



Development of Neural Thermal Scattering (NeTS) Modules For Data Representation and Applications

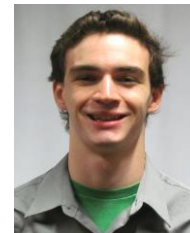
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North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina, USA**

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Making Virtual a Reality: Advancements in Reactor Physics to Leap Forward Reactor Operation and Deployment
May 15 – 20, 2022, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Acknowledgement

- NNSA Nuclear Criticality Safety Program (NCSP)
 - collaboration with LLNL
- Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP)
- DOE NE through the NEUP program
- The LEIP Team



Outline

- **Motivation**
 - **Advanced reactors**
 - **Multi-physics analysis**
 - **Neutron interactions**

- **Introduction**
 - **The thermal scattering law (TSL)**

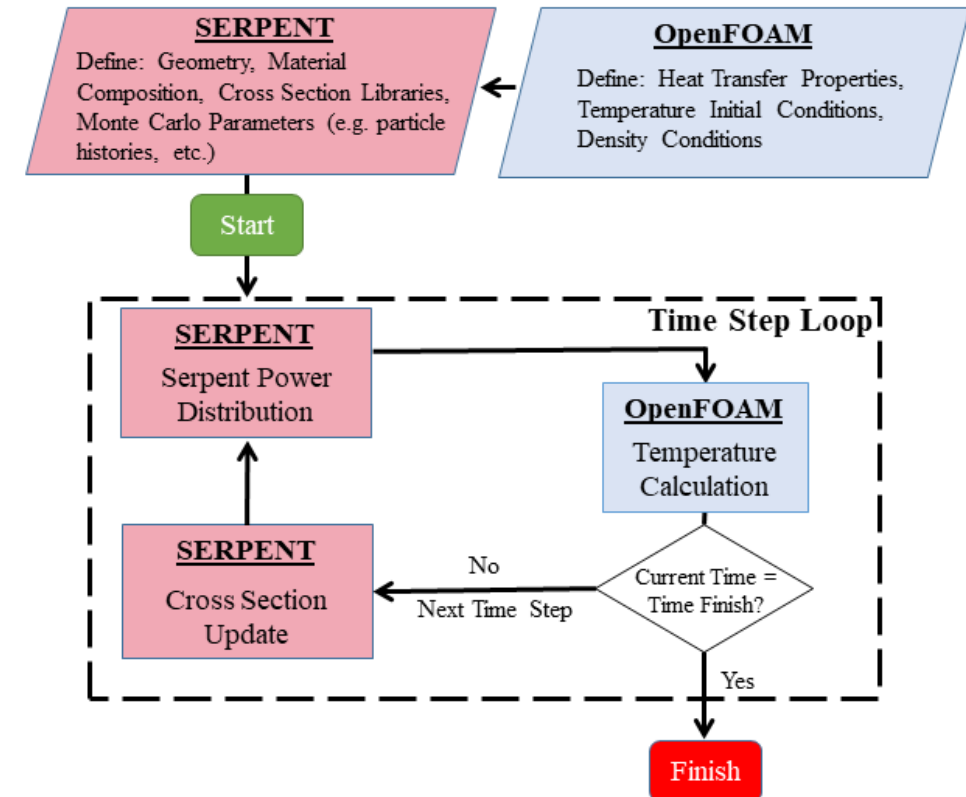
- **TSL Evaluation in *FLASH***
 - **Nuclear data ENDF/B files**

- **Artificial Neural Networks**
 - **NeTS development**

- **Progress & Summary**

Motivation

- ❑ Develop a thermal neutron scattering, continuous and accurate, data representation that supports the needs of advanced modeling and simulations
- Multi-physics analysis
- Real time, on the fly, data generation

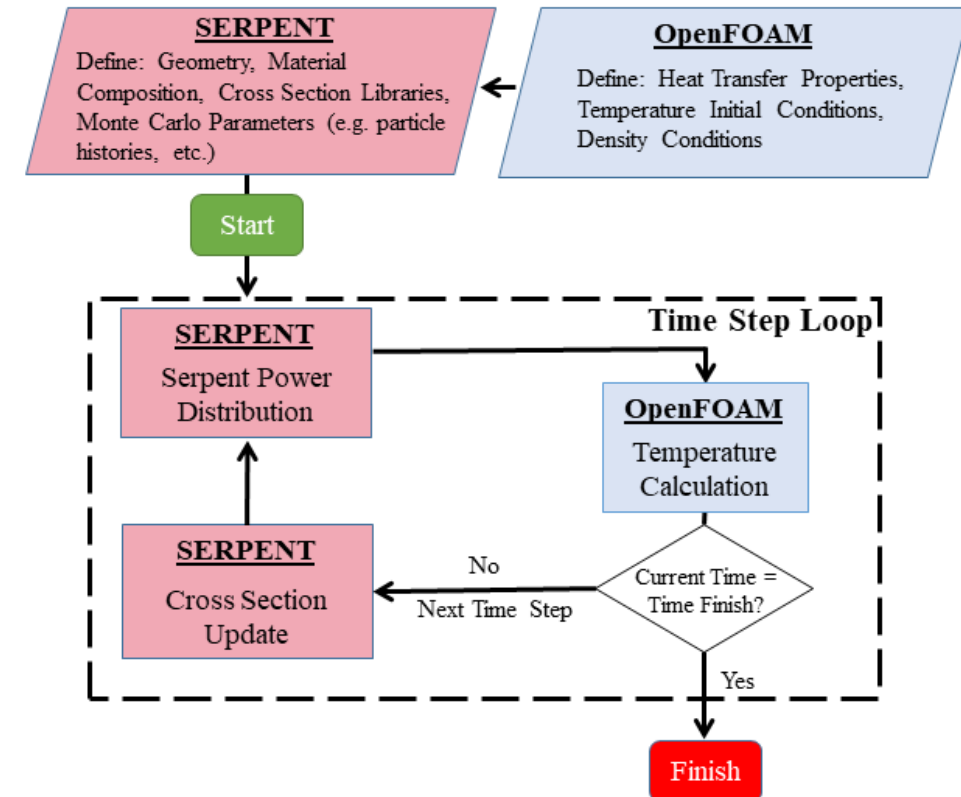


PULSTAR Reactor
NCSU



Motivation

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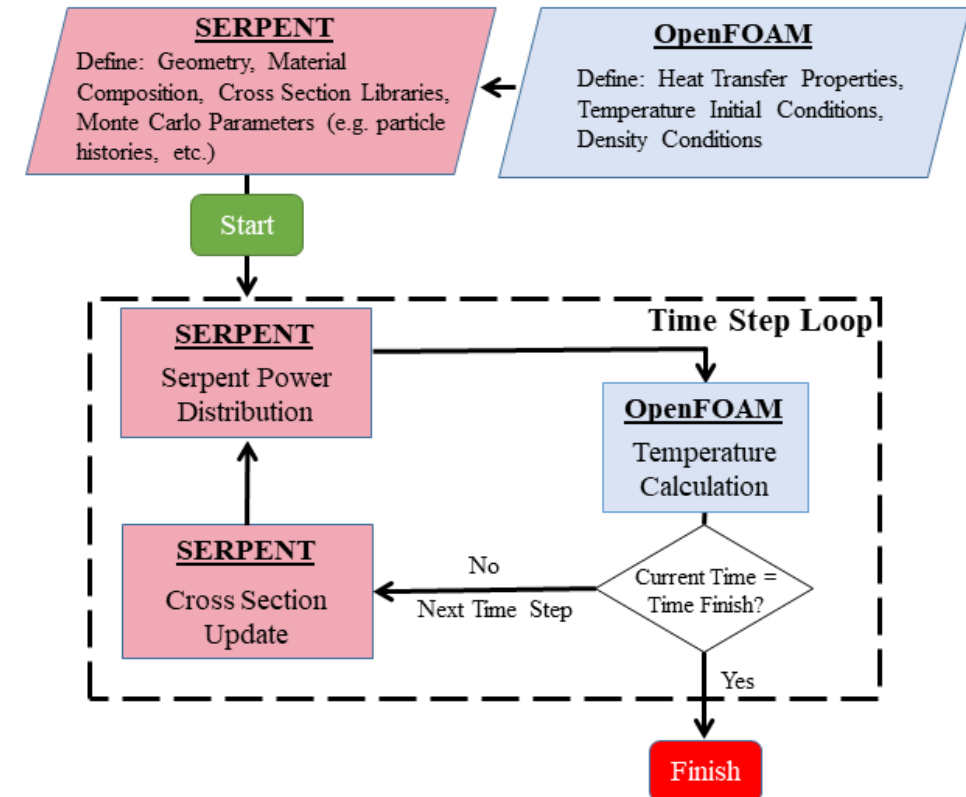


PULSTAR Reactor
NCSU

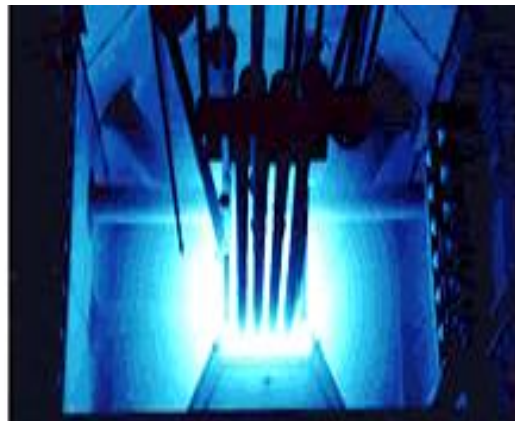


Motivation

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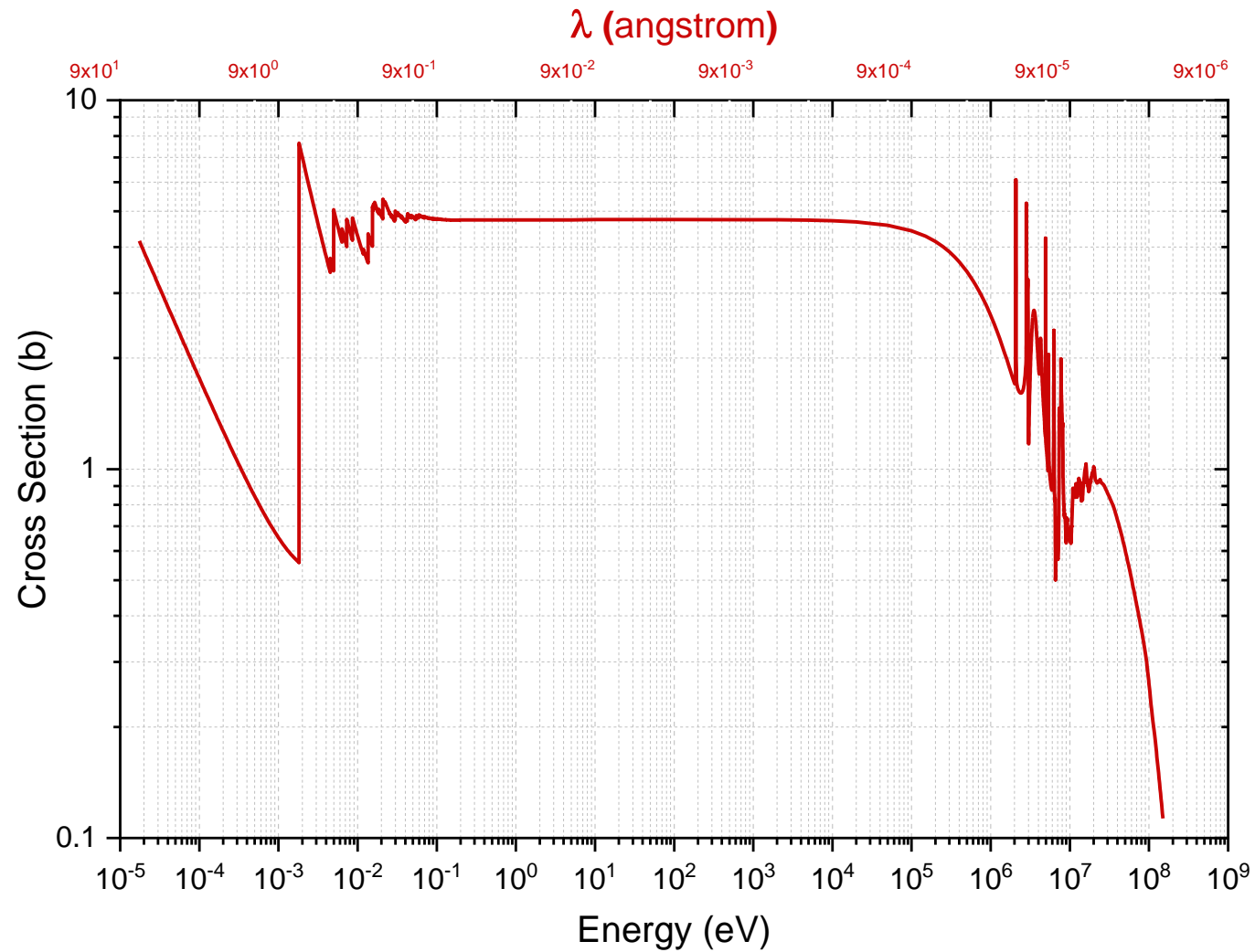


