Geometric data analysis

Lecture 4/7 – Geometric deep learning

Jean Feydy HeKA team, Inria Paris, Inserm, Université Paris-Cité

Thursday, 9am-12pm - 7 lectures

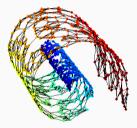
Faculté de médecine, Hôpital Cochin, rooms 2001 + 2005

Validation: project + quizz

Lecture 3 – **Graphs**:

- Curse of dimensionality \implies Statistics on white noise is hopeless.
- We must understand the **intrinsic** structure of our data, even when it is **embedded** in a high-dimensional space of features.
- We may need to **unwrap** the manifold of plausible data samples.

Graphs = local neighborhood structures

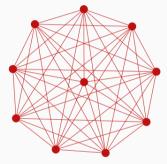


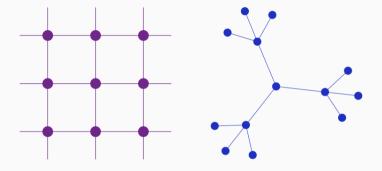


The K-NN graph describes the **local** structure of a dataset.

Untangling a soup of edges to produce a **global** understanding is hard.

Simple archetypes [TDGC⁺21]





Cliques are like balls with positive curvature.

Grids are like planes with flat curvature.

Trees are like saddles with negative curvature.





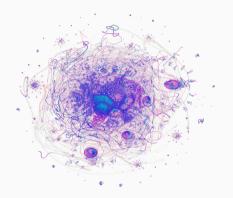


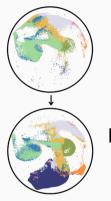
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Trees are like saddles with negative curvature.

Embedding methods such as UMAP are excellent diagnostic tools [Wil]



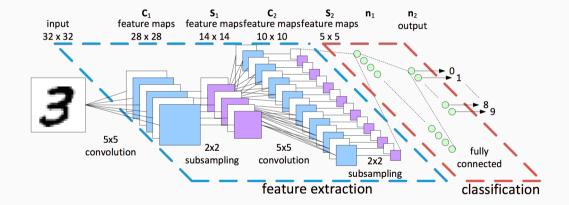


Liver Week 7

Bone marrow Week 20

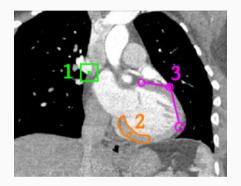
Visualizing the set of **integer numbers** 1, 2, 3, ..., 8,000,000. Visualizing the differentiation of Hematopoietic **stem cells**.

Since 2012, we have grown used to convolutional neural networks [PMC11]



Can we apply this methodology to higher-level descriptions? [EPW11, Man11]

1. Pixels 2. Anatomy 3. Function



Simplifying a bit, each level of analysis corresponds to a way of **grouping pixels** with their neighbors.

Today's lecture – an active research topic

1. Geometric deep learning is not a mature field:

- Convolutions on graphs and point clouds.
- A stimulating environment.
- Questionable benchmarks.

2. Personal experience feedback:

- Protein docking.
- Lung registration.

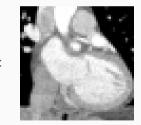
3. Trying to learn a graph structure:

- Dynamic graphs, auto-encoders and transformers.
- A continuous spectrum of models and jobs.

Geometric deep learning is *not* a mature field

Convolution (i.e. weighted average of the neighboring pixels) : Cheap generalization of the **product** "a \cdot x", parameterized by the coefficients of a **small filter** φ .





 φ

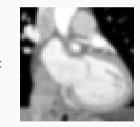
х

 $\varphi \star x$

Convolution (i.e. weighted average of the neighboring pixels) : Cheap generalization of the **product** "a \cdot x", parameterized by the coefficients of a **small filter** φ .







 φ

х

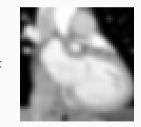
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Convolution (i.e. weighted average of the neighboring pixels) : Cheap generalization of the **product** "a \cdot x", parameterized by the coefficients of a **small filter** φ .



 \star





 φ

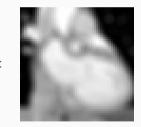
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Convolution (i.e. weighted average of the neighboring pixels) : Cheap generalization of the **product** "a \cdot x", parameterized by the coefficients of a **small filter** φ .







