
What Breaks the Curse of Dimensionality in Deep Learning?

Anonymous Author(s)

Affiliation

Address

email

Abstract

1 Although learning in high dimensions is commonly believed to suffer from the
2 curse of dimensionality, modern machine learning methods often exhibit an as-
3 tonishing power to tackle a wide range of challenging real-world learning prob-
4 lems without using abundant amounts of data. How exactly these methods break
5 this curse remains a fundamental open question in the theory of deep learning.
6 While previous efforts have investigated this question by studying the data (\mathcal{D}),
7 model (\mathcal{M}), and inference algorithm (\mathcal{I}) as independent modules, in this paper
8 we analyze the triple (\mathcal{D} , \mathcal{M} , \mathcal{I}) as an integrated system. We examine the basic
9 symmetries of such systems, focusing on four of the main architectures in deep
10 learning: fully-connected networks (FCN), locally-connected networks (LCN), and
11 convolutional networks with and without pooling (GAP/VEC). By computing an
12 eigen-decomposition of the infinite-width limits (aka Neural Kernels) of these
13 architectures, we characterize how inductive biases (locality, weight-sharing, pool-
14 ing, etc) and the breaking of spurious symmetries can affect the performance of
15 these learning systems. Our theoretical analysis shows that for many real-world
16 tasks it is locality rather than symmetry that provides the first-order remedy to the
17 curse of dimensionality. Empirical results on state-of-the-art models on ImageNet
18 corroborate our results.

19 1 Introduction

20 Statistical problems with high-dimensional data are frequently plagued by the *curse of dimensionality*,
21 in which the number of samples required to solve the problem grows rapidly with the dimensionality
22 of the input. Classical theory explains this phenomenon as the consequence of basic geometric and
23 algebraic properties of high-dimensional spaces; for example, the number of ϵ -cubes inside a unit
24 cube in \mathbb{R}^d grows exponentially like ϵ^{-d} , and the number of degree r polynomials in \mathbb{R}^d grows like a
25 power-law d^r . Since for real-world problems d is typically in the hundreds or thousands, classical
26 wisdom suggests that learning is likely to be infeasible. However, starting from the groundbreaking
27 work AlexNet [1], practitioners in deep learning have tackled a wide range of difficult real-world
28 learning problems ([2–6]) in high dimensions, once believed by many to be out-of-scope of current
29 techniques. The astonishing success of modern machine learning methods clearly contradicts the
30 curse of dimensionality and therefore poses the fundamental question: mathematically, how do
31 modern machine learning methods break the curse of dimensionality?

32 To answer this question, we must trace back to the most fundamental ingredients of machine learning
33 methods. They are the data (\mathcal{D}), the model (\mathcal{M}), and the inference algorithm (\mathcal{I}).

34 Data (\mathcal{D}) is of course central in machine learning. In the classical learning theory setting, the learning
35 objective usually has a power-law decay $m^{-\beta}$ as the function of the number of training samples
36 m . The theoretical bound on β is usually tiny, owing to the curse of dimensionality, and is of

37 limited practical utility for high-dimensional data. On the other hand, empirical measurements of
 38 β in state-of-the-art deep learning models typically reveal values of β that are not at all small (e.g.
 39 $\beta = 0.43$ for ResNet in Fig.4) even though d is quite large (e.g. $d \sim 10^5$ for ImageNet). This
 40 example suggests that the learning curve must have important functional dependence on \mathcal{M} and \mathcal{I} .
 41 Indeed, as we will observe later, many of the best performing methods exhibit learning curves for
 42 which $\beta = \beta(m)$ actually *increases* as m becomes larger, i.e. data makes the usage of data more
 43 efficient. We call this phenomenon DIDE, for **d**ata **i**mproves **d**ata **e**fficiency.

44 Designing machine learning models (\mathcal{M}) that maximize data-efficiency is critical to the success
 45 of solving real-world tasks. Indeed, breakthroughs in machine learning are often driven by novel
 46 architectures LeNet [7], AlexNet[1], Transformer [2], etc. While some of the inductive biases of these
 47 methods are clear (e.g. translation symmetries of CNNs), others tend to build off of prior empirical
 48 success and are less well-understood (e.g. the implicit bias of SGD). To build our understanding of
 49 these biases and how they affect learning, we conduct a theoretical analysis of them in the infinite-
 50 width setting [8–12], which preserves most salient aspects of the architecture while enabling tractable
 51 calculations. We classify all phenomena that could be explained by infinite networks alone as the
 52 consequences of inductive biases.

53 The inference procedure (\mathcal{I}) is what enables *learning* in machine learning methods. It is widely
 54 believed that modern inference methods, specifically gradient descent and variants, ‘implicitly’ bias
 55 the solutions of the networks towards those that generalize well and away from those that generalize
 56 poorly [13–15]. The effects of the inference algorithm are intimately tied to the specifics of the model
 57 (e.g. weight-sharing) and the data (e.g. augmentation), and might not be fully understood with a
 58 fixed-data, fixed-model analysis. Indeed, good performance may derive from interactions between
 59 $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$, or $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{I})$, or even $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$. In Sec. 3.1, we demonstrate the DIDE effect for a particular
 60 choice of $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$ and show that this effect disappears if any one of \mathcal{D} , \mathcal{M} , or \mathcal{I} is altered.

61 The above discussion highlights the insufficiency of treating \mathcal{D} , \mathcal{M} , and \mathcal{I} as separate non-interacting
 62 modules. They must be considered as an integrated system. Throughout this paper, we will refer to
 63 the triplet $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$ as a (machine) learning system and the tuple $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$ as the learning algorithm
 64 of the system that operates on \mathcal{D} . We summarize our contributions below.

- 65 1. We surface the basic symmetries of various $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$ associated to four of the main arch-
 66 itectures in deep learning FCN_{*n*} (fully-connected networks), LCN_{*n*} (locally-connected
 67 networks), VEC_{*n*}/GAP_{*n*} (convolution networks with a flattening /a global average pooling
 68 readout layer), their infinite width counterparts FCN _{∞} /LCN _{∞} /VEC _{∞} /GAP _{∞} . Treating
 69 FCN_{*n*/ ∞} as the baseline model, we show that the locality from LCN_{*n*} and the weight-sharing
 70 from VEC_{*n*}/GAP_{*n*} break spurious symmetries and lead to better systems. Empirically, we
 71 examine the relation between the symmetries and the performance of the systems in the
 72 infinite width setting and finite width setting with various of interventions. Surprisingly,
 73 we observe that state-of-the-art learning system (EfficientNet[16]) on ImageNet can learn
 74 almost equally well even the coordinate of the data are transformed by the symmetry group
 75 defined by LCN_{*n*}.
- 76 2. We show that although the weight-sharing from VEC_{*n*} provides coordinate information of
 77 the data to the system, as the width gets larger, it becomes harder for the learning algorithm
 78 to explore such information and at infinite width, the system restores the symmetry group
 79 that is identical to LCN_{*n*}, and is completely unaware of the coordinate information. As a
 80 consequence, the performance of the network, as a function of width, monotonically decays
 81 [12]. This is in stark contrast to recent finding that the performance of network is positively
 82 correlated to its width. We show that this phenomenon continues to hold even with various
 83 interventions (larger learning rate and l2 regularization) to the training procedures. However,
 84 with more data (e.g. data augmentation) VEC_{*n*} can be on par with GAP_{*n*}.
- 85 3. The function space defined by LCN_{*n*} is a super set of that defined by VEC_{*n*}. We prove the
 86 opposite is true. Therefore, VEC_{*n*} is able to express functions in the space with a stronger
 87 inductive bias GAP_{*n*} (translation invariance) and functions in a seemingly much larger
 88 class LCN_{*n*}. We hypothesize that as the dataset grows, the learned functions using VEC_{*n*} is
 89 transitioned away from those learned using LCN_{*n*} and become closer to those learned using
 90 GAP_{*n*}. This suggests, even though the prior (provided by human) is not 100% correct, with
 91 the help of more data, gradient descent might be able to correct it, a possible explanation of
 92 DIDE.

93 4. When the input space is the product of hyperspheres, we eigendecompose the kernels
 94 associated to one-hidden layer infinite width network, FCN_∞ , $\text{VEC}_\infty = \text{LCN}_\infty$ and GAP_∞ .
 95 We treat FCN_∞ as the baseline, whose order r eigenspace has dimension of order d^r
 96 and eigenvalues of order d^{-r} for $r \geq 0$ [17]. We show that locality alone (i.e. VEC_∞)
 97 dramatically reduces the dimension of the r -eigenspace for $r \geq 2$ and the spectral gap
 98 between all r -eigenspaces but $r = 0$ and $r = 1$, making learning of higher order eigenspaces
 99 feasible with dramatically fewer samples and gradient steps. In addition, pooling (i.e.
 100 GAP_∞) reduces the dimension of r -eigenspace for $r \geq 1$ by a factor equal to the size of the
 101 pooling window, but it does not change the spectra in an essential way.

102 Our empirical and theoretical results surface the importance of locality which, we believe, provides
 103 the first-order remedy to the curse of dimensionality for many real-world tasks and which has been
 104 largely overlooked.

105 2 Preliminary and Notation

106 2.1 Neural Networks

107 We focus our presentation on the supervised learning setting and more concretely, on image
 108 recognition. Let $\mathcal{D} \subseteq (\mathbb{R}^d)^3 \times \mathbb{R}^k \equiv \mathbb{R}^{3d} \times \mathbb{R}^k$ denote the data set (training and test) and
 109 $\mathcal{X} = \{x : (x, y) \in \mathcal{D}\}$ and $\mathcal{Y} = \{y : (x, y) \in \mathcal{D}\}$ denote the input space (images) and label space,
 110 respectively. Here d is the spatial dimension (e.g. $d = 32 \times 32$ for CIFAR-10) of the images and 3 is
 111 the total number of channels (i.e. RGB). We use FCN_n to denote a L -hidden layer fully-connected
 112 network with identical hidden widths $n_l = n \in \mathbb{N}$ for $l = 1, \dots, L$ and with readout width $n_{L+1} = k$
 113 (the number of logits). For each $x \in \mathbb{R}^{3d} = (\mathbb{R}^d)^3$, we use $h^l(x), x^l(x) \in \mathbb{R}^{n_l}$ to represent the pre-
 114 and post-activation functions at layer l with input x . The recurrence relation FCN_n is given by

$$\begin{cases} h^{l+1} &= x^l W^{l+1} \\ x^{l+1} &= \phi(h^{l+1}) \end{cases} \text{ and } W_{i,j}^l = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n_l}} \omega_{ij}^l, \quad \omega_{ij}^l \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad (1)$$

115 where ϕ is a point-wise activation function, $W^{l+1} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_l \times n_{l+1}}$ are the weights and ω_{ij}^l are the
 116 trainable parameters, drawn i.i.d. from a standard Gaussian $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ at initialization. For simplicity
 117 of the presentation, the bias terms and the hyperparameters (the variances of the weights) are omitted.
 118 Adding them back won't affect the conclusion of the paper.

119 For convolutional networks or locally-connected networks, the inputs are treated as tensors in $(\mathbb{R}^d)^3$.
 120 The recurrent relation of convolutional networks can be written as

$$x_{\alpha,j}^{l+1} = \phi(h_{\alpha,j}^{l+1}) \quad \text{and} \quad h_{\alpha,j}^{l+1} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2k+1)n^l}} \sum_{j=1}^{n^l} \sum_{\beta=-k}^k x_{\alpha+\beta,i}^l \omega_{ij,\beta}^l \quad (2)$$

121 Here $\alpha \in [d]$ denote the spatial location, $i/j \in [n]$ denotes the fanin/fanout channel indices. For
 122 notational convenience, we assume circular padding and stride equal to 1 for all layers. The features
 123 of the penultimate layer are 2D tensors and there are two commonly used approaches to map them
 124 to the logit layer: stack a dense layer after either vectorizing the 2D tensor to a 1D vector or
 125 applying a global average pooling layer to each channel. We use $\text{VEC}_n/\text{GAP}_n$ to denote the network
 126 obtain from the former/latter, which are known to be equipped with the inductive biases translation
 127 equivariant/invariant. The readout layer of $\text{VEC}_n/\text{GAP}_n$ could be written as

$$x_j^{L+1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{dn}} \sum_{\alpha \in [d]} x_{\alpha,i}^L w_{\alpha,ij}^{L+1}, \quad x_j^{L+1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i \in [n]} \left(\frac{1}{d} \sum_{\alpha \in [d]} x_{\alpha,i}^L \right) w_{ij}^{L+1} \quad (3)$$

128 We briefly remark the the key difference between the two. In VEC_n , each pixel in the penultimate
 129 layer has its own (independent random) variable while pixels within the same channel shared the
 130 same (random) variable in GAP_n . It is clear that the function space of VEC_n contains that of GAP_n .
 131 Locally Connected Networks LCN_n [18, 19] are convolutional network *without* weight sharing
 132 between spatial locations. LCN_n preserve the connectivity pattern, and thus topology, of a convnet.
 133 Mathematically, the current formula is defined as in Equation 2 with all the *shared* parameters $\omega_{ij,\beta}^l$
 134 replaced by *unshared* $\omega_{ij,\alpha,\beta}^l \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

135 In this note, we assume that the LCN_n are always associated with a vectorization readout layer and it
 136 is clear, as a function space, LCN_n is a super set of VEC_n . Interestingly, the opposite is also true.

137 **Theorem 2.1** (Sec. B). *Let $\text{VEC}_n/\text{LCN}_n/\text{GAP}_n$ denote the set of functions that can be represented
 138 by L -hidden layer $\text{VEC}_n/\text{LCN}_n/\text{GAP}_n$ networks with hidden width n . Then*

$$\text{GAP}_n \subseteq \text{VEC}_n \subseteq \text{LCN}_n \subseteq \text{VEC}_{dn} \quad (4)$$

139 The significance of this theorem is that if we consider the function space VEC_n as a soft *prior*,
 140 gradient descent could move it closer to a *better* prior GAP_n (translation invariance) if the average
 141 pooling is (approximately) learned in the readout layer or it might remain close to LCN_n .

