



**ICML**  
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On Machine Learning

# Data-free Neural Representation Compression with Riemannian Neural Dynamics

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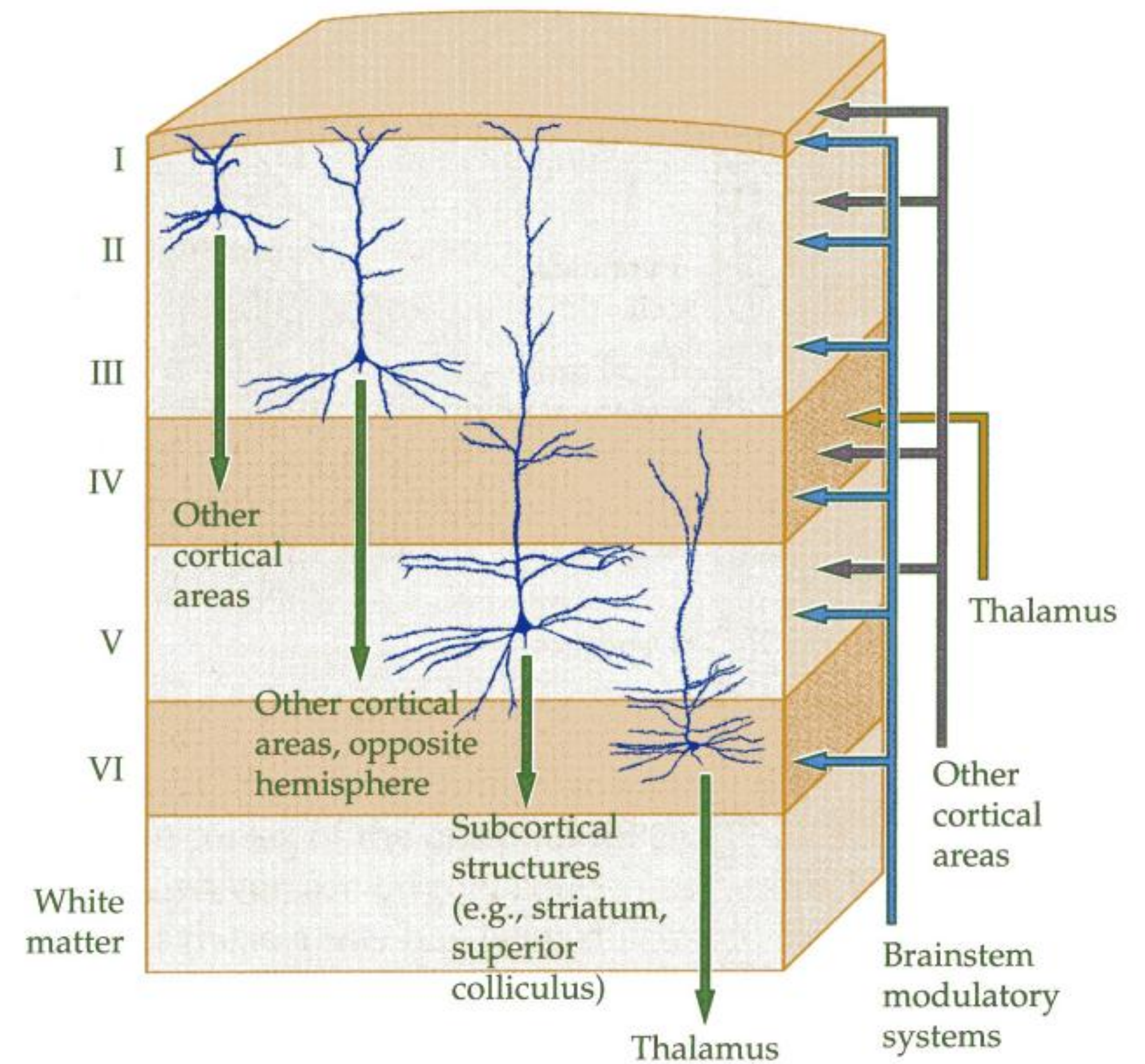
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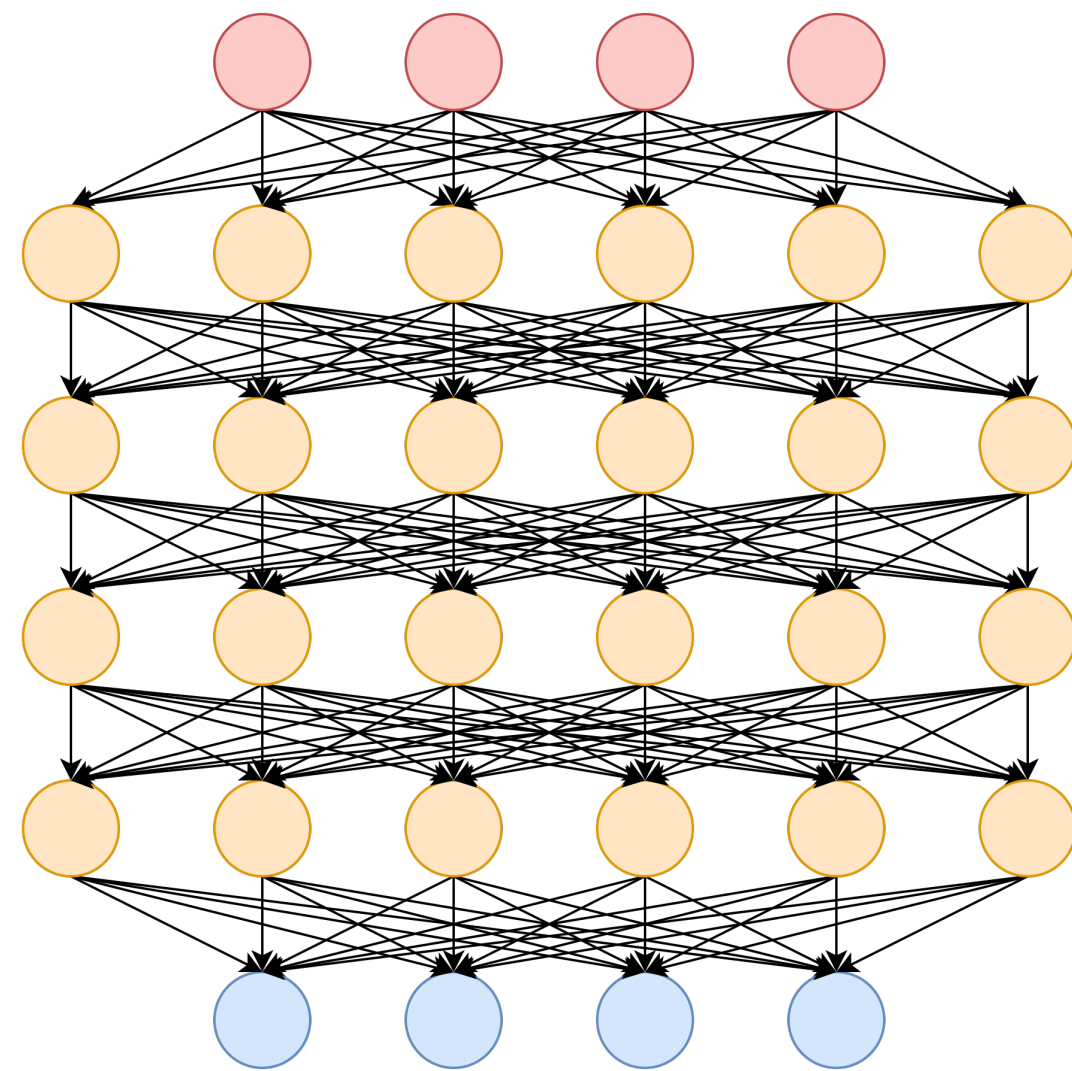
- The **human brain** is better described as a **Flat neural model**, according to the ***Shallow Brain Hypothesis*** <sup>[1]</sup>.
- **Flat models** have
  - **Higher computational efficiency:** parallel computing;
  - **Stronger interpretability:** cortical partitioning;
  - **Better suitability for certain tasks:** learning is easier for smaller dataset;



