

# Implicit Bias of Linear Equivariant Networks



**Hannah Lawrence**



Bobak T. Kiani

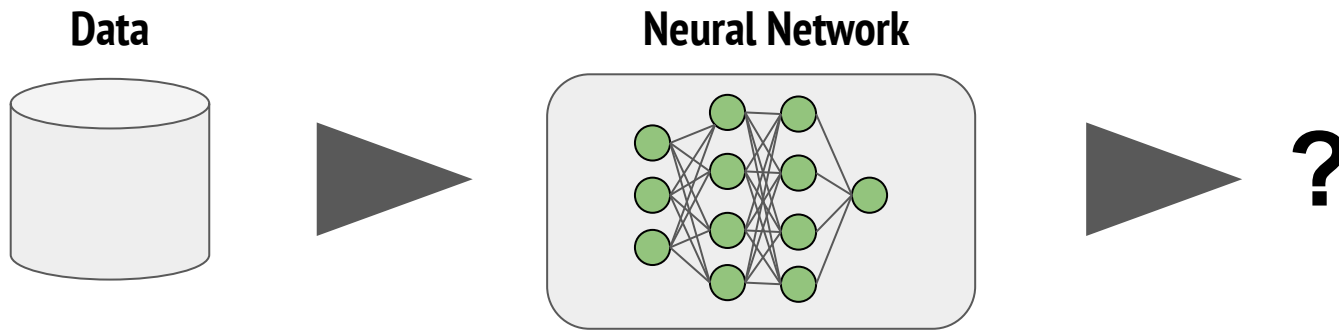


Kristian Georgiev

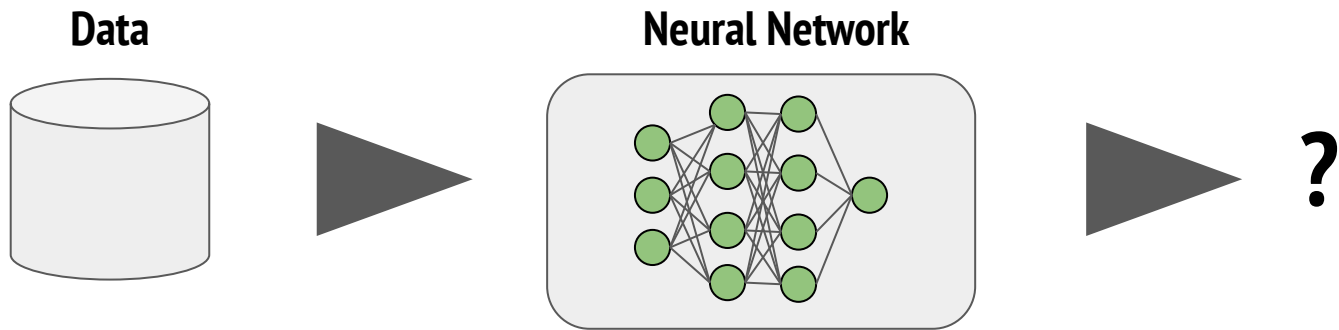


Andrew Dienes

**Background:** overparameterized neural networks can perfectly fit the training data in different ways

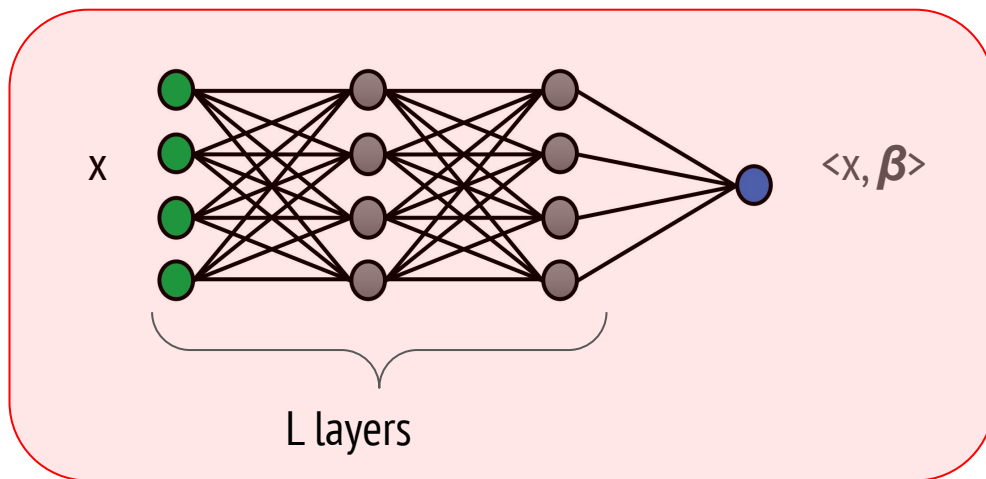


**Background:** overparameterized neural networks can perfectly fit the training data in different ways



**When there are fewer datapoints than parameters, which function does the optimization pick?**

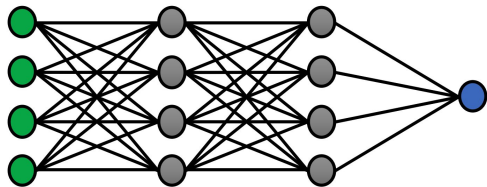
# What is the **implicit bias** of **linear networks**?



## Question:

Consider gradient flow under exponential loss for a binary classification problem. If end-to-end neural network on input  $x$  computes  $\langle x, \beta \rangle$  fitting the training data, what is this linearization  $\beta$ ?

