

# **Discussion:**

## **Machine Learning and String Theory**

Jim Halverson, Vishnu Jejjala,  
and Andre Lukas

# Topics to Review

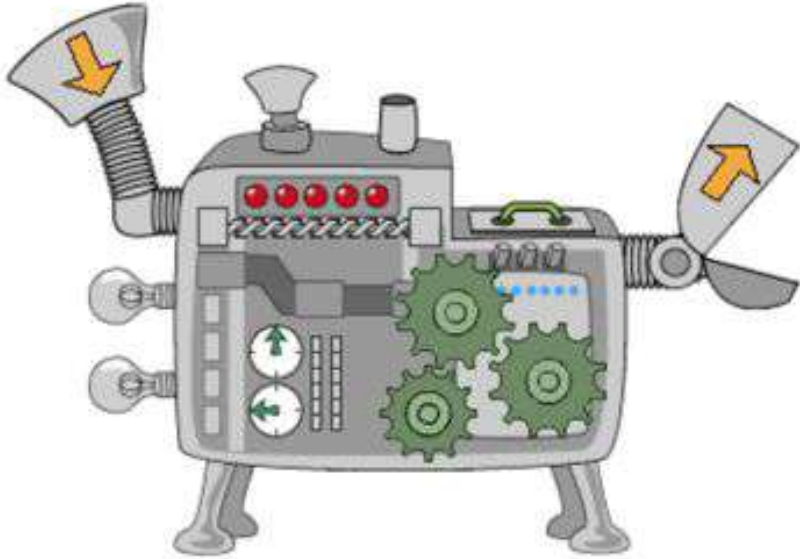
**Supervised Learning** (learning difficult-to-compute data, conjecture generation)

**Self-Supervised Learning** (CY metrics, wavefunctions, HYM, etc)

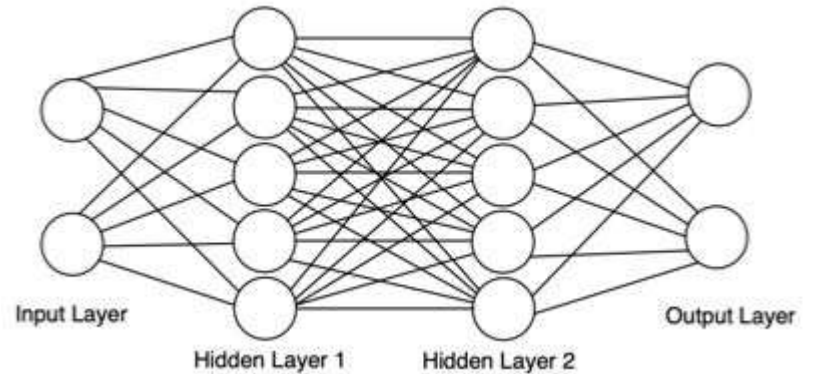
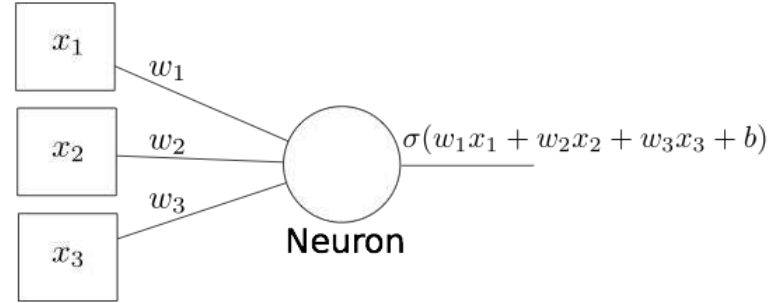
**Reinforcement Learning** (review, model-building + search)

# Supervised

Neural networks



Input vector



# Supervised

## Calabi–Yau data

CICY threefolds: He (2017), Bull, He, VJ, Mishra (2018, 2019), Erbin, Finotello (2020)

CICY fourfolds: He, Lukas (2020), Erbin, Finotello, Schneider, Tamaazousti (2021)

