

# Meta-Learning with Adjoint Method

Shibo Li, Zheng Wang, Akil Narayan, Robert M. Kirby, Shandian Zhe  
The University of Utah

# Roadmap

- Motivation
- Background
- Method
- Experiment
- Light Discussion

# Motivation

- Meta-Agnostic Meta Learning(MAML)

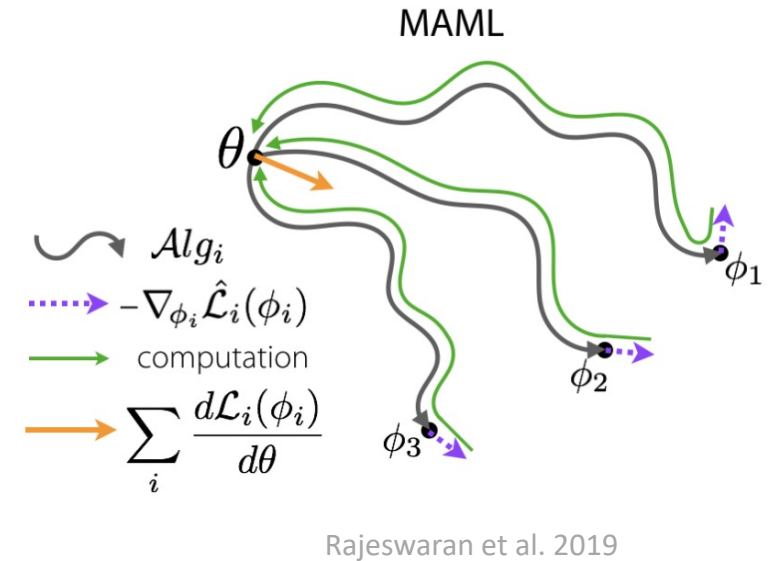
- Task adaptation:

$$\theta'_i = \theta - \alpha \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{T}_i}(f_{\theta})$$

- Meta-optimization:

$$\theta \leftarrow \theta - \beta \nabla_{\theta} \sum_{\mathcal{T}_i \sim p(\mathcal{T})} \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{T}_i}(f_{\theta'_i})$$

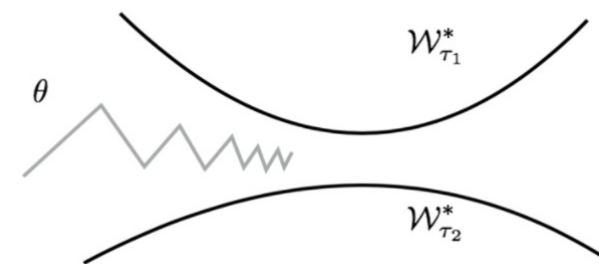
- The backward requires taking auto differentiation on the history of computational graph.



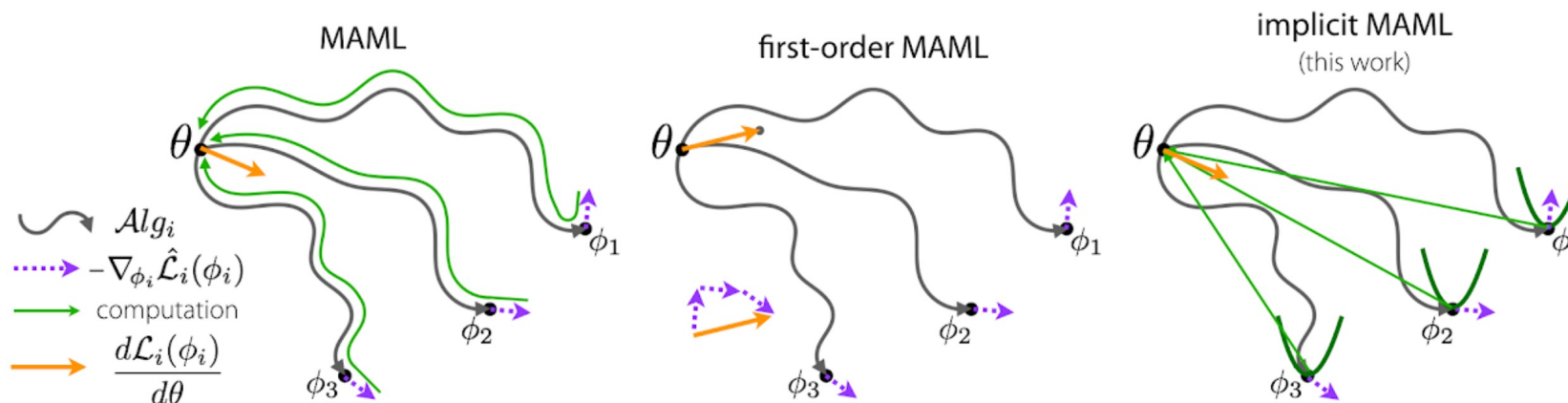
# Motivation

- Existing approximation:
  - First-order MAML: no backward
  - Implicit MAML: local curvature  $\frac{\lambda}{2} \|\phi' - \theta\|^2$
  - Reptile: close to all the optimal manifolds of all tasks

$$\theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} \mathbb{E}_{\tau \sim p(\tau)} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \text{dist}(\theta, \mathcal{W}_{\tau}^*)^2 \right]$$

