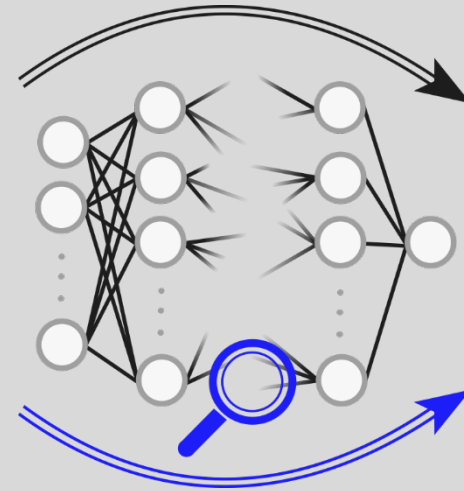


# Replacing neural networks by optimal analytical predictors for the detection of phase transitions

Julian Arnold and Frank Schäfer  
Department of Physics, University of Basel  
Bruder group

arXiv:2203.06084



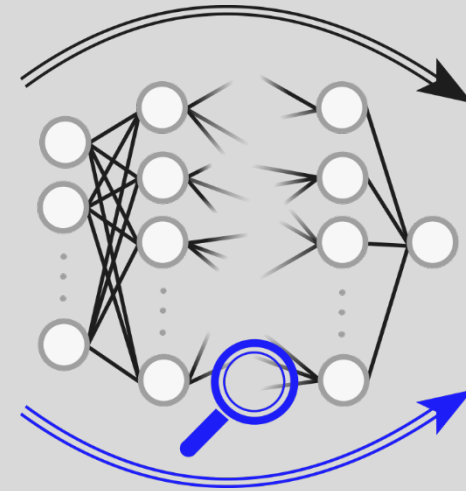
②

③

# Replacing **neural networks** by **optimal analytical predictors** for the detection of **phase transitions**

①

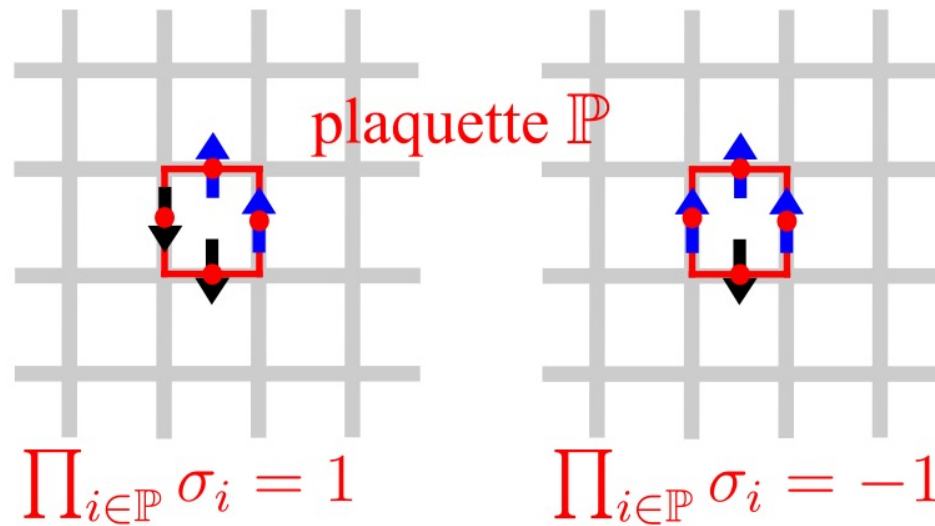
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# Topological crossover in Ising gauge theory

- Hamiltonian  $H(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = -J \sum_{\mathbb{P}} \prod_{i \in \mathbb{P}} \sigma_i$



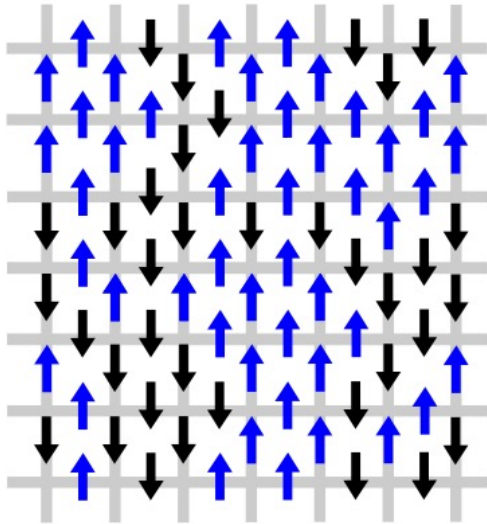
- spin configuration  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{L \times L})$  with  $\sigma_i \in \{+1, -1\}$

