



Software and Tools  
for Computational  
Engineering

**RWTH**AACHEN  
UNIVERSITY

## Towards Sobolev Pruning

Training and pruning surrogate models with sensitivity information

Neil Kichler STCE, RWTH Aachen June 4, 2024

Joint work with:



Sher Afghan (STCE, RWTH Aachen)



Uwe Naumann (STCE, RWTH Aachen)

# Motivation

Goal: Find a **surrogate model**, that is

- accurate
- efficient
- robust.

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Shortcoming:

- Surrogate model does not consider sensitivities and uncertainties.  
     $\hookrightarrow$  Derivative information may differ drastically.

# Motivation

Sensitivity information is often an afterthought, but:

- Captures vital information in many applications
- Crucial in optimization (e.g., Newton's method)
- Helps to learn robust & accurate surrogate models

## Motif

Incorporate sensitivity information throughout the learning and pruning process.

# Outline

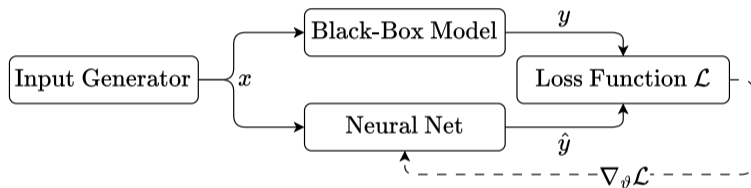
1. Sobolev Training
2. Pruning
3. Case Study
4. Results
5. Conclusion

# Setup

In the domain of surrogate modelling with neural networks, let:

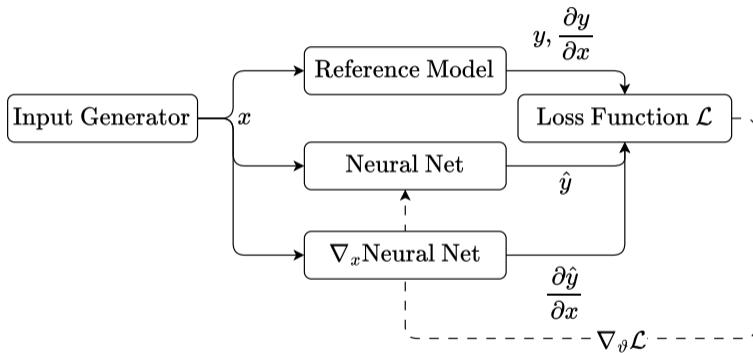
- $\mathcal{N}(\vartheta)$ : The surrogate model as a neural network.  
     $\vartheta$ : The parameters of the neural network.  
     $f_{\vartheta}$ : The learned function.
- $\mathcal{S}$ : The reference model sampler.
- $\mathcal{L}$ : The loss function, e.g.  $\mathcal{L} = \|\cdot\|_2^2$ .
- $(x_i, y_i)$ : An (input, target) sample.

# Vanilla Training



Match targets by differentiating the loss and optimize using, e.g., SGD.

# Sobolev Training



Match targets and differential targets.

# Sobolev Loss

## Definition (Sobolev Loss)

Given input  $\mathbf{x}$ , target  $\mathbf{y}$ , predicted output  $f_{\vartheta}(\mathbf{x})$ , differential target  $\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{y}$ , and predicted differential  $\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}f_{\vartheta}(\mathbf{x})$ , the differential loss is defined by:

$$\|\mathbf{y} - f_{\vartheta}(\mathbf{x})\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\nabla_{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{y} - \nabla_{\mathbf{x}}f_{\vartheta}(\mathbf{x})\|_2^2,$$

where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  is an added balancing factor.

## Sobolev Loss: Interpretation

Srinivas and Fleuret [1] highlight that the Sobolev loss naturally arises when considering perturbations.