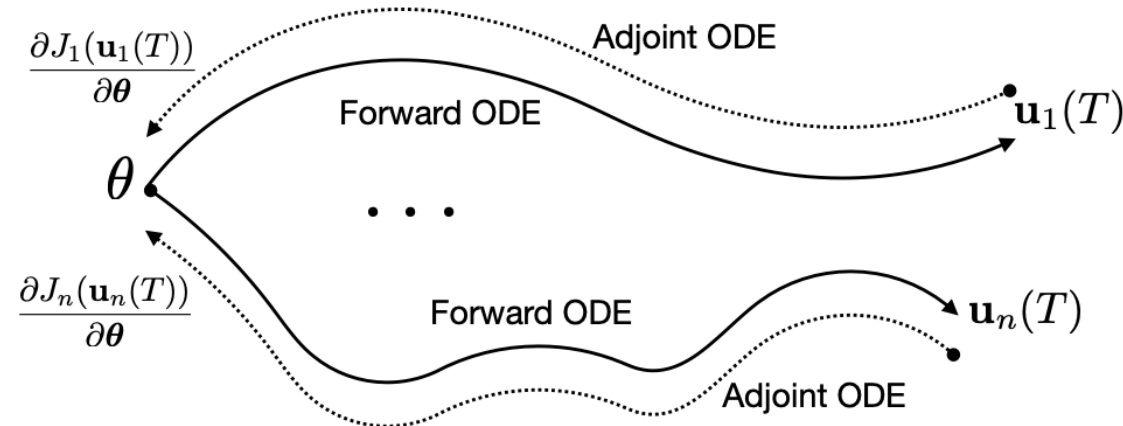


Reptile, Nichol et al. 2018



# Our Contribution

- An ODE view of task adaptation
- Meta gradient with adjoint method
- Memory efficiency for long adaptation trajectory while yet accurate meta gradients on validation



# Background

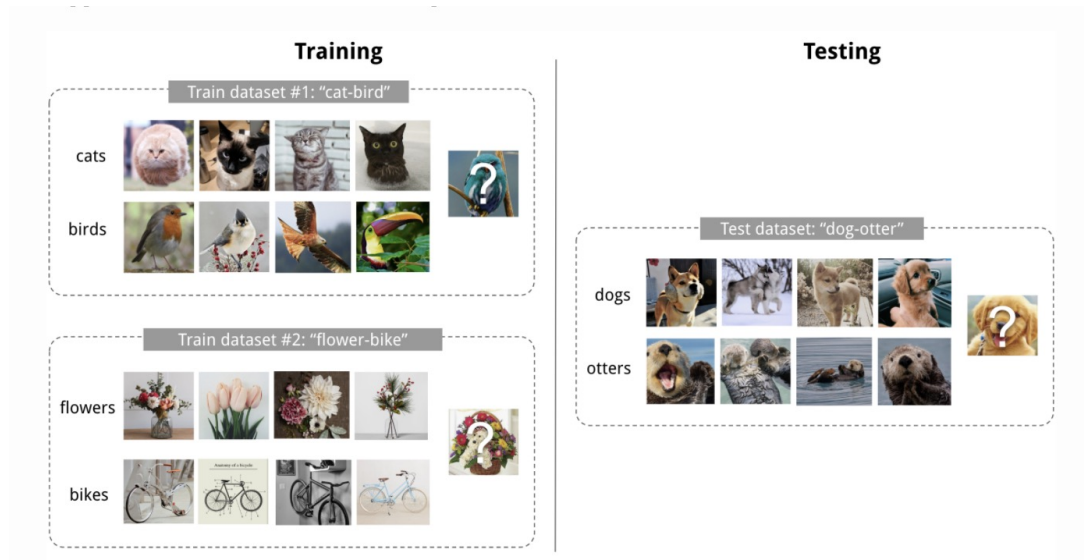
- Standard (Deep) Machine Learning: **cheap, safe, easy** to collect large amount of data



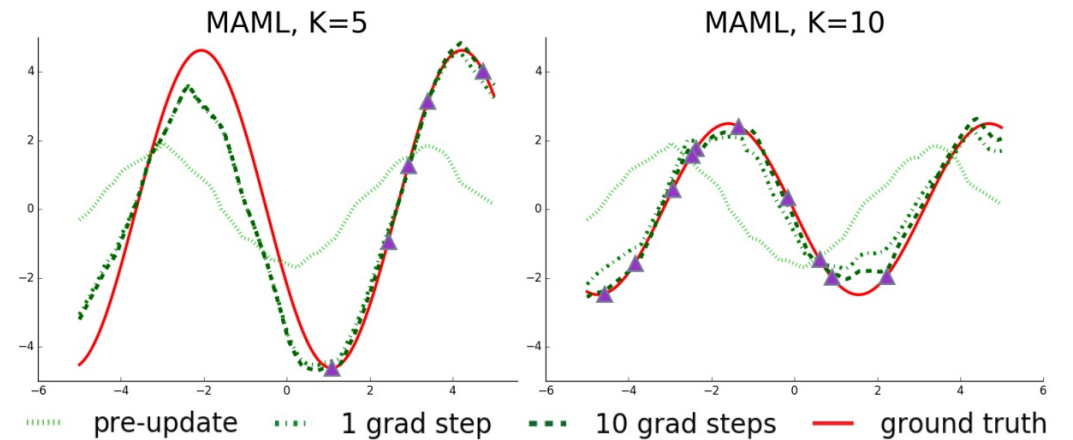
- Data **Costly, Sensitive** Applications: Robotics, User personalization, etc.
- **Meta Learning(Learning to Learn Fast)**: Enable **efficient** learning on **new tasks** with encoding **adaptable representations**