PULSTAR Reactor
NCSU

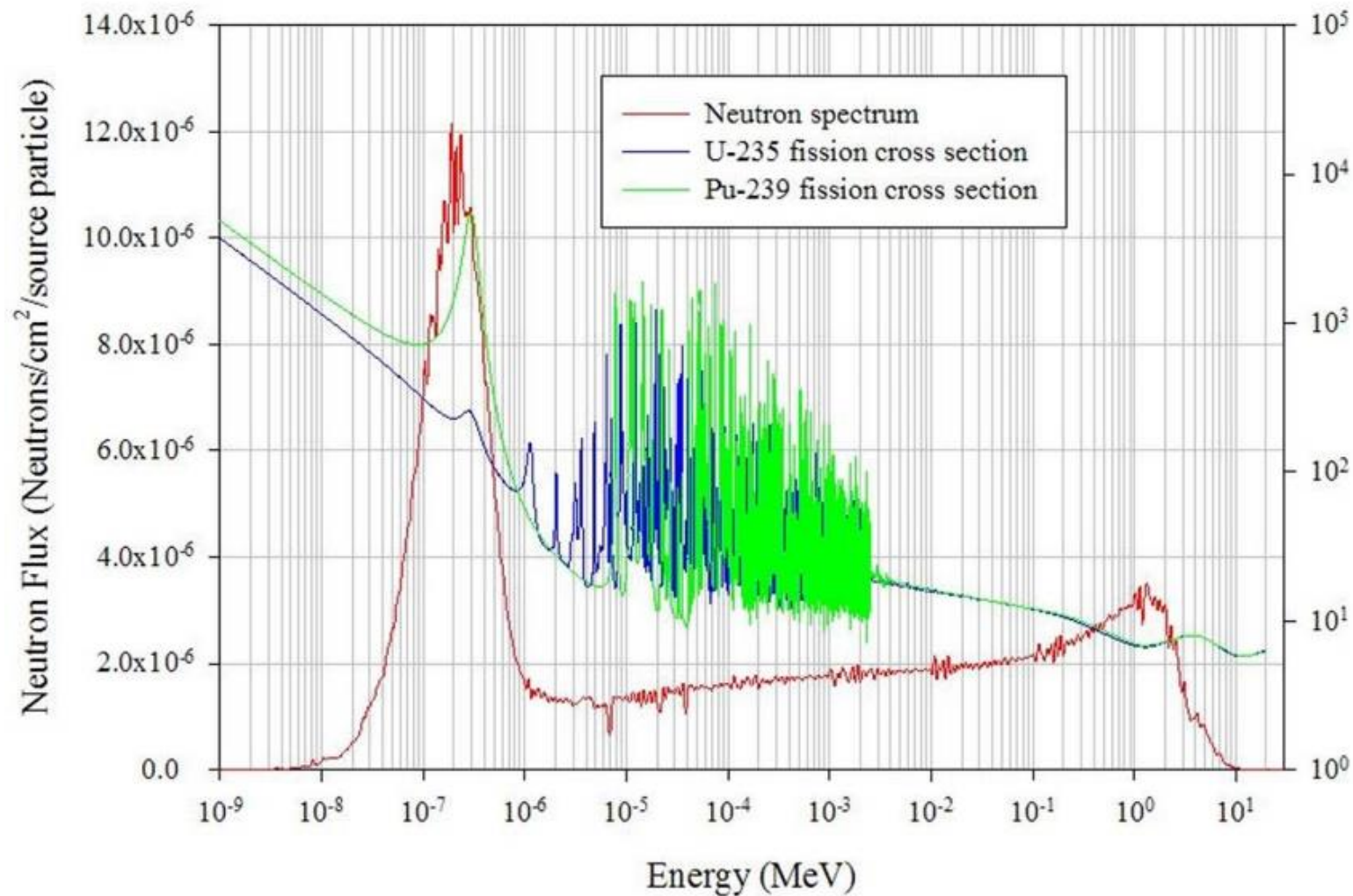


Neutron Interactions

Moderation & Thermalization



Neutron Interactions



Neutron Thermalization

Using first Born approximation combined with Fermi pseudopotential, it can be shown that the double differential scattering cross section has the form

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE'} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \sqrt{\frac{E'}{E}} \left\{ \sigma_{coh} S(\vec{k}, \omega) + \sigma_{incoh} S_s(\vec{k}, \omega) \right\}$$

The scattering law $S(\vec{k}, \omega)$ is composed of two parts

$$S(\vec{k}, \omega) = S_s(\vec{k}, \omega) + S_d(\vec{k}, \omega)$$

Van Hove's space-time formulation

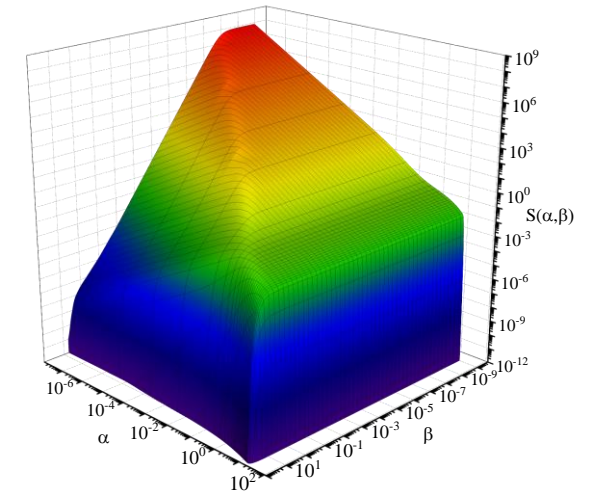
$$I(\vec{k}, t) = \int G(\vec{r}, t) \exp(i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r}) d\vec{r}$$

$$S(\vec{k}, \omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi\hbar} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(\vec{r}, t) e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} d\vec{r} dt$$

where $G(\vec{r}, t)$ is the *dynamic pair correlation function* and can be expressed in terms of time dependent atomic positions.

$$S_s(\alpha, \beta) = k_B T \cdot S_s(\vec{\kappa}, \omega)$$

$$\left. \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega dE'} \right|_{inelastic} = \frac{\sigma}{2k_B T} \sqrt{\frac{E'}{E}} S_s(\alpha, \beta)$$



$$\beta = \frac{E - E'}{k_B T} \quad \text{Energy transfer}$$

$$\alpha = \frac{(E + E' - 2\sqrt{EE'} \cos \theta)}{k_B T} \quad \text{Momentum transfer}$$

The scattering law (TSL) is the Fourier transform of a Gaussian correlation function

$$S_s(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\beta t} e^{-\gamma(t)} dt$$

$$\gamma(t) = \frac{\alpha}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\rho(\beta)}{\beta \sinh(\beta/2)} [1 - e^{-i\beta t}] e^{\beta/2} d\beta$$

$\rho(\beta)$ – density of states (e.g., phonon frequency distribution)

Nuclear Data - ENDF/B

Current format

- Dated
- Limited

Move to the Generalized Nuclear Database Structure (GNDS)

```

1.420000+2 6.955732+0      -1      0      0      0      42 1451
0.000000+0 0.000000+0      0      0      0      0      6  42 1451
1.000000+0 0.000000+0      0      0      12     8      8  42 1451
0.000000+0 0.000000+0      0      0      31     3      3  42 1451
Li (FLiBe) LEIP LABS EVAL-MAR20 C.A. Manning, Y. Zhu, A.I. Hawari
DIST-
----ENDF/B-VIII MATERIAL 42
----THERMAL NEUTRON SCATTERING DATA
-----ENDF-6 FORMAT
Temperatures = 773 873 923 973 1073 1173 1273 1473 1673 K
BACKGROUND
-----
The inelastic thermal scattering law data for FLiBe was
developed by the Low Energy Interaction Physics (LEIP) group at
NC State University using molecular dynamics methods [1,2].
This material is a liquid salt mixture, such that the diffusive
contribution to the TSL is expected to be consequential. The
FLASS (Beta 3) code was used with a Schorfield diffusion model
to produce File 7 for Li in FLiBe.
REFERENCES
1. A.I. Hawari, "Modern Techniques in Inelastic Thermal Neutron
Scattering Analysis," Nuclear Data Sheets 118 (2014) 172.
2. Y. Zhu, A.I. Hawari, "Thermal Neutron Scattering Cross
Section of Liquid FLiBe," Progress in Nuclear Energy 101
(2017) 468.
-----
1      451      34      0      42 1451
7      4      244757      0      42 1451
-----
1.420000+2 6.955732+0      0      1      0      0      42 7 4
0.000000+0 0.000000+0      0      0      0      6      42 7 4
9.700000-1 1.000000+2 6.955732+0 2.530000+0 0.000000+0 1.000000+0
0.000000+0 0.000000+0      0      0      1      275     42 7 4
275      4
7.730000+2 0.000000+0      8      0      0      1      528     42 7 4
528
1.177477-8 7.842352+7 4.709910-8 1.960586+7 1.059730-7 8.713706+6
1.033964-7 4.501454+2 2.94304-7 7.116925+6 4.238919-7 2.178416+6
5.769640-7 1.600465+6 7.538856-7 1.228352+6 9.537568-7 9.681764+5
  
```

Open TSL (File 7) of choice

| No. | Sublibrary name | Short name | VB8 | VB1 | VB5 | VB5 |
|-----|-----------------------|------------|------|------|------|-----|
| 1 | 0 Protonic | p | 103 | 103 | 103 | - |
| 2 | 0 Photo-neutr | photo | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 3 | 0 Radioactive decay | decay | 3021 | 3017 | 3018 | 379 |
| 4 | 0 Spont. fission | sfy | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| 5 | 0 Atomic relaxation | atom_relax | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 6 | 10 Neutron n | n | 657 | 623 | 100 | 100 |
| 7 | 10 Neutron in. yield | in. yld | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 |
| 8 | 10 Thermal scattering | ts | 21 | 21 | 21 | 15 |
| 9 | 10 Densities | den | 10 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 10 | 10 Evaporation | e | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 11 | 10000 Proton | p | 48 | 48 | 16 | 16 |
| 12 | 10000 Deuteron | d | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| 13 | 10000 Triton | t | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 14 | 10000 He4 | he4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 15 | 20040 He4 | h | 1 | - | - | - |

Navigate to NNDC website

- Neutron Reaction Sublibrary (5.3 Mb zipfile) [Release Notes] [Changelog] [Material List] Download checksums
- Thermal Neutron Scattering Sublibrary (5.3 Mb zipfile) [Release Notes] [Changelog] [Material List] Download checksums
- Proton Reaction Sublibrary (1.3 Mb zipfile) [Release Notes] [Changelog] [Material List] Download checksums
- Alpha Reaction Sublibrary (1.1 Mb zipfile) [Release Notes] [Changelog] [Material List] Download checksums
- Spontaneous Fission Product Yields Reaction Sublibrary (1.6 Mb zipfile) [Release Notes] [Changelog] [Material List] Download checksums
- Photoatomic Reaction Sublibrary (2.1 Mb zipfile) [Release Notes] [Changelog] [Material List] Download checksums
- Electron Reaction Sublibrary (0.5 Mb zipfile) [Release Notes] [Changelog] [Material List] Download checksums

Thermal Neutron Scattering Sublibrary
[\[58.3 Mb zipfile\]](#) [\[Release Notes\]](#) [\[Changelog\]](#) [\[Material List\]](#)
 Download checksums:
 MD5: ecd503d3f8214f703e95e17cc947062c
 SHA1: 7ac0b191b9eb342b501a7d74a2dd324003fe
 cksum: 4038437686

Select thermal neutron scattering

Open list of reactions

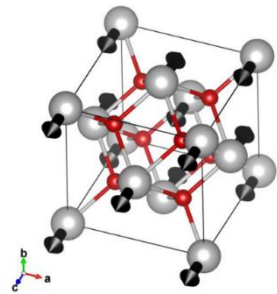


Methodology



DFT/LD approach

MD approach



Crystal Structures: U_UN

Material Selection: 12 - U in LN

Parameters [a b c [Å] α β γ [°] (space group)]: 4.85945 4.85945 4.85945 90 90 90 (Fm-3m)

