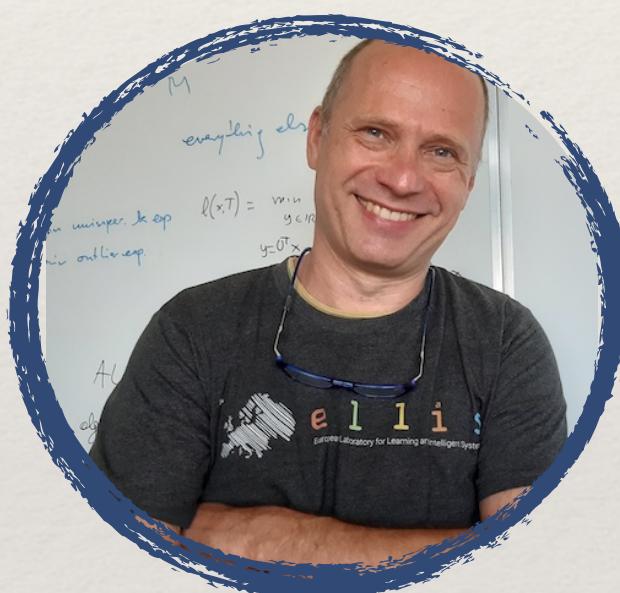


Learning Representations of Markov Processes



Massimiliano Pontil



Karim Lounici

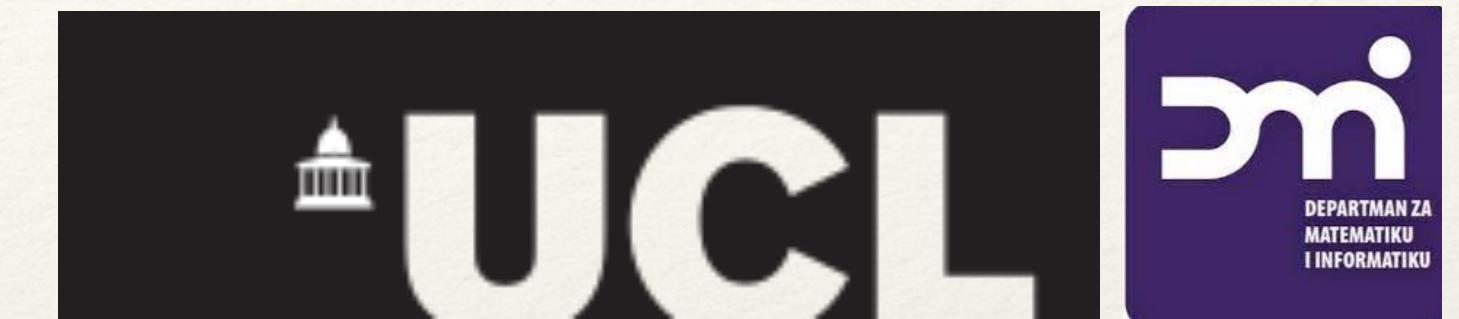


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ISTITUTO ITALIANO
DI TECNOLOGIA

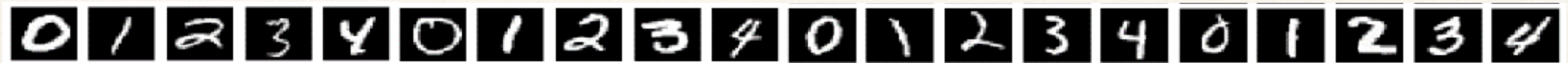


*A short story on Machine
Learning Theory meets
Dynamical Systems Modelling*

CDC2024 Workshop on
Data-driven modelling, analysis, and control using the Koopman operator



An example of learning to write digits



- ❖ Learner is given visual examples of digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 0, 1, 2, ...
- ❖ The task is, when presented another (unseen) example, to produce the images that continue the sequence
- ❖ Dataset: MNIST
- ❖ Learning task is unsupervised (we don't see the labels)
- ❖ Problem can be formulated as a **stochastic process** (dynamical system)
- ❖ Ambient dimension is large (~784) but the **effective dimension is small** (cyclic order of 5 classes)
- ❖ Challenges:
 - 1) we don't know the **data distributions**
 - 2) we don't know the **transition rule**
(its' a non deterministic one!)

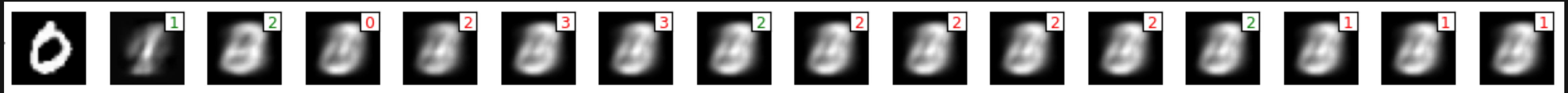
An example of learning to write digits

- ❖ Let's solve it with linear vector valued regression (aka Galerkin projection)

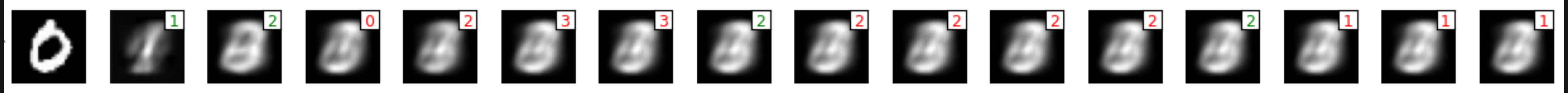
✓ Optimal solution, i.e. $\mathbb{E}[X_{t+1} | X_t]$



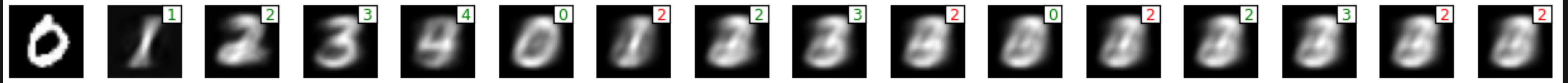
✓ Linear regression ~ linear dynamics?!



✓ RBF Kernel regression ~ linear dynamics in the RKHS?!



✓ CNN classifier features regression ~ linear in a representation space?!



Regression vs Operator Regression

- ❖ Regression: given $(X, Y) \sim \mu_{X,Y}$ learn $f: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ s.t. $Y = f(X)$
 - ◆ Optimal solution w.r.t. MSE is the regression function $\mathbb{E}[Y | X = \cdot]$
 - ◆ So, we just learn the conditional mean. Can we learn distribution?
- ❖ Operator perspective: let $E_{Y|X}: \mathcal{L}_{\mu_Y}^2(\mathcal{Y}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\mu_X}^2(\mathcal{X})$ s.t. $E_{Y|X}f = \mathbb{E}[f(Y) | X = \cdot]$
 - ◆ Applying $E_{Y|X}$ to characteristic functions of sets, we obtain probabilities
 - ◆ Solving the linear operator regression problem we can predict conditional probability distributions!

