

# Clifford-Steerable Convolutional Neural Networks

Maksim Zhdanov<sup>1</sup>, David Ruhe<sup>\*,1,2,3</sup>, Maurice Weiler<sup>\*,1</sup>, Ana Lucic<sup>4</sup>, Johannes Brandstetter<sup>5,6</sup>, Patrick Forré<sup>1,2</sup>

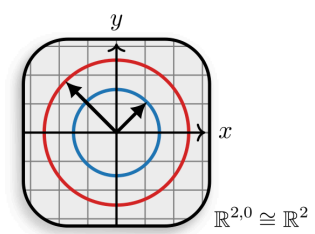
<sup>\*</sup>equal contribution, <sup>1</sup>AMLab, University of Amsterdam, <sup>2</sup>AI4Science Lab, University of Amsterdam, <sup>3</sup>Anton Pannekoek Institute for Astronomy, <sup>4</sup>AI4Science, Microsoft Research, <sup>5</sup>ELLIS Unit Linz, <sup>6</sup>NXAI GmbH

## Preliminaries

**Pseudo-Euclidean spaces  $\mathbb{R}^{p,q}$** : generalization of Euclidean spaces  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to negative distances. Includes Euclidean space and Minkowski spacetime as special cases.

Euclidean space

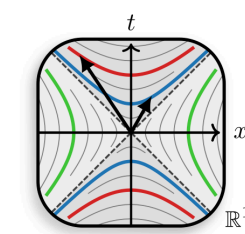
$$\Delta^2 = x^2 + y^2$$



$$\mathbb{R}^{2,0} \cong \mathbb{R}^2$$

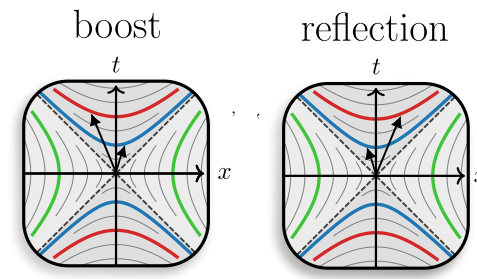
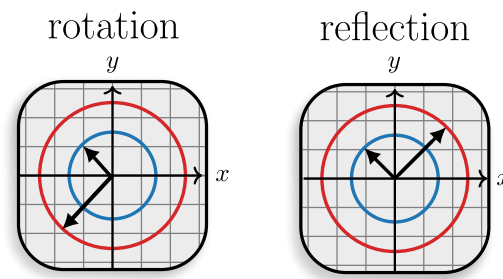
Minkowski spacetime

$$\Delta^2 = (ct)^2 - x^2$$



$$\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$$

**Pseudo-Euclidean group  $E(p,q)$** : set of isometries, includes translations, spatial rotations, reflections, and also boosts.

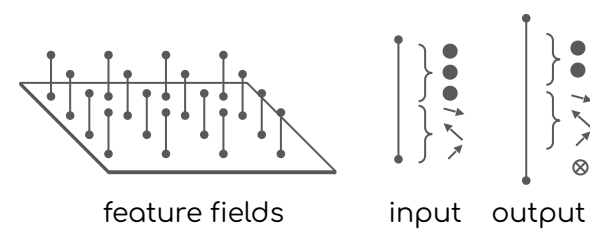


## Steerable CNNs

Known recipe to build  $E(n)$ -equivariant CNNs:

