

Introduction to Machine Learning and Geometric Deep Learning

2025-08-29, PhD defence

Oscar Carlsson, Department of Mathematical Sciences



CHALMERS
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Outline

- 1 Machine learning
- 2 Geometry and symmetries in machine learning
- 3 My contributions

Introduction to ML

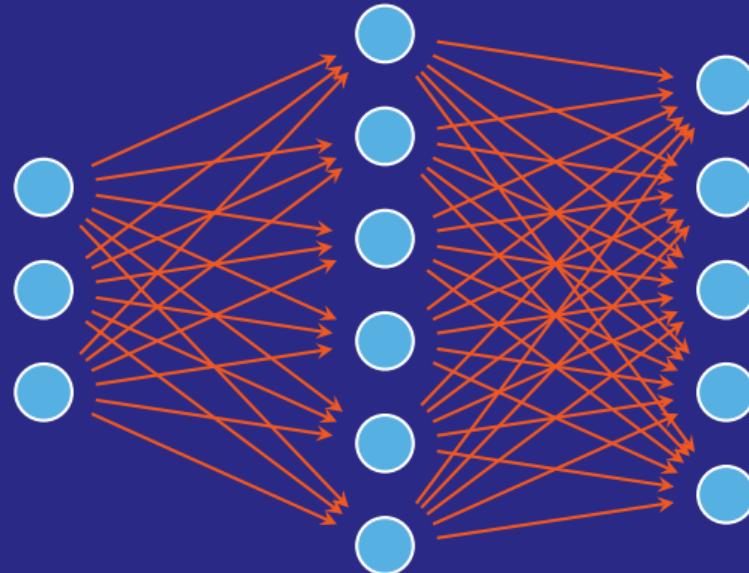


Examples of machine learning applications

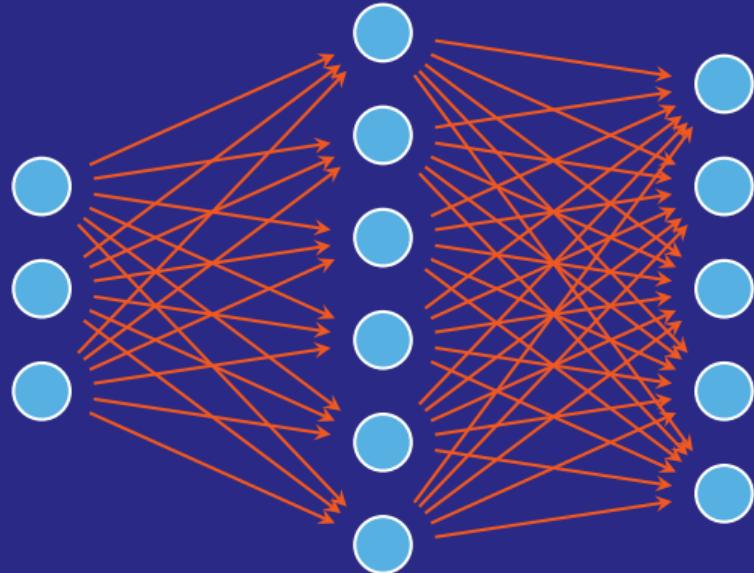
- Language models
 - ChatGPT
 - Claude
 - Gemini
- AlphaFold
- Generative models
- Image analysis
 - Object detection
 - Semantic segmentation
 - Depth estimation
 - Classification