Reminder on Transfer Operators

Consider time-homogenous Markov process $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{T}} \subseteq \mathcal{X}$, $X_t \sim \mu_t$, i.e.
 $\mathbb{P}[X_{s+t} | X_{\leq s}] = \mathbb{P}[X_{s+t} | X_s]$ independent of $s, s+t \in \mathbb{T}$, which is described

Stochastic
Koopman

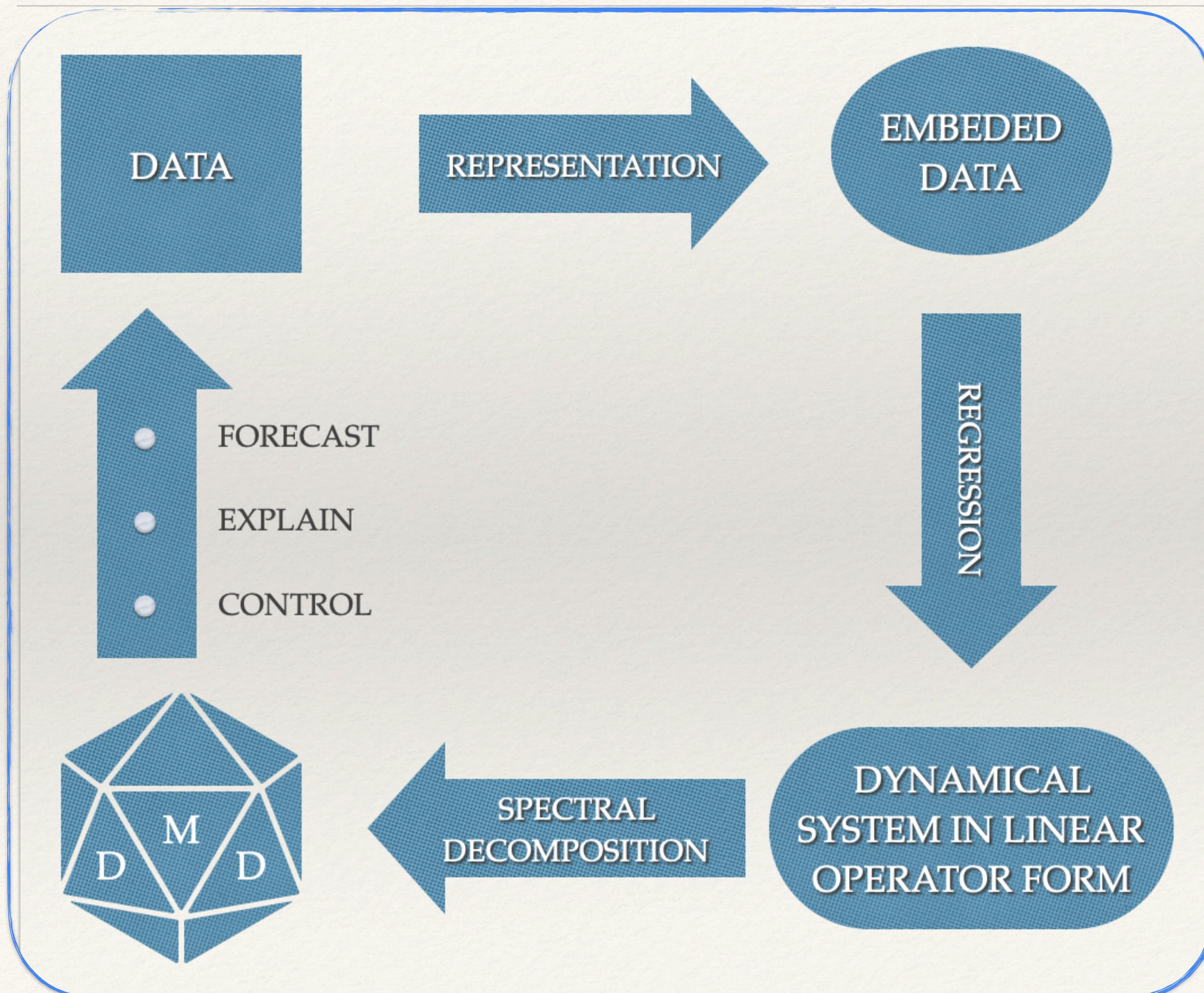
- in discrete time ($\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{N}$ & $s = 1$) by transfer operators $E_{X_{s+1} | X_s} = \mathbb{E}[[\cdot](X_{s+1}) | X_s]$
- in continuous time ($\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}_+$) by TO semigroup $(E_{X_{s+t} | X_s})_{t \geq 0}$
- and when is stationary ($\forall t \in \mathbb{T})(\mu_t = \pi)$, by linear dynamical system in a function space, i.e. for $A_t = E_{X_{s+t} | X_s} : \mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$ and $q_t = d\mu_t / d\pi \in L_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$

$$q_t = (A_1^*)^t q_0, t \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } q_t = e^{tL^*} q_0, t \in \mathbb{R}_+, \text{ where } L = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} (A_t - I)/t$$

since

$$\langle q_{s+t}, f \rangle_{L_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})} = \mathbb{E}[f(X_{s+t})] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[f(X_{s+t}) | X_s]] = \langle q_s, A_t f \rangle_{L_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})} = \langle A_t^* q_s, f \rangle_{L_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})}$$

General learning pipeline



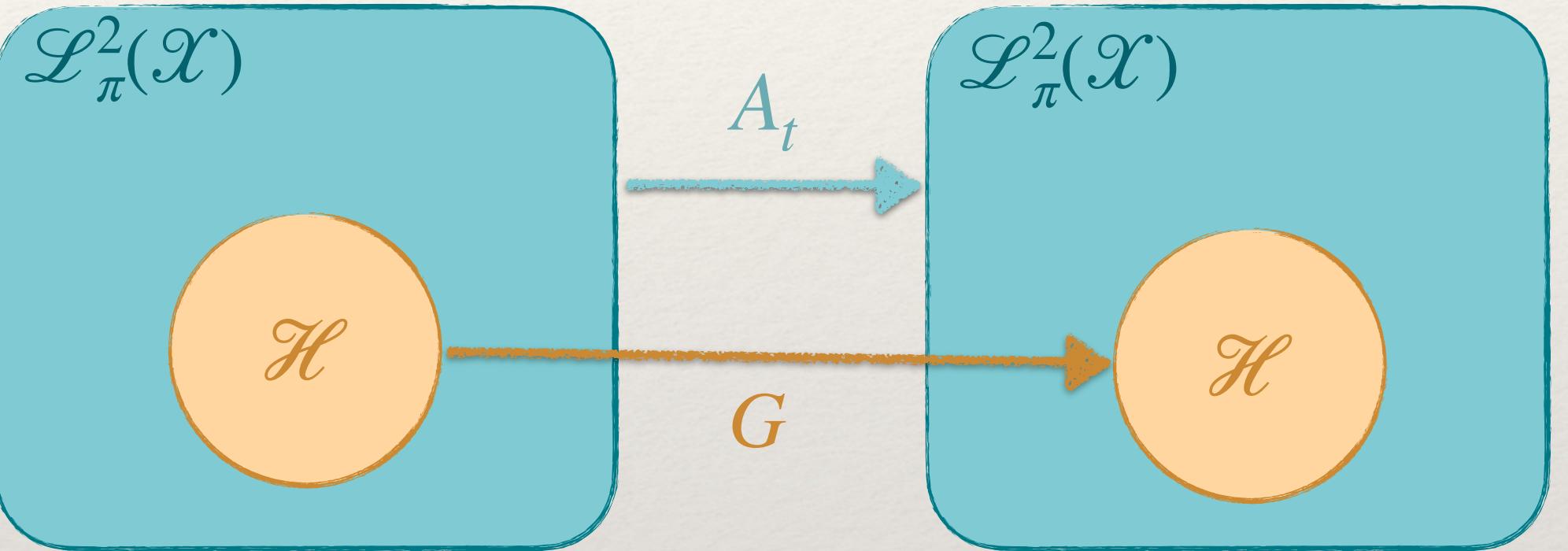
- ❖ Representation a priori chosen or learned
- ❖ Regression can be w.r.t. various losses and regularisation types
- ❖ Both can be w/o prior knowledge
- ❖ We might care of various tasks

Reminder on SLT of operator regression

Since we don't know $L_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$ we restrict A_t to a chosen hypothesis space \mathcal{H} and look for an operator $G : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ such that $A_t \langle w, \phi(\cdot) \rangle \approx \langle Gw, \phi(\cdot) \rangle$, leading to

Risk minimisation:

$$\mathcal{R}(G) = \mathbb{E}_{X_s \sim \pi} \|\phi(X_{s+t}) - G^* \phi(X_s)\|^2$$



$$Gh_i = \lambda_i h_i \Rightarrow \|(\lambda_i I - A_t)^{-1}\|^{-1} \leq \|A_t h_i - \lambda_i h_i\|_{L_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})} \leq \|A_t\|_{\mathcal{H}} - G\|_{\mathcal{H} \rightarrow L_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})} \frac{\|h_i\|_{\mathcal{H}}}{\|h_i\|_{L_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})}}$$

$$\|\mathbb{E}[h(X_{s+t}) | X_s = \cdot] - Gh\| \leq \mathcal{E}(G) \|h\|_{\mathcal{H}}$$

t-step ahead prediction

$\mathcal{E}(G)$
operator norm error
(excess risk)

