



# Deep-n-Cheap

Sourya Dey  
USC HAL research group

[Github](#)

[arXiv](#)

Deep Learning guest lecture  
April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Outline

Overview

Approach

Results

Deep-n-Cheap

Investigations  
and Insights

# Overview

# Motivation

- Deep neural networks have a lot of **hyperparameters**
  - How many layers? *Architecture Hyperparameters*
  - How many neurons? *Hyperparameters*
  - Learning rate *Training Hyperparameters*
  - Batch size
  - and more...
- Our understanding of NNs is at best vague, at worst, zero!
- NNs take **a lot** of time to train. Time = Money!



# AutoML (Automated Machine Learning)

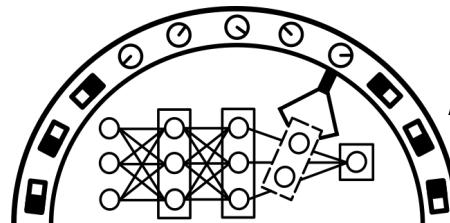
- Software frameworks that play the role of the designer
- Given a problem, **search** for NN models



Jin 2019 – Auto-Keras



AWSLabs 2020 – AutoGluon



**AutoML.org**  
Freiburg-Hannover

Mendoza 2018 – Auto-PyTorch

# Our Work



## Deep-n-Cheap

### Low Complexity AutoML framework

*Reduce training complexity*  
*Target custom datasets*  
*and user requirements*  
*Supports CNNs and MLPs*

Framework	Architecture search space	Training hyp search	Adjust model complexity
Auto-Keras	Only pre-existing architectures	No	No
AutoGluon	Only pre-existing architectures	Yes	No
Auto-PyTorch	Customizable by user	Yes	No
Deep-n-Cheap	Customizable by user	Yes	Penalize $t_{\text{tr}}$ , $N_p$

$t_{\text{tr}} = \text{Training time} / \text{epoch}$   
 $N_p = \# \text{Trainable parameters}$



# Approach

# Search Objective

*Optimize performance and complexity*

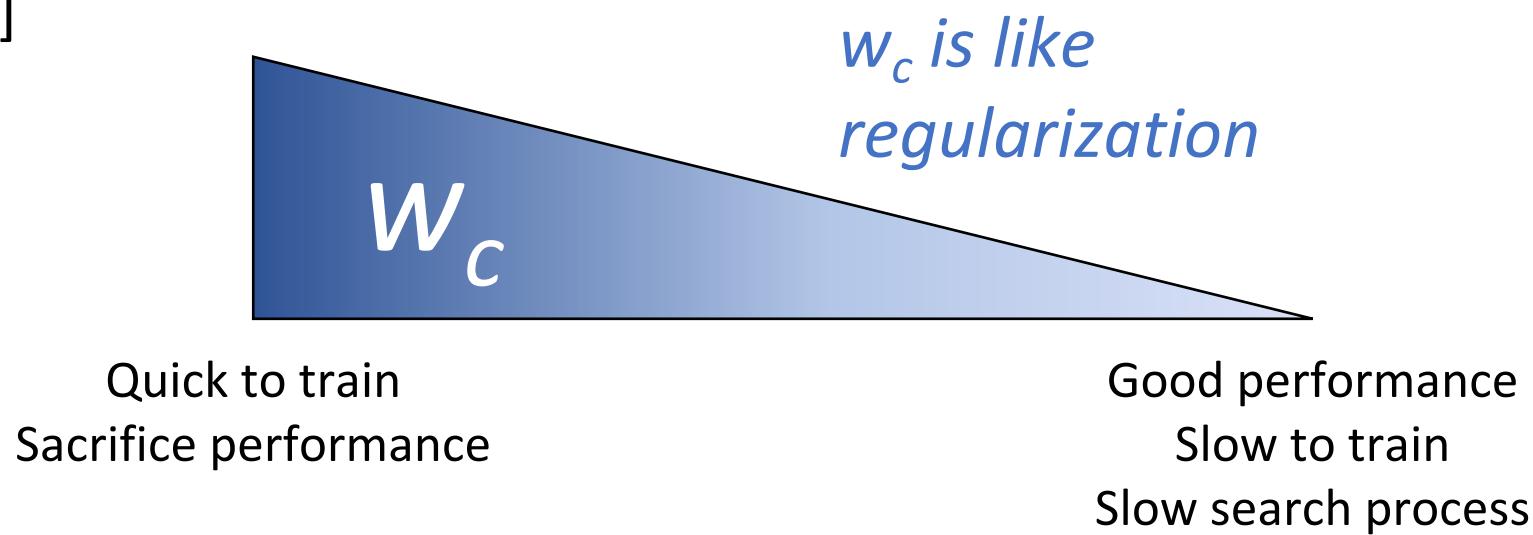
Modified loss function:  $f(\text{NN Config } \mathbf{x}) = \log(f_p + w_c * f_c)$

Example config  $\mathbf{x}$ :

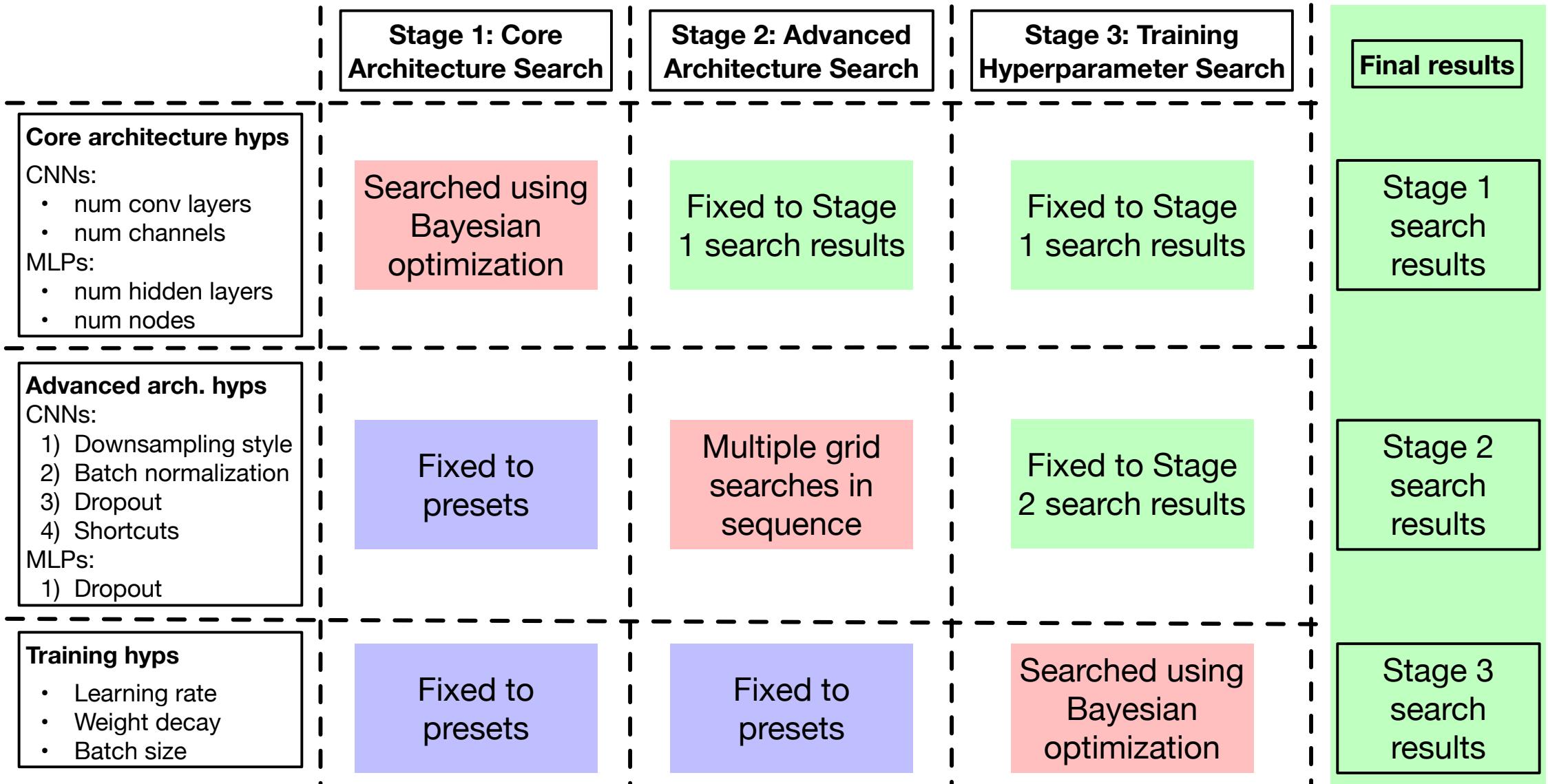
[#layers, #channels] = [3, (29,40,77)]

