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Predictions of nuclear masses and half-lives with
Bayesian neural network approach

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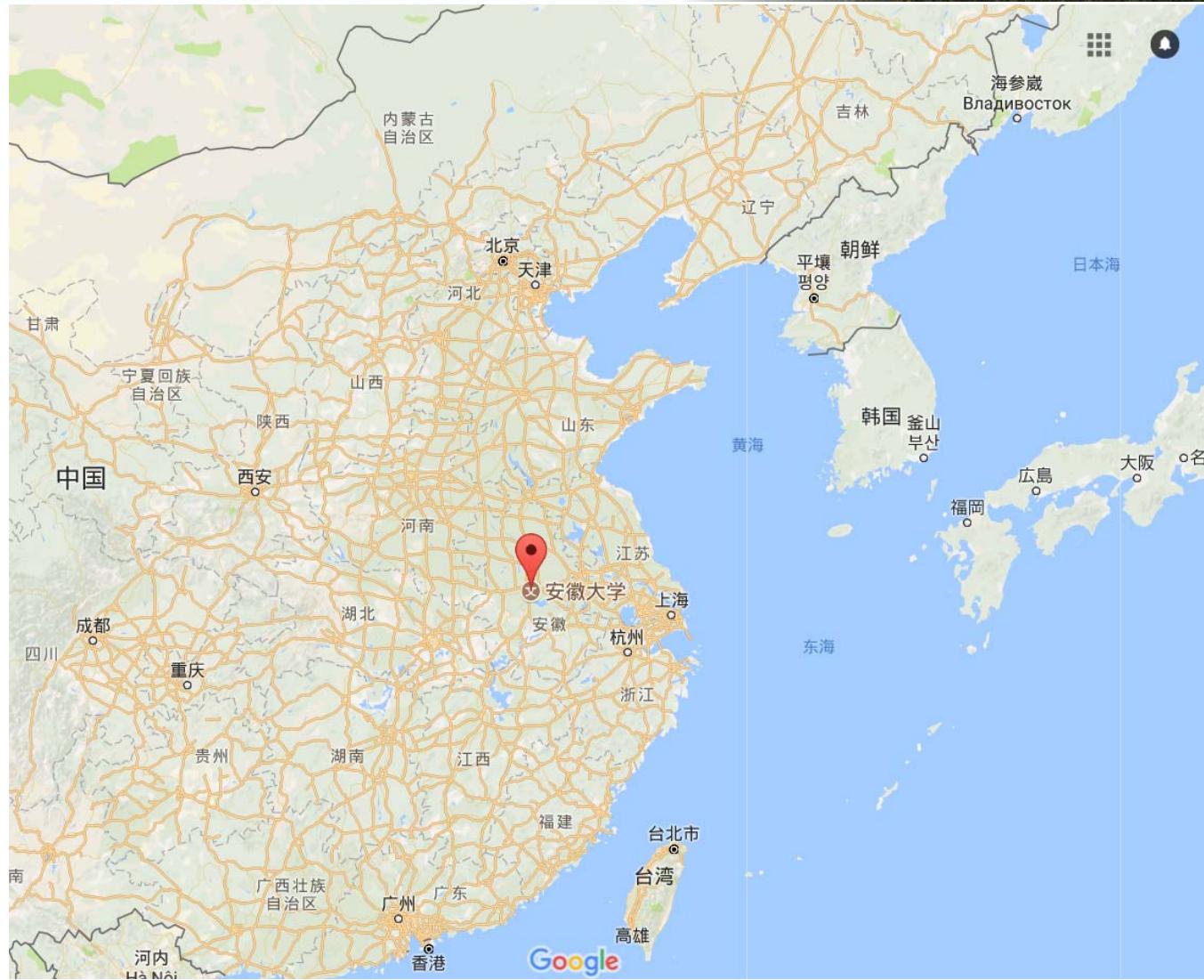
11 January 2020





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Outline

① Introduction

② Bayesian neural network approach

③ Results and discussion

- ★ Toy model

- ★ Nuclear masses

- ★ Nuclear beta-decay half-lives

④ Summary and perspectives

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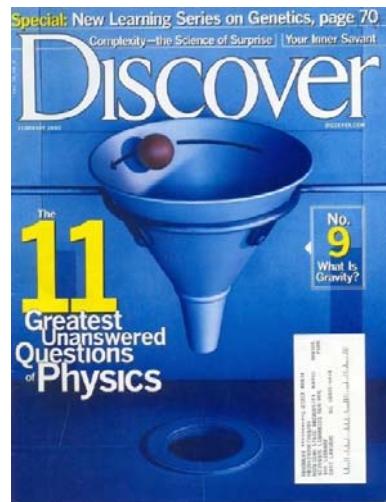
★ Toy model

★ Nuclear masses

★ Nuclear beta-decay half-lives

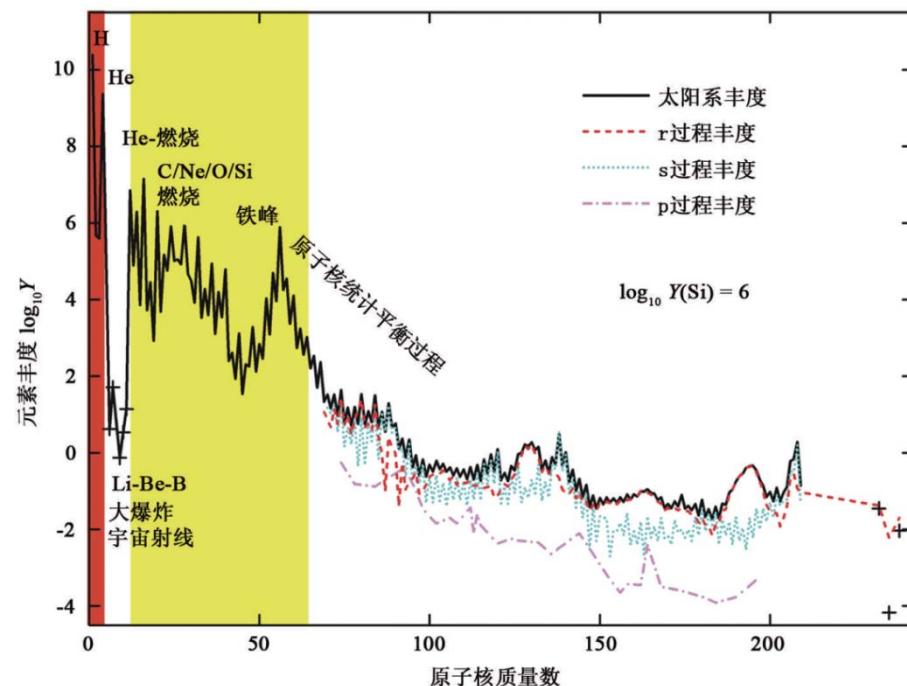
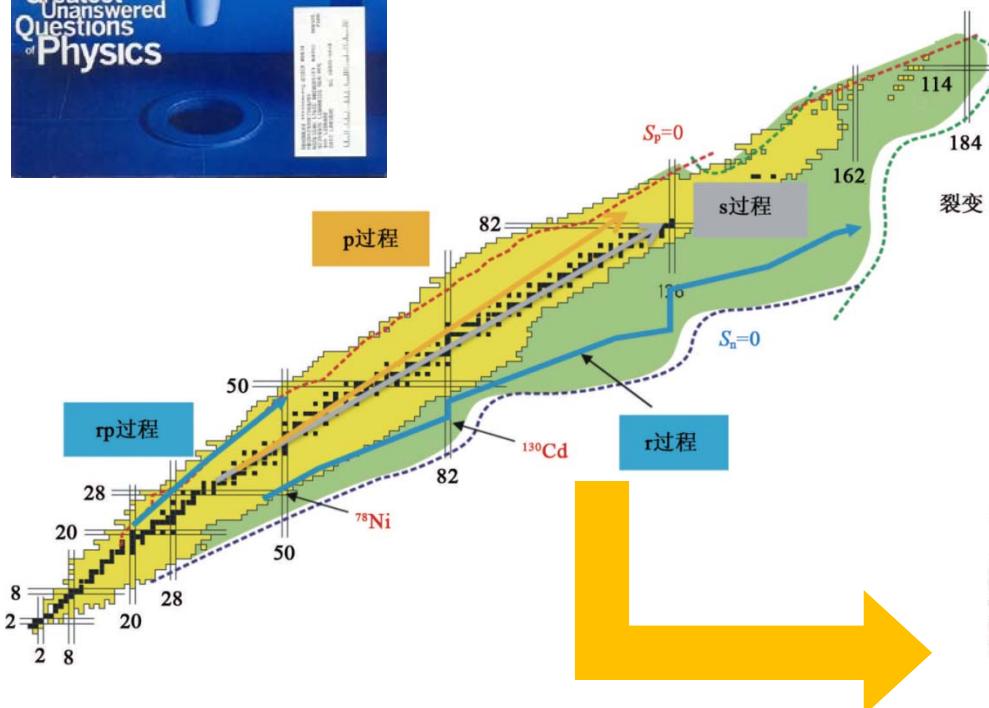
④ Summary and perspectives

Origin of heavy elements



Question 3: How were the heavy elements from iron to uranium made?

E. Haseltin, Discover 23(2), 37 (2002)



r-process

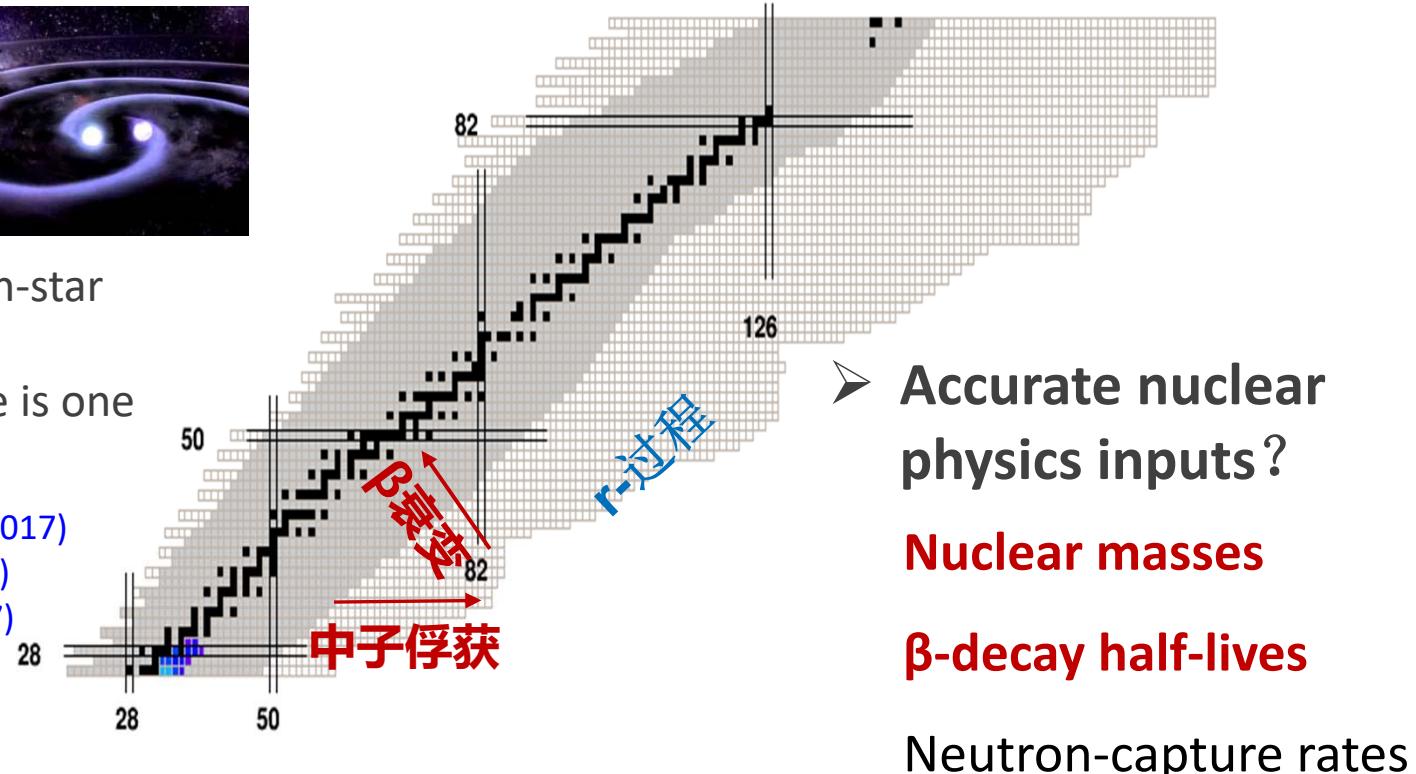
➤ r-process site?

