

# Application of Neural Networks to Conformal Field Theory

Joydeep Naskar, Aditya Kumar

NISER, Bhubaneswar

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# What is a CFT?

The conformal group is the set of transformations of spacetime that preserve angles (but not necessarily distances). A conformal field theory is a quantum(classical) field theory that is invariant under the conformal group.

$$x'^{\mu} = x^{\mu} + a^{\mu} \quad (\text{Translation})$$

$$x'^{\mu} = \alpha x^{\mu} \quad (\text{Dilation})$$

$$x'^{\mu} = M^{\mu}_{\nu} x^{\nu} \quad (\text{Rotation})$$

$$x'^{\mu} = \frac{x^{\mu} - b^{\mu} x^2}{1 - 2b \cdot x + b^2 x^2} \quad (\text{SCT})$$

# Why CFTs are important?

- Some of the most important equations in physics are conformally invariant. E.g, Maxwell's equation of free EM fields in  $(3+1)D$ .
- Useful for study of RG flows, phase transitions and critical phenomena of statistical mechanical systems such as Ising Model.
- High energy phenomenological motivations.
- AdS/CFT correspondence (gauge-gravity duality).
- String theory- If string theory is correct, then in some sense conformal invariance is one of the most fundamental features of reality.

# Outline of this Work

- **Warm Up: Discrete Symmetries**

- Odd-Even Classification
- Point Cloud Symmetry Classification

- **CFT Classification Problems**

- Scale vs Conformal Invariance
- Scale vs Conformal Invariance using only Correlators
- Scale vs Conformal Invariance in Embedding Space
- Scale vs Conformal Invariance using only Correlators in Embedding Space
- Scale vs Conformal Invariance for spinning 3-pt function
- Scale vs Conformal Invariance for spinning 3-pt function using only correlators

- **CFT Regression Problem:** Predicting the OPE Coefficient

*We give a proof of concept.*

# Warm Up: Odd-Even & Point Cloud Symmetry

- **Odd-Even Symmetry:**

Given  $f(x)$ . Let  $x \longrightarrow -x$ . Define

$$f(-x) = -f(x) \quad \textit{odd}$$

$$f(-x) = f(x) \quad \textit{even}$$

- **Point Cloud Symmetry:**

Define

$$(x, y, z) \longrightarrow (x, y, -z) \quad \textit{reflection}$$

$$(x, y, z) \longrightarrow (-x, -y, -z) \quad \textit{antipodal}$$

$$(x_1, y_1, z_1) \longrightarrow (x_2, y_2, z_2) \quad \textit{null}$$

# Contd.: Odd-Even & Point Cloud Symmetry

## Generating training data

1. Start with random numbers
2. Do mathematical operations to give them an appropriate form
3. Add the labels
4. Arrange them in handy order
5. Save the data as a file from which can be totally recovered



Kids park

## Odd Even Classifier

Point Cloud	X	Y
Even Function	$(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}), -\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}))$	(1, 0)
Odd Function	$(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}), -\mathbf{x}, -\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}))$	(0, 1)

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
=====		
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 20)	4020
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 10)	210
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 10)	0
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 2)	22
=====		
Total params: 4,252		
Trainable params: 4,252		
Non-trainable params: 0		

Relu

Relu

Softmax

SGD

Binary  
Cross entropy

# Contd.: Odd-Even & Point Cloud Symmetry

## 3D symmetries

Point Cloud Symmetry	X	Y
Plane Reflection	$(x, y, z) \cup (x, y, -z)$	$(1, 0, 0)$
Antipodal Reflection	$(x, y, z) \cup (-x, -y, -z)$	$(0, 1, 0)$
Null	$(x_1, y_1, z_1) \cup (x_2, y_2, z_2)$	$(0, 0, 1)$

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 50)	7550
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 20)	1020
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 20)	0
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 3)	63

