

# Extrapolation of NCSM results using machine learning and artificial neural networks



*Khabarovsk*

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# Congratulation

Pacific National University

Congratulatory address  
James P. Vary

in honor of  
the 80th anniversary




Dear James!


*You have made an important contribution to the development of theoretical nuclear physics. Your role in promoting international cooperation between scientists and universities around the world is invaluable. In particular, we are very grateful for your help in developing the international partnership between Pacific National University and Iowa State University.*

*Please accept our most heartfelt congratulations on your 80th birthday. We wish happiness, health to you and your family, new fruitful ideas and new creative achievements!*

*We hope that series of our International Conferences on Nuclear Theory in the Supercomputing Era, interrupted by the COVID pandemic, will be developed further.*

*With cordial wishes*

  
Yuriy S. Marfin,  
President of Pacific  
National University,  
Khabarovsk, Russia

  
Aleksandr I. Mazur  
Leading Researcher Science Laboratory  
for Modeling of Quantum Processes  
Pacific National University,  
Khabarovsk, Russia



Ten years ago  
The 70th anniversary  
ISU, Ames

# Motivation

Now machine learning methods have been widely used in nuclear physics. The detailed overview of application of machine learning methods in nuclear physics is presented in the review "[Machine Learning in Nuclear Physics](#)" (A. Boehlein et. al, [arXiv:2112.02309v2 \[nucl-th\] 2 May 2022](#))

In my talk, I will consider only one of the interesting problems - the extrapolating results of variational (NCSM) calculations to large model spaces. Various methods of extrapolation are known, but all of them do not have a strict theoretical justification. Therefore, the development of new reliable extrapolation methods remains an important task.

The development of extrapolation methods is also interesting from the point of view of the machine learning methods development themselves, because they are usually applied to interpolation problems.

# Outlook

## Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs)

- Topology
- Hyperparameters

## Extrapolation algorithm

- Selection of input data
- Scaling of input data
- Selection of ANNs

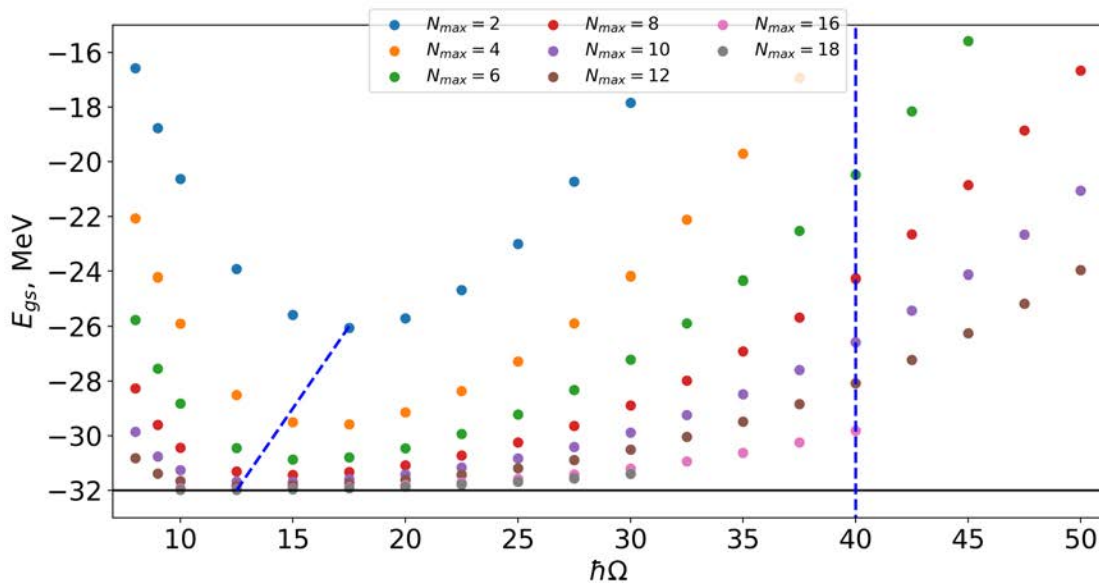
## Extrapolation results:

- ${}^6\text{Li}$ :  $E_{gs}$ , rms-radii
- ${}^6\text{He}$ ,  ${}^6\text{Be}$ :  $E_{gs}$

