

Equivariance I: Group Convolution

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Ideal Outline

1. Group-Convolution
2. Steerable Convolution
3. Literature, Applications and more



Agenda

Equivariance

From Convolution to Group-Convolution

Some GCNNs in the literature

Theoretical Properties of GCNNs

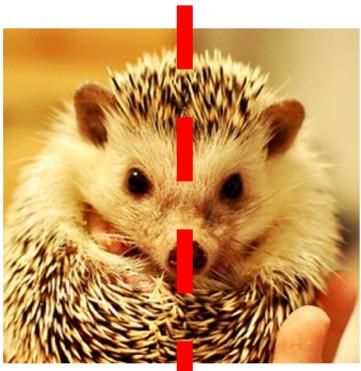
Symmetries in data

natural images



source: [Mike Lynch, CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

translations



source: [Tiffany Bailey, CC BY 2.0](#)

reflections

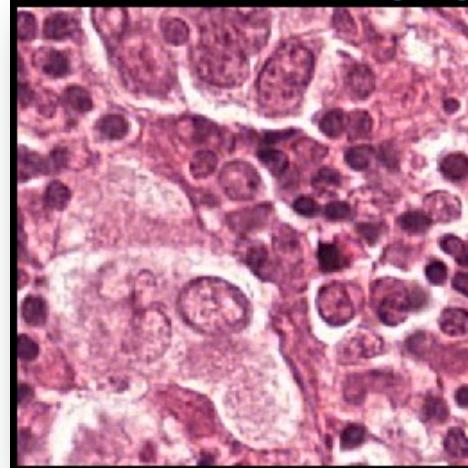
satellite data



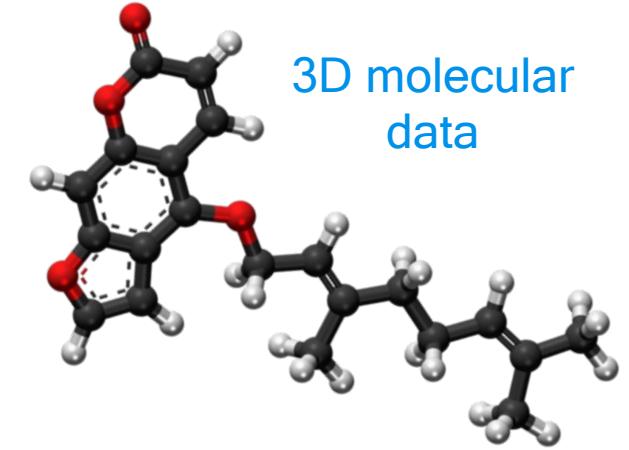
source: [ESA, CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

rotations

medical imaging

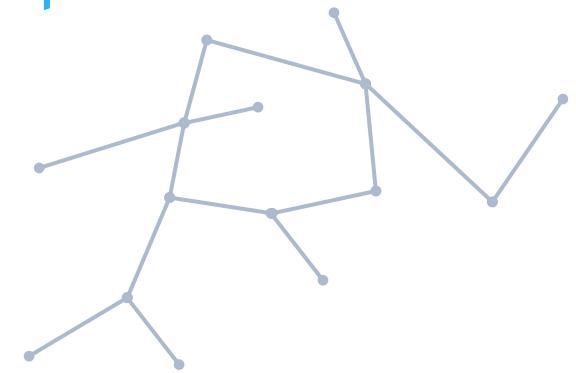


source: [CAMELYON17](#)



source: [Jynto, CC0, Wikimedia Commons](#)

permutations



Equivariance

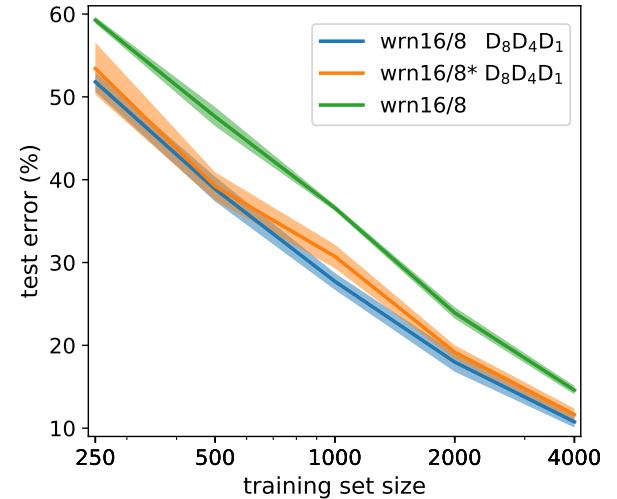
$$g \cdot \Psi(\text{input image}) = \Psi(g \cdot \text{input image})$$

The diagram illustrates the concept of equivariance in a neural network. It shows two equivalent ways of applying a transformation g to an input image. On the left, the input image is first processed by a neural network layer Ψ , resulting in $\Psi(\text{input image})$. This result is then transformed by g , resulting in $g \cdot \Psi(\text{input image})$. On the right, the input image is first transformed by g , resulting in $g \cdot \text{input image}$. This transformed input is then processed by the neural network layer Ψ , resulting in $\Psi(g \cdot \text{input image})$. The two results are shown to be equal, demonstrating the equivariance of the neural network layer Ψ .

Equivariance: why?

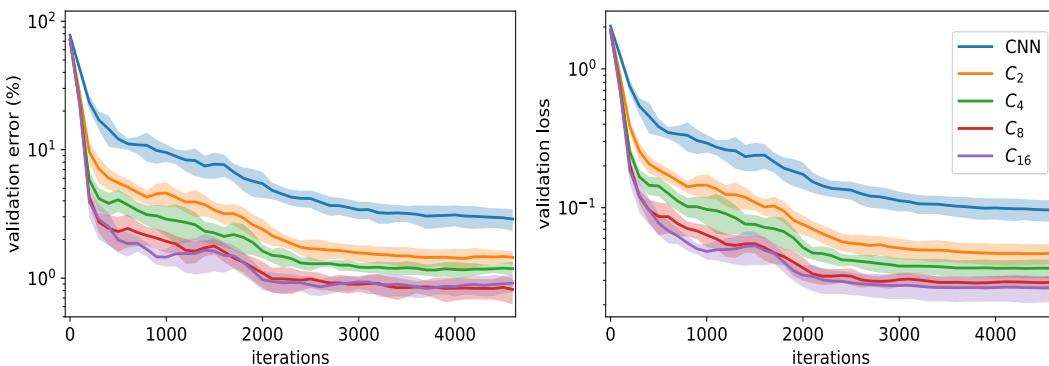
Data efficiency and improved generalization

- by shrinking the hypothesis space
- Automatically generalize over transformed versions of same input without observing them first



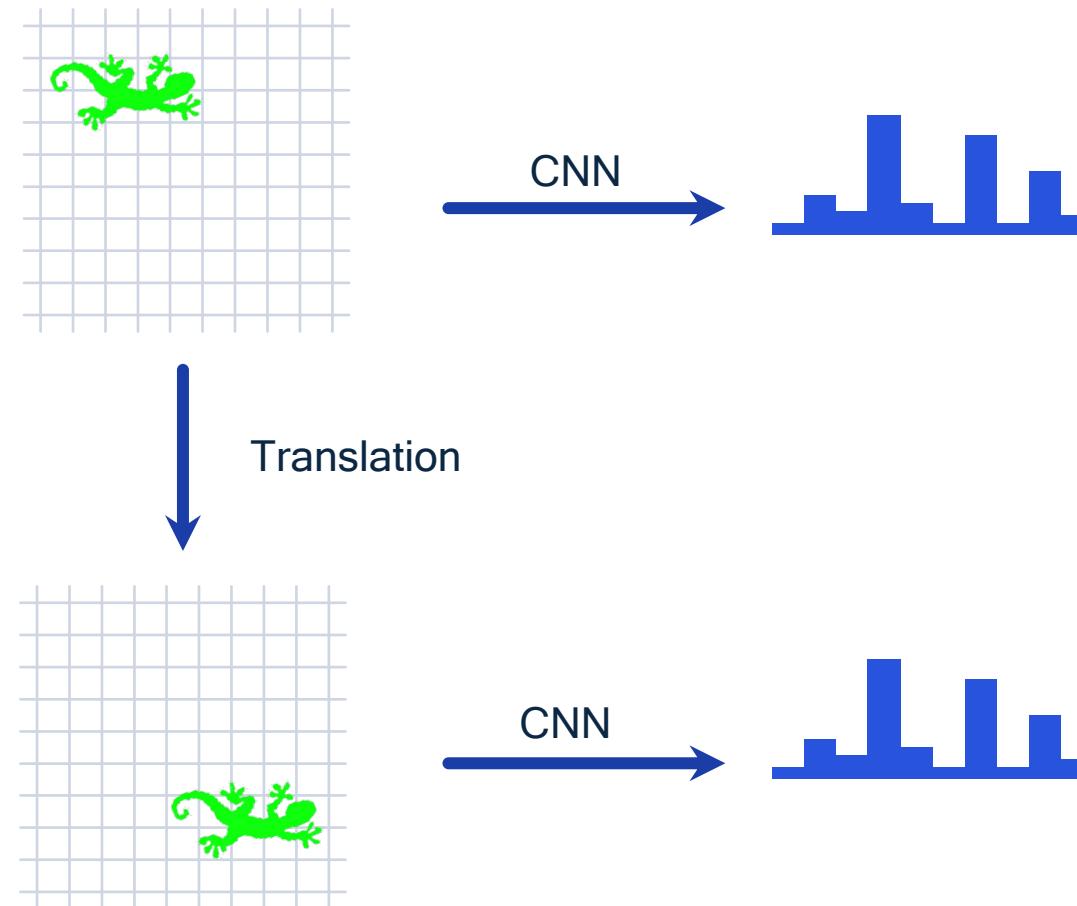
Generalization of equivariant and non-equivariant models on STL-10 dataset

Typically, faster convergence

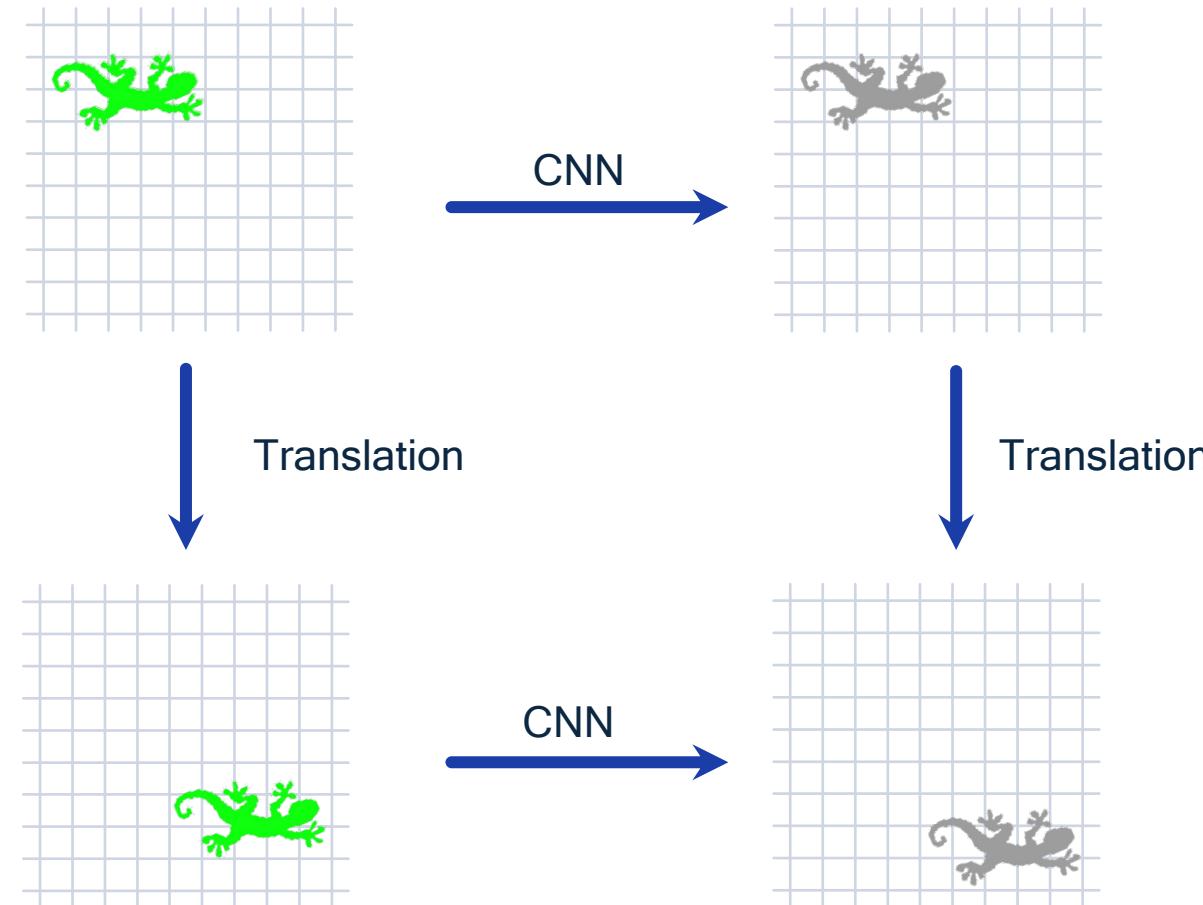


Convergence rate of different equivariant models evaluated on rotated MNIST dataset

Equivariance: CNN (translation invariance)



Equivariance: CNN (translation equivariance)



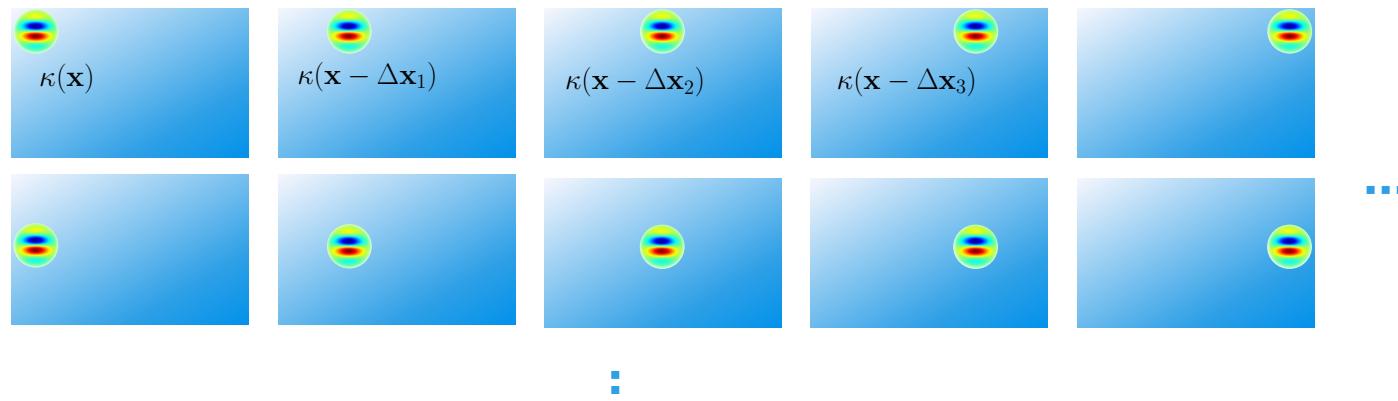
Convolution Layer

Actually a cross-correlation

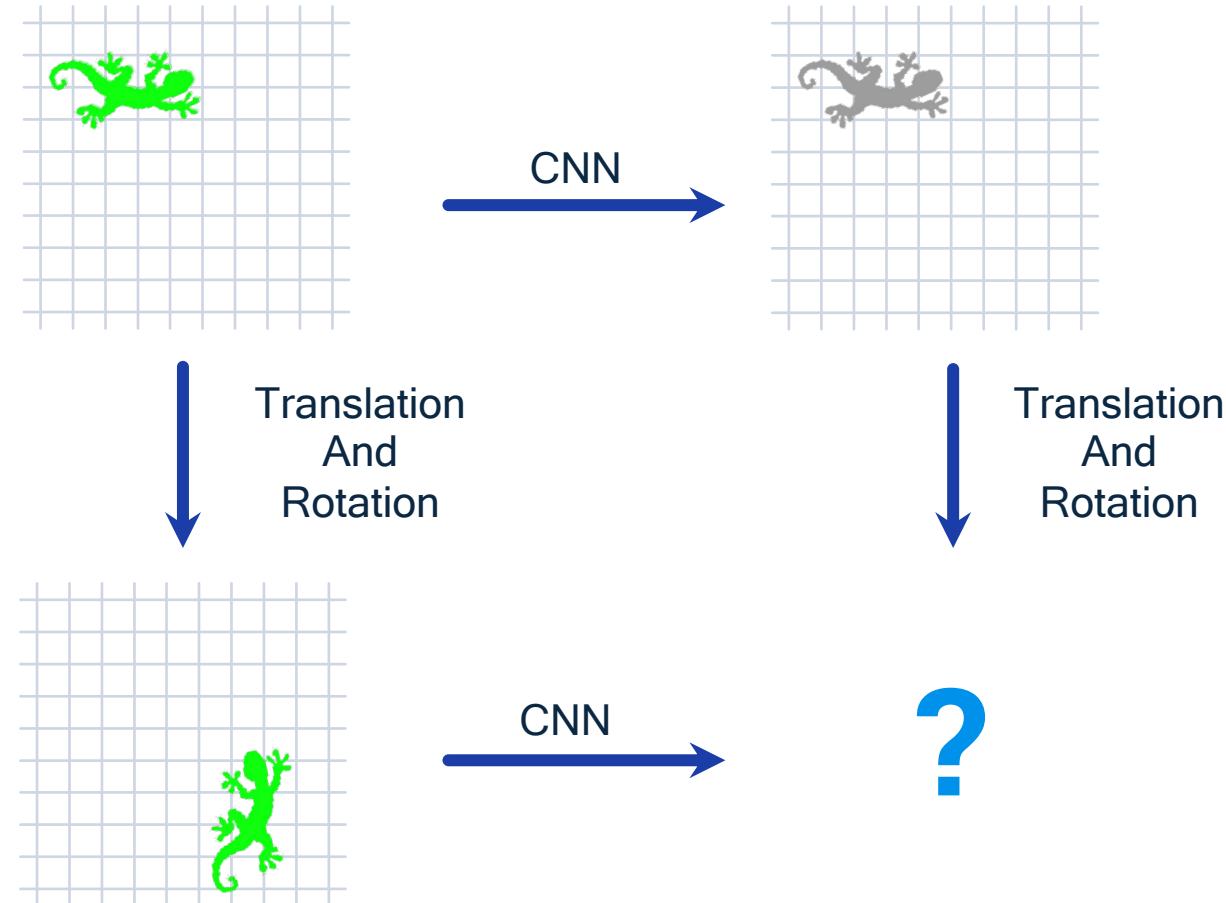
$$[\kappa \star f]: \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{out}}$$

$$\kappa: \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{out} \times c_{in}} \quad f: \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{in}}$$

