

# Bayesian neural networks

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# Lecture outline

- What Bayesian Neural Networks (BNNs) are?
- Why go Bayesian?
- How to train BNNs?
- Sparse Variational Dropout

# What you already know

- Stochastic optimization
- Bayesian modelling
- Latent variable models
- Variational inference
  - Bayesian inference  $\leftrightarrow$  (stochastic) optimization
  - (Doubly) Stochastic variational inference
  - Reparameterization Trick



⇒ **Bayesian neural networks**

# Ensemble learning

- Deep Ensembles (Lakshminarayanan et al. 2017)
  - Learn independent models from different initializations
- Snapshot-based methods
  - Save several snapshots during one training procedure
  - Stochastic Gradient MCMC (Welling et al. 2011; Zhang et al. 2019)
  - SnapShot Ensembles (Huang et al. 2017)
- Stochastic neural networks
  - Pack a bunch of models into one stochastic computation graph
  - Variational inference
  - Dropout, data augmentation, BatchNorm, ...

# Stochastic neural networks

- Deterministic neural network:

$$p(t|x, w) = F(x, w)$$

- Stochastic neural network:

$$p(t|x, w) = \int p(t|x, w, \epsilon)p(\epsilon)d\epsilon = \mathbb{E}_{p(\epsilon)}F(x, w, \epsilon)$$

- Expected log-likelihood:

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(\epsilon)} \log p(t|X, w, \epsilon) \rightarrow \max_w$$

- “Weight scaling rule” heuristic (deterministic prediction):

$$p(t|x, w) \approx F(x, w, \mathbb{E}\epsilon)$$

# Generative models vs discriminative models

Bayesian Discriminative Model:

Likelihood  $p(\mathbf{t}|X, \mathbf{w}) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(t_i|\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{w})$

Can be a neural network  
with weights  $\mathbf{W}$ !

Prior  $p(\mathbf{w})$

Posterior  $p(\mathbf{w}|X, \mathbf{t}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{t}|X, \mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w})}{\int p(\mathbf{t}|X, \mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w})d\mathbf{w}} \approx ?$

Set of snapshots  
Stochastic NN

- No local latent variables; we want the posterior over the weights instead
- Much higher dimensionality
  - $10^2$ - $10^3$  for generative models,  $10^5$ - $10^8$  and more for discriminative models

# Why go Bayesian?

A principled framework with many useful applications

- Regularization
- Ensembling
- Uncertainty estimation
- On-line / continual learning
- Quantization
- Compression
- ...

# Ensembling

A Bayesian neural network is **an infinite ensemble** of neural networks

$\mathbf{w} \sim p(\mathbf{w}|X, \mathbf{t})$       One sample from the posterior  
One element of the ensemble

Predictive distribution       $p(t^*|\mathbf{x}^*, X, \mathbf{t}) = \int p(t^*|\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w}|X, \mathbf{t})d\mathbf{w}$

And its unbiased estimate

$$\mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{w}|X, \mathbf{t})}p(t^*|\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{w}) \simeq \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^K p(t^*|\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{w}^k); \quad \mathbf{w}^k \sim p(\mathbf{w}|X, \mathbf{t})$$

- Higher accuracy
- More robust

Average SoftMax outputs  
across several samples



# Uncertainty estimation

Deterministic NNs: a **point estimate** of the output, overconfident  
Bayesian framework allows us to obtain a **distribution** over the outputs

- Detection of adversarial attacks and out-of-domain data
- Rejection of classification
- Active learning
- ...
- Stay tuned for the next lecture!

# On-line / incremental learning

Assume that the dataset arrives in independent parts.

$$\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_1 \cup \mathcal{D}_2 \cup \dots \cup \mathcal{D}_M$$

We can train on the first dataset as usual...

$$p(\mathbf{w}|\mathcal{D}_1) = \frac{p(\mathcal{D}_1|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w})}{\int p(\mathcal{D}_1|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w})d\mathbf{w}}$$

... And then use the obtained posterior as the prior for the next step!

$$\begin{aligned} p(\mathbf{w}|\mathcal{D}_2, \mathcal{D}_1) &= \frac{p(\mathcal{D}_2|\mathbf{w})p(\mathcal{D}_1|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w})}{\int p(\mathcal{D}_2|\mathbf{w})p(\mathcal{D}_1|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w})d\mathbf{w}} = \\ &= \frac{p(\mathcal{D}_2|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w}|\mathcal{D}_1)}{\int p(\mathcal{D}_2|\mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w}|\mathcal{D}_1)d\mathbf{w}} \end{aligned}$$

