

# Sliced Mutual Information: A Scalable Measure of Statistical Dependence

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Joint work with Kristjan Greenewald, Theshani Nuradha, and Galen Reeves

# Mutual Information

## Definition (Shannon'48)

The mutual information (MI) between  $(X, Y) \sim P_{XY} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^{d_x} \times \mathbb{R}^{d_y})$  is

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- Applications in information theory, statistics, machine learning.

## Mutual Information: Structural Properties

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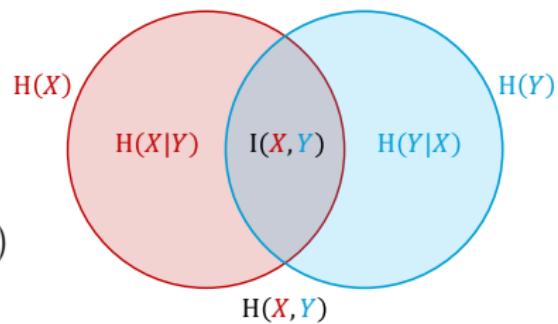
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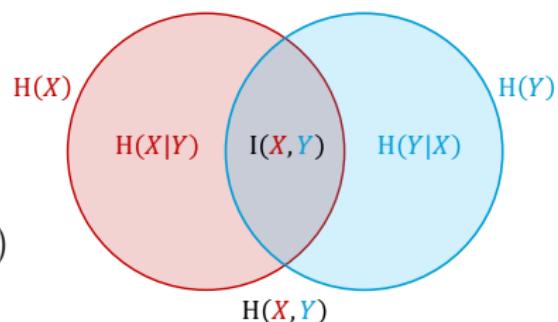
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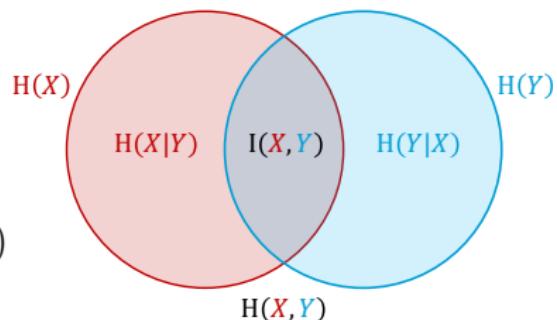
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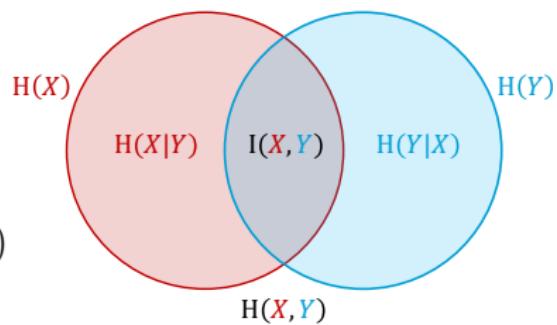
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⊗ **Goal:** Scalable MI surrogate that preserves its structure

