

# **Deep Networks and the Multiple Manifold Problem**

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**John Wright**

EE / APAM / DSI

Columbia University

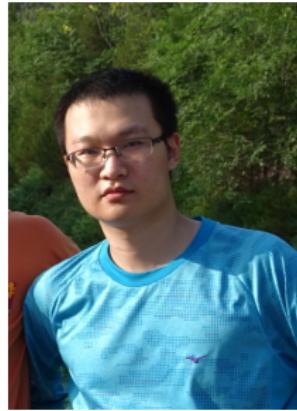
# Joint with...



**Sam Buchanan**



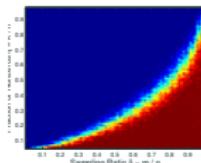
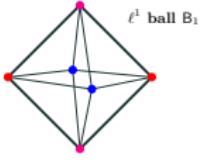
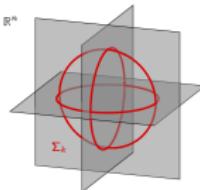
**Dar Gilboa**



**Tingran Wang**

# Model Problems: Sparse Approximation

Recover **sparse**  $x_0$  from observations  $y = Ax_0$ .

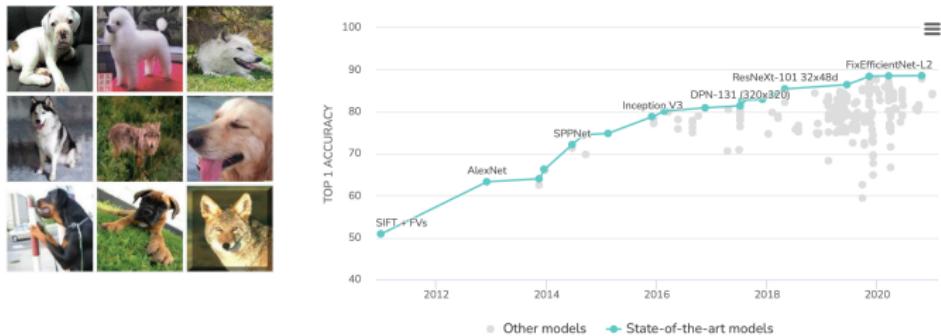


Many insights ... biased subsample:

- Structure
- Isometry
- Certificates of optimality

# Model Problems for Deep Learning?

Image Classification on ImageNet



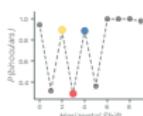
Many insights ... biased subsample:

- Depth ...
- Isometry ...
- Overparameterization ...

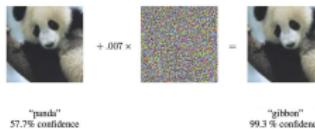
<sup>1</sup>Figure credits: [Deng et. al. '09] (left), paperswithcode.com (right)

# Mathematical Model Problems for Deep Learning?

Issues that are hard to address using only datasets:



Uniformity?



Robustness?



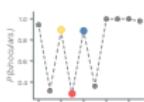
Data Structure?

What are good model problems  
for mathematical analysis of deep networks?

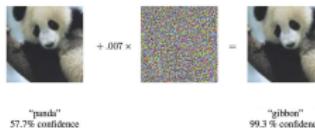
<sup>2</sup>Figure: [Azulay + Weiss]

# Mathematical Model Problems for Deep Learning?

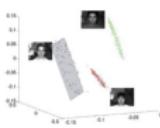
Issues that are hard to address using only datasets:



Uniformity?



"panda"      57.7% confidence  
"gibbon"      99.3 % confidence



Data Structure?

What are good model problems  
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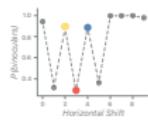
This Talk: one (failed?) attempt to answer this question.

[Plenty of other great existing answers: optimization landscapes,  
GAN's, implicit regularization, multiple descent, invariance ...]

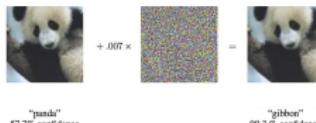
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# Mathematical Model Problems for Deep Learning?

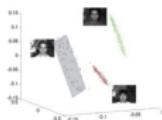
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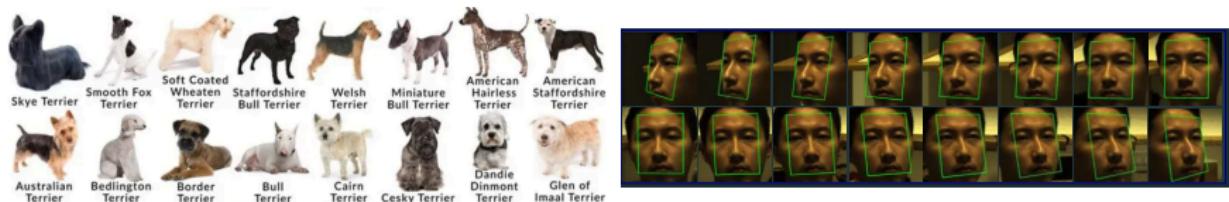
What are good model problems  
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This Talk: how do deep networks compute with  
**low-dimensional (manifold) structure?**

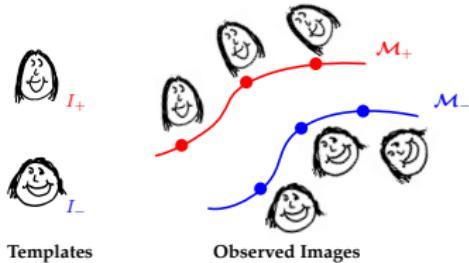
<sup>3</sup>Figure: [Azulay + Weiss]

# Manifold Structure: Vision

Statistical and structural variabilities in visual data:



Invariant template matching:  $\implies$  multiple low-d manifolds:

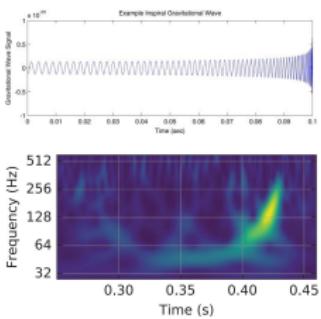
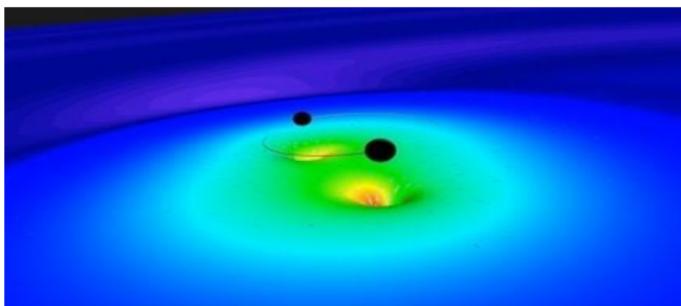


More complicated datasets [Pope et. al.]: CIFAR-10 26-d?,  
ImageNet 43-d?

