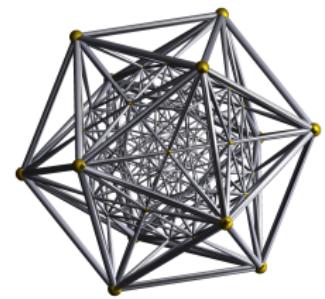


Learning Nonlinear and Deep Representations from High-Dimensional Data From Theory to Practice

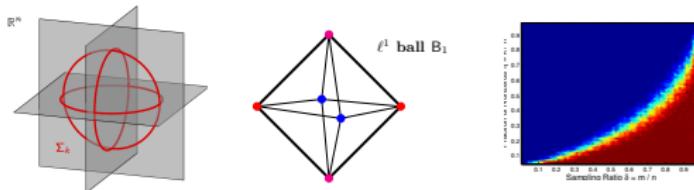
Lecture 7: Deep Representation Learning from the Ground Up

**Sam Buchanan, Yi Ma, Qing Qu, Atlas Wang
John Wright, Yuqian Zhang, Zhihui Zhu**

June 9, 2023



Recap: Sparse Recovery



Sparse approximation: **structured** signals, **linear** measurements

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o, \quad \mathbf{x}_o \text{ sparse}, \quad \mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \text{ random}$$

with **convex** optimization

$$\mathbf{x}_\star = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$$

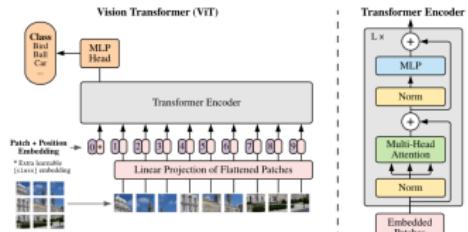
and provable (high probability) guarantees

$$\mathbf{x}_\star = \mathbf{x}_o \text{ when } \text{measurements} \gtrsim \text{sparsity} \times \log \left(\frac{\text{measurements}}{\text{sparsity}} \right)$$

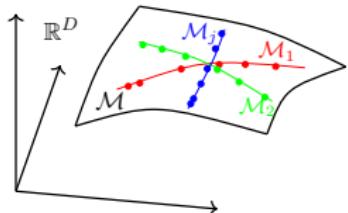
The Deep Learning Era



What role does **low-dimensional structure** play in the **practice** of deep learning? (*understand, improve, design...*)

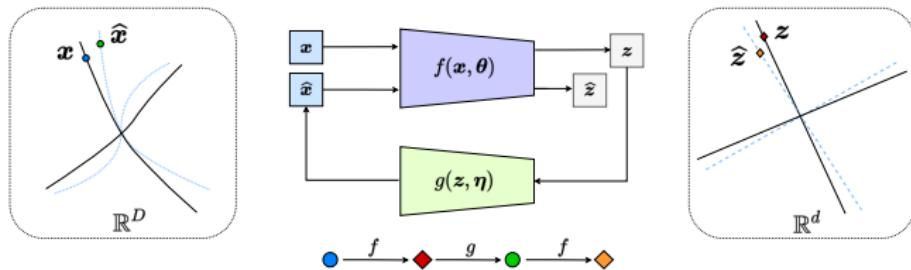


Focus of Today's Lecture: Representation Learning



Goal: seeking a low-dimensional representation Z in \mathbb{R}^d ($d \ll D$) for the data X on low-dimensional submanifolds such that:

$$X \subset \mathbb{R}^D \xrightarrow{f(x, \theta)} Z \subset \mathbb{R}^d \xrightarrow{g(z, \eta)} \hat{X} \approx X \in \mathbb{R}^D.$$



Two subproblems: *identification* and *representation*.

Outline

Recap and Outlook

- ① Motivating Vignettes for the Nonlinear Manifold Model
- ② The Identification Problem: Binary Classification of Two Curves
 - Problem Formulation
 - Intrinsic Geometric Properties of Manifold Data
 - Network Architecture Resources and Training Procedure
 - Training Deep Networks with Gradient Descent
 - Resource Tradeoffs
- ③ The Representation Problem: Manifold Manipulation and Diffusion
 - (Perfectly) Linearizing One Manifold
 - Diffusion Models for Distribution Learning
- ④ CRATE: Identification/Representation of Low-D Structures at Scale
 - White-Box Architectures for Representation Learning
 - CRATE: White-Box Transformers from Sparse MCR²
 - Experimental Results on CRATE
- ⑤ Conclusions and A Look Ahead

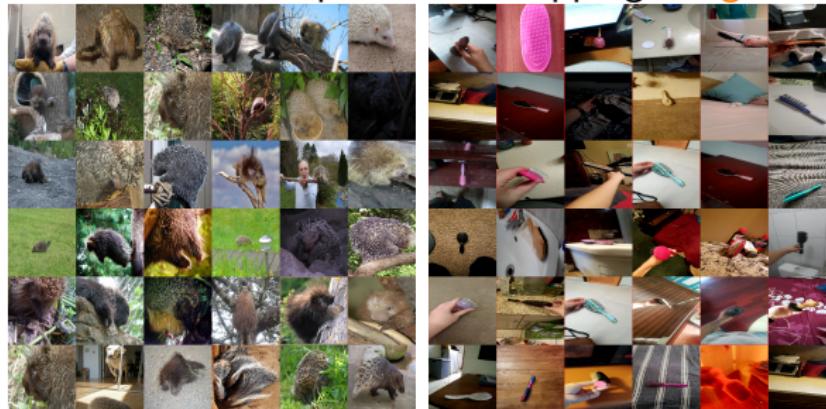
Low-Dimensional Structure in Deep Learning Problems



Appropriate mathematical model for data with low-dimensional structure in the deep learning era: **nonlinear manifolds?**

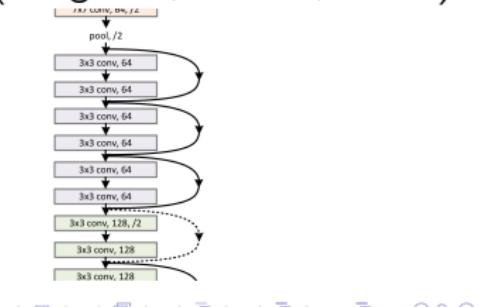
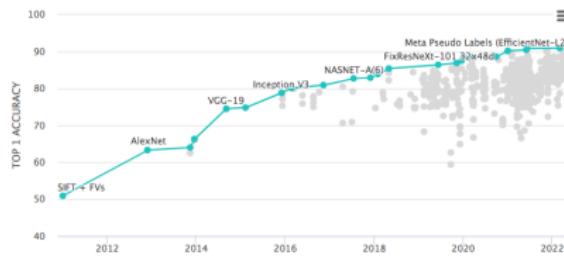
Vignette I: Large-Scale Image Classification

Task: Learn a deep network mapping **images** → **object classes** from data.

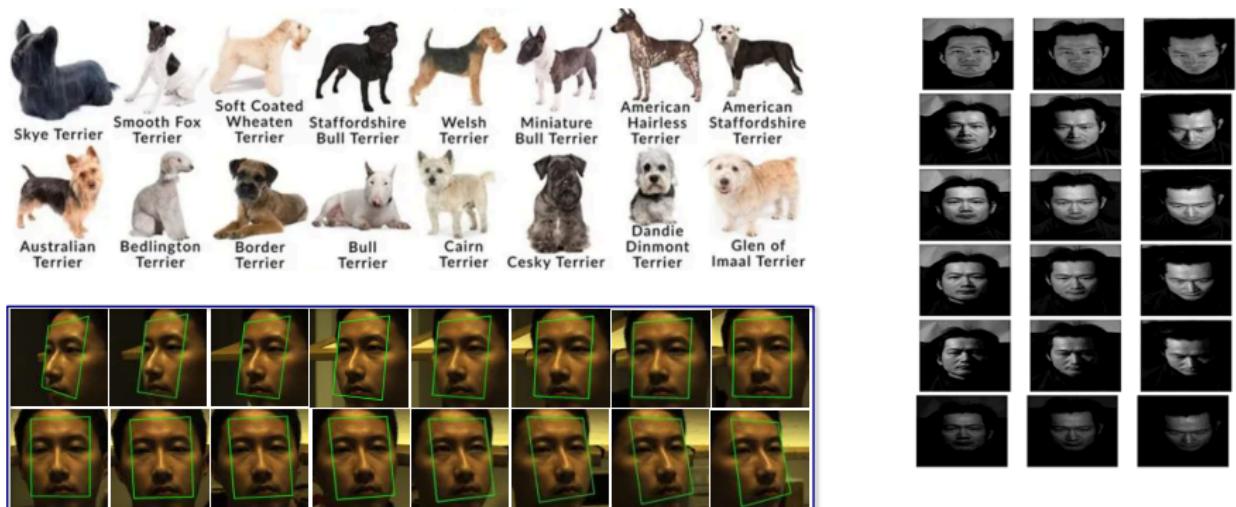


→ {hedgehog,
hairbrush}

Massive driver of innovation in the last 10 years (ImageNet, ResNet, ViT...)



Nonlinear Variabilities in Natural Images

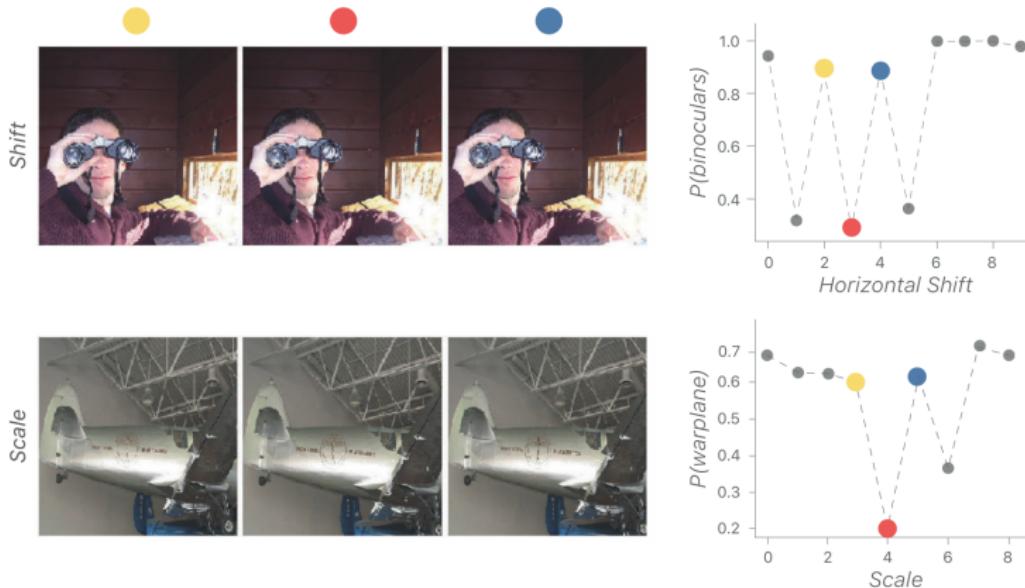


⇒ **nonlinear, geometric structure**

- 6D for 3D rigid pose; 8D for perspective; 9D for certain illumination...

Limitations of a Purely Data-Driven Approach?

