

Artificial Neural Networks for Nuclear Structure Corrections



A comprehensive story of ANNs in nuclear physics

Tim Egert, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, 31.7.2025

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[Credit: Vinny Ravuri]

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From the Beginning

From the Beginning

Muonic atoms $\rightarrow$ Lamb shift $\rightarrow$ charge radii

Motivation

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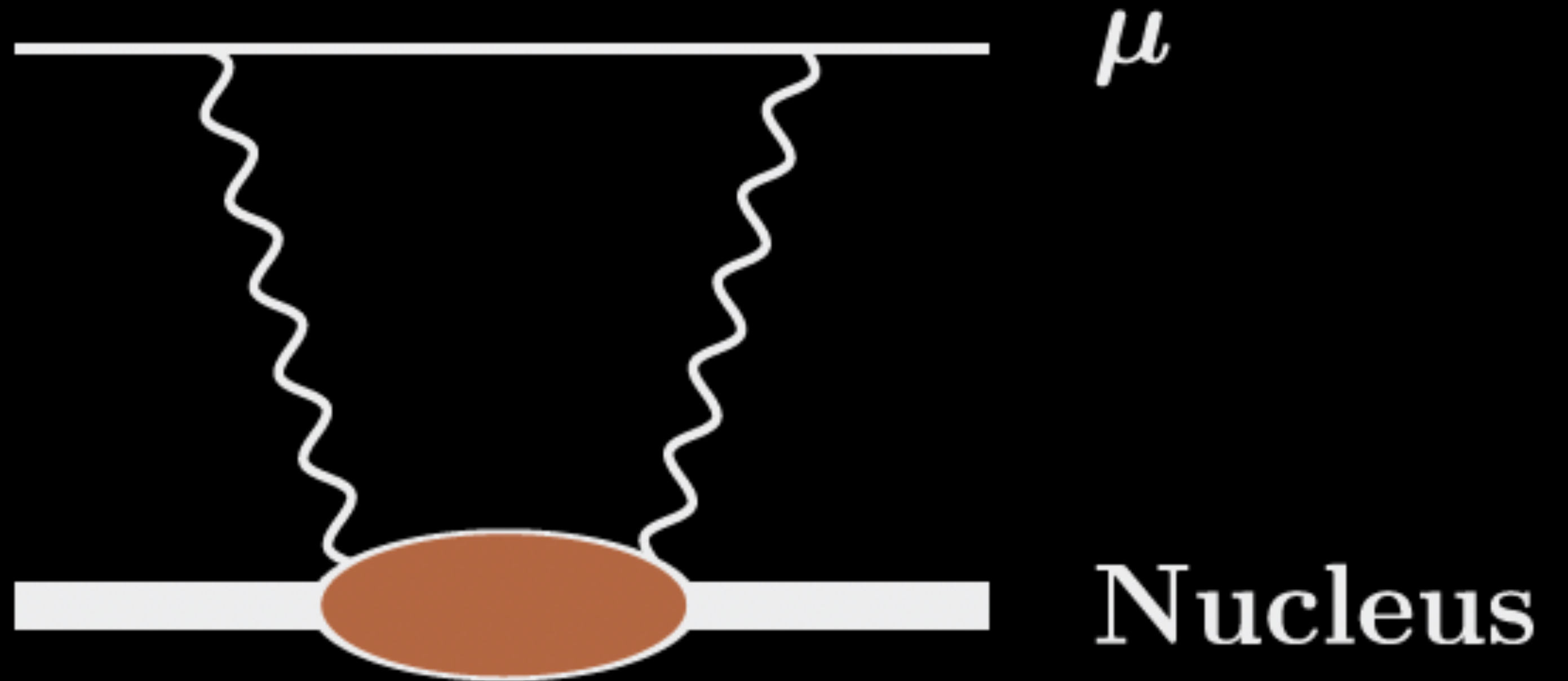
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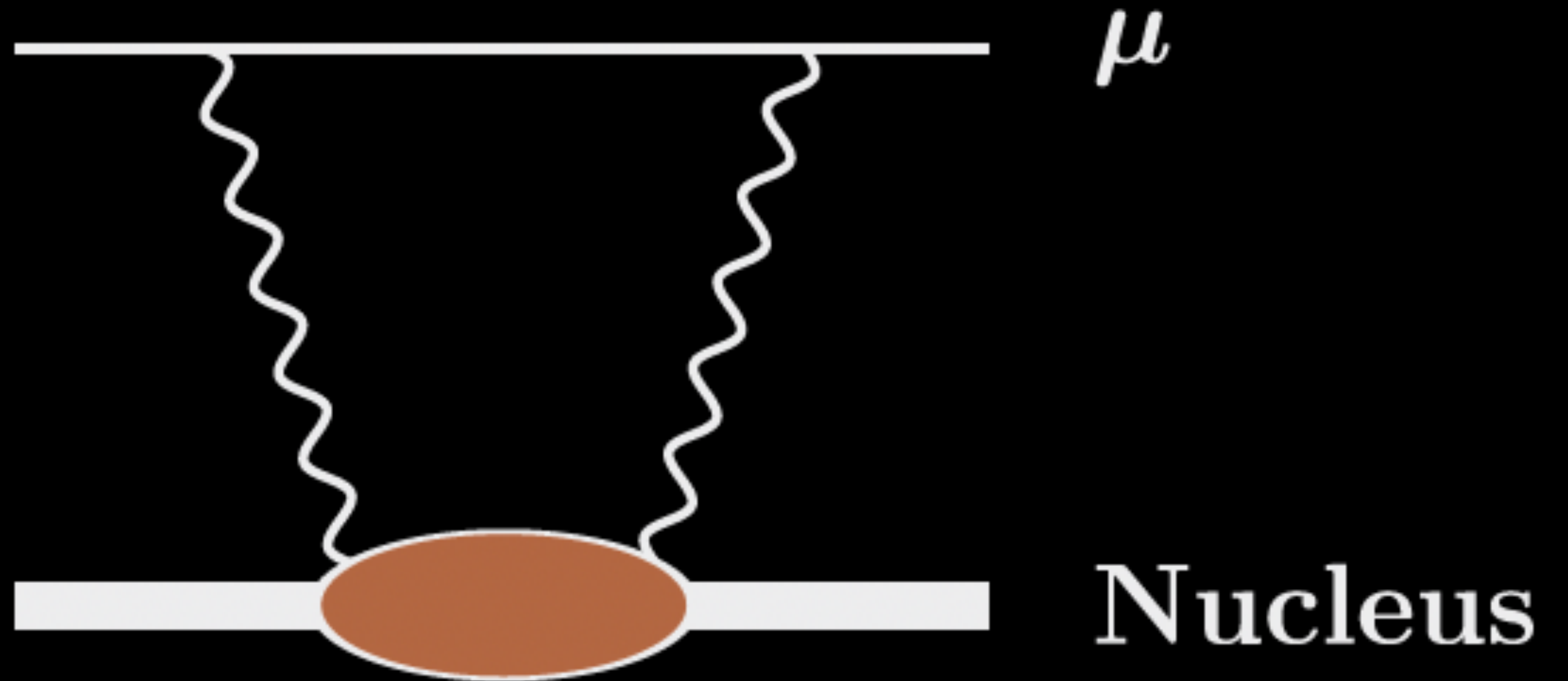
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[Ji, Bacca, Barnea, Hernandez and Dinur, J: Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 45 (2018)]

Motivation

$$\delta_{LS} = \delta_{QED} + \mathcal{A}_{OPE} \cdot r_{nucl}^2 + (\delta_{Zem} + \delta_{pol})$$

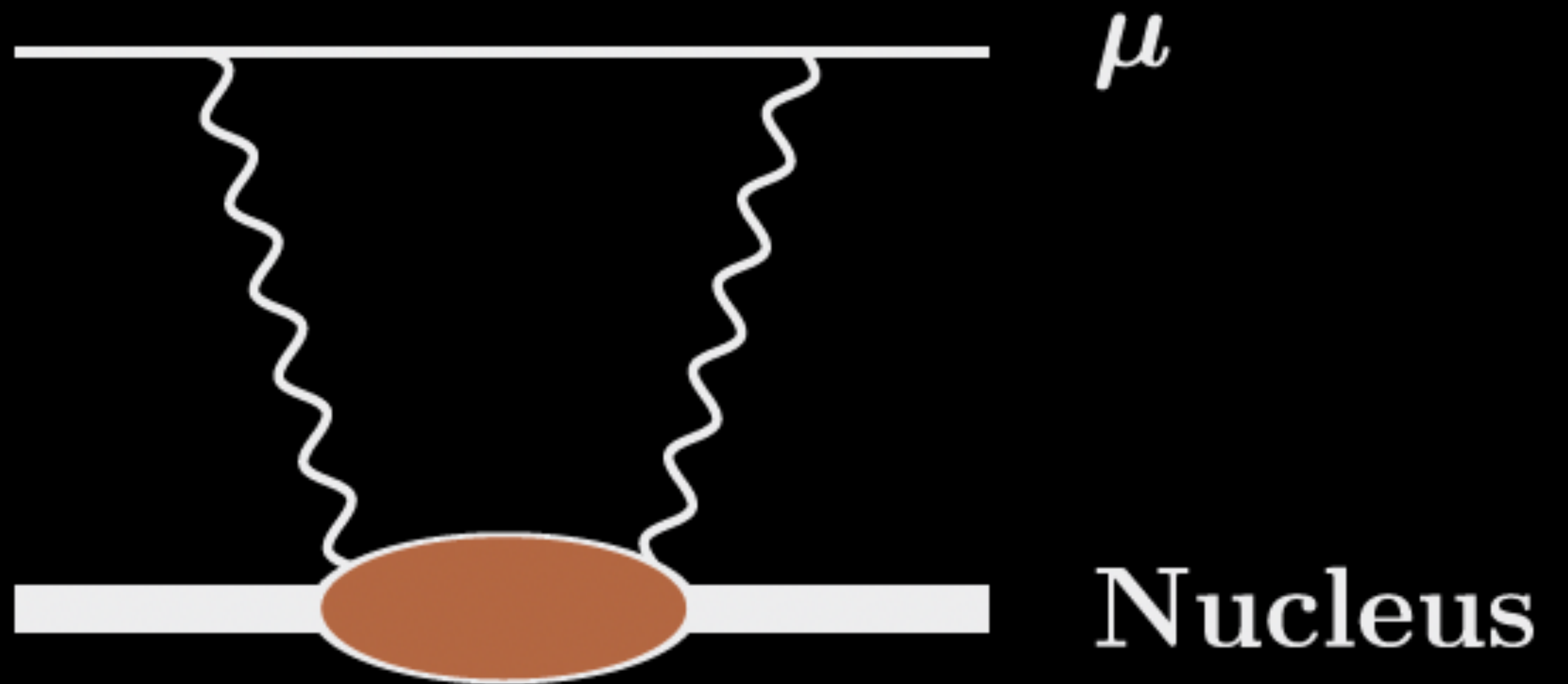


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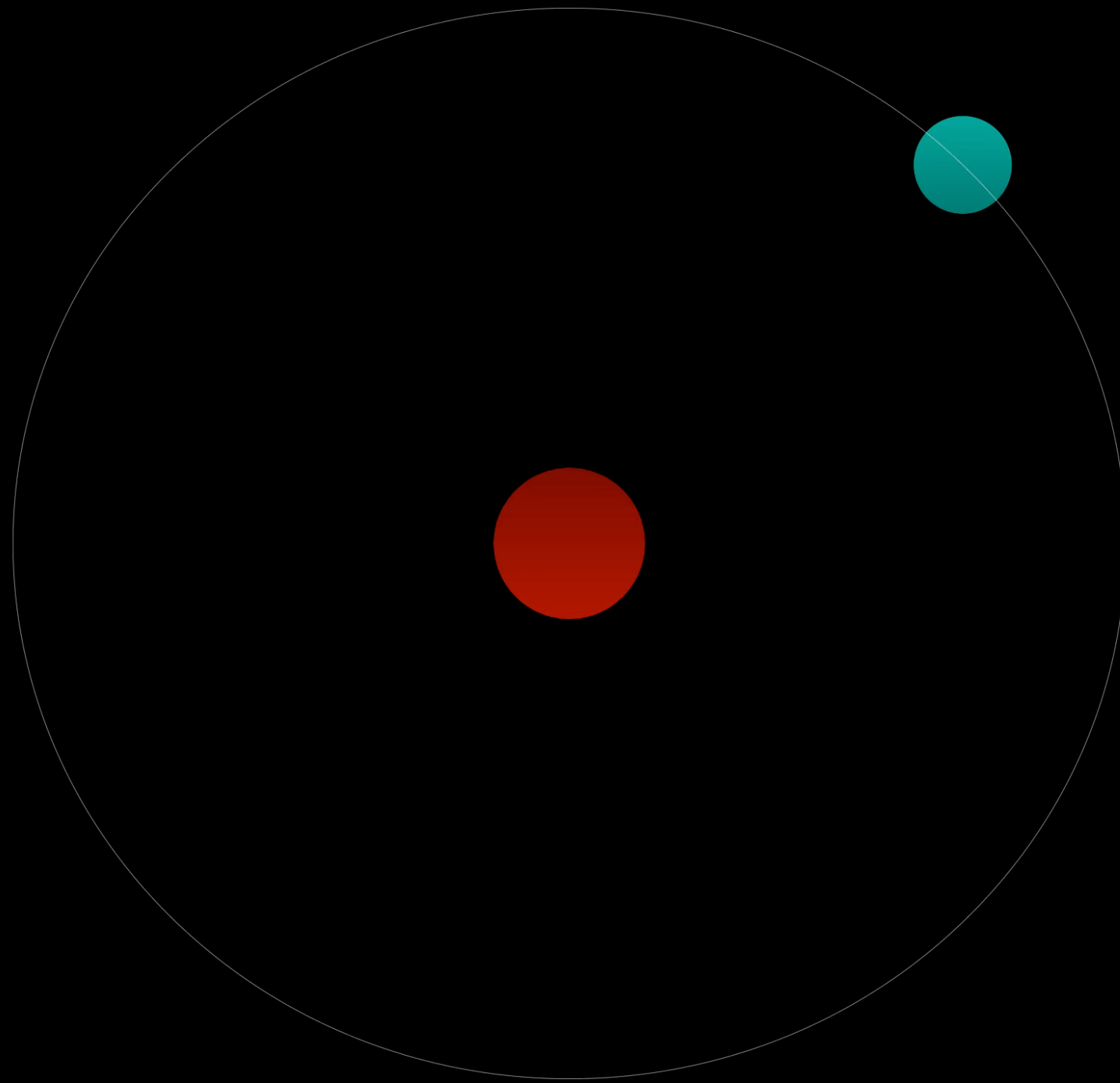
$$\delta_{LS} = \delta_{QED} + \mathcal{A}_{OPE} \cdot r_{nucl}^2 + (\delta_{Zem} + \delta_{pol})$$

$$\delta_{pol} = \delta_{pol}^A + \delta_{pol}^N$$

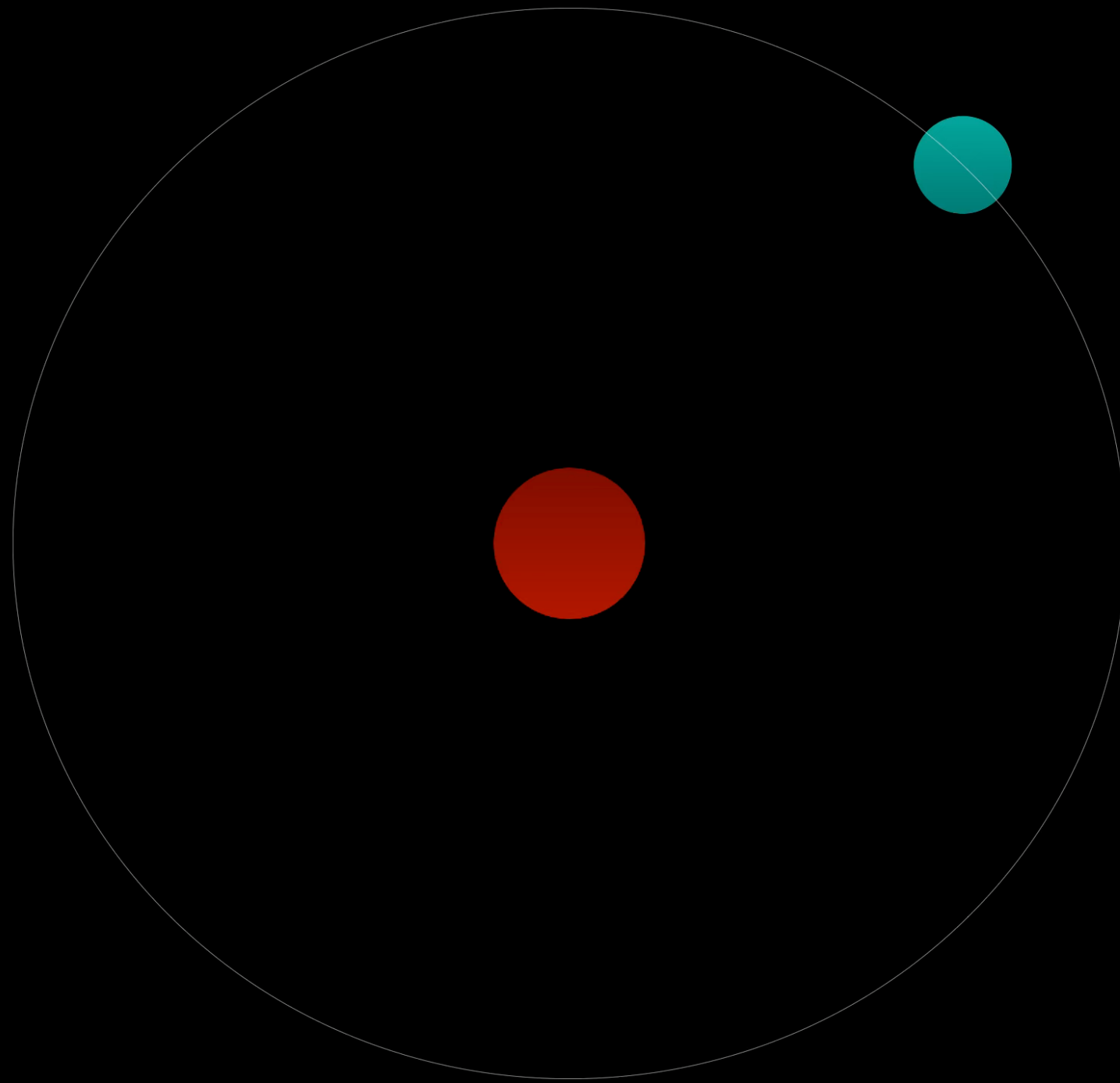


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Motivation



Motivation



Nuclear Structure Corrections

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_{pol}^A &= \delta_{pol}^{NR} + \delta_{pol}^C + \delta_{pol}^R + \delta_{pol}^{NS} \\ &= \delta_{D1}^{(0)} + \delta_{R3}^{(1)} + \delta_{Z3}^{(1)} + \delta_{R^2}^{(2)} + \delta_Q^{(2)} + \delta_{D1D3}^{(2)} + \delta_C^{(0)} \\ &\quad + \delta_L^{(0)} + \delta_T^{(0)} + \delta_M^{(0)} + \delta_{R1}^{(1)} + \delta_{Z1}^{(1)} + \delta_{NS}^{(2)}\end{aligned}$$

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Larger contributions accessible via dipole strength only

Calculate Dipole Strength

Theory and Reality

$$\delta_{D1}^{(0)} = -\frac{16\pi^2}{9}(Z\alpha)^2\phi^2(0)\int_0^\infty d\omega\sqrt{\frac{2m_r}{\omega}}S_{D1}(\omega)$$

$$\delta_C^{(0)} = -\frac{16\pi^2}{9}(Z\alpha)^3\phi^2(0)\int_0^\infty d\omega\frac{m_r}{\omega}\ln\left(\frac{2(Z\alpha)^2m_r}{\omega}\right)S_{D1}(\omega)$$

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If we need these terms, why not just calculate?

