



Exploring Complexity Reduction for Learning in Deep Neural Networks

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PhD Qualifying Exam
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Outline



Introduction and Background



Pre-Defined Sparsity



Hardware Architecture



Connection Patterns



Dataset Engineering



Model Search



Achieved
Research
Contributions

Proposed
Research

Outline



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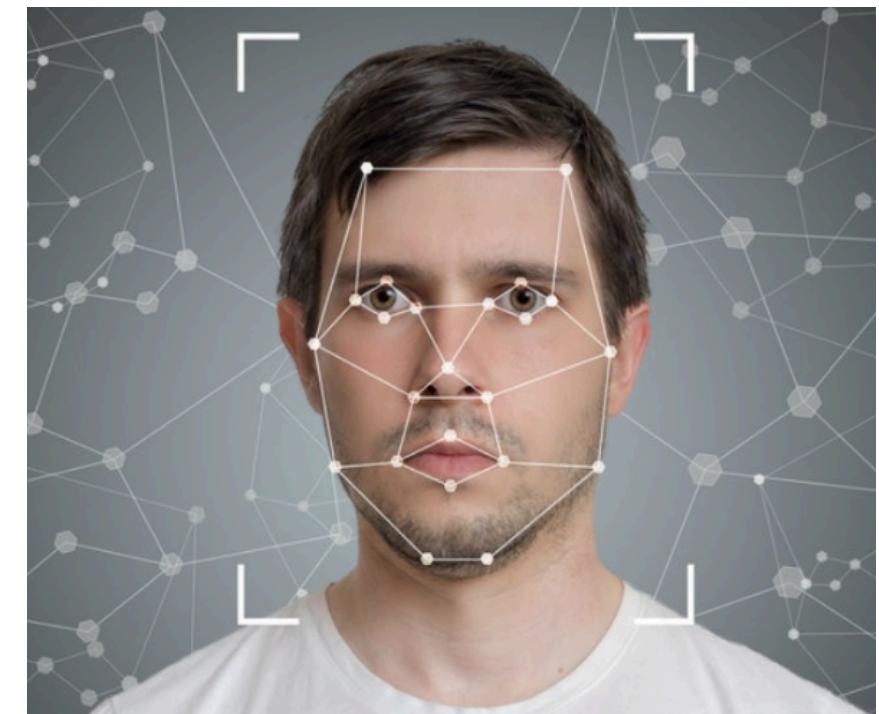


Model Search

Introduction

Neural networks (NNs) are key machine learning technologies

- Artificial intelligence
- Self-driving cars
- Speech recognition
- Face ID
- and more smart stuff ...



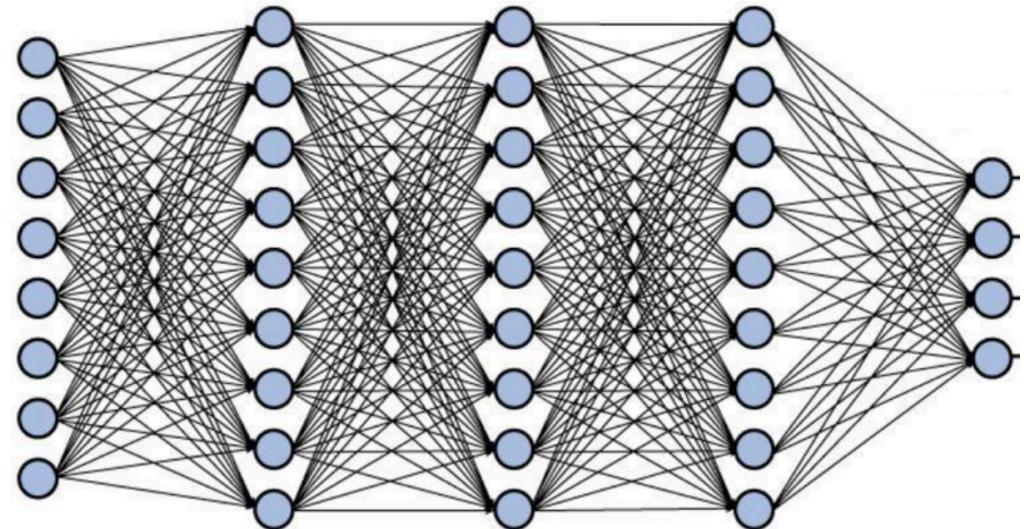
Overview

Modern neural networks suffer from parameter explosion

Training can take weeks on CPU

Cloud GPU resources are expensive

Our research reduces complexity of neural networks with minimal performance degradation



Google Cloud Platform



Summary of Contributions

Achieved:

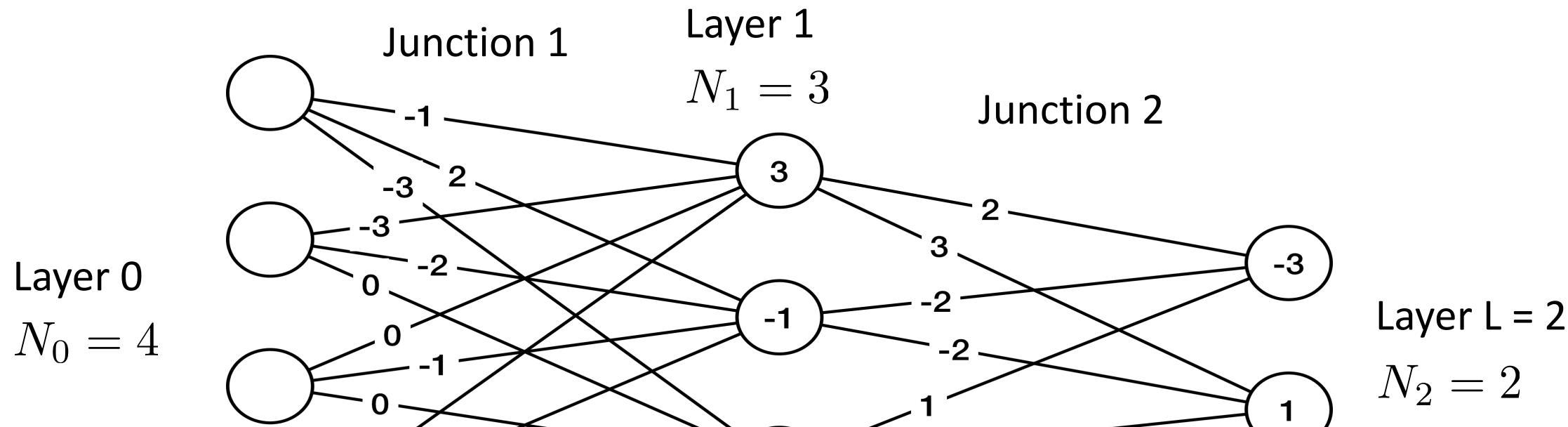
- Pre-defined sparsity to reduce complexity of neural networks
- Hardware architecture to leverage pre-defined sparsity
- Analyzing connection patterns and performance predicting measures
- Family of synthetic datasets on Morse code with tunable difficulty

Proposed:

- Better pipelining to improve hardware architecture
- Architecture search of low complexity neural networks

Notation

Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)



Trainable
Parameters

$$\text{Weights } \mathbf{W}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -3 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & -2 & -1 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

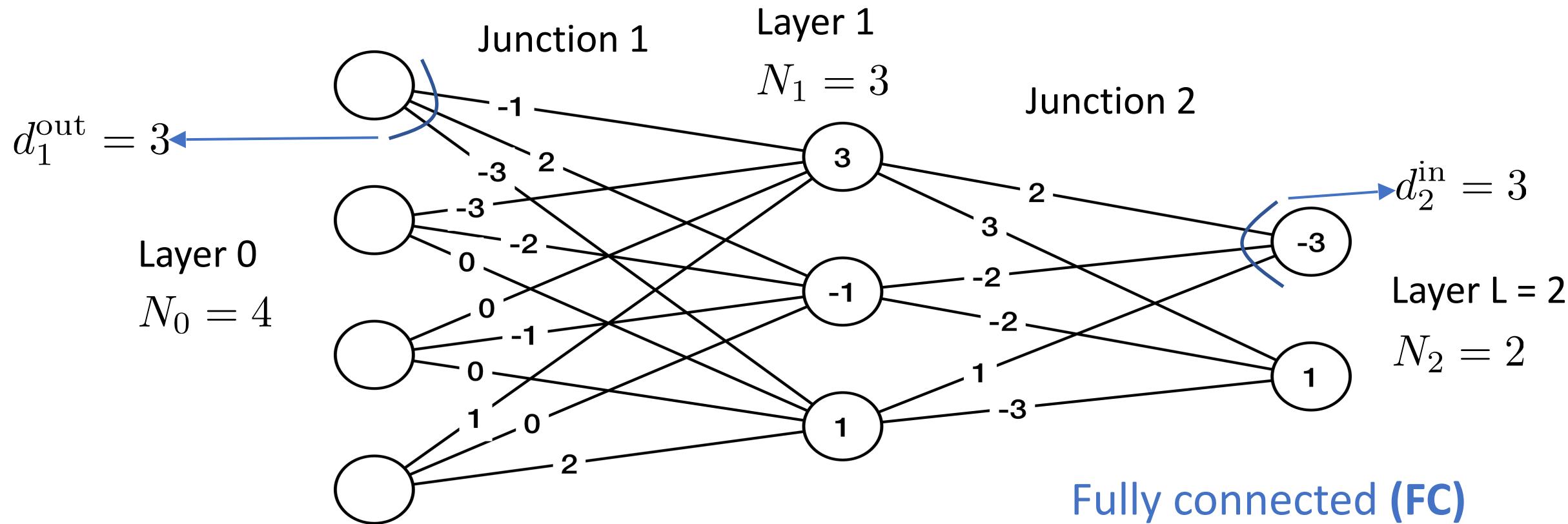
$$\text{Biases } \mathbf{b}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{W}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{b}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Notation

Multilayer Perceptron (MLP)



Trainable
Parameters

Weights $W_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -3 & 0 & 1 \\ 2 & -2 & -1 & 0 \\ -3 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ Biases $b_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Weights $W_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$ Biases $b_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Neural Networks Operations for Classification

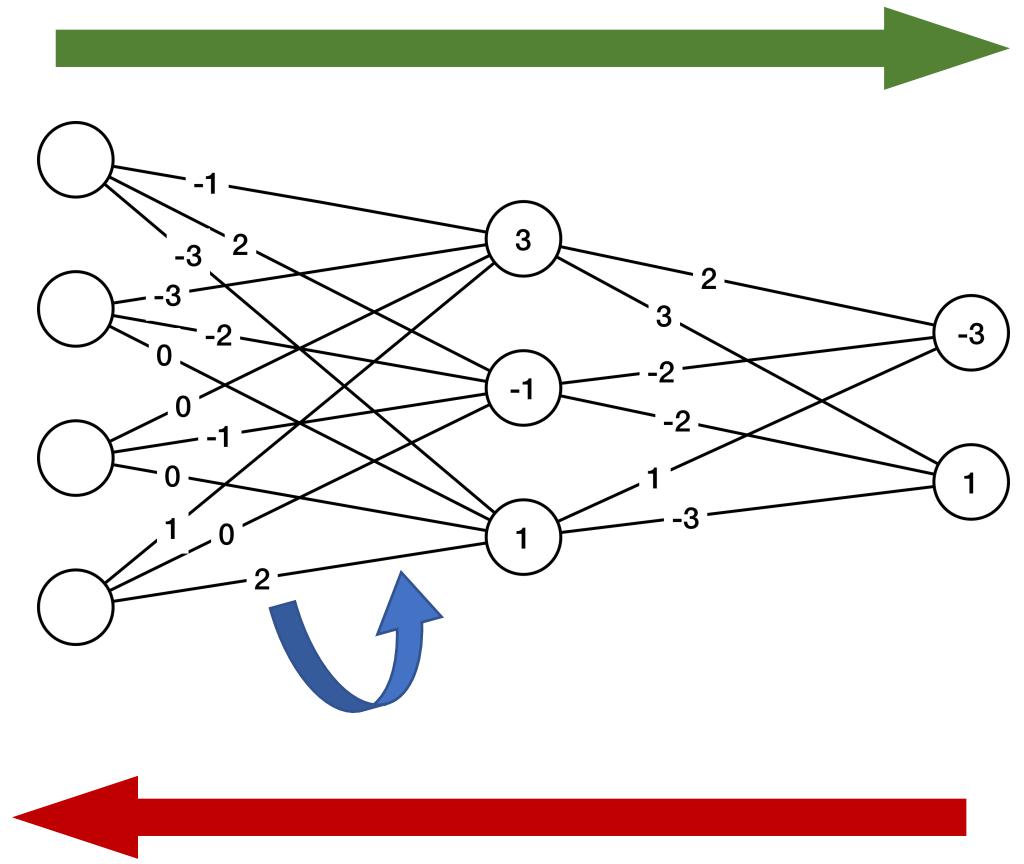
Training (*training data*)

- Feedforward (FF)
- Backpropagation (BP)
- Update parameters (UP)

Inference (*validation and test data*)

- Feedforward (FF) only

Test data performance used as metric for goodness of network

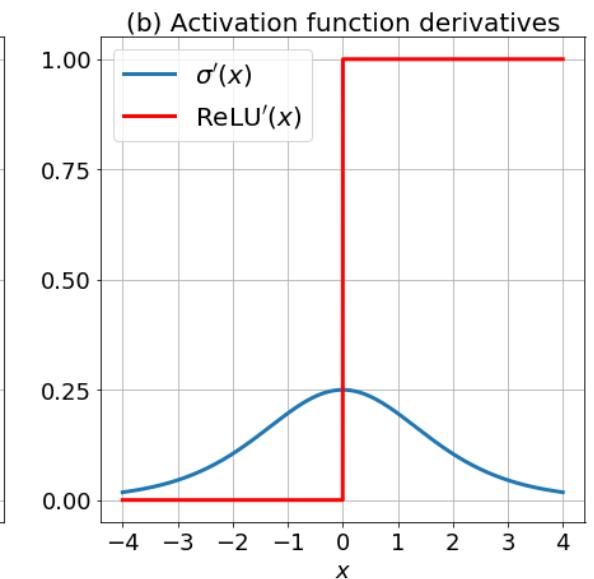
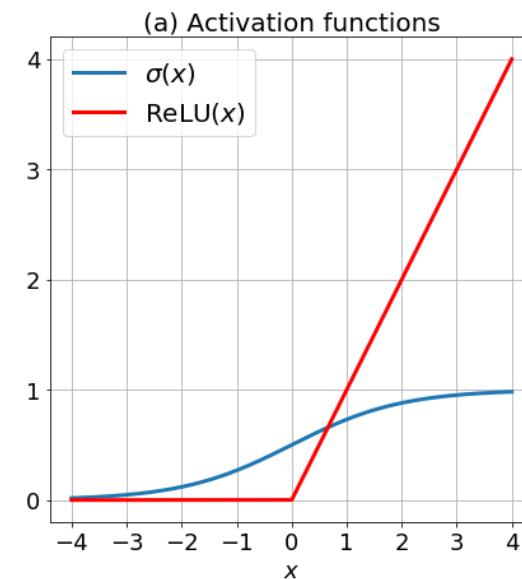


Feedforward (FF)

Linear output $s_i = W_i a_{i-1} + b_i$ Previous layer activation
(Starts from input features a_0)

Activation output $a_i = h(s_i)$ Non-linear activation function
ReLU / Sigmoid for hidden layers
Softmax for output layer

Activation derivative $h'_i = \frac{\partial a_i}{\partial s_i}$



Backpropagation (BP)

Cross-entropy Cost

$$C = - \sum_{i=1}^{N_L} y^{(i)} \ln a_L^{(i)}$$

Ground truth labels
Typically one-hot for classification

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Delta (output layer)

$$\delta_L = a_L - \mathbf{y}$$

Delta (intermediate layers)

$$\delta_i = (\mathbf{W}_{i+1}^T \delta_{i+1}) \circ h'_i$$

Hadamard product
(element-wise multiplication)

Update (UP)

$$W_i \leftarrow W_i - \frac{\eta}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M (\delta_i a_{i-1}^T)^{[m]}$$
$$b_i \leftarrow b_i - \frac{\eta}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M (\delta_i)^{[m]}$$

Training sample number

Learning Rate Hyperparameter

Batch size

Gradient of cost w.r.t weights

Gradient of cost w.r.t biases

The Complexity Conundrum

➤ Storage Complexity -
Dominated by weights

*A typical fully connected MLP for classifying
MNIST handwritten digits has $\sim 10^5$ weights*