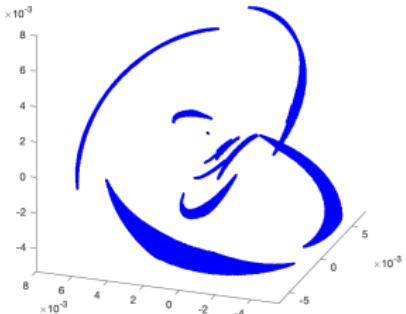
# Manifold Structure: Science

## Gravitational Wave Astronomy [with Marka, Marka, Yan, Colgan]

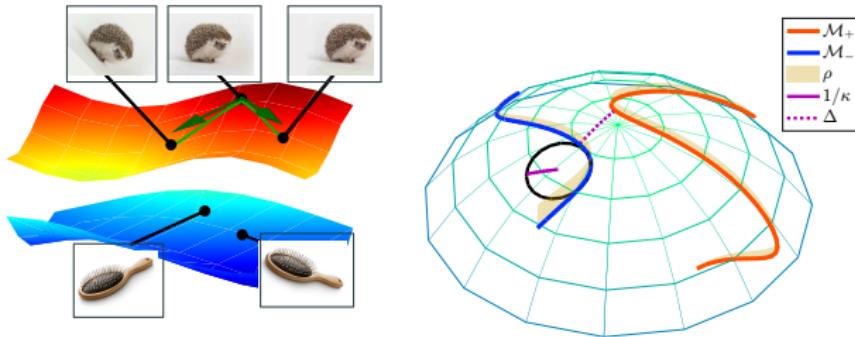
One binary black hole merger:



Many mergers  
(varying mass  $M_1, M_2$ ):  
⇒ **low-dim manifold**



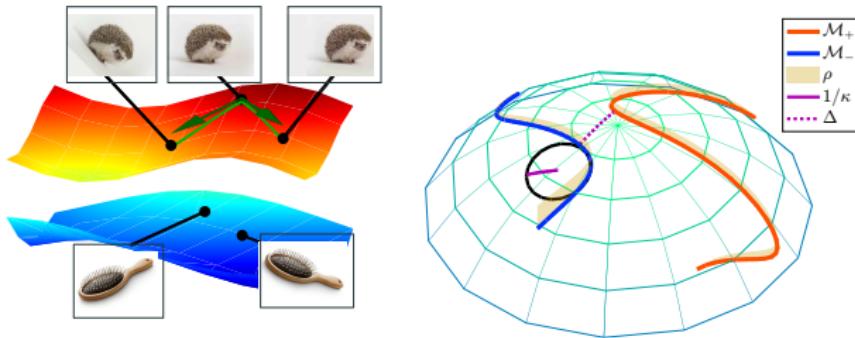
# The Multiple Manifold Problem



**Problem:** Given labeled data samples  $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_N, y_N)$  lying on manifolds  $\mathcal{M}_{\pm} \subset \mathbb{S}^{n_0-1}$ , learn a classifier  $f_{\theta}$  that correctly labels **every point** on the two manifolds:

$$\text{sign}(f_{\theta}(x)) = \sigma, \text{ for all } x \in \mathcal{M}_{\sigma}.$$

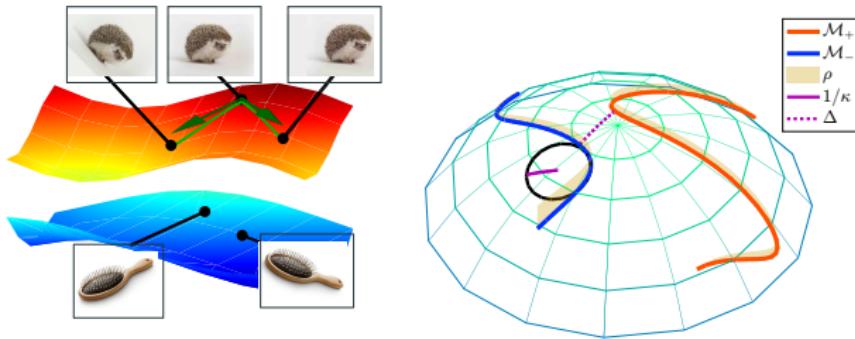
# Multiple Manifold Problem: Geometric Hypotheses



## Geometric problem parameters:

- dimension  $d$ ,
- curvature  $\kappa$ ,
- separation  $\Delta$ ,
- clover number  $\diamondsuit$ .

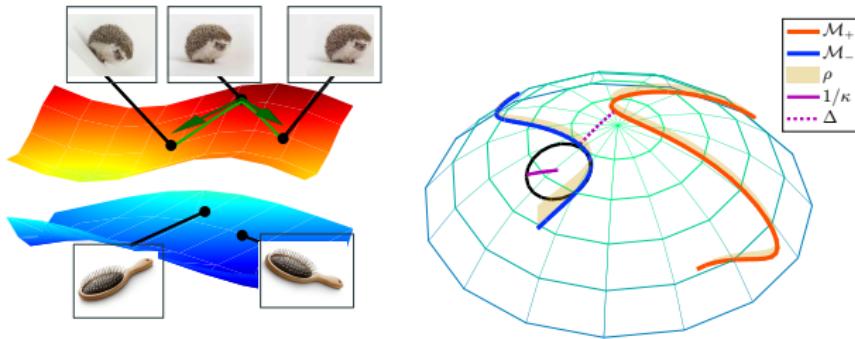
# Multiple Manifold Problem: Geometric Hypotheses



## Geometric problem parameters:

- *dimension d*: here, curves –  $d = 1$ !
- *curvature  $\kappa$* ,
- *separation  $\Delta$* ,
- *clover number*

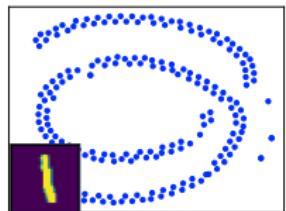
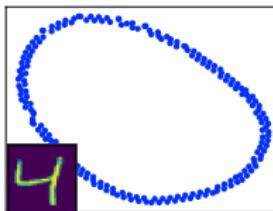
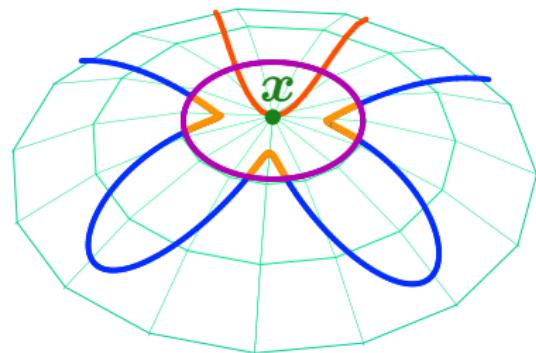
# Multiple Manifold Problem: Geometric Hypotheses



## Geometric problem parameters:

- *dimension d*: here, curves –  $d = 1$ !
- *curvature  $\kappa$* ,
- *separation  $\Delta$* ,
- *clover number* : next slide...

## ❖ number: How “loopy” is $\mathcal{M}$ ?

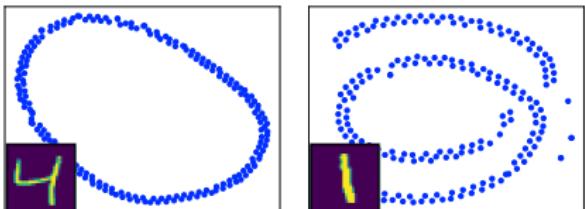
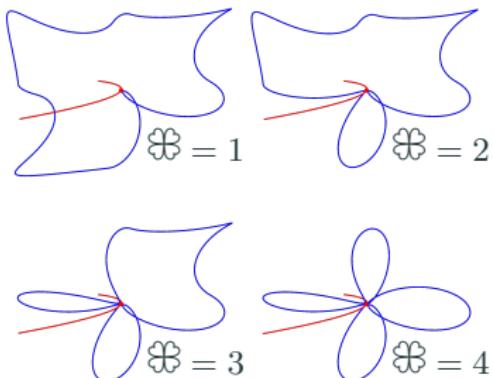


$$\diamondsuit(\mathcal{M}) = \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{M}} N_{\mathcal{M}} \left( \left\{ \mathbf{x}' \mid \begin{array}{l} d_{\mathcal{M}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') > \tau_1 \\ \angle(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') < \tau_2 \end{array} \right\}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\kappa^2}} \right)$$

Here,  $N_{\mathcal{M}}(T, \delta)$  is the covering number of  $T \subseteq \mathcal{M}$  by  $\delta$  balls in  $d_{\mathcal{M}}$ .

