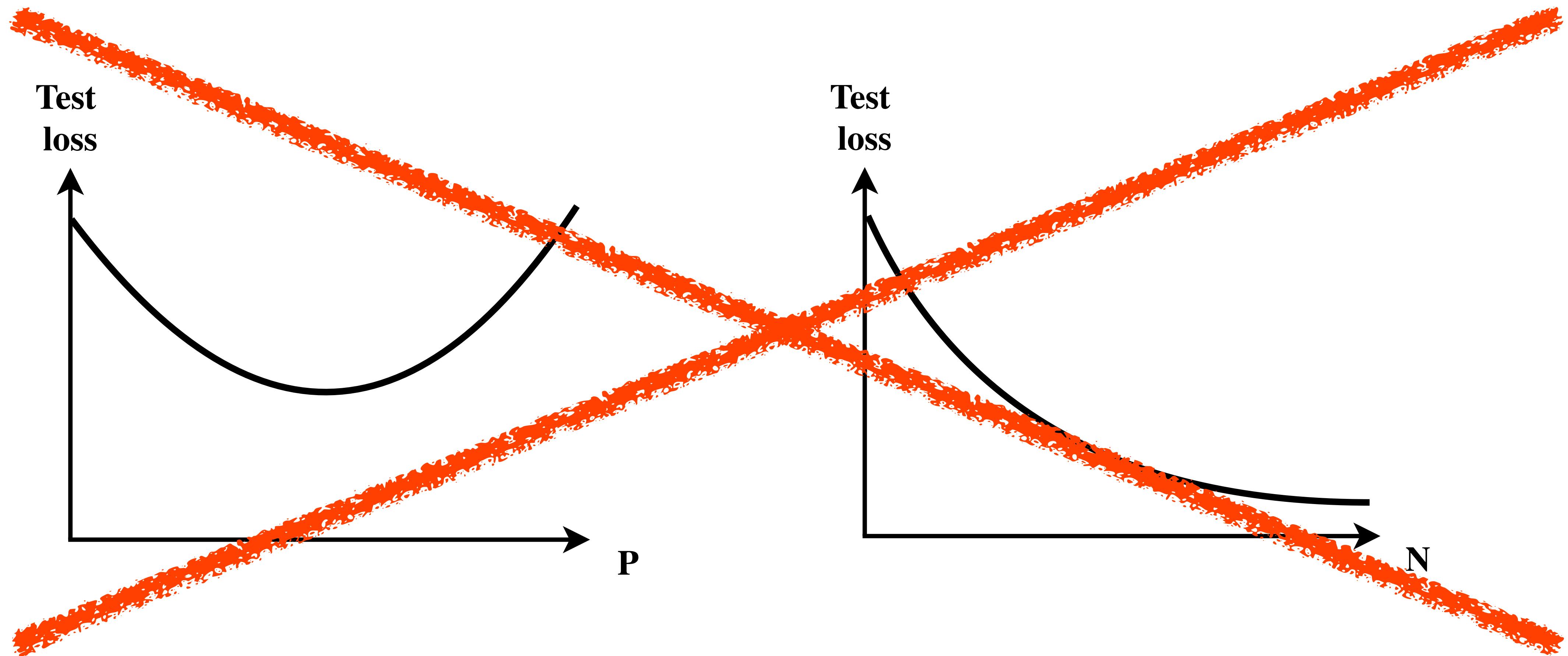


# TRIPLE DESCENT: THE TWO KINDS OF OVERFITTING

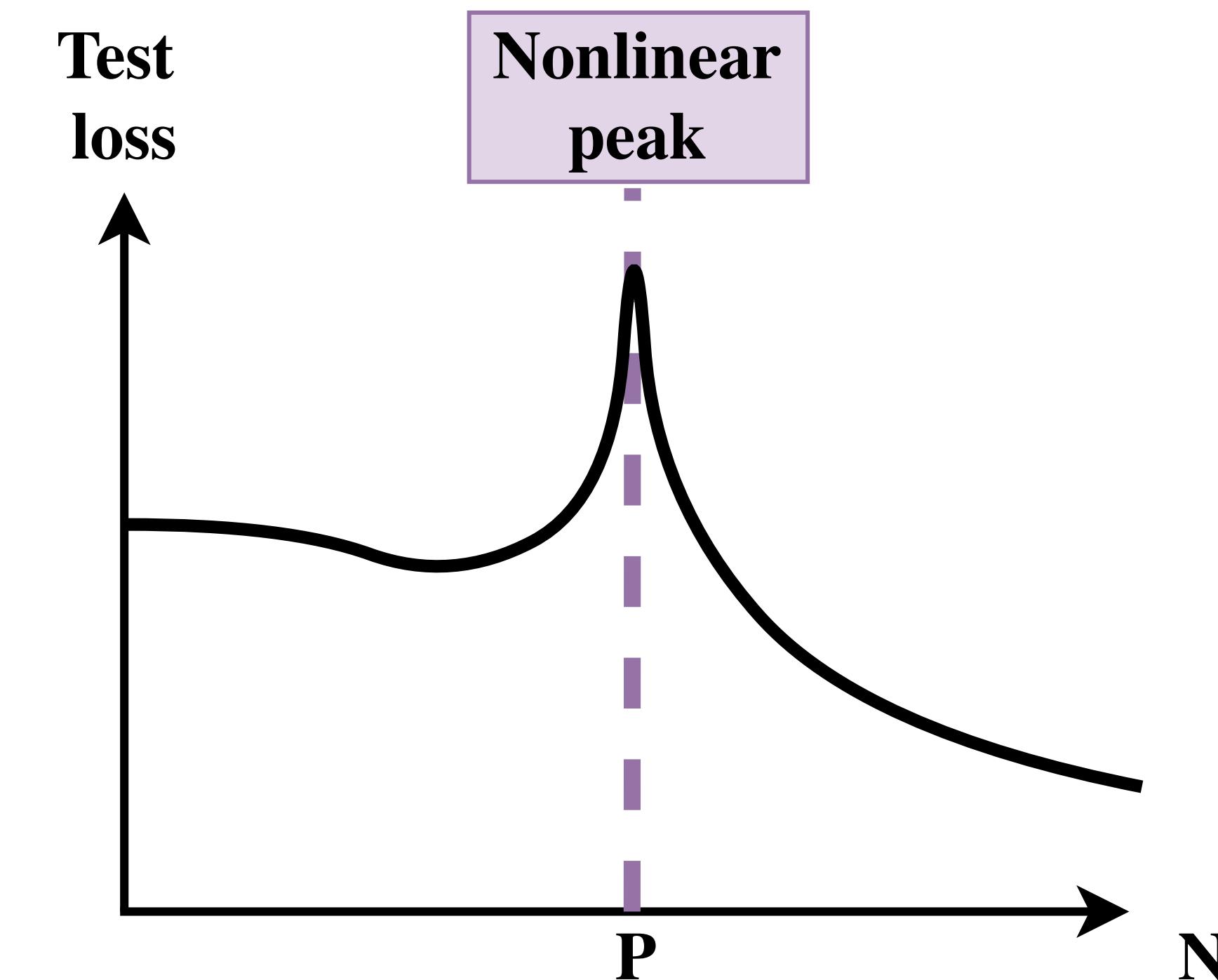
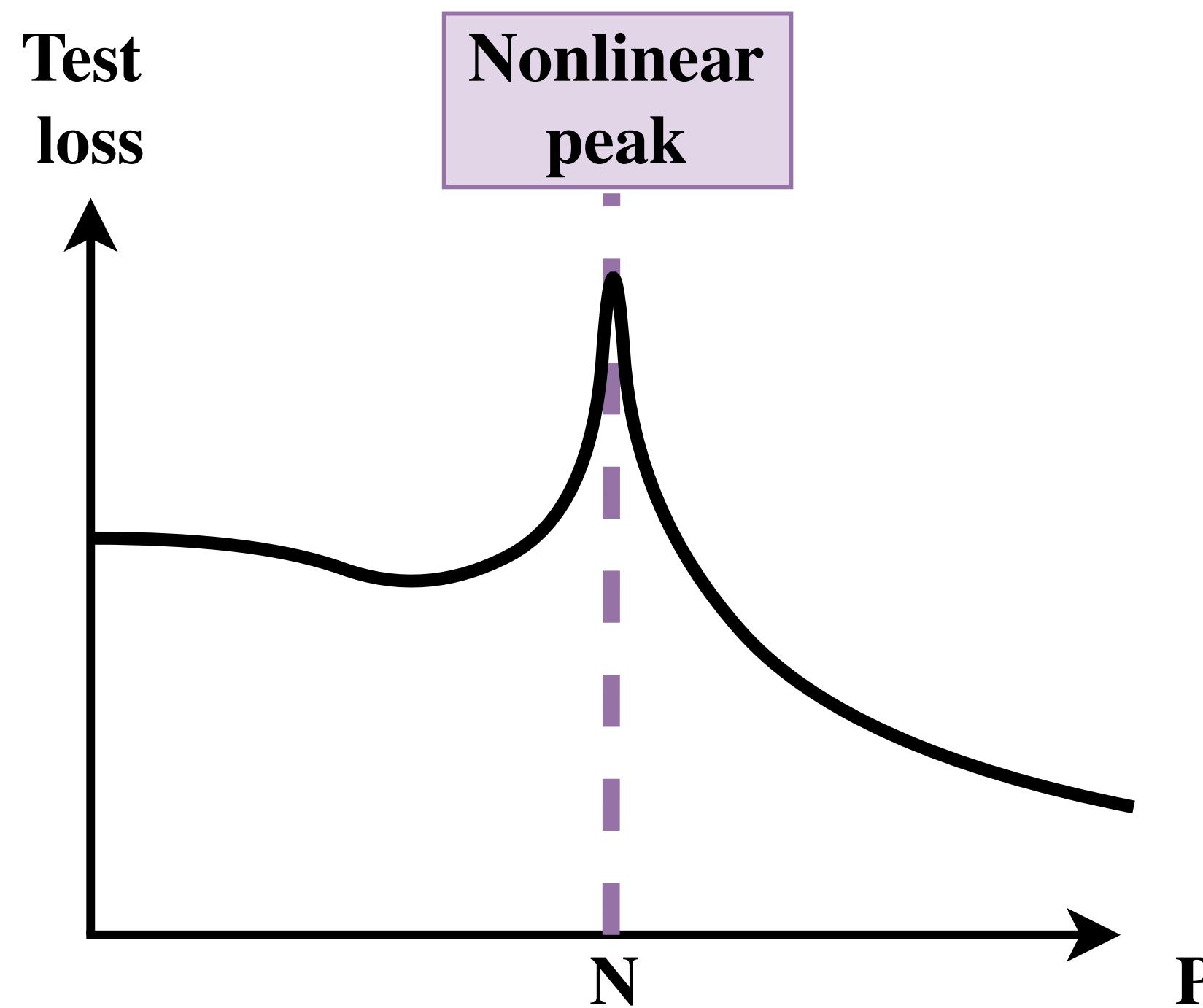
**STÉPHANE D'ASCOLI, LEVENT SAGUN, GIULIO BIROLI**

ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE & FACEBOOK AI RESEARCH

# PARAMETER-WISE AND SAMPLE-WISE

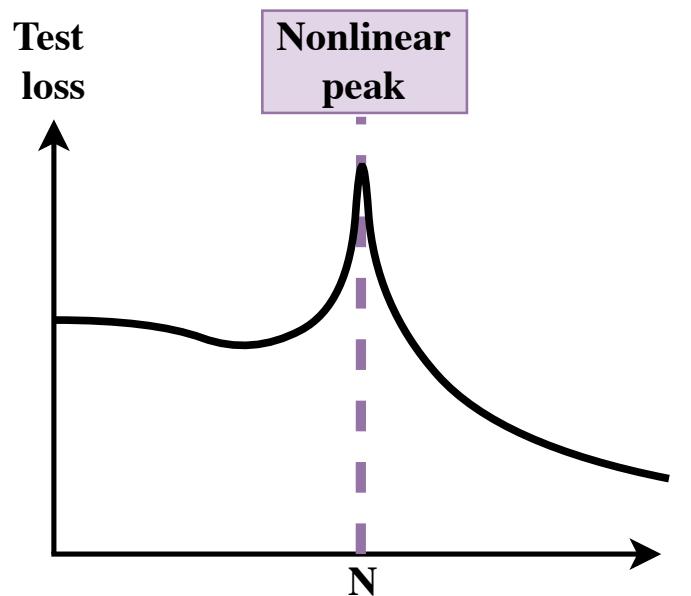


# PARAMETER-WISE AND SAMPLE-WISE

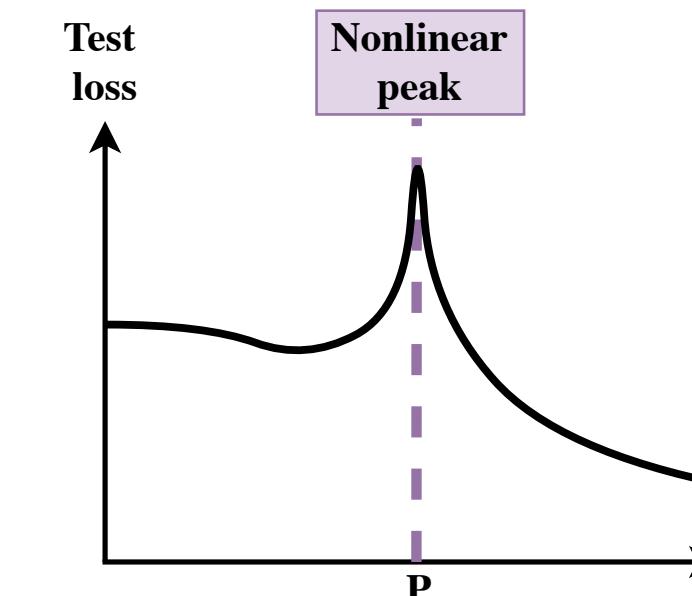


# FOR LINEAR TO NONLINEAR

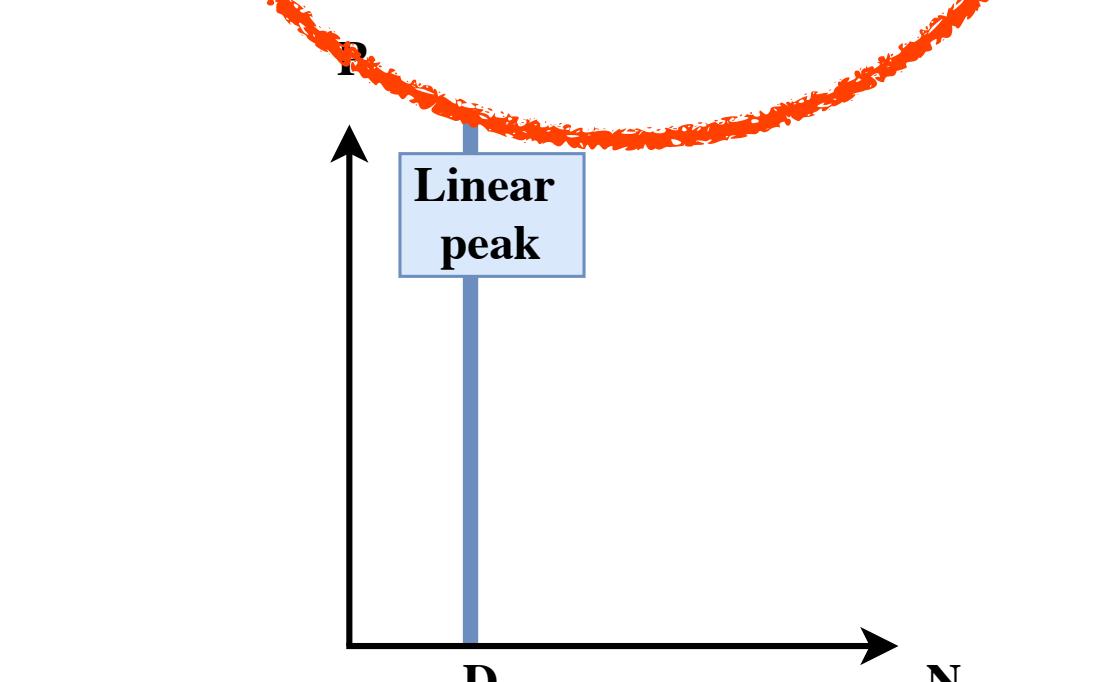
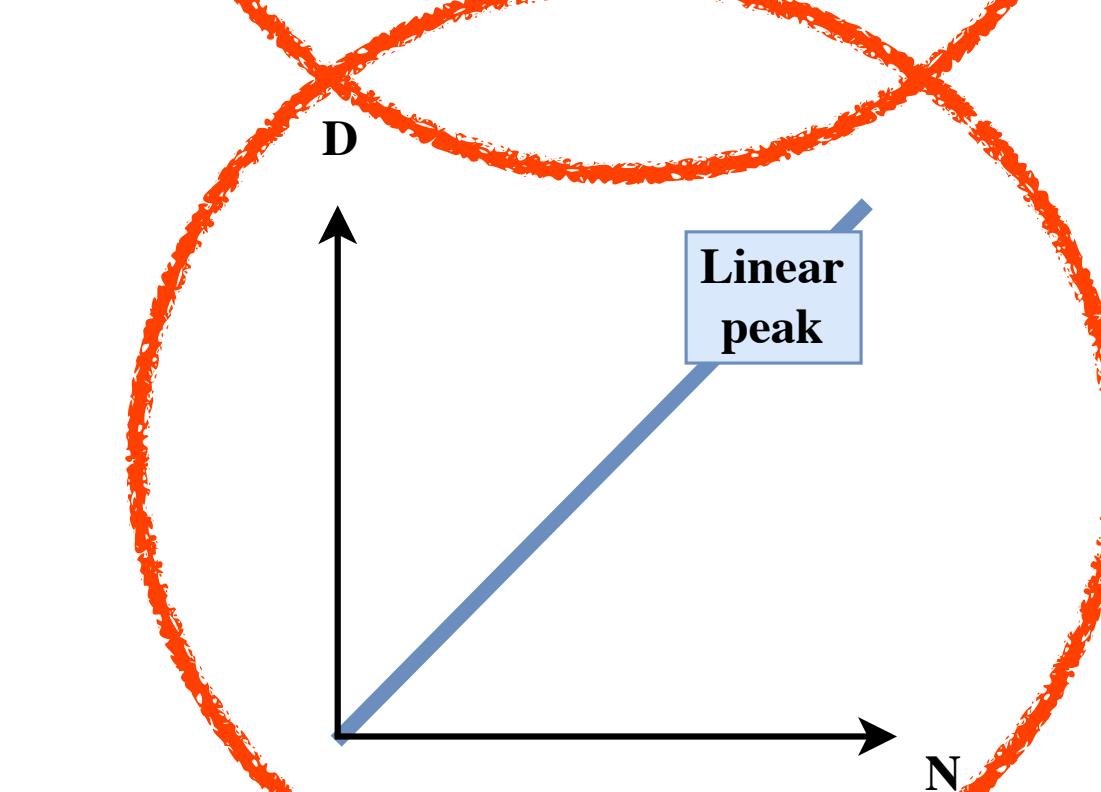
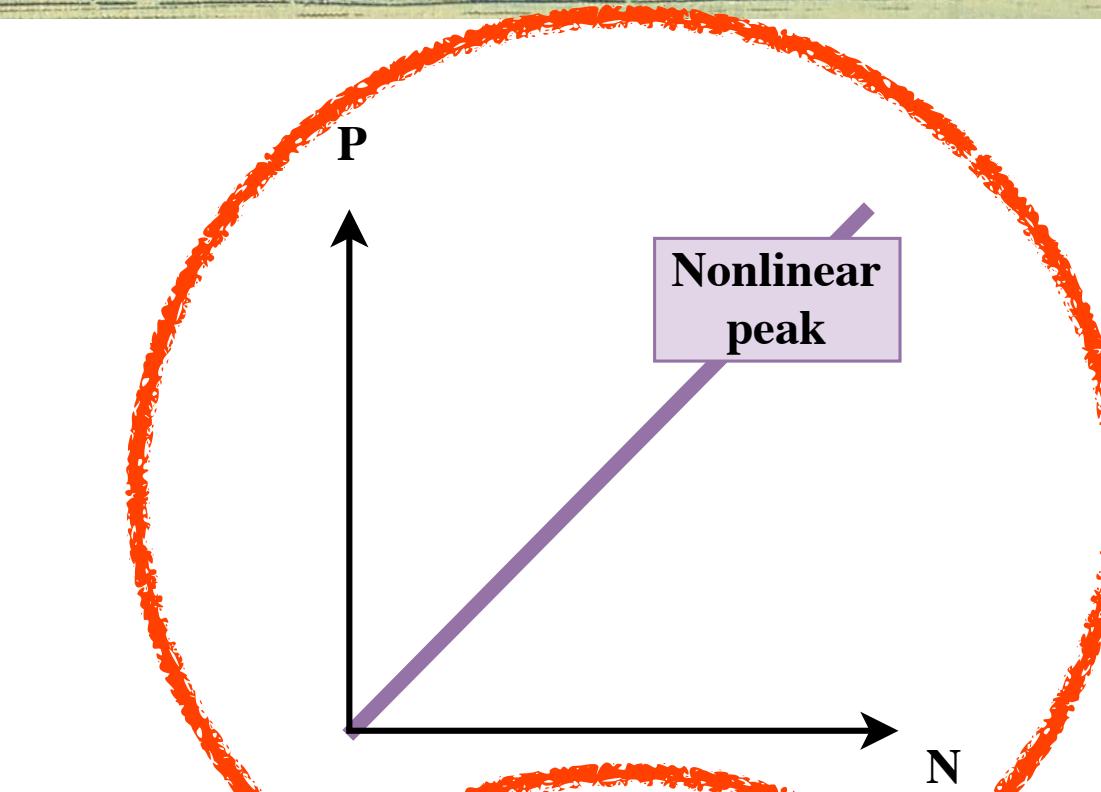
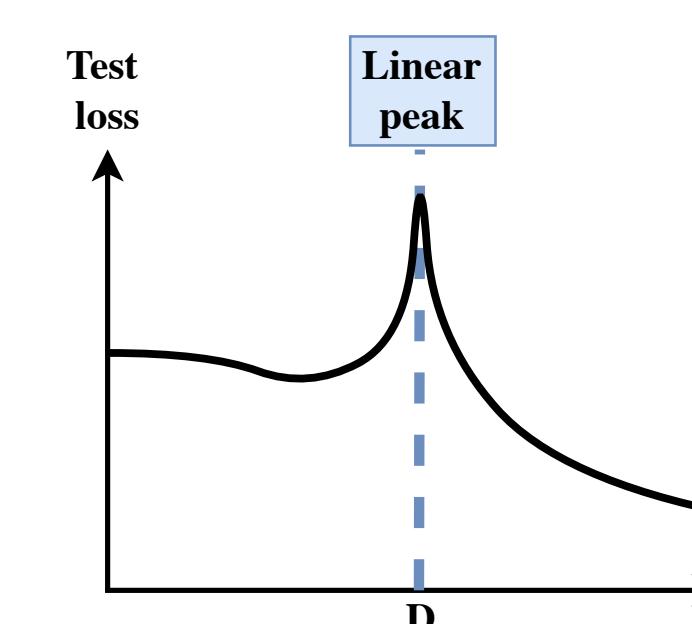
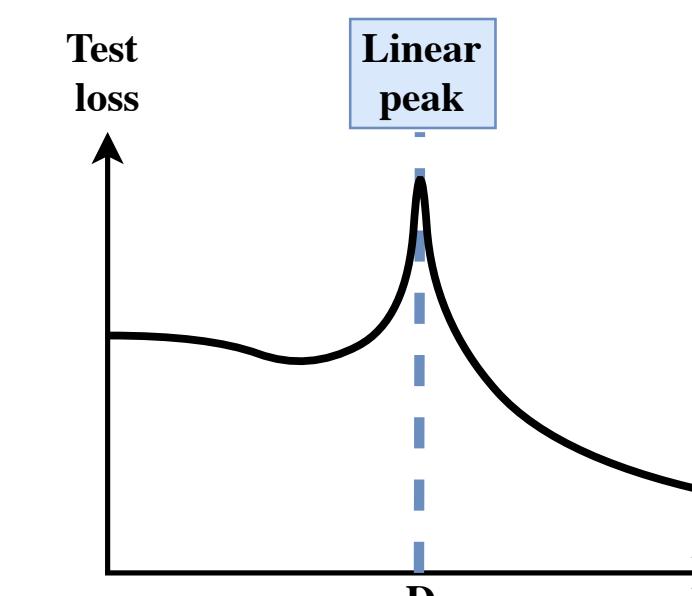
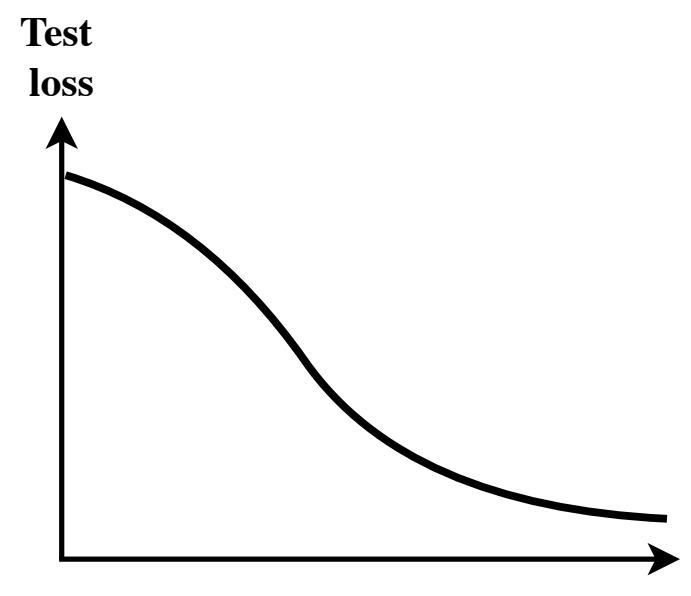
NONLINEAR  
NETWORKS



LINEAR  
MODELS



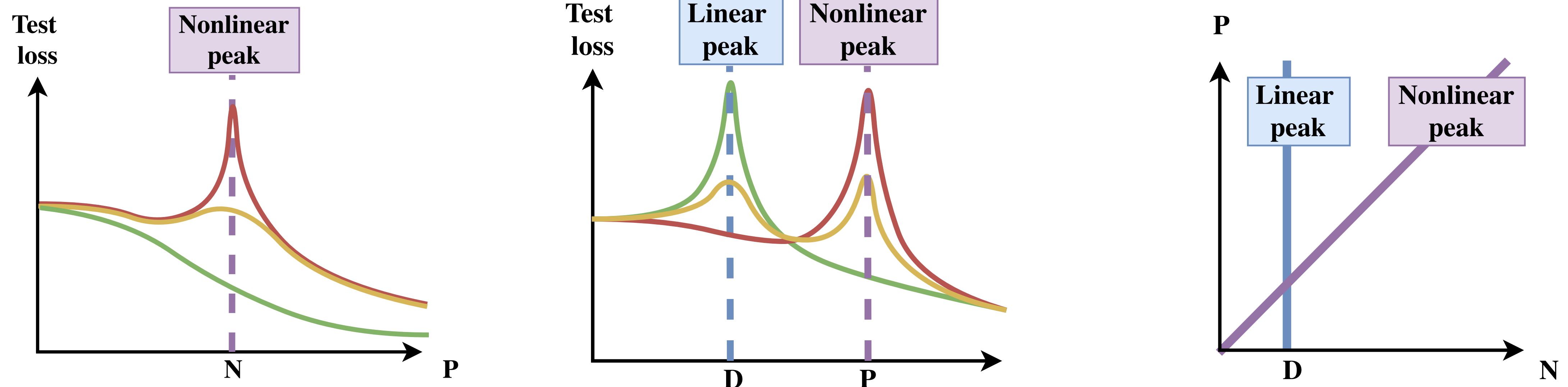
LINEAR  
NETWORKS



ARE THESE  
THE SAME ?

ANSWER :  
NO !

# FROM LINEAR TO LINEAR



Activation function
— Strongly nonlinear
— Weakly nonlinear
— Linear

**WHAT MECHANISMS UNDERLIE THESE PEAKS ?**  
**HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT ?**

# THE TWO MODELS

**DATASET**

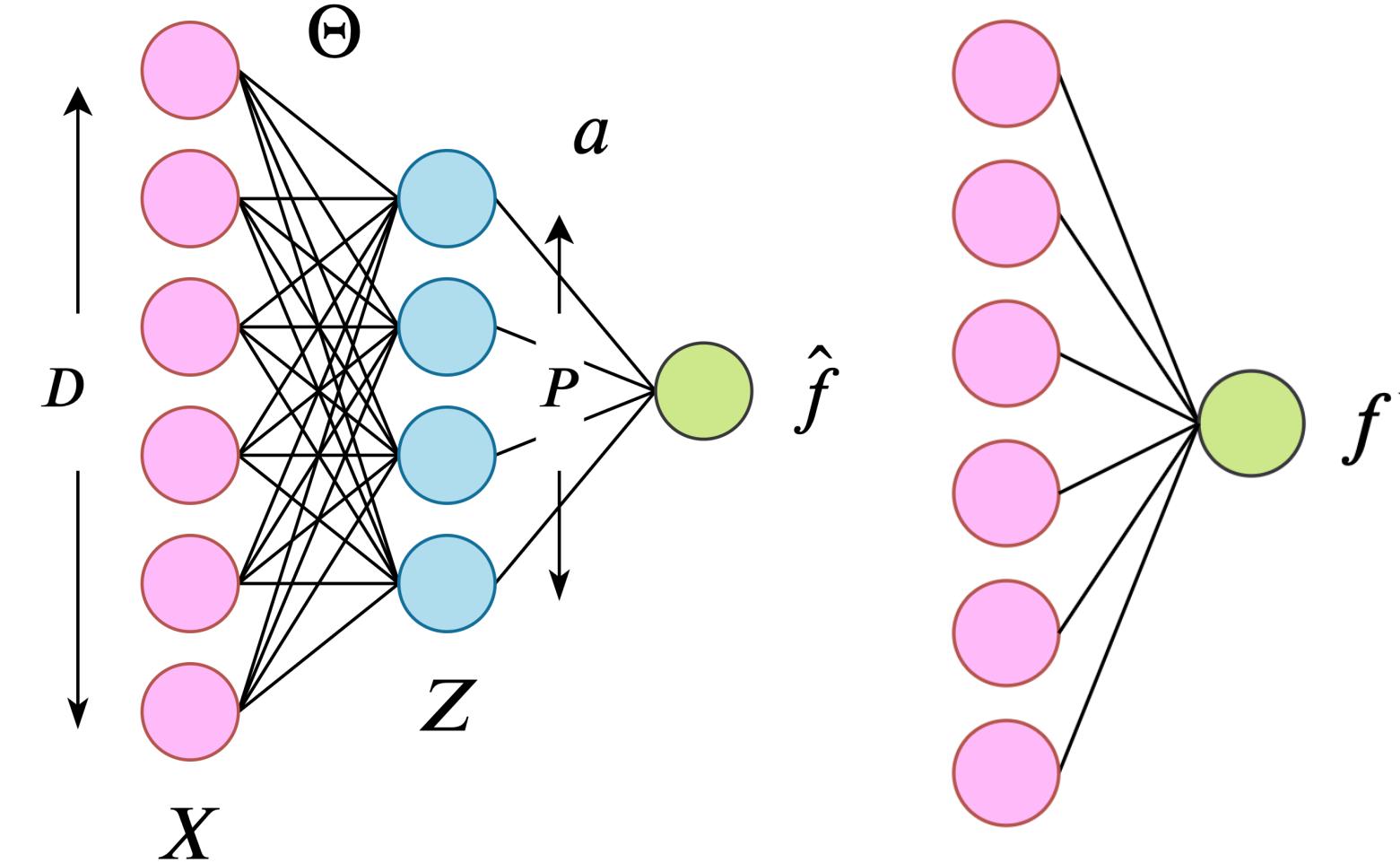
$$X \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times D}$$

