

Physics - inspired
equivariant
machine learning

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Symmetries in deep learning

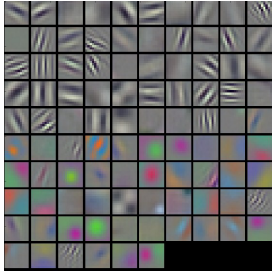
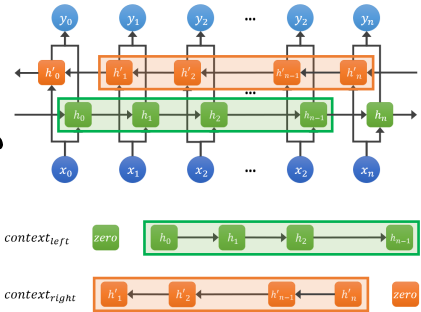


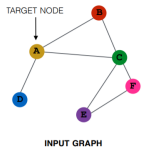
Image credit: Stanford CNN course

CNNs exploit translation and rotation symmetries in natural images by applying the same convolutional filters at different locations of the image

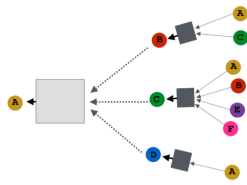
RNNs exploit time translation symmetry by applying the same recurrent unit at different locations



Credit: Zhao et al '19



Credit: Leskovec



GNNs learn functions on graphs that are invariant to node relabeling. (Permutation invariance) (equivariant)

Example: message passing neural networks (MPNN)

Invariance / Equivariance

Exact symmetries

G a group acting on dataset X

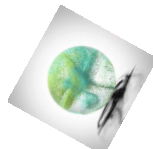
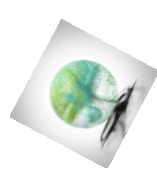
$F: X \rightarrow Y$ invariant if $F(g \cdot x) = F(x) \quad \forall g \in G, x \in X$



\rightarrow "Rose"

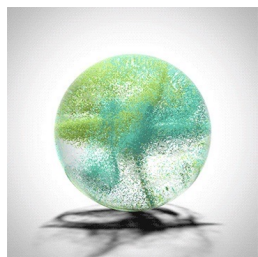
If G also acts in Y

$H: X \rightarrow Y$ equivariant $H(g \cdot x) = g \cdot H(x) \quad \forall g \in G, x \in X$



Example Rotation equivariance

- Dynamical systems, particle simulations (N-body problems)

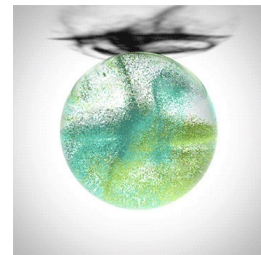
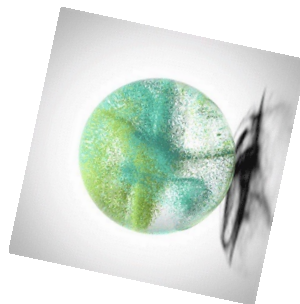
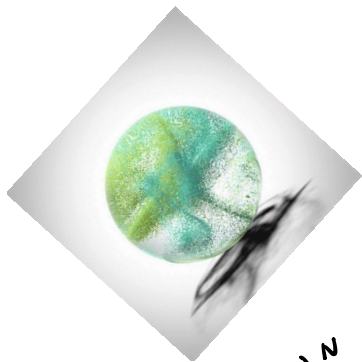


Initial conditions

$$(q_i(0), p_i(0))_{i=1}^N$$

Predictions

$$(q_i(t_k), p_i(t_k))_{i=1}^N \quad k=1, \dots, T$$



$q_i(t)$ position $\in \mathbb{R}^3$
 $p_i(t)$ momentum $\in \mathbb{R}^3$

Applications

- **Images** : group equivariant CNNs
(Cohen, Welling '16, ...)
- **Graphs** : graph neural networks
(Dwivedi et al, Brona et al,
Gilmer et al, ...)
- **Particle systems** : Irreducible representations,
(Maron et al, Kondor et al...)
Invariants
(Villar et al...)

Equivariances and invariants in machine learning models

- Provide the correct "inductive bias": Turbulence simulations
Rose Yu '22
- Improve learning: better sample complexity
smaller generalization error
out-of-distribution generalization
- Source of interesting math questions:
 - learn invariances from data: Augerino, Benton et al '21
Lie PCA Cahill, Nixon, Parshall '20
 - design algorithms that exploit invariances / invariants
 - quantify "how much we gain": Bietti, Venturi, Bruna '21 Elesedy '21,
Mei, Misiaiewicz, Montanari '21

Symmetries in physics

Particular case of
Physics-informed ML
Korniadakis et al. 21'

- Motivation - Laws of physics obey symmetries
 - Symmetric forms provide strong constraints on possible laws of physics
 - Symmetric forms and Einstein/E Ricci summation notation enabled discovery of general relativity and various particle interactions

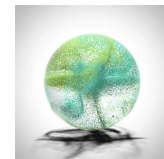
• Examples

- Symmetries of classical physics $O(d), SO(d), E(d), O(1,d), IO(1,d), S_n$
- Symmetries of quantum mechanics $U(1), U(2), SU(2), U(3), SU(3), C, P, T$
- Units equivariance symmetries (non-compact)

$$\begin{aligned} O(d) &= R R^T = I \\ O(d,1) &= R \Lambda R^T = \Lambda \end{aligned} \quad \Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & & 0 \\ & 1 & \\ & & \ddots \\ 0 & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Noether's theorem [Emmy Noether 1915] To every differentiable symmetry generated by local actions there corresponds a conservation law

Example (Noether's theorem)



- Space translation symmetry
↔ conservation of momentum
- $O(d)$ - symmetry
↔ conservation of angular momentum
- Time translation symmetry
↔ conservation of energy

How are symmetries implemented?