Machine learning models



Deep machine learning models



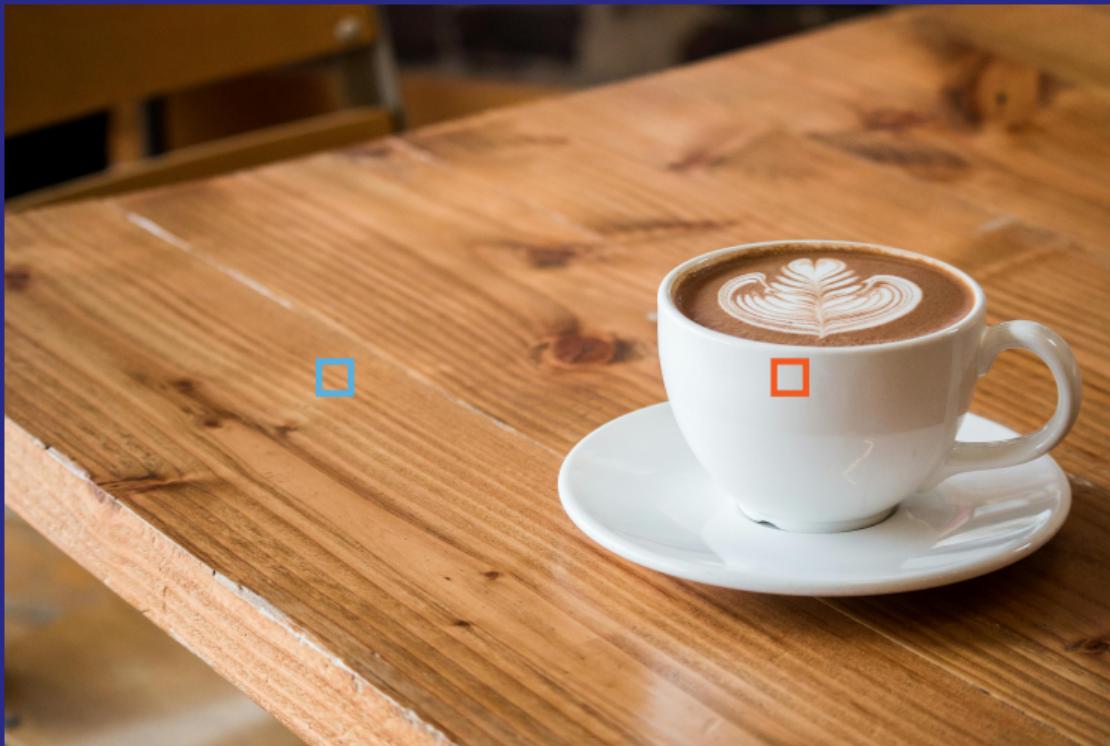
How humans and models differ in conceptualisation

Machine learning models are dumb!

How humans and models differ in conceptualisation



How humans and models differ in conceptualisation



Training a neural network

Training a neural network



Coffee cup

Training a neural network



Coffee cup

Training a neural network



Coffee cup

Goal

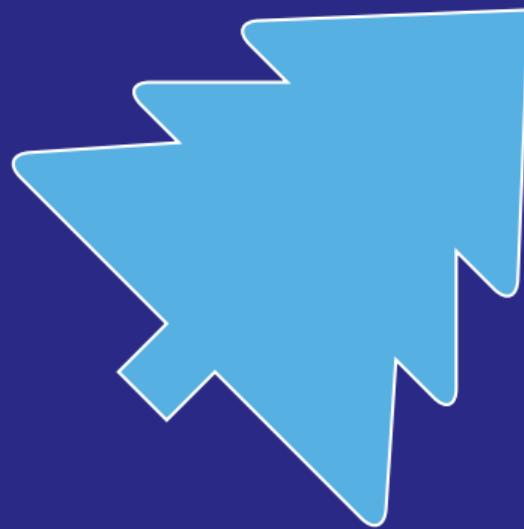
Use geometry and symmetry to improve and make networks more efficient

