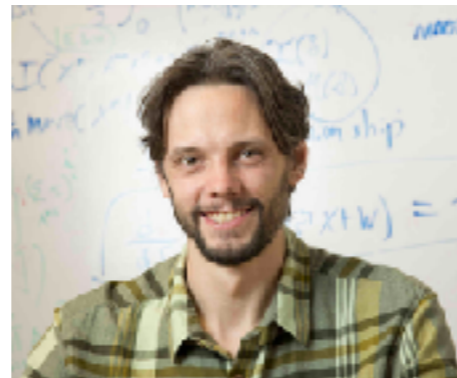


# The Gaussian equivalence of generative models for learning with shallow neural networks

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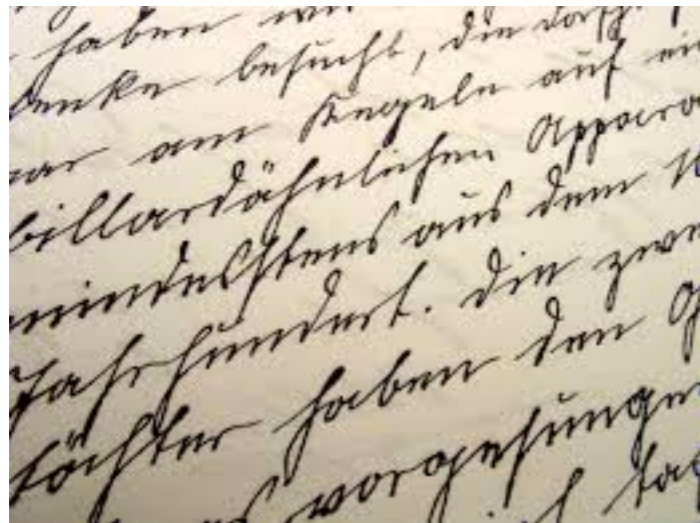
Sebastian Goldt, Bruno Loureiro, Galen Reeves,  
Florent Krzakala, Marc Mézard, and Lenka Zdeborová

MSML 2021



# The impact of **data structure** on learning

The data sets we care about in machine learning contain a lot of structure.



