

# Manifold GCN: Diffusion-based Convolutional Neural Network for Manifold-valued Graphs

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# Learning as Curve Fitting

Typical supervised learning problem: for

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N, \quad x_i \in \mathcal{X}, \quad y_i \in \mathcal{Y},$$

approximate (or learn) the generating function  $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  in some parameterized function class

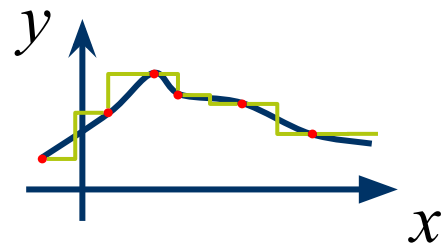
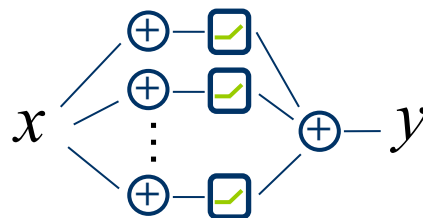
$$\mathcal{F} = \{F_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$$

- Data space  $\mathcal{X}$  usually high dimensional, e.g., for gray images:

$$\mathcal{X} = \{f : \mathbb{Z}^2 \supset R \rightarrow \{0, \dots, 255\}\}$$

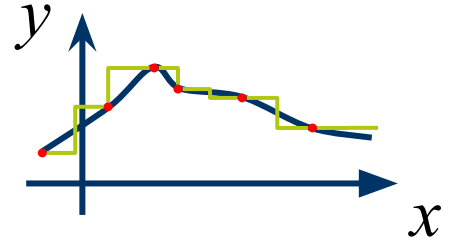
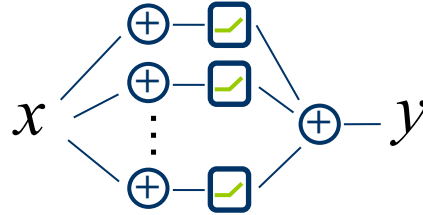
# Why should we care about Data Structure in Deep Learning?

- A multilayer perceptron (MLP) can already approximate any continuous function to an arbitrary precision



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- Curse of dimensionality makes this result useless in most cases
- Last decade: By utilizing the underlying structure of the problem in deep neural networks, the resulting function space  $\mathcal{F}$  is manouvable but still contains very good approximations of  $F$