Total params: 8,633  
Trainable params: 8,633  
Non-trainable params: 0

Relu

Relu

Softmax

SGD

Categorical cross  
entropy



# Contd.: Learning curves

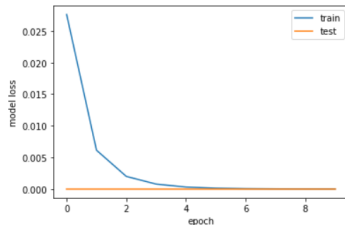
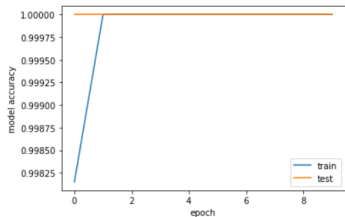
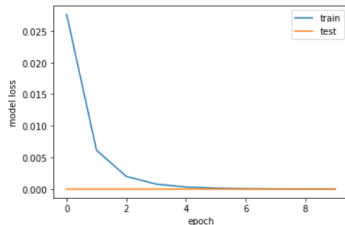
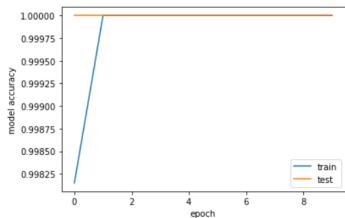


Figure: Learning curves for Point cloud symmetries(Top) and Odd Even(Bottom)

## Scale vs Conformal Invariance: 2-point functions

- A 2-point function is in general a function of two space-time points

$$f(x_1, x_2)$$

- In a D-dimensional quantum field theory with Poincare symmetry containing **scalar** operators  $\mathcal{O}_1, \mathcal{O}_2, \mathcal{O}_3$  with scaling dimensions  $\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3$  respectively,  
Scale invariant 2-point function is constrained to be:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_i}(x_1) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_j}(x_2) \rangle = \frac{c_{ij}}{|x_1 - x_2|^{\Delta_i + \Delta_j}}$$

- Conformal invariant 2-point function is further constrained to

$$c_{ij} = c \delta_{ij}$$

$$\Delta_i = \Delta_j$$

We can set  $c = 1$ .

# Scale vs Conformal Invariance: 3-point functions

- **3-pt functions put more prominent restrictions.**
- Only scale invariant 3-pt function has the form:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_1}(x_1) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_2}(x_2) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_3}(x_3) \rangle = \sum_{\{a,b,c\}} \frac{C_{abc}}{|x_1 - x_2|^a |x_2 - x_3|^b |x_3 - x_1|^c}$$

with the constraint

$$a + b + c = \Delta_1 + \Delta_2 + \Delta_3$$

- Conformal invariant 3-pt function is further constrained to:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_1}(x_1) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_2}(x_2) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_3}(x_3) \rangle = \frac{\lambda_{123}}{|x_1 - x_2|^{\alpha_{123}} |x_2 - x_3|^{\alpha_{231}} |x_3 - x_1|^{\alpha_{312}}}$$

with

$$\alpha_{ijk} = \Delta_i + \Delta_j - \Delta_k$$

# SI vs CI: Setting up the Machine Learning Problem

## Scale Vs Conformal Invariance

Symmetry	X	Y
Scale Invariance	$\left( \mathbf{x}_{12}, \mathbf{x}_{23}, \mathbf{x}_{31}, \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3, f_{scale}^{(3)} \right)_{(100)}$	(1, 0)
Conformal Invariance	$\left( \mathbf{x}_{12}, \mathbf{x}_{23}, \mathbf{x}_{31}, \Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3, f_{cft}^{(3)} \right)_{(100)}$	(0, 1)

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
dense_4 (Dense)	(None, 50)	350050
dense_5 (Dense)	(None, 20)	1020
dropout_2 (Dropout)	(None, 20)	0
dense_6 (Dense)	(None, 2)	42