➤ Computational Complexity -
Also dominated by weights

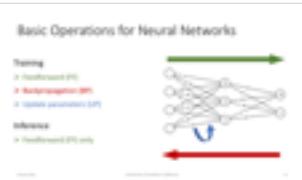
*All the weights are used
in all 3 operations*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{FF} \quad & \sum_{\forall i,j} W_{ij} a_j \\ \text{BP} \quad & \sum_{\forall i,j} W_{ij} \delta_i \\ \text{UP} \quad & W_{ij} - \eta \nabla_{W_{ij}} C \quad \forall i, j \end{aligned}$$

Existing methods to reduce Complexity

Algorithms	ASIC Implementations	FPGA Implementations	Training Focused
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gong 2014 – Vector quantization• Chen 2015 – HashedNets• Sindhwan 2015 – Structured transforms• Srinivas 2017 – Special regularizers• Aghasi 2017 – Net-trim	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chen 2014 – Diannao• Han 2016 – Efficient Inference Engine• Reagen 2016 – Minerva• Zhang 2016 – Cambricon-X• Chen 2017 – Eyeriss	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Courbariaux 2016 - Binarized nets• Albericio 2016 – Cnvlutin• Suda 2016 – Open-CL based• Ma 2018 – ALAMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Girones 2005</i> – Pipelined on-line BP• Gomperts 2011 – Parametrized FPGA-based NNs• Wang 2017 – DLAU

These reduce parameters during inference,
but training complexity remains intensive



These focus on training, but
do not delete parameters

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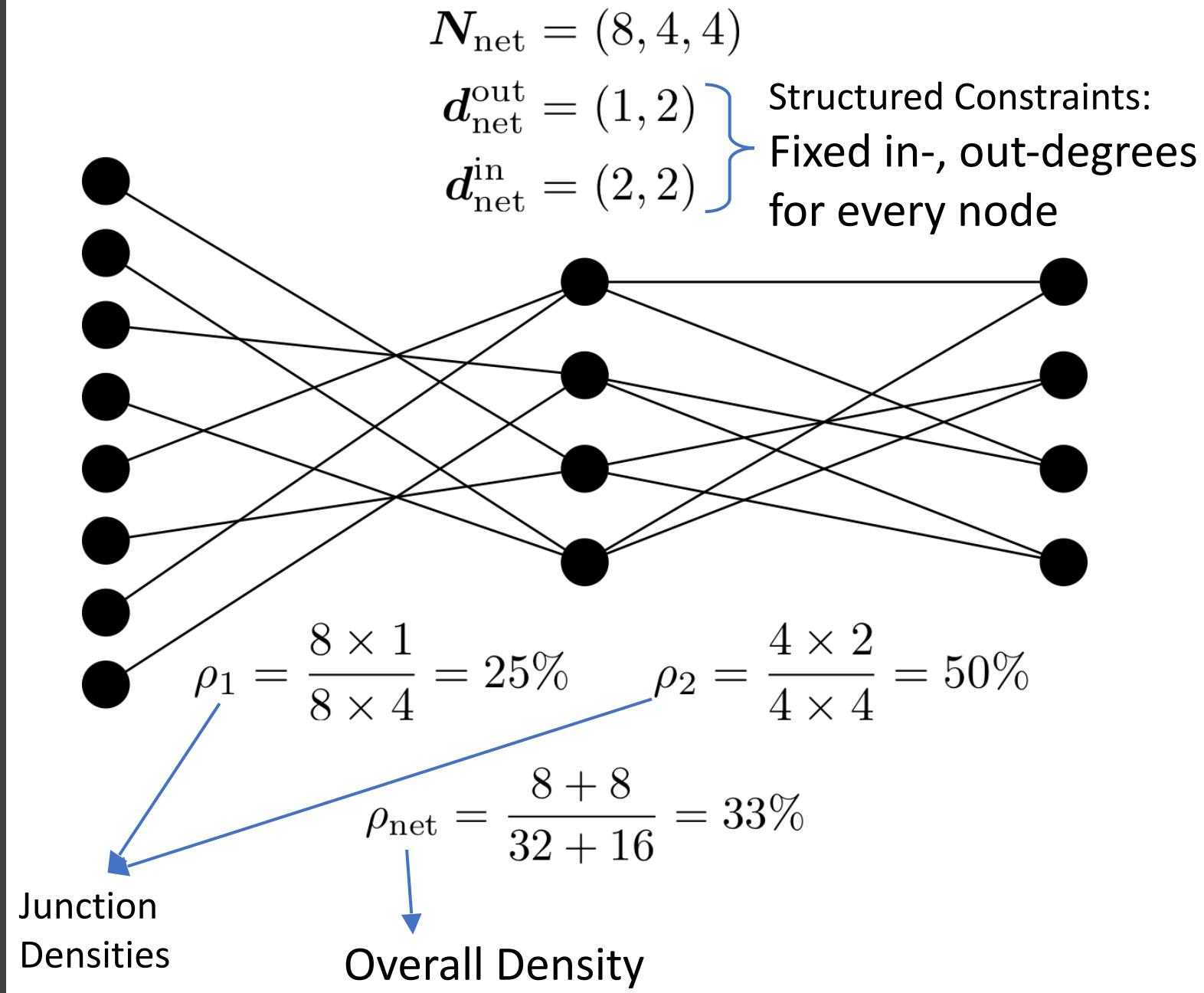
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Our Work: Pre-defined Sparsity

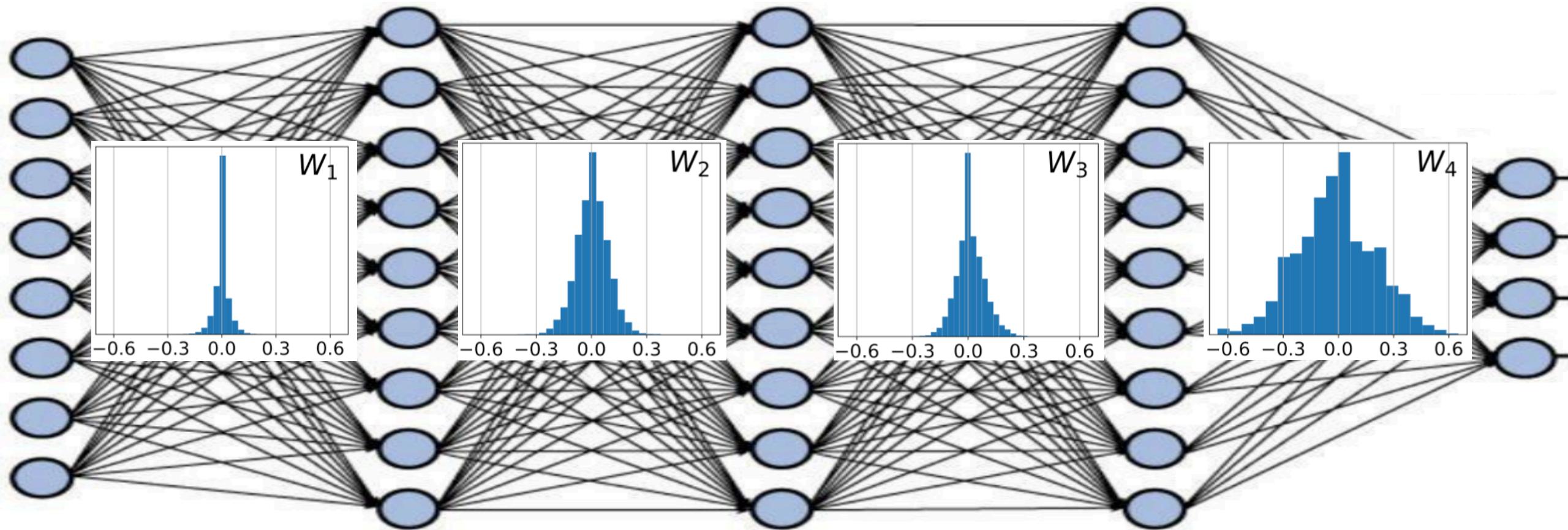
Pre-define a sparse connection pattern prior to training

Use this sparse network for both training and inference

Reduced training and inference complexity

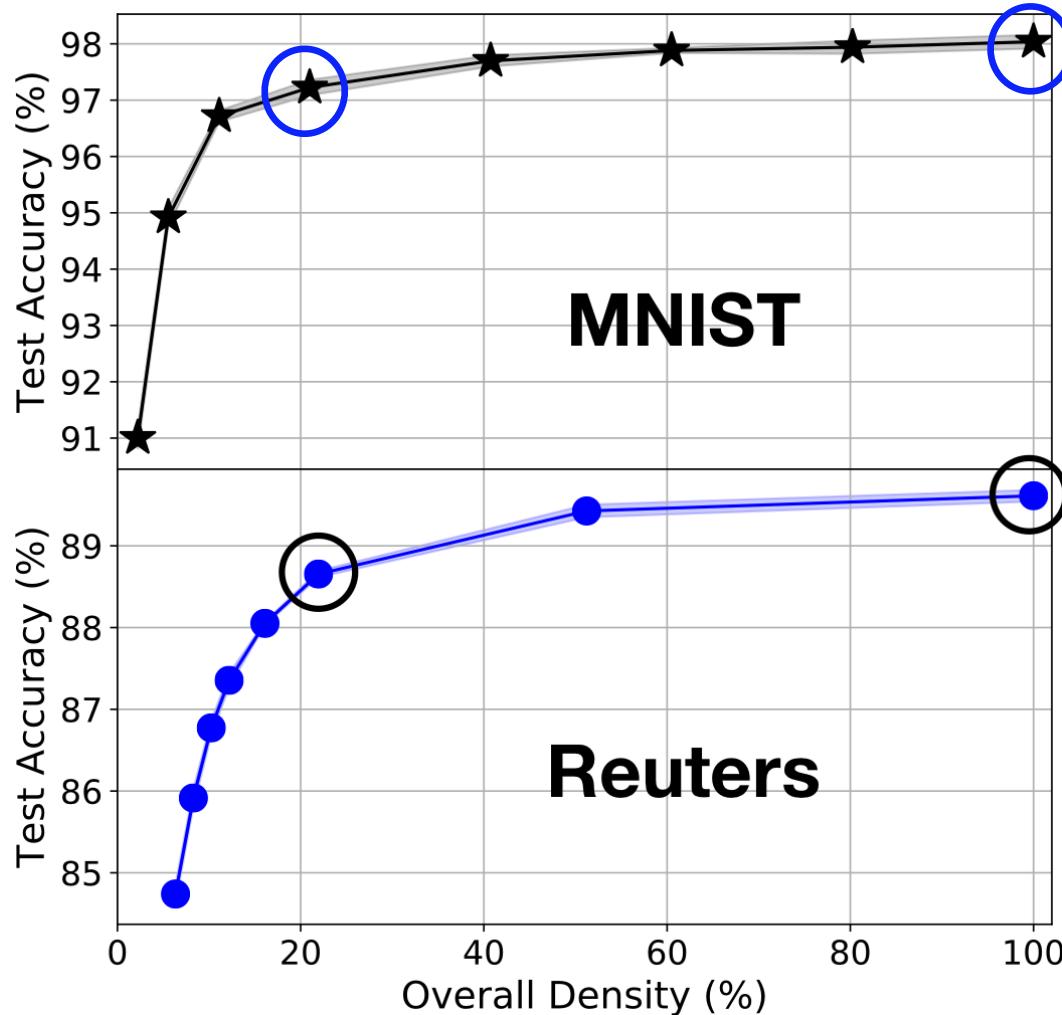


Motivation behind pre-defined sparsity



In a FC network, most weights are very small in magnitude after training

Performance of pre-defined sparsity



*Starting with an MLP with
only 20% of parameters
compared to fully connected :
Classification accuracy
reduction on test data is <1%*

Computational Savings

$$s_i^{(j)} = \sum_{f=1}^{d_i^{\text{in}}} W_i^{(j, k_f)} a_{i-1}^{(k_f)} + b_i^{(j)}$$

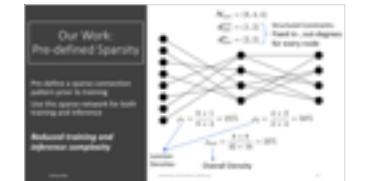
$$\delta_i^{(j)} = h'_i \left(\sum_{f=1}^{d_i^{\text{out}}} W_{i+1}^{(k_f, j)} \delta_{i+1}^{(k_f)} \right)$$

$$W_i^{(j, k)} \leftarrow W_i^{(j, k)} - \eta a_{i-1}^{(k)} \delta_i^{(j)}$$

In-degree summations
for each node in FF



Out-degree summations
for each node in BP



Only node pairs (j,k) which have
weight connecting them in UP

For all 3 operations – FF, BP, UP – only use weights which are present

Designing pre-defined sparse networks

*A pre-defined sparse connection
pattern is a hyperparameter to be set
prior to training*

How can it be set?

Designing pre-defined sparse networks

A pre-defined sparse connection pattern is a hyperparameter to be set prior to training

How can it be set?

Topic	Description	Distribution
c15	Performance	149,359
c151	Accounts/earnings	81,201
c152	Comment/forecasts	72,910
ccat	Corporate/industrial	372,099
ecat	Economics	116,207
gcat	Government/social	232,032
m14	Commodity markets	84,085
mcat	Markets	197,813

Pic courtesy: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/3454183_Hybrid_Neural_Document_Clustering_Using_Guided_Self-Organization_and_Wordnet/figures?lo=1

We experimented on several datasets:

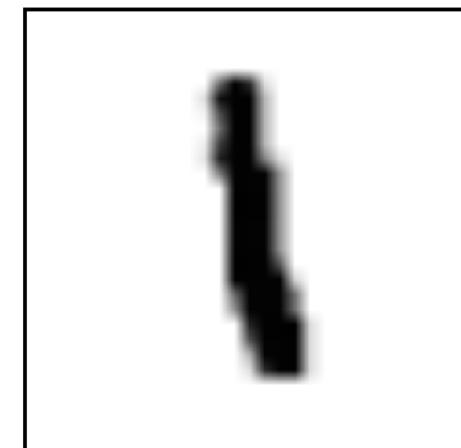
- MNIST handwritten digits
- Reuters RCV1 corpus of newswire articles
- TIMIT speech corpus (only MLP portion)
- CIFAR-10 and -100 images (CNN + MLP)
- Morse Code symbols (described later)



Dataset Redundancy

- MNIST:
 - Default: 784 features (image pixels)
 - Principal component analysis to reduce to 200
=> Less redundancy
- Reuters:
 - Default: Collect 2000 tokens (word snippets) as features from each article
 - Can be reduced to 400 => Less redundancy
- TIMIT:
 - Default: Collect 39 MFCCs as features
 - Decrease by 3x to 13 => Less redundancy
 - Increase by 3x to 117 => More redundancy
- CIFAR:
 - Default: Pre-process using a deep 9-layer CNN
 - Simplify to a 2-layer CNN => Less redundancy

Most datasets have too many features => Can be reduced

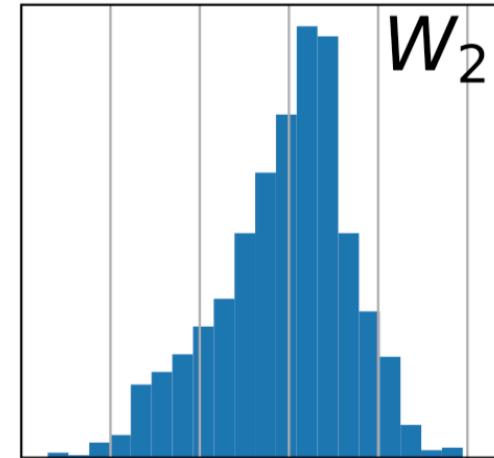
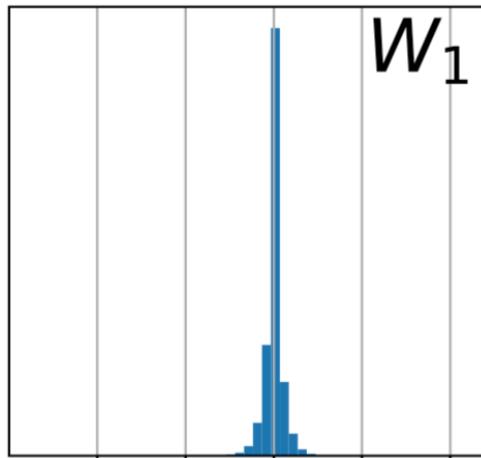


