

# An Adaptive Basis Perspective to Improve Initialization and Accelerate Training of DNNs



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# Overview



Take a viewpoint and see where it leads

## We Adopt an Adaptive Basis Viewpoint of Neural Networks

This perspective leads to:

- A new initialization strategy based on stability analysis
- A hybrid least squares/gradient descent training algorithm for regression
- A hybrid Newton/gradient descent training algorithm for classification

More details can be found in:

- Cyr, Gulian, Patel, Perego, and Trask. "Robust training and initialization of deep neural networks: An adaptive basis viewpoint." In *Mathematical and Scientific Machine Learning*, pp. 512-536. PMLR, 2020.
- Patel, Trask, Gulian, and Cyr. "A block coordinate descent optimizer for classification problems exploiting convexity." *arXiv preprint arXiv:2006.10123* (2020). (Accepted to AAAI!)

# Neural Networks



A neural network is a parameterized model:

$$\text{Neural Network} \longrightarrow \mathcal{NN}(x; \Theta) \longrightarrow y \longleftarrow \text{Output}$$

InputParameters

It is composed of multiple **layers**\*

**Feature Vectors**

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &= A_0 x + b_0, \\ u_{i+1} &= g(u_i; \{A_i, b_i\}) \quad i = 1 \dots L - 1, \\ y &= A_L u_L; \\ \Theta &= \{A_i, b_i\}_{i=0}^{L-1} \cup \{A_L\} \end{aligned}$$

# Neural Networks cont...

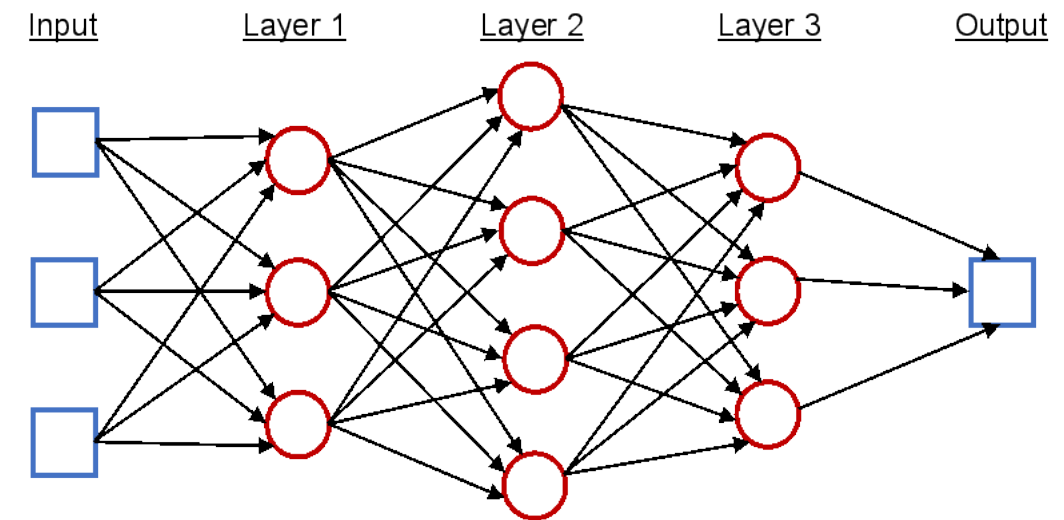


	Update Rule $g(u; A, b)$
Feed Forward	$u_{i+1} = \sigma(A_i u_i + b_i)$
ResNet	$u_{i+1} = u_i + \sigma(A_i u_i + b_i)$

Activation Function

Weighting Matrix

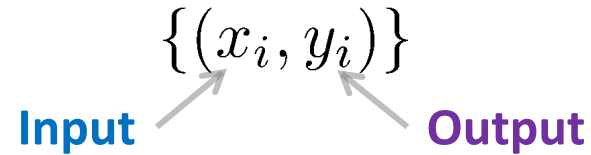
Bias Vector



# Determining the Parameters



Neural network should map data according to the sampled **training set** :



Find  $\Theta$  minimizing the **loss** in the model over the **training set**:

