

# Dynamical Isometry is Achieved in Residual Networks in a Universal Way for any Activation Function

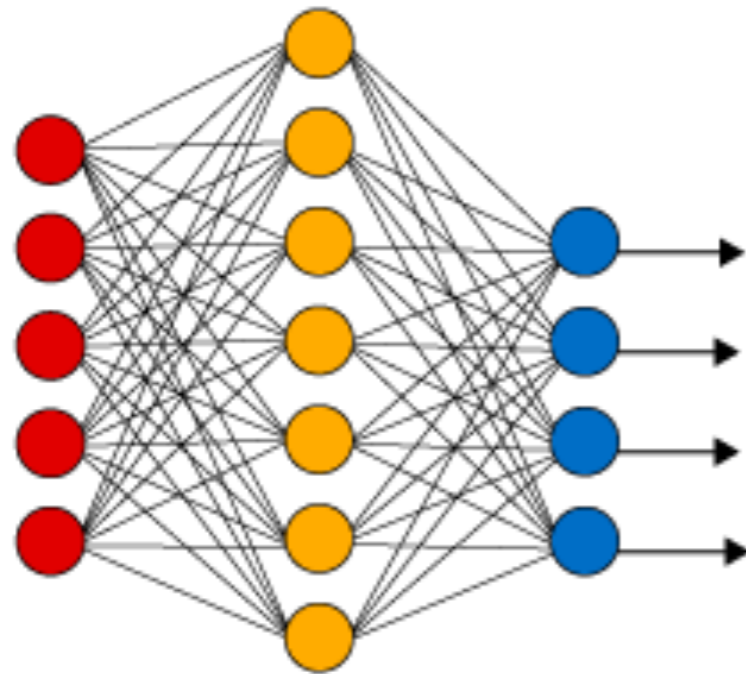
Wojciech Tarnowski, Piotr Warchoł, Stanisław Jastrzębski,  
Jacek Tabor, Maciej Nowak



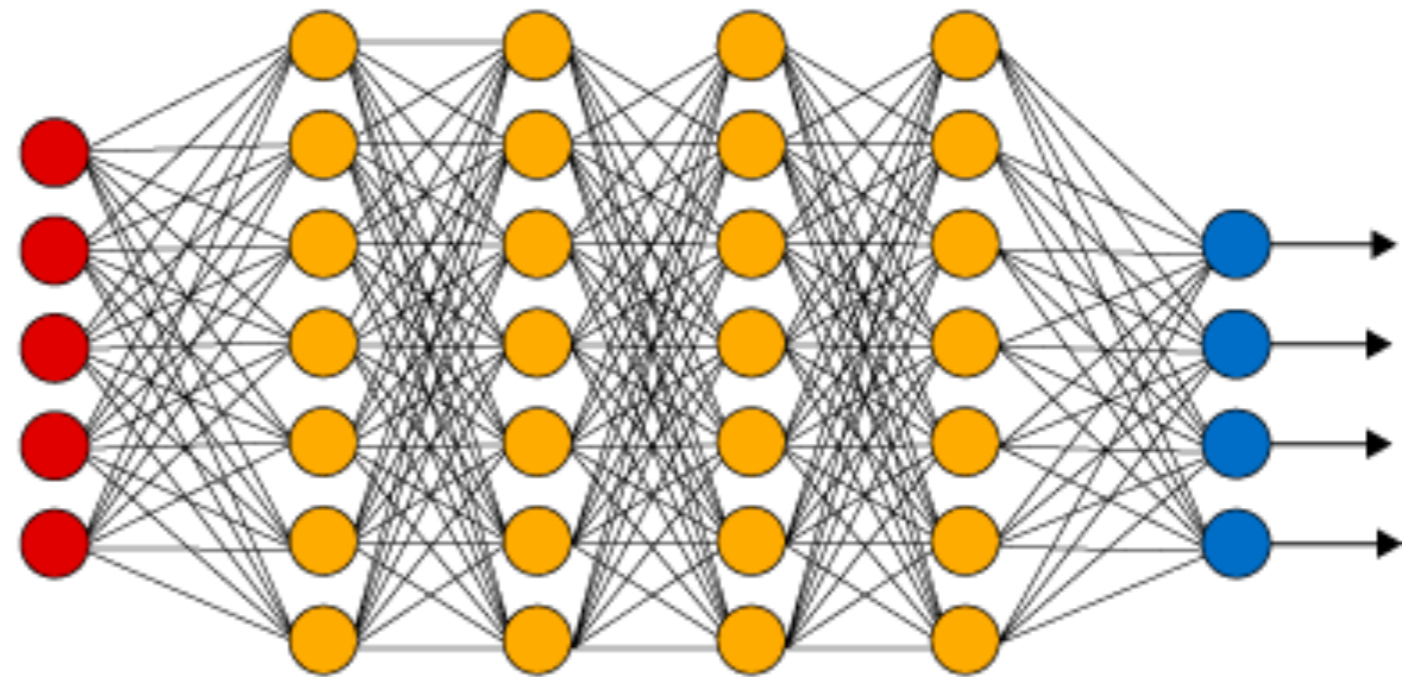
JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY  
IN KRAKÓW