$$y = f^*(x) + \epsilon$$

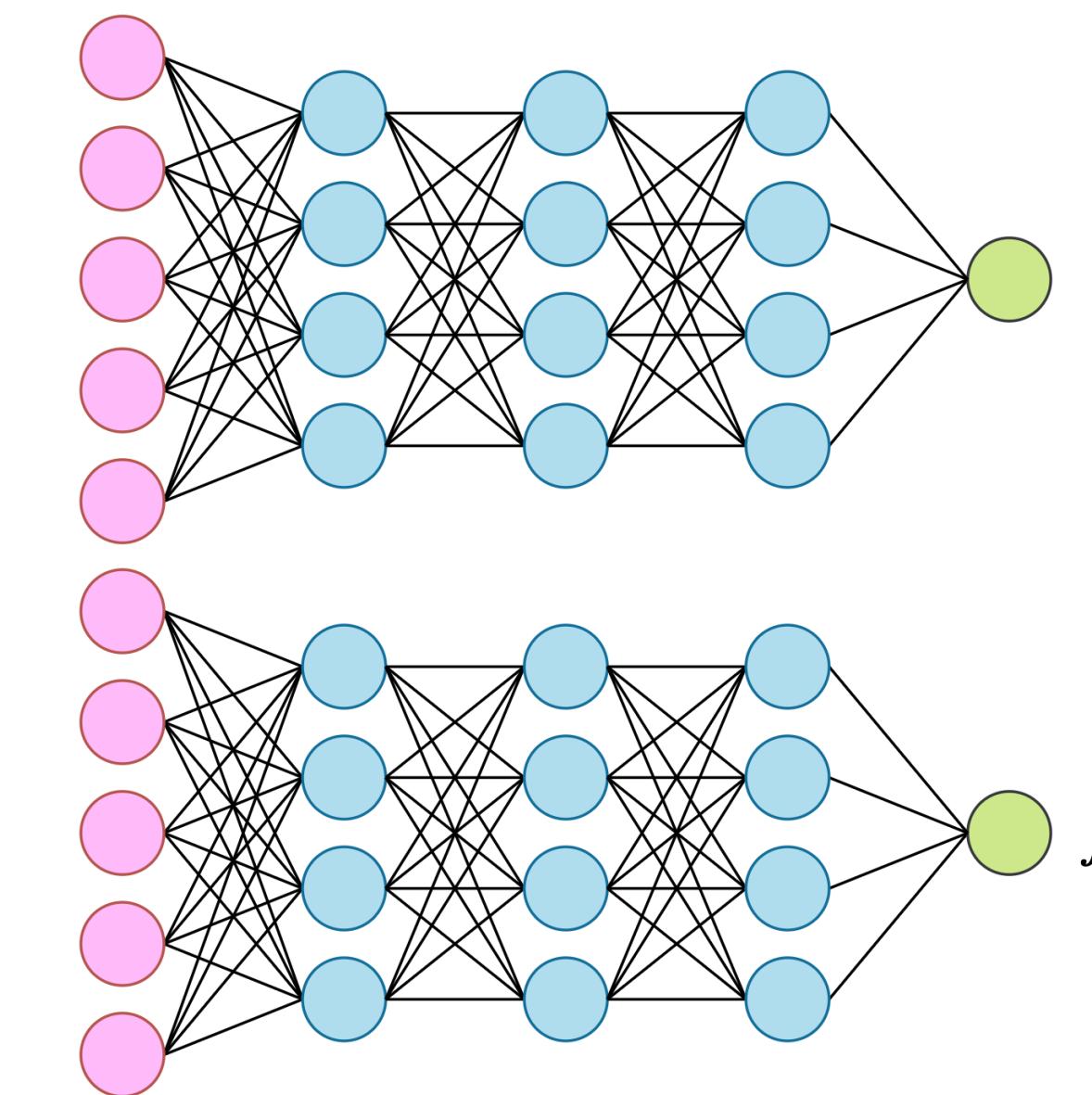
$$\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1/\text{SNR})$$

$$\mathcal{L}_g = \mathbb{E}_x \left[ (f(x) - \hat{f}(x))^2 \right]$$

**RF  
MODEL**



**DNN  
MODEL**



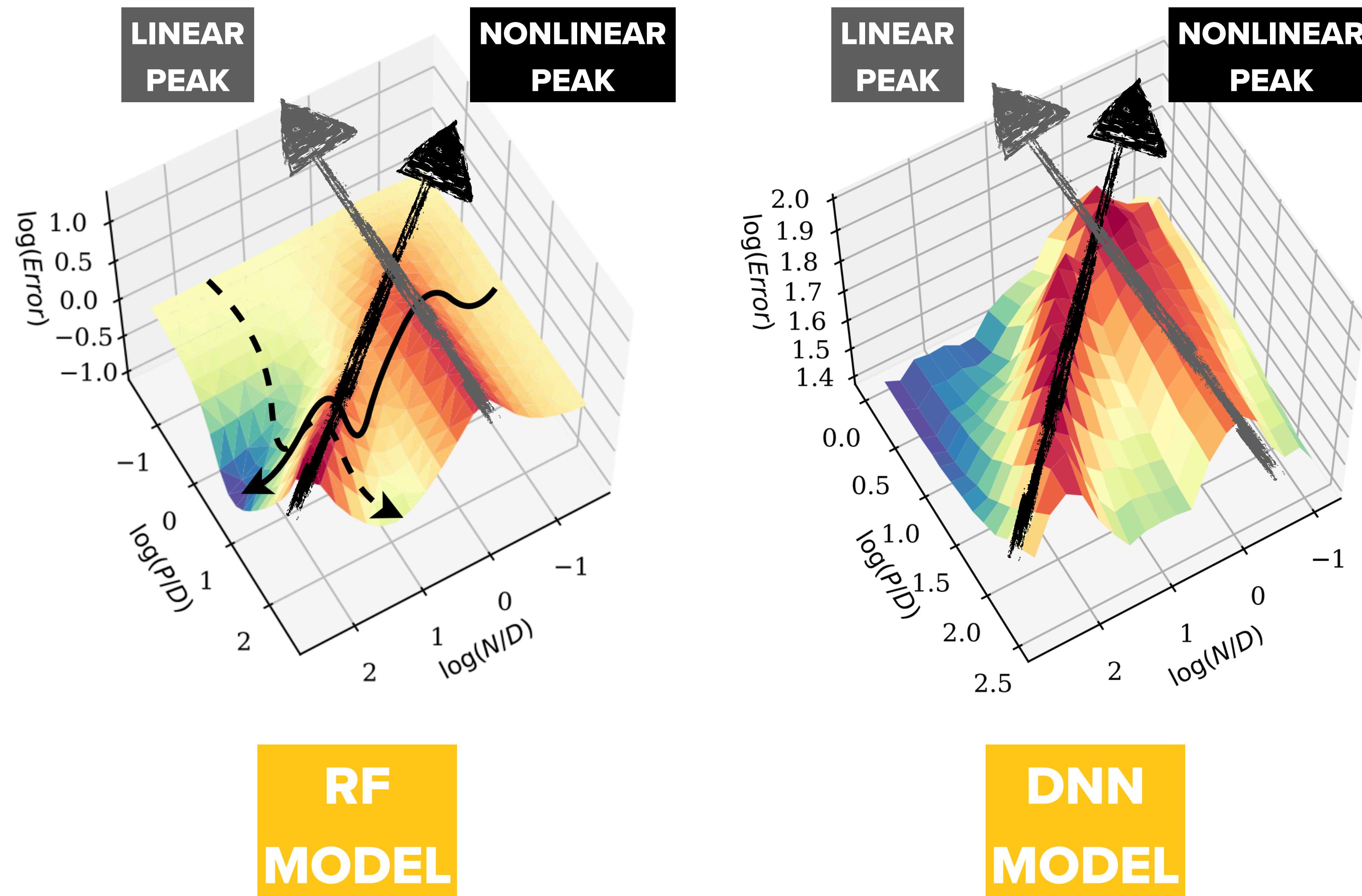
**Random teacher**  
**Student trained by GD**

$$\hat{f}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^P a_i \sigma \left( \frac{\langle \Theta_i, x \rangle}{\sqrt{D}} \right)$$

$$\hat{a} = \arg \min_{a \in \mathbb{R}^P} \left[ \frac{1}{N} (y - aZ^\top)^2 + \frac{P\gamma}{D} \|a\|_2^2 \right]$$

$$Z_i^\mu = \sigma \left( \frac{\langle \Theta_i, X_\mu \rangle}{\sqrt{D}} \right) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times P}, \quad \Sigma = \frac{1}{N} Z^\top Z \in \mathbb{R}^{P \times P}$$

# EVIDENCE OF TRIPLE DESCENT



# ANALYTICAL DESCRIPTION

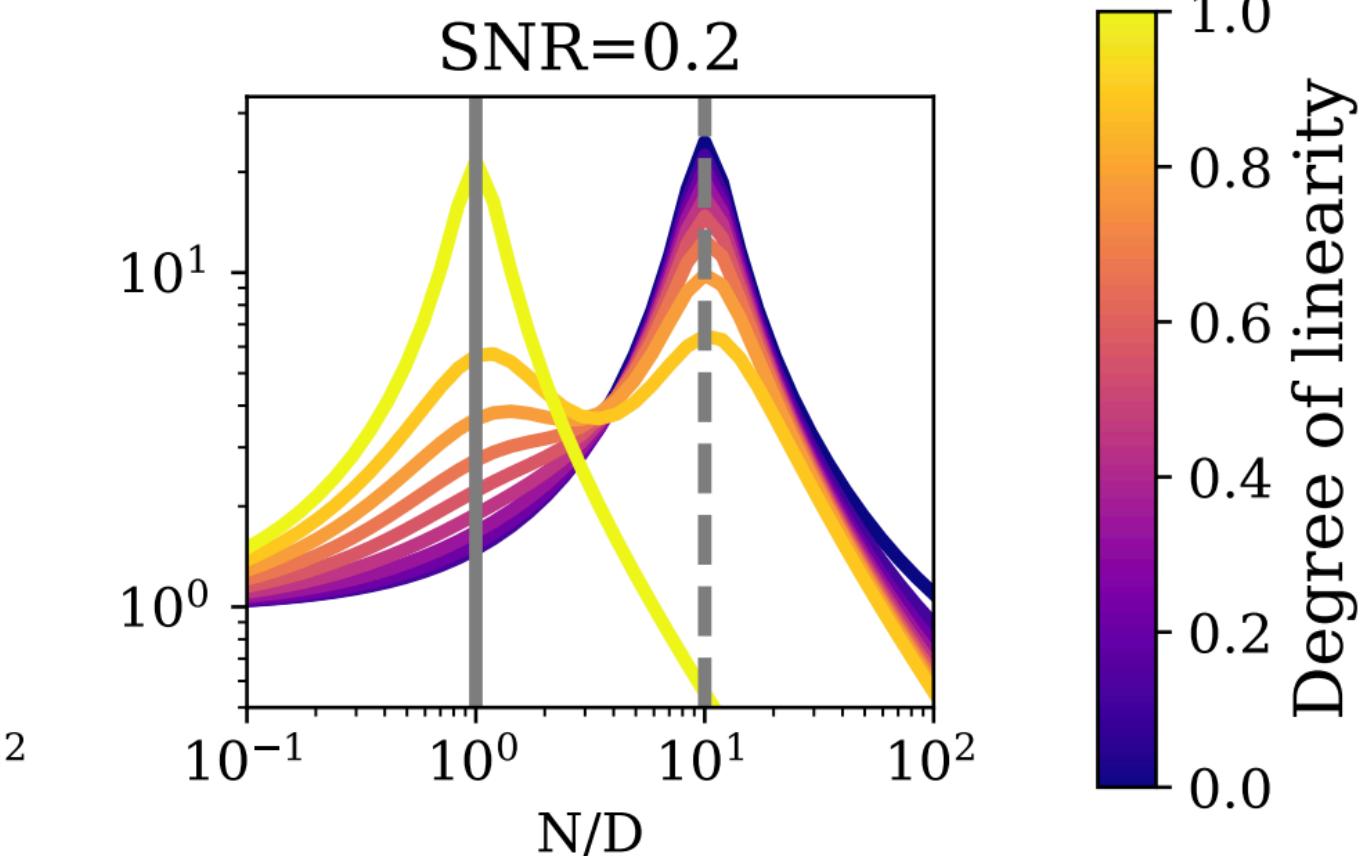
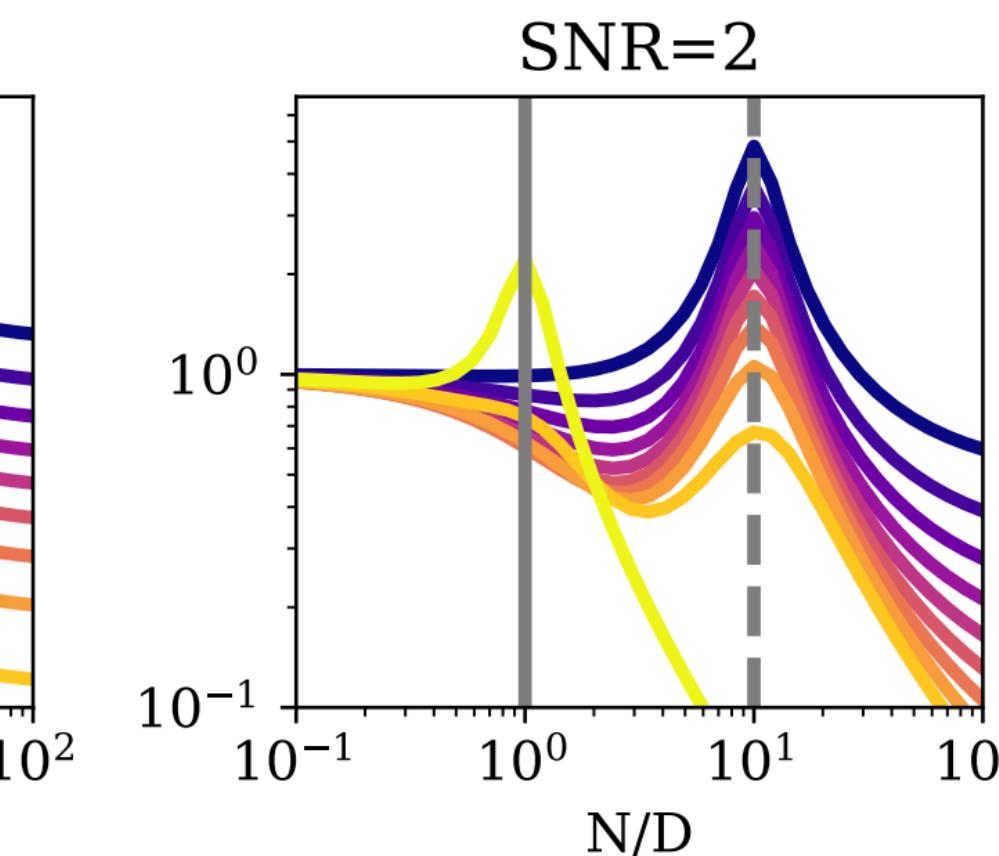
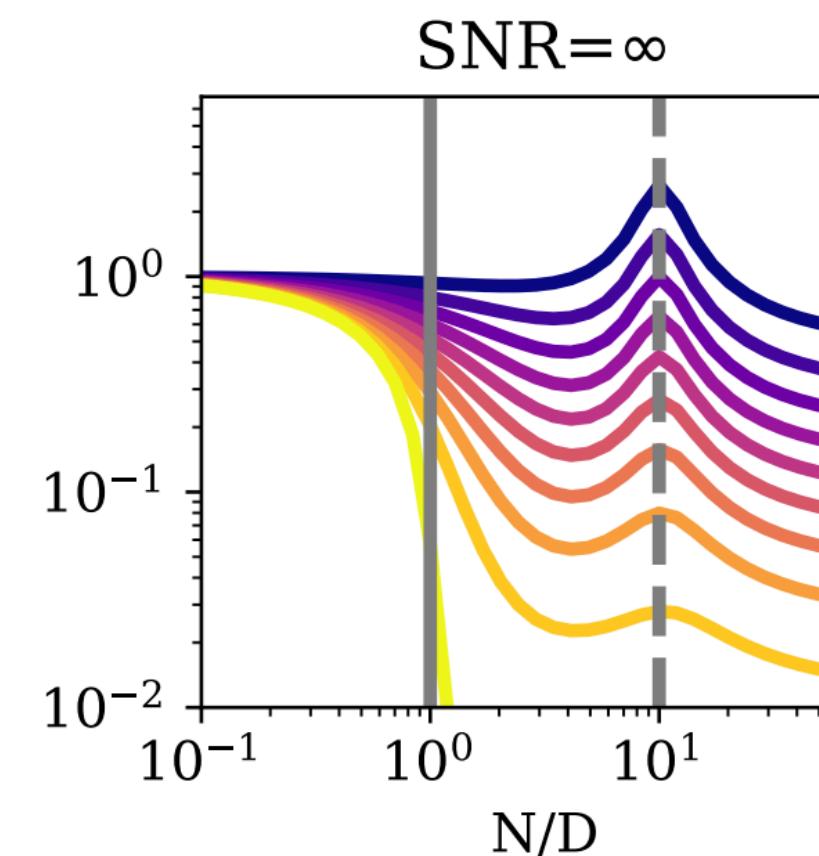
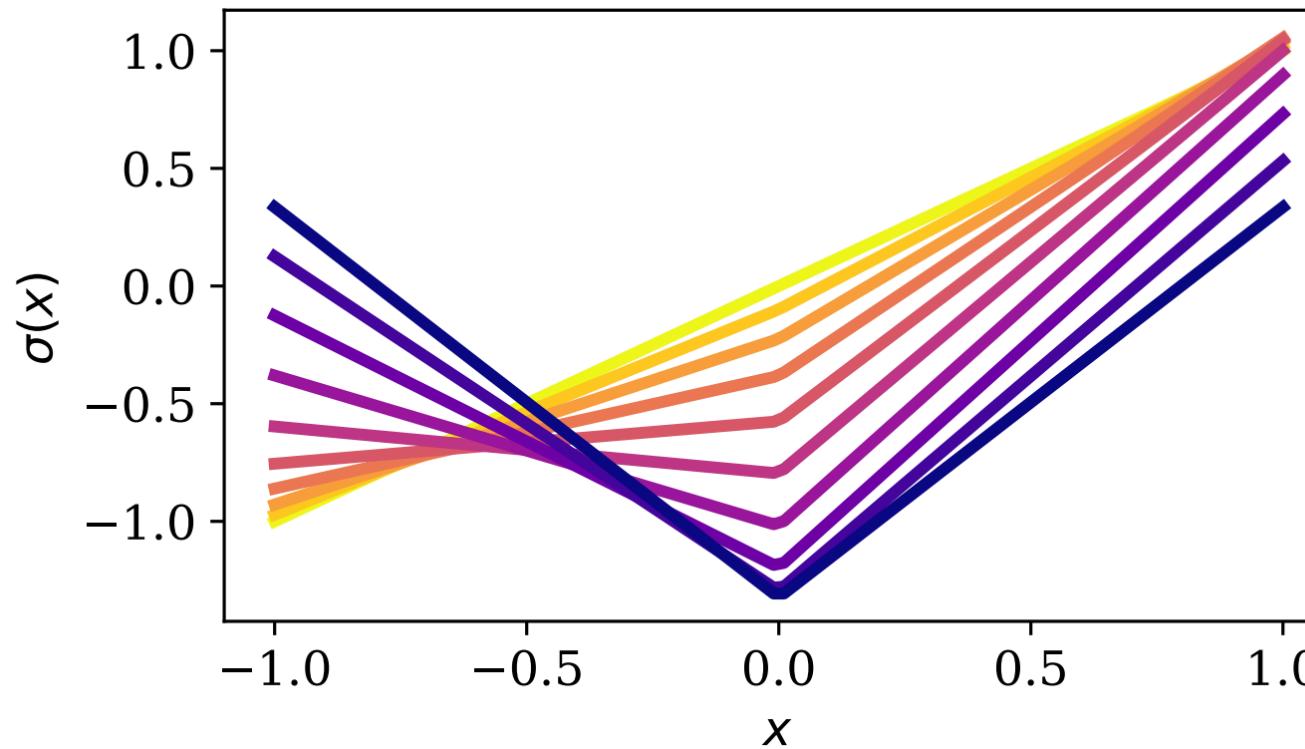
**HIGH-DIMENSIONAL LIMIT**

