

---

# Leveraging topology, geometry, and symmetries for efficient Machine Learning

---

Michaël Defferrard



Prof. Pierre Vandergheynst (EPFL), adviser

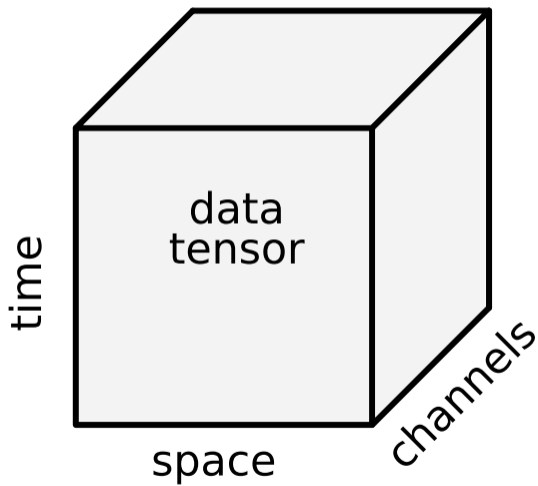
Prof. Pascal Frossard (EPFL), president

Prof. Martin Jaggi (EPFL), examiner

Prof. Max Welling (UvA, MSR), examiner

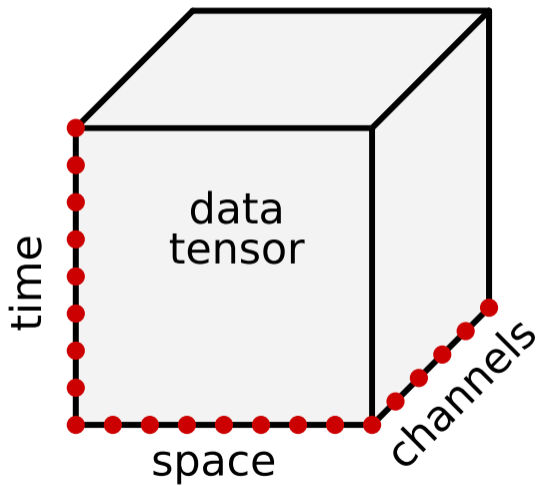
Prof. Yann LeCun (NYU, FAIR), examiner

## Structured data



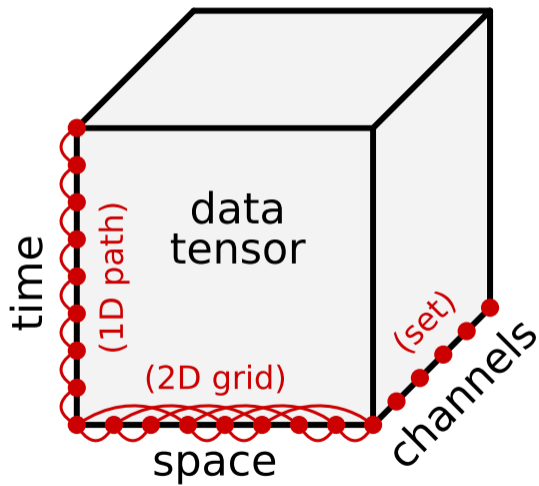
- ▶ Data is multi-dimensional.

## Structured data



- ▶ Data is multi-dimensional.
- ▶ Measurements are discrete.

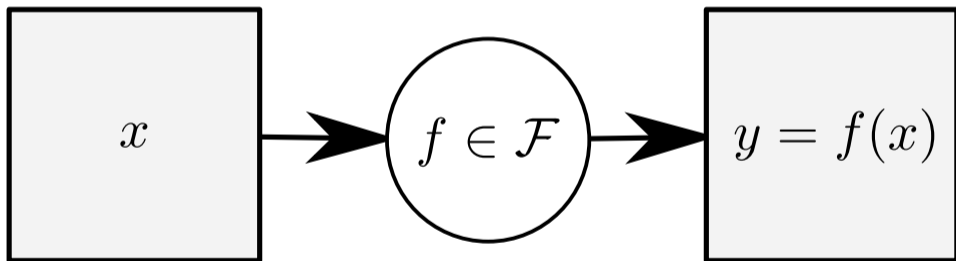
## Structured data



- ▶ Data is multi-dimensional.
- ▶ Measurements are discrete.
- ▶ Dimensions are structured.

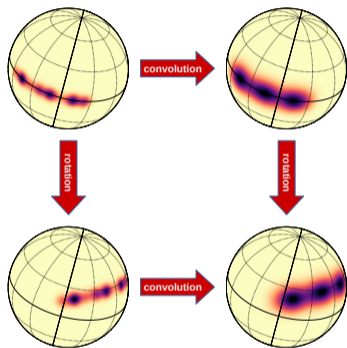
# The (deep) learning revolution

From designing the solution  $f$  to designing the solution **space**  $\mathcal{F}$ .



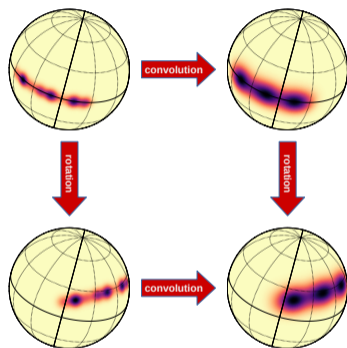
$\mathcal{F}$  is determined by the NN architecture. How to design it?

# Design of solution spaces (NN architectures)

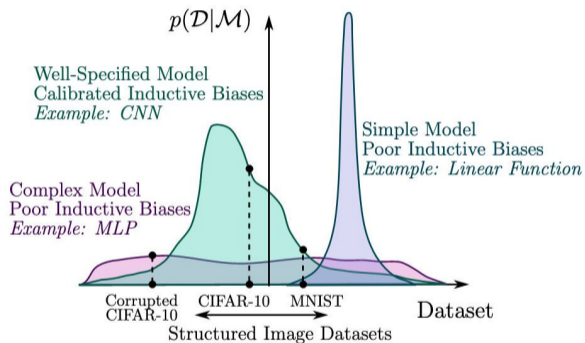


Constraints

# Design of solution spaces (NN architectures)

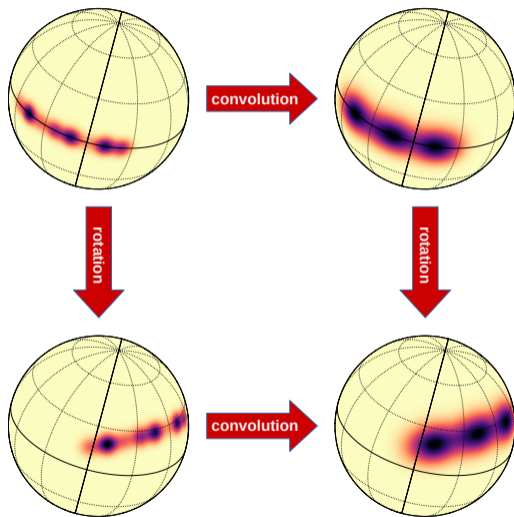


Constraints



Biases

# Symmetry constraints

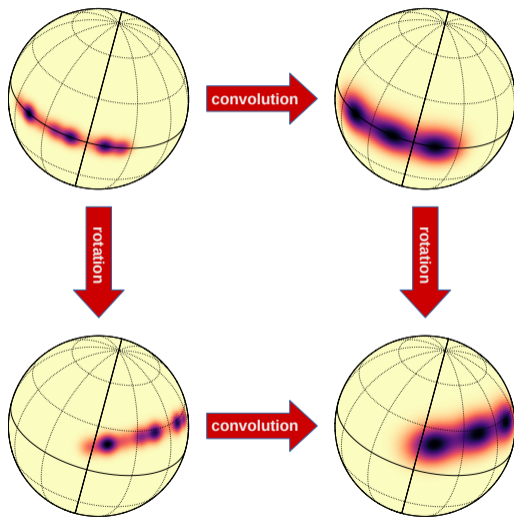


- **Equivariance** for dense tasks:  
 $f(P_\sigma x) = P_\sigma f(x) \quad \forall \sigma \in \text{SO}(3).$

- **Invariance** for global tasks:  
 $f(P_\sigma x) = f(x) \quad \forall \sigma \in \text{SO}(3).$

Why leverage symmetries?

# Symmetry constraints



- **Equivariance** for dense tasks:  
 $f(P_\sigma x) = P_\sigma f(x) \quad \forall \sigma \in SO(3).$

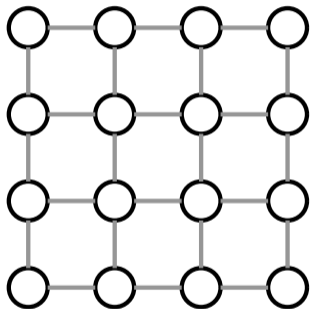
- **Invariance** for global tasks:  
 $f(P_\sigma x) = f(x) \quad \forall \sigma \in SO(3).$

Why leverage symmetries?