*Written text (NLP)*



*Images*

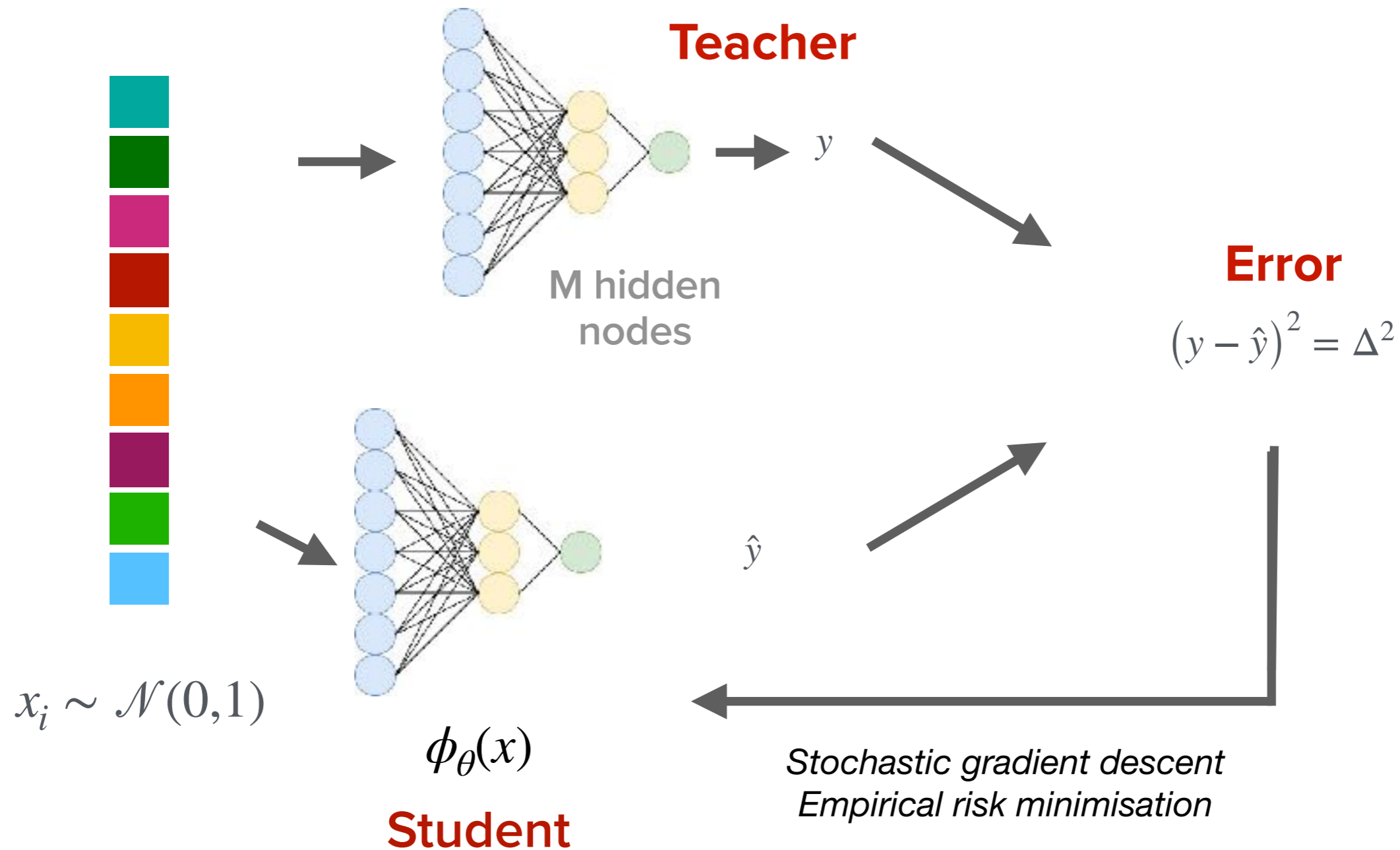


*Games of Go*

**How does data structure impact learning in neural networks?**

# The teacher-student setup

Gardner & Derrida (1989)  
Seung, Sompolinsky, Tishby (1993)



**Goal:**

$$\text{pmse}(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{q(x)} \left[ \sum_k^K v^k g(w^k x) - \sum_m^M \tilde{v}^m g(\tilde{w}^m x) \right]^2$$

# The Gaussian Equivalence Property

**Goal:** compute the prediction mean-squared error at all times.

For the **vanilla-teacher student** with i.i.d. inputs  $x$ :

Saad & Solla, (1995)  
Biehl & Schwarze (1995)

$$\text{pmse}(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_x \left( \sum_{k=1}^K v^k g(w^k x) - \sum_{m=1}^M \tilde{v}^m \tilde{g}(\tilde{w}^m x) \right)^2$$

*Student network  
(trying to learn)*

*Teacher network  
(creates the data)*

# The Gaussian Equivalence Property

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Average over the inputs  $x$

$\lambda^k \sim w^k x$

$\nu^m \sim \tilde{w}^m x$

# The Gaussian Equivalence Property

**Goal:** compute the prediction mean-squared error at all times.

For the **vanilla-teacher student** with i.i.d. inputs  $x$ :

Saad & Solla, (1995)  
Biehl & Schwarze (1995)

$$\text{pmse}(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{\lambda, \nu} \left( \sum_{k=1}^K v^k g(\lambda^k) - \sum_{m=1}^M \tilde{v}^m \tilde{g}(\nu^m) \right)^2$$

Average over  
the *local fields*  $(\lambda, \nu)$

$\lambda^k \sim w^k x$

$\nu^m \sim \tilde{w}^m x$

**Key random variables**  
for online learning  
and replicas (batch)

# The Gaussian Equivalence Property

**Goal:** compute the prediction mean-squared error at all times.

For the **vanilla-teacher student** with i.i.d. inputs  $x$ :

Saad & Solla, (1995)  
Biehl & Schwarze (1995)

$$\text{pmse}(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}_{\lambda, \nu} \left( \sum_{k=1}^K v^k g(\lambda^k) - \sum_{m=1}^M \tilde{v}^m \tilde{g}(\nu^m) \right)^2$$

$$\mathbb{E} x_i x_j = \delta_{ij} \quad \begin{array}{l} \boxed{\lambda^k} \sim \sum_i w_i^k x_i \\ \boxed{\nu^m} \sim \sum_i \tilde{w}_i^m x_i \end{array}$$