Input unit cell vectors a, b, and c, in the unit of Å.

| | X | Y | Z |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| a | 4.85945 | 0.00000 | 0.00000 |
| b | 0.00000 | 4.85945 | 0.00000 |
| c | 0.00000 | 0.00000 | 4.85945 |

Number of Non-Equivalent Atoms Sites: 2

DOS Type: Atom site

FLASSH: U_UN

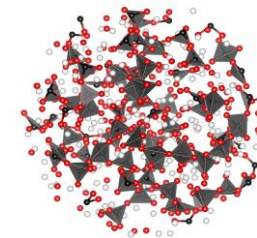
Project Create Run Help

FLASSH

Full Law Analysis Scattering System Hub

Do not distribute without explicit permission from Ayman Hawari (ahawari@ncsu.edu)

LEIP LABORATORIES



TSL Implementation

□ General task

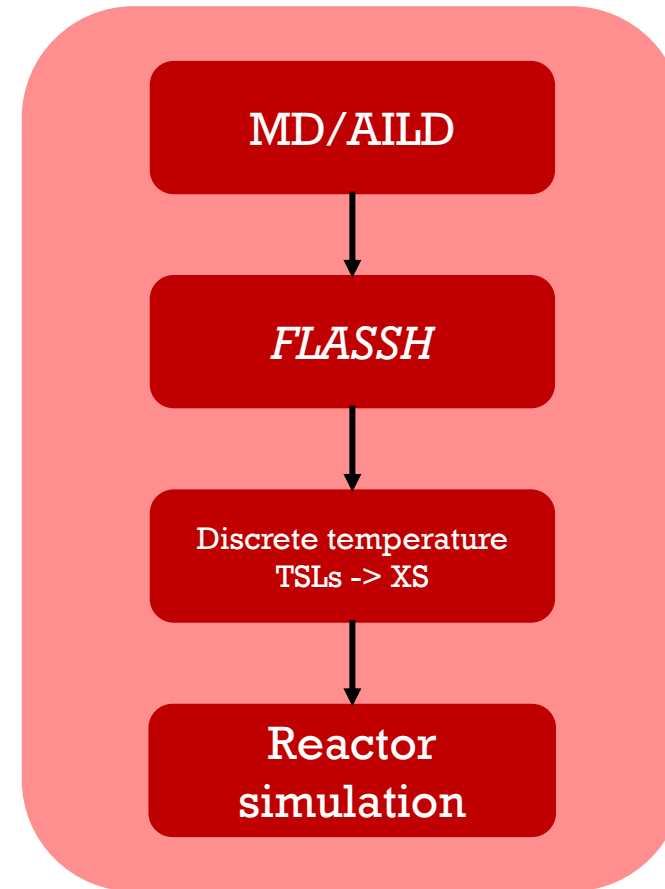
- Provide the most accurate multivariate TSL representation

□ Current capabilities

- Discrete temperature grids
- Interpolation
- Basis functions
- Higher max percent deviations
- Higher memory consumption

□ What is missing?

- Continuous temperature (interpolation free)
- Improve memory footprint
- Improve accuracy
- Maintain or Improve computation speed
 - Context dependent



TSL Implementation

□ General task

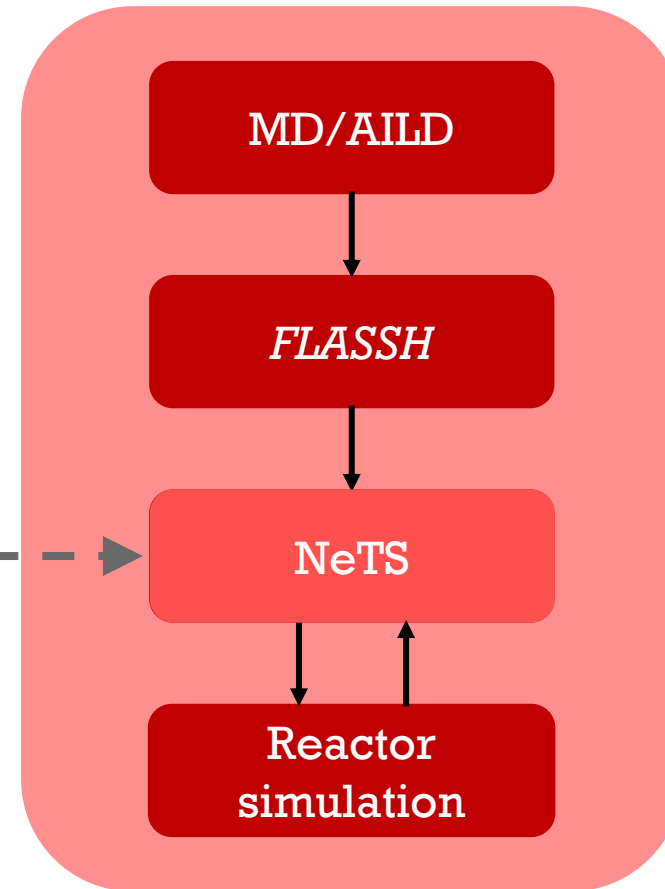
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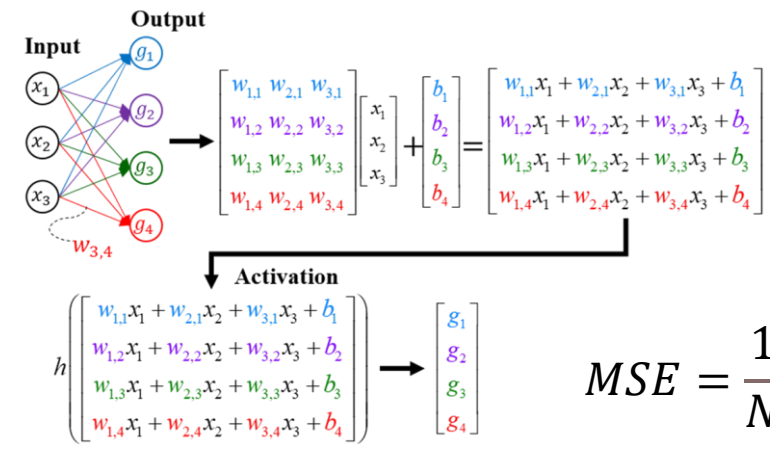
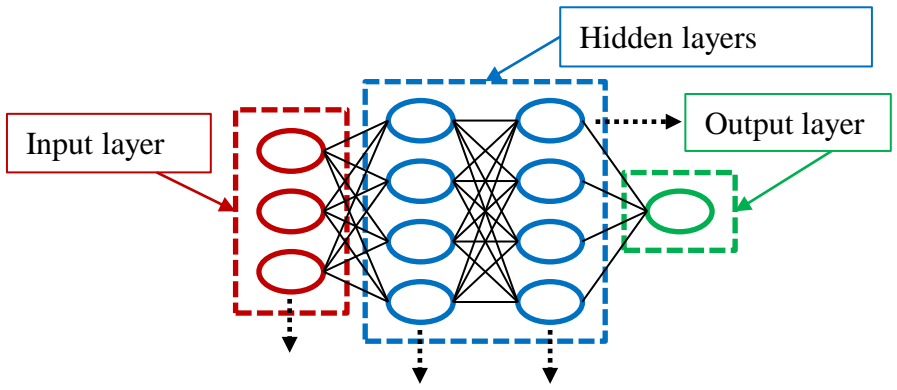
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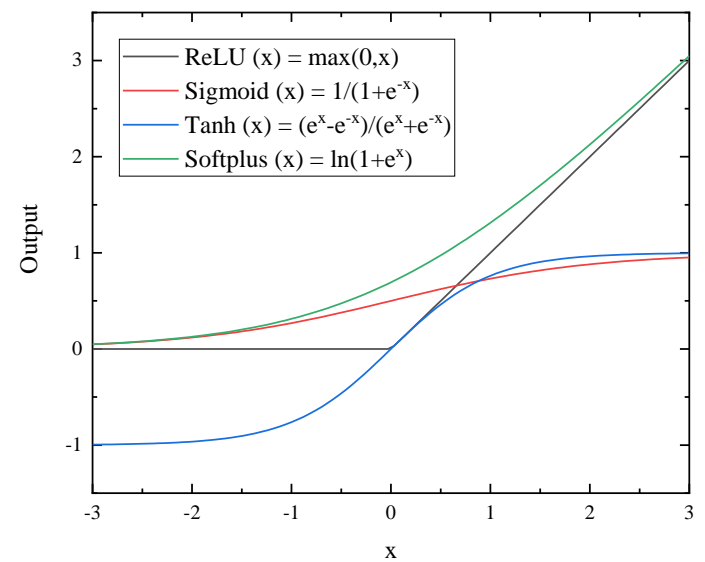
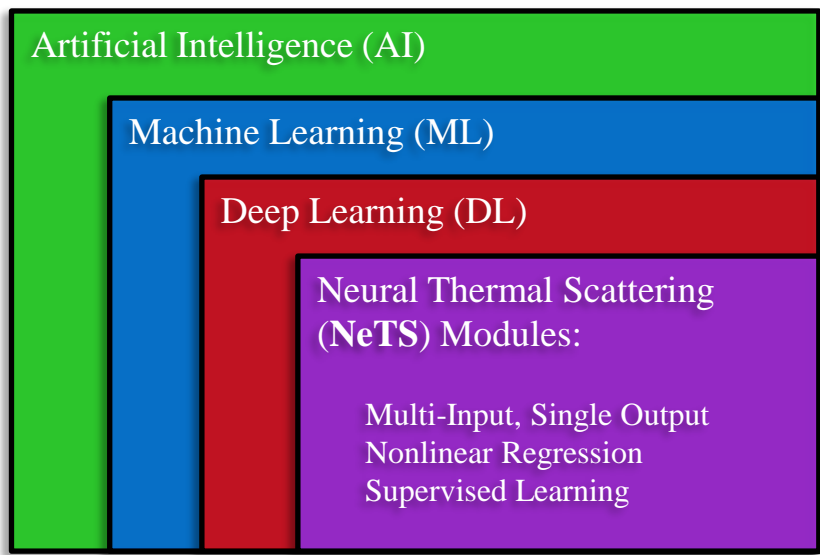


Artificial Neural Networks

A data representation originally inspired by the abstraction of biological neurons



