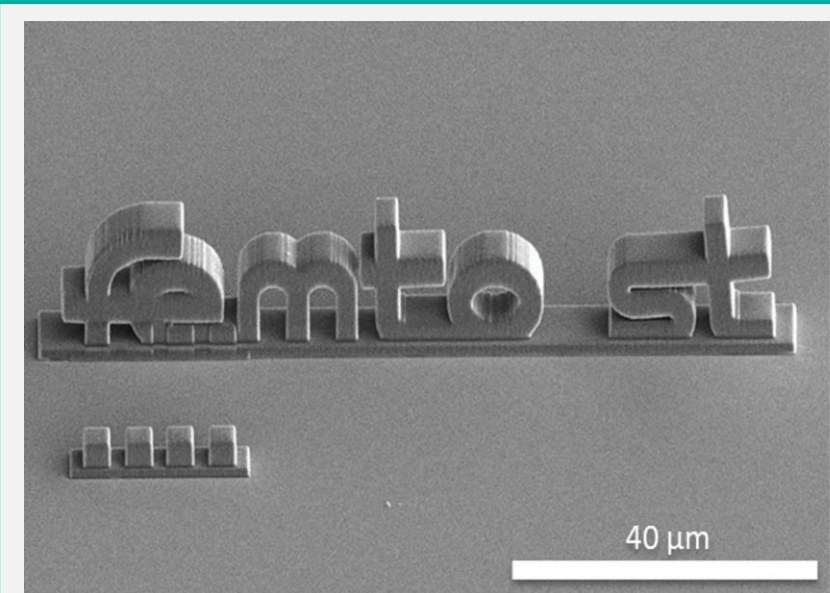


Optical computing

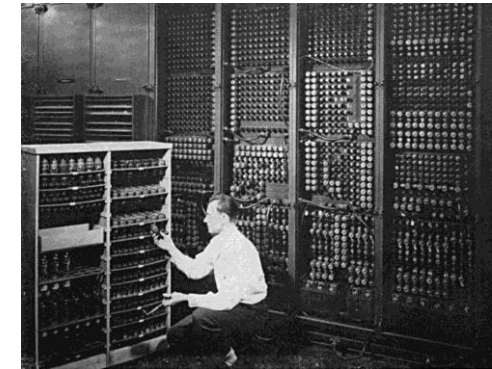
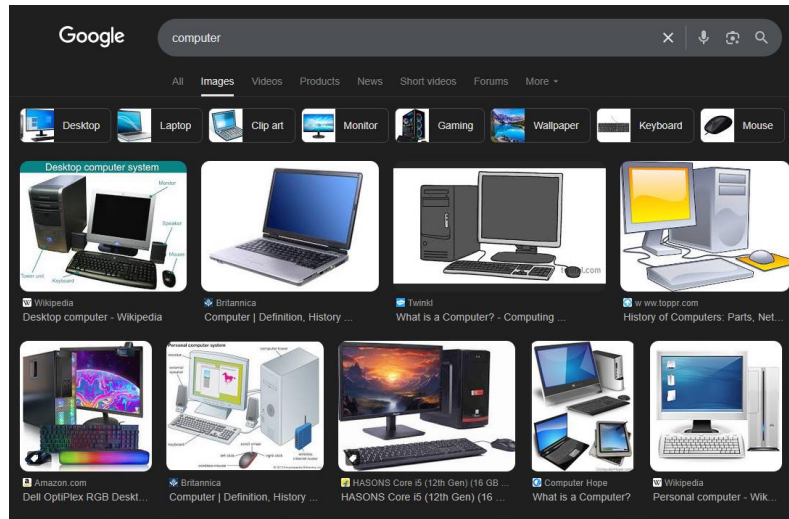
Daniel Brunner
FEMTO-ST, CNRS/UFC

SMYLE Summerschool
Neuchâtel, Switzerland



Computing

What is a computer ? / What is computing?





Computing is the process of **transforming information** according to well-defined rules.

A **computer** is a physical system that performs computation that is, it takes **inputs**, **processes** them according to **rules**, and produces **outputs**.



When does a physical system compute?

Clare Horsman¹, Susan Stepney², Rob C. Wagner³
and Viv Kendon³

investigated by philosophers, physicists and informatics researchers [15]. In this paper, we address a third, equally important, and specifically physical, question: what is a computer? Given some notion of a mathematical computation, what does it mean to say that some physical system is ‘running’ a computation? If we want to use computational notions in physics, then what are the necessary and sufficient conditions under which we can say that a particular physical system is carrying out a computation? In short, *when does a physical system compute?*

produced technology, the question becomes more difficult to answer. Is a protein performing a compaction computation as it folds [16]? Does a photon (quantum) compute the shortest path through a leaf in photosynthesis [17]? Is the human mind a computer [18]? A dog catching a stick [19]? A stone sitting on the floor [20]? One answer is that they all are—that everything that physically exists is performing computation by virtue of its existence. Unfortunately, by thus defining the universe and everything in it as a computer, the notion of physical computation becomes empty. To state that *every* physical process is a computation is simply to redefine what is meant by a ‘physical process’—there is, then, no non-trivial content to the assertion. A statement such as ‘everything is computation’ is either false, or it is trivial; either way, it is not useful in determining properties of physical systems in practice.

Computing: a nonlinear function

1. Data source

$u(n)$



2. Nonlinear transformation

$f[u(n)]$

3. Result

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Programming: **identify** $f[u(n)]$

Computation: **calculate** $f[u(n)]$

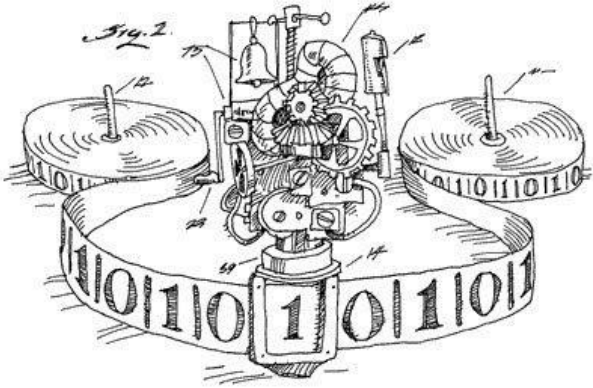
1. Programming strategies

- Algorithmic / analytical
- Regression to model input \rightarrow result

2. Computation strategies

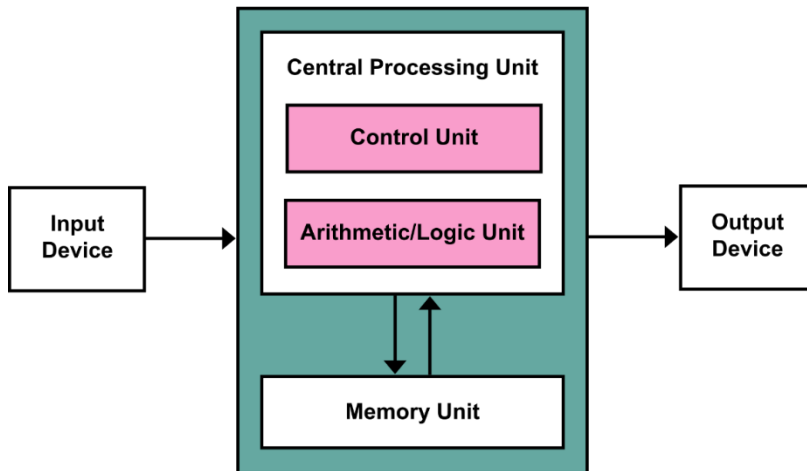
- Abstract: Turing / von Neumann machine
- Substrate: System is function

Turing concept and von Neumann architecture



© Hussein Nur

1. Single 'point' operation, only local action
 2. 'Unlimited', nonvolatile memory
- Serial operation according to symbolic operations
 - Conceptual separation 'operation' and memory



1. **Essentially a 'technical' fix**
 1. Operation: in-silico (transistor)
 2. Memory: punch cards / magnetic
- **Combine different materials by spatially separating operation and memory**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Von_Neumann_architecture

Motivation behind binary electronics



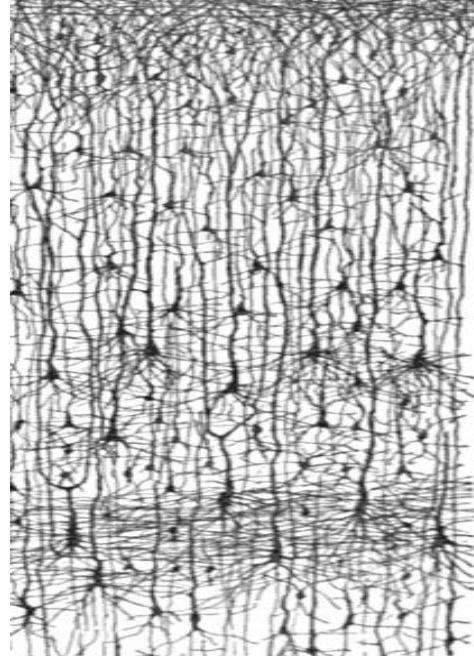
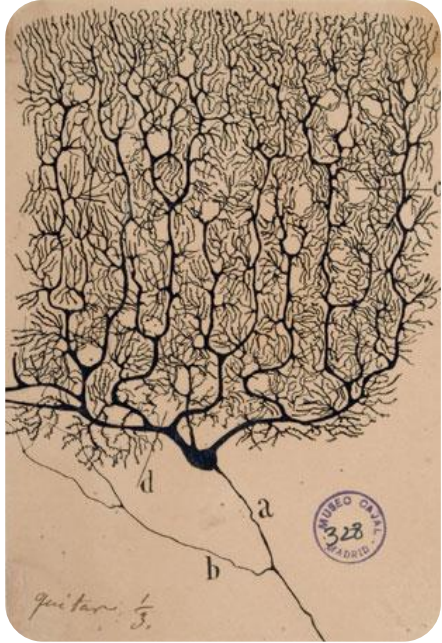
“The binary scale seems particularly well suited for electronic computation because of its simplicity and the fact that **valve equipment** can very **easily produce and distinguish two sizes of pulse.**”

Alan Turing

⇒ **Nature of algorithm defines ideal system**

Neural Networks (1852-1943): anatomical inspiration

© Ramón y Cajal



- Anatomical ‘analysis’ of human brain by Ramon y Cajal.
- Brain comprises discrete elements densely connected to a gigantic network.
- 1894: “The ability of neurons to grow in an adult and their power to create new connections can explain learning.” This statement is considered to be the origin of the synaptic theory of memory.
 - Ramon y Cajal awarded Nobel prize in 1906.

Neural Networks: computational basis

BULLETIN OF
MATHEMATICAL BIOPHYSICS
VOLUME 5, 1943

A LOGICAL CALCULUS OF THE IDEAS IMMANENT IN NERVOUS ACTIVITY

WARREN S. MCCULLOCH AND WALTER PITTS

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AT THE ILLINOIS NEUROPSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE,
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Because of the “all-or-none” character of nervous activity, neural events and the relations among them can be treated by means of propositional logic. It is found that the behavior of every net can be described in these terms, with the addition of more complicated logical means for nets containing circles; and that for any logical expression satisfying certain conditions, one can find a net behaving in the fashion it describes. It is shown that many particular choices among possible neurophysiological assumptions are equivalent, in the sense that for every net behaving under one assumption, there exists another net which behaves under the other and gives the same results, although perhaps not in the same time. Various applications of the calculus are discussed.

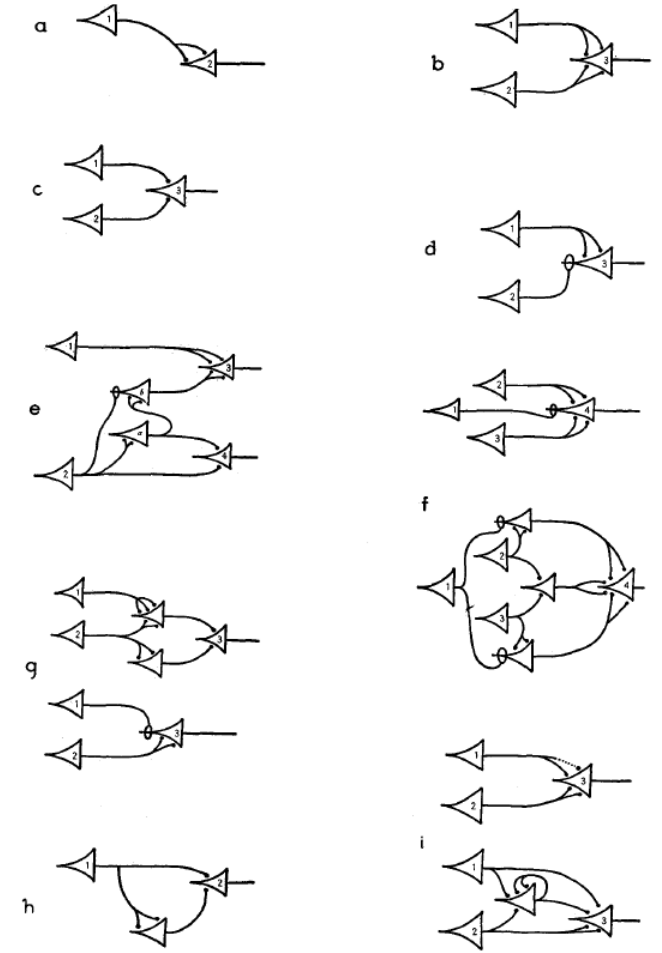


FIGURE 1

Neural Networks: ‘programming’

The Organization of Behavior

A NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY

D. O. HEBB

McGill University

1949

New York · JOHN WILEY & SONS, Inc.

London · CHAPMAN & HALL, Limited

- “The general idea is an old one, that any two cells or systems of cells that are repeatedly active at the same time will tend to become 'associated' so that activity in one facilitates activity in the other.”
 - “When one cell repeatedly assists in firing another, the axon of the first cell develops synaptic knobs (or enlarges them if they already exist) in contact with the soma of the second cell.”
 - ‘Fire together: wire together’
- Recipe for ‘continuous’ programming: incrementally modify topology instead of writing a premeditated program.

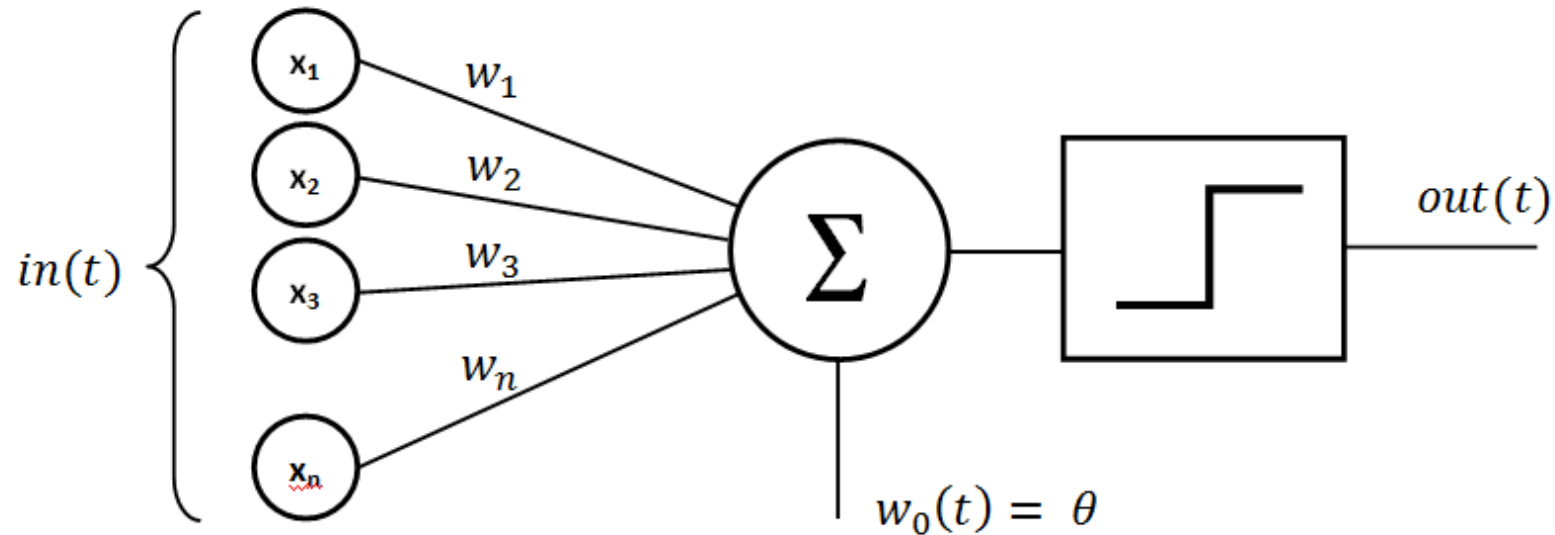
First attempt: Perceptron

Psychological Review
Vol. 65, No. 6, 1958

THE PERCEPTRON: A PROBABILISTIC MODEL FOR INFORMATION STORAGE AND ORGANIZATION IN THE BRAIN¹

F. ROSENBLATT

Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory



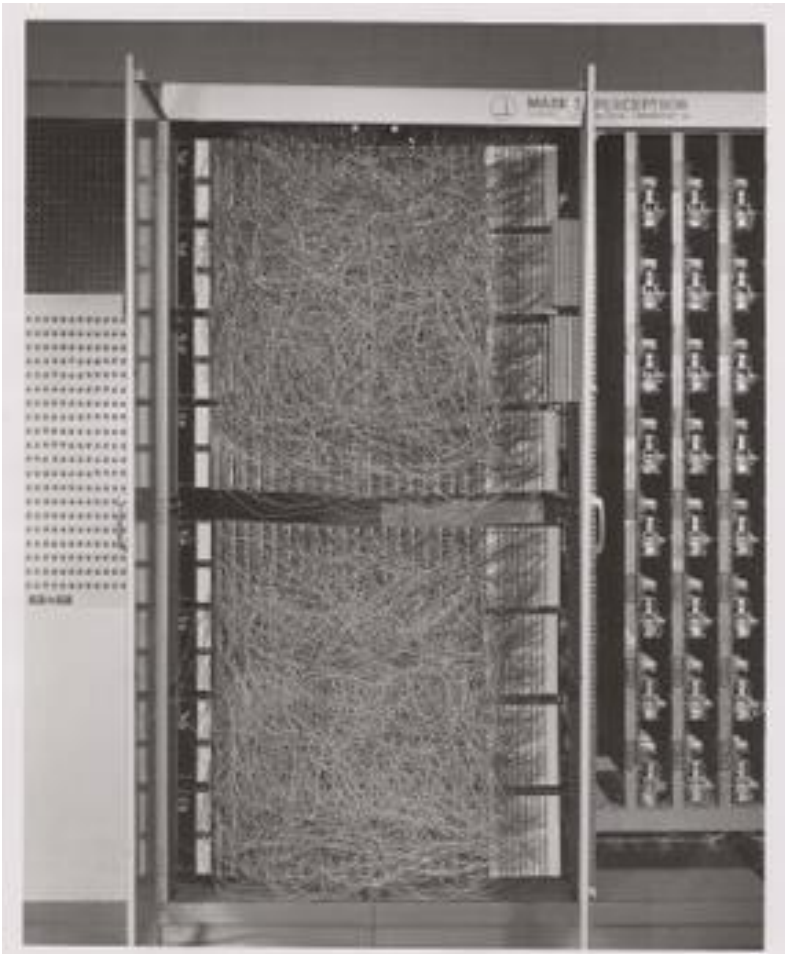
Wikipedia

Initial enthusiasm

Psychological Review
Vol. 65, No. 6, 1958

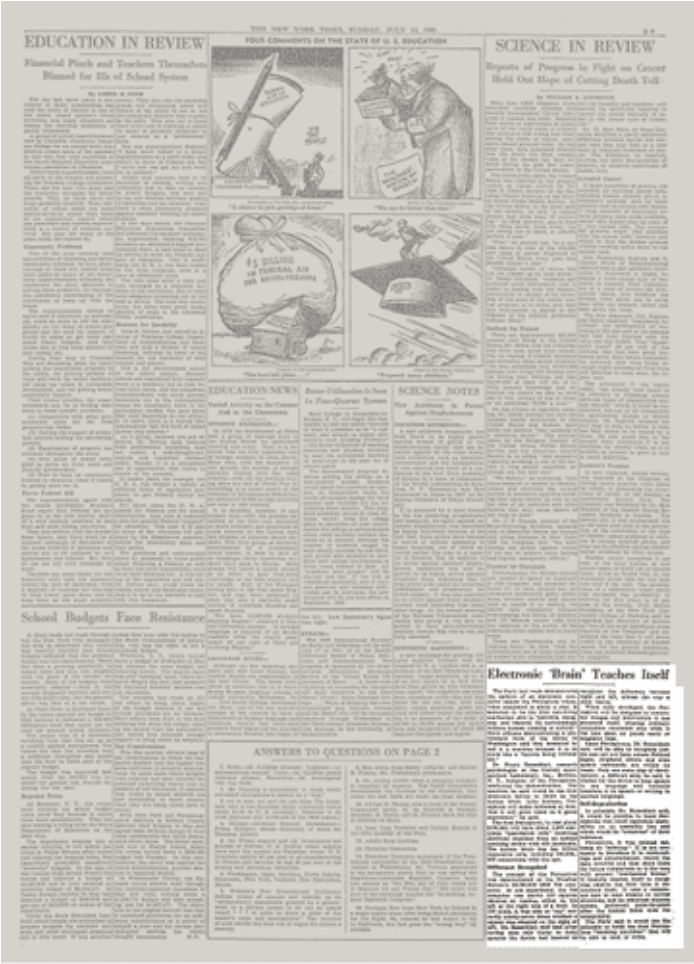
THE PERCEPTRON: A PROBABILISTIC MODEL FOR INFORMATION STORAGE AND ORGANIZATION IN THE BRAIN¹

F. ROSENBLATT
Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory



The New York Times 13/07/1958:

"The Navy last week demonstrated the embryo of an electronic computer named the Perceptron which, when completed in about a year, is expected to be the first non-living mechanism able to "perceive, recognize and identify its surroundings without human training or control."



Problem: linear separation only

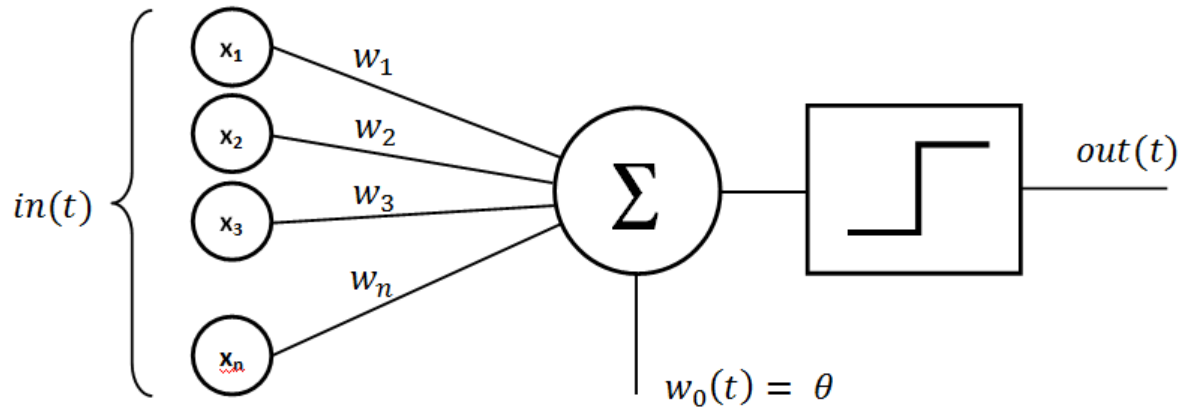
INFORMATION AND CONTROL 17, 501–522 (1970)

A Review of “Perceptrons: An Introduction to Computational Geometry”

by Marvin Minsky and Seymour Papert.

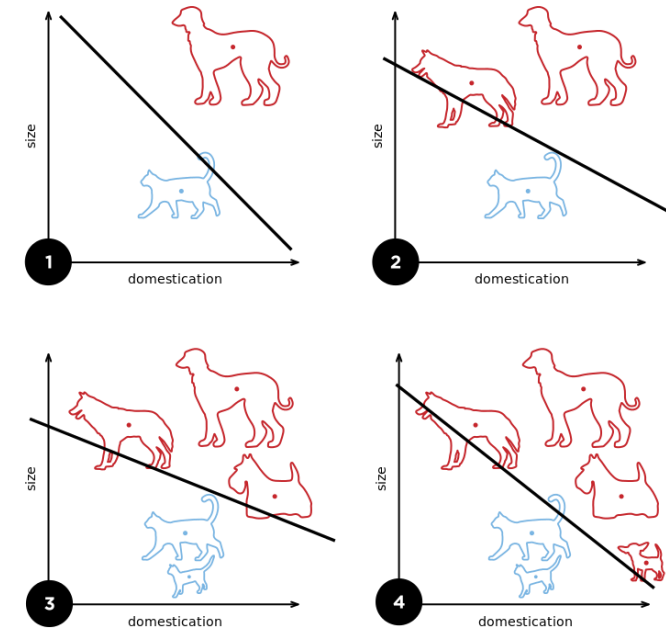
The M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1969.

112 pages. Price: Hardcover \$12.00; Paperback \$4.95.

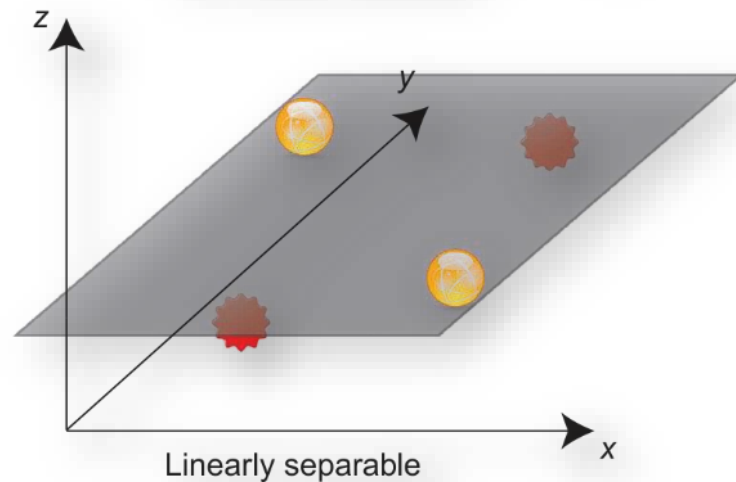
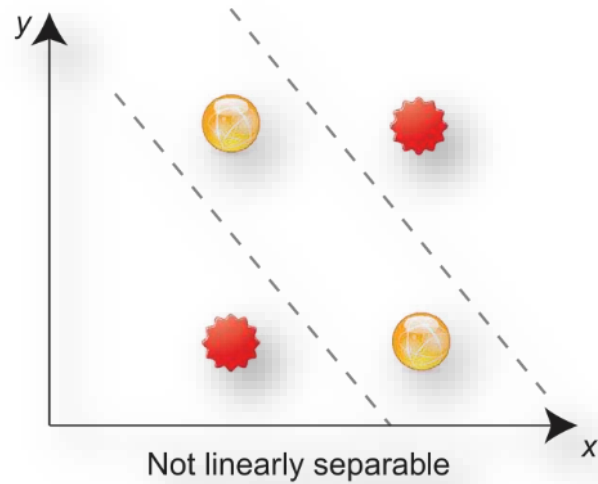


Wikipedia

Single Perceptrons cannot solve the XOR problem or separate linearly-non separable classes



The basics: why the perceptron failed the XOR



Covers theorem:

*"A complex (pattern-)classification problem, cast in a high-dimensional space **nonlinearly**, is more likely to be linearly separable than in a low-dimensional space, **provided that the space is not densely populated.**"*

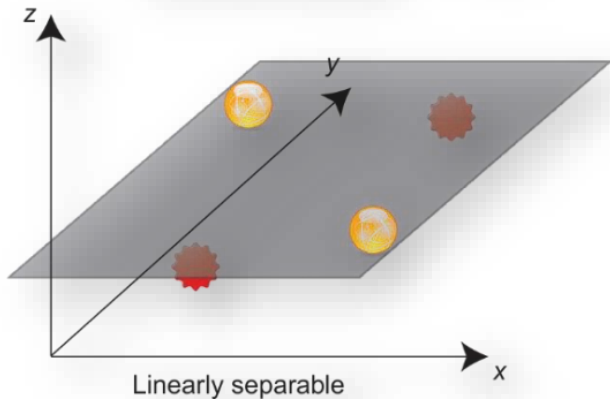
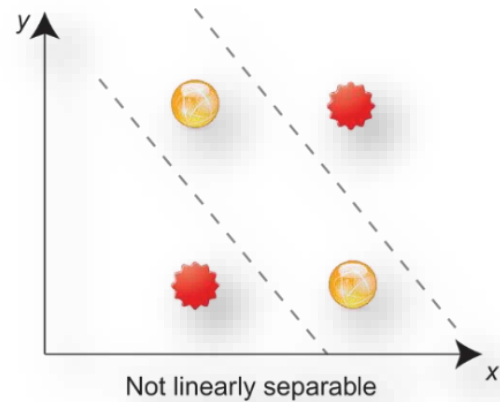
Appeltant et al., Nat. Commun. **2**, 468 (2011).