**Parameters**  $\rightarrow \min_{\Theta} \sum_{n=1}^N \text{Loss}(\mathcal{NN}(x_n; \Theta), y_n)$

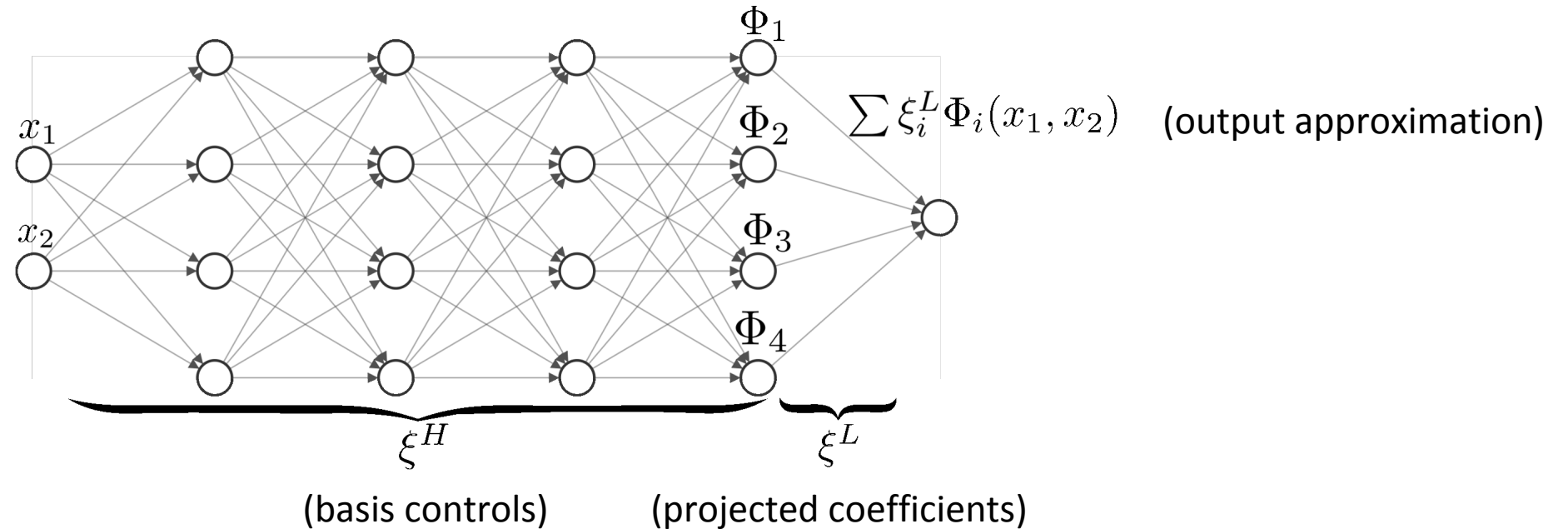
Loss function is model/data difference:

- $\text{Loss}(y^{model}, y^{data}) = \|y^{model} - y^{data}\|^2$
- $\text{Loss}(\vec{y}^{model}, \vec{y}^{data}) = \sum_{c=1}^{N_c} y_c^{data} \log(y_c^{model})$

# An Adaptive Basis Perspective



View a neural network as producing a “basis” followed by a projection



Taking this perspective we will explore:

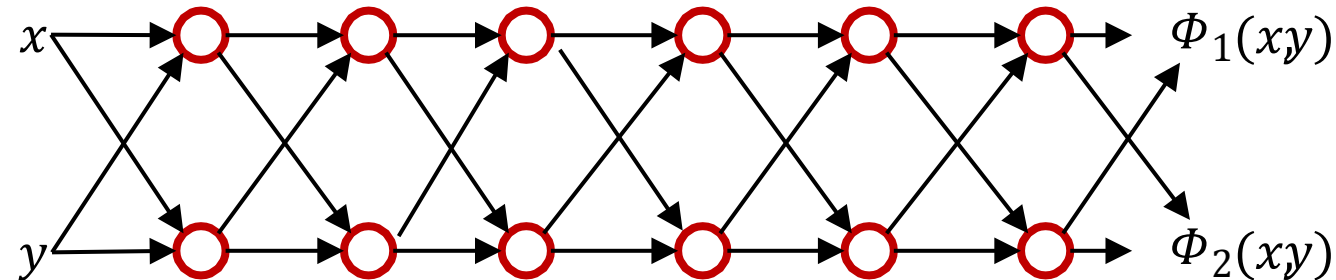
1. Parameter initialization
2. Training algorithms
  - a. Regression
  - b. Classification

# Parameter Initialization: An Experiment



Experimental setup:

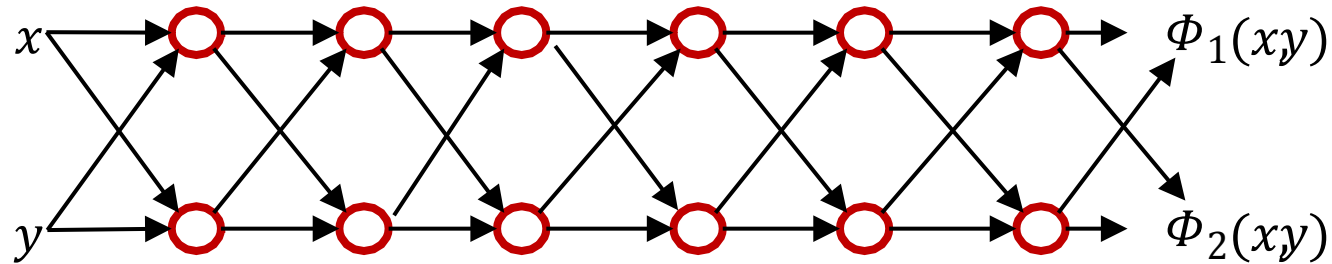
1. Initialize weights and biases
2. Propagate  $[0,1]^2$  through the neural network
  - ReLU activations (no batch norm)
  - Feed-forward and ResNet



