



# Approximation Theory of Group Invariant Neural Networks

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Technion

# Is this your first time in Banff?

In July 2003 (age 16) I attended:

Mathematical Biology: From molecules to  
ecosystems: the legacy of Lee Segel

'While he liked talking about his work, he  
had the rare quality of actually being  
interested in hearing about other people's  
work (Daniel Segel, free translation)'



# Approximation Theory of Group Invariant Neural Networks

# Approximation Theory of Group Invariant Neural Networks

Supervised Machine Learning: Learn  $f$  from examples



$f(x_i)$  `cat`

`dog`

`cat`

'dog`

$$\min_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \sum_{i=1}^N |f(x_i) - h(x_i)|^2$$

# Approximation Theory for Group Invariant Neural Networks

Activation function:  $\sigma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Induces  $\sigma: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$   $\sigma(x_1, \dots, x_d) = (\sigma(x_1), \dots, \sigma(x_d))$

Affine functions  $h^{(i)}(x) = A^{(i)}x + b^{(i)}$  where  $h^{(i)}: \mathbb{R}^{w_{i-1}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{w_i}$

Definition: We say that  $\mathcal{N}: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is a **fully connected neural network** if

$$\mathcal{N}(x) = h_{L+1} \circ \sigma \circ h_L \circ \sigma \circ \dots \circ \sigma \circ h_0(x)$$

**Depth of  $\mathcal{N}$  :=  $L$**

**Width of  $\mathcal{N}$  := Maximal dimension  $\max_{1 \leq i \leq L} w_i$**

# Approximation Theory of Group Invariant Neural Networks

Universality Theorem [Cybenko 1989, Pinkus 1999, many others in between]

If the activation function:  $\sigma: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous and not polynomial

then for every compact  $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ , continuous  $f: K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

There exists a **fully connected neural network**  $\mathcal{N}: \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of **depth L=1** (and arbitrarily large width)

$$\mathcal{N}(x) = h_1 \circ \sigma \circ h_0(x)$$

Such that

$$|f(x) - \mathcal{N}(x)| < \epsilon, \quad \forall x \in K$$

Universality- provides justification for choosing neural networks as a function space for any continuous learning task.

# Approximation Theory of Group Invariant Neural Networks

Beyond universality- rates of approximation (More recent research)

Given  $f: K \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  which is Lipschitz/smooth/fractal and  $\epsilon$  what width  $W(\epsilon)$  and depth  $L(\epsilon)$  are necessary to achieve an  $\epsilon$  approximation?

# Approximation Theory of Group Invariant Neural Networks

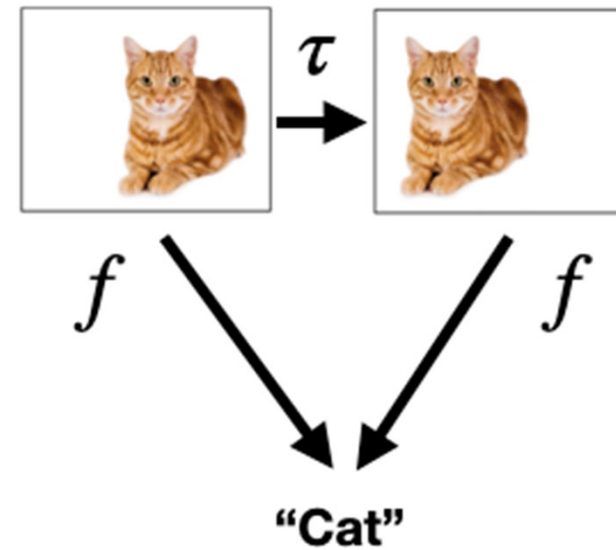
$$\min_{h \in H} \sum_i |f(x_i) - h(x_i)|^2$$

## Invariant networks:

Construct  $H = H_{inv}$  so that all  $h \in H_{inv}$  are invariant to the symmetries of  $f$

(e.g., Convolutional Neural Networks for translation invariance)

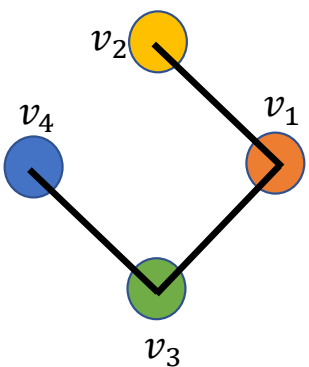
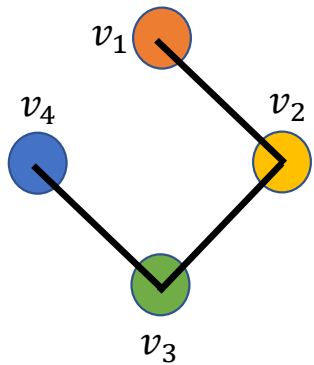
Many other examples..



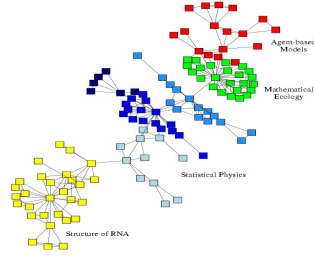
Popular model class: Convolutional Neural Networks



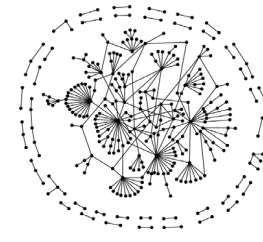
# Invariant networks example 2: Learning on Graphs



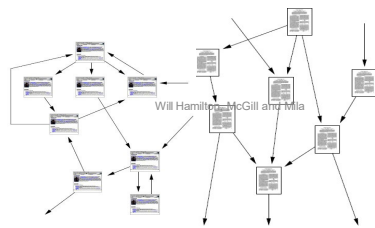
Social networks



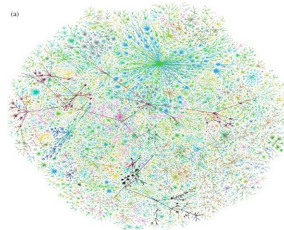
Economic networks



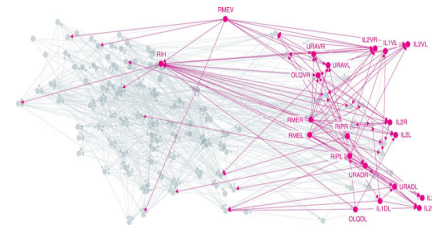
Biomedical networks



Information networks:  
Web & citations



Internet



Networks of neurons

Graph Neural Networks : Graph valued functions typically invariant to node relabeling

# Main example for today: point sets



$3 \times n$  points

$$X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$$

$$X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \sim \sigma_* X = (x_2, x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$\sigma \in S_n = \text{permutations}$$

# Orthogonal invariance



$$X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \sim R_* X = (Rx_1, Rx_2, \dots, Rx_n)$$

$$R \in O(d) = \{R \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \mid RR^T = I_d\}$$

# Special Orthogonal=Rotation invariance



$$X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \sim R_* X = (Rx_1, Rx_2, \dots, Rx_n)$$

$$R \in SO(d) = \{R \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \mid RR^T = I_d, \det(R) = 1\}$$

# Rotation+Permutation invariance



**Point set symmetries:**

Permutation  $S_n$

Orthogonal  $O(d)$

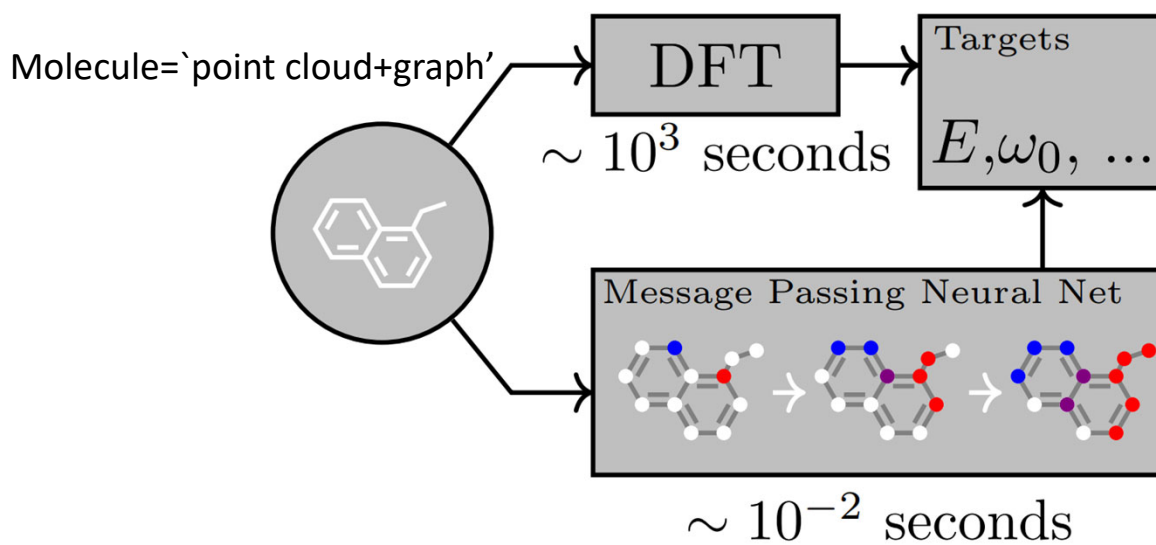
Rotation  $SO(d)$

Orthogonal+Permutation

Rotation+Permutation

$$X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \sim (R, \sigma)_*(X) = (Rx_2, Rx_1, \dots, Rx_n)$$