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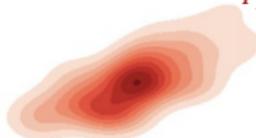
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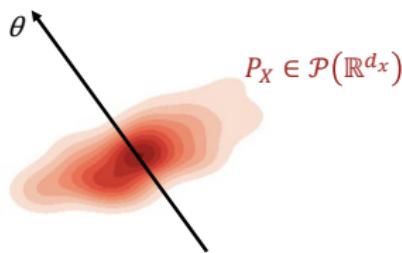
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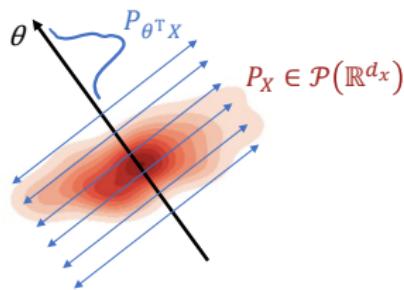
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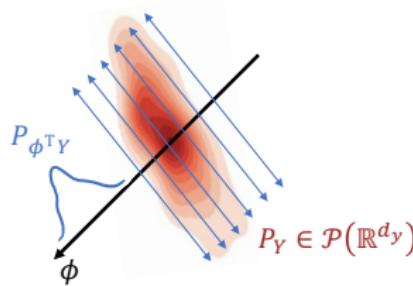
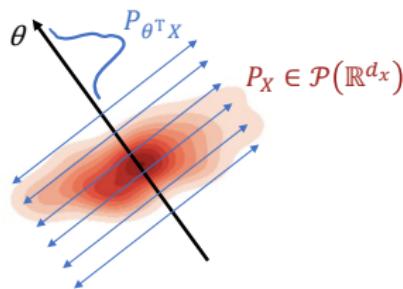
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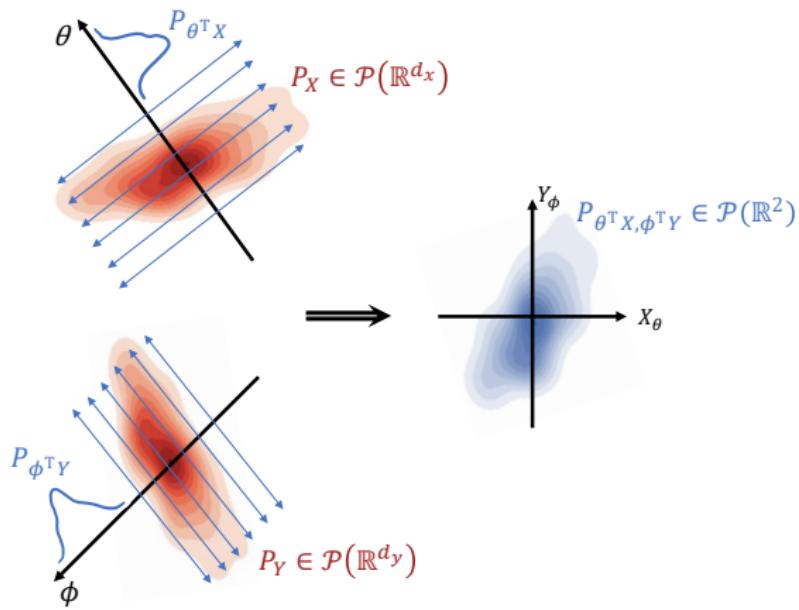
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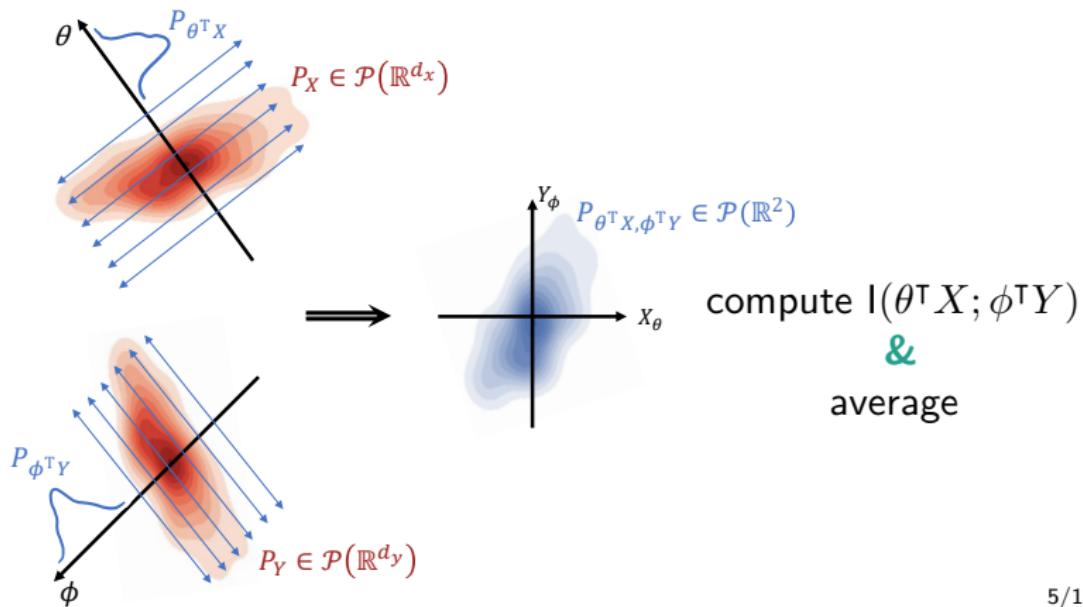
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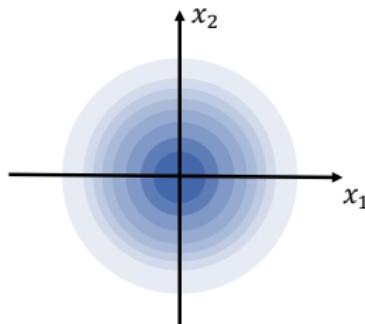
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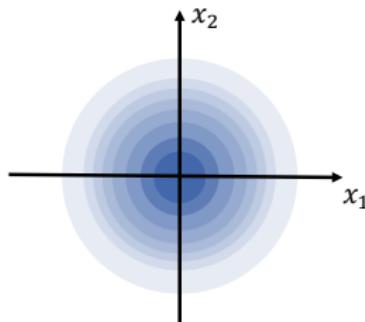
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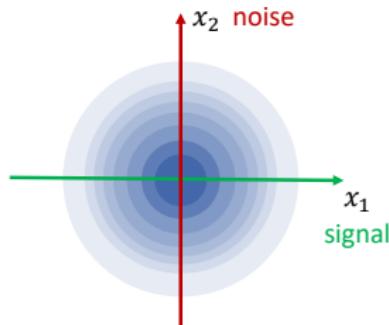
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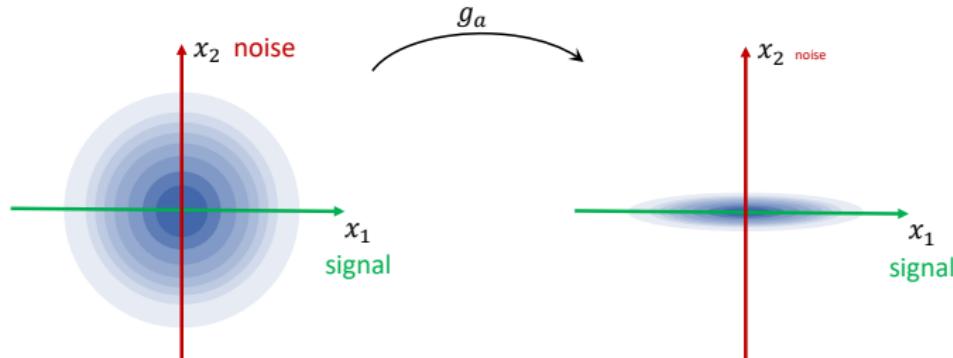
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Can be used for feature extraction via SMI maximization