Total params: 351,112  
Trainable params: 351,112  
Non-trainable params: 0

Relu

Sigmoid

Softmax

SGD

Binary  
Cross entropy

# SI vs CI: Setting up the Machine Learning Problem

## Scale Vs Conformal Invariance with Correlator

Symmetry	X	Y
Scale Invariance	$\left(x_{12}, x_{23}, x_{31}, f_{\Delta_1}^{(2)}, f_{\Delta_2}^{(2)}, f_{\Delta_3}^{(2)}, f_{\text{scale}}^{(3)}\right)_{(100)}$	$(1, 0)$
Conformal Invariance	$\left(x_{12}, x_{23}, x_{31}, f_{\Delta_1}^{(2)}, f_{\Delta_2}^{(2)}, f_{\Delta_3}^{(2)}, f_{\text{conformal}}^{(3)}\right)_{(100)}$	$(0, 1)$

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 40)	280040
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 10)	410
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 10)	0
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 2)	22
Total params: 280,472		
Trainable params: 280,472		
Non-trainable params: 0		

Sigmoid

Sigmoid

Sigmoid

SGD

Binary  
Cross entropy

# SI vs CI: Results

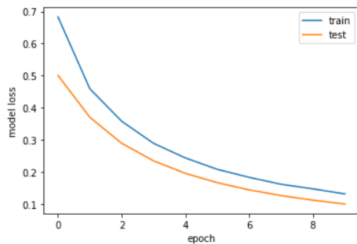
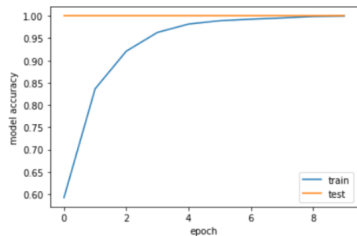
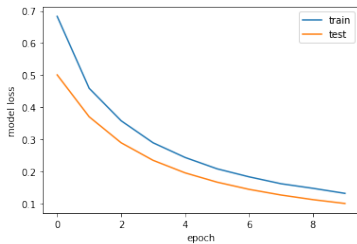
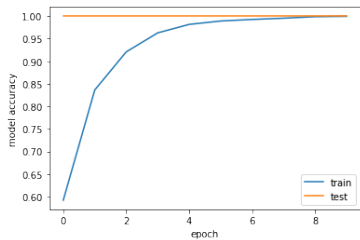


Figure: Learning curves for Scalar vs Conformal invariance(Top) and Scalar vs Conformal invariance with correlator(Bottom)

# Embedding Space

- The conformal group in  $D$  dimensions is isomorphic to  $SO(D+1,1)$ .

Conformal invariants in  $D$  dim  $\leftrightarrow$  Lorentz invariants in  $(D+1,1)$  dim

- Coordinates in  $(D+1,1)$  space are related to  $D$  space coordinates

$$X^M \equiv (X^+, X^-, X^\mu) = (1, x^2, x^\mu)$$

- **2-pt function** in  $(D+1,1)$  space:

$$\langle \Phi(X)\Phi(Y) \rangle \propto \frac{1}{(X \cdot Y)^\Delta}$$

- **3-pt function**:

$$\langle \Phi_1(X_1)\Phi_2(X_2)\Phi_3(X_3) \rangle \propto \frac{1}{(X_1 \cdot X_2)^{\alpha_{123}}(X_2 \cdot X_3)^{\alpha_{231}}(X_3 \cdot X_1)^{\alpha_{312}}}$$

# SI vs CI: Framing the problem in Embedding Space

## Scale vs Conformal Invariance in Embedded Coordinates

Symmetry	X							Y
Scale Inv.	$X_1.X_2$	$X_2.X_3$	$X_3.X_1$	$\Delta_1$	$\Delta_2$	$\Delta_3$	$f_{scale}^{(3)}$	(1,0)
Conformal Inv.	$X_1.X_2$	$X_2.X_3$	$X_3.X_1$	$\Delta_1$	$\Delta_2$	$\Delta_3$	$f_{cft}^{(3)}$	(0,1)

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
=====		
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 50)	350050
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 20)	1020
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 20)	0
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 2)	42
=====		
Total params: 351,112		
Trainable params: 351,112		
Non-trainable params: 0		