# Scientific applications (Chemistry, Physics)



[Neural Message Passing for Quantum Chemistry Gilmer et al. 2017]

# Symmetry preserving architectures for point sets

## Point set networks (permutation invariant)

[PointNet: *Deep Learning on Point Sets for 3D Classification and Segmentation*, Qi et al. 2016]

[Deep sets, Zaheer et al. 2017]

[Set Transformer: A Framework for Attention-based Permutation-Invariant Neural Networks, Lee et al. 2019]

...

**PointNet/DeepSets** On  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  consider **permutation invariant** functions of the form

$$\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \mapsto \mathcal{N}^{(2)}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{N}^{(1)}(x_i)\right)$$

$$\text{Or } \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \mapsto \mathcal{N}^{(2)}\left(\max_i \{\mathcal{N}^{(1)}(x_i) \mid i = 1, \dots, n\}\right)$$

**Useful principle:** Invariance cannot be 'ruined' by composition (by  $\mathcal{N}^{(2)}$  in this example)

# Symmetry preserving architectures for point sets 2

## **Point set networks (rotation invariant)**

Not so much...

## **Point set networks (rotations+permutation invariant)**

[Tensor field networks: Rotation- and translation-equivariant neural networks for 3D point clouds, Thomas et al. 2018]

[E(n) Equivariant Graph Neural Networks, Satorras et al. 2021]

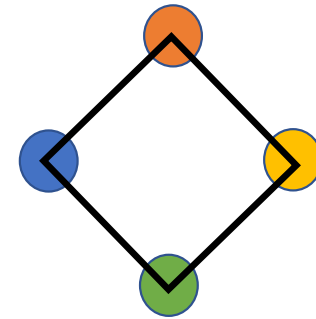
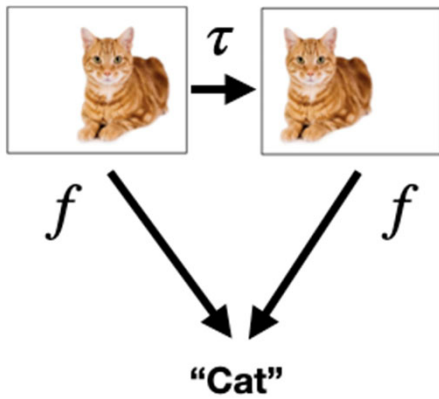
[Directional Message Passing for Molecular Graphs, Gasteiger et al. 2020]

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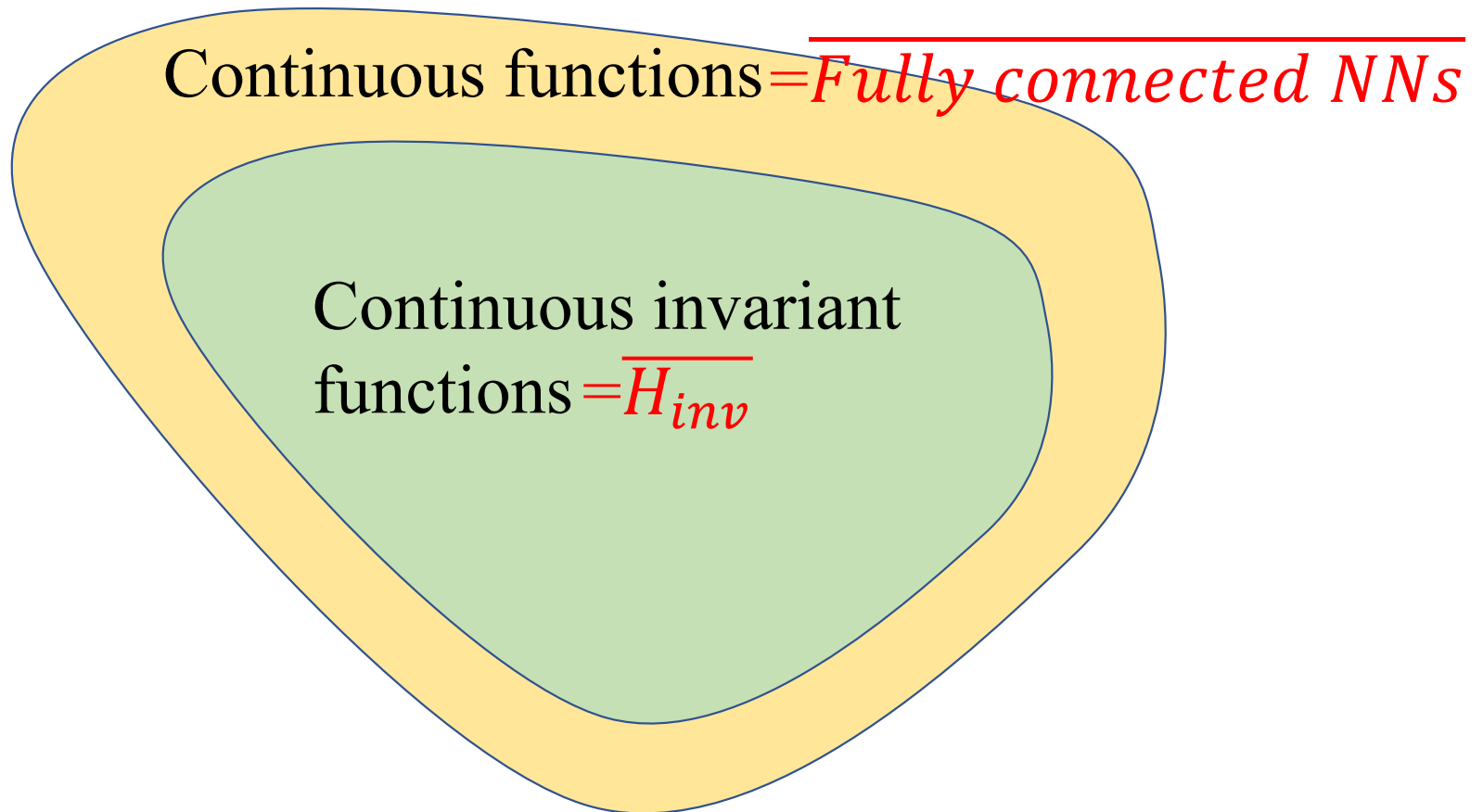


# Approximation Theory of Group Invariant Neural Networks

# Approximation Theory of Group Invariant Neural Networks



# Universality of invariant machine learning



## Example: Universality for permutation invariant point set functions

**Question:** Can any continuous permutation invariant  $f: \mathbb{R}^{d \times n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f(x_{\tau(1)}, \dots, x_{\tau(n)}) \text{ for every permutation } \tau$$

Be approximated by functions of the form

$$\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \mapsto \mathcal{N}^{(2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{N}^{(1)}(x_i) \right)$$

# Throughout we will assume...

$(G, V)$  are **nice**, meaning

- $V$  is a real finite dimensional vector space

e.g.,  $V = \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$

- $G$  is a compact matrix group defined by polynomial equations

e.g.,  $O(d) = \{R \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \mid RR^T = I_d\}$

- The map  $(g, v) \mapsto gv$  is polynomial

e.g.,  $(R, X) \mapsto RX$

# Standard approach: Invariant Universality via generators of the invariant ring

[Universal Approximations of Invariant Maps by Neural Networks, Yarotsky 2022]

Theorem [Hilbert, 1890]

Let  $(V, G)$  be **nice**, then there exist a finite number of invariant polynomials  $F_1, \dots, F_N: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that all invariant polynomials are of the form

$$q(v) = p(F_1(v), \dots, F_N(v)), \text{ for some } p: \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

Remark

$F_1, \dots, F_N$  are called the **generators** of the ring

$$R(V, G) = \{F: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ are } G \text{ invariant polynomials}\}$$

# Universality of invariant machine learning via generators of the invariant ring

[Universal Approximations of Invariant Maps by Neural Networks, Yarotsky 2022]

