# HOW DOES SEMI-SUPERVISED LEARNING WITH PSEUDO-LABELERS WORK? A CASE STUDY

Shared by :Jiarui Jiang

January 23, 2024

#### **Abstract**

# HOW DOES SEMI-SUPERVISED LEARNING WITH PSEUDO-LABELERS WORK? A CASE STUDY

Yiwen Kou<sup>1</sup>, Zixiang Chen<sup>1</sup>, Yuan Cao<sup>2,3</sup>, Quanquan Gu<sup>1</sup>

qgu@cs.ucla.edu

#### ABSTRACT

Semi-supervised learning is a popular machine learning paradigm that utilizes a large amount of unlabeled data as well as a small amount of labeled data to facilitate learning tasks. While semi-supervised learning has achieved great success in training neural networks, its theoretical understanding remains largely open. In this paper, we aim to theoretically understand a semi-supervised learning approach based on pre-training and linear probing. In particular, the semi-supervised learning approach we consider first trains a two-layer neural network based on the unlabeled data with the help of pseudo-labelers. Then it linearly probes the pre-trained network on a small amount of labeled data. We prove that, under a certain toy data generation model and two-layer convolutional neural network, the semi-supervised learning approach can achieve nearly zero test loss, while a neural network directly trained by supervised learning on the same amount of labeled

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Department of Computer Science, University of California, Los Angeles

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, The University of Hong Kong

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Department of Mathematics, The University of Hong Kong evankou@ucla.edu, chenzx19@cs.ucla.edu, yuancao@hku.hk,

#### Feature Learning



#### 黄伟 👜

深度学习理论爱好者

十 关注他

#### ● 你经常看 图像处理 相关内容

继Neural Tangent Kernel (NTK)之后,深度学习理论出现了一个理论分支,人们常常称它为feature learning (theory)。不同于NTK,feature learning认为神经网络在梯度下降过程中可以学习到数据中的feature或者signal。

Feature learning理论一般会假设具体的数据生成模型,例如Gaussian mixture, signal-noise model, sparse-coding模型等,然后考察一个具体的神经网络(常常是两层网络,固定第二层权由重)在梯度下降算法下,其权重是如何学习数据中的信号和噪声。通过将复杂的神经网络的动力学转换成一个更加简单的"信号学习"和"噪声记忆"组成的动力学,feature learning theory可以刻画网络的在训练过程的优化性能以及网络收敛后的泛化能力。

由于feature learning抓住了数据 (image) 和神经网络动力学交互中的内在本质,其在各种算法和学习框架的可解释性上取得了空前的成功,将深度学习可解释性推向了一个新的高度。

# Supervised Learning

#### Supervised Learning

Based on existing datasets, understand the relationship between input and output results, and then train an optimal model based on this known relationship.

#### examples

- classification
- regression
- decision tree
- KNN

# **Unsupervised Learning**

#### Unsupervised Learning

Using a certain algorithm to train an unlabeled training set allows us to identify the underlying structure of this set of data.

#### examples

- K-means
- GMM
- PCA
- t-SNE

# Semi-Supervised Learning

#### Semi-Supervised Learning

In traditional supervised learning, each training data is composed of data and labels. However, in general, only a large amount of data can be obtained, and labels are difficult to obtain. Adding labels to data requires a lot of prior knowledge, which consumes a lot of cost.

#### examples

- generative models
- semi-supervised support vector machines
- graph-based methods
- co-training
- consistency regularization methods
- pseudo-labeling methods



#### pseudo-labeling methods

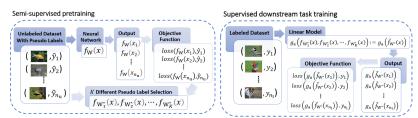


Figure 2: Illustration of our model. The left figure characterizes semi-supervised pre-train schema: NN is trained by minimizing errors between pseudo-labels  $\hat{y}$  and predictions  $f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x})$ . After semi-supervised pre-training finished, the learned parameters  $\{\mathbf{W}_k^*\}_{k=1}^K$  serve as pre-trained models and are adapted to a downstream task using linear probing, as shown in the right figure.

#### data model

**Definition 3.1.** Each data point  $(\mathbf{x},y)$  with  $\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{x}^{(1)\top},\mathbf{x}^{(2)\top}]^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^{2d}$  and  $y \in \{-1,+1\}$  is generated as follows: the label y is generated as a Rademacher random variable; one of  $\mathbf{x}^{(1)},\mathbf{x}^{(2)}$  is given by the feature vector  $y \cdot \mathbf{v}$ , the other is given by a noise vector  $\boldsymbol{\xi}$  that is generated from a d-dimensional Gaussian distribution  $\mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{0},\sigma_p^2(\mathbf{I}-\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^{\top}/\|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2\right)\right)$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{D}$  the joint distribution of  $(\mathbf{x},y)$ , and denote by  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{x}}$  the marginal distribution of  $\mathbf{x}$ .

we consider learning a CNN with  $n_l$  labeled examples  $S' = \{(x_i', y_i')\}_{i=1}^{n_l}$  generated from the distribution D and  $n_u$  labeled examples  $S = \{(x_i')\}_{i=1}^{n_u}$  generated from the marginal distribution  $D_x$ 

