

Symmetries in Overparametrized Neural Networks: A Mean-Field View

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Main Goal

Study learning dynamics of overparametrized Neural Networks (NNs), through the lens of Mean Field (**MF**) theory, and how it's influenced by data symmetries and/or the use of symmetry-leveraging (**SL**) techniques.

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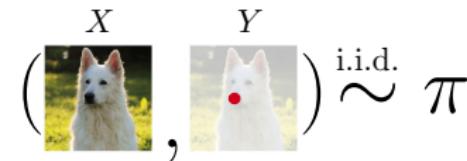
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Context

Introducing Shallow NNs

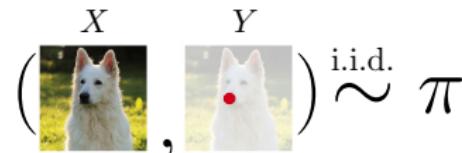
- $\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{Z}$ separable Hilbert.
(*features, labels, parameters* resp.).
- Data Distribution $\pi \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})$.
(i.i.d. samples $(X, Y) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$)
- $\ell : \mathcal{Y} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ **convex** loss function.
- *Activation function* (also called *unit*) $\sigma_* : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$.



Dog image taken from [10]

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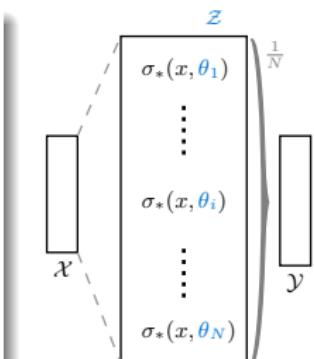
Def. Shallow NN models (general)

For $\theta := (\theta_i)_{i=1}^N \in \mathcal{Z}^N$, it's $\Phi_\theta^N : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ given by:

$$\forall x \in \mathcal{X}, \Phi_\theta^N(x) := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_*(x; \theta_i) = \langle \sigma_*(x; \cdot), \nu_\theta^N \rangle,$$

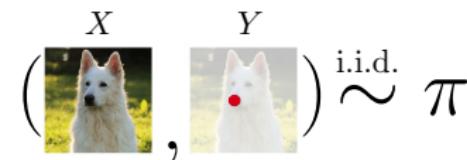
where $\nu_\theta^N := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta_{\theta_i}$ (empirical measure).

Abusing notation, simply: $\Phi_\theta^N = \langle \sigma_*, \nu_\theta^N \rangle$.



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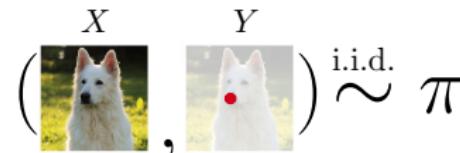
Def. Shallow Models (general)

$$\Phi_\mu = \langle \sigma_*, \mu \rangle \text{ for } \mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}).$$

Barron space of such models: $\mathcal{F}_{\sigma_*}(\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}))$.

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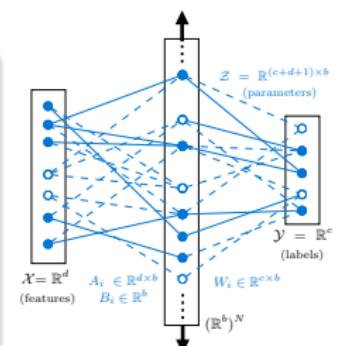
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Ex.: Traditional shallow NN with N hidden units

Let $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$, $\mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{R}^c$, $\mathcal{Z} = \mathbb{R}^{c \times b} \times \mathbb{R}^{d \times b} \times \mathbb{R}^b$
($b, c, d \in \mathbb{N}^*$). For $z = (W, A, B)$, $\sigma : \mathbb{R}^b \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^b$, let:

$$\sigma_*(x, z) := W\sigma(A^T x + B)$$

Φ_θ^N is a **single-hidden-layer NN** with N units.



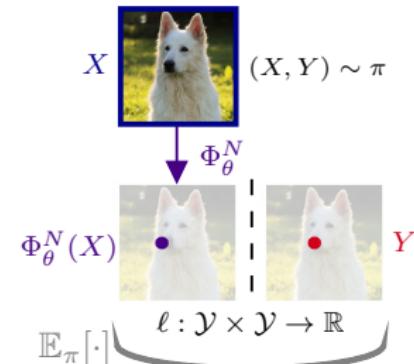
Shallow NN models go far beyond this example.

Generalization in supervised learning problems

Population risk: $R(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\pi} [\ell(\Phi_{\theta}^N(X), Y)]$,
for $\theta \in \mathcal{Z}^N$, encodes **generalization error**.

- **Highly non-convex** (hard to optimize).
- **No access to π in practice**

(only to a sample $\{(X_k, Y_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \pi$).

