# tinyML. On Device Learning Forum

Enabling Ultra-low Power Machine Learning at the Edge

"Forward Learning with Top-Down Feedback: Solving the Credit Assignment Problem without a Backward Pass"

Giorgia Dellaferrera – Researcher, Institute of Neuroinformatics Zurich

May 16, 2023



### The Dawn of On Device Learning in TinyML





# tinyML On Device Learning Forum 8/31 – 9/1, 2022 Online

#### On device learning Forum

- Accademia on 8/31/2022
- On-Device Learning Under 256KB Memory, Song HAN, Assistant Professor, MIT EECS
- Neural Network ODL for Wireless Sensor Nodes , Hiroki MATSUTANI, Professor, Keio University
- Scalable, Heterogeneity-Aware and Trustworthy Federated Learning, Yiran CHEN, Professor, Duke University
- On-Device Learning For Natural Language Processing with BERT, Warren J. GROSS, Professor, McGill University
- <u>Is on-device learning the next "big thing" in TinyML?</u> Manuel ROVERI, Associate Professor, Politecnico di Milano
- ODL Professors Panel
- Industry on 9/1/2022
  - <u>TinyML ODL in industrial IoT</u>, Haoyu REN, PhD Student, Technical University of Munich/Siemens
  - NeuroMem® wearable, hardwired sub milliwatt real time machine learning with wholly parallel access to "neuron memories" fully explainable, Guy PAILLET, Co-founder, General Vision
- <u>Using Coral Dev Board Micro for ODL innovations</u>, Bill LUAN, Senior Program Manager, Google
- Platform for Next Generation Analog Al Hardware Acceleration, Kaoutar EL MAGHRAOUI, Principal Research Scientist, IBM T.J
   Watson Research Center
- Enabling on-device learning at scale, Joseph SORIAGA, Sr. Director of Technology, Qualcomm
- <u>Training models on tiny edge devices</u>, Valeria TOMASELLI, Senior Engineer, STMicroelectronics

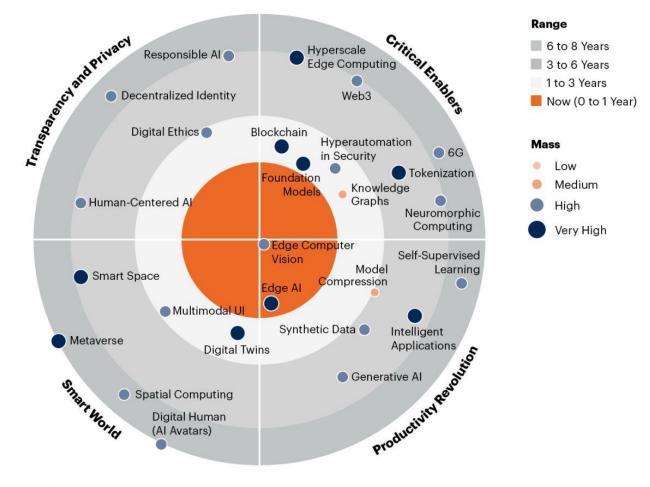
# tinyML EMEA Forum - On Device Learning 9/12, 2022 Cyprus, In person

On device learning Forum

- <u>A framework of algorithms and associated tool for on-device tiny learning</u>, Danilo PAU, Technical Director, IEEE and ST Fellow, STMicroelectronics
- In Sensor and On-device Tiny Learning for Next Generation of Smart Sensors Michele MAGNO, Head of the Project-based learning Center, ETH Zurich, D-ITET
- <u>Continual On-device Learning on Multi- Core RISC-V MicroControllers</u> Manuele RUSCI, Embedded Machine Learning Engineer, Greenwaves
- On-device continuous event-driven deep learning to avoid model drift, Bijan MOHAMMADI, CSO, Bondzai



# **2023 Gartner Emerging Technologies** and Trends Impact Radar



#### gartner.com

Note: Range measures number of years it will take the technology/trend to cross over from early adopter to early majority adoption. Mass indicates how substantial the impact of the technology or trend will be on existing products and markets.

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### On Device Learning Forum 2023, May 16 2023

- 8:00 8:10 Opening remarks by Danilo Pau
- 8:10 8:40 **Charlotte Frenkel** "Merging insights from artificial and biological neural networks for neuromorphic edge intelligence"
- 8:40 9:40 **Giorgia Dellaferrera** "Forward Learning with Top-Down Feedback: Solving the Credit Assignment Problem without a Backward Pass"
- 9:40 10:10 Guy Paillet "NeuroMem®, Ultra Low Power hardwired incremental learning and parallel pattern recognition"
- 10:10 10:40 Aida Todri-Sanial "On-Chip Learning and Implementation Challenges with Oscillatory Neural Networks"
- 10:40 11:10 Eduardo S. Pereira "Online Learning TinyML for Anomaly Detection Based on Extreme Values Theory"
- 11:10 11:15 Closing remarks by Danilo Pau



Pacific Time



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### Perception

Object detection, speech recognition, contextual fusion

Reasoning



Edge cloud





Cloud

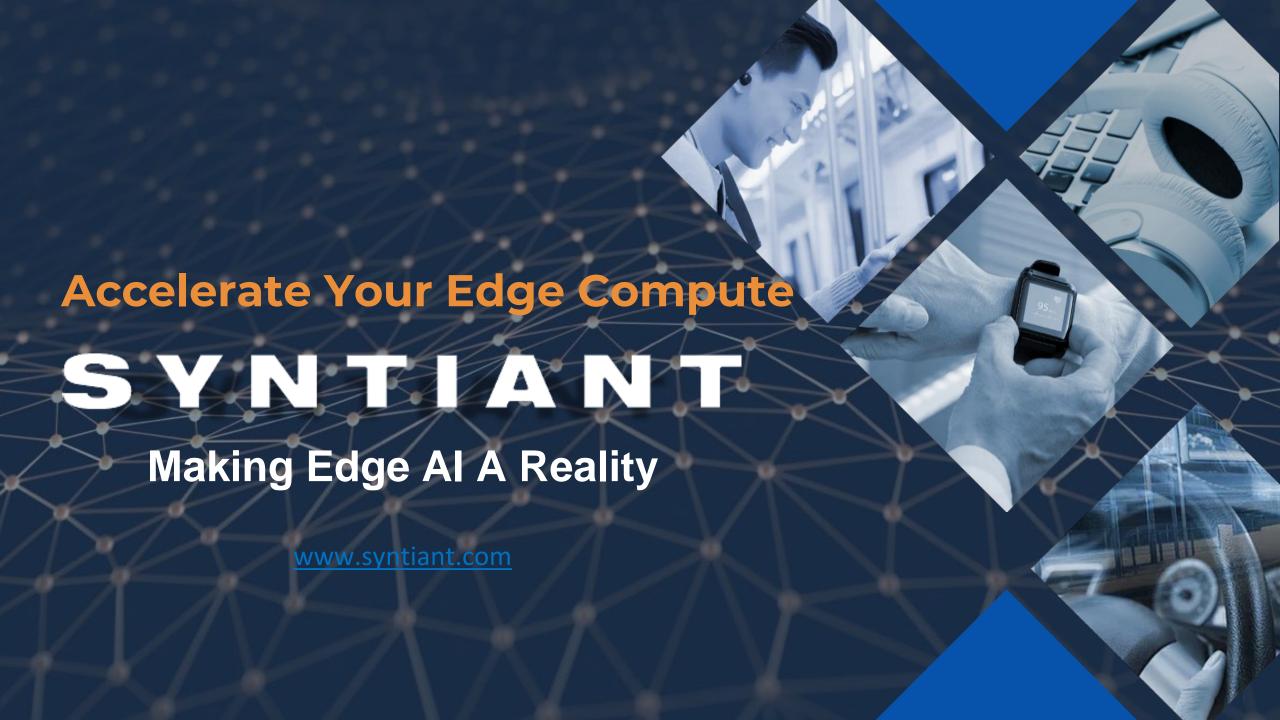




IoT/IIoT









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## DEPLOY VISION AI AT THE EDGE AT SCALE



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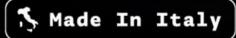
# Where what if becomes what is.

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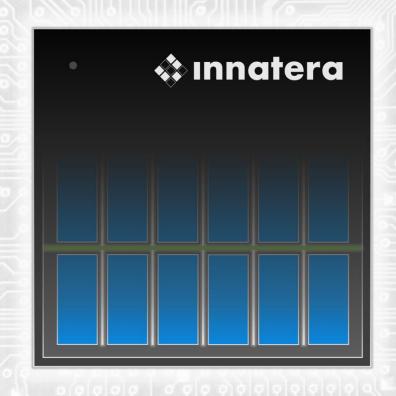
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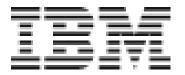
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tinyML - Enabling ultra-low Power ML at the Edge

https://www.meetup.com/tinyML-Enabling-ultra-low-Power-ML-at-the-Edge/





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The tinyML Community

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On device learning Forum



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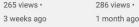
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### Reminders

Slides & Videos will be posted tomorrow





tinyml.org/forums

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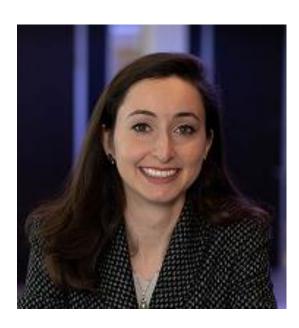


Please use the Q&A window for your questions





## Giorgia Dellaferrera

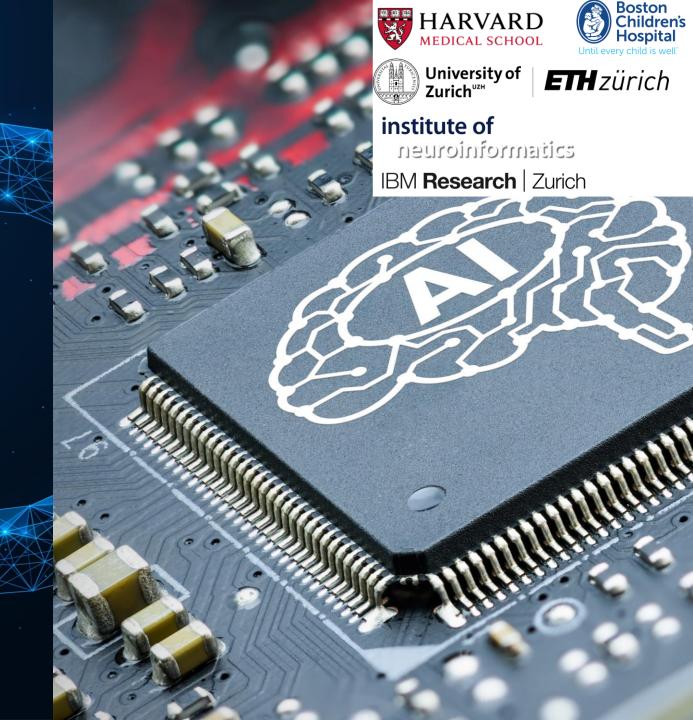


Giorgia Dellaferrera has completed her PhD in computational neuroscience at the Institute of Neuroinformatics (ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich) and IBM Research Zurich with Prof. Indiveri, Prof. Eleftheriou and Dr. Pantazi. Her doctoral thesis focused on the interplay between neuroscience and artificial intelligence, with an emphasis on learning mechanisms in brains and machines. During her PhD, she visited the lab of Prof. Kreiman at the Harvard Medical School (US), where she developed a biologically inspired training strategy for artificial neural networks. Before her PhD, Giorgia obtained a master in Applied Physics at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) and worked as an intern at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology, Logitech, Imperial College London, and EPFL.