- Data efficiency.
- Generalization guarantee.

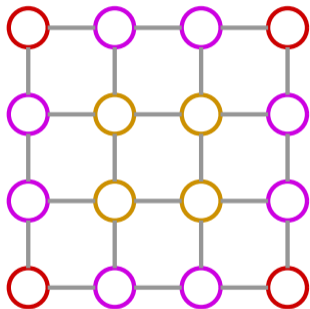
⇒ Principled weight sharing.

## Symmetries might not be enough



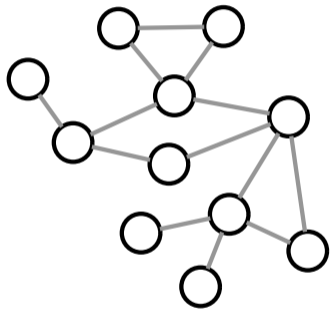
- What are the symmetries? Translations?

## Symmetries might not be enough



- ▶ What are the symmetries? Translations?
- ▶ Few symmetries.
- ▶ A solution: “cheat” by treating the grid as a discretization of the plane.

## Symmetries might not be enough



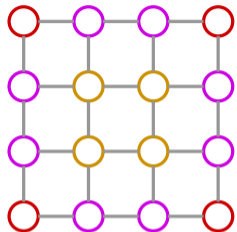
- What are the symmetries?

## Symmetries might not be enough



- ▶ What are the symmetries?
- ▶ Asymmetric core with few symmetric motifs.
- ▶ Can't "cheat". No underlying continuous domain. Purely discrete.

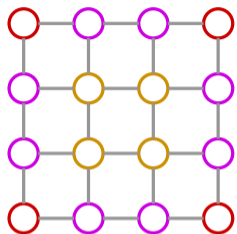
## Symmetries might not be enough



Why more weight sharing?



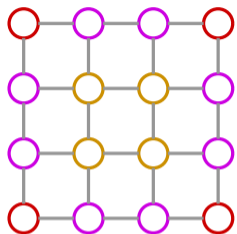
## Symmetries might not be enough



### Why more weight sharing?

- ▶ Higher data efficiency.
- ▶ Stronger generalization guarantee.
- ▶ Less powerful / general / flexible.

## Symmetries might not be enough



### Why more weight sharing?

- ▶ Higher data efficiency.
- ▶ Stronger generalization guarantee.
- ▶ Less powerful / general / flexible.

### The bias–variance tradeoff.

How to leverage the **topological** and **geometrical** structure of the data's domain to **learn efficiently** without the help of **symmetry** action?

# Contributions

- ▶ Transitive and known symmetry groups  $\Rightarrow$  group convolutions.
- ▶ Non-transitive and/or unknown symmetry groups  $\Rightarrow$  generalized convolutions.

My contributions: motivation, construction, analysis, and usage  
of generalized convolutions for efficient Machine Learning.

---

# A discrete calculus

---

My contributions: motivation, **construction**, analysis, and usage  
of generalized convolutions for efficient Machine Learning.

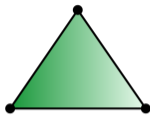
# Space: simplicial complexes



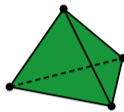
0-simplex



1-simplex

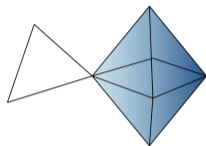


2-simplex



3-simplex

$d$ -simplices.



Simplicial complex  $K$ .

- ▶ Simplex: set of vertices.
- ▶ Simplicial complex  $K$ : set of simplices.  
Single axiom: closed under taking subsets.
- ▶  $K_d$ : set of all  $d$ -simplices.

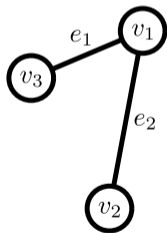
- ▶ Simplices naturally form a **spatial basis**.
- ▶ Vertex- ( $d = 0$ ), edge- ( $d = 1$ ), simplex-valued ( $d \geq 2$ ) functions.
- ▶ Covariant  **$d$ -chain**  $x_d \in \mathbb{R}^{|K_d|}$  and contravariant  **$d$ -cochain**  $f_d \in \mathbb{R}^{|K_d|}$ .

Duality:

$$\langle x_d, f_d \rangle = x_d^\top f_d$$

## Topology: an incidence structure

$$K = \{\{v_1\}, \{v_2\}, \{v_3\}, \underbrace{\{v_3, v_1\}}_{e_1}, \underbrace{\{v_1, v_2\}}_{e_2}\}$$



$$B_1 = \begin{pmatrix} +1 & -1 \\ 0 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶ Ordering is arbitrary but necessary.  
 $K_0 = \{\{v_1\}, \{v_2\}, \{v_3\}\}$  and  $K_1 = \{e_1, e_2\}$ .
- ▶ Orientation is arbitrary but necessary.  
 $e_1 = \{v_3, v_1\}$  and  $e_2 = \{v_1, v_2\}$ .

# Topology: an incidence structure

- ▶ **Boundary** operator  $B_d^\top$ :  
subdomain  $d$ -chain  $x_d \rightarrow$  boundary  $(d-1)$ -chain  $B_d^\top x_d$ .
- ▶ **Differential** operator<sup>1</sup>  $B_d$ :  
data  $(d-1)$ -cochain  $f_{d-1} \rightarrow$  finite difference  $d$ -cochain  $B_d f_{d-1}$ .

$B_d^\top$  and  $B_d$  are **adjoint** w.r.t. dual pairing:

$$\langle B_d^\top x_d, f_{d-1} \rangle = \langle x_d, B_d f_{d-1} \rangle$$

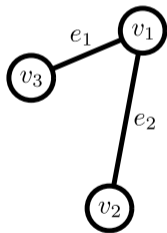
$$\int_{\partial\Omega} \omega = \int_{\Omega} d\omega$$

---

<sup>1</sup>Also known as the coboundary or exterior derivative.

## Geometry: an inner product

$$\langle f_d, h_d \rangle_{M_d} = f_d^\top M_d h_d$$



$$M_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \text{weight}(v_1) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \text{weight}(v_2) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \text{weight}(v_3) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \text{weight}(e_1) & 0 \\ 0 & \text{weight}(e_2) \end{pmatrix}$$

---

Weights can represent similarities or distances/volumes.

## Codifferential operator

$$\langle B_d f_{d-1}, h_d \rangle_{M_d} = \langle f_{d-1}, B_d^\dagger h_d \rangle_{M_{d-1}}$$

Codifferential operator  $B_d^\dagger = M_{d-1}^{-1} B_d^\top M_d$ .

- ▶  $B_d^\dagger$  is **adjoint** to  $B_d$  w.r.t.  $M_d$ .
- ▶ Gradient  $B_1$ , divergence  $B_1^\dagger$ , curl  $B_2$ .

## Dirichlet energy: defines the Laplacian

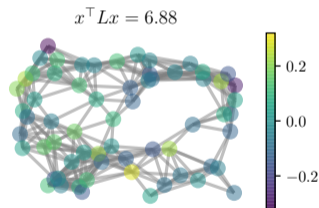
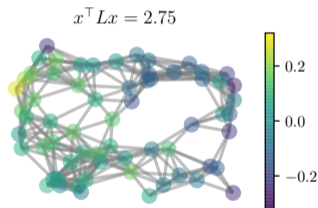
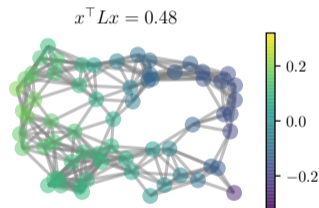
$$\langle B_d^\dagger f_d, B_d^\dagger h_d \rangle_{M_{d-1}} + \langle B_{d+1} f_d, B_{d+1} h_d \rangle_{M_{d+1}} = \langle f_d, L_d h_d \rangle_{M_d}$$

**Laplacian** as the second-order differential operator

$$L_d = B_d B_d^\dagger + B_{d+1}^\dagger B_{d+1}$$

## Dirichlet energy: measure of variation

$$E(f_d) = \langle f_d, L_d f_d \rangle_{M_d} = \|B_d^\dagger f_d\|_{M_{d-1}}^2 + \|B_{d+1} f_d\|_{M_{d+1}}^2$$



$$E(f_0) = \langle f_0, L_0 f_0 \rangle_{M_0} = \|B_1 f_0\|_{M_1}^2$$

---

# Generalized convolutions

---

My contributions: motivation, construction, **analysis**, and usage  
of generalized convolutions for efficient Machine Learning.