$$MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

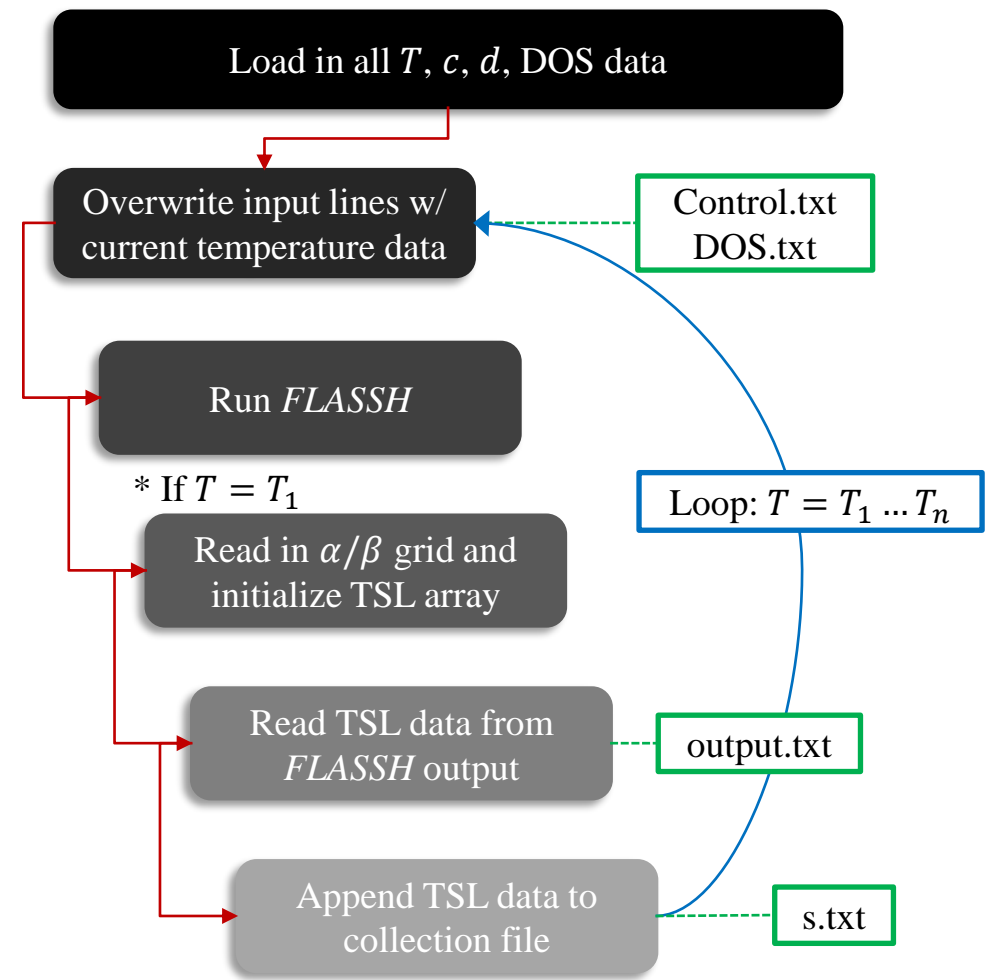
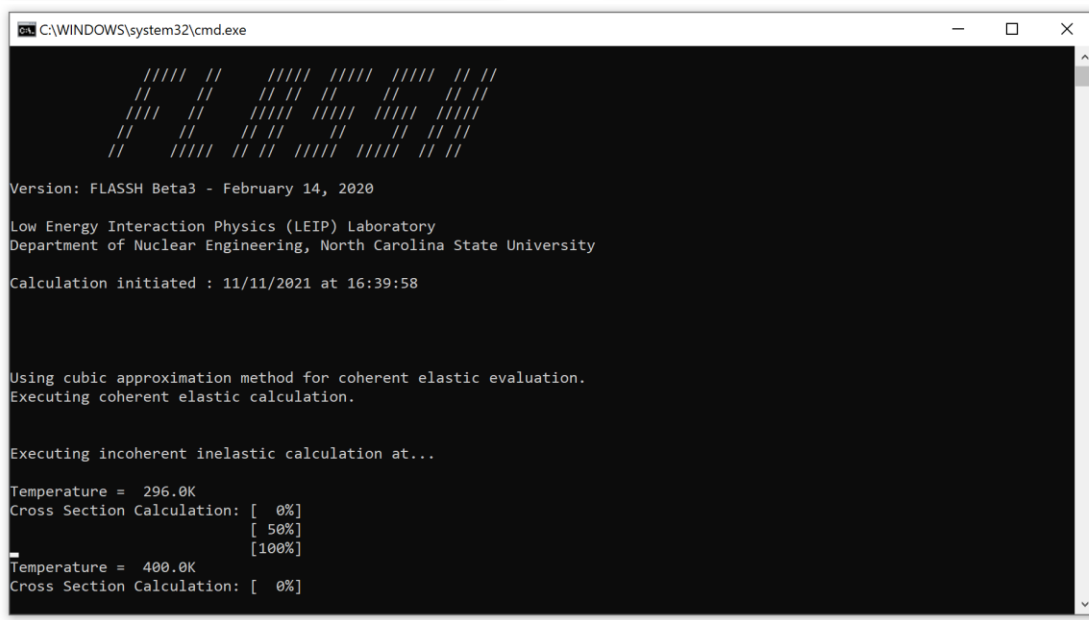
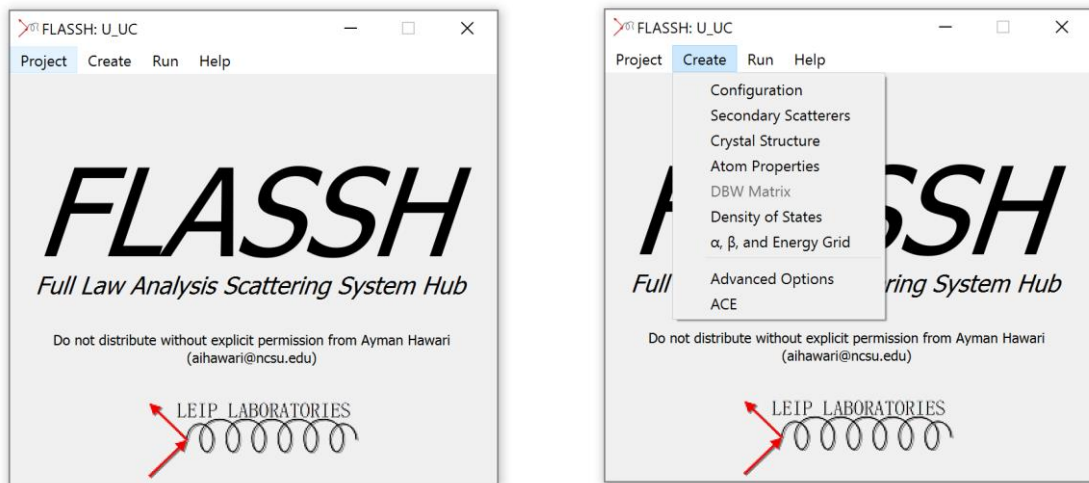


Neural Thermal Scattering (NeTS) Flow Chart

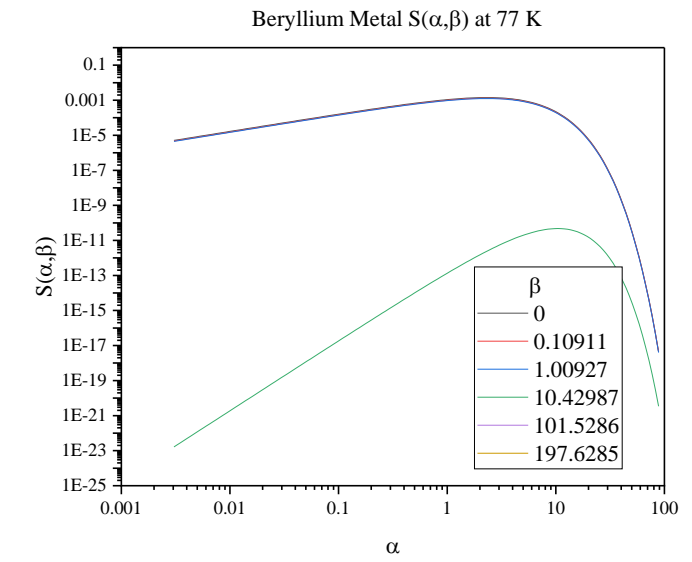
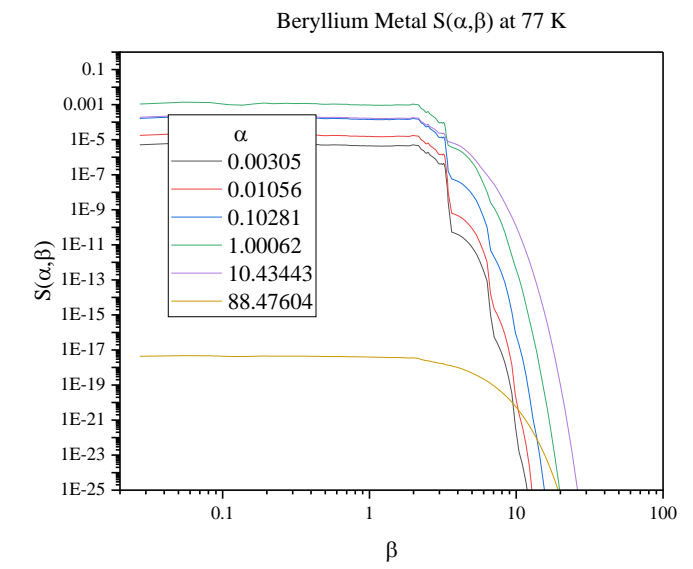
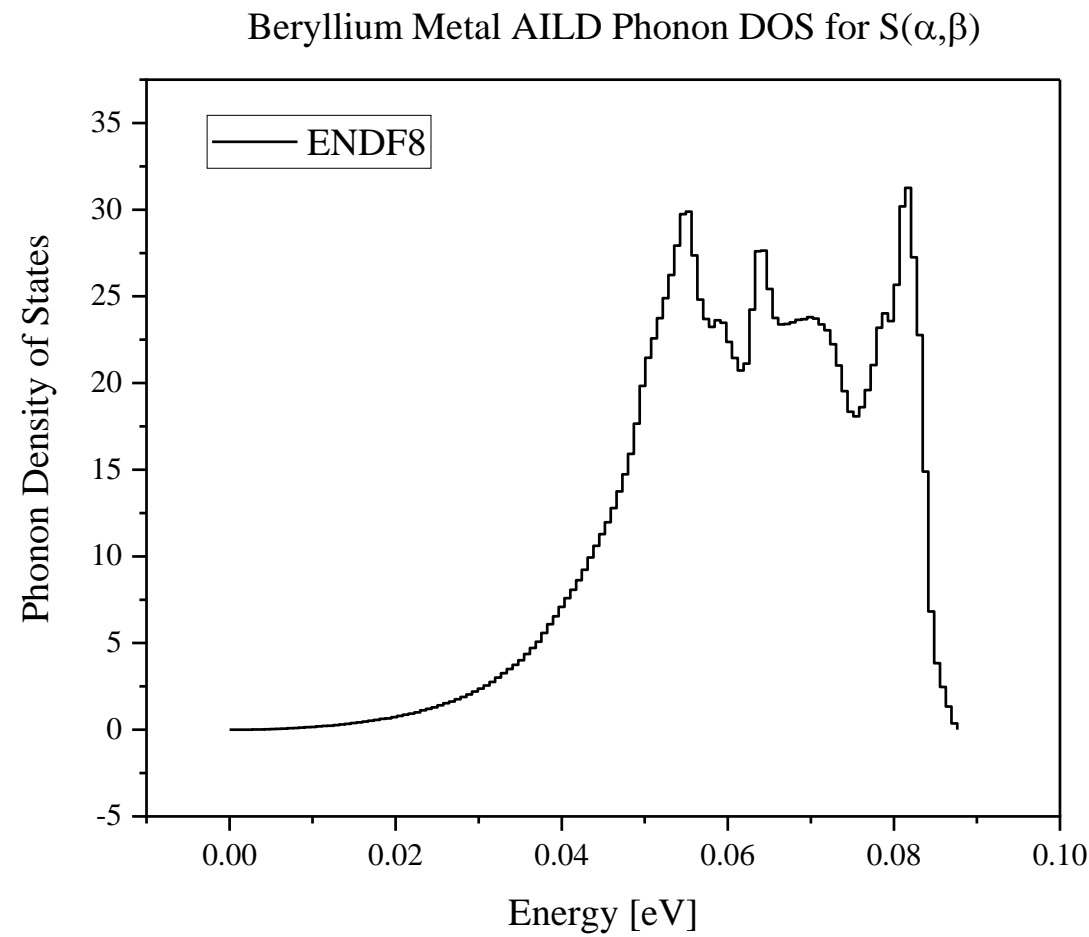
0. DOS: Calculate/verify *ab initio* phonon density of states
1. *FLASH*: Produce training data and aggregate $S(\alpha, \beta)$
2. Data-preprocess: Scale alpha, beta, temperature, $S(\alpha, \beta)$ data and split between training/validation/test datasets
3. Network training: Train Artificial Neural Network (ANN)
4. Evaluate network: Produce deviation metrics for train, validation, test datasets
5. Produce $S(\alpha, \beta)$ data: Use optimized network weights with neural architecture