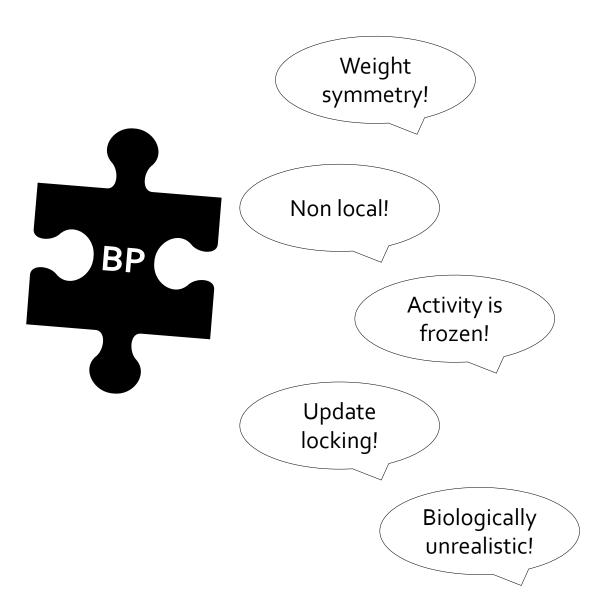
Forward Learning with Top-Down Feedback: Solving the Credit Assignment Problem without a Backward Pass

<u>Dellaferrera</u> & Kreiman, ICML 2022 Srinivasan, Mignacco, Sorbaro, Cooper, Refinetti, Kreiman, <u>Dellaferrera</u>, 2023 (arXiv:2302.05440 )



### Connecting the puzzle pieces of bio-inspired learning algorithms





NATURE VOL. 337 12 JANUARY 1989 COMMENTARY

### The recent excitement about neural networks

Francis Crick

### Backpropagation and the brain

Timothy P. Lillicrap , Adam Santoro, Luke Marris, Colin J. Akerman and Geoffrey Hinton

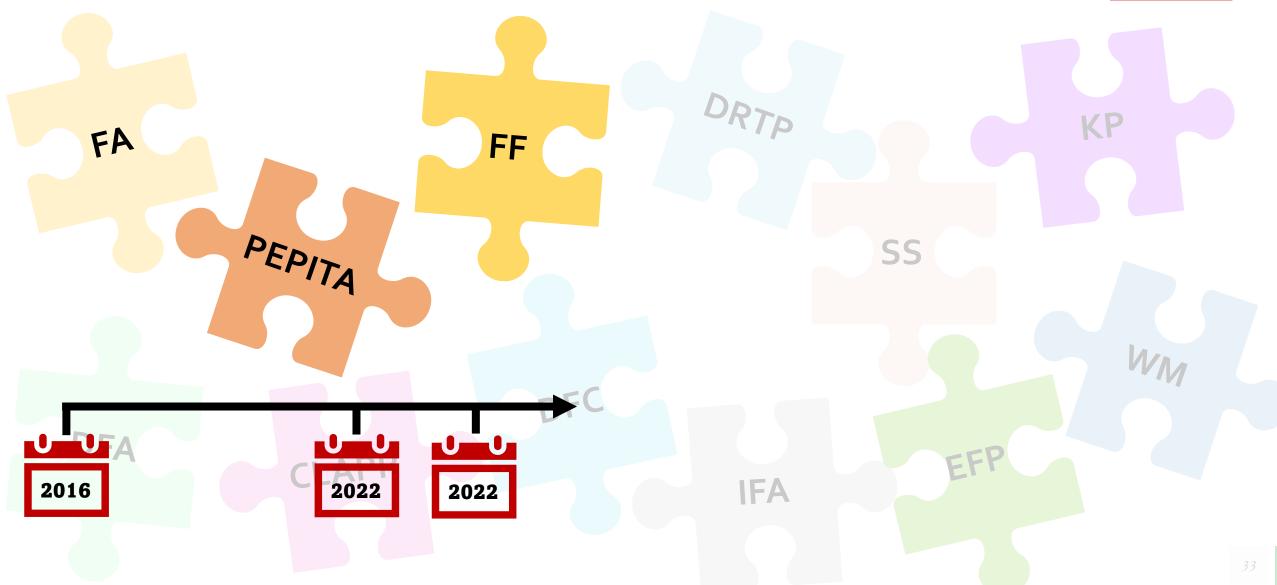
#### **Review**

Theories of Error Back-Propagation in the Brain

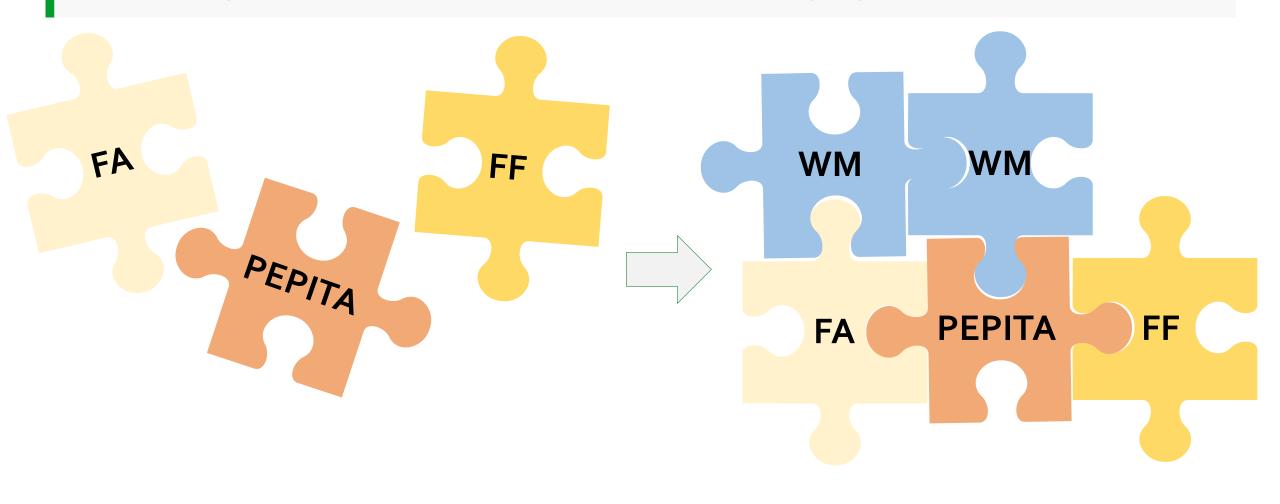
James C.R. Whittington<sup>1,2</sup> and Rafal Bogacz<sup>1,\*</sup>

# Connecting the puzzle pieces of bio-inspired learning algorithms





### Connecting the puzzle pieces of bio-inspired learning algorithms



Today: 9 am PT

Today: 9.45 am PT

### **Outline**

### Neuro-inspired Al

- Why Backpropagation is biologically implausible
- Overview of alternative solutions to credit assignment



### PEPITA: error-driven input modulation

- Replacing the backward pass with a second forward pass
- Results on image classification tasks
- Soft alignment dynamics
- Approximating PEPITA to Adaptive Feedback Alignment: analytical characterization
- Improving alignment with weight mirroring

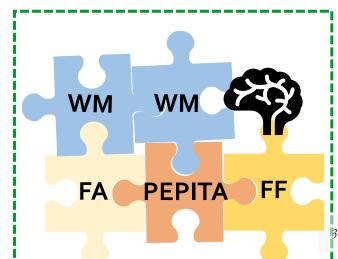
#### » Forward-Forward algorithm

- Idea and results
- Similarities with PEPITA's update rule



### Forward learning with top-down feedback

Biological considerations



### Outline

### » Neuro-inspired AI

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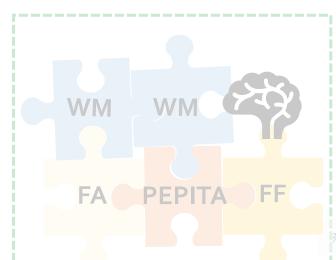
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### Forward learning with top-down feedback

Biological considerations



# Backpropagation: successful but not biologically plausible

#### » Success

- The most effective training algorithm
- State-of-the-art performance in complex cognitive tasks

#### » Algorithm

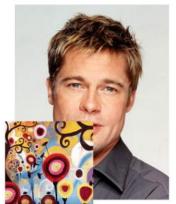
- Chain rule of calculus
- Change in synaptic strength ← change of network's error



https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-35785875









Li et al., 2017

## Glossary

#### » Target (t)

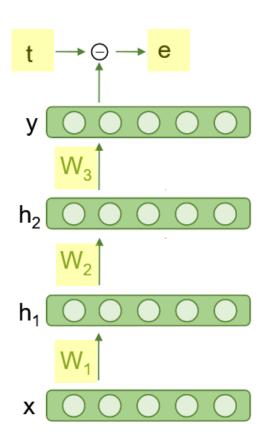
Desired output of a network

#### » Error (e)

Deviation of the network's output from the target

#### » Weights (W)

 Parameter corresponding to the strength of the connection between two nodes



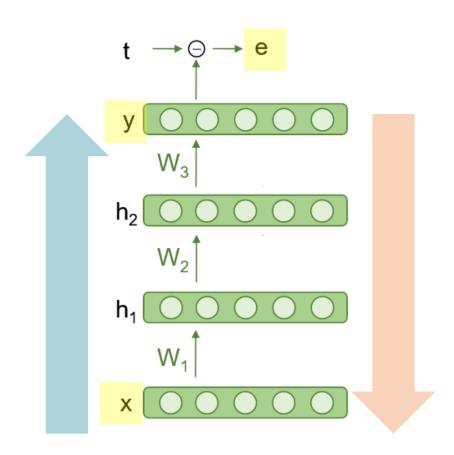
# The backpropagation algorithm

#### » Forward pass

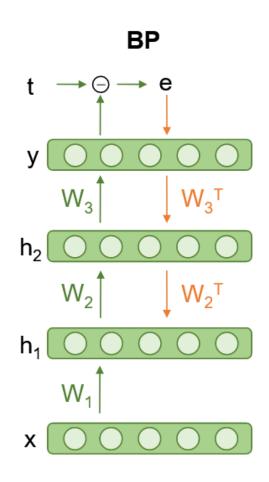
- Network's response to input
- Error function e = y t
- Weight updates proportional to its negative gradient

#### » Backward pass

- Error signal flows backward through the network
- Computed recursively via the chain rule
- Update phase



## Backpropagation of the error is not biologically plausible

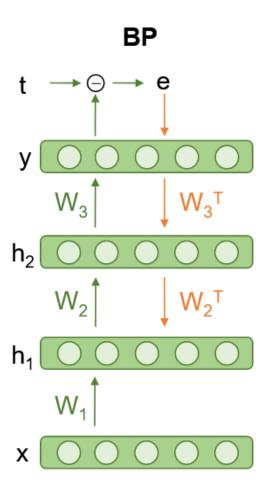


Rumelhart et al., 1995

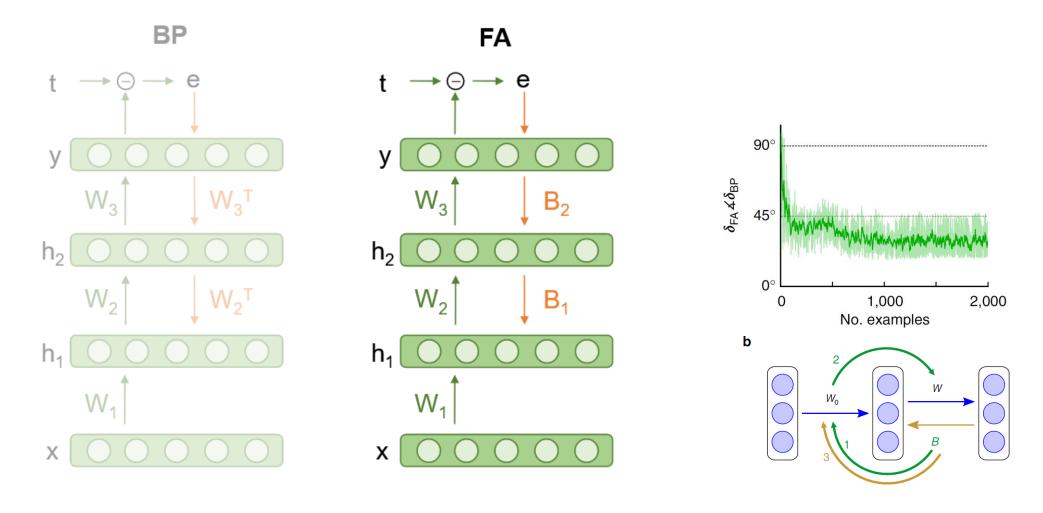
- » Weight transport problem
  - Symmetric weights for forward and backward computation
- » Non-local information used for the updates
  - Global error and downstream weights needed for learning
- » Frozen activity during error propagation and parameter updates
  - Separate forward and backward computation
- » Update locking problem
  - Backward computation needs to be complete before the next forward pass