[Ji, Bacca, Barnea, Hernandez and Dinur, J: Phys. G: Nucl. Part. Phys. 45 (2018)]

Calculate Dipole Strength

Theory and Reality

Calculate Dipole Strength

Theory and Reality

$$S_{D1}(\omega) \sim \sum_f |\langle \Psi_f | \hat{D} | \Psi_0 \rangle|^2 \delta(E_f - E_0 - \omega)$$

Calculate Dipole Strength

Theory and Reality

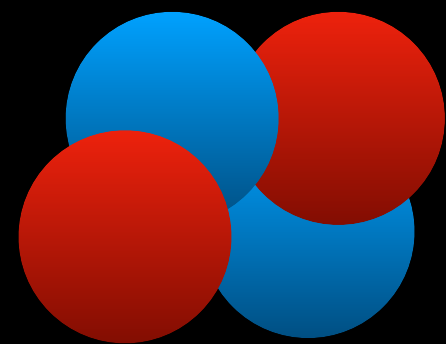
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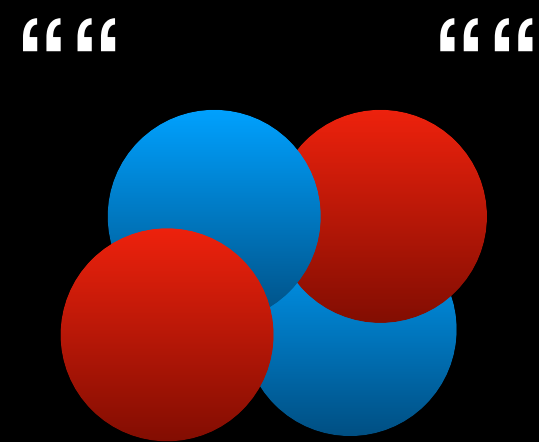
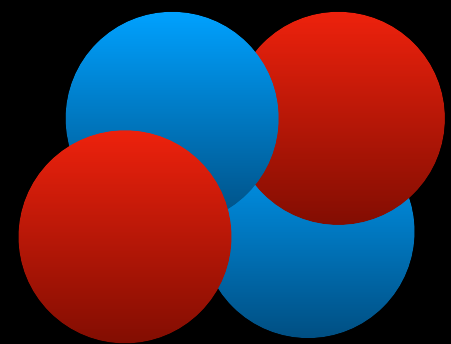
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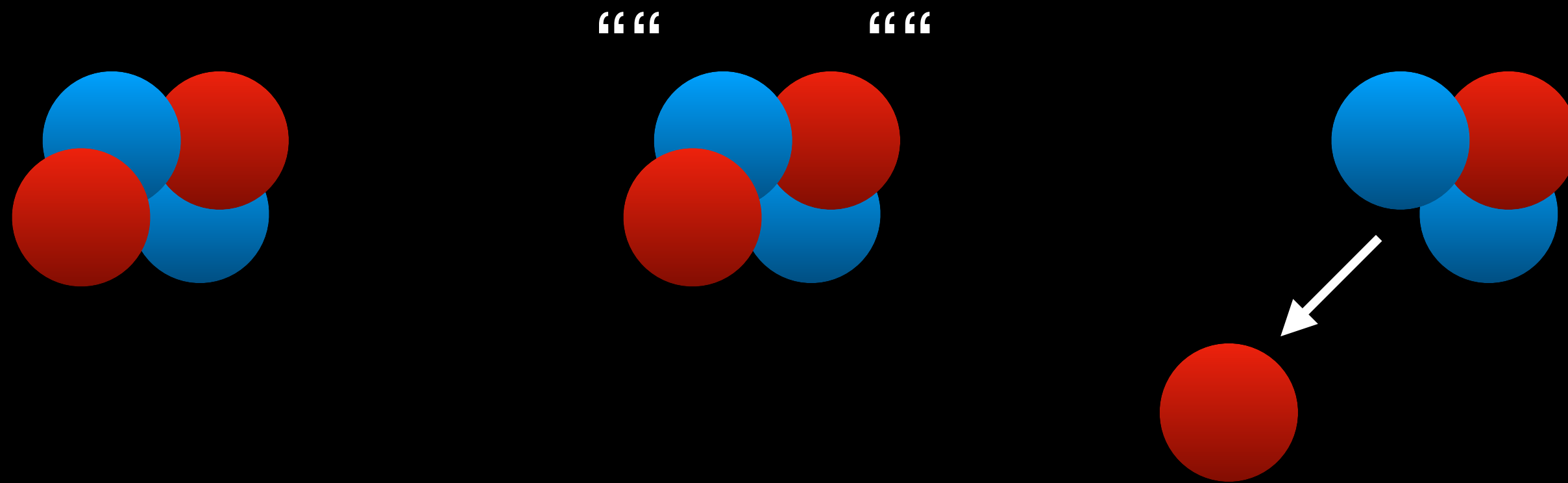
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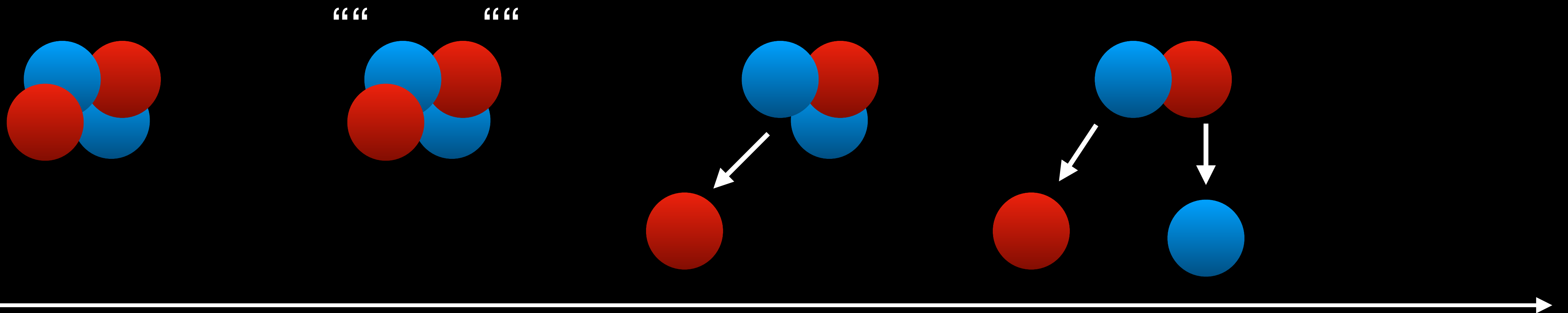
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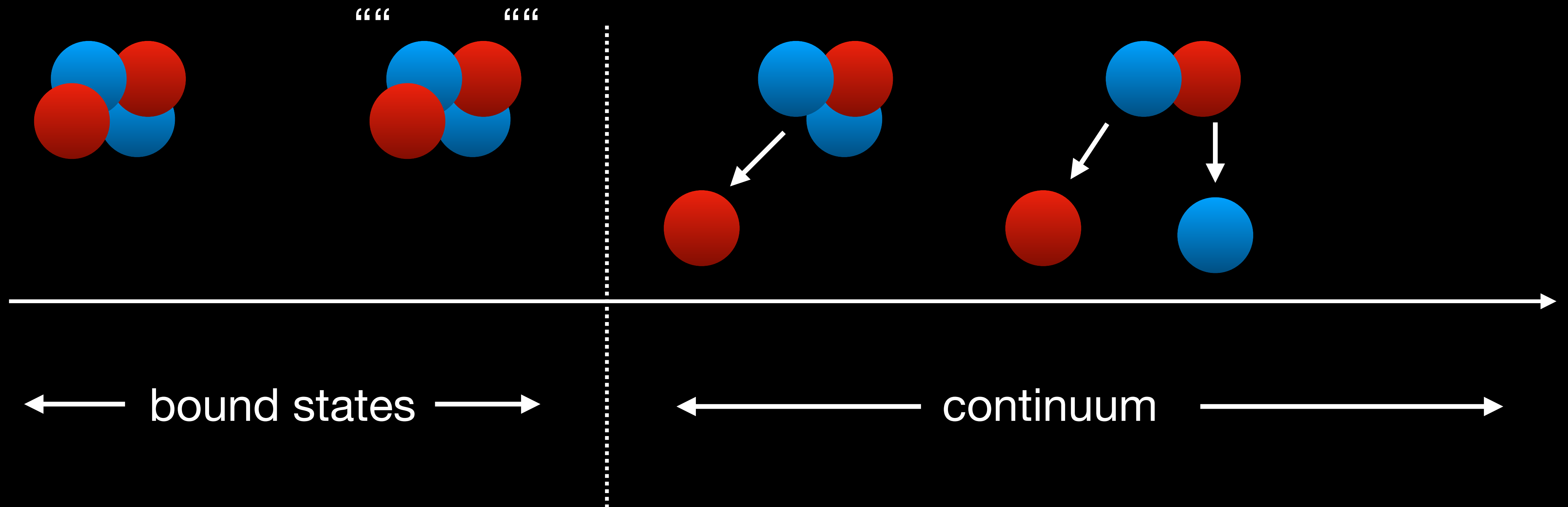
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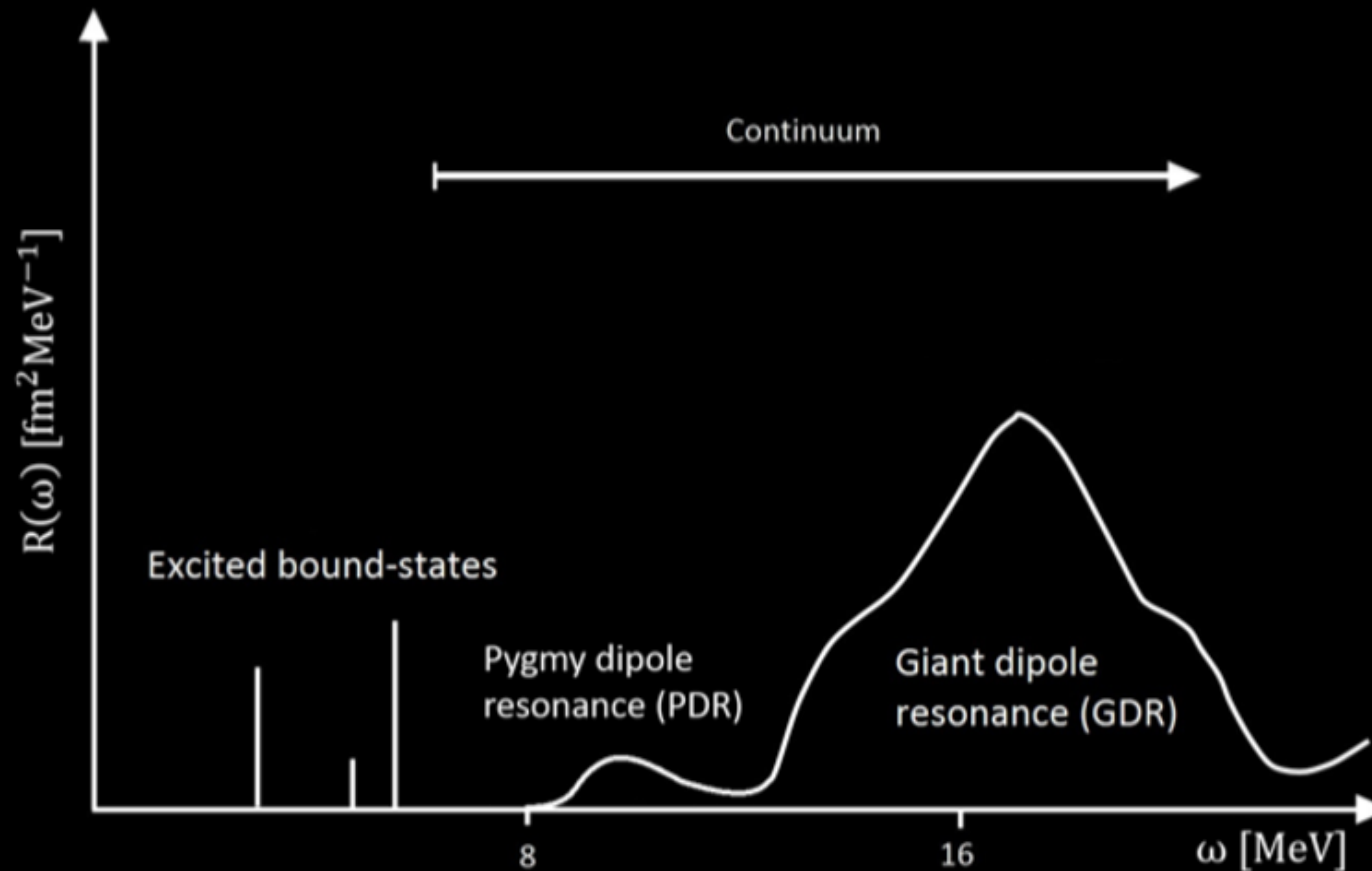
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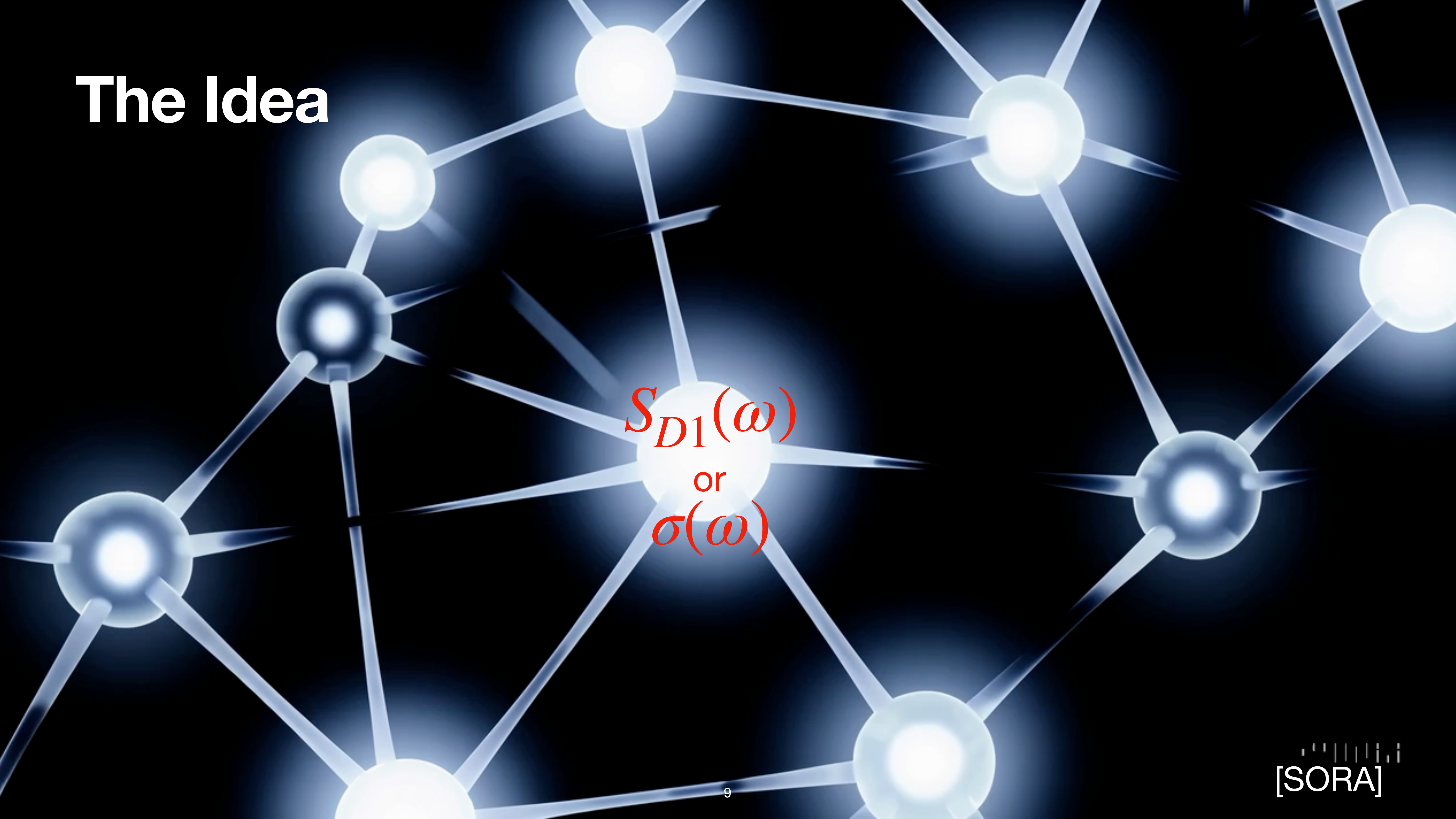


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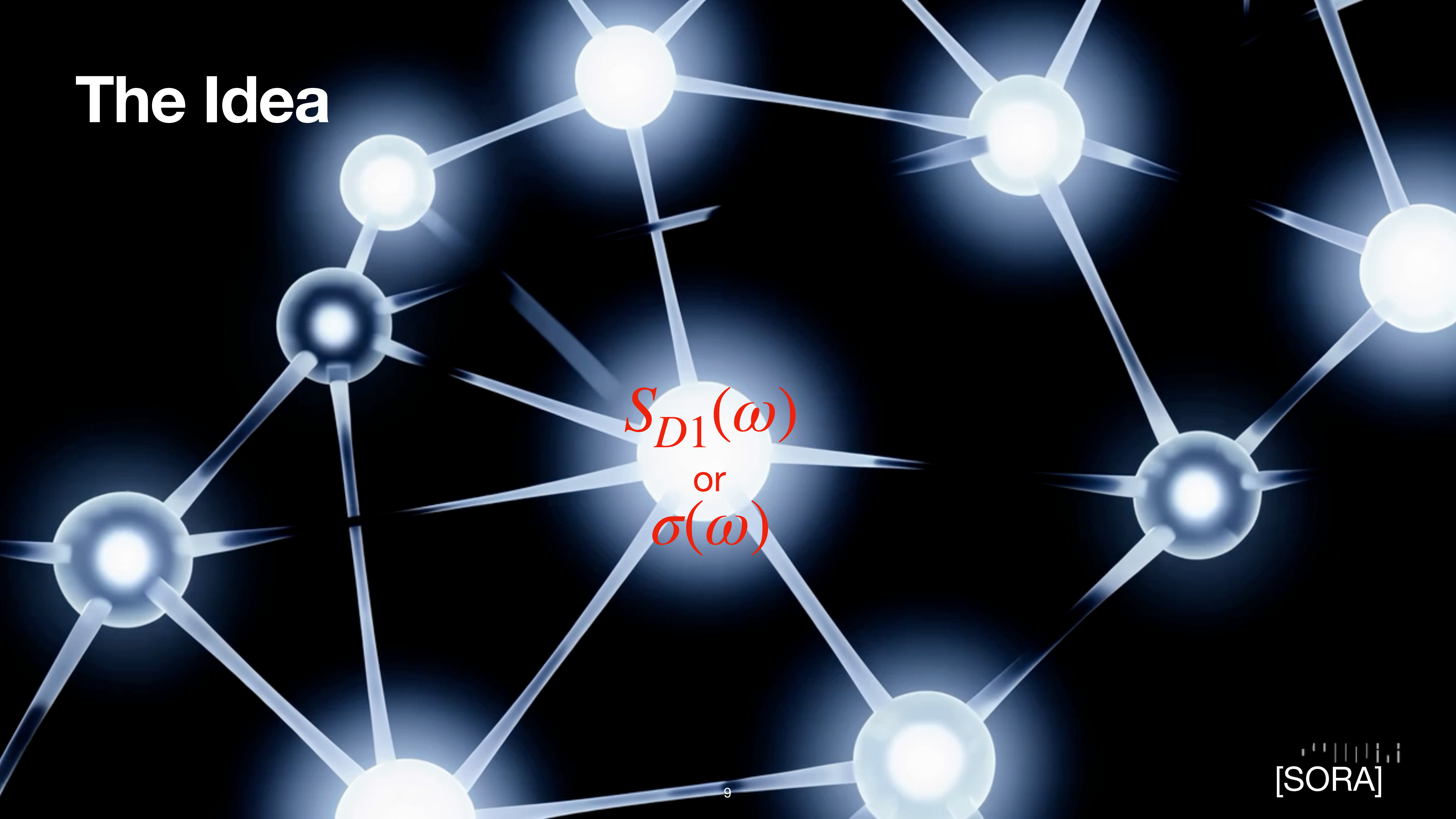


The Idea



$S_{D1}(\omega)$
or
 $\sigma(\omega)$

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Disclaimer

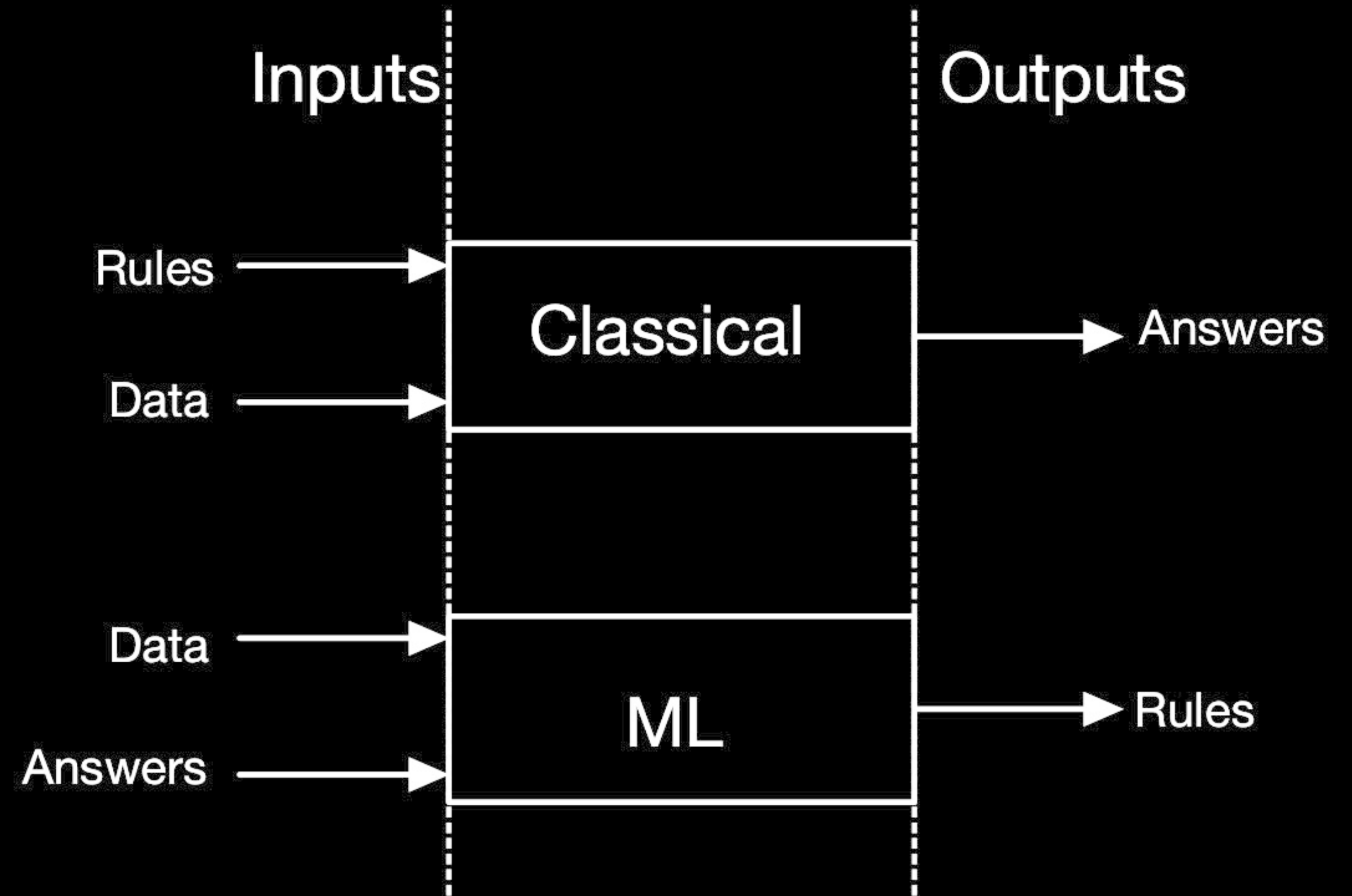
$$S_{D_1} \sim f_1 \sim \frac{\sigma(\omega)}{\omega}$$

In the unretarded dipole approximation

What is an ANN

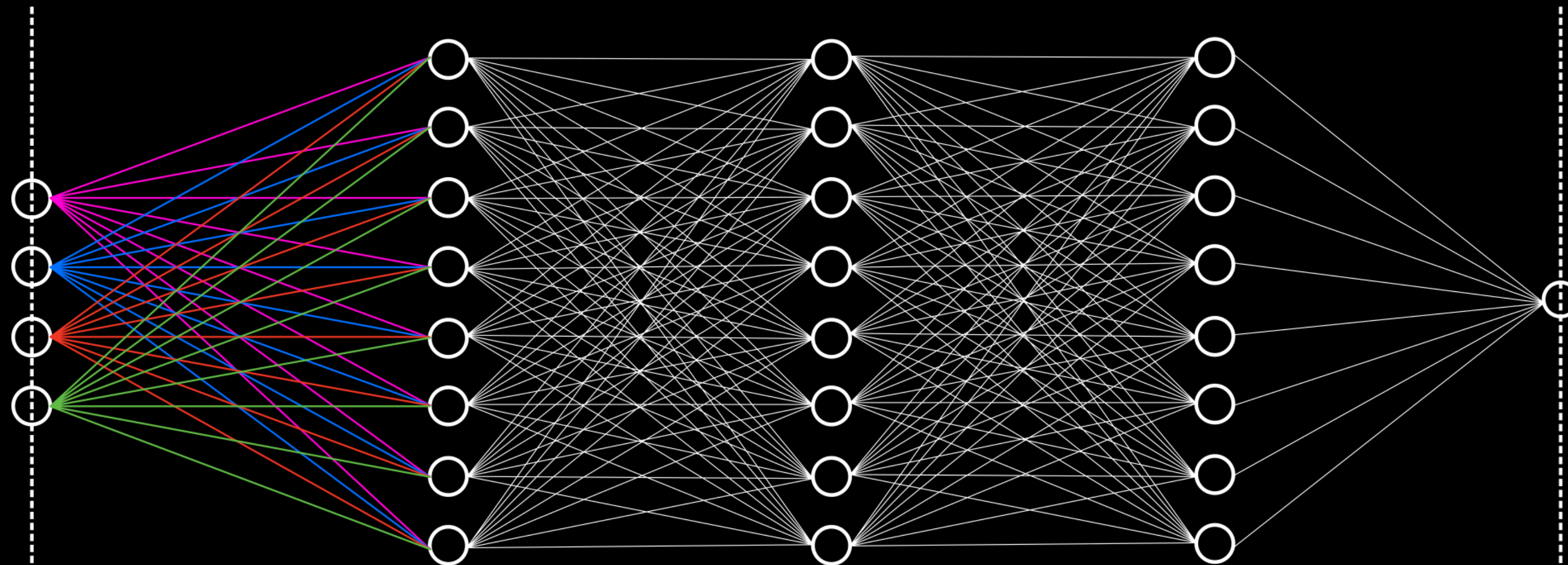
Difference in classical programming and ML