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## Theorem (ZG-Greenewald-Reeves'22)

If  $P_{XY}$  has finite 2nd moments & Fisher information  $J(P_{XY}) < \infty$ , then

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \left| \text{SI}(X; Y) - \widehat{\text{SI}}_{m,n} \right| \right] \leq C(P_{XY}) \sqrt{\frac{d_x + d_y}{d_x d_y} m^{-\frac{1}{2}}} + \delta(n),$$

where  $C(P_{XY}) = 21 \sqrt{\|J_F(P_{XY})\|_{\text{op}} (\|\Sigma_X\|_{\text{op}} \vee \|\Sigma_Y\|_{\text{op}})}$ .

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 $\approx \sup_{g \in \mathcal{F}_{nn}^k} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n g(X_i, Y_i) - \log\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n e^{g(X_{\sigma(i)}, Y_i)}\right)$

$$\implies \mathbb{E}\left[\left|\text{SI}(X; Y) - \widehat{\text{SI}}_{k,m,n}^{(\text{NE})}\right|\right] \lesssim m^{-1/2} + k^{-1/2} + n^{-1/2}$$

- **No curse of dimensionality:** Compare to classic MI rate  $n^{-1/(d_x+d_y)}$

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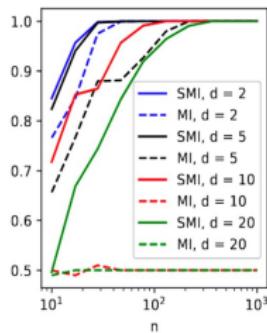
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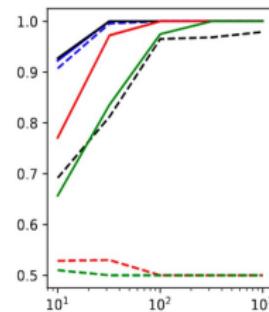
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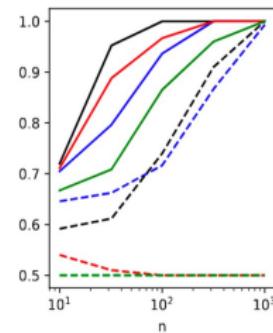
**Figure: Area under the ROC curve**



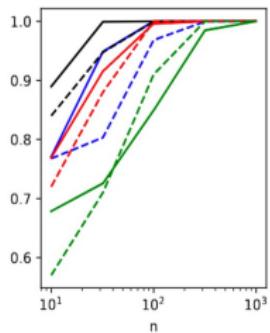
(a)  $Y$  encodes a single feature.