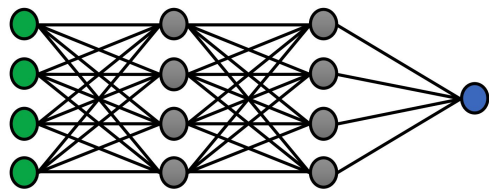
# Linear networks' implicit bias depends on **architecture**



Fully Connected Network:

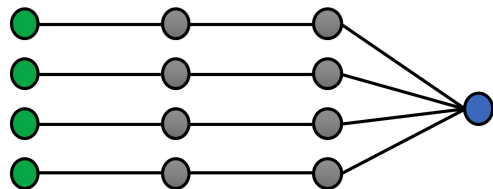
$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^D} \|\beta\|_2^2 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \forall n, y_n \langle \beta, \mathbf{x}_n \rangle \geq 1$$

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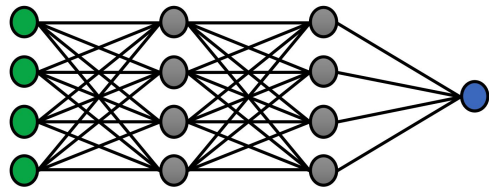
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Diagonal Network:

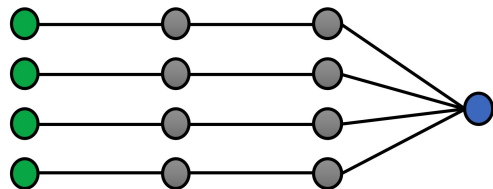
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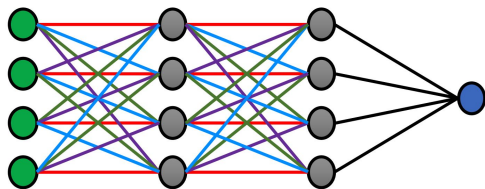
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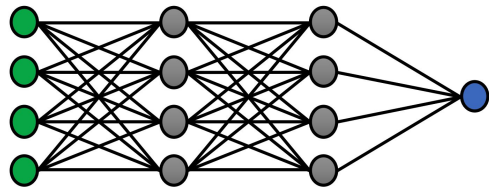
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Full-width Convolutional Network:

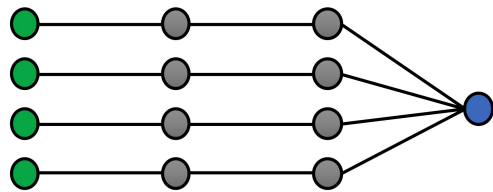
$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^D} \|\hat{\beta}\|_{2/L}^{2/L} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \forall n, y_n \langle \beta, \mathbf{x}_n \rangle \geq 1$$

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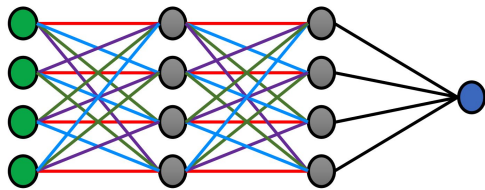
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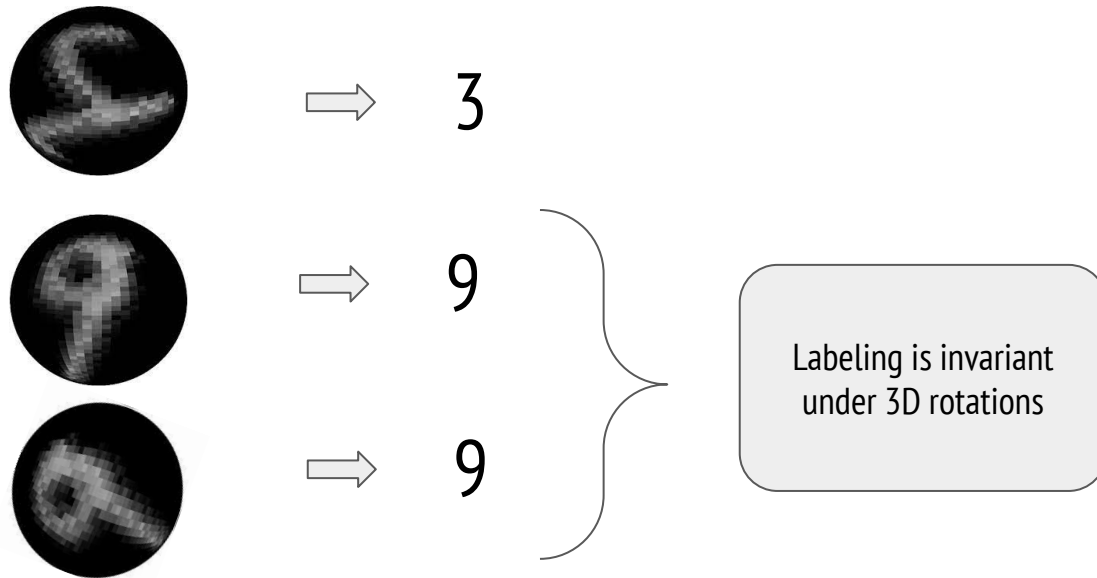
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# Background: group convolutional neural networks

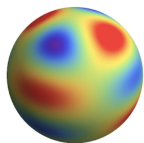
**Example:** Spherical CNN applied to e.g., “rotated MNIST on the sphere”



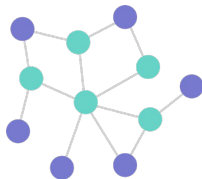
# Background: group convolutional neural networks