- (Deep) artificial neural networks - a short introduction

**Simple Neural Network**



**Deep Learning Neural Network**



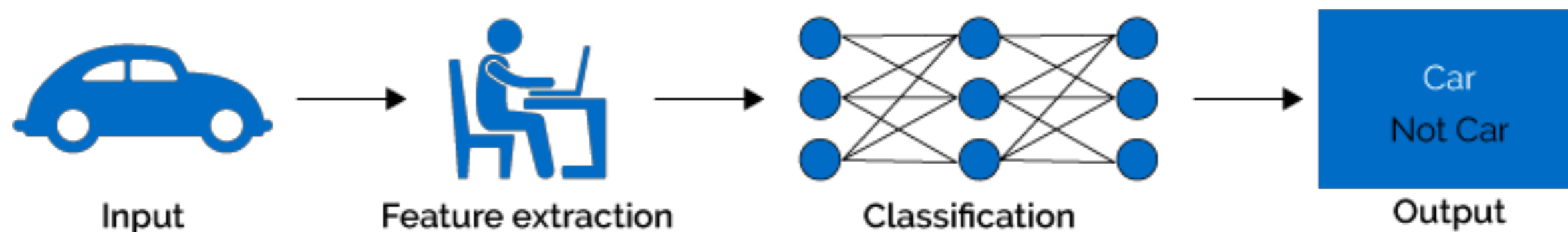
● Input Layer

● Hidden Layer

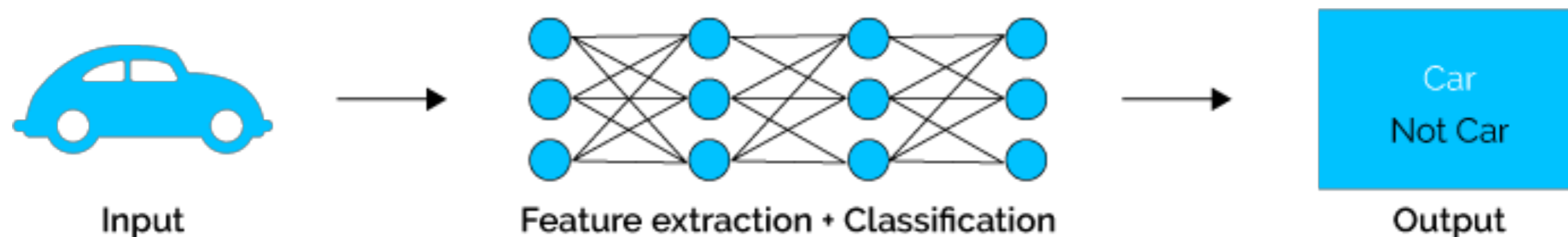
● Output Layer

- (Deep) artificial neural networks - a short introduction

## Machine Learning



## Deep Learning

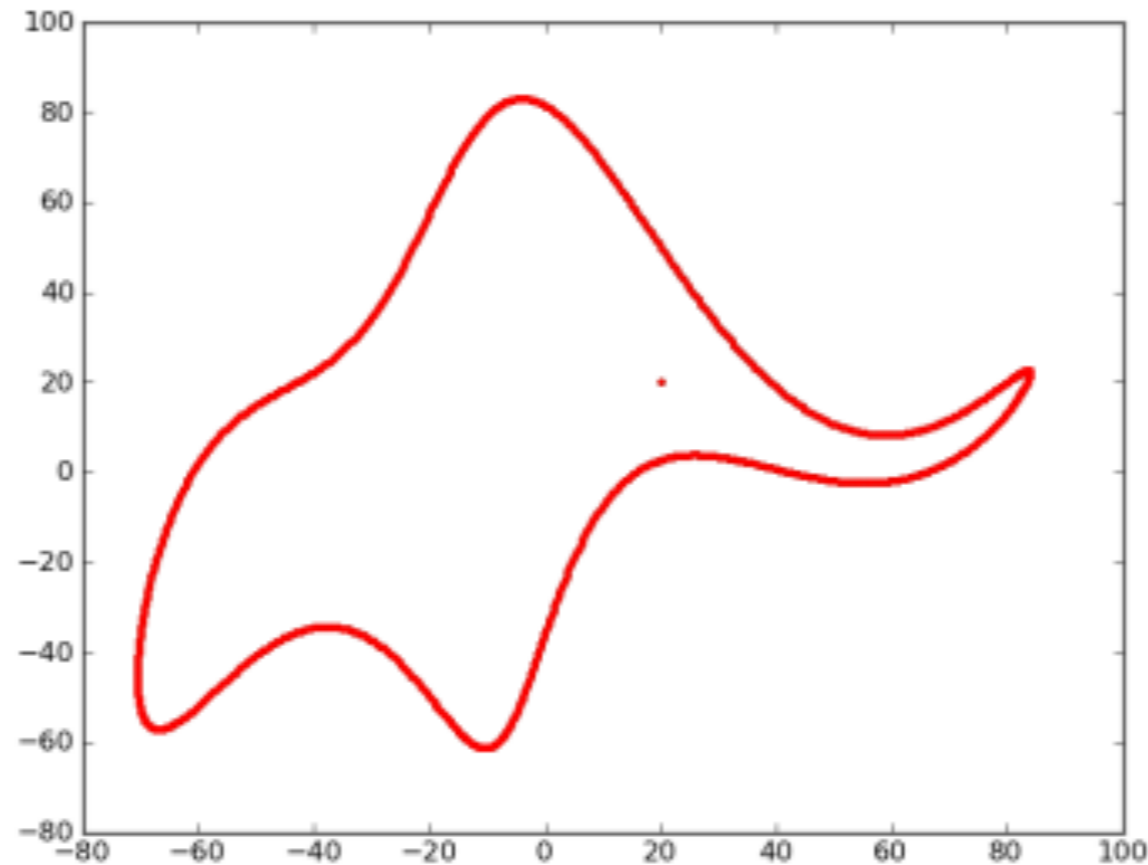


- (Deep) artificial neural networks - a short introduction

Johnny von Neumann: with four parameters I can fit an elephant, and with five I can make him wiggle his trunk.

- (Deep) artificial neural networks - a short introduction

Johnny von Neumann: with four parameters I can fit an elephant, and with five I can make him wiggle his trunk.



“Drawing an elephant with four complex parameters” by Jurgen Mayer, Khaled Khairy, and Jonathon Howard, *Am. J. Phys.* 78, 648 (2010), DOI:10.1119/1.3254017.

State-of-the-art deep neural nets sometimes contain millions or even billions of parameters!

- (Deep) artificial neural networks - a short introduction

## Fundamental:

- Massive over parametrization... so why don't deep NN overfit?
- ...

## Technical:

- What activation functions to use?
- How to train more efficiently
- How to initialize?
- How to choose architecture?
- ...

## Practical:

- Explainability
- Robustness
- ...

- The problem in short

We tackle the problem of **initialization**  
of **deep Residual Neural Networks**  
with **Random Matrix** and **Free Probability** Theories.

This is done by making sure the singular  
**spectrum** of the **input-output Jacobian** is  
concentrated around one.  
This is called **dynamical isometry**.

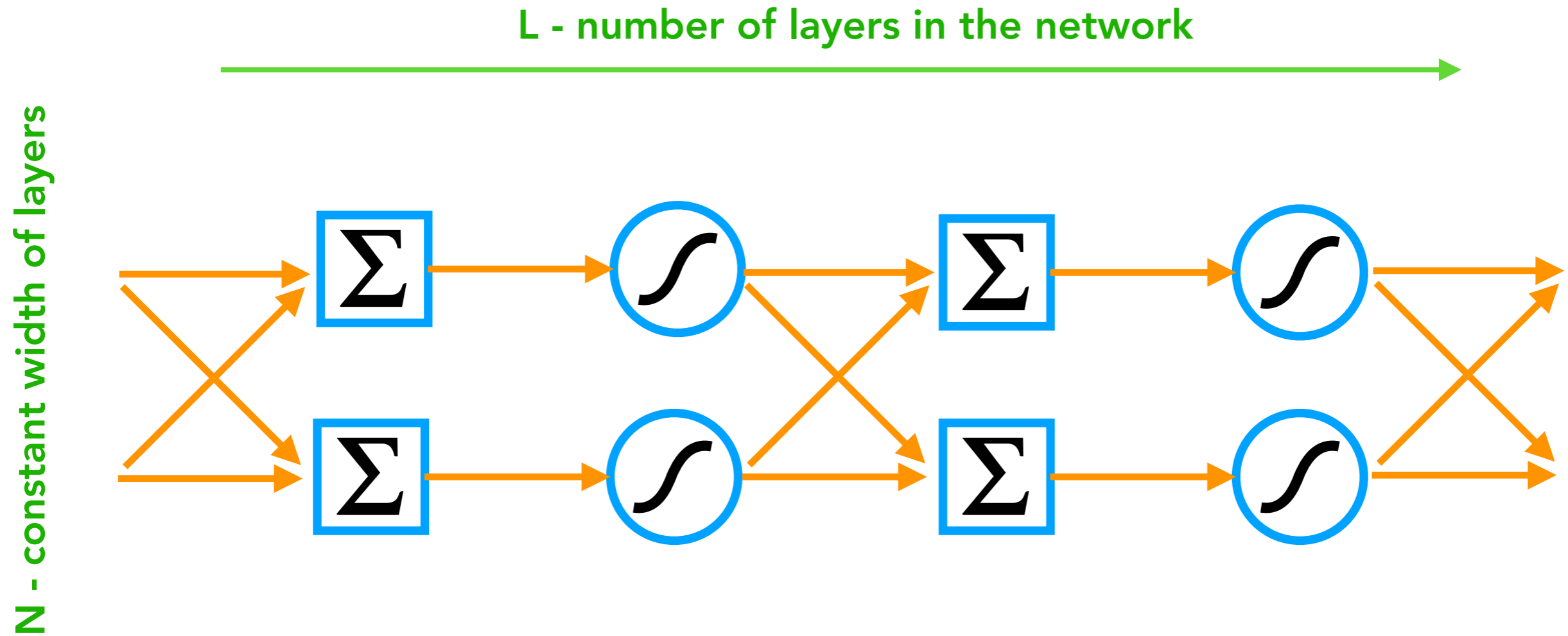
$$J_{ik} = \frac{\partial x_i^L}{\partial x_k^0}$$

## Presentation plan:

- ~~(Deep) artificial neural networks - a short introduction~~
- ~~The problem in short~~
- Stating the problem in more detail
- The case of Feed Forward Networks
- What we find for ResNets



