
Supplementary Material of “Sample Selection with Uncertainty of Losses for Learning with Noisy Labels”

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1 A Proof of Theoretical Results

2 A.1 Proof of Theorem 1

3 For the circumstance with soft truncation, $\tilde{\mu}_z = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \psi(z_i)$. As suggested in [1], we can exploit
4 $\tilde{\mu}_z^-$ and $\tilde{\mu}_z^+$ such that

$$\tilde{\mu}_z^- \leq \tilde{\mu}_z \leq \tilde{\mu}_z^+, \quad (1)$$

5 to derive a bound for $\tilde{\mu}_z$. For some positive real parameter α , we define

$$r(\tilde{\mu}_z) = \sum_{i=1}^n \psi[\alpha(z_i - \tilde{\mu}_z)] = 0. \quad (2)$$

6 Let us introduce the quantity

$$r(\theta) = \frac{1}{\alpha n} \sum_{i=1}^n \psi[\alpha(z_i - \theta)]. \quad (3)$$

7 With the exponential moment inequality [5] and the C_r inequality [9], we have

$$\begin{aligned} \exp\{\alpha n r(\theta)\} &\leq \{1 + \alpha(\mu_z - \theta) + \alpha^2[\sigma^2 + (\mu_z - \theta)^2]\}^n \\ &\leq \exp\{n\alpha(\mu_z - \theta) + n\alpha^2[\sigma^2 + (\mu_z - \theta)^2]\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

8 In the same way,

$$\exp\{-\alpha n r(\theta)\} \leq \exp\{-n\alpha(\mu_z - \theta) + n\alpha^2[\sigma^2 + (\mu_z - \theta)^2]\}. \quad (5)$$

9 If we define for any $\mu_s \in \mathbb{R}$ the bounds

$$B_-(\theta) = \mu_z - \theta - \alpha[\sigma^2 + (\mu_z - \theta)^2] - \frac{\log(\epsilon^{-1})}{\alpha n} \quad (6)$$

10 and

$$B_+(\theta) = \mu_z - \theta + \alpha[\sigma^2 + (\mu_z - \theta)^2] + \frac{\log(\epsilon^{-1})}{\alpha n}. \quad (7)$$

11 From [2] (Lemma 2.2), we obtain that

$$P(r(\theta) > B_-(\theta)) \geq 1 - \epsilon \quad \text{and} \quad P(r(\theta) < B_+(\theta)) \geq 1 - \epsilon. \quad (8)$$

12 Let $\tilde{\mu}_z^-$ be the largest solution of the quadratic equation $B_-(\theta)$ and $\tilde{\mu}_z^+$ be the smallest solution of the
13 quadratic equation $B_+(\theta)$. Also, to guarantee the solution of the quadratic equation, we assume

$$4\alpha^2\sigma^2 + \frac{4\log(\epsilon^{-1})}{n} \leq 1. \quad (9)$$

14 From [2] (Theorem 2.6), we then have

$$\tilde{\mu}_z^- \geq \mu_z - \frac{\alpha\sigma^2 + \frac{\log(\epsilon^{-1})}{\alpha n}}{\alpha - 1}, \quad (10)$$

15 and

$$\tilde{\mu}_z^+ \leq \mu_z + \frac{\alpha\sigma^2 + \frac{\log(\epsilon^{-1})}{\alpha n}}{\alpha - 1}. \quad (11)$$

16 With probability at least $1-2\epsilon$, we have $\tilde{\mu}_z^- \leq \tilde{\mu}_z \leq \tilde{\mu}_z^+$. We can choose $\alpha = \frac{n}{\sigma^2}$. Then we have

$$|\tilde{\mu}_z - \mu_z| \leq \frac{\sigma^2(n + \frac{\sigma^2 \log(\epsilon^{-1})}{n^2})}{n - \sigma^2}, \quad (12)$$

17 which holds with probability at least $1-2\epsilon$.