- Boltzmann distribution  $P(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = \frac{e^{-H(\boldsymbol{\sigma})/k_B T}}{Z}$

# Topological crossover in Ising gauge theory

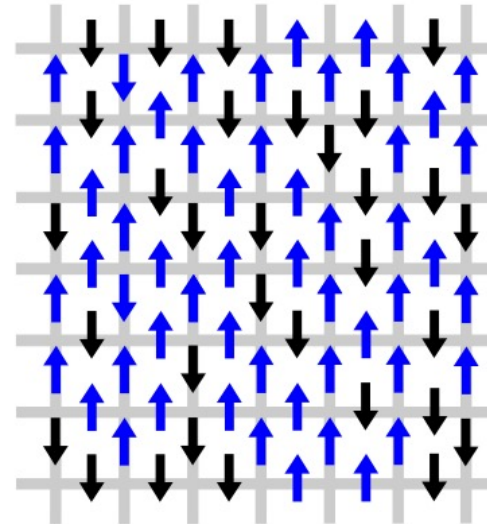
- Hamiltonian  $H(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = -J \sum_{\mathbb{P}} \prod_{i \in \mathbb{P}} \sigma_i$

ground state



$$\prod_{i \in \mathbb{P}} \sigma_i = 1$$

excited state



$$\prod_{i \in \mathbb{P}} \sigma_i = \pm 1$$

temperature  $T$

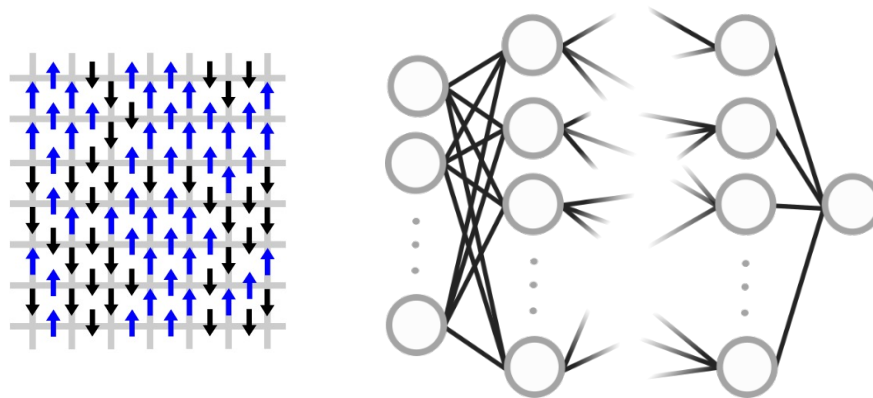
# Motivation

- detecting phase transitions from **experimentally accessible data**
    - ⇒ does not require prior theoretical knowledge
    - ⇒ could enable discovery of new phases of matter
-

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use (deep) neural networks which proved successful in traditional image classification tasks



# Detecting phase transitions using neural networks

- supervised learning (SL)



## Machine learning phases of matter

Juan Carrasquilla<sup>1\*</sup> and Roger G. Melko<sup>1,2</sup>

- learning by confusion (LBC)



## Learning phase transitions by confusion

Evert P. L. van Nieuwenburg\*, Ye-Hua Liu and Sebastian D. Huber

- prediction-based method (PBM)


PHYSICAL REVIEW E **99**, 062107 (2019)