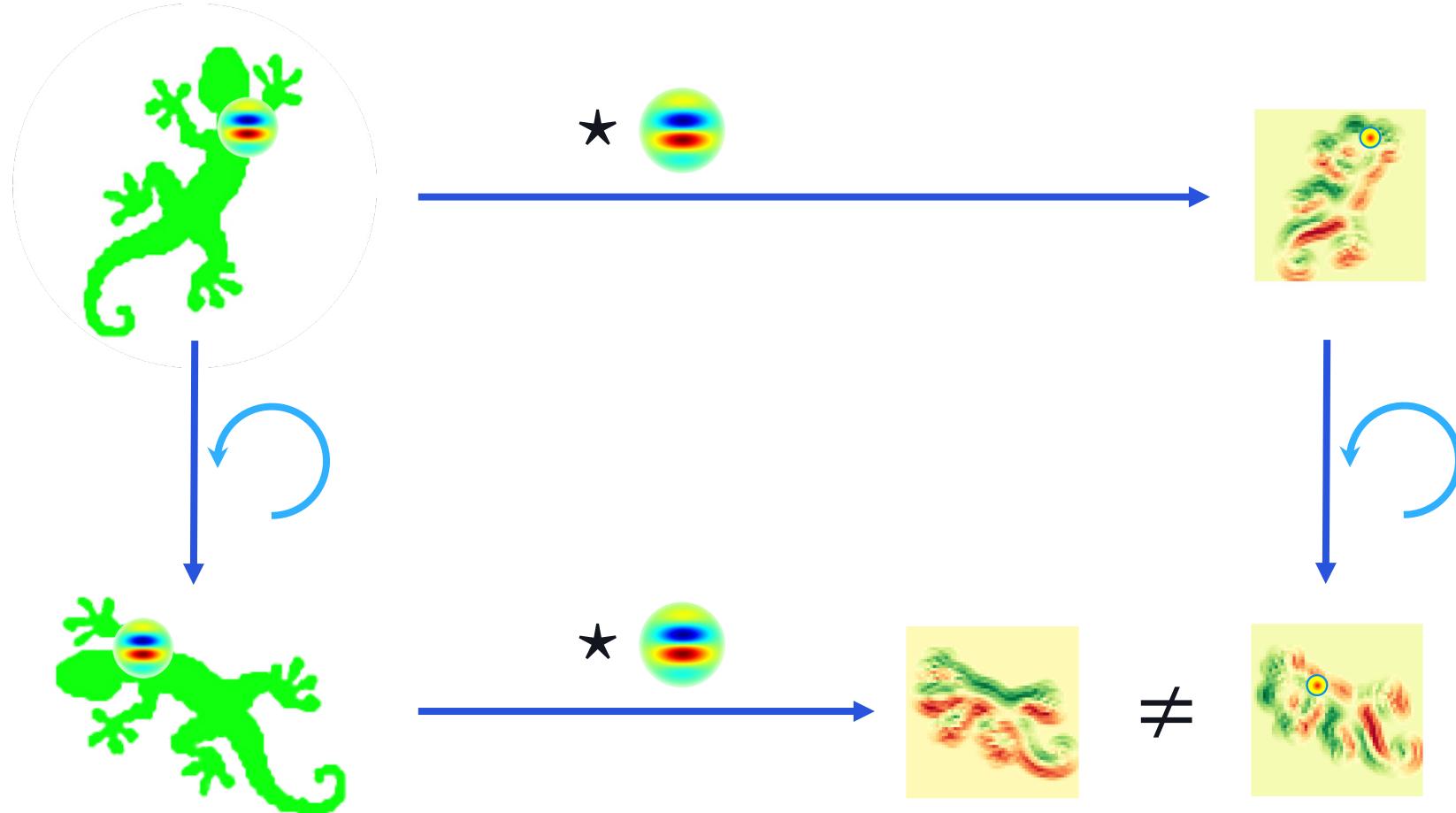
$$[\kappa \star f](\Delta \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \kappa(\mathbf{x} - \Delta \mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x})$$



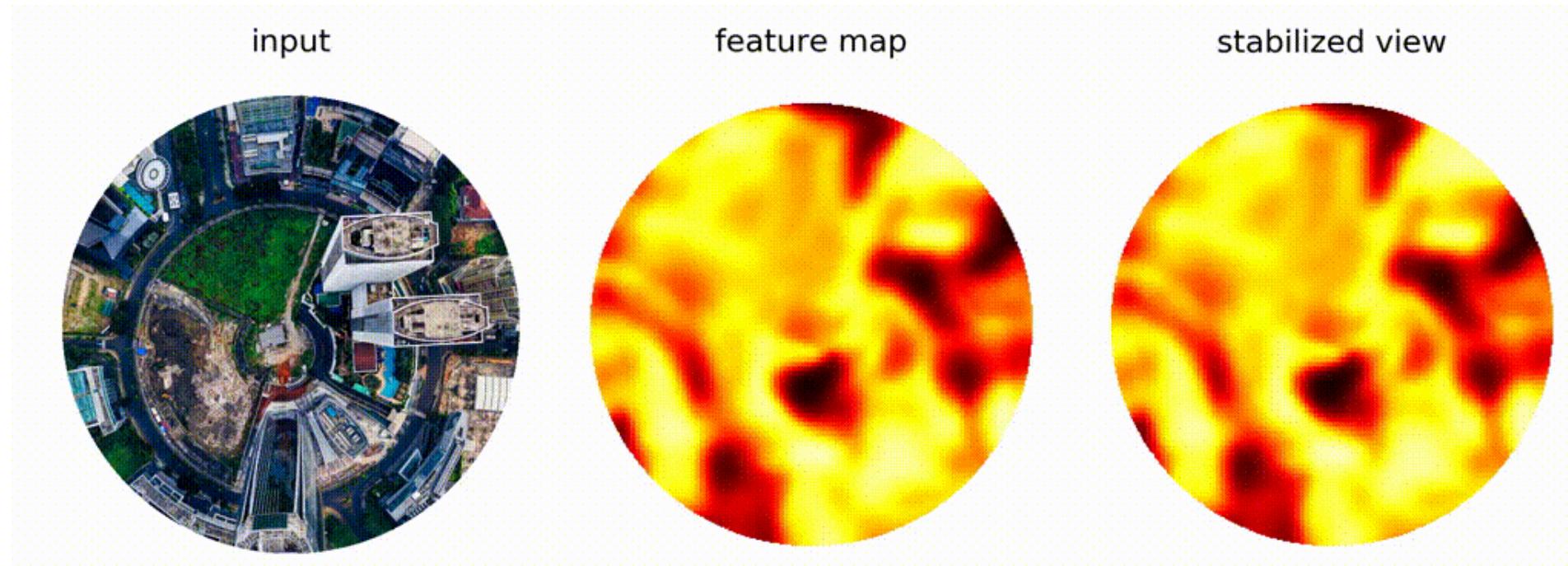
Equivariance: CNN (rotation equivariance?)



Equivariance: CNN (rotation equivariance?)

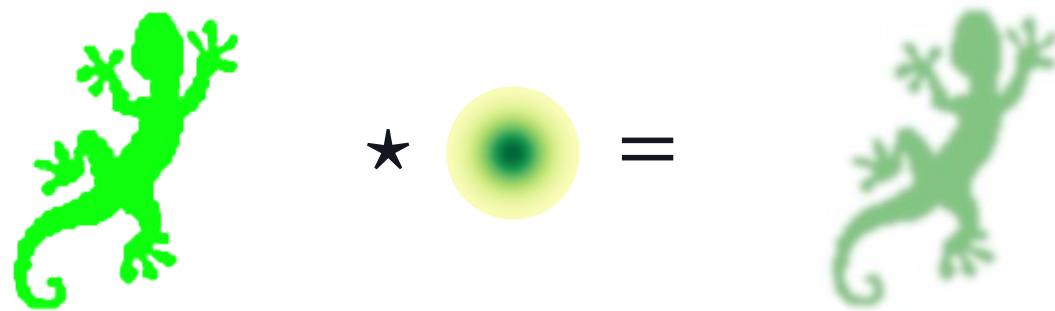


Equivariance: CNN (rotation equivariance?)

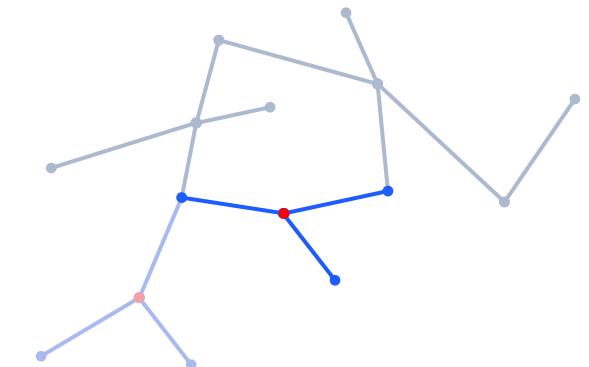


Isotropic Filters

- Isotropic filters: the response does not change when rotated



- Not very expressive
- Analogous to Graph Message Passing: no directional dependence!



Generalize Convolution (*template matching*)

Familiar cross-correlation

$$[\kappa \star f]: \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{out}}$$
$$\kappa: \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{out} \times c_{in}} \quad f: \mathbb{Z}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{in}}$$
$$[\kappa \star f](\Delta \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \kappa(\mathbf{x} - \Delta \mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x})$$

Group cross-correlation

$$[\kappa \star f]: G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{out}}$$
$$\kappa: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{out} \times c_{in}} \quad f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{in}}$$
$$[\kappa \star f](g) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \kappa(g^{-1} \mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x})$$

g element of a **Group G** of transformations
(rotations, reflections, translations, ...)

Definition: Group

A **group** (G, \cdot) is a *set* G and a *binary operation* $\cdot : G \times G \rightarrow G$ satisfying the following axioms:

- **associativity:** $\forall a, b, c \in G, a \cdot (b \cdot c) = (a \cdot b) \cdot c$
- **identity:** $\exists e \in G$ s.t. $\forall a \in G, a \cdot e = e \cdot a$
- **inverse:** $\forall g \in G, \exists! g^{-1} \in G$ s.t. $gg^{-1} = g^{-1}g = e$

Relevant examples:

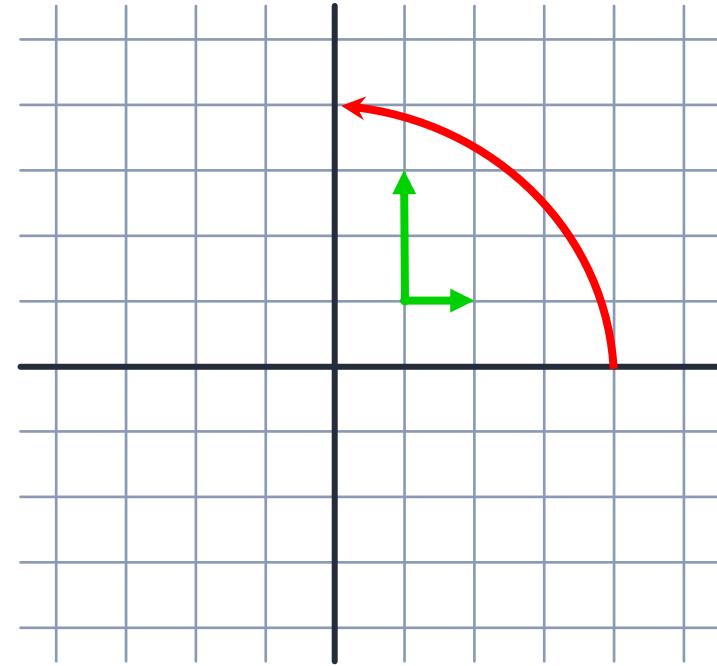
- discrete translations $(\mathbb{Z}^n, +)$
- continuous translations $(\mathbb{R}^n, +)$
- rotations $SO(n)$
- rotations and mirroring $O(n)$
- special isometries (rotations and translations) $SE(n) = (\mathbb{R}^n, +) \rtimes SO(n)$
- isometries (rotations, reflections, translations) $E(n) = (\mathbb{R}^n, +) \rtimes O(n)$
- permutation of N elements S_N

Running examples

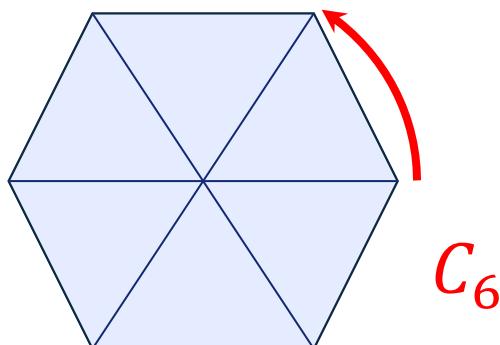
Discrete planar translations: $(\mathbb{Z}^2, +)$

Discrete planar rotations: C_n

Symmetries of squared grid: $p4 = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes C_4$



$$p4 = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes C_4$$

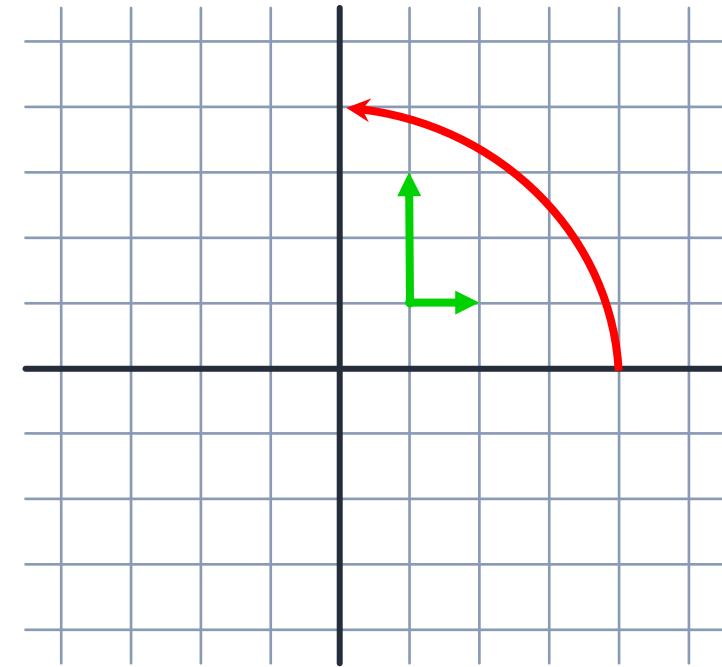
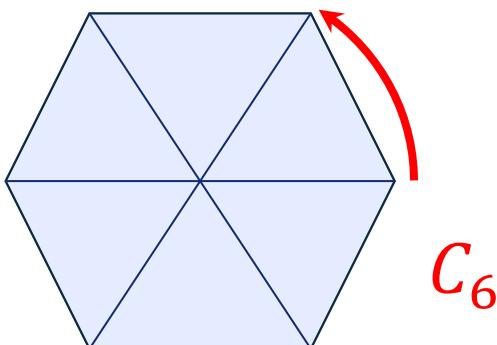