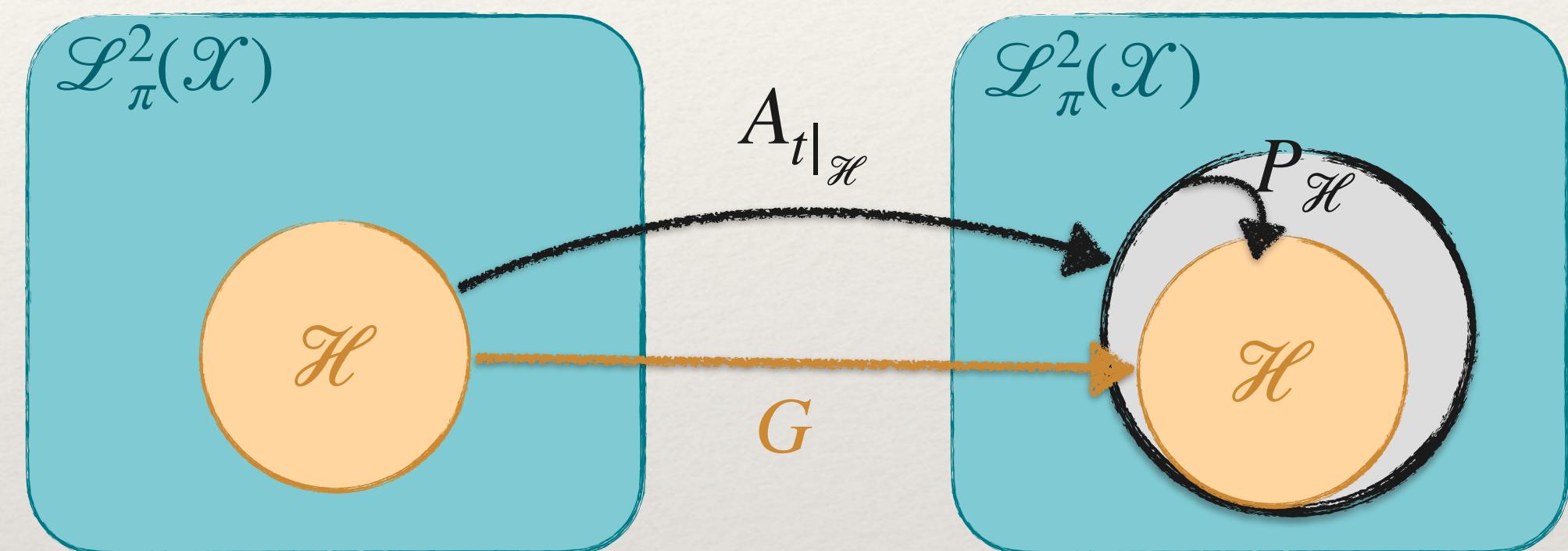
metric
distortion

Reminder on SLT of operator regression

Since we don't know $L^2_\pi(\mathcal{X})$ we restrict A_t to a chosen hypothesis space \mathcal{H} and look for an operator $G : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ such that $A_t \langle w, \phi(\cdot) \rangle \approx \langle Gw, \phi(\cdot) \rangle$, leading to

Metric distortion via covariance operator:

$$\eta(h) = \frac{\|h\|_{\mathcal{H}}}{\|C^{1/2}h\|_{\mathcal{H}}} \quad C = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim \pi} \phi(X) \otimes \phi(X)$$



Projection operator: $P_{\mathcal{H}} f = \underset{h \in \mathcal{H}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \|f - h\|_{\mathcal{L}_\pi^2}, f \in \mathcal{L}_\pi^2$

Estimation error decomposition

\hat{G} is empirical
version of G

What is the optimal representation?

Typically we have two situations, \mathcal{H} is either finite or infinite-dimensional RKHS

- ❖ RKHS is a span of **dictionary of functions**, i.e. $\mathcal{H} = \text{span}(z_j)_{j \in [d]} \subset \mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$
 - ♦ Representation error is controlled by letting $d \rightarrow \infty$
 - ♦ Without the prior knowledge, the representation error is a bottleneck
- ❖ RKHS \mathcal{H} is given by some **universal reproducing kernel** $k: \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
 - ♦ No representation error, i.e. $\|(I - P_{\mathcal{H}})A_t|_{\mathcal{H}}\|_{\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_\pi^2} = 0$
 - ♦ Learning guarantees depend on the effective dimension of \mathcal{H} in $\mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$, and the regularity of A_t w.r.t. \mathcal{H} (*the devil is in the tail eigenvectors of covariance*)

What is the optimal representation?

Typically we have two situations, \mathcal{H} is either finite or infinite-dimensional RKHS

- ❖ RKHS is a span of **dictionary of functions**, i.e. $\mathcal{H} = \text{span}(z_j)_{j \in [d]} \subset \mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$
 - ♦ Representation error is controlled by letting $d \rightarrow \infty$
 - ♦ Without the prior knowledge, the representation error is a bottleneck
- ❖ **Representation desiderata:**
 - ♦ control the representation error, i.e. $\|(I - P_{\mathcal{H}})A_t|_{\mathcal{H}}\|_{\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_\pi^2}$
 - ♦ approximate well the operator $P_{\mathcal{H}}A_t \approx A_t$
 - ♦ align the geometries of \mathcal{H} and $\mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$, i.e. $C \approx I$



What is the optimal representation?

- ❖ When A_t is compact, the good choice for \mathcal{H} is its leading **left singular subspace**
 - ♦ the representation error is in general controlled $\|(I - P_{\mathcal{H}})A_t|_{\mathcal{H}}\|_{\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_\pi^2} \leq \sigma_d$ and if $A_t^* A_t = A_t A_t^*$ it is not even present
 - ♦ we approximate well, since $P_{\mathcal{H}} A_t$ is the best rank- d approximation of A_t
 - ♦ the geometry of \mathcal{H} and $\mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$ are the same since the orthonormality of the singular functions implies $C = I$
- ❖ The general problem is to learn the SVD of $E_{Y|X} : \mathcal{L}_{\mu_Y}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\mu_X}^2$ having only the samples of $(X, Y) \sim \mu_{X,Y}$

We can estimate $\langle f, E_{Y|X} g \rangle_{\mu_X} = \mathbb{E}[f(X)g(Y)]$!

Linear Algebra meets Neural Networks

- ❖ We can learn $E_{Y|X} = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}_0} \sigma_i u_i \otimes v_i$ with neural networks $(\sigma_i^\theta, u_i^\theta, v_i^\theta)_{i \in [d]}$ via different **variational principles**

- ♦ Deep projections (*ICLR2024*):

$$\max_{(u_i, v_i)_{i \in [d]}} \|P_{\mathcal{H}_u} E_{Y|X} P_{\mathcal{H}_v}\|_{\text{HS}(\mathcal{L}_{\mu_Y}^2, \mathcal{L}_{\mu_X}^2)}^2$$

$$\|C_X^{\dagger/2} C_{XY} C_Y^{\dagger/2}\|_F^2 \geq \|C_{XY}\|_F^2 / (\|C_X\| \|C_Y\|)$$

$$C_Y = \mathbb{E}_{(X,Y)}[u(X)v(Y)^\top]$$

- ♦ Eckhart-Mirsky-Young (*NeurIPS2024*):