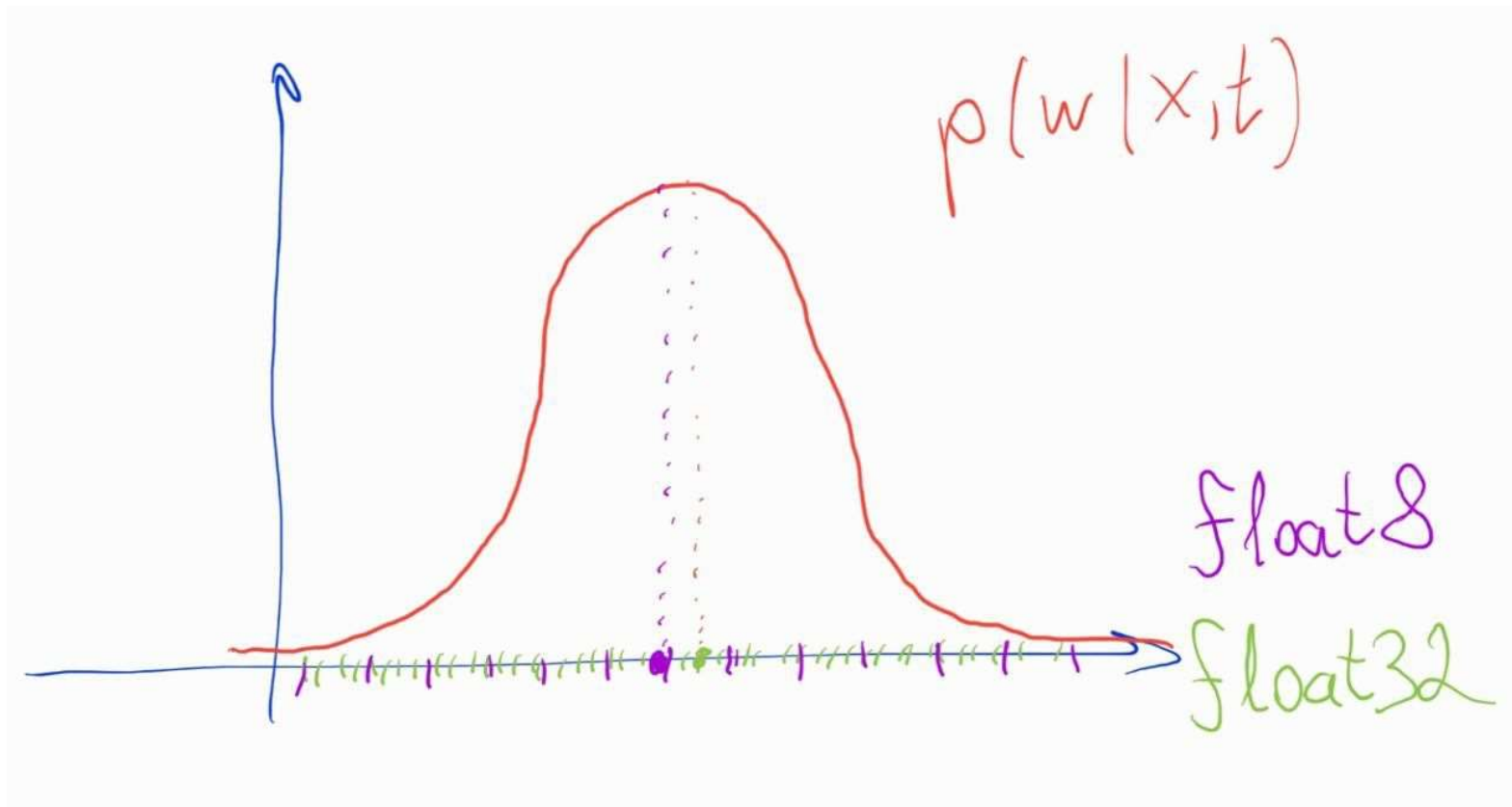
Using these sequential updates, we can find  $p(\mathbf{w}|\mathcal{D})$ !

Kirkpatrick et al. "Overcoming catastrophic forgetting in neural networks." *PNAS* 2017

Ritter et al. "Online structured laplace approximations for overcoming catastrophic forgetting." *NeurIPS* 2018

# Quantization

- Automatically determine the necessary bit precision!



# Variational inference for Bayesian NNs

The posterior distribution  $p(\mathbf{w}|X, \mathbf{t}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{t}|X, \mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w})}{\int p(\mathbf{t}|X, \mathbf{w})p(\mathbf{w})d\mathbf{w}}$

How to find it? Use (doubly stochastic) variational inference!

$$q_{\phi}(\mathbf{w}) \approx p(\mathbf{w}|X, \mathbf{t})$$
$$\text{KL}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{w}) \parallel p(\mathbf{w}|X, \mathbf{t})) \rightarrow \min_{\phi}$$

$$\text{Bayesian NN ELBO: } \mathcal{L}(\phi) = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}(\mathbf{w})} \log p(\mathbf{t}_i | X_i, \mathbf{w}) - \text{KL}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{w}) \parallel p(\mathbf{w})) \rightarrow \max_{\phi}$$

$$\text{VAE ELBO: } \mathcal{L}(\phi) = \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}_i)} \log p(\mathbf{x}_i | \mathbf{z}, \theta) - \text{KL}(q_{\phi}(\mathbf{z} | \mathbf{x}_i) \parallel p(\mathbf{z})) \right]$$

Only two differences from LVMs:

- KL-term is global
- Extremely high-dimensional posterior

# Reparameterization trick for Bayesian NNs

Reparameterize  $q(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\phi})$  and plug the sample into the ELBO

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{w} \sim q(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\phi}) &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{w} = g(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{\phi}); \quad \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim p(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}) \\ \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi}) = \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{\epsilon})} \log p(\mathbf{t}|X, \mathbf{w} = g(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{\phi})) - \text{KL}(q \parallel p) &\rightarrow \max_{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \end{aligned}$$

Obtain an unbiased differentiable mini-batch estimator

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi}) \simeq \frac{N}{M} \sum_i \log p(\mathbf{t}_{m_i} | \mathbf{x}_{m_i}, \mathbf{w} = g(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}, \boldsymbol{\phi})) - \text{KL}(q \parallel p); \quad \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim p(\boldsymbol{\epsilon})$$

Very similar to conventional loss functions

Basically, using any kind of noise during training is close to being Bayesian

Usually just **1 sample per iteration is enough!**

# Ex: dropout training as variational inference

Binary dropout results in a binary dropout posterior

$$\mathbf{w} = \boldsymbol{\phi} \cdot \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}); \quad \epsilon_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$$

It can be shown that a Gaussian prior leads to L2 regularization here  
ELBO for binary dropout training:

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi}) = \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{\epsilon})} \log p(\mathbf{t} | X, \mathbf{w} = \boldsymbol{\phi} \cdot \text{diag}(\boldsymbol{\epsilon})) - \lambda \|\boldsymbol{\phi}\|_2^2 \rightarrow \max_{\boldsymbol{\phi}}$$

- Using binary dropout means being Bayesian 😊
- There are other uses beyond regularization!
  - Ensembling
  - Uncertainty estimation
  - We can tune the dropout rate  $p$  using REINFORCE / Gumbel trick / ...