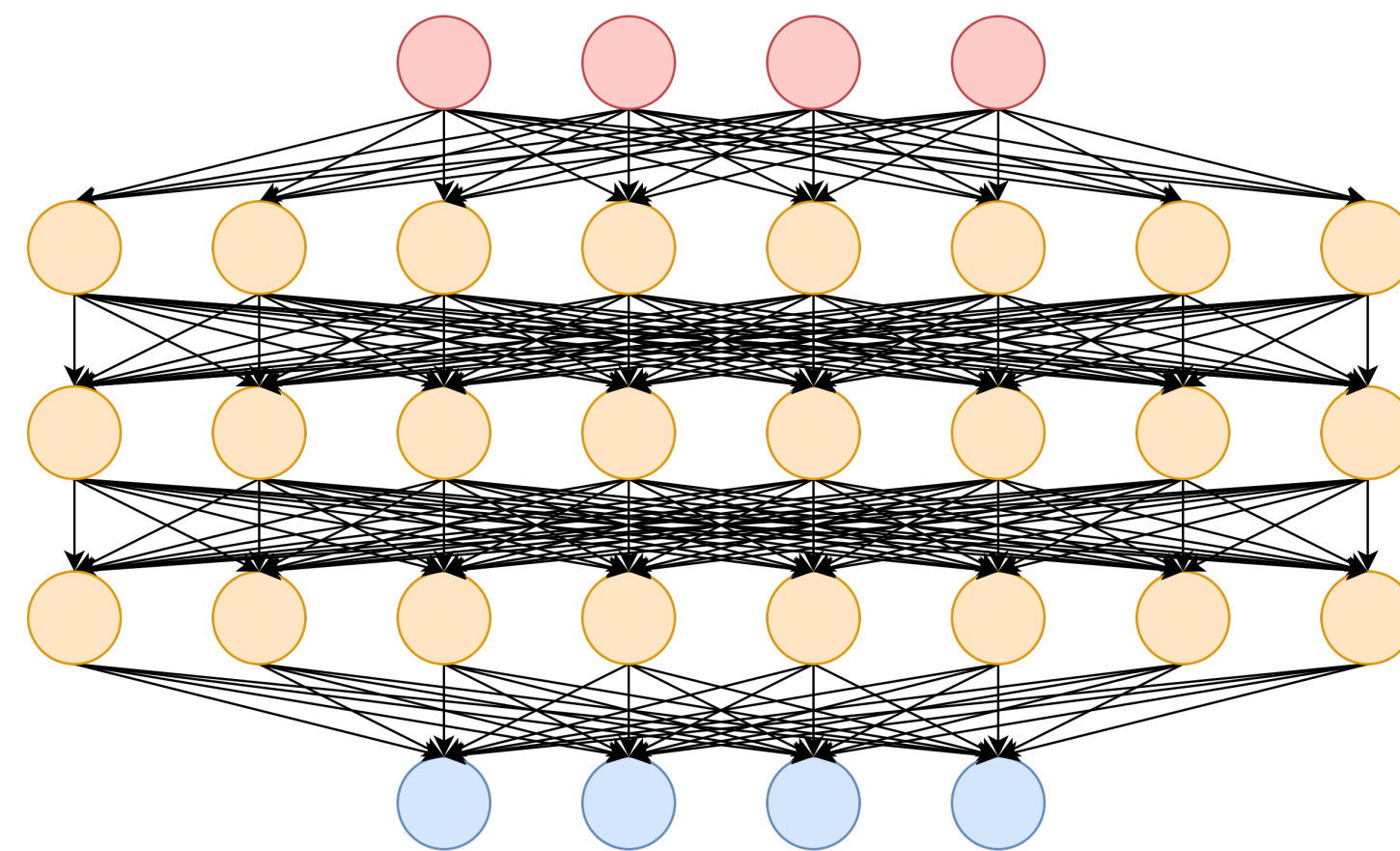
[1] ***How deep is the brain? The shallow brain hypothesis.*** Mototaka Suzuki, et al. **Nature Reviews** 2023



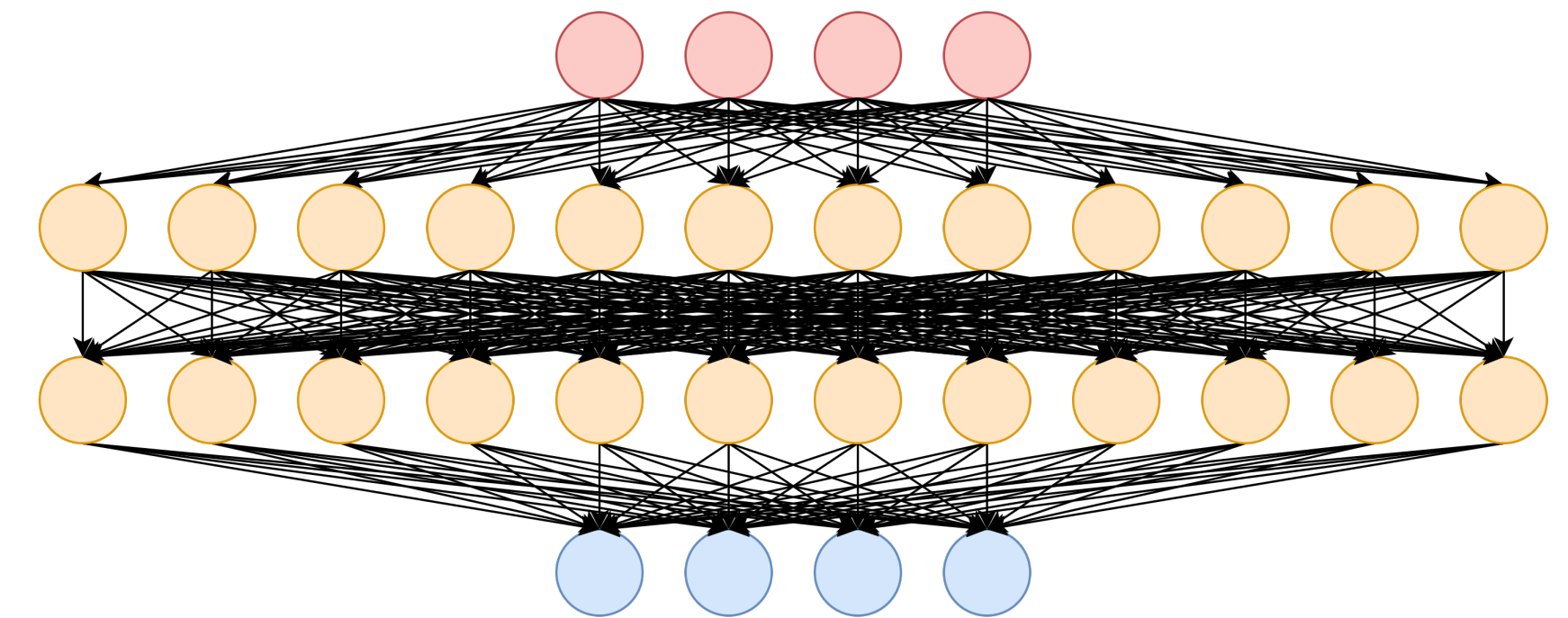
However, a Flatter neural model with identical No.Neurons often refers to an **exponentially increasing No.Params and Complexity**



