

QTM2023

# Understanding QML also requires rethinking generalization

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# 1. Quantum Machine Learning

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Quantum model

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Quantum data

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Classical training algorithm

# 2. Generalization

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## Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)



## generalization

/ˌdʒɛn(ə)rəlɪˈzeɪʃn/

*noun*

a general statement or concept obtained by inference from specific cases.  
"he was making sweeping generalizations"

- the action of generalizing.  
"such anecdotes cannot be a basis for generalization"

Train with few data → learn patterns → try on new data

... → Succeed on new data!

# 3. Why/how generalization?

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Train with few data → learn patterns → Succeed on new data!  
... → why?

Really difficult:

Why/How do (Q)ML models generalize?

## 4. How? Model capacity!

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Why/How do (Q)ML models generalize?

1st attempt:

It has to do with **model capacity**.

“Expressivity”

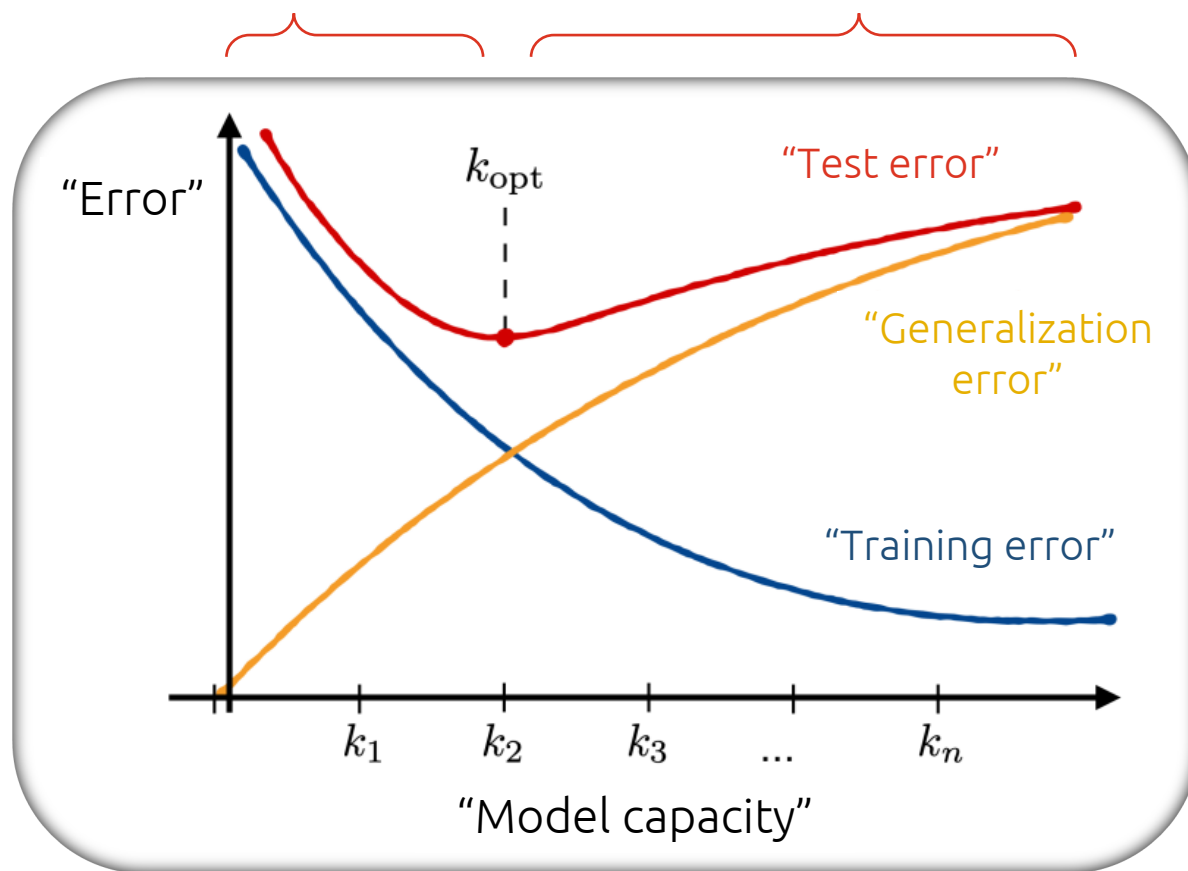
“Complexity measure”