- Data augmentation
Li, Dobriban '20

- Loss function penalties
- conserved quantities

- Architectural design

- Approximate symmetries (CNN)

- Exact symmetries

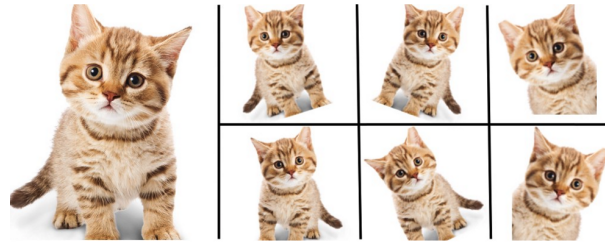
- Weight sharing (message passing)

- Parameterization of symmetry preserving functions

- Symmetries as constraints Finzi et al '21

- Irreducible representations Kondor, Thomas '18, Fuchs '20

- Steerable CNNs Cohen '17, Welling...



Enlarge your Dataset

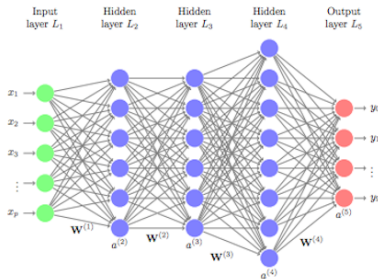
Credit: Bharath Raj

Cohen, Welling '19 Ravanbakhsh
Rose YU '21, '20. Weiler '21
Kondor '18
Maron '18
Cohen '18

Equivariant architectures (based on feed forward neural networks)

- Kondor 2018, Maron et al 2019

Feed Forward NEURAL NETWORK



$$F(v) = \theta \circ L_n \circ \dots \circ L_2 \circ \theta \circ L_1(v)$$

pointwise non-linear activations
input
linear layers

Idea: Replace linear layers by linear equivariant/invariant layers
 $L_i(Qv) = Q \cdot L_i(v)$

Issue #1: Not many linear equivariant/invariant functions.
 What linear rotation invariant functions can you think of?

Issue #2: What are compatible activation functions?

They depend on the group: permutations (all work)
 rotations (??)

Solution to Issue #1: Extend the action to tensors:

$$L_i : (\mathbb{R}^d)^{\otimes k_i} \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^d)^{\otimes k_i+1}$$



equivariant linear function maron '19

$$L_i(Qv) = Q L_i(v)$$

$$Q(v \otimes \dots \otimes v) = Qv \otimes \dots \otimes Qv$$

Q: How to parametrize linear equivariant functions?

- Irreducible representation approach:

$$\rho: G \rightarrow GL(V) \text{ group representation}$$

$$\rho(g)(v) = g \cdot v \text{ extend to tensor product } \rho_K = \bigotimes_{i=1}^K \rho \rightarrow GL((\mathbb{R}^d)^{\otimes K})$$

Linear equivariant map $\underline{L}_i \leftrightarrow$ map between representations

$$L_i \circ \rho_K(g) = \rho_{K+1}(g) \circ L_i \quad \forall g \in G$$

Easy to parameterize using IRREDUCIBLE REPRESENTATIONS

$$\rho_K = \bigoplus_{l=1}^{T_{K,i}} T_l$$

$$\bigotimes_{s=1}^K \rho_s = \bigoplus_{l=1}^T T_l$$

- Fuchs
- Thomas

Dym and Maron 2021 - This approach universally approximates all $SO(3)$ equiv functions. If arbitrary high order tensors are involved

This identification is given by the Clebsch-Gordan coefficients - known for $SO(3)$ but not in general

- Solving a large linear system

Finzi et al '21 (EMLP)

Main idea: • the space of linear equivariant functions $f: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is a linear subspace of $\mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$

• Consider constraints of the form

$$\{f(g_i v_i) = g_i f(v_i) \quad i=1 \dots n\} \text{ (linear constraints)}$$

v_i, g_i random

• Solve a linear system of equations

(the system is large but you only solve it once to get the parameterization of the network)

- Scalars approach (Villar et al '21)

• Main idea: First fundamental theorem of invariant theory (Weyl 1946)

Characterization of $O(d)$ -invariant functions

$f: (\mathbb{R}^d)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is $O(d)$ -invariant if and only if

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \tilde{f}((v_i^T v_j)_{i,j=1}^n)$$

Proof • $V = \begin{pmatrix} | & & | \\ v_1 & \dots & v_n \\ | & & | \end{pmatrix}$, $M = V^T V$. Consider the

Cholesky decomposition of $M = L^T L$ then $L = V \cdot Q$ for some $Q \in O(d)$. In words you can recover v_1, \dots, v_n from the inner products up to orthogonal transformations.