No.Params=156



No.Params=192

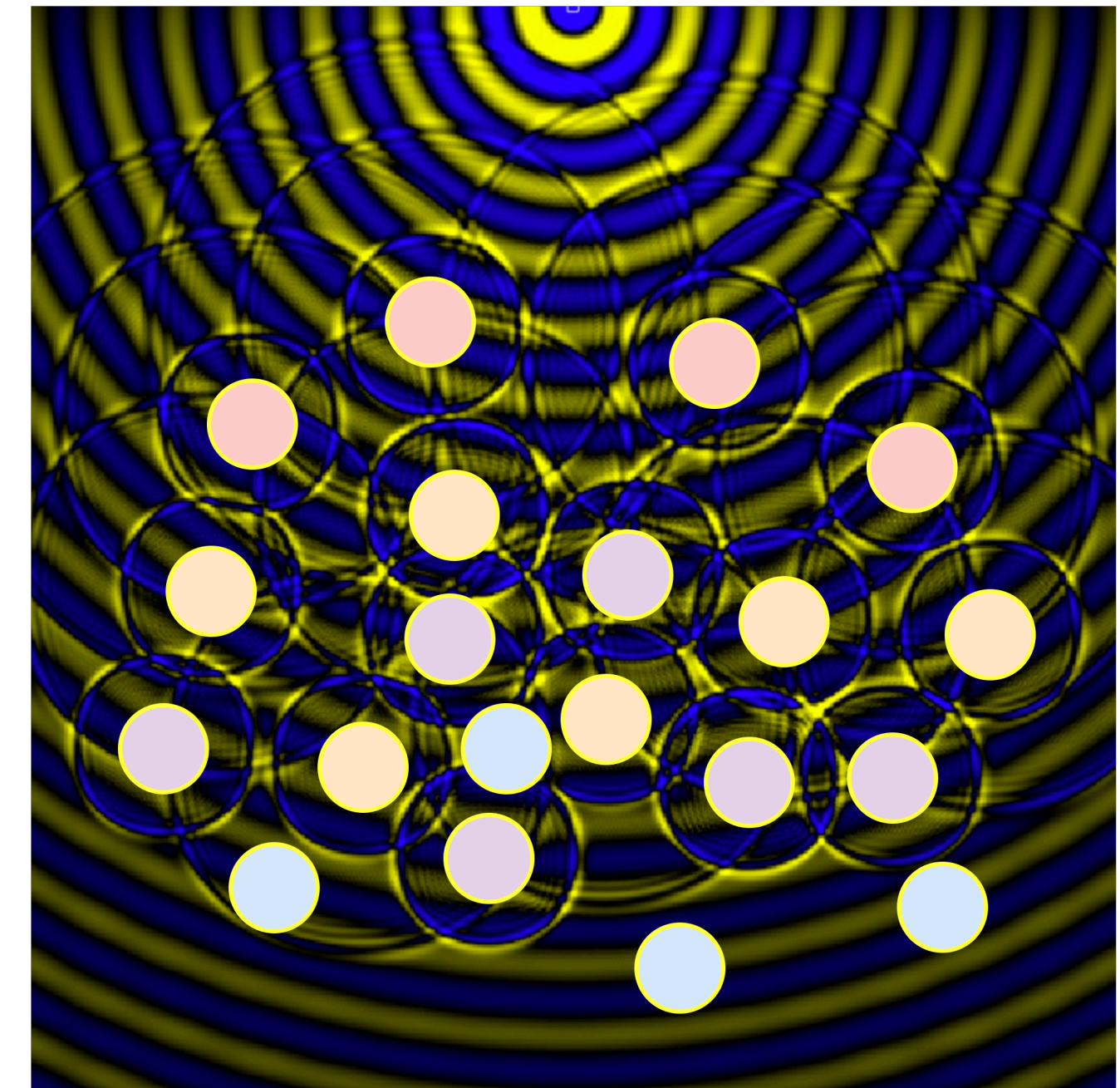
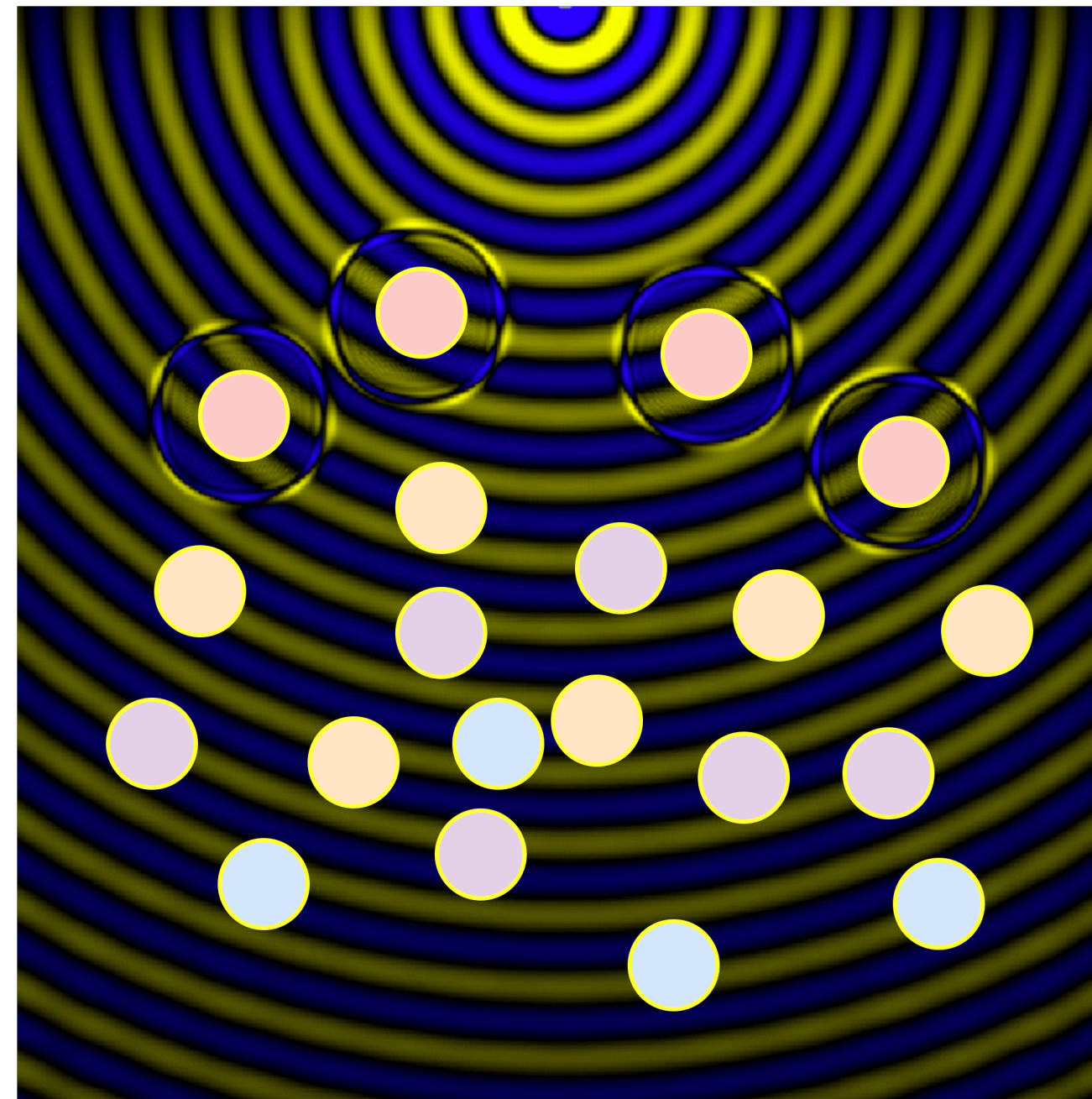
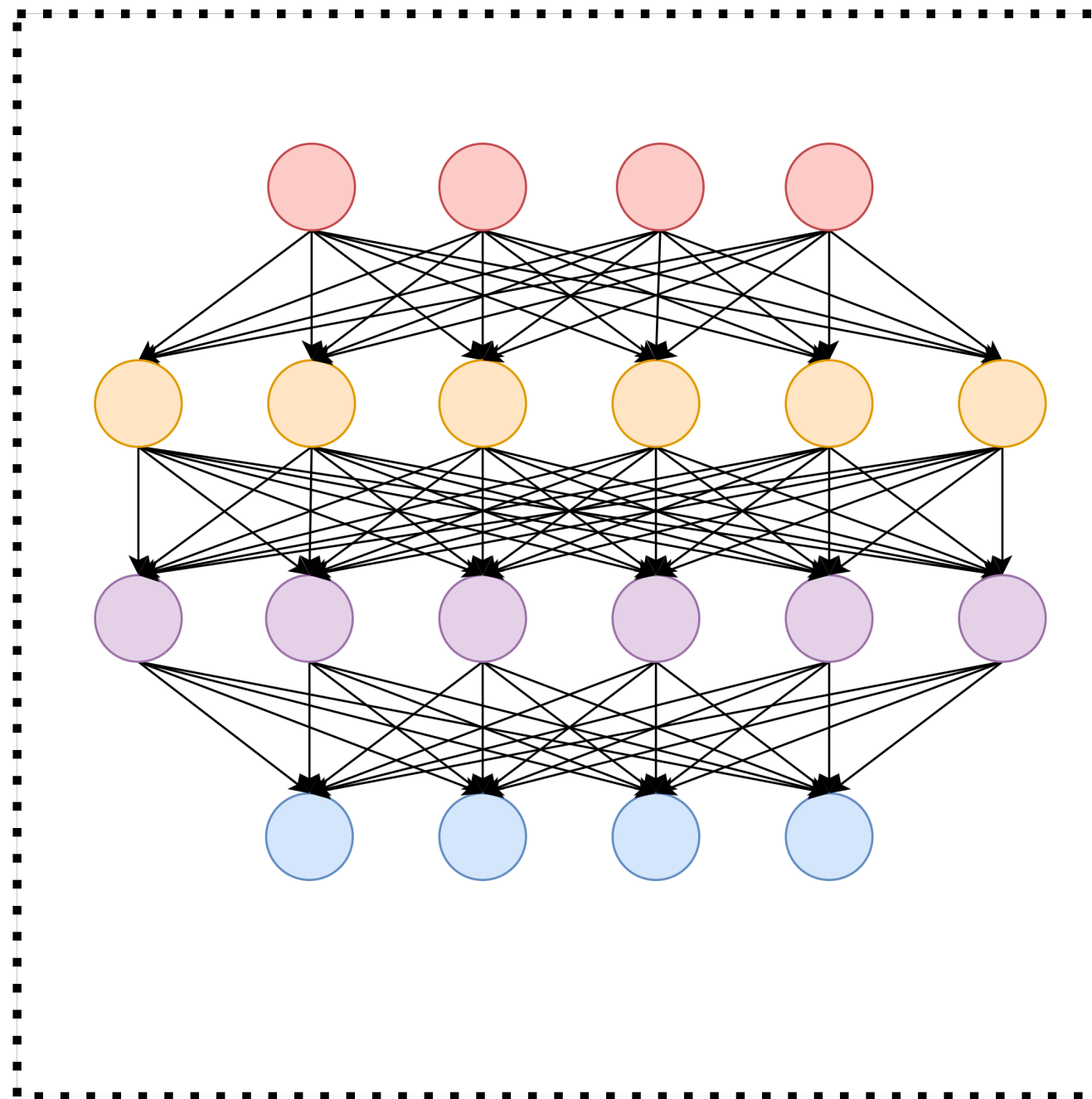


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the trainable neural weights becomes **increasingly troublesome and “ugly.”**



Intuitively, if we replace those neural weights with local and global **Neuronal fields**, everything becomes “prettier” and better.