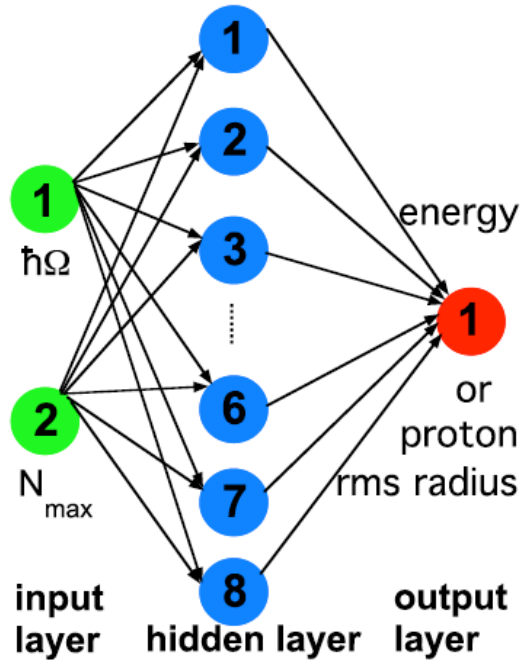
# Problem

As input, we have a set of NCSM energies (or other output) in different model spaces  $N_{max}$  as function of the  $\hbar\Omega$ . We need to extrapolate this data to the large  $N_{max}$  in order to estimate the binding energy (radius of the nucleus, etc.) and then to compare with experimental data.

${}^6\text{Li}$ , NCSM with Daejeon16



# Neural Networks



*Sigmoid activation  
function*

ANNs are composed of an input layer, one or more hidden layers, and an output layer. The neurons in the input layer receive the data from outside and transmit the data via weighted connections to the neurons in the first hidden layer, which transmit the data to the next layer. Finally, the neurons in the output layer give the results.

G. A. Negoita et al. “Deep learning: Extrapolation tool for ab initio nuclear theory” **PRC 99**, 054308 (2019)

I. Vidana “Machine learning light hypernuclei”  
(arXiv:2203.11792v2 [nucl-th] 14 Feb 2023)

# Neural Networks

ANNs consist highly interconnected artificial neurons, which are processing units. The neurons are connected with each other via adaptive synaptic weights  $\omega_i$ . The neurons collect all the input signals and calculate a net signal as the weighted sum of all input signals.

$$s = \sum_i \omega_i x_i + b$$

Set of **weights**  $\omega_i$  and **biases**  $b$  are ANNs trainable parameters.

Next, the neuron calculates and transmits an output signal. The output signal is calculated using an activation function, which depends on the value of the net signal. We use sigmoid activation function

$$f(s) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-s)}$$

and linear activation function

$$f(s) = s$$



# Neural Networks

The development of an ANN is a two-step process with training and testing stages. In the training stage, the ANN adjusts its weights until an acceptable error level between desired and predicted outputs is obtained. The difference between desired and predicted outputs is measured by the loss (error) function. A common choice for the **loss function** is mean-square error (**MSE**).

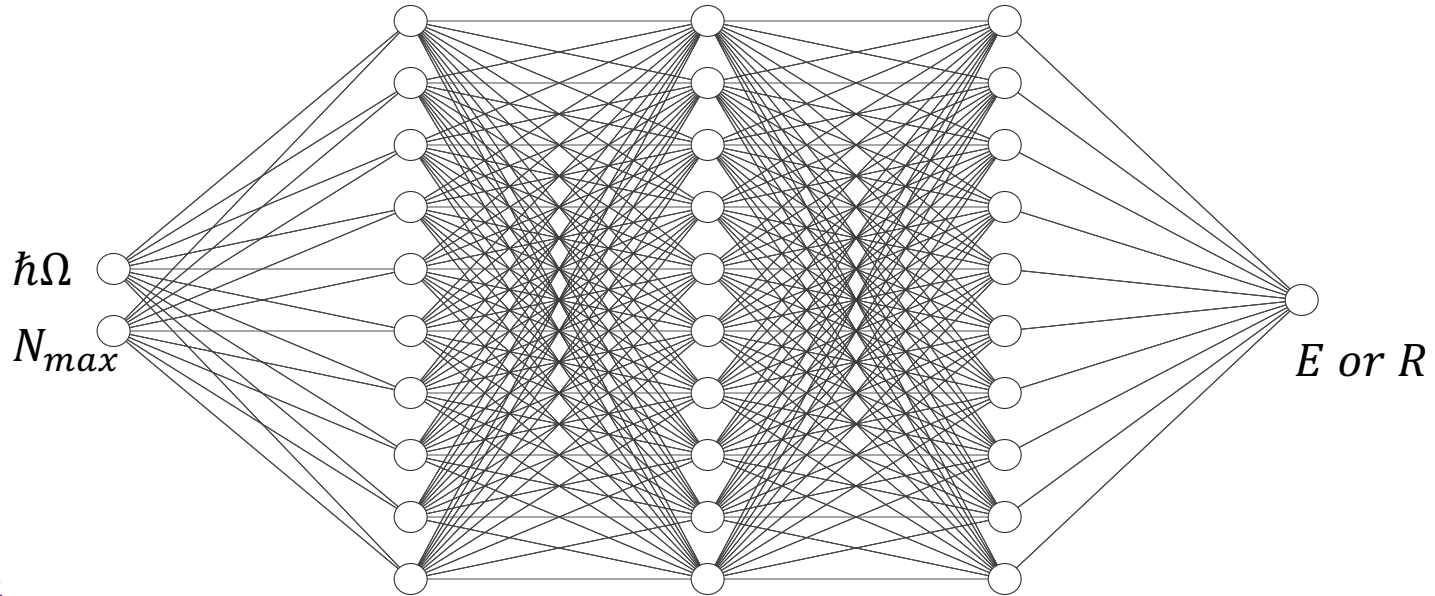
After a single passage of signals through the ANN and obtaining predictions, the loss function is calculated. The weight coefficients  $\omega_i$  are changed using the **Adam algorithm**. This algorithm adjusts the weight factors  $\omega_i$  to minimize the loss function. The value by which the weight coefficients change each time is defined by the **learning rate  $\gamma$** .

