

Differential Geometry in Equivariant CNNs via Biprincipal Bundles

2025-08-19, GeUmetric Deep Learning Workshop

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WALLENBERG AI,
AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS
AND SOFTWARE PROGRAM



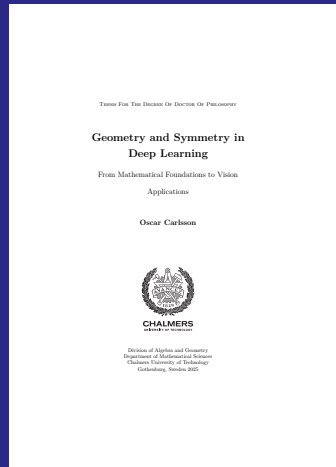
CHALMERS
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Material

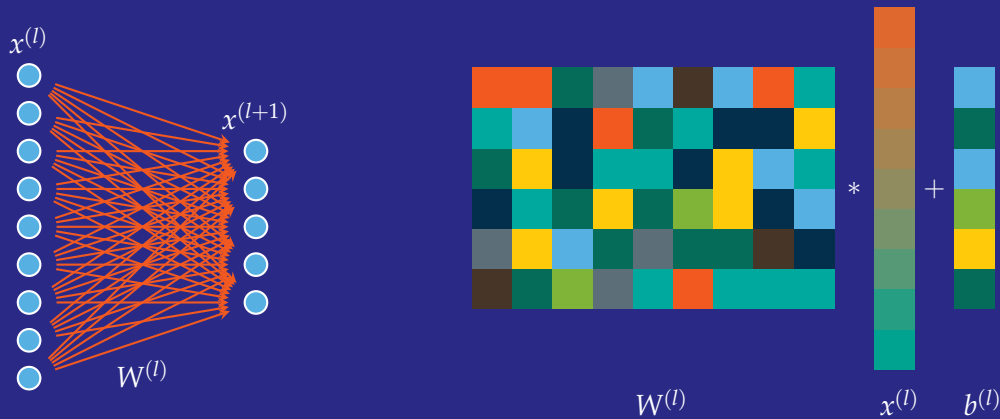
PhD defence on the
29:th of August at 13:15



Outline

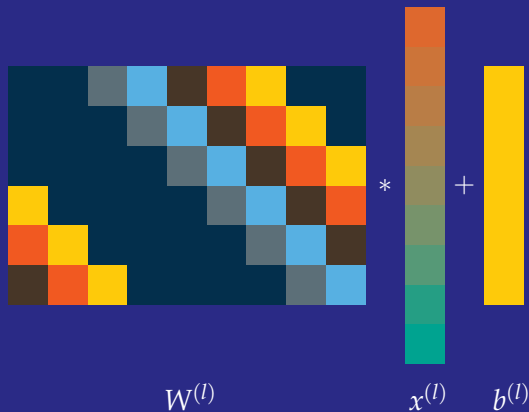
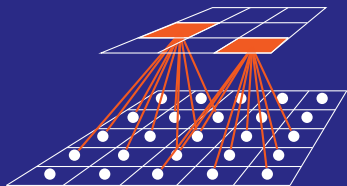
- 1 Introduction to the classical description of a CNN
- 2 CNN through differential geometry
- 3 Equivariant CNNs and biprincipal bundles
- 4 Connections to other frameworks

Machine learning: *fully connected* layer



$$W^{(l)}[T_s x^{(l)}] + b^{(l)} \neq T_s[W^{(l)}x^{(l)} + b^{(l)}]$$

Machine learning: *convolutional* layer



$$W^{(l)}[T_s x^{(l)}] + b^{(l)} = T_s[W^{(l)}x^{(l)} + b^{(l)}]$$

G-equivariance

A map $\phi : \mathcal{F}_{\text{in}} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_{\text{out}}$ is G -equivariant iff

$$\phi(L_g^{\text{in}} f) = L_g^{\text{out}}[\phi(f)], \quad \forall g \in G.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F}_{\text{in}} & \xrightarrow{\phi} & \mathcal{F}_{\text{out}} \\ \downarrow L_g & & \downarrow L_g \\ \mathcal{F}_{\text{in}} & \xrightarrow{\phi} & \mathcal{F}_{\text{out}} \end{array}$$

