

K-priors: A General Principle of Adaptation

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<http://emtiyaz.github.io>



Continual Learning: Lifelong and incremental

Quickly **adapt** to new situations by exploiting
(and preserving) the past knowledge

Human Learning at
the age of 6 months.



Human Learning at
the age of 6 months.



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Converged at the
age of 12 months



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Transfer
skills
at the age
of 14
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Adaptation in Machine Learning

1. Diethe et al. Continual learning in practice, arXiv, 2019.
2. Paleyes et al. Challenges in deploying machine learning: a survey of case studies, arXiv, 2021.
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hx7BXih7zx8&t=897s>

Adaptation in Machine Learning

- Changes in the training frameworks [1,2]
 - New data are regularly pooled and labeled
 - Old data become irrelevant
 - Regular hyperparameter tuning to handle drifts
 - Model class/architectures needs an update

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Adaptation in Machine Learning

- Changes in the training frameworks [1,2]
 - New data are regularly pooled and labeled
 - Old data become irrelevant
 - Regular hyperparameter tuning to handle drifts
 - Model class/architectures needs an update
- Constant retraining, retesting, redeployment
 - Huge financial and environmental costs (e.g., Tesla AI DataEngine takes 70000 GPU hrs [3])

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 - Quick (avoid full retraining)
 - Accurate (performance similar to retraining)
 - Wide (works for variety of tasks and models)

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- Adaptation mechanisms that are
 - Quick (avoid full retraining)
 - Accurate (performance similar to retraining)
 - Wide (works for variety of tasks and models)
- Knowledge-Adaptation priors (K-priors) [1]
 - Principle: reconstruct the gradient of the “past”
 - Unify & generalize many adaptation strategies (weight priors, knowledge distillation, similarity control, SVMs, GPs, and memory-based CL)

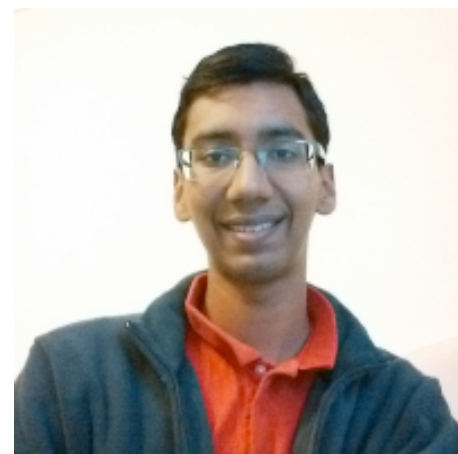
Knowledge-Adaptation Priors

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Abstract

Humans and animals have a natural ability to quickly adapt to their surroundings, but machine-learning models, when subjected to changes, often require a complete retraining from scratch. We present Knowledge-adaptation priors (K-priors) to reduce the cost of retraining by enabling quick and accurate adaptation for a wide-variety of tasks and models. This is made possible by a combination of weight and function-space priors to reconstruct the gradients of the past, which recovers and generalizes many existing, but seemingly-unrelated, adaptation strategies. Training with simple first-order gradient methods can often recover the exact retrained model to an arbitrary accuracy by choosing a sufficiently large memory of the past data. Empirical results confirm that the adaptation can be cheap and accurate, and a promising alternative to retraining.



Joint work with Siddharth Swaroop
University of Cambridge, UK

Adaptation Tasks

Given a base model w_* trained on data D , adapt it to “incremental” changes in the training framework

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \ell_i(w) + \mathcal{R}(w)$$

Adaptation Tasks

Given a base model w_* trained on data D , adapt it to “incremental” changes in the training framework

$$\text{Add data } \ell_j(w) + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \ell_i(w) + \mathcal{R}(w)$$

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$$\underbrace{-\ell_k(w)}_{\text{Delete data}} + \underbrace{\ell_j(w)}_{\text{Add data}} + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \ell_i(w) + \mathcal{R}(w)$$

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Adaptation mechanisms that are accurate, quick, work for all these tasks, and for generic model f_w^i .

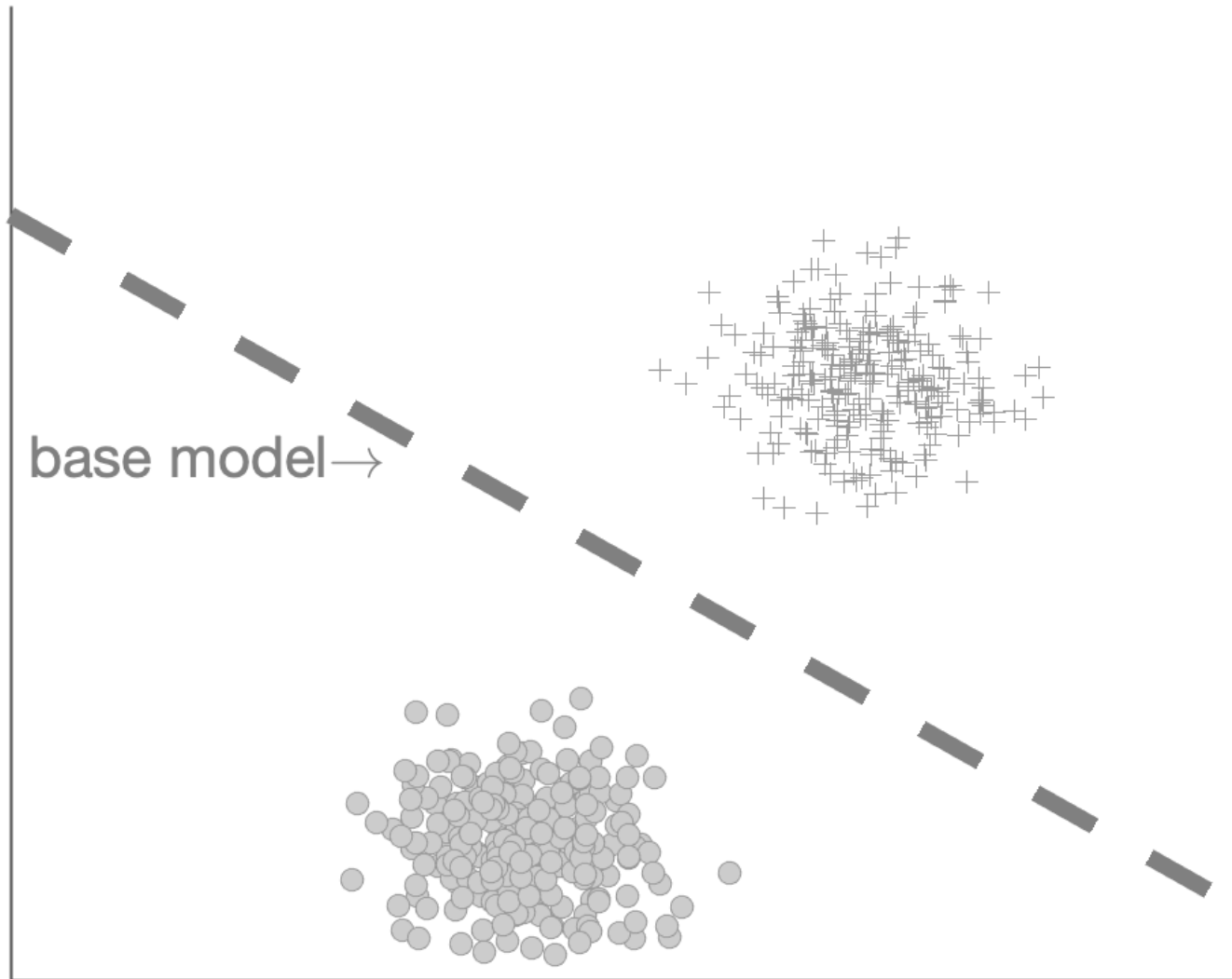
Adaptation Tasks

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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & \text{Change model } f_w^i \text{ or architecture} & & & & \\
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 \text{Delete data} & \text{Add data} & & & \text{Change regularizer or hyperparameter} & & \\
 & & (w - w_*)^\top G(w_*)(w - w_*) & & & & \\
 & & \text{Weight-priors} & & & & \\
 & & G \text{ is Hessian/Fisher [1],} & & & & \\
 & & \text{Quick, but not wide/accurate} & & & &
 \end{array}$$

Adaptation mechanisms that are accurate, quick, work for all these tasks, and for generic model f_w^i .

Inaccuracy of Weight-Priors

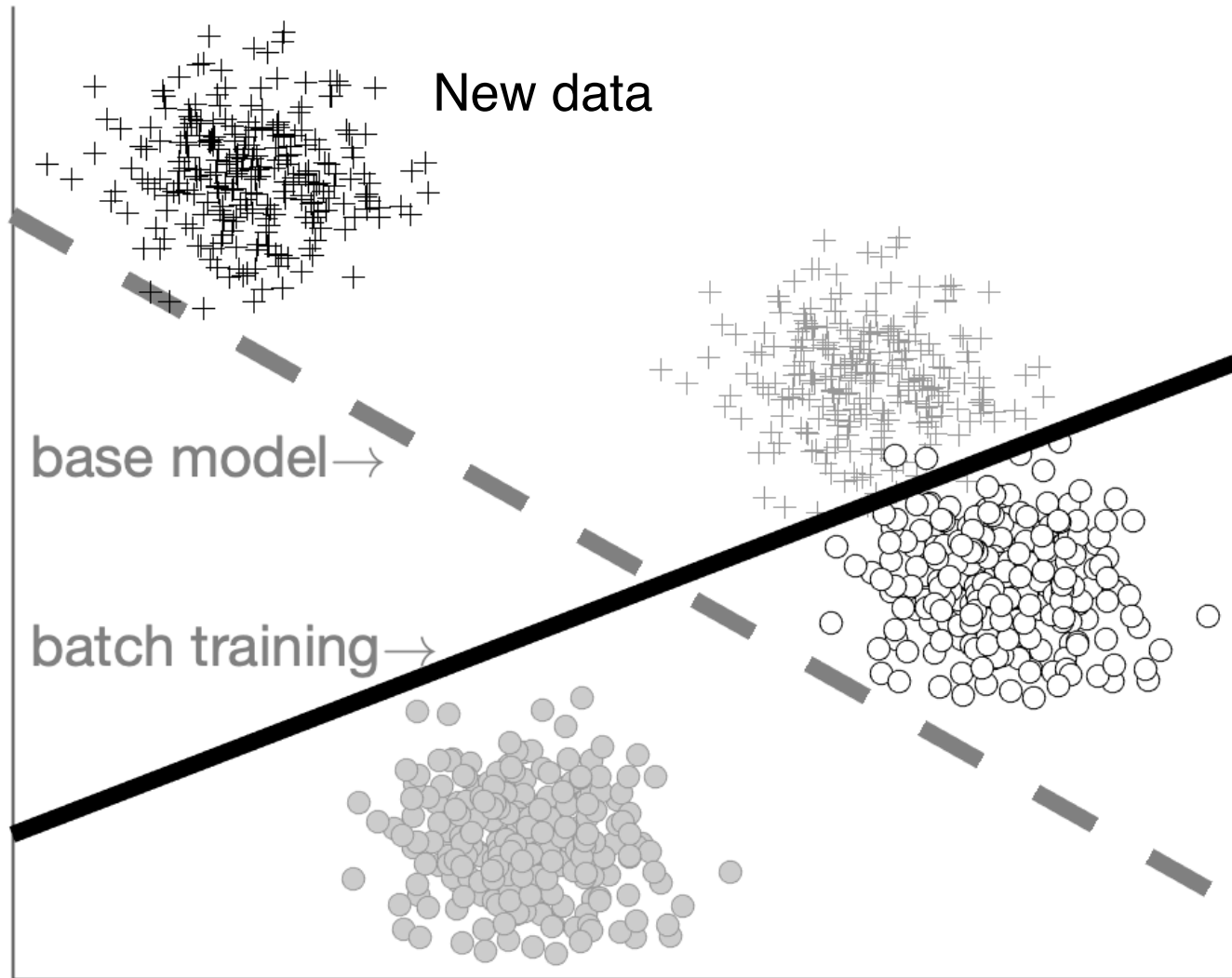


‘Add Data’ task.