# Background

- Few-shot Classification (2way-4shots)

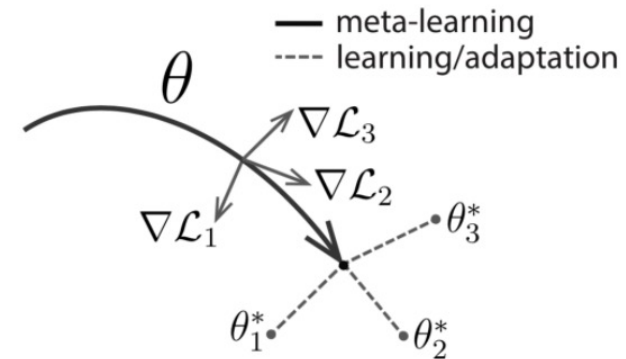
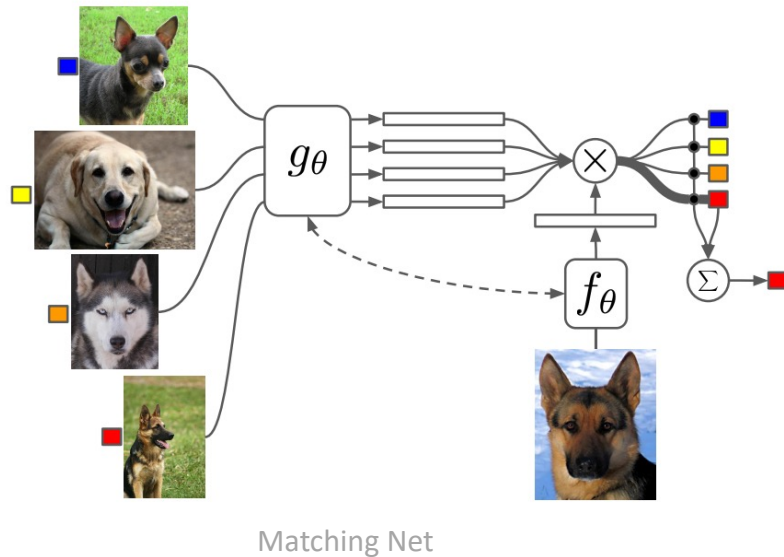


- Few-shot Regression



# Meta-Learning Approaches

- *Metric Based*: Siamese Neural Network, Matching Net, etc.
- *Optimization Based*: **MAML**, Reptile, etc.



$$\theta^* = \arg \min_{\theta} \sum_{\tau_i \sim p(\tau)} \mathcal{L}_{\tau_i}^{(1)}(f_{\theta_i^*}) = \arg \min_{\theta} \sum_{\tau_i \sim p(\tau)} \mathcal{L}_{\tau_i}^{(1)}(f_{\theta - \alpha \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}_{\tau_i}^{(0)}(f_{\theta})})$$

$$\theta \leftarrow \theta - \beta \nabla_{\theta} \sum_{\tau_i \sim p(\tau)} \mathcal{L}_{\tau_i}^{(1)}(f_{\theta - \alpha \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}_{\tau_i}^{(0)}(f_{\theta})})$$

Model Agnostic Meta-Learning (MAML)



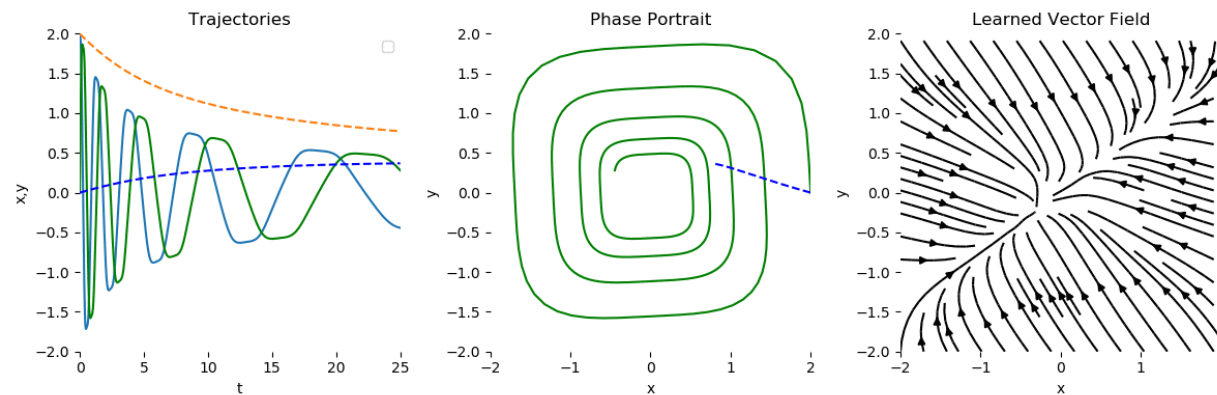
# Adjoint Method

- An Example: Learn a parametric ODE system

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u}, t; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ \mathbf{u}(t_0) = \mathbf{u}_0 \end{cases} \quad \mathbf{u}(t) \in \mathbb{R}^N; \mathbf{f} \in \mathbb{R}^N; \boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^P$$