### Perturbation perspective:

Consider perturbation of input. By Taylor expansion [1]:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}_{\epsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m (f(\mathbf{x}_i + \epsilon) - f_{\vartheta}(\mathbf{x}_i + \epsilon))^2 \right] &= \sum_{i=1}^m (f(\mathbf{x}_i) - f_{\vartheta}(\mathbf{x}_i))^2 \\ &\quad + \sigma^2 \sum_{i=1}^m \|\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x}_i) - \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f_{\vartheta}(\mathbf{x}_i)\|_2^2 + \mathcal{O}(\sigma^4).\end{aligned}$$

# Sobolev Training

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**Algorithm** Sobolev Training [2].

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**Require:** The following inputs must all be initialized.

- Surrogate model  $\mathcal{N}(\vartheta)$  with function  $f_{\vartheta}$  and parameters  $\vartheta$
- Reference model  $\mathcal{S}$
- Optimizer  $G$

**while**  $\vartheta$  not converged **do**

$\{(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{y}_i, \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{y}_i)\}_{i=1}^m \sim \mathcal{S}$  ▷ Sample training data

$\hat{\mathbf{g}} \leftarrow \frac{1}{m} \nabla_{\vartheta} \sum_{i=1}^m \mathcal{L}(f_{\vartheta}(\mathbf{x}_i), \mathbf{y}_i) + \lambda \mathcal{L}(\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} f_{\vartheta}(\mathbf{x}_i), \nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \mathbf{y}_i)$

$\vartheta \leftarrow G(\vartheta, \hat{\mathbf{g}})$  ▷ Update parameters

**end while**

**return**  $\mathcal{N}$

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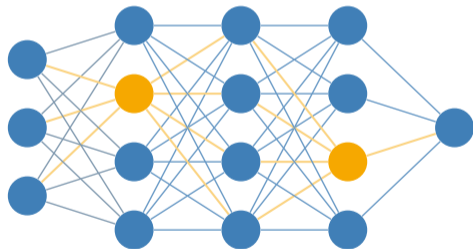
How large should the surrogate model be?

~~How large should the surrogate model be?~~  
How small can the surrogate model get?

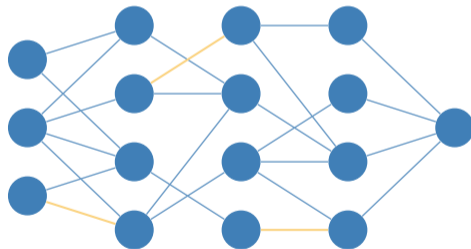
# Pruning

## Goal

Prune the surrogate model to increase the computational efficiency while retaining accuracy.



Dense Pruning.



Sparse Pruning.

# Pruning

## Goal

Prune the surrogate model to increase the computational efficiency while retaining accuracy.

## Why not start with Sparse Training?

Dynamic Sparse Training (e.g., SET [3], RIGL [4]) works, but:

- are not designed for modern architectures → requires masking.
- still requires reasonable starting size guess.
- worse performance, in practice, compared to dense2sparse training.

# Pruning

## Typically

Magnitude Pruning:  $|w|$

Salience Pruning:  $|\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial w} w|$

...

# Pruning

## Typically

Magnitude Pruning:  $|w|$

Saliency Pruning:  $|\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial w} w|$

...

## Downsides?

- must iterate over training data.
- sensitivity information?
- no global perspective.

# Pruning

Can we get a global perspective on weight importance?

Interval arithmetic!

# Interval Arithmetic

## Fundamentals:

- Considers variables to be inside a fixed range, a trust region.
- Replace  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $[x] \in \mathbb{IR}$ .
- $[x] = [\underline{x}, \bar{x}]$  if  $\{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid \underline{x} \leq x \leq \bar{x}\}$ .
- $f([x]) := \{f(x) \mid x \in [x]\}$ .

