

# A brief introduction to geometric deep learning

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Deep learning is hard!

**Universal approximations theorems:** Neural networks have the *capacity* to approximate almost arbitrarily complex functions.

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Deep learning has given rise to huge variety of **powerful architectures**, *e.g.* CNNs, residual connections, UNet, Inception, depthwise separable convolutions, transformers, ...

Architectures encode **inductive bias**.

**Geometry** is a powerful inductive bias.

Term *geometric deep learning* first coined by Michael Bronstein  
(Bronstein *et al.* 2017; Bronstein *et al.* 2022)

# Geometric priors

1. Symmetry
2. Stability
3. Multi-scale representation



## Symmetry

### Equivariance

An operator  $\mathcal{A}$  is *equivariant to a transformation*  $\mathcal{T}$  if

$$\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{A}(f)) = \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{T}(f))$$

for all possible signals  $f$ .

Transforming the signal after application of the operator, is equivalent to transformation of the signal first, followed by application of the operator.

## Symmetry

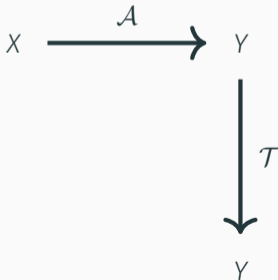
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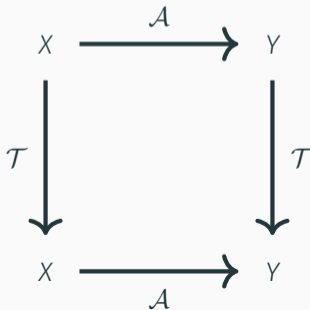
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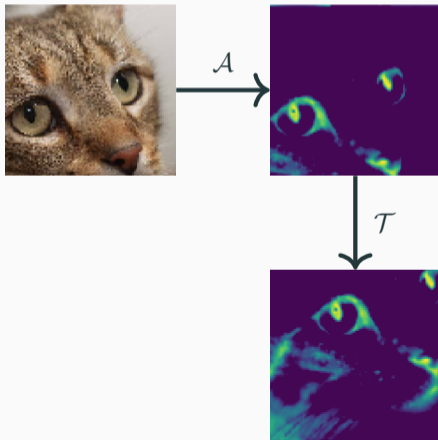
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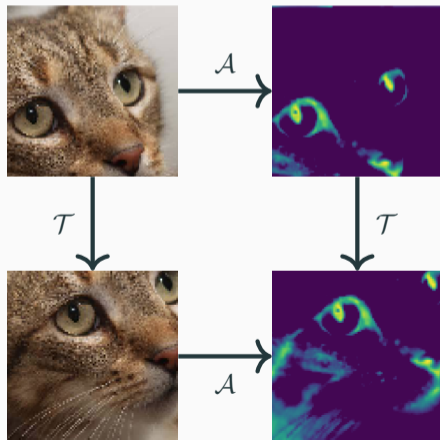
Planar (Euclidean) CNNs exhibit translational equivariance