• Physics point of view: All scalars can be written in Einstein summation notation

Characterization of $SO(d)$ -invariant functions

$f: (\mathbb{R}^d)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is $SO(d)$ -invariant if and only if

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \tilde{f}((v_i^T v_j)_{i,j=1}^n, \det(v_{i_1} \dots v_{i_d})_{i_1, \dots, i_d \in \{1, \dots, d\}})$$

Characterization of Lorentz-invariant functions

$f: (\mathbb{R}^{d+1})^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is Lorentz-invariant if and only if

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \tilde{f}(\langle v_i, v_j \rangle_M)_{i,j=1}^n$$

where $\langle (t, x), (t', x') \rangle_M = t t' - x^T x'$

Minkowski "inner product"

$$R \Lambda R^T = \Lambda \quad \Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & & 0 \\ & 1 & \\ 0 & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad O(1, d)$$

Do we need all the inner products?

$f: (\mathbb{R}^d)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ invariant

$$f(Qv_1, \dots, Qv_n) = f(v_1, \dots, v_n)$$

f is invariant if and only if $f(\underbrace{v_1, \dots, v_n}_{n \text{ d-vectors}}) = \tilde{f}(\underbrace{\langle v_i, v_j \rangle}_{n \times n \text{ scalars}})_{i,j=1}^n$

Do we need all $n \times n$ scalars? NO:
 • Rigidity theory of Gram matrices

Example $d+1$



$O(n(d+1))$ scalars

determine $M = V^T V$

• Low rank matrix completion

$$f(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \tilde{f}(M) = \hat{f}(\hat{M})$$

Open problems: quantify the approximation error if a subset \hat{M} is used instead of M
 can we get away with fewer scalars for $\text{SO}(d)$?

Old Equivariant vector functions:

$h: (\mathbb{R}^d)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is $O(d)$ -equivariant if and only if

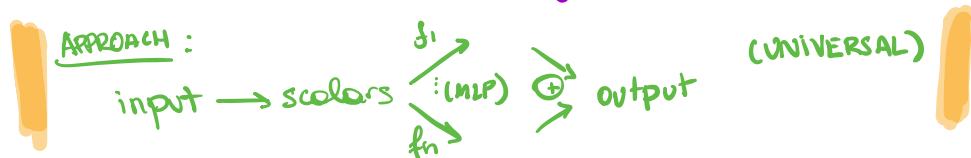
$$h(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{f_i(v_1, \dots, v_n)}_{O(d) \text{ invariant scalar function}} \cdot v_i$$

d is any dimension!

Proof (sketch)

- h $O(d)$ -equivariant $\rightarrow h(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in \text{span}(v_1, \dots, v_n)$
- $h(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(v_1, \dots, v_n) v_i$ coefficients functions can taken to be invariant
- If h polynomial $\Rightarrow f_i$'s can be chosen to be polynomials

Open problem: If h is continuous it's not true that f_i can be chosen continuous what condition in h guarantees f_i are continuous??



Open problem: Prove a Stone-Weierstrass theorem for this method

Example: Electromagnetic force law. Particle (q, r, v)
 ↑ charge ↙ position ↘ velocity

$$F = \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n k q q_i \frac{(r - r_i)}{|r - r_i|^3}}_{\text{electrostatic force}} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n k q q_i \frac{v \times (v_i \times (r - r_i))}{c^2 |r - r_i|^3}}_{\text{magnetic force}}$$

↓ using $a \times (b \times c) = (a^\top c)b - (a^\top b)c$

$$F = \sum_{i=1}^n k q q_i \frac{(r - r_i)}{|r - r_i|^3} + \sum_{i=1}^n k q q_i \frac{(v^\top (r - r_i)) v_i - (v^\top v_i)(r - r_i)}{c^2 |r - r_i|^3}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n k q q_i \left(1 - \frac{v^\top v_i}{c^2} \right) \frac{(r - r_i)}{|r - r_i|^3} + \sum_{i=1}^n k q q_i \frac{(v^\top (r - r_i)) v_i}{c^2 |r - r_i|^3},$$

* Not a field formulation anymore

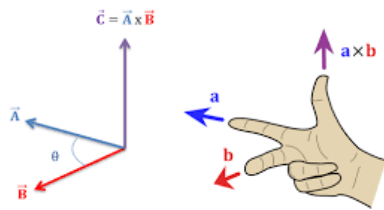
SO(d) Equivariant vector functions:

$h: (\mathbb{R}^d)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ is $SO(d)$ -equivariant if and only if

$$h(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{f_i(v_1, \dots, v_n)}_{O(d)\text{-invariant scalar}} \cdot v_i + \sum_{S \in \binom{[n]}{d-1}} \underbrace{f_S(v_1, \dots, v_n)}_{SO(d)\text{ invariant scalar}} v_S$$