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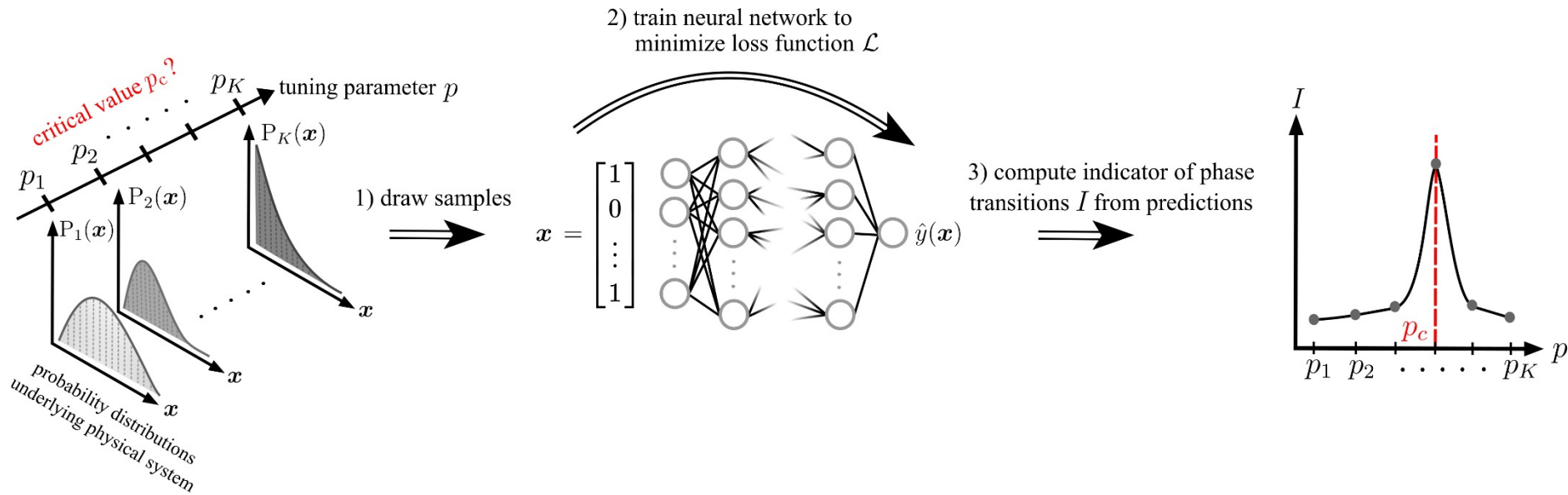
### Vector field divergence of predictive model output as indication of phase transitions

Frank Schäfer and Niels Lörch\*

*Department of Physics, University of Basel, Klingelbergstrasse 82, CH-4056 Basel, Switzerland*

 (Received 3 December 2018; revised manuscript received 16 May 2019; published 5 June 2019)

# Detecting phase transitions using neural networks



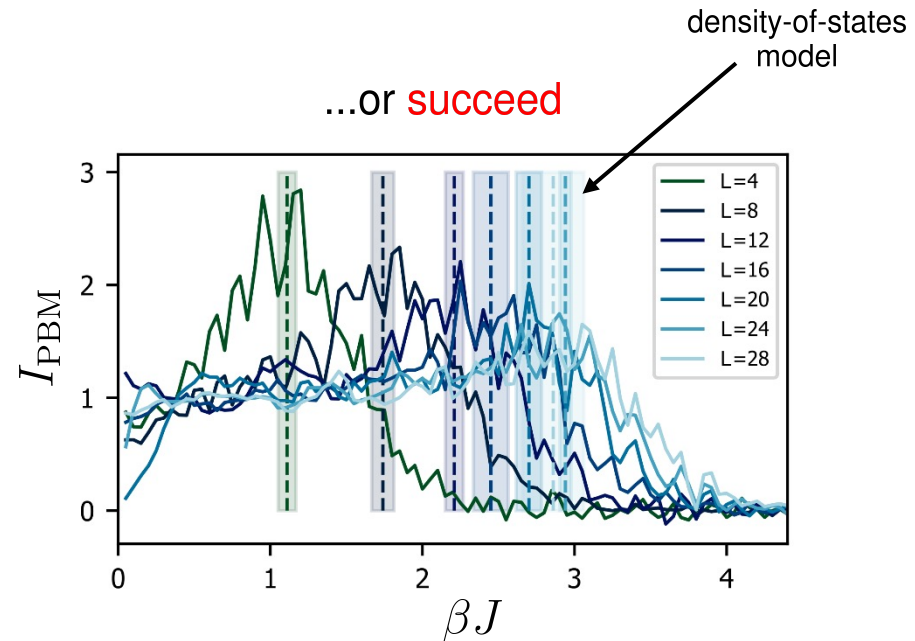
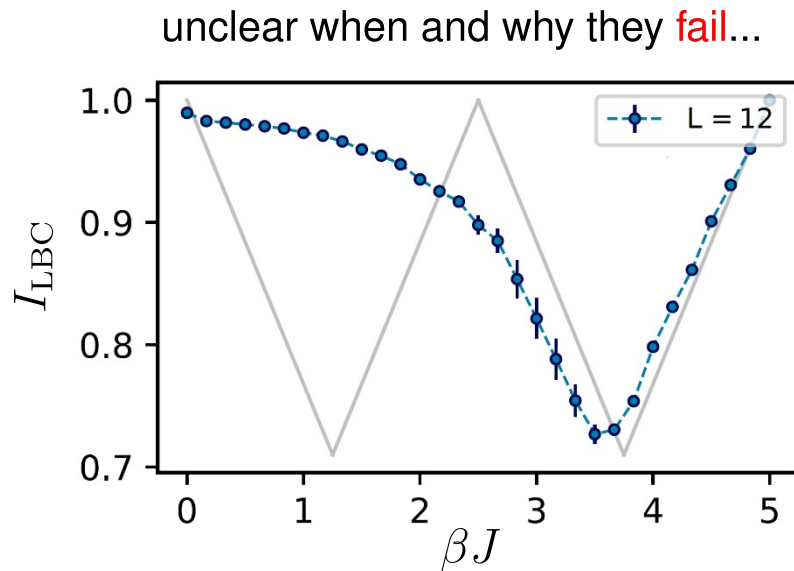