Alternative Training Schemes

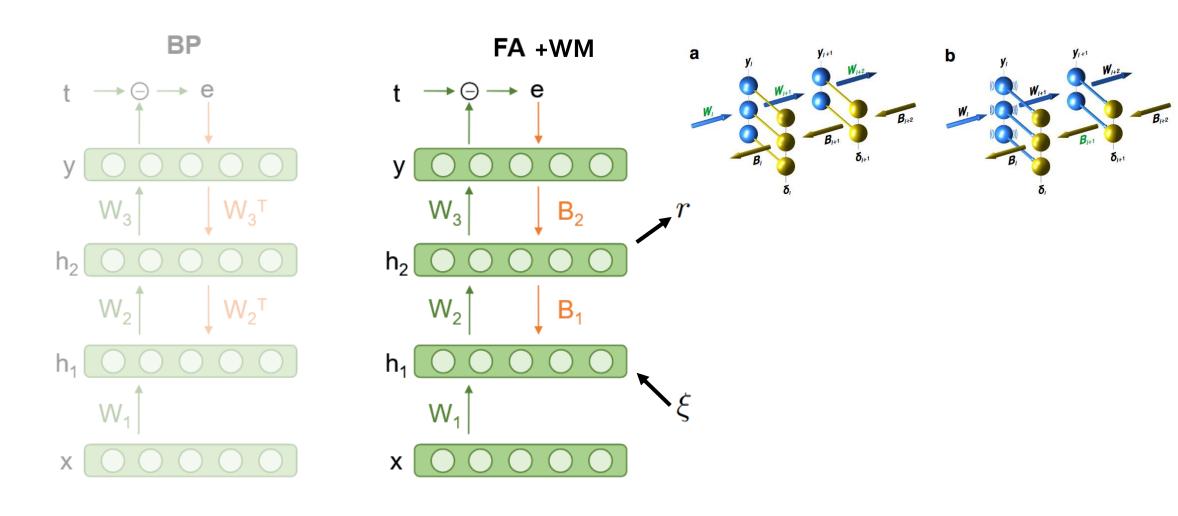


Rumelhart et al., 1995



Rumelhart et al., 1995

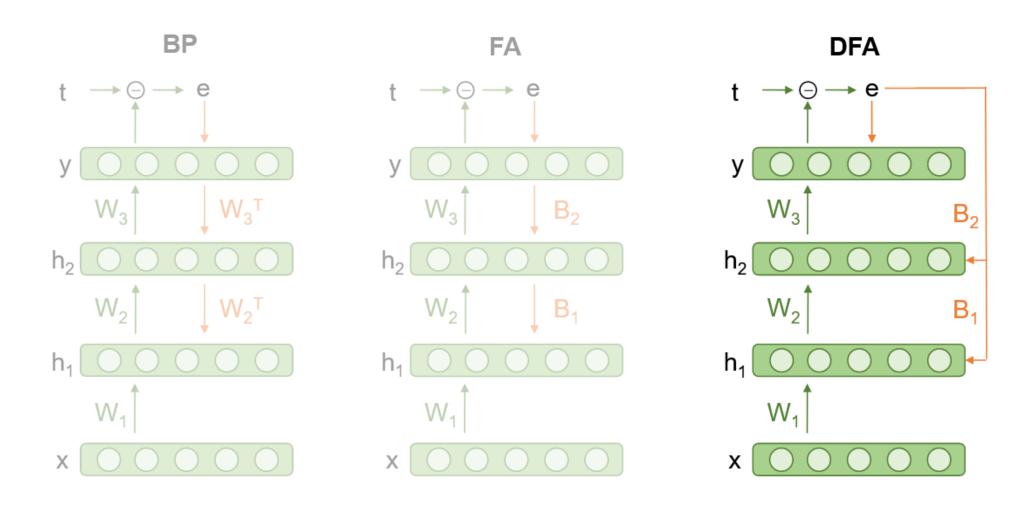
Lillicrap et al., 2016



Rumelhart et al., 1995

Lillicrap et al., 2016

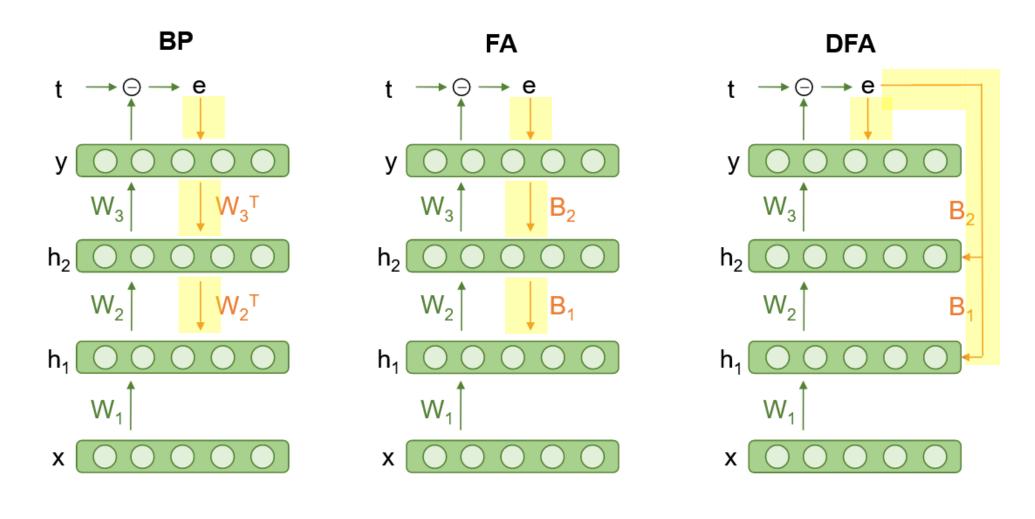
Akrout et al., 2019



Rumelhart et al., 1995

Lillicrap et al., 2016

A. Nokland, 2016



Rumelhart et al., 1995

Lillicrap et al., 2016

A. Nokland, 2016

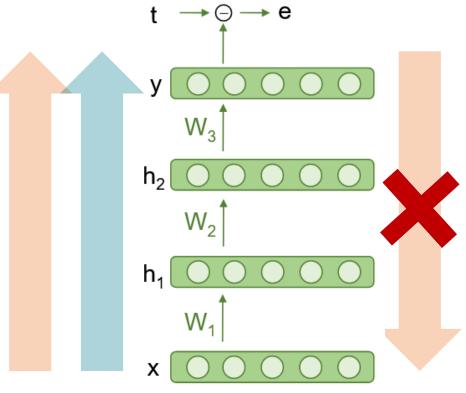
## The Backward Pass

#### The backward pass implies:

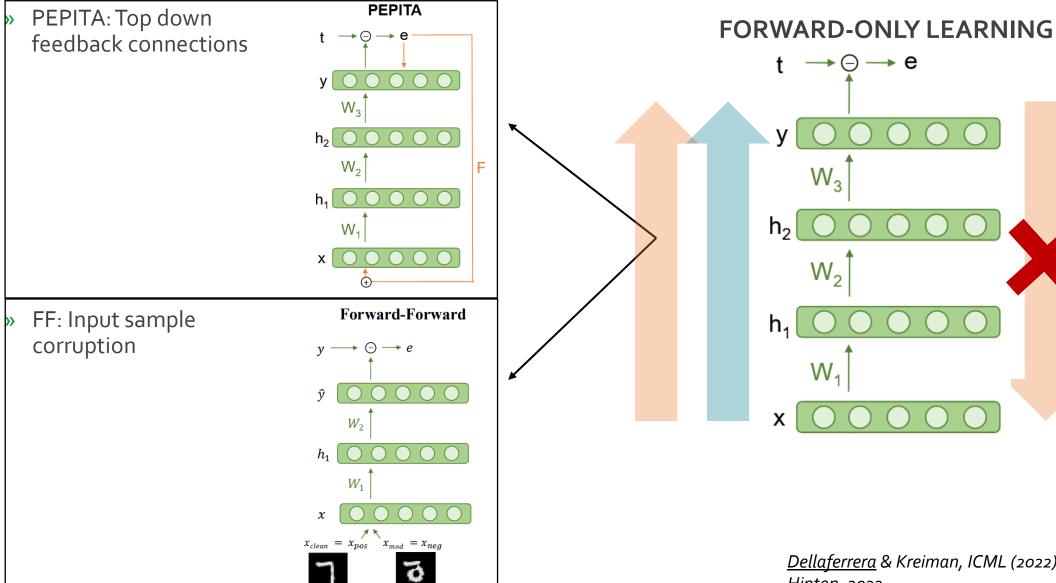
- » Weight updates relying on non-local information
- » Freezing activity for the update phase
- » At least partial update locking







## The Backward Pass



## Outline

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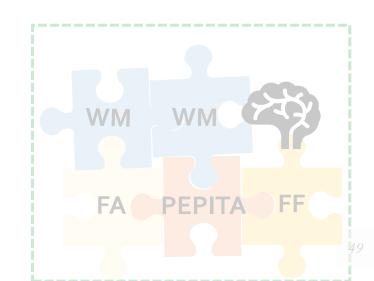
#### » Forward-Forward algorithm

- Idea and results
- Similarities with PEPITA's update rule



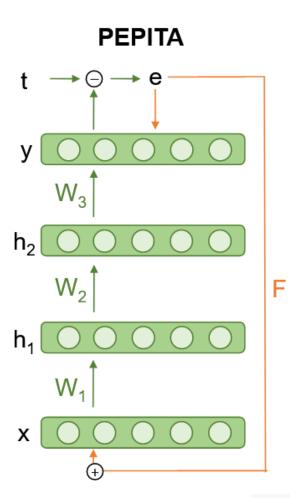
## » Forward learning with top-down feedback

Biological considerations



## The PEPITA learning rule

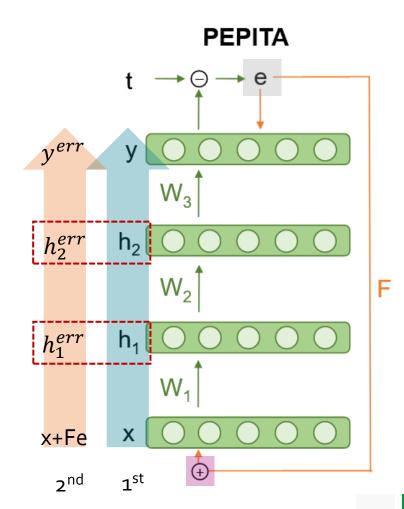
- » PEPITA = Present the Error to Perturb the Input To modulate Activity
- » Substitutes the standard Forward+Backward scheme with **two Forward Passes** 
  - <u>Standard</u> Forward pass → same as for standard algorithms
  - <u>Modulated</u> Forward pass → input is modulated by the error
- » F = projection matrix to add the error onto the input
- » Update relies on difference of activations between Standard and Modulated pass



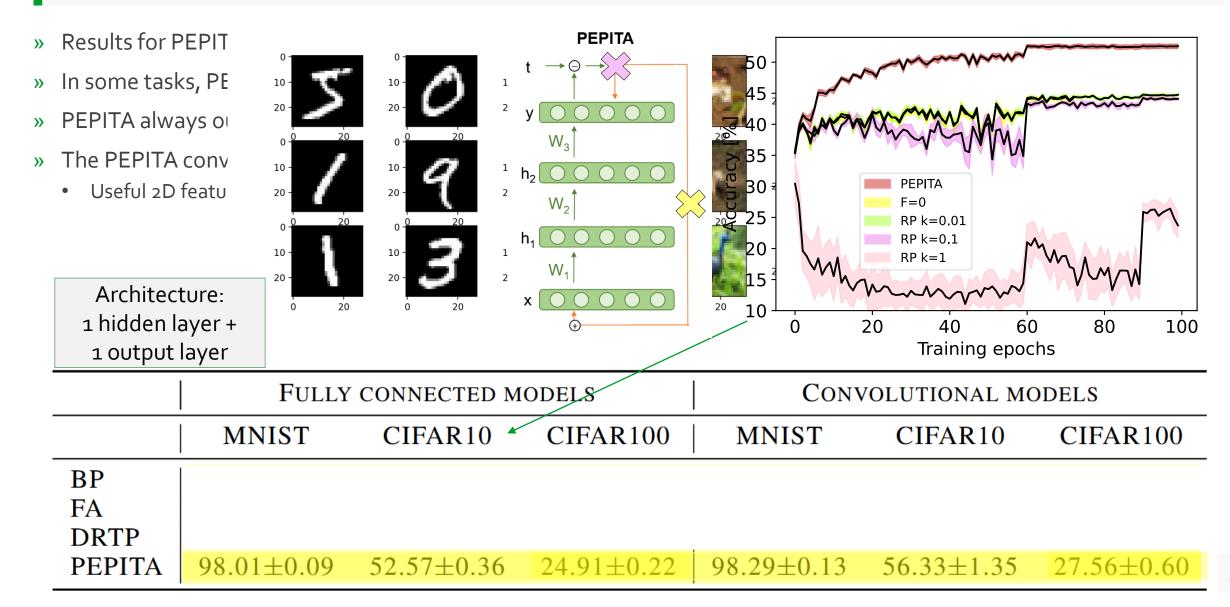
## The PEPITA learning rule for Fully Connected Neural Networks

» PEPITA = Present the Error to Perturb the Input To modulate Activity

#### **Algorithm 1** Implementation of PEPITA **Given:** Input (*x*) and label (*target*) #standard forward pass $h_0 = x$ for $\ell = 1, ..., L$ $h_{\ell} = \sigma_{\ell}(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1})$ $e = h_L - target$ Present the Error ... #modulated forward pass - » ... to Perturb the Input... $h_0^{err} = x + Fe$ for $\ell = 1, ..., L$ $h_{\ell}^{err} = \sigma_{\ell}(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err})$ — » ... To modulate Activity if $\ell < L$ : $\Delta W_{\ell} = (h_{\ell} - h_{\ell}^{err}) \cdot (h_{\ell-1}^{err})^{T}$ else: $\Delta W_{\ell} = e \cdot (h_{\ell-1}^{err})^T$



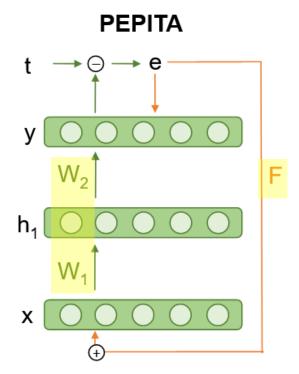
## Testing PEPITA on image classification tasks - experimental results

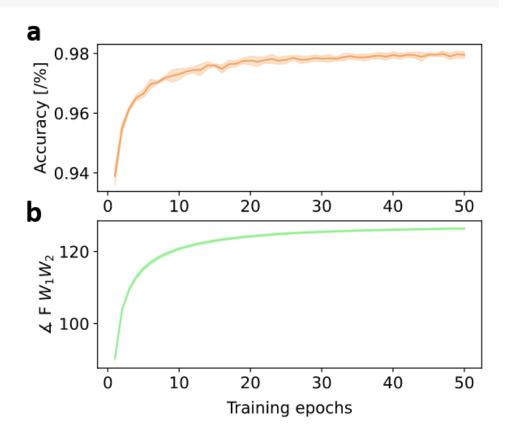


# Why it works: soft-antialignment

#### » Soft-antialignment

- Angle between
  - · projection matrix F and
  - product between the forward weight matrices
- Evolution during learning → soft antialignment
- <u>Analytically proven</u> for one-hidden layer linear network