Can fail to learn even simple invariances in the data:

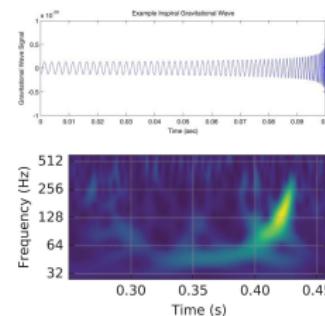
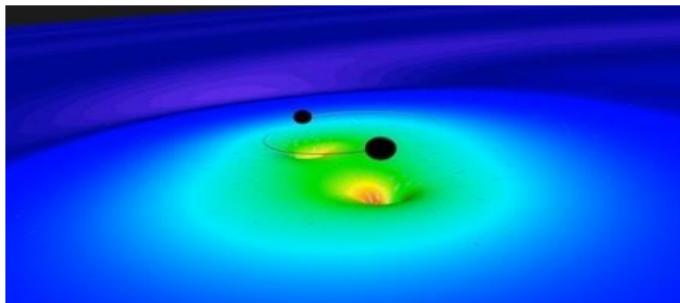


From [Azulay and Weiss, 2019]

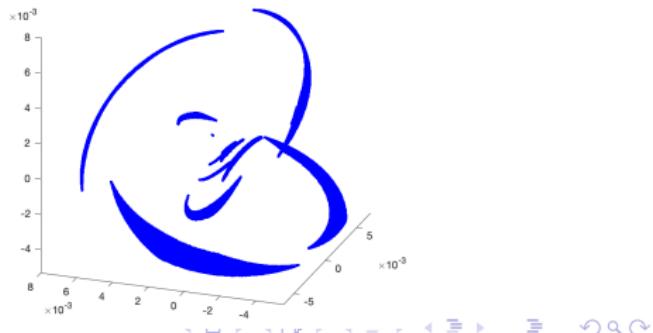
Vignette II: Deep Learning in Scientific Discovery

Gravitational Wave Astronomy

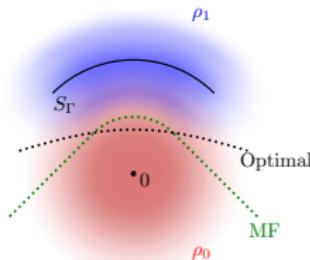
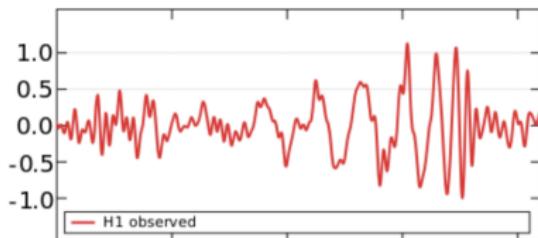
One binary black hole merger:



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

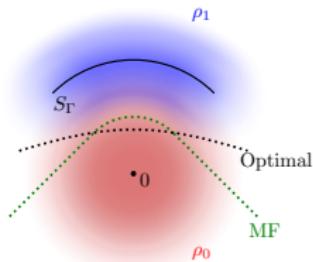
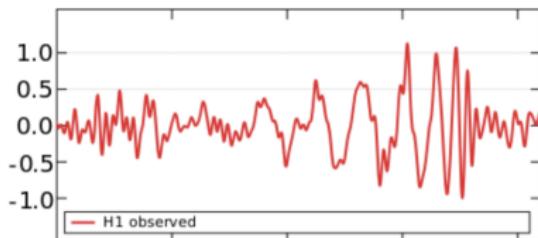


Gravitational Wave Astronomy as Parametric Detection



Is observation $x = s_\gamma + z$ or $x = z$?
⇒ **two (noisy) manifolds!**

Gravitational Wave Astronomy as Parametric Detection

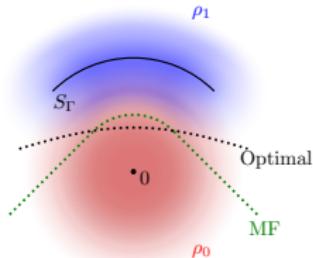
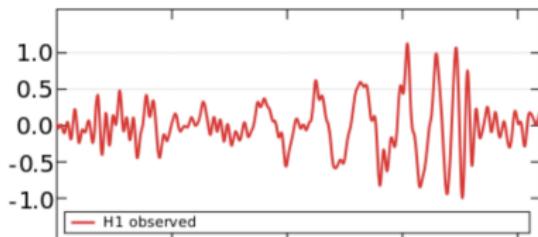


Is observation $x = s_\gamma + z$ or $x = z$?

→ **two (noisy) manifolds!**

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

Gravitational Wave Astronomy as Parametric Detection

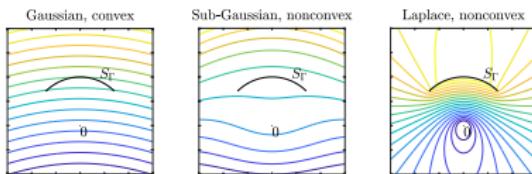


Is observation $x = s_\gamma + z$ or $x = z$?
 → **two (noisy) manifolds!**

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

Issues: Optimality? Complexity?

Unknown unknowns? Unknown noise?



Ideally: Combine low-dim structure of Γ with data-driven for statistical structure...

Takeaways from the Examples

Two key takeaways:

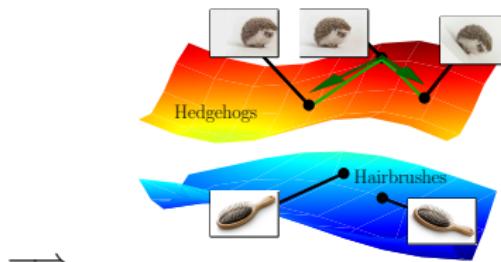
- Data with **nonlinear, geometric structure** pervade successful practical applications of deep learning
- Important practical issues (**robustness/invariance; resource efficiency; performance**) naturally linked to low-dim structure

Takeaways from the Examples

Two key takeaways:

- Data with **nonlinear, geometric structure** pervade successful practical applications of deep learning
- Important practical issues (**robustness/invariance; resource efficiency; performance**) naturally linked to low-dim structure

Next: Understanding mathematically when and why deep learning successfully classifies data with nonlinear geometric structure.



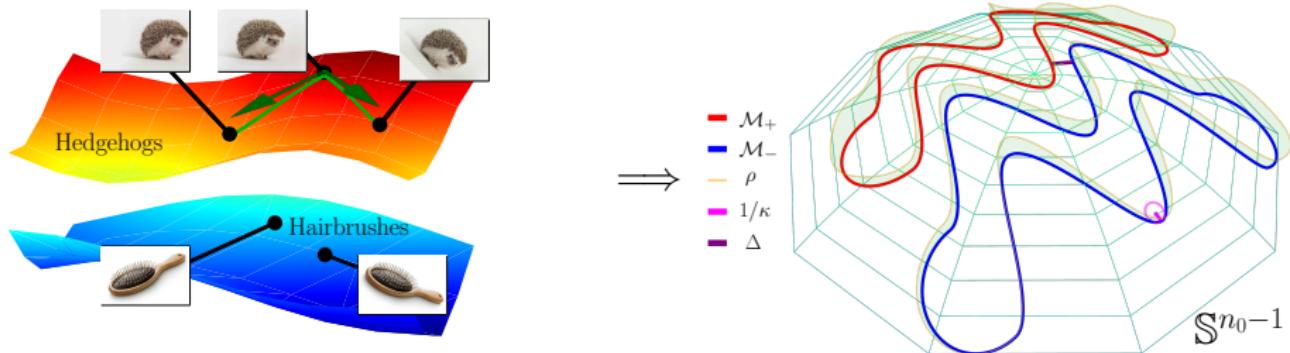
Outline

Recap and Outlook

- 1 Motivating Vignettes for the Nonlinear Manifold Model
- 2 The Identification Problem: Binary Classification of Two Curves
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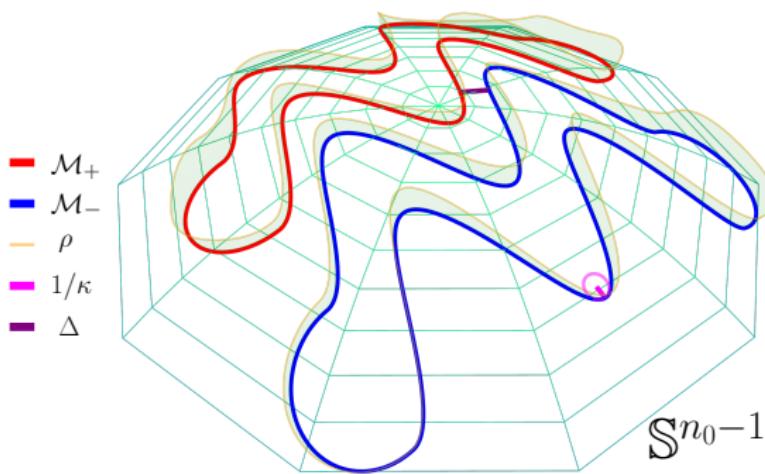
A Mathematical Model Problem for Deep Learning + Low-Dimensional Structure

Formalizing data with nonlinear geometric structure: Low-dimensional Riemannian submanifolds of high-dimensional space!



The multiple manifold problem: K -way classification of data on d -dimensional Riemannian manifolds in \mathbb{S}^{n_0-1} .

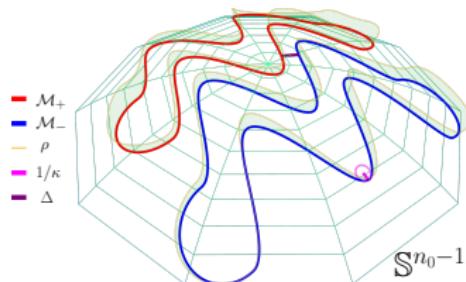
The Two Manifold Problem



Problem. Given N i.i.d. labeled samples $(\mathbf{x}_1, y(\mathbf{x}_1)), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_N, y(\mathbf{x}_N))$ from $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_+ \cup \mathcal{M}_-$, use gradient descent to train a deep network f_θ that *perfectly labels the manifolds*:

$$\text{sign}(f_\theta(\mathbf{x})) = y(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{M}.$$

The Two Manifold Problem: Key Aspects



Problem. Given N i.i.d. labeled samples $(\mathbf{x}_1, y(\mathbf{x}_1)), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_N, y(\mathbf{x}_N))$ from $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_+ \cup \mathcal{M}_-$, use gradient descent to train a deep network f_{θ} that perfectly labels the manifolds:

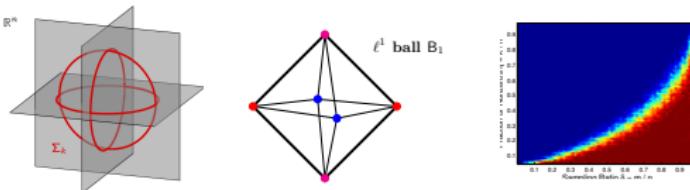
$$\text{sign}(f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})) = y(\mathbf{x}) \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{M}.$$

- Binary classification with a deep neural network
- High-dimensional data with (unknown!) low-dimensional structure
- Statistical structure, and asking for “strong” generalization

We will focus on the case of one-dimensional manifolds (curves)

What Can We Hope to Understand Here?

Our “barometer”: compressed sensing.



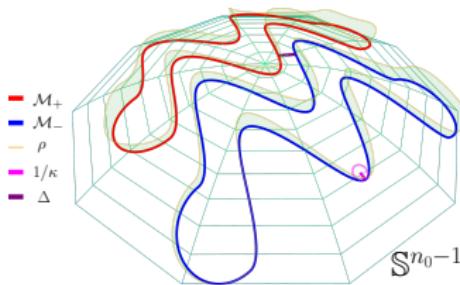
$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_o; \quad \mathbf{x}_\star = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\mathbf{x}\|_1$$

$$\mathbf{x}_\star = \mathbf{x}_o \text{ when } \text{measurements} \gtrsim \text{sparsity} \times \log \left(\frac{\text{measurements}}{\text{sparsity}} \right)$$

Questions:

- What are our ‘measurement resources’ in the two manifold problem?
- What are intrinsic structural properties of nonlinear manifold data?

The Two Manifold Problem: Geometric Parameters



Problem. Given N i.i.d. labeled samples $(\mathbf{x}_1, y(\mathbf{x}_1)), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_N, y(\mathbf{x}_N))$ from $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_+ \cup \mathcal{M}_-$, use gradient descent to train a deep network f_{θ} that perfectly labels the manifolds:

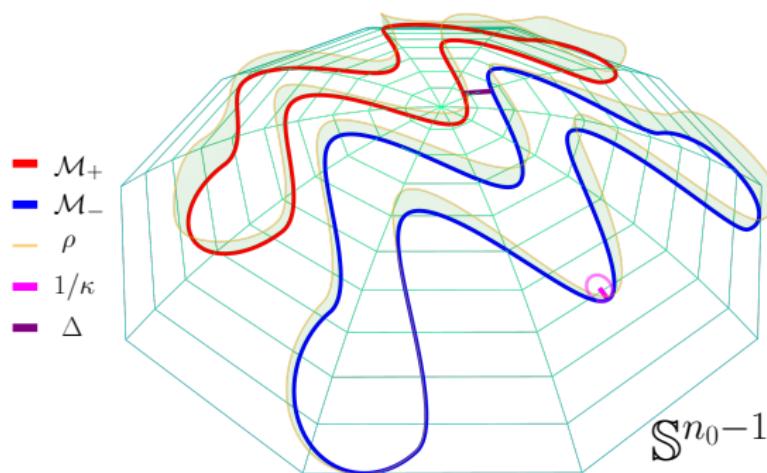
$$\text{sign}(f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})) = y(\mathbf{x}) \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{M}.$$

A set of ‘sufficient’ intrinsic problem difficulty parameters:

- Curvature κ ;
- Separation Δ ;
- Separation ‘frequency’ \diamond .