Geometry and symmetries in the real world



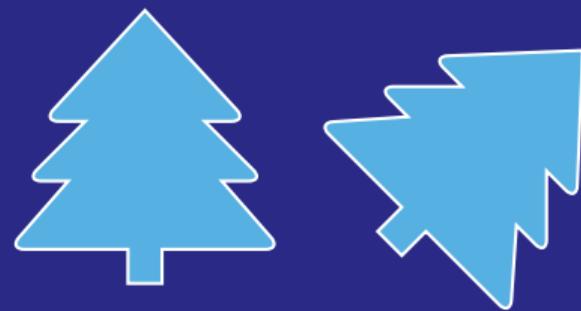
Tree

Geometry and symmetries in the real world



Tree

Geometry and symmetries in the real world



Invariant property

Geometry and symmetries in the real world

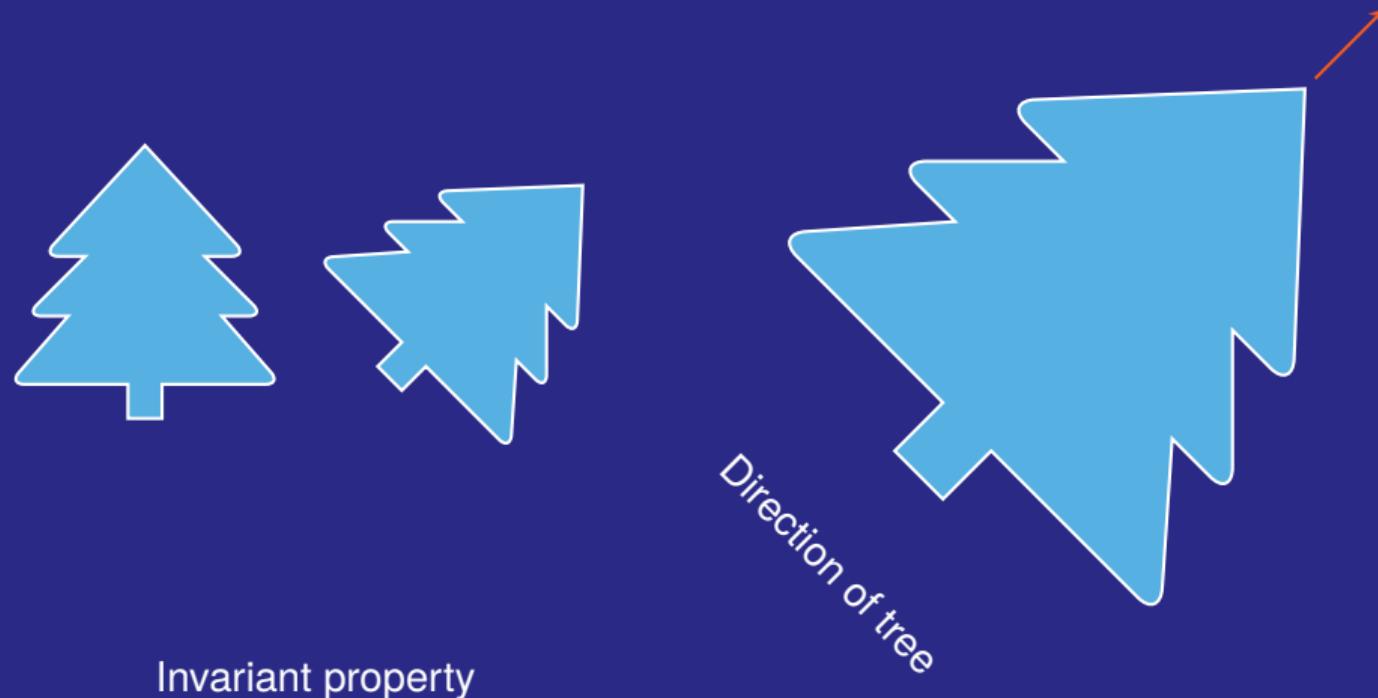


Invariant property



Direction of tree

Geometry and symmetries in the real world



Geometry and symmetries in the real world



Invariant property



Equivariant property

Mathematics: Groups

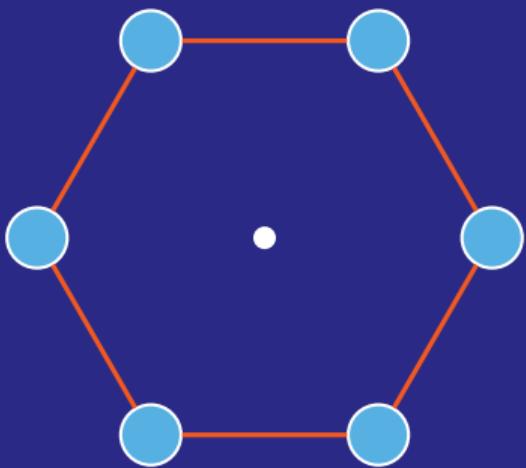
- Set of transformations acting on some object
- Any two transformations can be combined into a single in the set
- One can undo transformations

Mathematics: Groups

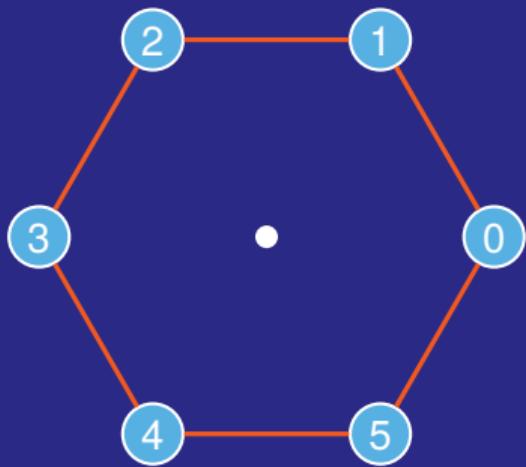
- Set of transformations acting on some object
- Any two transformations can be combined into a single in the set
- One can undo transformations

