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# Probing many-body localization **with neural networks**





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- 1)** Intro to neural networks
- 2)** Problem: Detection of MBL versus thermalization
- 3)** Network architecture
- 4)** Results on phase diagrams and structure of MBL states
- 5)** Dreaming

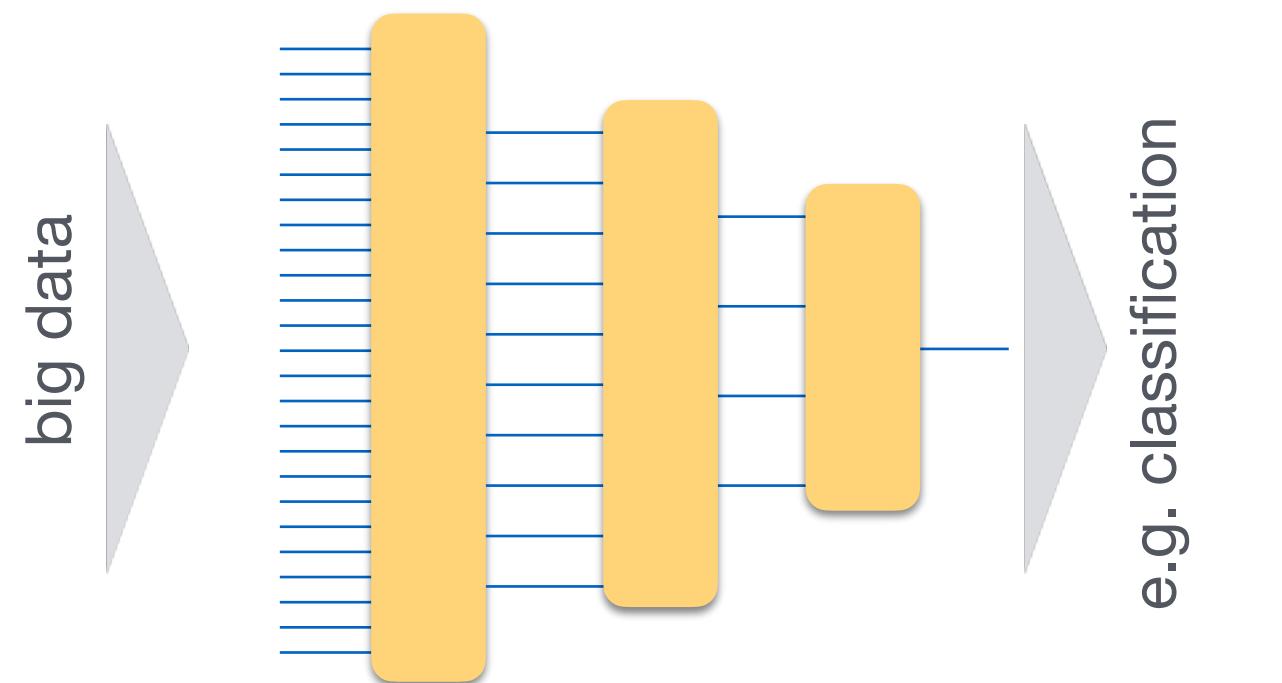
# Machine Learning/ Artificial Intelligence

## Supervised learning

Train network with large amount of **labelled data** (input-output pairs):  
Reduce **cost function** (distance measure between network output and labels) via gradient descent.

**Verify** network performance on distinct test data set.

Input



## Unsupervised learning

Use unlabelled data, network learns to cluster data/find structure/learn probability distribution of features

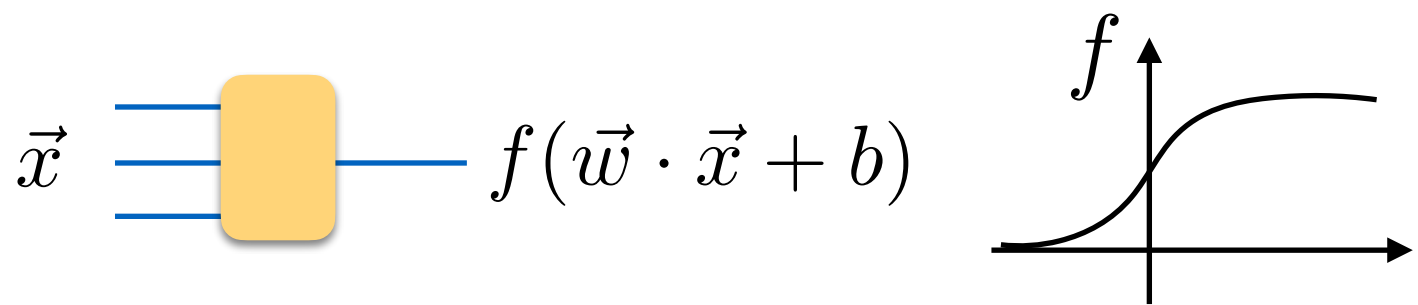
Holy grail of the field

# Supervised learning with Artificial Neural Networks

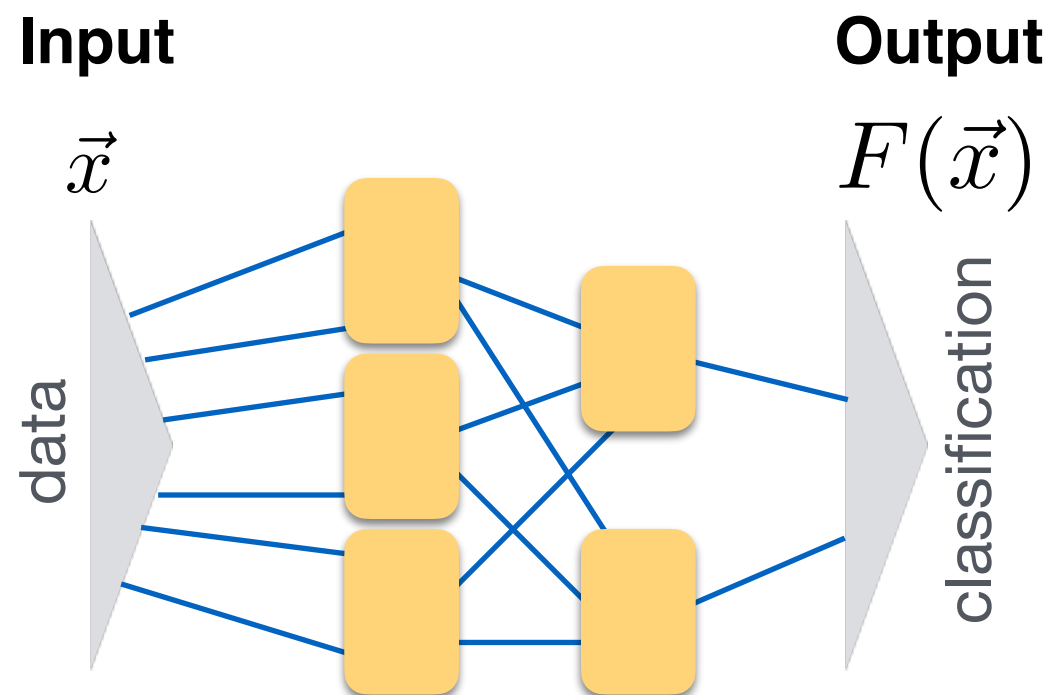
goal: learn complicated function  $\hat{F}(\vec{x})$  with  $\dim(\vec{x}) \gg 1$   
from examples by finding  $\min_F \text{Error}[F, \hat{F}]$

## Individual neuron:

combination of linear map  
(weights + biases) and  
nonlinear activation function



