

Scalable equivariance

with Geometric Algebra Transformers

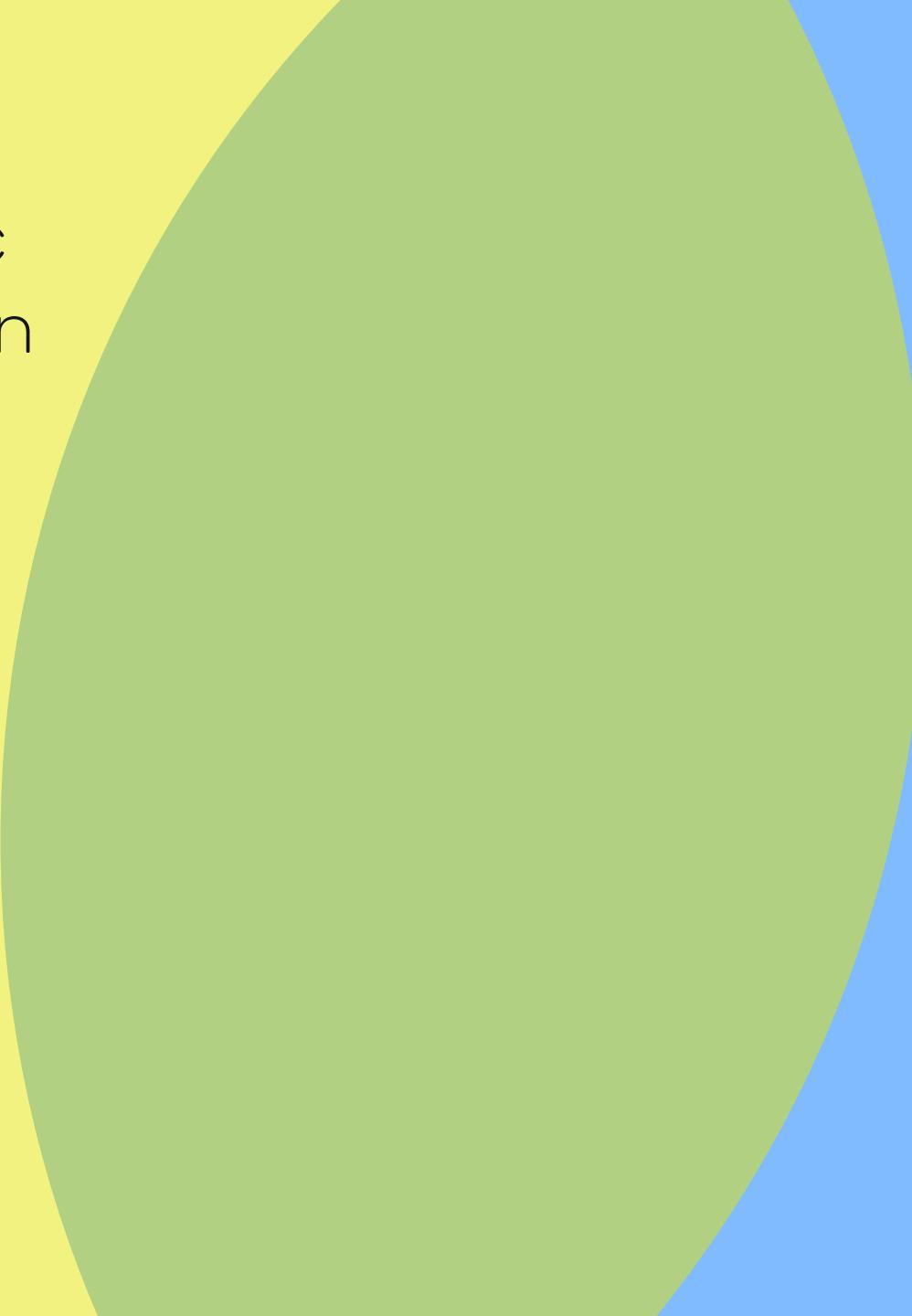
Johann Brehmer
Qualcomm AI Research

Structure:

Problem-specific
inductive biases in
algorithms and
architectures

Scale:

Flexible
architectures,
lots of data,
lots of compute



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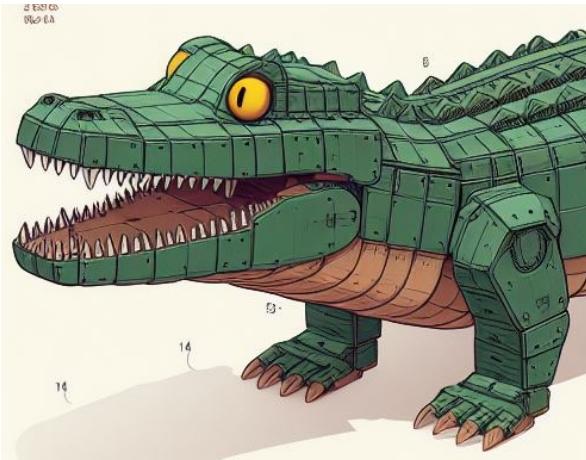
Problem-specific
inductive biases in
algorithms and
architectures

Geometric Algebra Transformer:

Our version of a
versatile architecture
for geometric
problems

Scale:

Flexible
architectures,
lots of data,
lots of compute



GATr 101
How to build an
equivariant Transformer



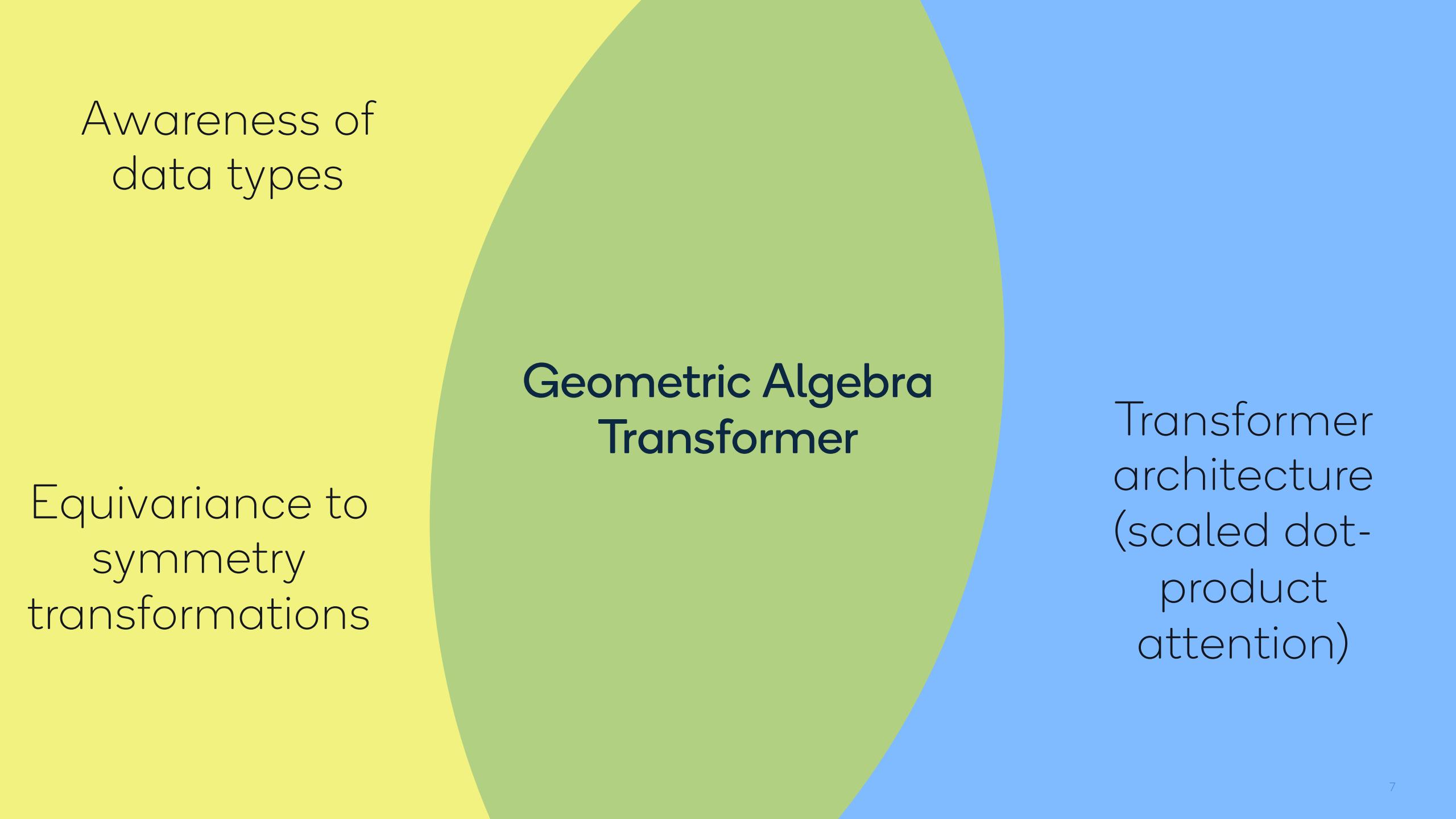
Euclidean GATr
Applications far below
the speed of light



Lorentz-GATr
for particle physics

GATr 101





Awareness of
data types

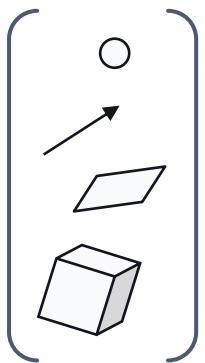
Geometric Algebra Transformer

Transformer
architecture
(scaled dot-
product
attention)

Equivariance to
symmetry
transformations

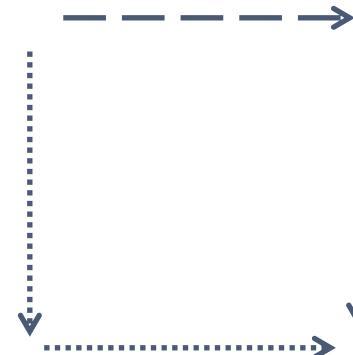
**Geometric Algebra
Transformer**

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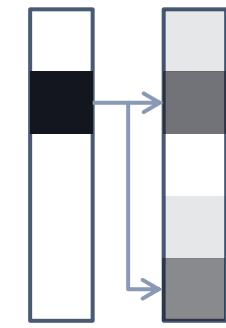
**Geometric algebra
representations**

+



**Equivariant
layers**

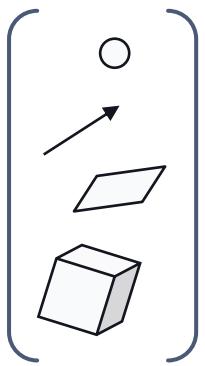
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**Transformer
architecture**

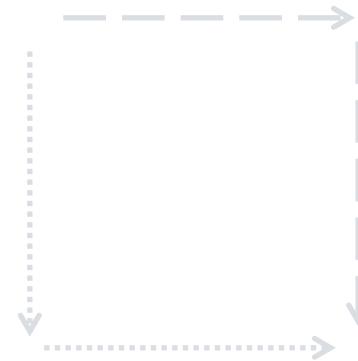
Geometric Algebra
Transformer

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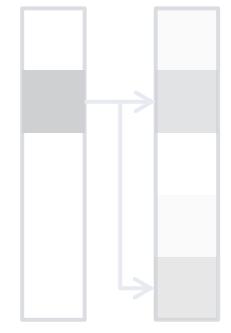
Geometric algebra
representations

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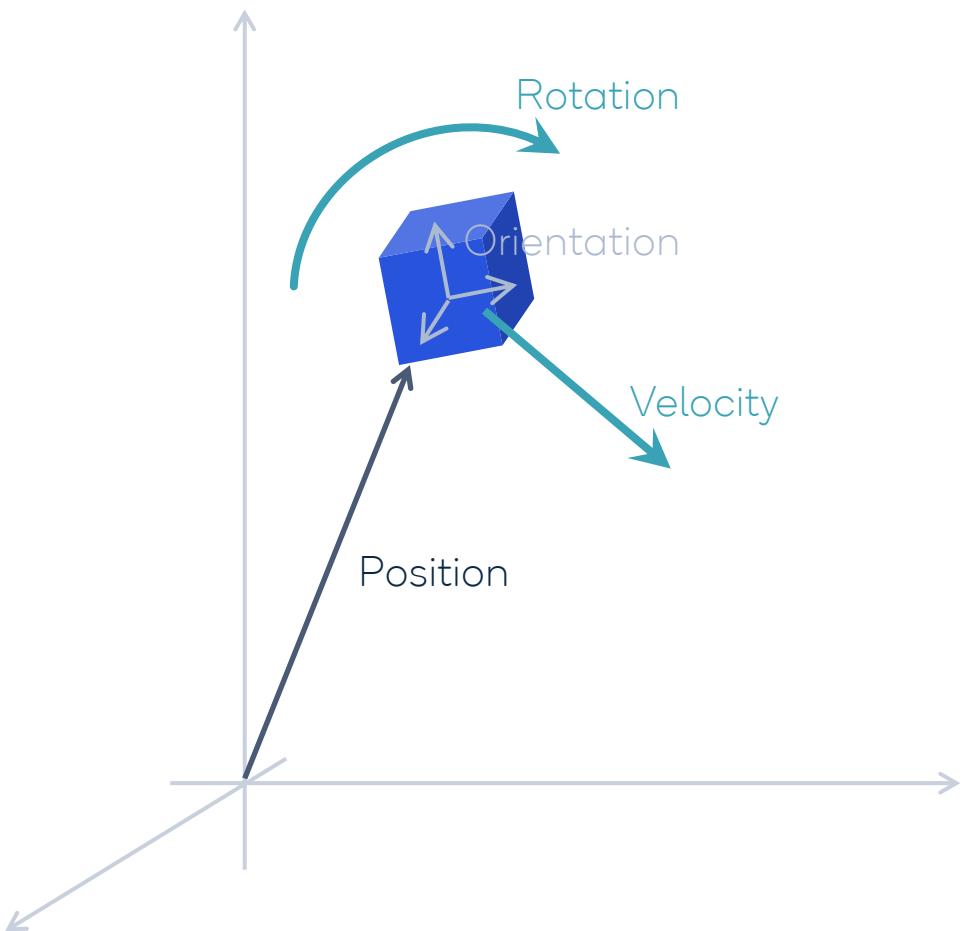
Equivariant
layers

+



Transformer
architecture

Representing geometric data



How do you parameterize such a 3D object?

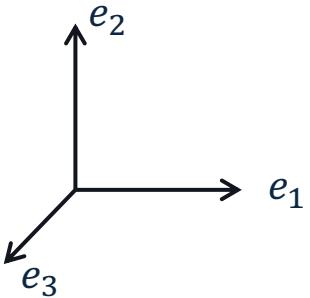
- Most deep learning: 14 numbers
- Previous **geometric deep learning**:
e.g. 2 vectors, 2 rotation matrices
- **GATr**: 1 position, 3 directions, 1 translation, 1 rotation

Why use different types?

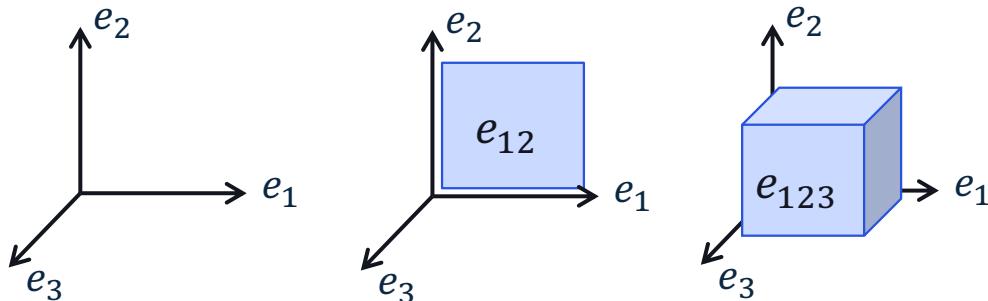
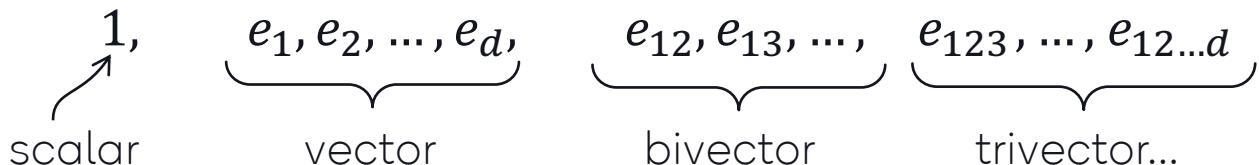
- Types have different **common patterns**
(compute distances between positions, but not between direction vectors)
- Types differ in behaviour under **transformations**
- Types provide an inductive bias, potentially improving **sample efficiency** and **generalization**

Geometric algebra

- Vector space V with d dimensions and inner products
 - Basis e_1, e_2, \dots, e_d



- Geometric algebra $\mathcal{G}(V)$ has 2^d dimensions, basis



- Geometric product $\mathcal{G}(V) \times \mathcal{G}(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{G}(V)$
 - Generalizes dot product and cross product