# What's the problem?

- methods were motivated in a heuristic fashion
  - (deep) neural networks are difficult to interpret
    - ⇒ have **limited understanding** of their working principle
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Greplova *et al.*, New J. Phys. **22** 045003 (2020)

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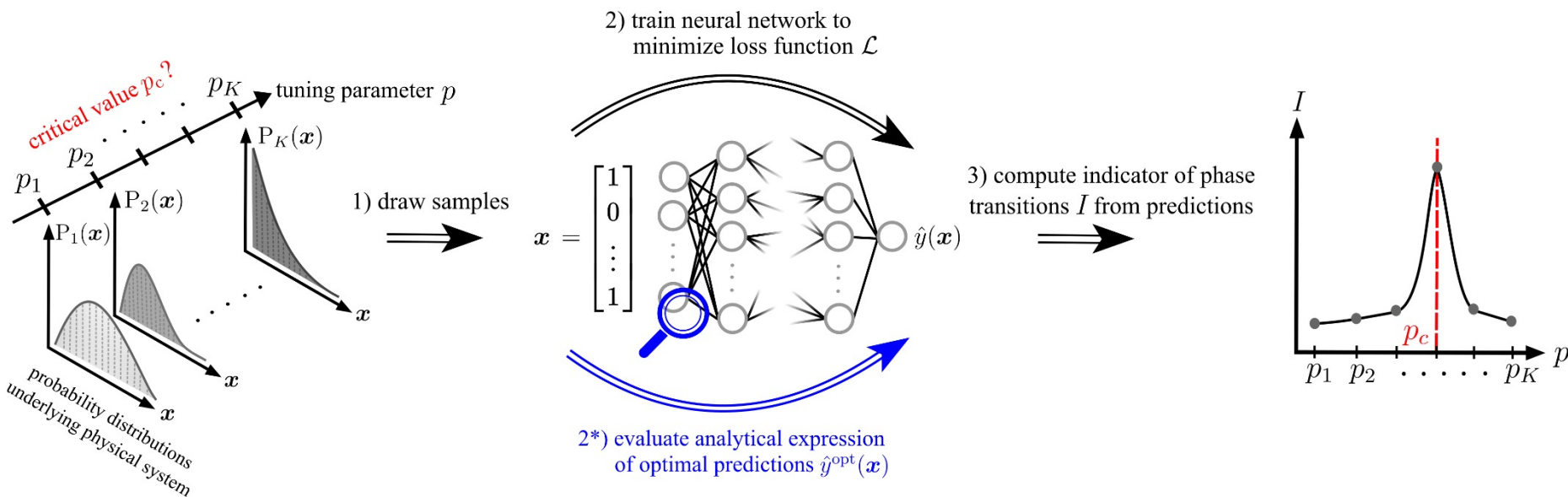
high expressivity



low interpretability and high computational cost

---

# Replacing neural networks



$$\arg \min_{\hat{y}(x)} \mathcal{L} = \hat{y}^{\text{opt}}(x)$$

$$\lim_{\text{expressive power} \rightarrow \infty} \hat{y}(x) = \hat{y}^{\text{opt}}(x)$$

# Optimal analytical predictors

- supervised learning  $\hat{y}_{\text{SL}}^{\text{opt}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\sum_{k \in I} P_k(\mathbf{x})}{\sum_{k=1}^K P_k(\mathbf{x})}$
- learning by confusion  $\hat{y}_{\text{LBC}}^{\text{opt}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\sum_{k \in I} P_k(\mathbf{x})}{\sum_{k=1}^K P_k(\mathbf{x})}$
- prediction-based method  $\hat{y}_{\text{PBM}}^{\text{opt}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K P_k(\mathbf{x}) p_k}{\sum_{k=1}^K P_k(\mathbf{x})}$

