

# Towards a Mathematical Understanding of Deep Convolutional Neural Networks

*Florentin Guth*



# Learning from data

## Image classification



“cat”

“dog”



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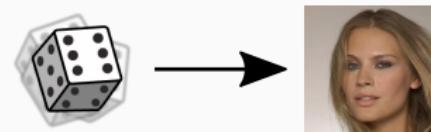


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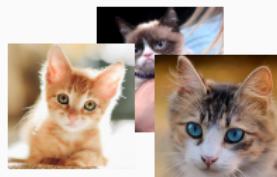
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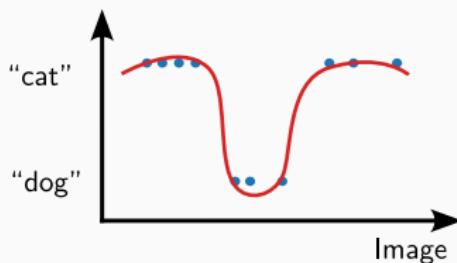
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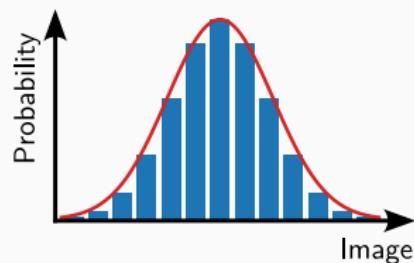
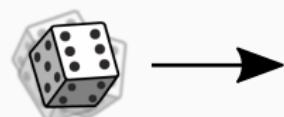
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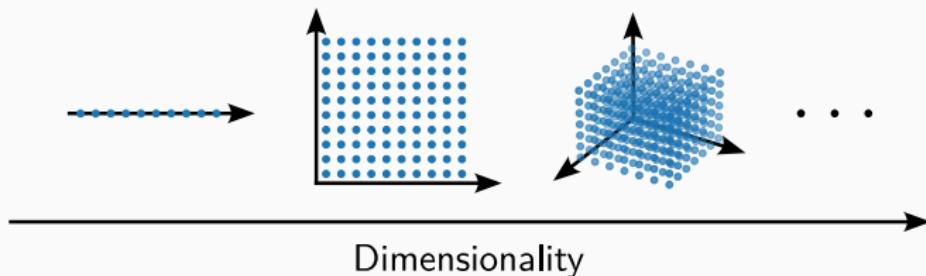
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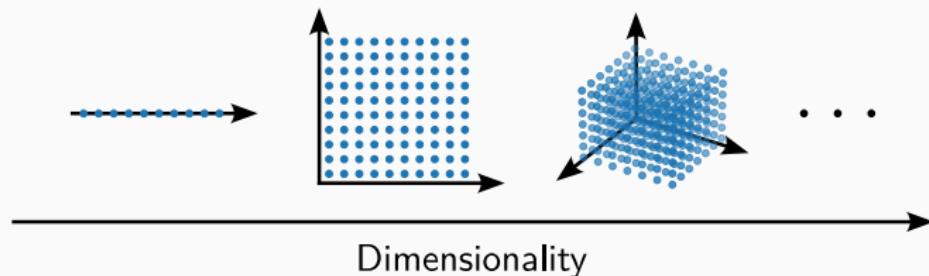
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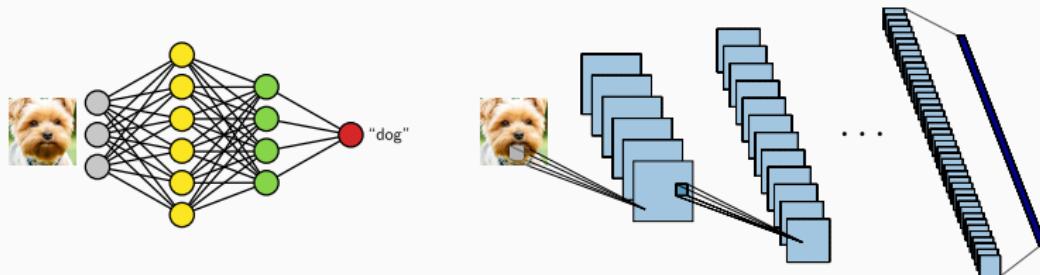
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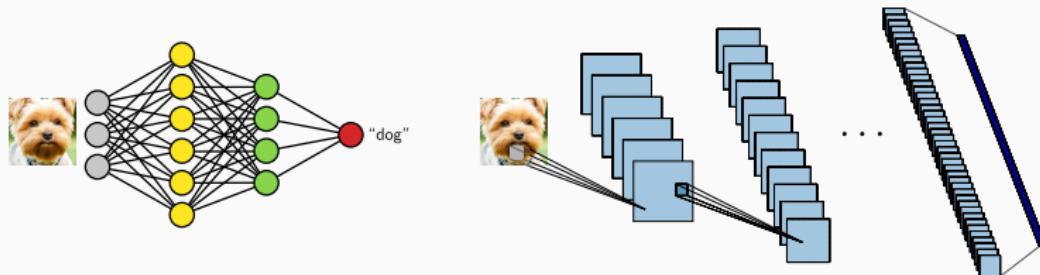
How to learn in high dimensions?



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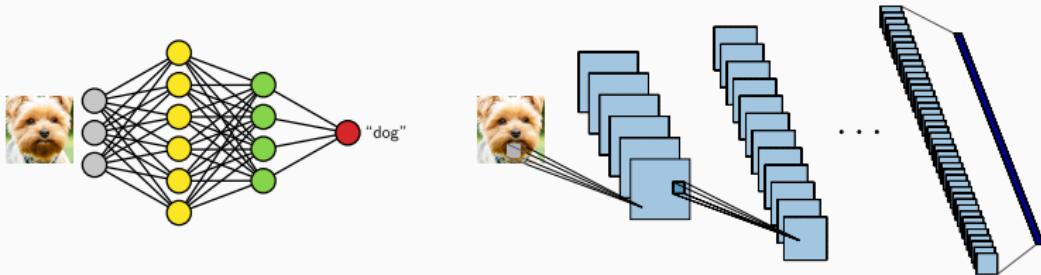


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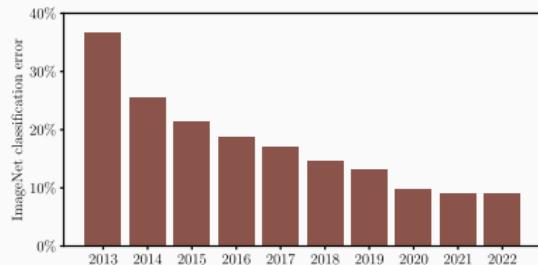
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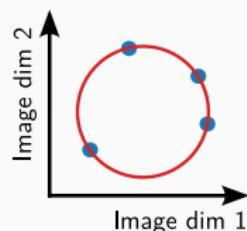
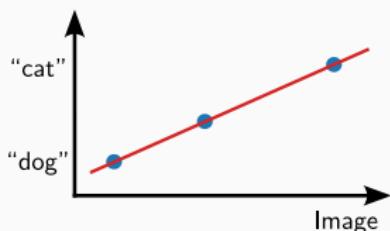


## Searching for simplicity

The curse of dimensionality is a worst-case observation, for arbitrarily complicated data. The success of deep learning shows that our data is simple.