Dimensionality and nonlinearity

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ -2 & -3 & 1 \\ 3 & 5 & 0 \end{bmatrix} &\xrightarrow{2R_1+R_2 \rightarrow R_2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 5 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-3R_1+R_3 \rightarrow R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & -1 & -3 \end{bmatrix} \\ &\xrightarrow{R_2+R_3 \rightarrow R_3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{-2R_2+R_1 \rightarrow R_1} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & -5 \\ 0 & 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{y}(n) = f[\mathbf{W}\mathbf{x}(n) + \mathbf{b}]$$

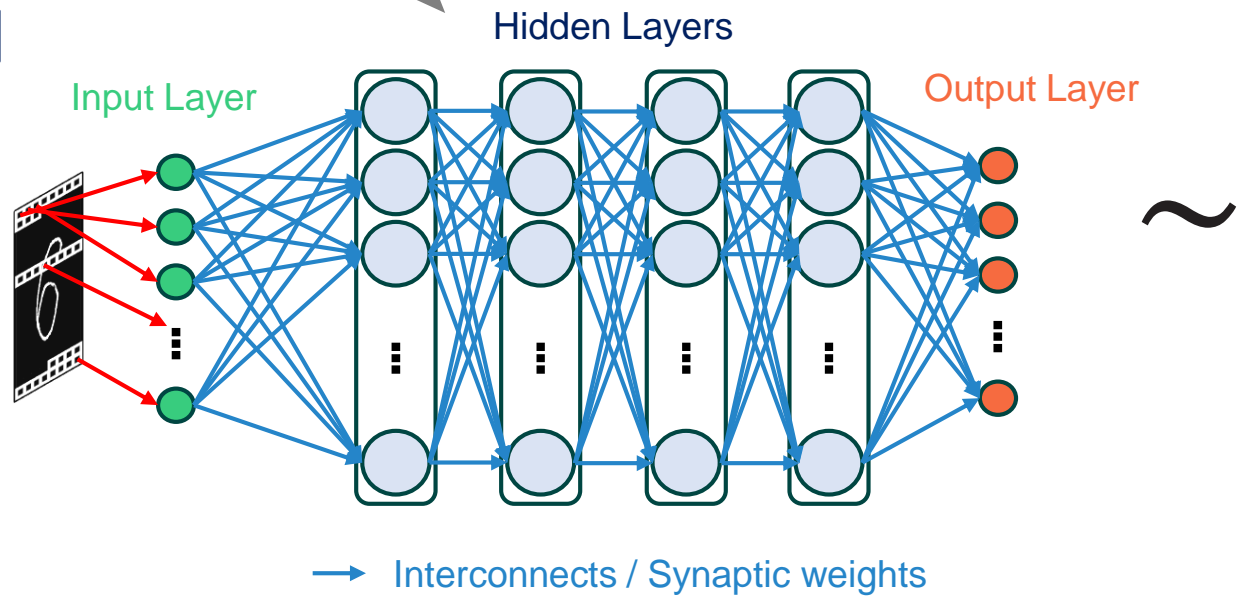
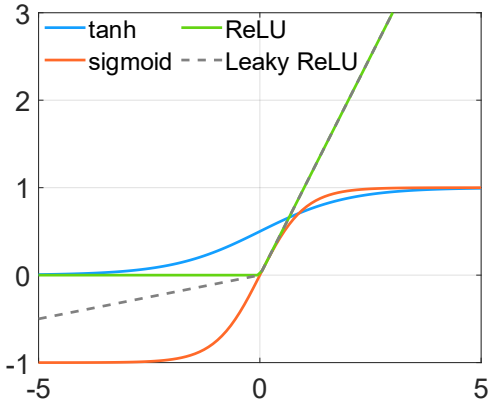
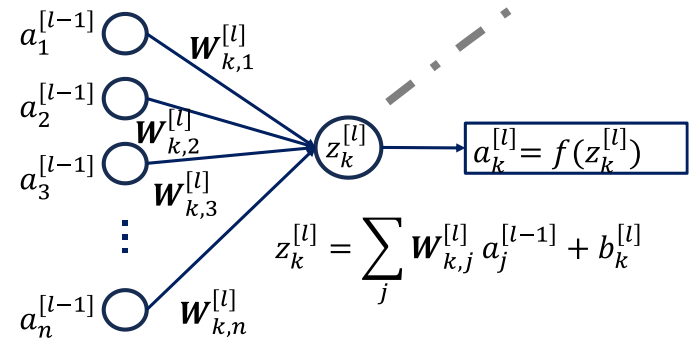
- Collect set $\mathbf{y}(n)$ for $\mathbf{x}(n), n \in [1 \dots N]$, where N is number of examples
 - $\mathbf{x}(n) \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times L}$
 - $\mathbf{y}(n) \in \mathbb{R}^{1 \times M}$
 - Lets assume : $L \ll M$
 - Append all $\mathbf{x}(n)$ and $\mathbf{y}(n)$ to $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times L}$ and $\mathbf{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times M}$
- Dimensions in vector space
 - scalar product between vectors is zero: orthogonal
 - Linear independent vectors are not parallel
 - Of a matrix: rank of matrix
 - Without nonlinearity: rank of \mathbf{X} is rank of \mathbf{Y} is L .



➤ **Why nonlinearity is essential: dimensionality expansion**

WHAT IS A NEURAL NETWORK?

Why The interest in Neural Networks in the first place ?










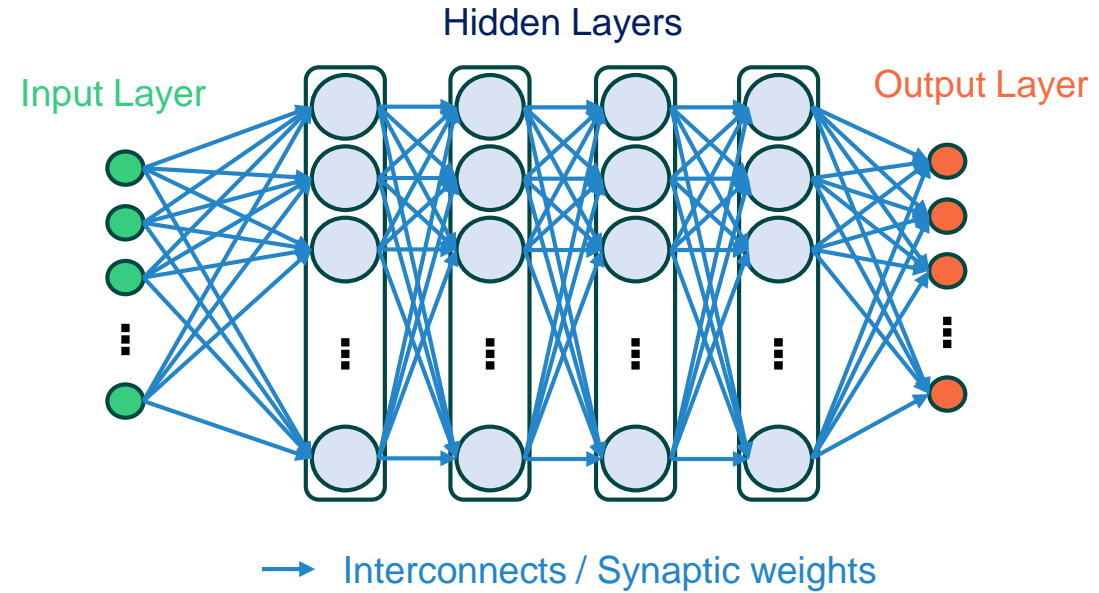
Nonlinearity and **depth** allow for more complex information processing.

HOW DOES A NEURAL NETWORK LEARN?

Example : [MNIST Dataset](#)

Input images Labels / Target

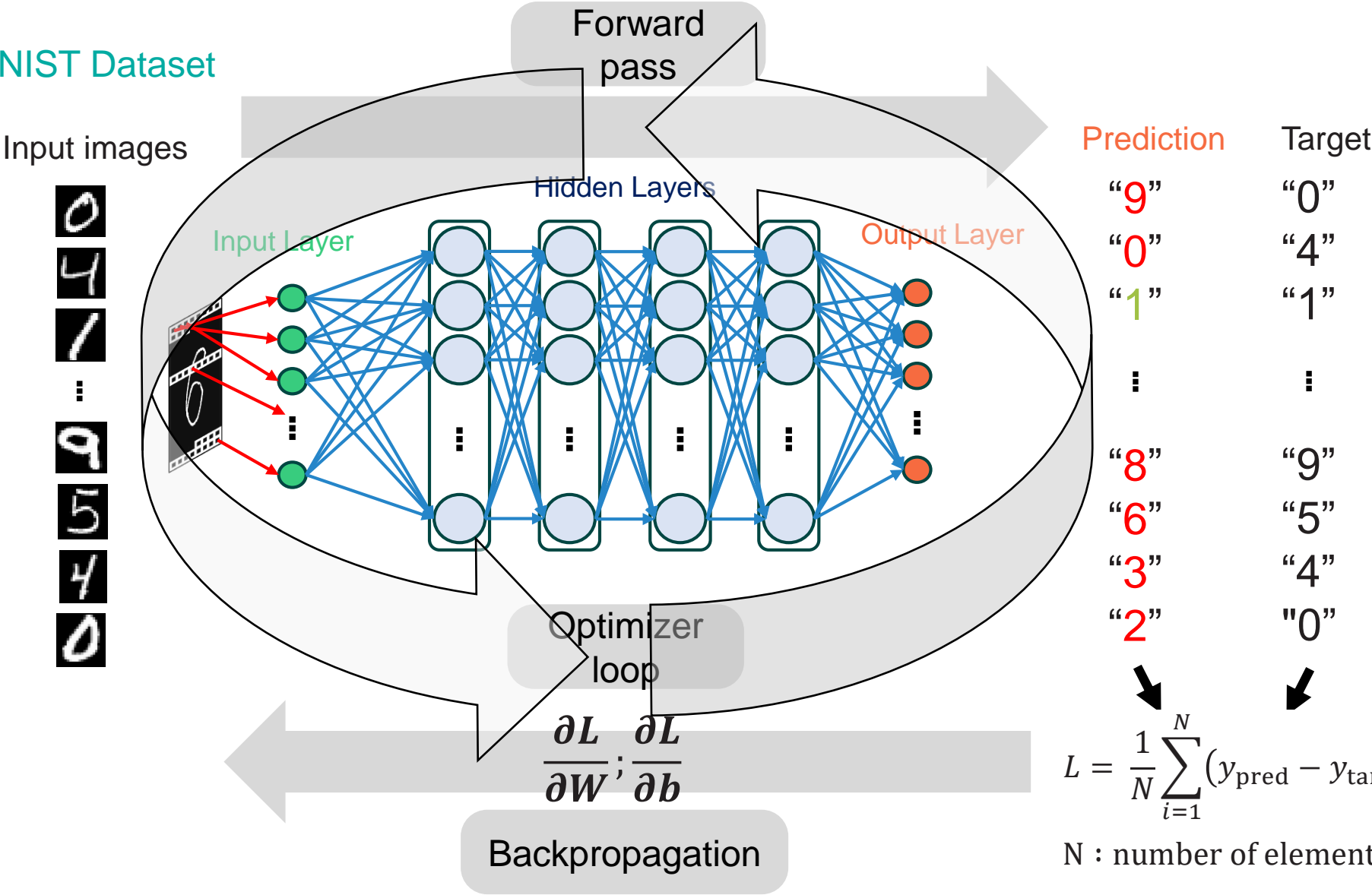
	"0"
	"4"
	"1"
⋮	⋮
	"9"
	"5"
	"4"
	"0"



60 000 images with corresponding labels: supervised learning.

HOW DOES A NEURAL NETWORK LEARN?

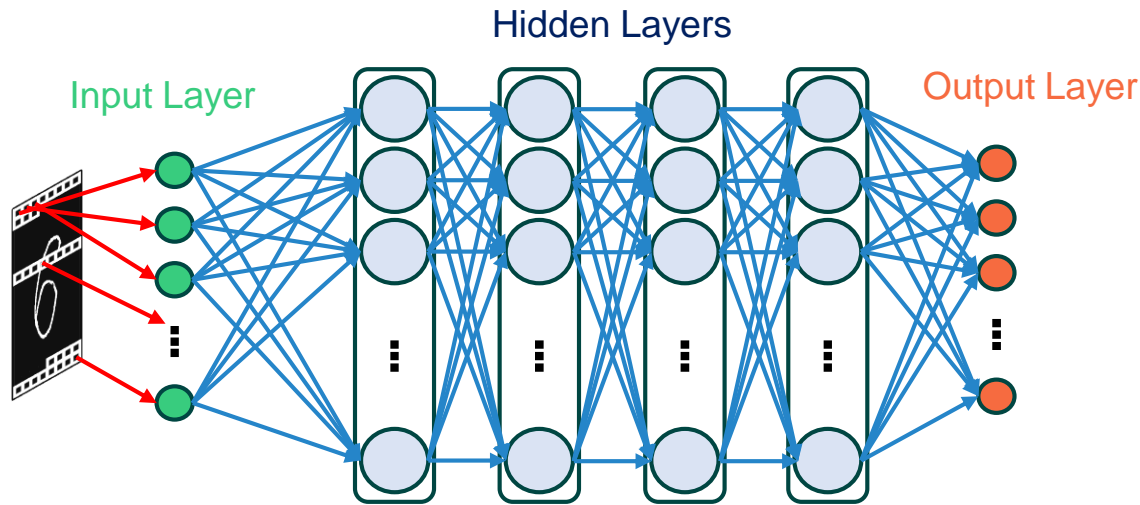
Example : MNIST Dataset



HOW DOES A NEURAL NETWORK LEARN?

Example : MNIST Dataset

Input images



Prediction

"0"
"4"
"1"
:
"9"
"6"
"4"
"0"

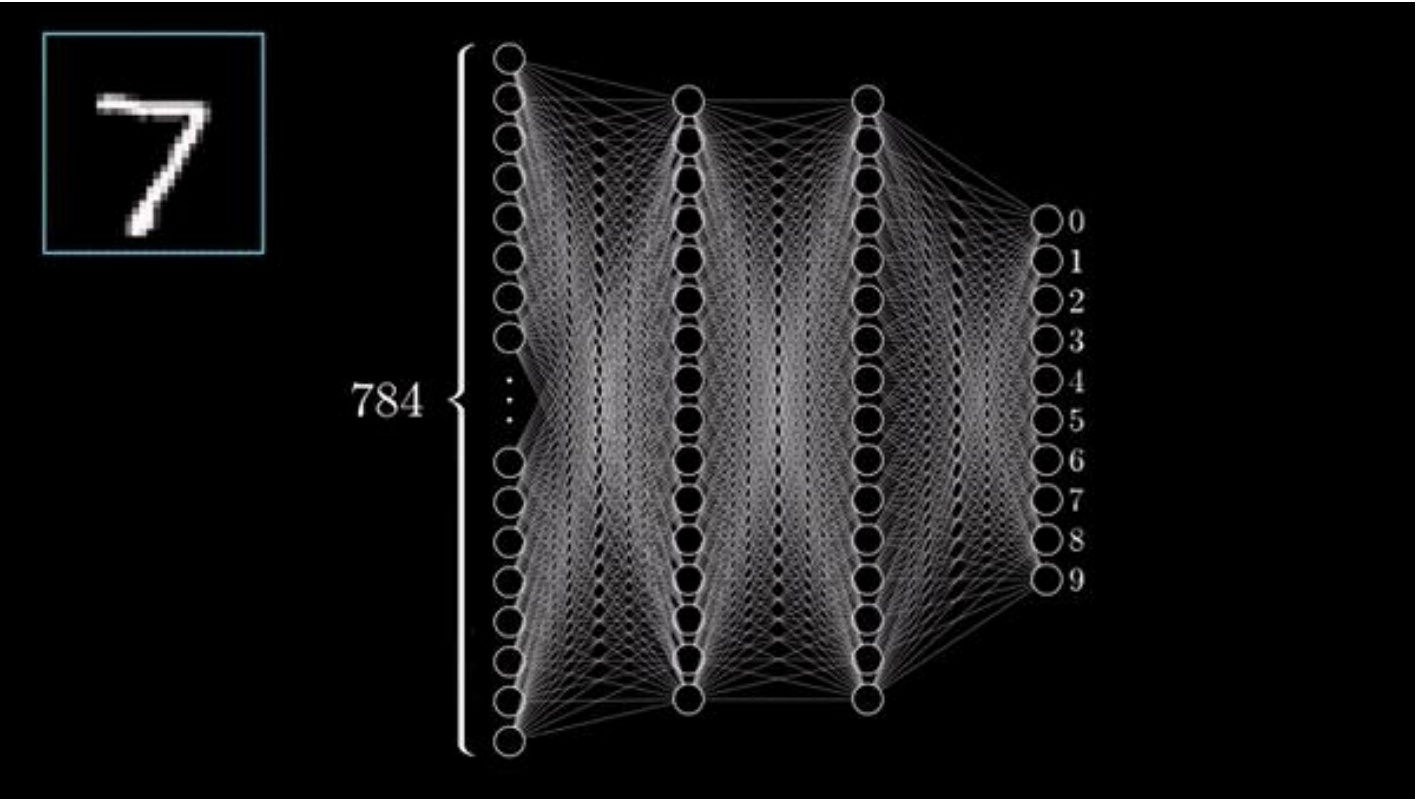
Labels

"0"
"4"
"1"
:
"9"
"5"
"4"
"0"

To ensure **generalization** the **NN** is **tested** on **unseen data**.

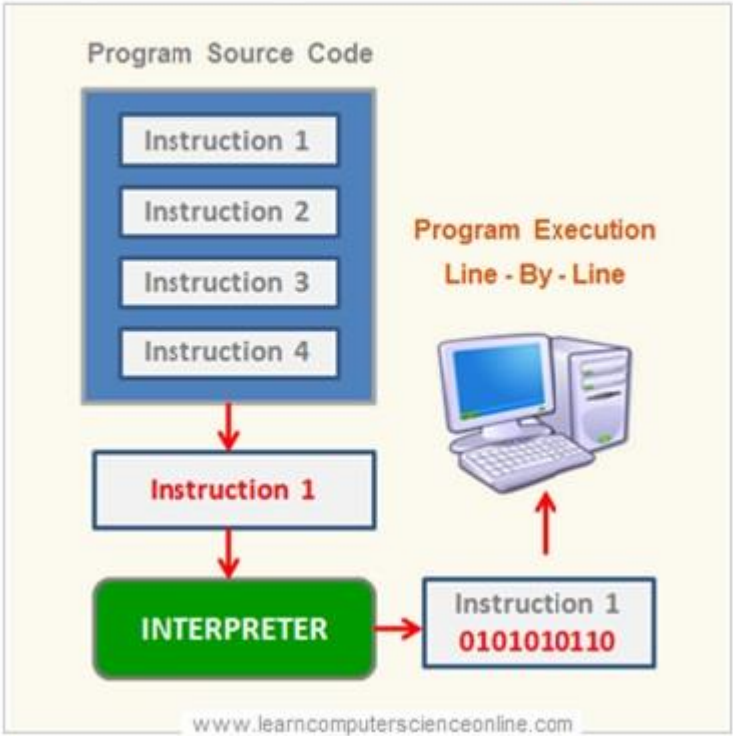
NN structure **embodies** the **task** we want to perform.

Parallel Computing = propagation of information through the **NN**.



≠

Program Compilation - Interpreter



3Blue1Brown: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHZwWFHWa-w&t=1087s>

NNs are an inherently **connectionist approach to computing**.

NNs are **universal function approximators**, with a NN that is **big enough and lots of data you can fit anything**.

Analog computing

Analog

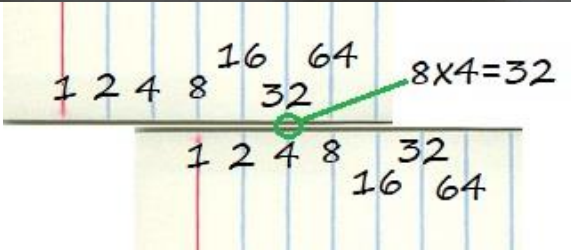
Process **continuous** values using physical quantities (voltages, currents, rotations, etc.)



Tracks Sun and Moon, predicts solar and lunar eclipses, shows the phases of the Moon, follows the calendar (including leap years).



Telling time, finding position, position of stars at any given time.

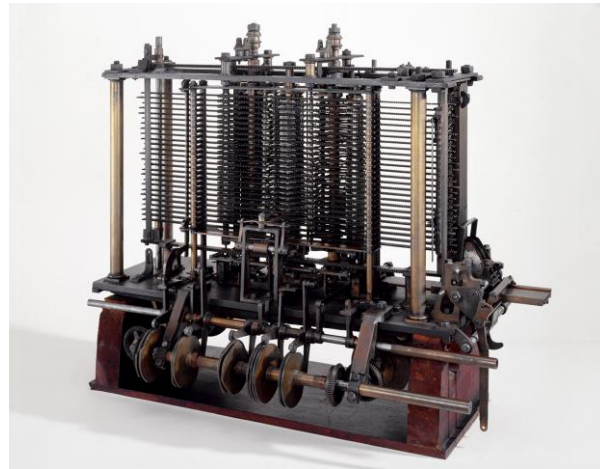


Digital

Process **discrete** values typically binary (0s and 1s).



Pascaline



Babbage analyzer



Abaccus

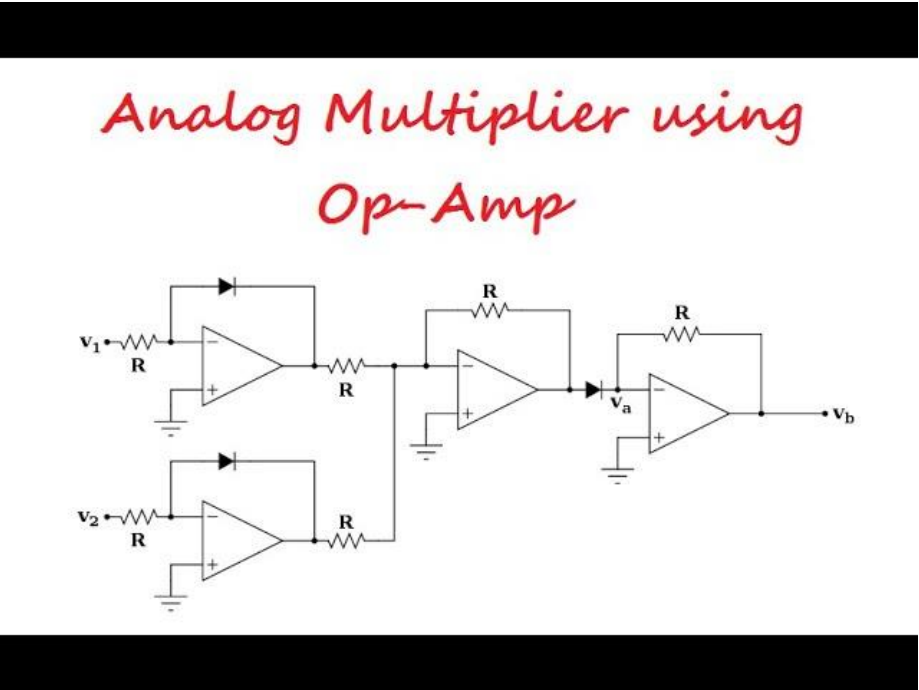
Early digital computers are mostly calculators.

ANALOG SUPREMACY?

Analog

Process **continuous** values using physical quantities (voltages, currents, rotations, etc.)

Analog:

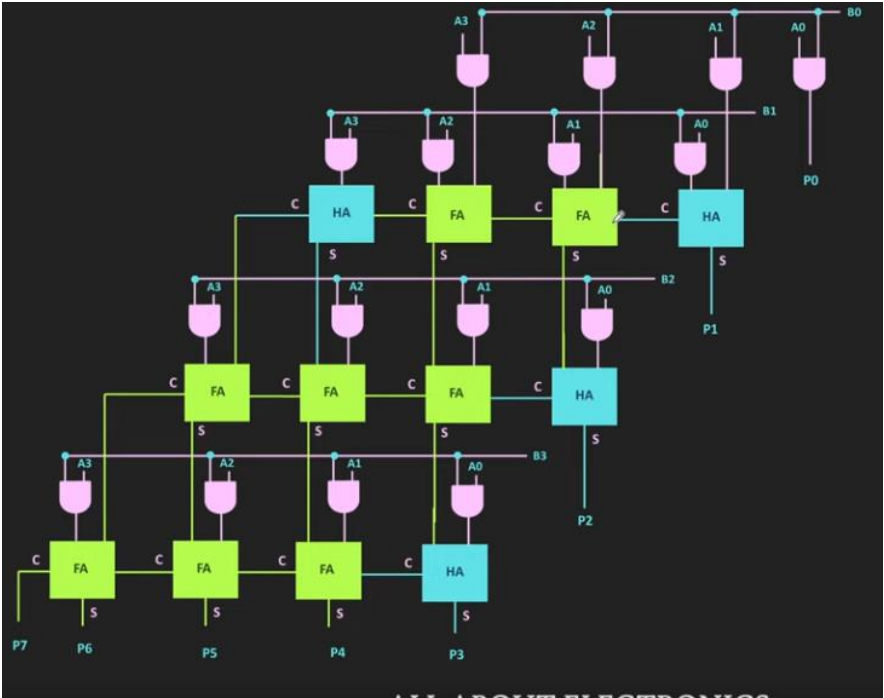


Elevate electronics with Neha @youtube



Roughly 100 transistors

Digital (ex 4 bit):



All about electronics @youtube

Roughly 2000 transistors for 8-bit only



How do you multiply 2 numbers in a simpler way using electronics?



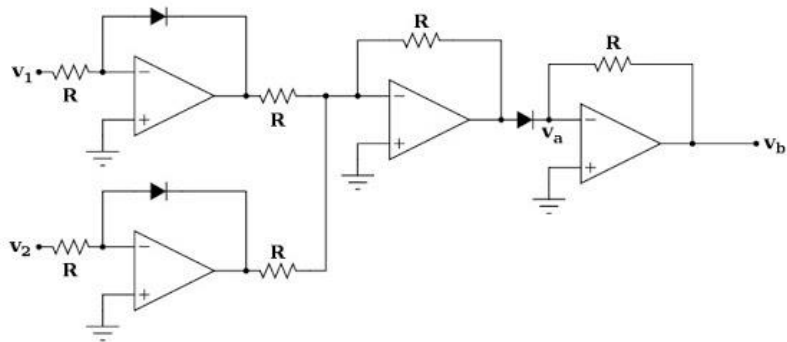
Analog

Process **continuous** values using physical quantities (voltages, currents, rotations, etc.)