**Deep network:** many  
layers of neurons



## Objective:

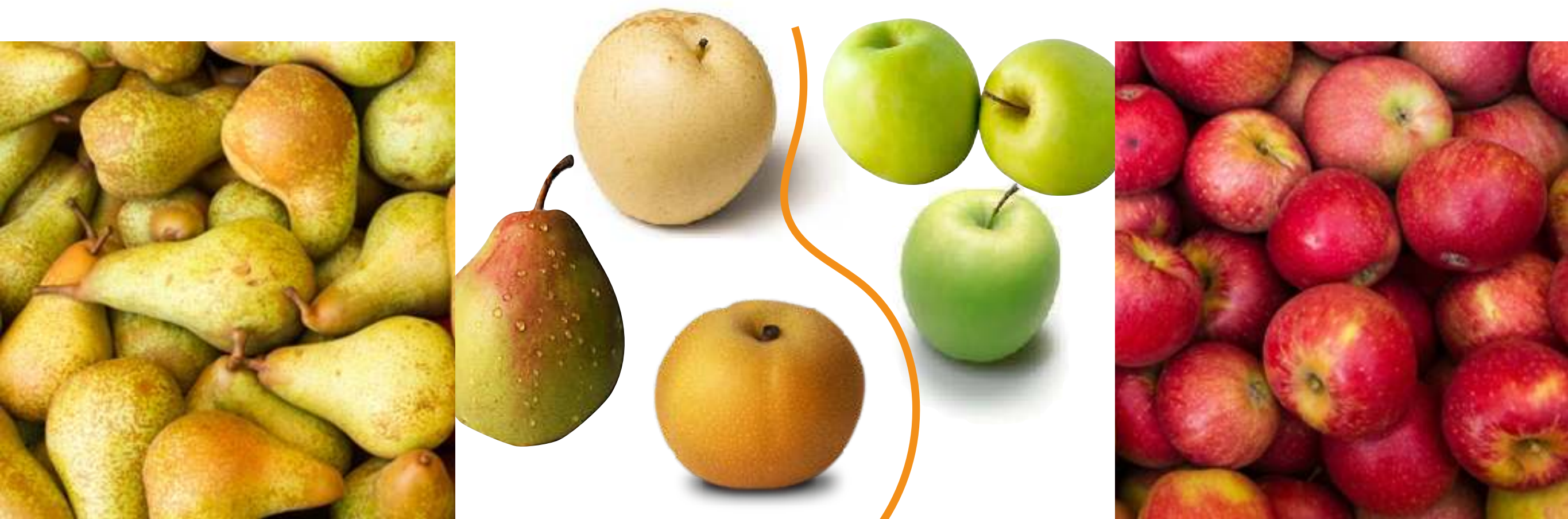
Classification of phases of matter using entanglement spectra

## Supervised learning:

Train network with data deep in the respective phase

## Determine phase boundary:

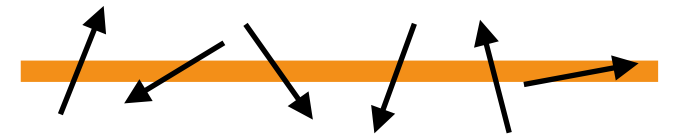
Apply network to states for which classification is less clear



# Toy problem: Many-body localization

Standard model of MBL: spin-1/2 disordered Heisenberg chain, open boundary conditions

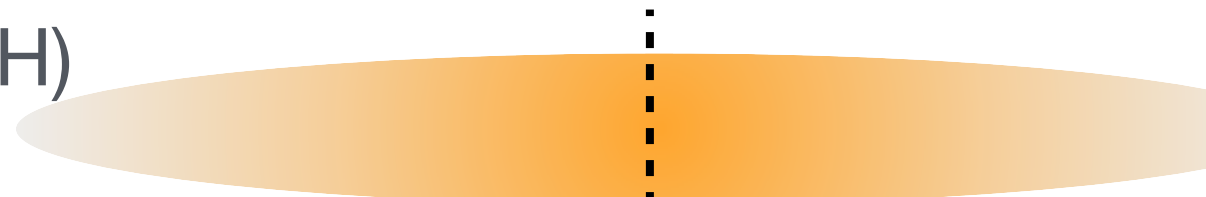
$$H = J \sum_{r=1}^{N-1} \mathbf{S}_r \cdot \mathbf{S}_{r+1} + \sum_{r=1}^N h_r S_r^z$$



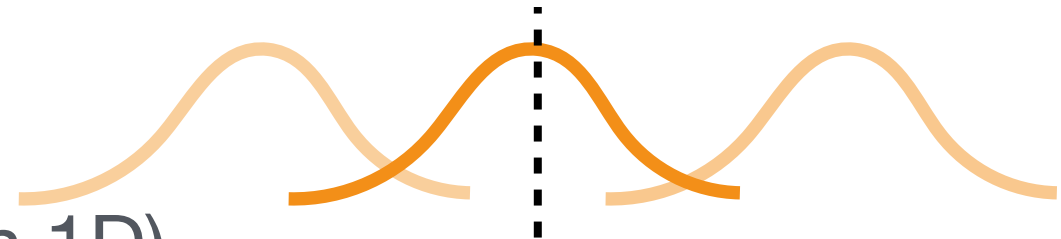
$$J = 1$$

$$h_r \in [-\bar{h}, \bar{h}]$$

$\bar{h} \ll 1$  **thermalizing** regime (obeys ETH)  
volume law entanglement



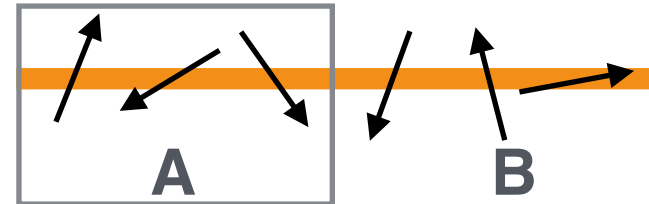
$\bar{h} \gg 1$  **many-body localized** regime  
area law entanglement (constant in 1D)



# Conventional classification methods

based on energy level spectrum or entanglement entropy/spectrum

$$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B |\Psi\rangle \langle \Psi| \equiv e^{-H_e}$$



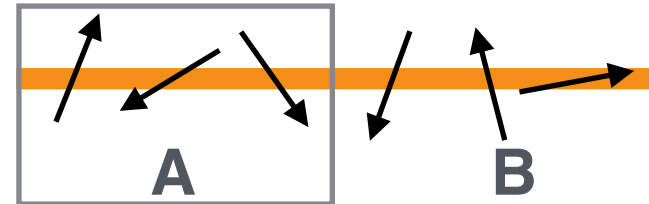
- i) **Schmidt gap**:  $\lambda_1(\rho_A) - \lambda_2(\rho_A) \rightarrow 1$  for MBL (nearly pure)  
 $\ll 1$  for ETH
- ii) Volume vs. area law **scaling** of  $S(N_A)$  with  $N_A$
- iii) **Standard deviation** of  $S(N_A)$  over many consecutive eigenstates  
large near the transition where both MBL and ETH like states coexist
- iii) **Level statistics** of either the entanglement spectrum or the  
energy spectrum follow distinct statistical distributions in each regime



# Conventional classification methods

based on energy level spectrum or entanglement entropy/spectrum

$$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B |\Psi\rangle \langle \Psi| \equiv e^{-H_e}$$



crude

i) **Schmidt gap**:  $\lambda_1(\rho_A) - \lambda_2(\rho_A) \rightarrow 1$  for MBL (nearly pure)

needs finite size scaling

ii) Volume vs. area law **scaling** of  $S(N_A)$

iii) **Standard deviation** of  $S(N_A)$

phase transition does not correspond to maximum

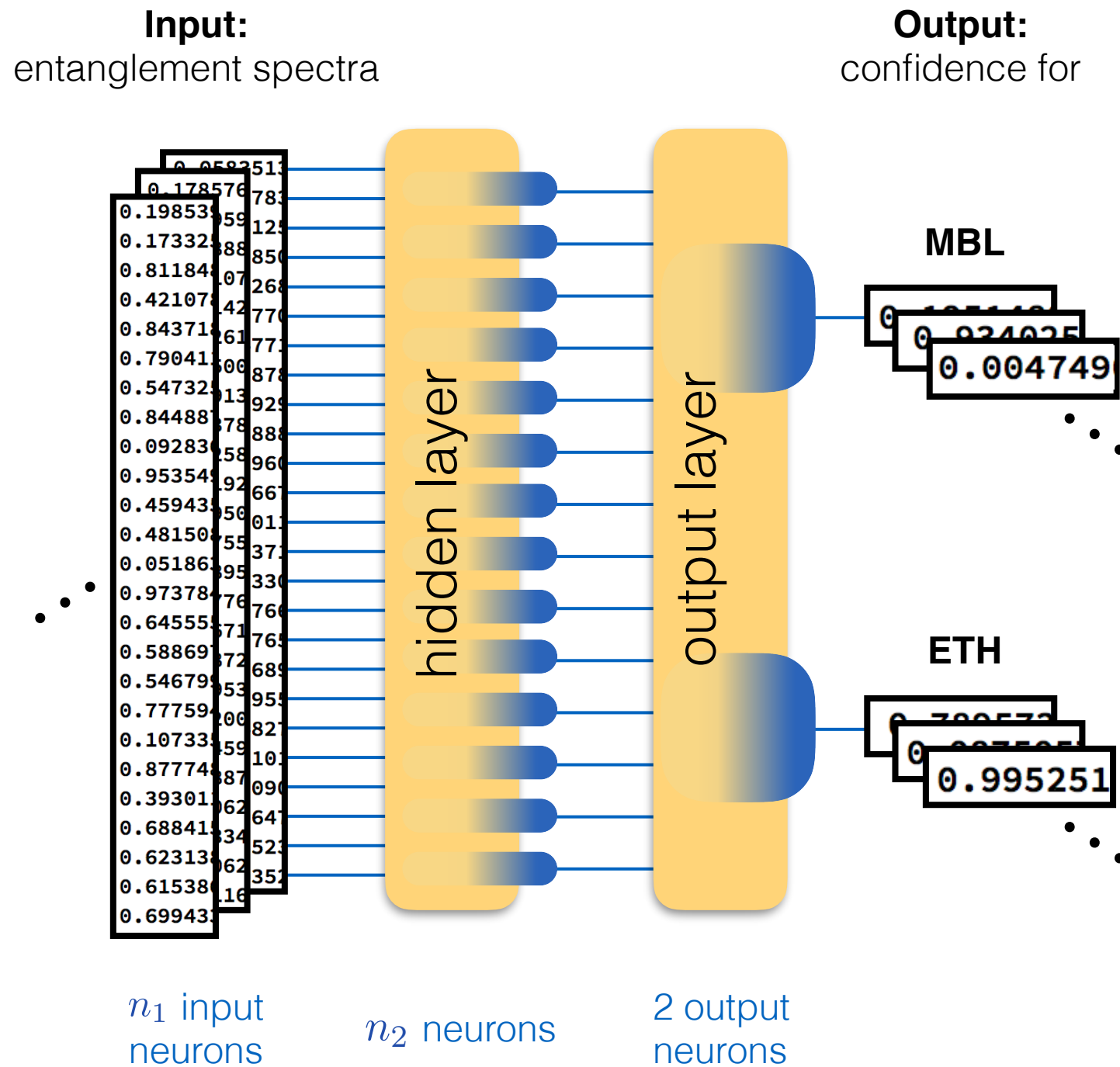
large near the transition where both MBL and ETH like states coexist