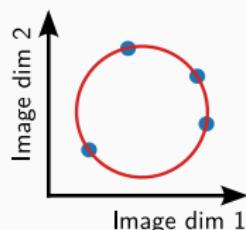
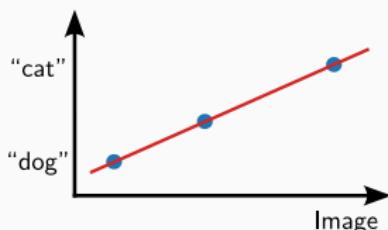
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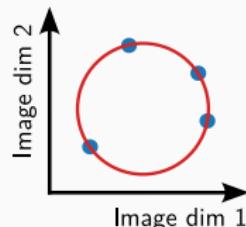
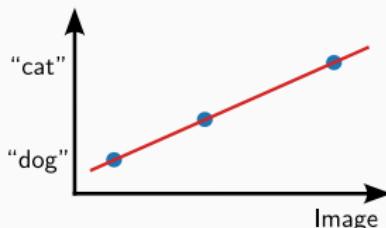
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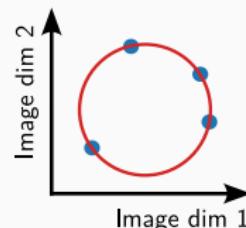
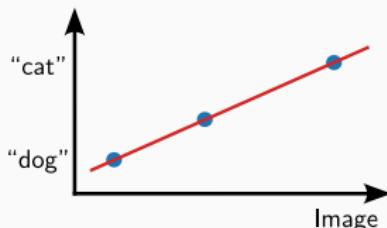
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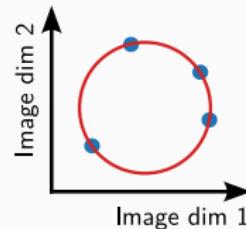
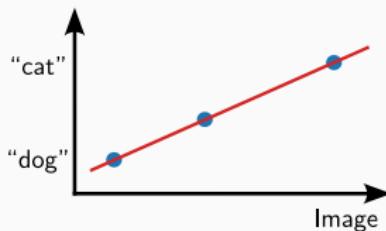
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- ▶ In the network weights: what has been learned?

# Outline

**Exploiting Structure in Image Probability Distributions**

Enforcing Structure in Convolutional Network Architectures

Discovering Structure in Learned Network Weights

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- ▶ Small number of parameters
- ▶ Log-concavity

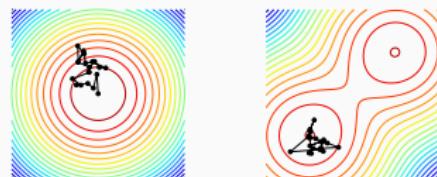
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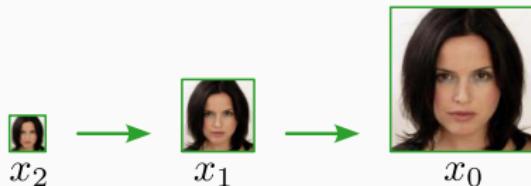
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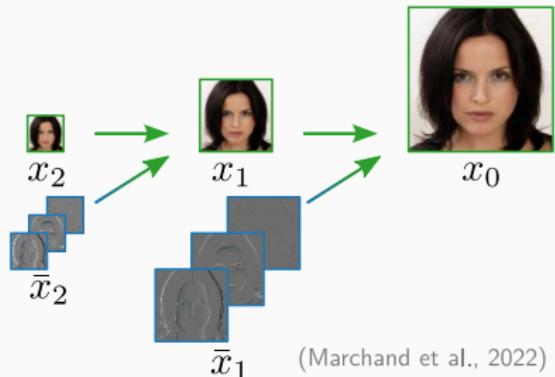
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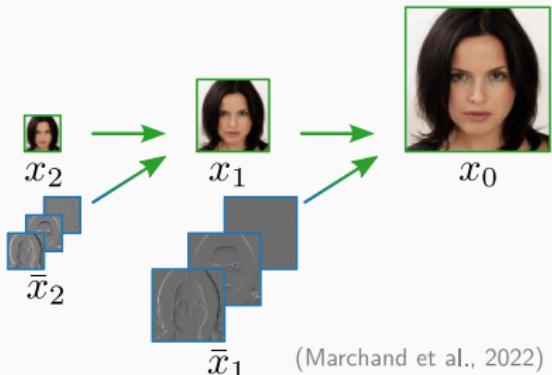
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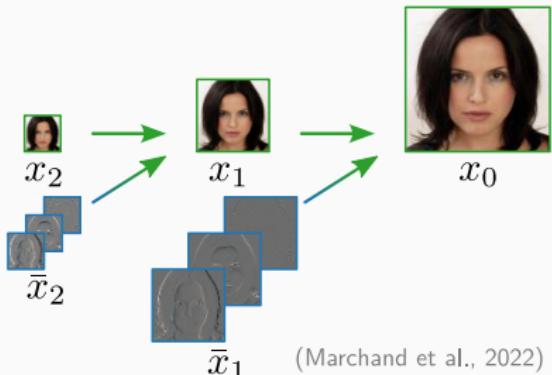


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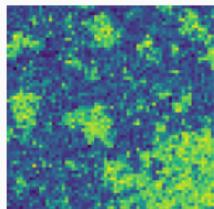
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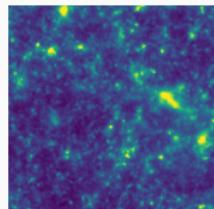
What are the properties of these *conditional* distributions?

# Conditional locality

A “simpler” class of image distributions: physical fields



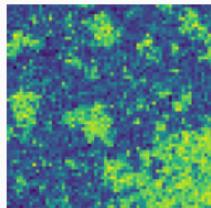
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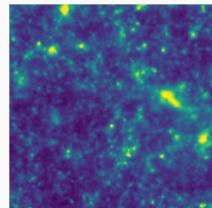
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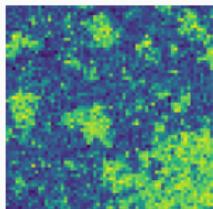


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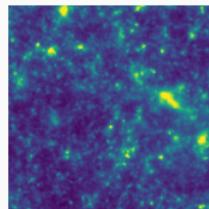
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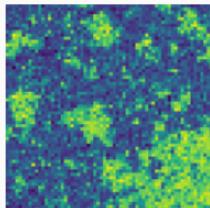


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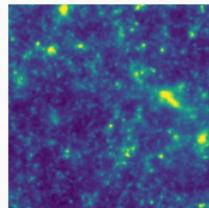
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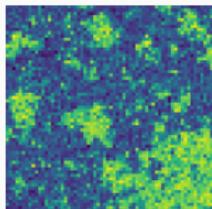


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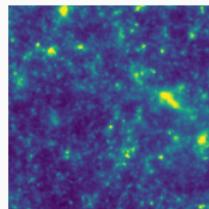
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- ▶ More generally, it is sufficient to have local *conditional* interactions *at each scale* (Marchand et al., 2022)
- ▶  $E(\bar{x}_j|x_j)$  then decomposes as a sum of local potentials (conditional Markov random field)

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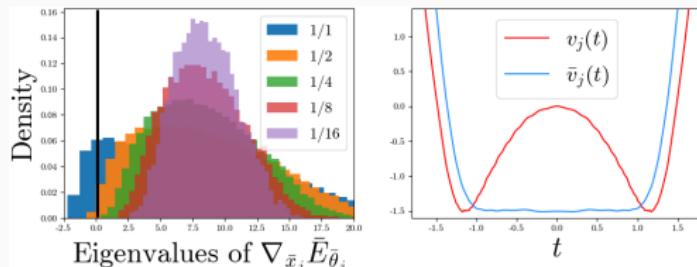
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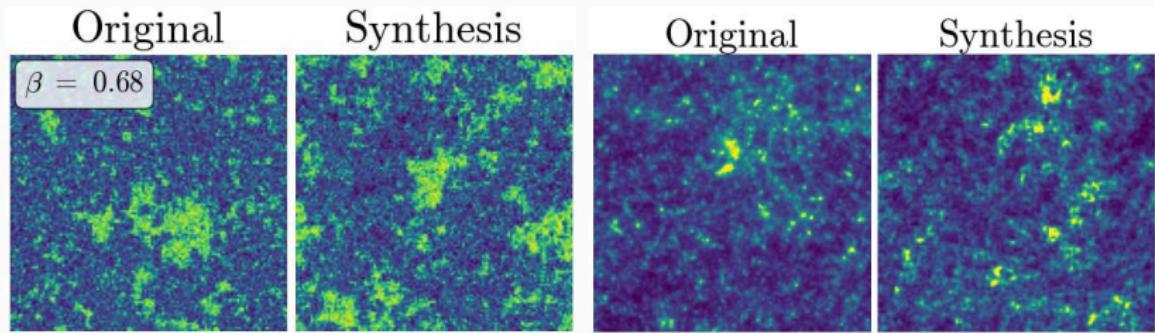
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## Score-based diffusion models

What about more complex image distributions? Not expected to be conditionally log-concave.

