

# Efficient generalized spherical CNNs

arXiv:2010.11661

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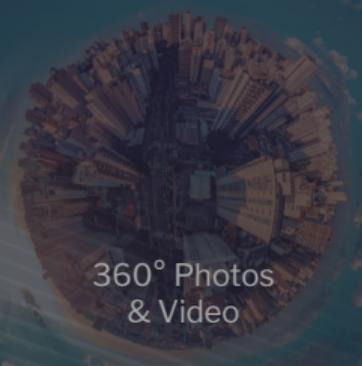
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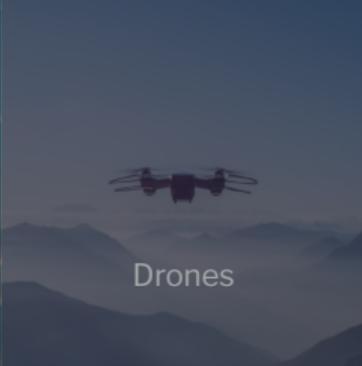
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2021

## Generalized spherical CNNs

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360° Photos  
& Video



Drones



Extended Reality  
(VR / AR / MR)



Autonomous  
Vehicles

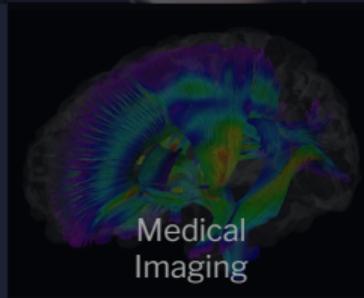


Semantic  
Understanding

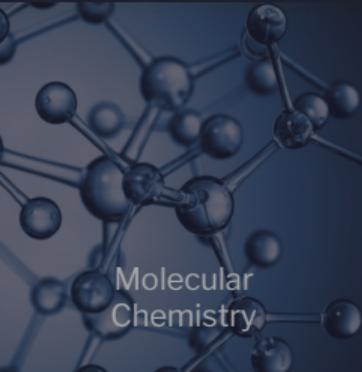


Surveillance &  
Monitoring

Data on the sphere arises  
in many applications



Medical  
Imaging



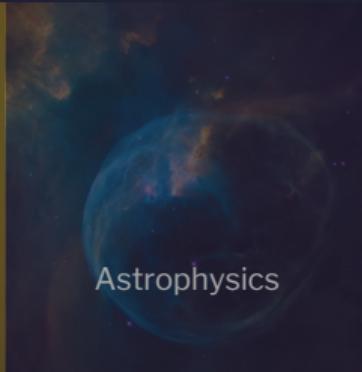
Molecular  
Chemistry



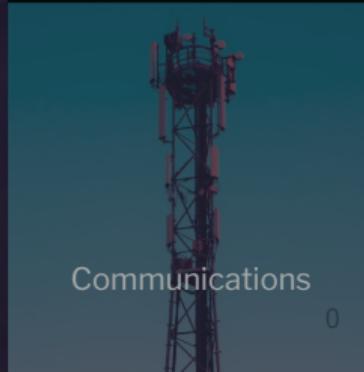
Earth & Climate  
Science



Spatial  
Audio



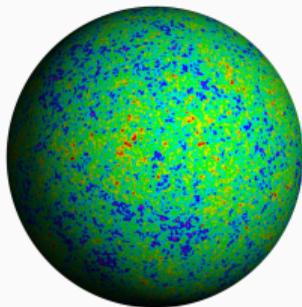
Astrophysics



Communications

# Cosmology and virtual reality

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



Cosmic microwave background



360° virtual reality

Construct CNNs natively on the sphere and encode rotational equivariance.