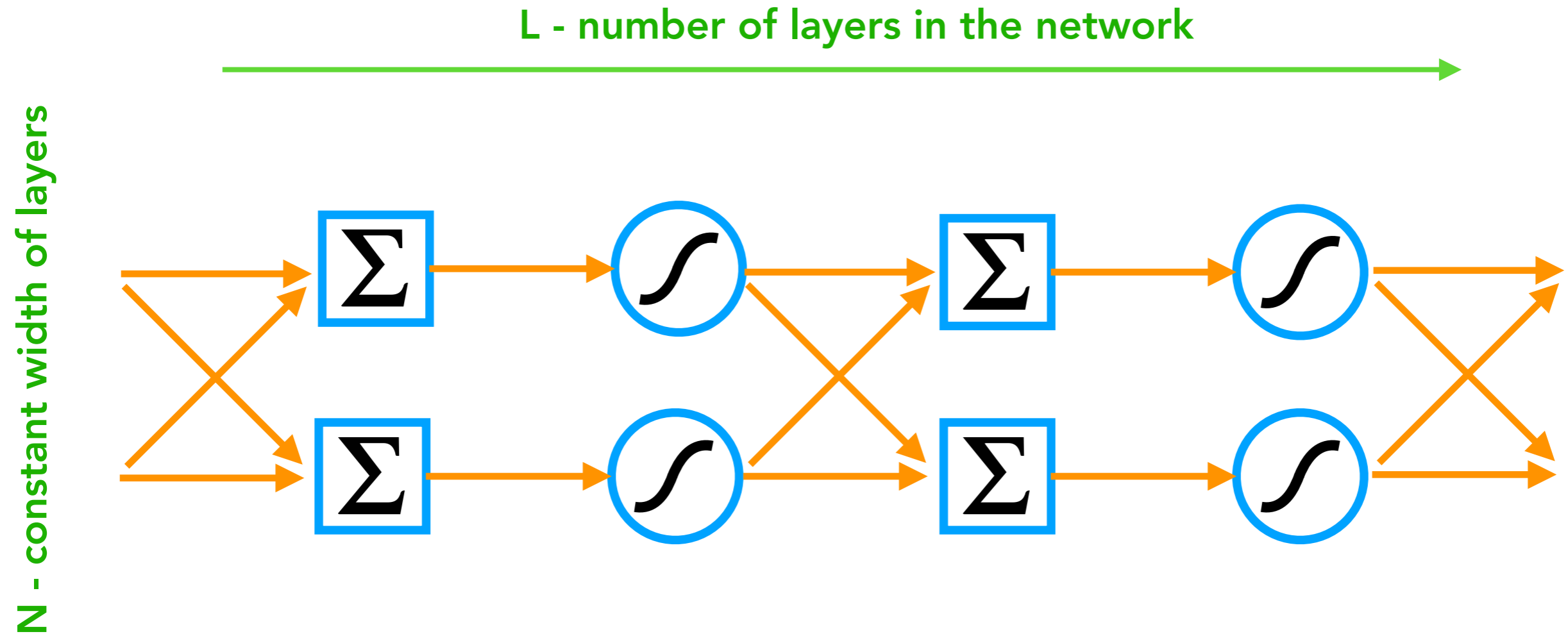
- Stating the problem



Signal propagation:

$$\mathbf{x}^l = \phi(\mathbf{h}^l), \quad \mathbf{h}^l = \mathbf{W}^l \mathbf{x}^{l-1} + \mathbf{b}^l$$

- Stating the problem



Signal propagation:

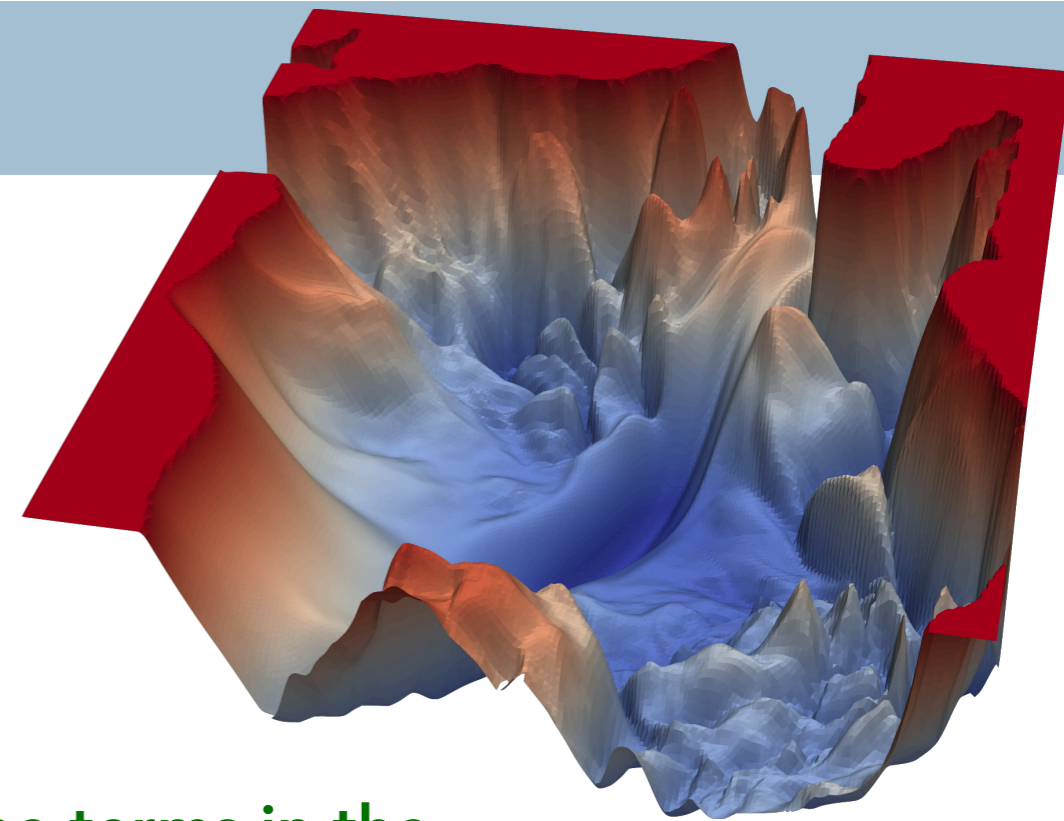
$$\mathbf{x}^l = \phi(\mathbf{h}^l), \quad \mathbf{h}^l = \mathbf{W}^l \mathbf{x}^{l-1} + \mathbf{b}^l$$

**Question: Can we say sth about how weights (bias) initialization will effect learning?**

- Stating the problem

$$\Delta W_{ij}^l = -\eta \frac{\partial E(\mathbf{x}^L, \mathbf{y})}{\partial W_{ij}^l}$$

The learning process is based on gradually modifying the weights of the network



$$\Delta W_{ij}^l = -\eta \sum_{k,t} \frac{\partial x_t^l}{\partial W_{ij}^l} \frac{\partial x_k^L}{\partial x_t^l} \frac{\partial E(\mathbf{x}^L, \mathbf{y})}{\partial x_k^L}$$

All the terms in the sum of products must be bounded

$$J_{ik} = \frac{\partial x_i^L}{\partial x_k^0}$$

The input-output Jacobian is the most problematic one

It can be rewritten as:

$$\mathbf{J} = \prod_{l=1}^L \left( \mathbf{D}^l \mathbf{W}^l \blacksquare \right), \quad \text{with} \quad D_{ij}^l = \phi'(h_i^l) \delta_{ij}$$

- Stating the problem

For a given activation function and network depth  $L$ ,  
**how to initialize the weights?**

Use **Random Matrix** and **Free Probability Theories** to find the singular values of

$$\mathbf{J} = \prod_{l=1}^L \left( \mathbf{D}^l \mathbf{W}^l \mathbf{W}^l \right), \quad \text{with} \quad D_{ij}^l = \phi'(h_i^l) \delta_{ij}$$

Study **Signal propagation in the network** to find the statistics of

- The case of Feed Forward Networks

(2017, Pennigton et al.)

