

# On Inductive Biases for Machine Learning in Data Constrained Settings

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Inria Sierra, Inria Thoth

PhD defense. January 19, 2022

**Rapporteurs:** Alexandre Gramfort (Inria), Gabriel Peyré (ENS/CNRS)

**Examinateurs:** Michael Bronstein (Oxford/Twitter), Pascal Frossard (EPFL), Anna Korba (ENSAE/CREST)

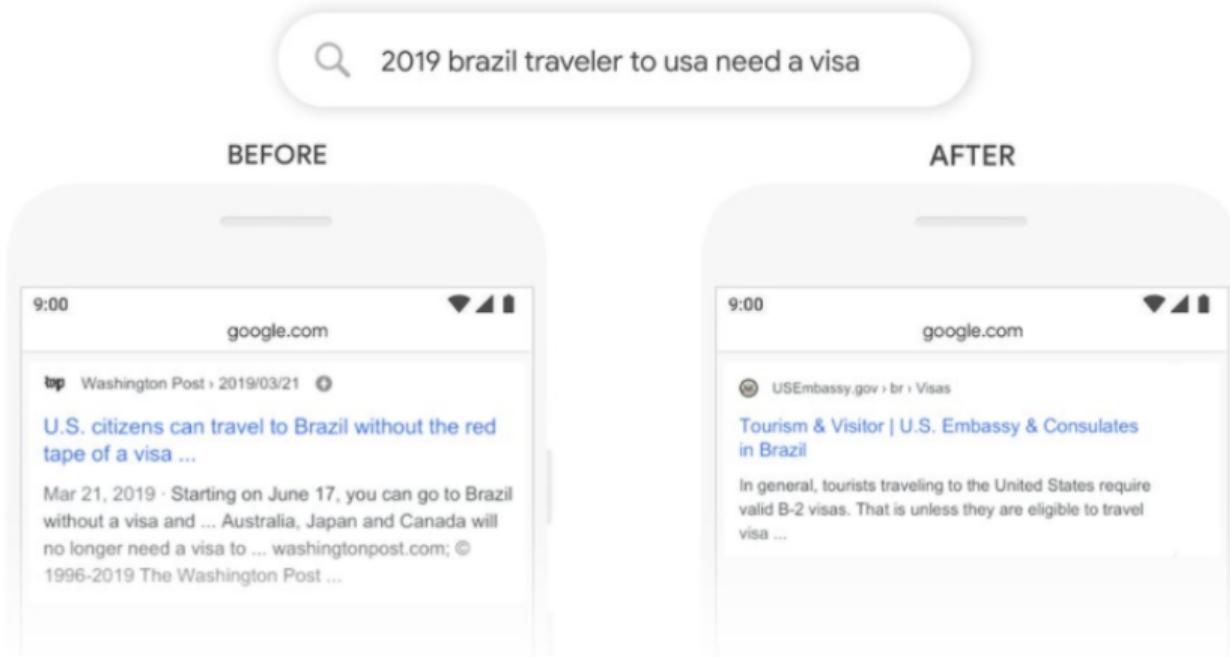
**Encadrants:** Alexandre d'Aspremont (ENS/CNRS), Julien Mairal (Inria)



# Outline

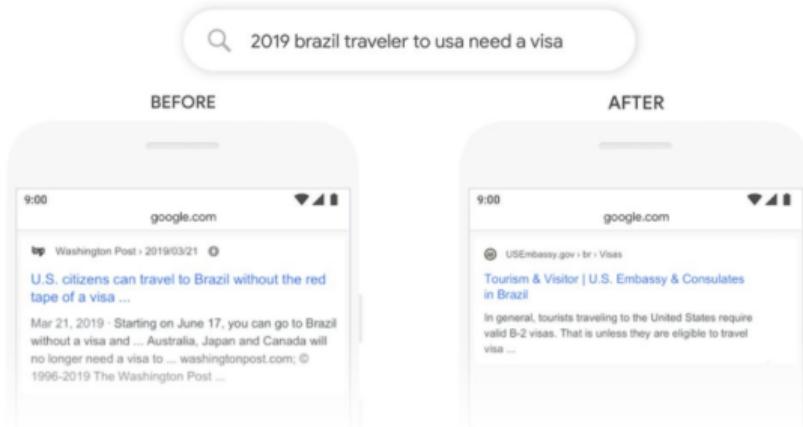
- 1 Introduction and approach of the thesis
- 2 Handling sets data with optimal transport embeddings [Mialon et al., 2021a]
- 3 Handling graph data with transformers neural networks [Mialon et al., 2021b]
- 4 Getting rid of useless data with safe sample screening [Mialon et al., 2020]
- 5 Conclusion and perspectives

## Introduction: Recent success of machine learning

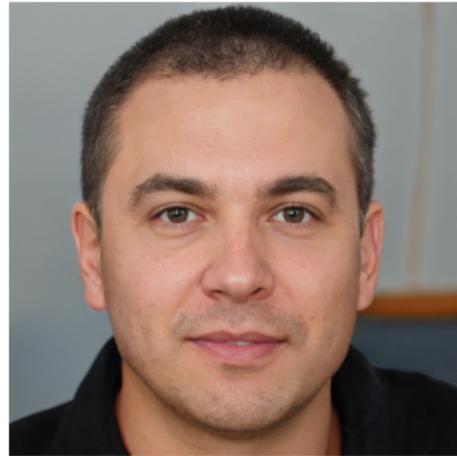


Improved web search engines.

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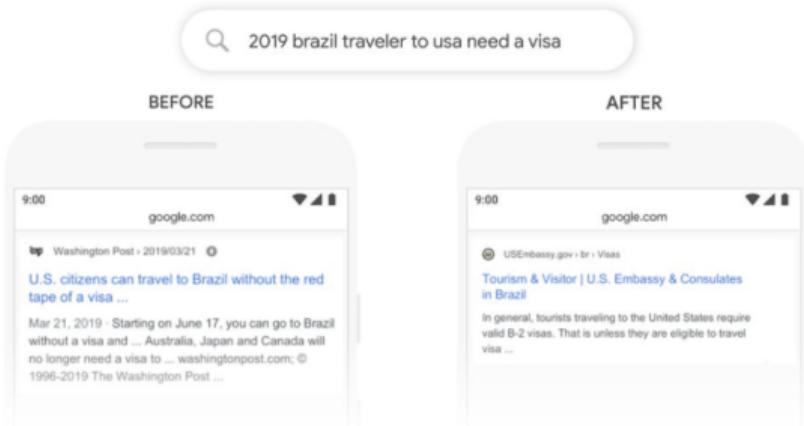


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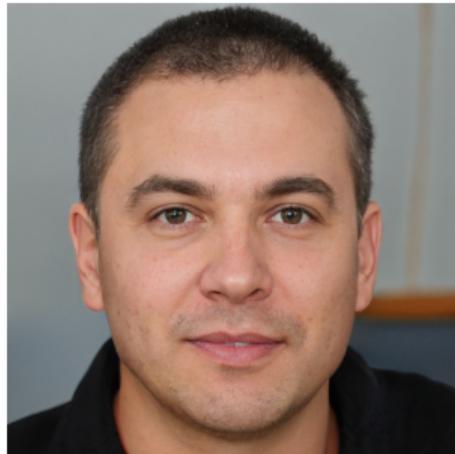


<https://thispersondoesnotexist.com/>

# Introduction: Recent success of machine learning



Improved web search engines.



<https://thispersondoesnotexist.com/>

- And also bioinformatics, speech recognition, and many other domains...

## Introduction: How does this work?

**Recipe:** Huge models + huge data + learning problem + optimization algorithm + computing power

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## Introduction: How does machine learning work? A canonical example

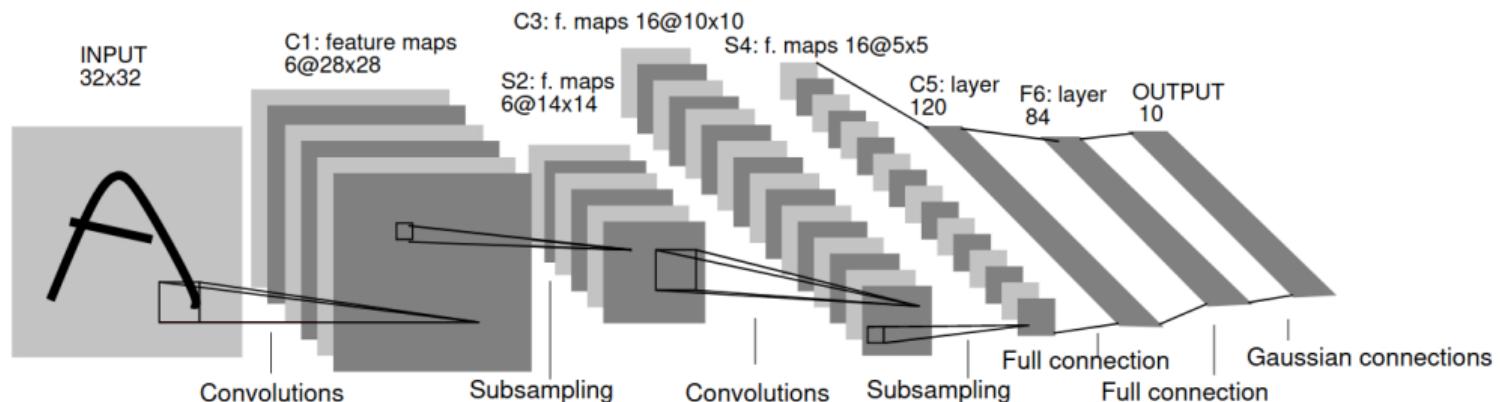
**Recipe:** Huge models + huge data + learning problem + optimization algorithm + computing power

- Supervised model  $f$  takes an input  $x$  (e.g an image) and outputs a “label”  $f(x)$  (e.g a letter).

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- Supervised model  $f$  takes an input  $x$  (e.g an image) and outputs a “label”  $f(x)$  (e.g a letter).
- A neural network model  $f$ :  $f(x) = W_n(\sigma_n(\dots W_1\sigma_1(x)\dots))$ .