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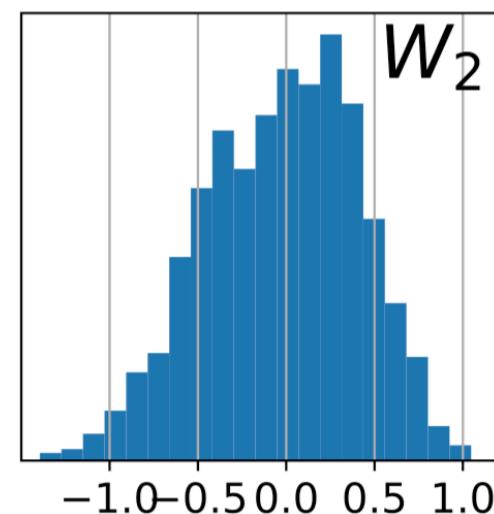
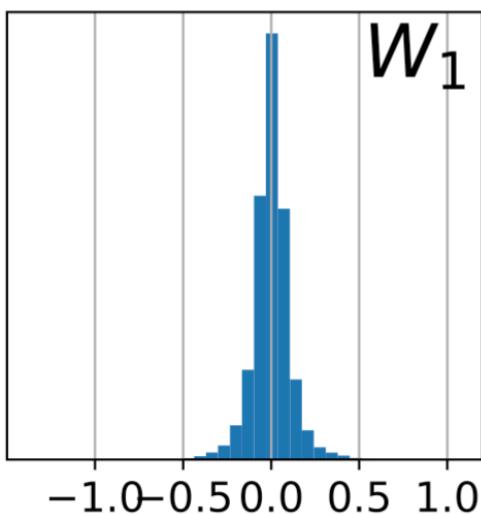
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.6	.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.5	1	.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.9	1	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.3	1	.1	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Pic courtesy: https://tensorflow.rstudio.com/tensorflow/articles/tutorial_mnist_beginners.html

Effect of redundancy on sparsity



MNIST with default
784 features

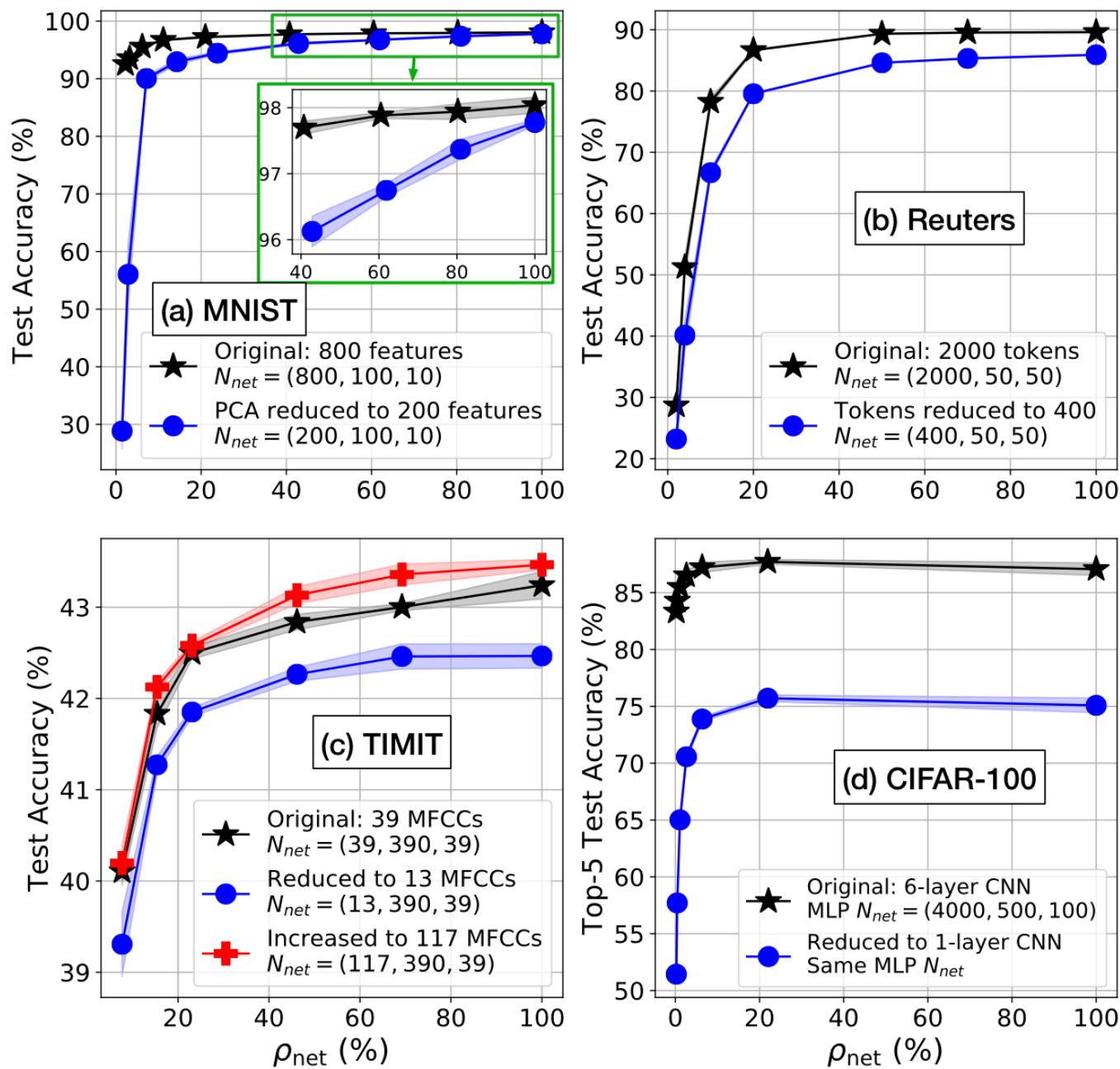


MNIST reduced to
200 features
Wider spread

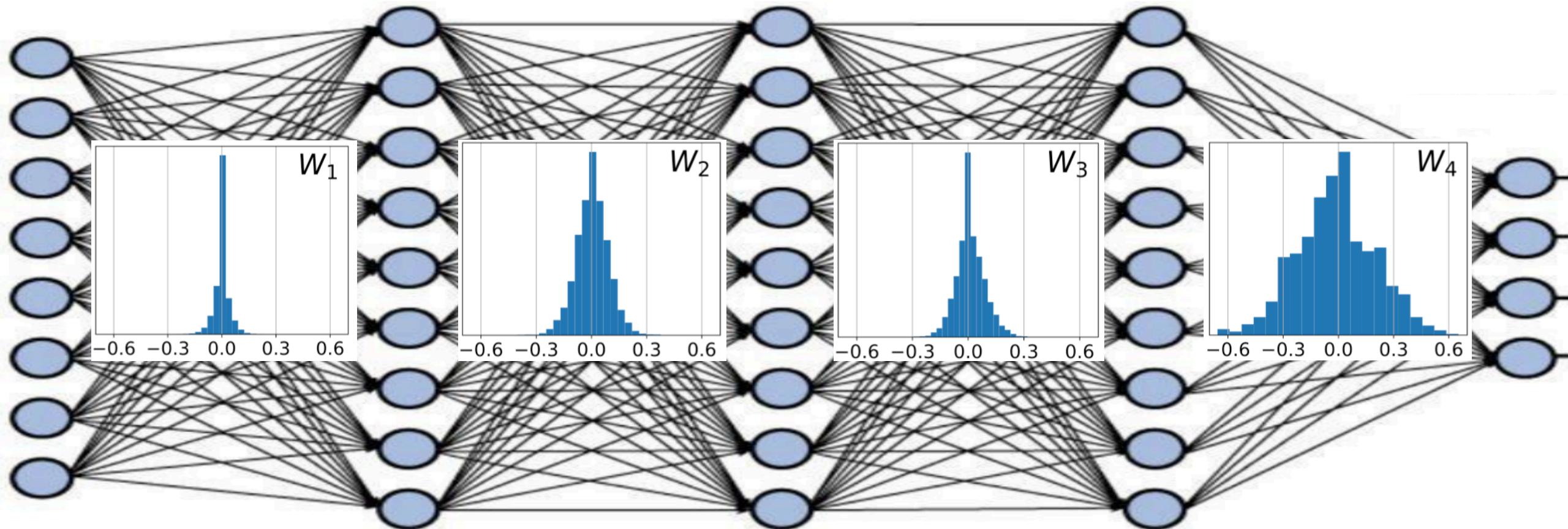
*Less redundancy => Less
sparsification possible*

Effect of redundancy on sparsity

Reducing redundancy leads to performance starting to degrade at higher densities



Individual junction densities



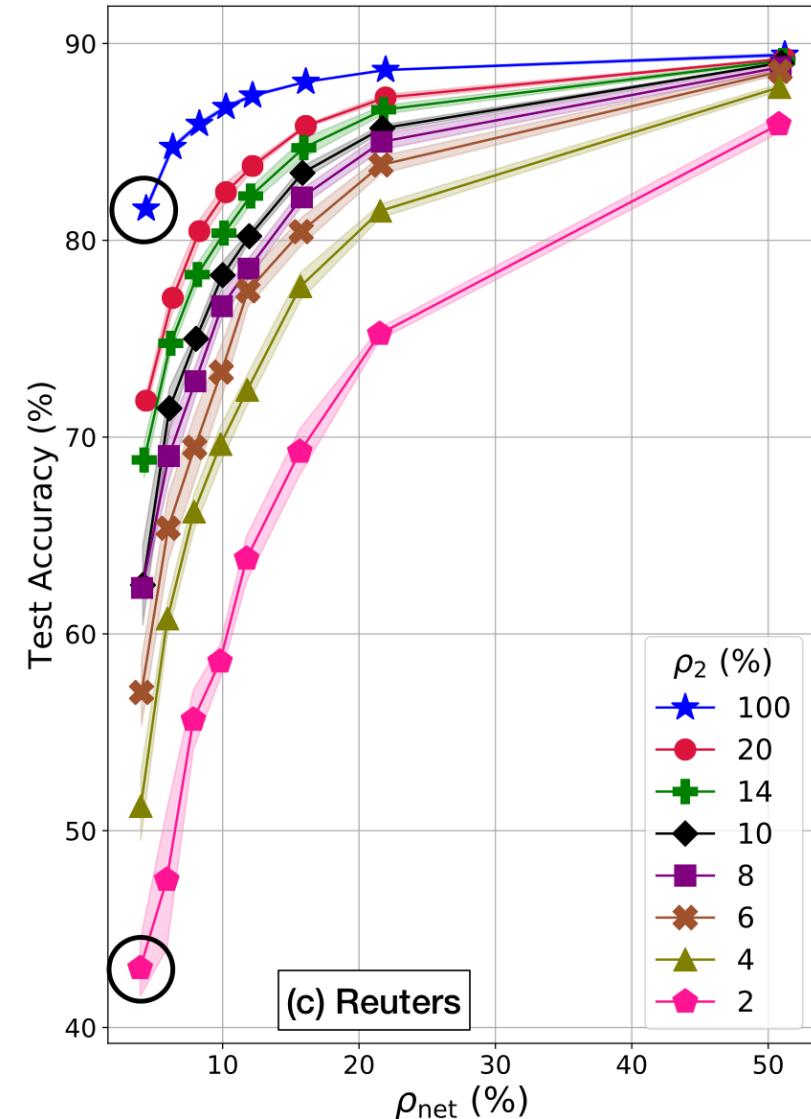
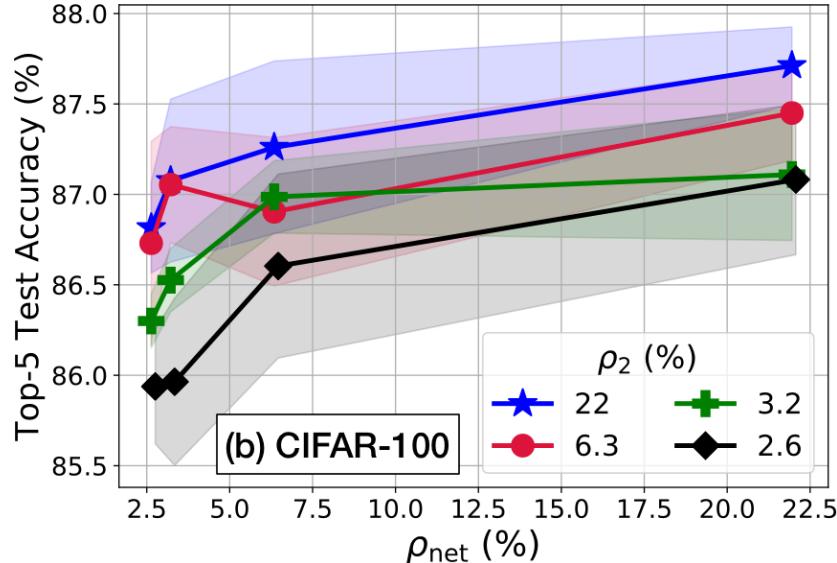
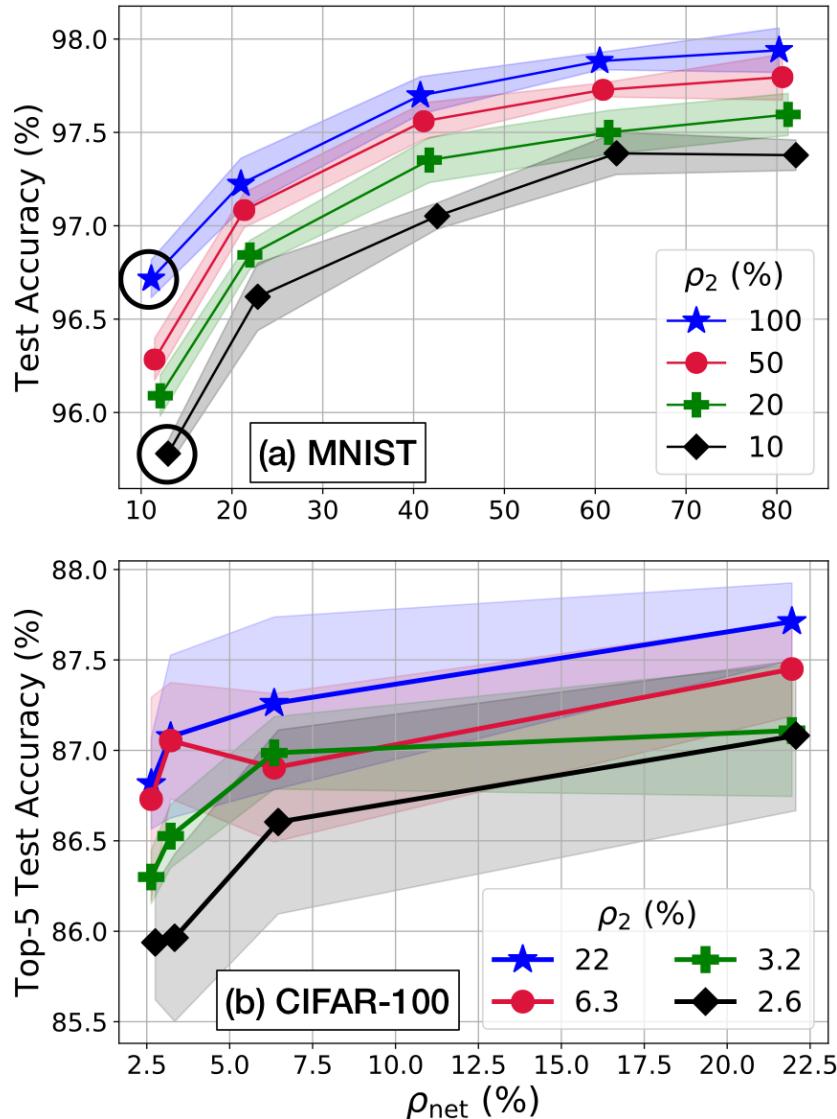
Latter junctions (closer to the output) need to be denser