Activation function:  $\phi(h) = \tanh(h)$

Weight matrix at initialization orthogonal:  $W^T W = \mathbf{1}$

Fixed point related to signal propagation.

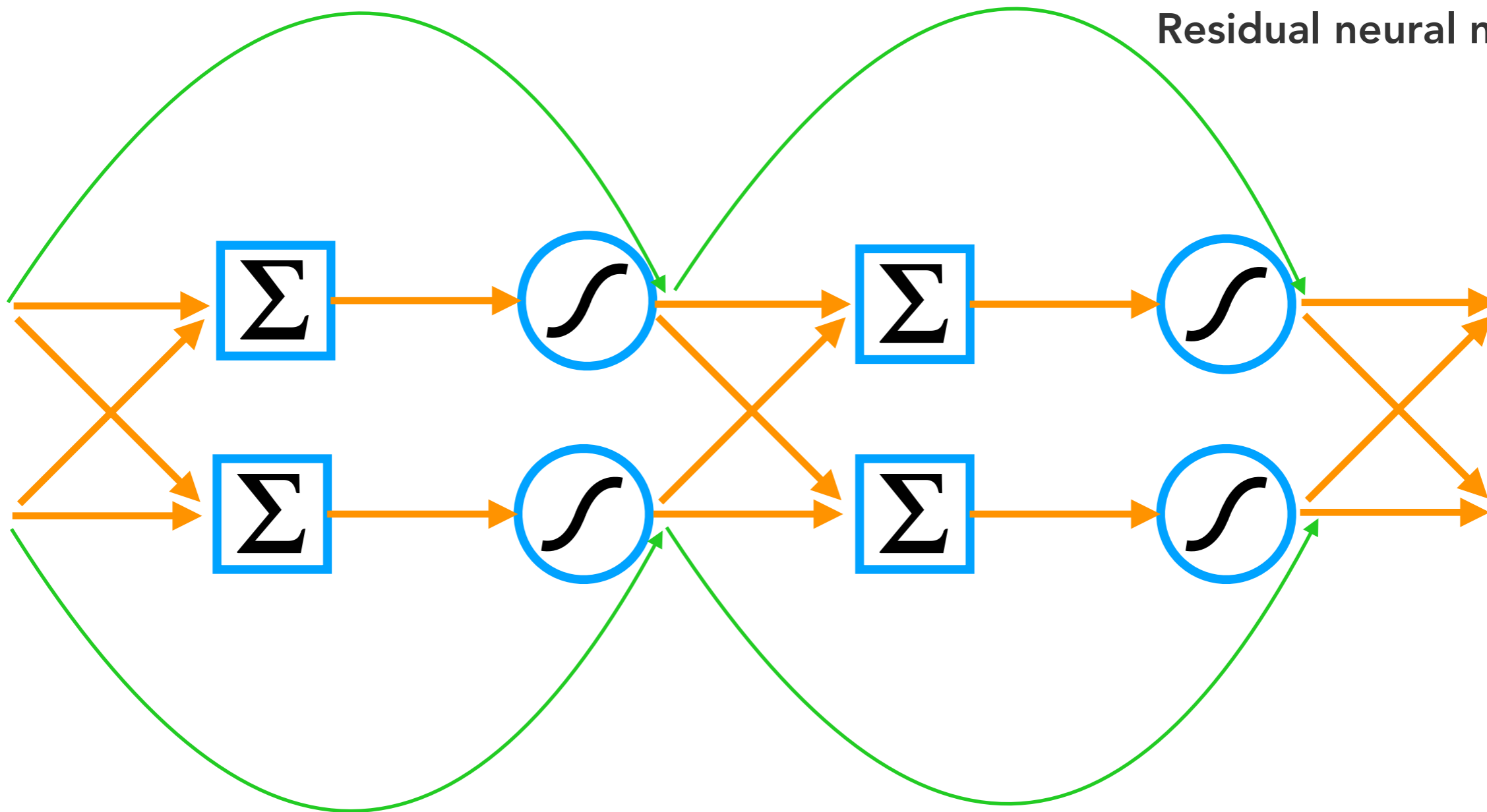
Dynamical Isometry in feed forward neural network

“Orders of magnitude” faster learning of DEEP feed forward neural networks. Training of 10000 layer vanilla CNN.

Not possible at all for ReLU (in feed forward networks).

- What we find for ResNets

Residual neural network



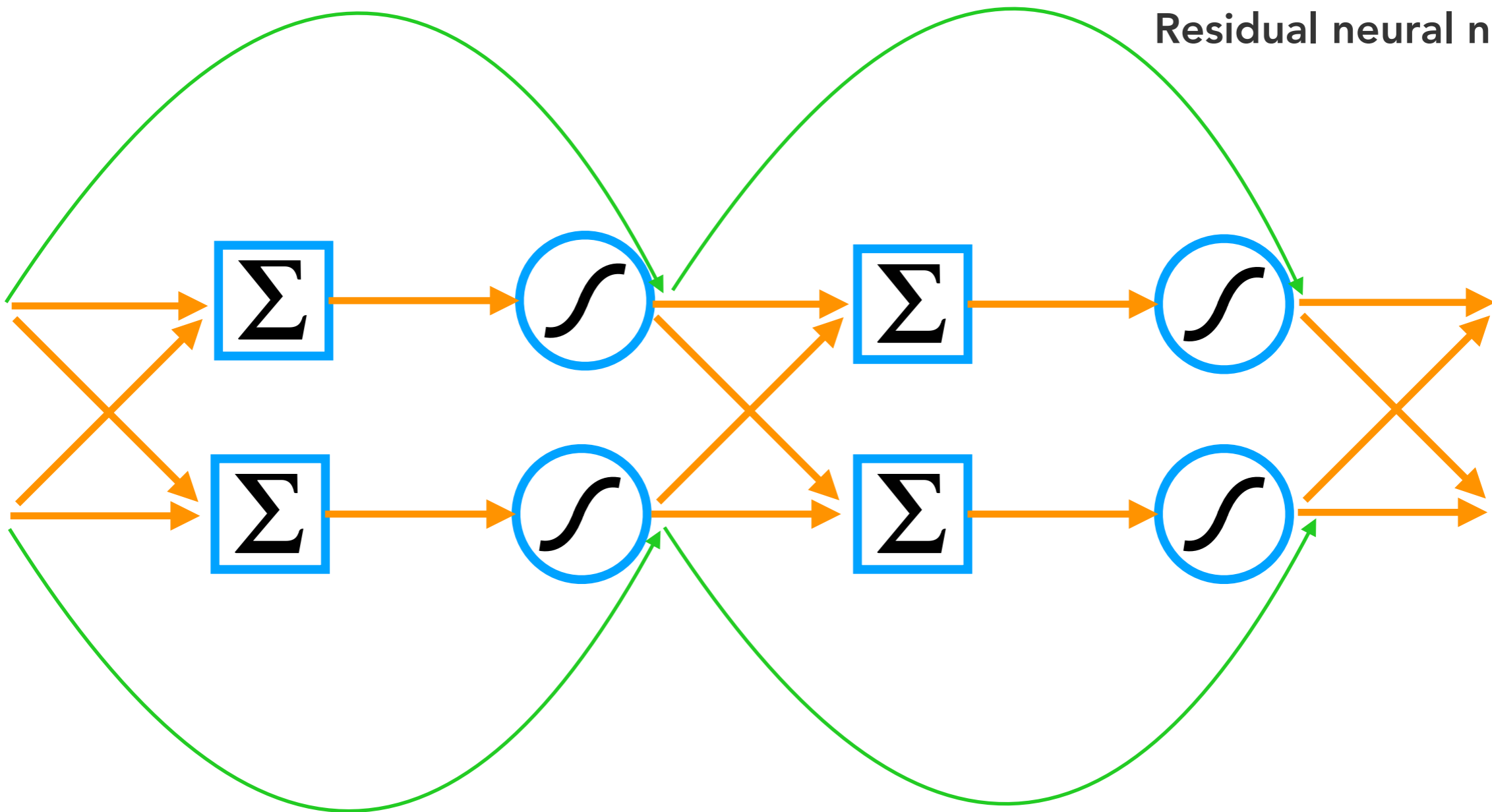
Signal propagation:

$$\mathbf{x}^l = \phi(\mathbf{h}^l) + \mathbf{a}\mathbf{x}^{l-1}, \quad \mathbf{h}^l = \mathbf{W}^l\mathbf{x}^{l-1} + \mathbf{b}^l$$