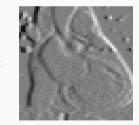
 φ

х

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Convolution (i.e. weighted average of the neighboring pixels) : Cheap generalization of the **product** "a \cdot x", parameterized by the coefficients of a **small filter** φ .





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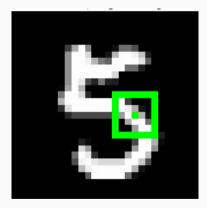
 $\varphi \star \mathbf{X}$

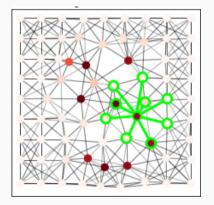
Convolutions on grids:

- Are cheap.
- Enable **pattern** detection and **texture** analysis.
- Proven track record since the 1960's:

Gaussian blur, edge detectors, Laplacian pyramids, wavelets, JPEG2000, convolutional neural networks...

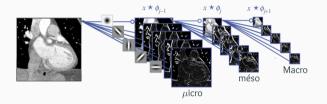
Message-passing on graphs [DJL⁺20]

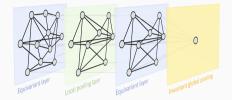




 $\mathbf{x}[\mathbf{i},\mathbf{j}] \leftarrow \sum_{\mathbf{k},\mathbf{l}} \varphi[\mathbf{k},\mathbf{l}] \cdot \mathbf{x}[\mathbf{i}-\mathbf{k},\mathbf{j}-\mathbf{l}] \qquad \mathbf{x}[\mathbf{i}] \leftarrow \sum_{\mathbf{i}\leftrightarrow\mathbf{k}} \varphi(\mathbf{x}[\mathbf{i}],\mathbf{x}[\mathbf{k}],\mathsf{edge}[\mathbf{i},\mathbf{k}])$

Multiscale architectures on graphs [Mal16, BBCV21]





Grid convolutions + downsamplings.

Graph convolutions + downsamplings.

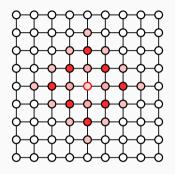
We intend to leverage the **intrinsic structure** of:

- Point clouds.
- Surface and volume **meshes**.
- Molecular graphs, proteins.
- Social and communication **networks**.

Unfortunately, things are **not that simple**.

Problem 1: How do we deal with the lack of orientation? [CGC⁺20, NoJ07]





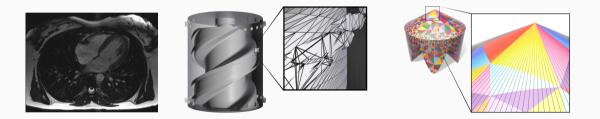


CNNs learn **oriented** curve detectors.

Vanilla graph convolutions define **isotropic** filters.

Hairy ball theorem: no globally consistent 2D coordinates on a sphere.

Problem 2: How do we deal with varying sampling densities? [SSC19]



MRI slice: **voxel size** = 1 mm³. "Hell is other people's meshes"
– Jean-Paul Sartre

Intrinsic triangulations. Can we use them for ML?

Problem 3: How do we deal with highly non-Euclidean graphs? [TDGC⁺21]

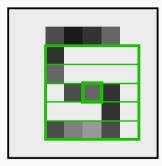


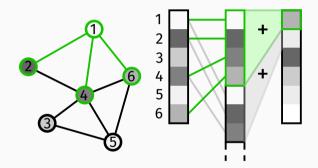
Downsampling a **grid** is easy.

How do we downsample a **clique**?

How do we handle **bottlenecks**?

Problem 4: GPUs are not optimized for graphs

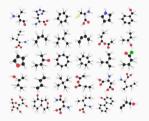




Fixed + **contiguous** neighborhoods \implies Optimal compilation.

Varying sizes + random memory accesses \implies x100 slow-down.

Problem 5: The range of target applications is too wide. [Dil15, Lu19, Gra19]







Molecules.

Lidar scans.

Social networks.

In 2017, geometric deep learning was **a solution in search of a problem**. With an appealing pitch, it attracted:

- Computer scientists, looking for new ways of combining features.
- Mathematicians, looking for new applications of their insights.
- **Domain experts**, looking for a breakthrough on their data.