18 We exploit the lower bound and let $\epsilon = \frac{1}{2t}$. Then we have

$$\ell_s^* = \tilde{\mu}_s - \frac{\sigma^2(t + \frac{\sigma^2 \log(2t)}{t^2})}{n_t - \sigma^2}, \quad (13)$$

19 where n_t denotes the number of times that the example was selected in the time intervals.

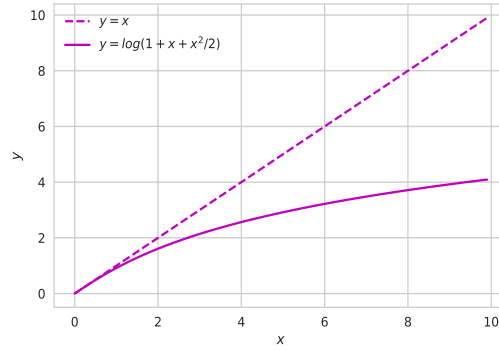


Figure 1: The illustration of the influence function for the soft estimator.

20 Here, we provide the graph of the used influence function for the soft estimator, which explains the
 21 mechanism of the function $y = \log(1 + x + x^2/2)$ more clearly. The illustration is presented in
 22 Figure 1. As can be seen, when x is large and may be an outlier, the influence function can reduce its
 23 negative impact for mean estimation. Therefore, we exploit such an influence function for robust
 24 mean estimation, which brings better classification performance.

25 A.2 Proof of Theorem 2

26 **Lemma 1 ([11]).** Let $Z_n = \{z_1, \dots, z_n\}$ be a (not necessarily time homogeneous) Markov chain
 27 with mean μ_z , taking values in a Polish state space $\Lambda_1 \times \dots \times \Lambda_n$, with a mixing time $\tau(v)$ (for
 28 $0 \leq v \leq 1$). Let

$$\tau_{\min} = \inf_{0 \leq v < 1} \tau(v) \cdot \left(\frac{2-v}{1-v} \right)^2. \quad (14)$$

29 For some $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^+$, suppose that $f : \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies the following inequality:

$$f(a) - f(b) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \eta \mathbb{1}[a_i \neq b_i], \quad (15)$$

30 for every $a, b \in \Lambda$. Then for any $\epsilon \geq 0$, we have

$$P(|f(Z_n) - \mathbb{E}f(Z_n)| \geq \epsilon) \leq 2 \exp\left(\frac{-2\epsilon^2}{\eta^2 \tau_{\min}}\right). \quad (16)$$

31 The detailed definition of the mixing time for the Markov chain can be found in [11, 12]. Let f be the
 32 mean function. Following the prior work on mean estimation [7, 4, 3, 10], without loss of generality,
 33 we assume $\mu_z = 0$ for the underlying true distribution, and $|z_i|$ is upper bounded by Z . Then we can
 34 set η to $4Z/n$ for Eq. (15). Combining the above analyses, we can revise Eq. (16) as follows:

$$P\left(\left|\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n z_i\right| \geq \frac{2Z}{n}\sqrt{2\tau_{\min}\log\frac{2}{\epsilon_1}}\right) \leq \epsilon_1, \quad (17)$$

35 and

$$P\left(\max_{i \in [n]} |z_i| \geq \frac{2Z}{n}\sqrt{2\tau_{\min}\log\frac{2n}{\epsilon_2}}\right) \leq \epsilon_2, \quad (18)$$

36 for $\epsilon_1 > 0$ and $\epsilon_2 > 0$. If we remove the potential outliers Z_{n_o} from Z_n . Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left|\frac{1}{n-n_o}\sum_{z_i \in Z_n \setminus Z_{n_o}} - \mu_z\right| &= \frac{1}{n-n_o}\left|\sum_{z_i \in Z_n} - \sum_{z_i \in Z_{n_o}}\right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n-n_o}\left(\left|\sum_{z_i \in Z_n}\right| + \left|\sum_{z_i \in Z_{n_o}}\right|\right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n-n_o}\left(\left|\sum_{z_i \in Z_n}\right| + n_o \max_{i \in [n]} |z_i|\right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n-n_o}\left(2Z\sqrt{2\tau_{\min}\log\frac{2}{\epsilon_1}} + \frac{2Zn_o}{n}\sqrt{2\tau_{\min}\log\frac{2n}{\epsilon_2}}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

37 which holds with probability at least $1 - \epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2$.