Supernova Neutron-star merge



GW170817 neutron-star merge:
neutron-star merge is one
of r-process site

Nature 551, 64; 67; 80 (2017)
Science 358, 1559 (2017)
ApJL 848, L17; L19 (2017)



Majority of neutron-rich nuclei related to the r-process are still out of the reach of experimental capabilities, so theoretical predictions have to be used.

Nuclear mass models

Nuclear mass models

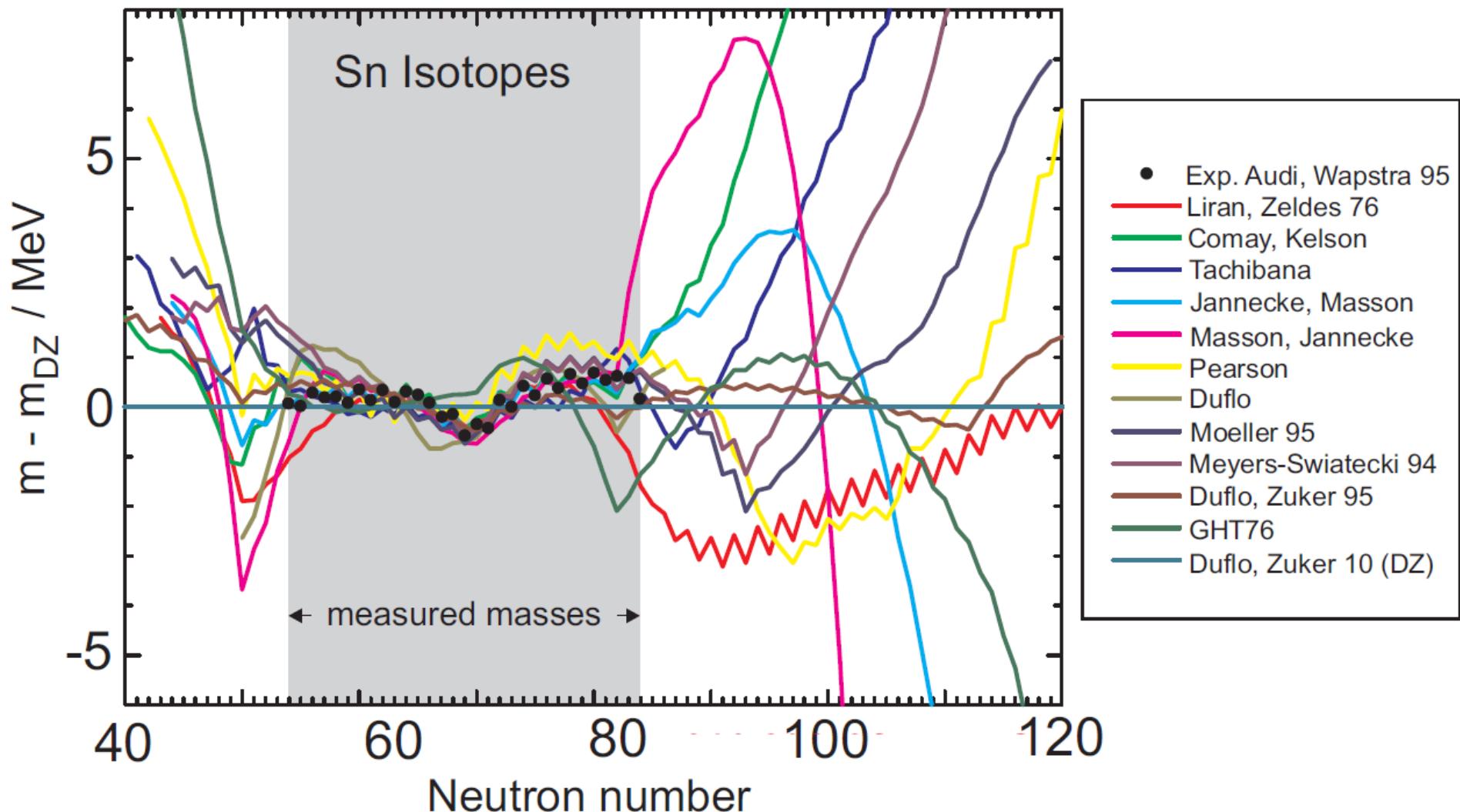
- ★ Macroscopic mass models (simple, but large deviations and bad ability of extrapolation): BW, BW2 [[Weizsäcker1935ZP](#), [Bethe1937RMP](#), [Kirson2008NPA](#)]
- ★ Macro-microscopic mass models (high accuracy, but belong to hybrid model): FRDM, KTUY, WS4 [[Moller1995ADNDT](#), [Koura2005PTP](#), [Wang2014PLB](#)]
- ★ Microscopic mass models, mainly the density functional theory (complicated, but have a better ability of extrapolation): Skyrme HFB (from HF-BCS, HFB-1 to HFB-32), RMF [[Goriely2016PRC](#), [Geng2005PTP](#)]

Model	BW	BW2	FRDM	KTUY	WS4	HFB-27	RMF
σ_{rms} (keV)	3296	1657	654	701	298	512	2217

data taken from AME12 [[Wang2012CPC](#)]

- ✓ This accuracy is still not enough to the studies of exotic nuclear structures, astrophysics nucleosynthesis, and weak-interaction processes.
- ✓ Different mass models giving comparable accuracy can extrapolate quite differently out to the neutron drip line.

Nuclear mass models



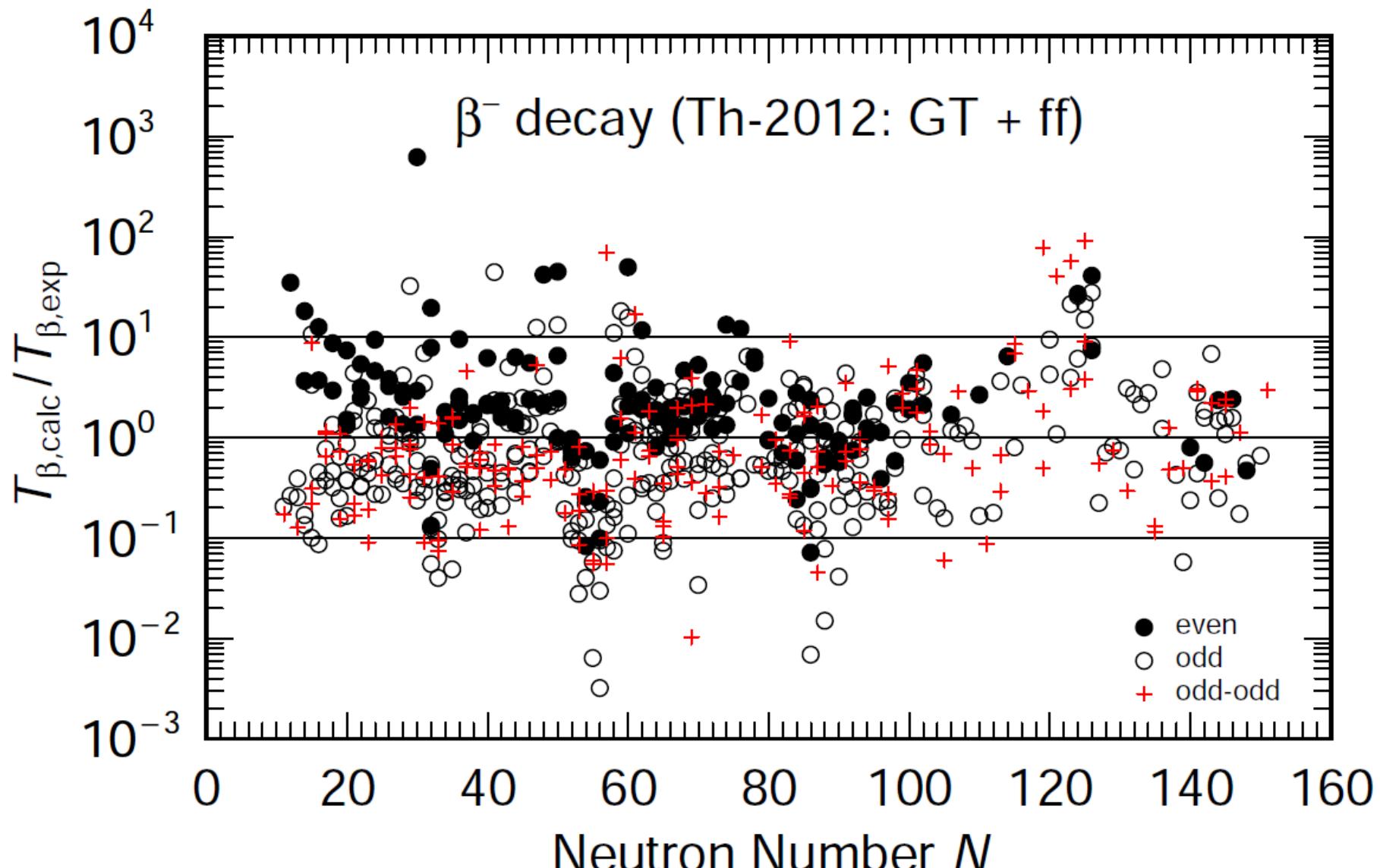
From Sun2008PhDThesis

Nuclear models for β -decay half-lives

Nuclear models for β -decay half-lives

- ★ Phenomenological formula [Zhang2006PRC](#), [Zhang2007JPG](#)
- ★ Gross theory [Takahashi1973ADNDT](#), [Takahashi1990PTP](#), [Nakata1997NPA](#)
- ★ Shell model [Pinedo1999PRL](#), [Caurier2002PRC](#), [Langanke2003RMP](#), [Zhi2013PRC](#)
- ★ Quasiparticle random phase approximation (QRPA)
 - Nilsson BCS+QRPA: [Staudt1990ADNDT](#), [Hirsch1993ADNDT](#), [Nabi1999ADNDT](#)
 - FRDM+QRPA:** [Möller1997ADNDT](#), [Möller2003PRC](#)
 - Woods-Saxon+QRPA: [Ni2012JPG](#)
 - SHF BCS+QRPA: [Sarriguren2005, 2010, 2011PRC](#)
 - DF(Fayans)+CQRPA: [Borzov1996ZPA](#), [Borzov2003,2005PRC](#), [Borzov2008NPA](#)
 - ETFSI(Skyrme)+CQRPA: [Borzov1997NPA](#), [Borzov2000PRC](#)
 - SHF(BCS)+(Q)RPA: [Bai2010PRL](#), [Minato2013PRL](#)
 - SHFB+QRPA: [Engel1999PRC](#)
 - RHB+QRPA:** [Nikšić2005PRC](#), [Marketin2007,2016PRC](#), [Niu2013PRC\(R\)](#)
 - RHFB+QRPA: [Niu2013PLB](#)