Often used to describe symmetries of objects

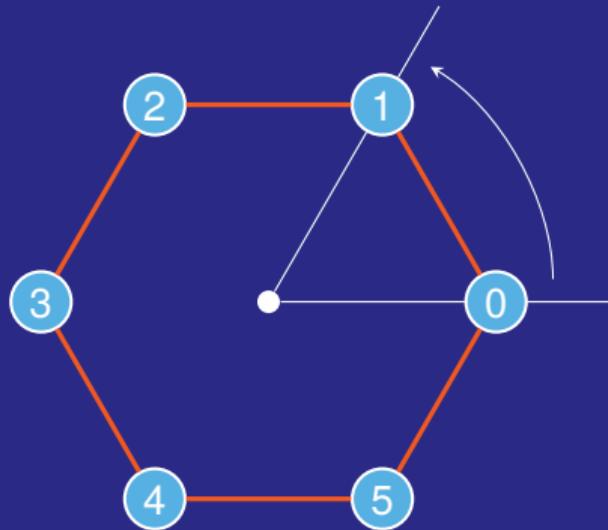
Example of a group



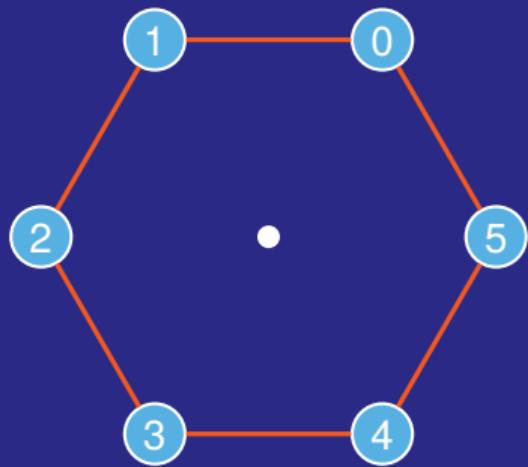
Example of a group



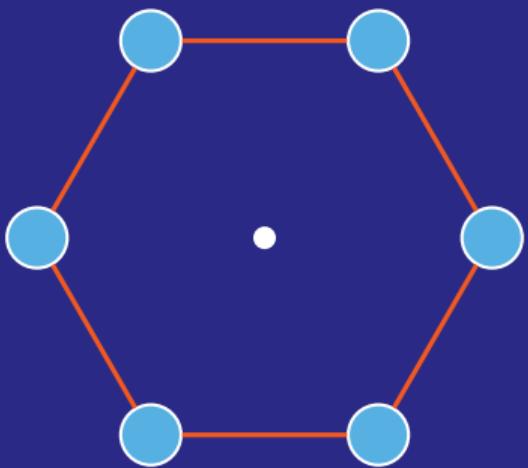
Example of a group



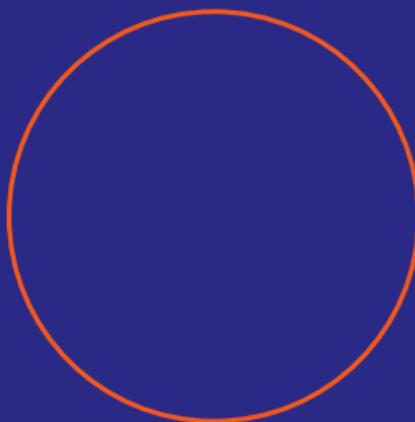
Example of a group



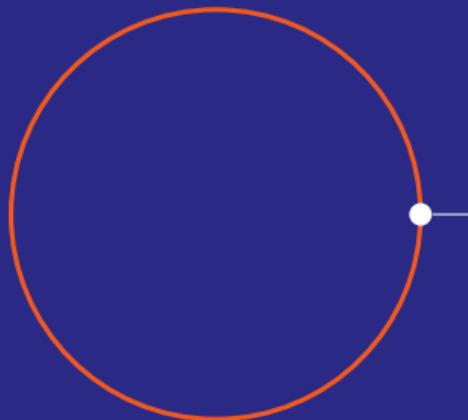
Example of a group



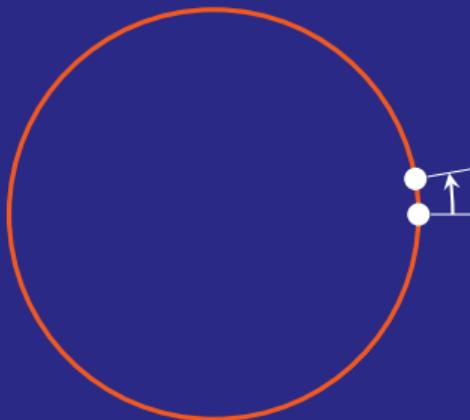
Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