$E(n)$ -equivariant CNNs = CNNs +  $O(n)$ -equivariant kernels

1. define input/output representations  $\rho_{in}, \rho_{out}$

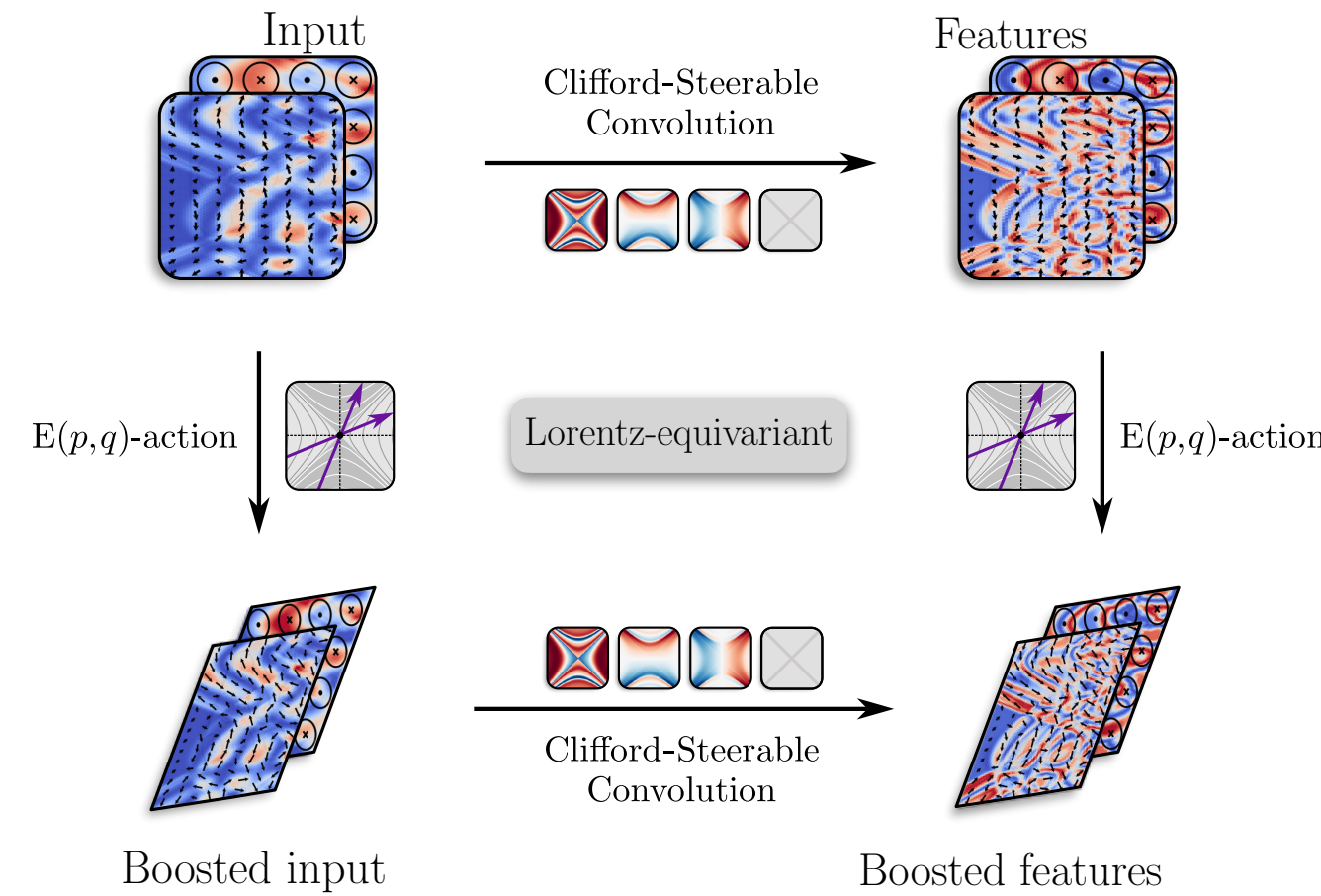
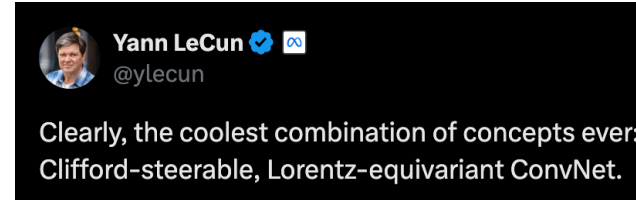


2. solve the kernel constraint for  $\rho_{in}, \rho_{out}$

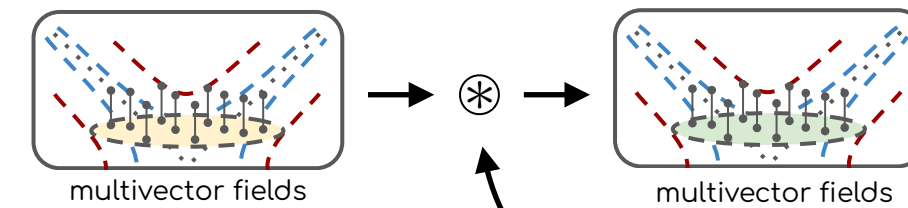
$$k(g \cdot x) = \rho_{out}(g)k(x)\rho_{in}(g)^T \quad \forall g \in G$$

3. use in convolution

- Don't want to solve the constraint analytically for each  $p, q$ .
- Use Clifford group equivariant NNs [Ruhe et al. 2023] to parameterize  $O(p, q)$ -equivariant convolutional kernels.
- [Zhdanov et al. 2023] guarantees that the resulting CNN is  $E(p, q)$ -equivariant.