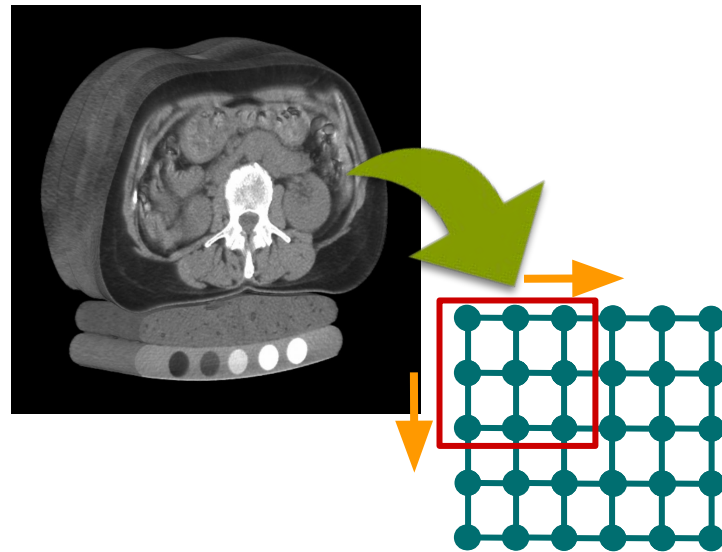
# Images and Shift-invariance

## One Key Observation for Images

- $F$  is usually invariant under shifts of the domain

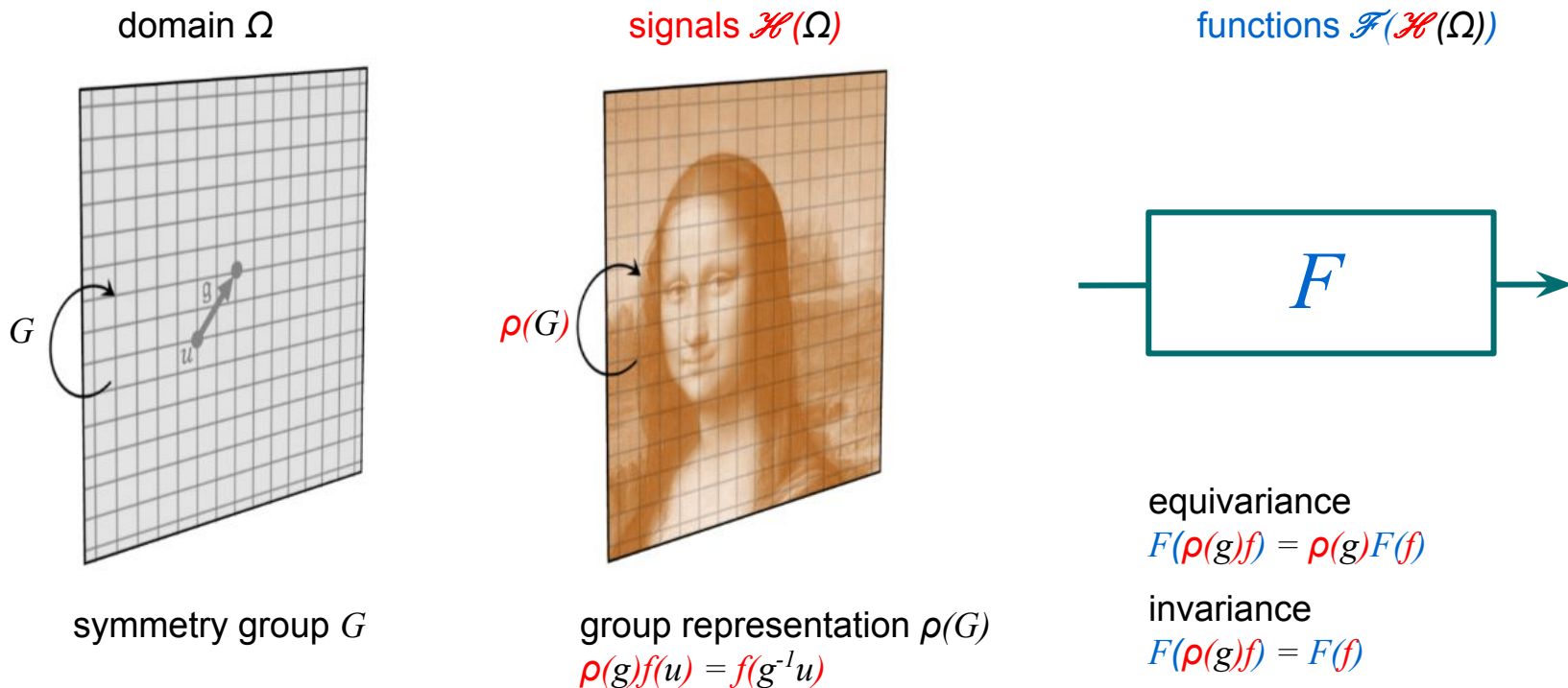
## Idea lead to convolutional networks

- Convolution (layer) shift-equivariant
- Final invariant (pooling) layer then makes the network output invariant to shifts
- Restricts dimension of  $\mathcal{F}$  dramatically