**Main idea:** enforce **group** symmetries via architecture of network

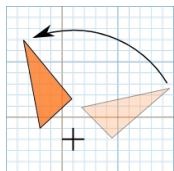
$SO(3)$



$S_n$



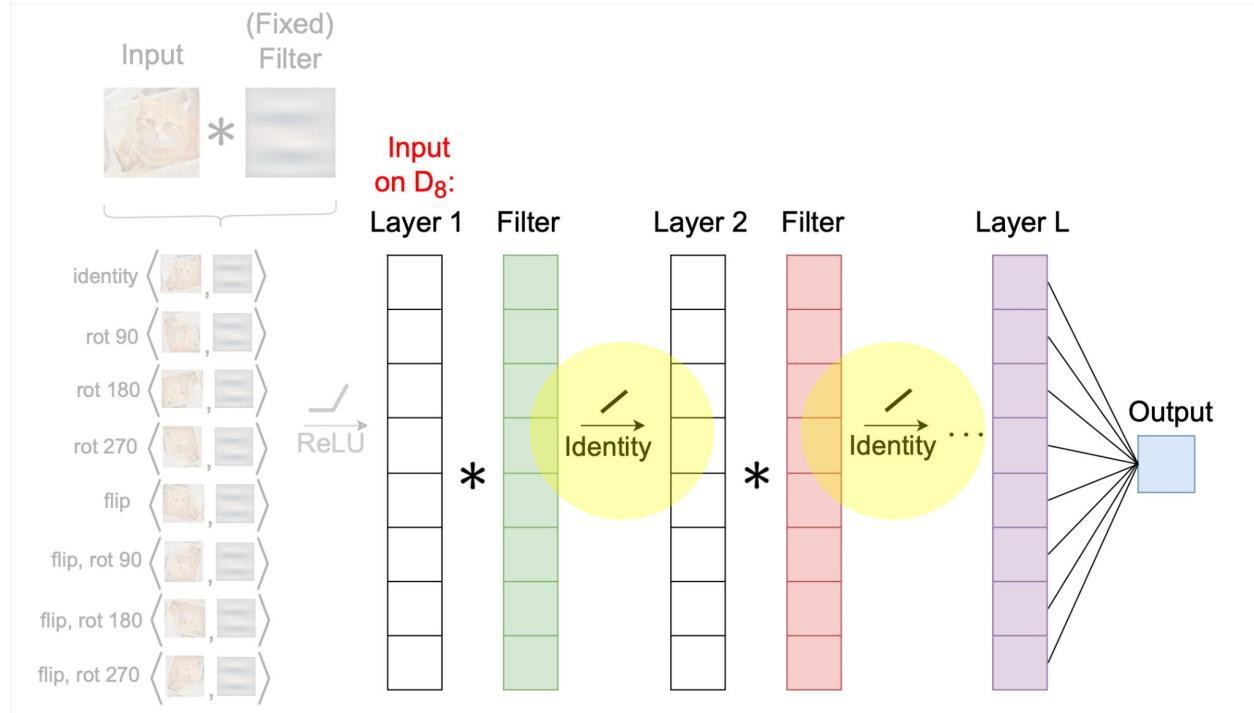
$SE_2$



$$(f * g)(u) = \sum_{v \in G} f(uv^{-1}) g(v)$$

Group convolution equation

# How about **linear** group convolutional neural networks?



Source(s): Lawrence, H., Georgiev, K., Dienes, A., & Kiani, B. T. (2021). Implicit Bias of Linear Equivariant Networks. arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.06084.

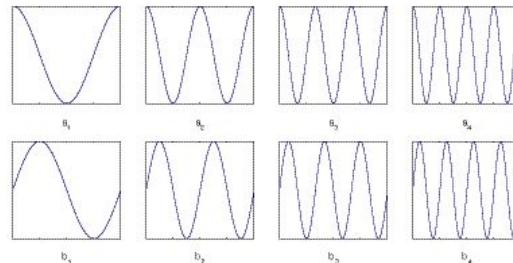
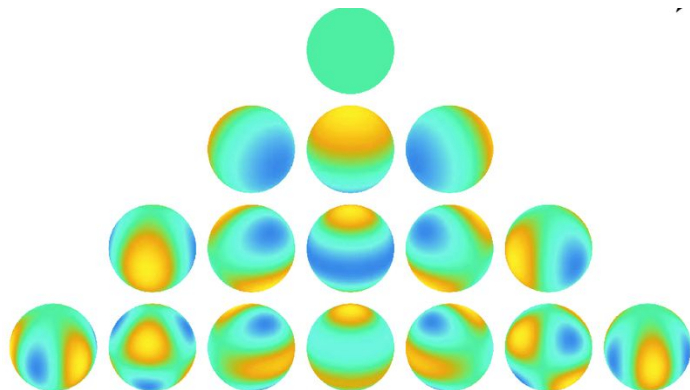


