

Hopfield/Mixer correspondence

towards a better understanding of MetaFormers architecture design

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Mainly based on [2304.13061](#) with Masato Taki (Rikkyo Univ./RIKEN iTHEMS)

BIOGRAPHY

- Apr. 2016 - Mar. 2021 Osaka Univ., Ph.D. in Physics
 AdS/CFT, class \mathcal{S} , integrability
- Apr. 2021 - July 2021 UTokyo, Math. Sci.
 Low-dim. topology, quantum algebra
- Aug. 2021 - Nov. 2022 TokyoTech, School of Computing
 Machine Learning, Deep Learning
- Dec. 2022 - present CyberAgent, AI Lab
 Machine Learning, Deep Learning
- Apr. 2019 - present RIKEN, iTHEMS

Today's main message:

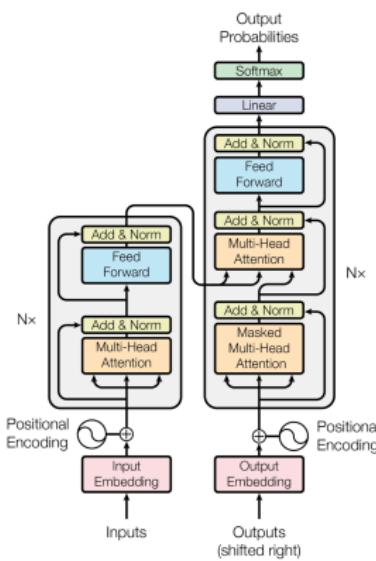
- Hopfield/Mixer correspondence as an approach for MetaFormes architecture design

Based on the correspondence, we theoretically predict

iMixer: a novel MetaFormer model from
hierarchical Hopfield network [TO-Taki, [2304.13061](#)]

ATTENTION IS ALL YOU NEED

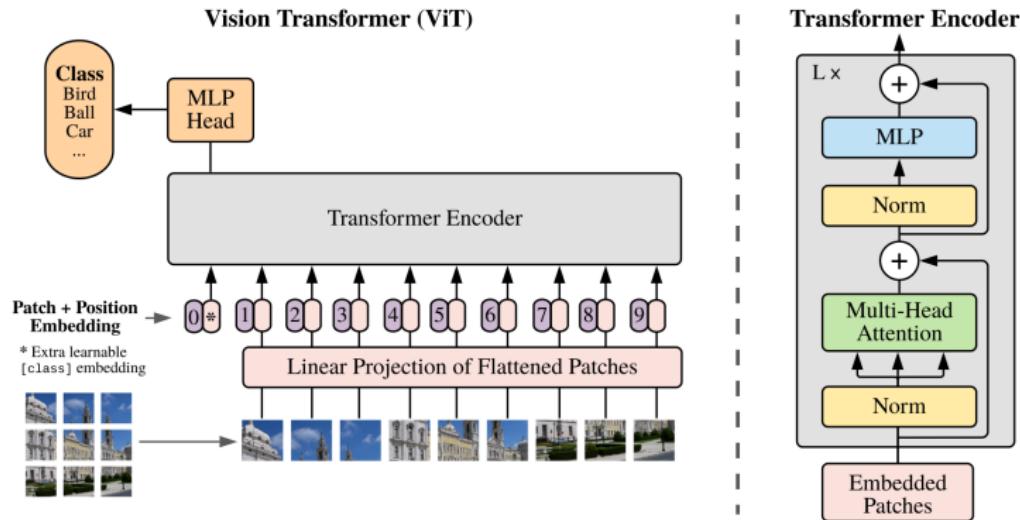
Transformer in our everyday life [Vaswani+ NeurIPS17, Fig. 1]



Large success across nearly all domains

ATTENTION IS ALL YOU NEED

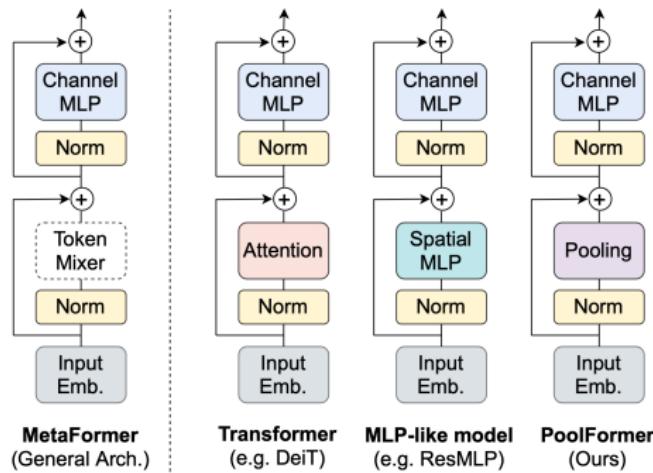
An image is worth 16x16 words: Vision Transformer



[Dosovitskiy+ ICLR21; Touvron+ ICML21; ...]

