

Topic 3: String Theory Compactifications, Calabi-Yau Manifolds and Ricci-flat Metrics

# Lecture 4: CY metrics from NNs

What to learn, how to do it (efficiently)?

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AI4Research



# Brief summary of Lara's & James' Lectures

- Calabi-Yau manifolds: compact, complex, Kähler
- Admit unique Ricci-flat metric  
[for fixed Kähler and complex structures]
- Large databases of example manifolds
- The Ricci-flat metric,  $g_{CY}$  is something we want to compute
- This requires solving a PDE on a compact, curved space

# Aim of these lectures

- Show how ML can be used in learning CY metrics
- Partial overview of past work...
- ... with emphasis on open-source packages
  
- Goals
  - Know which packages exist and what they are designed to do
  - Develop familiarity with (some) methods and packages
  - ...

# Outline: ML of CY metrics

## Lecture 1: overview

- Intro ML implementations  
Available packages
- Point sample recap:  
measures and patches
- Training and loss functions
- Accuracy and error measures
- Different models/neural nets

## Lecture 2: details

- Direct learning of CY metrics  
(details and demo)
- Advanced methods  
Goals and realizations

## Tutorial

- Implementations & experiments

Main references

[Anderson et al 2012.04656](#), [Douglas et al 2012.04797](#), [Larfors et al 2205.13408](#), [Gerdes et al 2211.12520](#)

# Numerical approximations of CY metrics

Traditional methods:

*cf James' & Lara's lectures*

- Donaldson's algorithm (iterative fixed point scheme)
- Headrick-Nassar functional minimization
- Kähler potential using spectral basis

Machine learning methods:

- ML-assisted traditional methods → Kähler potential
- Direct ML → Kähler potential or CY metric

Accuracy checks same for all methods

# Benefits of ML approach

- Significant improvement of speed, performance, and scope
  - More accurate approximation for given compute
  - Better scaling
  - More advanced CYs (eg CICY; toric ambient spaces)
  - Learn moduli dependence (realized for 1-2 cpl str moduli on quintic CY)
- Generalize to  $SU(3)$  structures (realized for Strominger-Hull ansatz on quintic CY)
- PyTorch, TensorFlow, JAX: ML libraries for auto-differentiation
  - efficiently compute derivatives and optimize loss functions
- Drawback: in contrast to Donaldson, lack  $k \rightarrow \infty$  proof

# Setting up the problem:

Problem: find Ricci flat CY metric  $g_{CY} \iff$  find  $J_{CY}$  that solves the MA eq.

$$J_{CY} \wedge J_{CY} \wedge J_{CY} = \kappa \Omega \wedge \bar{\Omega} = \kappa d \text{Vol}_{CY}$$

where  $\kappa$  is some complex constant.

While  $J_{CY}$  is unknown we know  $\Omega$  and  $J_{FS}$

- Find  $J_{CY} = J_{FS} + \partial\bar{\partial}\phi$  that solves MA eq.
- We will train a neural network to predict  $g_{CY} \sim J_{CY}$

# Setting up the problem:

Problem: find Ricci flat CY metric  $g_{CY} \iff$  find  $J_{CY}$  that solves the MA eq.

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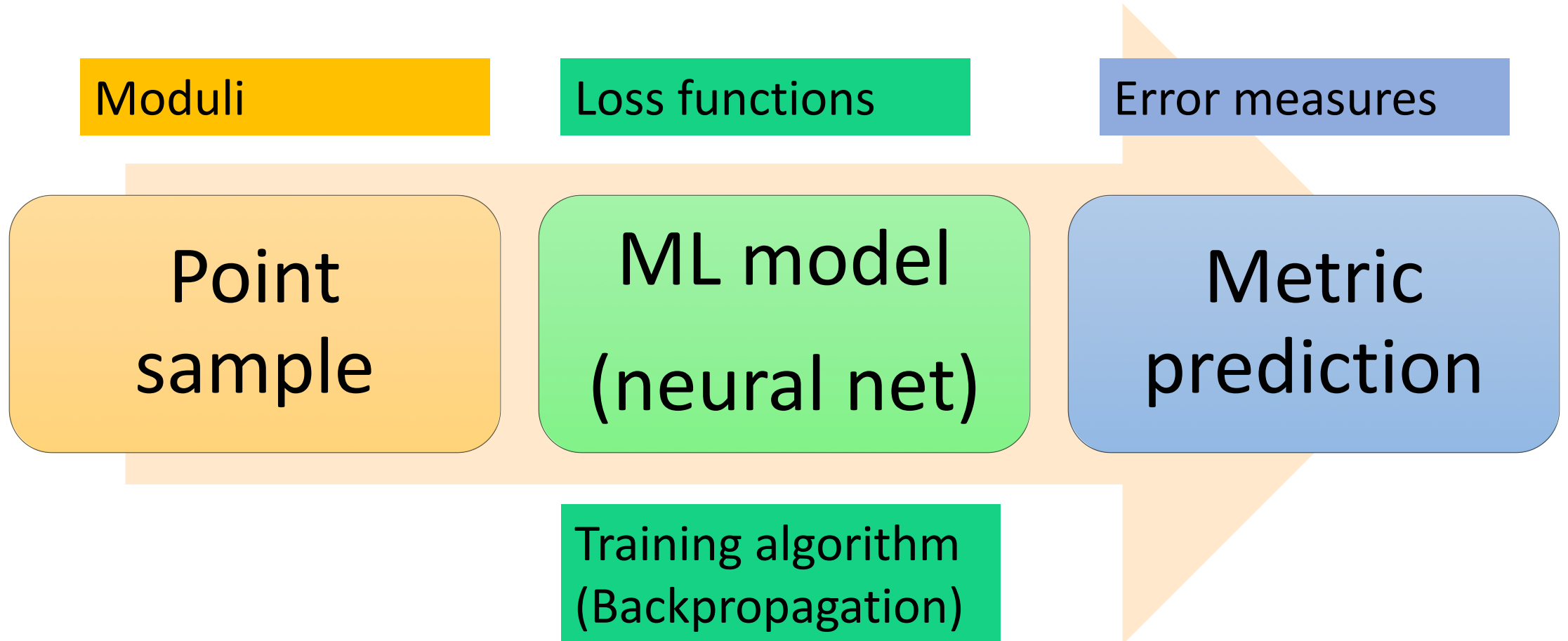
Let's solve this on a quintic CY,  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^4$ , defined as zero set  $p = 0$

In affine coordinates  $\{z_a\}$ , can compute

- $\Omega = \frac{dz_1 \wedge dz_2 \wedge dz_3}{\partial_{z_4} p} \Big|_{p=0} \quad J_{FS} = \frac{i}{2\pi} \partial \bar{\partial} \sum_1^4 \ln(z_i \bar{z}_i) \Big|_{p=0}$
- Find (global)  $J_{CY} = J_{FS} + \partial \bar{\partial} \phi$  that solves MA eq.