1. Training Data: *FLASSH* Loop

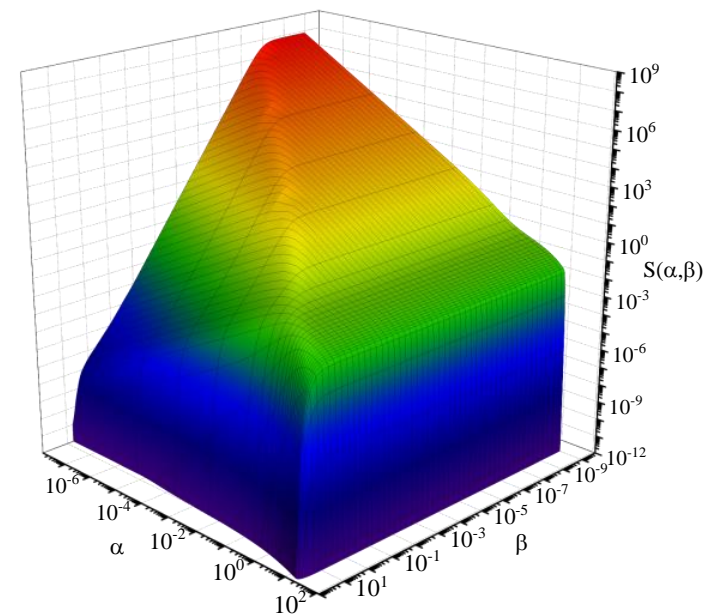
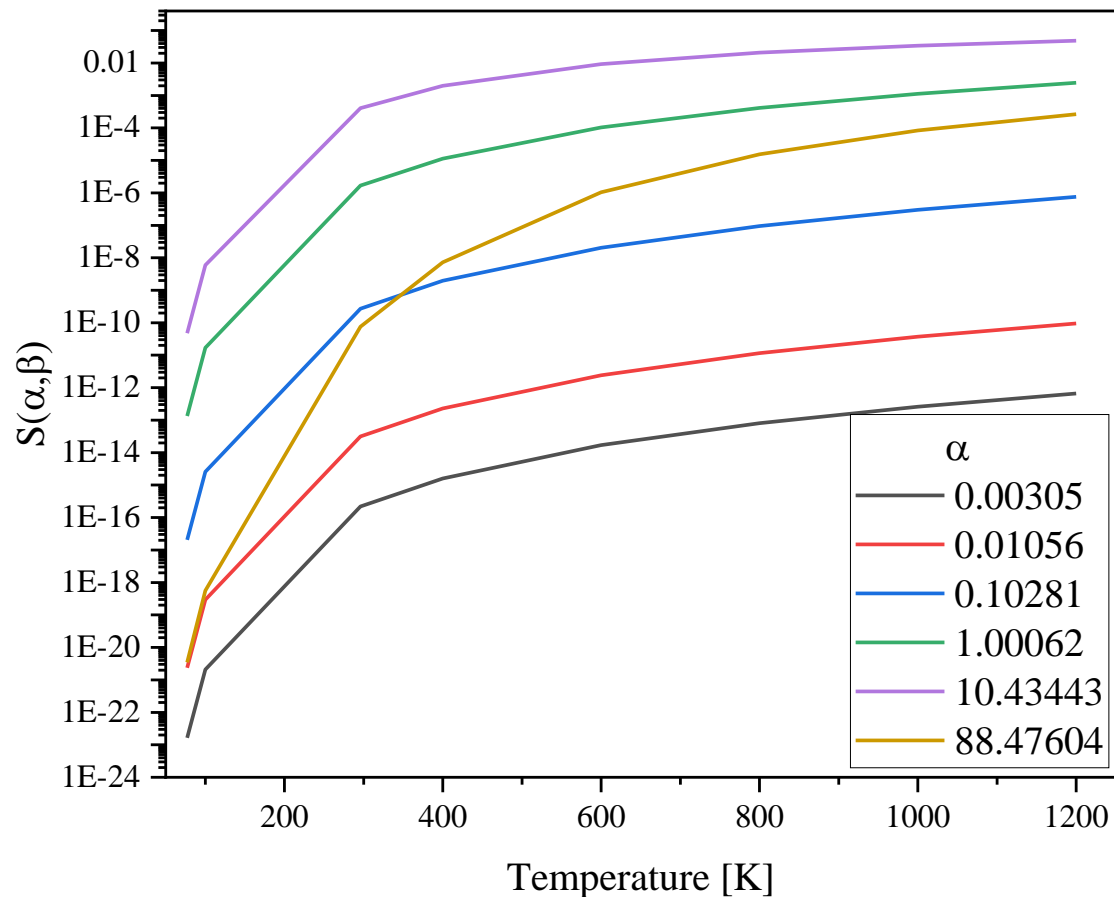


1. Beryllium Metal Evaluation at 77 K



1. Beryllium Metal Temperature Dependence

Beryllium $S(\alpha, \beta)$ as a function of T [K]
for $\beta = 10$ at varying α

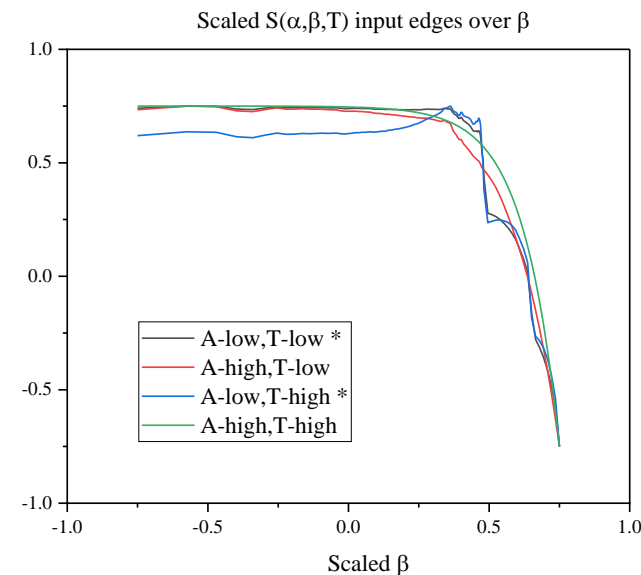
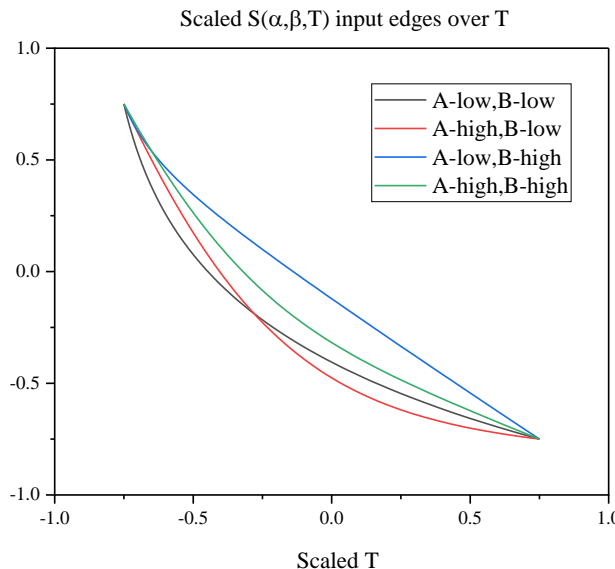
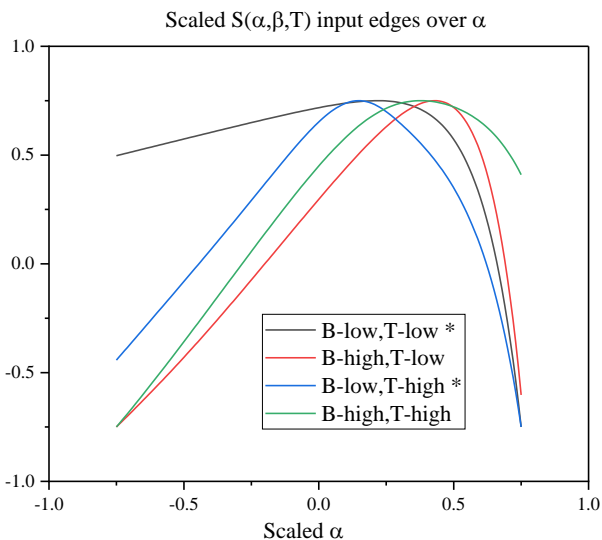
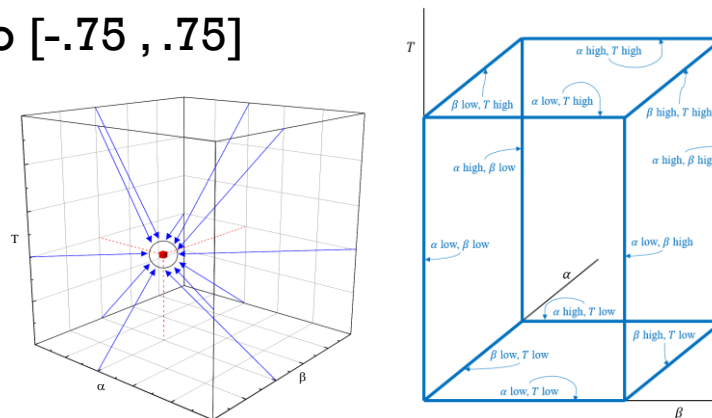


2. FLASSH Data Preprocessing

1. Linearize alpha (log10), beta (log10), temperature grids (1/T) to [-.75, .75]

2. Transform Thermal Scattering Law Data (log10)

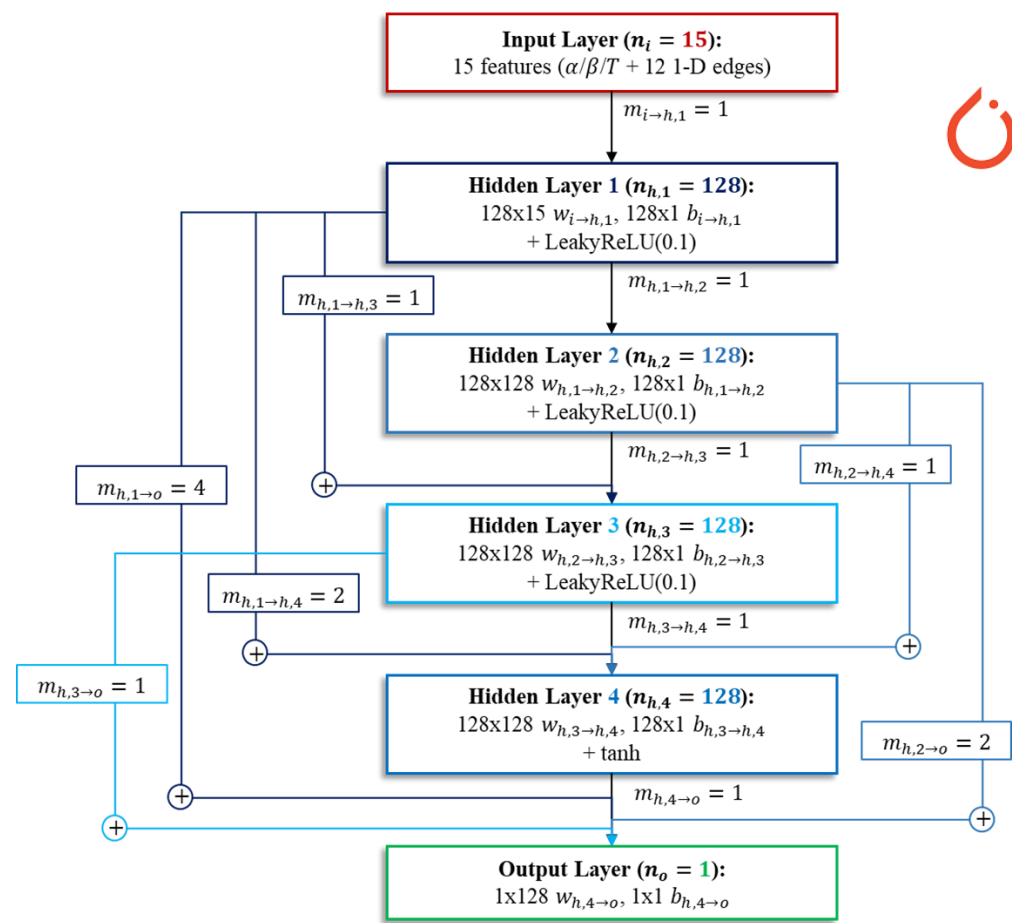
3. Generate input "edges" to assist training (feature engineering)



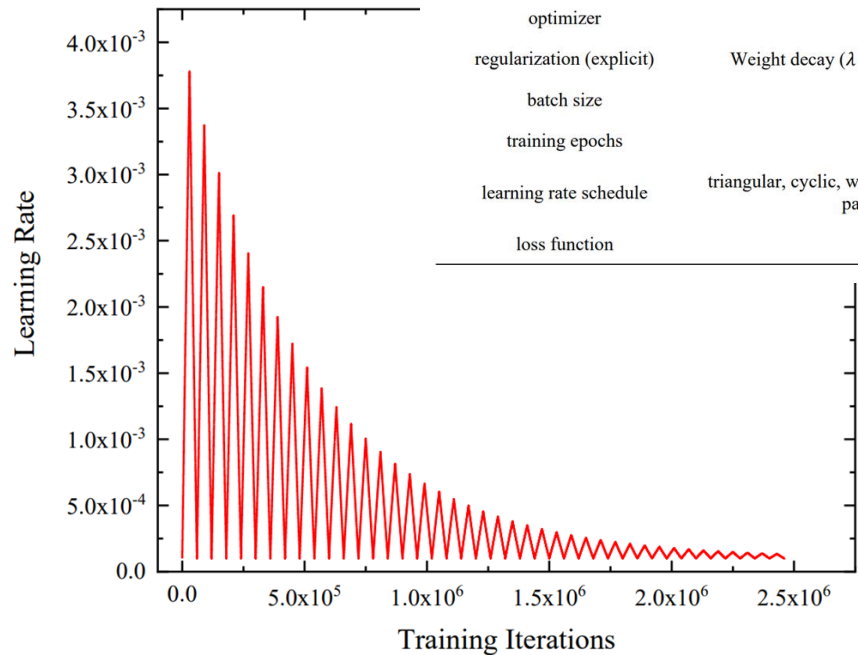
4. Divide dataset into training (99%), validation (.5%), and test (.5%)