iii) **Level statistics** of either the entanglement spectrum or the energy spectrum follow distinct statistical distributions in each regime

needs large systems



# Structure of neural network



$$\text{ReLU}_i(x) = x_i \theta(x_i)$$

$$\text{Softmax}_i(x) = \frac{e^{-x_i}}{\sum_j e^{-x_j}}$$

# Cost function and regularization

In training, we minimize the following functional for  $F$  via gradient descent:

## Cross entropy

$$\text{Error}[F, \hat{F}] = - \sum_{\vec{x} \in \text{TD}} \sum_{i=1}^2 \hat{F}_i(\vec{x}) \log F_i(\vec{x}) + \mu \sum_{\vec{w}} |\vec{w}|^2 - \delta \sum_{\vec{x} \in \text{TR}} \sum_{i=1}^2 F_i(\vec{x}) \log F_i(\vec{x})$$

**labelled  
training  
data**

**classifying  
output  
neurons:  
2 options,  
ETH or MBL**

### Weight decay

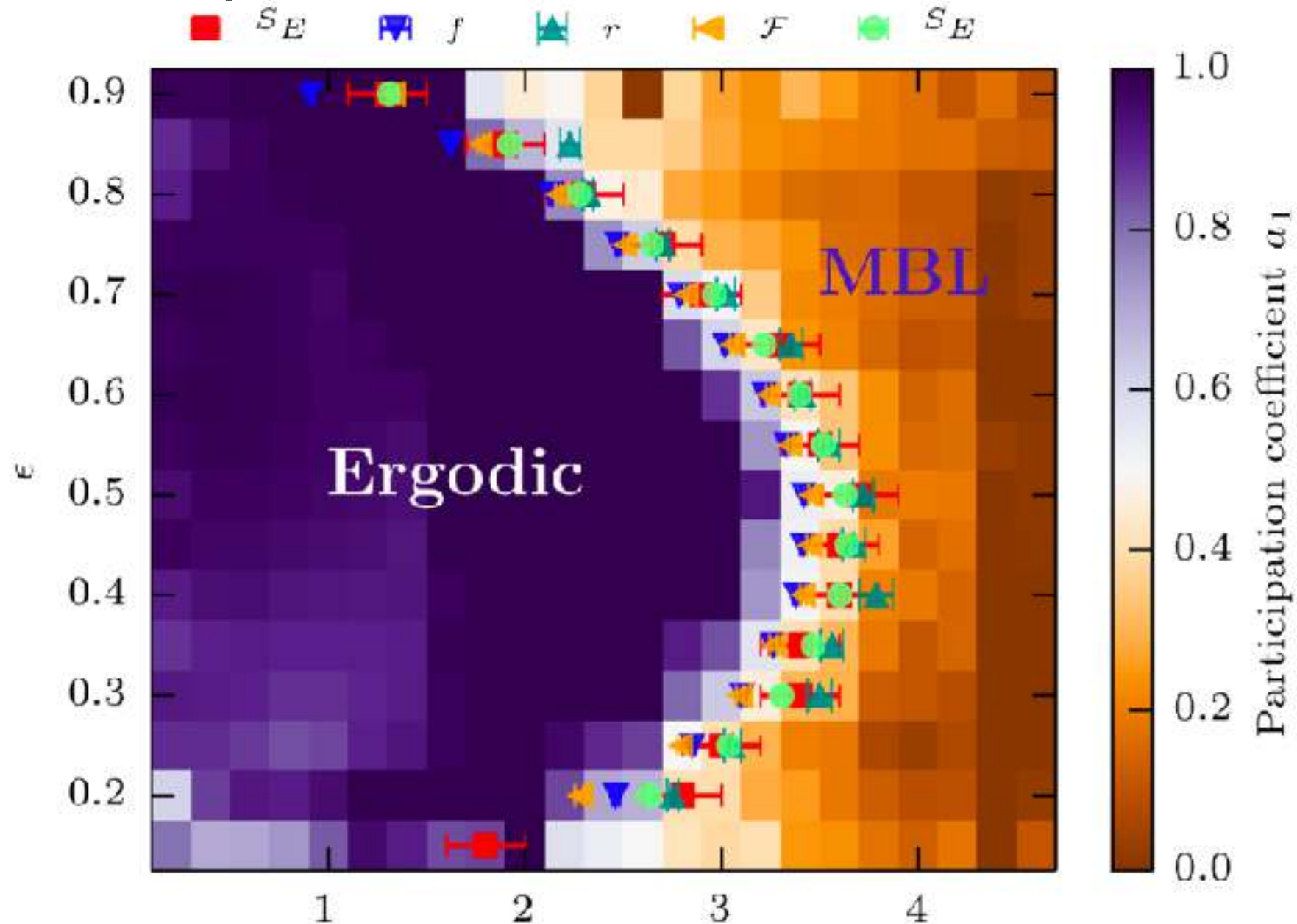
favors having only  
few nonzero  
weights/using as  
few neurons as  
possible