Individual junction densities

Each curve keeps ρ_2 fixed and varies ρ_{net} by varying ρ_1

For the same ρ_{net} , $\rho_2 > \rho_1$ improves performance

Similar trends observed for deeper networks, with few exceptions



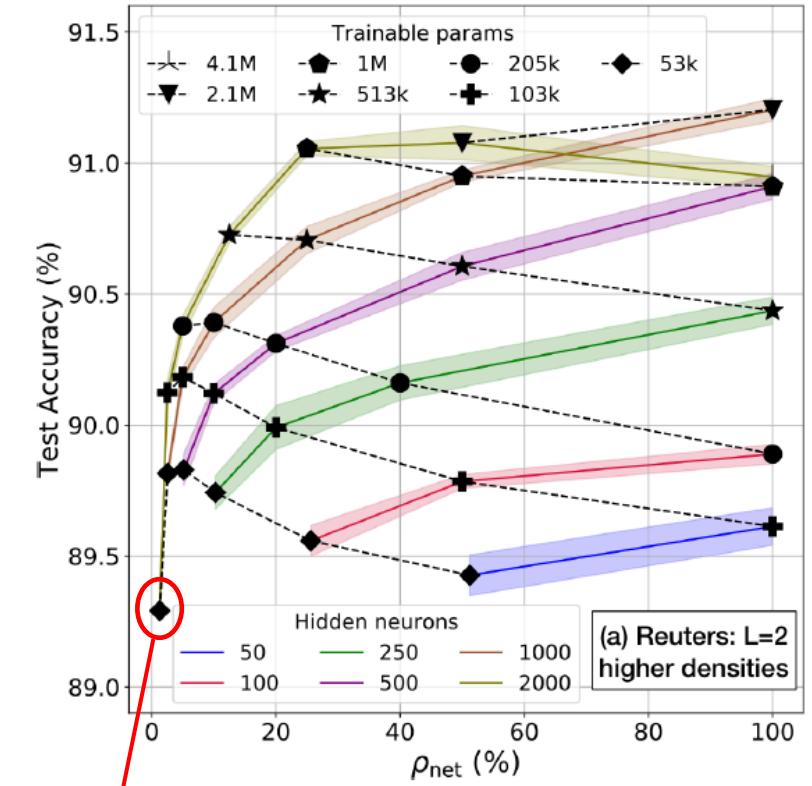
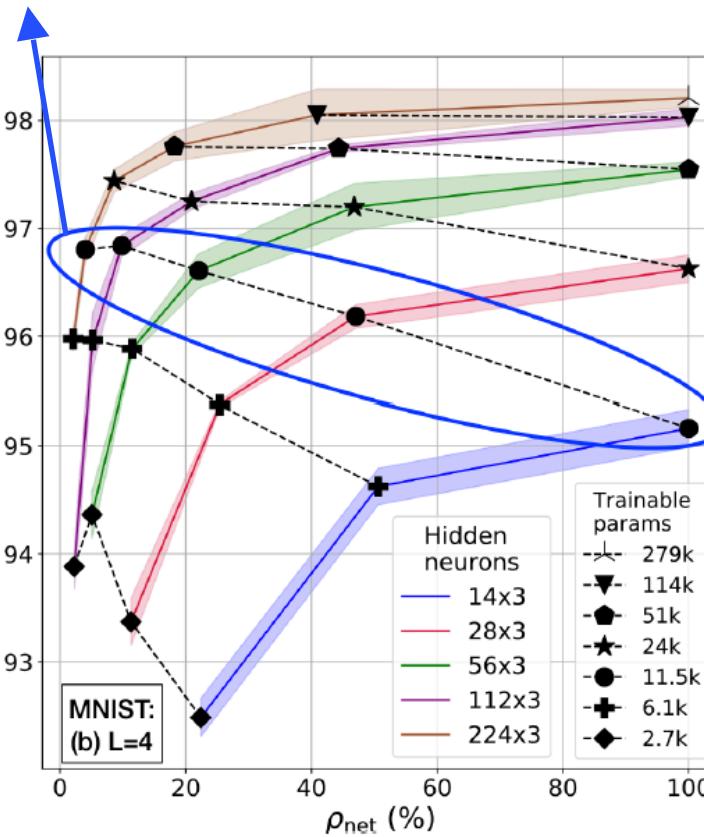
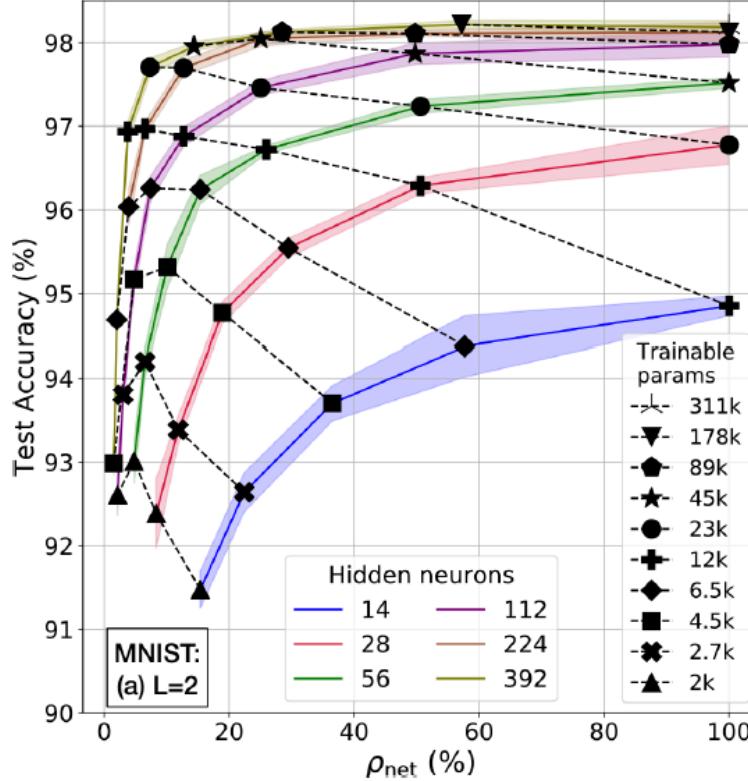
‘Large sparse’ vs ‘small dense’ networks

A sparser network with more nodes will outperform a denser network with less nodes, when both have same number of trainable parameters (weights+biases)

...unless density of the larger network goes lower than a critical density (problem dependent)

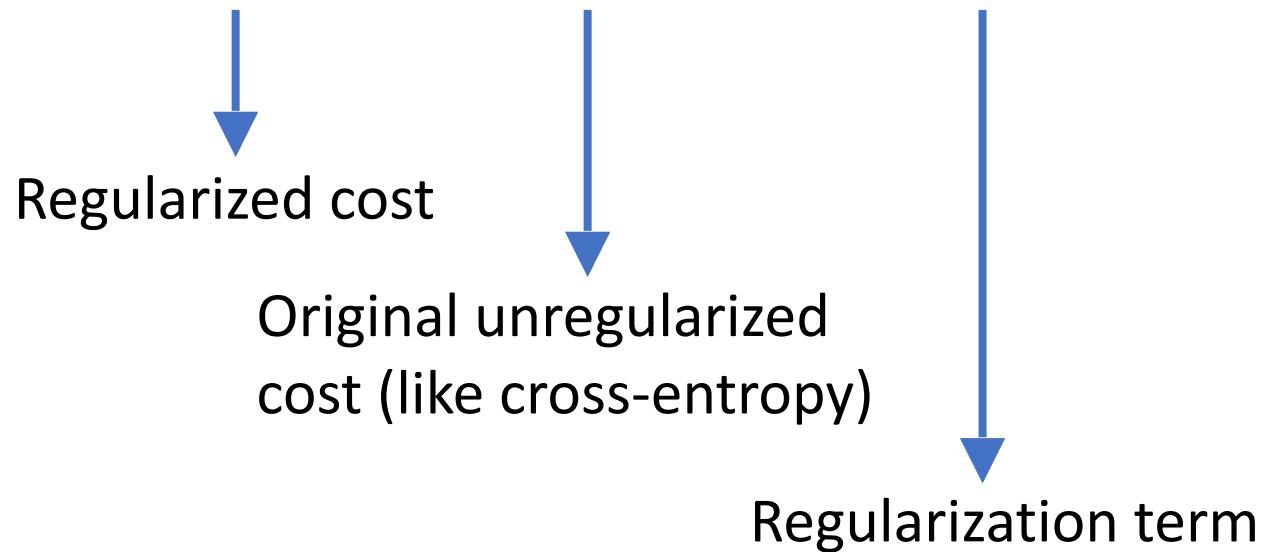
'Large sparse' vs 'small dense' networks

Networks with same number of parameters go from bad to good as #nodes in hidden layers is increased



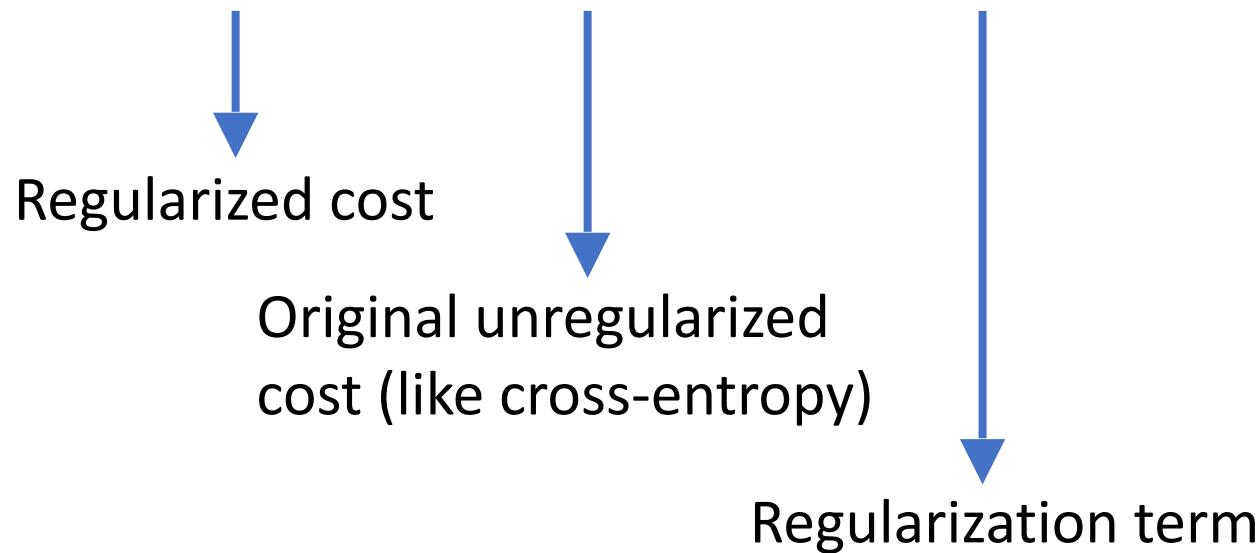
Regularization

$$C(\mathbf{w}) = C_0(\mathbf{w}) + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$



Regularization

$$C(\mathbf{w}) = C_0(\mathbf{w}) + \lambda \|\mathbf{w}\|_2^2$$



Pre-defined sparse networks need smaller λ (as determined by validation)

Overall Density	λ
100 %	1.1×10^{-4}
40 %	5.5×10^{-5}
11 %	0

Example for MNIST 2-junction networks

Pre-defined sparsity reduces the overfitting problem stemming from over-parametrization in big networks

Summary of pre-defined sparsity – Trends and design guidelines

Most networks can be significantly sparsified!

Exploits redundancy in dataset

Later junctions need more density

‘Large and sparse’ networks are better than ‘small and dense’ networks

Alternative to regularization

... these tie in with proposed research on model search

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Hardware Architecture

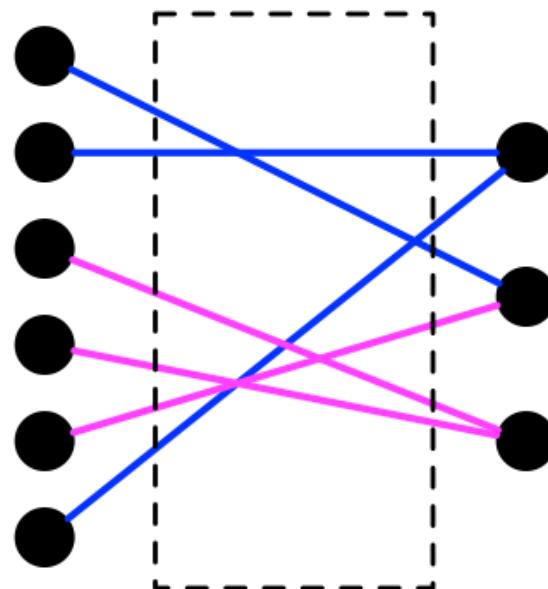
We built a customized hardware architecture to leverage pre-defined sparsity

Key highlights:

- Edge-based
- Customizable amount of parallelism
- Clash free memory accesses
- Pipelined processing

Degree of parallelism z

Edge Interleaver



Example $z_i = 3$

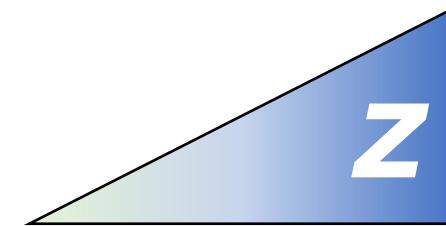
$z_i = \#edges (weights) processed in parallel in junction i$

$$\#clock cycles (C_i) to process junction i = \frac{\#weights |W_i|}{z_i}$$

Computational complexity depends only on z_i

Decouple hardware required from network complexity

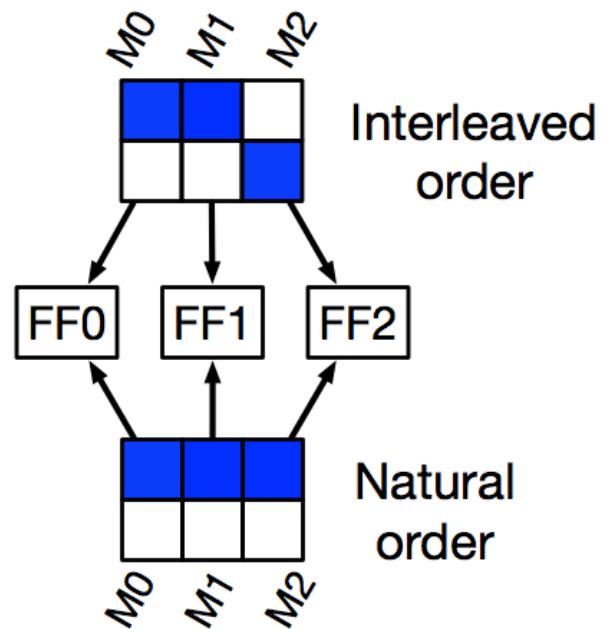
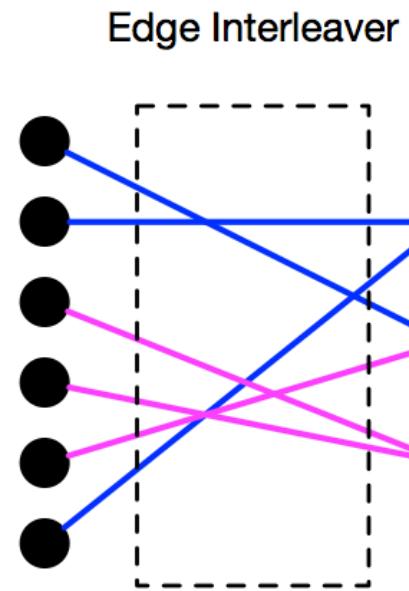
Slow
Training



Flexibility

Memory organization and clash freedom

z_i memories for storing each variable – a , h' , δ , W , b – in each junction



Left side nodes are accessed in arbitrary order due to interleaving

Weights are accessed one row at a time (natural order)