$f_p = 1 - (\text{Best Validation Accuracy})$

$f_c = \text{Normalized } t_{tr} \text{ or } N_p$   
 $= t_{tr}(\text{config}) / t_{tr}(\text{baseline})$

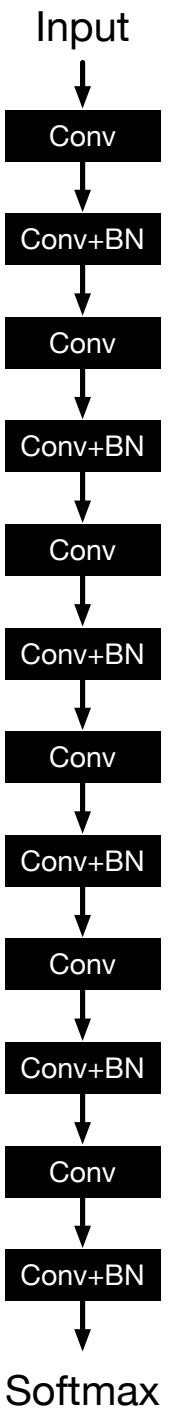


# Three-stage search process

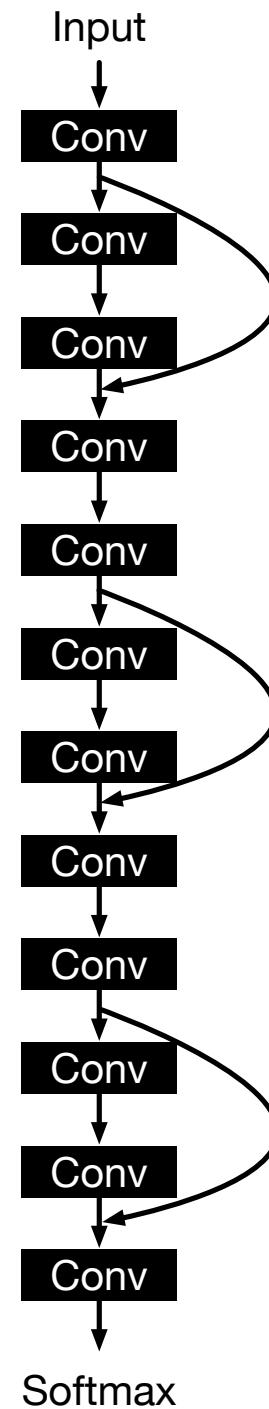
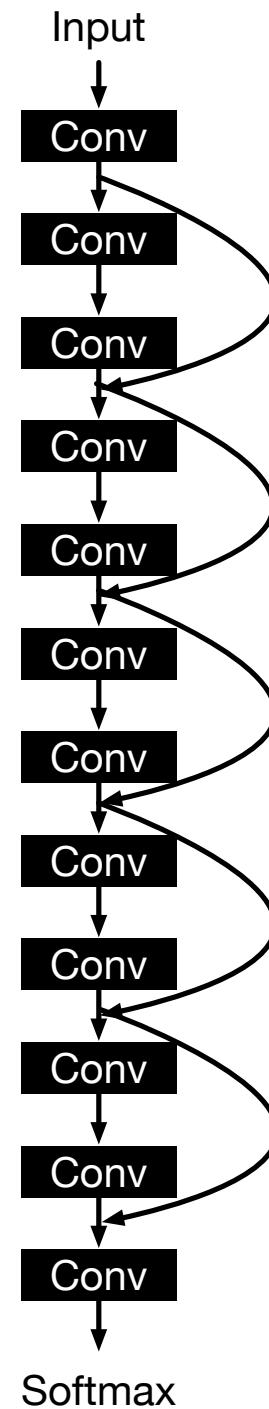


# Examples of Stage 2

$BN = 0.5$



*Full shortcuts (left)  
Half shortcuts (right)*



# Bayesian Optimization Workflow

- *Sample* some initial data  $\mathbf{X}_{1:n_1}$  and find  $f(\mathbf{X}_{1:n_1})$
- Form prior to approximate  $f$ . This is a *Gaussian process* with  $\mu_{n_1 \times 1}, \Sigma_{n_1 \times n_1}$
- Repeat for  $n_2$  steps:
  - Sample new points  $\mathbf{X}'_{1:n_3}$
  - Find *expected improvement*  $EI(x')$  for each new point and choose  $\mathbf{x}_{n_1+1} = \text{argmax } EI(x')$
  - Form *posterior* to approximate  $f$  :
    - Augment  $\mathbf{X}_{1:n_1}$  to  $\mathbf{X}_{1:n_1+1}$
    - Find  $f(\mathbf{x}_{n_1+1})$
    - Augment  $\mu_{n_1 \times 1}$  to  $\mu_{(n_1+1) \times 1}$ ,  $\Sigma_{n_1 \times n_1}$  to  $\Sigma_{(n_1+1) \times (n_1+1)}$
- Finally, return best  $f$  and corresponding best  $\mathbf{x}$

*Total configs explored:  $n_1 + n_2 * n_3$*   
*Total configs trained:  $n_1 + n_2$*

# Gaussian process (GP)

*A collection of random variables such that any subset of them forms a multi-dimensional Gaussian random vector*

$$f(\mathbf{X}_{1:n}) \sim \mathcal{N} \left( \begin{matrix} \boldsymbol{\mu}_{n \times 1} \\ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{n \times n} \end{matrix} \right)$$

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} = \begin{bmatrix} \mu(\mathbf{x}_1) \\ \vdots \\ \mu(\mathbf{x}_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_1) & \cdots & \sigma(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_n) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{x}_1) & \cdots & \sigma(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{x}_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

# Covariance kernel – Similarity between NN configs

Layer 1  
Layer 2  
Layer 3

Pre-decided	Config <i>i</i>	Config <i>j</i>	Computed
Min channels = 16 Max channels = 64 omega = 3, r = 1	50 channels	36 channels	Distance = 0.875 Kernel = 0.682
Min channels = 16 Max channels = 128 omega = 3, r = 1/2	80 channels	61 channels	Distance = 1.236 Kernel = 0.466
Min channels = 16 Max channels = 256 omega = 3, r = 1/3	No 3rd layer	107 channels	Distance = 3 (i.e. max) Kernel = 0.01 (i.e. min)

Individual  
Distance

Individual  
Kernel

Complete  
Kernel

$$d(x_{ik}, x_{jk}) = \omega_k \left( \frac{|x_{ik} - x_{jk}|}{u_k - l_k} \right)^{r_k}$$

$$\sigma(x_{ik}, x_{jk}) = \exp \left( -\frac{d^2(x_{ik}, x_{jk})}{2} \right)$$

$$\sigma(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_j) = \sum_{k=1}^K s_k \sigma(x_{ik}, x_{jk})$$

Convex  
combination

Assuming all {s} are equal, **final kernel value = 0.386**

# Expected Improvement (EI)

- Let  $f^*$  be the minimum of all observed values so far
- *How much can a new point  $x'$  improve:*
  - If  $f(x') > f^*$ ,  $\text{Imp}(x') = 0$
  - Else,  $\text{Imp}(x') = f^* - f(x')$
- $EI(x') = \text{Expectation} [ \max(f^* - f(x'), 0) ]$

$$EI(x) = (f^* - \mu)P\left(\frac{f^* - \mu}{\sigma}\right) + \sigma p\left(\frac{f^* - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

Standard normal cdf =  $P$ , pdf =  $p$

# Results

# Data loader and augmentation considerations

Using data pre-loaded from npz format

Entire dataset is in memory

```
data = np.load('mnist.npz')
xtr, ytr = data['xtr'], data['ytr']
for i in numbatches:
    inputs = xtr[i*batch_size : (i+1)*batch_size]
    labels = ytr[i*batch_size : (i+1)*batch_size]
```