*“Models should be large enough, but not larger”*

# 5. The traditional picture

Underfitting  
*"Model capacity is not large enough"*

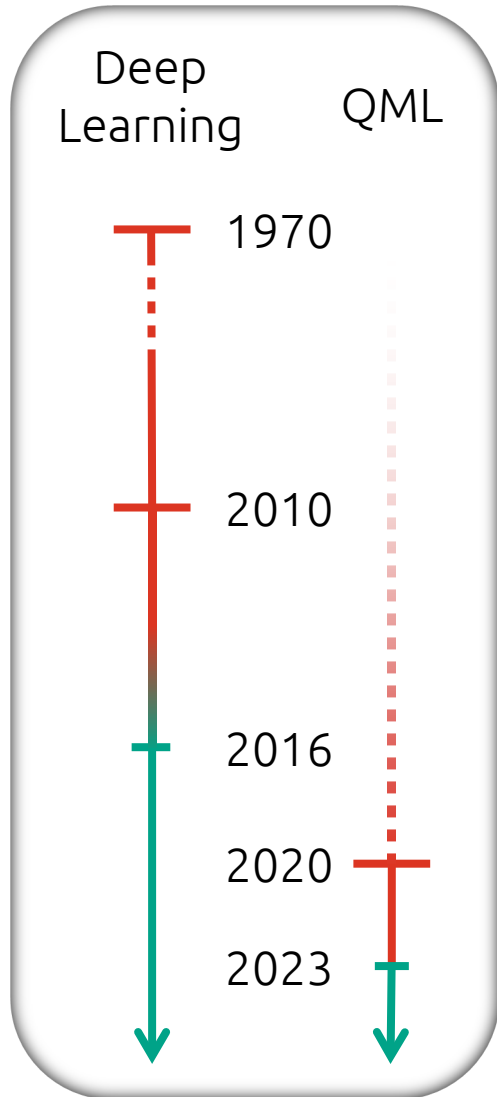
Overfitting  
*"Model capacity is too large"*



# 6. Context

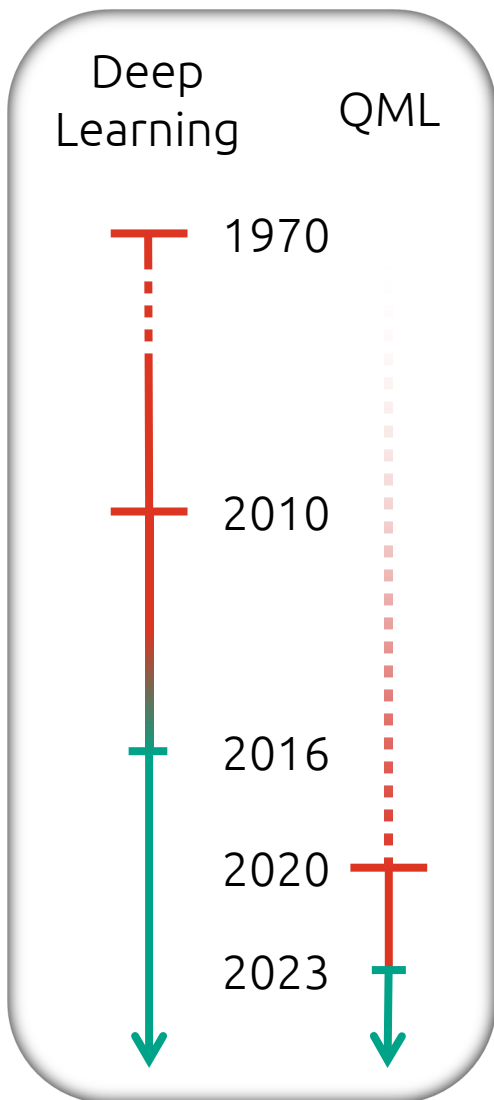
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1970s – 2010s: Traditional learning theory: model capacity.