Gal, Yarin, and Zoubin Ghahramani. "Dropout as a Bayesian approximation: Representing model uncertainty in deep learning." *ICML* 2016.

# Ex: Fully-Factorized Gaussians

Approximate posterior

$$q(\mathbf{w}) = \prod_i \mathcal{N}(w_i | \mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$$

Reparameterization

$$\mathbf{w} = \boldsymbol{\mu} + \boldsymbol{\sigma} \odot \boldsymbol{\epsilon}; \quad \epsilon_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

The prior here is, e.g. a zero-centered FF Gaussian prior with variance  $\sigma_{prior}^2$

ELBO:

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\sigma}) = \mathbb{E}_{p(\boldsymbol{\epsilon})} \log p(\mathbf{t} | X, \mathbf{w} = \boldsymbol{\mu} + \boldsymbol{\sigma} \odot \boldsymbol{\epsilon}) - \underbrace{\frac{\|\boldsymbol{\mu}\|_2^2 + \|\boldsymbol{\sigma}\|_2^2}{2\sigma_{prior}^2} + \sum_i \log \frac{\sigma_i^2}{\sigma_{prior}^2}}_{\text{KL between two } \mathcal{N}} \rightarrow \max_{\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\sigma}}$$

- More tractable
- Richer approximation
- Twice as many parameters
- Start with small  $\sigma$ , optimize w.r.t.  $\log \sigma$  to avoid constrained optimization

# Ex: Fully-Factorized Gaussians

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KL between two  $\mathcal{N}$

- More tractable
- Richer approximation
- Twice as many parameters
- Start with small  $\sigma$ , optimize w.r.t.  $\log \sigma$  to avoid constrained optimization




# The local reparameterization trick

ELBO estimator may have high variance:

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi) \simeq \hat{\mathcal{L}}(\phi) = \frac{N}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M L_i(\phi, \epsilon)$$

Shared noise sample!


$$\text{Var}[\hat{\mathcal{L}}] = \frac{N^2}{M^2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^M \text{Var}[L_i] + 2 \sum_i^M \sum_i^M \text{Cov}[L_i, L_j] \right)$$
$$= N^2 \left( \frac{1}{M} \text{Var}[L_i] + \frac{M-1}{M} \text{Cov}[L_i, L_j] \right)$$

Kingma, Diederik P., Tim Salimans, and Max Welling. "Variational dropout and the local reparameterization trick." *Advances in NIPS* 2015.

WARNING: NOTATION ABUSE

Green means element-wise

# The local reparameterization trick

Consider a linear layer with weight matrix  $W$ , input  $A$  and output  $B$ .

$$w_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_{ij}, \sigma_{ij}^2)$$

$$B = AW$$

Predictions have **high**  
correlation because there is  
**one weight sample per  
batch**

$$\mathbb{E}B = A\mu \quad \text{Var}B = A^2\sigma^2$$

$$B \sim \mathcal{N}(A\mu, A^2\sigma^2)$$

$$B = A\mu + \sqrt{A^2\sigma^2} \odot \epsilon$$

Predictions have **zero**  
correlation because there is  
**one weight sample per  
object**

Kingma, Diederik P., Tim Salimans, and Max Welling. "Variational dropout and the local reparameterization trick." *Advances in NIPS* 2015.

# The local reparameterization trick

LRT also reduces the variance of the stochastic gradient for **one** object

$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \mu_i}$  is the same for both RT and LRT, but

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \sigma_i} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial b} \cdot \frac{\partial b}{\partial \sigma_i} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial b} \cdot a_i \epsilon_i$$

RT, 1 sample per weight  
A lot of redundant stochasticity

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \sigma_i} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial b} \cdot \frac{\partial b}{\partial \sigma_i} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial b} \cdot \frac{a_i^2 \sigma_i \epsilon}{\sqrt{a^2{}^\top \sigma^2}}$$

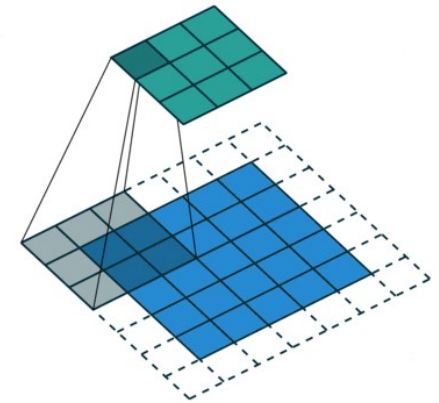
LRT, 1 sample per neuron  
No redundant stochasticity

WARNING: NOTATION ABUSE

Green means element-wise

# LRT for convolutions

- $B$  no longer factorizes in convolutional layers
  - Same weight samples should be used for different spatial positions
- Exact local reparameterization is too complex
  - We need to calculate the full covariance matrix for each activation
- We can use the mean-field local reparameterization as an approximation
  - Not justified (*yet*)
  - Performs much better than plain reparameterization



$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}B &= A \star \mu & \text{Var}B &= A^2 \star \sigma^2 \\ B &\sim \mathcal{N}(A \star \mu, A^2 \star \sigma^2) \\ B &= A \star \mu + \sqrt{A^2 \star \sigma^2} \odot \epsilon\end{aligned}$$

# What next?

- A few technical details
  - Treating deterministic parameters
  - How to choose prior
  - Faster test-time inference
- Sparse Variational Dropout

# Treating deterministic parameters

What about other parameters, not just weight matrices?