## Corollary

Let  $(V, G)$  be **nice**, and  $F_1, \dots, F_N$  be generators of the invariant ring. Then any continuous invariant function  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  can be approximated on compact subsets of  $V$  to arbitrary accuracy by

$$\mathcal{N}(F_1(v), \dots, F_N(v)), \text{ for some neural network } \mathcal{N}: \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

# Universality of invariant machine learning via generators of the invariant ring

[Universal Approximations of Invariant Maps by Neural Networks, Yarotsky 2022]

## Issues

- Can we explicitly compute the generators  $F_1, \dots, F_N$ ?  
(often yes. In invariant theory this will be called 'the first fundamental theorem for  $(V, G)'$ )
- How does  $N$  depend on  $\dim(V)$ ?  
(**often this is very bad...** we will see examples)
- Do we want to use polynomials for approximation?  
(let's ignore this for now)



## Point set `Orthogonal Universality via generators`

**Group:**  $O(d) = \{R \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \mid RR^T = I_d\}$

**Action:**  $R_*(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (Rx_1, \dots, Rx_n)$

$\sim n^2$  **Generators:**

$$\langle x_i, x_j \rangle \quad 1 \leq i < j \leq n$$

**Universality:** All continuous  $O(d)$  invariant functions  $f$  can be approximated by functions of the form

$$\mathcal{N}(\langle x_1, x_1 \rangle, \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle, \dots, \langle x_n, x_n \rangle)$$

Where  $\mathcal{N}$  is a (fully connected) neural network

## Point set `Special Orthogonal Universality via generators`

**Group:**  $SO(d) = \{R \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \mid RR^T = I_d \text{ and } \det(R) = 1\}$

**Action:**  $R_*(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (Rx_1, \dots, Rx_n)$

$\sim \binom{n}{d}$  **Generators:**

$$\langle x_i, x_j \rangle, \quad 1 \leq i < j \leq n \text{ and } \det(x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_d}) \quad i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_d$$

**Universality:** All continuous  $SO(d)$  invariant functions  $f$  can be approximated by functions of the form

$$\mathcal{N}(\langle x_1, x_1 \rangle, \langle x_1, x_2 \rangle, \dots, \langle x_n, x_n \rangle, \det(x_1, \dots, x_d), \dots, \det(x_{n-d+1}, \dots, x_n))$$

Where  $\mathcal{N}$  is a (fully connected) neural network

## Point set 'Permutation Universality via generators'

**Group:**  $S_n = \{\text{permutations } \tau: \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, n\}\}$

**Action:**  $\tau_*(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_{\tau^{-1}(1)}, \dots, x_{\tau^{-1}(n)})$

$m(n, d) = \binom{n+d}{d}$  **Generators:**

$(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n p_j(x_i)$  where  $p_1, \dots, p_m$  form a basis for the space of polynomials of degree  $\leq n$  in  $d$  variables

**Universality:** All continuous  $S_n$  invariant functions can be approximated by

$$\mathcal{N}(\sum_{i=1}^n p_1(x_i), \sum_{i=1}^n p_2(x_i), \dots, \sum_{i=1}^n p_m(x_i))$$

$$\text{Or } \mathcal{N}^{(2)}(\sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{N}^{(1)}(x_i))$$

# Number of generators for point set actions

| Group action on $\mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ | Num of generators   |
|---|---------------------|
| $O(d)$                                    | $\sim n^2$          |
| $SO(d)$                                   | $\sim \binom{n}{d}$ |
| $S_n$                                     | $\binom{n+d}{d}$    |

# Universality of invariant machine learning via gen~~erating~~ invariants *separating*

Advocates: [Complete set of translation invariant measurements with Lipschitz bounds, Cahill et al. 2020]

[Group invariant max-filtering, Cahill et al. 2022]

[Low Dimensional Invariant Embeddings for Universal Geometric Learning, **Dym** and Gortler 2022]

## Definition (Separating invariants)

Let  $G$  be a group acting on  $V$ . We say that  $H_1, \dots, H_m: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are  $(V, G)$  separating invariants if

- **Invariant:** if  $u =_G v$  then  $H_i(u) = H_i(v), \forall i = 1, \dots, m$
- **Separating:** if  $H_i(v) = H_i(u), \forall i = 1, \dots, m$  then  $v =_G u$

**Invariance** means that  $V/G \ni [v] \mapsto (H_1(v), \dots, H_m(v))$  is well defined

**Separating** means that it is injective on  $V/G$

Example:  $G = O(2)$  acts on  $V = \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$  via  $R_*(x_1, x_2) = (Rx_1, Rx_2)$

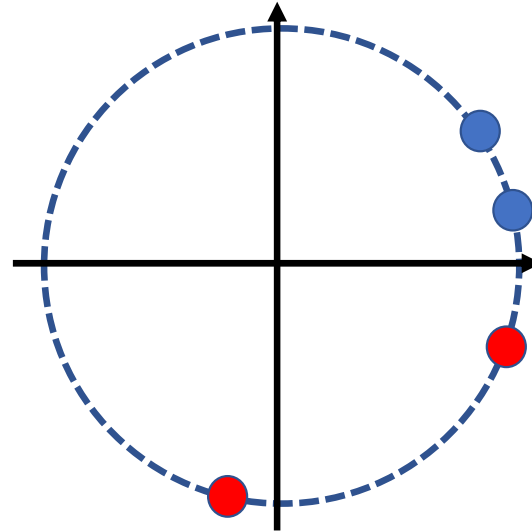
What invariants can we suggest? Are they separating?

How about:

$$H_1(x_1, x_2) = \|x_1\| \text{ and } H_2(x_1, x_2) = \|x_2\|?$$

We get separation by adding

$$H_3(x_1, x_2) = \|x_1 - x_2\|$$



# Separation vs generation: sufficiency for universality

We saw

*and  $H_1, \dots, H_m$  be continuous separating invariants*

Let  $(V, G)$  be **nice**, and  ~~$F_1, \dots, F_N$  be generators of the invariant ring~~. Then any continuous invariant function  $f: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  can be approximated on compact subsets of  $V$  to arbitrary accuracy by

~~$\mathcal{N}(F_1(v), \dots, F_N(v))$~~ , for some neural network  $\mathcal{N}: \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

*$\mathcal{N}(H_1(v), \dots, H_m(v))$*

**Remark:** This in fact implies the generator-based theorem, since **generators are always separators**

# Separation vs generation: cardinality

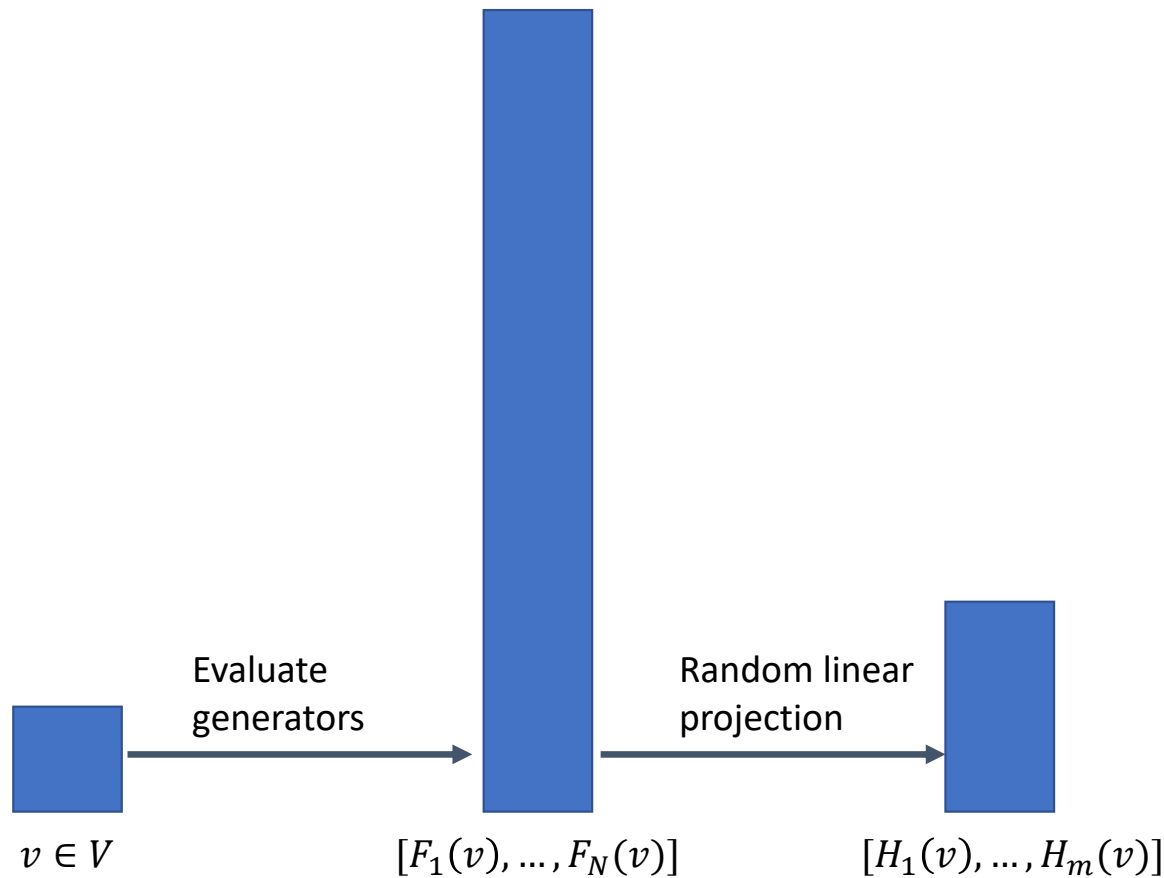
Theorem [E. S. Dufresne 2008]