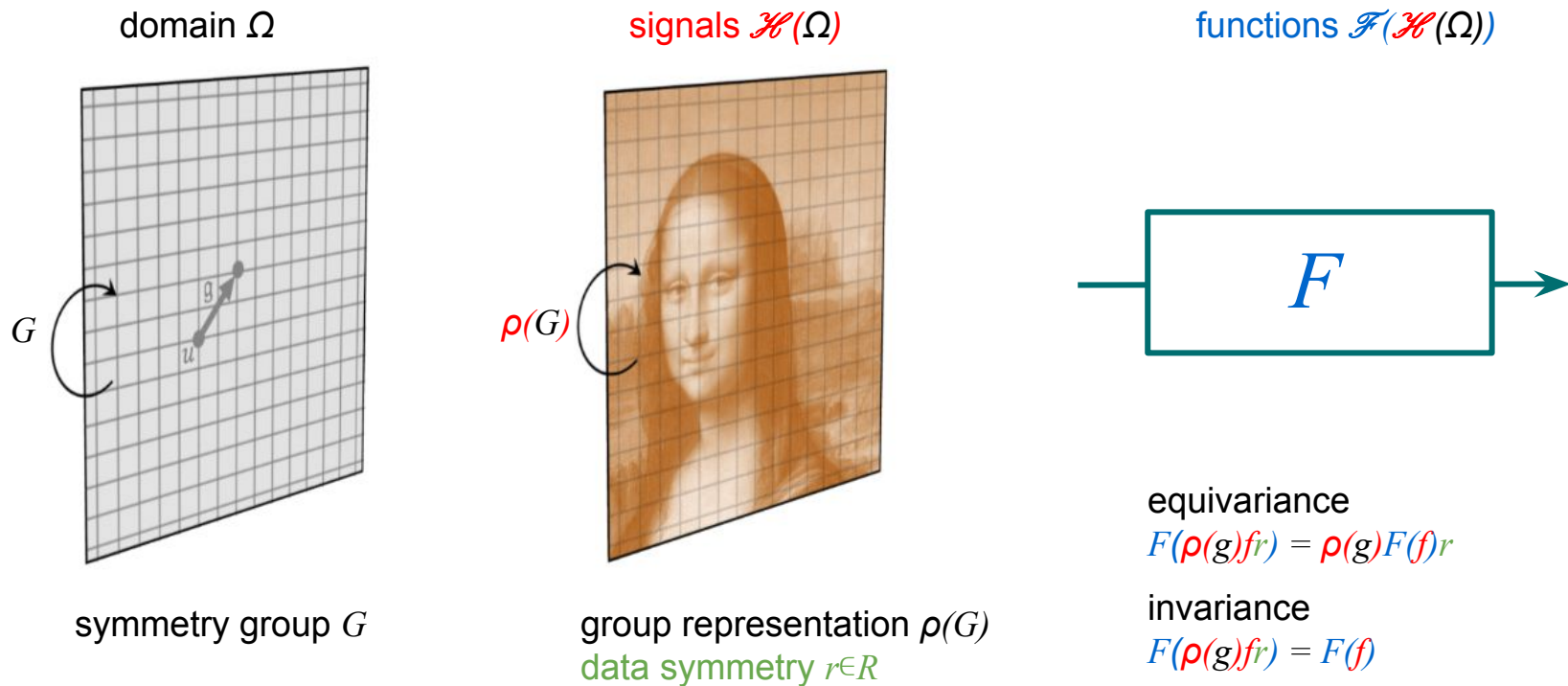


Utilizing the structure (shift-invariance)  
leads to vastly superior results

# Geometric DL Blueprint

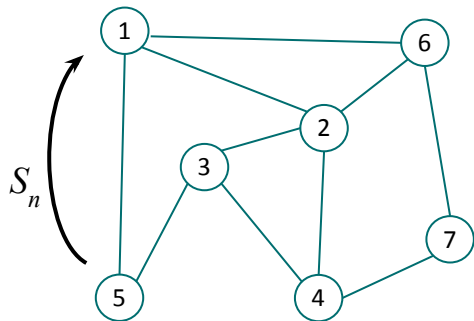


# Geometric DL Blueprint (extended)



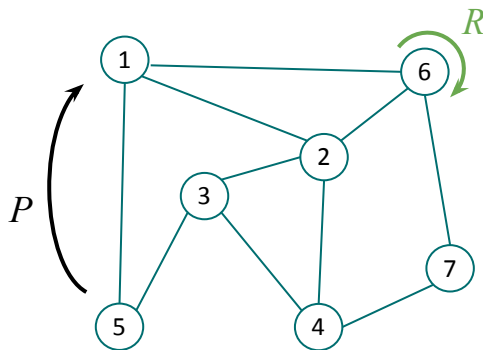
# Blueprint: Graph Neural Network

graph  $\mathcal{G} = (V, E, w, f)$



Permutation group  $S_n$

node features  $\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{G})$



Permutation matrix  $P$   
Rotation  $R \in SO(d)$

functions  $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{G}))$



Equivariant message passing  
 $F(PXR, PAP^T) = PF(X, A)R$



# Manifold-valued Graphs

Data space  $\mathcal{X}$  of weighted graphs  $\mathcal{G} = (V, E, w, f)$ , where