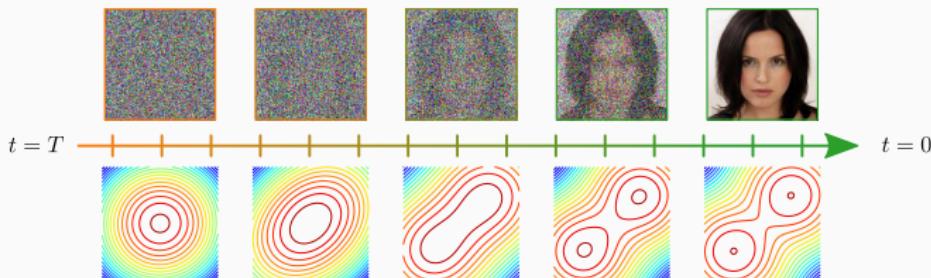
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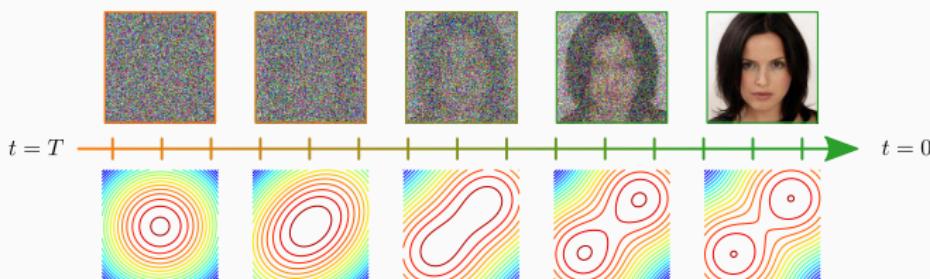
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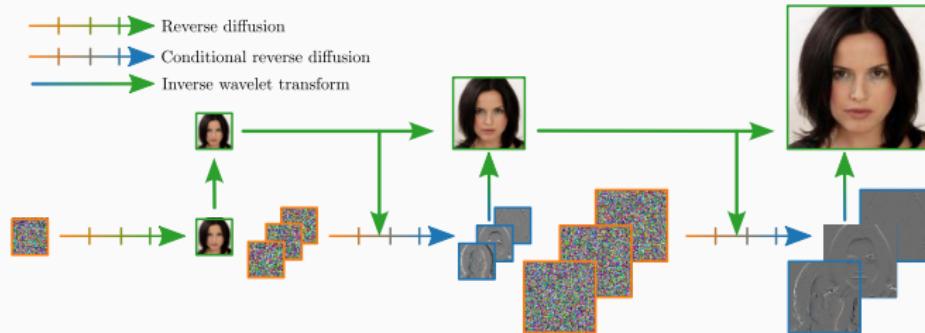
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Diffusion models solve the issues associated with non-log-concavity (Song et al., 2021; Chen et al., 2022). Remaining burning question: how do deep networks learn the score?

# Conditionally local diffusion models

Benefits of combining diffusion models with multiscale approaches?

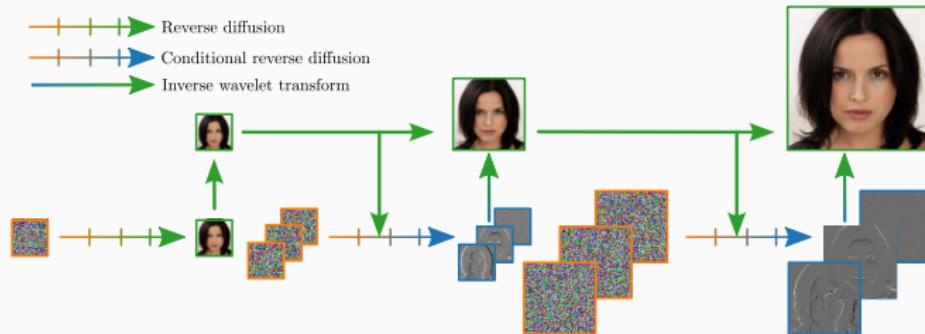


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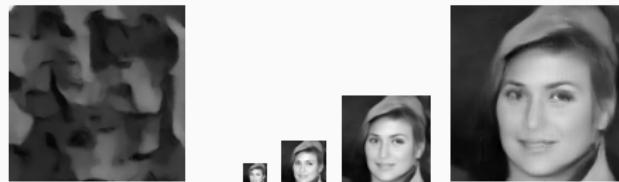
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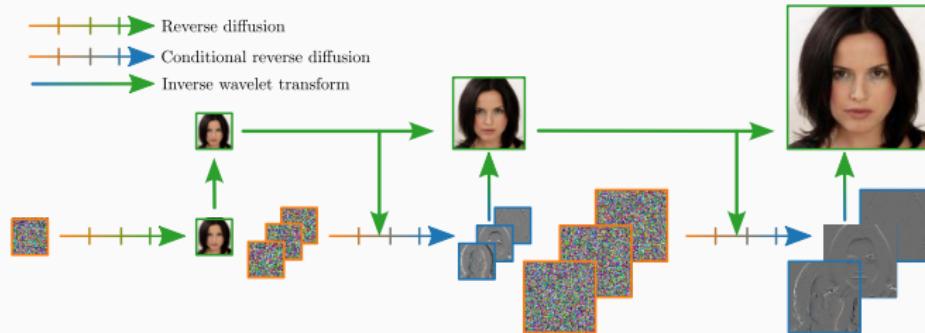


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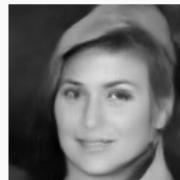
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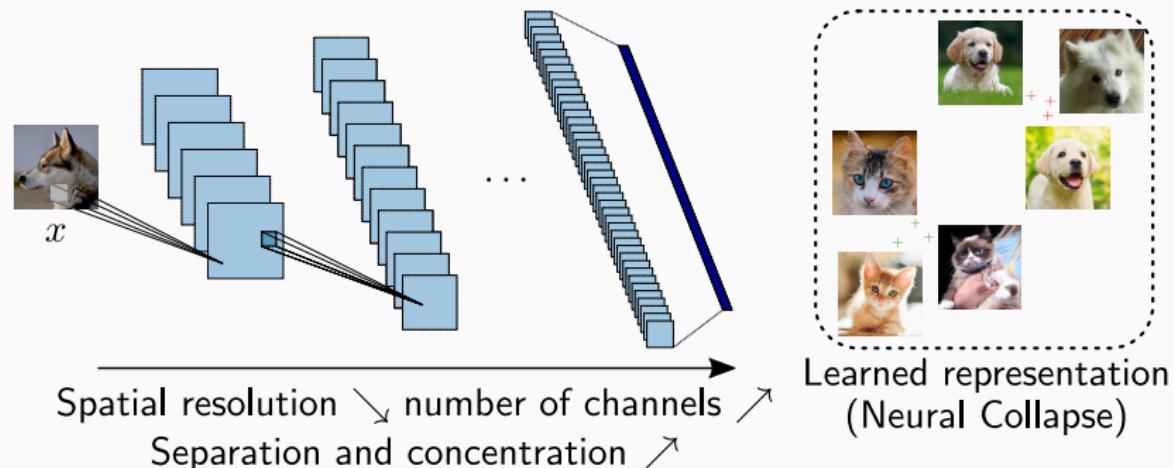
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# Neural collapse

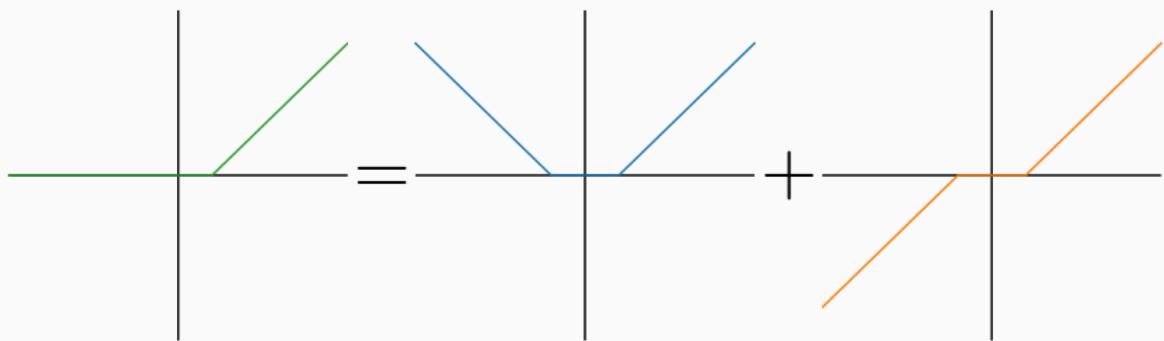


CNN classifiers simultaneously move spatial information into channels and increase linear separation

Can we define a non-linear operator with these properties?

