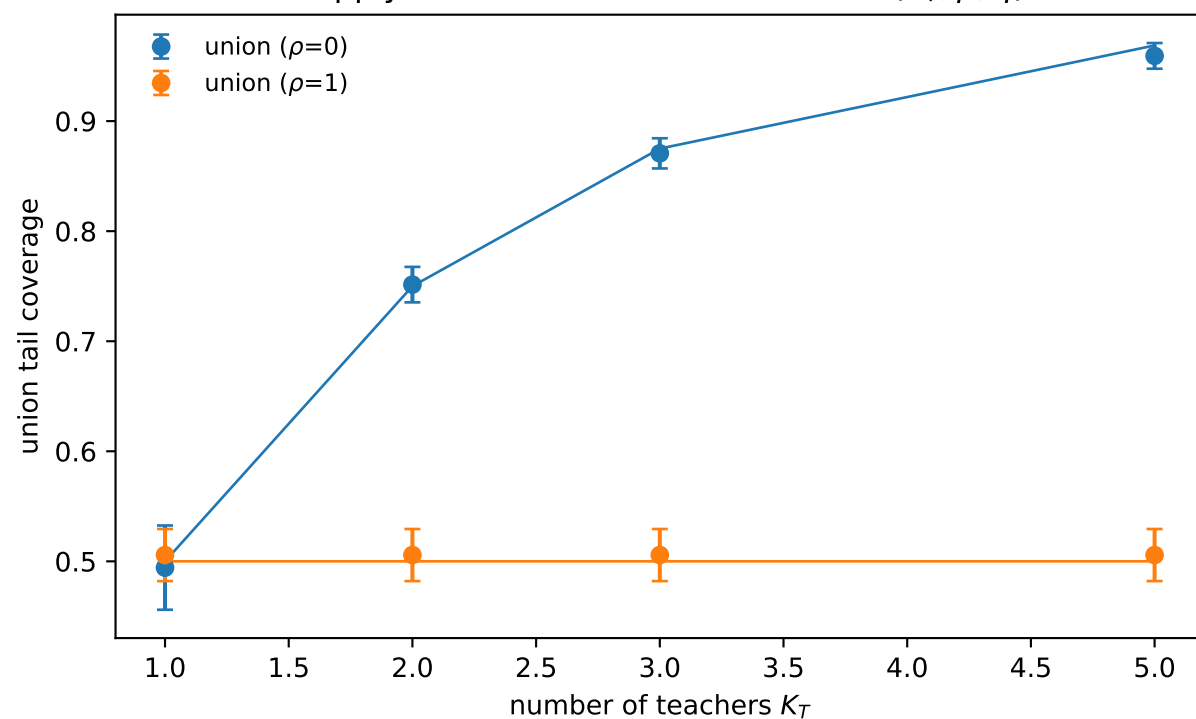
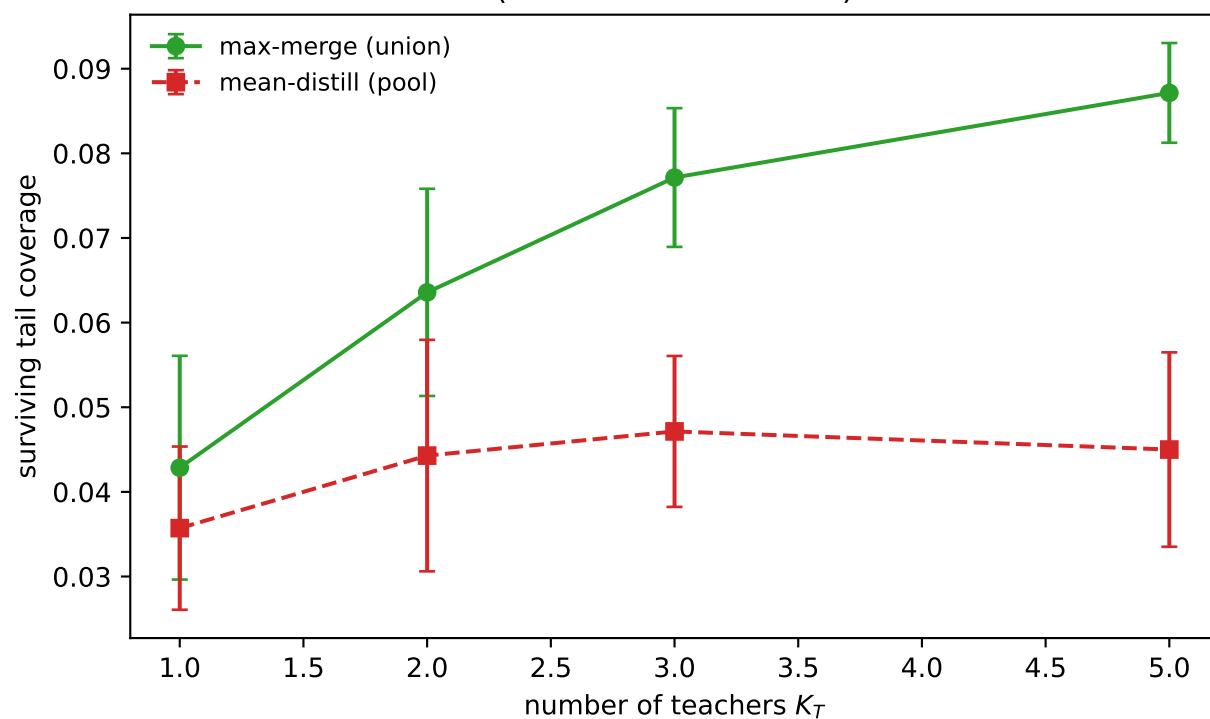


