

# On the Expressive Power of Deep Neural Networks

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# Introduction

On the Expressive Power of Deep Neural Networks

# Introduction

## Expressive Power



1. What is it?
2. How to measure?
3. What determines it?
4. Usage?

# Contents



**Introduction**

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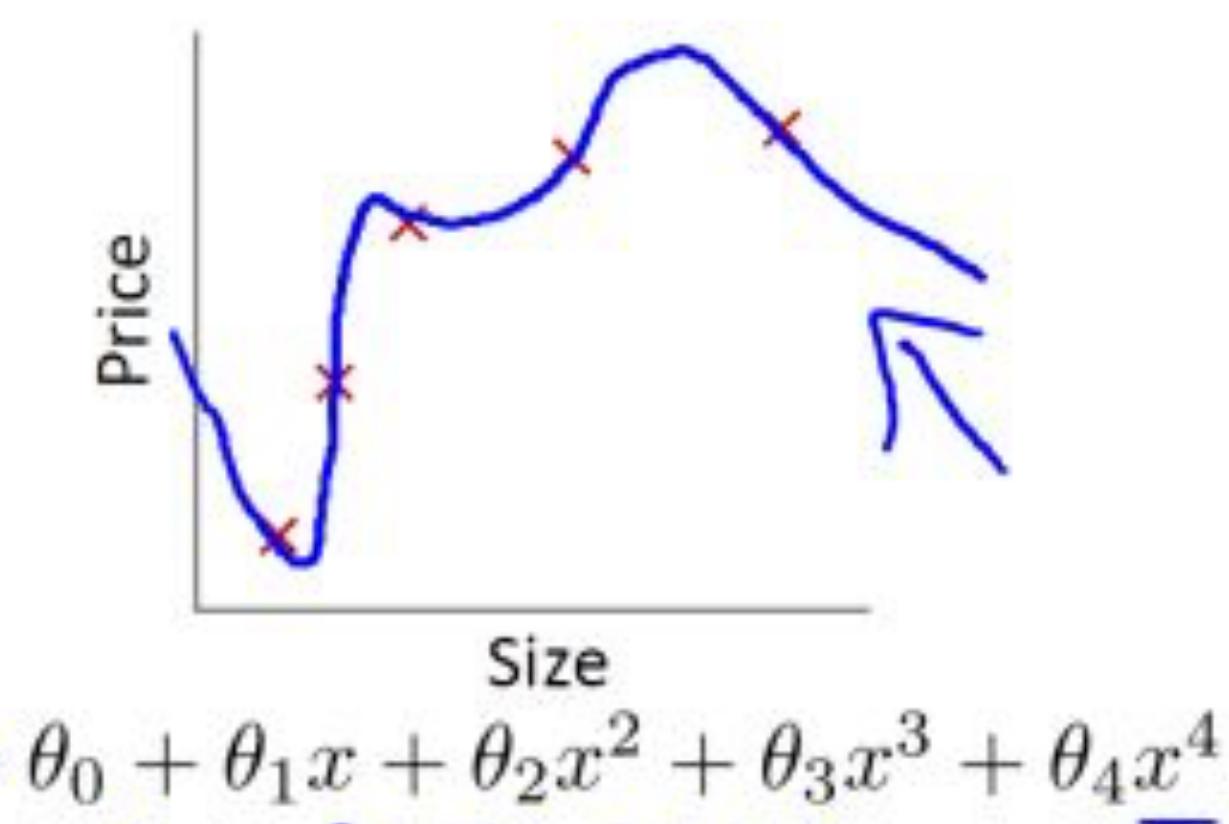
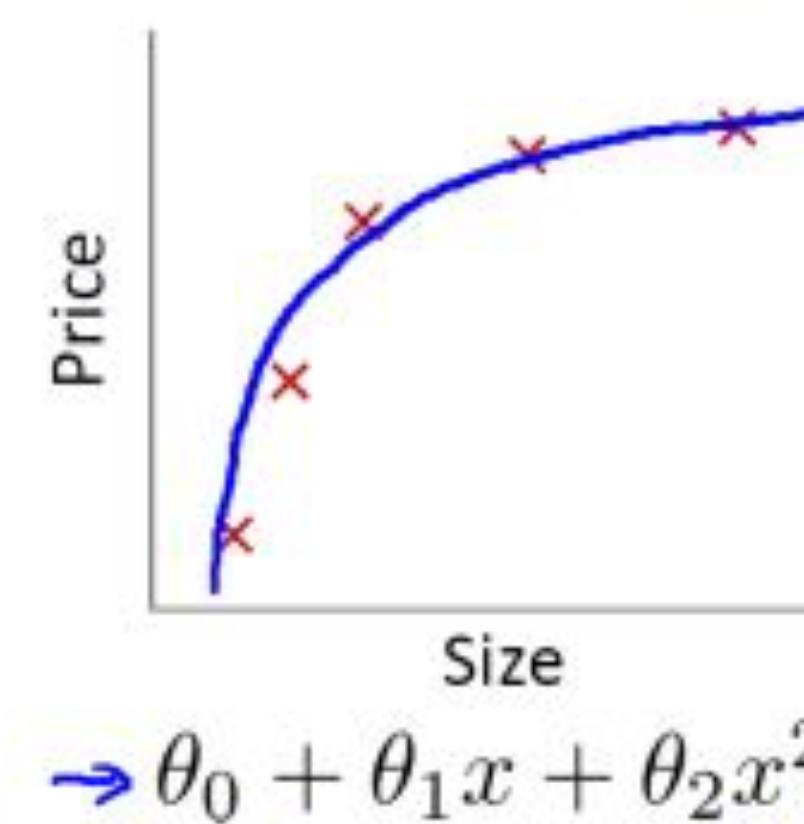
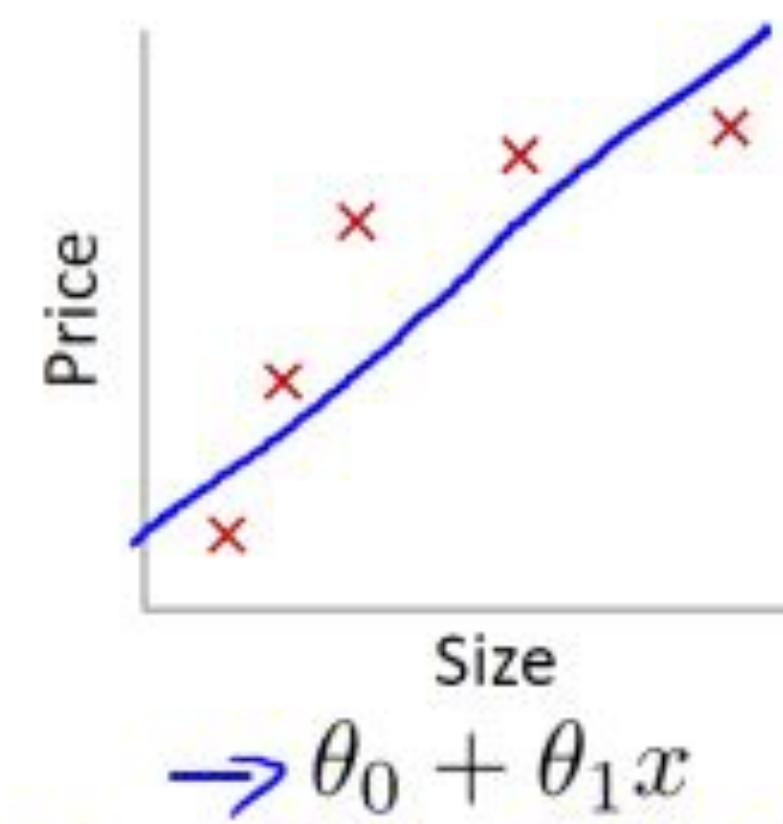
**Conclusion**

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# Activation Pattern

**What is Expressive Power (for a machine learning model)?**

Example: Linear regression (housing prices)

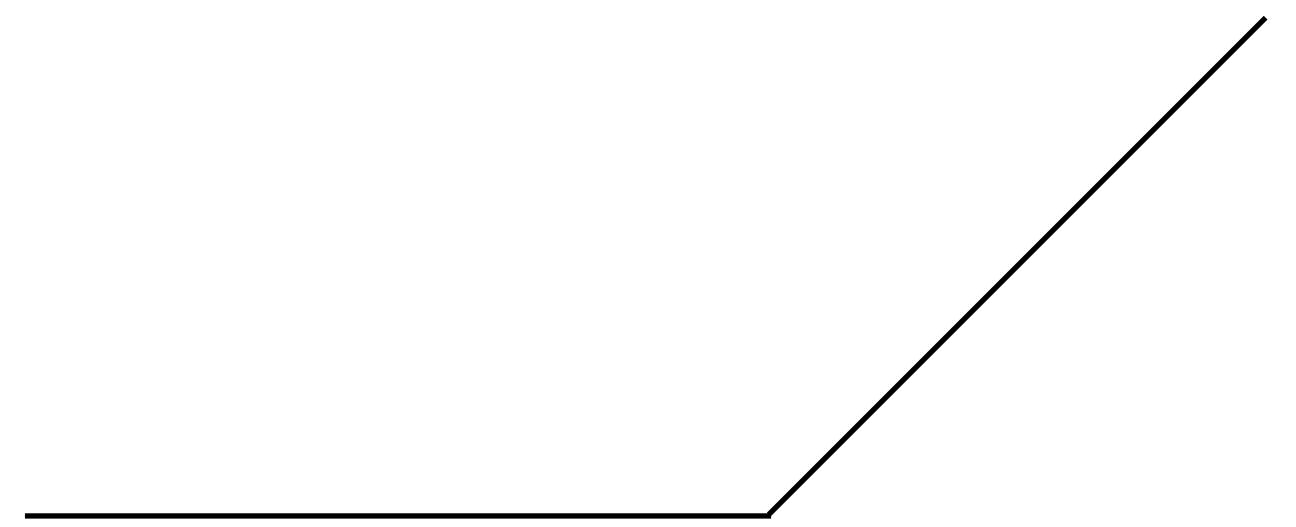


Expressive power: Size of model space.