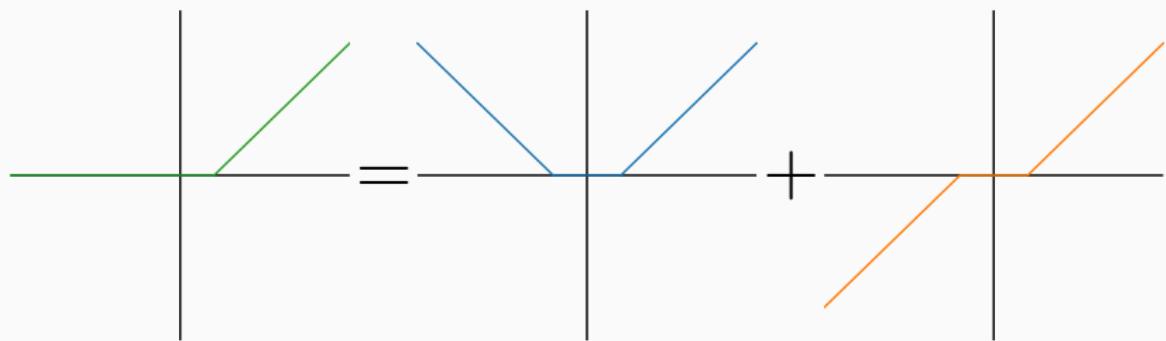
# Decomposition of ReLU

ReLUs can be separated in two opposite non-linearities with an even-odd decomposition:



# Decomposition of ReLU

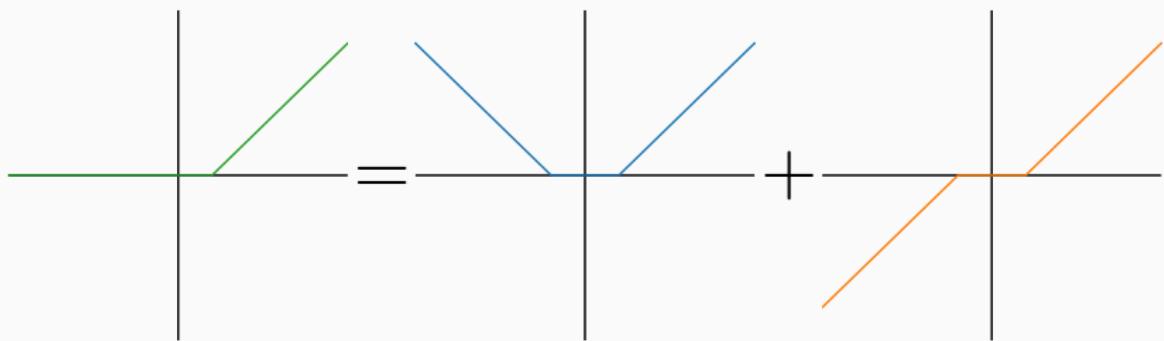
ReLUs can be separated into two opposite non-linearities with an even-odd decomposition:



- Absolute value: collapses the sign, preserves the amplitude

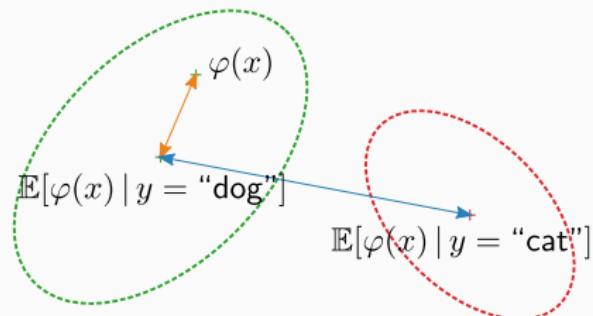
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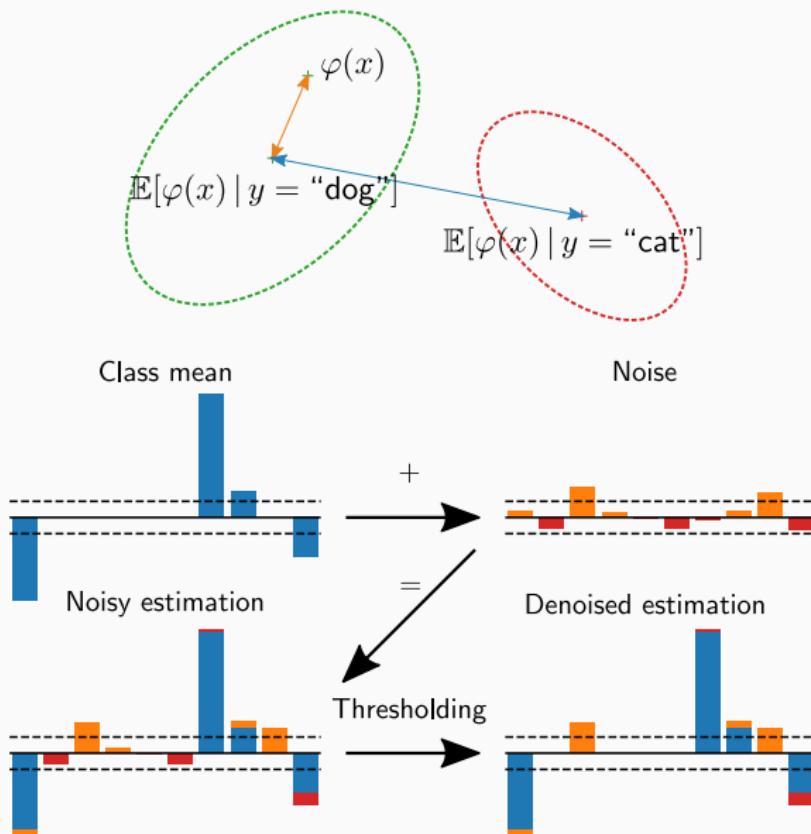


- ▶ Absolute value: collapses the sign, preserves the amplitude
- ▶ Soft-thresholding: preserves the sign, thresholds the amplitude

# Concentration with soft-thresholding



# Concentration with soft-thresholding



## Separation with phase collapse

- ▶ Images have group variability:  $x$  and  $g \cdot x$  have the same class

## Separation with phase collapse

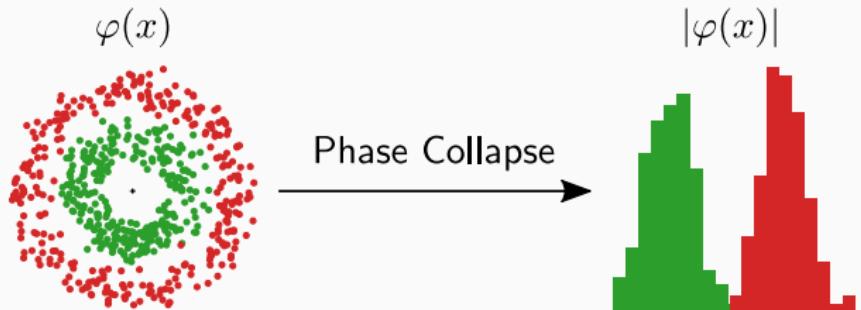
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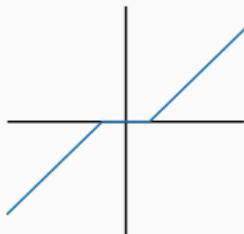
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# Comparison between sparsity and phase collapse