**Gaussian Equivalence Property:**  
 $(\lambda, \nu)$  are jointly Gaussian

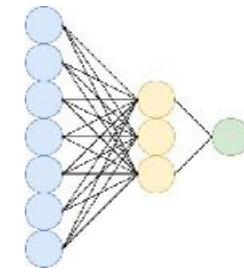
Hence, the *pmse* is a function of only the second moments of  $(\lambda, \nu)$ :

$$Q^{kl} \equiv \mathbb{E} \lambda^k \lambda^l, \quad R^{km} \equiv \mathbb{E} \lambda^k \nu^m, \quad T^{mn} \equiv \mathbb{E} \nu^m \nu^n$$

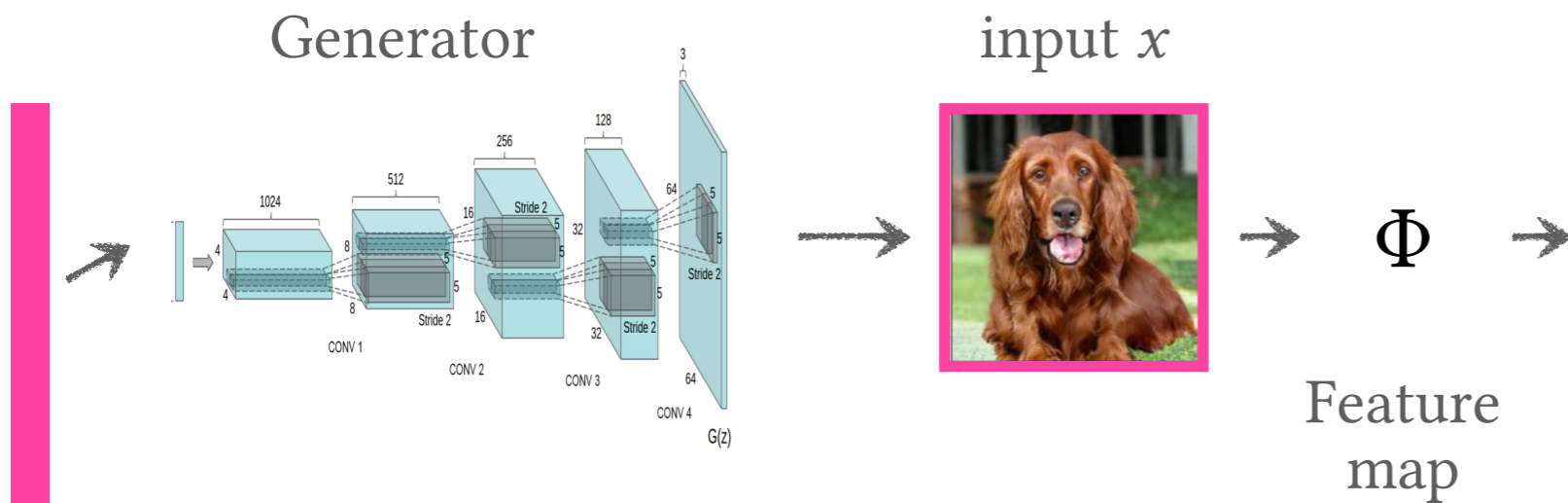
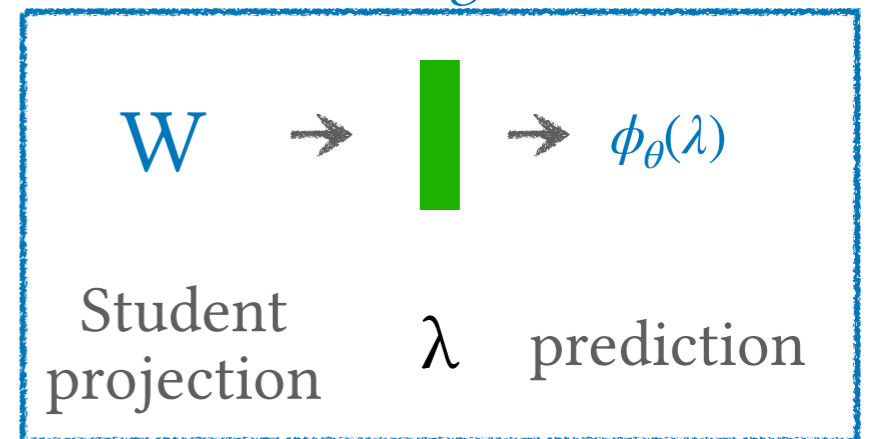


# The hidden manifold model

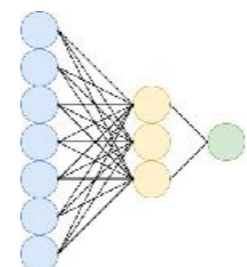
SG, M. Mézard, F. Krzakala, L. Zdeborová  
Phys. Rev. X, **10** (4), 041044



Learned from training data



Dimension  $\rightarrow \infty$   
Dimension finite





# Our contributions

## **Gaussian Equivalence Theorem**

We give rigorous conditions under which we can analyse learning from data coming from single-layer generators.

