

# (K)NOT MACHINE LEARNING



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string\_data 2020

# Collaborators



Jessica Craven



Arjun Kar



“Disentangling a Deep Learned Volume Formula”  
arXiv: 2012.03955

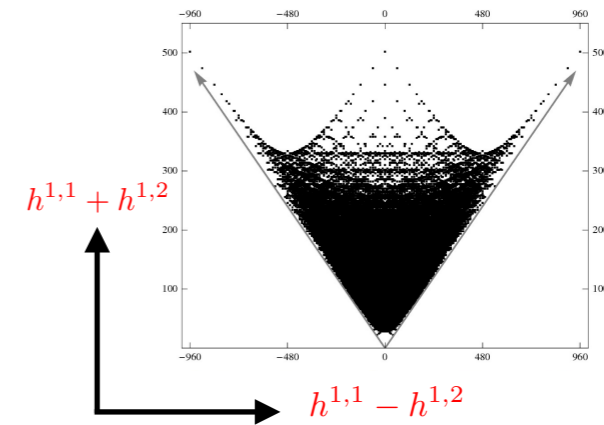


# Mathematical Phenomenology

- Note patterns then look for an explanation

- Mirror symmetry is prototype example

- Knot theory provides another case study



- Use machine learning to train a computer to calculate in **hep-th**, **math**

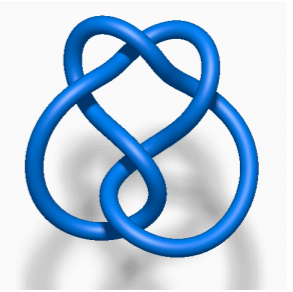
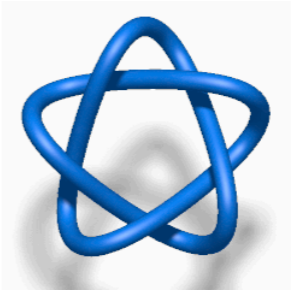
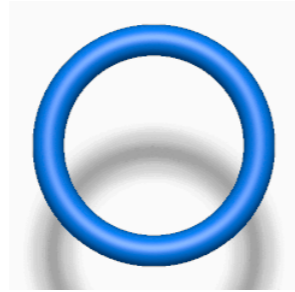
- Black box gives **probably approximately correct** answers

- So far, we have mainly used ML to identify associations

- Want to bridge this success to new analytic results and methods

# Dramatis Personae

Knot:  $S^1 \subset S^3$ ; e.g.,



unknot  
 $0_1$

trefoil  
 $3_1$

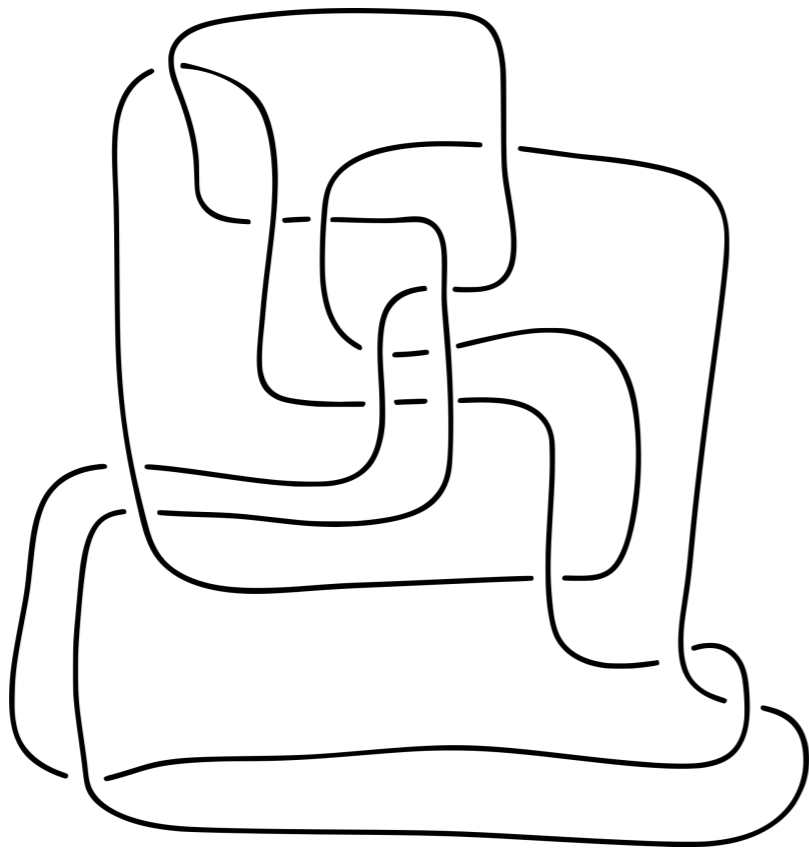
figure-eight  
 $4_1$

cinquefoil  
 $5_1$

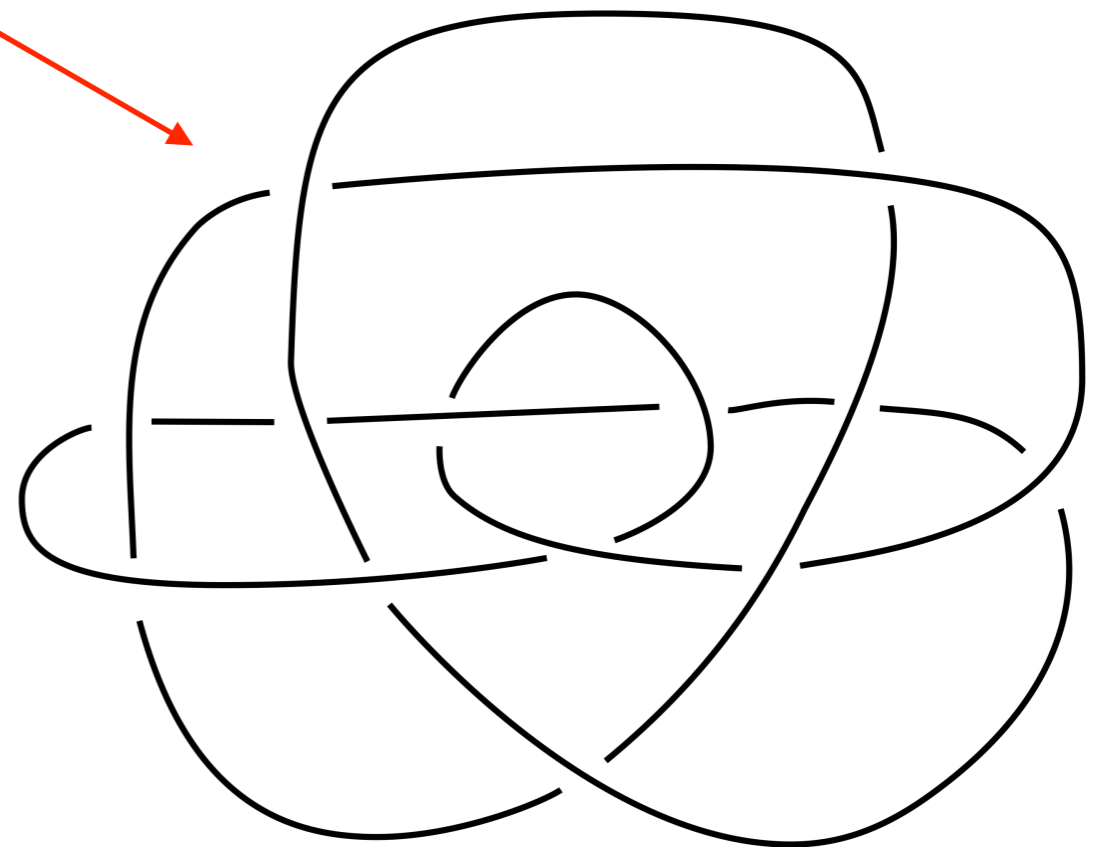
three-twist  
 $5_2$

# Dramatis Personae

Knot:  $S^1 \subset S^3$ ; e.g.,



Thistlethwaite unknot



Ochiai unknot



# Dramatis Personae

Knot:  $S^1 \subset S^3$  ; e.g.,



Jones polynomial:  $J(K; q) = (-q^{\frac{3}{4}})^{w(K)} \frac{\langle K \rangle}{\langle \bigcirc \rangle}$

$$\langle \text{crossing} \rangle = q^{\frac{1}{4}} \langle \text{overhand} \rangle + \frac{1}{q^{\frac{1}{4}}} \langle \text{underhand} \rangle$$

$w(K) = \text{overhand} - \text{underhand}$

Jones (1985)

topological invariant: independent of how the knot is drawn

Question: how to calculate these?

Answer: quantum field theory!

# Topological Invariants

- On a manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  with metric  $g_{\mu\nu}$ , a topological invariant enjoys:

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta g_{\mu\nu}} \langle \mathcal{O}_1 \dots \mathcal{O}_n \rangle = 0$$

- In Chern–Simons theory, the operators are Wilson loops

$$U_R(\gamma) = \text{tr}_R \mathcal{P} \exp \left( i \oint_{\gamma} A \right)$$

- The colored Jones polynomial is a knot invariant:

$$J_n(K; q = e^{2\pi i/(k+2)}) = \frac{\int_{\mathcal{U}} [DA] U_n(K) e^{iS_{\text{CS}}(A)}}{\int_{\mathcal{U}} [DA] U_n(0_1) e^{iS_{\text{CS}}(A)}} = \frac{\langle U_n(K) \rangle}{\langle U_n(0_1) \rangle}$$

$$S_{\text{CS}}(A) = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{tr} \left( A \wedge dA + \frac{2}{3} A \wedge A \wedge A \right), \quad Z(\mathcal{M}) = \int_{\mathcal{U}} [DA] e^{iS_{\text{CS}}(A)}$$

# Dramatis Personae

Knot:  $S^1 \subset S^3$ ; e.g.,



Jones polynomial:  $J(K; q) = (-q^{\frac{3}{4}})^{w(K)} \frac{\langle K \rangle}{\langle \bigcirc \rangle}$       $\langle \times \rangle = q^{\frac{1}{4}} \langle \frown \rangle + \frac{1}{q^{\frac{1}{4}}} \langle \smile \rangle \langle \rangle \langle \rangle$   
 $w(K) = \text{overhand} - \text{underhand}$

vev of Wilson loop operator along  $K$  in

□ for  $SU(2)$  Chern–Simons on  $S^3$

Jones (1985)  
Witten (1989)

$$J_2(4_1; q) = q^{-2} - q^{-1} + 1 - q + q^2, \quad q = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{k+2}}$$

Hyperbolic volume: volume of  $S^3 \setminus K$  is another knot invariant

computed from tetrahedral decomposition of knot complement

Thurston (1978)



# Dramatis Personae

Volume conjecture:

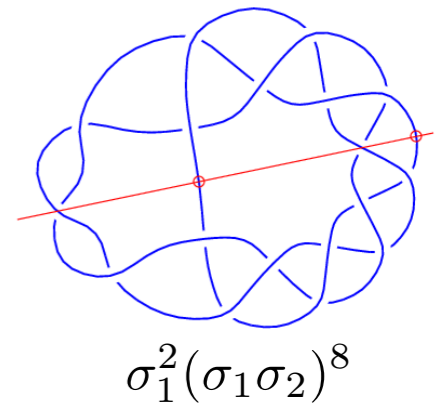
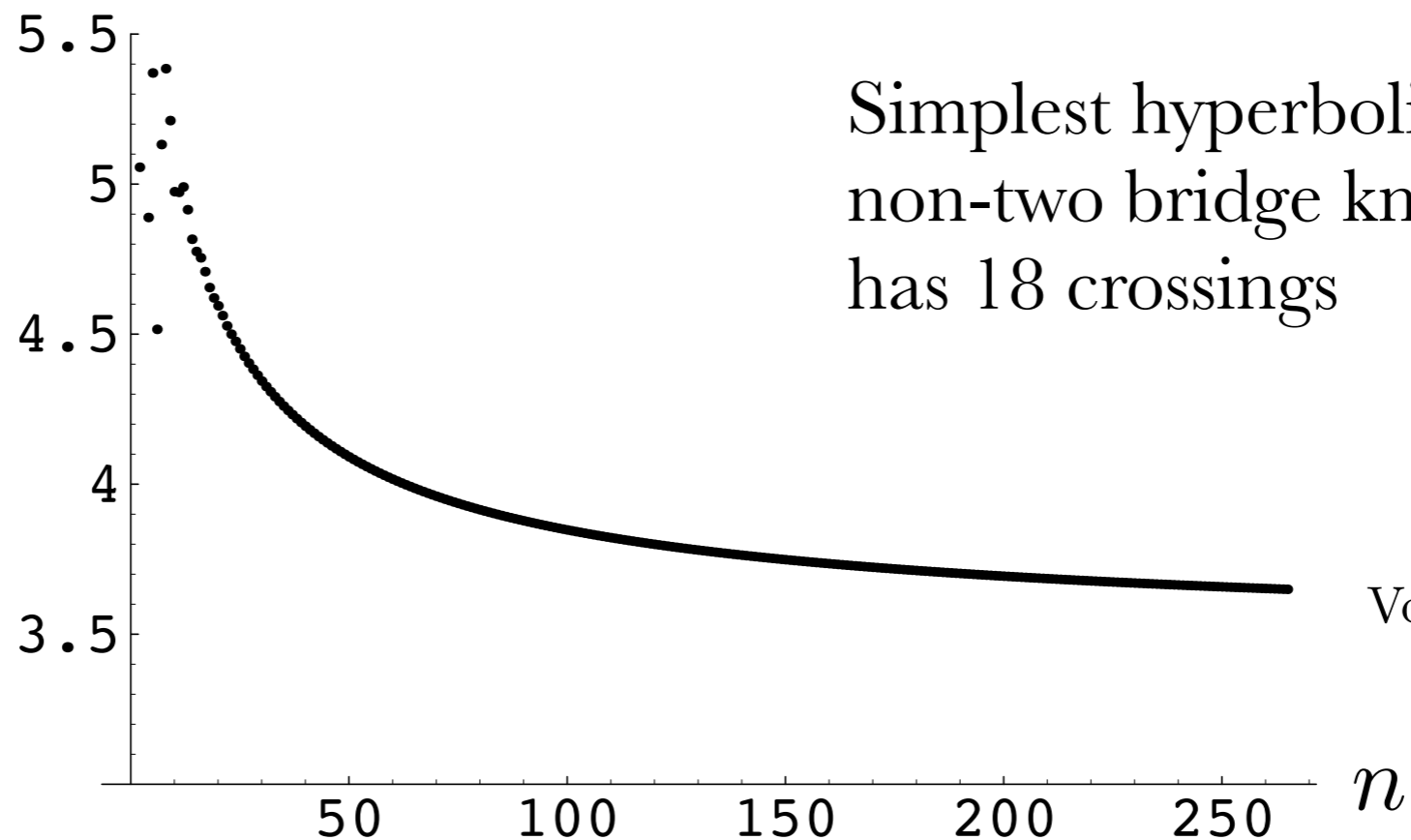
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi \log |J_n(K; \omega_n)|}{n} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K)$$

$$\omega_n = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{n}}$$

In fact, we take  $n, k \rightarrow \infty$

Kashaev (1997)  
Murakami x 2 (2001)  
Gukov (2005)

LHS



Behavior is not monotonic!

# Dramatis Personae

Volume conjecture:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi \log |J_n(K; \omega_n)|}{n} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K)$$

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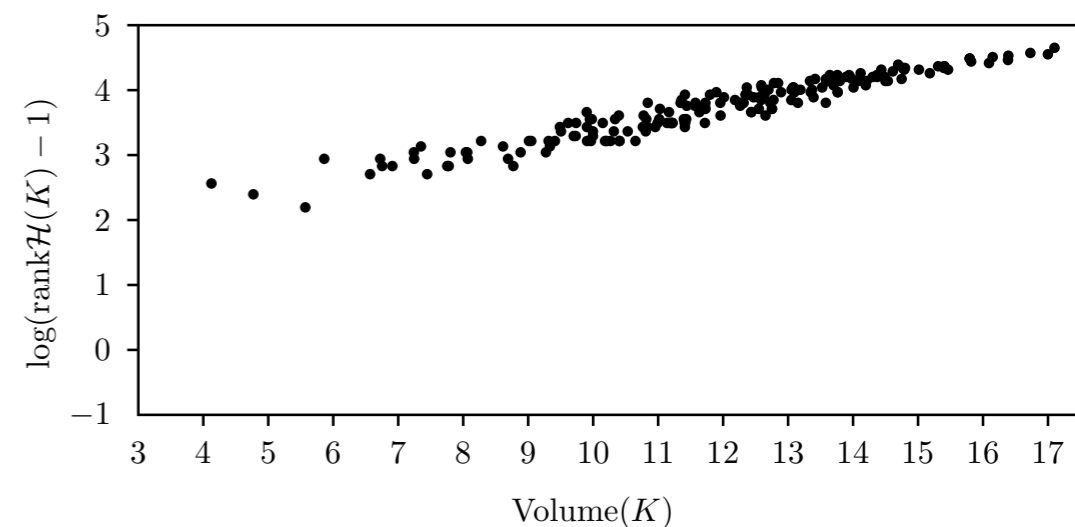
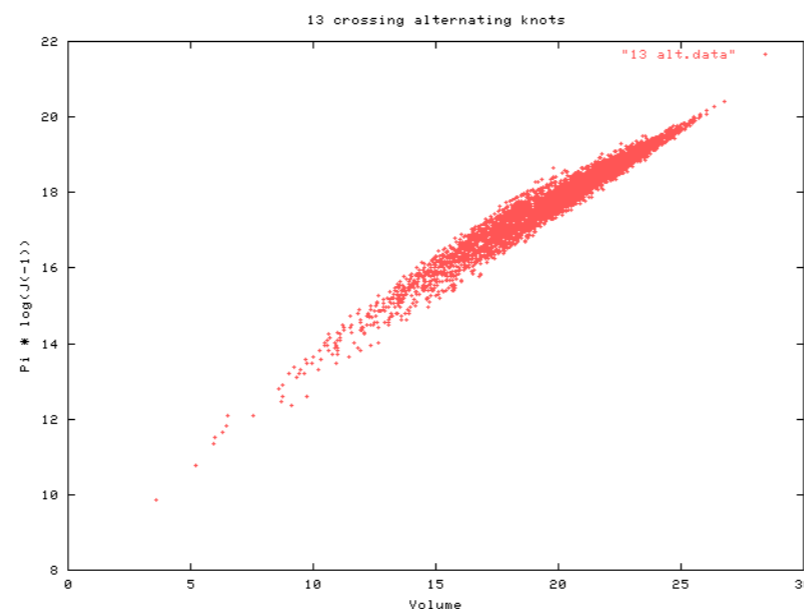
Khovanov homology:

a homology theory  $\mathcal{H}_K$  whose graded Euler characteristic is  $J_2(K; q)$ ; explains why coefficients are integers

Khovanov (2000)  
Bar-Natan (2002)

$$\log |J_2(K; -1)|, \quad \log(\text{rank}(\mathcal{H}_K) - 1) \propto \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K)$$

Dunfield (2000)  
Khovanov (2002)



# Dramatis Personae

Volume conjecture:  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi \log |J_n(K; \omega_n)|}{n} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K)$   
 $\omega_n = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{n}}$

Kashaev (1997)  
Murakami x 2 (2001)  
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Khovanov homology: a homology theory  $\mathcal{H}_K$  whose graded Euler characteristic is  $J_2(K; q)$ ; explains why coefficients are integers

Khovanov (2000)  
Bar-Natan (2002)

Volume-ish theorem:  $J_2(K; q) = a_n q^n + \dots + a_m q^m$

$$2v_0(\max(|a_{m-1}|, |a_{n+1}|) - 1) \leq \text{Vol}(K) \leq 10v_0(|a_{m-1}| + |a_{n+1}| - 1)$$

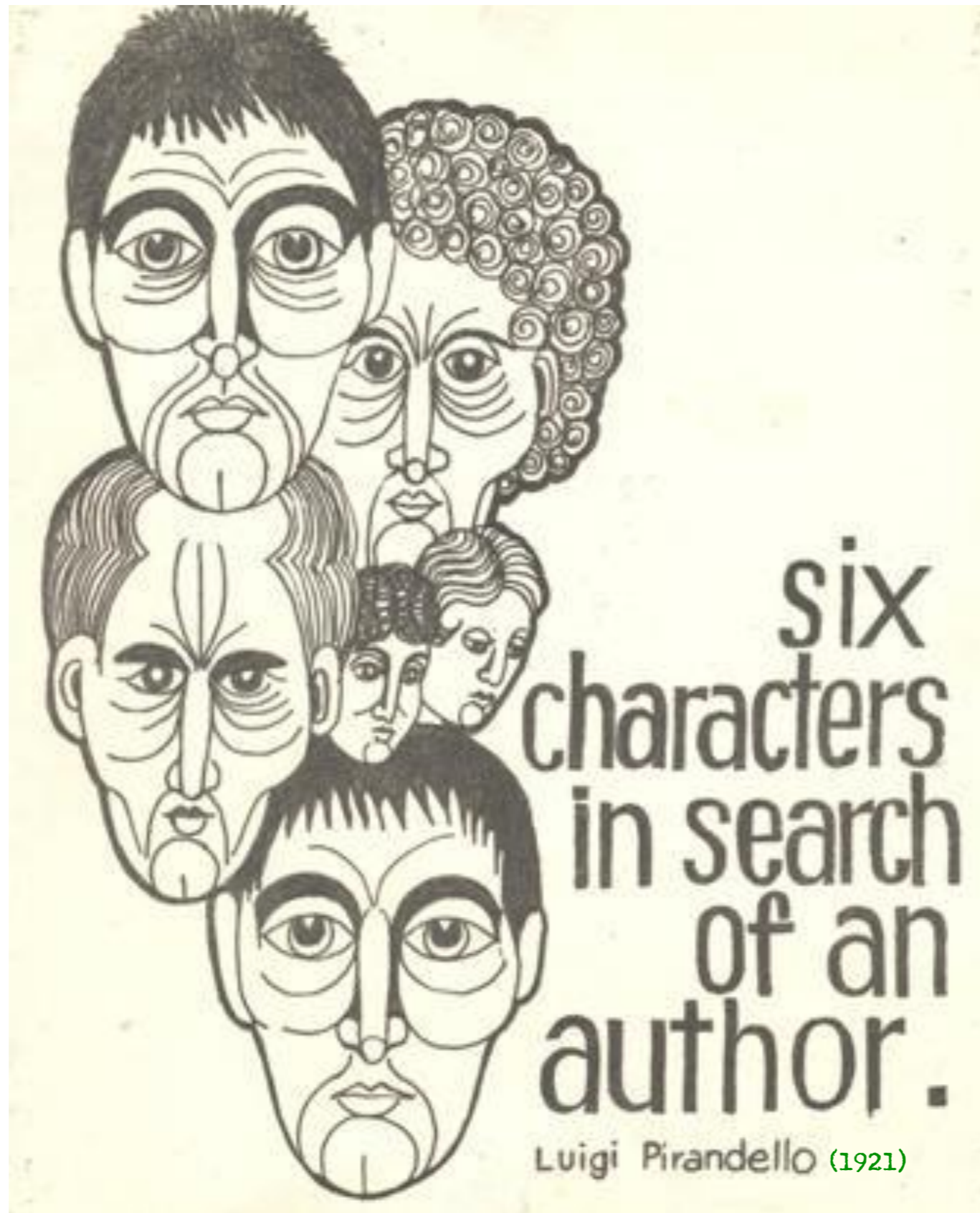
for alternating knots;  $v_0 = -\int_0^{\pi/3} dt \log(2 \sin \frac{t}{2})$ , volume of regular ideal tetrahedron

$$\approx 1.0149416$$

Dasbach, Lin (2007)