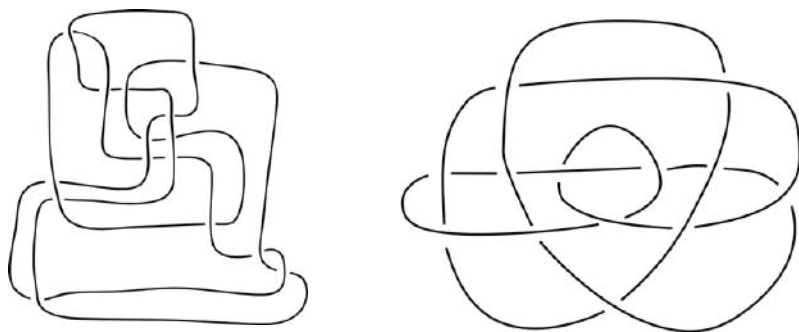
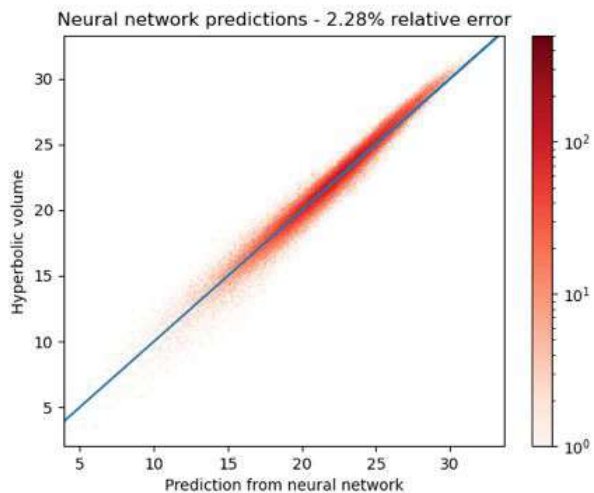
## Line bundle cohomology

Klaewer, Schlechter (2018), Brodie, Constantin, Deen, Lukas (2019)

# Supervised

## Knot theory

Hughes (2016), VJ, Kar, Parrikar (2019), Levitt, Hajij, Sazdanovic (2019),  
Gukov, Halverson, Ruehle, Sulkowski (2020), Craven, VJ, Kar (2020)



# Supervised

ML identifies associations — how does a machine learn?

Bridge this success to obtain new analytic results and methods

*e.g.*, calculations of Hodge numbers scale polynomially rather than doubly exponentially — are there new ways to calculate in algebraic geometry?

Conjecture generation from simple algorithms

Carifio, Halverson, Krioukov, Nelson (2017)

Can machines do original physics or mathematics? How do  ${}^6\text{C}$  and  ${}^{14}\text{Si}$  collaborate?

# Self-Generative Learning

- **crux:** let the NN be a variation ansatz for some function that you care about.
- **train:** loss is some function of NN itself, doesn't depend on labelled data.
- **examples:**
  - NN a CY metric, loss  $|\text{Ricci}|^2$ .
  - NN quantum state, loss  $|E|^2$ . [Carleo, Troyer]
  - NN a PDE solution to  $D f = 0$ ,  $D$  some op. loss is  $|D f|^2$ . e.g. HYM equations.

## Theory Comments:

Good idea in principle b/c NN a universal approximator.

Doesn't guarantee learning dynamics that find the good solution.

# Self-Generative Learning: Metrics

[Anderson, Gerdes, Gray, Krippendorf, Raghuram, Ruehle]  
[Douglas, Qi] [Jejjala, Mayorga Pena, Mishra]

## Outlook: Moving away from BPS

- Let the NN be a metric.  
Learn CY metric.

- 1) use  $L = |\text{Ricci}|^2$
- 2) use Monge-Ampere loss
- 3) other losses?

Can build in moduli dependence.

- **Swampland:** given metric, study eigenvalues of KK modes, see level crossing, study rel. to Swampland dist. conj. [Ashmore, Ruehle].
- **Line bundle connections.**  
[Ashmore, Deen, He, Ovrut]

- two truly amazing results:  
1) **Yau's theorem.** Topology guarantees geometry, we have string backgrounds!

2) **Calibration.** can compute some submanifold volumes, w/o a metric!

Use CY metrics when we can't do the latter.

- non BPS states, yes in CY, but also in M-theory on G2, crucial for gauge symmetry!