**Intuition:** Number of times that  $\mathcal{M}$  loops back on itself.

## ❖ number: How “loopy” is $\mathcal{M}$ ?

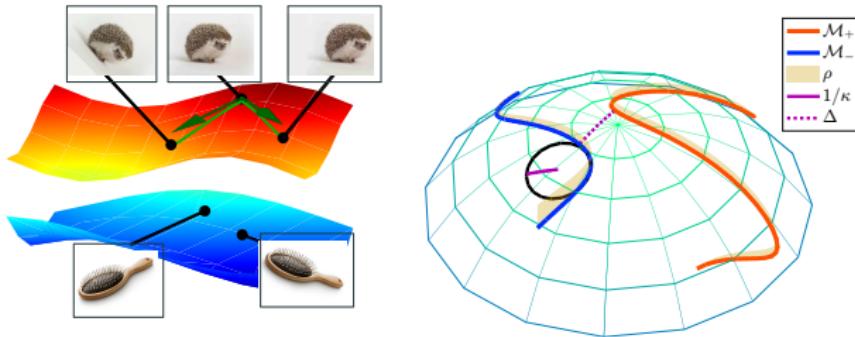


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# The Multiple Manifold Problem

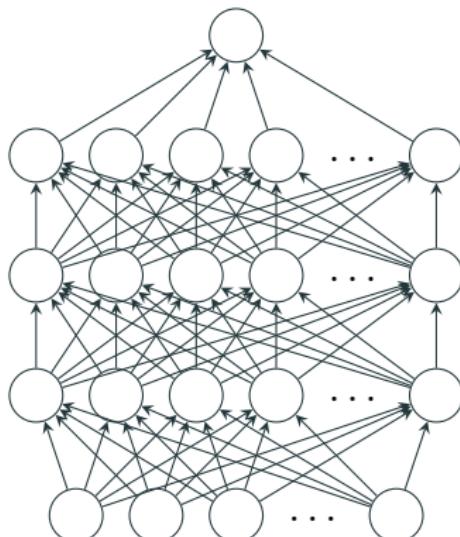


**Problem:** Given labeled data samples  $(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_N, y_N)$  lying on manifolds  $\mathcal{M}_{\pm} \subset \mathbb{S}^{n_0-1}$ , learn a classifier  $f_{\theta}$  that correctly labels **every point** on the two manifolds:

$$\text{sign}(f_{\theta}(x)) = \sigma, \text{ for all } x \in \mathcal{M}_{\sigma}.$$

# Network Setup

Output  $f_{\theta}(x)$



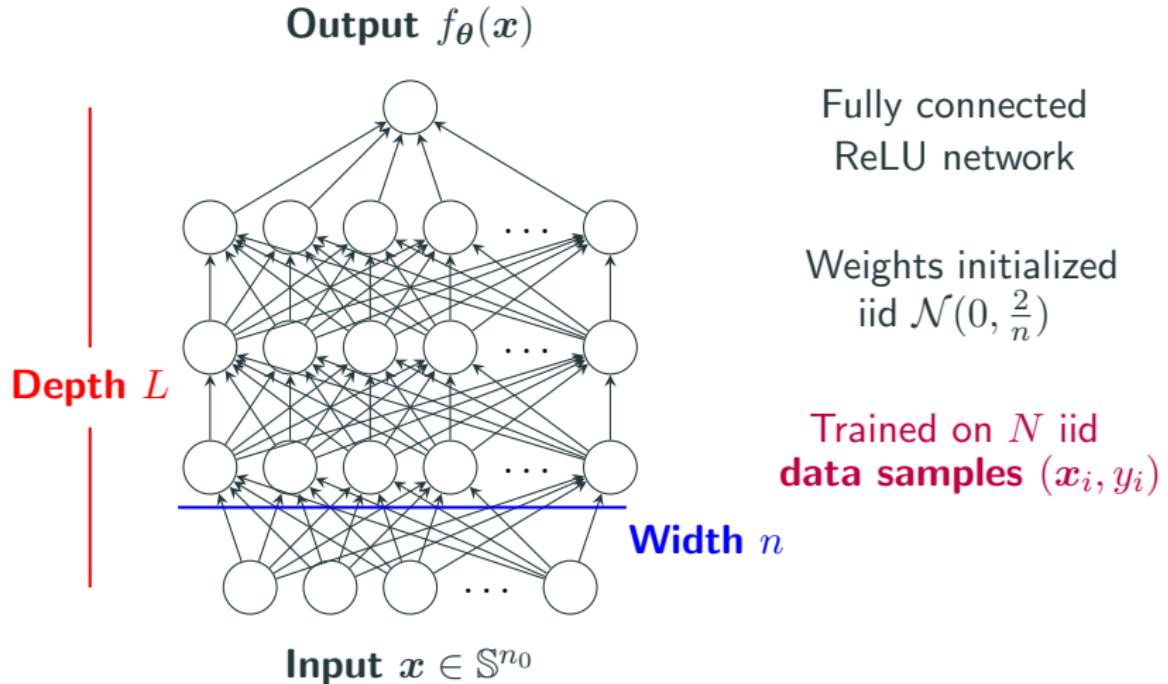
Input  $x \in \mathbb{S}^{n_0}$

Fully connected  
ReLU network

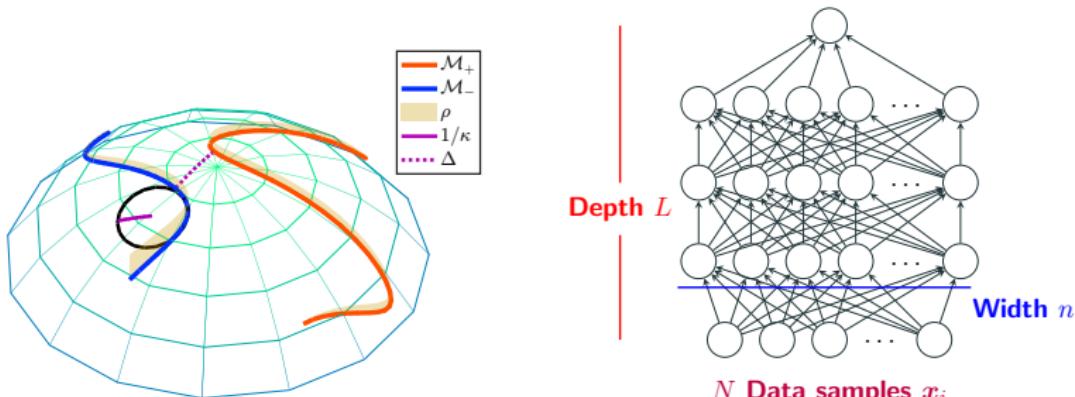
Weights initialized  
iid  $\mathcal{N}(0, \frac{2}{n})$

Trained on  $N$  iid  
**data samples**  $(x_i, y_i)$

# Network Setup – Resources



# Multiple Manifold Problem



**Theory question:** how should **resources** (**depth  $L$** , **width  $n$** , **# samples  $N$** ) depend on **geometry** (dimension  $d$ , curvature  $\kappa$ , separation  $\Delta$ , clover number  $\diamond$ )?

# Training?

## Objective: Square Loss on Training Data

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \varphi(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbf{x}} (f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}) - y(\mathbf{x}))^2 d\mu_N(\mathbf{x}).$$

*Does gradient descent correctly label the manifolds?*

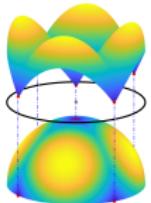
# Training?

**Objective: Square Loss on Training Data**

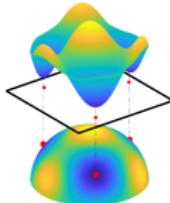
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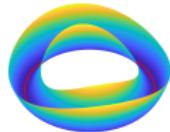
**One Approach:** Geometry (from symmetry!) in **parameter space**:



Dictionary Learning



Sparse Blind Deconvolution



Matrix Recovery

See, e.g., [Sun, Qu, W. '18], [Zhang, Kuo, W. 19], survey [Zhang, Qu, W. 20].