Binary classification with Logistic regression (Zero offset, ie, decision boundary pass through the origin).

Each task $N=500$, each class 250 examples.

Inaccuracy of Weight-Priors

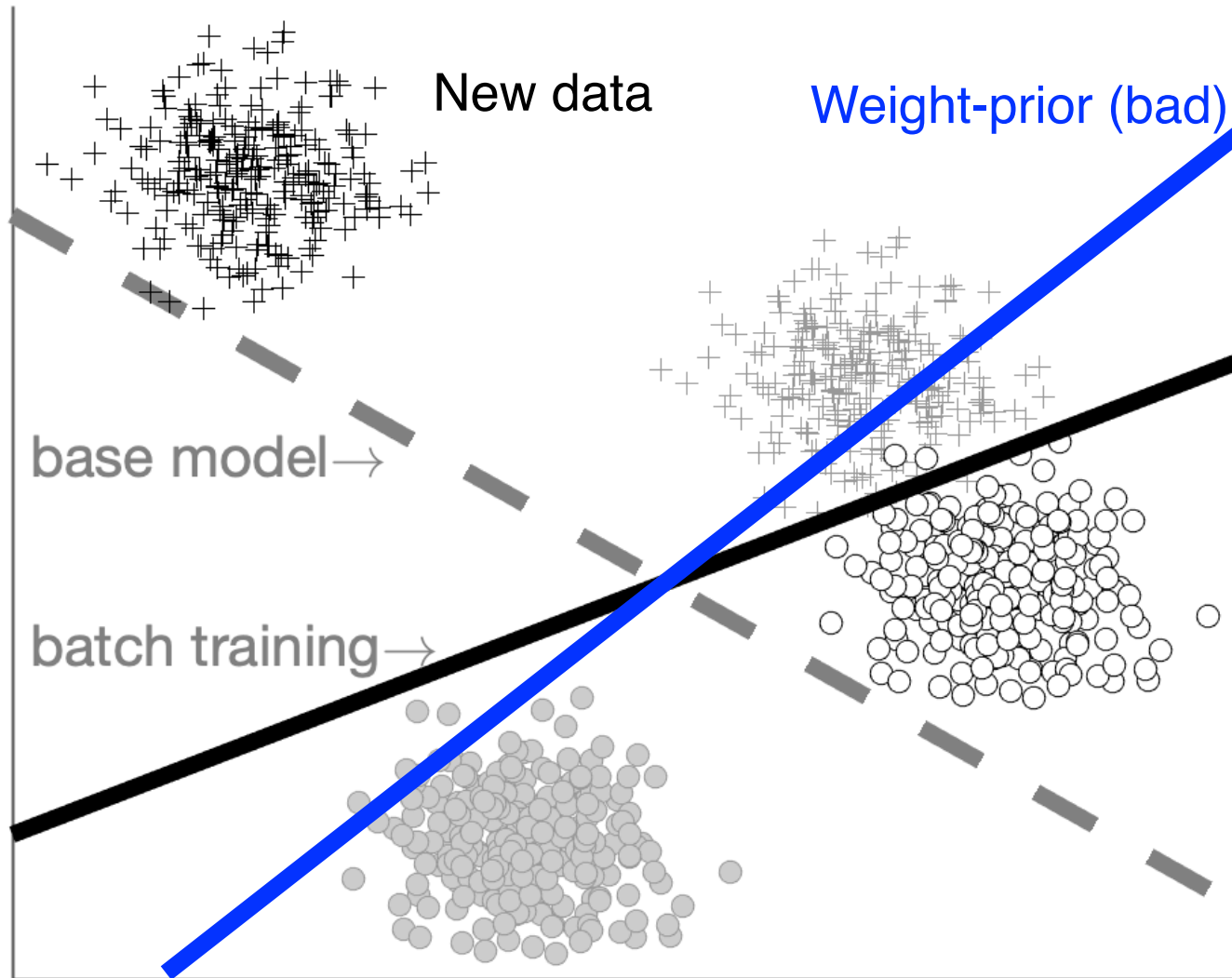


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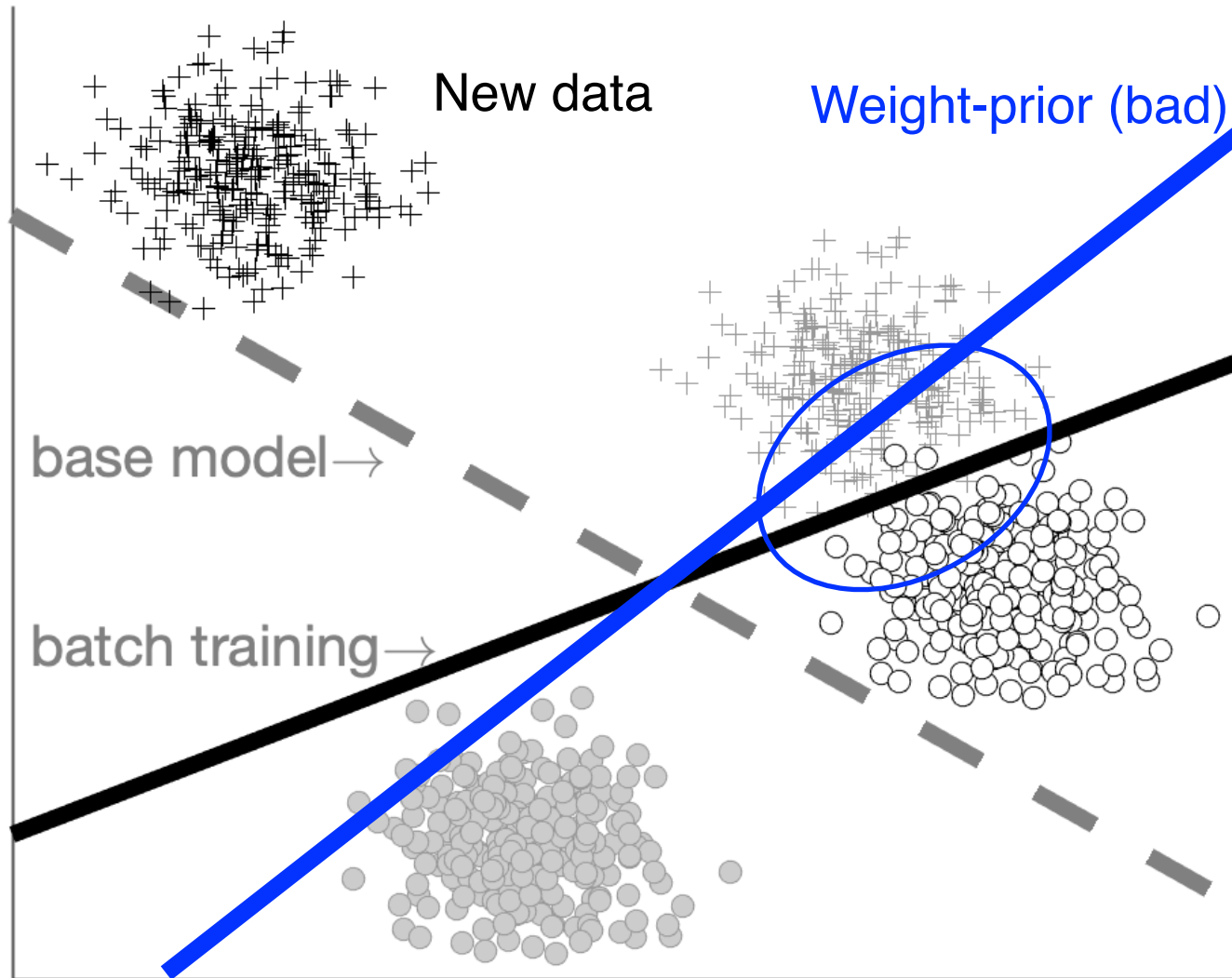


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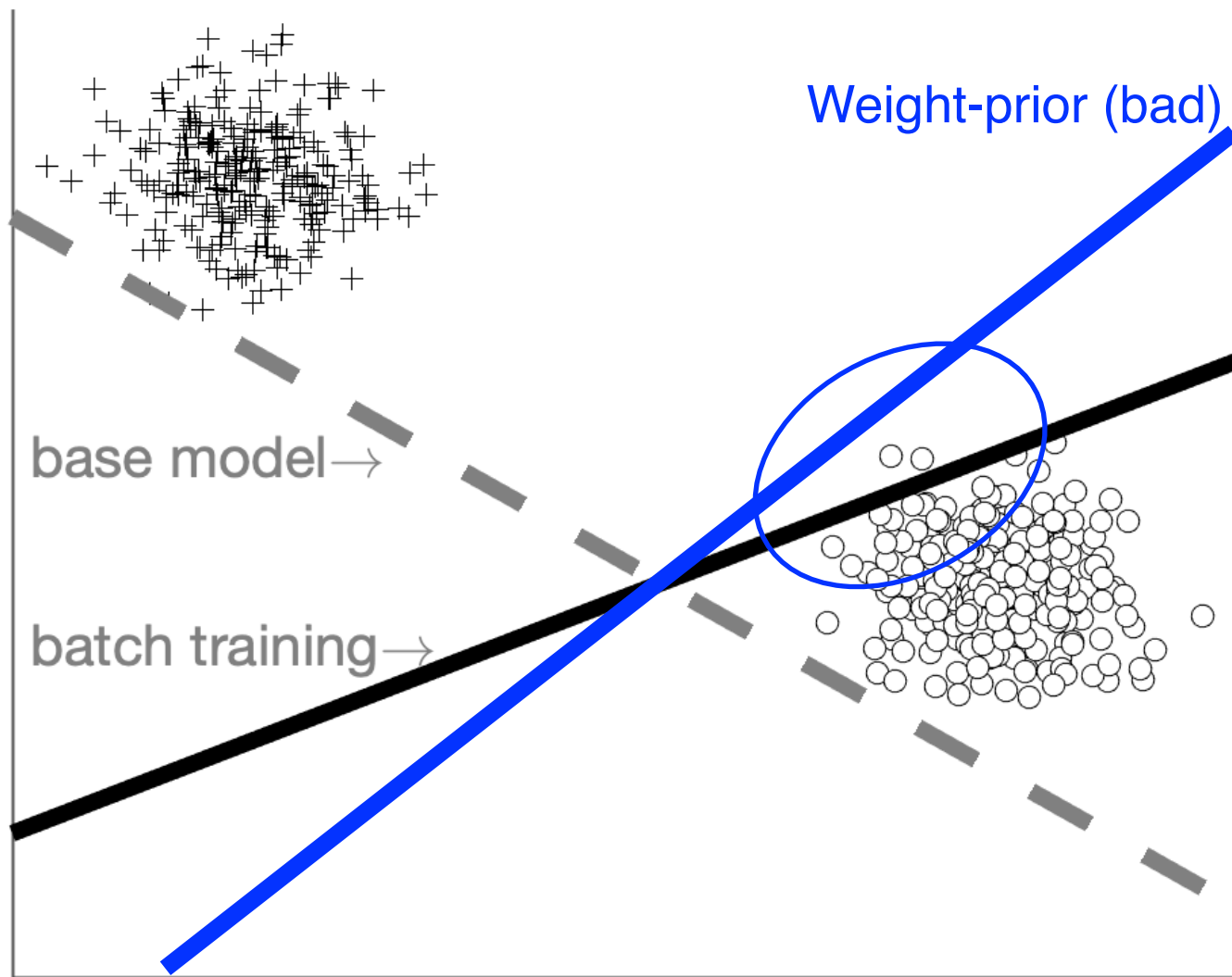


