

Geometric Deep Learning

How to "*learn*" vector fields on manifolds

Francesco Ballerin

Joint work with **Erlend Grong** and **Nello Blaser**

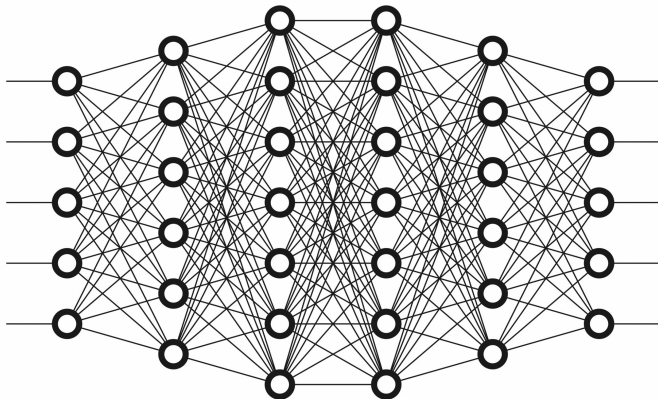
MaGIC 2024

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN



What is Geometric Deep Learning?

Neural Networks



Neural Networks

A feedforward neural network computes outputs \hat{y} from inputs x through multiple layers of neurons. Each layer applies a linear transformation followed by a nonlinear activation function. Let $W^{(l)}$ be the weight matrix, $b^{(l)}$ the bias vector, and σ a non-linear activation function.

The computation at each layer is:

$$z^{(l)} = W^{(l)}a^{(l)} + b^{(l)}, \quad a^{(l+1)} = \sigma(z^{(l)})$$

where $a^{(0)} = x$. The output of the network after L layers is given by:

$$\hat{y} = \sigma(z^{(L)})$$

During training, the parameters (weight and bias) are updated through an optimization process according to a specific loss function.



Neural Networks

Theorem (Universal approximation theorem)

Let $\sigma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a non-polynomial continuous function. Consider a feedforward neural network with one hidden layer of $M \in \mathbb{N}$ neurons. Then, given any continuous function $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists M and constants $w_i, v_i, b_i \in \mathbb{R}$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, M$, such that the function

$$F(x) = \sum_{i=1}^M w_i \sigma(v_i x + b_i)$$

satisfies

$$\sup_{x \in [a, b]} |F(x) - f(x)| < \varepsilon$$

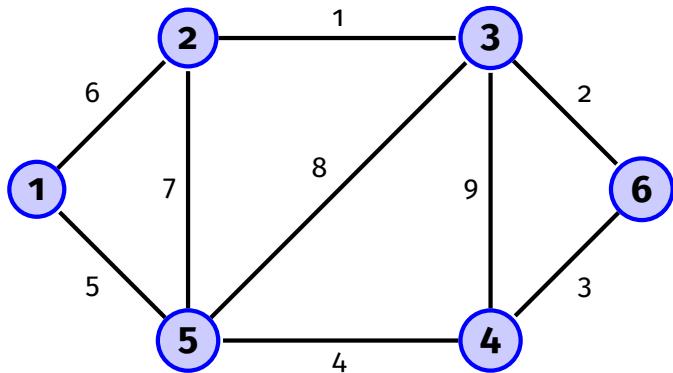
In other words, the shallow neural network can approximate any continuous function $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ to arbitrary precision.



Symmetries in the data: images



Symmetries in the data: graphs



Symmetries in the data: graphs

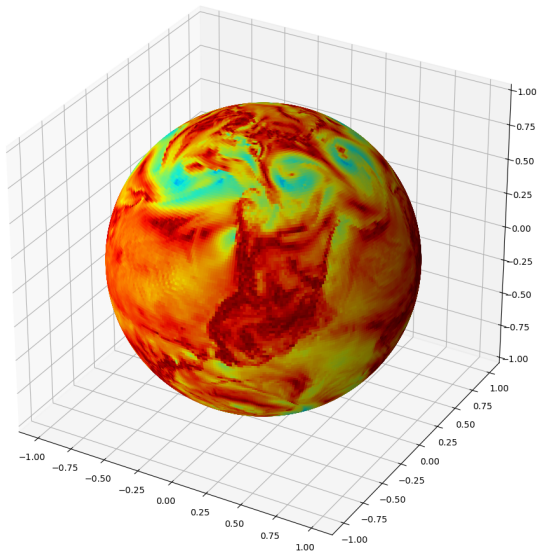
Let (V, E) be a graph with nodes in V and edges in E . Then we can encode the graph as a vector and adjacency matrix:

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \quad E = \begin{bmatrix} \cdot & 6 & \cdot & \cdot & 5 & \cdot \\ 6 & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & 7 & \cdot \\ \cdot & 1 & \cdot & 9 & 8 & 9 \\ \cdot & \cdot & 9 & \cdot & 4 & 3 \\ 5 & 7 & 8 & 4 & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & 9 & 3 & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V' = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \\ 4 \\ 5 \\ 6 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad E' = \begin{bmatrix} \cdot & 1 & \cdot & 7 & \cdot & 6 \\ 1 & \cdot & 9 & 8 & 9 & \cdot \\ \cdot & 9 & \cdot & 4 & 3 & \cdot \\ 7 & 8 & 4 & \cdot & \cdot & 5 \\ \cdot & 9 & 3 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 6 & \cdot & \cdot & 5 & \cdot & \cdot \end{bmatrix}$$



Symmetries in the data: manifolds



Symmetries

Definition

A *group* is a set G equipped with a binary operation \cdot that satisfies the following properties:

- 1 Closure:** For all $a, b \in G$, the element $a \cdot b$ is also in G .
- 2 Associativity:** For all $a, b, c \in G$, $(a \cdot b) \cdot c = a \cdot (b \cdot c)$.
- 3 Identity Element:** There exists an element $e \in G$, called the identity element, such that for all $a \in G$, $a \cdot e = e \cdot a = a$.
- 4 Inverse Element:** For each $a \in G$, there exists an element $a^{-1} \in G$, called the inverse of a , such that $a \cdot a^{-1} = a^{-1} \cdot a = e$.

We can identify symmetries of a certain space as group operation acting on the domain.



Symmetries

Example (\mathbb{R}^2 - unbounded or periodic 2D images)

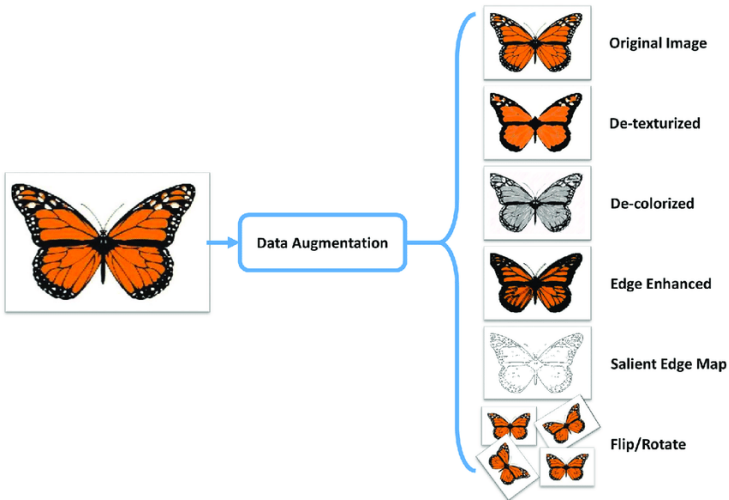
The symmetry group of 2D images is $(\mathbb{R}^2, +)$, i.e. the group of vertical and horizontal translations.

Example (Graphs)

The symmetry group for graphs with n nodes is the permutation group S_n . We can indeed list all nodes in a vector V and edges as an $n \times n$ adjacency matrix E . Then a permutation $P \in S_n$ acts on the graph (V, E) as $V' = PV$ and $E' = PEP^T$.



Data augmentation: a naive solution to the problem of symmetries



Geometric Deep Learning

Geometric Deep Learning is a subfield of Deep Learning that focuses on developing algorithms capable of **natively and effectively handling data with a geometric structure**. Geometric Deep Learning aims to process data with an inherent non-Euclidean or geometric structure by identifying a **symmetry group** of interest, guaranteeing that the output of a GDL neural network is either **equivariant** or **invariant** depending on the problem of interest.