↑
generalized cross product

Example



$$h: (\mathbb{R}^3)^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

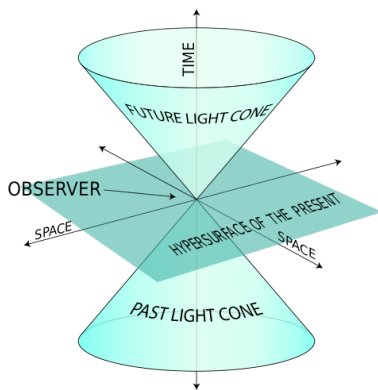
$$h(v_1, v_2) = v_1 \times v_2 \notin \text{span}\{v_1, v_2\}$$

Lorentz Equivariant vector functions:

$h: (\mathbb{R}^d)^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ **continuous** is Lorentz-equivariant if and only if

$$h(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{f_i(v_1, \dots, v_n)}_{\text{Lorentz-invariant scalar function}} \cdot v_i$$

Lorentz-invariant scalar function



Translations and permutations

Euclidean group: includes translation symmetry
(also Poincaré)

$$h(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \tilde{h}(v_1 - v, \dots, v_n - v) \quad O(d)\text{-invariant}$$

where v is the center of mass $\frac{1}{n} \sum v_i$ or any weighted mean position

permutation invariance: If h is $O(d)$ -equivariant and (or Lorentz)

$$h(v_1, \dots, v_n) = h(v_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, v_{\sigma(n)}) \quad \sigma \in S_n \text{ (permutation)}$$

$$h(v_1, \dots, v_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n f(v_i, v_{[-i]}) \cdot v_i$$

perm inv wrt $n-1$ last inputs

$O(d)$ -invariant (or Lorentz)

$\{v_1, \dots, v_{i-1}, v_{i+1}, \dots, v_n\}$

• Easy to implement with message passing graph neural networks

Parameterization for general groups?

Griparios
Maddalain

- G reductive group over \mathbb{C} (or \mathbb{R})
- The algebra of invariant polynomials P is a graded Cohen-Macaulay algebra

ie: $\exists P = \mathbb{C}[f_1, \dots, f_n]$ where f_1, \dots, f_n - homogeneous
 - algebraically independent
 - elements of A

where A finitely generated free module over P

$$\text{ie: } x = p_1(f_1, \dots, f_n)g_1 + \dots + p_m(f_1, \dots, f_n)g_m$$

f_1, \dots, f_n "primary invariants" g_1, \dots, g_m "secondary invariants"
 basis of A as a P -module

Example: Old) $d > n$ $f_1, \dots, f_m = \text{scalar products}$
 $g_1, \dots, g_m = 1$

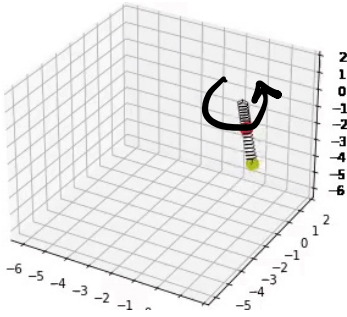
Ongoing work with B. Blum-Smith
 parameterization for more
 general groups.

Equivariance vs invariance:

Equivariant functions $V \rightarrow W \equiv$ invariant elements in $\text{Maps}(V, W)$

Linear functions $V \rightarrow W = \text{Hom}(V, W) \cong V^* \otimes W$

Example: double pendulum with springs



Credit: EMLP (Finzi et al '21)

data: $(q_1(t), p_1(t)), m_1, L_1, K_1$
 $(q_2(t), p_2(t)), m_2, L_2, K_2$

$$KE = \frac{1}{2} \frac{|p_1|^2}{m_1} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{|p_2|^2}{m_2}$$

$$PE = \frac{1}{2} K_1 (|q_1| - L_1)^2 - m_1 p_1 \cdot g + \frac{1}{2} K_2 (|q_1 - q_2| - L_2)^2 - m_2 p_2 \cdot g$$

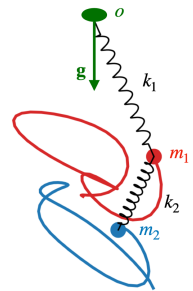
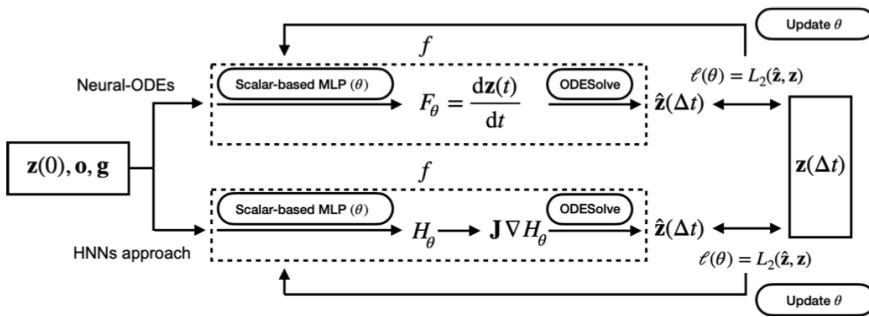
$H = KE + PE$ conserved quantity \leftrightarrow time translation symmetry

$$F: (\mathbb{R}^3)^5 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^3)^4$$