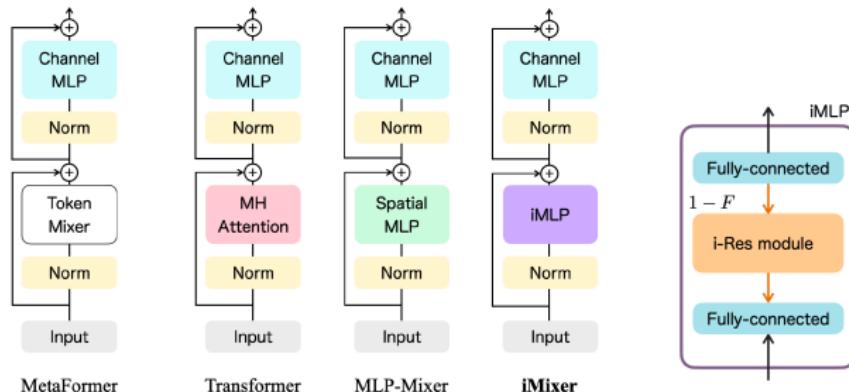
ATTENTION IS ALL YOU NEED?

MetaFormers (MLP-Mixer, Conv/Pool/Rand/Identity-Former,
...) [Tolstikhin+ NeurIPS21; Melas-Kyriazi 21; Yu+ 22]



[Yu+ CVPR22, Fig. 1a]

iMIXER: INVERTIBLE, IMPLICIT AND ITERATIVE MLP-MIXER

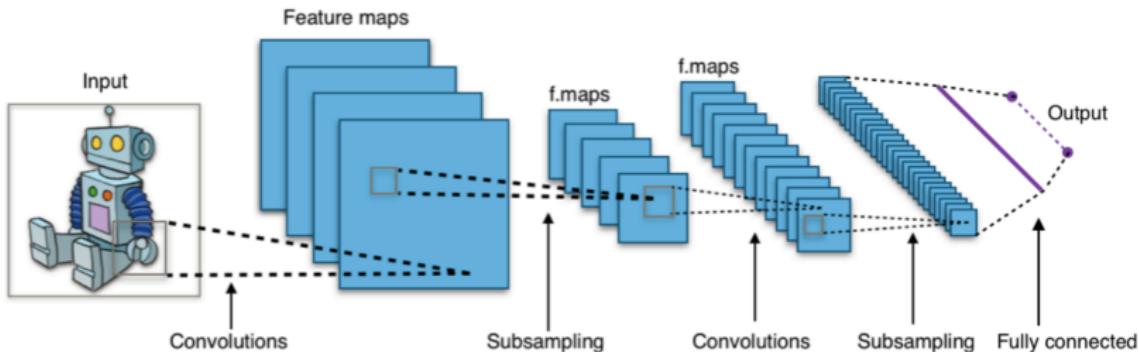


- Derive a new MetaFormer model from Hopfield/Mixer correspondence
- Provide a direction for incorporating *implicit* NNs
- Empirical study supports the validity of our formulation

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CONVOLUTIONAL NEURAL NETWORK



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convolutional_neural_network