$$N, D, P \rightarrow \infty, \quad \frac{D}{P} = \psi = \mathcal{O}(1), \quad \frac{D}{N} = \phi = \mathcal{O}(1)$$

$$\eta = \int dz \frac{e^{-z^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sigma^2(z), \quad \zeta = \left[ \int dz \frac{e^{-z^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sigma'(z) \right]^2$$

**DEGREE OF LINEARITY**

$$r = \frac{\zeta}{\eta}$$



Degree of linearity

A vertical color bar indicating the degree of linearity, ranging from 0.0 (dark purple) to 1.0 (yellow).

# ANALYTICAL SPECTRUM

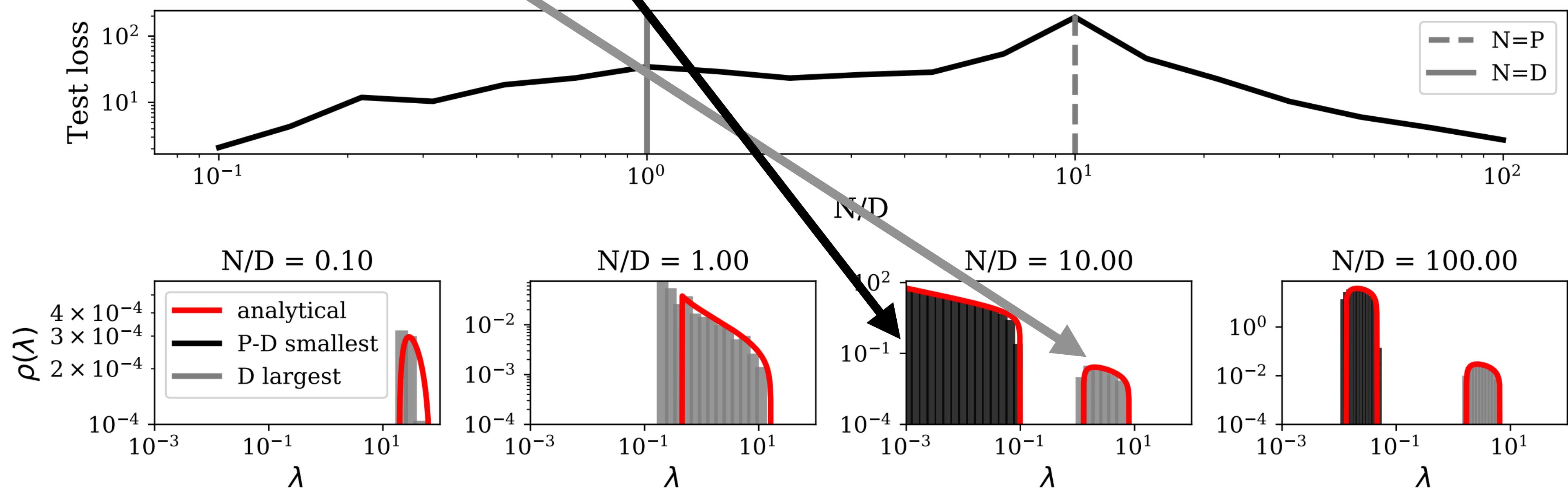
**LINEAR  
PART**      **NONLINEAR  
PART**

$$Z = \sigma \left( \frac{X\Theta^\top}{\sqrt{D}} \right) \rightarrow \sqrt{\zeta} \frac{X\Theta^\top}{\sqrt{D}} + \sqrt{\eta - \zeta} W, \quad W \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$$

$$\rho(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \text{Im}G(\lambda - i\epsilon), \quad G(z) = \frac{\psi}{z} A \left( \frac{1}{z\psi} \right) + \frac{1-\psi}{z}$$

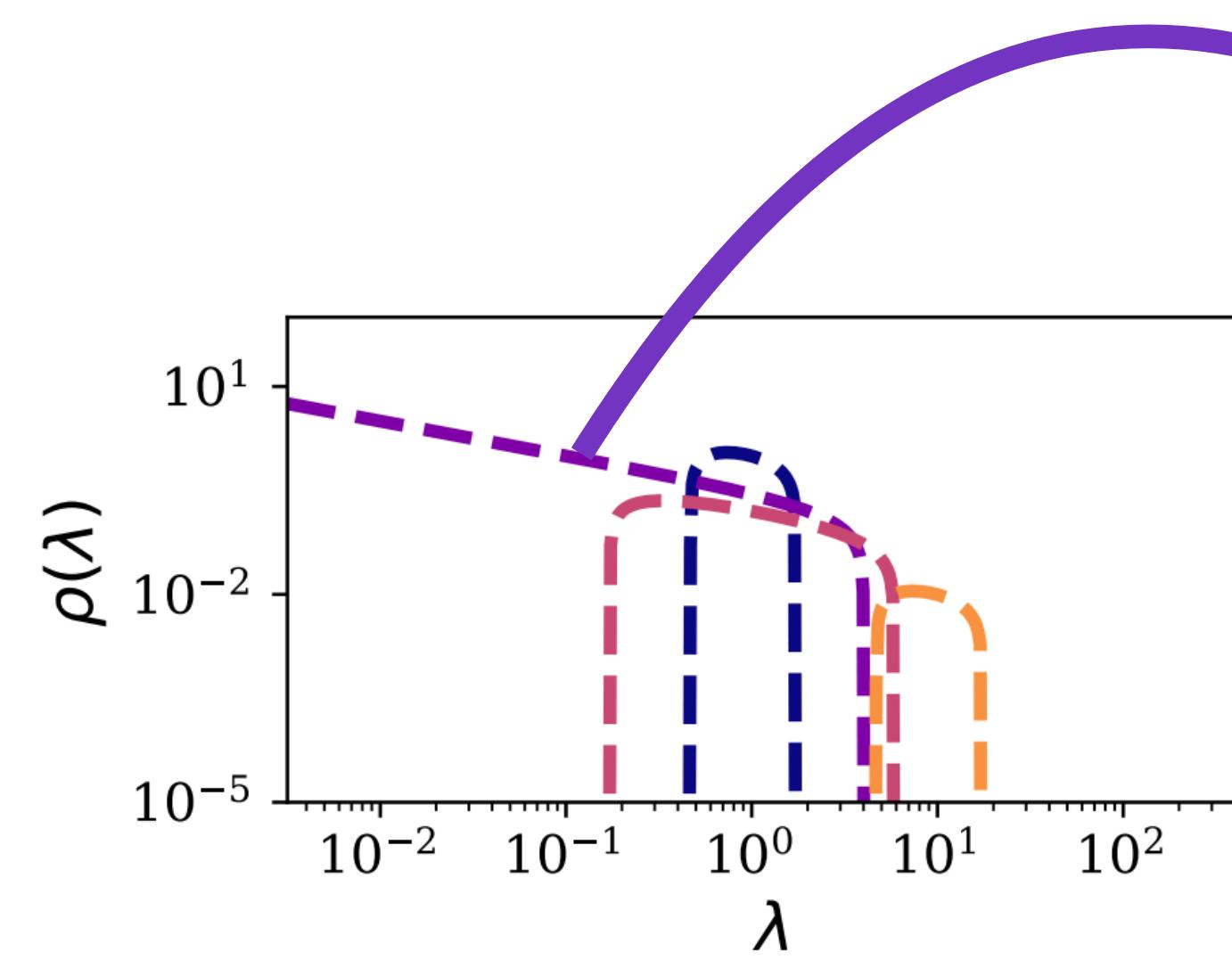
$$A(t) = 1 + (\eta - \zeta)tA_\phi(t)A_\psi(t) + \frac{A_\phi(t)A_\psi(t)t\zeta}{1 - A_\phi(t)A_\psi(t)t\zeta}$$

[Pennington & Worah 2017]



