

# Robust Meta-learning with Sampling Noise and Label Noise via Eigen-Reptile

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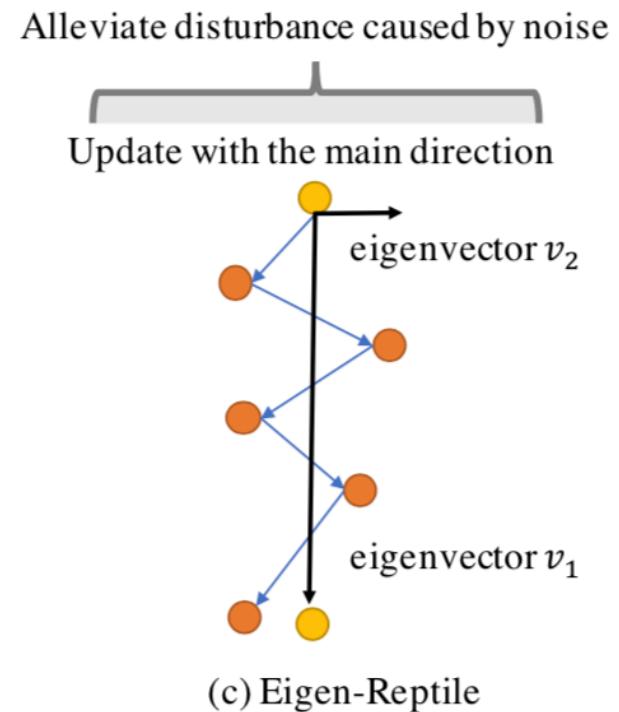
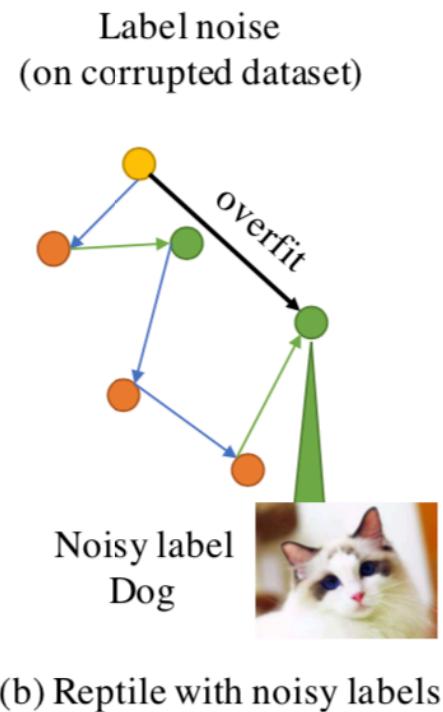
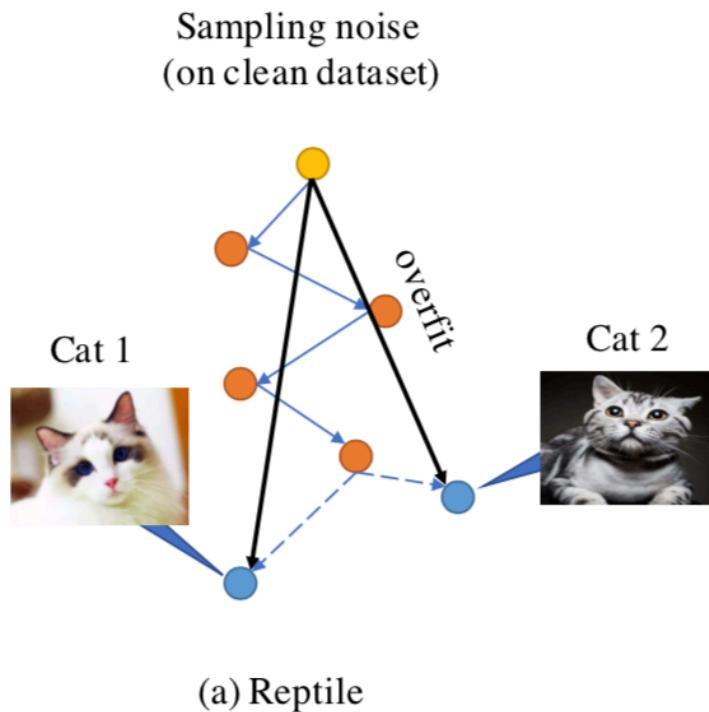
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● Meta-parameters