# Irreducible representations generalize Fourier space to groups

Irreducible representations (irreps)  
form the Fourier basis for a function on  
a group

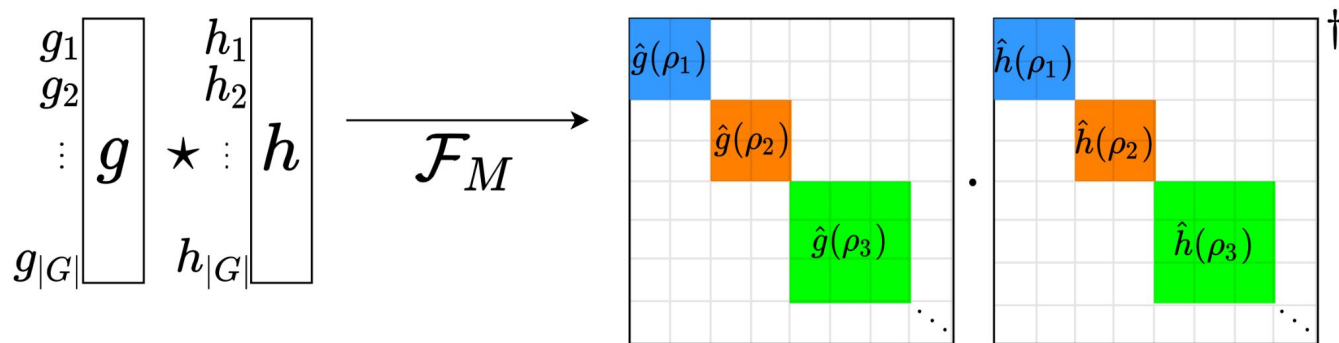
$$f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \quad \rho : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{d \times d}$$

$$\hat{f}(\rho) = \sum_{u \in G} f(u) \rho(u).$$



# Irreducible representations generalize Fourier space to groups

**Convolution theorem:** Convolution is equivalent to matrix multiplication of irreps

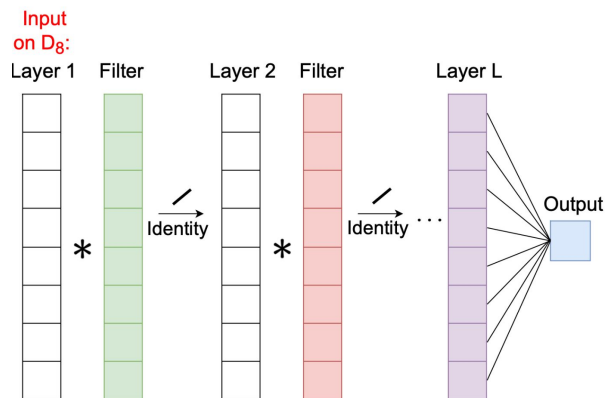


Theorem: G-CNNs are biased towards **low-rank irreps**

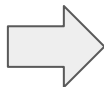


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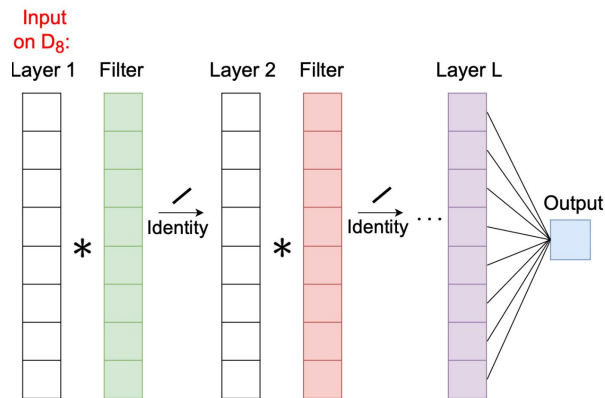
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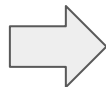
Train: gradient descent  
on exponential loss