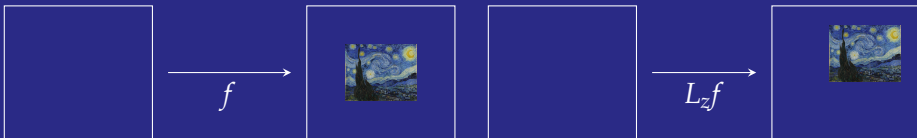
Image as a feature map



Group of translations acting on feature maps

With $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow V_{\text{in}}$ a translation $z \in \mathbb{R}^2$ act on f through

$$[L_z f](x) = f(L_{-z}(x)) = f(x - z)$$



Mathematics: the convolutional map

$$[\phi f](x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \widehat{\kappa}(y - x) f(y) dy,$$

with $\widehat{\kappa} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(V_{\text{in}}, V_{\text{out}})$ where

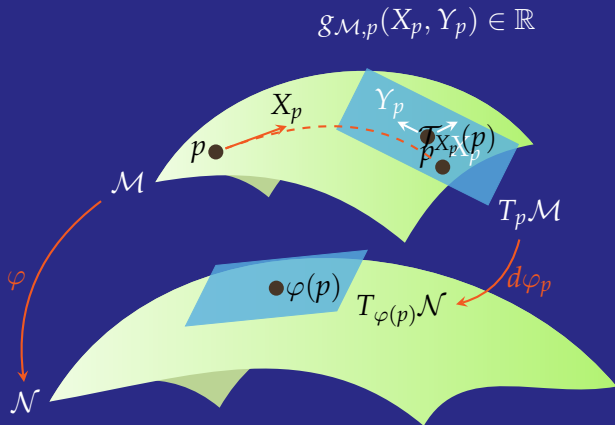
$$\widehat{\kappa}(y - x) := \kappa(0, y - x),$$

due to weight sharing:

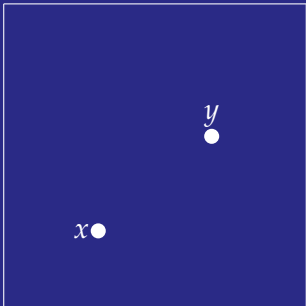
$$\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(x - z, y - z), \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Key concepts from differential geometry

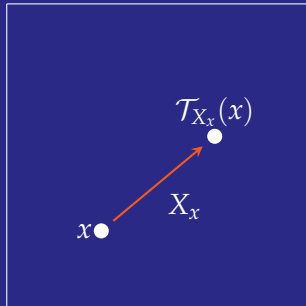
- (Smooth) Manifold (Locally \mathbb{R}^n)
- Tangent space ($T_p\mathcal{M} \cong \mathbb{R}^n$)
- Metric (Inner product)
- Diffeomorphism (Smooth deformations)
- Differential
- (Geodesic) Flow



Translating the general kernel



$$\kappa : \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(V_{\text{in}}, V_{\text{out}})$$



$$\kappa : \mathbb{R}^2 \times T\mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \text{Hom}(V_{\text{in}}, V_{\text{out}})$$

General map

Normal approach

$$[\phi f](x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \kappa(x, y) f(y) \mathrm{d}y$$

Differential geometry

$$[\phi f](x) = \int_{T_x \mathbb{R}^2} \kappa(x, X_x) f(\mathcal{T}_{X_x}(x)) \mathrm{d}X_x$$

Equivariance and weight sharing

Assuming translation equivariance $[\phi[L_z f]](x) = [L_z[\phi f]](x)$ yields weight sharing as

Normal approach

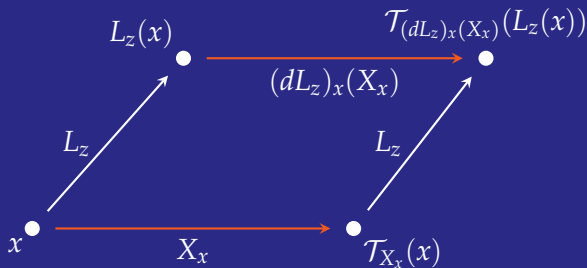
$$\kappa(x, y) = \kappa(x - z, y - z)$$

Differential geometry

$$\kappa(x, X_x) = \kappa(L_z(x), (dL_z)_x(X_x))$$

$$\forall z \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Commutativity of flow and affine transformations