Running examples

Discrete planar translations: $(\mathbb{Z}^2, +)$

Discrete planar rotations: C_n

Symmetries of squared grid: $p4 = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes C_4$



$$p4 = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes C_4$$

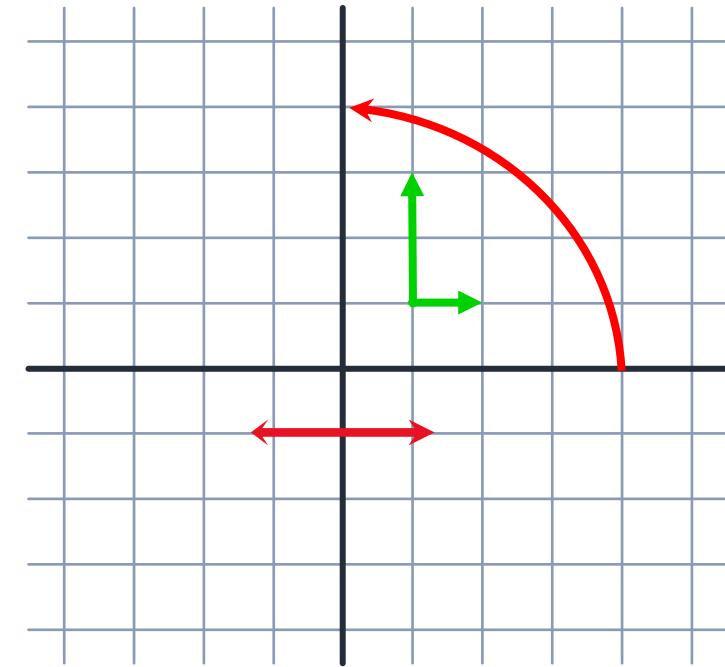
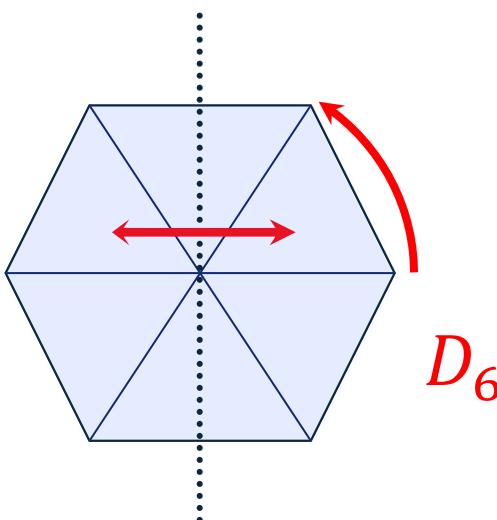
If you don't know what this means,
for now, think of it as a
Cartesian Product \times
between two sets

Running examples

Discrete planar translations: $(\mathbb{Z}^2, +)$

Discrete planar rotations *and mirroring*: D_n

Symmetries of squared grid: $p4m = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes D_4$



Definition: Group Action

Given a group G , a **G -space X** is a **set** equipped with a **group action** $\cdot : G \times X \rightarrow X$, i.e. a map satisfying the following axioms

- **identity:** $\forall x \in X, x = e \cdot x$
- **compatibility:** $\forall x \in X, \forall a, b \in G \quad a \cdot (b \cdot x) = (a \cdot b) \cdot x$

Relevant examples:

- discrete translations $G = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +)$ over a plane $X = \mathbb{R}^2$
- rotations $G = SO(3)$ of a sphere $X = S^2$
- isometries $G = E(2)$ of a plane $X = \mathbb{R}^2$
- Discrete isometries $p4m$ of grid $X = \mathbb{Z}^2$
- permutation $G = S_N$ of a set of N ordered objects $X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N)$
- continuous translations $G = (\mathbb{R}^2, +)$ over a plane $X = \mathbb{R}^2$

Generalize Convolution

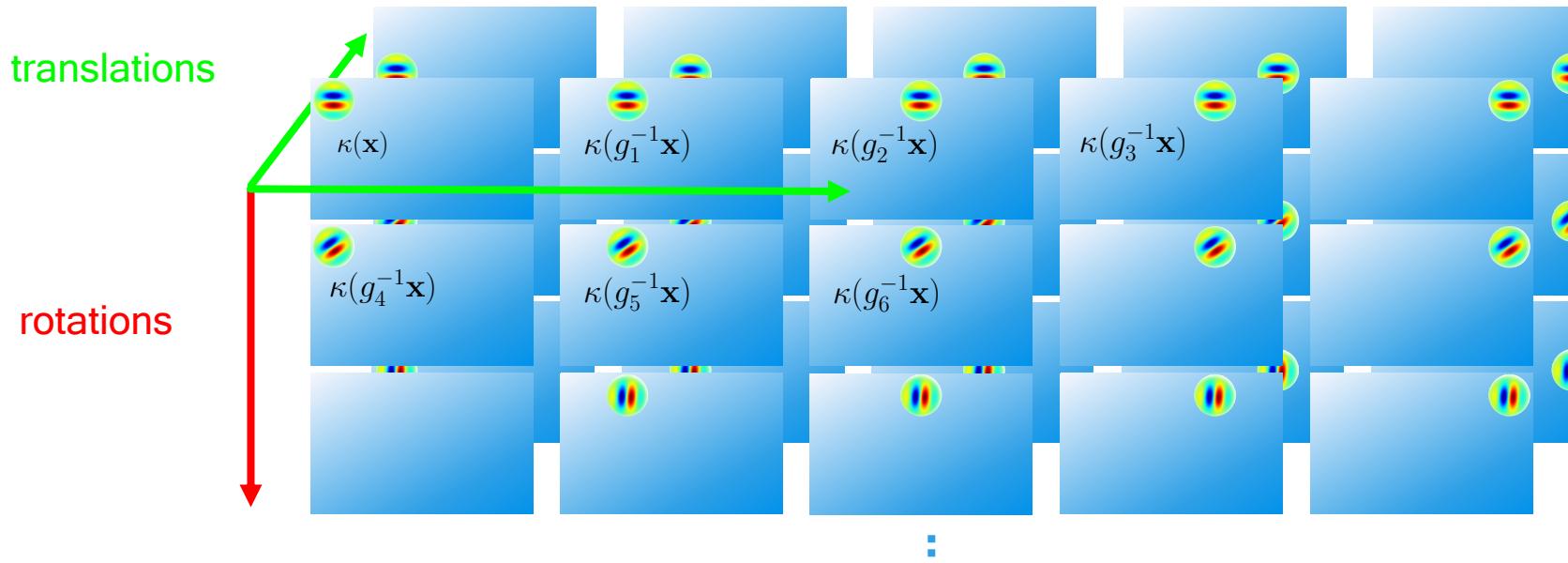
Group cross-correlation (**lifting convolution**):

$$[\kappa \star f]: G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{out}}$$

$$\kappa: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{out} \times c_{in}}$$

$$f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{in}}$$

$$[\kappa \star f](g) = \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in X} \kappa(g^{-1} \mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x})$$



$$G = \mathbb{Z}_2^2 = p_4 = (\mathbb{Z}_2, \times)$$

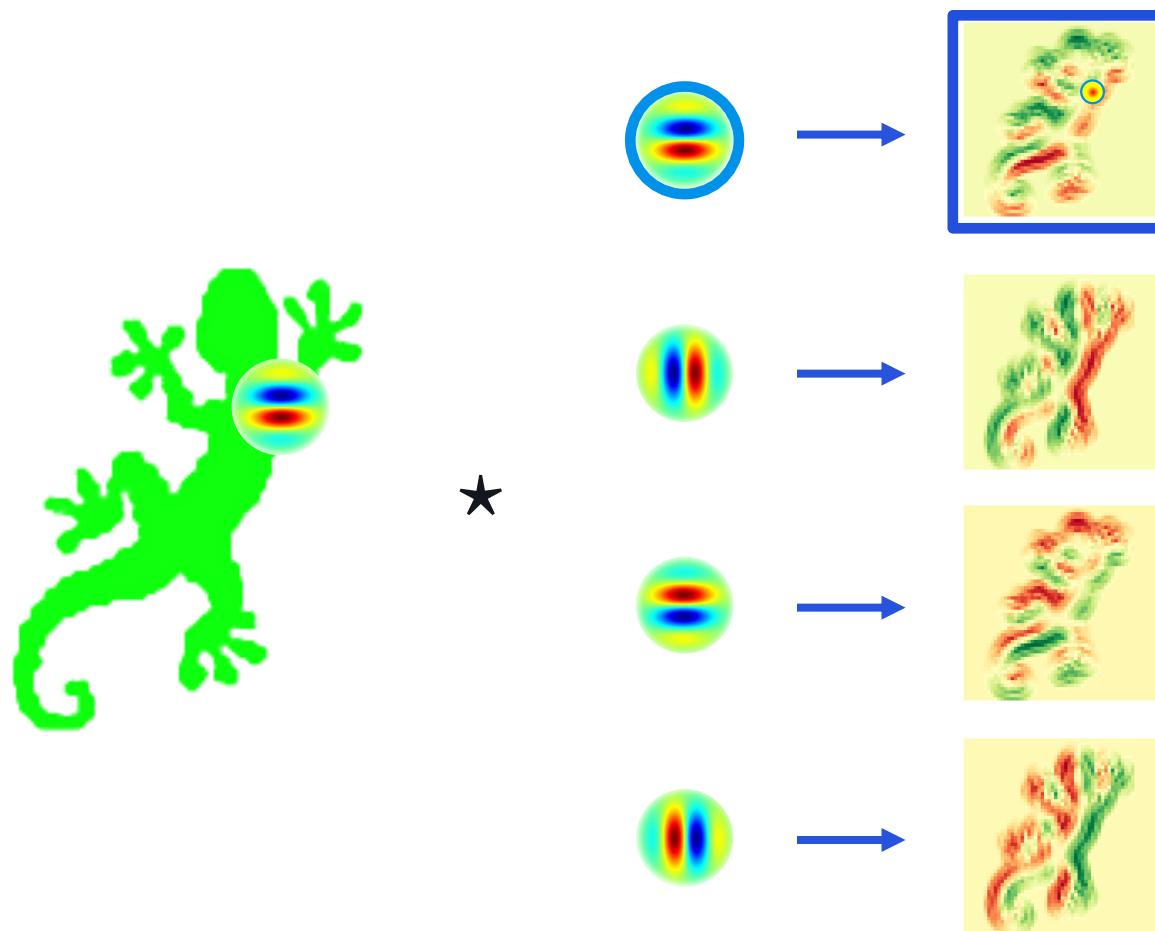
Group Convolution



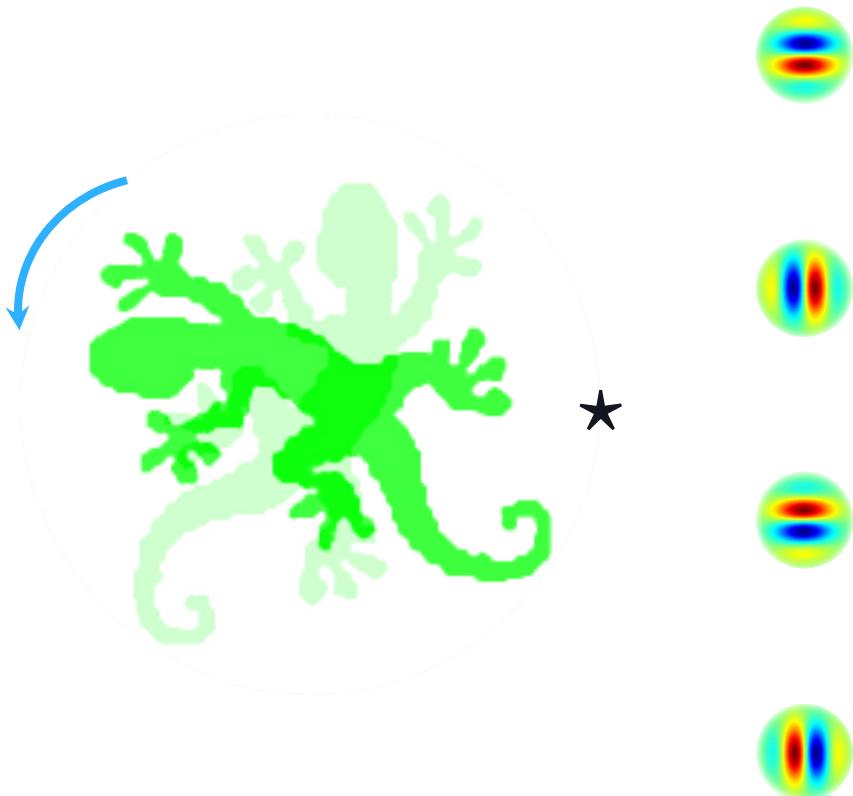
★



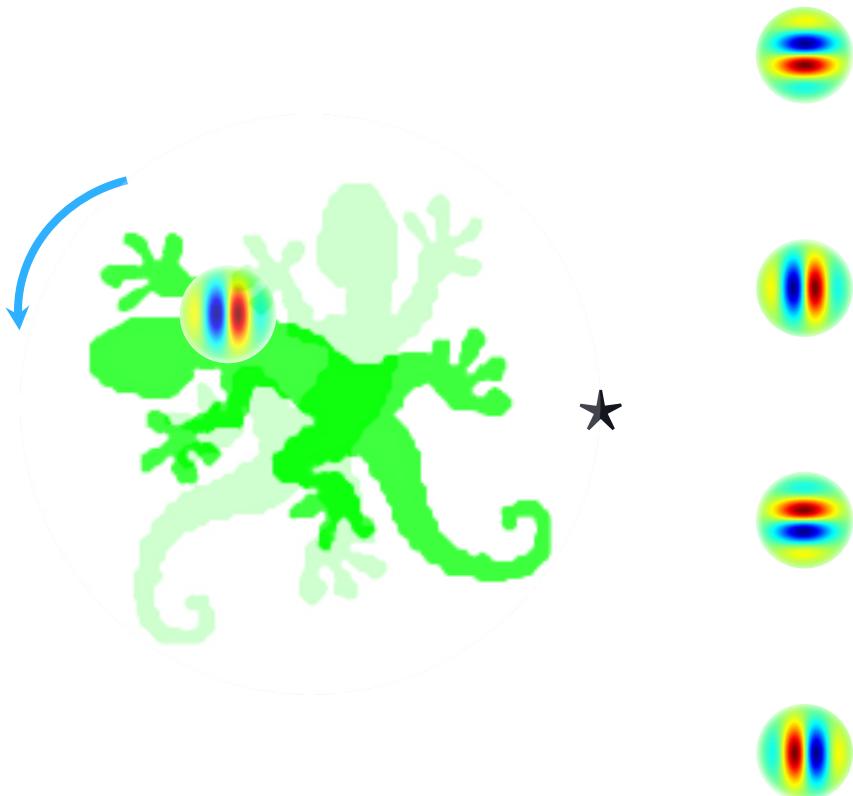
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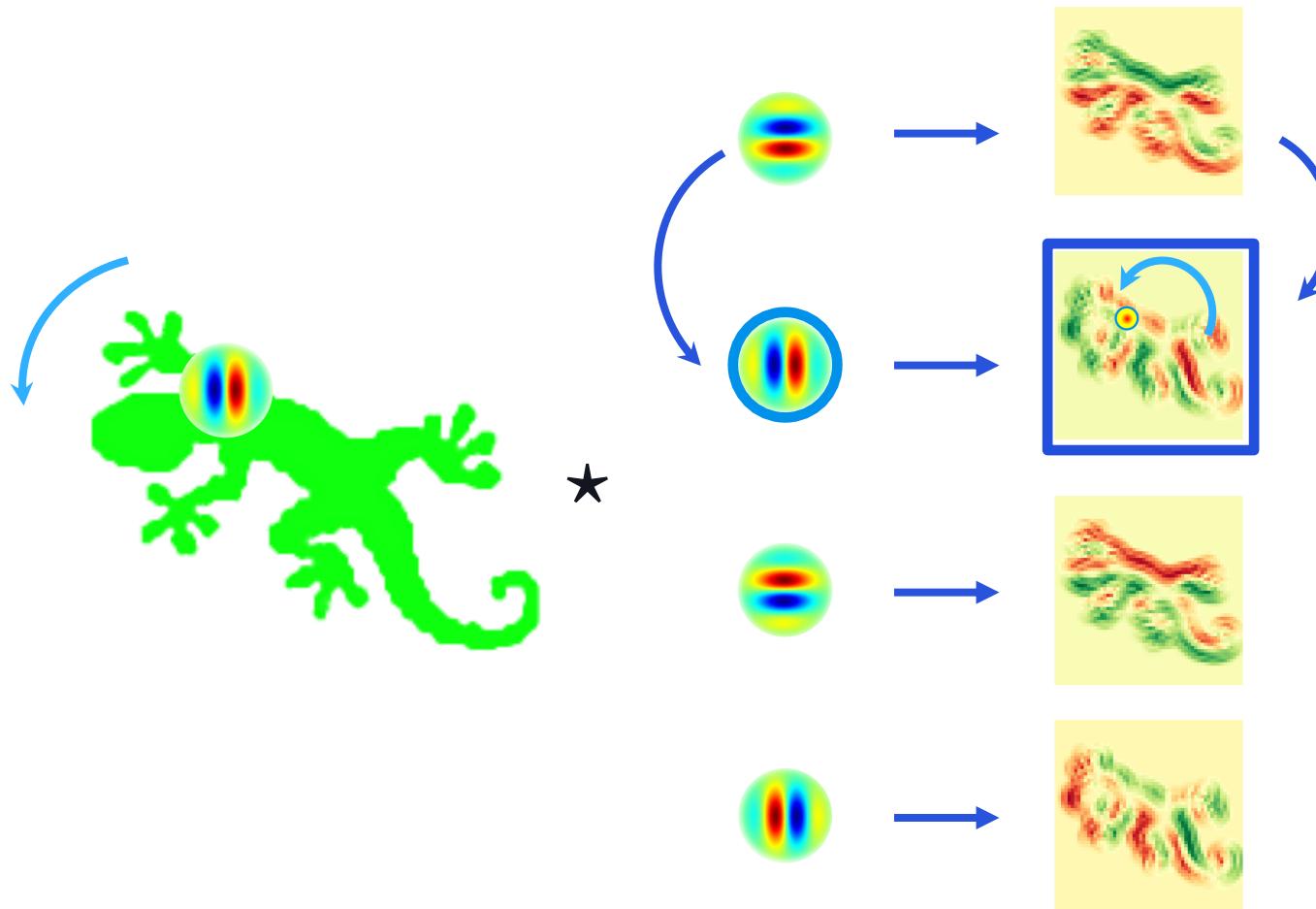
Group Convolution



