

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.

1 Context

Introducing Shallow NNs

Generalization in supervised learning problems

Wasserstein Gradient Flows

Equivariant Data

Symmetry-Leveraging Techniques

2 Main Results

Two Relevant Notions of Symmetry

Invariant Functionals and their Optima

Symmetries in the shallow NN training dynamics

3 Numerical Experiments

Study for Varying N

Architecture Discovery Heuristic

4 Conclusions and Future Directions

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*) $\sigma_* : \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$.



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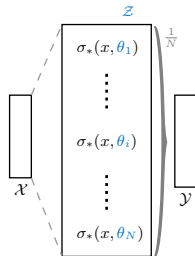
Def. Shallow NN models (general)

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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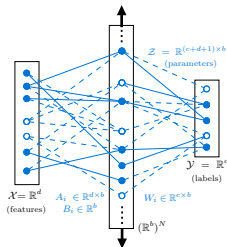


Ex.: Traditional shallow NN with N hidden units

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.

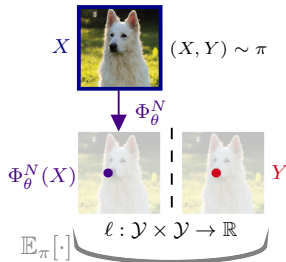


Shallow NN models go far beyond this example.

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**.

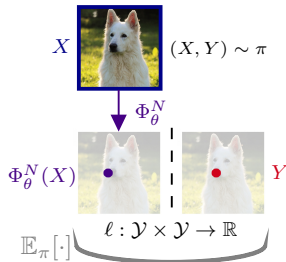
- **Highly non-convex** (hard to optimize).
- **No access to π in practice**
(only to a sample $\{(X_k, Y_k)\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \pi$).



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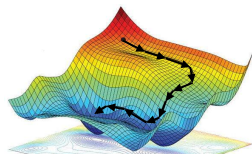


Approximate the optimization using (noisy) SGD

- 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 $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$:

$$\theta_i^{k+1} = \theta_i^k - s_k^N \nabla_{\mathcal{Z}} \sigma_*(X_k, \theta_i^k) \cdot \nabla_1 \ell(\Phi_{\theta^k}^N(X_k), Y_k)$$

$$+ s_k^N \tau \nabla r(\theta_i^k) + \sqrt{2\beta s_k^N} \xi_i^k.$$

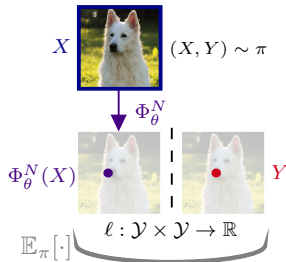


Step-size $s_k^N = \varepsilon_N \varsigma(k \in \mathbb{N})$; Penalization $r : \mathcal{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$; Regularizing noise $\xi_i^k \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, \text{Id}_{\mathcal{Z}})$, $\tau, \beta \geq 0$.

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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])

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

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

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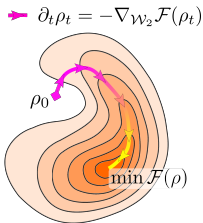
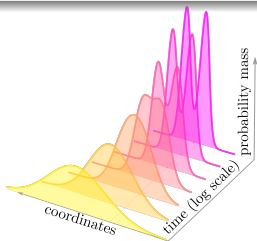
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Wasserstein Gradient Flow (WGF) for $R^{\tau,\beta}$ (denoted **WGF**($R^{\tau,\beta}$))

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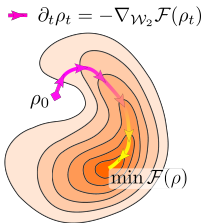
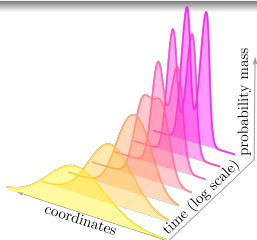
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When $\tau, \beta > 0$, this flow **converges** to the (unique) global minimizer of $R^{\tau,\beta}$ (see [3, 5, 11, 17, 22])

Image taken from [16]

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



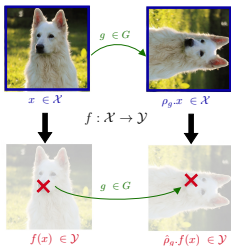
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Equivariant Function