$O(3)$ -equivariant

$$(q_1(0), p_1(0), q_2(0), p_2(0), g, \Delta t) \mapsto (q_1(\Delta t), p_1(\Delta t), q_2(\Delta t), p_2(\Delta t))$$

Computational approaches:



• Neural ODEs $z(t) = (q_1(t), q_2(t), p_1(t), p_2(t))$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = F(z, q_0, g)$$

Learned $E(d)$ equivariant function $(\mathbb{R}^3)^6 \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^3)^4$

$$\hat{z}(t_j) = \text{ODE solve}(\hat{z}(t_{j-1}), t_{j-1}, t_j, F) \quad \hat{z}(0) = 0$$



• Hamiltonian neural network (HNNs)

$$H(q_1, q_2, p_1, p_2, q_0, g) = h(\text{scalars})$$

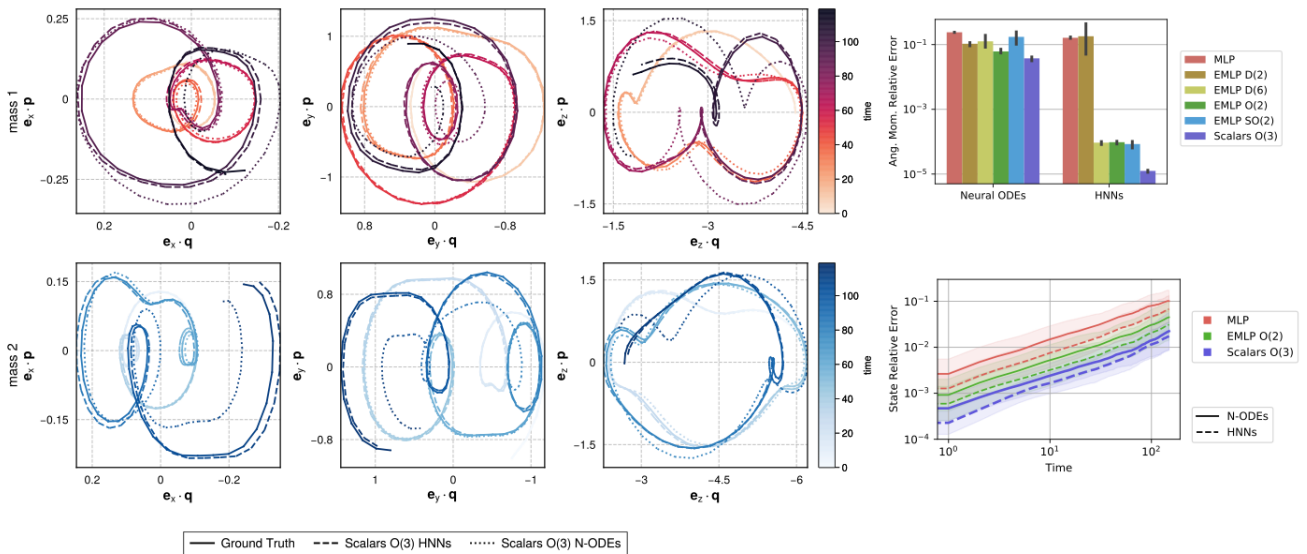
$$\frac{dp_i}{dt} = -\frac{dH}{dq_i} \quad \frac{dq_i}{dt} = \frac{dH}{dp_i}$$

Learned scalar invariant function

(symplectic integrator)

Results:

	Scalars O(3)	EMLP				MLP
		O(2)	SO(2)	D ₂	D ₆	
N-ODEs:	.009 ± .001	.020 ± .002	.051 ± .036	.023 ± .002	.036 ± .025	.048 ± .000
HNNs:	.005 ± .002	.012 ± .002	.016 ± .003	.111 ± .167	.013 ± .002	.028 ± .001



Units - equivariance

Non-compact groups
(Villar et al '22)

Double pendulum:

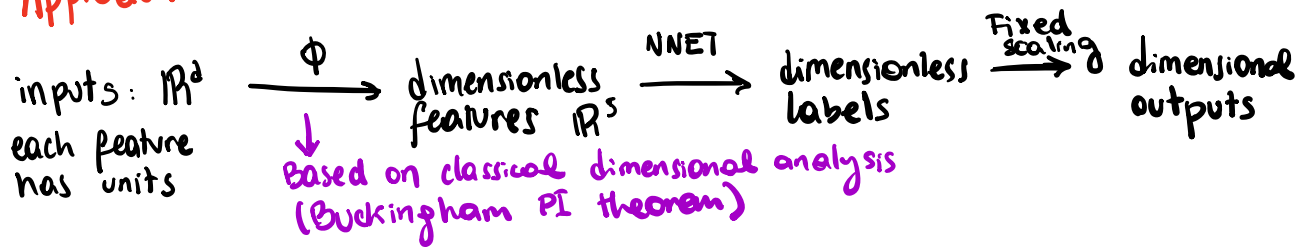
$$PE = \frac{1}{2} k_1 (|q_1| - L_1)^2 - m_1 p_1 \cdot g + \frac{1}{2} k_2 (|q_1 - q_2| - L_2)^2 - m_2 p_2 \cdot g$$

$$KE = \frac{1}{2} \frac{p_1^2}{m_1} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{p_2^2}{m_2}$$