Analog:



*Analog Multiplier using
Op-Amp*



Elevate electronics with Neha @youtube



Roughly 100 transistors

Much simpler way of multiplying 2 numbers (we don't especially care to encode them specifically in voltages):

Ohm's Law:



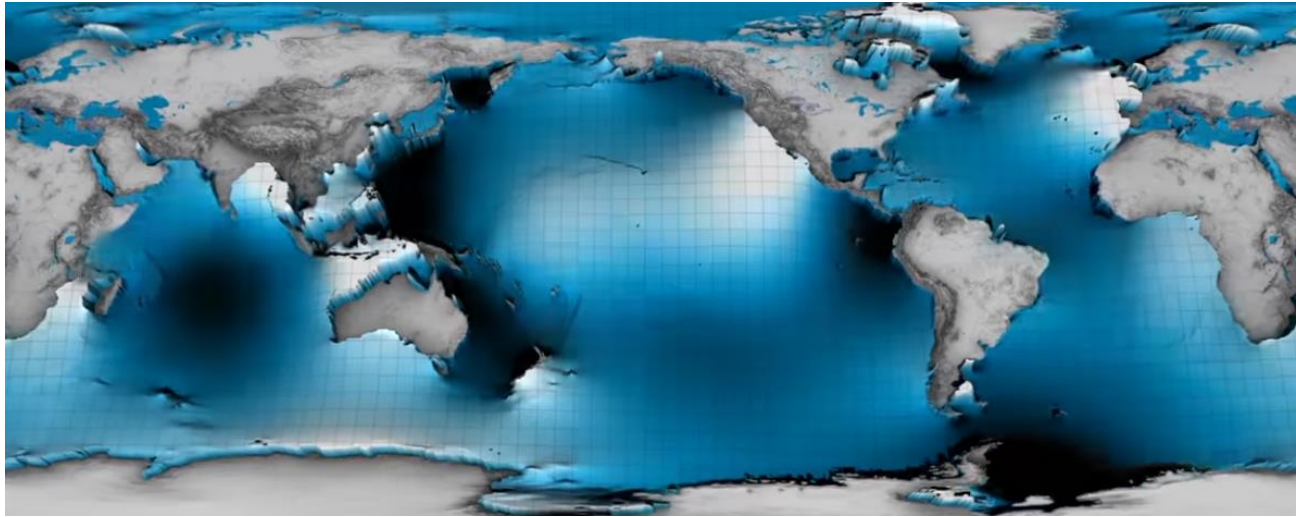
@Wikipedia

- 1. Choose a resistor
- 2. Apply a voltage
- 3. Measure current is $I = V/R = V \cdot G$
- 4. Variable resistor and power supply!

ANALOG SUPREMACY?

Problem : Predicting the tides

Timing as well as magnitude variation

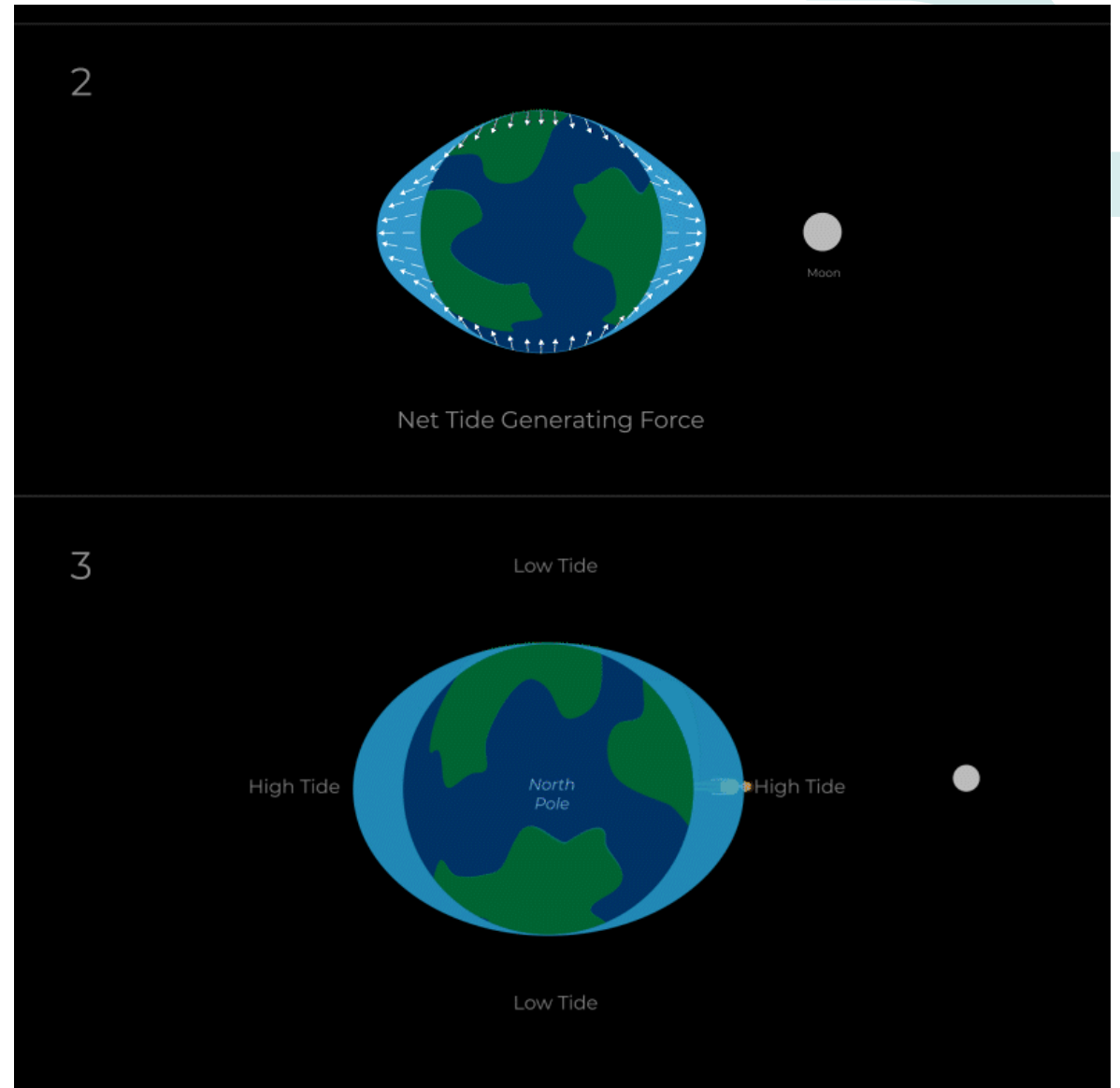


@Veritasium youtube

Problem : Predicting the tides



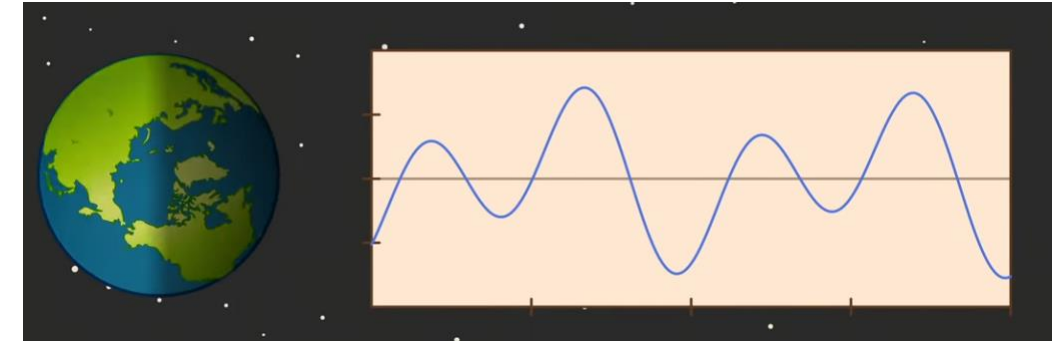
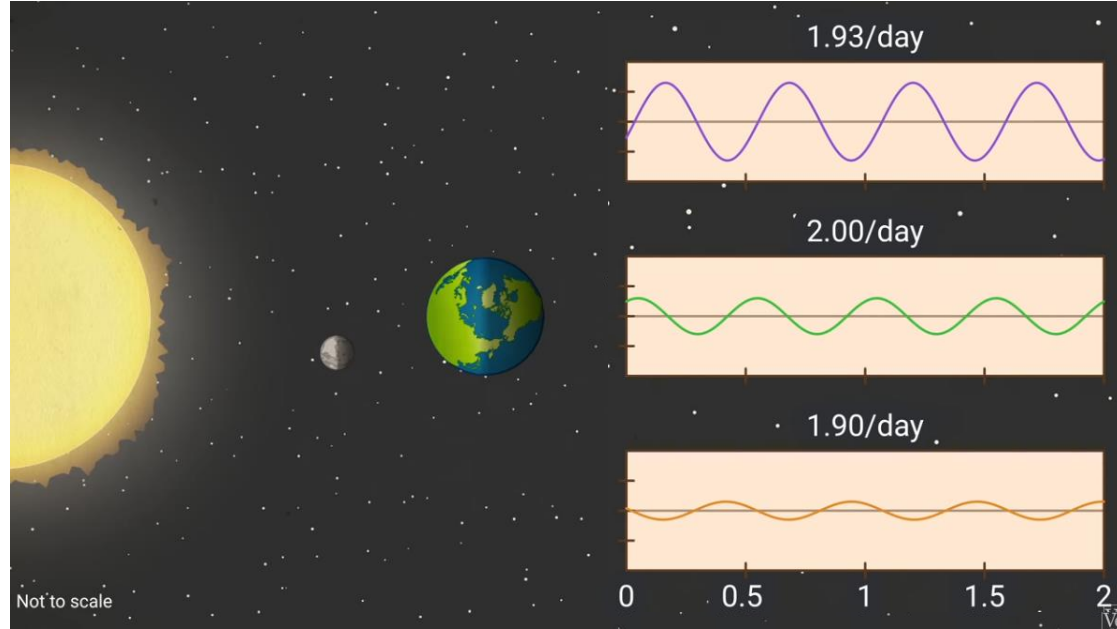
Laplace found that tides are driven by a few specific astronomical frequencies



Problem : Predicting the tides



Laplace found that tides are driven by a few specific astronomical frequencies:

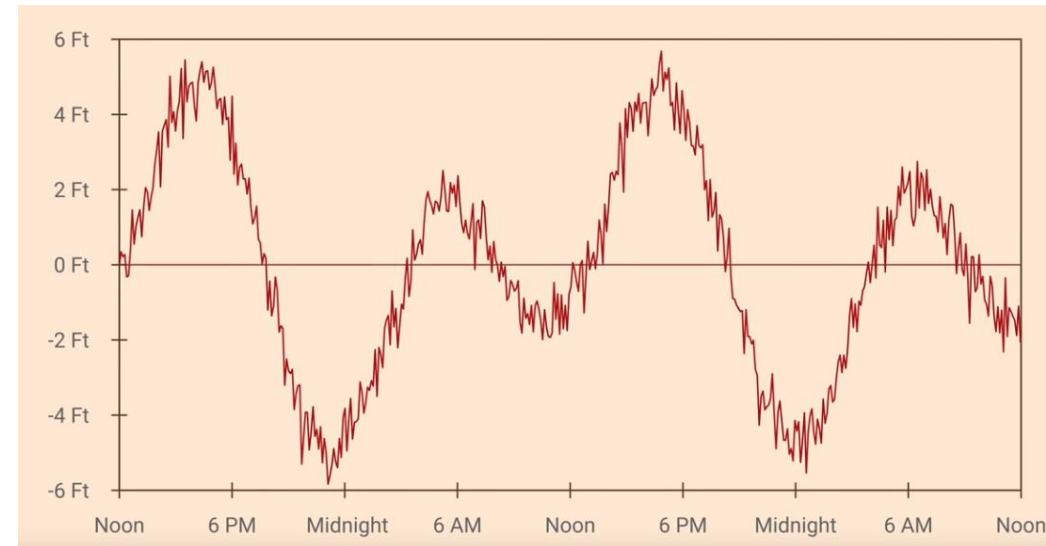
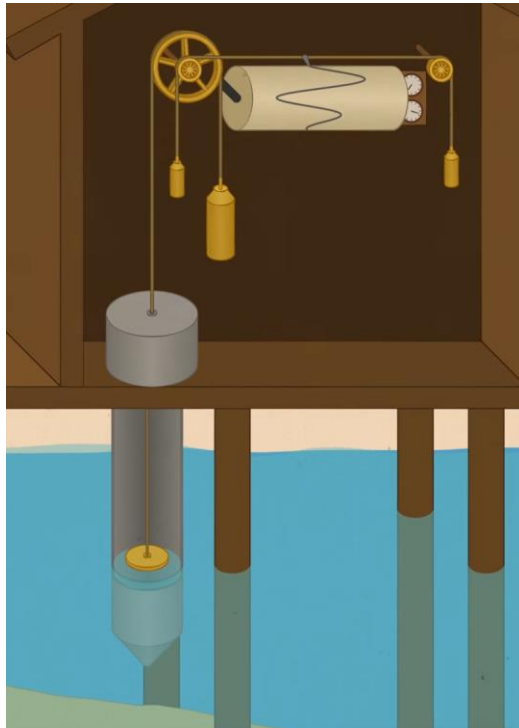


@Veritasium youtube

Problem : Predicting the tides



First: record the tide using a tide gauge.

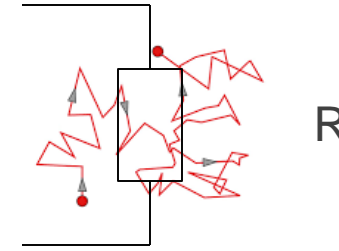


@Veritasium youtube

But, why digital was successful: physical limit to precision

Switching an electronic signal line:

- Charging wire: $E = CV^2$
 - $C/m = 1.5 \text{ pF/cm}$
- Mean square thermal noise: $V_N = \sqrt{4k_b TBR}$
 - $k_b = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$, $B=1 \text{ GHz}$, $R=1 \text{ M}\Omega$, $T=300 \text{ K}$
 - $V_N=4 \text{ mV}$

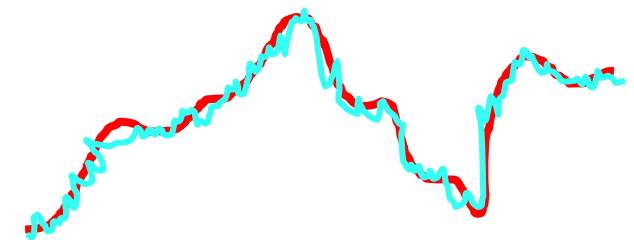


Noise in digital signal:

- Digital sequence:
 - $D_N D_{N-1} \cdots D_1 D_0$
 - Noise will corrupt each of the digits with equal probability
 - $\bar{D}_N D_{N-1} \cdots D_1 D_0$
- Noise exceeding digitization threshold is unacceptable

Noise in analog signal:

- Signal comprises noise less amplitude
- Noise is additive or multiplicative
- Always of scale unity for an normalized signal strength



Physical limit to precision: Energy / Power

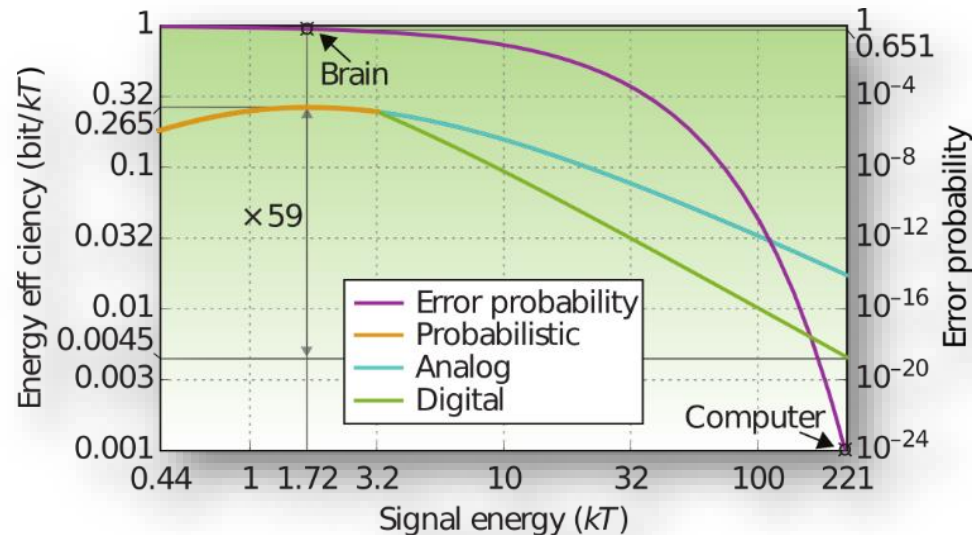
Thermodynamic limits:

- Low pass circuit: $\text{SNR} = \sqrt{E/kT}$
- $kT(@RT) = 4 \cdot 10^{-21} \text{ J}$
- For 8 bit: $E = 255^2 \cdot kT \approx 0.3 \text{ fJ}$

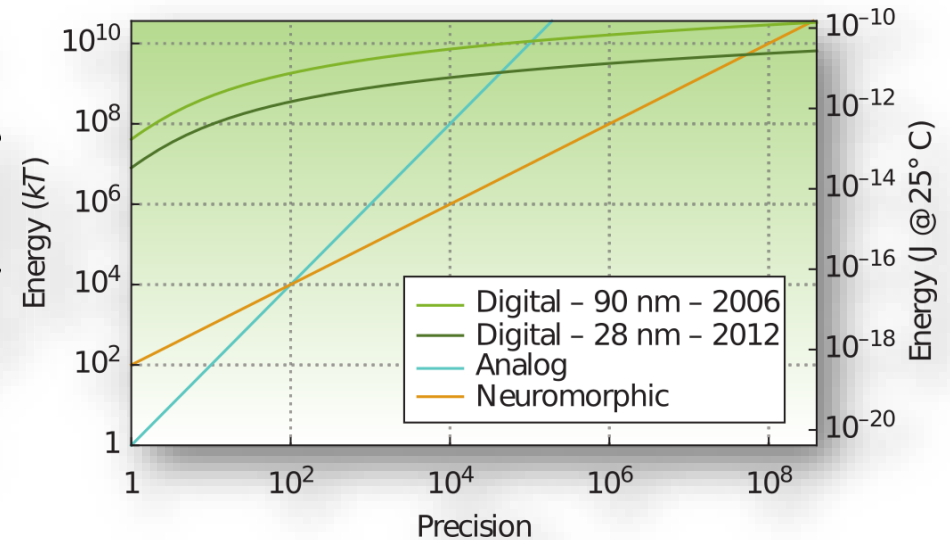
Linked to devices:

- Limit for signal @1 GHz: $P \approx 0.3 \mu\text{W}$
- Detection: $\text{NEP} \approx 0.4 \frac{\text{pW}}{\sqrt{\text{Hz}}}$, @1 GHz $\approx 10 \text{ nW}$
- For 1 GHz: $\text{PEN} \cdot 255 \approx 3 \mu\text{W}$

➤ **ONLY x10**

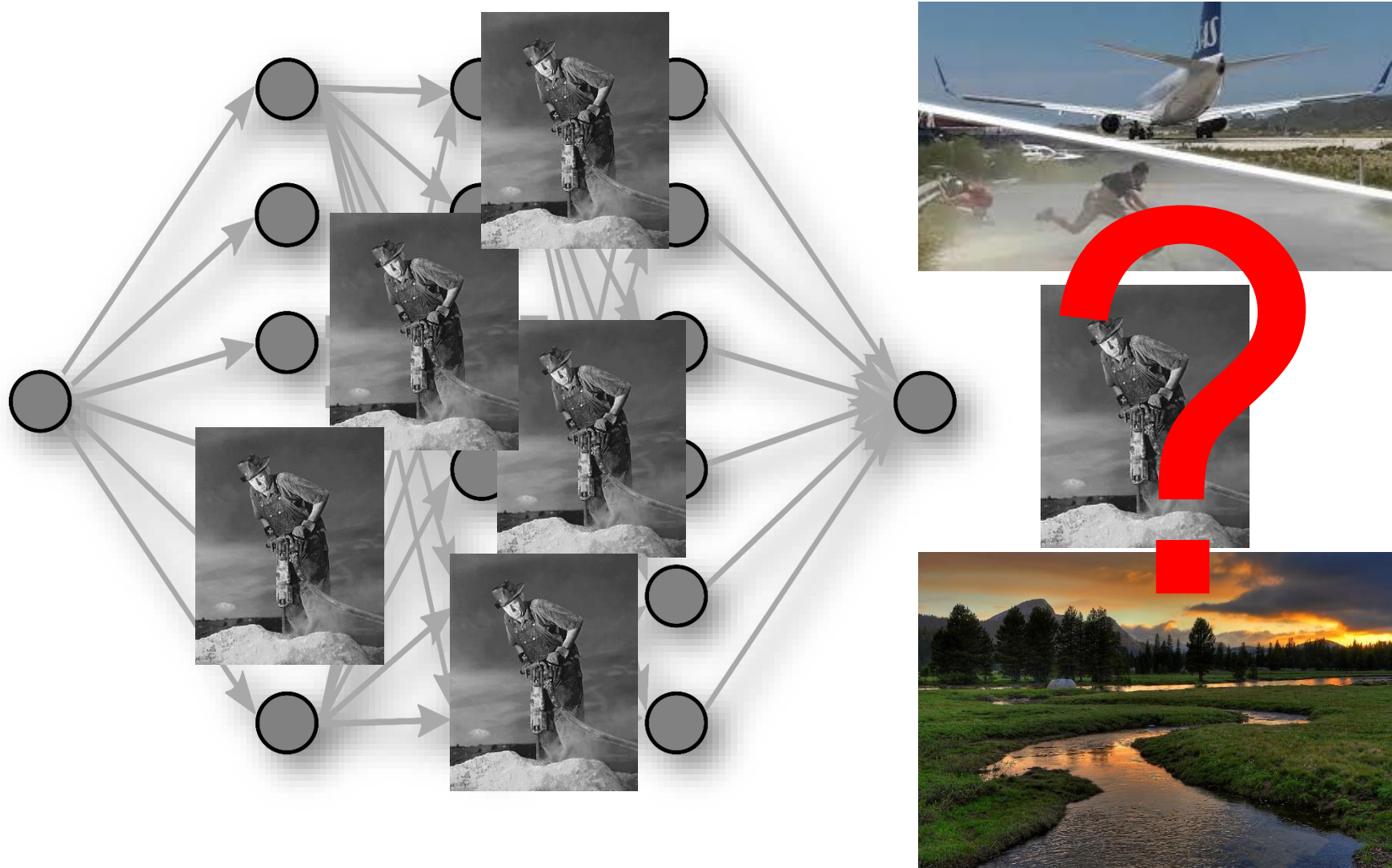


Boahen, Computing in Science & Engineering 2017.

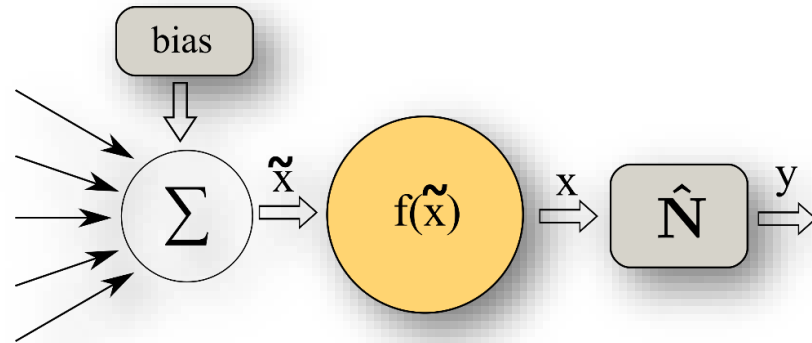


- Approach SNR limit within an order of magnitude
- For low precision analog is clearly superior
- Digital NN hardware: approaching few-bit precision(!!!???)

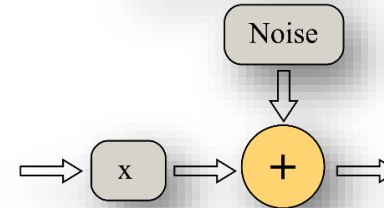
Analog NNs: amplify, unitary or damp noise?



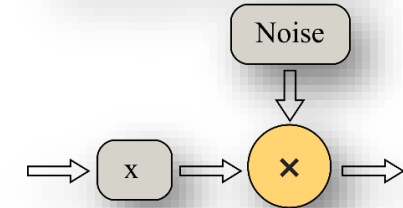
Noisy neurons inside networks



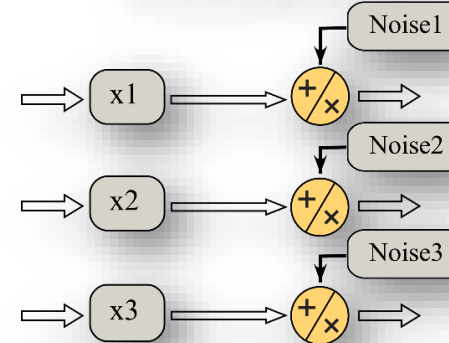
Additive noise:



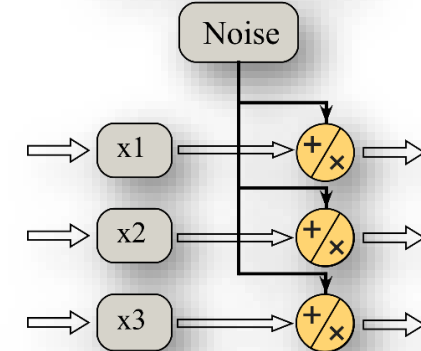
Multiplicative noise:



Uncorrelated noise:



Correlated noise:

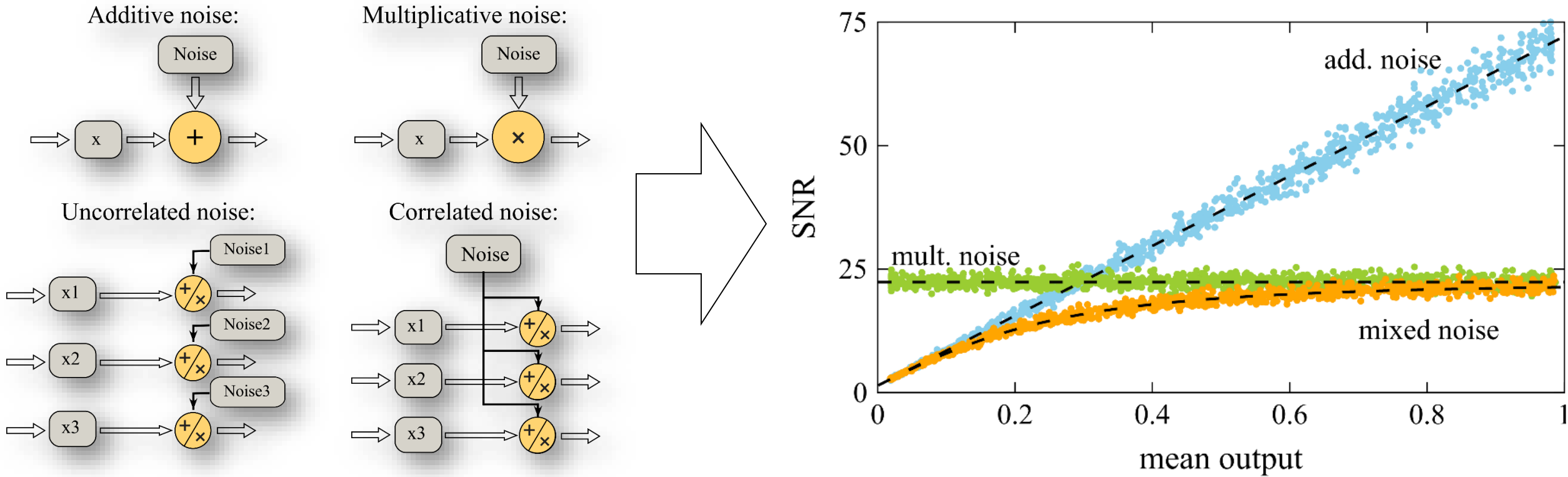


$$\text{Signal to noise ratio SNR} = \frac{E(y_{n,i}^t)}{(\text{Var}(y_{n,i}^t))^{1/2}}$$

Semenova , et al., Chaos 29, 103128 (2019).

Semenova, Larger, Brunner, Neural Networks 146, 151 (2022).

Single neuron: linear AND nonlinear



Semenova , et al., Chaos 29, 103128 (2019).

What influences noise propagation?