# 6. Context

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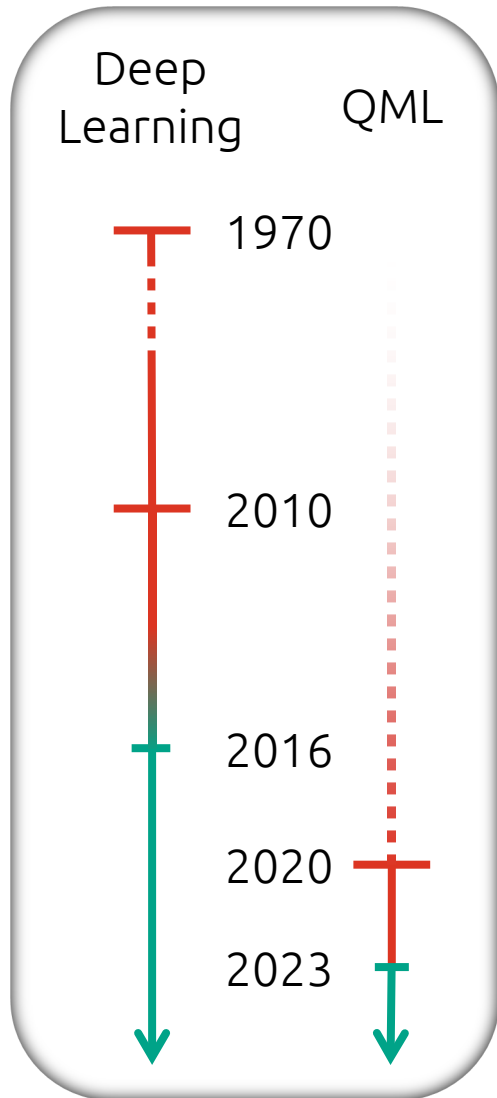
Zhang et al. (2016):

*“Model capacity cannot explain generalization in Deep Learning”.*



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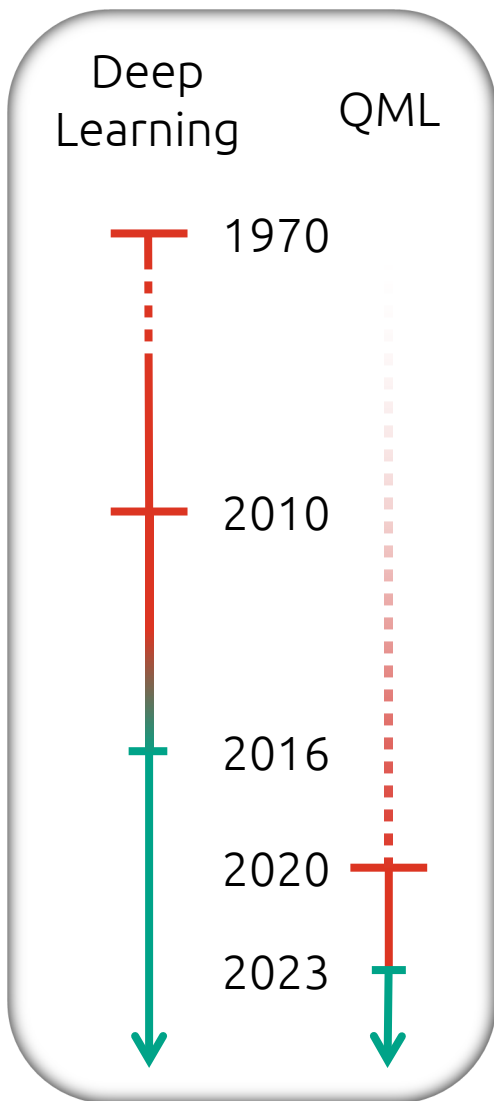
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2016 - ...: Modern approaches to generalization in classical ML.