- Classical = outputs answers
- ML = outputs models



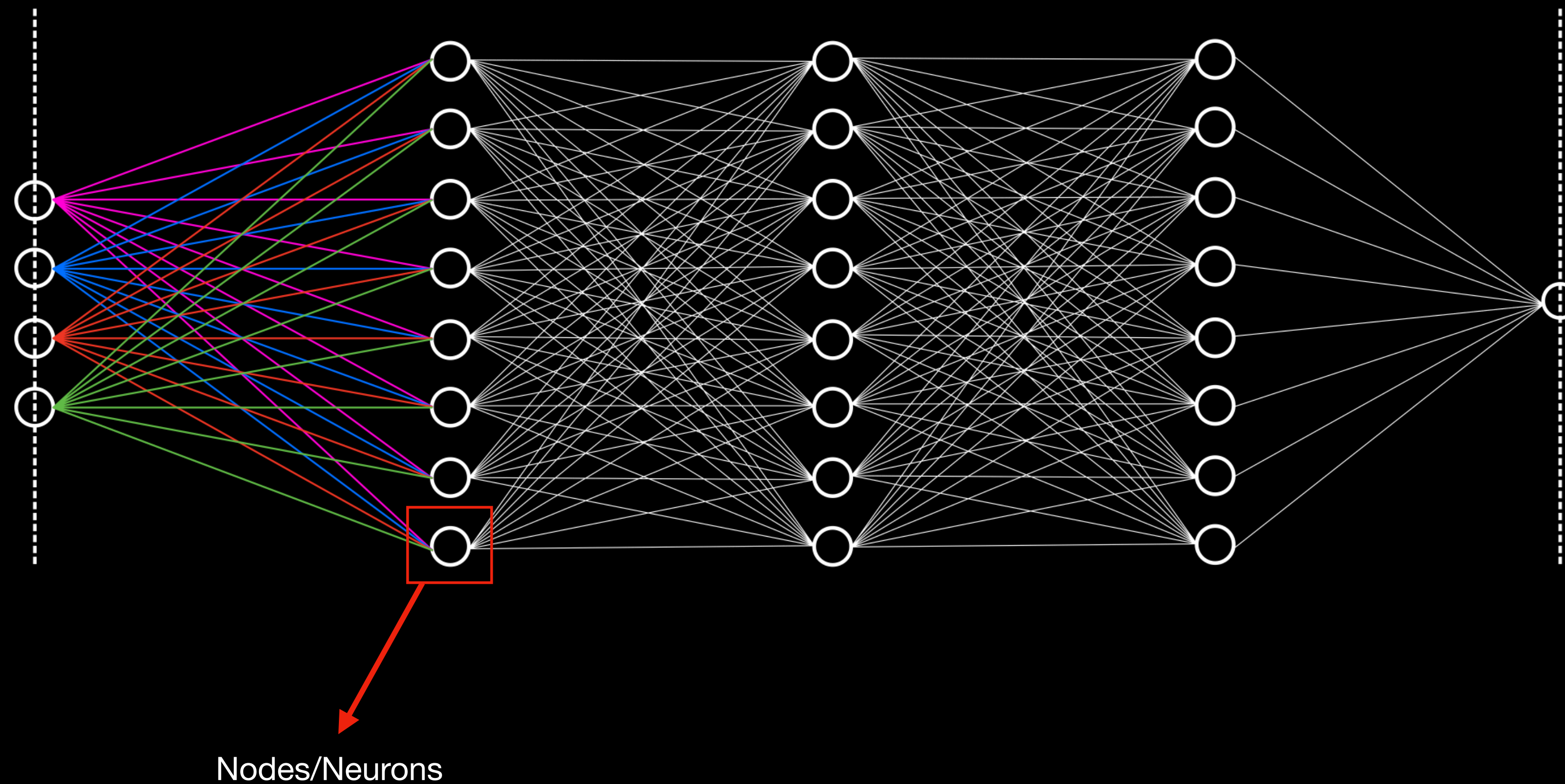
What is an ANN

Structure



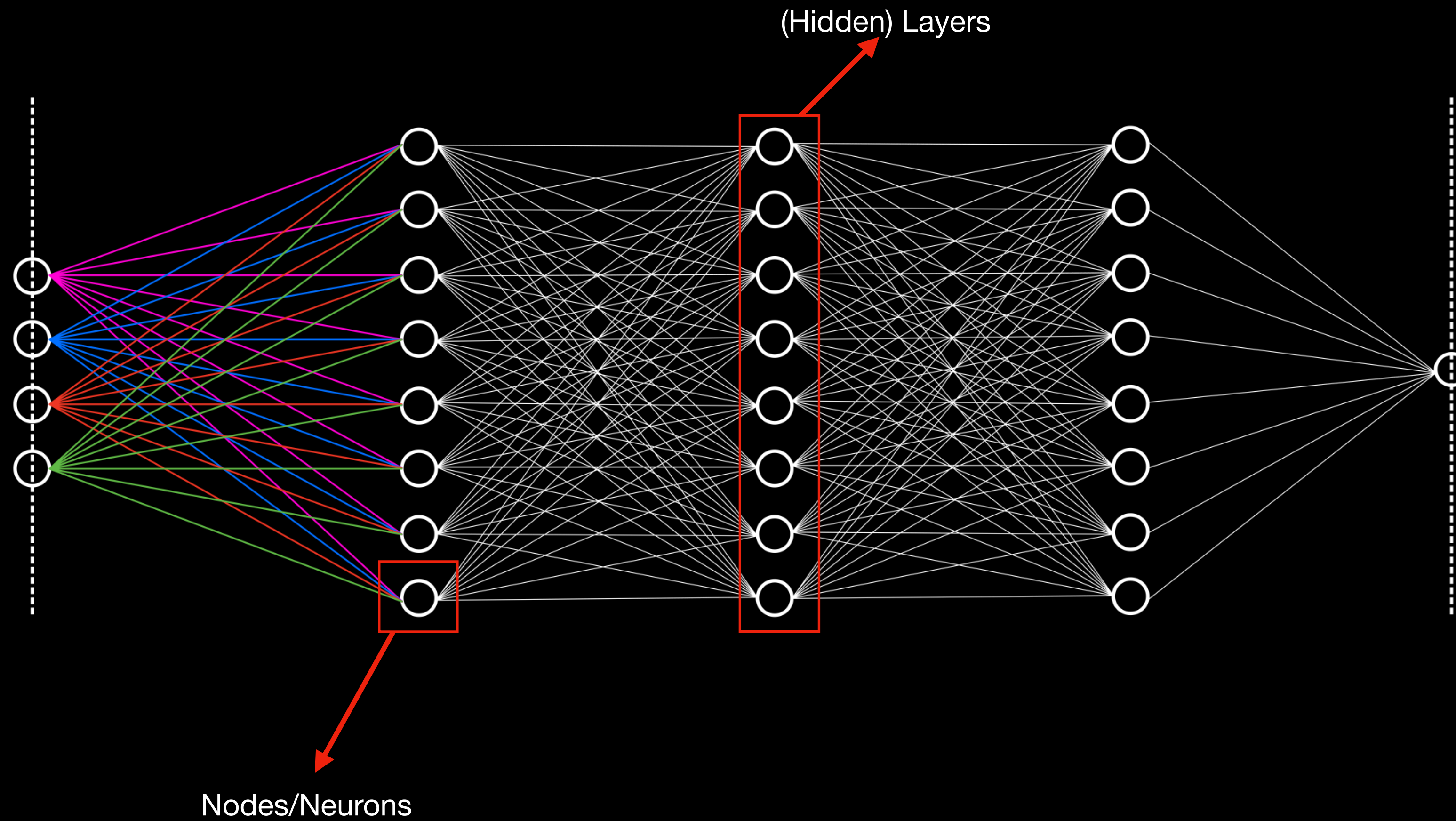
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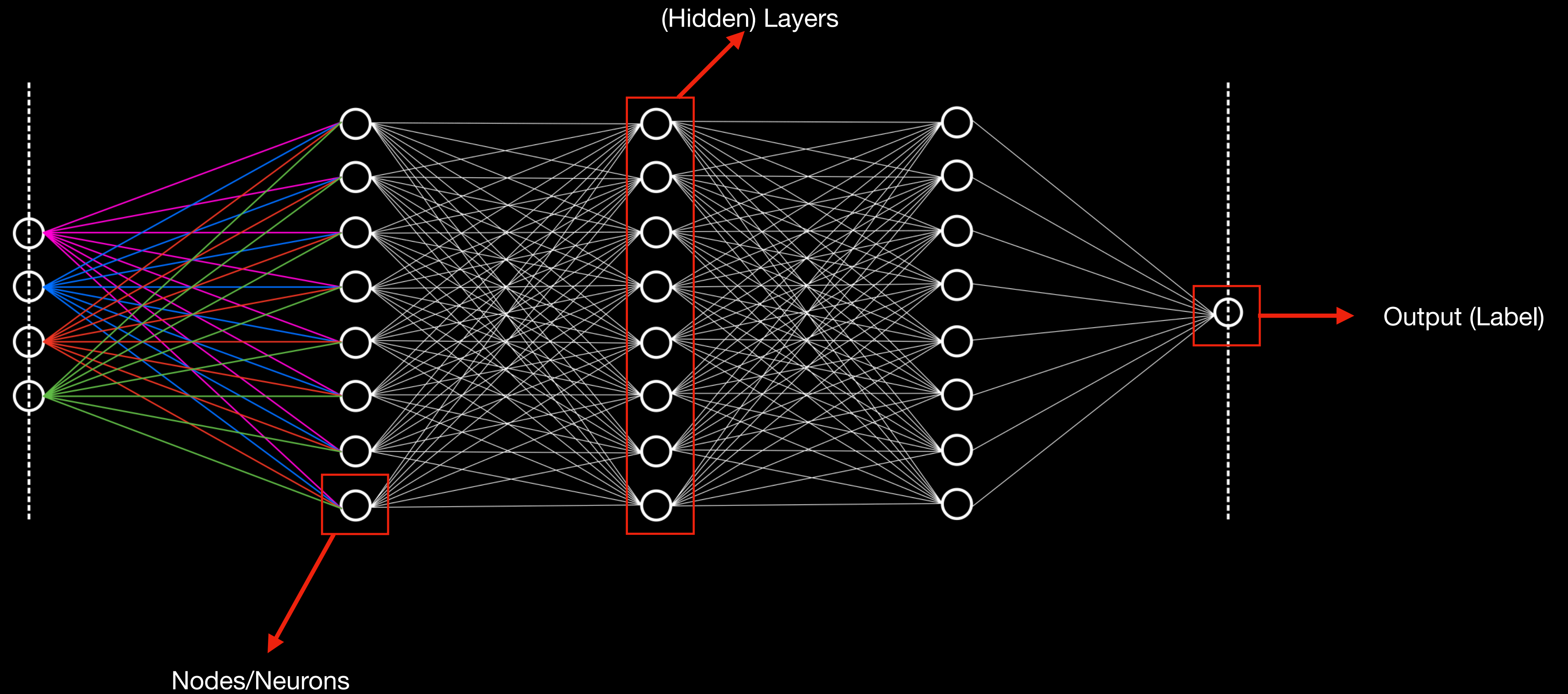
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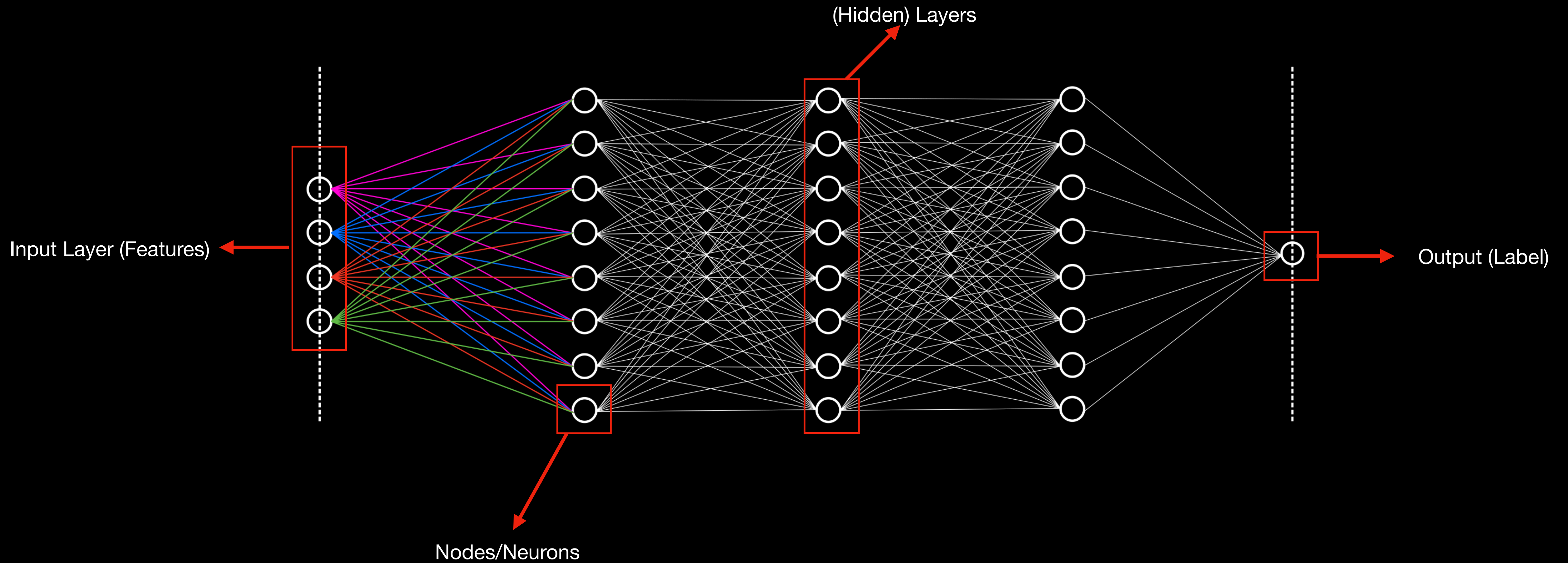
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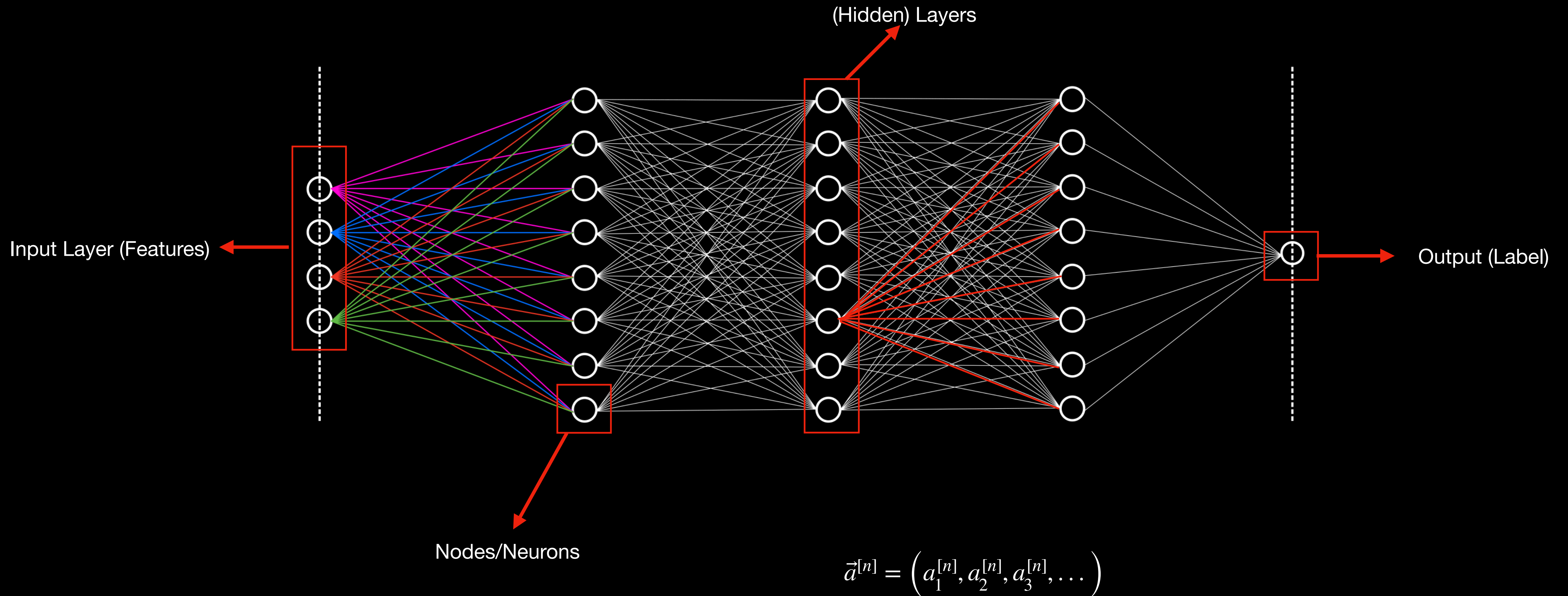
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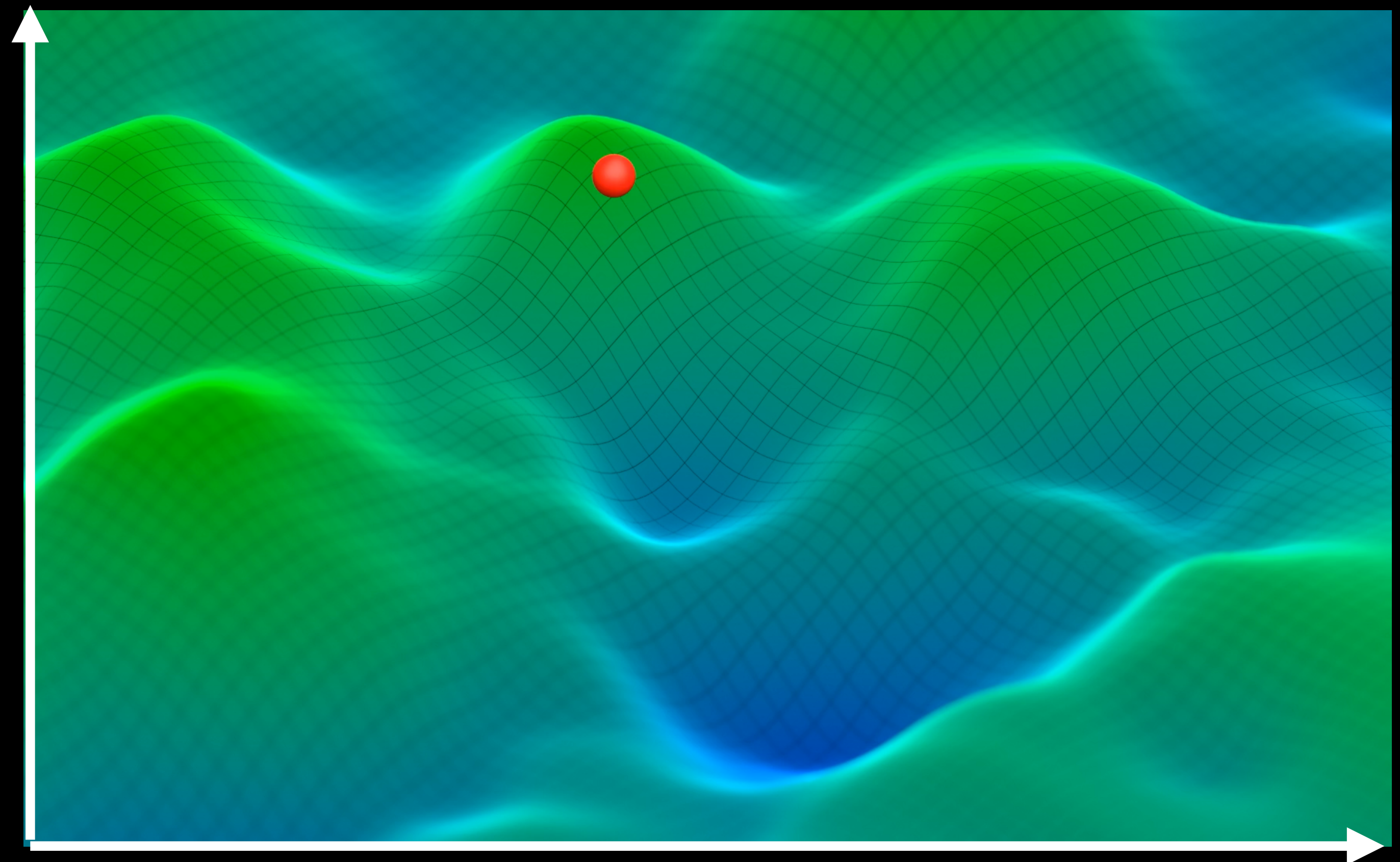
What is an ANN

Training

- Loss as quantity for NN performance (e.g. MSE)
- In this project:
$$\mathcal{L}_{MSE} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - g(x_i))^2$$
- Training = $\min_g \mathcal{L}$
- The optimizer (adam) finds the lowest loss via gradient descent

Z-axis = Loss

Credit: Nils Lorand Hesse



X-Y-Plane = NN
Parameter space

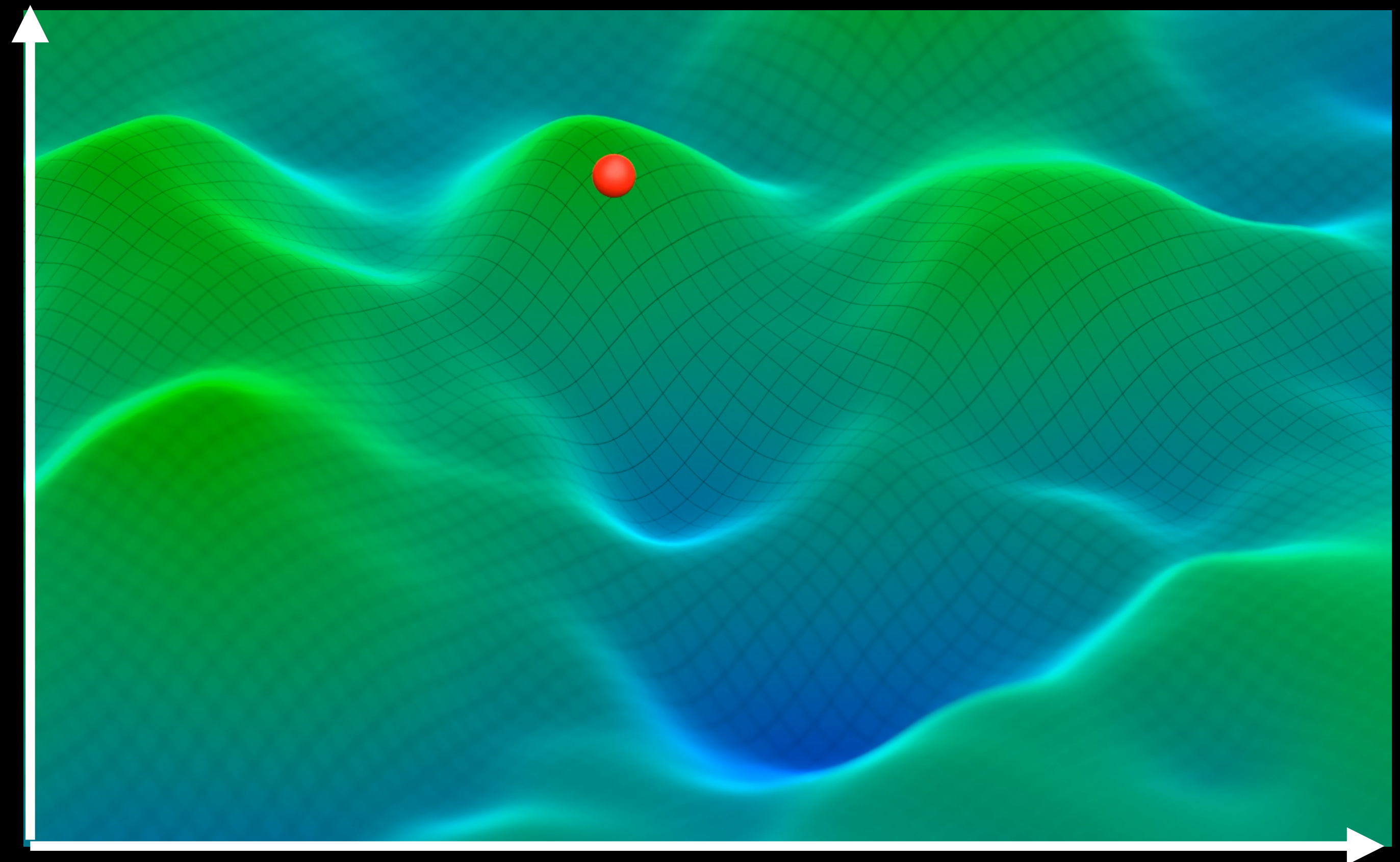
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X-Y-Plane = NN
Parameter space

Evolution of Networks We Used

Evolution of Networks We Used

B.Sc

- trained on other dataset with ~100 points
- dataset way too small
- Overfitting

→ What is overfitting?