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

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



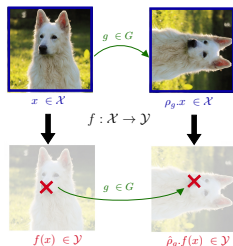
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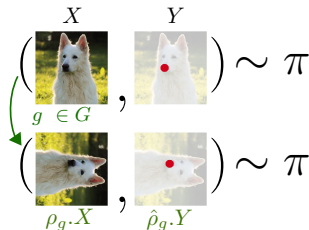
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Equivariant Data Distribution

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

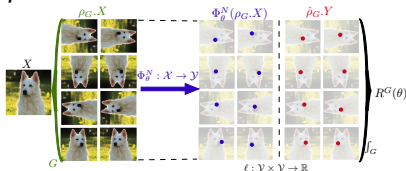
$$\forall g \in G, (\rho_g \cdot X, \hat{\rho}_g \cdot Y) \sim \pi.$$



Data Augmentation (DA)

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

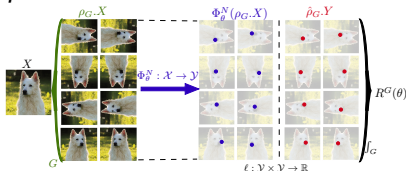
$$R^{DA}(\theta) := \mathbb{E}_{\pi} \left[\int_G \ell \left(\Phi_{\theta}^N(\rho_g \cdot X), \hat{\rho}_g \cdot Y \right) d\lambda_G(g) \right]$$



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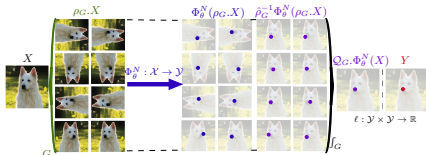
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Feature Averaging (FA)

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:

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



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:

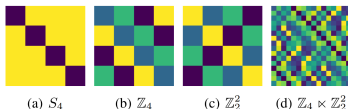
$$\forall (g, x, z) \in G \times \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Z} : \sigma_*(\rho_g.x, M_g.z) = \hat{\rho}_g \sigma_*(x, z)$$

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



(a) S_4

(b) \mathbb{Z}_4

(c) \mathbb{Z}_2^2

(d) $\mathbb{Z}_4 \times \mathbb{Z}_2^2$

Image taken from [9]

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} y \in \mathbb{R}^c \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} W_i \in \mathbb{R}^{c \times b} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \sigma \left(\begin{bmatrix} A_i^T \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times d} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \in \mathbb{R}^d \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B_i \in \mathbb{R}^b \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ \theta_i &= (W_i, A_i, B_i) \in \mathcal{Z} \\ \begin{bmatrix} y \in \mathbb{R}^c \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} W_i \in \mathbb{R}^{c \times b} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \sigma \left(\begin{bmatrix} A_i^T \in \mathbb{R}^{b \times d} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \in \mathbb{R}^d \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} B_i \in \mathbb{R}^b \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ \theta_i &= (W_i, A_i, B_i) \in \mathcal{E}^G \end{aligned}$$

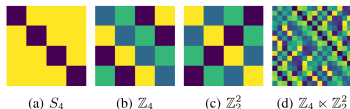
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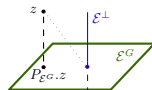
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Consider the **orthogonal projection** to \mathcal{E}^G , for $z \in \mathcal{Z}$:

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



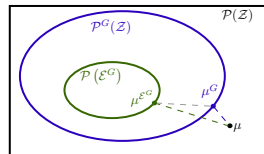
EA aims at minimizing $R^{EA}(\theta) := \mathbb{E}_\pi [\ell(\Phi_\theta^{N,EA}(X), Y)]$, with $\Phi_\theta^{N,EA} := \langle \sigma_*, P_{\mathcal{E}^G} \# \nu_\theta^N \rangle$.

Main Results

Two Relevant Notions of Symmetry

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

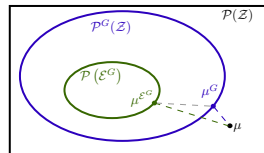
- **Symmetrized** version: $\mu^G := \int_G (M_g \# \mu) d\lambda_G$.
- **Projected** version: $\mu^{\mathcal{E}^G} := P_{\mathcal{E}^G} \# \mu$
- $\mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z}) := \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}) : \forall g \in G, M_g \# \mu = \mu\}$
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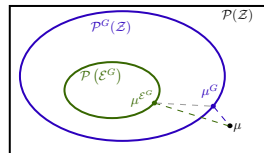