Sigmoid

Sigmoid

Sigmoid

Adam

Binary  
Cross entropy



# SI vs CI: Framing the problem in Embedding Space

## Scale vs Conformal Invariance with correlator in Embedded Coordinates

Symmetry	X							Y
Scale Inv.	$X_1.X_2$	$X_2.X_3$	$X_3.X_1$	$f_{\Delta_1}^{(2)}$	$f_{\Delta_2}^{(2)}$	$f_{\Delta_3}^{(2)}$	$f_{scale}^{(3)}$	(1,0)
Conformal Inv.	$X_1.X_2$	$X_2.X_3$	$X_3.X_1$	$f_{\Delta_1}^{(2)}$	$f_{\Delta_2}^{(2)}$	$f_{\Delta_3}^{(2)}$	$f_{cft}^{(3)}$	(0,1)

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
=====		
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 50)	350050
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 20)	1020
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 20)	0
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 2)	42
=====		
Total params: 351,112		
Trainable params: 351,112		
Non-trainable params: 0		

Sigmoid

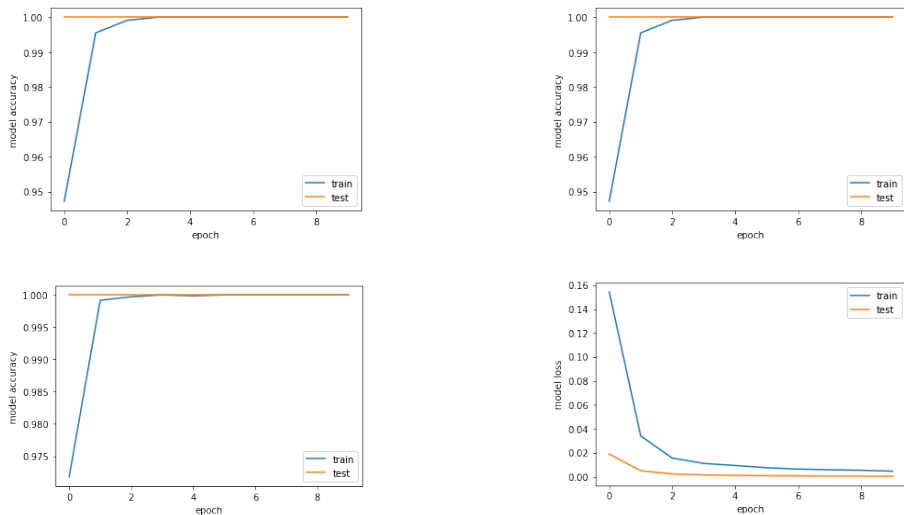
Sigmoid

Sigmoid

Adam

Binary  
Cross entropy

# New Results! SI vs CI: Classification in Embedding Space



**Figure:** Learning curves for Scalar vs Conformal invariance(Top) and Scalar vs Conformal invariance with correlator(Bottom) in embedded space.

## Open problem: What about fields with spin?

- All our discussion so far was limited to scalar operators.
- **Spinning 2-point Function:**  
Scale Invariant Spin( $l=1$ )-Spin( $l=1$ )

$$\langle \phi_{\Delta_1\mu}(x)\phi_{\Delta_2\nu}(y) \rangle = \frac{I_{\mu\nu}(x-y)}{(x-y)^{\Delta_1+\Delta_2}}$$

where

$$I_{\mu\nu}(x-y) = \delta_{\mu\nu} + \beta \frac{(x-y)_\mu(x-y)_\nu}{(x-y)^2}$$

Demanding conformal invariance, we have  $\beta = -2$  &  $\Delta_1 = \Delta_2$ .