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} J(\mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \int_0^T g(\mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) dt$$

For example: Quadratic Loss:  $\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{u}$



Chen et al. 2018

# Adjoint Method

- Goal: Total derivative

$$\frac{dJ}{d\theta} = \int_0^T \left( \overset{1 \times P}{\frac{\partial g}{\partial \theta}} + \overset{1 \times N}{\frac{\partial g}{\partial \mathbf{u}}} \cdot \overset{N \times P}{\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial \theta}} \right) dt$$

## Forward Sensitivity

$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}}{d\theta} = \left[ \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{d\theta_0}, \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{d\theta_1}, \dots, \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{d\theta_P} \right]$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta_i} \begin{cases} \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u}, t; \theta) \\ \mathbf{u}(t_0) = \mathbf{u}_0 \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{d\theta_i} = \frac{d\mathbf{f}}{d\mathbf{u}} \cdot \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{d\theta_i} + \frac{d\mathbf{f}}{d\theta_i} \\ \frac{d\mathbf{u}(0)}{d\theta_i} = \frac{d\mathbf{u}_0}{d\theta_i} \end{cases}$$

$\leftarrow \mathbf{S}_i$

Solve  $P+1$  ODE systems

## Adjoint Sensitivity

$$\hat{J}(\mathbf{u}; \theta) = J(\mathbf{u}; \theta) + \int_0^T \lambda^\top(t) \left( \mathbf{f} - \frac{d\mathbf{u}}{dt} \right) dt$$



Auto-differentiation

T.V.P

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\lambda(t)}{dt} = -\frac{d\mathbf{f}}{d\mathbf{u}}^\top \cdot \lambda(t) - \frac{dg}{d\mathbf{u}} \\ \lambda(T) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{d\hat{J}}{d\theta} = \int_0^T \left( \frac{dg}{d\theta} + \lambda(t) \frac{d\mathbf{f}}{d\theta} \right) dt + \lambda(0) \frac{d\mathbf{u}_0}{d\theta}$$

Solve **only 2** ODE systems, scale constantly 😊

# An ODE View of Task Adaptation

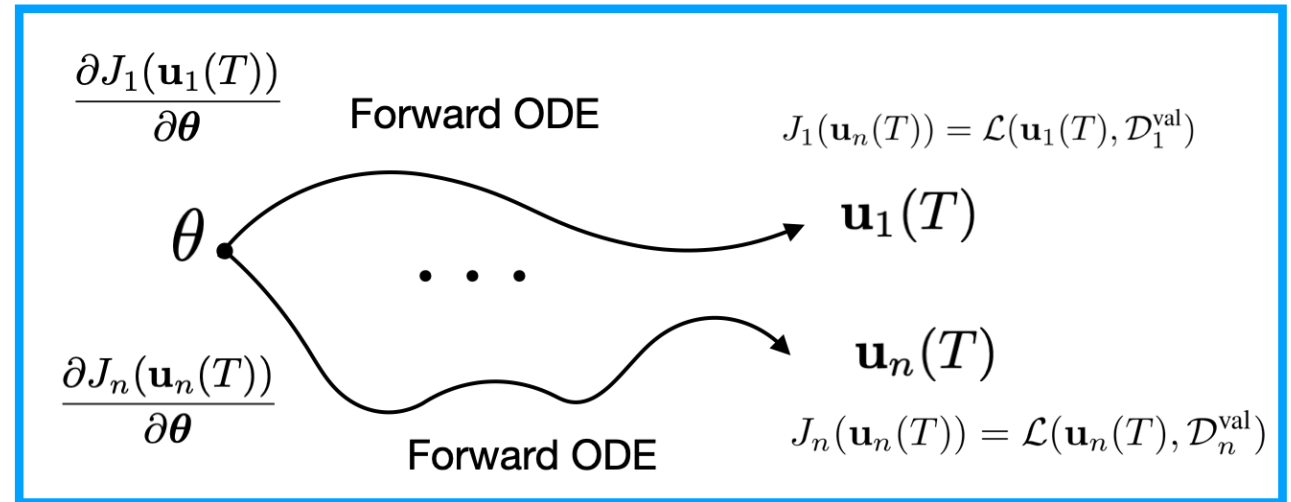
- Forward Propagation

I.V.P 
$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{u}_n(0) &= \boldsymbol{\theta}, \\ \frac{d\mathbf{u}_n}{dt} &= -\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{u}_n, \mathcal{D}_n^{\text{tr}})}{\partial \mathbf{u}} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_n(t + \alpha) \leftarrow \mathbf{u}_n(t) - \alpha \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{u}_n, \mathcal{D}_n^{\text{tr}})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n}$$

- Validation-Loss

$$J(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{u}_n(T), \mathcal{D}_n^{\text{val}})$$