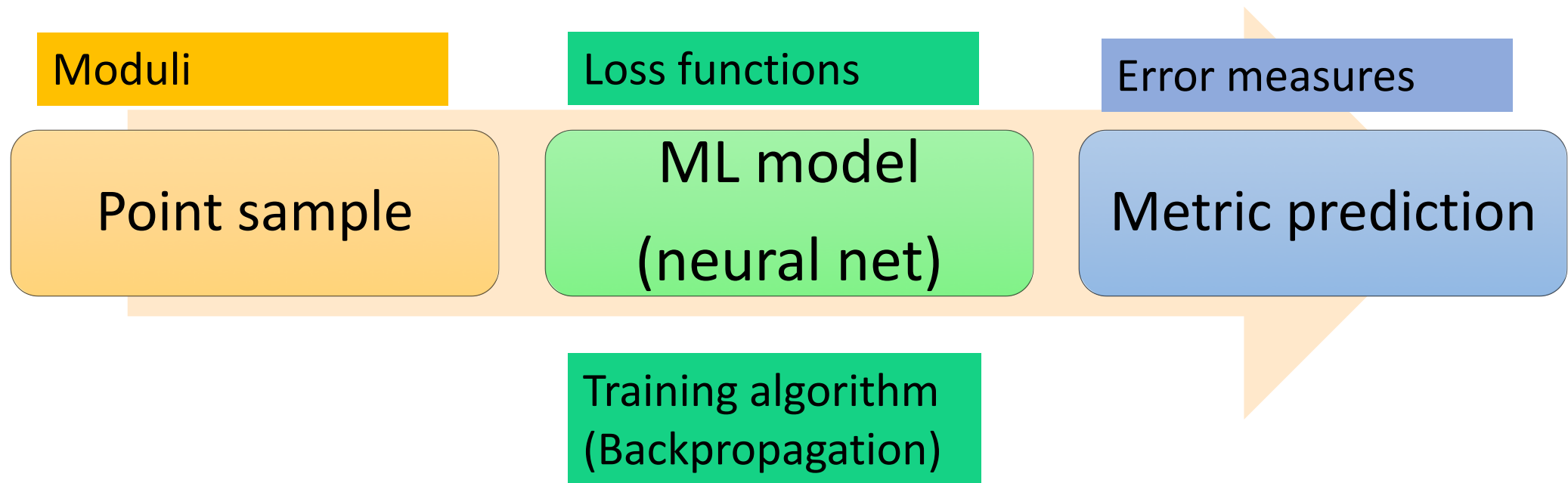


# Machine Learning implementation template



# Machine Learning implementation template

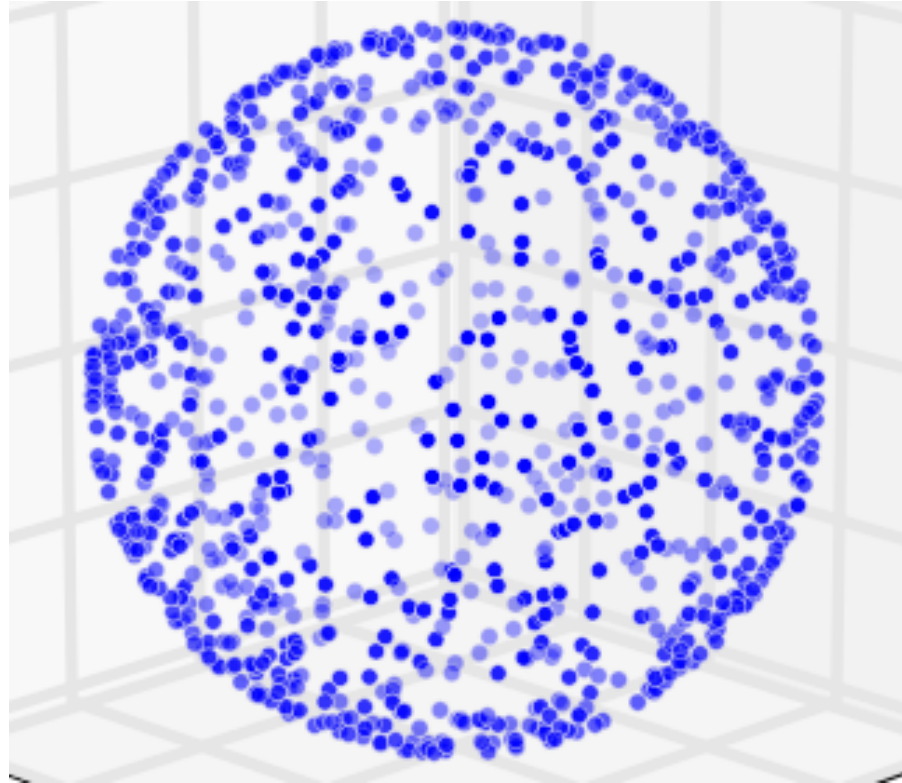
- A CY metric package provides implementation of template
- While structure is similar, architecture choices abound



# CY metric ML packages on Github

- Holomorphic and bihomogeneous networks  
ML using spectral ansatz, CY hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^n$   
python/TensorFlow Douglas & Qi  
<https://github.com/yidiq7/MLGeometry>
  - cymetric  
direct ML methods, works on CICYs and Kreuzer-Skarke CY  
python/TensorFlow & Mathematica Ruehle & Schneider  
<https://github.com/pythoncymetric/cymetric>
  - Cyjax  
ML Donaldson's algebraic ansatz of Kähler potential, CY hypersurface in  $\mathbb{P}^n$   
python/JAX Gerdes & Krippendorf  
<https://github.com/ml4physics/cyjax>
- Open source packages, can be freely used for projects (& contributions welcome)

# Point sample



# Weights and weights

- In the following slides we will reuse the term “weights” for discrete integration measures
- We also use the term “weights” for some parameters of neural networks
- Hopefully this will not cause too much confusion...

# Generating a random point sample

Goal: Random set of points on CY, sampled w.r.t. known measure  $dA$

Why?

- We need to compute integrals (e.g to check accuracy)

$$\int_X d\text{Vol}_{\text{CY}} f = \int_X dA \frac{d\text{Vol}_{\text{CY}}}{dA} f$$

- Numerically, evaluate integral as weighted sum

$$\frac{\kappa}{6N} \sum_{i=1}^N w_i f(p_i)$$

where

$$w_i = \left. \frac{d\text{Vol}_\Omega}{dA} \right|_{p_i} \quad d\text{Vol}_\Omega = \Omega \wedge \bar{\Omega} \quad \Rightarrow \quad d\text{Vol}_{\text{CY}} = \frac{\kappa}{3!} d\text{Vol}_\Omega$$

# Generating a random point sample

Let  $X: p = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$  be the quintic CY

- Pick random point on  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , reject all points off  $X$ .
- Pick some ambient coordinates, solve for the rest using  $p = 0$
- Markov Chain Monte Carlo method
- Algorithm using theorem by Shiffman-Zelditch

Douglas et. al: 06

# Generating a random point sample

Algorithm applied to quintic  $X: p = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$  Douglas et. al: 06

- Sample uniformly distributed points on  $S^9$ , then mod out phase  
 $\leadsto$  random points on  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , distributed w.r.t. FS measure on  $\mathbb{P}^4$
- 2 such points  $q_{1,2} \leadsto$  line in  $\mathbb{P}^4$ , intersects  $X$  in 5 points  
Solve  $p(q_1 + tq_2) = 0 \rightarrow 5$  solutions  $t^*$
- Repeating this process  $M$  times  $\leadsto 5M$  random points on  $X$
- Shiffman-Zelditch: these points are distributed w.r.t. FS measure on  $X$

Generalizations beyond quintic  $\rightarrow$  tomorrow.



# Coordinates, patches and weights

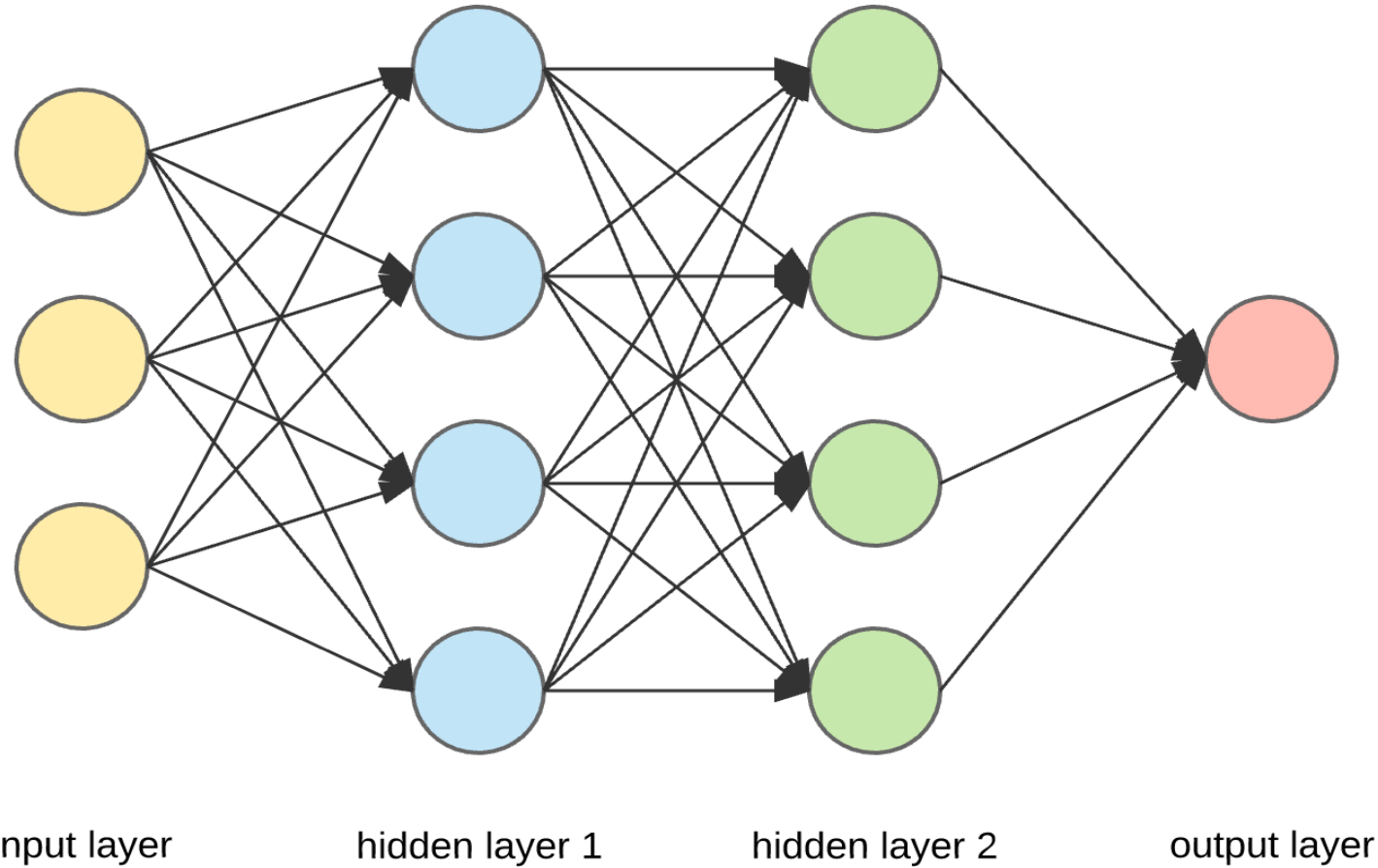
Algorithm gives point sample  $\{p_K\}$  on quintic  $X: p = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$