If  $(V, G)$  are **nice**, then there always exist **polynomial** separating invariants  $H_1, \dots, H_m: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  of cardinality

$$m = 2 \dim(V) + 1$$



# Partial solution: low dimensional-separation via generation+`linear compression`



# Intermediate conclusions

| Group action on $\mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ | Num of generators    |
|---|----------------------|
| $O(d)$                                    | $n^2$                |
| $SO(d)$                                   | $n^2 + \binom{n}{d}$ |
| $S_n$                                     | $\binom{n+d}{d}$     |

Let's  
start  
here

  
Can we do better? Yes

# Efficient invariants: $SO(d)$

Example:  $R \in SO(d)$  acts on  $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$  ( $d < n$ )

$$R_*(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) = (R\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, R\mathbf{x}_n)$$

Generators:  $\sim \binom{n}{d}$

$$|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j|^2 \text{ and } |\mathbf{x}_j|^2 \text{ and } \det(\mathbf{x}_{i_1}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{i_d})$$

Continuous family of separating invariants:

$$H(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n; \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{W}) = |\mathbf{w}_1\mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{w}_n\mathbf{x}_n|^2 + \det(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{W})$$

Random separators: For almost all  $\mathbf{w}^{(1)}, \mathbf{W}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{w}^{(m)}, \mathbf{W}^{(m)}$ ,  $m = 2nd + 1$

$H(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n; \mathbf{w}^{(i)}, \mathbf{W}^{(i)})$  are invariant and separating!!!

$|x_i - x_j|^2$  and  $|x_j|^2$  and  $\det(x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_d})$



| Group action on $\mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ | Num of generators    | Num of separators | Complexity per separator? |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| $O(d)$                                    | $n^2$                | $2n \cdot d + 1$  |                           |
| $SO(d)$                                   | $n^2 + \binom{n}{d}$ | $2n \cdot d + 1$  | $nd^2$                    |
| $S_n$                                     | $\binom{n+d}{d}$     | $2n \cdot d + 1$  |                           |

$|w_1 x_1 + \dots + w_n x_n|^2 + \det(XW)$

# Efficient Invariants: SO(d) and beyond

For the action of SO(d) on  $\mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ , the following is a *continuous family of separating invariants*

$$H(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n; \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{W}) = |\mathbf{w}_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{w}_n \mathbf{x}_n|^2 + \det(\mathbf{XW})$$

Definition: Let  $(V, G)$  be **nice**. We say that a function  $H: V \times \mathbb{R}^{d_w} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a *continuous family of separating invariants* if it satisfies the following conditions:

- **Invariance:** If  $v =_G v'$  then  $H(v; w) = H(v'; w)$  for all  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{d_w}$
- **Separation:** If  $v \neq_G v'$  then there exists  $w \in \mathbb{R}^{d_w}$  such that  $H(v; w) \neq H(v'; w)$

# Finite Witness Theorem

Finite Witness Theorem [Dym and Gortler 2022] (weakened version):

Let  $(V, G)$  be **nice**. Let  $H: V \times \mathbb{R}^{d_w} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a family of separating **polynomial** invariants.

Set  $m = 2 \dim(V) + 1$ . Then for Lebesgue almost every  $w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_w}$ , the functions  $H_1, \dots, H_m$  defined by

$$H_i(v) = H(v; w^{(i)})$$

are separating invariants.

## Remarks

- Cardinality is often not optimal
- Proof idea comes from [On signal reconstruction without phase, Balan, Casazza and Edidin 2006] relies on Real Algebraic Geometry

Finite Witness Theorem [Dym and Gortler 2022] (weakened version):

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$$H_i(v) = H(v; w^{(i)})$$

are separating invariants.

Proof idea:

- Consider the **‘lifted bad set’**

$$\mathbf{B} = \{(v, v', w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)}) \in V \times V \times \mathbb{R}^{d_w \times m} \mid v \neq_G v' \text{ but } H(v; w^{(i)}) = H(v'; w^{(i)}), \forall i = 1 \dots m\}$$

- This set is a subset of a  $2 \dim(V) + m d_w$  dimensional vector space defined by  $m$  equations

$$\text{“therefore” } \dim(\mathbf{B}) = m d_w + (2 \dim(V) - m) = m d_w - 1$$

- The dimension of the **‘projected bad set’** is no larger

$$\mathbf{B}_{proj} = \{(w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_w \times m} \mid \exists (v, v') \text{ s. t. } v \neq_G v' \text{ but } H(v; w^{(i)}) = H(v'; w^{(i)}), \forall i = 1 \dots m\}$$

- $\dim(\mathbf{B}_{proj}) = m d_w - 1 < \dim(\mathbb{R}^{d_w \times m})$
- Most  $(w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)})$  are not in  $\mathbf{B}_{proj}$ , and so are separating

Finite Witness Theorem [Dym and Gortler 2022] (weakened version):

Let  $(V, G)$  be **nice**. Let  $H: V \times \mathbb{R}^{d_w} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous family of **separating** polynomial invariants.

Set  $m = 2 \dim(V) + 1$ . Then for Lebesgue almost every  $w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_w}$ , the functions  $H_1, \dots, H_m$  defined by

$$H_i(v) = H(v; w^{(i)})$$

are separating invariants.

Real algebraic geometry

Proof ~~idea~~ (inspired by phase retrieval paper):

Full Proof

- Consider the **'lifted bad set'**

$$\mathbf{B} = \{(v, v', w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)}) \in V \times V \times \mathbb{R}^{d_w \times m} \mid v \neq_G v' \text{ but } H(v; w^{(i)}) = H(v'; w^{(i)}), \forall i = 1 \dots m\}$$

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- $\dim(\mathbf{B}_{proj}) = m d_w - 1 < \dim(\mathbb{R}^{d_w \times m})$
- Most  $(w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)})$  are not in  $\mathbf{B}_{proj}$ , and so are separating



# Finite Witness Theorem-Applications

| Group action on $\mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ | Num of generators    | Num of separators | Complexity per separator? |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| $O(d)$                                    | $n^2$                | $2n \cdot d + 1$  | $n \cdot d$               |
| $SO(d)$                                   | $n^2 + \binom{n}{d}$ | $2n \cdot d + 1$  | $n \cdot d^2$             |
| $S_n$                                     | $\binom{n+d}{d}$     | $2n \cdot d + 1$  | $n \cdot \log(n)$         |

# Recent work- Analytic Finite Witness Theorem

Analytic Finite Witness Theorem [Amir, Gortler, Avni, Ravina, Dym 2023] (weakened version): **Analytic**

Let  $(V, G)$  be **nice**. Let  $H: V \times \mathbb{R}^{d_w} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous family of separating **polynomial** invariants.

Set  $m = 2 \dim(V) + 1$ . Then for Lebesgue almost every  $w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_w}$ , the functions  $H_1, \dots, H_m$  defined by

$$H_i(v) = H(v; w^{(i)})$$

are separating invariants.

'Proof'

Real Algebraic Geometry  $\mapsto$  Real analytic geometry, o-minimal systems and related concepts

# Application: Permutation invariant networks (with analytic activations)

Theorem [Amir, Gortler, Avni, Ravina, Dym 2023]

Let  $d, n$  be natural numbers and set  $m = 2nd + 1$ .

If  $\sigma: \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  is **analytic** and not polynomial, then for Lebesgue almost every  $A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times d}$  and  $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$  the permutation invariant function

$$\mathbb{R}^{d \times n} \ni (x_1, \dots, x_n) \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma(Ax_i + b)$$

is separating

# Finite Witness Theorem

## Analytic Finite Witness Theorem-stronger (but not strongest) version

Let  $(V, G)$  be **nice**. Let  $H: V \times \mathbb{R}^{d_w} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous family of separating **analytic** invariants. Set  $m = 2 \dim(V) + 1$ . Then for Lebesgue almost every  $w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_w}$ , the functions  $H_1, \dots, H_m$  defined by

$$H_i(v) = H(v; w^{(i)})$$

are separating invariants.