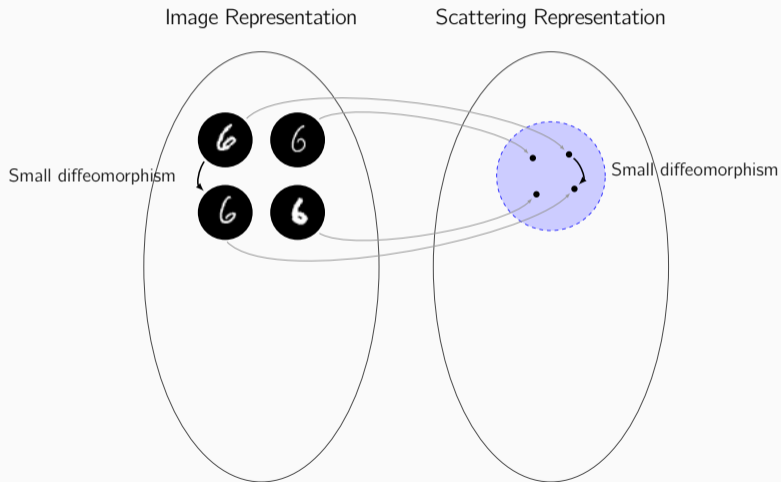


# Geometric priors

## Symmetry

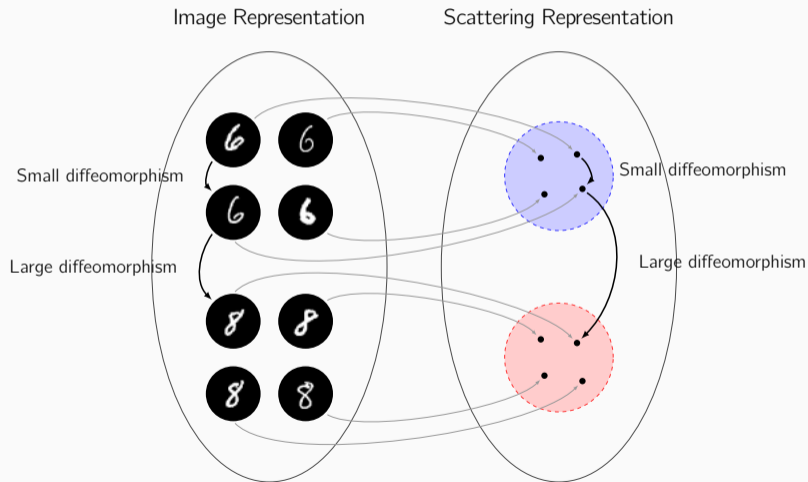
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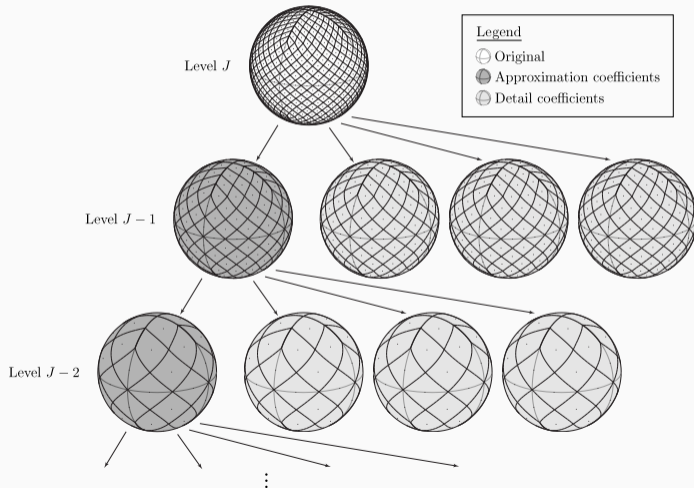


# Geometric priors

## Stability



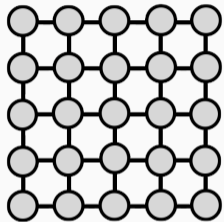
## Multi-scale representation





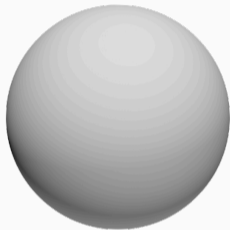
# Classes of geometric deep learning

Grids



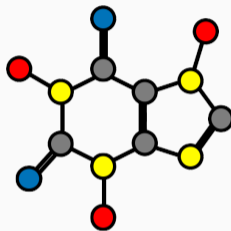
Euclidean samples,  
*e.g. image*

Groups



Homogenous spaces  
with global symmetries,  
*e.g. sphere*

Graphs



Nodes and  
connections,  
*e.g. social network*

Geodesics & Gauges

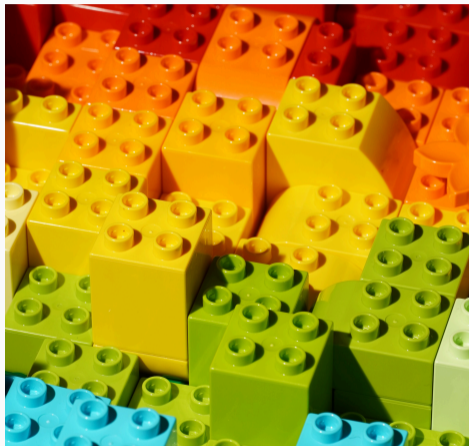


Manifolds,  
*e.g. 3D mesh*

(Bronstein *et al.* 2022)