- WGC and minimal surfaces, a la [Demirtas, Long, McAllister, Stillman]



# Self-Generative Learning

## More Outlook

- **G2 metrics.** No analog of Yau's theorem that ensures a good starting place. Nevertheless!
- **Real fibrations:**  
*Ambitious:* SYZ fibration develops in limits of CY moduli, a test of mirror symmetry.  
[Strominger, Yau, Zaslow]

*Less known:* five-manifold fibered by two-spheres in G2 manifolds with Coulomb-breaking of non-abelian theory. Follows from semi-classical physics of topological defects, exists in CY, but no calibration to help you in G2.  
[Halverson, Morrison] [Joyce, Karigiannis]

## More Theory

### Neural tangent kernel:

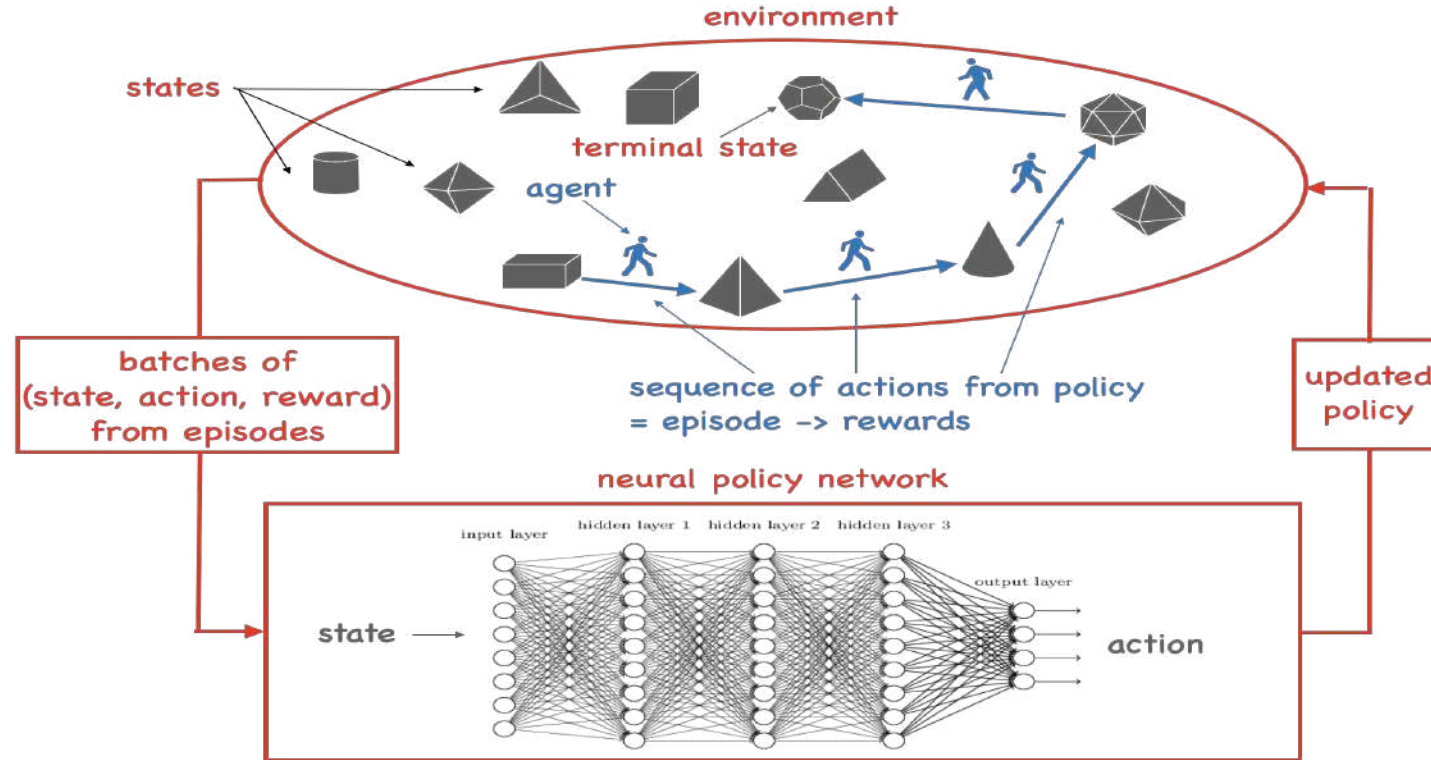
Gradient flow governed of NNs in infinite width limit governed by t-independent, parameter-independent kernel, NTK.  
[Jacot, Gabriel, Hongler]

L2 loss: analytic mean predictions for an infinite ensemble of infinitely wide trained NNs. **kern. reg.**

Infinite width self-generative learning WIP:  
[Halverson, Luo], [Halverson, Ruehle]

Principled architecture design: tune NTK spectrum to encourage fast self-gen. learning, e.g. with RFFs.