# Training?

**Objective: Square Loss on Training Data**

$$\min_{\theta} \varphi(\theta) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \int_x (f_{\theta}(x) - y(x))^2 d\mu_N(x).$$

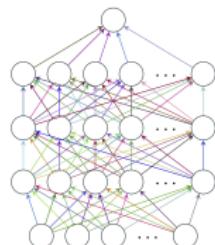
*Does gradient descent correctly label the manifolds?*

**Today's talk:** Dynamics in **input-output space**:

## Neural Tangent Kernel

$$\Theta(x, x') = \left\langle \frac{\partial f_{\theta}(x)}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial f_{\theta}(x')}{\partial \theta} \right\rangle$$

Measures ease of independently adjusting  $f_{\theta}(x), f_{\theta}(x')$



Follows [Jacot et. al.], many recent works.

# Certificates for Training?

**Objective: Square Loss on Training Data**

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \varphi(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbf{x}} (f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}) - y(\mathbf{x}))^2 d\mu_N(\mathbf{x}).$$

**Signed error:**  $\zeta(\mathbf{x}) = f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}) - y(\mathbf{x})$ .

**Gradient flow:**  $\dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t = -\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \varphi(\boldsymbol{\theta}_t) = -\int_{\mathbf{x}} \frac{\partial f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}) \zeta_t(\mathbf{x}) d\mu_N(\mathbf{x})$ .

## Certificates for Training?

The error evolves according to the NTK:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\zeta}_t(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{\partial f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}}^* \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t = -\frac{\partial f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}}^* \int_{\mathbf{x}'} \frac{\partial f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}')}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \zeta_t(\mathbf{x}') d\mu_N(\mathbf{x}') \\ &= -\int_{\mathbf{x}'} \left\langle \frac{\partial f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}}, \frac{\partial f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}')}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \right\rangle \zeta(\mathbf{x}') d\mu_N(\mathbf{x}') \\ &= -\int_{\mathbf{x}'} \Theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \zeta_t(\mathbf{x}') d\mu_N(\mathbf{x}') \\ &= -\Theta[\zeta_t](\mathbf{x}).\end{aligned}$$

**Fast decay** if  $\zeta_t$  is aligned with lead eigenvectors of  $\Theta$ .

# Certificates for Training?

## Objective: Square Loss on Training Data

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \varphi(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbf{x}} (f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}) - y(\mathbf{x}))^2 d\mu_N(\mathbf{x}).$$

**Signed error:**  $\zeta(\mathbf{x}) = f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}) - y(\mathbf{x})$ .

**Gradient Method (GD):**  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{k+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_k - \tau \nabla \varphi(\boldsymbol{\theta}_k)$ .

Similar intuition to gradient flow.

We analyze GD with (small) nonzero  $\tau$ .

# Dynamics by Certificates

**Definition.**  $g : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called a *certificate* if for all  $x \in \mathcal{M}$

$$f_{\theta_0}(x) - f_{\star}(x) \underset{\text{square}}{\approx} \int_{\mathcal{M}} \Theta(x, x') g(x') d\mu(x')$$

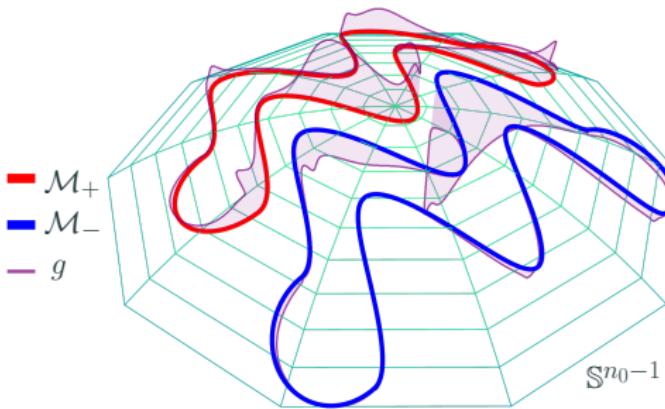
and  $\int_{\mathcal{M}} (g(x'))^2 d\mu(x')$  is small.

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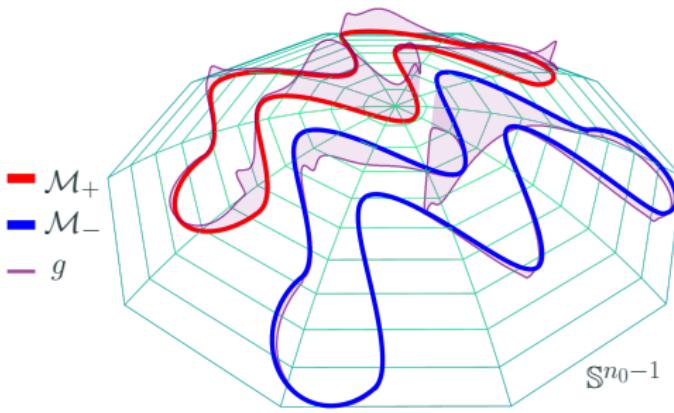


# Dynamics by Certificates

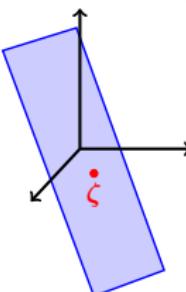
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and  $\int_{\mathcal{M}} (g(x'))^2 d\mu(x')$  is small.



Function space  $L^2_{\mu_N}$



Error  $\zeta$  near **stable range**  
of *random operator*  $\Theta$

# Dynamics by Certificates

**Definition.**  $g : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called a *certificate* if for all  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{M}$

$$f_{\theta_0}(\mathbf{x}) - f_{\star}(\mathbf{x}) \stackrel{\text{mean}}{\approx}_{\text{square}} \int_{\mathcal{M}} \Theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') g(\mathbf{x}') d\mu(\mathbf{x}')$$

and  $\int_{\mathcal{M}} (g(\mathbf{x}'))^2 d\mu(\mathbf{x}')$  is small.

**Theorem.** If a certificate exists, if  $\tau \asymp 1/(nL)$ , and if

$$L \geq \text{poly}(\kappa, \log n_0, C_\rho, C_{\mathcal{M}}),$$

$$n \geq \text{poly}(L),$$

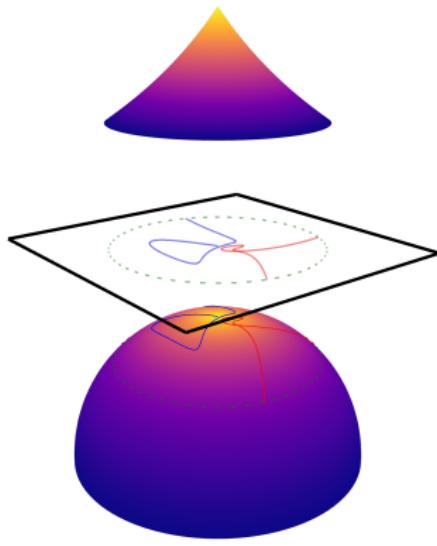
$$N \geq \text{poly}(L),$$

then with high probability the manifolds are classified perfectly after no more than  $L^2$  gradient updates.