- Homogeneous coordinates  $\{p_K\} = \{x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$ ;  $x_i \sim \alpha x_i$
- Select patch: pick any\* non-zero  $x_i$ . Say this is  $x_0$   
→ affine coordinates  $\{p_K\} = \{z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4\} = \left\{ \frac{x_1}{x_0}, \frac{x_2}{x_0}, \frac{x_3}{x_0}, \frac{x_4}{x_0} \right\}$

3 lin. indep. coordinates, since  $p(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = 0$

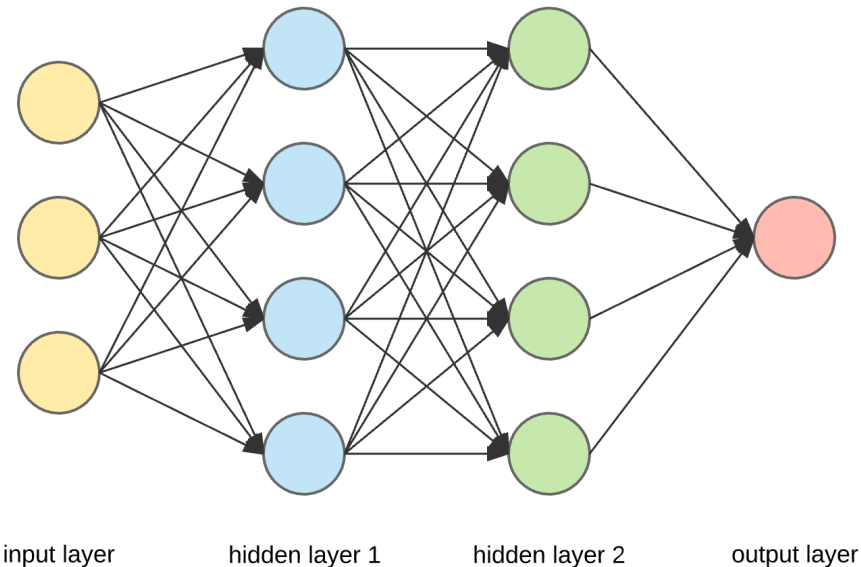
- Compute  $\Omega, J_{FS}$  at point → weights  $w_i$  for numerical integrals

\*Be clever: e.g. pick  $x_i$  of largest norm → numerical stability



# ML models: Set-up & train

# Neural nets for CY metrics: generalities



- Input and output layers
- Hidden layers;  
trainable parameters  $\theta_k = (W_k, b_k)$
- Fully connected, feed-forward
- (Semi)supervised learning:  
Minimize (custom) loss functions
- After training:  
NN  $\rightarrow$  approximate CY metric

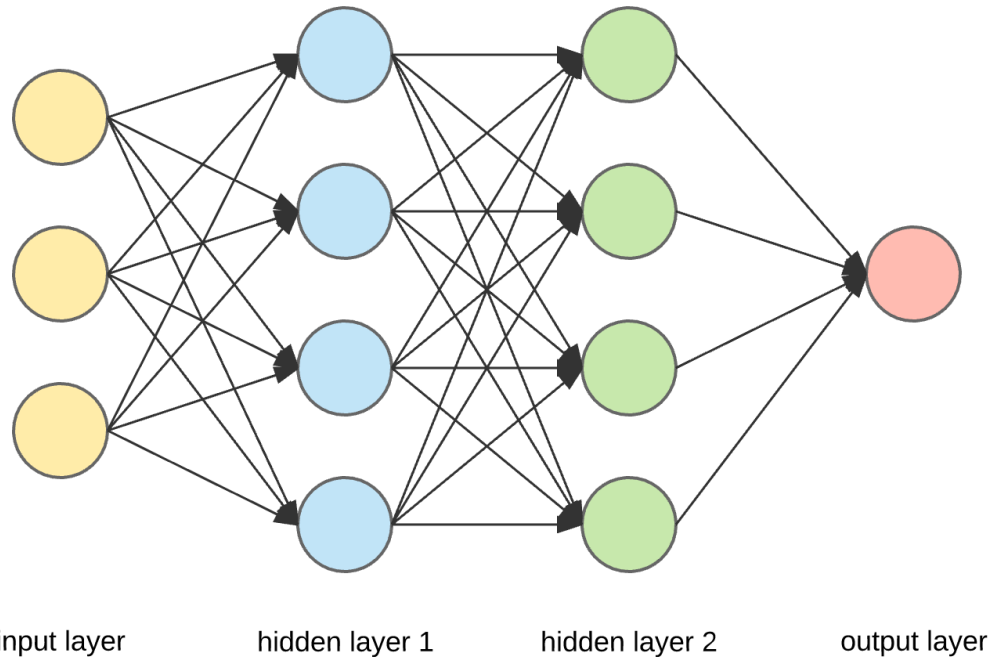
$$z_k = \sigma_k(W_k z_{k-1} + b_k)$$

Act. fcn

weight

bias

# Neural nets: generalities



$$z_k = \sigma_k(W_k z_{k-1} + b_k)$$

## Architectural choices

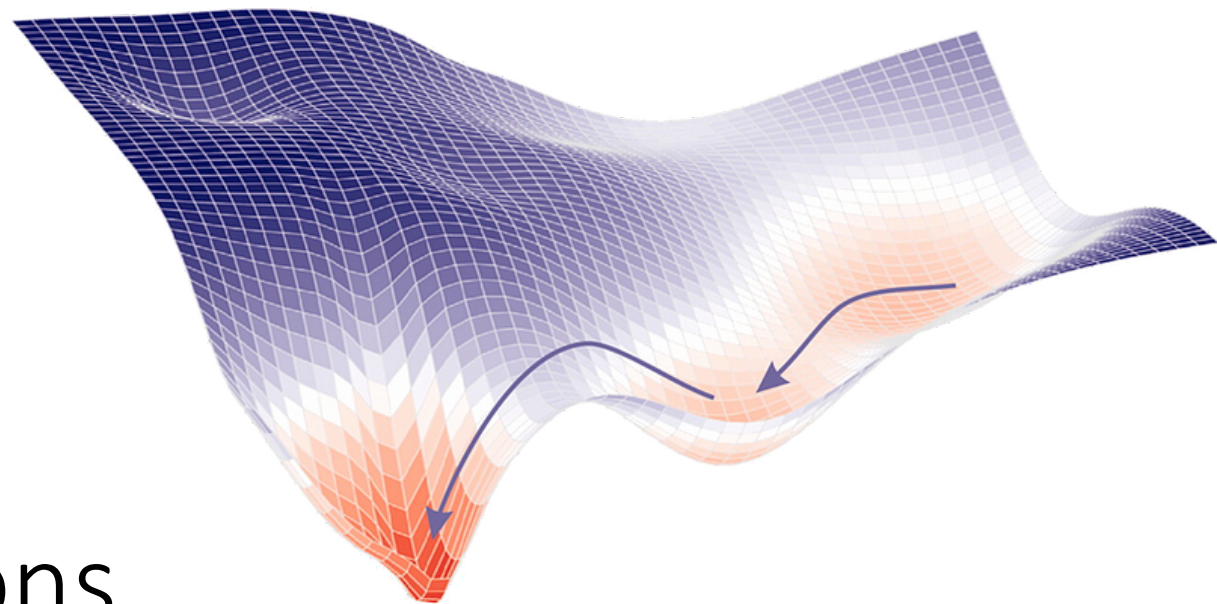
- What to predict  
metric, Kähler pot, H-matrix?
- Encode constraints in NN or loss?  
(global, complex, Kähler...)