Donald Olding Hebb

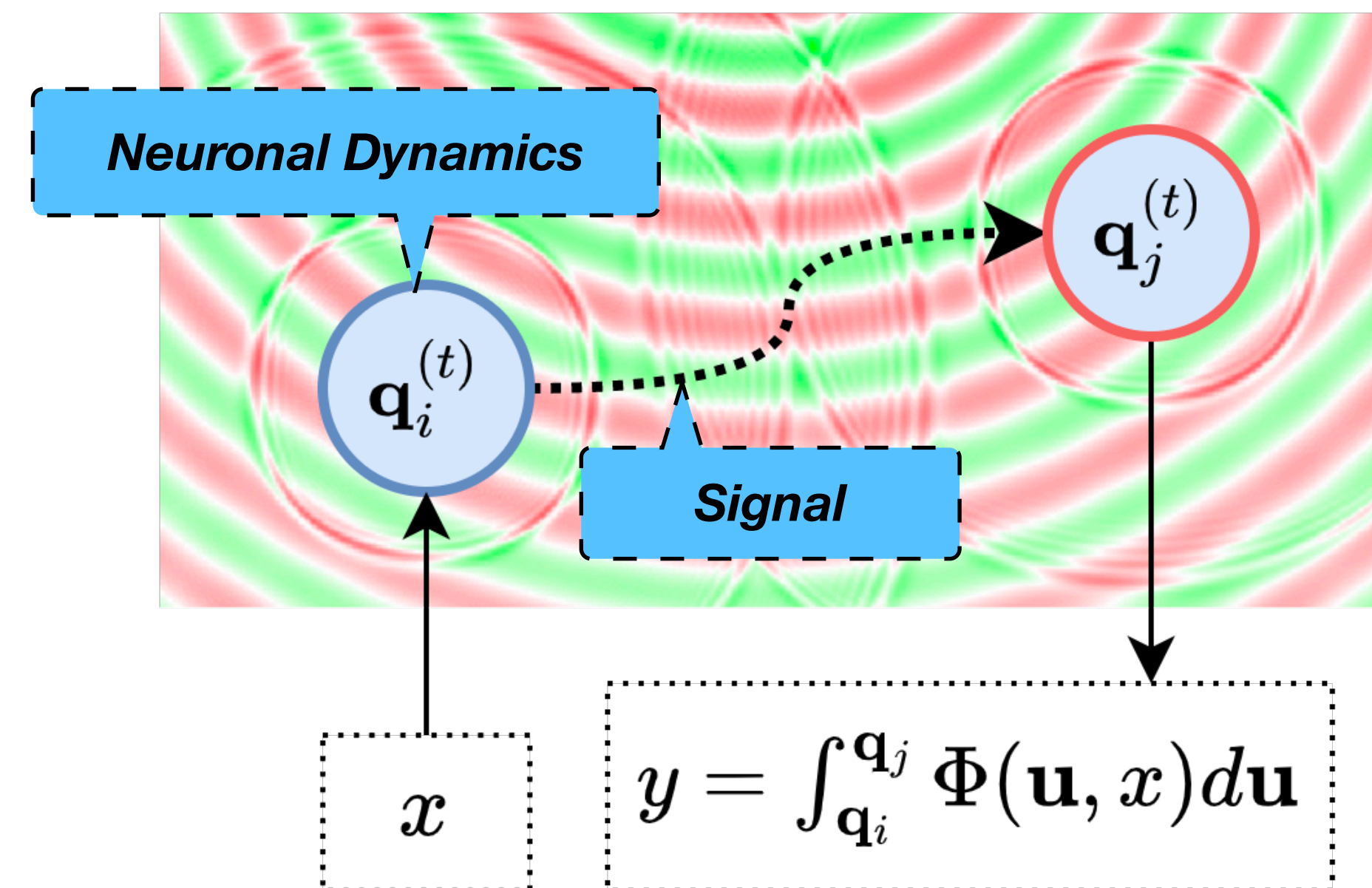
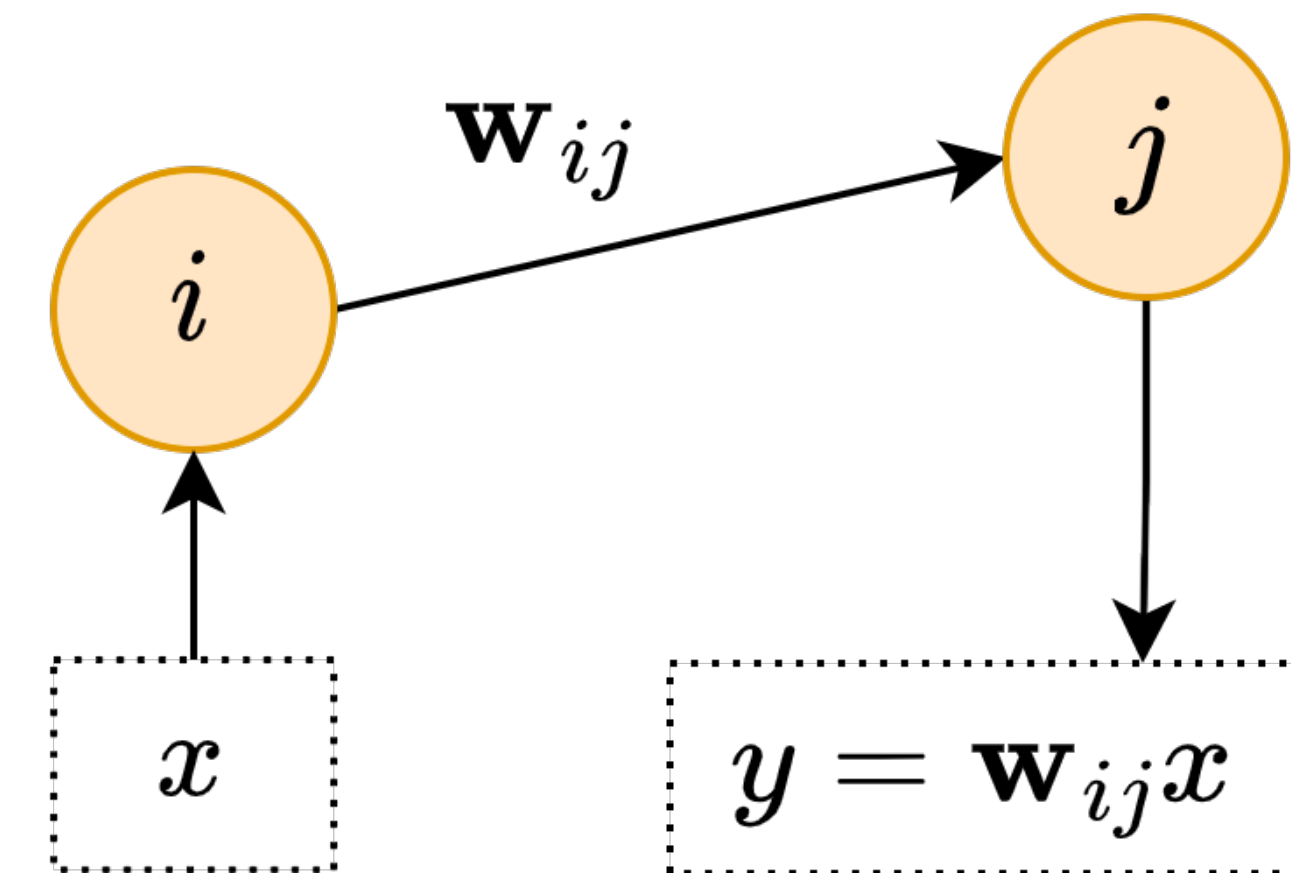


**Hebb's Rule** (1949) describes the principle of **synaptic plasticity**: an increase in **synaptic efficacy** arises from a presynaptic cell's repeated and persistent stimulation of a postsynaptic cell.

*Feedforward through neural layers  
refers to  
Wave-Propagation amongst neuronal field*



- Mathematically, the role of a **Neuronal field**  $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  is:
  - First, embedding each neuron into a  **$d$ -dimensional manifold**
  - Each neuron corresponds to a  $d$ -dimensional vector  $q_i^{(t)} \in \mathbb{R}^d$
  - Then, interpreting  $\mathbf{w}_{ij}x$  as the process of **signal transmission** between neurons.





- How to compute the signal transmission between neurons within the **Neuronal field** via a computationally efficient manner?
- Solution<sup>[2]</sup>: we design a ruler, i.e., a **metric function** defined via **piecewise linearities** to measure the **dynamical relations** between neurons

$$y = \int_{\mathbf{q}_i}^{\mathbf{q}_j} \Phi(\mathbf{u}, x) d\mathbf{u} = \mu(\mathbf{q}_i, \mathbf{q}_j) \cdot x$$

$$\mu(\mathbf{q}_i, \mathbf{q}_j) = \sum_{h=1}^H \lambda_h \cdot \left\| \mathbf{q}_i \left[ \frac{dh-d}{H} : \frac{dh}{H} \right] - \mathbf{q}_j \left[ \frac{dh-d}{H} : \frac{dh}{H} \right] \right\|_p$$