(a slightly more sophisticated version outmatched other models in the 2015 ILSVRC and COCO competitions)

- What we find for ResNets

Residual neural network



Signal propagation:

$$\mathbf{x}^l = \phi(\mathbf{h}^l) + \mathbf{ax}^{l-1}, \quad \mathbf{h}^l = \mathbf{W}^l \mathbf{x}^{l-1} + \mathbf{b}^l$$

Question: Can we say sth about how weights (bias) initialization will effect learning?

- What we find for ResNets

For a given activation function and network depth  $L$ ,  
**how to initialize the weights?**

Use **Random Matrix** and **Free Probability Theories** to find the singular values of

$$\mathbf{J} = \prod_{l=1}^L (\mathbf{D}^l \mathbf{W}^l + \mathbf{1}a), \quad \text{with} \quad D_{ij}^l = \phi'(h_i^l) \delta_{ij}$$

Study **Signal propagation in the network** to find the statistics of



- Rapid introduction to RMT

**Random Matrix Theory**  $G_H(z) = \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} (z\mathbf{1} - \mathbf{H})^{-1} \right\rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\rho_H(\lambda) d\lambda}{z - \lambda}$

$$\rho_H(x) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \text{Im} G_H(x + i\epsilon).$$

**Free Probability Theory**  $G\left(R(z) + \frac{1}{z}\right) = z, \quad R(G(z)) + \frac{1}{G(z)} = z.$

$$R_{X+Y}(z) = R_X(z) + R_Y(z)$$

R-transform

$$S(zR(z)) = \frac{1}{R(z)}, \quad R(zS(z)) = \frac{1}{S(z)}.$$

$$S_{AB}(z) = S_A(z)S_B(z)$$

S-transform

- What we find for ResNets

Singular spectrum of  $J = \prod_{l=1}^L (D^l W^l + \mathbf{1}a)$

Calculate  $S_{JJ^T}(z) = \prod_{l=1}^L S_{Y_l Y_l^T}(z)$  then revert back to the Greens function

$$G(z) = \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr}(z\mathbf{1} - \mathbf{Y}_l \mathbf{Y}_l^T)^{-1} \right\rangle \quad \mathbf{Y}_l = (a\mathbf{1} + D^l W^l) \quad \mathbf{X} = D^l W^l$$

Generalized resolvent  $\mathcal{G} := \begin{pmatrix} G_{11} & G_{12} \\ G_{21} & G_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \text{bTr} \begin{pmatrix} -a - \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{1} \\ z & -a - \mathbf{X}^T \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \right\rangle$

$$\mathcal{Z} := \begin{pmatrix} -a & \mathbf{1} \\ z & -a \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{X} := \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{X}^T \end{pmatrix}$$

Generalized R-transform

$$\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{Z}) = (\mathcal{Z} - \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{Z})))^{-1}$$

- What we find for ResNets

Singular spectrum of  $J = \prod_{l=1}^L (D^l W^l + 1a)$

$$c_2^l = \sigma_w^2 \langle (\phi'(h))^2 \rangle_l = \sigma_w^2 \int \mathcal{D}z \phi'^2(\sqrt{q^l z})$$

define the effective cumulant:  $c = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L c_2^l$

The large network depth limit (recall the scaling of the variance:  $\sigma_w^2/(NL)$ )

$$\ln S_{JJ^T}(z) = -2L \ln a + \sum_{l=1}^L \ln \left( 1 - \frac{c_2^l}{a^2 L} (1+2z) \right) \approx -2L \ln a - \frac{1+2z}{a^2 L} \sum_{l=1}^L c_2^l =: -2L \ln a - \frac{(1+2z)}{a^2} c$$

$$S_{JJ^T}(z) = \frac{1}{a^{2L}} e^{-\frac{c}{a^2}(1+2z)}$$

Universal formula for any activation function!

$$a^{2L} G(z) = (zG(z) - 1) e^{\frac{c}{a^2}(1-2zG(z))}$$

(solution in terms of the Lambert function)

$$c_2^l = \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} W^l D^l D^l (W^l)^T \right\rangle = \frac{\sigma_w^2}{N} \sum_i^N (\phi'(h_i^l))^2 = \sigma_w^2 \int \mathcal{D}z \phi'^2(\sqrt{q^l z})$$

- What we find for ResNets

Signal propagation:  $\mathbf{x}^l = \phi(\mathbf{h}^l) + \mathbf{a}\mathbf{x}^{l-1}, \quad \mathbf{h}^l = \mathbf{W}^l\mathbf{x}^{l-1} + \mathbf{b}^l$

elements of weight matrices and bias vectors - i.i.d. Gaussian with mean 0 and variances:  $\sigma_w^2/(NL)$  and  $\sigma_b^2$ .

Study:

$$q^l = \frac{1}{N_l} \sum_{i=1}^{N_l} (\mathbf{h}_i^l)^2$$

The resulting mapping:

$$q^{l+1} = a^2 q^l - (a^2 - 1) \sigma_b^2 + \frac{(\sigma_w)^2}{L} \int \mathcal{D}z \phi^2(\sqrt{q^l} z) + 2 \frac{(\sigma_w)^2}{L} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{l-1} a^k \int \mathcal{D}z \phi(\sqrt{q^{l-k}} z) \right] \int \mathcal{D}z \phi(\sqrt{q^l} z)$$

$$c_2^l = \sigma_w^2 \langle (\phi'(h))^2 \rangle_l = \sigma_w^2 \int \mathcal{D}z \phi'^2(\sqrt{q^l} z)$$

Same result for orthogonal weight matrices.