Graßmann



Clifford

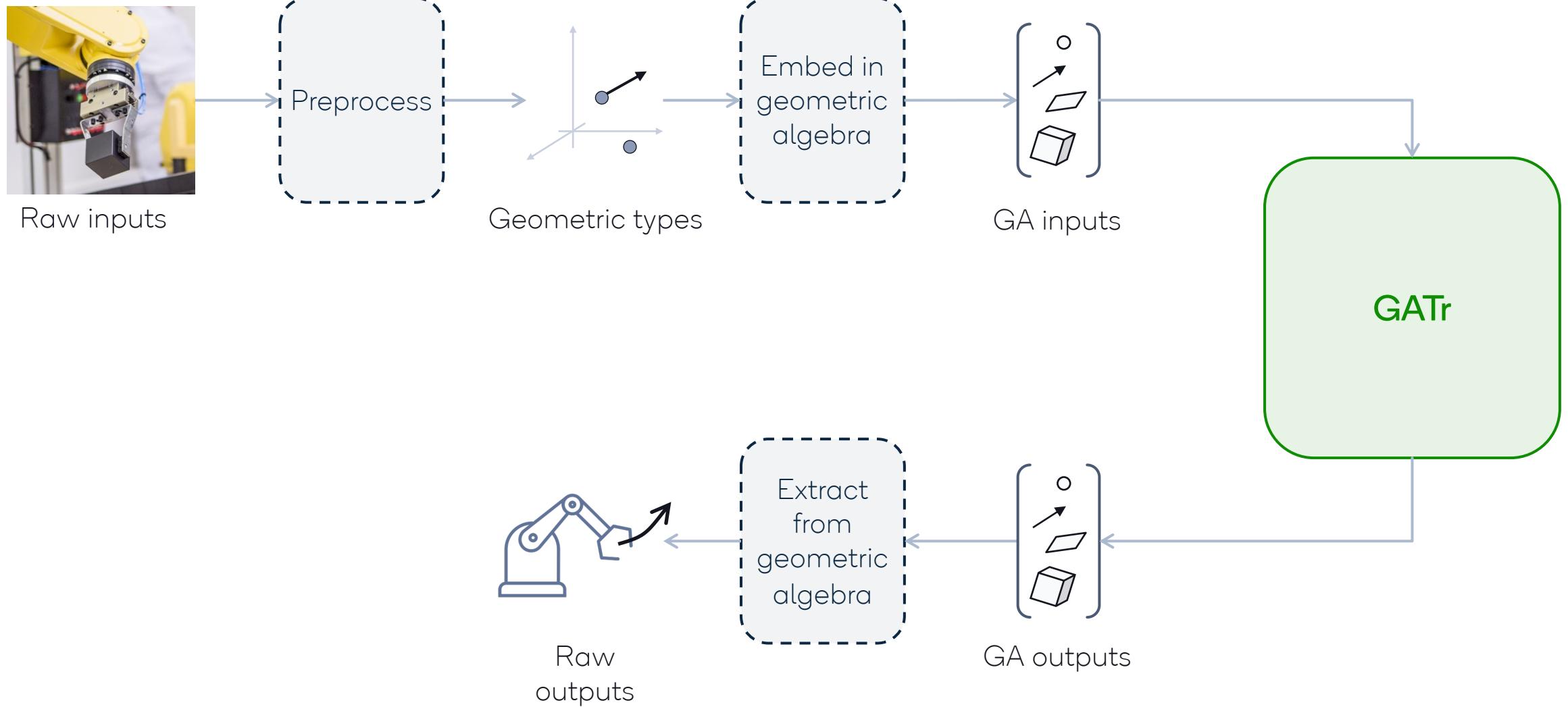
Projective GA as representation for ML

- We use GA representations in addition to the usual unstructured vector space
- Offers **$16n$ -dimensional representation** of 3D geometric data
 - “**Typing**”: a point is not a direction of movement is not the orientation of a plane
 - Established embeddings for **3D primitives and transformations**

Object / operator	Scalar	Vector	Bivector	Trivector	PS			
	1	e_0	e_i	e_{0i}	e_{ij}	e_{0ij}	e_{123}	e_{0123}
Scalar $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$	λ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plane w/ normal $n \in \mathbb{R}^3$, origin shift $d \in \mathbb{R}$	0	d	n	0	0	0	0	0
Line w/ direction $n \in \mathbb{R}^3$, orthogonal shift $s \in \mathbb{R}^3$	0	0	0	s	n	0	0	0
Point $p \in \mathbb{R}^3$	0	0	0	0	0	p	1	0
Pseudoscalar $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	μ
Reflection through plane w/ normal $n \in \mathbb{R}^3$, origin shift $d \in \mathbb{R}$	0	d	n	0	0	0	0	0
Translation $t \in \mathbb{R}^3$	1	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}t$	0	0	0	0
Rotation expressed as quaternion $q \in \mathbb{R}^4$	q_0	0	0	0	q_i	0	0	0
Point reflection through $p \in \mathbb{R}^3$	0	0	0	0	0	p	1	0

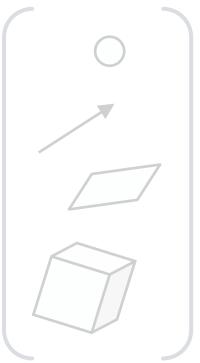
- Geometric product: **canonical operation** on these representations

GA representations in practice



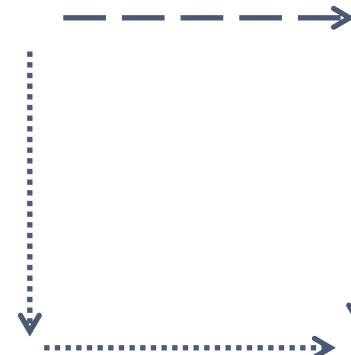
Geometric Algebra
Transformer

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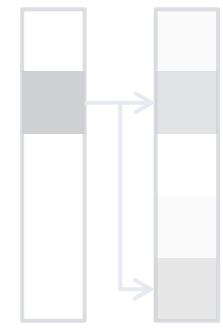
Geometric algebra
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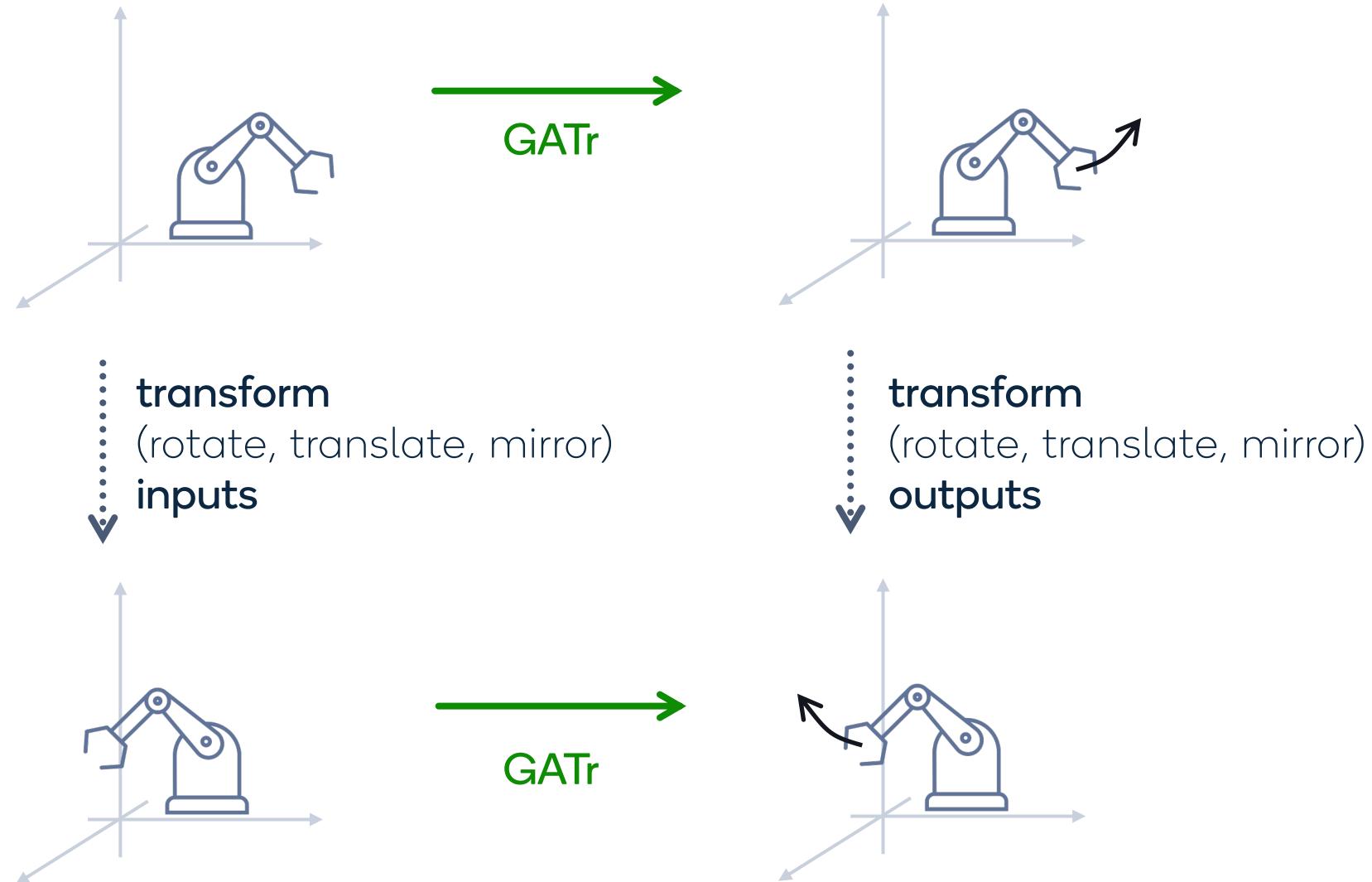
Equivariant
layers

+



Transformer
architecture

$E(3)$ equivariance



GATr: built out of new **E(3)-equivariant layers** between GAs

- We theoretically characterize how equivariance constrains **linear layers**:

Proposition 1. Any linear map $\phi : \mathbb{G}_{d,0,1} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_{d,0,1}$ that is equivariant to $\text{Pin}(d, 0, 1)$ is of the form

$$\phi(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{d+1} w_k \langle x \rangle_k + \sum_{k=0}^d v_k e_0 \langle x \rangle_k \quad (4)$$

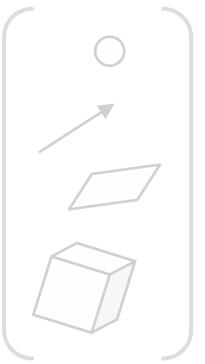
for parameters $w \in \mathbb{R}^{d+2}, v \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$. Here $\langle x \rangle_k$ is the blade projection of a multivector, which sets all non-grade- k elements to zero.

essentially E(d)

- Plus: equivariant attention, nonlinearities, normalization...

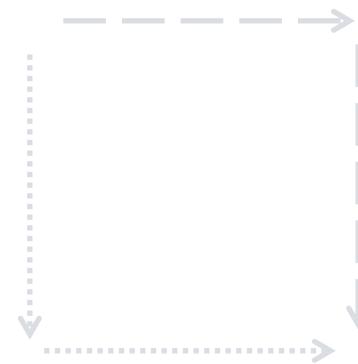
Geometric Algebra
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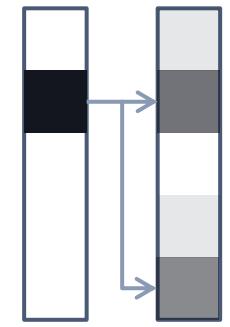
Geometric algebra
representations

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Equivariant
layers

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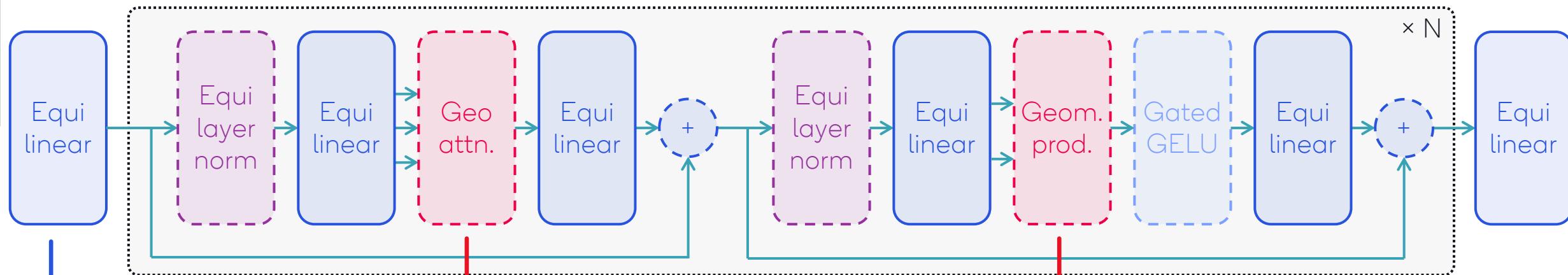
Transformer
architecture

Input and output data

can have one or
multiple token
dimensions

Attention blocks

can be stacked to large depth,
gradients are propagated
efficiently



Linear layers
between GA
representations with
equivariance constraint

Geometric attention
generalizes scaled dot-
product attention

Geometric product
allow for construction
of new geometric types

GATr is powered by **dot-product attention**

Message-passing neural networks

$$m_{i \rightarrow j} = \Phi(x_i, x_j, e_{ij})$$

$$x'_j = \Psi\left(x_j, \sum_i m_{i \rightarrow j}\right)$$

GATr (and other transformers)

$$V_i, K_i, Q_i = \Phi(x_i)$$

$$x' = \sigma\left(QK^T / \sqrt{d}\right)V$$

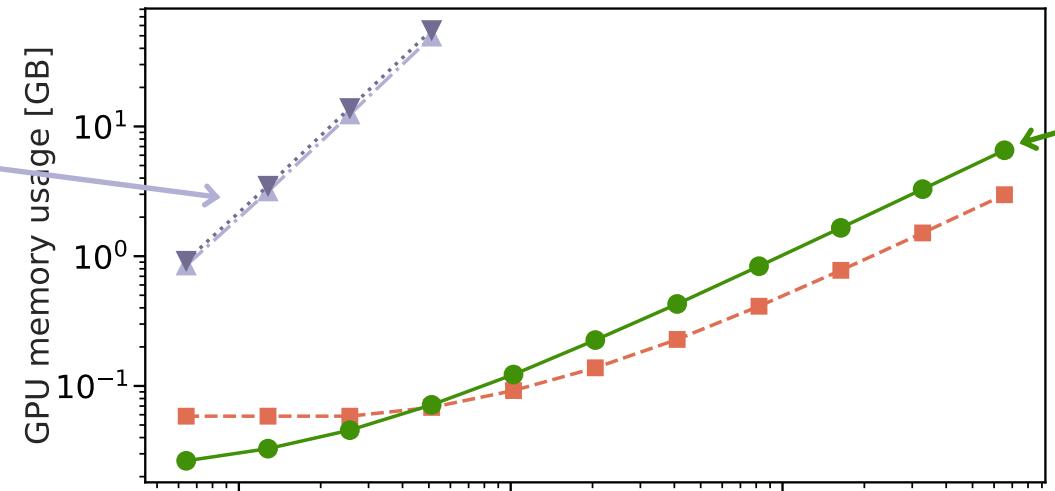
- Node and edge representations
- (Equivariant) network on each edge

- Only node representations
- Dot-product per edge,
with highly optimized implementations
(e.g. flash attention)

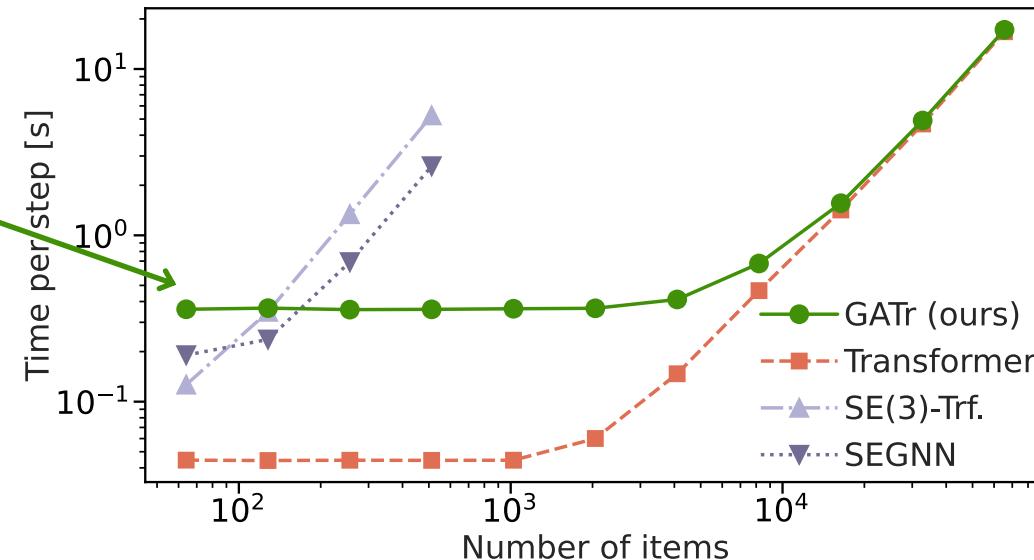
Transformers have same theoretical complexity, but dramatically more efficient in practice

GATr is more scalable than GDL baselines

Heavily optimized
Nvidia implementation
of a classic GDL
baseline



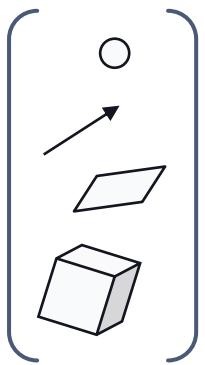
Overhead in small
problems, but still
room for optimization



GATr (with flash
attention) scales like a
transformer, to 10ks
tokens!