# Graphs

- ▶ Graph  $G$  of  $n = |K_0|$  vertices.
- ▶ Incidence matrix  $B = B_1$ .
- ▶ Unweighted vertices  $M_0 = I$  and edge weights  $M = M_1$ .
- ▶ Laplacian  $L = L_0 = B^\dagger B = B^\top M B$ .

$$\sigma \in \text{Aut}(G) \subset S_n$$

- ▶ Automorphism  $\sigma$ .
- ▶ Automorphism group  $\text{Aut}(G)$ .
- ▶  $0 \leq |\text{Aut}(G)| \leq |S_n|$  symmetries.

Representation (spatial basis): **permutation matrix**  $P_\sigma$ .

$$P_{\sigma}^{\top} L P_{\sigma} = L$$

$$L P_{\sigma} = P_{\sigma} L$$

- ▶ Symmetry preserves the adjacency structure.
- ▶ The Laplacian commutes with symmetry group actions.
- ▶ The Laplacian is an intrinsic and **equivariant** operator.

## Fourier diagonalizes actions

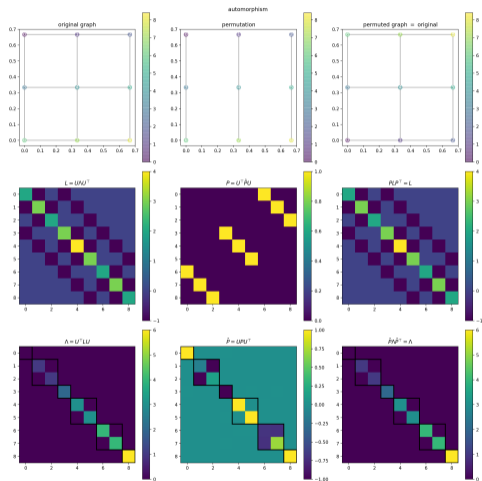
$$L = U\Lambda U^{-1}$$

- ▶ Symmetries must act as rotations within the eigenspaces of  $L$ .
- ▶ Fourier jointly (block-)diagonalizes  $L$  and  $P_\sigma$ —without knowing the symmetries.

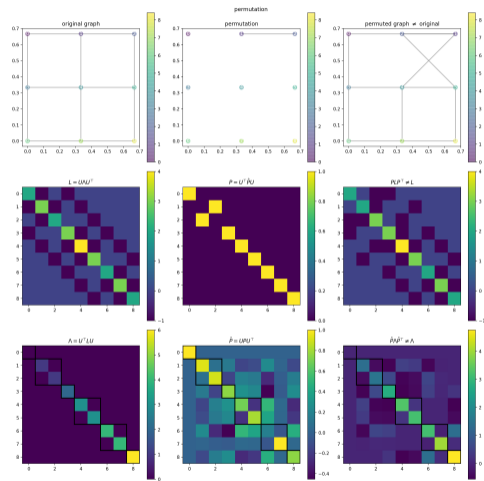
---

Special case of the Peter-Weyl theorem (compact groups) and Pontryagin duality (Abelian groups).

# Fourier diagonalizes actions



Automorphism:  $PLP^T = L$ .

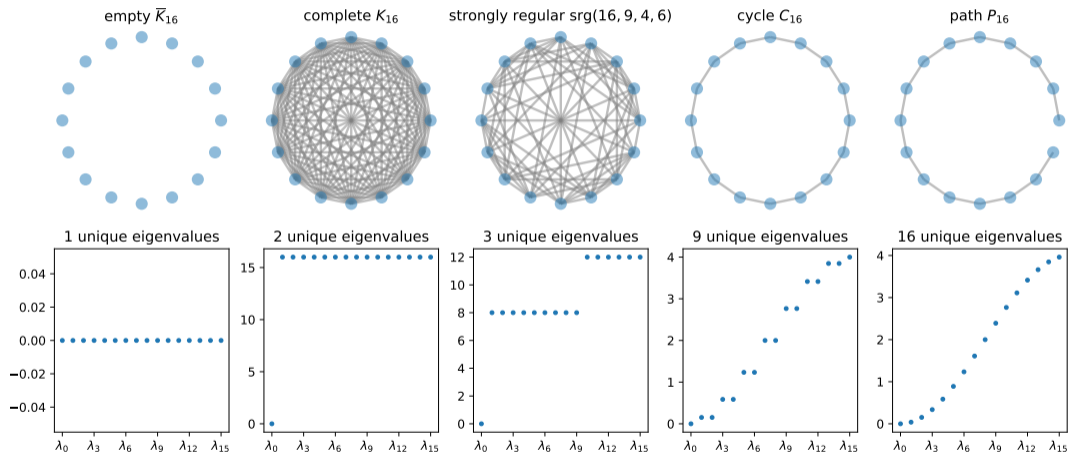


Permutation:  $PLP^T \neq L$ .

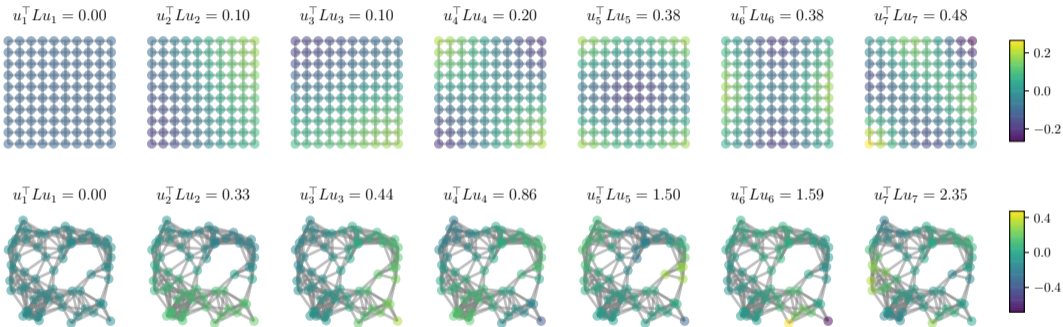
$$L = U\Lambda U^{-1}$$

- ▶ Fourier  $U = [u_1, \dots, u_n]$ , eigenvectors  $u_i$ .
- ▶ Squared frequencies  $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ , eigenvalues  $0 = \lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n$ .
- ▶ Because  $L$  is positive semi-definite [spectral theorem].
- ▶ Reduces to the discrete cosine (DCT) and Fourier (DFT) transforms.

# Spectral basis: eigenvalues



# Spectral basis: eigenvectors

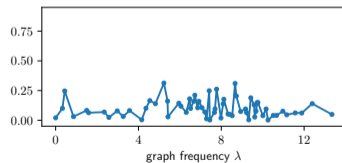
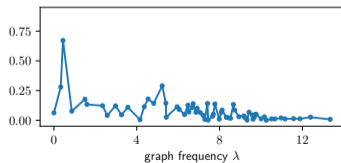
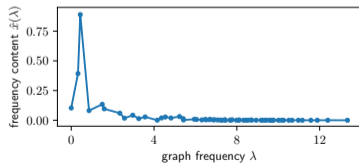
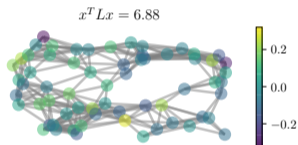
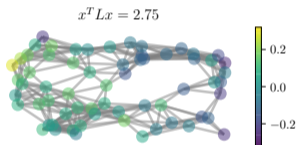
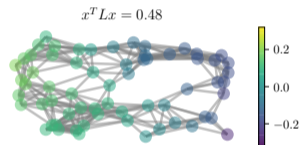


# Spectral basis: Fourier transform

$$\hat{x} = U^{-1}x$$

$$x = U\hat{x}$$

$$E(x) = x^T L x = \hat{x}^T \Lambda \hat{x}$$



## Generalized convolutions

$$\Lambda = U^{-1}LU$$

$$\Pi_{\sigma} = U^{-1}P_{\sigma}U$$

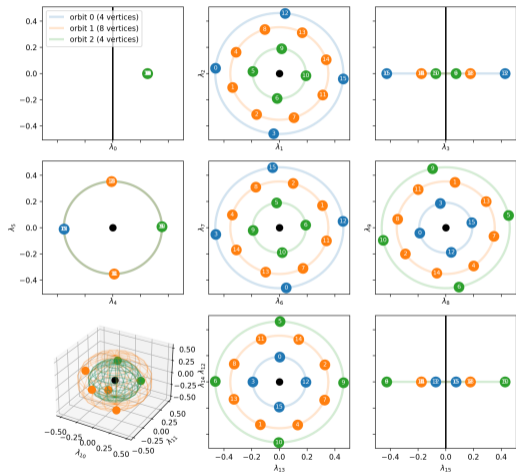
- ▶ The eigenspaces are the **invariant subspaces** of both operators.
- ▶  $\Lambda$  is diagonal: one value per eigenspace.
- ▶  $\Pi_{\sigma}$  is block-diagonal: one block per eigenspace. Each block implements a roto-reflection.