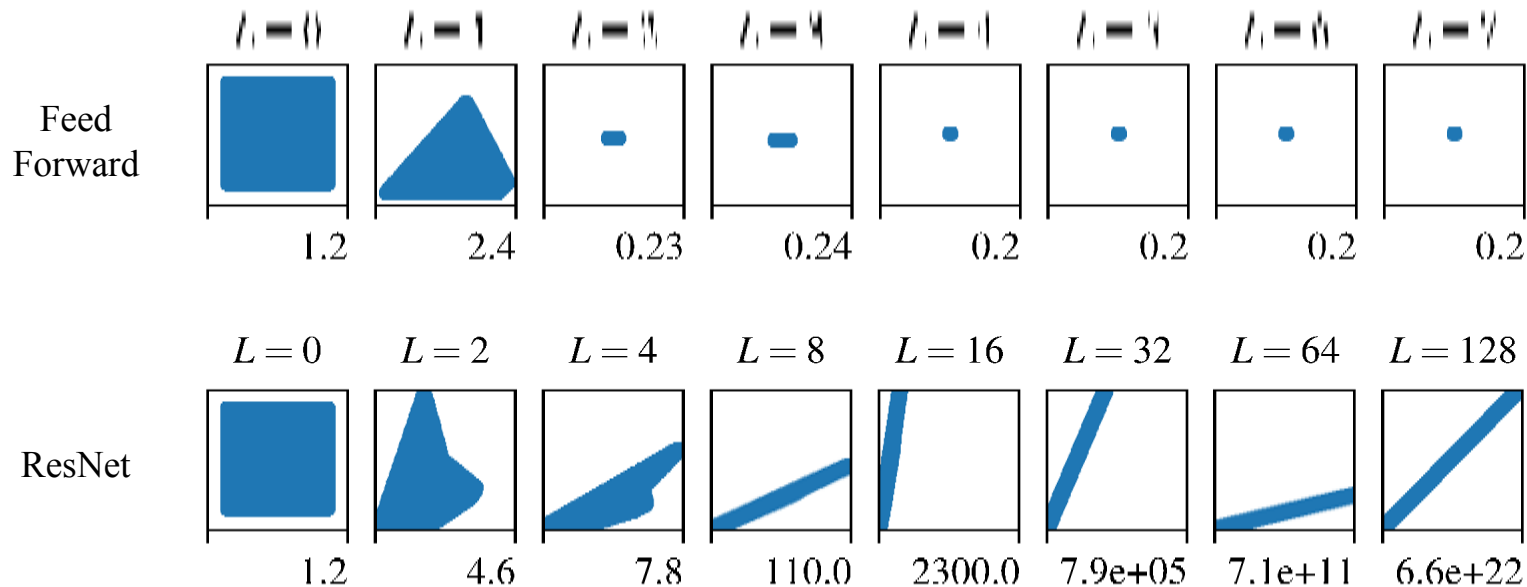
3. What does the basis look like?
  - Is it a good basis?
  - Is this a good place to start training?

# He Initialization

“He\*” is a standard technique: for ReLU’s with batch norm



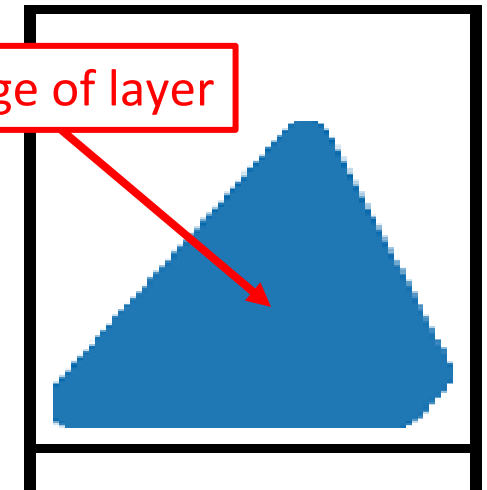
Plot the image of  $[0,1]^2$  through all layers