38 For our task, we exploit the concentration inequality. Let $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon_2 = \frac{1}{2t}$, and the losses be bounded by
 39 L . Next we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{\mu}_h - \mu| &\leq \frac{2L}{t-t_o}\left(\sqrt{2\tau_{\min}\log(4t)} + \frac{t_o}{t}\sqrt{4\tau_{\min}\log(4t)}\right) \\ &= \frac{2\sqrt{2\tau_{\min}}L(t+\sqrt{2}t_o)}{(t-t_o)t}\sqrt{\log(4t)} \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

40 with the probability at least $1 - \frac{1}{t}$. In practice, it is easy to identify the value of L . For example, we
 41 can training deep networks on noisy datasets to observe the loss distributions. Then, we exploit the
 42 lower bound such that

$$\ell_h^* = \tilde{\mu}_h - \frac{2\sqrt{2\tau_{\min}}L(t+\sqrt{2}t_o)}{(t-t_o)\sqrt{t}}\sqrt{\frac{\log(4t)}{n_t}} \quad (21)$$

43 for sample selection.

44 B Complementary Experimental Analyses

	# of training	# of testing	# of class	size
<i>MNIST</i>	60,000	10,000	10	$28 \times 28 \times 1$
<i>F-MNIST</i>	60,000	10,000	10	$28 \times 28 \times 1$
<i>CIFAR-10</i>	50,000	10,000	10	$32 \times 32 \times 3$
<i>CIFAR-100</i>	50,000	10,000	100	$32 \times 32 \times 3$

Table 1: Summary of synthetic datasets used in the experiments.

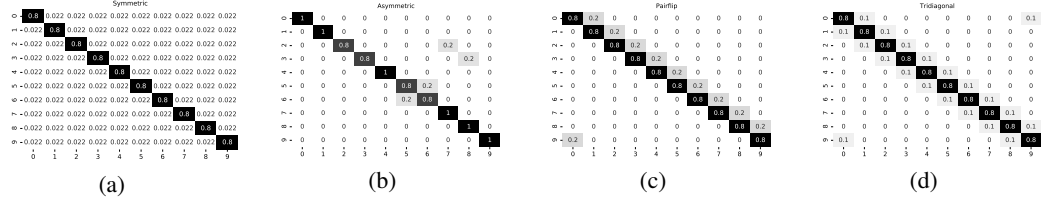


Figure 2: Synthetic class-dependent transition matrices used in our experiments on *MNIST*. The noise rate is set to 20%.

B.1 The Details of Datasets and Generating Noisy Labels

For the details of datasets, the important statistics of the used datasets are summarized in Table 1.

For the details of generating noisy labels, we exploit both *class-dependent* and *instance-dependent label noise* which include five types of synthetic label noise to verify the effectiveness of the proposed method. Here, we describe the details of the noise setting as follows:

(1). Class-dependent label noise:

- **Symmetric noise**: this kind of label noise is generated by flipping labels in each class uniformly to incorrect labels of other classes.
- **Asymmetric noise**: this kind of label noise is generated by flipping labels within a set of similar classes. In this paper, for *MNIST*, flipping $2 \rightarrow 7$, $3 \rightarrow 8$, $5 \leftrightarrow 6$. For *F-MNIST*, flipping TSHIRT \rightarrow SHIRT, PULLOVER \rightarrow COAT, SANDALS \rightarrow SNEAKER. For *CIFAR-10*, flipping TRUCK \rightarrow AUTOMOBILE, BIRD \rightarrow AIRPLANE, DEER \rightarrow HORSE, CAT \leftrightarrow DOG. For *CIFAR-100*, the 100 classes are grouped into 20 super-classes, and each has 5 sub-classes. Each class is then flipped into the next within the same super-class.
- **Pairflip noise**: the noise flips each class to its adjacent class.
- **Tridiagonal noise**: the noise corresponds to a spectral of classes where adjacent classes are easier to be mutually mislabeled, unlike the unidirectional pair flipping. It can be implemented by two consecutive pair flipping transformations in the opposite direction.