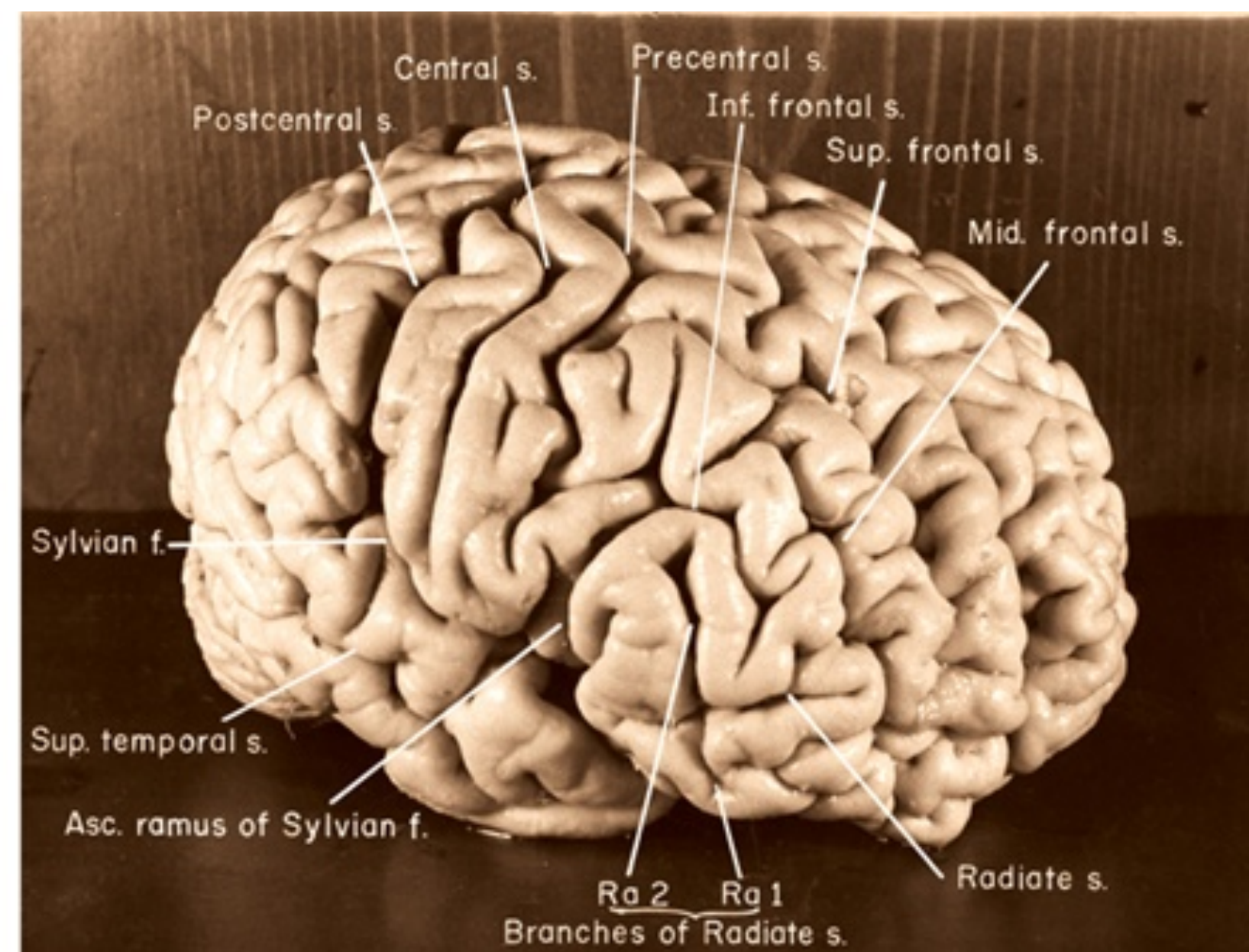
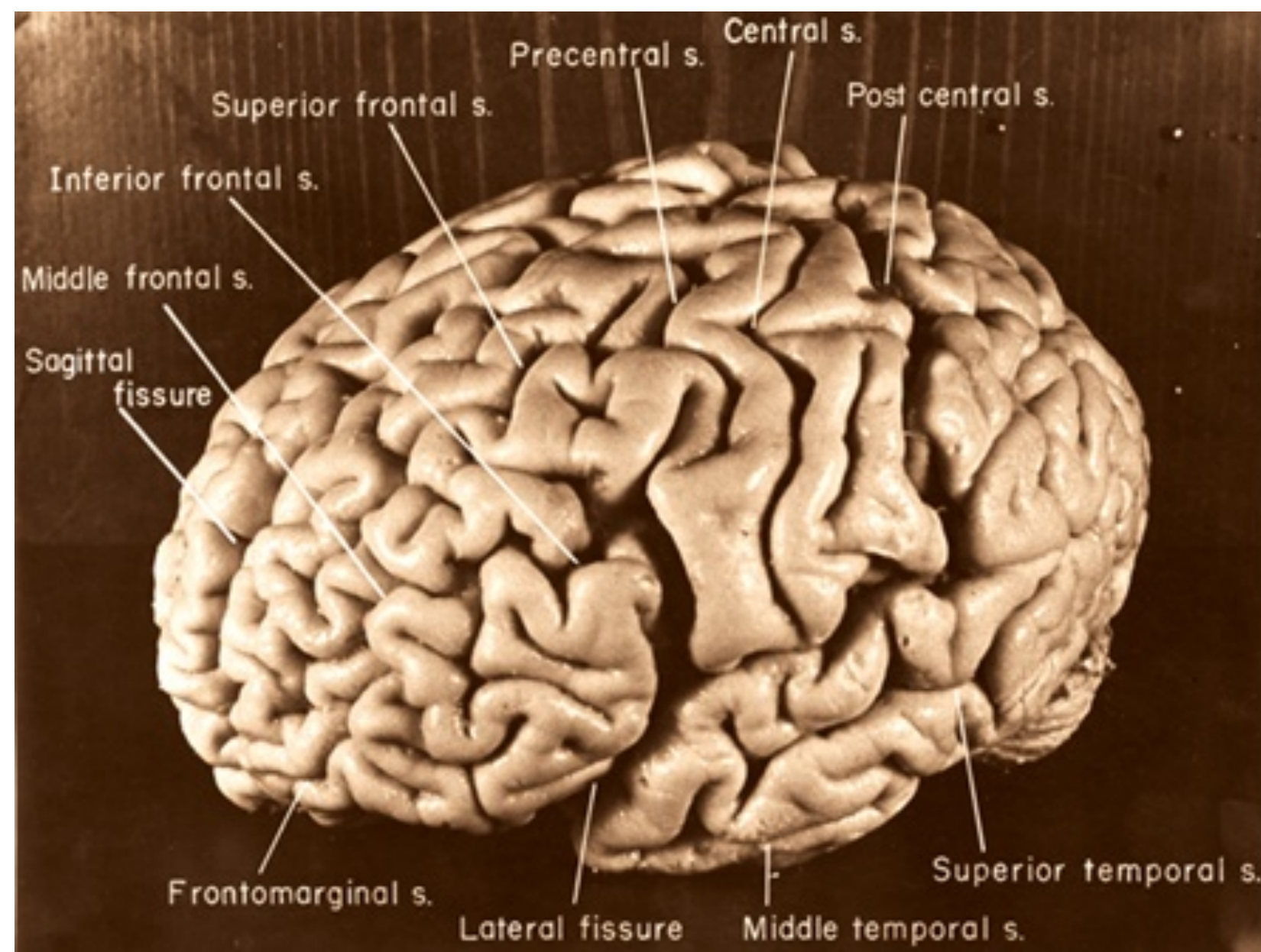
where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  are trainable coefficients, and  $H \in \mathbb{N}^+$  are the number of linearities required.

- Then, a neural layer with  $m$  input and  $n$  output neurons, which requires  $m \times n$  trainable parameters, now only needs  $d \times (m + n)$  trainable parameters.

<sup>[2]</sup> **Dynamics-inspired Neuromorphic Visual Representation Learning**. Z. Pei, S. Wang. CAS-ICT. **ICML 2023**.



- However, this **Euclidean neuronal field** is overly simplistic to capture the complexity of the neuronal dynamics as in the human brain.
- Therefore, we need to upgrade the Euclidean neuronal state space to a **Riemannian** one, which is tailored for **curved surfaces**, much like the **convoluted surfaces** of the human cerebral cortex.



The **Curvature** in the Riemannian neuronal state space surface appears to be **more significant than the Depth** of the neural structure.

Einstein's Brain photographed by Thomas Harvey at Princeton Hospital in 1955



- Why use a Riemannian metric? Because...
- Unlike Euclidean metrics, a Riemannian metric can incorporate the relationships **between different dimensions**.

Formally, a Riemannian metric  $g$  on a smooth manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  is an inner product  $g : T_x\mathcal{M} \times T_x\mathcal{M} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  on each tangent space  $T_x\mathcal{M}$  of  $\mathcal{M}$  for each  $x \in \mathcal{M}$  and

$$g = \sum_{i,j} g_{ij} dx[i] \otimes dx[j]$$

where  $\otimes$  is the tensor product that combines two tensors to generate a larger tensor.

- Thus, it can better measure the **dynamical relations** between neurons and simulate their **signal transmission**.



- However, a Riemannian metric requires  $O(d^2)$ , how to simplify it...?

- ***Our Solution:***

**Step 1**: design a  $d$ -dimensional ***displacement vector*** to define the inter-dimensional relation between neurons.

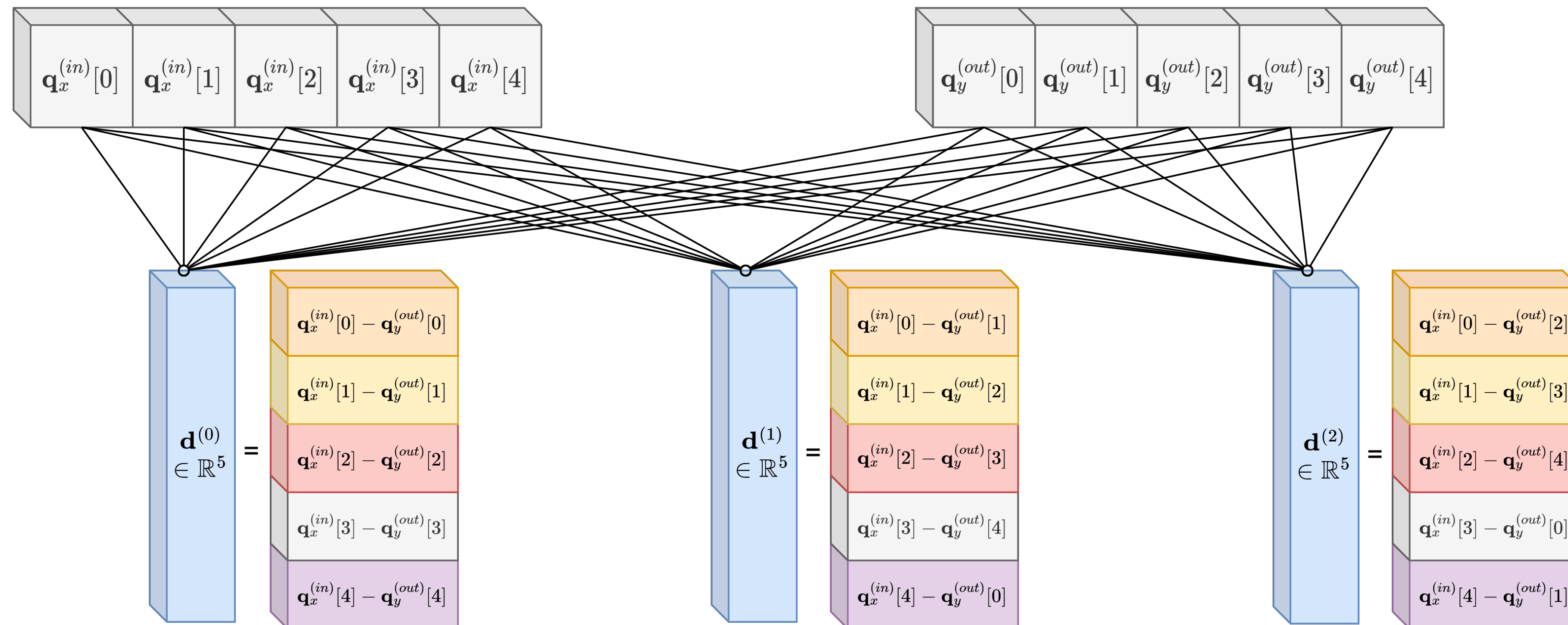
**Step 2**: obtain an intermediate ***metric vector*** to interpret the neuronal dynamical relation in the **Riemannian metric space**.