Noise propagation and accumulation is greatly influenced by the squared mean

$$\mu^2(\mathbf{W}^n) = \left(\frac{1}{I_n I_{n+1}} \sum_{i,j} W_{i,j}^n \right)^2 \quad (4)$$

and the mean of the square

$$\eta(\mathbf{W}^n) = \frac{1}{I_n I_{n+1}} \sum_{i,j} (W_{i,j}^n)^2 \quad (5)$$

of connection matrix \mathbf{W}^n . A hidden layer's noise-induced variance is determined by, both, noise in the current as well as by noise coming from previous layers. The impact of correlated noise in the current layer scales according to

$$I_n^2 \cdot \mu^2(\mathbf{W}^n), \quad (6)$$

while the impact of uncorrelated noise *and* the noise from the previous layer scales according to

$$I_n \cdot \eta(\mathbf{W}^n), \quad (7)$$

Variance $\text{Var}(\tilde{x}_{n,i}^t)$ is the average noise impact from the previous layer $n - 1$ and comprises contributions from correlated noise N_n^C , uncorrelated noise N_n^U and noise N_n^{prev} from the layer preceding the previous one

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\tilde{x}_{n,i}^t) &= N_n^C + N_n^U + N_n^{\text{prev}} \\ N_n^C &= I_{n-1}^2 \mu^2(\mathbf{W}^n) (2D_A^C + 2D_M^C \mu^2(E(\mathbf{y}_{n-1}))) \\ N_n^U &= I_{n-1} \eta(\mathbf{W}^n) (2D_A^U + 2D_M^U (1 + 2D_M^C) \eta(E(\mathbf{y}_{n-1}))) \\ N_n^{\text{prev}} &= I_{n-1}^2 \mu^2(\mathbf{W}^n) \left(1 + 2D_M^U \cdot \frac{\eta(\mathbf{W}^n)}{I_{n-1} \mu^2(\mathbf{W}^n)} \right) \times \\ &\quad (1 + 2D_M^C) \mu(\hat{\mathbf{F}}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_{n-1}^t)). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

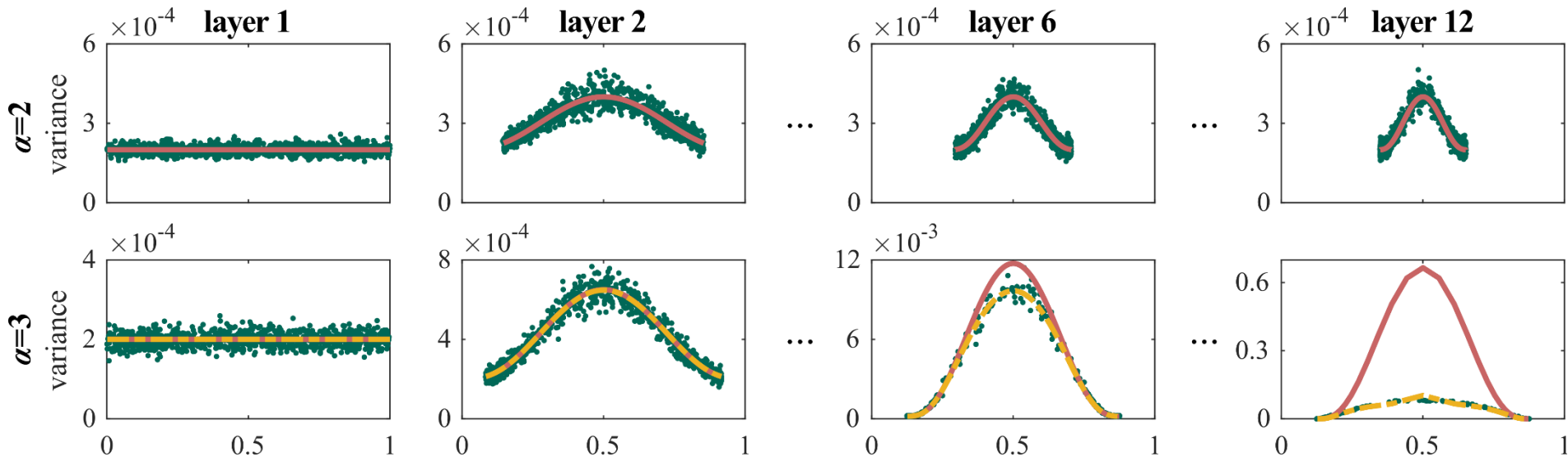
N_n^{prev} includes both, correlated and uncorrelated multiplicative noise, and operator $\hat{\mathbf{F}}$ as the influence of $f(\cdot)$. Eqs. (6) include squares of means $\mu^2(\cdot)$ and the means of squares $\eta(\cdot)$ of matrix \mathbf{W}^n . Depending on the particular type, noise propagation therefore is caused more by the effect of $\mu^2(\cdot)$ and I_{n-1}^2 , or of $\eta(\cdot)$ and I_{n-1} , plus the input signal's mean. Through these, a DNN's

Noise operator for cascaded layers n :

$$S_n = f \left(E \left(\boxed{f^{-1}(y_{n-1}^t)} \right) \right) S_{n-1}$$

Noise accumulation

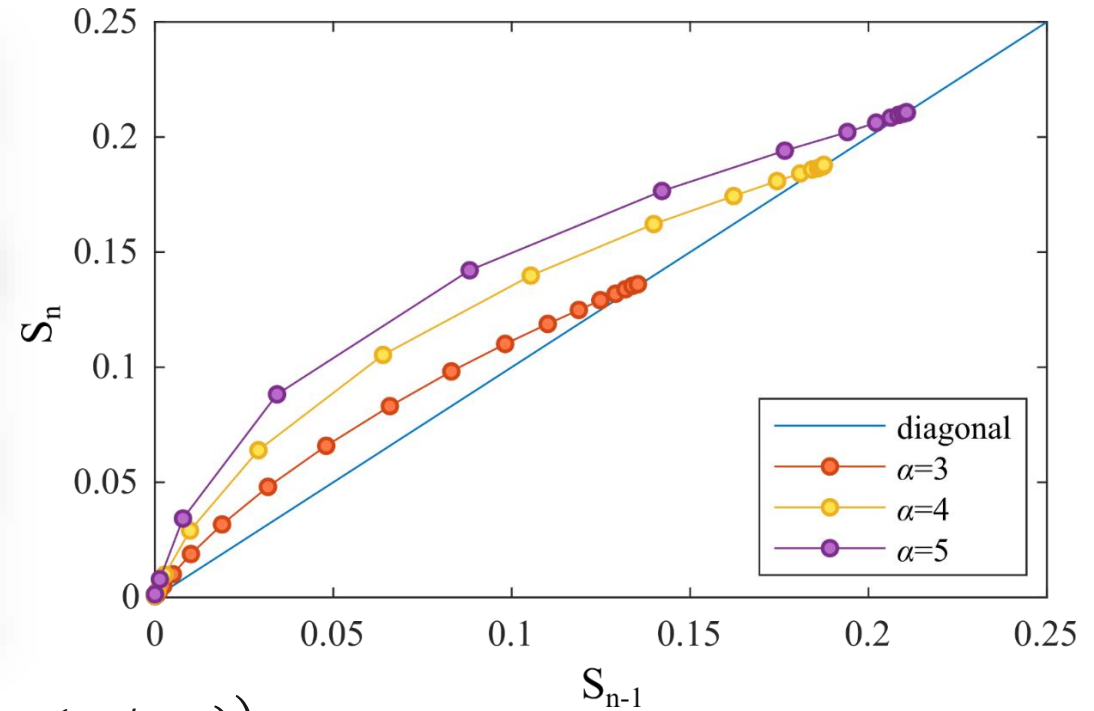
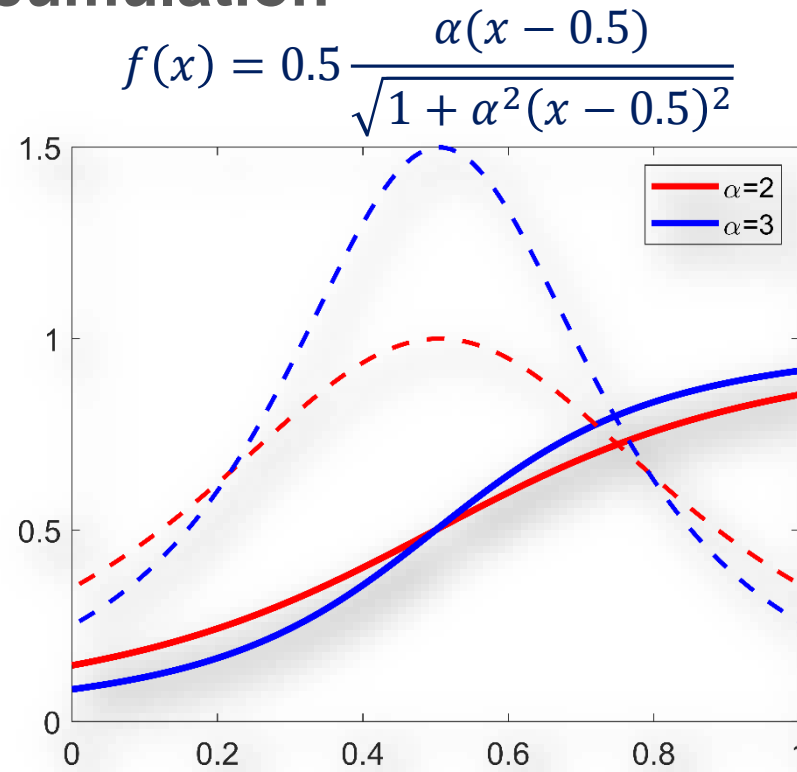
$$f(x) = 0.5 \frac{\alpha(x - 0.5)}{\sqrt{1 + \alpha^2(x - 0.5)^2}}$$



- Noise accumulates only for $\alpha > 2$
- For $\alpha \leq 2$ output noise on level of individual neurons
- For strong nonlinearity: first order approximation fails

Semenova, Larger, Brunner, Neural Networks 146, 151 (2022).

Noise accumulation



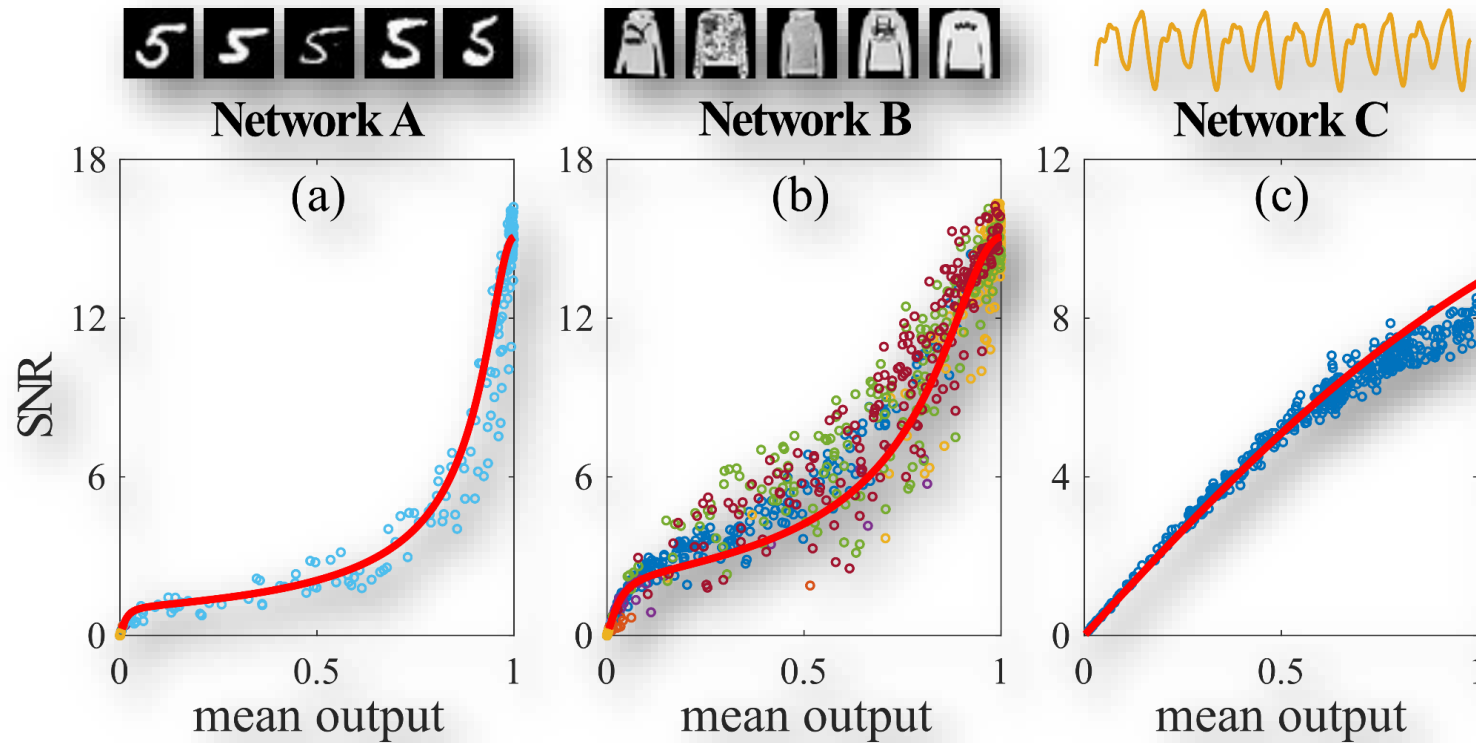
$$S_n = f\left(E(f^{-1}(y_{n-1}^t))\right) S_{n-1}$$

This is a geometric progression: decreasing for $f^{-1}(\cdot) < 1$

- Noise accumulates **generally** bound
- Can be **frozen** for $f^{-1}(\cdot) < 1$

Semenova, Larger, Brunner, Neural Networks 146, 151 (2022).

And what with fully trained DNN?



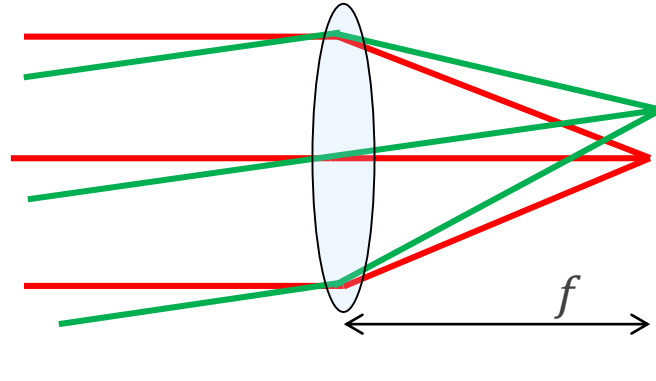
- Trained networks: weight AND state statistics required
- Approximation state statistics: $g(x) = \exp(c_4x^4 + c_3x^3 + c_2x^2 + c_1x)$
- Works very well through all layers

Semenova, Larger, Brunner, Neural Networks 146, 151 (2022).

Optical computing

Classical (linear) optical computing

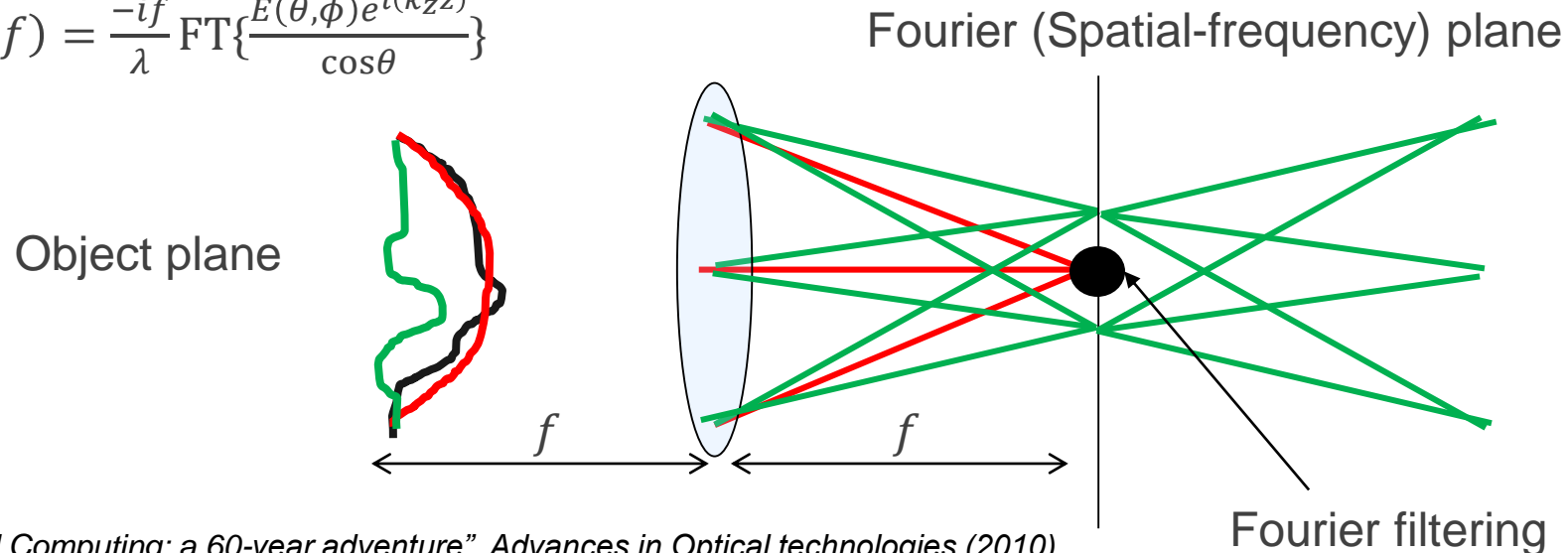
- Lens: focusing



- More precisely: Fourier transform

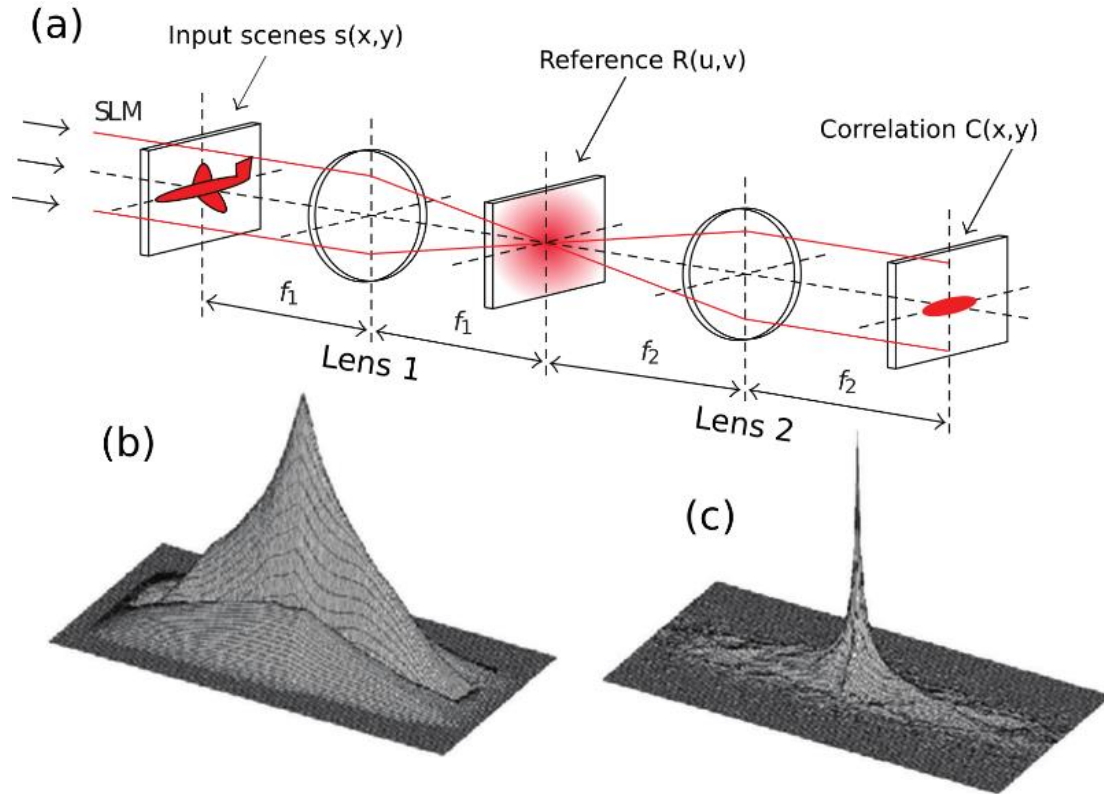
- $E(x, y, f) = \frac{-if}{\lambda} \int_0^\pi \sin \theta \int_0^{2\pi} E(\theta, \phi) e^{i(k_z z - k_x x - k_y y)} d\theta d\phi$

- $E(x, y, f) = \frac{-if}{\lambda} \text{FT} \left\{ \frac{E(\theta, \phi) e^{i(k_z z)}}{\cos \theta} \right\}$



P. Ambs, "Optical Computing: a 60-year adventure", *Advances in Optical technologies* (2010).

Classical (linear) optical computing



- Long history, well established field
- Passive, fully parallel
 - Ultra-high space/bandwidth product (PetaBit/s/cm²)
- But: only linear
- Bulk optics: computer with a microscope objective?

P. Ambs, "Optical Computing: a 60-year adventure", *Advances in Optical technologies* (2010).

Experimental performance of a binary phase-only optical correlator using visual and infrared imagery

S.P. Kozaitis

Florida Institute of Technology, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901-6988

S. Halby and W. Foor

Rome Air Development Center, Photonics Laboratory
Griffiss AFB, NY 13441

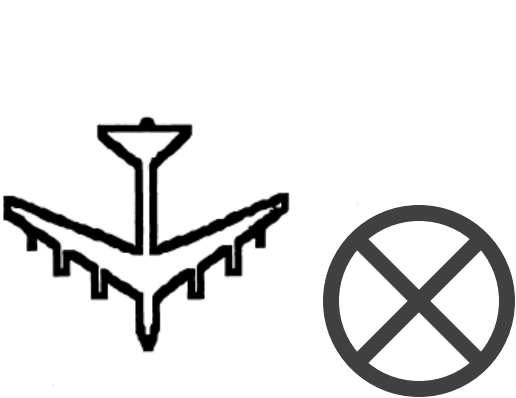


Fig.1 Sample of image in database

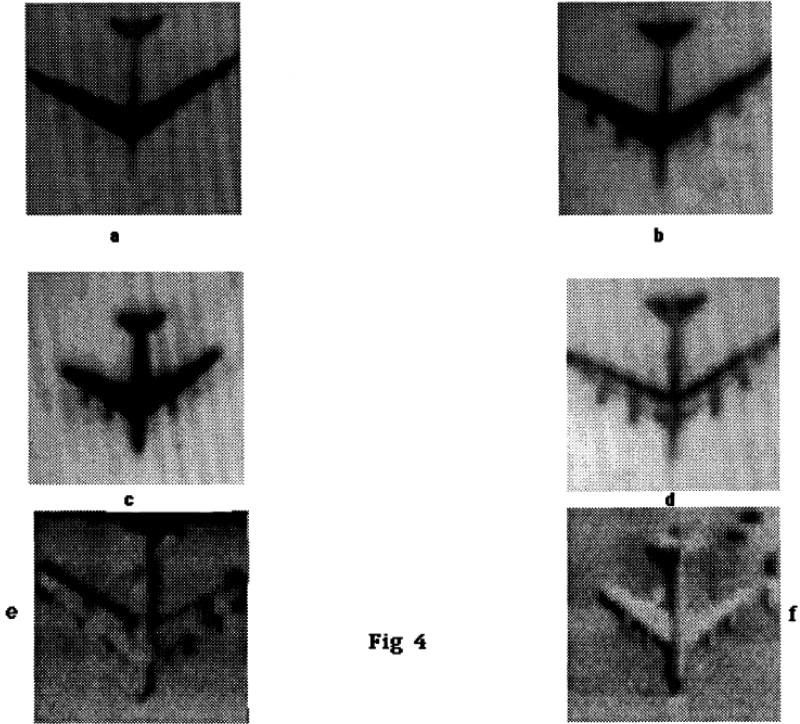


Fig 4

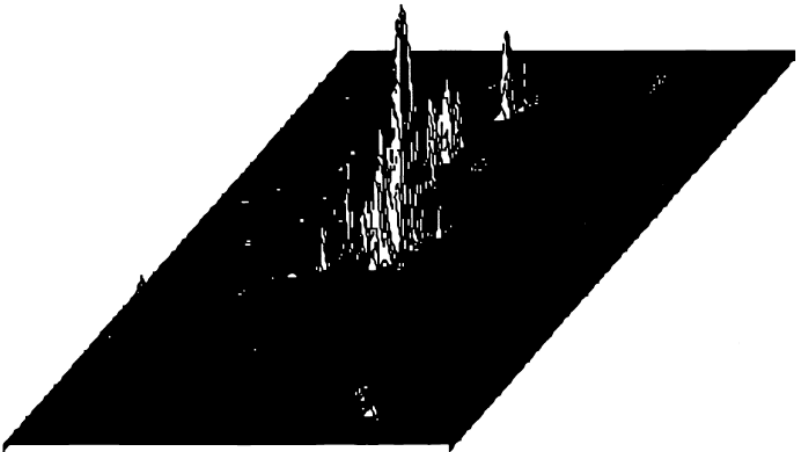


Fig. 5 Experimental correlation results of image in Fig. 4a and filter of Fig. 1

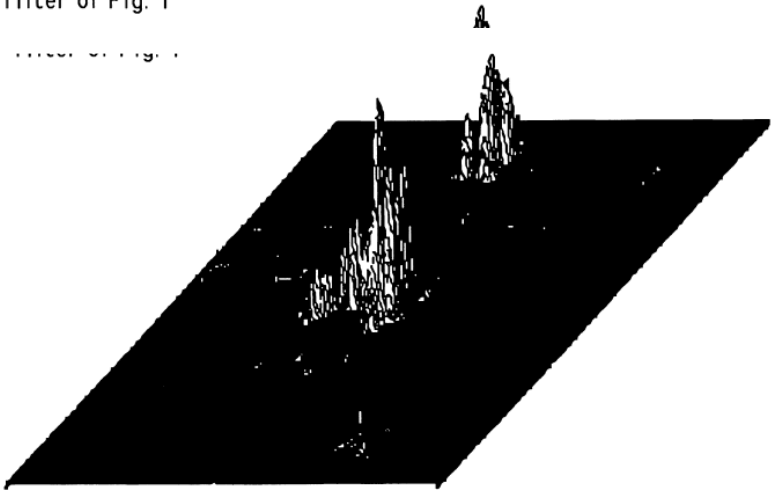
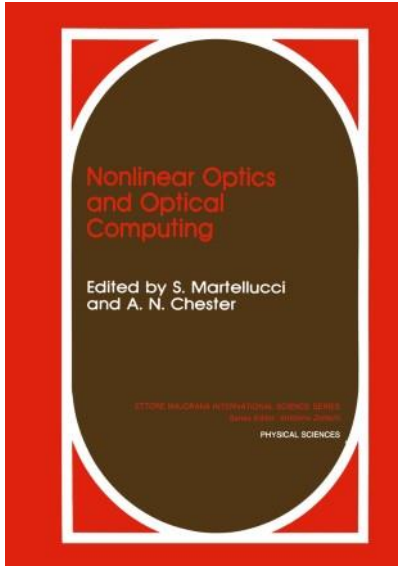


Fig. 6 Experimental correlation results of image in Fig. 4b and filter of Fig. 1

Principle and long-known motivation



S. Martellucci, A. N. Chester (1990).

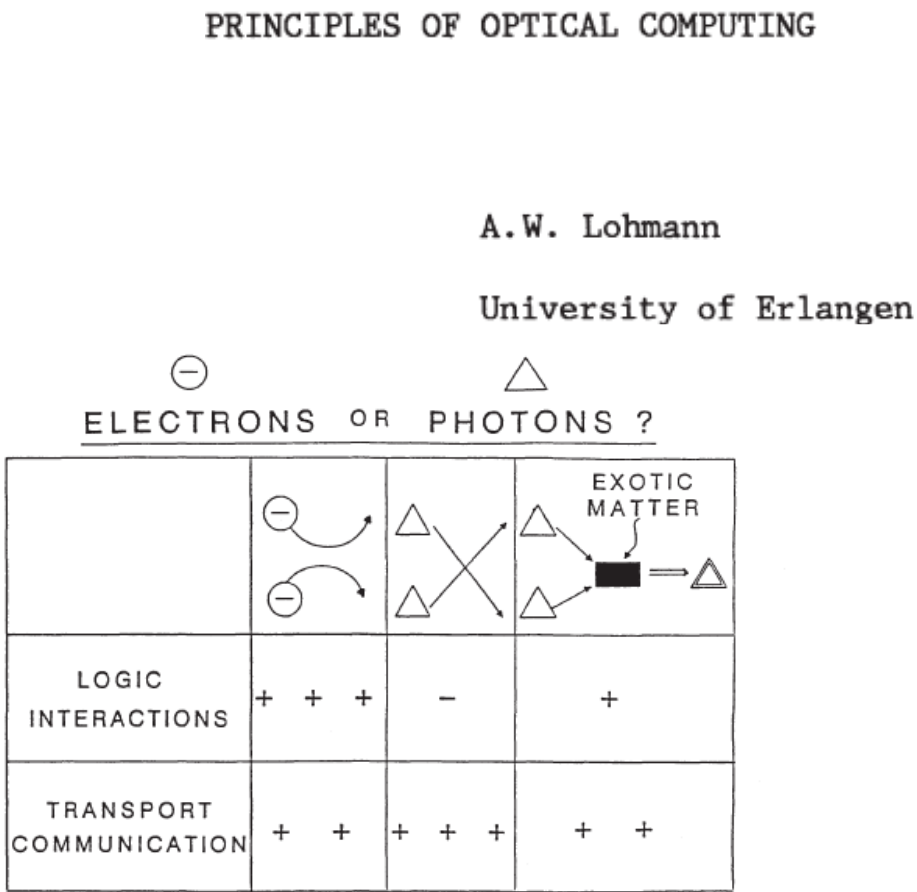


Fig. 1. Electrons or photons? The advantages (+) and handicaps (-) of electrons and photons and the role of exotic matter for enabling photons to perform logic.