142 2.2 Gradient Descent Training

143 We use f to denote any functions defined by the architectures above and θ to denote the collection
 144 of all parameters. Denote by θ_t the time-dependence of the parameters and by θ_0 their initial
 145 values. We use $f_t(x) \equiv f(x, \theta_t) \in \mathbb{R}^k$ to denote the output (or logits) of the neural network at
 146 time t . Let $\ell(\hat{y}, y) : \mathbb{R}^k \times \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ denote the loss function where the first/second argument is
 147 the prediction/true label. By applying continuous time gradient descent to minimize the objective
 148 $\mathcal{L} = \sum_{(x,y) \in \mathcal{D}} \ell(f_t(x, \theta), y)$, the evolution of the parameters θ and the logits f can be written as

$$\dot{\theta}_t = -\nabla_{\theta} f_t(\mathcal{X}_T)^T \nabla_{f_t(\mathcal{X}_T)} \mathcal{L}, \quad \dot{f}_t(\mathcal{X}_T) = \nabla_{\theta} f_t(\mathcal{X}_T) \dot{\theta}_t = -\hat{\Theta}_t(\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{X}_T) \nabla_{f_t(\mathcal{X}_T)} \mathcal{L} \quad (5)$$

149 where $f_t(\mathcal{X}_T) = \text{vec}([f_t(x)]_{x \in \mathcal{X}_T})$, the $k|\mathcal{D}| \times 1$ vector of concatenated logits for all examples, and
 150 $\nabla_{f_t(\mathcal{X}_T)} \mathcal{L}$ is the gradient of the loss with respect to the model's output, $f_t(\mathcal{X}_T)$. $\hat{\Theta}_t \equiv \hat{\Theta}_t(\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{X}_T)$
 151 is the tangent kernel at time t , which is a $k|\mathcal{D}| \times k|\mathcal{D}|$ kernel matrix

$$\hat{\Theta}_t = \nabla_{\theta} f_t(\mathcal{X}_T) \nabla_{\theta} f_t(\mathcal{X}_T)^T \quad (6)$$

152 One can define the tangent kernel for general arguments, e.g. $\hat{\Theta}_t(x, \mathcal{X}_T)$ where x is test input. At
 153 finite-width, $\hat{\Theta}$ will depend on the specific random draw of the parameters and evolve with time. As
 154 such, for a test point x the prediction $f_t(x)$ depends on the random initialization and is also stochastic.
 155 Note that the parameters are initialized randomly and the randomness will be carried out through the
 156 training procedure. As a consequence, the prediction functions are stochastic.

157 2.3 Infinite Network: Gaussian Processes and the Neural Tangent Kernels

158 **Neural Networks as Gaussian Processes (NNGP).** As the width $n \rightarrow \infty$, at initialization the
 159 output $f_0(\mathcal{X})$ forms a Gaussian Process $f_0(\mathcal{X}) \sim \mathcal{GP}(0, \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}))$, known as the NNGP [8, 20, 21].
 160 Here \mathcal{K} is the GP kernel and can be computed in closed form for a variety of architectures. By treating
 161 this infinite width network as a Bayesian model (aka Bayesian Neural Networks) and applying
 162 Bayesian inference, the posterior is also a GP

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{K}(\mathcal{X}_*, \mathcal{X}_T) \mathcal{K}^{-1}(\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{X}_T) \mathcal{Y}_T, \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{X}_*, \mathcal{X}_*) - \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{X}_*, \mathcal{X}) \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X})^{-1} \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}_*)^T) \quad (7)$$

163 **Neural Tangent Kernel (NTK).** Recent advance in global convergence theory of over-
 164 parameterized networks [22–25, 12] has shown that under certain assumptions, the tangent kernels is
 165 almost stationary over the course of training and is concentrated on its infinite width limit Θ in the
 166 sense there is a constant C independent of t and the network's width n such that

$$\sup_{t \geq 0} \|\hat{\Theta}_t(\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{X}_T) - \Theta(\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{X}_T)\|_F + \|\hat{\Theta}_t(\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{X}_*) - \Theta(\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{X}_*)\|_F \leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{n}}. \quad (8)$$

167 where is the infinite width limit of Θ at initialization, whose existence has been proved in [22, 26].
 168 As such, when the loss is the mean squared error (MSE), the mean prediction (marginalized over
 169 random initialization) has the following closed form

$$f(\mathcal{X}_*) = \Theta(\mathcal{X}_*, \mathcal{X}_T) \Theta^{-1}(\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{X}_T) \left(I - e^{-\eta \Theta(\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{X}_T) t} \right) \mathcal{Y}, \quad (9)$$

170 Letting $t \rightarrow \infty$, the above solution is the same as that of the kernel ridgeless regression using the
 171 infinite width tangent kernel Θ . We use $\text{FCN}_{\infty}(x)$, $\text{LCN}_{\infty}(x)$, $\text{VEC}_{\infty}(x)$ and $\text{GAP}_{\infty}(x)$ to denote
 172 the infinite width solutions (either the GP inference or the NTK regression) for the corresponding
 173 architectures, where we have suppressed the dependence on the training data $(\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{Y}_T)$.

174 **3 Symmetries of Machine Learning Systems**

175 Symmetry is fundamental in physical systems. So is it in machine learning systems. We explore
 176 symmetries of various machine learning systems in this section. Given $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})$ and a transforma-
 177 tion on the input space $\tau : \mathbb{R}^{3d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3d}$, we set $\tau(\mathcal{D}) = (\tau(\mathcal{X}), \mathcal{Y})$. Let $O(3d)$ denote the orthogonal
 178 group on the flattened input space \mathbb{R}^{3d} . The subgroup $O(3)^d \leq O(3d)$ operates on the un-flattened
 179 input $(\mathbb{R}^d)^3$, whose element rotates each pixel $x_\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^3$ by an independent element $\tau_\alpha \in O(3)$. The
 180 smaller subgroup $O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d \leq O(3)^d$ applies the *shared* rotation (i.e. $\tau_\alpha = \tau$ to all x_α for $\alpha \in [d]$).
 181 We use $P(3d)$ to denote the permutation group on \mathbb{R}^{3d} and $P(3)^d$ and $P(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$ are defined similarly.
 182 Note that rotating \mathcal{X} by τ is equivalent to transfer the original coordinate system by the adjoint
 183 transformation $\tau^* = \tau^{-1}$.

184 For a deterministic (stochastic) learning algorithm $\mathcal{A} = (\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$, we use $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{D}_T)$ to denote the learned
 185 function (distribution of the learned functions) using training set \mathcal{D}_T . We use $\mathcal{A}^\tau(\mathcal{D}_T)$ to denote
 186 the learned function(s) using $\tau(\mathcal{D}_T)$ and makes prediction on the transformed test point $\tau(\mathcal{X}_*)$. In
 187 another word, the learning algorithm is conducted in the input space whose coordinate system is
 188 transformed by τ^{-1} .

189 **Definition 1.** Let \mathcal{G} be a group of transformations $\mathbb{R}^{3d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3d}$. We say a deterministic (stochastic)
 190 learning algorithm $\mathcal{A} = (\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$ is g -invariant if $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}^g$ ($\mathcal{A} \stackrel{d}{=} \mathcal{A}^g$). In this case, we say the
 191 system $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$ is g -invariant and use the notation $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I}) = (g\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$. If this holds for all
 192 $g \in \mathcal{G}$, then we say the algorithm and the system are \mathcal{G} -invariant.

193 If $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$ is the algorithm of minimum norm linear regressor, then $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$ is $O(3)^d$ -invariant;
 194 see Sec.F for more details. Note that the symmetry (invariance) in our definition is a property of a
 195 system and is different from the notion of symmetry that are commonly used in the machine learning
 196 community, which is a property of a function (e.g. translation invariance).

197 **Theorem 3.1** (Sec.C). *If the parameters of the networks are initialized with iid $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$, then*

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 198 | • FCN _{n/∞} are $O(3d)$ -invariant. | 200 | • VEC _n is $O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$ -invariant and VEC _∞ |
| | | 201 | is $O(3)^d$ -invariant. |
| 199 | • LCN _{n/∞} are $O(3)^d$ -invariant. | 202 | • GAP _{n/∞} are $O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$ -invariant. |

203 The $O(3d)$ -invariant of FCN_∞ is because the NTK/NNGP kernel is an inner product kernel, namely,
 204 there is a function k such that the kernels have the form $k(\langle x, x' \rangle)$. The $O(3d)$ -invariant of finite
 205 width FCN_n is due to the Gaussian initialization of the first layer which was first observed and
 206 proved in [27]. Rotating the input by $\tau \in O(3d)$ is equivalent to rotating the weight matrix ω of
 207 the first layer by τ^* . Since for $\omega \in \mathcal{N}(0, 1)^{3d}$ $\tau^* \omega \stackrel{d}{=} \omega$, at random initialization, the distribution
 208 of the output functions (the prior) are unchanged if all inputs are rotated by the same element in
 209 $O(3d)$. This property continues to hold throughout the course of (continue/discrete) gradient descent
 210 training with/without L^2 -regularization and Bayesian posterior inference. For the same reason, LCN_n
 211 is $O(3)^d$ -invariant because each patch of the image uses independent Gaussian random variables.
 212 However, weight-sharing in VEC_n and GAP_n breaks the $O(3)^d$ symmetry, reducing it to $O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$.

213 For infinite networks, LCN_∞ = VEC_∞ [28–31]. The kernels of VEC_∞ and GAP_∞ are of the forms

$$\Theta_{\text{VEC}}(x, x') = k(\{\langle x_\alpha, x'_\alpha \rangle\}_{\alpha \in [d]}) \quad \text{and} \quad \Theta_{\text{GAP}}(x, x') = k(\{\langle x_\alpha, x'_{\alpha'} \rangle\}_{\alpha, \alpha' \in [d]}), \quad (10)$$

214 resp. The former depends only on the inner product between pixels in the *same* spatial location,
 215 breaking the $O(3d)$ symmetry and reducing it to $O(3)^d$. In addition, the latter depends also on the
 216 inner products of pixels across different spatial locations due to pooling, which breaks the $O(3)^d$
 217 symmetry and reduces it to $O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$.

218 Note that $\dim(O(3d)) = 3d(3d - 1)/2$, $\dim(O(3)^d) = 3d$ and $\dim(O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d) = 3$. LCN_n/VEC_∞
 219 dramatically reduces the dimension of the symmetry group. It is worth mentioning that while
 220 $\dim(O(3d))$ many pairs of rotated and unrotated images are needed to recover the exact rotation in
 221 $O(3d)$, only 3 pairs are sufficient for $O(3)^d$, same as that of $O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$. The results of the paper
 222 are presented in the most *vanilla* setting. Our methods can easily extend to more complicated
 223 architectures like ResNet[32], MLP-Mixer[33] and etc. The symmetry groups of such systems
 224 need to be computed in a case-by-case manner by identifying the invariant group of the random
 225 initialization and training procedures.

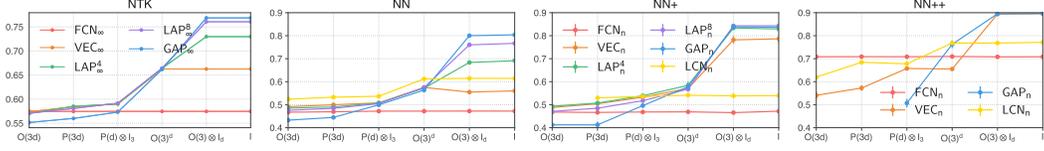


Figure 1: **Performance vs Symmetry.** Machine learning systems are equipped with various kinds of symmetries. Transforming the system by the associated symmetry does not affect the performance of the system. However, injecting spurious symmetries beyond the associated symmetries could dramatically degrade their performance for both finite and infinite networks.

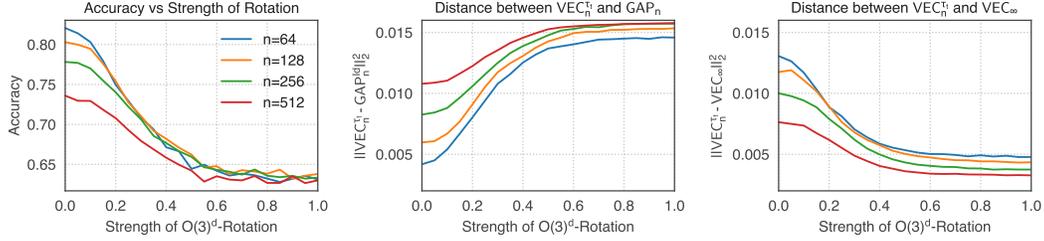


Figure 2: Even in the NN+ setting, VEC_n is closer to GAP_n for small n and moves towards VEC_∞ with more symmetries and/or larger n and accuracy drops.