Using Pytorch data loaders

Uses generators to not burden memory

```
data = torchvision.datasets.MNIST(root = data_folder, train = True, download = False, transform = transforms.ToTensor())
train_loader = torch.utils.data.DataLoader(data['train'], batch_size = batch_size, shuffle = True, num_workers = 4,
                                           pin_memory = True)
for batch in train_loader:
    inputs, labels = batch
```

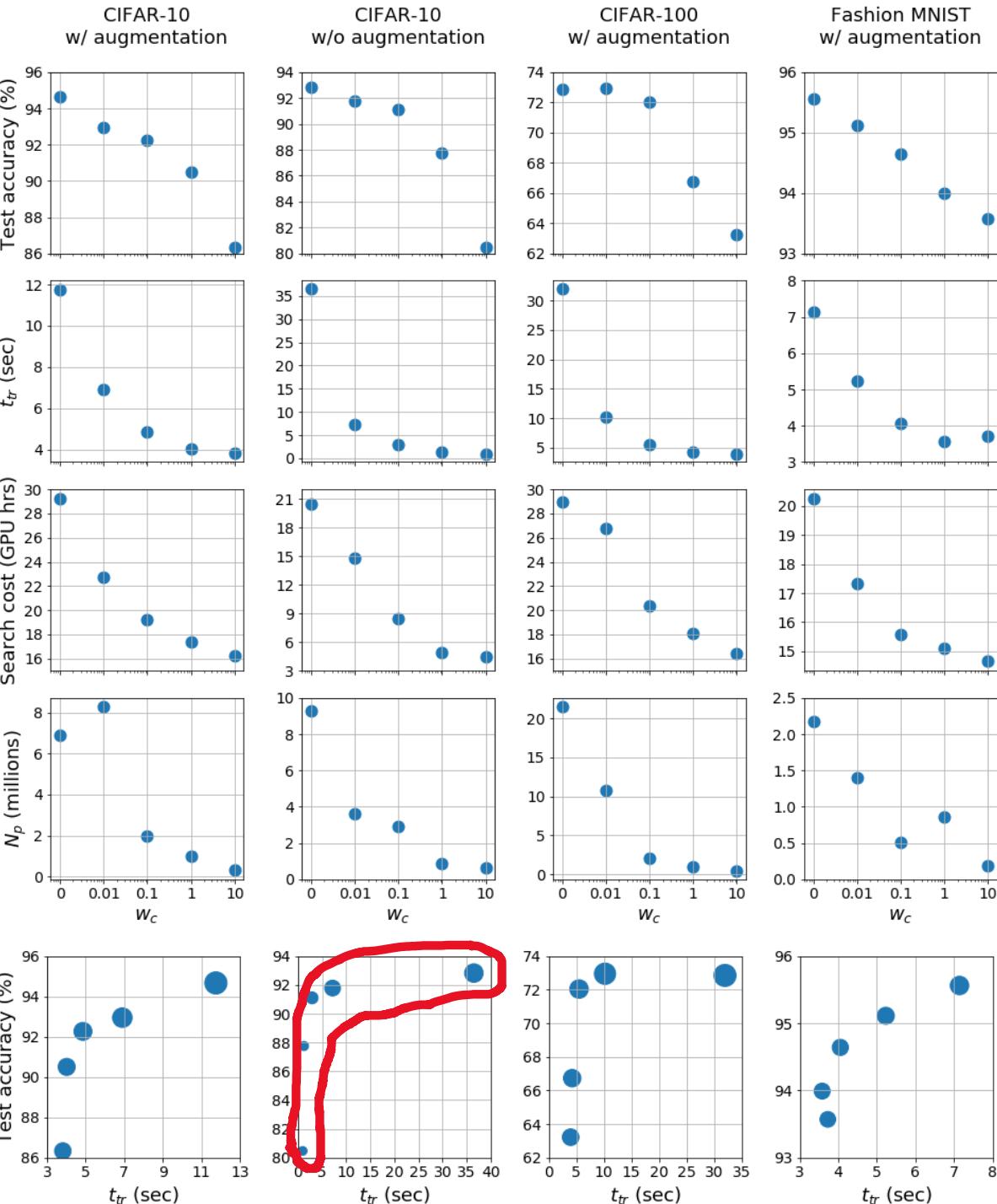
*npz is faster, data loaders are more versatile*