- Biases
- Linear transformation in BatchNorm
- Any other “non-expressive” parameters

1) We can put priors over them, and treat them as random variables

2) We can treat them as deterministic parameters

- Assume a flat prior and a delta-peak posterior
- OR: bounding the marginal likelihood of the data given these parameters

$$\log p(\mathbf{t}|X, \boldsymbol{\theta}) \geq \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\phi})} \log p(\mathbf{t}|X, \mathbf{w}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) - \text{KL}(q(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\phi}) \parallel p(\mathbf{w})) \rightarrow \max_{\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}}$$

# Empirical Bayes for Bayesian NNs

- How to choose the prior distribution?
- Type-II maximum likelihood (maximum evidence):

$$\begin{aligned} \log p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) &\rightarrow \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \\ \log p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) &\geq \\ \geq \mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) &= \mathbb{E}_{q(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\phi})} \log p(\mathbf{t}|\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{w}) - \text{KL}(q(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\phi}) \| p(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\theta})) \rightarrow \max_{\boldsymbol{\phi}, \boldsymbol{\theta}} \end{aligned}$$

- It is okay when  $\dim \boldsymbol{\theta}$  is small
- May overfit if  $\dim \boldsymbol{\theta}$  is large
  - Ideally we would have  $p(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = q(\mathbf{w}|\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \delta(\mathbf{w}_{ML})$
  - You never know whether you can overfit with a particular parameterization
  - Add a hyperprior  $p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ ?
- Usually used to induce sparsity / quantization (RVM, SWS, ...)

# Distillation

Test-time averaging is expensive

Imaging we have a good sampler  $q_t(w_t)$  for  $\mathbf{w}$

- SG MCMC
- Variational approximate posterior
- Any other ensemble

We can train a separate deterministic neural network (student) to “mimic” the ensemble (teacher):

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{w}_{st}) = \mathbb{E}_{q_t(\mathbf{w}_t)} \mathbb{E}_{p(\mathbf{t}|X, \mathbf{w}_t)} \log p(\mathbf{t}|X, \mathbf{w}_{st})$$

- Worse than the ensemble
- Better than a single network

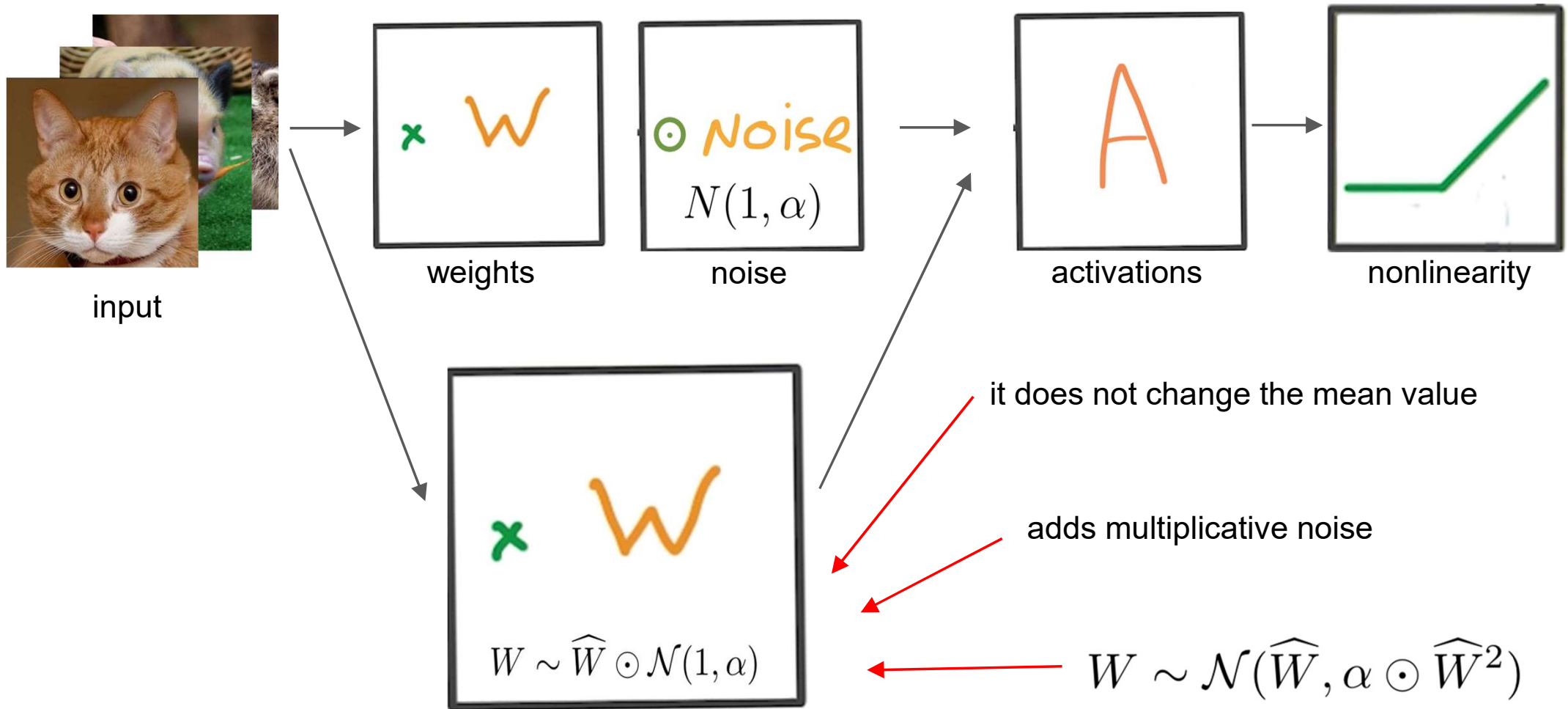
Balan, Anoop Korattikara, et al. "Bayesian dark knowledge." *NIPS* 2015.



# Bayesian neural networks: takeaways

- Stochastic neural networks
- Local reparameterization
- Empirical Bayes
- Other techniques except VI:
  - MCMC
  - Laplace approximation
  - Stein variational gradient descent
  - Variational information bottleneck
  - Deep GPs and deep kernel learning
  - ...