Geometric Deep Learning

Let $f : A \rightarrow B$ be a function and $x \in A$. Let G be the symmetric group of interest that defines an action on both A and B . Then

Definition

f is said to be **left-equivariant** if

$$f(g \cdot x) = g \cdot f(x)$$

Definition

f is said to be **left-invariant** is

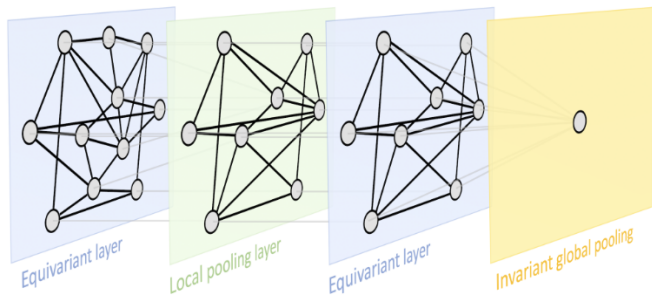
$$f(g \cdot x) = f(x)$$



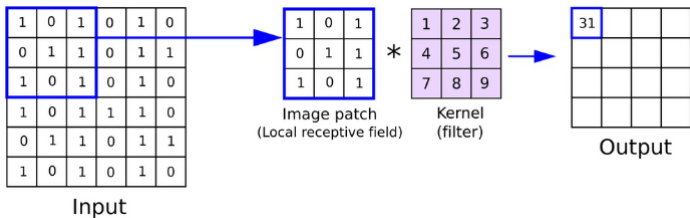
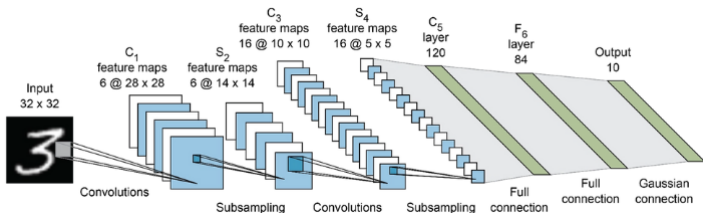
GDL blueprint

The ingredients of a GDL neural network with symmetry group G are:

- G -equivariant layer
- nonlinearity
- coarsening layer
- G -invariant layer (if required)

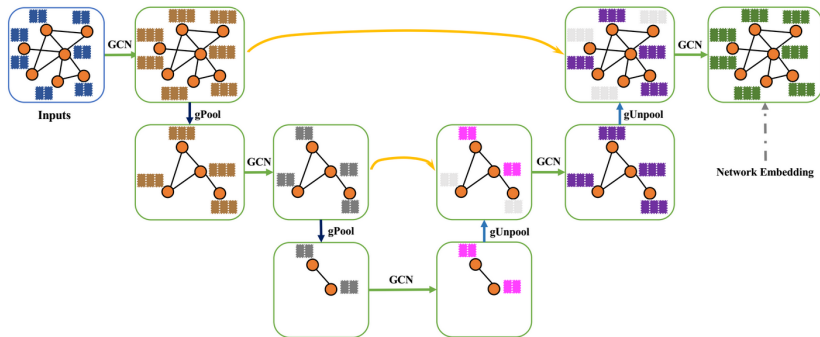


GDL blueprint in CNNs



GDL blueprint in graphs

An example of graph neural network that implements the GDL blueprint is the graph U-Net (2019).



Problem of interest

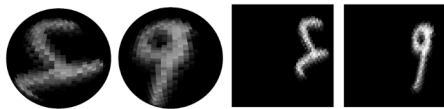
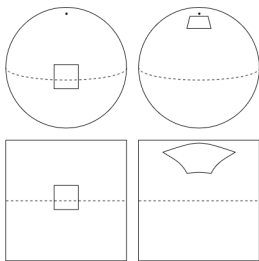
Learning functions on a sphere

Abstract: Spherical CNNs (Cohen T. et al, 2018)

Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) have become the method of choice for learning problems involving 2D planar images. However, a number of problems of recent interest have created a demand for models that can analyze spherical images. Examples include omnidirectional vision for drones, robots, and autonomous cars, molecular regression problems, and global weather and climate modelling. A naive application of convolutional networks to a planar projection of the spherical signal is destined to fail, because the space-varying distortions introduced by such a projection will make translational weight sharing ineffective.