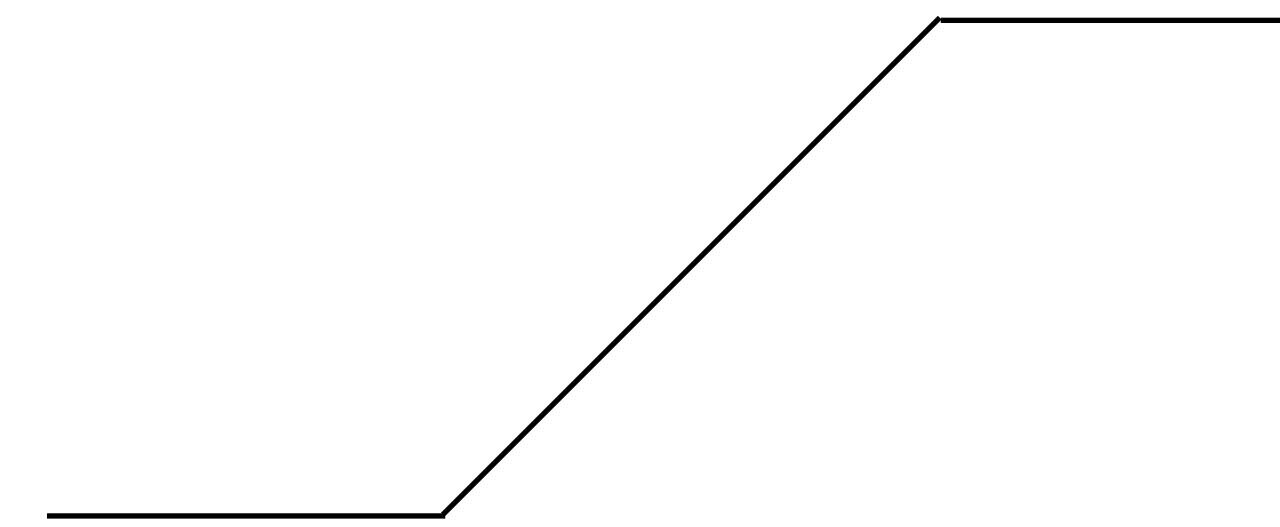
# Activation Pattern

## Settings for Neural Networks

- Only ReLU and hard tanh



ReLU



hard tanh

# Activation Pattern

## Settings for Neural Networks

- Only ReLU and hard tanh

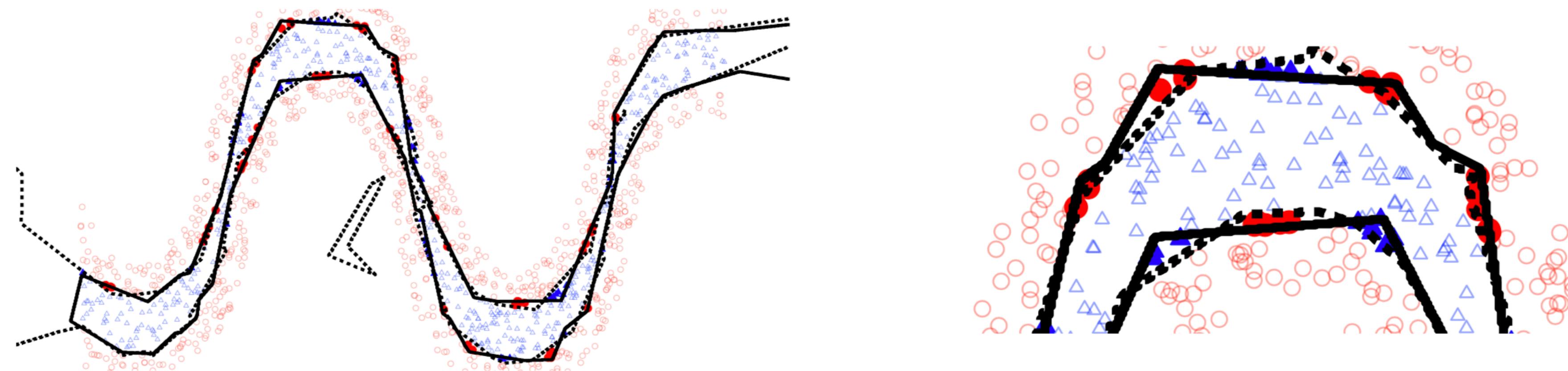
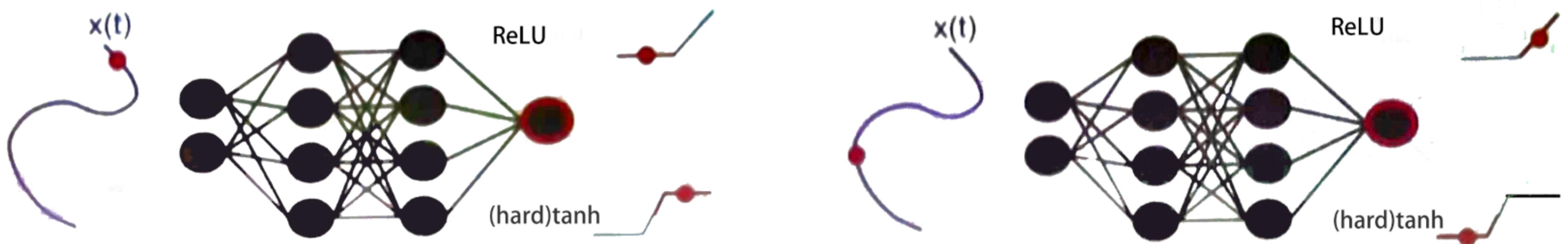


Figure Source: Guido Montufar et al. On the Number of Linear Regions of Deep Neural Networks.

# Activation Pattern

## How to measure?



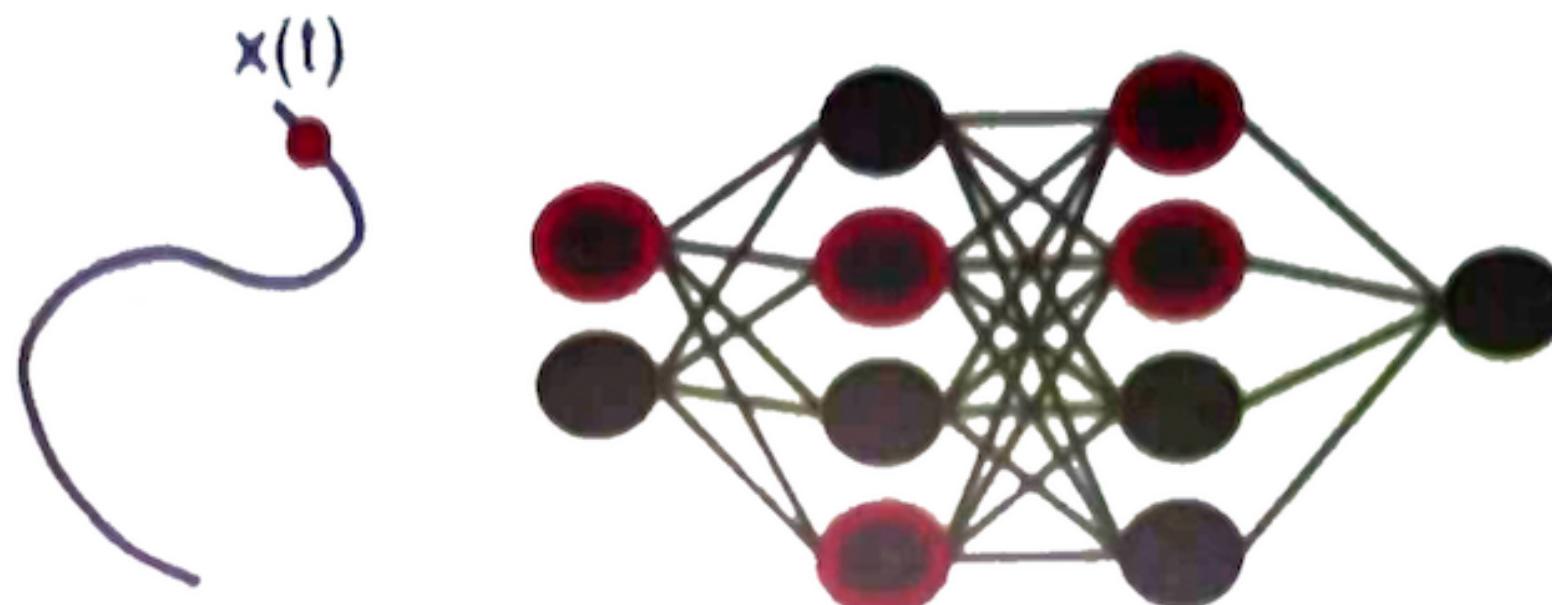
The number of linear regions

*Zaslavsky's theorem: a shallow network (i.e. one hidden layer), with the same number of parameters as a deep network, has a much smaller number of linear regions than the number achieved by their choice of weights  $W_0$  for the deep network.*

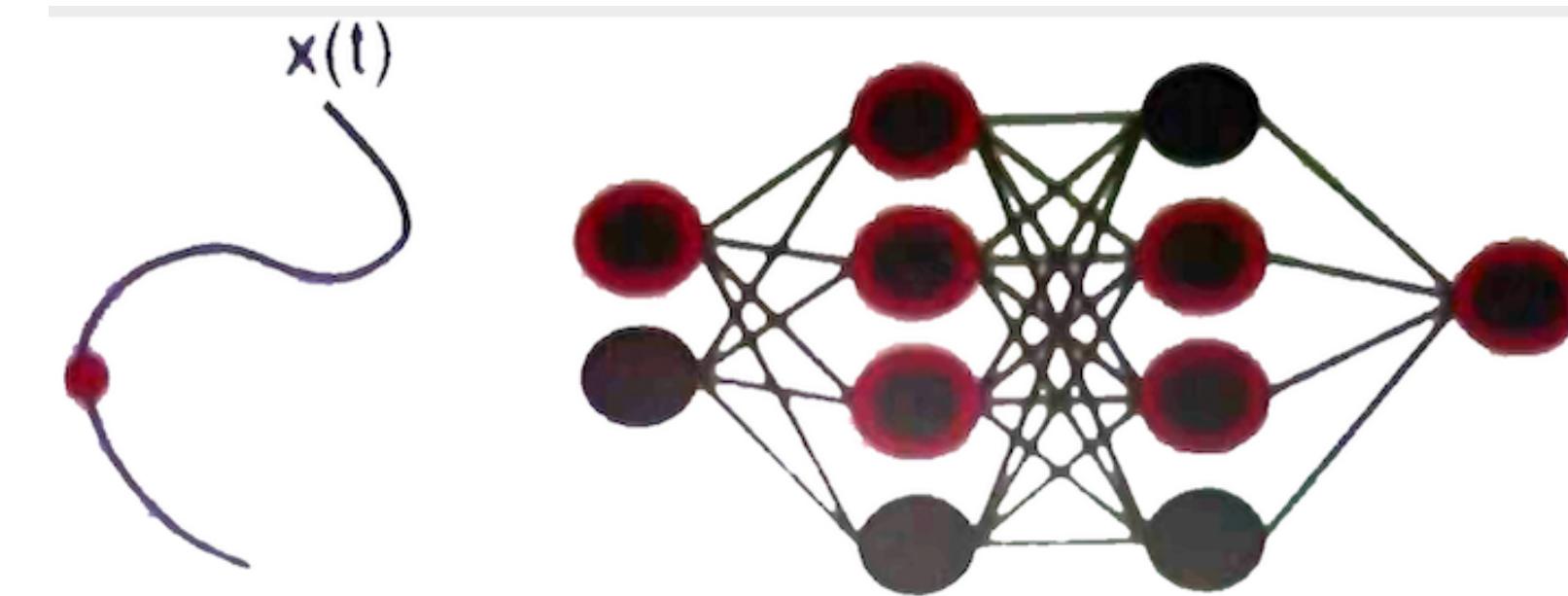
$$\forall W \quad \mathcal{T} \left( F_{A_1}([0,1]; W) \right) < \mathcal{T} \left( F_{A_l} ([0,1]; W_0) \right)$$

# Activation Pattern

How to measure?