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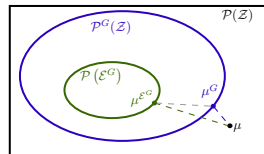
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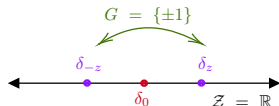
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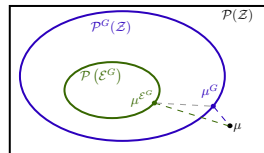
Ex.: For $G = \{\pm 1\}$ acting on $\mathcal{Z} = \mathbb{R}$, $\mathcal{E}^G = \{0\}$. Also, for $z \in \mathcal{Z}$, $(\delta_z)^G = \frac{1}{2}(\delta_z + \delta_{-z})$; and thus $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{E}^G) = \{\delta_0\}$, $\mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z}) = \{\frac{1}{2}(\nu + \nu(-\cdot)) : \nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}_+)\}$.



Two Relevant Notions of Symmetry

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

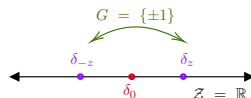
- **Symmetrized** version: $\mu^G := \int_G (M_g \# \mu) d\lambda_G$.
- **Projected** version: $\mu^{\mathcal{E}^G} := P_{\mathcal{E}^G} \# \mu$
- $\mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z}) := \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}) : \forall g \in G, M_g \# \mu = \mu\}$
- $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{E}^G) := \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})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



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.: $\Phi_{\delta_z} = \sigma_*(\cdot, z)$, $\Phi_{(\delta_z)^G} = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_*(\cdot, z) + \sigma_*(\cdot, -z))$, $\Phi_{(\delta_z)^{\mathcal{E}^G}} = \sigma_*(\cdot, 0)$; 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:

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

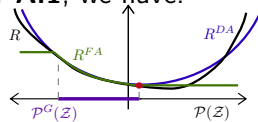
In particular: $R = R^{DA}$ if R is invariant; $\forall \mu \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{Z})$, $R(\mu) = R^{DA}(\mu) = R^{FA}(\mu)$; and, if $\pi \in \mathcal{P}^G(\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y})$ (the data distribution is equivariant), then R is invariant.

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.

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

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



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 .

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

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

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

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 \mathcal{C}^∞ , bounded and jointly equivariant; we can get: $\inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z})} R(\mu) < \inf_{\nu \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{E}^G)} R(\nu)$.

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.

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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 :

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

Theorem 3 (Invariant **WGFs**): Let $F : \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Z}) \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}$ be invariant, and such that **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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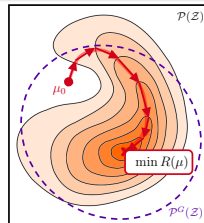
Corollary 3: If **A.1** + technical assumptions [6] hold:

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.

If $\beta > 0$, each μ_t has an invariant density function.

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



Symmetries in the shallow NN training dynamics

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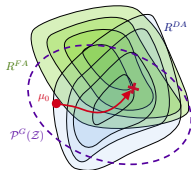
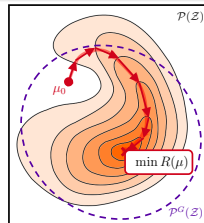
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Theorem 4: Under **Cor.3**'s hypothesis, if $\mu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2^G(\mathcal{Z})$,

$\mathbf{WGF}(R^{DA})$ 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.

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 $R_{\mathcal{E}^G}^{\tau, \beta}(\mu) := R(\mu) + \tau \int r d\mu + \beta H_{\lambda_{\mathcal{E}^G}}(\mu^{\mathcal{E}^G})$.

Symmetries in the shallow NN training dynamics

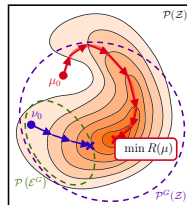
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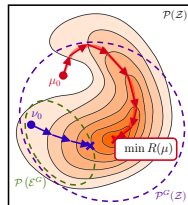
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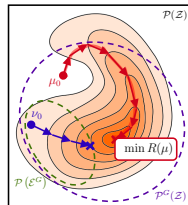
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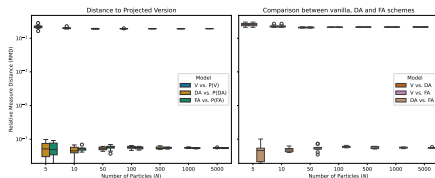
Theorem 6: Under **Thm.5's** hypothesis, if $\nu_0 \in \mathcal{P}_2(\mathcal{E}^G)$, **WGF**(R^{DA}), **WGF**(R^{FA}), **WGF**(R^{EA}) coincide. If R invariant, **WGF**(R) coincides too.