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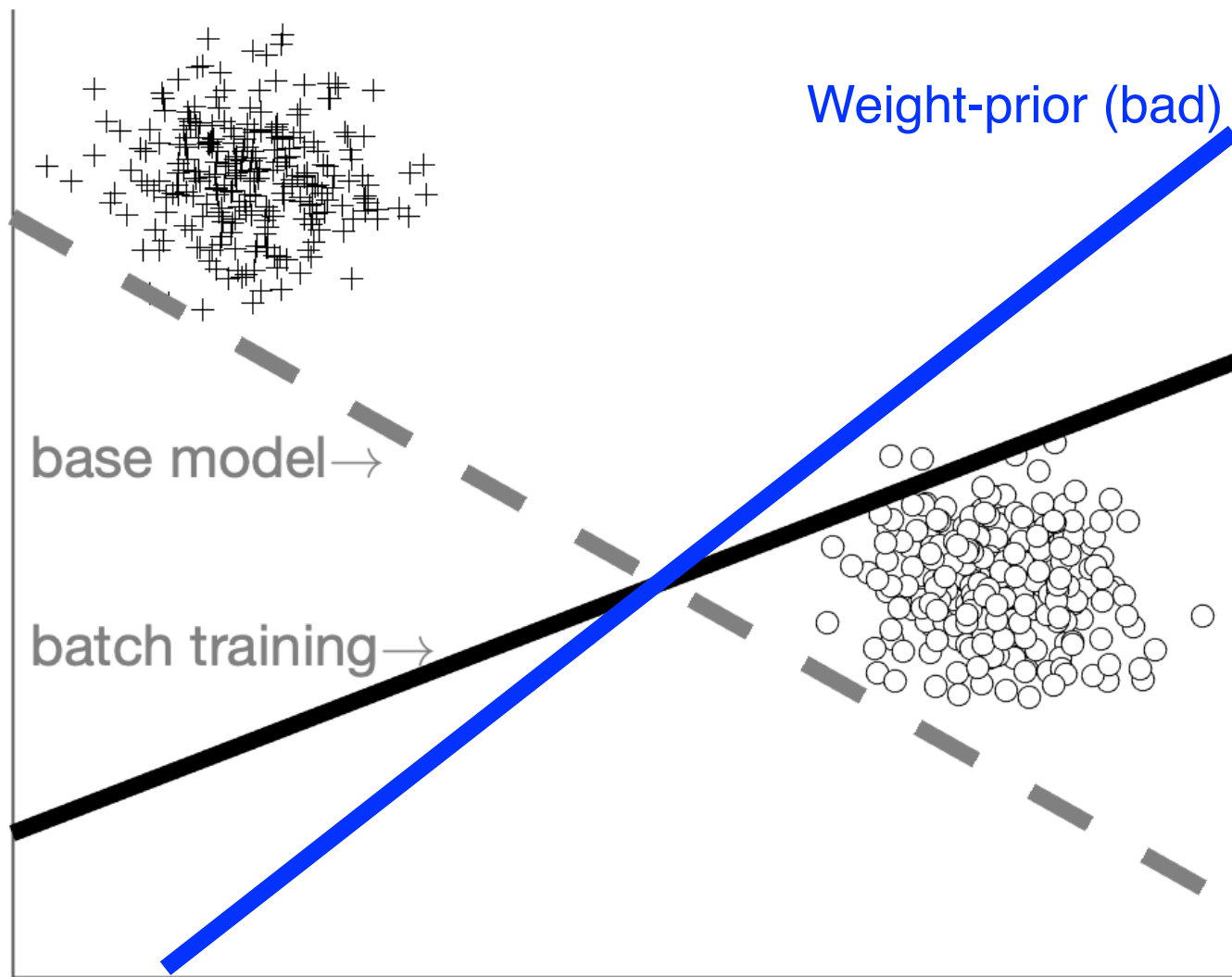
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Knowledge-Adaptation Priors



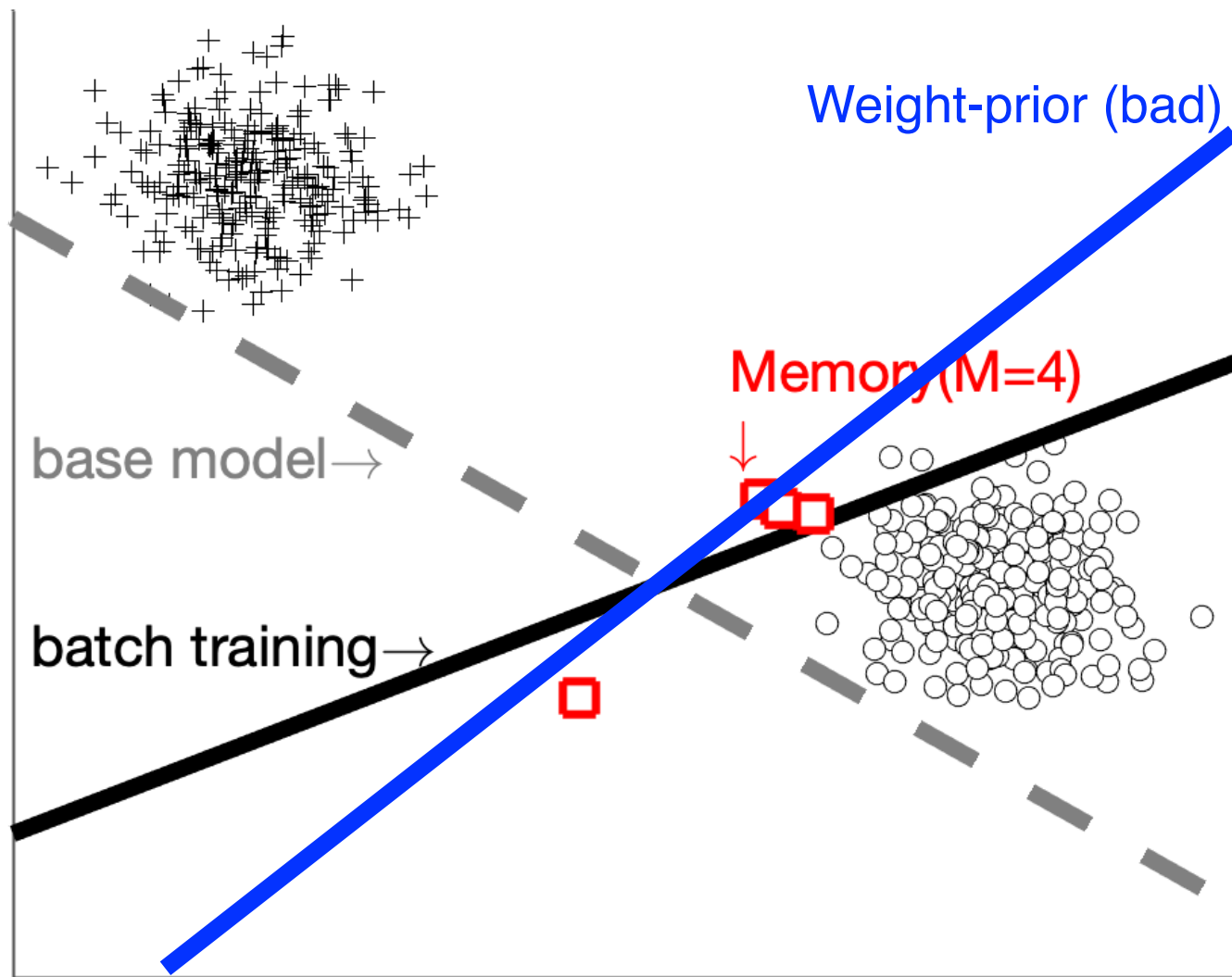
K-priors use past-memory \mathcal{M} (size M) in addition to the base model.