3. Network Architecture and Hyperparameters



| Setting | Selection |
|---------------------------|---|
| n_{hidden_layers} | 4 |
| n_h | 128 |
| cascading | none |
| skip connections | dense, weighted |
| skip weight scheme | multiplicative, 1:2:4 |
| activation function | LeakyReLU(0.1) in hidden layers 1-3, tanh in hidden layer 4 |
| weight initialization | Xavier uniform |
| optimizer | AdamW |
| regularization (explicit) | Weight decay ($\lambda \rightarrow 1e-6$, as implemented in AdamW) |
| batch size | 1024 |
| training epochs | 400 |
| learning rate schedule | triangular, cyclic, w/ exponentially decaying amplitude (see parameters in Table 4.3) |
| loss function | MSE |

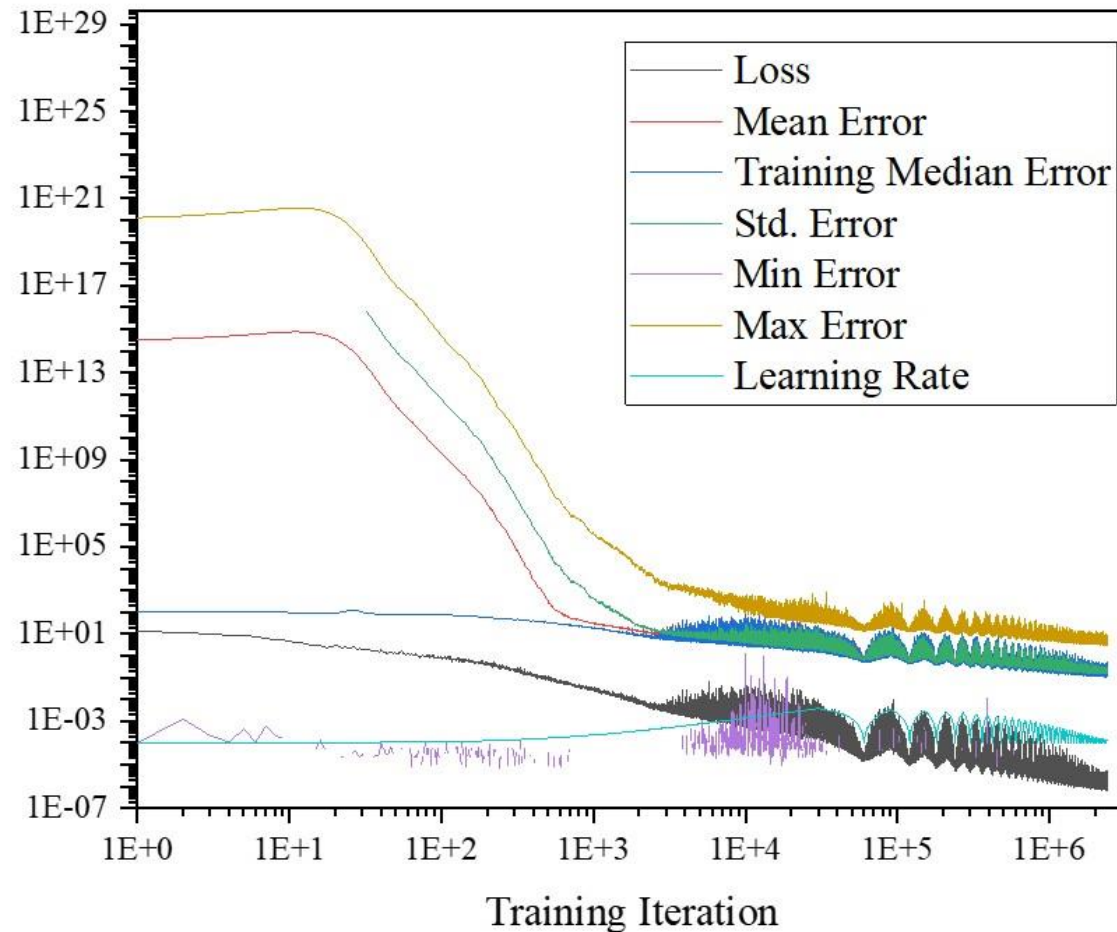


3 LEIP Cluster NVIDIA V100 GPUs, 32 GB onboard memory each
Intel Xeon E5-2690v4 CPUs (sharing 128 GB RAM)



3. ANN convergence

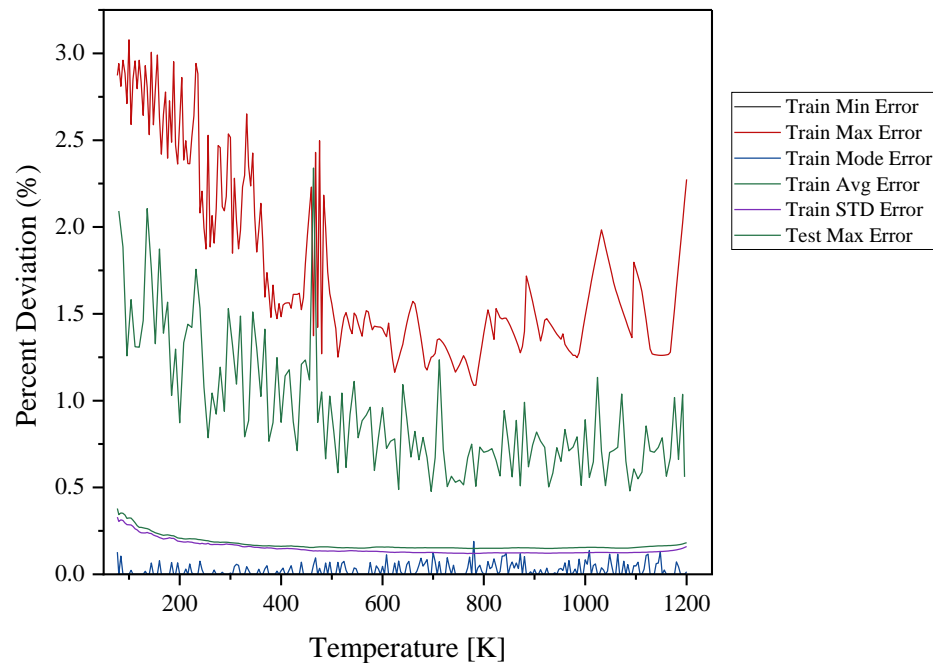
Beryllium Metal NeTS GPU Training Convergence



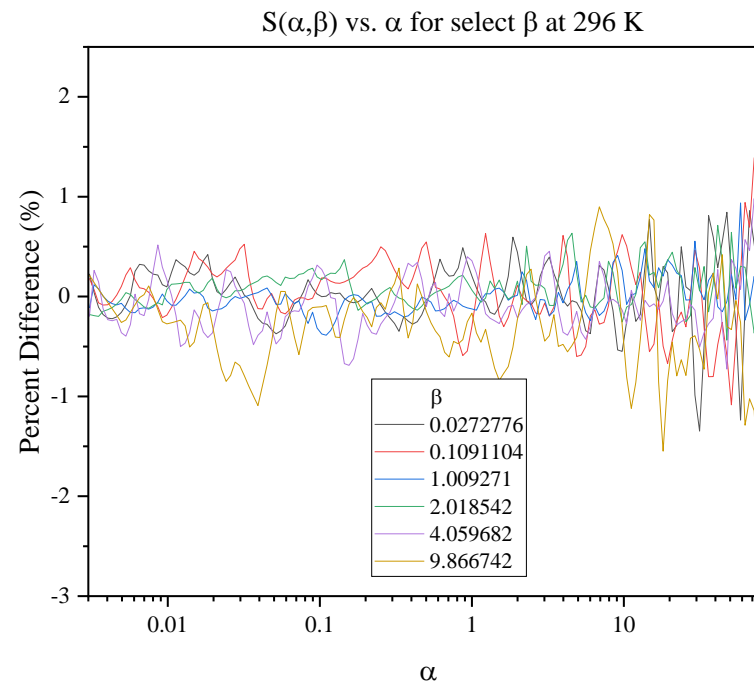
$$MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

4. Network Evaluation (Train/Valid/Test)

Beryllium NeTS Accuracy Metrics as a Function of Temperature [K]



Beryllium NeTS vs. *FLASSH* Percent Difference [100*(N-F)/F]



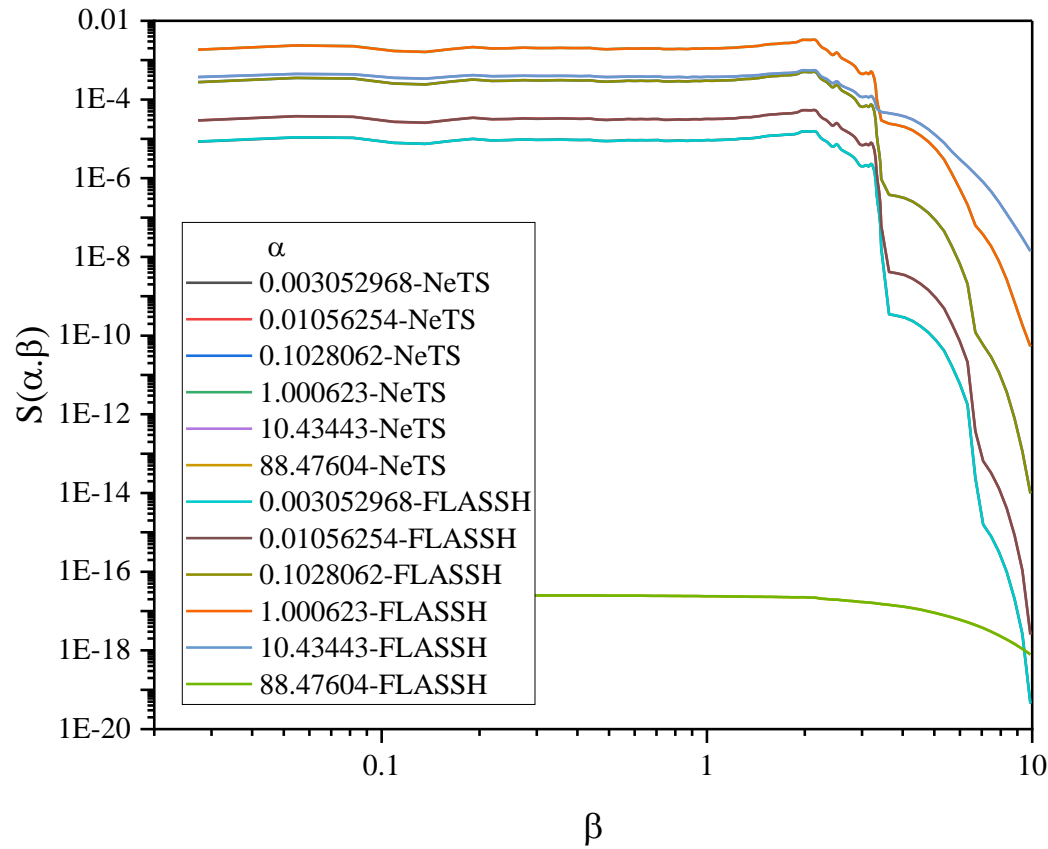
$$MAPE = \frac{100}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left| \frac{y_i - \hat{y}_i}{y_i} \right|$$

| Dataset | Mean APD [%] | Med. APD [%] | Max APD [%] | < 2% [%] | < 1% [%] |
|------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Train | 0.1755 | 0.1574 | 3.0190 | 99.9959 | 99.8477 |
| Validation | 0.1775 | 0.1579 | 2.7552 | 99.9955 | 99.8139 |
| Test | 0.1770 | 0.1574 | 1.6474 | 100.000 | 99.7913 |