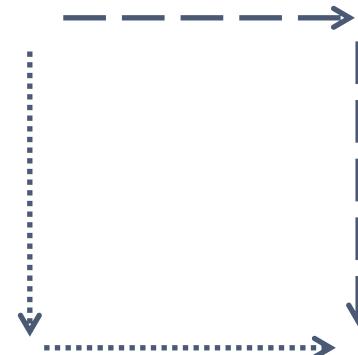
**Geometric Algebra
Transformer**

=



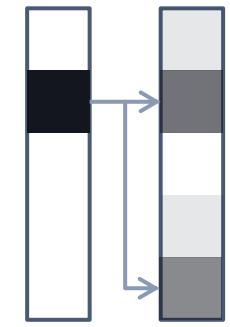
**Geometric algebra
representations**

+



**Equivariant
layers**

+

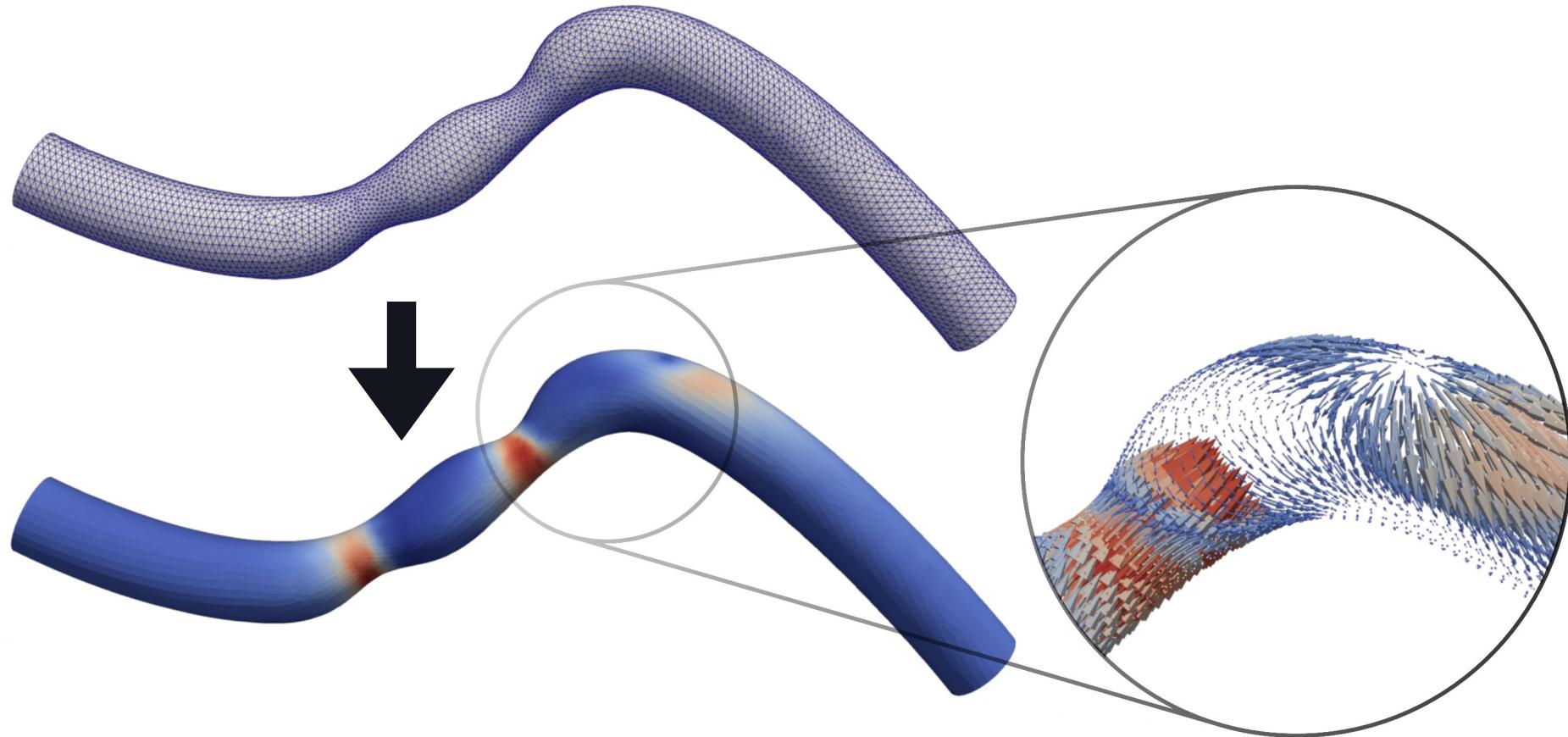


**Transformer
architecture**

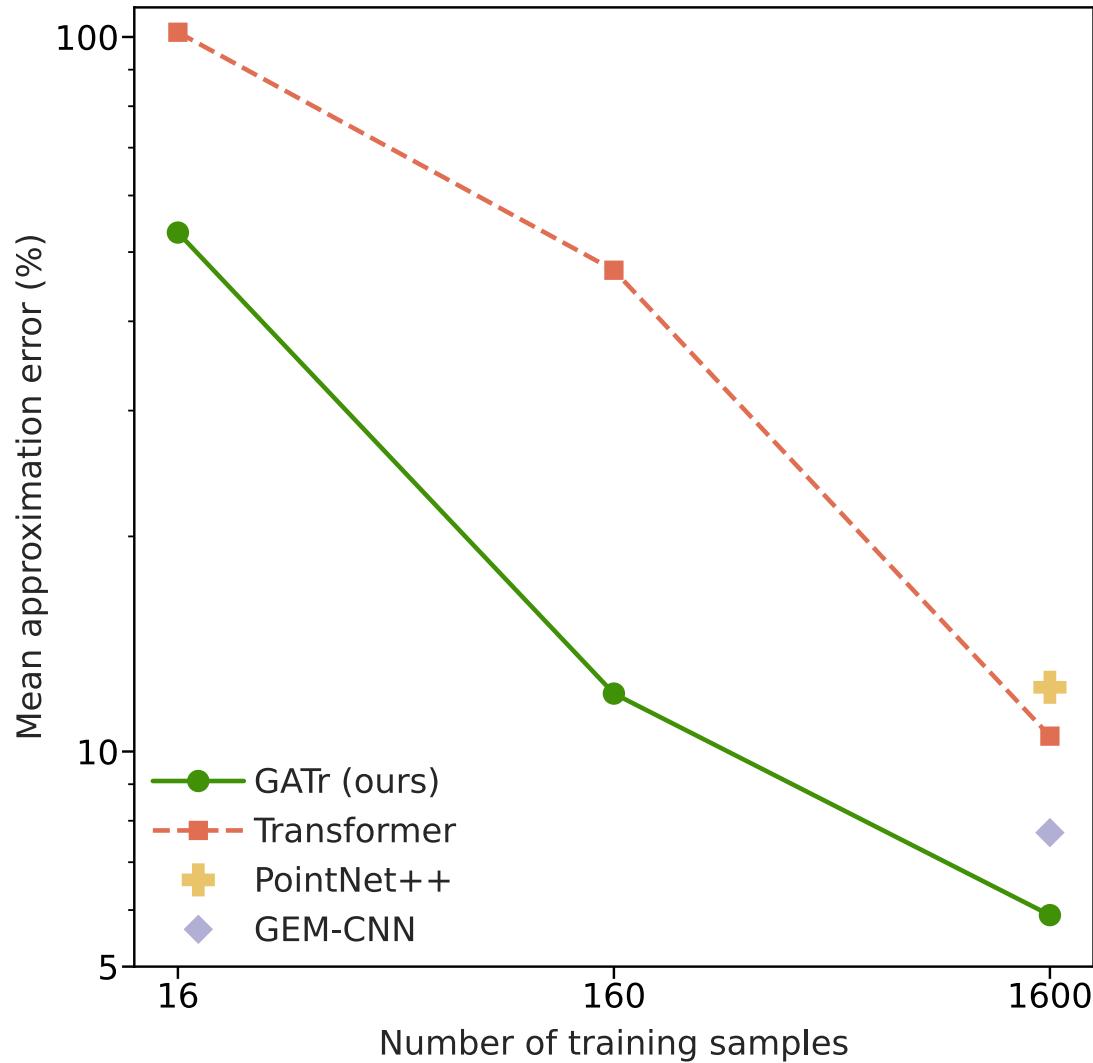
Euclidean GATr



Arterial wall-shear stress estimation with 7k tokens

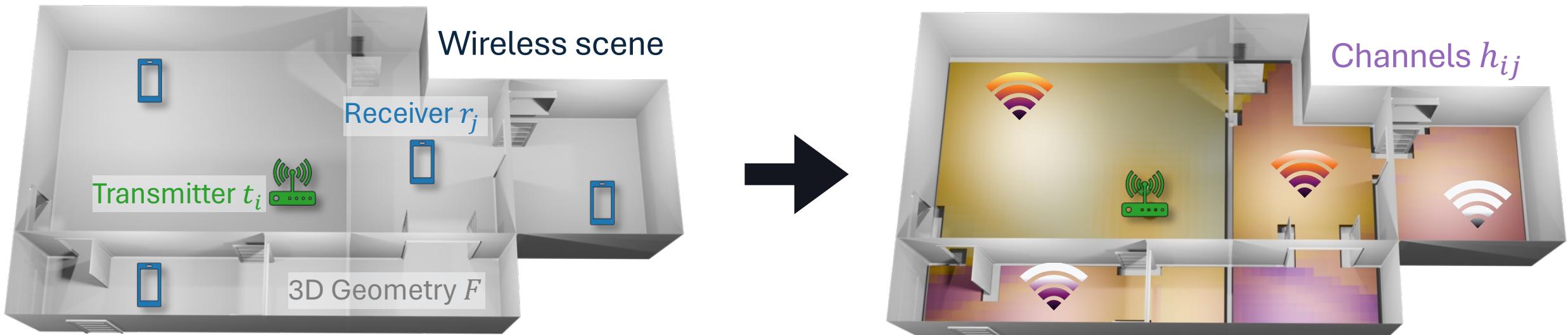


Arterial wall-shear stress estimation with 7k tokens



GATr works well on low-data,
high-complexity problems

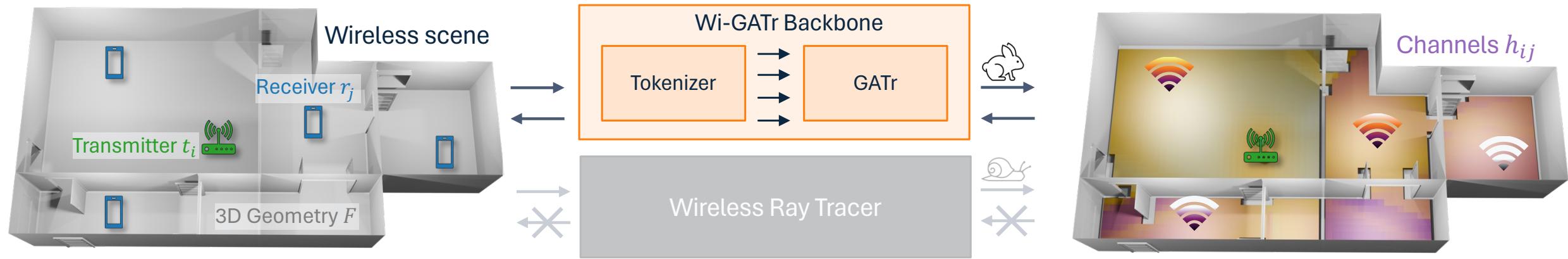
Differentiable Wireless signal modelling