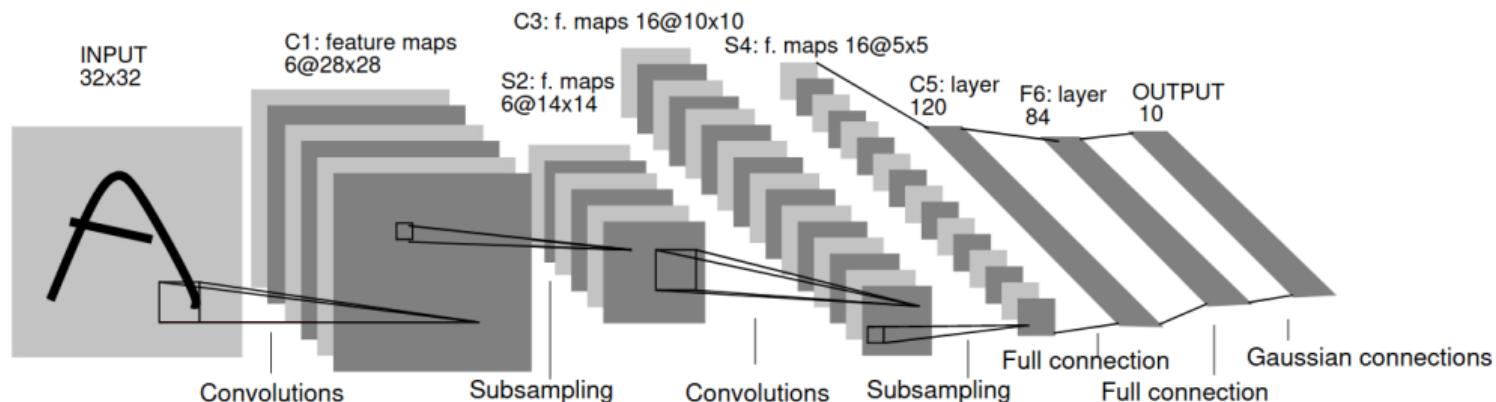


A convolutional neural network (from LeCun et al., 1998).

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- Today: Millions of adjustable parameters.

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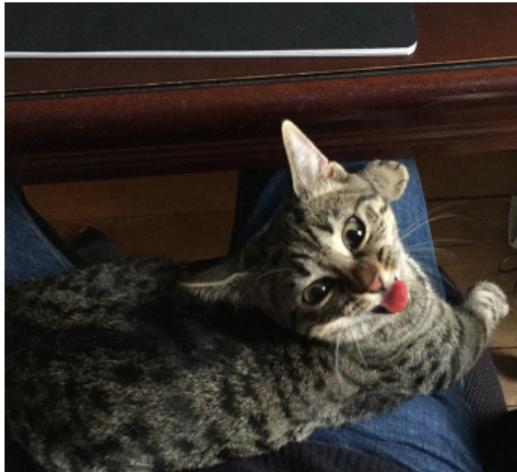
**Recipe:** Huge models + **huge data** + learning problem + optimization algorithm + computing power



Samples from ImageNet (1.2M images).

# Introduction: How does machine learning work? A canonical example

**Recipe:** Huge models + huge data + **learning problem** + optimization algorithm + computing power



I am organized but lazy: how to automatically classify these images as “cat” or “dog”?

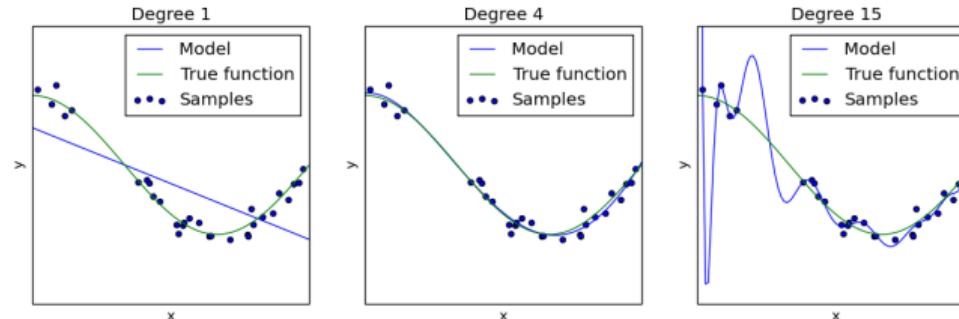
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## Empirical risk minimization:

$$\min_{\theta \in \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{L}(\theta) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(f_\theta(x_i), y_i)}_{\text{Empirical risk, data fit}} + \underbrace{\lambda R(f_\theta)}_{\text{Regularization}},$$

with  $f$  a neural network with parameters  $\theta$ ,  $x_i$  an image and  $y_i$  a label, here “cat” or “dog”.

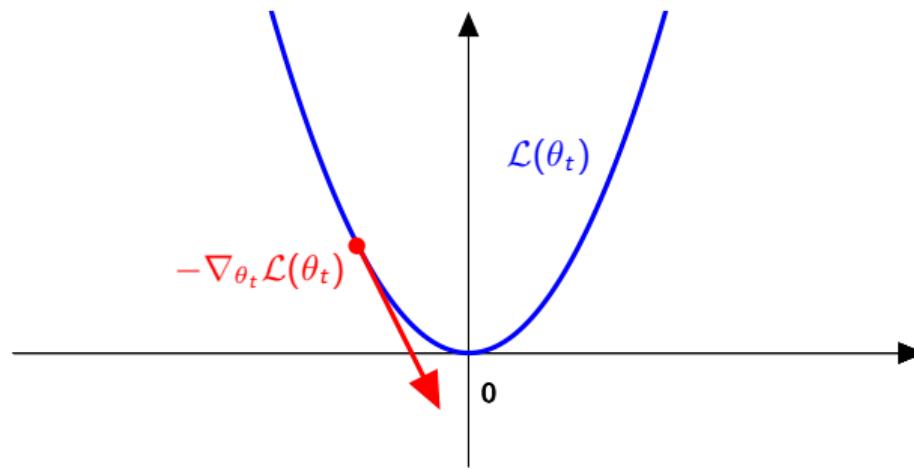


Regularization penalizes the complexity of the model (from [scikit-learn.org](http://scikit-learn.org)).

# Introduction: How does machine learning work? A canonical example

**Recipe:** Huge models + huge data + learning problem + **optimization algorithm** + computing power

**Gradient descent:**



$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta \nabla_{\theta_t} \mathcal{L}(\theta_t).$$

## Introduction: How does machine learning work? A canonical example

**Recipe:** Huge models + huge data + learning problem + optimization algorithm + **computing power**



Jean Zay supercalculator in Saclay is notably equipped with Tesla V100 computing chips.

## Getting back to our introductory example

**Google “new” search engine [Devlin et al., 2019]:** Transformer (340M params) + ~ 33k books + Sentence completion + Stochastic gradient descent + 64 TPUs for 4 days.



TPU chips in a Google data center.

## Problem: Deep learning does not work that great on smaller datasets

Method	VGG-11	ResNet-18
All (60k) samples	91.0	93.0
5k samples [Bietti et al., 2019]	72.8	73.1
1k samples [Bietti et al., 2019]	51.3	44.9
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Classification accuracies of convolutional neural networks trained on the image dataset CIFAR-10  
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Classification accuracies of convolutional neural networks trained on the image dataset CIFAR-10 (with data augmentation).

- No clear regularization scheme [Bietti, Mialon, Chen and Mairal, ICML 2019].

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**A path towards better models?**

## Our approach: A slightly different recipe

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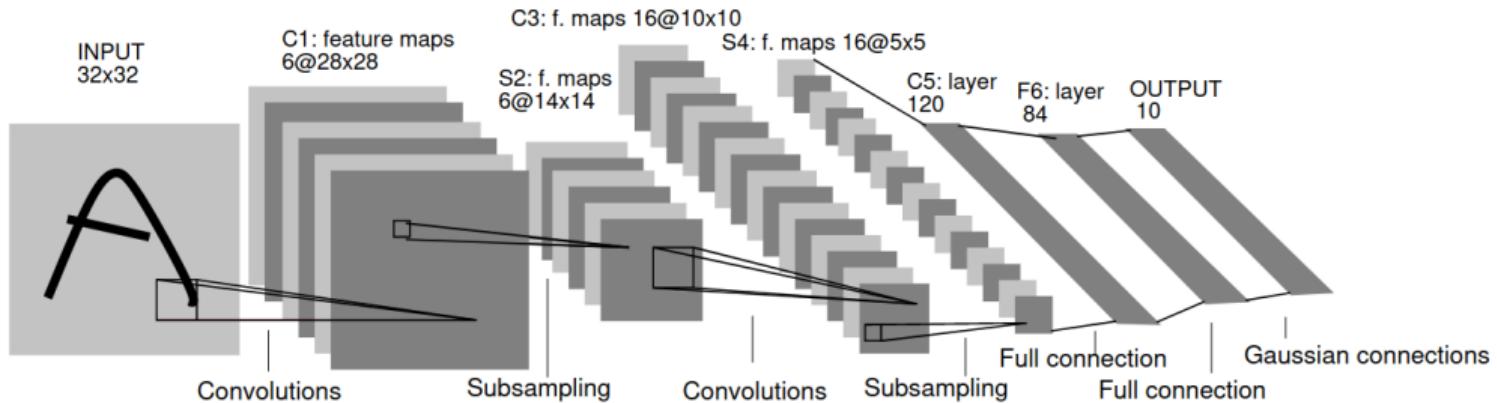
This thesis: Models + inductive bias + possibly smaller datasets + learning problem + optimization  
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**Inductive bias:** Constraining some parts of the model so that it efficiently learns from the data.