Can be a low dimensional subset of some higher dimensional vector space, providing it is 'reasonable' e.g., a countable union of sets defined by polynomial and analytic equalities and inequalities  
Or image of these sets under an analytic functions

# Adding to the table...

| Group action on $\mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$ | Num of generators    | Num of separators | Complexity per separator? |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| $O(d)$                                    | $n^2$                | $2n \cdot d + 1$  | $n \cdot d$               |
| $SO(d)$                                   | $n^2 + \binom{n}{d}$ | $2n \cdot d + 1$  | $n \cdot d^2$             |
| $S_n$                                     | $\binom{n+d}{d}$     | $2n \cdot d + 1$  | $n(d + \log(n))$          |
| $O(d) \times S_n$                         | ?                    | $2n \cdot d + 1$  | $n^d$                     |
| $SO(d) \times S_n$                        | ?                    | $2n \cdot d + 1$  | $n^d$                     |

# Parting questions

- Separating invariants are injective mappings  $f: V/G \rightarrow R^m$ . Do they preserve distances?
- Separating invariants for surfaces? (one example: conformal welding)

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# Collaborators



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[Neural Injective Functions for Multisets, Measures and Graphs  
via a Finite Witness Theorem.  
Amir, Gortler, Avni, Ravina and Dym 2023]

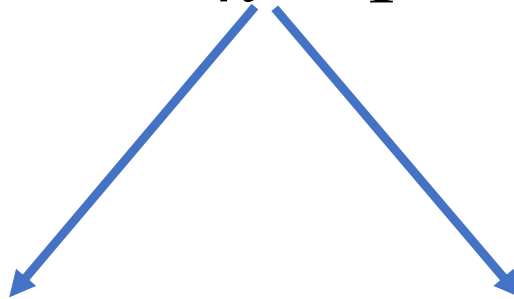
# Thank you!

[Low Dimensional Invariant Embeddings for Universal  
Geometric Learning  
Dym and Gortler 2022]

[Complete Neural Networks for Euclidean Graphs  
Hordan, Amir, Gortler, and Dym 2023]



$O(d) \times S_n$  separation



Generically separating  
Geometric Message Passing

Fully separating  
( $d - 1$ ) order geometric message  
passing

# Geometric message passing

e.g. EGNN [E(n) equivariant graph neural networks, Sattoras et al. 2021]

Input:  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}^d$

set  $h_1^{(0)}, \dots, h_n^{(0)} = 0$

$h_i^{(t)} = \mathit{fagg} \left( h_i^{(t-1)}, \{h_j^{(t-1)}, |x_i - x_j|, j = 1, \dots, n\} \right)$  (repeat  $T$  times)

$h_{\text{global}}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \mathit{freadout}(\{h_1^{(T)}, \dots, h_n^{(T)}\})$

$h_{\text{global}}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is  $O(d) \times S_n$  invariant

# Geometric message passing-separation

e.g. EGNN [E(n) equivariant graph neural networks, Sattoras et al. 2021]

Input:  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}^d$

set  $h_1^{(0)}, \dots, h_n^{(0)} = 0$

$h_i^{(t)} = f_{agg} \left( h_i^{(t-1)}, \{h_j^{(t-1)}, |x_i - x_j|, j = 1, \dots, n\} \right)$  (repeat  $T$  times)

$h_{global} = f_{readout} (\{h_1^{(T)}, \dots, h_n^{(T)}\})$



Permutation invariant and separating

# 'Hard' to separate

[Incompleteness of Atomic Structure Representations. Physical Review Letters  
Pozdynakov et al. 2020]

|   |   |   |    |    |
|---|---|---|----|----|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | -2 | -1 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0  | -1 |
| 1 | 0 | 2 | -2 | 0  |

$\neq G$

|    |   |   |    |    |
|----|---|---|----|----|
| 0  | 1 | 2 | -2 | -1 |
| 1  | 1 | 0 | 0  | -1 |
| -1 | 0 | 2 | -2 | 0  |

Dist



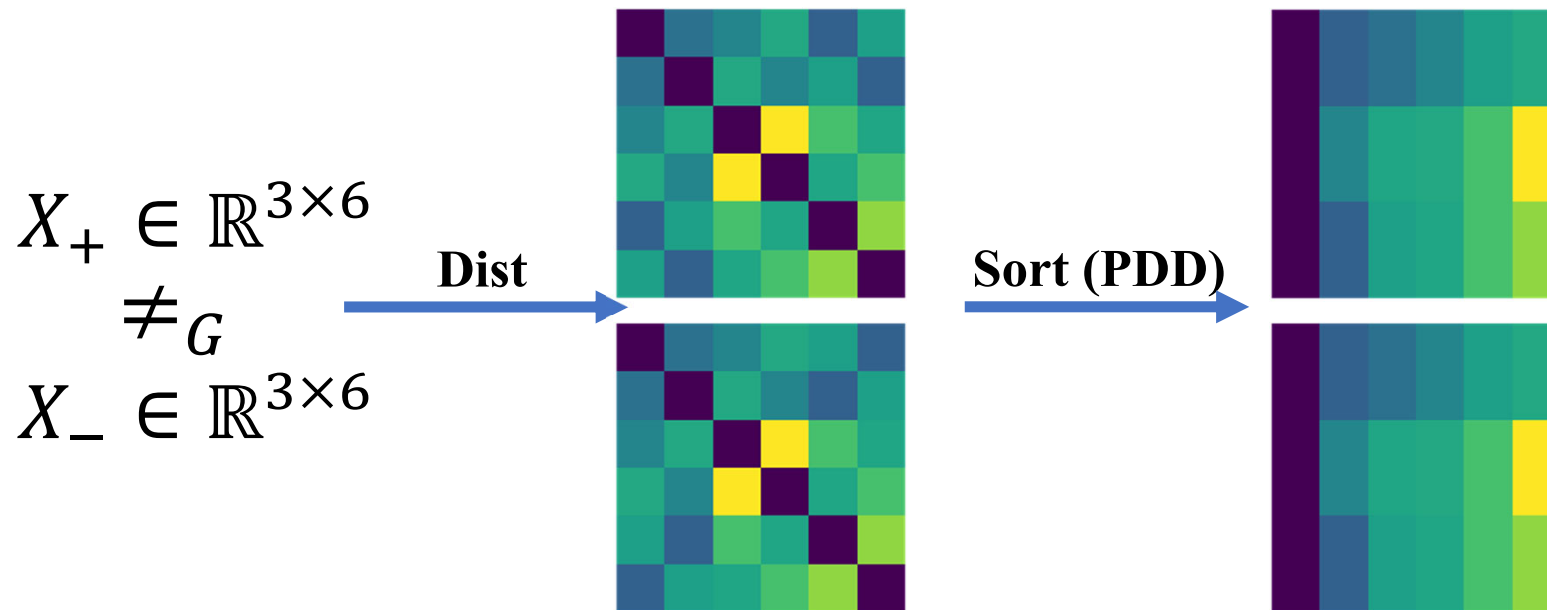
Sort



- **Cannot** be separated by MPNN with  $T = 1$
- **Can** be separated by MPNN with  $T \geq 2$

# 'Harder'

[Incompleteness of graph neural networks  
for points clouds in three dimensions, Pozdnyakov and Ceriotti 2022]



Cannot be separated by MPNN for any  $T$

# Geometric K-order message passing

[Sign and Basis Invariant Networks for Spectral Graph Representation Learning, Lim et al. 2022]  
[Is distance matrix enough for geometric deep learning, Li et al. 2023]

Assume  $K=3$  for notation simplicity

$$h^{(0)}(i, j, k)(X) = \begin{pmatrix} \langle x_i, x_i \rangle & \langle x_i, x_j \rangle & \langle x_i, x_k \rangle \\ \langle x_j, x_i \rangle & \langle x_j, x_j \rangle & \langle x_j, x_k \rangle \\ \langle x_k, x_i \rangle & \langle x_k, x_j \rangle & \langle x_k, x_k \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

$$h^{(t)}(i, j, k)(X) = f_{agg} \left( h^{(t-1)}(i, j, k), \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} h^{(t-1)}(s, j, k) \\ h^{(t-1)}(i, s, k) \\ h^{(t-1)}(i, j, s) \end{pmatrix}, \quad s = 1, \dots, n \right\} \right)$$

$$h_{global} = f_{readout} \{ h^{(T)}(i, j, k) \mid (i, j, k) \in [n]^3 \}$$

Permutation invariant  
+separating

Theorem [Hordan, Amir, Gortler, Dym, 2023]

For every  $X, Y \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times n}$  we have that the **d-order** message passing with  $T = 1$  is separating:

It gives the same output  $h_{global}(X) = h_{global}(Y)$  if and only if  $X, Y$  are related by a permutation and orthogonal transformation.