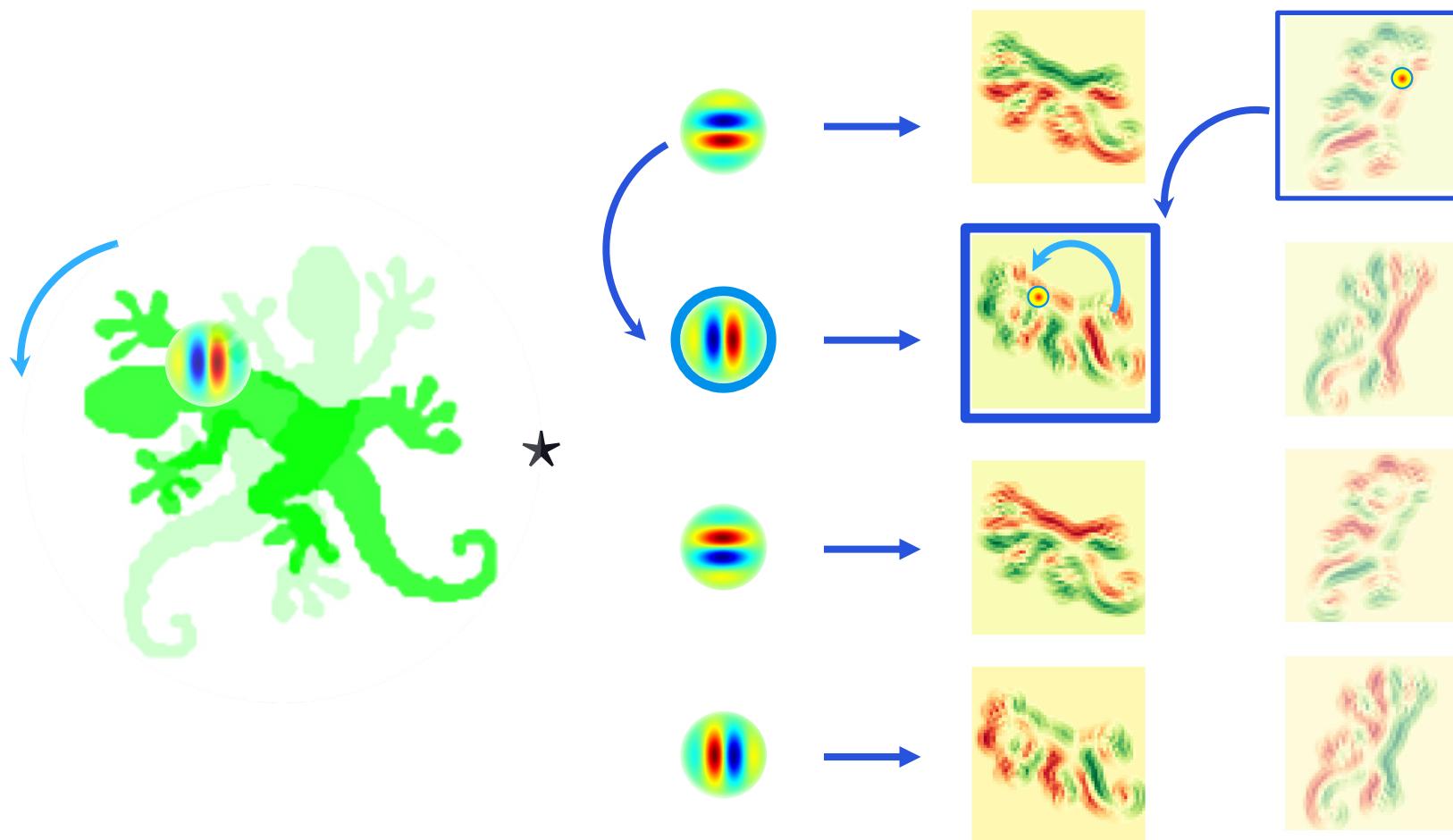
Group Convolution



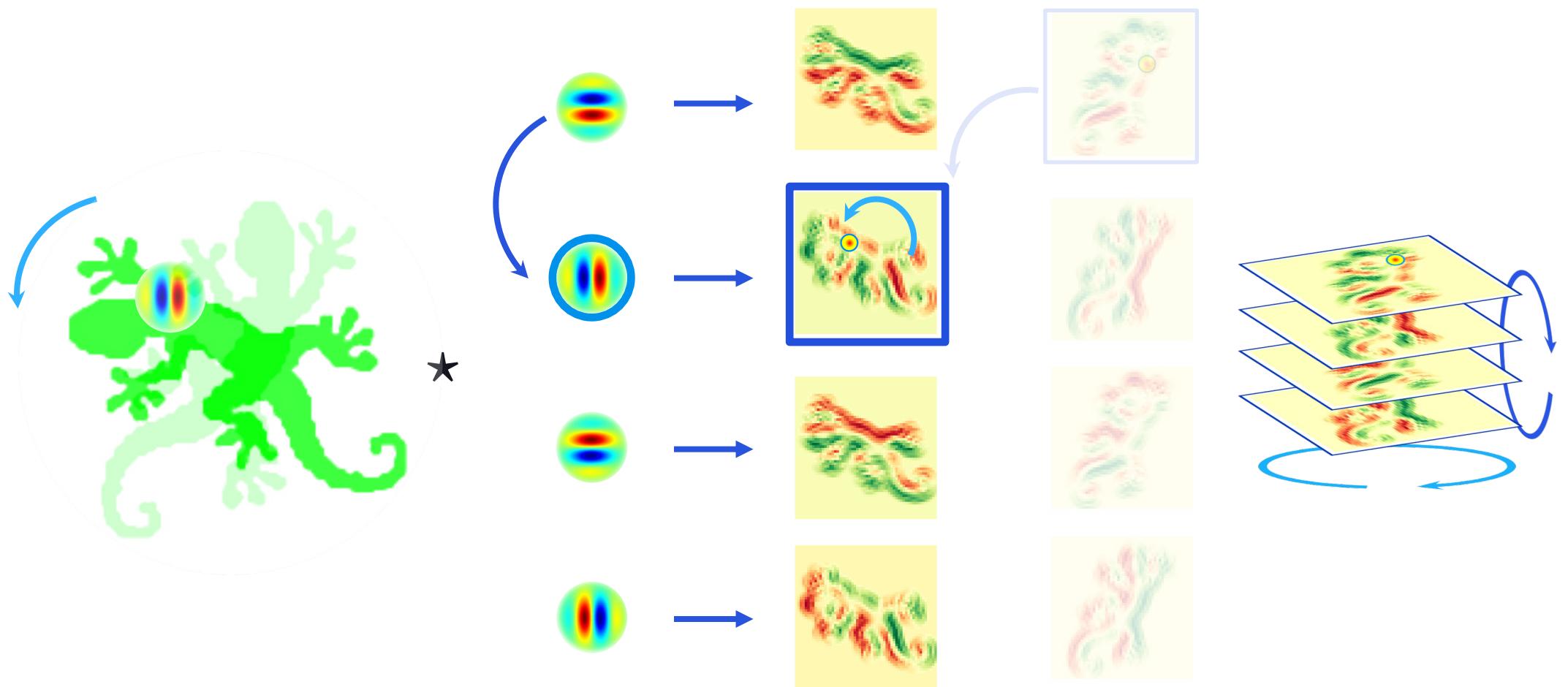
Group Convolution



Group Convolution



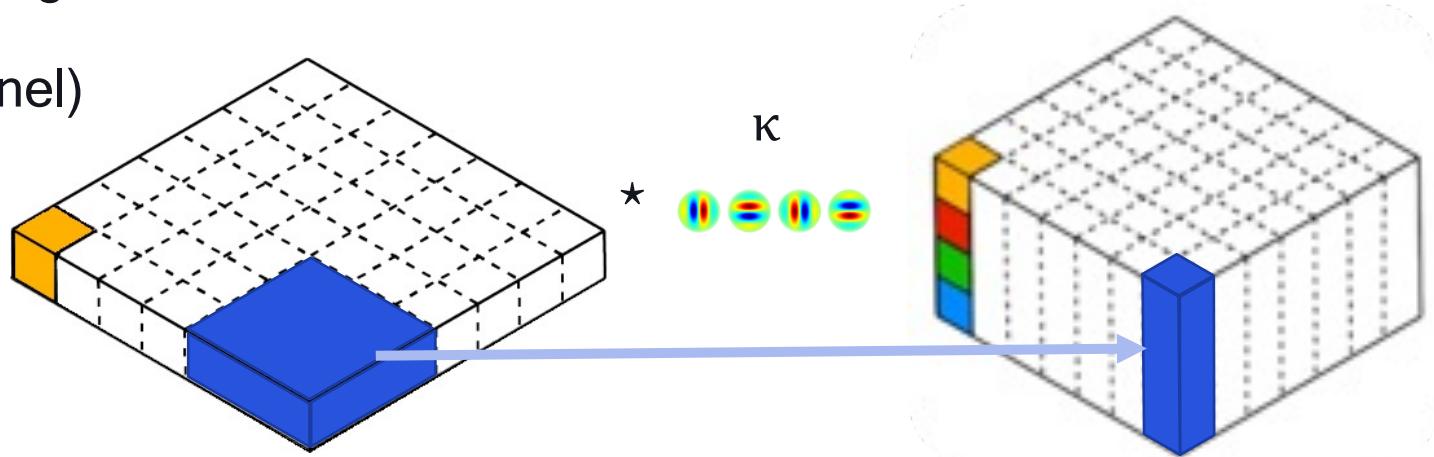
Group Convolution



Group Convolution (lifting convolution)

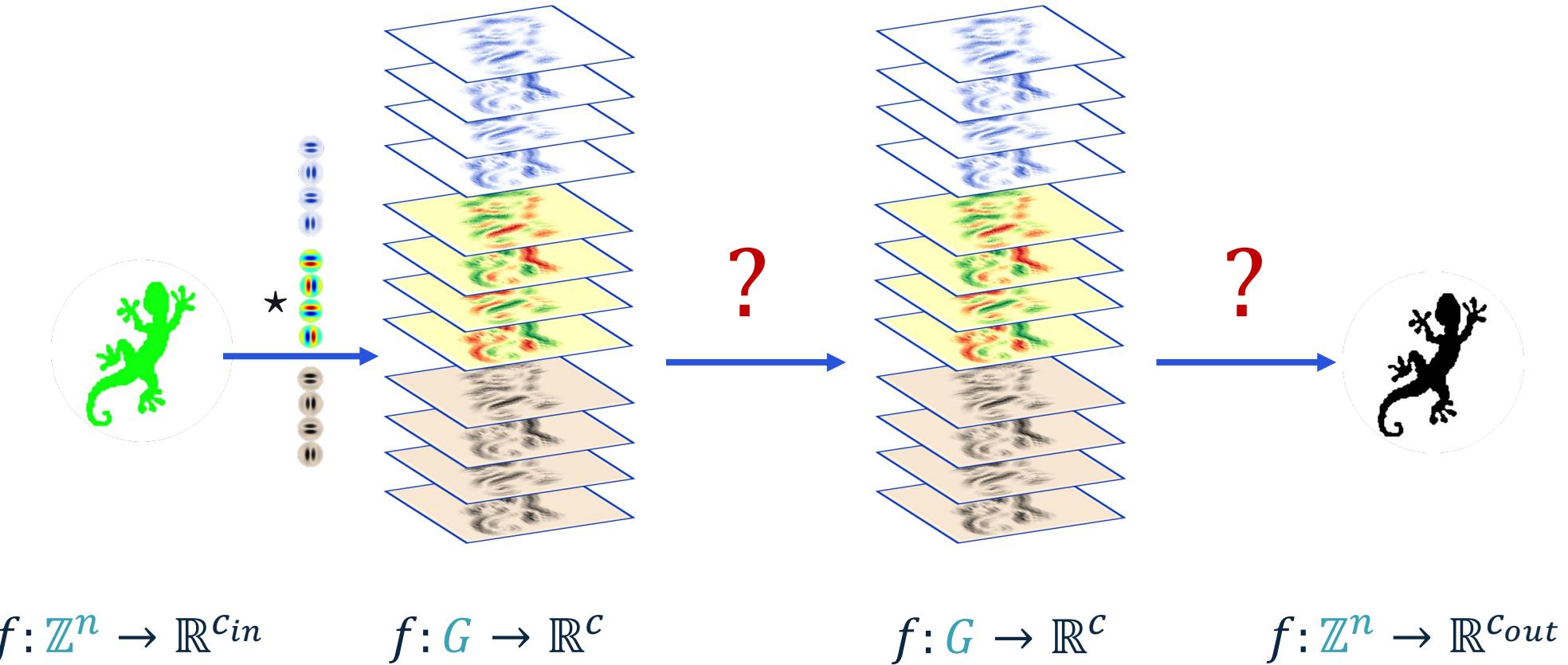
Input image

(1 channel)



Group convolution
applies rotated versions
of the same filter

Deep Neural Network



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- continuous translations $G = (\mathbb{R}^2, +)$ over a plane $X = \mathbb{R}^2$
- a group G acting on its own elements $X = G$

Generalize Convolution

Group cross-correlation (intermidiate layers):

$$[\kappa \star f]: \textcolor{blue}{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{out}}$$
$$\kappa: \textcolor{teal}{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{out} \times c_{in}}$$
$$f: \textcolor{teal}{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{c_{in}}$$
$$[\kappa \star f](g) = \sum_{h \in \textcolor{teal}{G}} \kappa(g^{-1} h) f(h)$$

Let's get formal

Let G be a group and X a G -space

Denote the space of *square-integrable functions* on X as $L^2(X)$

$$f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$f \in L^2(X) \iff \int_{x \in X} |f(x)|^2 d\mu(x) < \infty$$

e.g. μ Haar measure when $X = G$

Let's get formal

Let G be a group and X a G -space

Denote the space of *square-integrable functions* on X as $L^2(X)$

$L^2(X)$ is a *vector space* with *inner product*:

$$\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle := \int_{x \in X} f_1(x) f_2(x) d\mu(x)$$

Let's get formal

Let G be a group and X a G -space

Denote the space of square-integrable functions on X as $L^2(X)$

$L^2(X)$ carries an **action** of the group G

$$g: L^2(X) \rightarrow L^2(X), \quad f \mapsto g \cdot f$$

$$[g \cdot f](x) := f(g^{-1} x)$$

Let's get formal

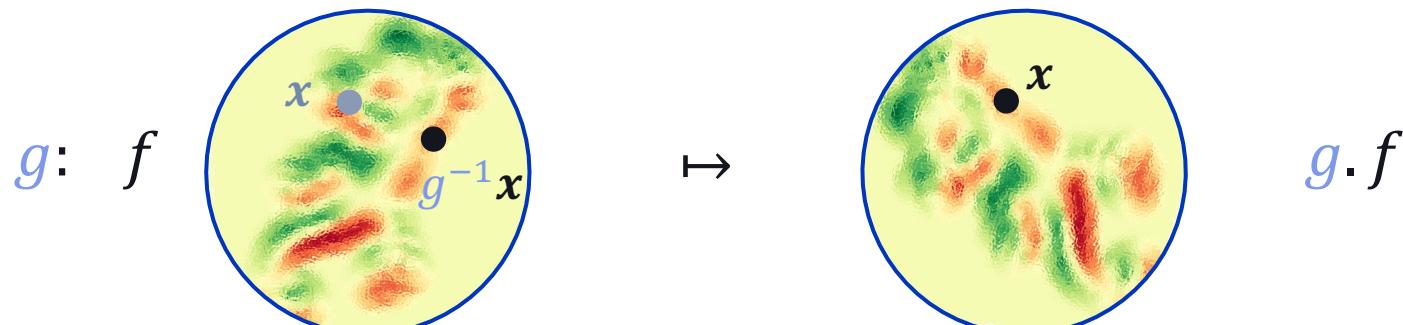
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Let's get formal

Let G be a group and X a G -space

Denote the space of square-integrable functions on X as $L^2(X)$

We can express the convolution as

$$\begin{aligned} [\kappa \star f](g) &= \int_{x \in X} \kappa(g^{-1} x) f(x) d\mu(x) \\ &= \langle g \cdot \kappa, f \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$[g \cdot \kappa](x) := \kappa(g^{-1} x)$$