**Regularization, a simple example of inductive bias:**

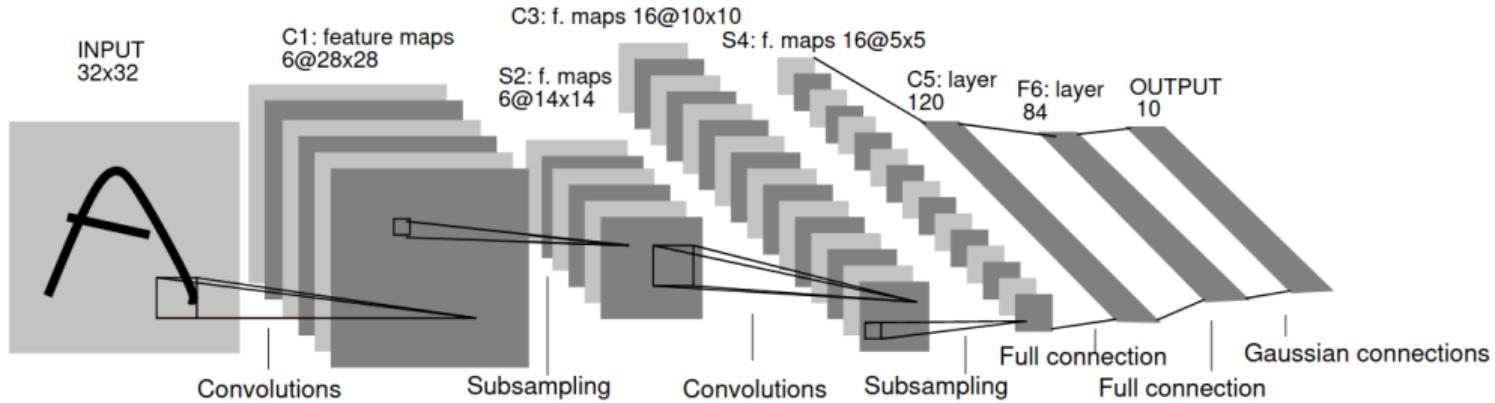
$$\min_{(\theta_1, \theta_0) \in \mathcal{H}} \mathcal{L}(\theta) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(\theta_1^\top x_i + \theta_0, y_i)}_{\text{Empirical risk, data fit}} + \underbrace{\lambda \|\theta_1\|_1}_{\text{Regularization}} .$$

## Our approach. Another example of inductive bias.



### Inductive bias in CNNs:

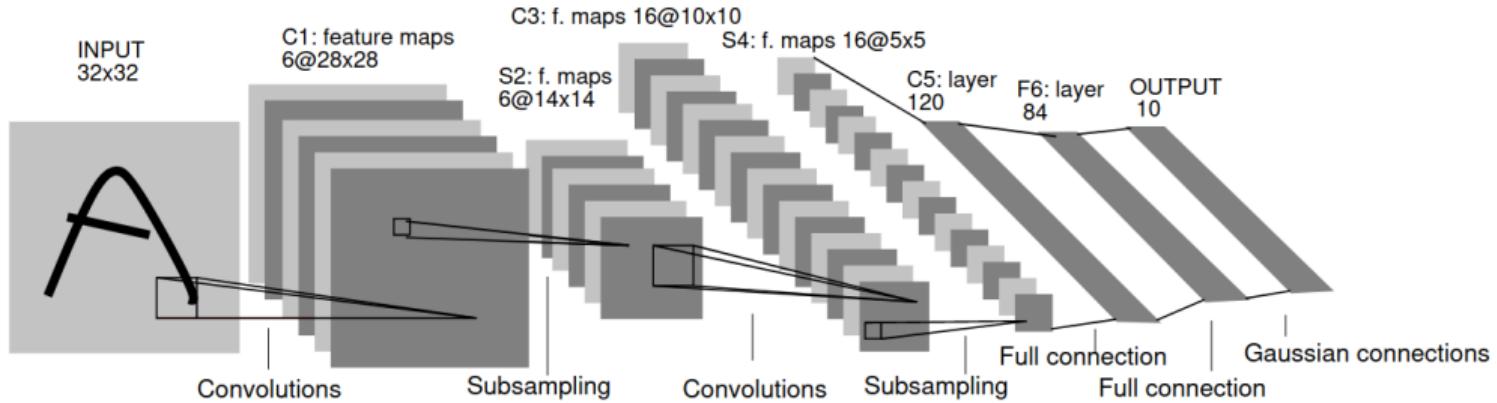
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### Inductive bias in CNNs:

- Local pooling.

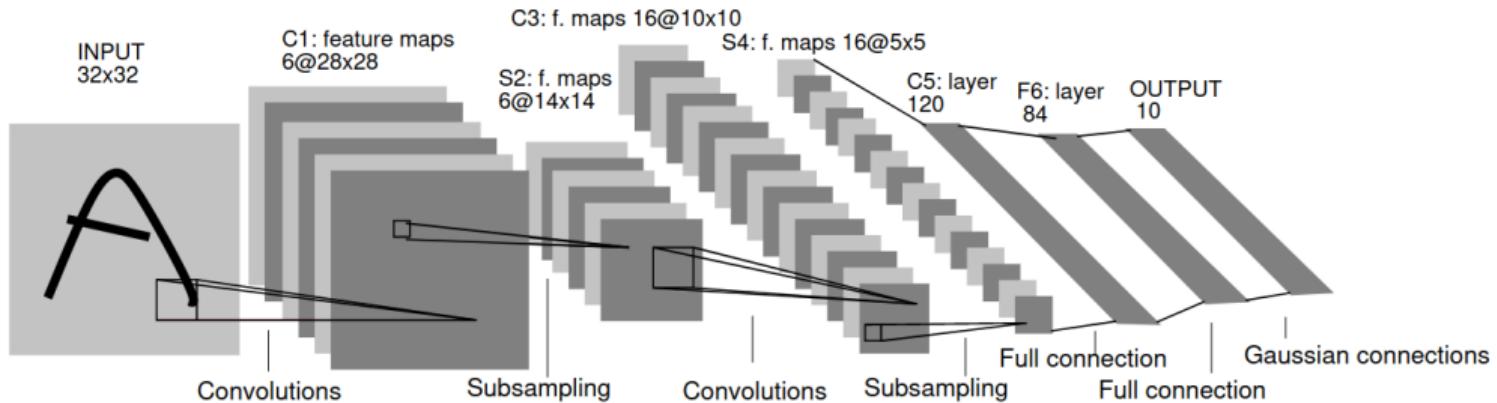
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- Multi-scale modeling.

## Our approach. Another example of inductive bias.



### Inductive bias in CNNs:

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Useful for efficient learning from natural images.

## Contributions

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### Kernel methods and deep learning in constrained data regimes (10k to 100k samples).

- A. Bietti\*, G. Mialon\*, D. Chen, J. Mairal. A Kernel Perspective for Regularizing Deep Neural Networks (ICML, 2019).
- G. Mialon\*, D. Chen\*, A. d'Aspremont, J. Mairal. A Trainable Optimal Transport Embedding for Feature Aggregation and its Relationship to Attention (ICLR, 2021).
- G. Mialon\*, D. Chen\*, M. Selosse\*, J. Mairal. GraphiT: Encoding Graph Structure in Transformers (arXiv:2106.05667, 2021).

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### Convex optimization.

- G. Mialon, A. d'Aspremont, J. Mairal. Screening Data Points in Empirical Risk Minimization via Ellipsoidal Regions and Safe Loss Functions (AISTATS, 2020).

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## Sets are an important data modality

CUU	GAC	AAA	GUU	GAG	GCU	GAA	GUG	CAA	AUU	GAU	AGG	UUG	AUC	ACA	GGC
L	D	K	V	E	A	E	V	Q	I	D	R	L	I	T	G
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Top: Short part of mRNA sequence for the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

Middle: Each triplet codes for an amino acid.

Bottom: Set representation of the sequence (1-grams).

- Biological sequences, e.g., proteins.

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- Sentences in natural language processing (NLP), 3D point cloud in computer vision.
- Different cardinalities, potentially **long**, with **few labelled sample** per class.

## Focusing on biological sequences

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- Kernel methods for sets [Lyu, 2004]: not expressive enough.

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### How to represent sets with low data and memory requirements?

## An attractive kernel for sets

Kernel methods [Schölkopf and Smola, 2001] allow rich representation of the data.

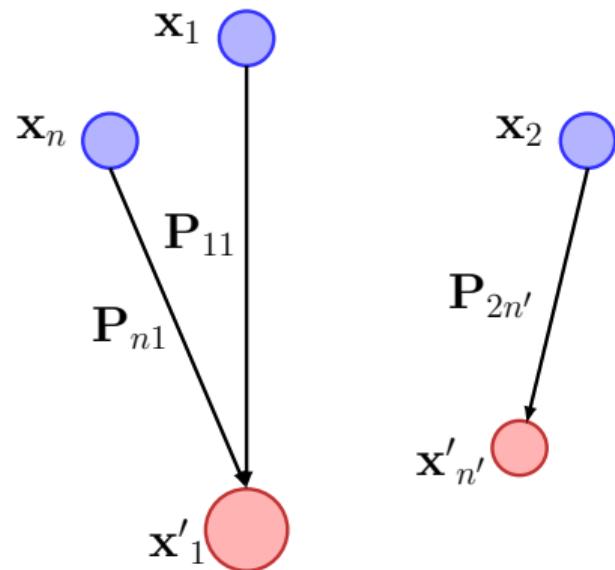
- Let  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}, \mathbf{x}' \in \mathbb{R}^{n' \times d}$  be two sets of feature vectors. The Optimal Transport Match Kernel is defined as

$$K_{\text{OT}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{i,j} \mathbf{P}_{ij} \langle \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}'_j \rangle,$$

where  $\mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n'}$  is the solution to the regularized optimal transport problem between  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{x}'$ .

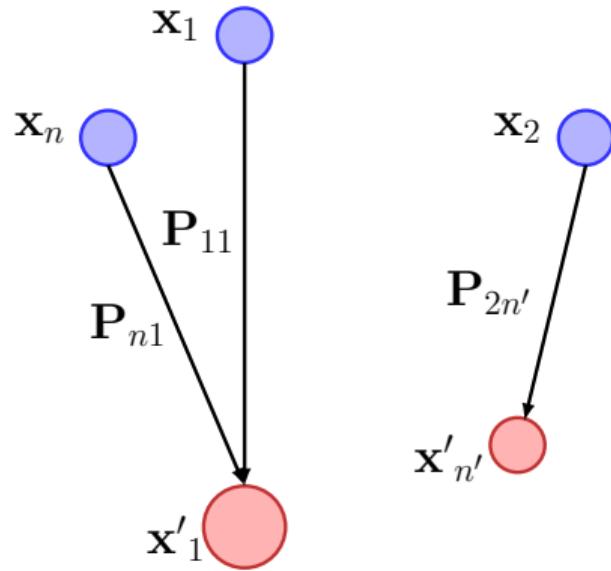
- Intuitively,  $K_{\text{OT}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$  high if  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{x}'$  are easy to align.