Intrinsic Structural Properties I: Separation

Intuitively: How close are the class manifolds?

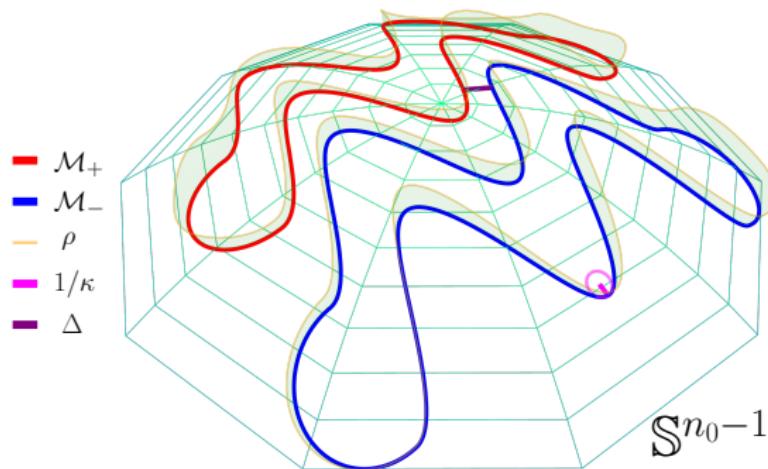


Mathematically:

$$\Delta = \inf_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}' \in \mathcal{M}} \{d_{\text{extrinsic}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')\}$$

Intrinsic Structural Properties II: Curvature

Intuitively: Local deviation from *flatness* of the manifold.

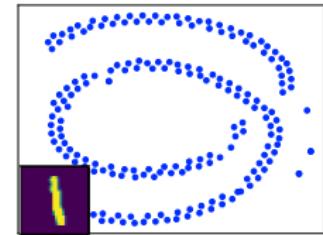
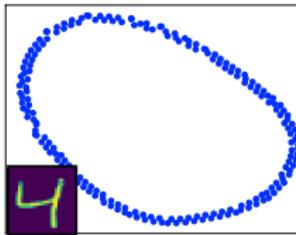
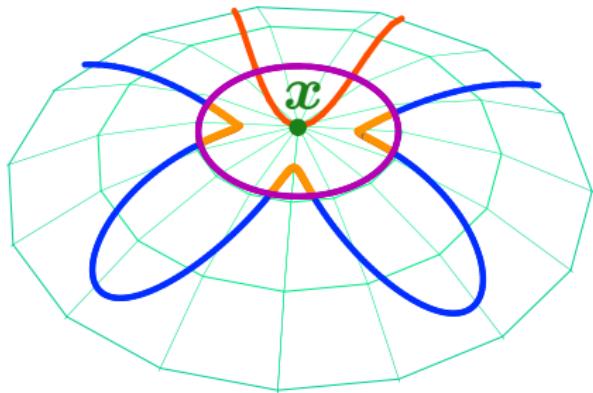


Mathematically:

$$\kappa = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{M}} \left\| \left(\mathbf{I} - \frac{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^*}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_2^2} \right) \ddot{\mathbf{x}} \right\|_2$$

Intrinsic Structural Properties III: \mathbb{B} -Number

Intuitively: How much do the class manifolds loop back on themselves?

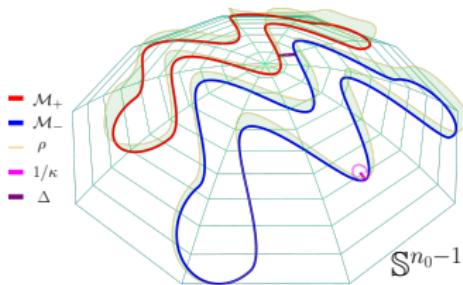


Mathematically:

$$\mathbb{B}(\mathcal{M}) = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{M}} N_{\mathcal{M}} \left(\left\{ \mathbf{x}' \mid \begin{array}{l} d_{\text{intrinsic}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') > \tau_1 \\ d_{\text{extrinsic}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') < \tau_2 \end{array} \right\}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \kappa^2}} \right)$$

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

The Two Manifold Problem: Geometric Parameters



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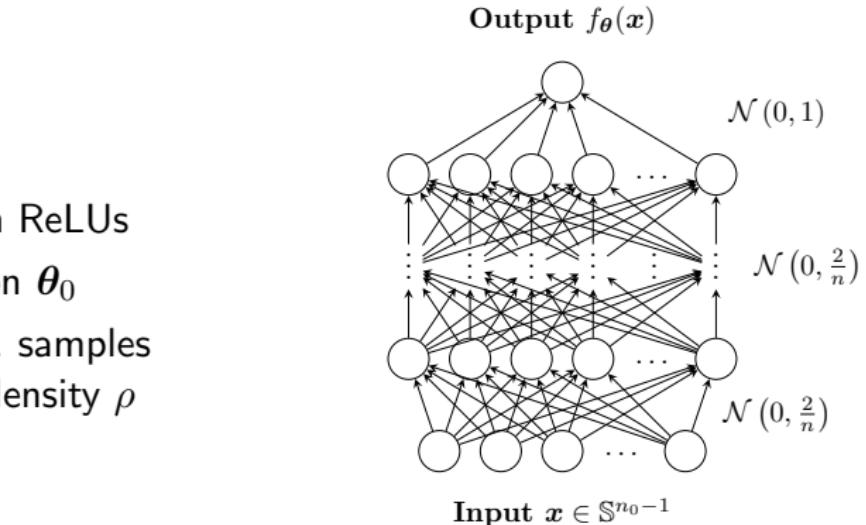
$$\text{sign}(f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x})) = y(\mathbf{x}) \quad \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{M}.$$

A set of ‘sufficient’ intrinsic problem difficulty parameters:

- Curvature κ ;
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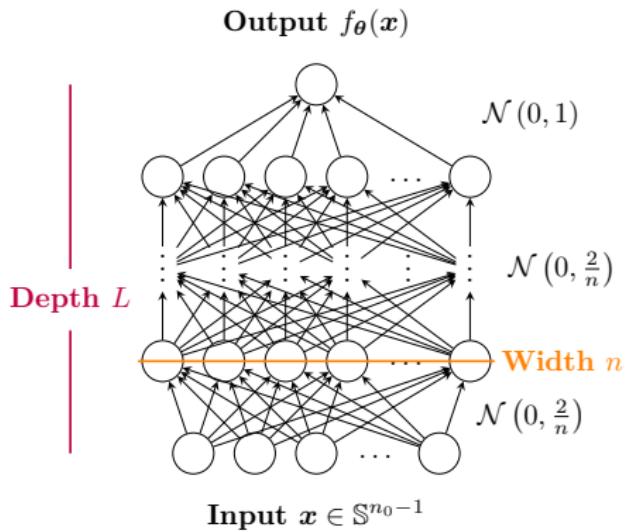
Network Architecture and Training Procedure

- Fully connected with ReLUs
- Gaussian initialization θ_0
- Trained with N i.i.d. samples from measure μ of density ρ



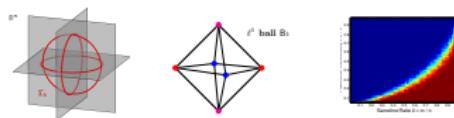
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Resource Tradeoffs: From Linear to Nonlinear

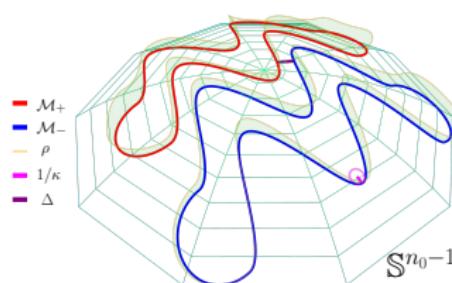
The “linear” case (compressed sensing):



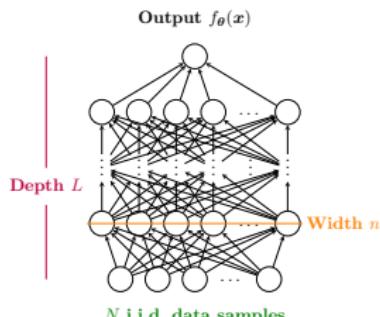
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$$\mathbf{x}_\star = \mathbf{x}_o \text{ when measurements} \gtrsim \text{sparsity} \times \log \left(\frac{\text{measurements}}{\text{sparsity}} \right)$$

Our current **nonlinear setting**:

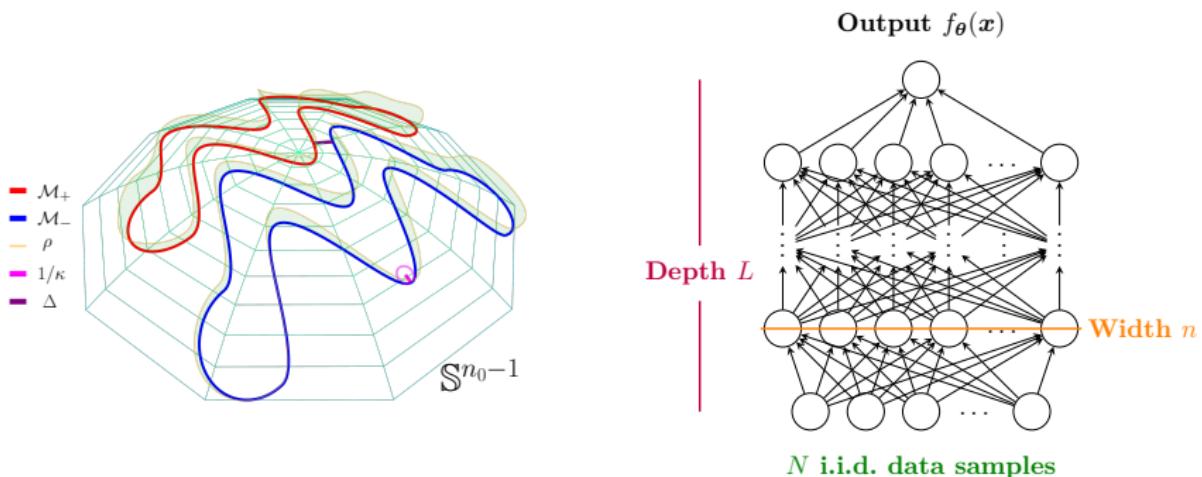


Data structure



Architectural resources

The Two Manifold Problem: Resource Tradeoffs



Theory question: How should we set resources (depth L , width n , samples N) relative to data structure (separation Δ , \bowtie ; curvature κ ; density ρ) so that *gradient descent succeeds*?

Gradient Descent Training

Objective: Square Loss on Training Data

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

Does gradient descent correctly label the manifolds?

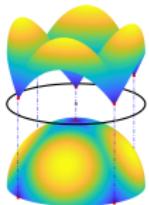
Gradient Descent Training

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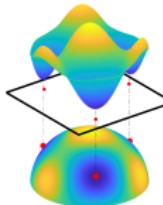
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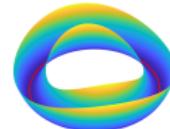
One Approach: Geometry (from symmetry!) in **parameter space**:



Dictionary Learning



Sparse Blind Deconvolution



Matrix Recovery

See [Gilboa, B., Wright '18], survey [Zhang, Qu, Wright 20] (Lecture 4!)

Gradient Descent Training

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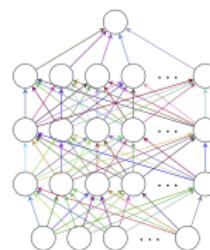
Does gradient descent correctly label the manifolds?

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. 18], many recent works.