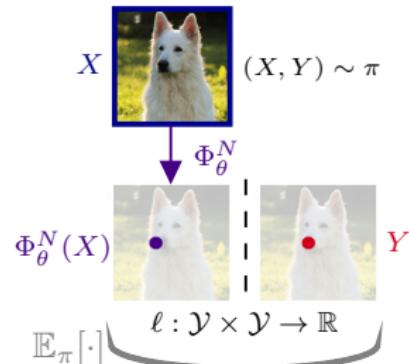


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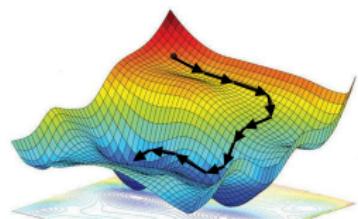


Approximate the optimization using (noisy) SGD

- Initialize $(\theta_i^0)_{i=1}^N \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \mu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{Z})$.
- Iterate, for $k \in \mathbb{N}$, defining $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_i^{k+1} &= \theta_i^k - s_k^N \nabla_{\theta_i} \ell(\Phi_{\theta^k}^N(X_k), Y_k) \\ &\quad + s_k^N \tau \nabla r(\theta_i^k) + \sqrt{2\beta s_k^N} \xi_i^k.\end{aligned}$$

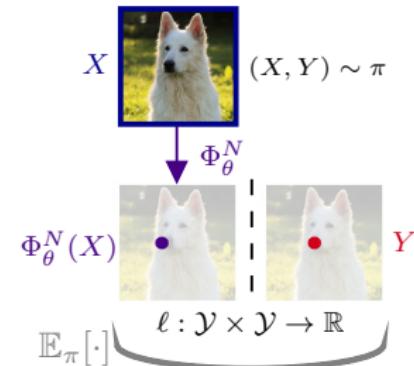
Step-size $s_k^N = \varepsilon_N \varsigma(k\varepsilon_N)$; Penalization $r : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$; Regularizing noise $\xi_i^k \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \text{Id}_{\mathcal{Z}})$, $\tau, \beta \geq 0$.



Generalization in supervised learning problems

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Convexify the problem

- Study $R : \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by $R(\mu) := \mathbb{E}_\pi [\ell(\Phi_\mu(X), Y)]$ (**convex**).
- See SGD as the process $(\nu_k^N)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} := (\nu_{\theta^k}^N)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})$.

Theorem (Mean-Field limit; sketch) (see [6, 14, 19, 20] and [4, 7, 8, 15, 21, 22])

$$\left(\nu_{\lfloor t/\varepsilon_N \rfloor}^N \right)_{t \in [0, T]} \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{\quad} (\mu_t)_{t \in [0, T]} \quad \text{in } D_{\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})}([0, T])$$

where $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is given by the **unique WGF** ($R^{\tau, \beta}$) starting at μ_0 .

Wasserstein Gradient Flows

Entropy-regularized population risk: $R^{\tau,\beta}(\mu) = R(\mu) + \tau \int r d\mu + \beta H_\lambda(\mu)$

λ is the Lebesgue Measure on \mathcal{Z} , and H_λ the *Boltzmann entropy*.

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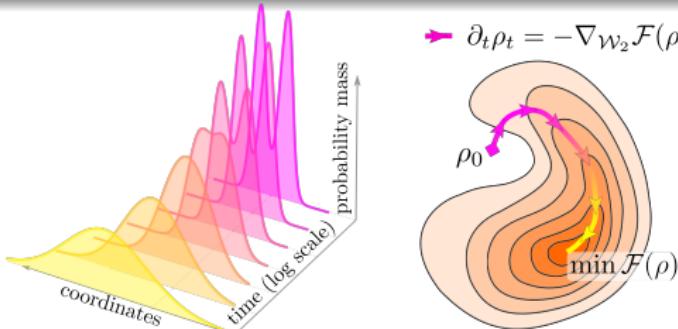
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Wasserstein Gradient Flow (WGF) for $R^{\tau,\beta}$ (denoted **WGF($R^{\tau,\beta}$)**)

It is (given an i.c. $\mu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{Z})$) the unique (weak) solution, $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$, to:

$$\partial_t \mu_t = \varsigma(t) [\operatorname{div}((D_\mu R(\mu_t, \cdot) + \tau \nabla_\theta r) \mu_t) + \beta \Delta \mu_t],$$

with $D_\mu R : \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{Z}) \times \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}$ the **intrinsic derivative** of R (see [1, 2, 12]).



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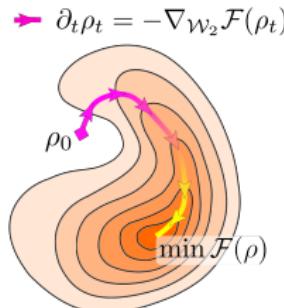
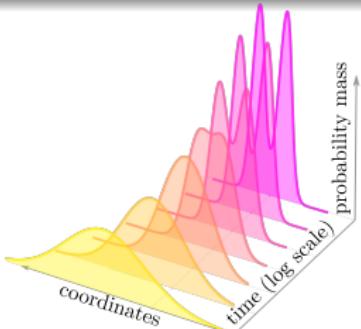
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When $\tau, \beta > 0$, this flow **converges** to the (unique) global minimizer of $R^{\tau, \beta}$ (see [3, 5, 11, 17, 22])

Image taken from [16]

Equivariant Data

G compact group with normalized Haar measure λ_G . Let $G \curvearrowright_{\rho} \mathcal{X}$, $G \curvearrowright_{\hat{\rho}} \mathcal{Y}$ (via orthogonal representations).