Differentiable Wireless signal modelling

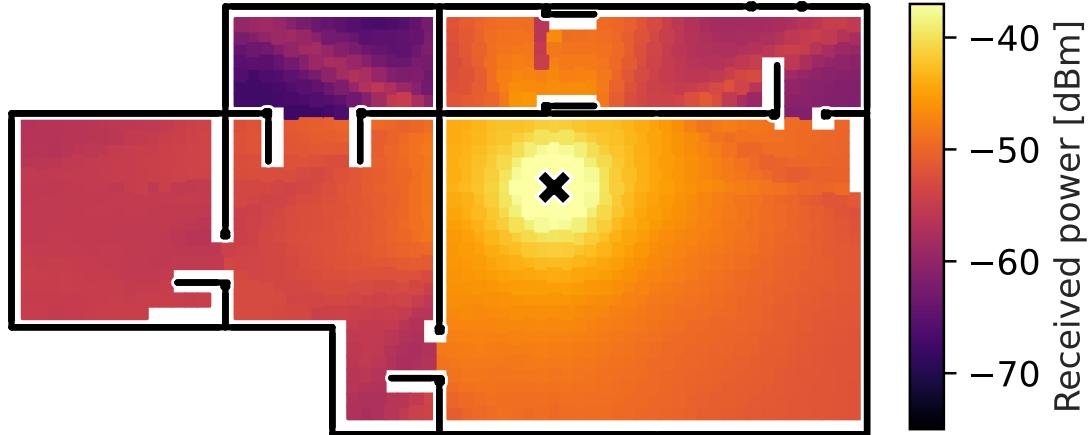


Differentiable Wireless signal modelling

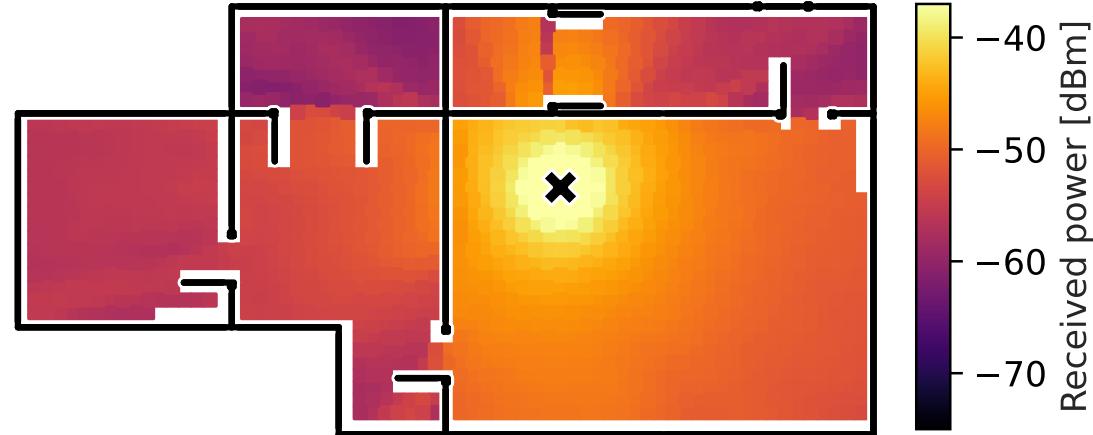


Differentiable Wireless signal modelling from only 100 training samples

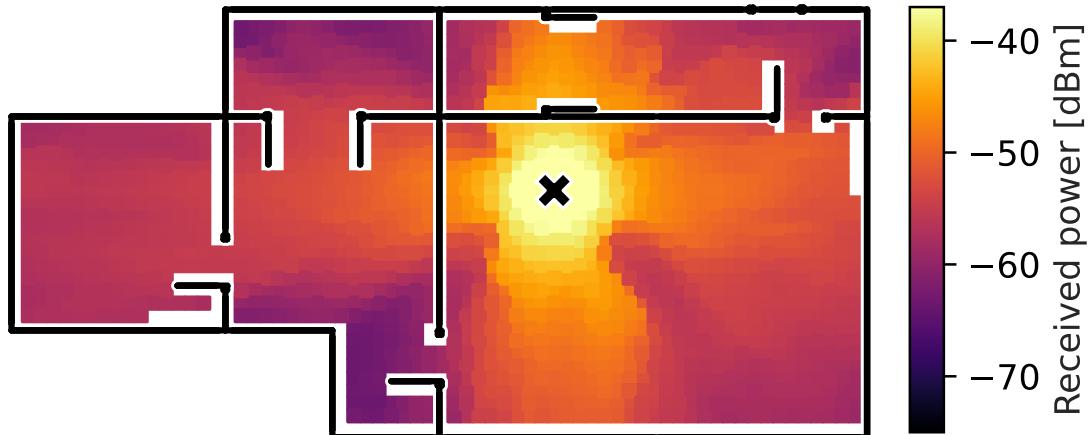
Ground truth



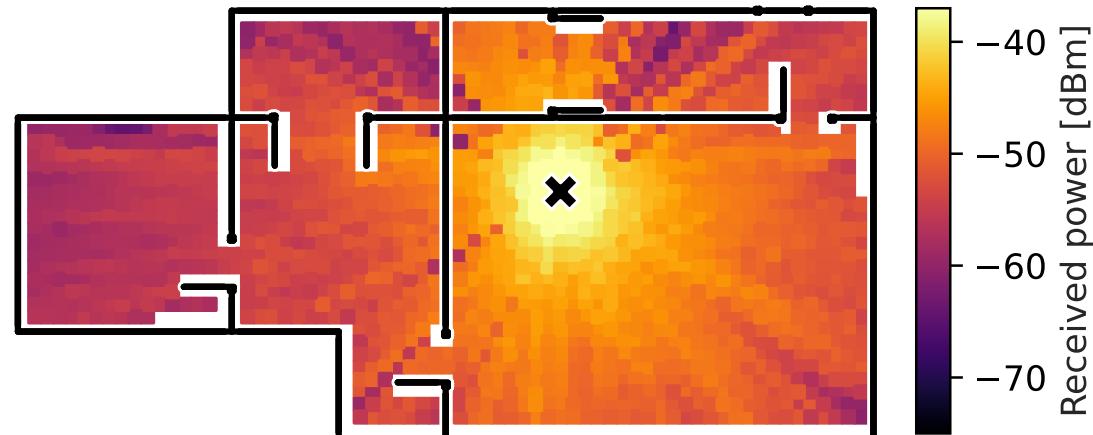
Wi-GATr



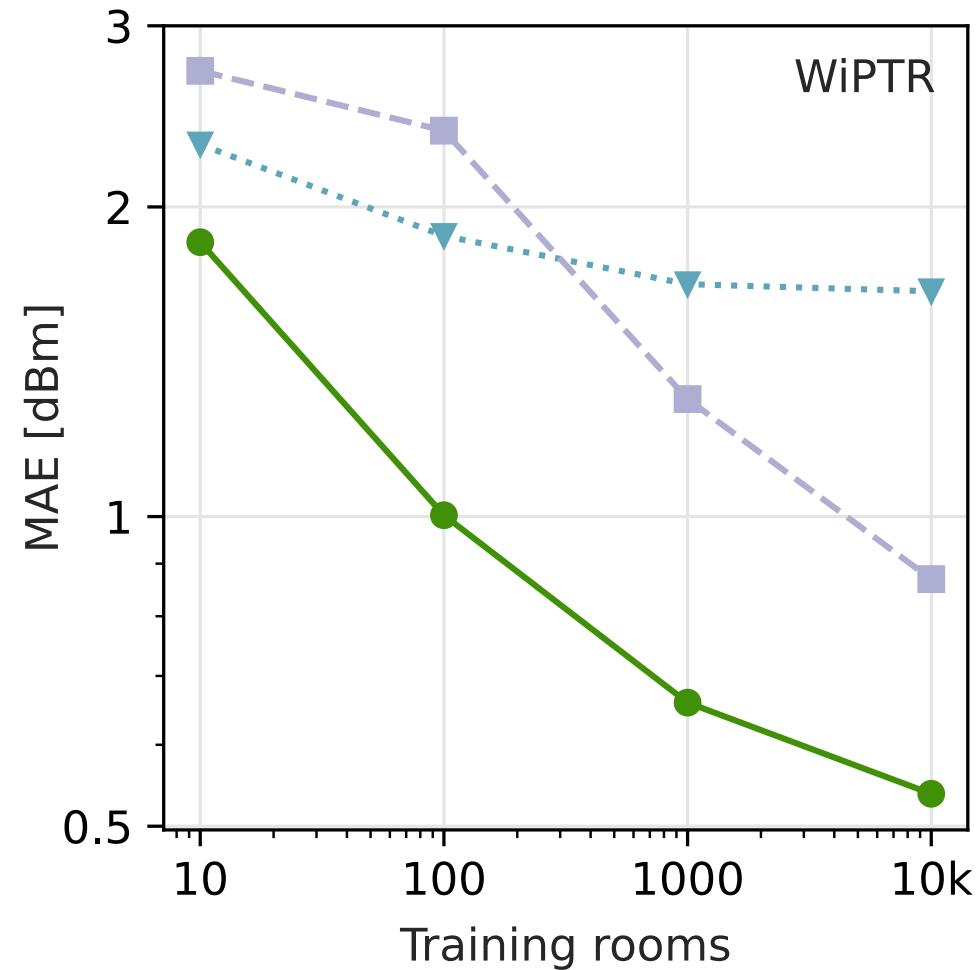
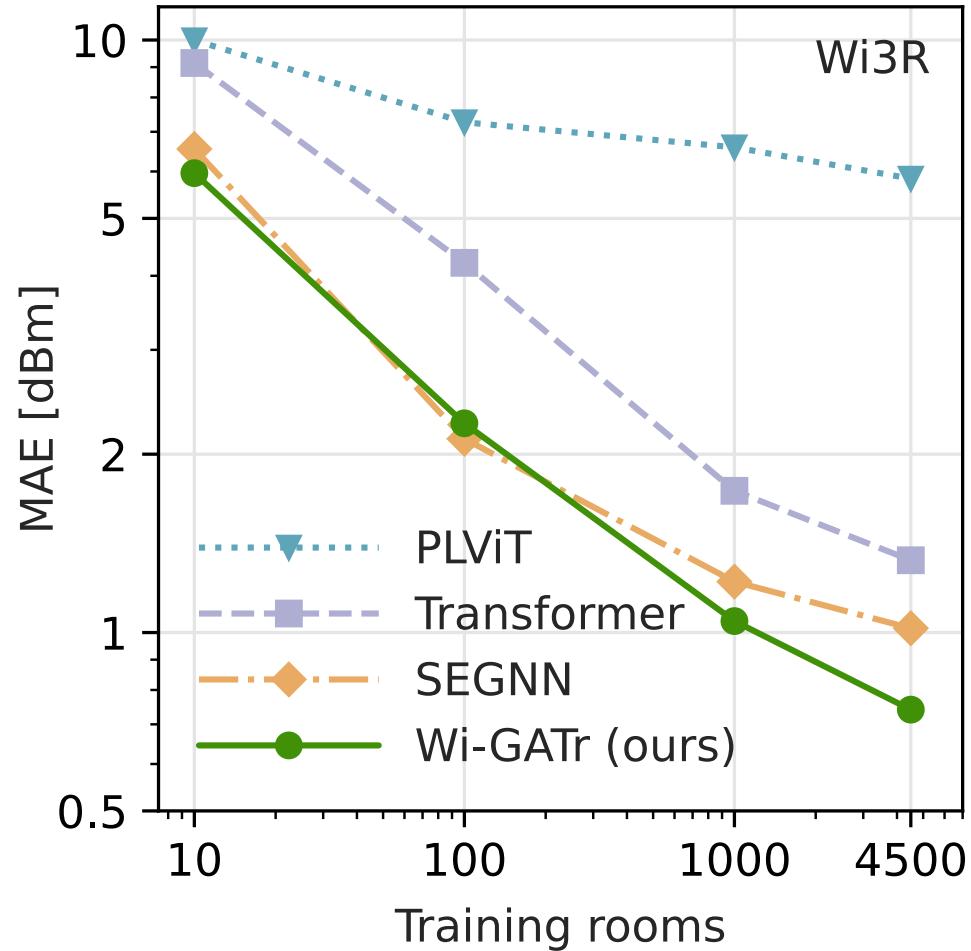
Transformer



ViT

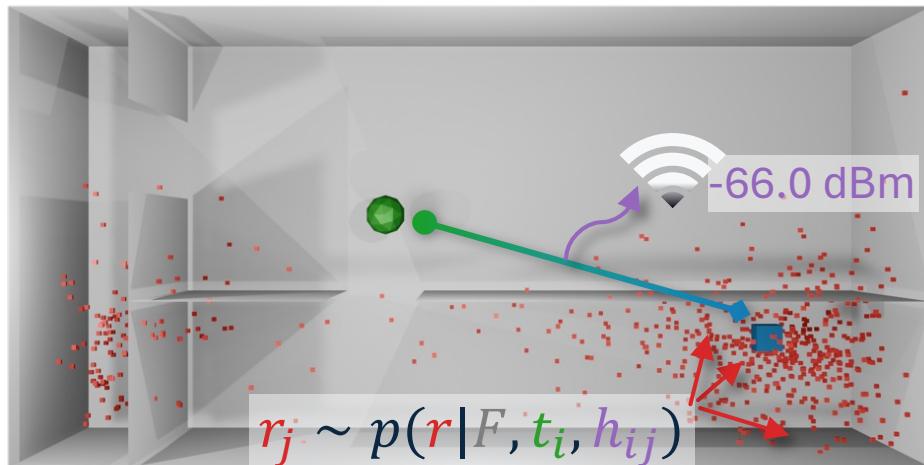


Differentiable Wireless signal modelling

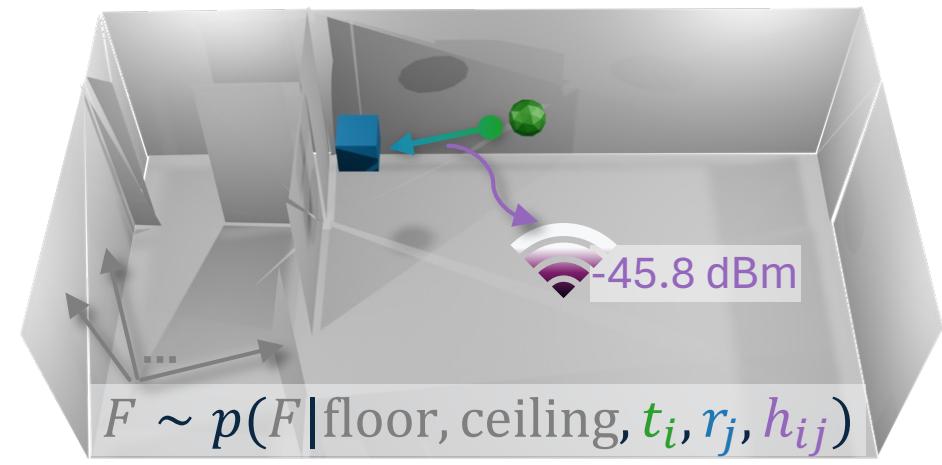


Next level: Probabilistic wireless modelling with diffusion models

GATr-based diffusion model lets us solve various inference tasks through conditional sampling from a single joint density (a la “inpainting”)



Receiver localization
from environment and
wireless signal



Geometry reconstruction
from wireless signal

Lorentz- GATr



$$\frac{dL}{dA}$$

$$\frac{P_{EG}}{4\pi}$$

Na

$$\delta \vartheta = \frac{\pi}{2} \quad \epsilon \rightarrow 0$$

$$= C N a \left[-\frac{7}{2} + \gamma \right]$$

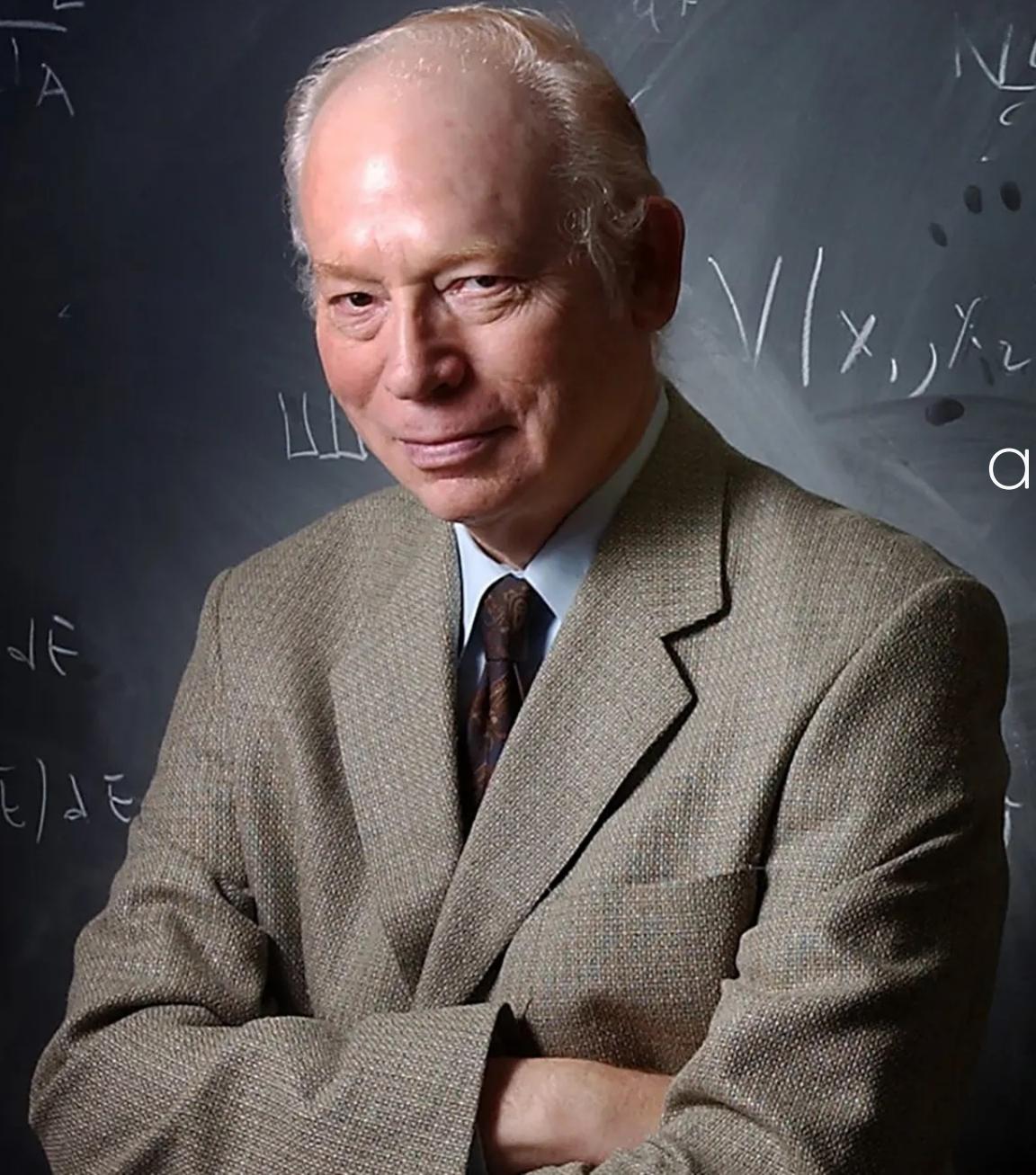
$$\nabla(x_1, x_2)$$

"The universe is
an enormous direct product
of representations
of symmetry groups"

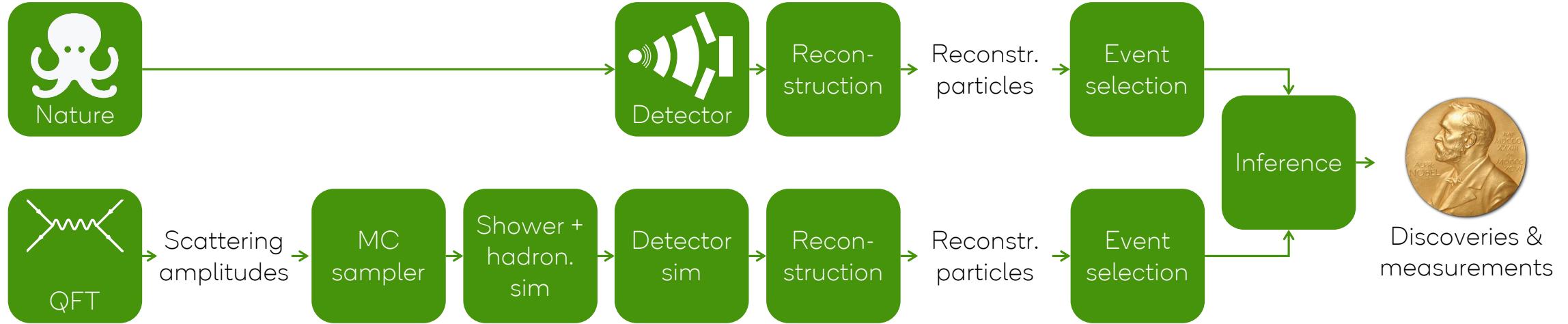
Steven Weinberg

$$F_{\alpha F}$$

$$Q(\bar{E}) \Delta E$$

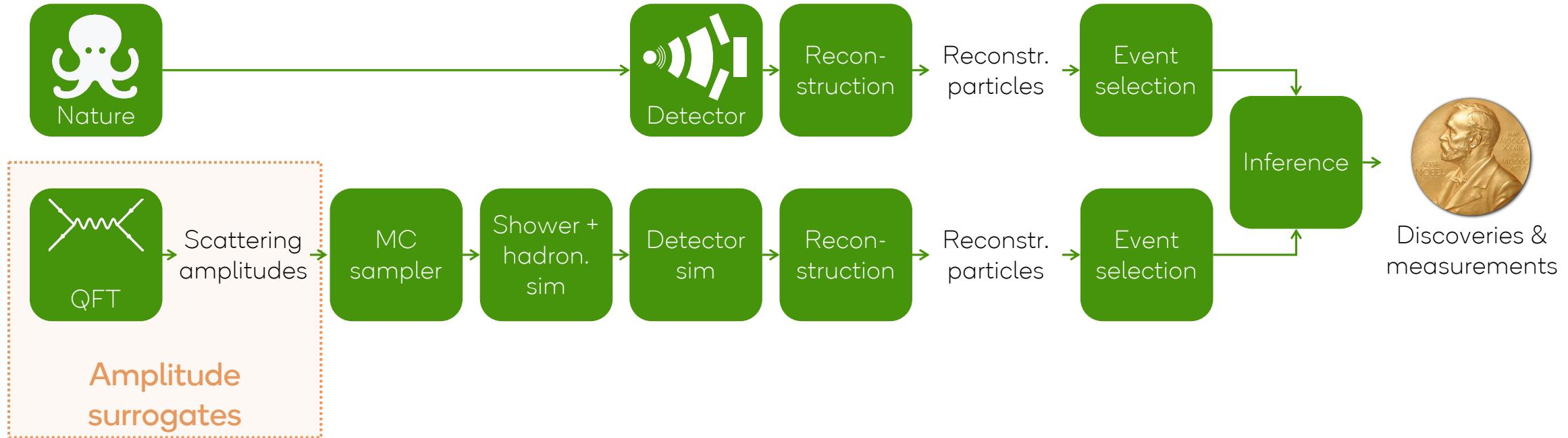


hep data analysis pipeline



- Most steps have some degree of **Lorentz symmetry**
 - Detector / measurement process can partially break it or make it approximate
- Yet, equivariant architectures for high-energy physics seem understudied
 - Notable exceptions: LorentzNet, PELICAN, ...