respects

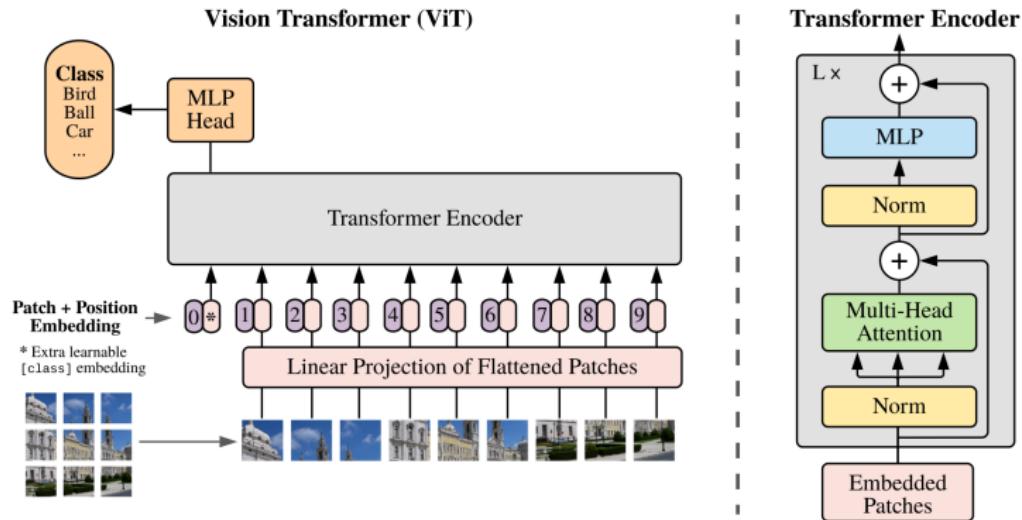
- Locality
- Translation invariance

~~~

“inductive bias”

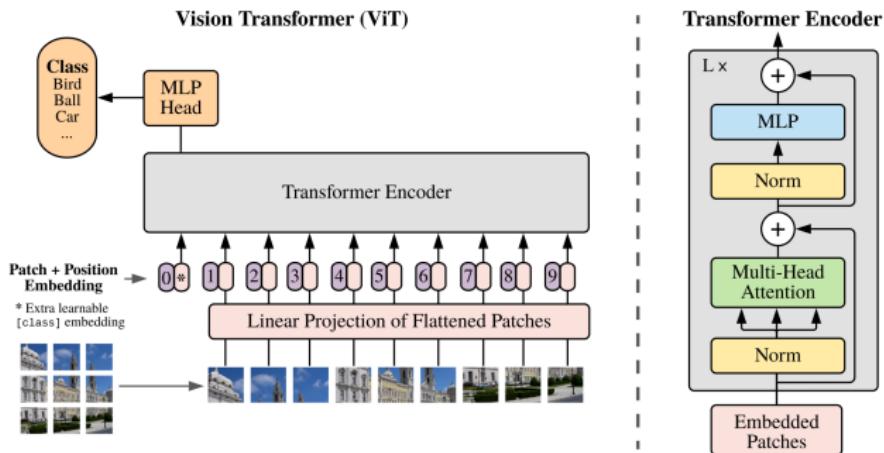
# VISION TRANSFORMER

An image is worth 16x16 words [Dosovitskiy+ ICLR21, Fig. 1]



Quite less inductive bias than CNN

# VISION TRANSFORMER



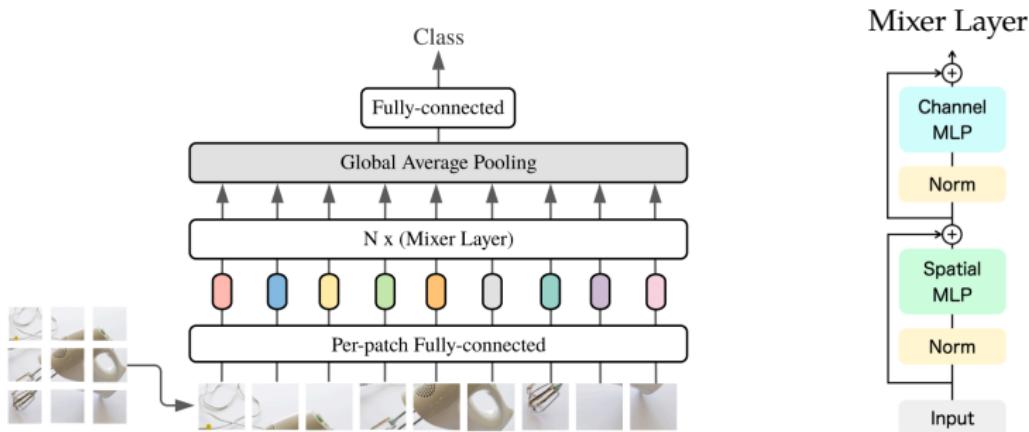
Attention mechanism:

$$Y = \text{Attn}(X) = V^\top \text{softmax}\left(KQ^\top\right)$$

$$Q = W_Q X, \quad K = W_K X, \quad V = W_V X$$

# ATTENTION IS ALL YOU NEED?

Casted doubt on the role of attention module: MLP-Mixer



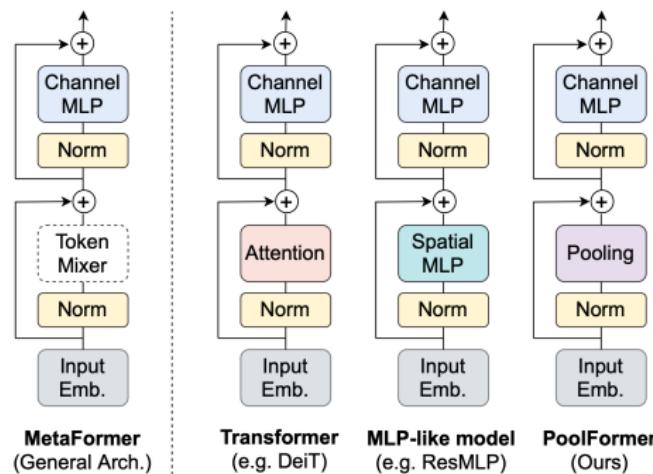
[Tolstikhin+ NeurIPS21, Fig. 1] Spatial MLP:

$$Y = W_2\sigma(W_1X)$$

Simpler than attention mechanism and yet less inductive bias

# ATTENTION IS ALL YOU NEED?

MetaFormers [Yu+ CVPR22, Fig. 1a]



Token-mixing block:

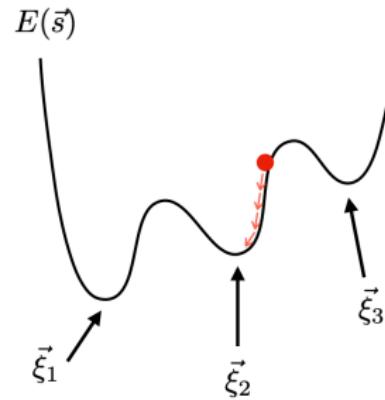
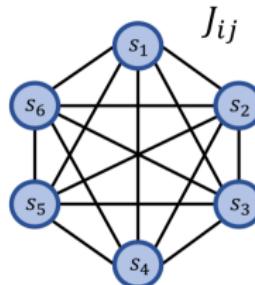
$$Y = X + \text{TokenMixer}(\text{Norm}(X))$$

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# CLASSICAL HOPFIELD NETWORK

A classical associative memory model [Hopfield 82]

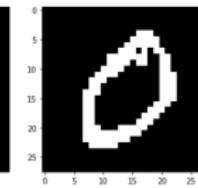
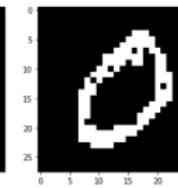
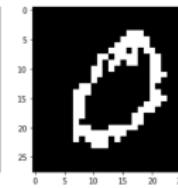
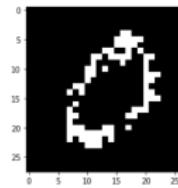
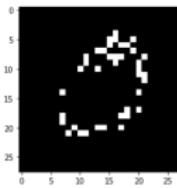
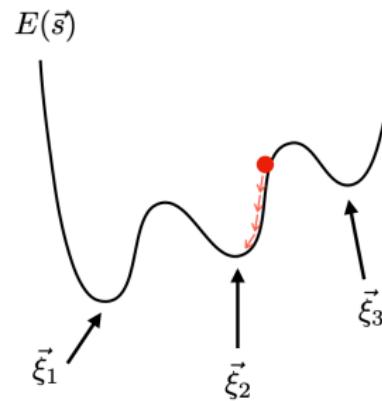
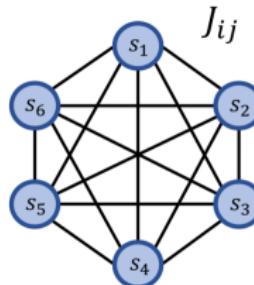


Update rule  $\vec{s} \leftarrow \text{sgn}(J\vec{s})$  minimizes the energy function,

$$E(\vec{s}) = - \sum_{i \neq j} J_{ij} s_i s_j, \quad J := \sum_{\mu} \vec{\xi}_{\mu} \vec{\xi}_{\mu}^{\top}, \quad s_i \in \{\pm 1\}$$