## Then train

- Minimize loss functions

## And check performance

- Error measures



# Training and Loss functions

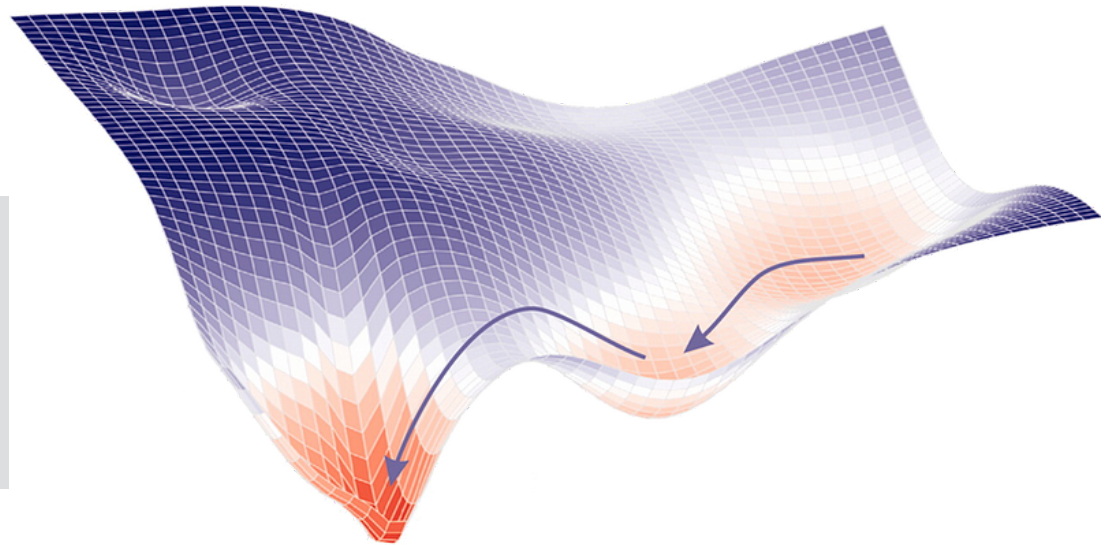
Cf. Fabian Ruehle's lecture

$$\theta^{(i)} \rightarrow \theta^{(i)} - \alpha \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta^{(i)}}$$

# Training and Loss functions

- Recall:  
PyTorch, TensorFlow, JAX: ML libraries for auto-differentiation  
→ efficiently compute derivatives and optimize loss functions

$$\theta^{(i)} \rightarrow \theta^{(i)} - \alpha \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta^{(i)}}$$

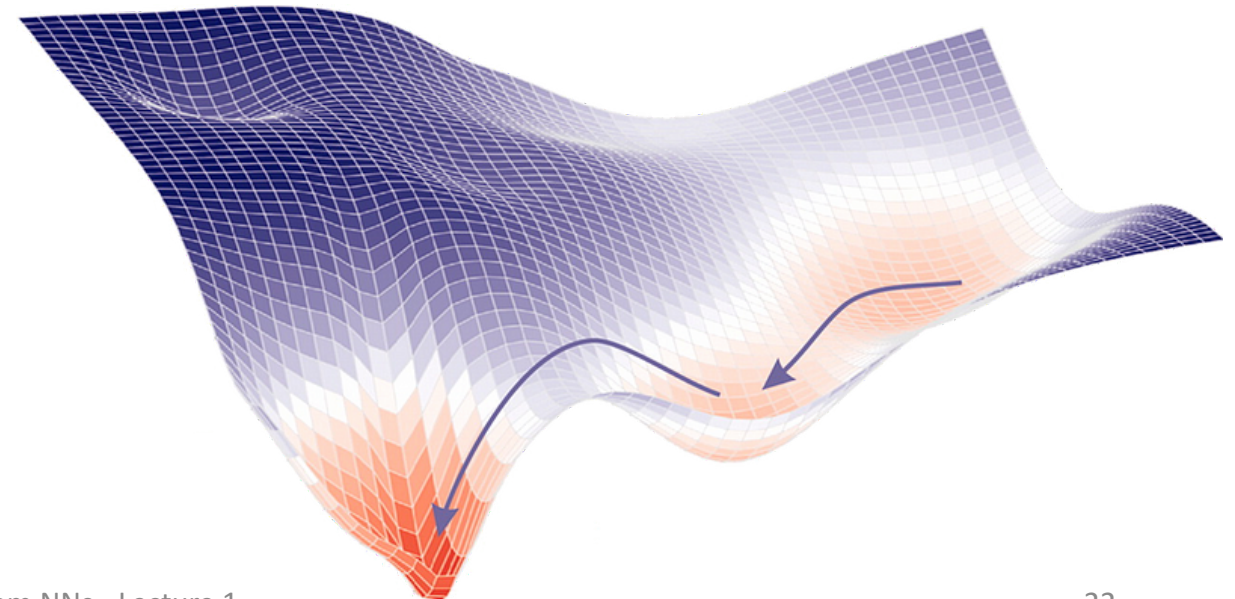
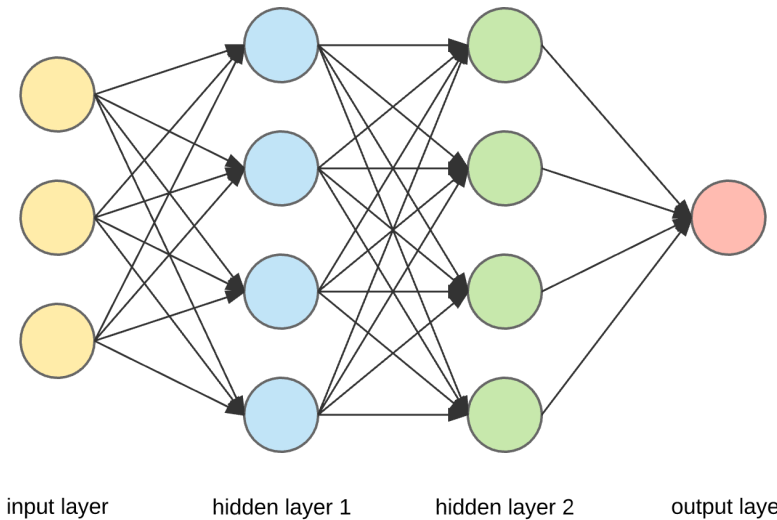


# Training the network

- NN with layers

$$z_k = \sigma_k(W_k z_{k-1} + b_k)$$

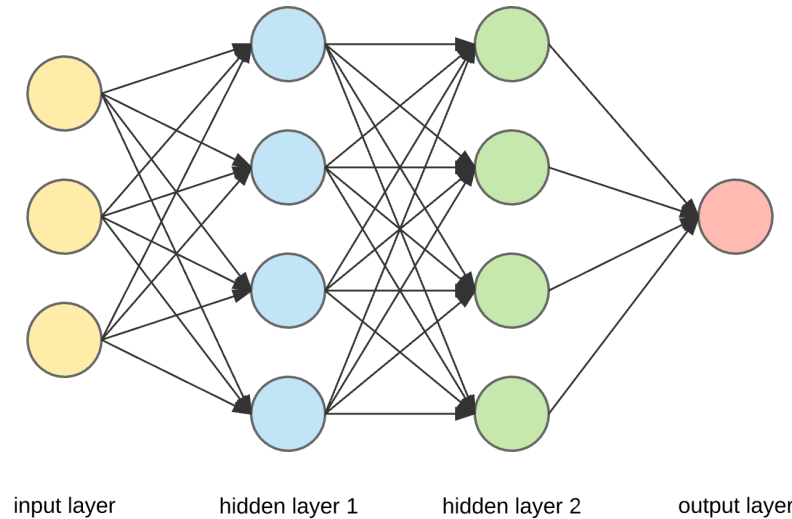
- Input  $\rightarrow$  prediction  $\rightarrow$  loss
- Training by gradient descent
- Compute loss gradients at points
- Move towards smaller loss
- Repeat for many points



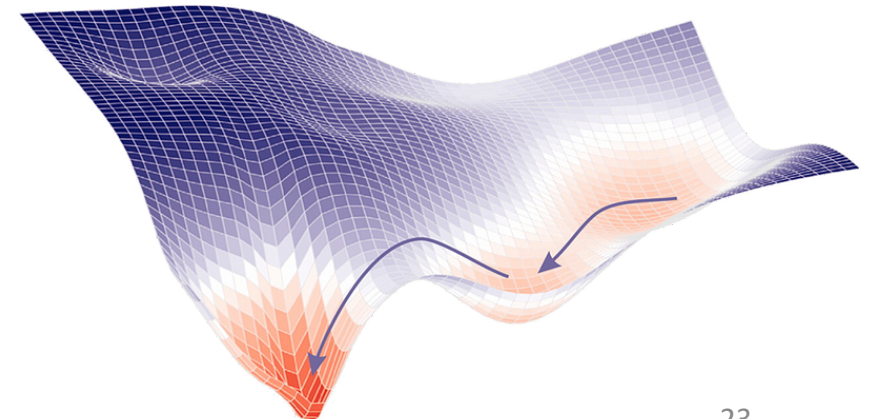
# Training the network

Loss function depends on weights

- Backpropagation
  - Layer by layer from end to start
  - Loss gradients by chain rule
  - Update weights to minimize loss
- Stochastic gradient descent
  - Mini-batches and epochs
  - avoid getting stuck in local min
- ML libraries (TensorFlow etc) have built in algorithms for this



$$\theta^{(i)} \rightarrow \theta^{(i)} - \alpha \frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta^{(i)}}$$





So what loss functions should we use?