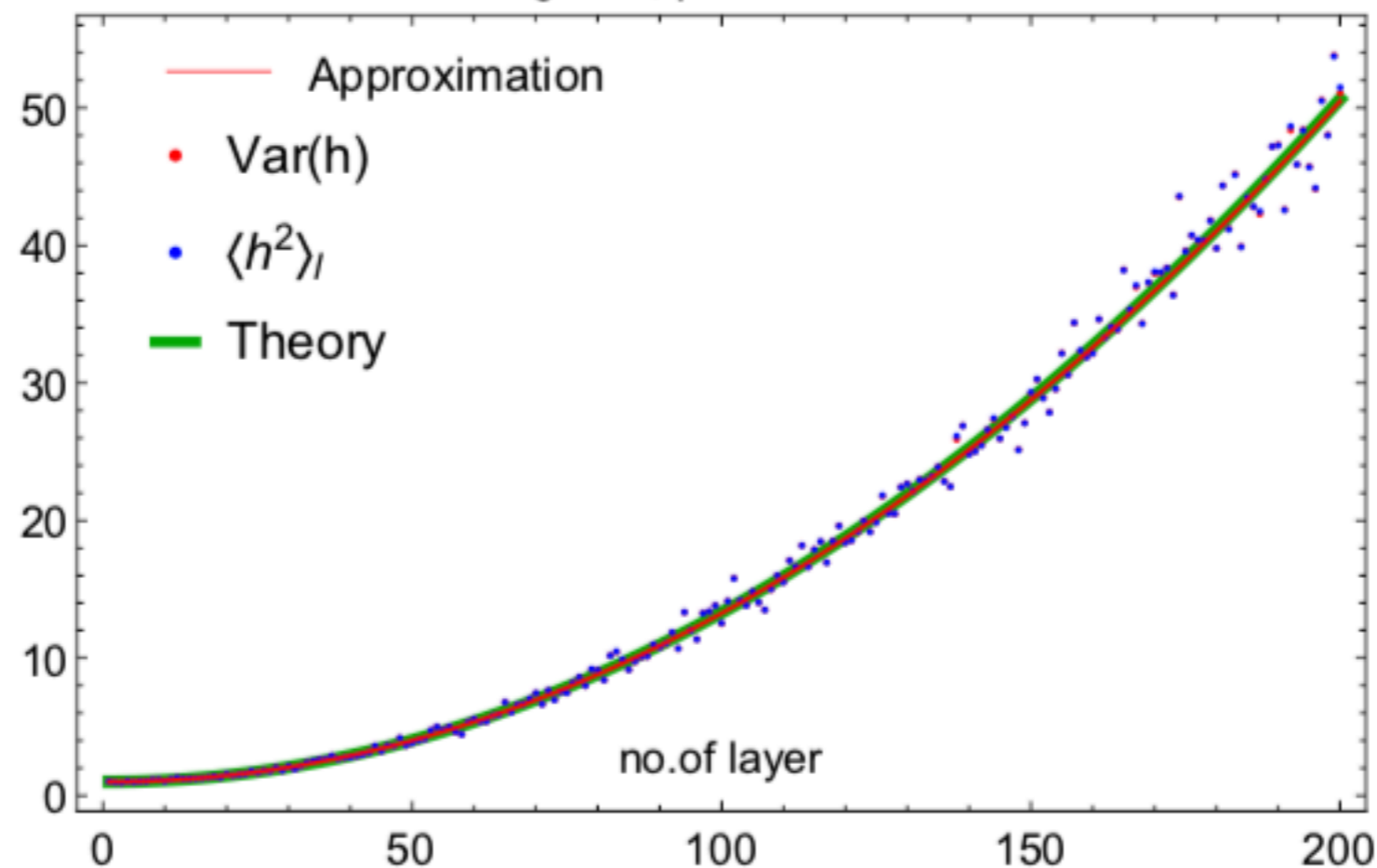
- What we find for ResNets

For example, in the case of the sigmoid activation function:  $\phi(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$

$$q^{l+1} = q^l + \frac{(\sigma_W)^2}{L} \int \mathcal{D}z \phi^2 \left( \sqrt{q^l} z \right) + \frac{(\sigma_W)^2}{2L} (l-1).$$

$$q^{l+1} \approx q^1 + \frac{(\sigma_W)^2 l}{L} \int \mathcal{D}z \phi^2 \left( \sqrt{q^1} z \right) + \frac{(\sigma_W)^2}{4L} l(l-1)$$