⇒ gauge changes in underlying probability distributions  $\{P_k\}_{k=1}^K$

analytical expressions reveal dependence of output on input data

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⇒ gauge changes in underlying probability distributions  $\{P_k\}_{k=1}^K$

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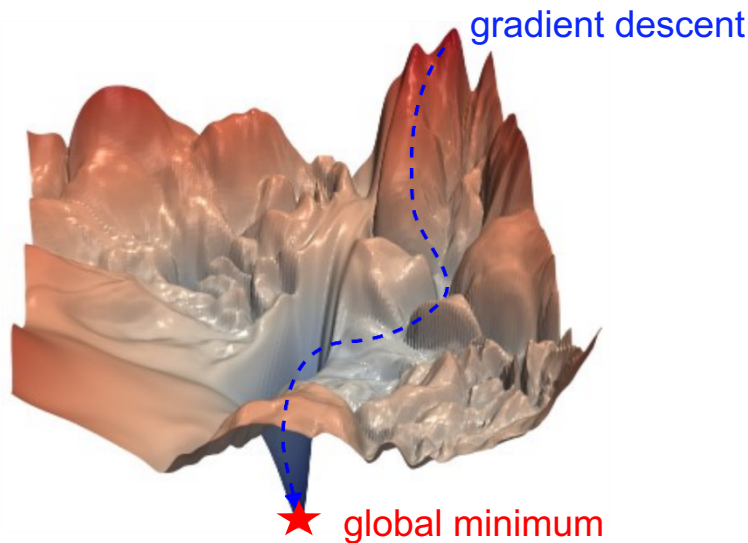
⇒ use analytical expressions for probability distributions or estimate it based on drawn samples

can compute optimal indicators  $I^{\text{opt}}$  directly from data

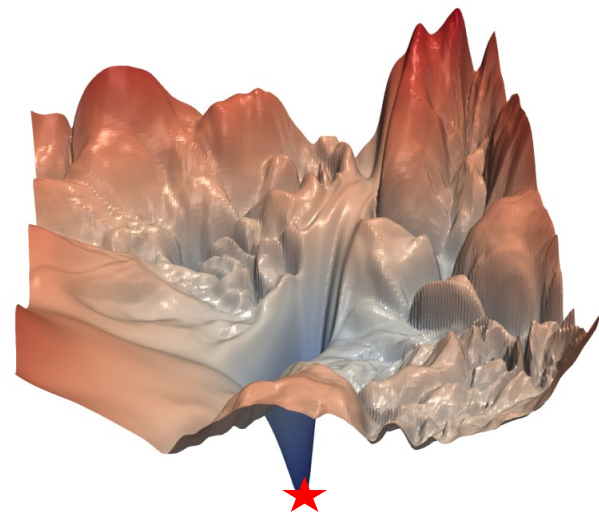
# Optimal analytical predictors

- require **less computational resources** compared to training neural networks
  - ⇒ single training epoch  $\gtrsim$  evaluation time of optimal indicators
  - ⇒ no need to tune hyperparameters
  - ⇒ convergence is explicitly guaranteed