#### **CNN** model

For supervised learning, we consider a two-layer CNN whose filters are applied to the patches  $\mathbf{x}^{(1)}$  and  $\mathbf{x}^{(2)}$  respectively and parameters in the second layers are set to be  $\pm 1$ . Then the CNN can be written as  $f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}) = f_{\mathbf{W}}^{+1}(\mathbf{x}) - f_{\mathbf{W}}^{-1}(\mathbf{x})$  where  $f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x})^{+1}$ ,  $f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x})^{-1}$  are formulated as

$$f_{\mathbf{W}}^{+1}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \left[ \sigma(\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, \mathbf{x}^{(1)} \rangle) + \sigma(\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, \mathbf{x}^{(2)} \rangle) \right],$$

$$f_{\mathbf{W}}^{-1}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=m+1}^{2m} \left[ \sigma(\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, \mathbf{x}^{(1)} \rangle) + \sigma(\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, \mathbf{x}^{(2)} \rangle) \right].$$
(3.1)

Here  $\sigma$  is activation function  $\operatorname{ReLU}^q(\cdot) = [\cdot]_+^q(q > 2)$ , m is the width of the network,  $\mathbf{w}_j \in \mathbb{R}^d$  denotes the j-th filter, and  $\mathbf{W}$  is the collection of all filters  $\{\mathbf{w}_j\}_{j=1}^{2m}$ . Given labeled training dataset  $S' = \{(\mathbf{x}_i', y_i')\}_{i=1}^{n}$ , we train the CNN model by minimizing the empirical cross-entropy loss

$$L_{S'}(\mathbf{W}) = \frac{1}{n_1} \sum_{i=1}^{n_1} L_i(\mathbf{W}),$$

where  $L_i(\mathbf{W}) = \ell(y_i' \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}_i'))$  with  $\ell(z) = \log(1 + \exp(-z))$  denotes the individual loss for the training example  $(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i)$ . We minimize the empirical function  $L_{S'}(\mathbf{W})$  with gradient descent as follows

$$\mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t+1)} = \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t)} - \eta \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_{j}} L_{S'}(\mathbf{W}^{(t)}), \quad \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(0)} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma_{0}^{2}\mathbf{I}), \quad j \in [2m],$$

where  $\eta > 0$  is the learning rate and  $\sigma_0$  defines the scale of random initialization.



#### Semi-Supervised Learning Models

For semi-supervised pre-training, we assume that we have access to K pseudo-labelers  $\{f_k^w\}_{k=1}^K$ . The accuracy of k-th pseudo-labeler is  $p_k \in (1/2,1)$ . Then we use K pseudo-labelers to generate K pseudo-labeled dataset  $\{S_k\}_{k=1}^K$ , where  $S_k := \{(\mathbf{x}_i, \hat{y}_{k,i}) \mid \hat{y}_{k,i} = f_k^w(\mathbf{x}_i)\}_{i=1}^{n_u}$ . Next we solve K pre-training tasks with two-layer CNN models  $\{f_{\mathbf{W}_k}\}_{k=1}^K$  defined in  $(\mathbf{S}_k)$  using  $\{S_k\}_{k=1}^K$  respectively. Note that our result can cover K=1 as a special case, where there is only one pseudo-labeler.

We consider learning the model parameter  $\mathbf{W}_k$  by optimizing the empirical loss of both pseudolabeled dataset  $S_k$  and labeled dataset  $S' = \{(\mathbf{x}'_i, y'_i)\}_{i=1}^{n_1}$  with weight decay regularization

$$L_{S_k \cup S'}(\mathbf{W}_k) = \frac{1}{n_{\mathrm{u}} + n_{\mathrm{l}}} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\mathrm{u}}} L_i(\mathbf{W}_k) + \sum_{i'=1}^{n_{\mathrm{l}}} L_{i'}(\mathbf{W}_k) \right) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|\mathbf{W}_k\|_F^2,$$

$$\mathbf{w}_{k,j}^{(t+1)} = \mathbf{w}_{k,j}^{(t)} - \eta \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{w}_{k,j}} L_{S_k \cup S'}(\mathbf{W}_k^{(t)}), \quad \mathbf{w}_{k,j}^{(0)} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \sigma_0^2 \mathbf{I}_d), \quad j \in [2m], k \in [K]$$

#### Downstream Task: Linear Model

$$g_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^{K} a_k f_{\mathbf{W}_k^*}(\mathbf{x}),$$

$$L_{S'}(\mathbf{a}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \ell(y'_i \cdot g_{\mathbf{a}}(\mathbf{x}'_i)).$$

$$\mathbf{a}^{(t+1)} = \mathbf{a}^{(t)} - \eta \cdot \nabla_{\mathbf{a}} L_{S'}(\mathbf{a}^{(t)}), \ \mathbf{a}^{(0)} = \mathbf{0}.$$

Condition 4.1. The strength of the signal is  $\|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 = \Theta(d)$ , the noise variance is  $\sigma_p = \Theta(d^\epsilon)$ , where  $0 < \epsilon < 1/8$  is a small constant, and the width of the network satisfies m = polylog(d). We also assume that the size of the unlabeled dataset  $n_{\rm u} = \Omega(d^{4\epsilon})$ , and labeled data  $n_1 = \widetilde{\Theta}(1)$ . For both supervise learning and semi-supervised learning settings, we initialize the weight with  $\sigma_0 = \Theta(d^{-3/4})$ . For semi-supervised learning, we require  $\lambda = o(d^{3/4})$  and assume that there exists a constant C such that for all pseudo-labelers, their test accuracy  $p_k > 1/2 + C$ .