Evolution of Networks We Used

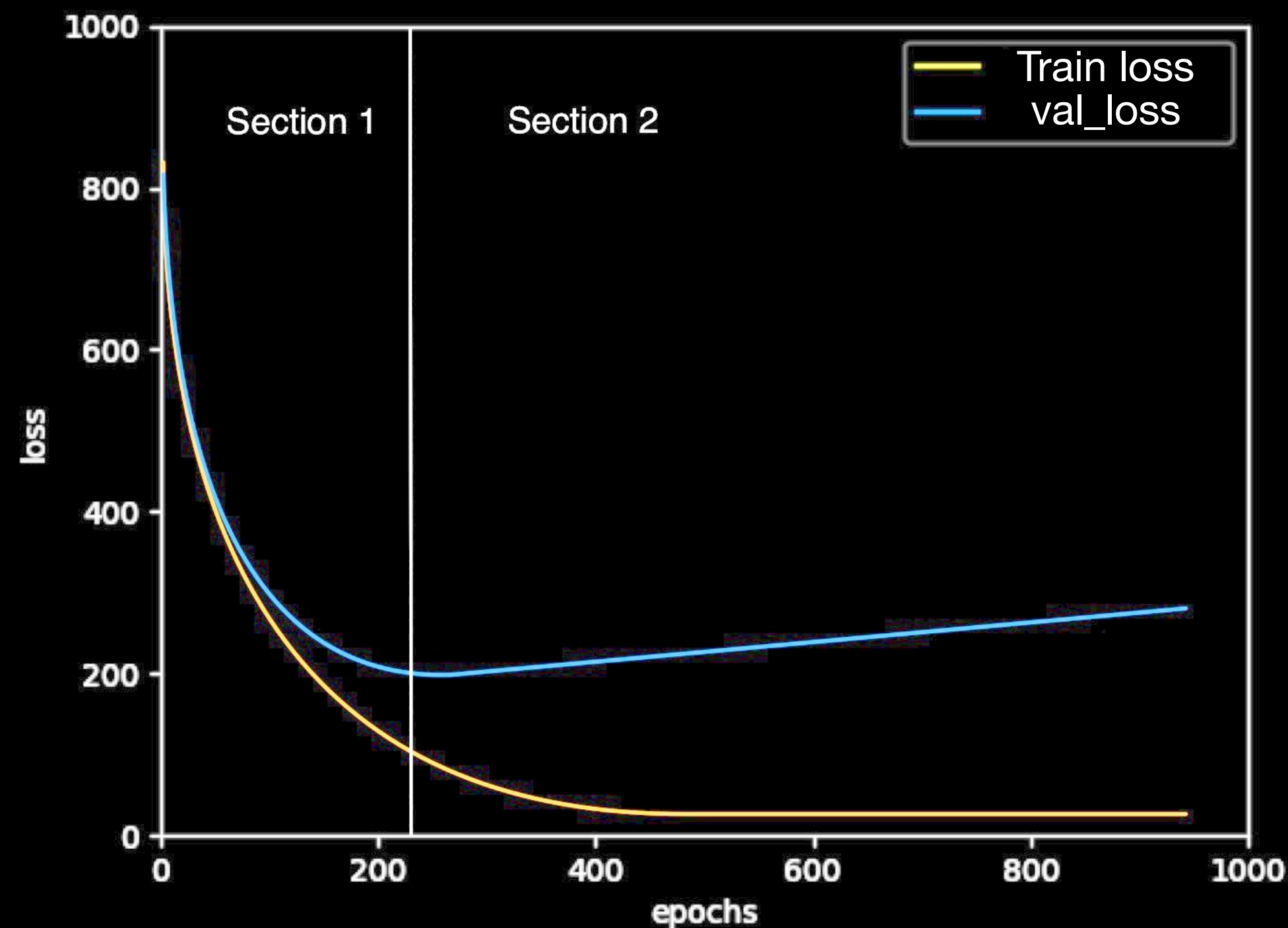
Overfitting

- Divide data into train, validation and test sets
 - Trace of losses indicate generalization and optimization performance

Evolution of Networks We Used

Overfitting

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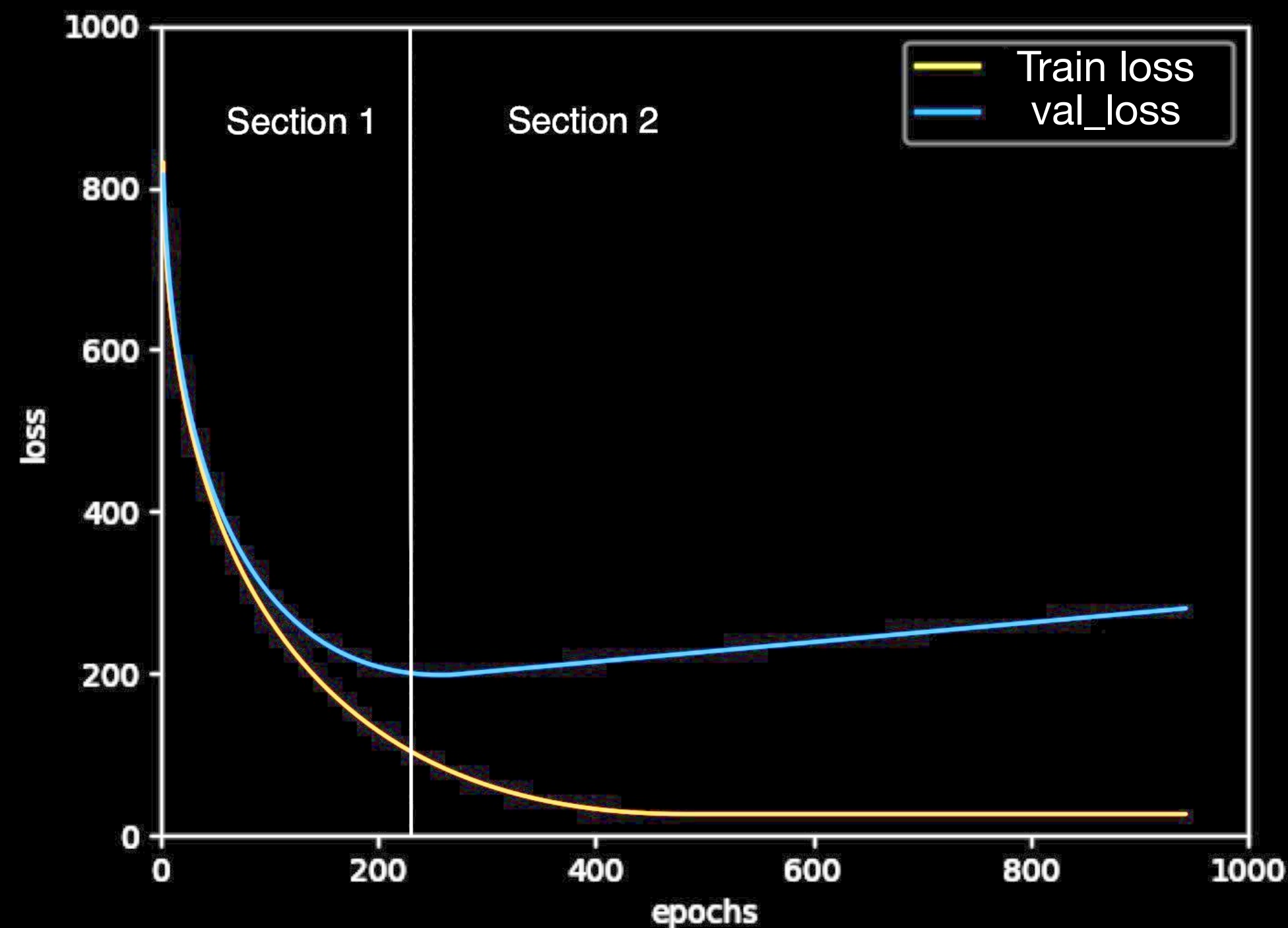


Evolution of Networks We Used

Overfitting

- Divide data into train, validation and test sets

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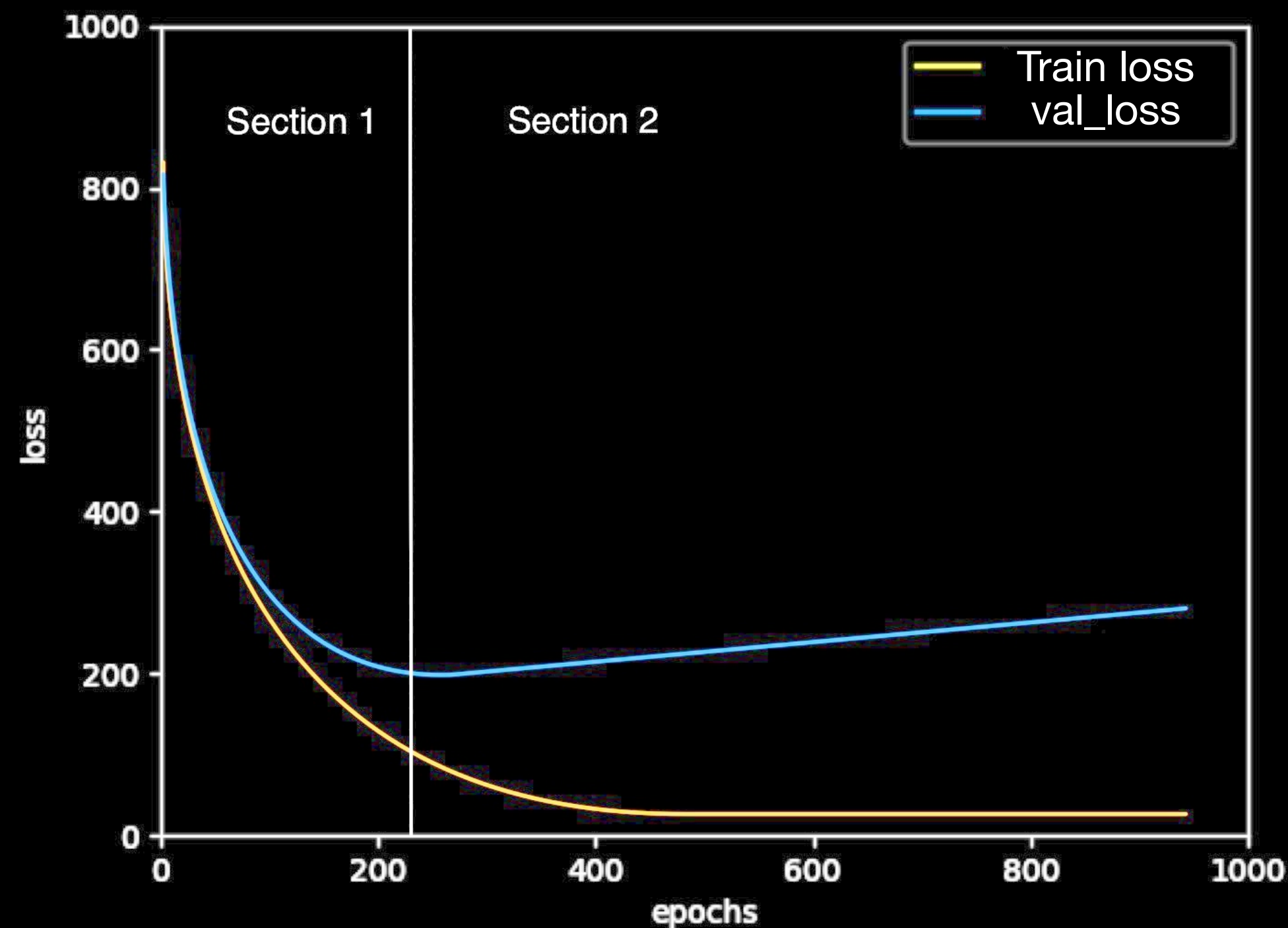
- Diverging validation loss

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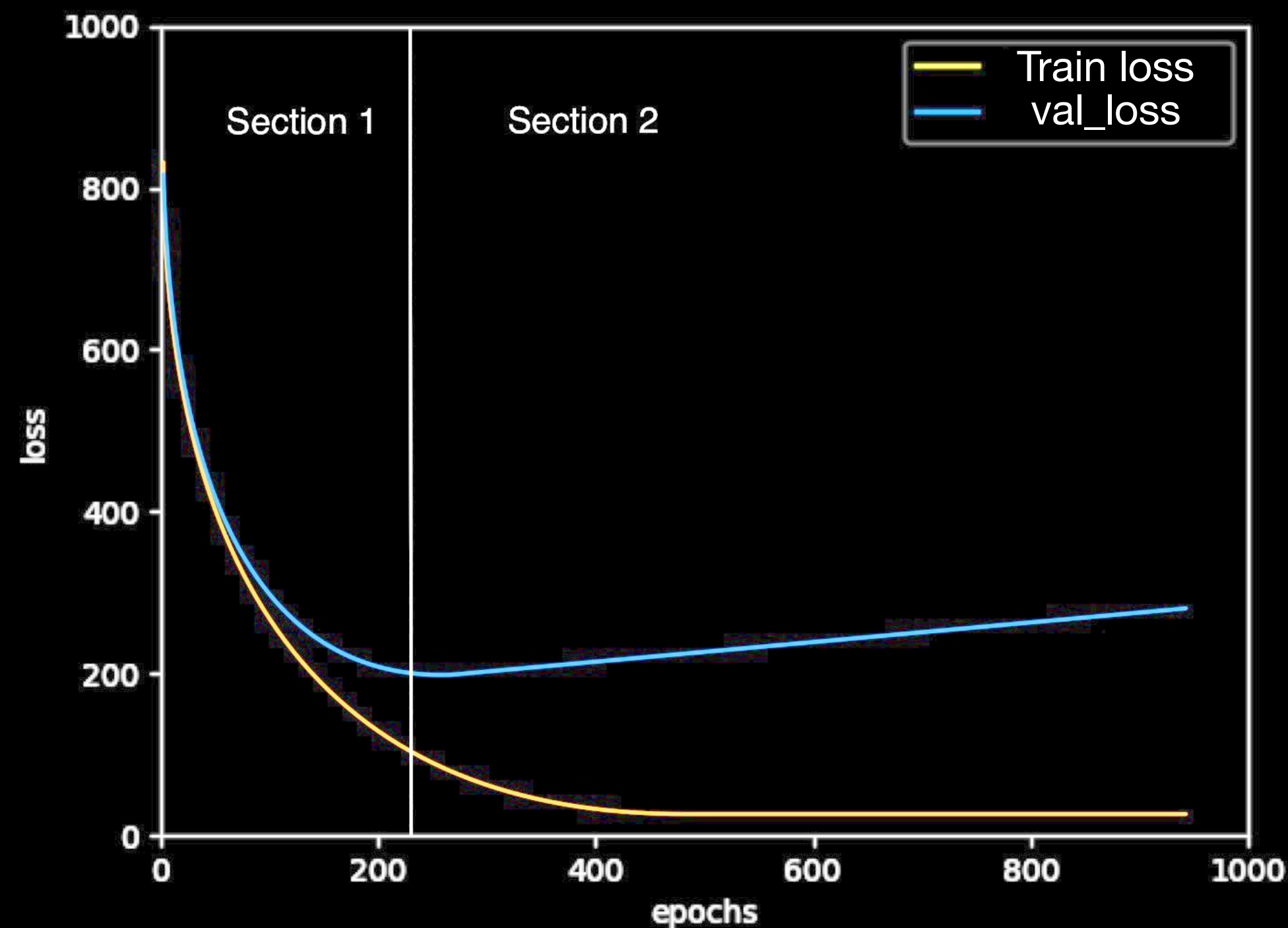
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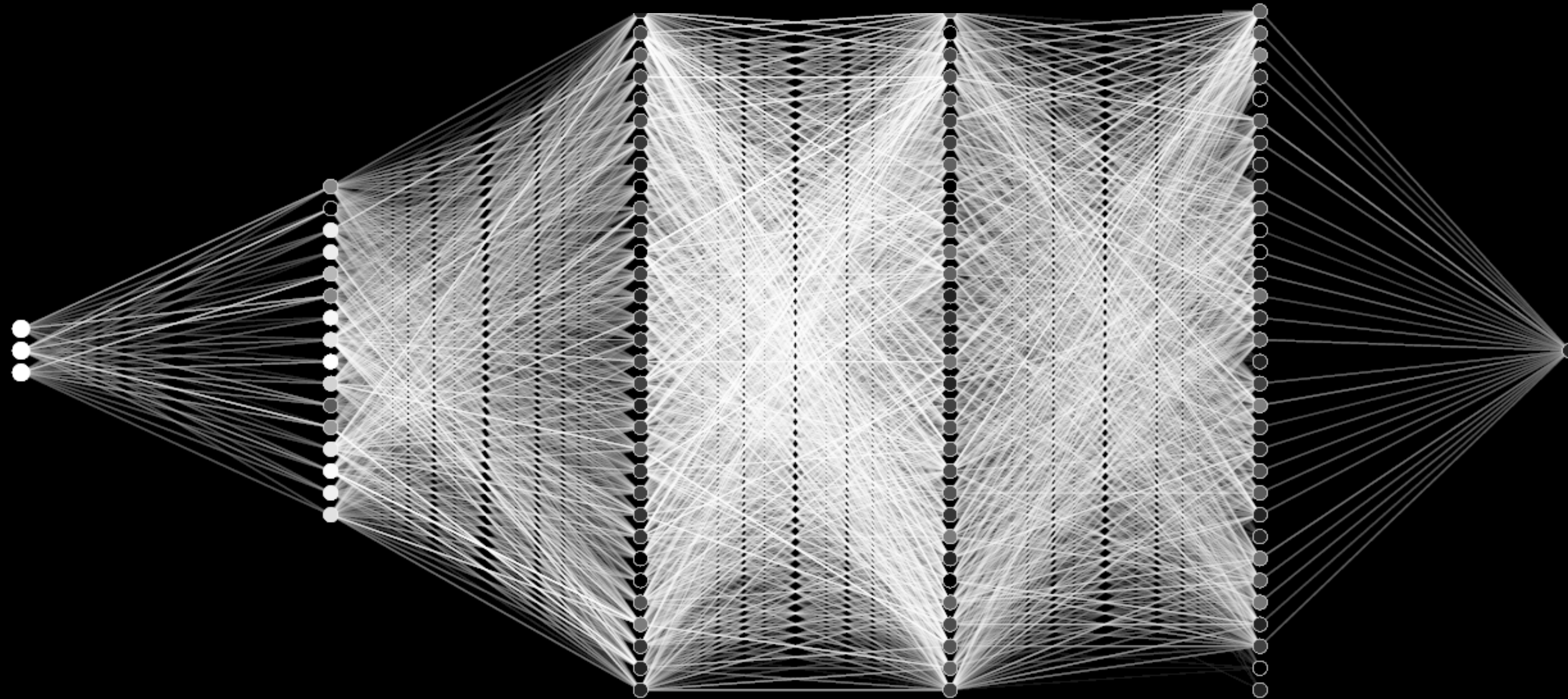
- Diverging validation loss
- Performance on test set much worse
- Prevent by: Dropout, reducing size, more data, regularizer

Evolution of Networks We Used

LETTER

Data-driven analysis of dipole strength functions using artificial neural networks

[W. G. Jiang](#) ^{1,*}, [T. Egert](#) ¹, [S. Bacca](#) ^{1,2}, [F. Bonaiti](#) ^{1,3,4}, and [P. von Neumann-Cosel](#) ⁵