(2). Instance-dependent label noise:

- **Instance noise**: the noise is quite realistic, where the probability that an instance is mislabeled depends on its features. We generate this type of label noise to validate the effectiveness of the proposed method as did in [13].

We use synthetic noisy *MNIST* as an example and plot the noise transition matrices in Figure 2. The noise rate is set to 20%.

B.2 Comparison with Other Types of Baselines

As we focus on the sample selection approach in learning with noisy labels, in the main paper (Section 3.1), we fairly compare our methods with the baselines which also focus on sample selection. Here, we evaluate other types of baselines. We exploit APL [8] and CDR [14], which add implicit regularization from different perspectives. The experiments are conducted on *MNIST* and *F-MNIST*. Other experimental settings are the same as those in the main paper. The experimental results are provided in Table 2 and 3, which show that the proposed methods can outperform them with respect to classification performance.

B.3 Experiments on Synthetic CIFAR-100

For *CIFAR-100*, we use a 7-layer CNN structure from [17, 16]. Other experimental settings are the same as those in the experiments on *MNIST*, *F-MNIST*, and *CIFAR-10*. The results are provided in Table 4. We can see the proposed method outperforms all the baselines.

Noise type	Sym.		Asym.		Pair.		Trid.		Ins.	
Method/Noise ratio	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%
APL	98.76	94.92	98.63	88.65	98.66	68.44	98.93	76.44	97.63	87.90
	± 0.06	± 0.31	± 0.05	± 1.72	± 0.10	± 2.95	± 0.04	± 3.04	± 0.73	± 1.94
CDR	94.77	92.16	96.73	91.05	93.25	71.02	94.06	70.28	93.17	77.45
	± 0.17	± 0.73	± 0.19	± 0.76	± 0.90	± 3.89	± 0.92	± 4.01	± 0.96	± 3.04

Table 2: Test accuracy (%) on *MNIST* over the last ten epochs.

Noise type	Sym.		Asym.		Pair.		Trid.		Ins.	
Method/Noise ratio	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%
APL	91.73	89.06	90.13	80.34	90.22	78.54	90.84	86.53	90.96	85.55
	± 0.20	± 0.41	± 0.17	± 0.63	± 0.80	± 4.33	± 0.22	± 0.76	± 0.77	± 2.86
CDR	85.62	71.83	89.78	79.05	85.72	69.07	86.75	73.63	85.92	73.14
	± 0.96	± 1.37	± 0.41	± 1.39	± 0.65	± 2.31	± 1.19	± 2.82	± 1.43	± 3.12

Table 3: Test accuracy on *F-MNIST* over the last ten epochs.

Noise type	Sym.		Asym.		Pair.		Trid.		Ins.	
Method/Noise ratio	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%
S2E	44.59	25.78	42.18	26.81	42.99	26.96	43.16	27.72	43.13	27.12
	± 0.32	± 5.44	± 1.73	± 2.25	± 1.54	± 2.48	± 0.93	± 3.56	± 0.67	± 3.86
MentorNet	43.15	37.62	41.03	28.27	40.06	27.17	42.20	31.74	40.54	33.09
	± 0.42	± 0.89	± 0.22	± 0.41	± 0.37	± 0.92	± 0.30	± 0.88	± 0.69	± 1.53
Co-teaching	45.17	40.95	42.76	30.27	42.50	30.07	44.41	34.96	42.23	35.87
	± 0.25	± 0.52	± 0.34	± 0.33	± 0.39	± 0.17	± 0.41	± 0.35	± 0.52	± 1.47
SIGUA	42.03	40.53	36.67	26.71	36.48	26.73	39.21	32.69	39.19	33.51
	± 0.33	± 0.49	± 0.25	± 0.42	± 0.37	± 0.33	± 0.40	± 0.36	± 0.32	± 0.43
JoCor	45.93	41.56	42.89	29.19	42.12	30.12	44.98	34.23	44.28	35.60
	± 0.21	± 0.57	± 0.37	± 1.42	± 0.35	± 0.65	± 0.27	± 1.13	± 0.59	± 0.99
CNLCU-S	46.09	42.11	43.06	30.47	43.08	30.33	45.19	35.49	44.80	36.23
	± 0.29	± 0.70	± 0.28	± 0.37	± 0.92	± 0.74	± 0.90	± 1.30	± 0.70	± 0.49
CNLCU-H	46.27	42.05	43.21	30.55	43.25	30.79	45.02	35.24	45.02	36.17
	± 0.38	± 0.87	± 0.93	± 0.72	± 0.75	± 0.86	± 1.06	± 0.93	± 1.07	± 1.54