Current level

$$L = 1$$

Image of layer

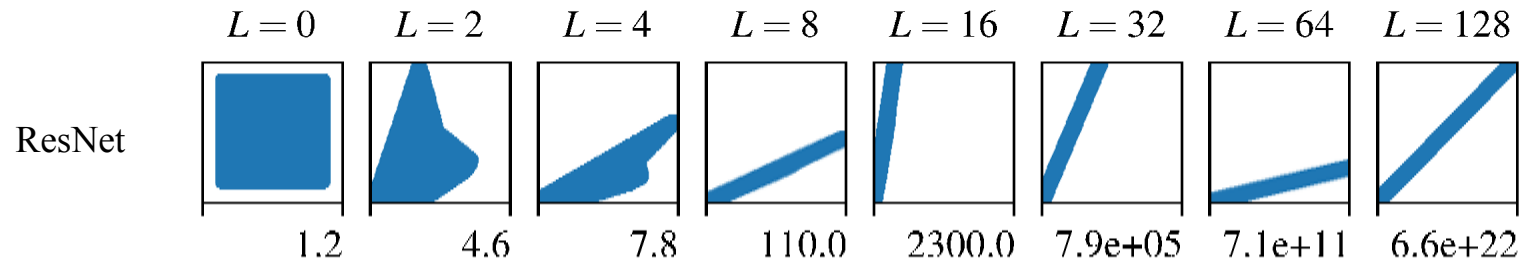


1.8

Size of hypercube



# What is happening? ResNets



Each layer update is:  $x_{l+1} = x_l + \sigma(A_l x_l)$

$$x_{l+1} \sim (I + \lambda)x_l \sim (I + \lambda)^{l+1}x_0$$

$\lambda$  is the spectral radius of  $A_l$

**Related to exploding/vanishing gradients, if initialized weights are too large inference with DNN will be unstable**

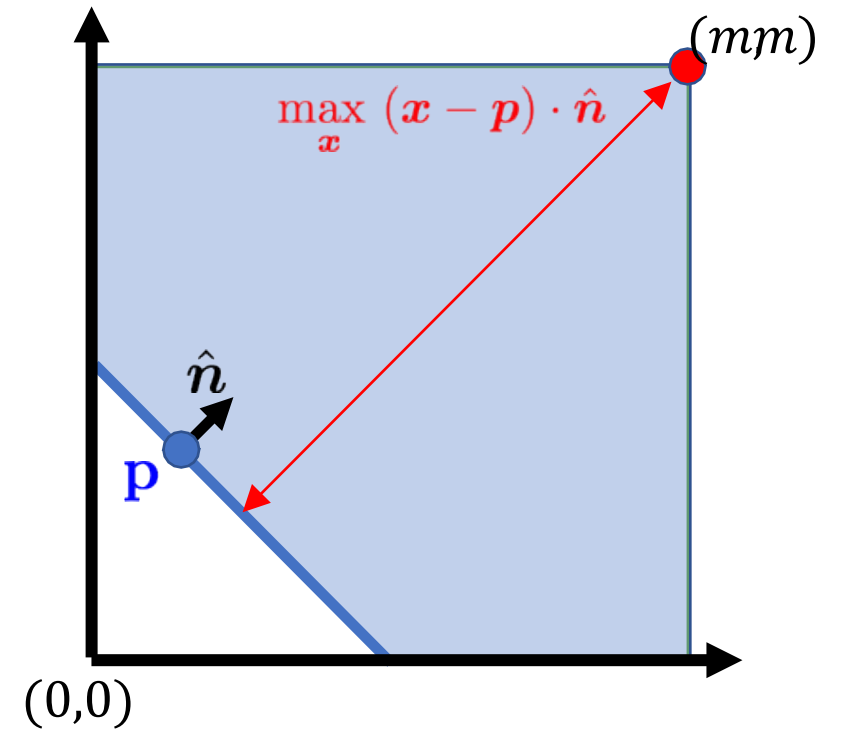
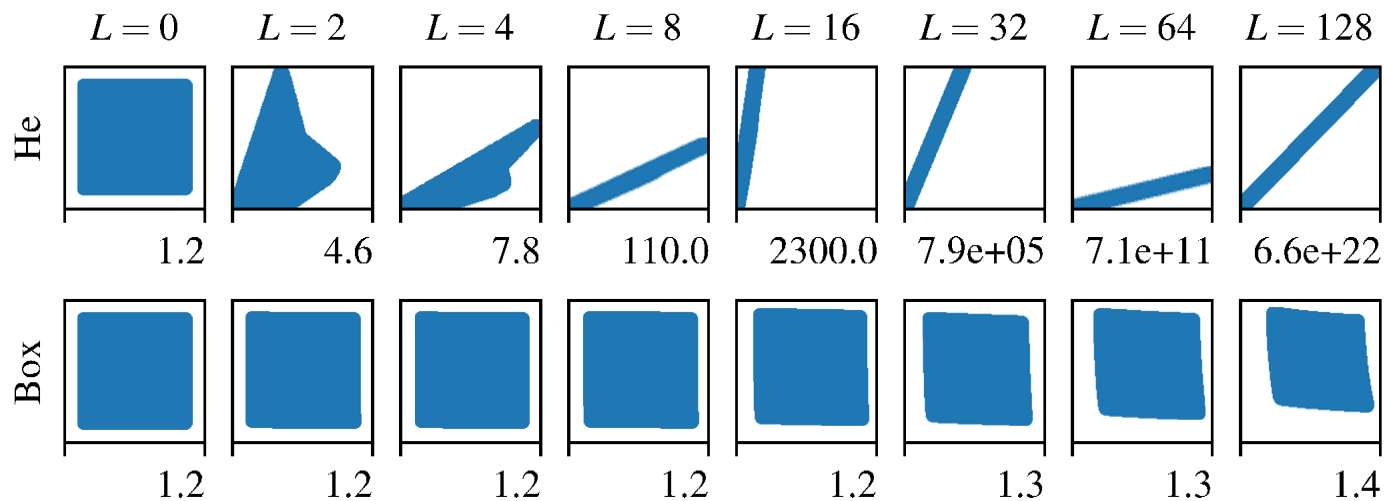
# Our Approach: “Box” Initialization