# Gaussian Dropout



# Variational Dropout

$$\mathbb{E}_{q(W | \phi)} \log p(y | x, W) - D_{KL}(q(W | \phi) || p(W)) \rightarrow \max_{\phi}$$

- Posterior distribution Gaussian Dropout with noise  $\sim \mathcal{N}(1, \alpha_{ij})$

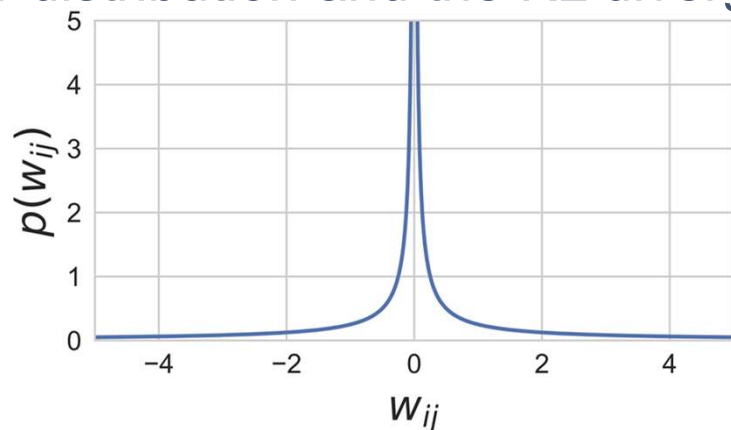
$$w_{ij} = \hat{w}_{ij} \cdot (1 + \sqrt{\alpha_{ij}} \cdot \varepsilon_{ij})$$

$$\varepsilon_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

$$q(w_{ij} | \phi_{ij}) = \mathcal{N}(w_{ij} | \hat{w}_{ij}, \alpha_{ij} \hat{w}_{ij}^2)$$

Prior distribution and the KL divergence term

$$p(w_{ij}) \propto \frac{1}{|w_{ij}|}$$



$$\begin{aligned} -D_{KL}(q(w_{ij} | \hat{w}_{ij}, \alpha_{ij}) || p(w_{ij})) = \\ = 0.5 \log \alpha_{ij} - \mathbb{E}_{\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(1, \alpha_{ij})} \log |\epsilon| + C \end{aligned}$$

Does not depend on  $w_{ij}$

# Variance Reduction

The variance of the gradients goes out of control when  $\alpha$  are large

$$w_{ij} = \hat{w}_{ij} \cdot (1 + \sqrt{\alpha_{ij}} \cdot \varepsilon_{ij})$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \hat{w}_{ij}} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial w_{ij}} \cdot \boxed{\frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \hat{w}_{ij}}}$$

$$\frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \hat{w}_{ij}} = 1 + \sqrt{\alpha_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij} \quad \textbf{Very noisy!}$$

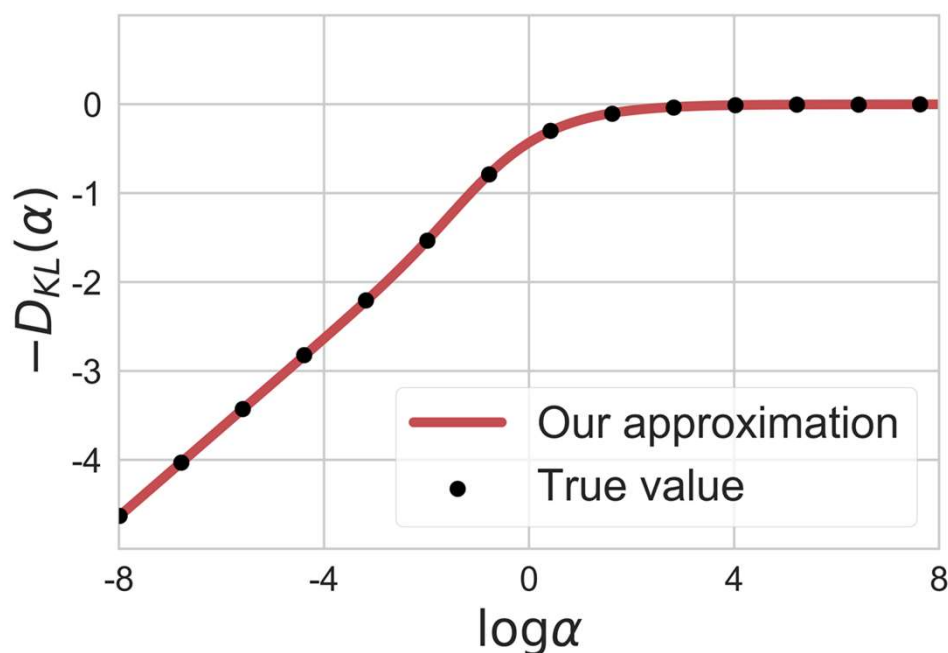
Solution: restrict  $0 < \alpha < 1$  (Kingma, et. al.)

It prohibits to use large alphas!

# Why do we need large alphas?

$$\mathbb{E}_{q(W|\widehat{W},\alpha)} \log p(t|X, W) - \text{KL}(\alpha) \rightarrow \max_{\widehat{W},\alpha}$$

The KL term favors large dropout rates  $\alpha$



Large  $\alpha_{ij}$  ( $\alpha_{ij} \rightarrow +\infty$ ) means:

- Infinitely large noise that corrupts the data term

$$w_{ij} = \hat{w}_{ij} \cdot (1 + \alpha_{ij} \cdot \varepsilon_{ij})$$
$$\Rightarrow \hat{w}_{ij} \rightarrow 0$$

- Equivalent binary dropout rate goes to 1

$$w_{ij} = \hat{w}_{ij} \theta_{ij} \quad p_{ij} = \frac{\alpha_{ij}}{1 + \alpha_{ij}} \rightarrow 1$$
$$\theta_{ij} \sim \text{Bernoulli}(1 - p_{ij})$$

# Variance Reduction

The variance of the gradients goes out of control when  $\alpha$  are large

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \hat{w}_{ij}} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial w_{ij}} \cdot \boxed{\frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \hat{w}_{ij}}}$$

**Before**  $w_{ij} = \hat{w}_{ij} \cdot (1 + \sqrt{\alpha_{ij}} \cdot \varepsilon_{ij})$   $\frac{\partial w_{ij}}{\partial \hat{w}_{ij}} = 1 + \sqrt{\alpha_{ij}} \varepsilon_{ij}$  **Very noisy!**

Solution: restrict  $0 < \alpha < 1$  (Kingma, et. al.) or ...