The literature since 2017:

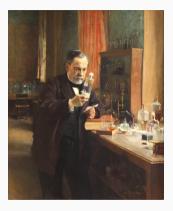
- Dozens of different **convolution** operators.
- Renewed interest in theoretical graph ML.
- Useful extensions for PyTorch: PyG, DGL, KeOps...
- **Cross-pollination** between different fields: computer graphics, signal processing, chemistry...

Unfortunately, it is hard to recommend some methods over the others:

- Applications are **wildly different** from each other.
- Most theoretical and experimental works are **proof-of-concepts**.
- Benchmarks are **highly unreliable**.

We like to think that science is done in a vacuum





Archimedes – "Don't disturb my circles".

Louis Pasteur, alone in the lab.

Scientific literatures are shaped by structural incentives

French mathematicians - top 3 deepest ideas over a career:

- Promotes long-term, original thought.
- No incentives for outreach and interdisciplinary research.

INRIA researchers – 1 meaningful contribution every 5 years:

- A theorem, a piece of software, a patent, a societal breakthrough...
- Outstanding place for **applied** research.

French medical doctors/teachers/researchers - PubMed index:

- MERRI funds compensate hospitals for research activities.
- Fall behind the profitability threshold \Longrightarrow shut down the lab, focus on care.
- Inflation of low-quality papers.

Universities – climb up the Shanghai ranking:

- 1 (foreign) student = \$30k-\$70k per year.
- Maximize the **number** of papers to impress prospective students.

Professors – maximize the hype:

- Unstable "tenure track" contract, commited to a grant, startup to grow...
- Allowed to take risks, but not allowed to fail.

Students – target a job in the tech companies:

- Significant debt to pay back.
- Safest route: incremental research, claim SOTA every 6 months.

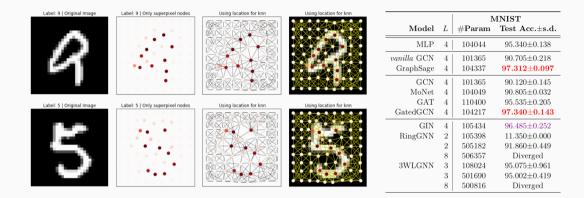
Peer-reviewed \neq Scientific truth

In the current ML community, relatively few actors are incentivized to:

- Review papers carefully.
- Document **baselines** thoroughly.
- Admit that an idea doesn't work.
- Take the **massive** amount of time that is needed to make their experiments **truly** reproducible.
- Keep the codebase up to date with a software stack that breaks every 6 months.

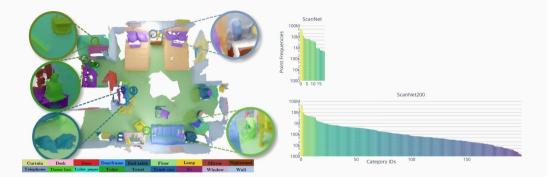
⇒ Unfortunately, the NeurIPS/ICML/... stamp means little. We cannot **trust** the conclusions of a paper without **reproducing** the experiments or **checking** the proofs carefully.

Some common benchmarks are nothing but sanity checks [LCCB98, DJL⁺20]



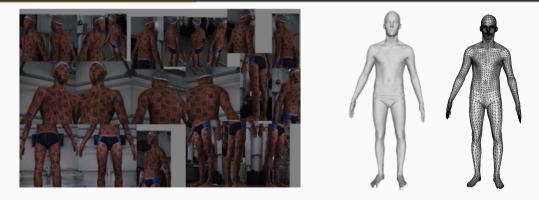
Results on **Graph-MNIST** look promising... Until you remember that test accuracy for **basic K-NN classifiers** on MNIST is 95%-99%.

Some common benchmarks have been saturated for years [RLD22]



Challenging large-scale benchmarks are published every year... But the review system pushes authors towards **overfitting on "classic" datasets**.

Some benchmarks have been taken out of context [BRLB14]



The MPI FAUST dataset contains 300 real-life scans of 10 subjects – 30 poses each. **Problem:** fit a reference mesh to the **noisy 3D point clouds**. **Challenges:** different topologies, missing data, self contacts. Dense ground truth correspondence for training = 10x10 meshes with identical topology.²⁹

Some benchmarks have been taken out of context [BRLB14]



The PyG library and many papers on graph neural networks discard the original point clouds to focus entirely on the 100 pre-aligned meshes. New problem: use (x, y, z) coordinates as input features for each node \implies predict node indices in [1, 6890] as output signal. Train on 80 surfaces, test on the remaining 20.