# Meta-Loss Minimization

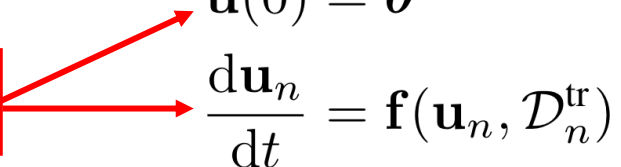
- Target Problem

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \mathbb{E}[J(\boldsymbol{\theta})] = \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_n \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{u}_n(T), \mathcal{D}^{\text{val}})$$

$$\text{s.t. } \forall \mathcal{T}_n \sim p(\mathcal{T})$$

$$\mathbf{u}(0) = \boldsymbol{\theta}$$

1xd vector


$$\frac{d\mathbf{u}_n}{dt} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{u}_n, \mathcal{D}_n^{\text{tr}})$$

- Lagrangian relaxation

$$\hat{J}_n = J_n(\mathbf{u}_n(T)) + \int_0^T \boldsymbol{\lambda}(t)^\top \left( f(\mathbf{u}_n, \mathcal{D}_n^{\text{tr}}) - \frac{d\mathbf{u}_n}{dt} \right) dt,$$

How to optimize? GD! n.t.s  $\frac{d\hat{J}_n}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}}$

# Meta-Loss Minimization

- Sensitivity/Jacobian Cancellation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dJ_n}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}} = & \frac{\partial J_n}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n(T)} \frac{d\mathbf{u}_n}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}}(T) - \boldsymbol{\lambda}(T)^\top \frac{d\mathbf{u}_n}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}}(T) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}(0)^\top \frac{d\mathbf{u}_n}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}}(0) \\ & + \int_0^T \left\{ \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n} \frac{d\mathbf{u}_n}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}} + \left( \frac{d\boldsymbol{\lambda}}{dt} \right)^\top \frac{d\mathbf{u}_n}{d\boldsymbol{\theta}} \right\} dt \end{aligned}$$

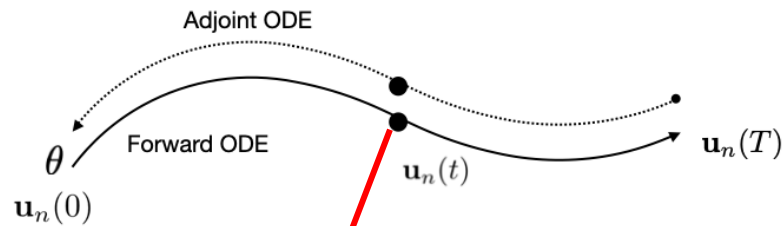
- Adjoint ODE

$$\text{T.V.P} \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\lambda}(T) &= \left( \frac{\partial J_n}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n(T)} \right)^\top \\ \left( \frac{d\boldsymbol{\lambda}}{dt} \right)^\top &= -\boldsymbol{\lambda}(t)^\top \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n} = \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{u}_n) = -\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{u}_n, \mathcal{D}_i^{tr})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n^2} \end{cases}$$

# Meta-Loss Minimization

- Efficient Backpropagation

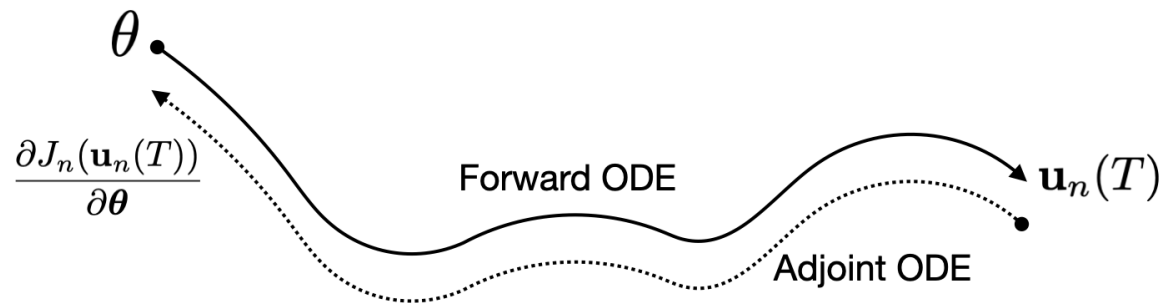
$$\text{T.V.P} \begin{cases} \lambda(T) &= \left( \frac{\partial J_n}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n(T)} \right)^\top \\ \left( \frac{d\lambda}{dt} \right)^\top &= -\lambda(t)^\top \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n}, \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n} = \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{u}_n) = -\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{u}_n, \mathcal{D}_i^{tr})}{\partial \mathbf{u}_n^2} \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\lambda}_j &= \lambda_{j+1} + h\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{u}_{n,j+1})\lambda_{j+1}, \\ \lambda_j &= \lambda_{j+1} + \frac{h}{2} \left[ \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{u}_{n,j+1})\lambda_{j+1} + \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{u}_{n,j})\tilde{\lambda}_j \right] \end{aligned}$$

# Quick Summary

- “Continuous” task adaptation
- Constrained meta-loss minimization with  $J_n$
- Relaxed meta-loss minimization with  $\hat{J}_n$
- GD on meta-loss requires  $\frac{d\hat{J}_n}{d\theta}$
- Two ODE systems
  - **I.V.P**: Forward, task adaptation
  - **T.V.P**: Backward, gradient of meta-loss