## (Regularized) Optimal transport



$$\mathbf{P} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

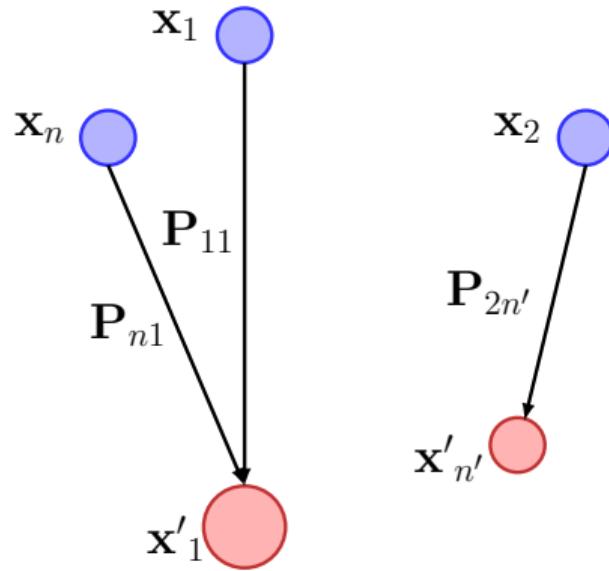
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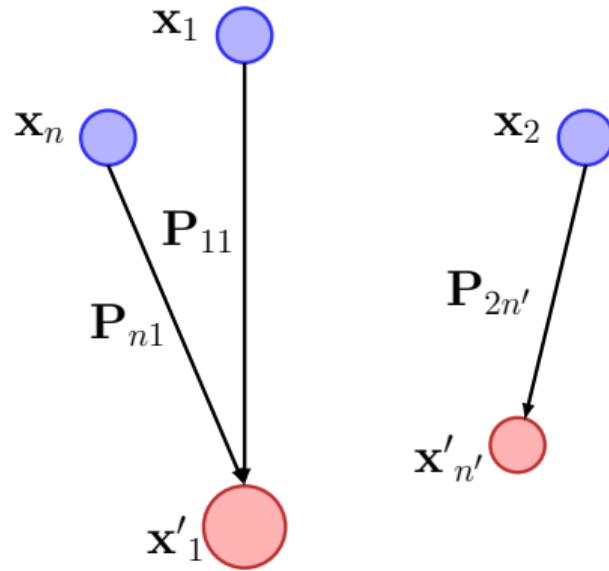
- “Most efficient way of transporting a mass distribution to another” [Peyré and Cuturi, 2019].
- Finding the transport plan  $\mathbf{P}$  minimizing a transportation cost

$$\min_{\mathbf{P} \in U} \sum_{ij} \mathbf{C}_{ij} \mathbf{P}_{ij} - \varepsilon H(\mathbf{P}),$$

with  $H(\mathbf{P}) = - \sum_{ij} \mathbf{P}_{ij} (\log(\mathbf{P}_{ij}) - 1)$ , and  $U$ , the space of admissible couplings.

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- GPU-friendly [Sinkhorn and Knopp, 1967, Cuturi and Doucet, 2013].

## Back to our problem

$$K_{\text{OT}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{i,j} \mathbf{P}_{ij} \langle \mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}'_j \rangle.$$

We cannot directly use  $K_{\text{OT}}$ .

- $K_{\text{OT}}$  is not positive definite [Gardner et al., 2018].

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- Observation:

$$\mathbf{P}_z(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') := p \times \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x}', \mathbf{z})^\top$$

is a valid transport plan between  $\mathbf{x}'$  and  $\mathbf{x}$  [Peyré and Cuturi, 2019].

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- Positive definite surrogate for  $K_{\text{OT}}$ :

$$K_z(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') := \langle \mathbf{P}_z(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}'), \kappa(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \rangle = \langle \Phi_z(\mathbf{x}), \Phi_z(\mathbf{x}') \rangle,$$

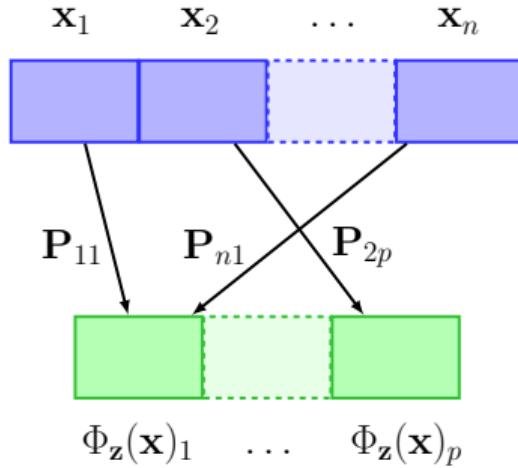
with

$$\Phi_z(\mathbf{x}) = \sqrt{p} \times \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})^\top \mathbf{x}.$$

[Mialon et al., 2021a]

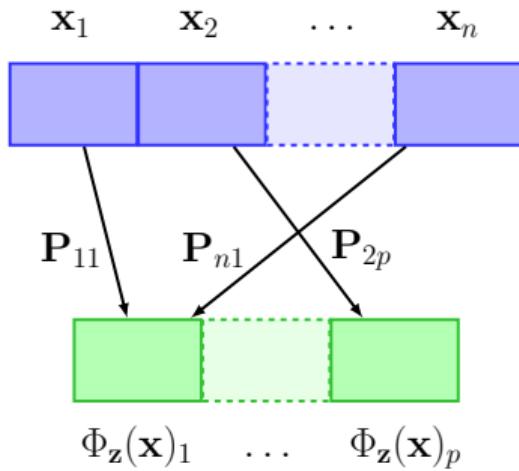
## Core contribution: An optimal transport pooling

Global, similarity-based pooling in  $p$  bins.



[Mialon et al., 2021a]

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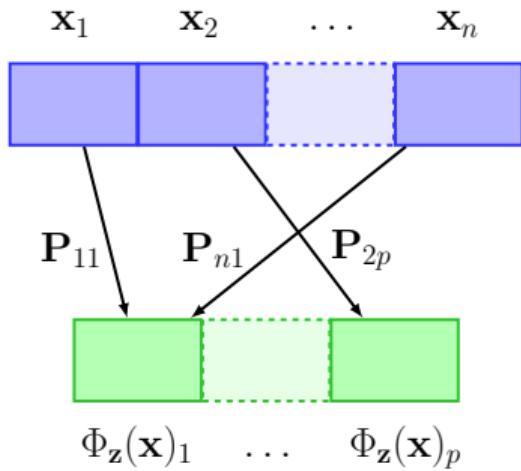


**Global, similarity-based pooling in  $p$  bins.**

- To each bin corresponds a prototype (parameter)  $z_j \in \mathbb{R}^d, j = 1 \dots p$ .

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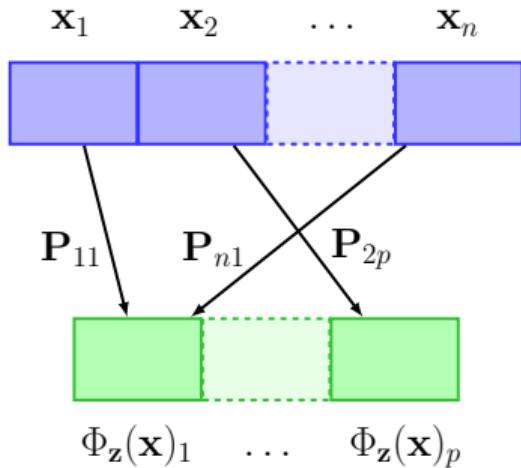


### Global, similarity-based pooling in $p$ bins.

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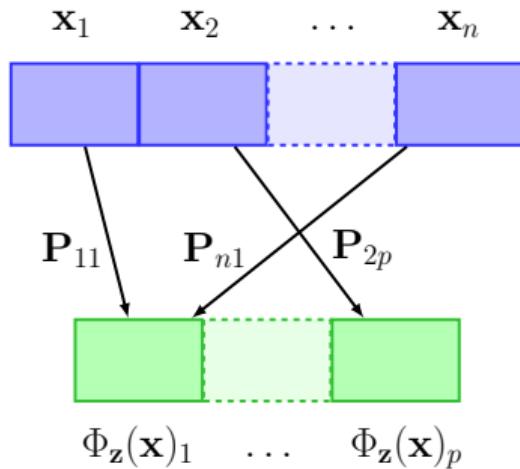
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- Input: set or sequence  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ .
- Output:  $\Phi_z(\mathbf{x})_j \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times d}$

$$\Phi_z(\mathbf{x})_j = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{P}_{ij} \mathbf{x}_i.$$

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- $\mathbf{z}$  learned **with or without** supervision.

[Mialon et al., 2021a]

## Results

**Results in various domains:** Images, text, biological sequences.

[Mialon et al., 2021a]

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**SST-2 (70k paragraphs, classification):** Classifying movie reviews in English into positive or negative.

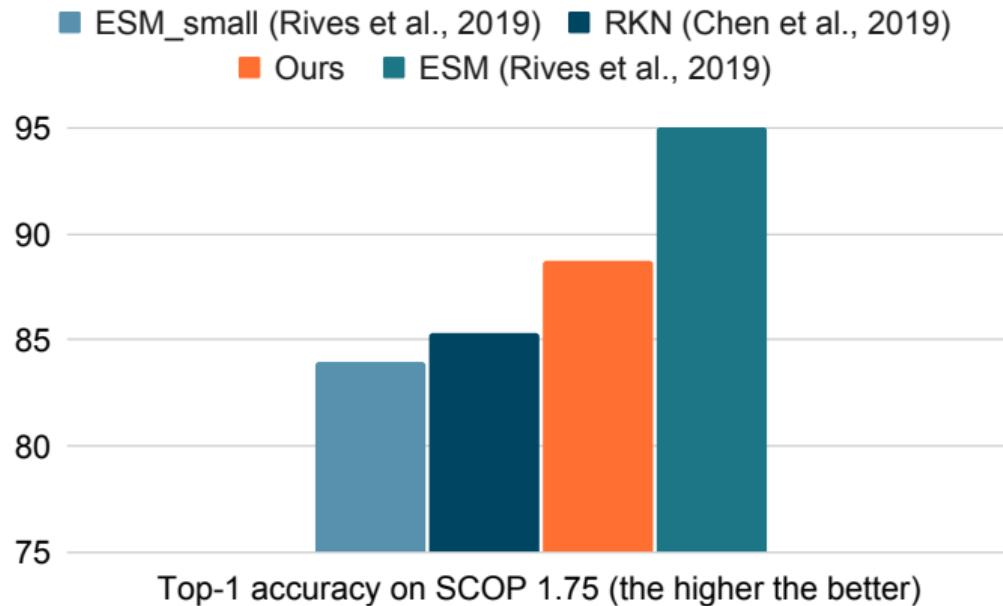
Classification accuracies on validation set, averaged from 10 different runs ( $q$  references  $\times$   $p$  supports).