(b)  $Y$  encodes two features.



(c) Low rank common signal.



(d) Independent coordinates.

$$Y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}(\mathbf{1}^\top X)\mathbf{1} + Z$$

$$Y_i = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{d}(\mathbf{1}_{[d/2]} 0 \dots 0)^\top X + Z_i, & i \leq \frac{d}{2} \\ \frac{1}{d}(0 \dots 0 \mathbf{1}_{[d/2]})^\top X + Z_i, & i > \frac{d}{2} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} X &= \mathbf{P}_1 V + Z_1 \\ Y &= \mathbf{P}_2 V + Z_2 \end{aligned}$$

$$Y = X + Z$$

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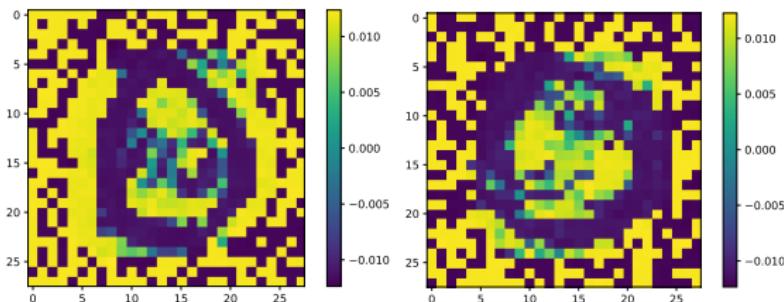
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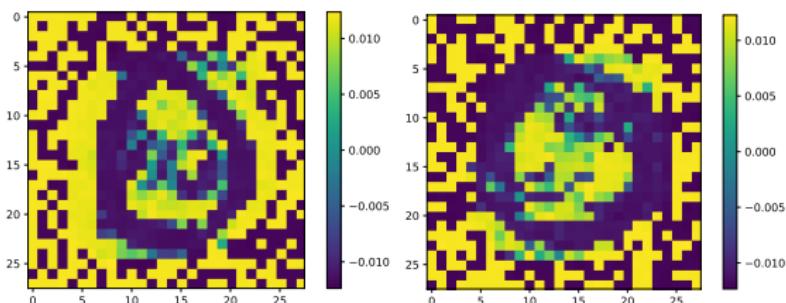
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$$\implies \text{SI}(A^*X; A^*Y) = 0.68 \text{ (compare to 0.0752 for random } A\text{)}$$

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(\*) Known rates too slow! Is  $\text{SI}(X_*; Y_*)$  the leading term?

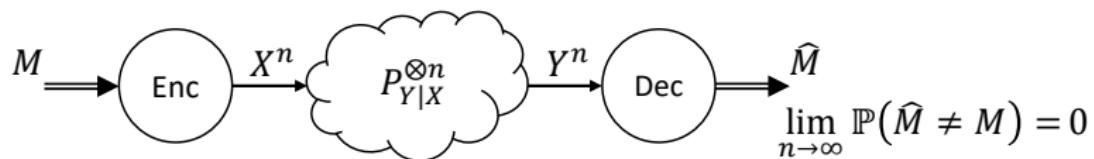
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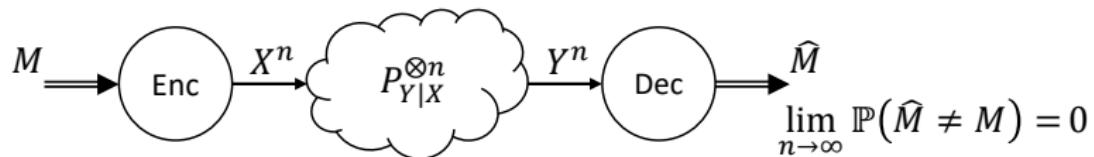
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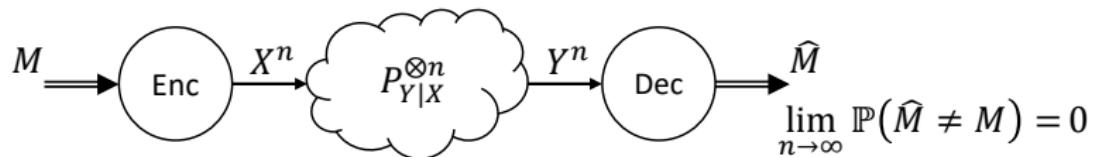