Table 4: Test accuracy (%) on *CIFAR-100* over the last ten epochs. The best two results are in bold.

B.4 Experiments for Ablation Study

We conduct the ablation study to analyze the sensitivity of the length of time intervals. The results are shown in Figure. 3 and 4. As we can see, the proposed method, i.e., CNLCU-S and CNLCU-H are robust to the choices of hyperparameters.

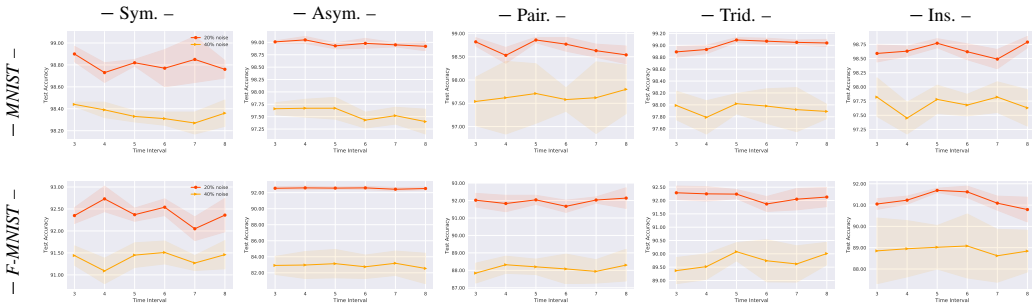


Figure 3: Illustrations of the hyperparameter sensitivity for the proposed CNLCU-S. The error bar for standard deviation in each figure has been shaded.

Note that in this paper, we concern uncertainty from *two aspects*, i.e., the uncertainty about small-loss examples and the uncertainty about large-loss examples. Here, we conduct ablation study to show the effect of removing different components to provide insights into what makes the proposed methods successful. The experiments are conducted on *MNIST* and *F-MNIST*. Other experimental settings

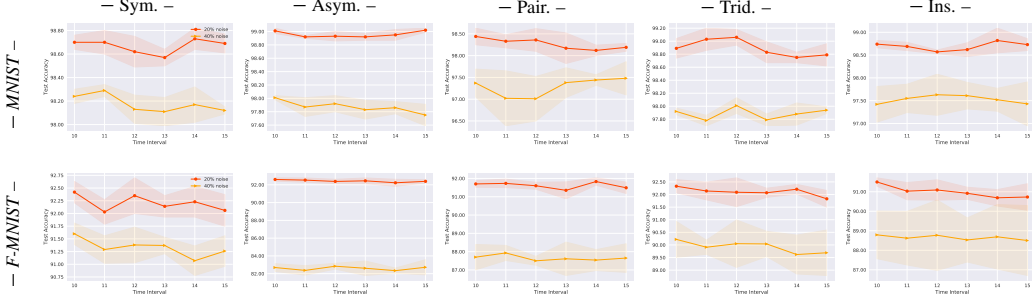


Figure 4: Illustrations of the hyperparameter sensitivity for the proposed CNLCU-H. The error bar for standard deviation in each figure has been shaded.

are the same as those in the main paper (Section 3.1). Note that we employ two networks to teach each other following [6]. Therefore, when we do not consider uncertainty in sample selection, the proposed methods will *reduce to* the baseline Co-teaching [6].