Method	Unsupervised	Supervised
[CLS] embedding [Devlin et al., 2019]	$84.6 \pm 0.3$	$90.3 \pm 0.1$
Mean Pooling of BERT features [Devlin et al., 2019]	$85.3 \pm 0.4$	<b><math>90.8 \pm 0.1</math></b>
Approximate Rep the Set [Skianis et al., 2020]	Not available.	$86.8 \pm 0.9$
Rep the Set [Skianis et al., 2020]	Not available.	$87.1 \pm 0.5$
Set Transformer [Lee et al., 2019]	Not available.	$87.9 \pm 0.8$
Ours (Unsupervised: $1 \times 300$ . Supervised: $4 \times 30$ )	<b><math>86.8 \pm 0.3</math></b>	$88.1 \pm 0.8$

[Mialon et al., 2021a]

## Results

**SCOP 1.75 (20k sequences, classification):** Predicting protein folding.



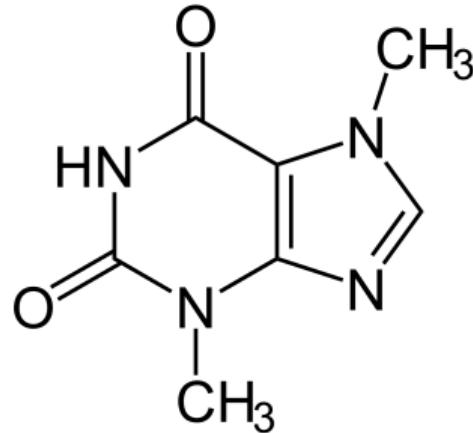
- ESM trained on 250M protein sequences!

[Mialon et al., 2021a]

# Outline

- 1 Introduction and approach of the thesis
- 2 Handling sets data with optimal transport embeddings [Mialon et al., 2021a]
- 3 Handling graph data with transformers neural networks [Mialon et al., 2021b]
- 4 Getting rid of useless data with safe sample screening [Mialon et al., 2020]
- 5 Conclusion and perspectives

## Graph data are an important research topic

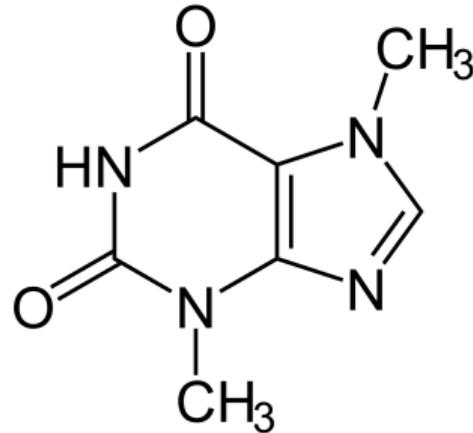


**Graph data are very valuable...**

- Molecules in chemoinformatics.

A molecule of theobromine, or why  
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## Graph data are an important research topic

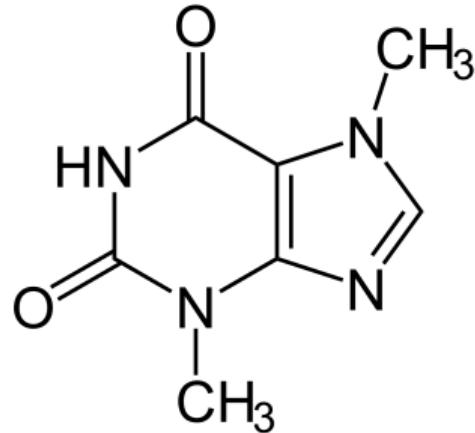


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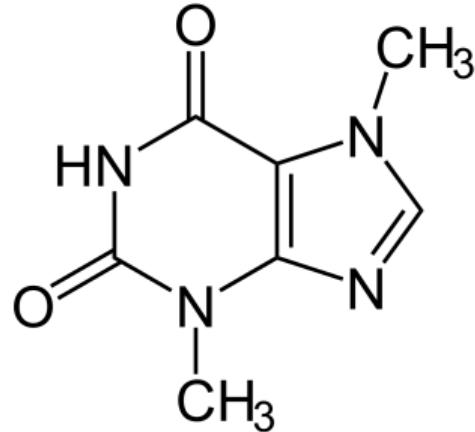


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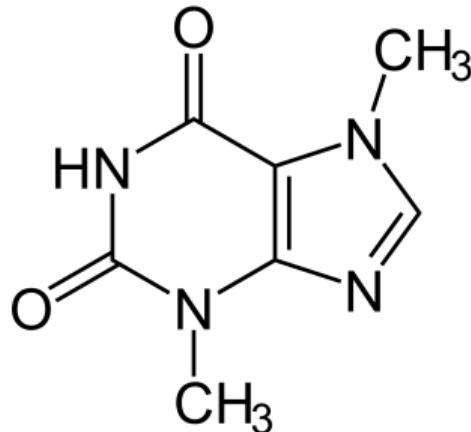
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**...but delicate to exploit.**

- Non-Euclidean structure.

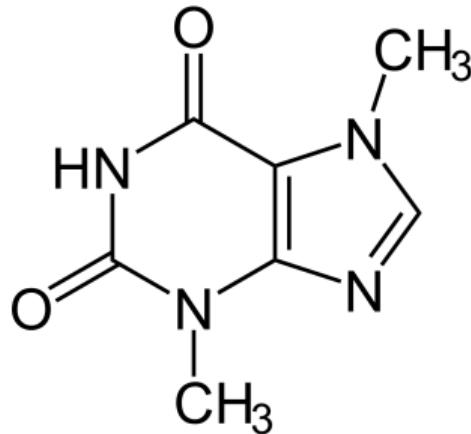
## Success and current limits of neural networks for graphs



Graph neural networks [Gori et al., 2005, Scarselli et al., 2008]  
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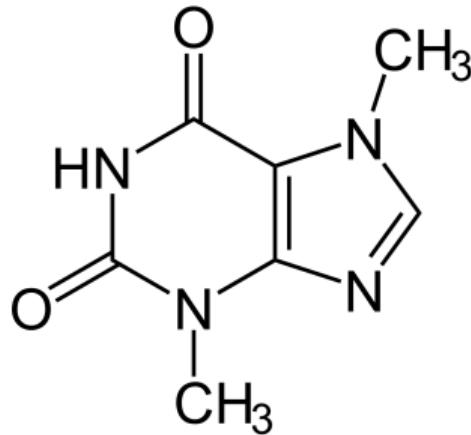


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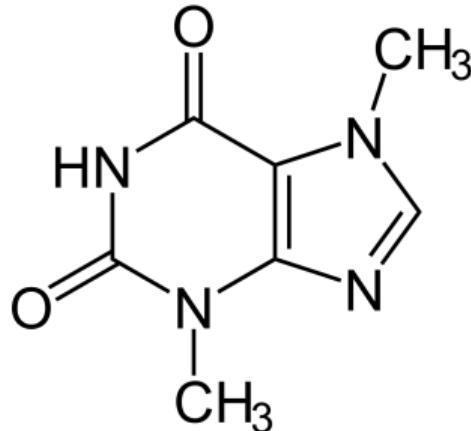


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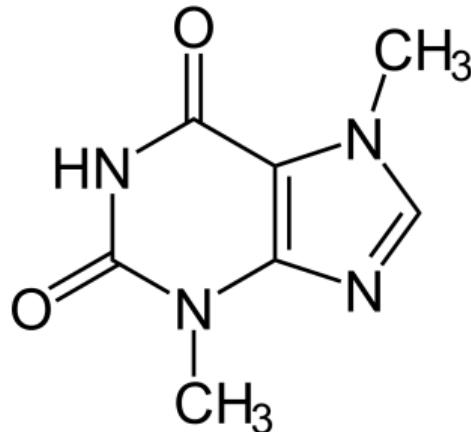


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**Let us connect all the nodes!**

# Transformers for graph are tempting but not straightforward

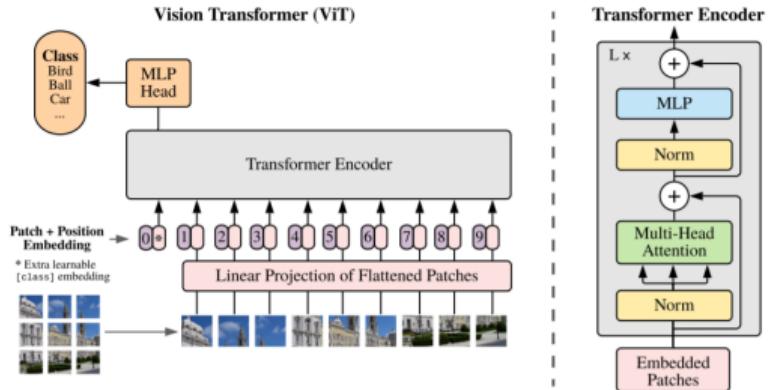


Image transformer (from [Dosovitskiy et al., 2021]).

Input: image seen as a set of patches.

Output: class label.