Goals:

- Remain Bounded
- Don't Collapse: Requires growth of cell size
- Keep cut-plane is in cell at each layer

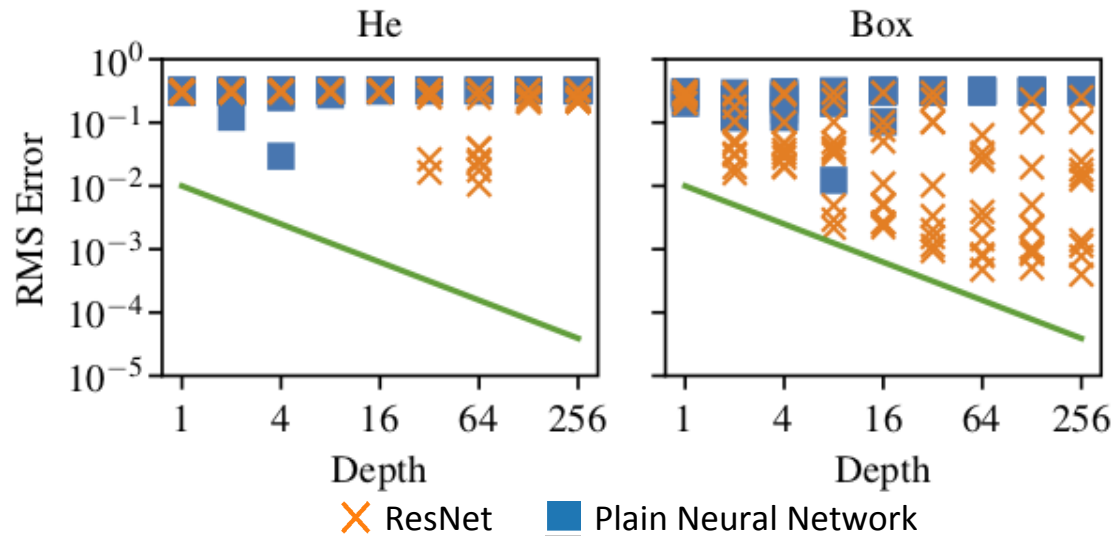
Initialize weights so that  $\lambda \leq L^{-1}$  gives:

$$x_L \sim (1 + L^{-1})^L x_0 \leq e^1 x_0$$



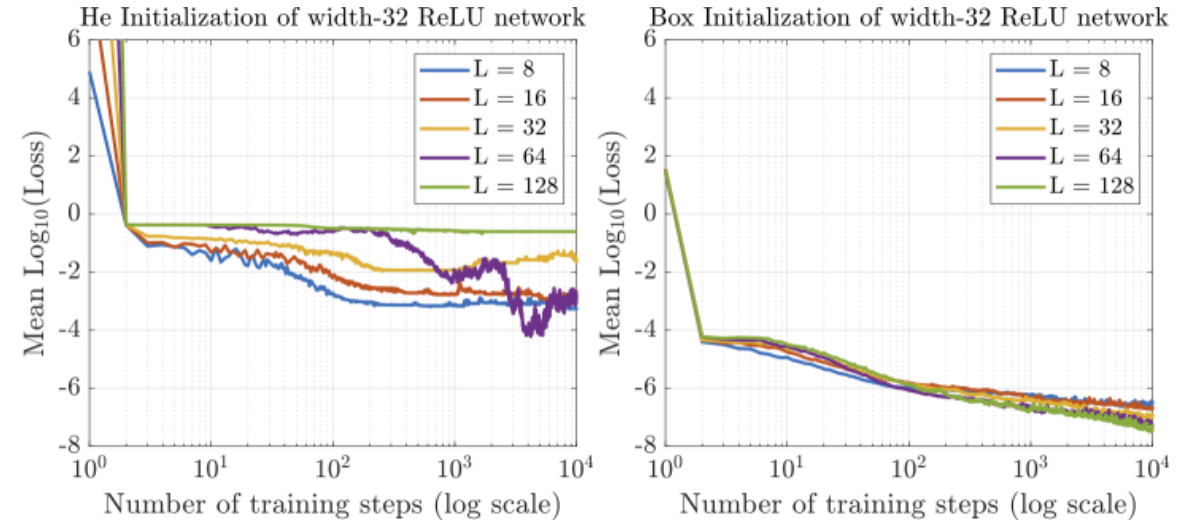
- “Box” prevents, collapse and exponential growth
- $[0,1]^2$  cube maps to nearly a cube after 128 layers