Irrelevant to shape registration: we learn to overfit on the reference triangulation.

Keep track of both **classical** and **learning-based** baselines, in each application domain.

This is time-consuming – focus on 2-3 subjects at most.

It is likely that the wave of papers on geometric deep learning will **fade** in most applications settings, and **stick** in some productive niches: Shape analysis? Chemistry? Social sciences?

This is how scientific progress takes place. The hype cycle is a **normal** and well-documented phenomenon.

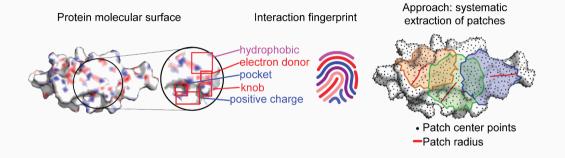
Some personal experience

Two problems in structural biology [SFCB20]

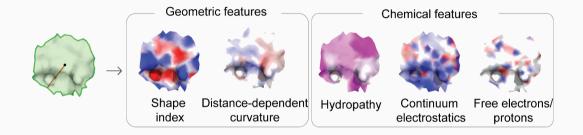


Folding and design.

Docking – interacting surfaces.

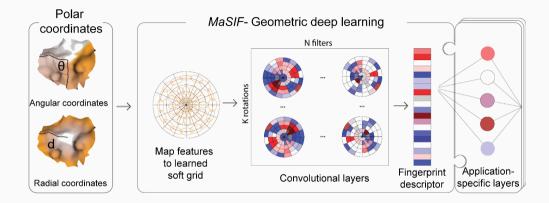


Physical prior: no need to deal with the full volumes, we are looking for **surface fingerprints**.

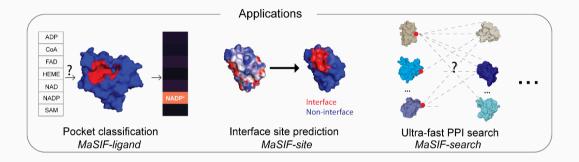


We can compute geometric and chemical input features

on local patches with $\simeq 1 \, \text{nm}$ radius.

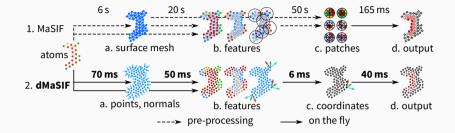


And perform all classification tasks on **geodesic patches**. Built-in **invariance** to 3D rotations, translations and the inner content of the protein. Enforces a **locality** prior: won't overfit on scattered patterns.



After training on the Protein Data Bank (with **careful** train-test split), this enables three tasks of interest.

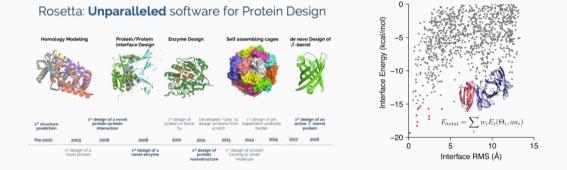
A proof-of-concept that has been received well [GSM+20, SFCB20, SFS+22]



→ ×100 -×1,000 faster, lighter and fully differentiable.



Is deep learning truly a revolution? [ALFJ⁺17]

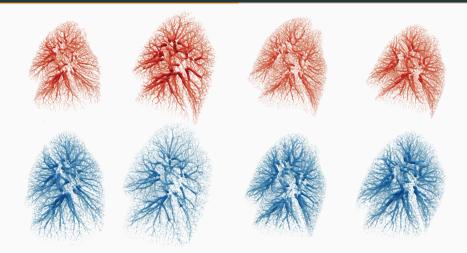


After 20 years of work, the developers of the Rosetta software have de facto developed a **hybrid "point neural network"** that combines **physical** potentials with **data-driven** residuals.