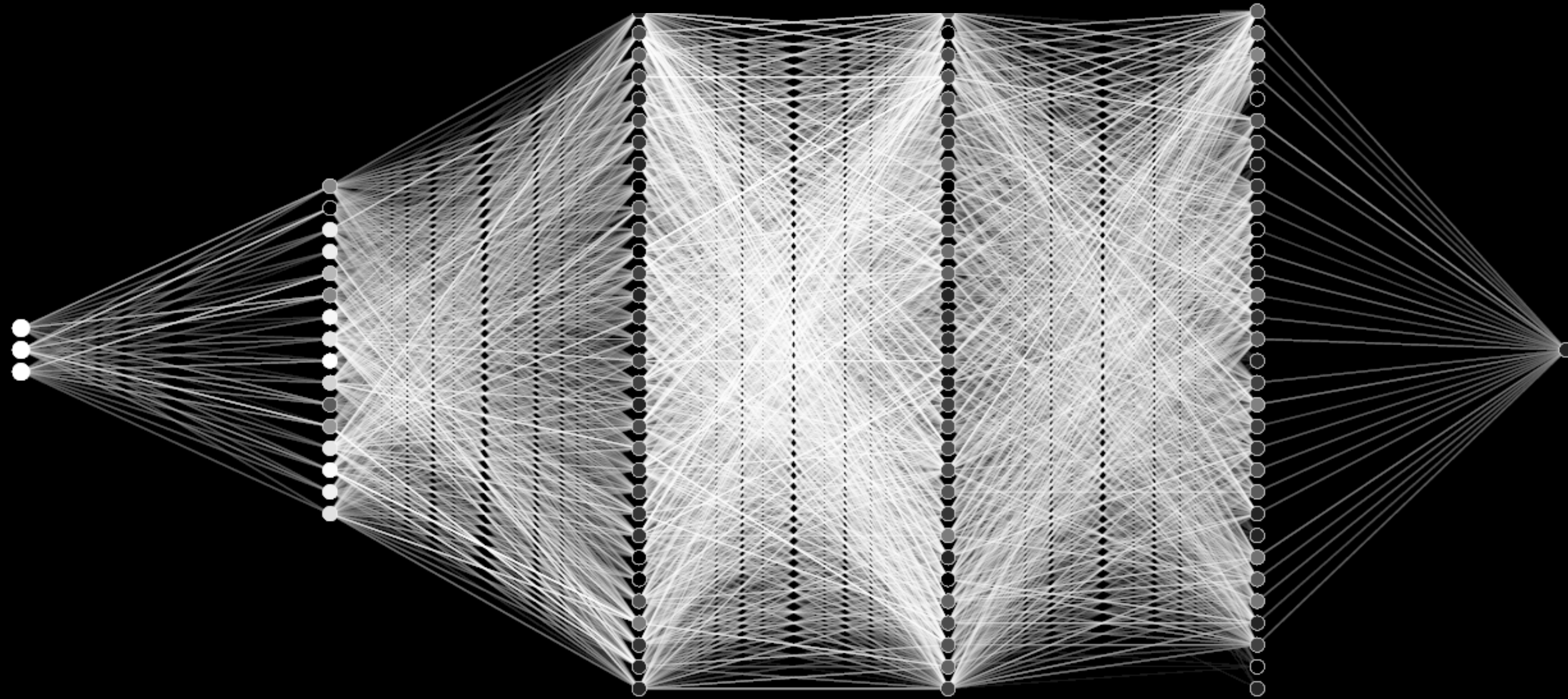


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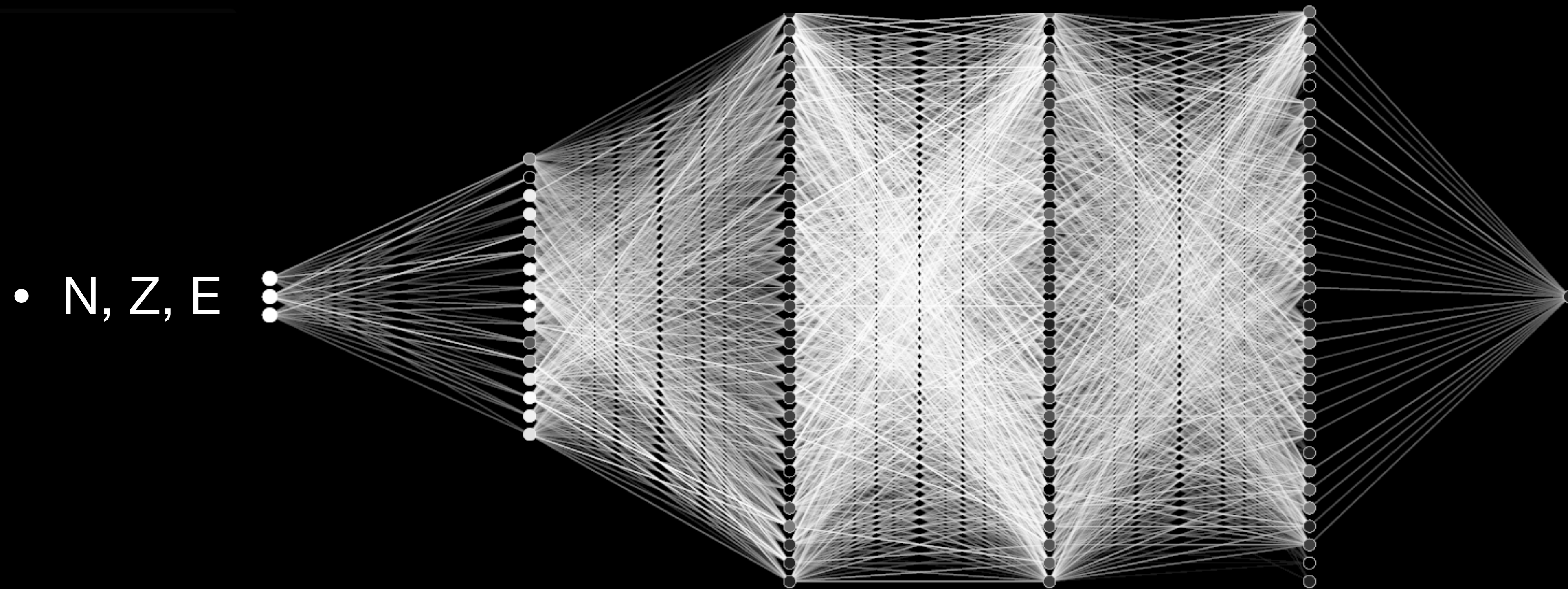
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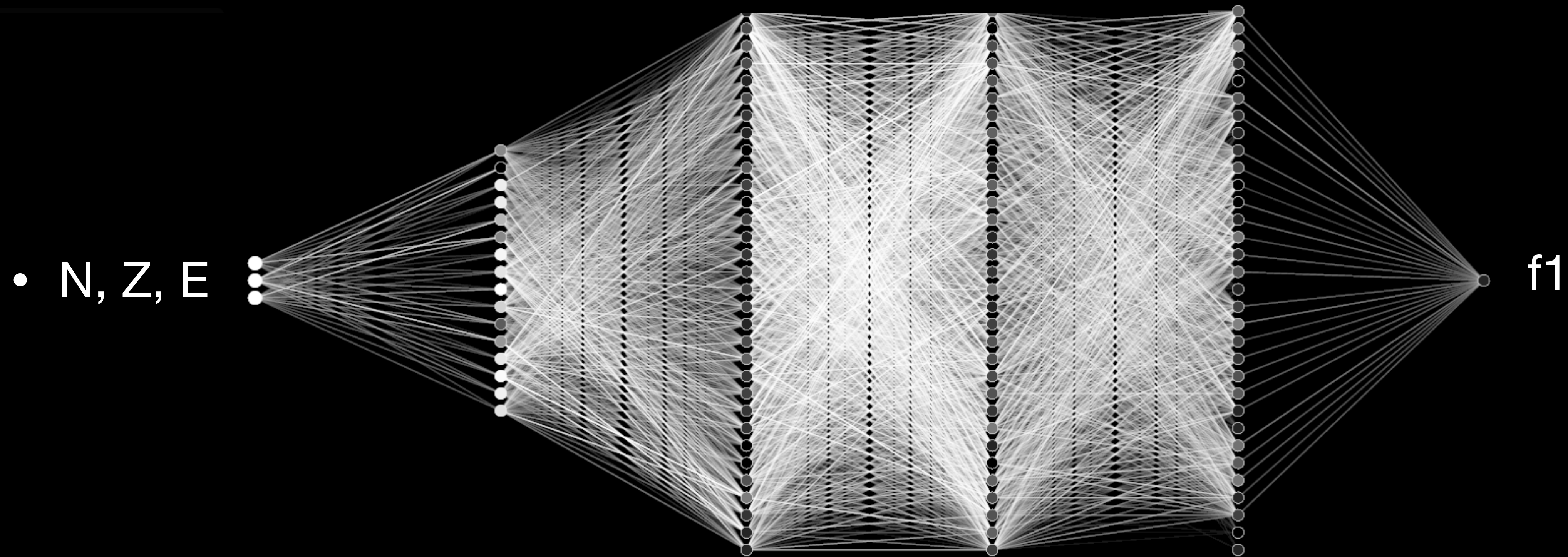
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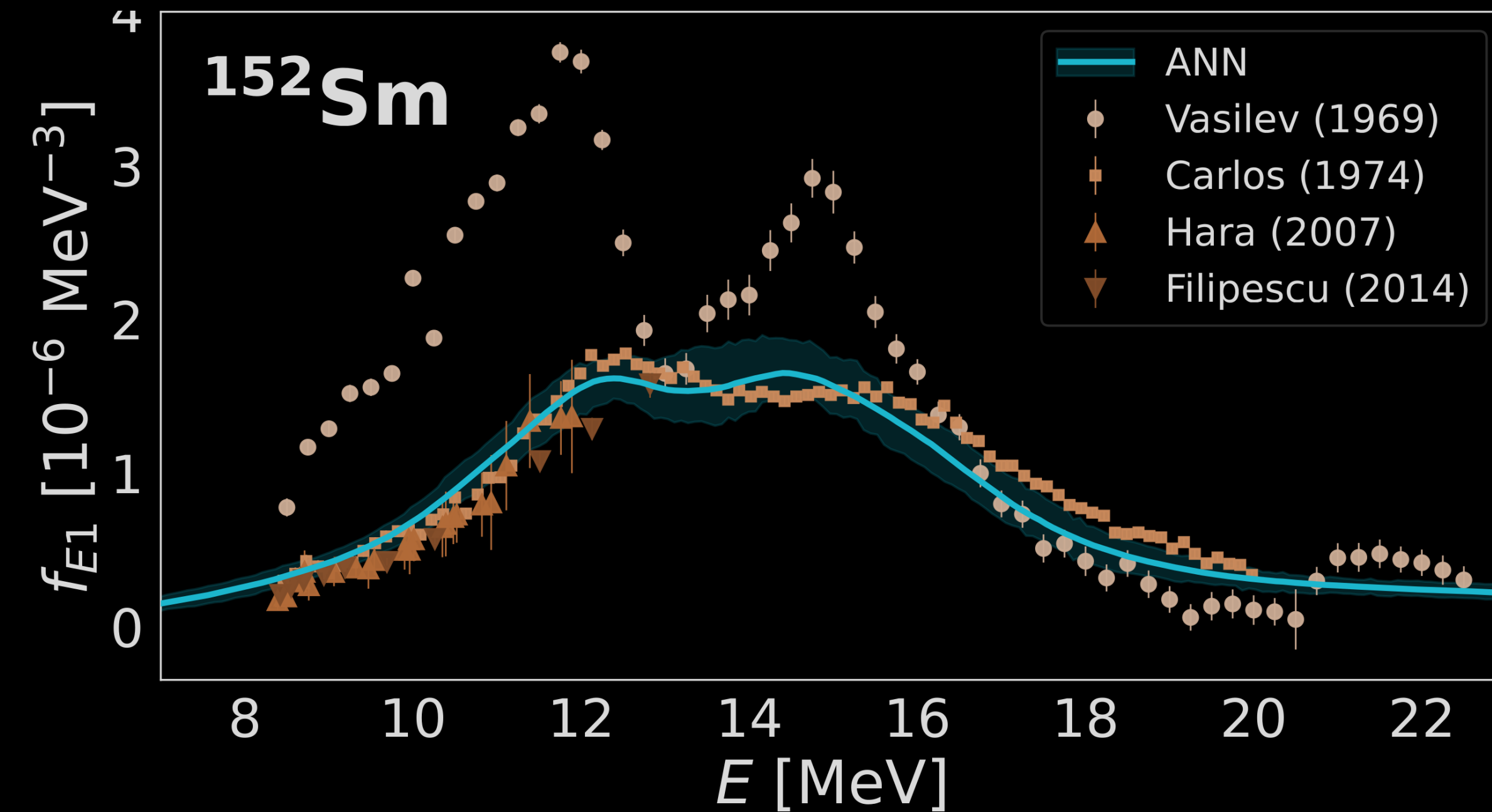
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Evolution of Networks We Used

Results from PRC Paper

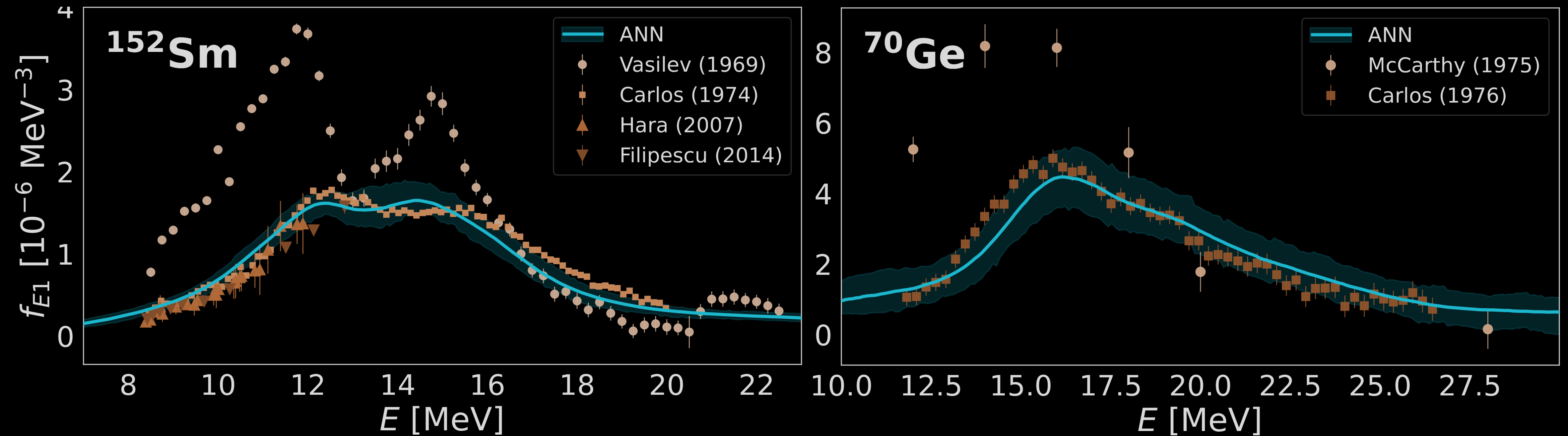
Evolution of Networks We Used

Results from PRC Paper



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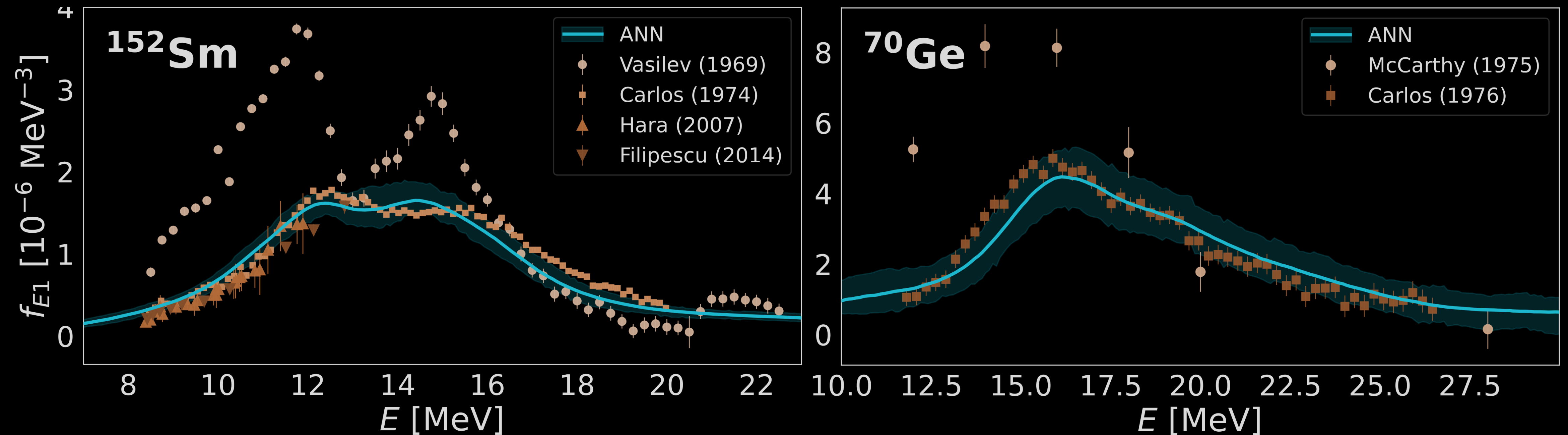
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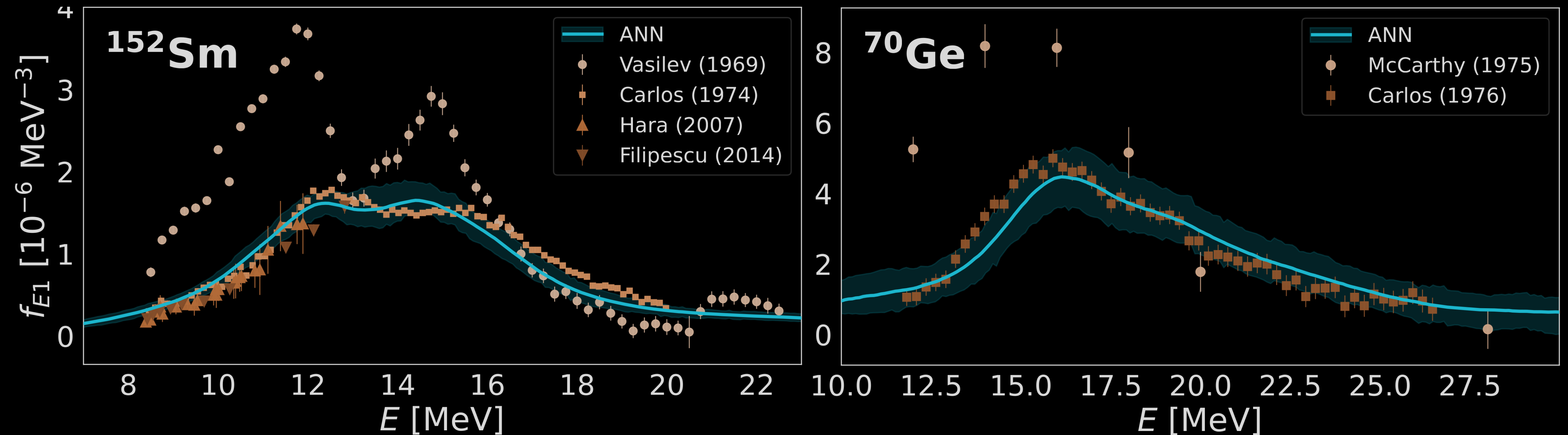


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- Use ANN to discard datasets (if ambiguous)

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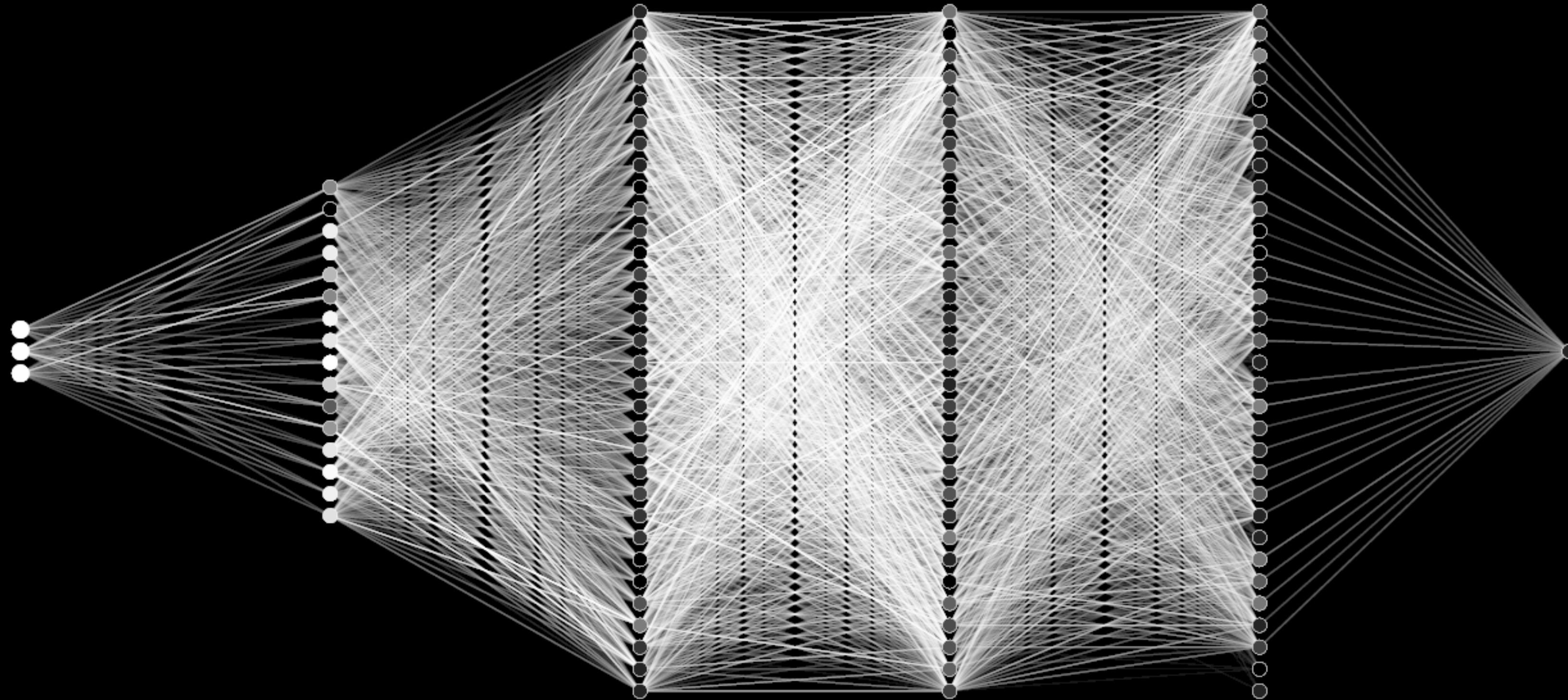
- Use ANN to discard datasets (if ambiguous)
- Generate dipole strength for nuclei that have no experimental data