## Approximating PEPITA to an Adaptive Feedback Alignment algorithm

FA PEPITA

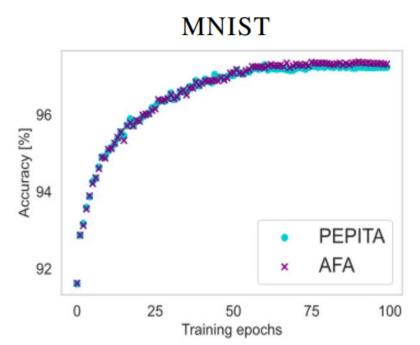
» First order Taylor expansion

$$\Delta W_{\ell} = (h_{\ell} - h_{\ell}^{err}) \cdot (h_{\ell-1}^{err})^{T}$$

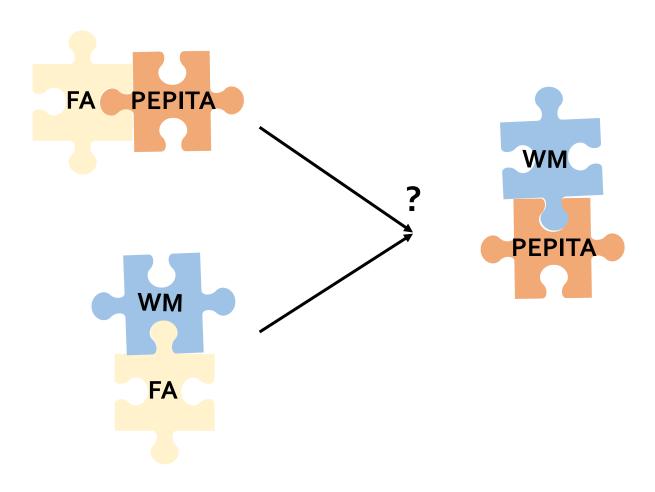
$$f(a+h) \simeq f(a) + hf'(a)$$

$$\begin{split} h_1 - h_1^{err} &= \sigma_1(W_1 x) - \sigma_1(W_1(x - Fe)) = \\ &= \sigma_1(W_1 x) - \sigma_1(W_1 x - W_1 Fe)) = \\ &\simeq \sigma_1(W_1 x) - \left[\sigma_1(W_1(x)) - W_1 Fe \sigma_1'(W_1 x)\right] = \\ &= W_1 Fe \sigma_1'(W_1 x) = \\ &= W_1 Fe h_1'. \end{split}$$

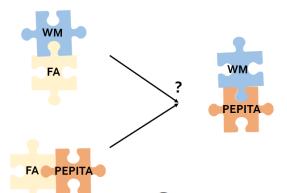
**AFA** = Adaptive (W) Feedback Alignment



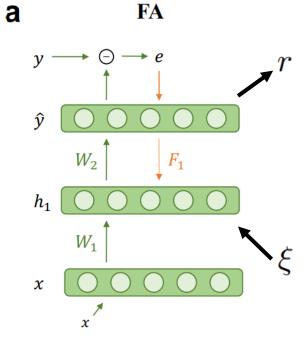
# Improving PEPITA's alignment with weight mirroring

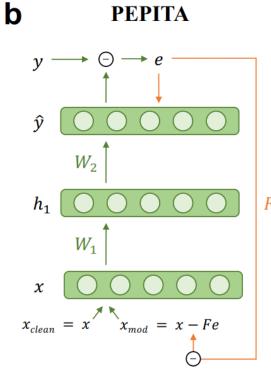


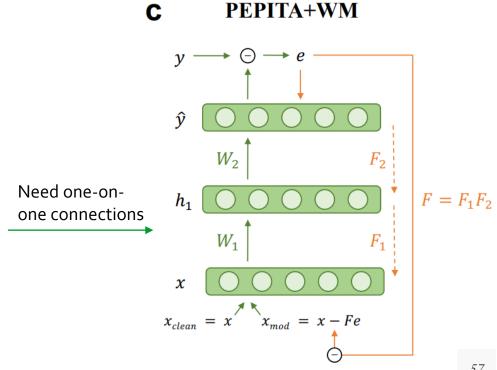
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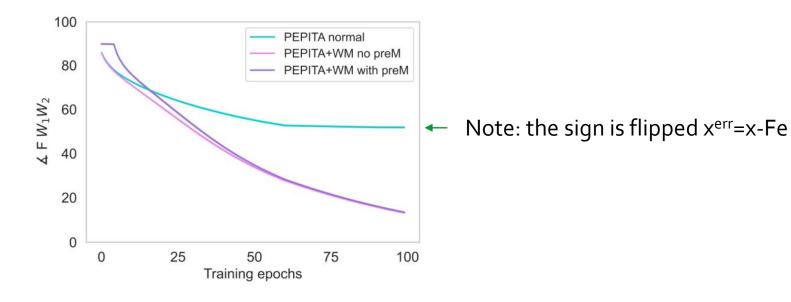
$$\Delta F_{\ell} = \eta_F \xi r^{\top}$$







# Improving PEPITA's alignment with weight mirroring

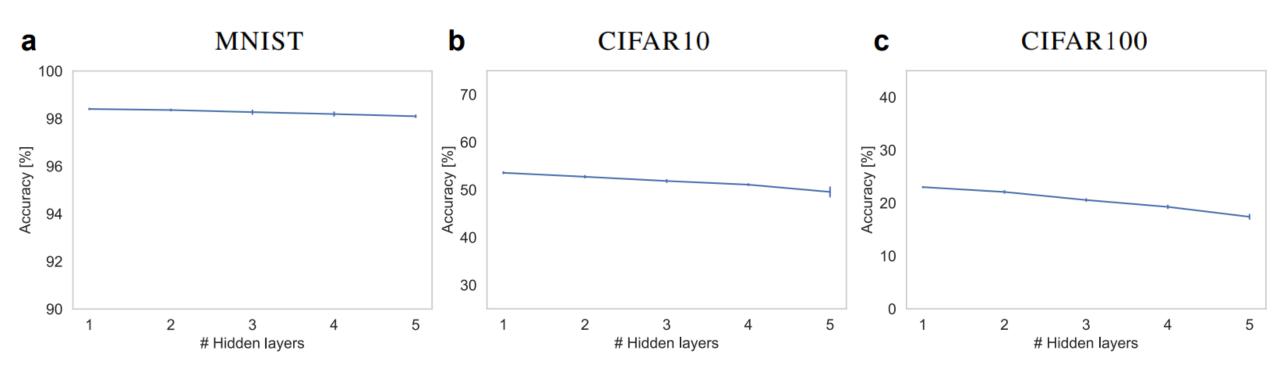


Architecture: 1 hidden layer + 1 output layer

	W. DECAY	Norm.	Mirror	MNIST	CIFAR10	CIFAR100
PEPITA	X	X	X	98.02±0.08	$52.45 \pm 0.25$	$24.69 \pm 0.17$
	✓ X	X	X	$98.12\pm0.08$ $98.41\pm0.08$	$53.05\pm0.23$ $53.51\pm0.23$	$24.86\pm0.18$ $22.87\pm0.25$
	X	X	7	$98.05\pm0.08$	$52.63\pm0.30$	$27.07\pm0.11$
	<b>√</b>	X	✓	98.10±0.12	53.46±0.26	$27.04 \pm 0.19$
	X	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	$98.42 \pm 0.05$	$53.80 \pm 0.25$	$24.20\pm0.36$

# Training deeper fully connected models

» Adding activation normalization allows to train up to 6 layer networks



## Outline

#### » Neuro-inspired Al

- Why Backpropagation is biologically implausible
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- Idea and results
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#### » Forward learning with top-down feedback

Biological considerations

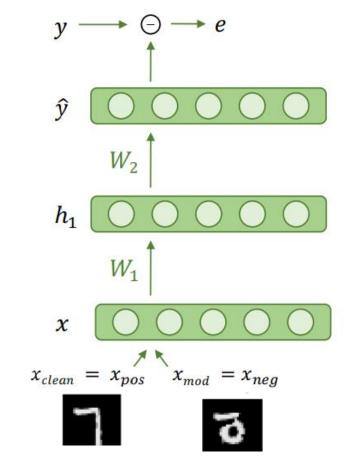


## The Forward-Forward algorithm

PEPITA FF

- » Two forward passes per sample:
  - the positive pass operate on real data
  - the negative pass operates on "negative data"
- » In the positive pass:
  - weights updated to increase the goodness in hidden layers
- » In the negative pass:
  - weights updated to decrease the goodness in hidden layers
- » One measure of goodness
  - sum of the squared neural activities

#### Forward-Forward



## PEPITA: weight update equivalent to the Forward-Forward framework

### Forward-Forward framework

- » Goodness as the sum of squared neural activities
  - $\|h_\ell\|^2$  for the positive pass and
  - $||h_{\ell}^{err}||^2$  for the negative pass.
- » Local loss function  $J_I$  for layer I =the sum of
  - loss function of the positive pass J<sup>+</sup><sub>I</sub> and
  - loss function of the negative pass J<sub>1</sub>

$$J_{\ell} = \|h_{\ell}\|^2 - \|h_{\ell}^{err}\|^2$$

## Equivalence of weight update

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial J_{\ell}}{\partial W_{\ell}} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \|h_{\ell}\|^{2}}{\partial W_{\ell}} - \frac{\partial \|h_{\ell}^{err}\|^{2}}{\partial W_{\ell}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \|\sigma(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1})\|^{2}}{\partial W_{\ell}} - \frac{\partial \|\sigma(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err})\|^{2}}{\partial W_{\ell}} \right)$$

$$= \sigma(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}) \odot \sigma'(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1})h_{\ell-1}^{\top}$$

$$- \sigma(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err}) \odot \sigma'(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err})h_{\ell-1}^{err}^{\top}$$

$$= (\sigma'(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}) \odot h_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{\top}$$

$$- \sigma'(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err}) \odot h_{\ell}^{err}h_{\ell-1}^{err}$$

$$= (h_{\ell}' \odot h_{\ell})h_{\ell-1}^{\top} - (h_{\ell}^{err}' \odot h_{\ell}^{err})h_{\ell-1}^{err}^{\top}.$$
(9)

If ReLU non-linearity:

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial J_{\ell}}{\partial W_{\ell}} = h_{\ell} h_{\ell-1}^{\top} - h_{\ell}^{err} h_{\ell-1}^{err}^{\top}$$

## The Hebbian modification of PEPITA

#### Algorithm 1 Implementation of PEPITA Given: Input (x) and label (target) #standard forward pass 53.5 PEPITA uniforn $h_0 = x$ for $\ell = 1, ..., L$ PEPITA Hebbian O.E5 [%] 4ccuracy [%] 5.25 5.25 $h_{\ell} = \sigma_{\ell}(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1})$ $e = h_L - target$ #modulated forward pass $h_0^{err} = x + Fe$ for $\ell = 1, ..., L$ 52.0 $h_{\ell}^{err} = \sigma_{\ell}(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err})$ # Hidden layers if $\ell < L$ : $\Delta W_{\ell} = \underbrace{(h_{\ell} - h_{\ell}^{err}) \cdot (h_{\ell-1}^{err})^T} \longrightarrow \Delta W_{\ell} = h_{\ell} \cdot \underbrace{h_{\ell-1}^{err} - h_{\ell}^{err} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{err}}_{\ell-1}$ else: $\simeq h_{\ell} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^T - h_{\ell}^{err} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{errT}$ $\Delta W_{\ell} = e \cdot (h_{\ell-1}^{err})^T$ #apply update $W_\ell(t+1) = W_\ell(t) - \eta \Delta W_\ell$

## PEPITA: weight update equivalent to the Forward-Forward framework

## Forward-Forward framework

- » Goodness as the sum of squared neural activities
  - h<sup>2</sup><sub>1</sub> for the positive pass and
  - (h<sup>err</sup><sub>I</sub>)<sup>2</sup> for the negative pass.
- » Local loss function  $J_I$  for layer I =the sum of
  - loss function of the positive pass J<sup>+</sup><sub>I</sub> and
  - loss function of the negative pass J<sub>1</sub>

$$J_{\ell} = \|h_{\ell}\|^2 - \|h_{\ell}^{err}\|^2$$

#### PEPITA- Hebbian

$$\Delta W_{\ell} = h_{\ell} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{errT} - h_{\ell}^{err} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{errT}$$
$$\simeq h_{\ell} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{T} - h_{\ell}^{err} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{errT}$$

## Equivalence of weight update

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial J_{\ell}}{\partial W_{\ell}} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \|h_{\ell}\|^{2}}{\partial W_{\ell}} - \frac{\partial \|h_{\ell}^{err}\|^{2}}{\partial W_{\ell}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \|\sigma(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1})\|^{2}}{\partial W_{\ell}} - \frac{\partial \|\sigma(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err})\|^{2}}{\partial W_{\ell}} \right)$$

$$= \sigma(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}) \odot \sigma'(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1})h_{\ell-1}^{\top}$$

$$- \sigma(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err}) \odot \sigma'(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err})h_{\ell-1}^{err}$$

$$= (\sigma'(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}) \odot h_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{\top}$$

$$- \sigma'(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err}) \odot h_{\ell}^{err}h_{\ell-1}^{err})$$
(9)