Nuclear models for β -decay half-lives



From Moller2018ADNDT

Introduction

- Some techniques have been developed to further improve the mass predictions of these nuclear models, such as the RBF approach [[Wang2010PRC](#), [Niu2013PRC](#), [Niu2016PRC](#)] and the image reconstruction technique [[Morales2010PRC](#)].
- Neural network approach have also been used to predict masses using the Bayesian version (BNN) [[Utama2016PRC](#)] or conventional version [[Gazula1992NPA](#), [Zhang2017JPG](#)].
- Advantages of Bayesian approach:

- ★ avoids the over-fitting automatically by using hyper prior for the noise variance
- ★ quantifies the uncertainties in predictions

Apply the BNN approach to

- ✓ improve the mass predictions: 1) including hyper prior for the noise variance; 2) two extra variables related to pairing correlations and shell effects apart from Z and A .
- ✓ improve the predictions of nuclear beta-decay half-lives.

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Bayesian and frequentist (traditional) views

● Differences between Bayesians and frequentists [Bishop2006](#)[Springer](#)

Frequentists:

- ✓ Data are a repeatable random sample
- there is a frequency
- ✓ Underlying parameters remain constant during this repeatable process
- ✓ **Parameters are unknown but fixed**

Bayesians:

- ✓ Data are observed from the realized sample
- ✓ **Parameters are unknown and described probabilistically**
- ✓ Data are fixed

➤ Example: tossing a coin of unknown properties; probability ω of the coin landing heads

- ✓ Choose some criterion, such as maximum likelihood
- ✓ Find the optimal estimator according to this criterion, such as the frequency of heads in past tosses

$$\omega = \frac{N^{\text{head}}}{N^{\text{total}}}$$



- ✓ Express this unknown properties using a probability distribution over possible values based on our intuitive believes
- ✓ Update this distribution using the Bayes' theorem as the outcome of each toss becomes known

$$p(\omega | D) = \frac{p(D | \omega)p(\omega)}{p(D)}$$

Bayesian approach in regression problem

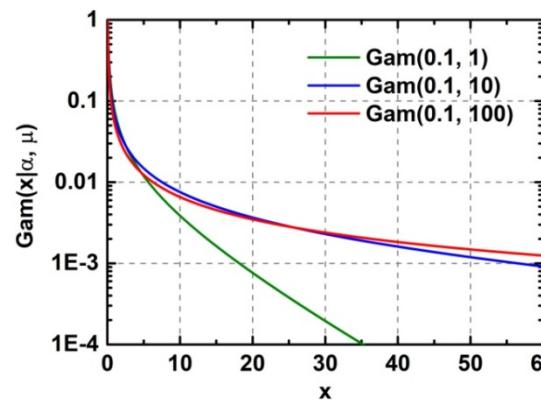
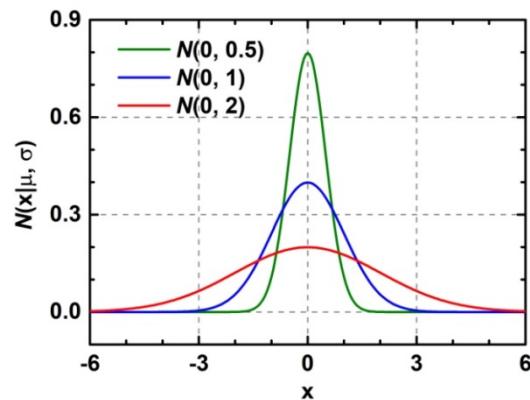
- Posterior distributions of parameters are [Neal1996Springer](#)

$$p(\omega | D) = \frac{p(D | \omega)p(\omega)}{p(D)} \propto p(D | \omega)p(\omega), \quad D = \{(x_1, t_1), (x_2, t_2), \dots, (x_N, t_N)\}$$

- ✓ prior distribution $p(\omega)$:

$$p(\omega) = N(\omega | 0, \sigma_\omega^2), \quad p(\tau_\omega = 1 / \sigma_\omega^2) = \text{Gam}(\tau_\omega | \alpha_\omega, \mu_\omega)$$

$$p(\tau_n = 1 / \sigma_n^2) = \text{Gam}(\tau_n | \alpha_n, \mu_n)$$



$$N(x | \mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left[-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]$$

$$\text{Gam}(x | \alpha, \mu) = \frac{(\alpha/\mu)^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} \exp\left(-\frac{\alpha x}{\mu}\right)$$

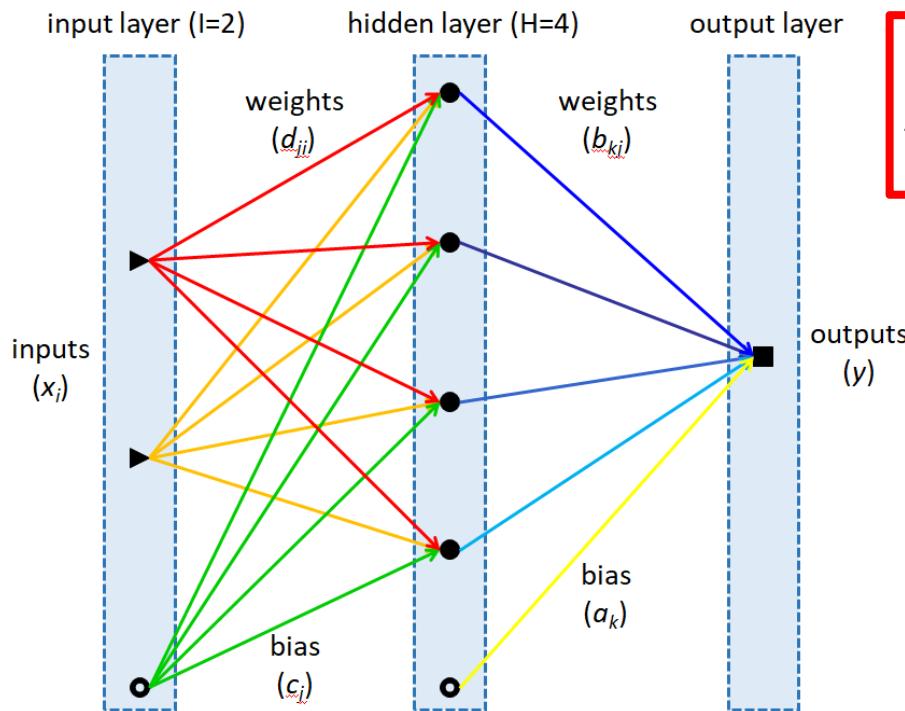
Bayesian approach in regression problem

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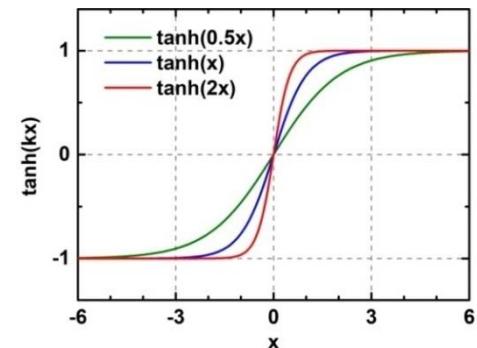
- ✓ likelihood function $p(D | \omega)$

$$p(x, t | \omega) = \exp(-\chi^2 / 2), \quad \chi^2 = \sum_{n=1}^N \left[\frac{t_n - y(x_n, \omega)}{\sigma_n} \right]^2$$



$$y(x, \omega) = a + \sum_{j=1}^H b_j \tanh \left(c_j + \sum_{i=1}^I d_{ji} x_i \right)$$

$$\tanh x = \frac{\sinh x}{\cosh x} = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$$



Bayesian approach in regression problem

- Posterior distributions of parameters are [Neal1996Springer](#)

$$p(\omega | D) = \frac{p(D | \omega)p(\omega)}{p(D)} \propto p(D | \omega)p(\omega), \quad D = \{(x_1, t_1), (x_2, t_2), \dots, (x_N, t_N)\}$$

- ✓ sampling with Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method

- Make predictions

$$\langle y_n \rangle = \int y(x_n, \omega) p(\omega | x, t) d\omega = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K y(x_n, \omega_k)$$

$$\Delta y_n = \sqrt{\langle y_n^2 \rangle - \langle y_n \rangle^2}$$

Remark:

- BNN approach can give the joint probability distribution of all parameters, from which we can get the correlations among parameters, so the number of independent parameters may be much less than the number of BNN parameters.

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Toy model

True : $y = 0.3 + 0.4x + 0.5\sin(2x)$

Data : $y = 0.3 + 0.4x + 0.5\sin(2x) + 0.2 \times \text{randn}$

➤ Number of training data: N=61, $x \in [-3, 3]$

1 input : $y = f(x)$

2 inputs : $y = f[x_1 = x, x_2 = \sin(2x)]$

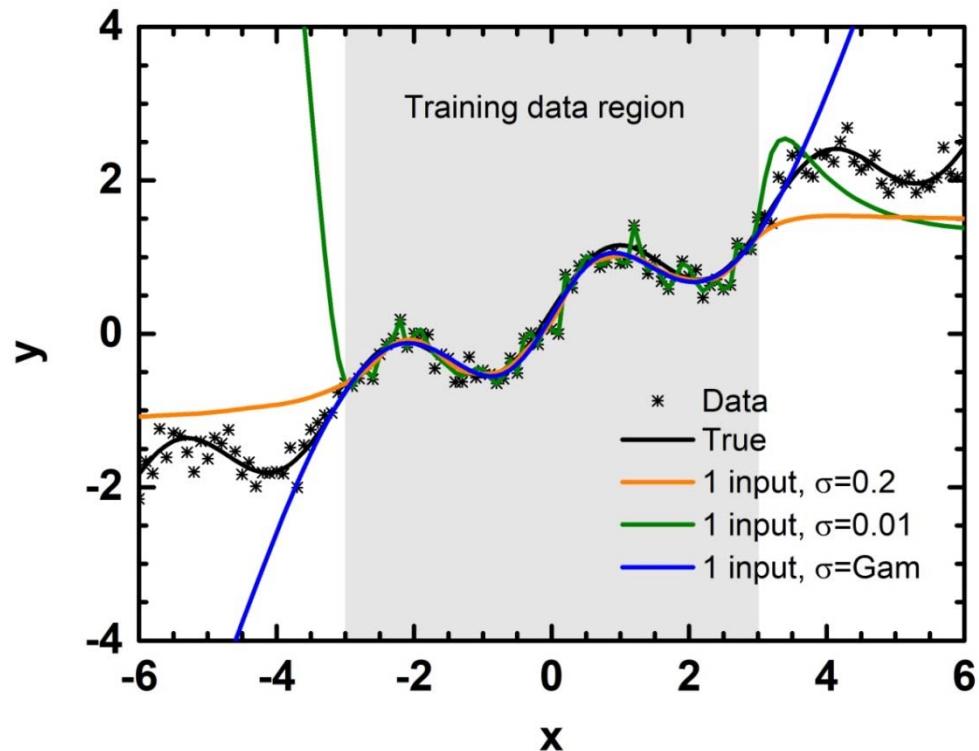
➤ Number of hidden unit:

$H=20$ for $f(x)$; $H=15$ for $f(x_1, x_2)$

➤ Number of parameters: 61

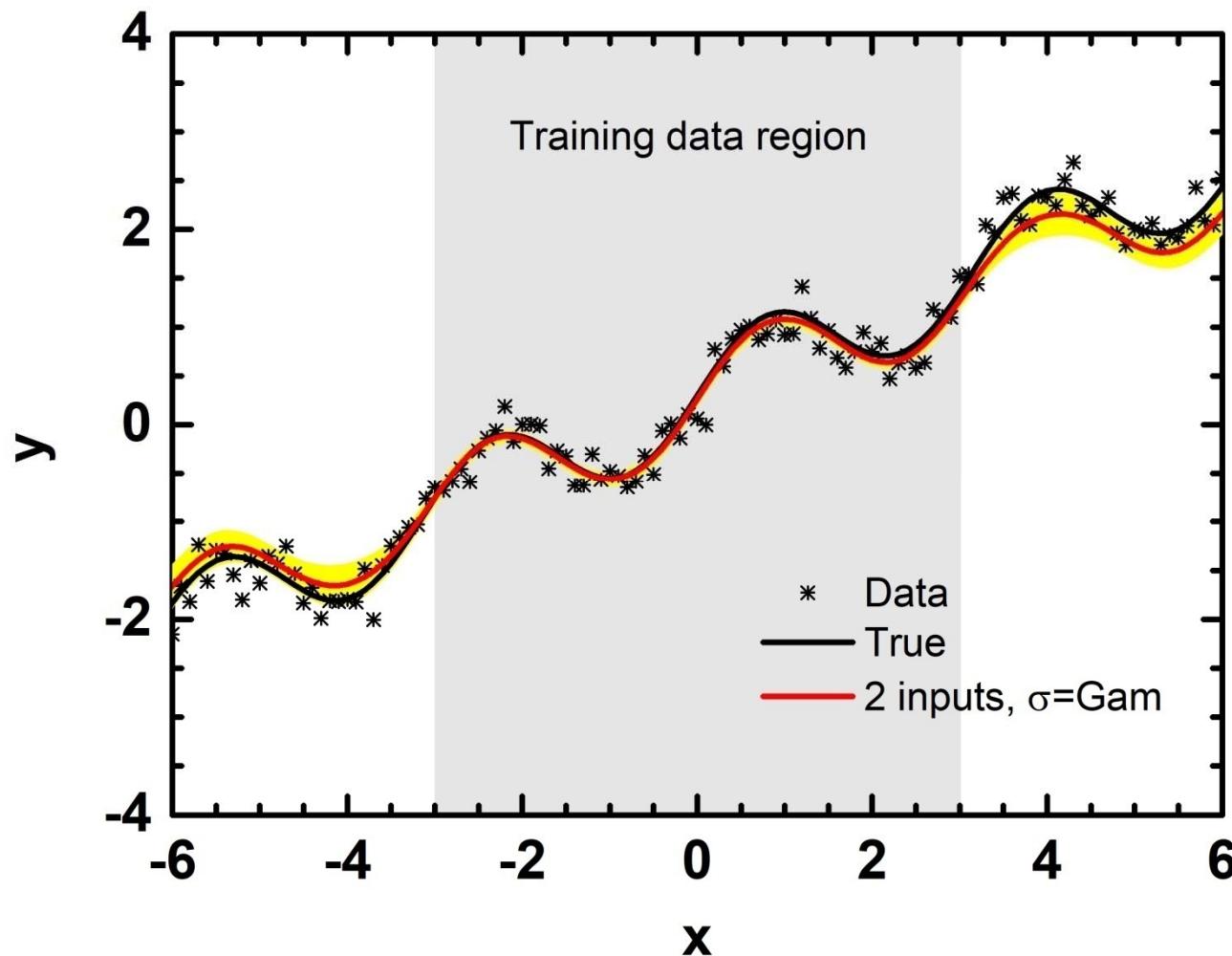
$$\text{Likelihood function} : p(x, y | \omega) = \exp(-\chi^2 / 2), \chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{y_i - f(x_i, \omega)}{\sigma} \right)^2$$

Likelihood function : $p(x, y | \omega) = \exp(-\chi^2 / 2), \chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{y_i - f(x_i, \omega)}{\sigma} \right)^2$



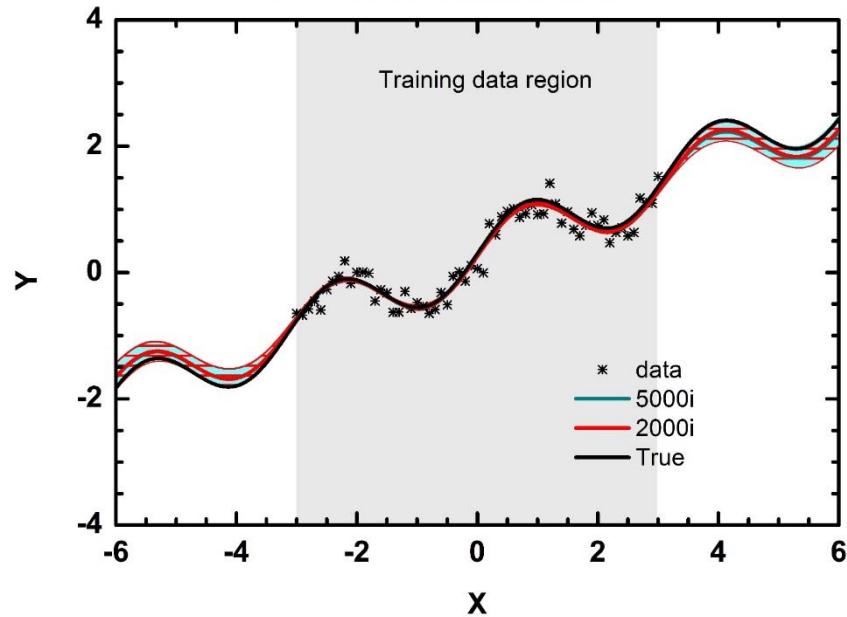
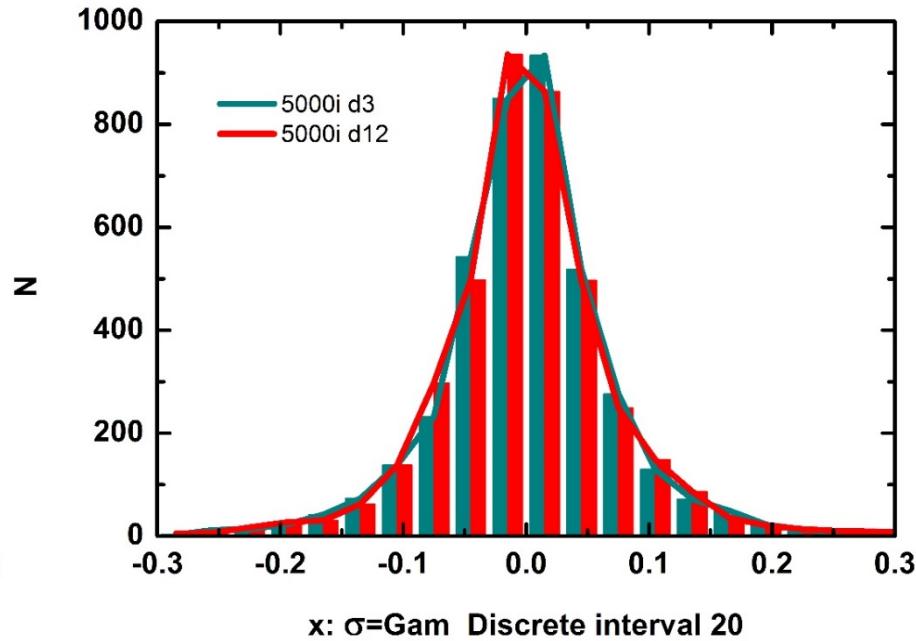
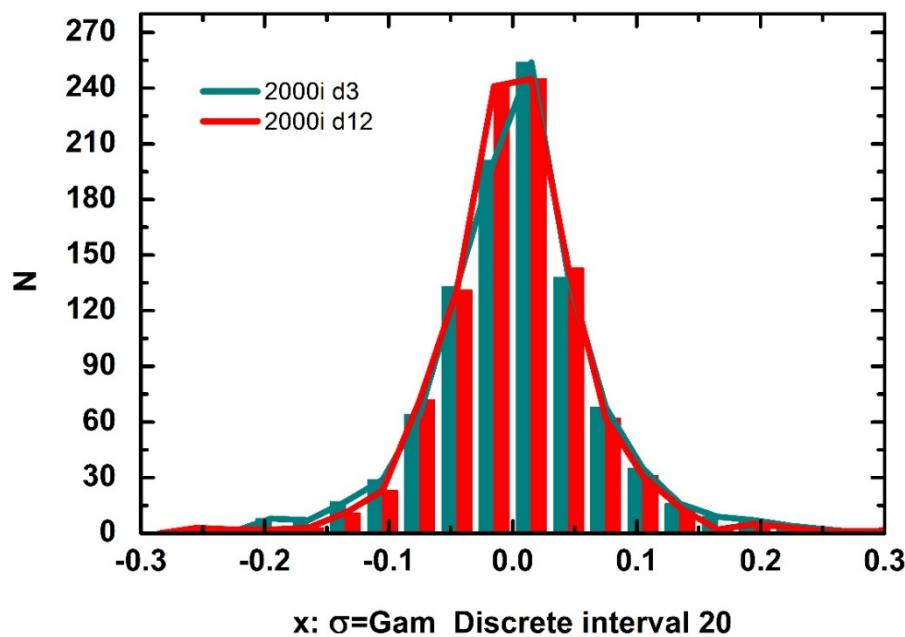
- ✓ BNN can avoid overfitting if a Gamma distribution is taken as the noise prior.
- ✓ Direct BNN fitting with x as the only input variable can only extrapolate around a few steps from known region, while the overfitting would make the extrapolation unacceptable.

Toy model



- ✓ Including reasonable variable is very effective for the extrapolation of neural network and the uncertainties of predictions are also reasonable.