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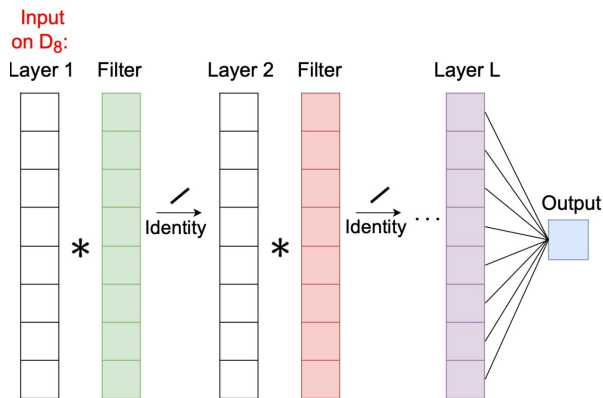


*The linearization  $\beta$  is a first-order stationary point of:*

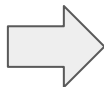
$$\min_{\beta} \left\| \hat{\beta} \right\|_{2/L}^{(S)} \quad s.t. \quad y_i x_i^T \beta \geq 1 \quad \forall i \in [n]$$



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Train: gradient descent  
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$$\min_{\beta} \left\| \hat{\beta}^{(S)} \right\|_{2/L} \quad s.t. \quad y_i x_i^T \beta \geq 1 \quad \forall i \in [n]$$

**Schatten norm:** encourages low rankness  
of Fourier coefficients

$$\left\| \hat{\beta} \right\|_{2/L}^{(S)} = \left[ \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_{\rho} \left( \left\| \hat{\beta}(\rho) \right\|_{2/L}^{(S)} \right)^{2/L} \right]^{L/2}$$

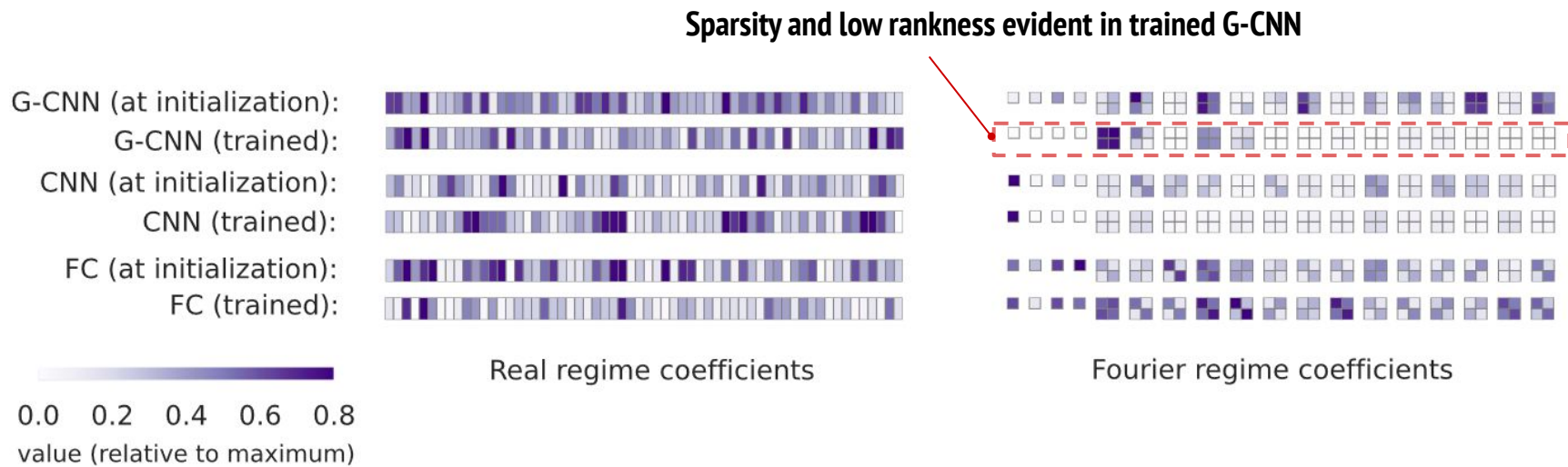
# Real vs. Fourier space trade-off: support vs rank