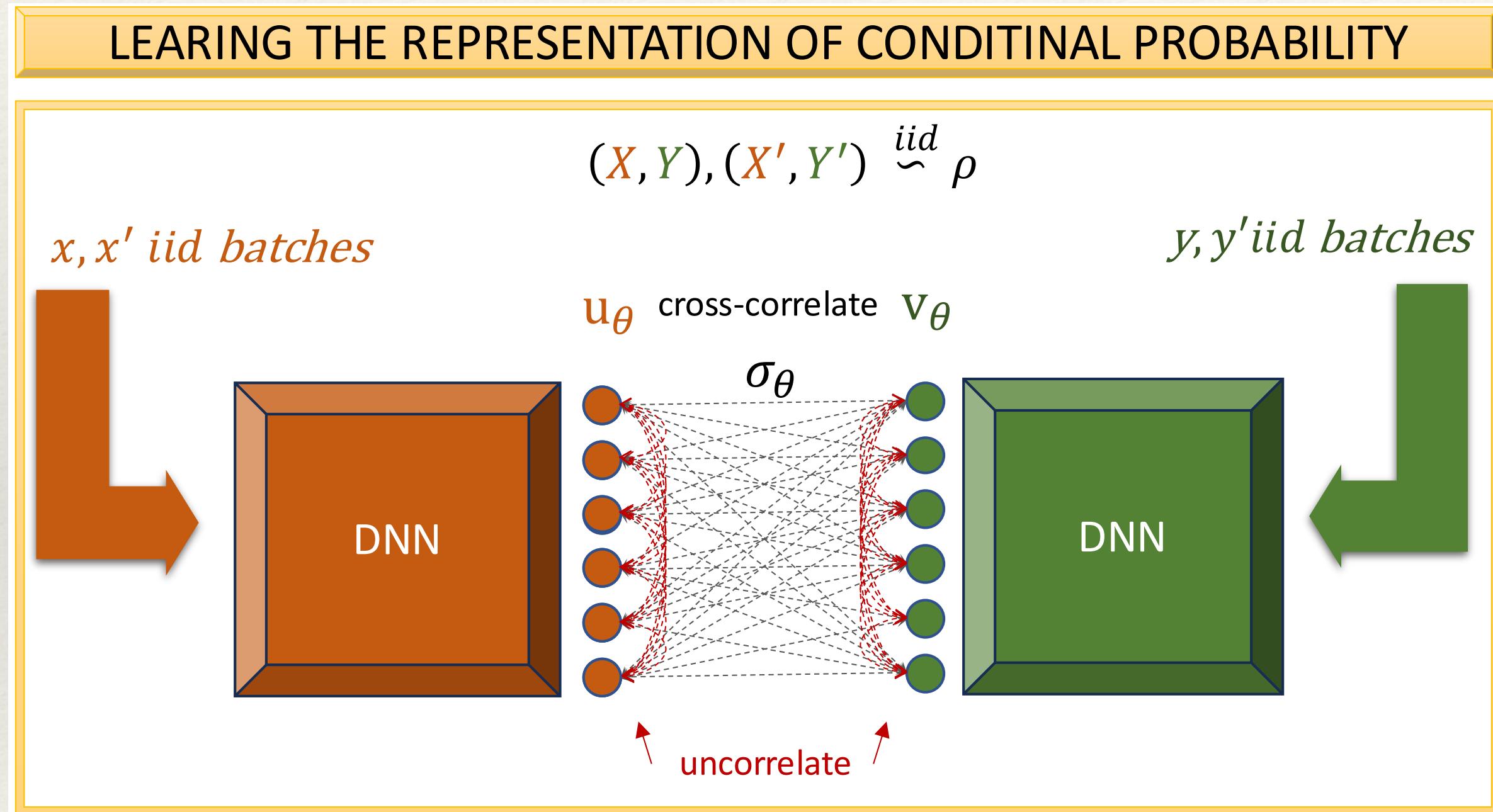
$$\text{tr}(\Sigma C_X \Sigma C_Y - 2 \Sigma C_{XY})$$

$$\min_{(\sigma_i, u_i, v_i)_{i \in [d]}} \|E_{Y|X} - \sum_{i \in [d]} \sigma_i u_i \otimes v_i\|_{\text{HS}(\mathcal{L}_{\mu_Y}^2, \mathcal{L}_{\mu_X}^2)}^2 - \|E_{Y|X}\|_{\text{HS}(\mathcal{L}_{\mu_Y}^2, \mathcal{L}_{\mu_X}^2)}^2$$

subject to $C_X = \mathbb{E}_X[u(X)u(X)^\top] = I$ and $C_Y = \mathbb{E}_Y[v(X)v(X)^\top] = I$

Linear Algebra meets Neural Networks

$$\mathcal{L}_\gamma(\theta) := \mathbb{E}_{(X,Y), (X',Y') \sim \rho \text{ iid}} L(u^\theta(X), u^\theta(X'), v^\theta(Y), v^\theta(Y'), \sigma^\theta) + \gamma R(u^\theta(X), u^\theta(X'), v^\theta(Y), v^\theta(Y'))$$



Loss functional (cross-correlate):

$$L(u, u', v, v', s) = \frac{1}{2} (u^\top \text{diag}(s) v')^2 + \frac{1}{2} (u^\top \text{diag}(s) v)^2 - (u - u')^\top \text{diag}(s) (v - v')$$

Orthogonality constraints (uncorrelate):

$$R(u, u', v, v') = (u^\top u')^2 - (u - u')^\top (u - u') + (v^\top v')^2 - (v - v')^\top (v - v') + 2d$$

Regression in the representation space via SVD:

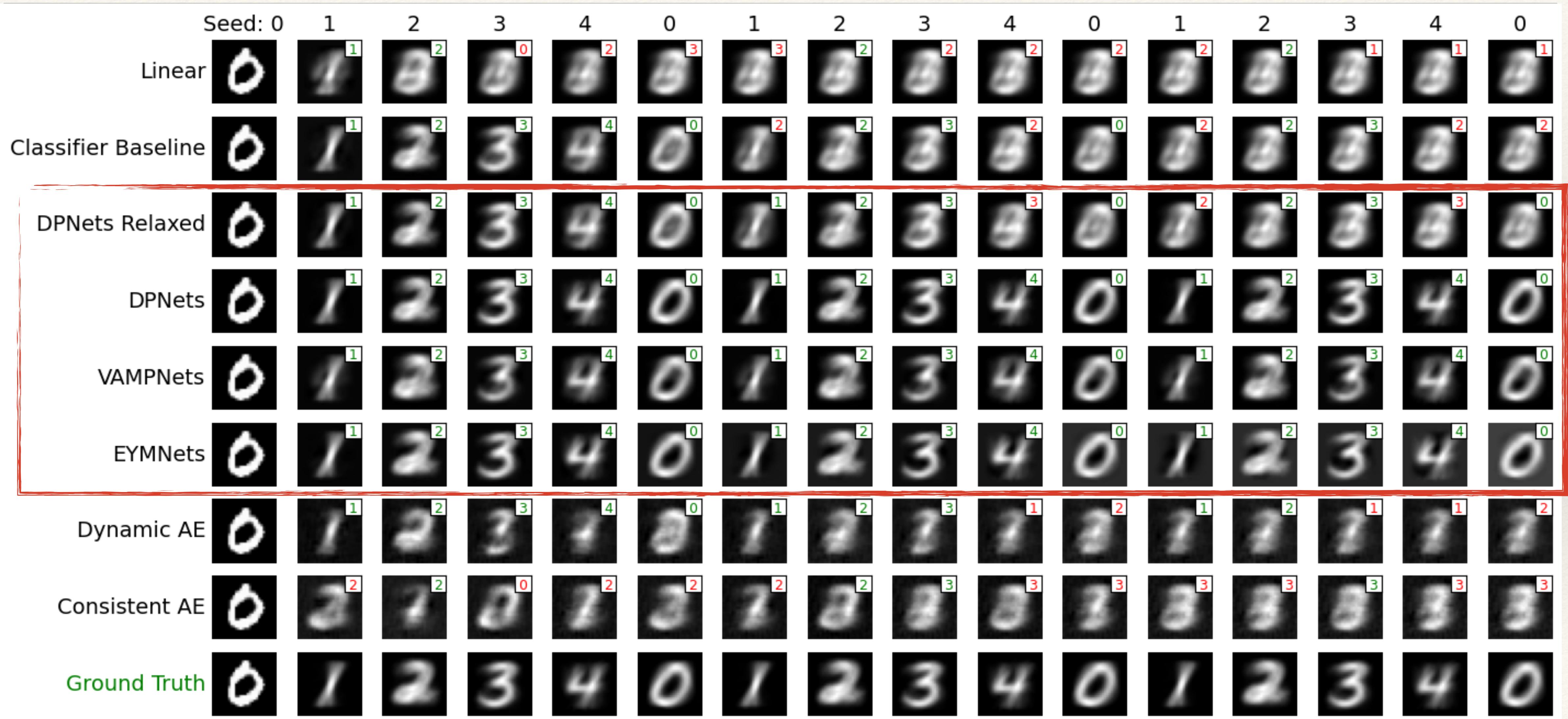
$$(\hat{\mathbb{E}}[u^\theta \Sigma^\theta (u^\theta)^\top])^{-1/2} (\hat{\mathbb{E}}[u^\theta \Sigma^\theta (v^\theta)^\top]) (\hat{\mathbb{E}}[v^\theta \Sigma^\theta (v^\theta)^\top])^{-1/2} = \hat{U} \hat{\Sigma} \hat{V}^\top$$