Toy model



- ✓ 2000步迭代之后，不同d参数分布几乎一致。
- ✓ 2000步采样所得结果与5000步采样所得结果几乎一致。

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Numerical details

● Likelihood function $p(D|\omega)$

$$p(D|\omega) = \exp(-\chi^2/2), \quad \chi^2 = \sum_{n=1}^N \left[\frac{t_n - y_n(x, \omega)}{\sigma_n} \right]^2$$

$$t_n = M_n^{\text{exp}} - M_n^{\text{th}}, \quad y(x, \omega) = a + \sum_{j=1}^H b_j \tanh \left(c_j + \sum_{i=1}^I d_{ji} x_i \right) \Rightarrow M_n^{\text{th}} = M_n^{\text{exp}} + y(x, \omega)$$

★ Inputs:

- ✓ 2 inputs ($I=2$): Z, A
- ✓ 4 inputs ($I=4$): $Z, A, \delta, P; \quad \delta = [(-1)^Z + (-1)^N]/2, \quad P = v_n v_p / (v_p + v_n)$
 $v_p = \min(|Z - Z_0|), \quad v_n = \min(|N - N_0|)$

★ Hidden units:

- ✓ 2 inputs ($I=2$): $H=42$
- ✓ 4 inputs ($I=4$): $H=28$

★ Number of parameters: 169

★ Data: [W.J. Huang et al., CPC 41 030002](#); [M. Wang et al., CPC 41 030003](#).

- ✓ Entire set: 2272 nuclei in AME2016 ($Z, N \geq 8$ and $\sigma^{\text{exp}} \leq 100 \text{ keV}$)
- ✓ Learning set: 1800 data randomly selected from entire set
- ✓ Validation set: the remaining 472 data in entire set

Influence of noise variance

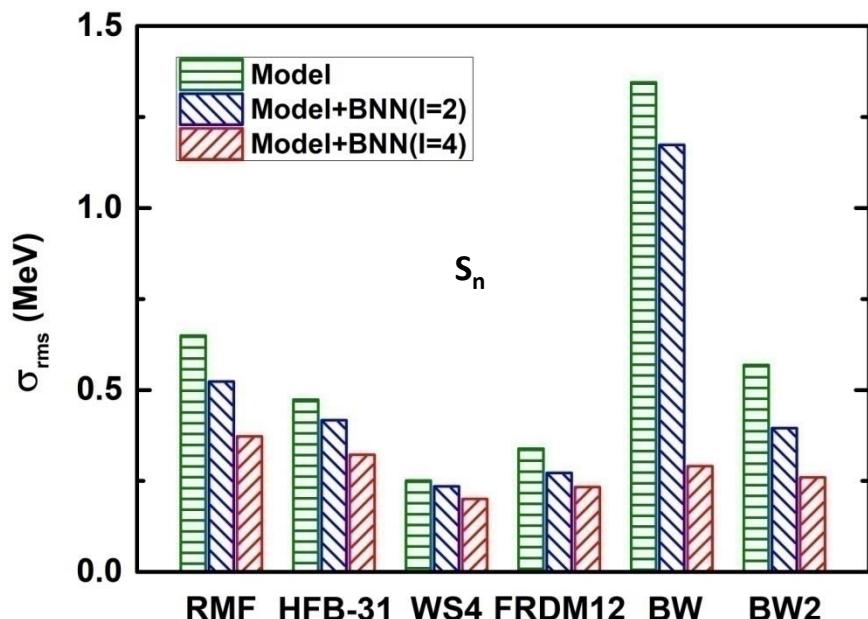
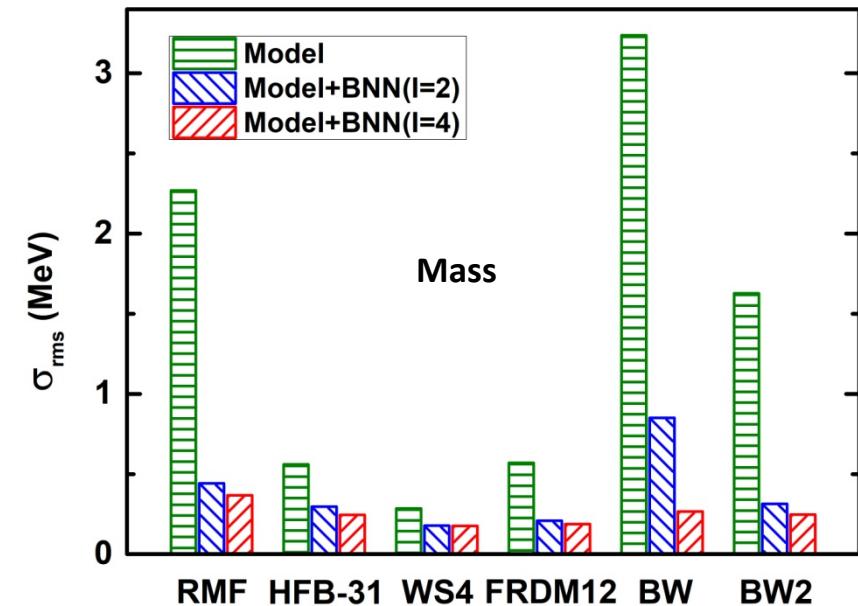
Model	Fixed	Gamma
RMF	0.732	0.443
HFB-31	0.354	0.296
WS4	0.203	0.178
FRDM2012	0.282	0.208
BW	1.035	0.850
BW2	0.497	0.313

Figure: rms deviations between experimental data and mass predictions for various models improved by BNN approach. The 2nd and 3rd columns denote the results with fixed value and gamma distribution for noise variance, respectively.

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{n=1}^N \left[\frac{t_n - y_n(x, \omega)}{\sigma_n} \right]^2$$

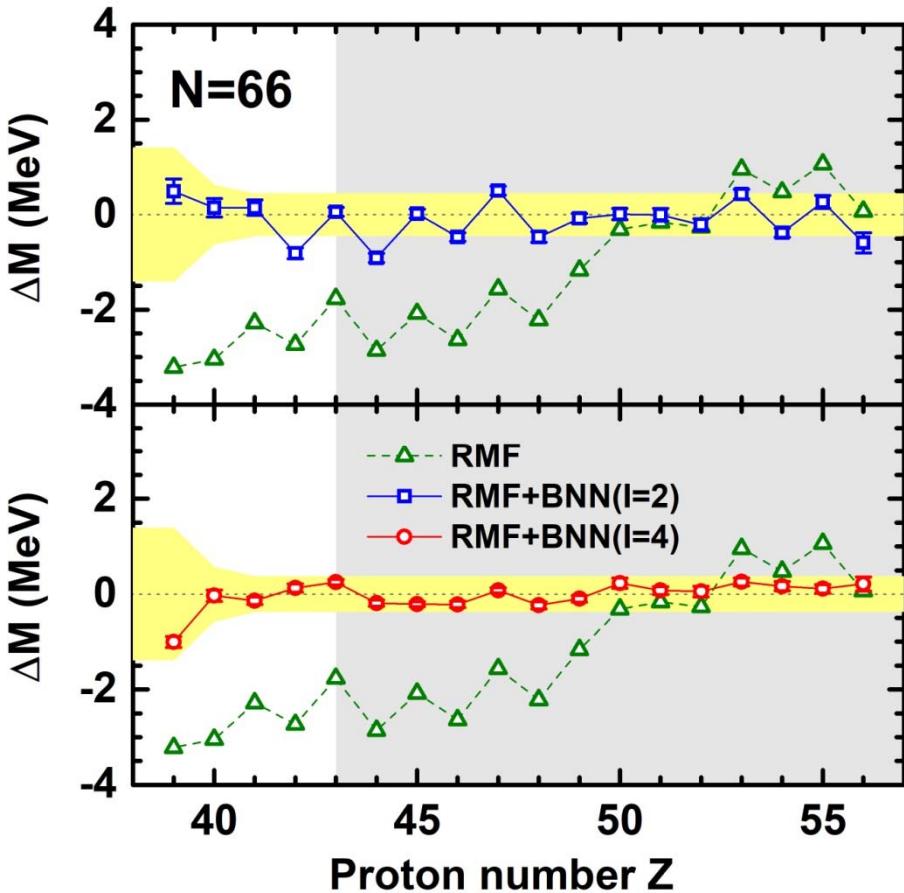
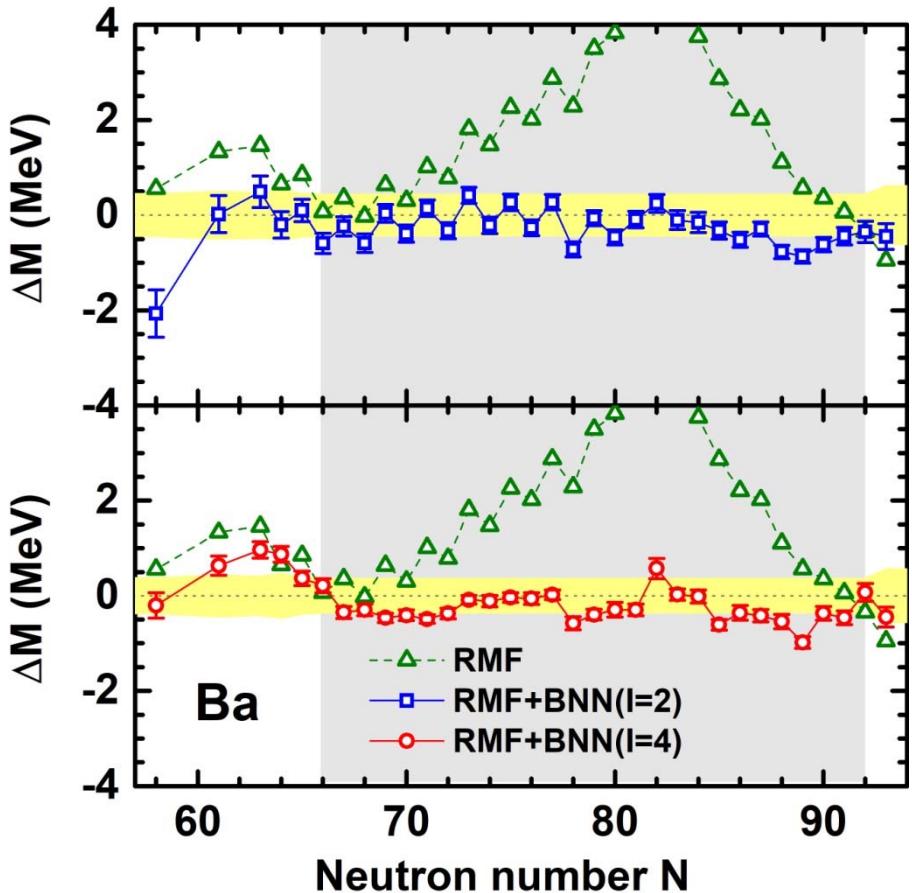
► The BNN approach can automatically find the optimal value for the noise variance, which can reduce the rms deviations by about 20%.

Rms deviations of mass and S_n



- ▶ The predictions of nuclear mass and neutron-separation energy are significantly improved with the BNN approach.
- ▶ After the improvement using the BNN approach with four inputs, the rms deviations are generally around 200 keV.
- ▶ The BNN with four inputs is more powerful than the BNN with two inputs, especially for the neutron separation energy.

Mass extrapolation



- The smooth deviations can be improved significantly with both BNN approaches, while the odd-even staggering can only remarkably reduced with BNN-I4 approach.
- The BNN corrections are still reasonable if the extrapolation is not far away from the training region.