Energy has units: $\text{kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-2}$

Predictions should be equivariant with respect to rescalings

Approach:



Units - typed space

(x, u)
 $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{Z}^k$ eg $(\text{kg}, \text{m}, \text{s})$ exponents
Energy $\text{kg m}^2 \text{s}^{-2} : [1, 2, -2]$

$$\alpha \cdot (x, u) = (\alpha x, u)$$

$$(x, u) + (x', u') = \begin{cases} (x+x', u) & \text{if } u=u' \\ \nexists & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$(x, u)(x', u') = (xx', u+u')$$

$$(x, u)^\gamma = (x^\gamma, \gamma \cdot u)$$

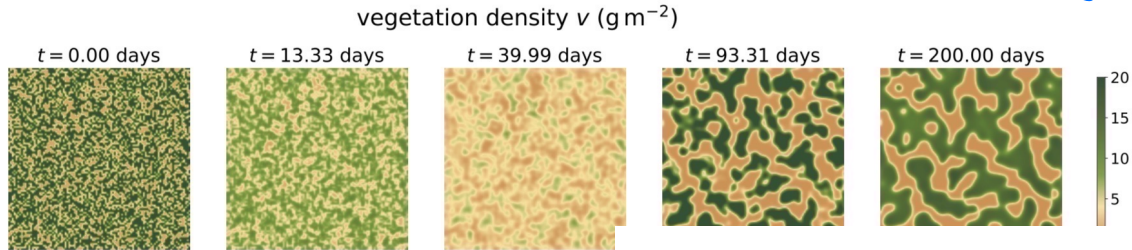
Dimensionless features $z_j = \Phi_j(x) = \prod_{i=1}^d x_i^{\alpha_{ji}}$ where $\sum_{i=1}^d \alpha_{ji} u_i = 0$

$x = (x_i, u_i)_{i=1 \dots d}$

dimensionless features = # input variables - # independent units

example : vegetation dynamics

in collaboration with Bianca Dumitrescu (computational biology @ cambridge.UK)



Rietkerk model

$$\frac{du}{dt} = R - \alpha \frac{v + k_2 W_0}{v + k_2} u + D_u \nabla^2 u$$

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = \alpha \frac{v + k_2 W_0}{v + k_2} u - g_m \frac{v w}{k_1 + w} - \delta_w w + D_w \nabla^2 w$$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = c g_m \frac{v w}{k_1 + w} - \delta_v v + D_v \nabla^2 v,$$

	description	default	units
R	rainfall	0.375	$\ell \text{d}^{-1} \text{m}^{-2}$
α	infiltration rate	0.2	d^{-1}
k_2	saturation const.	5	g m^{-2}
W_0	water infiltration const.	0.1	—
D_u	surface water diffusion	100	$\text{d}^{-1} \text{m}^2$
g_m	water uptake	0.05	$\ell \text{g}^{-1} \text{d}^{-1}$
k_1	water uptake constant	5	ℓm^{-2}
δ_w	soil water loss	0.2	d^{-1}
D_w	soil water diffusion	0.1	$\text{d}^{-1} \text{m}^2$
c	water to biomass	20	$\ell^{-1} \text{g}$
δ_v	vegetation loss	0.25	d^{-1}
D_v	vegetation diffusion	0.1	$\text{d}^{-1} \text{m}^2$
T	total integration time	200	d
δt	integration time step	0.005	d
L	integration patch length	200	m
δl	spatial step size	2	m

