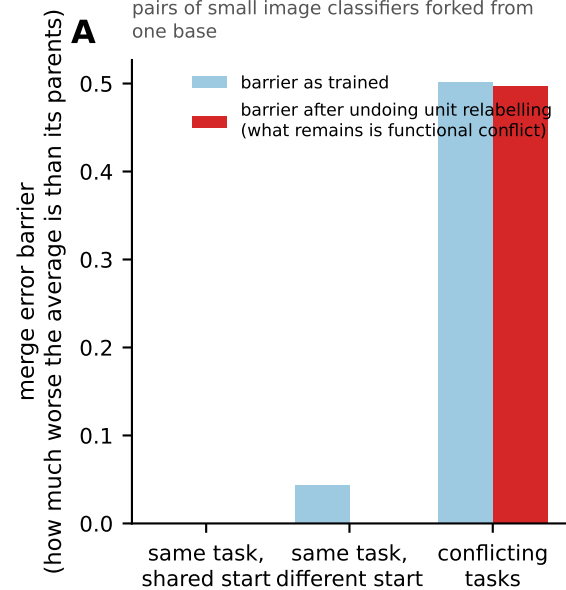


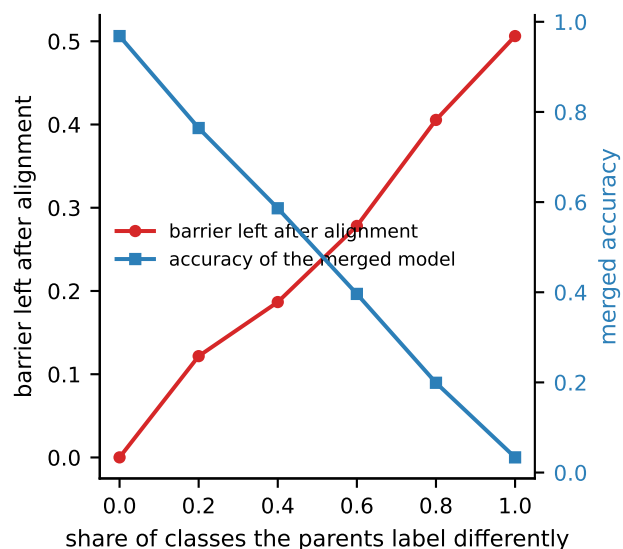
Alignment removes the barrier for compatible networks, not for conflicting ones

pairs of small image classifiers forked from one base



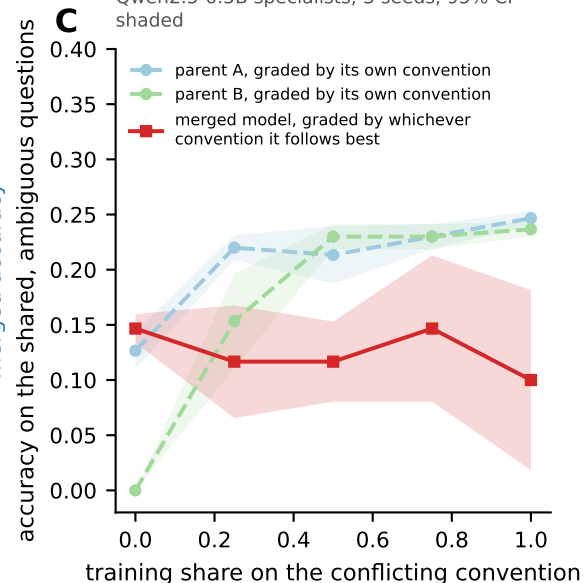
The more classes in conflict, the worse the merge

same classifier pairs; conflict swept



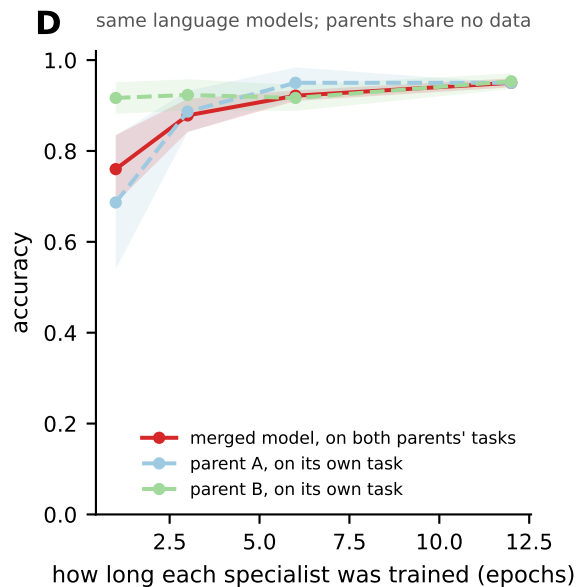
Language models: contradictory conventions break the merged model

Qwen2.5-0.5B specialists; 3 seeds, 95% CI shaded



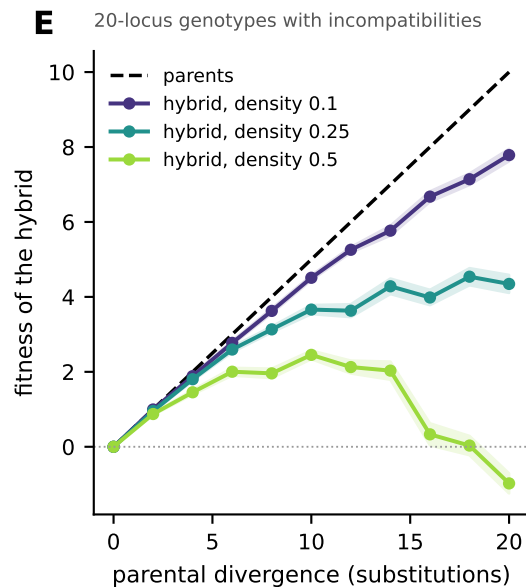
Training specialists longer, apart, does not break merging

same language models; parents share no data



Simulation: hybrids fail once lineages diverge far enough

20-locus genotypes with incompatibilities



Denser incompatibilities bring the cliff earlier

same simulation