Learning functions on a sphere



Learning functions on a sphere

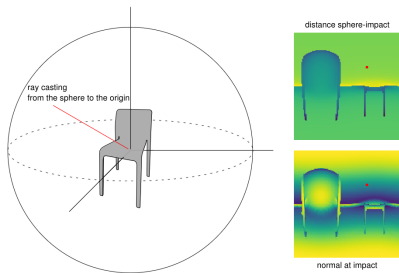


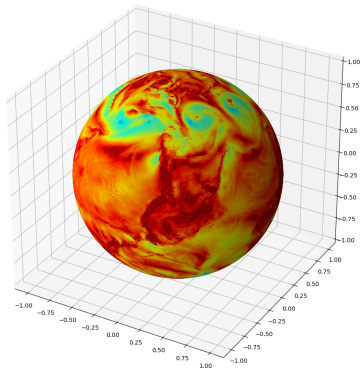
Figure 5: The ray is cast from the surface of the sphere towards the origin. The first intersection with the model gives the values of the signal. The two images of the right represent two spherical signals in (α, β) coordinates. They contain respectively the distance from the sphere and the cosine of the ray with the normal of the model. The red dot corresponds to the pixel set by the red line.

	NR / NR	R / R	NR / R
planar	0.98	0.23	0.11
spherical	0.96	0.95	0.94



Our task: to learn vector fields on a sphere

Learning vector fields on a sphere is not a trivial extension. In our case we are given wind data as a vector field in terms of $V(\alpha, \beta)$ and $U(\alpha, \beta)$ the north and east components of the wind at latitude α and longitude β .



Introduction to the geometry

Principal G-bundles

Let (M, g) be an n -dimensional Riemannian manifold

Definition

For $x \in M$ a linear isometry $u : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow T_x M$ is said to be an *orthonormal frame at $x \in M$* . Let $O(M)_x$ net the collection of frames at $x \in M$ and

$$O(M) = \bigsqcup_{x \in M} O(M)_x.$$

We then have a transitive right action of $O(n)$ defined by $\hat{u} = u \cdot A = u \circ A$ for $A \in O(n)$. In particular, if $u_j = u(e_j)$ are the standard basis elements of an orthonormal frame, then $\hat{u}_j = u_j(Ae_j)$.

We can also introduce the projection

$$\begin{aligned} \pi : O(M) &\longrightarrow M \\ u \in O(M)_x &\longmapsto x \end{aligned}$$



Principal G -bundles

Let G be a topological group.

Definition

A *principal G -bundle* is a fiber bundle $\pi : P \rightarrow M$ together with a continuous right action $P \times G \rightarrow P$ s.t G preserves the fibers of P and acts freely and transitively so that the map

$$\begin{aligned} G &\rightarrow P_x \\ g &\mapsto yg \end{aligned}$$

is an homeomorphism $\forall x \in M, y \in P_x$.

Then

$$\mathrm{O}(n) \rightarrow \mathrm{O}(M) \xrightarrow{\pi} M,$$

is a principle G -bundle with $G = \mathrm{O}(n)$



Principal G-bundles

Let $M = S^n$ embedded in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . Then we can consider the principal G -bundle

$$\mathrm{SO}(n) \rightarrow \mathrm{SO}(n+1) \xrightarrow{\pi} S^n.$$

If we identify $\mathrm{SO}(n)$ as the rotation around the north pole $e_{n+1} = (0, \dots, 1)$, then we can consider $\pi : \mathrm{SO}(n+1) \rightarrow S^n$ simply as the map $\pi(A) = Ae_{n+1}$.

The group $\mathrm{SO}(n)$ acts on $\mathrm{SO}(n+1)$ as matrix multiplication by

$$\hat{B} = \begin{pmatrix} B & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B \in \mathrm{SO}(n).$$



Vector fields on the sphere

Theorem

There is a unique correspondence between real vector fields on the sphere $\xi : S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and equivariant maps $\bar{\xi} : SO(n+1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\bar{\xi}(A\hat{B}) = B^{-1}\bar{\xi}(A)$ with

$$\hat{B} = \begin{pmatrix} B & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B \in SO(n), \quad A \in SO(n).$$



Vector fields on the sphere

Proof:

Let $\xi : S^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a vector field $A = (A_1, \dots, A_{n+1}) \in \text{SO}(n+1)$. Then $\pi(A) = A_{n+1}$, while $\xi(A_{n+1})$ will be in the span of A_1, \dots, A_n . We can then introduce an equivariant map $\bar{\xi}$ by

$$\bar{\xi}(A) = \begin{pmatrix} \langle \xi(A_{n+1}), A_1 \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle \xi(A_{n+1}), A_n \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

Conversely, if we have an equivariant map $\bar{\xi} : \text{SO}(n+1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, then we can define a vector field by

$$\xi(\pi(A)) = A \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\xi}(A) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Vector fields on S^2 as complex functions

We consider the concrete case of a vector field ξ on the two-dimensional sphere S^2 . If we identify \mathbb{R}^2 with \mathbb{C} , then the corresponding equivariance is given by

$$\bar{\xi}(A \cdot Z(\gamma)) = e^{-i\gamma} \bar{\xi}(A)$$

since for $B = e^{i\gamma}$ then $\hat{B} = Z(\gamma) = \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\gamma} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

We can then write for V being the wind component in the north direction and U the wind component in the east direction

$$\bar{\xi}(Z(\alpha)Y(\beta)Z(\gamma)) = -i(U(\alpha, \beta) + iV(\alpha, \beta))e^{-i\gamma}.$$



Change of North Pole

The canonical choice is picking the north pole as e_z and meridian line e_x . For any other choice of p and m , there exists a unique $A \in \text{SO}(3)$ such that

$$Ae_z = p, \quad Ae_x = m.$$

For $x : S^2(\subset \mathbb{R}^3) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ let N' be the "new" north-pointing vector in \mathbb{R}^3

$$N'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \langle x, p \rangle^2}}(p - \langle p, x \rangle x),$$

then $N'(Ax) = AN(x)$ and

$$\xi'(x(\alpha, \beta)) = V(\alpha', \beta')N'(x(\alpha, \beta)) + U(\alpha', \beta')N'(x(\alpha, \beta)) \times x(\alpha, \beta)$$

with

$$x(\alpha', \beta') = Ax(\alpha, \beta).$$



Fourier analysis on the sphere

The group $SO(3)$

By using **Euler's angles** we can describe any element of $SO(3)$ in terms of rotations around the Z axis and rotations around the Y axis as

$$Z(\alpha)Y(\beta)Z(\gamma) \in SO(3)$$

where $\alpha, \gamma \in [0, 2\pi)$ and $\beta \in [0, \pi)$.

The left Haar measure on $SO(3)$, i.e. the measure invariant by group transformations, is

$$d\mu = \frac{\sin \beta}{8\pi^2} d\alpha d\beta d\gamma$$

and let $L^2 := L^2(SO(3), \mathbb{C})$ be the space of square integrable functions on $SO(3)$ with respect to $d\mu$.



Wigner D-matrices

$L^2(\text{SO}(3), \mathbb{C})$ admits a basis given by *Wigner D-matrices* $D^l := (D_{m,n}^l)$ with indices laying in the indexing set

$$I = \left\{ (l, m, n) : \begin{array}{l} l = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, \\ m, n \in [-l, l] \cap \mathbb{Z} \end{array} \right\}.$$

For $(l, m, n) \in I$, define function $D_{m,n}^l : \text{SO}(3) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by

$$D_{m,n}^l(Z(\alpha)Y(\beta)Z(\gamma)) = e^{-im\alpha} d_{m,n}^l(\beta) e^{-in\gamma},$$

$$d_{m,n}^l(\beta) = \sqrt{(l+m)!(l-m)!(l+n)!(l-n)!} \cdot \sum_{s=s_0}^{s_1} \frac{(-1)^{m-n+s} \cos\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)^{2(l-s)+n-m} \sin\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)^{m-n+2s}}{(l+n-s)!s!(m-n+s)!(l-m-s)!}$$

with $s_0 = \max\{0, n-m\}$, $s_1 = \min\{l-m, l+n\}$.