Evolution of Networks We Used

How to generate uncertainties

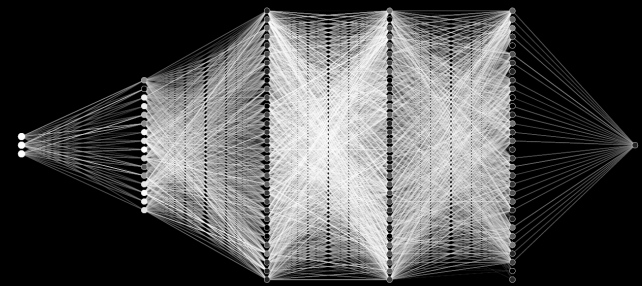
Evolution of Networks We Used

How to generate uncertainties



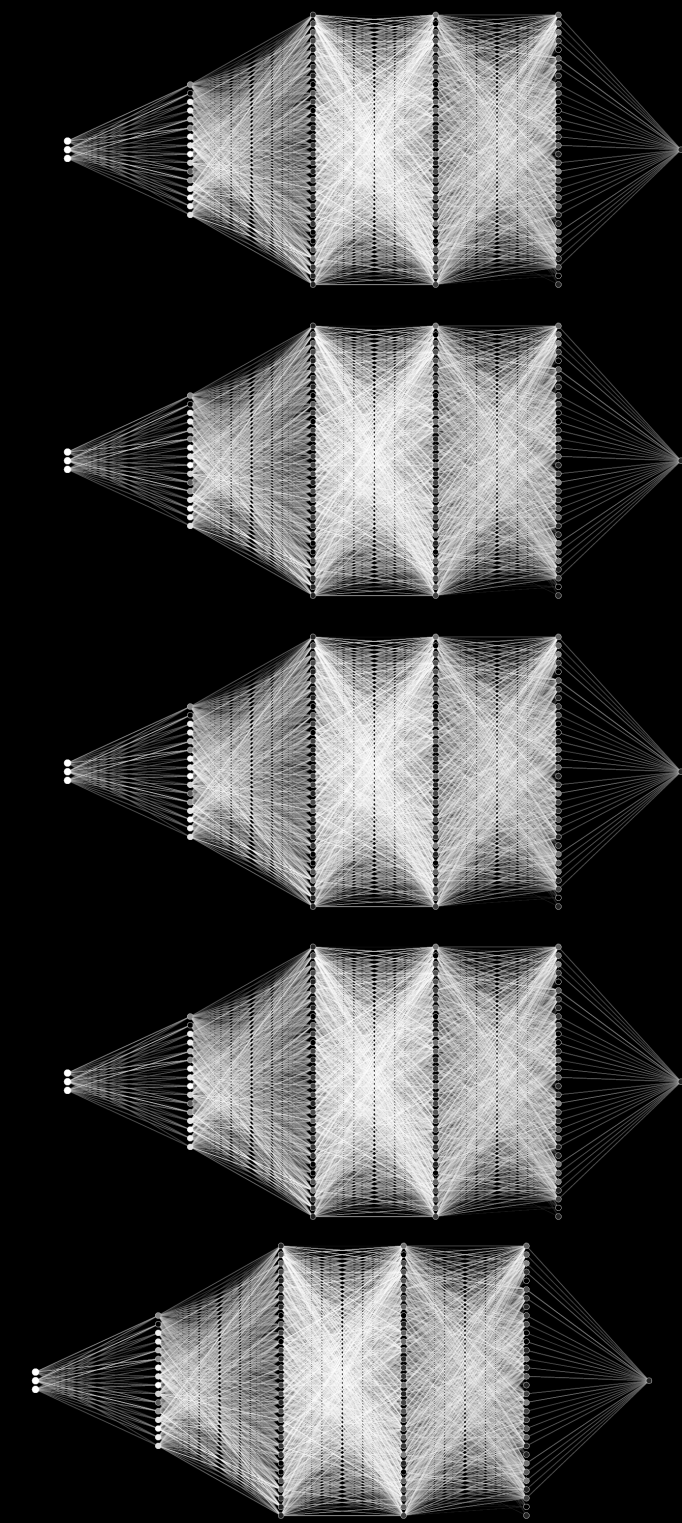
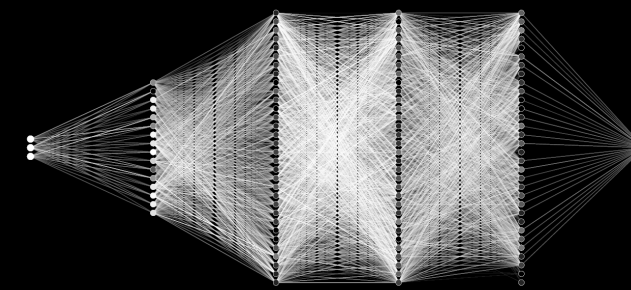
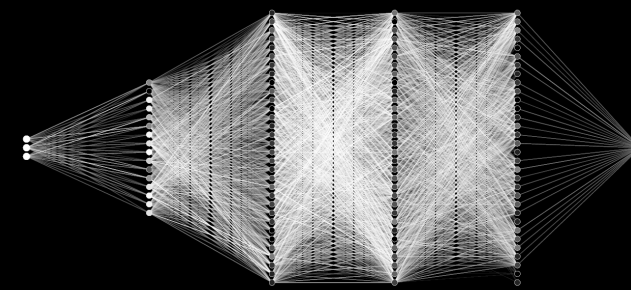
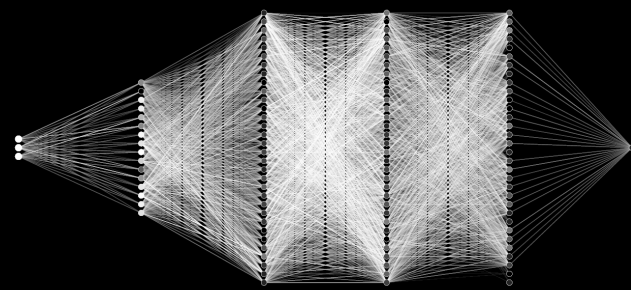
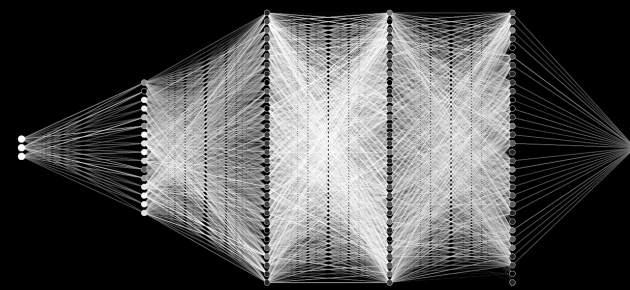
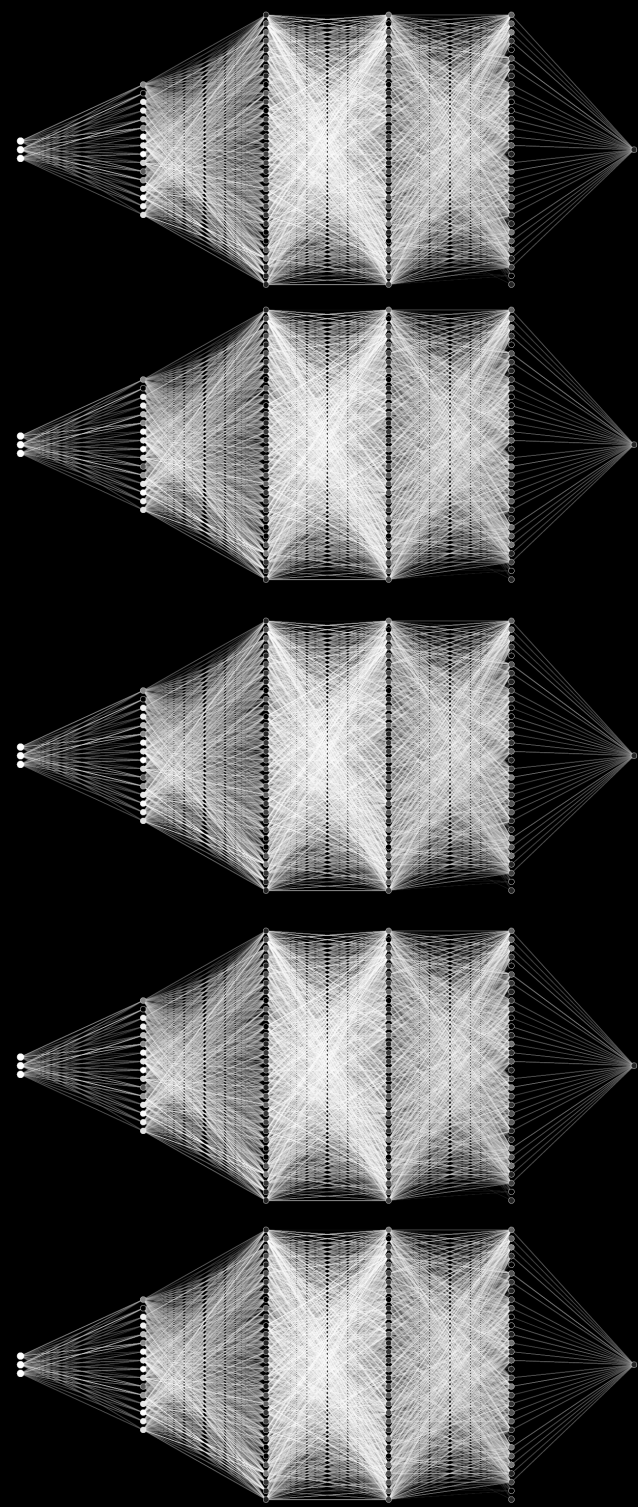
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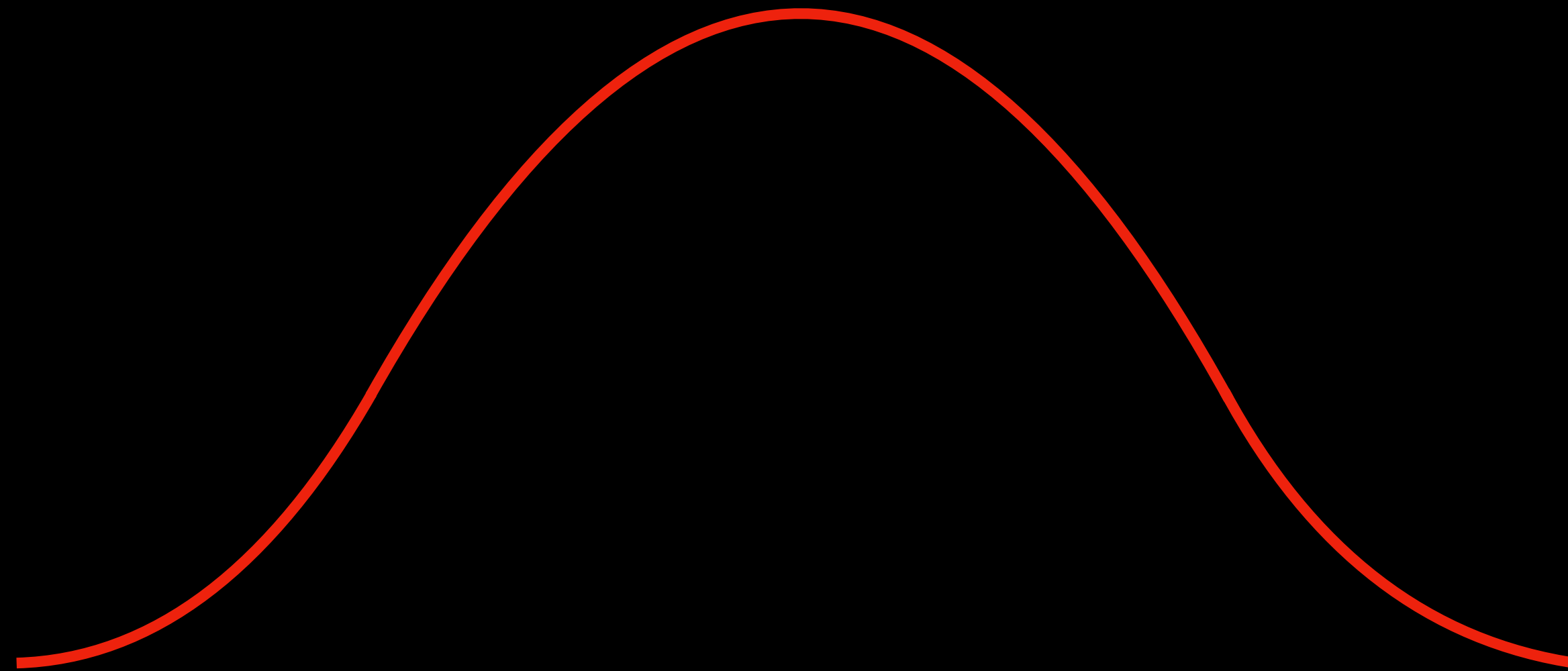
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Evolution of Networks We Used

Muonic atoms - what's new?

Evolution of Networks We Used

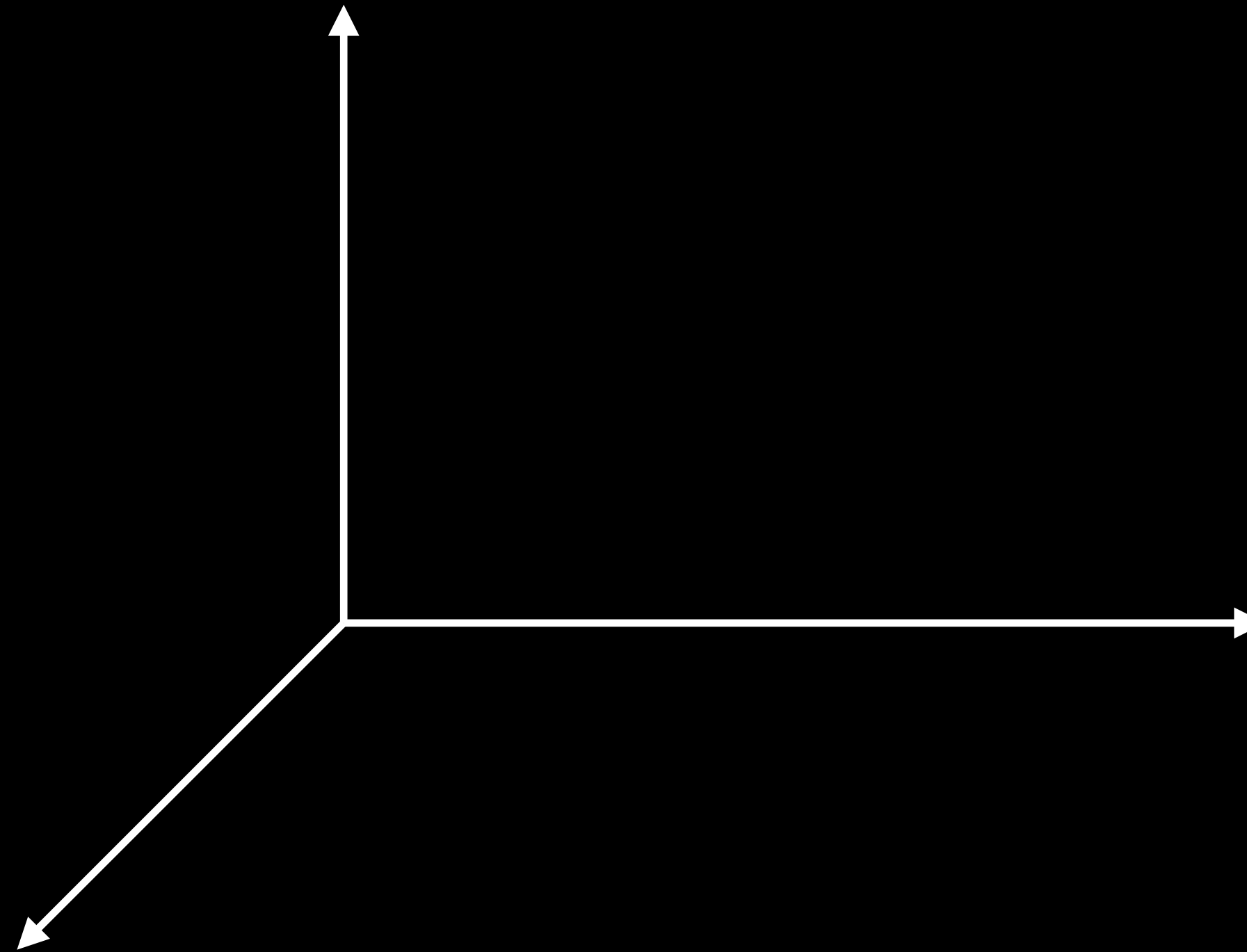
Muonic atoms - what's new?

- Embedding space

Evolution of Networks We Used

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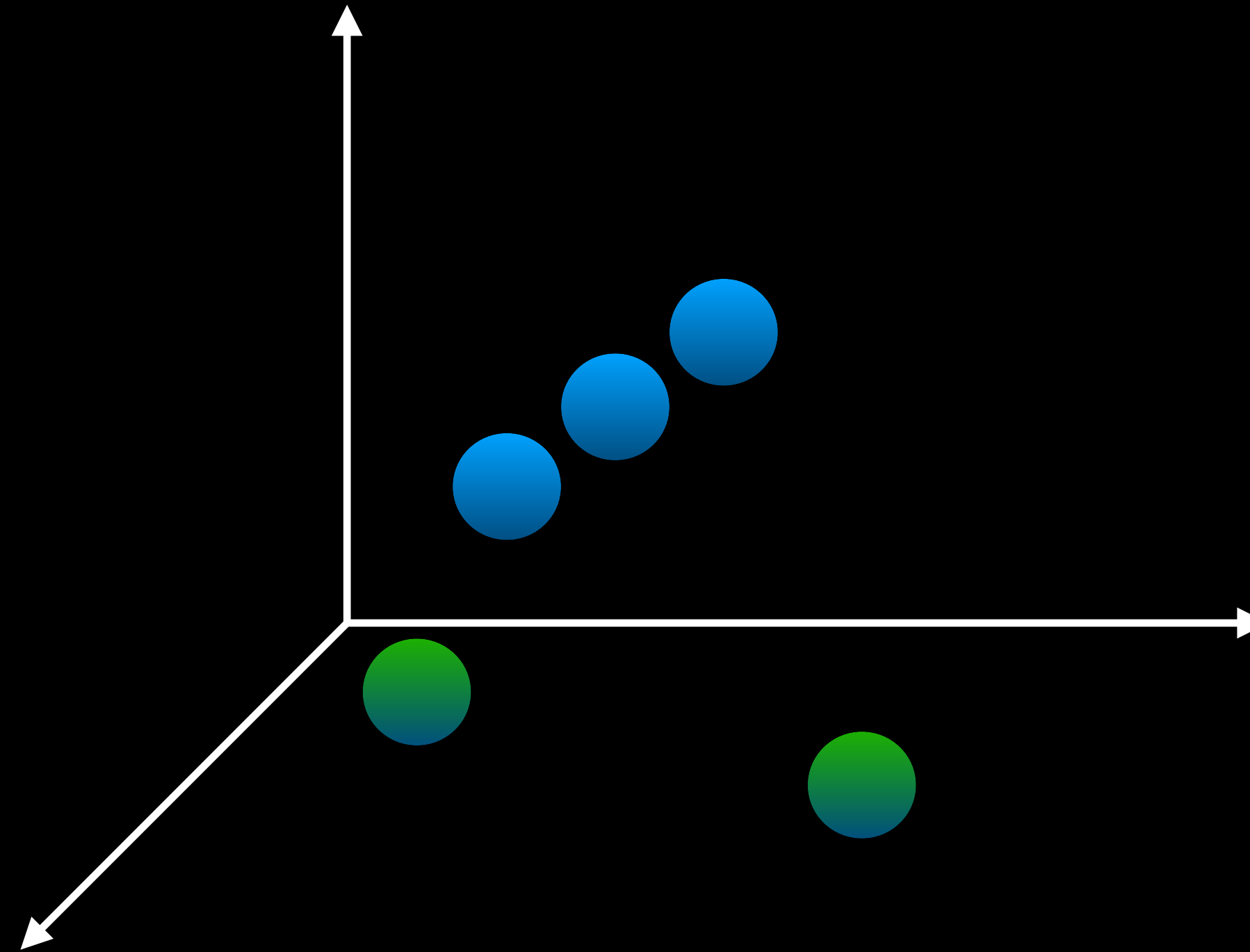
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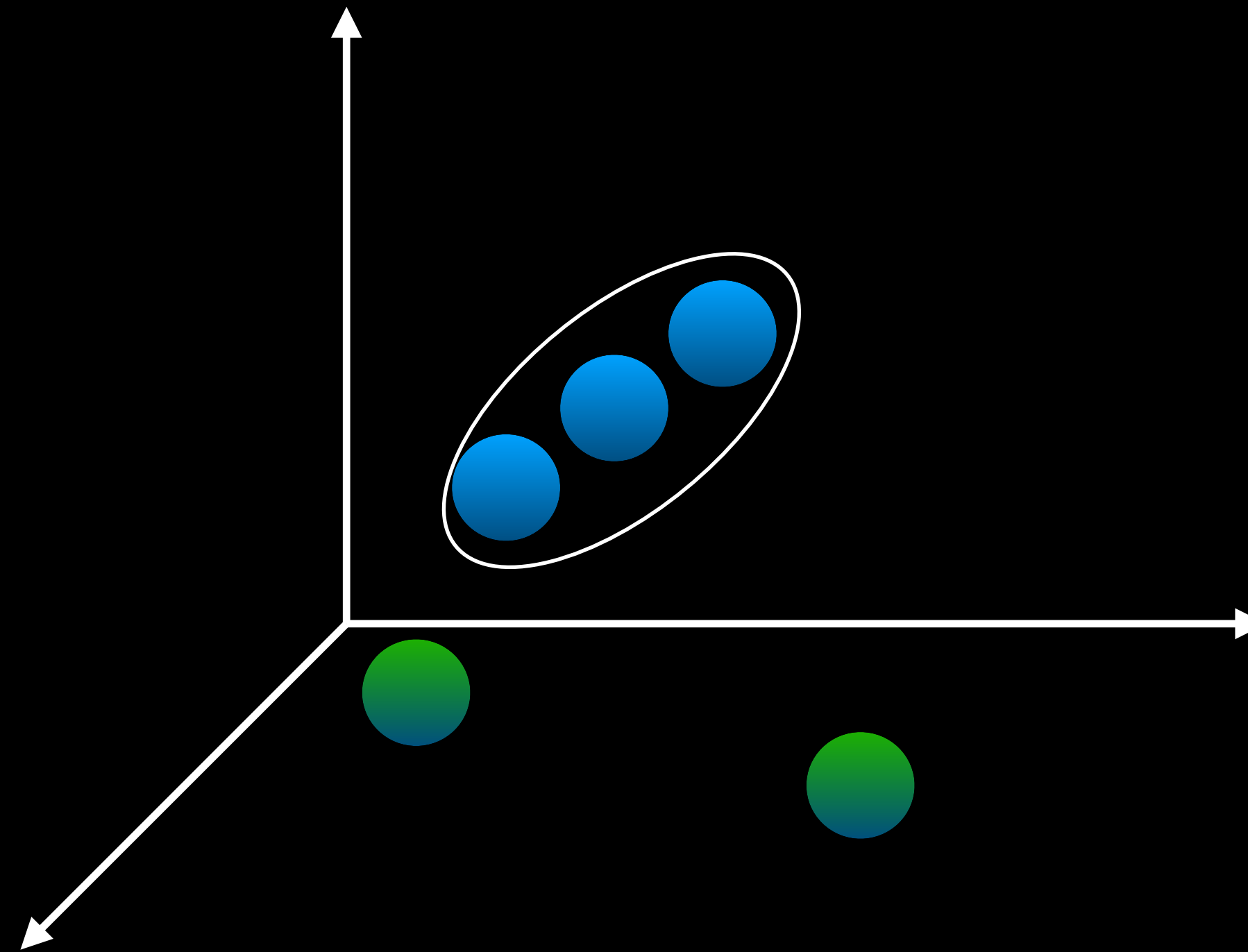
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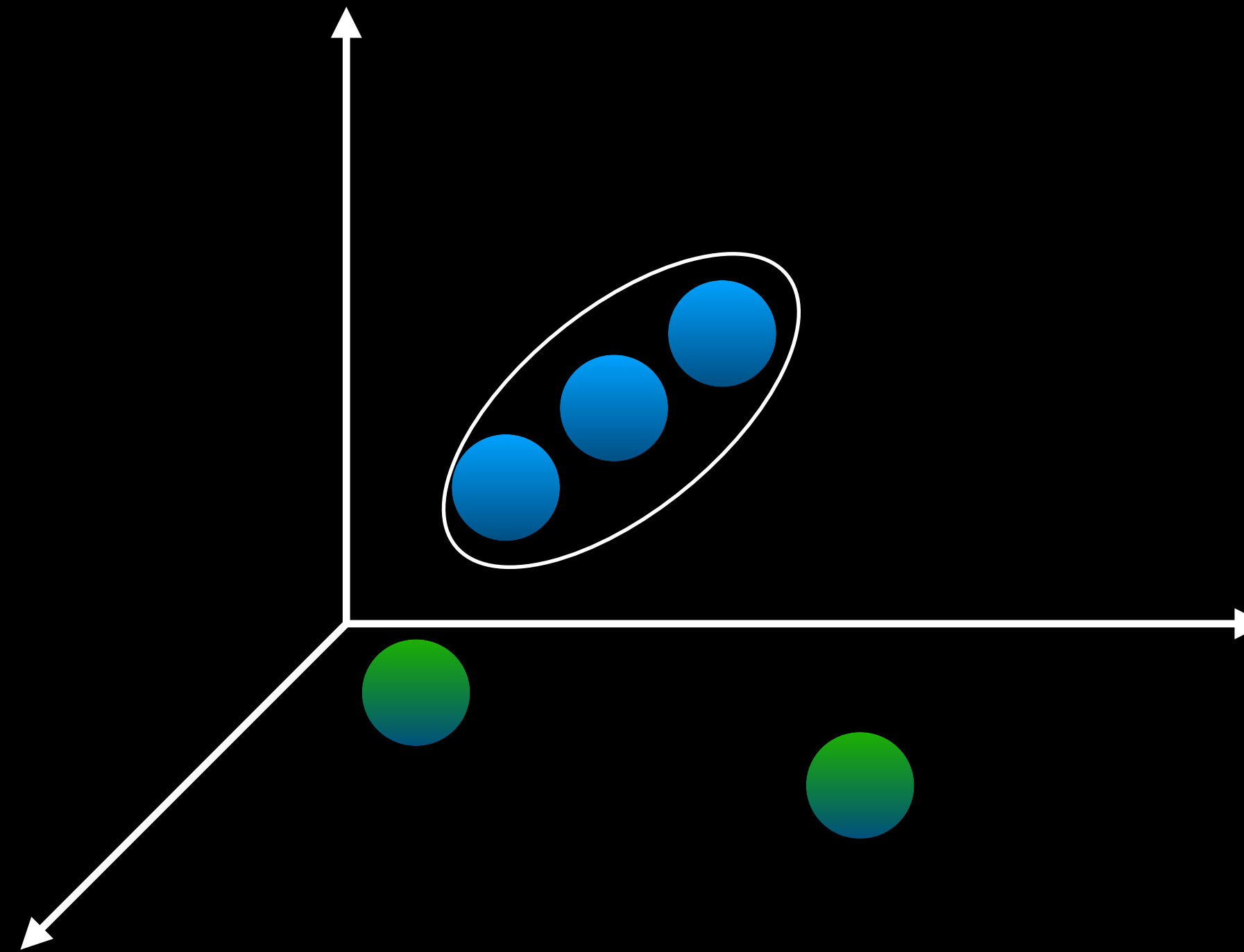
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Evolution of Networks We Used