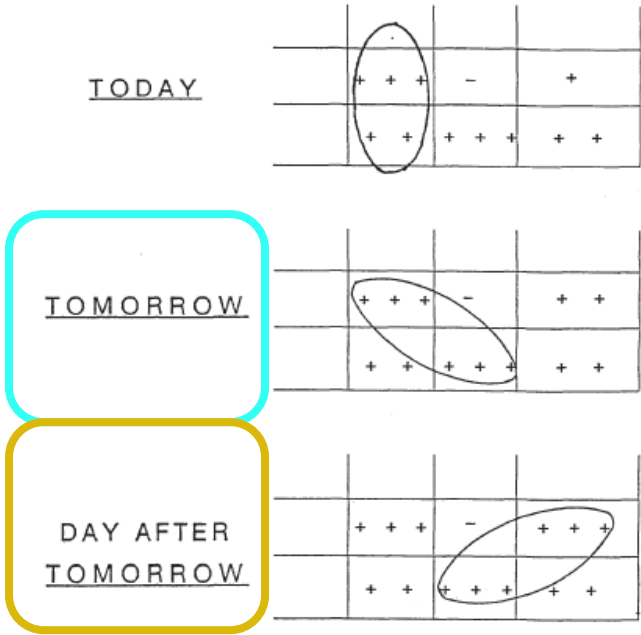
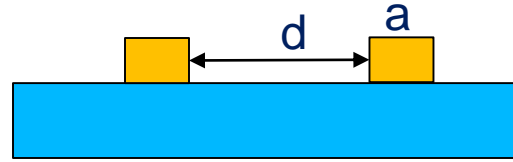


Fig. 2. From today's all-electronic computer towards an all-optical computer via an intermediate hybrid system.

Electrical connections: wires

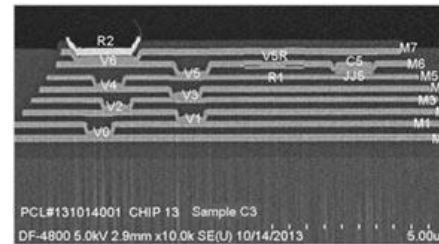


Switching an electronic signal line:

- $E = CV^2$
- Scaling: $C \propto \frac{\pi\epsilon l}{\ln\left(\frac{d}{2a} + \sqrt{\frac{d^2}{4a^2} + 1}\right)} \rightarrow$ only log. Ratio (oh my god)
- Voltage: limited to 0.1 due to thermodynamics of semiconductors
- Charging wire: $E = CV^2 \simeq 600 \cdot 10^{-15} \text{ J}$

1.5 pF/cm

2 pF/cm

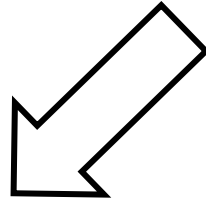
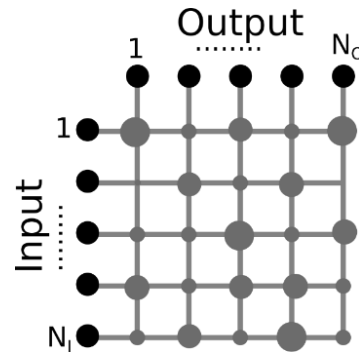


- Problem: neural networks ARE wires

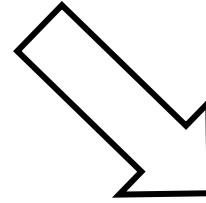
Magen, *et al.*, Proceedings of the 2004 international workshop on System level interconnect prediction.

Miller, Journal of Lightwave Technology **35**, 346 (2017).

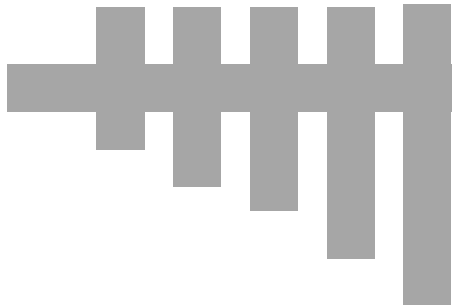
Optical communication



Energy: switching of a capacity



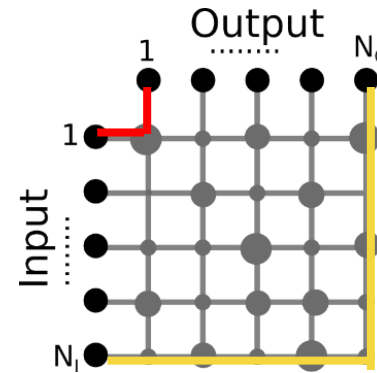
Energy: propagation losses need to be restored



$$E \propto C \propto A$$

$$A = w^2 \left(N_o + \frac{1}{2} N_i N_o \right) + C$$

$$A \approx w^2 \left(N + \frac{1}{2} N^2 \right)$$



$$\text{Transmission} = T \propto e^{-\gamma l}$$

$$L_{\min} \approx 2w, L_{\max} \approx 2Nw$$

$$\hat{L} \approx Nw$$

This results in a cross-over point: at which lengths optical communication becomes more efficient? The determining factors are $\gamma \left[\frac{1}{\text{m}} \right]$ and electro \leftrightarrow optical conversion.

Electro-optical and opto-electronic conversion

Femtofarad optoelectronic integration demonstrating energy-saving signal conversion and nonlinear functions

Kengo Nozaki^{1,2*}, Shinji Matsuo^{1,3}, Takuro Fujii^{1,3}, Koji Takeda^{1,3}, Akihiko Shinya^{1,2},
Eiichi Kuramochi^{1,2} and Masaya Notomi^{1,2*}

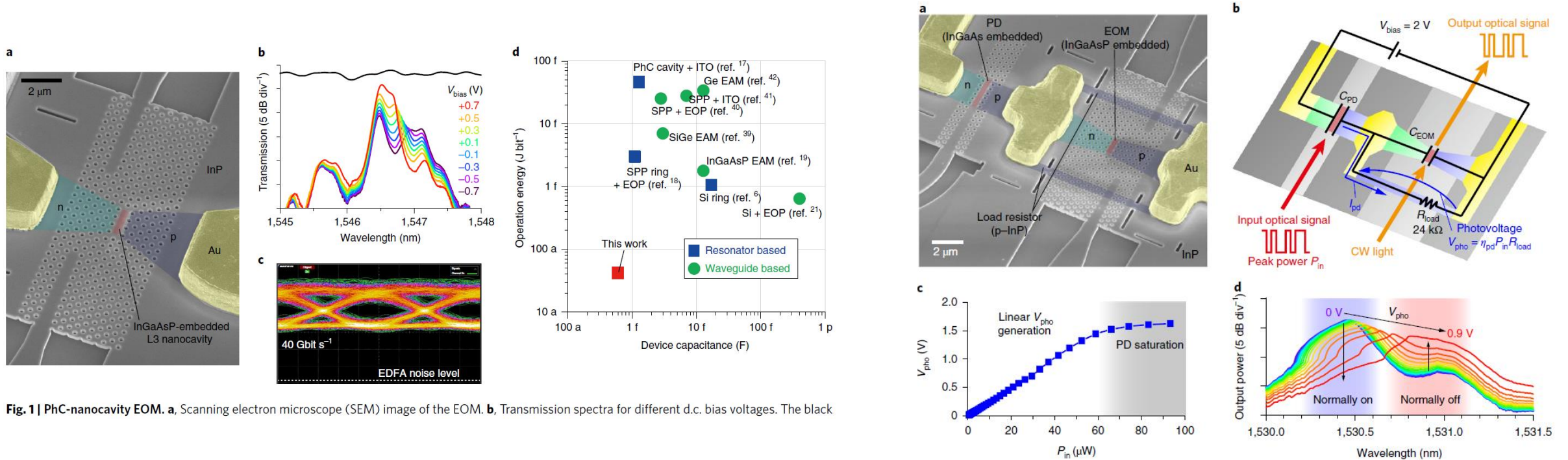


Fig. 1 | PhC-nanocavity EOM. a, Scanning electron microscope (SEM) image of the EOM. **b**, Transmission spectra for different d.c. bias voltages. The black

Attojoule Optoelectronics for Low-Energy Information Processing and Communications

David A. B. Miller, *Fellow, IEEE, Fellow, OSA*

TABLE I
ENERGIES FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTATIONS

Operation	Energy per bit	References and notes
Wireless data	10–30 μ J	[31]
Internet: access	40–80 nJ	[8]; (a), (b)
Internet: routing	20 nJ	[9]; (c)
Internet: optical WDM links	3 nJ	[32]; (d)
Reading DRAM	5 pJ	[5]; (e)
Communicating off chip	1–20 pJ	[5], [15], [16]
Data link multiplexing and timing circuits	\sim 2 pJ	[24]
Communicating across chip	600 fJ	[5]; (f)
Floating point operation	100 fJ	[5]; (g)
Energy in DRAM cell	10 fJ	[33]; (h)
Switching CMOS gate	\sim 50 aJ–3 fJ	[4], [6], [34], [35]; (i)
1 electron at 1 V, or 1 photon @ 1 eV	0.16 aJ (160 zJ)	

Miller, Journal of Lightwave Technology **35**, 346 (2017).

Unconventional optical computing

Two schools of ‘philosophy’

ARTICLES

PUBLISHED ONLINE: 18 APRIL 2016 | DOI: 10.1038/NPHOTON.2016.64

nature
photonics

Efficient and low-noise single-photon-level frequency conversion interfaces using silicon nanophotonics

Qing Li^{1,2*}, Marcelo Davanço¹ and Kartik Srinivasan^{1*}

top down vs. bottom up

OPEN

A Unified Framework for Reservoir Computing and Extreme Learning Machines based on a Single Time-delayed Neuron

Received: 07 November 2014

Accepted: 21 July 2015

Published: 08 October 2015

S. Ortín¹, M. C. Soriano², L. Pesquera¹, D. Brunner², D. San-Martín³, I. Fischer², C. R. Mirasso² & J. M. Gutiérrez¹

Hopfield networks

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA
Vol. 79, pp. 2554–2558, April 1982
Biophysics

Neural networks and physical systems with emergent collective computational abilities

(associative memory/parallel processing/categorization/content-addressable memory/fail-soft devices)

J. J. HOPFIELD

Division of Chemistry and Biology, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125; and Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974

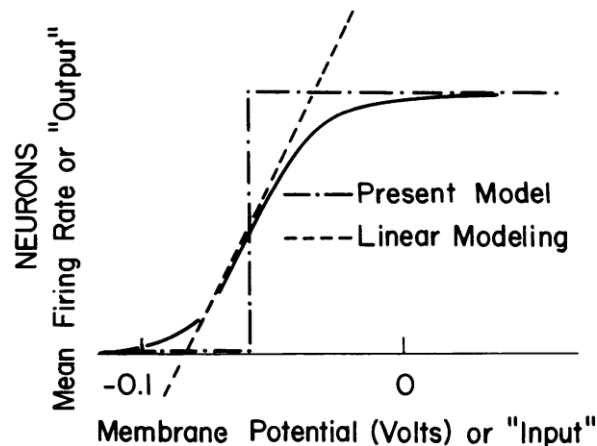


FIG. 1. Firing rate versus membrane voltage for a typical neuron (solid line), dropping to 0 for large negative potentials and saturating for positive potentials. The broken lines show approximations used in modeling.

The information storage algorithm

Suppose we wish to store the set of states V^s , $s = 1 \cdots n$. We use the storage prescription (15, 16)

$$T_{ij} = \sum_s (2V_i^s - 1)(2V_j^s - 1) \quad [2]$$

- V^s are memory entries
- Stable if V_i^s is $V_j^s \rightarrow$ correcting memory
- Connections T_{ij} analytically defined

Hopfield, why its so nice for physicists

Studies of the collective behaviors of the model

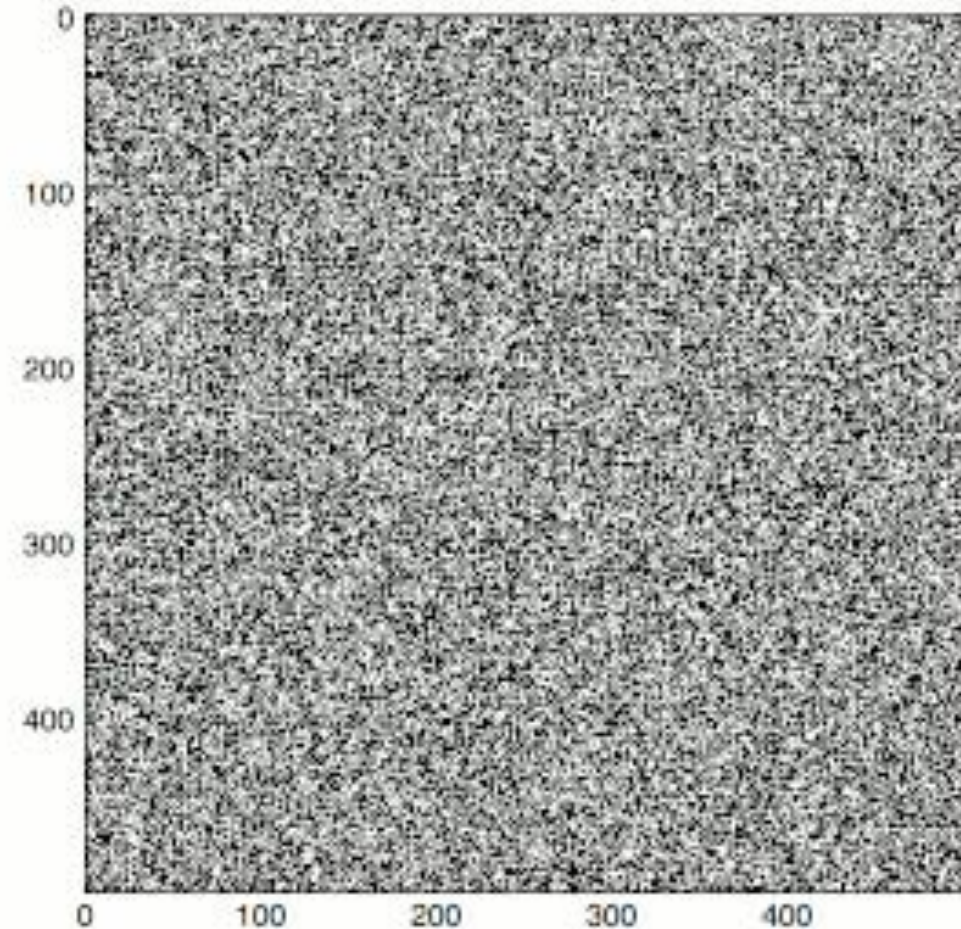
The model has stable limit points. Consider the special case $T_{ij} = T_{ji}$, and define

$$E = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} T_{ij} V_i V_j . \quad [7]$$

ΔE due to ΔV_i is given by

$$\Delta E = -\Delta V_i \sum_{j \neq i} T_{ij} V_j . \quad [8]$$

Thus, the algorithm for altering V_i causes E to be a monotonically decreasing function. State changes will continue until a least (local) E is reached. This case is isomorphic with an Ising model. T_{ij} provides the role of the exchange coupling, and there is also an external local field at each site. When T_{ij} is symmetric but has a random character (the spin glass) there are known to be many (locally) stable states (29).



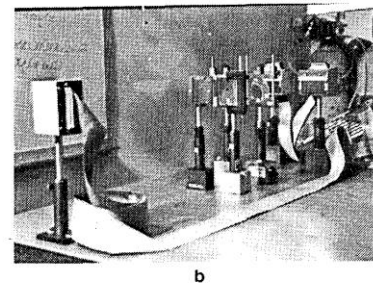
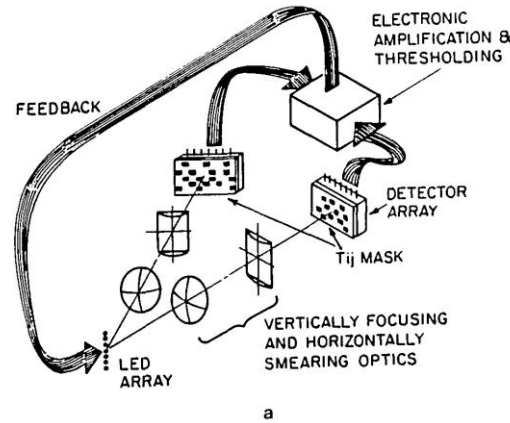
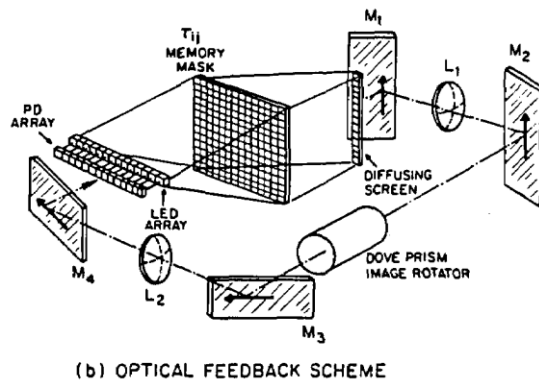
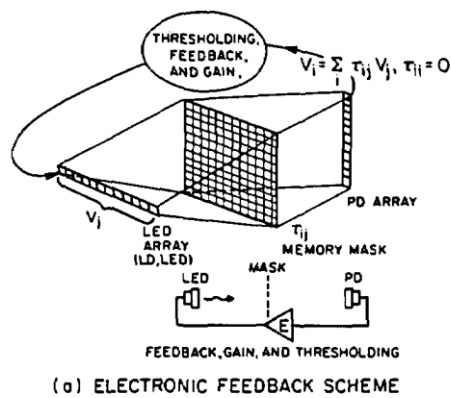
Hopfield: why its nice II

98 OPTICS LETTERS / Vol. 10, No. 2 / February 1985

Optical information processing based on an associative-memory model of neural nets with thresholding and feedback

Demetri Psaltis and Nabil Farhat*

Department of Electrical Engineering, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125



Arrangement for optical implementation of the Hopfield model: (a) optoelectronic circuit diagram, (b) pictorial view.

Table I. Optical CAM Performance

Hamming distance of initializing vector from $b_i^{(m)}$	Recognized vector ($m = 1$)	Recognized vector ($m = 2$)	Recognized vector ($m = 3$)
0	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
1	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
2	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
3	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
4	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
5	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
6	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
7	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
8	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
9	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
10	1 (1)	1 (1)	3 (3)
11	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
12	3 (3)	3 (3)	3 (3)
13	3 (3)	3 (3)	3 (2)
14	3 (3)	1 (1)	3 (2)
15	1 (OSC)	1 (1)	2 (2)
16	3 (OSC)	1 (1)	2 (2)
17	3 (OSC)	1 (OSC)	2 (2)
18	3 (3)	1 (2)	3 (OSC)
19	3 (2)	2 (2)	2 (2)
20	3 (1)	2 (2)	2 (OSC)
21	1, 2 (1)	2 (2)	3 (OSC)
22	3 (1)	2 (2)	3 (OSC)
23	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (OSC)
24	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
25	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
26	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
27	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
28	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
29	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
30	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
31	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)
32	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)

And finally: multilayer networks

Optical network for real-time face recognition

Hsin-Yu Sidney Li, Yong Qiao, and Demetri Psaltis

An optical network is described that is capable of recognizing at standard video rates the identity of faces for which it has been trained. The faces are presented under a wide variety of conditions to the system and the classification performance is measured. The system is trained by gradually adapting photorefractive holograms.

Key words: Optical pattern recognition, neural networks, photorefractives.

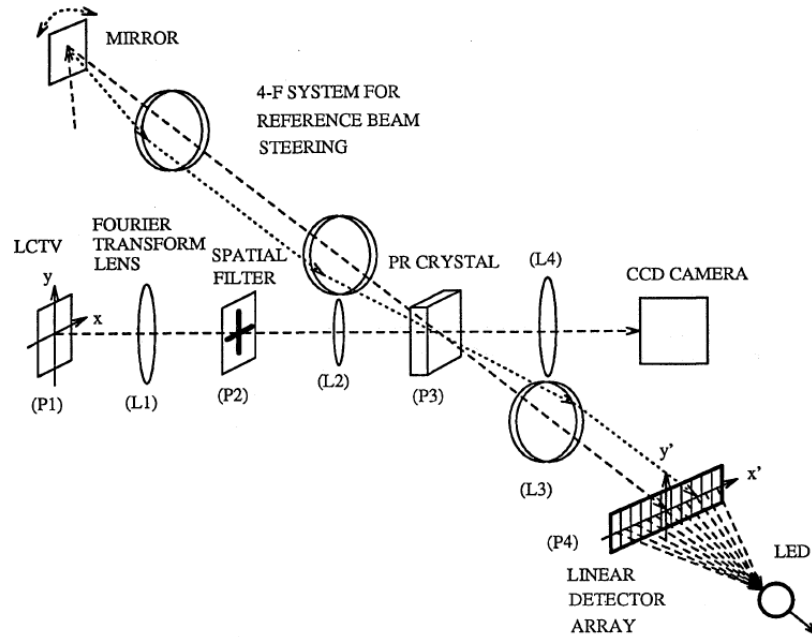


Fig. 1. Optical setup of the face-recognition system; PR, photorefractive.

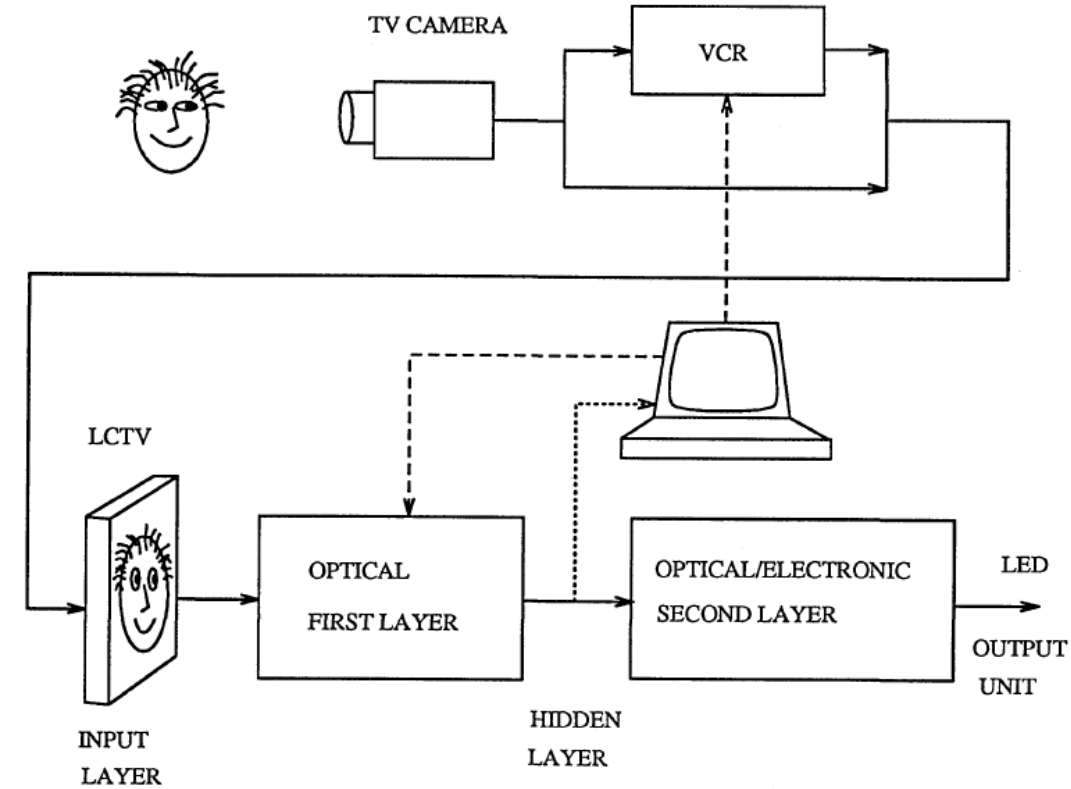


Fig. 5. Schematic diagram of overall system.

Implementation

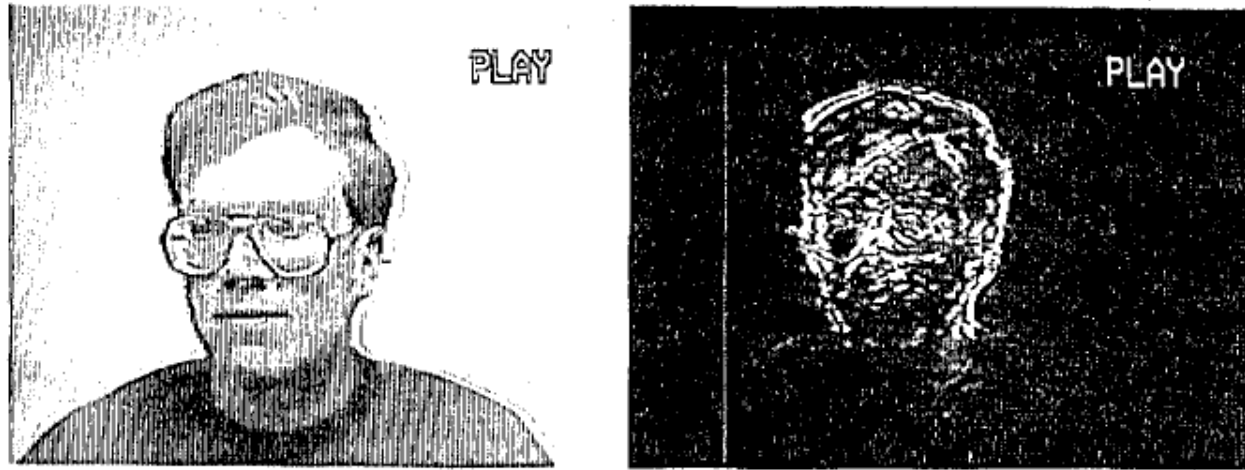
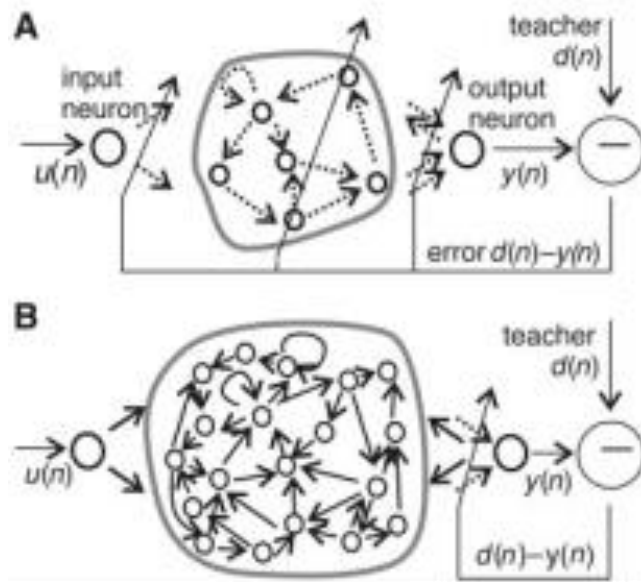


Fig. 3. Edge-enhanced image and original face.



Fig. 7. Photographs showing part of the training session.

Another great starting concept: Reservoir computing / Extreme learning machines



A: fully adjusted network

- Optimal performance (maybe)
- Exploding/vanishing gradients
- None-converging beyond stability

B: only output weights

- Random input/internal weights
- Training is simple matrix inversion

Jaeger, Science **304**, 78 (2004).