# Loss functions encode math constraints

- We train the network to get Ricci-flat metric (in given Kähler class)
- We don't know metric --- supervised learning not good\*
- Resolution: semi-supervised learning
  1. Encode mathematical constraints as (scalar) loss functions
  2. Train network (adapt layer weights) to minimize loss functions
- E.g. satisfy Monge-Ampere eq  $\leadsto$  minimize Monge-Ampere loss

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{MA}} = \left\| \mathbf{1} - \frac{1}{\kappa} \frac{\det g_{\text{pr}}}{\Omega \wedge \bar{\Omega}} \right\|_n$$

# Loss functions encode math constraints

- We train the network to get Ricci-flat metric (in given Kähler class)
- Satisfy Monge-Ampere eq  $\leadsto$  minimize MA loss

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{MA}} = \left\| \left| 1 - \frac{1}{\kappa} \frac{\det g_{\text{pr}}}{\Omega \wedge \bar{\Omega}} \right| \right\|_n$$

- Set Ricci tensor to zero  $\leadsto$  minimize Ricci loss

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Ricci}} = \left\| \left| R \right| \right\|_n = \left\| \left| \partial \bar{\partial} \ln \det g_{\text{pr}} \right| \right\|_n$$

- Derivatives: compute by tweaking ML auto-differentiation methods

# More loss functions

Also might need to check

- manifold-ness: match metrics on patch overlaps

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{transition}} = \frac{1}{d} \sum_{(s,t)} \left\| \mathbf{g}_{\text{pr}}^{(t)} - T_{(s,t)} \cdot \mathbf{g}_{\text{pr}}^{(s)} \cdot T_{(s,t)}^\dagger \right\|_n, \quad T_{(s,t)} \text{ transition matrix}$$

- Kähler-ity: check  $d J_{pr} = 0$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{dJ}} = \sum_{ijk} \left( \|\Re c_{ijk}\|_n + \|\Im c_{ijk}\|_n \right), \quad \text{with } c_{ijk} = g_{i\bar{j},k} - g_{k\bar{j},i} \quad \text{and } g_{i\bar{j},k} = \partial_k g_{i\bar{j}}$$

- Same Kähler class  $J_{pr} \sim J_{FS}$  (not needed on quintic)

Architectural choices will determine which loss functions we need

→ Importance of loss functions should be tunable (on/off)

# Accuracy and performance

# Check performance

- After the network is trained, want to check performance
- Separate test/validation sets

## Input and performance

Input:  $N$  points  $p_i$ , randomly distributed w.r.t to known measure  $dA$  on  $CY$ .

After training, measure performance:

does the MA equation hold? is the metric Ricci flat?

## Input and performance

Input:  $N$  points  $p_i$ , randomly distributed w.r.t to known measure  $dA$  on  $CY$ .

After training, measure performance:

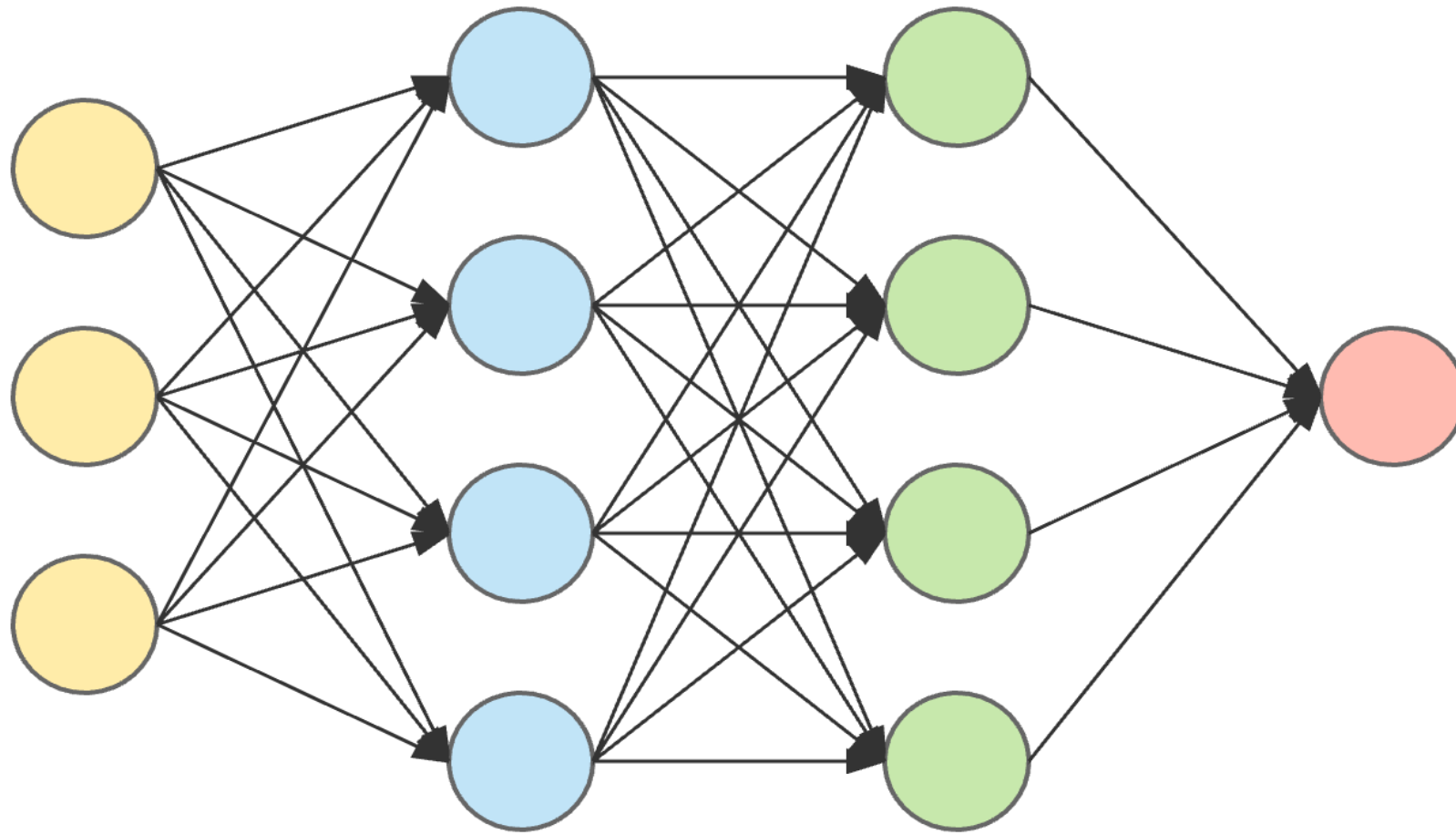
does the MA equation hold? is the metric Ricci flat?

Check via established benchmarks:

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{\text{Vol}_{CY}} \int_X \left| 1 - \kappa \frac{\Omega \wedge \bar{\Omega}}{(J_{pr})^3} \right|, \quad \mathcal{R} = \frac{1}{\text{Vol}_{CY}} \int_X |R_{pr}|.$$

using Monte Carlo integration for any function  $f$

$$\int_X d\text{Vol}_{CY} f = \int_X \frac{d\text{Vol}_{CY}}{dA} dA f = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i w_i f|_{p_i} \quad \text{with} \quad w_i = \frac{d\text{Vol}_{CY}}{dA} |_{p_i}$$