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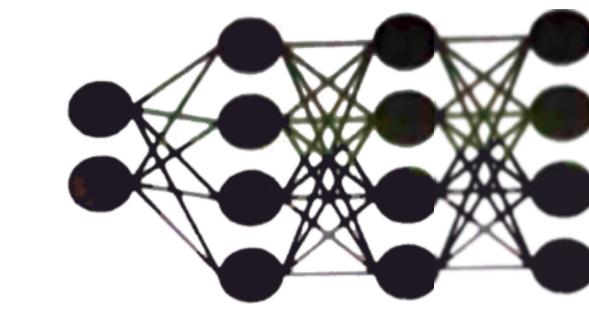
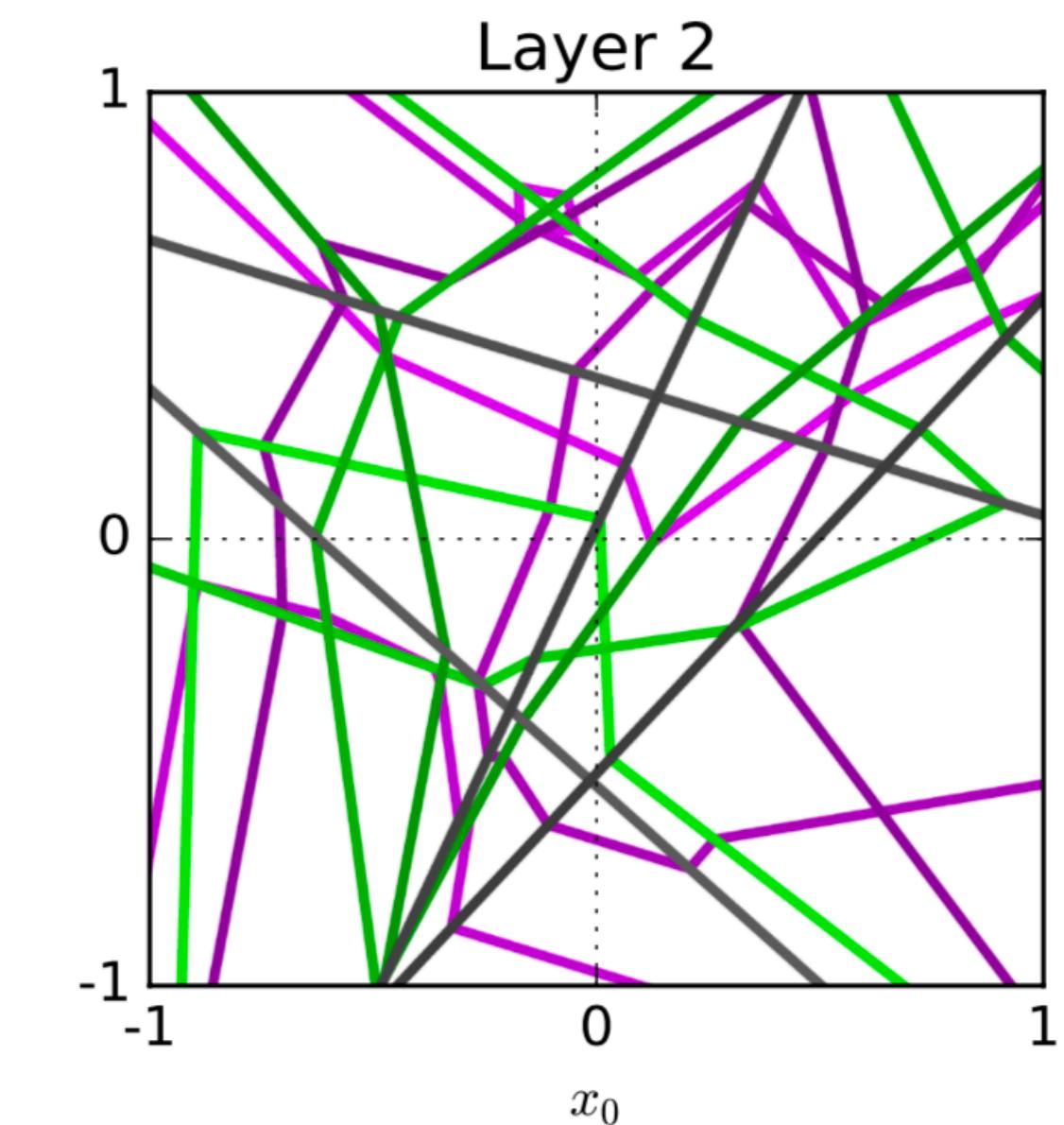
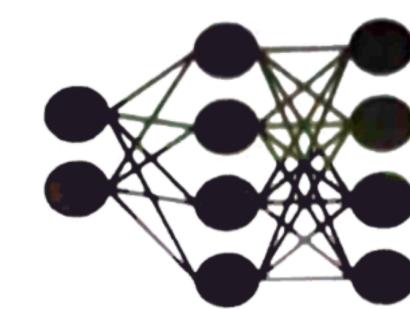
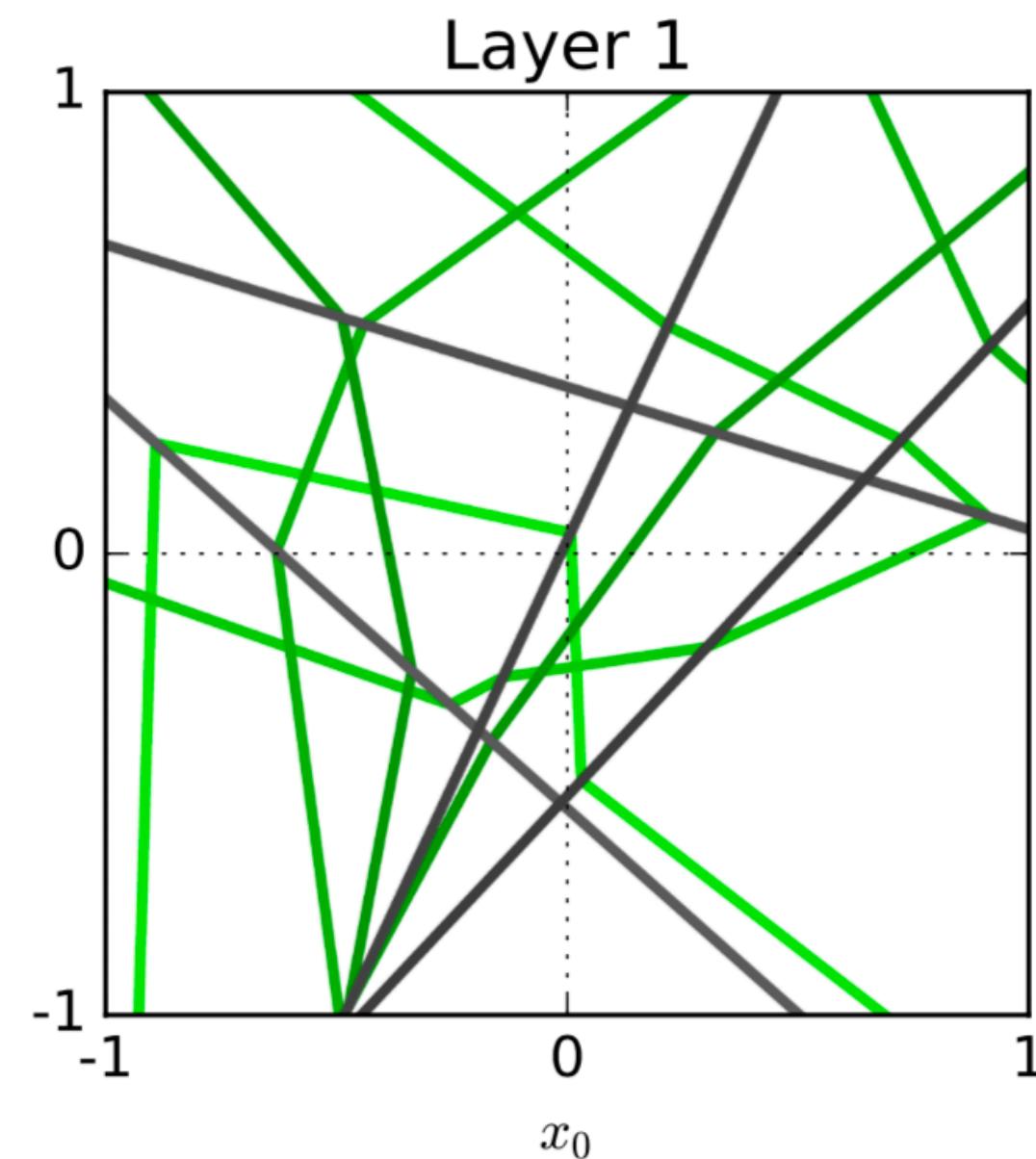
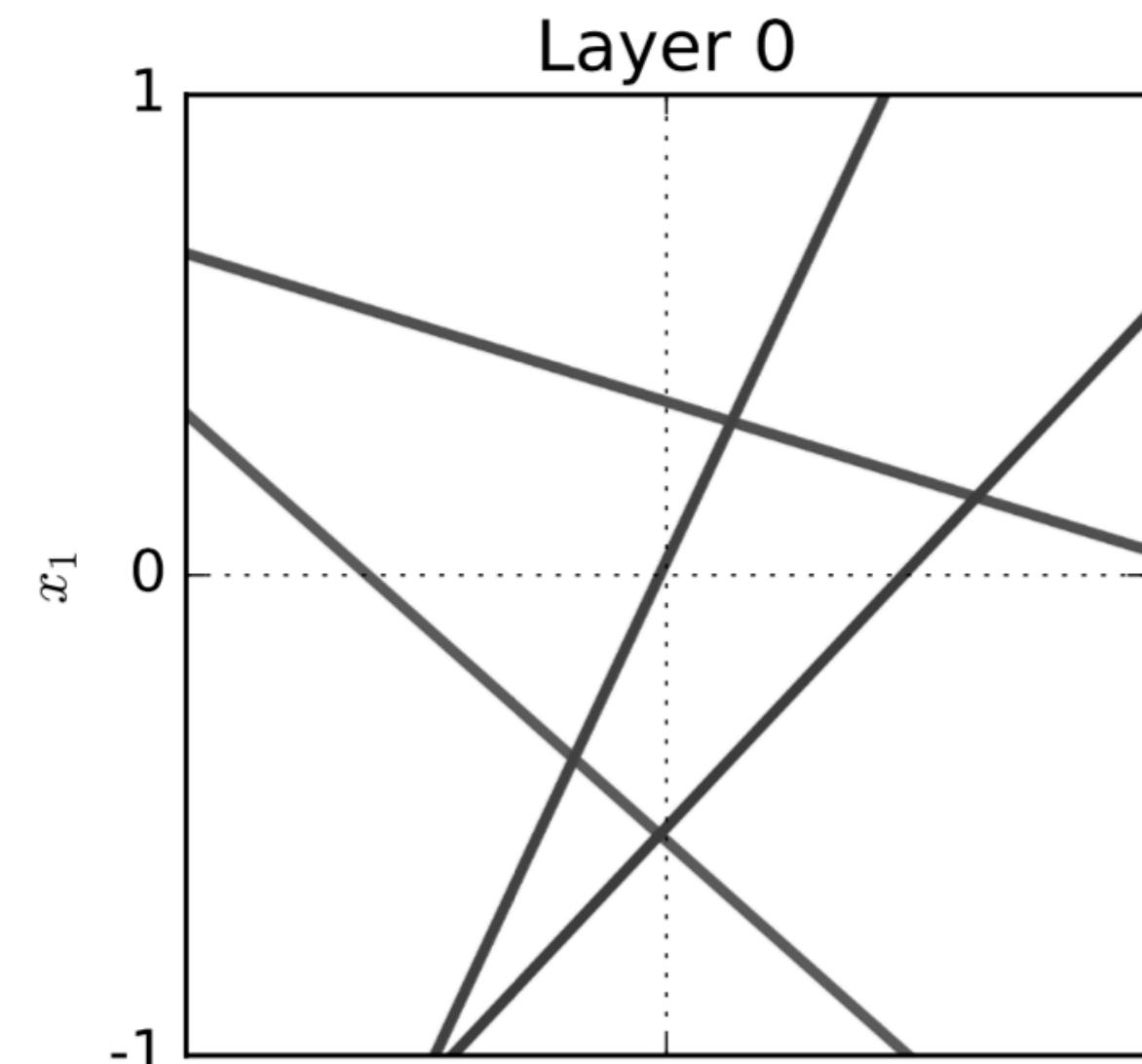
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number of Activation Patterns