Dynamics of Gradient Descent

Objective: Square Loss on Training Data

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

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

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

Dynamics of Gradient Descent

The error evolves according to the NTK:

$$\dot{\zeta}_t(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{\partial f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \Big|_{\boldsymbol{\theta}=\boldsymbol{\theta}_t}^* \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t$$

Dynamics of Gradient Descent

The error evolves according to the NTK:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\zeta}_t(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{\partial f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \Big|_{\boldsymbol{\theta}=\boldsymbol{\theta}_t}^* \dot{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t \\ &= -\frac{\partial f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \Big|_{\boldsymbol{\theta}=\boldsymbol{\theta}_t}^* \int_{\mathcal{M}} \frac{\partial f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{x}')}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \Big|_{\boldsymbol{\theta}=\boldsymbol{\theta}_t} \zeta_t(\mathbf{x}') d\mu_N(\mathbf{x}')\end{aligned}$$

Dynamics of Gradient Descent

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Dynamics of Gradient Descent

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Dynamics of Gradient Descent

The error evolves according to the NTK:

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

Dynamics of Gradient Descent (“NTK Regime”)

When **width** and **number of data samples** are large, we have (whp)

$$\sup_t \|\Theta_t - \Theta\|_{L^2 \rightarrow L^2} = o_{\text{width}}(1)$$

throughout training.

⇒ *LTI dynamics*

$$\dot{\zeta}_t = -\Theta[\zeta_t]$$

⇒ **Fast decay** if ζ_t is aligned with lead eigenvectors of Θ !

Implicit Error-NTK Alignment with Certificates

Challenge: For nonlinear \mathcal{M} , eigenvectors of Θ are intractable!

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

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

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

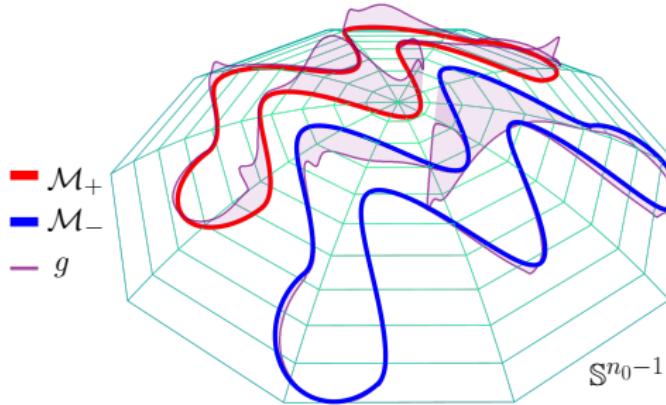
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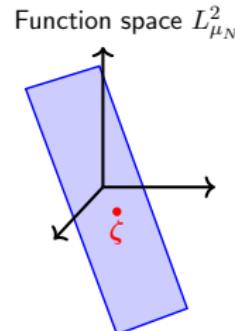
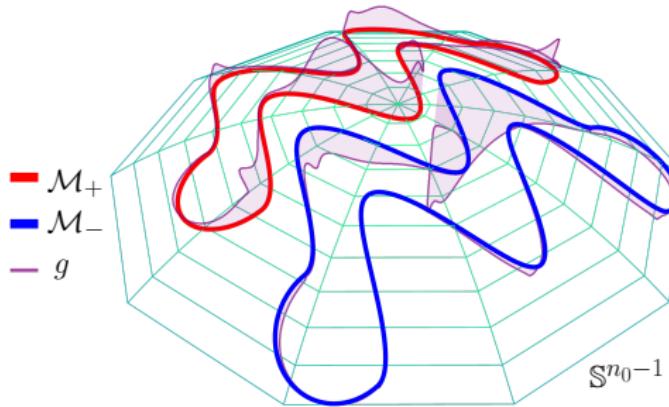
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and $\int_{\mathcal{M}} (g(\mathbf{x}'))^2 d\mu(\mathbf{x}')$ is small.



Error ζ near **stable range** of random operator Θ

Implicit Error-NTK Alignment with Certificates

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

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

Lemma. (informal) If a certificate g exists for \mathcal{M} , then

$$\|\zeta_t\|_{L^2_\mu} \lesssim \frac{L \log L}{t}.$$

Roles of Width, Depth, and Data

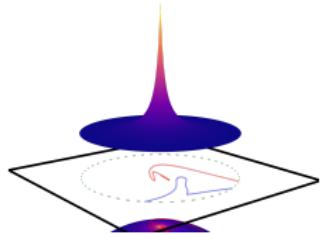
$$\dot{\zeta}_t = -\Theta[\zeta_t]$$

Questions:

How do **width**, **depth**, and **samples** affect Θ ?

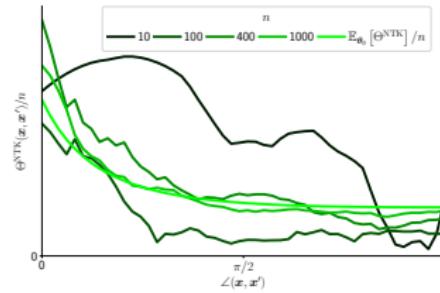
How does Θ depend on the geometry of the data?

Depth L : **fitting resource**



$$\frac{1}{L} \Theta(e_1, x'), \quad L = 125$$

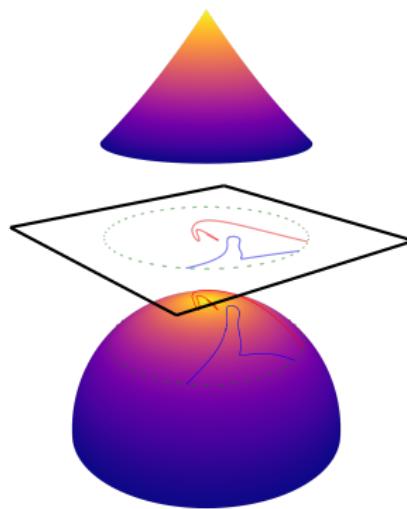
Width n : **statistical resource**



Resource Tradeoffs I: Depth as a Fitting Resource

Key insights:

- ① Θ decays with angle.
- ② Faster decay as depth increases.
➡ Set depth based on geometry!



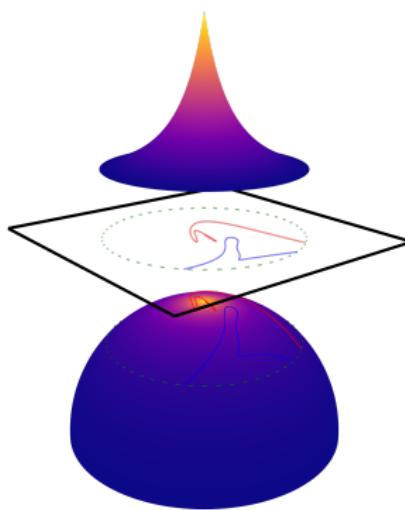
$$\frac{1}{L} \Theta(e_1, \mathbf{x}'), L = 5$$

Deeper networks fit more complicated geometries.

Resource Tradeoffs I: Depth as a Fitting Resource

Key insights:

- ① Θ decays with angle.
- ② Faster decay as depth increases.
➡ Set depth based on geometry!



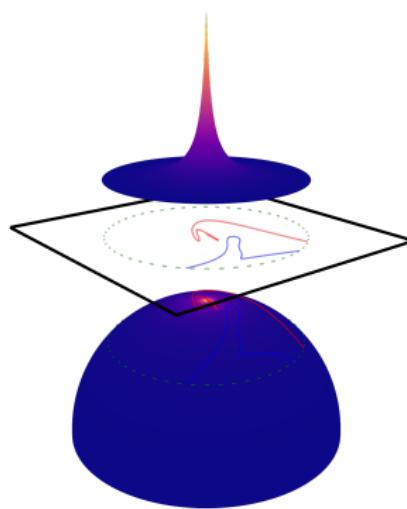
$$\frac{1}{L} \Theta(e_1, \mathbf{x}'), L = 25$$

Deeper networks fit more complicated geometries.

Resource Tradeoffs I: Depth as a Fitting Resource

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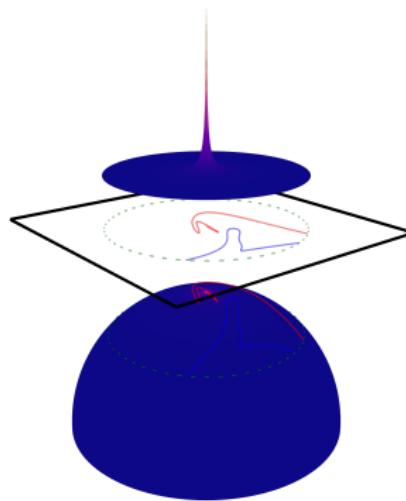
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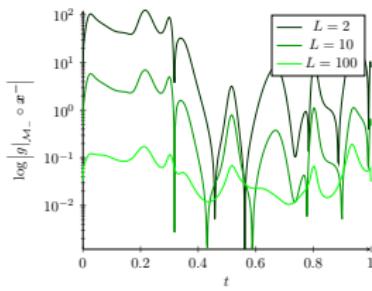
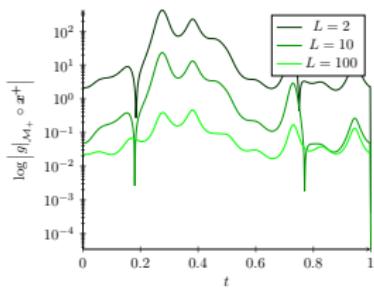
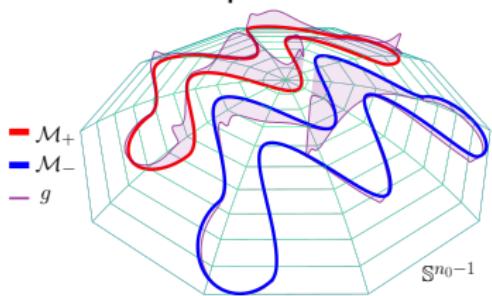


$$\frac{1}{L} \Theta(\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{x}'), L = 625$$

Deeper networks fit more complicated geometries.

Resource Tradeoffs I: Certificates from Depth

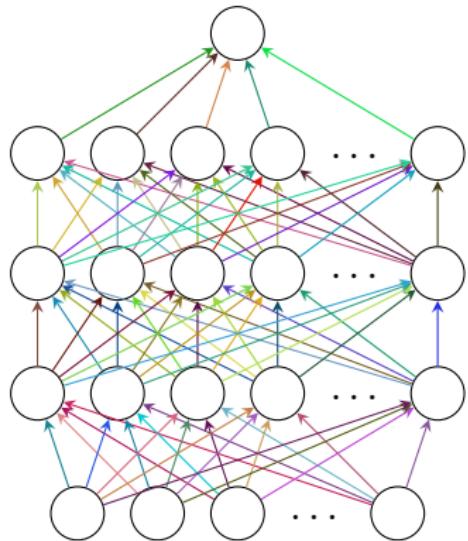
Numerical experiment:



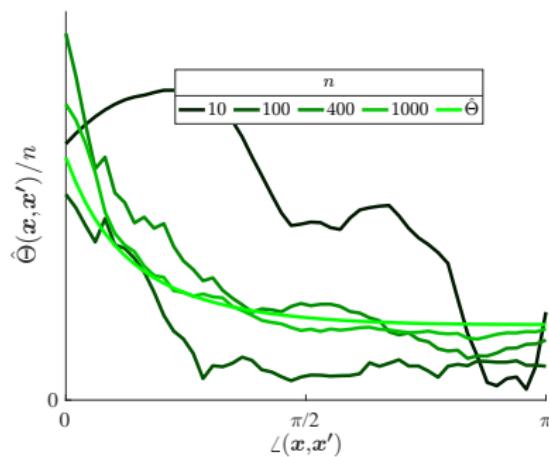
Depth as a fitting resource: Larger depth L leads to a sharper kernel Θ and a smaller certificate g
 \implies Easier fitting!

Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

Output $f_\theta(x)$



Input $x \in \mathbb{S}^{n_0-1}$



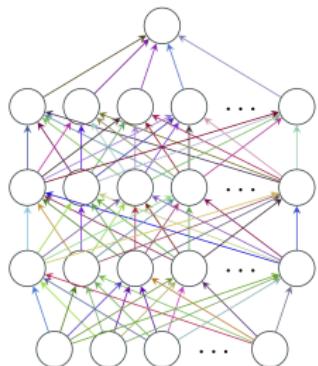
As width increases, $\Theta(x, x')$ concentrates about $\mathbb{E}_{\text{init weights}}[\Theta(x, x')]$

Resource Tradeoffs II: Width as a Statistical Resource

Proposition. Suppose that $n > L \text{polylog}(L n_0)$. Then (whp)

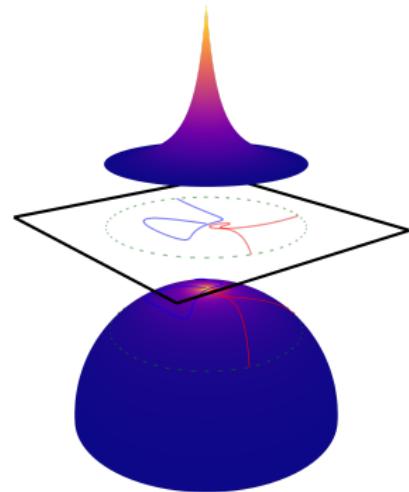
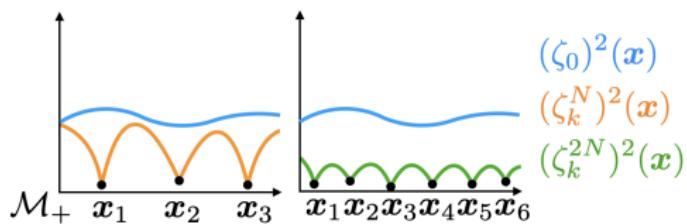
$$\left| \Theta(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') - \frac{n}{2} \sum_{\ell} \cos(\varphi^\ell \nu) \prod_{\ell'=\ell}^{L-1} \left(1 - \frac{\varphi^{\ell'} \nu}{\pi}\right) \right|$$

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



⇒ set width n based on depth L
and implicitly based on κ, Δ

Resource Tradeoffs III: Data as a Statistical Resource



Depth $L = 50$

⇒ Sample complexity N is dictated by kernel “aperture”, which depends on geometry (κ, Δ) via L

End-to-End Generalization Guarantee

Theorem (very informal): For sufficiently regular one-dimensional manifolds and ReLU networks, when

$\text{depth} \geq \text{geometry}$, $\text{width} \geq \text{poly}(\text{depth})$, $\text{data} \geq \text{poly}(\text{depth})$,

randomly-initialized small-stepping gradient descent perfectly classifies the two manifolds!

Upshot:

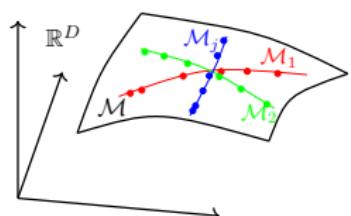
- We understand the role each resource plays in solving the classification problem.
- We understand how intrinsic geometric properties of the data drive these resource requirements.

Outline

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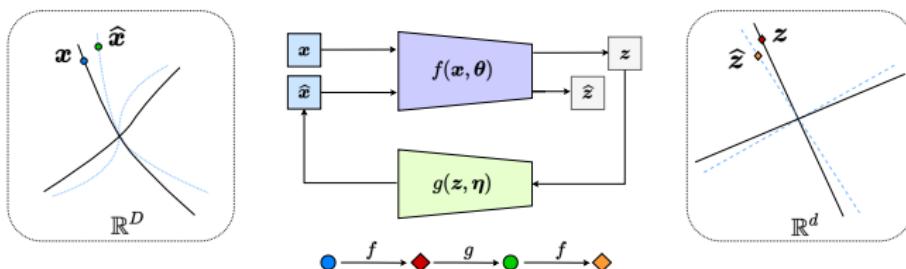
Ideal Representation as Autoencoding + Linearization



Goal: seeking a low-dimensional representation Z in \mathbb{R}^d ($d \ll D$) for the data X on low-dimensional submanifolds such that:

$$X \subset \mathbb{R}^D \xrightarrow{f(x, \theta)} Z \subset \mathbb{R}^d \xrightarrow{g(z, \eta)} \hat{X} \approx X \in \mathbb{R}^D.$$

We moreover want the representation Z to consist of **certain canonical geometric configurations**, say **subspaces**:



Focus here on $M = \text{one manifold}$ (we understand identification!)

Standard Approaches to Linearize a Manifold, and Pitfalls

1. Embed training data in \mathbb{R}^d by gluing local isometries (*manifold learning*)

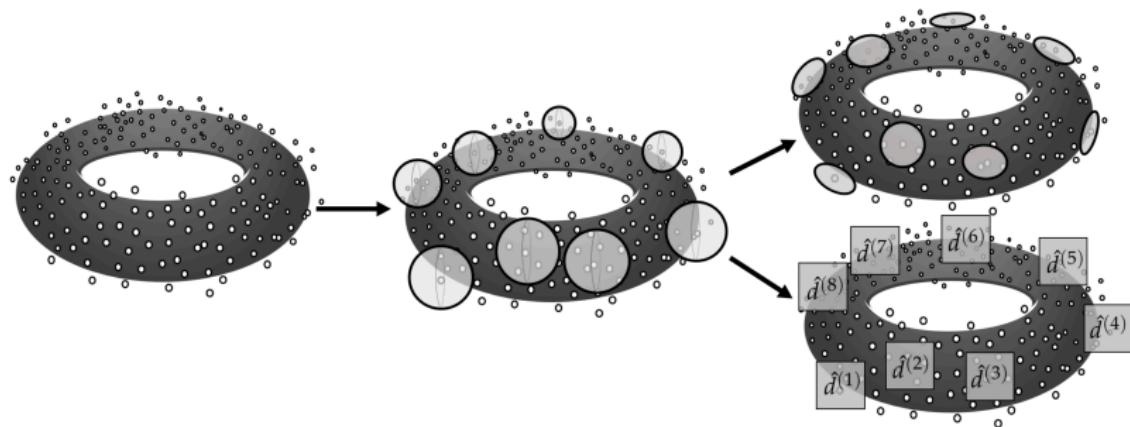


Figure credit: Lim, Oberhauser, and Nanda 2022

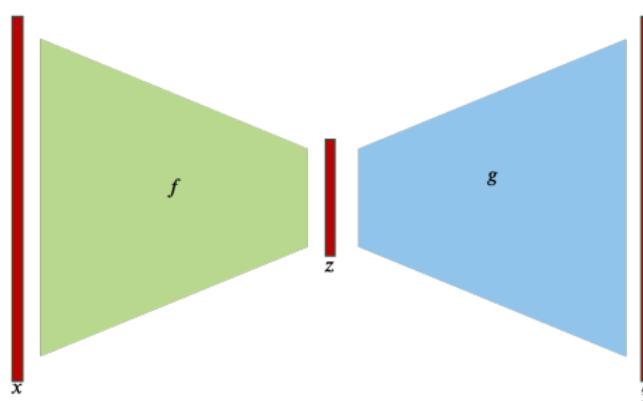
- + Provably correct with enough data [Lim et al. 2022], one-one mapping
- No standard generalization to test data without retraining, difficult to scale to high-dimensional datasets

Standard Approaches to Linearize a Manifold, and Pitfalls

2. Parameterize f, g with deep networks, regularized reconstruction training:

$$\min_{f,g} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}} \left[\| \mathbf{X} - g(f(\mathbf{X})) \|_F^2 \right] + R(f,g)$$

Encompasses most deep net autoencoders (variational, denoising, VQGAN-type)

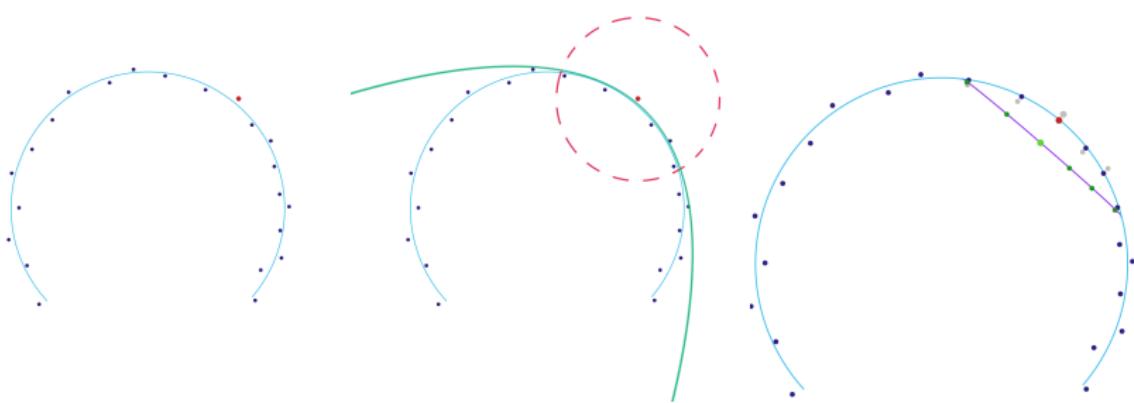


- + Truly learns a representation of the distribution, one-one mapping with proper regularization
- Black-box, no mathematical guarantees in regimes of interest

Manifold Flattening with Second-Order Information

Recent approach to “have it all”: [Psenka, Pai, Raman, Sastry, Ma 2023]

- Ask for **flattening**, rather than *isometry*
- Use second-order local information (better **efficiency**)
- Gluing as a **multi-layer, invertible** process!

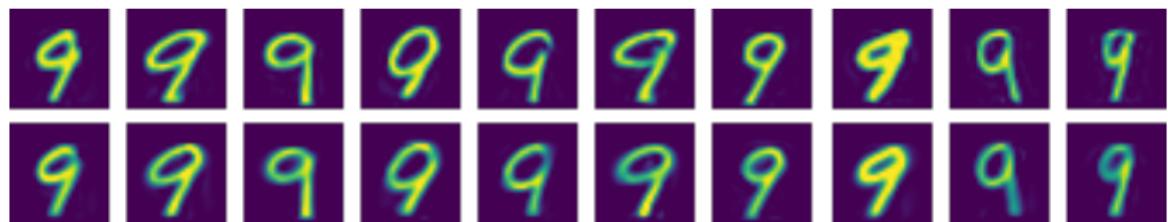


Visualization of Psenka et al.'s Method

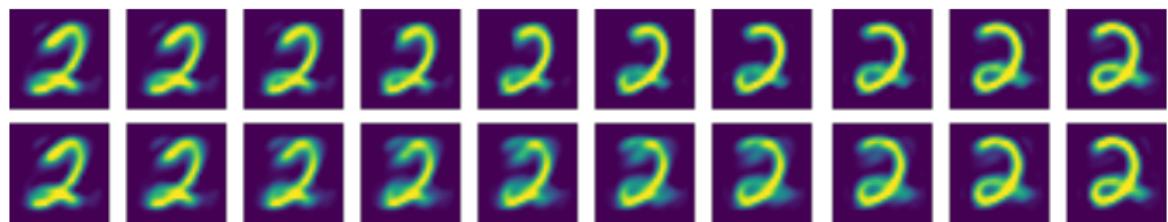
figures/flatnet-music-video.mp4

Scaling Psenka et al.'s Method to MNIST

$$D = 784, d \approx 12$$



Reconstruction of 9s

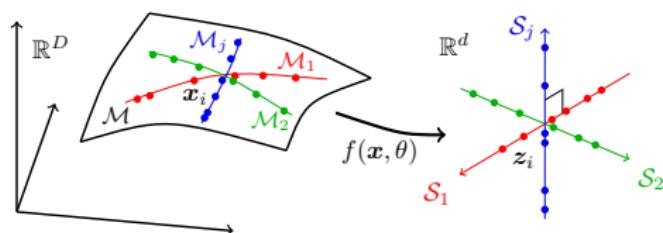


Latent interpolation of two 2s

Limitations of Perfect Manifold Linearization (+ Relaxation)

Still hard to scale this to modern high-dim datasets (ImageNet, LAION-5B)

Practically-motivated solution: give up on **one-one** representation
 \implies distribution learning



one-one: $X \subset \mathbb{R}^D \xrightarrow{f(x, \theta)} Z \subset \mathbb{R}^d \xrightarrow{g(z, \eta)} \hat{X} \approx X$

distributional: $X \subset \mathbb{R}^D \xrightarrow{f(x, \theta)} Z \subset \mathbb{R}^d \xrightarrow{g(z, \eta)} \text{Law}(\hat{X}) \approx \text{Law}(X)$

Spectacular Success of Distribution Learning: Diffusion Models

Diffusion models let us *generate new samples of our data X* ...

figures/diffusion-iterations-lastlong.m]

...by *incrementally* transforming $\text{Law}(\mathbf{X})$ to $\text{Law}(\mathbf{Z}) = \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_D)$ and back

Diffusion Models: Conceptual Idea

Conceptual idea: Transform data into noise, and back!

figures/curve-diffusion-sin.r

figures/curve-diffusion-circl

Outline for understanding diffusion models: (next slides)

- *How do we transform data into noise?*
- *How do we transform noise back into data?*
- *How do we actually implement it?* (finite samples and efficient computation)

Math of Diffusion Models: Data to Noise (SDEs)

Transform data into noise with the “Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process”:

$$dx_t = -x_t dt + \sqrt{2} dw_t$$

$$x_0 = x$$

This is a “stochastic differential equation”.