# Generalized convolutions (spectral basis)

$$g(\Lambda) = \text{diag}(g(\lambda_1), \dots, g(\lambda_n))$$

$$g(\Lambda)\Pi_\sigma = \Pi_\sigma g(\Lambda)$$

The action  $g(\Lambda)$  of  $g$  (scaling) is **orthogonal** to the action  $\Pi_\sigma$  of  $\sigma$  (roto-reflection).



## Generalized convolutions (spatial basis)

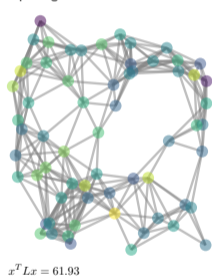
$$g(L) = Ug(\Lambda)U^{-1}$$

- ▶ Multiplication operator  $g(\Lambda)$  and convolution operator  $g(L)$ .
- ▶  $g(L)$  is an equivariant operator, the defining property of convolutions.
- ▶ Generalized because it commutes with more than symmetries.

# Filtering

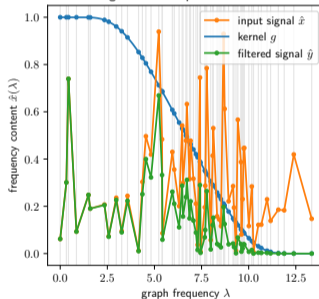
$$y = g(L)x = U g(\Lambda) U^{-1} x$$

input signal  $x$  in the vertex domain

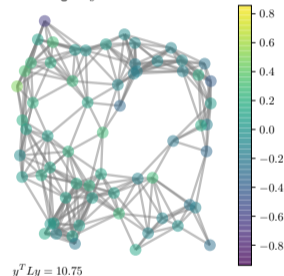


$$x^T L x = 61.93$$

signals in the spectral domain



filtered signal  $y$  in the vertex domain

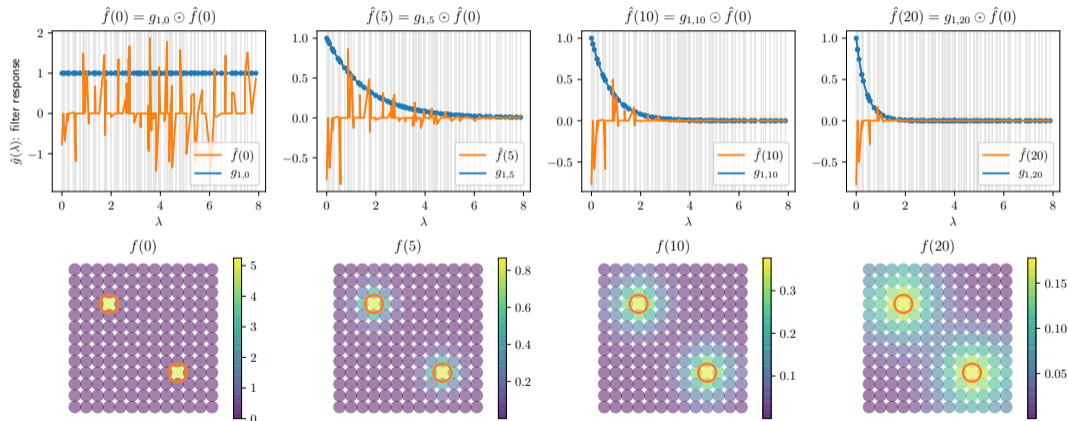


$$y^T L y = 10.75$$

Left: data  $x$  in the spatial basis. Middle: data  $\hat{x} = U^{-1}x$ , concrete filter  $\text{diag}(g(\Lambda))$ , and filtered data  $\hat{y} = g(\Lambda)\hat{x}$  in the spectral basis. Right: filtered data  $y = U\hat{y}$  in the spatial basis.

# Filtering: heat diffusion

$$-\tau L f(t) = \partial_t f(t) \quad \Rightarrow \quad f(t) = g_{\tau t}(L) f(0) \quad \text{with} \quad g_{\tau t}(\lambda) = \exp(-\tau t \lambda)$$



# Designing $g$

**Design** a kernel  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that it acts interestingly as  $y = g(L)x$ .

- ▶  $g(\lambda) = \exp(-\tau t \lambda)$ : heat diffusion.
- ▶  $g(\lambda) = \cos\left(t \arccos\left(1 - \frac{\tau^2}{2}\lambda\right)\right)$ : wave propagation.
- ▶  $g(\lambda) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \lambda_{\min} < \lambda < \lambda_{\max}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$ : projection on a subspace.
- ▶  $g(\lambda) = \frac{1}{1+\tau\lambda}$ : denoising with  $\arg \min_y \|y - x\|_2^2 + \tau y^\top L y$ .

**Learn**  $g$  if the process is unknown.

# Convolution: symmetry action vs localization

Convolution with symmetry action.

$$\langle y, \delta_i \rangle = \langle T_i g, x \rangle$$

- ▶  $T_i g$  shifts  $g$  to the  $i^{\text{th}}$  vertex.
- ▶  $x$  and  $g$  are the same objects.

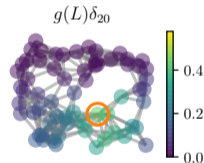
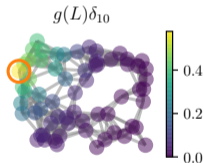
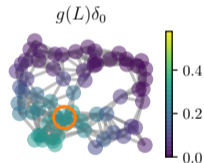
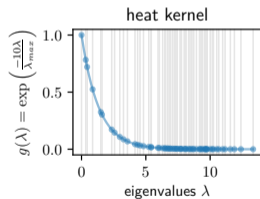
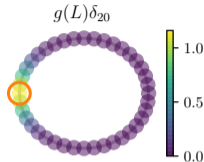
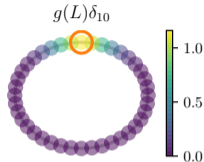
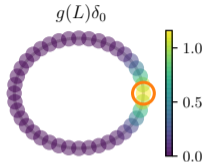
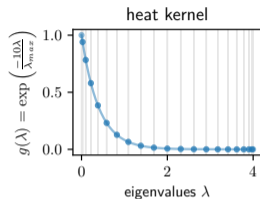
Convolution with **localization**.

$$\begin{aligned}\langle y, \delta_i \rangle &= \langle g(L)x, \delta_i \rangle \\ &= \langle x, g(L)\delta_i \rangle\end{aligned}$$

- ▶  $g(L)\delta_i$  localizes  $g$  at the  $i^{\text{th}}$  vertex.
- ▶  $x$  and  $g$  are different.

Localization is a generalization of symmetry action to non-homogeneous spaces.

# Convolution: symmetry action vs localization

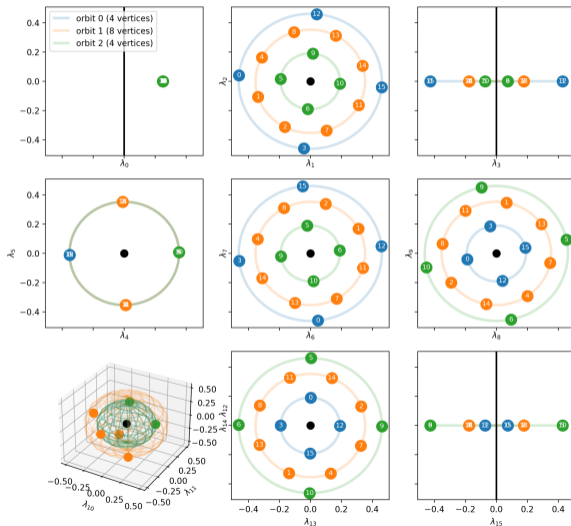
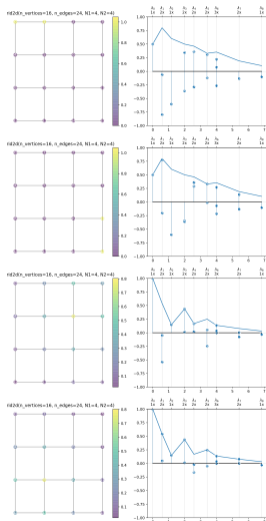


Localization reduces to symmetry action.

$$E_g(f) = \langle f, g(L)f \rangle = \left\| g^{1/2}(\Lambda)U^{-1}f \right\|_2^2$$

- ▶ Generalization of Dirichlet energy to  $g \neq \text{id}$ .
- ▶  $g^{1/2}(\Lambda)U^{-1}f$  is an embedding of  $f$  in Euclidean space that reproduces:
  - ▶ the symmetries of the space encoded in  $L$ ,
  - ▶ a **notion of distance** set by  $g$ .