**Theorem 6.1** (Meshulam uncertainty theorem (Meshulam, 1992)). *Given a finite group  $G$  and  $f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , let  $\hat{G}$  be the set of irreps of  $G$  and  $\hat{f}$  be the vectorized function (see Definition 4.1). Then*

$$|\text{supp}(\mathbf{f})| \cdot \text{rank}(\hat{\mathbf{f}}) = |\text{supp}(\mathbf{f})| \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_{\rho} \text{rank}(\hat{\mathbf{f}}(\rho)) \geq |G|$$


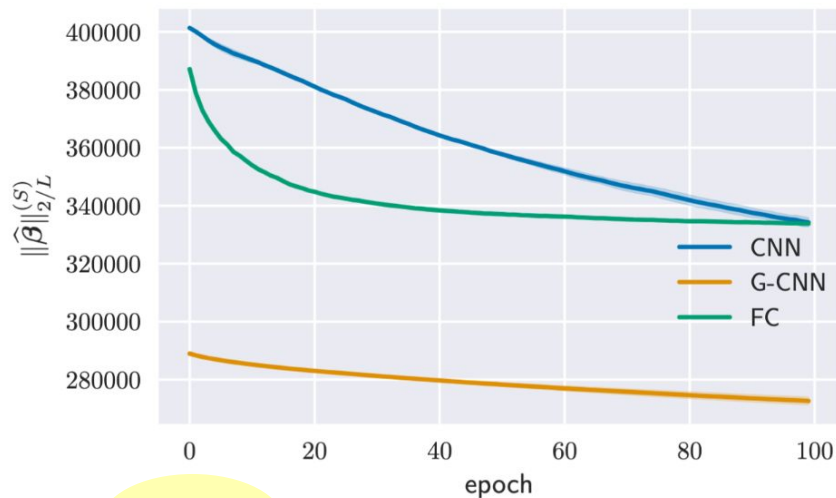
**Intuition:** if rank in Fourier space is constant, then support in real space grows with dimension