**Step 3**: compute the final result via a trainable ***linear projection*** that maps the metric vector to the **Euclidean scalar space**.

- **Step 1:** design a **displacement vector**  $\mathbf{d}_{xy}^{(s)} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  to define the **inter-dimensional relation** between neurons  $x$  and  $y$  as follows

$$\mathbf{d}_{xy}^{(s)}[i] = \mathbf{q}_x[i] - \mathbf{q}_y[i + s] , \quad s \in \mathcal{S}$$

where  $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \{0, 1 \dots d\}$  are pre-defined **displacement steps**, e.g.,  $\mathcal{S} = \{0, 1, 2\}$  or  $\mathcal{S} = \{1, 3, 5\}$

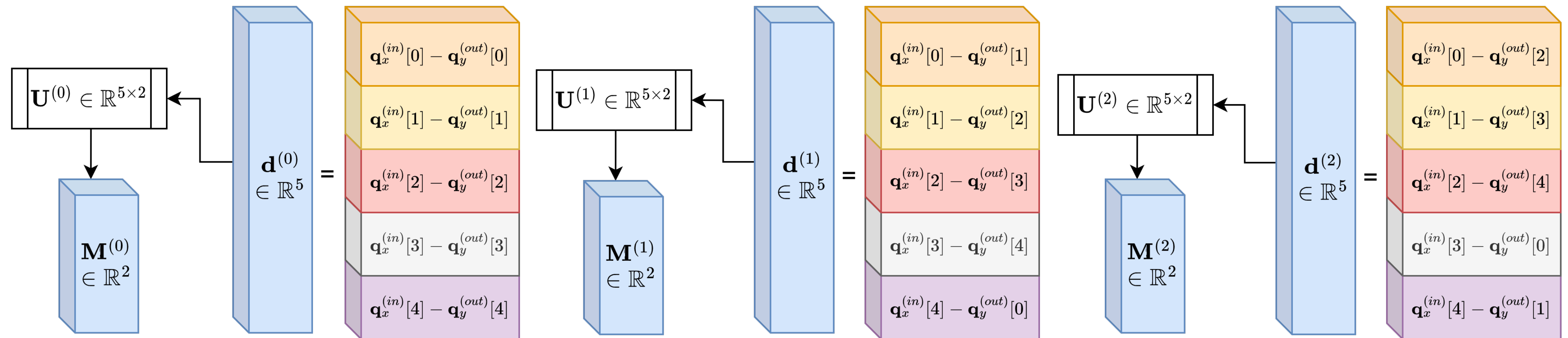




- **Step 2:** obtain the intermediate **metric vectors** between neurons  $x$  and  $y$

$$\mathbf{M}_{xy}^{(s)} = \mathbf{d}_{xy}^{(s)} \mathbf{U}^{(s)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_\mu}$$

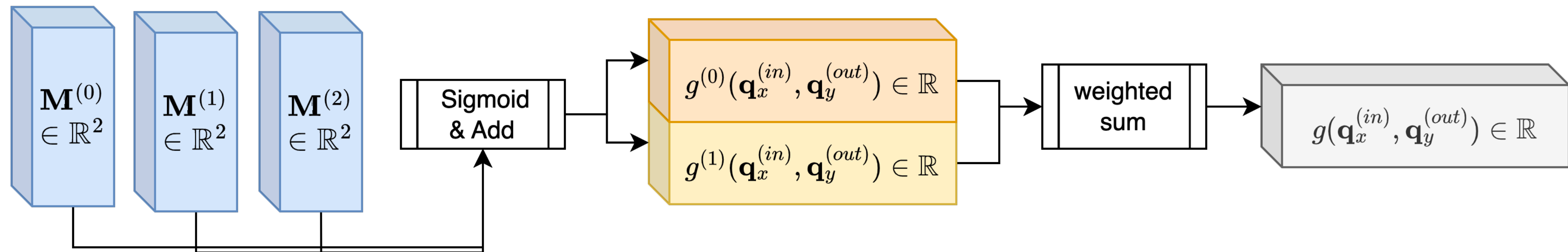
where  $\mathbf{U}^{(s)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d_\mu}$  is a trainable projection, and  $d_\mu \in \mathbb{N}^+ < d$  is the pre-defined dimension of the **Riemannian metric space**.



- Step 3: add the activated metric vectors and sum the components via a **trainable linear projection** to obtain the final result

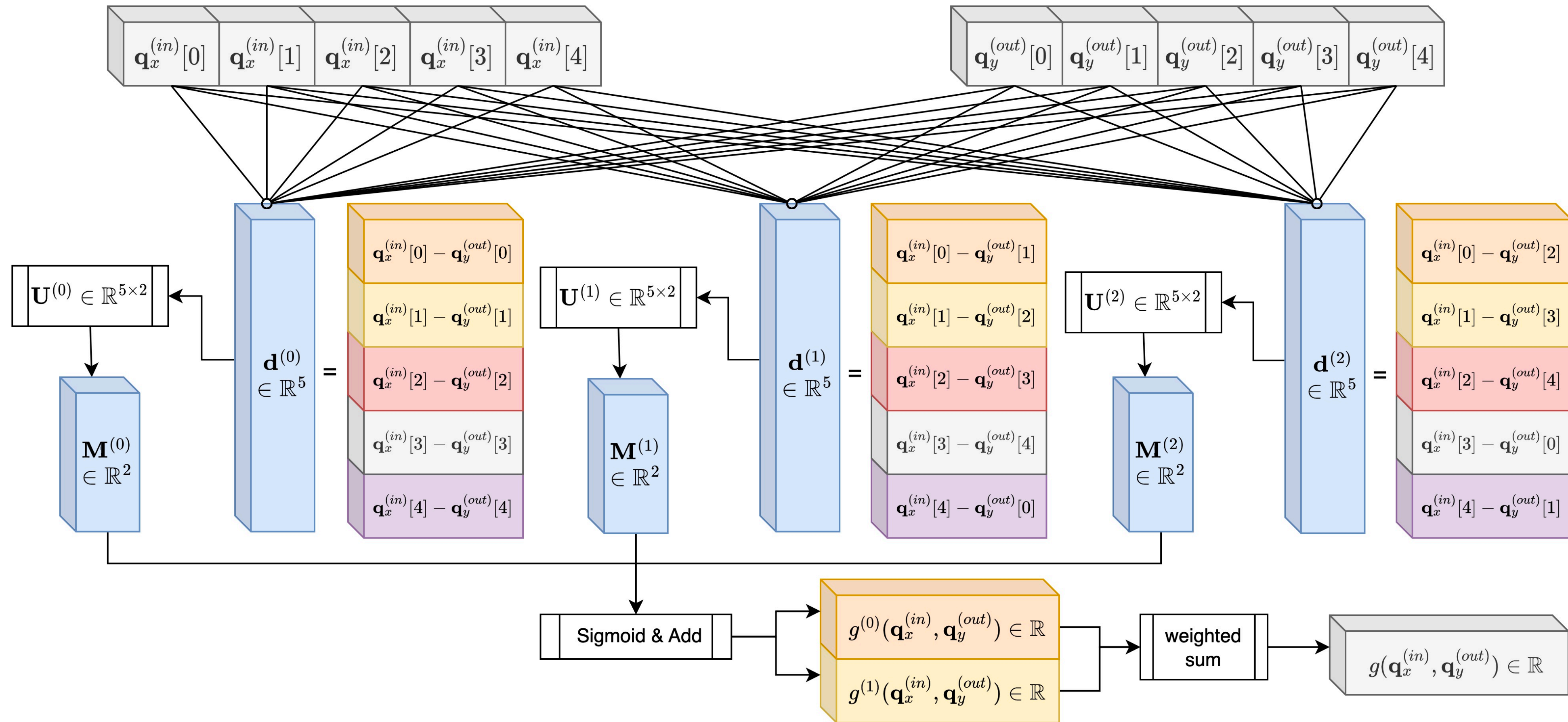
$$g(\mathbf{q}_x, \mathbf{q}_y) = \sum_{\alpha=0}^{d_\mu} \rho_\alpha \cdot \left( \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{M}_{xy}^{(s)} \right) [\alpha]$$

where  $\rho \in \mathbb{R}^{d_\mu}$  refers to the trainable projection.