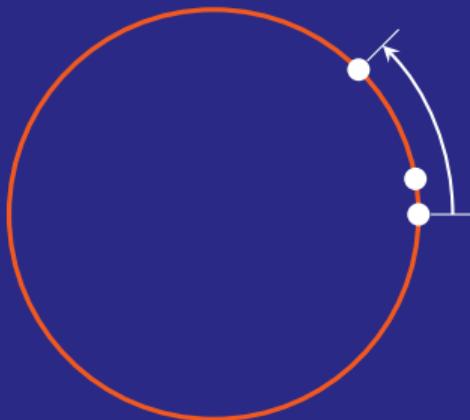
Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



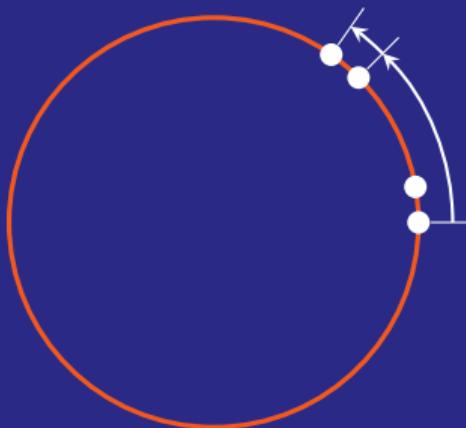
Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



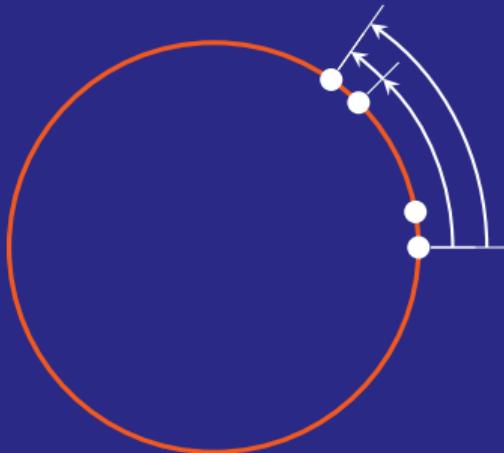
Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



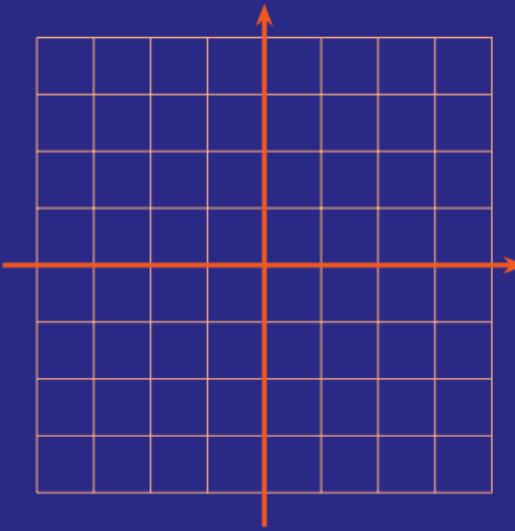
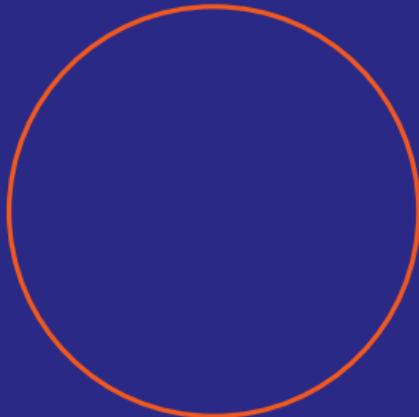
Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