# CLASSICAL HOPFIELD NETWORK

A classical associative memory model [Hopfield 82]



# HOPFIELD NETWORKS IS ALL YOU NEED

Attention = a Hopfield update rule [Ramsauer+ ICLR21, Fig. A.7]

$$v_i \in \mathbb{R},$$

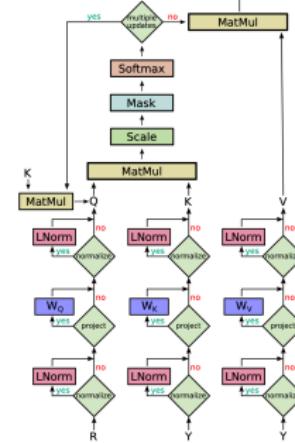
$$\xi = (\vec{\xi}_1, \dots, \vec{\xi}_N)^\top$$

Update rule

$$v_i \leftarrow \sum_{\mu} \xi_{i\mu} \text{softmax} \left( \sum_j \xi_{\mu j} v_j \right)$$

minimizes an energy function

$$E(\{v_i\}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i v_i^2 - \log \sum_{\mu} \exp \left( \sum_i \xi_{\mu i} v_i \right)$$



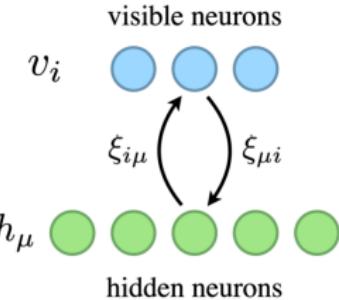
# GENERALIZED HOPFIELD NETWORK

Unification of energy-based associative memory models

[Krotov-Hopfield ICLR21]

$$\tau_v \frac{dv_i(t)}{dt} = \sum_{\mu=1}^{N_h} \xi_{i\mu} f_\mu(h(t)) - v_i(t)$$

$$\tau_h \frac{dh_\mu(t)}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \xi_{\mu i} g_i(v(t)) - h_\mu(t)$$



Activation functions  $f, g$  are determined by “Lagrangians”:

$$f_\mu(h) = \frac{\partial L_h(h)}{\partial h_\mu}, \quad g_i(v) = \frac{\partial L_v(v)}{\partial v_i}$$

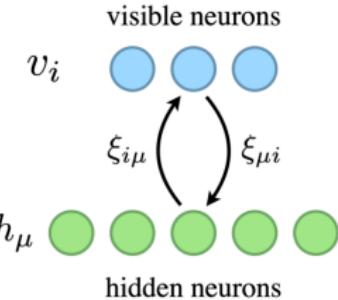
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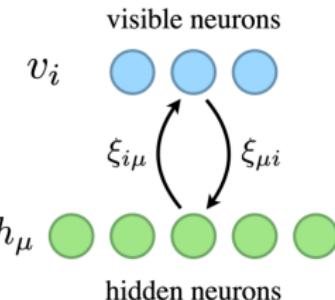
$$f_\mu(h) = \frac{\partial L_h(h)}{\partial h_\mu}, \quad g_i(v) = \frac{\partial L_v(v)}{\partial v_i}$$

# GENERALIZED HOPFIELD NETWORK

The dynamical equations (update rules for the neurons)

$$\tau_v \frac{dv_i(t)}{dt} = \sum_{\mu=1}^{N_h} \xi_{i\mu} f_\mu(h(t)) - v_i(t)$$

$$\tau_h \frac{dh_\mu(t)}{dt} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_v} \xi_{\mu i} g_i(v(t)) - h_\mu(t)$$



minimize the energy function