# Resource Tradeoffs I: Depth as an Approximation Resource

Increasing depth  $L$   
sharpens the NTK  $\Theta$

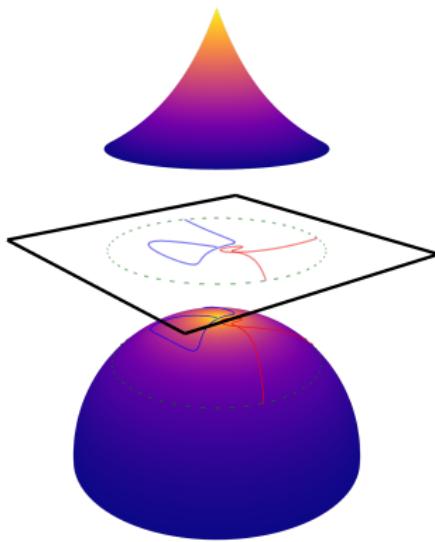
⇒ deeper nets fit  
more complicated geometries



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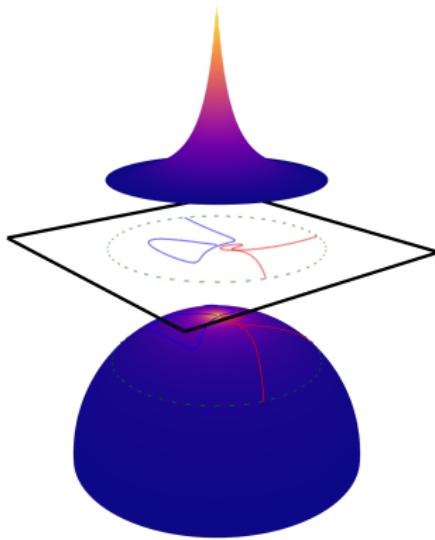
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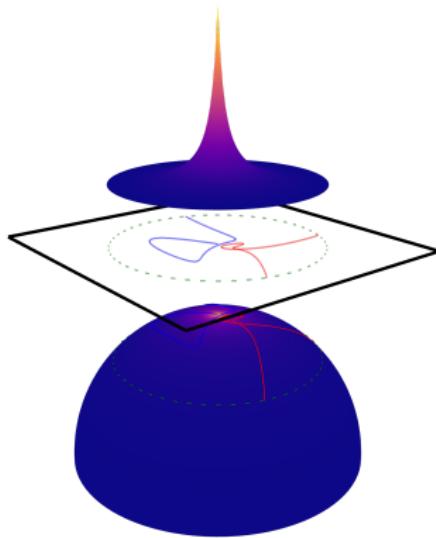


Depth  $L = 50$

# Resource Tradeoffs I: Depth as an Approximation Resource

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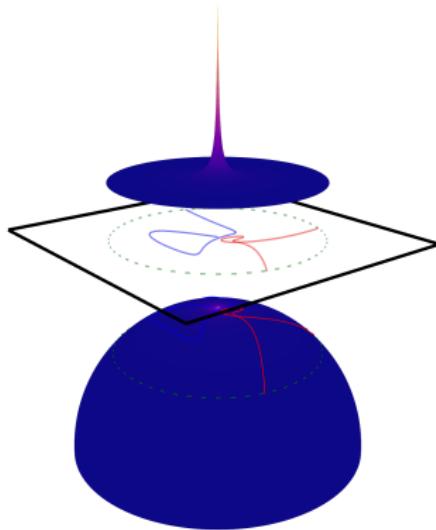


Depth  $L = 100$

# Resource Tradeoffs I: Depth as an Approximation Resource

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more complicated geometries

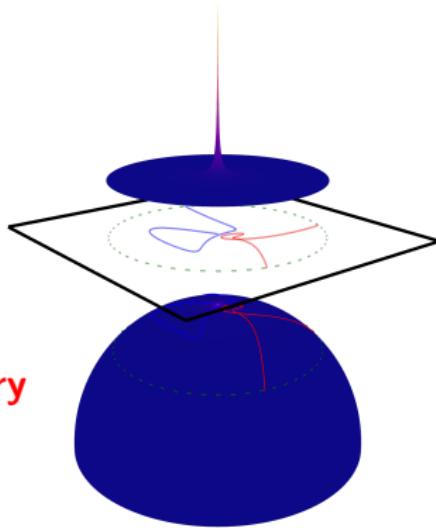


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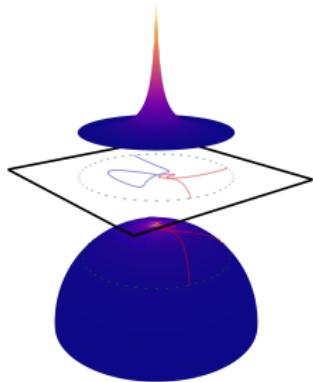
⇒ Set depth  $L$  based on geometry



Depth  $L = 1,000$

# Resource Tradeoffs I: Certificates from Depth

**Certificate Problem:**  $\exists g$  small s.t.  $\Theta g \approx \zeta?$



$$\Theta \approx \Theta_{\text{near}} + \Theta_{\text{far}} + \Theta_{\otimes}$$

$\Theta_{\text{near}}$ :  $\angle, d_{\mathcal{M}}$  small wrt  $\kappa, \Delta$

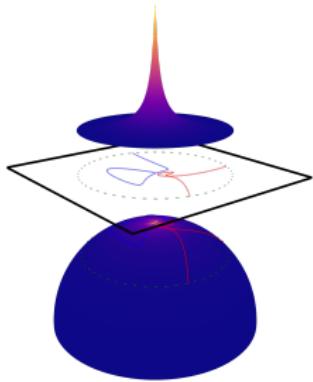
$\approx$  invariant operator  $M$ , use Fourier analysis

$\Theta_{\text{far}}$ :  $\angle, d_{\mathcal{M}}$  big,  $\Theta_{\otimes}$ :  $\angle$  small,  $d_{\mathcal{M}}$  big

Worst-case contributions from these components

# Resource Tradeoffs I: Certificates from Depth

**Certificate Problem:**  $\exists g$  small s.t.  $\Theta g \approx \zeta?$



$$\Theta \approx \Theta_{\text{near}} + \Theta_{\text{far}} + \Theta_{\otimes}$$

$\Theta_{\text{near}}$ :  $\angle, d_{\mathcal{M}}$  small wrt  $\kappa, \Delta$

$\approx$  invariant operator  $M$ , use Fourier analysis

$\Theta_{\text{far}}$ :  $\angle, d_{\mathcal{M}}$  big,  $\Theta_{\otimes}$ :  $\angle$  small,  $d_{\mathcal{M}}$  big

Worst-case contributions from these components

$$g = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{\ell} \left( (\mathbf{P}_S \mathbf{M} \mathbf{P}_S)^{-1} \mathbf{P}_S (\Theta - \mathbf{M}) \mathbf{P}_S \right)^{\ell} (\mathbf{P}_S \mathbf{M} \mathbf{P}_S)^{-1} \zeta.$$

# Resource Tradeoffs I: Certificates from Depth

**Theorem [Wang, Buchanan, Gilboa, W. '21].** Suppose

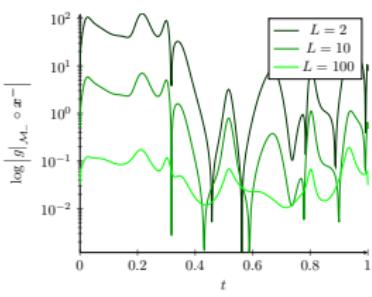
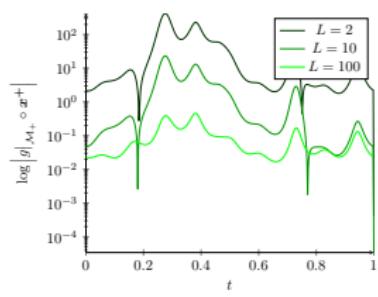
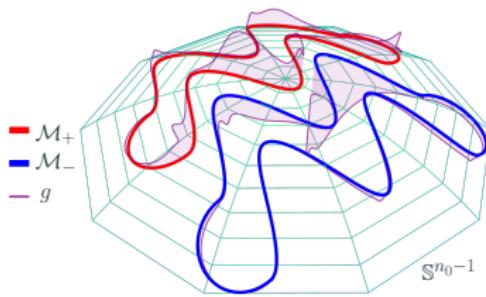
$$L \geq \max \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{\Delta \sqrt{1 + \kappa^2}} \right)^{C \otimes (\mathcal{M})}, \right.$$
$$\text{poly}(M_2 \dots M_7, \Delta^{-1}, \rho_{\max}),$$
$$\left. \exp(C' \kappa \text{len}(\mathcal{M})) \right\}.$$