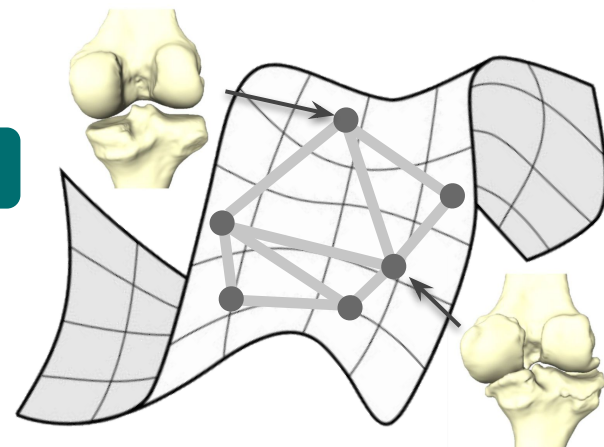
$$f: V = \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow M$$

and  $M$  is the *feature space*



$M \dots$  Hyperbolic space

$M \dots$  Shape space



# Convolution

1D case

$$(f * g)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x')g(x - x')dx'$$

Convolution theorem: Fourier transform diagonalizes convolution  $\widehat{(f * g)} = \hat{f} \cdot \hat{g}$

$$f * g = \sum_{k \geq 1} \underbrace{\langle f, \phi_k \rangle_{L^2(\mathcal{M})}}_{\hat{f}_k} \underbrace{\langle g, \phi_k \rangle_{L^2(\mathcal{M})}}_{\hat{g}_k} \phi_k(x)$$

$$\Delta \phi_k = \lambda_k \phi_k$$

Localized spectral graph filter<sup>1</sup>  $\hat{g}_k = \tau(\lambda_k)$

Polynomial

$\tau(\lambda) = e^{-t\lambda} \Leftrightarrow$  heat kernel

1 [Defferrard et al. (2016). Convolutional neural networks on graphs with fast localized spectral filtering. NeurIPS]

# Graph Convolutional Filter

Manifold-valued Laplacian<sup>2</sup>  $\Delta_G : \mathcal{H}(V; \mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}(V; T\mathcal{M})$

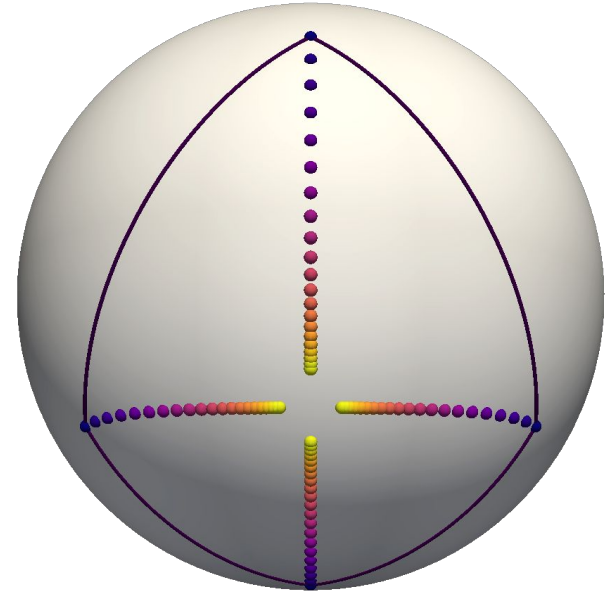
Diffusion layer discretizing the diffusion equation

$$\frac{d}{dt} f(v, t) = -\Delta_G f(v, t)$$

Diffusion time as a continuous network parameter

- ranging from purely local to totally global
- no need for choosing neighborhood sizes manually

⇒ Invariant under the symmetries of the feature manifold **and** node permutations.