Mass predictions of RMF+BNN model

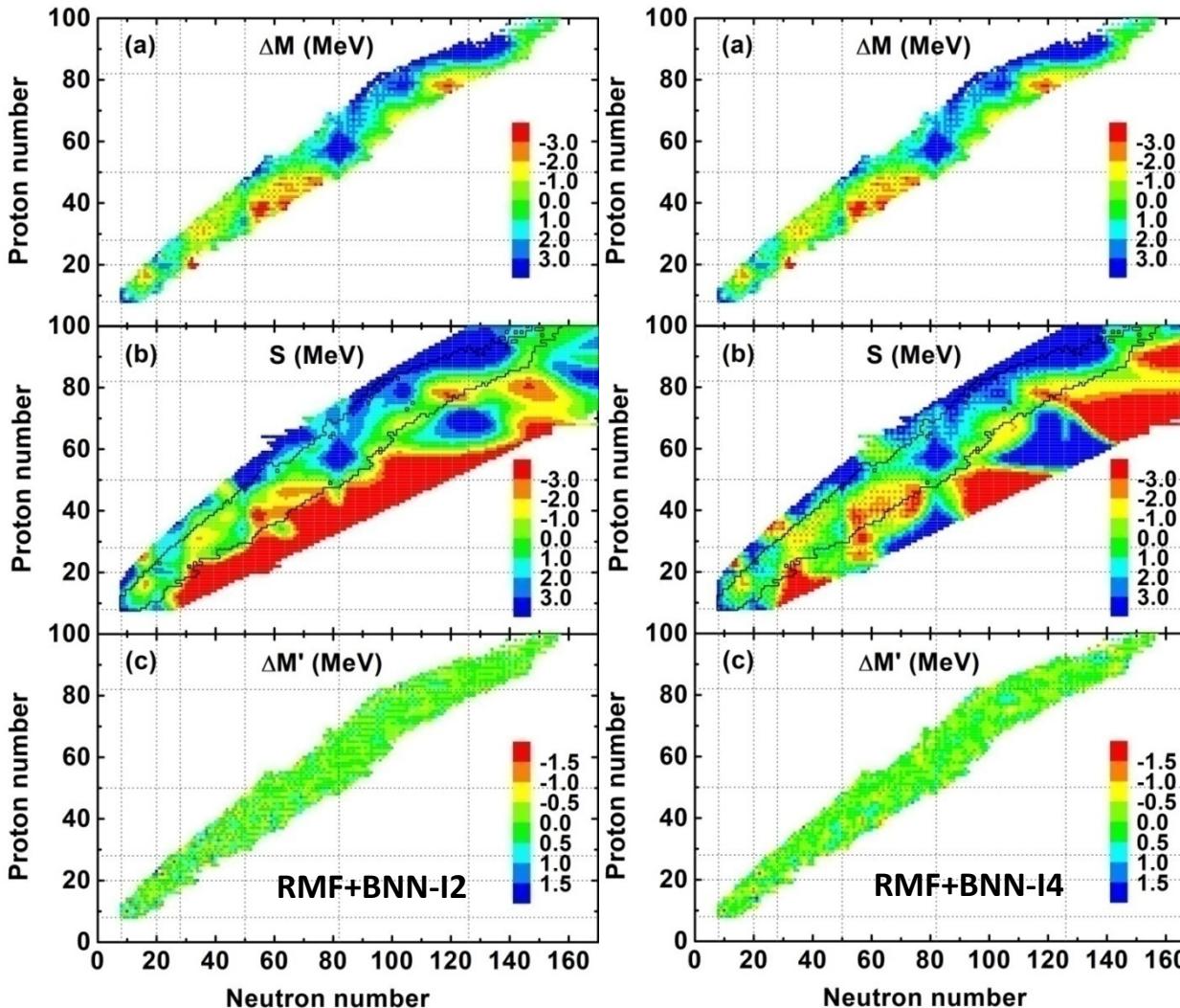


Figure: (a) Mass differences between the experimental data in AME16 and the predictions of the RMF model. (b) BNN corrections. (c) Mass differences after BNN improvement. Niu and Liang, PLB 778, 48 (2018)

- ▶ Smooth mass deviations can be easily removed by both BNN approaches, while the odd-even staggering can be well reproduced only using BNN-I4 approach.

- ▶ The extrapolation of BNN correction show more structure information for the BNN-I4 approach, especially the shell effects around $(Z,N)=(28, 82)$ and $(50, 126)$.

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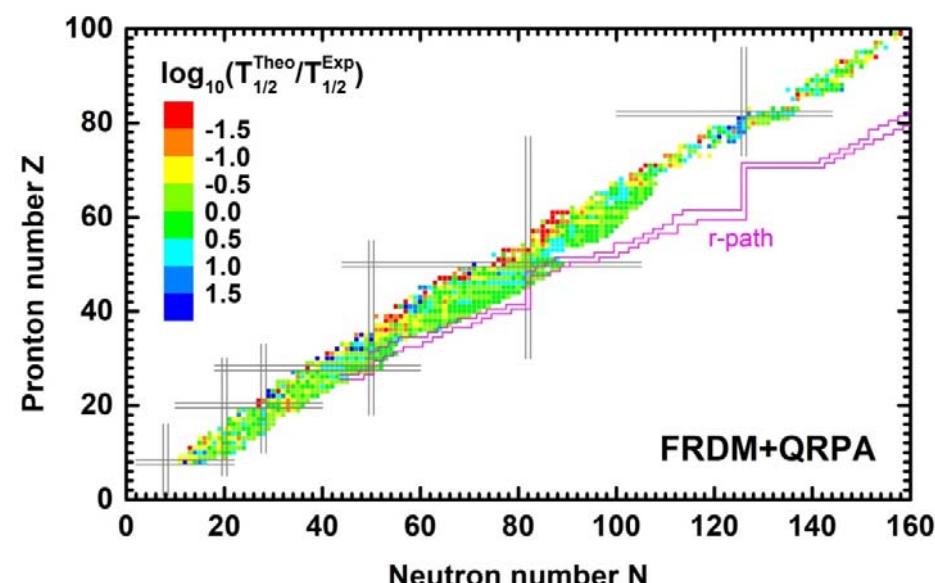
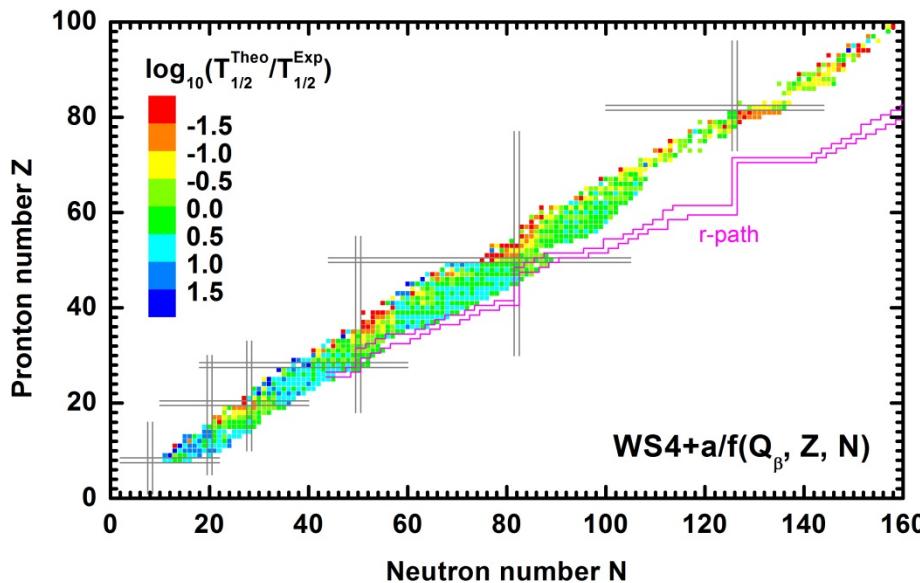
Nuclear β -decay half-lives

- The nuclear β -decay half-life in the allowed Gamow-Teller approximation reads as follows:

$$T_{1/2} = \frac{\ln 2}{\lambda_\beta} = \frac{D}{g_A^2 \sum_m B_{GT}(E_m) f(Z, A, E_m)} \rightarrow T_{1/2} = a / f(Z, A, E_m = Q_\beta - c(\delta - 1)/\sqrt{A})$$

where $D = \frac{\hbar^7 2\pi^3 \ln 2}{g^2 m_e^5 c^4} = 6163.4$ s, $g_A = 1$, $B_{GT}(E_m)$ is the transition probability, and E_m is the maximum value of β -decay energy. The phase volume is

$$f(Z, A, E_m) = \frac{1}{m_e^5} \int_{m_e}^{E_m} p_e E_e (E_m - E_e)^2 F(Z, A, E_m) dE_e,$$



Numerical details

- Likelihood function $p(D | \omega)$

$$p(D | \omega) = \exp(-\chi^2 / 2), \chi^2 = \sum_{n=1}^N \left[\frac{t_n - y_n(x, \omega)}{\sigma_n} \right]^2$$

$$t_n = \log(T_n^{\text{exp}} / T_n^{\text{th}}), y(x, \omega) = a + \sum_{j=1}^H b_j \tanh \left(c_j + \sum_{i=1}^I d_{ji} x_i \right) \Rightarrow \log(T_n^{\text{th}}) = \log(T_n^{\text{th}}) + y(x, \omega)$$

★ Inputs:

- ✓ 2 inputs (BNN-I2): Z, N
- ✓ 4 inputs (BNN-I4): $Z, N, \delta=[(-1)^Z+(-1)^N]/2, Q_\beta$

★ Hidden units:

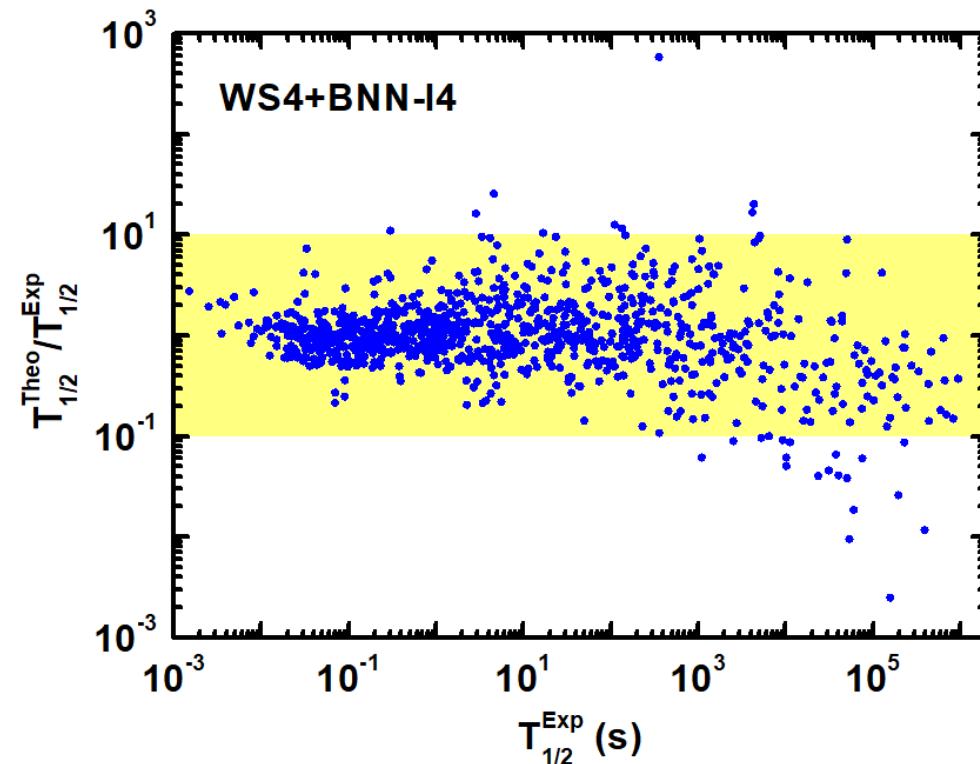
- ✓ 2 inputs (BNN-I2): $H=30$
- ✓ 4 inputs (BNN-I4): $H=20$