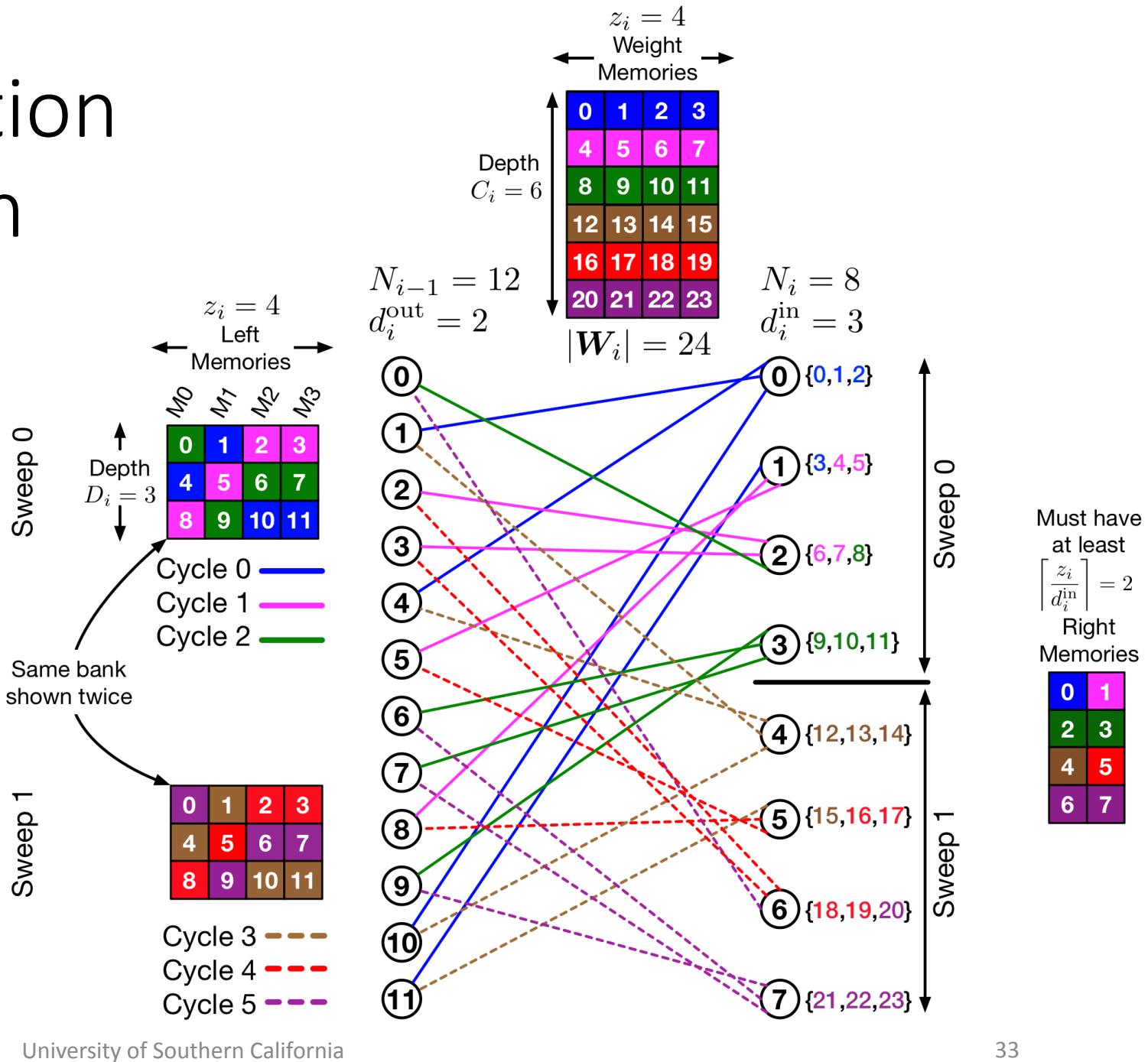
Example $z_i = 3$

Must access each memory no more than once per clock cycle, otherwise clash => processing stall

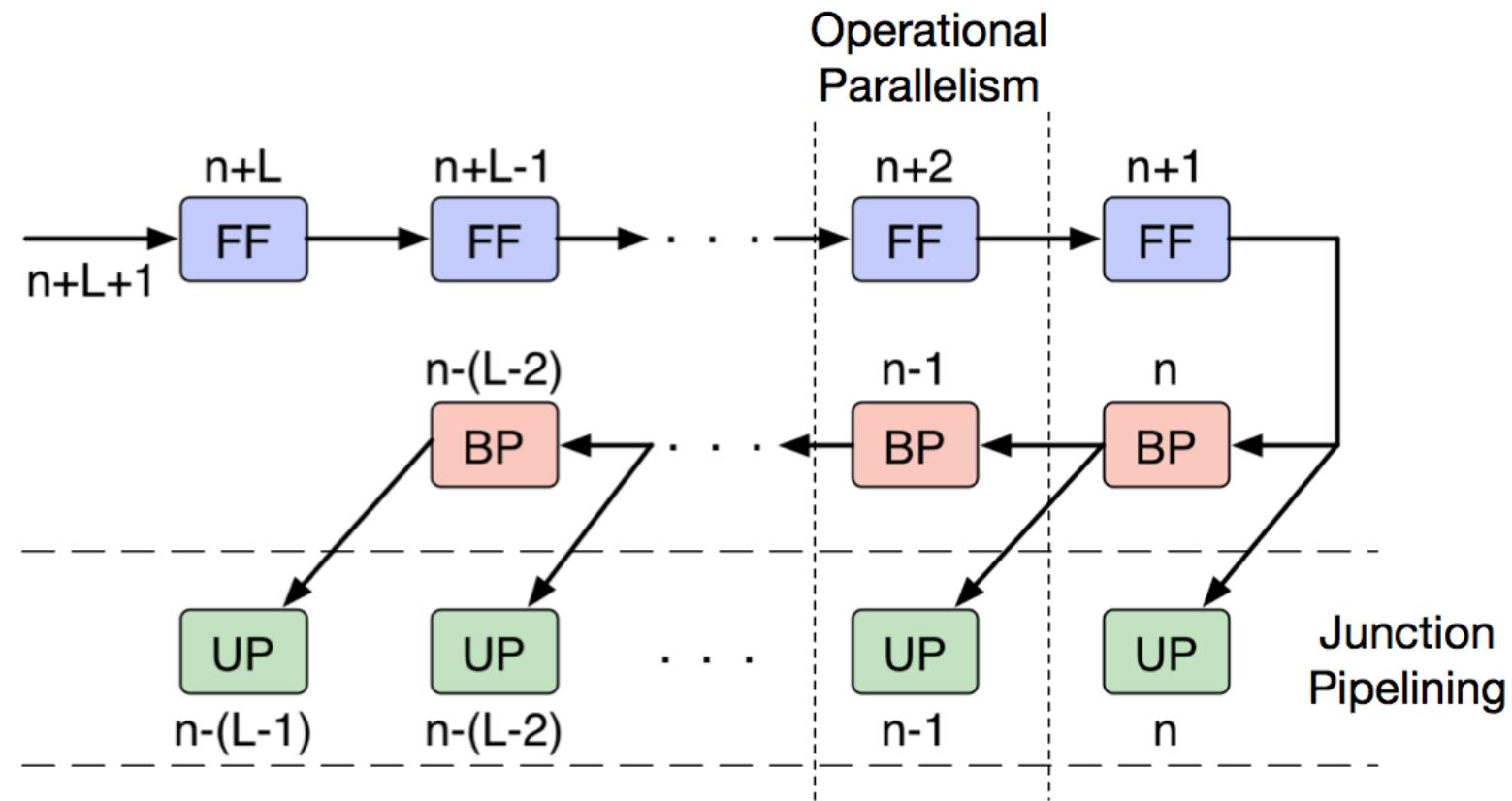
Memory organization of a single junction

- $z_i = 4$ weights accessed per cycle
- Must access all 4 left memories exactly once per cycle for clash-freedom
- After $D_i = 3$ cycles, all left nodes are accessed once => 1 sweep
- Repeat for $d_i^{\text{out}} = 2$ sweeps to access all weights
- At most 2 right nodes accessed per cycle => At least 2 right memories required for clash-freedom

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Parallel and Pipelined processing

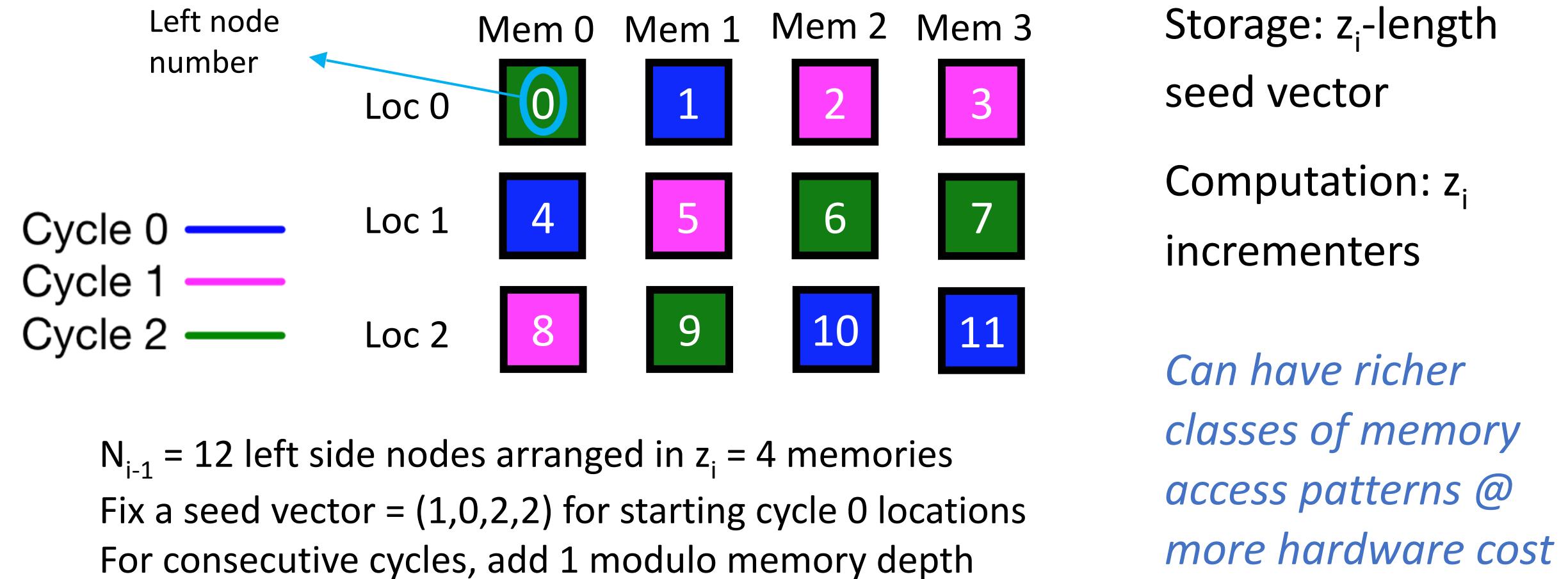


Operational parallelism: FF, BP, UP simultaneously inside a junction

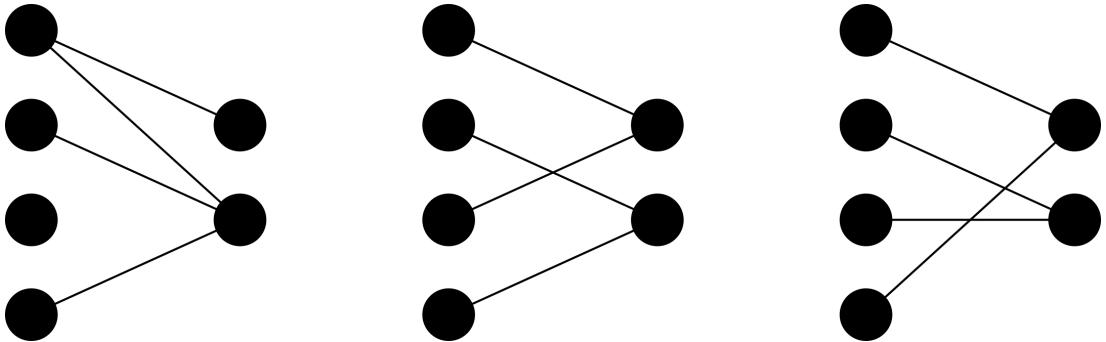
Junction pipelining: Each operates on different inputs across junctions

Faster training @ more hardware and storage cost

Clash-free memory access patterns



Types of pre-defined sparsity



*Random → Structured → Clash-free
progressively restricts the network*

Randomly distribute connections given overall density

Structure the network to have constant in- and out-degree for each node

Fix z and structure the connections for hardware-friendly **clash-free** memory accesses

Performance Comparison

*Hardware-friendly simple
clash-free patterns can
improve performance*

Random sparsity can perform badly

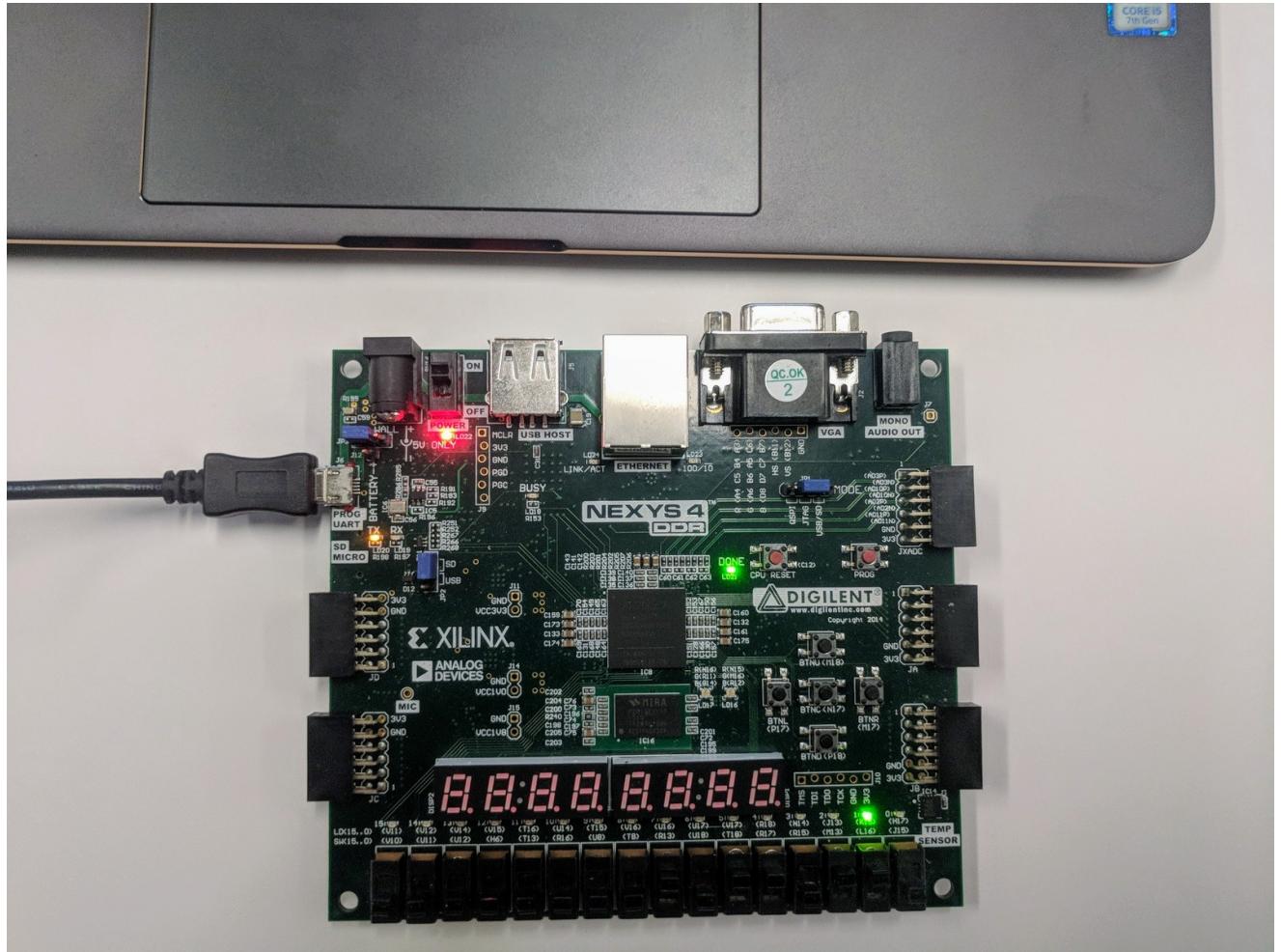
$d_{\text{net}}^{\text{out}}$	$\rho_{\text{net}} \%$	z_{net}	Test Accuracy Performance		
			Clash-free	Structured	Random
MNIST: $N_{\text{net}} = (800, 100, 100, 100, 10)$, FC test accuracy = 98 ± 0.1					
(80, 80, 80, 10)	80.2	(200, 25, 25, 4)	97.9 ± 0.2	97.9 ± 0.2	97.8 ± 0.2
(60, 60, 60, 10)	60.4	(200, 25, 25, 4)	97.6 ± 0.1	97.8 ± 0.1	97.6 ± 0.2
(40, 40, 40, 10)	40.6	(200, 25, 25, 5)	97.5 ± 0.1	97.7	97.6 ± 0.1
(20, 20, 20, 10)	20.8	(200, 25, 25, 10)	97.2 ± 0.2	97.2 ± 0.1	97.1 ± 0.1
(10, 10, 10, 10)	10.9	(200, 25, 25, 25)	96.7 ± 0.1	96.8 ± 0.2	96.7 ± 0.2
(5, 10, 10, 10)	6.9	(100, 25, 25, 25)	96.3 ± 0.1	96.3 ± 0.1	96.2 ± 0.1
(2, 5, 5, 10)	3.6	(80, 25, 25, 50)	95 ± 0.2	95.1 ± 0.1	95 ± 0.3
(1, 2, 2, 10)	2.2	(80, 20, 20, 100)	93.3 ± 0.3	93.1 ± 0.5	92 ± 0.3
Reuters: $N_{\text{net}} = (2000, 50, 50)$, FC test accuracy = 89.6 ± 0.1					
(25, 25)	50	(1000, 25)	89.4 ± 0.1	89.3	89.4
(10, 10)	20	(400, 10)	87 ± 0.1	86.7 ± 0.1	86.5 ± 0.1
(5, 5)	10	(200, 5)	78.5 ± 0.5	78.2 ± 0.7	77.5 ± 0.6
(2, 2)	4	(80, 2)	53.3 ± 1.8	51.2 ± 1.7	46.8 ± 2.9
(1, 1)	2	(40, 1)	28.4 ± 2.4	28.7 ± 2.3	28 ± 1.9
TIMIT: $N_{\text{net}} = (39, 390, 39)$, FC test accuracy = 43.2 ± 0.2					
(270, 27)	69.2	(13, 13)	43 ± 0.1	43	43 ± 0.1
(180, 18)	46.2		42.7 ± 0.1	42.8 ± 0.1	42.9 ± 0.1
(90, 9)	23.1		42.1 ± 0.1	42.5 ± 0.1	42.4 ± 0.1
(60, 6)	15.4		41.5 ± 0.1	41.8 ± 0.2	41.9 ± 0.1
(30, 3)	7.7		40.5 ± 0.2	40.1 ± 0.2	39.4 ± 0.8
CIFAR-100 : $N_{\text{net}} = (4000, 500, 100)$, FC top-5 test accuracy = 87.1 ± 0.6					
(100, 100)	22	(2000, 250)	87.5 ± 0.2	87.7 ± 0.2	87.4 ± 0.3
(29, 29)	6.4		86.8 ± 0.3	87.2 ± 0.5	87.1 ± 0.2
(12, 12)	2.6		86.3 ± 0.2	86.5 ± 0.4	86.6 ± 0.4
(5, 5)	1.1	(400, 50)	85.3 ± 0.5	85.5 ± 0.5	85.7 ± 0.3
(2, 2)	0.4		84.1 ± 0.5	84.3 ± 0.3	83.8 ± 0.3
(1, 1)	0.2		83 ± 0.5	83.3 ± 0.4	81.7 ± 0.7