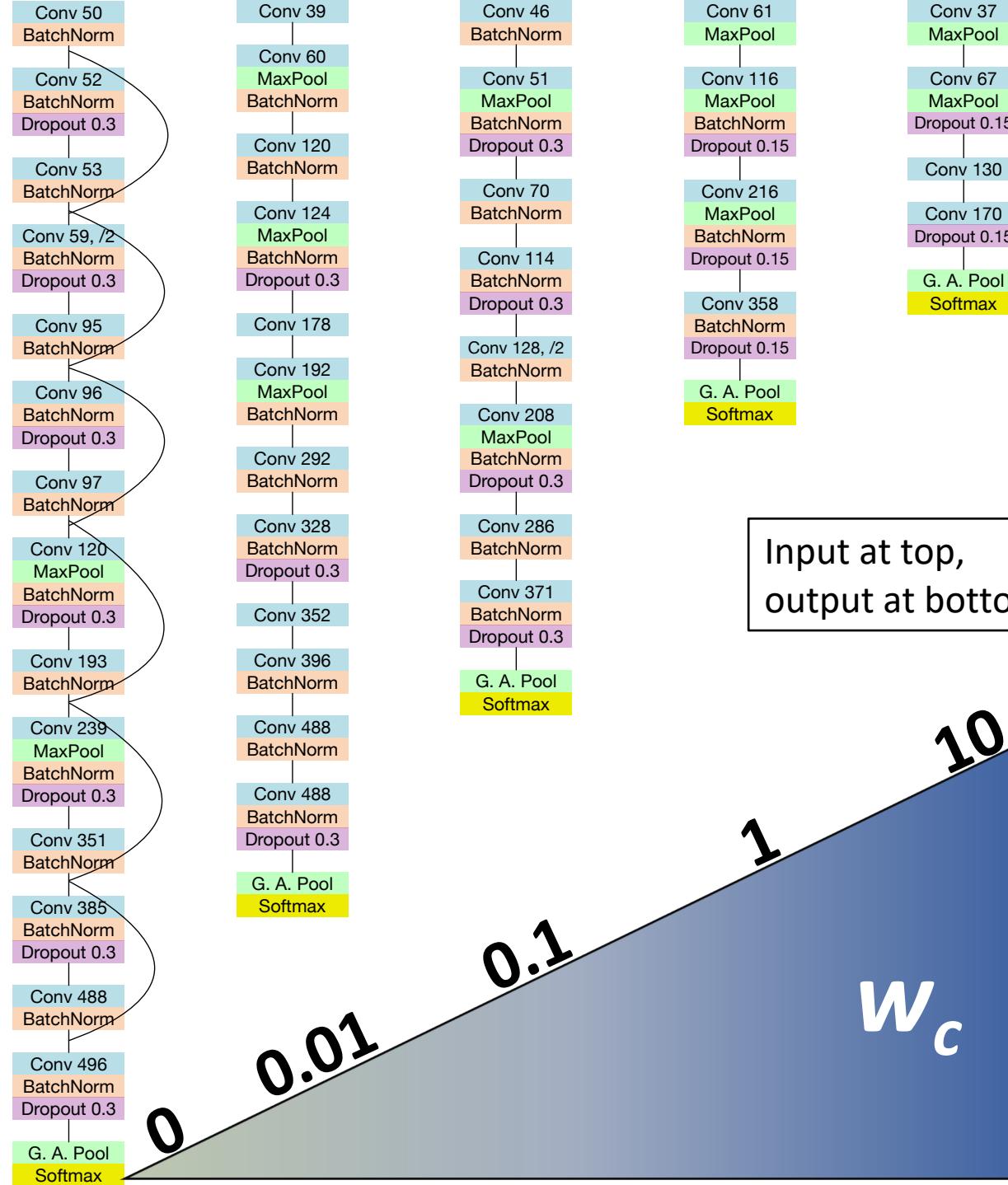
# CNN Results

*Complexity Penalty =  
Training time / epoch*

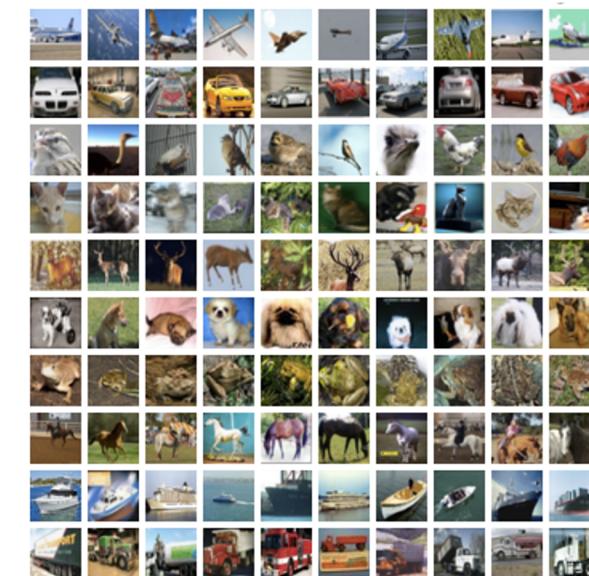
We are not penalizing  
this, but it's correlated

*Performance-  
complexity  
tradeoff*





# CIFAR-10 w/ aug



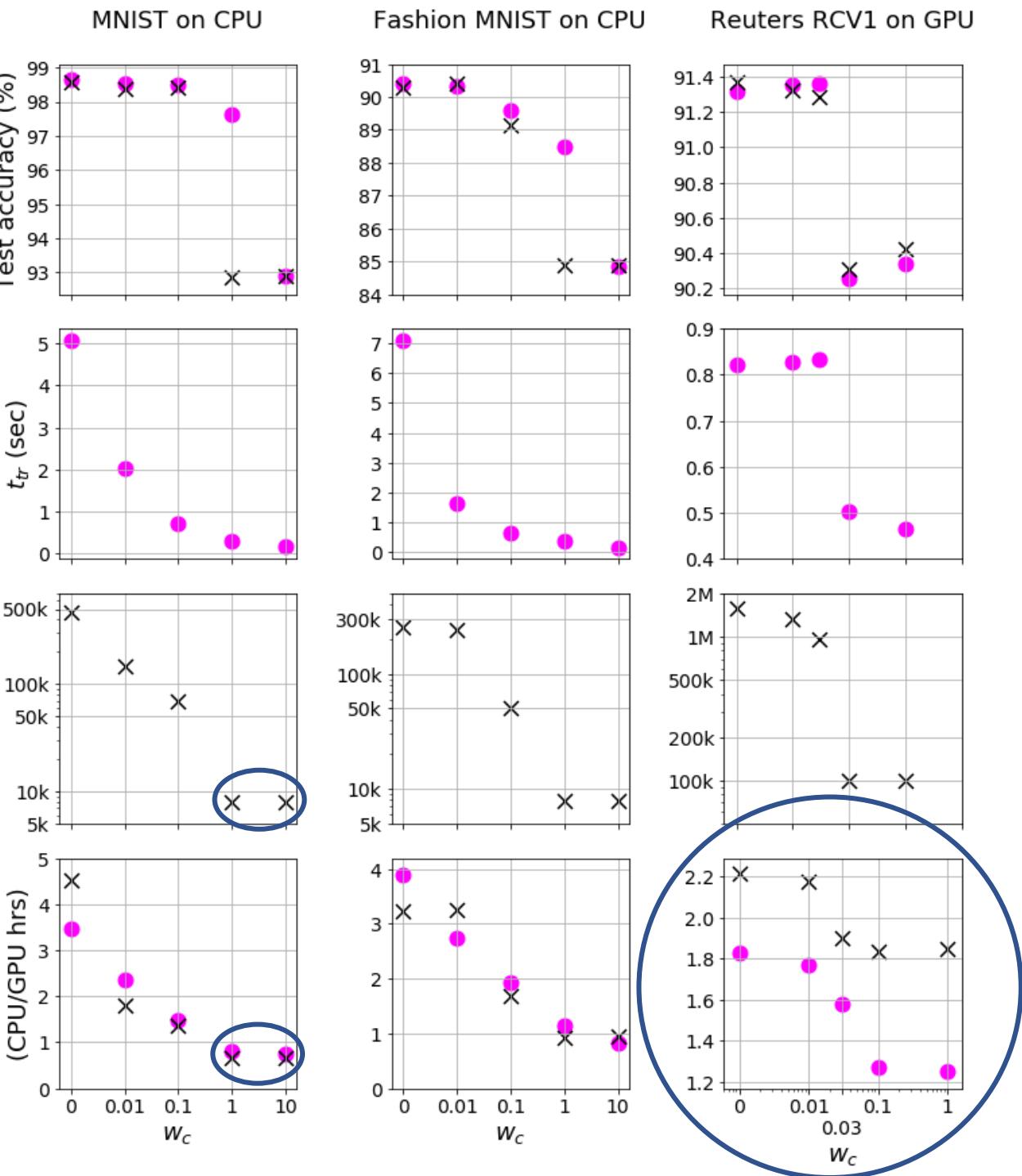
$w_c$	0	0.01	0.1	1	10
Initial learning rate $\eta$	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.003	0.001
Weight decay $\lambda$	$3.3 \times 10^{-5}$	$8.3 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.2 \times 10^{-5}$	0	0
Batch size	120	256	459	452	256

$\lambda$  strictly correlated with  $N_p$

# MLP Results

*Pink dots:*  
*Complexity Penalty =*  
*Training time / epoch*

*Black crosses:*  
*Complexity Penalty =*  
*# Trainable Params*





Deep-n-Cheap

## How to run?

- Install Python 3
- Install Pytorch

```
$ pip install sobol_seq tqdm  
$ git clone https://github.com/souryadey/deep-n-cheap.git  
$ cd deep-n-cheap  
$ python main.py
```

For help:

```
$ python main.py -h
```

## Datasets (including custom)

Set `dataset` to either:

- `--dataset=torchvision.datasets.<dataset>`. Currently supported values of `<dataset>` = MNIST, FashionMNIST, CIFAR10, CIFAR100
- `--dataset='<dataset>.npz'`, where `<dataset>` is a `.npz` file with 4 keys:
  - `xtr` : numpy array of shape (num\_train\_samples, num\_features...), example (50000,3,32,32) or (60000,784). Image data should be in `channels_first` format.
  - `ytr` : numpy array of shape (num\_train\_samples,)
  - `xte` : numpy array of shape (num\_test\_samples, num\_features...)
  - `yte` : numpy array of shape (num\_test\_samples,)
- Some datasets can be downloaded from the links in `dataset_links.txt`. Alternatively, define your own **custom datasets**.

# Comparison (CNNs on CIFAR-10)

Framework	Additional settings	Search cost (GPU hrs)	Best model found from search			
			Architecture	$t_{tr}$ (sec)	Batch size	Best val acc (%)
Proxyless NAS	Proxyless-G	96	537 conv layers	429	64	93.22
Auto-Keras	Default run	14.33	Resnet-20 v2	33	32	74.89
AutoGluon	Default run	<b>3</b>	Resnet-20 v1	37	64	88.6
	Extended run	101	Resnet-56 v1	46	64	91.22
Auto-Pytorch	‘tiny cs’	6.17	30 conv layers	39	64	87.81
	‘full cs’	6.13	41 conv layers	31	106	86.37
Deep-n-Cheap	$w_c = 0$	29.17	14 conv layers	10	120	<b>93.74</b>
	$w_c = 0.1$	19.23	8 conv layers	4	459	91.89
	$w_c = 10$	16.23	4 conv layers	<b>3</b>	256	83.82