## **Dynamical equations for two-layer students**

The equations track the test error of two-layer students trained on deep generative models.

## **Replica analysis for random feature regression**

Closed set of fixed point equations that characterise the performance after full-batch training.

# The Gaussian Equivalence Theorem

**Setup:** Fully connected, single layer generator  $\mathcal{G} : \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$

$$x_n = \mathcal{G}_n(c) = \sigma(a_n^\top c)$$

with the teacher acting on the latent variable  $c$ :  $y = \phi_{\tilde{\theta}}(c)$

$$\mathbb{E} x_i x_j = \Omega_{ij}$$

$$\lambda^k \sim \sum_i w_i^k x_i$$

$$\nu^m \sim \sum_r \tilde{w}_r^m c_r$$



They're still  
(sometimes)  
Gaussian!

**Theorem:** Let  $P$  be the distribution of the pair  $(\lambda, \nu)$  and let  $\hat{P}$  be the Gaussian distribution with the same first and second moments. Then...

$$d_{\text{MS}}(P, \hat{P}) = O \left( \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} W M_1^{1/2} \right\|^2 + \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} W M_2^{1/2} \right\|^2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{D}} \tilde{W} A^\top \right\|^2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \right)$$

# The Gaussian Equivalence Theorem

**Theorem:** Let  $P$  be the distribution of the pair  $(\lambda, \nu)$  and let  $\hat{P}$  be the Gaussian distribution with the same first and second moments. Then...

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G} : \mathbb{R}^D &\rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N \\ x_n &= \mathcal{G}_n(c) = \sigma(a_n^\top c) \\ y &= \phi_{\tilde{\theta}}(c) \end{aligned}$$

$$d_{\text{MS}}(P, \hat{P}) = O \left( \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} W M_1^{1/2} \right\|^2 + \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} W M_2^{1/2} \right\|^2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{D}} \tilde{W} A^\top \right\|^2 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \right)$$

*Student weights* → *Teacher weights* → *Generator weights*  
*Related to input correlations*

## Related work

- Works in wide network limit rely on RMT and thus random weights
- Mei & Montanari; Couillet et al. introduce related equivalent Gaussian models for integrals w.r.t. spectral densities.
- Large body of work on low-dim projections of high-dim data being Gaussian - we quantify how Gaussian they look like.

# Dynamical equations for two-layer students

**Setup:** Fully connected, single layer generator  $\mathcal{G} : \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$

$$x_n = \mathcal{G}_n(c) = \sigma(a_n^\top c)$$

with the teacher acting on the latent variable  $c$ :  $y = \phi_{\tilde{\theta}}(c)$

- Train the student using online SGD:

$$\theta_{\mu+1} = \theta_{\mu} - \eta \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta) |_{\theta_{\mu}, x_{\mu}, y_{\mu}^*}$$

**Goal:** Derive a closed set of equations for the order parameters

$$Q^{k\ell} \equiv \mathbb{E} \lambda^k \lambda^{\ell}, \quad R^{km} \equiv \mathbb{E} \lambda^k \nu^m$$

that track the dynamics of a two-layer student trained using online SGD on the deep hidden manifold.

# Dynamical equations for two-layer students

Train the student using online SGD:

$$\theta_{\mu+1} = \theta_{\mu} - \eta \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta) |_{\theta_{\mu}, x_{\mu}, y_{\mu}^*}$$