226 3.1 Empirical Supports and Observations

227 **Performance under Rotations.** We examine the performance of: FCN, VEC, LCN, GAP and
 228 $LAP^{4/8}$, when the coordinates of the data are transformed by six different groups (x -axis in Fig.1)
 229 using the standard dataset CIFAR-10. Here $LAP^{4/8}$ is the same as GAP except the readout layer is
 230 replaced by the **Local Average Pooling** with window size $4 \times 4/8 \times 8$. We consider 4 types of training
 231 methods: (1) NTK, i.e. infinite networks (2) NN, our baseline for finite width neural network which
 232 is trained with momentum using a small learning rate and without L^2 regularizer and the network
 233 is centered (+C) to reduce the variance from random initialization (3) NN+= NN+LR+L2-C, i.e.
 234 using a larger learning rate (+LR), adding L^2 regularization (+L2)) and removing the centering (-C)
 235 (4) NN++=NN++DA, adding MixUp[34] data augmentation (+DA) to NN+. Overall, we observe
 236 that, for most of the cases in NTK/NN/NN+, adding spurious symmetry to a system ($\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I}$)
 237 degrades the performance towards that of the system invariant to that symmetry. Surprisingly, in
 238 the baseline NN, performance of $VEC_n + O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$ rotation is slightly worse than that of $VEC_n + O(3)^d$
 239 and than that of LCN_n , indicating that the system with $\mathcal{M} = VEC_n$ is likely operating closely
 240 on the $O(3)^d$ symmetry. The interventions -C+L2+LR in NN+ distinguishes the performance of
 241 $VEC_n + O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$ from $VEC_n + O(3)^d$ and +DA eventually closes the performance gap between
 242 $VEC_n + O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$ and $GAP_n + O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$, helping the system to be aware of the smaller symmetry
 243 $O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$ and escaping from the $O(3)^d$ symmetry.

244 **Symmetry Breaking of VEC_n .** Assuming Equation 8, namely, the network is in the NTK regime,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\mathbb{E}VEC_n(x) - VEC_\infty(x)| + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\mathbb{E}VEC_n(x) - \mathbb{E}VEC_n^\tau(x)| \leq Cn^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (11)$$

245 where the expectation \mathbb{E} is over random initialization and $VEC_n(x)$ is the prediction of the test point
 246 x when $t = \infty$, i.e. training loss is 0. VEC_n^τ is the prediction of the τ -rotated system, $\tau \in O(3)^d$.
 247 The $O(3)^d$ symmetry is restored as $n \rightarrow \infty$. As such, for large n , the system is approximately
 248 $O(3)^d$ -invariant. In Figs. 2, we randomly sample a $\tau \in O(3)^d$ and use the exponential map to
 249 construct a continuous interpolation $\tau_t \in O(3)^d$ between $\tau_0 = \mathbf{Id}$ and $\tau_1 = \tau$. We train the
 250 network as in NN+ (+LR+L2-C) using different n and τ_t and average the predictions over 10
 251 random initialization as an approximation of $\mathbb{E}VEC_n^{\tau_t}(x)$. Not surprisingly, as n increases and/or t
 252 increases, (1) test performance decays monotonically (left panel in Fig.2), (2) the distance to $\mathbb{E}GAP_n$
 253 increases monotonically (middle panel) and (3) distance to VEC_∞ decrease monotonically (right
 254 panel). Clearly, the coordinate information from the data is utilized by smaller width VEC_n .

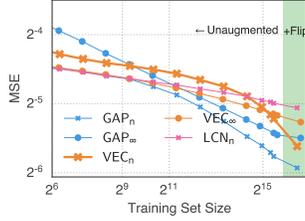


Figure 3: **Data Bends Learning Curve of VEC_n .** We study the effect of training set size to the network’s performance for various models. In the small dataset regime, the slope of the learning curve (in the log-log plot) of VEC_n is similar to that of VEC_∞ and FCN_n . However, as the dataset gets larger, the slope increases significantly. This is hinted by Theorem 2.1.

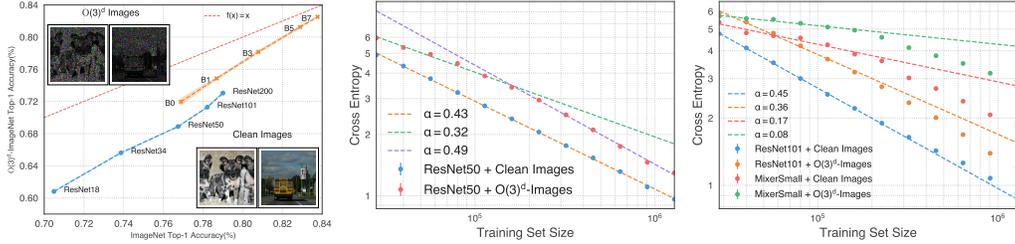


Figure 4: With coordinate of the input data rotated by $O(3)^d$, state of the art models learn as good as without rotation. middle/right: slopes of the learning curves increases due to more data. DIDE

255 **DIDE for VEC_n .** To understand the role of data, we vary the training set size of Cifar10 from about
 256 2^6 to 50k (the whole un-augmented training set) and to 100k (adding left-right flip augmentation) and
 257 plot the learning curves in Fig.3. We observe dramatic speedup of learning for VEC_n in the larger
 258 data set regime, which isn’t the case for VEC_∞ (kernel), LCN_n , GAP_∞ and even for GAP_n after
 259 $m = 2^{12}$. We argue that this is due to the prior (the function space defined by the model) is too large
 260 (and not optimal) for the task and the coupled effect of more data together with inference procedures
 261 corrects the prior, as it is suggested by Theorem 2.1.

262 **DIDE for SOTA models.** In the middle and right panels of Fig.4, we provide additional evidence
 263 in a larger scale setting. We generate learning curves of ImageNet using ResNet50 and (MLP-)Mixer
 264 [33], a very recent architecture that contains no convolution layers except the first layer, which
 265 is a convolution with filter size and stride equal to (16, 16) (patches are disjoint). The symmetry
 266 group associated to (first layer of) ResNet ($O(2^2 \times 3) \otimes \text{Id}_{112 \times 112}$) is similar to that of GAP_n
 267 which is relatively small. However, the symmetry group induced by the first layer of the Mixer is
 268 $O(3 \times 16^2) \otimes \mathbf{I}_{14^2}$, where 3×16^2 is number of entries in the (16, 16, 3) patch (RGB channels) and
 269 $14^2 = 224^2/16^2$ is the number of patches. Although the dimension of $O(3 \times 16^2) \otimes \mathbf{I}_{14^2}$ is quite
 270 large (about $(3 \times 16^2)^2/2$), it is still dramatically smaller than that of applying a fully-connected layer
 271 to the flatten images, which $O(3 \times 224^2)$ (whose dimension is $(3 \times 224^2)^2/2$). In the middle panel
 272 of Fig.4, we observe an almost perfect power-law scaling for the learning curve for the ResNet50
 273 system with unrotated images. When the images are rotated by $O(3)^d$ ($d = 224^2$), the learning curve
 274 is relatively flat in the smaller data regime (green dashed line). However, as the data set grows, it
 275 eventually catches up (purple dashed line) as that of the unrotated setting; see Sec.E for ResNet34/101.
 276 In the third panel, we see the learning curves are much flatter (red) for the Mixer and even more so
 277 for the rotated images (green). Again, these curves are bent towards that of ResNet50 with unrotated
 278 images as data increases, indicating the prior was being corrected.

279 Finally, in the left panel of Fig.4, we compare the accuracy of state-of-the-art models trained on both
 280 unrotated and $O(3)^d$ rotated images. Surprisingly, the gap between the two are not large and becomes
 281 smaller for better performant models. For EfficientNet B7¹, the top-1 accuracy of the rotated system
 282 is only 1.2% off from the unrotated one. See Fig.S7, S8 and S9 for rotated and unrotated images.

283 4 Eigencomposition of Neural Kernels

284 To gain insight into the inductive biases of various architectures, we eigendecompose the kernels using
 285 spherical harmonics. We assume the input space $\mathcal{X} = \{\xi = (\xi_0, \dots, \xi_{p-1}) \in (\sqrt{d_0}\mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)})^p\} \subseteq$

¹Still under training

286 $\mathbb{R}^{d_0 p}$, i.e. the p -product of $(d_0 - 1)$ -sphere with radius $\sqrt{d_0}$. We call $\xi_i \in \sqrt{d_0} \mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)}$ a mini-patch
 287 and $(\xi_i, \xi_{i+1}, \dots, \xi_{i+s-1}) \in (\sqrt{d_0} \mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)})^s$ a patch for $i \in [p]$, where circular boundary condition
 288 is assumed. We consider the asymptotic limit when $d_0 = d^\alpha, p = d^{1-\alpha}$ and $d = pd_0 \rightarrow \infty$ and
 289 treat $0 < \alpha < 1$ and s as fixed constant. The input space \mathcal{X} is associated with the product measure
 290 $\mu \equiv \sigma_{d_0}^p$, where σ_{d_0} is the normalized uniform measure on $\sqrt{d_0} \mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)}$. The kernels associated to
 291 the one-hidden layer infinite networks (NNGP and NTK) have the following general forms

$$k \left(\frac{1}{p} \sum_{i \in [p]} \xi_i^T \eta_i / d_0 \right), \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i \in [p]} k \left(\frac{1}{s} \sum_{b \in [s]} \xi_{i+b}^T \eta_{i+b} / d_0 \right), \frac{1}{p^2} \sum_{i, j \in [p]} k \left(\frac{1}{s} \sum_{b \in [s]} \xi_{i+b}^T \eta_{j+b} / d_0 \right), \quad (12)$$

292 for $\mathcal{K}_{\text{FCN}}, \mathcal{K}_{\text{VEC}}$ and \mathcal{K}_{GAP} , resp. Note that the exact form of the (positive definite) kernel function
 293 $k : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ depends on the type of the kernels (NNGP vs NTK), activations, hyperparameters and etc.
 294 We assume the kernel is sufficiently smooth in $(-1, 1)$ and the Taylor expansion of $k^{(r)}$ converges
 295 uniformly in $[-1, 1]$ for sufficiently many $r \in \mathbb{N}$. We use the notation that $A \sim B$ if there are positive
 296 constants c and C independent of d such that $cA \leq B \leq CA$ for d sufficiently large. We use \mathcal{K} to
 297 represent any kernels above and consider it as a Hilbert–Schmidt operator on $L^2(\mathcal{X}, \mu)$

$$\mathcal{K}f(\xi) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \mathcal{K}(\xi, \eta) f(\eta) d\mu, \quad f \in L^2(\mathcal{X}, \mu), \quad (13)$$

298 which is well-defined since μ is a probability measure and k is bounded. Let $\vec{r} = (r_0, \dots, r_{p-1}) \in \mathbb{N}^p$,
 299 τ the shifting operator $\tau \vec{r} = (r_{p-1}, r_0, \dots, r_{p-2})$. The s -banded subset of \mathbb{N}^p is defined to be

$$B(\mathbb{N}^p, s) = \{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^p : \text{dist}(\text{argmax}_j r_j \neq 0, \text{argmin}_j r_j \neq 0) \leq s - 1\} \quad (14)$$

300 which is a quantifier used to restrict the support of a function on a patch. Here $\text{dist}(i, j) = \min\{|i - j|, p - |i - j|\}$, a distance defined on the cyclic group $[p] = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$. The quotient space $B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)/\tau$
 301 denotes a subset of $B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)$ by identifying $\vec{v} = \vec{v}'$ as the same element if $\vec{v} = \tau^a \vec{v}'$ for some $a \in [p]$.
 302 Finally, $Y_{r_j, l_j}(\xi_j)$ is used to denote the l_j -th spherical harmonic of degree r_j in the unit sphere
 303 $\mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)}$ and has unit norm under the normalized measure on $\mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)}$. As such $Y_{r_j, l_j}(\xi_j / \sqrt{d_0}) \in$
 304 $L^2(\sqrt{d_0} \mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)}, \sigma_{d_0})$ has unit norm. Recall that the total number of spherical harmonic of degree r_j
 305 in $\mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)}$ is $N(d_0, r_j) = (2r_j + d_0 - 2) \binom{d_0 + r_j - 3}{r_j - 1} / r_j \sim d_0^{r_j} / r_j!$ as $d_0 \rightarrow \infty$. We use $N(d_0, \vec{r}) =$
 306 $\prod_{j \in [p]} N(d_0, r_j)$ and $[N(d_0, \vec{r})] = \prod_{j \in [p]} [N(d_0, r_j)]$, resp. Let

$$Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi) = \prod_{j \in [p]} Y_{r_j, l_j}(\xi_j) \quad (15)$$

308 The following theorem shows that locality (VEC_∞) dramatically reduces both the dimensions of
 309 $r \geq 1$ eigenspaces and the spectral gap between them. In addition, pooling (i.e. translation symmetry
 310 of GAP_n) reduces their dimensions by an additional factor of p . See Sec.E for the implication of this
 311 theorem to learning.

312 **Theorem 4.1.** [Sec.D] We have the following eigendecomposition for the integral operator \mathcal{K}

$$\mathbb{H} = \bigcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{H}^{(r)} = \bigcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{\vec{r} \in Q(\mathcal{K}, r)} \mathbb{H}^{(\vec{r})}, \quad (16)$$

313 where $Q(\mathcal{K}, r)$ is a quantifier defined below. If $r = 0$, $\mathbb{H}^{(0)}$ is the space of constant functions and the
 314 eigenvalue is $\sim k(0)$. For $r \geq 1$, we have the following.