???

Math of Diffusion Models: Data to Noise (SDEs)

Transform data into noise with the “Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process”:

$$dx_t = -x_t dt + \sqrt{2} dw_t$$

$$x_0 = x$$

This is a “stochastic differential equation”.

Formal intuition: this notation means

$$x_t = - \int_0^t x_s ds + \sqrt{2} \int_0^t dw_s, \quad t \geq 0.$$

The last integral is like a sum of gaussians, and $\int_0^t dw_s = w_t$. Thus

$$x_t = e^{-t} x_0 + \sqrt{2} e^{-t} \int_0^t e^s dw_s.$$

Now term two is like a *weighted* sum of gaussians! In particular

$$\text{Law}(x_t) = \mathcal{N}(e^{-t} x, (1 - e^{-2t}) I).$$

Closed-Form OU Evolution

For the OU process:

$$\text{Law}(\mathbf{x}_t) = \mathcal{N}(e^{-t}\mathbf{x}, (1 - e^{-2t})\mathbf{I})$$

If \mathbf{x} is a random variable, then

$$\text{Law}(\mathbf{x}_t) = \underbrace{\varphi_{1-e^{-2t}}}_{\text{gaussian density}} * \text{Law}(e^{-t}\mathbf{x})$$

figures/curve-diffusion-sin.r

figures/curve-diffusion-circl

⇒ x_t has a density ρ_t ! Linear convergence to normality!

Math of Diffusion Models: Noise to Data

If we stop the process at time $T > 0$, $\mathbf{x}_t^\leftarrow = \mathbf{x}_{T-t}$ also satisfies a SDE:

$$d\mathbf{x}_t^\leftarrow = (\mathbf{x}_t^\leftarrow + 2\nabla \log \rho_{T-t}(\mathbf{x}_t^\leftarrow)) dt + \sqrt{2} d\mathbf{w}_t$$

figures/curve-diffusion-sin-r

figures/curve-diffusion-sin-r

⇒ **discretize, and generate new samples from data!**

Math of Diffusion Models: Actually Implementing It

One (big) problem: **We don't know** $\text{Law}(x)$!

`figures/diffusion-iterations-lastlong.m`

E.g. $\text{Law}(x) = \{\text{distribution of natural images}\} \dots$

Math of Diffusion Models: Sampling with Score Matching

Idea: sampling follows the process

$$d\mathbf{x}_t^\leftarrow = (\mathbf{x}_t^\leftarrow + 2\nabla \log \rho_{T-t}(\mathbf{x}_t^\leftarrow)) dt + \sqrt{2} d\mathbf{w}_t \quad (1)$$

Tweedie's formula (1956): Let $\mathbf{y} = e^{-t}\mathbf{x} + \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, (1 - e^{-2t})\mathbf{I})$. Then

$$e^{-t}\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{y}] = \mathbf{y} + (1 - e^{-2t})\nabla \log \rho_t(\mathbf{y}).$$

⇒ equivalence between estimation (denoising) and score matching!

Many authors ([Hyvärinen 2005], [Vincent 2011], [Song & Ermon 2019], [Ho, Jain, & Abbeel 2020]):

Train a neural network to perform estimation

$$\min_{F: \mathbb{R}^D \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^D} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{g} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I})} \left[\left\| F \left(e^{-t} \mathbf{x} + (1 - e^{-2t})^{1/2} \mathbf{g}; t \right) + \frac{1}{(1 - e^{-2t})^{1/2}} \mathbf{g} \right\|_2^2 \right]$$

then plug F into Eq. (1) to sample!

Conceptual Pipeline for Diffusion Models

- Train score estimation network F with i.i.d. samples $\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{g}_{ij}$:

$$\min_F \sum_{i,j,t} \left\| F \left(e^{-t} \mathbf{x}_i + (1 - e^{-2t})^{1/2} \mathbf{g}_{ij}; t \right) + \frac{1}{(1 - e^{-2t})^{1/2}} \mathbf{g}_{ij} \right\|_2^2$$

- Sample as though F is the true score:

$$d\mathbf{x}_t^\leftarrow = (\mathbf{x}_t^\leftarrow + 2F(\mathbf{x}_t^\leftarrow; T-t)) dt + \sqrt{2} d\mathbf{w}_t$$

figures/curve-diffusion-circl

figures/curve-diffusion-circl

Pitfalls of Diffusion Models

Despite impressive performance and excitement, critical issues remain

`figures/diffusion-iterations-lastlong.m`

1. Good learning of $\nabla \log \rho_t \iff$ **network F has proper architecture**

Pitfalls of Diffusion Models

Despite impressive performance and excitement, critical issues remain

figures/diffusion-iterations-lastlong.m|

2. Black box learned representation (no identification/control)



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Identification/Representation of High-Dim Structured Data

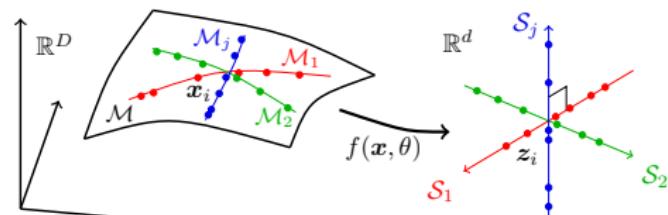
Focus on one half of our goal:

Given samples

$\mathbf{X} = [x_1, \dots, x_m] \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^k \mathcal{M}_j$,
seek a good representation

$\mathbf{Z} = [z_1, \dots, z_m] \subset \mathbb{R}^d$

through a continuous mapping:
 $f(\mathbf{x}, \theta) : \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^D \mapsto \mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^d$.



So far:

- **Resource requirements** to *identify* nonlinear manifolds with deep nets
- **Challenges with popular approaches** to *representation*

How to obtain a white-box architecture f that simultaneously identifies and represents large-scale datasets?

Recap: White-Box Deep Networks

A promising approach: signal models \implies deep architectures

- Convolutional sparse coding networks [Papyan et al. 2018]
- Scattering networks [Bruna & Mallat 2013]
- ReduNets [Chan, Yu et al. 2022]

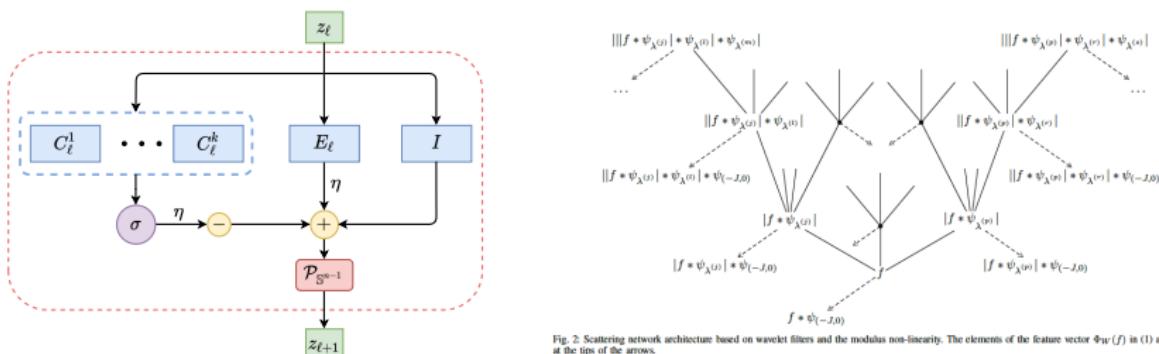


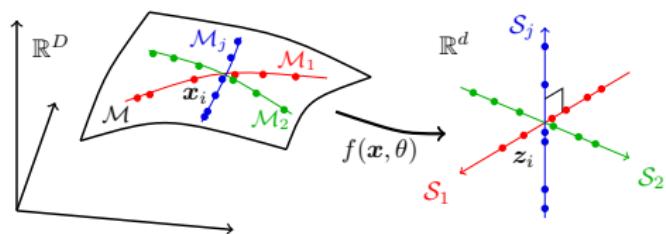
Fig. 2: Scattering network architecture based on wavelet filters and the modulus non-linearity. The elements of the feature vector $\Phi_W(f)$ in (1) are indicated at the tips of the arrows.

Figure: Left: **ReduNet** layer. Right: **Scattering Network** [Bruna & Mallat 2013] [Wiatowski & Bölcskei 2018] (only 2-3 layers).

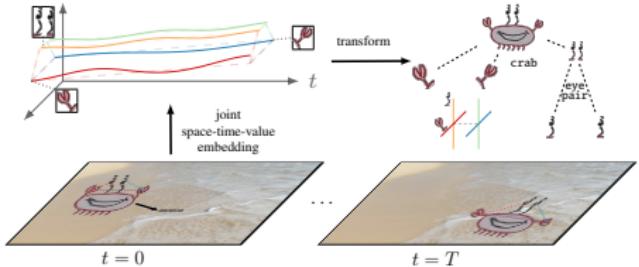
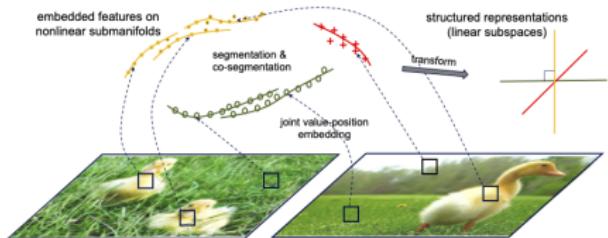
Pitfall of existing methods: Challenging to scale to massive datasets with strong performance

Improved White-Box Scaling by Improved Signal Modeling?