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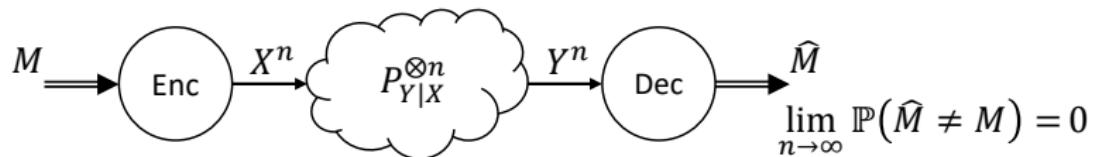


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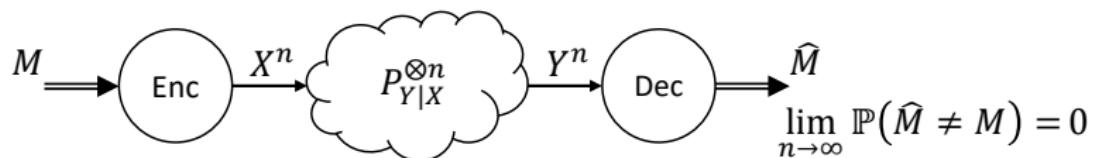
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Machine Learning: Hosts of modern applications

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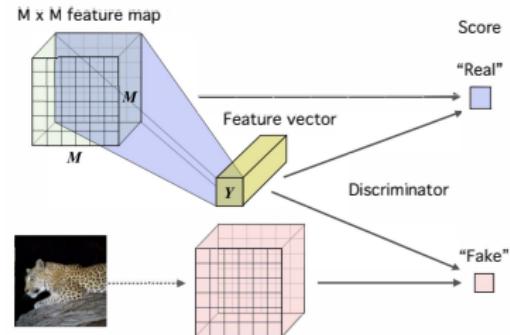
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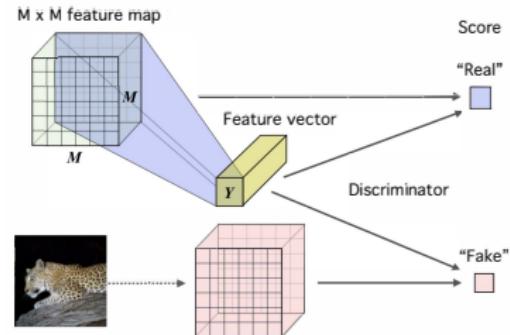


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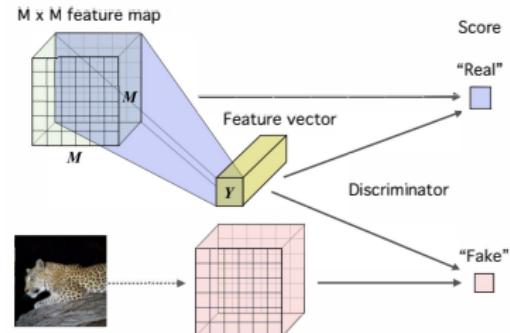