315 **(1) Baseline:** $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}_{\text{FCN}}$. $Q(\mathcal{K}, r) = \{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^p : |\vec{r}| = r\}$ and the unit eigenfunctions are

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{H}^{(\vec{r})} = \text{span} \left\{ Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}} \left(\frac{\cdot}{\sqrt{d_0}} \right) \right\}_{\vec{l} \in [B(d_0, \vec{r})]} \\ \dim(\mathbb{H}^{(r)}) \sim d^r \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(\mathbb{H}^{(\vec{r})}) \sim d^{-r} k^{(r)}(0) \quad \text{if} \quad k^{(r)}(0) \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

316 **(2)+Locality:** $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}_{\text{VEC}}$. $Q(\mathcal{K}, r) = \{\vec{r} \in B(\mathbb{N}^p, s) : |\vec{r}| = r\}$ the unit eigenfunctions are

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{H}_{\text{VEC}}^{(\vec{r})} = \text{span} \left\{ Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}} \left(\frac{\cdot}{\sqrt{d_0}} \right) \right\}_{\vec{l} \in [B(d_0, \vec{r})]} \\ \dim(\mathbb{H}_{\text{VEC}}^{(r)}) \sim ps^{r-1} d_0^r = s^{r-1} d^{1-\alpha+r\alpha} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(\mathbb{H}_{\text{VEC}}^{(\vec{r})}) \sim p^{-1} (sd_0)^{-r} k^{(r)}(0) \quad \text{if} \quad k^{(r)}(0) \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

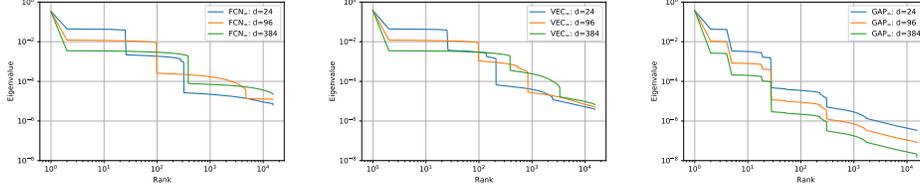


Figure 5: **Eigenvalue Decay of Relu NTK of FCN_∞ , VEC_∞ and GAP_∞ .** $d_0 = s = 3$. The eigenvalues of GAP_∞ decays *faster* because with $m = 15k$ many samples, higher order eigenspace can be covered by GAP_∞ but not $\text{FCN}_\infty/\text{VEC}_\infty$ due to Theorem 4.1.

317 **(3)+Locality + Shifting:** $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}_{\text{GAP}}$. $Q(\mathcal{K}, r) = \{\vec{r} \in B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)/\tau : |\vec{r}| = r\}$, the unit eigenfunc-
 318 tions are

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{H}_{\text{GAP}}^{(\vec{r})} = \text{span} \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}} \sum_{\tau \in [p]} Y_{\vec{r}, i} \left(\frac{\tau}{\cdot} \sqrt{d_0} \right) \right\}_{i \in [B(d_0, \vec{r})]} \\ \dim(\mathbf{H}_{\text{GAP}}^{(r)}) \sim s^{r-1} d_0^r \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(\mathbf{H}_{\text{GAP}}^{(\vec{r})}) \sim p^{-1} (s d_0)^{-r} k^{(r)}(0) \quad \text{if} \quad k^{(r)}(0) \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

319 5 Related Work

320 The study of infinite networks dates back to the seminal work by Neal [8] who showed the con-
 321 vergence of single hidden-layer networks to Gaussian Processes (GPs). Recently, there has been
 322 renewed interest in studying random, infinite, networks starting with concurrent work on “conjugate
 323 kernels” [10, 35] and “mean-field theory” [9, 36], taking a statistical learning and statistical physics
 324 view of points, resp. Since then this analysis has been extended to include a wide range for archi-
 325 tectures [20, 21, 37, 29, 26, 38]. The inducing kernel is often referred to as the Neural Network
 326 Gaussian Process (NNGP) kernel. The neural tangent kernel (NTK), first introduced in Jacot et al.
 327 [22], along with followup work [12, 39] showed that the distribution of functions induced by gradient
 328 descent for infinite-width networks is a Gaussian Process with NTK as the kernel.

329 The study of implicit bias (regularization) of gradient descent has received considerable interests.
 330 The work [15, 40–43] demonstrate the convergence of SGD to the maximal margin solution for
 331 logistic-type losses during late time training. [44–50] study the early-time SGD dynamics, spectral
 332 biases of neural networks. These results aim to explain the order of learning of neural networks:
 333 functions of less complexity are usually learned before more complex functions.

334 [27] is the first to show that the prediction functions obtained from training FCN depend, in addition
 335 on the labels, only on the covariance of the input data. This implies our result regarding the $O(3d)$
 336 invariance of FCN. By utilizing this symmetry, recent work [51] constructs a particular task where
 337 the label function is a second order polynomial of the inputs and show that orthogonal invariance
 338 algorithm requires sample size of order d^2 while there is a convnet requires only $O(1)$ samples. Their
 339 convnet essentially corresponds to the $d_0 = s = 1$ and $r = 2$ case of Theorem 4.1, in which the
 340 dimension of this eigenspace (and indeed of all r -eigenspace by treating r as a finite constant as
 341 $d \rightarrow \infty$) of GAP_∞ is $O(1)$ while the dimension of the 2-eigenspace of FCN_∞ is of order d^2 . See
 342 Subsection. E.4.

343 6 Conclusion

344 In this paper, we consider machine learning methods as an integrated system of data, models and
 345 inference algorithms and study the basic symmetries of various machine learning systems. We surface
 346 the importance of locality in modern machine learning systems through large scale empirical study
 347 and through an eigendecomposition of one-layer infinite networks. However, we haven’t addressed
 348 two import questions (1) theoretical characterization of the effect of composing locality and (2) the
 349 mathematical understanding of DIDE and how the prior is corrected by the coupled effect of data and
 350 gradient descent. We leave them to future work.

351 Checklist

352 The checklist follows the references. Please read the checklist guidelines carefully for information on
353 how to answer these questions. For each question, change the default **[TODO]** to **[Yes]**, **[No]**, or
354 **[N/A]**. You are strongly encouraged to include a **justification to your answer**, either by referencing
355 the appropriate section of your paper or providing a brief inline description. For example:

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358 proprietary.
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360 Please do not modify the questions and only use the provided macros for your answers. Note that the
361 Checklist section does not count towards the page limit. In your paper, please delete this instructions
362 block and only keep the Checklist section heading above along with the questions/answers below.

- 363 1. For all authors...
 - 364 (a) Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper's
365 contributions and scope? **[Yes]**
 - 366 (b) Did you describe the limitations of your work? **[Yes]**
 - 367 (c) Did you discuss any potential negative societal impacts of your work? **[N/A]**
 - 368 (d) Have you read the ethics review guidelines and ensured that your paper conforms to
369 them? **[Yes]**
- 370 2. If you are including theoretical results...
 - 371 (a) Did you state the full set of assumptions of all theoretical results? **[Yes]**
 - 372 (b) Did you include complete proofs of all theoretical results? **[Yes]**
- 373 3. If you ran experiments...
 - 374 (a) Did you include the code, data, and instructions needed to reproduce the main experi-
375 mental results (either in the supplemental material or as a URL)? **[No]**
 - 376 (b) Did you specify all the training details (e.g., data splits, hyperparameters, how they
377 were chosen)? **[No]**
 - 378 (c) Did you report error bars (e.g., with respect to the random seed after running experi-
379 ments multiple times)? **[Yes]**
 - 380 (d) Did you include the total amount of compute and the type of resources used (e.g., type
381 of GPUs, internal cluster, or cloud provider)? **[No]**
- 382 4. If you are using existing assets (e.g., code, data, models) or curating/releasing new assets...
 - 383 (a) If your work uses existing assets, did you cite the creators? **[TODO]**
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386 **[TODO]**
 - 387 (d) Did you discuss whether and how consent was obtained from people whose data you're
388 using/curating? **[TODO]**
 - 389 (e) Did you discuss whether the data you are using/curating contains personally identifiable
390 information or offensive content? **[TODO]**
- 391 5. If you used crowdsourcing or conducted research with human subjects...
 - 392 (a) Did you include the full text of instructions given to participants and screenshots, if
393 applicable? **[TODO]**
 - 394 (b) Did you describe any potential participant risks, with links to Institutional Review
395 Board (IRB) approvals, if applicable? **[TODO]**
 - 396 (c) Did you include the estimated hourly wage paid to participants and the total amount
397 spent on participant compensation? **[TODO]**

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529 **A Glossary**

530 We use the following abbreviations in this work:

- 531 • +L2: Adding L2 regularization.
- 532 • +LR: Using a large learning rate.
- 533 • +DA: Applying MixUp data augmentation.
- 534 • +C: Centering the outputs of the network.
- 535 • −C: Remove centering.
- 536 • FCN_n: Fully-connected networks with width n .
- 537 • FCN_∞: Infinite width FCN_n.
- 538 • VEC_n: Convnet with width n and a flattening readout layer.
- 539 • VEC_∞: Infinite width VEC_n.
- 540 • LCN_n: Locally-connected network with width n .
- 541 • LCN_∞: Infinite width LCN_n, which is the same as VEC_∞.
- 542 • GAP_n: Convnet with width n and a global average readout layer.
- 543 • GAP_∞: Infinite width GAP_n.
- 544 • LAP_n^k: Similar to GAP_n, except the readout layer is a (k, k) average pooling.
- 545 • LAP_∞^k: Infinite width LAP_n^k.

546 **B Proof of Theorem 2.1**547 We use FCN_n to denote the class of functions that can be expressed by L -hidden layer fully-connected
548 networks whose widths are equal to n . Similar notation applies to other architectures.549 **Corollary 1.** *We have the following*

$$550 \text{ GAP}_n \subseteq \text{VEC}_n \subseteq \text{LCN}_n \subseteq \text{VEC}_{dn}, \quad \text{LCN}_n \subseteq \text{FCN}_{dn} \quad (\text{S1})$$

550 *Proof.* We only need to prove $\text{LCN}_n \subseteq \text{VEC}_{dn}$ because the others are obvious. Let $\text{LCN}_n(x)_{\alpha,i}^l$
551 denote the post-activation at layer l , spatial location α and channel index i of a LCN_n with input x
552 and $\text{VEC}_n(x)_{\alpha,i}^l$ is defined similarly. It suffices to prove that for any LCN with width n there is a
553 VEC with width dn such that for any $l \geq 1$ (i.e. not the input layer)

$$554 \text{VEC}_{dn}(x)_{\alpha,\alpha n+i}^l = \text{LCN}_n(x)_{\alpha,i}^l \quad (\text{S2})$$

554 since we could choose the readout weights of VEC_{dn} at locations $(\alpha, \alpha n + i)$ to match the one of
555 LCN_n at location (α, i) and zero out the remaining entries. We prove this by induction and assume it
556 holds for l (the base case $l = 1$ is obvious). Then the LCN_n and VEC_n at layer $l + 1$ can be written as

$$557 \text{LCN}_n(x)_{\alpha,j}^{l+1} = \phi \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{n(2k+1)}} \sum_{i \in [n], \beta \in [-k,k]} \text{LCN}_n(x)_{\alpha+\beta,i}^l \omega_{\beta,i,j}^{l+1}(\alpha) \right)$$

557 and

$$558 \text{VEC}_{dn}(x)_{\alpha,j}^{l+1} = \phi \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{dn(2k+1)}} \sum_{i \in [dn], \beta \in [-k,k]} \text{VEC}_{dn}(x)_{\alpha+\beta,i}^l \tilde{\omega}_{\beta,i,j}^{l+1} \right)$$

558 One can show that Equation S2 holds for $(l + 1)$ by choosing the parameters of VEC_{dn} as follows

$$559 \tilde{\omega}_{\beta,i,j}^{l+1} = \sqrt{d} \omega_{\beta,i-(\alpha+\beta)n,j-\alpha n}^{l+1} \quad \text{if } \alpha n \leq j < (\alpha + \beta)n \quad \text{and} \quad (\alpha + \beta)n \leq i < (\alpha + \beta)(n + 1)$$

559 and 0 otherwise.

561 **C Proof of Symmetries**

562 *Proof.* For simplicity, we present the proof for full-batch training. The proof applies to mini-batch
 563 training as long as order of the mini-batch is fixed. Let τ be a rotation in $O(3d)$ or $O(3)^d$ or
 564 $O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$, depending on the architectures (FCN_n, LCN_n, VEC_n, GAP_n) and the tuple θ and γ denote
 565 the parameters of the first and remaining layers of the network, resp. Let $h(\tau x, \theta) = \langle \tau x, \theta \rangle$ denote
 566 the pre-activations of the first-hidden layer in the rotated coordinate. Here $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the bilinear map (a
 567 dense layer or a convolutional layer with or without weight-sharing, etc.), not the inner product. The
 568 loss with L^2 -regularization is

$$R_\lambda(\theta, \gamma) = L(h(\tau \mathcal{X}, \theta), \gamma) + \frac{1}{2} \lambda (\|\theta\|_2^2 + \|\gamma\|_2^2) \quad (\text{S3})$$

569 where $L(h(\tau \mathcal{X}, \theta), \gamma)$ is the raw loss of the network. For each random instantiation $\theta = \theta_0$ with θ_0
 570 drawn from standard Gaussian iid, we instantiate a coupled network from the un-rotated coordinates
 571 but with a different instantiation in the first layer $\theta^\tau = \tau^* \theta_0$ and keep the remaining layers unchanged,
 572 i.e. $\gamma^\tau = \gamma_0$. Here τ^* is the adjoint of τ and note that $\tau^* \theta_0$ and θ_0 have the same distribution
 573 by the Gaussian initialization of θ_0 and the definition of τ . The regularized loss associated to this
 574 instantiation is

$$R_\lambda(\theta^\tau, \gamma^\tau) = L(h(\mathcal{X}, \theta^\tau), \gamma^\tau) + \frac{1}{2} \lambda (\|\theta^\tau\|_2^2 + \|\gamma^\tau\|_2^2) \quad (\text{S4})$$

575 It suffices to prove that for each instantiation $\theta = \theta_0$ drawn from Gaussian, the following holds for
 576 all gradient steps t

$$(\theta_t^\tau, \gamma_t^\tau) = (\tau^* \theta_t, \gamma_t). \quad (\text{S5})$$

577 We prove this by induction on t and $t = 0$ is true by definition. Assume it holds when $t = t$. Now the
 578 update in γ and γ^τ with learning rate η are

$$\gamma_{t+1} = \gamma_t - \eta \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \gamma} \Big|_{(h(\tau \mathcal{X}, \theta_t), \gamma_t)} \right)^T - \eta \lambda \gamma_t \quad (\text{S6})$$

$$\gamma_{t+1}^\tau = \gamma_t^\tau - \eta \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \gamma} \Big|_{(h(\mathcal{X}, \theta_t^\tau), \gamma_t^\tau)} \right)^T - \eta \lambda \gamma_t^\tau \quad (\text{S7})$$

579 It is clear $\gamma_{t+1} = \gamma_{t+1}^\tau$ by induction since $h(\tau \mathcal{X}, \theta_t) = h(\mathcal{X}, \theta_t^\tau)$. Similarly,

$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial h} \frac{\partial h}{\partial \theta} \Big|_{(\tau \mathcal{X}, \theta_t)} \right)^T - \lambda \theta_t \quad (\text{S8})$$

$$\theta_{t+1}^\tau = \theta_t^\tau - \eta \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial h} \frac{\partial h}{\partial \theta^\tau} \Big|_{(\mathcal{X}, \theta_t^\tau)} \right)^T - \lambda \theta^\tau \quad (\text{S9})$$

580 Note that by the chain rule and induction assumption

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial \theta^\tau} \Big|_{(\mathcal{X}, \theta_t^\tau)} = \frac{\partial h}{\partial \theta} \Big|_{(\mathcal{X}, \theta_t^\tau)} \frac{\partial \theta^\tau}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial h}{\partial \theta} \Big|_{(\mathcal{X}, \theta_t^\tau)} \tau \quad (\text{S10})$$

581 This implies $\theta_{t+1}^\tau = \tau^* \theta_{t+1}$.

582 □

583 **Remark S1.** It is not difficult to see the apply proof apply to Non-Gaussian i.i.d. initialization (e.g.
 584 uniform distribution) and/or adding L^p -regularization when the rotation groups are replaced by the
 585 corresponding permutation groups. Empirically, we observe that replacing the first layer Gaussian
 586 initialization by uniform distribution does not change the performance of the network much. See
 587 Fig.S2.