# Spectral embedding

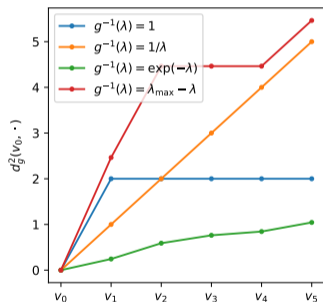


## Network (vertex) embedding

$$Q = g^{1/2}(\Lambda)U^{-1}$$

- ▶ Embedding  $Q = [q_1, \dots, q_n]$ , where  $q_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$  represents the  $i^{\text{th}}$  vertex.
- ▶ Covariance  $Q^T Q = U g(\Lambda) U^{-1} = g(L)$ .  
PCA with principal directions  $u_i$  and variances  $g(\lambda_i)$ .

$$d_g^2(v_i, v_j) = \|q_i - q_j\|_2^2 = E_g(\delta_i - \delta_j)$$



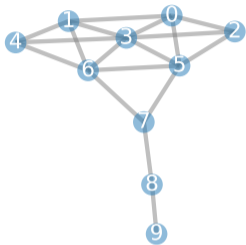
Distances on a path graph.

- ▶  $g^{-1}(\lambda) = 1$ : Laplacian eigenmaps  
[Belkin & Niyogi '01]
- ▶  $g^{-1}(\lambda) = 1/\lambda$ : resistance/commute-time distance  
[Klein & Randić '93] [Göbel & Jagers '74] [Fouss et al. '07]
- ▶  $g^{-1}(\lambda) = \exp(-2t\lambda)$ : (heat) diffusion distance  
[Coifman & Lafon '06] [Kondor & Lafferty '02]
- ▶  $g^{-1}(\lambda) = (a - \lambda)^p, a \geq \lambda_{\max}$ :  $p$ -step random-walk  
[PageRank, Brin & Page '98]

$$C_g^2(v_i) = \|q_i\|_2^2 = E_g(\delta_i) = (g(L))_{ii}$$

- ▶ Measures how close a vertex is to all others.
- ▶ Why?  $\sum_j \|q_j - q_i\|^2 = \sum_j \|q_j\|_2^2 + n\|q_i\|_2^2 \propto \|q_i\|_2^2 = C_g^2(v_i)$ .
- ▶ Closer to the origin (center of mass) implies closer to all other vertices.

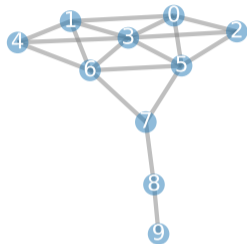
# Designing g: different notions of distance



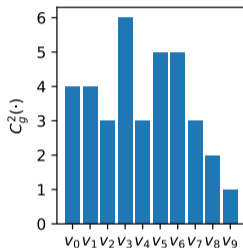
Krackhardt kite  
graph.

---

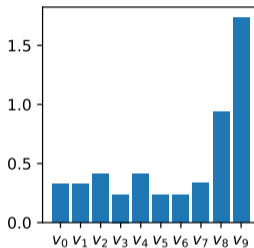
# Designing $g$ : different notions of distance



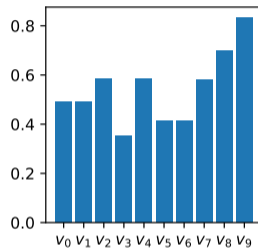
Krackhardt kite graph.



Degree centrality  
 $g(\lambda) = \lambda$ .



Closeness centrality  
 $g(\lambda) = \lambda^{-1}$ .

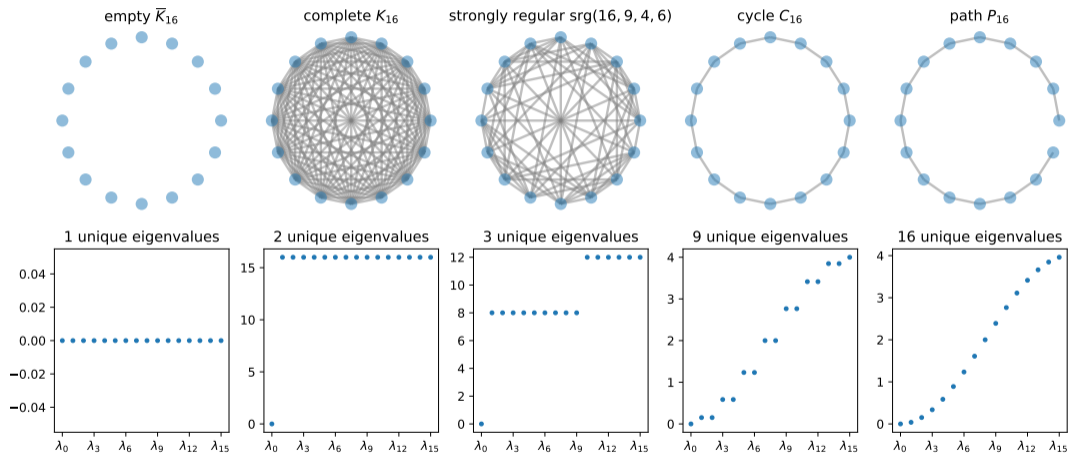


Diffusion centrality  
 $g(\lambda) = \exp(0.2\lambda)$ .

Degree centrality is contravariant, the others are covariant.

Closeness centrality with resistance instead of the typical shortest-path distance.

# Learning $g$ : degrees of freedom



Number of independent distances: from 1 to  $n$ .

## Transfer across graphs

- ▶  $g$  is an **abstract** convolution kernel, specified independently of any graph.
- ▶  $g(L) = g(B^T M B) = U g(\Lambda) U^{-1}$  is a **concrete representation** for a graph specified by  $B$  and  $M$ .
- ▶  $g \rightarrow g(L)$  is an homomorphism like  $\sigma \rightarrow P_\sigma$  is.

# Summary

1. The kernel  $g$  defines a **notion of distance**.
2. It is represented by the **generalized convolution**  $g(L) = g(B^T M B)$  on a domain specified by the topology  $B$  and geometry  $M$ .
3.  $g(L)$  is mostly **constrained** by the domain's symmetries and complexity, constraining the functional space to learn from.
4.  $g(L)$  is **equivariant to unknown symmetries**.
5. **Filtering** and **embedding** are one and the same.
6. **Design**  $g$  if you know what you want, **learn** it if you don't.

---

# DeepSphere

---

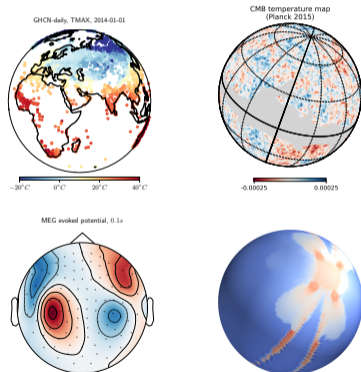
My contributions: motivation, construction, analysis, and **usage**  
of generalized convolutions for efficient Machine Learning.

# Problem: learning from spherical data

input  $x : S^2 \times \dots \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$