$$\sigma^\theta \leftarrow \hat{\sigma} \quad u^\theta \leftarrow \hat{U}^\top (\Sigma^\theta)^{1/2} u^\theta \quad v^\theta \leftarrow \hat{V}^\top (\Sigma^\theta)^{1/2} v^\theta$$

Learned truncated SVD

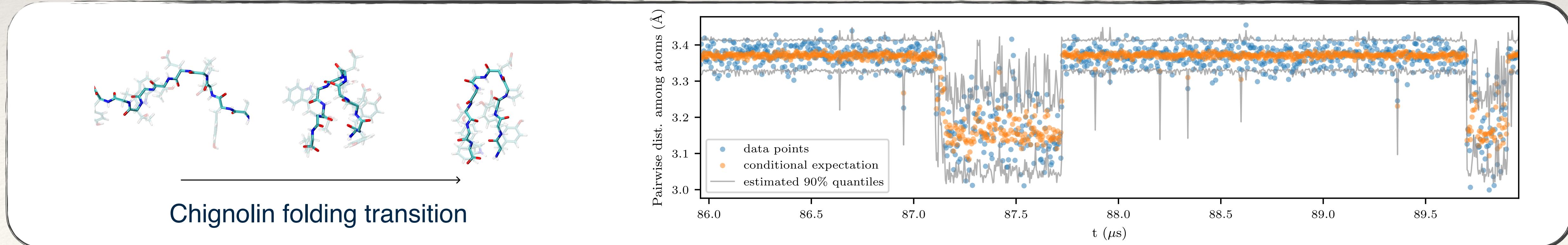
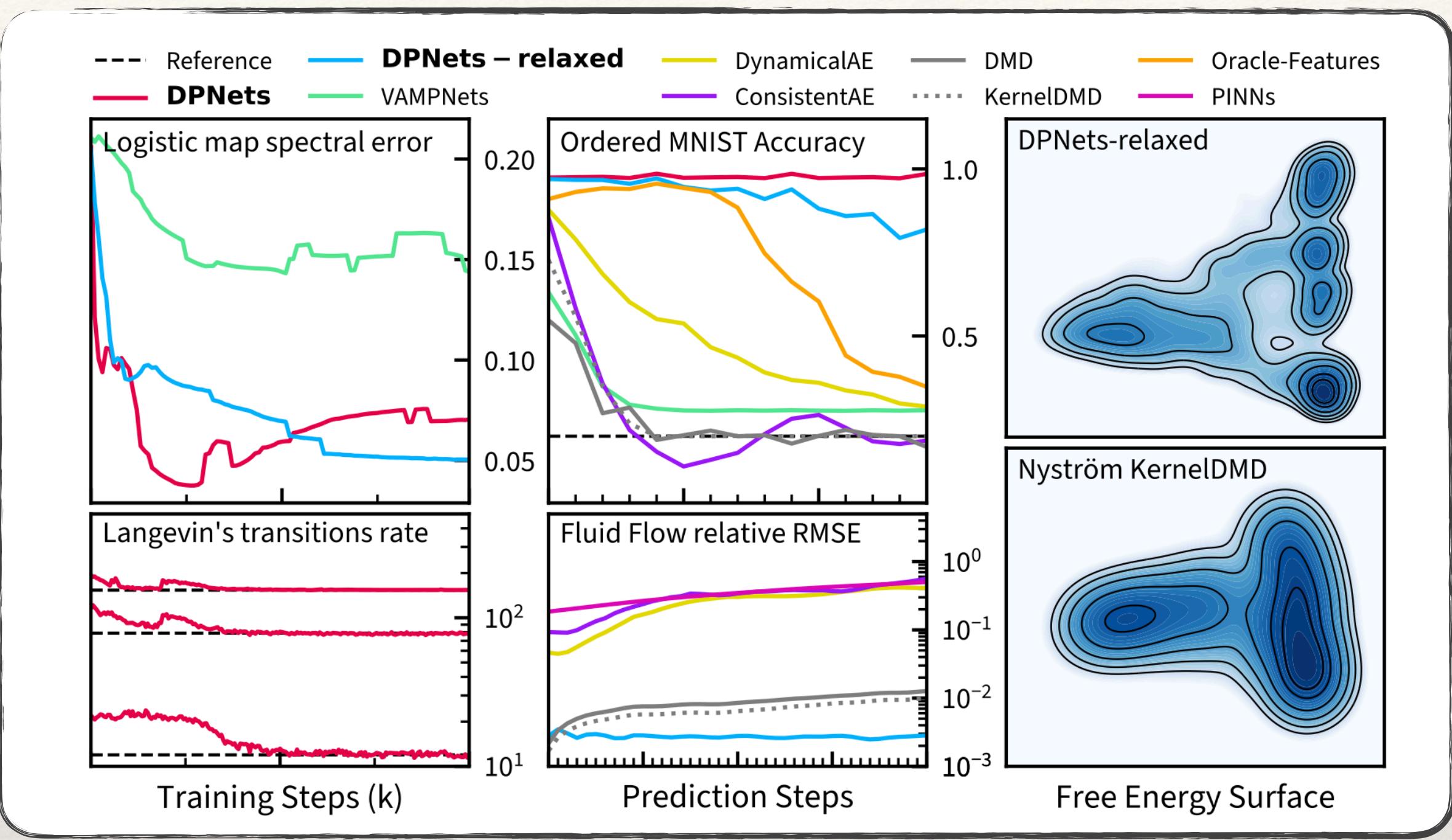
$$\hat{E}_{Y|X} = \sum_{j=1}^d \hat{\sigma}_j^\theta \hat{u}_j^\theta \otimes \hat{v}_j^\theta$$

Back to the example of digits...



Other examples...

- ❖ Noisy Logistic map
- ❖ 1D triple well potential Langevin dynamics
- ❖ Fluid flow around cylinder
- ❖ Folding of a mini-protein in water



What about theory?

