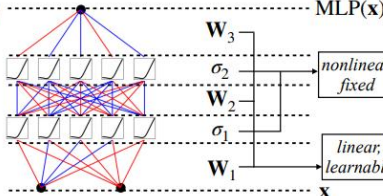
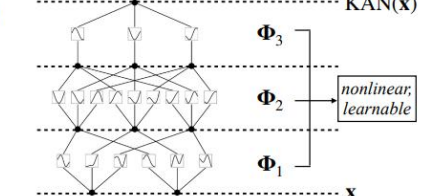
Model	Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP)	Kolmogorov-Arnold Network (KAN)
Theorem	Universal Approximation Theorem	Kolmogorov-Arnold Representation Theorem
Formula (Shallow)	$f(\mathbf{x}) \approx \sum_{i=1}^{N(e)} a_i \sigma(\mathbf{w}_i \cdot \mathbf{x} + b_i)$	$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{q=1}^{2n+1} \Phi_q \left(\sum_{p=1}^n \phi_{q,p}(x_p) \right)$
Model (Shallow)	(a)  fixed activation functions on nodes learnable weights on edges	(b)  learnable activation functions on edges sum operation on nodes
Formula (Deep)	$\text{MLP}(\mathbf{x}) = (\mathbf{W}_3 \circ \sigma_2 \circ \mathbf{W}_2 \circ \sigma_1 \circ \mathbf{W}_1)(\mathbf{x})$	$\text{KAN}(\mathbf{x}) = (\Phi_3 \circ \Phi_2 \circ \Phi_1)(\mathbf{x})$
Model (Deep)	(c)  $\mathbf{W}_3$ σ_2 $\mathbf{W}_2$ σ_1 $\mathbf{W}_1$ $\mathbf{x}$ nonlinear, fixed linear, learnable	(d)  Φ_3 Φ_2 Φ_1 $\mathbf{x}$ nonlinear, learnable

Figure 0.1: Multi-Layer Perceptrons (MLPs) vs. Kolmogorov-Arnold Networks (KANs)

Black box

Intrinsic
Interpretability

Neural network modeling of heavy-quark potential from holography

Eur.Phys.J.C 85 (2025) 6, 637

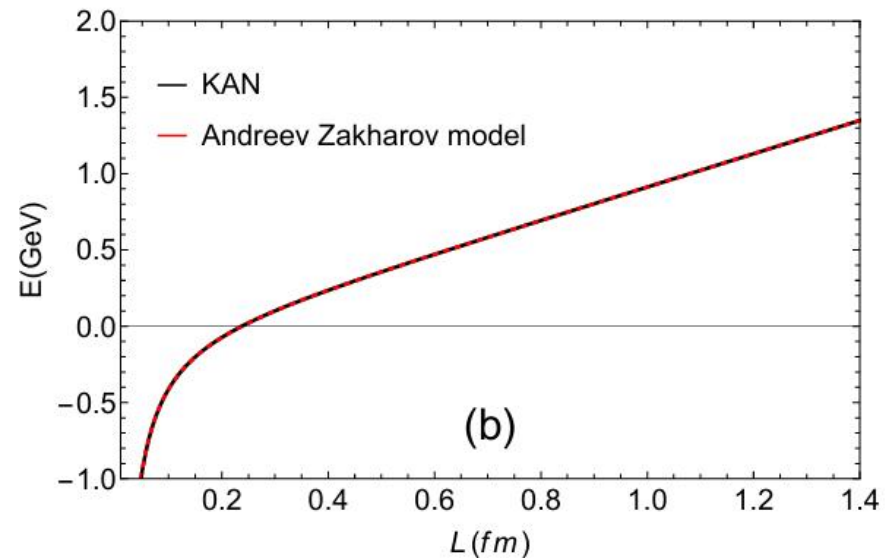
*Ou-Yang Luo, **Xun Chen**, Fu-Peng Li, Xiao-Hua Li, and Kai Zhou*

Oleg Andreev, Valentin I. Zakharov, On Heavy-Quark Free Energies, Entropies, Polyakov Loop, and AdS/QCD, JHEP 04 (2007) 100