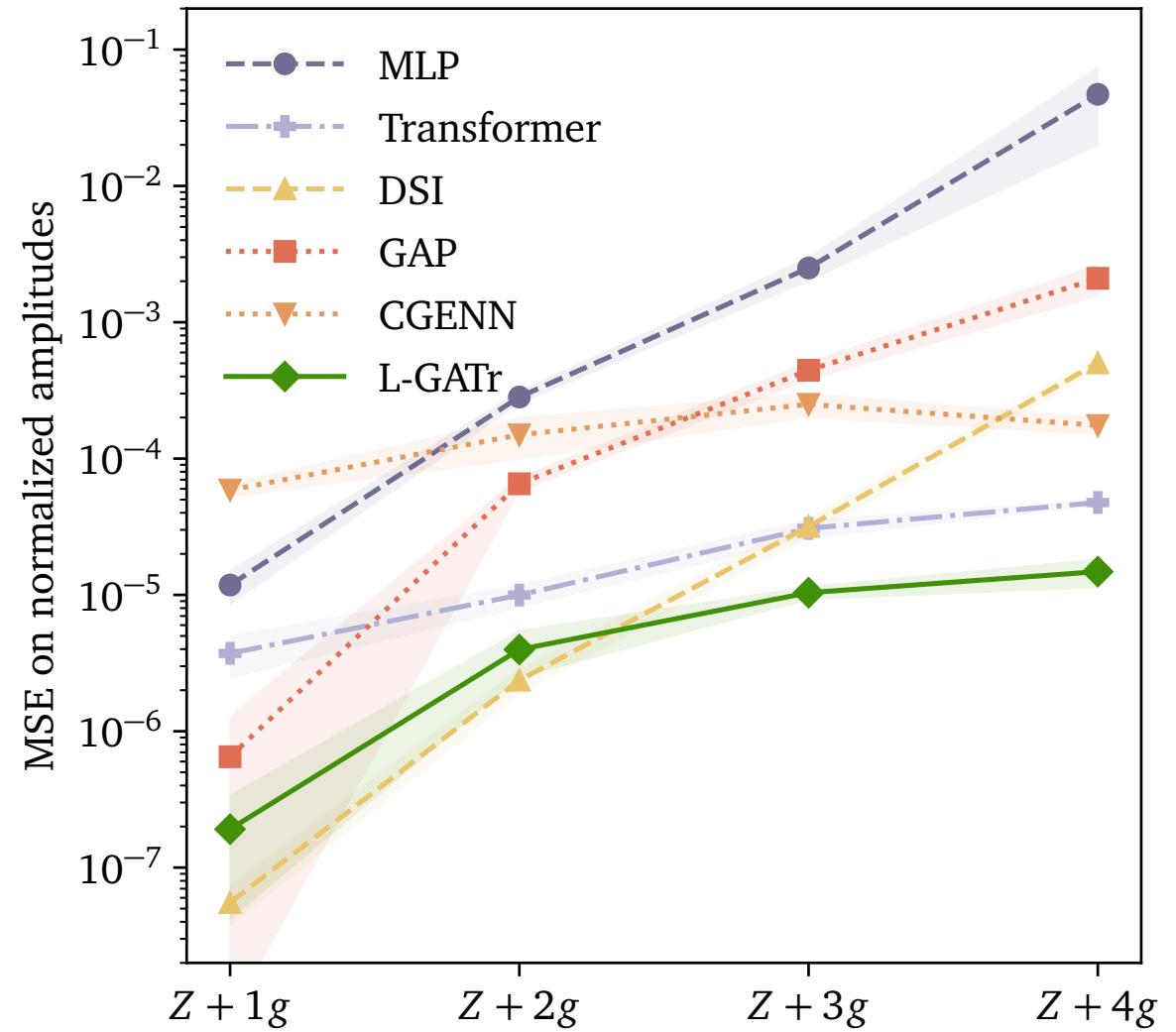
	life at low speed	high-energy physics
symmetry group	$E(3)$	Poincaré but we only care about Lorentz, $O^+(1,3)$
data	scalars points directions ...	scalars (e.g. particle ID) four-vectors (e.g. four-momenta) ...
GATr rep	projective GA $\mathcal{G}_{3,0,1}$ (16D)	space-time GA $\mathcal{G}_{1,3,0}$ (also 16D, but different metric)
GATr layers	equi linear attention normalization ...	equi linear (derived for different symmetry) attention (based on new metric) normalization (robust to neg. norms) ...
GATr architecture	transformer	transformer



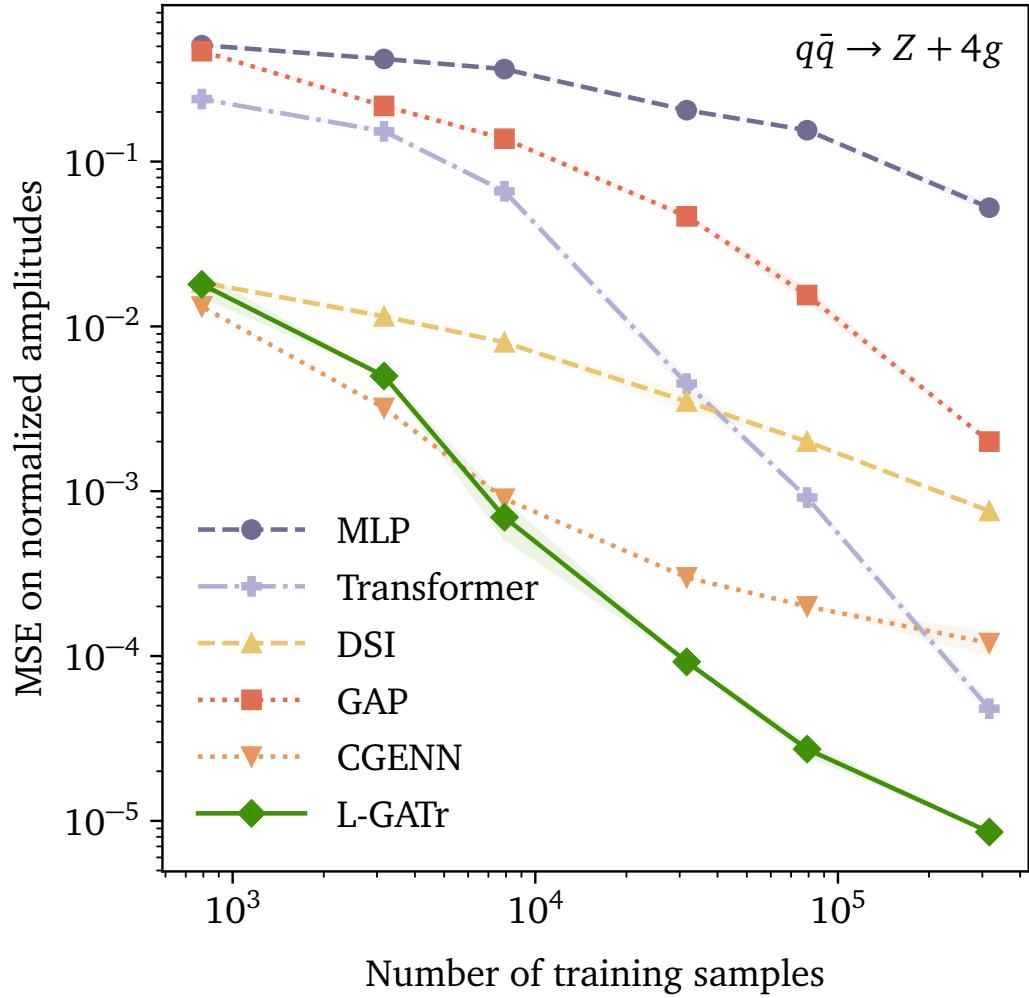
Amplitude regression

Surrogate models for QFT amplitudes are most useful (and most challenging) at high multiplicity

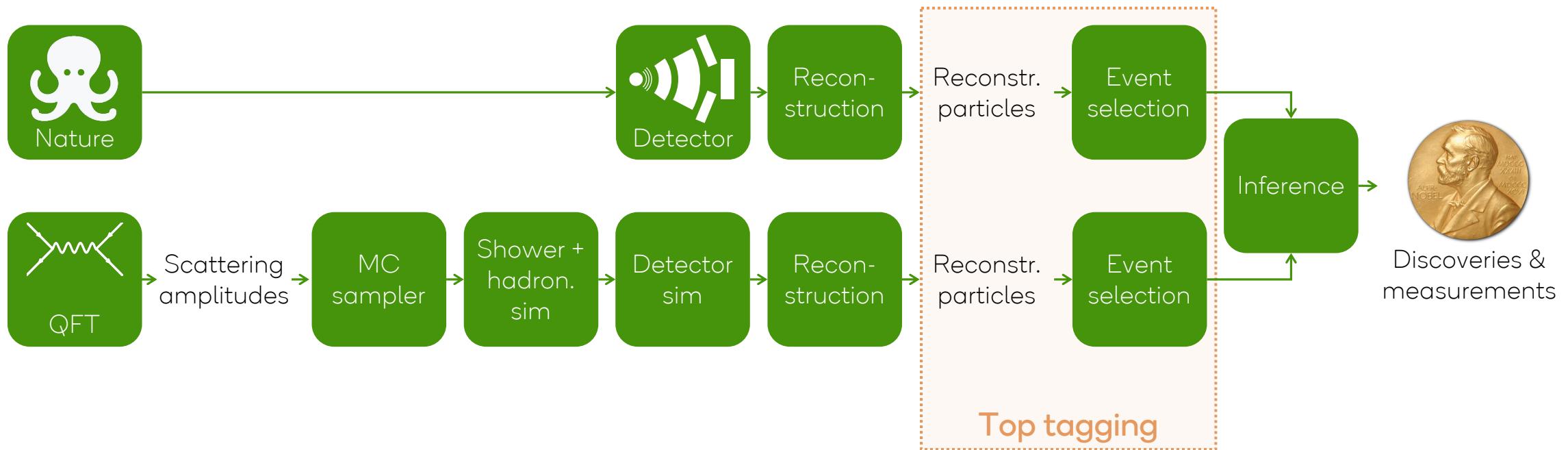
That's where **L-GATr** shines!



Amplitude regression



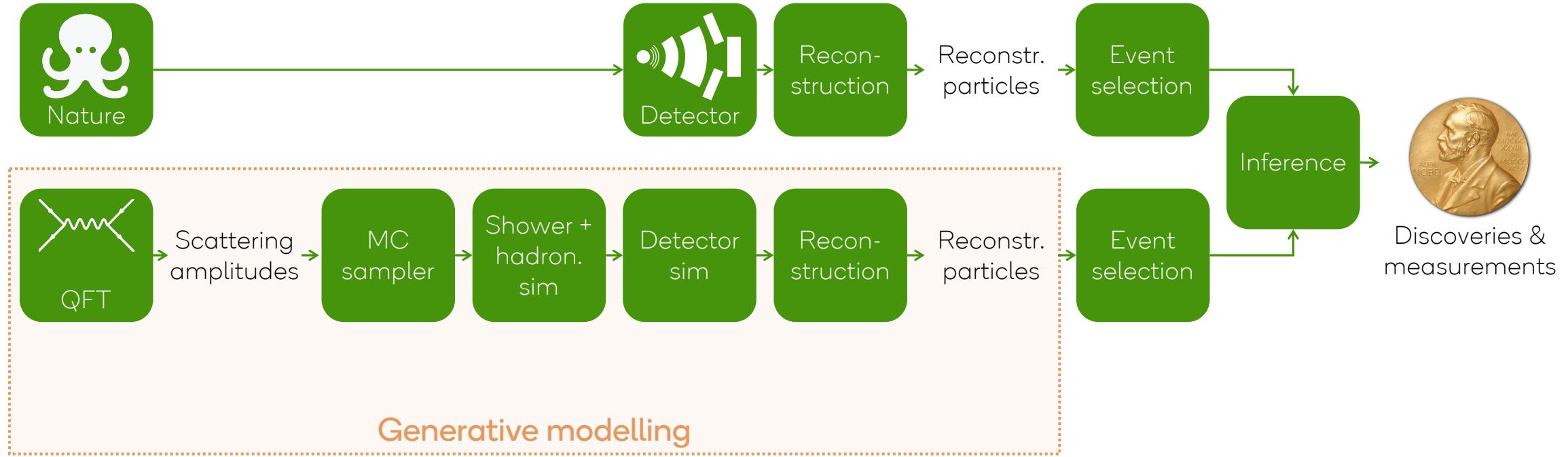
L-GATr is both a **small-data** and a **big-data** architecture



Top tagging on everyone's favorite dataset

Model	Accuracy	AUC	$1/\epsilon_B$ ($\epsilon_S = 0.5$)	$1/\epsilon_B$ ($\epsilon_S = 0.3$)
TopoDNN [48]	0.916	0.972	–	295 ± 5
LoLa [15]	0.929	0.980	–	722 ± 17
P-CNN [1]	0.930	0.9803	201 ± 4	759 ± 24
N -subjettiness [60]	0.929	0.981	–	867 ± 15
PFN [50]	0.932	0.9819	247 ± 3	888 ± 17
TreeNiN [56]	0.933	0.982	–	1025 ± 11
ParticleNet [62]	0.940	0.9858	397 ± 7	1615 ± 93
ParT [63]	0.940	0.9858	413 ± 16	1602 ± 81

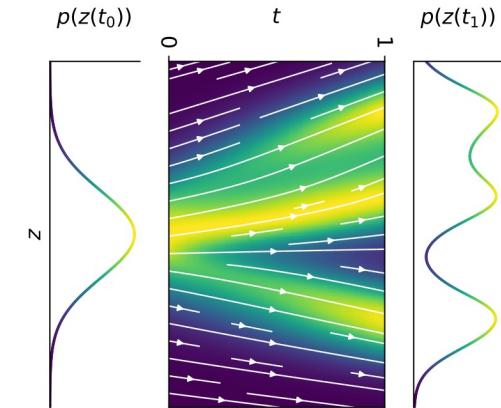
L-GATr is on par (but not better than) the best equivariant (*) baselines



Generative modelling with conditional flow matching

- **Continuous normalizing flows:**

- simple base density
- + continuous dynamics described by differential equation
- = generative model

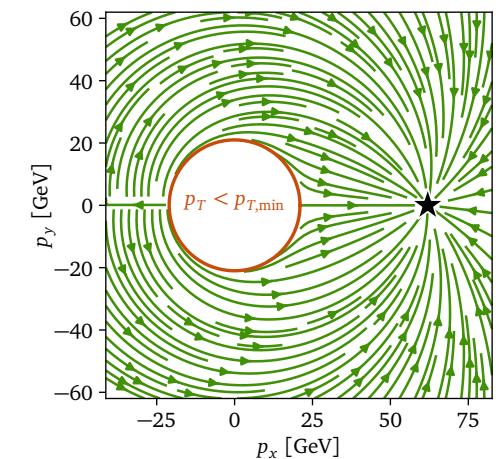


- **Conditional flow matching:**

- a brilliantly simple way to train them

- **Riemannian flow matching:**

- manifold-based approach that lets us incorporate boundaries



R. Chen et al, "Neural Ordinary Differential Equations", NeurIPS 2018

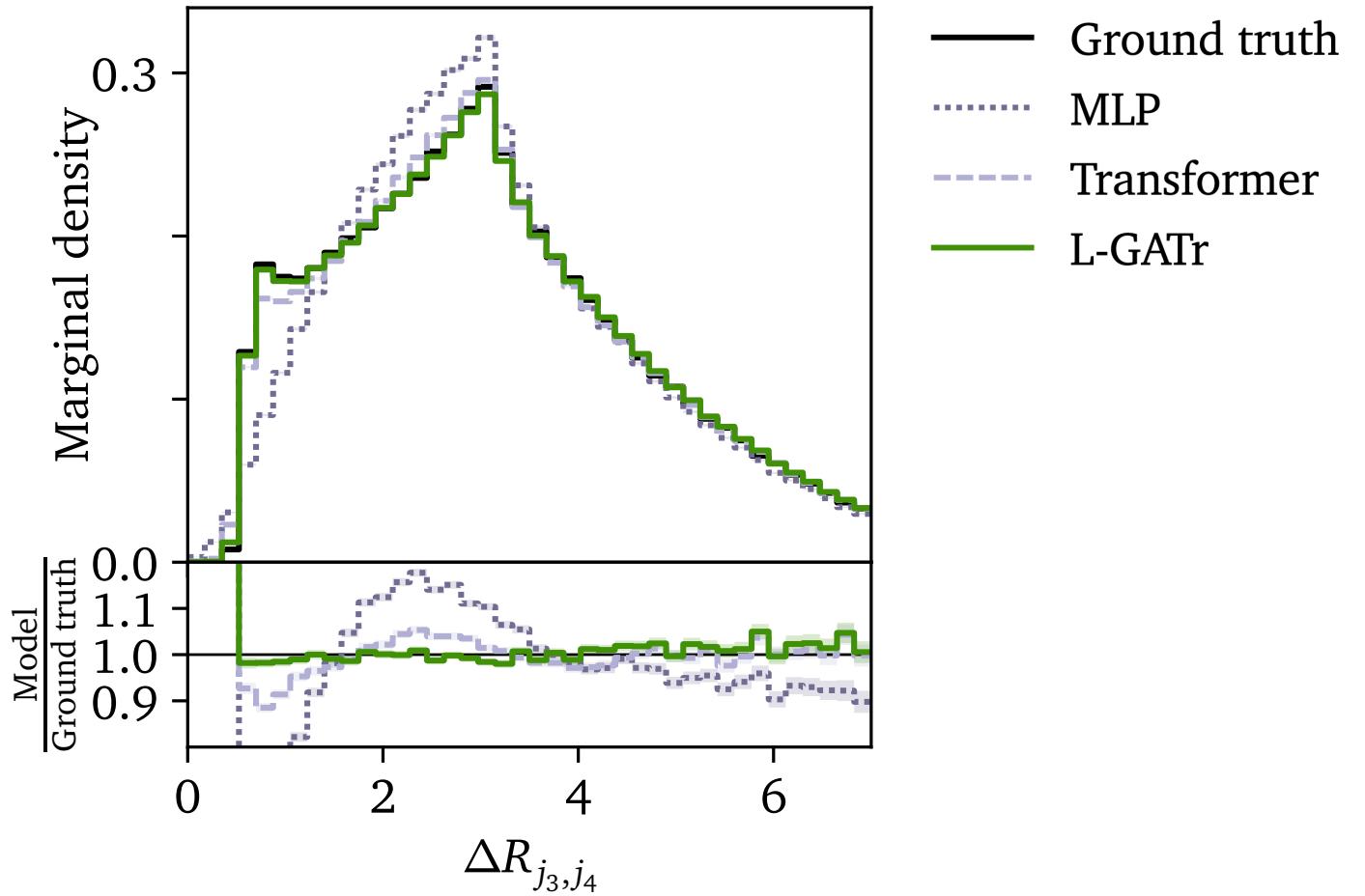
W. Grathwohl et al, "FFJORD: Free-form continuous dynamics for scalable reversible generative models", ICLR 2019

Y. Lipman et al, "Flow matching for generative modelling", ICLR 2023

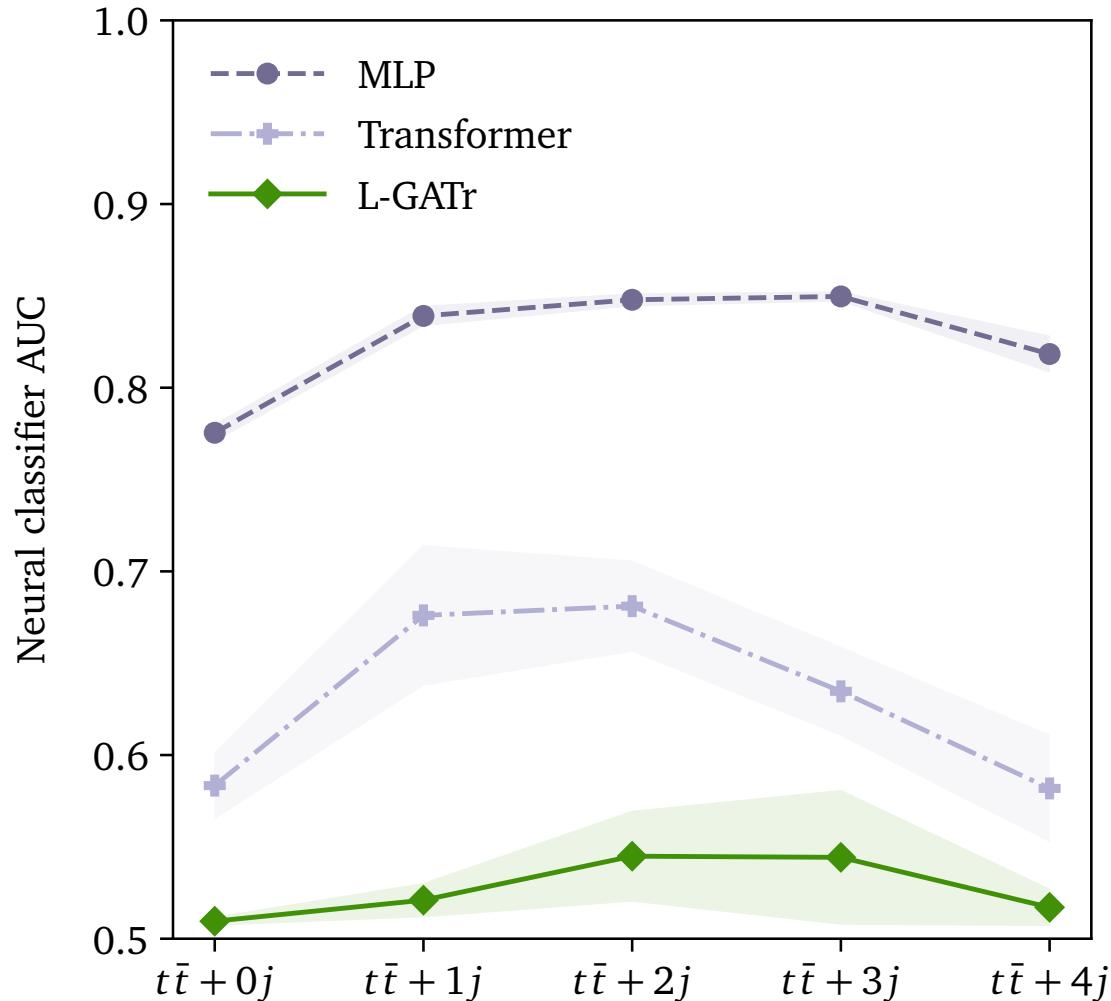
R. Chen et al, "Flow matching on general geometries", ICLR 2024

Generative modelling with conditional flow matching

L-GATr leads to improvements
on tricky kinematic features...