# Activation Pattern

**Metric: number of Activation Patterns**

Activation patterns are in one-one correspondence with linear regions in input space.



# Activation Pattern

**What determines number of activation patterns?**

Upper bound grows linearly with depth and input dimension:

Given a network with:

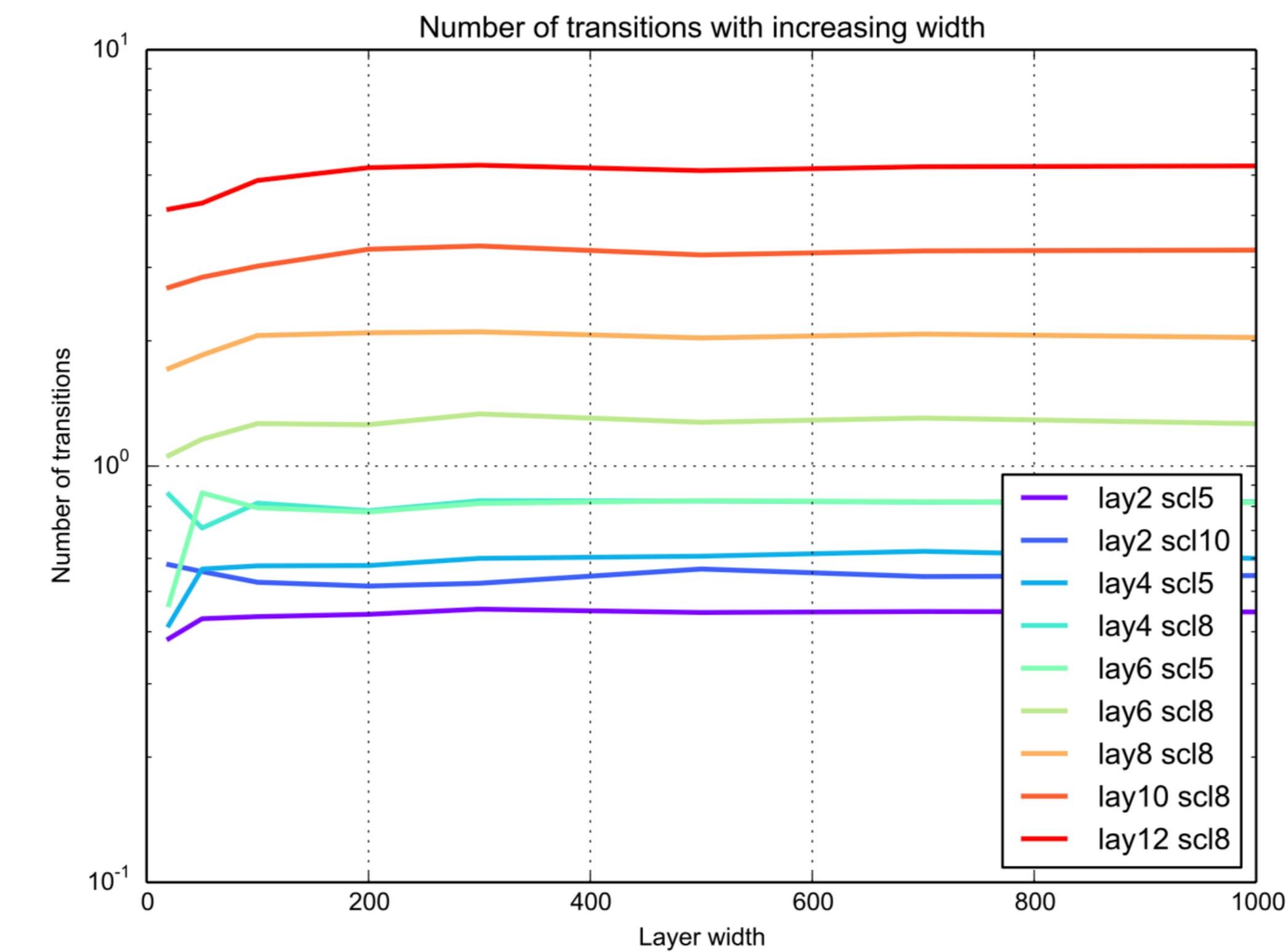
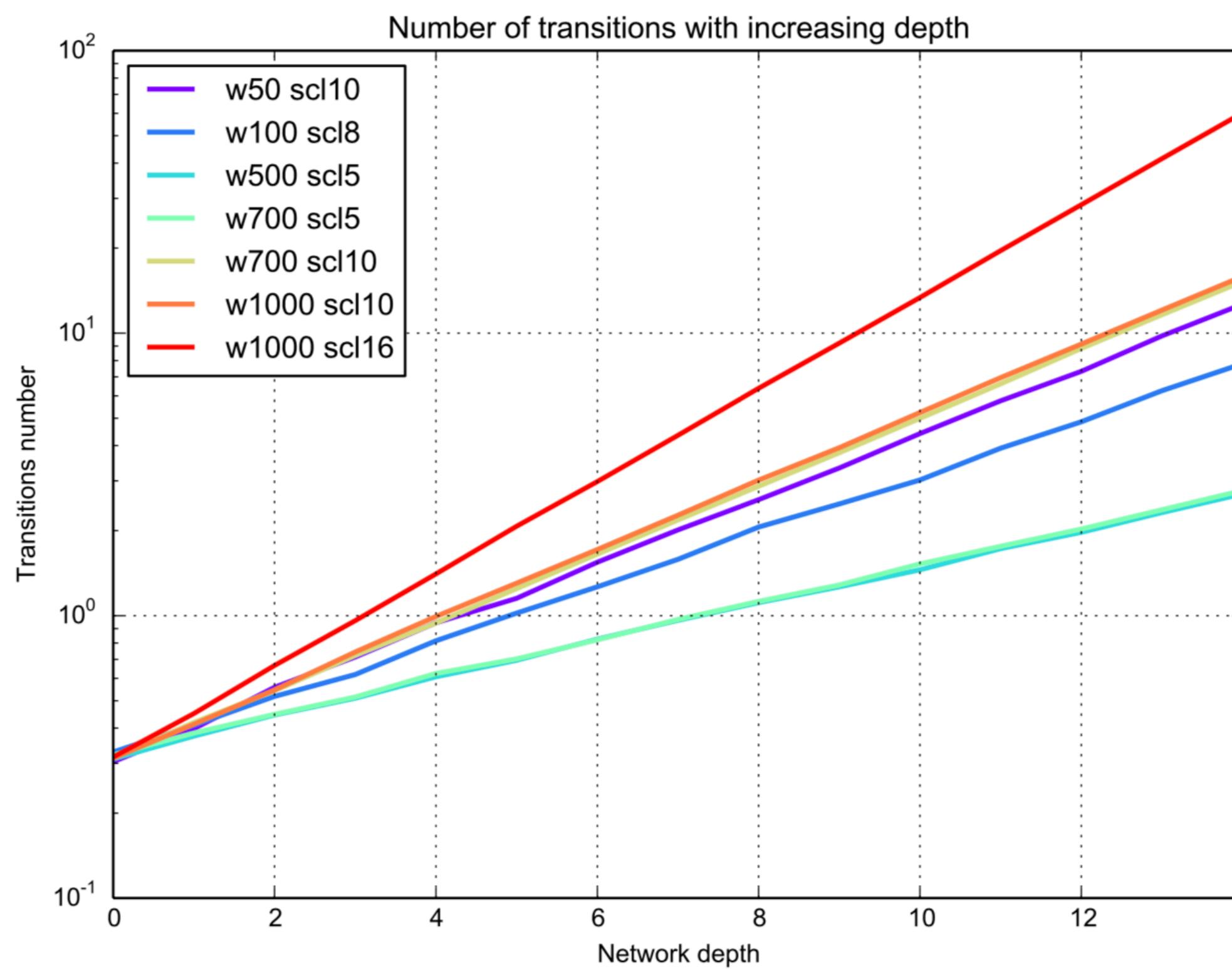
- Depth n
- Width k
- Input dimension m

$$O(k^{mn}) \text{ (for ReLU)}$$

$$O((2k)^{mn}) \text{ (for hard tanh)}$$

# Activation Pattern

## Experiment Verification



# Activation Pattern

## Insight: A Derivation

Question: When number of total neurons are fixed, how to arrange them to get best expressive power?