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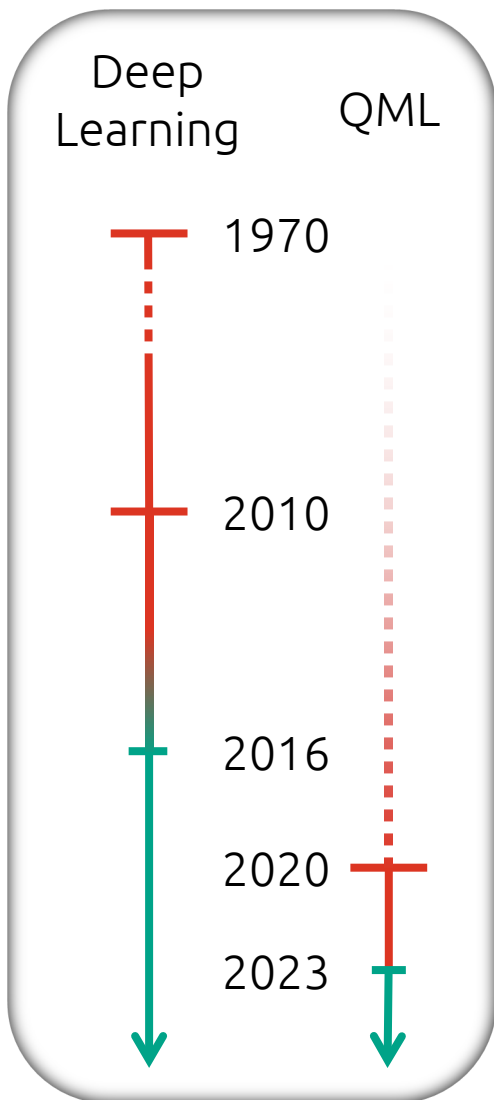
2020s: Traditional learning theory applied to QML.

Elephant:  
*Will it work?*

Different models...  
*maybe?!*

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Elephant:  
*Will it work?*  
Different models...  
*maybe?!*

Our work (2023):

*“Model capacity cannot explain generalization in current QML”.*

# 7. Our contribution

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Hypothesis:

Generalization has to do with **model capacity**.

Test:

*“Does model capacity explain generalization?”*

Results:

*“Model capacity cannot explain generalization in current QML”.*

# 8. Experiment

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**Results:** “*Model capacity cannot explain generalization in current QML*”.

**How?** What if input data and labels are uncorrelated?

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**How?** What if input data and labels are uncorrelated?

Model can fit **original**  
training sets



**good** generalization (?)

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**good** generalization (?)

Model can fit **corrupt**  
training sets



**bad** generalization

# 8. Experiment

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**Results:** “*Model capacity cannot explain generalization in current QML*”.

**How?** What if input data and labels are uncorrelated?

Model can fit **original**  
training sets



**good** generalization (?)

Model can fit **corrupt**  
training sets



**bad** generalization

Model can do both  $\Rightarrow$  **model capacity** indep of generalization



## 9. Take-home message

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We still don't know why/how  
QML models generalize.

(So far QML literature *only* model capacity approach)

Invitation: Let's go beyond model capacity!

- Properties of the loss landscape
- Stability/robustness of optimization algorithm
- Shape of the learning curve
- ...

# References

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Our work, “model capacity fails for current QML”:

Gil-Fuster, Eisert, Bravo-Prieto *arXiv:2306.13461 (2023)*

“Model capacity fails for deep NNs”:

Zhang et al. *arXiv:1611.03530 (2016)*

“PQCs have good generalization”:

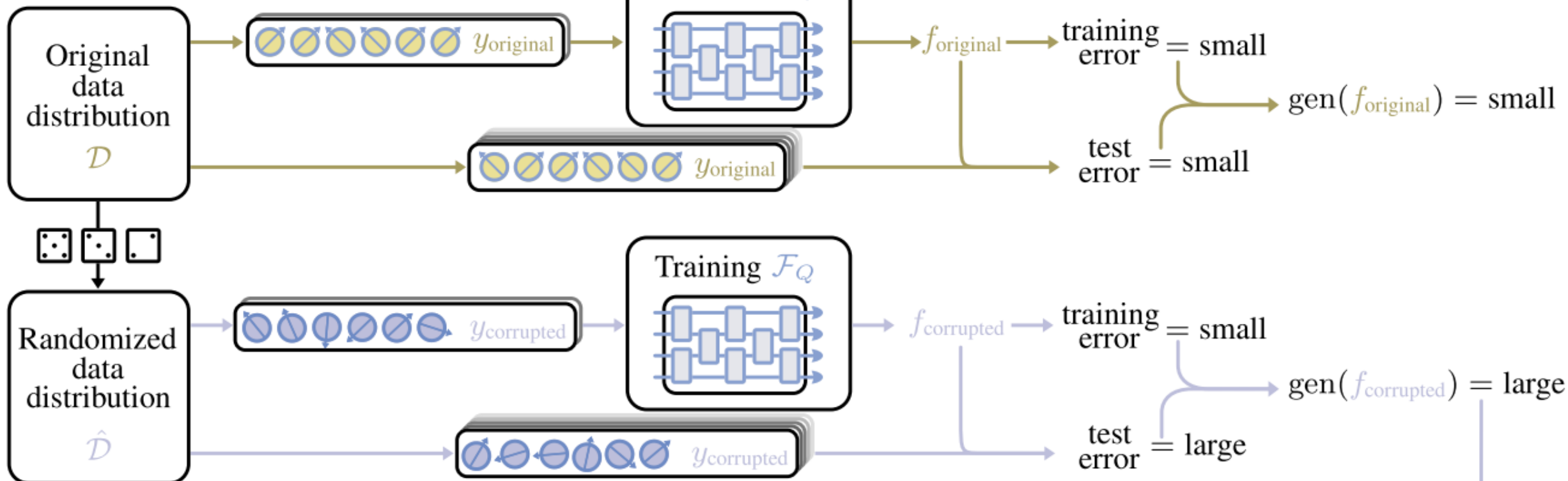
Caro et al. *Nat. Comms. 13, 4919 (2022)*