Let's get formal

Let G be a group and X a G -space

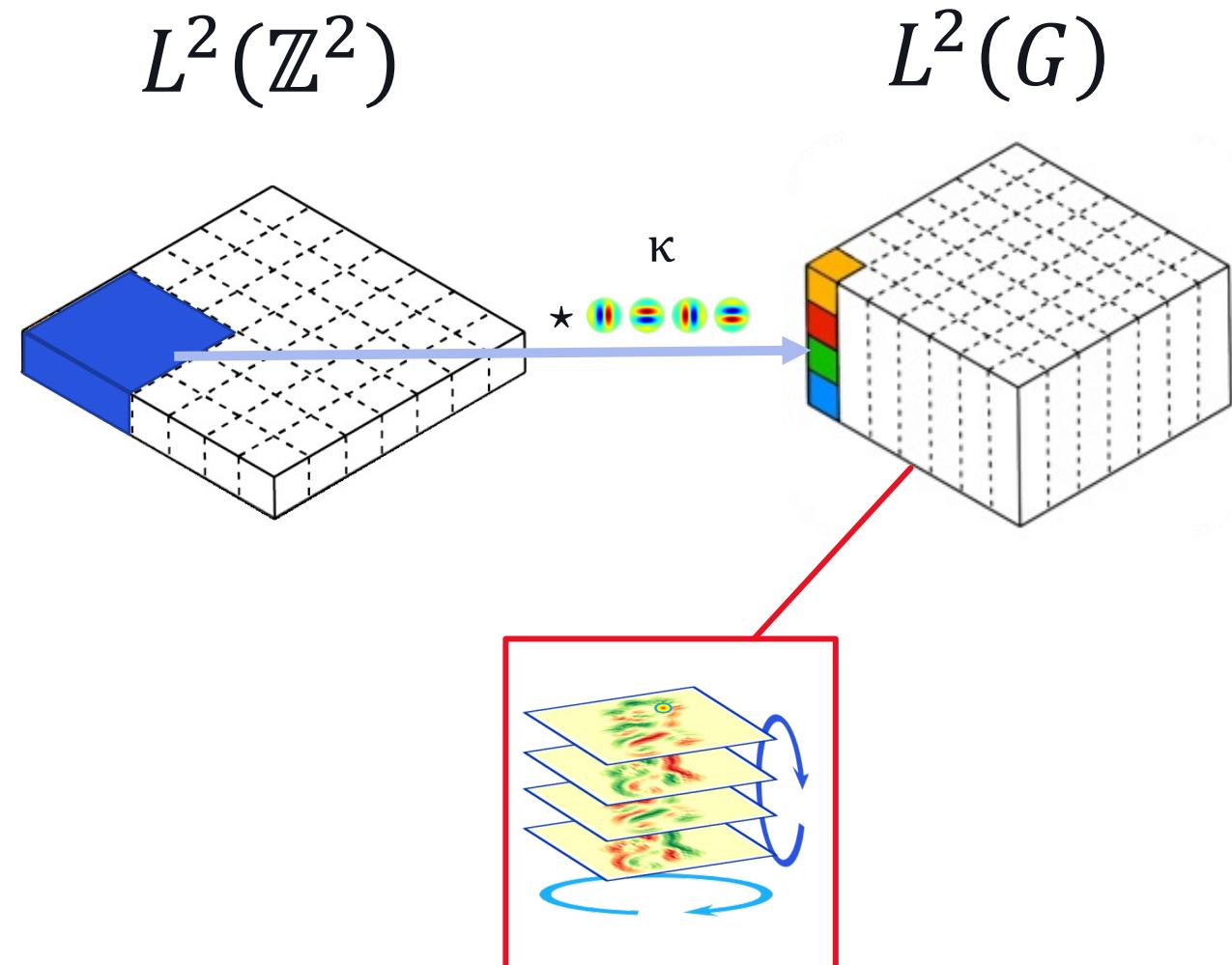
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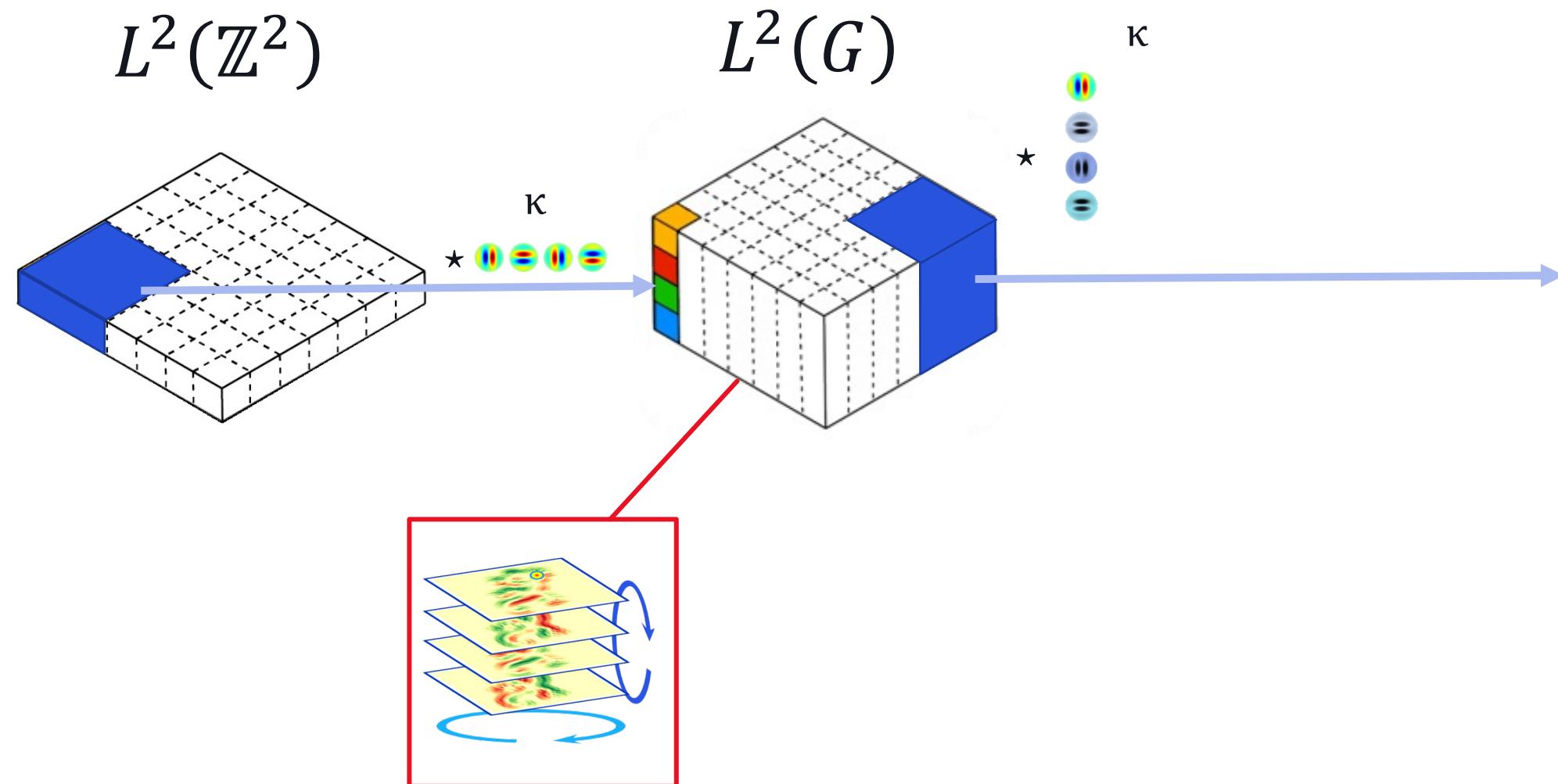
$$[\kappa \star f](g) = \int_{x \in X} \kappa(g^{-1}x) f(x) d\mu(x) = \langle g \cdot \kappa, f \rangle$$

$$[\kappa \star \cdot]: L^2(X) \rightarrow L^2(G)$$

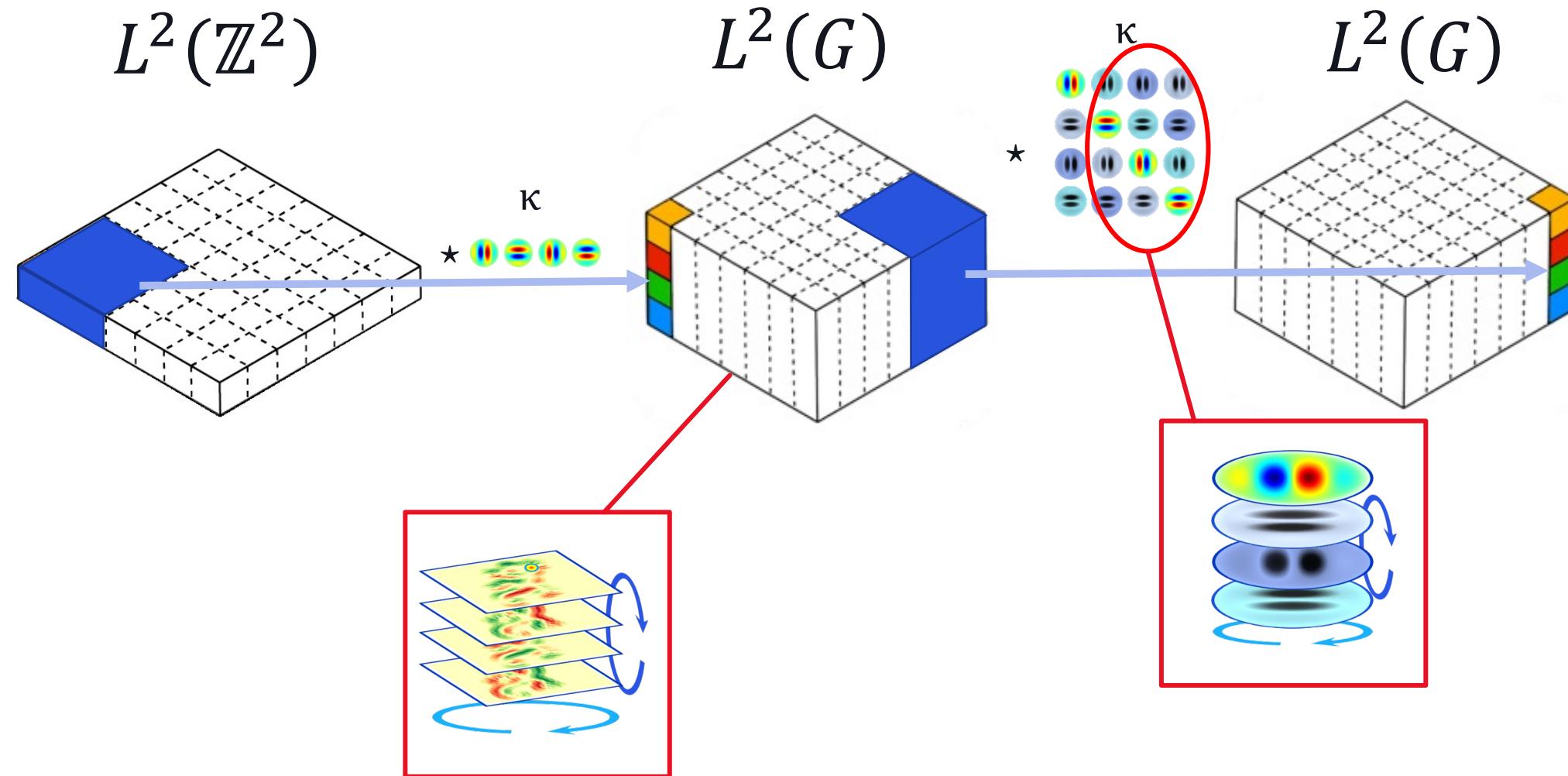
Group Convolution



Group Convolution



Group Convolution



Exercise

Show that group convolution is **equivariant**

$$g \cdot [\kappa \star f] = [\kappa \star g \cdot f]$$

Using:

$$[\kappa \star f](g) = \int_{x \in X} \kappa(g^{-1} x) f(x) d\mu(x)$$

$$[g \cdot f](x) := f(g^{-1} x)$$

Let's get formal - side note

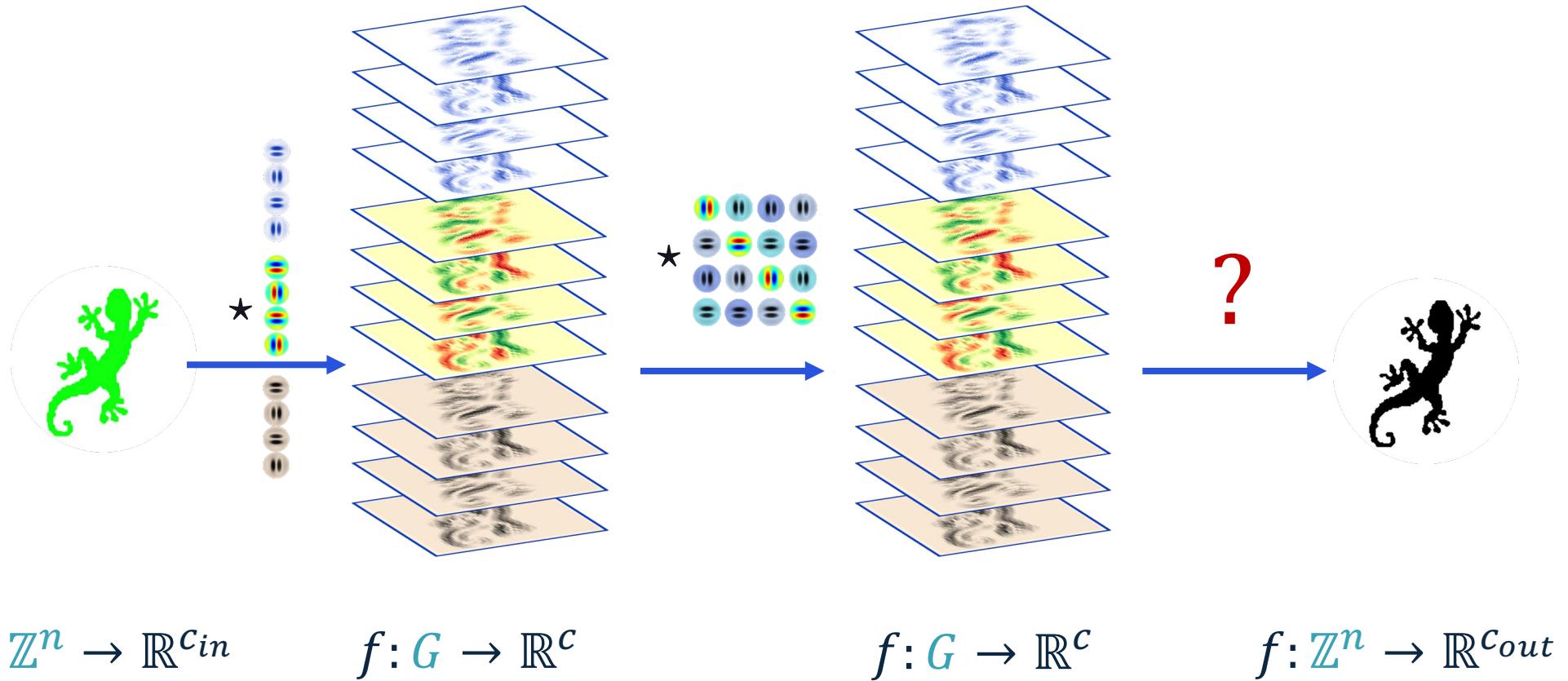
Let G be a group and V a vector space carrying an action of G