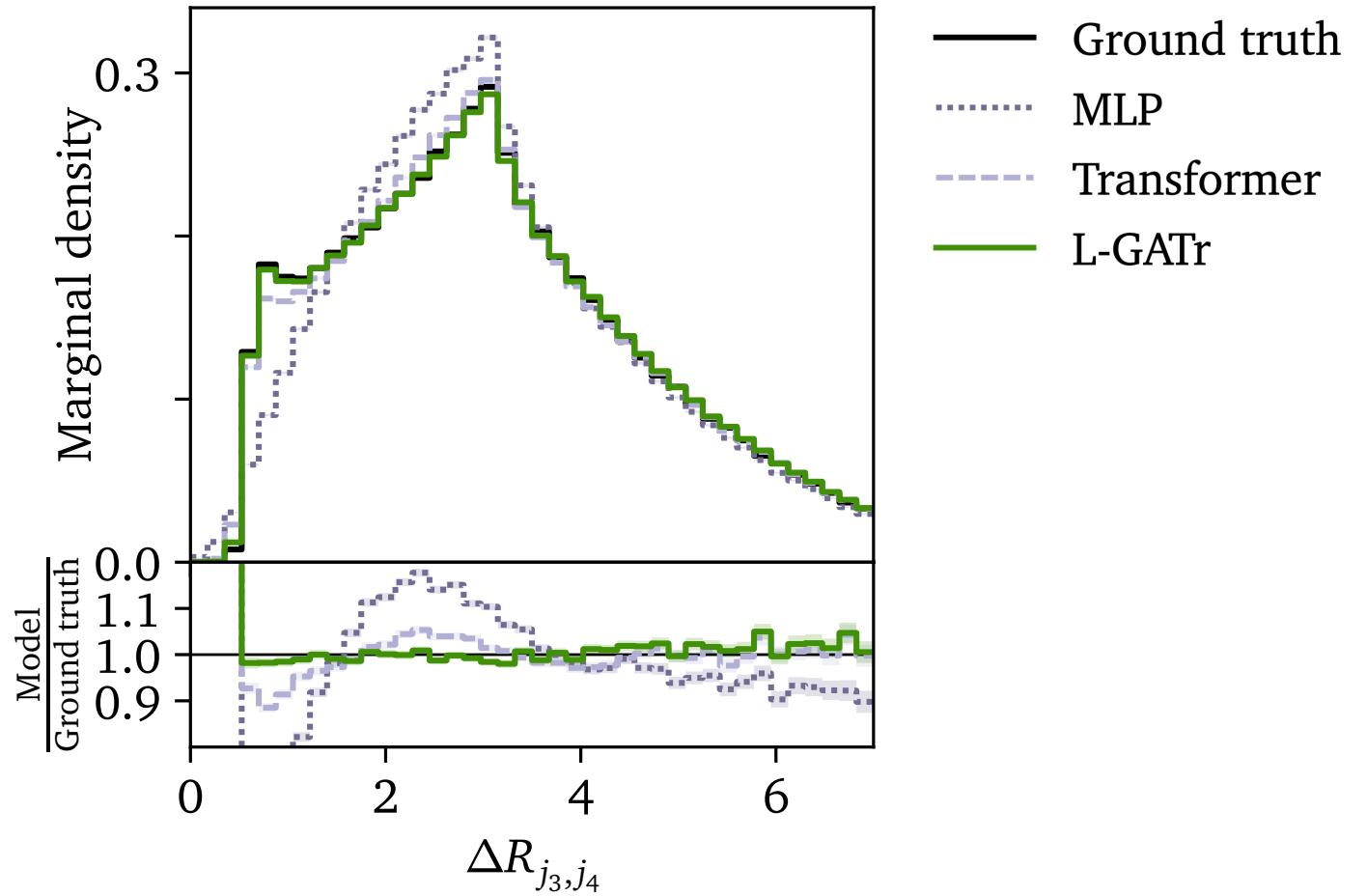
Generative modelling with conditional flow matching

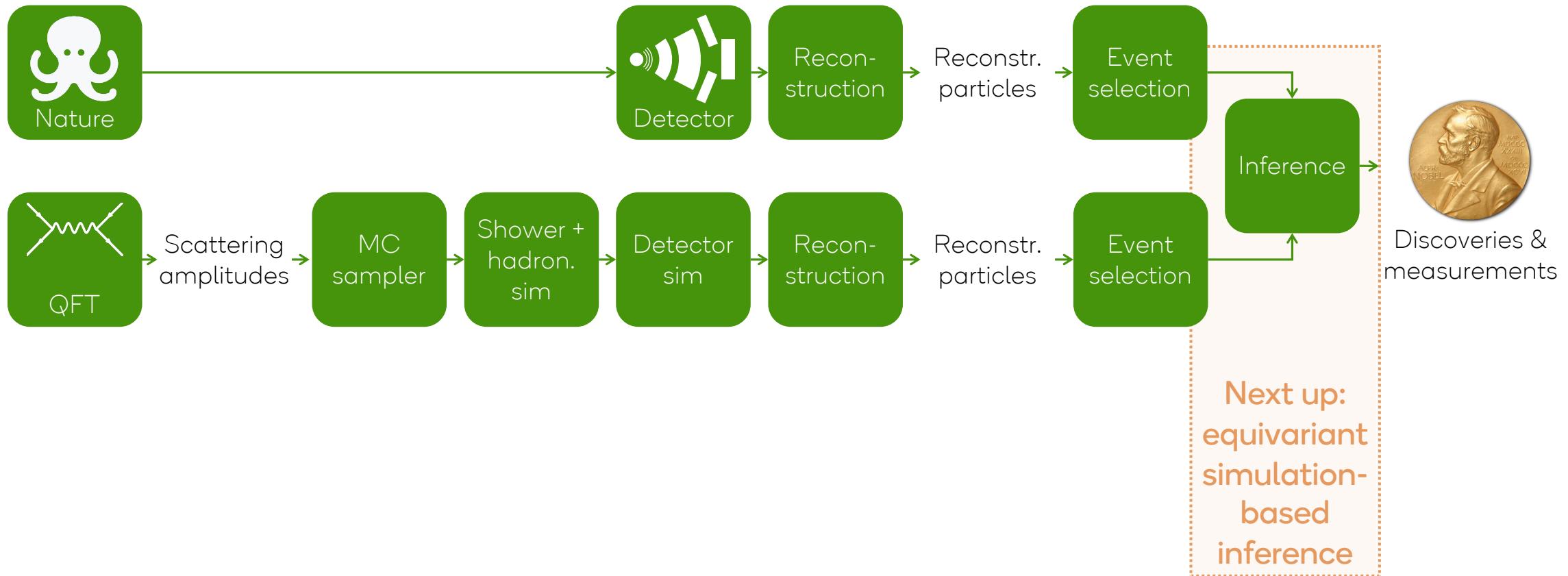


L-GATr generates samples that a classifier almost cannot distinguish from the ground truth...

Generative modelling with conditional flow matching

...and gets tricky kinematic features right





Structure:

Problem-specific
inductive biases in
algorithms and
architectures

Geometric Algebra Transformer:

Our version of a
versatile architecture
for geometric
problems

Scale:

Flexible
architectures,
lots of data,
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Geometric Algebra Transformer

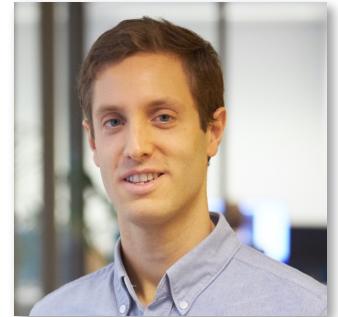
Johann Brehmer*, Pim de Haan*, Sönke Behrends, Taco Cohen
NeurIPS 2023, [arXiv:2305.18415](https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.18415)



Pim de Haan



Sönke Behrends



Taco Cohen

Euclidean, Projective, Conformal: Choosing a Geometric Algebra for your Equivariant Transformer

Pim de Haan, Taco Cohen, Johann Brehmer
AISTATS 2024, [arXiv:2311.04744](https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.04744)

Probabilistic and Differentiable Wireless Simulation with Geometric Transformers

Thomas Hehn, Markus Peschl, Tribhuvanesh Orekondy,
Arash Behboodi, Johann Brehmer
Under review



Thomas Hehn



Markus Peschl



Tribhuvanesh
Orekondy



Arash
Behboodi

Lorentz-Equivariant Geometric Algebra Transformers for High-Energy Physics

Jonas Spinner*, Victor Bresó*, Pim de Haan, Tilman Plehn,
Jesse Thaler, Johann Brehmer
[arXiv:2405.14806](https://arxiv.org/abs/2405.14806)



Jonas Spinner



Victor Bresó



Jesse Thaler



Tilman Plehn

Clifford group equivariant neural networks

David Ruhe, Johannes Brandstetter, Patrick Forré
NeurIPS 2023, [arXiv:2305.11141](https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.11141)

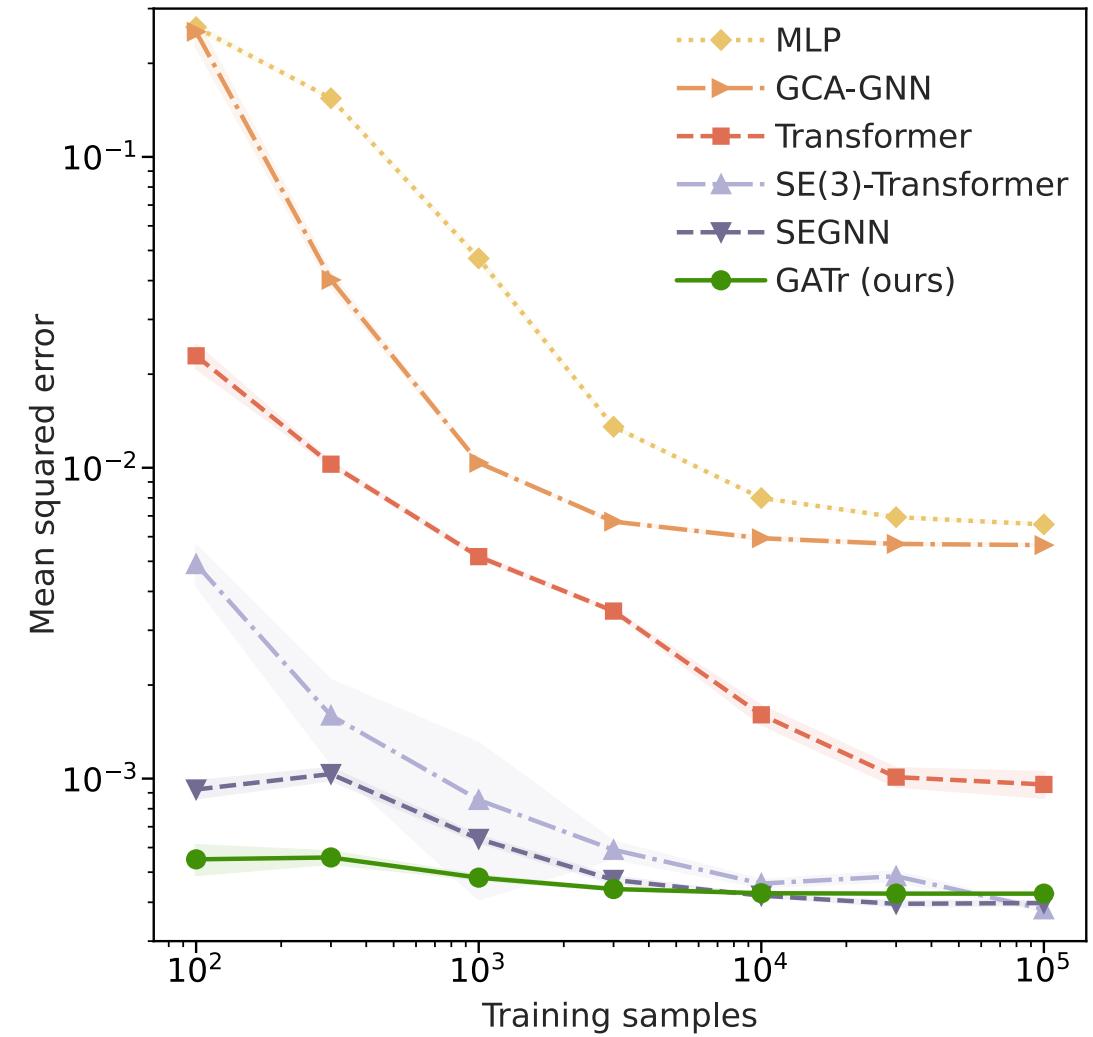
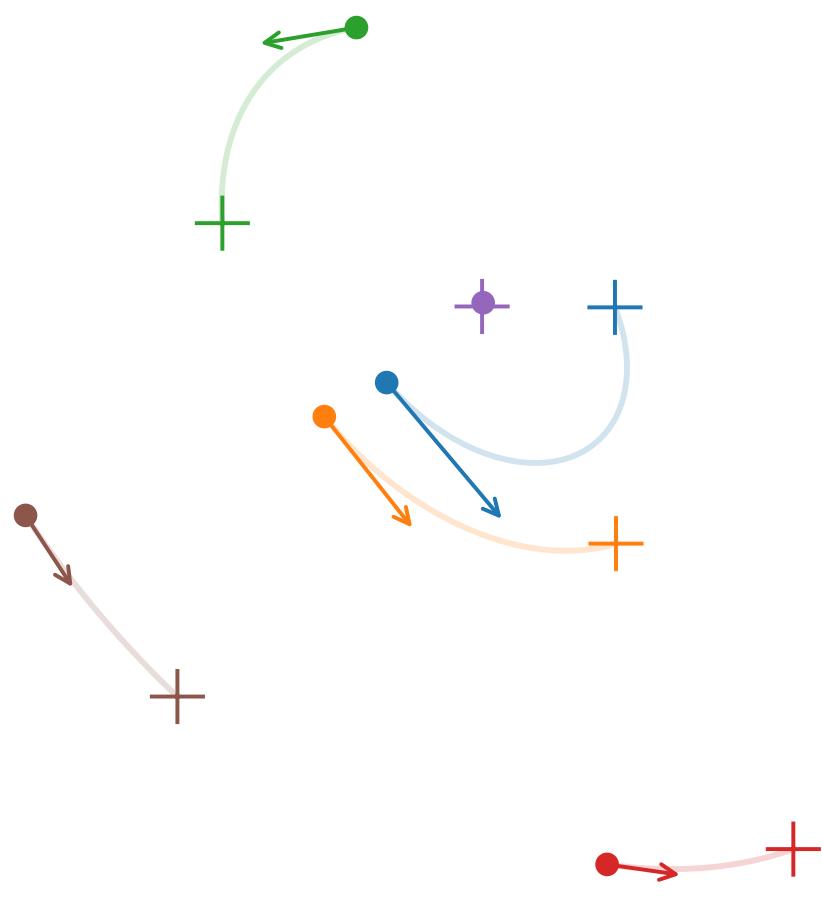
LaB-GATr: geometric algebra transformers for large biomedical surface and volume meshes

Julian Suk, Baris Imre, Jelmer M. Wolterink
[arXiv:2403.07536](https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.07536)