### Confidence optimization

favors unlabelled data  
near phase transition to  
be classified  
confidently

random subset of  
spectra near transition

For comparison: **Conventional methods**

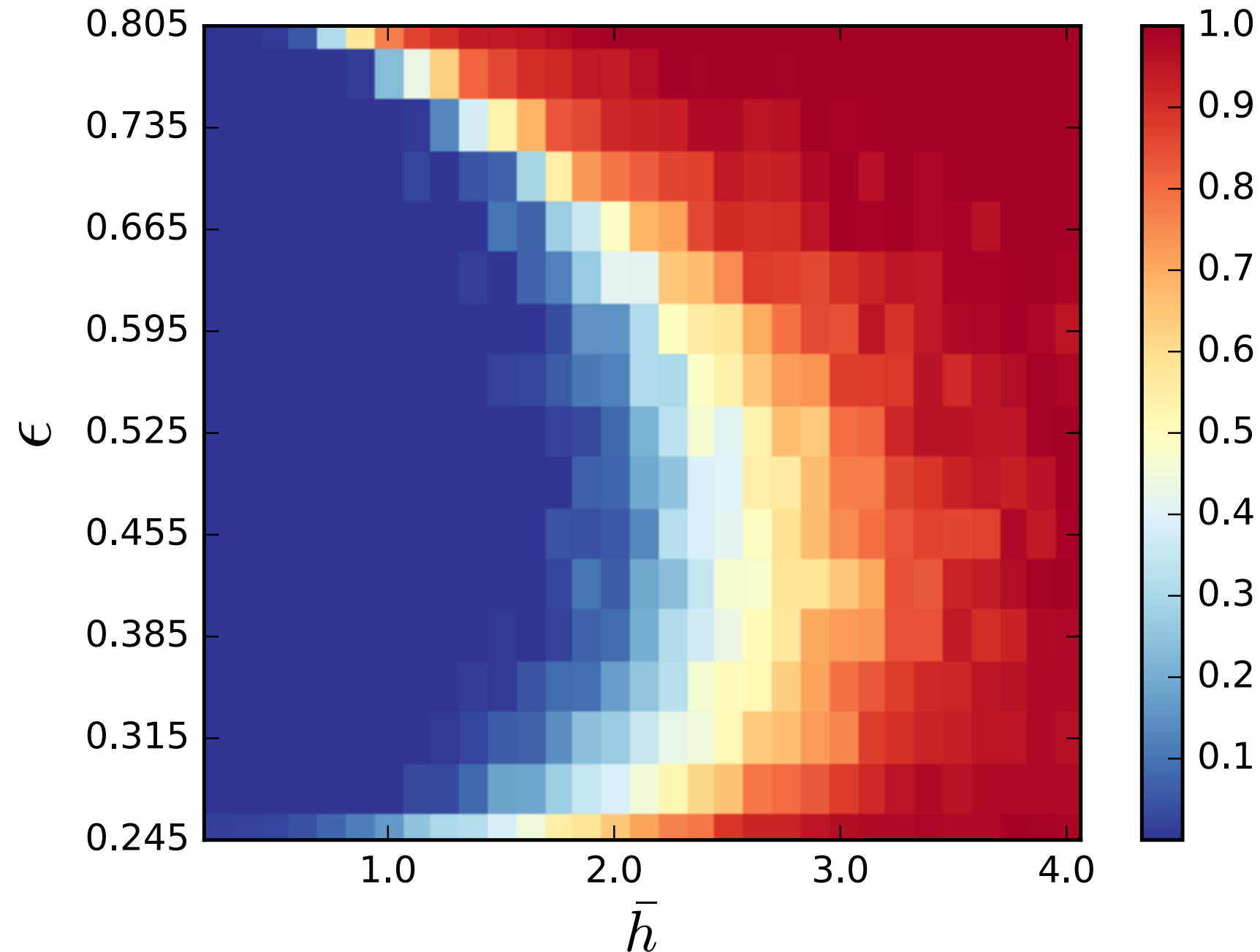


Volume law coefficient of the  
entanglement entropy

[Luitz et al., PRB 2015]



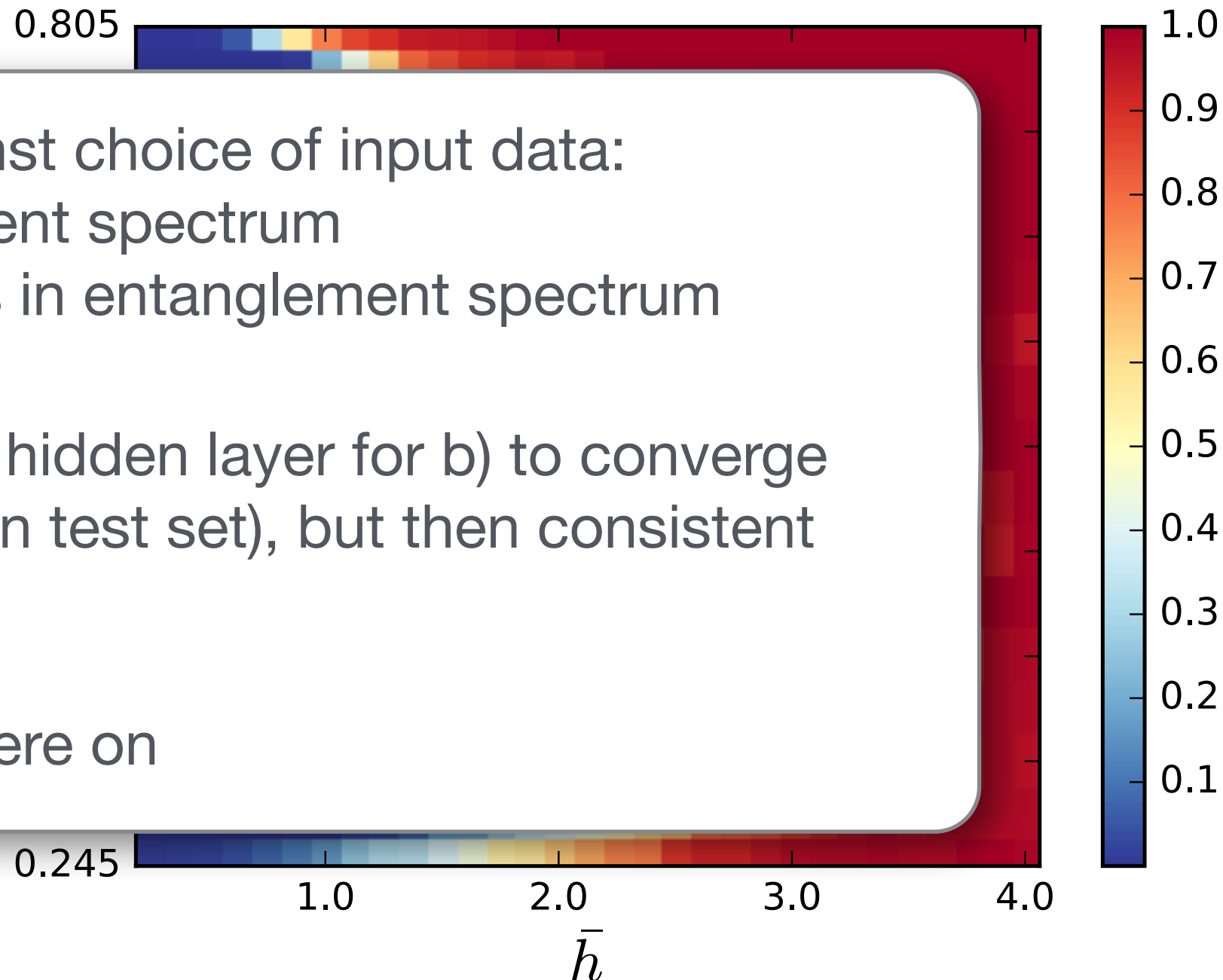
# Results: Disorder-averaged phase diagram



Confidence for MBL averaged over disorder realization and eigenstates in energy window

- fewer disorder realizations (40)
- smaller system (N=16)

# Results: **Disorder-averaged phase diagram**



**Robust** against choice of input data:

- a) entanglement spectrum
- b) differences in entanglement spectrum

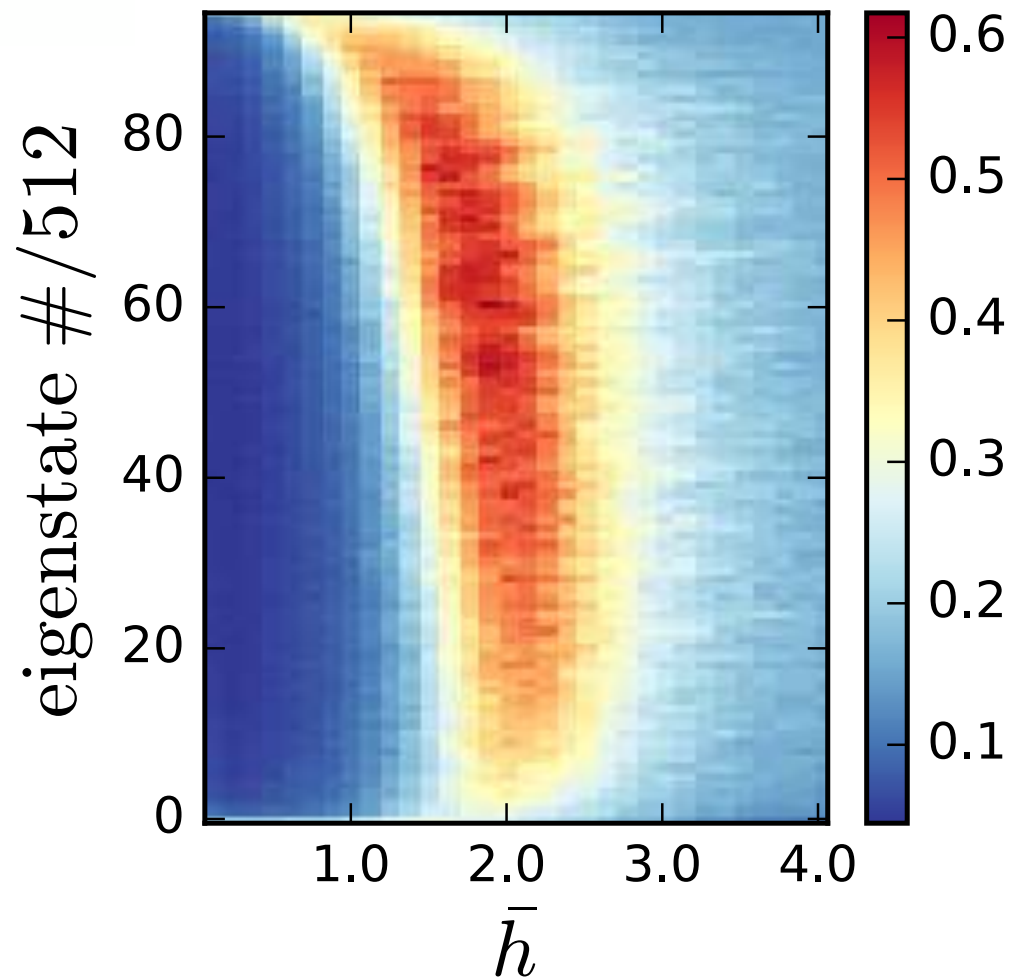
Need second hidden layer for b) to converge (yield 100% on test set), but then consistent results