The set of coefficients  $\omega_i$  is updated each time a certain amount of data, set with the **batch size  $B_S$** , has passed through the ANN. We use  $B_S = \text{len}(\text{dataset})$ . After passing all learning dataset, the ANN predictions are tested on the validation set. The learning process is iterative and is repeated many times. Each passage of the entire dataset through the ANN is called the **epoch**. In our case  $N_{ep} = 500\ 000$ .



# Neural Networks

We use more complicated networks with **three hidden layers** of **10 neuron** in each. Besides, we use **different** activation functions.



Trainable  
parameters: 261

linear                      sigmoid                      sigmoid                      linear  
activation → activation → activation → activation

# Neural Networks

Some feature of our training algorithm.

1. We believe that for extrapolation problems the **last layer** should have a **linear activating function**. This is important because the **output interval should not be restricted**.

Papers **PRC99(2019)** and **arXiv:2203.11792v2 [nucl-th]** are used **only sigmoids**.

2. We do not have any problems with ANNs **overfitting** even for large epoch numbers. So, we do not divide input data on training, test and validation sets. That is, we use **all the data to train the networks**.  
This is very important due to the limited number of input data.

Overwriting in a simple words: The such networks simply "remembers" the training set but does not generalize trends. So, such networks can not make predictions. Moreover, this networks does not reproduce even the test set.

# Extrapolation algorithm

Usually, machine learning is not applied to extrapolation problems because predictions of a single network include randomness due to the initial values of the weight coefficients.

However, if you use an **ensemble** of neural networks with **identical hyperparameters**, but **different initial values of the weight** coefficients, the extrapolation problem can be solved.

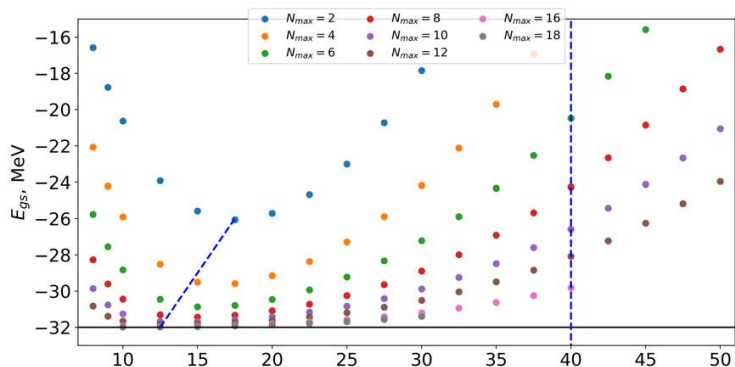
We train **1024 neural networks**.

The training of the ANNs ensemble is carried out according to the above scheme.

# Extrapolation algorithm: selection of input data

${}^6\text{Li}$ , NCSM with Daejeon16

The preliminary selection of data plays an important role.



black line: experiment;

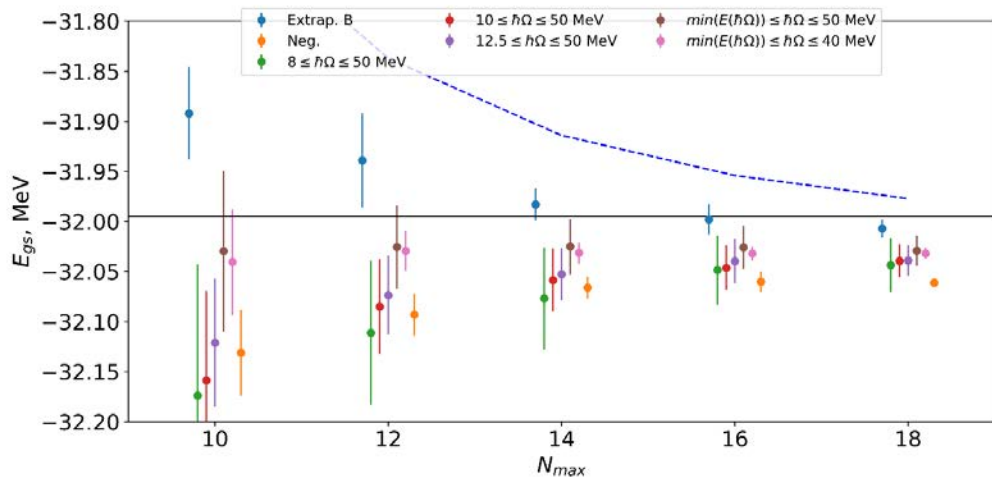
blue dotted: variational minimum;

symbols: orange: PRC99(2019) - all data are used;

blue - exponential extrapolation PRC79(2009);

green: our results, all data;

Vertical lines - error bars.