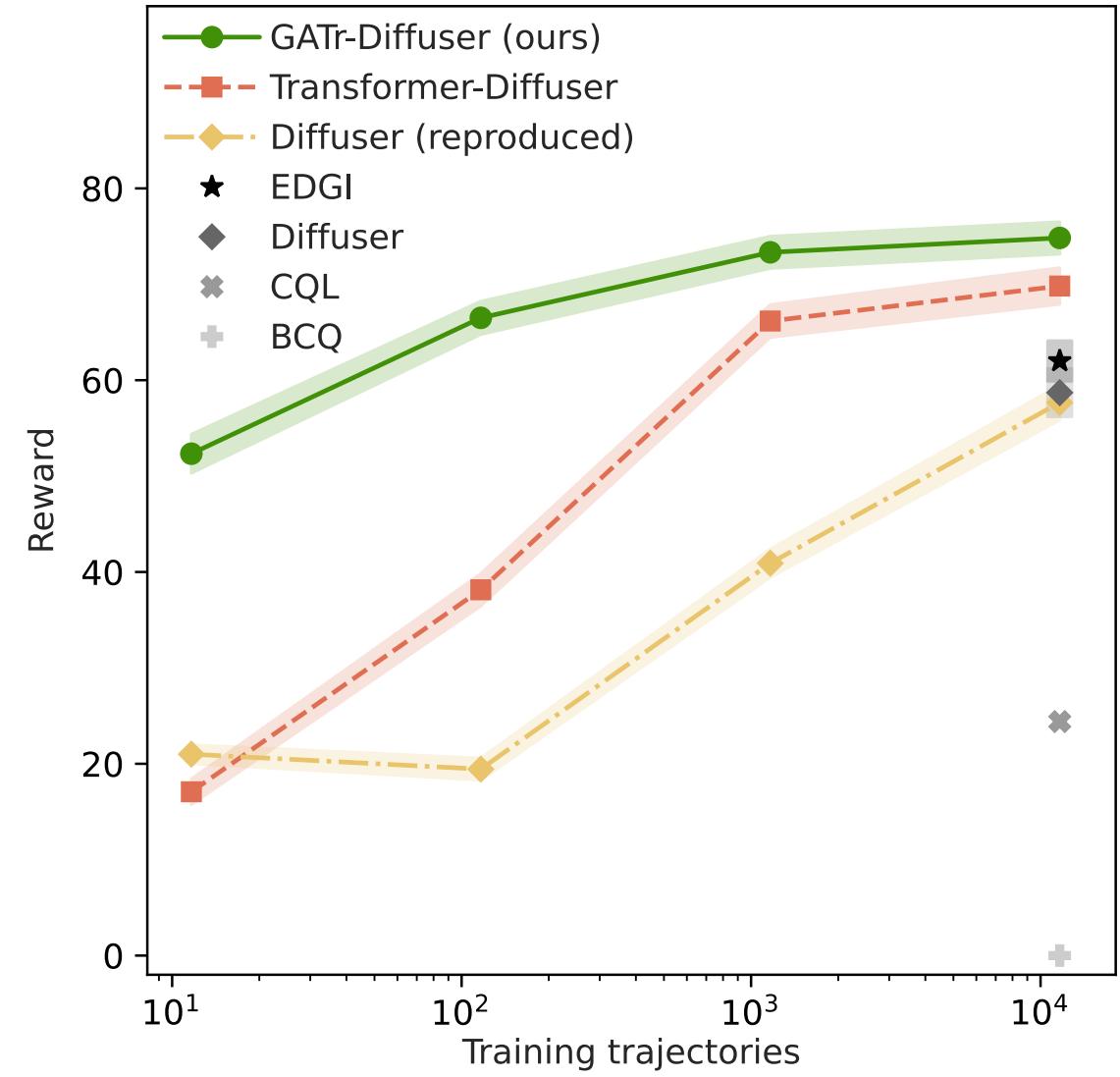
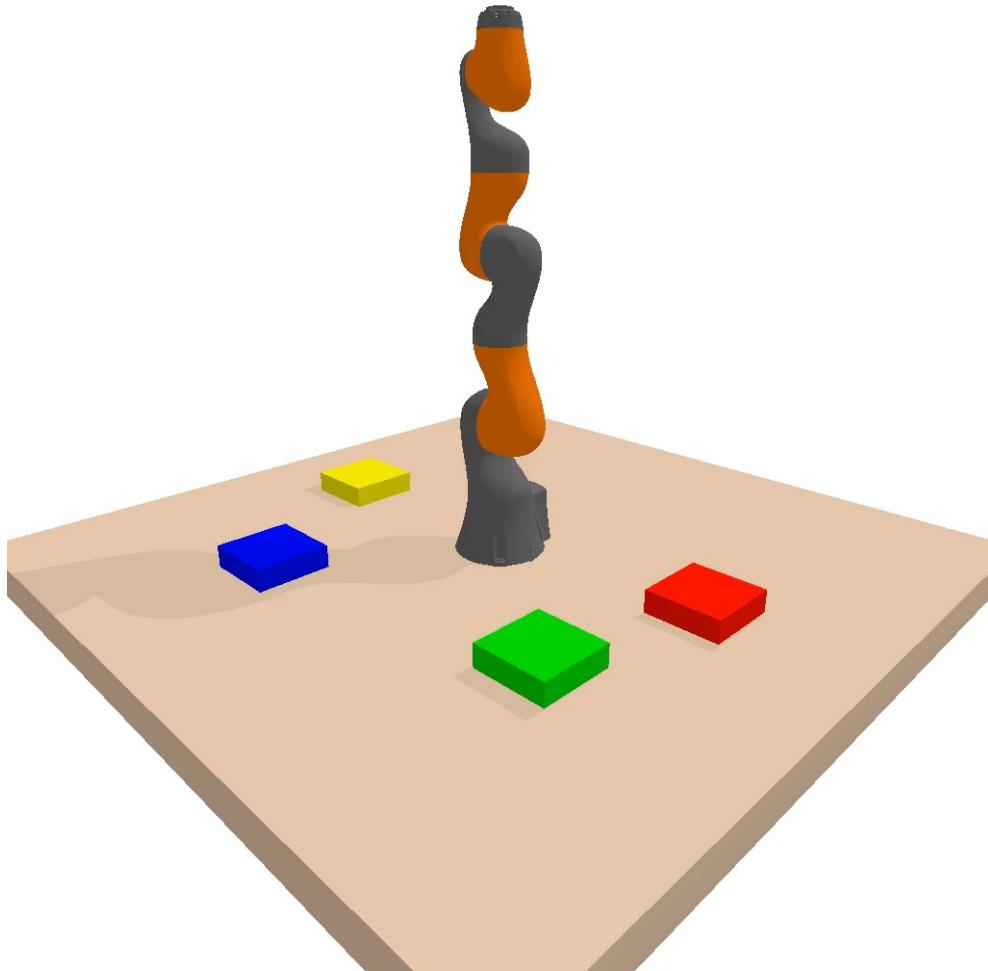
Bonus material



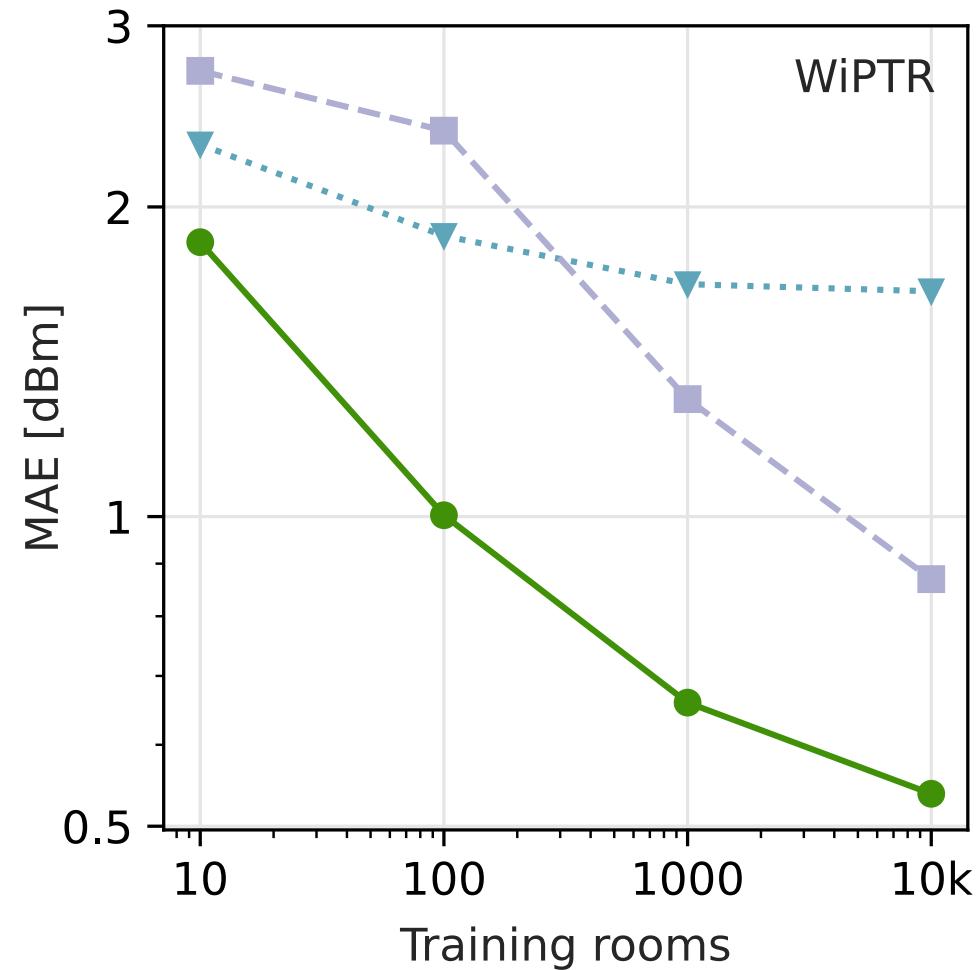
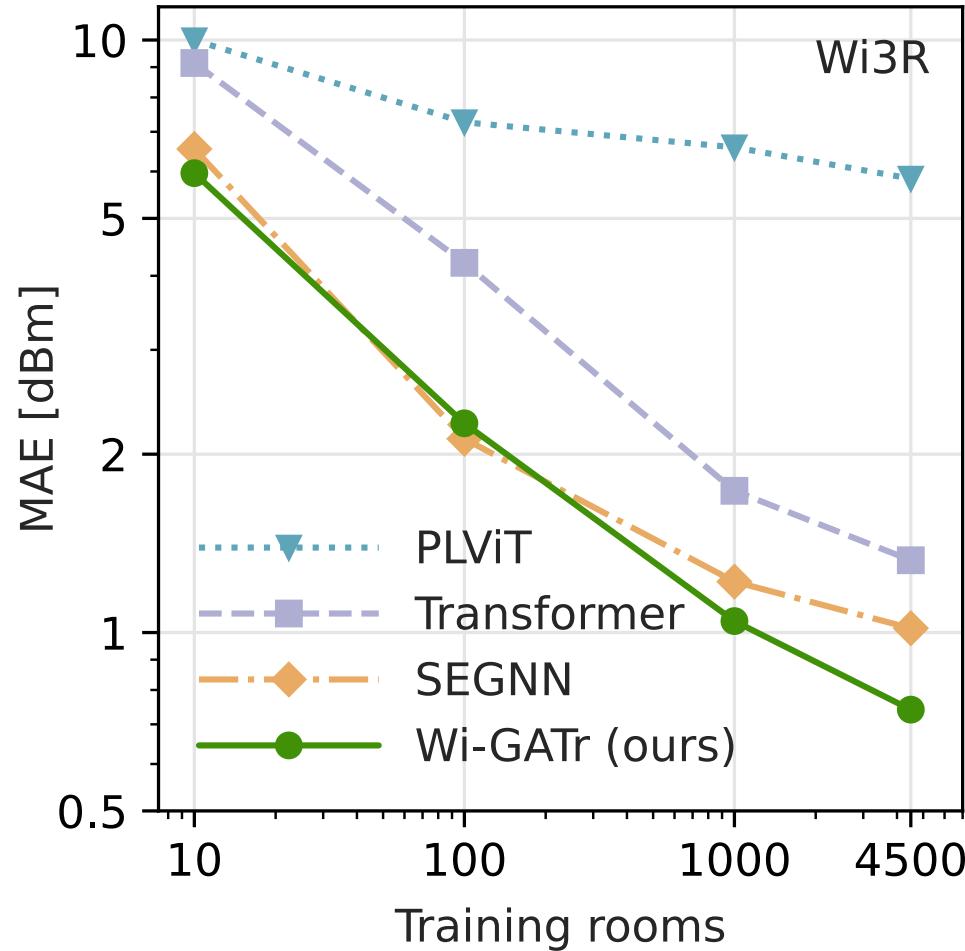
Benchmarking: n-body modelling



Diffusion-based planning: Robotic control



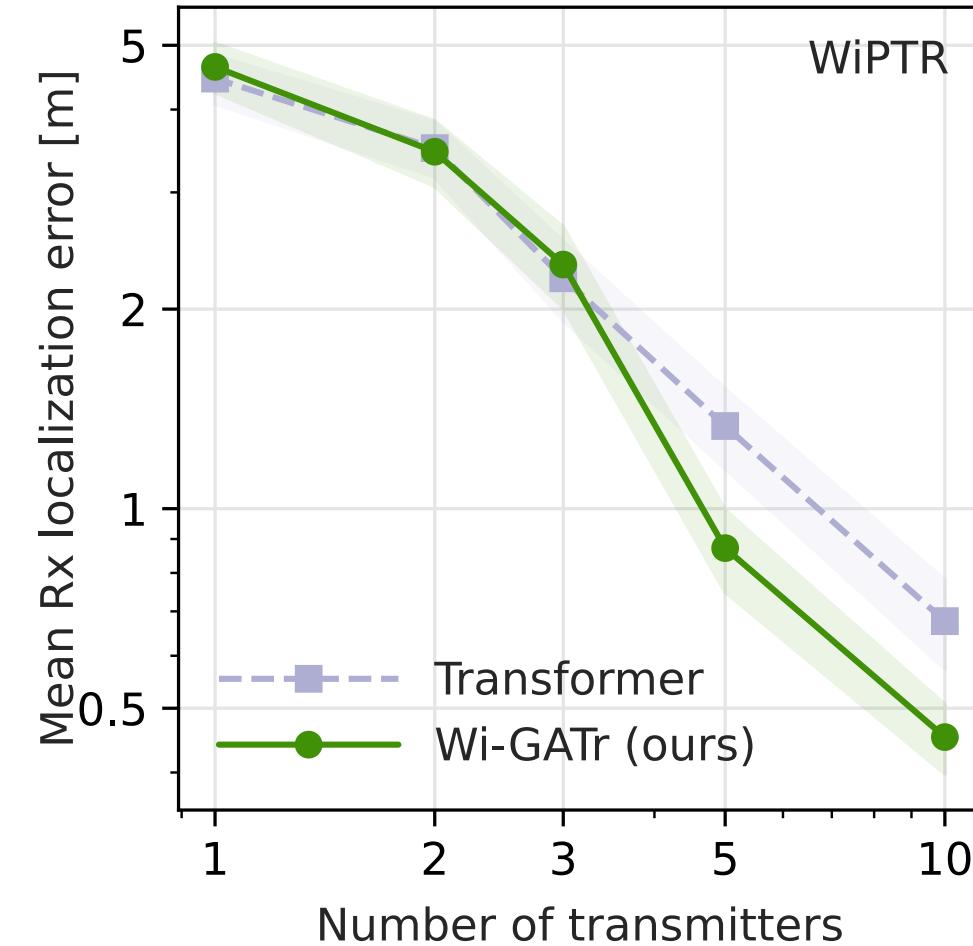
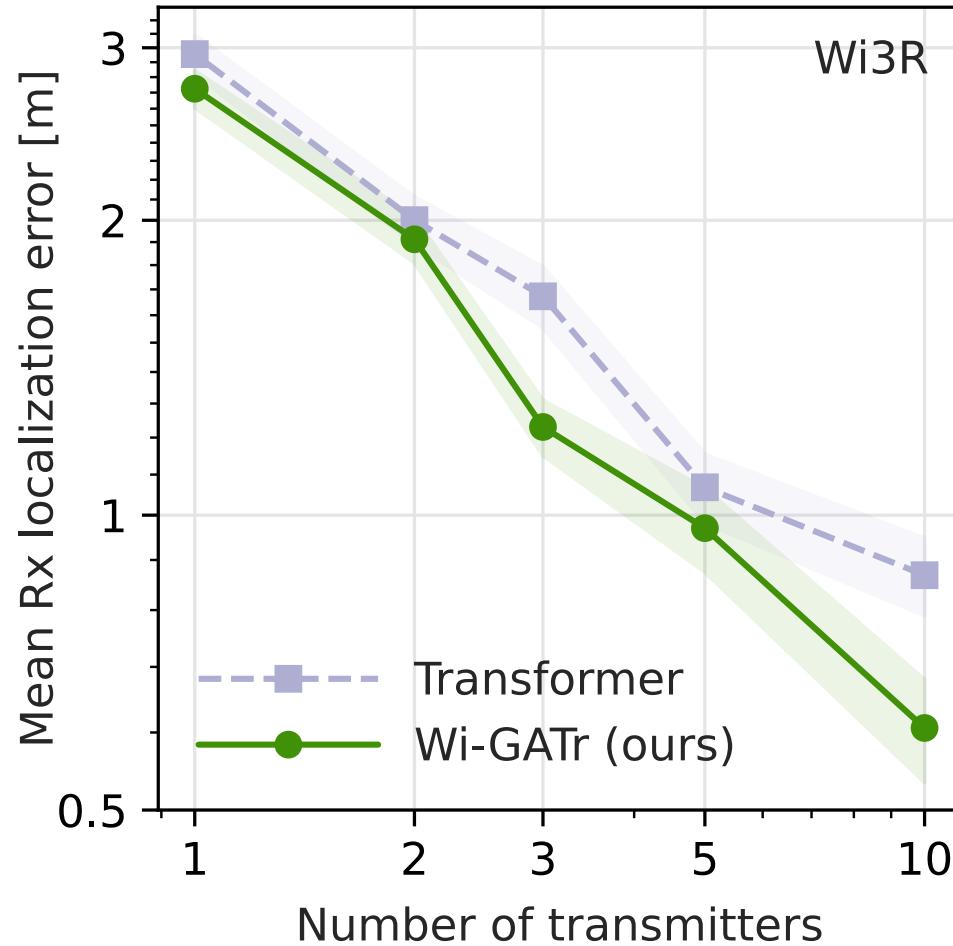
Differentiable Wireless signal modelling