Then there exists a certificate  $g$  satisfying

$$\|\Theta[g] - \zeta\|_{L_\mu^2} \leq \|\zeta\|_{L^\infty} L^{-1},$$

$$\|g\|_{L_\mu^2} \leq \frac{C'' \|\zeta\|_{L_\mu^2}}{\rho_{\min} n \log L}.$$

# Resource Tradeoffs I: Certificates from Depth



**Depth as a fitting resource:** Larger  $L$  leads to a sharper kernel  $\Theta$  and a smaller certificate  $g \implies$  easier fitting

# Dynamics by Certificates

**Theorem.** If a certificate exists, if  $\tau \asymp 1/(nL)$ , and if

$$L \gtrsim \text{poly}(\kappa, \log n_0, C_\rho, C_{\mathcal{M}}),$$

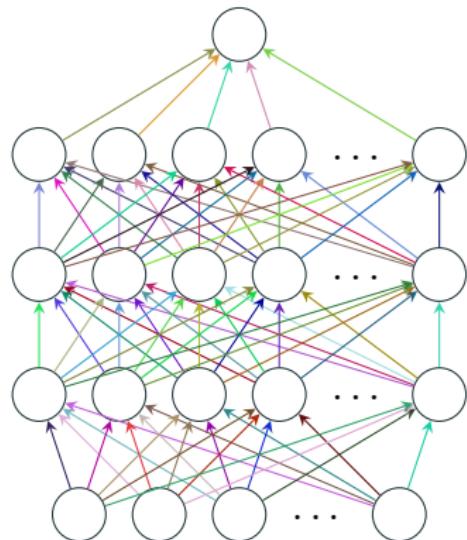
$$n \gtrsim \text{poly}(L),$$

$$N \geq \text{poly}(L),$$

then with high probability the manifolds are classified perfectly after no more than  $L^2$  gradient updates.

## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

Output  $f_{\theta}(x)$

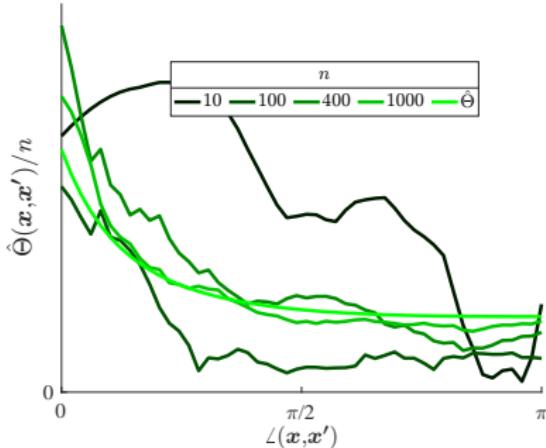
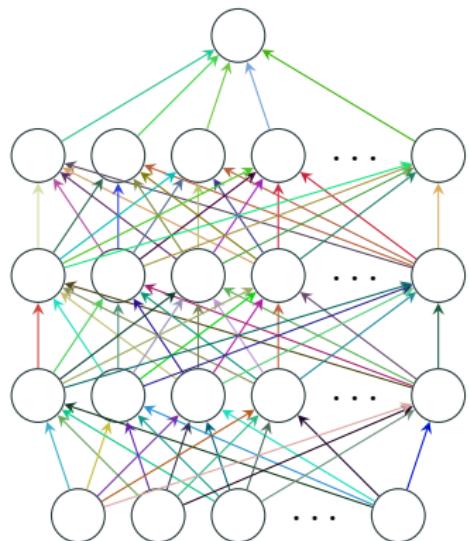


Input  $x \in \mathbb{S}^{n_0}$

As  $n$  increases,  $\Theta(x, x')$  concentrates about  $\mathbb{E}_{\text{init weights}}[\Theta(x, x')]$

## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

Output  $f_{\theta}(x)$

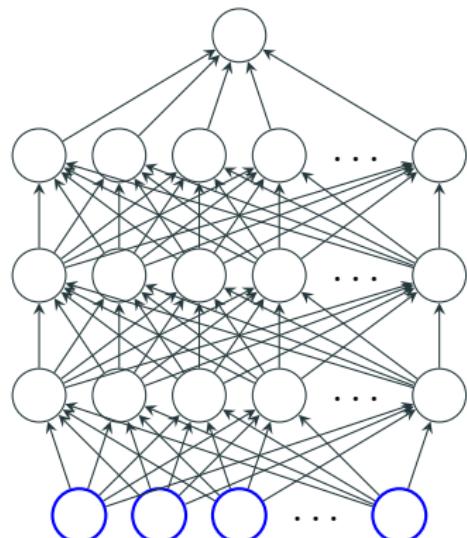


Input  $x \in \mathbb{S}^{n_0}$

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## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

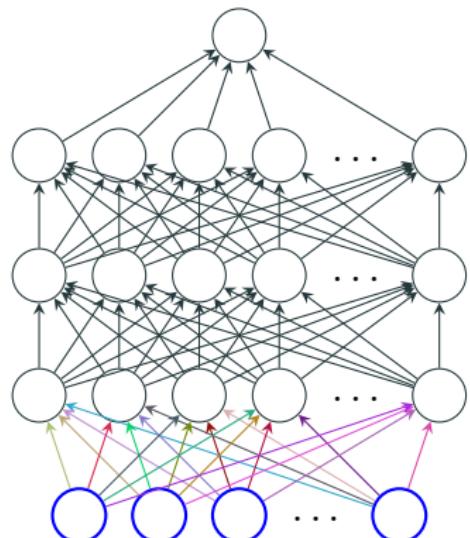
Output  $f_\theta(x)$



**Sequential structure**  
⇒ martingale tools work well

## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

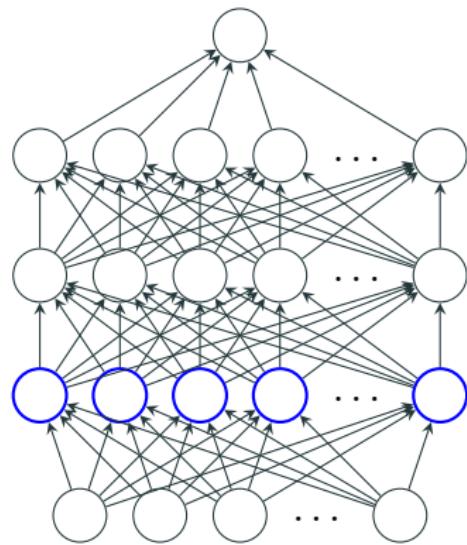
Output  $f_\theta(x)$



**Sequential structure**  
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## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