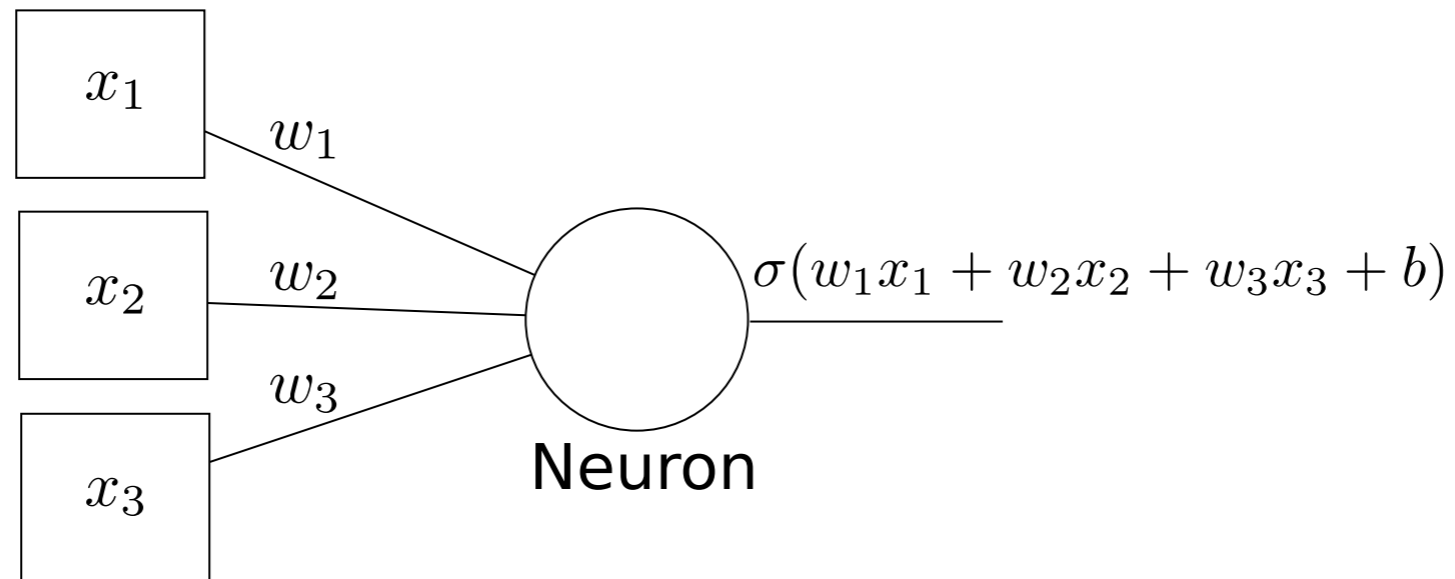


# Dramatis Personae

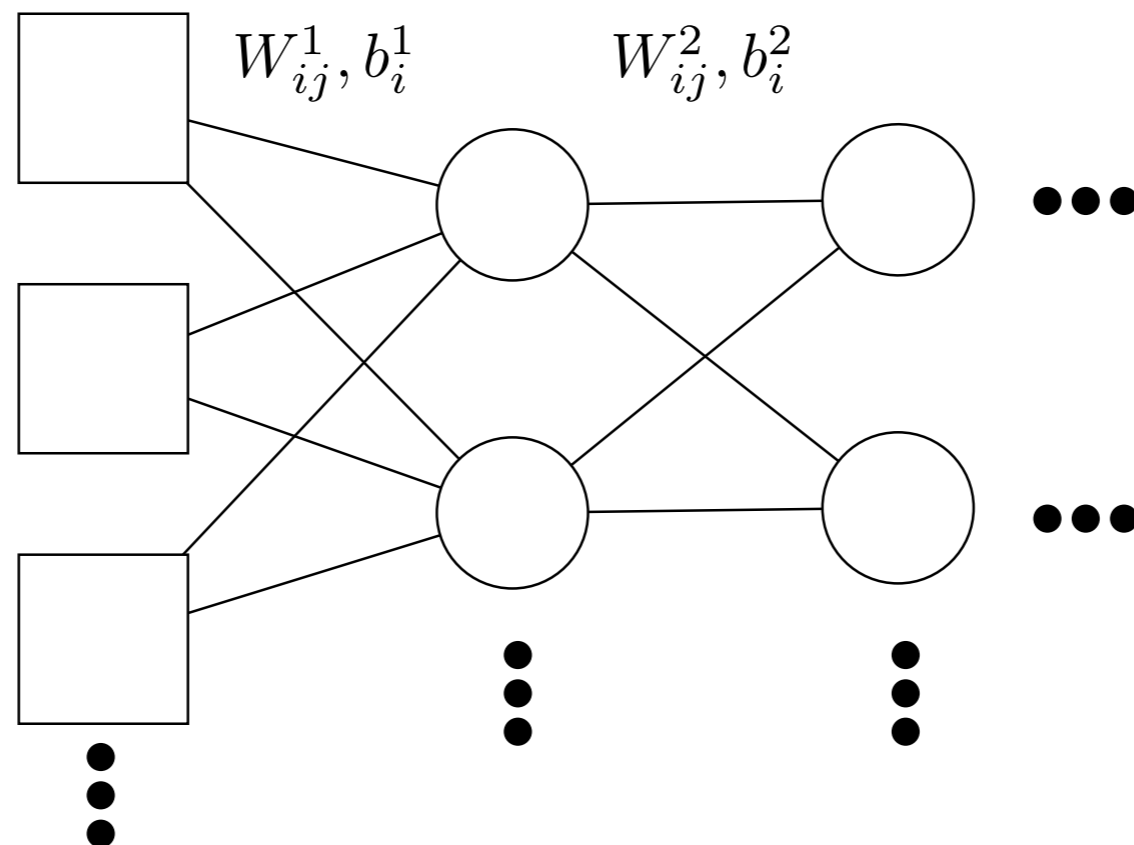


# Feedforward Neural Networks

Input vector



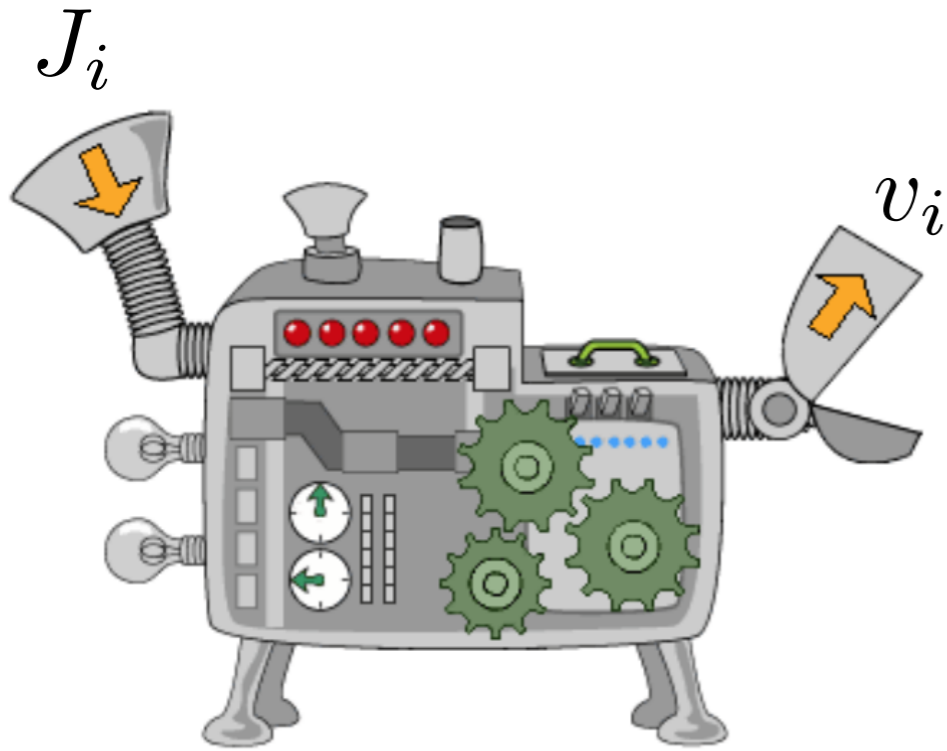
Rosenblatt (1957)



Mathematica 10+

Schematic representation of feedforward neural network. The top figure denotes the perceptron (a single neuron), the bottom, the multiple neurons and multiple layers of the neural network.

# Neural Network



$$\{J_1, \dots, J_n\} \longrightarrow \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$$

$$J_i \in T$$

$$\{J'_1, \dots, J'_m\} \longrightarrow ???$$

$$J'_i \in T^c$$

Jones polynomials are represented as 18-vectors

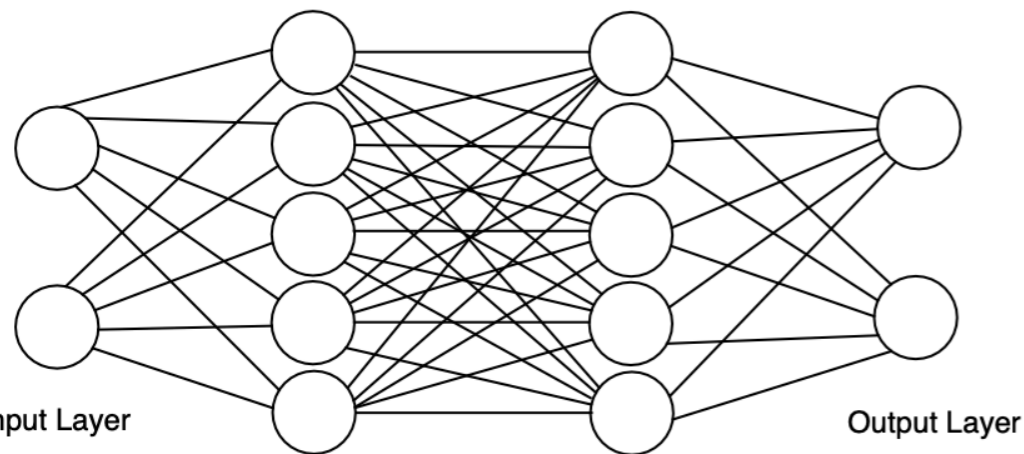
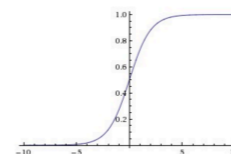
$$\vec{J}_K = (\text{min, max, coeffs}, 0, \dots, 0)$$

Two layer neural network in Mathematica

$$f_\theta(\vec{J}_K) = \sum_a \sigma \left( W_\theta^2 \cdot \sigma(W_\theta^1 \cdot \vec{J}_K + \vec{b}_\theta^1) + \vec{b}_\theta^2 \right)^a$$

Logistic sigmoids for the hidden layers

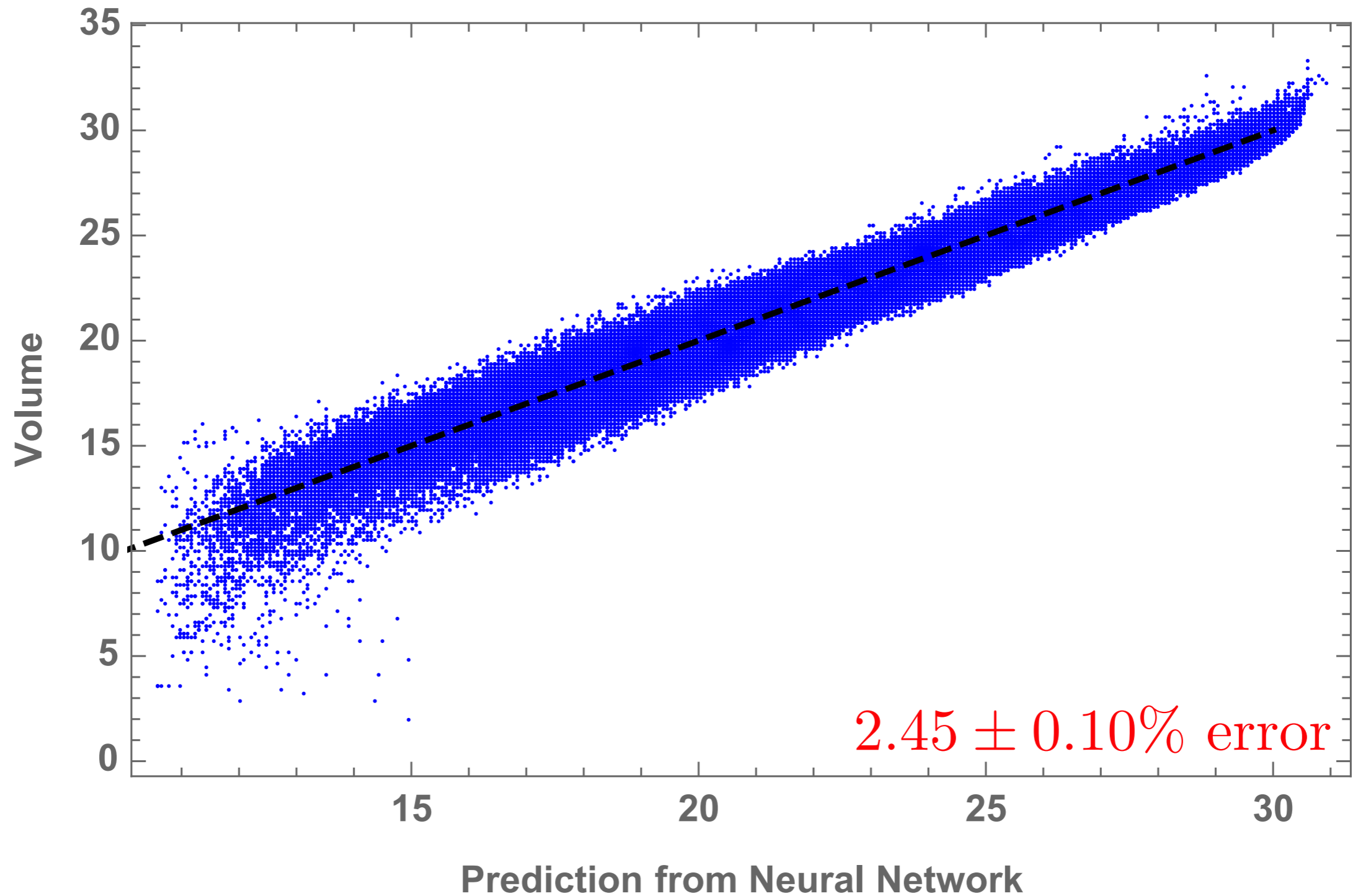
$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$