Knowledge-Adaptation Priors



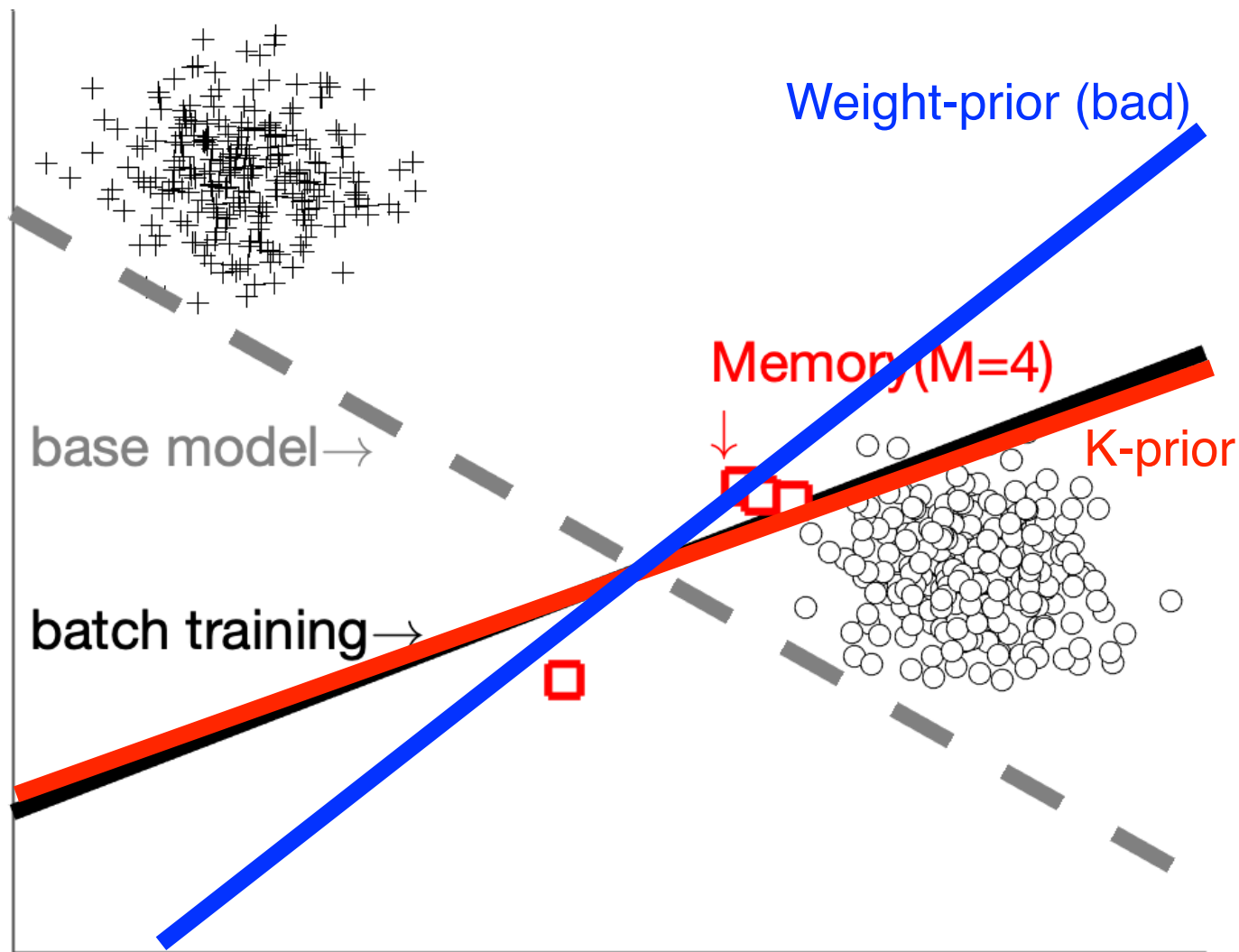
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Knowledge-Adaptation Priors



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Knowledge-Adaptation Priors



A General Principle of Adaptation

K-priors $K(w; w_*, \mathcal{M})$ use w_* and \mathcal{M}

$$-\ell_k(w) + \ell_j(w) + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \ell_i(w) + \mathcal{R}(w) - \mathcal{R}(w) + \mathcal{G}(w)$$

A General Principle of Adaptation

K-priors $K(w; w_*, \mathcal{M})$ use w_* and \mathcal{M}

$$-\ell_k(w) + \ell_j(w) + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \frac{\ell_i(w) + \mathcal{R}(w)}{K(w; w_*, \mathcal{M})} - \mathcal{R}(w) + \mathcal{G}(w)$$

A General Principle of Adaptation

K-priors $K(w; w_*, \mathcal{M})$ use w_* and \mathcal{M}

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The principle is to choose $K(w)$ and memory \mathcal{M} s.t. the “gradient of the past” is faithfully reconstructed.

$$\nabla K(w) \approx \nabla \left[\sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \ell_i(w) + \mathcal{R}(w) \right]$$

K-prior Construction

Combine weight and function-space divergences

$$\mathcal{K}(w) = \tau \mathbb{D}_w(\text{Weight-space } w \| w_*) + \mathbb{D}_f(\text{Function-space } \mathbf{f}(w) \| \mathbf{f}(w_*))$$

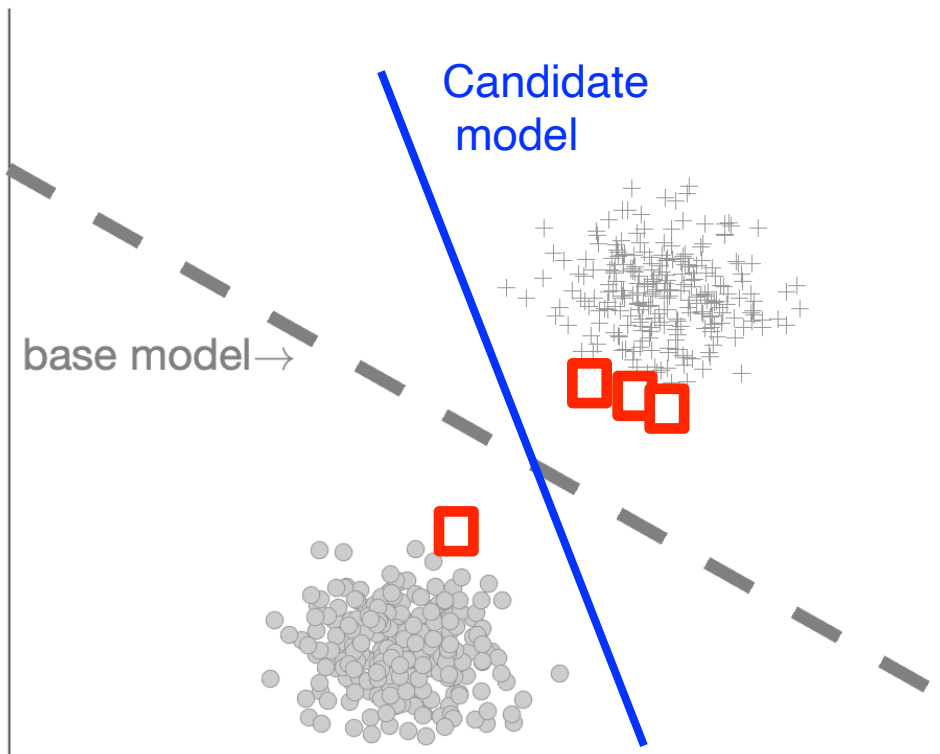
K-prior Construction

Combine weight and function-space divergences

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Function-space

$$\mathcal{K}(w) = \tau \mathbb{D}_w(\mathbf{w} \| w_*) + \mathbb{D}_f(\mathbf{f}(w) \| \mathbf{f}(w_*))$$



$$\begin{bmatrix} f_w^1 \\ f_w^2 \\ f_w^3 \\ f_w^4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} f_{w_*}^1 \\ f_{w_*}^2 \\ f_{w_*}^3 \\ f_{w_*}^4 \end{bmatrix}$$