Our results with different intervals

pink:  $(\min E_{gs}(\hbar\Omega) - 40)$  MeV - the BEST

red: (10 - 50) MeV;

violet: (12.5 - 50) MeV;

Brown:  $(\min E_{gs}(\hbar\Omega) - 50)$  MeV.

arXiv:2203.11792v2 [nucl-th] uses data with  $\hbar\Omega = (28-34)$  MeV which turns the original data into a set of oblique straight lines, while the minimum of the corresponding curves is not included.

# Extrapolation algorithm: scaling of input data

Usually, a standard technique to improve Neural Network training is data scaling. Since the sigmoid activating function

$$f(s) = \frac{1}{1+\exp(-s)}$$

at  $|s| > 4$  becomes a straight horizontal line, learning in these regions is the worst (the derivative is equal 0). Multiplying by sufficiently small weights can bring the sum of the sigmoid input to the desired range  $|s| < 2$ , but training with too small weights can also make learning difficult.

We have analyzed the dependence of the predictions of our algorithm on the scaling of the input data ( $N_{\max}, \hbar\Omega$ ) and output data ( $E_{gs}$ ).

Results are presented in the table below.

# Extrapolation algorithm: scaling of input data

In this table, this dependence is not so strong (although in the worst case, the error is 3 times greater than in the best!). But when analyzing other scaling ranges (for example,  $(0.1 \div 0.8)$  for both input and output data) the error increase up to 60 keV.

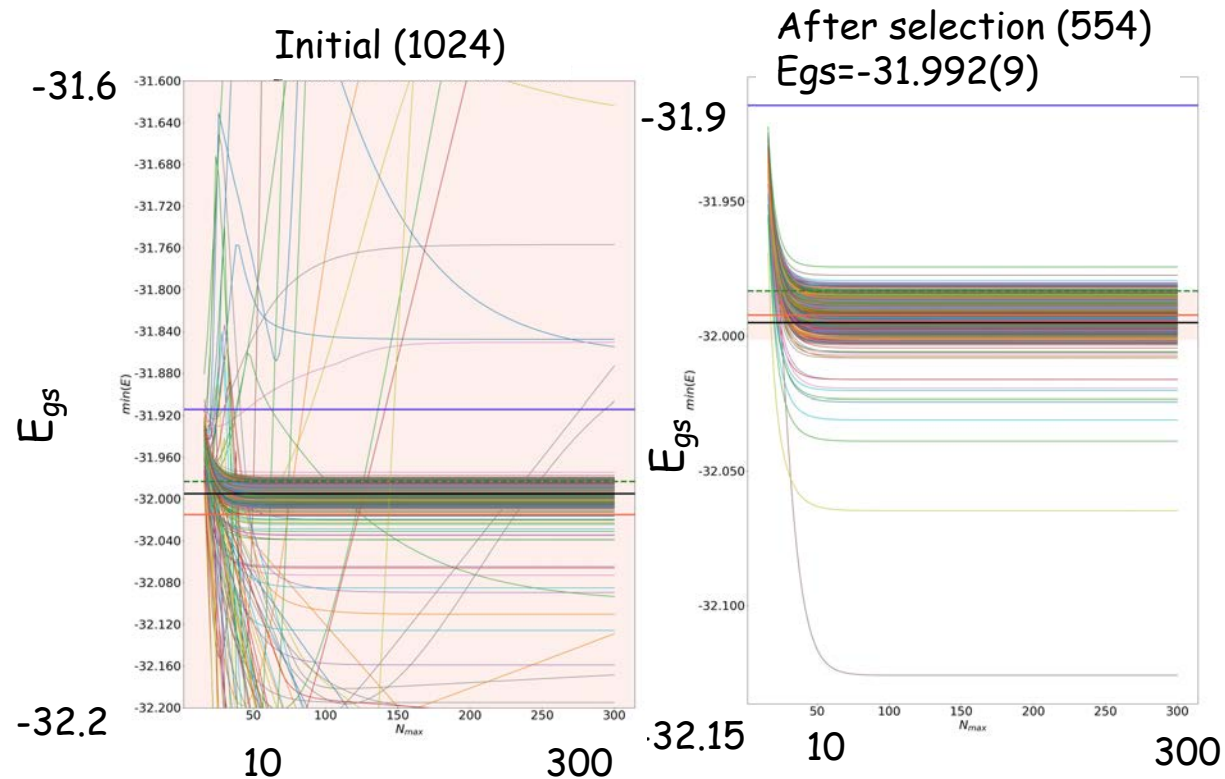
		Output		
		$(0 \div 1)$	$(0 \div 2)$	$(0 \div 4)$
Input	$(0 \div 1)$	-32.033(24)	-32.031(10)	-32.032(11)
	$(0 \div 2)$	-32.035(32)	-32.031(10)	-32.031(11)
	$(0 \div 4)$	-32.029(24)	-32.031(14)	-32.033(13)

# Extrapolation algorithm: selection of ANNs

Not all trained Neural Networks will provide reliable predictions; so, it is important to have criteria to select obviously incorrectly trained networks.