Sigmoid, preactivations

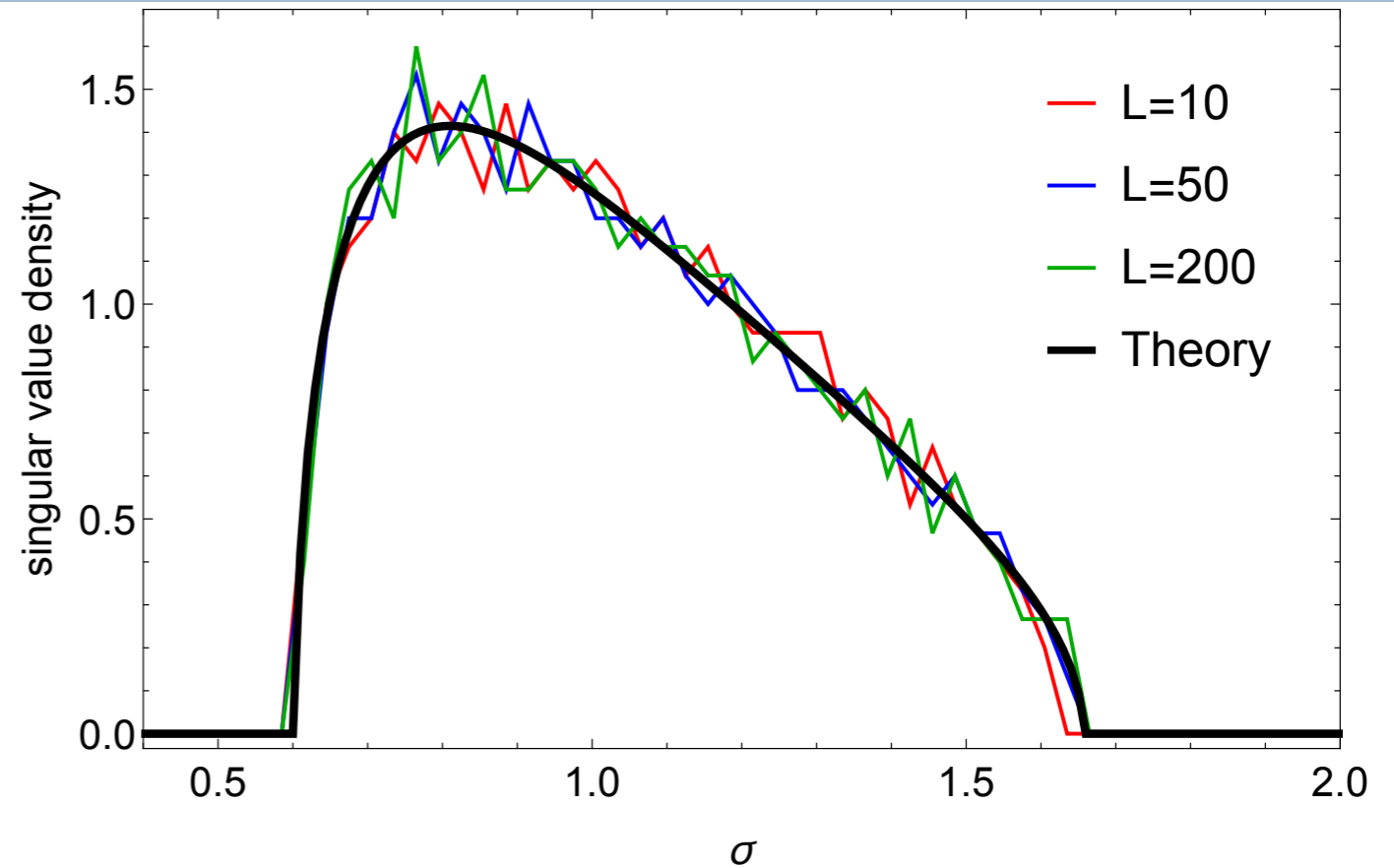


- What we find for ResNets

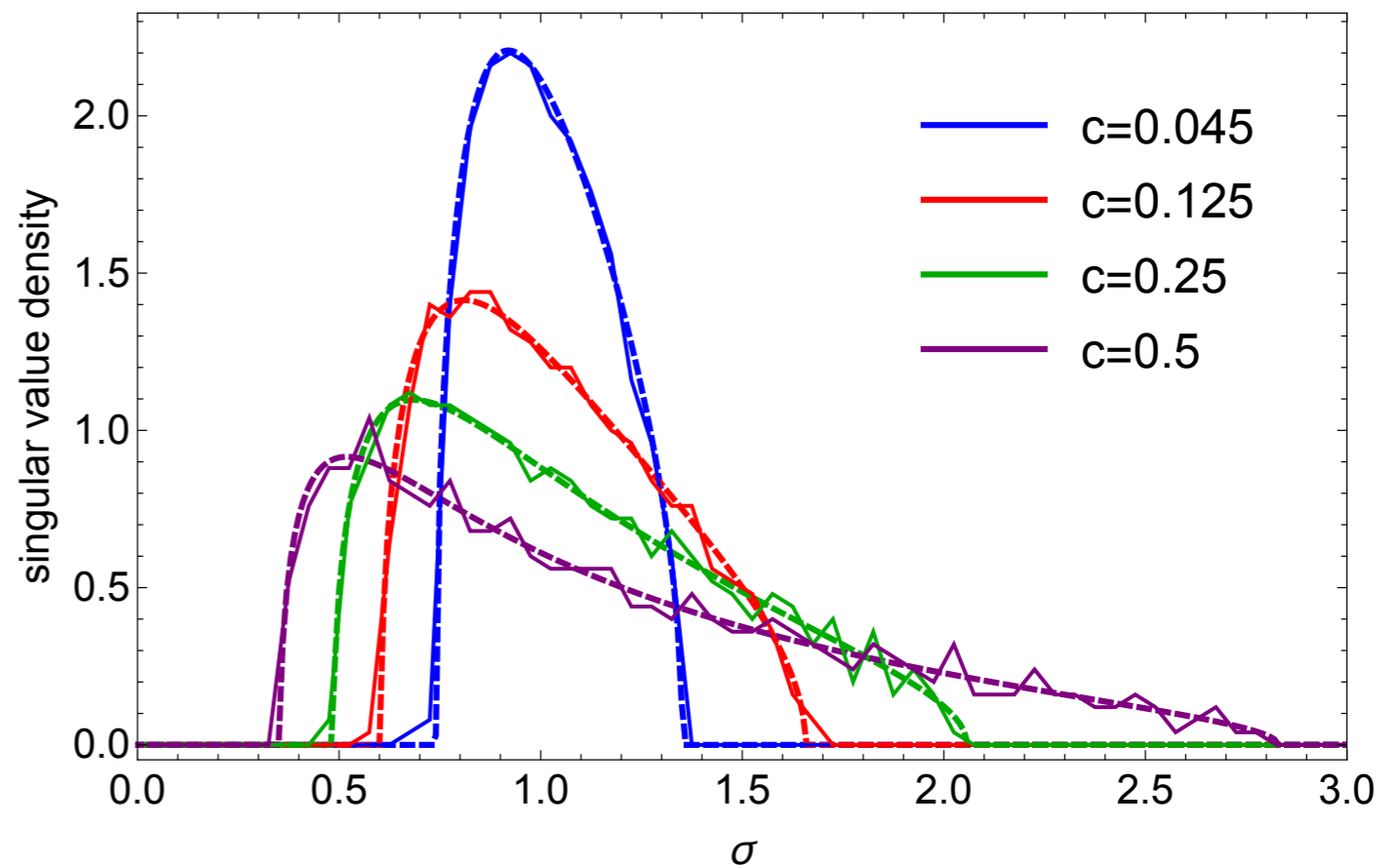
With a proper scaling of the variances of the weights, the result is a **universal** formula for the probability density of the singular values, depending on a **single parameter  $c$** .

Corroborated with numerical experiments with neural networks with random inputs

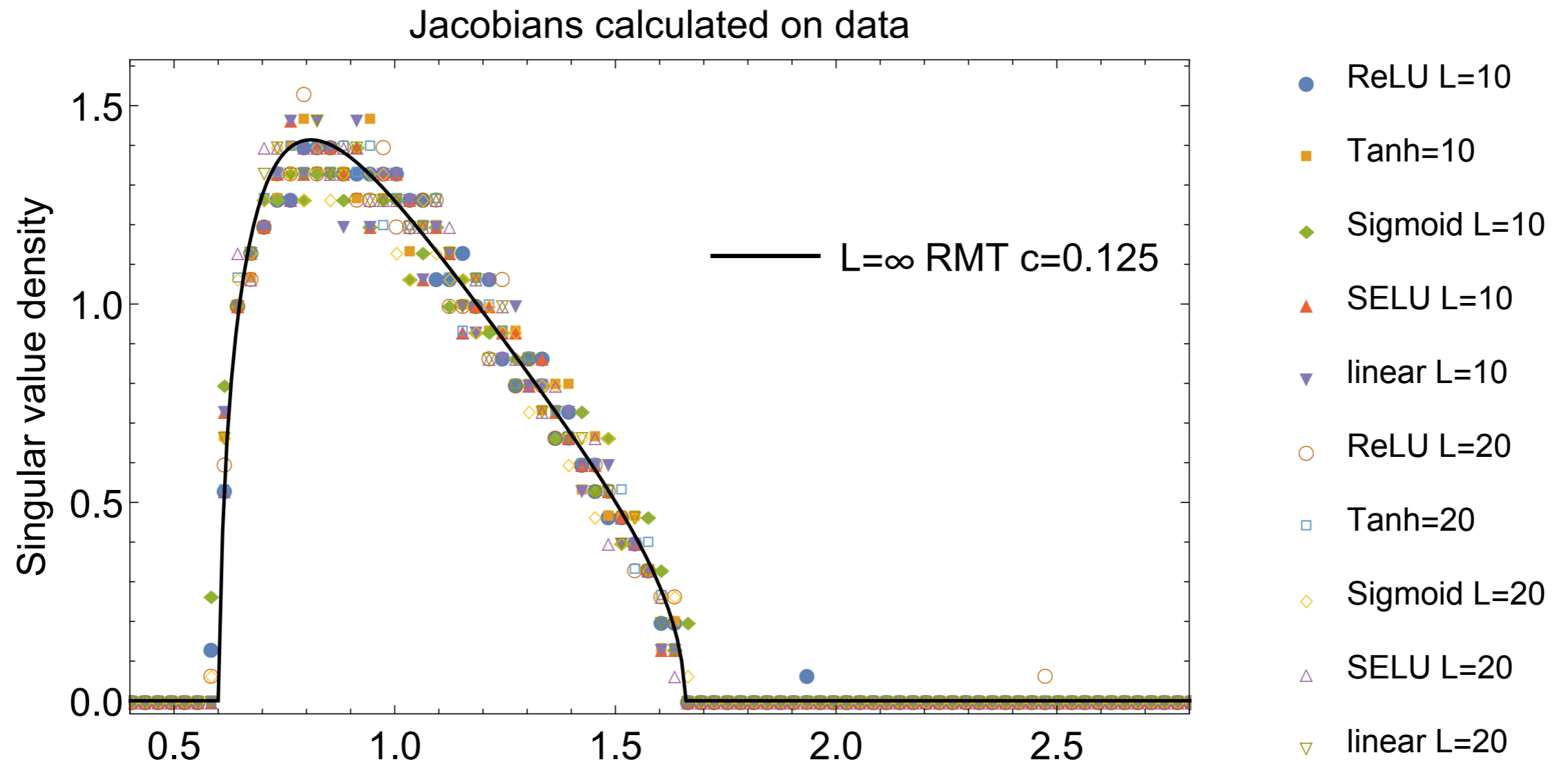
tanh,  $N=500$ ,  $\sigma_W=0.3535$ ,  $\sigma_b=0$