# Generalized spherical CNNs

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

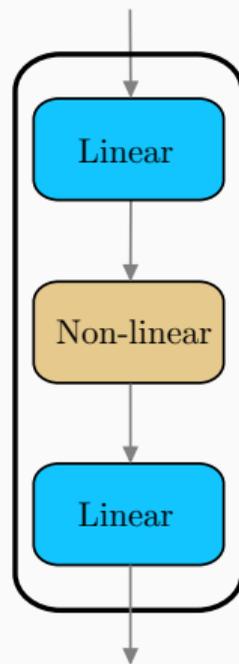
$$\mathcal{A}^{(s)} = (\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{N}, \mathcal{L}_2),$$

such that

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

where

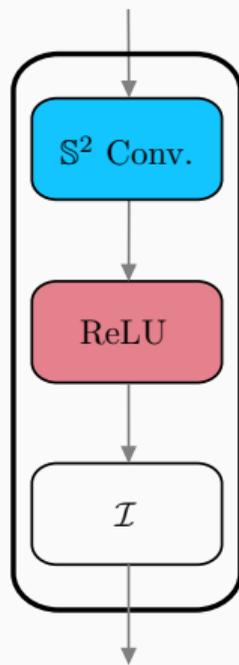
- $\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2 : \mathcal{F}_L \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_L$  are **spherical convolution** operators,
- $\mathcal{N} : \mathcal{F}_L \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_L$  is a **non-linear, spherical activation** operator.



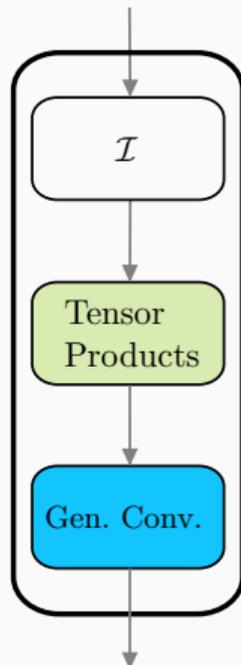
# Generalised spherical CNNs

- 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.

Existing spherical CNN layers are **highly computationally costly**, particularly those non-linear layers that satisfy strict rotational equivariance.



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



Kondor et al. (2018)

## Efficient generalized spherical CNNs

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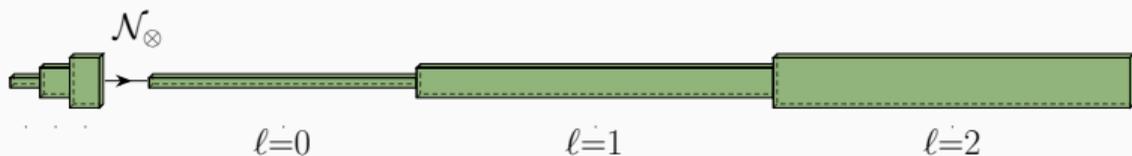
# Contributions to improve efficiency

1. Channel-wise structure
2. Constrained generalized convolutions
3. Optimized degree mixing sets
4. Efficient sampling theory on the sphere and rotation group

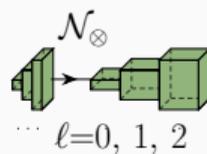
# Channel-wise structure

Split generalized signals in  $K$  channels and apply a tensor-product activation to each channel separately.

Representational capacity then controlled through **linear dependence** on channels  $K$ , **rather than quadratic dependence** (on generalized harmonic representation type  $\tau_f$ ).



Prior approach to applying a tensor-product based non-linear operator



Ours (Cobb et al. 2021)

# Constrained generalized convolutions

Under new multi-channel structure, decompose the generalized convolution into **three separate constrained linear operators**:

1. **Uniform convolution**: linear projection uniformly across channels to project down onto the desired type (interpreted as learned extension of tensor-product activations to undo expansion of representation space).
2. **Channel-wise convolution**: linear combinations of the fragments within each channel.
3. **Cross-channel convolution**: linear combinations to learn new features.

Computational and parameter **efficiency significantly improved**.

# Optimized degree mixing sets

Non-linear operators must perform degree mixing (equivariant linear operators cannot mix information corresponding to different degrees).

But, it is **not necessary** to compute all possible tensor-product based fragments.