## Fundamental Theorem of Interval Arithmetic

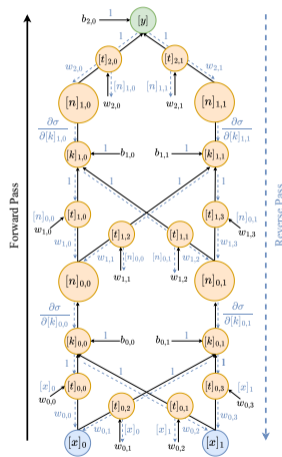
*A function  $\mathbf{f}$  over an interval input box  $X = ([x]_0, \dots, [x]_n)$  is guaranteed to enclose the range of  $\mathbf{f}$  over those inputs, i.e.,  $\text{range}(\mathbf{f}) \subseteq \mathbf{f}(X)$  (Moore et al.).*

# Interval Adjoints

Algorithmic Differentiation (AD) [6] naturally applies to interval arithmetic [7].

## AD on Interval Arithmetic

- Apply AD as usual.
- Replace all operations of the source transformed code with the interval arithmetic equivalent.



# Interval Adjoint Significance Analysis

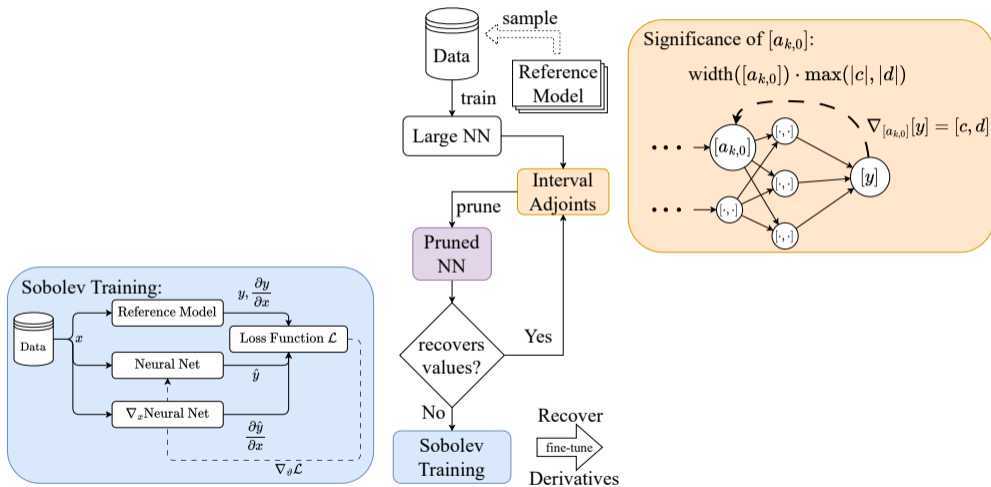
## Significance Measure

$$S_{[y]}([n]_{l,i}) = \text{width}([n]_{l,i}) \cdot \max(|\nabla_{[n]_{l,i}}[y]|),$$

where:

- $[y]$ : interval output
- $\text{width}([x]) = \bar{x} - \underline{x}$
- $l$ : hidden layer index
- $i$ : node index in given layer

# General framework



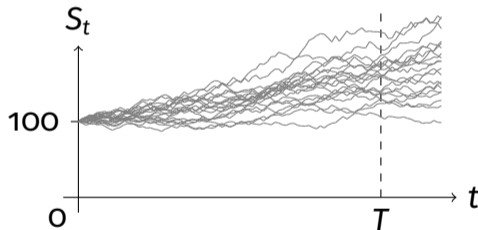
# Case Study: Option pricing

Consider the SDE:

$$dS_t = a(S, t) dt + b(S, t) dW_t,$$

where:

- $dW_t$  is a Wiener process
- $a : \mathbb{R} \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , the drift
- $b : \mathbb{R} \times [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , the vola

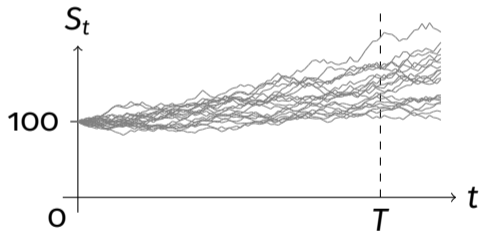


Sample paths of SDE.