# Thank you for your attention!

Understanding QML also requires rethinking generalization

[arXiv:2306.13461](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.13461)

(a) Empirical experiments



(b) Uniform generalization bounds



QML literature

$$g_{\text{unif}}(\mathcal{F}_Q) : \text{QML literature} \implies \forall f \in \mathcal{F}_Q, \text{gen}(f) \leq g_{\text{unif}}(\mathcal{F}_Q) \implies g_{\text{unif}}(\mathcal{F}_Q) \geq \text{large}$$

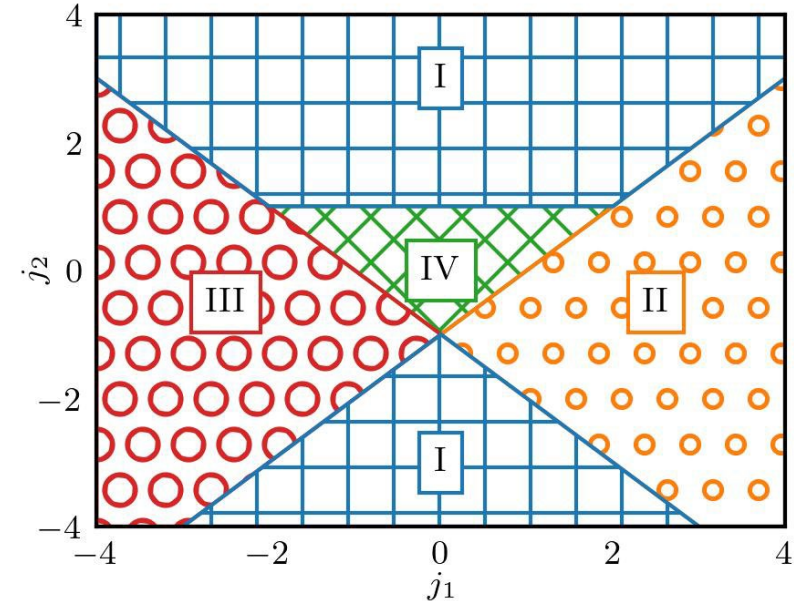
# Quantum phase recognition with QCNN

**Learning task:** classify ground states of Generalized cluster Hamiltonian according to their phase.

$$H(j_1, j_2) = \sum_{j=1}^n (Z_j - j_1 X_j X_{j+1} + j_2 X_{j-1} Z_j X_{j+1}).$$

Ground states  $\rho(j_1, j_2)$  four phases:

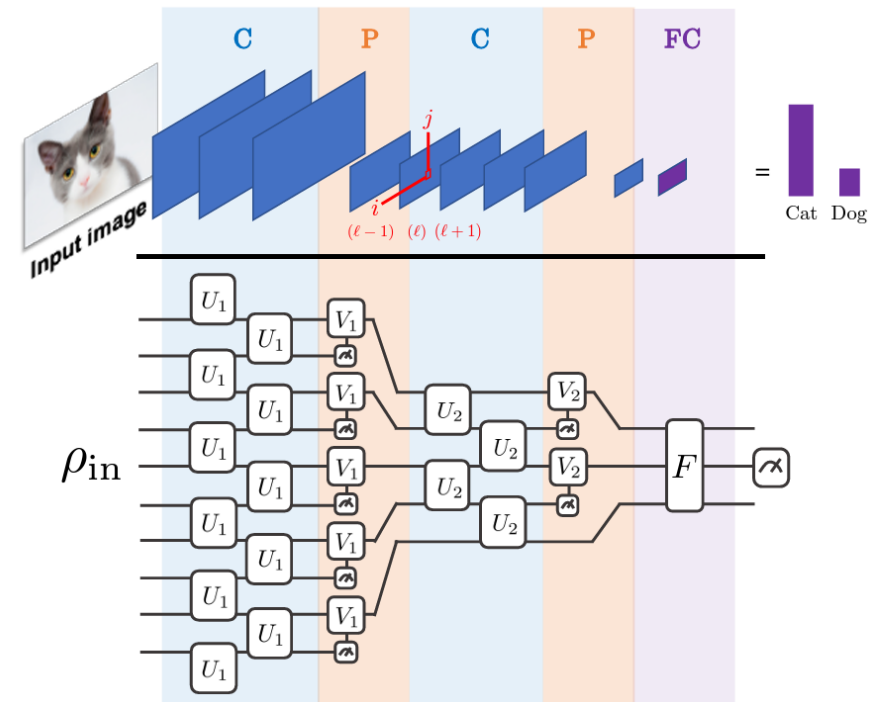
- I. Symmetry-protected topological
- II. Ferromagnetic
- III. Anti-ferromagnetic
- IV. Trivial



# Quantum phase recognition with QCNN

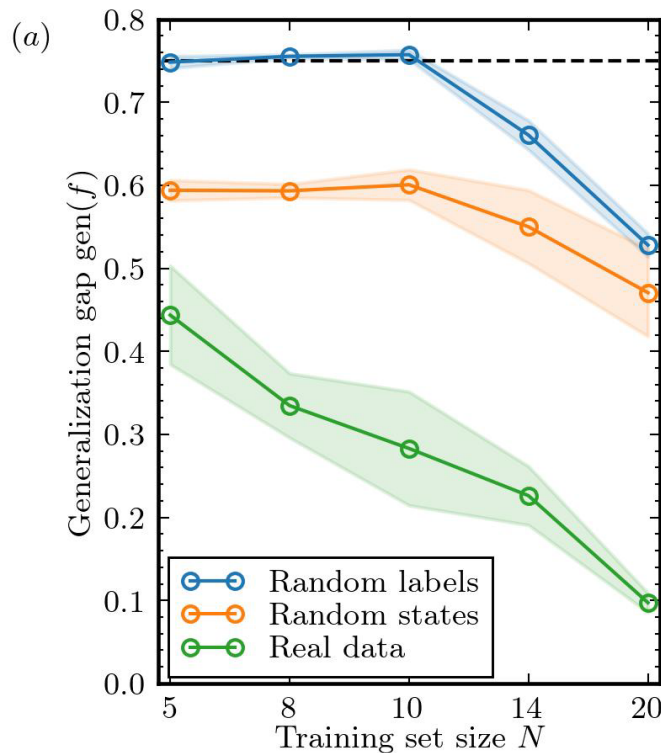
Quantum Convolutional Neural Network (QCNN).

- Our quantum model  $\mathcal{F}_Q$ .
- Inspired in classical Deep Learning.
- Convolutional and pooling layers.
- Parameter sharing.
- Translation invariance.
- Exploit local correlations.
- No Barren Plateaus.



# Numerical experiments

Average number of qubits  $n \in \{8, 16, 32\}$ .



Random guessing balanced classes  
 $\text{gen}(f) \approx 0.75$

Random guessing unbalanced classes  
 $\text{gen}(f) \approx 0.6$

Message: QCNN can fit random distributions

# Memorization

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Theorem (*Finite sample expressivity of PQCs– informal*).

Let  $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N$  be unknown quantum states on  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  qubits,  $N \in \mathcal{O}(\text{poly}(n))$ , and fulfilling a distinguishability condition.

Then, we can construct a PQC of depth  $\text{poly}(n)$  as a parametrized observable  $\mathcal{M}(\vartheta)$  such that,

for any  $y_1, \dots, y_N \in \mathbb{R}$  real labels, we can find parameters  $\vartheta_y$  fulfilling

$$\text{tr}(\rho_i \mathcal{M}(\vartheta_y)) = y_i.$$