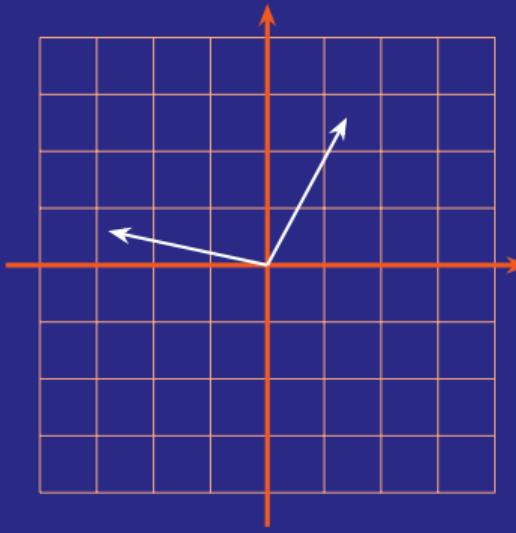
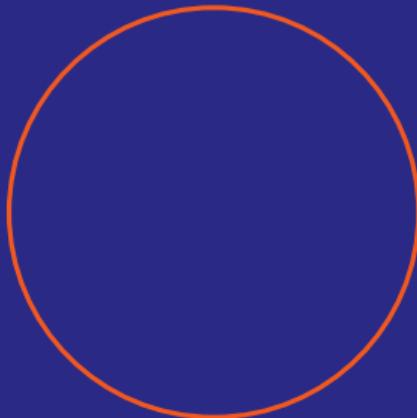
Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



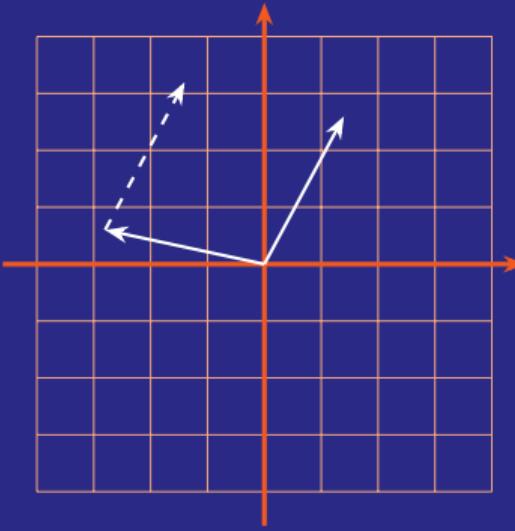
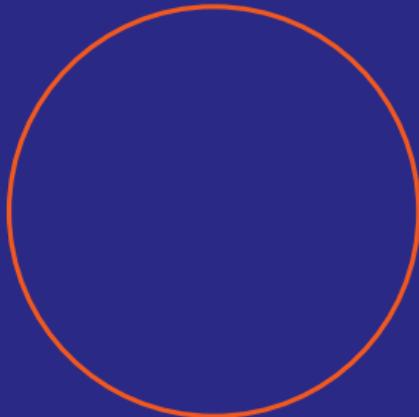
Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



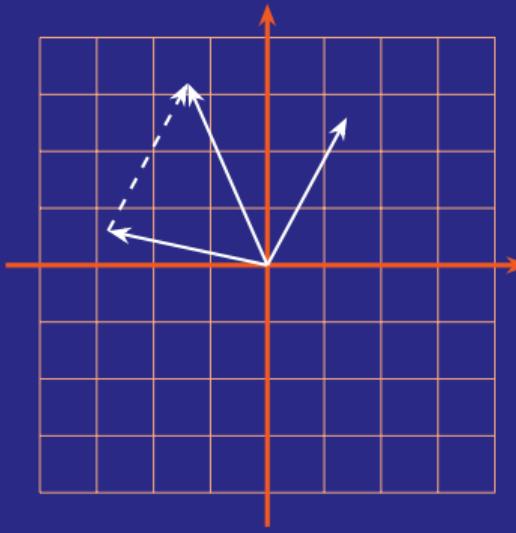
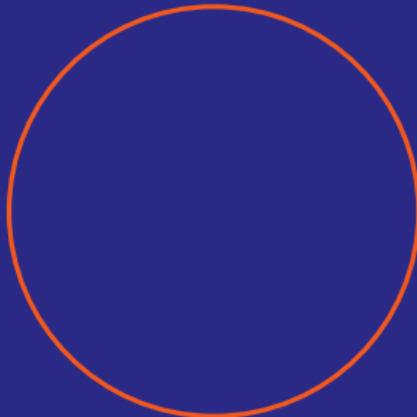
Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