Concentration with  
soft-thresholding



Odd part of ReLU  
Collapses small amplitudes

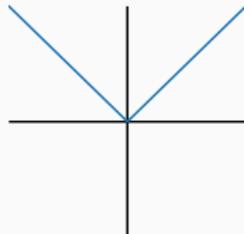


Concentrates additive variability  
Does not separate class means

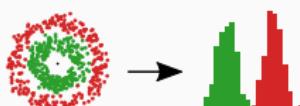


Performs denoising  
Cannot be further sparsified

Separation with  
complex modulus



Even part of ReLU  
Collapses complex phases

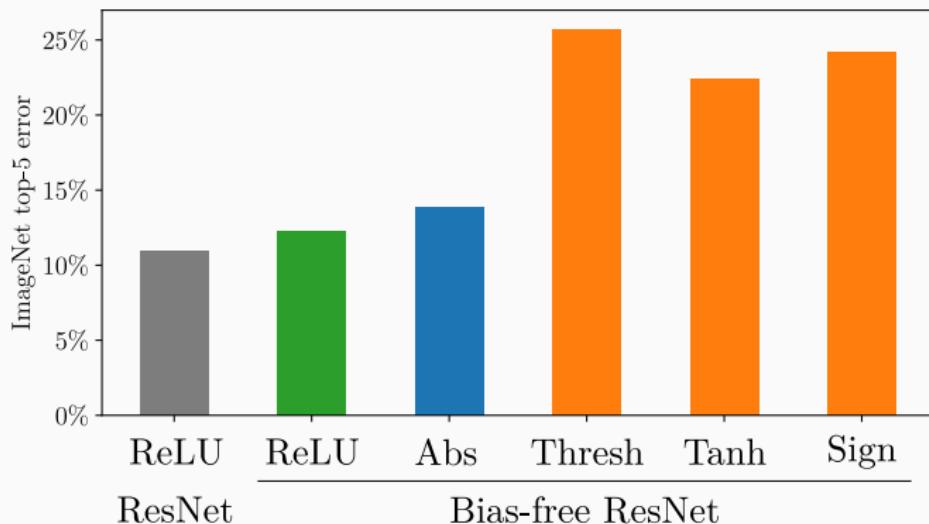


Concentrates multiplicative variability  
Separates class means

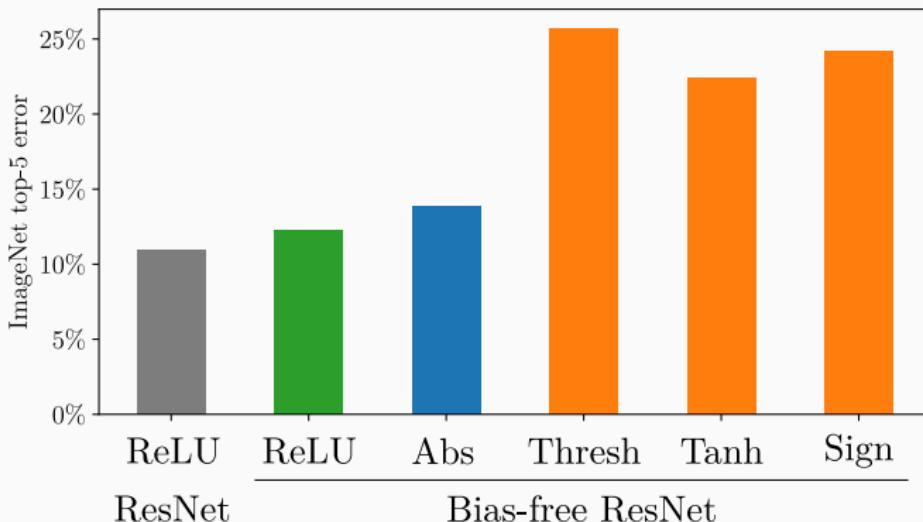


Computes support  
Can be further sparsified

# Phase collapse versus sparsity: numerical results



# Phase collapse versus sparsity: numerical results



**Phase collapse is sufficient to achieve good performance, while any non-linearity which preserves the phase is not. Phase collapse is thus also necessary.**

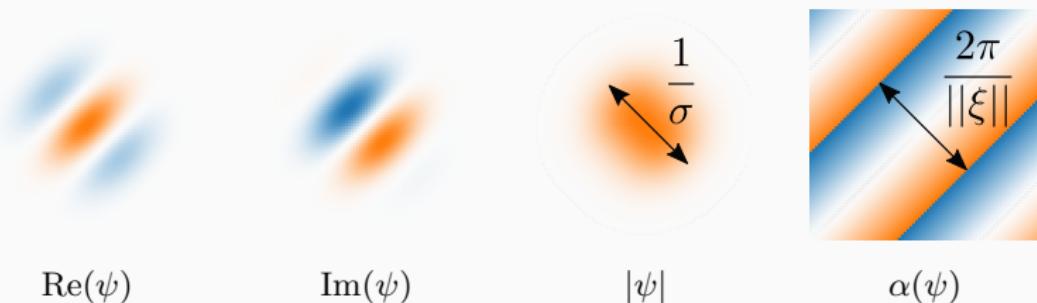
How far can we further constrain the network?

## Diagonalizing local translations

Known source of within-class variability: local translations

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Known source of within-class variability: local translations



Small translations  $\tau$  of an image  $x$  become **phase shifts**:

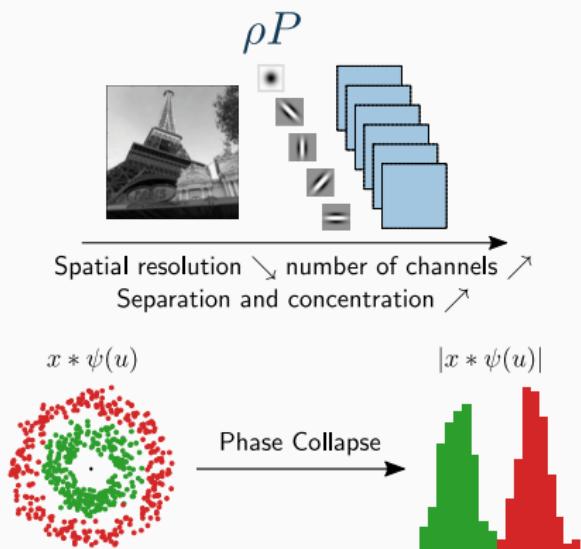
$$(\tau \cdot x) * \psi \approx e^{-i\xi \cdot \tau} (x * \psi)$$

with a relative error bounded by  $\sigma |\tau|$ : approximate diagonalization!

# The phase collapse operator

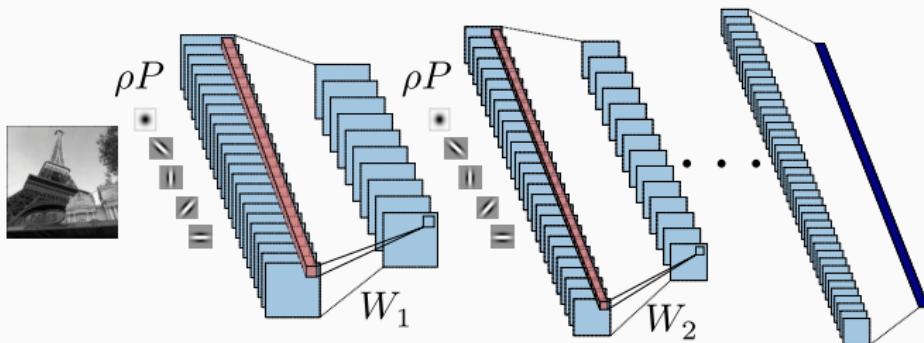
Constrain the spatial filters with the phase collapse operator:

$$\rho P x(u) = \left( x * \phi(2u), (|x * \psi_\theta(2u)|)_\theta \right)$$



- ▶ Mathematical definition: no learning
- ▶ Combines linear and non-linear invariants to local translations
- ▶ All the desired properties!
- ▶ What accuracy can we achieve with this?