Since we generate the noise patch from the Gaussian distribution, the strength of the noise patch is  $\|\boldsymbol{\xi}\|_2^2 \approx d^{1+\epsilon}$  by standard concentration inequalities, which is larger than the strength of the signal patch  $\|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 = \Theta(d)$ . Therefore, Condition  $\underline{\mathbf{d}}$ . defines a setting with large noises. The condition of  $d \gg n_u \gg n_t$  further ensures that learning is in a sufficiently over-parameterized setting. Here we only require the neural network width m to be polylogarithmic in the dimension d and require the psudolablers to perform better than a random guess.

**Theorem 4.2** (Semi-supervised Learning: Pre-training). Let  $k \in [K]$  and consider the semi-supervised pre-training of  $f_{\mathbf{W}_k}(\mathbf{x})$ . For any test data point  $(\mathbf{x},y)$ , denote  $\widehat{y} = f_k^w(\mathbf{x})$ . Then under Condition 4.1, after  $T_0 = \widetilde{\Theta}(d^{-\frac{3}{4}}\eta^{-1})$  training iterations with learning rate  $\eta = O(d^{-1.1})$ , the trained neural network can achieve nearly 0 test error on the distribution  $\mathcal{D}$ :  $\mathbb{P}_{(\mathbf{x},y)\sim\mathcal{D}}[y\cdot f_{\mathbf{W}_k^{(T_0)}}(\mathbf{x})\leq 0] = o(1)$ .

Theorem  $\blacksquare 2$  characterizes the prediction power of the feature representation learned in the pretrained models using unlabeled data. For any test data point  $(\mathbf{x},y)$ , the sign of y can be predicted based on  $f_{\mathbf{W}^{(T_0)}}(\mathbf{x})$  with high probability.

**Theorem 4.3** (Semi-supervised Learning: Downstream). Let  $\{f_{\mathbf{W}_{k}^{(T_{0}^{k})}}\}_{k=1}^{a}$  be the neural networks trained according to the K pre-training tasks, and consider the learning of the downstream task based in  $\{f_{\mathbf{W}_{k}^{(T_{0}^{k})}}\}_{k=1}^{d}$ . Under Condition 4.1, after  $T' = \Theta(d^{0.1}/\eta)$  iterations with learning rate  $\eta = \Theta(1)$ , with probability 1 - o(1), the obtained  $\mathbf{a}^{(T')}$  satisfies:

- Training error is 0:  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathbb{1}[y_i \cdot g_{\mathbf{a}^{(T')}}(\mathbf{x}_i) \leq 0] = 0.$
- $\bullet \ \ \text{Test error and loss are nearly 0:} \ \mathbb{P}_{(\mathbf{x},y)\sim\mathcal{D}}[y\cdot g_{\mathbf{a}^{(T')}}(\mathbf{x})\leq 0] = o(1), L_{\mathcal{D}}\big(\mathbf{a}^{(T')}\big) = o(1).$

Theorem shows that the feature representation learned based on the semi-supervised pre-training can ensure small training and test errors for the supervised downstream task. Notably, this result holds even though we assume that there are only a constant number of labeled data. This shows that semi-supervised learning can significantly reduce the need for a large labeled training dataset. For comparison, we also have the following guarantees on the performance of standard supervised learning of CNNs.

**Theorem 4.4** (Supervised Learning). Under supervised learning setting, after gradient descent for  $T = \widetilde{\Theta}(d^{(1/4-\epsilon)q-3/2}\eta^{-1})$  iterations with learning rate  $\eta = O(d^{-1-2\epsilon})$ , then there exists  $t \leq T$  such that with probability 1 - o(1) the CNNs defined in (3.1) with parameter  $\mathbf{W}^{(t)}$  satisfies:

- Training loss is nearly zero:  $L_{S'}(\mathbf{W}^{(t)}) = o(1)$ .
- Test loss is high:  $L_{\mathcal{D}} \big( \mathbf{W}^{(t)} \big) = \Theta(1)$ .

#### Experiment

	Semi-supervised		Supervised
	Pre-train	Downstream	Supervised
Training error	0.1753±0.0259	0	0
Test error	0	0	$0.4982 \pm 0.0208$
Training loss	$0.4155\pm0.0418$	$0.0150\pm0.0022$	$(6.473\pm5.031)\times10^{-7}$
Test loss	$0.2200 \pm 0.0886$	$0.0182 \pm 0.0021$	0.6931±0.0005

Table 1: Training error and loss, test error and loss for semi-supervised and supervised learning.

#### Figure: some definitions

Our study of the pre-training focuses on two aspects of the training process: *feature learning* and *noise memorization*. Specifically, we aim to monitor how the filters in the CNN model learn the feature vector  $\mathbf{v}$  and the noise vectors  $\boldsymbol{\xi}_i$ 's. Therefore, we introduce the following notations.