# Visualization of implicit bias in real and Fourier space

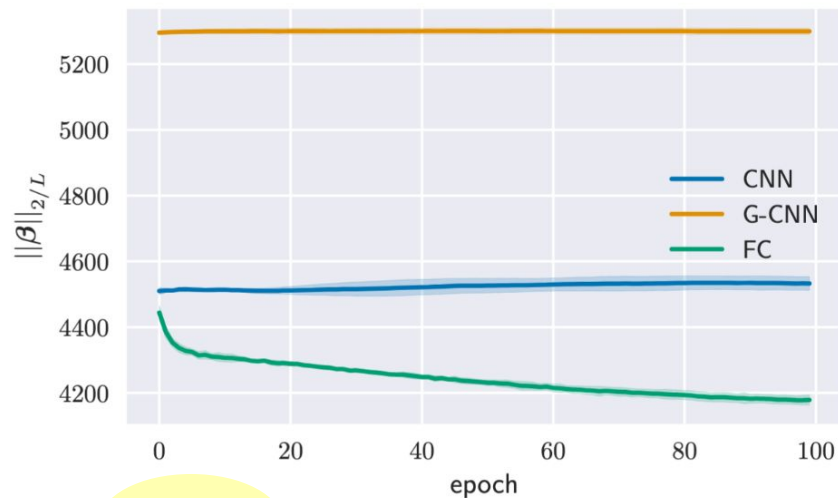


3-layer linear GCNN over the Dihedral group of order 64 trained via SGD

# Real vs. Fourier space trade-offs in implicit bias, empirically



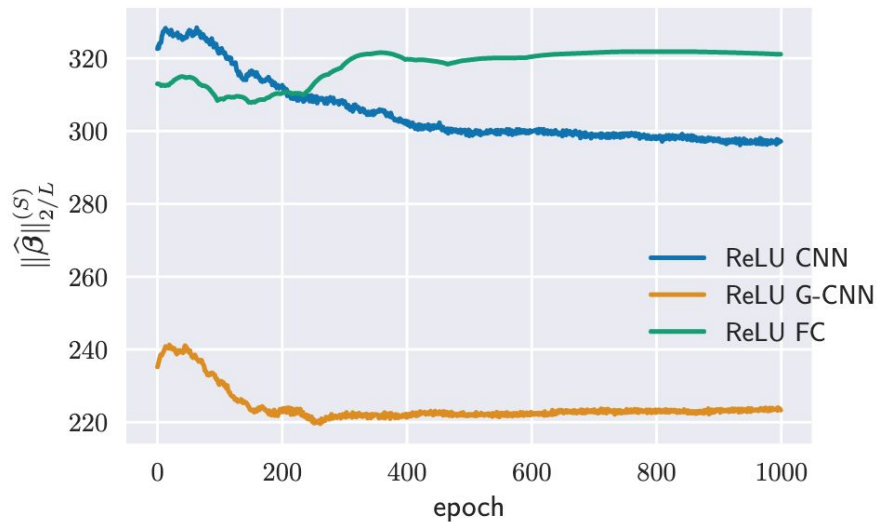
(a) Fourier space norm of network linearization  $\beta$



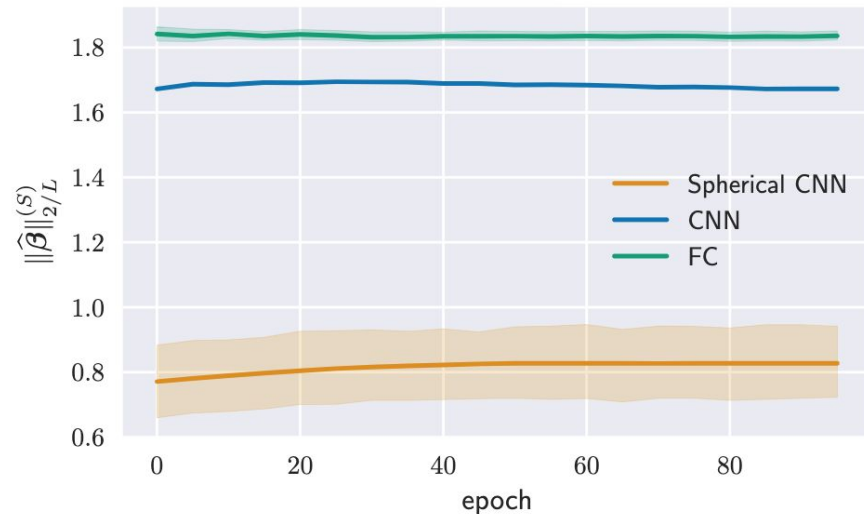
(b) Real space norm of network linearization  $\beta$

Figure 4: Norms of the linearizations of three different linear architectures for the non-abelian group  $G = (C_{28} \times C_{28}) \times D_8$  trained using the digits 1 and 5 from the MNIST dataset.

# Nonlinear networks *may* locally have the same implicit bias



(a) A  $G$ -CNN on non-abelian  $G = D_{60}$ .



(b) A Spherical CNN on bandlimited  $G = SO(3)$ .



# Conclusion

Linear G-CNNs trained by gradient descent are implicitly biased towards **low-rank Fourier coefficients**

- Low-rank structure might be useful for efficient storage
- Implication on generalization performance is problem-dependent
- **Theoretical results on CNNs**  $\Rightarrow$  **G-CNNs using group Fourier theory**
- Future directions: local analysis of non-linear case, multi-class, etc.

## References:

Lawrence, H., Georgiev, K., Dienes, A., & Kiani, B. T. (2021). Implicit Bias of Linear Equivariant Networks. arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.06084.; Wigderson, A., & Wigderson, Y. (2021). The uncertainty principle: variations on a theme. Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society, 58(2), 225-261.  
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# Thank you!

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## References:

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