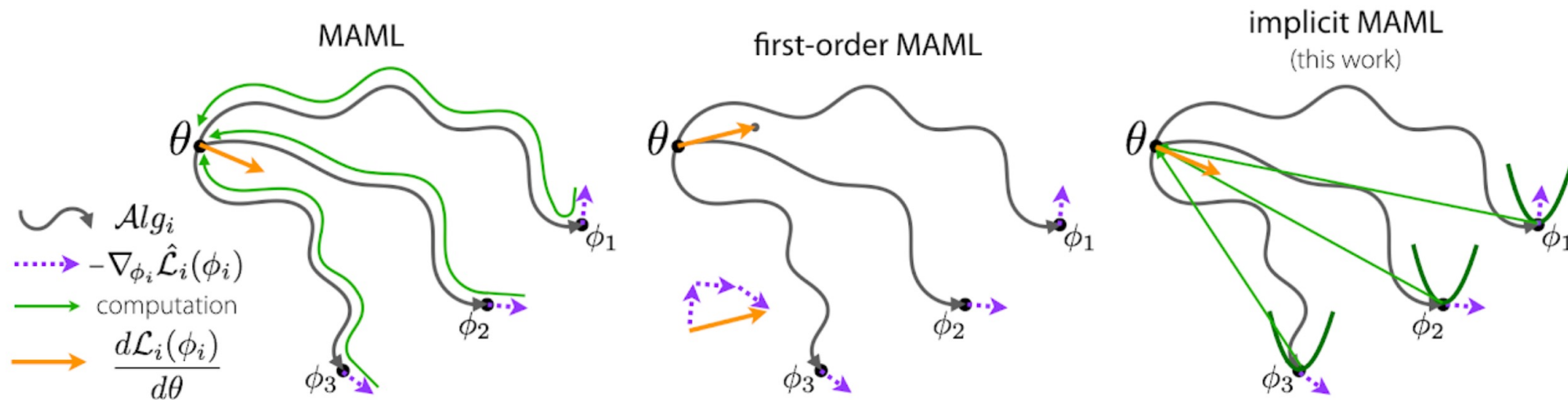
# Experiment

- How does our Adjoint-MAML (A-MAML) perform on synthetic problems?
- Efficiency of long adaptation trajectory:
  - Memory
  - Time
- How does A-MAML perform on real-world problems?

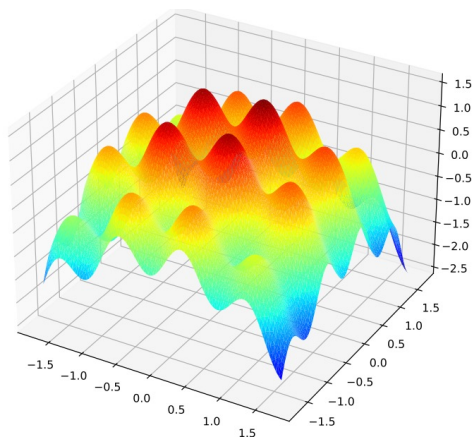


# Experiment

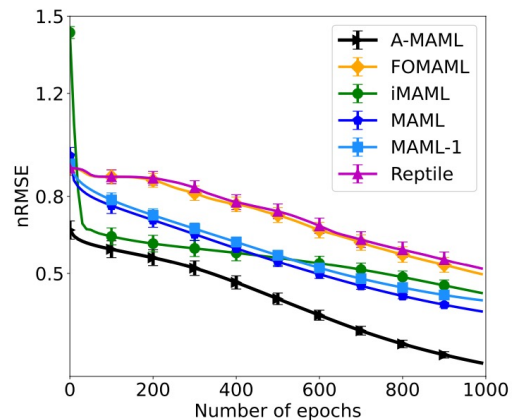
- Comparing Methods
  - MAML, MAML(1GD)
  - First Order MAML
  - Implicit MAML
  - Reptile



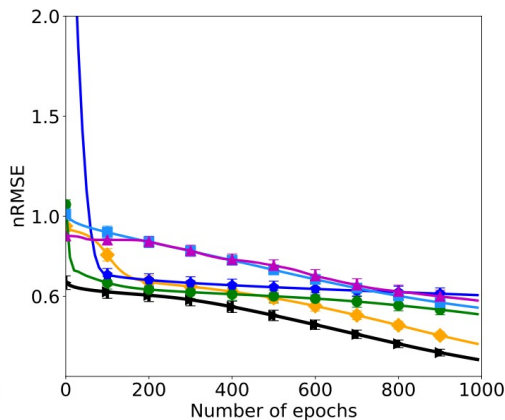
# Synthetic Meta Regression



(a) *CosMixture* instance



(b) *CosMixture*: 50shot-50val



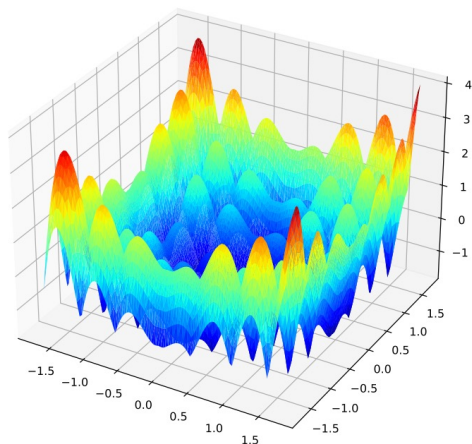
(c) *CosMixture*: 100shot-100val

$$f_1(\mathbf{x}) = -0.1 \sum_{i=1}^d A \cos(\omega x_i + \phi) - \sum_{i=1}^d x_i^2$$