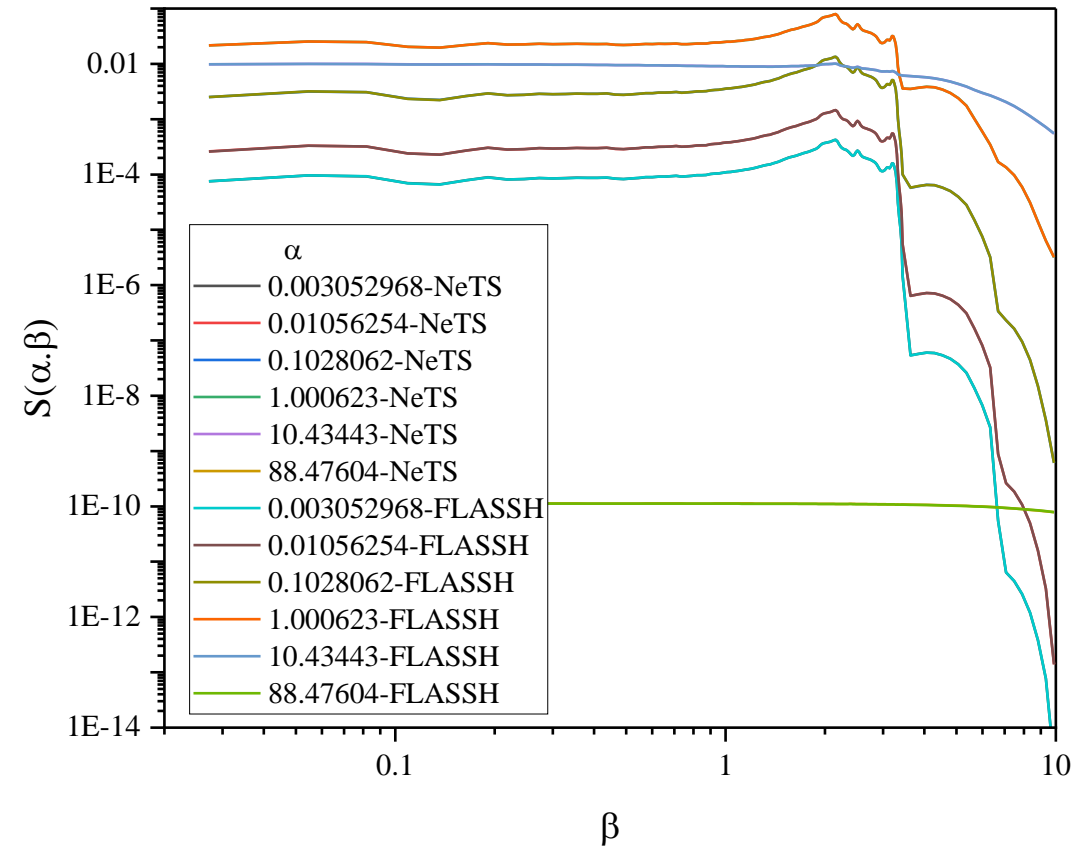


5. ANN $S(\alpha, \beta, T)$ Prediction at 100 K , 296 K

NeTS vs. *FLASSH* Beryllium $S(\alpha, \beta)$ at 100 K

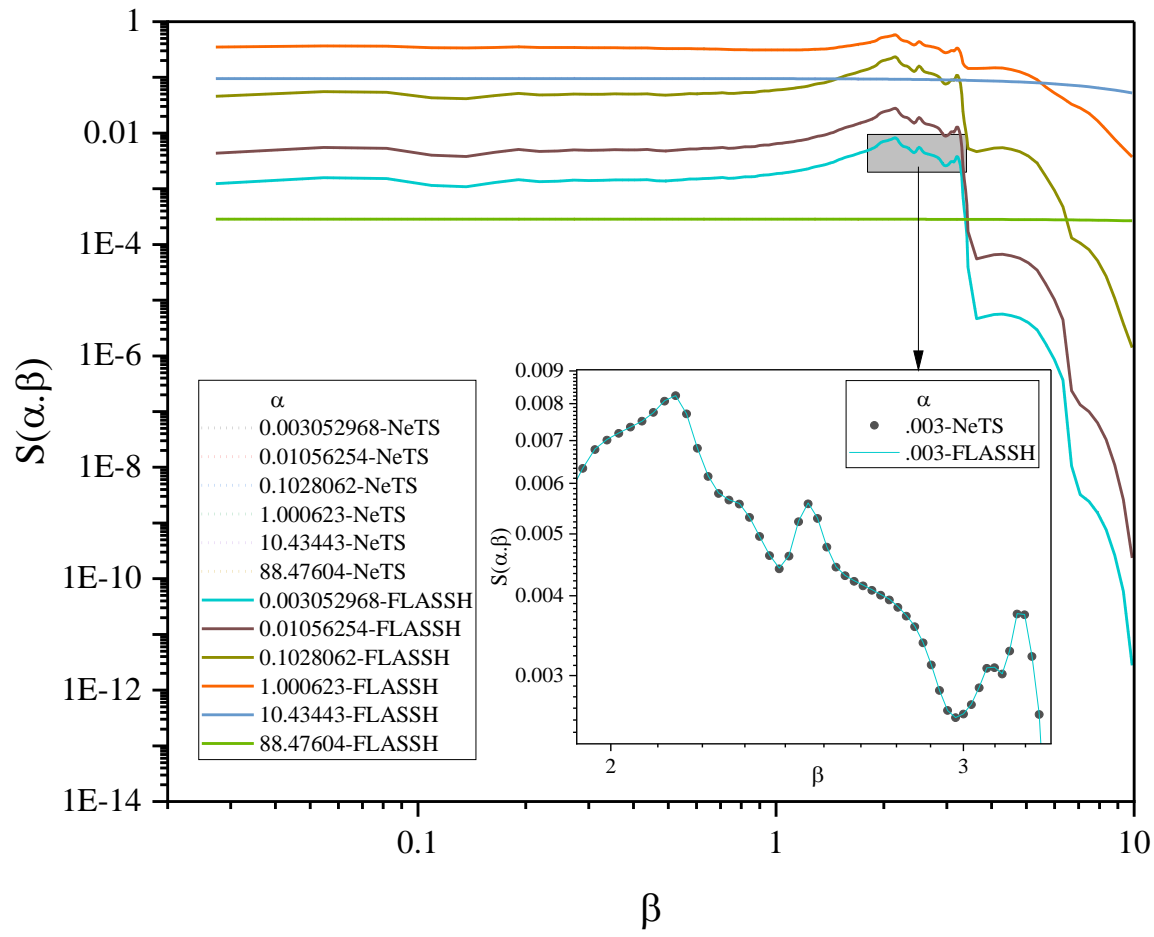


NeTS vs. *FLASSH* Beryllium $S(\alpha, \beta)$ at 296 K

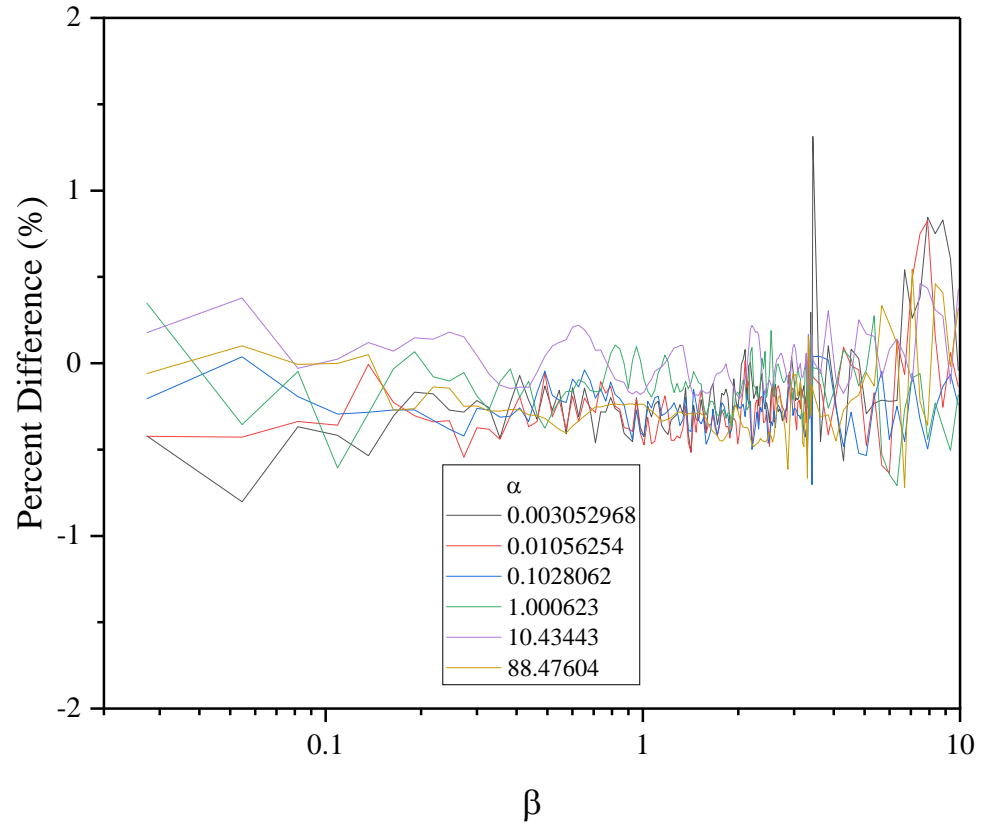


5. ANN $S(\alpha, \beta, T)$ Prediction at 1200 K

NeTS vs. *FLASSH* Beryllium $S(\alpha, \beta)$ at 1200 K



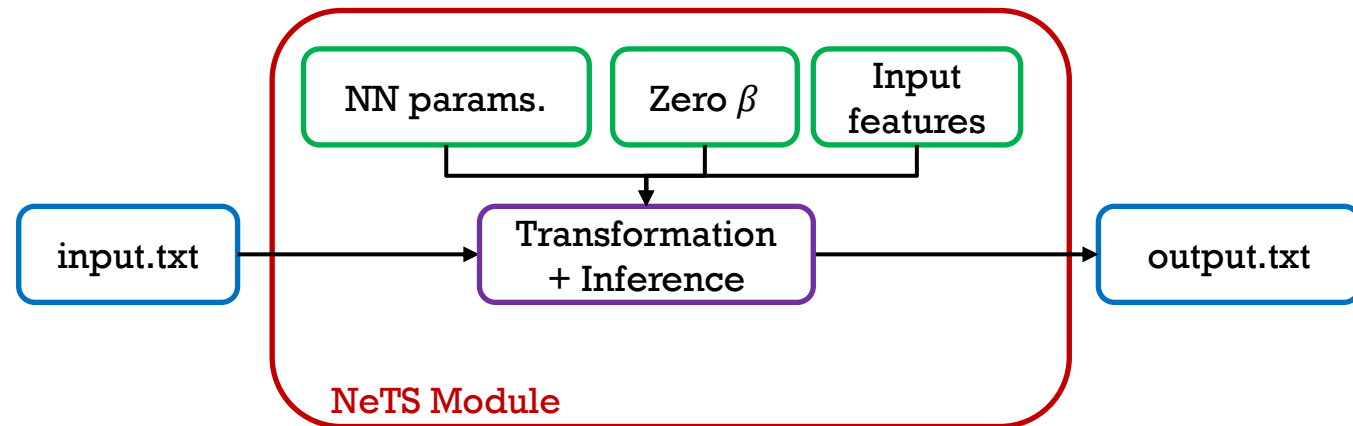
Beryllium NeTS vs. *FLASSH* Percent Difference [$100 \cdot (N-F)/F$] $S(\alpha, \beta)$ vs. β for select α at 1200 K



Finally ... What's a NeTS Module

- ❑ **Compact, accurate functional representations of TSL data for a specific material over a given range of input conditions**

- α/β
- Temperature
- Porosity
- Burnup
- Alloy %
- Pressure



- ❑ **Functional**
- ❑ **Continuous**
- ❑ **Highly accurate**
- ❑ **Memory efficient**
 - Explicit vs. representative storage

Memory & Speed

□ Adding it all up...