... use Additive Noise Parameterization!

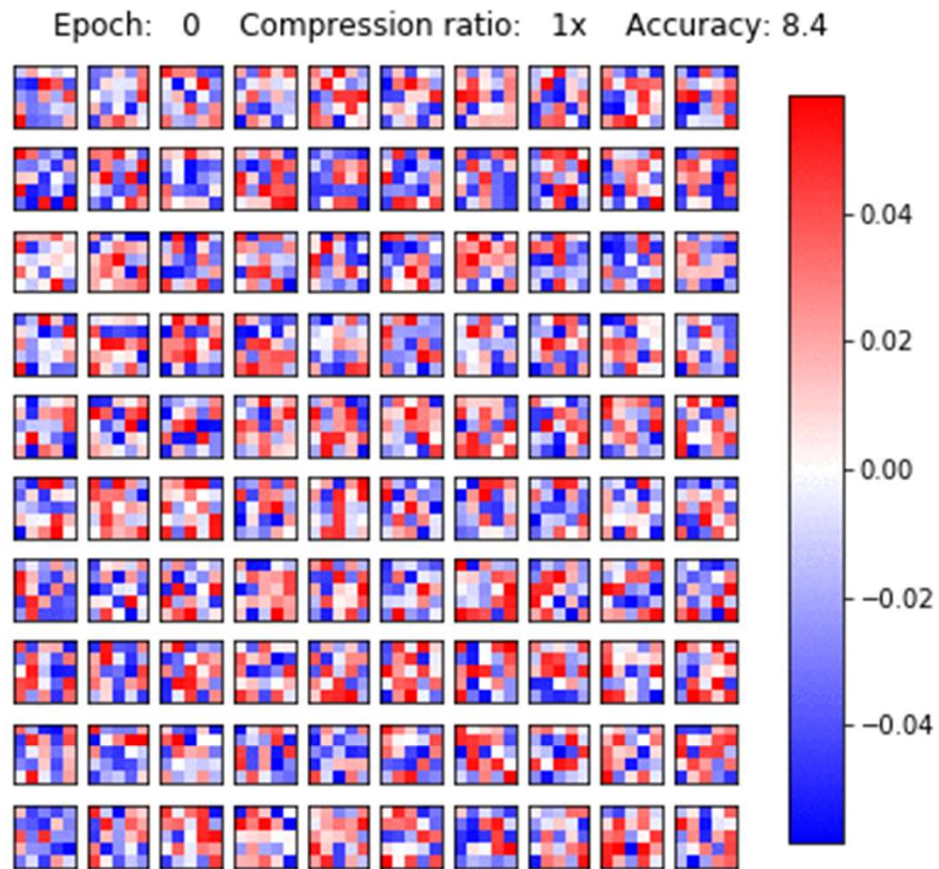
**After:**  $w_{ij} = \hat{w}_{ij} + \sigma_{ij} \varepsilon_{ij}$   $\frac{\partial \tilde{w}_{ij}}{\partial w_{ij}} = 1$  **No noise!**

Optimize the VLB w.r.t.  $(\hat{W}, \sigma)$

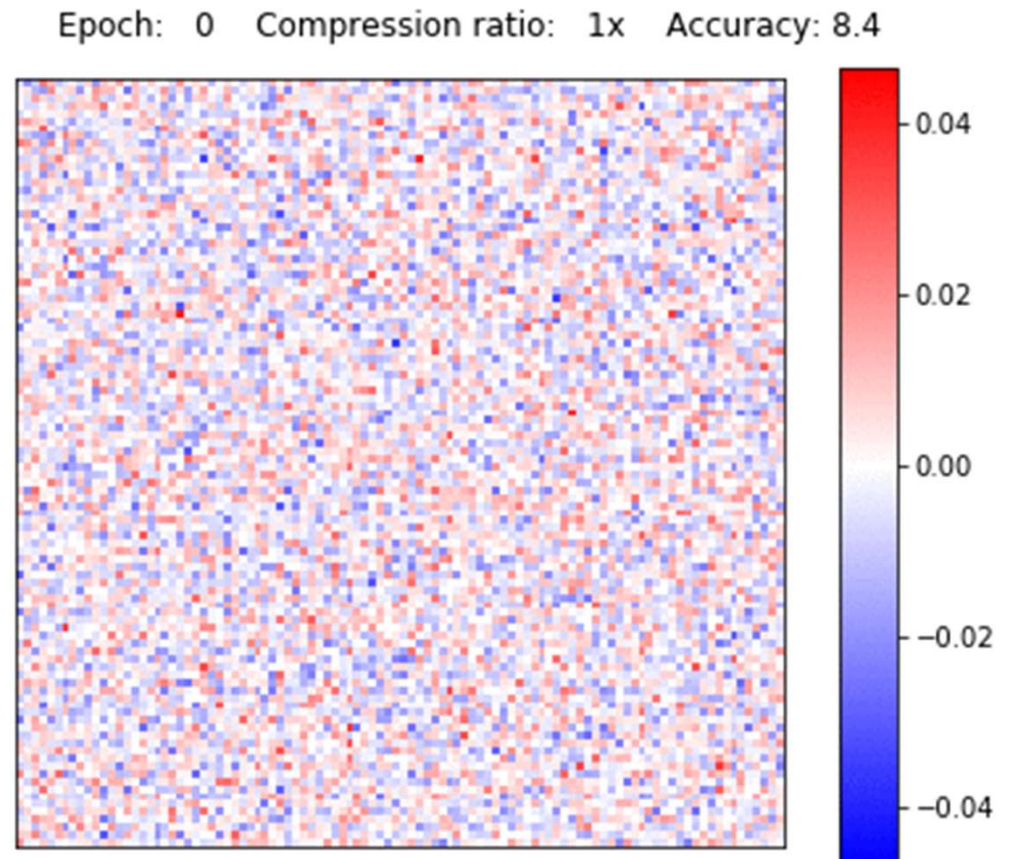
$\sigma$  is a new independent variable



# Visualization



LeNet-5: convolutional layer



LeNet-5: fully-connected layer  
(100 x 100 patch)