Answer: Total  $N$  neurons,  $N/k$  depth,  $k$  width. Input dimension  $m$ .

$$\text{Maximize } O(k^{m\frac{N}{k}}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad k = e$$

Conclusion: When  $k \geq 3$ , APs decrease when  $k$  increases.

# Activation Pattern

## Review

- 1. What is it?
- 2. How to measure?
- 3. What determines it?
- 4. Usage?
- 1. Number of states
- 2. Activation Patterns, 10111001101
- 3.  $O(k^{mn})$  (ReLU),  $O((2k)^{mn})$  (hard tanh)
- 4.  $k = 3$

Question?

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**Activation Pattern**

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**Trajectory Length**

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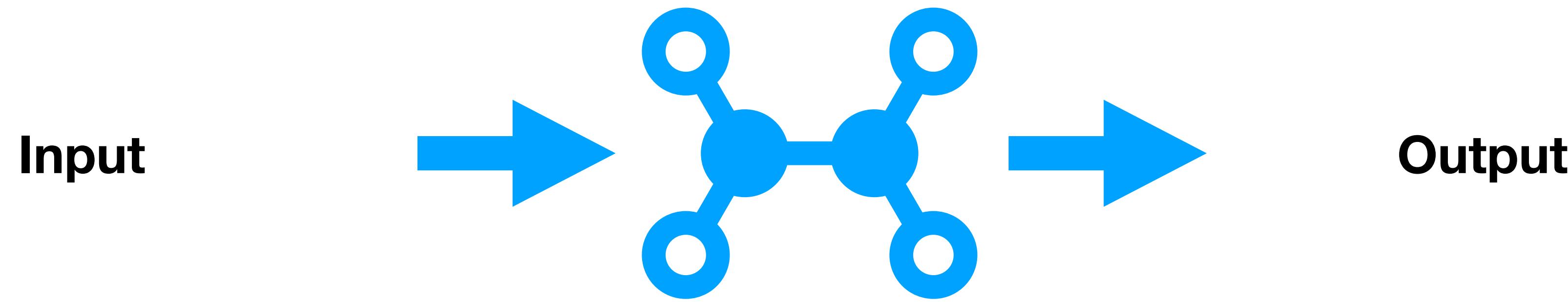


**Conclusion**

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# Trajectory Length

**Rethink: What is Expressive Power?**



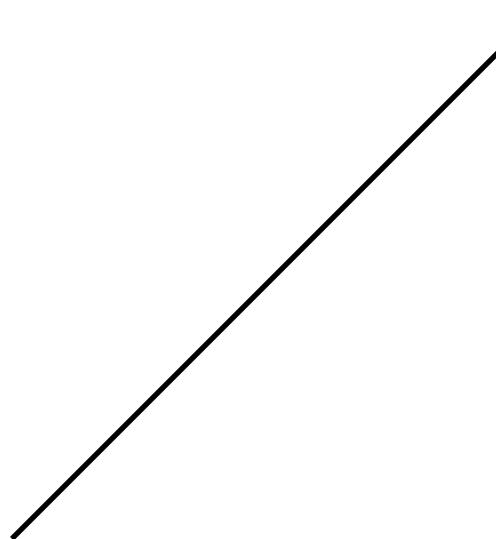
Neural network: A mapping from input to output.

Expressive Power: How complex the mapping is.

# Trajectory Length

**Rethink: What is Expressive Power?**

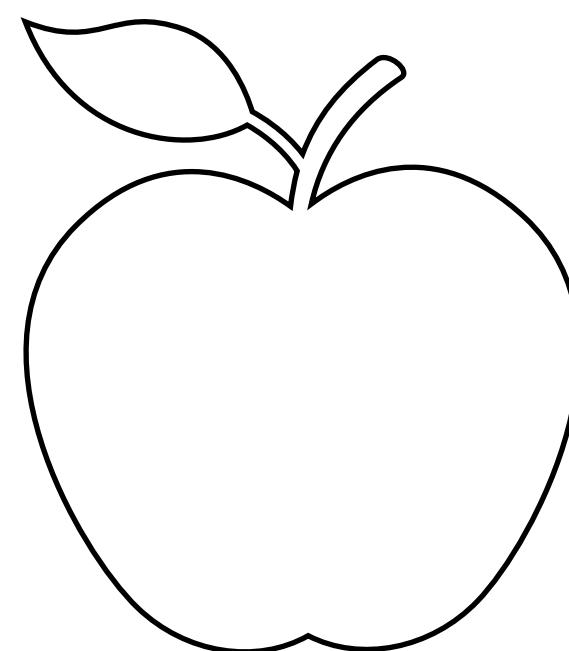
- Consider an (one-dimensional) input trajectory



$$x(t) = tx_1 + (1 - t)x_0$$



$$x(t) = \cos(\pi t/2)x_0 + \sin(\pi t/2)x_1$$

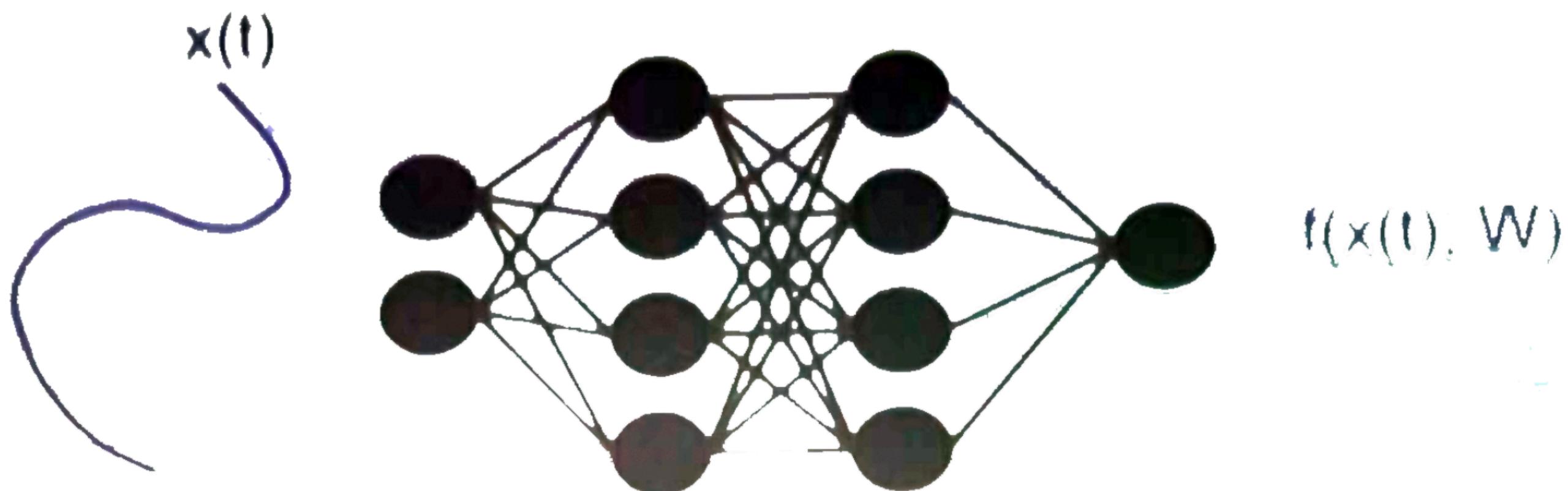


???

# Trajectory Length

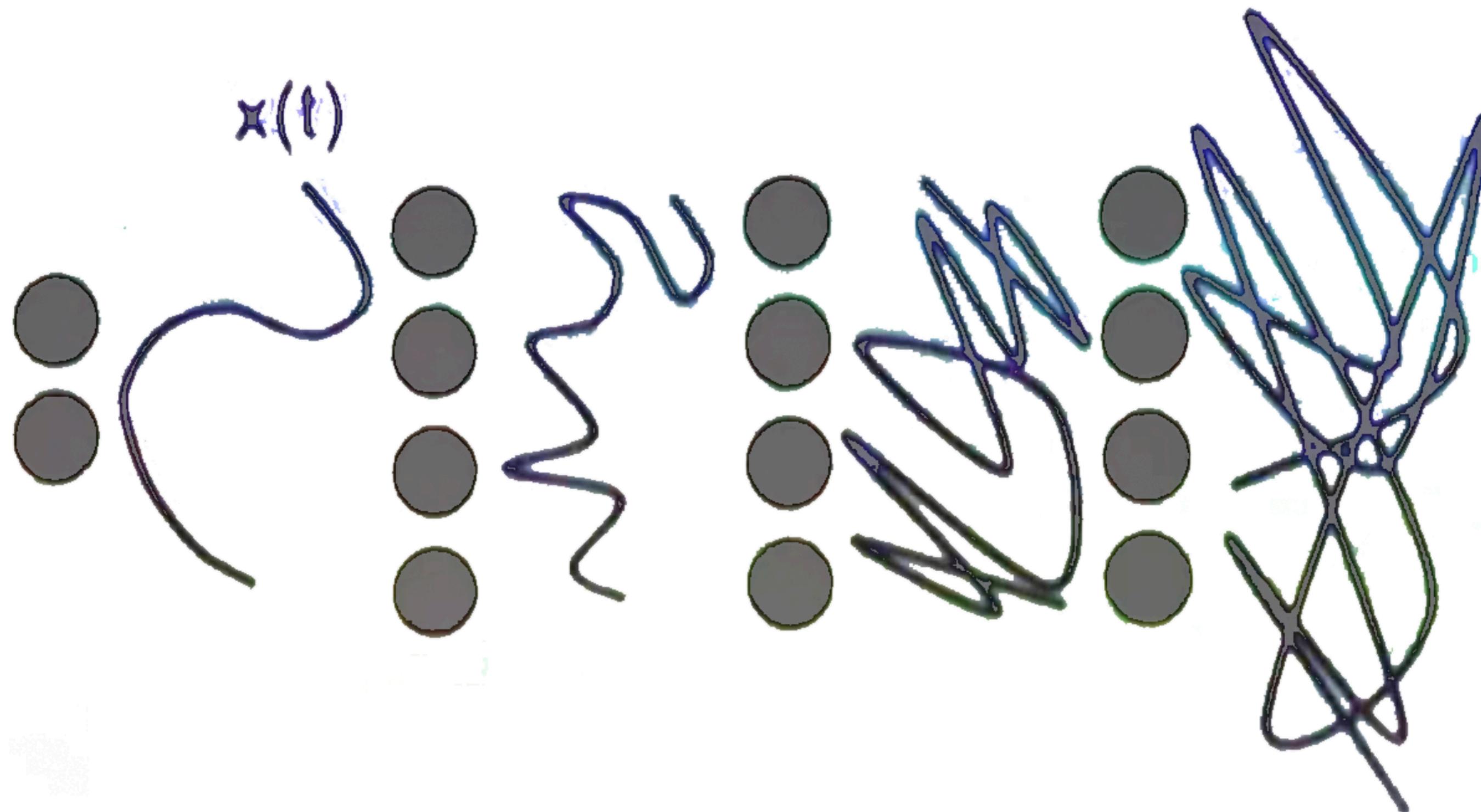
Rethink: What is Expressive Power?