# Building blocks

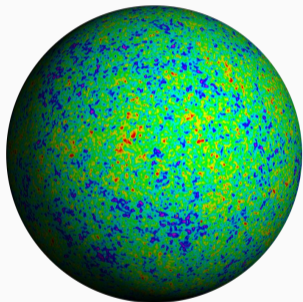
1. Linear equivariant layers,  
*e.g. convolutions*
2. Non-linear equivariant layers,  
*e.g. pointwise activations*
3. Local averaging,  
*e.g. max pooling*
4. Global averaging (invariances),  
*e.g. global pooling*



# Geometric deep learning on the sphere

# Cosmology and virtual reality

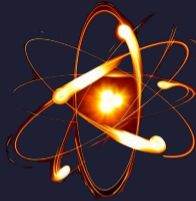
Whenever observe over angles, recover data on 2D sphere (or 3D rotation group).



Cosmic microwave background



360° virtual reality



Since we're concerned with rotational symmetry, leverage the machinery from the study of angular momentum in quantum mechanics.

# Generalized spherical CNNs

Consider the  $s$ -th layer of a generalized spherical CNN to take the form of a triple (Cobb et al. 2021; arXiv:2010.11661)

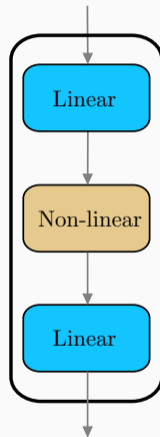
$$\mathcal{A}^{(s)} = (\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{L}_2),$$

such that

$$\mathcal{A}^{(s)}(f^{(s-1)}) = \mathcal{L}_2(\mathcal{N}(\mathcal{L}_1(f^{(s-1)}))),$$

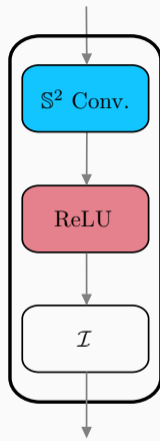
where

- $\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2 : \mathcal{F}_L \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_L$  are **spherical convolution** operators,
- $\mathcal{N} : \mathcal{F}_L \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_L$  is a **non-linear, spherical activation** operator.

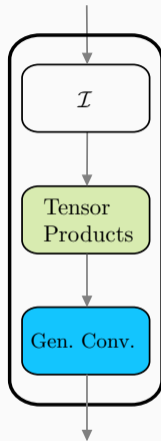


# Generalised spherical CNNs

- Build on other **influential equivariant spherical CNN** constructions:
  - Cohen et al. (2018)
  - Esteves et al. (2018)
  - Kondor et al. (2018)
- Encompass other frameworks as special cases.
- General framework supports hybrids models.



Cohen et al. (2018),  
Esteves et al. (2018)



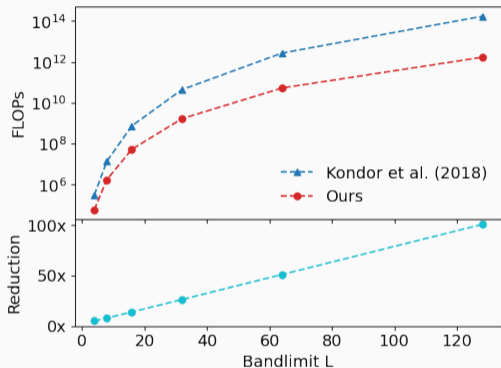
Kondor et al. (2018)

# Contributions to improve efficiency

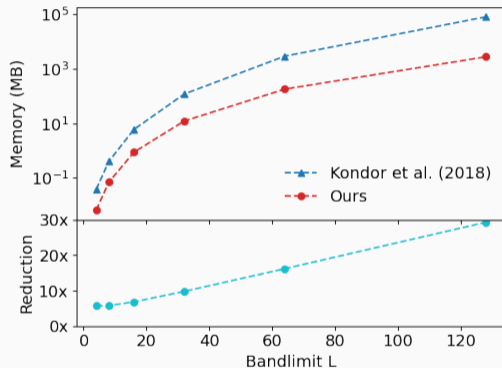
1. Channel-wise structure
2. Constrained generalized convolutions
3. Optimized degree mixing sets
4. Efficient sampling theory on the sphere and rotation group  
(McEwen & Wiaux 2011; McEwen et al. 2015)



# Computational cost and memory requirements



Computational cost



Memory requirements

Despite the efficient generalized approach discussed  
rotationally equivariant spherical CNNs are not scalable to high-resolution data

## Solution: hybrid networks

Efficient generalized spherical CNN framework of Cobb et al. 2021 advocates **hybrid networks**, with different spherical layers leveraged alongside each other.