Penalize inference complexity, not training

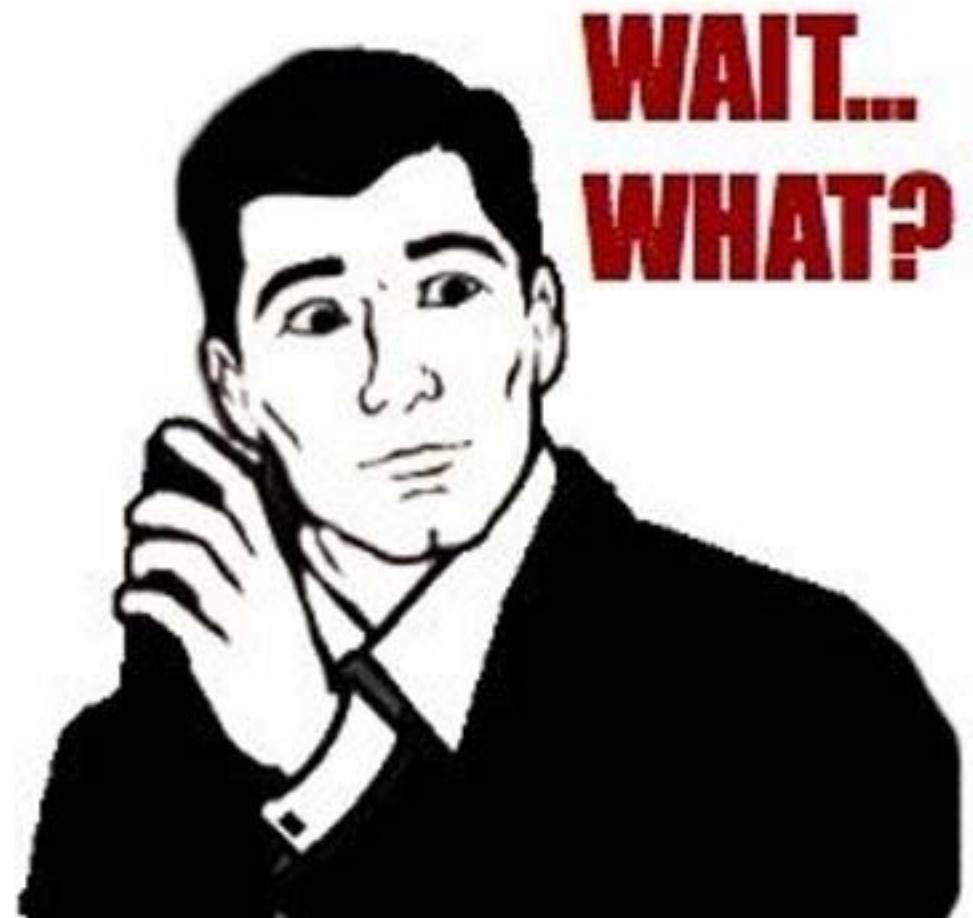
Auto Keras and Gluon don't support getting final model out, so we compared on best val acc found during search instead of final test acc

# Comparison (MLPs)

Framework	Additional settings	Search cost (GPU hrs)	Best model found from search				
			MLP layers	$N_p$	$t_{\text{tr}}$ (sec)	Batch size	Best val acc (%)
Fashion MNIST							
Auto-Pytorch	‘tiny cs’	6.76	50	27.8M	19.2	125	<b>91</b>
	‘medium cs’	5.53	20	3.5M	8.3	184	90.52
	‘full cs’	6.63	12	122k	5.4	173	90.61
Deep-n-Cheap (penalize $t_{\text{tr}}$ )	$w_c = 0$	0.52	3	263k	0.4	272	90.24
	$w_c = 10$	<b>0.3</b>	1	<b>7.9k</b>	<b>0.1</b>	511	84.39
Deep-n-Cheap (penalize $N_p$ )	$w_c = 0$	0.44	2	317k	0.5	153	90.53
	$w_c = 10$	0.4	1	<b>7.9k</b>	0.2	256	86.06
Reuters RCV1							
Auto-Pytorch	‘tiny cs’	7.22	38	19.7M	39.6	125	88.91
	‘medium cs’	6.47	11	11.2M	22.3	337	90.77
Deep-n-Cheap (penalize $t_{\text{tr}}$ )	$w_c = 0$	1.83	2	1.32M	0.7	503	<b>91.36</b>
	$w_c = 1$	<b>1.25</b>	1	<b>100k</b>	<b>0.4</b>	512	90.34
Deep-n-Cheap (penalize $N_p$ )	$w_c = 0$	2.22	2	1.6M	0.6	512	<b>91.36</b>
	$w_c = 1$	1.85	1	<b>100k</b>	5.54	33	90.4

# Takeaway

*We may not need  
very deep networks!*





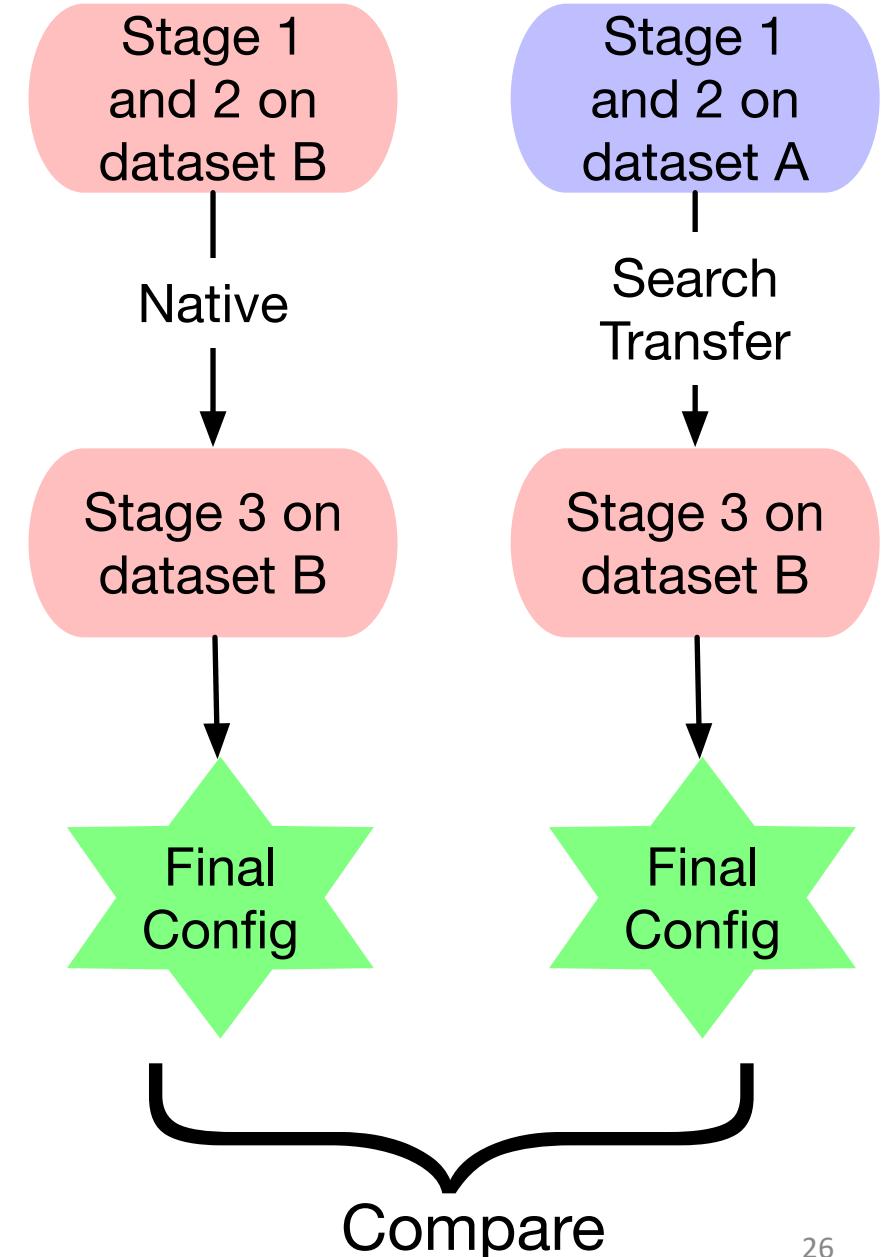
# Investigations and Insights

# Search transfer

Can a NN architecture found after stages 1 and 2 on dataset A be applied to dataset B after running Stage 3 training hyperparameter search?

How does it compare to native search on dataset B?