Muonic atoms - what's new?

- Embedding space
- custom loss



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- custom loss



ANN

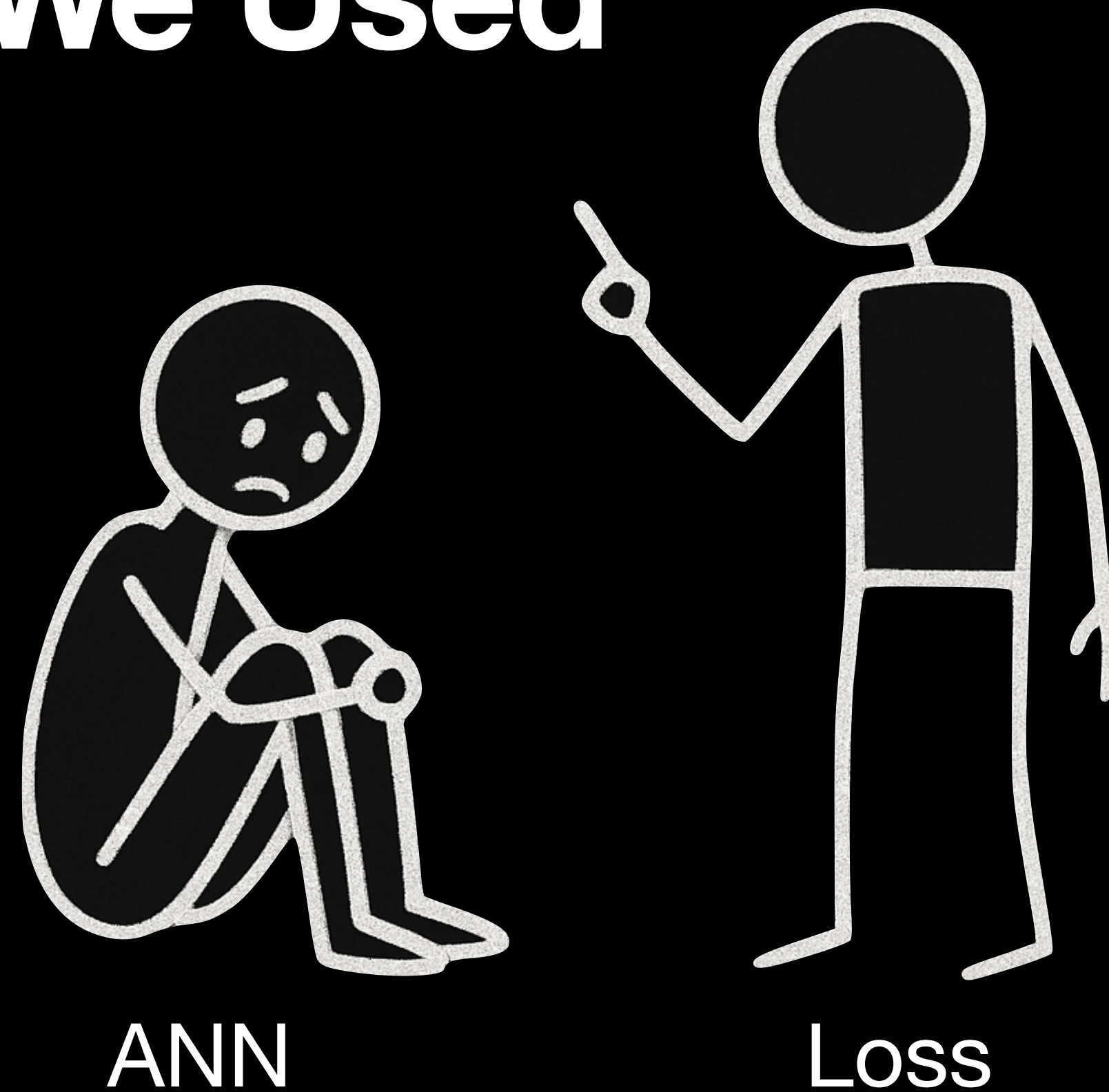


Loss

Evolution of Networks We Used

Muonic atoms - what's new?

- Embedding space
- custom loss

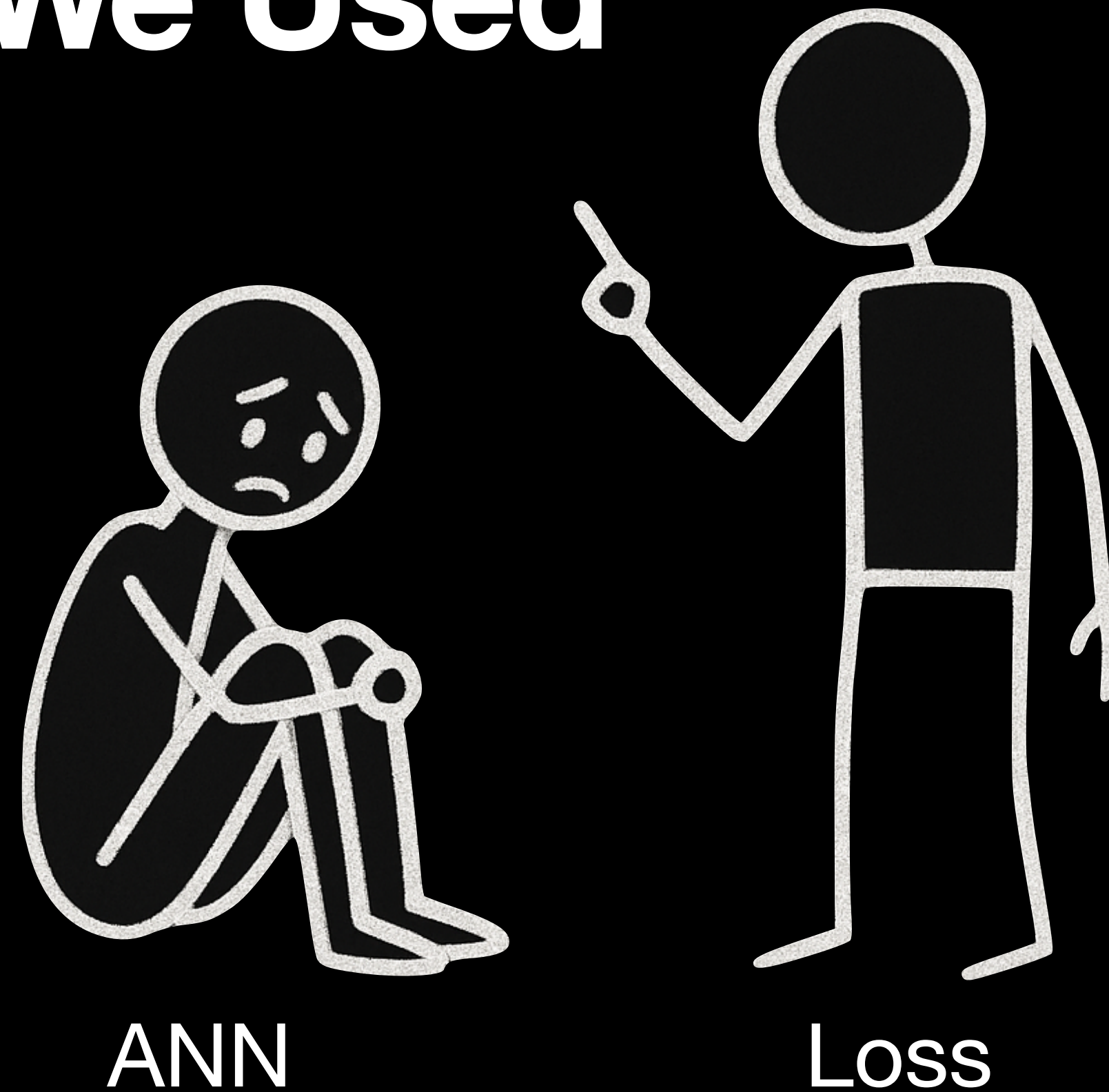


$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{tail}} = \lambda \left\langle \Theta(E - E_0) \left(f_{\text{pred}} \cdot \frac{E^n}{E_0^n} - \left\langle f_{\text{pred}} \cdot \frac{E^n}{E_0^n} \right\rangle \right)^2 \right\rangle_E$$

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Evolution of Networks We Used

Muonic atoms - what's new?

- Embedding space
- custom loss
- cutoff at $A = 50$
- sample weights = uncertainties



ANN

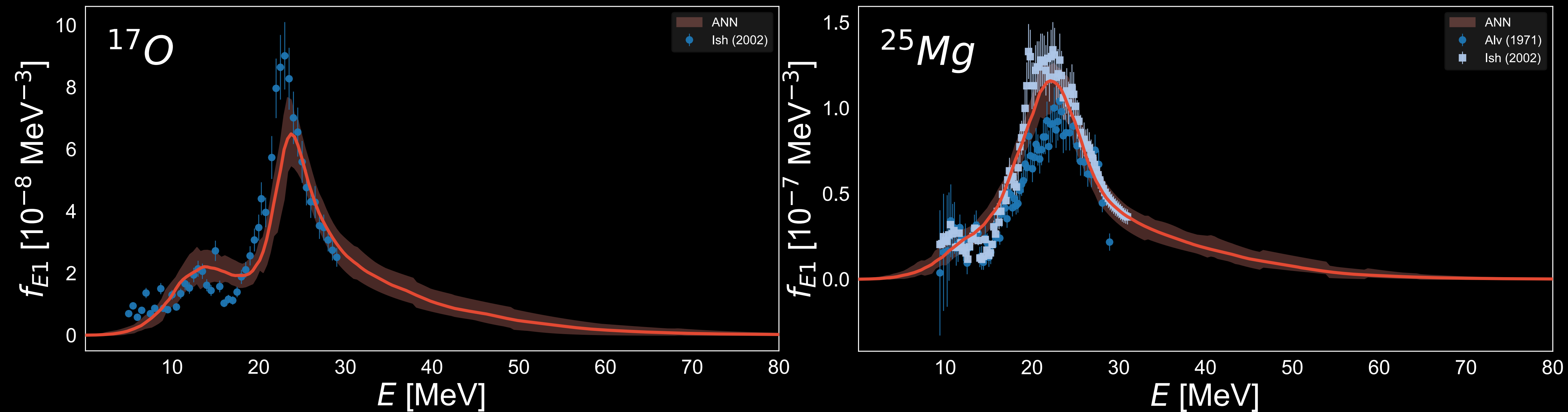


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Evolution of Networks We Used

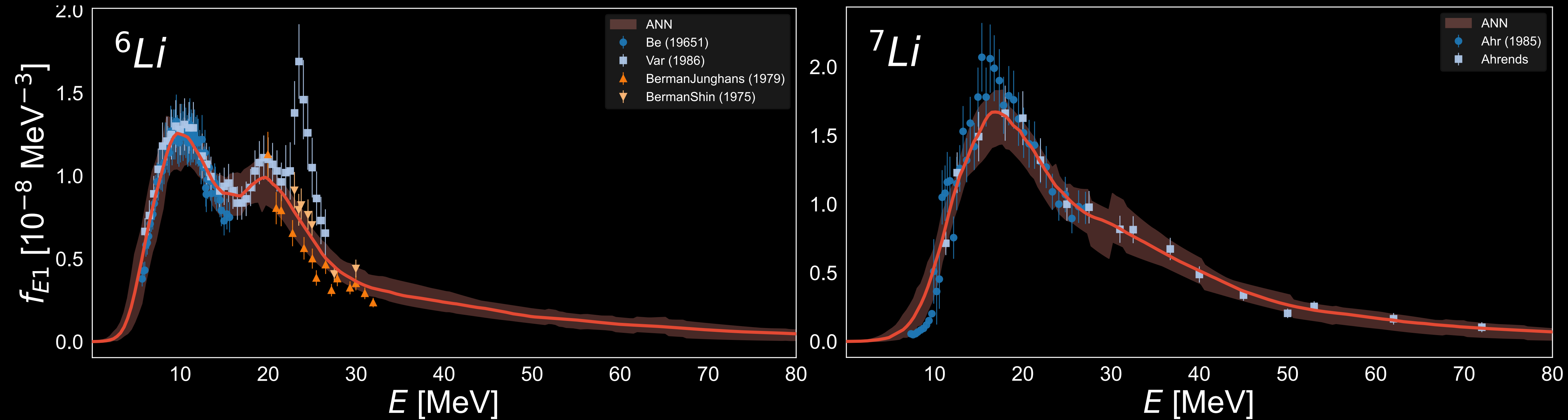
Muonic atoms - predictive power within isotope chains



What can we do from here?

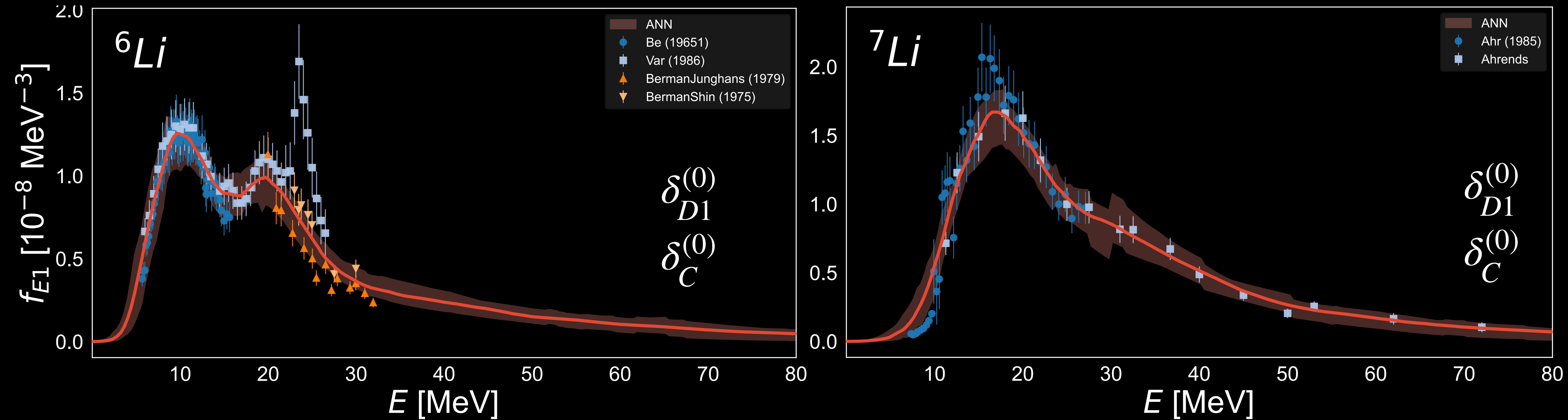
Evolution of Networks We Used

Muonic atoms - results for lithium



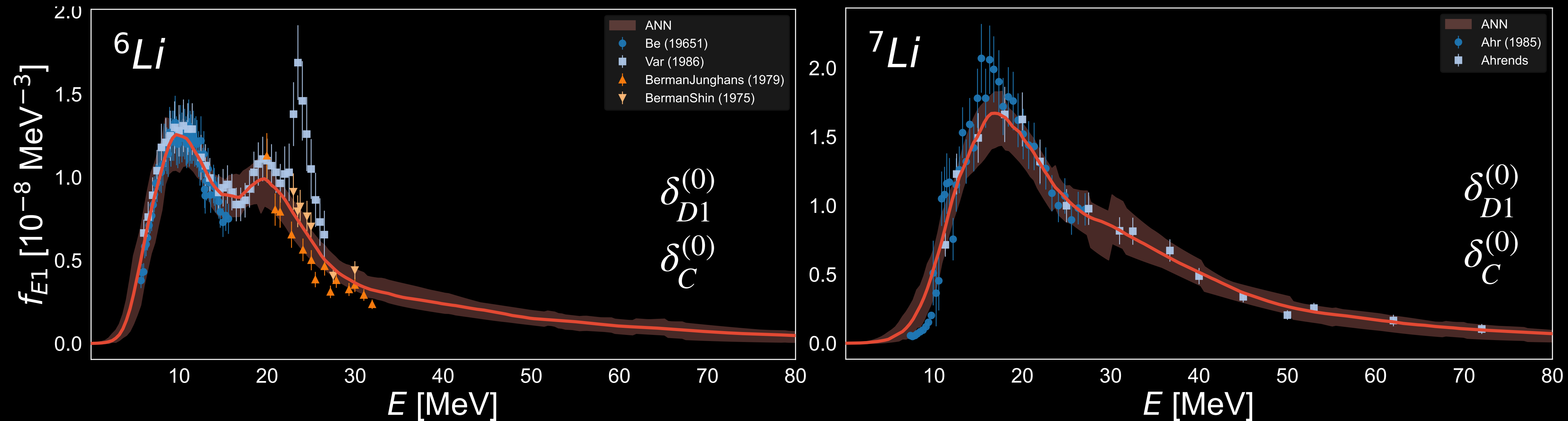
Evolution of Networks We Used

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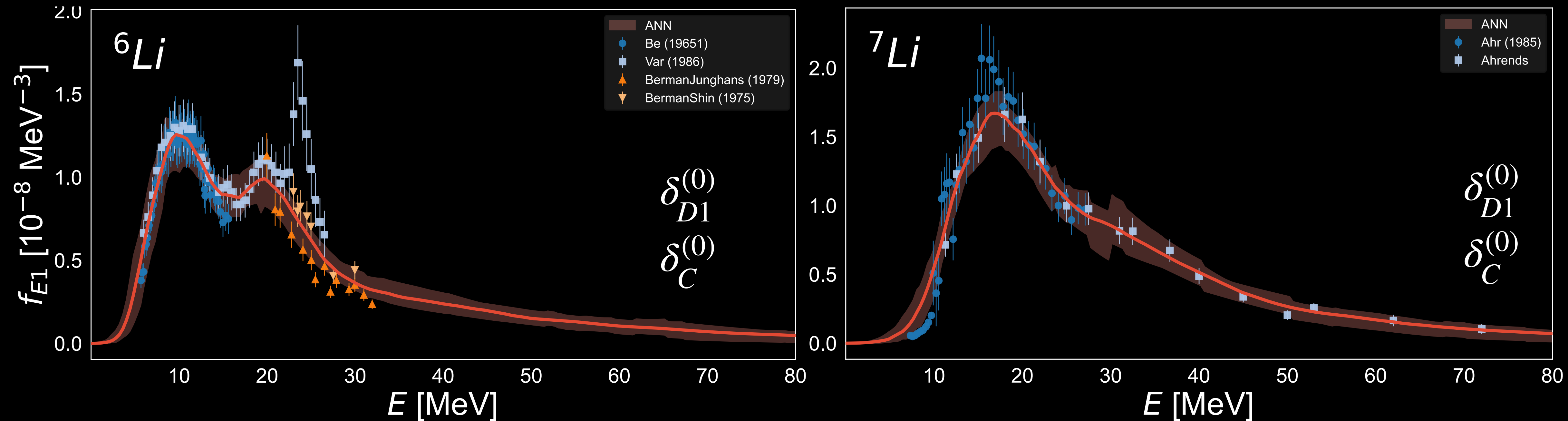
Muonic atoms - results for lithium



$$\delta_{D1}^{(0)} = -\frac{16\pi^2}{9}(Z\alpha)^2\phi^2(0)\int_0^\infty d\omega\sqrt{\frac{2m_r}{\omega}}S_{D1}(\omega)$$