FPGA Implementation

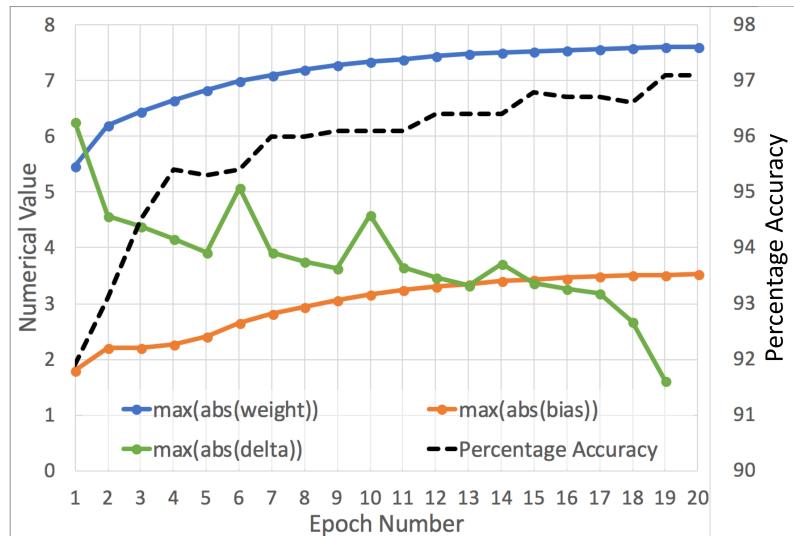
Initial hardware prototype of pre-defined sparse 2-junction network training on MNIST

- Nodes = 1120
- Weights = 5120
- Overall density = 7.5%
- Total parallelism = 160

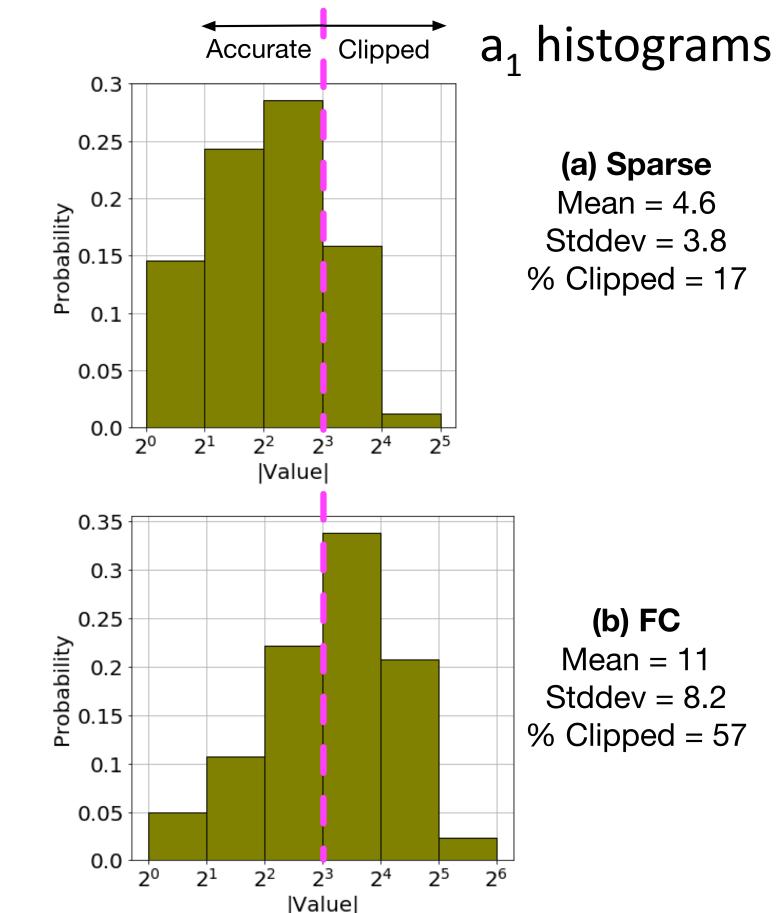
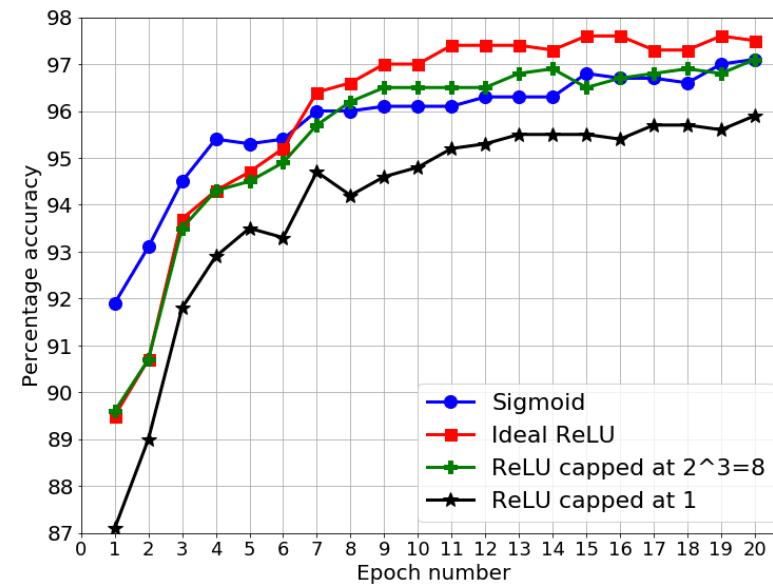
Xilinx Artix-7 FPGA on Digilent
Nexys4 board



Some Findings and Considerations



12-bit fixed point config:
 (sign, integer, fractional) = (1,3,8)



Dynamic range is reduced
 due to pre-defined sparsity

Ongoing / Future Work in H/W Implementation

This dissertation:

- More pipelining to improve speed (current clock frequency = 15 MHz)

Other members of our team:

- Better memory interfacing and management protocols
- Leveraging cloud FPGA resources to support bigger networks

Outline



Introduction and Background



Pre-Defined Sparsity



Hardware Architecture



Connection Patterns



Dataset Engineering

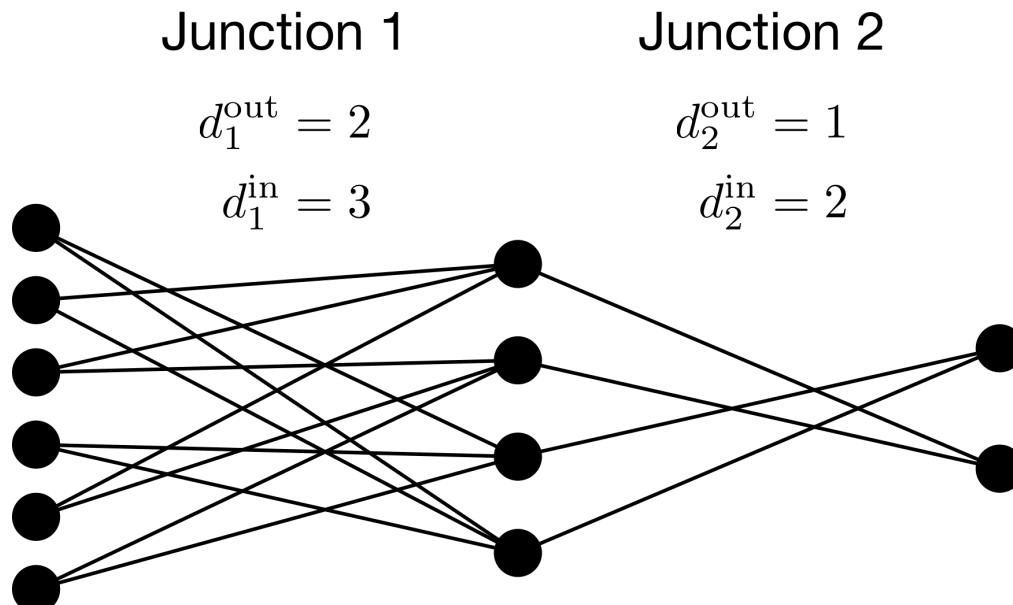


Model Search

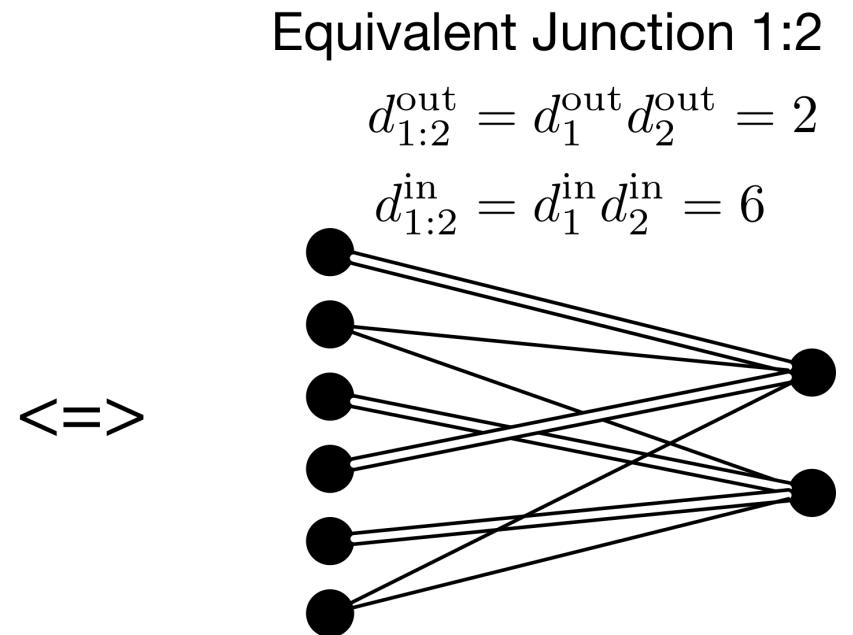


Achieved
Research
Contributions

Biadjacency Matrices

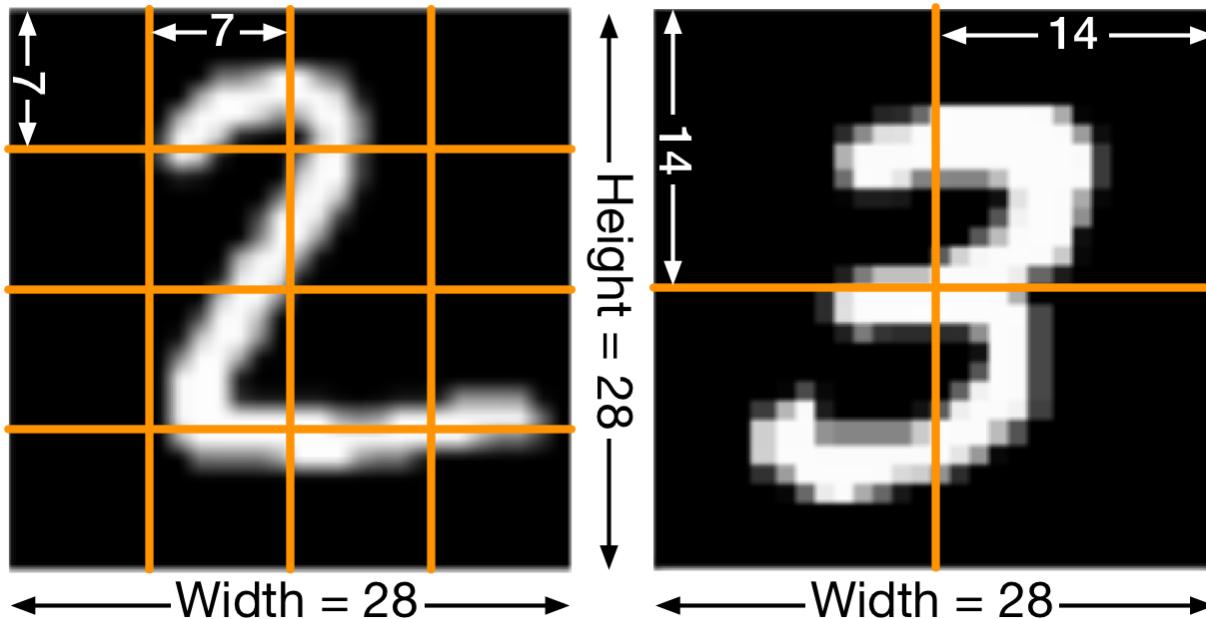


$$\mathcal{B}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathcal{B}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