A **modified  $d - 1$**  message passing algorithm is also separating

Theorem [Rose et al. 2023]

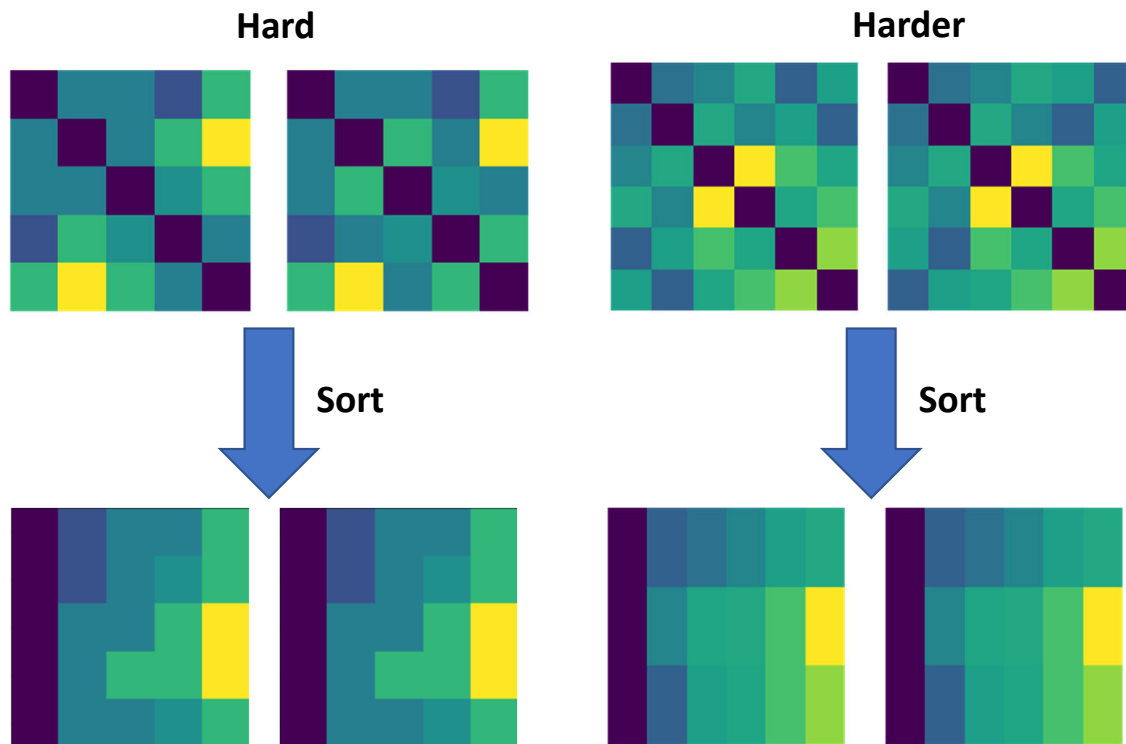
The **original  $d - 1$**  message passing algorithm is also separating

# Complexity

- Full  $O(d) \times S_n$  separation with  $(d - 1) - WL$  requires computing  $2nd + 1$  invariants with computational complexity of  $n^d$  each, using our permutation invariant separating functions
- This also uses the dependence of the theorem on intrinsic dimension. Considering extrinsic dimension only would lead to exponential blowup



# Separation experiment



|                | Hard | Harder |
|----------------|------|--------|
| MPNN           | Yes  | No     |
| $(d - 1)$ MPNN | Yes  | Yes    |

# Separation of existing invariant architectures:

$O(d) \times S_n$  Invariant architectures

$(d-1)MPNN$

$MPNN$



| Point Clouds    | GramNet | GeoEGNN    | EGNN | LinearEGNN | MACE | TFN        | DimeNet    | GVPGNN     |
|-----------------|---------|------------|------|------------|------|------------|------------|------------|
| Hard1[2]        | 1.0     | 0.998      | 0.5  | 1.0        | 1.0  | 0.5        | 1.0        | 1.0        |
| Hard2 [2]       | 1.0     | 0.97       | 0.5  | 1.0        | 1.0  | 0.5        | 1.0        | 1.0        |
| Hard3 [2]       | 1.0     | 0.85       | 0.5  | 1.0        | 1.0  | 0.55       | 1.0        | 1.0        |
| Harder [1]      | 1.0     | 0.899      | 0.5  | 0.5        | 1.0  | 0.5        | 1.0        | 1.0        |
| Cholesky dim=6  | 1.0     | Irrelevant | 0.5  | 0.5        | 1.0  | Irrelevant | Irrelevant | Irrelevant |
| Cholesky dim=8  | 1.0     | Irrelevant | 0.5  | 0.5        | 1.0  | Irrelevant | Irrelevant | Irrelevant |
| Cholesky dim=12 | N/A     | Irrelevant | 0.5  | 0.5        | 0.5  | Irrelevant | Irrelevant | Irrelevant |



Dataset composed of two point clouds which are hard to separate+rotations+permutations+noise

# We didn't discuss...

- **Generic separation:** Separation up to a set of measure zero. Need only  $\dim(V) + 1$  invariants
- **Stability:** Invariant and separating  $H: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  can be identified with  $H: V/G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  injective.

Is  $H$  bi-Lipschitz with respect to

$$d([v], [v']) = \min_{g \in G} \|gv - v'\|$$

[Permutation invariant representations with applications to graph deep learning, Balan Haghani Singh 2022]

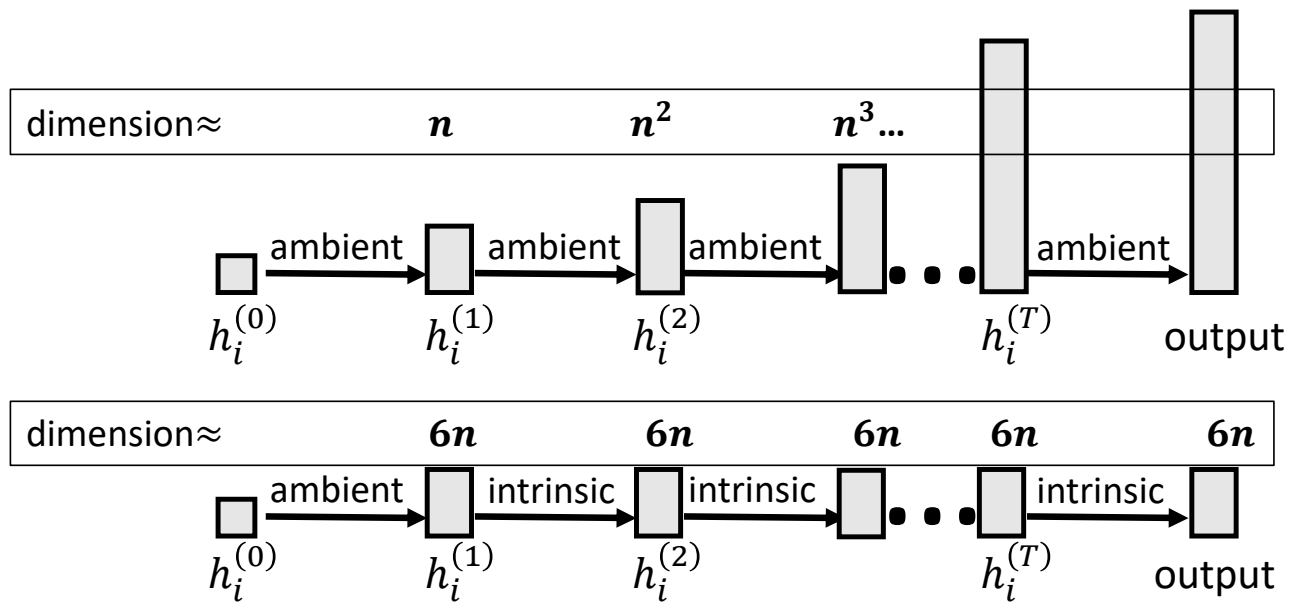
[Group-invariant max filtering, Cahill Iverson Dixon and Packer]

TODO

$$h_i^{(t)} = f_{agg} \left( h_i^{(t-1)}, \{h_j^{(t-1)}, |x_i - x_j|, j = 1, \dots, n\} \right) \text{ (repeat } T \text{ times)}$$