Update meta-parameters

● Task-specific parameters



● Parameters generated by the noisy labels

Update task-specific parameters

Retain the most information:

$$J(\mathbf{e}) = -\mathbf{e}^\top \mathbf{S} \mathbf{e} + \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{w}_i - \bar{\mathbf{w}}\|^2 \quad (1)$$

Direction of the main direction:

$$\max \mathbf{e}^\top \mathbf{S} \mathbf{e} \quad \text{s.t. } \begin{cases} \bar{\mathbf{V}} \mathbf{e} > 0 \\ \mathbf{e}^\top \mathbf{e} = 1 \end{cases}, \text{ where } \bar{\mathbf{V}} = \frac{1}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \mathbf{w}_{n-i+1} - \mathbf{w}_i \quad (2)$$

Get the objective function

$$g(\mu, \mathbf{e}, \lambda, \eta) = \mathbf{e}^\top \mathbf{S} \mathbf{e} - \lambda(\mathbf{e}^\top \mathbf{e} - 1) + \mu(-\bar{\mathbf{V}} \mathbf{e} + \eta^2), \quad \text{where } \lambda \neq 0, \mu \geq 0 \quad (3)$$

The cost of computing  $e$  of  $Se = \lambda e$  is  $O(d^3)$ .

For fast computing:

$$\mathbf{W}\mathbf{W}^\top \underbrace{\mathbf{W}\hat{e}}_e = \underbrace{\hat{\lambda}}_\lambda \underbrace{\mathbf{W}\hat{e}}_e \quad (4)$$

When update meta-parameter:

$$\phi \leftarrow \phi + \beta \nu \zeta e, \quad \text{where} \quad \zeta = \frac{\lambda}{\sum_{m=1}^n \lambda_m} \quad (5)$$

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**Algorithm 1** Eigen-Reptile

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**Input:** Distribution over tasks  $P(\mathcal{T})$ , outer step size  $\beta$ .

- 1: Initialize meta-parameters  $\phi$
- 2: **while** not converged **do**
- 3:    $\mathbf{W} = []$ ,  $\nu = 0$
- 4:   Sample batch of tasks  $\{\mathcal{T}_i\}_{i=1}^B \sim P(\mathcal{T})$
- 5:   **for** each task  $\mathcal{T}_i$  **do**
- 6:      $\phi_i = \phi$
- 7:     Sample train set  $D_{train}$  of  $\mathcal{T}_i$
- 8:     **for**  $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$  **do**
- 9:        $\phi_i^j = U^j(D_{train}, \phi_i)$
- 10:       $\mathbf{W}$  appends  $\mathbf{W}_{:,j} = flatten(\phi_i^j)$
- 11:     **end for**
- 12:     Mean centering,  $\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{W} - \bar{\mathbf{w}}$ ,  $\bar{\mathbf{w}} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times 1}$
- 13:     Compute matrix  $\hat{\Lambda}$  and eigenvector matrix  $\hat{\mathbf{P}}$  of scatter matrix  $\mathbf{W}^\top \mathbf{W}$
- 14:     Eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \dots > \lambda_n$  in  $\hat{\Lambda}$
- 15:     Compute matrix of  $\mathbf{W} \mathbf{W}^\top$ ,  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{W} \hat{\mathbf{P}}$
- 16:     Let the eigenvector corresponding to  $\lambda_1$  be a unit vector,  $\| \mathbf{e}_i^1 \|_2^2 = 1$
- 17:     **for**  $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n-1$  **do**
- 18:        $\nu = \nu + (\mathbf{W}_{:,j+1} - \mathbf{W}_{:,j}) \mathbf{e}_i^1$
- 19:     **end for**
- 20:      $\mathbf{e}_i^1 = \frac{\lambda_1}{\sum_{m=1}^n \lambda_m} \times \mathbf{e}_i^1$
- 21:     Calculate the approximate direction of task-specific gradient update  $\bar{\mathbf{V}}$ :
- 22:      $\bar{\mathbf{V}} = \frac{1}{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \mathbf{W}_{:,n-i+1} - \mathbf{W}_{:,i}$
- 23:     **if**  $\mathbf{e}_i^1 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{V}} < 0$  **then**
- 24:        $\mathbf{e}_i^1 = -\mathbf{e}_i^1$
- 25:     **end if**
- 26:   **end for**
- 27:   Average the main directions to get  
         $\tilde{\mathbf{e}} = (1/B) \sum_{i=1}^B \mathbf{e}_i^1$
- 28:   Update meta-parameters  $\phi \leftarrow \phi + \beta \times \nu / B \times \tilde{\mathbf{e}}$
- 29: **end while**