recombination — 'merge, don't average' holds in real weights: max-merge realises the multi-teacher tail benefit, mean-distill conserves collapse

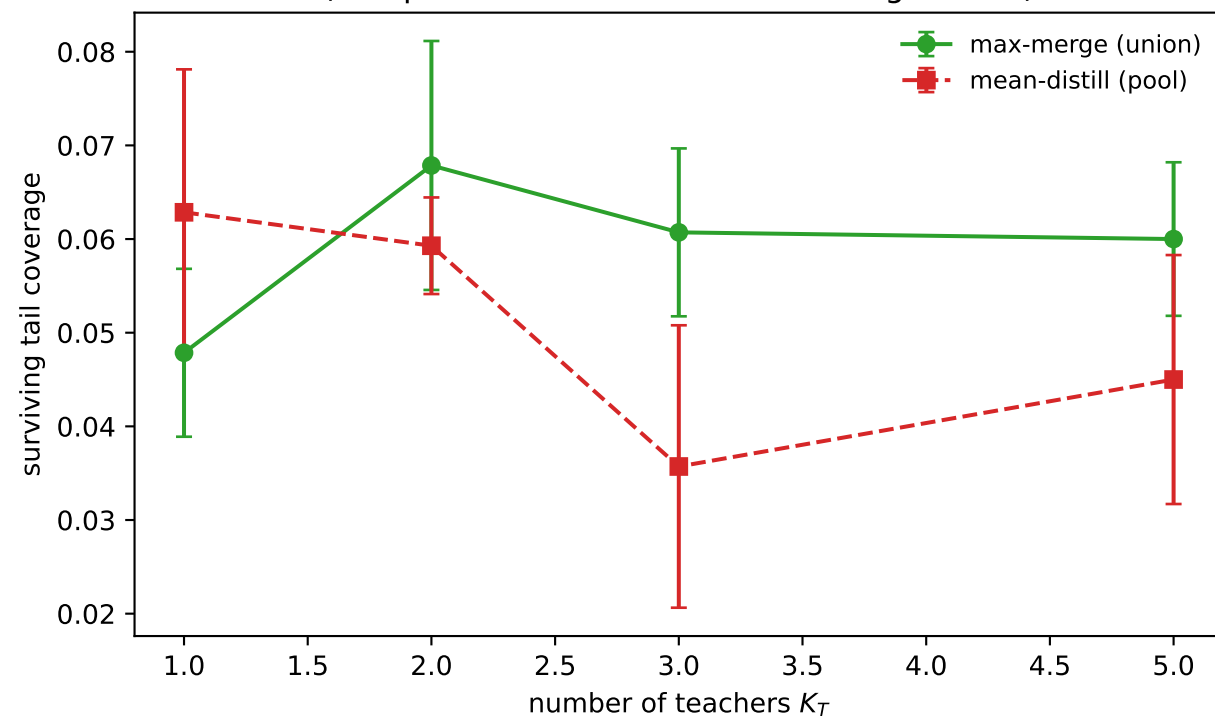
Supply: union matches closed form $U(K_T, \rho, q)$



Analytic teachers ($\rho=0$): max rises, mean flat
(the conservation law)



Trained GRU teachers ($\rho=0$): same signs
(compressed + noisier — smoothing caveat)



Control ($\rho=1$, identical teachers):
more teachers buy nothing