train neural networks



evaluate optimal predictors



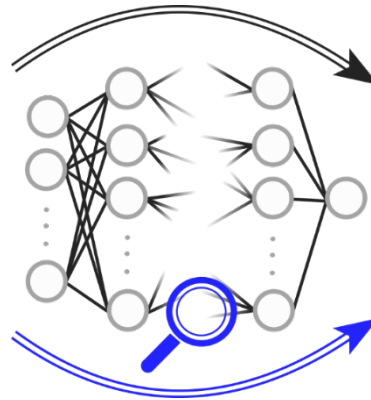
# Bypassing the trade-off

high expressivity



low interpretability and high computational cost

neural networks



optimal analytical predictors

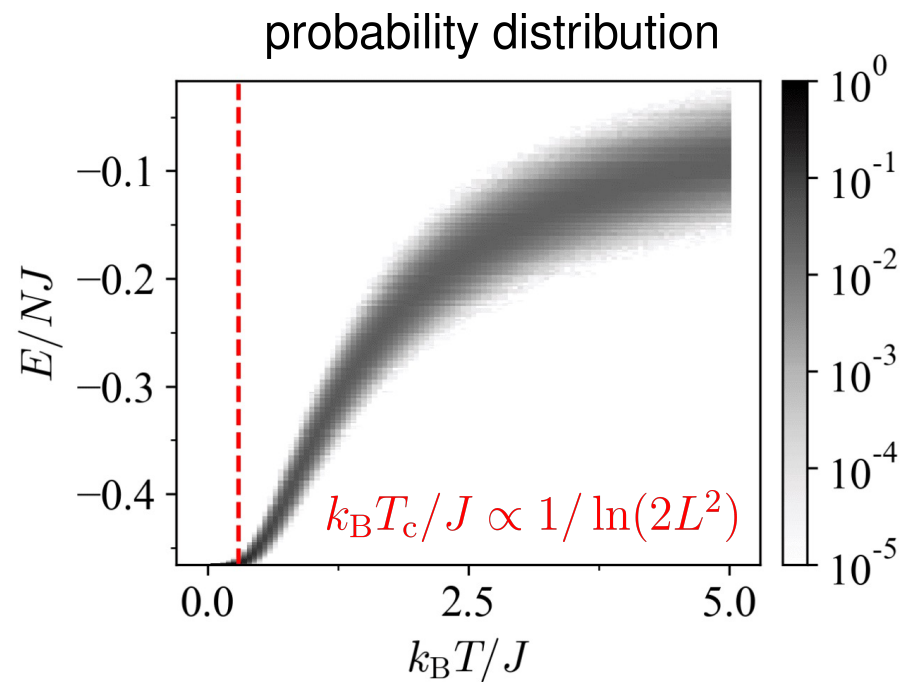
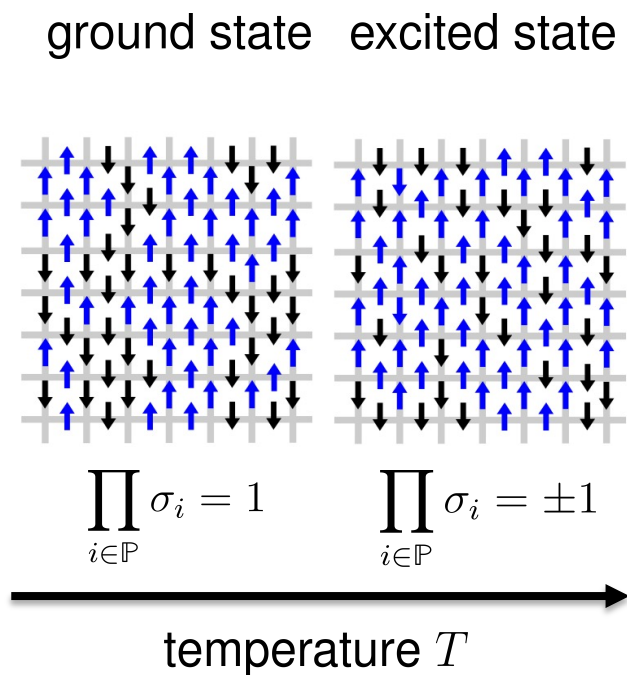
high expressivity