$$\begin{split} \widehat{\Lambda}_1^{(t)} &:= \max_{1 \leq j \leq m} \langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle, \ \bar{\Lambda}_1^{(t)} := \max_{1 \leq j \leq m} -\langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle, \\ \widehat{\Lambda}_{-1}^{(t)} &:= \max_{m+1 \leq j \leq 2m} -\langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle, \ \bar{\Lambda}_{-1}^{(t)} := \max_{m+1 \leq j \leq 2m} \langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle, \\ \Gamma_i^{(t)} &:= \max_{1 \leq j \leq 2m} \langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_i \rangle, \ \Gamma_i^{(t)} := \max_{1 \leq j \leq 2m} \langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_i' \rangle, \ \Gamma^{(t)} = \max \Big\{ \max_{i \in [n_u]} \Gamma_i^{(t)}, \max_{i \in [n_l]} \Gamma_i^{(t)}, \Big\}. \end{split}$$

the larger  $\hat{\Lambda}$ , the better the smaller  $\overline{\Lambda}$ , the better the smaller  $\Gamma$ , the better

**Lemma 5.1.** Assume we use both unlabeled data with pseudo-labels generated by the pseudo-labeler and labeled data for the training of our CNN model. Then for  $r \in \{\pm 1\}$ , let  $T_r$  be the first iteration that  $\widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)}$  reaches  $\Theta(1/m)$ , then for  $t \in [0, T_r]$ , we have

$$\begin{split} \widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t+1)} &\geq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)} + \eta \cdot C \cdot \Theta(d) \cdot (\widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)})^{q-1}, r \in \{\pm 1\}, \\ \bar{\Lambda}_r^{(t+1)} &\leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \bar{\Lambda}_r^{(t)}, r \in \{\pm 1\}, \\ \Gamma^{(t+1)} &\leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \Gamma^{(t)} + \eta \cdot \widetilde{\Theta}(d^{1-2\epsilon}) \cdot (\Gamma^{(t)})^{q-1}, \end{split}$$

**Lemma 5.2.** Assume we use only labeled data for the training of our CNN model. Then for  $i \in [n_l]$ , let  $T_i'$  be the first iteration that  $\Gamma_i'^{(t)}$  reaches  $\Theta(1/m)$ , then we have

$$\begin{split} \widehat{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t+1)} &\leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t)} + \eta \cdot \Theta(d) \cdot \left( (\widehat{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t)})^{q-1} + (\bar{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t)})^{q-1} \right), r \in \{\pm 1\}, \\ \bar{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t+1)} &\leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \bar{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t)}, r \in \{\pm 1\}, \\ \Gamma_{i}^{\prime(t+1)} &\geq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \Gamma_{i}^{\prime(t)} + \eta \cdot \widetilde{\Theta}(d^{1+2\epsilon}) \cdot (\Gamma_{i}^{\prime(t)})^{q-1}, i \in [n_{l}], \text{ for } t \in [0, T_{i}^{\prime}]. \end{split}$$

**Lemma 5.3.** If both pseudo-labeled and labeled data are used to train CNN, for  $r \in \{\pm 1\}$ , let  $T_r$  be the first iteration that  $\widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)}$  reaches  $\Theta(1/m)$  respectively. Let  $T_0 = \max_{r \in \{\pm 1\}} \{T_r\}$ . Then, it holds that  $\widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(T_0)} = \widetilde{\Theta}(1)$ ,  $\overline{\Lambda}_r^{(t)} = \widetilde{O}(d^{-\frac{1}{4}})$  and  $\Gamma^{(t)} = \widetilde{O}(d^{-\frac{1}{4}+\epsilon})$  for all  $t \in [0, T_0]$ .

**Lemma 5.4.** If only labeled data are used to train CNN, for  $i \in [n_l]$ , let  $T_i'$  be the first iteration that  $\Gamma_i'^{(t)}$  reaches  $\Theta(1/m)$ . Let  $T_0' = \max_{i \in [n_l]} T_i'$ . Then, it holds that  $\widehat{\Lambda}_r = \widetilde{O}(d^{-\frac{1}{4}})$ ,  $\overline{\Lambda}_r = \widetilde{O}(d^{-\frac{1}{4}})$  for  $r \in \{\pm 1\}$  and  $\Gamma_i'^{(t)} = \widetilde{\Theta}(1)$  for  $i \in [n_l]$ .

**Lemma 5.5.** For any learning rate  $\eta = \Theta(1)$ , we have  $\|\mathbf{a}^{(t)}\|_1 = \log(t)/\widetilde{\Theta}(1)$ . For any labeled data  $(\mathbf{x}_i', y_i') \in S'$ , we have with high probability that  $y_i' \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}^{(t)}}(\mathbf{x}_i') = \|\mathbf{a}^{(t)}\|_1 \cdot \widetilde{\Theta}(1)$ . For any newly generated data  $(\mathbf{x}, y) \sim \mathcal{D}$ , we also have with high probability that  $y \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}^{(t)}}(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{a}^{(t)}\|_1 \cdot \widetilde{\Theta}(1)$ .

With the help of the above lemma and note that training error and test error are related to  $y \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}(T_0)}(\mathbf{x})$  and test loss is related to  $\|\mathbf{a}^{(T_0)}\|_1$ , we can prove that after  $T = \Theta(d^{0.1}/\eta)$  iterations with learning rate  $\eta = \Theta(1)$ , the model can achieve nearly zero training error, test error, training loss and test loss.