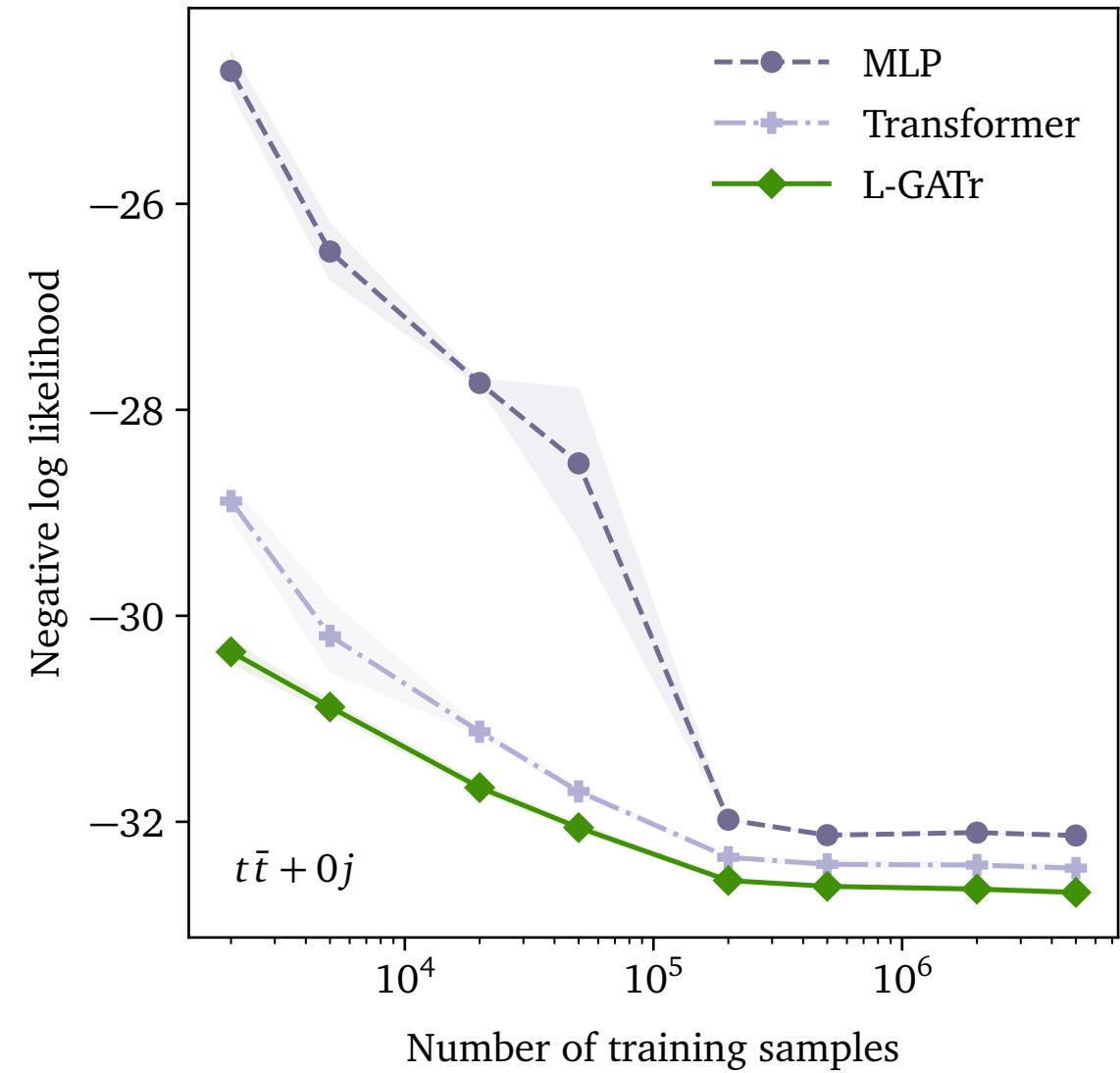
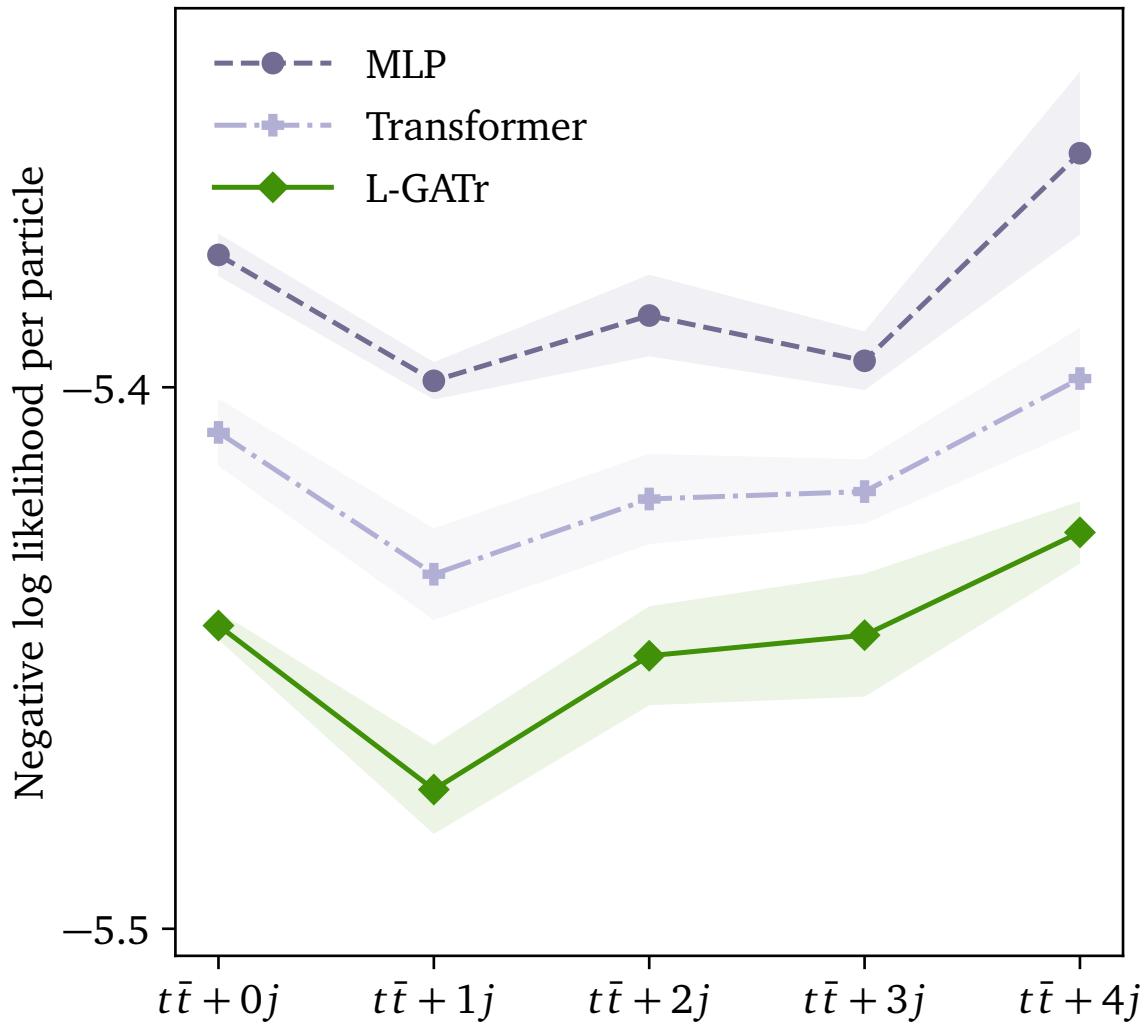
Differentiable Wireless signal modelling

	Wi3R dataset				WiPTR dataset		
	Wi-GATr (ours)	Transf.	SEGNN	PLViT	Wi-GATr (ours)	Transf.	PLViT
<i>In distribution</i>							
Rx interpolation	0.63	1.14	0.92	5.61	0.53	0.84	1.67
Unseen floor plans	0.74	1.32	1.02	5.84	0.54	0.87	1.66
<i>Symmetry transformations</i>							
Rotation	0.74	78.68	1.02	5.84	0.54	28.17	1.66
Translation	0.74	64.05	1.02	5.84	0.54	4.04	1.66
Permutation	0.74	1.32	1.02	5.84	0.54	0.87	1.66
Reciprocity	0.74	1.32	1.01	8.64	0.54	0.87	1.65
<i>Out of distribution</i>							
OOD layout	9.24	14.06	2.34	7.00	0.54	1.01	1.58

Differentiable Wireless signal modelling



Generative modelling for hep with conditional flow matching



Structure vs scale

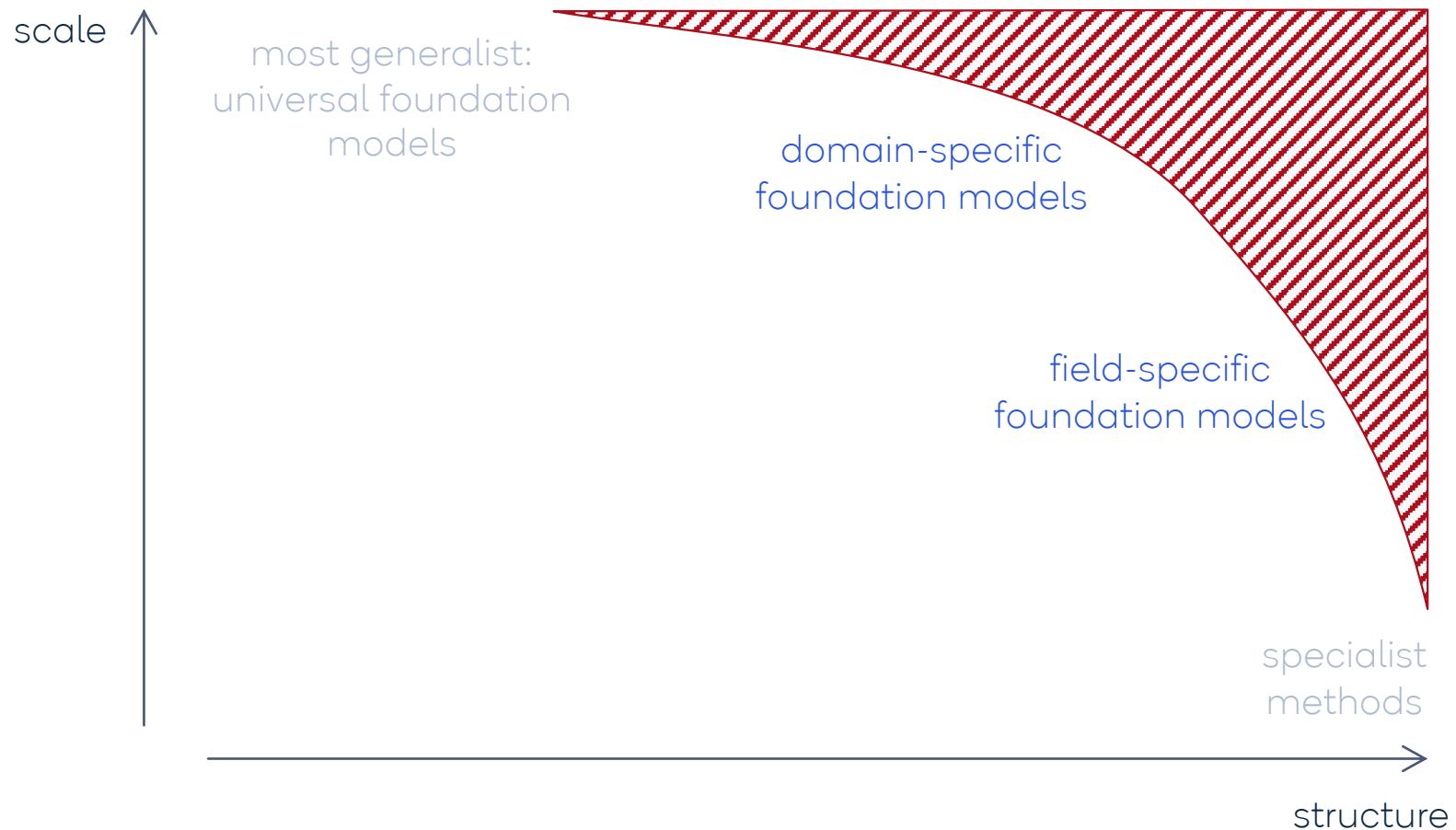
It is tempting to think of scale and structure as opposites

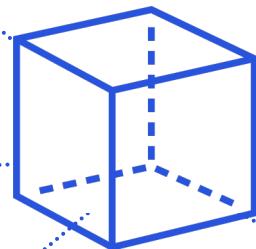
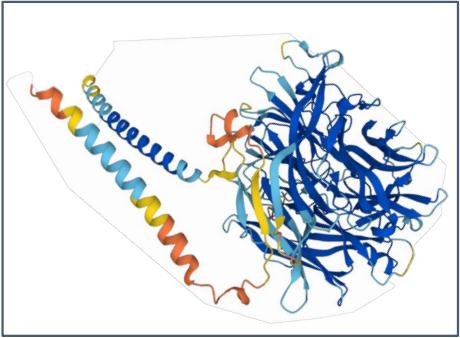


Structure vs scale

That's a false dichotomy:

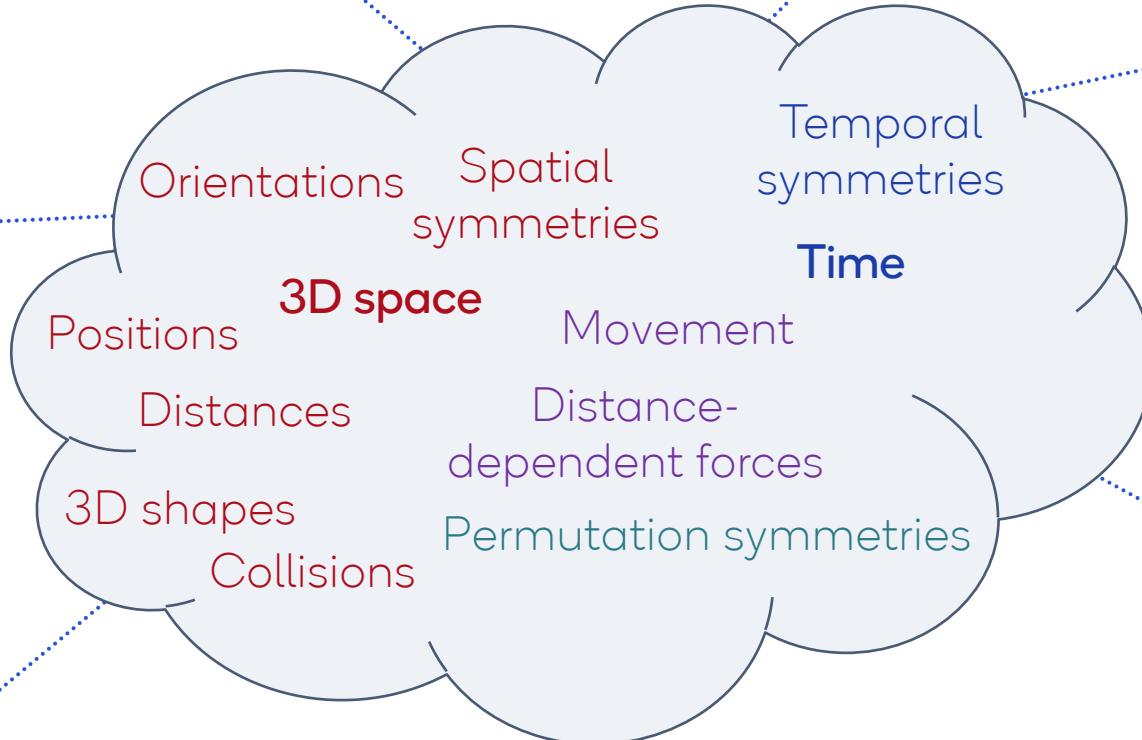
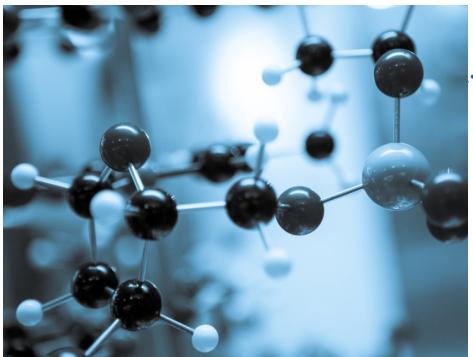
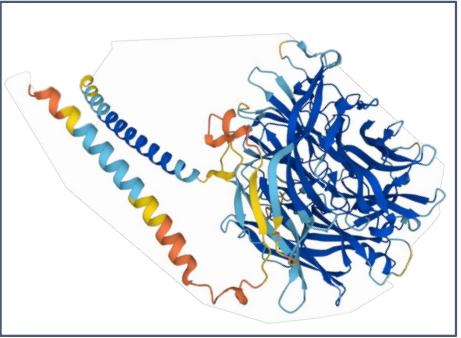
there are interesting, underexplored settings where **structure and scale can be complementary**





Geometric foundation model

- Trained on (and finetuned to) various scientific and engineering problems
- Representations tailored to spatio-temporal data
- Architecture reflects symmetries of 3D space



Foundation model checklist

- Lots of **data** the internet
- Universal **representations** tokenizers and embeddings
- A scalable, expressive **architecture** transformers
- Self-supervised **training** protocol max likelihood, ...
- Multiple **downstream tasks** with shared structure chatbots, ...
- Bonus points for **predictable scaling** neural scaling laws

In language / vision foundation models

Foundation model checklist

- Lots of **data**
- Universal **representations**
- A scalable, expressive **architecture**
- Self-supervised **training** protocol
- Multiple **downstream tasks** with shared structure
- Bonus points for **predictable scaling**

Geometric foundation model



Foundation model checklist

- Lots of **data**
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- Bonus points for **predictable scaling**

Geometric foundation model

- ?
- could be geometric algebra–based**
- equivariant Transformers**
- ?
- GATr works on very different domains**
- ?

Foundation model checklist

- Lots of **data** data and simulators are out there?
- Universal **representations** could be geometric algebra-based
- A scalable, expressive **architecture** equivariant transformers
- Self-supervised **training** protocol predicting masked-out tokens?
- Multiple **downstream tasks** with shared structure GATr works on very different domains
- Bonus points for **predictable scaling** ?

Geometric foundation model

Thank you



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