# Experiments: Initialization with Box vs. He



Approximating a discontinuous function composed of two polynomials (network width is 2)

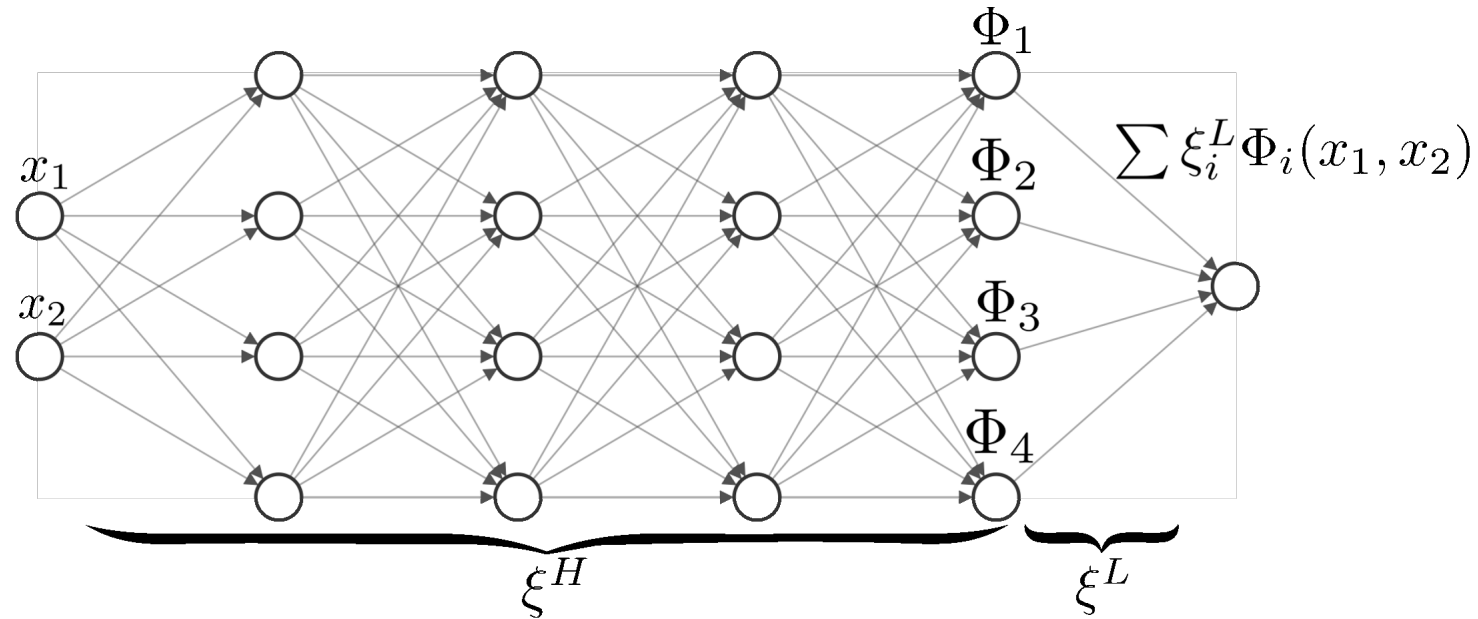
- Only Box with ResNet (orange crosses) works well
- Box does better over multiple samples, more robust achieving some convergence on average



Approximating  $\sin(2\pi x)$

- Both He and Box work okay for small numbers of layers
- He suffers for large numbers of layers
- Box leads to smaller errors, with better performance for large numbers of layers

# Adaptive Basis Approaches to Training



## Adaptive Basis Perspective Suggests a Training Approach

- Split Neural Network Parameters
  - Nonlinear:  $\xi_H$
  - Linear:  $\xi_L$
- Generalized Sketch of Training Approach
  1. Update  $\xi_H$  with gradient descent: “Refine” basis
  2. Solve optimization problem for  $\xi_L$ : Project onto basis

# Regression with Hybrid LS/GD



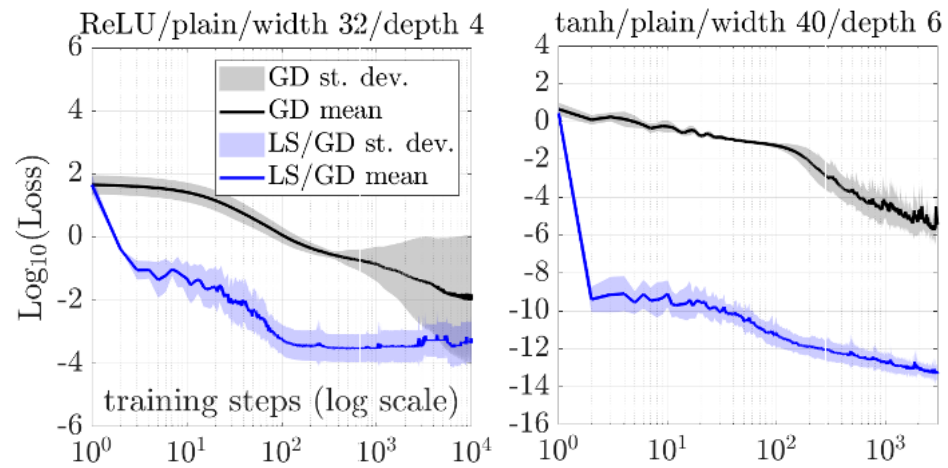
Applying Approach to Regression problems: a Least Squares/Gradient Descent algorithms