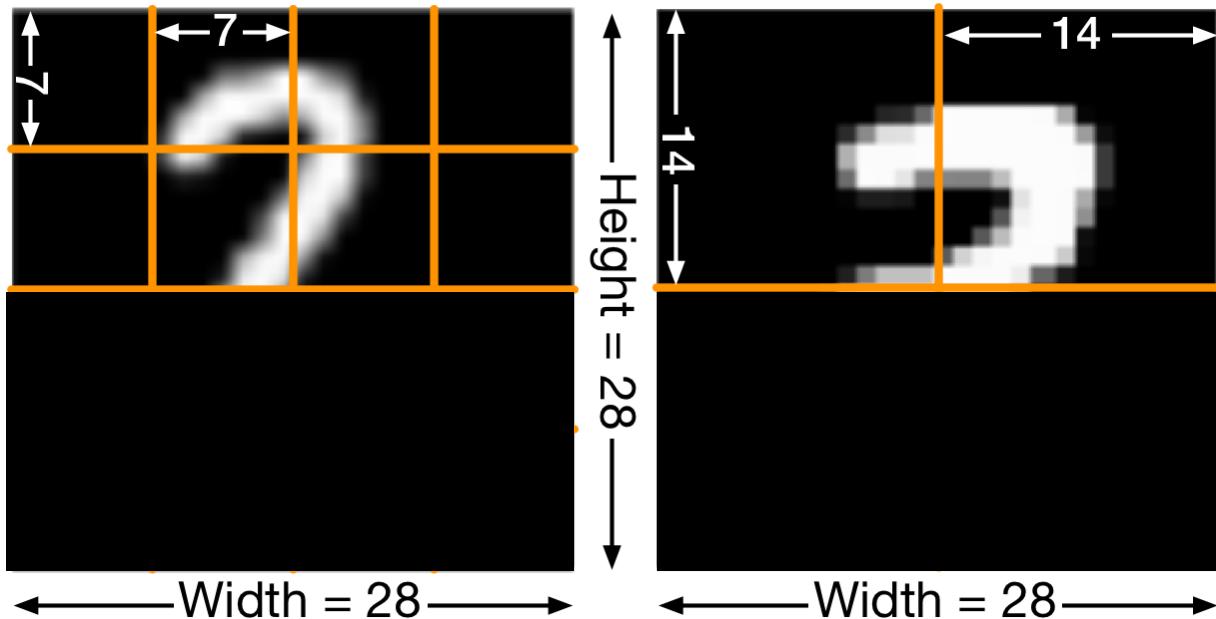
$$\mathcal{B}_{1:2} = \mathcal{B}_2 \mathcal{B}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Windowed connection patterns



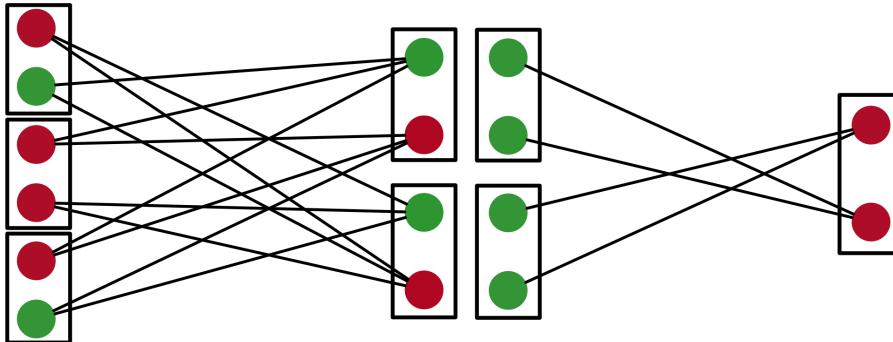
*For best results, nodes should get information from all portions of adjacent layers
=> Define windows*

Windowed connection patterns

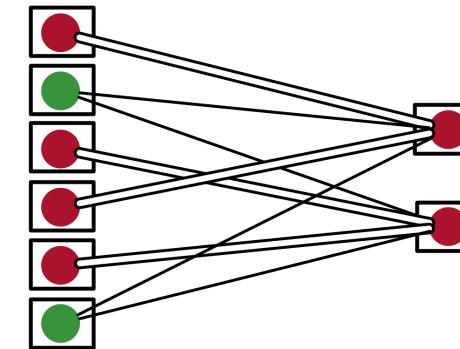


*For best results, nodes should get information from all portions of adjacent layers
=> Define windows*

Windowed Biadjacency Matrices and Scatter



\Leftrightarrow



$$\mathcal{B}_1^f = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_2^f = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_{1:2}^f = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_1^b = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathcal{B}_2^b = [1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1]$$

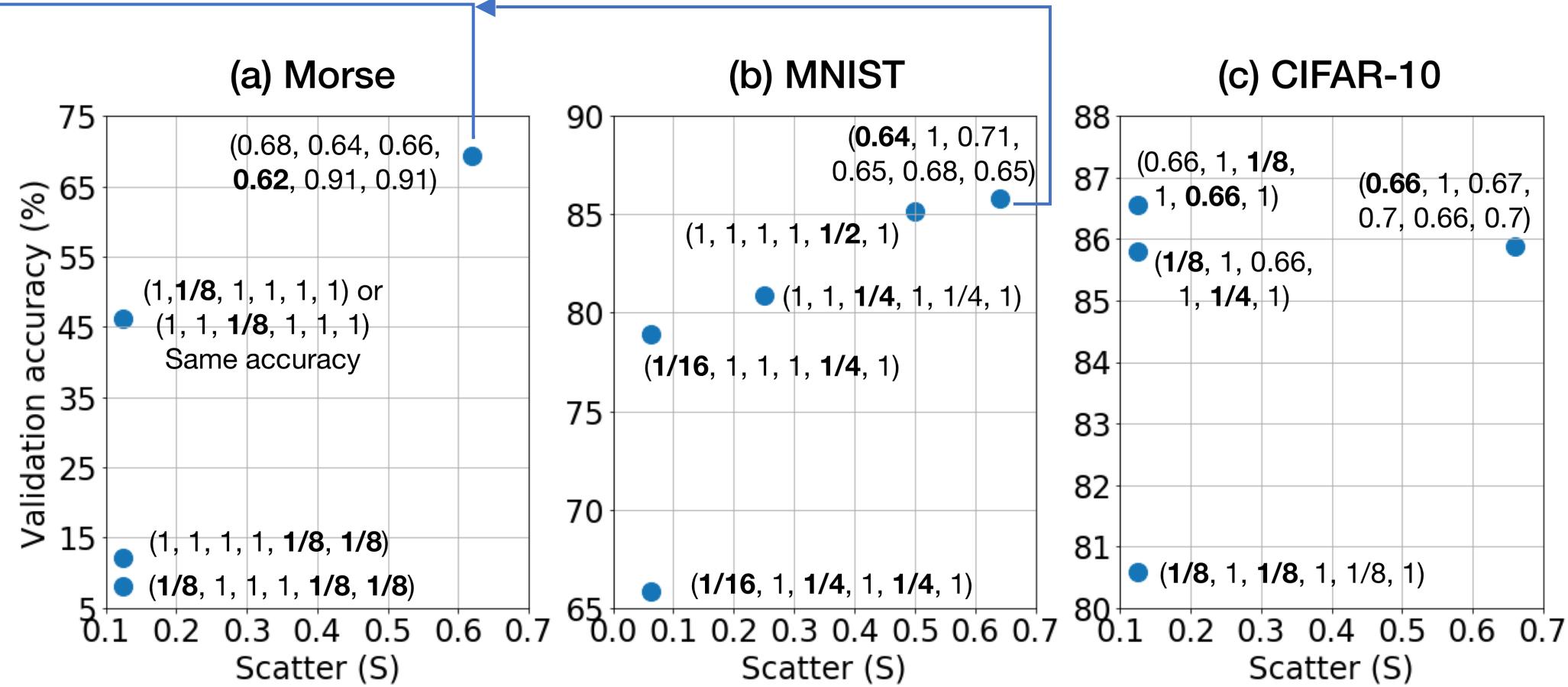
$$\mathcal{B}_{1:2}^b = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 & 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$S^{\text{net}} = (S_1^f = 0.83, S_1^b = 0.67, \quad S_2^f = \mathbf{0.5}, S_2^b = 1, \quad S_{1:2}^f = 0.67, S_{1:2}^b = 0.67)$$

Scatter – Performance prediction before training

Not explicitly planning
connections performs
the best

*... ties in with
proposed
research on
model search*



Scatter can help in filtering out bad networks before training ... (work in progress)

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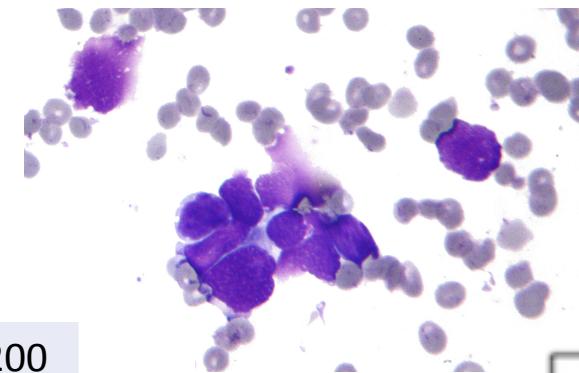
Achieved
Research
Contributions

Data, data, everywhere, Not quality enough to use

Real world data has challenges:

- Too few samples
- Incorrect labeling
- Missing entries

13.2	0.05		1200
10.9		A	
	0.78	B+	1400
11.4			1100



Synthetic data is generated using computer algorithms

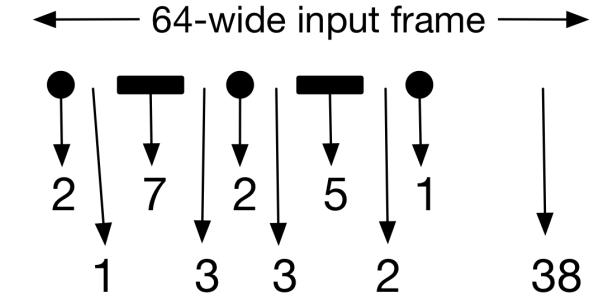
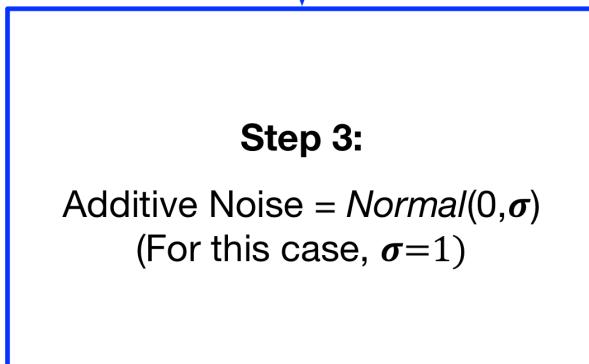
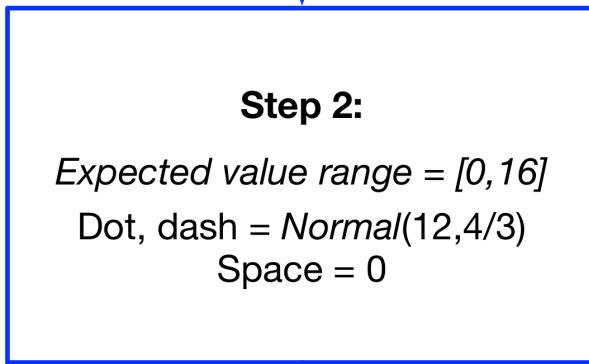
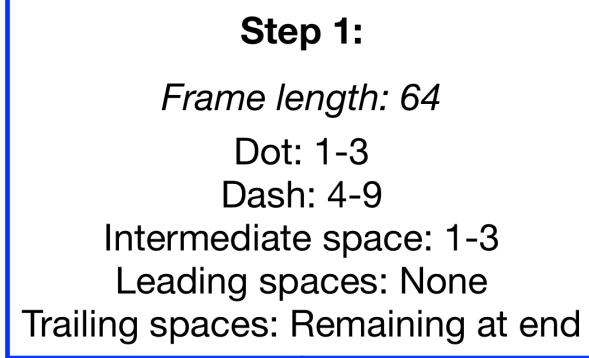
- Very large quantities can be generated
- Mimic real-world data as desired
- Classification difficulty tweaking

Morse Code Datasets

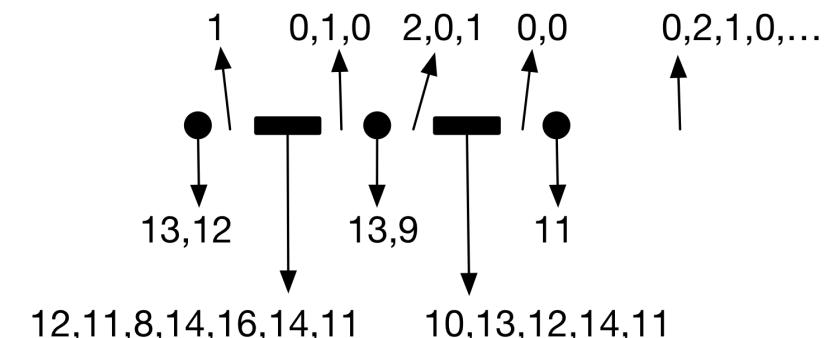
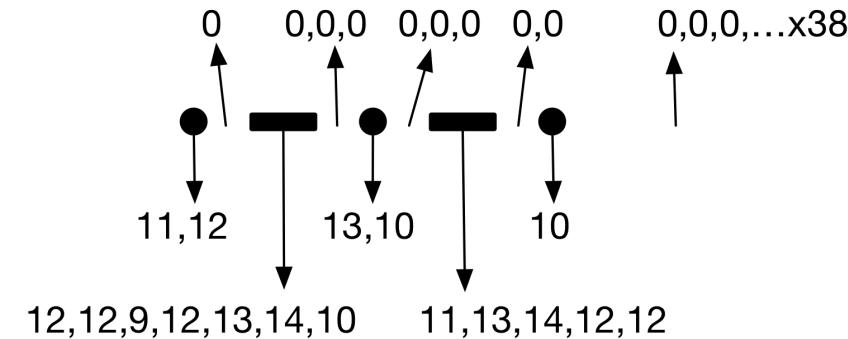
Morse Code is a system of communication where letters, numbers and symbols are encoded using dots and dashes

Example:

+ . - • - •

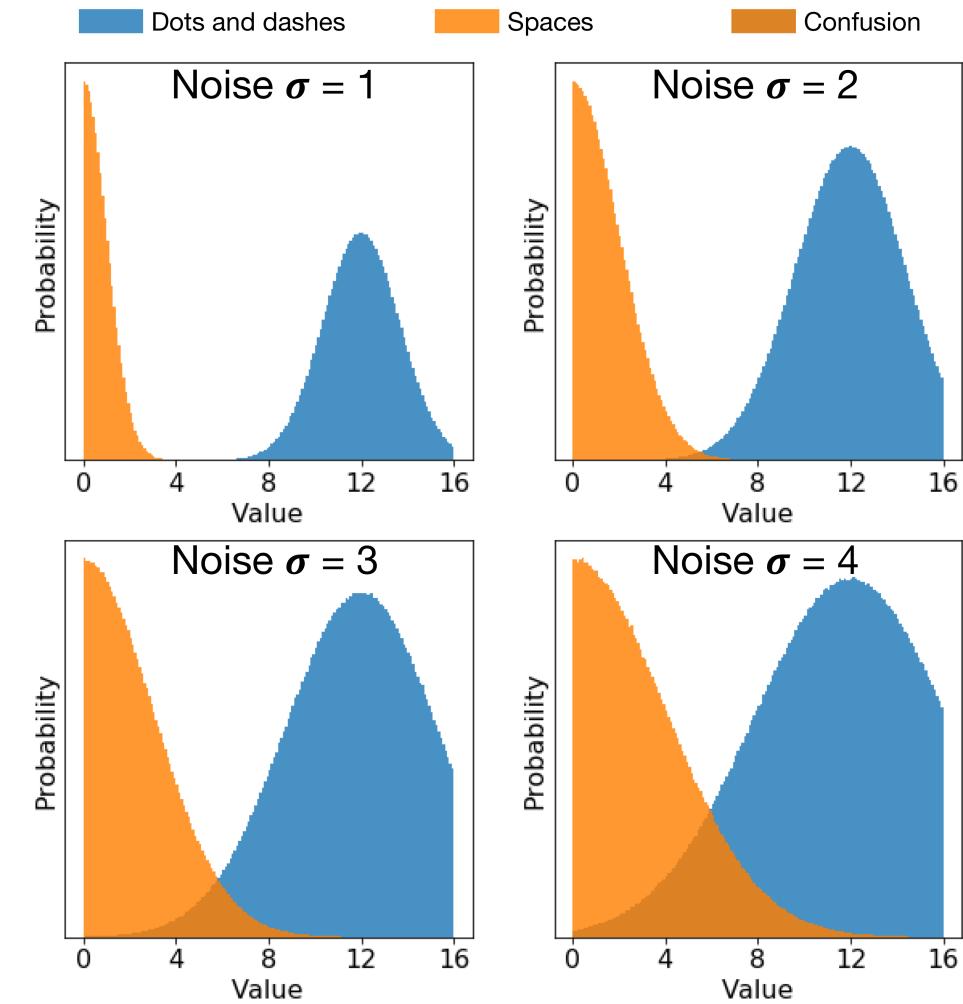
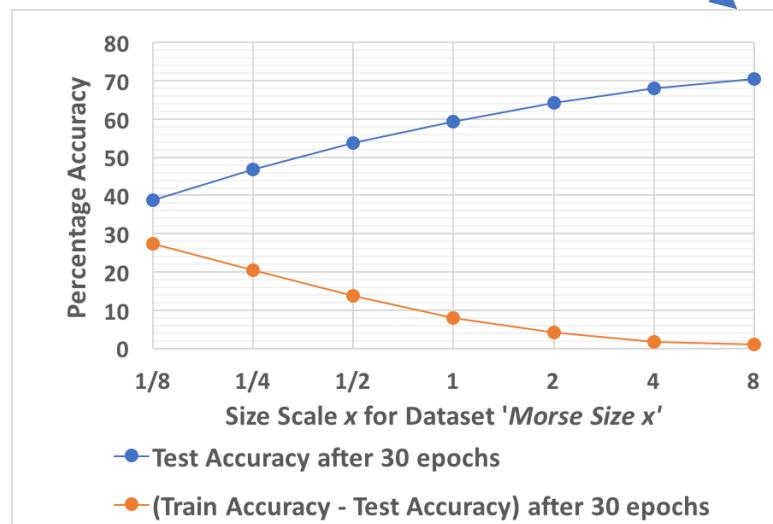