$$E(v, h) = \sum_i v_i g_i - L_v + \sum_\mu h_\mu f_\mu - L_h - \sum_{\mu, i} f_\mu \xi_{\mu i} g_i$$

Lagrangians  $L_v, L_h$  define a model

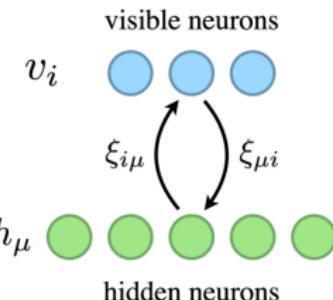
Generate a family of Hopfield networks

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minimize the energy function

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Lagrangians  $L_v, L_h$  define a model

Generate a family of Hopfield networks

# ATTENTION AS A MODERN HOPFIELD NETWORK

“Model B” in [Krotov-Hopfield ICLR21]

$$L_v(v) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i v_i^2, \quad L_h(h) = \log \sum_{\mu} \exp(h_{\mu})$$

Integrate out hidden neurons  $h_{\mu}$ , discretize the ODE, then

$$v_i(t+1) = \sum_{\mu} \xi_{i\mu} \text{softmax} \left( \sum_j \xi_{\mu j} v_j(t) \right)$$

$$E(\{v_i\}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i v_i^2 - \log \sum_{\mu} \exp \left( \sum_i \xi_{\mu i} v_i \right)$$

reproduce [Ramsauer+ ICLR21]

# ATTENTION AS A MODERN HOPFIELD NETWORK

Applications along this line:

- Immune repertoire classification [Widrich+ NeurIPS20]
- Exponential capacity of dense associative memories [Lucibello-Mezard 23]
- Learning with partial forgetting in modern Hopfield networks [TO-Sato-Kawakami-Tanaka-Inoue AISTATS23]
- A family of Boltzmann machines from modern Hopfield networks [TO-Karakida NECO23]
  - Attentional Boltzmann machine is an exactly solvable model

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# HOPFIELD/MIXER CORRESPONDENCE

MLP-Mixer as Model C of the generalized Hopfield network

[Krotov-Hopfield ICLR21; Tang-Kopp 21]

$$L_v(v) = \sqrt{\sum_i (v_i - \bar{v})^2}, \quad L_h(h) = \sum_\mu \phi(h_\mu)$$