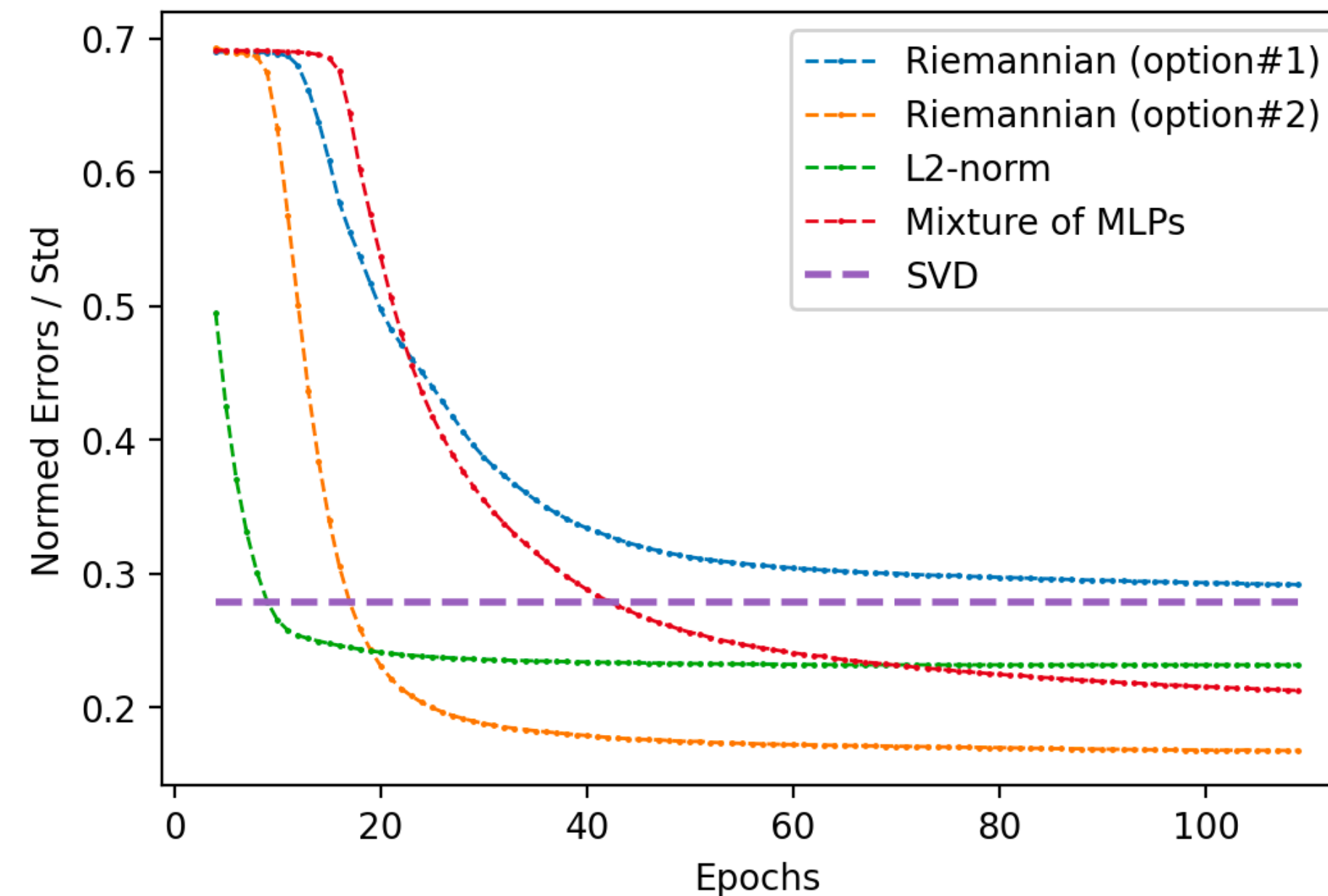
# An Overall Pipeline of *our Method*





- Our proposed **Neural Riemannian metric** is abbreviated as ***RieM***.
- Theoretically and empirically, via ***RieM***, we can achieve more expressive *dynamical relations* with *fewer dimensions* of neuronal dynamics, thereby enhancing data-free neural compression.
- The compression process is further optimized using techniques such as our proposed *Shared Correlation Counts* and *dynamical merging mechanism*.

|          | METRIC  | NO.PARAMS<br>(FC LAYER) | TOP-1 (%)    |              |
|----------|---------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|          |         |                         | MNIST        | CIFAR100     |
| LeNET-5  | N/A     | 59.3K                   | 99.10        | 44.30        |
| LeNET-5  | L1-NORM | 6.3K                    | 98.95        | 44.35        |
| LeNET-5  | L2-NORM | 6.3K                    | 99.17        | 44.45        |
| LeNET-5  | L3-NORM | 6.3K                    | 99.10        | 44.40        |
| LeNET-5  | RIEM    | 7.2K                    | <b>99.28</b> | <b>44.78</b> |
| ResNET-9 | N/A     | 102.8K                  | 99.62        | 67.58        |
| ResNET-9 | L1-NORM | 32.0K                   | 99.58        | 67.54        |
| ResNET-9 | L2-NORM | 32.0K                   | 99.64        | 67.63        |
| ResNET-9 | L3-NORM | 32.0K                   | 99.62        | 67.53        |
| ResNET-9 | RIEM    | 33.4K                   | 99.69        | 68.12        |
| ResNET-9 | RIEM    | 51.5K                   | <b>99.72</b> | <b>68.15</b> |





# Empirical Results on Vision Benchmarks

|              | METHOD                        | DATA-FREE | SIZE (MB) | W/A-BIT | TOP-1 (%)    |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| RESNET-18    | ORIGINAL                      | ×         | 46.83     | 32/32   | 71.47        |
|              | DFQ (NAGEL ET AL., 2019)      | ✓         | 8.36      | 6/6     | 66.30        |
|              | UDFC (BAI ET AL., 2023)       | ✓         | 8.36      | 6/6     | <b>72.70</b> |
|              | RIEM (OURS)                   | ✓         | 8.36      | 8/16    | 71.80        |
|              | DDAQ (LI ET AL., 2022c)       | ✓         | 5.58      | 4/4     | 58.44        |
|              | DSG (ZHANG ET AL., 2021)      | ×         | 5.58      | 4/4     | 34.33        |
|              | UDFC (BAI ET AL., 2023)       | ✓         | 5.58      | 4/4     | 63.49        |
|              | LP-NORM (PEI & WANG, 2023)    | ✓         | 5.58      | 8/16    | 64.52        |
|              | RIEM (OURS)                   | ✓         | 5.58      | 8/16    | <b>66.30</b> |
|              |                               |           |           |         |              |
| RESNET-50    | ORIGINAL                      | ×         | 102.53    | 32/32   | 77.72        |
|              | OSME (CHOUKROUN ET AL., 2019) | ✓         | 12.28     | 4/32    | 67.36        |
|              | GDFQ (XU ET AL., 2020)        | ×         | 12.28     | 4/4     | 55.65        |
|              | SQUANT (GUO ET AL., 2022)     | ✓         | 12.28     | 4/4     | 70.80        |
|              | UDFC (BAI ET AL., 2023)       | ✓         | 12.28     | 4/4     | 72.09        |
|              | LP-NORM (PEI & WANG, 2023)    | ✓         | 12.28     | 8/16    | 72.96        |
|              | RIEM (OURS)                   | ✓         | 12.28     | 8/16    | <b>73.26</b> |
| DENSENET-121 | ORIGINAL                      | ×         | 32.34     | 32/32   | 74.36        |
|              | OMSE (CHOUKROUN ET AL., 2019) | ✓         | 6.00      | 4/32    | 64.40        |
|              | UDFC (BAI ET AL., 2023)       | ✓         | 6.00      | 4/32    | 70.15        |
|              | LP-NORM (PEI & WANG, 2023)    | ✓         | 6.00      | 8/16    | 71.66        |
|              | RIEM (OURS)                   | ✓         | 6.00      | 8/16    | <b>73.15</b> |
|              |                               |           |           |         |              |

|            | METHOD                          | PRUNE-RATIO | W-BIT | SIZE (MB) | FLOPs (G) | TOP-1 (%)     |
|------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| RESNET-34  | ORIGINAL                        | 0%          | 32    | 87.32     |           | 73.27         |
|            | NEURON MERGE (KIM ET AL., 2020) | 10%         | 32    | 78.8      | 6.84      | 67.10         |
|            | UDFC (BAI ET AL., 2023)         | 10%         | 6     | 14.8      | 6.84      | 69.86         |
|            | RIEM (OURS)                     | 10%         | 6     | 14.8      | 5.30      | <b>72.216</b> |
|            | NEURON MERGE (KIM ET AL., 2020) | 30%         | 32    | 61.6      | 5.30      | 39.40         |
|            | UDFC (BAI ET AL., 2023)         | 30%         | 6     | 11.6      | 5.30      | 59.25         |
|            | RIEM (OURS)                     | 30%         | 6     | 11.6      | 5.30      | <b>70.144</b> |
|            |                                 |             |       |           |           |               |
| RESNET-101 | ORIGINAL                        | 0%          | 32    | 178.81    |           | 77.31         |
|            | NEURON MERGE (KIM ET AL., 2020) | 10%         | 32    | 154.4     | 3.24      | 72.46         |
|            | UDFC (BAI ET AL., 2023)         | 10%         | 6     | 28.8      | 3.24      | 74.69         |
|            | RIEM (OURS)                     | 10%         | 6     | 28.8      | 2.52      | <b>76.032</b> |
|            | NEURON MERGE (KIM ET AL., 2020) | 30%         | 32    | 112.4     | 2.52      | 38.44         |
|            | UDFC (BAI ET AL., 2023)         | 30%         | 6     | 21.2      | 2.52      | 65.76         |
|            | RIEM (OURS)                     | 30%         | 6     | 21.2      | 2.52      | <b>73.296</b> |