#### Gradient

**Lemma A.1** (Gradient Calculation). The gradient of loss function  $L_S(\mathbf{W})$  with respect to weight parameters  $\mathbf{w}_j$  is

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}_{j}} L_{S \cup S'}(\mathbf{W}) = -\frac{q}{n_{l} + n_{\mathbf{u}}} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\mathbf{u}}} c_{i} \widehat{y}_{i} \left( \left[ \langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, y_{i} \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle \right]_{+}^{q-1} \cdot y_{i} \cdot \mathbf{v} + \left[ \langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i} \rangle \right]_{+}^{q-1} \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i} \right) \right.$$

$$\left. + \sum_{i=1}^{n_{l}} b_{i} y_{i}' \left( \left[ \langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, y_{i}' \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle \right]_{+}^{q-1} \cdot y_{i}' \cdot \mathbf{v} + \left[ \langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}' \rangle \right]_{+}^{q-1} \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}' \right) \right) + \lambda \cdot \mathbf{w}_{j},$$

for  $1 \le j \le m$ ; and

$$\nabla_{\mathbf{w}_{j}} L_{S \cup S'}(\mathbf{W}) = \frac{q}{n_{1} + n_{\mathbf{u}}} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\mathbf{u}}} c_{i} \widehat{y}_{i} \left( [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, y_{i} \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \cdot y_{i} \cdot \mathbf{v} + [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i} \right) \right.$$

$$\left. + \sum_{i=1}^{n_{1}} b_{i} y_{i}' \left( [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, y_{i}' \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \cdot y_{i}' \cdot \mathbf{v} + [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}' \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \cdot \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}' \right) \right) + \lambda \cdot \mathbf{w}_{j},$$

for  $m+1 \leq j \leq 2m$ , where  $-\ell'\big(\widehat{y}_i \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}_i)\big) = \exp{[-\widehat{y}_i \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}_i)]/(1+\exp{[-\widehat{y}_i \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}_i)]})}$  is denoted by  $c_i$  and  $-\ell'(y_i' \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}_i')) = \exp{[-y_i' \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}_i')]/(1+\exp{[-y_i' \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}}(\mathbf{x}_i')]})}$  is denoted by  $b_i$ .

#### Inner Product Update Rule

**Lemma A.2** (Inner Product Update Rule). The feature learning and noise memorization performance of gradient descent can be formulated by

$$\begin{split} \langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t+1)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle &= (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle + \frac{q \eta u_{j}}{n_{l} + n_{u}} \bigg( \sum_{i=1}^{n_{u}} y_{i} \widehat{y}_{i} c_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t)}, y_{i} \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^{n_{l}} b_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t)}, y_{i}' \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \bigg), \\ \langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t+1)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle &= (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle + \frac{q \eta u_{j}}{n_{l} + n_{u}} \bigg( \sum_{i=1}^{n_{u}} \widehat{y}_{i} c_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^{n_{l}} y_{i}' b_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}' \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}', \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle \bigg), \\ \langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t+1)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l}' \rangle &= (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l}' \rangle + \frac{q \eta u_{j}}{n_{l} + n_{u}} \bigg( \sum_{i=1}^{n_{u}} \widehat{y}_{i} c_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l}' \rangle \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^{n_{l}} y_{i}' b_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}' \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}', \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l}' \rangle \bigg), \end{split}$$

where  $j \in [2m]$ ,  $l \in [n_u]$  and  $u_j := \mathbb{1}_{[1 \le j \le m]} - \mathbb{1}_{[m+1 \le j \le 2m]}$ .



#### Some Interesting Lemma

**Lemma A.5.** As long as  $\max_{r \in \{\pm 1\}} \left\{ \widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)}, \overline{\Lambda}_r^{(t)} \right\} \leq \Theta(m^{-1})$ , we have  $c_i^{(t)} := -\ell' \left( \widehat{y}_i \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}^{(t)}}(\mathbf{x}_i) \right)$  and  $b_i^{(t)} := -\ell' \left( y_i' \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}^{(t)}}(\mathbf{x}_i') \right)$  remains  $1/2 \pm o(1)$ .

**Lemma A.6.** For any  $\delta < 1/2$ , with probability at least  $1-2\delta$  over pseudo-labels generated by the pseudo-labeler, we have

$$\left|\frac{1}{n_{\mathrm{u}}}\sum_{i=1}^{n_{\mathrm{u}}}\widehat{y}_{i}y_{i}c_{i}^{(t)}-\left(p-\frac{1}{2}\right)\right|<\sqrt{\frac{1}{8n_{\mathrm{u}}}\log\frac{1}{\delta}}+o(1),$$

where o(1) is with respect to d.

#### Feature Learning

**Lemma A.9.** For  $\widehat{\Lambda}_1^{(t)} := \max_{1 \leq j \leq m} \langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$  and  $\widehat{\Lambda}_{-1}^{(t)} := \max_{m+1 \leq j \leq 2m} \langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)}, -\mathbf{v} \rangle$ , we have with high probability that

$$\widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t+1)} \geq (1-\eta\lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)} + \eta \cdot \left(p - \frac{1}{2}\right) \cdot \Theta(d) \cdot (\widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)})^{q-1}, r \in \{\pm 1\}.$$

For  $\bar{\Lambda}_1^{(t)}:=\max_{m+1\leq j\leq 2m}\langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)},\mathbf{v}\rangle$  and  $\bar{\Lambda}_1^{(t)}:=\max_{1\leq j\leq m}\langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)},-\mathbf{v}\rangle$ , we have with high probability that

$$\bar{\Lambda}_r^{(t+1)} \le (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \bar{\Lambda}_r^{(t)}, r \in \{\pm 1\}.$$

*Proof of Lemma* A.9. We first prove the former inequality. Let  $j^* = \arg\max_{1 \le j \le m} \langle \mathbf{w}_j^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$  and note that  $u_{j^*} = \mathbb{1}_{[1 \le j \le m]} - \mathbb{1}_{[m+1 \le j \le 2m]} = 1$ , then we have

$$\widehat{\Lambda}_1^{(t+1)} \geq \langle \mathbf{w}_{j^*}^{(t+1)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$$

$$= (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \langle \mathbf{w}_{j^*}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle + \frac{q \eta}{n_l + n_u} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n_u} y_i \widehat{y}_i c_i^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^*}^{(t)}, y_i \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle]_+^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n_l} b_i^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^*}^{(t)}, y_i' \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle]_+^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 \right)$$

Then we respectively estimate terms  $\clubsuit$  and  $\bigstar$ .