Use a) from here on

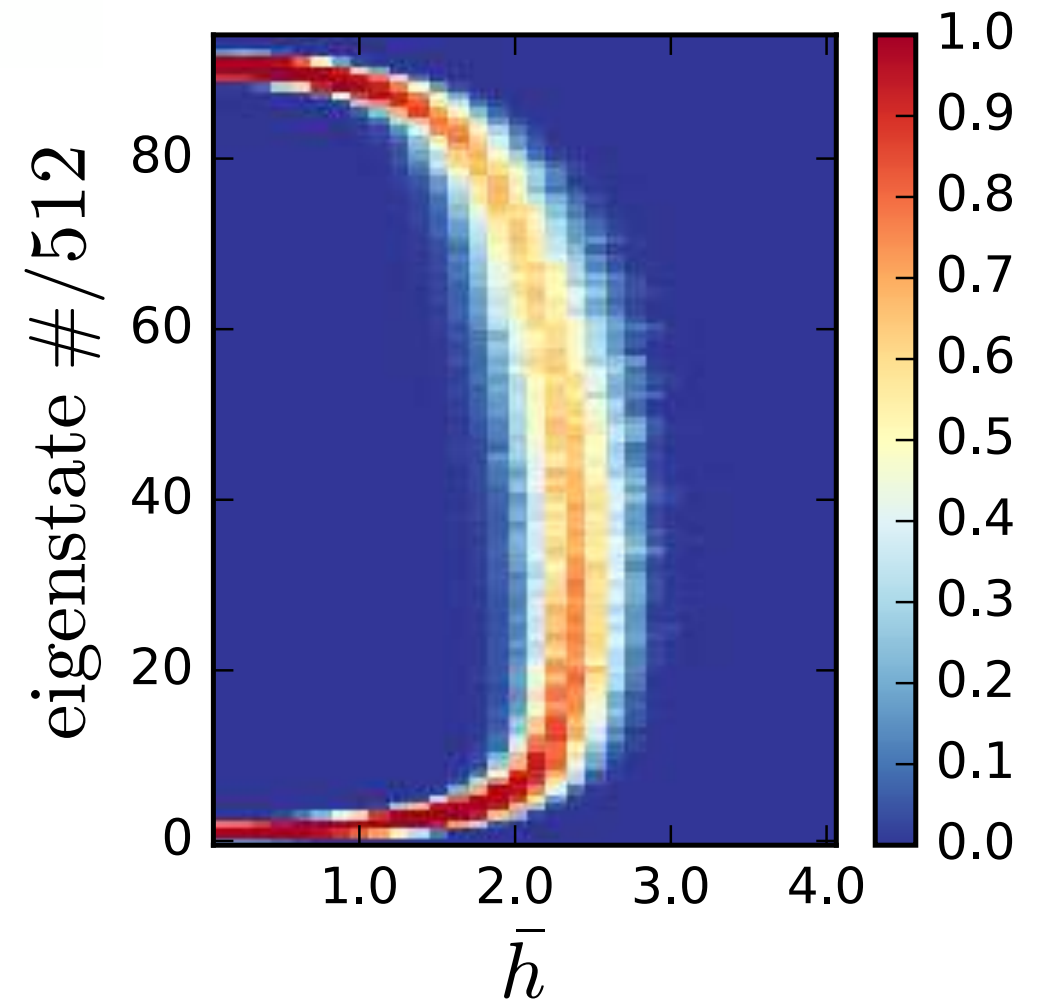
Confidence for MBL averaged over disorder realization and eigenstates in energy window

- fewer disorder realizations (40)
- smaller system (N=16)

# Results: Transition in single disorder realization



standard deviation of  
entanglement entropy over 512  
consecutive eigenstates

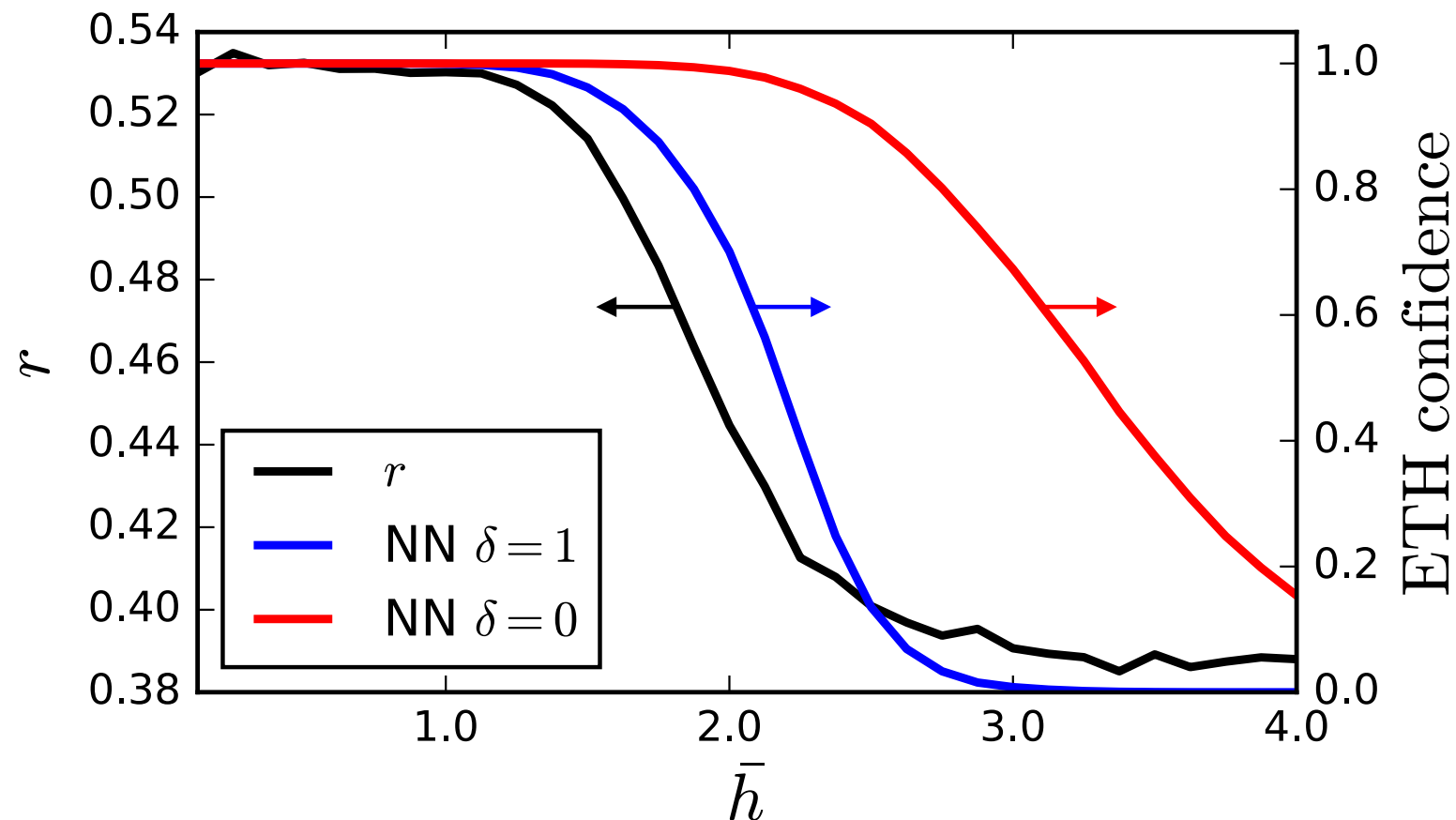


fraction of uncertainly  
classified states (out of 512  
consecutive states)