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\xi^L, \xi^H} \left\| u - \sum_i \xi_i^L \Phi_i(x, \xi^H) \right\|$$

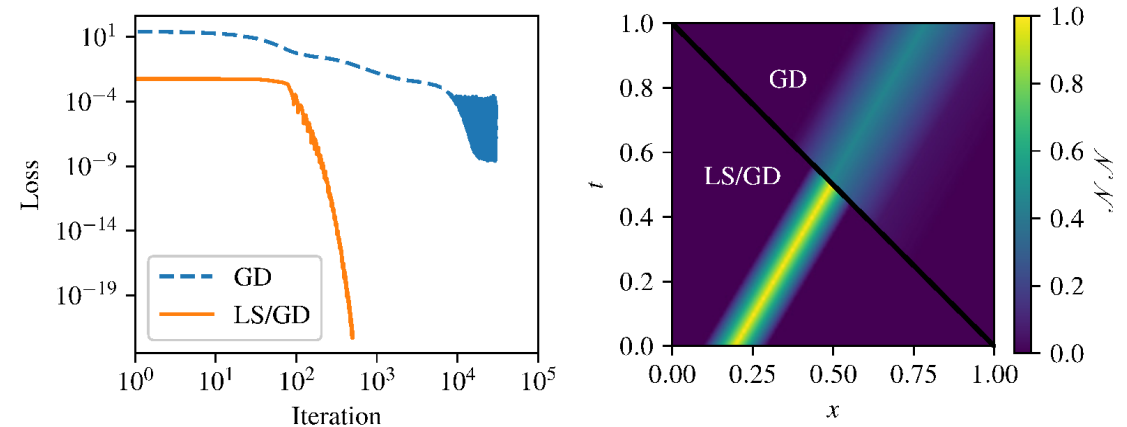
```
function LSGD( $\xi_0^H$ )  
   $\xi^H = \xi_0^H$   
   $\xi^L = LS(\xi^H)$   
  for  $i = 1 \dots$  do  
     $\xi^H = GD(\xi)$   
     $\xi^L = LS(\xi^H)$   
  end for  
end function
```