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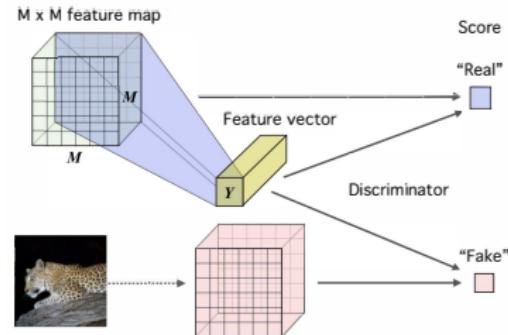
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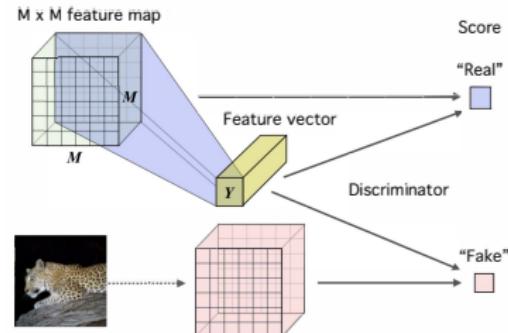
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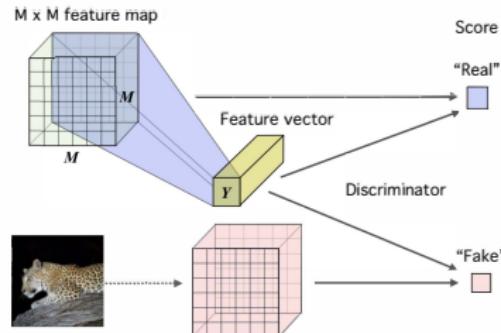
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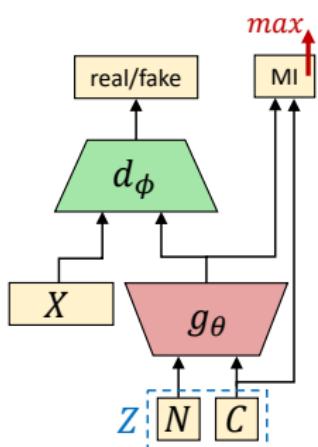


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- **InfoGAN [Chen et al.'16], [Belghazi et al.'18]:**

► Model  $Z = (N \ C)$  & regularize  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{GAN}}(g_\theta, d_\phi)$  by  $\beta I(g_\theta(N, C); C)$



# Sliced InfoGAN: MNIST Results

Regular InfoGAN (MI)



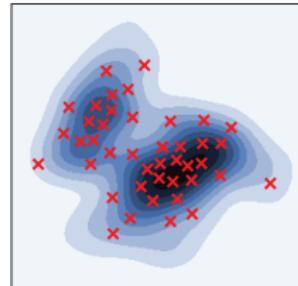
Sliced InfoGAN (SMI)



Codes:  $C_1 \in [0 : 9]$  (digits),  $C_2 \in [-2, 2]$  (rotation),  $C_3 \in [-2, 2]$  (width)

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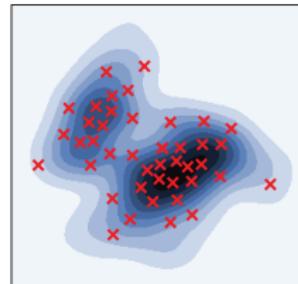
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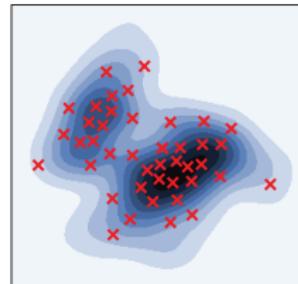


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⇒ Can we approximate  $I(X; Y) \approx \hat{I}(X^n, Y^n)$ ?

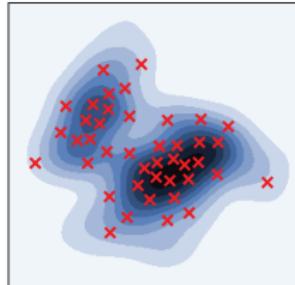


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In practice: Don't have  $P_{XY}$  but samples  $(X_i, Y_i) \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} P_{XY}$

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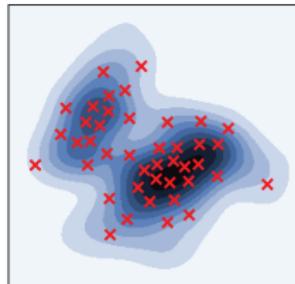
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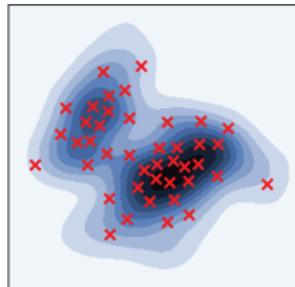
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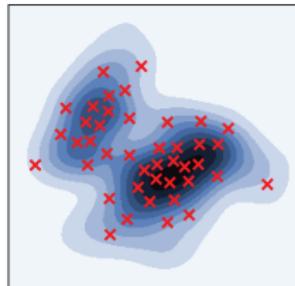