#### Calculate ...

For  $\clubsuit$ , note the definition of  $j^*$  that  $\widehat{\Lambda}_1^{(t)} = \langle \mathbf{w}_{j^*}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle$  and note the increasing property of  $\widehat{\Lambda}_1^{(t)}$  and  $\widehat{\Lambda}_1^{(0)} > 0$  with high probability, we have  $\langle \mathbf{w}_{i^*}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle > 0$ . It follows that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n_{u}} y_{i} \widehat{y}_{i} c_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{*}}^{(t)}, y_{i} \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} = \sum_{i \in S_{1}} y_{i} \widehat{y}_{i} c_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{*}}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} + \sum_{i \in S_{-1}} y_{i} \widehat{y}_{i} c_{i}^{(t)} [-\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{*}}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2}$$

$$= \sum_{i \in S_{1}} y_{i} \widehat{y}_{i} c_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{*}}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2}$$

$$= \left(\sum_{i \in S_{1}} y_{i} \widehat{y}_{i} c_{i}^{(t)}\right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \cdot (\widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)})^{q-1}$$

$$= n_{1} \cdot \left(p - \frac{1}{2} \pm o(1)\right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \cdot (\widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)})^{q-1}, \tag{A.7}$$

where  $S_1 := \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = 1, i \in [n_u]\}, S_{-1} := \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_1 = |S_1| \text{ and the } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_1 = |S_1| \text{ and the } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_1 = |S_1| \text{ and the } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_1 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_2 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_3 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1| \text{ and } \{(\mathbf{x}_i, y_i) | y_i = -1, i \in [n_u]\}, n_4 = |S_1|$ last equality is due to (A.6).

(A.7)

#### Calculate \*

For ★, similarly we have

$$\begin{split} \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{n_1} b_i^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^*}^{(t)}, y_i' \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle]_+^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2}_{+} &= \sum_{i \in S_1'} b_i^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^*}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle]_+^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 + \sum_{i \in S_{-1}'} b_i^{(t)} [-\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^*}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle]_+^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 \\ &= \sum_{i \in S_1'} b_i^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^*}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle]_+^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 \\ &= \left(\sum_{i \in S_1'} b_i^{(t)}\right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 \cdot (\widehat{\Lambda}_1^{(t)})^{q-1} \\ &= n_1' \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \pm o(1)\right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_2^2 \cdot (\widehat{\Lambda}_1^{(t)})^{q-1}, \end{split} \tag{A.8}$$

# Plug ♣ and ★

$$\begin{split} \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t+1)} & \geq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} + \frac{q \eta}{n_{1} + n_{u}} \left( n_{1} \cdot \left( p - \frac{1}{2} \pm o(1) \right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \cdot \left( \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} \right)^{q-1} + n_{1}' \cdot \left( \frac{1}{2} \pm o(1) \right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \cdot \left( \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} \right)^{q-1} \right) \\ & = (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} + \frac{q \eta n_{1}}{n_{1} + n_{u}} \cdot \left( p - \frac{1}{2} \pm o(1) \right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \cdot \left( \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} \right)^{q-1} + \frac{q \eta n_{1}'}{n_{1} + n_{u}} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{2} \pm o(1) \right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \cdot \left( \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} \right)^{q-1} \\ & = (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} + q \eta \cdot \left( \frac{n_{1}}{n_{1} + n_{u}} \cdot \left( p - \frac{1}{2} \pm o(1) \right) + \frac{n_{1}'}{n_{1} + n_{u}} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{2} \pm o(1) \right) \right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \cdot \left( \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} \right)^{q-1} \\ & = (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} + q \eta \cdot \left( \underbrace{\frac{n_{1}}{n_{1} + n_{u}} \cdot \left( p - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \frac{n_{1}'}{n_{1} + n_{u}} \cdot \frac{1}{2}}_{\Phi} \pm o(1) \right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \cdot \left( \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} \right)^{q-1}. \quad (A.9) \end{split}$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{n_1}{n_1 + n_u} \cdot \left(p - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{n'_1}{n_1 + n_u} \cdot \frac{1}{2}}_{\bullet} = \frac{n_u}{2(n_1 + n_u)} \cdot \left(p - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{n_l}{2(n_1 + n_u)} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \pm o(1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(p - \frac{1}{2}\right) \pm o(1) \tag{A.10}$$

$$\begin{split} \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t+1)} &\geq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} + q \eta \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(p - \frac{1}{2}\right) \pm o(1)\right) \cdot \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2} \cdot \left(\widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)}\right)^{q - 1} \\ &= (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)} + \eta \cdot \left(p - \frac{1}{2}\right) \cdot \Theta(d) \cdot \left(\widehat{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t)}\right)^{q - 1}, \end{split}$$