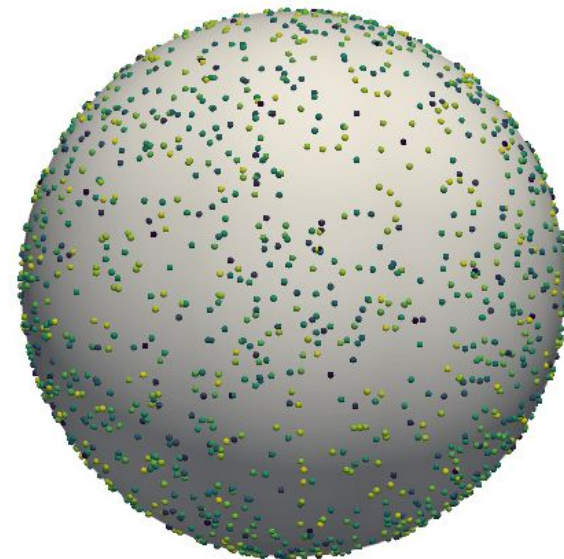
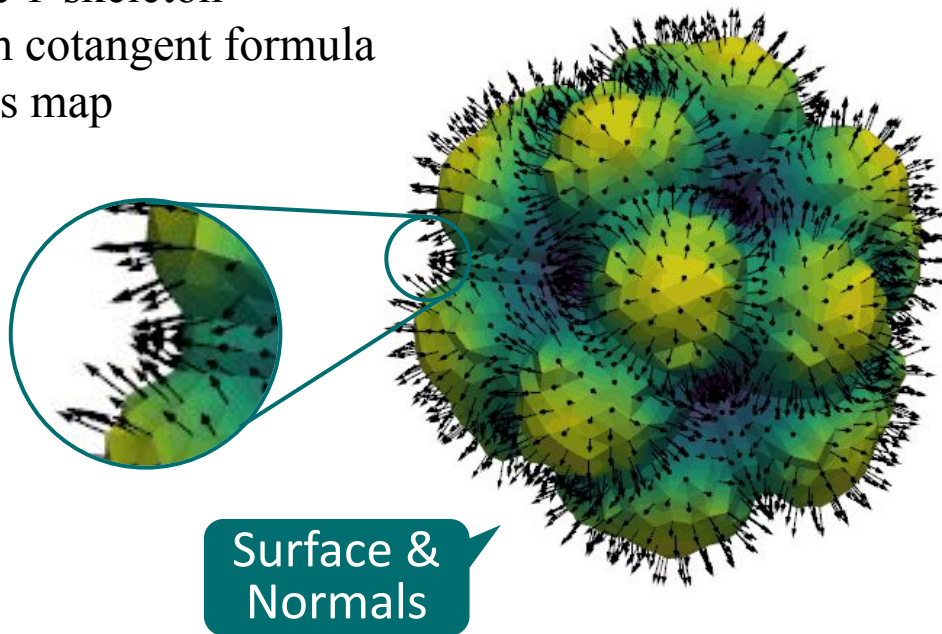


2 [Bergmann & Tenbrinck (2018). A graph framework for manifold-valued data. SIAM J Imaging Sci, 11(1), 325-360.]

# Diffusion of Manifold-valued Graphs

Example: Diffusion of Surface Normals

- $V, E$  the 1-skeleton
- $w$  from cotangent formula
- $f$  Gauss map

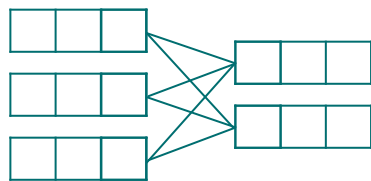


# Tangent Multilayer Perceptron

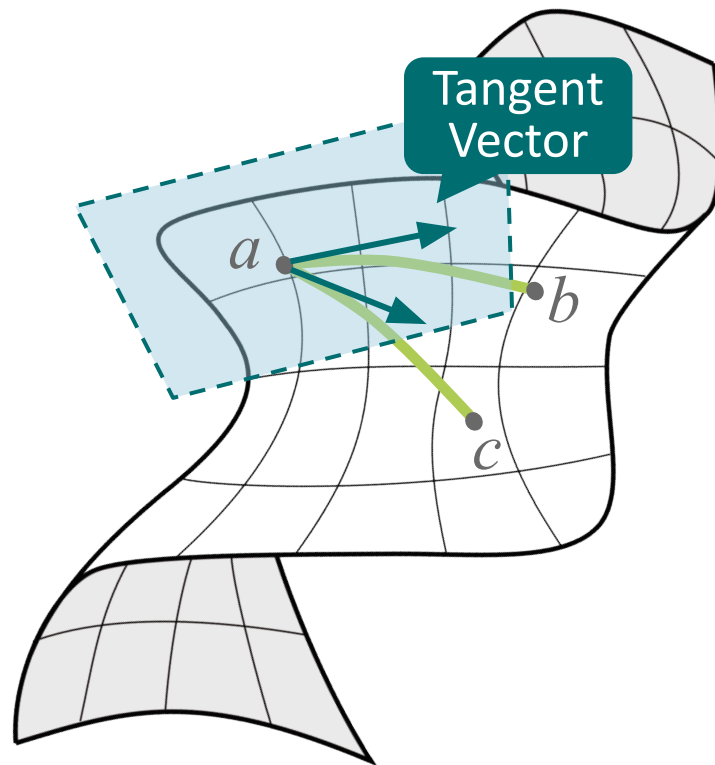
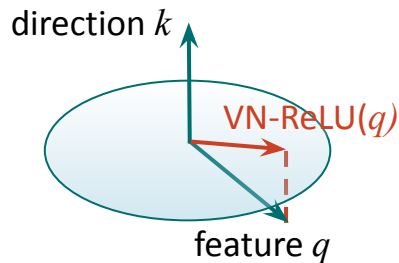
Inverse Riemannian exponential