intrinsic

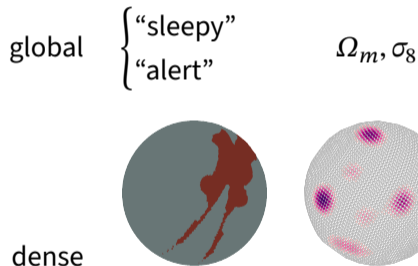
projection



output  $f(x)$

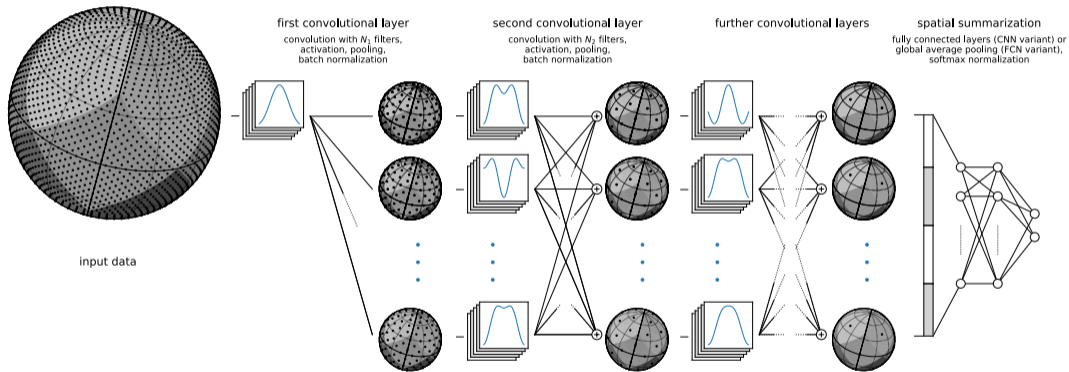
classification

regression

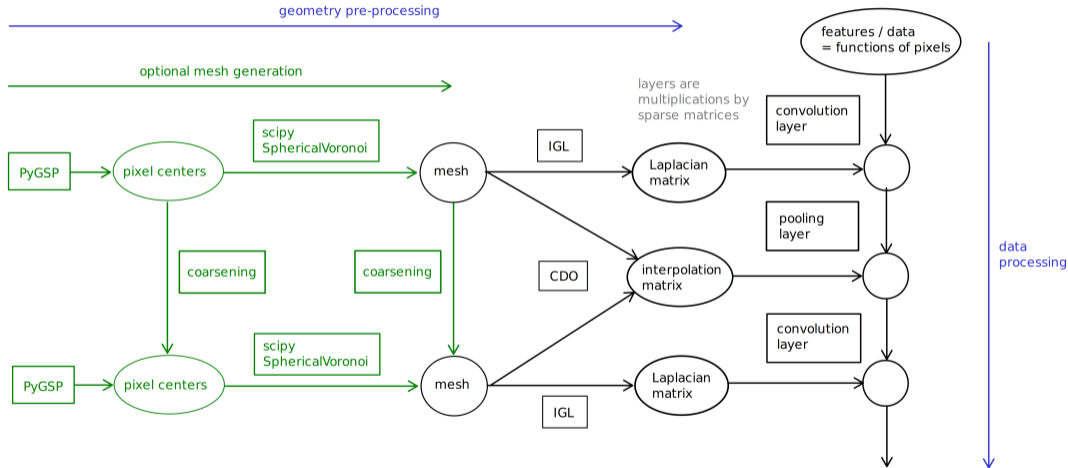


Acoustic field from Simeoni et al. 2019. 3D shape from Esteves et al. 2018.

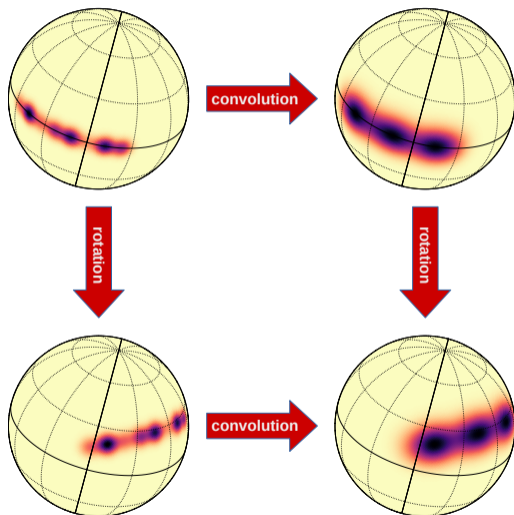
# Solution: spherical neural networks



# Solution: spherical neural networks



## Desideratum 1: equivariant to rotations



- **Equivariance** for dense tasks:  
 $f(P_\sigma x) = P_\sigma f(x) \quad \forall \sigma \in SO(3).$

- **Invariance** for global tasks:  
 $f(P_\sigma x) = f(x) \quad \forall \sigma \in SO(3).$

Why exploit symmetries?

- Data efficiency.
- Generalization guarantee.

⇒ Principled weight sharing (convolution).

## Desideratum 2: scalable

- ▶ Many inferences needed for training.
- ▶ Increasingly larger maps.

( $n = 10^7$  pixels is customary in cosmology.)

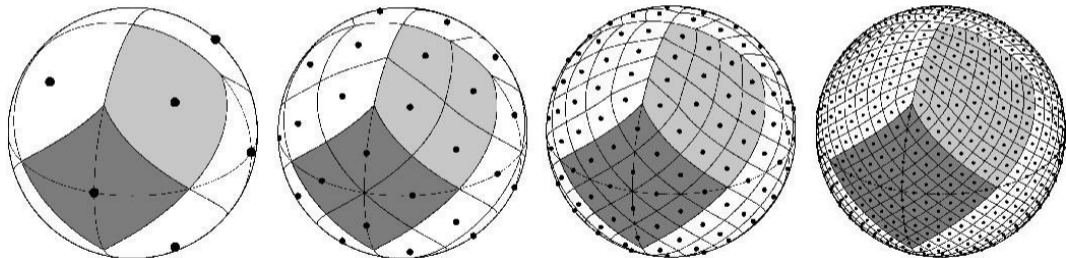
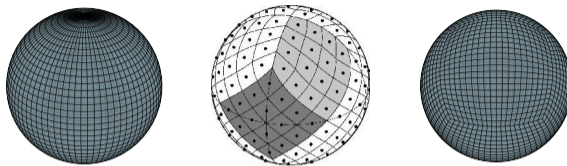
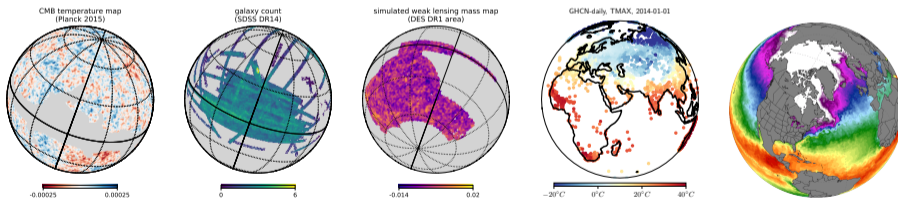


Figure from <https://healpix.sourceforge.io>.

## Desideratum 3: flexible sampling, avoid interpolation



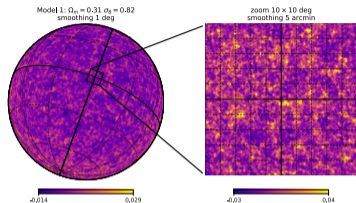
Sampling schemes: equiangular, HEALPix, cubed-sphere, icosahedral, Gauss–Legendre, etc.



Partial and irregular sampling.

Some figures from Boomsma and Frellsen 2017 and <https://climatereanalyzer.org>.

# Method 1: 2D projections

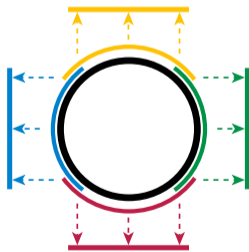


Manifold is locally Euclidean!

**Project** on tangent planes.

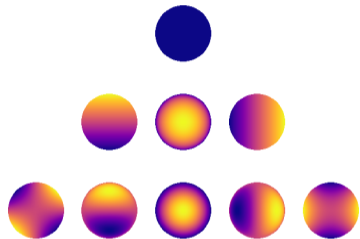
## Desiderata

- ⊖ Rotation equivariance: hard to glue planes together.
- ⊕ Scalability: well developed NN architectures and implementations. Some wastes at boundaries.
- ⊖ Flexibility: only handle compact subspaces.



Charting figure from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/manifold>.

## Method 2: discretization of continuous domain



Spectral decomposition.

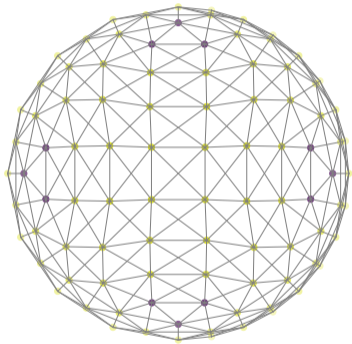
Discretize but consider the continuous symmetries.

**Group convolution:** multiplication in the spectrum after a spherical harmonic transform (SHT).

### Desiderata

- ⊕ Rotation equivariance: well understood theory.
- ⊖ SHT is expensive. Even if faster transforms exist for some samplings.
- ⊖ Flexibility: unused pixels are mostly wasted.