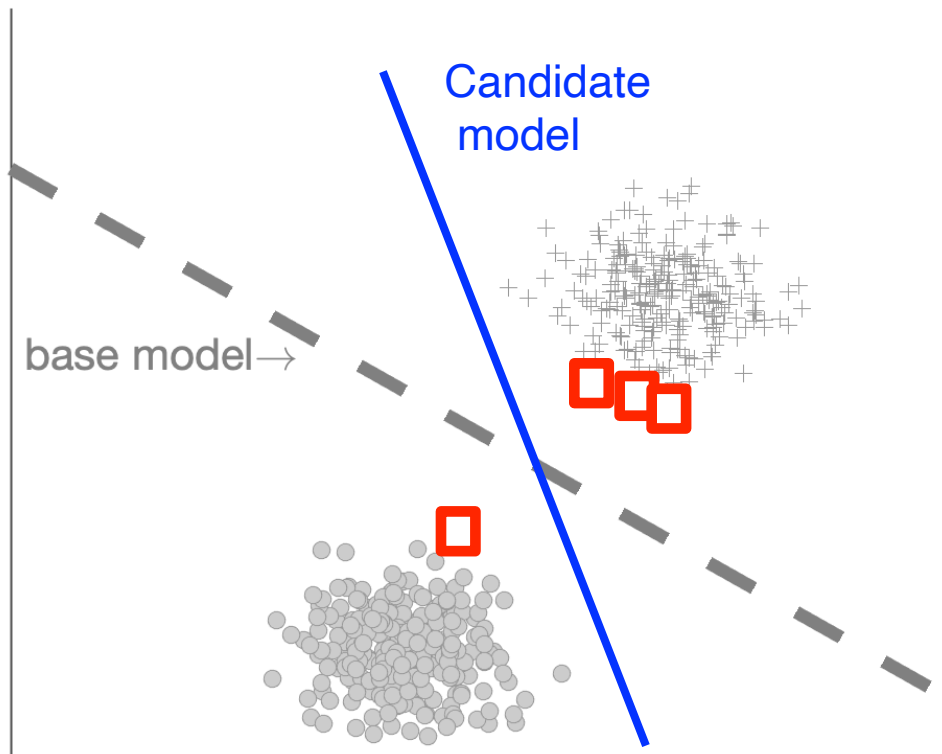
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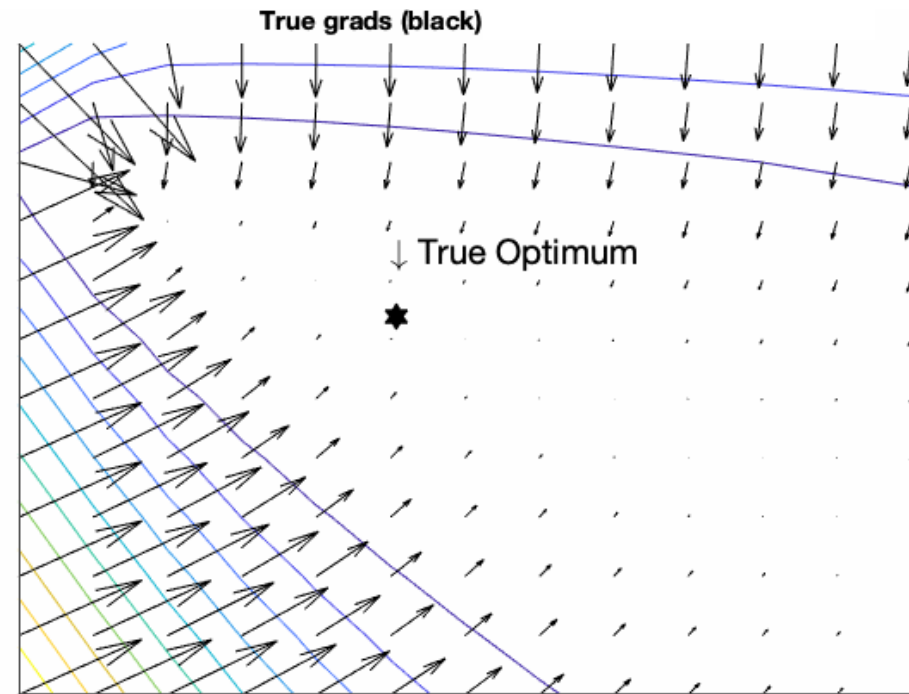
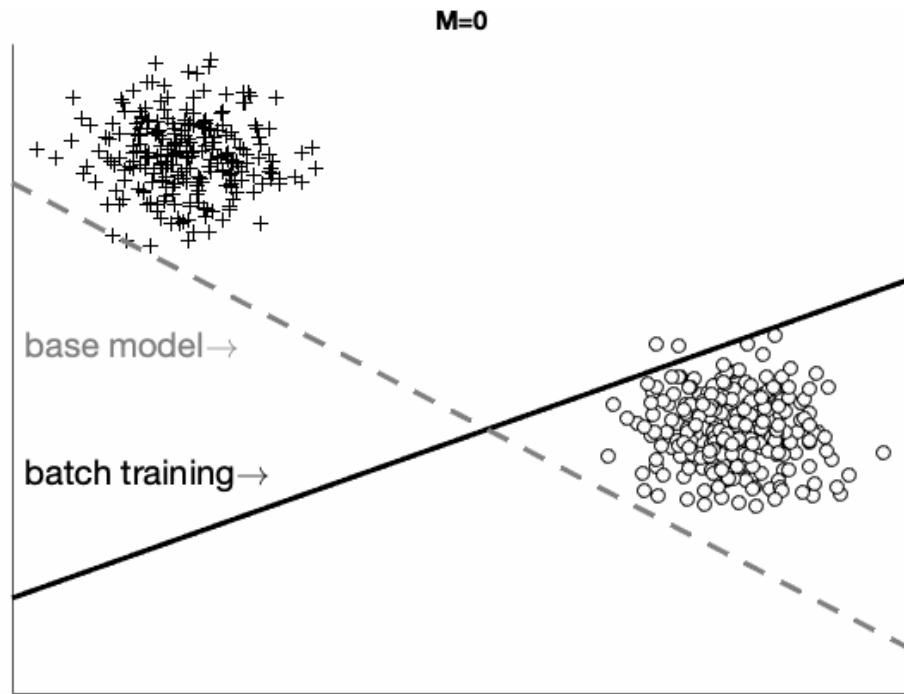
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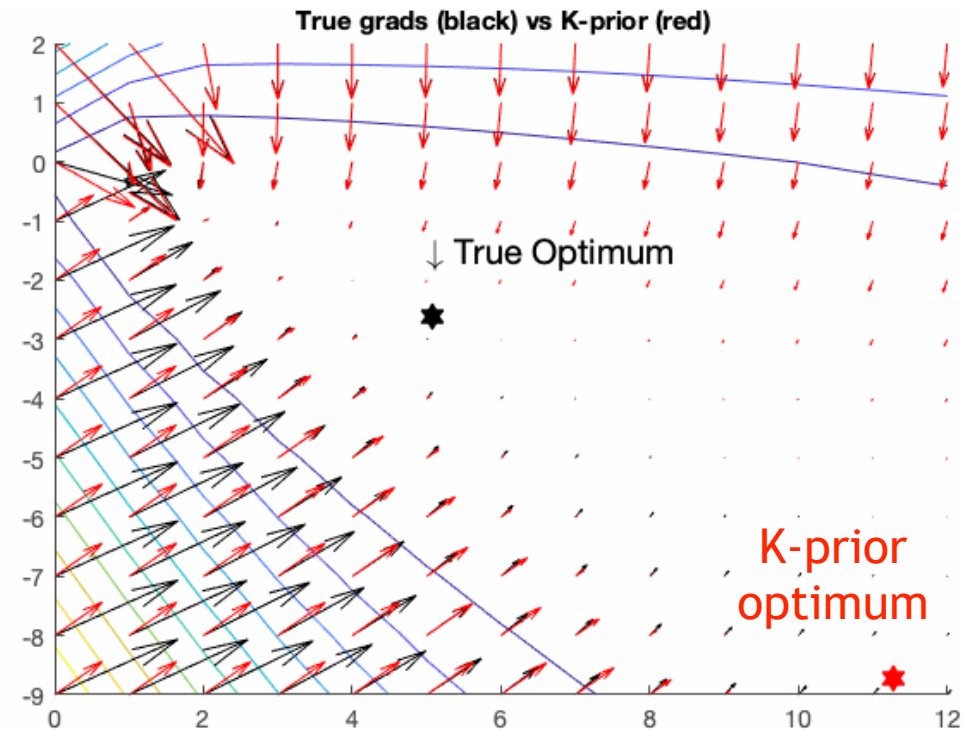
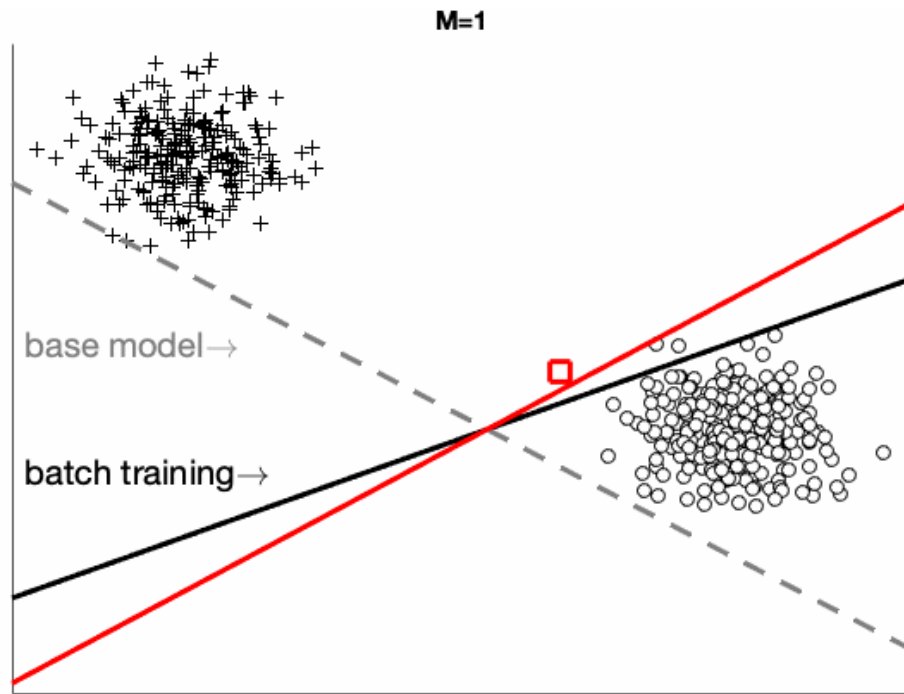
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No labels required,
so \mathcal{M} can include
any inputs!

Faithful Gradient Reconstruction

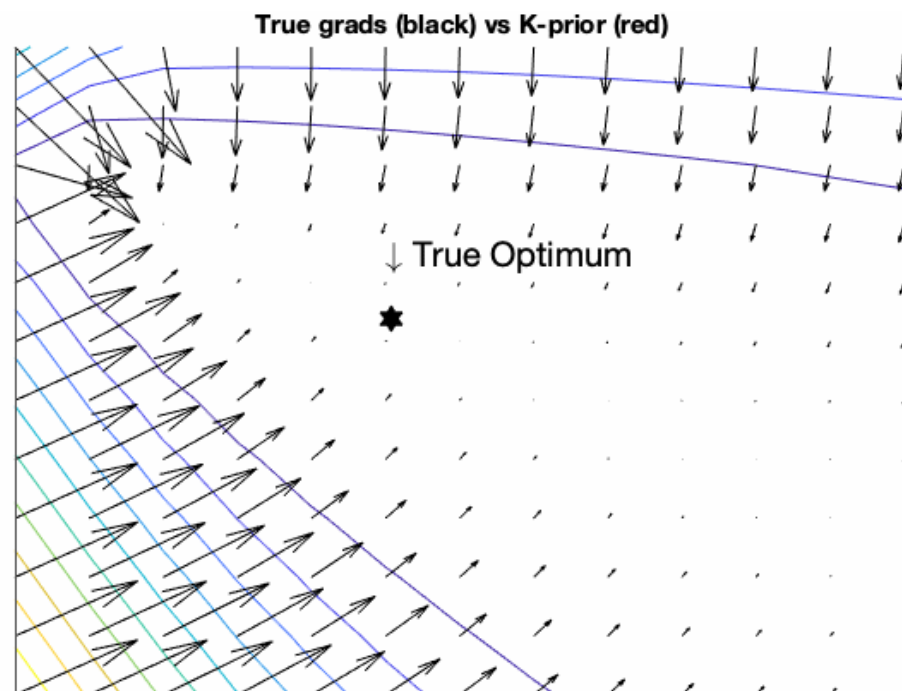
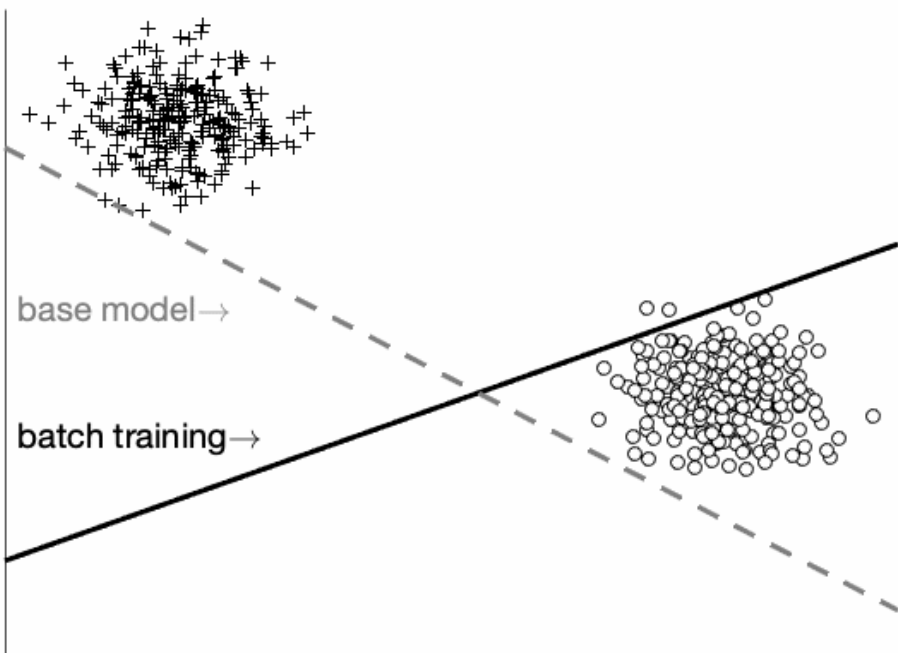