588 **Remark S2.** The proof works for all parameterization methods, including NTK-
 589 parameterization[11], standard parameterization [52], mean-field parameterization[53] and
 590 ABC-parameterization [54]

591 D Eigendecomposition of Infinite Networks

592 To gain insight into the inductive biases of various architectures, we eigendecompose the kernels using
 593 spherical harmonics. We assume the input space $\mathcal{X} = \{\xi = (\xi_0, \dots, \xi_{p-1}) \in (\sqrt{d_0}\mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)})^p\} \subseteq$
 594 $\mathbb{R}^{d_0 p}$, i.e. the p -product of $(d_0 - 1)$ -sphere with radius $\sqrt{d_0}$. We call $\xi_i \in \sqrt{d_0}\mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)}$ a mini-patch
 595 and $(\xi_i, \xi_{i+1}, \dots, \xi_{i+s-1}) \in (\sqrt{d_0}\mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)})^s$ a patch for $i \in [p]$, where circular boundary condition
 596 is assumed. We consider the asymptotic limit when $d_0 = d^\alpha$, $p = d^{1-\alpha}$ and $d = pd_0 \rightarrow \infty$ and treat
 597 $0 < \alpha < 1$ and s as fixed constant.

598 The input space \mathcal{X} is associated with the product measure $\mu \equiv \sigma_{d_0}^p$, where σ_{d_0} is the normalized
 599 uniform measure on $\sqrt{d_0}\mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)}$. The kernels associated to the one-hidden layer infinite networks
 600 (NNGP and NTK) have the following general forms

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{FCN}}(\xi, \eta) = k \left(\frac{1}{p} \sum_{i \in [p]} \xi_i^T \eta_i / d_0 \right), \quad (\text{S11})$$

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{VEC}}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i \in [p]} k \left(\frac{1}{s} \sum_{b \in [s]} \xi_{i+b}^T \eta_{i+b} / d_0 \right), \quad (\text{S12})$$

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{GAP}}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{1}{p^2} \sum_{i, j \in [p]} k \left(\frac{1}{s} \sum_{b \in [s]} \xi_{i+b}^T \eta_{j+b} / d_0 \right), \quad (\text{S13})$$

601 for FCN_∞ , VEC_∞ and GAP_∞ resp. Note that the exact form of the (positive definite) kernel function
 602 $k : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ depends on the type of the kernels (NNGP vs NTK), activations, hyperparameters and etc.
 603 We assume the kernel is sufficiently smooth in $(-1, 1)$ and the Taylor expansion of $k^{(r)}$ converges
 604 uniformly in $[-1, 1]$ for sufficiently many $r \in \mathbb{N}$. We use the notation that $A \sim B$ if there are positive
 605 constants c and C such that $cA \leq B \leq CA$ for d sufficiently large. We use \mathcal{K} to represent any
 606 kernels above and consider it as a Hilbert–Schmidt operator on $L^2(\mathcal{X}, \mu)$

$$\mathcal{K}f(\xi) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \mathcal{K}(\xi, \eta) f(\eta) d\mu, \quad f \in L^2(\mathcal{X}, \mu), \quad (\text{S14})$$

607 which is well-defined since μ is a probability measure and k is bounded.

608 D.1 Legendre Polynomials, Spherical Harmonics and their Tensor Products.

609 Our notation follows closely from [55], an excellent introduction to spherical harmonics.

610 **Legendre Polynomials.** Let ω_{d_0} be the measure defined on the interval $I = [-1, 1]$

$$\omega_{d_0}(t) = (1 - t^2)^{(d_0-3)/2} \quad (\text{S15})$$

611 The Legendre polynomials² $\{P_r(t) : r \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is an orthogonal basis for the Hilbert space $L^2(I, \omega_{d_0})$,
 612 i.e.

$$\int_I P_r(t) P_{r'}(t) \omega_{d_0}(t) dt = 0 \quad \text{if } r \neq r' \quad (\text{S16})$$

613 Here $P_r(t)$ is a degree r polynomials with $P_r(1) = 1$ and satisfies the Rodrigues formula

Lemma 1 (Rodrigues Formula. Proposition 4.19 [55]).

$$P_r(t) = c_r \omega_{d_0}^{-1} \left(\frac{d}{dt} \right)^r (1 - t^2)^{r+(d_0-3)/2}, \quad (\text{S17})$$

614 where

$$c_r = \frac{(-1)^r}{2^r (r + (d_0 - 3)/2)_r} \quad (\text{S18})$$

²More accurate, this should be called [Gegenbauer Polynomials](#). However, we decide to stick to the terminology in [55]

615 In the above lemma, $(x)_l$ denotes the falling factorial

$$(x)_l \equiv x(x-1) \cdots (x-l+1) \quad (\text{S19})$$

$$(x)_0 \equiv 1 \quad (\text{S20})$$

616 **Spherical Harmonics.** Let $d\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}$ define the (un-normalized) uniform measure on the unit sphere
617 \mathbb{S}_{d_0-1} . Then

$$|\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}| \equiv \int_{\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}} d\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1} = \frac{2\pi^{d_0/2}}{\Gamma(\frac{d_0}{2})} \quad (\text{S21})$$

618 The normalized measure on this sphere is defined to be

$$d\sigma_{d_0} = \frac{1}{|\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}|} d\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}} d\sigma_{d_0} = 1 \quad (\text{S22})$$

619 The spherical harmonics $\{Y_{r,l}\}_{r,l}$ in \mathbb{R}^{d_0} are homogeneous harmonic polynomials that form an
620 orthonormal basis in $L^2(\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}, \sigma_{d_0})$

$$\int_{\xi \in \mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}} Y_{r,l}(\xi) Y_{r',l'}(\xi) d\sigma_{d_0} = \delta_{(r,l)=(r',l')}. \quad (\text{S23})$$

621 Here $Y_{r,l}$ denotes the l -th spherical harmonic whose degree is r , where $r \in \mathbb{N}$, $l \in [N(d_0, r)]$ and

$$N(d_0, r) = \frac{2r + d_0 - 2}{r} \binom{d_0 + r - 3}{r-1} \sim d_0^r / r! \quad \text{as} \quad d_0 \rightarrow \infty. \quad (\text{S24})$$

622 The Legendre polynomials and spherical harmonics are related through the addition theorem.

Lemma 2 (Addition Theorem. Theorem 4.11 [55]).

$$P_r(\xi^T \eta) = \frac{1}{N(d_0, r)} \sum_{l \in [N(d_0, r)]} Y_{r,l}(\xi) Y_{r,l}(\eta), \quad \xi, \eta \in \mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}. \quad (\text{S25})$$

623 **Tensor Products.** Let $p \in \mathbb{N}$, $\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^p$, $I^p = [-1, 1]^p$ and $\omega_{d_0}^p$ be the product measure on I^p . Then
624 the (product of) Legendre polynomials

$$P_{\vec{r}}(\vec{t}) = \prod_{j \in [p]} P_{r_j}(t_j), \quad \vec{t} = (t_1, \dots, t_p) \in I^p \quad (\text{S26})$$

625 form an orthogonal basis for the Hilbert space $L^2(I^p, \omega_{d_0}^p) = (L^2(I, \omega_{d_0}))^{\otimes p}$. Similarly, the product
626 of spherical harmonics

$$Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}} = \prod_{j \in [p]} Y_{r_j, l_j}, \quad \vec{l} = (l_1, \dots, l_p) \in [N(d_0, \vec{r})] \equiv \prod_{j \in [p]} [N(d_0, r_j)] \quad (\text{S27})$$

627 form an orthonormal basis for the product space

$$L^2(\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}^p, \sigma_{d_0}^p) = (L^2(\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}, \sigma_{d_0}))^{\otimes p}. \quad (\text{S28})$$

628 Elements in the set $\{Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}\}_{\vec{l} \in [N(d_0, \vec{r})]}$ are called degree (order) \vec{r} spherical harmonics in $L^2(\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}^p, \sigma_{d_0}^p)$
629 and also degree r spherical harmonics if $|\vec{r}| = r \in \mathbb{N}$.

630 D.2 "Fourier" Decomposition.

631 Let $K(\vec{t}) \in L^2(\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}^p, \sigma_{d_0}^p)$. Then we have the following "Fourier decomposition" (the convergence
632 is in L^2),

$$K(\vec{t}) = \sum_{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^p} \hat{K}(\vec{r}) P_{\vec{r}}(\vec{t}) \quad (\text{S29})$$

633 where the "Fourier coefficients" are

$$\hat{K}(\vec{r}) = \langle K, P_{\vec{r}} \rangle_{L^2(I^p, \omega_{d_0}^p)} / \langle P_{\vec{r}}, P_{\vec{r}} \rangle_{L^2(I^p, \omega_{d_0}^p)}. \quad (\text{S30})$$

634 Applying Lemma 2, we have the harmonic decomposition (the convergence is in L^2)

$$K(\xi^T \eta) = \sum_{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^p} \hat{K}(\vec{r}) N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \sum_{\vec{l} \in [B(d_0, \vec{r})]} Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi) Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\eta), \quad \xi, \eta \in \mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}^p \quad (\text{S31})$$

635 Clearly, as an integral operator

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}^p} K(\xi^T \eta) Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\eta) d\sigma_{d_0}^p = \hat{K}(\vec{r}) N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi). \quad (\text{S32})$$

636 **Theorem D.1.** Let $K(\vec{t}) \in L^2(\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}^p, \sigma_{d_0}^p)$. Then.

$$K(\xi^T \eta) = \sum_{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^p} \hat{K}(\vec{r}) N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \sum_{\vec{l} \in [B(d_0, \vec{r})]} Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi) Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\eta), \quad \xi, \eta \in \mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}^p \quad (\text{S33})$$

637 If in addition $\|K\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I^p)} < \infty$, then

$$\hat{K}(\vec{r}) = \vec{r}!^{-1} \left(K^{(\vec{r})}(0) + \mathcal{O}(\|K\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I^p)} p d_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \right). \quad (\text{S34})$$

638 Therefore, the eigenvalues of $K(\xi^T \eta)$ are $\hat{K}(\vec{r}) N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1}$, with eigenspace spanned by the (unit)
639 eigenvectors $\{Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}\}_{\vec{l} \in [N(d_0, \vec{r})]}$ whose dimension is $N(d_0, \vec{r})$, resp.

640 D.3 Eigendecomposing the Infinite Networks

641 To handle the patch, we introduce the s -banded subset of \mathbb{N}^p . For $i, j \in [p]$, define the a distance in
642 the cyclic group $[p] = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ to be

$$\text{dist}(i, j) = \min\{|i - j|, p - |i - j|\},$$

643 and the diameter of $\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^p$ to be

$$\text{diam}(\vec{r}) = \text{dist}(\text{argmax}_j r_j \neq 0, \text{argmin}_j r_j \neq 0) \quad (\text{S35})$$

644 The s -banded subset of \mathbb{N}^p is the collection of points whose diameter is less than s , i.e.,

$$B(\mathbb{N}^p, s) = \{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^p : \text{diam}(\vec{r}) \leq s - 1\} \quad (\text{S36})$$

645 This implies $Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}$ is a function defined on a patch if and only if $\vec{r} \in B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)$.

646 Let τ be shifting operator $\tau \vec{r} = (r_{p-1}, r_0, \dots, r_{p-2})$, where $\vec{r} = (r_0, \dots, r_{p-1}) \in \mathbb{N}^p$. The quotient
647 space $B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)/\tau$ denotes a subset of $B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)$ by identifying $\vec{v} = \vec{v}'$ as the same element if $\vec{v} = \tau^a \vec{v}'$
648 for some $a \in [p]$.