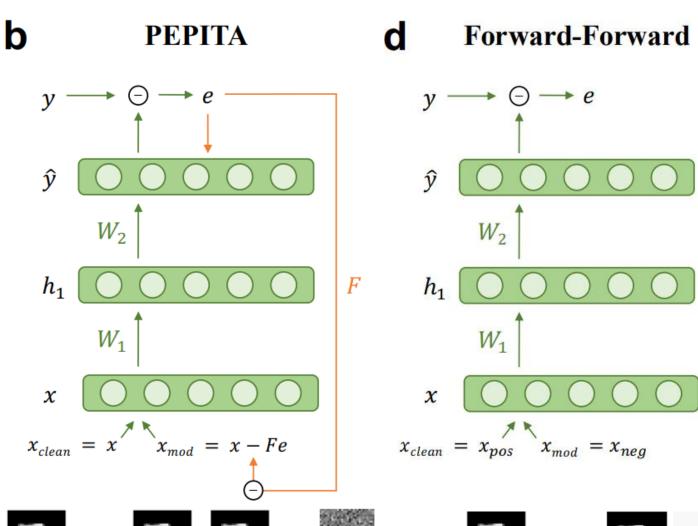
 $= (h'_{\ell} \odot h_{\ell}) h_{\ell-1}^{\top} - (h_{\ell}^{err'} \odot h_{\ell}^{err}) h_{\ell-1}^{err \top}.$ 

#### If ReLU non-linearity:

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial J_{\ell}}{\partial W_{\ell}} = h_{\ell} h_{\ell-1}^{\top} - h_{\ell}^{err} h_{\ell-1}^{err}^{\top}$$

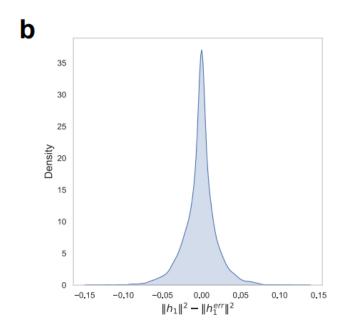
## Differences between PEPITA and FF

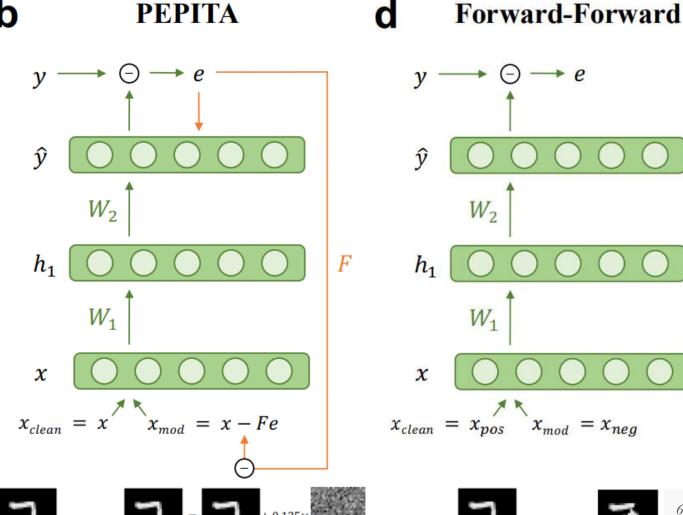
- » Method to generate the modulated sample
  - PEPITA → add error → top-down feedback
  - FF → hybrid mask



## Differences between PEPITA and FF

- Method to generate the modulated sample
  - PEPITA  $\rightarrow$  add error  $\rightarrow$  top-down feedback
  - FF → hybrid mask
- PEPITA does not maximize (resp. minimize) the activations squared in the clean (resp. modulated) pass

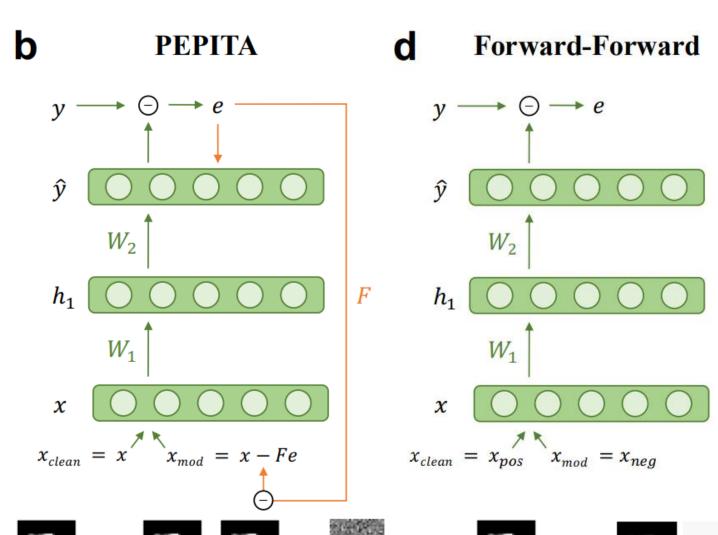




## Differences between PEPITA and FF

- » Method to generate the modulated sample
  - PEPITA → add error → top-down feedback
  - FF → hybrid mask
- » PEPITA does not maximize (resp. minimize) the activations squared in the clean (resp. modulated) pass
- » Note: FF chooses a loss based on the logistic function applied to the goodness, minus a threshold → analytical differences

$$p = \sigma \left( \|h_l\|^2 - \theta \right)$$



## Outline

#### » Neuro-inspired AI

- Why Backpropagation is biologically implausible
- Overview of alternative solutions to credit assignment



#### » PEPITA: error-driven input modulation

- Replacing the backward pass with a second forward pass
- Results on image classification tasks
- Soft alignment dynamics
- Approximating PEPITA to Adaptive Feedback Alignment: analytical characterization
- Improving alignment with weight mirroring

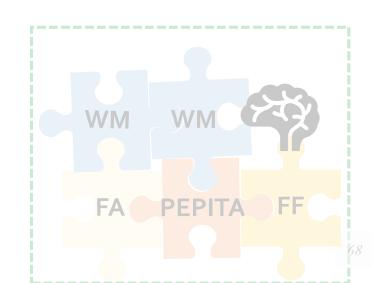
#### » Forward-Forward algorithm

- Idea and results
- Similarities with PEPITA's update rule

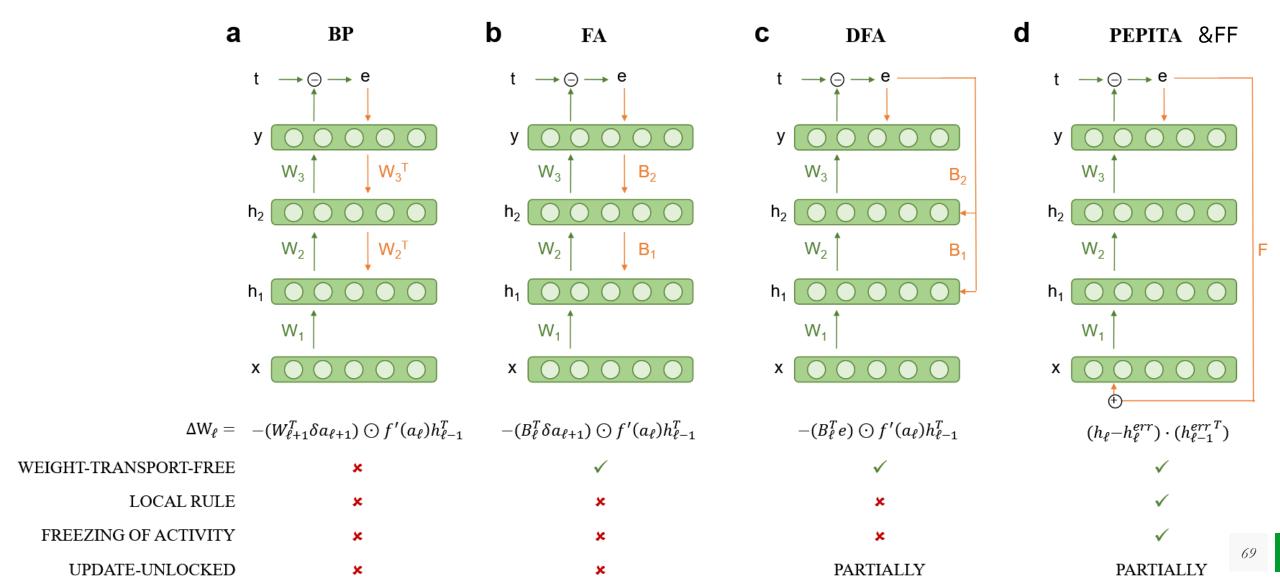


#### » Forward learning with top-down feedback

• Biological considerations



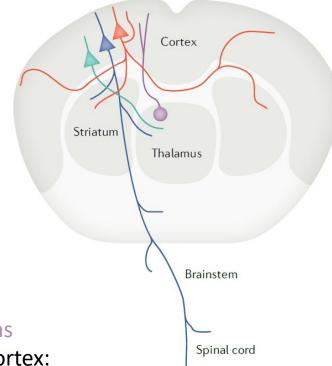
## PEPITA solves the biologically implausible aspects of BP



# Analysis of PEPITA from a biological standpoint

PEPITA solves the BP's issues of biological plausibility, but it introduces additional elements:

- » Projection of the error onto the input through a fixed random matrix
  - Reminiscent of cortico-thalamo-cortical loops



#### In the thalamus:

- Thalamocortical (TC) neurons

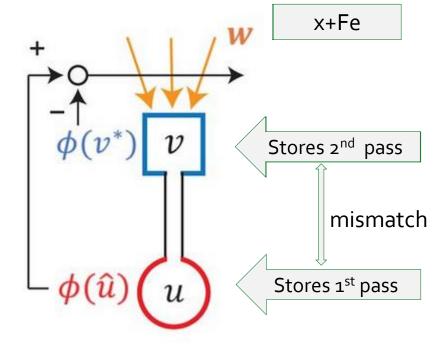
#### Excitatory neurons in the neocortex:

- Intratelencephalic (IT)
- Pyramidal tract (PT)
- Corticothalamic (CT) neurons

# Analysis of PEPITA from a biological standpoint

PEPITA solves the BP's issues of biological plausibility, but it introduces additional elements:

- » Projection of the error onto the input through a fixed random matrix
  - Reminiscent of cortico-thalamo-cortical loops
- » Storing of the activation of the Standard pass until the Modulated pass
  - Can be implemented in biological neurons through mismatch between dendritic and somatic activity



# Summary and Outlook

#### » PEPITA and FF

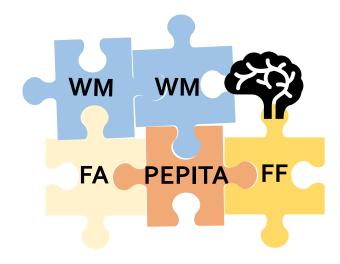
- Are novel training schemes relying only on forward computations
- Solve weight transport, freezing of neural activity, non-local weight updates and backward locking
- Achieve performance on-par with FA on simple image classification tasks
- PEPITA and FF share the same principles for the weight updates
- PEPITA can be approximated to an Adaptive Feedback Alignment

#### » Challenges

- Performance does not improve with depth
- Residual connection, intermediate error-driven modulation, training the F matrix

#### » Promising avenues for exploration

- PEPITA is not gradient-based: could it be more robust to gradient-based adversarial attacks?
- Application to object recognition on videos:
  - Consecutive frames need only one forward pass
- Implementation in unconventional physical analog hardware



# Acknowledgements



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Francesca Mignacco *Princeton* 

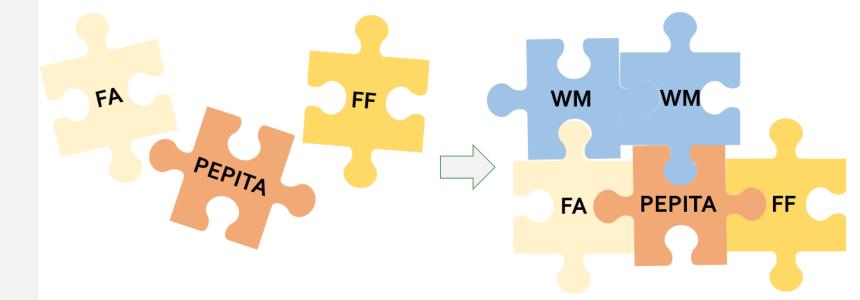


**Will Xiao**Harvard Medical
School



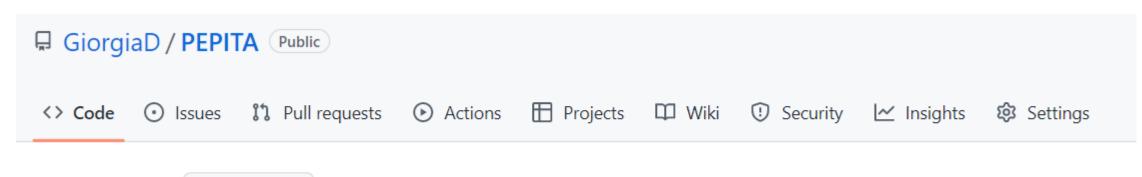
# Thank you for your attention!

- » Questions?
- » Ideas?
- » Suggestions?



### Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 1/11

- » Today → Code (ICML 2022): <a href="https://github.com/GiorgiaD/PEPITA">https://github.com/GiorgiaD/PEPITA</a>
- » Code with Pytorch lightning (arXiv:2302.05440):
  <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1wqHqtZx2NVuxpdjQuYUVVf1A8v-880FS">https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1wqHqtZx2NVuxpdjQuYUVVf1A8v-880FS</a>



## Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 1/11

#### Import libraries

```
In [1]: # import torch libraries
    import torch
    import torchvision
    import torchvision.transforms as transforms
    import torch.nn as nn
    import torch.nn.functional as F
    import torch.optim as optim
    from torch.autograd import Variable

# import other libraries
    import numpy as np
    import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
    import copy
```

#### Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 2/11

#### **Define Network architecture**

```
In [2]: # models with Dropout
        class NetFC1x1024D0cust(nn.Module):
            def init (self):
                super(). init ()
                self.fc1 = nn.Linear(32*32*3,1024,bias=False)
                self.fc2 = nn.Linear(1024, 10, bias=False)
                # initialize the layers using the He uniform initialization scheme
                fc1 nin = 32*32*3 # Note: if dataset is MNIST --> fc1 nin = 28*28*1
                fc1 limit = np.sqrt(6.0 / fc1 nin)
                torch.nn.init.uniform (self.fc1.weight, a=-fc1 limit, b=fc1 limit)
                fc2 nin = 1024
                fc2 limit = np.sqrt(6.0 / fc2 nin)
                torch.nn.init.uniform (self.fc2.weight, a=-fc2 limit, b=fc2 limit)
            def forward(self, x, do masks):
                x = F.relu(self.fc1(x))
                # apply dropout --> we use a custom dropout implementation because we new
                if do masks is not None:
                    x = x * do masks[0]
                x = F.softmax(self.fc2(x))
                return x
```

### Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 3/11

#### Set hyperparameters and train+test the model

```
In [3]: # set hyperparameters
        ## learning rate
        eta = 0.01
        eta decay = 0.1
        eta decay epochs = [60,90]
        ## number of epochs
        num epochs = 3
        ## dropout keep rate
        keep rate = 0.9
        ## loss --> used to monitor performance, but not for parameter updates (PEPITA de
        criterion = nn.CrossEntropyLoss()
        ## optimizer (choose 'SGD' o 'mom')
        optim = 'mom' # --> default in the paper
        if optim == 'SGD':
            gamma = 0
        elif optim == 'mom':
            gamma = 0.9
        ## batch size
        batch size = 64 # --> default in the paper
```

### Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 4/11

```
In [4]: # initialize the network
        net = NetFC1x1024D0cust()
In [5]: # define B --> this is the F projection matrix in the paper (here named B because
        nin = 32*32*3
        sd = np.sqrt(6/nin)
        B = (torch.rand(nin,10)*2*sd-sd)*0.05 # B is initialized with the He uniform in
In [6]: # Load the dataset - CIFAR-10
        transform = transforms.Compose(
            [transforms.ToTensor()]) # this normalizes to [0,1]
        trainset = torchvision.datasets.CIFAR10(root='./data', train=True,
                                                 download=True, transform=transform)
        trainloader = torch.utils.data.DataLoader(trainset, batch size=batch size,
                                                   shuffle=True, num workers=2)
        testset = torchvision.datasets.CIFAR10(root='./data', train=False,
                                                download=True, transform=transform)
        testloader = torch.utils.data.DataLoader(testset, batch size=batch size,
                                                 shuffle=False, num workers=2)
        Files already downloaded and verified
        Files already downloaded and verified
```

#### Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 5/11

```
In [7]: # define function to register the activations --> we need this to compare the activations
        activation = {}
        def get activation(name):
            def hook(model, input, output):
                activation[name] = output.detach()
            return hook
        for name, layer in net.named modules():
            layer.register forward hook(get activation(name))
In [8]: # do one forward pass to get the activation size needed for setting up the dropol
        dataiter = iter(trainloader)
        images, labels = next(dataiter)
        images = torch.flatten(images, 1) # flatten all dimensions except batch
        outputs = net(images,do masks=None)
        layers act = []
        for key in activation:
            if 'fc' in key or 'conv' in key:
                layers act.append(F.relu(activation[key]))
```

### Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 6/11

```
In [9]: # set up for momentum
         if optim == 'mom':
             gamma = 0.9
             v w all = []
             for 1 idx,w in enumerate(net.parameters()):
                 if len(w.shape)>1:
                     with torch.no grad():
                         v w all.append(torch.zeros(w.shape))
In [10]: # Train and test the model
         test accs = []
         for epoch in range(num epochs): # loop over the dataset multiple times
             # learning rate decay
             if epoch in eta decay epochs:
                 eta = eta*eta decay
                 print('eta decreased to ',eta)
             # loop over batches
             running loss = 0.0
             for i, data in enumerate(trainloader, 0):
                 # get the inputs; data is a list of [inputs, labels]
                 inputs, target = data
                 inputs = torch.flatten(inputs, 1) # flatten all dimensions except batch
                 target onehot = F.one hot(target,num classes=10)
```

### Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 7/11

```
# create dropout mask for the two forward passes --> we need to use the
do masks = []
if keep rate < 1:</pre>
    for l in layers act[:-1]:
        input1 = 1
        do mask = Variable(torch.ones(inputs.shape[0],input1.data.new(in)
        do masks.append(do mask)
    do masks.append(1) # for the last layer we don't use dropout --> just
# forward pass 1 with original input --> keep track of activations
outputs = net(inputs,do masks)
layers act = []
cnt act = 0
for key in activation:
    if 'fc' in key or 'conv' in key:
        layers act.append(F.relu(activation[key])* do masks[cnt act]) #
        cnt act += 1
# compute the error
error = outputs - target onehot
# modify the input with the error
error input = error @ B.T
mod inputs = inputs + error input
```

## Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 8/11

```
# forward pass 2 with modified input --> keep track of modulated activate
mod_outputs = net(mod_inputs,do_masks)
mod_layers_act = []
cnt_act = 0
for key in activation:
    if 'fc' in key or 'conv' in key:
        mod_layers_act.append(F.relu(activation[key])* do_masks[cnt_act])
        cnt_act += 1
mod_error = mod_outputs - target_onehot
```

#### Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 9/11

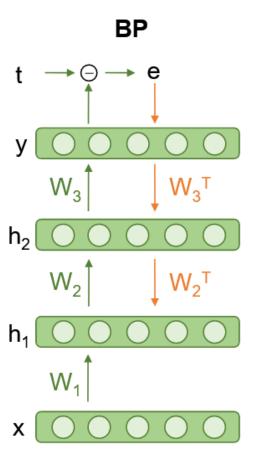
```
# compute the delta w for the batch
delta w all = []
v w = []
for 1 idx,w in enumerate(net.parameters()):
    v w.append(torch.zeros(w.shape))
for 1 in range(len(layers act)):
    # update for the last layer
    if l == len(layers act)-1:
        if len(layers act)>1: # if network has more than one layer
            delta w = -mod error.T @ mod layers act[-2]
        else: # if only one layer network
            delta w = -mod error. T @ mod inputs
    # update for the first layer
    elif | == 0:
        delta w = -(layers act[l] - mod layers act[l]).T @ mod inputs
    # update for the hidden layers (not first, not last)
    elif l>0 and l<len(layers act)-1:</pre>
        delta w = -(layers act[1] - mod layers act[1]).T @ mod layers act
    delta w all.append(delta w)
```

#### Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 10/11

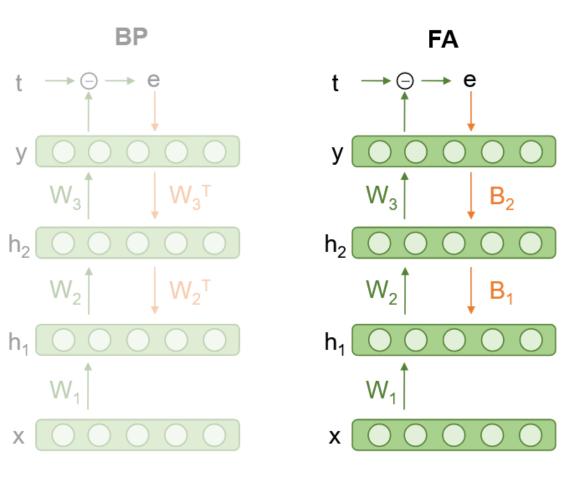
```
# apply the weight change
if optim == 'SGD': # if SGD without momentum
    for 1 idx,w in enumerate(net.parameters()):
        with torch.no grad():
            w += eta * delta w all[l idx]/batch size # specify for which
elif optim == 'mom': # if SGD with momentum
    for 1 idx,w in enumerate(net.parameters()):
        with torch.no grad():
            v w all[l idx] = gamma * v w all[l idx] + eta * delta w all[]
            w += v w all[l idx]
# keep track of the loss
loss = criterion(outputs, target)
# print statistics
running loss += loss.item()
if i%500 == 499:
    print('[%d, %5d] loss: %.3f' %
          (epoch + 1, i + 1, running loss / 500))
    running loss = 0.0
```

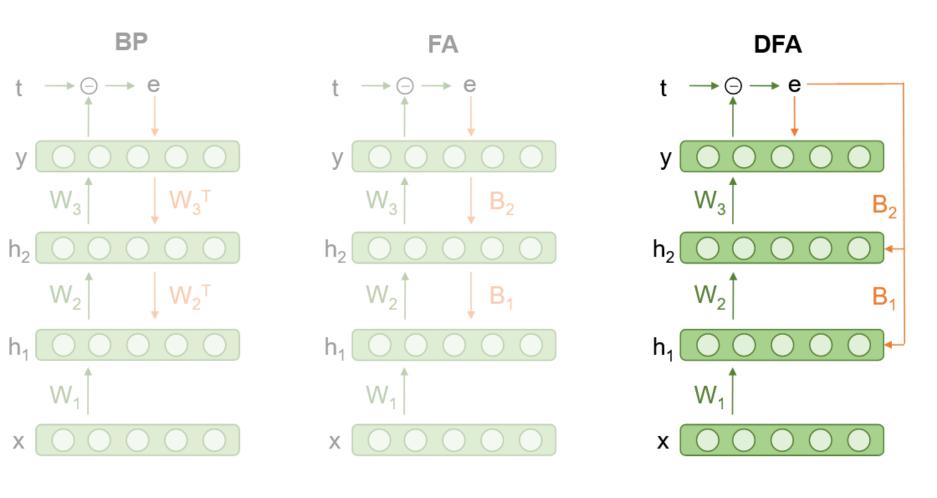
#### Coding tutorial: Implementing PEPITA with Pytorch 11/11

```
print('Testing...')
   correct = 0
   total = 0
   # since we're not training, we don't need to calculate the gradients for our
    with torch.no grad():
        for test data in testloader:
            test images, test labels = test data
            test images = torch.flatten(test images, 1) # flatten all dimensions
            # calculate outputs by running images through the network
            test outputs = net(test images, do masks=None)
            # the class with the highest energy is what we choose as prediction
            _, predicted = torch.max(test_outputs.data, 1)
            total += test labels.size(0)
            correct += (predicted == test labels).sum().item()
    print('Test accuracy epoch {}: {} %'.format(epoch, 100 * correct / total))
    test accs.append(100 * correct / total)
print('Finished Training')
```