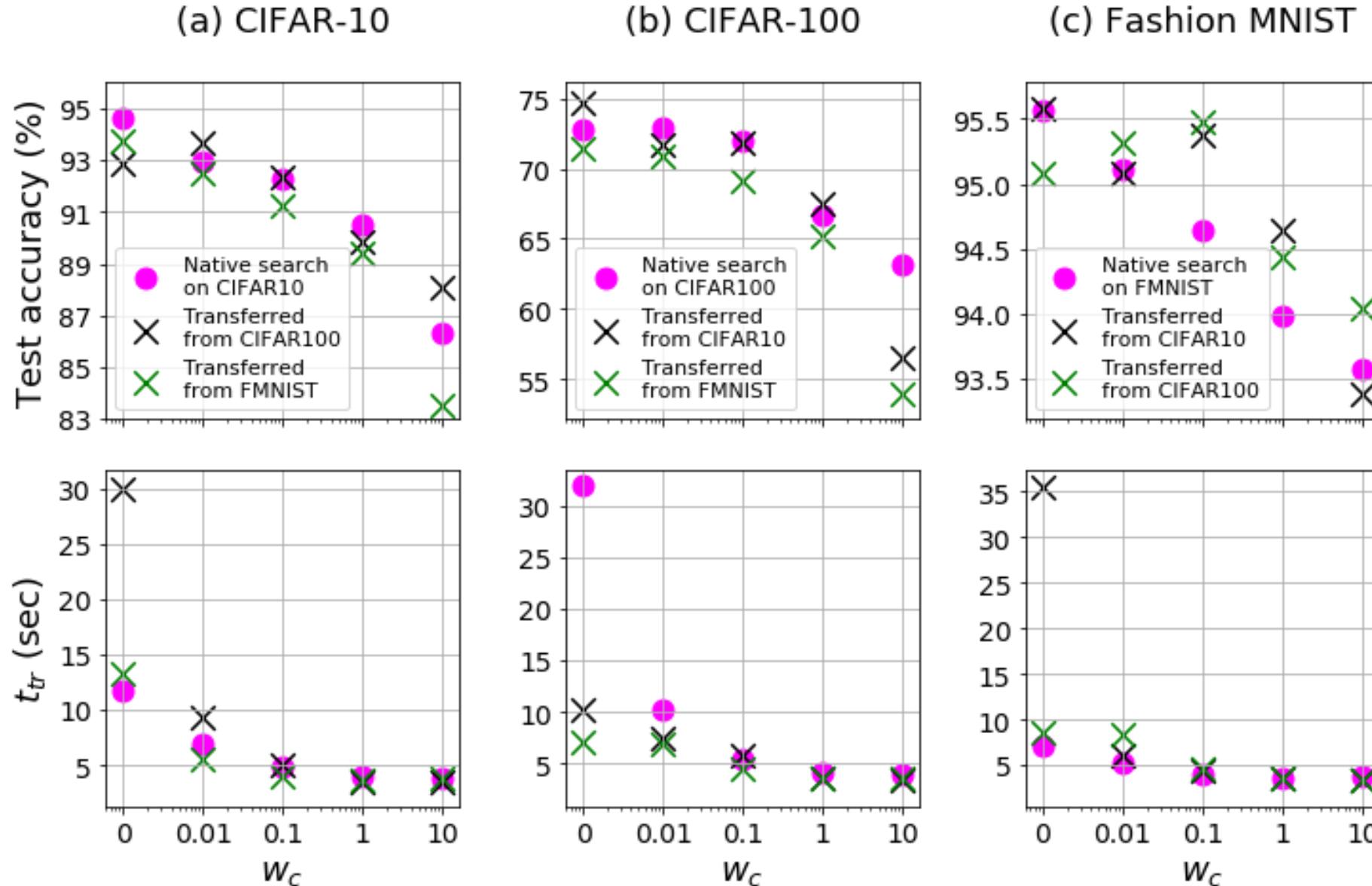
*Can architectures generalize?*



# Search transfer results

*Transferring from CIFAR outperforms native FMNIST (probably due to more params)*