649 In deep learning, it is more convenient to work on the non-unit sphere $\sqrt{d_0} \mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}$. We still use σ_{d_0} to
650 denote the normalized (probability) measure on $\sqrt{d_0} \mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}$. The spherical harmonics with unit norms
651 are

$$Y_{r_j, l_j} \left(\frac{\xi_j}{\sqrt{d_0}} \right) \in L^2 \left(\sqrt{d_0} \mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)}, \sigma_{d_0} \right) \quad (\text{S37})$$

$$Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}} \left(\frac{\xi}{\sqrt{d_0}} \right) \in L^2 \left(\left(\sqrt{d_0} \mathbb{S}^{(d_0-1)} \right)^p, \sigma_{d_0}^p \right) \quad (\text{S38})$$

652 The following theorem characterize the inductive biases induced by locality and symmetry (i.e.
653 shifting invariant) for infinite networks. It shows that locality (VEC_∞) dramatically reduces both
654 the dimensions of $r \geq 1$ eigenspaces and the spectral gap among them. In addition, pooling (i.e.
655 resulting shifting invariant for GAP_n) reduces their dimensions by an additional factor of p . See
656 Sec.E for the implication of this theorem to learning.

657 **Theorem D.2.** We have the following eigendecomposition for the integral operator \mathcal{K}

$$\mathbb{H} = \bigcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{H}^{(r)} = \bigcup_{r \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{\vec{r} \in Q(\mathcal{K}, r)} \mathbb{H}^{(\vec{r})}, \quad (\text{S39})$$

658 where $Q(\mathcal{K}, r)$ is a quantifier defined below. If $r = 0$, $\mathbb{H}^{(0)}$ is the space of constant functions and the
659 eigenvalue is $\sim k(0)$. For $r \geq 1$, we have the following.

660 **(1)Base Case:** $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}_{\text{FCN}}$. $Q(\mathcal{K}, r) = \{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^p : |\vec{r}| = r\}$ and the unit eigenfunctions are

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{H}^{(\vec{r})} = \text{span} \left\{ Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}} \left(\frac{\cdot}{\sqrt{d_0}} \right) \right\}_{\vec{l} \in [B(d_0, \vec{r})]} \\ \dim(\mathbf{H}^{(r)}) \sim d^r \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(\mathbf{H}^{(\vec{r})}) \sim d^{-r} \delta(k^{(r)}(0)) \end{cases} \quad (\text{S40})$$

661 **(2)+Locality:** $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}_{\text{VEC}}$. $Q(\mathcal{K}, r) = \{\vec{r} \in B(\mathbb{N}^p, s) : |\vec{r}| = r\}$ the unit eigenfunctions are

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{H}_{\text{VEC}}^{(\vec{r})} = \text{span} \left\{ Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}} \left(\frac{\cdot}{\sqrt{d_0}} \right) \right\}_{\vec{l} \in [B(d_0, \vec{r})]} \\ \dim(\mathbf{H}_{\text{VEC}}^{(r)}) \sim p s^{r-1} d_0^r = s^{r-1} d^{1-\alpha+r\alpha} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(\mathbf{H}_{\text{VEC}}^{(\vec{r})}) \sim p^{-1} (s d_0)^{-r} \delta(k^{(r)}(0)) \end{cases} \quad (\text{S41})$$

662 **(3)+Locality + Shifting:** $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}_{\text{GAP}}$. $Q(\mathcal{K}, r) = \{\vec{r} \in B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)/\tau : |\vec{r}| = r\}$, the unit eigenfunc-

663 tions are

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{H}_{\text{GAP}}^{(\vec{r})} = \text{span} \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}} \sum_{\tau \in [p]} Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}} \left(\frac{\tau}{\sqrt{d_0}} \right) \right\}_{\vec{l} \in [B(d_0, \vec{r})]} \\ \dim(\mathbf{H}_{\text{GAP}}^{(r)}) \sim (s d_0)^r = s^r d^{r\alpha} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda(\mathbf{H}_{\text{GAP}}^{(\vec{r})}) \sim p^{-1} (s d_0)^{-r} \delta(k^{(r)}(0)) \end{cases} \quad (\text{S42})$$

664 *Proof.* Our main tool is Theorem D.1.

665 **Base Case** \mathcal{K}_{FCN} . Setting

$$K(\vec{t}) = k \left(\frac{1}{p} \sum_{j \in [p]} t_j \right) \quad (\text{S43})$$

666 and applying Theorem D.1 give

$$K(\xi^T \eta / d_0) = \sum_{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^p} \hat{K}(\vec{r}) N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \sum_{\vec{l} \in [B(d_0, \vec{r})]} Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi / \sqrt{d_0}) Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\eta / \sqrt{d_0}) \quad (\text{S44})$$

667 for $\xi / \sqrt{d_0}$ and $\eta / \sqrt{d_0} \in \mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}^p$. By the chain rule

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{K}(\vec{r}) &= \vec{r}!^{-1} \left(K^{(\vec{r})}(0) + \mathcal{O}(\|K\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I^p)} p d_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \right) \\ &= \vec{r}!^{-1} \left(p^{-|\vec{r}|} k^{(\vec{r})}(0) + \mathcal{O}(p^{-|\vec{r}|-1} \|k\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I)} p d_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \right) \\ &= \vec{r}!^{-1} p^{-|\vec{r}|} \left(k^{(\vec{r})}(0) + \mathcal{O}(d_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \right) \end{aligned}$$

668 As $d_0 \rightarrow \infty$, if $k^{(|\vec{r}|)}(0) \neq 0$ then the eigenvalue of the \vec{r} -eigenspace is

$$\lambda(\mathbf{H}^{(\vec{r})}) \sim k^{(|\vec{r}|)}(0) \vec{r}!^{-1} p^{-|\vec{r}|} N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \sim (p d_0)^{-|\vec{r}|} = d^{-|\vec{r}|} \quad (\text{S45})$$

669 The dimension is $N(d_0, \vec{r}) \sim d_0^{|\vec{r}|} / \vec{r}!$. This completes the proof of the base case.

670 **+Locality** \mathcal{K}_{VEC} . Recall that

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{VEC}}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i \in [p]} k \left(\frac{1}{s} \sum_{b \in [s]} \xi_{i+b}^T \eta_{i+b} / d_0 \right), \quad (\text{S46})$$

671 which is a sum of kernels supported on patches. Setting

$$K(t_1, \dots, t_s) = k \left(\frac{1}{s} \sum_{j \in [s]} t_j \right), \quad (\text{S47})$$

672 applying Theorem D.1 with $p = s$ to each summand implies

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{VEC}}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{1}{p} \sum_{i \in [p]} \sum_{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^s} \hat{K}(\vec{r}) N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \sum_{\vec{l}} Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi_{i:i+s} / \sqrt{d_0}) Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\eta_{i:i+s} / \sqrt{d_0}) \quad (\text{S48})$$

$$= \sum_{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^s} \frac{1}{p} \hat{K}(\vec{r}) N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \sum_{\vec{l}} \sum_{i \in [p]} Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi_{i:i+s} / \sqrt{d_0}) Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\eta_{i:i+s} / \sqrt{d_0}) \quad (\text{S49})$$

673 in which we have applied the Fubini Theorem. Similarly, if $k^{(\vec{r})}(0) \neq 0$, the term

$$\hat{K}(\vec{r})N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \sim k^{(\vec{r})}(0)(sd_0)^{-|\vec{r}|}, \quad (\text{S50})$$

674 where the $s^{-|\vec{r}|}$ is coming from applying the chain rule to Equation S47. Next, we treat the func-
 675 tions $Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi_{i:i+s}/\sqrt{d_0})$ defined on a patch as functions $Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi/\sqrt{d_0})$ defined on the whole space
 676 $(\sqrt{d_0}\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1})^p$ by restricting $\vec{r} \in B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)$. As such we need to count, for a given \vec{r} , the number of
 677 patches the function $Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi_{i:i+s}/\sqrt{d_0})$ belong to, which turns out to be $(s - \text{diam}(\vec{r}))$. We could
 678 reorder the terms in \mathcal{K}_{VEC} as follows

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{VEC}}(\xi, \eta) = \sum_{\vec{r} \in B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)} \frac{1}{p} \hat{K}(\vec{r})N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} (s - \text{diam}(\vec{r})) \sum_{\vec{l}} Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi/\sqrt{d_0}) Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\eta/\sqrt{d_0}) \quad (\text{S51})$$

679 Clearly, $Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi/\sqrt{d_0})$ are the eigenfunctions of unit norm with eigenvalues

$$p^{-1} \hat{K}(\vec{r})N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} (s - \text{diam}(\vec{r})) \sim p^{-1} k^{(\vec{r})}(0)(sd_0)^{-|\vec{r}|} (s - \text{diam}(\vec{r})) \quad \vec{r} \neq 0, \quad (\text{S52})$$

680 and $\hat{k}(0)$ when $\vec{r} = 0$.

681 Note that in the case when the stride is the same as the size of the patch, the $(s - \text{diam}(\vec{r}))$ becomes
 682 1 for all spherical harmonics. As such, smaller strides favor functions with smaller diameters (namely,
 683 $\text{diam}(\vec{r})$), breaking the symmetry between functions with small and large diameters.

684 We turn to compute the dimension of r -eigenspace for $r \in \mathbb{N}$. Clearly, for $\vec{r} = 0$ the dimension is
 685 1 and for $|\vec{r}| = 1$ the dimension is $d = pd_0$, which is the dimension of all degree 1 homogenous
 686 polynomials. For $|\vec{r}| > 1$, we count the number of spherical harmonics in the 1st patch $\xi_{0:s}$ with
 687 $r_0 \neq 0$ and the total number of spherical harmonics in all patches is p time this number. Thus

$$\dim(\mathbb{H}^{(r)}) = p \sum_{\substack{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^s: \\ |\vec{r}|=r, r_0 \neq 0}} N(d_0, \vec{r}) \quad (\text{S53})$$

$$= p \left(\sum_{\substack{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^s: \\ |\vec{r}|=r}} N(d_0, \vec{r}) - \sum_{\substack{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^s: \\ |\vec{r}|=r, r_0=0}} N(d_0, \vec{r}) \right) \quad (\text{S54})$$

$$\sim \left(\sum_{\substack{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^s: \\ |\vec{r}|=r}} d_0^r / r! - \sum_{\substack{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^{s-1}: \\ |\vec{r}|=r}} d_0^r / r! \right) \quad (\text{S55})$$

$$= d_0^r / r! (s^r - (s-1)^r) \sim s^{r-1} d_0^r / (r-1)! \quad (\text{S56})$$

688 for large s .

689

690 **+Locality + Pooling** GAP_∞ . The kernel is given by

$$\mathcal{K}_{\text{GAP}}(\xi, \eta) = \frac{1}{p^2} \sum_{i, j \in [p]} k \left(\frac{1}{s} \sum_{b \in [s]} \xi_{i+b}^T \eta_{j+b} / d_0 \right).$$

691 In what follows we identify $B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)/\tau = B(\mathbb{N}^s, s)$. Applying Theorem D.1 gives

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}_{\text{GAP}}(\xi, \eta) &= \frac{1}{p^2} \sum_{i, j \in [p]} k \left(\frac{1}{s} \sum_{b \in [s]} \xi_{i+b}^T \eta_{j+b} / d_0 \right), \\ &= \sum_{\vec{r} \in \mathbb{N}^s} \hat{K}(\vec{r})N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \sum_{\vec{l}} \frac{1}{p^2} \sum_{i, j \in [p]} Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\xi_{i:i+s}/\sqrt{d_0}) Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}(\eta_{j:j+s}/\sqrt{d_0}) \\ &= \hat{K}(0)N(d_0, \vec{0}) + \sum_{\vec{r} \in B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)/\tau, \vec{r} \neq 0} \hat{K}(\vec{r})N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \frac{1}{p} \sum_{\vec{l}} Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}^\tau(\xi/\sqrt{d_0}) Y_{\vec{r}, \vec{l}}^\tau(\eta/\sqrt{d_0}) \end{aligned}$$

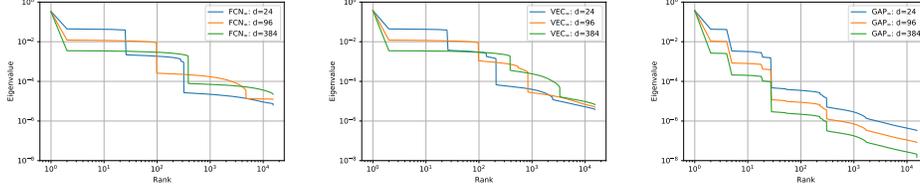


Figure S1: **Eigenvalue Decay of Relu NTK of FCN_∞ , VEC_∞ and GAP_∞ .** $d_0 = s = 3$. The eigenvalues of GAP_∞ decays *faster* because with $m = 15k$ many samples, higher order eigenspace can be covered by GAP_∞ but not by $\text{FCN}_\infty/\text{VEC}_\infty$ as pointed out in Theorem 4.1.

692 where we have defined for $\vec{r} \in B(\mathbb{N}^p, s)/\tau$ with $\vec{r} \neq 0$

$$Y_{\vec{r}, l}^\tau(\xi/\sqrt{d_0}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}} \sum_{i \in [p]} Y_{\vec{r}, l}^\tau(\xi_{i:i+s}/\sqrt{d_0}) \quad (\text{S57})$$

693 The eigenvalue for $\vec{r} = 0$ is $\hat{k}(0)$ and for $\vec{r} \neq 0$ with $k^{(\vec{r})}(0) \neq 0$ are

$$\hat{K}(\vec{r})N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \frac{1}{p} \sim p^{-1}(sd_0)^{-|\vec{r}|} k^{(|\vec{r}|)}(0) \quad (\text{S58})$$

694 Similar to VEC_∞ , the dimension of r -eigenspace is $s^{r-1}(d_0)^r/(r-1)!$ for $r \geq 1$. \square

695 D.4 Remarks for Theorem D.2

696 The **Baseline** $\mathcal{K}_{\text{FCN}_n}$ is a standard result; see, for example, [17] and [56]. The dimension of r -degree
 697 harmonic polynomials is $\Theta(d^r)$ and the spectral gap between the 0- and r -eigenspaces, namely, the
 698 r -condition number, $\kappa_r = \Theta(d^r)$. Learning higher order terms (using kernels) in this space suffers
 699 from the curse of dimensionality because (1) the number of samples requires to cover a basis of the
 700 r -eigenspace and (2) the number of gradient steps (or the amount of time for gradient flow) needed to
 701 learn the r -eigenspace grow with the rate $\Theta(d^r)$. This makes it difficult to learn higher order terms
 702 even when d is not very large, e.g., when $r = 4$ and $d = 784$ (Mnist), $d^r \sim 10^{11}$ and lower order
 703 terms when d is large, e.g. when $r = 2$ and $d = 3 \times 224^2 \sim 10^5$ (ImageNet), $d^r \sim 10^{10}$.