with

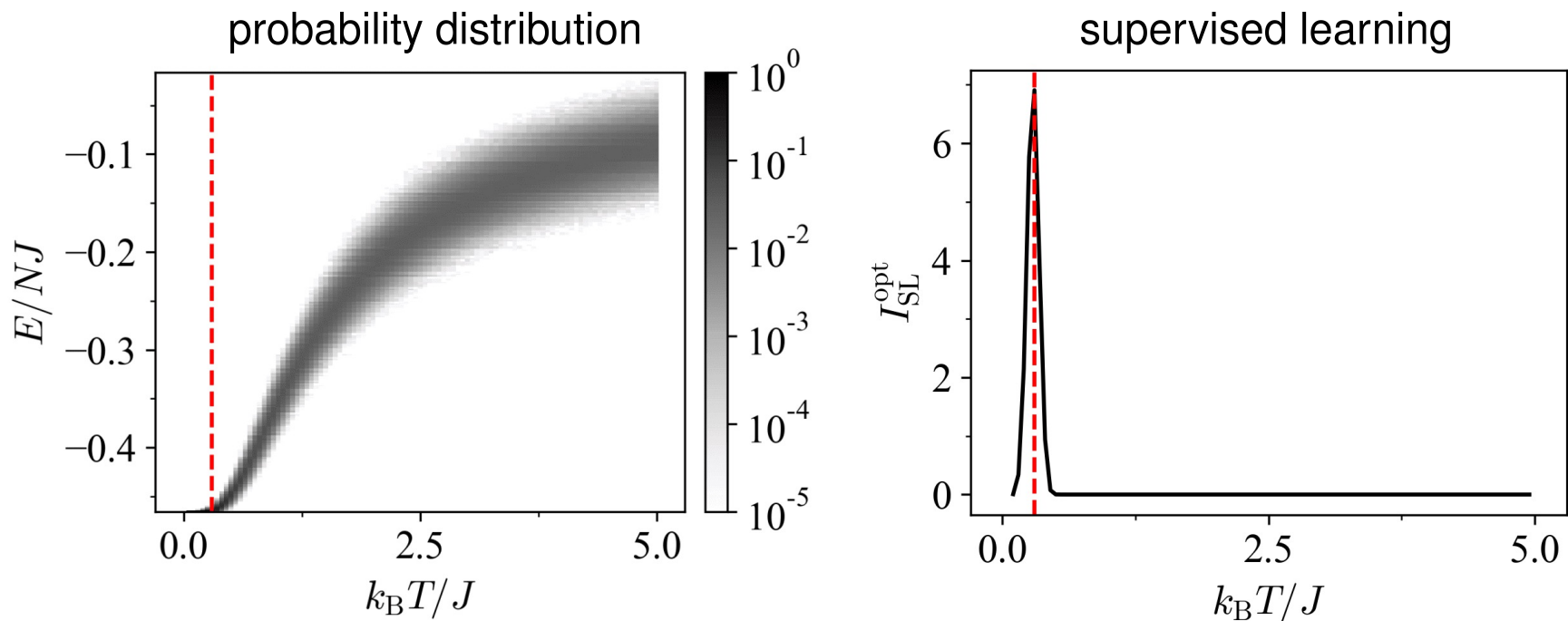
high interpretability at low computational cost



# Example: Ising gauge theory



# Example: Ising gauge theory

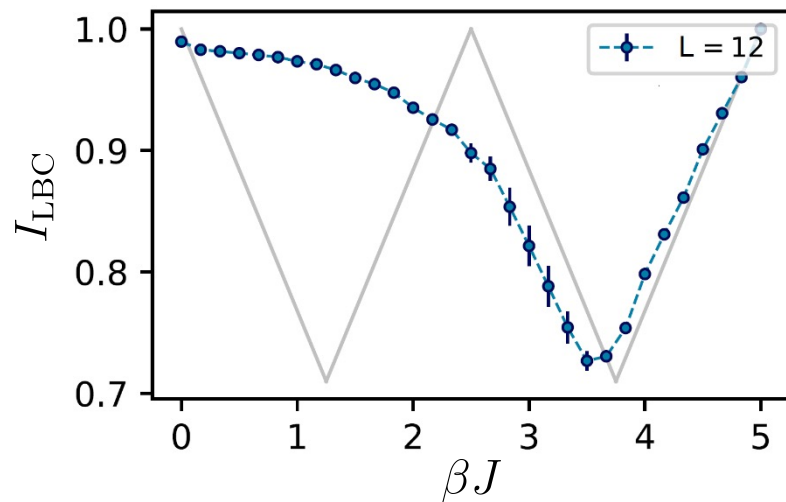


- for Boltzmann distribution:  $\hat{y}_{\text{SL}}^{\text{opt}}(p_k) \propto P_k(E_{\text{gs}})$

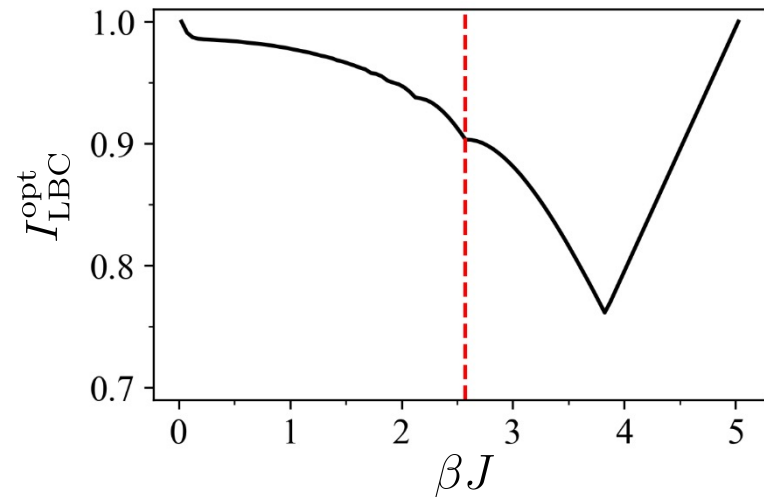
$\Rightarrow$  supervised learning tracks the relevant physical quantity