## Our method: discrete domain



**Domain** pixels  $K_0$ , topology  $B$ , geometry  $M$

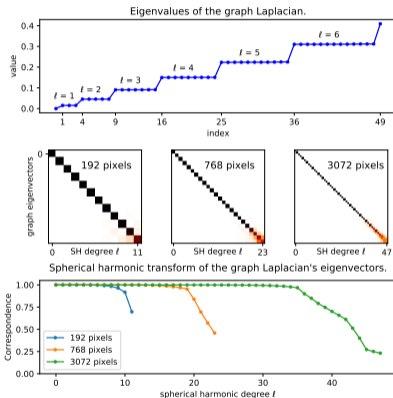
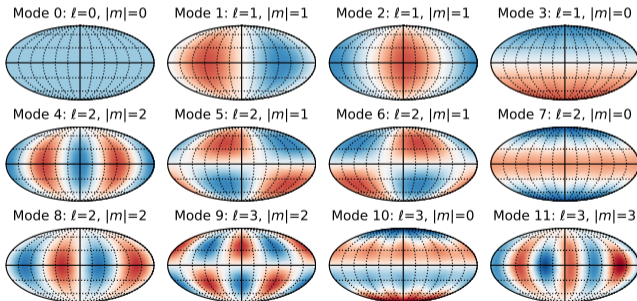
**Data**  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n = |K_0|$

**Map**  $g_\alpha(L)x = \sum_k \alpha_k L^k x$ ,  $L = BMB^\top$

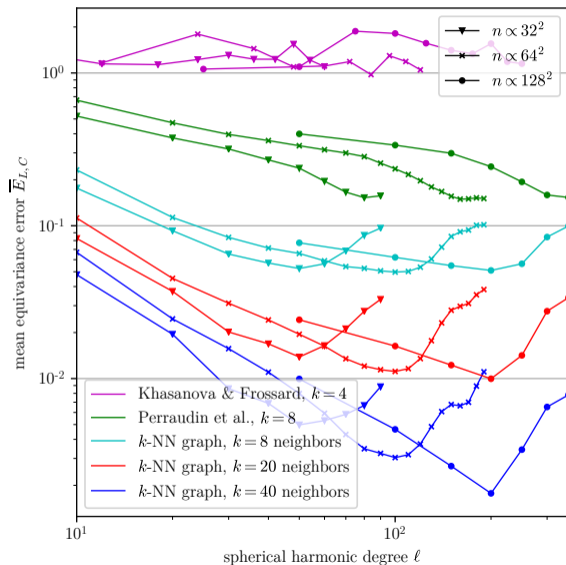
**Parameters**  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^K$

# Graph Fourier basis on the sphere

- ▶ Fourier modes approximate spherical harmonics.
- ▶ The graph approximates the sphere.



# Desideratum 1: equivariant to rotations



► Equivariance error:

$$\mathbb{E}_{\sigma, x} \left( \frac{\|P_{\sigma} Lx - LP_{\sigma} x\|}{\|Lx\|} \right)^2$$

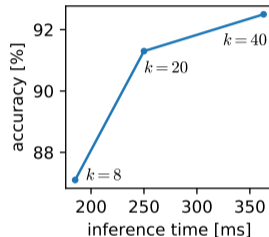
► Tradeoff between equivariance and cost (number of vertices  $n$  and edges  $kn$ ) in the topology  $B$ .

► Difficulty: get the geometry  $M$  right.

## Desideratum 1: it matters!

	accuracy	time
Perraudin et al. 2019, 2D CNN baseline	54.2	104 ms
Perraudin et al. 2019, CNN variant, $k = 8$	62.1	185 ms
Perraudin et al. 2019, FCN variant, $k = 8$	83.8	185 ms
$k = 8$ neighbors, optimal $t$	87.1	185 ms
$k = 20$ neighbors, optimal $t$	91.3	250 ms
$k = 40$ neighbors, optimal $t$	92.5	363 ms

Lower equivariance error translates to higher performance.



Tradeoff between cost and accuracy.

## Desideratum 2: linear complexity

Goal: avoid the  $O(n^3)$  EVD  $L = ULU^{-1}$  and  $O(n^2)$  matrix multiplication  $U^{-1}x$  in evaluating  $g(L)x = Ug(\Lambda)U^{-1}x$ .

**Spatial** parameterization ( $K$ -hops local):

$$g_{\alpha}(L)x = \left( \sum_{k < K} \alpha_k L^k \right) x = \sum_{k < K} \alpha_k \bar{x}_k, \quad \bar{x}_k = L\bar{x}_{k-1}, \quad \bar{x}_0 = x.$$

**Spectral** parameterization (global):

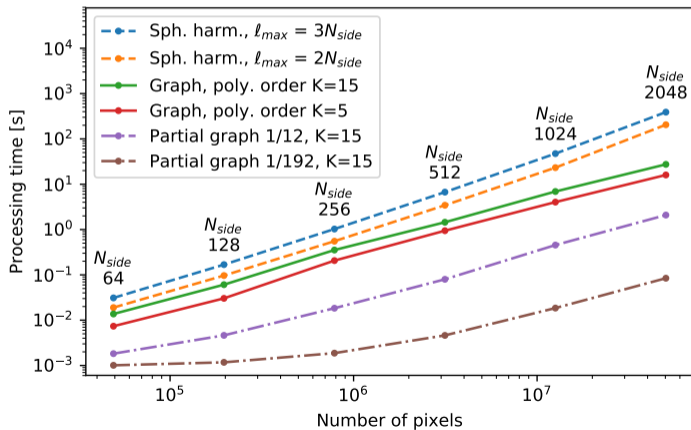
$$g_{\alpha}(L)x = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \alpha_k u_k u_k^{\top} x, \quad \alpha_k = g(\lambda_k), \quad U = [u_1, \dots, u_n].$$

---

Heisenberg's uncertainty principle: locality in the spatial domain implies smoothness in the spectral domain and vice-versa.

## Desideratum 2: scalable

- ▶ Graph convolutions cost  $O(n)$ .
- ▶ Spherical convolutions cost  $O(n^2)$  in general,  $O(n^{3/2})$  for some samplings.



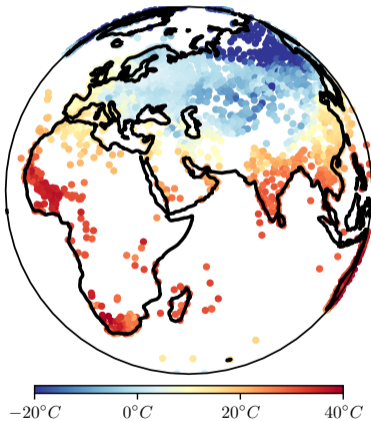
## Desideratum 2: it matters!

	performance		size	speed	
	F1	mAP	params	inference	training
Cohen et al. 2018 ( $b = 128$ )	–	67.6	1400 k	38.0 ms	50 h
Cohen et al. 2018 (simplified, $b = 64$ )	78.9	66.5	400 k	12.0 ms	32 h
Esteves et al. 2018 ( $b = 64$ )	79.4	68.5	500 k	9.8 ms	3 h
DeepSphere (equiangular, $b = 64$ )	79.4	66.5	190 k	0.9 ms	50 m
DeepSphere (HEALPix, $N_{\text{side}} = 32$ )	80.7	68.6	190 k	0.9 ms	50 m

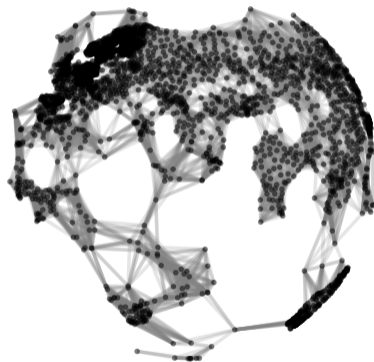
Classification of 3D shapes (SHREC'17): anisotropy is an unnecessary price to pay.

## Desideratum 3: flexible sampling

GHCN-daily, TMAX, 2014-01-01



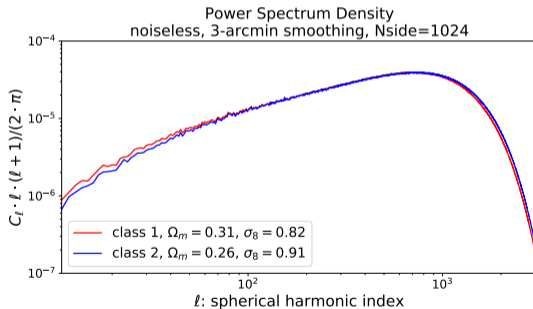
graph of GHCN stations



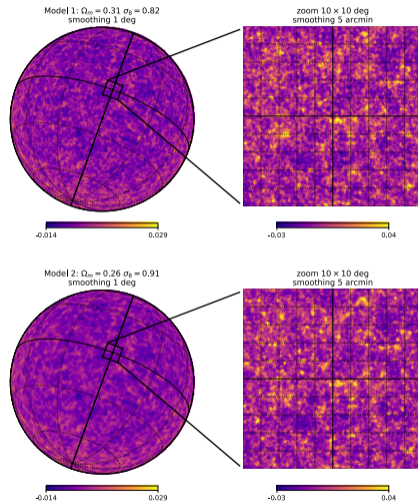
# Application: discrimination of cosmological models

Classification of convergence maps created from two sets of cosmological parameters.

$$(\Omega_m, \sigma_8) = (0.31, 0.82) \text{ or } (0.26, 0.91)$$

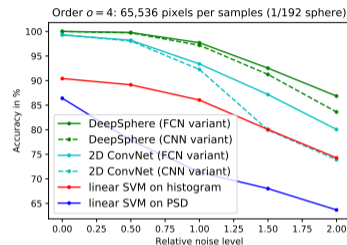
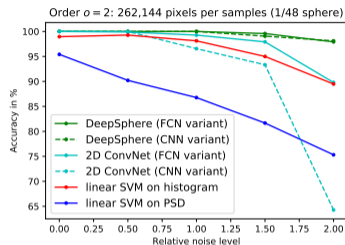
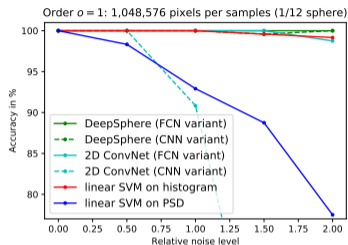


$\Omega_m, \sigma_8$ , smoothing chosen to get identical PS.