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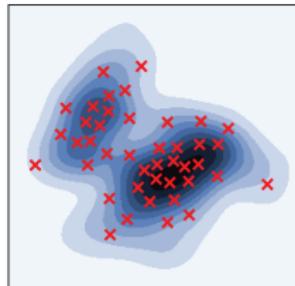
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**Goal:** Scalable MI surrogate that preserves its structure

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The SMI between  $(X, Y) \sim P_{XY} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}^{d_x} \times \mathbb{R}^{d_y})$  is

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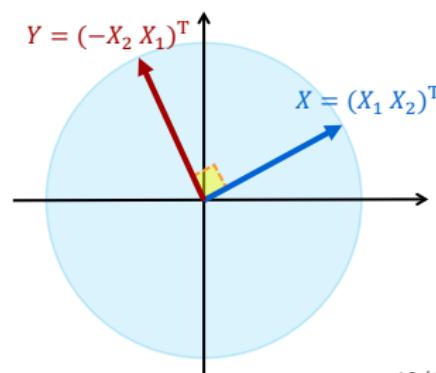
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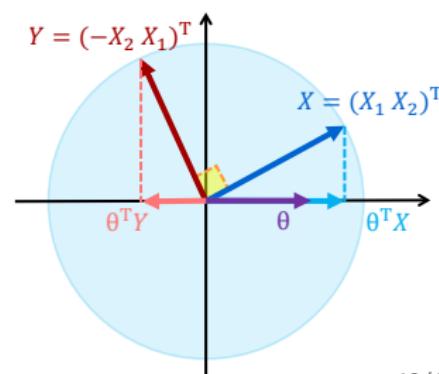
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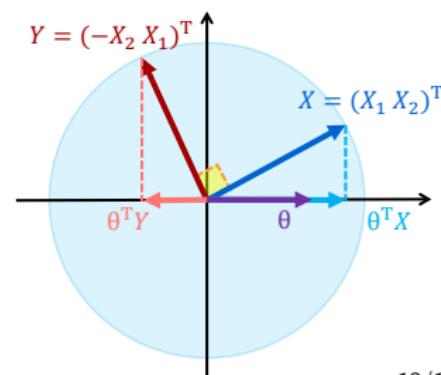
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►  $\text{cov}(\theta^\top X, \theta^\top Y) = 0 \implies \tilde{\text{SI}}(X; Y) = 0$



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## Proposition (ZG-Greenwald'21)

*Extracting maximum-SMI linear feature:*

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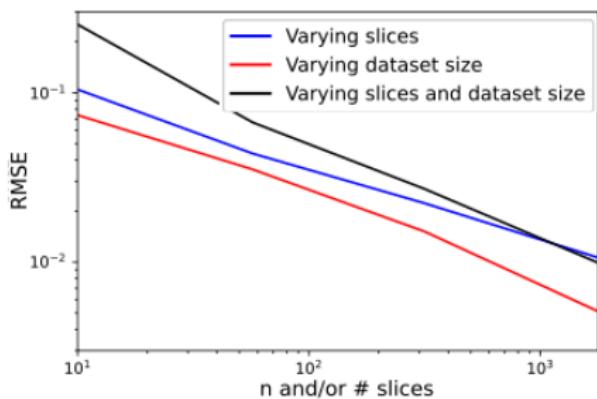
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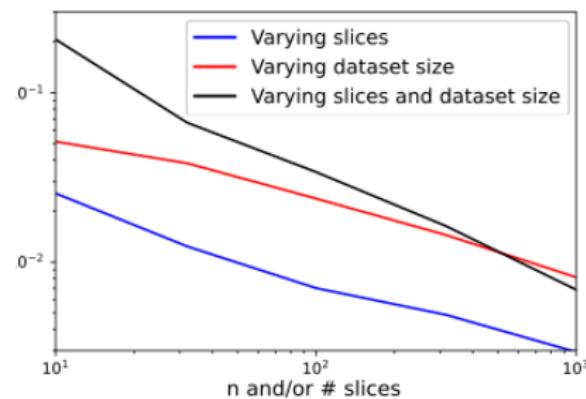
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Figure: Empirical convergence rates



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