$\vec{J}$       $100 \times 18$       $100 \times 100$       $\sum_{a=1}^{100}$   
 12000 hyperparameters



# Neural Network



trained on 10% of the 313,209 knots up to 15 crossings

# Result

$$v_i = f(J_i) + \text{small corrections}$$

- $J_i$  does not uniquely identify a knot  
*e.g.*,  $4_1$  and K11n19 have same Jones polynomial, different volumes
- 174,619 unique Jones polynomials  
2.83% average spread in volumes for a Jones polynomial  
intrinsic mitigation against overfitting
- Same applies to 1,701,913 hyperbolic knots up to 16 crossings  
(database compiled from **Knot Atlas** and SnapPy)

# Entr'acte

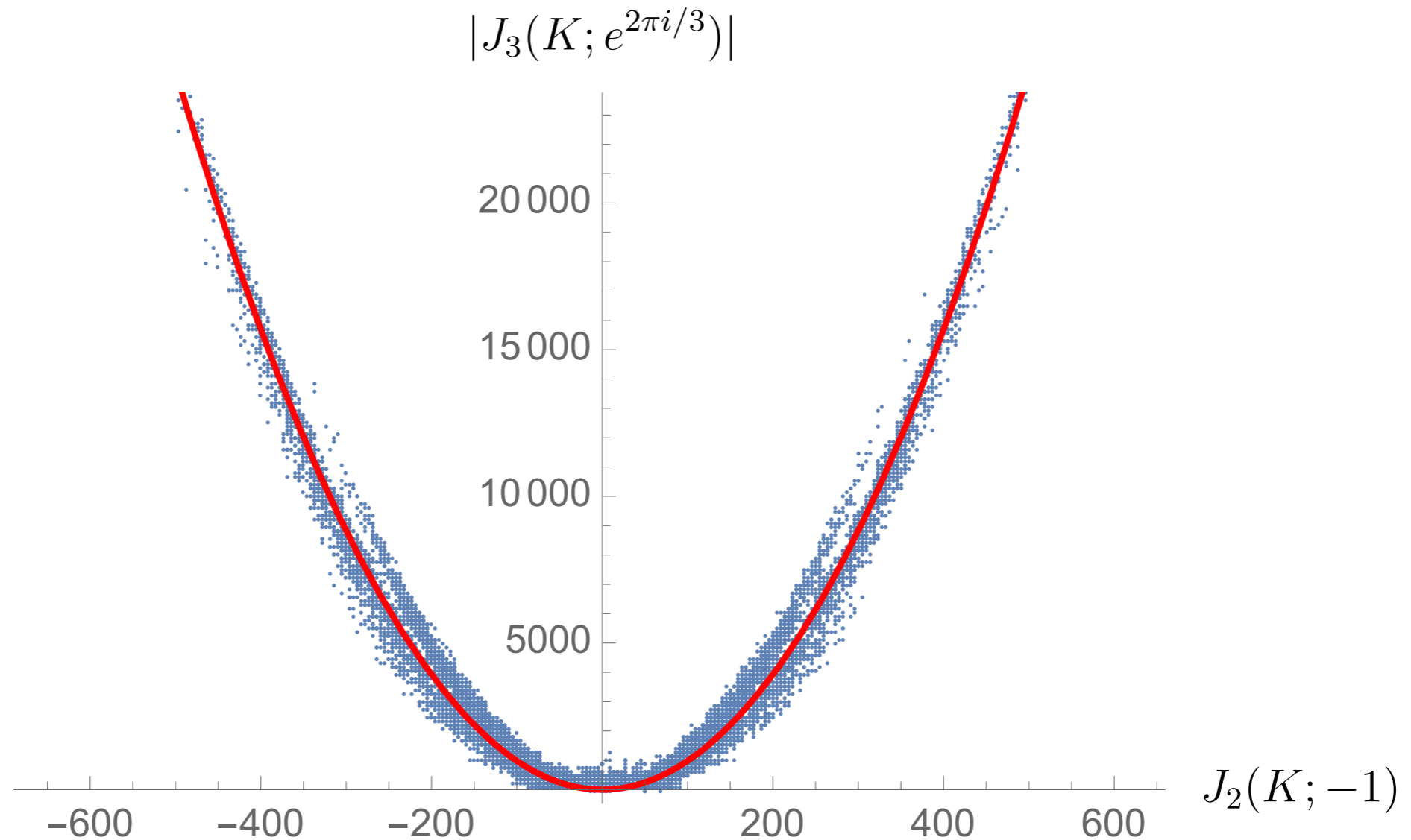
$$v_i = f(J_i) + \text{small corrections}$$

We seek to reverse engineer the neural network to obtain an analytic expression for the volume as a function of the Jones polynomial

To interpret the formula, we use machinery of analytically continued Chern–Simons theory

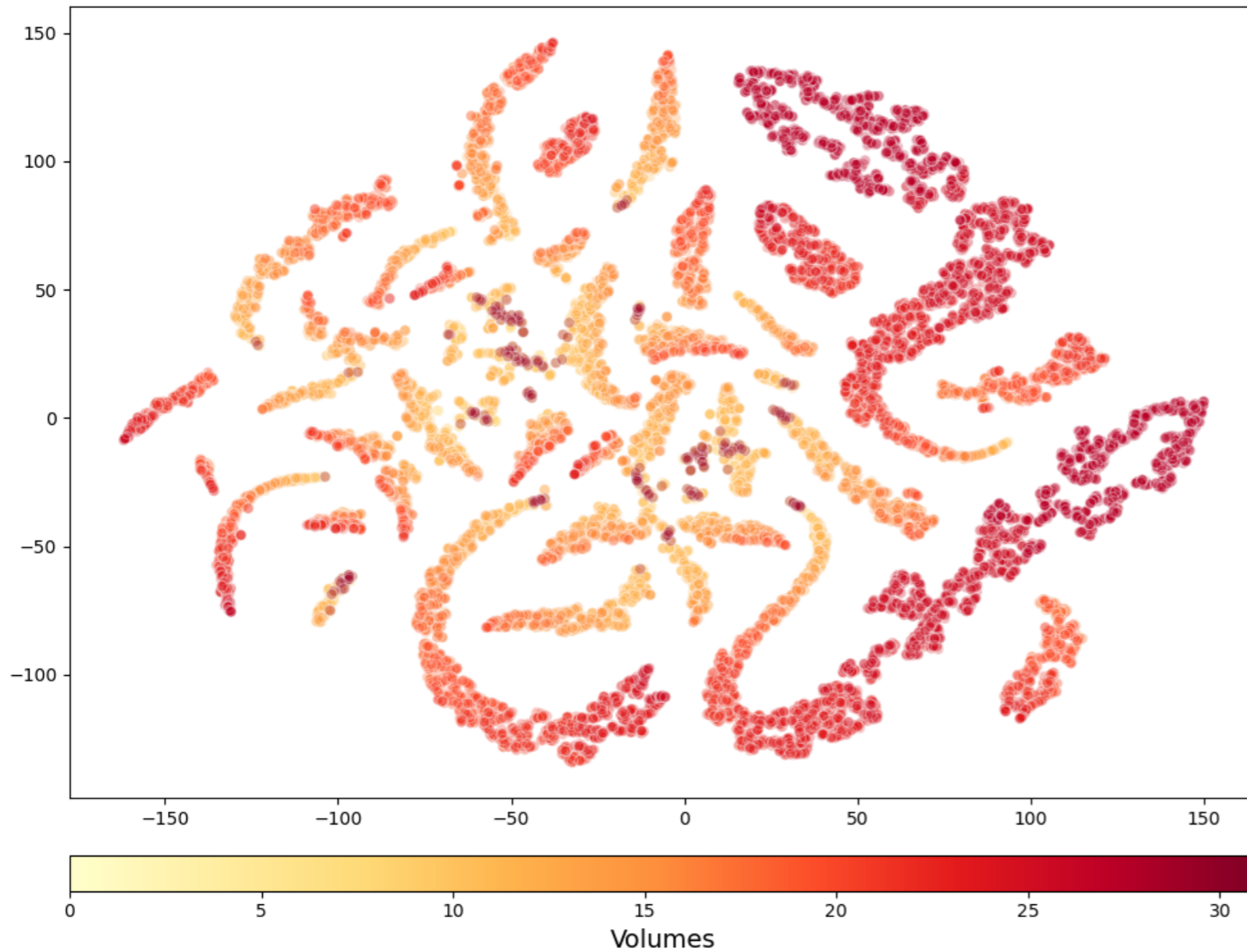
# Towards the Volume Conjecture

- The volume conjecture:  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi \log |J_n(K; \omega_n)|}{n} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K)$