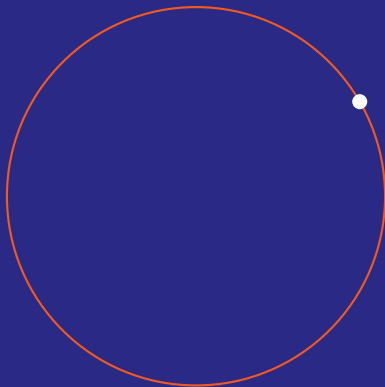
$$\mathcal{T}_{(dL_z)_x(X_x)}(L_z(x)) = L_z(\mathcal{T}_{X_x}(x)).$$

(Technically, L_z is an affine transformation)

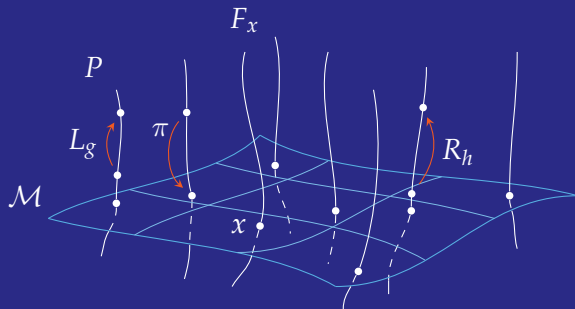
Generalisation

Smooth manifold \mathbb{R}^2 \longrightarrow biprincipal bundle P

Group vs Torsor



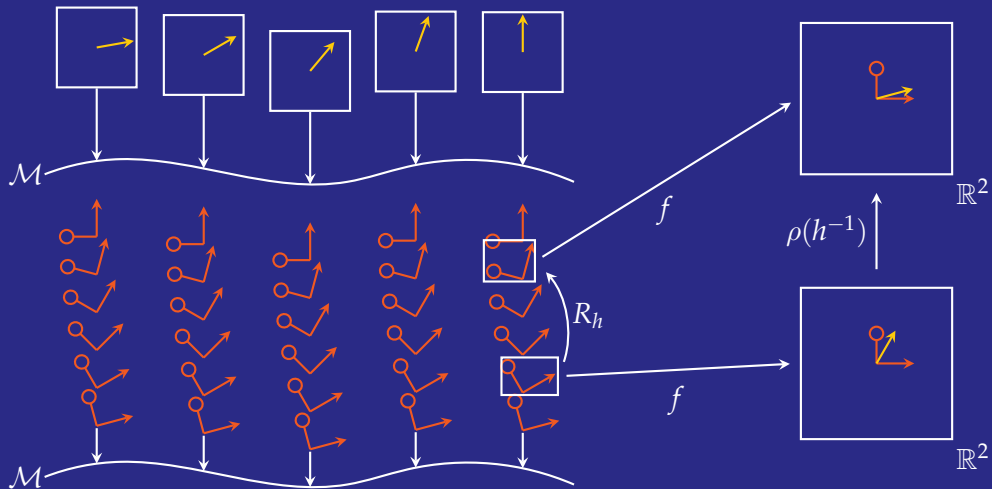
Principal H -Biprincipal (G, H) -bundle



$$G \cong F_{xx} \cong H, \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{M}, \quad (F_{xx} \text{ is a } (H, H)\text{-bitoror})$$

$$L_g(R_h(p)) = R_h(L_g(p))$$

Feature map



Feature map

-Mackey condition

$$f : P \rightarrow V_{\text{in}}, \quad f(R_h(p)) = \rho_{\text{in}}(h^{-1})f(p), \quad \forall h \in H.$$

