

# Equivariant Graph Neural Networks

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# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Mathematical Background
- 3 Deep Sets

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2 Mathematical Background

3 Deep Sets

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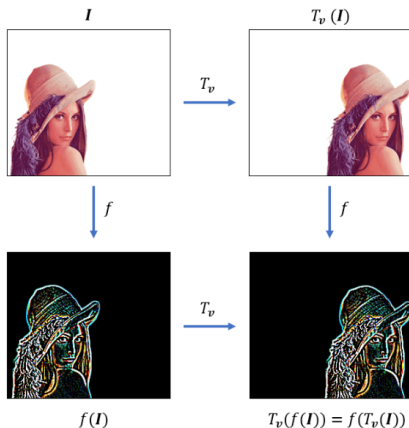
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- These data types have different structures and qualities, and we would like to build architectures that best suit them.

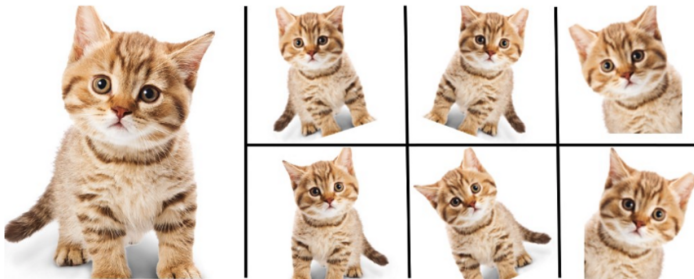
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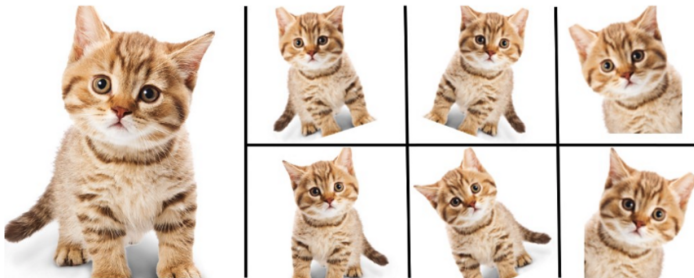
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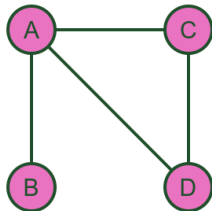
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- It is acceptable to assume that being invariant to the rotation of the cat is a good property for a classification network.

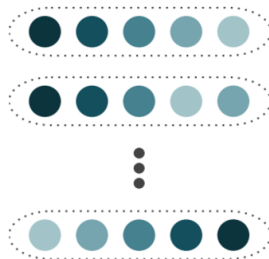
# Motivation

- Our focus today is on sets and graph data.



Simple graph

|   | A | B | C | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| B | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| C | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| D | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |



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  - 1 The symmetries of the data:  
What inherent structure should our model be oblivious to?
  - 2 The space of functions learnable by the network:  
Are we fully utilizing the space of functions that are equivariant

1 Motivation

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# The Permutation Group $S_n$

- The permutation group  $S_n$  is the group of all permutations of  $n$  elements.
- It has  $n!$  elements, representing the  $n!$  ways to order  $n$  elements.
- Given a set  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ , a permutation  $\pi \in S_n$  is a bijection  $\pi : X \rightarrow X$
- e.g.  $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ , and  $\pi = (1, 2, 3) \in S_3$  is the permutation that maps  $1 \rightarrow 2$ ,  $2 \rightarrow 3$  and  $3 \rightarrow 1$ .
- We denote the **action** of  $\pi$  on  $x$  as  $\pi x = (x_3, x_1, x_2)$ .

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- An equivariant neural network is a function  $f : \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times d'}$  such that  $Pf(X) = f(PX)$ .

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- A permutation matrix  $P \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$  acts on the adjacency matrix  $A$  and the feature matrix  $X$ .

# Equivariant Network Construction

## Theorem

*Let  $L$  be a linear equivariant layer, and let  $f$  be a neural network constructed by stacking  $L$  and non-linearities  $\sigma$ . Then  $f$  is permutation equivariant.*

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- Recall the two properties we mentioned earlier (symmetries of the data and the space of functions learnable by the network).
- *DeepSets* is an architecture that is equivariant to set permutations and is maximally expressive in the space of permutation equivariant functions.
- We are going to see the construction and prove it satisfies equivariance and expressiveness.

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- To fill in the details, we need to define the equivariant layer  $L$  and the invariant function  $\phi$ .

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Consider a set  $x = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ , where  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}$ .  
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- A deep sets invariant network is now constructed as:

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- It is easy to see that  $\phi$  is permutation invariant, and thus  $f$  is permutation invariant.
- For a classification network, take some classification module  $\rho$  (e.g. an MLP), and define the final network as:

$$h(x) = \rho(f(x))$$

- Notice that the network is only defined for sets with elements in  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- We can extend this to a set  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  by defining  $L$  as:

$$L(x) = \mathbf{X}W_1 + \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^T\mathbf{X}W_2$$

- This keeps the general structure of the layer: a linear transformation of the distinct elements of the set summed with the mean of the set.

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H.W. (using standard results from approximation theory). ☐

# Conclusion

- end



Thank You!