Evolution of Networks We Used

Muonic atoms - results for lithium



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$$\delta_C^{(0)} = -\frac{16\pi^2}{9}(Z\alpha)^3\phi^2(0)\int_0^\infty d\omega\frac{m_r}{\omega}\ln\left(\frac{2(Z\alpha)^2m_r}{\omega}\right)S_{D1}(\omega)$$

Nuclear Structure Corrections

From ANN predictions

Preliminary

Nucleus/energy correction	$\delta_{D1}^{(0)}$ [meV]	$\delta_C^{(0)}$ [meV]
${}^6\text{Li}$	(-29.21, -32.12, -34.92)	(5.82, 6.49, 7.03)
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Nuclear Structure Corrections

Mikhail Gorchtein: „A hitchhiker’s guide to nuclear polarization in muonic atoms“ [M. Gorchtein, arXiv:2501.15274v1]

$$\Delta E_{1S}^{NP,corr} = \Delta E_{1S}^{NP} F_R(\epsilon_1) K^{(1)}(\sqrt{\epsilon_2})$$

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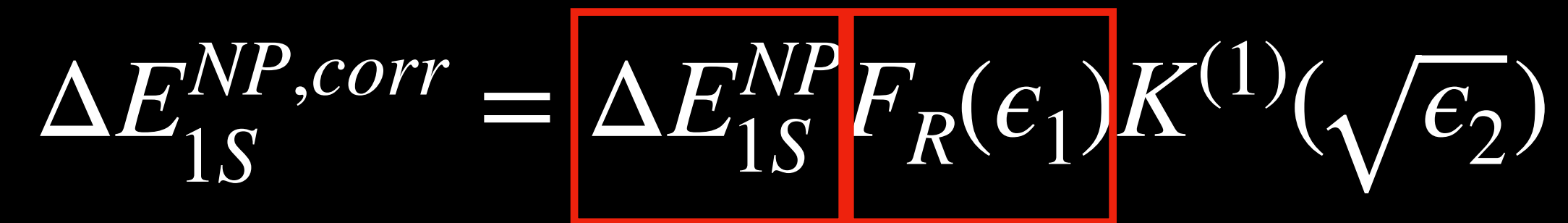
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leading nuclear polarization shift of nS level

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Coulomb distortion

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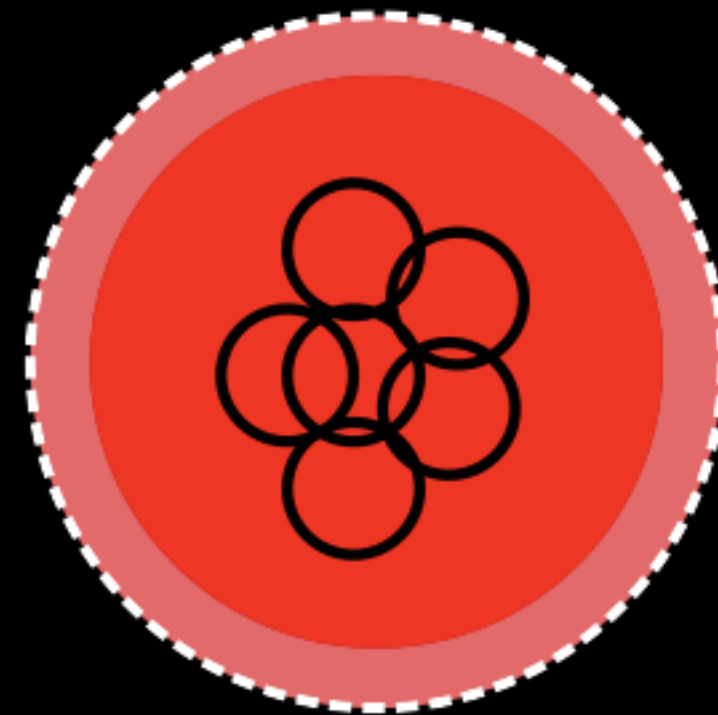
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Nuclear Structure Corrections

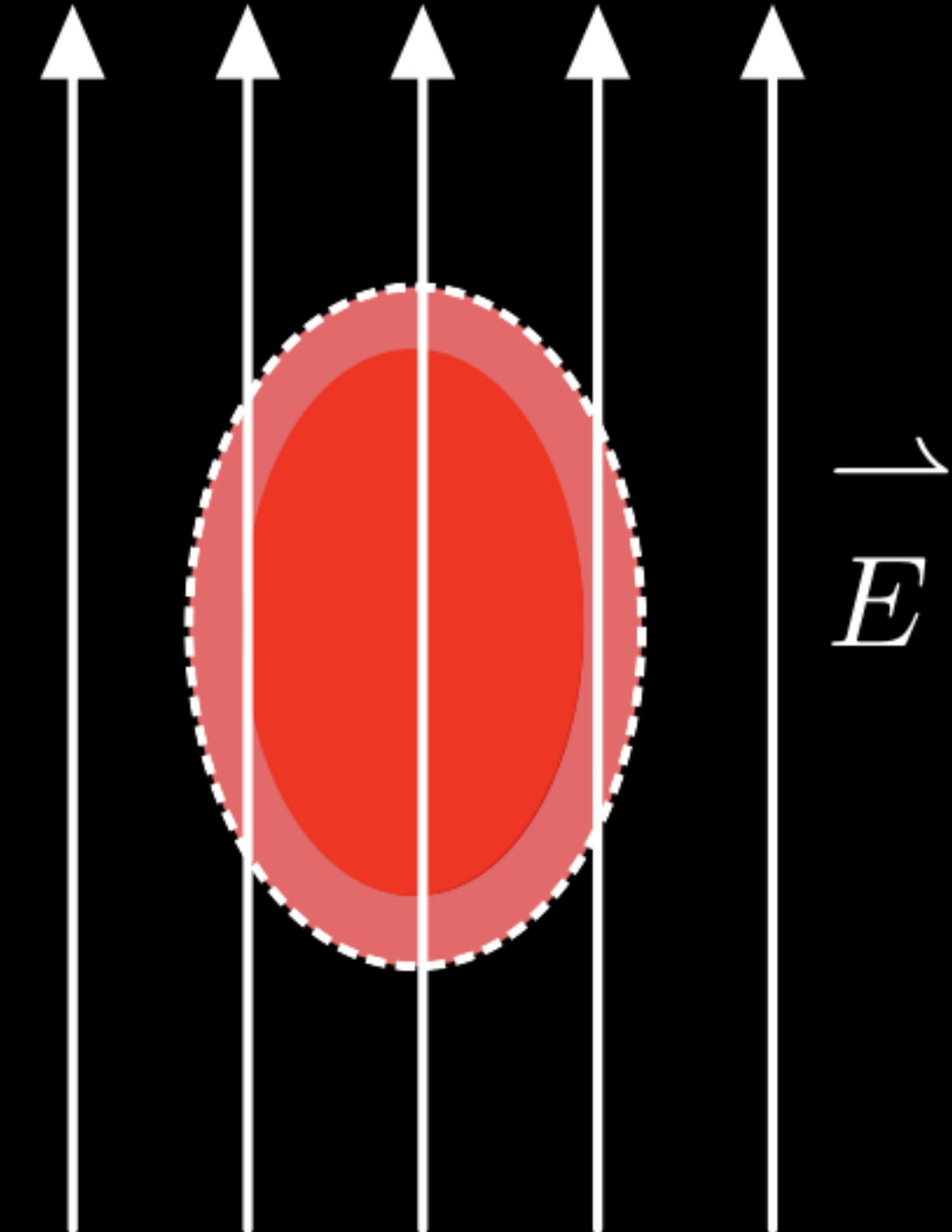
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$$\text{Polarization } \mathbf{P} = \alpha_D \mathbf{E}$$

Without electric field



With electric field

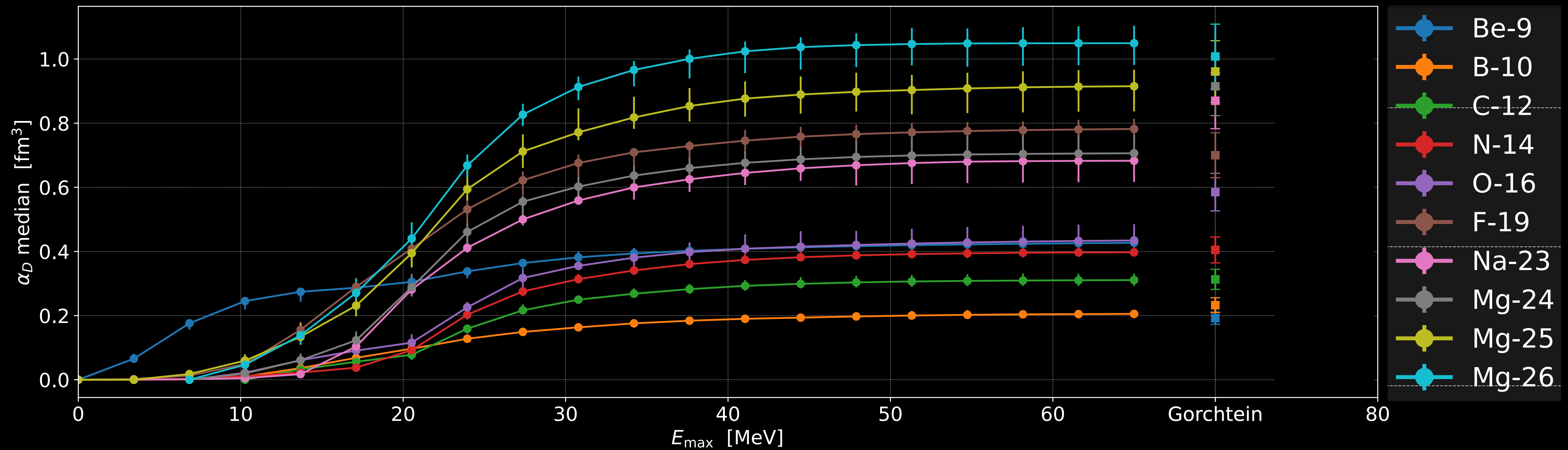


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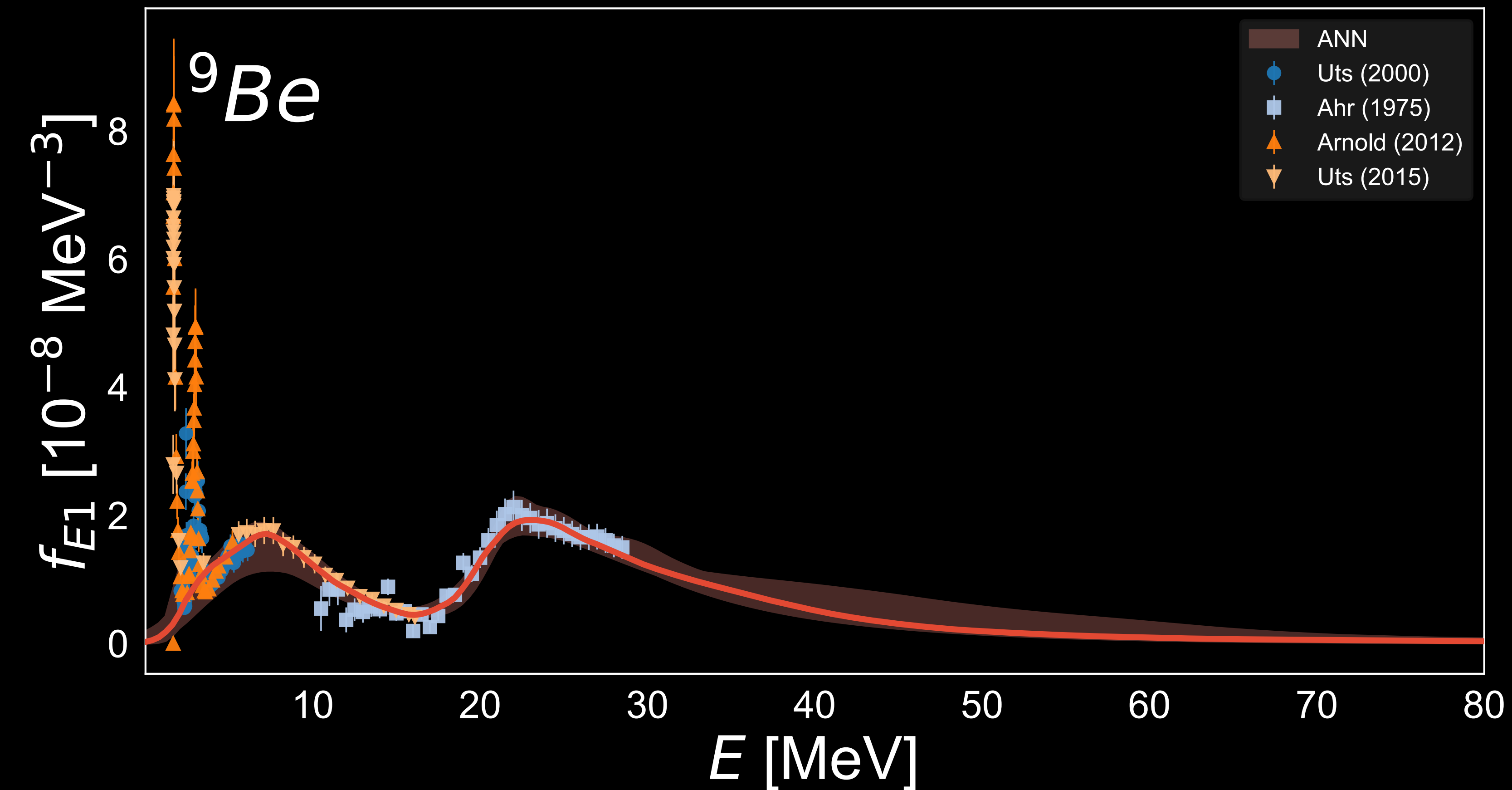


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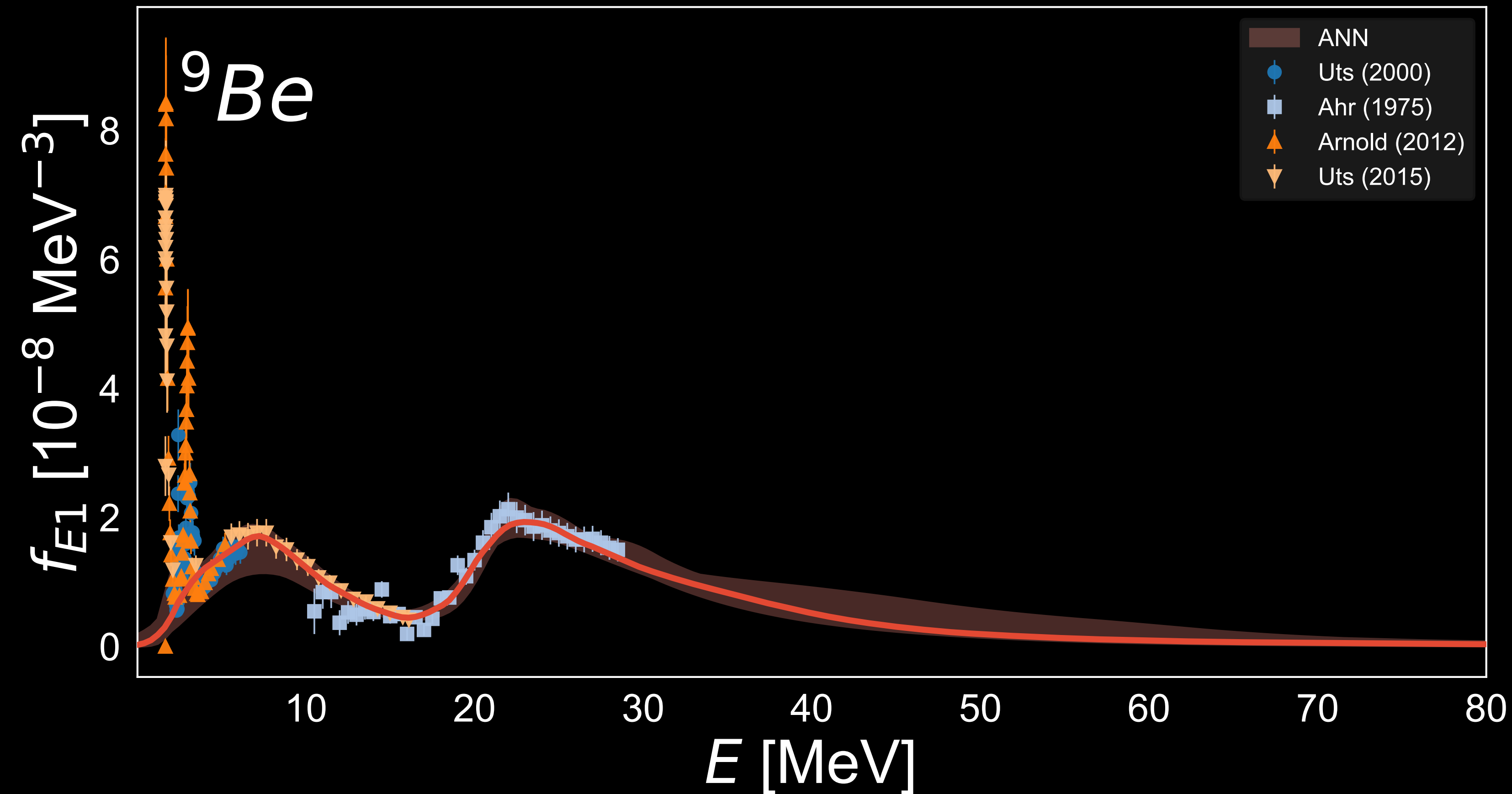
Nuclear Structure Corrections

Comparison ANN and Ahrens



Nuclear Structure Corrections

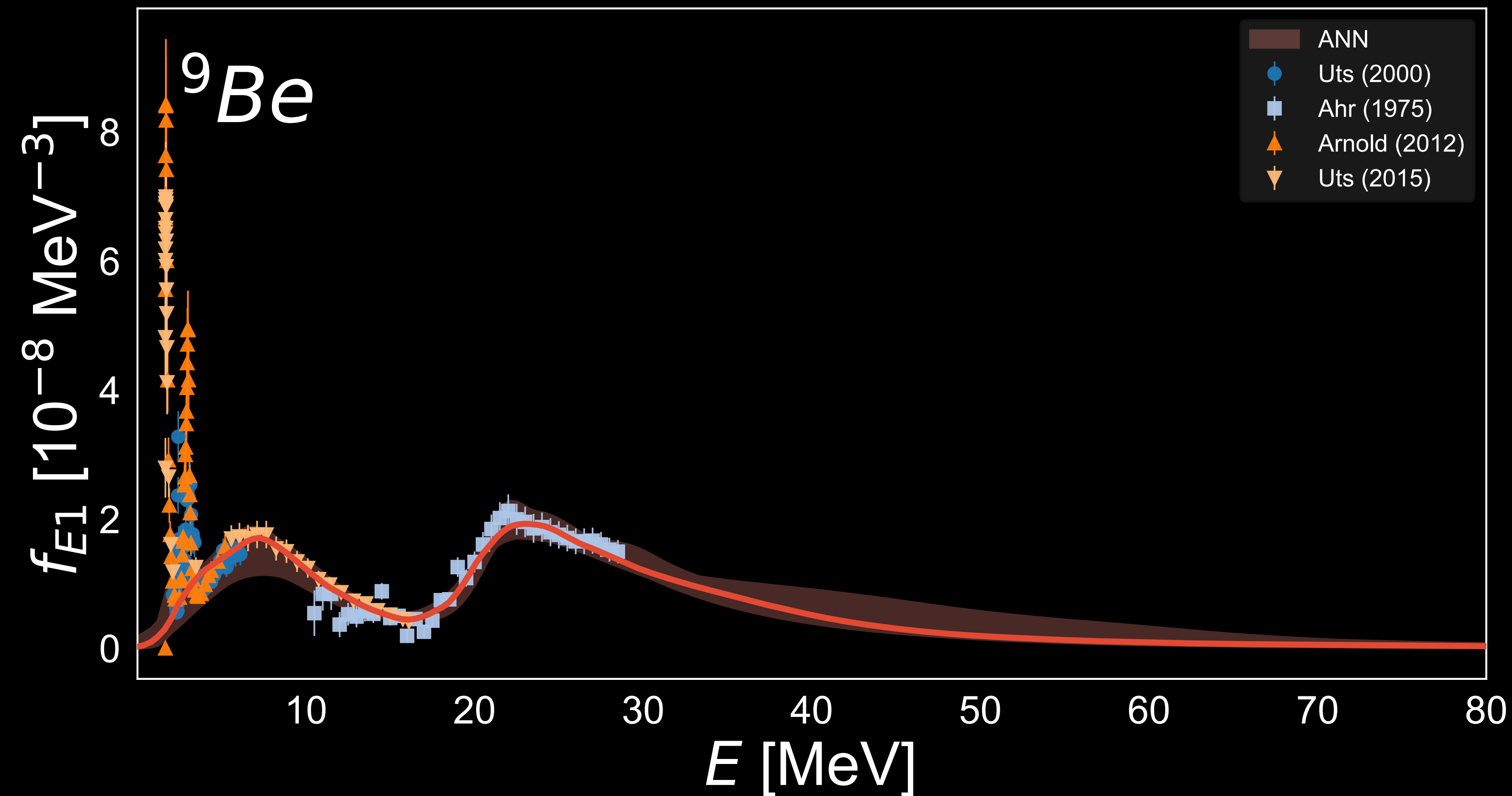
Comparison ANN and Ahrens



$$\alpha_D(\text{Ahrens}) = 0.192 \text{ fm}^3$$

Nuclear Structure Corrections

Comparison ANN and Ahrens



$$\alpha_D(\text{Ahrens}) = 0.192 \text{ fm}^3$$

$$\alpha_D(\text{ANN}) = 0.415^{+0.07}_{-0.017} \text{ fm}^3$$

Summary

- An ANN can predict dipole strength function/cross sections
- Can be optimized for light nuclei with more physics information
- Predictions can be used to calculate nuclear structure corrections in muonic atoms while also providing uncertainty bands based on statistics

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- Where to go from here?

Thank you!

Collaborators:

Weiguang Jiang

Sonia Bacca

Francesca Bonaiti

Peter von Neumann Cosel

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