(Building on equivariant spherical CNNs of Cohen et al. 2018, Esteves et al. 2018, Kondor et al. 2018.)

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Introduce **new initial layer**, with following properties:

1. Scalable
2. Allow subsequent layers to operate at low-resolution (i.e. mixes information to low frequencies)
3. Rotationally equivariant
4. Stable and locally invariant representation (i.e. effective representation space)

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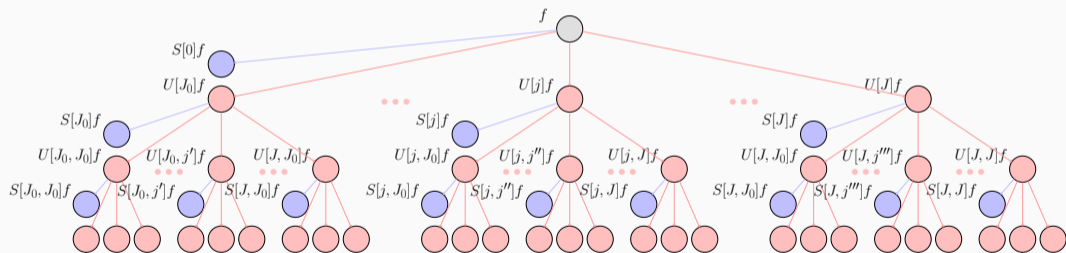
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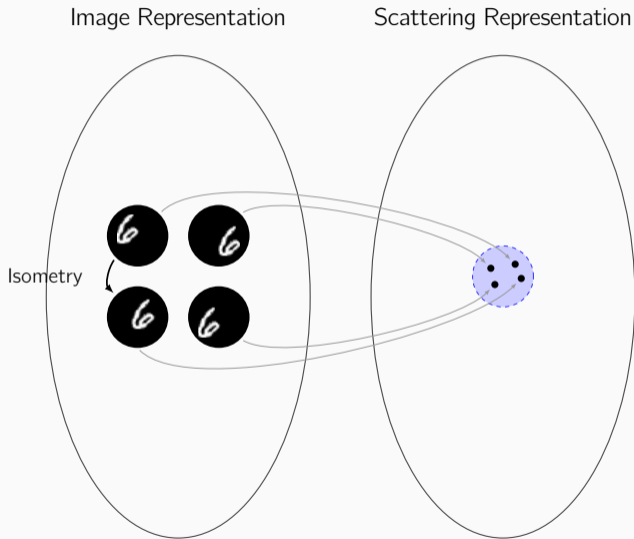
⇒ **Scattering networks on the sphere** (McEwen et al. 2022; arXiv:2102.02828)

# Scattering networks on the sphere

**Spherical scattering network** is collection of scattering transforms for a number of paths:  
 $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{P}}f = \{S[p]f : p \in \mathbb{P}\}$ , where the general path set  $\mathbb{P}$  denotes the infinite set of all possible paths  $\mathbb{P} = \{p = (j_1, j_2, \dots, j_d) : J_0 \leq j_i \leq J, 1 \leq i \leq d, d \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$ .



# Isometric invariance



# Isometric invariance

## Theorem (Isometric Invariance)

Let  $\zeta \in \text{Isom}(\mathbb{S}^2)$ , then there exists a constant  $C$  such that for all  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{S}^2)$ ,

$$\|\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{P}_D} f - \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{P}_D} V_{\zeta} f\|_2 \leq CL^{5/2} (D+1)^{1/2} \lambda^0 \|\zeta\|_{\infty} \|f\|_2.$$

(**Proof:** Follows by straightforward extension of proof of Perlmutter et al. 2020.)