# Case Study: Option pricing

Consider the SDE:

$$dS_t = a(S, t) dt + b(S, t) dW_t,$$



Sample paths of SDE.

Interested in the **price**:

$$V = \mathbb{E}[\nu(S_T, K)],$$

with:

- $S_T$  the price at maturity  $T$
- $K$  the strike price
- $\nu(S_T, K)$  the payoff function

# Bachelier

The Bachelier model can be described as a SDE:

$$dS_t = \mu S_t dt + \sigma dW_t,$$

where:

- $t$ , the time index.
- $\mu$ , the constant drift for the interest rate.
- $\sigma$ , the constant volatility.
- $S_t$ , the underlying asset price at time  $t$ .
- $dW_t$ , a Wiener process, i.e. Brownian motion.

# Gaussian Basket

## Definition (Basket)

A Basket  $\mathbf{S}_t \in \mathbb{R}^m$  of  $m$  securities  $S_t^{[0]}, \dots, S_t^{[m]}$  has price:

$$\mathbf{S}_t = \sum_{i=0}^m \omega_i S_t^{[i]}, \quad \sum_{i=0}^m \omega_i = 1,$$

where  $\omega_i$  is the weight associated with the  $i$ th security.

⇒ Directly applicable to the Bachelier model.

# Surrogate Objective

## Given

$\mathbf{S}_0$  : initial spot price from basket

## Find

$V$  : option price (Value)

$\frac{\partial V}{\partial \mathbf{S}_0}$  : 1st-order price sensitivity (Delta)

$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \mathbf{S}_0^2}$  : 2nd-order price sensitivity (Gamma)

$\Rightarrow$  Solved using Least-Squares Monte Carlo.

# Least-Squares Monte Carlo

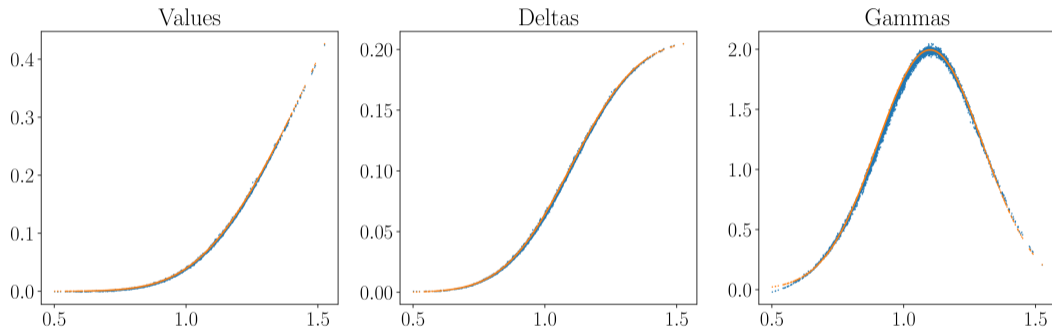
Least-Squares Monte Carlo method is equivalent to optimizing

$$\vartheta^* = \arg \min_{\vartheta} \mathbb{E}_{(\theta, \mathbf{z}) \sim \Theta_{\text{in}} \times \mathcal{Z}} \left[ \|\mathbf{v}(g(\theta, \mathbf{z})) - f_{\vartheta}(\theta)\|_2^2 \right],$$

where:

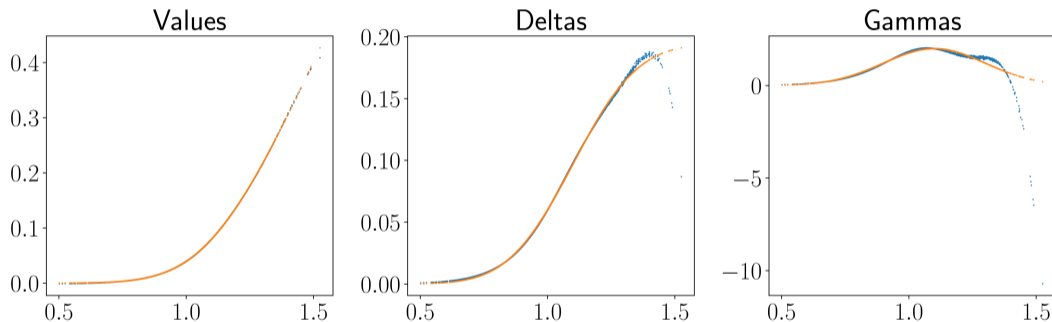
- $f_{\vartheta}$  is the fitted curve with coefficients  $\vartheta$
- random input parameters  $\theta \sim \Theta_{\text{in}}$  (here:  $\theta = \{\mathbf{S}_0\}$ )
- random path noise samples  $\mathbf{z} \sim \mathcal{Z}$
- payoff function  $\mathbf{v}$ .

# Regression using Neural Networks



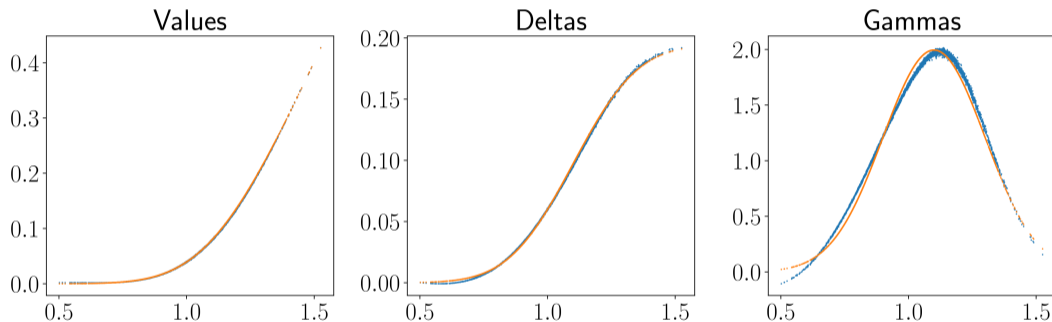
Baseline results (normalized) of Vanilla ML using a basic Multi-Layer Perceptron (MLP).

# After Interval Adjoint Significance Pruning



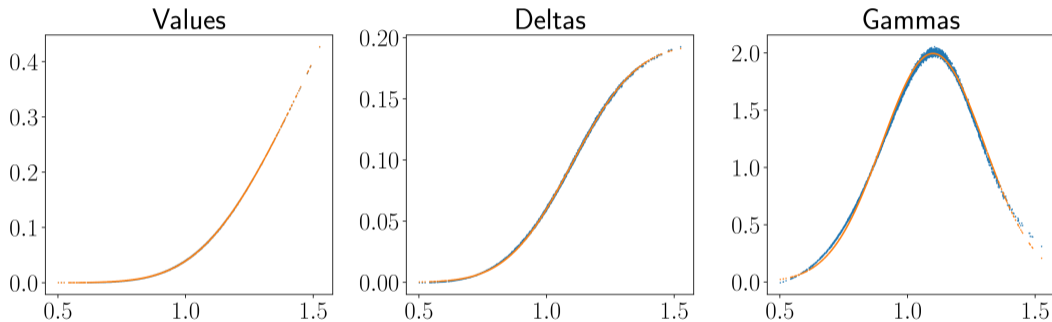
Results of pruned model (and vanilla ML fine-tuning).

## After Sobolev fine-tuning



Results after Sobolev fine-tuning on derivative samples from learned NN.

## After Sobolev fine-tuning on reference



Results after Sobolev fine-tuning on derivative samples from Bachelier reference model.

## Results: Overview

$R^2$  score of surrogate models for a Bachelier modelled basket option (7 dimensions).