We can express the convolution as

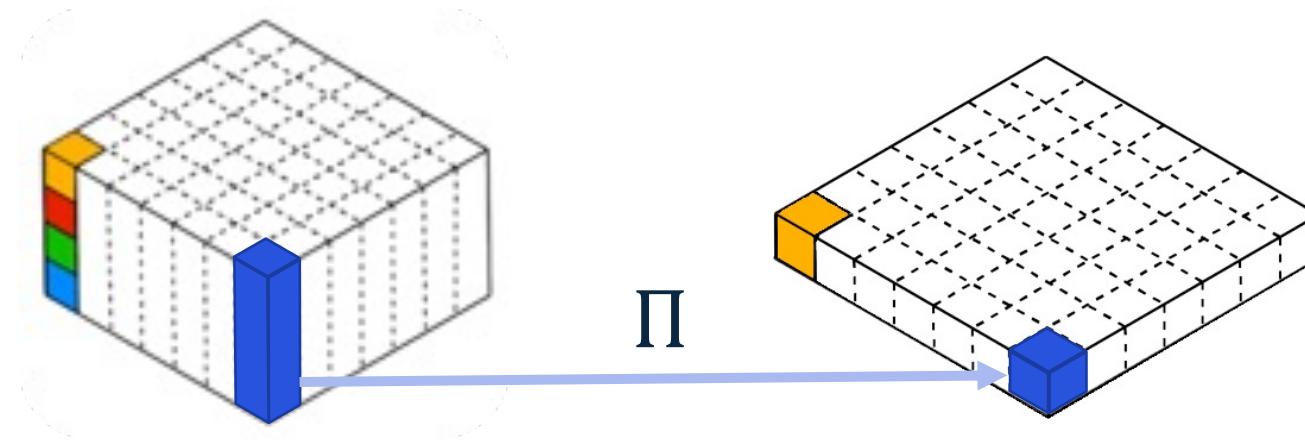
$$[\kappa * f](g) = \langle g \cdot \kappa, f \rangle$$

$$[\kappa * \cdot]: V \rightarrow L^2(G)$$

Deep Neural Network



Pooling Layer

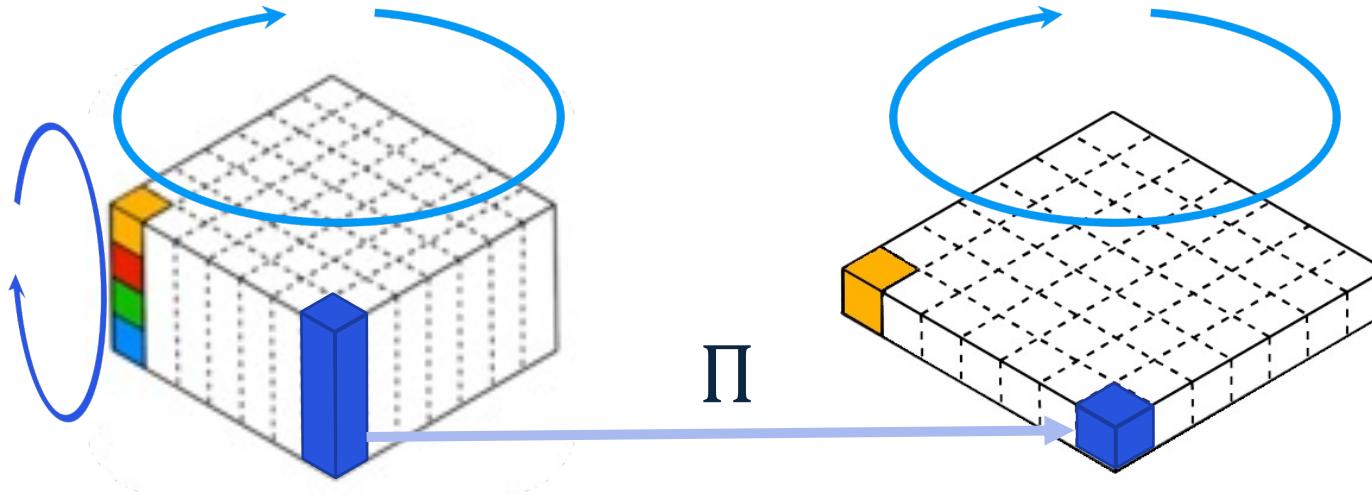


Pooling operation Π , for example

- Max pooling
- Average pooling

Is the output *rotation invariant*?

Pooling Layer

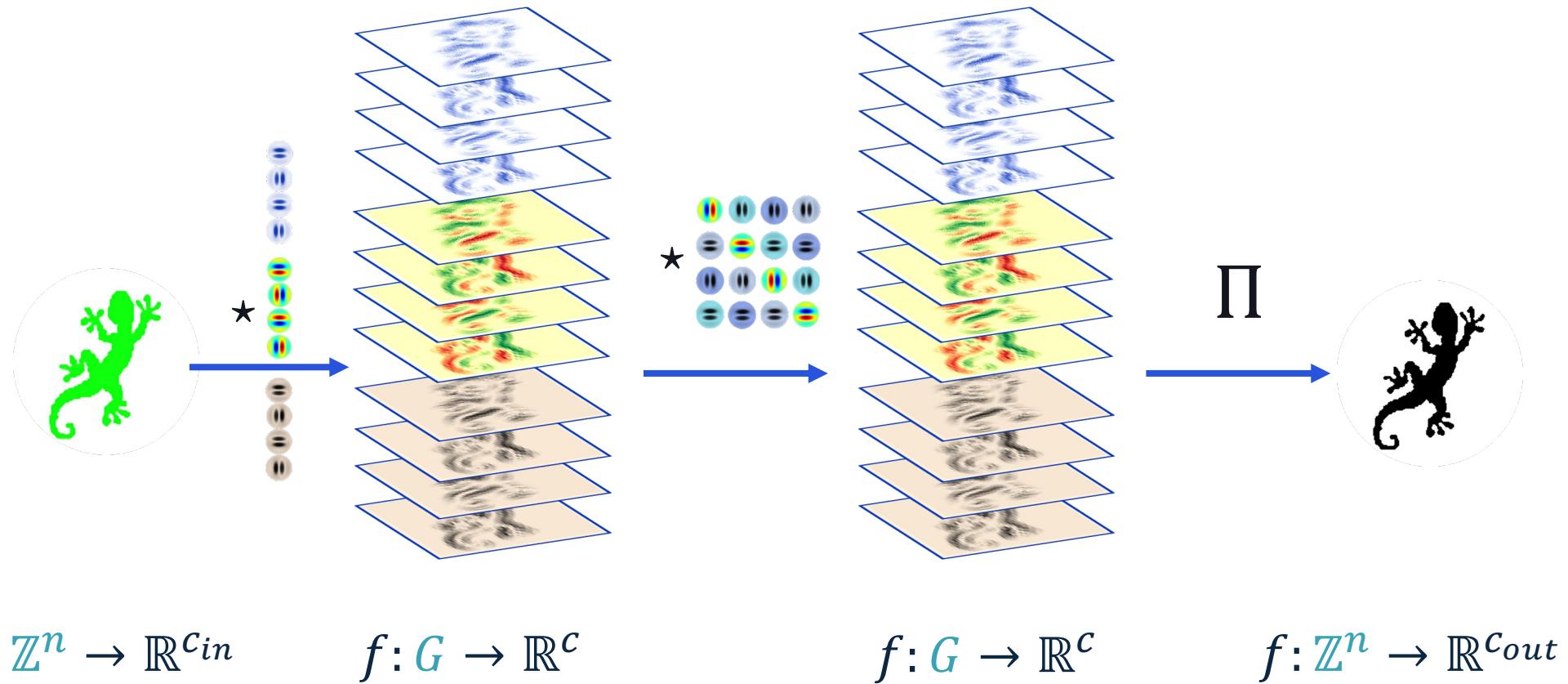


Pooling operation Π , for example

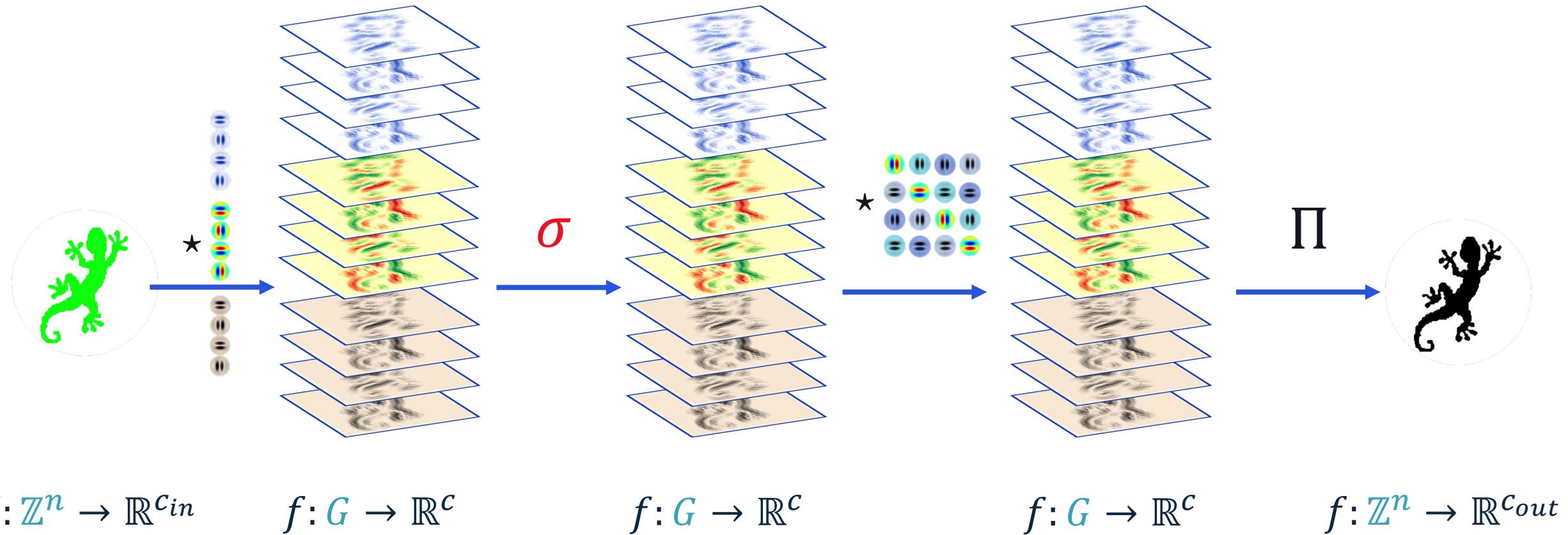
- Max pooling
- Average pooling

Is the output *rotation invariant*?

What is missing?



Activation Functions, Batch Normalization, ...

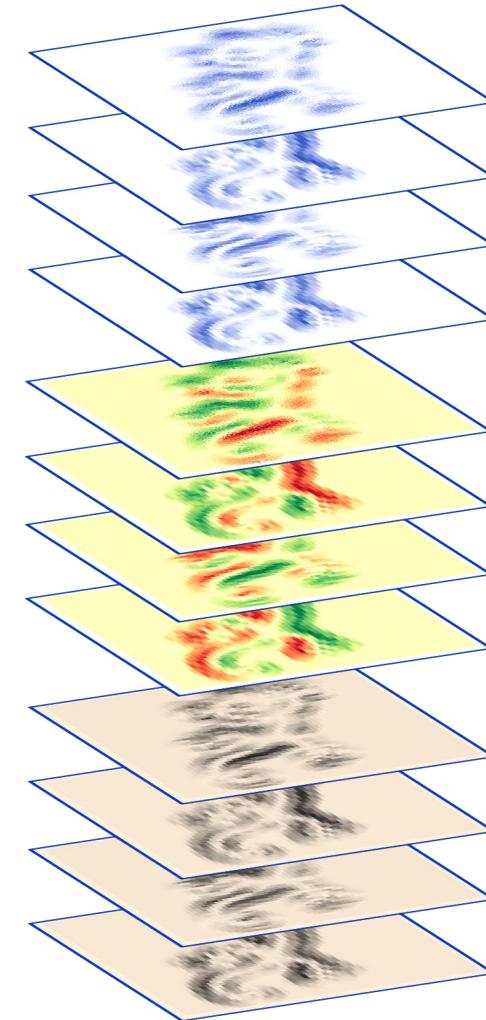


Activation Functions, Batch Normalization, ...

Treat all "group dimensions" as additional spatial dimensions

E.g. use **BatchNorm3D** instead of **BatchNorm2D** in PyTorch

Can use standard activations like ReLU



$$f: (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes C_4 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

GCNNs: Historical Notes

Convolution Neural Networks by Yann LeCun

GCNNs: Historical Notes

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Equivariant MLPs (Shawe-Taylor, 1989)

GCNNs: Historical Notes

Convolution Neural Networks by Yann LeCun

Equivariant MLPs (Shawe-Taylor, 1989)

GCNNs as introduced in the DL community by (Cohen and Welling, 2016)

Group Equivariant Convolutional Networks

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GCNNs: Historical Notes

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GCNNs as introduced in the DL community by (Cohen and Welling, 2016)

Similar ideas previously used in

- Scattering Convolution Networks by (Bruna and Mallat, 2013)

Invariant Scattering Convolution Networks

Joan Bruna and Stéphane Mallat
CMAP, Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France

J. Shawe-Taylor. Building symmetries into feedforward networks. *IEEE International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks*, 1989.

Joan Bruna and Stephane Mallat, Invariant scattering convolution networks. *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI)*, 2013.

Taco S. Cohen and Max Welling, Group Equivariant Convolutional Networks, *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2016

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- Deep Symmetry Networks by (Gens and Domingos, 2014)

Deep Symmetry Networks

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Pedro Domingos

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{rcg,pedrod}@cs.washington.edu

J. Shawe-Taylor. Building symmetries into feedforward networks. *IEEE International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks*, 1989.

Joan Bruna and Stephane Mallat, Invariant scattering convolution networks. *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI)*, 2013.

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- Deep Symmetry Networks by (Gens and Domingos, 2014)
- $p4$ GCNN by (Dieleman, De Fauw and Kavukcuoglu, 2016)

Exploiting Cyclic Symmetry in Convolutional Neural Networks

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Jeffrey De Fauw
Koray Kavukcuoglu
Google DeepMind

SEDIELEM@GOOGLE.COM
DEFAUW@GOOGLE.COM
KORAYK@GOOGLE.COM

J. Shawe-Taylor. Building symmetries into feedforward networks. *IEEE International Conference on Artificial Neural Networks, 1989.*

Joan Bruna and Stephane Mallat, Invariant scattering convolution networks. *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (TPAMI), 2013*

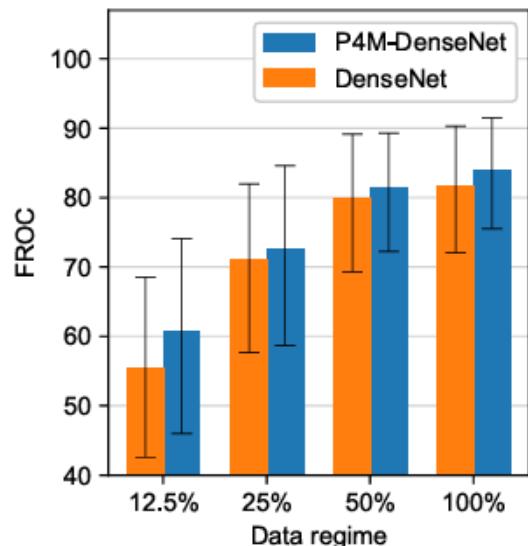
Robert Gens and Pedro M. Domingos, Deep symmetry networks. *In Advances in neural information processing systems (NIPS), 2014*

Sander Dieleman, Jeffrey De Fauw and Koray Kavukcuoglu, Exploiting Cyclic Symmetry in Convolutional Neural Networks, *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2016*

Taco S. Cohen and Max Welling, Group Equivariant Convolutional Networks, *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2016*

GCNNs: Instantiations and Applications

Medical applications of $p4 = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes C_4$ and $p4m = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes D_4$ GCNNs



Performance on Camelyon16 dataset

Source: Rotation Equivariant CNNs for Digital Pathology, S. Veeling et al., 2018

Rotation Equivariant CNNs for Digital Pathology

Bastiaan S. Veeling*, Jasper Linmans*, Jim Winkens*, Taco Cohen, and Max Welling

University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Improved Semantic Segmentation for Histopathology using Rotation Equivariant Convolutional Networks

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GCNNs: Instantiations and Applications

Equivariance to isometries of other grids:

- HexaConv: $p6 = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes C_6$ and $p6m = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes D_6$ GCNNs

HEXAConv

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Max Welling
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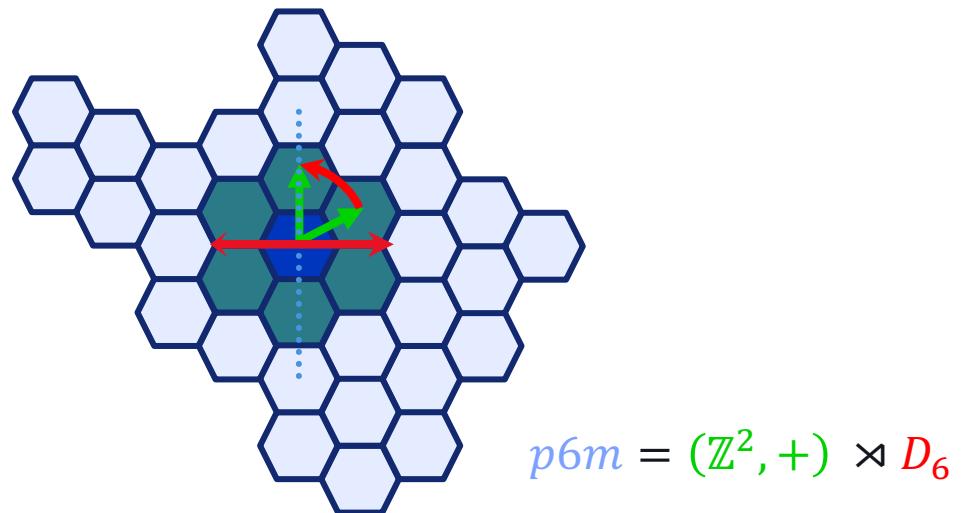
Table 1: CIFAR-10 performance comparison

Model	Error	Params
\mathbb{Z}^2	11.50 ± 0.30	338000
\mathbb{Z}^2 Axial	11.25 ± 0.24	337000
$p4$	10.08 ± 0.23	337000
$p6$ Axial	9.98 ± 0.32	336000
$p4m$	8.96 ± 0.46	337000
$p6m$ Axial	8.64 ± 0.34	337000