Generalise the start point of Diffgeo CNN to Biprincipal

CNN through differential geometry

$$[\phi f](x) = \int_{B_R(x)} \kappa(x, X_x) f(\mathcal{T}_{X_x}(x)) dX_x,$$

where $B_R(x) \subset T_x \mathbb{R}^2$ and

$$\kappa(x, X_x) = \kappa(L_z(x), (dL_z)_x(X_x)),$$

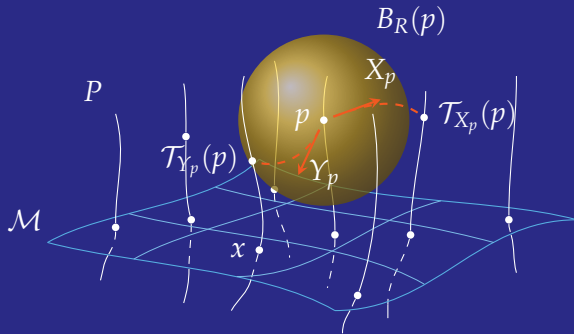
for all $z \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

CNN on biprincipal bundle

$$[\phi f](p) = \int_{B_R(p)} \kappa(p, X_p) f(\mathcal{T}_{X_p}(p)) dX_p,$$

where $B_R(p) \subset T_p P$.

Visualisation of biprincipal convolution



$$[\phi f](p) = \int_{B_R(p)} \kappa(p, X_p) f(T_{X_p}(p)) dX_p,$$

Group action on feature maps

$$[L_g f](p) = f(L_{g^{-1}}(p)).$$

Requirements

Mackey condition:

$$[\phi f](R_h(p)) = \rho_{\text{out}}(h^{-1})[\phi f](p), \quad \forall h \in H.$$

Equivariance:

$$[L_g[\phi f]](p) = [\phi[L_g f]](p), \quad \forall g \in \hat{G} \subset G.$$

Results: equivariance (weight sharing) and Mackey

Mackey condition: $\kappa(R_h(p), (dR_h)_p(X_p)) = \rho_{\text{out}}(h^{-1})\kappa(p, X_p)\rho_{\text{in}}(h),$

$$[\phi f](R_h(p)) = \rho_{\text{out}}(h^{-1})[\phi f](p) \quad \text{for all } h \in H.$$

$$\kappa(p, X_p)\mathbf{1}_{B_R(p)}(X_p) = \kappa(L_{g^{-1}}(p), (dL_{g^{-1}})_p(X_p)) \left| \det \left(dL_{g^{-1}} \right)_p \right| \widetilde{\mathbf{1}}_{\widetilde{B_R(p)}}(X_p),$$

Equivariance

(Weight sharing)

for all $g \in \widehat{G} \subset G$, compare to CNN:

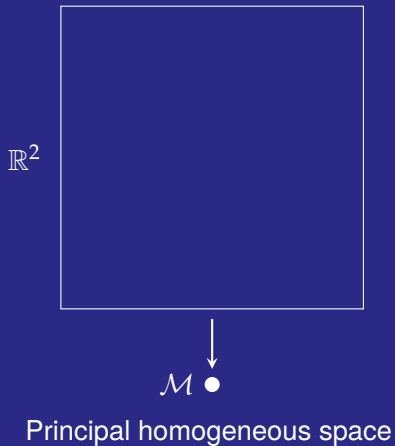
$$[L_g[\phi f]](p) = [\phi[L_g f]](p) \quad \kappa(x, X_p) = \kappa(L_{-z}(x), (dL_{-z})_x(X_p)), \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

where

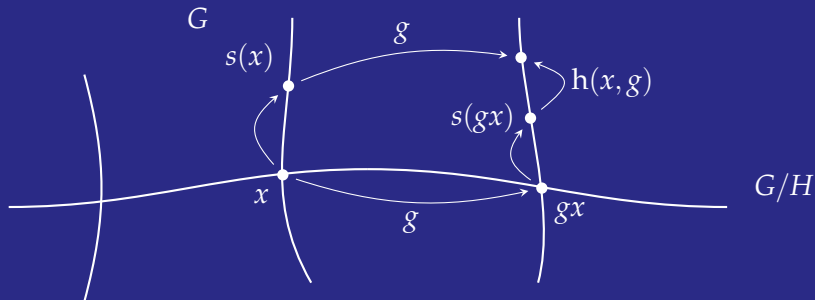
$$\widetilde{B_R(p)} = (dL_{g^{-1}})^{-1}(B_R(L_{g^{-1}}(p))).$$

Connections to other cases

Connection to CNN



Connection to homogeneous case



Equivariant non-linear maps on homogeneous spaces

See Elias Nyholm's presentation

End

Thanks for your attention!

Questions?