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Difference in representation

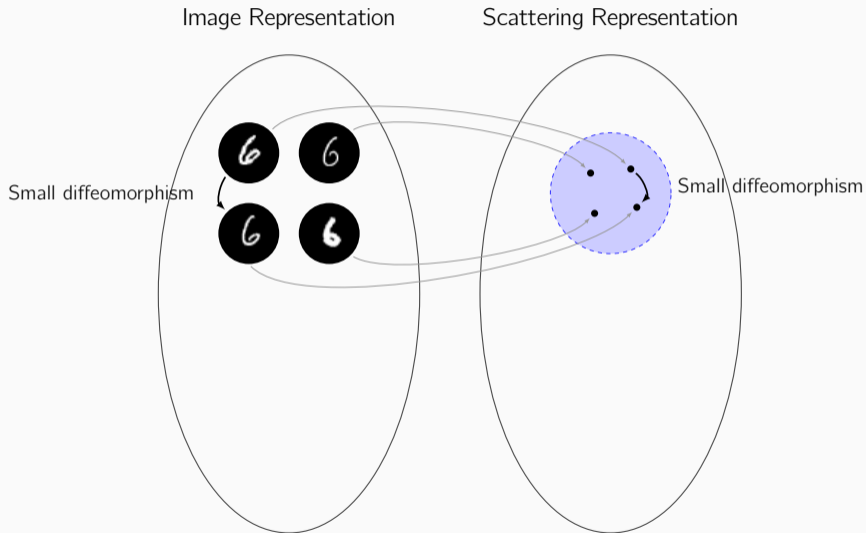


Scattering network representation is invariant to isometries up to a scale.

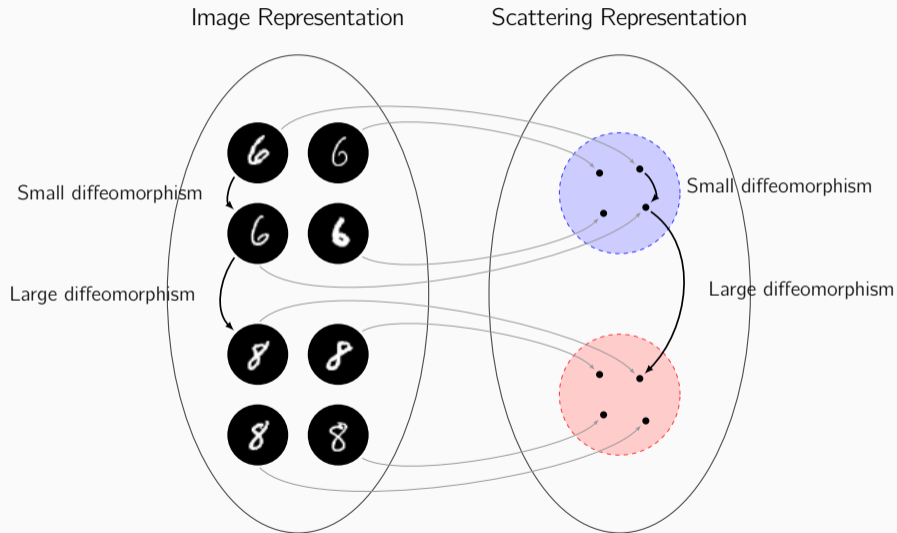


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Let  $\zeta \in \text{Diff}(\mathbb{S}^2)$ . If  $\zeta = \zeta_1 \circ \zeta_2$  for some isometry  $\zeta_1 \in \text{Isom}(\mathbb{S}^2)$  and diffeomorphism  $\zeta_2 \in \text{Diff}(\mathbb{S}^2)$ , then there exists a constant  $C$  such that for all  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{S}^2)$ ,

$$\|\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{P}_D} f - \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{P}_D} V_{\zeta} f\|_2 \leq CL^2 [L^2 \|\zeta_2\|_{\infty} + L^{1/2}(D+1)^{1/2} \lambda^{j_0} \|\zeta_1\|_{\infty}] \|f\|_2.$$