Reoccurring problems: differing positions

Reoccurring problems: differing positions



Reoccurring problems: differing positions



Reoccurring problems: differing positions

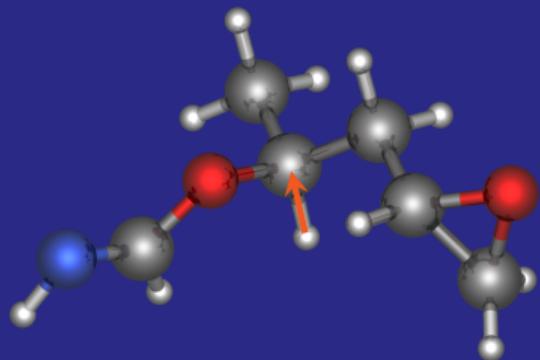


Reoccurring problems: differing positions

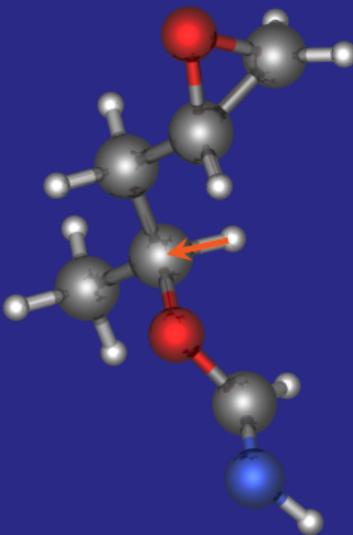
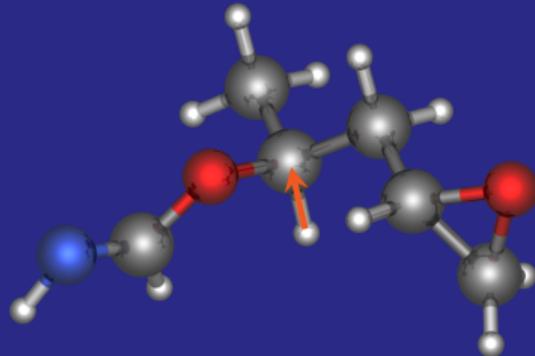


Reoccurring problems: differing poses

Reoccurring problems: differing poses



Reoccurring problems: differing poses



Dealing with geometry and symmetries in ML

Dealing with geometry and symmetries in ML:

Data augmentation

Dealing with geometry and symmetries in ML:

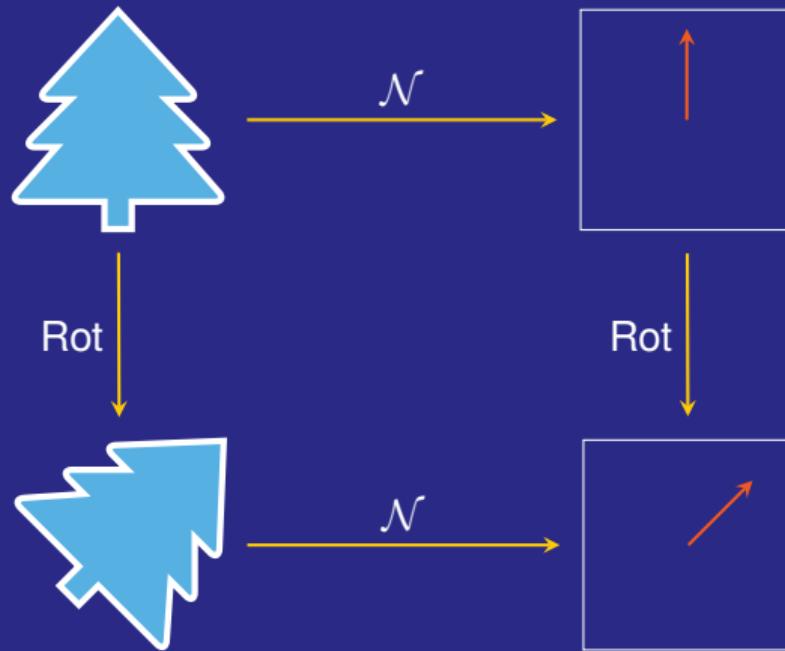
Data augmentation

Equivariance

Data augmentation

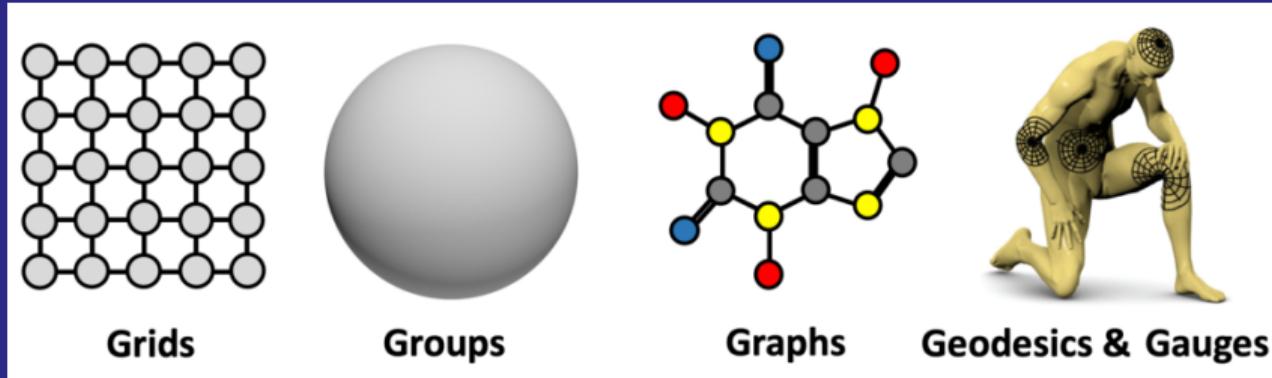


Equivariant networks



$$\mathcal{N}(g \triangleright_X x) = g \triangleright_Y \mathcal{N}(x) \text{ for all } g \in G$$

Geometric Deep Learning



("Geometric Deep Learning: Grids, Groups, Graphs, Geodesics, and Gauges", Bronstein et al. 2021)

Questions

Data augmentation $\xleftarrow{?}$ Equivariance

Questions

Data augmentation $\xleftarrow{?}$ Equivariance

How does one deal with data on curved spaces?

Questions

Data augmentation $\xleftarrow{?}$ Equivariance

How does one deal with data on curved spaces?

Enconding symmetries mathematically?

Papers

- **Paper I.:** Jan E. Gerken, Jimmy Aronsson*, **Oscar Carlsson***, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Geometric deep learning and equivariant neural networks”. In: *Artificial Intelligence Review* (June 2023)
- **Paper II.:** Jan Gerken, **Oscar Carlsson**, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Equivariance versus Augmentation for Spherical Images”. In: *Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning* (June 2022), pp. 7404-7421
- **Paper III.:** **Oscar Carlsson***, Jan E. Gerken*, Hampus Linander, Heiner Spieß, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson Daniel “HEAL-SWIN: A Vision Transformer on the Sphere”. In: *2024 IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)* (June 2024), pp. 6067-6077
- **Paper IV.:** Elias Nyholm*, **Oscar Carlsson***, Maurice Weiler, and Daniel Persson “Equivariant non-linear maps for neural networks on homogeneous spaces”. *Submitted* (April 2025)

Papers: Mathematical foundations

- **Paper I.:** Jan E. Gerken, Jimmy Aronsson*, **Oscar Carlsson***, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Geometric deep learning and equivariant neural networks”. In: *Artificial Intelligence Review* (June 2023)
- **Paper II.:** Jan Gerken, **Oscar Carlsson**, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Equivariance versus Augmentation for Spherical Images”. In: *Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning* (June 2022), pp. 7404-7421
- **Paper III.:** **Oscar Carlsson***, Jan E. Gerken*, Hampus Linander, Heiner Spieß, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson Daniel “HEAL-SWIN: A Vision Transformer on the Sphere”. In: *2024 IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)* (June 2024), pp. 6067-6077
- **Paper IV.:** Elias Nyholm*, **Oscar Carlsson***, Maurice Weiler, and Daniel Persson “Equivariant non-linear maps for neural networks on homogeneous spaces”. *Submitted* (April 2025)

Papers: Vision applications

- **Paper I.:** Jan E. Gerken, Jimmy Aronsson*, **Oscar Carlsson***, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Geometric deep learning and equivariant neural networks”. In: *Artificial Intelligence Review* (June 2023)
- **Paper II.:** Jan Gerken, **Oscar Carlsson**, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Equivariance versus Augmentation for Spherical Images”. In: *Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning* (June 2022), pp. 7404-7421
- **Paper III.:** **Oscar Carlsson***, Jan E. Gerken*, Hampus Linander, Heiner Spieß, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson Daniel “HEAL-SWIN: A Vision Transformer on the Sphere”. In: *2024 IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)* (June 2024), pp. 6067-6077
- **Paper IV.:** Elias Nyholm*, **Oscar Carlsson***, Maurice Weiler, and Daniel Persson “Equivariant non-linear maps for neural networks on homogeneous spaces”. *Submitted* (April 2025)

End of general introduction