Personal feedback:

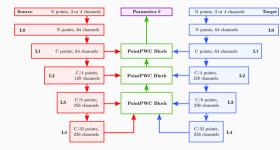
- Inspiring prototype that shows how far we can go if we
 drop complex physical terms but preserve the symmetries of the problem.
- With clever geometry and code, we can do interesting science on a **single GPU**.
- Nowhere near close to a finished product: **maintaining** software is a full-time job.
- Well-funded and mature fields already showcase formidable baselines.
 As outsiders, we can propose stimulating ideas and tools.
 Always stay humble understanding the full context takes years.

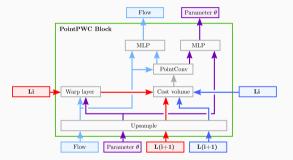
Lung registration "Exhale – Inhale" [SFL+21]



Complex deformations, high **resolution** (50k–300k points), high **accuracy** (< 1mm). **Point clouds** are more challenging than volumes, but **robust** to acquisition parameters. 40

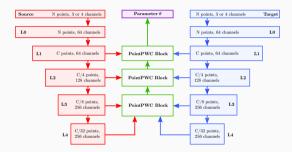
Point neural networks [WWL⁺20, SFL⁺21]





Multi-scale convolutional point neural network.

Architecture of a PointPWC **block**.



Multi-scale convolutional point neural network.

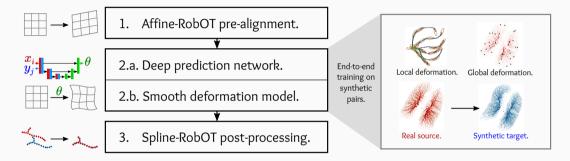
Point neural nets, **in practice**:

- Compute **descriptors** at all scales.
- Match them using geometric layers.
- Train on **synthetic** deformations.

Strengths and weaknesses:

- Good at **pairing** branches.
- Hard to train to high **accuracy**.
- ⇒ **Complementary** to geometric methods such as optimal transport.

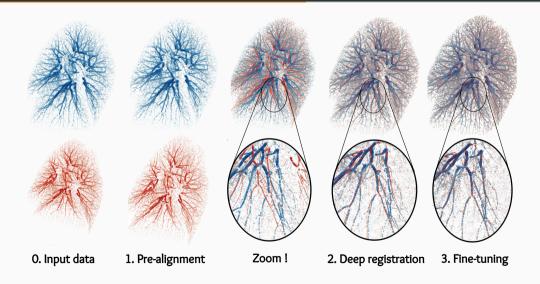
Three-steps registration [SFL+21]



This **pragmatic** method:

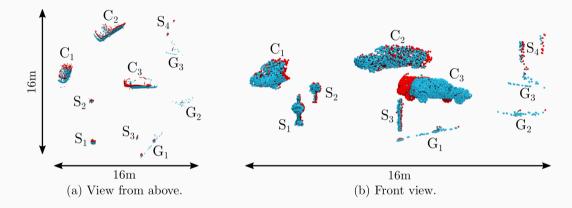
- Is easy to train on synthetic data.
- Scales up to high-resolution: 100k points in 1s.
- Excellent results: KITTI (outdoors scans) and DirLab (lungs).

Three-steps registration



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Evaluation on the 3D Kitti dataset [MG15, MHG15, SFV⁺19]



3D scene flow estimation task, derived from a **2D + depth** dataset. This is a standard (but maybe questionable) benchmark.

Evaluation on the 3D Kitti dataset [SFL+21]