Echo state networks

- Nonlinear maps with discrete time
- Origin in field of control system
- ELM: no recurrent connections

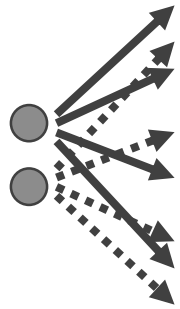
Jaeger and Haas, Science **304**, 5667 (2004).

Liquid state machines

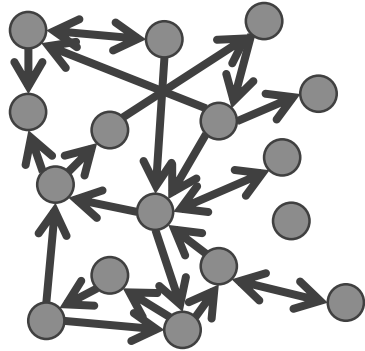
- Excitable (spiking) neurons
- Origin in Computational neuro science

Buonomano, Maass, Nature reviews in Neuroscience **10**, 113 (2009).

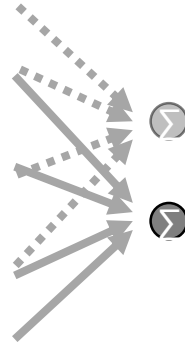
Experiment type A: network state attainable



Input:
 $\mathbf{u}(n+1)$



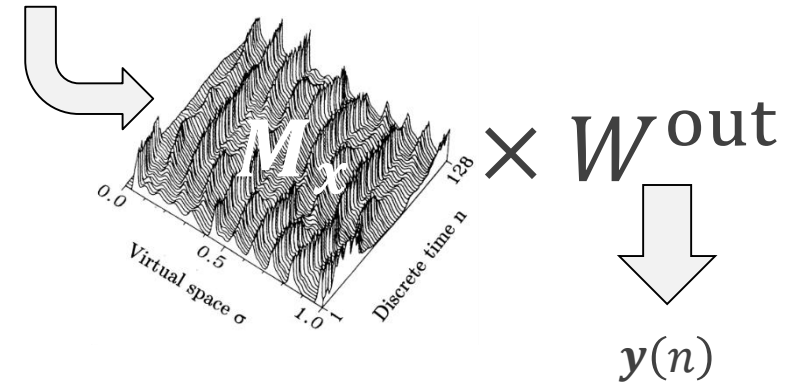
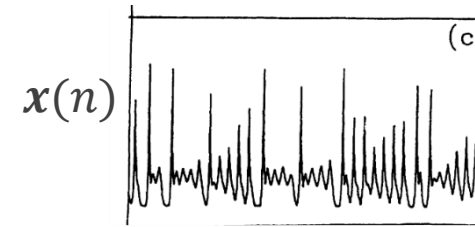
Network state:
 $\mathbf{x}(n+1) =$
 $\mathbf{f}[W\mathbf{x}(n) + W^{\text{inj}}\mathbf{u}(n+1) + \mathbf{b}]$



Output:
 $\mathbf{y}(n+1) =$
 $W^{\text{out}}\mathbf{x}(n+1)$

1. Training data: set of inputs $\mathbf{u}(n)$ for which $\mathbf{y}(n)$ is known
2. Collect $\mathbf{x}(n)$ for $n \in [1, \dots, T]$
3. L -fold cross-validation: randomly label input data by $l \in [1, \dots, L]$
4. Select one $l_c \in [1, \dots, L]$
 - M_x : concatenated $\mathbf{x}(n)$ for $l \neq l_c$
 - T^T : concatenated matrix of $\mathbf{y}(n)$ for $l \neq l_c$
 - Obtain $W^{\text{out}} = (M_x M_x^T + \lambda I)^{-1} (M_x T^T)$
 - $\mathbf{y}(n)$, measure error for l_c
 - Repeat for all l_c
5. Measure error for unseen data

Arecchi *et al.*, Phys. Rev. A **45**, 4225 (1992).



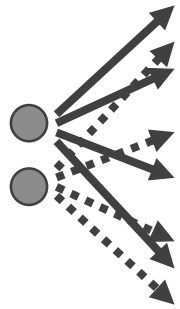
Why is this great?

- Training offline
- 'Short' experiment

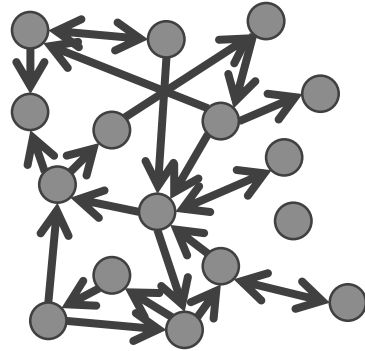
Why is this not great?

- Training offline
- Technological relevance?

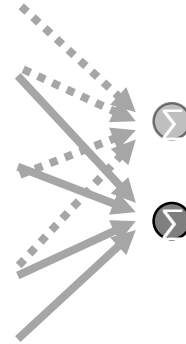
Experiment type B: network state not attainable



Input:
 $u(n+1)$



Network state:
 $x(n+1) =$
 $f[Wx(n) + W^{\text{inj}}u(n+1) + b]$

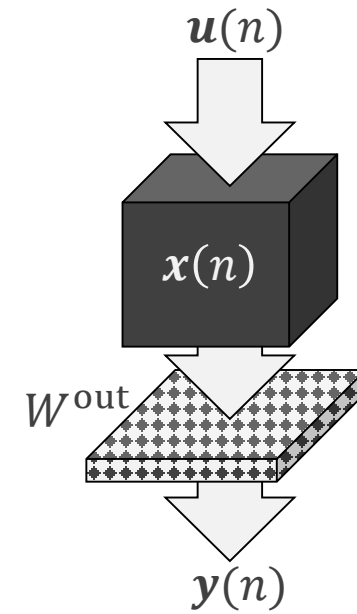


Output:
 $y(n+1) =$
 $W^{\text{out}}x(n+1)$

1. Training data: set of inputs $u(n)$ for which $y(n)$ is known
2. Define starting W^{out}
 - Collect $y(n)$ for $n \in [1, \dots, T]$
 - Measure error
3. Learn
 - Modify W^{out}
 - Collect $y(n)$ for $n \in [1, \dots, T]$
 - Measure error
 - Evaluate modification and repeat
4. Measure error for unseen examples

Why is this great?

- Training online
- In-situ (vs. in silico)
- 'Autonomous' system



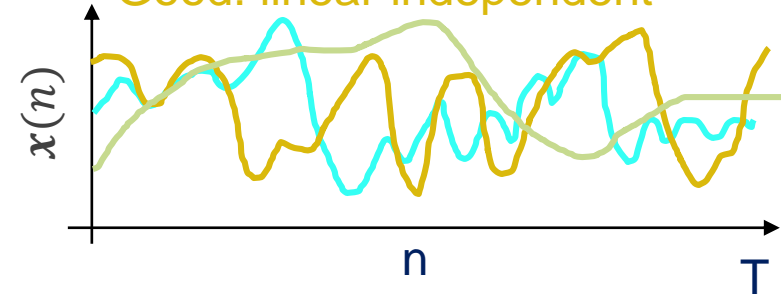
Why is this not great?

- Training online
- Blind to network state
- Comparison tricky

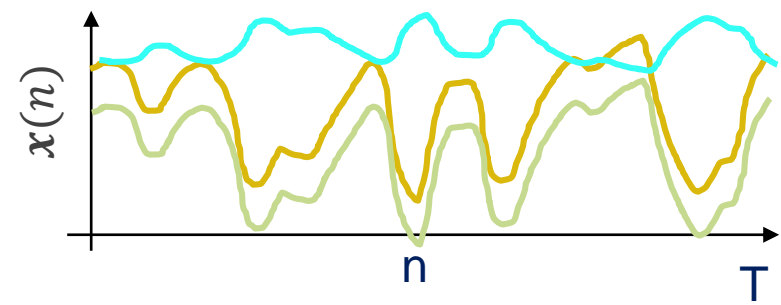
A good (well behaved) reservoir

Diversity (dimensionality)

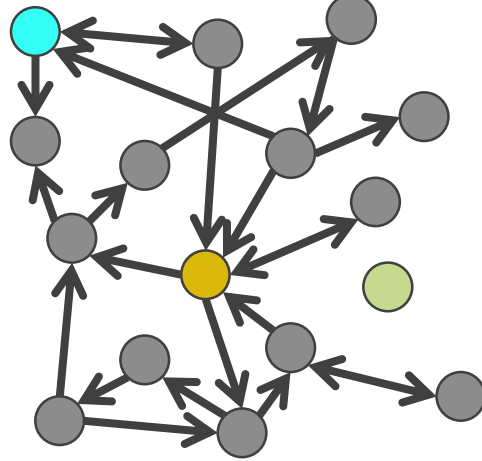
Good: linear independent



Bad: linear dependent

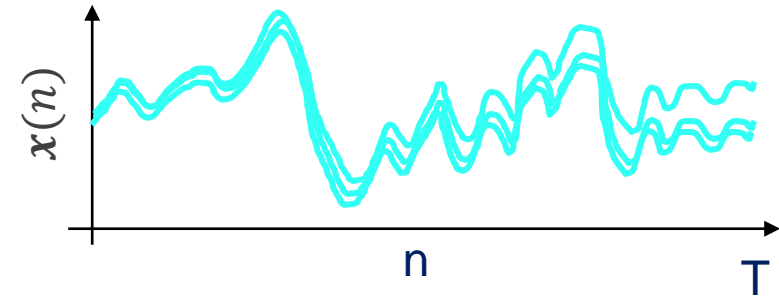


Dambre *et al.*, Sci. Rep. **2**, 514 (2012).

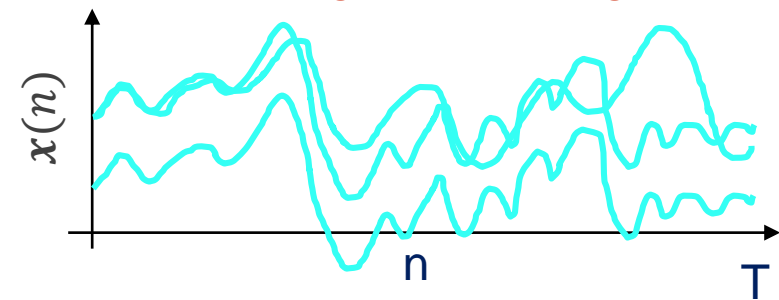


Reproducibility (consistency)

Good: small variation



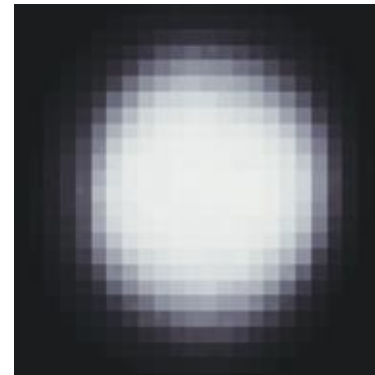
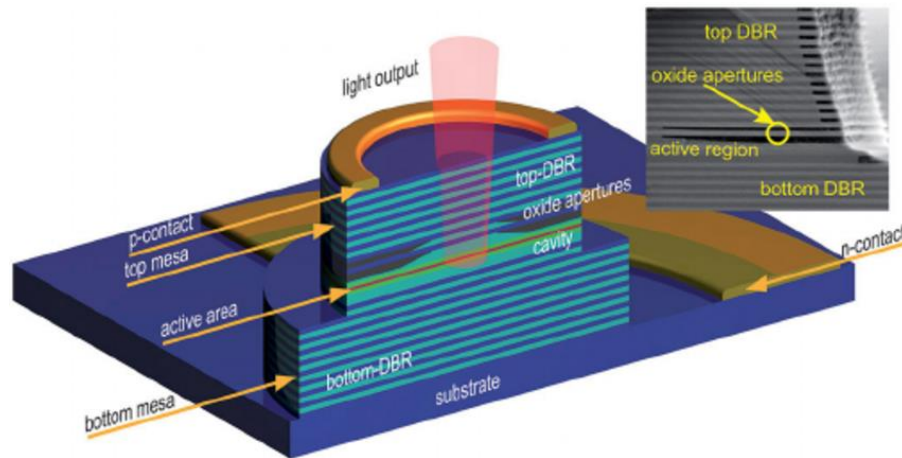
Bad: big or exploding variation



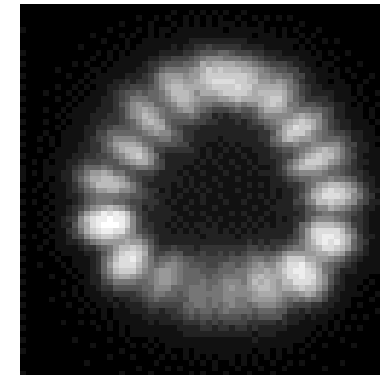
Uchida *et al.*, PRL **93**, 244102 (2004).

Autonomous computing with a laser

- **Large Area Multimode Vertical-Cavity Surface-Emitting Lasers (LA-VCSELs)** are quantum well semiconductor lasers. They differ from conventional VCSELs by their large (> 6 microns) diameter.

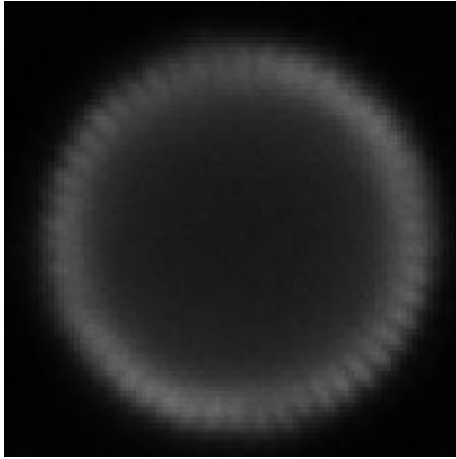


Single mode



Multimode

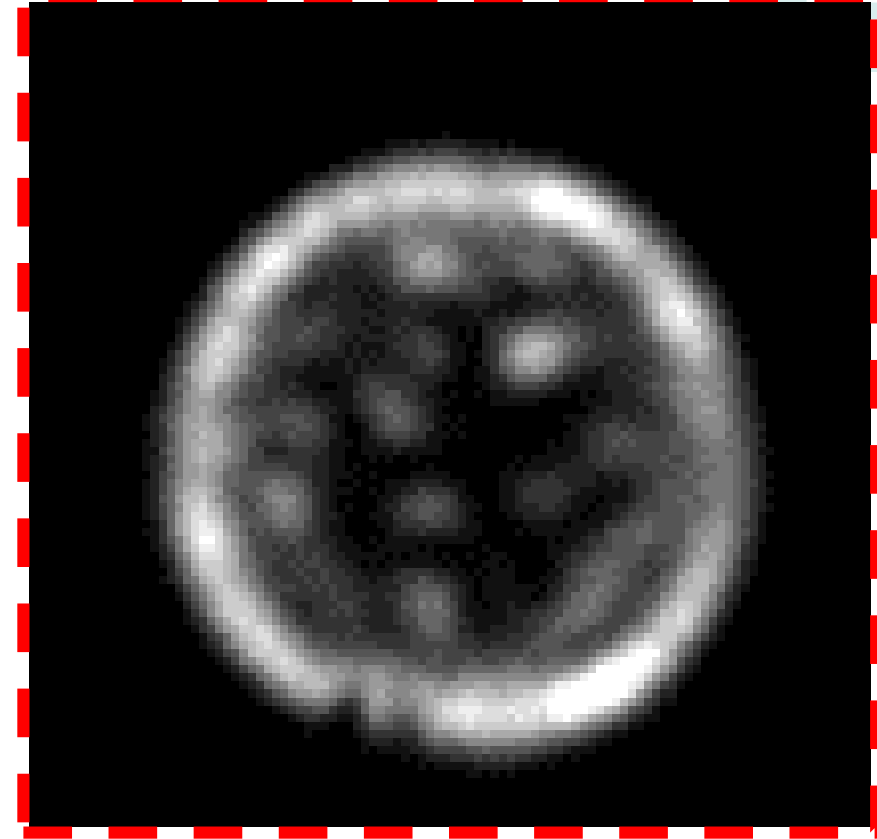
- These are **highly multimode, highly non-linear** devices.
- The **VCSEL dynamics** change with **optical injection**.
- Different injection conditions yield **very different mode profiles**.
- Can be modulated at **high bandwidths (20 GHz)**



Free running

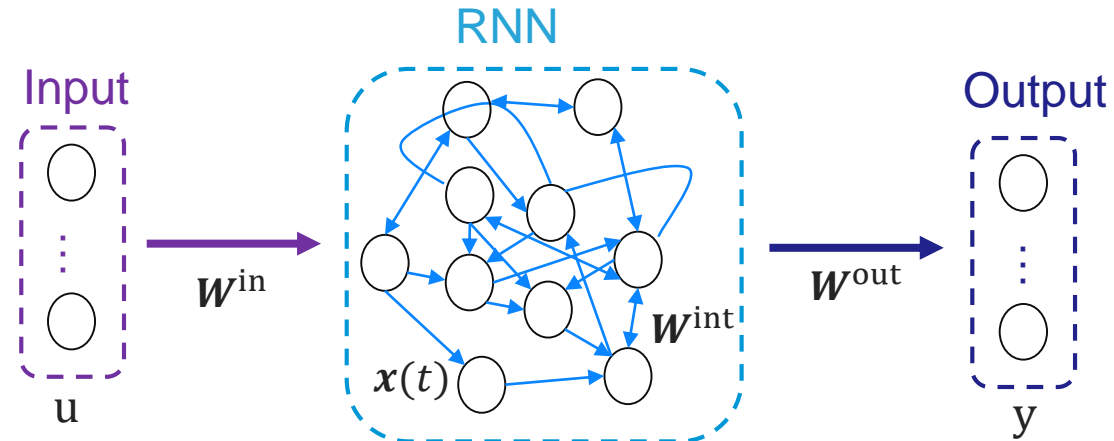


Off resonant injection

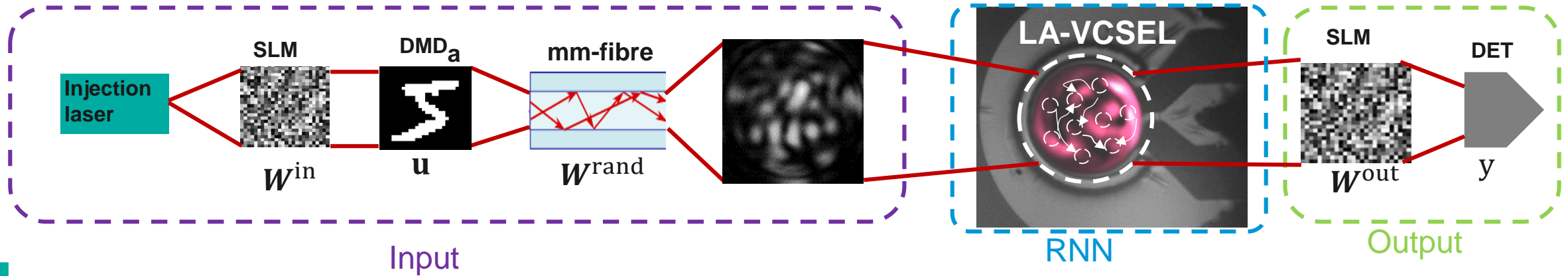


Resonant
injection

Concept



Working principle



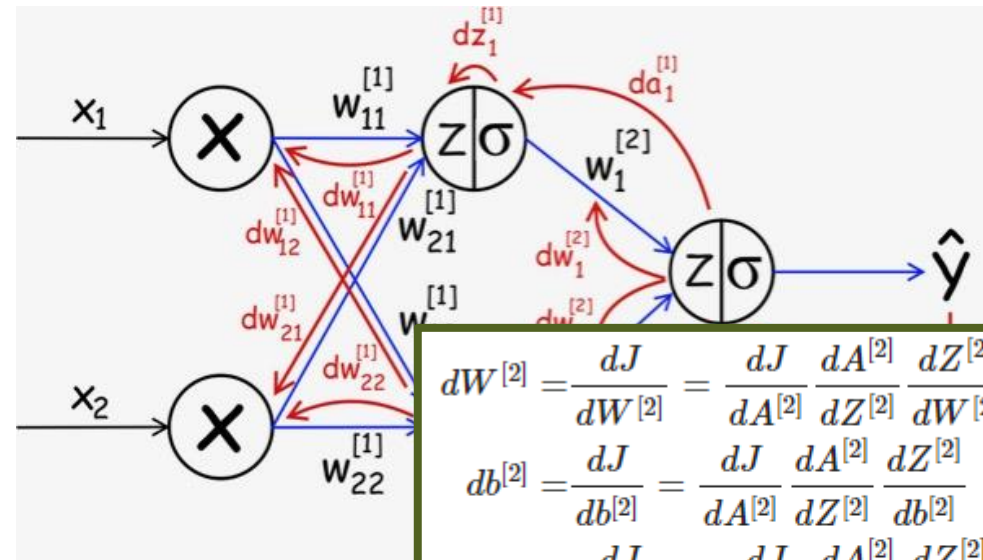
Porte, et al., *J. Phys. Photonics* 3, 024017 (2021).

SCALING DIMENSION: LEARNING

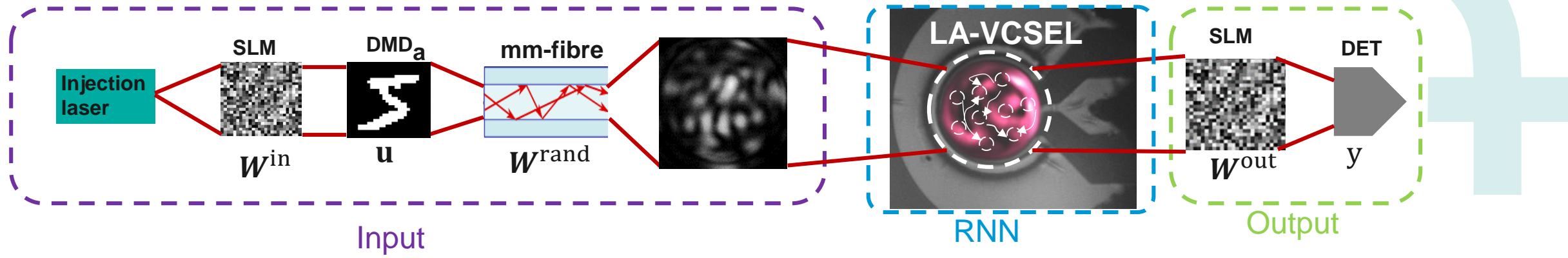
Nature



Deep learning



$$\begin{aligned} dW^{[2]} &= \frac{dJ}{dW^{[2]}} = \frac{dJ}{dA^{[2]}} \frac{dA^{[2]}}{dZ^{[2]}} \frac{dZ^{[2]}}{dW^{[2]}} \\ db^{[2]} &= \frac{dJ}{db^{[2]}} = \frac{dJ}{dA^{[2]}} \frac{dA^{[2]}}{dZ^{[2]}} \frac{dZ^{[2]}}{db^{[2]}} \\ dW^{[1]} &= \frac{dJ}{dW^{[1]}} = \frac{dJ}{dA^{[2]}} \frac{dA^{[2]}}{dZ^{[2]}} \frac{dZ^{[2]}}{dA^{[1]}} \frac{dA^{[1]}}{dZ^{[1]}} \frac{dZ^{[1]}}{dW^{[1]}} \\ db^{[1]} &= \frac{dJ}{db^{[1]}} = \frac{dJ}{dA^{[2]}} \frac{dA^{[2]}}{dZ^{[2]}} \frac{dZ^{[2]}}{dA^{[1]}} \frac{dA^{[1]}}{dZ^{[1]}} \frac{dZ^{[1]}}{db^{[1]}} \end{aligned}$$



Given the constraints we have : **Black box optimization**

Evolutionary Strategies / reinforcement learning : adaptation of distribution (mean, std. dev.) based on a sampled population.

Measured Gradient estimation: physically measuring the gradient with perturbations and performing gradient descent

1. Hansen, Nikolaus. "The CMA evolution strategy: A tutorial." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1604.00772* (2016).

2. Spall, James C. "Multivariate stochastic approximation using a simultaneous perturbation gradient approximation." *IEEE transactions on automatic control* 37.3 (1992): 332-341.

GRADIENT-BASED STRATEGIES

Low hanging fruit Gradient Descent:

- Initialize weights : W
- $\epsilon = \text{small value}$
- k_{weights}
- *for* $i = 1:\text{epochs}$

$s = k_{\text{weights}}$ randomly selected among W

for $k = 1:s$

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W}(k) \approx \frac{L(W(k) + \epsilon) - L(W(k) - \epsilon)}{2\epsilon}$$

$$W = W - \alpha * \frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$$

SPSA (Simultaneous Perturbation Stochastic approximation):

- Initialize weights : W
- $\epsilon = \text{small value}$
- *for* $i = 1:\text{epochs}$

$\Delta = \text{rand}\{-1,1\}$ of size(W)

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial W} \approx \frac{L(W + \epsilon * \Delta) - L(W - \epsilon * \Delta)}{2\epsilon} * \Delta$$

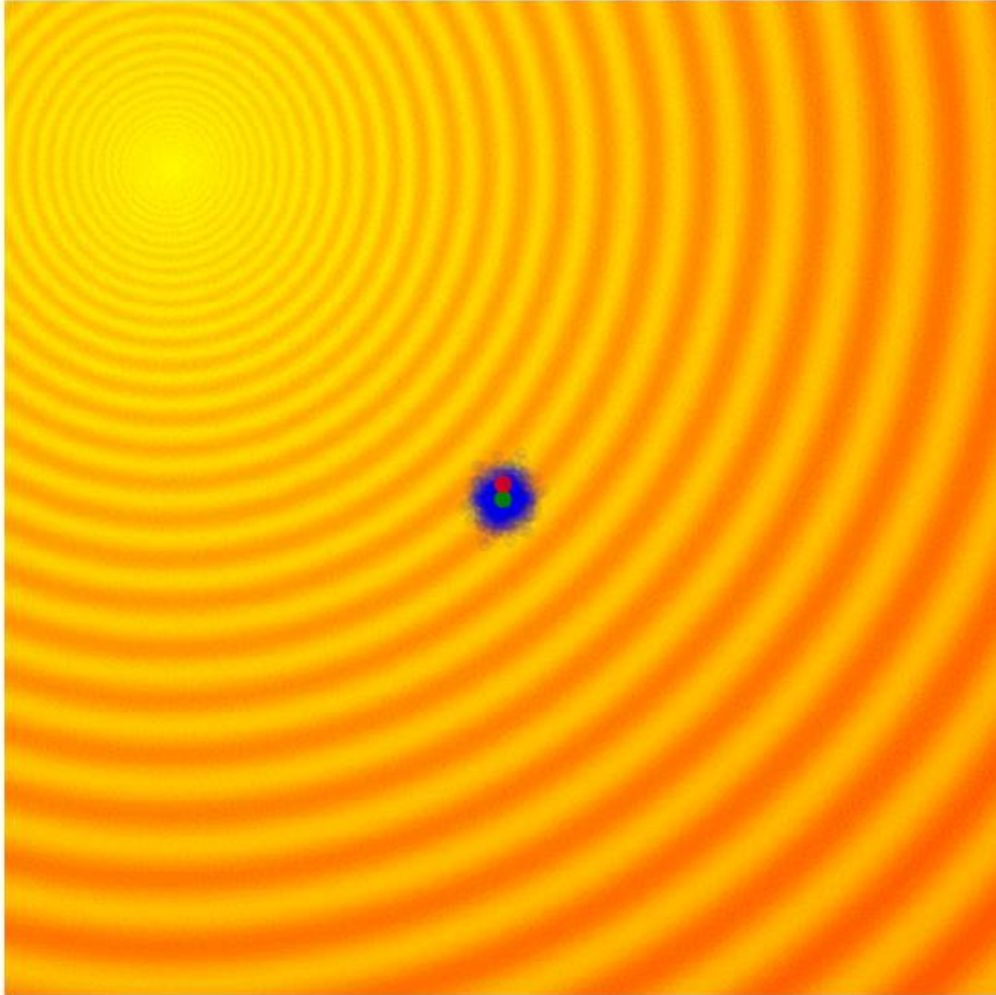
$$W = W - \alpha * \frac{\partial L}{\partial w}$$

Perturbs each weights one by one

Perturbs all weights according to one direction

Spall, James C. "Multivariate stochastic approximation using a simultaneous perturbation gradient approximation." *IEEE transactions on automatic control* 37.3 (1992): 332-341.