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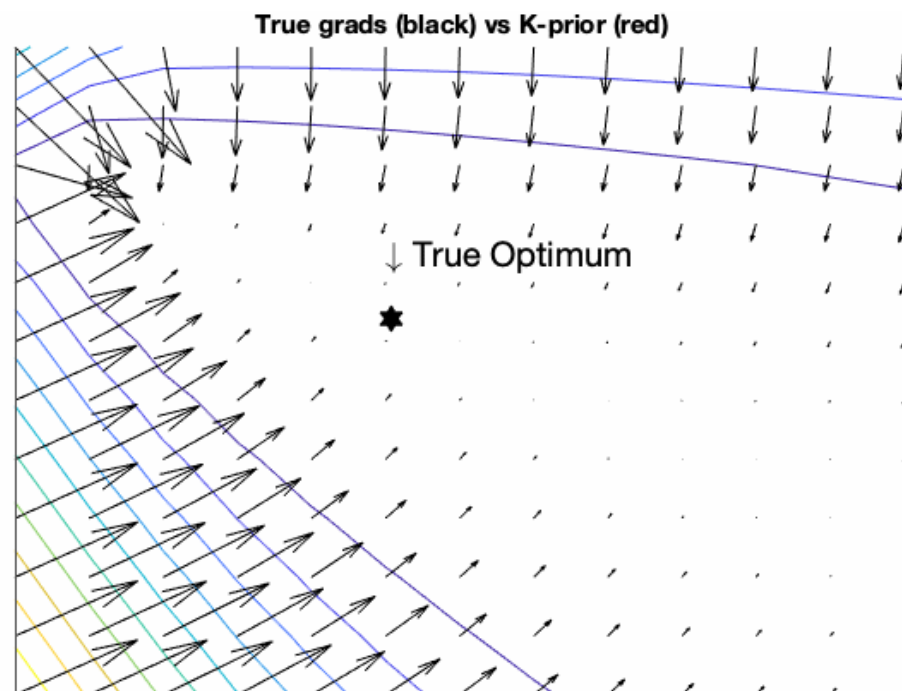
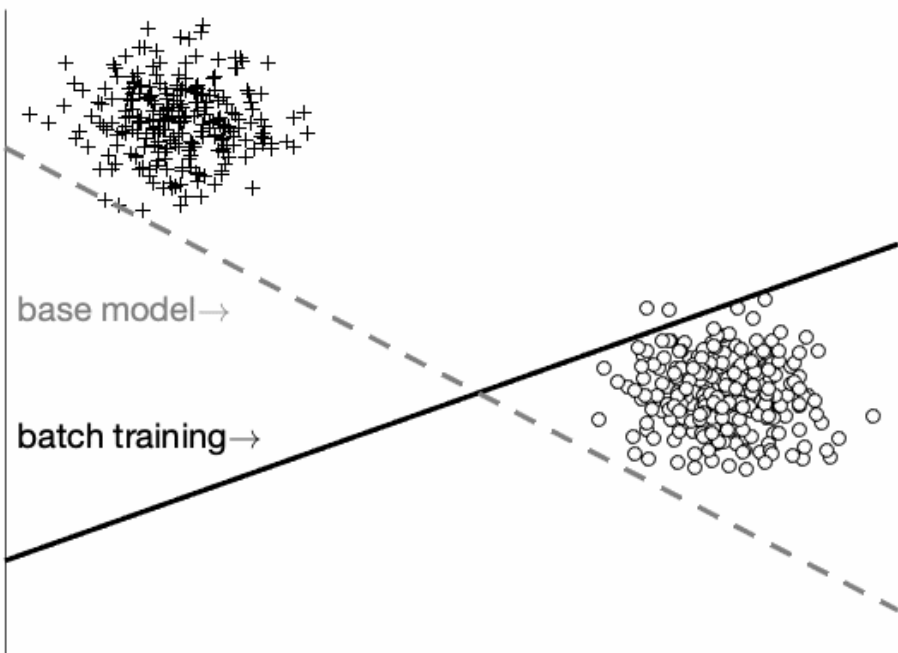
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Exact Gradient Reconstruction

Consider logistic regression $f_w^i = \phi_i^\top w$

$$\bar{l}(w) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \ell(y_i, \sigma(f_w^i)) + \delta \|w\|^2$$

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$$\mathcal{K}(w) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \ell(\sigma(\overset{\text{Function-space}}{f_{w_*}^i}), \sigma(f_w^i)) + \delta \|w - \overset{\text{Weight-space}}{w_*}\|^2$$

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$-y_i + y_i$

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$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \mathcal{K}(w) &= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \phi_i (\sigma(f_w^i) - \sigma(f_{w_*}^i)) + \delta (w - w_*) \\ &= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \phi_i (\sigma(f_w^i) - y_i) + \delta w - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \phi_i (\sigma(f_{w_*}^i) - y_i) - \delta w_* \end{aligned}$$

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$$\nabla \bar{l}(w)$$

$$\nabla \bar{l}(w_*) = 0$$

How to Choose Memory?

Memory should contain points where the (unknown) future and past models disagree the most

$$\nabla \bar{l}(w) - \nabla K(w) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \mathcal{M}} \phi_i(\sigma(f_w^i) - \sigma(f_{w_*}^i))$$

Prediction disagreement

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \nabla \bar{l}(w) - \nabla K(w) &= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \mathcal{M}} \phi_i (\underbrace{\sigma(f_w^i) - \sigma(f_{w_*}^i)}_{\text{Prediction disagreement}}) \\
 &\approx \underbrace{\left[\sum_{i \in \mathcal{D} \setminus \mathcal{M}} \phi_i \underbrace{\sigma'(f_{w_*}^i)}_{\text{2nd derivative of the loss}} \phi_i^\top \right]}_{\substack{\text{Generalized Gauss-Newton (GGN)} \\ \text{Independent of } w}} (w - w_*)
 \end{aligned}$$

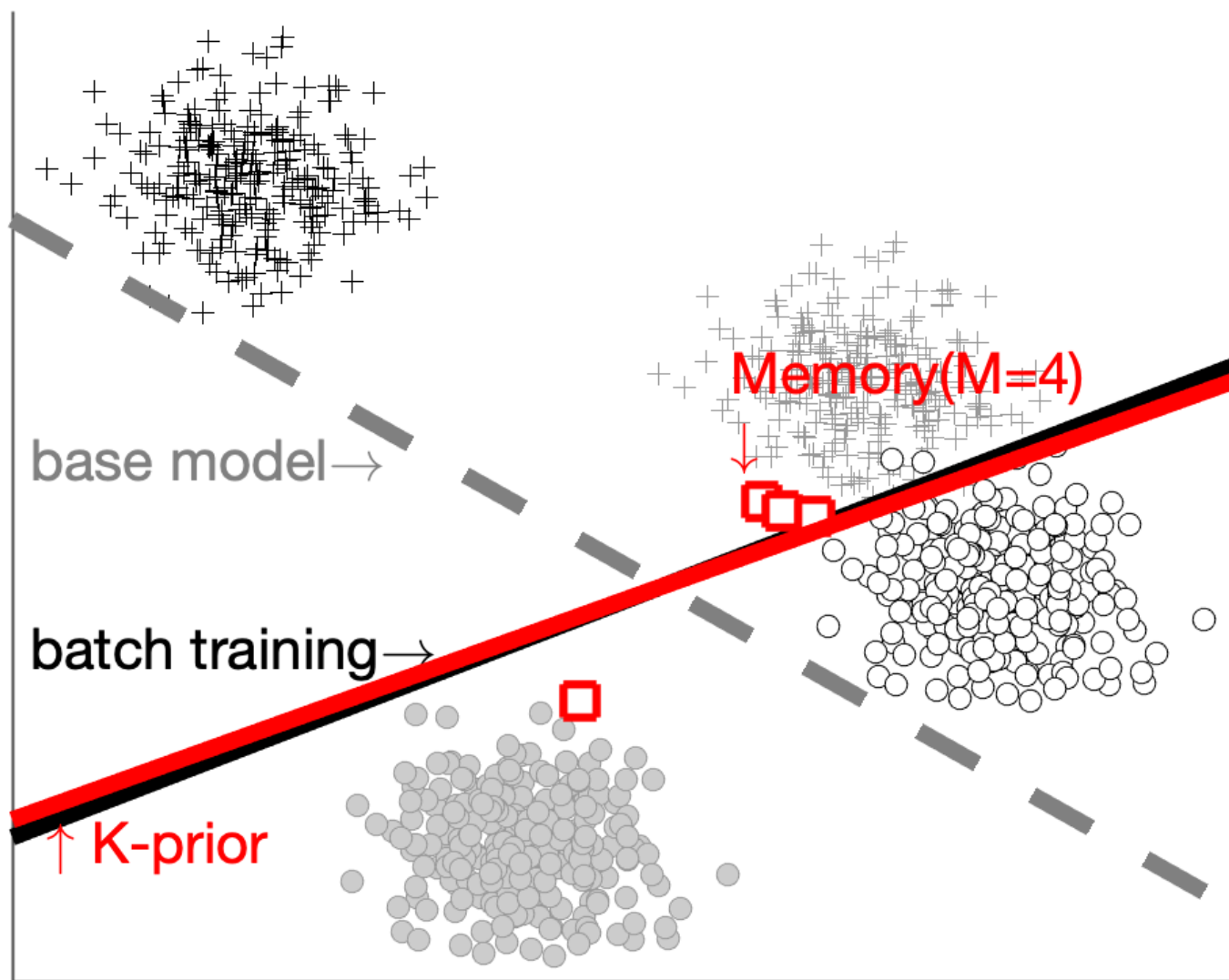
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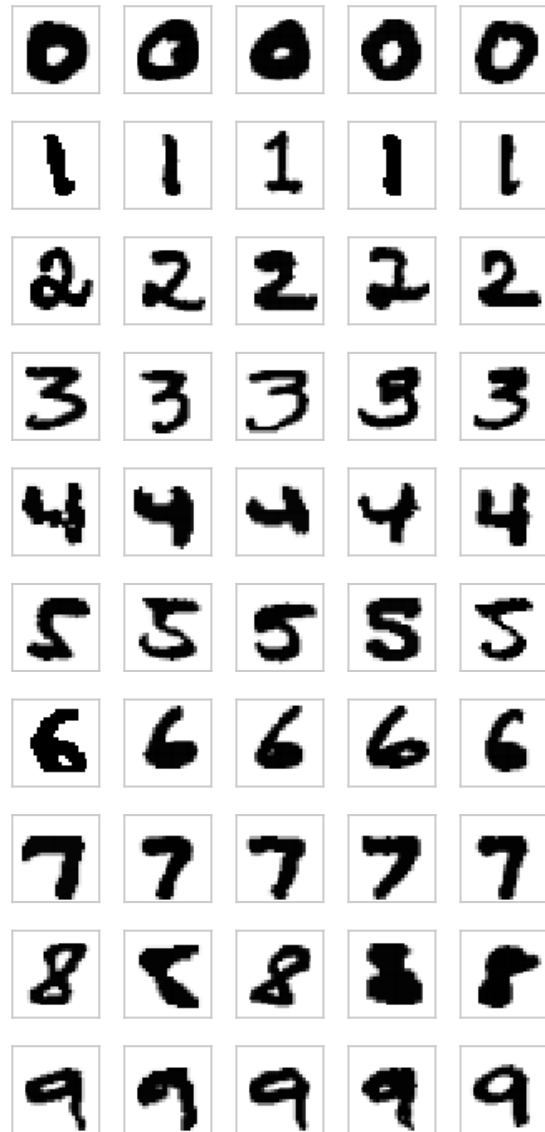
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Pick points to minimize the GGN approximations. We can use any low-rank approximation. We pick top-M $\sigma'(f_{w_*}^i)$ which is called **memorable past** [1].