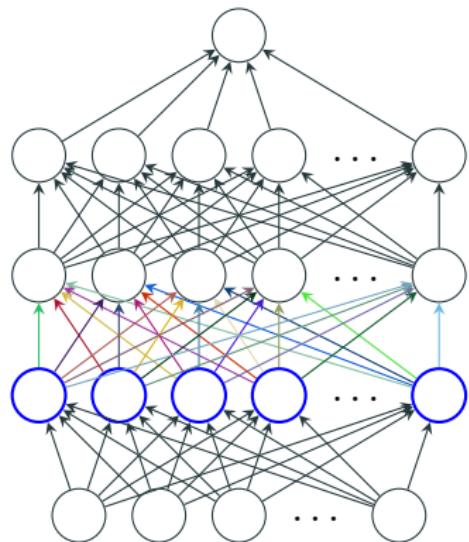
Output  $f_\theta(x)$



**Sequential structure**  
⇒ martingale tools work well

## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

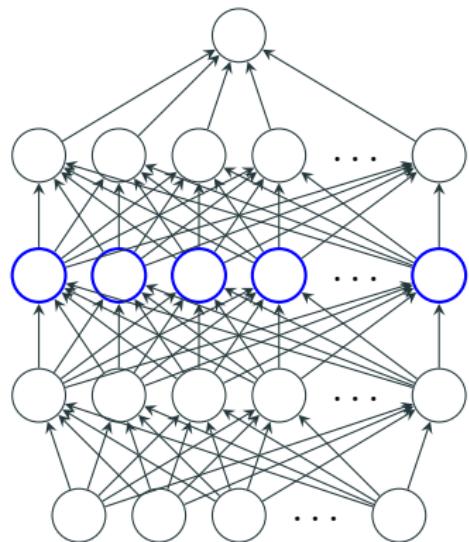
Output  $f_\theta(x)$



**Sequential structure**  
⇒ martingale tools work well

## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

**Output**  $f_\theta(x)$

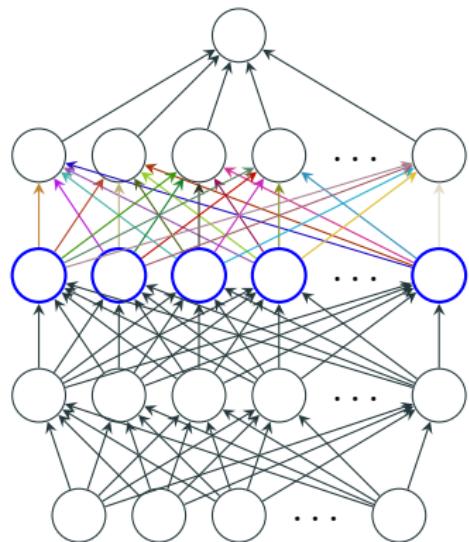


**Input**  $x \in \mathbb{S}^{n_0}$

**Sequential structure**  
⇒ martingale tools work well

# Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

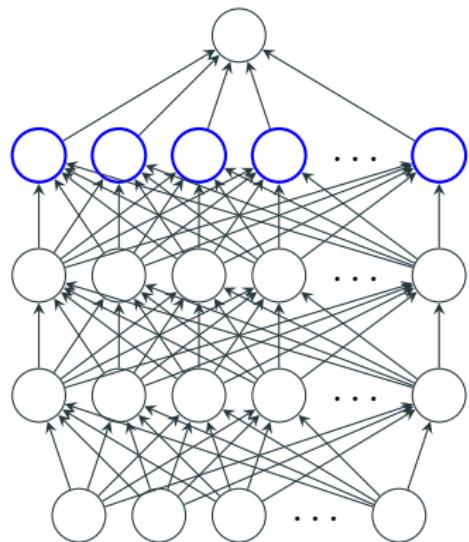
**Output**  $f_\theta(x)$



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## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

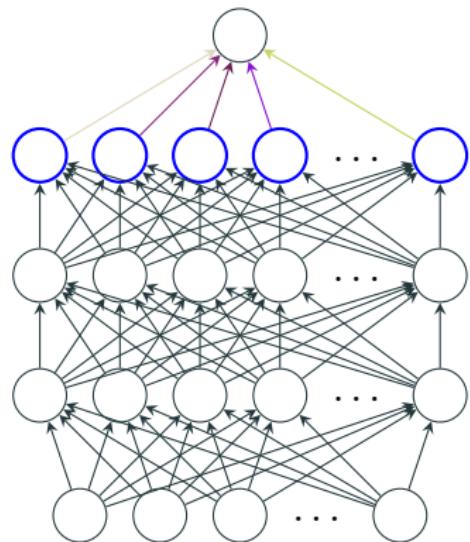
**Output**  $f_\theta(x)$



**Sequential structure**  
⇒ martingale tools work well

## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

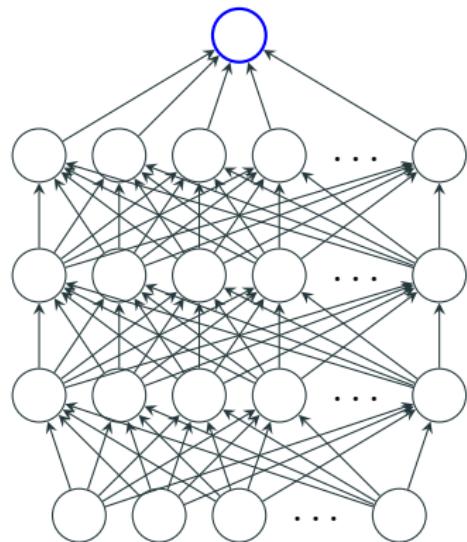
**Output**  $f_\theta(x)$



**Sequential structure**  
⇒ martingale tools work well

## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

Output  $f_\theta(x)$



Input  $x \in \mathbb{S}^{n_0}$

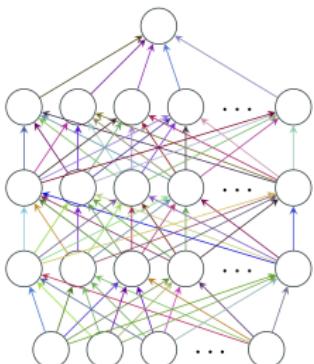
**Sequential structure**  
⇒ martingale tools work well

## Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

**Proposition.** Suppose that  $n > L \text{polylog}(Ln_0)$ . Then

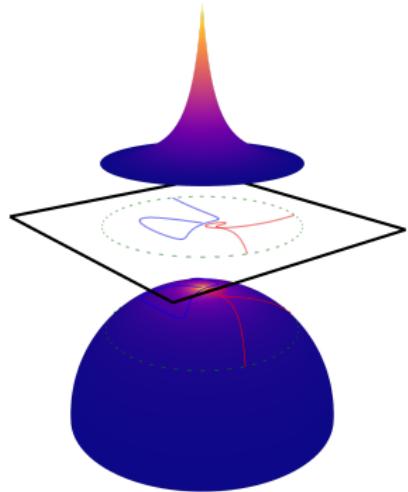
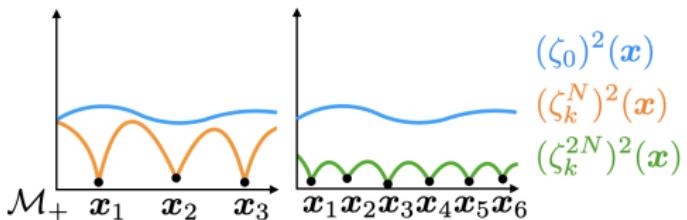
$$\left| \Theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') - \frac{n}{2} \sum_{\ell} \cos(\varphi^\ell \nu) \prod_{\ell'=\ell}^{L-1} \left( 1 - \frac{\varphi^{\ell'} \nu}{\pi} \right) \right|$$

is small (simultaneously) for all  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') \in \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{M}$ .



⇒ set width  $n$  based on  $L$   
and implicitly based on  $\kappa, \Delta$

# Resource Tradeoffs III: Data as a Statistical Resource



Depth  $L = 50$

⇒ Sample complexity  $N$  is dictated by kernel “aperture”,  
which depends on geometry  $(\kappa, \Delta)$  via  $L$

## End-to-End Guarantee

Combining the two results, when ...

$$L \geq \max \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{\Delta \sqrt{1 + \kappa^2}} \right)^{C \mathfrak{B}(\mathcal{M})}, \exp(C' \kappa \text{len}(\mathcal{M})) \right. \\ \left. \text{poly}(M_2 \dots M_7, \Delta^{-1}, \kappa, \rho_{\min}^{-1}, \rho_{\max}) \right\},$$

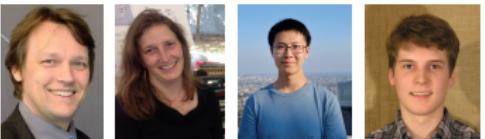
$$n \geq \text{poly}(L),$$

$$N \geq \text{poly}(L),$$

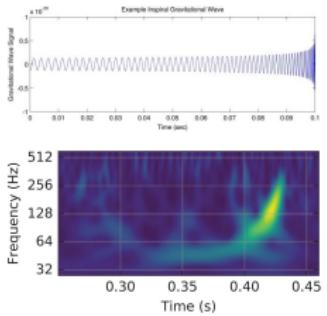
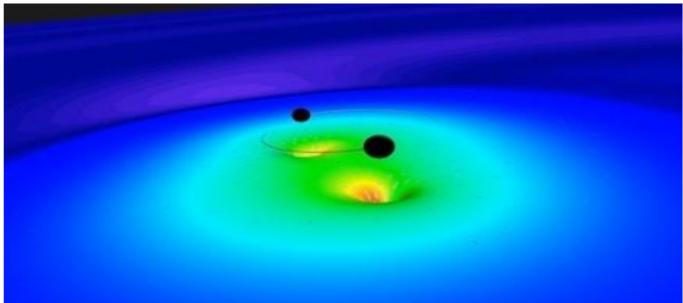
gradient descent correctly classifies every point on  $\mathcal{M}$ .