Degree mixing set  $\mathbb{P}_L^\ell$ :

$$\mathbb{P}_L^\ell = \{(\ell_1, \ell_2) \in \{0, \dots, L-1\}^2 : |\ell_1 - \ell_2| \leq \ell \leq \ell_1 + \ell_2\}.$$

Consider subsets of  $\mathbb{P}_L^\ell$  that scale better than  $\mathcal{O}(L^2)$ .

# Optimized degree mixing sets

Consider the graph  $G_L^\ell = (\mathbb{N}_L, \mathbb{P}_L^\ell)$  with nodes  $\mathbb{N}_L = \{0, \dots, L - 1\}$  and edges  $\mathbb{P}_L^\ell$ .

- Some notion of relationship between  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  is captured if there exists a path between the two nodes in  $G_L^\ell$ .
- Select smallest subgraph such that all relationships are preserved  $\Rightarrow$  **minimum spanning tree** (MST). Weight edges by computational cost to minimise overall cost.
- Consider **logarithmic subsampling** (reduced MST).

**Computational complexity significantly reduced** from  $\mathcal{O}(L^5)$  to  $\mathcal{O}(L^3 \log L)$ , where  $L$  denotes resolution (bandlimit).

# Efficient sampling theory and fast harmonic transforms

Adopt **efficient sampling theory** and **fast algorithms** to compute harmonic transforms on the sphere and rotation group.

Leverage to access underlying continuous signal representations, **avoiding discretization artifacts**, and **compute fast convolutions**.

## Novel sampling theorem on sphere (McEwen & Wiaux 2011)



SSHT: Spin spherical harmonic transforms

[www.spinsht.org](http://www.spinsht.org)

## Novel sampling theorem on rotation group (McEwen et al. 2015)



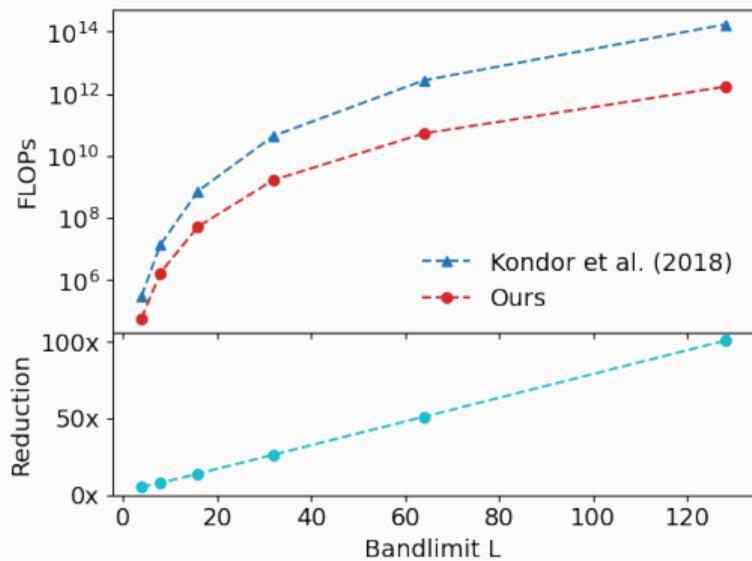
SO3: Fast Wigner transforms on rotation group

[www.sothree.org](http://www.sothree.org)