**Goal:** Derive a closed set of equations for the order parameters

Saad & Solla (1995)  
Biehl & Riegler (1995)

$$Q^{k\ell} \equiv \mathbb{E} \lambda^k \lambda^{\ell}, \quad R^{km} \equiv \mathbb{E} \lambda^k \nu^m$$

$$Q^{k\ell} = \int d\mu_{\Omega}(\rho) \rho q^{k\ell}(\rho)$$

Spectral density of  
input-input covariance

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial q^{k\ell}(\rho)}{\partial t} = & -\eta \left( \rho \sum_{j \neq k}^K \left[ v^k v^j q^{k\ell}(\rho) h_{(1)}^{kj}(Q) + v^k v^j q^{j\ell}(\rho) h_{(2)}^{kj}(Q) \right] + \rho v^k v^k q^{k\ell}(\rho) h_{(3)}^k(Q) \right. \\ & - v^k \sum_n^M \left[ \rho \tilde{v}^n q^{k\ell}(\rho) h_{(4)}^{kn}(Q, R, T) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\delta}} \tilde{v}^n r^{\ell n}(\rho) h_{(5)}^{kn}(Q, R, T) \right] \\ & \left. + \text{all of the above with } \ell \rightarrow k, k \rightarrow \ell \right) + \eta^2 \gamma v^k v^{\ell} h_{(6)}^{k\ell}(Q, R, T, v, \tilde{v}). \end{aligned}$$

$$R^{km} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\delta}} \int d\mu_{\Omega}(\rho) r^{km}(\rho)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial r^{km}(\rho)}{\partial t} = & -\eta v^k \left( \rho \sum_{j \neq k}^K \left[ v^j r^{km}(\rho) h_{(1)}^{kj}(Q) + v^j \rho r^{jm}(\rho) h_{(2)}^{kj}(Q) \right] + v^k \rho r^{km}(\rho) h_{(3)}^k(Q) \right. \\ & \left. - \sum_n^M \left[ \rho \tilde{v}^n r^{km}(\rho) h_{(4)}^{kn}(Q, R, T) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\delta}} \tilde{v}^n h_{(5)}^{kn}(Q, R, T) \right] \right). \end{aligned}$$

# Dynamical equations for two-layer students

**Statement:**

$$Q^{kl} \equiv \mathbb{E} \lambda^k \lambda^\ell, \quad R^{km} \equiv \mathbb{E} \lambda^k \nu^m$$

$$Q^{kl} = \int d\mu_\Omega(\rho) \rho q^{kl}(\rho)$$

$$R^{km} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\delta}} \int d\mu_\Omega(\rho) r^{km}(\rho)$$

Remarkably, the generator only appears via two covariance matrices:

$$\Omega_{ij} = \mathbb{E} x_i x_j$$

*Input-input  
correlations*

$$\Phi_{ir} = \mathbb{E} x_i c_r$$

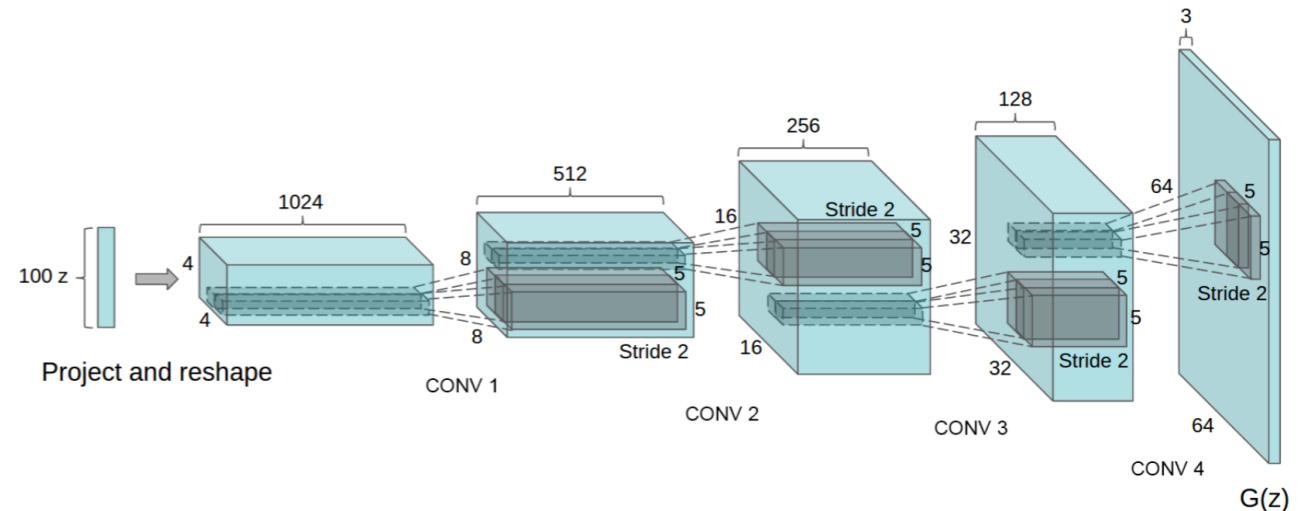
*Input-latent  
correlations*

# Testing the equations with **deep generators**

Used pre-trained dcGAN (Radford '15) and normalising flows (Dinh '17) to generate inputs

$$x = \mathcal{G}(c) = \mathcal{G}^L \dots \mathcal{G}^3 \circ \mathcal{G}^2 \circ \mathcal{G}^1(c)$$