Integrate out hidden neurons  $h_\mu$ , discretize the ODE, then

$$v_i(t+1) = v_i(t) + \sum_\mu \xi_{i\mu} \phi' \left( \sum_j \xi_{\mu j} \text{LayerNorm}(v(t))_j \right)$$

*Token-mixing block of MLP-Mixer [Tolstikhin+ NeurIPS21]*

$$Y = X + W_2 \sigma(W_1 \text{LayerNorm}(X))$$

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The generalized Hopfield network can *reproduce* many of known NN models. So far so good

A natural question:

The generalized Hopfield network can even *predict* a novel MetaFormer architecture?

Model-C Hopfield network



MLP-Mixer

Model-C hierarchical extension



???

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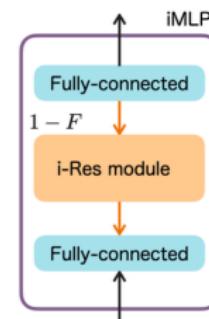
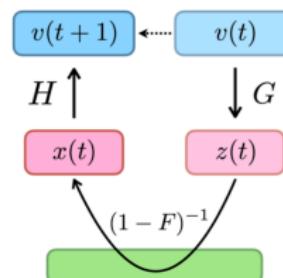
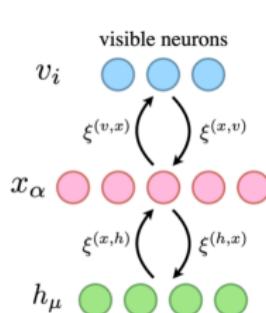
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|                                |     |           |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Model-C Hopfield network       | ~~~ | MLP-Mixer |
| Model-C hierarchical extension | ~~~ | ???       |

# iMIXER

## Hierarchical extension



$$L_v(v) = \sqrt{\sum_i (v_i - \bar{v})^2}, \quad L_x(x) = \sum_{\alpha} \phi_x(x_{\alpha}), \quad L_h(h) = \sum_{\mu} \phi_h(h_{\mu})$$

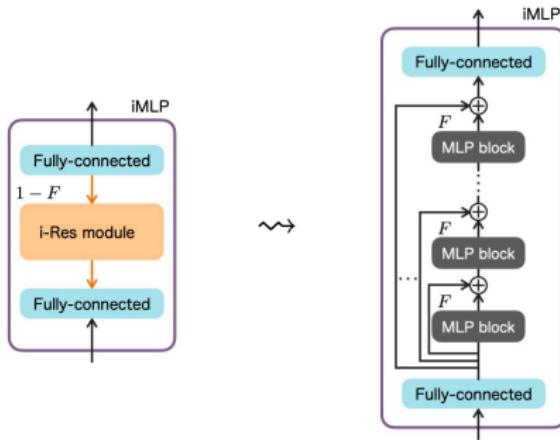
$$v(t+1) = v(t) + \xi^{(v,x)} \phi'_x \left( (1-F)^{-1} \left( \xi^{(x,v)} \text{LayerNorm}(v(t)) \right) \right)$$

$$F = (\xi^{(x,h)} \phi'_h) \circ (\xi^{(h,x)} \phi'_x)$$

# IMIXER

Inverted ResNet is an example of implicit NNs

[Behrmann+ ICML19; Bai+ NeurIPS19; El Ghaoui+ 19]



**Algorithm 1** Feedforward computation of the iMLP module.