704 The **+Locality** \mathcal{K}_{VEC} dramatically reduces both the dimension of the function space and the spectral
 705 gap: $\kappa_r \sim \dim(\mathcal{H}^{(r)}) \sim d(sd_0)^{r-1}$. For example, the first layer of ResNet (applied to ImageNet)
 706 is a (7, 7) convolution with stride (2, 2) which corresponds to $sd_0 = 7^2 \times 3 \sim d^{0.42}$, where
 707 $0.42 \sim \log(7^2 \times 3)/\log(224^2 \times 3)$. With $m \sim d^r$ samples, \mathcal{K}_{FCN} could cover the r -eigenspace,
 708 while \mathcal{K}_{VEC} could cover $1 + (r-1)/0.42 \sim (2.4r - 1.4)$ -eigenspace.

709 The **+Locality+Pooling** \mathcal{K}_{GAP} . The dimension of the function space is reduced by a factor of p to
 710 $\dim(\mathcal{H}^{(r)}) \sim (sd_0)^{r-1}d_0$ and the spectral gap $\kappa_r \sim d(sd_0)^{r-1}$ is unchanged. As a result, \mathcal{K}_{GAP} is
 711 p -times more sample-efficient than \mathcal{K}_{VEC}

712 In all cases above, the r -condition number κ_r can be improved by a factor of d by removing the 0-th
 713 eigenspace of the kernels.

714 D.5 Proof of Theorem D.1

715 We only need to compute the "Fourier coefficients" $\hat{K}(\vec{r})$. First,

$$\langle P_{\vec{r}}, P_{\vec{r}} \rangle_{L^2(I^p, \omega_{d_0}^p)} = \prod_{j \in [p]} \langle P_{r_j}, P_{r_j} \rangle_{L^2(I, \omega_{d_0})} = N(d_0, \vec{r})^{-1} \left(\frac{|\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{d_0-2}|} \right)^p \quad (\text{S59})$$

716 The last equality could be obtained by applying the addition theorem Lemma 2 and then integrate
 717 over $\mathbb{S}_{d_0-1}^p$; see Eq. (4.30) in [55].

718 To handle the numerator in Equation S30, we assume K is sufficiently smooth to avoid the boundary
 719 effect. When this is not the case, a little bit effort is needed to handle the boundary values which

720 will be skipped here. By applying Lemma D.1, integration by parts and continuity of $K^{(\vec{r})}$ on the
 721 boundary ∂I^p

$$\langle K, P_{\vec{r}} \rangle_{L^2(I^p, \omega_{d_0}^p)} = c_{\vec{r}} \int_{I^p} K(t) \left(\frac{d}{d\vec{t}} \right)^{\vec{r}} (1 - \vec{t}^2)^{\vec{r} + (d_0 - 3)/2} d\vec{t} \quad (\text{S60})$$

$$= (-1)^{\vec{r}} c_{\vec{r}} \int_{I^p} K^{(\vec{r})}(t) (1 - \vec{t}^2)^{\vec{r} + (d_0 - 3)/2} d\vec{t} \quad (\text{S61})$$

$$= (-1)^{\vec{r}} c_{\vec{r}} (\mathcal{M}(K, d_0) + \epsilon(K, d_0)) \quad (\text{S62})$$

722 where $K^{(\vec{r})}$ is the \vec{r} derivative of K , the coefficient is given by Lemma D.1 and

$$c_{\vec{r}} = \prod_{j \in [p]} c_{r_j} = \prod_{j \in [p]} \frac{(-1)^{r_j}}{2^{r_j} (r_j + (d_0 - 3)/2)_{r_j}} \sim \prod_{j \in [p]} (-1)^{r_j} d_0^{-r_j} = (-1)^{\vec{r}} d_0^{-\vec{r}} \quad (\text{S63})$$

723 and the major and error terms are given by

$$\mathcal{M}(K, d_0) = K^{(\vec{r})}(0) \int_{I^p} (1 - \vec{t}^2)^{\vec{r} + (d_0 - 3)/2} d\vec{t} = K^{(\vec{r})}(0) \prod_{j \in [p]} \frac{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 2}|} \quad (\text{S64})$$

$$\epsilon(K, d_0) = \int_{I^p} (K^{(\vec{r})}(t) - K^{(\vec{r})}(0)) (1 - \vec{t}^2)^{\vec{r} + (d_0 - 3)/2} d\vec{t} \quad (\text{S65})$$

724 For the error term, we use the mean value theorem to bound

$$|(K^{(\vec{r})}(t) - K^{(\vec{r})}(0))| \leq \|K\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I^p)} \sum_{j \in [p]} |t_j| \quad (\text{S66})$$

725 and

$$|\epsilon(K, d_0)| \leq \|K\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I^p)} \int_{I^p} (1 - \vec{t}^2)^{\vec{r} + (d_0 - 3)/2} d\vec{t} \sum_{j \in [p]} \left(\frac{\int_I |t_j| (1 - t_j^2)^{r_j + (d_0 - 3)/2} dt_j}{\int_I (1 - t_j^2)^{r_j + (d_0 - 3)/2} dt_j} \right) \quad (\text{S67})$$

$$\sim \|K\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I^p)} \prod_{j \in [p]} \frac{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 2}|} \sum_{j \in [p]} d_0^{-1} \left(\frac{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 2}|} \right)^{-1}. \quad (\text{S68})$$

726 Since for any $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$, as $d_0 \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\frac{|\mathbb{S}_{\alpha + d_0 - 1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{\alpha + d_0 - 2}|} = \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} \Gamma((\alpha + d_0 - 1)/2) / \Gamma((\alpha + d_0)/2) \sim \pi^{\frac{1}{2}} (d_0/2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \quad (\text{S69})$$

727 We have

$$|\epsilon(K, d_0)| \lesssim \|K\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I^p)} p d_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \prod_{j \in [p]} \frac{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 2}|} \quad (\text{S70})$$

728 Therefore

$$\langle K, P_{\vec{r}} \rangle_{L^2(I^p, \omega_{d_0}^p)} = c_{\vec{r}} \left(K^{(\vec{r})}(0) + \mathcal{O}(\|K\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I^p)} p d_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \right) \prod_{j \in [p]} \frac{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 2}|} \quad (\text{S71})$$

729 Plugging back to Equation S30, we have

$$\hat{K}(\vec{r}) = (-1)^{\vec{r}} c_{\vec{r}} N(d_0, \vec{r}) \left(K^{(\vec{r})}(0) + \mathcal{O}(\|K\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I^p)} p d_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \right) \left(\prod_{j \in [p]} \frac{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 2}|} \right) \left(\frac{|\mathbb{S}_{d_0 - 1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{d_0 - 2}|} \right)^{-p} \quad (\text{S72})$$

730 Since, for \vec{r} and as $d_0 \rightarrow \infty$

$$\frac{c_{\vec{r}}}{(-1)^{\vec{r}} d_0^{-\vec{r}}} \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{N(d_0, \vec{r})}{d_0^{|\vec{r}|}/r!} \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \left(\prod_{j \in [p]} \frac{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{2r_j + d_0 - 2}|} \right) \left(\frac{|\mathbb{S}_{d_0 - 1}|}{|\mathbb{S}_{d_0 - 2}|} \right)^{-p} \rightarrow 1 \quad (\text{S73})$$

731 and thus

$$\hat{K}(\vec{r}) = \vec{r}!^{-1} \left(K^{(\vec{r})}(0) + \mathcal{O}(\|K\|_{C^{|\vec{r}|+1}(I^p)} p d_0^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \right) \quad (\text{S74})$$

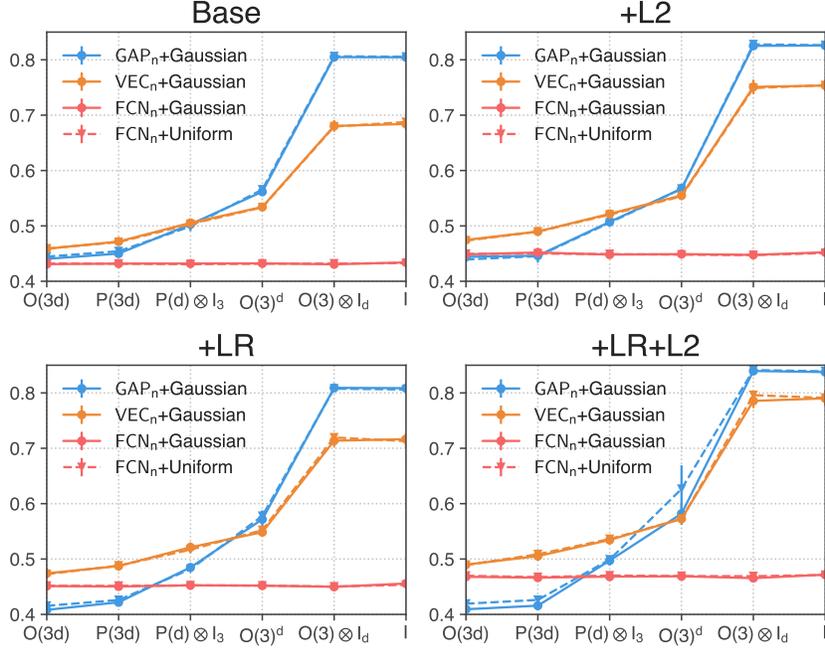


Figure S2: Replacing the Gaussian initialization by uniform distribution does not change the performance much.

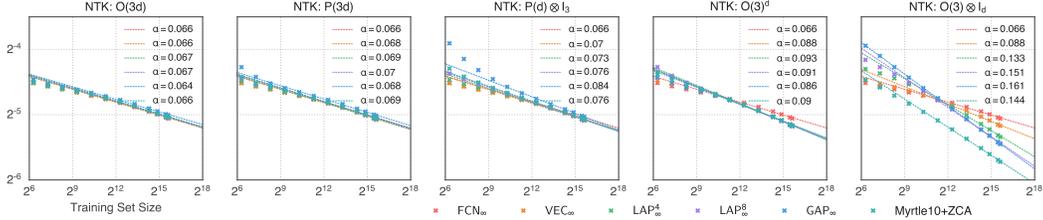


Figure S3: Scaling Law of Infinite Network vs Different Symmetries.

732 E Plots Dump

733 E.1 Gaussian vs Uniform Initialization

734 E.2 Scaling Law for Infinite Networks

735 E.3 Finite Width Effect of VEC_n .

736 E.4 Implication of Theorem D.2

737 We investigate the data-efficiency of various architectures on various tasks. The tasks are to learn
 738 harmonic polynomials containing degree $r = 1, 24$ in $(\mathbb{S}_2)^{16}$. The MSE of each degree is normalized
 739 to be 0.5 and the MSE of the zero predictor is 1.5. There are 5 types of polynomials/tasks (columns
 740 in Fig.S5):

- 741 1. **Non-local**, which is our baseline, corresponding to generic polynomials without structure
 742 information. The optimal kernel to solve this task in this paper is \mathcal{K}_{FCN} .
- 743 2. **Non-local+shift**, adding shifting invariance to **Non-local**. The optimal kernel is $\mathcal{K}_{FCN} +$
 744 Shifting invariance.

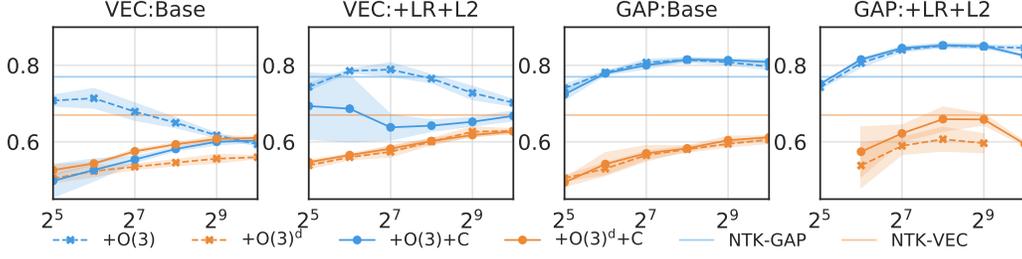


Figure S4: **Performance vs Width for VEC_n and GAP_n** With the $O(3)^d$ symmetry imposed on the system, performance of VEC_n is below the performance of VEC_∞ (67%), but monotonically improves as the width n increases. However, with the original coordinate system ($O(3) \otimes \mathbf{I}_d$), performance (without centering) improves and then degrades significantly after the peak. This is because the network is less sensitive to the $O(3)$ symmetry. In stark contrast, the performance of GAP_n improves from $n = 32$ to $n = 512$ but only slightly degrades at $n = 1024$. With and without centering, the performance of GAP_n is similar while the performance of VEC is dramatically different.

745 3. **Local**: the polynomial depends locally on patches of size $(3, 3)$, i.e. \mathbb{S}_2^3 ; The optimal kernel
 746 is $\mathcal{K}_{VEC} = \mathcal{K}_{FCN}$.

747 4. **Local + Sparse**: the polynomial depends only on one *single* patch. The optimal kernel
 748 should be a FCN-kernel defined on that patch, which is a not available among our kernels.
 749 The $\mathcal{K}_{VEC} = \mathcal{K}_{FCN}$ is the second best.