★ Number of parameters: 121

★ Data: [G. Audi et al., CPC 41, 030001 \(2017\)](#)

- ✓ Entire set: 1009 nuclei in NUBASE2016 ($Z, N \geq 8$ and β^- -decay fraction=100%)
- ✓ Learning set: 900 data randomly selected from entire set
- ✓ Validation set: the remaining 109 data in entire set

Half-lives of BNN approaches

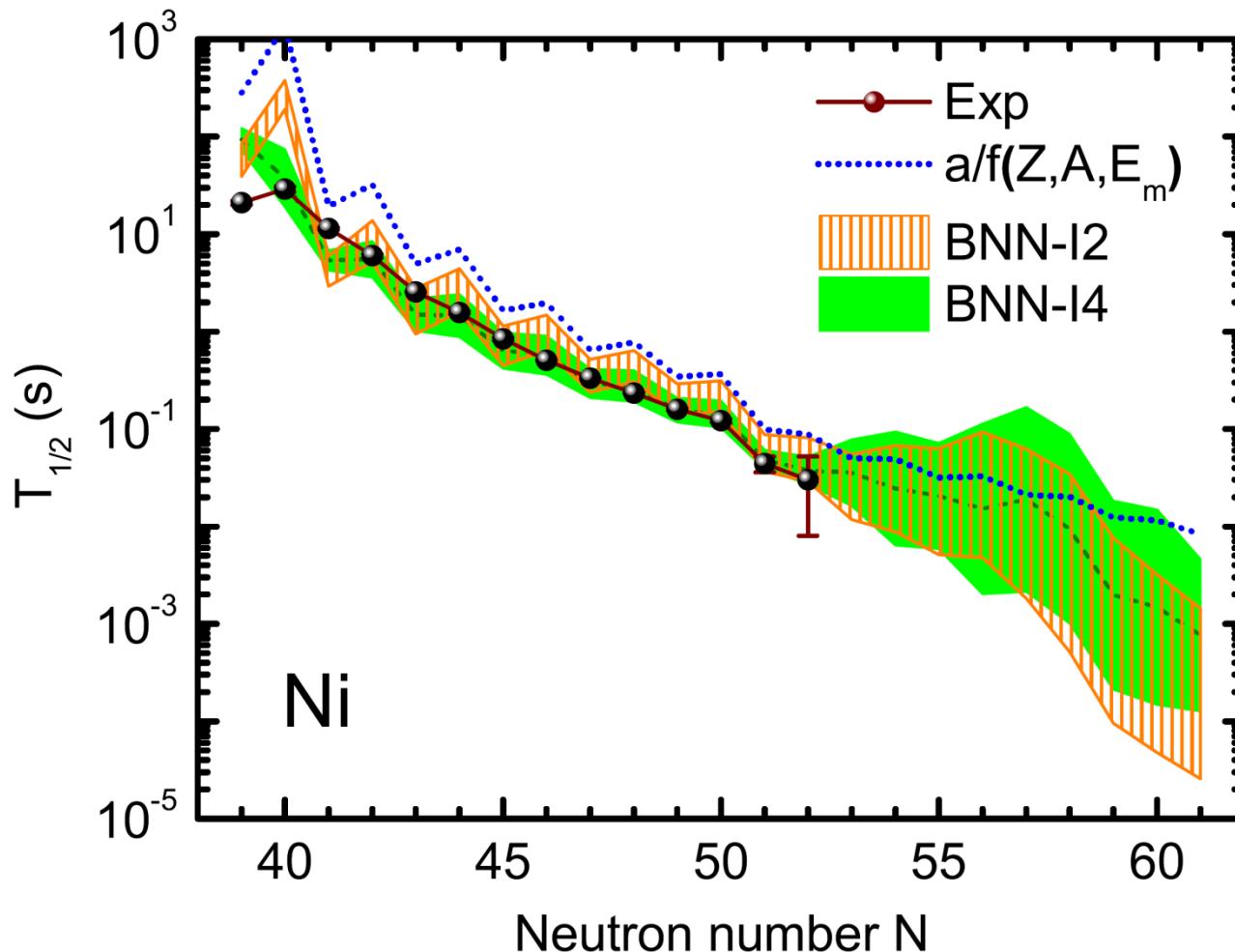


	$T_{1/2} < 10^6 \text{ s}$	$T_{1/2} < 10^3 \text{ s}$	$T_{1/2} < 1 \text{ s}$
WS4+a/f	0.8060	0.6302	0.5631
WS4+BNN-I2	0.4766	0.3542	0.2383
WS4+BNN-I4	0.3999	0.3146	0.2036
FRDM+QRPA	0.8190	0.5969	0.3906
RHB+QRPA	1.8844	1.6196	0.4631

- The WS4+BNN-I4 approach usually better reproduce the half-lives of short-lived nuclei.
- The WS+BNN-I4 approach gives the best results, which can describe nuclear half-lives around $10^{0.2}=1.6$ times of experimental data for nuclei with half-lives shorter than 1 s.

$$\sigma_{\text{rms}} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \left[\log_{10} \left(T_{1/2}^{\text{Exp}} / T_{1/2}^{\text{Theo}} \right) \right]^2}{n}}$$

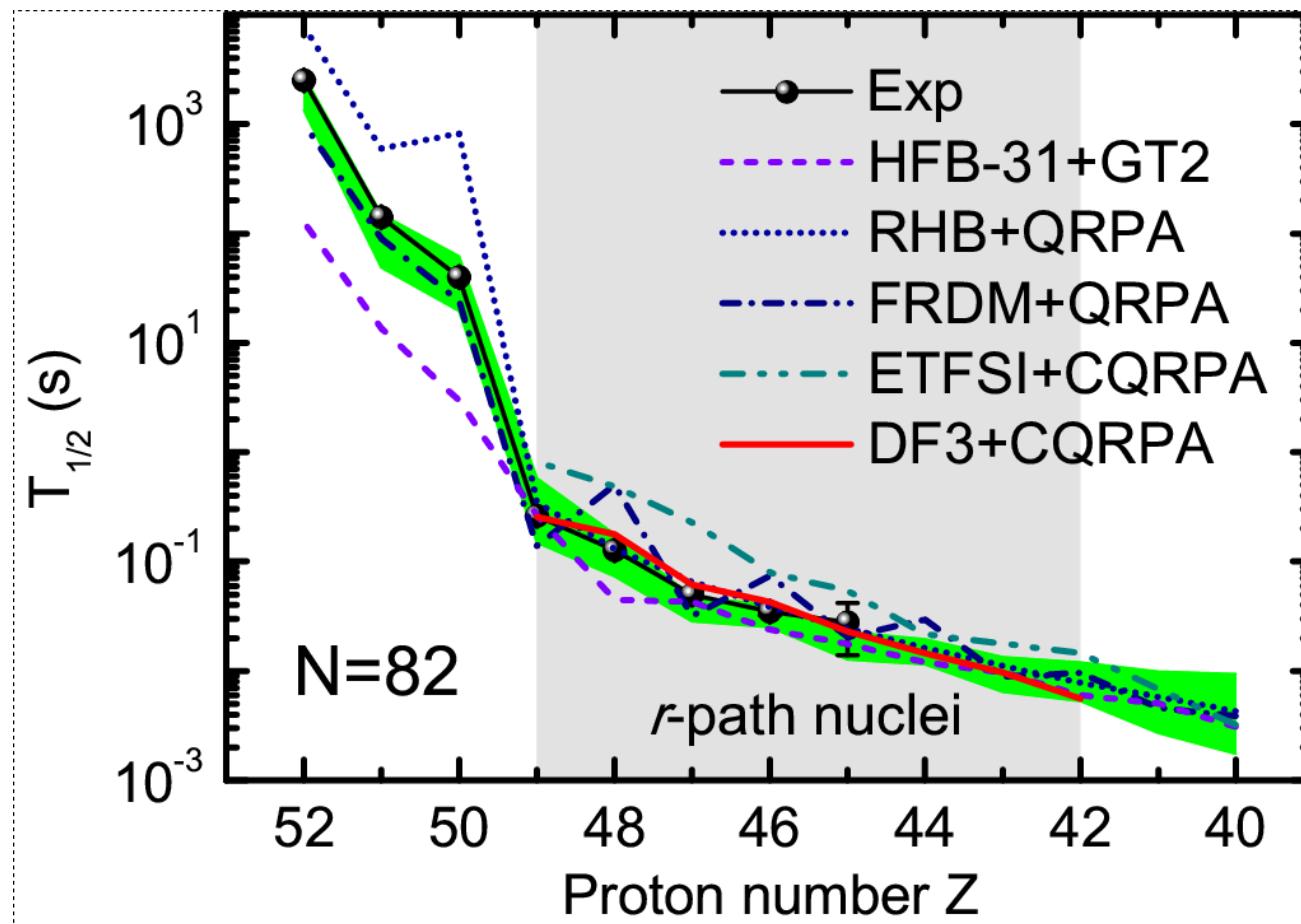
Half-lives with BNN approaches



- $T_{1/2} = a/f(Q_\beta, Z, N)$ generally overestimates the odd-even staggering in half-lives.
- BNN-I2 approach cannot easily remove odd-even staggering in half-lives, while BNN-I4 approach well reproduce the experimental data.

Z. M. Niu et al., PRC 99, 064307 (2019)

Predictions of nuclear half-lives



- The results of WS4+BNN-I4 approach are in good agreement with the experimental data, even completely agree with the experimental data within uncertainties for short-lived nuclei.
- When extrapolate from known region, the results of other models generally agree with WS4+BNN-I4 predictions within uncertainties.