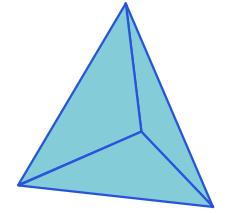
Table 2: AID performance comparison

Model	Error	Params
\mathbb{Z}^2	19.3 ± 0.34	917000
\mathbb{Z}^2 Axial	17.8 ± 0.37	916000
$p4$	10.7 ± 0.36	915000
$p6$ Axial	8.7 ± 0.72	916000
VGG (Transfer)	9.8 ± 0.50	-

Natural images (Cifar10) and satellite images (Aerial Image Dataset, AID)



GCNNs: Instantiations and Applications

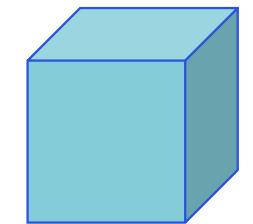


$T < O$ = 12 rotations of the tetrahedron

Equivariance to isometries of other grids:

- Cube symmetries

- CubeNet $(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes O$, $(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes T$ and $(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes D_2$



O = 24 rotations of the cube

O_h = 24 rotations + 24 reflections of the cube

$D_2 < O$ Klein group: subset of 4 rotations

$D_4 < O$ subset of 4 planar rotations and 1 out-of-plane rotation

$D_{4h} = D_4 \rtimes C_2$ is D_4 combined with 3D inversions ($\cong C_2$)

CubeNet: Equivariance to 3D Rotation and Translation

Daniel Worrall and Gabriel Brostow

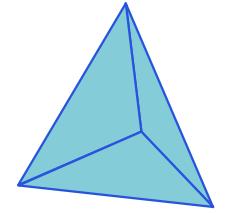
Computer Science Department, University College London, UK
{d.worrall,g.brostow}@cs.ucl.ac.uk

3D G-CNNs for Pulmonary Nodule Detection

Marysia Winkels
University of Amsterdam / Aidence
marysia@aidence.com

Taco S. Cohen
University of Amsterdam
taco.cohen@gmail.com

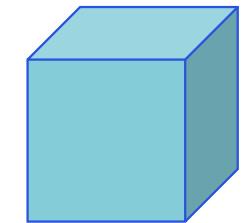
GCNNs: Instantiations and Applications



Equivariance to isometries of other grids:

- Cube symmetries

- CubeNet $(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes O$, $(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes T$ and $(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes D_2$
- 3D G-CNNs $(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes O$, $(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes O_h$



N	\mathbb{Z}^3	D_4	D_{4h}	O	O_h
30	0.252	0.398	0.382	0.562	0.514
300	0.550	0.765	0.759	0.767	0.733
3,000	0.791	0.849	0.844	0.830	0.850
30,000	0.843	0.867	0.880	0.873	0.869

FROC score at different training set sizes N for different equivariance groups

Source: (Winkels and Cohen, 2022)

$T < O$ = 12 rotations of the tetrahedron

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$D_2 < O$ Klein group: subset of 4 rotations

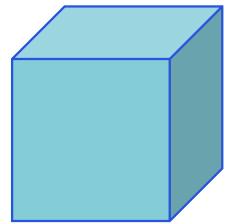
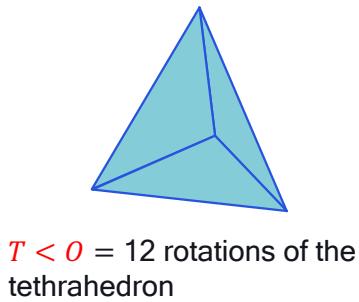
$D_4 < O$ subset of 4 planar rotations and 1 out-of-plane rotation

$D_{4h} = D_4 \rtimes C_2$ is D_4 combined with 3D inversions ($\cong C_2$)

Question: did you notice any recurring pattern?

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- *Semi-direct* product $G = (\mathbb{Z}^n, +) \rtimes H$
- Discrete rotation group H
- Euclidean grid \mathbb{Z}^n



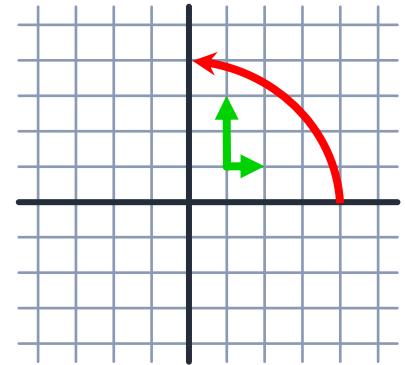
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$Oh = 24$ rotations + 24 reflections of the cube

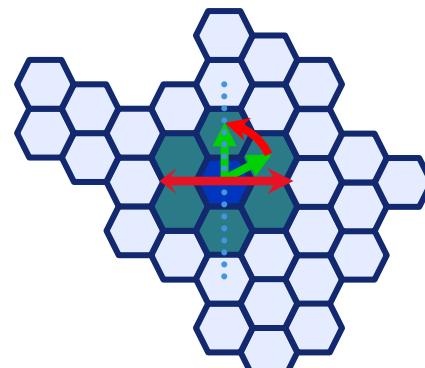
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$p4m = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes D_4$



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$(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes T, (\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes O, (\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes Oh, (\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes D_4$ and $(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes D_{4h}$

Definition: Semi-Direct product

Given two groups G and H , and an action $\psi: H \times G \rightarrow G$ of H on G , the semi-direct product $G \rtimes_{\psi} H$ is a group with

- Elements: $G \times H = \{(g, h) \mid g \in G, h \in H\}$
- binary operation $\cdot: G \rtimes H \rightarrow G \rtimes H$

$$(g_2, h_2) \cdot (g_1, h_1) = (g_2 \psi(h_2, g_1), h_2 h_1)$$

Example: $SE(2) = (\mathbb{R}^2, +) \rtimes SO(2)$

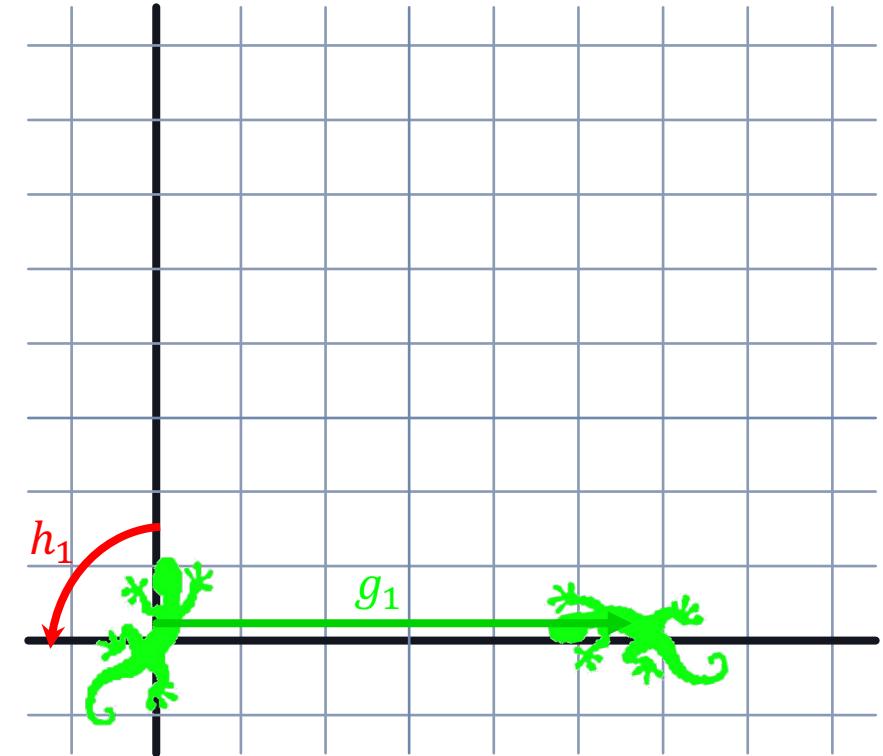
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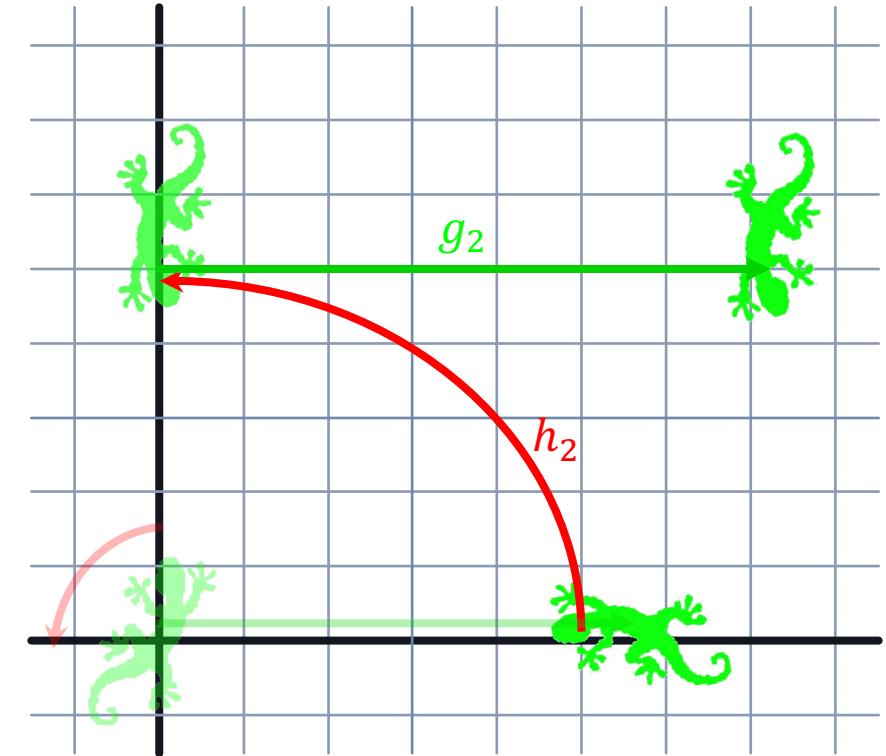
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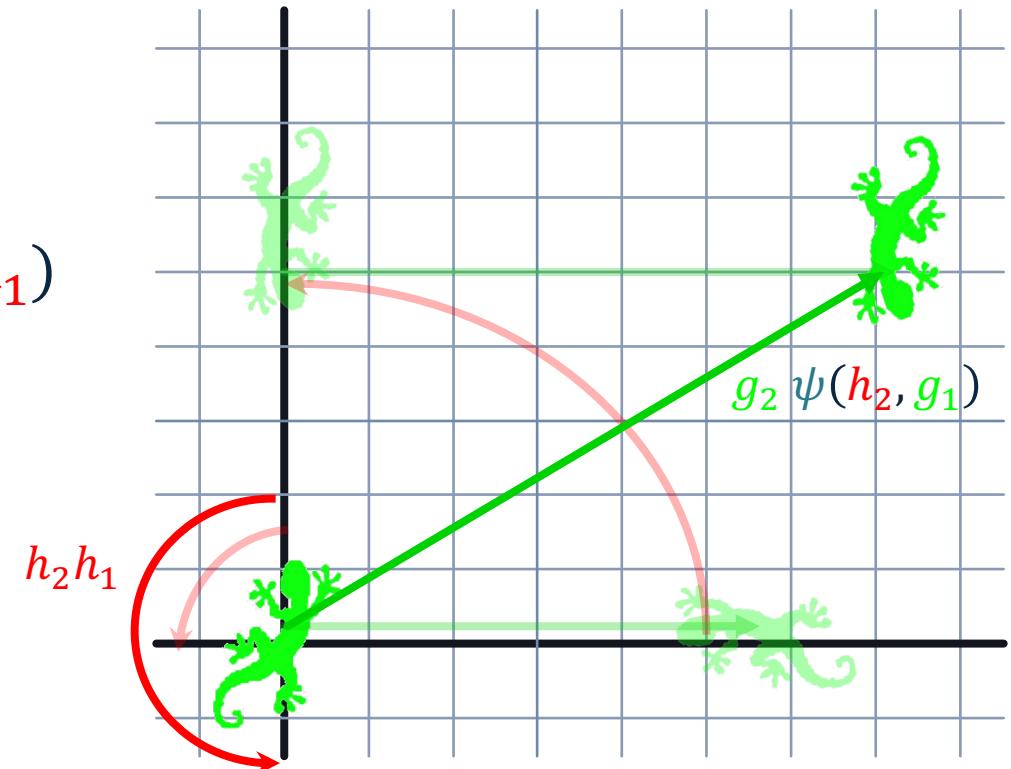
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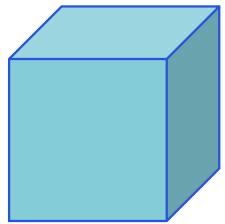
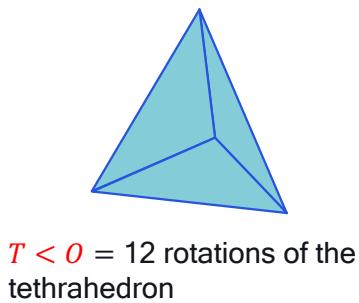
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Example: $SE(2) = (\mathbb{R}^2, +) \rtimes SO(2)$



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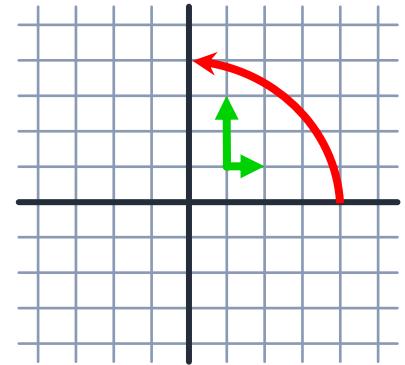
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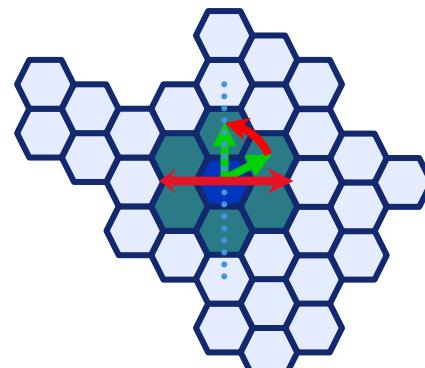
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$$(\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes T, (\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes O, (\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes O_h, (\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes D_4 \text{ and } (\mathbb{Z}^3, +) \rtimes D_{4h}$$

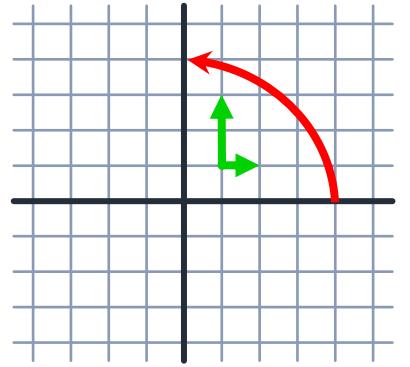
Group Convolution: Challenges

$$[\kappa \star f](g) = \int_{x \in X} \kappa(g^{-1} x) f(x) d\mu(x)$$

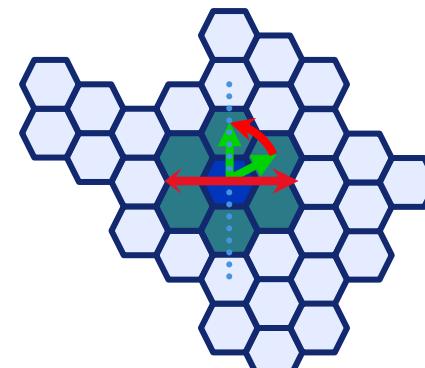
Integrate over X

Transform filter $\kappa \in L^2(X)$ by any group element $g \in G$

Parameterize features f and filters $\kappa \in L^2(X)$



$$p4m = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes D_4$$



$$p6m = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes D_6$$

Semi-Direct Product group: *lifting convolution*

- *Semi-direct* product $G = (\mathbb{Z}^n, +) \rtimes H$

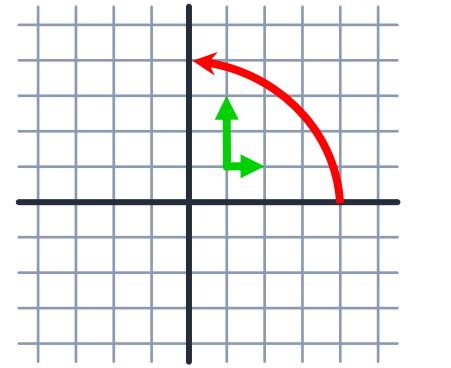
$$[\kappa \star f](\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{h}) = \sum_{x \in X = \mathbb{Z}^n} \kappa(\mathbf{h}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{t})) f(\mathbf{x})$$

Sum over discrete grid

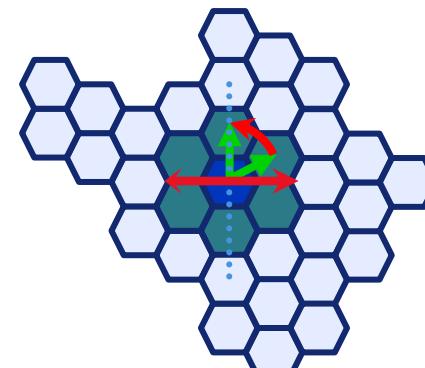
Normal convolution over \mathbb{Z}^n
with copies of filter κ
rotated only by H