Permutation invariant and separating



# Separation of existing architectures: (when) does it happen?

$O(d) \times S_n$  Invariant architectures

| Theoretical separation | Yes (ours) | Yes (ours) | No   | No         | ?    | Sort of    | ?          | ?          |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------|------------|------|------------|------------|------------|
| Point Clouds           | GramNet    | GeoEGNN    | EGNN | LinearEGNN | MACE | TFN        | DimeNet    | GVPGNN     |
| Hard1 [2]              | 1.0        | 0.998      | 0.5  | 1.0        | 1.0  | 0.5        | 1.0        | 1.0        |
| Hard2 [2]              | 1.0        | 0.97       | 0.5  | 1.0        | 1.0  | 0.5        | 1.0        | 1.0        |
| Hard3 [2]              | 1.0        | 0.85       | 0.5  | 1.0        | 1.0  | 0.55       | 1.0        | 1.0        |
| Harder [1]             | 1.0        | 0.899      | 0.5  | 0.5        | 1.0  | 0.5        | 1.0        | 1.0        |
| Cholesky dim=6         | 1.0        | Irrelevant | 0.5  | 0.5        | 1.0  | Irrelevant | Irrelevant | Irrelevant |
| Cholesky dim=8         | 1.0        | Irrelevant | 0.5  | 0.5        | 1.0  | Irrelevant | Irrelevant | Irrelevant |
| Cholesky dim=12        | N/A        | Irrelevant | 0.5  | 0.5        | 0.5  | Irrelevant | Irrelevant | Irrelevant |

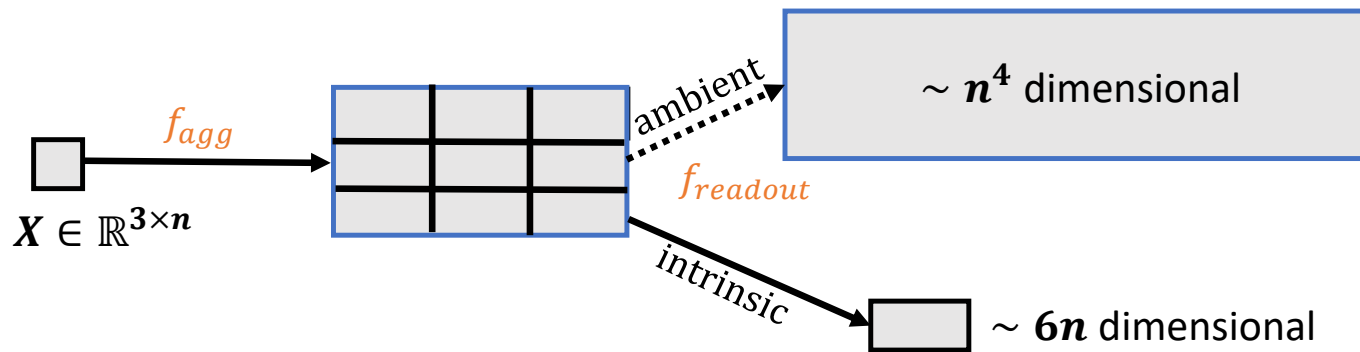
Dataset composed of two point clouds which are hard to separate+rotations+permutations+noise

Proof of theorem (intuition)

# Full $O(d) \times S_n$ separation (1): Cardinality

$$h^{(1)}(i, j, k)(X) = f_{agg} \left( h^{(0)}(i, j, k), \left\{ \begin{array}{l} h^{(0)}(s, j, k) \\ h^{(0)}(i, s, k) \\ h^{(0)}(i, j, s) \end{array} \right\}, \quad s = 1, \dots, n \right)$$

$$h_{global} = f_{readout} \{h^{(1)}(i, j, k) \mid (i, j, k) \in [n]^3\}$$





# Phase retrieval

# Better solution: imported from phase retrieval

**Phase retrieval:** we want to reconstruct a signal  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{C}^n$  from phaseless linear measurements

$$H_i(\mathbf{z}) = \left| \langle \mathbf{w}^{(i)}, \mathbf{z} \rangle \right|^2, i = 1, \dots, m$$

**$S^1$  invariance:** For all  $\theta$  we have that  $|H_i(e^{i\theta} \mathbf{z})| = |H_i(\mathbf{z})|$  so we can only hope for reconstruction up to a global phase factor, that is

$$H_i(\mathbf{z}) = H_i(\hat{\mathbf{z}}) \longleftrightarrow \mathbf{z} = e^{i\theta} \hat{\mathbf{z}} \text{ for some } \theta$$

In other words, we would like  $H_1, \dots, H_m$  to be separating

# Better solution: imported from phase retrieval

**Theorem** [On signal reconstruction without phase, Balan, Casazza and Edidin 2006]

If  $m = 4n - 2$  then for Lebesgue almost all  $w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  the functions  $H_1, \dots, H_m$  defined by

$$H_i(\mathbf{z}) = \left| \langle \mathbf{w}^{(i)}, \mathbf{z} \rangle \right|^2, i = 1, \dots, m$$

are separating with respect to the action of  $S^1$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$

**Remark:** In our context we think of  $V = \mathbb{C}^n$  is a real vector space of dimension  $2n$ . So

$$m = 4n - 2 < 2 \dim(V) + 1 = 4n + 1$$

**Remark:** Note that all invariant are obtained by taking sample of  $H(\mathbf{z}; \mathbf{w})$  which is polynomial in both its argument  $\mathbf{z}$  and its parameters  $\mathbf{w}$

# Separation vs. generation for phase retrieval

**Theorem** [On signal reconstruction without phase, Balan, Casazza and Edidin 2006]

If  $m = 4n - 2$  then for Lebesgue almost all  $w^{(1)}, \dots, w^{(m)} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  the functions  $H_1, \dots, H_m$  defined by

$$H_i(\mathbf{z}) = \left| \langle \mathbf{w}^{(i)}, \mathbf{z} \rangle \right|^2, i = 1, \dots, m$$

are separating with respect to the action of  $S^1$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$

In contrast, there are  $\sim n^2$  generators for the ring of invariant polynomials:

$$H_{s,t}(z_1, \dots, z_n) = z_s \bar{z}_t$$

# Invariant universality rephrased

Assume  $G$  acts on  $V$

**Orbit:**  $[v] = \{w \in V \mid \exists g \in G, w = gv\}$

**Quotient space:**  $V/G = \{[v] \mid v \in V\}$

If  $f: V \rightarrow Y$  is invariant then it induces a well-defined  $\hat{f}: V/G \rightarrow Y$   
via

$$\hat{f}([v]) = f(v)$$

# Invariant universality via Invariant embeddings

If  $\widehat{F}: V/G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is invariant and *injective*, then any  $\widehat{f}: V/G \rightarrow Y$  is of the form

$$\widehat{f}([v]) = \mathbf{h} \circ \widehat{F}([v]), \text{ for an appropriate } \mathbf{h}: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow Y$$

$$\text{On the image of } \widehat{F} \text{ we have } \mathbf{h} = \widehat{f} \circ (\widehat{F})^{-1}$$

