

# Surfing: Iterative Optimization Over Incrementally Trained Deep Networks

**Ganlin Song, Zhou Fan, John Lafferty**

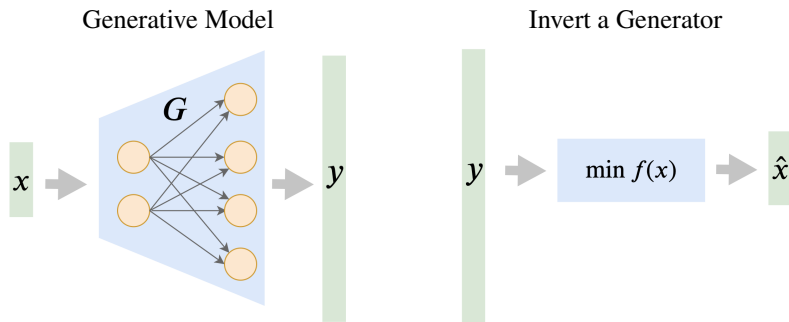
Department of Statistics and Data Science

Yale University

# Background

We consider inverting a trained generative network  $G$  by

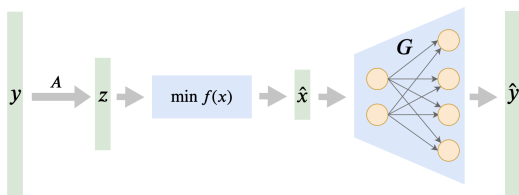
$$\min_x f(x) = \min_x \|G(x) - y\|^2$$



# Background

- Compressed sensing framework: observe  $z = Ay + \epsilon$ ; recover  $y$  by (Bora, Jalal, Price & Dimakis 2017)

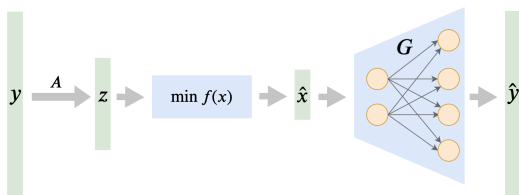
$$\min_x f(x) = \min_x \|AG(x) - z\|^2$$



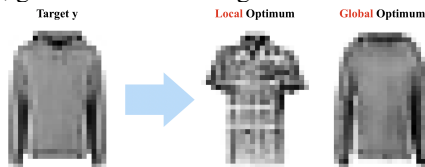
# Background

- Compressed sensing framework: observe  $z = Ay + \epsilon$ ; recover  $y$  by (Bora, Jalal, Price & Dimakis 2017)

$$\min_x f(x) = \min_x \|AG(x) - z\|^2$$



- $f(x)$  is non-convex; gradient descent not guaranteed to reach global optimum





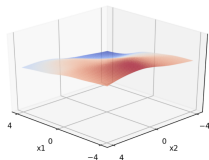
# Motivation

Landscape of  $x \mapsto -f_{\theta}(x) = -\|G_{\theta}(x) - y\|^2$ , as weights  $\theta$  are trained

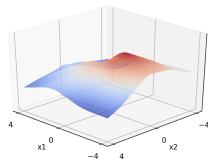
Target  $y$



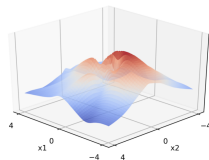
Initial Network



Partially Trained



Fully Trained



# Algorithm

## Intuition

- The landscape for initial random network is “nice”
- Initialize with random network and track optimum for intermediate networks

## Surfing Algorithm

- Obtain a sequence of parameters  $\theta_0, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_T$  during training
- Optimize empirical risk function  $f_{\theta_0}, f_{\theta_1}, \dots, f_{\theta_T}$  iteratively using gradient descent
- For each  $t \in \{1, \dots, T\}$ , initialize gradient descent at the solution from time  $t - 1$

# Theory and Experiments

## Theoretical Results

- ① If  $G_\theta$  has random parameters, all critical points of  $f_\theta(x)$  belong to a **small neighborhood around 0** with high probability (Builds on Hand & Voroninski 2017)
- ② Under certain conditions, **modified surfing can track the minimizer**

# Theory and Experiments

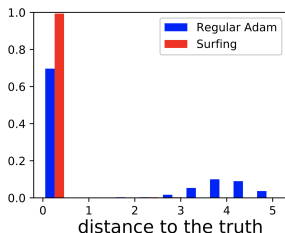
## Theoretical Results

- ① If  $G_\theta$  has random parameters, all critical points of  $f_\theta(x)$  belong to a **small neighborhood around 0** with high probability (Builds on Hand & Voroninski 2017)
- ② Under certain conditions, **modified surfing can track the minimizer**

## Experiments

For DCGAN trained on Fashion-MNIST

$$\min_x \|G_\theta(x) - G_\theta(x_0)\|^2$$



$$\min_x \|AG_\theta(x) - Ay\|^2$$