#### Feature Learning Part.2

$$\begin{split} \bar{\Lambda}_{1}^{(t+1)} &= \langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\natural}}^{(t+1)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle \\ &= (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\natural}}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle - \frac{q \eta}{n_{1} + n_{\mathbf{u}}} \bigg( \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{n_{\mathbf{u}}} y_{i} \widehat{y}_{i} c_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\natural}}^{(t)}, y_{i} \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2}}_{\mathbf{\Phi}} \\ &+ \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{n_{1}} b_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\natural}}^{(t)}, y_{i}' \cdot \mathbf{v} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\mathbf{v}\|_{2}^{2}}_{\mathbf{\Phi}} \bigg). \end{split}$$

here we have  $\clubsuit \ge 0$  and  $\bigstar \ge 0$  so:

$$\bar{\Lambda}_1^{(t+1)} \leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\natural}}^{(t)}, \mathbf{v} \rangle \leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \bar{\Lambda}_1^{(t)}.$$

#### Noise Memorization

**Lemma A.11.** For  $\Gamma_i^{(t)} := \max_{j \in [2m]} \langle \mathbf{w}_j, \boldsymbol{\xi}_i \rangle, i \in [n_{\mathrm{u}}], \ \Gamma_i'^{(t)} := \max_{j \in [2m]} \langle \mathbf{w}_j, \boldsymbol{\xi}_i' \rangle, i \in [n_{\mathrm{l}}], \ \Gamma^{(t)} := \max\{\max_{i \in [n_{\mathrm{u}}]} \Gamma_i^{(t)}, \max_{i \in [n_{\mathrm{l}}]} \Gamma_i'^{(t)}\}, \text{ we have with high probability that}$ 

$$\Gamma_{i}^{(t+1)} \leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \Gamma_{i}^{(t)} + \eta \cdot \max \left\{ \widetilde{\Theta}(d^{\frac{1}{2} + 2\epsilon}), \widetilde{\Theta}\left(\frac{d^{1+2\epsilon}}{n_{u}}\right) \right\} \cdot \left(\Gamma^{(t)}\right)^{q-1}, i \in [n_{l}],$$

$$\Gamma_{i}^{\prime(t+1)} \leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \Gamma_{i}^{\prime(t)} + \eta \cdot \max \left\{ \widetilde{\Theta}(d^{\frac{1}{2} + 2\epsilon}), \widetilde{\Theta}\left(\frac{d^{1+2\epsilon}}{n_{u}}\right) \right\} \cdot \left(\Gamma^{(t)}\right)^{q-1}, i \in [n_{l}],$$

and

$$\Gamma^{(t+1)} \le (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \Gamma^{(t)} + \eta \cdot \max \left\{ \widetilde{\Theta}(d^{\frac{1}{2} + 2\epsilon}), \widetilde{\Theta}\left(\frac{d^{1+2\epsilon}}{n_{\mathrm{u}}}\right) \right\} \cdot \left(\Gamma^{(t)}\right)^{q-1},$$

where  $\epsilon < 1/8$ .

$$\begin{split} &\Gamma_{l}^{(t+1)} = \langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t+1)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle \\ &= (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle + \frac{q \eta u_{j^{\star}}}{n_{l} + n_{u}} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n_{u}} \widehat{y}_{i} c_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle + \sum_{i=1}^{n_{l}} y_{l}' b_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l}' \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}', \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle \right) \\ &\leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle + \frac{q \eta}{n_{l} + n_{u}} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n_{u}} c_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} |\langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle| + \sum_{i=1}^{n_{l}} b_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}' \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} |\langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}', \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle| \right), \end{split}$$

#### Bound ♣ and ★

For  $\clubsuit$ , note that  $l \in [n_u]$  and there exists an  $i \in [n_u]$  equivalent to l, it follows that

$$\underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{n_{\mathbf{u}}} c_{i}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} |\langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle|}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} [\langle \mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle]_{+}^{q-1} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}}_{+} \underbrace{\left\{ \langle \boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \rangle | + c_{l}^{(t)} \|\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l} \|_{2}^{2}$$

For  $\bigstar$ , we have

$$\underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{n_{\mathrm{l}}}b_{i}^{(t)}[\langle\mathbf{w}_{j^{\star}}^{(t)},\boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}^{\prime}\rangle]_{+}^{q-1}|\langle\boldsymbol{\xi}_{i}^{\prime},\boldsymbol{\xi}_{l}\rangle|}_{\mathbf{I}}\leq n_{\mathrm{l}}\cdot\left(\frac{1}{2}+o(1)\right)\cdot\widetilde{\Theta}(d^{\frac{1}{2}+2\epsilon})\cdot\left(\Gamma^{(t)}\right)^{q-1}=n_{\mathrm{l}}\cdot\widetilde{\Theta}(d^{\frac{1}{2}+2\epsilon})\cdot\left(\Gamma^{(t)}\right)^{q-1},$$