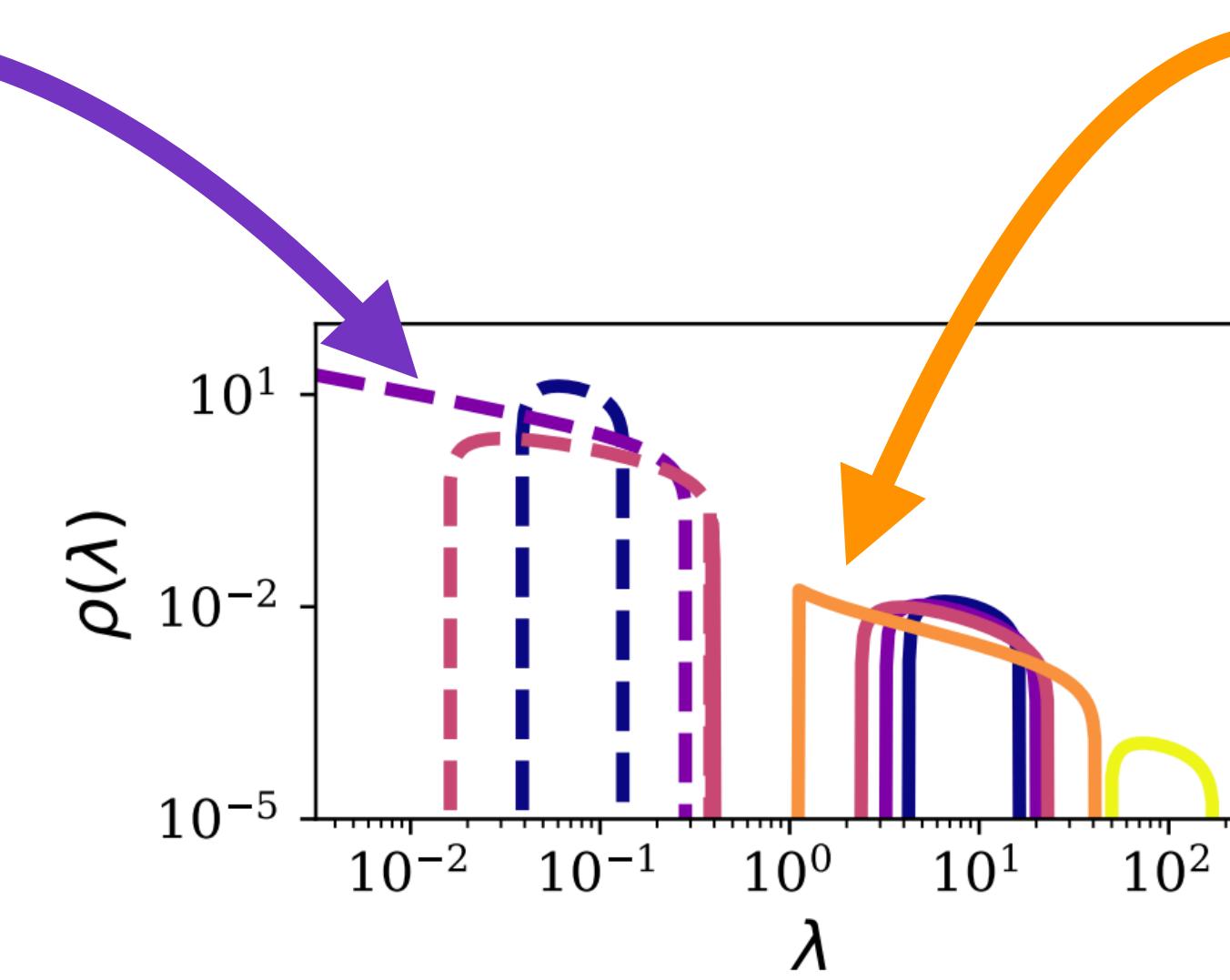
# ANALYTICAL SPECTRUM

N=P GAP SURVIVES

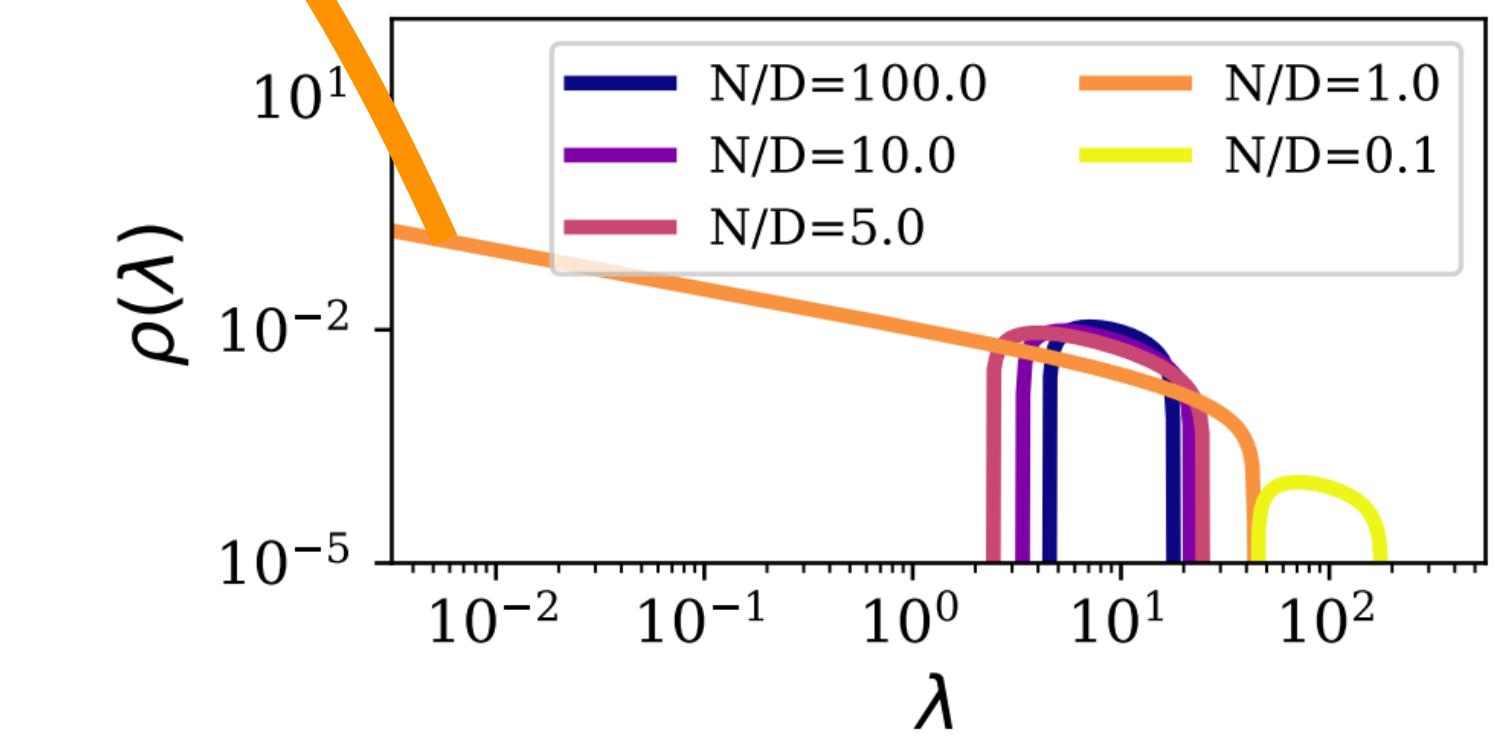


(a) Absolute value ( $r=0$ )

N=D GAP IS REGULARISED



(b) Tanh ( $r \simeq 0.92$ )



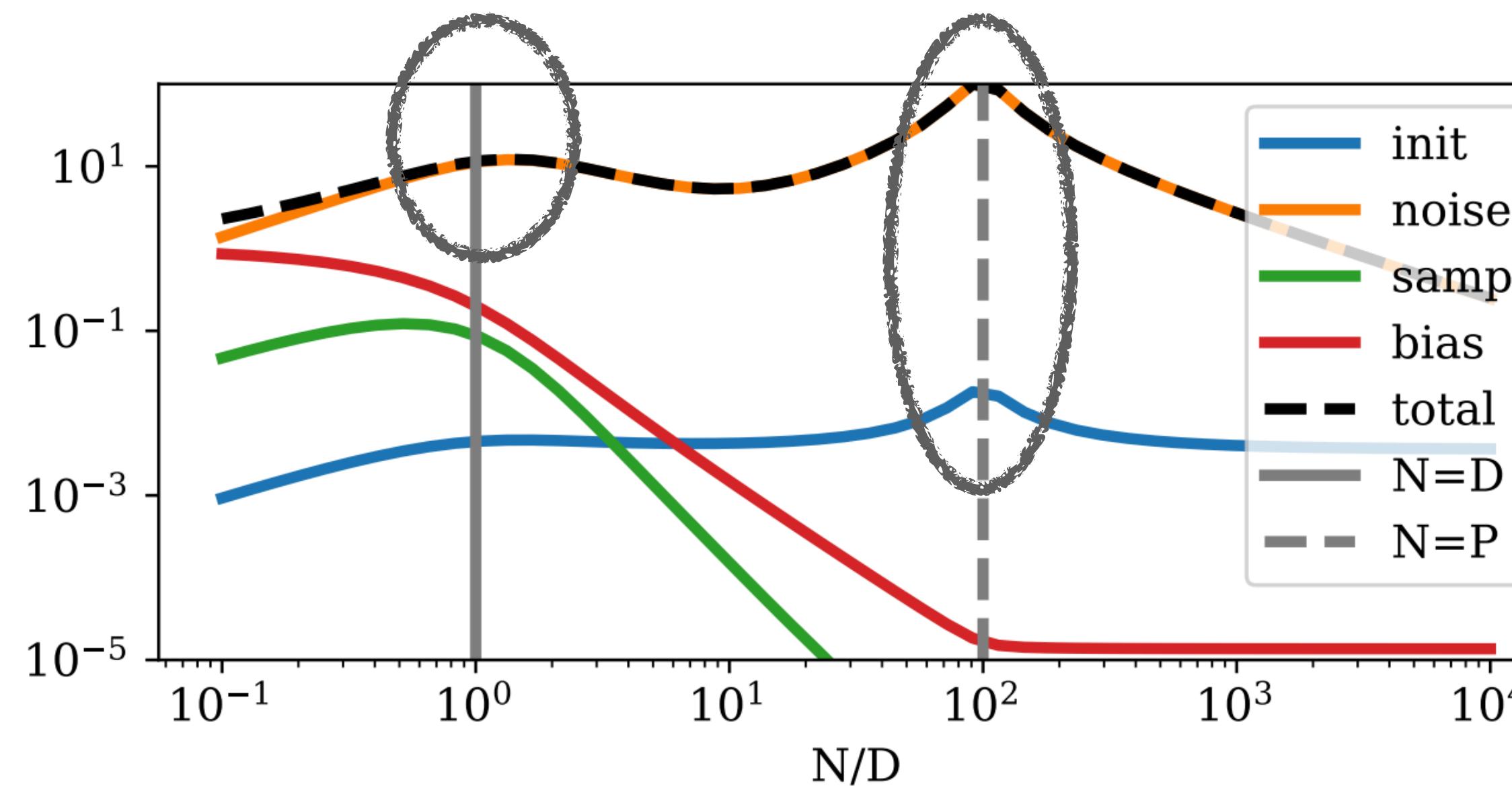
(c) Linear ( $r=1$ )