ReLU  $N=500$ ,  $L=200$



- What we find for ResNets

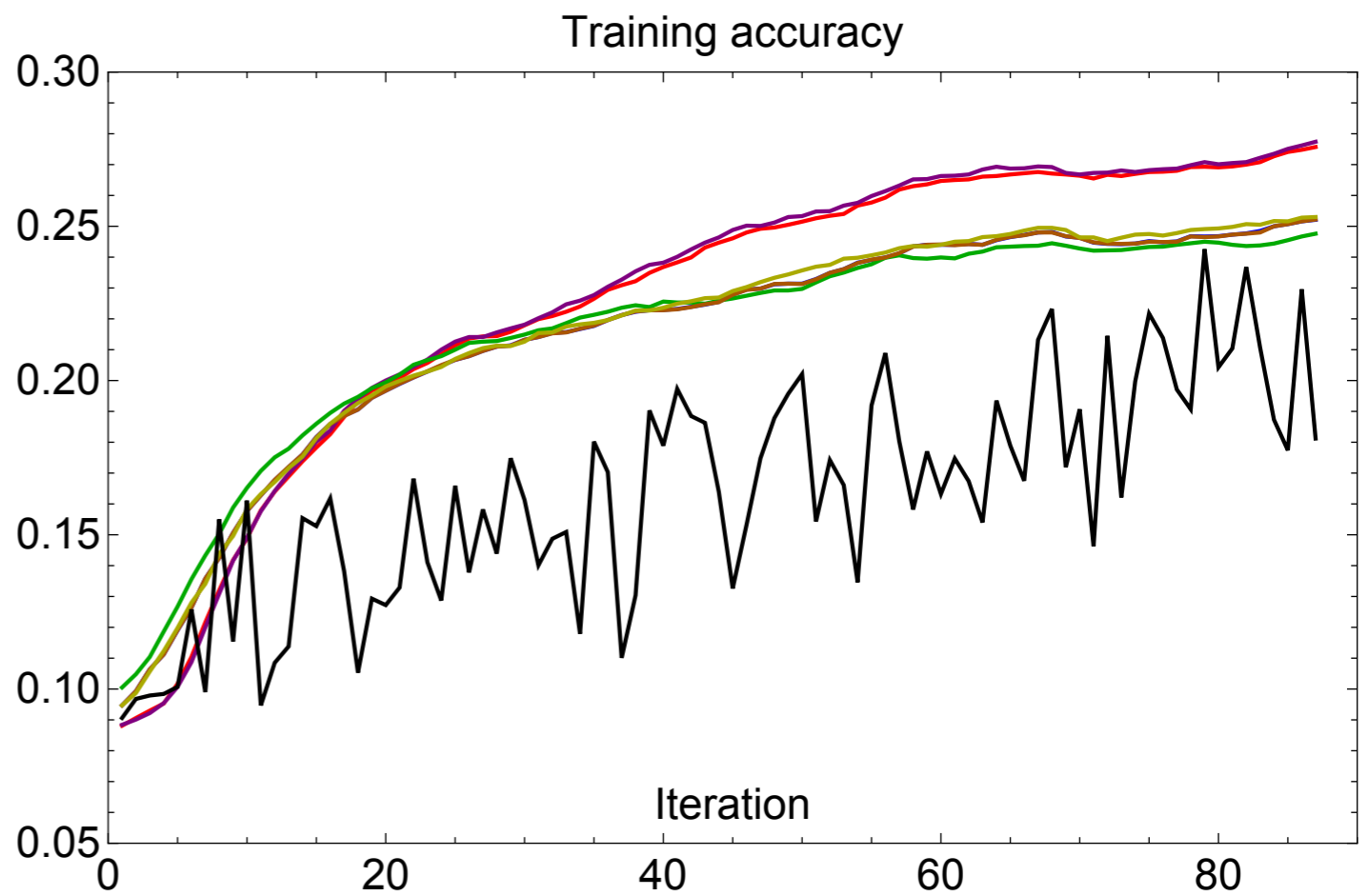
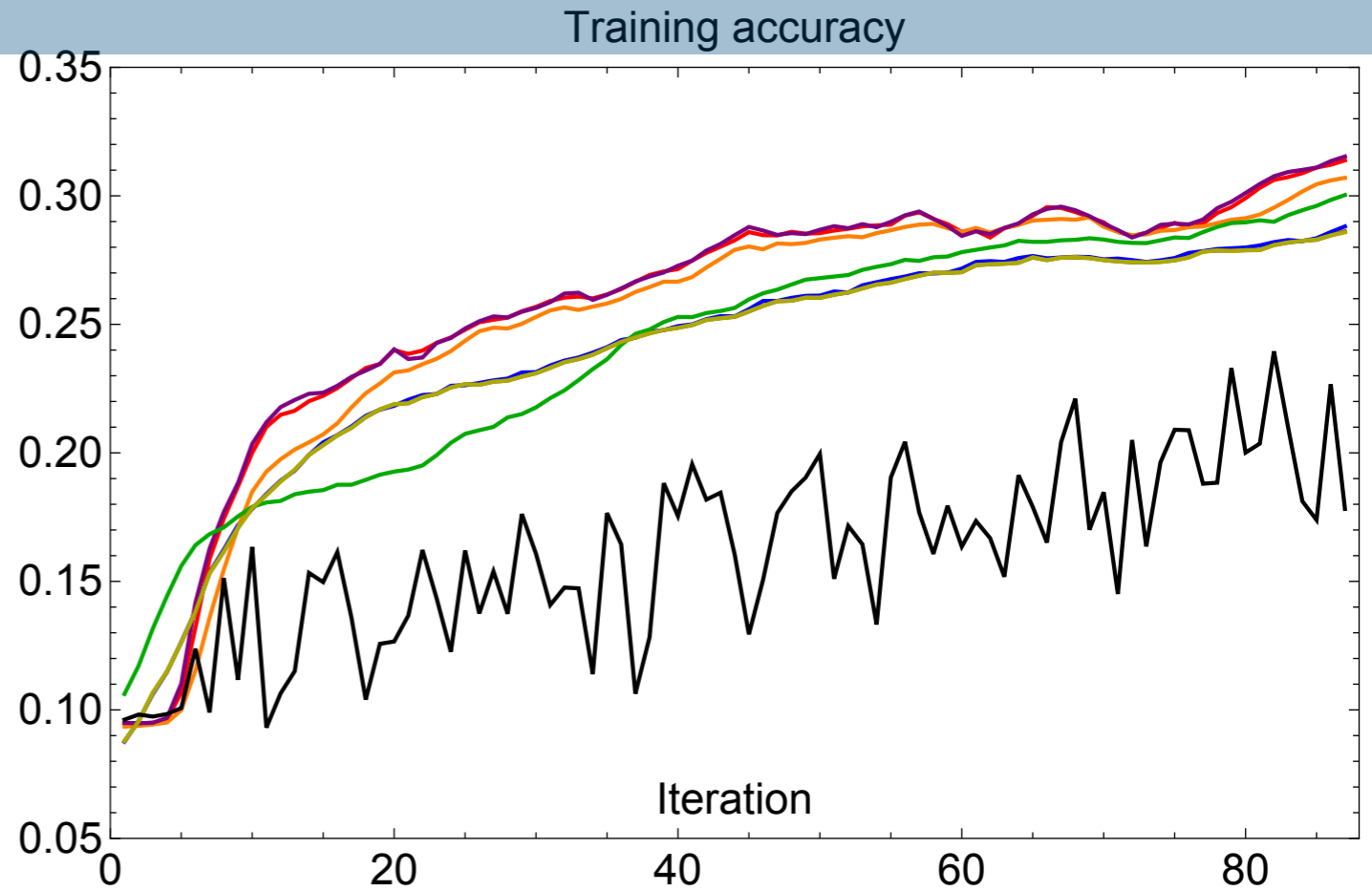


Corroborated with numerical experiments with neural networks initialized on the CIFAR-10 dataset.

# • What we find for ResNets

- Linear
- Leaky ReLU  $\alpha=0.05$
- ReLU
- SELU
- Tanh
- HardTanh
- Sigmoid

These results allow us to eliminate the singular spectrum of the Jacobian treated as a confounding factor in experiments with the learning process of simple residual neural networks for different activation functions enabling meaningful comparisons.





## To remember:

- Deep Neural Networks - powerful but many aspects not understood
- A proper initialization can allow efficient training for VERY deep feedforward NN. This is facilitated by Dynamical Isometry.
- For ResNets - Dynamical Isometry can be achieved for any activation functions, but remember about proper order of magnitude for variances.

**arXiv:1809.08848**

accepted for AISTATS 2019



**NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE**  
POLAND

Random Matrices and Information Measures -  
SONATA project number 2016/21/D/ST2/01142.

**Thank you for your attention.**



**JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY**  
**IN KRAKÓW**