- Map node features into tangent space
- Isometries of  $M \Rightarrow$  orthogonal change

Allows for equivariant neural units for vector spaces

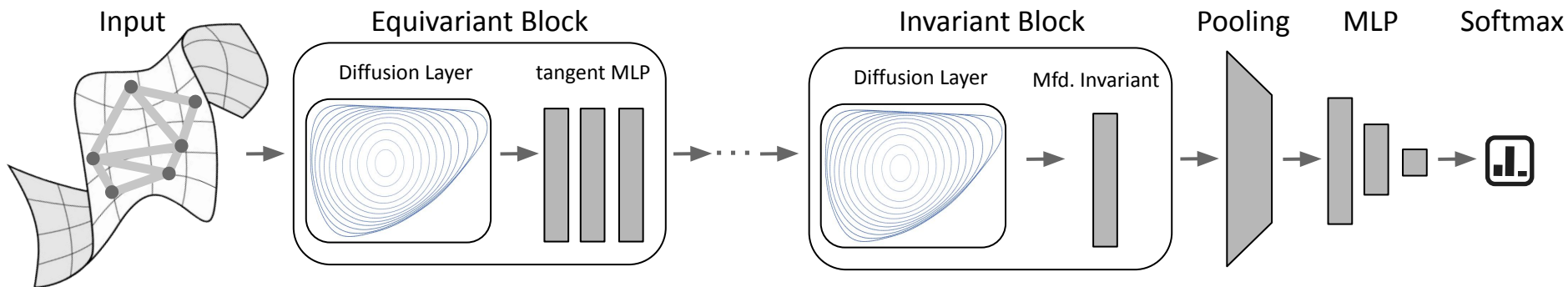


Vector Neurons



# Equivariant Graph Convolutional Network

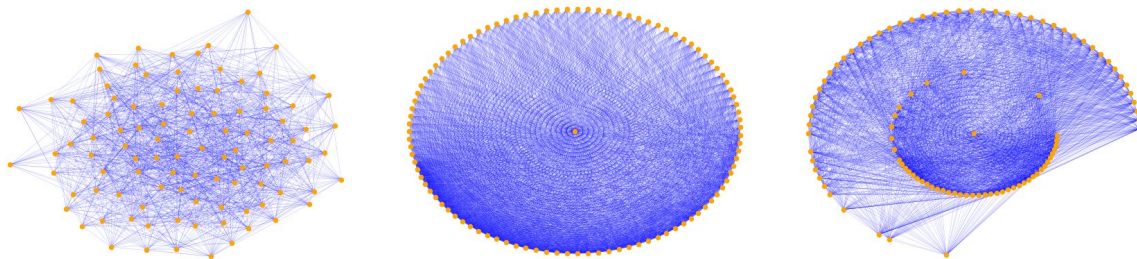
Graph-level classification architecture



Diffusion + node-wise MLP  $\Rightarrow$  expressive function space (incl. radially sym. convolutions<sup>3</sup>)

<sup>3</sup> [Sharp, N. et al. (2022). Diffusionnet: Discretization agnostic learning on surfaces. ACM Trans. Graph., 41(3), 1-16.]