# Learned scattering network



- ▶ Simplified architecture with phase collapses and minimal learning
- ▶ No learned spatial filters nor biases
- ▶ Only one learned component: channel matrices at every layer
- ▶ Reaches ResNet-18 accuracy with only 11 layers

Zarka, G, and Mallat. Separation and concentration in deep networks. *ICLR*, 2021.

G, Zarka, and Mallat. Phase collapse in neural networks. *ICLR*, 2022.

# Outline

Exploiting Structure in Image Probability Distributions

Enforcing Structure in Convolutional Network Architectures

**Discovering Structure in Learned Network Weights**

# What has the network learned?

## What has the network learned?

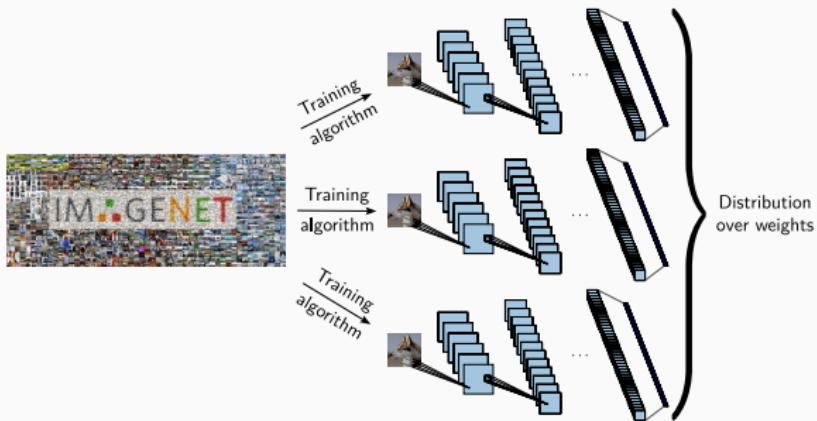
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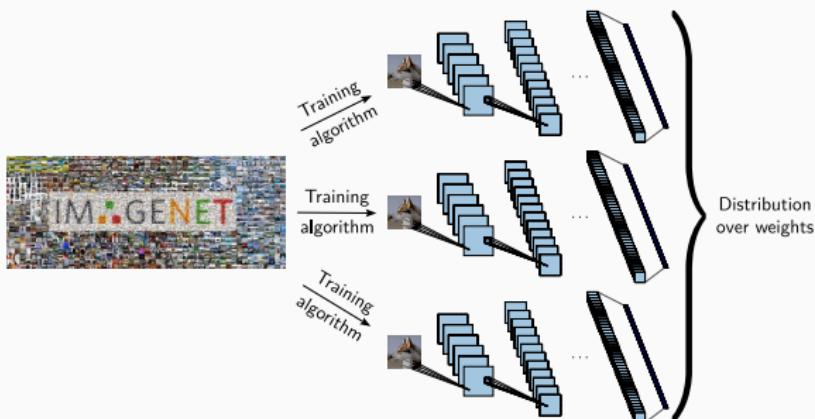
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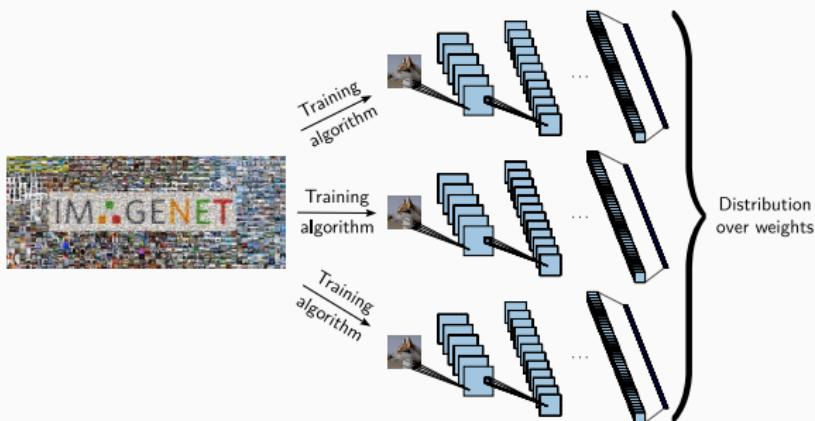
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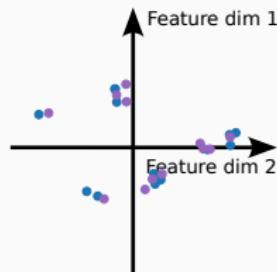
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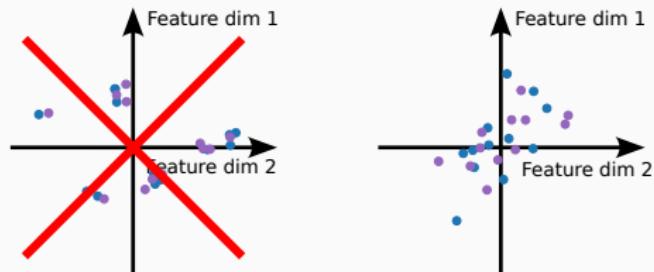
What is the distribution of trained network weights?

- ▶ Many parameters: laws of large numbers

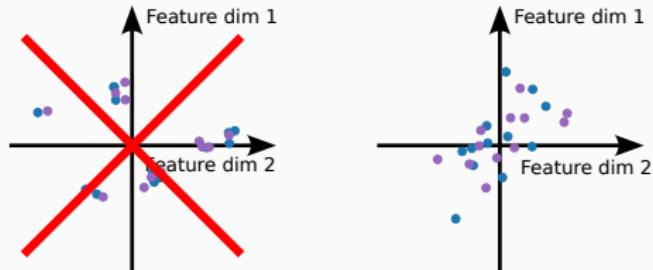
# Law of large numbers 1: weight statistics



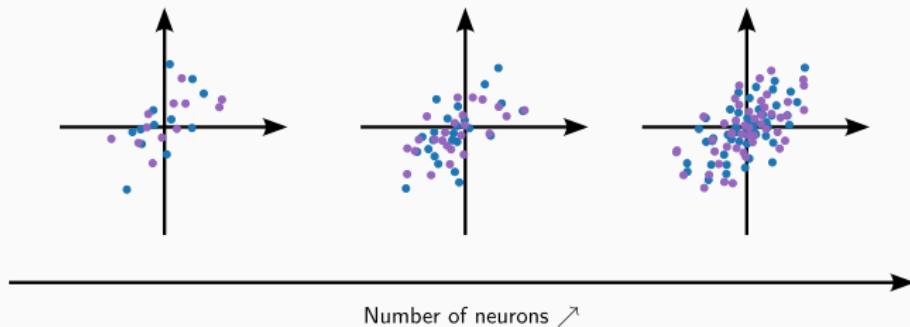
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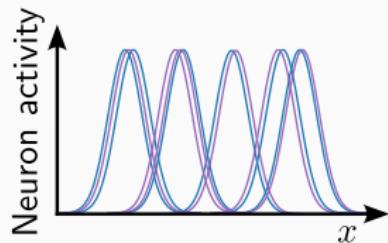
First law of large numbers: statistics of the neuron weights



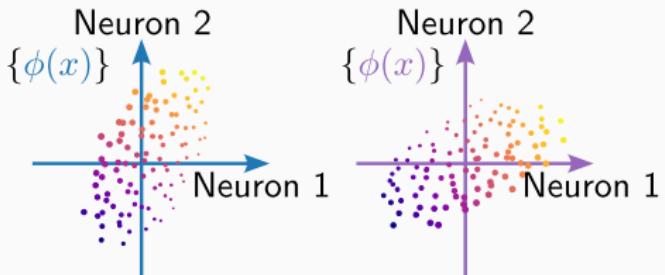
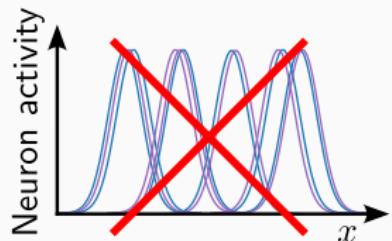
Mean-field (infinite-width) limit of neural networks