# Lenet-5-Caffe and Lenet-300-100 on MNIST

Fully Connected network: LeNet-300-100

Convolutional network: Lenet-5-Caffe

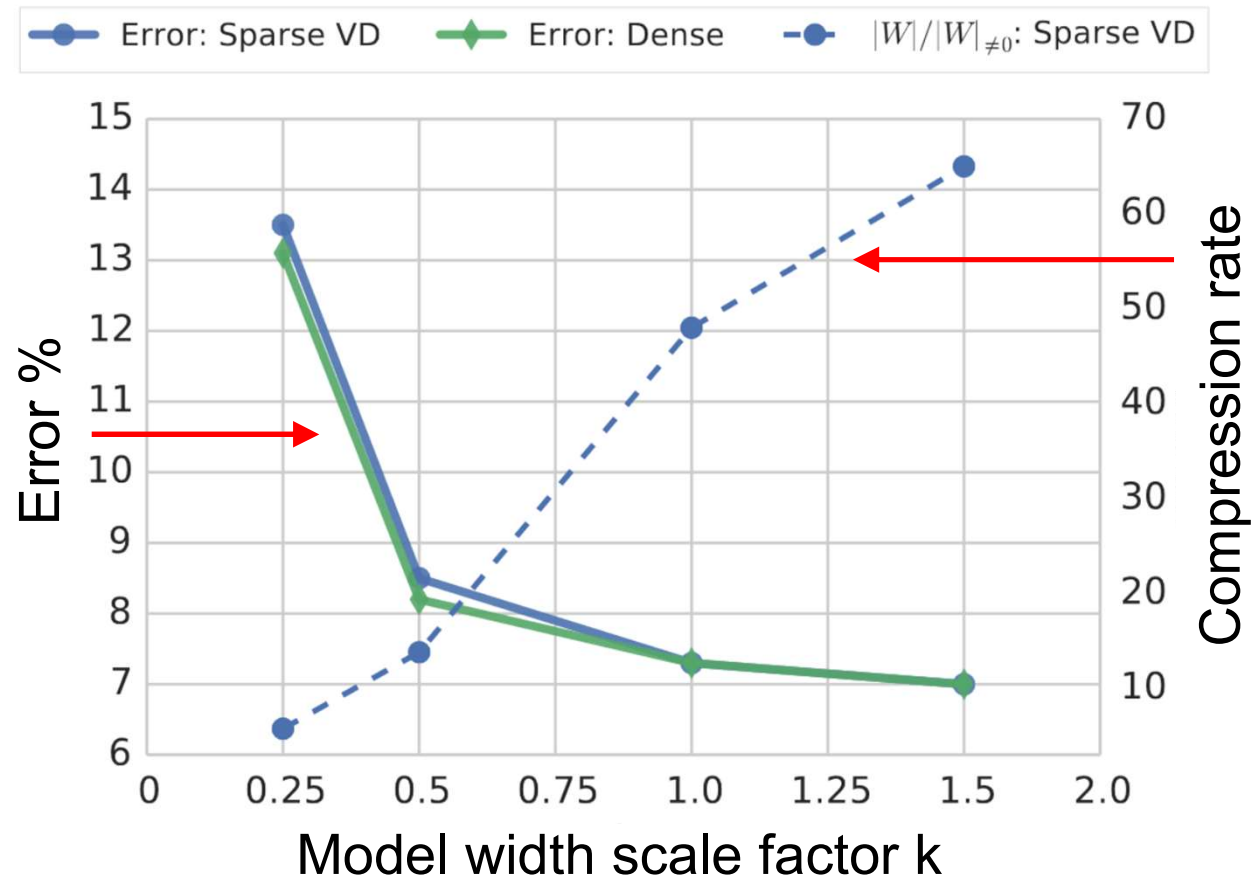
Network	Method	Error %	Sparsity per Layer %	$\frac{ W }{ W_{\neq 0} }$
LeNet-300-100	Original	1.64		1
	Pruning	1.59	92.0 – 91.0 – 74.0	12
	DNS	1.99	98.2 – 98.2 – 94.5	56
	SWS	1.94		23
	(ours) Sparse VD	1.92	98.9 – 97.2 – 62.0	<b>68</b>
LeNet-5-Caffe	Original	0.80		1
	Pruning	0.77	34 – 88 – 92.0 – 81	12
	DNS	0.91	86 – 97 – 99.3 – 96	111
	SWS	0.97		200
	(ours) Sparse VD	0.75	67 – 98 – 99.8 – 95	<b>280</b>