# Classification of Random Graphs



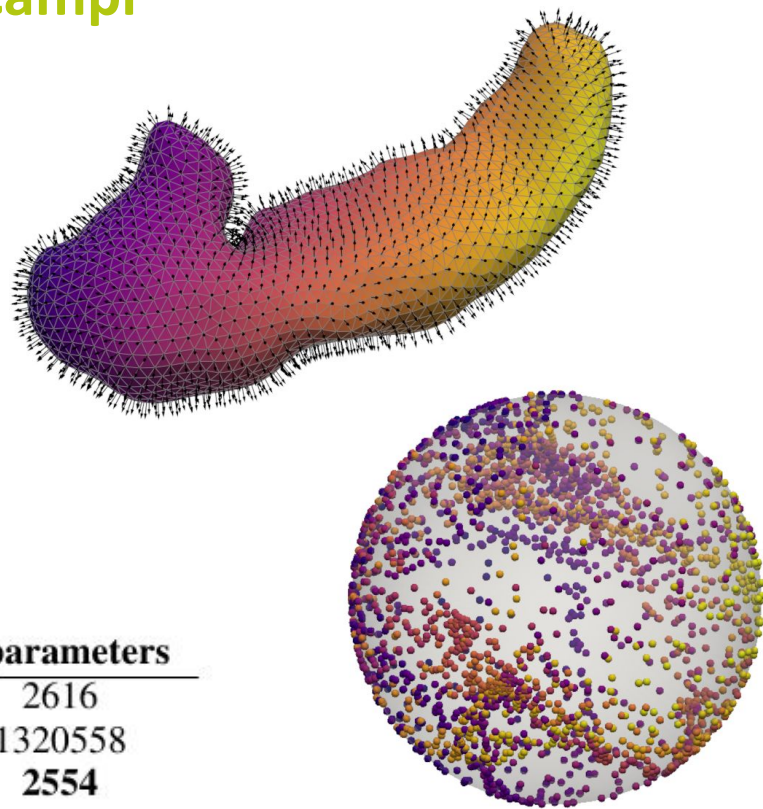
- Benchmark: classify randomly created graphs according to generating algorithm
- Embedding in hyperbolic space is empirically superior to Euclidean space
- Compared to *Hyperbolic Graph Neural Network (HGNN)*<sup>4</sup>

Method # Graphs	Mean F1 Score					# parameters
	90	180	360	1080	2880	
HGNN (dim=6)	0.518 ± 0.133	0.567 ± 0.085	0.605 ± 0.060	0.654 ± 0.040	0.681 ± 0.042	7053
HGNN (dim=100)	0.418 ± 0.103	0.413 ± 0.105	0.404 ± 0.097	0.547 ± 0.154	0.766 ± 0.079	161903
Ours (degree)	0.594 ± 0.114	0.638 ± 0.084	0.645 ± 0.062	0.679 ± 0.037	0.756 ± 0.046	10429
Ours (one-hot)	<b>0.633</b> ± 0.129	<b>0.687</b> ± 0.093	<b>0.744</b> ± 0.059	<b>0.787</b> ± 0.034	<b>0.820</b> ± 0.024	<b>429</b>

4 [Liu et al. (2019). Hyperbolic graph neural networks. NeurIPS, 32]

# Alzheimer's Classification from Hippocampi

- Shape of hippocampus correlates with progression of Alzheimer's
- Used volume and normals of 120 triangular meshes as shape representation
- Compared against Mesh CNN<sup>5</sup>, which is a network that learns from whole meshes
- Mimicked our network closely with Euclidean-only counterparts (GCN)



Method	Mean Accuracy	# parameters
GCN	$0.752 \pm 0.085$	2616
Mesh CNN	$0.592 \pm 0.073$	1320558
Ours (Sphere)	<b><math>0.765 \pm 0.075</math></b>	<b>2554</b>

5 [Hanocka et al. (2019). MeshCNN: a network with an edge. ACM Trans. Graph., 38(4), 1-12.]



# Summary

## Learning functions in high dimensions

- Cursed estimation problem in general
- Geometric DL gives constructive approach to exploit regularities

## Equivariant Graph Neural Network

- Diffusion-based filter for spatial communication
- Tangent MLPs for pointwise nonlinearity

## Implications for “Small Data”

- Equi-/Invariance provides essential constraints