To study the effect of concerning uncertainty about small-loss examples, we remove the concerns about large-loss examples, i.e., the network is not encouraged to choose the less selected examples for updates. We express such a setting as “**without concerning about large-loss examples**” (abbreviated as *w/o cl*). To study the effect of concerning uncertainty about large-loss examples, we remove the concerns about small-loss examples, i.e., we only exploit the predictions of the current network. We express such a setting as “**without concerning about small-loss examples**” (abbreviated as *w/o cs*). Besides, we express the setting which directly uses non-robust mean as Co-teaching-M.

The experimental results of ablation study are provided in Table 5 and 6. As can be seen, both aspects of uncertainty concerns can improve the robustness of models. Therefore, combining two uncertainty concerns, we can better combat noisy labels. In addition, robust mean estimation is superior to the non-robust mean in learning with noisy labels.

Noise type	Sym.		Asym.		Pair.		Trid.		Ins.	
Method/Noise ratio	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%
CNLCU-S	98.82 ±0.03	98.31 ±0.05	98.93 ±0.06	97.67 ±0.22	98.86 ±0.06	97.71 ±0.64	99.09 ±0.04	98.02 ±0.17	98.77 ±0.08	97.78 ±0.25
CNLCU-S <i>w/o cl</i>	98.02 ±0.08	96.83 ±0.29	98.50 ±0.04	96.25 ±0.13	98.22 ±0.13	96.08 ±0.75	98.64 ±0.31	97.25 ±0.24	98.17 ±0.20	97.13 ±0.40
CNLCU-S <i>w/o cs</i>	98.15 ±0.20	97.12 ±0.22	98.36 ±0.07	96.39 ±0.48	98.04 ±0.24	96.12 ±0.68	98.74 ±0.05	97.30 ±0.52	98.11 ±0.15	97.32 ±0.43
CNLCU-H	98.70 ±0.06	98.24 ±0.06	99.01 ±0.04	98.01 ±0.03	98.44 ±0.19	97.37 ±0.32	98.89 ±0.15	97.92 ±0.05	98.74 ±0.16	97.42 ±0.39
CNLCU-H <i>w/o cl</i>	98.06 ±0.13	96.92 ±0.23	98.39 ±0.04	96.51 ±0.57	97.04 ±0.87	95.62 ±0.93	98.33 ±0.47	97.41 ±0.92	98.01 ±0.20	96.15 ±0.28
CNLCU-H <i>w/o cs</i>	98.19 ±0.22	97.05 ±0.49	98.76 ±0.59	97.17 ±0.60	97.26 ±1.19	96.31 ±0.25	98.29 ±0.17	97.65 ±0.92	98.34 ±0.36	96.49 ±0.48
Co-teaching-M	97.72 ±0.08	97.78 ±0.32	98.27 ±0.03	95.42 ±0.42	96.22 ±0.10	95.01 ±0.65	97.92 ±0.14	96.64 ±0.77	98.02 ±0.04	96.03 ±0.57
Co-teaching	97.53 ±0.12	95.62 ±0.30	98.25 ±0.08	95.08 ±0.43	96.05 ±0.96	94.16 ±1.37	98.05 ±0.06	96.18 ±0.85	97.96 ±0.09	95.02 ±0.39

Table 5: Test accuracy (%) on *MNIST* over last ten epochs.

C Complementary Explanation for Network Structures

Table 7 describes the 9-layer CNN [6] used on *MNIST*, *F-MNIST*, and *CIFAR-10*. Table 8 describes the 9-layer CNN [17] used on *CIFAR-100*. Here, LReLU stands for Leaky ReLU [15]. The slopes of all LReLU functions in the networks are set to 0.01. Note that that the 7/9-layer CNN is a standard and common practice in weakly supervised learning. We decided to use these CNNs, since then the experimental results are directly comparable with previous approaches in the same area, i.e., learning with noisy labels.