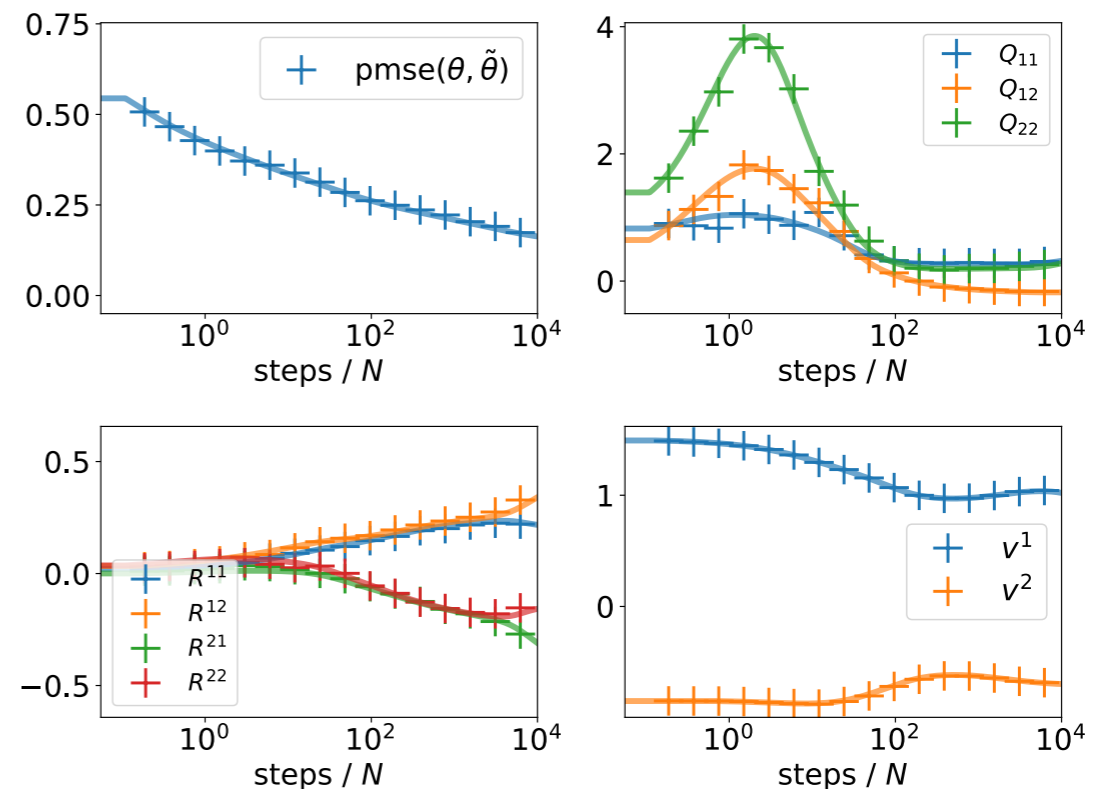
$$c \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_D) \quad y = \phi_{\tilde{\theta}}(c)$$