**Success of transformers [Vaswani et al., 2017].**

- Text [Devlin et al., 2019],
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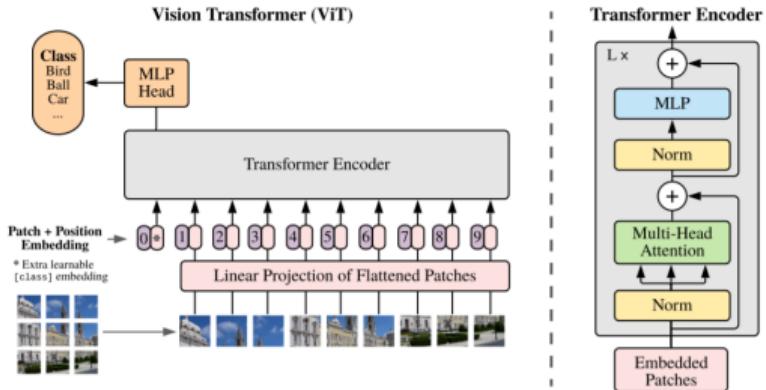


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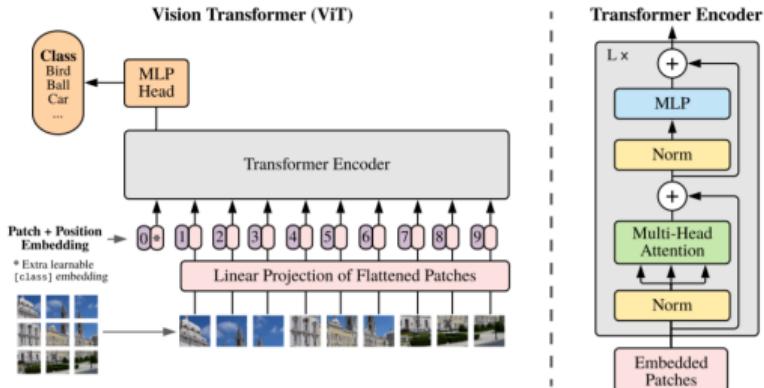


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- All input elements communicate...

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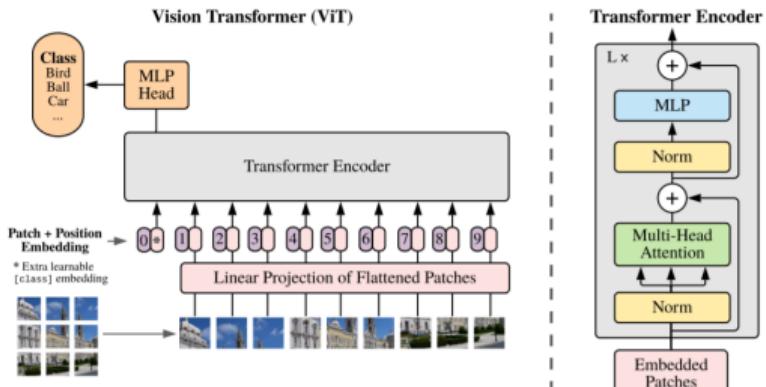


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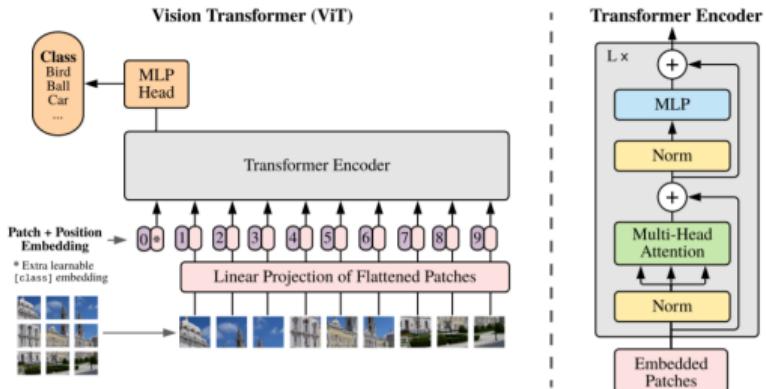


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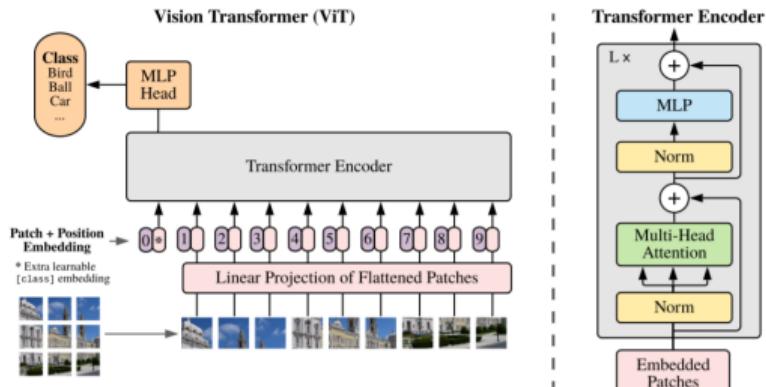


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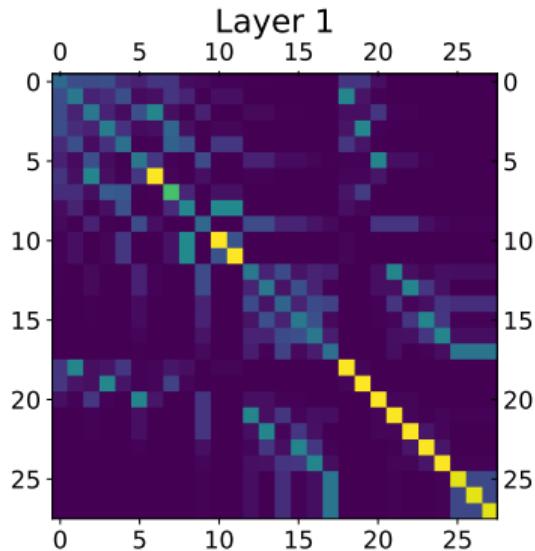
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How to provide information on the structure of the graphs?

## Our contribution: GraphiT, encoding graph structure in transformers

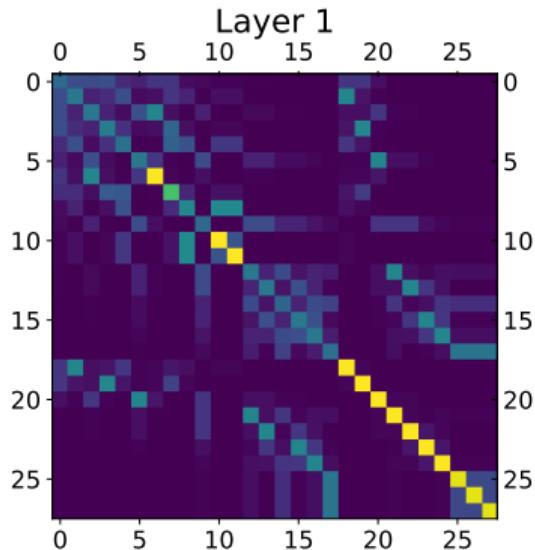


We propose two mechanisms:

Diffusion kernel between the nodes of a  
Mutagenicity sample graph ( $\beta = 1$ ).

[Mialon et al., 2021b]

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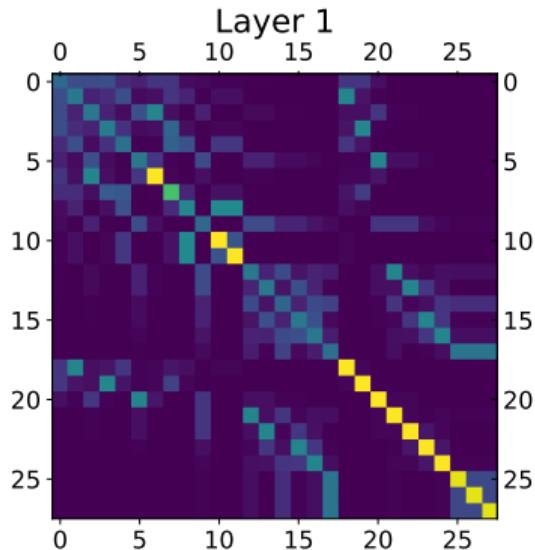
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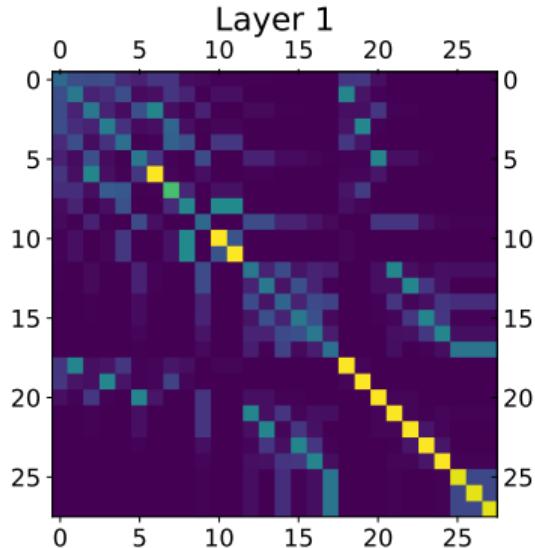
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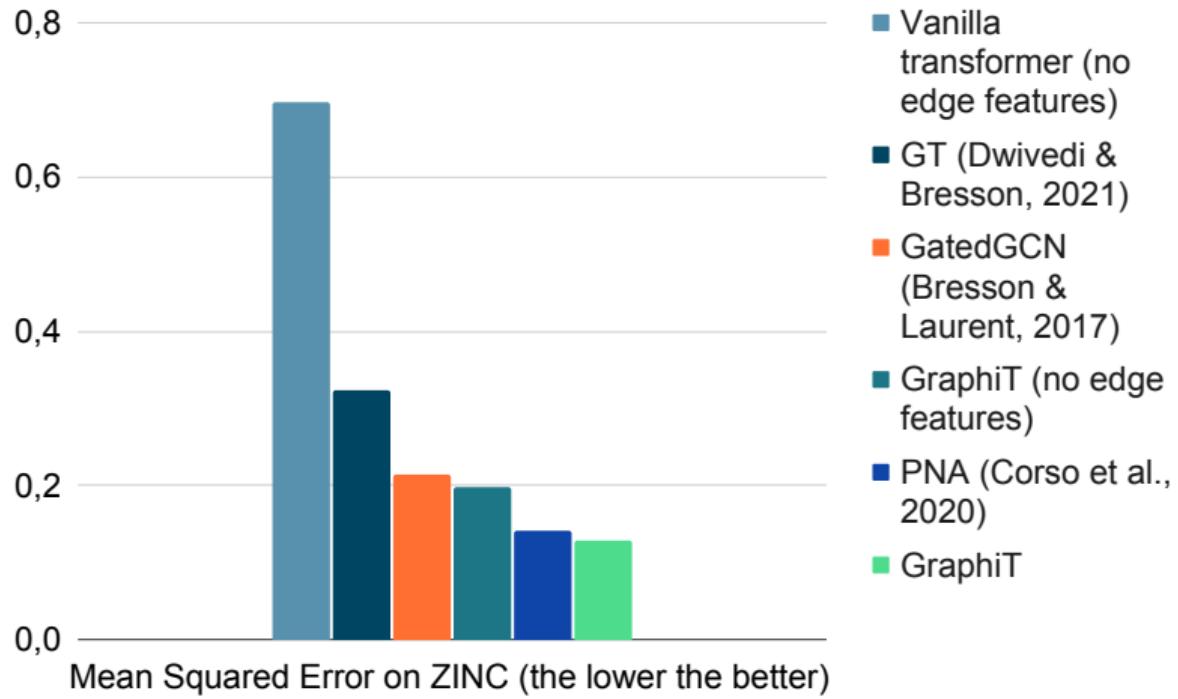
- Modulating attention with **kernels on the graph** [Tsai et al., 2019, Kondor and Vert, 2004].
- Encoding **local neighborhood** of each node [Chen et al., 2020].
- Possible to encode edge features in both mechanisms.