- Consider an (one-dimensional) input trajectory



# Trajectory Length

**Metric: Trajectory Length**



How does the trajectory length increase?

# Trajectory Length

## What determines Trajectory Length?

For a network with depth  $d$ , width  $k$ , weights  $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_w^2/k)$ , bias  $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_b^2)$ , we have

(a)

$$\mathbb{E} [l(z^{(d)}(t))] \geq O\left(\frac{\sigma_w \sqrt{k}}{\sqrt{k+1}}\right)^d l(x(t))$$

for ReLUs



(b)

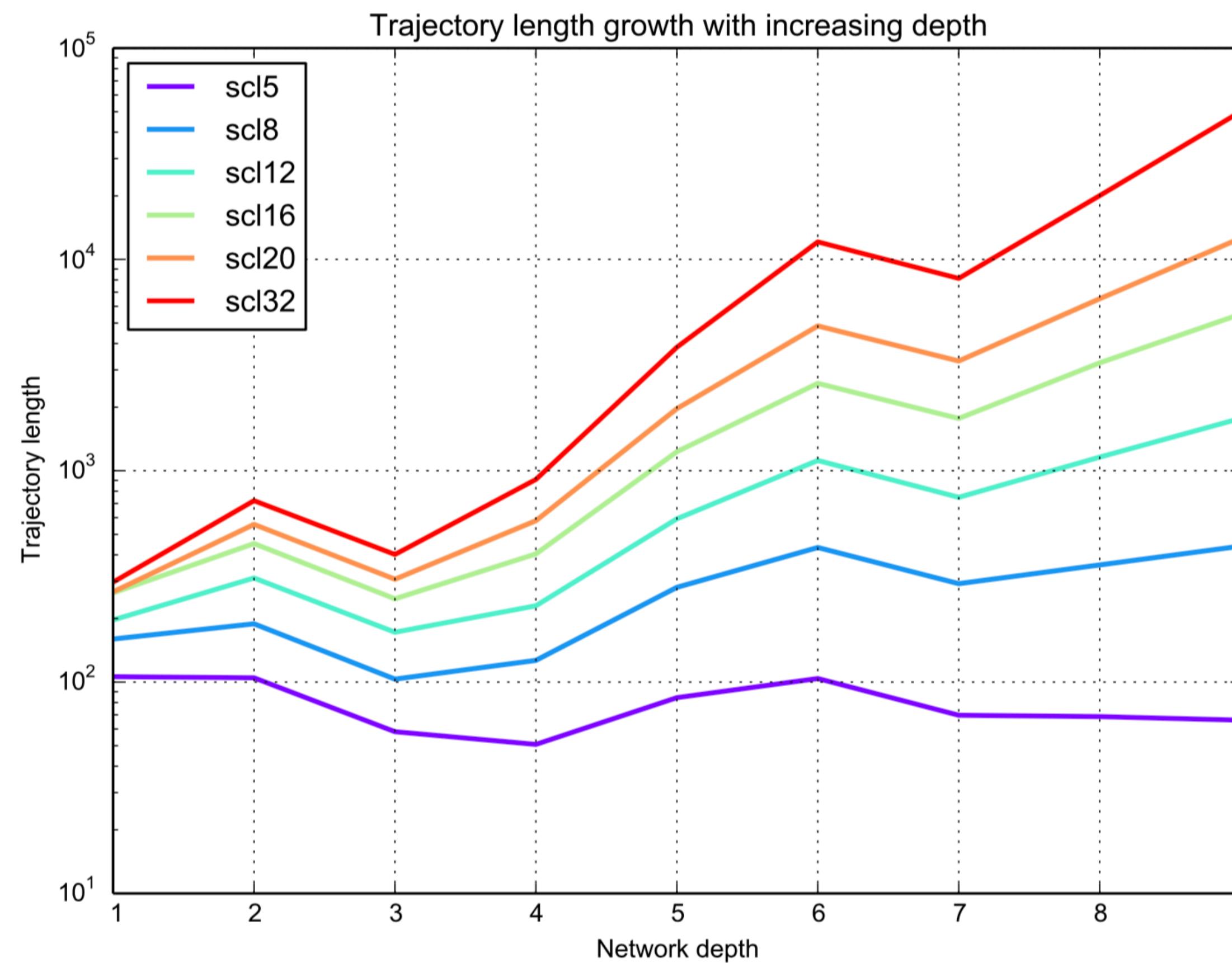
$$\mathbb{E} [l(z^{(d)}(t))] \geq O\left(\frac{\sigma_w \sqrt{k}}{\sqrt{\sigma_w^2 + \sigma_b^2 + k\sqrt{\sigma_w^2 + \sigma_b^2}}}\right)^d l(x(t))$$

for hard tanh



# Trajectory Length

## Experiment Verification



Conv net on CIFAR-10, ReLU:

- Growth with depth exponentially
- Growth with  $\sigma_w$

# Trajectory Length

## Relationship with number of Linear Regions

For a hard tanh network with depth  $d$ ,  $n$  hidden layers, width  $k$ , weights  $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_w^2/k)$ , bias  $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_b^2)$ , we have

Review: Trajectory Length

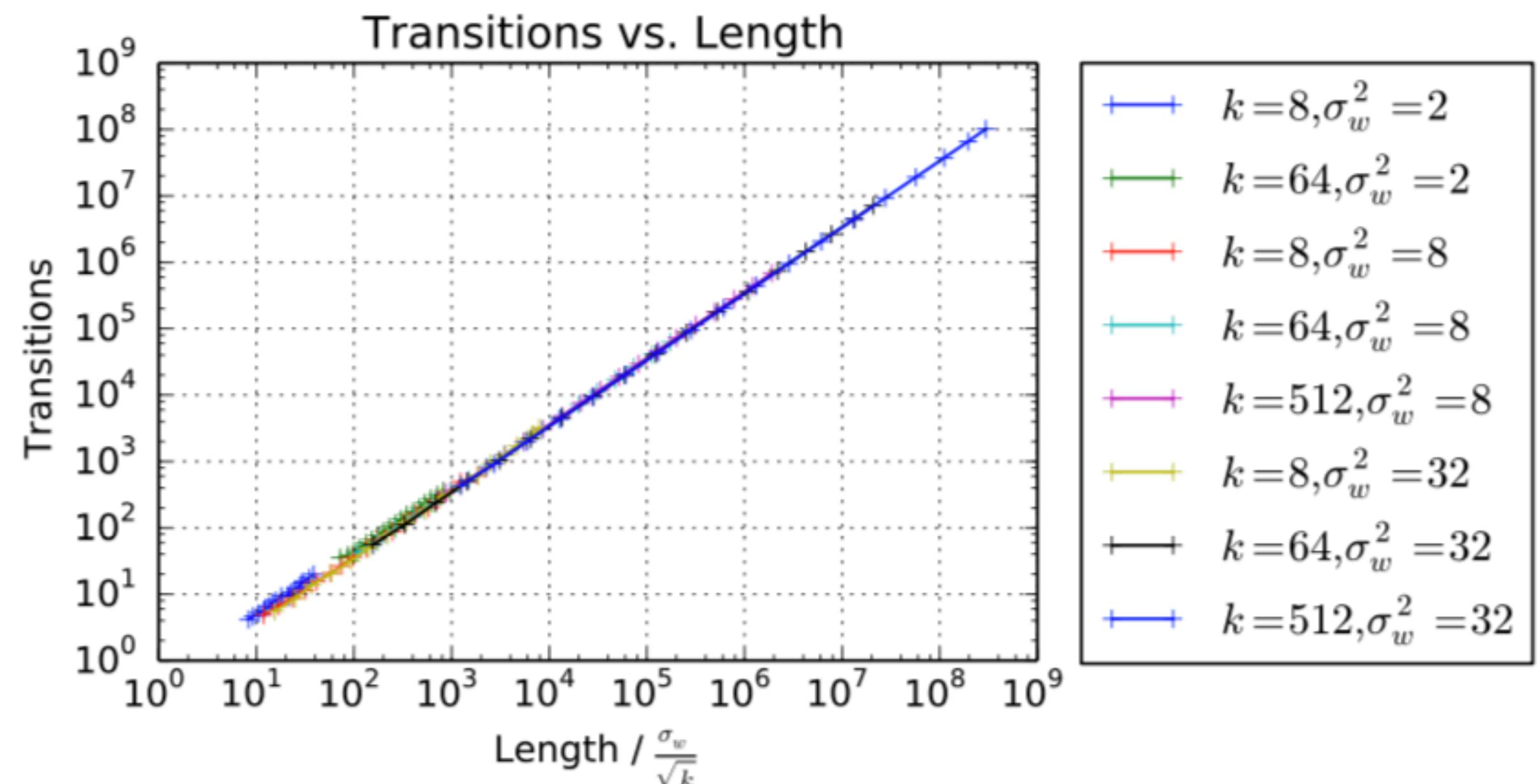
$$(b) \quad \mathbb{E} [l(z^{(d)}(t))] \geq O \left( \frac{\sigma_w \sqrt{k}}{\sqrt{\sigma_w^2 + \sigma_b^2 + k \sqrt{\sigma_w^2 + \sigma_b^2}}} \right)^d l(x(t))$$

for hard tanh

Transitions:

$$g(k, \sigma_w, \sigma_b, n) = O \left( \frac{\sqrt{k}}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{\sigma_b^2}{\sigma_w^2}}} \right)^n$$

Then  $\mathcal{T}(F_{A_{n,k}}(x(t); W)) = O(g(k, \sigma_w, \sigma_b, n))$ .