So far: *Each sample is drawn from a mixture of manifolds*



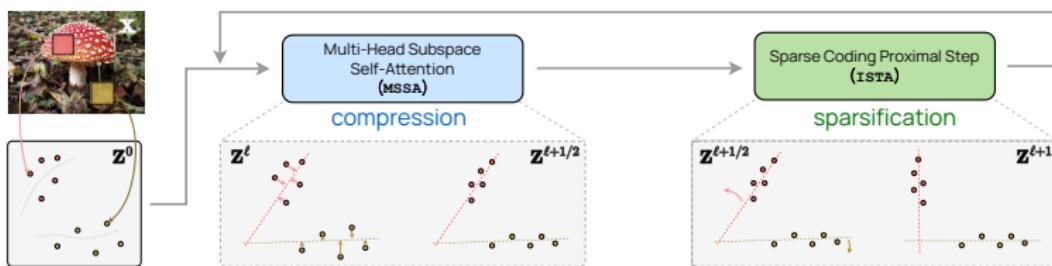
Better? *Each sample ⊂ correlated tokens—mixture of manifold marginals!*



CRATE: A White-Box Transformer via Sparse MCR²

A **white-box, mathematically interpretable, transformer-like** deep network architecture from **iterative unrolling** optimization schemes to incrementally optimize the sparse rate reduction objective:

$$\max_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} [\Delta R(\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{U}_{[K]}) - \|\mathbf{Z}\|_0], \quad \mathbf{Z} = f(\mathbf{X}).$$



CRATE: White-Box Transformers via Sparse Rate Reduction

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.01129>



Yaodong Yu (UCB)



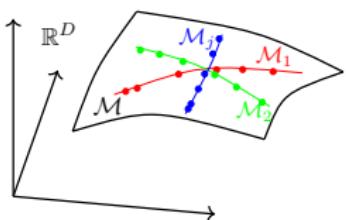
Druv Pai (UCB)

Sparse MCR² Objective and Incremental Representation

The sparse rate reduction ([Sparse MCR²](#)) objective is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} & \arg \max_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} [\Delta R(\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{U}_{[K]}) - \|\mathbf{Z}\|_0] \\ &= \arg \min_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} \left[\underbrace{R^c(\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{U}_{[K]})}_{\text{compression}} + \underbrace{\|\mathbf{Z}\|_0 - R(\mathbf{Z})}_{\text{sparsification}} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

$\mathbf{U}_{[K]} = (\mathbf{U}_1, \dots, \mathbf{U}_K)$, $\mathbf{U}_k \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times p}$ are subspaces parameterizing the marginal distribution of tokens $(z_i)_{i=1}^N$



Sparse MCR² Objective and Incremental Representation

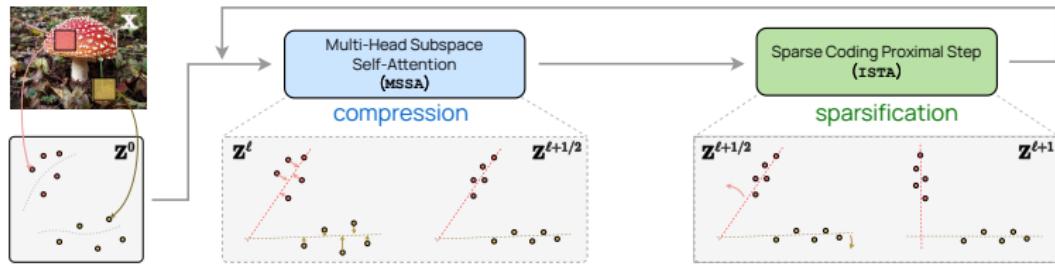
The sparse rate reduction (**Sparse MCR²**) objective is defined as

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The global transformation f is realized through **local transformations**:

$$f: \mathbf{X} \xrightarrow{f^0} \mathbf{Z}^0 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}^\ell \xrightarrow{f^\ell} \mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}^L = \mathbf{Z}.$$

Each f^ℓ deforms \mathbf{Z}^ℓ according to its own **local signal model** $\mathbf{U}_{[K]}^\ell$.



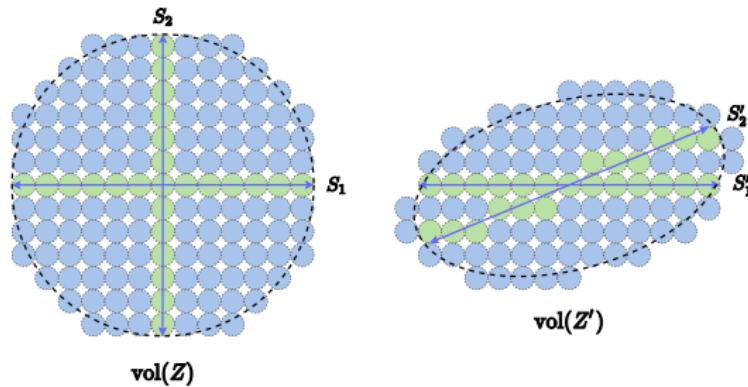
Recap: Compression and Expansion in MCR²

Compression:

$$R^c(\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{U}_{[K]}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^K \text{logdet} \left(\mathbf{I} + \frac{p}{N\epsilon^2} (\mathbf{U}_k^* \mathbf{Z})^* (\mathbf{U}_k^* \mathbf{Z}) \right)$$

Expansion:

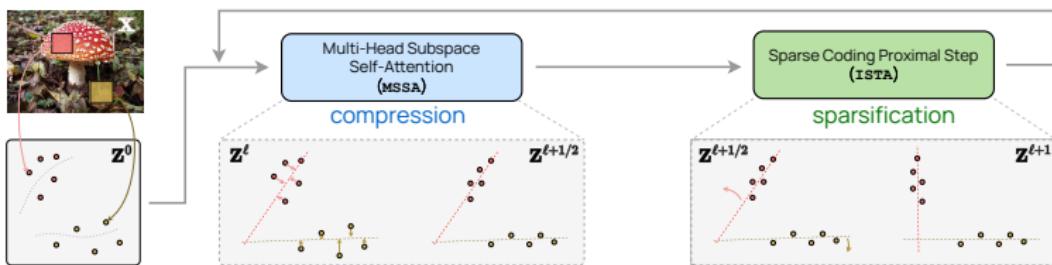
$$R(\mathbf{Z}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^K \text{logdet} \left(\mathbf{I} + \frac{d}{N\epsilon^2} \mathbf{Z}^* \mathbf{Z} \right)$$



Sparse MCR² Objective and Incremental Representation

The sparse rate reduction (**Sparse MCR²**) objective is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} & \arg \max_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} [\Delta R(\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{U}_{[K]}) - \|\mathbf{Z}\|_0] \\ &= \arg \min_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Z}} \left[\underbrace{R^c(\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{U}_{[K]})}_{\text{compression}} + \underbrace{\|\mathbf{Z}\|_0 - R(\mathbf{Z})}_{\text{sparsification}} \right]. \end{aligned}$$



How to construct a representation f to incrementally optimize the compression term and the sparsification term?

Compression in Sparse MCR²

To optimize the compression term $R^c(\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{U}_{[K]})$, we propose to compress the set of tokens against the subspaces $(\mathbf{U}_k)_{k=1}^K$ by minimizing the coding rate via “approximate” gradient descent

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(Gradient Descent): } & \mathbf{Z}^\ell - \kappa \nabla_{\mathbf{Z}} R^c(\mathbf{Z}^\ell; \mathbf{U}_{[K]}) \\ & \approx \left(1 - \kappa \cdot \frac{p}{N\epsilon^2}\right) \mathbf{Z}^\ell + \kappa \cdot \frac{p}{N\epsilon^2} \cdot \text{MSSA}(\mathbf{Z}^\ell | \mathbf{U}_{[K]}), \end{aligned}$$

where MSSA is defined through an SSA operator as:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SSA}(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{U}_k) &= (\mathbf{U}_k^* \mathbf{Z}) \text{softmax}((\mathbf{U}_k^* \mathbf{Z})^* (\mathbf{U}_k^* \mathbf{Z})), \\ \text{MSSA}(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{U}_{[K]}) &= \frac{p}{N\epsilon^2} \cdot [\mathbf{U}_1, \dots, \mathbf{U}_K] \begin{bmatrix} \text{SSA}(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{U}_1) \\ \vdots \\ \text{SSA}(\mathbf{Z} | \mathbf{U}_K) \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

No need for separate query- Q , key- K , value- V in transformer attention block.

Compression in Sparse MCR²

To optimize the compression term $R^c(\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{U}_{[K]})$, we propose to compress the set of tokens against the subspaces $(\mathbf{U}_k)_{k=1}^K$ by minimizing the coding rate via “approximate” gradient descent

$$\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} = \mathbf{Z}^\ell + \text{MSSA}(\mathbf{Z}^\ell | \mathbf{U}_{[K]}).$$

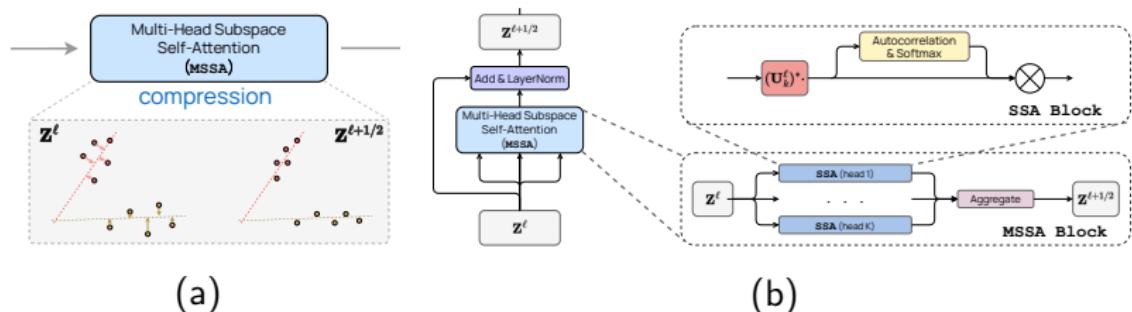


Figure: (a). Visualization of MSSA block; (b). Architecture of MSSA block.

Sparsification in Sparse MCR²

To optimize the sparsification term $\|\mathbf{Z}\|_0 - R(\mathbf{Z})$, we posit a incoherent or orthogonal dictionary $\mathbf{D} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ and sparsify $\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2}$ with respect to \mathbf{D} , that is

$$\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1}.$$

By the incoherence assumption, we have $\mathbf{D}^*\mathbf{D} \approx \mathbf{I}_d$; thus

$$R(\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1}) \approx R(\mathbf{D}\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1}) = R(\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2}).$$

Thus we approximately optimize the **sparsification objective** with the following program:

$$\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{Z}} \|\mathbf{Z}\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} = \mathbf{D}\mathbf{Z}.$$

Sparsification in Sparse MCR²

Given the sparse representation program

$$\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{Z}} \|\mathbf{Z}\|_0 \quad \text{subject to} \quad \mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} = \mathbf{DZ}.$$

we can relax it to a convex program, i.e., **positive sparse coding**:

$$\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{Z} \geq 0} \left[\lambda \|\mathbf{Z}\|_1 + \|\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} - \mathbf{DZ}\|_F^2 \right].$$

We can incrementally optimize the above objective by performing an unrolled proximal gradient descent step, known as an **ISTA** step:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1} &= \operatorname{ReLU}(\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} + \eta \mathbf{D}^*(\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} - \mathbf{DZ}^{\ell+1/2}) - \eta \lambda \mathbf{1}) \\ &:= \text{ISTA}(\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} | \mathbf{D}^\ell). \end{aligned}$$

The ISTA block uses much fewer parameters than transformer MLP block, and provides more interpretable representations.

Sparsification in Sparse MCR²

To optimize the sparsification term $\|\mathbf{Z}\|_0 - R(\mathbf{Z})$, we propose to apply an unrolled proximal gradient descent step, known as an ISTA step:

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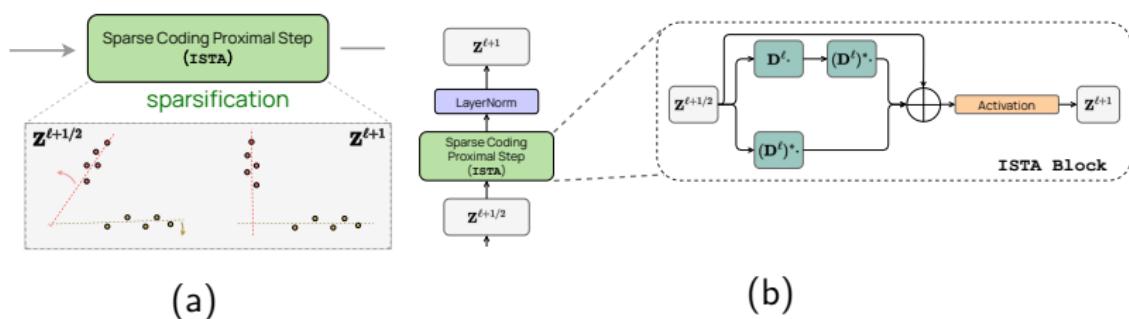


Figure: (a). Visualization of ISTA block; (b). Architecture of ISTA block.