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## GraphiT is able to outperform popular GNNs

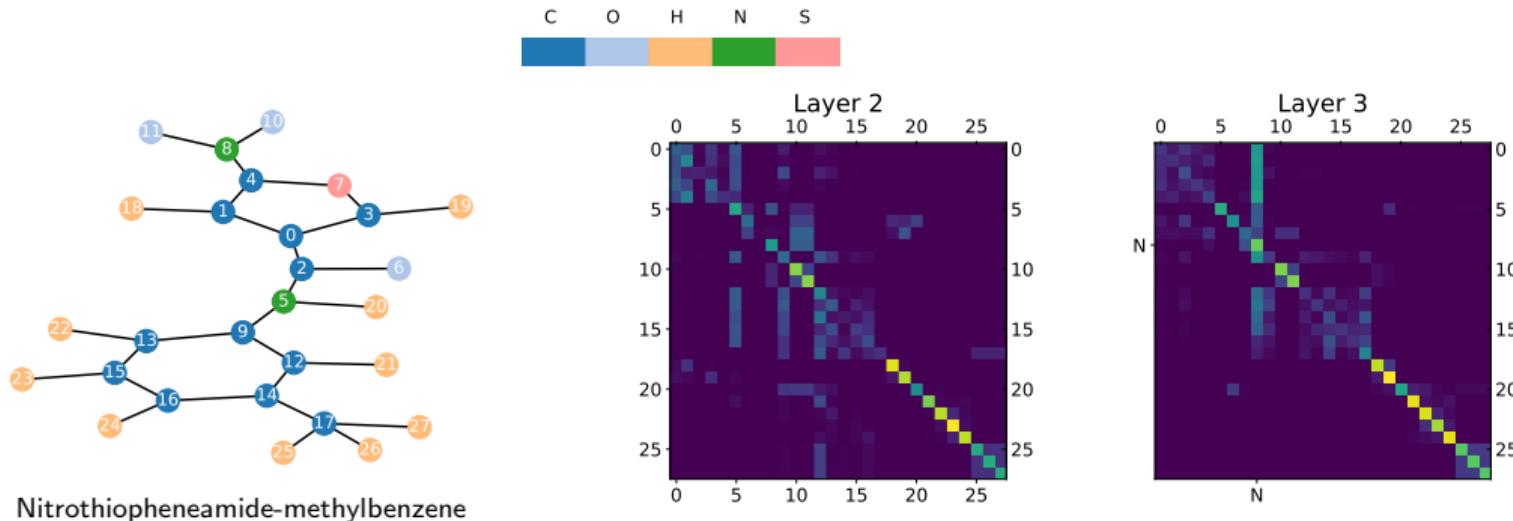
**ZINC (12k graphs, regression):** Predicting the constrained differential solubility of molecules.



[Mialon et al., 2021b]

# GraphiT captures meaningful interactions

Mutagenicity: 4k samples (binary classification).



Left: A molecule from the Mutagenicity data set [Kersting et al., 2016]. Right: nodes 8 (N of  $\text{NO}_2$ ) is salient.  $\text{NO}_2$  group is known for its mutagenetic properties. The attention scores are averaged by heads.

[Mialon et al., 2021b]

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## Safe sample screening

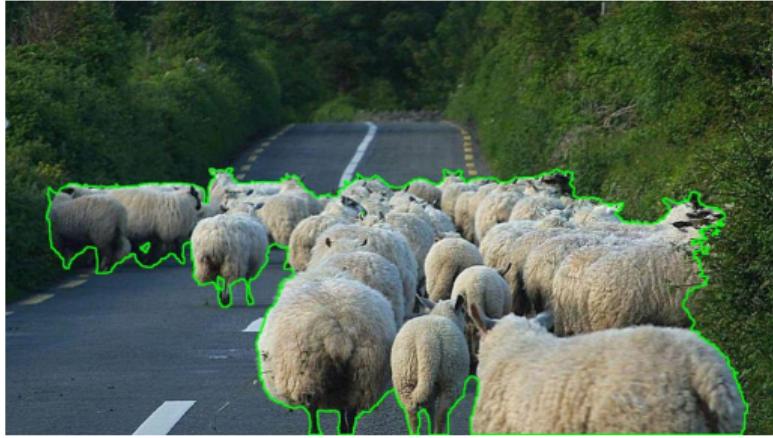


Self-driving cars critically need to detect anomalies.

### Why getting rid of data?

- To detect anomalies.

## Safe sample screening



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## Context:

- Convex problems.
- Rich literature for feature screening [Ghaoui et al., 2010, Fercoq et al., 2015, Massias et al., 2018].

## A simple observation

**Empirical risk minimization problem:**

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}^p, t \in \mathbb{R}^n} & \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(t_i) + \lambda R(x) \\ \text{s.t } & t = \mathbf{diag}(b)Ax, \end{aligned}$$

with  $f$  a convex loss and  $t = b_i x^\top a_i$  (classification).

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**Dual problem:**

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At the optimum,  $x^* = -\frac{A^\top \nu^*}{\lambda n}$ , with  $x^*$  and  $\nu^*$  resp. the optimal primal and dual variables.

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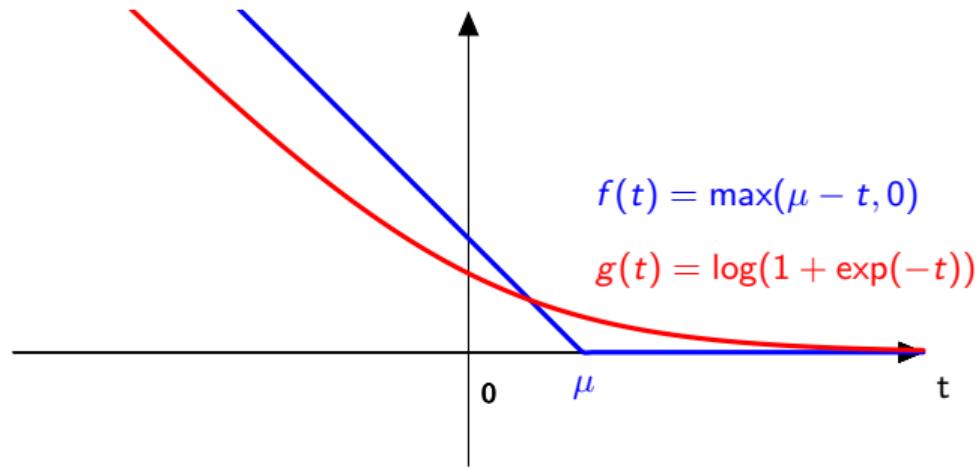
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**Lemma (Safe loss and dual sparsity)**

Consider the primal dual problems above. We have for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $\nu_i^* \in \partial f_i(a_i^\top x^*)$ .

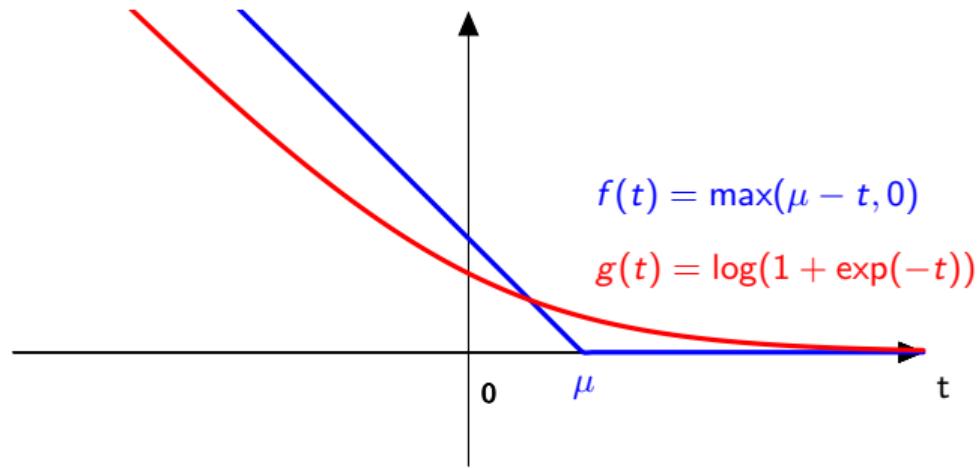
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- The sparsity of the dual solution is related to loss functions that have **flat regions**:

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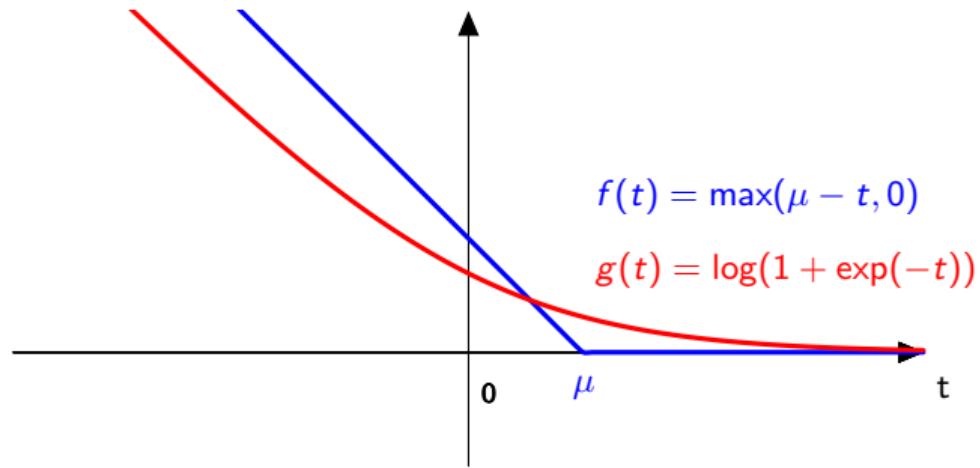


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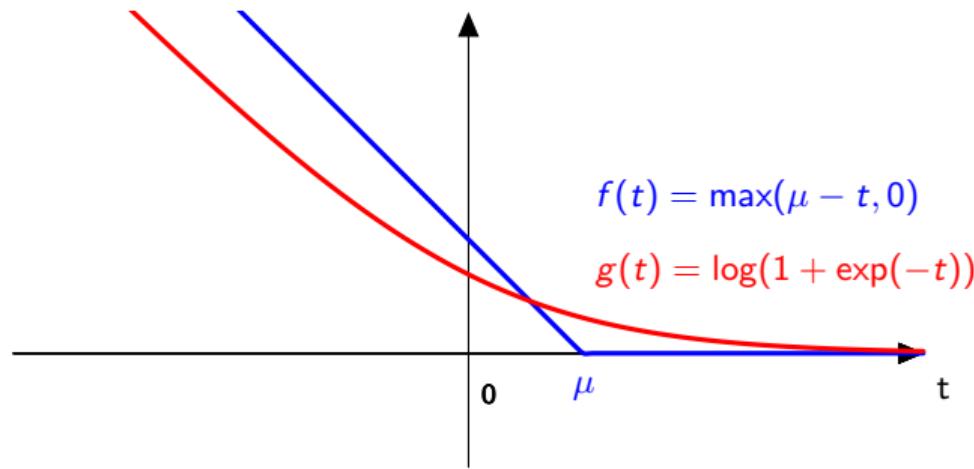


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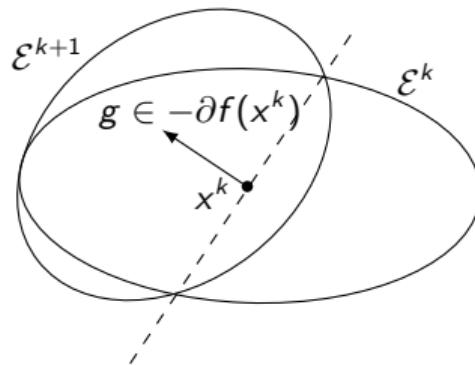
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- Sample screening rule:

$$\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} b_i a_i^\top x > \mu?$$

## Core contribution: A generic algorithm for finding a region containing $x^*$

**Ellipsoid method [Nemirovskii and Yudin, 1979].**

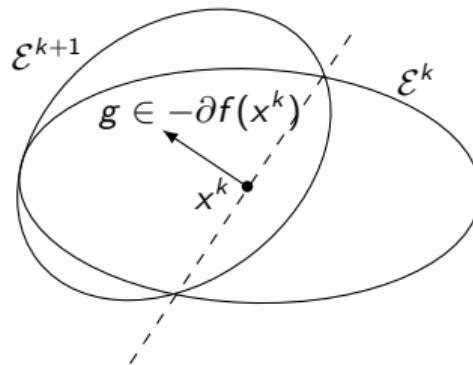


One step of the ellipsoid method.

[Mialon et al., 2020]

## Core contribution: A generic algorithm for finding a region containing $x^*$

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One step of the ellipsoid method.

### Why ellipsoid method?

- Ellipsoidal region  $\mathcal{X}$  enables a **closed-form** test.
- Does not require strong convexity.

[Mialon et al., 2020]

## Core contribution: A generic algorithm for finding a region containing $x^*$

Method	Strongly convex	Non strongly convex	Generic
Pathwise SVM [Ogawa et al., 2013]	✓	✗	✗
Duality Gap [Shibagaki et al., 2016]	✓	✗	✓
Ellipsoid (Ours)	✓	✓	✓

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### Perspectives:

- With ellipsoid method, finding a good test region is often **as costly as solving the problem**.
- Preferred use case: warm start, or within a solver [Fercoq et al., 2015].

[Mialon et al., 2020]

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### 3 - Safe sample screening [Mialon et al., 2020]

- Better understanding of screening rules.

## Further work

- Optimal transport embedding: Further theoretical study needed.

## Perspectives

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- Optimal transport embedding: Further theoretical study needed.
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- Both: application in fundamental science.



Drug design, a potential application of ML on sequences and graphs?

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**Recipe:** Huge models + huge data + **learning problem** + optimization algorithm + computing power

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**Seek progress elsewhere? Inductive biases can be found in learning paradigms...**

- Data augmentation and loss in self-supervised learning [He et al., 2020, Caron et al., 2020, Grill et al., 2020, Zbontar et al., 2021].

## Collaborators



Thank you!



## References |

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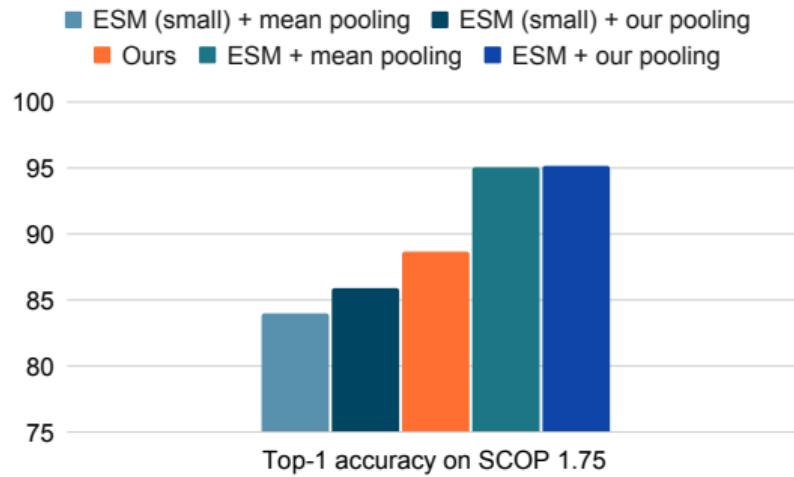
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## What about pre-trained models?

During ICLR rebuttal...

- ESM [Rives et al., 2019], a transformer protein language model trained on 250M protein sequences.
- Train a linear layer on top of ESM features.



## Kernels on graphs

### Laplacian based kernels [Smola and Kondor, 2003].

- Rich family of p.d. kernels on the graph by applying regularization function  $r$  to the spectrum of  $L$

$$K_r = \sum_{i=1}^m r(\lambda_i) u_i u_i^\top.$$

- Associated with the norm  $\|f\|_r^2 = \sum_{i=1}^m (f_i^\top u_i)^2 / r(\lambda_i)$  from a reproducing kernel Hilbert space (RKHS), where  $r : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}_*^+$  is a non-increasing function such that smoother functions on the graph would have smaller norms in the RKHS.

## A famous kernel on graphs: the diffusion kernel

**Diffusion Kernel [Kondor and Vert, 2004].**

- When  $r(\lambda_i) = e^{-\beta\lambda_i}$ ,

$$K_D = \sum_{i=1}^m e^{-\beta\lambda_i} u_i u_i^\top = e^{-\beta L} = \lim_{p \rightarrow +\infty} \left( I - \frac{\beta}{p} L \right)^p.$$

- Physical interpretation: diffusion of a substance in the graph, controlled by  $\beta$ .
- Discrete equivalent of the Gaussian kernel, a solution to the heat equation in the continuous setting.

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**Algorithm 1** Building ellipsoidal test regions

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- 1: **initialization:** Given  $\mathcal{E}^0(x_0, E_0)$  containing  $x^*$ ;
- 2: **while**  $k < nb_{\text{steps}}$  **do**
- 3:     • Compute a gradient  $g$  of the objective in  $x_k$ ;
- 4:     •  $\tilde{g} \leftarrow g / \sqrt{g^T E_k g}$ ;
- 5:     •  $x_{k+1} \leftarrow x_k - \frac{1}{p+1} E_k \tilde{g}$ ;
- 6:     •  $E_{k+1} \leftarrow \frac{p^2}{p^2-1} (E_k - \frac{2}{p+1} E_k \tilde{g} \tilde{g}^T E_k)$ ;
- 7: For classification problems:
- 8: **for** each sample  $a_i$  in  $A$  **do**
- 9:     **if**  $\min b_i x^\top a_i \geq \mu$  for  $x \in \mathcal{E}^{nb_{\text{steps}}}$  **then**
- 10:         Discard  $a_i$  from  $A$ .

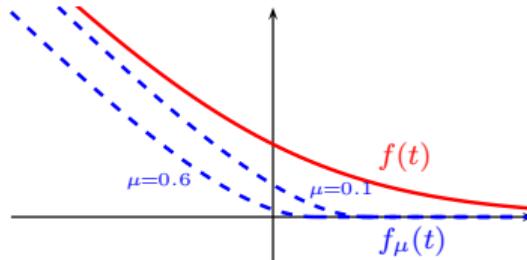
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## Example of safe loss

**Logistic loss:**  $f(t) = \log(1 + e^{-t})$  and  $\Omega(x) = -x \log(-x) + \mu|x|$  for  $x \in [-1, 0]$ . We have  $\Omega^*(y) = -e^{y+\mu-1}$ . Convolving  $\Omega^*$  with  $f$  yields

$$f_\mu(x) = \begin{cases} e^{x+\mu-1} - (x + \mu) & \text{if } x + \mu - 1 \leq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Smooth and asymptotically robust. The entropic part of  $\Omega$  makes this penalty strongly convex hence  $f_\mu$  is smooth [Nesterov, 2005]. Finally, the  $\ell_1$  penalty ensures that the dual is sparse thus making the screening usable.



Safe logistic loss.