Key advantages of representation learning + regression:

- (1) It extracts statistics directly from the trained operator without retraining or resampling
- (2) We get best of both worlds kernel methods (**strong statistical theory**) and DL (**representation power of NN architectures**)

$$\widehat{\mathbb{P}}_{\theta}[Y \in B \mid X \in A] - \mathbb{P}[Y \in B \mid X \in A] = O_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} + \sqrt{\frac{\mathbb{P}[Y \in B]}{\mathbb{P}[X \in A]}} \left(\sigma_{d+1}^* + \mathcal{E}_{\theta} + \sqrt{d/n} \right) \right)$$

Fundamental Statistical Limit

Bias Statistical Error

Optimisation Error

Physics-informed learning with the generator

- ♦ Family of TOs $A_t : \mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$, $t \geq 0$, forms a continuous semigroup characterised by the **infinitesimal generator (IG)**
 $L = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} (A_t - I)/t : \mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$, an **unbounded operator** with $\text{dom}(L) = \{f \in \mathcal{L}_\pi^2 \mid \sum_{i \in [d]} \|\partial_i f\|_{\mathcal{L}_\pi^2}^2 < \infty\}$ given by

$$(Lf)(x) = \nabla f(x)^\top a(x) + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[b(x)^\top (\nabla^2 f(x)) b(x)], \quad \forall f \in \text{dom}(L)$$
- ♦ When the process is additionally time reversal invariant, IG is **self-adjoint** operator that introduces kinetic energy kernel, which often can be written in the **Dirichlet form** $s : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$

$$\mathfrak{E}_\pi[f, g] = -\langle f, Lg \rangle_{\mathcal{L}_\pi^2} = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \nabla f(x)^\top s(x) s(x)^\top \nabla g(x) \pi(dx) \quad \mathfrak{E}_{X \sim \pi} f(X) = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim \pi} \|s(X)^\top \nabla f(X)\|^2$$

- ♦ Solving an SDE: from IG to TO and back with IG's exponential and **resolvent operator**, both **bounded** operators

$$A_t = e^{tL} \quad R_\mu = (\mu I - L)^{-1} = \int_0^{+\infty} A_t e^{-\mu t} dt, \quad \mu > 0$$

- ♦ **Spectral decomposition** of IG allows one to efficiently handle both, that is $L = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \lambda_i f_i \otimes f_i$ implies

$$(\mu I - L)^{-1} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \overbrace{(\mu - \lambda_i)^{-1}}^{\nu_i} f_i \otimes f_i \quad \mathbb{E}[f(X_t) \mid X_0 = x] = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} e^{\lambda_i t} \langle f, f_i \rangle_{\mathcal{L}_\pi^2} f_i(x) \quad (\forall f) (\forall x) (\forall t)$$

- ♦ Hence, to build kinetic models we need to **learn leading eigenpairs of IG**. Since the obvious choice of Galerkin projections suffers from **spurious spectral estimation** due to unbounded nature of L , we approach **the problem through the resolvent**.

Physics-informed learning with the generator

- When estimating the largest eigenvalues of the resolvent $R_\mu f_i = \nu_i f_i$, the quality of estimator's decomposition $\hat{G} \hat{h}_i = \hat{\nu}_i \hat{h}_i$ is determined by the **alignment of norms** in the domain $\mathcal{W} = \{f \in \text{dom}(L) \mid \|f\|_{\mathcal{W}} < \infty\}$ and \mathcal{H} and the **estimation error**.

$$|\nu_i - \hat{\nu}_i| \leq \mathcal{E}(\hat{G}) \eta(\hat{h}_i) \rightarrow \text{Metric distortion: } \|\hat{h}_i\|_{\mathcal{H}} / \|\hat{h}_i\|_{\mathcal{W}}$$

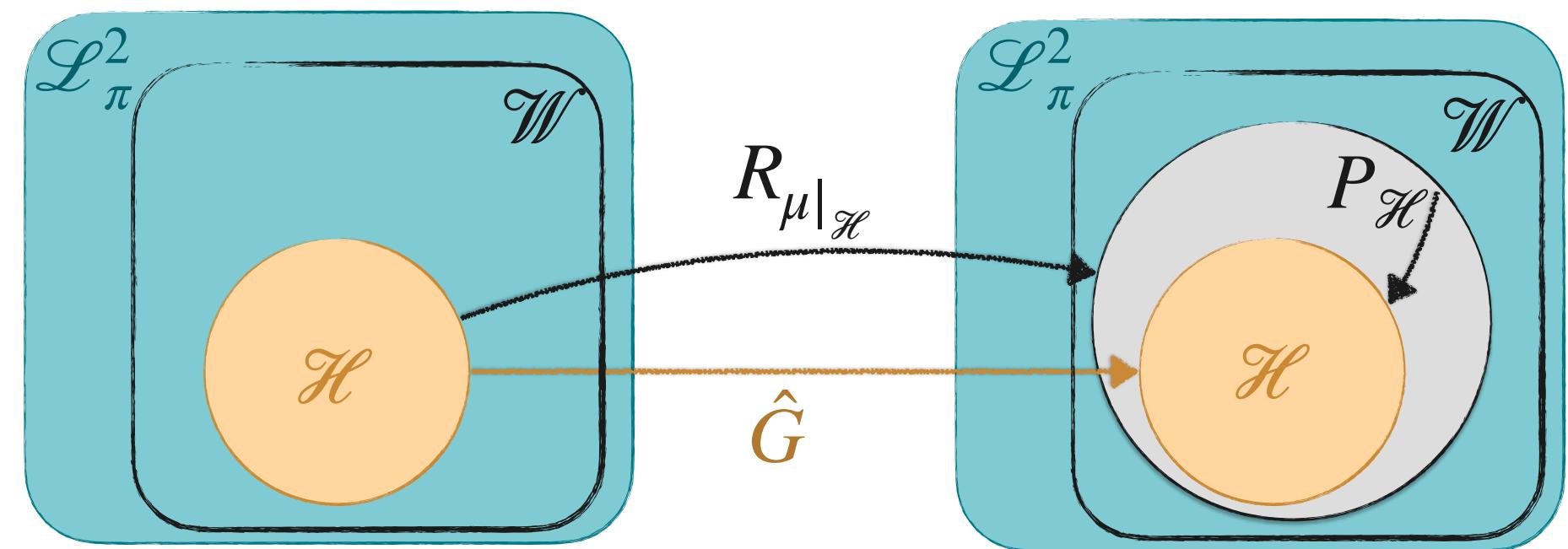
Estimation error:

$$\mathcal{E}(\hat{G}) = \|R_{\mu|_{\mathcal{H}}} - \hat{G}\|_{\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}} \leq \|(I - P_{\mathcal{H}})A_{\pi|_{\mathcal{H}}}\|_{\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}} + \|P_{\mathcal{H}}R_{\mu|_{\mathcal{H}}} - \hat{G}\|_{\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}}$$

Projection operator: $P_{\mathcal{H}} f = \operatorname{argmin}_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \|f - h\|_{\mathcal{W}}, f \in \text{dom}(L)$

Representation error

Estimator's error



What is the good choice of geometry to make efficient and reliable algorithms ?

Physics-informed learning with the generator

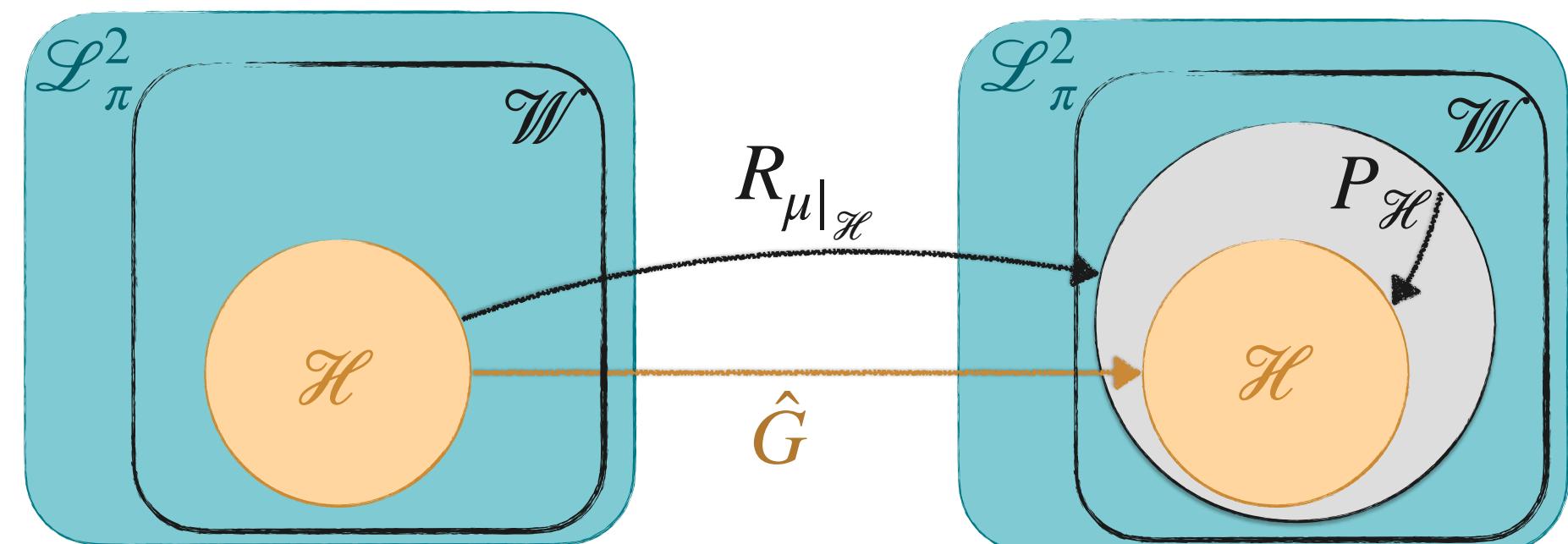
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$$|\nu_i - \hat{\nu}_i| \leq \mathcal{E}(\hat{G}) \eta(\hat{h}_i) \rightarrow \text{Metric distortion: } \|\hat{h}_i\|_{\mathcal{H}} / \|\hat{h}_i\|_{\mathcal{W}}$$