output  $>0.9$  taken as certain



# Results: Comparison with energy level statistics



blue: with confidence optimization

red: without confidence optimization

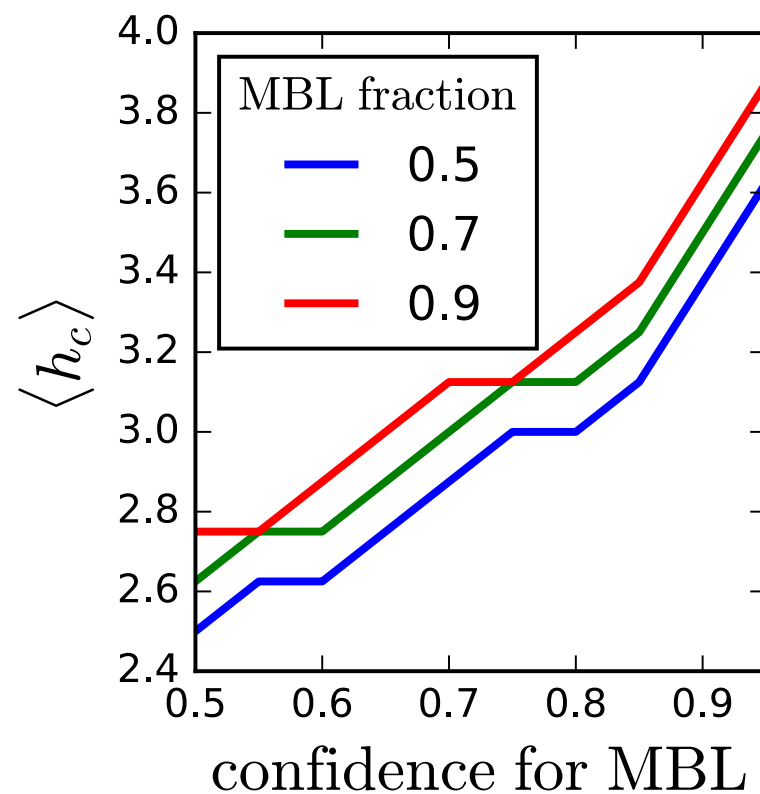
Ratio of adjacent gaps:

$$r_n = \frac{\min(E_n - E_{n-1}, E_{n+1} - E_n)}{\max(E_n - E_{n-1}, E_{n+1} - E_n)}$$

**ETH:** GOE statistics  $r \sim 0.530$

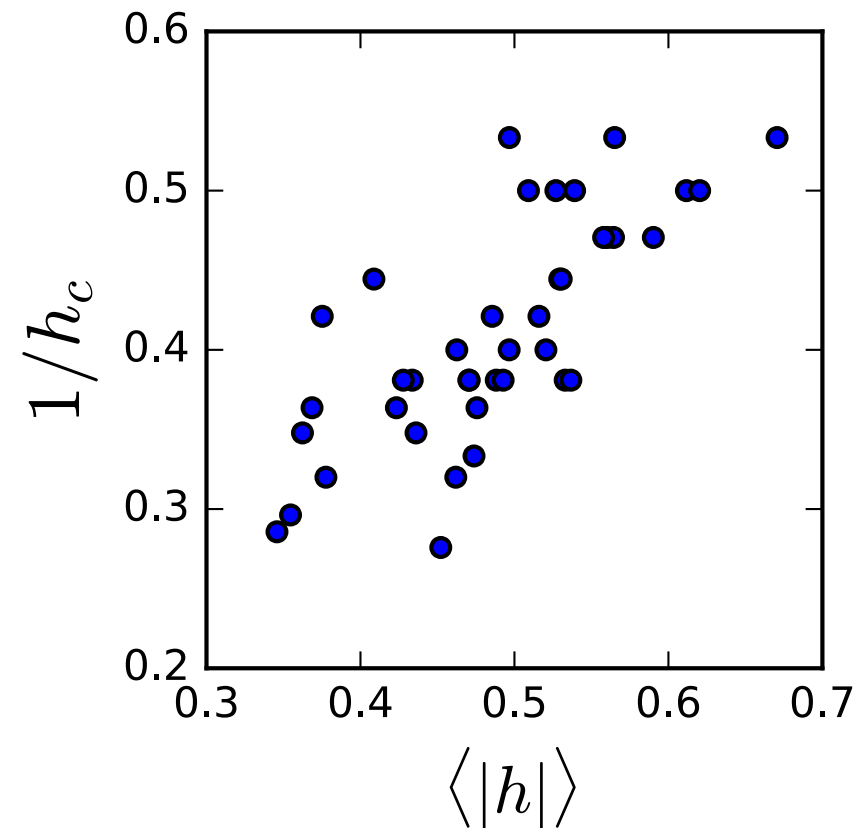
**MBL:** Poisson statistics  $r \sim 0.386$

# Results: Determination of critical field



Arbitrariness of quantitative determination of phase boundary

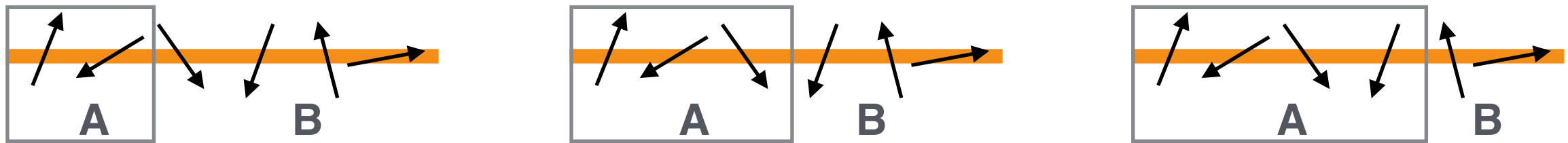
$$\bar{h}_c = 3.6 \pm 0.5$$



Correlation between average absolute field value and transition for 40 disorder realizations

Correlation coefficient: 0.76

## Results: Local structure



Compare classification results for different entanglement cuts in the same disorder realization

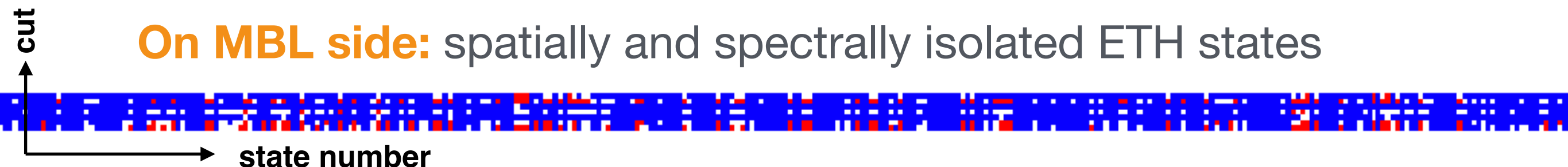
$N = 18$ ; cuts from 6 ... 12

red: ETH    blue: MBL    white: not confident

**On ETH side:** spatially extended, spectrally isolated MBL states

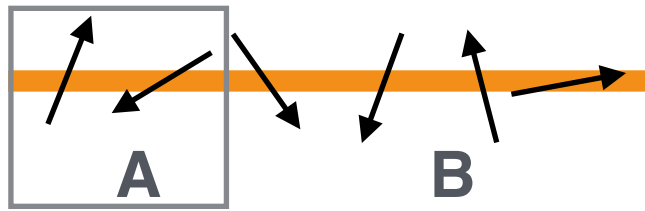


**On MBL side:** spatially and spectrally isolated ETH states





# Results: Local structure



Compare classification cuts in the same diso

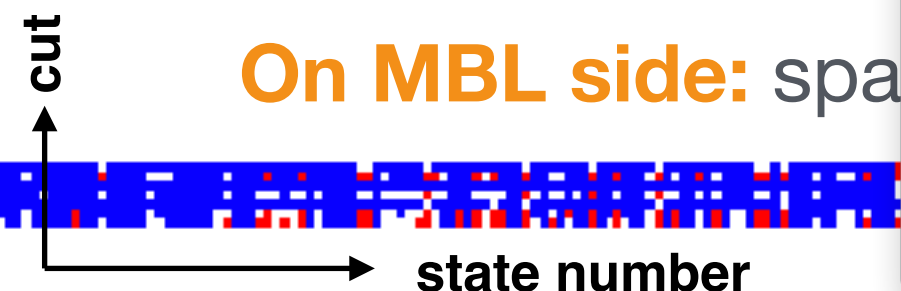
$N = 18$ ; cuts from 6 ..