**Lemma 5.1.** Assume we use both unlabeled data with pseudo-labels generated by the pseudo-labeler and labeled data for the training of our CNN model. Then for  $r \in \{\pm 1\}$ , let  $T_r$  be the first iteration that  $\widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)}$  reaches  $\Theta(1/m)$ , then for  $t \in [0, T_r]$ , we have

$$\begin{split} \widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t+1)} &\geq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)} + \eta \cdot C \cdot \Theta(d) \cdot (\widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)})^{q-1}, r \in \{\pm 1\}, \\ \bar{\Lambda}_r^{(t+1)} &\leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \bar{\Lambda}_r^{(t)}, r \in \{\pm 1\}, \\ \Gamma^{(t+1)} &\leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \Gamma^{(t)} + \eta \cdot \widetilde{\Theta}(d^{1-2\epsilon}) \cdot (\Gamma^{(t)})^{q-1}, \end{split}$$

**Lemma 5.2.** Assume we use only labeled data for the training of our CNN model. Then for  $i \in [n_l]$ , let  $T_i'$  be the first iteration that  $\Gamma_i'^{(t)}$  reaches  $\Theta(1/m)$ , then we have

$$\begin{split} \widehat{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t+1)} &\leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \widehat{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t)} + \eta \cdot \Theta(d) \cdot \left( (\widehat{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t)})^{q-1} + (\bar{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t)})^{q-1} \right), r \in \{\pm 1\}, \\ \bar{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t+1)} &\leq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \bar{\Lambda}_{r}^{(t)}, r \in \{\pm 1\}, \\ \Gamma_{i}^{\prime(t+1)} &\geq (1 - \eta \lambda) \cdot \Gamma_{i}^{\prime(t)} + \eta \cdot \widetilde{\Theta}(d^{1+2\epsilon}) \cdot (\Gamma_{i}^{\prime(t)})^{q-1}, i \in [n_{l}], \text{ for } t \in [0, T_{i}^{\prime}]. \end{split}$$

**Lemma 5.3.** If both pseudo-labeled and labeled data are used to train CNN, for  $r \in \{\pm 1\}$ , let  $T_r$  be the first iteration that  $\widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(t)}$  reaches  $\Theta(1/m)$  respectively. Let  $T_0 = \max_{r \in \{\pm 1\}} \{T_r\}$ . Then, it holds that  $\widehat{\Lambda}_r^{(T_0)} = \widetilde{\Theta}(1)$ ,  $\overline{\Lambda}_r^{(t)} = \widetilde{O}(d^{-\frac{1}{4}})$  and  $\Gamma^{(t)} = \widetilde{O}(d^{-\frac{1}{4}+\epsilon})$  for all  $t \in [0, T_0]$ .

**Lemma 5.4.** If only labeled data are used to train CNN, for  $i \in [n_1]$ , let  $T_i'$  be the first iteration that  $\Gamma_i'^{(t)}$  reaches  $\Theta(1/m)$ . Let  $T_0' = \max_{i \in [n_1]} T_i'$ . Then, it holds that  $\widehat{\Lambda}_r = \widetilde{O}(d^{-\frac{1}{4}})$ ,  $\overline{\Lambda}_r = \widetilde{O}(d^{-\frac{1}{4}})$  for  $r \in \{\pm 1\}$  and  $\Gamma_i'^{(t)} = \widetilde{\Theta}(1)$  for  $i \in [n_1]$ .

**Lemma 5.5.** For any learning rate  $\eta = \Theta(1)$ , we have  $\|\mathbf{a}^{(t)}\|_1 = \log(t)/\widetilde{\Theta}(1)$ . For any labeled data  $(\mathbf{x}_i', y_i') \in S'$ , we have with high probability that  $y_i' \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}^{(t)}}(\mathbf{x}_i') = \|\mathbf{a}^{(t)}\|_1 \cdot \widetilde{\Theta}(1)$ . For any newly generated data  $(\mathbf{x}, y) \sim \mathcal{D}$ , we also have with high probability that  $y \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}^{(t)}}(\mathbf{x}) = \|\mathbf{a}^{(t)}\|_1 \cdot \widetilde{\Theta}(1)$ .

With the help of the above lemma and note that training error and test error are related to  $y \cdot f_{\mathbf{W}(T_0)}(\mathbf{x})$  and test loss is related to  $\|\mathbf{a}^{(T_0)}\|_1$ , we can prove that after  $T = \Theta(d^{0.1}/\eta)$  iterations with learning rate  $\eta = \Theta(1)$ , the model can achieve nearly zero training error, test error, training loss and test loss.

#### **Tensor Power Method**

**Lemma C.4.** Consider an increasing sequence  $x_t \ge 0$  defined as  $x_{t+1} = x_t + \eta \cdot C_t x_t^{q-1}$ , and  $C_1 \le C_t \le C_2$  for all t > 0, then we have for  $A > x_0$ , every  $\delta > 0$ , and every  $\eta > 0$ :

$$\sum_{t \geq 0, x_t \leq A} \eta \leq \frac{\delta}{(1 - (1 + \delta)^{-(q-2)}) x_0 C_1} + \eta \cdot \frac{C_2}{C_1} (1 + \delta)^{q-1} \bigg( 1 + \frac{\log{(A/x_0)}}{\log{(1 + \delta)}} \bigg),$$

$$\sum_{t \geq 0, x_t \leq A} \eta \geq \frac{\delta \left(1 - (x_0/A)^{q-2}\right)}{(1+\delta)^{q-1} \left(1 - (1+\delta)^{-(q-2)}\right) x_0 C_2} - \eta \cdot (1+\delta)^{-(q-1)} \bigg(1 + \frac{\log{(A/x_0)}}{\log{(1+\delta)}}\bigg).$$