Estimation error:

$$\mathcal{E}(\hat{G}) = \|R_{\mu|_{\mathcal{H}}} - \hat{G}\|_{\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}} \leq \|(I - P_{\mathcal{H}})A_{\pi|_{\mathcal{H}}}\|_{\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}} + \|P_{\mathcal{H}}R_{\mu|_{\mathcal{H}}} - \hat{G}\|_{\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}}$$

Projection operator: $P_{\mathcal{H}} f = \operatorname{argmin}_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \|f - h\|_{\mathcal{W}}, f \in \text{dom}(L)$



- Since R_μ is bounded we can learn it via regression in RKHS, however computing its action by inverting, i.e. integral transform is not feasible! So, we **fight fire with fire** by adapting \mathcal{W}

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{W}}^2 = \langle f, (\mu I - L)f \rangle_{\mathcal{L}_\pi^2} = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim \pi} [\mu |f(x)|^2 + \|s(x)^\top \nabla f(x)\|^2] =: \mathfrak{E}_{X \sim \pi}^\mu f(X)$$

- Chosen geometry of $\text{dom}(L)$ leads to the notion of **energy based risk functional**

$$\mathcal{R}(G) = \mathfrak{E}_{X \sim \pi}^\mu \|\chi_\mu(X) - G^* \phi(X)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 = \|R_\mu - G\|_{\text{HS}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_\pi^2)}^2$$

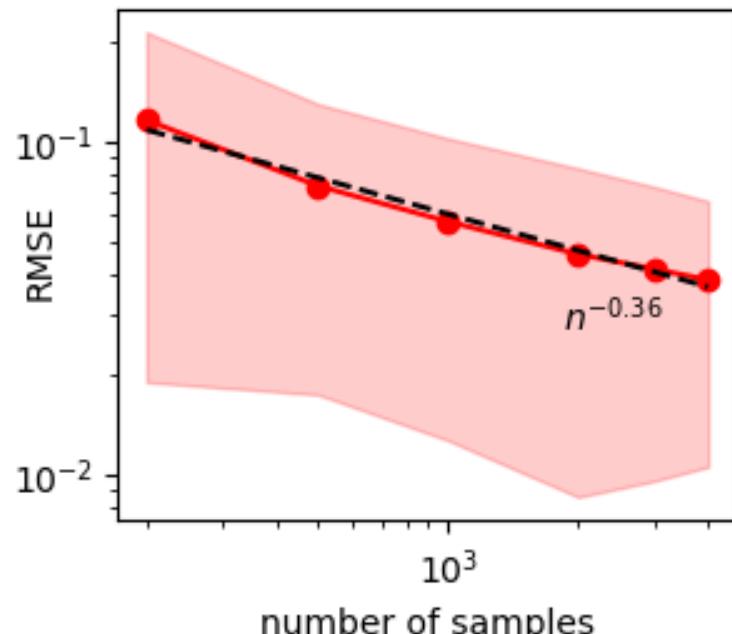
that balances the inverse $\mathcal{R}(G) = \|R_\mu^{1/2} - R_\mu^{-1/2} G\|_{\text{HS}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{L}_\pi^2)}^2$, and can be efficiently empirically minimised in closed form

Physics-informed learning with the generator

- ◆ Summary of guarantees for RRR with **universal bounded kernel** compared to SOTA

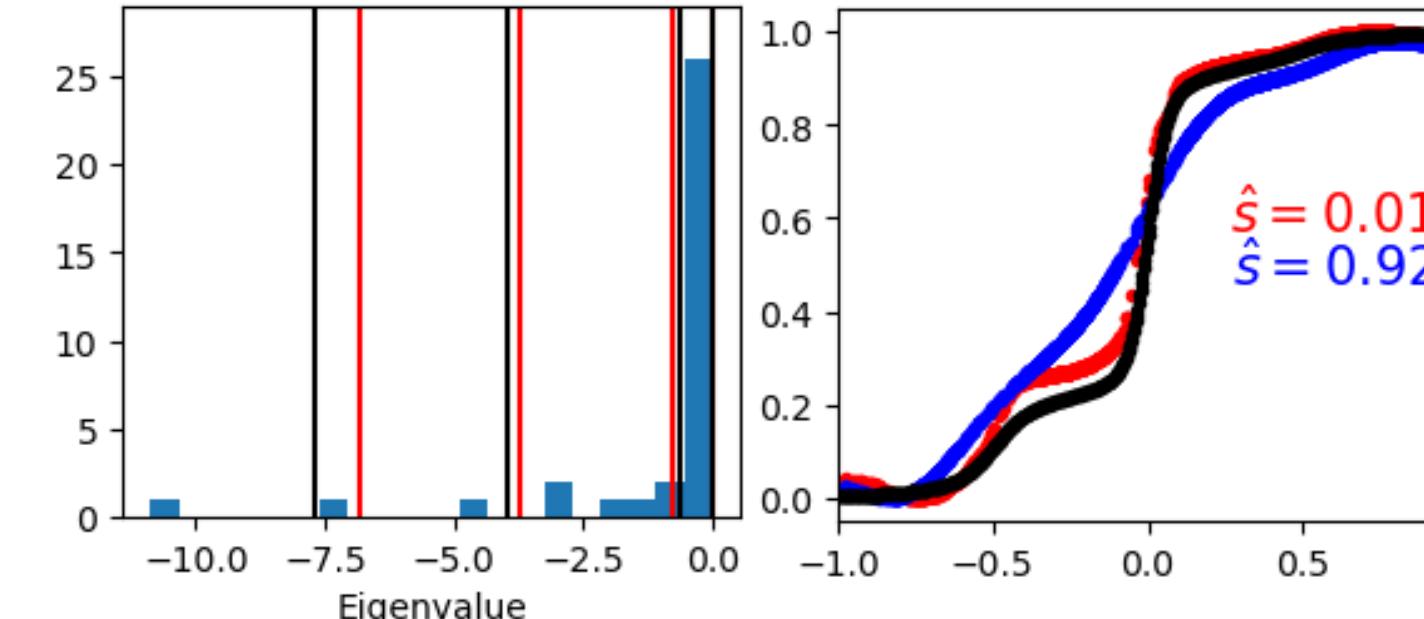
Aspect	Cabbanes & Bach 2024	Hou et al. 2024	Pillaud-Vivien & Bach 2023	Our work
Covers many SDEs	✗ (only Laplacian)	✓	✗ (only Langevin)	✓
Risk metric	$\mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$ metric	$\mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$ metric	$\mathcal{L}_\pi^2(\mathcal{X})$ metric	energy
Physics-informed method	✗	✓(full info. needed)	✗	✓ (partial info. needed)
Avoids spurious eigenvalues	✗	✗	✗	✓
IG error bound	$\mathcal{O}(n^{-\frac{d}{2(d+1)}})$	$\text{Var} = \mathcal{O}(\frac{d^2}{\gamma^2 \sqrt{n}})$	$\mathcal{O}(n^{-\frac{1}{4}})$	$\mathcal{O}(n^{-\frac{\alpha}{2(\alpha+\beta)}}), \alpha \geq \tau$ $\mathcal{O}(n^{-\frac{\alpha}{2(\beta+\tau)}}), \alpha < \tau$
Spectral rates	✗	✗	✗	✓
Time complexity	$\mathcal{O}(n^2 + n^{3/2}d)$	$\mathcal{O}(n^3d^3)$	$\mathcal{O}(n^3d^3)$	$\mathcal{O}(rn^2d^2)$