|                            | METHOD           | DATA-FREE | W-BIT | SIZE (MB) | AP          | AP <sub>50</sub> | AP <sub>75</sub> | AP <sub>S</sub> | AP <sub>M</sub> | AP <sub>L</sub> |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                            | DETR             | ×         | 32    | 159.0     | 40.1        | 60.6             | 42.0             | 18.3            | 43.3            | 59.5            |
| T-DETR (ZHEN ET AL., 2022) | T-DETR           | ×         | 8     | 43.6      | -0.6        | -0.8             | -0.4             | <b>+0.5</b>     | -0.9            | <b>-1.5</b>     |
|                            | T-DETR           | ×         | 4     | 33.4      | -2.2        | -2.7             | -2.2             | -1.0            | -2.7            | -3.2            |
|                            | QUANT-DETR       | ✓         | 8     | 43.6      | -2.2        | -1.2             | -3.1             | -2.5            | -2.5            | -1.8            |
|                            | SVD-DETR         | ✓         | 8     | 33.4      | -11.5       | -14.2            | -12.8            | -6.1            | -15.1           | -11.6           |
|                            | RIEM-DETR (OURS) | ✓         | 8     | 43.6      | <b>-0.4</b> | -0.6             | <b>+0.1</b>      | +0.4            | <b>-0.3</b>     | <b>-1.5</b>     |
|                            | RIEM-DETR (OURS) | ✓         | 8     | 33.4      | -0.7        | <b>-0.5</b>      | -1.2             | +0.1            | -1.3            | -2.1            |
|                            | RIEM-DETR (OURS) | ✓         | 8     | 26.7      | -2.8        | -2.5             | -3.4             | -2.4            | -4.4            | -4.1            |

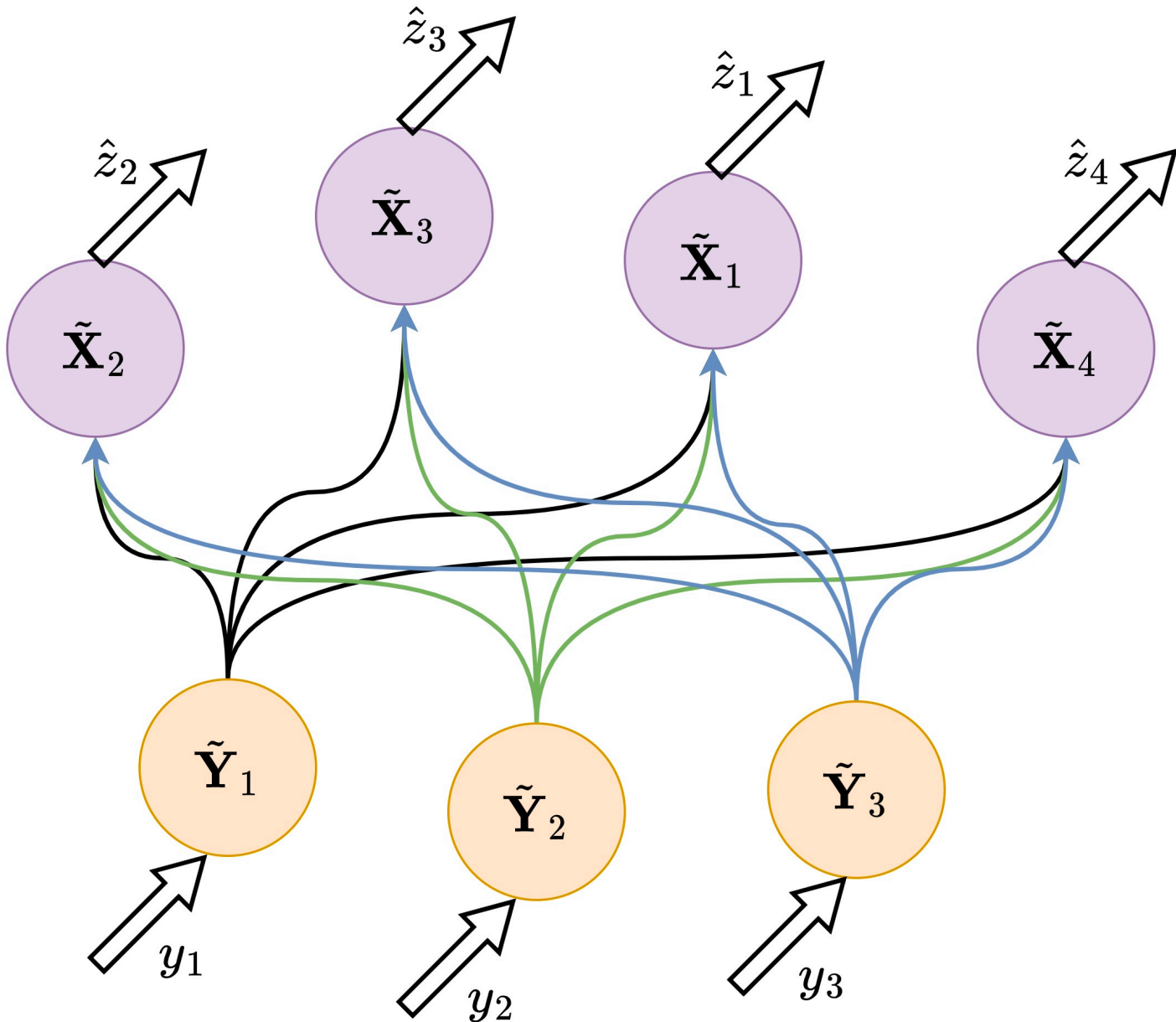
- Better data-free neural compression on ImageNet-1k compared with other Quantization and Pruning methods.
- Improve the Parameter-efficiency on the COCO object detection benchmark compared with other Compression methods.



# A New Paradigm of Dimensionality Reduction Techniques

| MATRIX SHAPE          | $\mathbb{R}^{1000 \times 1000}$ |          | $\mathbb{R}^{5000 \times 5000}$ |          | $\mathbb{R}^{10000 \times 10000}$ |          |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| $T_{comp.}/T_{naive}$ | 0.1                             | 0.3      | 0.1                             | 0.3      | 0.1                               | 0.3      |
| ISOMETRIC MAPPING     | 1.22E-01                        | 1.23E-01 | 6.27E-02                        | 6.28E-02 | 4.55E-02                          | 4.56E-02 |
| AUTOENCODER           | 4.60E-02                        | 3.66E-02 | 1.57E-02                        | 2.86E-02 | 4.43E-02                          | 4.33E-02 |
| DEEP<br>AUTOENCODER   | 3.16E-02                        | 3.41E-02 | 1.35E-02                        | 1.58E-02 | 9.50E-03                          | 3.93E-02 |
| LOCALLY LE            | 3.16E-02                        | 3.16E-02 | 1.41E-02                        | 1.41E-02 | 9.98E-03                          | 9.98E-03 |
| NYSTROM               | 3.16E-02                        | 3.16E-02 | 1.41E-02                        | 1.41E-02 | 9.98E-03                          | 9.98E-03 |
| KERNEL PCA            | 1.35E-03                        | 1.35E-03 | 7.70E-04                        | 7.80E-04 | 7.40E-04                          | 7.50E-04 |
| LP-NORM               | 2.50E-04                        | 1.31E-04 | 2.15E-05                        | 1.65E-05 | 9.87E-06                          | 7.88E-06 |
| RIEM (OURS)           | 2.20E-04                        | 1.20E-04 | 1.58E-05                        | 1.26E-05 | 5.56E-06                          | 6.27E-06 |

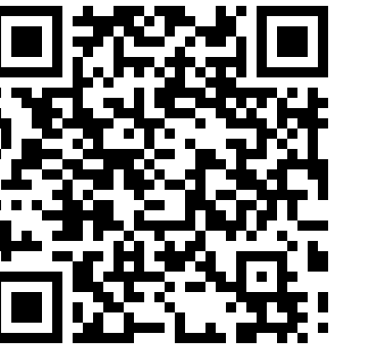
- Normalized matrix-vector production error on a synthetic matrix.
- The ratio  $T_{comp.}/T_{naive}$  represents refers to the compression ratio.



- For a vector  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and a matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 3}$ , computing  $\hat{\mathbf{z}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}$  is equivalent to transmitting signals  $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^3$  from a set of point groups  $\{\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{Y}}_3\}$  to another set of point groups  $\{\tilde{\mathbf{X}}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_4\}$ .



# Conclusion



- Basically, **any** matrix of  $\mathbb{R}^{a \times b}$  within a neural structure can be converted into  $a + b$  neurons interpreted as  **$d$ -dimensional neuronal dynamics** via ***RieM***, enabling better data-free neural compression.
- Moreover, ***RieM***-based neural representation enables better integration of black-box neural models with **solid physical interpretations**.
- However, ***RieM*** still require time-consuming iterative updates and are sensitive to parameter initialization.
- Therefore, future work involves refining the computational form, **reducing the conversion time**, and deriving a more accurate physics-inspired framework to enhance **neural interpretability and efficiency**.



THANKS !