Rumelhart et al., 1995

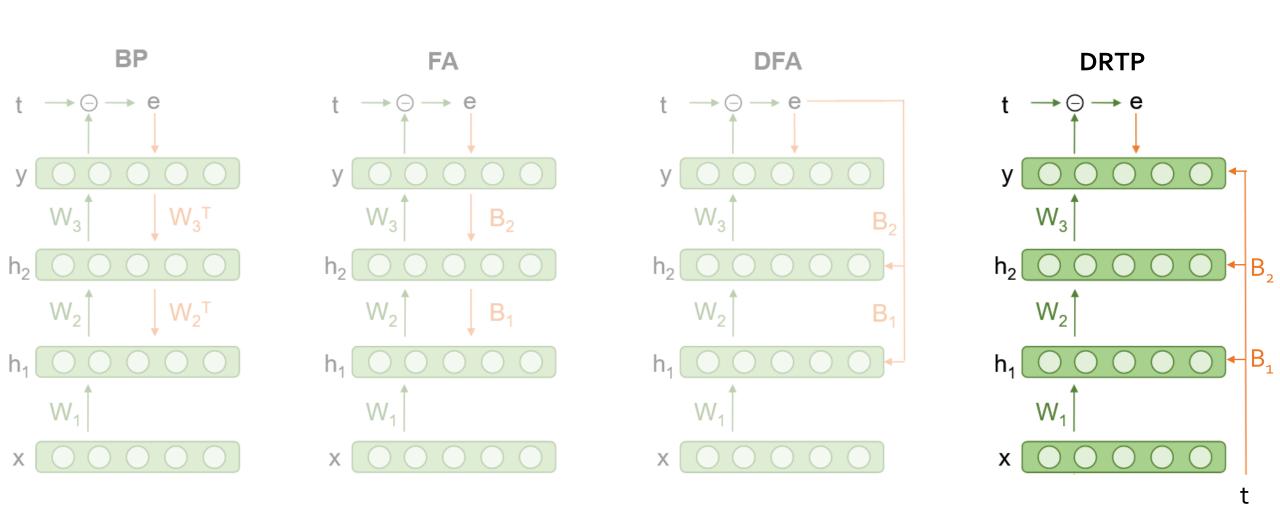




Rumelhart et al., 1995

Lillicrap et al., 2016

A. Nokland, 2016

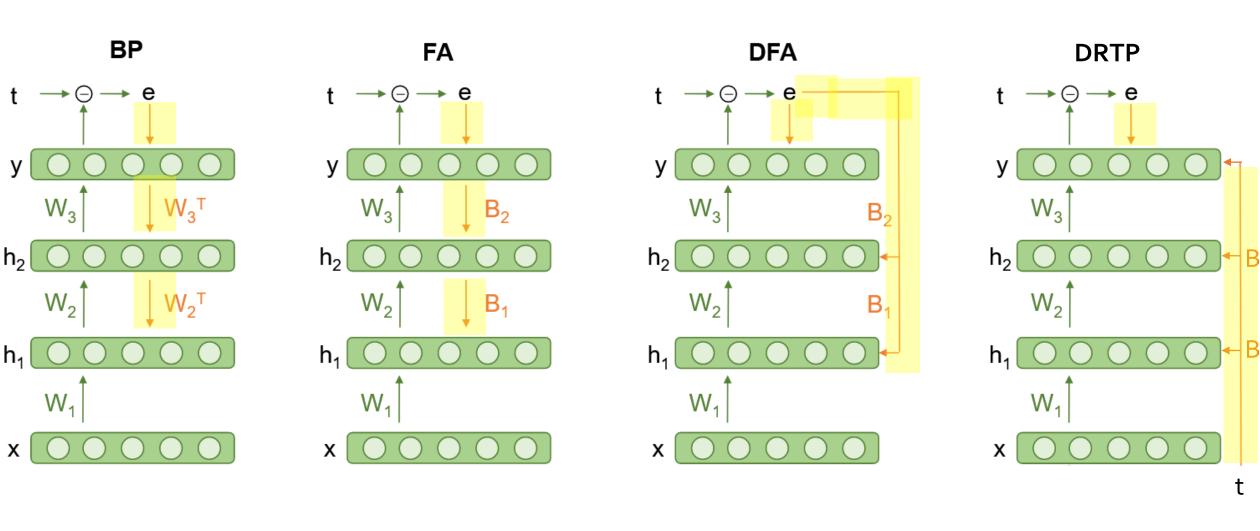


Rumelhart et al., 1995

Lillicrap et al., 2016

A. Nokland, 2016

Frenkel et al., 2019



Rumelhart et al., 1995

Lillicrap et al., 2016

A. Nokland, 2016

Frenkel et al., 2019

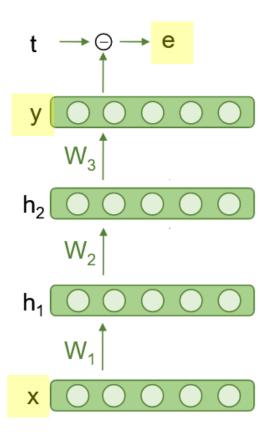
# The backpropagation algorithm

#### » Forward pass

- Network's response to input
- Error function e = y t
- Weight updates proportional to its negative gradient

#### » Backward pass

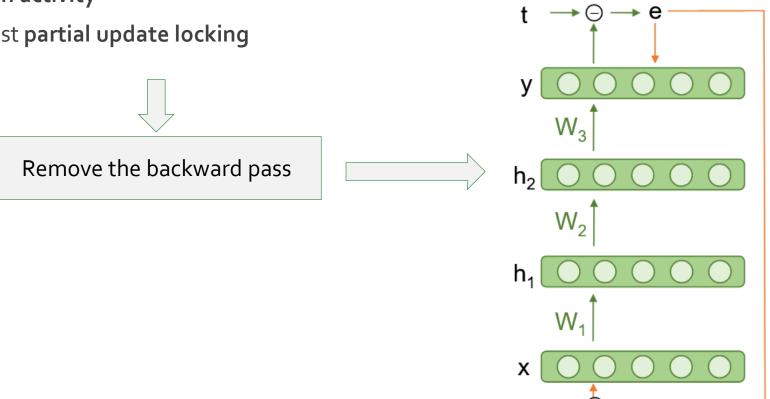
- Error signal flows backward through the network
- Computed recursively via the chain rule
- Update phase



#### The Backward Pass

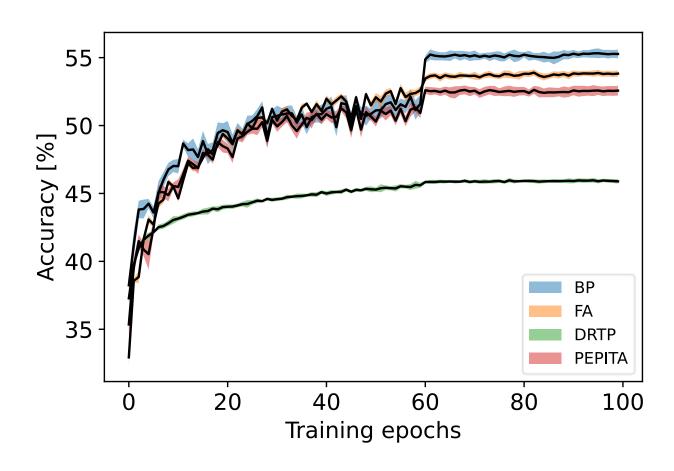
#### The backward pass implies:

- » Non-locality
- » Frozen activity
- » At least partial update locking

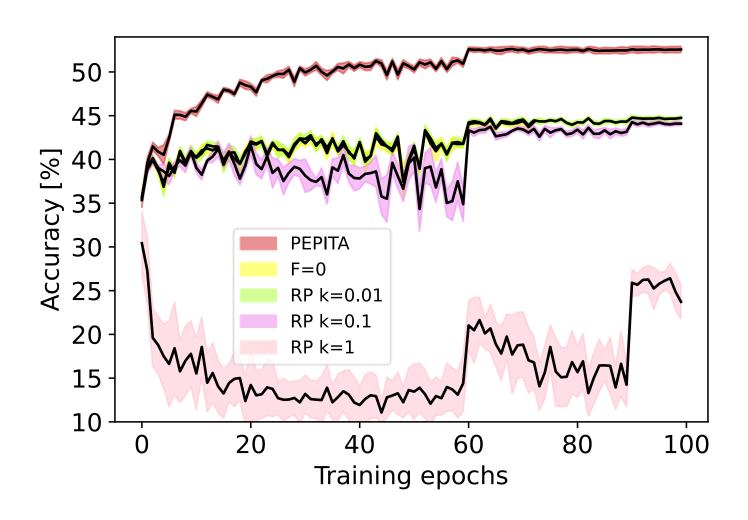


**PEPITA** 

### **Test curves on CIFAR-10**



## Error-based modulation is key for good performance

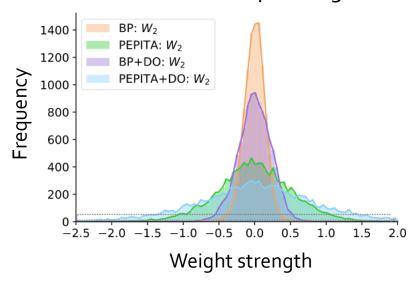


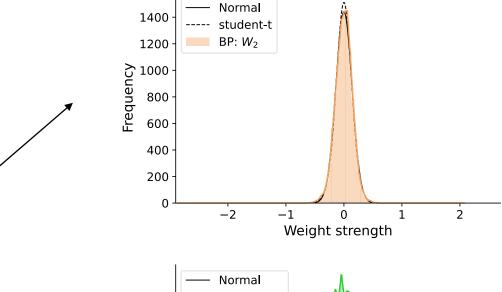
### Weight distribution after training

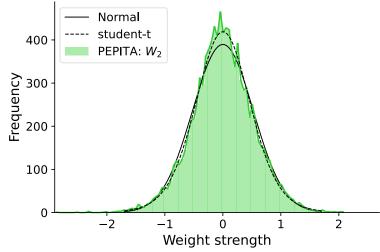
#### » Wider weight distribution

- PEPITA learns different solutions compared to BP
- Sub exponential distribution

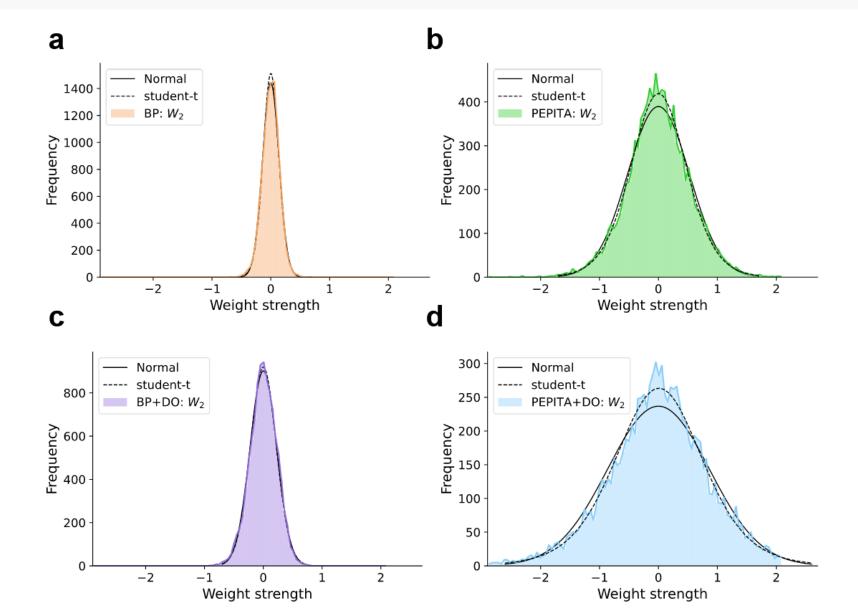
#### Distribution of output weights







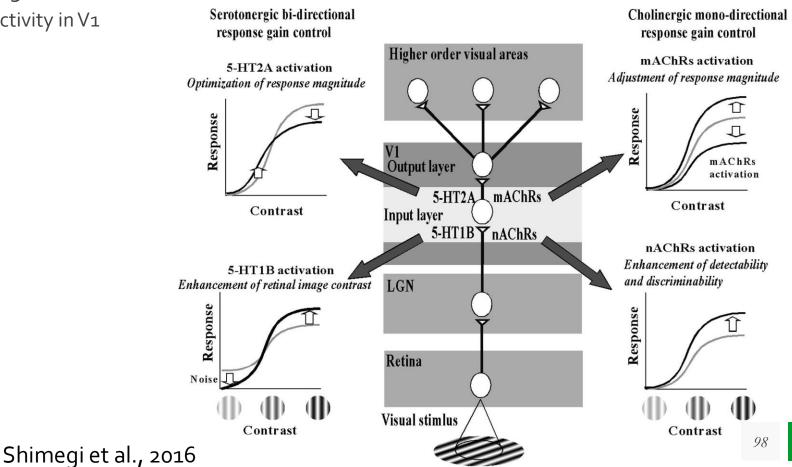
## Weight distribution – heavy tailed



### Analysis of PEPITA from a biological standpoint

PEPITA solves the BP's issues of biological plausibility, but it introduces additional elements:

- » Projection of the error onto the input through a fixed random matrix
  - Global neuromodulatory signals modulate activity in V1



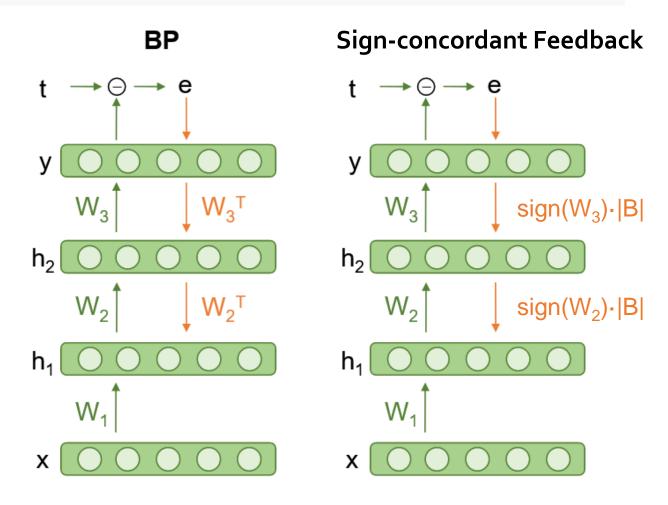
### Alternatives to BP: Sign symmetry

#### » Asymmetric backpropagation

• Sign-concordant Feedback

#### » Relax weight symmetry requirement

- the magnitudes of feedback weights do not matter to performance
- the signs of feedback weights do matter —
  the more concordant signs between feedforward and
  their corresponding feedback connection



### Alternatives to BP: Feedback Alignment

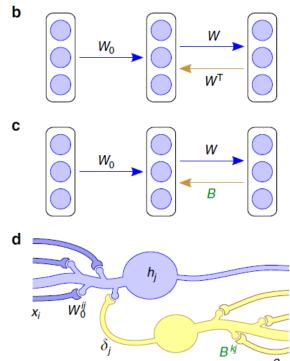
» Precise symmetric connectivity between connected layers is not required to obtain quick learning

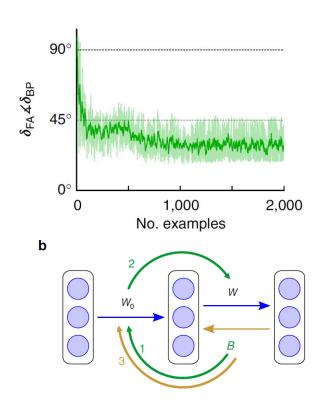
#### » Replaces $W^T$ with a matrix of fixed random weights B

- Each neuron in the hidden layer receives a random projection of the error vector
- Avoids all transport of synaptic weight information

#### » The circuit learns by encouraging a soft alignment of W with B<sup>T</sup>

- The angle between modulator vectors prescribed by feedback alignment and backprop decreases
- As W aligns with  $B^T$ , B begins to act like  $W^T$ , sending useful teaching signals to the hidden units