Cox-Ingersoll-Ross



learning rates

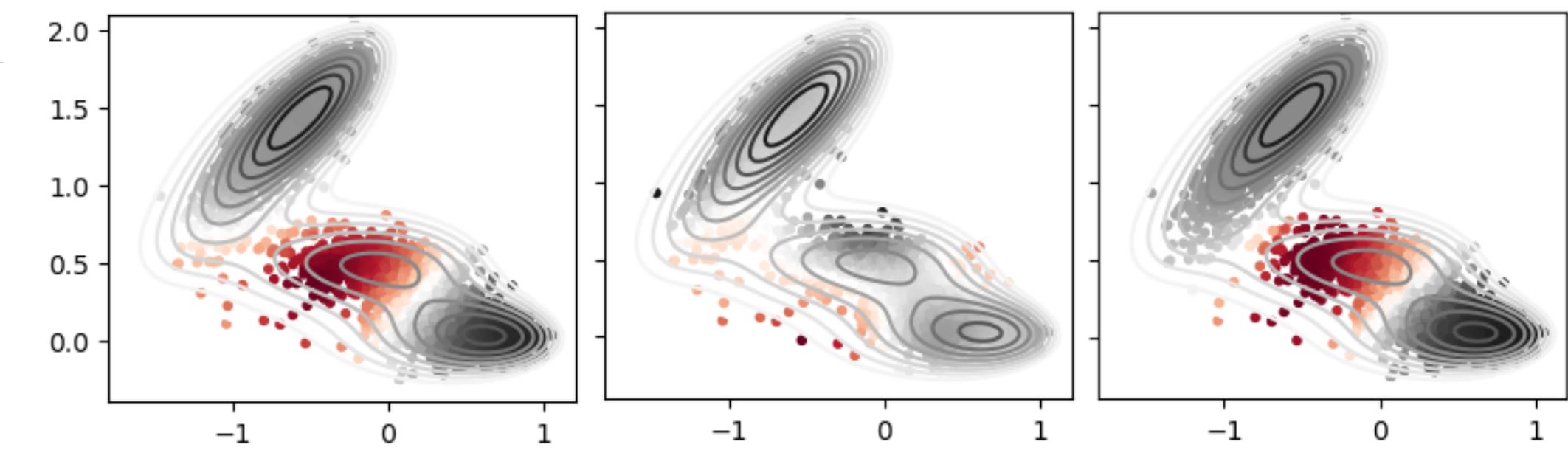
1D Langevin SDE



non-spurious spectra

eigenfunction estimation

2D Langevin

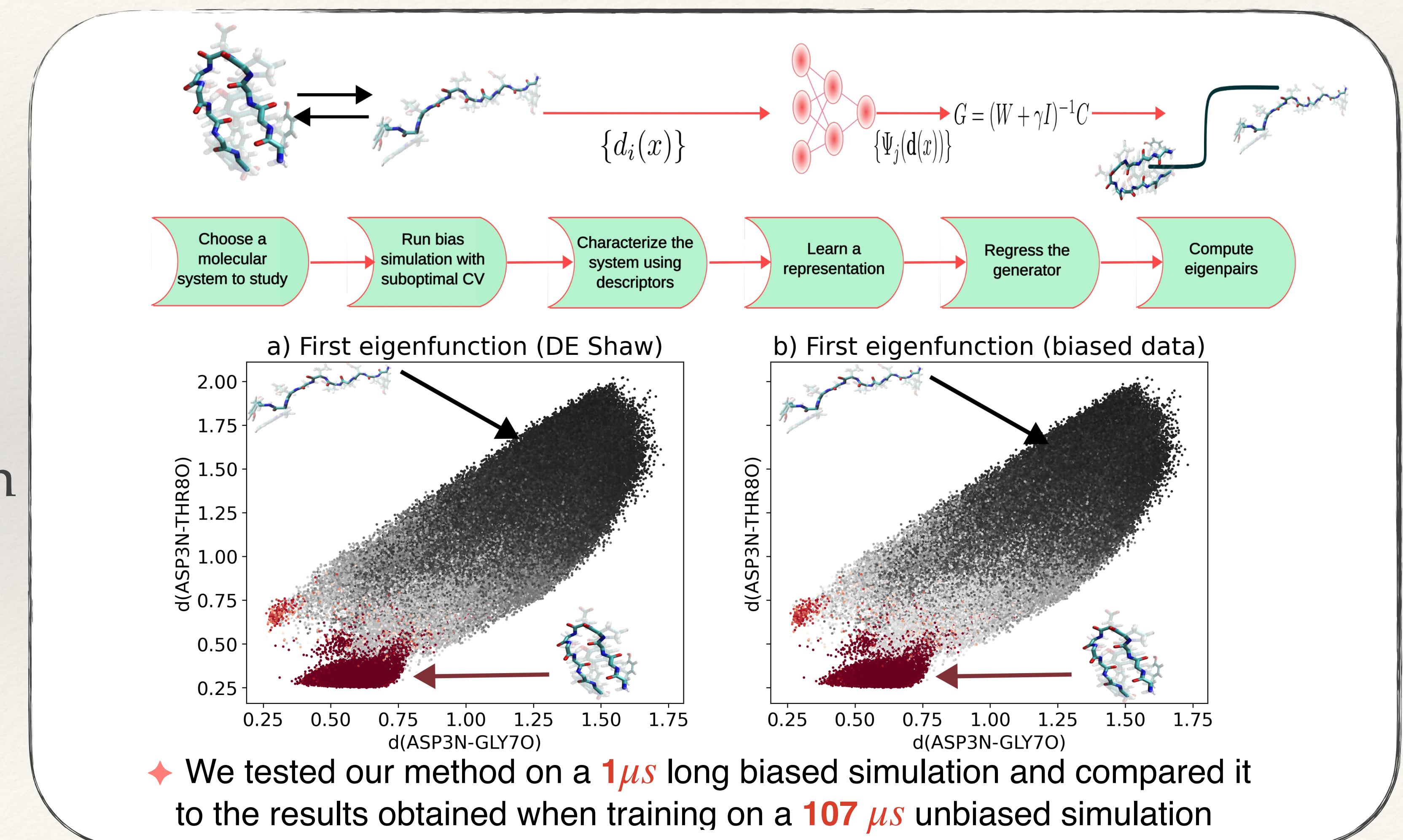


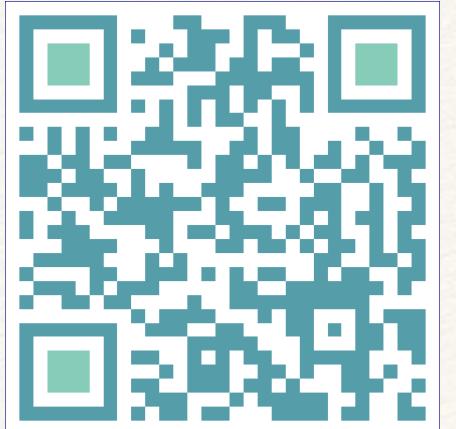
IG vs TO sample efficiency

Physics-informed learning with the generator

- ❖ PI representation learning (time-reversal invariant process in equilibrium)

- ♦ EMY principle w.r.t. energy norm
- ♦ Learns kinetic model from static data
- ♦ Neatly combined with enhanced sampling (*control the process to discover meta-stable states*)





References and Code

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Code: <https://github.com/Machine-Learning-Dynamical-Systems/kooplearn>