(Chizat and Bach, 2018; Mei et al., 2018; Rotskoff and Vanden-Eijnden, 2018; Sirignano and Spiliopoulos, 2020)

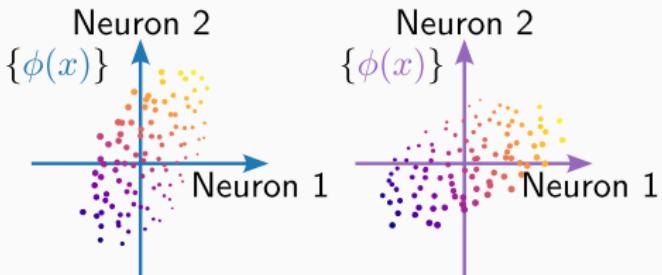
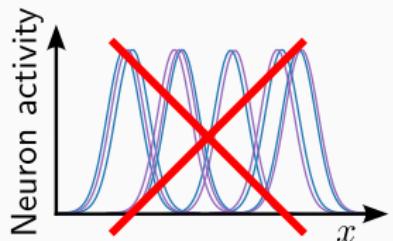
## Law of large numbers 2: representation geometry



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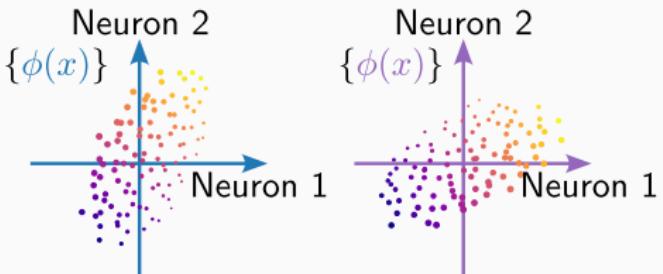
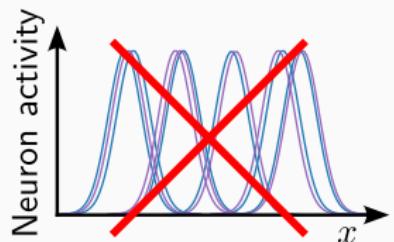
## Law of large numbers 2: representation geometry



Second law of large numbers: geometry of the representation  
(Rahimi and Recht, 2007)

$$\langle \phi(x), \phi(x') \rangle = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(\langle w_i, x \rangle) \rho(\langle w_i, x' \rangle) \rightarrow \mathbb{E}_{w \sim \pi} [\rho(\langle w, x \rangle) \rho(\langle w, x' \rangle)]$$

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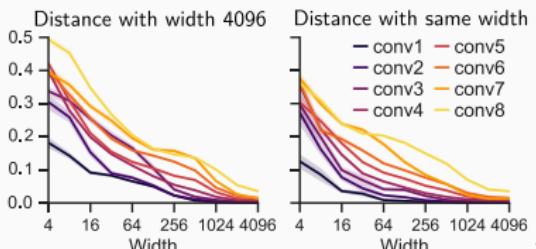


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$$\mathbb{E}_{x, x'} [(\langle \phi(x), \phi(x') \rangle - \langle \phi(x), \phi(x') \rangle)^2]$$

(Kornblith et al., 2019)



# Network alignment

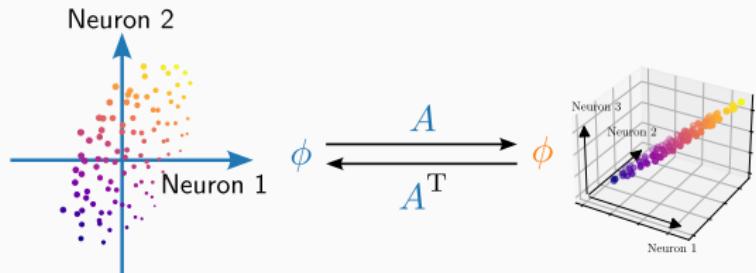
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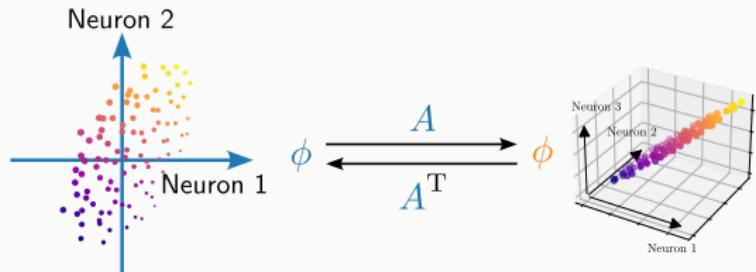
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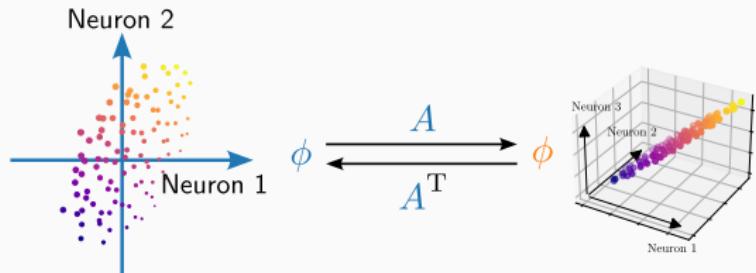
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Define the alignment  $A$  with  $\min_{A^T A = \text{Id}} \mathbb{E}_x [\|A \phi(x) - \phi(x)\|^2]$

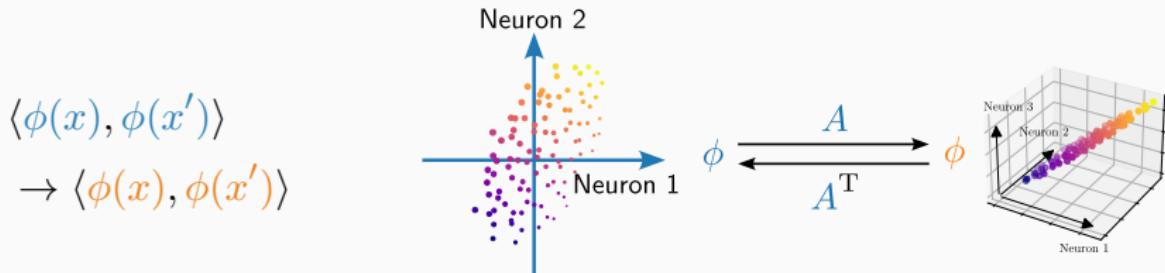
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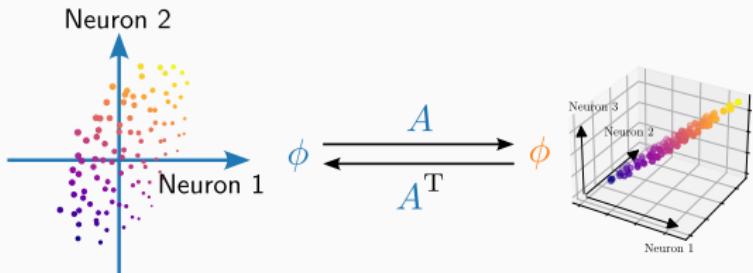
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weights are i.i.d. samples  
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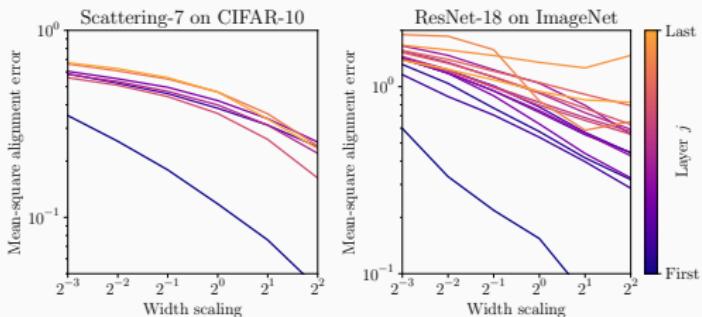