Criteria what we use:

1. "Soft" variational principle (only for energy): Predictions can a little violate variational principle (total violation at large  $N_{\max}=300$   $\sim 5$  keV).
2. No  $\hbar\Omega$  dependency of predictions at large  $N_{\max}=300$ .





# Extrapolation algorithm: selection of ANNs

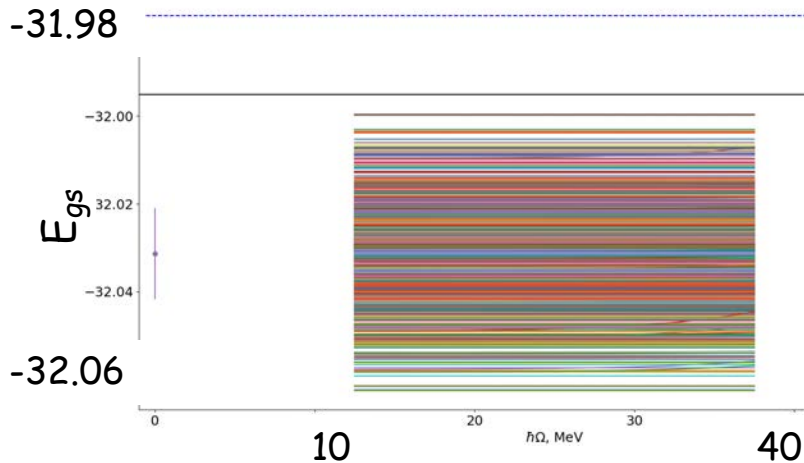
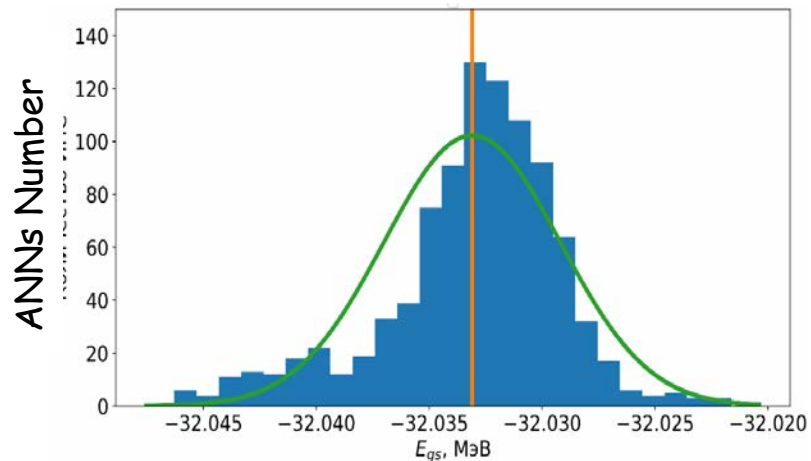
## 3. $3\sigma$ criterion.

The typical distribution results of trained networks can be approximated by gaussoid. The average value of this distribution is associated with the  $E_{gs}$  prediction, and the r.m.s. deviation  $\sigma$  is accepted for the prediction uncertainty  $\Delta E$ . The algorithm described above utilizes the Keras library for the Python.

**We neglect networks with results out  $3\sigma$  interval.**

As a **result of selection** from the initial ensemble with **1024 ANNs** remains **500-800** networks, which provides a fairly **high statistical significance** of our predictions.