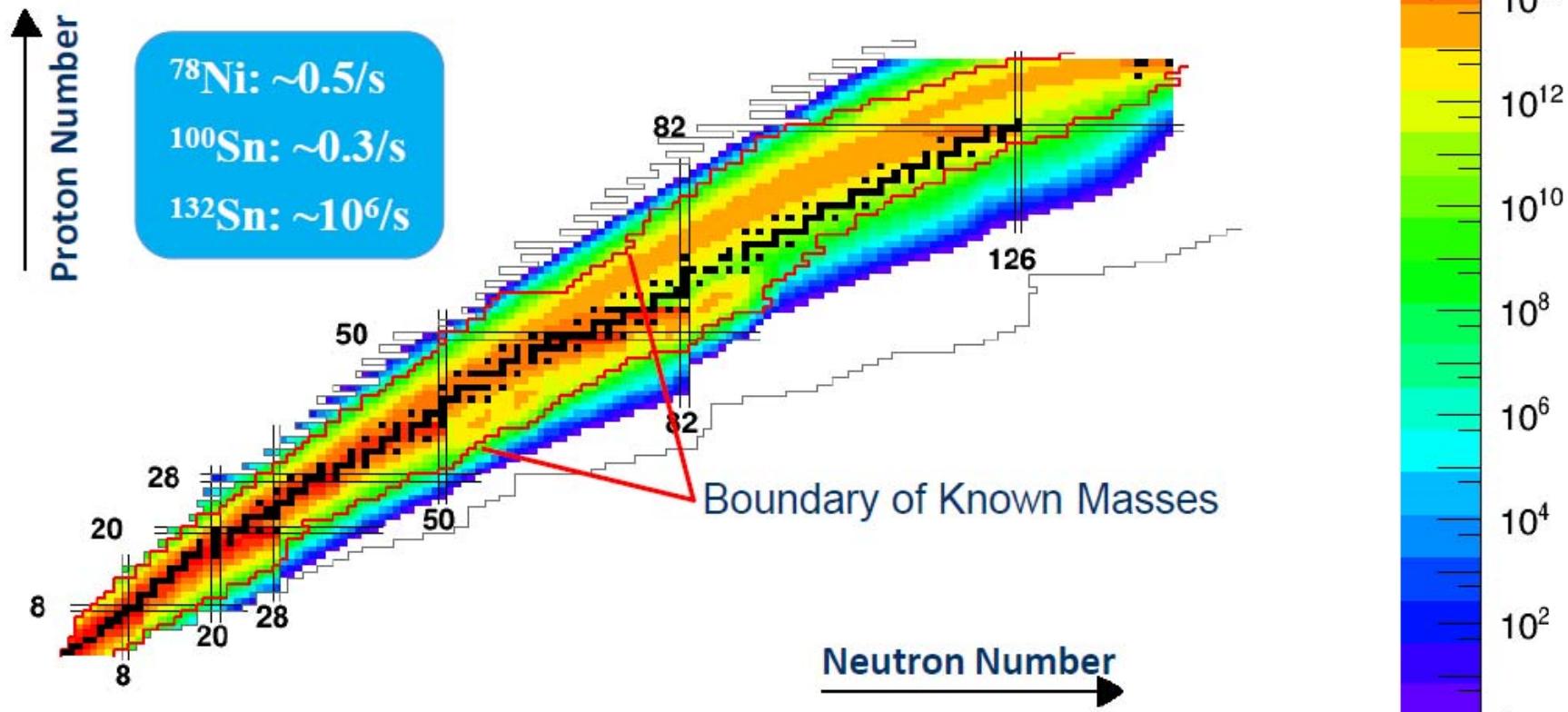
Z. M. Niu et al., PRC 99, 064307 (2019)



Capability of Producing Nuclides

Nuclides Available (Production Yield) at HIAF

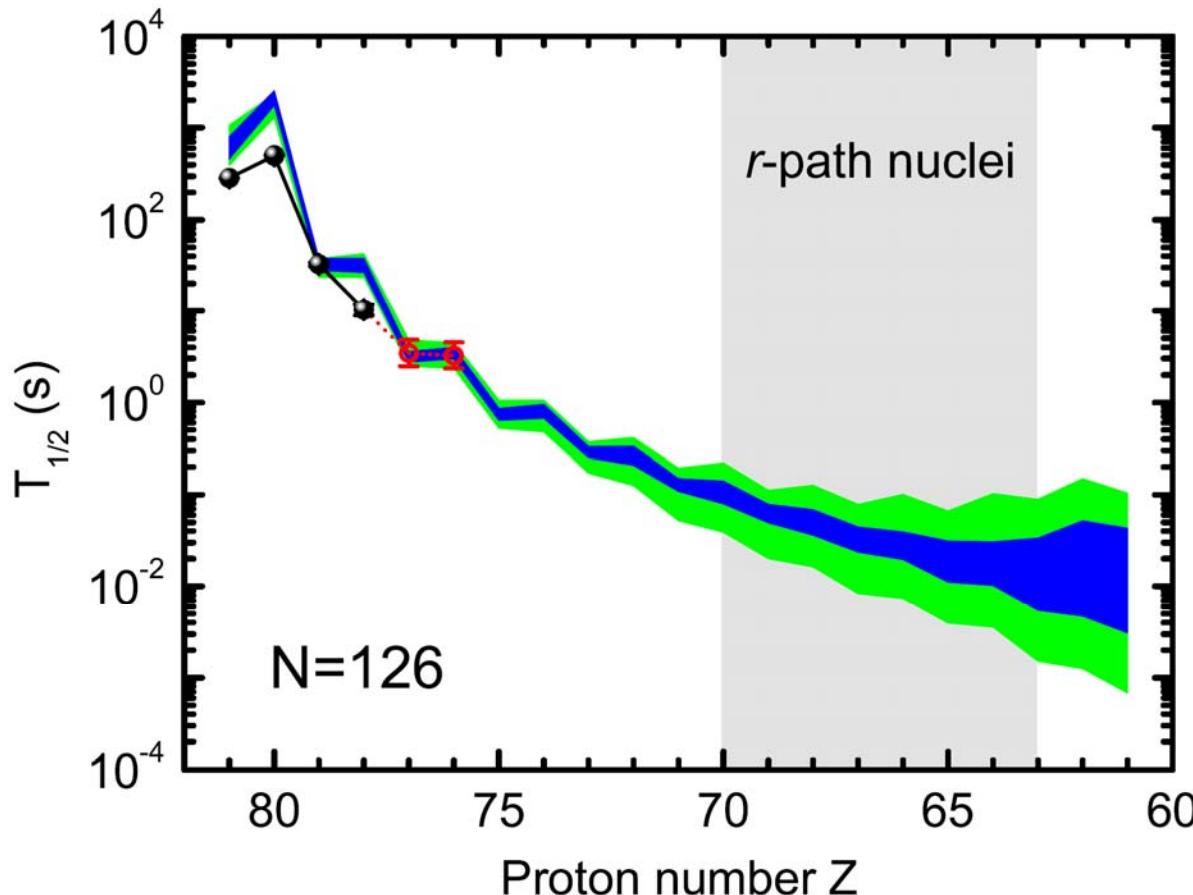
One of the world's most powerful facilities to explore the nuclear chart



From Xiaohong Zhou's slide

Prolific sources of nuclides far away from the stability line will be provided using projectile fragmentation, in-flight fission, multi-nucleon transfer, and fusion reactions. The limits shown are the production rate of one nuclide per day, which enable the “discovery experiments”

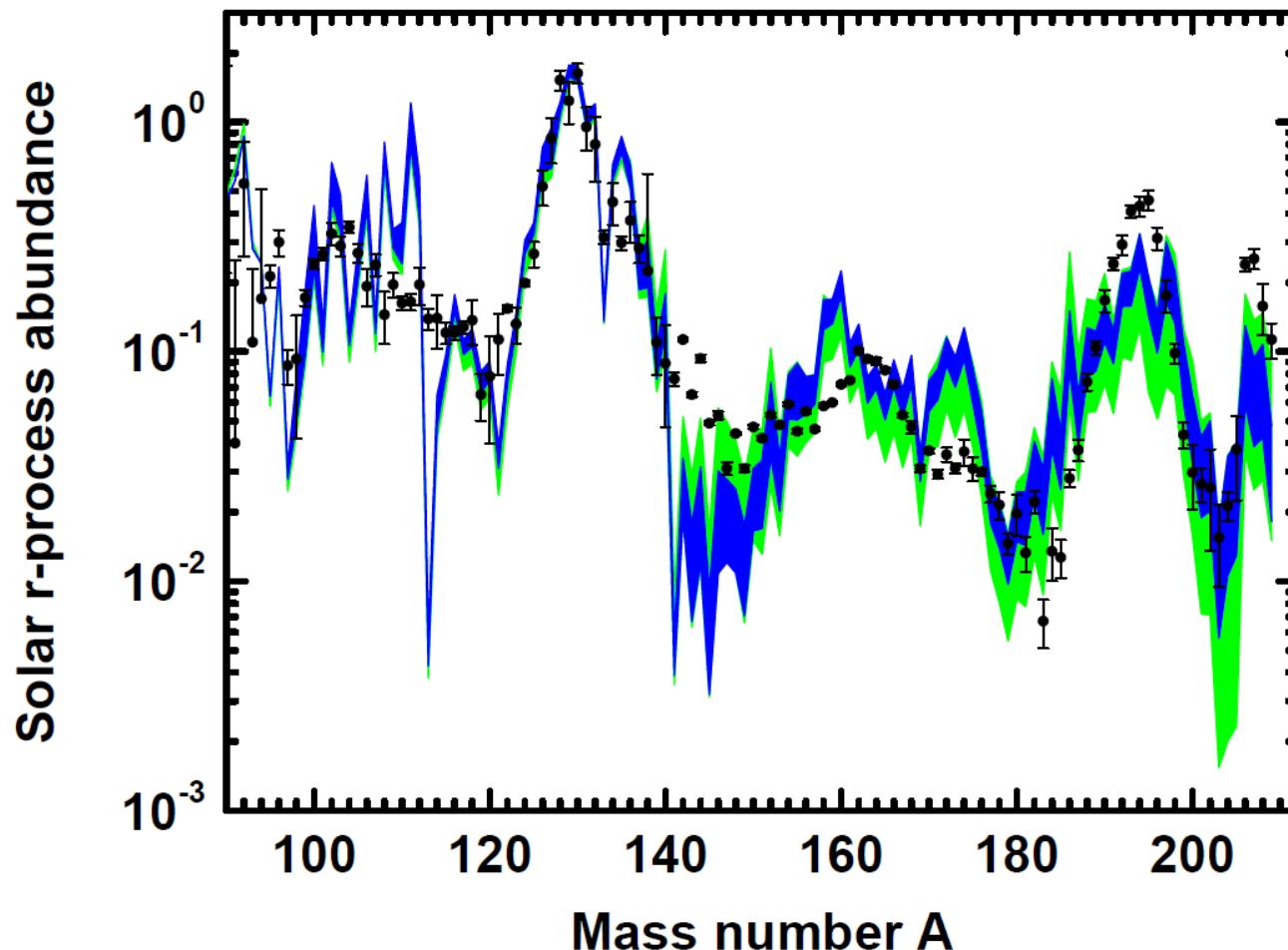
Predictions of nuclear half-lives



- If we can further measure three more β -decay half-lives for each isotopes
 - ✓ uncertainties of BNN predictions are similar in the training region
 - ✓ they will be decreased about 3 times when extrapolate to the region far from known region.

Z. M. Niu et al., PRC 99, 064307 (2019)

Predictions of r-process abundances



- Uncertainties from β -decay half-lives lead to large uncertainties for the *r*-process abundances of elements with $A > \sim 140$, which can be remarkably reduced if we can further measure three more β -decay half-lives.

Z. M. Niu et al., PRC 99, 064307 (2019)

Outline

① Introduction

② Bayesian neural network approach

③ Results and discussion

- ★ Toy model

- ★ Nuclear masses

- ★ Nuclear beta-decay half-lives

④ Summary and perspectives

Summary

- BNN approach was employed to predict nuclear masses and nuclear β -decay half-lives:
 - ★ BNN approach significantly improve the accuracies of nuclear mass and β -decay half-life predictions.
 - ★ It is found that the inclusion of more physical features (masses: δ and P ; half-lives: δ and Q_β) is very important to achieve better predictive performance.

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Thank you!