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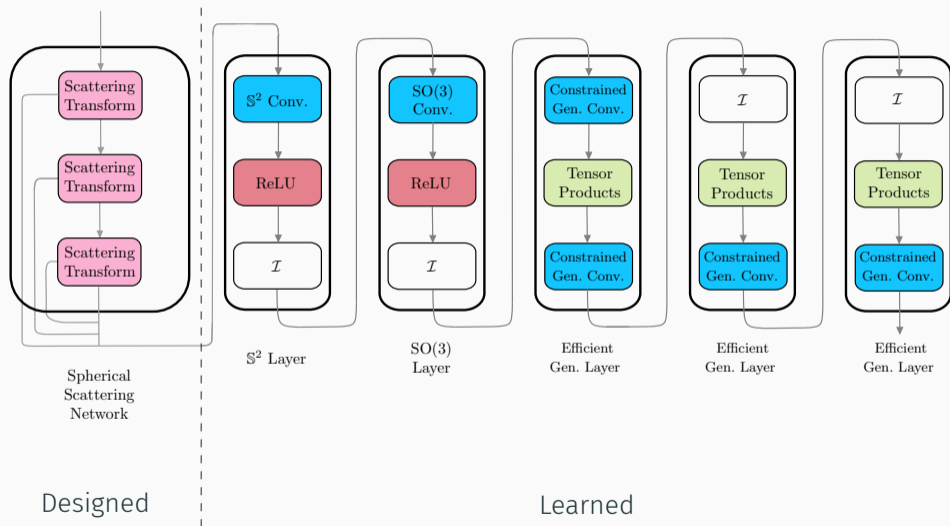
$$\|\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{P}_D} f - \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{P}_D} V_{\zeta} f\|_2 \leq CL^2 [L^2 \|\zeta_2\|_{\infty} + L^{1/2}(D+1)^{1/2} \lambda^{j_0} \|\zeta_1\|_{\infty}] \|f\|_2.$$

Difference in representation

Scattering network representation is stable to small diffeomorphisms about isometry.

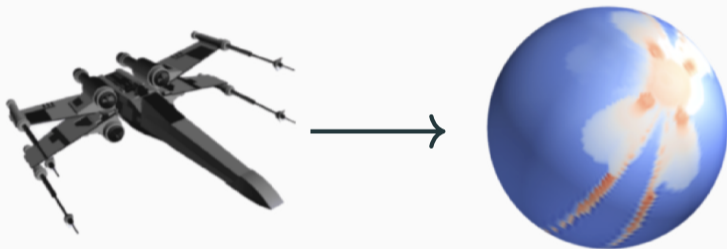
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# Scalable and rotationally equivariant spherical CNNs



# 3D shape classification: problem

Classify 3D meshes and perform shape retrieval.



[Image credit: Esteves et al. 2018]

## 3D shape classification: results

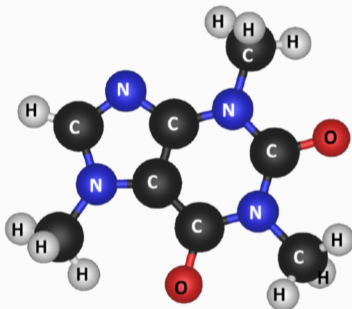
SHREC'17 object retrieval competition metrics (perturbed micro-all)

	P@N	R@N	F1@N	mAP	NDCG	Params
Kondor et al. 2018	0.707	0.722	0.701	0.683	0.756	>1M
Cohen et al. 2018	0.701	0.711	0.699	0.676	0.756	1.4M
Esteves et al. 2018	0.717	<b>0.737</b>	-	<b>0.685</b>	-	500k
Ours	<b>0.719</b>	0.710	<b>0.708</b>	0.679	<b>0.758</b>	<b>250k</b>



# Atomization energy prediction: problem

Predict atomization energy of molecule give the atom charges and positions.

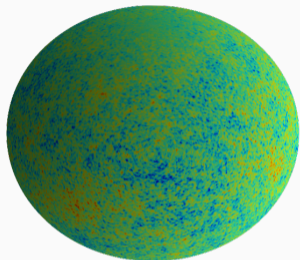


# Atomization energy prediction: results

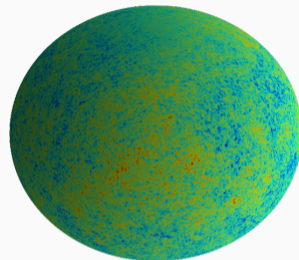
Test root mean squared (RMS) error for QM7 regression problem

	RMS	Params
Montavon et al. 2012	5.96	-
Cohen et al. 2018	8.47	1.4M
Kondor et al. 2018	7.97	>1.1M
Ours (MST)	<b>3.16</b>	337k
Ours (RMST)	3.46	<b>335k</b>

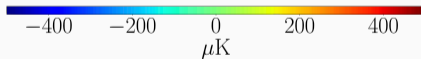
# Gaussianity of the cosmic microwave background



Gaussian



Non-Gaussian



At  $L = 1024$  ( $\sim 2$  million pixels), we achieve classification accuracy of: 53% without scattering network versus 95% with scattering network.