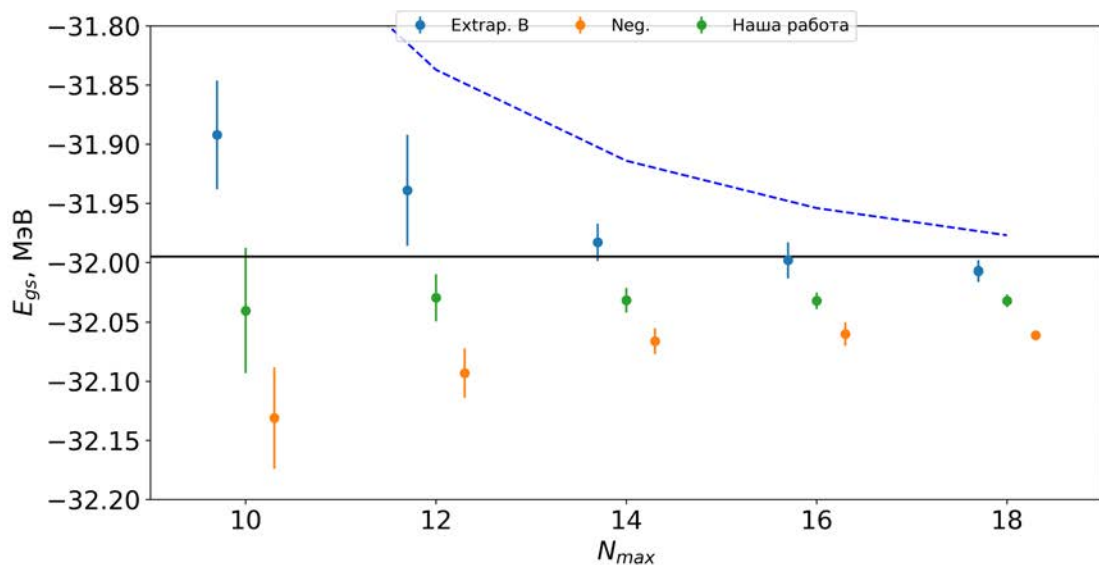
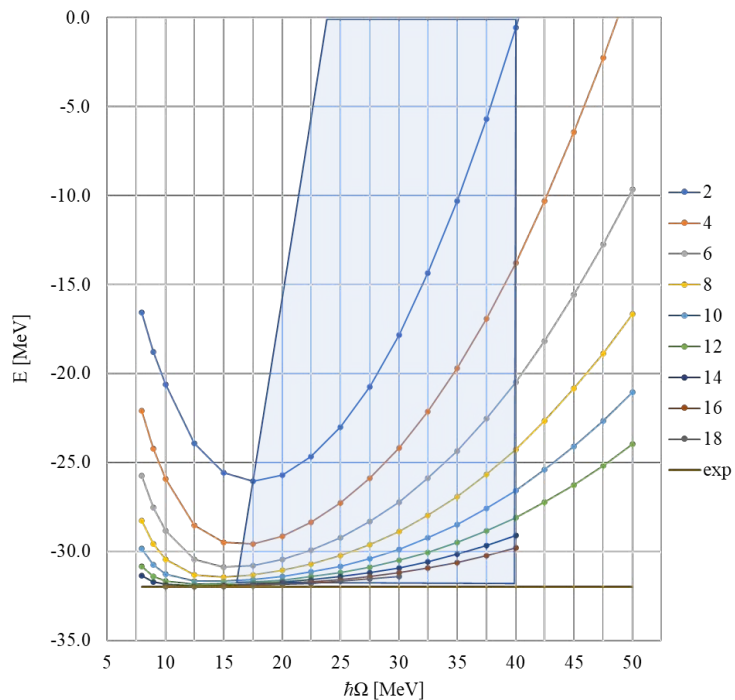
For comparison: in PRC99(2019) from  $\sim 400\,000$  trained networks selected only **50** ones.



# Results:

## ${}^6\text{Li}$ , Daejeon16,

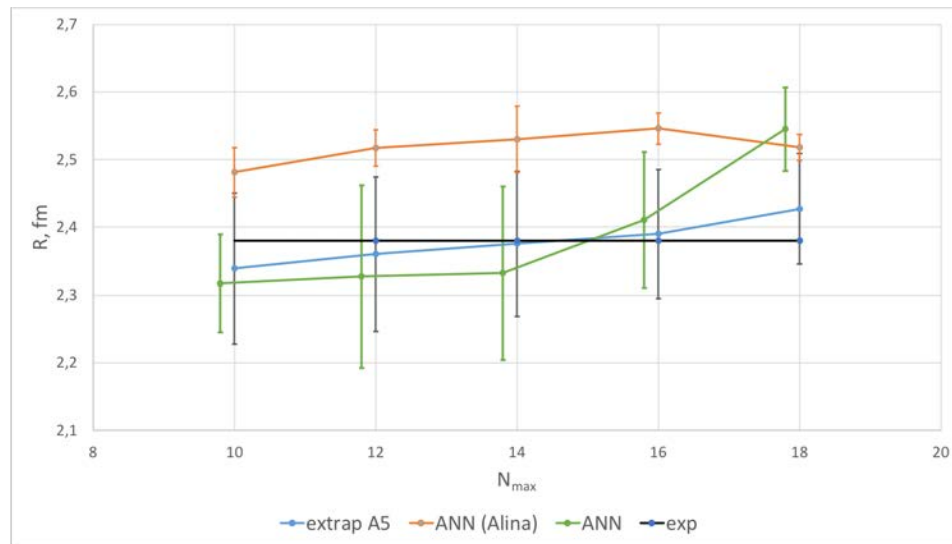
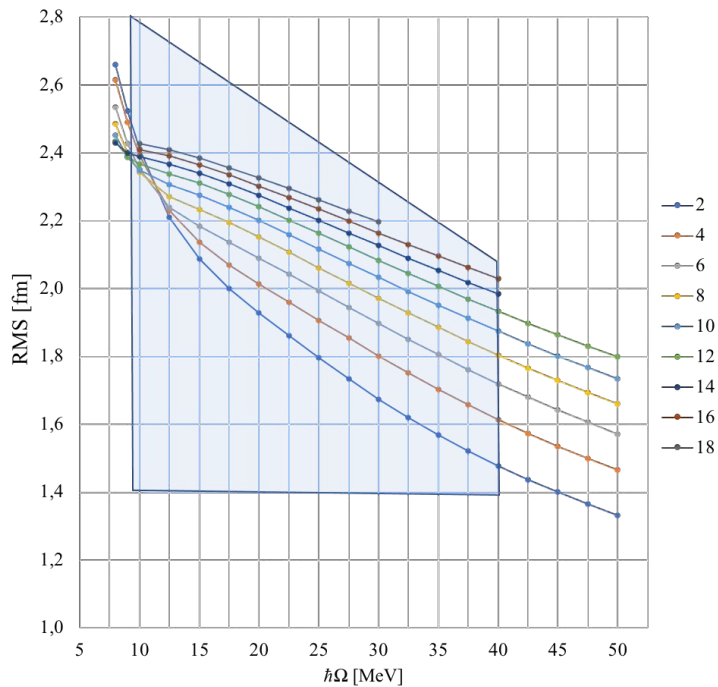
### $E_{gs \text{ exp}} = -31.995 \text{ MeV}$