Memorable Past: Example



Least Memorable

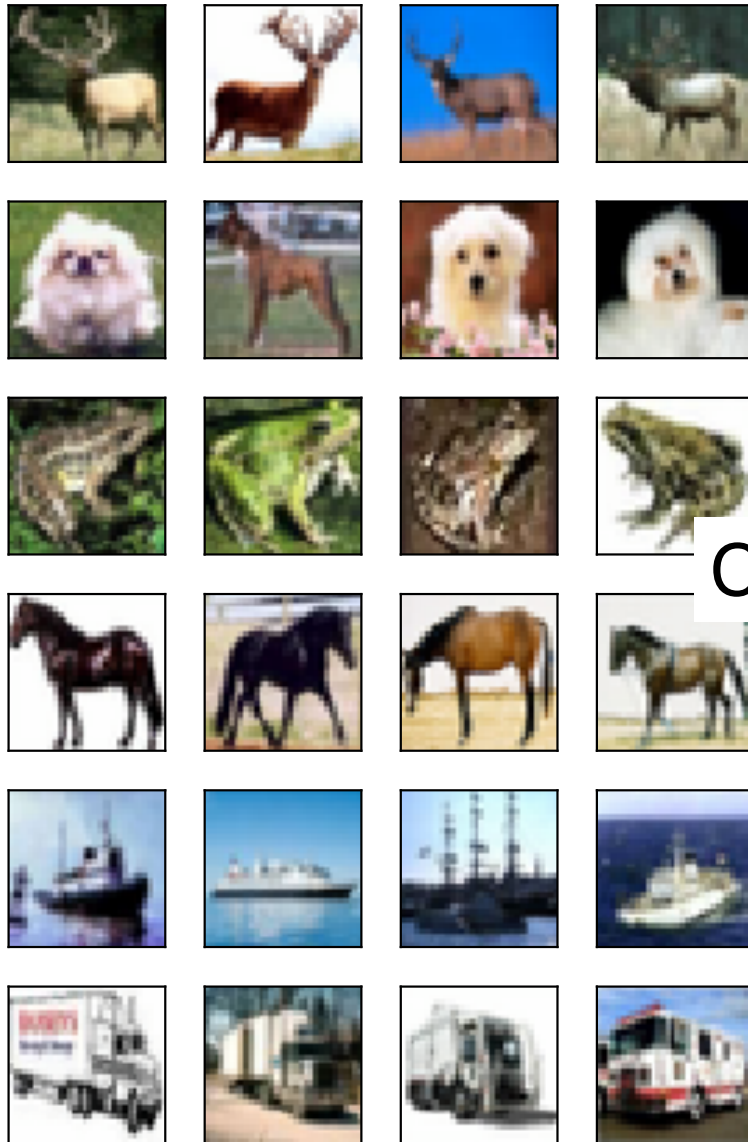


MNIST

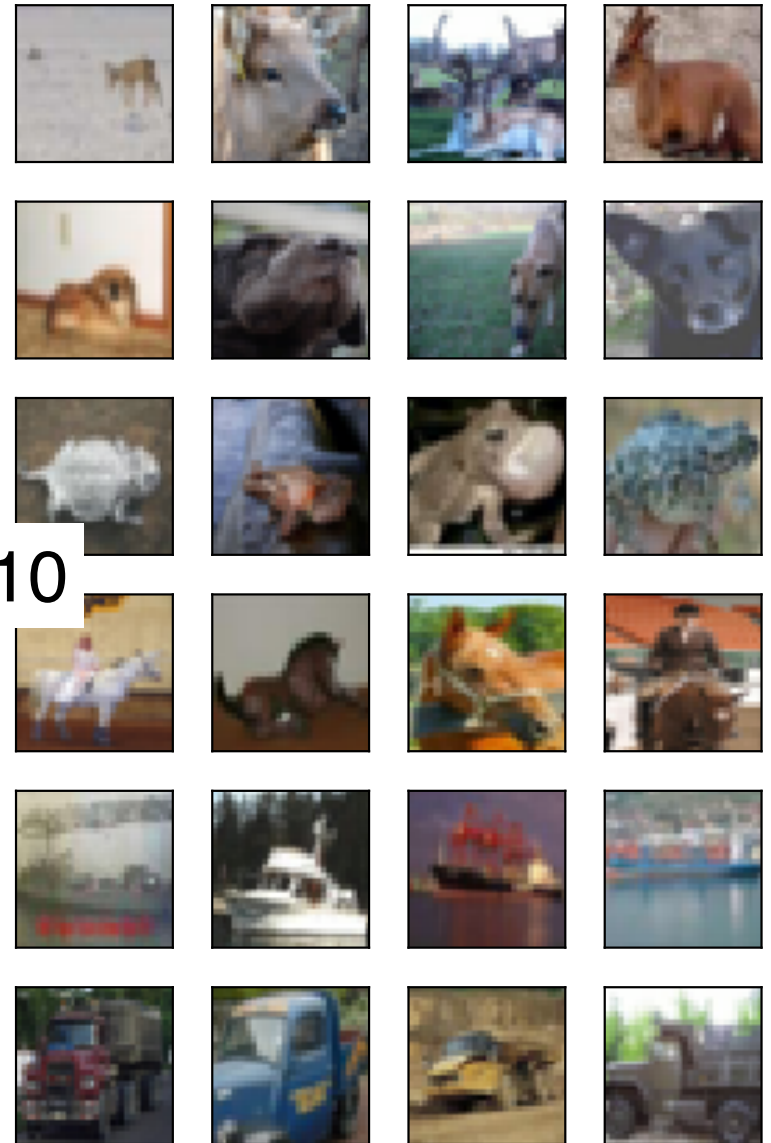
Most Memorable



Least Memorable



Most Memorable



CIFAR-10

Existing Work

K-priors unify many seemingly unrelated existing work, and provide speed-accuracy trade-off

	Wide
Weight priors [1]	✗
SVMs [2]	✗
Knowledge Distillation [3]	✗
Learning under privileged info [4]	✗
Gaussian Process [5]	✗
Memory-based CL [6]	✗

1. Kirkpatrick et al. Overcoming catastrophic forgetting in neural networks. PNAS, 2017.
2. Cauwenberghs and Poggio. Incremental and decremental SVM learning. NeurIPS, 2001.
3. Hinton et al. Distilling the knowledge in a neural network, arXiv, 2015.
4. Vapnik and Izmailov. Learning using privileged information: similarity control and JMLR, 2015.
5. Csató and Oppel. Sparse on-line Gaussian processes. Neural computation, 2002.
6. Pan et al. Continual deep learning by functional regularisation of memorable past. NeurIPS, 2020.

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Memory-based CL [6]	✗
K-priors	✓

1. Kirkpatrick et al. Overcoming catastrophic forgetting in neural networks. PNAS, 2017.
2. Cauwenberghs and Poggio. Incremental and decremental SVM learning. NeurIPS, 2001.
3. Hinton et al. Distilling the knowledge in a neural network, arXiv, 2015.
4. Vapnik and Izmailov. Learning using privileged information: similarity control and JMLR, 2015.
5. Csató and Oppel. Sparse on-line Gaussian processes. Neural computation, 2002.
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Existing Work

K-priors unify many seemingly unrelated existing work, and provide speed-accuracy trade-off

	Wide	Accurate	Quick	} Require storing all past data
Weight priors [1]	✗	✗	✓	
SVMs [2]	✗	✓	✗	
Knowledge Distillation [3]	✗	✓	✗	
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Knowledge Distillation (KD)

K-priors with no weight-div and temperature set to 1, gives us KD. Gradients are not exact now.

$$\nabla K(w) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \nabla f_w^i (\sigma(f_w^i) - y_i) - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \nabla f_w^i \overset{\text{Residuals } f_{w_*}^i - y_i}{\underset{\uparrow}{r_{w_*}^i}}$$

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“Avoid past mistakes of the teacher”.

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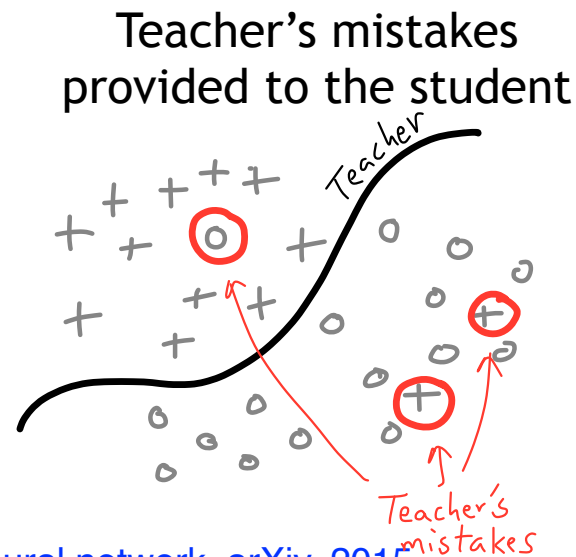
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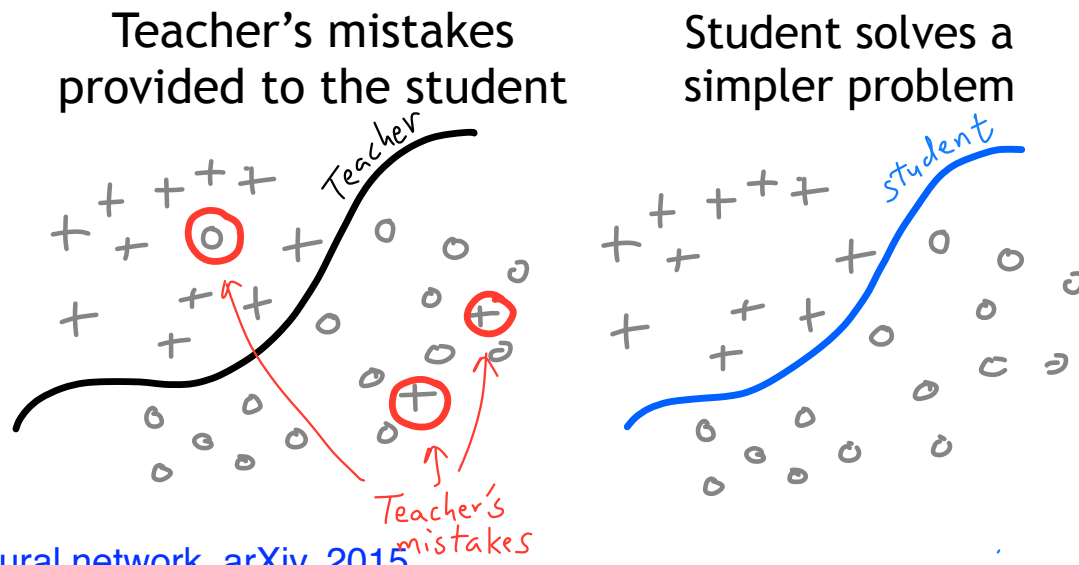
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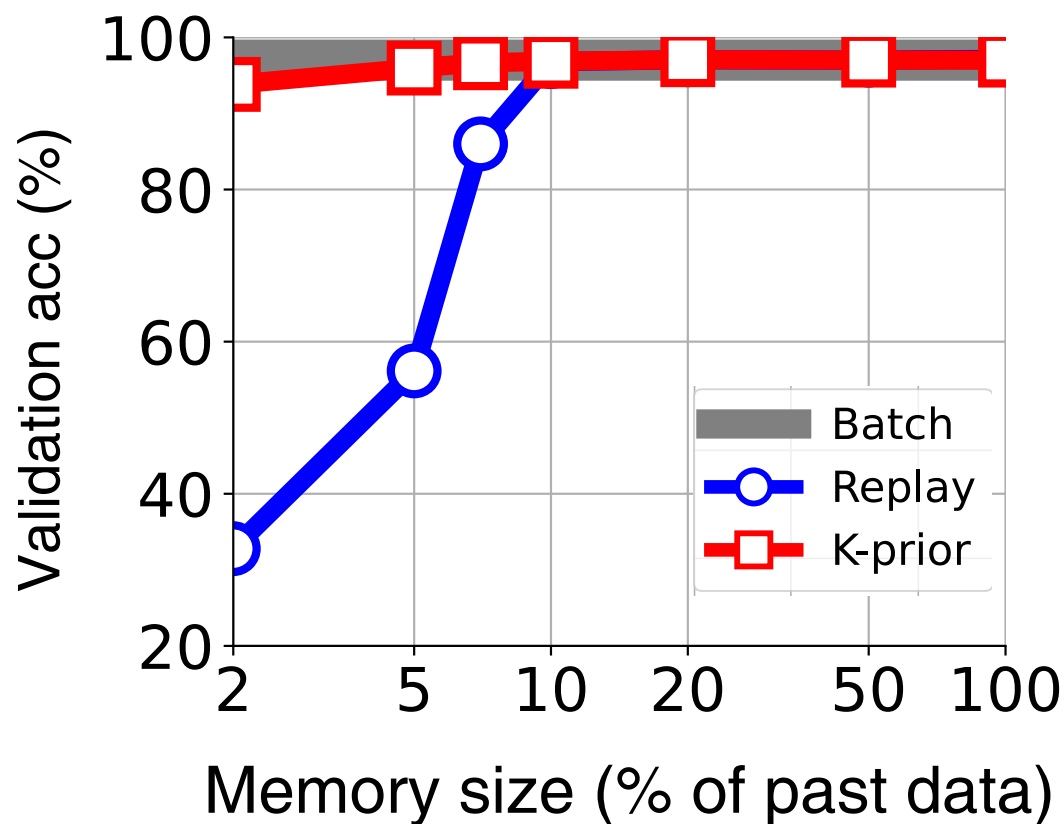
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Results