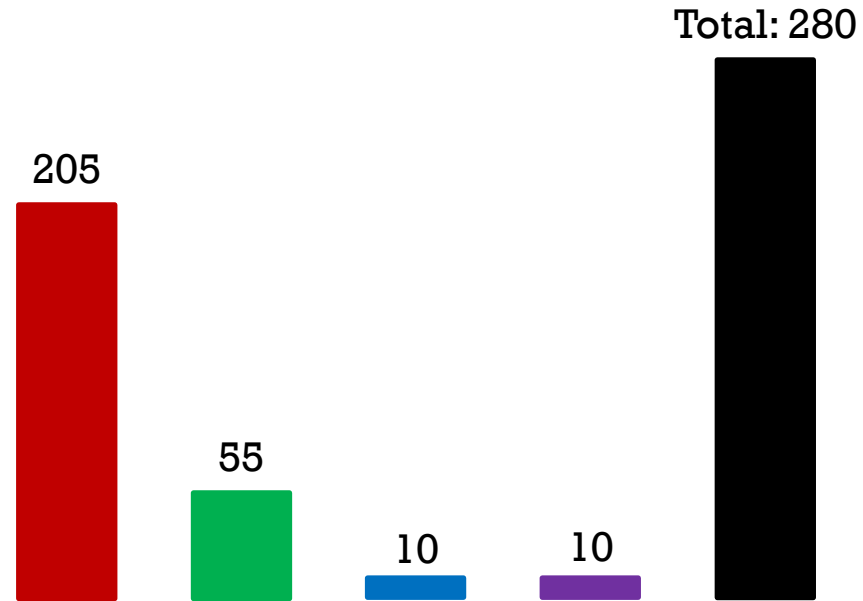
- Big improvements
- Relative to 10+MB

□ Components

- NN parameters
- Zero β
- Input features
- Inference Engine

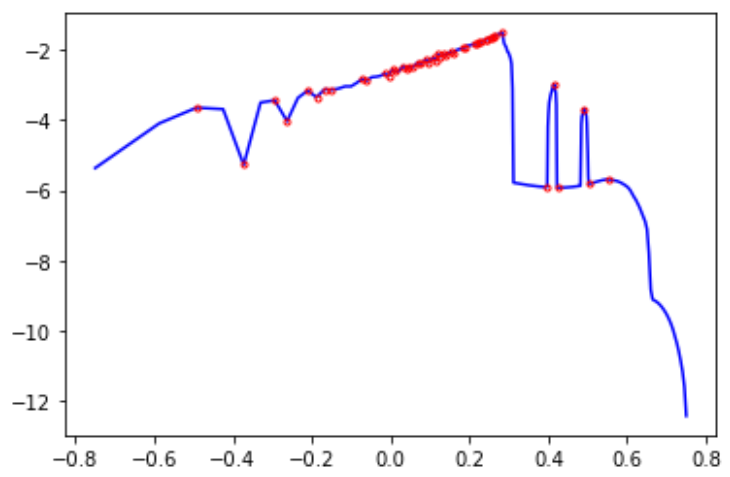
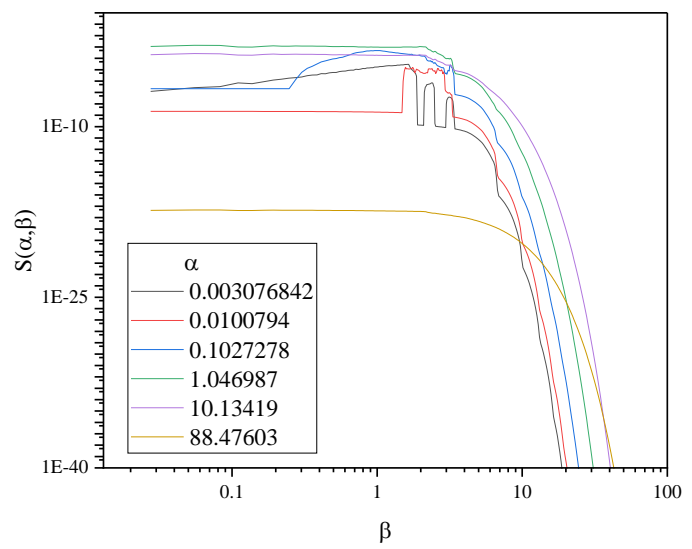
□ Cache memory utilization

- L1, L2

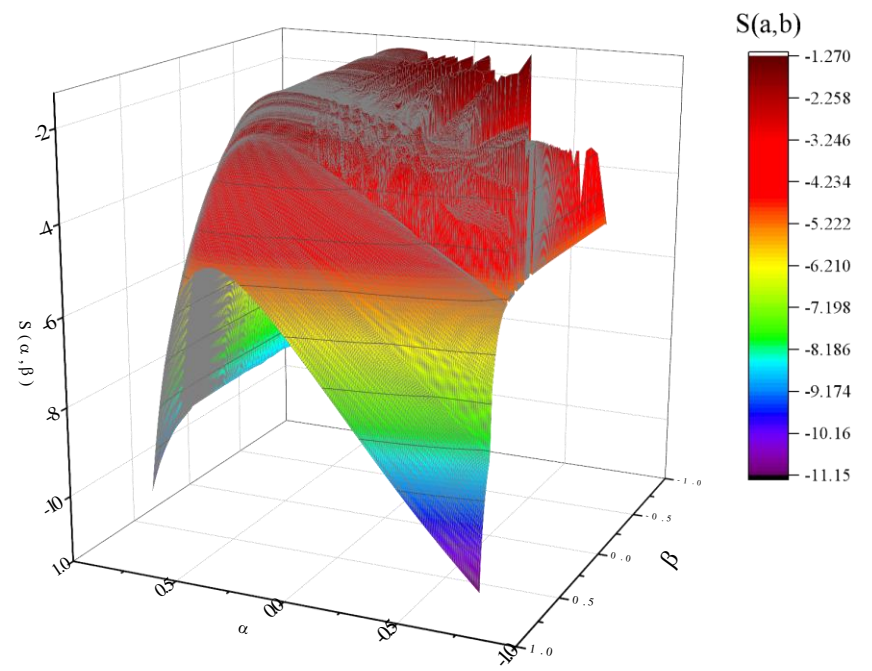
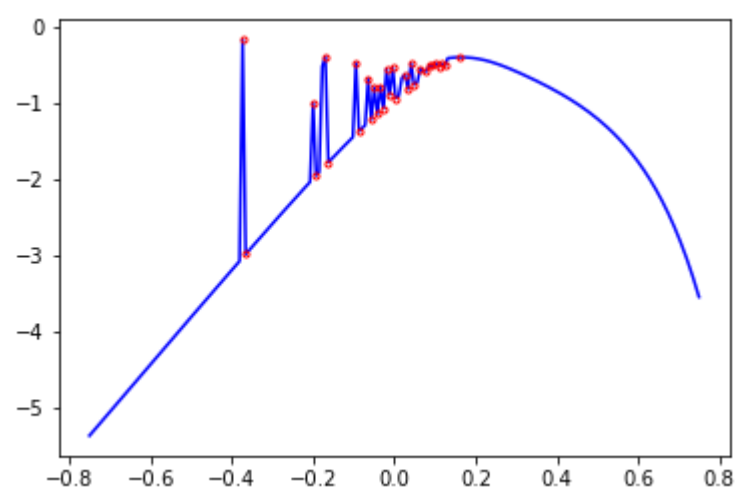
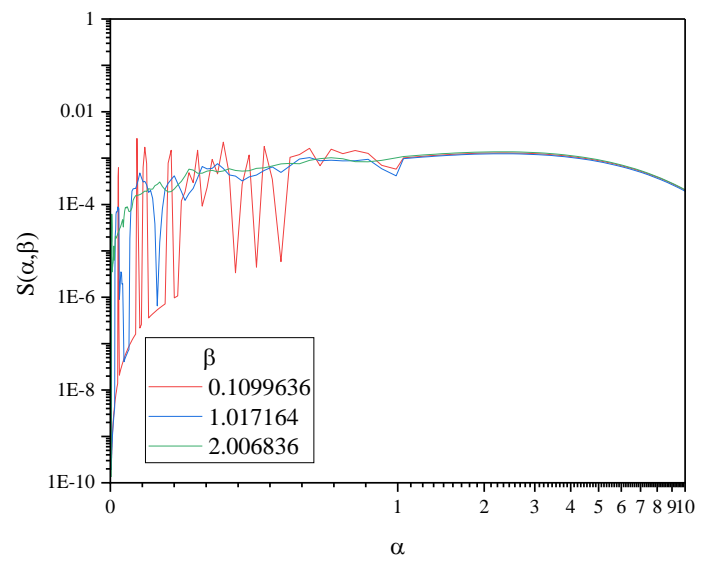


NeTS- Beryllium One-Phonon Correction, $S_d(\alpha, \beta, T)$

Beryllium Metal $S(\alpha, \beta) + S_D$ at 77 K

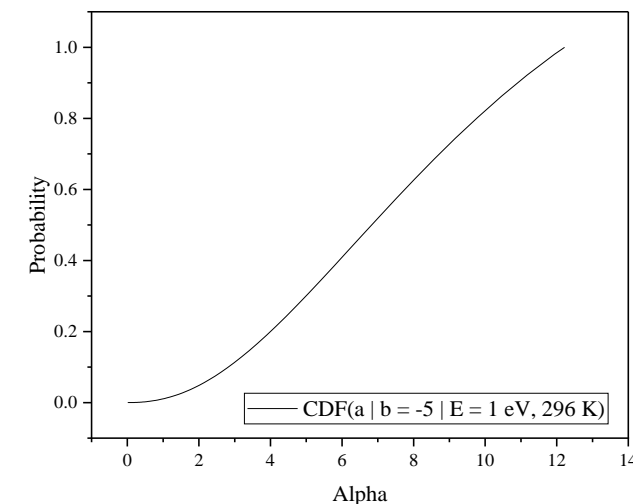
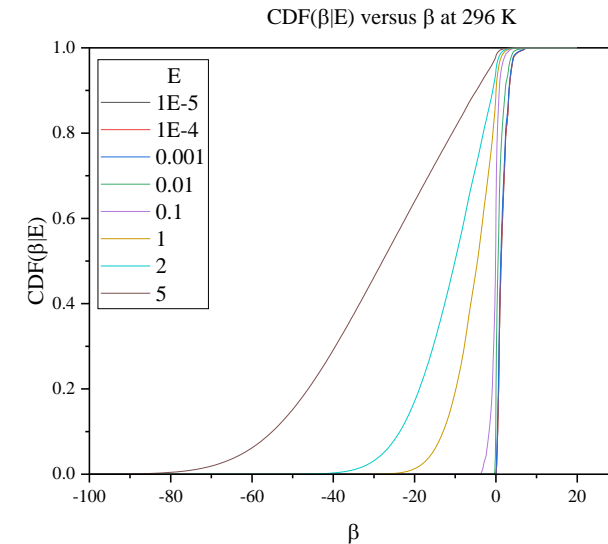


Beryllium Metal $S(\alpha, \beta) + S_D$ at 77 K



Areas for Development and Application

1. **Transfer Learning** : Warm-start network training from a similar NeTS run (implemented)
2. **Optimal Brain Damage** : Reduce final network size, increase network prediction speed by selectively pruning neurons that don't contribute to neural structure (implemented)
3. **Include one-phonon correction and train highly structure $S(\alpha, \beta, T)$ surface** (in-progress)
4. **Extend dimensionality** : additional material properties (i.e., porosity, burnup, pressure), and new materials
5. **Couple NeTS to reactor physics framework** (in-progress)



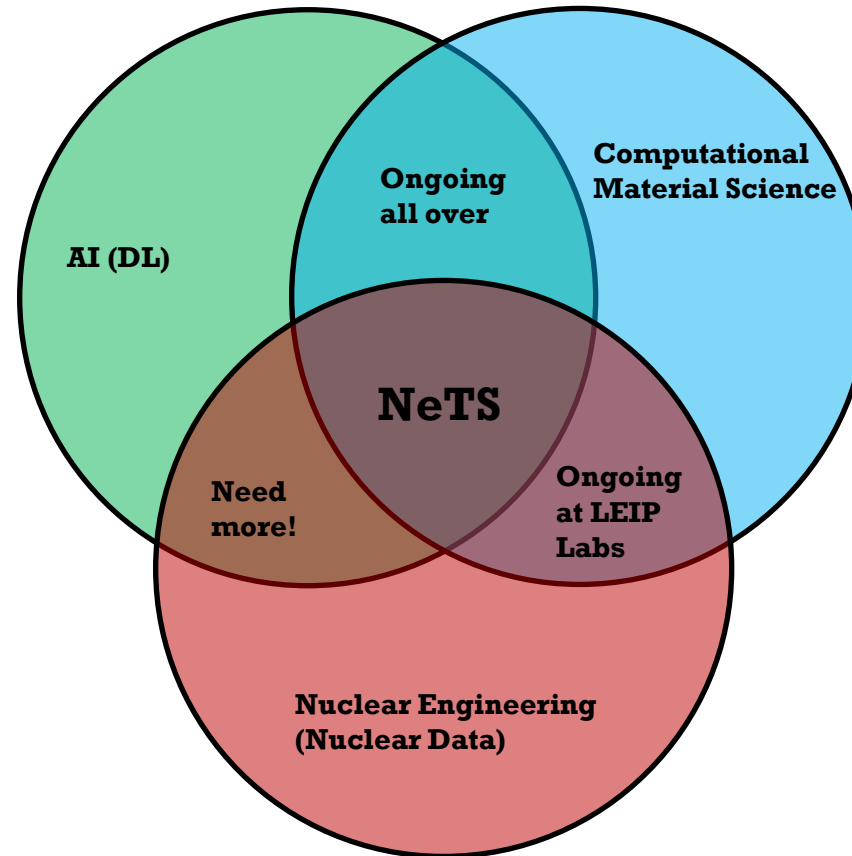
Summary

□ Producing first-of-a-kind NN representations of trivariate TSL data (NeTS)

□ Improvements

- Accuracy
- Memory consumption
- Speed implications

□ Many new possibilities



Thank You