*Deep Convolutional GAN (Radford et al., ICLR 2016)*



Top half: CIFAR10 images  
Bottom half: realNVP samples



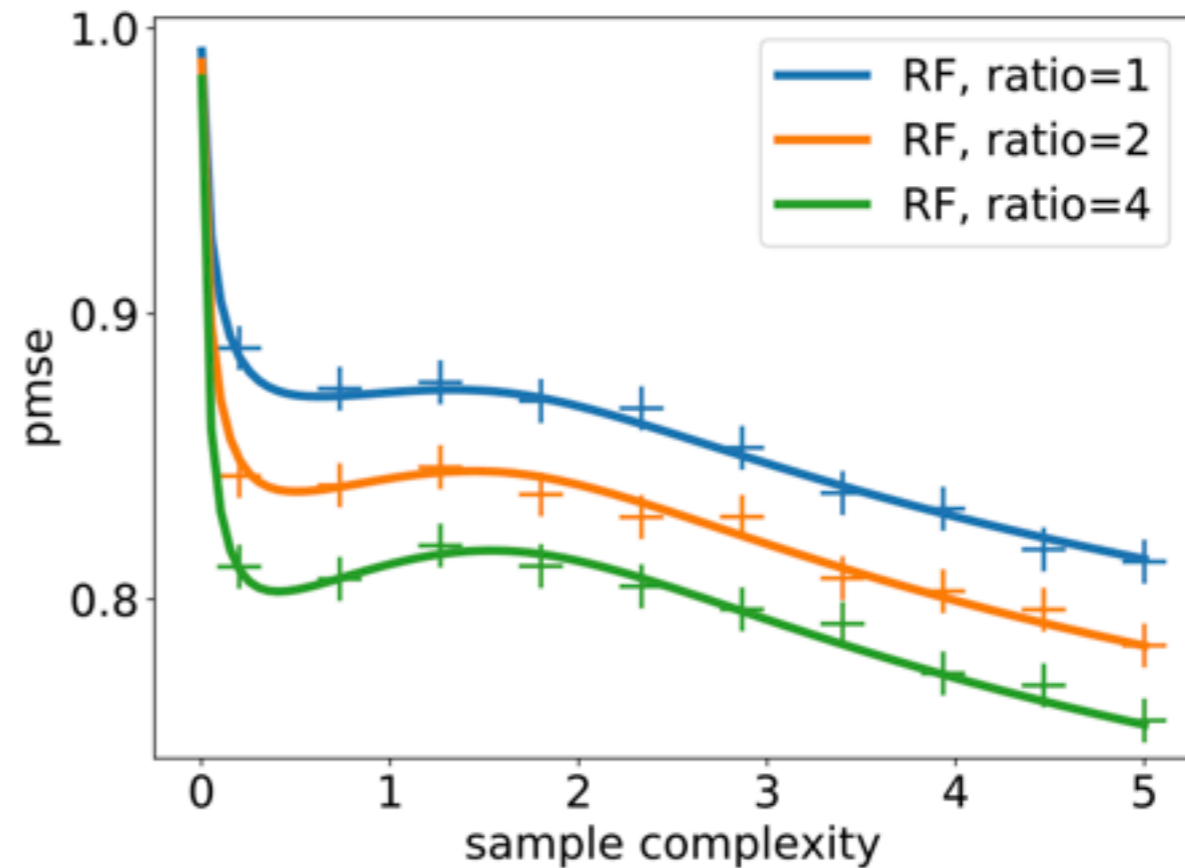
$M=K=2, \eta = 0.2, D=3072, N=3072$

# The batch case: **random-features** logistic regression

- Replica calculation provides generalisation error of full-batch logistic regression with random features.



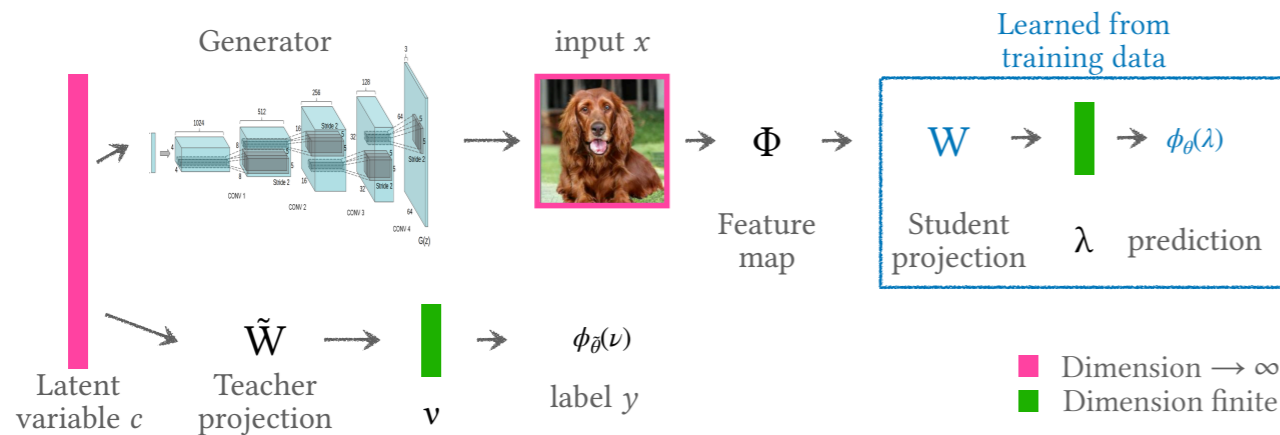
Top half: Grayscale CIFAR10 images  
Bottom half: Samples from dcGAN  
(Radford et al. '15)



Fixed weight decay  $\lambda = 10^{-2}$ .