Predict	Oversized NN	Pruned NN	Sobolev fine-tuning	
			NN Data	Bachelier
Values	0.999545	0.999296	0.999805	0.999962
Deltas	0.998700	0.996718	0.999479	0.999863
Gammas	0.997033	0.902470	0.987393	0.997374

# Limitations & Future Work

## Things to keep in mind

It requires:

- AD for interval arithmetic (no built-in support in ML libraries).
- Access to intermediate local partial derivatives.
- Derivative information from reference model
  - ↪ need access to source.
    - Expensive Jacobians? Approximate by sampling vjps.

## Going beyond

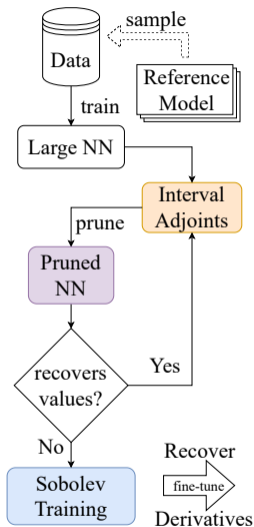
- Add second-order sensitivity information?

# Conclusion

## Add sensitivity information by:

- Pruning previously learned network with Interval Adjoint Significance Analysis.
- Using Sobolev Training to improve accuracy and retain sensitivity information.

Paper & Code: [github.com/neilkichler/sobolev-pruning](https://github.com/neilkichler/sobolev-pruning)



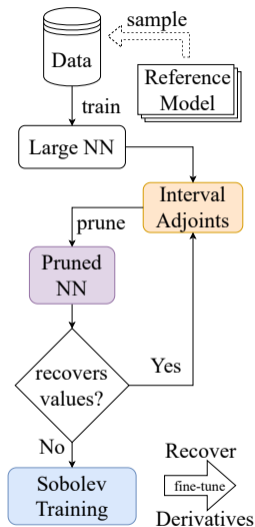
# Conclusion

Thank you for your attention!

## Add sensitivity information by:

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## References I

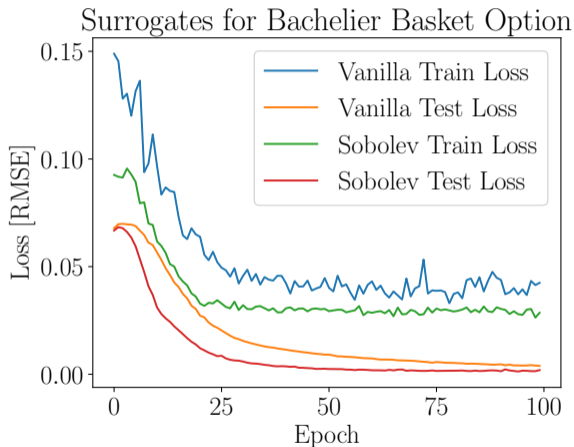
- [1] Suraj Srinivas and Francois Fleuret. “Knowledge Transfer with Jacobian Matching”. In: *Proceedings of the 35th International Conference on Machine Learning*. Vol. 80. PMLR, July 2018, pp. 4723–4731. arXiv: 1803.00443.
- [2] Wojciech M Czarnecki et al. “Sobolev training for neural networks”. In: vol. 30. 2017. arXiv: 1706.04859.
- [3] Decebal Constantin Mocanu et al. “Scalable training of artificial neural networks with adaptive sparse connectivity inspired by network science”. In: *Nature communications* 9.1 (2018), p. 2383.
- [4] Utku Evci et al. “Rigging the Lottery: Making All Tickets Winners”. In: *Proceedings of Machine Learning and Systems 2020*. 2020, pp. 471–481.

## References II

- [5] Ramon E. Moore et al. *Introduction to Interval Analysis*. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, 2009. DOI: 10.1137/1.9780898717716.
- [6] Uwe Naumann. *The Art of Differentiating Computer Programs: An Introduction to Algorithmic Differentiation*. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), 2012. DOI: 10.1137/1.9781611972078.
- [7] Vassilis Vassiliadis et al. “Towards automatic significance analysis for approximate computing”. In: *Proceedings of the 2016 International Symposium on Code Generation and Optimization*. CGO '16. Barcelona, Spain: Association for Computing Machinery, 2016, pp. 182–193. ISBN: 9781450337786. DOI: 10.1145/2854038.2854058.