#### Alternatives to BP: Direct and Indirect Feedback Alignment

» The FA principle is used for training hidden layers more independently from the rest of the network

#### » Feedback path disconnected from the forward path

- Possibility that the error in the feedback layer is represented by neurons not participating in the forward pass
- layer is no longer reciprocally connected to the layer above

# 

#### » DFA

direct feedback path to each hidden layer

#### » IFA

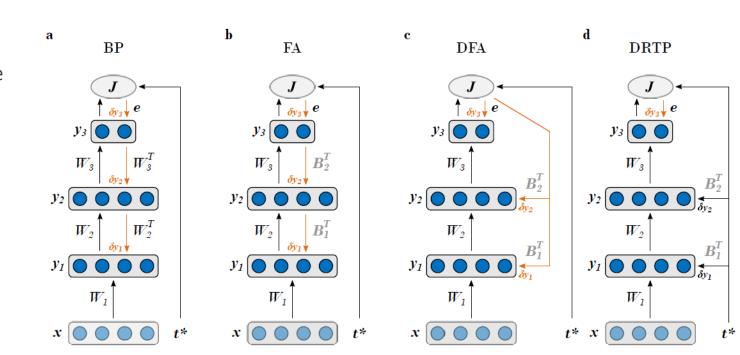
- direct feedback path connecting to the first hidden layer
- then visiting every layer on its way forward

MODEL	BP	FA	DFA
7x240 Tanh	$2.16 \pm 0.13\%$	$2.20 \pm 0.13\% (0.02\%)$	$2.32 \pm 0.15\% (0.03\%)$
100x240 Tanh			$3.92 \pm 0.09\% (0.12\%)$
1x800 Tanh	$1.59 \pm 0.04\%$	$1.68 \pm 0.05\%$	$1.68 \pm 0.05\%$
2x800 Tanh	$1.60 \pm 0.06\%$	$1.64 \pm 0.03\%$	$1.74 \pm 0.08\%$
3x800 Tanh	$1.75 \pm 0.05\%$	$1.66 \pm 0.09\%$	$1.70 \pm 0.04\%$
4x800 Tanh	$1.92 \pm 0.11\%$	$1.70 \pm 0.04\%$	$1.83 \pm 0.07\%  (0.02\%)$
2x800 Logistic	$1.67 \pm 0.03\%$	$1.82 \pm 0.10\%$	$1.75 \pm 0.04\%$
2x800 ReLU	$1.48 \pm 0.06\%$	$1.74 \pm 0.10\%$	$1.70 \pm 0.06\%$
2x800  Tanh + DO	$1.26 \pm 0.03\%  (0.18\%)$	$1.53 \pm 0.03\% (0.18\%)$	$1.45 \pm 0.07\%  (0.24\%)$
2x800  Tanh + ADV	$1.01 \pm 0.08\%$	$1.14 \pm 0.03\%$	$1.02 \pm 0.05\% (0.12\%)$

Test error on MNIST

### Alternatives to BP: Direct Random Target Propagation

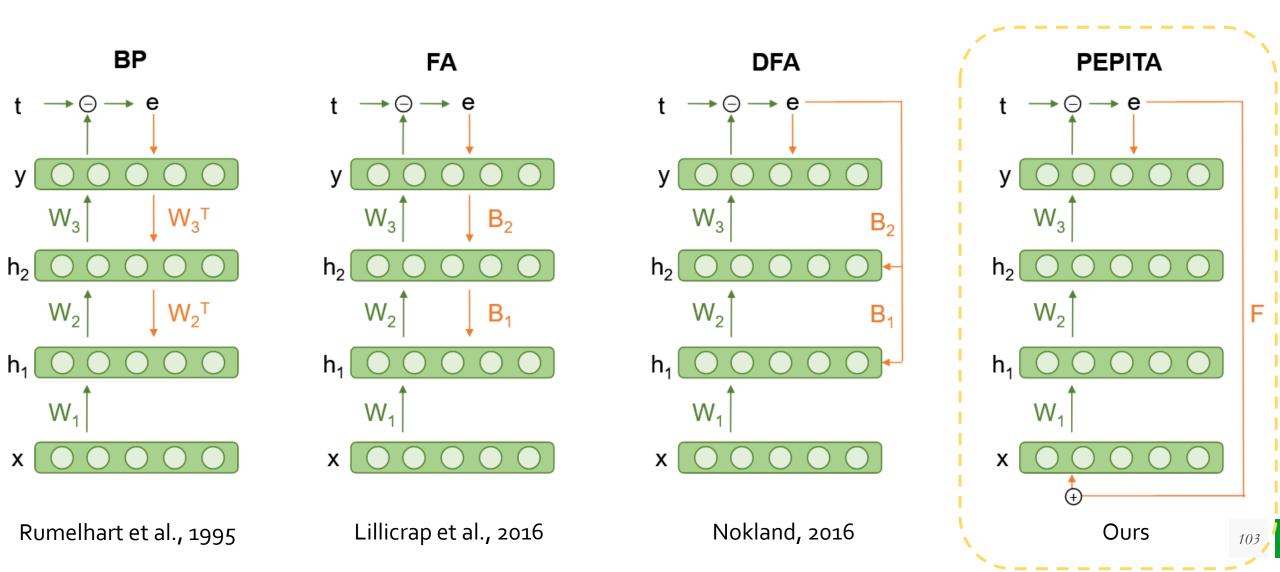
- » The error sign provides useful modulatory signals to multi-layer networks
  - Targets (i.e. one-hot-encoded labels) used in place of the output error
  - Targets are projected onto the hidden layers
- » Fully solves both the weight transport and the update locking problems
- » BUT: lower performance than BP, FA, DFA



Network		BP	FA	DFA	DRTP
FC1-500	DO 0.0	1.72±0.08%	1.92±0.08%	2.59±0.11%	4.58±0.12%
	DO 0.1	$1.55 \pm 0.03\%$	$1.66 \pm 0.06\%$	$2.17 \pm 0.10\%$	$4.65 \pm 0.13\%$
	DO 0.25	$1.64 \pm 0.06\%$	$1.73 \pm 0.05\%$	$2.32 \pm 0.08\%$	$5.36 \pm 0.11\%$

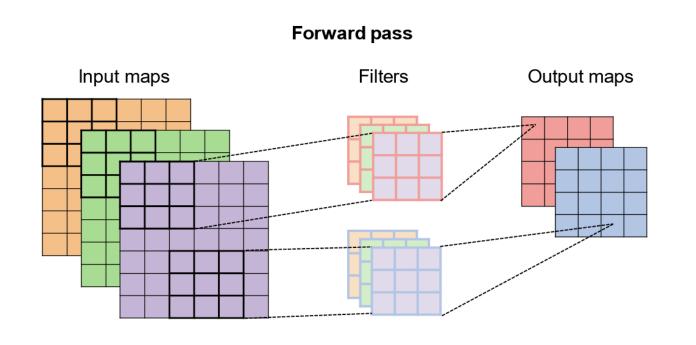
Test error on MNIST

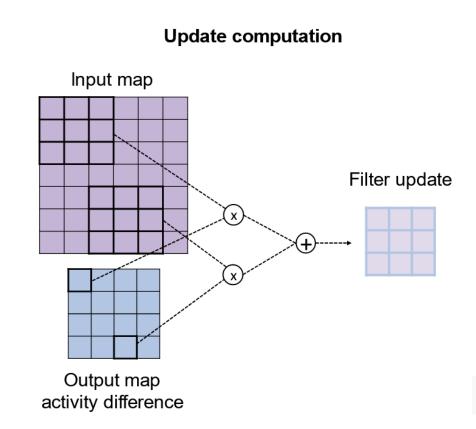
### Training without a backward path: modulating the input through the error



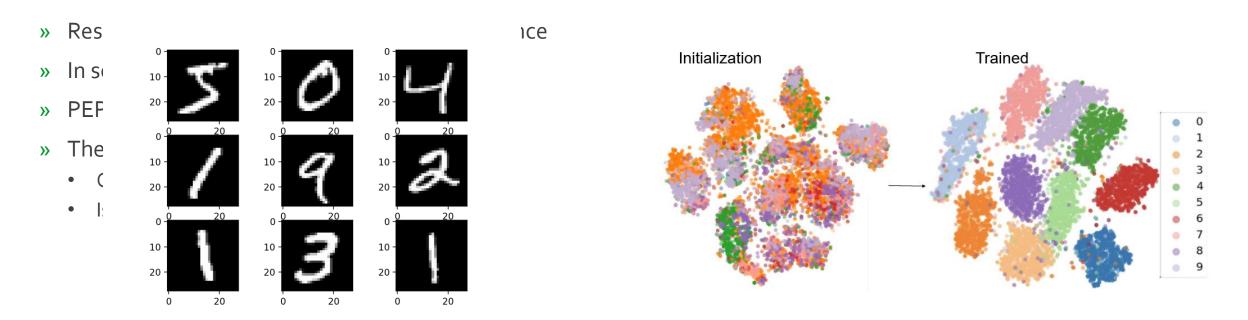
#### The PEPITA learning rule for Convolutional Neural Networks

- » Same approach with Standard and Modulated pass
- » Takes into account weight sharing of convolutional layers
- » Each filter is updated based on the contributions of each input-map-region output-map-element pair





# Testing PEPITA on image classification tasks - experimental results



	FULLY CONNECTED MODELS		CONVOLUTIONAL MODELS			
	MNIST	CIFAR10	CIFAR100	MNIST	CIFAR10	CIFAR100
BP	98.63±0.03	55.27±0.32	$27.58 \pm 0.09$	98.86±0.04	$64.99 \pm 0.32$	34.20±0.20
FA	$98.42 \pm 0.07$	$53.82 \pm 0.24$	$24.61 \pm 0.28$	$98.50\pm0.06$	$57.51 \pm 0.57$	$27.15 \pm 0.53$
DRTP	$95.10\pm0.10$	$45.89 \pm 0.16$	$18.32 \pm 0.18$	$97.32 \pm 0.25$	$50.53 \pm 0.81$	$20.14 \pm 0.68$
PEPITA	$98.01 \pm 0.09$	$52.57 \pm 0.36$	$24.91 \pm 0.22$	$98.29 \pm 0.13$	$56.33 \pm 1.35$	$27.56 \pm 0.60$

#### Beyond PEPITA: towards time locality

#### **PEPITA**

#### Algorithm 1 Implementation of PEPITA

#### Given: Input (x) and label (target)

#standard forward pass

$$h_0 = x$$

for 
$$\ell = 1, ..., L$$

$$h_{\ell} = \sigma_{\ell}(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1})$$

$$e = h_L - target$$

#modulated forward pass

$$h_0^{err} = x + Fe$$

for 
$$\ell = 1, ..., L$$

$$h_{\ell}^{err} = \sigma_{\ell}(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1}^{err})$$

if 
$$\ell < L$$
:

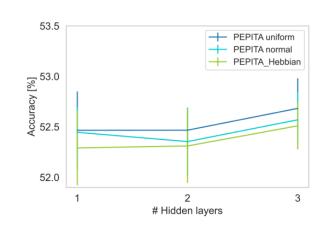
$$\Delta W_{\ell} = (h_{\ell} - h_{\ell}^{err}) \cdot (h_{\ell-1}^{err})^{T}$$

#### else:

$$\Delta W_{\ell} = e \cdot (h_{\ell-1}^{err})^T$$

#apply update

$$W_{\ell}(t+1) = W_{\ell}(t) - \eta \Delta W_{\ell}$$



$$\Delta W_{\ell} = (h_{\ell} - h_{\ell}^{err}) \cdot (h_{\ell-1}^{err})^{T} \longrightarrow \Delta W_{\ell} = h_{\ell} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{errT} - h_{\ell}^{err} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{errT}$$

$$\simeq h_{\ell} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{T} - h_{\ell}^{err} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{errT}$$

$$\simeq h_{\ell} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{T} - h_{\ell}^{err} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{errT}$$

#### PEPITA 2.0

#### Algorithm 2 Implementation of PEPITA local in space

#### Given: Input (x) and label (target)

#standard forward pass

$$h_0 = x$$

for 
$$\ell = 1, ..., L$$

$$h_{\ell} = \sigma_{\ell}(W_{\ell}h_{\ell-1})$$

$$\Delta W_{\ell}^{+} = h_{\ell} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{T}$$

#apply update for the positive phase

$$W_{\ell}^{+}(t+1) = W_{\ell}(t) - \eta \Delta W_{\ell}^{+}$$

$$e = h_L - target$$

#modulated forward pass

$$h_0^{err} = x + Fe$$

for 
$$\ell = 1, ..., L$$

$$h_{\ell}^{err} = \sigma_{\ell}(W_{\ell}^{\dagger}h_{\ell-1}^{err})$$

if 
$$\ell < L$$
:

$$\ell < L$$
:

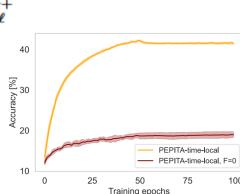
$$\Delta W_{\ell}^- = -h_{\ell}^{err} \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{errT}$$



$$\Delta W_{\ell}^- = -target \cdot h_{\ell-1}^{errT}$$

#apply update for the negative phase

$$W_{\ell}(t+1) = W_{\ell}^{+}(t+1) - \eta \Delta W_{\ell}^{-}$$



# Acknowledgements



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**Will Xiao**Harvard Medical
School



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