red: ETH    blue: MBL

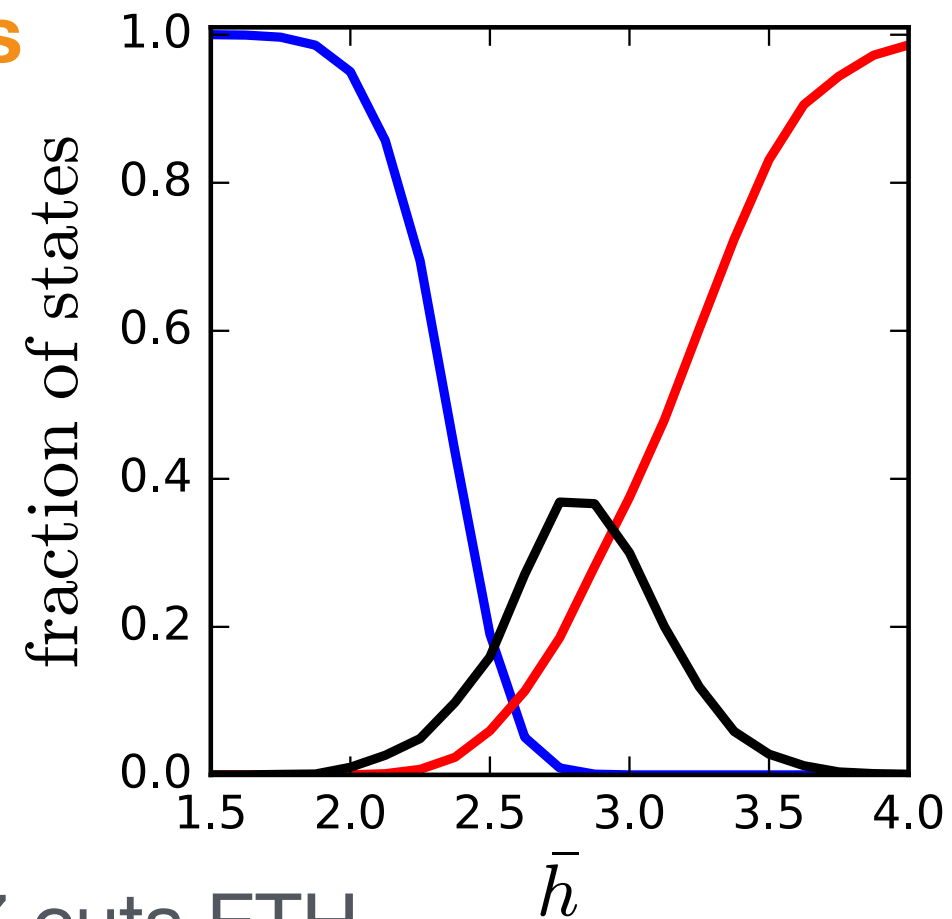
On ETH side: spat



On MBL side: spa



## Statistics



blue: all 7 cuts ETH

red: all 7 cuts MBL

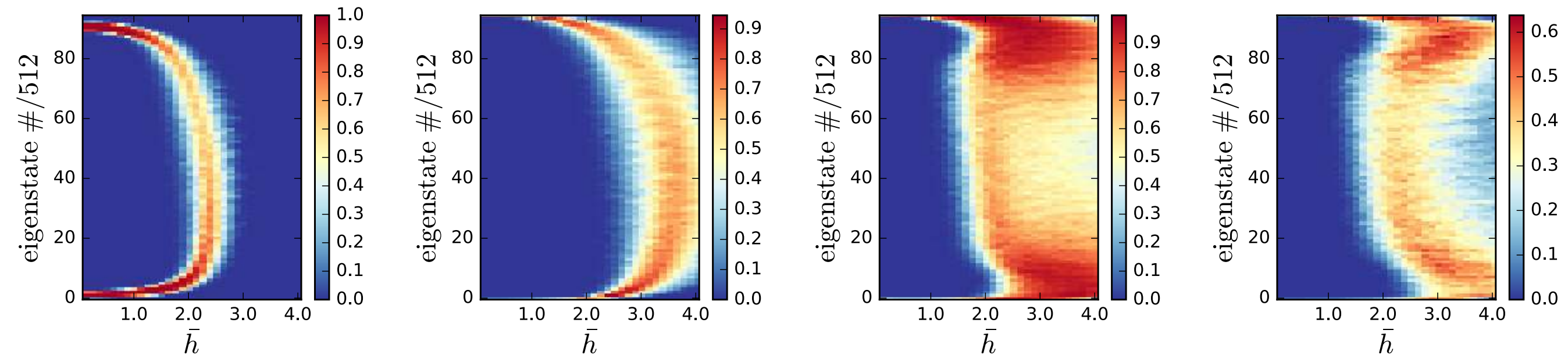
black: at least one ETH and one MBL cut

ETH/MBL asymmetry in local structure  
near the transition:  
reaffirms bubble hypothesis

# Results: **What can go wrong**

Fraction of uncertain spectra; same disorder realization,  $N = 18$

$$\text{Cost}(\hat{f}, f) = - \sum_{x \in \text{TD}} \sum_i^2 f_i(x) \log \hat{f}_i(x) - \delta \sum_{x \in \text{TR}} \sum_i^2 \hat{f}_i(x) \log \hat{f}_i(x) + \mu |V|^2$$