input layer

hidden layer 1

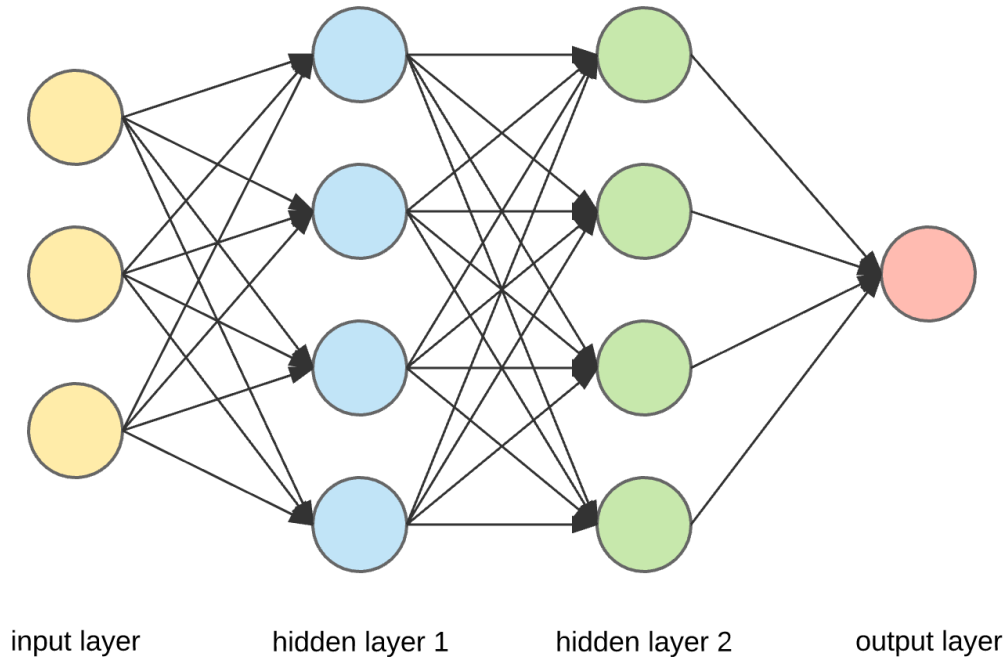
hidden layer 2

output layer

# Different ML implementations



# Neural nets: generalities

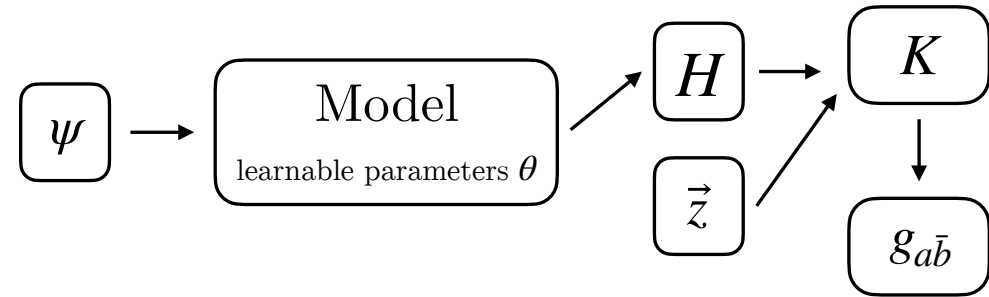


- Input and output layers
- Hidden layers; trainable weights
- (Semi)supervised learning
- Minimize (custom) loss functions
- After training:  
NN  $\rightarrow$  approximate CY metric

# ML implementations

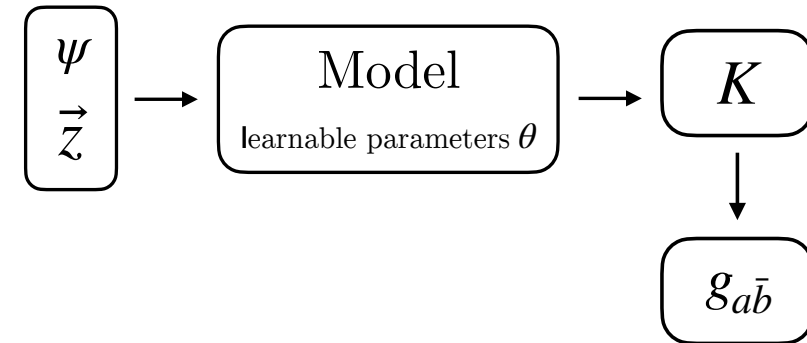
1. Learn Donaldson's H matrix

cyjax



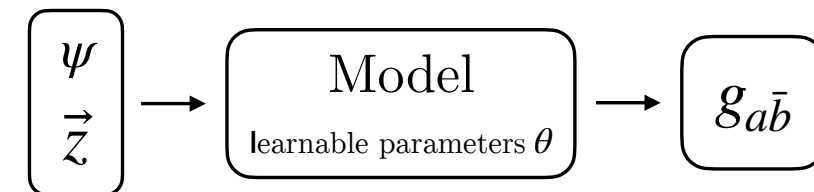
2. Learn Kähler potential

Hol/Bihom network



3. Learn metric

cymetric



# Pro/con

## Learning H or K

Pro

- Kähler
- Globally defined
- Donaldson's alg:  
convergence as  $k \rightarrow \infty$

Con

- Scaling (of spectral basis)
- No generalization beyond Kähler

## Learning metric

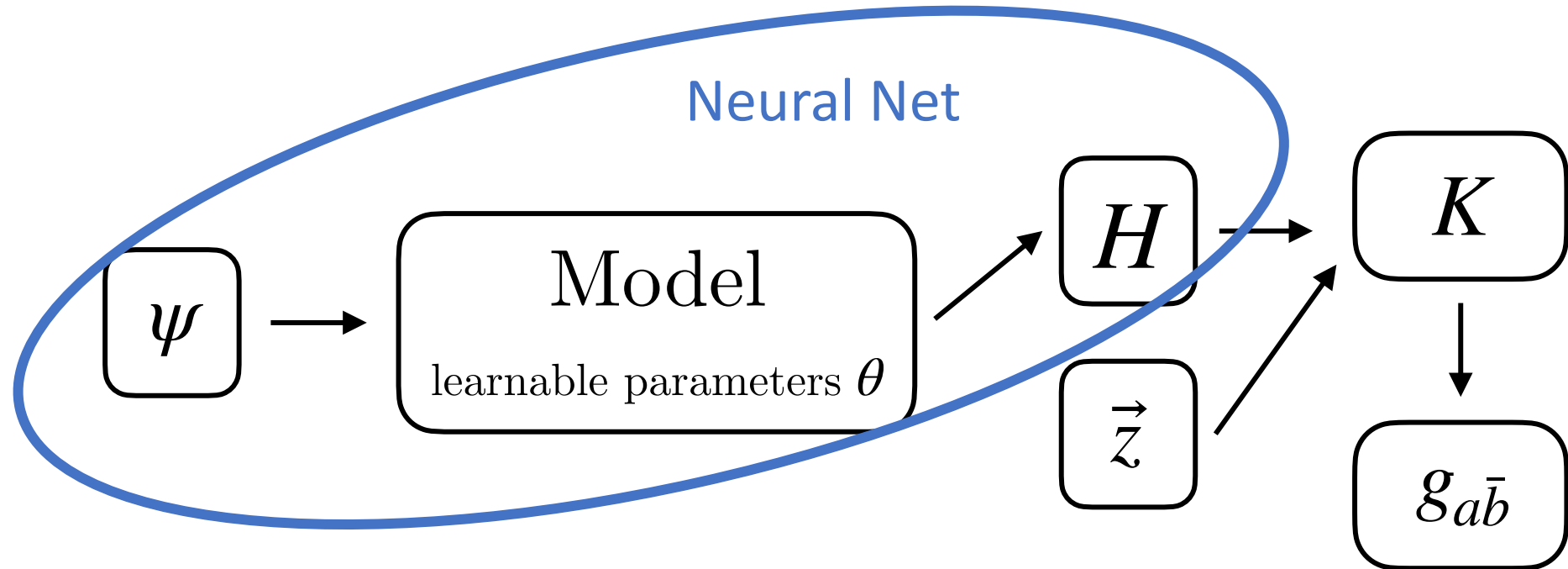
Pro

- Always learn 9 comps of  $3 \times 3$  Hermitian metric
- Generalizes  
(e.g. non-Kähler SH metric)

Con

- Not Kähler
- Not globally defined

# 1. Learn Donaldson's H matrix



# 1. Learn Donaldson's H matrix

Donaldson's algorithm:

Iterate T-operator until get balanced  $H$

Compute Kähler potential

$$K = \frac{1}{2\pi k} \ln \left( s_\alpha H_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} s_{\bar{\beta}} \right)$$

- $s_\alpha$  monomials of order  $k$  (sections of holomorphic line bundle)
- $H: N_k \times N_k$  Hermitian matrix, “balanced metric”
- Larger  $k$  gives larger set of  $s_\alpha \rightarrow$  more accurate  $K$
- Problem: Curse of dimensionality, need to use discrete symmetries

# 1. Learn Donaldson's $H$ matrix

Donaldson's algorithm: algebraic  $K$  from  $H$

$$K = \frac{1}{2\pi k} \ln \left( s_\alpha H_{\alpha\bar{\beta}} s_{\bar{\beta}} \right)$$

NN that predicts  $H$

- Input layer: complex structure moduli
- Output layer:  $H$  matrix
- Predicted  $H + s_\alpha$  at points  $\rightarrow K$  in spectral basis  $\rightarrow$  algebraic metric
- Either supervised learning
- or semi-supervised learning with MA/Ricci loss function