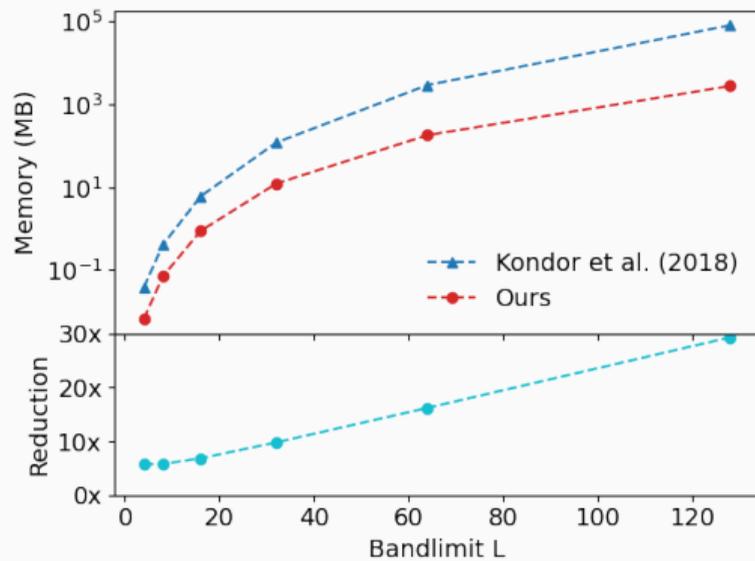
## Numerical results

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# Computational cost and memory requirements



Computational cost



Memory requirements

# Rotational equivariance

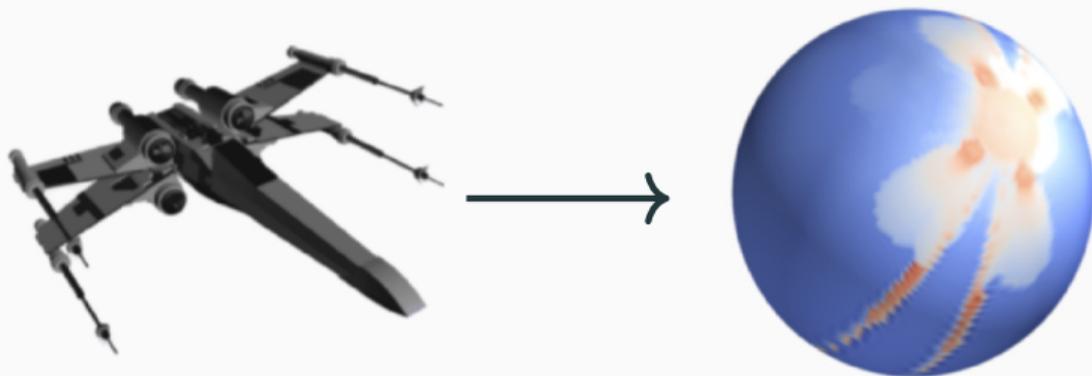
## Equivariance errors

Layer	Mean Relative Error*
Tensor-product activation → Generalized convolution	$5.0 \times 10^{-7}$
$\mathbb{S}^2$ ReLU	$3.4 \times 10^{-1}$
SO(3) ReLU	$3.7 \times 10^{-1}$

\* Floating point precision.

## 3D shape classification: problem

Classify 3D meshes and perform shape retrieval.



[Image credit: Esteves et al. 2018]

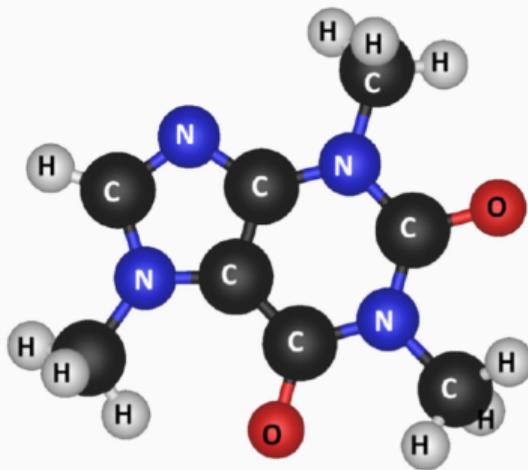
## 3D shape classification: results

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>

## Efficient generalized spherical CNNs (Cobb et al. 2021; arXiv:2010.11661)

- General framework that encompasses others as special cases.
- Supports hybrid models to leverage strength of alternatives alongside each other.
- New efficient layers that are strictly rotationally equivariant to be used as primary building blocks.
- State-of-the-art performance, both in terms of accuracy and parameter efficiency.

Code available on request at <https://kagenova.com/products/fourpiAI/> or simply contact [jason.mcewen@kagenova.com](mailto:jason.mcewen@kagenova.com).