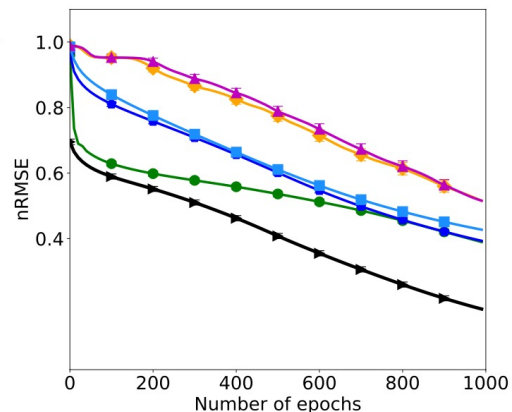
$$A \in [0.1, 1.0]$$

$$\omega \in [0.5\pi, 2.0\pi]$$

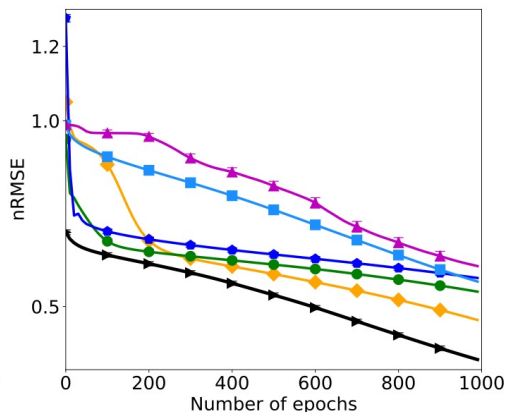
$$\phi \in [3.0, 6.0]$$



(d) *Alpine* instance



(e) *Alpine*: 50shot-50val



(f) *Alpine*: 100shot-100val

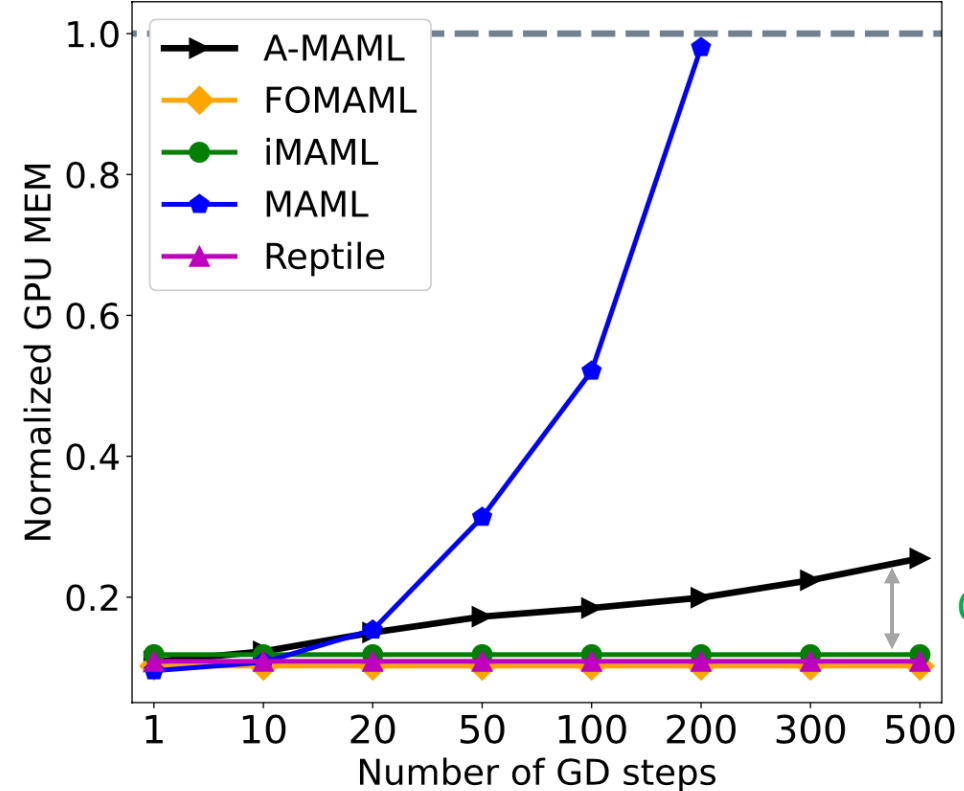
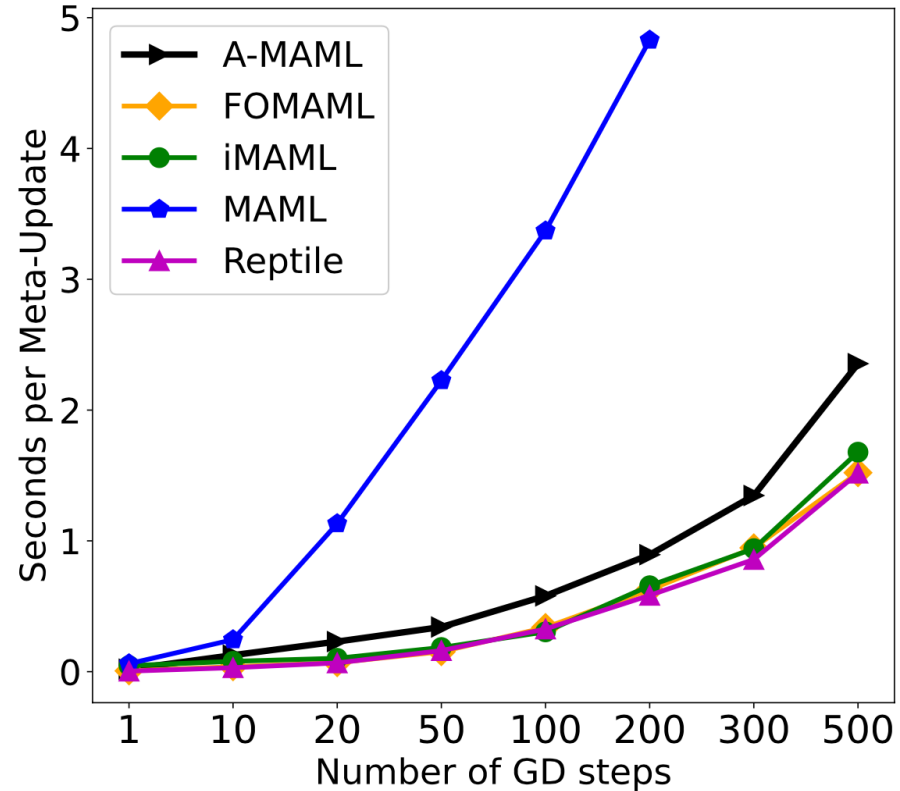
$$f_2(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^d |x_i \sin(x_i + \phi_i) + 0.1x_i|$$