Codeword Length = 26. Remaining spaces = 38

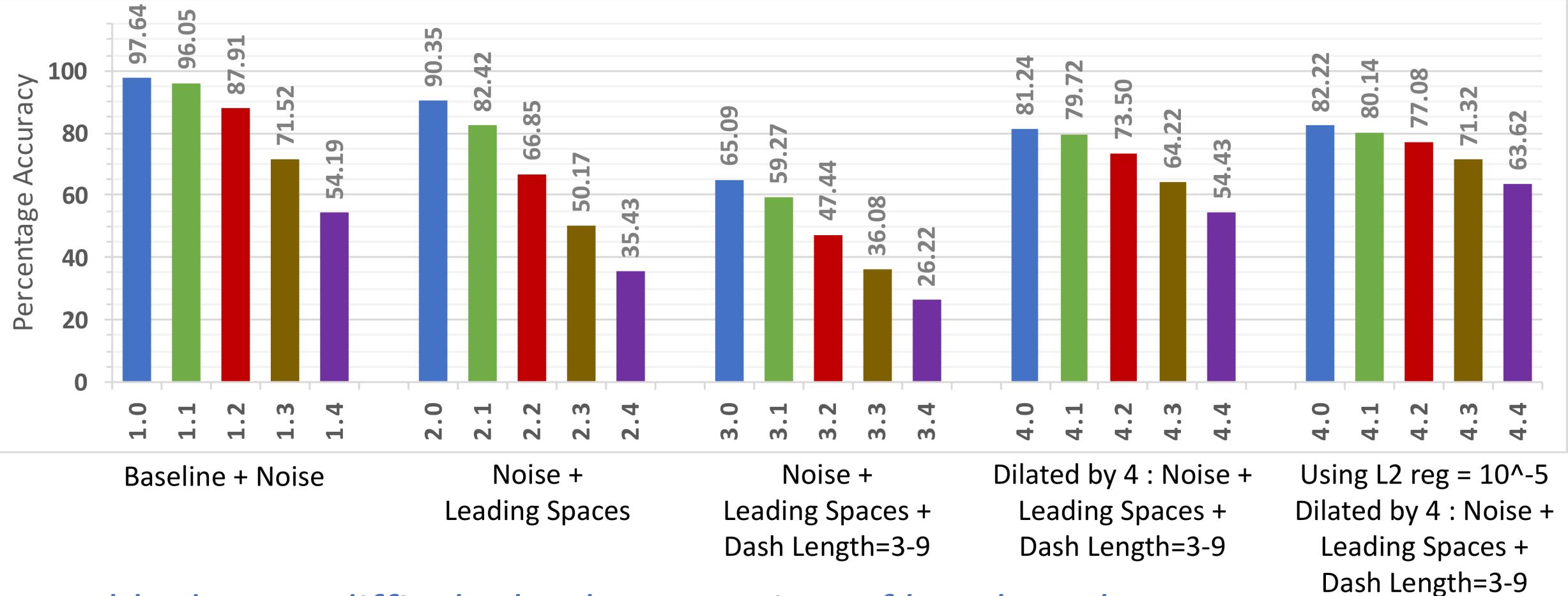


Variations and Difficulty Scaling

- More noise
- Leading and trailing spaces
- Confusing dashes with dots and spaces
- Dilating frame to size 256
- Increasing #samples in dataset



Neural network performance



Tunable dataset difficulty leads to a variety of benchmarks

Metrics to characterize dataset difficulty

$$V_{\text{lower}} = \sum_{m=1}^{N_L} P(m) Q \left(\sqrt{\frac{d_{\min}(m)^2}{4\sigma_m^2}} \right)$$
$$V_{\text{upper}} = \sum_{m=1}^{N_L} P(m) \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq m}}^{N_L} Q \left(\sqrt{\frac{d(m, j)^2}{4\sigma_m^2}} \right)$$
$$V_{\text{dist}} = \frac{\sum_{m=1}^{N_L} \frac{\sigma_m}{d_{\min}(m)}}{N_L}$$
$$V_{\text{thresh}} = \sum_{m=1}^{N_L} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq m}}^{N_L} \mathbb{I} \left(\frac{\|c_m - c_j\|_1}{N_0} < 0.05 \right)$$

Metrics to characterize dataset difficulty

Probability of the
mth class occurring

Gaussian Q-function

#classes

$$V_{\text{lower}} = \sum_{m=1}^{N_L} P(m) Q \left(\sqrt{\frac{d_{\min}(m)^2}{4\sigma_m^2}} \right)$$

$$V_{\text{upper}} = \sum_{m=1}^{N_L} P(m) \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq m}}^{N_L} Q \left(\sqrt{\frac{d(m, j)^2}{4\sigma_m^2}} \right)$$

$$V_{\text{dist}} = \frac{\sum_{m=1}^{N_L} \frac{\sigma_m}{d_{\min}(m)}}{N_L}$$

$$V_{\text{thresh}} = \sum_{m=1}^{N_L} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq m}}^{N_L} \mathbb{I} \left(\frac{\|c_m - c_j\|_1}{N_0} < 0.05 \right)$$

Minimum distance
between centroids of mth
class and any other class

Average variance across
all features in mth class

Distance between centroids
of mth and jth classes

#features

Goodness of the Metrics

Metric	r
V_{lower}	-0.59
V_{upper}	-0.64
V_{dist}	-0.63
V_{thresh}	-0.64

Pearson's correlation coefficient between metric and test set classification accuracy of Morse code datasets of varying difficulty (negative because metrics indicate difficulty)

Metrics can be used to understand the inherent difficulty of the classification problem on a dataset before applying any learning algorithm

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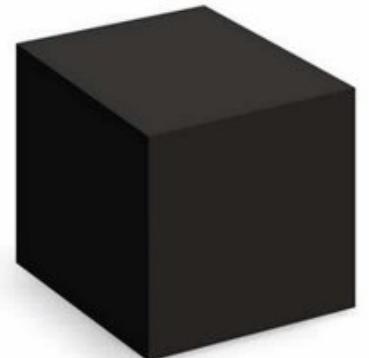
Model Search

Proposed
Research

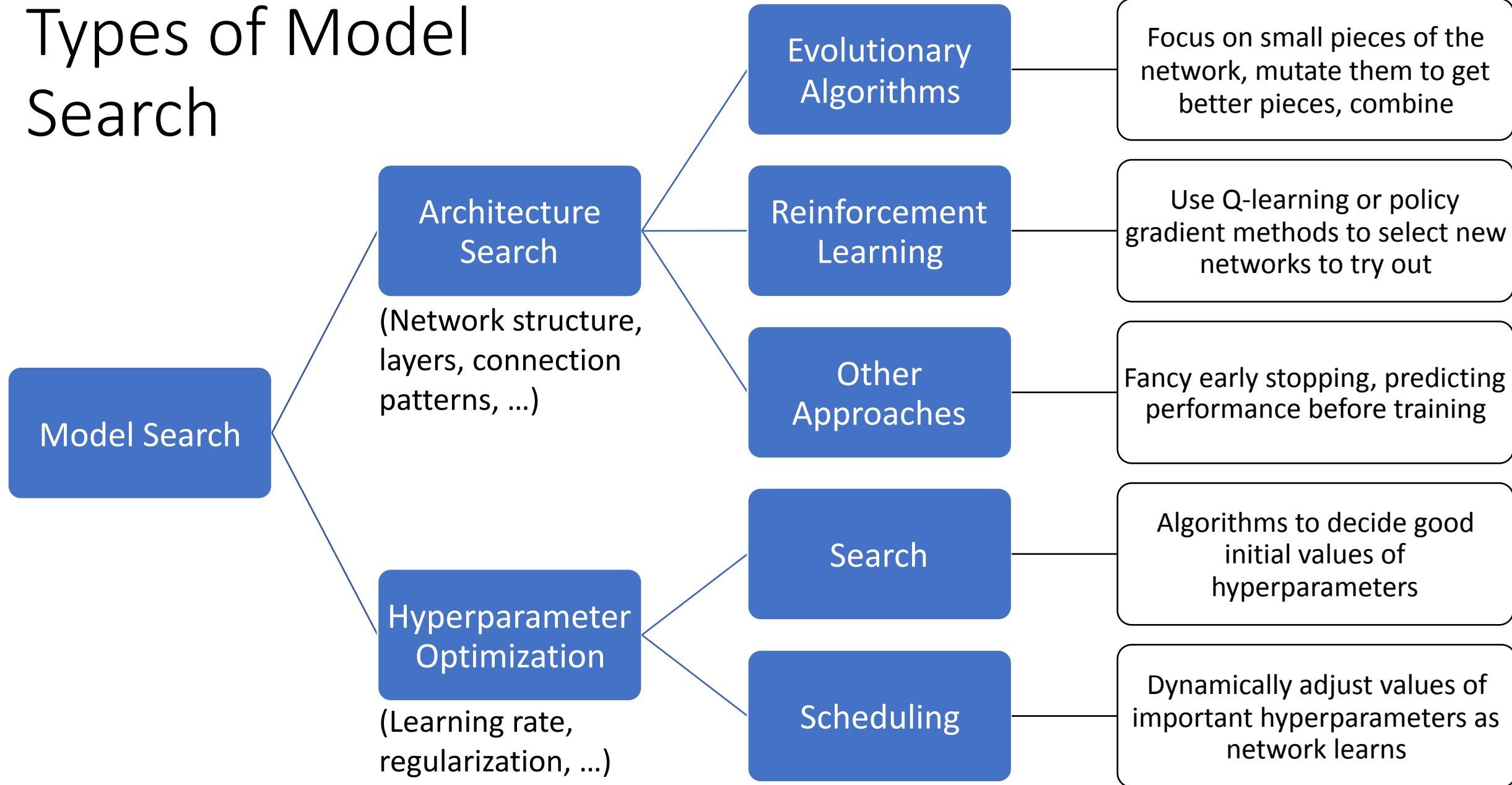
Introduction to Model Search?

Neural networks are largely black boxes

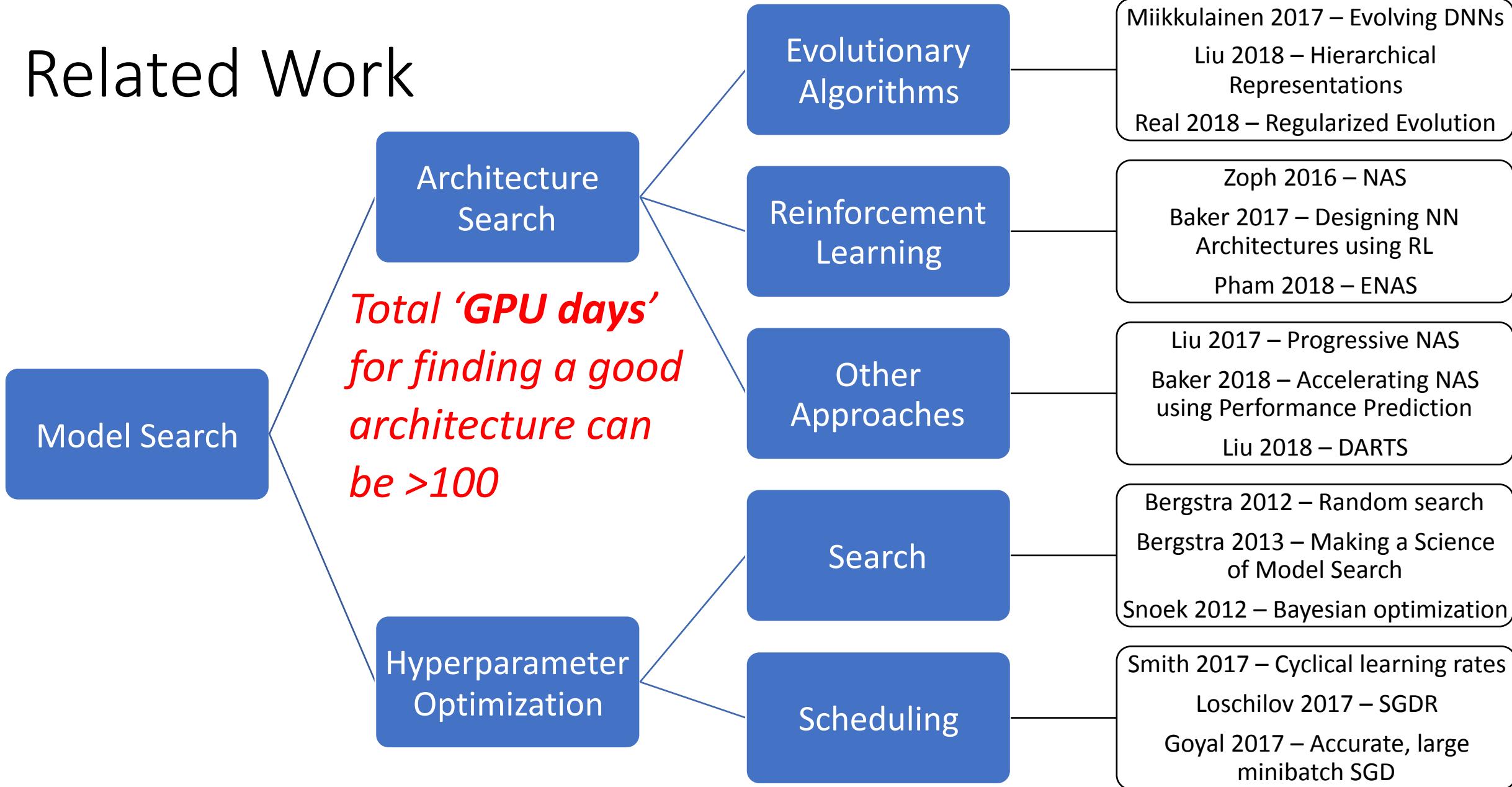
- How do they work?
- Are so many layers and neurons really needed?
- Which parts of a network are the most important?
- How should different layers be connected?
- What are good hyperparameter values?



Types of Model Search



Related Work



Our Proposed Research

GOAL: Automate the process of designing well-performing, low complexity sparse neural networks for various applications

- Architecture search with focus on low complexity networks
 - Extend complexity reduction methods like pre-defined sparsity to other networks beyond MLP
 - Lower complexity networks can train faster (sparse libraries)
 - Democratize architecture search to entities without enormous finances
- Deeper understanding of neural networks
 - Build on trends and guidelines for sparsity
 - Which parts of a network are important – leverage evolutionary algorithms
 - Build on scatter-like methods to predict performance prior to training
 - More informed early stopping – software and hardware monitors

Summary of Contributions

Achieved:

- Proposing and analyzing **pre-defined sparsity** to reduce NN complexity
- **Hardware architecture** to leverage pre-defined sparsity
- Analyzing **connection patterns** and performance predicting measures
- Family of **synthetic datasets** on Morse code with tunable difficulty

Proposed:

- Better **pipelining** to improve hardware architecture
- **Architecture search** and understanding of low complexity neural networks
- [*Time and resources permitting*] Hyperparameter search tuned to low complexity neural networks

Thank you!

