

# Introduction to Machine Learning and Geometric Deep Learning

---

2025-08-29, PhD defence

Oscar Carlsson, Department of Mathematical Sciences

WASP

WALLENBERG AI,  
AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS  
AND SOFTWARE PROGRAM



**CHALMERS**  
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

# Outline

- 1 Machine learning
- 2 Geometry and symmetries in machine learning
- 3 My contributions

# Introduction to ML

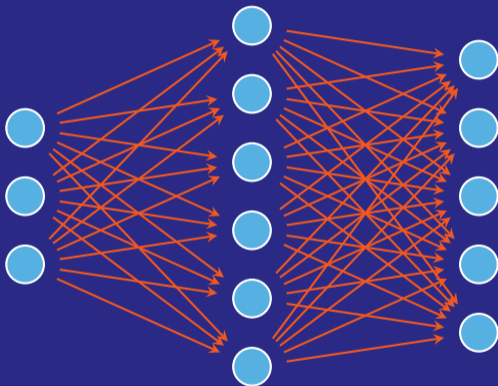


# Examples of machine learning applications

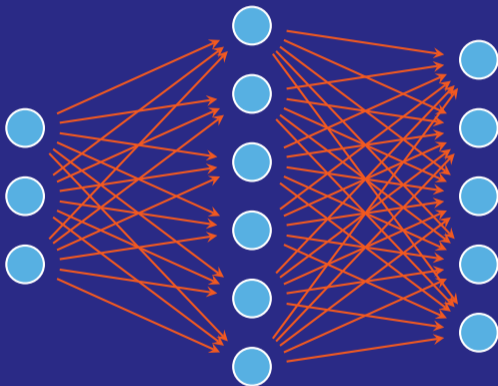
- Language models
  - ChatGPT
  - Claude
  - Gemini
- AlphaFold
- Generative models
- Image analysis
  - Object detection
  - Semantic segmentation
  - Depth estimation
  - Classification



# Machine learning models



# Deep machine learning models



# How humans and models differ in conceptualisation

Machine learning models are dumb!

# How humans and models differ in conceptualisation



# How humans and models differ in conceptualisation



# Training a neural network

# Training a neural network



Coffee cup

# Training a neural network



Coffee cup

# Training a neural network



Coffee cup

# Goal

Use geometry and symmetry to improve and make networks more efficient

# Geometry and symmetries in the real world



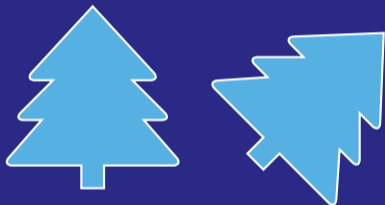
Tree

# Geometry and symmetries in the real world



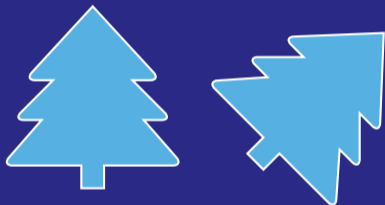
Tree

# Geometry and symmetries in the real world



Invariant property

# Geometry and symmetries in the real world

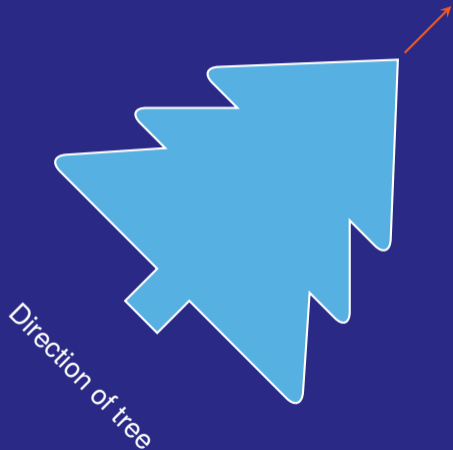


Invariant property



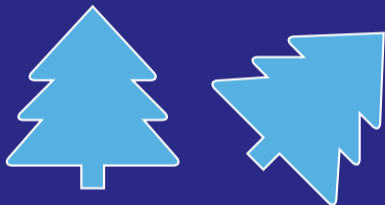
Direction of tree

# Geometry and symmetries in the real world

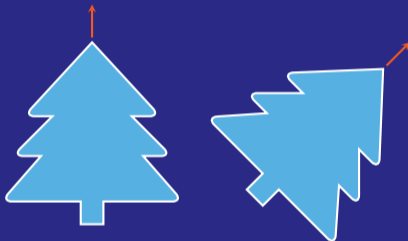


Invariant property

# Geometry and symmetries in the real world



Invariant property



Equivariant property

# Mathematics: Groups

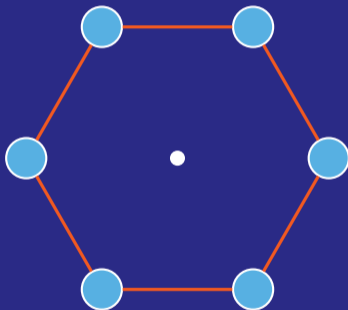
- Set of transformations acting on some object
- Any two transformations can be combined into a single in the set
- One can undo transformations