Numerical Experiments

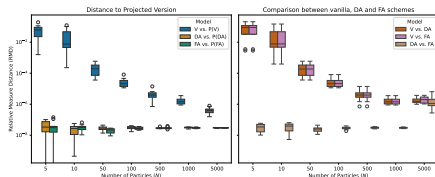
Teacher-Student setting.

- **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**.

SI-initialized students:



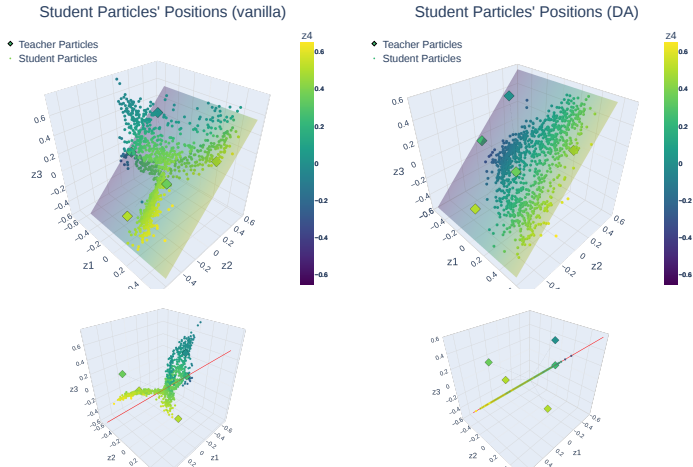
Arbitrary teacher



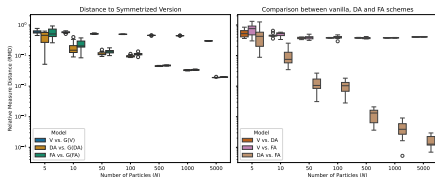
WI teacher

- 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**).

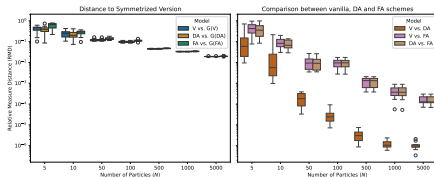
Example of optimization under an **arbitrary** teacher:



WI-initialized students:



Arbitrary teacher



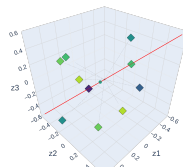
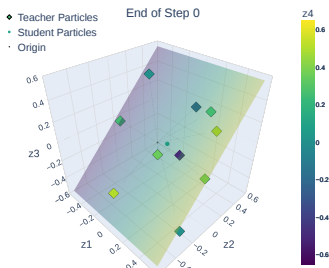
WI teacher

- 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

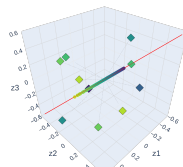
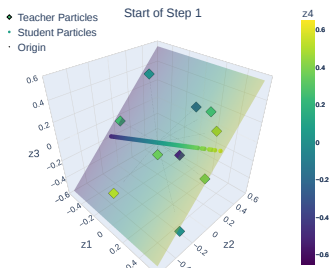
Potential data-driven heuristic to find *parameter-sharing* schemes for **EAs**:

- Initialize $E_0 = \{0\} \leq \mathcal{E}^G$ 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 $\mathbf{RMD}^2(\nu_{N_e}^N, P_{E_j} \# \nu_{N_e}^N) \leq \delta_j$ for threshold $\delta_j > 0$.
 - If not, expand: $E_{j+1} := E_j \oplus v_{E_j}$, with $v_{E_j} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (\theta_i^{N_e} - P_{E_j} \cdot \theta_i^{N_e})$.
- Finish with a space $E_* = \mathcal{E}^G$ which encodes *good SI* architectures.



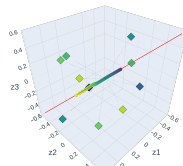
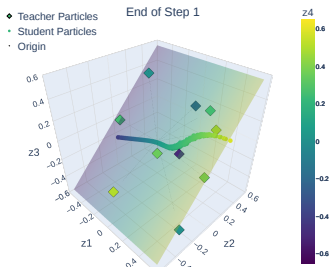
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Conclusions and Future Directions

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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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Center for Mathematical Modeling
University of Chile

- [1] P. Cardaliaguet. Notes on mean-field games (from P.-L. Lions lectures at Collège de France). 2013. Available at:
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