- 11,921 colored Jones polynomials at  $n = 3$

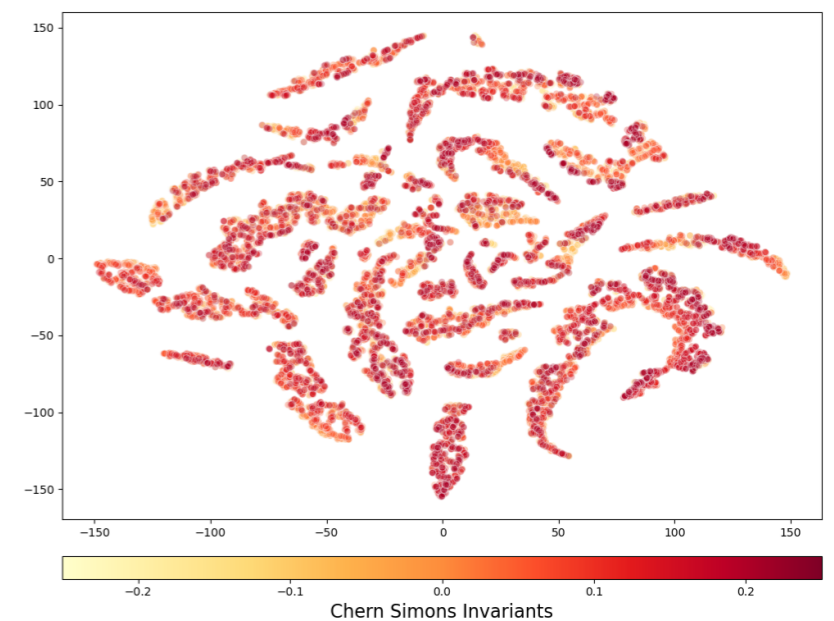
# t-SNE



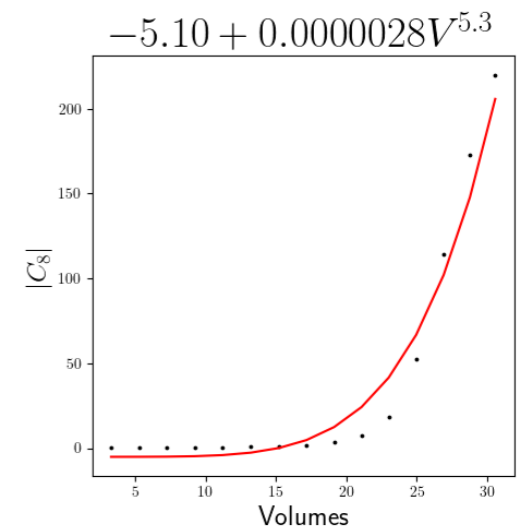
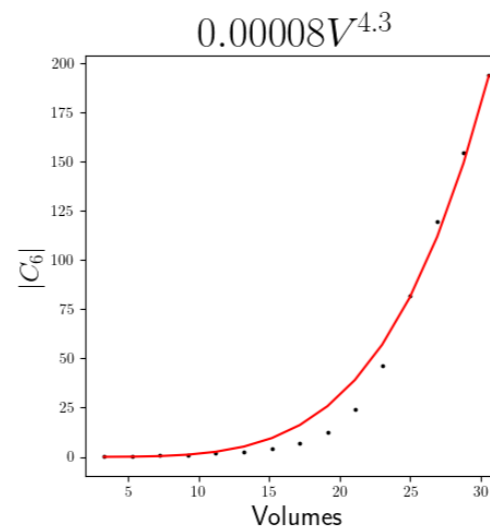
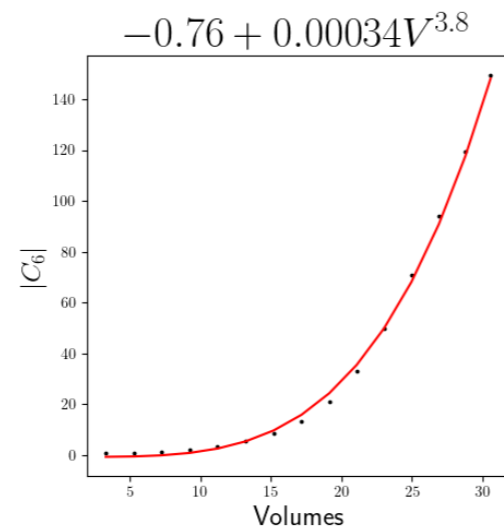
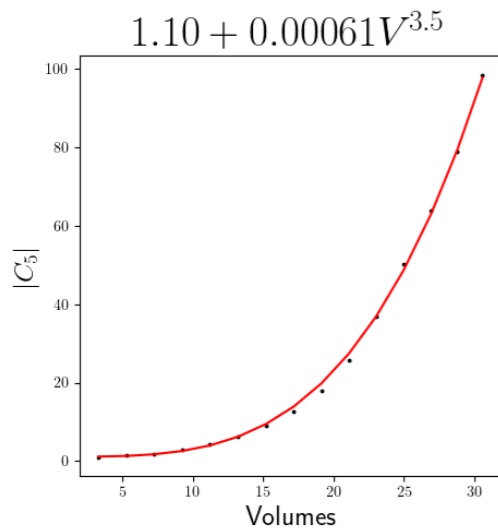
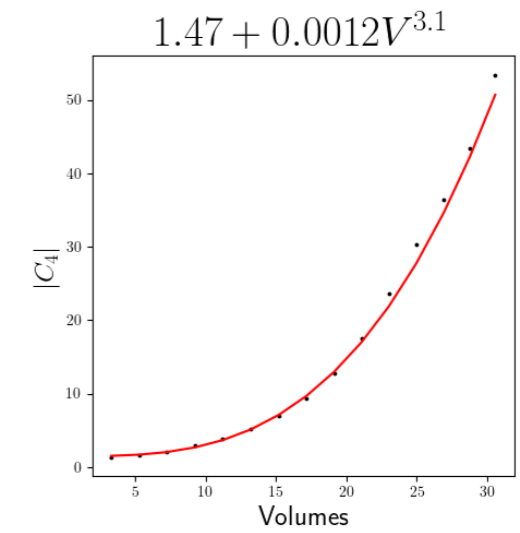
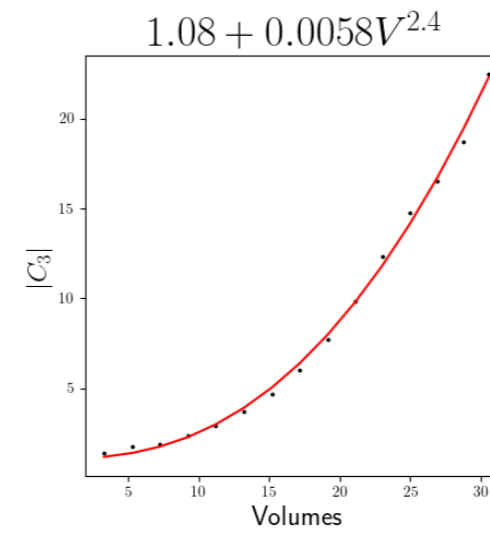
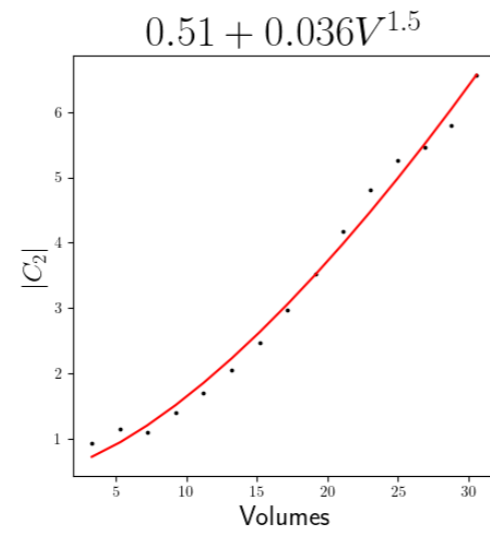
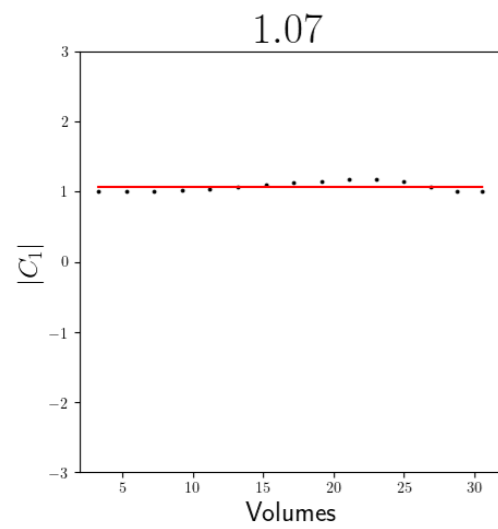
Volume is learnable from coefficients

CS invariant probably is not

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi \log J_n(K; \omega_n)}{n} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K) + 2\pi^2 i \text{CS}(K)$$



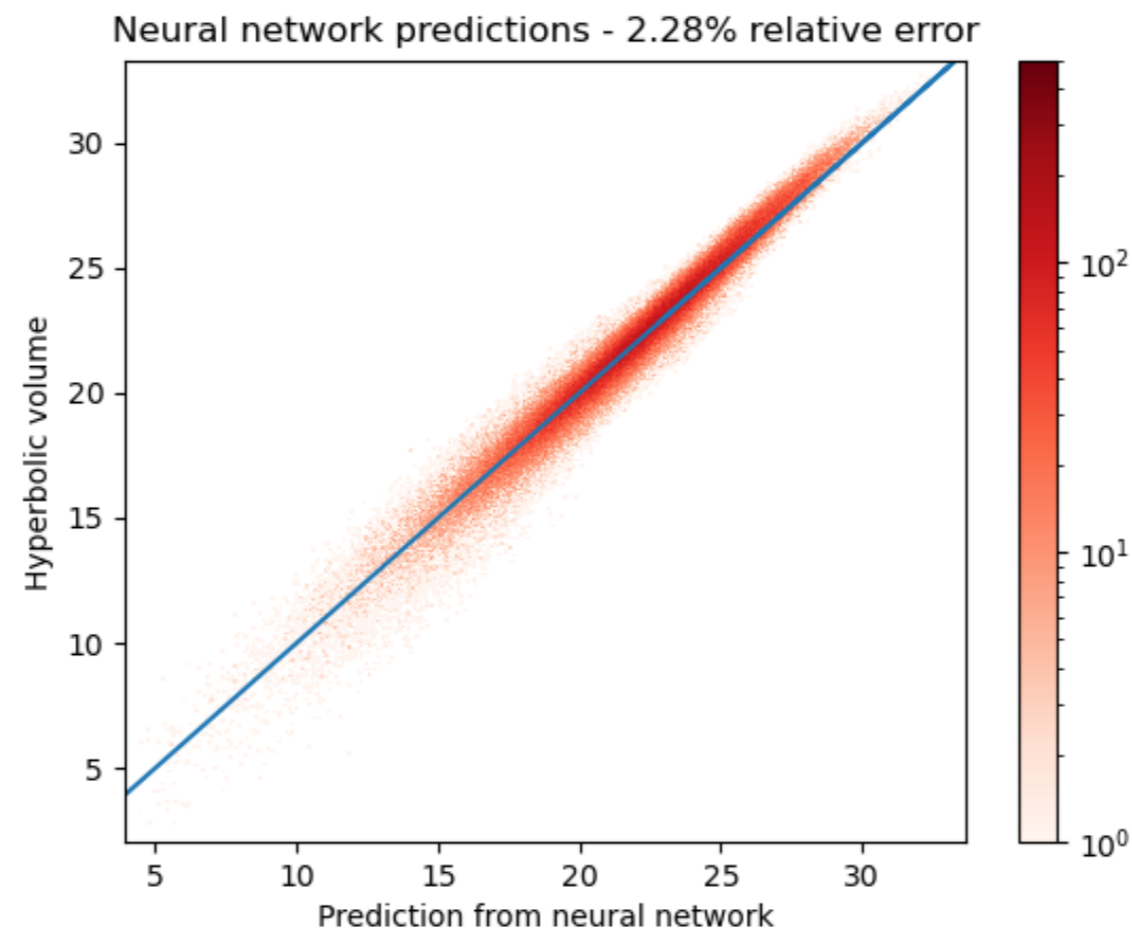
# Coefficients





# No Degrees Needed

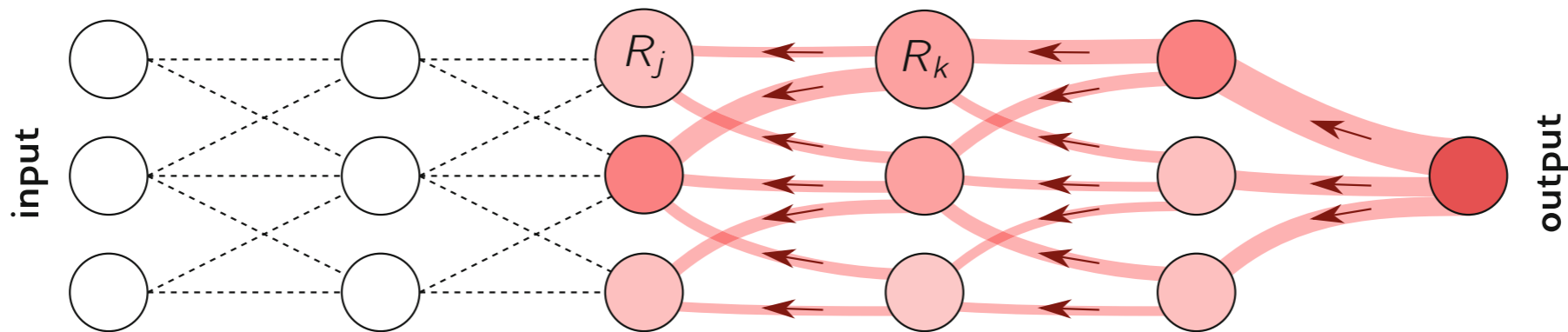
- Suppose we drop the degrees and provide only the coefficients; Jones polynomial is no longer recoverable from the input vector
- Results are unchanged!