*Training times mostly the same*

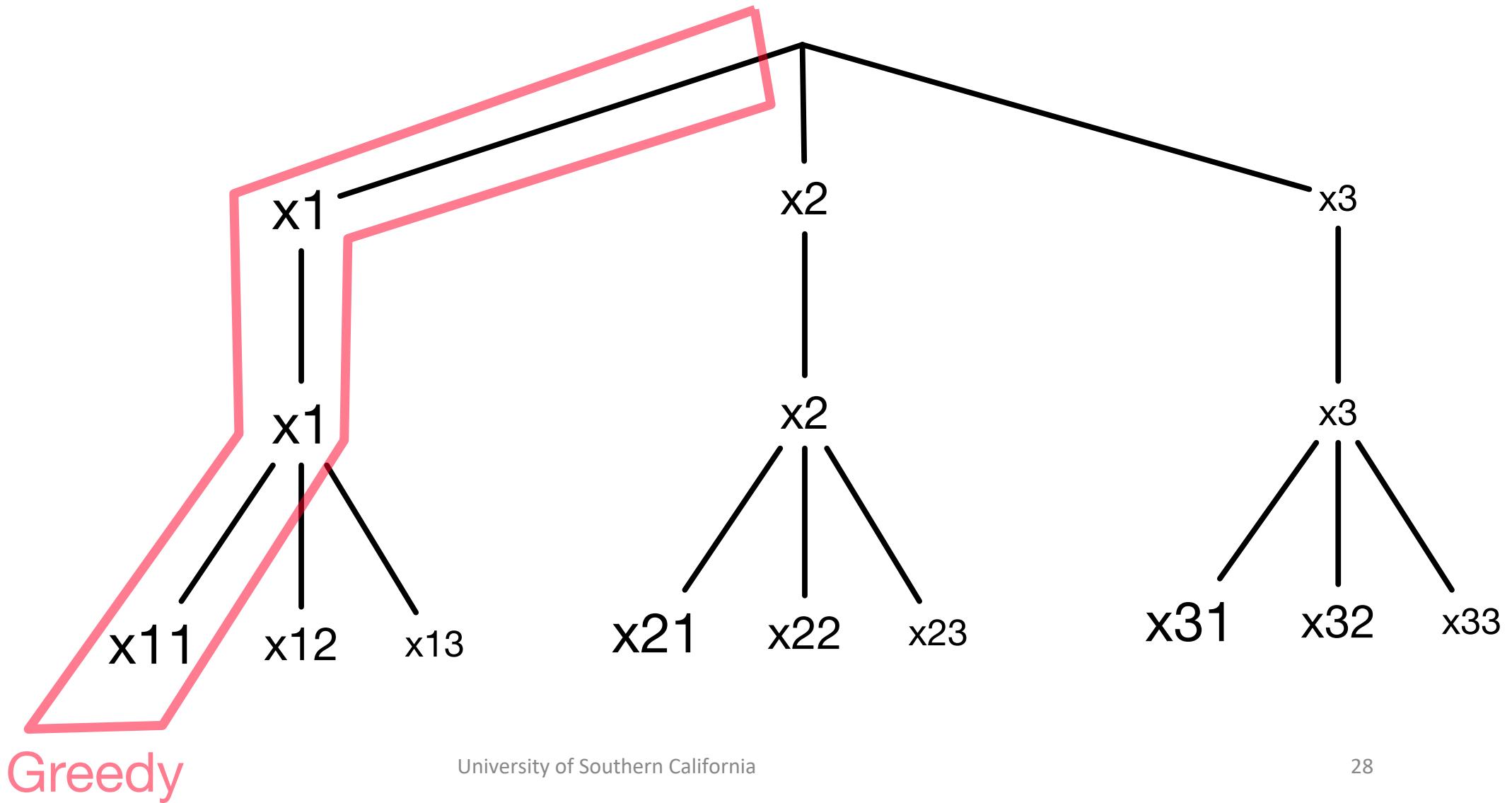


# What about a non-greedy search?

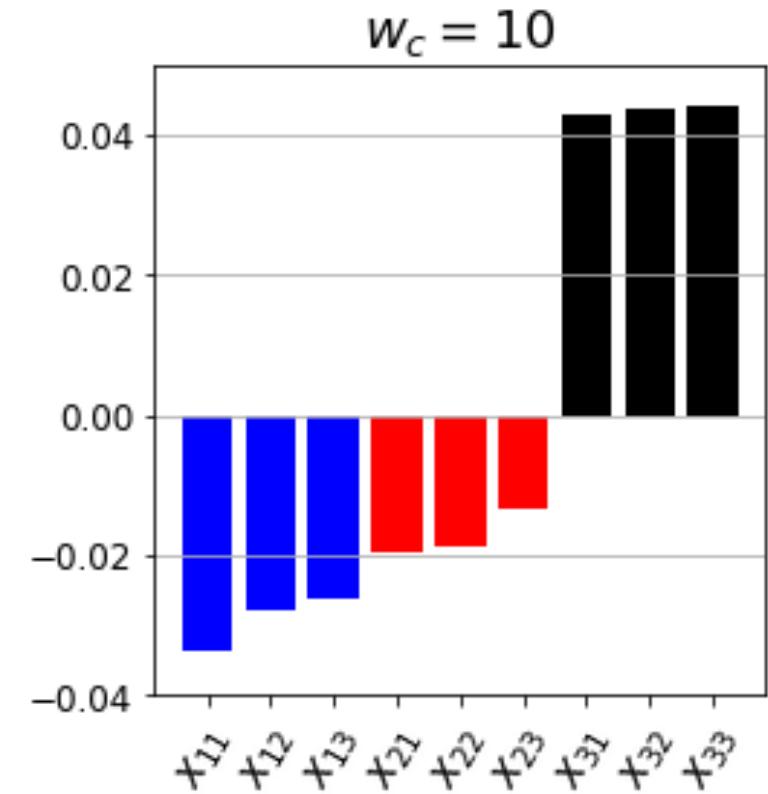
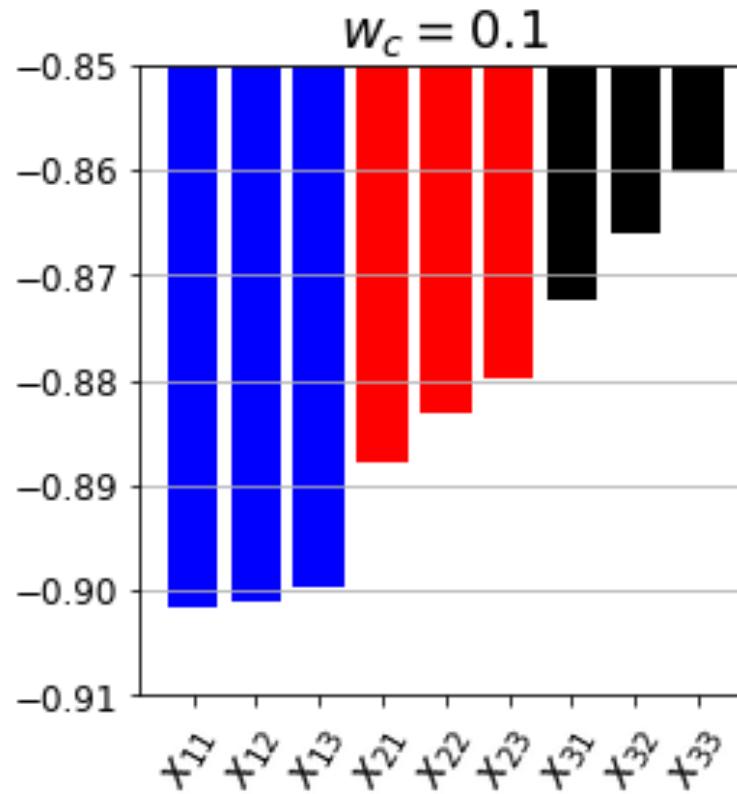
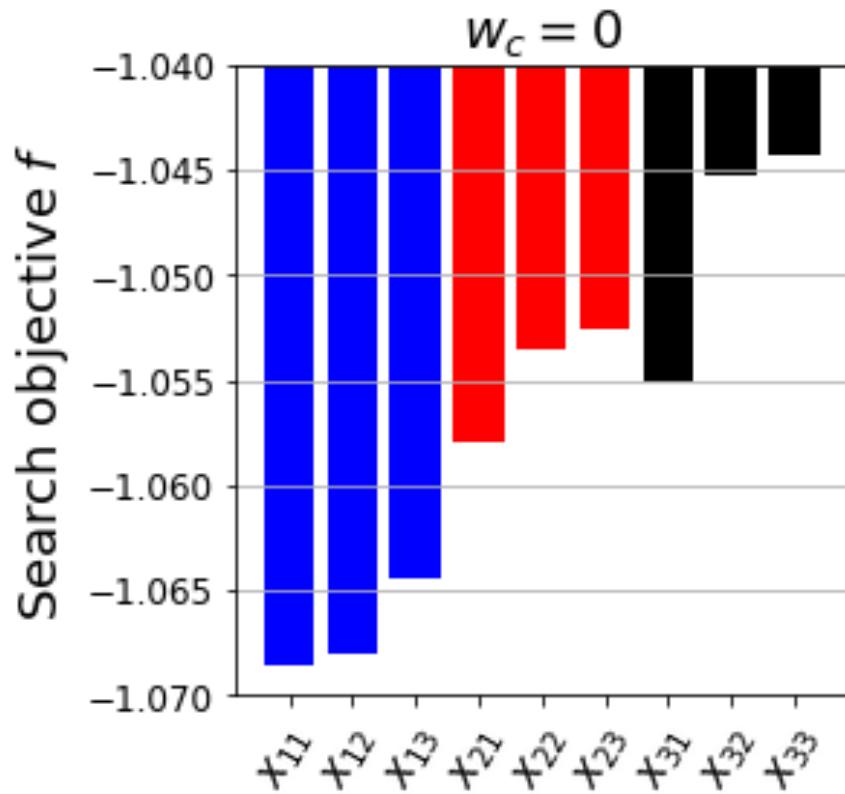
Stage 1