$N_{max}$	Var. min $E_{gs}$	exp. extrap. PRC79(2009) $E_{gs}(\Delta E)$	ANN PRC99(2019) $E_{gs}(\Delta E)$	Our results $E_{gs}(\Delta E)$
10	-31.688	-31.892(46)	-32.131(43)	-32.040(53)
12	-31.837	-31.939(47)	-32.093(21)	-32.029(20)
14	-31.914	-31.983(16)	-32.066(11)	-32.031(10)
16	-31.954	-31.998(15)	-32.060(10)	-32.032(7)
18	-31.977	-32.007(9)	-32.061(4)	-32.032(5)

# Results:

${}^6\text{Li}$ , Daejeon16,  
rms proton point radii  
 $r_{\text{exp}} = 2.38(3)$  fm

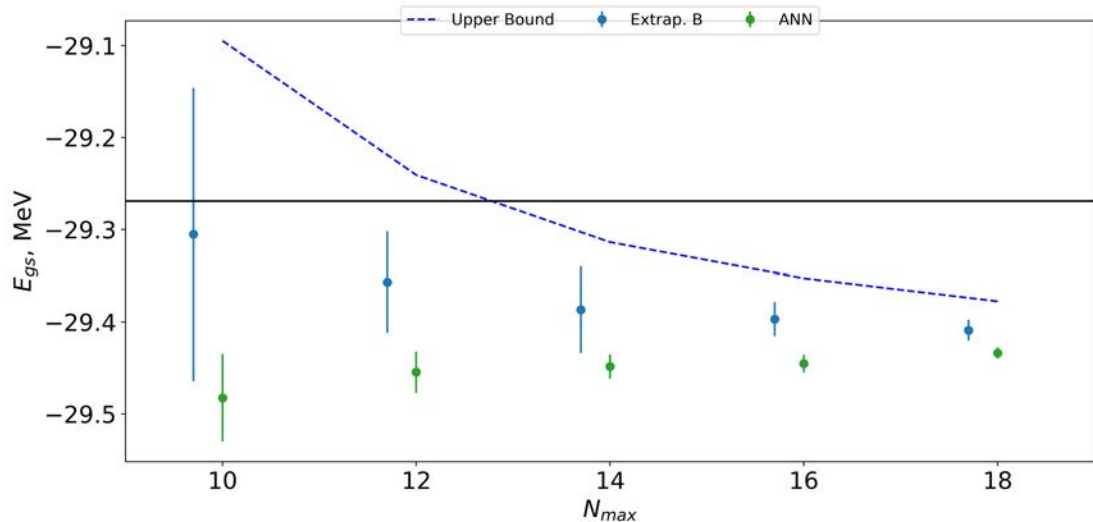
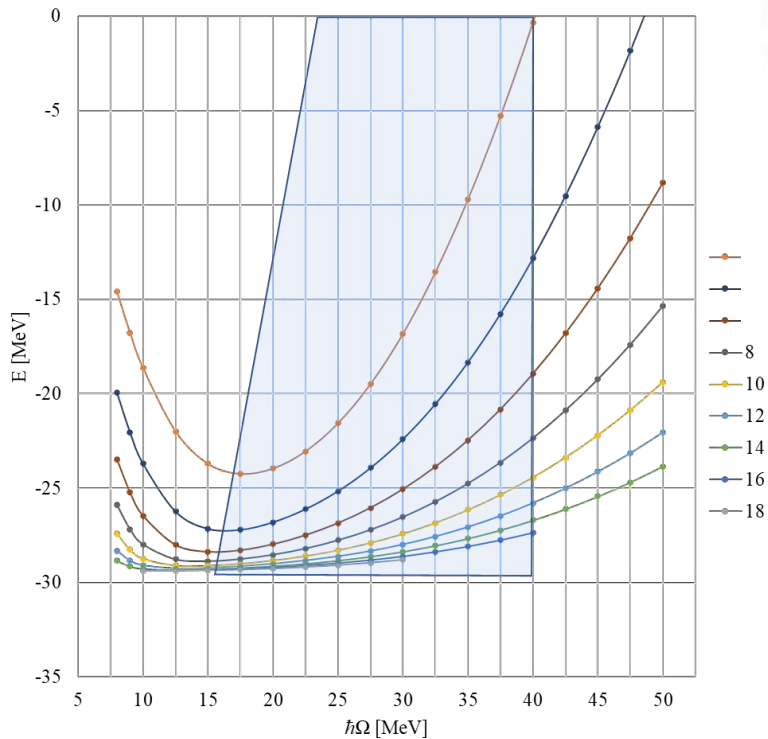