# Mathematics: Groups

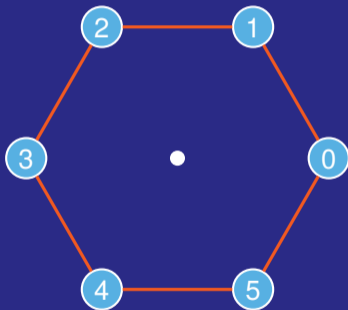
- Set of transformations acting on some object
- Any two transformations can be combined into a single in the set
- One can undo transformations

Often used to describe symmetries of objects

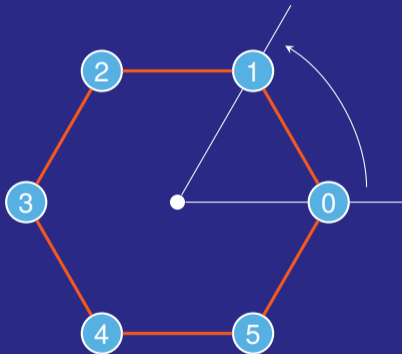
# Example of a group



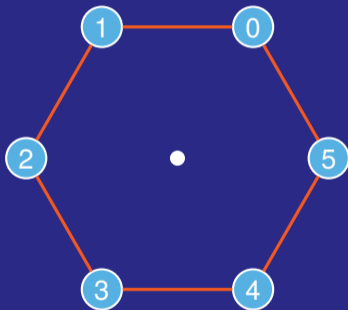
# Example of a group



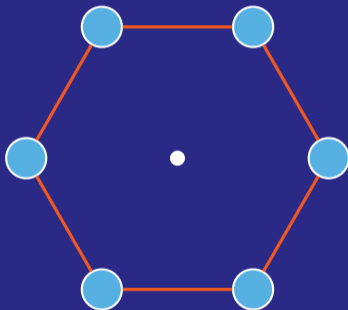
# Example of a group



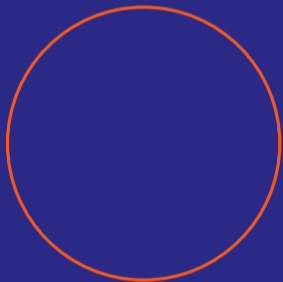
# Example of a group



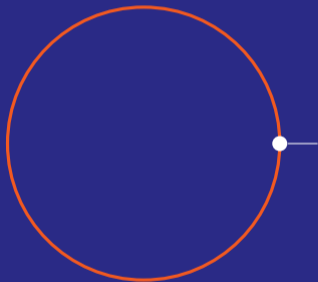
# Example of a group



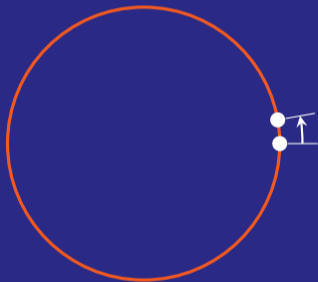
# Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



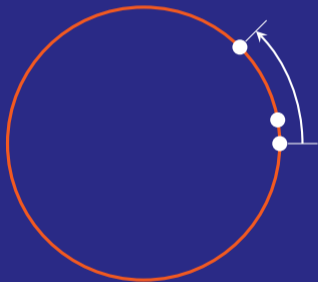
# Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



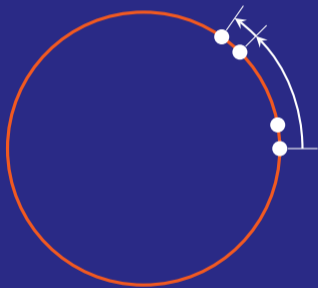
# Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