Equivariant Data

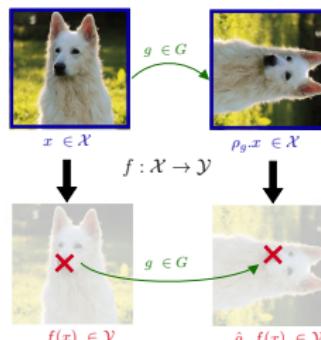
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Equivariant Function

$f : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ such that, $\forall g \in G$:

$$f(\rho_g \cdot x) = \hat{\rho}_g \cdot f(x) \text{ } d\pi_{\mathcal{X}}(x)\text{-a.s.}$$



Equivariant Data

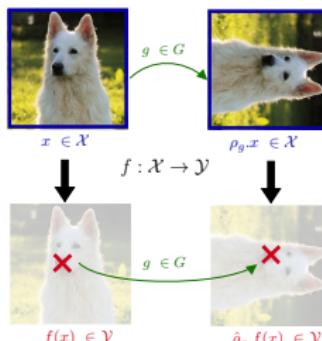
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Equivariant Data Distribution

π such that, if $(X, Y) \sim \pi$, then:

$$\forall g \in G, (\rho_g \cdot X, \hat{\rho}_g \cdot Y) \sim \pi.$$

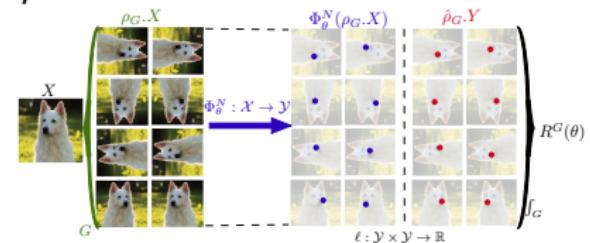
$$\begin{aligned} & X \qquad \qquad \qquad Y \\ & \left(\underset{g \in G}{\underset{\curvearrowright}{\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{dog image} \\ \text{red dot} \end{array} \right)}}, \underset{\curvearrowright}{\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{silhouette} \\ \text{red dot} \end{array} \right)} \right) \sim \pi \\ & \left(\underset{g \in G}{\underset{\curvearrowright}{\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{dog image} \\ \text{black dot} \end{array} \right)}}, \underset{\curvearrowright}{\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{silhouette} \\ \text{black dot} \end{array} \right)} \right) \sim \pi \end{aligned}$$

Symmetry-Leveraging Techniques

Data Augmentation (DA)

Draw $\{g_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \lambda_G$ and carry out SGD using $\{(\rho_{g_k}.X_k, \hat{\rho}_{g_k}.Y_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$.
Aims at optimizing the *symmetrized population risk*:

$$R^{DA}(\theta) := \mathbb{E}_\pi \left[\int_G \ell \left(\Phi_\theta^N(\rho_g.X), \hat{\rho}_g.Y \right) d\lambda_G(g) \right]$$

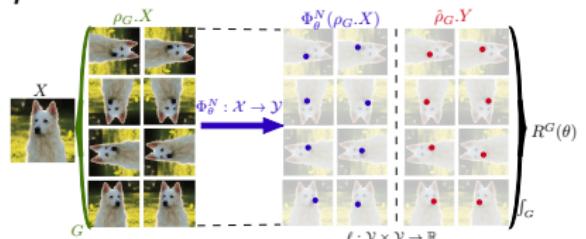


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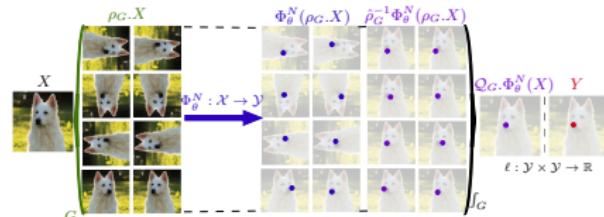
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Feature Averaging (FA)

Training a **symmetrized model**, using the **symmetrization operator**, given by $(\mathcal{Q}_G.f)(x) := \int_G \hat{\rho}_g^{-1}.f(\rho_g.x) d\lambda_G(g)$. Aims at optimizing:

$$R^{FA}(\theta) := \mathbb{E}_\pi \left[\ell \left((\mathcal{Q}_G.\Phi_\theta^N)(X), Y \right) \right]$$



Equivariant Architectures (EA)

Models built to be **equivariant on each of the individual hidden layers**.

Let $G \curvearrowright_M \mathcal{Z}$ and consider $\sigma_* : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ *jointly equivariant*, namely:

$$\forall (g, x, z) \in G \times \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Z} : \sigma_*(\rho_g.x, M_g.z) = \hat{\rho}_g \sigma_*(x, z)$$

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Fixed points: $\mathcal{E}^G := \{z \in \mathcal{Z} : \forall g \in G, M_g \cdot z = z\}$,
 correspond exactly to **EAs** (e.g. CNNs, GNNs).