# Example: Ising gauge theory

training neural networks

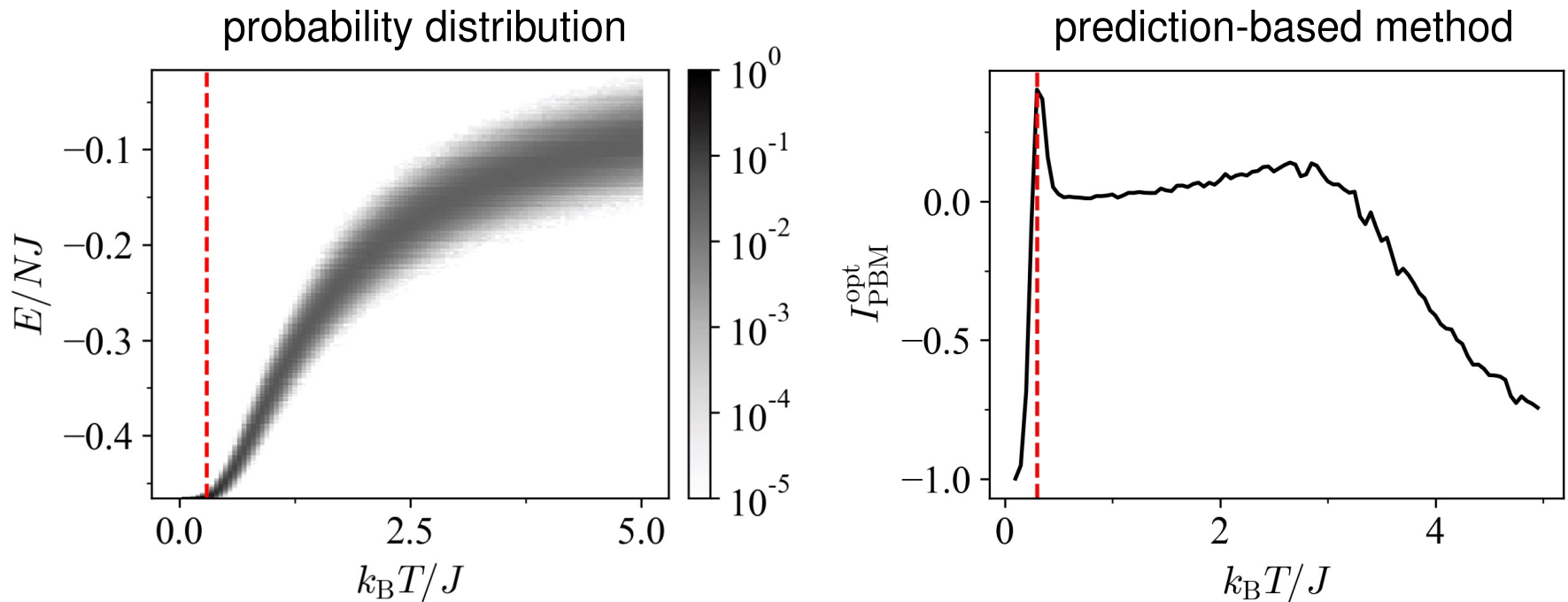


evaluating optimal predictors



⇒ learning by confusion fails in this setting

# Example: Ising gauge theory



- for Boltzmann distribution:  $\hat{y}_{\text{PBM}}^{\text{opt}} \Leftrightarrow \hat{y}_{\text{DOS}}$

$\Rightarrow$  prediction-based method is equivalent to density-of-states (DOS) model

## **...and many more**

- classical many-body systems
    - ⇒ symmetry-breaking phase transition in Ising model
    - ⇒ Berezinskii-Kosterlitz-Thouless transition in XY model
  - quantum many-body systems
    - ⇒ first-order phase transition in XXZ chain
    - ⇒ topological phase transition in Kitaev chain
    - ⇒ Mott-insulator to superfluid transition in Bose-Hubbard model
    - ⇒ many-body localization transition in Bose-Hubbard model
-

# Thank you for your attention.



University  
of Basel

Bruder group

## Code:



<https://github.com/arnoldjulian/Replacing-neural-networks-by-optimal-analytical-predictors-for-the-detection-of-phase-transitions>

## Paper:

J. Arnold and F. Schäfer, Replacing neural networks by optimal analytical predictors for the detection of phase transitions, arXiv:2203.06084 (2022).