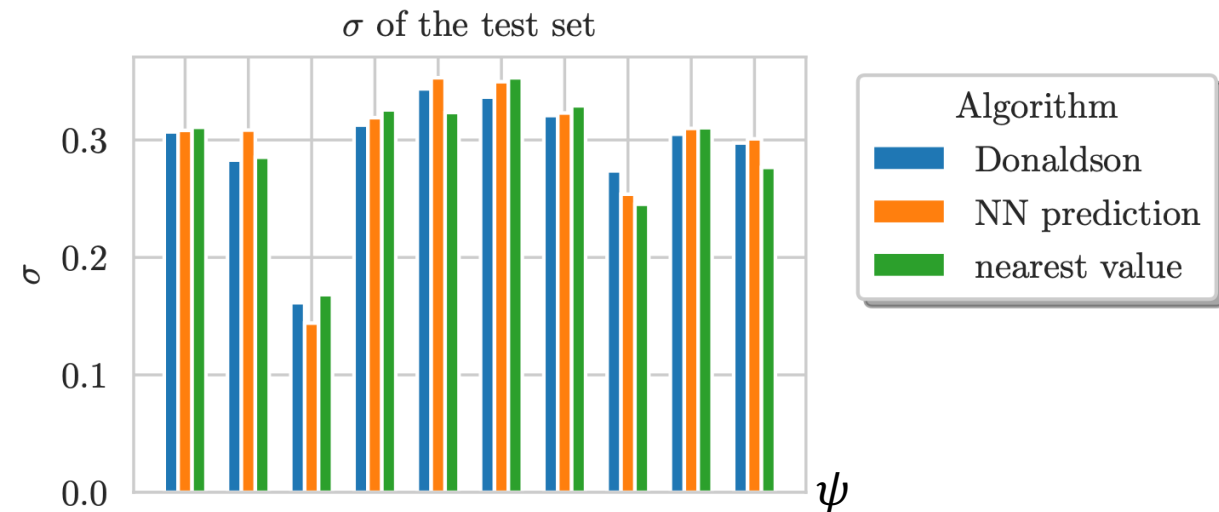
[Anderson et al 2012.04656](#), [Gerdes et al 2211.12520](#), [cyjax](#)

# Example: supervised learning of $H$

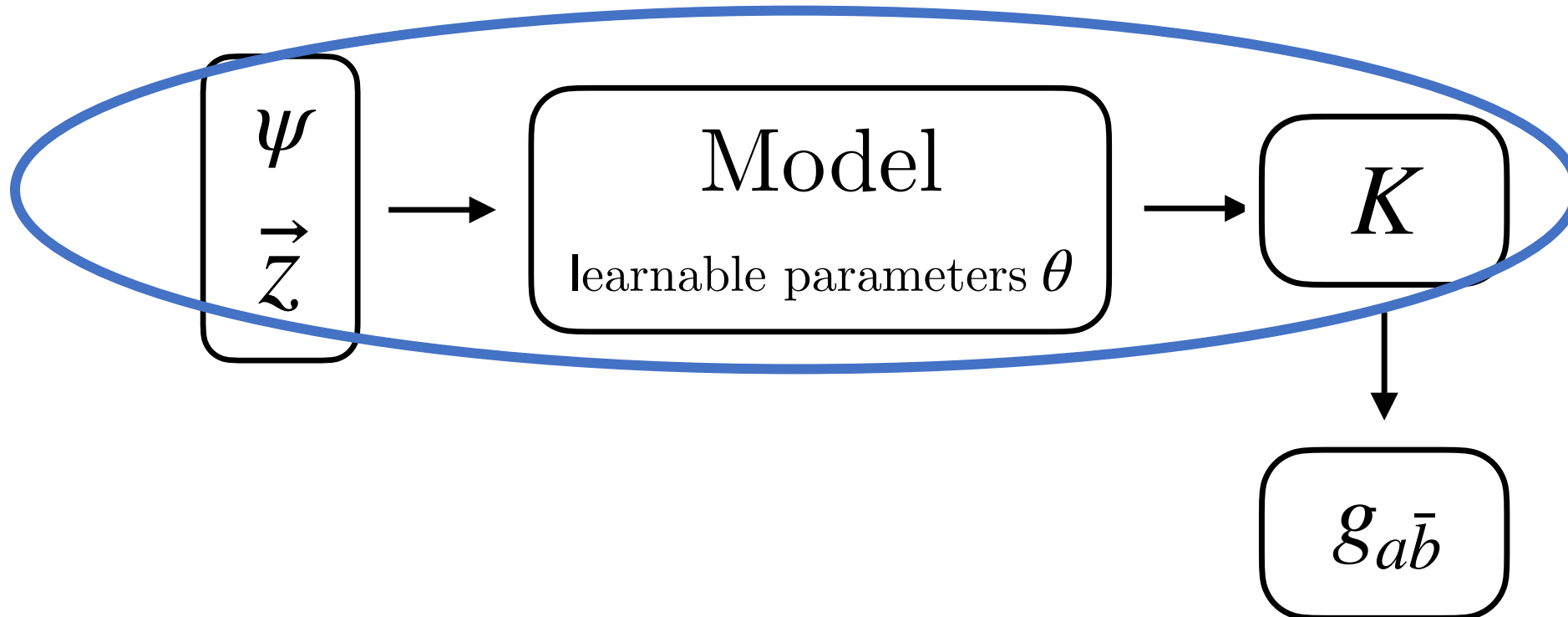
[Anderson et al 2012.04656](#)

- $p = x_0^5 + x_1^5 + x_2^5 + x_3^5 + x_4^5 - \psi x_0 x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4$
- $k = 3 \rightarrow 35$ -dim basis of sections  $s_\alpha$
- Input  $\text{Re } \psi, \text{Im } \psi, \text{Abs } \psi$
- Output  $\text{Re}, \text{Im}$  of  $H$  components; compare with Donaldson
- FF NN, LSE loss function, ADAM opt.

Layer	Number of Nodes	Activation	Number of Parameters
input	3	–	–
hidden 1	100	leaky ReLU	400
hidden 2	1000	leaky ReLU	101 000
hidden 3	1000	leaky ReLU	1 001 000
output	$N_k^2$	identity	$1000 \times N_k^2 + N_k^2$



## 2. Learn Kähler potential directly





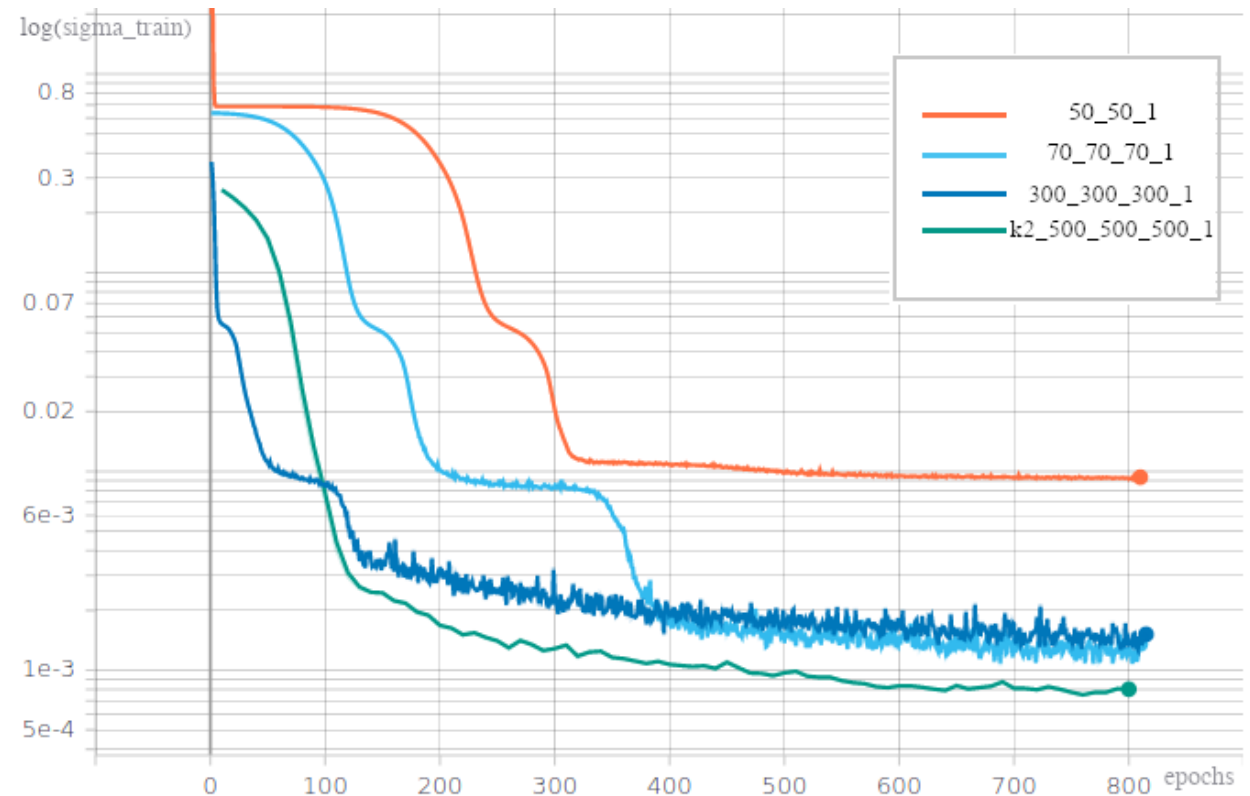
## 2. Learn Kähler potential directly

[Douglas et al 2012.04797](#), holomorphic and bihomogeneous NN

- Input: points on CY
- Output: prediction for  $K$
- Must ensure  $K$  is globally defined  
Guaranteed if expand in section basis ([Donaldson, Headrick-Nassar](#))  
Or construct embedding NN (holomorphic or bihomogeneous)
- Bihomogeneous NN:  
Input  $x_a \rightarrow x_a \bar{x}_b \rightarrow Re, Im$  ; Act. fcn:  $\sigma: x \rightarrow x^2$
- $K = \log W^d \circ \sigma \circ \dots \circ \sigma \circ W^1(x_a \bar{x}_b)$