K-priors need $< 2\%$ of past data to match “batch”.

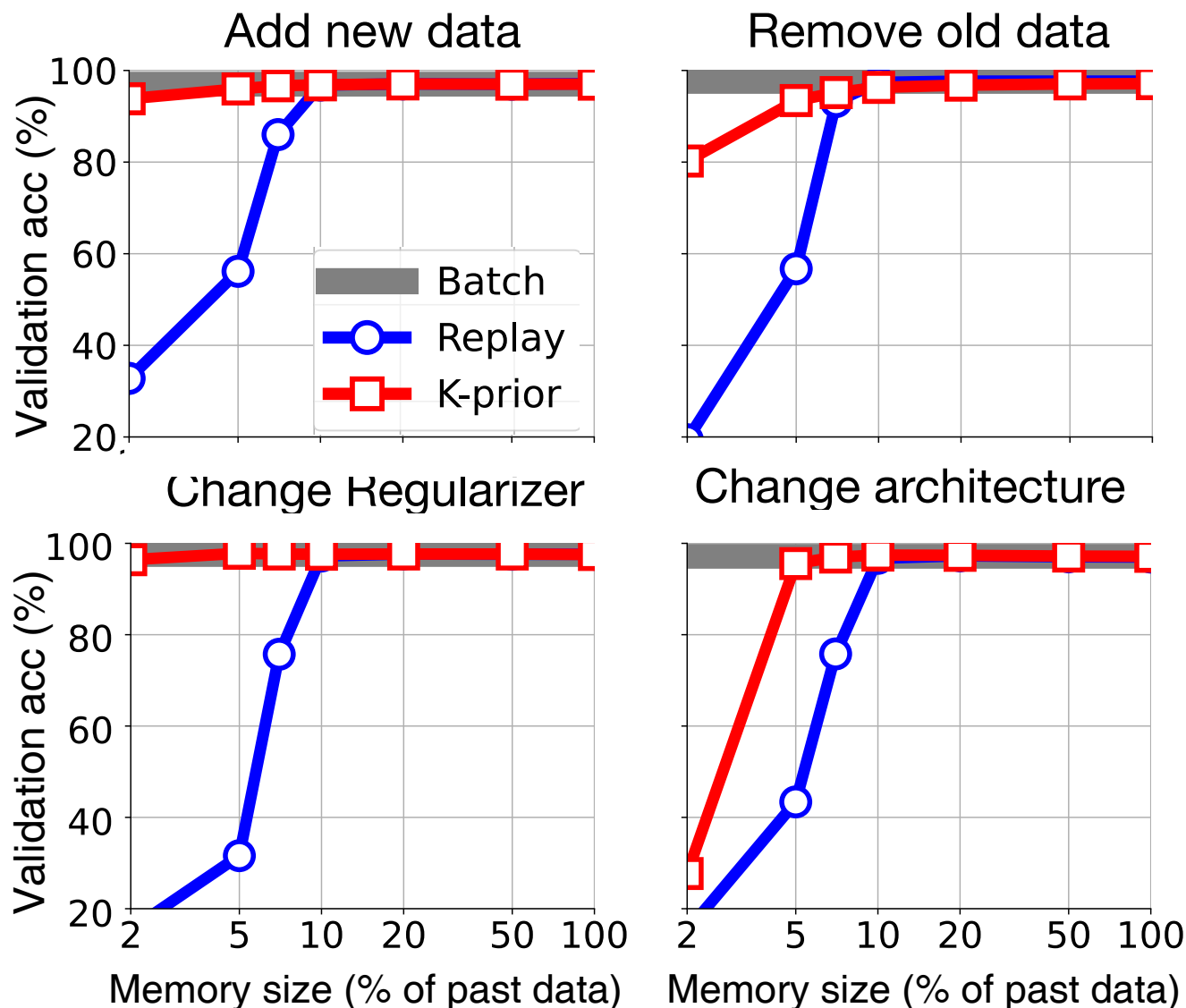
Add new data



The results are on USPS binary classification with Neural nets.

“Replay” uses the same memory but with true outputs.

Results



K-priors **only need about 2-5% of the past data** to match retraining on full batch.

The results are on USPS binary classification with Neural nets.

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The Bayesian Learning Rule

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Abstract

We show that many machine-learning algorithms are specific instances of a single algorithm called the *Bayesian learning rule*. The rule, derived from Bayesian principles, yields a wide-range of algorithms from fields such as optimization, deep learning, and graphical models. This includes classical algorithms such as ridge regression, Newton’s method, and Kalman filter, as well as modern deep-learning algorithms such as stochastic-gradient descent, RMSprop, and Dropout. The key idea in deriving such algorithms is to approximate the posterior using candidate distributions estimated by using natural gradients. Different candidate distributions result in different algorithms and further approximations to natural gradients give rise to variants of those algorithms. Our work not only unifies, generalizes, and improves existing algorithms, but also helps us design new ones.



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- Another challenge is what to store and how much memory to allocate
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 - We “have” to reasonable assumptions about the future
 - The “dual space” of the “divergence” plays a key role
- We are developing “dual representations” are used for Knowledge representation, transfer, and collection
 - A new paper on “memorable past” coming soon

[Submitted on 5 Jun 2019 (v1), last revised 19 Jul 2020 (this version, v3)]

Approximate Inference Turns Deep Networks into Gaussian Processes

Mohammad Emtiyaz Khan, Alexander Immer, Ehsan Abedi, Maciej Korzepa

Deep neural networks (DNN) and Gaussian processes (GP) are two powerful models with several theoretical connections relating them, but the relationship between their training methods is not well understood. In this paper, we show that certain Gaussian posterior approximations for Bayesian DNNs are equivalent to GP posteriors. This enables us to relate solutions and iterations of a deep-learning algorithm to GP inference. As a result, we can obtain a GP kernel and a nonlinear feature map while training a DNN. Surprisingly, the resulting kernel is the neural tangent kernel. We show kernels obtained on real datasets and demonstrate the use of the GP marginal likelihood to tune hyperparameters of DNNs. Our work aims to facilitate further research on combining DNNs and GPs in practical settings.

[Submitted on 29 Apr 2020 (v1), last revised 8 Jan 2021 (this version, v4)]

Continual Deep Learning by Functional Regularisation of Memorable Past

Pingbo Pan, Siddharth Swaroop, Alexander Immer, Runa Eschenhagen, Richard E. Turner, Mohammad Emtiyaz Khan

Continually learning new skills is important for intelligent systems, yet standard deep learning methods suffer from catastrophic forgetting of the past. Recent works address this with weight regularisation. Functional regularisation, although computationally expensive, is expected to perform better, but rarely does so in practice. In this paper, we fix this issue by using a new functional-regularisation approach that utilises a few memorable past examples crucial to avoid forgetting. By using a Gaussian Process formulation of deep networks, our approach enables training in weight-space while identifying both the memorable past and a functional prior. Our method achieves state-of-the-art performance on standard benchmarks and opens a new direction for life-long learning where regularisation and memory-based methods are naturally combined.

Approximate Bayesian Inference Team

<https://team-approx-bayes.github.io/>



[Emtiyaz Khan](#)

Team Leader



[Pierre Alquier](#)

Research Scientist



[Gian Maria Marconi](#)

Postdoc



[Thomas Möllenhoff](#)

Postdoc



[Wu Lin](#)

PhD Student
University of British
Columbia



[Dharmesh Tailor](#)

Research Assistant



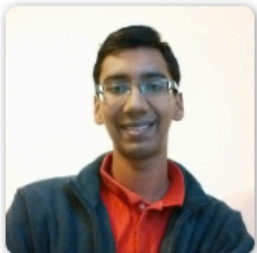
[Peter Nickl](#)

Research Assistant



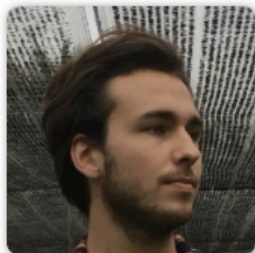
[Happy Buzaaba](#)

Part-time Student
University of Tsukuba



[Siddharth Swaroop](#)

Remote Collaborator
University of
Cambridge



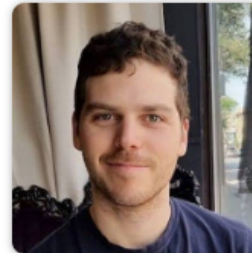
[Dimitri Meunier](#)

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[Alexandre Piché](#)

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