# Reinforcement Learning (RL)



(Reinforce, actor-critic, Q-learning, . . .)

# RL

## String model search and model building

Environment	→	family of string models/string data
states	→	specific models
action	→	“small” modification of model
reward	→	measure for how much desirable features of model improve

### Goals:

- Explore large classes of models, identify desirable ones
- Use trained network to build models
- Identify model-building strategies

# RL

- IIA intersection brane models → new model-building strategy  
(J. Halverson, B. Nelson, F. Ruehle, 1903.11616)
- Heterotic line bundle models → explore large classes, scaling with  $h^{1,1}(X)$   
(M. Larfors, R. Schneider, 2003.04817)
- Knots → RL learns to “unknot”  
(S. Gukov, F. Ruehle, P. Sulkowski, 2010.16263)
- Heterotic monad bundles → large environments, new models  
(A. Constantin, T. Harvey, AL, 2108.07316)
- Heterotic monad bundles → comprehensive scan, checked with GA  
(A. Abel, A. Constantin, T. Harvey, AL, 2110.14029)

## Remarks:

- RL changes approach to string/QFT model building
- Complete search of string landscape ( $10^{\mathcal{O}(10) h^{1,1}(X)}$ ) possible?  
Scaling with  $h^{1,1}(X)$ ?
- Too many states ( $\sim 10^{h^{1,1}(X)}$ ) with “good” spectrum. Need to refine what we are searching for . . .

# **Discussion Time**

Extending These Topics + Discussing Your Topics

# Extending These Topics

Supervision?

Learn mathematical structures  
(what questions in mathematics/physics are learnable)  
(failed experiments)

How machines learn – analogy to RG

Electron mass, ...

Embed symmetries in architecture

---

Self-Generative?

KK-modes?

Non-BPS objects?

Real fibrations?

G2?

NTK?

More CY Examples?

---

RL?

Large h11?  
Complete searches?

Detailed model  
requirements?

Find models w/  
realistic particles +  
cosmo

F-theory  
searches?

# Your topics!

sub-idea 1?

Your Big Idea

sub-idea 2?

sub-idea 3?

---

sub-idea 1?

Your Big Idea

sub-idea 2?

sub-idea 3?

---

sub-idea 1?

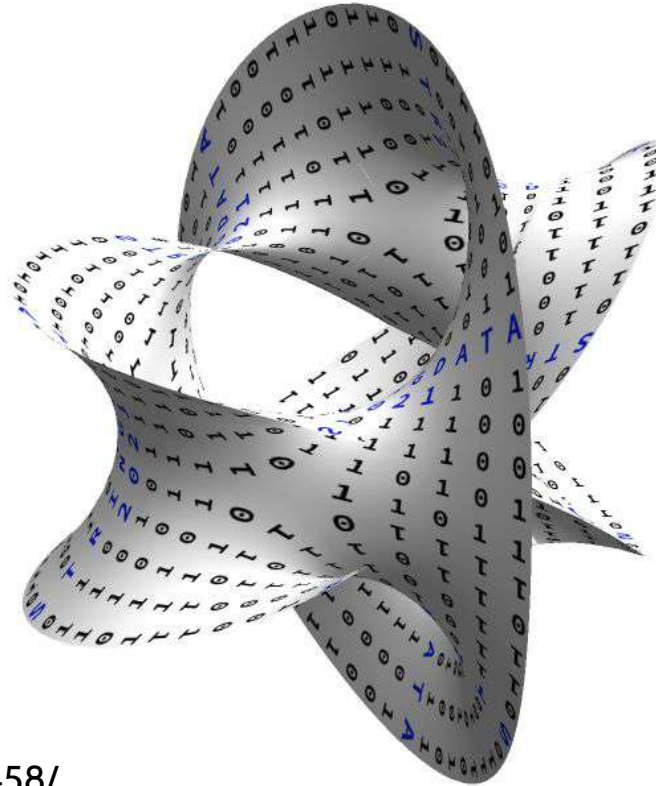
Your Big Idea

sub-idea 2?

sub-idea 3?

# string\_data\_2021

13-17 December 2021



<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1065458/>