**Novelty:** end-to-end guarantee of generalization, depending only on the geometry of the data.

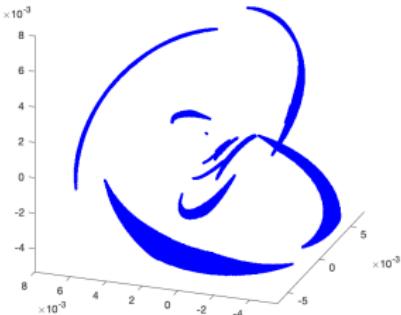
# Gravitational Wave Astronomy [with Marka, Marka, Yan, Colgan]



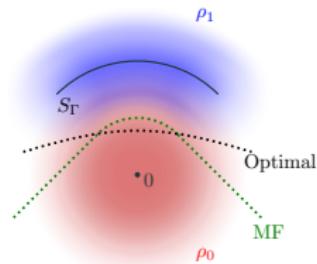
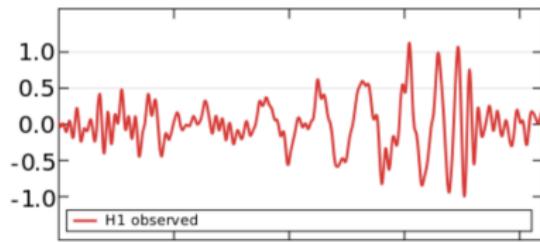
One binary black hole merger:



Many mergers  
(varying mass  $M_1$ ,  $M_2$ ):  
 $\implies$  low-dim manifold



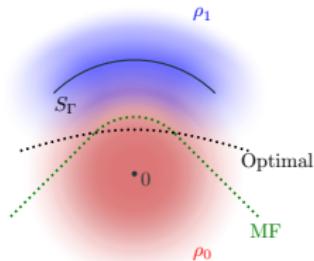
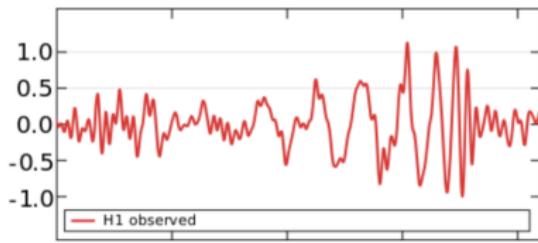
# Parametric Detection?



Is observation  $x = s_\gamma + z$  or  $x = z$ ?

⇒ **two (noisy) manifolds!**

# Parametric Detection?

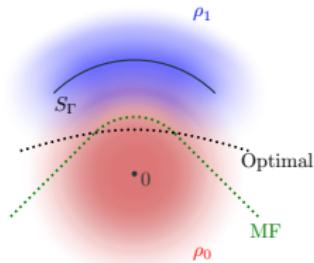
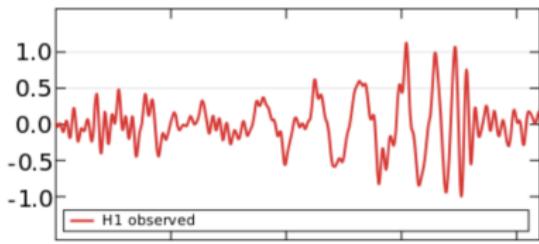


Is observation  $x = s_\gamma + z$  or  $x = z$ ?

⇒ **two (noisy) manifolds!**

**Classical approach:** template matching  $\max_\gamma \langle a_\gamma, x \rangle > \tau?$

# Parametric Detection?



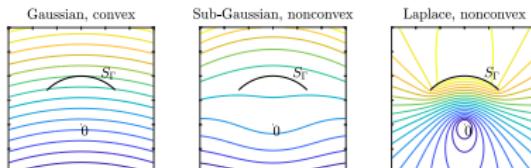
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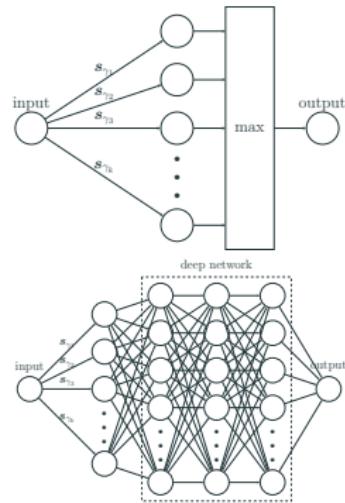
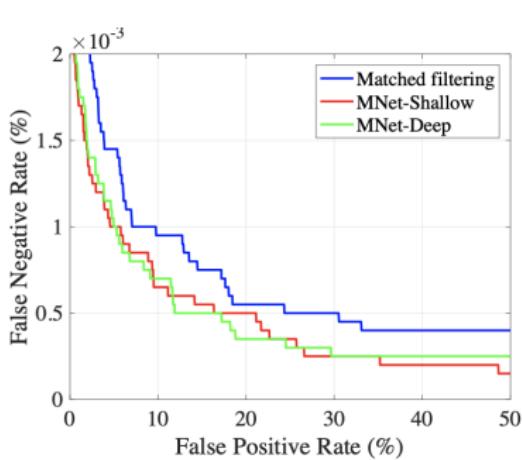
**Classical approach:** template matching  $\max_\gamma \langle a_\gamma, x \rangle > \tau?$

**Issues:** Optimality? Complexity?

Unknown unknowns? Unknown noise?



# Neural Nets – Performance Improvements?



**Dedicated constructions** of shallow and deep networks, based on equivalence between template matching and (particular) deep models [Yan, Avagyan, Colgan, Veske, Bartos, W., Marka, Marka '21].

# Conclusion and Future Directions

End-to-end analysis of learning with data on curves.

## More Complicated Geometries

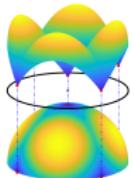
Can still use sharpness of  $\Theta$ .

## Network Structures from Geometry

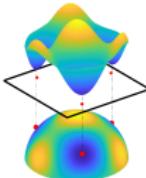
Guaranteed Invariance

## Beyond Linearization / Neural Tangent Kernel

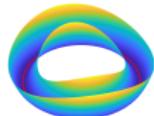
Insights from simpler dictionary / feature learning problems?



Dictionary  
Learning



Sparse Blind  
Deconvolution



Matrix  
Recovery

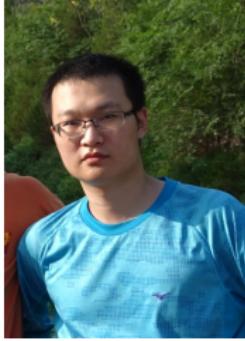
# Thanks to ...



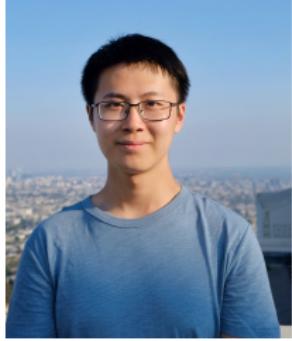
Sam Buchanan



Dar Gilboa



Tingran Wang



Jingkai Yan

Deep Networks and the Multiple Manifold Problem, Buchanan, Gilboa, W. '21

Deep Networks Provably Classify Data on Curves

Wang, Buchanan, Gilboa, W. '21

Generalized Approach to Matched Filtering using Neural Networks

Yan, Avagyan, Colgan, Veske, Bartos, W., Marka, Marka, '21