- **Spinning 3-point Function:**  
Conformal invariant scalar-scalar-spin( $l=1$ ) 3-pt function

$$\langle \phi_{\Delta_1}(x_1)\phi_{\Delta_2}(x_2)\phi_{\Delta_3\mu}(x_3) \rangle \propto \frac{R_\mu(x,y|z)}{|x_1-x_2|^{\alpha_{123}}|x_2-x_3|^{\alpha_{231}}|x_3-x_1|^{\alpha_{312}}}$$

where

$$R_\mu(x,y|z) = \frac{|y-z||x-z|}{|x-y|} \left( \frac{(x-z)_\mu}{|x-z|^2} - \frac{(y-z)_\mu}{|y-z|^2} \right)$$

# SI vs CI: Setting up the problem for spinning correlators

## Scale Vs Conformal Invariance in system with spin 1

Symmetry	X							Y
Scale Inv.	$x_{12}$	$x_{23}$	$x_{31}$	$\Delta_1$	$\Delta_2$	$\Delta_3$	$f_{scale}^{(3)} \mu=1,\dots,N$	(1,0)
Conformal Inv.	$x_{12}$	$x_{23}$	$x_{31}$	$\Delta_1$	$\Delta_2$	$\Delta_3$	$f_{cft}^{(3)} \mu=1,\dots,N$	(0,1)

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
=====		
Input (Dense)	(None, 80)	8080
Relu (Dense)	(None, 40)	3240
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 4)	164
=====		
Total params: 11,484		
Trainable params: 11,484		
Non-trainable params: 0		

relu

Sigmoid

Softmax

Adam

Binary  
Cross entropy

# SI vs CI: Setting up the problem for spinning correlators

## Scale Vs Conformal Invariance with correlator in systems with spin 1

Sym	X							Y
SI	$x_{12}$	$x_{23}$	$x_{31}$	$f_{\Delta_1}^{(2)}$	$f_{\Delta_2}^{(2)}$	$f_{\Delta_3}^{(2)} \mu, \nu=1, \dots, N$	$f_{scale}^{(3)} \mu=1, \dots, N$	(1,0)
CI	$x_{12}$	$x_{23}$	$x_{31}$	$f_{\Delta_1}^{(2)}$	$f_{\Delta_2}^{(2)}$	$f_{\Delta_3}^{(2)} \mu, \nu=1, \dots, N$	$f_{cft}^{(3)} \mu=1, \dots, N$	(0,1)

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 60)	960060
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 30)	1830
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 30)	0
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 2)	62

Total params: 961,952  
Trainable params: 961,952  
Non-trainable params: 0

Relu

Sigmoid

Softmax

Adam

Binary  
Cross entropy

# New Results! SI vs CI: Scalar-Scalar-Spin 1

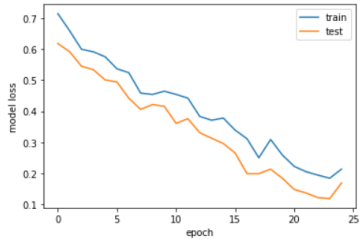
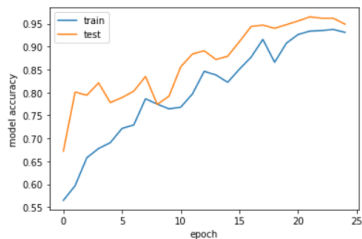
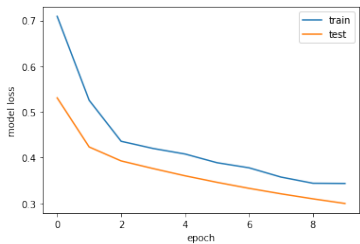
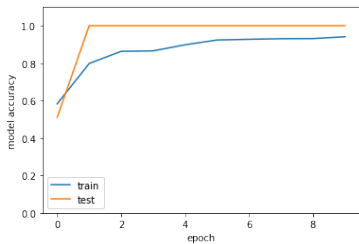


Figure: Learning curves for Scalar vs Conformal invariance(Top) and Scalar vs Conformal invariance with correlator(Bottom) in systems with spin 1.