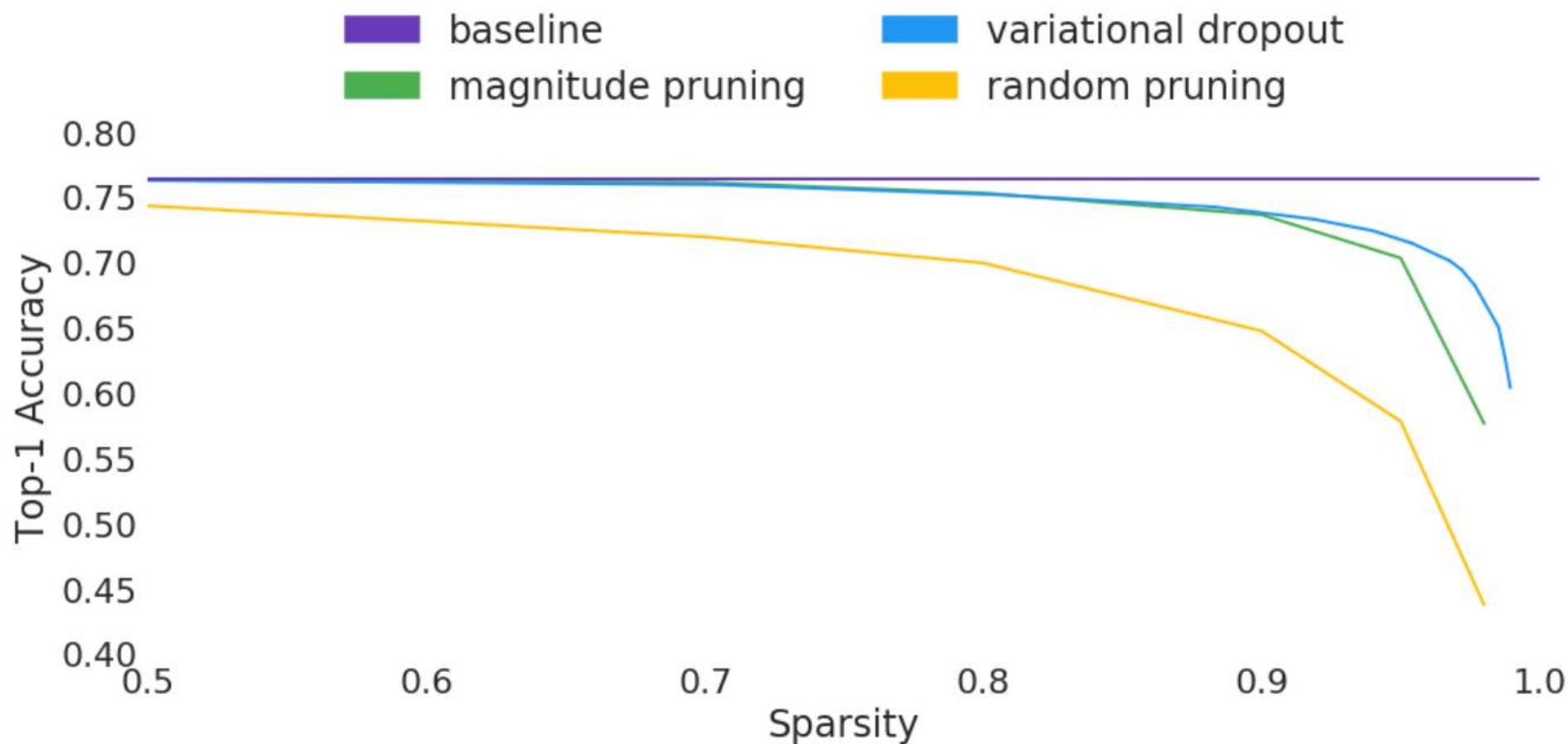


# VGG-like on CIFAR-10

Number of filters / neurons is linearly scaled by  $k$  (the width of the network)



# ResNet-50 on ImageNet



Gale et al. "The state of sparsity in deep neural networks." *arXiv:1902.09574* (2019). 34

# Random Labeling



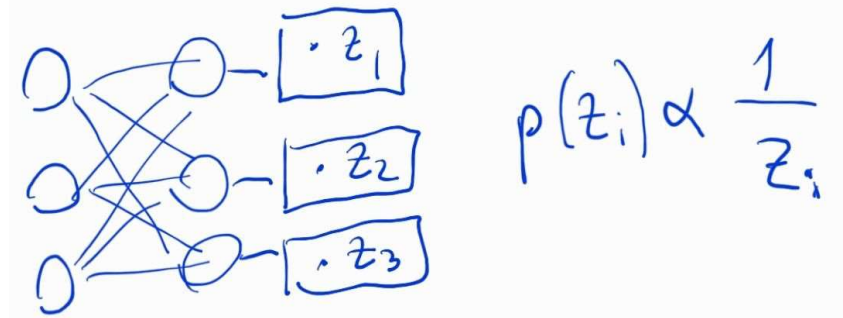
Dataset	Architecture	Train Acc.	Test Acc.	Sparsity
MNIST	FC + BD	100%	10%	—
MNIST	FC + Sparse VD	10%	10%	100%
CIFAR-10	VGG + BD	100%	10%	—
CIFAR-10	VGG + Sparse VD	10%	10%	100%

No dependency between data and labels  $\Rightarrow$  Sparse VD yields an empty model where conventional models easily overfit.

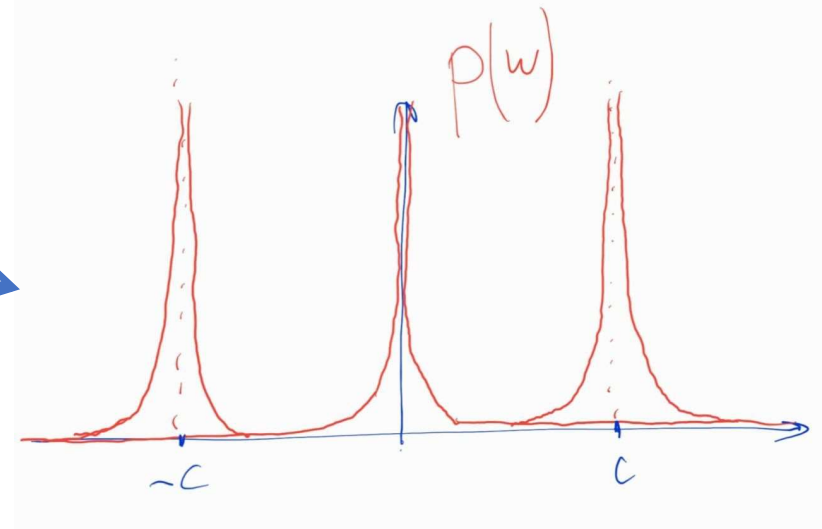
Zhang, Chiyuan, et al. "Understanding deep learning requires rethinking generalization."

# Extensions

- Recurrent neural networks
- Structured sparsity



- Quantization



- Variance networks