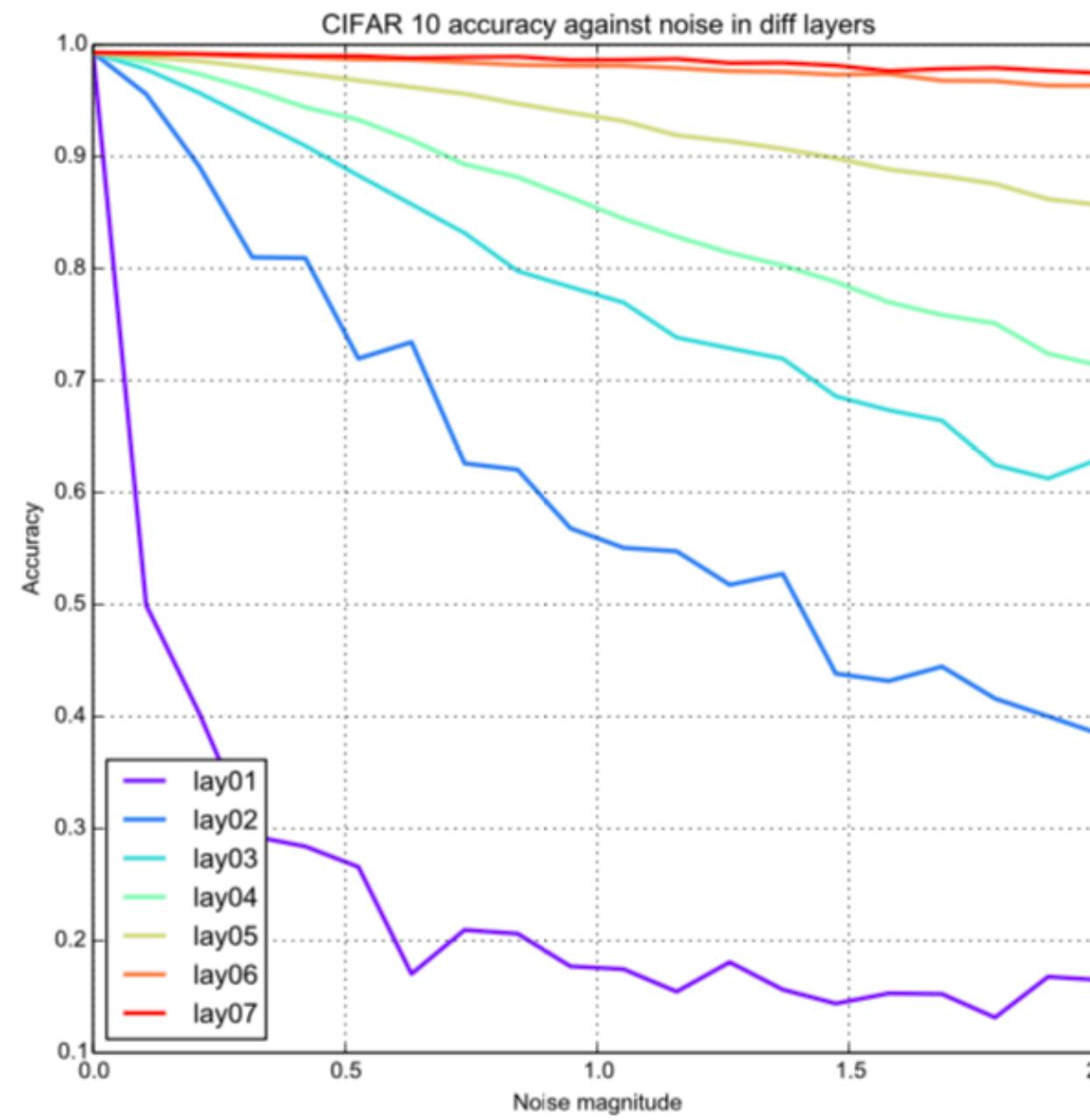


# Trajectory Length

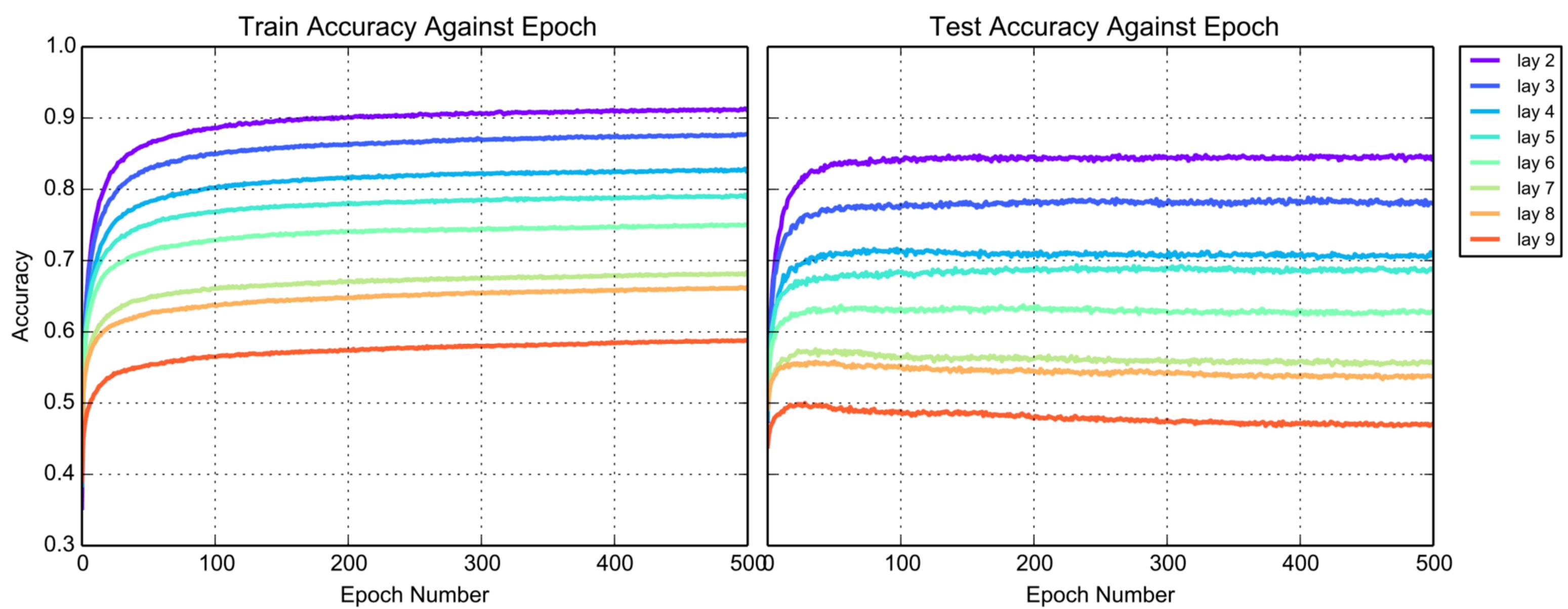
## Insights: Trajectory and Stability

A perturbation at a layer grows exponentially in the *remaining depth* after that layer.

Add noise on different layers:

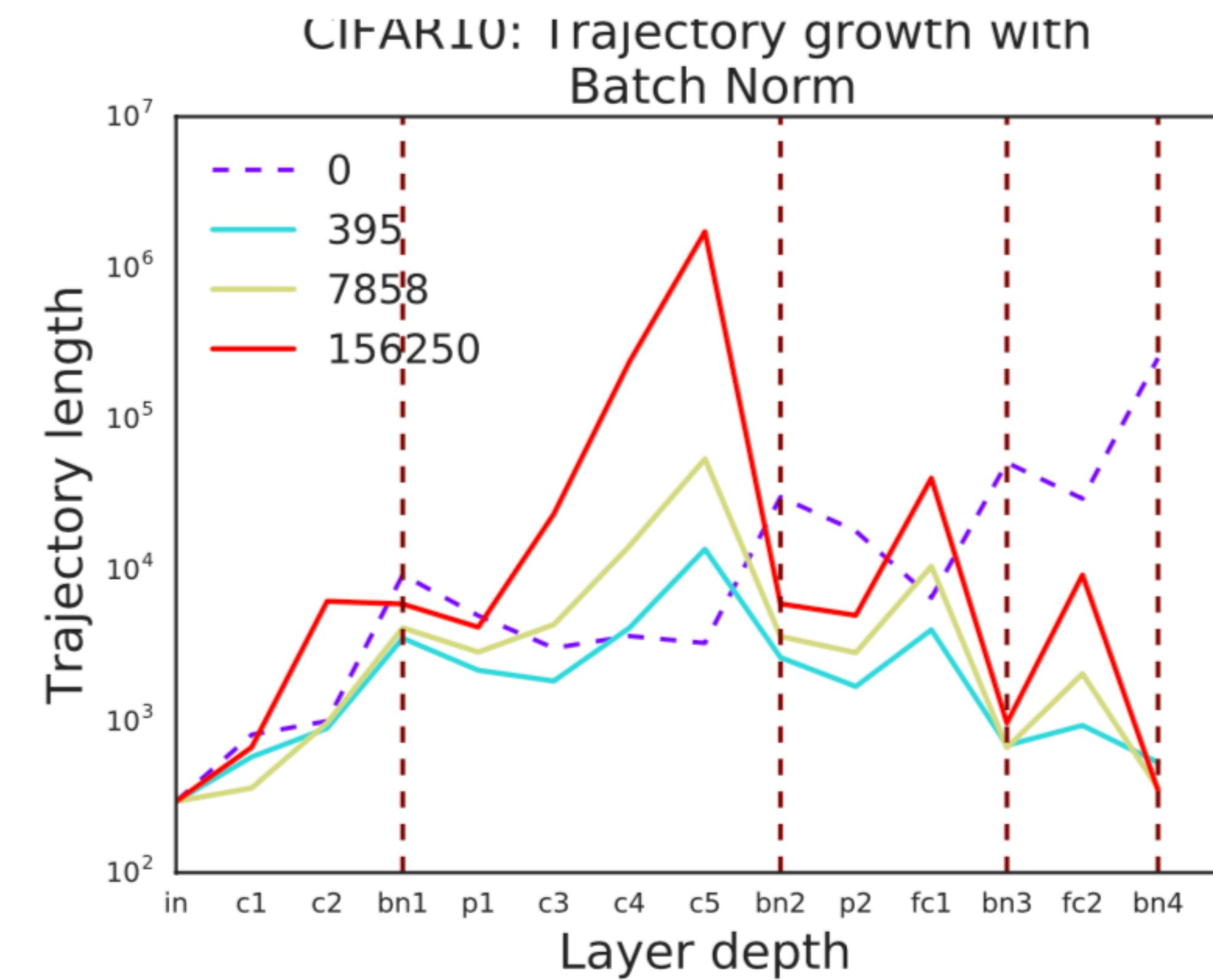
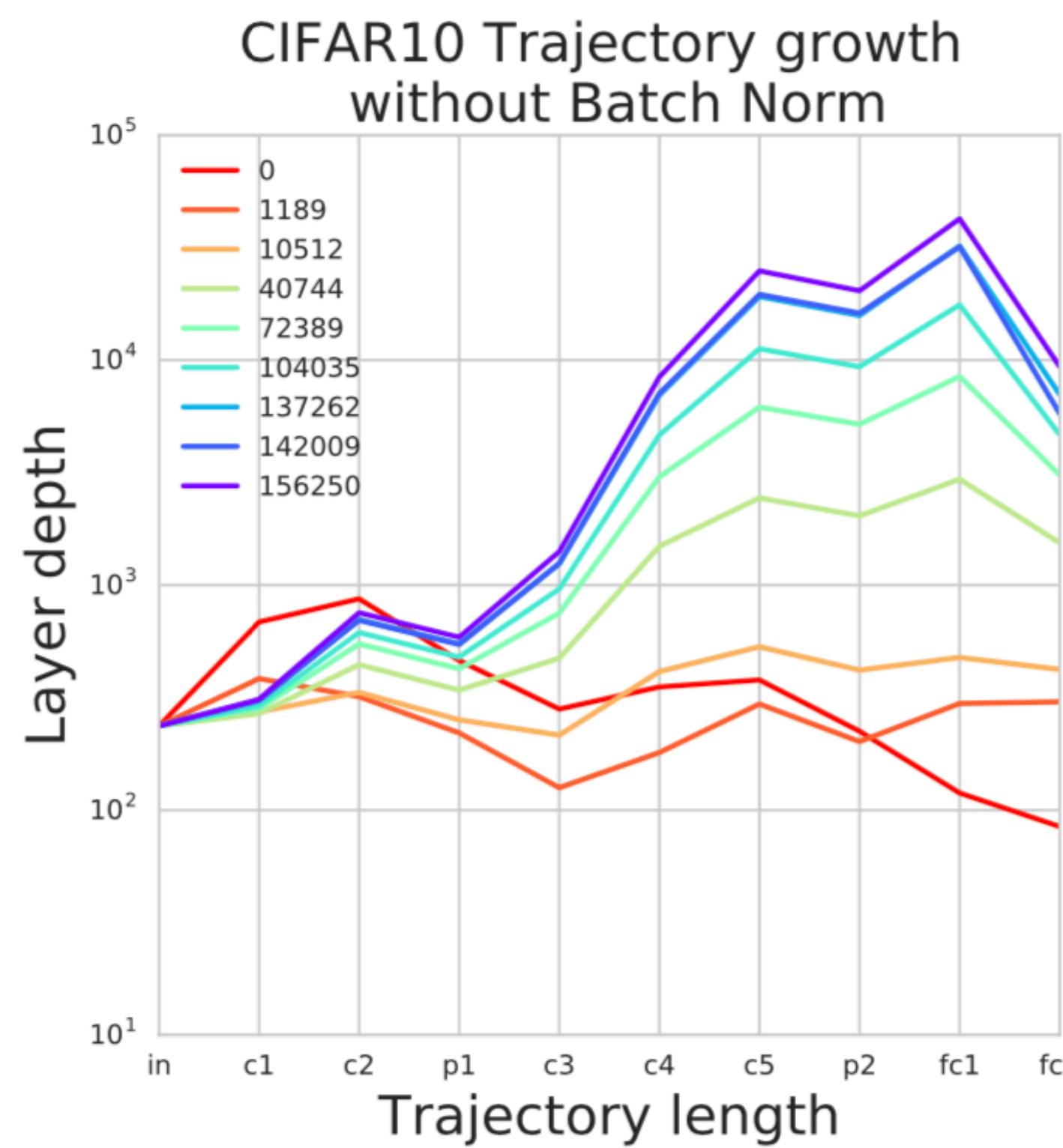


Only one layer trainable:



# Trajectory Length

## Insights: Trajectory and Batch Normalization



# Trajectory Length

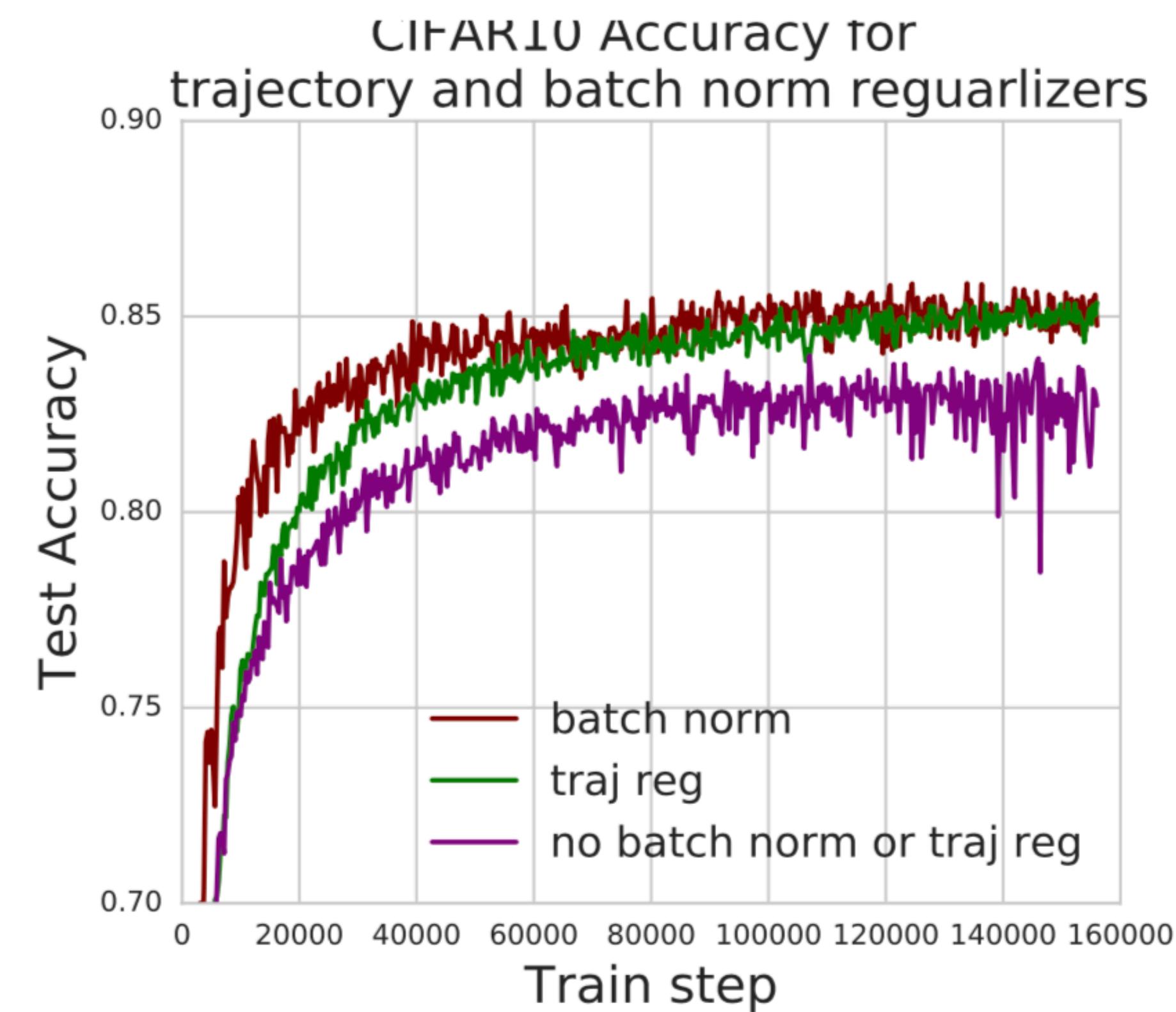
## Insights: Trajectory Normalization

Trajectory Normalization: Scale trajectory length directly.

Trajectory regularization layers: add to the loss

$$\lambda \frac{\text{currentlength}}{\text{originallength}}$$

In practice, compute the sum of distances between adjacent points in the mini-batch.



# Trajectory Length

## Review

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. What is it?         | 1. Mapping complexity   |
| 2. How to measure?     | 2. Trajectory length  |
| 3. What determines it? | 3. $\mathbb{E} [l(z^{(d)}(t))] \geq O\left(\frac{\sigma_w \sqrt{k}}{\sqrt{k+1}}\right)^d l(x(t))$ , $\mathbb{E} [l(z^{(d)}(t))] \geq O\left(\frac{\sigma_w \sqrt{k}}{\sqrt{\sigma_w^2 + \sigma_b^2 + k \sqrt{\sigma_w^2 + \sigma_b^2}}}\right)^d l(x(t))$ |
| 4. Usage?              | 4. Stability, Batch-norm, Traj-reg  |

Question?

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**Conclusion**

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# Conclusion

## Related Materials

- Paper and Supplementary Link: [http://proceedings.mlr.press/v70/  
raghuram17a.html](http://proceedings.mlr.press/v70/raghuram17a.html)
- Presentation Video: <https://vimeo.com/237276052>
- ICLR 2017 discussion: <https://openreview.net/forum?id=B1TTpYKgx>

# Conclusion

## Further Work

- What about other activation functions?
  - Their previous paper [1] talked about it. It combines Riemannian geometry with the mean field theory of high dimensional chaos to study it. (What are they? :-( )
- What about setting the input as a plane or other hyper-space, instead of only trajectory?
- What if the network is not regular (i.e. the width is not the same?)
- Is there any other proper metric for expressive power?

[1] B. Poole, S. Lahiri, M. Raghu, J. Sohl-Dickstein and S. Ganguli. Exponential expressivity in deep neural networks through transient chaos. In NeurIPS, 2016

# Conclusion

Thank you!

Any questions or evaluations?