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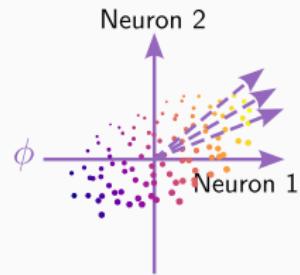
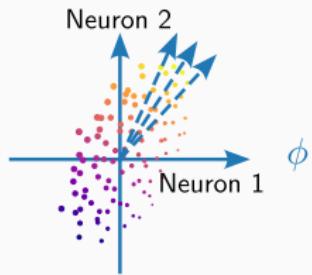
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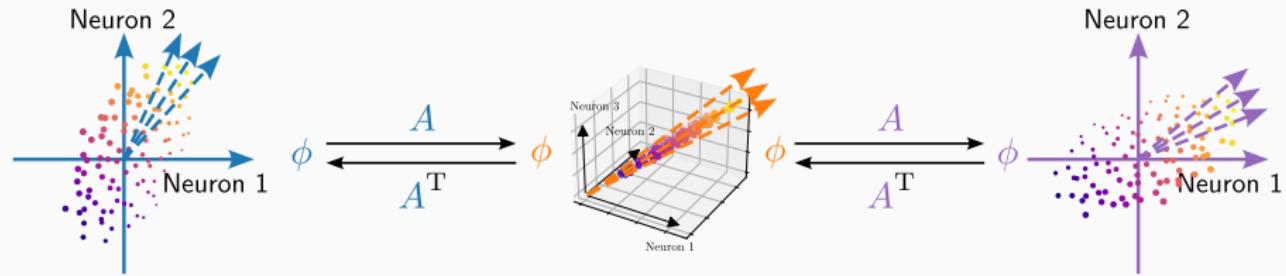
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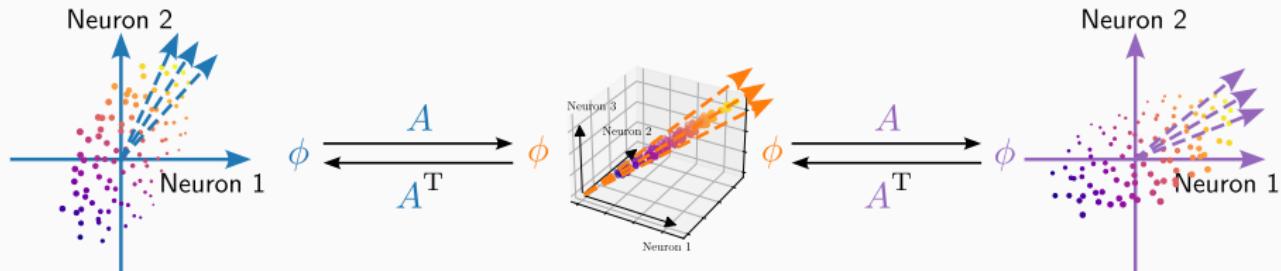


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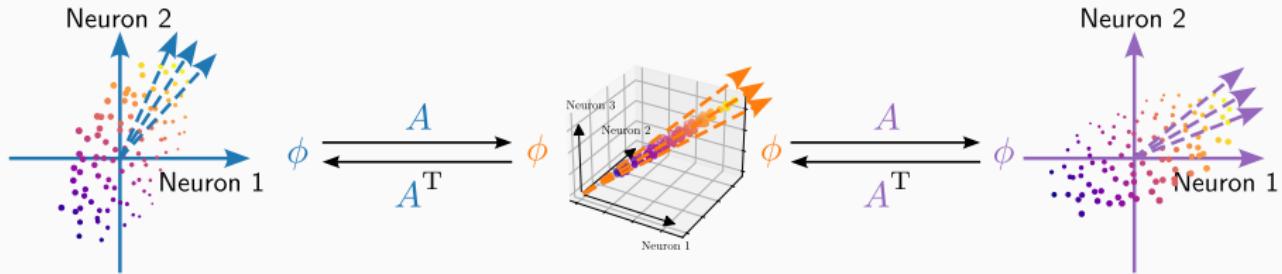
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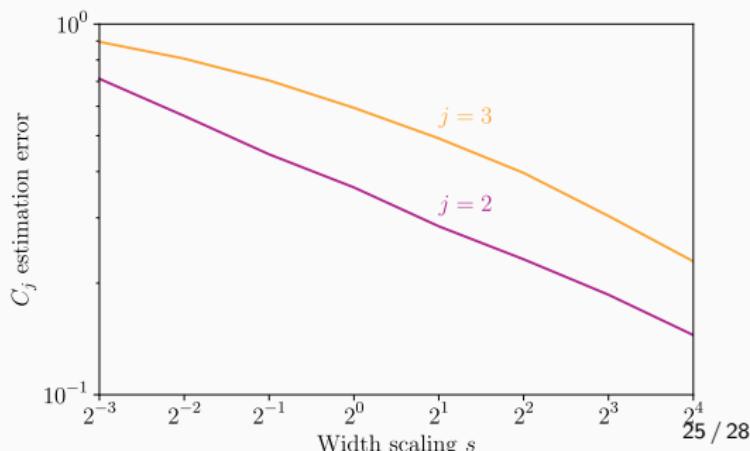
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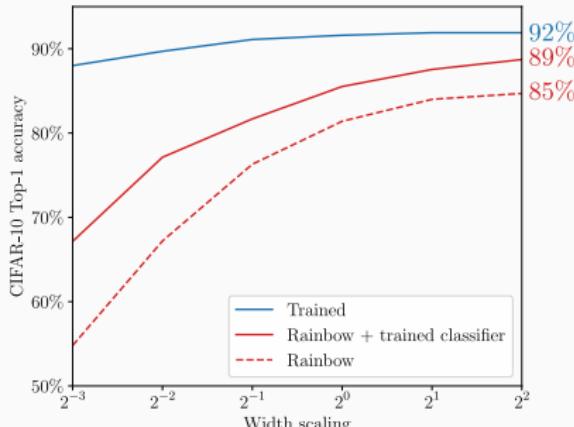
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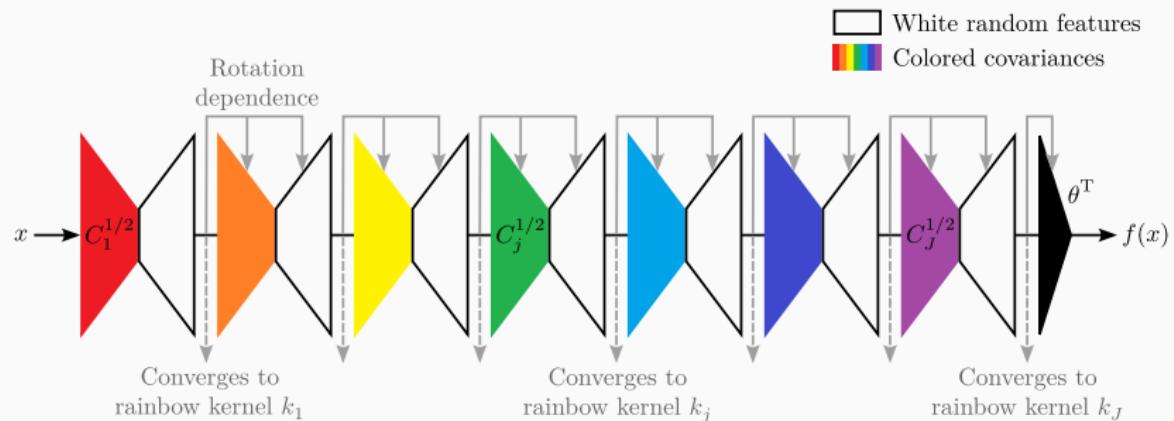
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# Covariance and dimensionality: the rainbow model



G, Ménard, Rochette, and Mallat. A rainbow in deep network black boxes. arXiv, 2023.

## **Conclusion**

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Thank you!