**Goal:** Find injective  $\widehat{F}: V/G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$

# Invariant embeddings and separating invariants

**Goal:** Find injective  $\hat{F}: V/G \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$



**Goal:** Find invariant and separating  $F: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$

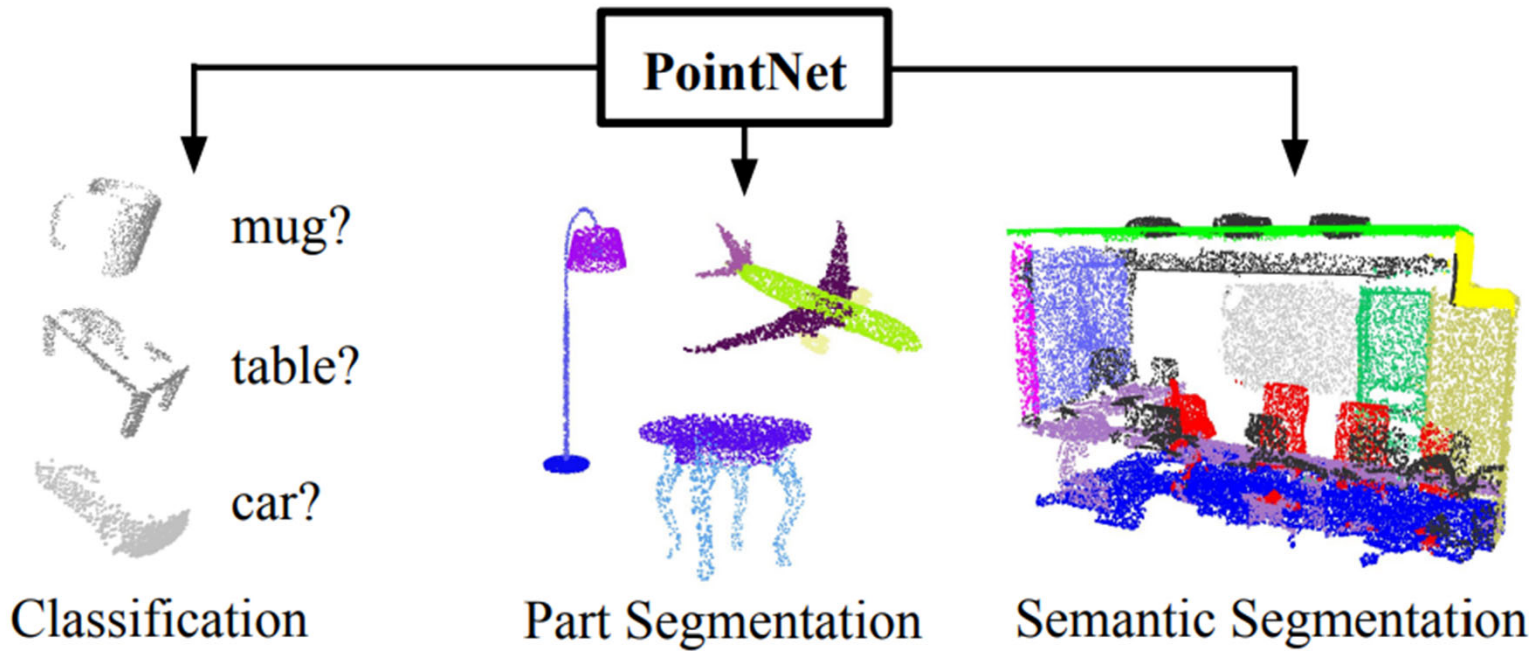
- **Invariant:** if  $[w] = [v]$  then  $F(v) = F(w)$
- **Separating:** If  $F(v) = F(w)$  then  $[w] = [v]$

# Conclusion: things we didn't discuss

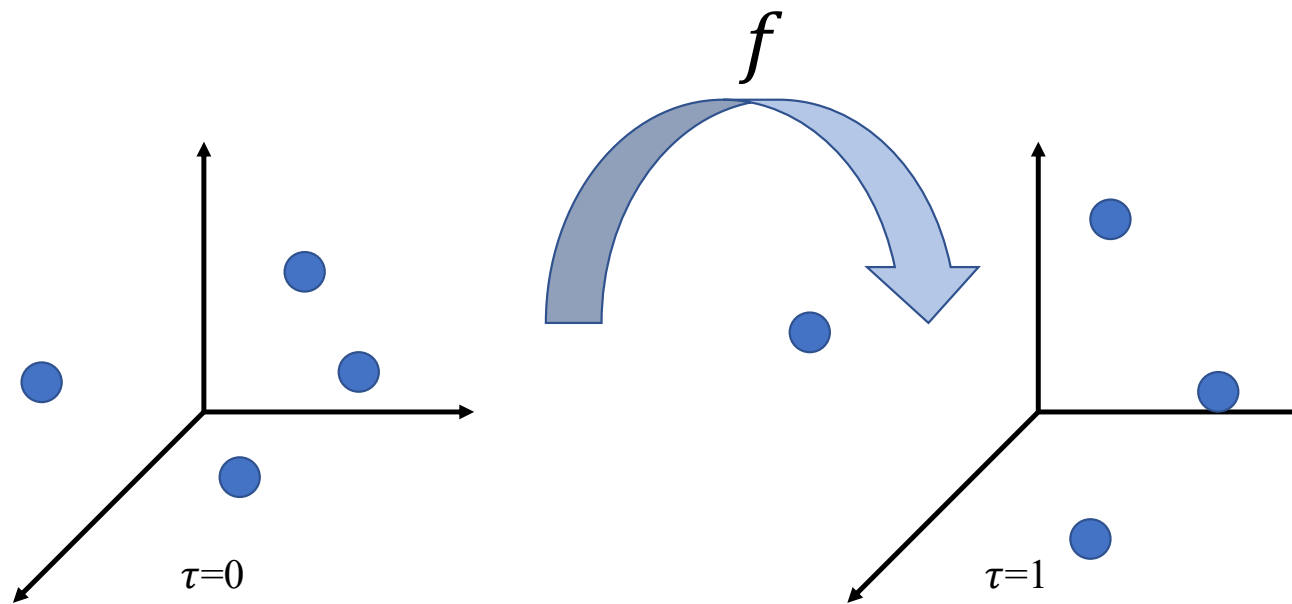
- Stability
- Equivariance
- Performance

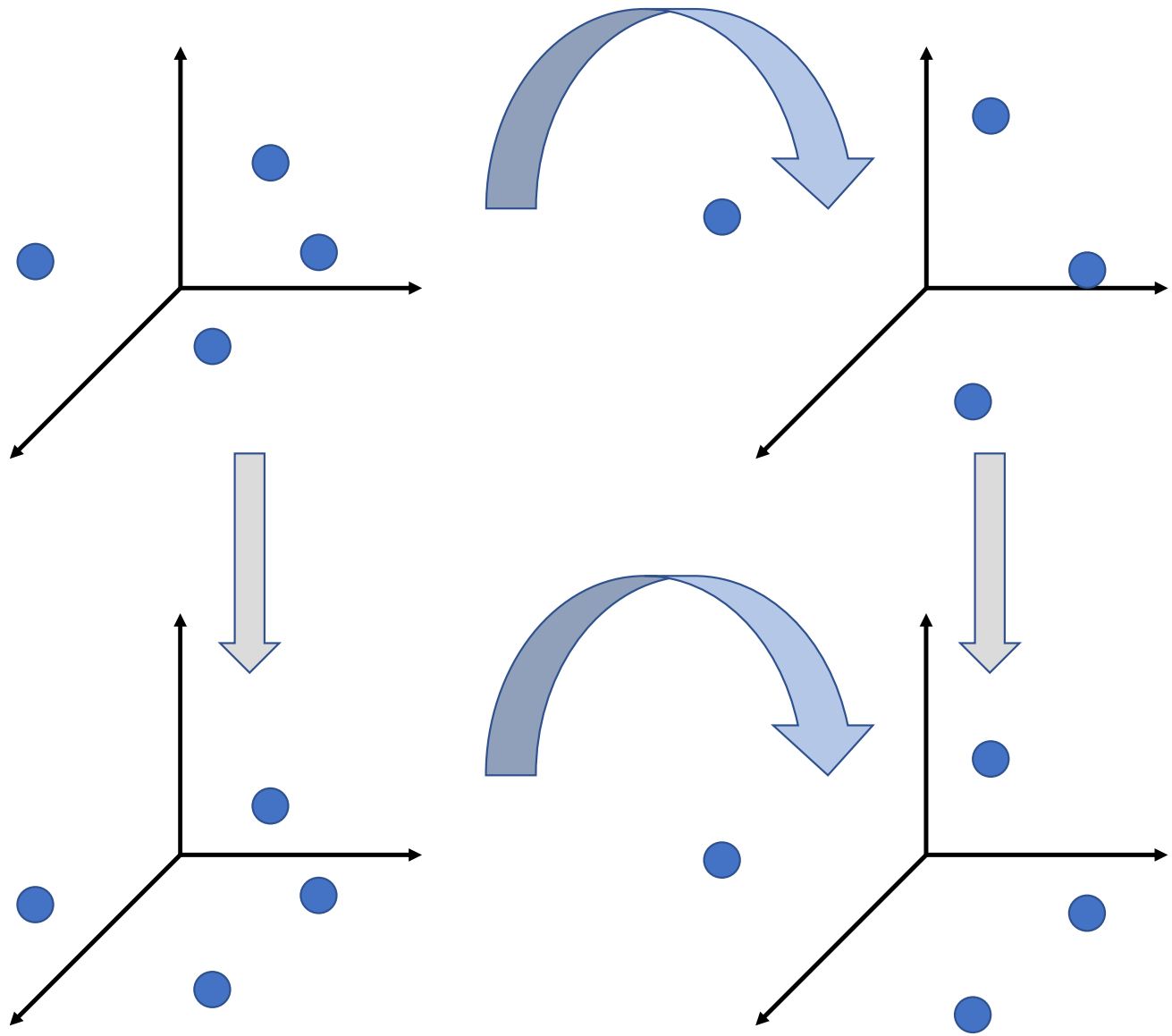


# Invariance vs. equivariance



# Equivariance: For Physics simulation





# N-body problem

- Equivariant to
- Permutation
  - Translation
  - Orthogonal
  - Lorenz!