# Example: semisupervised learning of $K$

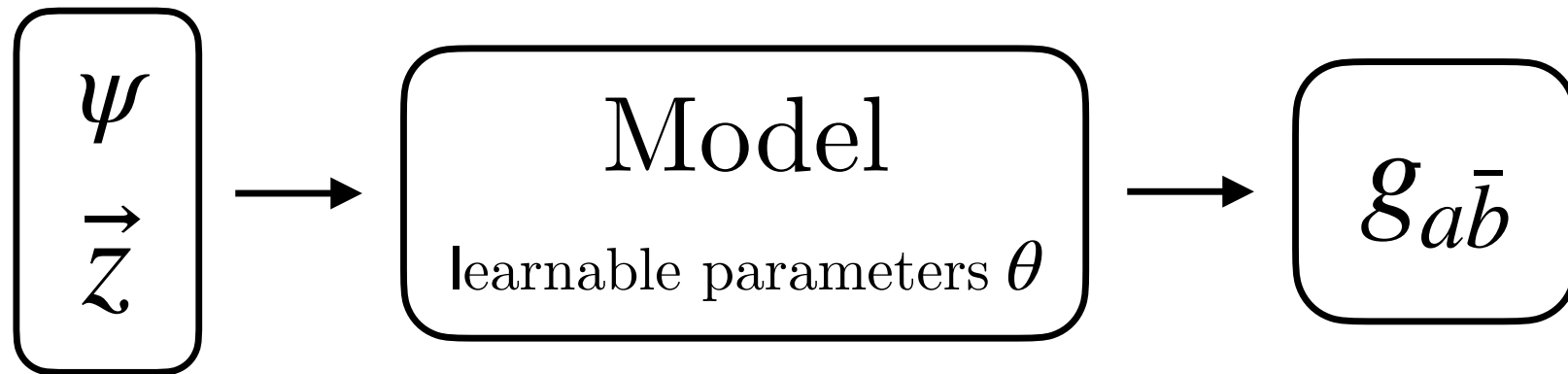
- Semi-supervised learning
- MAPE version of MA loss
- After training:  
NN  $\rightarrow K \rightarrow$  approximate CY metric
- Also non-symmetric quintics
- Gradient blow-ups/deep NN



[Douglas et al 2012.04797](#)

: The training curves for Equation (3) with  $\psi = 0.5$ , trained with Adam optimizer and MAPE loss. The data for k2\_500\_500\_500\_1 was recorded every 10 epochs.

### 3. Direct ML of metric



### 3. Direct ML of metric: neural network

- Input: point on CY  
*Quintic: input layer has 10 nodes =  $Re(x_I)$ ,  $Im(x_I)$*
- Output: metric prediction - different Ansätze possible  
*9 (or 1) node – no scaling*
- Semi-supervised learning using custom loss function
- After training:  
NN  $\rightarrow$  approximate CY metric

[Anderson et al 2012.04656](#), [Larfors et al 2205.13408](#), cymetric

### 3. Direct ML of metric: neural network

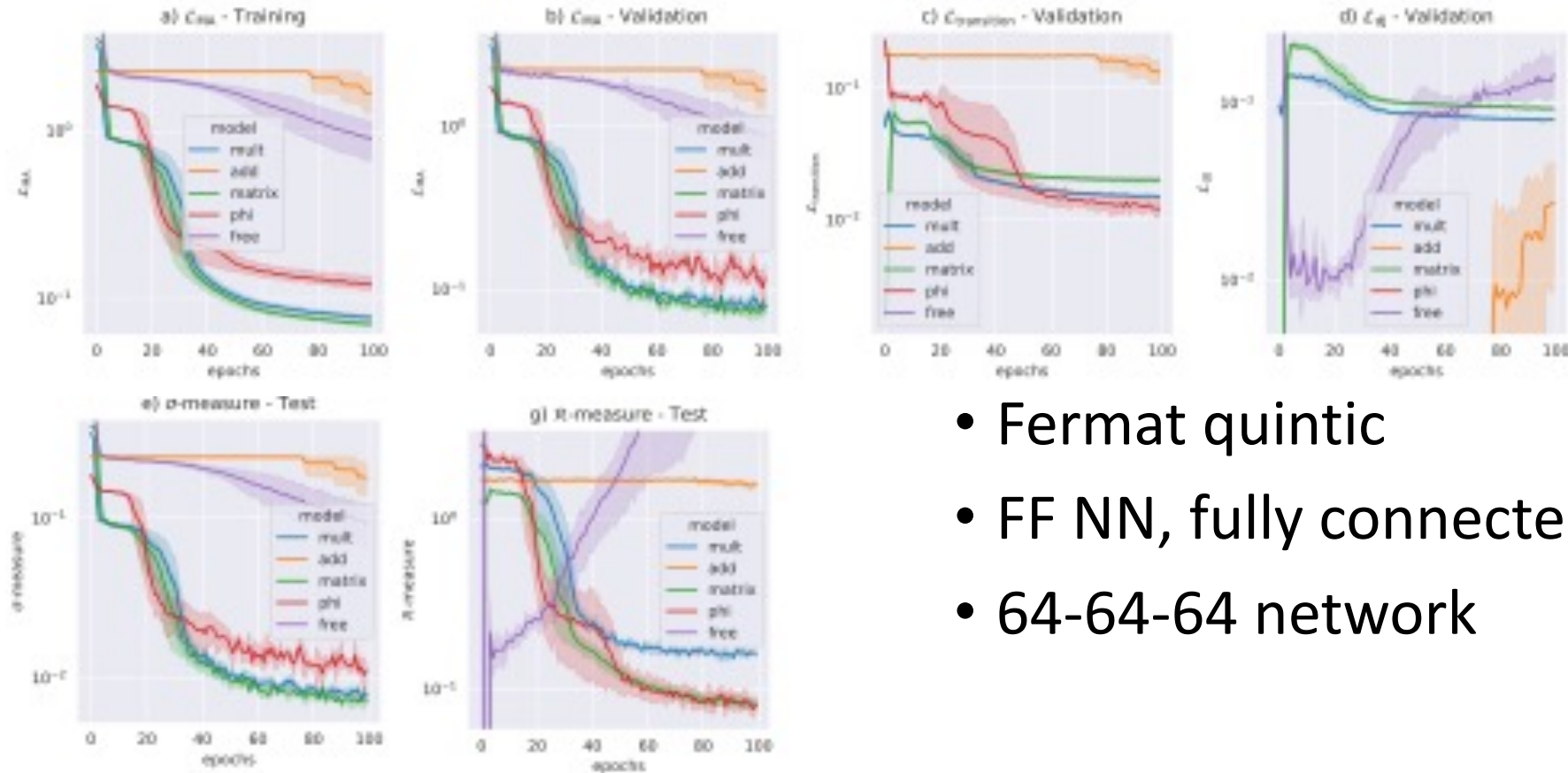
- Different Ansätze possible for metric prediction  $g_{pr}$   
Encode more/less of math knowledge
- In the cymetric package, can choose between

Name	Ansatz
Free	$g_{pr} = g_{NN}$
Additive	$g_{pr} = g_{FS} + g_{NN}$
Multiplicative, element-wise	$g_{pr} = g_{FS} + g_{FS} \odot g_{NN}$
Multiplicative, matrix	$g_{pr} = g_{FS} + g_{FS} \cdot g_{NN}$
$\phi$ -model	$g_{pr} = g_{FS} + \partial\bar{\partial}\phi$

On quintic, same as learning K

# Example: direct learning of $g$

[Larfors et al 2205.13408](#)



- Fermat quintic
- FF NN, fully connected, GELU
- 64-64-64 network

# Summary of this lecture

- ML improves speed, performance, and scope for CY metric approx's
- Architecture determined by what you want to learn
- Loss functions encode math/physics constraints
- PyTorch, TensorFlow, JAX: ML libraries, efficient auto-differentiation
- Open-source packages on GitHub