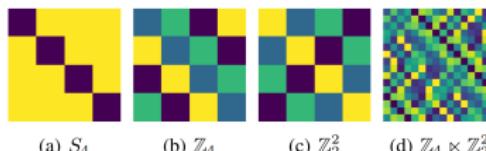


Image taken from [9]

$$\boxed{y \in \mathbb{R}^c} = \boxed{W_i \in \mathbb{R}^{c \times b}} \cdot \sigma \left(\boxed{A_i^T \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times d}} \cdot \boxed{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} + \boxed{B_i \in \mathbb{R}^c} \right)$$

$\theta_i = (W_i, A_i, B_i) \in \mathcal{Z}$

$$\boxed{y \in \mathbb{R}^c} = \boxed{\text{Graph Structure}} \cdot \sigma \left(\boxed{A_i^T \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times d}} \cdot \boxed{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} + \boxed{B_i \in \mathbb{R}^c} \right)$$

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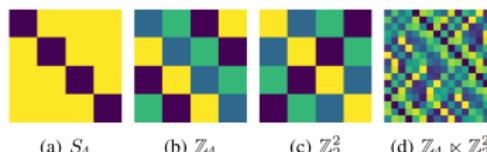


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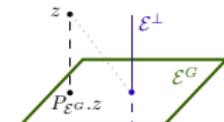
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Consider the **orthogonal projection** to \mathcal{E}^G , for $z \in \mathcal{Z}$:

$$P_{\mathcal{E}^G} \cdot z := \int_G M_g \cdot z \, d\lambda_G(g)$$

EA aims at minimizing $R^{EA}(\theta) := \mathbb{E}_{\pi} [\ell(\Phi_{\theta}^{N, EA}(X), Y)]$, with $\Phi_{\theta}^{N, EA} := \langle \sigma_*, P_{\mathcal{E}^G} \# \nu_{\theta}^N \rangle$.

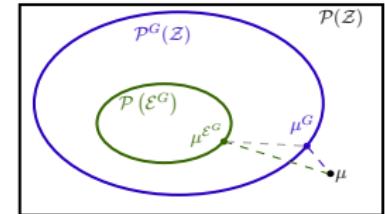


Main Results

Two Relevant Notions of Symmetry

Basic Definitions: Modifications of $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})$ and subspaces of $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})$

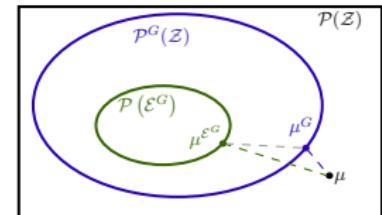
- **Symmetrized** version: $\mu^G := \int_G (M_g \# \mu) d\lambda_G$.
- **Projected** version: $\mu^{\mathcal{E}^G} := P_{\mathcal{E}^G} \# \mu$
- $\mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z}) := \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}) : \forall g \in G, M_g \# \mu = \mu\}$
- $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{E}^G) := \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}) : \mu(\mathcal{E}^G) = 1\}$



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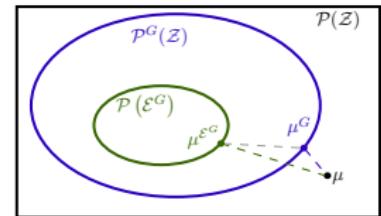


Def: μ is **Weakly-Invariant (WI)** if $\mu = \mu^G$, and **Strongly-Invariant (SI)** if $\mu = \mu^{\mathcal{E}^G}$.

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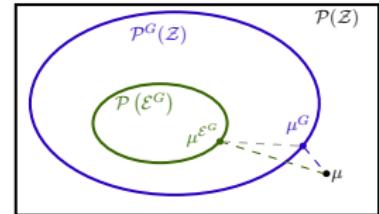
Proposition 1: Let $\Phi_\mu \in \mathcal{F}_{\sigma_*}(\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}))$, $\sigma_* : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ jointly equivariant.

Then: $(\mathcal{Q}_G \Phi_\mu) = \Phi_{\mu^G}$; the **closest equivariant function** to Φ_μ is Φ_{μ^G} .

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- $\mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z}) := \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}) : \forall g \in G, M_g \# \mu = \mu\}$
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Def: μ is **Weakly-Invariant (WI)** if $\mu = \mu^G$, and **Strongly-Invariant (SI)** if $\mu = \mu^{\mathcal{E}^G}$.

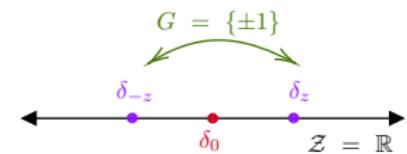
Proposition 1: Let $\Phi_\mu \in \mathcal{F}_{\sigma_*}(\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}))$, $\sigma_* : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ jointly equivariant.