$$\phi_1 \in \left[-\frac{5}{12}\pi, \frac{5}{12}\pi\right]$$

$$\phi_2 \in \left[-\frac{5}{12}\pi, \frac{5}{12}\pi\right]$$

# Synthetic Meta Regression

- Time/Memory Efficiency



Can be improved

# Meta Collaborative Filtering

- Dataset: Jester-1, MovieLens100K, MovieLens1M
- Each user defines a task

	Jester-1		MovieLens100K		MovieLens1M	
	10shot-15val	20shot-30val	10shot-15val	20shot-30val	10shot-15val	20shot-30val
A-MAML	<b>0.074±0.005</b>	<b>0.027±0.002</b>	<b>0.053±0.005</b>	<b>0.023±0.003</b>	<b>0.094±0.008</b>	<b>0.035±0.004</b>
iMAML	0.114±0.007	0.050±0.003	0.082±0.004	0.033±0.002	0.138±0.010	0.052±0.004
MAML	0.120±0.001	0.036±0.000	0.123±0.001	0.050±0.003	0.140±0.002	0.059±0.001
FOMAML	0.292±0.012	0.115±0.004	0.174±0.008	0.068±0.004	0.270±0.011	0.104±0.006
Reptile	0.270±0.012	0.106±0.004	0.166±0.008	0.063±0.003	0.266±0.011	0.101±0.006

Table 1: Meta-test error (nRMSE) with 50 inner gradient descent steps (MAML used 5 GD steps) The results were averaged over 100 tasks.

# Meta Collaborative Filtering

	Jester-1		MovieLens100K		MovieLens1M	
	10shot-15val	20shot-30val	10shot-15val	20shot-30val	10shot-15val	20shot-30val
A-MAML	<b><math>0.069 \pm 0.005</math></b>	<b><math>0.044 \pm 0.003</math></b>	<b><math>0.057 \pm 0.006</math></b>	<b><math>0.021 \pm 0.002</math></b>	<b><math>0.105 \pm 0.009</math></b>	<b><math>0.035 \pm 0.004</math></b>
iMAML	$0.190 \pm 0.010$	$0.103 \pm 0.005$	$0.168 \pm 0.007$	$0.046 \pm 0.002$	$0.130 \pm 0.007$	$0.045 \pm 0.004$
MAML	$0.154 \pm 0.001$	$0.061 \pm 0.002$	$0.123 \pm 0.001$	$0.050 \pm 0.002$	$0.197 \pm 0.002$	$0.083 \pm 0.001$
FOMAML	$0.273 \pm 0.012$	$0.077 \pm 0.004$	$0.191 \pm 0.007$	$0.071 \pm 0.004$	$0.395 \pm 0.010$	$0.119 \pm 0.005$
Reptile	$0.290 \pm 0.012$	$0.100 \pm 0.004$	$0.171 \pm 0.008$	$0.066 \pm 0.004$	$0.408 \pm 0.011$	$0.128 \pm 0.006$

Table 2: Meta-test error (nRMSE) with 100 inner gradient descent steps (MAML used 10 GD steps) The results were averaged over 100 tasks.

# Conclusion

- A-AMAL accurately estimates the gradient of meta-loss
- Time and memory efficiency are compatible with other raw approximations
- Dominant performance on synthetic and real-world applications