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Theorem 1:

Alleviate sampling noise with the main direction.

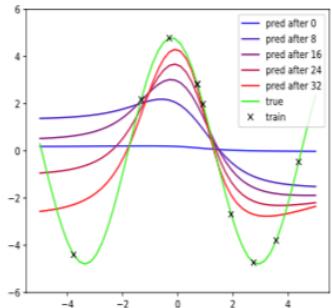
$$\mathbf{C} = \frac{1}{n-1} \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{C}_t + \mathbf{C}_x = \mathbf{P}_t (\Lambda_t + \Lambda_x) \mathbf{P}_t^\top = \mathbf{P}_t (\Lambda_t + \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}) \mathbf{P}_t^\top = \mathbf{P}_t \Lambda \mathbf{P}_t^\top = \mathbf{P} \Lambda \mathbf{P}^\top$$

Theorem 2:

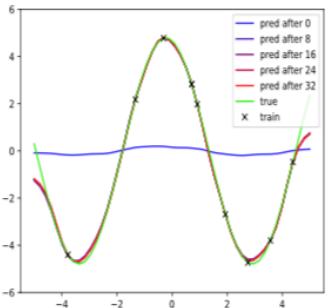
More accurate main direction with ISPL.

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{C}_{tr}) \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{P}_o (\mathbf{I} - \frac{\Lambda_o}{\lambda}) \mathbf{P}_o^\top \mathbf{e} \approx \mathbf{P}_o (\mathbf{I} - \frac{\lambda_o}{\lambda} \mathbf{I}) \mathbf{P}_o^\top \mathbf{e} > \mathbf{P}_o (\mathbf{I} - \frac{\lambda_o - \xi}{\lambda - \xi} \mathbf{I}) \mathbf{P}_o^\top \mathbf{e}$$