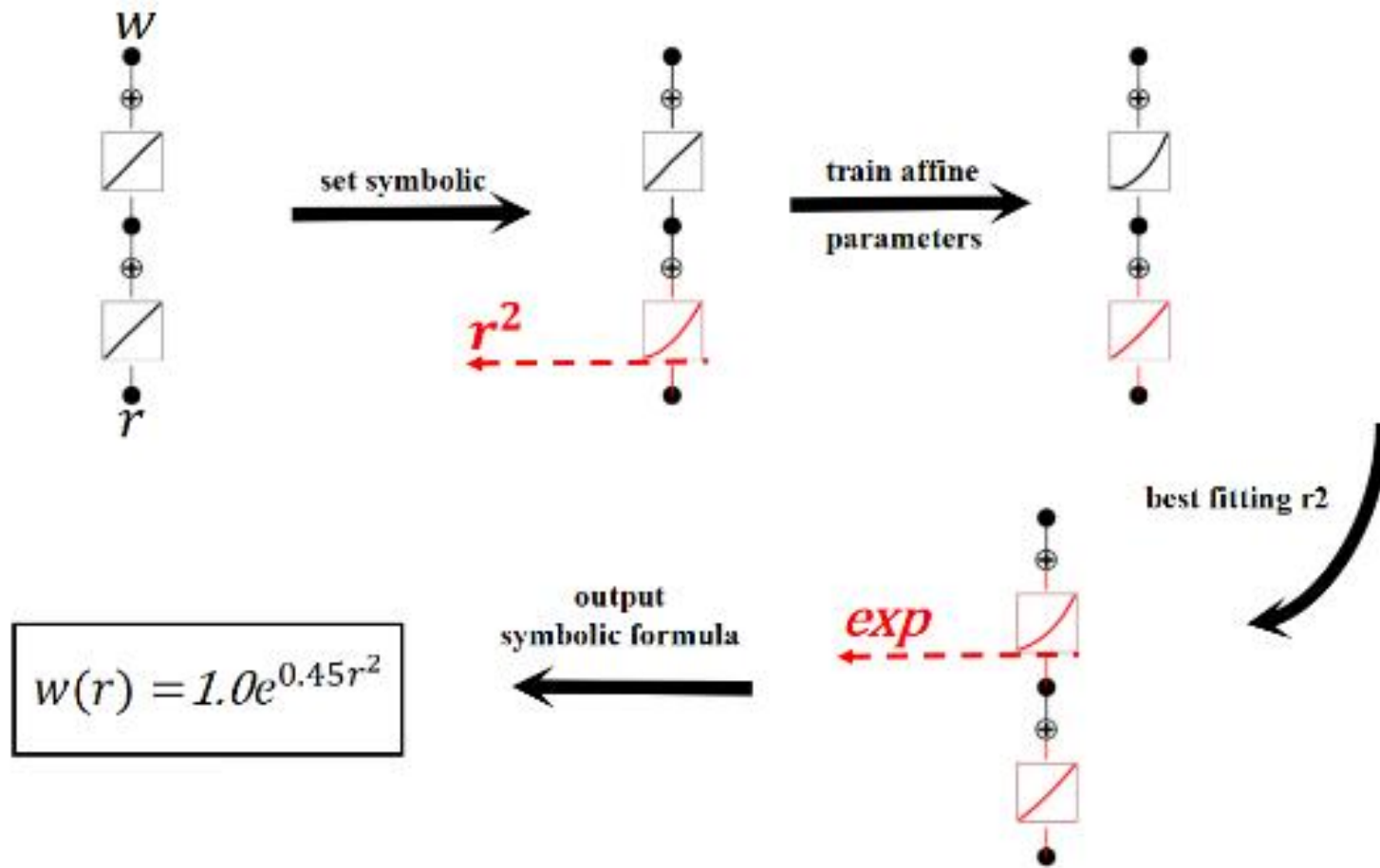
Deformed AdS-RN black hole

$$ds^2 = w(r) \frac{1}{r^2} [f(r) dt^2 + d\vec{x}^2 + f^{-1}(r) dr^2],$$
$$f(r) = 1 - \left(\frac{1}{r_h^4} + q^2 r_h^2 \right) r^4 + q^2 r^6.$$

$$w(r) = 1.0e^{0.45r^2}$$



Reproduce the Andreev-Zakharov model



Summary

- Help us quickly determine the parameters of the model.
- Use neural networks to inversely obtain the numerical solutions of the model.
- By using KAN, we can further derive the analytical solution of the model.

With the help of machine learning, we aim to change the holographic model from qualitative study to precisely quantitative study.

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