Wigner D-matrices

This is an orthonormal basis, so that for any $f \in L^2(\text{SO}(3))$, $A \in \text{SO}(3)$

$$f(A) = \sum_{(l,m,n) \in I} \hat{f}_{m,n}^l D_{m,n}^l(A)$$

from which follows that

$$(\Psi * f)(A) = \int_{\text{SO}(3)} \Psi(B) f(B^{-1}A) d\mu(B) = \int_{\text{SO}(3)} \Psi(AB) f(B^{-1}) d\mu(B).$$

$$(\Psi * f)(A) = \sum_{l \in \mathbb{N}} \frac{1}{2l+1} \sum_{k,m,n=-l}^l \hat{\Psi}_{m,k}^l \hat{f}_{k,n}^l D_{m,n}^l(A)$$

$$\widehat{\Psi * f}_{n,m}^l = \frac{1}{2l+1} \sum_{k=-l}^l \hat{\Psi}_{m,k}^l \hat{f}_{k,n}^l$$



Wigner D-matrices and spherical harmonics

The sphere S^2 is not a group. However, a similar result is obtained by employing the well-known spherical harmonics Y_m^l , i.e. for a function $f \in L^2(S^2, \mathbb{C})$ with bandwidth b

$$f = \sum_{0 \leq l \leq b} \sum_{|m| \leq l} \hat{f}_m^l Y_m^l$$

$$\hat{f}_m^l = \int_{S^2} f(x) \bar{Y}_m^l d\mu(x)$$

In fact

$$Y_m^l = D_{m,0}^l|_{S^2}$$



Wigner D-matrices and Equivariance

Consider the orthogonal decomposition $L^2 = \bigoplus_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{D}_n$, such that for a fixed n then \mathcal{D}_n is spanned by $D_{m,n}^l$, $l \geq n$, $m \in [-l, l] \cap \mathbb{Z}$.

Consider the subgroup $K \subseteq \text{SO}(3)$ consisting of the matrices on the form $Z(\alpha)$.

We can define an action $\hat{\rho}$ of K on $\text{SO}(3)$ by

$$\hat{\rho}(Z(\alpha))A = AZ(-\alpha) = AZ(\alpha)^{-1}$$

and a representation ρ_n on \mathbb{C} by

$$\rho_n(Z(\alpha))z = e^{in\alpha}z.$$



Wigner D-matrices and Equivariance

Definition

We say that a function $f \in L^2$ is n -equivariant if

$$f(\hat{\rho}(Z(\alpha))A) = f(AZ(-\alpha)) = e^{in\alpha} f(A) = \rho_n(Z(\alpha))f(A).$$

Direct computation shows that any $D_{m,n}^l$ is an n -equivariant function, and by using their orthogonality, it follows that $f \in L^2$ is n -equivariant if and only if $f \in \mathcal{D}_n$.

Corollary

Vector fields on the sphere, which are in unique correspondence with 1-equivariant functions, thus in unique correspondence with functions spanned by \mathcal{D}_1 .



GDL blueprint in our project

GDL blueprint

Recall that the GDL blueprint for a neural network is the following:

- G -equivariant layer
- nonlinearity
- coarsening layer
- G -invariant layer (not needed)



Nonlinearity: the \mathbb{C} -ReLU

The usual non-linearity is ReLU (Rectified Linear Unit)

$$\text{ReLU}(x) = \max(0, x)$$

- Complex neural networks deal with complex-valued inputs, weights, and activations.
- Need an activation function that can handle complex numbers effectively.

$$\mathbb{C}\text{-ReLU}(z) = \text{ReLU}(\mathcal{R}(z)) + i\text{ReLU}(\mathcal{I}(z))$$



G -equivariant layer

$$\widehat{\Psi * f}_{n,m}^l = \frac{1}{2l+1} \sum_{k=-l}^l \widehat{\Psi}_{m,k}^l \hat{f}_{k,n}^l$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \psi_{-1,-1}^1 & \psi_{-1,0}^1 & \psi_{-1,1}^1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \psi_{0,-1}^1 & \psi_{0,0}^1 & \psi_{0,1}^1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ \psi_{1,-1}^1 & \psi_{1,0}^1 & \psi_{1,1}^1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \psi_{-2,-2}^2 & \psi_{-2,-1}^2 & \psi_{-2,0}^2 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \psi_{-1,-2}^2 & \psi_{-1,-1}^2 & \psi_{-1,0}^2 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \psi_{0,-2}^2 & \psi_{0,-1}^2 & \psi_{0,0}^2 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \hat{f}_{-1,1}^1 \\ \hat{f}_{0,1}^1 \\ \hat{f}_{1,1}^1 \\ \hat{f}_{-2,1}^2 \\ \hat{f}_{-1,1}^2 \\ \hat{f}_{0,1}^2 \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$



Coarsening layer

In the literature it is suggested to implement a coarsening layer by reducing the bandwidth of a function from b to $\frac{b}{2}$. This is an odd suggestion because:

- Group equivariance does not allow for the transfer of information between degrees (different values of l)
- In practice it cuts high-frequency information

More research and testing is needed to design a sensible coarsening layer.