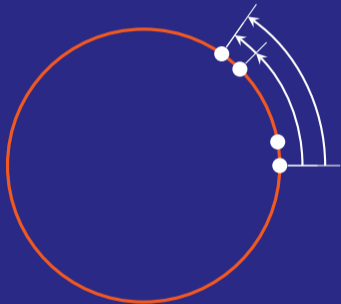
# Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



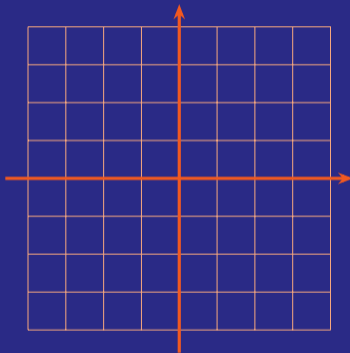
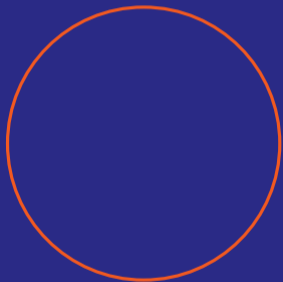
# Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



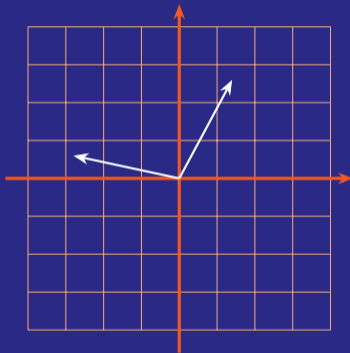
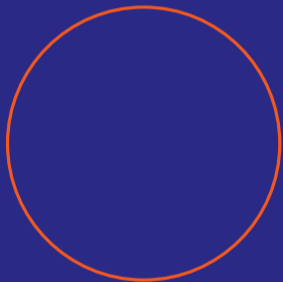
# Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



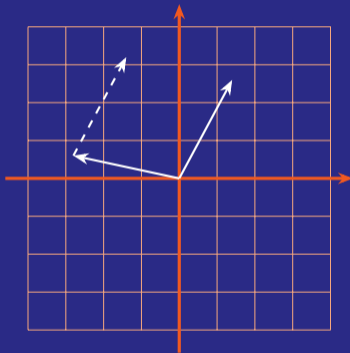
# Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



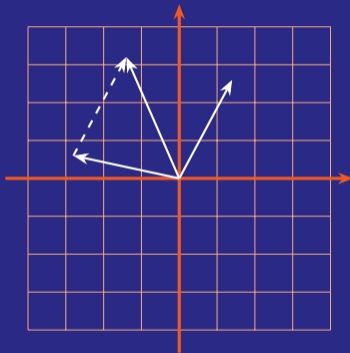
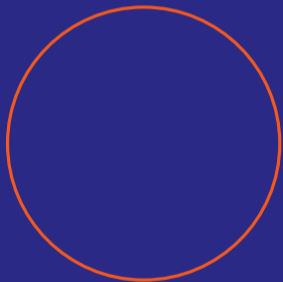
# Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



# Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



# Mathematics: continuous groups, Lie groups



# Reoccurring problems: differing positions

# Reoccurring problems: differing positions



## Reoccurring problems: differing positions



## Reoccurring problems: differing positions



# Reoccurring problems: differing positions

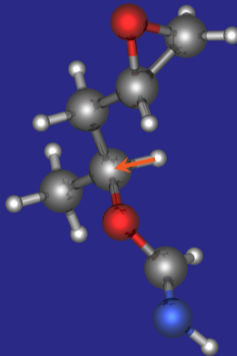


# Reoccurring problems: differing poses

# Reoccurring problems: differing poses



# Reoccurring problems: differing poses



# Dealing with geometry and symmetries in ML

Dealing with geometry and symmetries in ML:

Data augmentation

# Dealing with geometry and symmetries in ML:

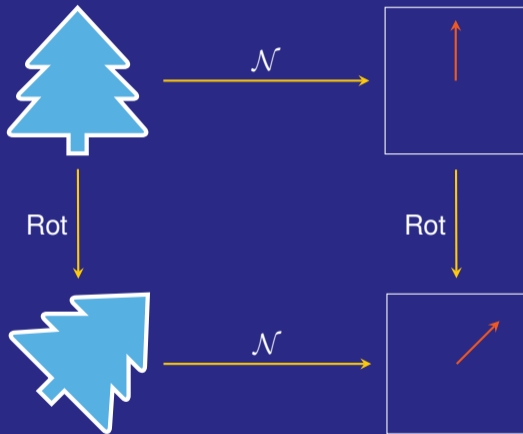
Data augmentation

Equivariance

# Data augmentation

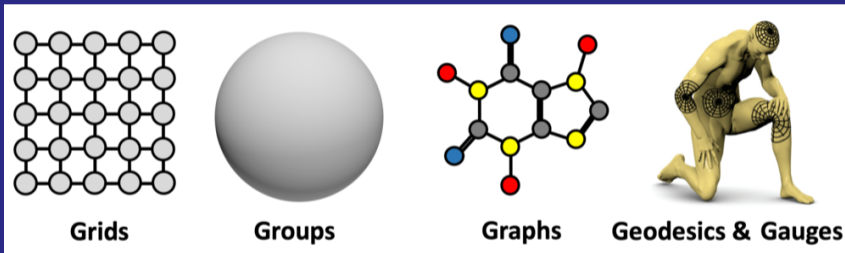


# Equivariant networks



$$\mathcal{N}(g \triangleright_X x) = g \triangleright_Y \mathcal{N}(x) \text{ for all } g \in G$$

# Geometric Deep Learning



(“Geometric Deep Learning: Grids, Groups, Graphs, Geodesics, and Gauges”, Bronstein et al. 2021)

# Questions

Data augmentation  $\longleftrightarrow$  ? Equivariance

# Questions

Data augmentation  $\longleftrightarrow$  ? Equivariance

How does one deal with data on curved spaces?

# Questions

Data augmentation  $\longleftrightarrow$  ? Equivariance

How does one deal with data on curved spaces?

Encoding symmetries mathematically?

# Papers

- **Paper I.:** Jan E. Gerken, Jimmy Aronsson\*, **Oscar Carlsson\***, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Geometric deep learning and equivariant neural networks”. In: *Artificial Intelligence Review* (June 2023)
- **Paper II.:** Jan Gerken, **Oscar Carlsson**, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Equivariance versus Augmentation for Spherical Images”. In: *Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning* (June 2022), pp. 7404-7421
- **Paper III.:** **Oscar Carlsson\***, Jan E. Gerken\*, Hampus Linander, Heiner Spieß, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson Daniel “HEAL-SWIN: A Vision Transformer on the Sphere”. In: *2024 IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)* (June 2024), pp. 6067-6077
- **Paper IV.:** Elias Nyholm\*, **Oscar Carlsson\***, Maurice Weiler, and Daniel Persson “Equivariant non-linear maps for neural networks on homogeneous spaces”. *Submitted* (April 2025)

# Papers: Mathematical foundations

- **Paper I.:** Jan E. Gerken, Jimmy Aronsson\*, **Oscar Carlsson\***, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Geometric deep learning and equivariant neural networks”. In: *Artificial Intelligence Review* (June 2023)
- **Paper II.:** Jan Gerken, **Oscar Carlsson**, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Equivariance versus Augmentation for Spherical Images”. In: *Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning* (June 2022), pp. 7404-7421
- **Paper III.:** **Oscar Carlsson\***, Jan E. Gerken\*, Hampus Linander, Heiner Spieß, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson Daniel “HEAL-SWIN: A Vision Transformer on the Sphere”. In: *2024 IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)* (June 2024), pp. 6067-6077
- **Paper IV.:** Elias Nyholm\*, **Oscar Carlsson\***, Maurice Weiler, and Daniel Persson “Equivariant non-linear maps for neural networks on homogeneous spaces”. *Submitted* (April 2025)

# Papers: Vision applications

- **Paper I:** Jan E. Gerken, Jimmy Aronsson\*, **Oscar Carlsson\***, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Geometric deep learning and equivariant neural networks”. In: *Artificial Intelligence Review* (June 2023)
- **Paper II:** Jan Gerken, **Oscar Carlsson**, Hampus Linander, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson “Equivariance versus Augmentation for Spherical Images”. In: *Proceedings of the 39th International Conference on Machine Learning* (June 2022), pp. 7404-7421
- **Paper III:** **Oscar Carlsson\***, Jan E. Gerken\*, Hampus Linander, Heiner Spieß, Fredrik Ohlsson, Christoffer Petersson, and Daniel Persson Daniel “HEAL-SWIN: A Vision Transformer on the Sphere”. In: *2024 IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)* (June 2024), pp. 6067-6077
- **Paper IV:** Elias Nyholm\*, **Oscar Carlsson\***, Maurice Weiler, and Daniel Persson “Equivariant non-linear maps for neural networks on homogeneous spaces”. *Submitted* (April 2025)

End of general introduction