Then: $(\mathcal{Q}_G \Phi_\mu) = \Phi_{\mu^G}$; the **closest equivariant function** to Φ_μ is Φ_{μ^G} .

Ex.: For $G = \{\pm 1\}$ acting on $\mathcal{Z} = \mathbb{R}$, $\mathcal{E}^G = \{0\}$.

Also, for $z \in \mathcal{Z}$, $(\delta_z)^G = \frac{1}{2}(\delta_z + \delta_{-z})$; and thus

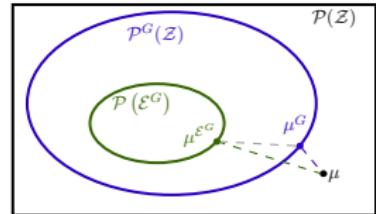
$\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{E}^G) = \{\delta_0\}$, $\mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z}) = \{\frac{1}{2}(\nu + \nu(-\cdot)) : \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}_+)\}$.



Two Relevant Notions of Symmetry

Basic Definitions: Modifications of $\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})$ and subspaces of $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})$

- **Symmetrized** version: $\mu^G := \int_G (M_g \# \mu) d\lambda_G$.
- **Projected** version: $\mu^{\mathcal{E}^G} := P_{\mathcal{E}^G} \# \mu$
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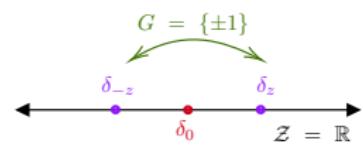


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Then: $(\mathcal{Q}_G \Phi_\mu) = \Phi_{\mu^G}$; the **closest equivariant function** to Φ_μ is Φ_{μ^G} .

Ex.: $\Phi_{\delta_z} = \sigma_*(\cdot, z)$, $\Phi_{(\delta_z)^G} = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_*(\cdot, z) + \sigma_*(\cdot, -z))$,
 $\Phi_{(\delta_z)^{\mathcal{E}^G}} = \sigma_*(\cdot, 0)$; all distinct if $z \neq 0$. Also, Φ_{μ^G} is
equivariant without having parameters in \mathcal{E}^G .



Assumption 1: $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})$; ℓ convex, jointly invariant, differentiable with $\nabla_1 \ell$ linearly growing; σ_* jointly equivariant, bounded, differentiable.

We **convexify** R^{DA} , R^{FA} and R^{EA} ; analogous to the population risk, R .

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Proposition 2: Under **A.1**, R^{DA} , R^{FA} and R^{EA} are convex, invariant, and:

$$R^{DA}(\mu) = R^G(\mu) := \int_G R(M_g \# \mu) d\lambda_G(g), \quad R^{FA}(\mu) = R(\mu^G), \quad R^{EA}(\mu) = R(\mu^{\mathcal{E}^G}).$$

In particular: $R = R^{DA}$ if R is invariant; $\forall \mu \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z})$, $R(\mu) = R^{DA}(\mu) = R^{FA}(\mu)$; and, if $\pi \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})$ (the data distribution is equivariant), then R is invariant.

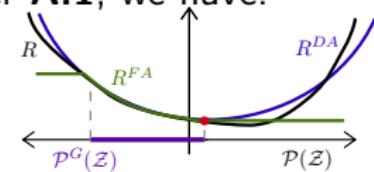
Invariant Functionals and their Optima

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Theorem 2 (Equivalence of DA and FA): Under **A.1**, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}\inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z})} R(\mu) &= \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z})} R^{DA}(\mu) = \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})} R^{DA}(\mu) \\ &= \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z})} R^{FA}(\mu) = \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})} R^{FA}(\mu).\end{aligned}$$



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Corollary 1: Further, if ℓ is quadratic and $\pi_{\mathcal{X}}$ is invariant:

$$\inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z})} R(\mu) = \tilde{R}_* + \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z})} \|\Phi_\mu - \mathcal{Q}_G \cdot f_*\|_{L^2(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}; \pi_{\mathcal{X}})}^2.$$

with $f_* = \mathbb{E}_{\pi}[Y|X = \cdot]$; \tilde{R}_* only depending on π . i.e. **DA/FA** approximate $\mathcal{Q}_G \cdot f_*$.

Assumption 1: $\pi \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})$; ℓ convex, jointly invariant, differentiable with $\nabla_1 \ell$ linearly growing; σ_* jointly equivariant, bounded, differentiable.

We **convexify** R^{DA} , R^{FA} and R^{EA} ; analogous to the population risk, R .

As soon as $\pi \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})$, using **DA**, **FA** or **no SL technique at all makes no difference** (regarding the optimization problem).

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For **SI** measures we only have $\inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})} R^{EA}(\mu) = \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{E}^G)} R(\mu)$ and so:

Proposition 4: Even for finite G , with π being compactly-supported and equivariant; ℓ being quadratic; and σ_* being C^∞ , bounded and jointly equivariant; we can get: $\inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})} R(\mu) < \inf_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{E}^G)} R(\nu)$.

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As soon as $\pi \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})$, using **DA, FA or no SL technique at all makes no difference** (regarding the optimization problem).