```
Input: input  $x$ , fully-connected layer  $G$ , contractive MLP
block  $F$ , fully-connected layer  $H$ , number of fixed-point
iterations  $n$ 
Init:  $x^0 := G(x)$ 
for  $a = 0, \dots, n - 1$  do
     $x^{a+1} := x^0 + F(x^a)$ 
end for
return:  $H(x^n)$ 
```

Fixed-point iteration method enables us to easily implement & train the model

# iMIXER

The iMLP module looks somewhat unconventional from CV viewpoint. Experimental evaluation?

Top-1 accuracy (%), trained on CIFAR-10 from scratch

| Model            | Small                              | Base                               | Large                              |
|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mixer (baseline) | $88.08 \pm 0.51$                   | $89.03 \pm 0.24$                   | $86.67 \pm 0.30$                   |
| iMixer (ours)    | <b><math>88.56 \pm 0.30</math></b> | <b><math>89.07 \pm 0.33</math></b> | <b><math>87.48 \pm 0.40</math></b> |

Top-1 accuracy (%) for other datasets, trained from scratch for Small models

| Model    | CIFAR-100        | Food-101         | ImageNet-1k |
|----------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Mixer-S  | $68.13 \pm 0.46$ | $76.11 \pm 0.32$ | 73.91       |
| iMixer-S | $68.26 \pm 0.30$ | $76.08 \pm 0.20$ | 74.10       |

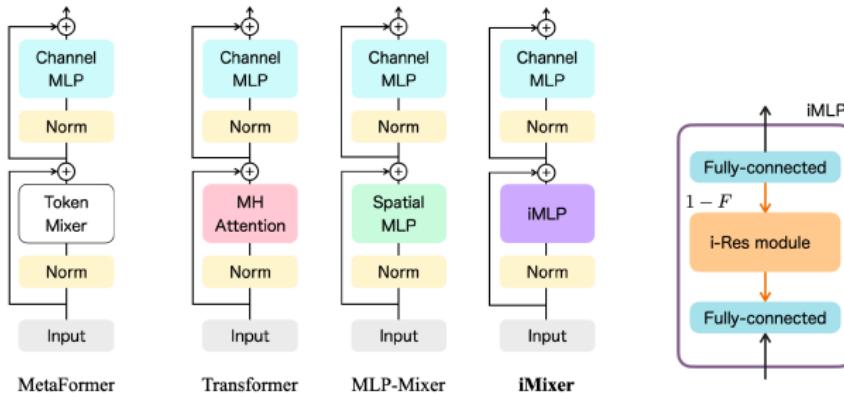
# OUTLOOK

Lots of further directions like

- More hidden layers and different Lagrangians
- Practical applications for real computer vision tasks
- Boltzmann machine counterparts of hierarchical Hopfield networks
- More direct relation with associative memory model (in progress with Taki and Karakida)

Any discussions/comments are very welcome

# iMIXER: INVERTIBLE, IMPLICIT AND ITERATIVE MLP-MIXER



- Derive a new MetaFormer model from Hopfield/Mixer correspondence
- Provide a direction for incorporating *implicit* NNs
- Empirical study supports the validity of our formulation

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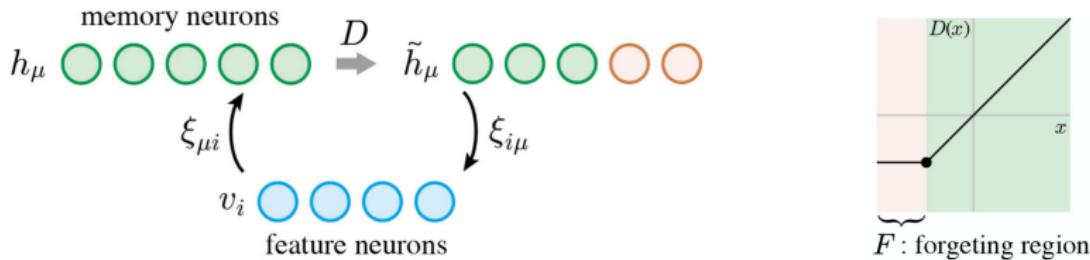
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# Backup

# LwPF

## Learning with partial forgetting in modern Hopfield networks

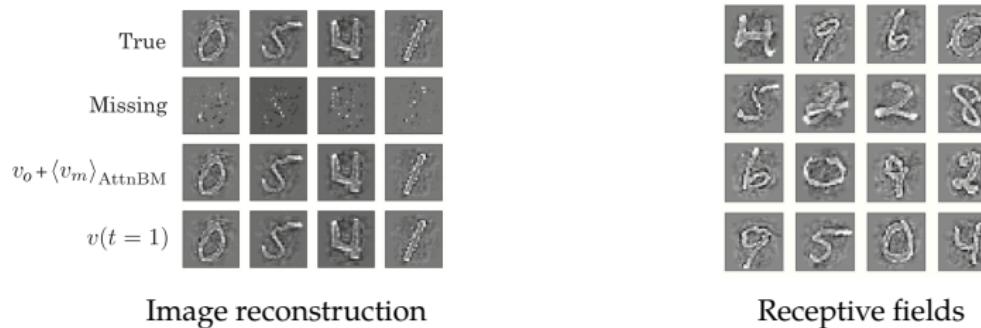
[TO-Sato-Kawakami-Tanaka-Inoue AISTATS23]



- Propose *learning with partial forgetting* (LwPF) mechanism
- Derive the expression for *partially forgetting attention*
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of LwPF in diverse domains

# ATTNBM

Attention in a family of Boltzmann machines emerging from modern Hopfield networks [TO-Karakida NECO23]



- Propose a family of Boltzmann machines from the generalized Hopfield network
- Investigate the basic properties of *attentional BM* and verify its integrability and trainability

# GENERALIZED HOPFIELD NETWORK

Model A: Dense associative memory models [Hopfield 82;  
Krotov-Hopfield NeurIPS16; Demircigil +17]

$$L_v(v) = \sum_i |v_i|, \quad L_h(h) = \sum_{\mu} F(h_{\mu})$$

Integrate out hidden neurons  $h_{\mu}$ , discretize the ODE, then

$$v_i(t+1) = \sum_{\mu} \xi_{i\mu} F' \left( \sum_j \xi_{\mu j} \operatorname{sgn}(v_j(t)) \right)$$

$$E(\{v_i\}) = - \sum_{\mu} F \left( \sum_i \xi_{\mu i} \operatorname{sgn}(v_i) \right)$$