Dimensionless features

$$c \alpha^{-1} g_m$$

$$R^{-1} \alpha k_1$$

$$R^{-1} c^{-1} \alpha k_2$$

$$\alpha^{-1} \delta_w$$

$$\alpha^{-1} \delta_v$$

$$W_0$$

$$\alpha^{-1} D_v L^{-2}$$

$$\alpha^{-1} D_u L^{-2}$$

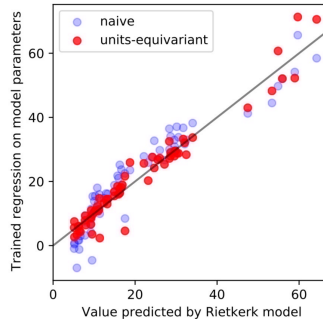
$$\alpha T$$

$$\alpha \delta t$$

$$\alpha^{-1} D_w L^{-2}$$

$$L^{-1} \delta l$$

spatial mean of vegetation density v (g m^{-2}) after $T=200$ d



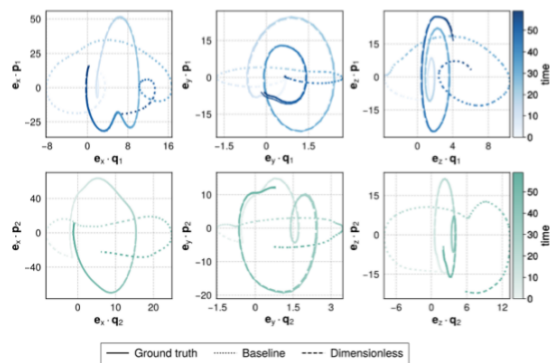
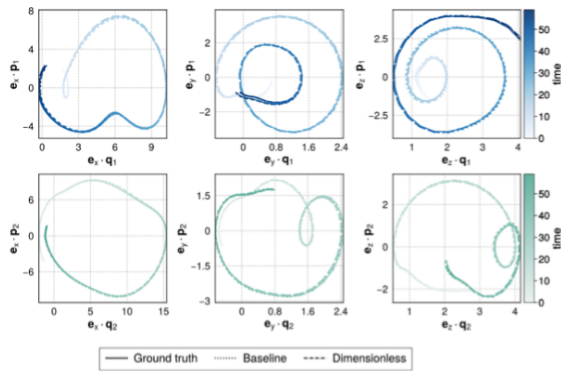
Problem:
 • Learn the diff equations from data using symbolic regression and units equivariant machine learning.

Out-of-distribution generalization

$$m_1, m_2 \sim U[1, 2] \quad m_1, m_2 \sim U[1, 5]$$

$$m_1/m_2 \quad m_1/m_2$$

Scalar-based MLPs	Experiment 1	Experiment 2	Experiment 3
Baseline	.0055 ± .0030	.3669 ± .0050	.1885 ± .0031
Dimensionless	.0061 ± .0024	.0089 ± .0034	.0435 ± .0047



How much do we gain by imposing symmetries?

Ehsedy Zaidi '21

$G \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}^d$ compact group, $x \sim \mu$ supported in \mathbb{R}^d , μ G -invariant

Training data $(x_i, y_i = \underbrace{f^*(x_i)}_{\substack{\text{invariant} \\ \text{target}}} + \underbrace{\eta_i}_{\text{noise}})$

$$\text{Risk}(f) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu} \|f(x) - y\|^2$$

$$\Delta(f, \bar{f}) = \text{Risk}(f) - \text{Risk}(\bar{f}) = \|f^\perp\|_\mu^2$$

↑ generalization gap

proj of f onto space of invariant functions

key property $\bar{f}(x) = \int_{g \in G} f(g \cdot x) dg$

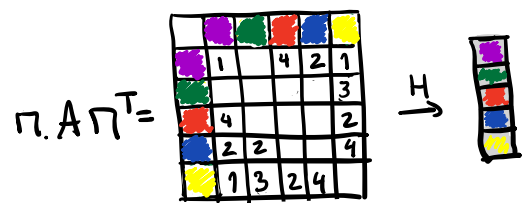
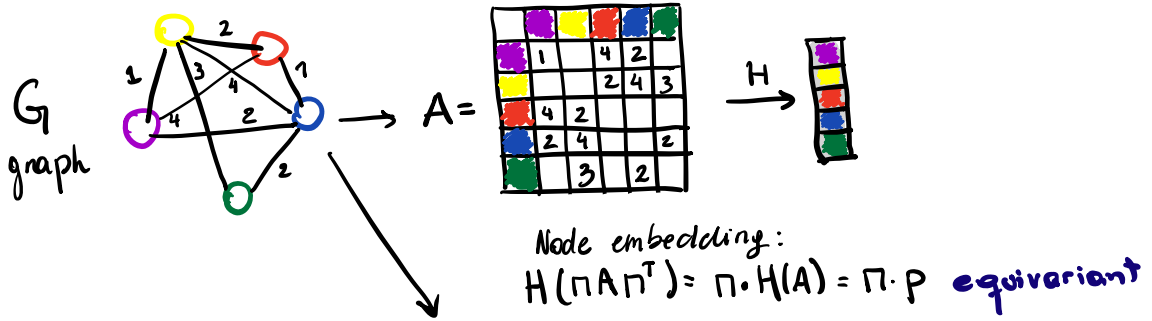
$$= \arg \min_{h \text{ invariant}} \|f - h\|_\mu^2$$

Not true for non-compact groups ↑
what is the "right" notion of projection?

Note that equivariant ML doesn't perform any proj

Open problem: model to define "baseline" and quantify "gains"

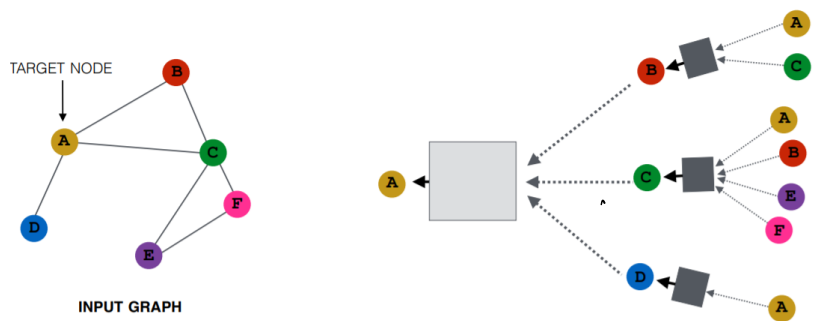
Symmetries and graph neural networks



Q: How to efficiently parameterize the space of invariant and equivariant functions wrt permutation actions?