Stage 2

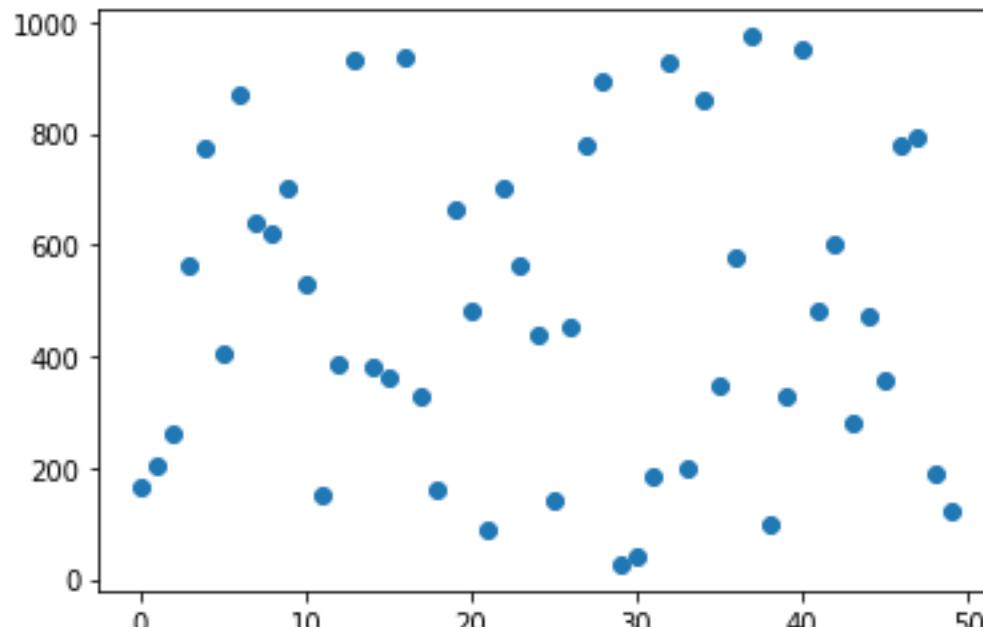
Stage 3



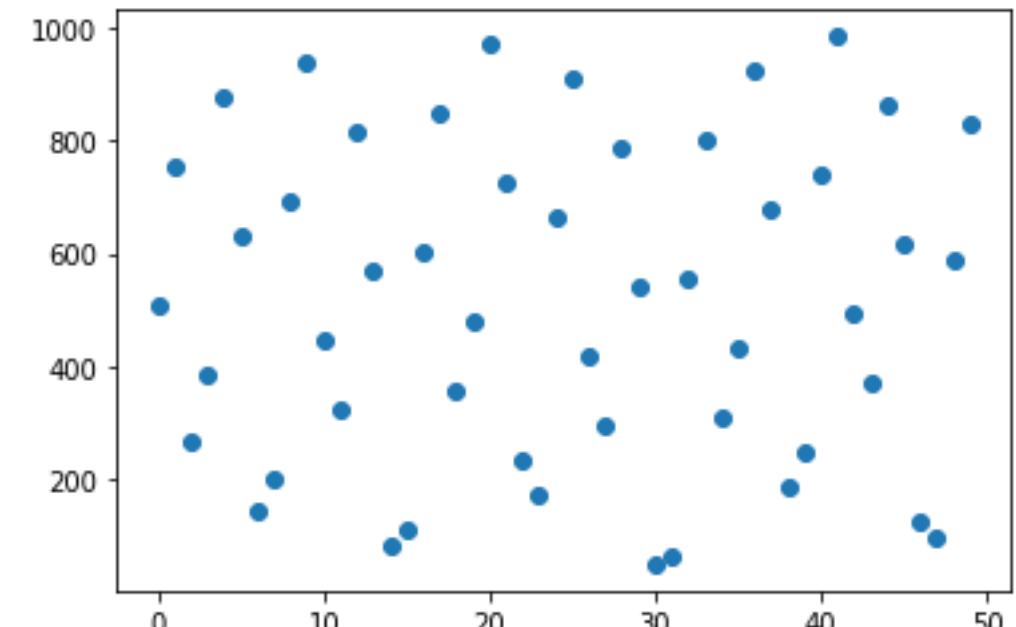
# Justifying our greed



# Choosing initial points in Bayesian optimization

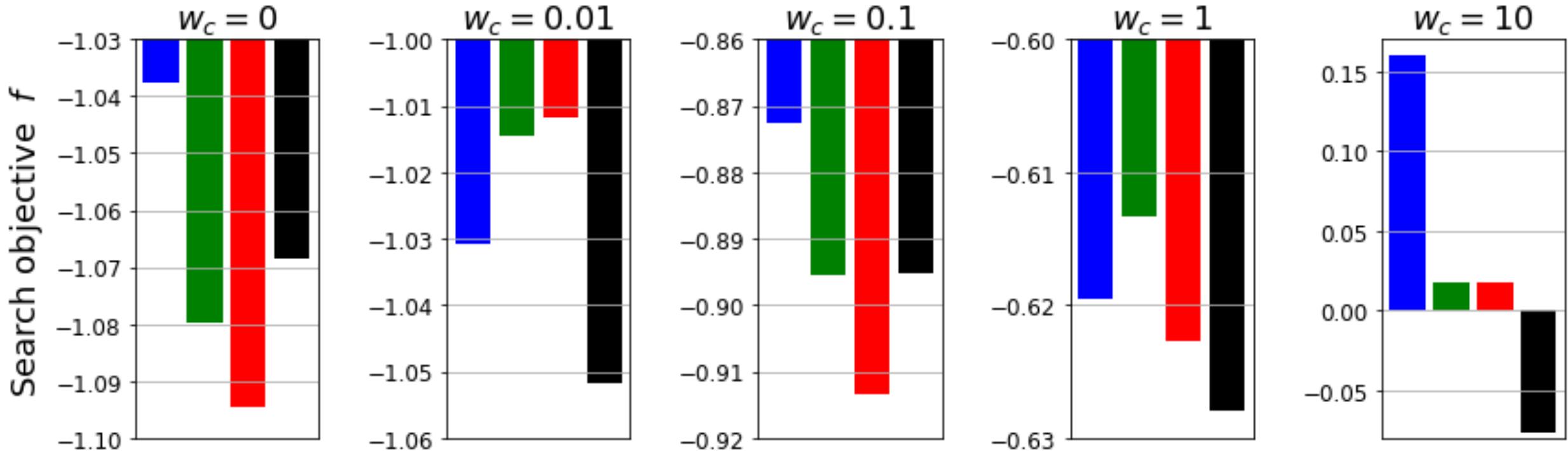


Random sampling



*Sobol sampling*  
*Like grid search*  
*Better for more dimensions*

# BO vs random and grid search (30 points each)



Purely random search: 30 prior

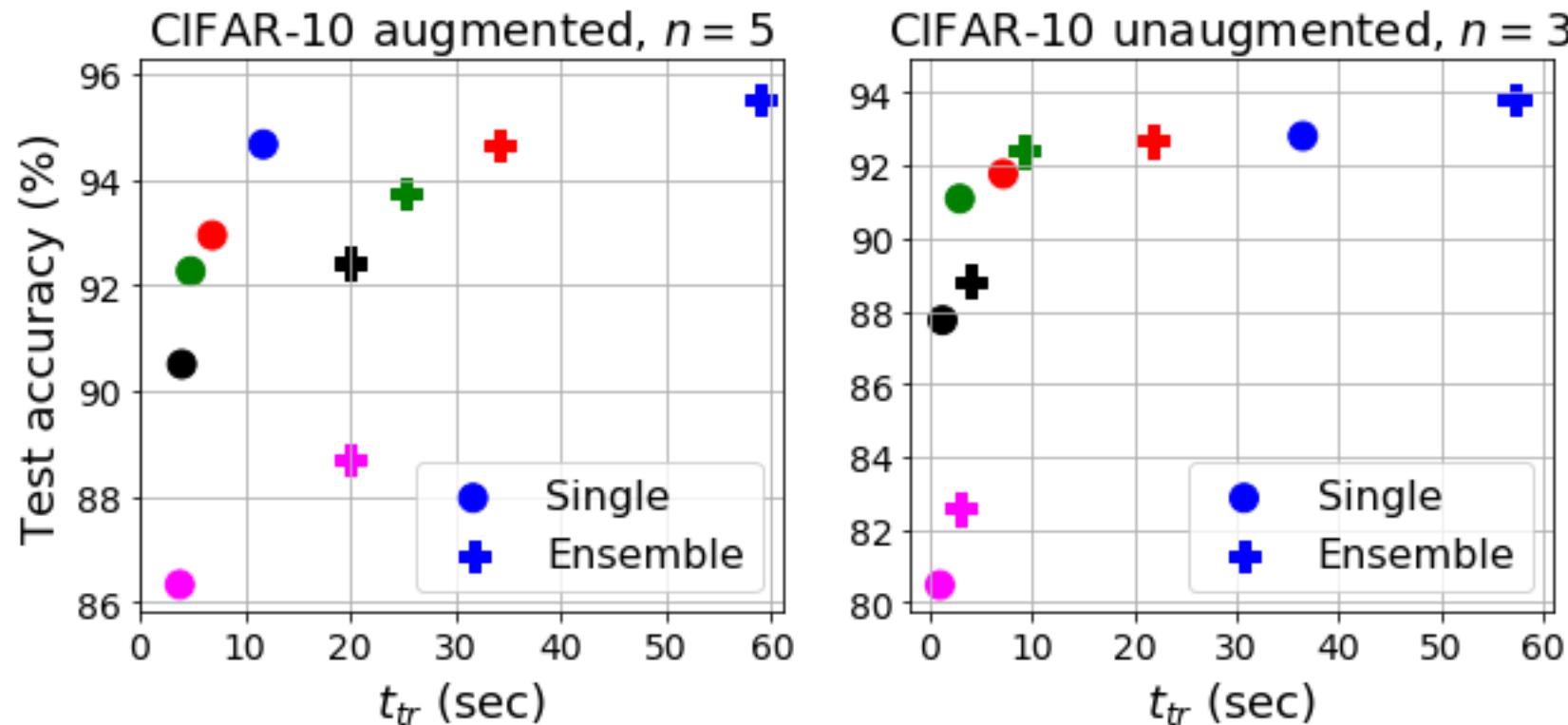
Purely grid search (Sobol): 30 prior

Balanced BO: 15 prior + 15 steps

Extreme BO: 1 prior + 29 steps

# Ensembling

*Multiple models vote on final test samples*



*Slight increases in performance at the cost of large increases in complexity*

# Thank you!!

Future work:

- Extension to RNNs
- Extension to more hyperparameters, e.g. kernel sizes for large images
- Tensorflow support