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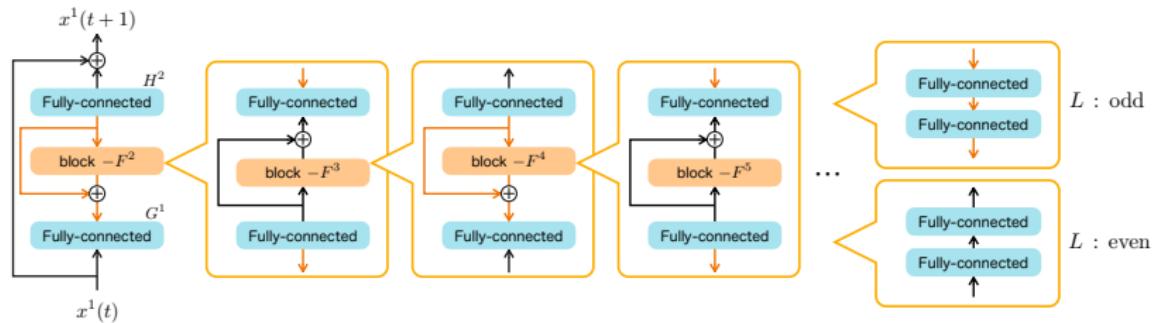
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$$E(\{v_i\}) = - \sum_{\mu} F \left( \sum_i \xi_{\mu i} \operatorname{sgn}(v_i) \right)$$

- $F(x) = x^2$ : the classical Hopfield network,  $\operatorname{sgn}(v_i(t)) =: s_i(t)$
- $F(x) = x^n$ : the network can store  $\mathcal{O}(N_v^{n-1})$  memories
- $F(x) = e^x$ : exponential storage capacity

# iMIXER: A GENERAL FORMULATION

One of the most general formulations of iMixer from  
**L-layer** hierarchical Hopfield network:



$$x^1(t+1) = x^1(t) + \text{iMLPs}(x^1(t))$$

# iMIXER: EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

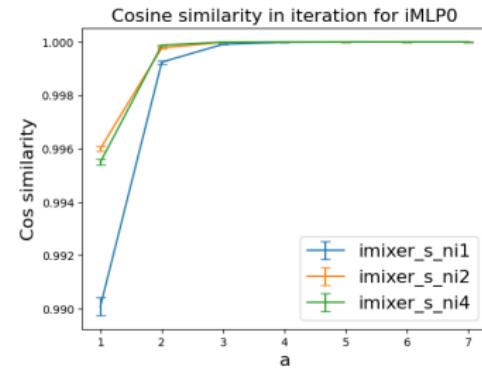
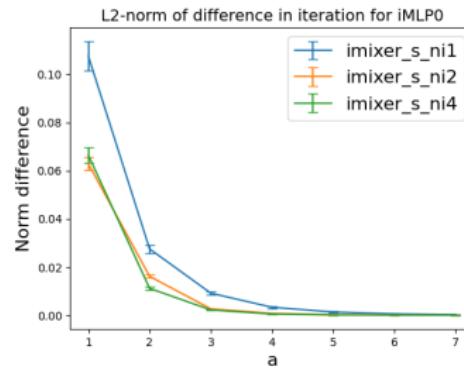
Hyperparameters commonly used for the vanilla Mixer and iMixer for fair comparison.

| Training configuration    | Small/Base/Large                 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| optimizer                 | AdamW                            |
| training epochs           | 300                              |
| batch size                | 512/256/64                       |
| base learning rate        | 5e-4/2.5e-4/6.25e-5              |
| weight decay              | 0.05                             |
| optimizer $\epsilon$      | 1e-8                             |
| optimizer momentum        | $\beta_1 = 0.9, \beta_2 = 0.999$ |
| learning rate schedule    | cosine decay                     |
| lower learning rate bound | 1e-6                             |
| warmup epochs             | 20                               |
| warmup schedule           | linear                           |
| warmup learning rate      | 1e-6                             |
| cooldown epochs           | 10                               |
| crop ratio                | 0.875                            |
| RandAugment               | (9, 0.5)                         |
| mixup $\alpha$            | 0.8                              |
| cutmix $\alpha$           | 1.0                              |
| random erasing            | 0.25                             |
| label smoothing           | 0.1                              |
| stochastic depth          | 0.1/0.2/0.3                      |

# iMIXER: EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

Hyperparameter search for  $h_r$  and  $n$  in iMixer-S, trained on CIFAR-10 from scratch

| $h_r$ | $n = 1$                            | $n = 2$                            | $n = 4$                            |
|-------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 0.25  | $88.26 \pm 0.28$                   | $88.22 \pm 0.33$                   | $88.29 \pm 0.37$                   |
| 0.5   | $88.32 \pm 0.39$                   | $88.21 \pm 0.45$                   | $88.22 \pm 0.43$                   |
| 1     | $88.36 \pm 0.31$                   | $88.32 \pm 0.32$                   | $88.32 \pm 0.32$                   |
| 2     | <b><math>88.54 \pm 0.34</math></b> | <b><math>88.56 \pm 0.30</math></b> | <b><math>88.46 \pm 0.26</math></b> |



Convergence rate of  $L_2$ -norm (left) and cosine similarity (right)  
between two successive feature vectors in fixed-point iteration in iMLP-0