	Method	Points	Time	Memory	EPE3D	Acc3DS	Acc3DR	Outliers3D	EPE2D	Acc2D
			ms 🗸	Mb \downarrow	cm \downarrow	% ↑	% ↑	%↓	px ↓	% ↑
Unsupervised	ICP (rigid) 7	8k	224	2	51.81	6.69	16.67	87.12	27.6752	10.56
	FGR (rigid) 134	8k		30	48.35	13.31	28.51	77.61	18.7464	28.76
	CPD (non-rigid) 81]	8k	34,880	798	41.44	20.58	40.01	71.46	27.0583	19.80
	PWC (self) 126	8k	237	1,016	25.49	23.79	49.57	68.63	8.9439	32.99
	RobOT (raw)	8k	170	3	9.12	60.43	79.39	33.65	4.9920	56.23
	RobOT (raw)	30k	166	89	4.67	80.43	91.05	20.21	1.7026	85.71
Supervised training on FlyingThings3D	FlowNet3D 69	8k		690	17.67	37.38	66.77	52.71	7.2141	50.92
	SPLATFlowNet [111]	8k			19.88	21.74	53.91	65.75	8.2306	41.89
	original BCL 491	8k			17.29	25.16	60.11	62.15	7.3476	44.11
	HPLFlowNet 49]	8k			11.69	47.83	77.76	41.03	4.8055	59.38
	FLOT 491	8k	324	2,826	5.51	75.79	90.98	23.95	3.3152	75.10
	PWC 126	8k	237	1,016	5.28	85.83	94.08	18.85	3.0074	81.48
	PWC	30k	1,138	10,691	7.63	67.54	92.30	26.09	3.5212	70.74
	Pre + FLOT + Post	8k	487	2,826	5.33	76.84	91.65	23.56	3.2786	75.31
	Pre + PWC + Post	8k	279	1,034	3.35	90.10	97.32	16.20	1.4301	93.85
	Pre + PWC + Post	30k	1,207	10,691	3.50	90.04	96.71	17.28	1.5917	90.37
	D-RobOT (spline)	8k	268	396	3.15	90.51	97.42	16.26	1.4532	93.76
	D-RobOT (spline)	30k	547	610	2.23	95.88	99.19	12.89	1.0336	96.75

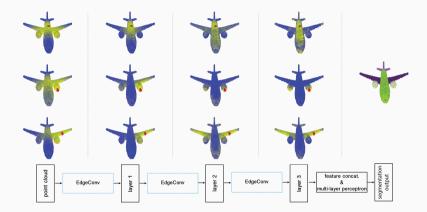
Surprise: a baseline optimal transport solver with smoothing (RobOT) outperforms many **deep learning** methods on all metrics.

Personal feedback:

- Pragmatic approach: get the **best of both data-driven** and **deterministic** methods.
- Tables of numbers look impressive but can hide critical information.
- Code base is not clean top priority going forward.
- Evaluation on 3D scene flow is **questionable**. Shouldn't we work with the original 2D data?
- Evaluation on **medical data** is hard:
 - We release a new dataset of **1,000 pairs for training** without annotations.
 - We only have access to **10 pairs** with dense annotations **for evaluation**.

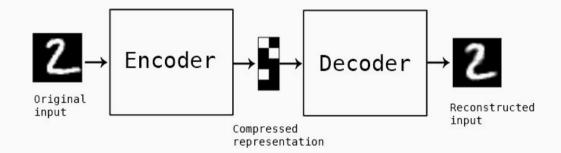
Should we learn our graphs?

Dynamic graph CNNs [WSL⁺19]



At every layer, use the **K-NN graph** of the **feature vectors**. This may promote **semantic** neighborhoods.

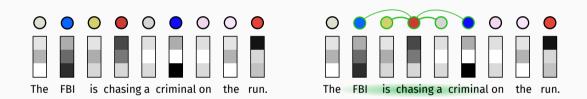
Embeddings and autoencoders [Cho16]



Use the K-NN graph of a low-dimensional representation:

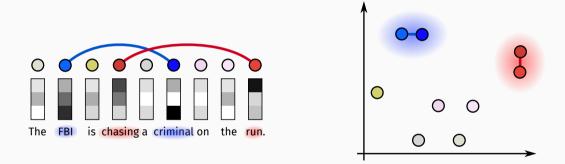
UMAP, an encoder-decoder architecture...

Attention layers and transformers [CDL16, VSP+17]



We would like to define convolutional architectures on **sentences**. But the **1D structure** of the text is not always relevant.

Attention layers and transformers [CDL16, VSP+17]



Instead, we **embed feature vectors** in a semantic space. **Attention** = data-driven embedding + convolution. **Transformer** = stack of attention layers.