SIMPLEST EVOLUTIONARY STRATEGY



While (termination criteria not met) do:

- Generate a population P from a normal distribution
- Select the best point from the population.
- Set the new mean of the distribution to this best point
- Generate a new population P centered around the new mean

- **CMA:** Adapts the shape of a multivariate gaussian distribution, by estimating and mutating the covariance matrix, and mean according to some elites in the population.
- **PEPG:** Estimates the gradient of the Loss function with respect to the parameters of the distribution, and updates the parameters of this distribution.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CMA-ES>

Algorithm 4 Covariance Matrix Adaptation Evolution Strategy (CMA-ES)

```

1: Initialize population size  $\lambda$ , number of elites  $\mu$ , mean vector  $\mathbf{m}$ , covariance matrix  $\mathbf{C}$ , step size  $\sigma$ 
2: Evaluate the initial population based on  $\mathbf{m}$  and  $\mathbf{C}$ 
3: while stopping criteria not met do
4:   Generate  $\lambda$  new offspring by sampling from  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{m}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{C})$ 
5:   Evaluate the fitness of each offspring
6:   Select the top  $\mu$  elite offspring based on fitness
7:   Update  $\mathbf{m}$  towards the mean of the selected elite
8:   Update  $\mathbf{C}$  to reflect the distribution of the selected elite
9:   Adapt the step size  $\sigma$  based on the success of the search
10: end while
11: return Best solution found
  
```

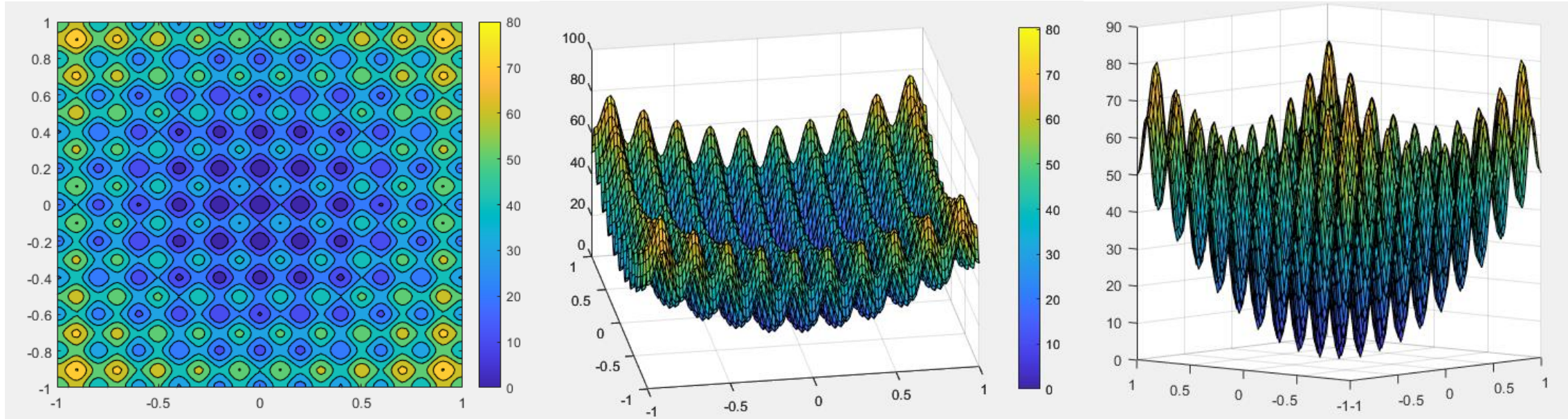
Algorithm 5 Simple Policy Gradient optimization

```

1: Initialize  $\theta = (\mu, \sigma)$ , set constant learning rate  $\alpha$ 
2:  $K \leftarrow$  maximum number of iterations
3: for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$  do
4:   Generate  $\lambda$  samples  $x_i \sim \mathcal{N}_{\theta}(x)$ 
5:   Compute  $f(x_i)$  for each  $x_i$ 
6:   Estimate gradient:  $\nabla_{\mu} J(\mu) \leftarrow \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^{\lambda} \frac{x_i - \mu}{\sigma^2} f(x_i)$ 
7:   Estimate gradient:  $\nabla_{\sigma} J(\sigma) \leftarrow \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^{\lambda} \frac{(x_i - \mu)^2 - \sigma^2}{\sigma^3} f(x_i)$ 
8:   Update parameters:  $\mu \leftarrow \mu + \alpha \nabla_{\mu} J(\mu)$ 
9:   Update parameters:  $\sigma \leftarrow \sigma + \alpha \nabla_{\sigma} J(\sigma)$ 
10: end for
11: return Optimized parameters vector  $\theta = (\mu, \sigma)$ , and optimal Loss value  $L(\theta)$ 
  
```

CMA-ES AND PEPG

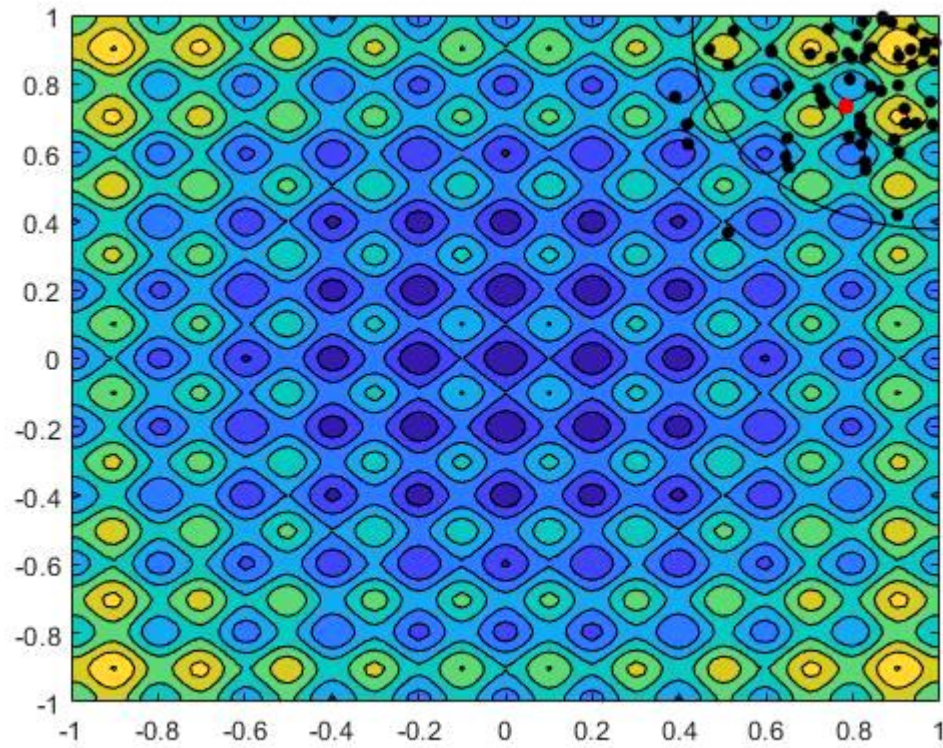
Toy optimization problem : Rastrigin function



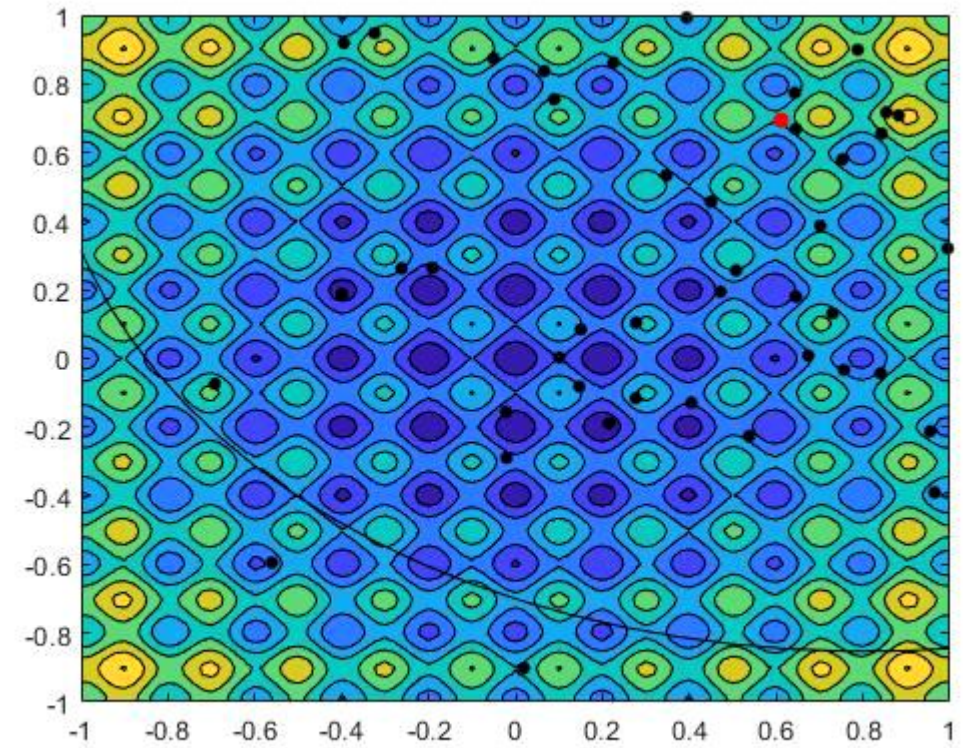
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CMA-ES>

CMA-ES AND PEPG

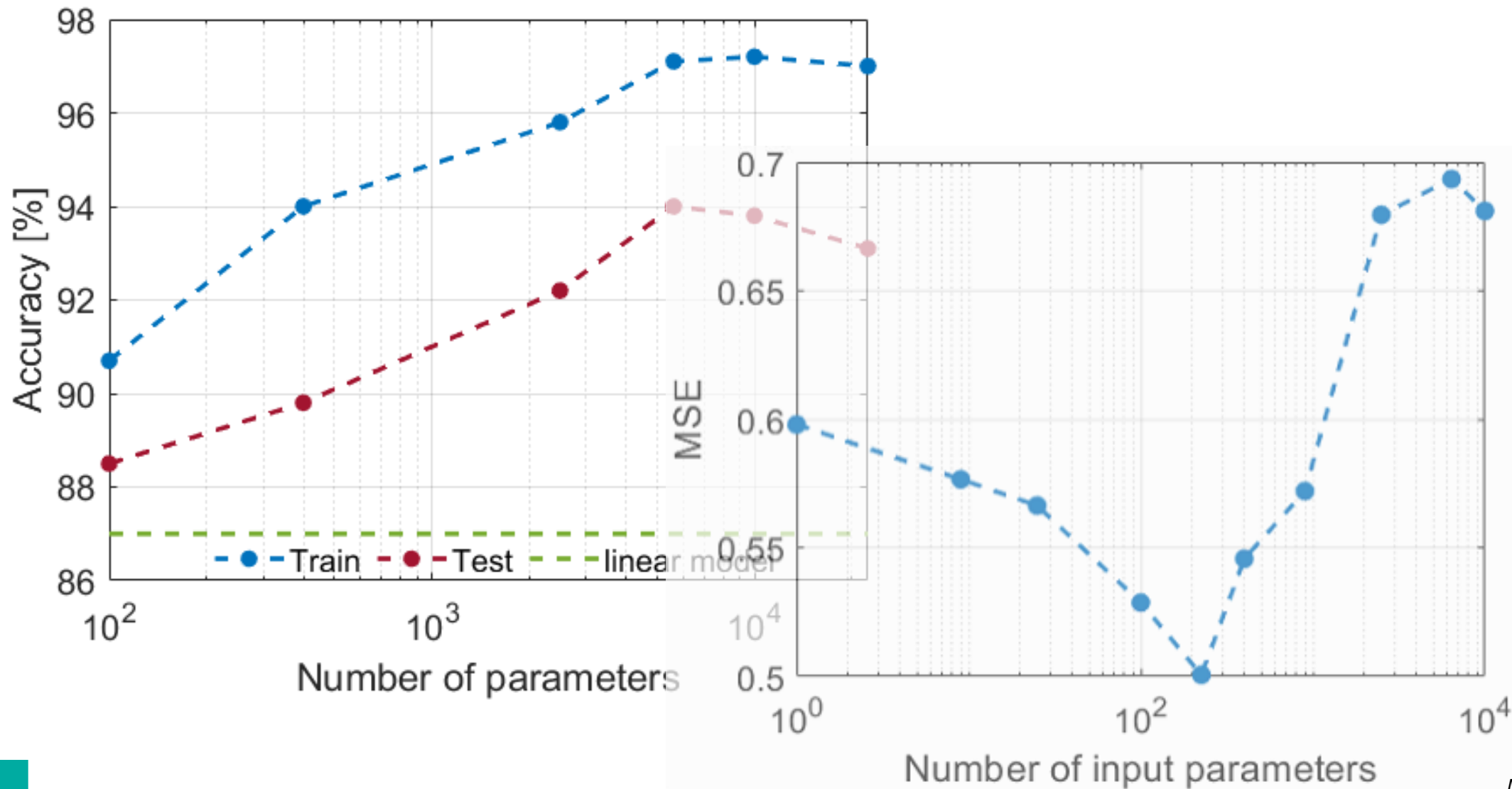
CMA-ES



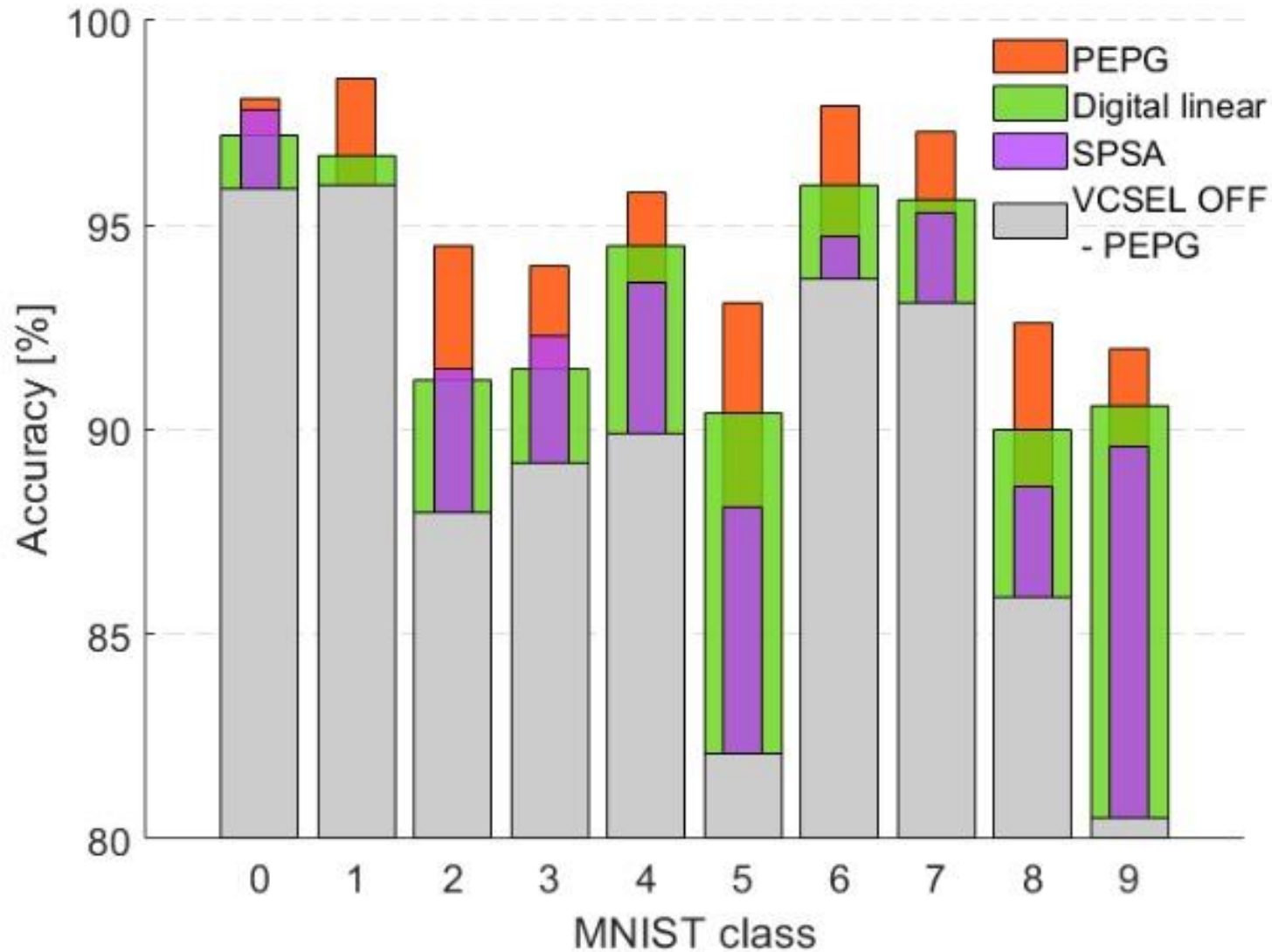
PEPG



TRAINING THE WEIGHTS SPSA



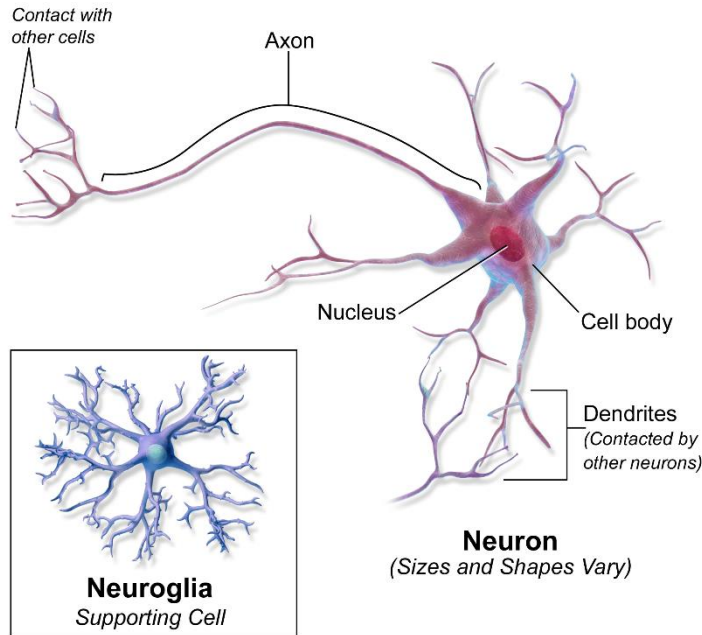
Manuscript in preparation



- 5625 Neurons
- Linear limit: ~93% - computational benefit only above that.
- Linear experiment shows how difficult in-situ learning is.
- SPSA: not sufficient to surpass linear limit.
- PEPG clearly goes beyond.
- First fully analogue neural network surpassing linear limit.

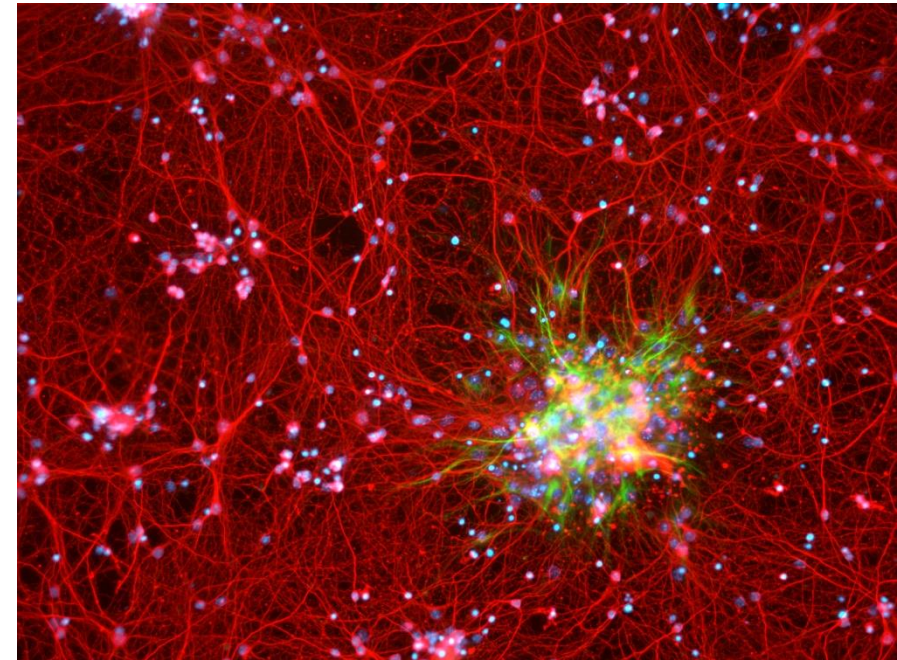
Manuscript in preparation

SCALING DIMENSION: COMPLEXITY OF OUR 'NEURAL' NETWORK



["Lab 1 Neurohistology - Neurons". vanat.cvm.umn.edu.](http://vanat.cvm.umn.edu)

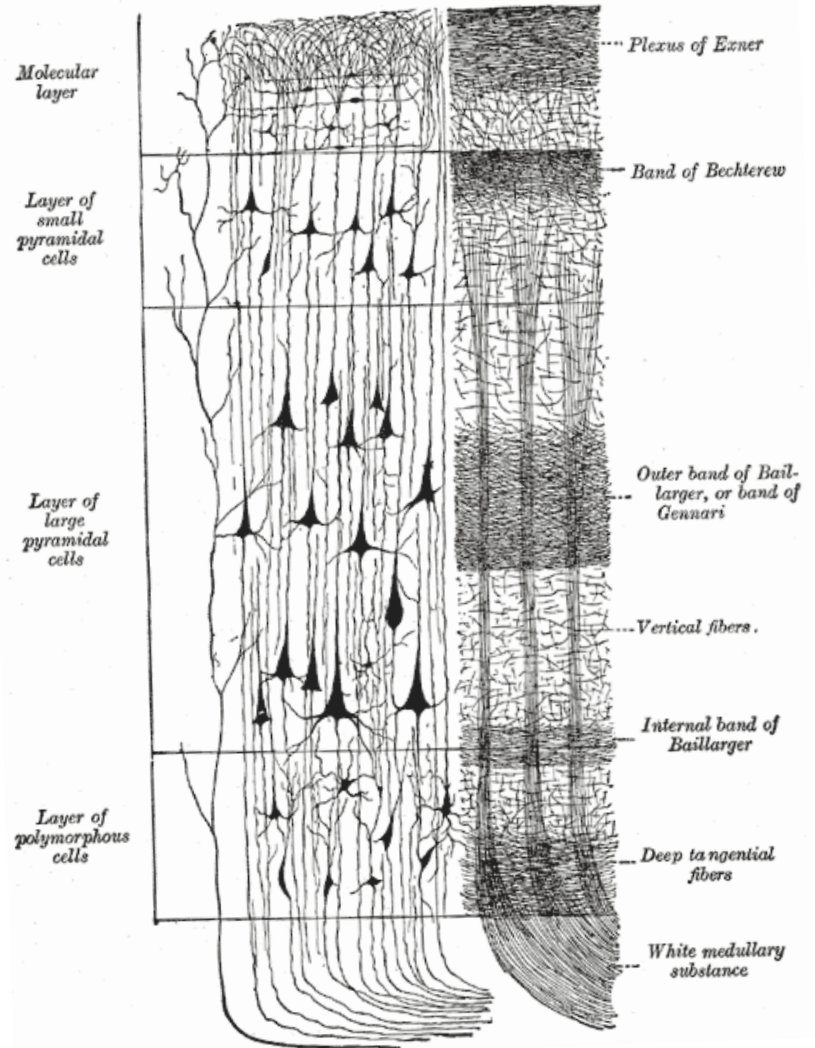
- Spiking activity
- Dendrites are nonlinear
- That makes Nonlinearity change from $O(N)$ \rightarrow $O(N^2)$
 - Will break back-propagation of errors algorithm



By Dchordpdx - Own work, CC BY 4.0,

- Neurons not the only 'elements'
- 2nd type: Glia cells, potentially more than neurons
 - Astrocytes
 - Wrap around up to 1000...2000000 synapses and modulate their response

Complexity of neurons and topologies



- Neocortex comprises of 6 layers
- Layers can host various types of neurons
- Some simplified canonical topologies:
 - Layer 2: locally connects to other layers of Neocortex
 - Layer 3: connects up and down and receives most of the external input (sensory stimuli)
 - Layer 4: connect other areas out and inside of and neocortex
 - Layer 5: connects outside of cortex, i.e. motor control
 - Layer 6: connects to thalamus

Henry Vandyke Carter - Henry Gray (1918) Anatomy of the Human Body

Primer for beyond today: algorithm and functionality

- Learning without back prop
 - Back propagation requires storing activations and derivatives
 - How about NL weights? Can't handle it
- Learning without forgetting
 - Train output to identify '3' – now train the same to identify '4' -> it will forget the '3'
- Tokens of a GPT vs. human learning
 - Transformers required an astonishing amount of tokens to learn, most likely orders of magnitudes more than humans
- Compositionality and systematicity
- Non-digital: NN hardware school??
- +++++++

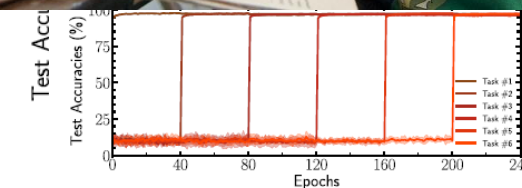
ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-22768-y>