*N.B.*: we have switched to Python 3 using GPU-Tensorflow with Keras wrapper two hidden layers, 100 neurons/layer, ReLu activation, mean squared loss, Adam optimizer

# Layer-wise Relevance Propagation

- To determine which inputs carry the most weight, propagate backward starting from output layer employing a conservation property



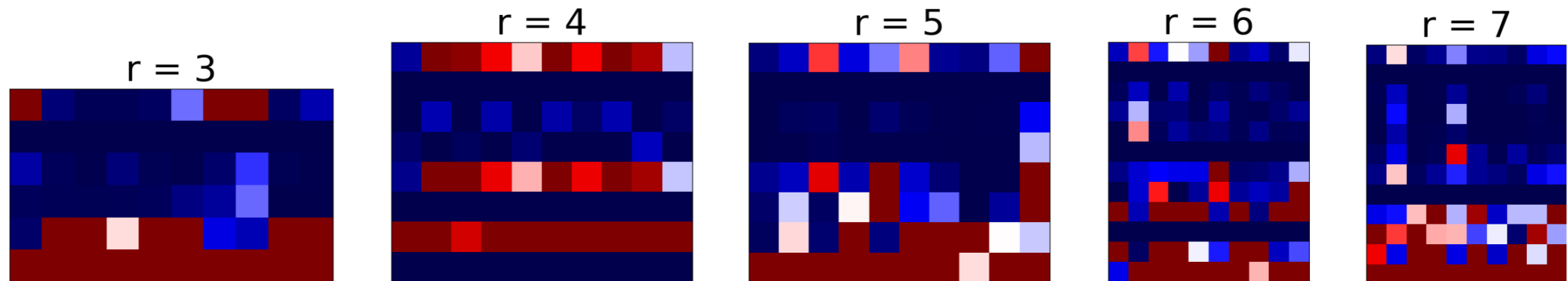
Montavon et al. (2019)

- Compute relevance score for a neuron using activations, weights, and biases

$$R_j^{m-1} = \sum_k \frac{a_j^{m-1} W_{jk}^m + b_k^m}{\sum_l a_l^{m-1} W_{lk}^m + b_k^m} R_k^m, \quad \sum_k R_k^m = 1$$

$j^{\text{th}}$  neuron in layer  $m - 1$

# Layer-wise Relevance Propagation



- Each column is a single input corresponding to evaluations of the Jones polynomial at phases  $e^{\frac{2\pi ip}{r+2}}$ ,  $0 \leq 2p \leq r+2$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$
- Ten different knots
- We show the relevances (red is most relevant) and notice that the same input features light up

# Relevant Phases

$r$	Error	Relevant roots	Fractional levels	Error (relevant roots)
3	3.48%	$e^{4\pi i/5}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	3.8%
4	6.66%	$-1$	$0$	6.78%
5	3.48%	$e^{6\pi i/7}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	3.38%
6	2.94%	$e^{3\pi i/4}, -1$	$\frac{2}{3}, 0$	3%
7	5.37%	$e^{8\pi i/9}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	5.32%
8	2.50%	$e^{3\pi i/5}, e^{4\pi i/5}, -1$	$\frac{4}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, 0$	2.5%
9	2.74%	$e^{8\pi i/11}, e^{10\pi i/11}$	$\frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{5}$	2.85%
10	3.51%	$e^{2\pi i/3}, e^{5\pi i/6}, -1$	$1, \frac{2}{5}, 0$	4.39%
11	2.51%	$e^{8\pi i/13}, e^{10\pi i/13}, e^{12\pi i/13}$	$\frac{5}{4}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{1}{6}$	2.44%
12	2.39%	$e^{5\pi i/7}, e^{6\pi i/7}, -1$	$\frac{4}{5}, \frac{1}{3}, 0$	2.75%
13	2.52%	$e^{2\pi i/3}, e^{4\pi i/5}, e^{14\pi i/15}$	$1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{7}$	2.43%
14	2.58%	$e^{3\pi i/4}, e^{7\pi i/8}, -1$	$\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{7}, 0$	2.55%
15	2.38%	$e^{12\pi i/17}, e^{14\pi i/17}, e^{16\pi i/17}$	$\frac{5}{6}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{1}{8}$	2.4%
16	2.57%	$e^{2\pi i/3}, e^{7\pi i/9}, e^{8\pi i/9}, -1$	$1, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{1}{4}, 0$	2.45%
17	2.65%	$e^{14\pi i/19}, e^{16\pi i/19}, e^{18\pi i/19},$	$\frac{5}{7}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{9}$	2.46%
18	2.49%	$e^{4\pi i/5}, e^{9\pi i/10}, -1$	$\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{9}, 0$	2.52%
19	2.45%	$e^{2\pi i/3}, e^{16\pi i/21}, e^{6\pi i/7}, e^{20\pi i/21}$	$1, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{10}$	2.43%
20	2.79%	$e^{8\pi i/11}, e^{9\pi i/11}, e^{10\pi i/11}, -1$	$\frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{1}{5}, 0$	2.4%

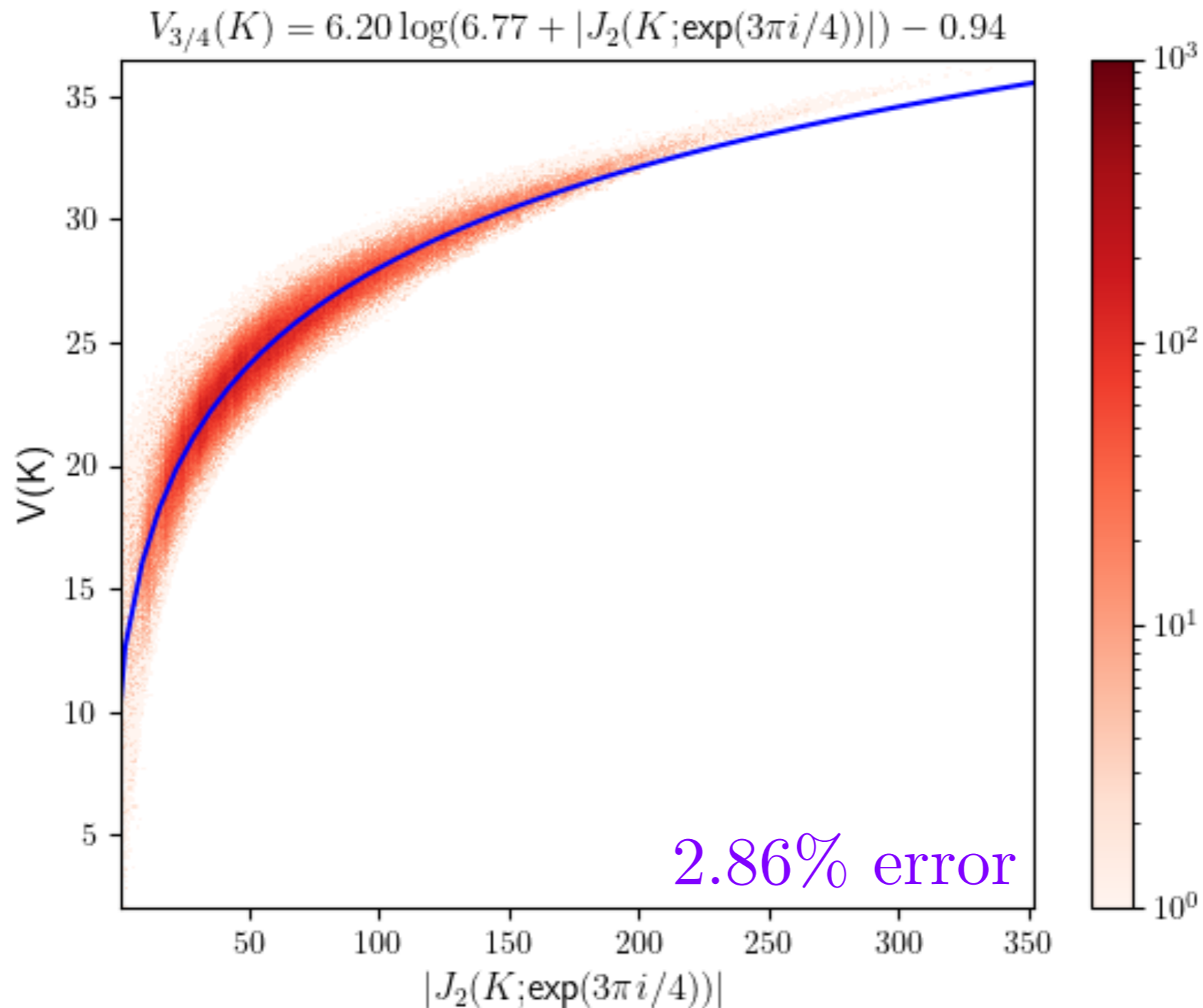
$$e^{ix} = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{k+2}}$$