# BIAS AND VARIANCES

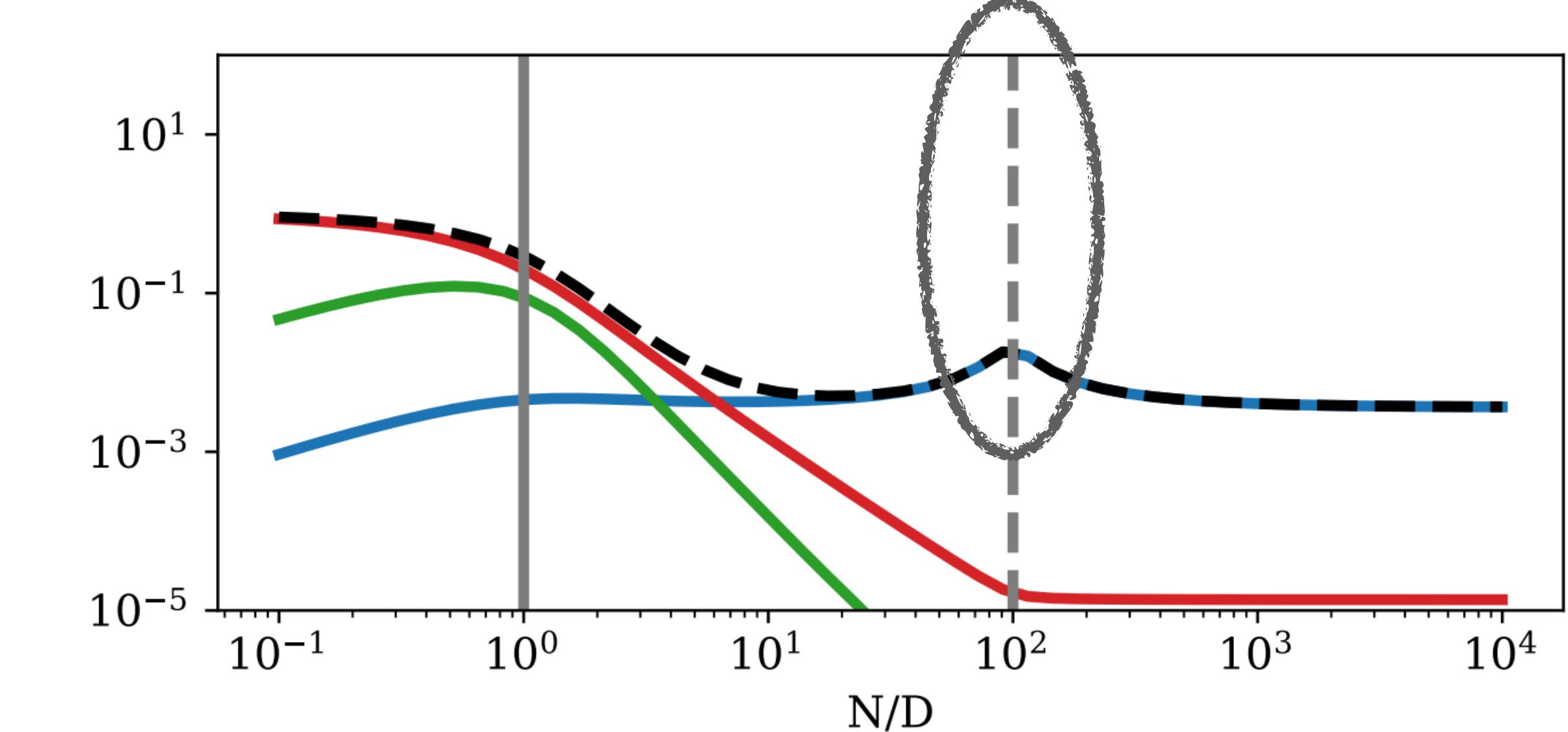
LINEAR PEAK  
CAUSED BY NOISE

NONLINEAR PEAK  
CAUSED BY NOISE & INIT

NONLINEAR PEAK  
SURVIVES IN ABSENCE OF NOISE

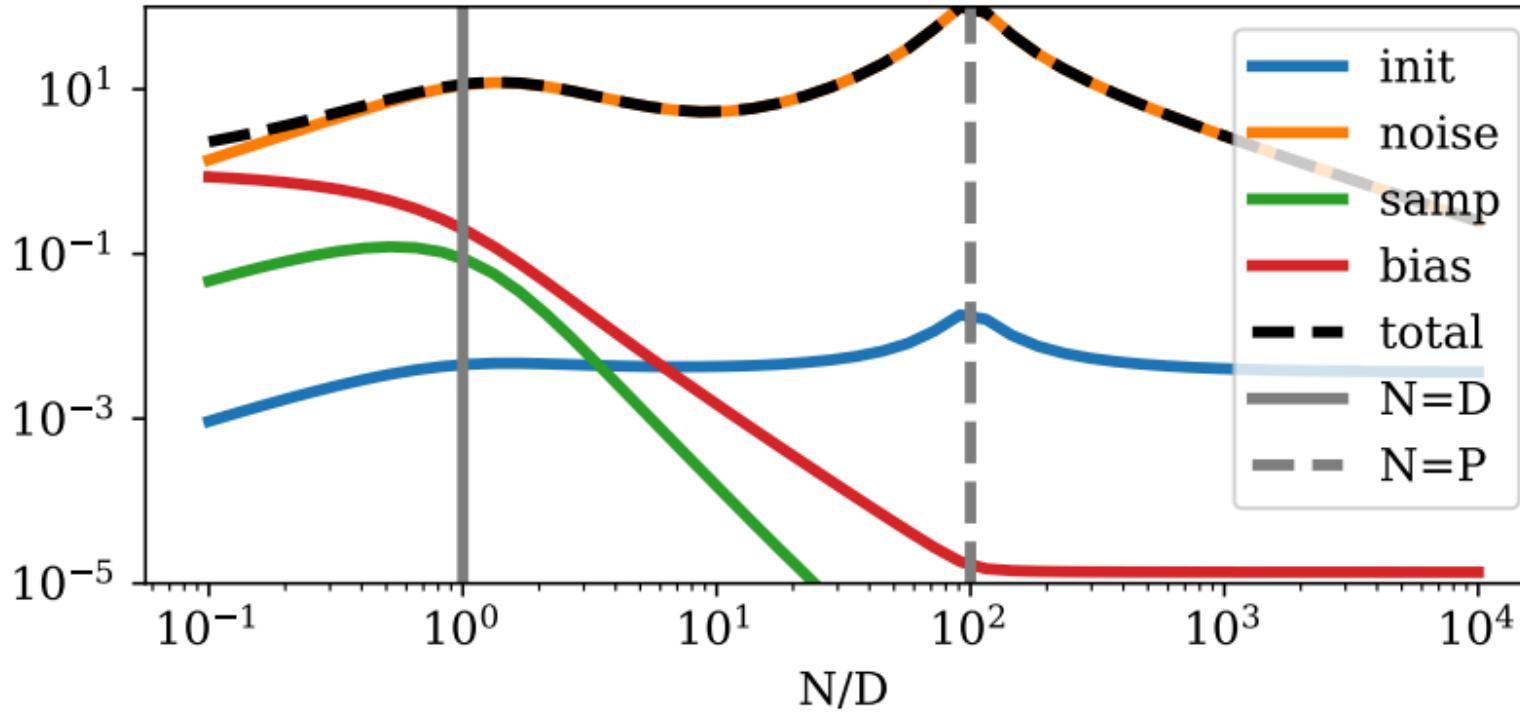


NOISY

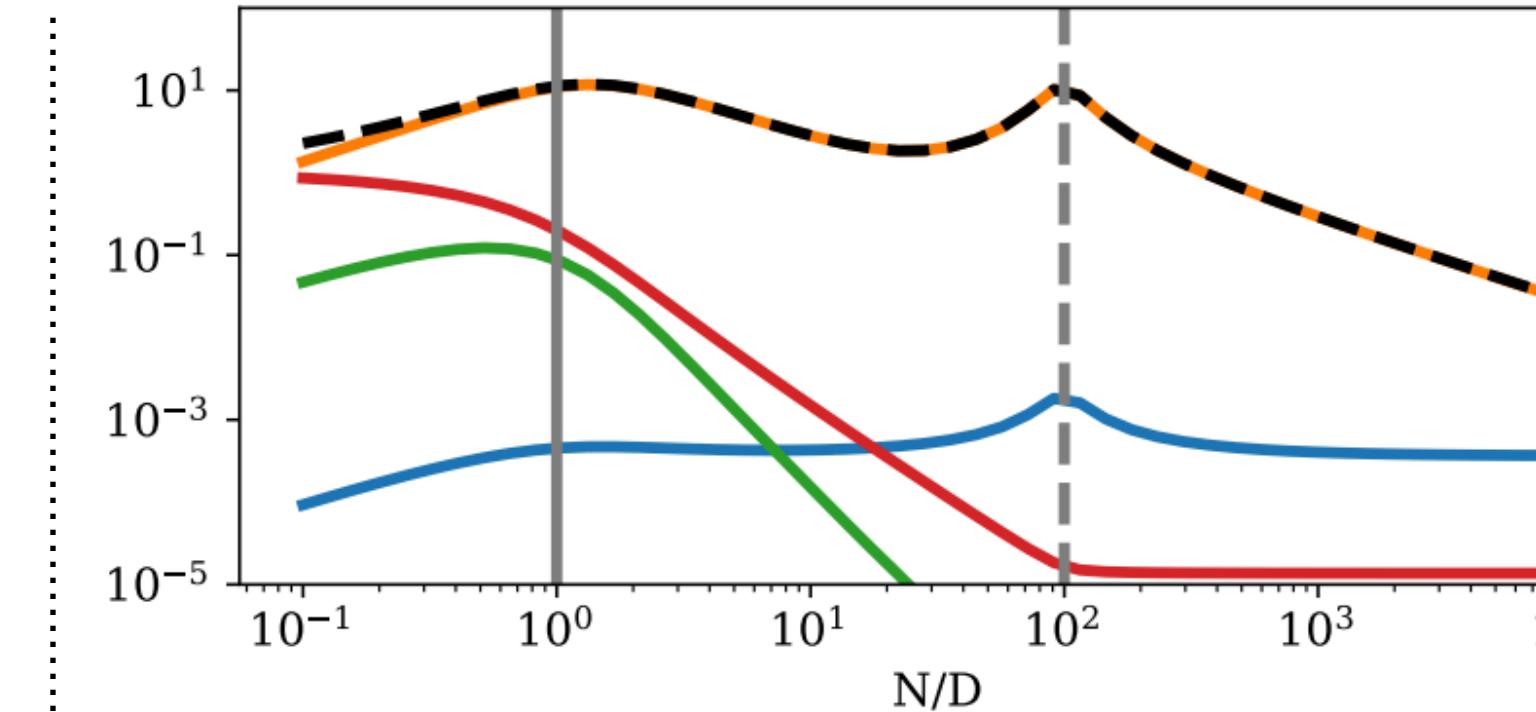


NOISELESS

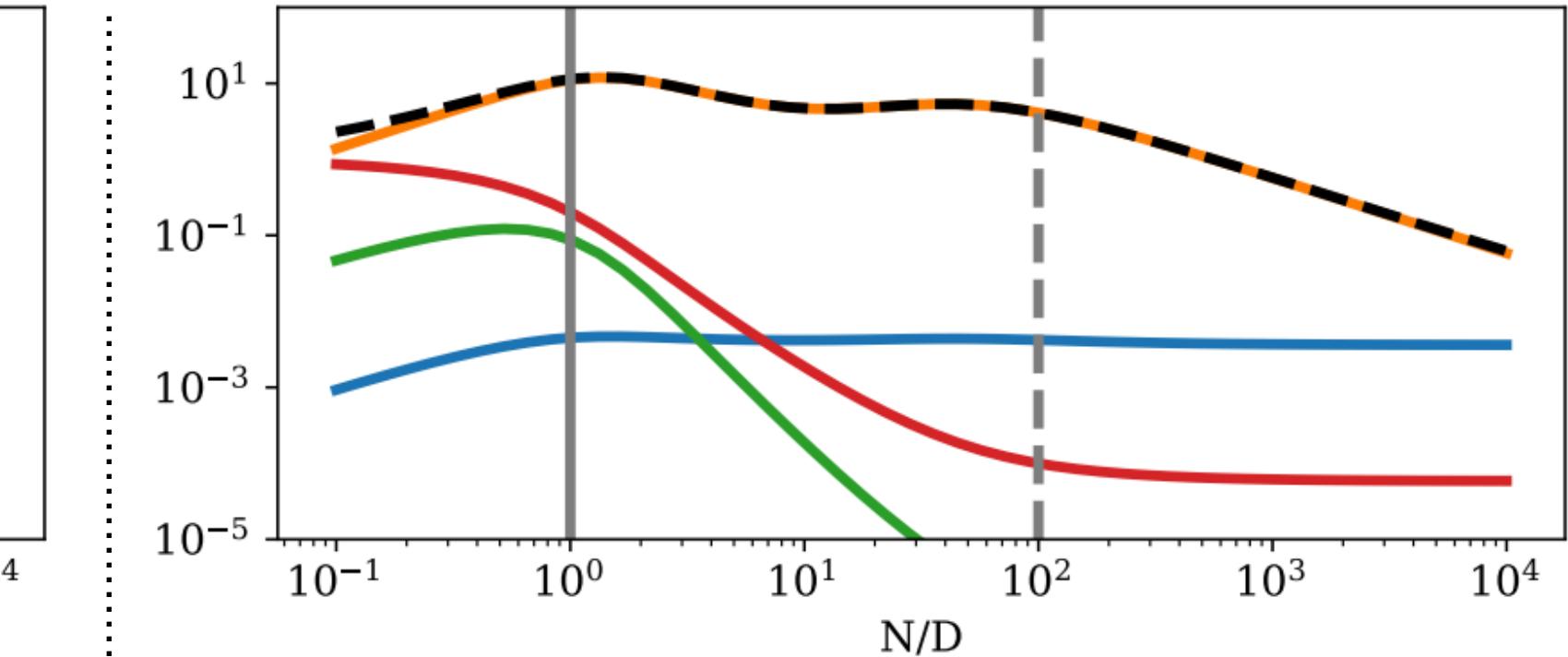
# EFFECT OF REGULARISATION



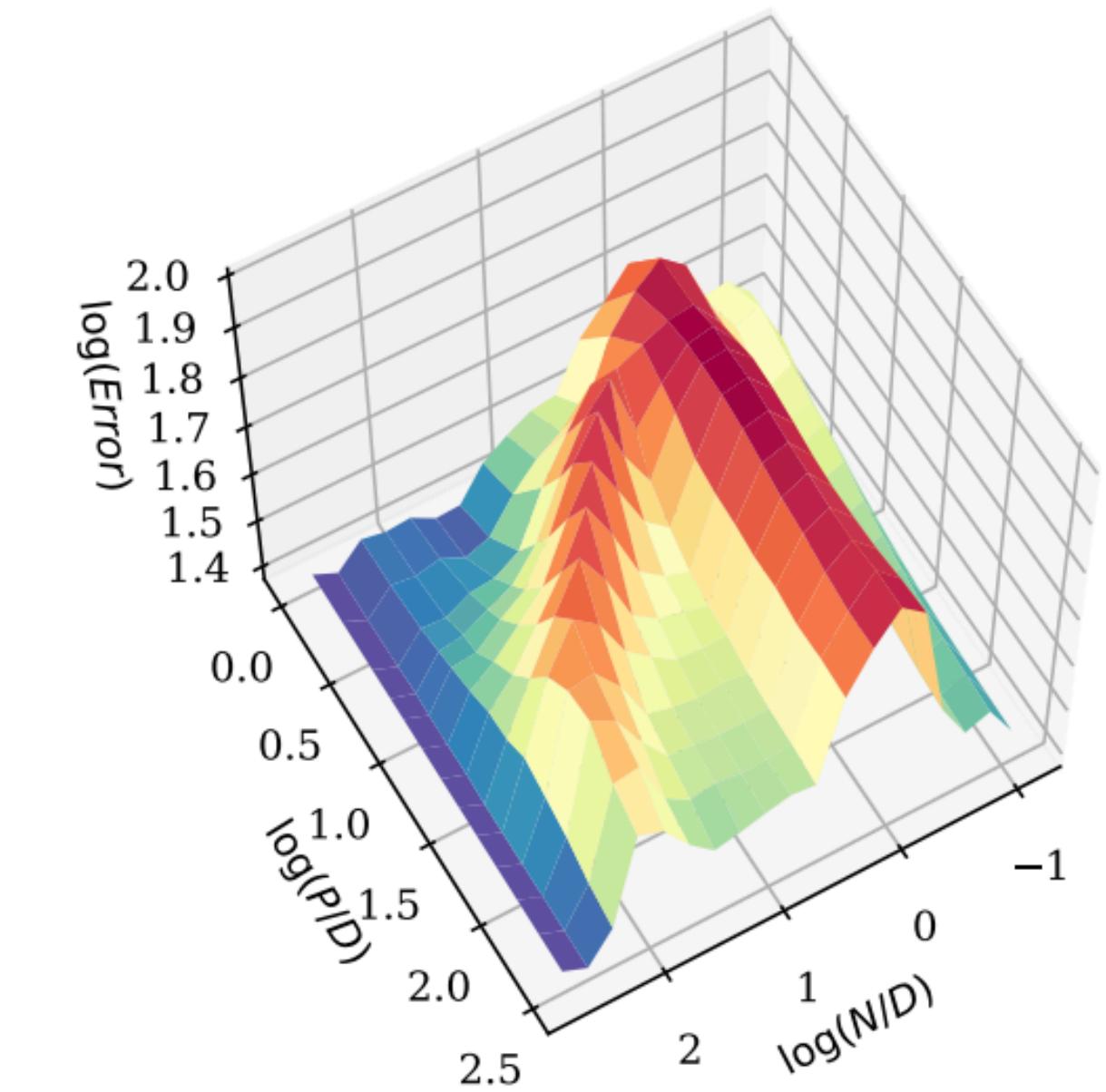
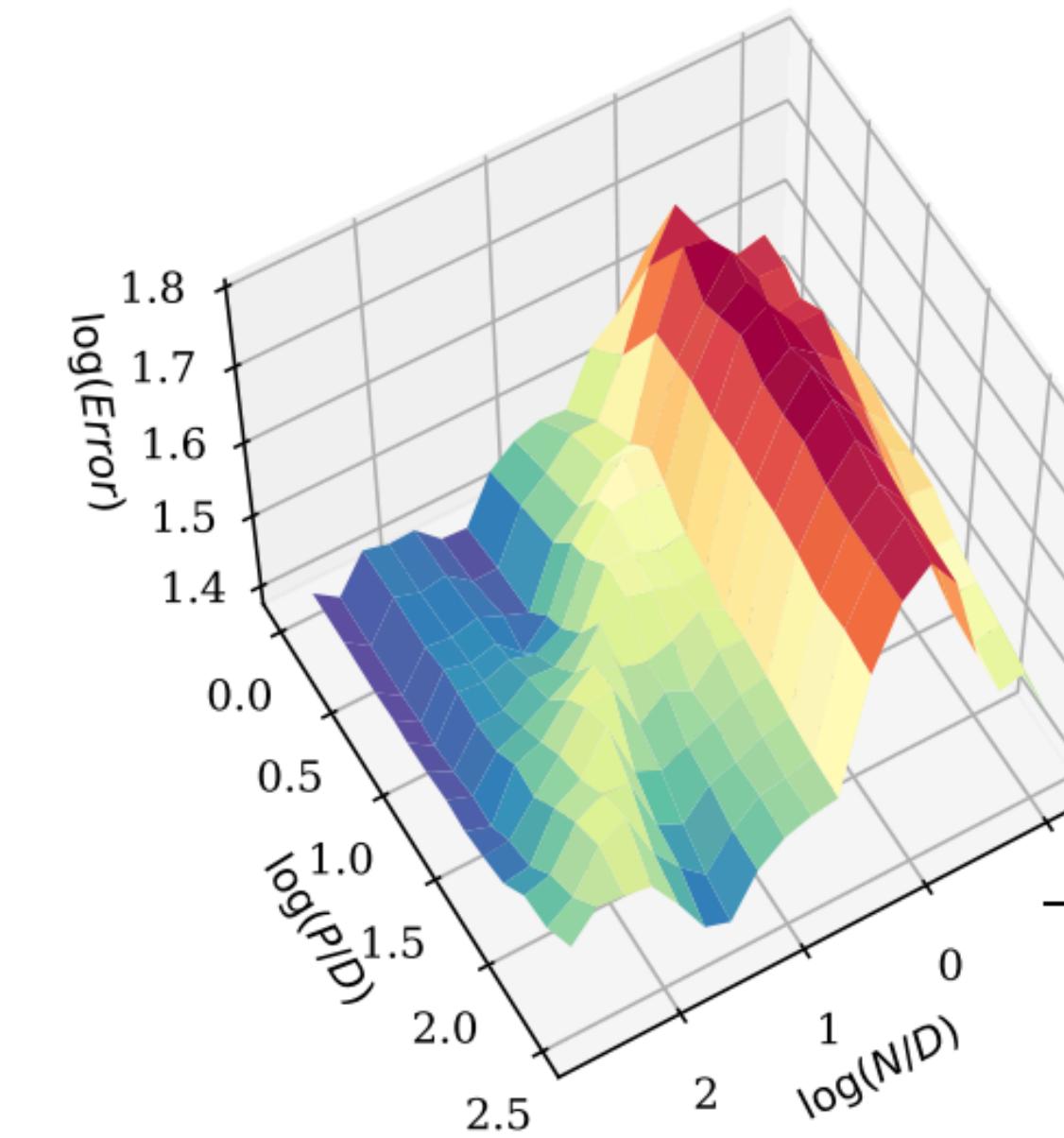
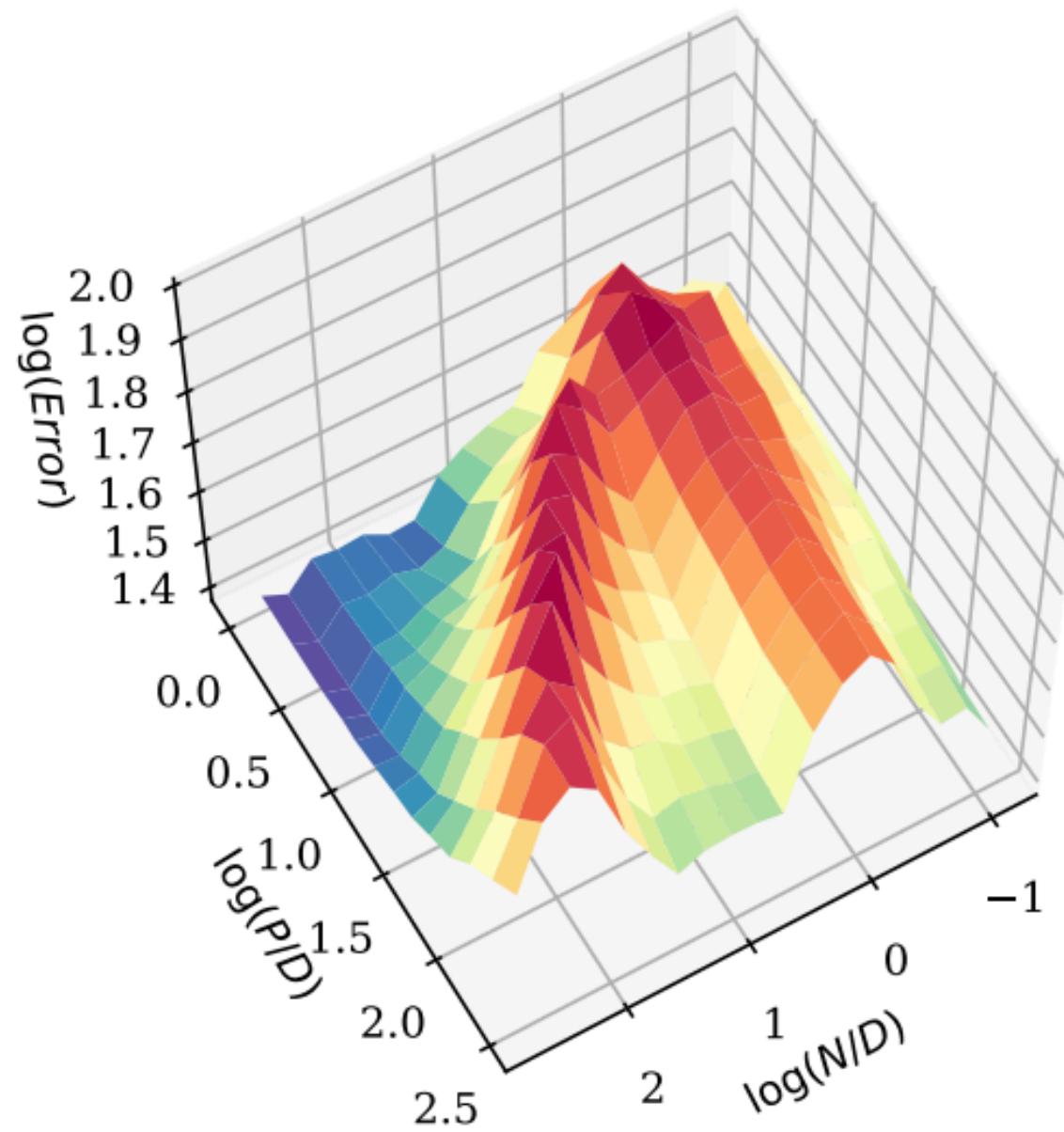
VANILLA