## Examples

Regression for  $\sin(2\pi x)$



PINNs for Transport



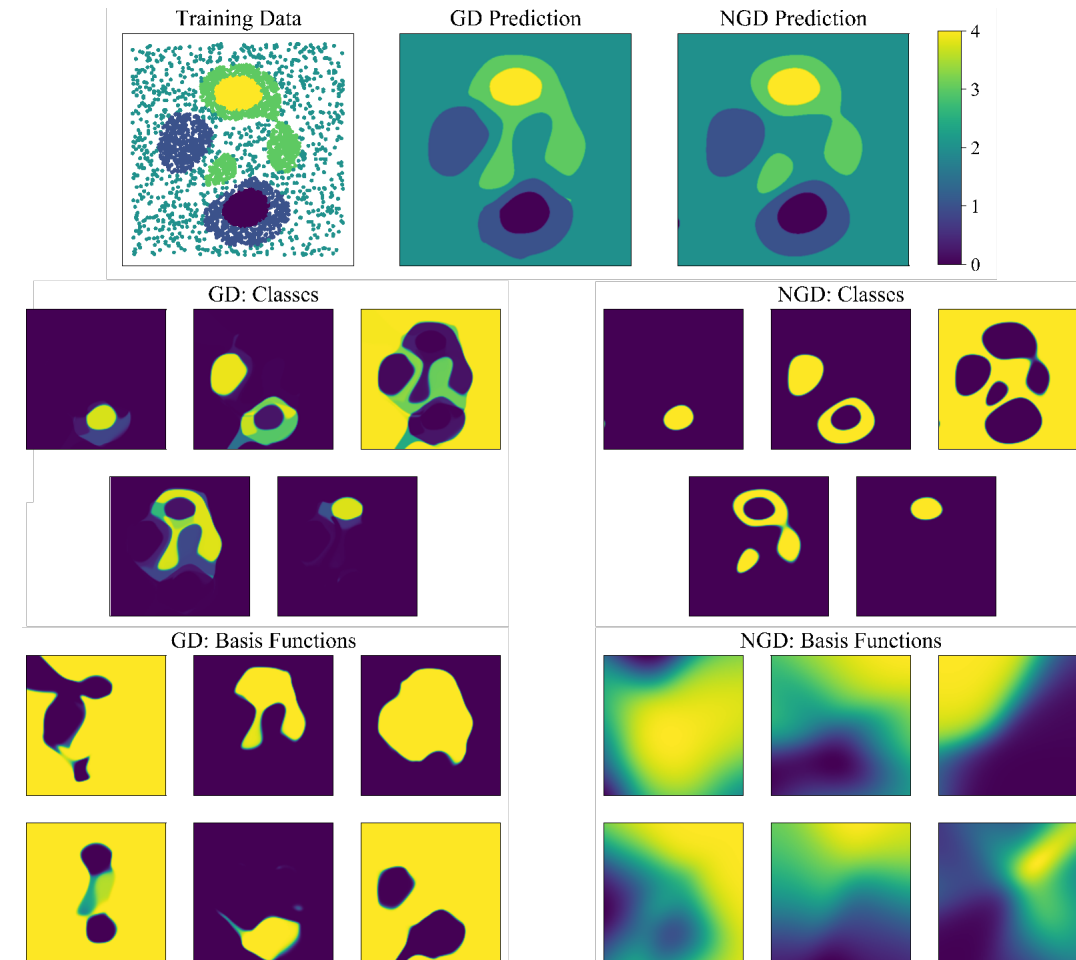
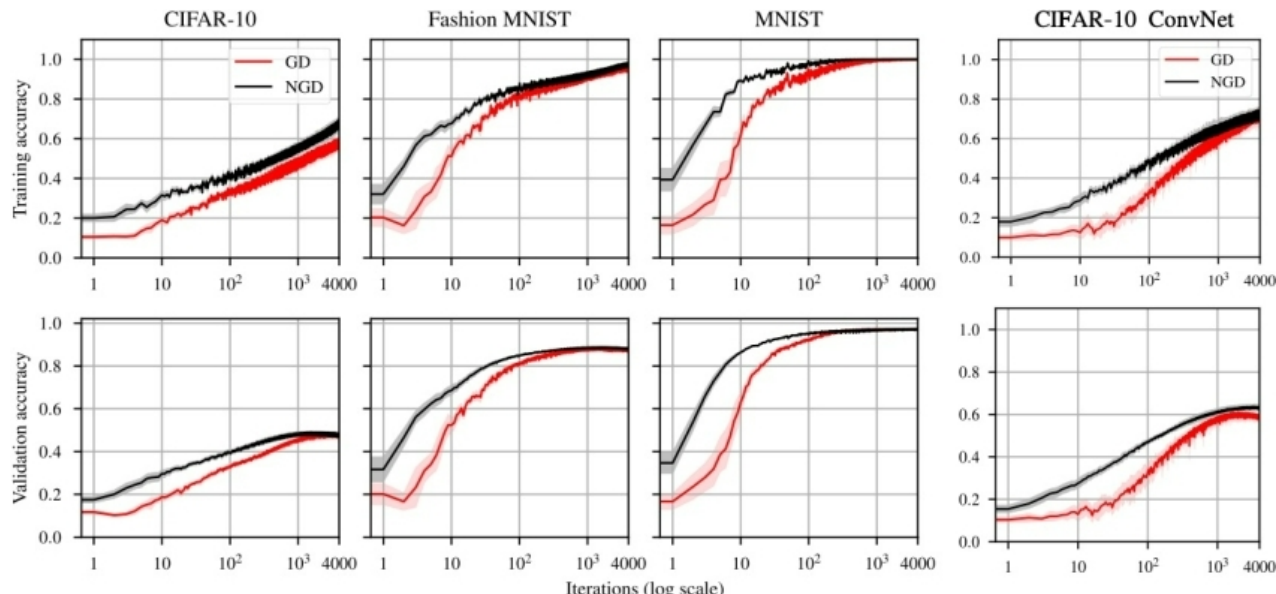
# Classification with Newton/GD

Applying Approach to Classification problems:  
a Newton/Gradient Descent algorithms

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\xi^L, \xi^H} \sum_i \sum_{c=1}^{N_c} y_{i,c} \log(\bar{y}_{i,c})$$

where  $\bar{y}_{i,c} \propto \exp\left(\underbrace{\sum_j \xi_{c,j}^L \Phi_j(x_i, \xi^H)}_{\text{Level set approx. for each class}}\right)$

Level set approx. for  
each class



# Final Thoughts

The **adaptive basis perspective** lead to ideas that improved neural network training

- “Box” initialization was developed by understanding how to generate a good basis
- LSGD was developed by splitting coefficients from basis parameters
  - Taking advantage of the convexity the regression loss
- NGD was developed by splitting coefficients from basis parameters
  - Taking advantage of the convexity of the classification loss

## Next Step: Partition of Unity Neural Networks

- <https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.11256>, accepted to AAAI