Maps with identical initial conditions.

# Application: discrimination of cosmological models (results)



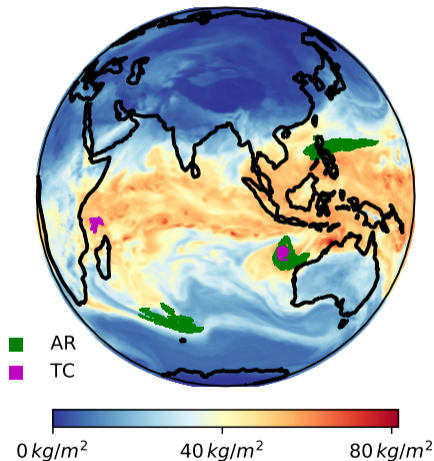
- Difficulty controlled by #pixels per sample and amount of noise.
- Better performance than SVM on PSDs and histograms. Those statistics destroy too much information.
- Better performance than ConvNet on 2D projections. Equivariance matters.

# Application: climate event segmentation

Segment extreme climate events: tropical cyclones (TC) and atmospheric rivers (AR).

- ▶ >1M spherical maps
- ▶ down-sampled to 10k pixels (original 900k)
- ▶ 0.1% TC, 2.2% AR, 97.7% background
- ▶ 16 channels (e.g., temperature, wind, humidity, pressure)

CAM5 HAPPI20 run 1, TMQ, 2106-01-01



## Application: climate event segmentation (results)

	accuracy	mAP
Jiang et al. 2019 (rerun)	94.95	38.41
T. S. Cohen et al. 2019 (S2R)	97.5	68.6
T. S. Cohen et al. 2019 (R2R)	97.7	75.9
DeepSphere (weighted loss)	$97.8 \pm 0.3$	$77.15 \pm 1.94$
DeepSphere (non-weighted loss)	$87.8 \pm 0.5$	$89.16 \pm 1.37$

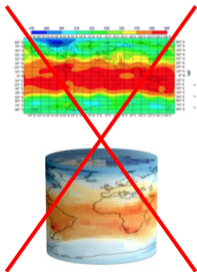
Mean accuracy (over TC, AR, BG) and mean average precision (over TC and AR).

- ▶ Anisotropy is an unnecessary price to pay.
- ▶ Check your loss!

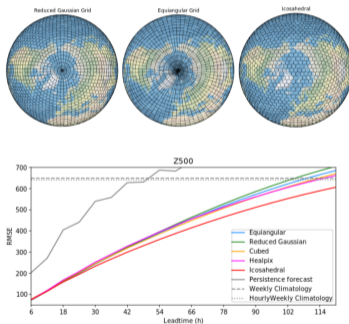
# Application: weather forecasting

Ghiggi et al. 2022

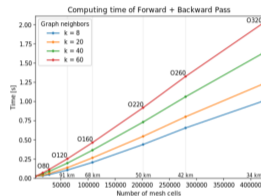
Topology and geometry  
of the Earth



Any (unstructured) grid:  
no interpolation!



Scalable



convolution  $y = \sum_k w_k L^k x$

pooling  $y = Px$

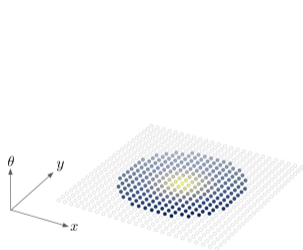
non-linearity  $y = \sigma(x)$

<https://github.com/deepsphere/deepsphere-weather>

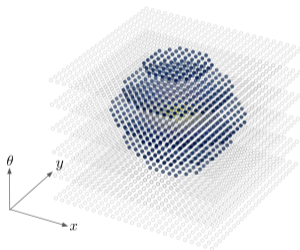
# Anisotropy

ChebLieNet, Aguetta, Bekkers, and Defferrard 2021

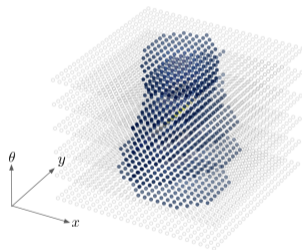
- ▶ No free lunch: **lift** to symmetry group, required to be transitive and known.
- ▶ Similar to group convolutions, but with control of the equivariance–cost tradeoff.



Isotropic metric on  $\mathcal{M}$ .



Isotropic metric on  $\text{Sym}(\mathcal{M})$ .



Anisotropic metric on  $\text{Sym}(\mathcal{M})$ .

Diffusion on base Riemannian manifold  $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^2$  and symmetry Lie group  $\text{Sym}(\mathcal{M}) = \text{SE}(2)$ .

DeepSphere: a spherical CNN that strikes  
a controllable balance between desiderata.

---

# Conclusion

---

My contributions: motivation, construction, analysis, and usage  
of generalized convolutions for efficient Machine Learning.

Leveraging topology, geometry, and symmetries for efficient Machine Learning

## Generalized convolutions

**theory** emerge from the fundamentals of space: topology and geometry,

**method** enable parameter sharing for non-transitive and unknown symmetry groups, to efficiently learn on arbitrary domains,

**application** lead to state-of-the-art results on important real-world problems.

My contributions:

- ▶ got 5000+ citations and an h-index of 10,
- ▶ pioneered graph ML and put it on the global research agenda,
- ▶ proved useful in tackling important real-world problems.

## Future: structural features and network embedding

**Problem** GNNs are good at leveraging graphs as a computational substrate to process data; But not to extract information from graphs.

**Observation** These operations are two sides of the same  $g(L)$  coin. But spectral embeddings  $Q = g^{1/2}(\Lambda)U^{-1} = [q_1, \dots, q_n]$  are not invariant to automorphisms. DeepWalk, LINE, PTE, and node2vec embed in a subspace for some  $g$  [Qiu et al. 2018].

**Solution** Centrality  $C_g^2(v_i) = \|q_i\|_2^2$  and distances  $\{\{d_g^2(v_i, \cdot)\}\} = \{\{\|q_i - \cdot\|_2^2\}\}$ .

# Future: graph isomorphism

**Problem** Is GI in P or NP-complete?

**Observation** Neither centrality  $C_g^2(v_i)$  nor distances  $\{\{d_g^2(v_i, \cdot)\}\}$  are **complete invariants** w.r.t. automorphism/isomorphism.



**Michaël Defferrard** @m\_deff · Dec 31, 2020

2020: I got the GI disease

2021: I will find a cure or get immune

Happy New Year y'all! 🎉

**The graph isomorphism disease<sup>†</sup>**

Ronald C. Read, Derek G. Corneil

First published: Winter 1977 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/jgt.3190010410>

<sup>†</sup> Dedicated to George Pólya on his 90th Birthday.

**Slides** <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5780063>

**Papers** Defferrard, Generalized convolutions, In preparation, 2022.

Ebli, Defferrard, Spreemann, Simplicial Neural Networks, TDA@NeurIPS, 2020.

Defferrard, Milani, Gusset, Perraudin, DeepSphere: a graph-based spherical CNN, ICLR, 2020.

Perraudin, Defferrard, Kacprzak, Sgier, DeepSphere: Efficient spherical Convolutional Neural Network with HEALPix sampling for cosmological applications, Astronomy and Computing, 2019.

Defferrard, Bresson, Vandergheynst, Convolutional Neural Networks on Graphs with Fast Localized Spectral Filtering, NIPS, 2016.

**Code** <https://github.com/epfl-lts2/pygsp>  
[https://github.com/stefaniaebli/simplicial\\_neural\\_networks](https://github.com/stefaniaebli/simplicial_neural_networks)  
<https://github.com/deepsphere>  
[https://github.com/mdeff/cnn\\_graph](https://github.com/mdeff/cnn_graph)