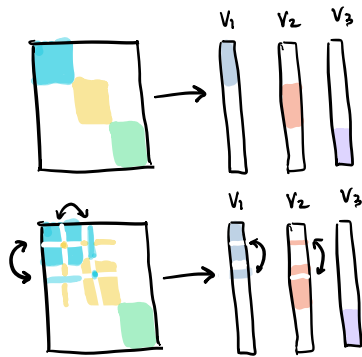
Graph classification / regression $F(\Pi A \Pi^T) = F(A)$ invariant

Message passing: (aka weight sharing)



Credit: Leskovec

Spectral methods are permutation equivariant



This is why spectral clustering works

$$f: \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$f(\pi A \pi^T) = \pi f(A)$$

π permutation matrix ($\pi \in S_n$)

Spectral functions are equivariant

G (graph) $\rightarrow A$ adjacency

$$A = U^T S U \quad F(A) = U^T f(S) U \quad \text{Bruna et al 2014}$$

Graph convolutional networks

$$H^{(l+1)} = f(H^{(l)}, A) = \sigma \left(\hat{D}^{-1/2} \hat{A} \hat{D}^{-1/2} H^{(l)} W^{(l)} \right)$$

$\hat{A} = A + I$

Annotations:
 - $\hat{D}^{-1/2} \hat{A} \hat{D}^{-1/2}$: Laplacian
 - $H^{(l)}$: Features ($n \times d_l$)
 - $W^{(l)}$: weights $d_l \times d_{l+1}$

Spectral GNNs:

Given a graph G with adjacency A ($n \times n$)
 Let $\mathcal{M} = \{I, D, A, A^2, A^3, \dots\}$

Learn a "regularized spectral method" on $\Delta = \sum_{M \in \mathcal{M}} \alpha_M M$
 unroll this to a GNN via power iteration ($v^{t+1} = \Delta v^t$)

$$v^{t+1} = f \left(\sum_{M \in \mathcal{M}} M v^t \alpha_M \right) \quad \alpha_M^t \in \mathbb{R}^{d_t \times d_{t+1}}$$

$t = 1 \dots T$
 \uparrow
 # LAYER

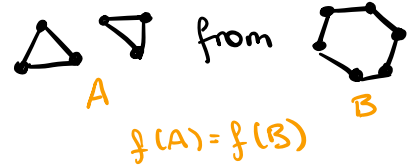
- Community detection: Chen, Li, Bruna '17
- Quadratic assignment: Nowak, V., Bandeira, Bruna '17
- Max-cut: Yao, Bandeira, V. '19

characterization of expressivity for GNNs

Z. Chen, V. L. Chen, J. Bruna NeurIPS 2019

Background: MPNNs cannot distinguish
 (Xu et al '19)
 (Morris et al '19)

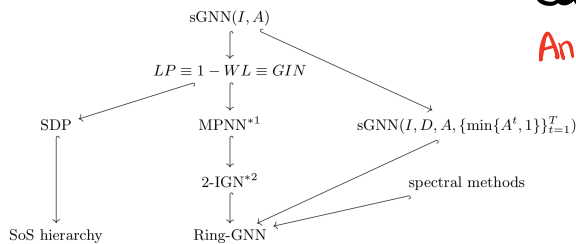
$$\left\{ \min_x \|AX - XB\|_1 \text{ st } \begin{matrix} x^T \mathbf{1} = 1 \\ x^T \mathbf{1} = 1 \end{matrix} \right\}$$



characterization of expressive power of GNNs based on ability to distinguish non-isomorphic graphs

Can GNNs count substructures?

Answer: most architectures can only count star shape substructures



Solutions:

- Signal processing approach: instead of seeing GNNs as embeddings see them as functions:
 (see review paper by Gama et al 21)

- See GNNs as low-pass filters on graphs
- Transferability & stability results

$$f: \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \times \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$$

\uparrow Adj \uparrow node features

Summary

GOAL:

Enforcing exact symmetries in machine learning models

- Better sample complexity
- Smaller generalization error

GNNs (permutation equivariance)

- Characterization of expressive power of GNNs via graph isomorphism

Symmetries in classical physics

- universal approximation \leftrightarrow all equivariant functions wrt physically relevant group actions (based on Einstein summation notation & classical invariant theory)
- simple characterization of
 - Extension to units-equivariance

- ## Open problems
- Design a subset of permutation-invariant scalars that are universally expressive
 - Explore connections with matrix completion
 - Incorporate multi-scale information (FMM, k-d tree)
 - Formalize out-of distribution generalization
 - Generalization bounds for non-compact groups
 - Extension to general groups



Source: Ishigama et al 21'

Thank you!

Thank you!

- Chen, Villar, Chen, Bruna
NeurIPS 2019
- Chen, Chen, Villar, Bruna
NeurIPS 2020
- Villar, Hogg, Storey-Fischer, Yao,
Blum-Smith
NeurIPS 2021
- Yao, Storey-Fischer, Hogg,
Villar
NeurIPS workshop
ML for physics 2021
- Villar, Yao, Hogg, Blum-Smith, Dumitrescu