One Layer of CRATE

Each layer of **CRATE** thus incrementally optimizes the compression term $R^c(\mathbf{Z}; \mathbf{U}_{[K]})$ and sparsification term $\|\mathbf{Z}\|_0 - R(\mathbf{Z})$,

$$\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1} = f^\ell(\mathbf{Z}^\ell) = \text{ISTA}\left(\underbrace{(\text{Id} + \text{MSSA})(\mathbf{Z}^\ell)}_{\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2}}\right).$$

More specifically,

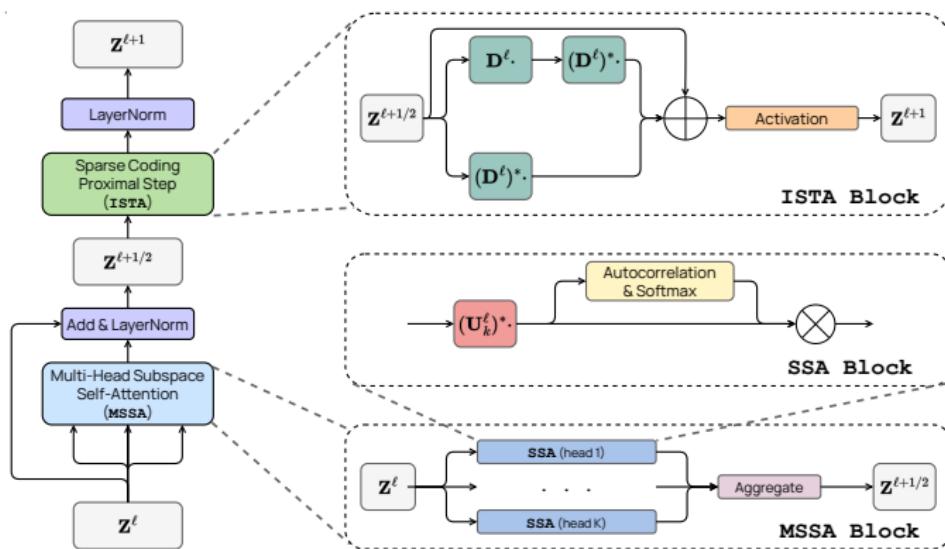
$$\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} = \mathbf{Z}^\ell + \text{MSSA}(\mathbf{Z}^\ell | \mathbf{U}_{[K]}^\ell), \quad [\text{Compression step}]$$

$$\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1} = \text{ISTA}(\mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} | \mathbf{D}^\ell), \quad [\text{Sparsification step}]$$

so the ℓ -th layer of the global representation f is

$$f^\ell: \mathbf{Z}^\ell \xrightarrow{\text{Id+MSSA}} \mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1/2} \xrightarrow{\text{ISTA}} \mathbf{Z}^{\ell+1}.$$

Overall White-Box CRATE Architecture



- Forward optimization: perform **compression** and **sparsification**.
- Learning from data: apply SGD to learn $(U_{[K]}^\ell, D^\ell)_{\ell=1}^L$ from data.

Experiment I: Supervised Learning on ImageNet-1K

Experimental setup: let the CLS token of Z^L (i.e., the output token set of the last layer), and then apply a linear linear to perform supervised learning on ImageNet-1K using our proposed CRATE architecture.

Table 1: Top 1 accuracy of CRATE on various datasets with different model scales when pre-trained on ImageNet. For ImageNet/ImageNetReaL, we directly evaluate the top-1 accuracy. For other datasets, we use models that are pre-trained on ImageNet as initialization and the evaluate the transfer learning performance via fine-tuning.

Datasets	CRATE-T	CRATE-S	CRATE-B	CRATE-L		ViT-T	ViT-S
# parameters	6.09M	13.12M	22.80M	77.64M		5.72M	22.05M
ImageNet	66.7	69.2	70.8	71.3		71.5	72.4
ImageNet ReaL	74.0	76.0	76.5	77.4		78.3	78.4

- CRATE demonstrates promising performance on the ImageNet-1K dataset, indicating its potential for further advancement.

Experiment I: Supervised Learning on ImageNet-1K

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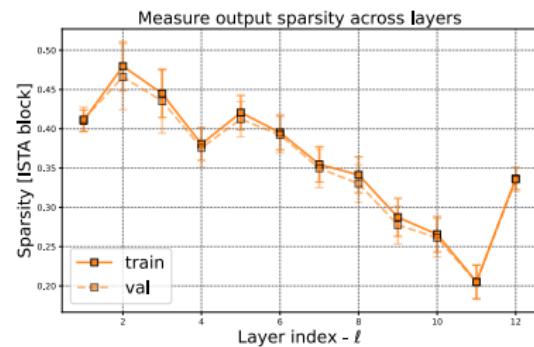
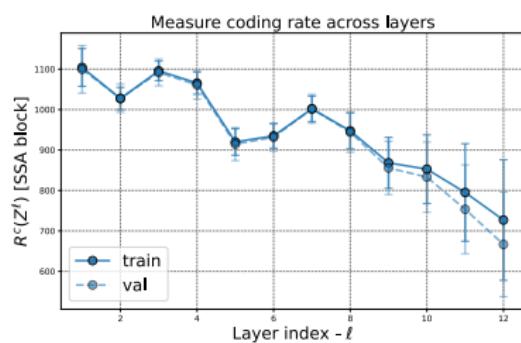
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ImageNet ReaL	74.0	76.0	76.5	77.4	78.3	78.4
CIFAR10	95.5	96.0	96.8	97.2	96.6	97.2
CIFAR100	78.9	81.0	82.7	83.6	81.8	83.2
Oxford Flowers-102	84.6	87.1	88.7	88.3	85.1	88.5
Oxford-IIIT-Pets	81.4	84.9	85.3	87.4	88.5	88.6

- CRATE achieves performance close to thoroughly engineered vision transformers.
- Promising scaling behavior in CRATE.

Experiment II: Layer-wise Analysis of CRATE

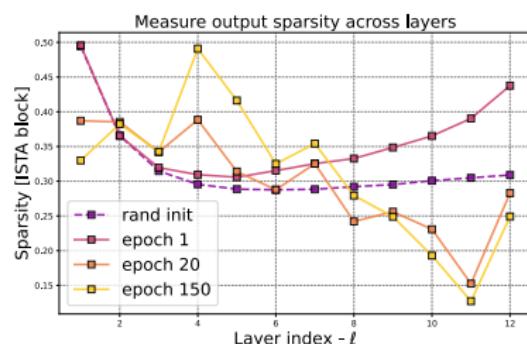
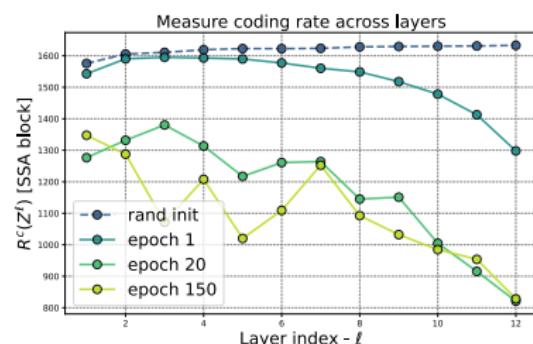
Given a learned CRATE model, we measure the compression term of $Z^{\ell+1/2}$ (*left*, $R^c(Z^{\ell+1/2})$) and the sparsification term of $Z^{\ell+1}$ (*right*, $\|Z^{\ell+1}\|_0$) on train/validation samples at **each layer**.



- The learned CRATE model indeed performs its design objective – each layer incrementally optimizes the compression term and the sparsification term.

Experiment II: Layer-wise Analysis of CRATE

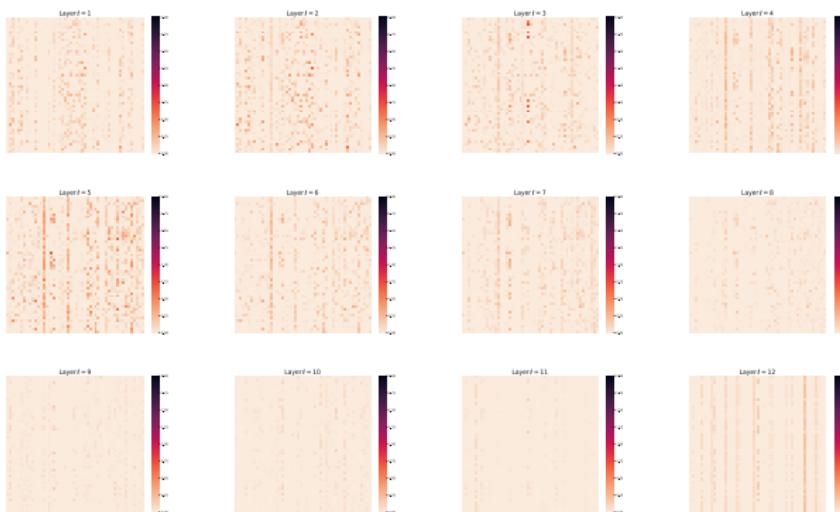
For comparison, we measure the compression/sparsification term of randomly initialized CRATE model and models at different epochs.



- Without learning from data, the random initialized CRATE model does not perform its design objective effectively.

Experiment III: Visualize Layer-wise Output of CRATE

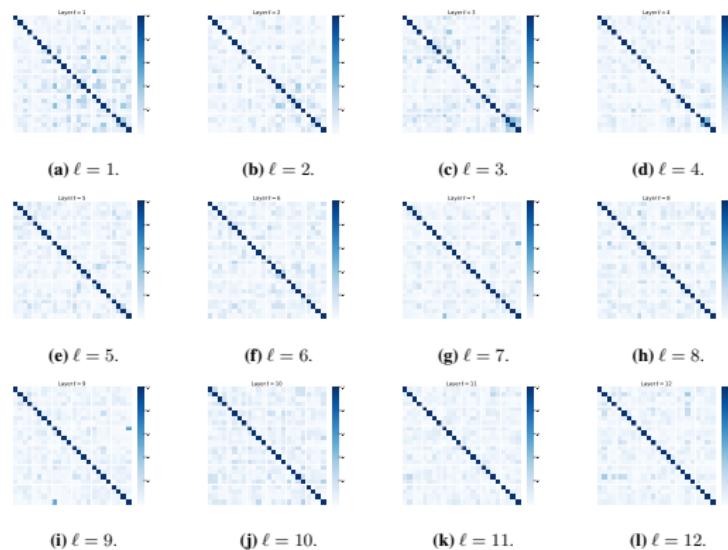
We use heatmaps to visualize the output of each layer in CRATE ($Z^{\ell+1}$).



- We observe clear sparse and low-rank patterns of intermediate outputs of CRATE.

Experiment IV: Visualize Learned Subspaces of CRATE

We use heatmaps to visualize the correlations between different subspaces $(U_k)_{k=1}^K$ of each MSSA layer in CRATE, i.e., $[U_1^\ell, \dots, U_K^\ell]^*[U_1^\ell, \dots, U_K^\ell]$.



- The learned subspaces in MSSA blocks are incoherent.

Outline

Recap and Outlook

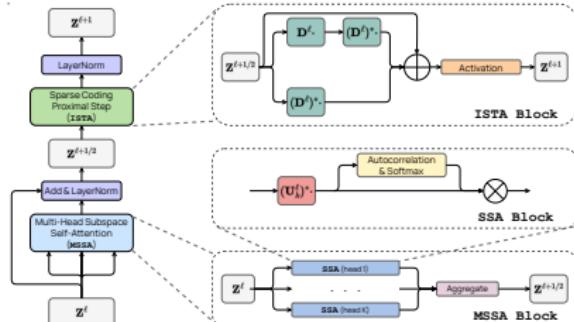
- ① Motivating Vignettes for the Nonlinear Manifold Model
- ② The Identification Problem: Binary Classification of Two Curves
 - Problem Formulation
 - Intrinsic Geometric Properties of Manifold Data
 - Network Architecture Resources and Training Procedure
 - Training Deep Networks with Gradient Descent
 - Resource Tradeoffs
- ③ The Representation Problem: Manifold Manipulation and Diffusion
 - (Perfectly) Linearizing One Manifold
 - Diffusion Models for Distribution Learning
- ④ CRATE: Identification/Representation of Low-D Structures at Scale
 - White-Box Architectures for Representation Learning
 - CRATE: White-Box Transformers from Sparse MCR²
 - Experimental Results on CRATE
- ⑤ Conclusions and A Look Ahead

A Parting Message

We've seen today

- What **structures in modern data** are we learning?
- **Resource requirements** for identifying nonlinear manifolds
- **Manifold representation** with manifold learning and diffusion
- **Joint identification/representation** via white-box transformers

For white-box deep networks, the future is bright!



figures/diffusion-iterative

Thank You! Questions?

Call for Papers

- IEEE JSTSP Special Issue on Seeking Low-dimensionality in Deep Neural Networks (SLowDNN) Manuscript Due: **Nov. 30, 2023.**
- Conference on Parsimony and Learning (CPAL) January 2024, Hongkong, Manuscript Due: **Aug. 28, 2023.**



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https://bit.ly/ICASSP23_QuizSC2