# Phenomenological Function

$$\omega = e^{\frac{3\pi i}{4}}$$

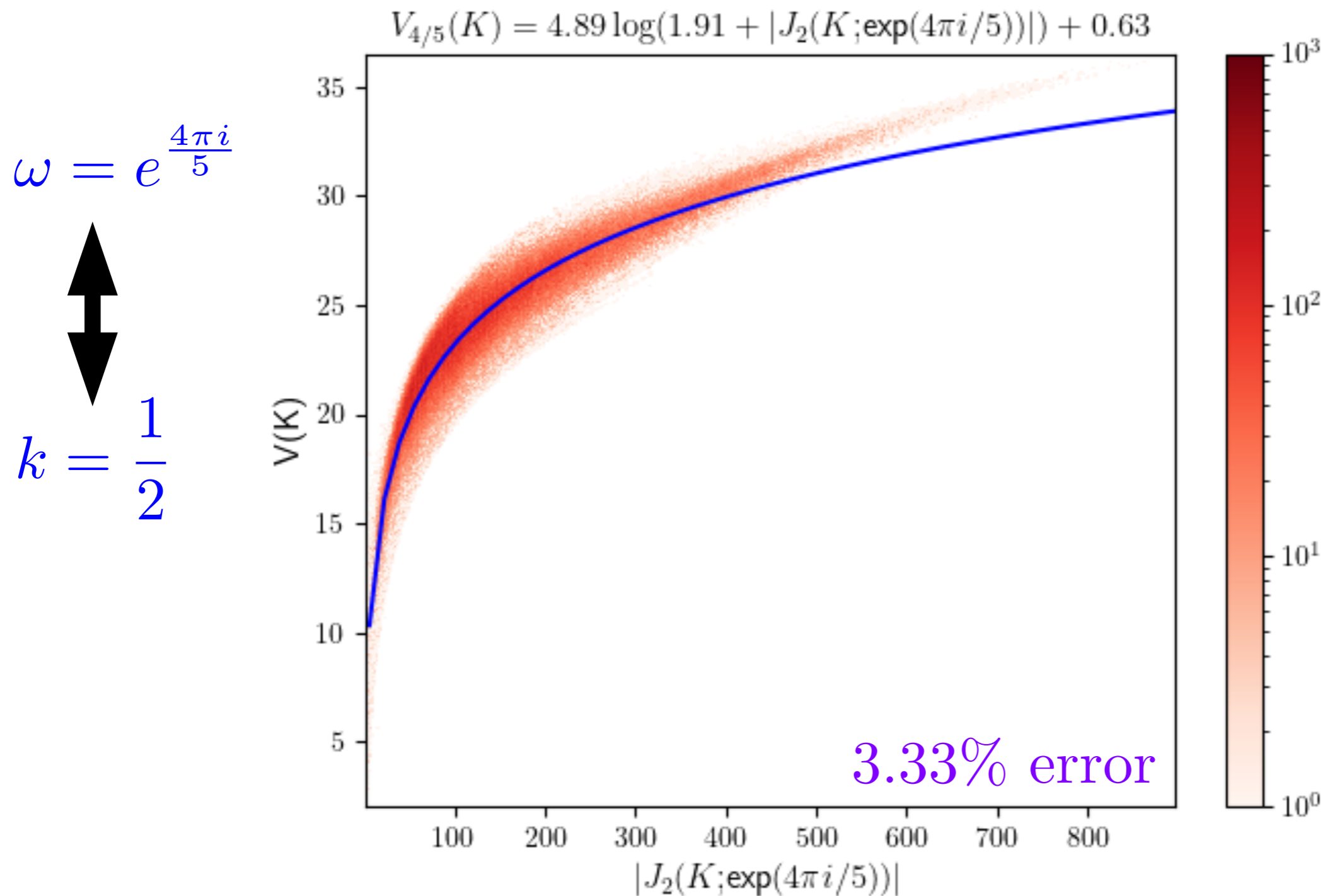


$$k = \frac{2}{3}$$



- Parameters fixed via curve fitting routines in **Mathematica**

# Phenomenological Function



- Parameters fixed via curve fitting routines in **Mathematica**

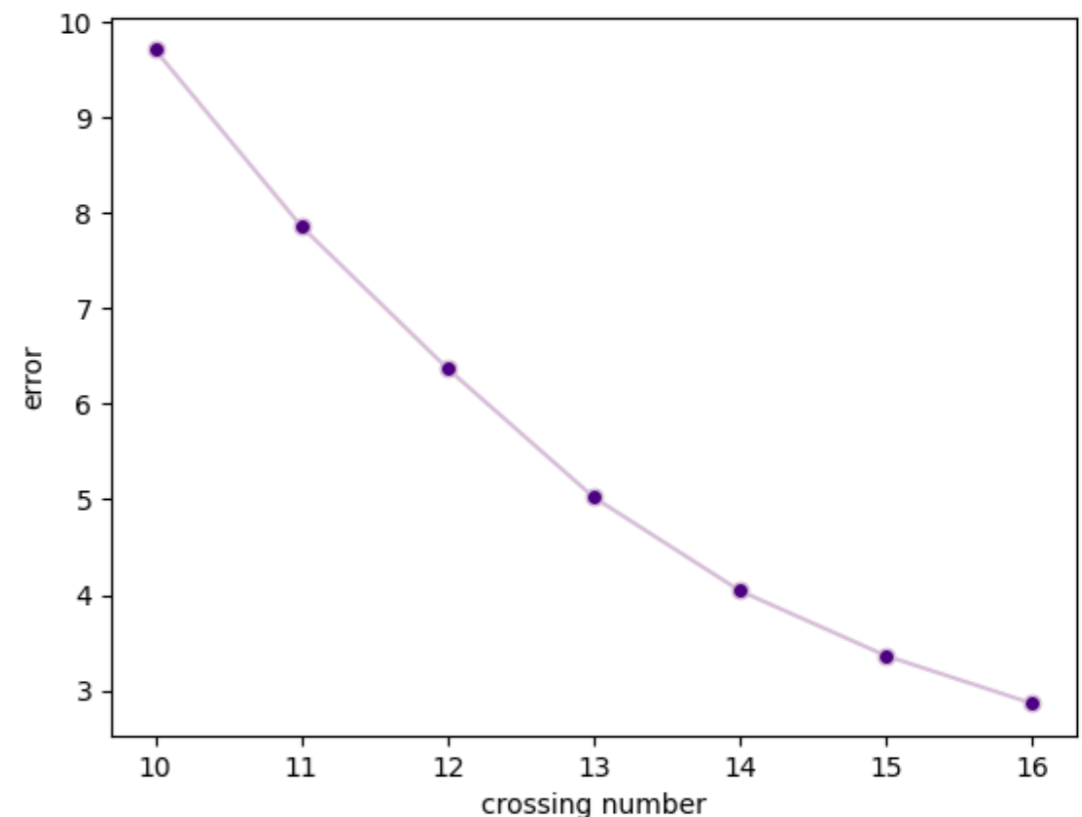
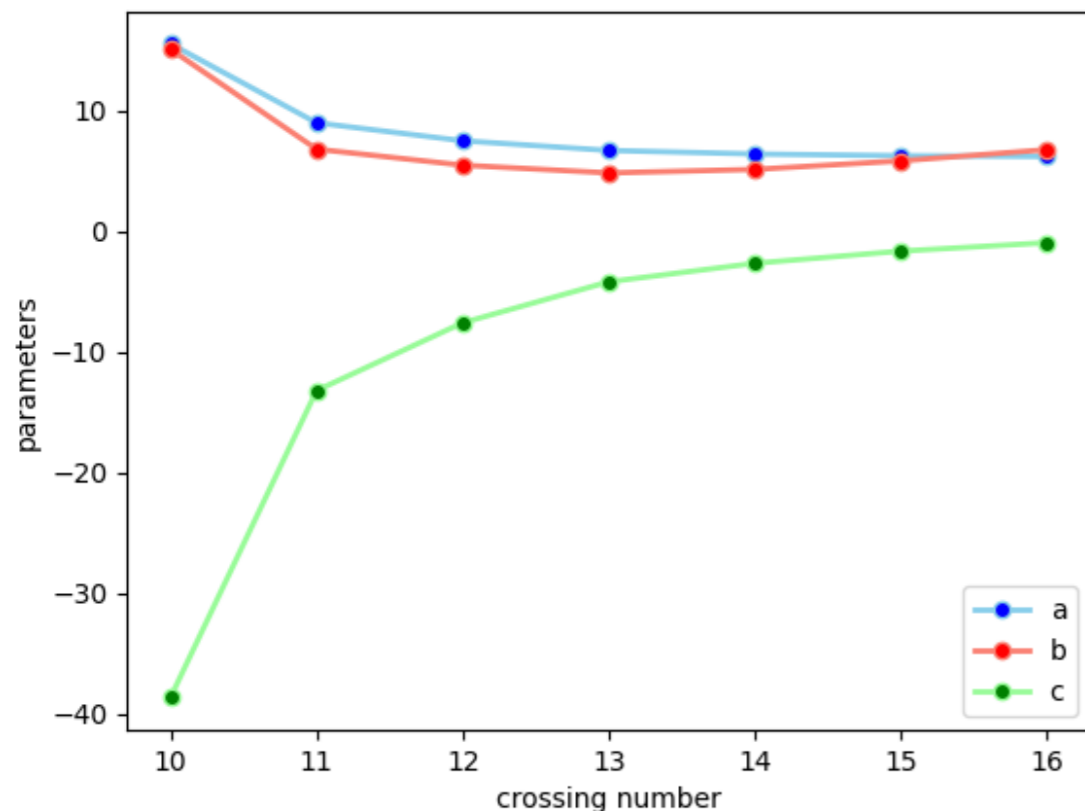


# Phenomenological Function

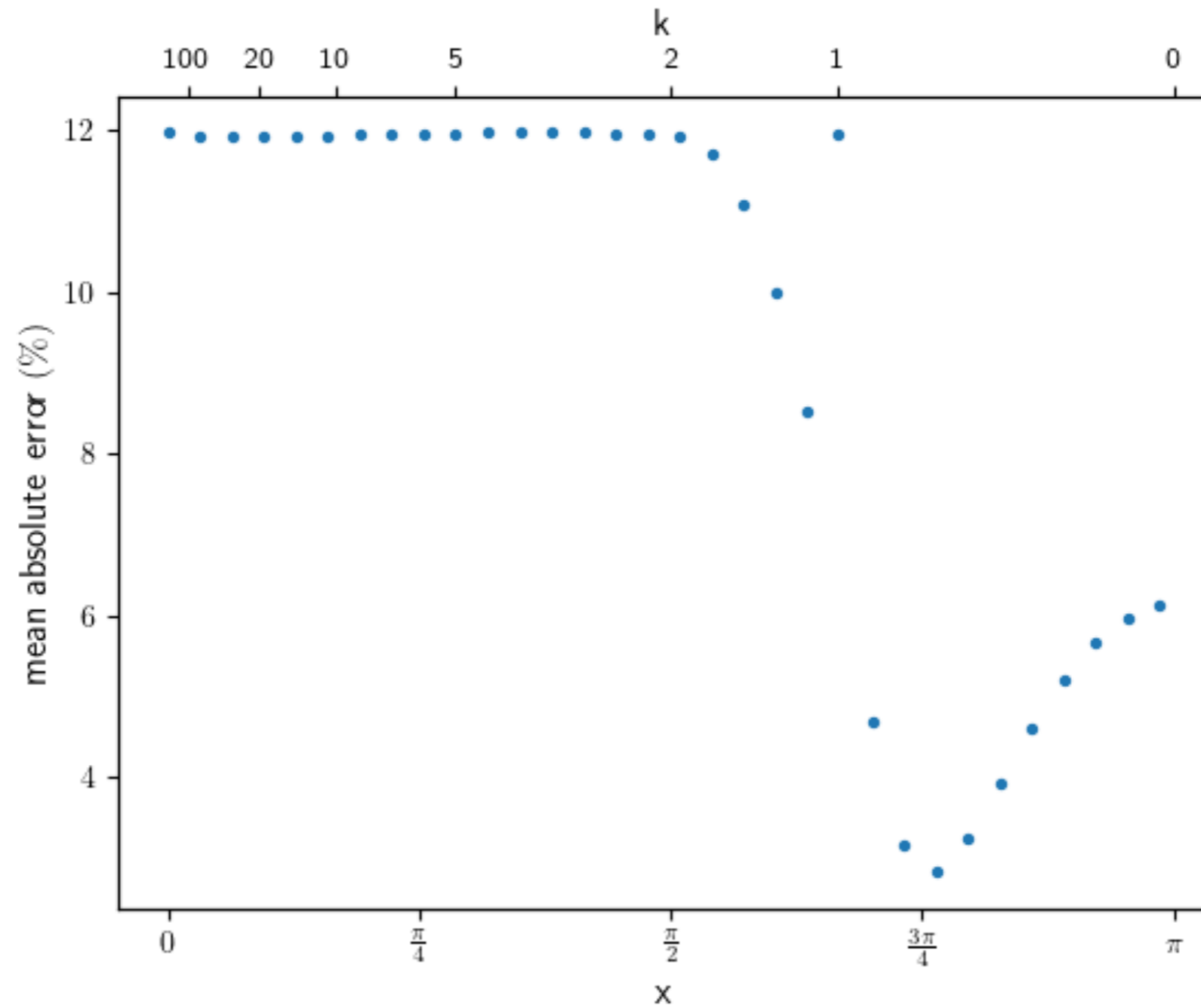
$$V_{3/4}(S^3 \setminus K) = 6.20 \log(|J_2(K; e^{\frac{3\pi i}{4}})| + 6.77) - 0.94$$