OPEN

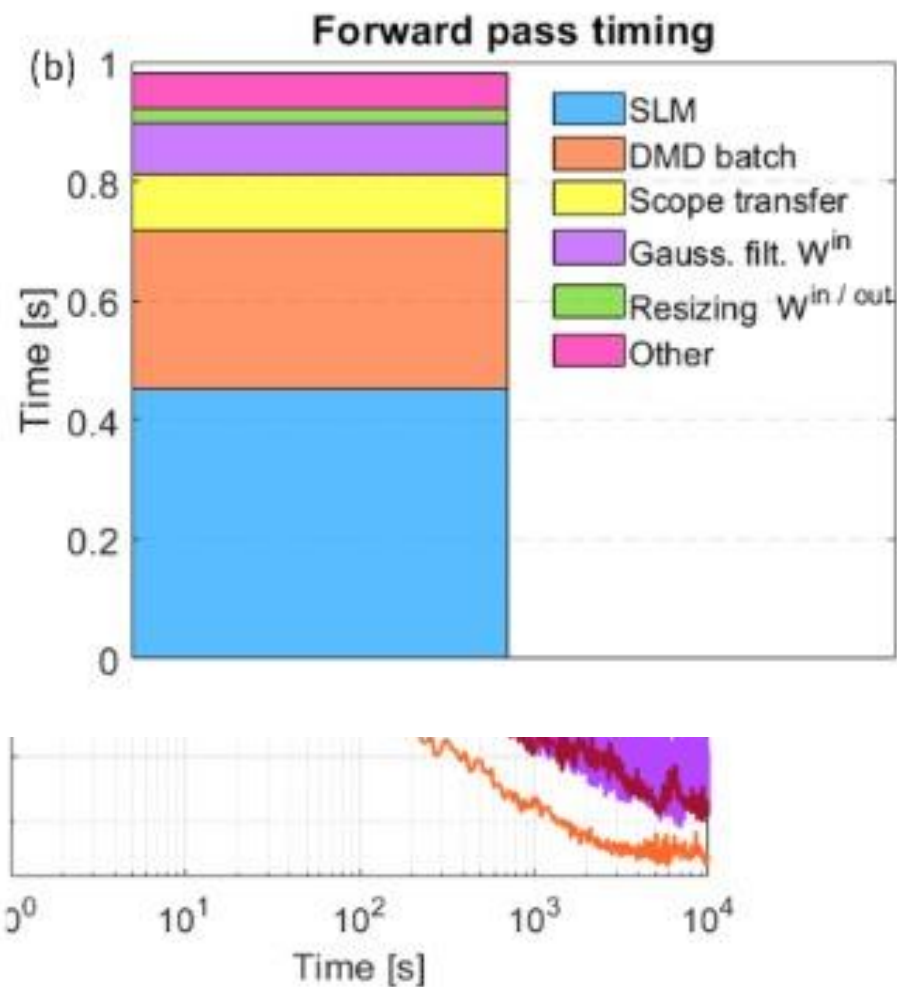
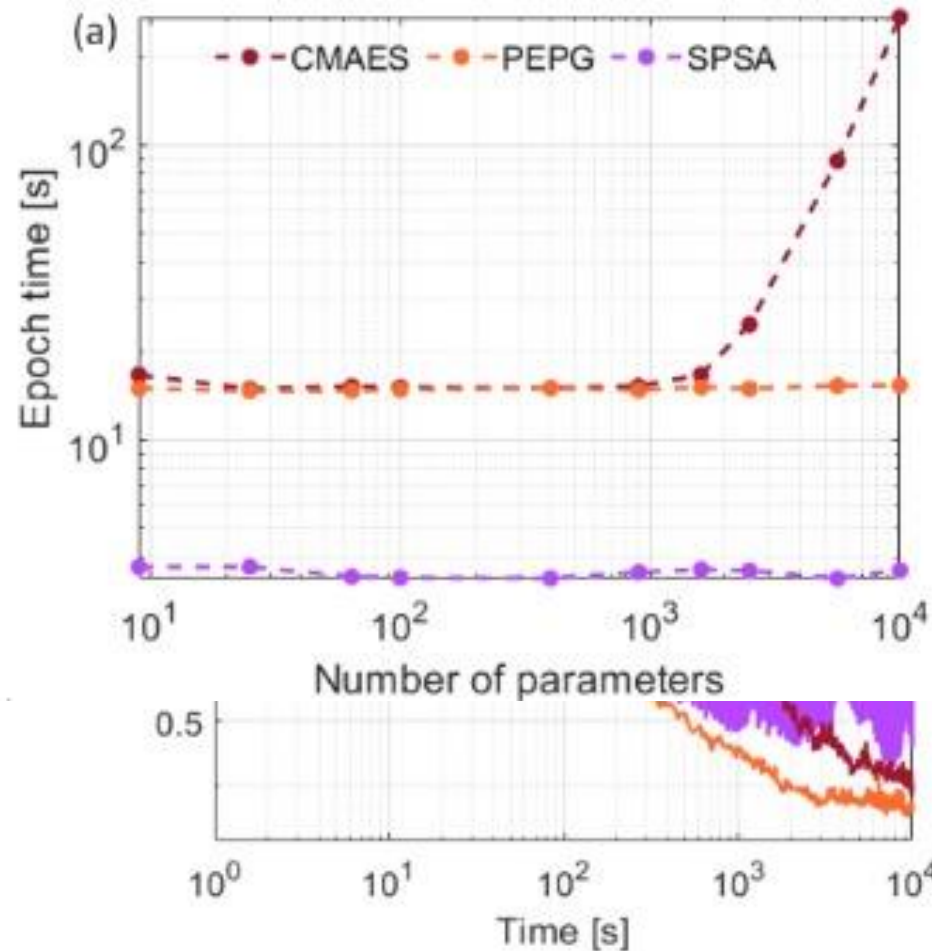
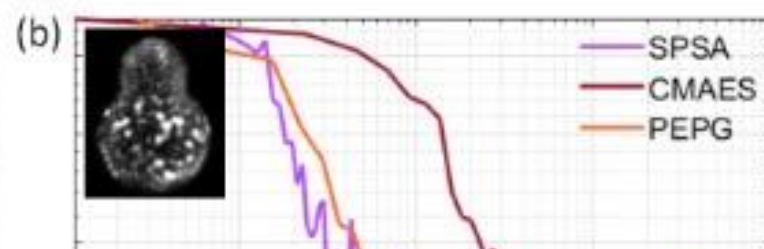
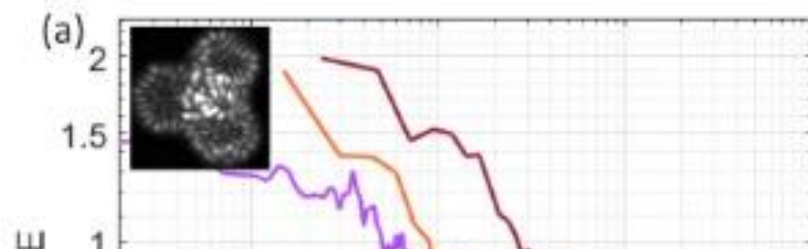
Synaptic metaplasticity in binarized neural

Back-propagation

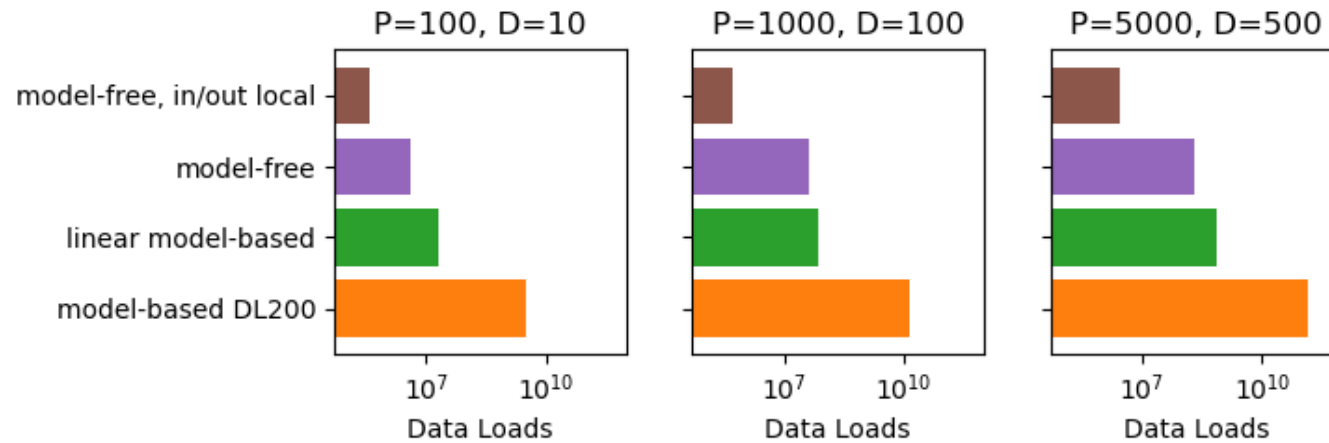


Summary

- **Long term field and undertaking (for me)**
 - New birds-eye view is required: systems, not components
 - (Almost) as many fundamental questions as there are questions
 - Concepts and systems need to converge
 - Most importantly: how to learn conceptually more efficient / less complex
- **Are epochs, #/o parameters and MAC/J really the right dimension?**
- **Good news**
 - Fascinating research and possibilities
 - **Personal** point of view: we are only scratching the surface
- **Most importantly:** NNs are here to stay – unlike quantum comp. with already demonstrated clear computational relevance.

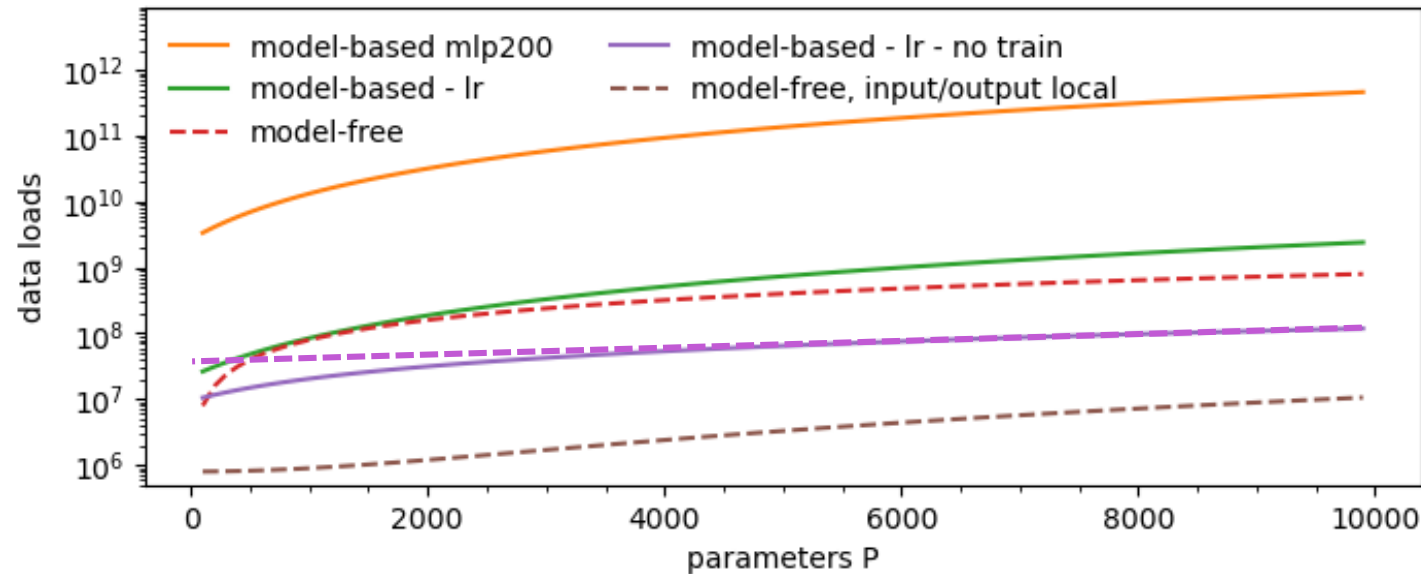


WHAT'S THE PROBLEM FOR MODEL BASED: VON NEUMANN AGAIN



D: population size
P: parameters neuromorphic system
K=1000 examples / batch

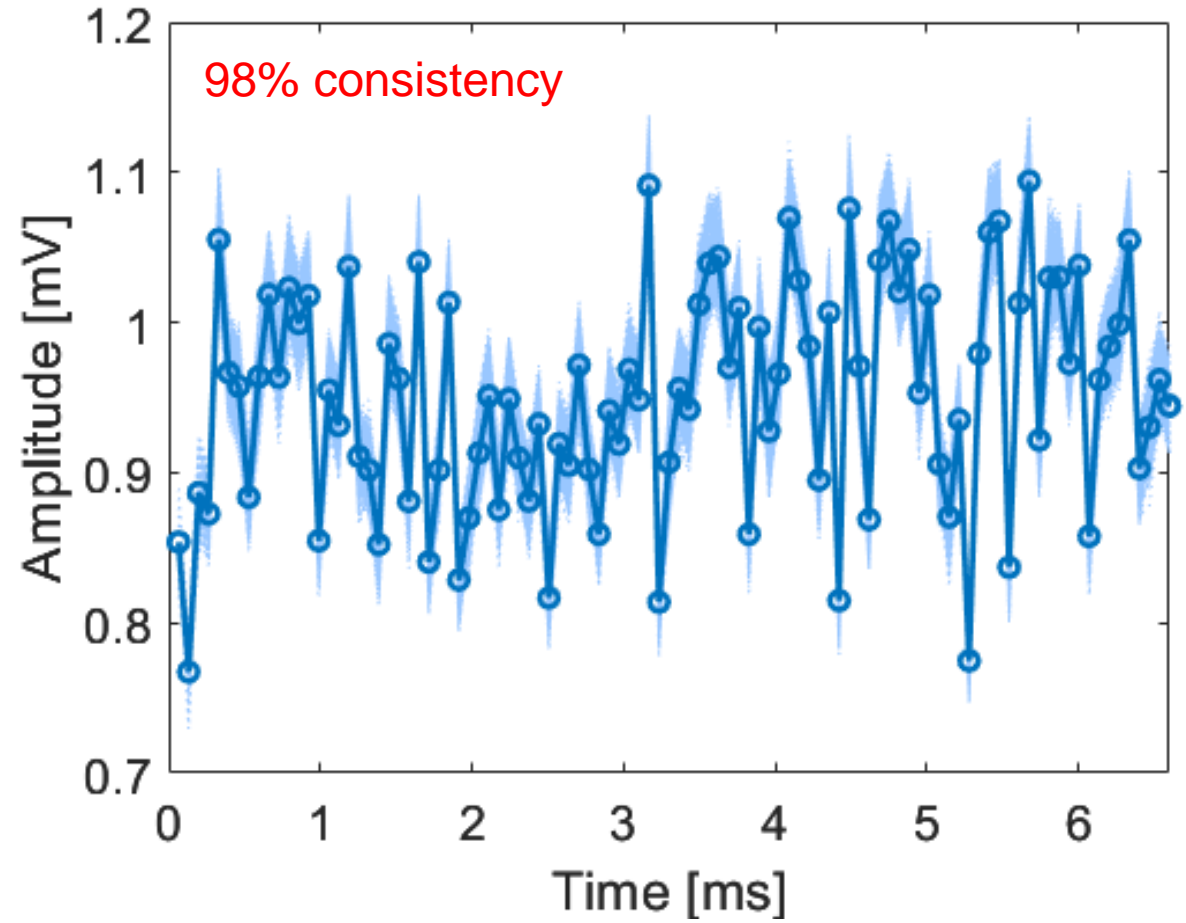
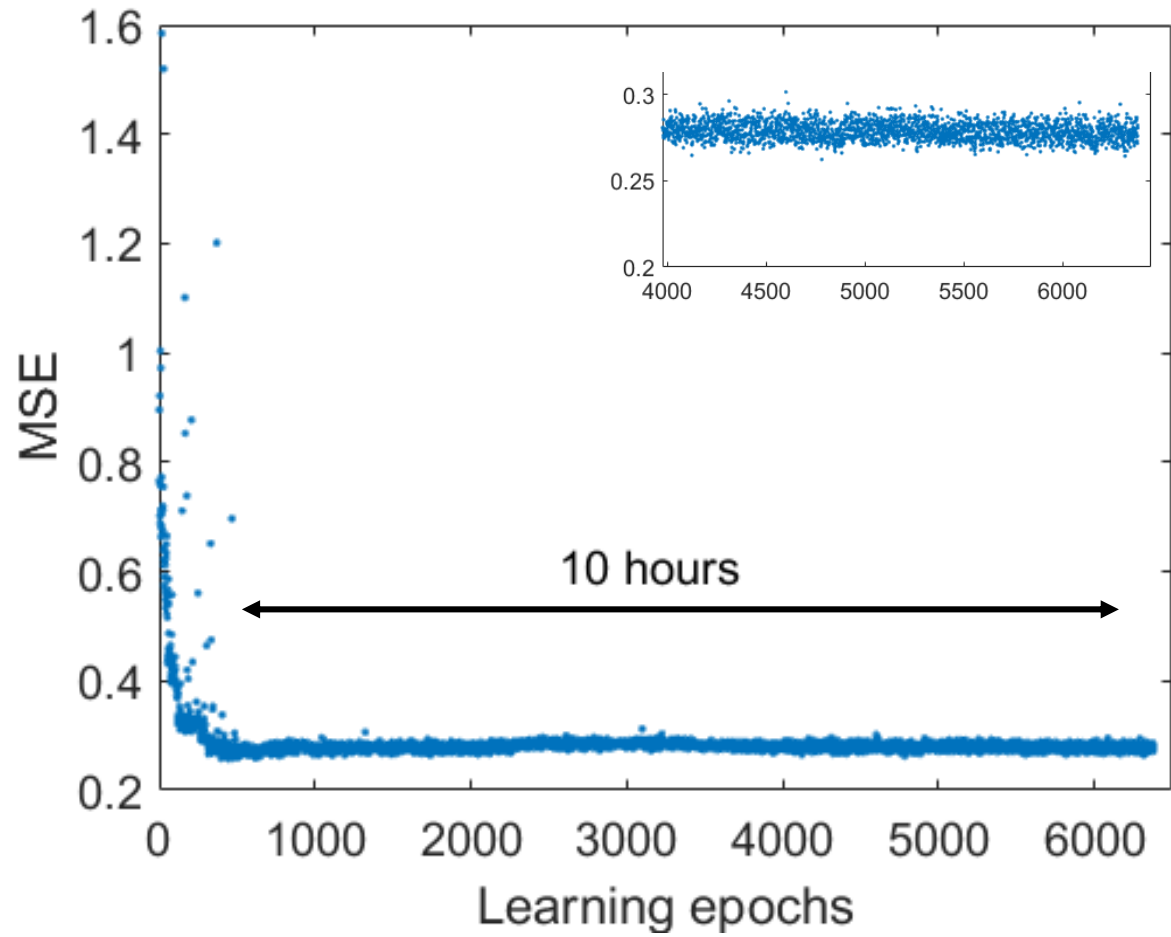
Training digital twin (model-based DL200) NOT INCLUDED



1. From model-free to model-based: 10^6 increased memory cost (at least)
 2. If we assume realistic drift, then training will happen frequently
- **Training will most likely consume all benefits we get from photonics (or unconventional) hardware**

Manuscript in preparation

LONG TERM STABILITY



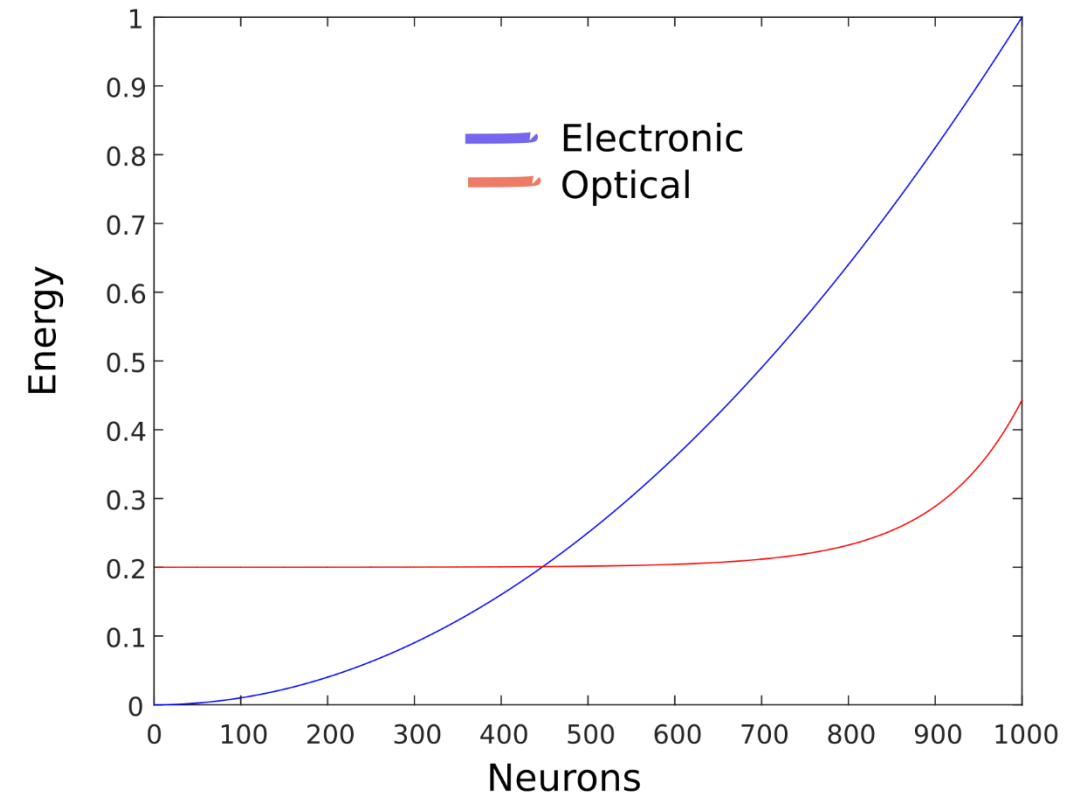
Optical vs. electronic NN communication

Cross-over point

- At which number of neurons N optical communication becomes more efficient?
- Factors: losses $\gamma \left[\frac{1}{m} \right]$ and electro \leftrightarrow optical conversion E^{EO} .
 - Electronic: $E \propto w^2(N + \frac{1}{2}N^2)$
 - Optical: $E \propto e^{Nw} + E^{EO}$

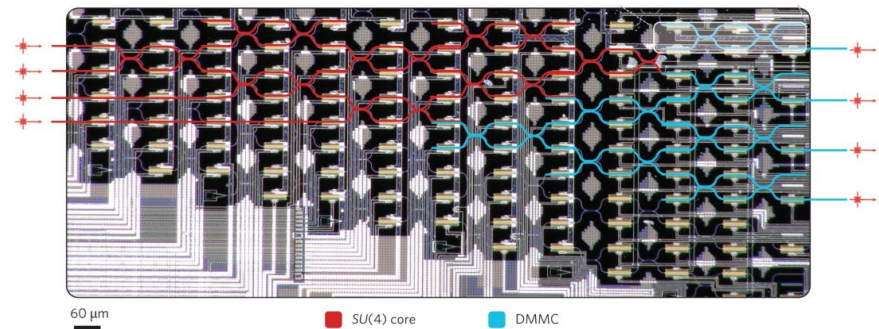
Of fundamental importance:

- Optical losses are not a natural constant \rightarrow engineering problem! (no absolute lower limit)
- EO conversion is a 'point' problem \rightarrow **not dependent on N**

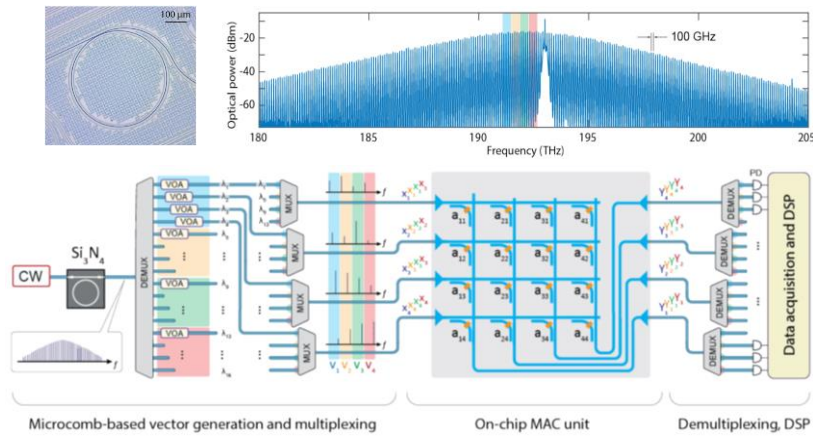


SCIENTIFIC MOTIVATION: OPTICAL NEURAL NETWORKS STATE-OF-THE-ART

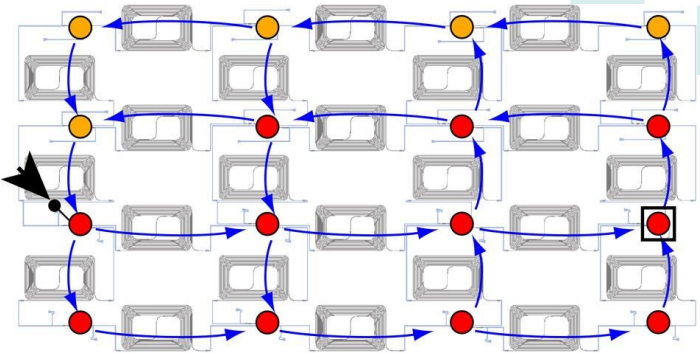
Matrix-vector multiplier with coherent photonics [1]



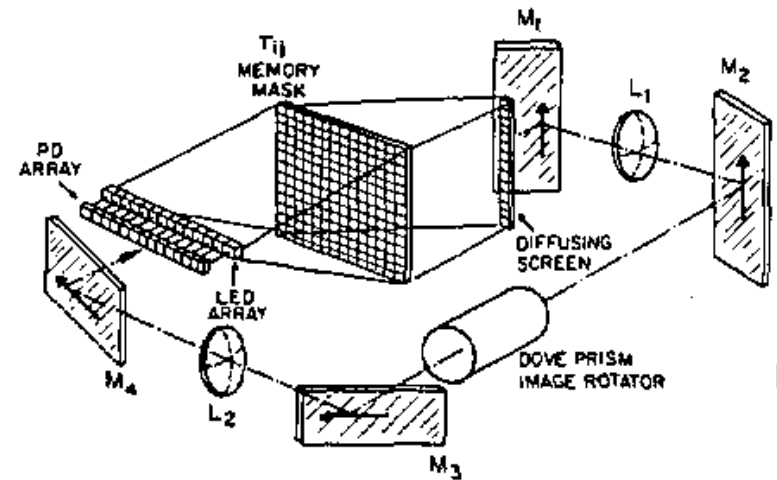
Parallel convolutions using WDM [2]



Reservoir computing on silicon chips [3]



Optical vector-matrix multiplier with optical feedback [4]



[1] Y. Shen et al., *Nature Photonics* **93**, 441-446 (2017)
[2] Feldmann, J. et al. *Nature* **589**, 52–58 (2021)
[3] Vandoorne, K. et al. *Nat Commun* **5**, 3541 (2014)

[4] Psaltis, Demetri et al *Optics letters* **10** 2 ,98-100 (1985)

COMMON TRAINING METHODS

Training Mechanism	Advantages	Disadvantages
Reservoir Computing	- easy to implement	- does not exploit the full potential of the hardware
BP with backward pass in a digital twin ¹	- allows to train the full system	- needs a precise model or digital twin, big overhead
Augmented Direct Feedback Alignment ²	- allows to train the full system	- partial knowledge of the model is needed - gradients have a random direction, reduced performance
Forward-Forward training ³	- allows to train deep models layerwise	- needs a precise model or digital twin
Equilibrium propagation ⁴	- performs backprop based on system dynamics	- energy function of the system needs to match certain criteria

Having a potentially resource heavy model is **counterproductive, setup is not autonomous.**

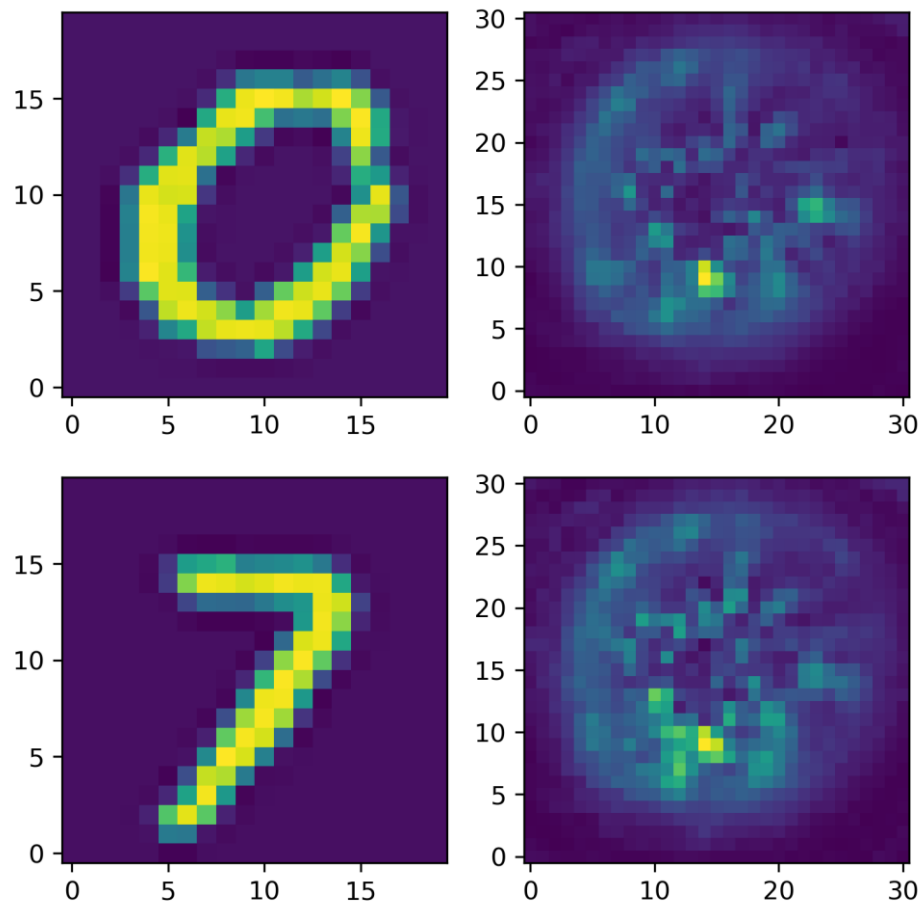
1. Wright, L. G., et al.. (2022). Deep physical neural networks trained with backpropagation. *Nature*, 601(7894), 549-555.

2. Nakajima et al. (2022). Physical deep learning with biologically inspired training method: gradient-free approach for physical hardware. *Nature Communications*, 13(1), 7847.

3. Hinton, G. (2022). The forward-forward algorithm: Some preliminary investigations. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2212.13345*.

4. Scellier, B., & Bengio, Y. (2017). Equilibrium propagation: Bridging the gap between energy-based models and backpropagation. *Frontiers in computational neuroscience*, 11, 24.

OFFLINE TRAINING



System	Performance
NN 100 training Wout +	60%
NN 100 training Wout +/-	87%
NN 100 training Wout and Win	97%
VCSEL offline Wout training full res	88%