Computational difficulties

SO(3) FFT

Proposition

Let f be a function on $\text{SO}(3)$ satisfying

$$f(A \cdot Z(\gamma)) = e^{-in\gamma} f(A)$$

for $A \in \text{SO}(3)$. Let $\tilde{f}_m(\beta)$ bet the Fourier coefficients of the function $f(Z(\alpha)Y(\beta)) = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \tilde{f}_m(\beta)e^{im\alpha}$. Then

$$\hat{f}_{m,n}^l = \frac{2l+1}{2} \int_0^\pi \sin(\beta) d_{m,n}^l(\beta) \tilde{f}_{-m}(\beta) d\beta$$

where \tilde{f}_m can be computed from f using the usual notion of one-dimensional discrete Fourier transform over α .



SO(3) FFT

Proof:

The result follows by computing the integral

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{2l+1} \hat{f}_{m,n}^l &= \langle f, D_{m,n}^l \rangle_{L^2} \\ &= \int_{\gamma} \int_{\beta} \int_{\alpha} \frac{\sin \beta}{8\pi^2} f(Z(\alpha)Y(\beta)Z(\gamma)) e^{in\gamma+im\alpha} d_{m,n}^l(\beta) d\alpha d\beta d\gamma \\ &= \int_0^\pi \frac{\sin \beta}{2} d_{m,n}^l(\beta) \left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} f(Z(\alpha)Y(\beta)) e^{im\alpha} d\alpha \right) d\beta \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\pi \sin(\beta) d_{m,n}^l(\beta) \tilde{f}_{-m}(\beta) d\beta.\end{aligned}$$



Wigner d-matrices and D-matrices

Computing Wigner d-matrices is computationally expensive and prone to numerical errors due to the divisions between large factorial values and floating point precision

$$D_{m,n}^l(Z(\alpha)Y(\beta)Z(\gamma)) = e^{-im\alpha} d_{m,n}^l(\beta) e^{-in\gamma},$$

$$d_{m,n}^l(\beta) = \sqrt{(l+m)!(l-m)!(l+n)!(l-n)!} \cdot \sum_{s=s_0}^{s_1} \frac{(-1)^{m-n+s} \cos\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)^{2(l-s)+n-m} \sin\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)^{m-n+2s}}{(l+n-s)!s!(m-n+s)!(l-m-s)!}$$



Wigner d-matrices and D-matrices




$$iJ_y^l := [iJ_y | \mathbb{V}_{2l+1}] = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -q_{-l} & 0 & \cdots & & 0 \\ q_{-l} & 0 & -q_{-l+1} & \cdots & & 0 \\ 0 & q_{-l+1} & 0 & & & \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \ddots & & \\ & & & & 0 & -q_{l-2} & 0 \\ & & & & q_{l-2} & 0 & -q_{l-1} \\ 0 & 0 & & & 0 & q_{l-1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

with $q_n = \sqrt{(l-n)(l+n+1)}$.

Then $d^l(\beta) = e^{-i\beta J_y^l}$.



References

-  Bronstein M., Bruna J., Cohen T., Veličković P.
Geometric Deep Learning: Grids, Groups, Graphs, Geodesics, and Gauges.
arXiv:2104.13478, (2021).
-  Cohen T., Geiger M., Koehler J., Welling M.
“Spherical CNNs”.
arXiv:1801.10130, (2018).
-  Esteves, C., Allen-Blanchette, C., Makadia, A., Daniilidis, K.
Learning $SO(3)$ Equivariant Representations with Spherical CNNs.
Int. J. Comput. Vision, 128(3), 588–600, (2019).
- ▶ Ballerin F., Grong E., Blaser N.
Tentative title: *Equivariant Neural Networks of Tensors on $SO(3)$.*
Coming soon