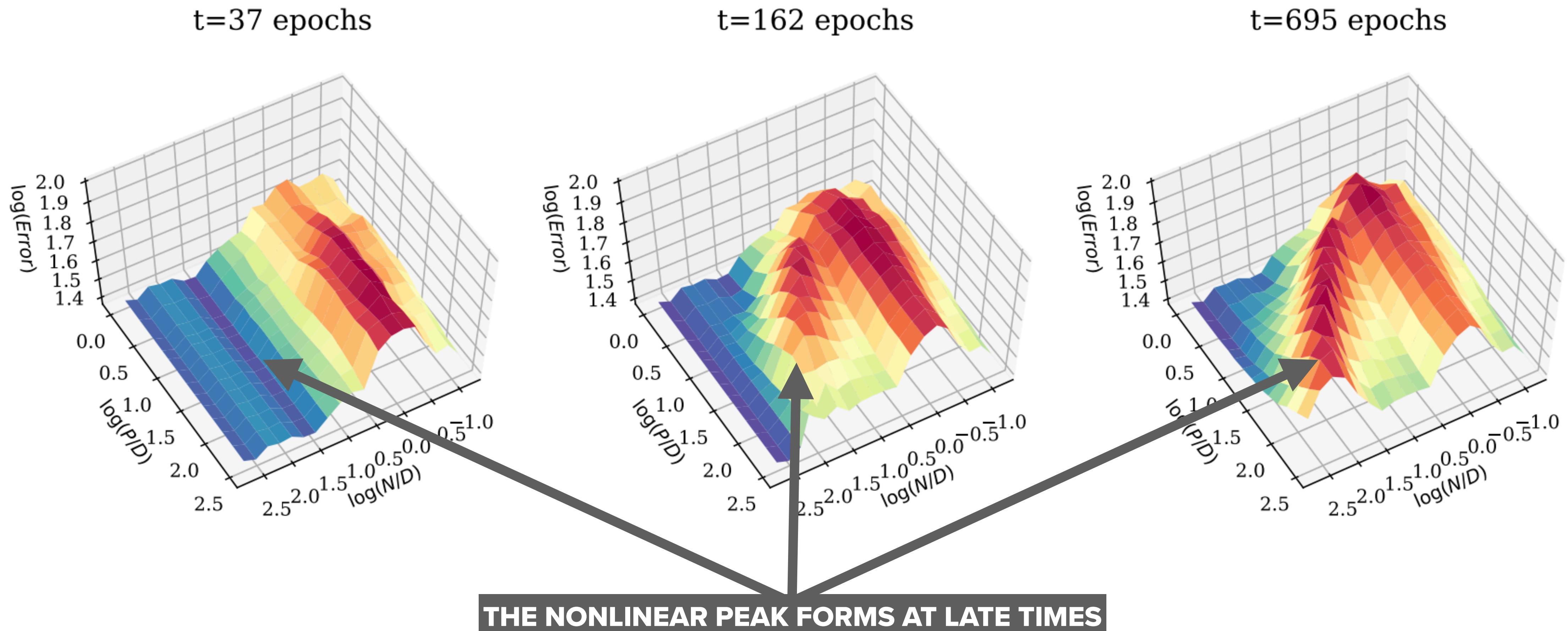
ENSEMBLING



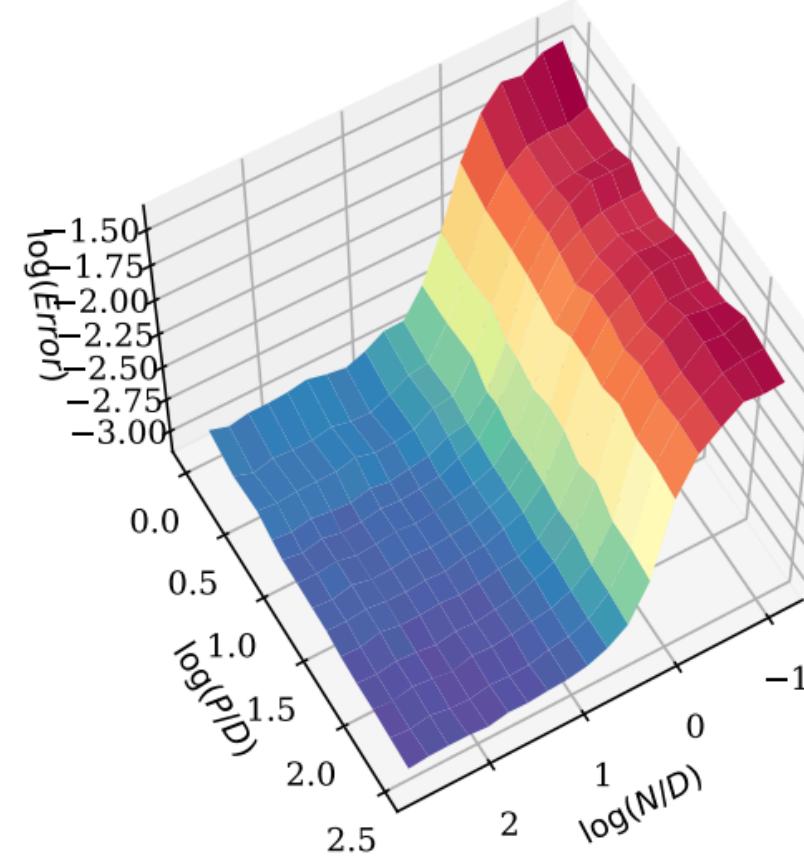
REGULARIZING



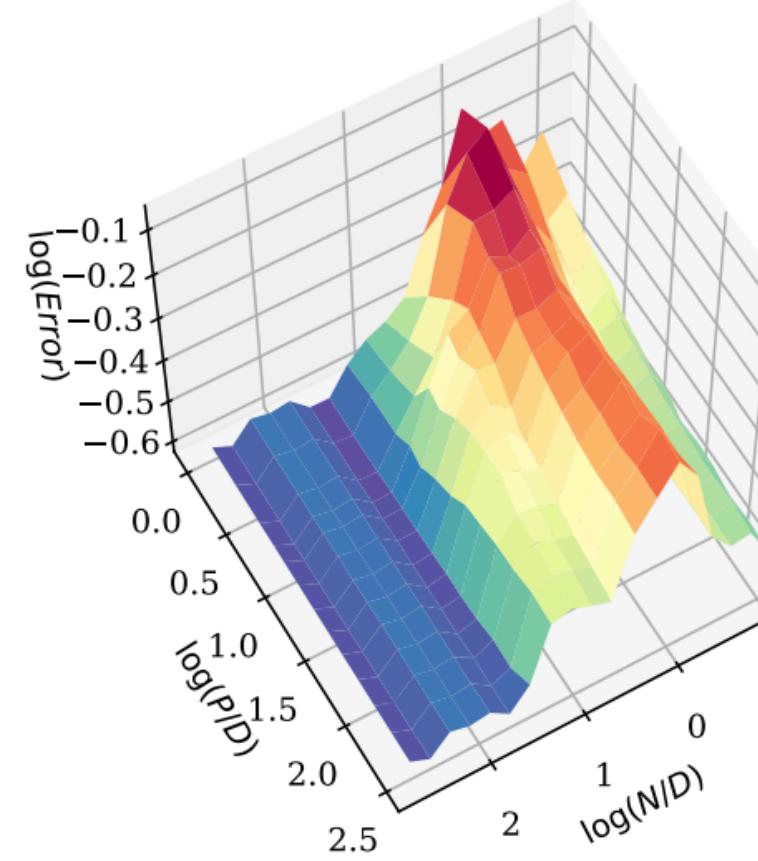
# TIME DEPENDENCE



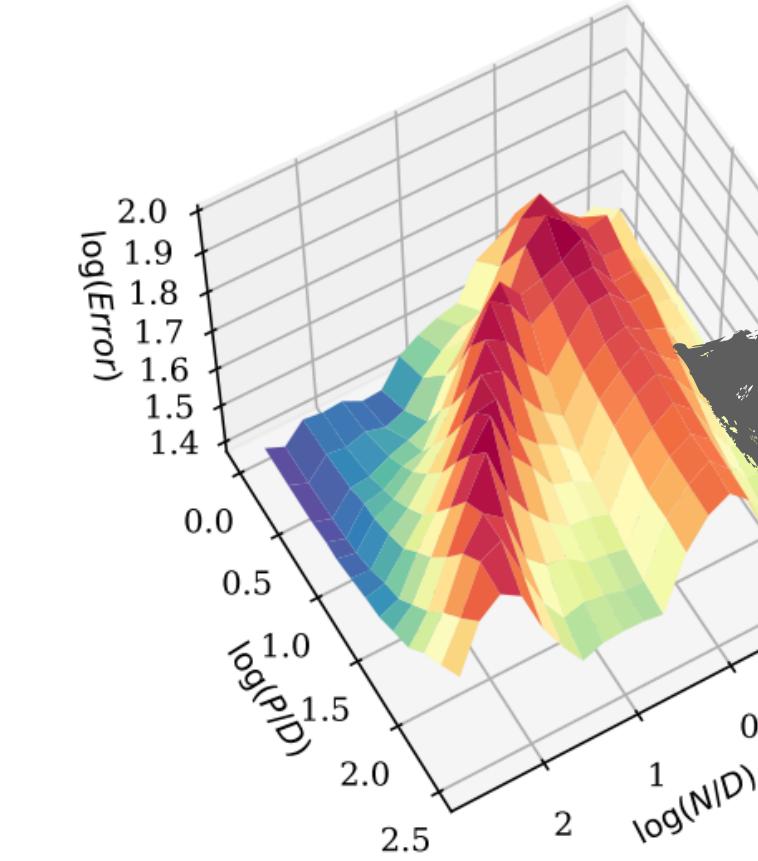
# EFFECT OF NOISE AND NONLINEARITY



(a) Tanh,  $SNR = \infty$

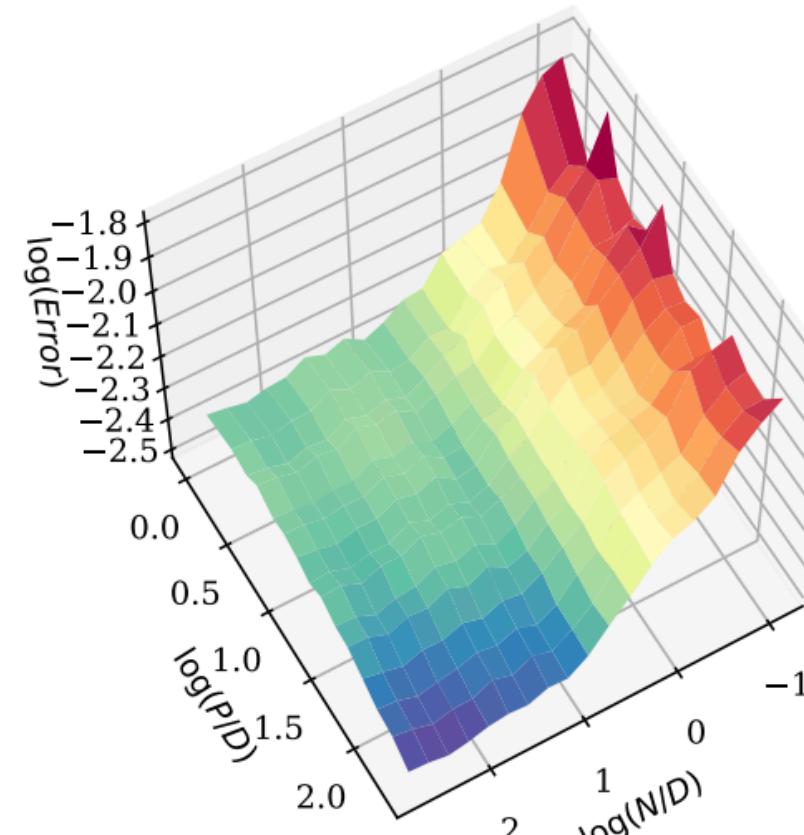


(b) Tanh,  $SNR = 2$

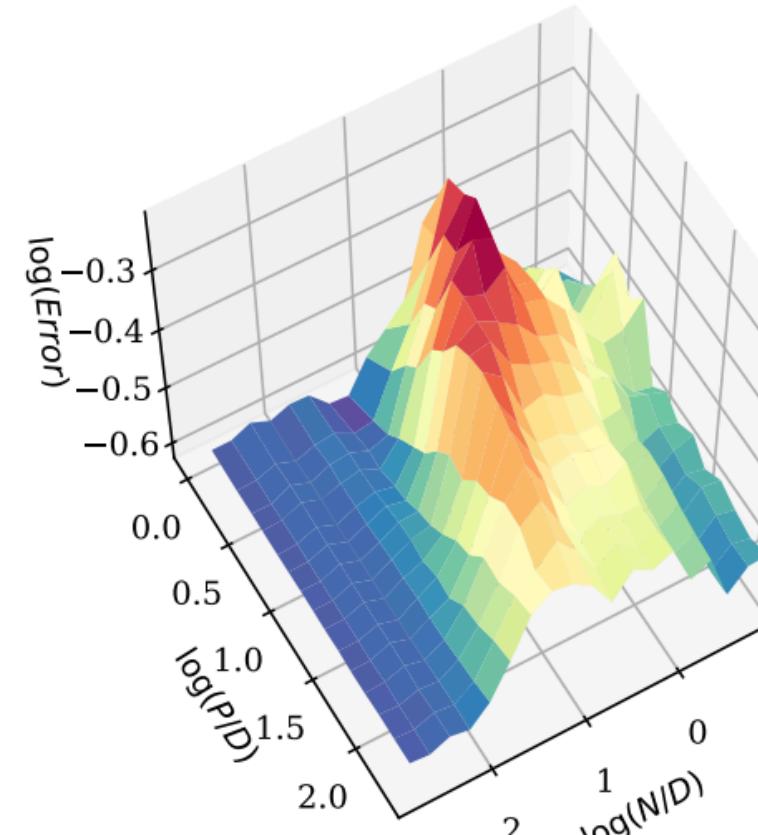


(c) Tanh,  $SNR = 0.2$

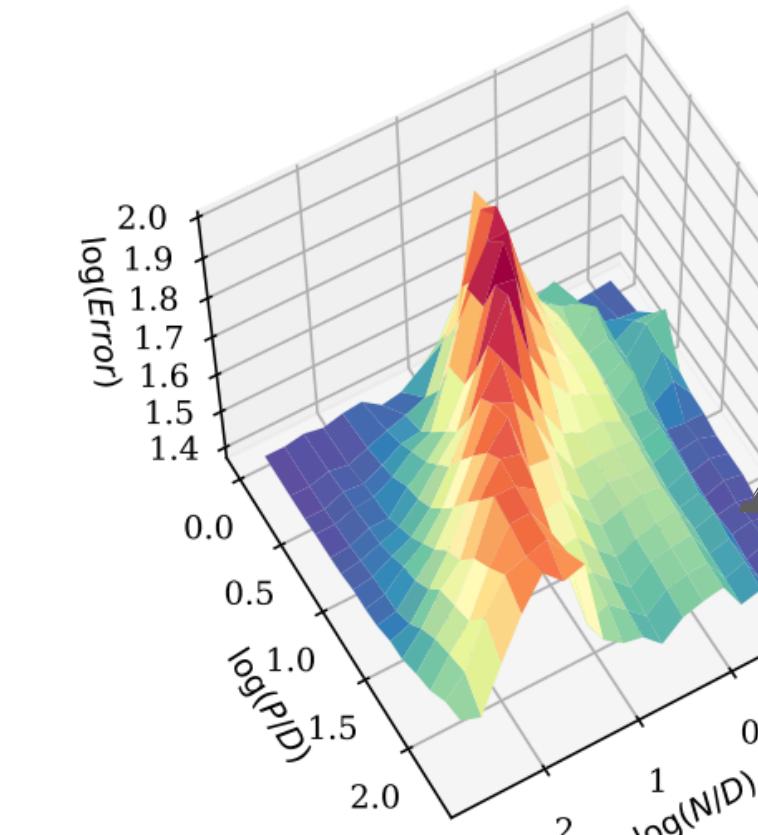
**LINEAR PEAK IS WEAKER FOR RELU**



(d) ReLU,  $SNR = \infty$

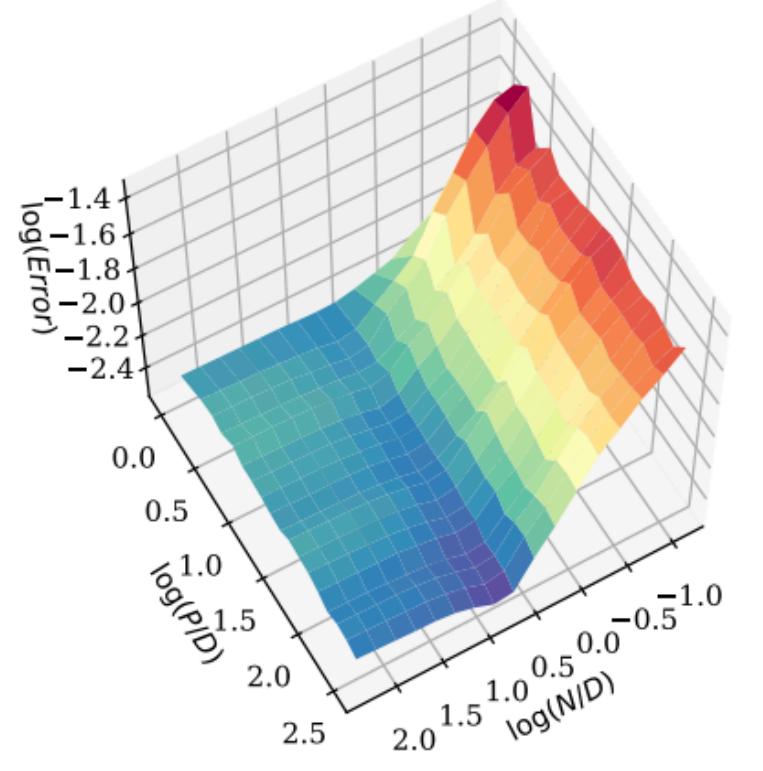