confidence  
optimization

**confidence**  
**optimization**

confidence  
optimization

**confidence**  
**optimization**

weight  
decay

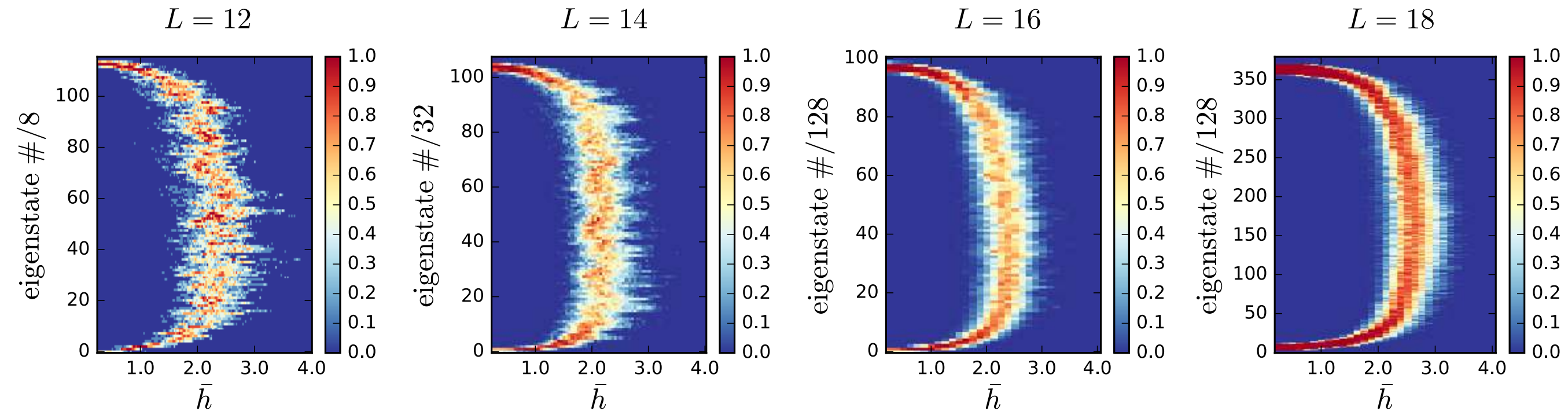
weight  
decay

**weight**  
**decay**

**weight**  
**decay**

**Need both terms in cost function**

# Results: **Finite size effects**



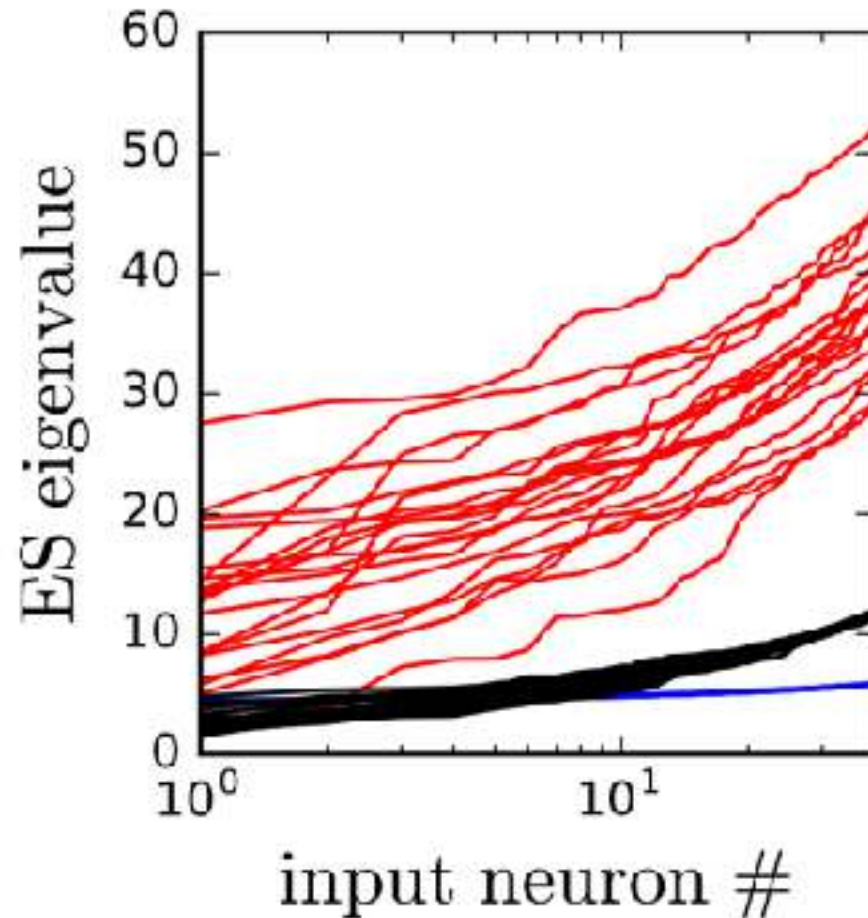
- artifact structures near transition for smaller systems
- smooth and sharp phase boundary at largest system size
- confirms that confidence threshold 0.9 is appropriate for the system size



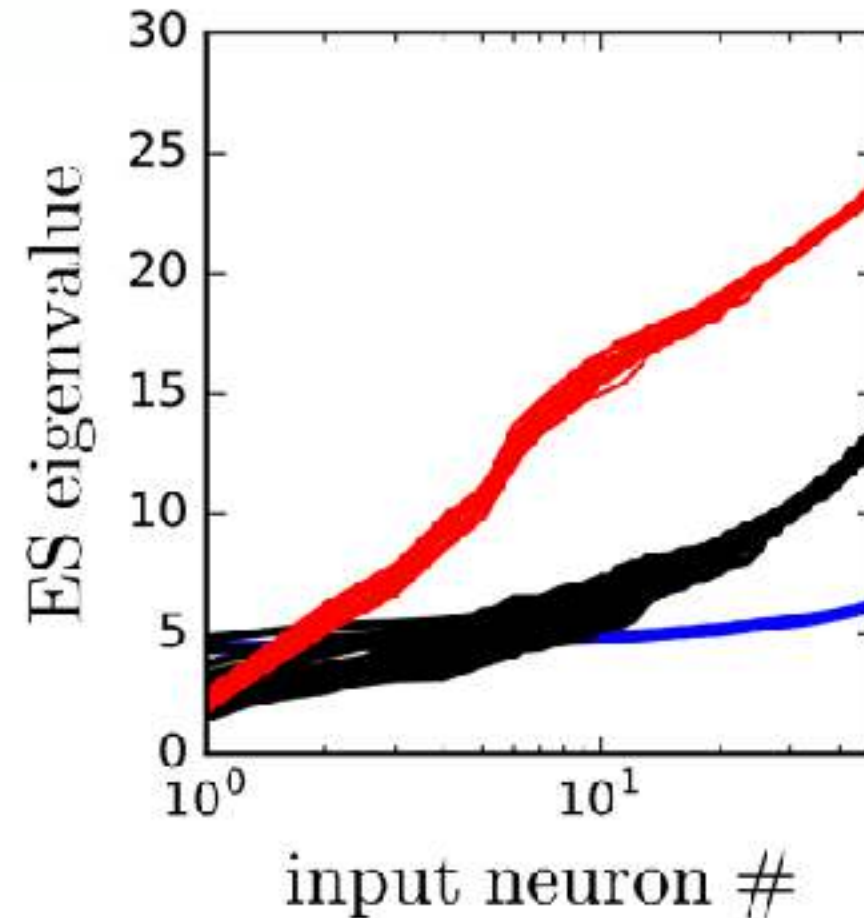
# Dreaming: **What the network has learned**



# Dreaming: **What the network has learned**



actual entanglement  
spectra



dreamed entanglement  
spectra

Shape reproduced, magnitude not

Reproduces power-law form of entanglement spectra

[Serbyn et al., PRL 2016]



# What we have learned:

## Recipe for phase classification



- train NN deep in the phases
- increase number of hidden layers until convergence on test set
- use dropout regularization
- use weight decay
- use **confidence optimization** near phase transition region



### Problems

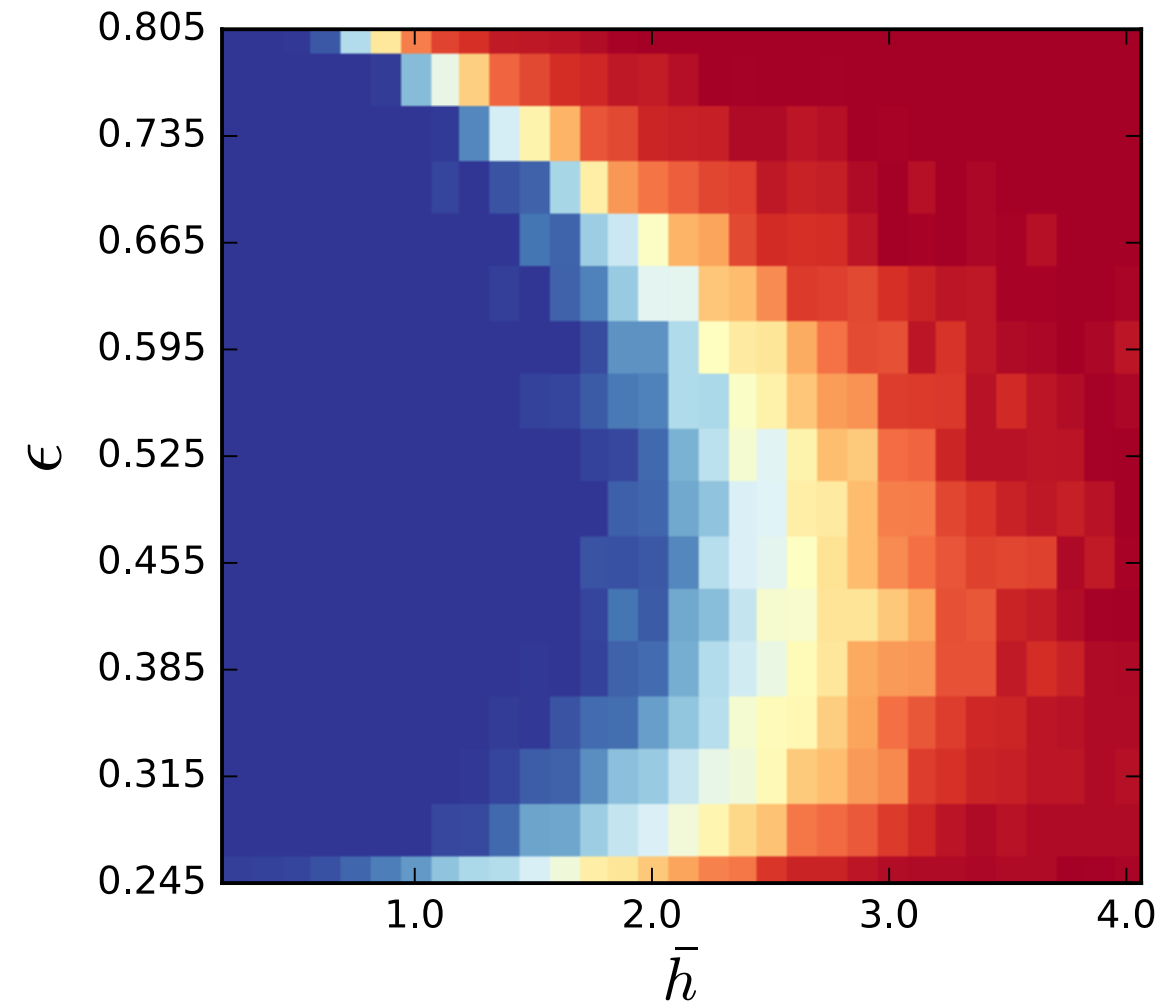
- quantitative correctness not guaranteed
- discovery of new phases
- interpretability

### Advantages

- simple and performant
- no physical insight about phase characteristics assumed

# Summary

- performance comparable to established (physical) methods
- works for single disorder realizations, **individual eigenstates**, small systems
- **simple and natural** choice of network and cost function; no tweaking
- blueprint for other phase classification applications using NNs





# Open source code

Low entry barrier through packages like Google's TensorFlow



Companies using  
TensorFlow