**2.86% error** compared to **2.28% error** for neural network  
corresponds to Chern–Simons level  $k = \frac{2}{3}$

- Parameters of fit robust as a function of crossing number

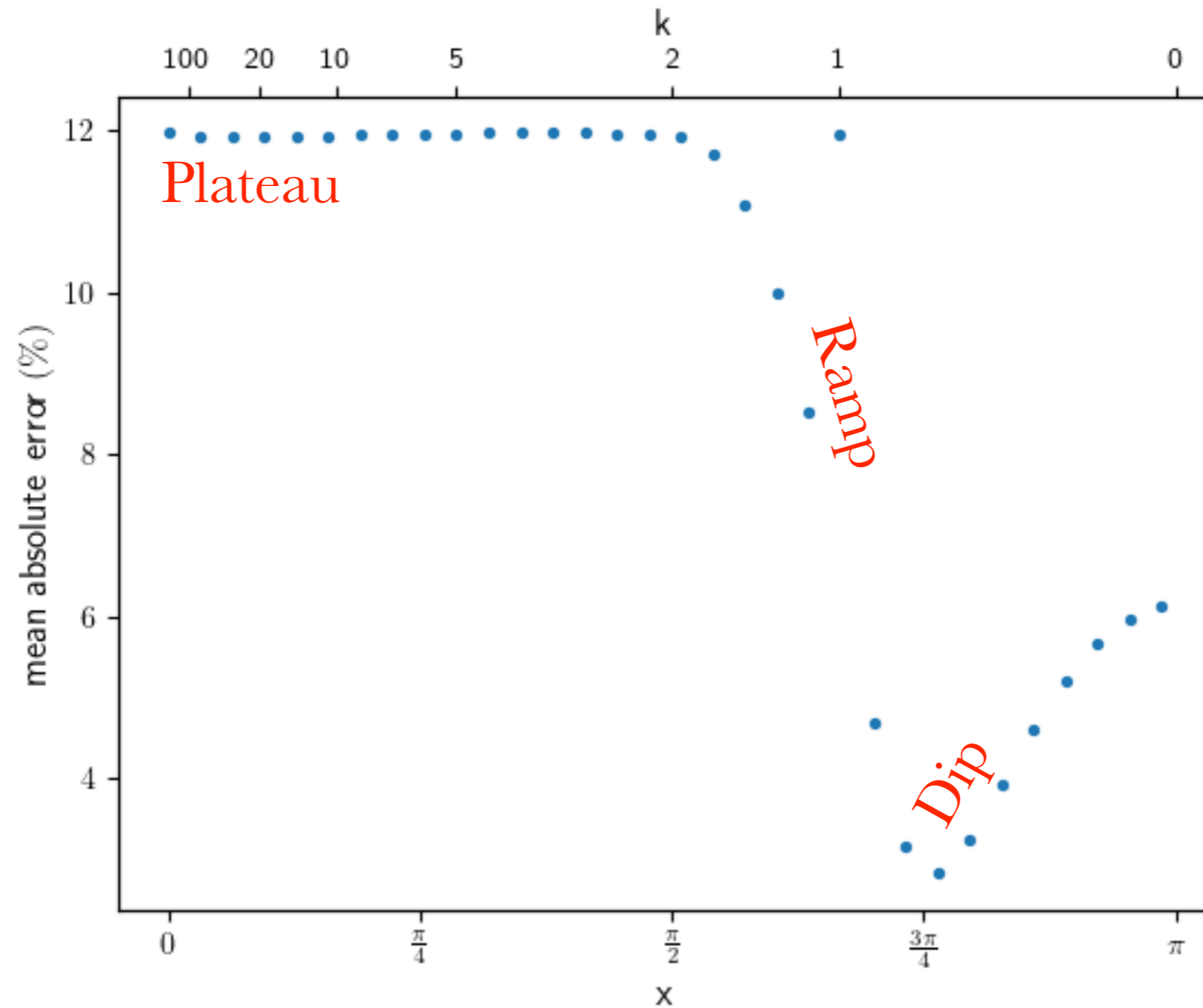


# Best Phase



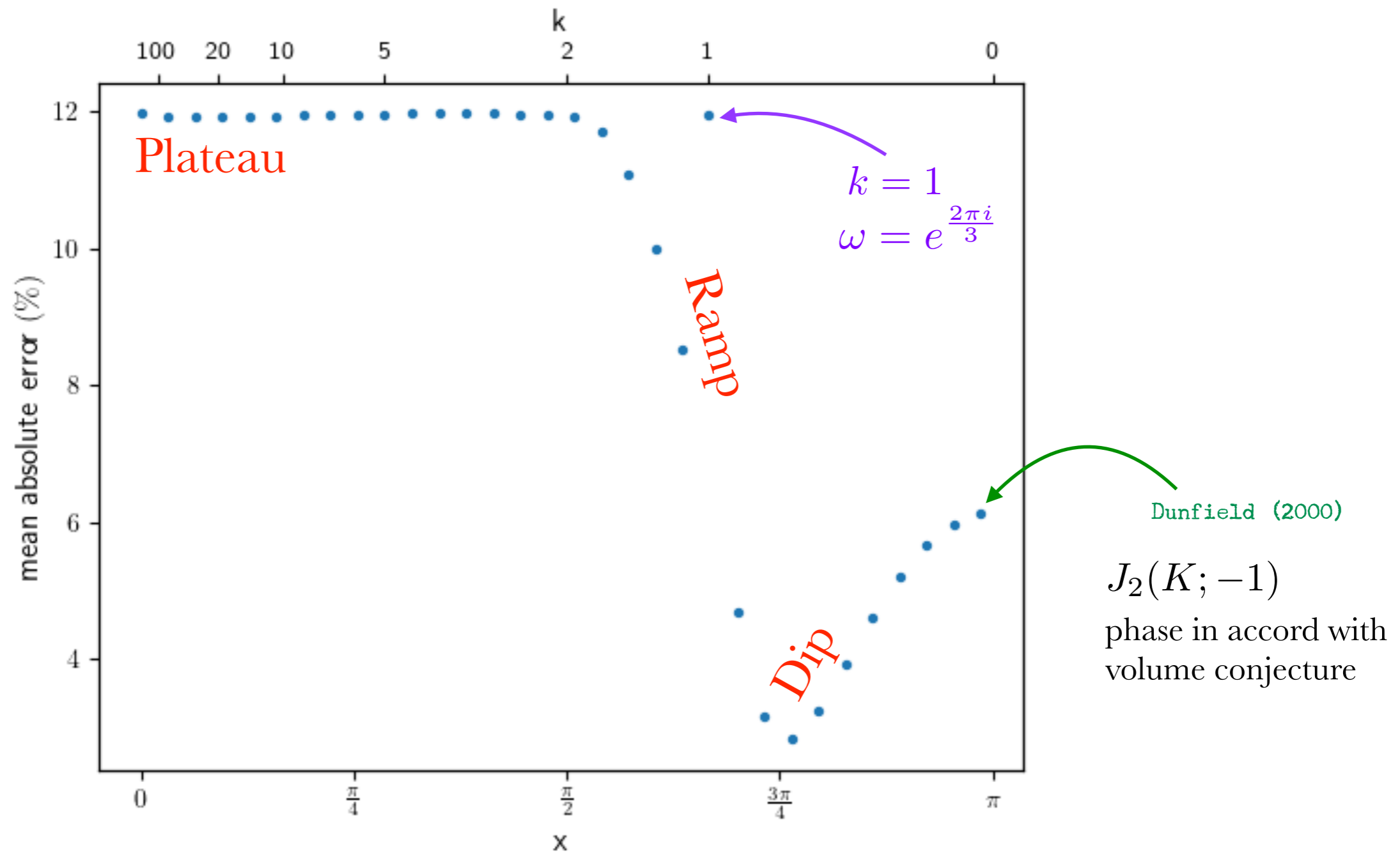
- Best fit to  $V(x) = a \log(|J_2(K; e^{ix})| + b) + c$  at  $x = 2.3$

# Best Phase



- Best fit to  $V(x) = a \log(|J_2(K; e^{ix})| + b) + c$  at  $x = 2.3$

# Best Phase



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# Chern–Simons Theory

- Recall that  $S_{\text{CS}} = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{tr} \left( A \wedge dA + \frac{2}{3} A \wedge A \wedge A \right)$

- Under the gauge transformation  $A_\mu \mapsto g^{-1} A_\mu g + g^{-1} \partial_\mu g$ ,

$$\Delta S_{\text{CS}} = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int d^3x \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} \left( \partial_\mu \text{tr} \left( (\partial_\nu g) g^{-1} A_\rho \right) + \frac{1}{3} \text{tr} \left( g^{-1} \partial_\mu g g^{-1} \partial_\nu g g^{-1} \partial_\rho g \right) \right)$$

- Associated to large gauge transformations, we recognize the *winding*

$$w(g) = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \int d^3x \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} \text{tr} \left( g^{-1} \partial_\mu g g^{-1} \partial_\nu g g^{-1} \partial_\rho g \right) \in \mathbb{Z}$$

- This implies that the level  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

- So what does fractional level mean?

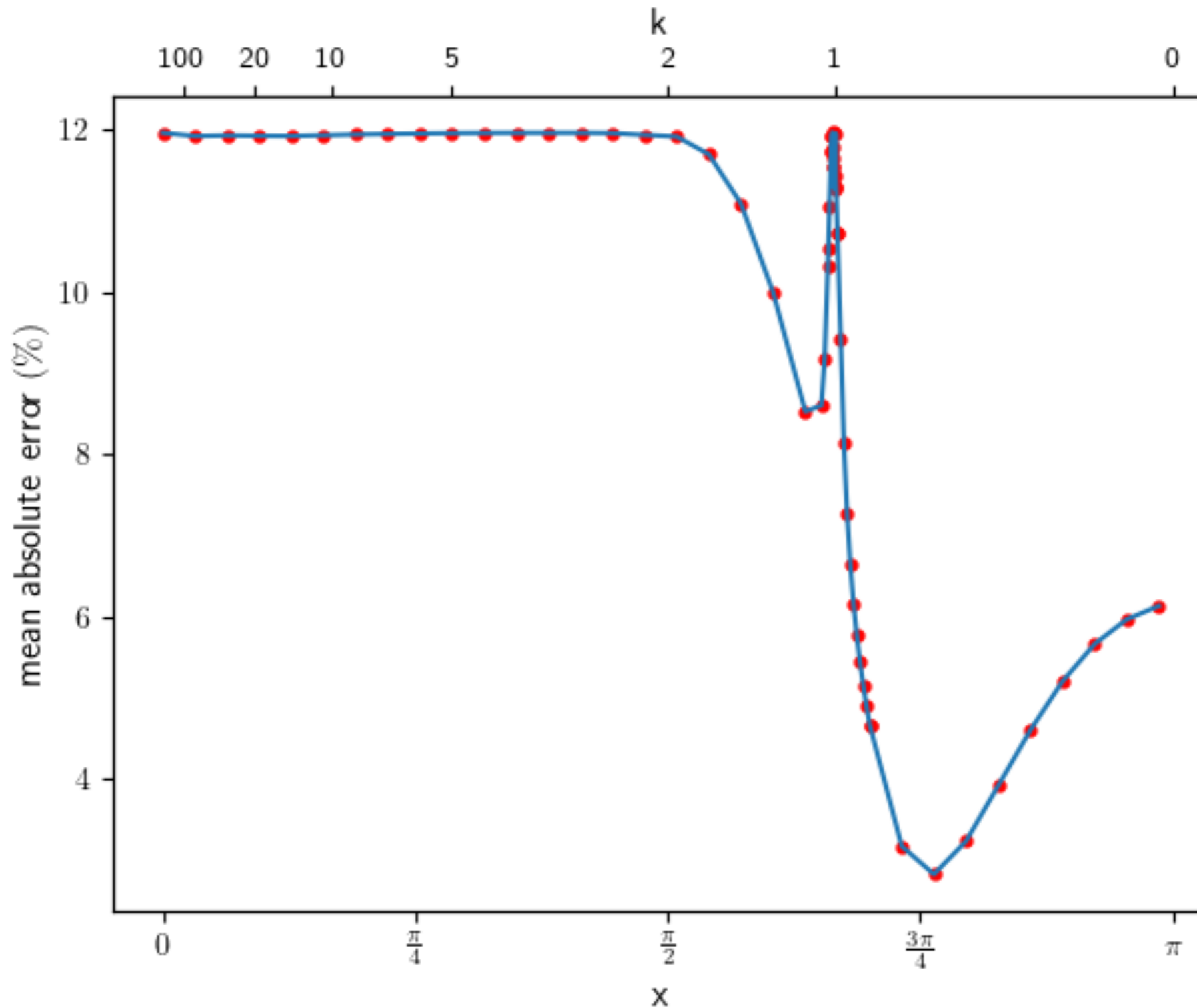
- In Abelian Chern–Simons theory, can make sense of  $k = \frac{1}{2}$

# Analytic Continuation

- We can analytically continue the level
- Appeal to Morse theory; the integration cycle  $\mathcal{C}$  used to compute path integral is decomposed in terms of Lefschetz thimbles
- We encounter Stokes phenomena and the decomposition changes
- The Stokes phenomena are determined by  $\gamma := \frac{n-1}{k}$   
N.B.: for Jones polynomial  $n = 2$  and  $\gamma = k^{-1}$
- In semiclassical limit,  $\gamma \rightarrow 1$ ,  $k \rightarrow \infty$  and there can be a contribution  $e^{iS_{CS}} (1 - e^{2\pi i k})$  to path integral from pair of  $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  critical points after analytic continuation
- Volume conjecture essentially states that this behavior occurs for geometric conjugate connection for every knot at  $n = k + 2$



# Volume Functions



# The Shape of Things

Plateau:  $k > 2$

$$V(K) = \bar{V}$$

this gives 11.97% error for knots up to 16 crossings

corresponds to latent correlations in the dataset

Minimum: near  $k = \frac{2}{3}$  or  $\gamma = \frac{3}{2}$

Lefschetz thimbles contain geometric conjugate  $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  connection we expect in semiclassical limit

Ramp:  $\frac{2}{3} < k < 2$

knots begin to lose access to geometric conjugate connection

at  $\gamma = \frac{2}{3}$  or  $k = \frac{3}{2}$ , the geometric conjugate connection of  $4_1$  enters

# The Shape of Things

Dip:  $0 < k < \frac{2}{3}$

knots retain geometric conjugate connection even as  $\gamma \gg 1$

Spike: near  $k = 1$

at integer values of level with  $k + 1 \geq n$ , the path integral receives contributions only from  $SU(2)$ -valued critical points

*i.e.*, no analytic continuation is necessary

because we lose knowledge of the geometric conjugate connection, the error becomes high

Conclusion: geometric conjugate connection is crucial to success of approximation formula

# Prospectus

- Inequalities à la volume-ish theorem using analytically continued Chern–Simons theory
- Monotonic version of the volume conjecture
- Better understanding of what problems are machine learnable in mathematics and physics — failed experiments may teach us something!
- Why are the volume and CS invariant different?
- Reverse engineer other machine learned results

THANK YOU!