Standard features f
discretized over
pixel/voxel grid

H only contains perfect symmetries of \mathbb{Z}^n



$$p4m = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes D_4$$

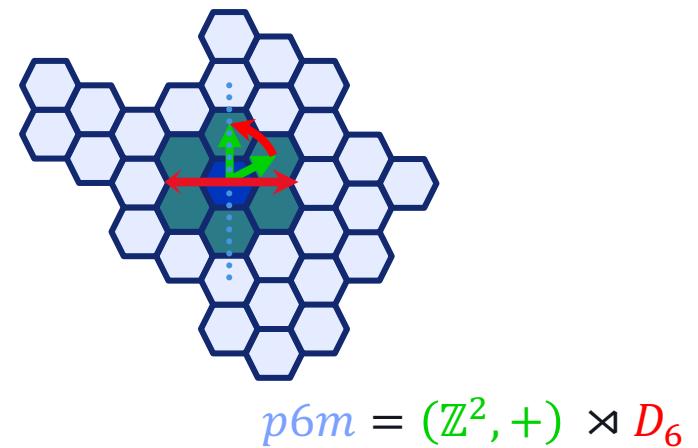
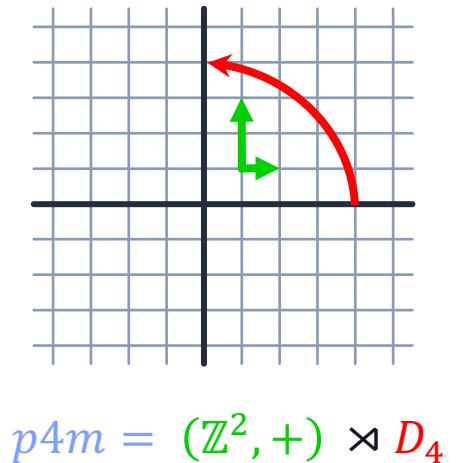
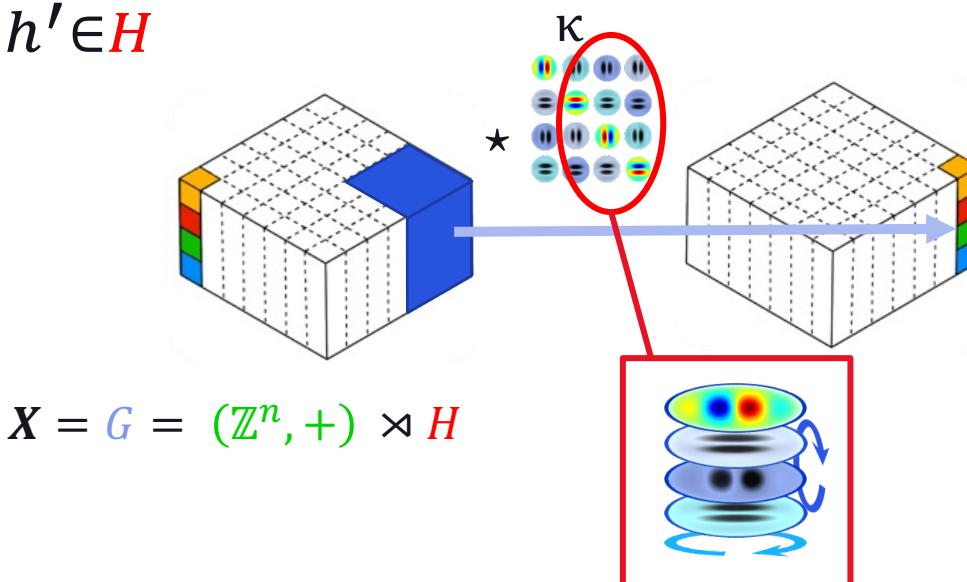


$$p6m = (\mathbb{Z}^2, +) \rtimes D_6$$

Semi-Direct Product group: *group convolution*

- *Semi-direct* product $G = (\mathbb{Z}^n, +) \rtimes H$

$$[\kappa * f](t, h) = \sum_{\substack{x \in \mathbb{Z}^n \\ h' \in H}} \kappa(h^{-1}(x - t), h^{-1}h') f(x, h')$$



Finer rotation equivariance: beyond the symmetries of \mathbb{Z}^n

Discretize $SE(2) = (\mathbb{R}^2, +) \rtimes SO(2)$ rather than using $G = (\mathbb{Z}^n, +) \rtimes H$ convolution

$$[\kappa * f](t, h) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \kappa(h^{-1}(x - t)) f(x)$$

Can use a larger discrete group

$$H = C_n \subset SO(2)$$

$$\approx \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}^2} dx$$

Rotate filters e.g. via interpolation

Finer rotation equivariance: beyond the symmetries of \mathbb{Z}^n

Discretize $SE(2) = (\mathbb{R}^2, +) \rtimes SO(2)$ rather than using $G = (\mathbb{Z}^n, +) \rtimes H$ convolution

- Learn one filter κ and rotate it via interpolation (Bekkers et al., 2018)
- Use an analytical basis to parameterize filters (Weiler et al., 2018)
 - Rotate analytical filters before sampling/discretizing them
 - Properly bandlimited basis limits discretization artifacts

Roto-Translation Covariant Convolutional Networks for Medical Image Analysis

Erik J Bekkers^{*,1}, Maxime W Lafarge^{*,2}, Mitko Veta², Koen AJ Eppenhof², Josien PW Pluim² and Remco Duits¹

Eindhoven University of Technology, ¹Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and ²Department of Biomedical Engineering, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

*Joint main authors - e.j.bekkers@tue.nl, m.w.lafarge@tue.nl

Learning Steerable Filters for Rotation Equivariant CNNs

Maurice Weiler^{1,2} Fred A. Hamprecht² Martin Storath²

¹AMLab / QUVa Lab, University of Amsterdam ²HCI/IWR, University of Heidelberg

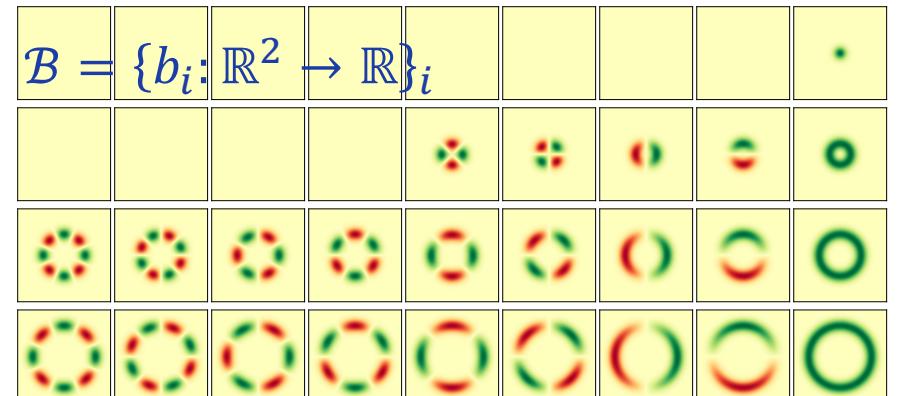
m.weiler@uva.nl {fred.hamprecht, martin.storath}@iwr.uni-heidelberg.de

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$$[\mathbf{h} \cdot \kappa](\mathbf{x}) = \kappa(\mathbf{h}^{-1}\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i w_i \mathbf{b}_i(\mathbf{h}^{-1}\mathbf{x})$$



Beyond the symmetries of \mathbb{Z}^n

Monte-Carlo approximation of the integral rather than using standard convolution

$$[\kappa * f](g) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}|} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \kappa(g^{-1}x) f(x)$$

Samples from a finite subset
 $\mathcal{G} \subset G$

$$\approx \int_{x \in X} dx$$

How can we parameterize filters?

Samples from a finite subset
 $\mathcal{X} \subset X$
(e.g. $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{G}$ in intermediate layers)

Beyond the symmetries of \mathbb{Z}^n

Monte-Carlo approximation of the integral rather than using standard convolution

$$[\kappa \star f](g) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}|} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \kappa(g^{-1}x) f(x)$$

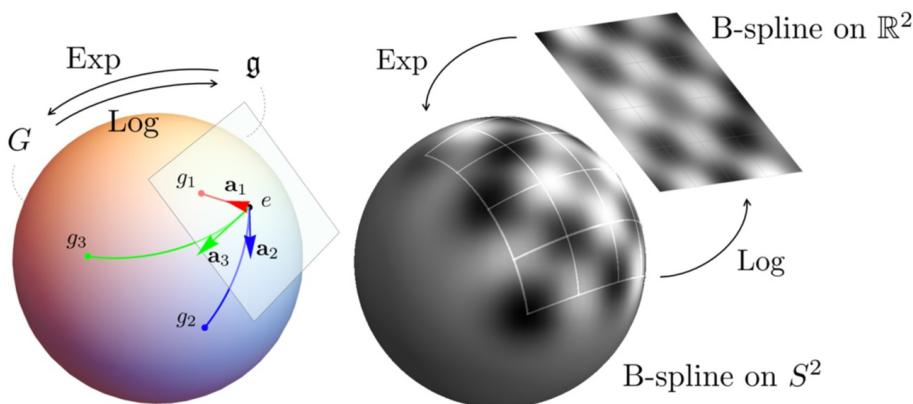


Image source: courtesy of Erik J Bekkers

Filter parameterized on tangent space of X

$$\kappa(x) = \kappa(\log x)$$

e.g. the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of the Lie group G

- MLP (Finzi et al., 2020)
- B-Spline (Bekkers, 2020)

Beyond the symmetries of \mathbb{Z}^n

Monte-Carlo approximation of the integral rather than using standard convolution

$$[\kappa \star f](g) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}|} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \kappa(g^{-1}x) f(x)$$

$\approx \int_{x \in X} dx$

↓
Samples from a finite subset
 $\mathcal{X} \subset X$

Equivariance “in expectation”

Discretization artifacts hard to control (especially with MLP filters)

Beyond the symmetries of \mathbb{Z}^n : Spherical CNNs (Cohen et al., 2018)

Spherical signals in $L^2(\mathcal{S}^2)$ and $G = SO(3)$ equivariance

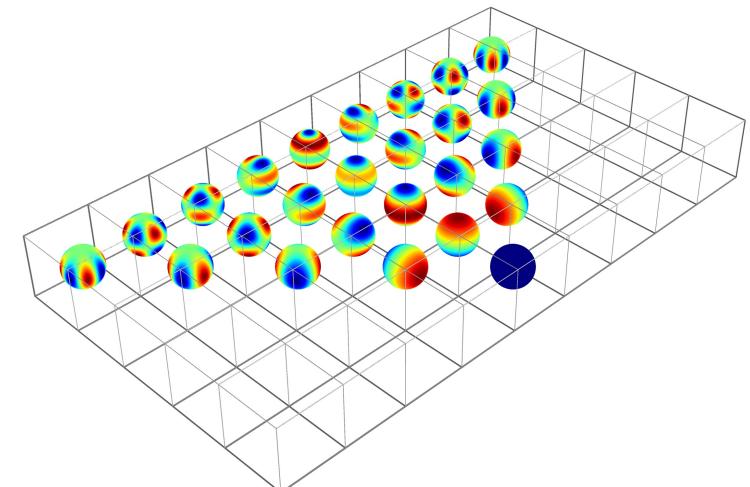
Leverage ***Fourier Transform*** to

- Parameterize signals over $X = S^2$ and $X = SO(3)$
 - Filters and features defined by weights which linearly combine analytical (Fourier) basis for $L^2(X)$
- Efficiently perform convolution (*Fast Fourier Transform* and *Convolution Theorem*)

Discretization via Inverse FT to sample features and apply activation function σ

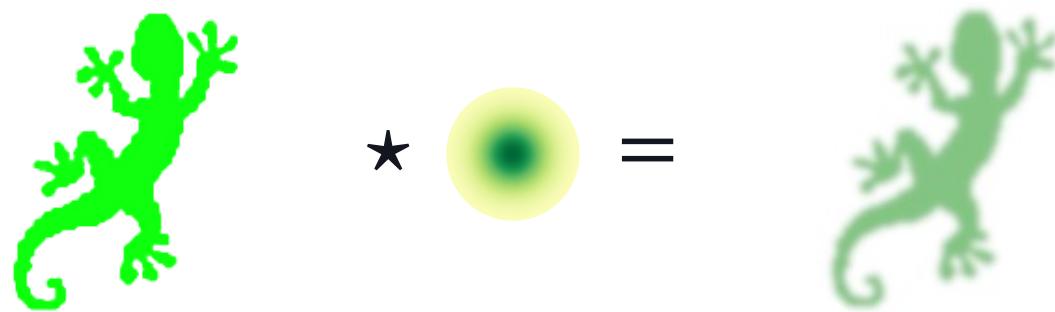
We will hear more about Fourier Transform over groups in the next lecture

$$[\mathbf{h} \cdot \kappa](\mathbf{x}) = \kappa(\mathbf{h}^{-1}\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i w_i \mathbf{b}_i(\mathbf{h}^{-1}\mathbf{x})$$

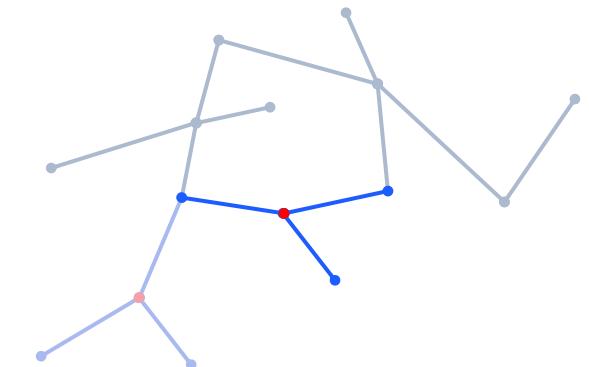


Isotropic Filters

- Isotropic filters: the response does not change when rotated



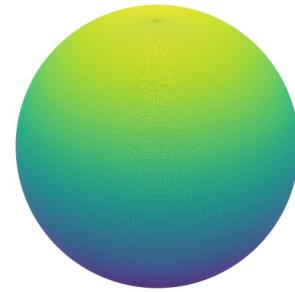
- Not very expressive
- Analogous to Graph Message Passing: no directional dependence!



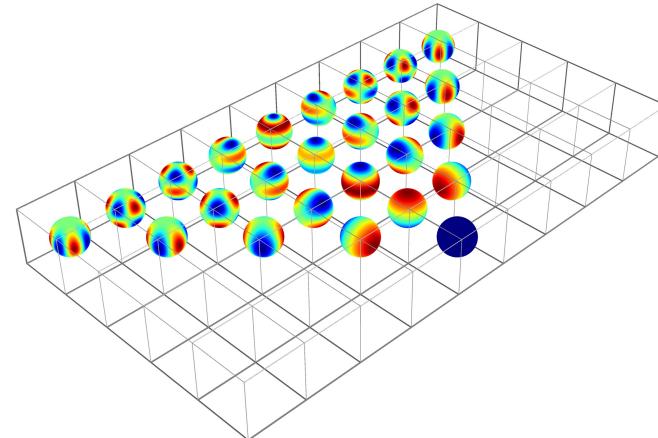
Spherical CNNs with Isotropic Filters (Esteves et al., 2018)

Isotropic filters parameterize convolution $L^2(S^2) \rightarrow L^2(S^2)$

Rather than convolution $L^2(S^2) \rightarrow L^2(SO(3))$



vs



Trades off expressivity for efficiency

Is Group Convolution all we need?

We have seen that Group Convolution provides an **equivariant linear map**

$$[\kappa \star \cdot]: L^2(X) \rightarrow L^2(G)$$

Are there any other such maps?

Group Convolution is all you need

We have seen that Group Convolution provides an **equivariant linear map**

$$[\kappa \star \cdot]: L^2(X) \rightarrow L^2(G)$$

Group-CNNs are *universal approximators* for equivariant functions

Siamak Ravanbakhsh. Universal Equivariant Multilayer Perceptrons. *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2020.

Haggai Maron, Ethan Fetaya, Nimrod Segol, and Yaron Lipman. On the Universality of Invariant Networks. *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2019

Wataru Kumagai and Akiyoshi Sannai. Universal Approximation Theorem for Equivariant Maps by Group CNNs, 2020

Sho Sonoda, Isao Ishikawa, and Masahiro Ikeda. Universality of group convolutional neural networks based on ridgelet analysis on groups. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2022

Group Convolution is all you need

We have seen that Group Convolution provides an **equivariant linear map**

$$[\kappa \star \cdot]: L^2(X) \rightarrow L^2(G)$$

Any equivariant linear map of this form is a **convolution!** (typically, under some minor conditions)

- For any **compact** group G (Kondor and Trivedi, 2018), (Cohen et al., 20120)
- For any **Lie** group (Bekker, 2020)
- Unimodular Lie groups (Aronsson, 2022)

Risi Kondor and Shubhendu Trivedi. On the generalization of equivariance and convolution in neural networks to the action of compact groups. *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2018.*

Taco S. Cohen, Mario Geiger, and Maurice Weiler. A general theory of equivariant CNNs on homogeneous spaces. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2019*
Erik J Bekkers. B-spline CNNs on Lie groups. *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2020.*

Jimmy Aronsson. Homogeneous vector bundles and G-equivariant convolutional neural networks. *Sampling Theory, Signal Processing, and Data Analysis, 2022*

Thank you

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