# Concluding perspectives



$$\begin{bmatrix} \nu \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{K+M} \sim \mathcal{N} \left( 0, \begin{bmatrix} \Psi & \Phi \\ \Phi^\top & \Omega \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

- Proof of convergence for empirical risk

B. Loureiro, C. Gerbelot, H. Cui  
SG, M. Mézard, F. Krzakala, L. Zdeborová,  
arXiv:2102.08127

- Complementary proof of risk convergence: Hu & Lu (arXiv:2009.07669)

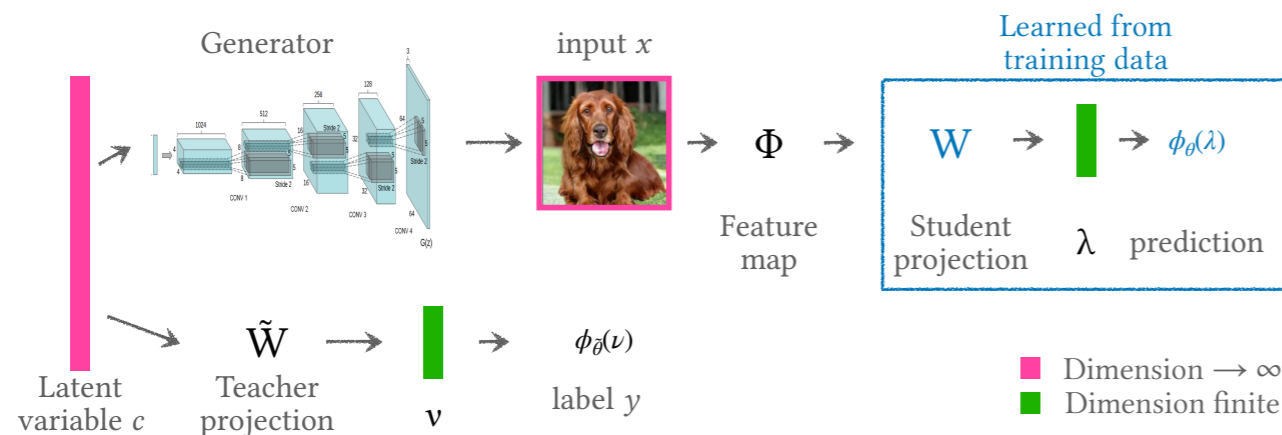
**Theorem 1.** (Training loss and generalisation error) Under Assumption (C.1), there exist constants  $C, c, c' > 0$  such that, for any optimal solution  $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$  to (1.3), the training loss and generalisation error respectively defined by equations (2.2) and (2.3) verify, for any  $0 < \epsilon < c'$ :

$$\mathbb{P} (|\mathcal{E}_{\text{train}}(\hat{\mathbf{w}}) - \mathcal{E}_{\text{train}}^*| \geq \epsilon) \leq \frac{C}{\epsilon} e^{-cnc^2}, \quad (2.10)$$

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \left| \mathcal{E}_{\text{gen}}(\hat{\mathbf{w}}) - \mathbb{E}_{\omega, \xi} [\hat{g}(f_0(\omega), \hat{f}(\xi))] \right| \geq \epsilon \right) \leq \frac{C}{\epsilon} e^{-cnc^2},$$

# Concluding perspectives

B. Loureiro, C. Gerbelot, H. Cui  
SG, M. Mézard, F. Krzakala, L. Zdeborová,  
arXiv:2102.08127



$$\begin{bmatrix} \nu \\ \lambda \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{K+M} \sim \mathcal{N} \left( 0, \begin{bmatrix} \Psi & \Phi \\ \Phi^{\top} & \Omega \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

- Proof of convergence for empirical risk
  - Complementary proof of risk convergence: Hu & Lu (arXiv:2009.07669)
- Pre-trained teacher with static feature map for more realistic learning curves.

**Goals:** Establish the limits of Gaussian equivalence, go beyond Gaussian models of data!