# Conformal Blocks

- 4-pt function of 4 equal dimension scalars can be written as

$$\langle \phi(x_1)\phi(x_2)\phi(x_3)\phi(x_4) \rangle = \frac{g(u, v)}{|x_1 - x_2|^{2\Delta_\phi} |x_3 - x_4|^{2\Delta_\phi}}$$

where

$$u = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}; \quad v = \frac{x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}$$

- $g(u, v)$  can be written as

$$g(u, v) = 1 + \sum_{\mathcal{O}(l, \Delta)} \lambda_{\mathcal{O}}^2 G_{\mathcal{O}}(u, v)$$

where  $G_{\mathcal{O}} \equiv G_{\Delta}^{(l)}$  It is called the conformal block expansion.

# 1D Conformal Block as Toy Model

- Consider a 1D scalar conformal block expansion

$$f(z) = \sum_{\{h\}} c_h z^h {}_2F_1(h, h; 2h; z)$$

- For our analysis
  - Assume: Scalar operators with  $h \in \mathbb{Z}$ . [Not so physical].
  - Truncate at  $n=5$ .

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^5 c_n z^n {}_2F_1(n, n; 2n; z)$$



# OPE Coefficient: Setting up the Regression problem

## OPE Coefficient (Regression problem)

OPE Coefficients	X	Y
$c_n \in (0,1) \forall n \leq 5$	$\{f(x_i)\}$	$\{c_2 z^2 {}_2F_1(2,2,4;z) \mid z \in \{-0.8, -0.4, 0.4, 0.8\}, \}$

$$\{f(x_i) \mid x_i = -0.8 + i \frac{1.6}{N}, i \in [0, N-1]\} \quad N=100$$

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
Input (Dense)	(None, 80)	8080
Relu (Dense)	(None, 40)	3240
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 4)	164
Total params: 11,484		
Trainable params: 11,484		
Non-trainable params: 0		

Relu

Sigmoid

Softmax

RMSprop  
(1e-6)

MSE

# OPE Coefficient: Regression Results

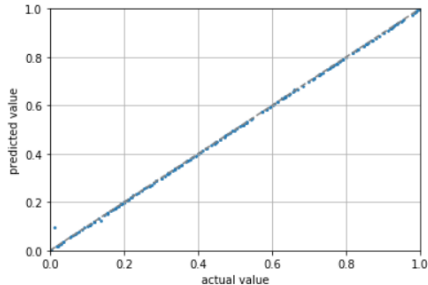
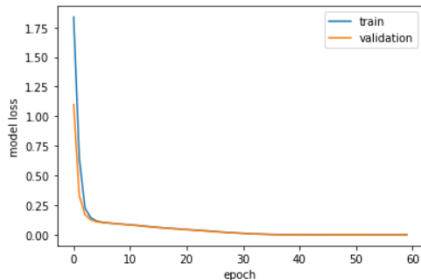


Figure: Loss plot(left) and actual vs predicted result(right) for OPE coefficient calculation.

## Future Work: Exciting Journey Ahead!

- Extend the scale-conformal invariance classification to higher spin operators and test the accuracy with increasing spin.
- Do more analysis with conformal blocks in higher space-time dimension CFTs.
- Extend the OPE coefficient prediction to spinning conformal blocks.
- Classification and regression problems in Ising model and other unitary minimal model CFTs.
- **Machine learn the CFT data.**

- ① H. Chen, Y. He, S. Lal, M.Z. Zaz, “Machine Learning Etudes in Conformal Field Theory”, arXiv:2006.16114 (2020).
- ② S. J. Wetzel, R.G. Melko, J. Scott, M. Panju, V. Ganesh, “Discovering symmetry invariants and conserved quantities by interpreting siamese neural networks”, Phys. Rev. Research 2, 033499 (2020).
- ③ Slava Rychkov, “EPFL Lectures on Conformal Field Theory in  $D \geq 3$  Dimensions”, arXiv:1601.05000 (2016).
- ④ P. Mehta, M. Bukov, C.-H. Wang, A. G. Day, C. Richardson, C. K. Fisher et al., A high-bias, low-variance introduction to machine learning for physicists, Physics Reports 810 (2019).
- ⑤ H. Osborn F.A. Dolan. Conformal four point functions and the operator product expansion. Nucl.Phys., B599:459–496 (2001)