SI solutions are possible when \mathcal{E}^G is *universal* (see e.g. [13, 18, 23, 24]):

Proposition 5: Under **A.1**, with quadratic ℓ and equivariant π :

$$\left[\mathcal{F}_{\sigma_*}(\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{E}^G)) \text{ dense in } L_G^2(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}; \pi_{\mathcal{X}}) \right] \Rightarrow \left[\inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})} R(\mu) = \inf_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{E}^G)} R(\nu) = R_* \right]$$

Symmetries in the shallow NN training dynamics

Theorem 3 (Invariant WGFs): Let $F : \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}) \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ be invariant, and such that $\mathbf{WGF}(F)$ is well defined and has a unique (weak) solution $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$.

If $\mu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2^G(\mathcal{Z})$, then, for dt -a.e. $t \geq 0$, $\mu_t \in \mathcal{P}_2^G(\mathcal{Z})$.

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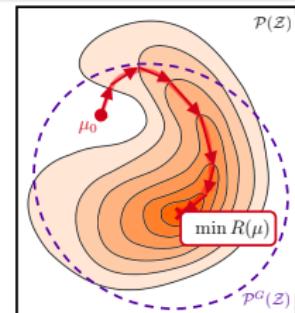
Corollary 3: If **A.1+** technical assumptions [6] hold:

If R and r are invariant, $\mathbf{WGF}(R^{\tau, \beta})$ with i.c.

$\mu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2^G(\mathcal{Z})$ satisfies: $\mu_t \in \mathcal{P}_2^G(\mathcal{Z}) \ \forall t \geq 0$ dt -a.e.

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This applies to **freely-trained NN, without SL-techniques**.



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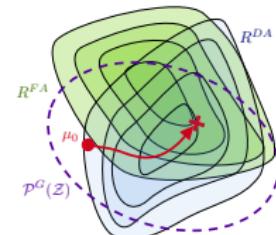
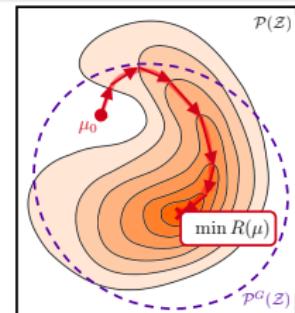
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Theorem 4: Under Cor.3's hypothesis, if $\mu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2^G(\mathcal{Z})$,

$\mathbf{WGF}(R^{DA})$ and $\mathbf{WGF}(R^{FA})$ solutions are equal.

If R is invariant, $\mathbf{WGF}(R)$ coincides with them too.



Training with **DA, FA or no SL-technique** is the same.

Symmetries in the shallow NN training dynamics

Similar results hold for $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{E}^G)$; consider a variant of SGD with **projected noise**:

$$\theta_i^{k+1} = \theta_i^k - s_k^N \left(\nabla_z \sigma_*(X_k, \theta_i^k) \cdot \nabla_1 \ell(\Phi_{\theta^k}^N(X_k), Y_k) + \tau \nabla r(\theta_i^k) \right) + \sqrt{2\beta s_k^N} P_{\mathcal{E}^G} \xi_i^k.$$

This **doesn't affect the noiseless SGD dynamic** (we don't need access to $P_{\mathcal{E}^G}$).

It approximates the **WGF** of $R_{\mathcal{E}^G}^{\tau, \beta}(\mu) := R(\mu) + \tau \int r d\mu + \beta H_{\lambda_{\mathcal{E}^G}}(\mu | \mathcal{E}^G)$.

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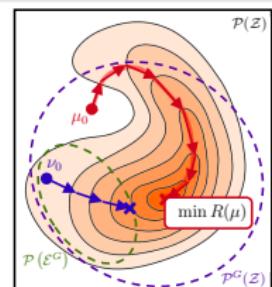
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If $\pi \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})$, parameters **stay SI** all throughout training, despite there being **no explicit constraint on them** (they can all be freely updated), **nor any SL-technique** being used.



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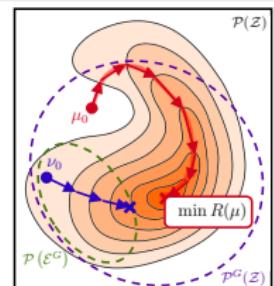
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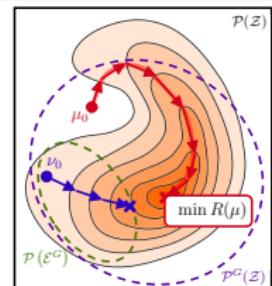
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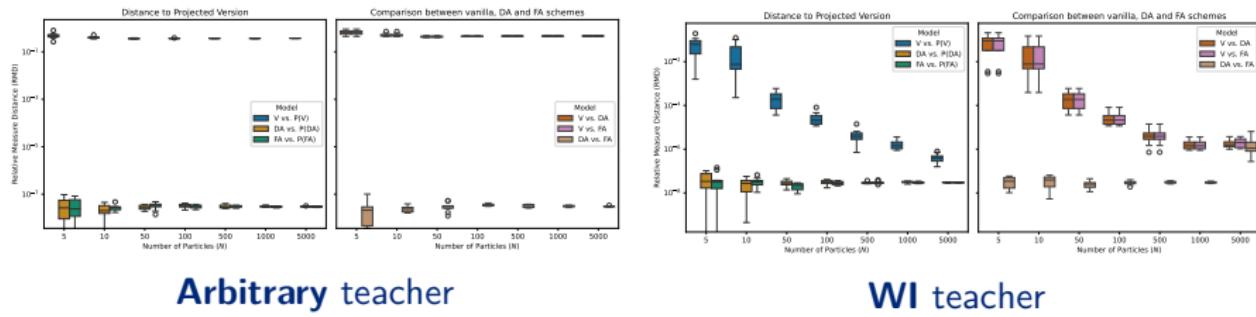
This also holds for R^{DA} , R^{FA} and R^{EA} in the role of R , **even if π is not equivariant**.