750 5. **Local + Shift**: enforcing shifting invariance **Local**. The optimal kernel is \mathcal{K}_{GAP} .

751 In the (5, 5)-panel Fig.S5, we plot the MSE (y -axis) vs $\log(m)/\log(d)$ (x -axis), where m is the
 752 number of samples and $d = 3 * 16 = 48$ is the dimension of the input data, for different learning
 753 algorithms: (1) NNGP, the Gaussian Process kernel (2) NTK, the kernel of infinite width network
 754 corresponding to training only the first layer (3) NN, finite width networks with width $n = 16$, (4)
 755 $n = 4096$ and (5) n =best, which is obtained as follows: for each m , we sweep over $n = 16 \rightarrow 4096$
 756 dyadically by a factor of 2 and report the best performance.

757 For Non-FCN kernels, we choose m up to $5120 \times 4 \sim 20k$, since the MSE have already reached
 758 a very small number, i.e. learning all frequencies $r = 1, 2, 4$. For FCN, we choose m up to
 759 $5120 \times 32 \sim 160k$, the biggest $m \times m$ matrix that we could be solved within our compute budget.
 760 However this still falls in short with $d^4 = (48)^4 \sim 5000k = 5 \times 10^6$, the dimension of 4-eigenspace.
 761 Not surprising, the vanilla FCN kernel could not learn the $r = 4$ frequency for all tasks (first row).
 762 However, FCN kernel + Shifting could learn **Non-local+shift** and **Local + Shift** with $m \sim d^3$, since
 763 the symmetry *shifting* reduces the dimension of r -eigenspace by a factor of d .

764 Finite width FCN_n does better than kernels when learning (higher) $r = 4$ frequency, requiring
 765 $m \sim d^{3+}$ many samples (first row of the plot), while kernel would require d^4 many samples. It does
 766 even better on the task **Local + Sparse** with smaller n and equally less good in **Non-local, Non-local**
 767 **+ shift, Local** and **Local + Shift**. This says finite width networks are good at handling *sparsity* but
 768 not *locality*, which has to be imposed by human into them as a form of inductive biases.

769 Now let us focus on the third row LCN_n . Not surprising, it does bad on the first two tasks **Non-**
 770 **local** and **Non – local + shift** because the function space is too small. For the remaining tasks,
 771 kernels and finite width networks are efficient and competitively with each other. Only in the task
 772 **Local + Sparse** LCN_n does noticeably better than kernel, demonstrating the strong ability of finite
 773 width networks in handling sparsity.

774 With weight-sharing (4th-row), VEC does noticeably better in all tasks that require locality. It is an
 775 interesting direction to understand the analytic reason behind it.

776 With the correct prior, the GAP_∞ does equally well as GAP_n . Both of them are the most data-efficient
 777 among all other architectures/algorithms in the plot when handling the task **Local + Shift**.

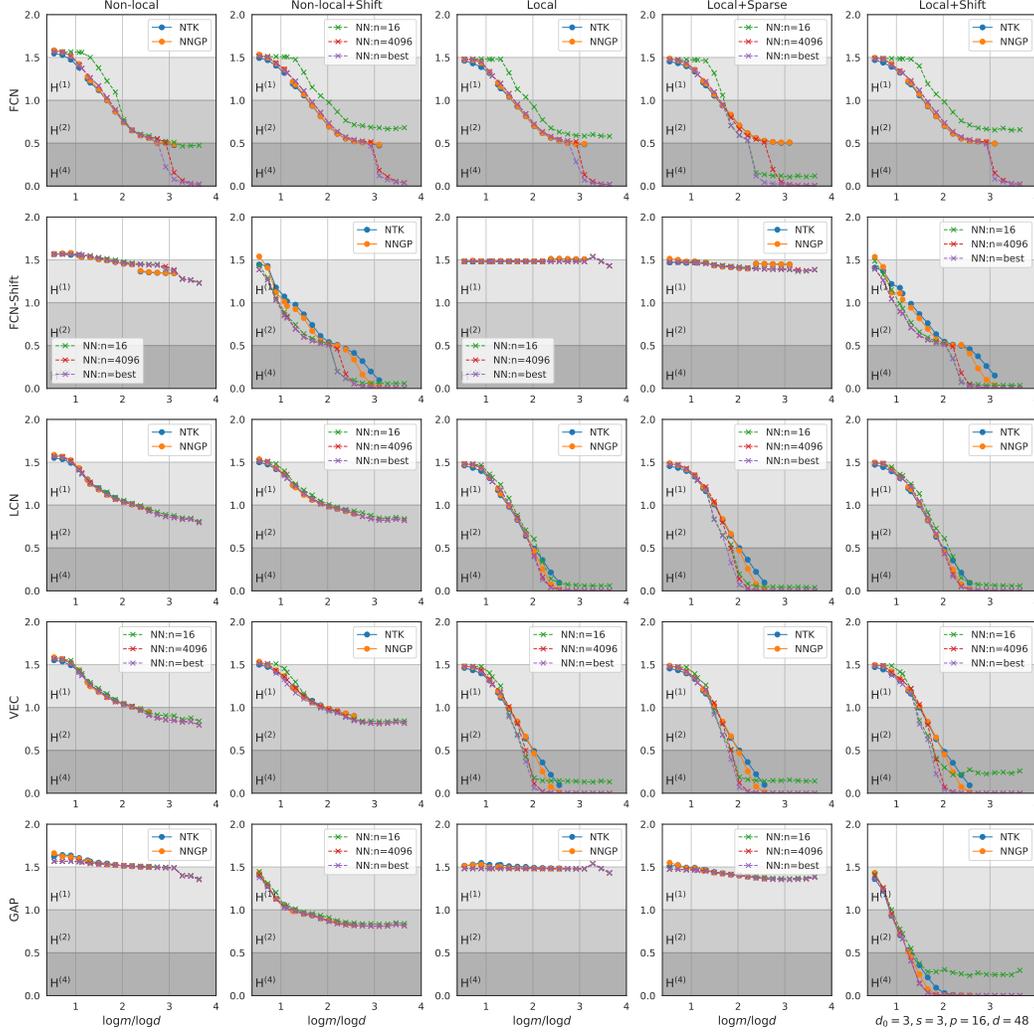


Figure S5: **Impact of Locality and Symmetries.** Performance of 5 types of kernels and finite width networks on 5 types of tasks.

778 **E.5 Scaling Plots for ResNet34 and ResNet101**

779 **E.6 ImageNet Samples**

780 **F An example for invariance**

781 **Example 1. Linear Regression:** Let \mathcal{A} be the (deterministic) algorithm that outputs the minimum
 782 norm linear regression solution, then \mathcal{A} is $O(3d)$ -invariant, because for $\mathcal{D}_T = (\mathcal{X}_T, \mathcal{Y}_T)$, the prediction

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{D}_T)(\mathcal{X}_*) \equiv \mathcal{X}_* \mathcal{X}_T^T (\mathcal{X}_T \mathcal{X}_T^T)^\dagger \mathcal{Y}_T = \tau \mathcal{X}_* (\tau \mathcal{X}_T)^T ((\tau \mathcal{X}_T) (\tau \mathcal{X}_T)^T)^\dagger \mathcal{Y} \equiv \mathcal{A}^T(\mathcal{D}_T)(\mathcal{X}_*), \quad (S75)$$

783 where $\tau x \equiv x U_\tau$, here x is a row vector and $U_\tau \in O(3d)$ is the matrix representation of τ .

784 If \mathcal{A} is the (stochastic) algorithm that applies gradient flow to solve the linear regression $\mathcal{X}_T \omega = \mathcal{Y}_T$
 785 with the MSE loss and the entries of ω are initialized with iid standard Gaussian, then each $f \in$
 786 $\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{D}_T)$ is a draw from the posterior, namely,

$$f(\mathcal{X}_*) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathcal{X}_* \mathcal{X}_T^T (\mathcal{X}_T \mathcal{X}_T^T)^\dagger \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{X}_* \mathcal{X}_*^T - \mathcal{X}_T \mathcal{X}_T^T (\mathcal{X}_T \mathcal{X}_T^T)^\dagger \mathcal{X}_T^T \mathcal{X}_*). \quad (S76)$$

787 Note that the distribution is invariant to coordinate rotation by any $\tau \in O(3d)$ and therefore
 788 $(\tau \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I}) = (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{I})$ for all $\tau \in O(3d)$.

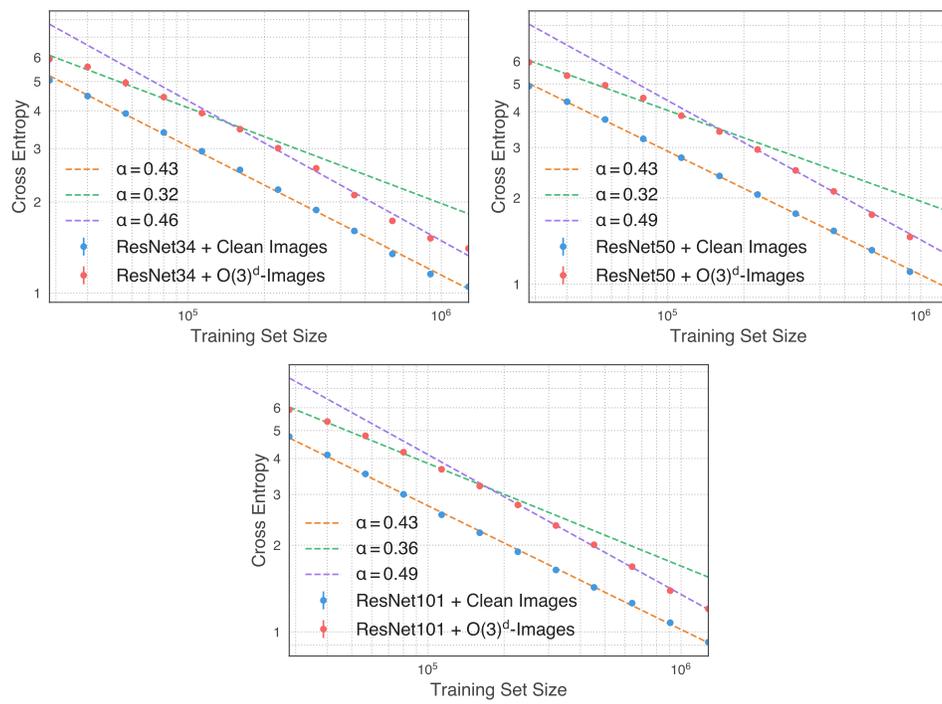


Figure S6: Scaling vs Rotation

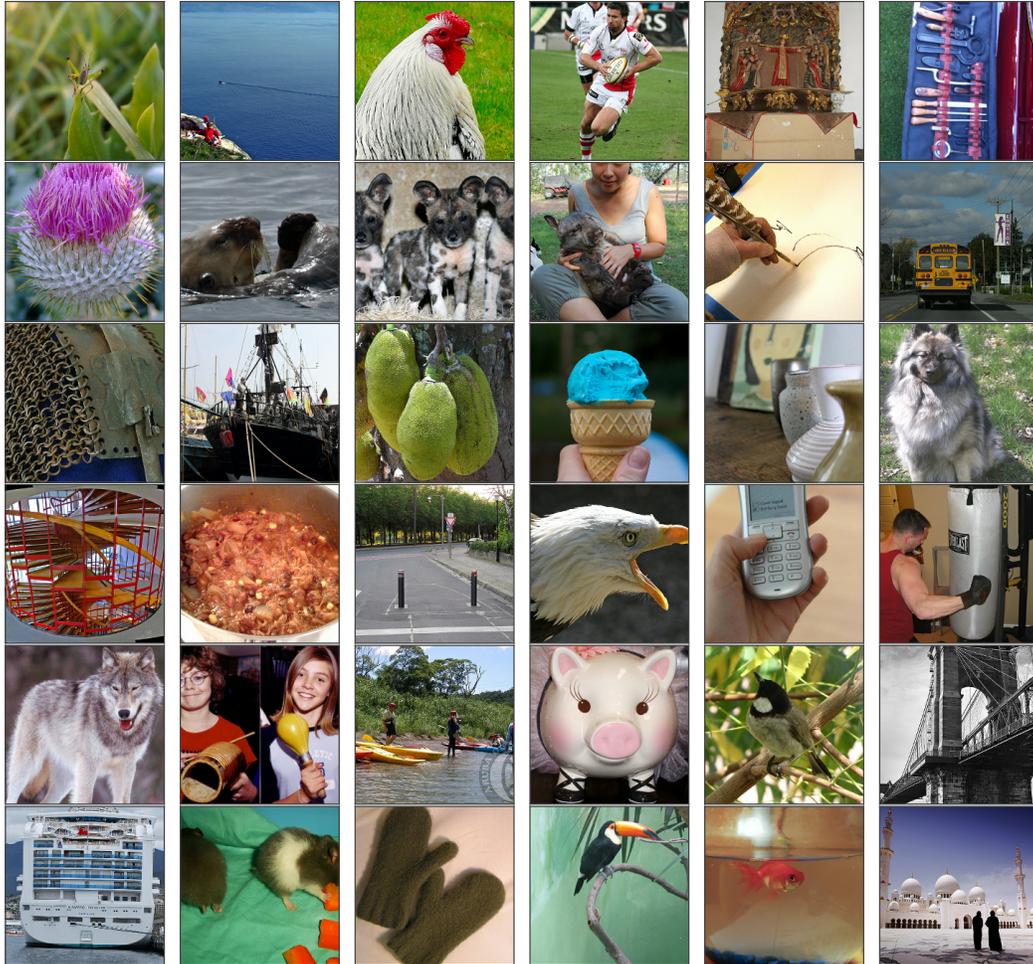


Figure S9: Clean ImageNet Samples