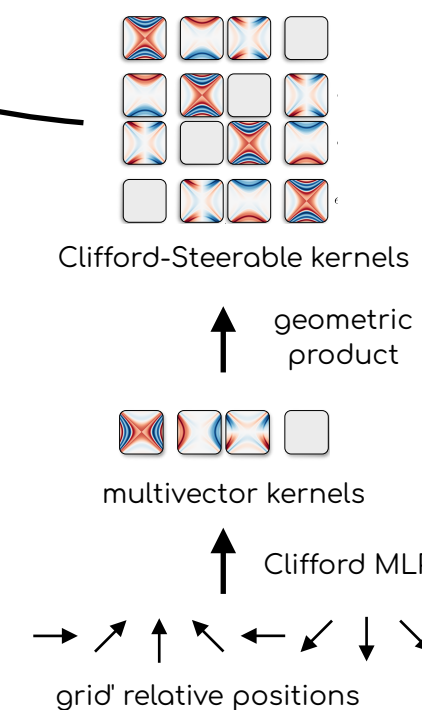
## Clifford-Steerable CNNs



- For each position on the grid, a multivector kernel matrix is computed.
- For each multivector in the matrix, a weighted geometric product is partially evaluated, which yields Clifford-Steerable kernel.

$$K : \mathbb{R}^{p,q} \xrightarrow{O(p,q) - \text{MLP}} \text{Cl}(\mathbb{R}^{p,q})^{c_{out} \times c_{in}} \xrightarrow{\text{weighted GP}} \mathbb{R}^{c_{out} \cdot 2^{p+q} \times c_{in} \cdot 2^{p+q}}$$

- The kernel can be used with nn.ConvNd → efficient and fast.