# Backup Slides

# Comparison of Loss Curves



# Second-order sensitivity information

Hessian too expensive?  $\rightarrow$  sample directions.

## Random directions

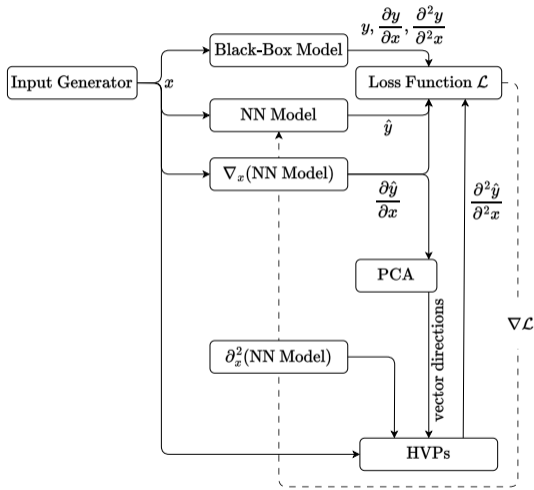
Draw random vectors  $\mathbf{v}$ , s.t.  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^T] = \mathbf{I}$ .

$$\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{H}\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^T] = \mathbf{H}\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{v}\mathbf{v}^T] = \mathbf{H}.$$

E.g.,  $N(\mu = \mathbf{0}, \Sigma = \mathbf{I})$ .

## PCA directions

- Take principal components.
- Further reduction by taking k-most significant components.



# Pathwise Sensitivities

Fix some random sample path  $z \sim \mathcal{Z}$  and input parameters  $\theta$ .

We have unbiased estimates of, e.g., pathwise deltas, if:

$$\mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{Z}} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial S_0} v(g(\theta, z)) \right] = \frac{\partial}{\partial S_0} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim \mathcal{Z}} \left[ v(g(\theta, z)) \right], \quad (1)$$

i.e. we can **interchange** the **expectation** with the **derivative** operator.

Practical Conditions for (1):

- Payoff  $v$  must be differentiable almost everywhere.
- Payoff  $v$  is Lipschitz continuous.

# Smoothing

We perform smoothing between function  $f_1 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $f_2 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  via  $\tilde{f} : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined as

$$\tilde{f}(x, p, w) = (1 - \sigma(x, p, w))f_1(x) + \sigma(x, p, w)f_2(x),$$

where

$$\sigma(x, p, w) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\frac{x-p}{w}}},$$

and  $p$  is the position to change between the two functions and  $w$  the width of the smoothing.

# Smoothing

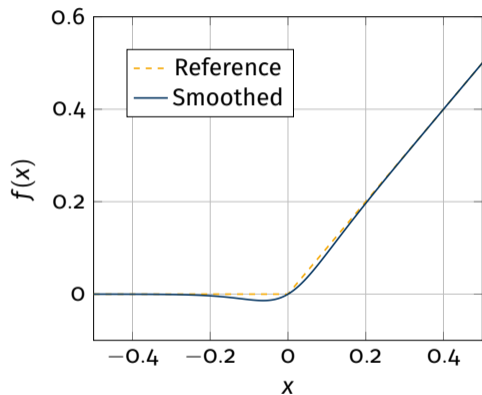
For  $v = (\cdot)^+$ :

Split function into  $\begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ x, & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$ .

We obtain:

$$\tilde{v}(x, w) = \frac{x}{1 + e^{-\frac{x}{w}}}.$$

Equivalent to SiLU if  $p = 0, w = 1$ .



Smoothing  $(\cdot)^+$ , with  $p = 0, w = 0.05$ .