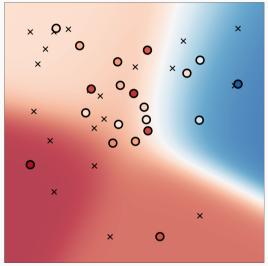
Attention layers and transformers [CDL16, VSP+17]

Cheap and expressive convolution on the feature vectors x_i:

- Query vectors $q_i \leftarrow MLP_q(x_i)$.
- $\bullet \ \text{Key} \quad \text{vectors} \ \ k_i \leftarrow \text{MLP}_k(x_i).$
- $\bullet \ \text{Value vectors} \ \ v_i \leftarrow \text{MLP}_v(x_i).$
- + Nadaraya-Watson interpolation with a kernel $k(x,y) = \exp(x \cdot y)$:

$$x_i \ \leftarrow \ \frac{\sum_j \exp(\textbf{q}_i \cdot \textbf{k}_j) \, \textbf{v}_j}{\sum_j \exp(\textbf{q}_i \cdot \textbf{k}_j)}$$

This architecture trains remarkably well on **web-scale** corpuses.



The Web and the Amazon Mechanical Turk are **the exceptions**, not the rule:

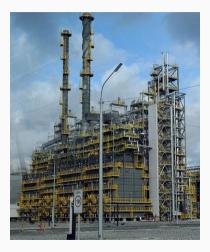
- 1 protein structure in 3D
 - = **months** of work for a biologist.
- 50 fully documented patients
 - = a great **thesis** for a radiologist.
- 1 patient in a clinical trial
 - \simeq **\$40k**, up to \$1M for surgery!
- Getting **legal** access to large datasets *and* computers is extremely difficult in any field that has a significant **societal impact**.



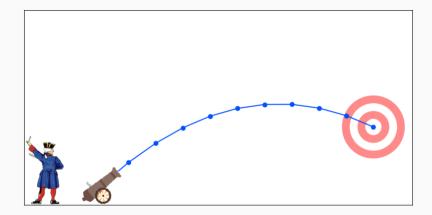
We must strike a balance between:

- Speed.
- Accuracy.
- Hardware and development costs.
- **Energy** consumption = battery life.
- Interpretability = easy to debug
 - = easy to **maintain**.

Tons of equations \simeq Tons of parameters. Only worth the **trouble** if there is no other option.

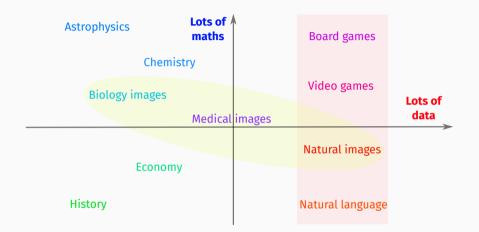


Problem 3: In mature fields, structure is key to generalize



This is especially true in fields that are close to physics, robotics... Fitting piecewise **linear** functions to **parabolas** or **exponentials** is fine for **interpolation**, but very limiting for **extrapolation**.

A continuous spectrum of scientific fields



"The **unreasonable effectiveness** of mathematics in the natural sciences" and "the **bitter lesson** of AI" apply to **different ends** of this spectrum.

Monopolies claim that "bigger is better"







Electric bikes travel at **30 km/h**.

Private jets travel at **800 km/h**.

Rockets travel at **30,000 km/h**.

Raw performance metrics do not tell the whole story.



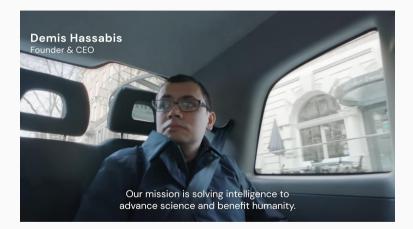
"We should **stop** training radiologists **now**.

It's just **completely obvious** that within **five years**, deep learning is going to do **better** than radiologists."

– Geoffrey Hinton, Google Brain and UToronto, **in 2016**.

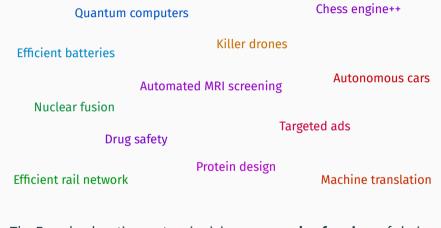


Tech companies want you to forget that targeting ads eq solving cancer



"Welcome to **DeepMind**: Embarking on **one of the greatest adventures** in scientific history", available on YouTube since September 29, 2022.

2020-2050: tough times ahead. Which problem are you going to solve?



The French education system is giving you **genuine freedom** of choice. Use it **wisely**.



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