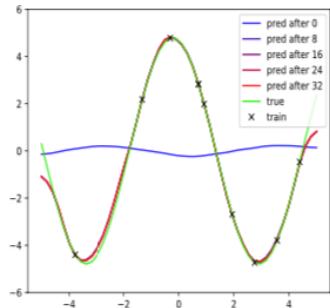
# Toy test



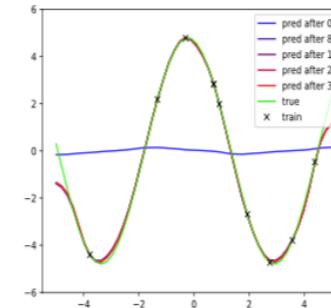
(a) ER of iteration 1



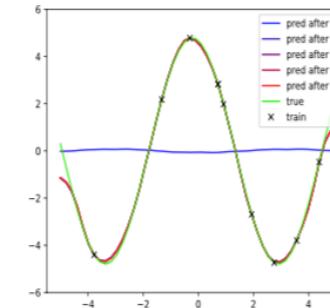
(b) ER of iteration 10000



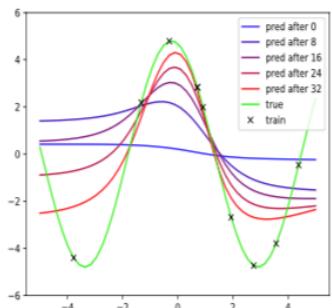
(c) ER of iteration 15000



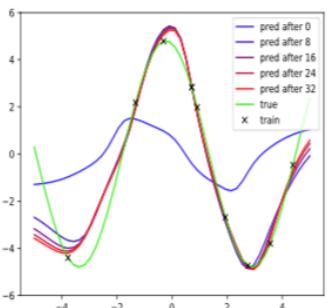
(d) ER of iteration 20000



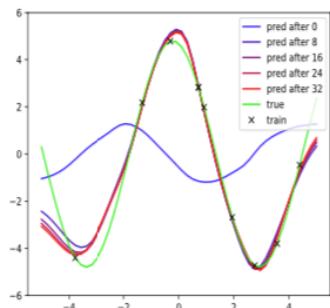
(e) ER of iteration 30000



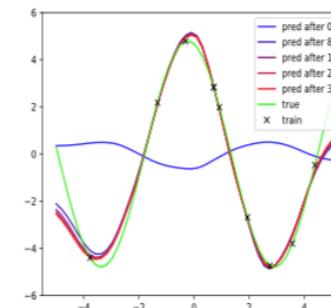
(f) Reptile of iteration 1



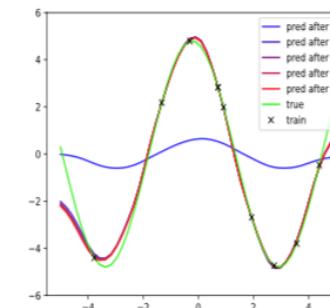
(g) Reptile of iteration 10000



(h) Reptile of iteration 15000

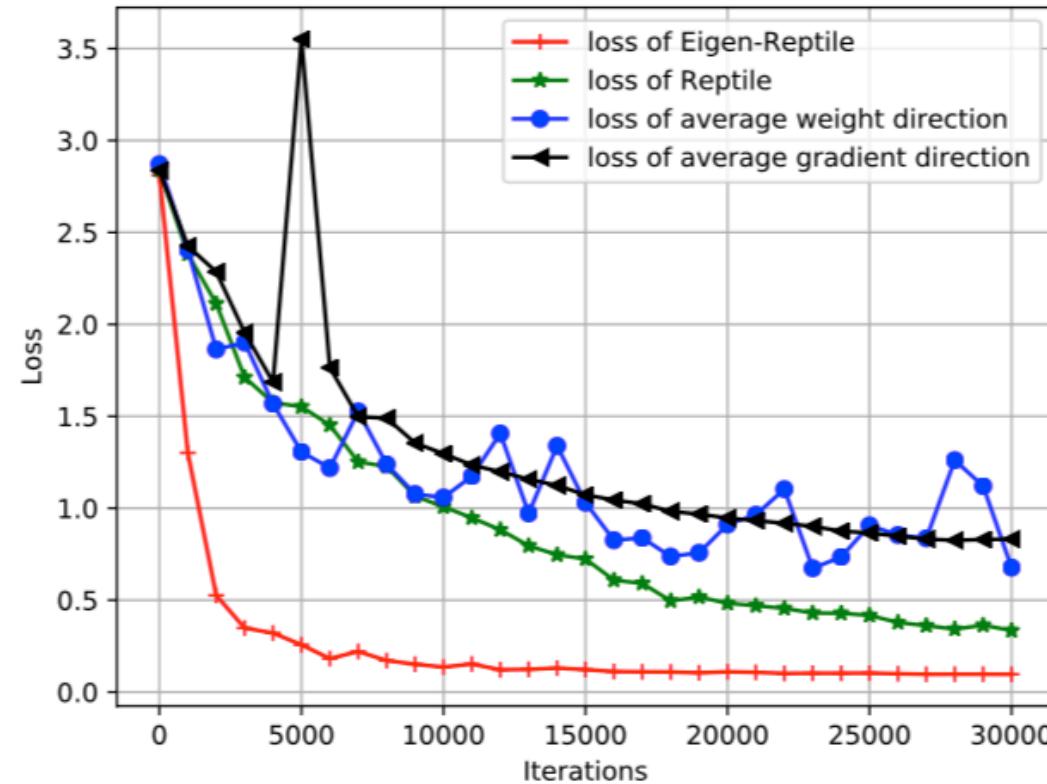


(i) Reptile of iteration 20000



(j) Reptile of iteration 30000

# Compare with other directions



*Figure 4.* Loss of different update direction.