$N_{\text{max}}$	exp. extrap. PRC79(2009) $E_{gs}(\Delta E)$	ANN PRC99(2019) $E_{gs}(\Delta E)$	Our results $E_{gs}(\Delta E)$
10	2.339(111)	2.481(37)	2.317(72)
12	2.360(114)	2.517(27)	2.327(135)
14	2.376(107)	2.530(49)	2.332(128)
16	2.390(95)	2.546(23)	2.411(100)
18	2.427(82)	2.518(19)	2.545(62)

# Results:

## ${}^6\text{He}$ , Daejeon16,

### $E_{\text{gs exp}} = -29.269 \text{ MeV}$

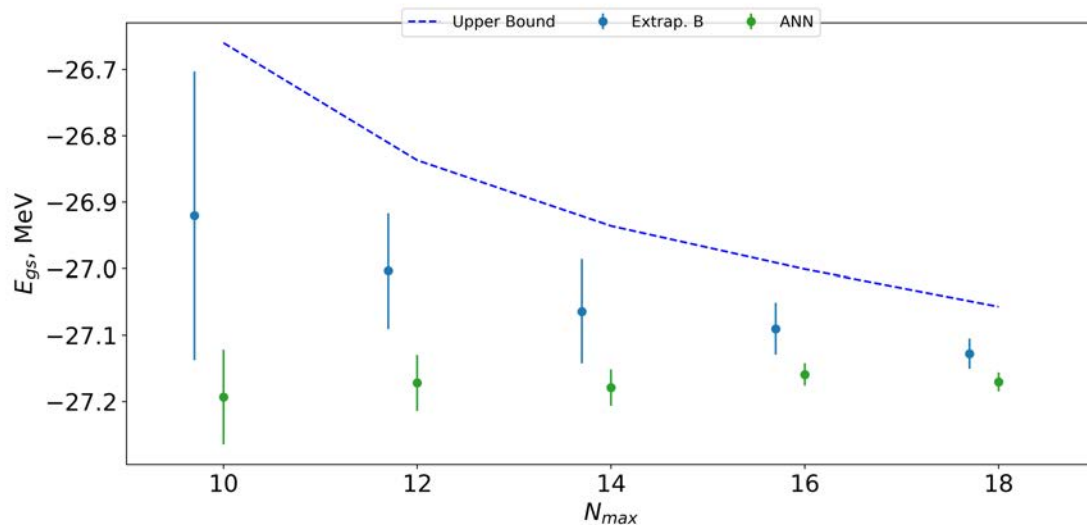


$N_{\text{max}}$	Var. min $E_{\text{gs}}$	exp. extrap. PRC79(2009) $E_{\text{gs}}(\Delta E)$	Our results $E_{\text{gs}}(\Delta E)$
10	-29.090	-29.305(159)	-29.482(48)
12	-29.241	-29.357(55)	-29.455(23)
14	-29.314	-29.387(47)	-29.448(13)
16	-29.353	-29.397(18)	-29.445(9)
18	-29.378	-29.409(11)	-29.434(6)

# Results:

${}^6\text{Be}$ , Daejeon16,

$$E_{gs \text{ exp}} = -27.697 \text{ MeV}$$



$N_{max}$	Var. min $E_{gs}$	exp. extrap. PRC79(2009) $E_{gs}(\Delta E)$	Our results $E_{gs}(\Delta E)$
10	-26.660	-26.920(217)	-27.193(71)
12	-26.837	-27.004(87)	-27.172(42)
14	-26.936	-27.064(78)	-27.179(27)
16	-27.001	-27.090(39)	-27.159(17)
18	-27.057	-27.128(23)	-27.170(14)

THANK YOU  
for YOUR ATTENTION

THANK TO ORGANIZERS  
OF NTSE-2023 WORKSHOP  
for:

1. Invitation;
2. Hospitality;
3. Possibility to present my talk;
4. Excellent excursion;
5. ...