(e) ReLU,  $SNR = 2$

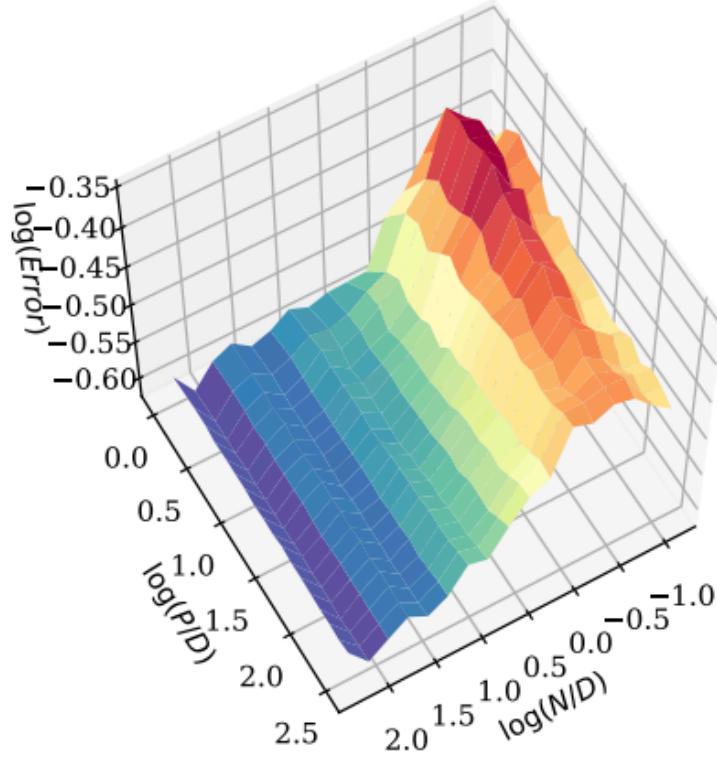


(f) ReLU,  $SNR = 0.2$

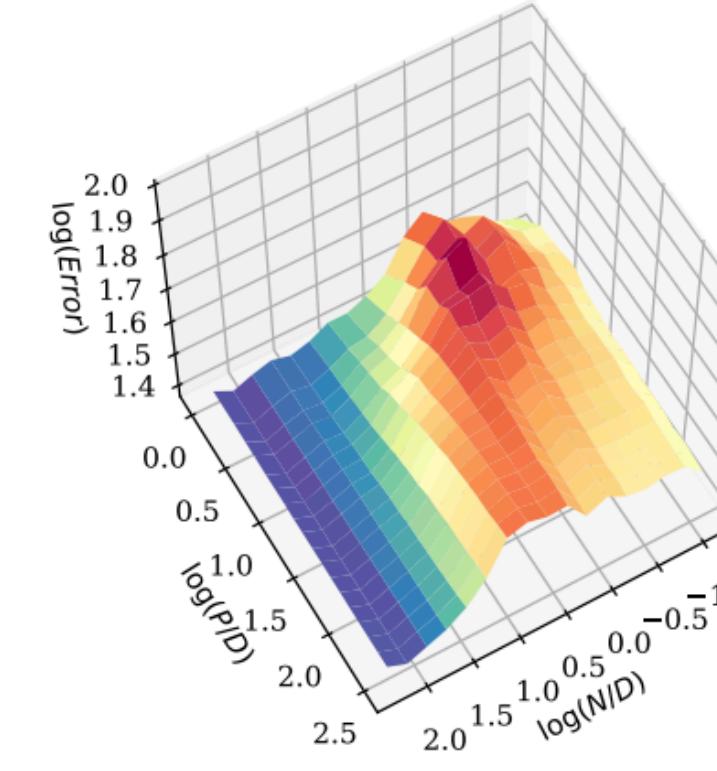
# STRUCTURED DATASETS



(a) MNIST,  $SNR = \infty$

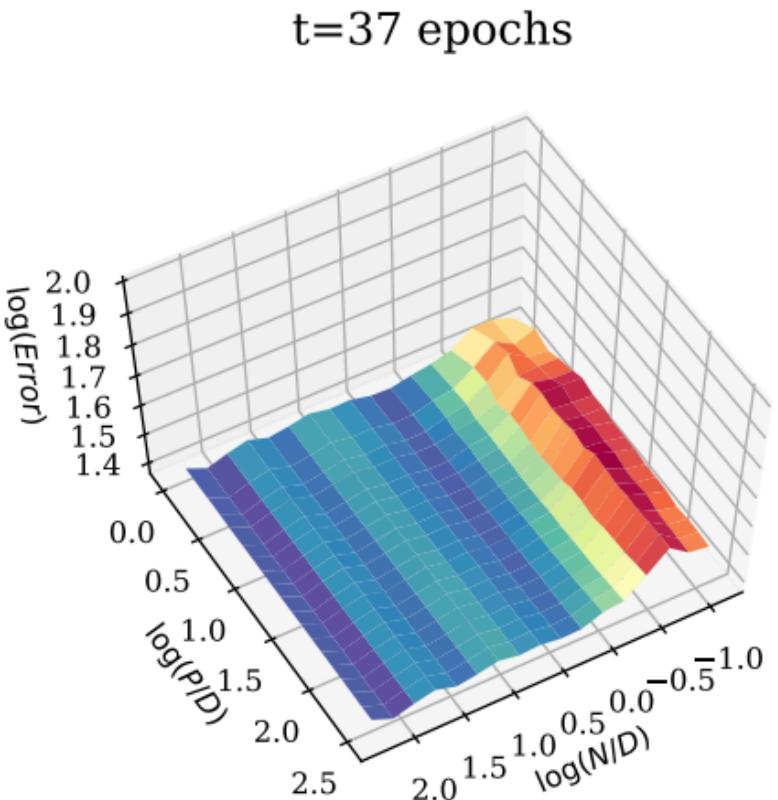


(b) MNIST,  $SNR = 2$

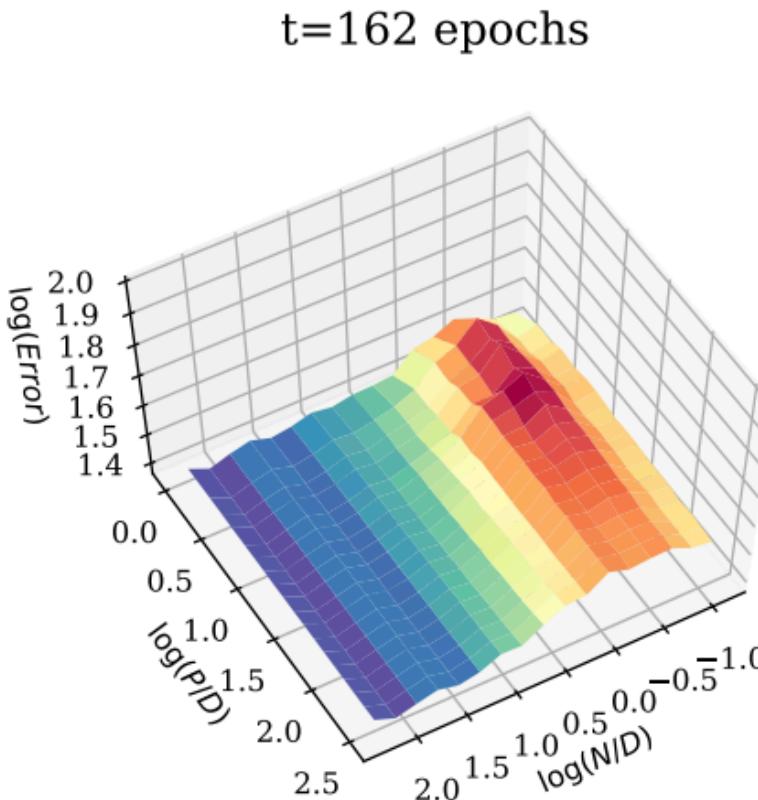


(c) MNIST,  $SNR = 0.2$

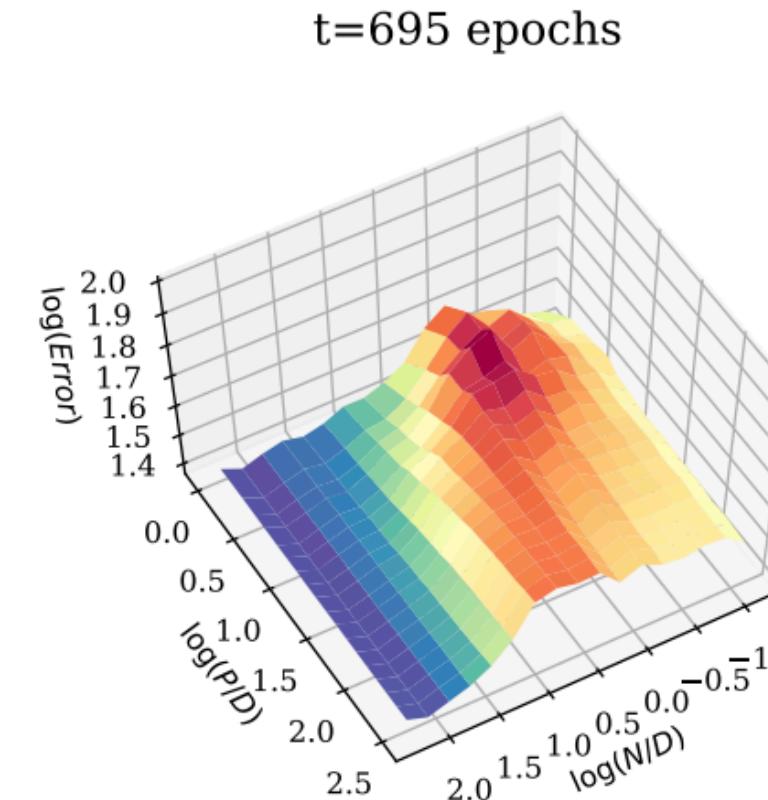
**LINEAR AND NONLINEAR PEAK  
ARE MERGED TOGETHER**



$t=37$  epochs



$t=162$  epochs



$t=695$  epochs

(d) Dynamics on MNIST at  $SNR = 0.2$

**SHIFT FROM LINEAR TO NONLINEAR  
DURING TRAINING**