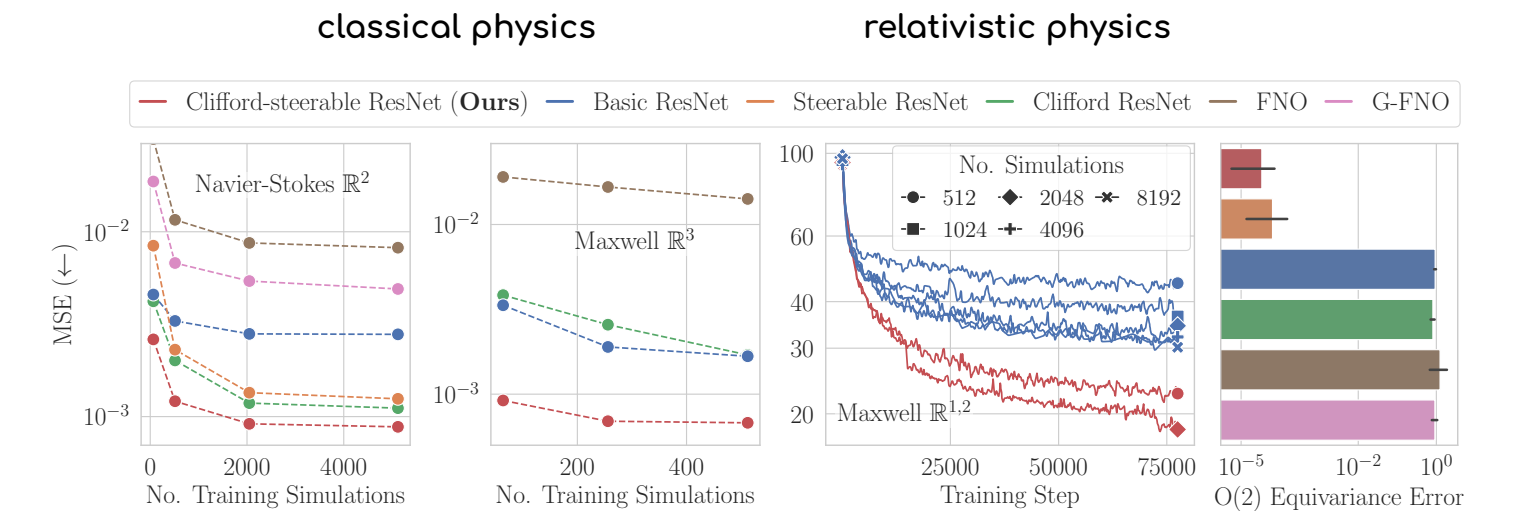


## Experiments

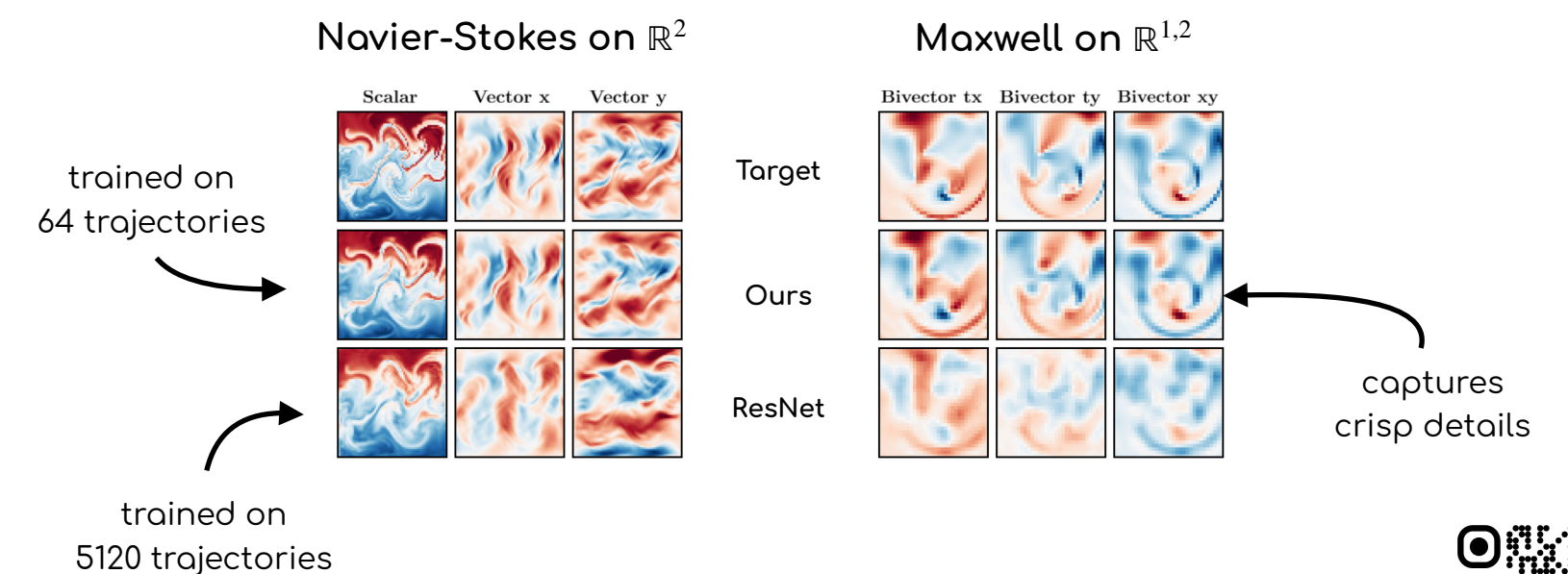
**Task:** predict the next state of a system given previous states.

- 1) Fluid dynamics on  $\mathbb{R}^2$  - incompressible Navier-Stokes eq. (PDEarena).
- 2) Electrodynamics on  $\mathbb{R}^3$  - Maxwell eq. (PDEarena).
- 3) Electrodynamics on  $\mathbb{R}^{1,2}$  - Maxwell eq., relativistic.
  - EM field is generated by multiple charged particles moving with relativistic velocities.

→ In 1) and 2), time is given as channels, in 3), as a grid dimension.



- CS-ResNets significantly and consistently outperform baselines.
- CS-ResNets are 100x sample efficient than standard ResNets.
- Allows for relativistic equivariant convolutions on spacetime.



for more details, check out the full paper →