# Experiments on clean Mini-Imagenet and CIFAR-FS

Table 1. Accuracy of FSL on Mini-Imagenet N-way K-shot. The  $\pm$  shows 95% confidence interval over tasks. The number in (·) denotes the number of filters.

Algorithm	5-way 1-shot	5-way 5-shot
MAML (Finn et al., 2017)	48.70 $\pm$ 1.84%	63.11 $\pm$ 0.92%
FOML (Finn et al., 2017)	48.07 $\pm$ 1.75%	63.15 $\pm$ 0.91%
GNN (Gidaris & Komodakis, 2018)	50.30%	66.40%
TAML (Jamal & Qi, 2019)	51.77 $\pm$ 1.86%	65.60 $\pm$ 0.93%
Meta-dropout (Lee et al., 2019)	51.93 $\pm$ 0.67%	67.42 $\pm$ 0.52%
Warp-MAML (Flennerhag et al., 2020)	52.30 $\pm$ 0.80%	68.4 $\pm$ 0.60%
MC (128) (Park & Oliva, 2020)	<b>54.08 <math>\pm</math> 0.93%</b>	67.99 $\pm$ 0.73%
sparse-MAML (Von Oswald et al., 2021)	51.04 $\pm$ 0.59%	68.05 $\pm$ 0.84%
MeTAL (Baik et al., 2021)	52.63 $\pm$ 0.37%	<b>70.52 <math>\pm</math> 0.29%</b>
MixtFSL (Afrasiyabi et al., 2021)	52.82 $\pm$ 0.63%	<b>70.67 <math>\pm</math> 0.57%</b>
Reptile (32) (Nichol et al., 2018)	49.97 $\pm$ 0.32%	65.99 $\pm$ 0.58%
Eigen-Reptile (32)	51.80 $\pm$ 0.90%	68.10 $\pm$ 0.50%
Eigen-Reptile (64)	<b>53.25 <math>\pm</math> 0.45%</b>	<b>69.85 <math>\pm</math> 0.85%</b>

Table 2. Few Shot Classification on CIFAR-FS N-way K-shot accuracy. The  $\pm$  shows 95% confidence interval over tasks.

Algorithm	5-way 1-shot	5-way 5-shot
MAML	58.90 $\pm$ 1.90%	71.50 $\pm$ 1.00%
PROTO NET	55.50 $\pm$ 0.70%	72.00 $\pm$ 0.60%
GNN	61.90%	75.30%
ECM	55.14 $\pm$ 0.48%	71.66 $\pm$ 0.39%
Reptile	58.30 $\pm$ 1.20%	75.45 $\pm$ 0.55%
Eigen-Reptile	<b>61.90 <math>\pm</math> 1.40%</b>	<b>78.30 <math>\pm</math> 0.50%</b>

# Experiments on corrupted Mini-Imagenet

*Table 3.* Average test accuracy of 5-way 1-shot on the Mini-Imagenet with label noise. S and AS denotes symmetric and asymmetric noise, respectively. All methods are trained with early stopping to against noisy labels (Li et al., 2020b), especially when  $p = 0.5$ , the results of 20000 or more iterations for Reptile are only 20% that equivalent to random guessing. Besides, for a fair comparison, we force all methods to get similar results when  $p = 0$  to compare the robustness when  $p$  is higher. Therefore, the reported results are lower than that of Table 1.

Algorithm	$p = 0.0$	$p = 0.1$		$p = 0.2$		$p = 0.5$	
		S	AS	S	AS	S	AS
MeTAL (Baik et al., 2021)	47.57%	44.64%	46.44%	40.67%	45.02%	27.05%	41.53%
Reptile (Nichol et al., 2018)	47.64%	46.08%	47.30%	43.49%	45.51%	23.33%	42.03%
Reptile+ISPL	47.23%	46.50%	47.00%	43.70%	45.42%	21.83%	41.09%
Eigen-Reptile	<b>47.87%</b>	47.18%	<b>47.42%</b>	45.01%	46.50%	27.23%	42.29%
Eigen-Reptile+ISPL	47.26%	<b>47.20%</b>	47.24%	<b>45.49%</b>	<b>46.83%</b>	<b>28.68%</b>	<b>43.71%</b>

Thanks