Noise type	Sym.		Asym.		Pair.		Trid.		Ins.	
Method/Noise ratio	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%	20%	40%
CNLCU-S	92.37 ± 0.15	91.45 ± 0.28	92.57 ± 0.15	83.14 ± 1.77	92.04 ± 0.26	88.20 ± 0.44	92.24 ± 0.17	90.08 ± 0.34	91.69 ± 0.10	89.02 ± 1.02
CNLCU-S <i>w/o cl</i>	91.77 ± 0.35	89.40 ± 0.26	91.25 ± 0.30	72.93 ± 2.63	91.53 ± 0.17	87.31 ± 0.59	91.31 ± 0.52	89.50 ± 0.32	91.09 ± 0.13	88.45 ± 0.57
CNLCU-S <i>w/o cs</i>	91.85 ± 0.33	90.76 ± 0.28	91.94 ± 0.09	80.99 ± 2.74	91.28 ± 0.20	87.31 ± 0.72	91.39 ± 0.07	89.29 ± 0.51	90.98 ± 0.43	88.73 ± 0.62
CNLCU-H	92.42 ± 0.21	91.60 ± 0.19	92.60 ± 0.18	82.69 ± 0.43	91.70 ± 0.18	87.70 ± 0.69	92.33 ± 0.26	90.22 ± 0.71	91.50 ± 0.21	88.79 ± 1.22
CNLCU-H <i>w/o cl</i>	91.70 ± 0.04	90.05 ± 0.31	91.08 ± 0.06	71.35 ± 2.30	91.03 ± 0.29	87.22 ± 0.72	91.59 ± 0.07	90.01 ± 0.24	90.80 ± 0.27	88.31 ± 1.09
CNLCU-H <i>w/o cs</i>	91.82 ± 0.13	90.92 ± 0.42	92.45 ± 0.25	80.73 ± 1.63	91.21 ± 0.17	87.49 ± 0.32	92.08 ± 0.13	89.72 ± 0.24	91.21 ± 0.38	88.62 ± 0.73
Co-teaching-M	91.33 ± 0.18	89.05 ± 0.73	91.14 ± 0.90	71.03 ± 3.73	90.85 ± 0.61	86.95 ± 0.19	91.50 ± 0.46	89.18 ± 0.44	90.74 ± 1.06	88.25 ± 0.92
Co-teaching	91.48 ± 0.10	88.80 ± 0.29	91.03 ± 0.14	68.07 ± 4.58	90.77 ± 0.23	86.91 ± 0.71	91.24 ± 0.11	89.18 ± 0.36	90.60 ± 0.12	87.90 ± 0.45

Table 6: Test accuracy (%) on *F-MNIST* over last ten epochs.

Table 7: CNN on *MNIST*, *F-MNIST*, and *CIFAR-10*.

CNN on <i>MNIST</i>	CNN on <i>F-MNIST</i>	CNN on <i>CIFAR-10</i>
28×28 Gray Image	28×28 Gray Image	32×32 RGB Image
	3×3 conv, 128 LReLU	
	3×3 conv, 128 LReLU	
	3×3 conv, 128 LReLU	
	2×2 max-pool	
	dropout, $p = 0.25$	
	3×3 conv, 256 LReLU	
	3×3 conv, 256 LReLU	
	3×3 conv, 256 LReLU	
	2×2 max-pool	
	dropout, $p = 0.25$	
	3×3 conv, 512 LReLU	
	3×3 conv, 256 LReLU	
	3×3 conv, 128 LReLU	
	avg-pool	
dense 128→10	dense 128→10	dense 128→10

Table 8: CNN on *CIFAR-100*.

CNN on <i>CIFAR-100</i>
32×32 RGB Image
3×3 conv, 64 ReLU
3×3 conv, 64 ReLU
2×2 max-pool
3×3 conv, 128 ReLU
3×3 conv, 128 ReLU
2×2 max-pool
3×3 conv, 196 ReLU
3×3 conv, 196 ReLU
2×2 max-pool
dense 256→100

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