Theorem 6: Under Thm.5's hypothesis, if $\nu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{E}^G)$, $\text{WGF}(R^{DA})$, $\text{WGF}(R^{FA})$, $\text{WGF}(R^{EA})$ coincide. If R invariant, $\text{WGF}(R)$ coincides too.

Numerical Experiments

Teacher-Student setting.

- **Feature, Label and Parameter Spaces:** $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y} = \mathbb{R}^2$, $\mathcal{Z} = \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$.
- **Group:** $G = C_2$ acts via coordinate permutation and intertwining action.
- **Unit:** $\sigma_*(x, z) = \sigma(z \cdot x)$ with σ pointwise sigmoidal.
- **Data Distribution:** Given by $(X, f_*(X)) \sim \pi$ with:
 $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_\pi^2 \cdot \text{Id}_2)$ and $f_* = \Phi_{\theta^*}^{N_*}$ a **teacher model**.
- **Task:** Learn from this data using a **student model** Φ_θ^N with N particles, trained with SGD and, possibly, **DA**, **FA** or **EA**.

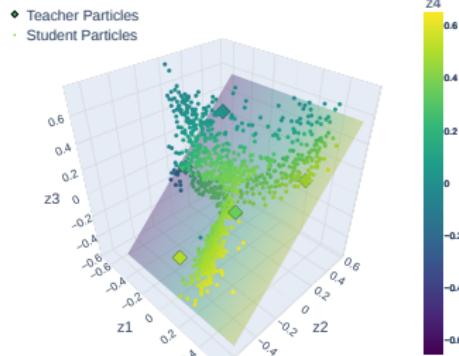
Study for Varying N **SI-initialized students:**

- If f_* is **arbitrary**, **vanilla** training escapes \mathcal{E}^G , regardless of N .
- **DA/FA** stay **SI** regardless of the teacher and of N (see **Thm.5**).
- If f_* is **WI** (i.e. equivariant π), for large N , **vanilla** training remains **SI** and approaches **DA/FA** (see **Thms.5 & 6**).

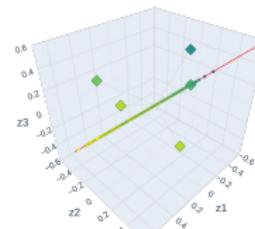
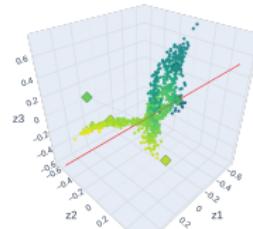
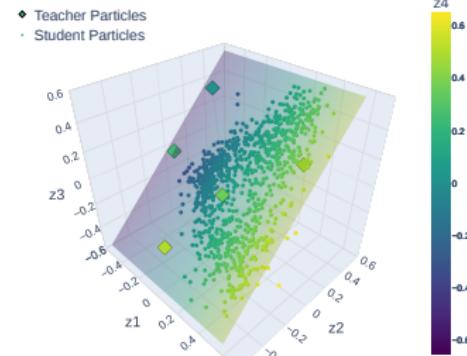
Study for Varying N

Example of optimization under an **arbitrary** teacher:

Student Particles' Positions (vanilla)

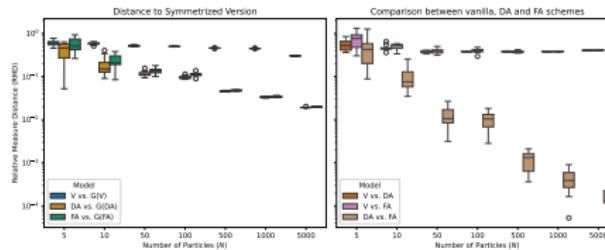


Student Particles' Positions (DA)

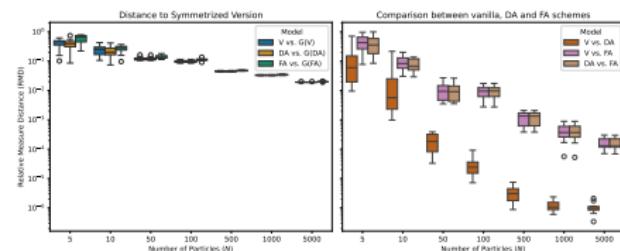


Study for Varying N

WI-initialized students:



Arbitrary teacher



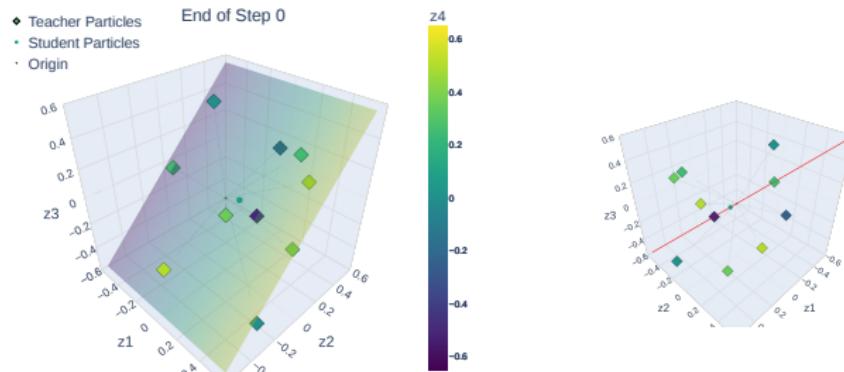
WI teacher

- If f_* is **arbitrary**, as N grows **DA/FA** increasingly stay **WI** and approach each other (see **Cor.3 & Thm.4**).
- If f_* is **WI**, the same holds for **vanilla** training (see **Cor.3 & Thm.4**).
- Larger N required to observe the behaviour than for **SI** initialization.

Architecture Discovery Heuristic

Potential data-driven heuristic to find *parameter-sharing* schemes for **EAs**:

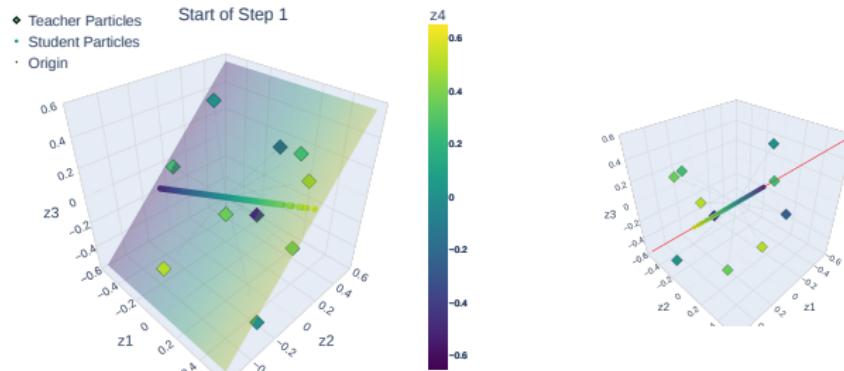
- Initialize $E_0 = \{0\} \subseteq \mathcal{E}^G$ and $\nu_{\theta_0}^N = \nu_0^N \in \mathcal{P}(E_0)$
- Iteratively (for $j = 0, 1, \dots$):
 - Train model initialized at $\nu_{\theta_0}^N \in \mathcal{P}(E_j)$ for N_e epochs.
 - Check if $\text{RMD}^2(\nu_{N_e}^N, P_{E_j} \# \nu_{N_e}^N) \leq \delta_j$ for threshold $\delta_j > 0$.
 - If not, expand: $E_{j+1} := E_j \oplus v_{E_j}$, with $v_{E_j} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\theta_i^{N_e} - P_{E_j} \cdot \theta_i^{N_e})$.
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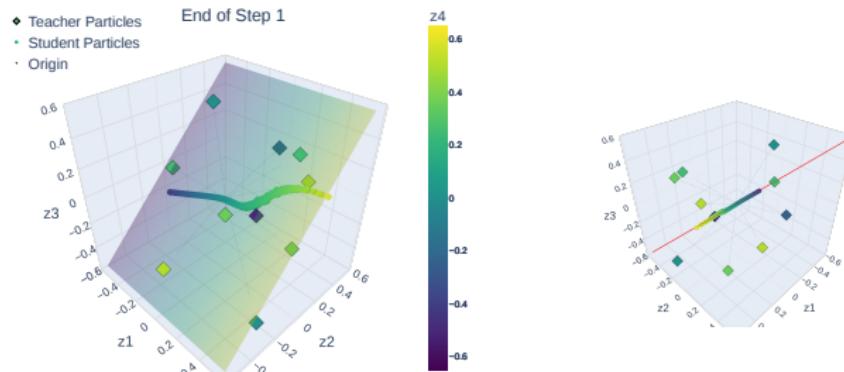
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Future Directions

- Quantifying convergence rates to the **MFL** when using SL techniques.
- Extending our *shallow models* analysis to more complex architectures.
- Provide theoretical guarantees for our **EA**-discovery heuristic
- Larger scale experimental validation (*real* datasets, other settings).

Thank you for your attention!

Symmetries in Overparametrized Neural Networks: A Mean-Field View

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