





An emerging machine learning paradigm

Learning **higher-order functions**, i.e. functions whose inputs are functions themselves, particularly when these inputs are Neural Networks (NNs).



Motivation

- 1. Vast ecosystem of millions of publicly available trained models.
- 2. Discrete data as trainable continuous functions:
 - Trained NN parameters to represent datapoint signals, such as images or 3D shapes (INR/NeRF).
- 3. Neural Network processing:
 - Analysis/Interpretation:
 - Generalization $f(\bullet \bullet) = 96\%$ prediction
 - Editing: Learn to
 - prune • Synthesis: Learn to optimize $f(\bullet, L) = \bullet$



Scale Equivariant Graph MetaNetworks

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TLDR: We aim to learn functions of neural networks. We study their symmetries and create Scale Equivariant Graph Metanetworks.

Neural Network symmetries

- Network architecture
 Permutation symmetries: Hidden neurons do not possess any inherent ordering
- Activation functions *Scaling* symmetries: Multiplying hidden neurons' biases and all incoming weights with a constant a results in scaling its output with a corresponding constant b.

For several activation functions we have: $(\mathbf{P}_{\ell}\mathbf{Q}_{\ell}\mathbf{W}_{\ell}\mathbf{Q}_{\ell-1}^{-1}\mathbf{P}_{\ell-1}^{-1}, \mathbf{P}_{\ell}\mathbf{Q}_{\ell}\mathbf{b}_{\ell})_{\ell=1}^{L} = \boldsymbol{\theta}'$

ReLU

Generalised permutation matrices with positive entries of the form:

 $\mathbf{PQ}, \mathbf{Q} = \operatorname{diag}(q_1, \ldots, q_d), q_i > 0$

ine (INR), tanh Signed permutation matrices of the

$$\mathbf{PQ}, \mathbf{Q} = \operatorname{diag}(q_1, \dots, q_d), q_i = \exists$$

For more details on scaling symmetries, refer to the paper.

ScaleGMN

Consisted of 3 building blocks.

 $\mathsf{ScaleInv}(\mathbf{X}) = \rho\left(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_n\right)$ Scale Invariant Net $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_i = \mathsf{canon}(\mathbf{x}_i)$ or $\mathsf{symm}(\mathbf{x}_i)$

How to be Scale Equivariant?

Using the above, we create ScaleGMN:

- 1. Map the input NN to a graph, based on its architecture.
- 2. Define scale equivariant MSG and UPD functions:

$$MSG(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{e}) = ScaleEq([\mathbf{x}, ReScaleEq(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{e})])$$
$$UPD(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{m}) = ScaleEq([\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{m}])$$

3. Define a scale and permutation-invariant READ function: $\operatorname{READ}(\mathbf{X}) := \operatorname{DeepSets}(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_1, \ldots, \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_n)$

The above method refers to the *forward* ScaleGMN variant. Refer to the paper for the bidirectional one.

Method MLP Inr2Vec DWS [3 NFN_{NP} NFN_{HN} NG-GN ScaleGI

StatN **NFN NFN_F** NG-G Scale

Meth

MLP DWS **NFN** NFN NG-C NG-C

Scale Scale

References

[1] Kofinas, M., et al. "Graph neural networks for learning equivariant representations of neural networks". In: ICLR2024 [2] De Luigi, L., et al. "Deep learning on implicit neural representations of shapes". In: ICLR 2023 [3] Navon, A., et al. "Equivariant architectures for learning in deep weight spaces". In: ICML 2023 [4] Unterthiner, T., et al. "Predicting neural network accuracy from weights". 2020 [5] Zhou, A., et al. "Permutation equivariant neural functionals". In: NeurIPS 2024



low to be ReScale Equivariant?

 $\operatorname{ReScaleEq}(\mathbf{x}_1,\mathbf{x}_2) = \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_1\mathbf{x}_1 \odot \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_2\mathbf{x}_2$ (ReScale Equivariant Net)

$$MSG(h_i, ReScaleEq(h_j, e_{ji}))$$

orm:
$$\mathbf{P} \mathbf{O} = \mathbf{O} = \mathbf{diag}(a_1, \dots, a_n), a_n = \mathbf{c}$$

$$\mathbf{PQ}, \mathbf{Q} = \operatorname{diag}(q_1, \dots, q_d), q_i = \pm$$

$$\simeq oldsymbol{ heta} = (\mathbf{W}_\ell, \mathbf{W}_\ell)$$

Bidirectional ScaleGMN with sufficiently expressive MSG and vertex UPD functions can simulate the forward and backward pass of any input FFNN, when ScaleGMN's depth are equal or double the length of the input neural network.



Theoretical Outcomes

Proposition

ScaleGMN is permutation & scale equivariant. Additionally, ScaleGMN is permutation & scale invariant when using a readout with the same symmetries.

Theorem

Experiments

INR Classification

Method	MNIST	F-MNIST	CIFAR-10	Augmented CIFAR-10
MLP	17.55 ± 0.01	19.91 ± 0.47	$11.38 \pm 0.34 *$	16.90 ± 0.25
Inr2Vec [2]	23.69 ± 0.10	22.33 ± 0.41	-	-
DWS [3]	85.71 ± 0.57	67.06 ± 0.29	-	-
NFN _{NP} [5]	$78.50 \pm 0.23 *$	$68.19 \pm 0.28 *$	$33.41\pm0.01*$	46.60 ± 0.07
NFN _{HNP} [5]	$79.11\pm0.84*$	$68.94\pm0.64*$	$28.64\pm0.07*$	44.10 ± 0.47
NG-GNN [1]	91.4 ± 0.60	68.0 ± 0.20	$36.04 \pm 0.44*$	$45.70 \pm 0.20 *$
ScaleGMN (Ours) ScaleGMN-B (Ours)	$\begin{array}{c} 96.57 \pm 0.10 \\ \textbf{96.59} \pm \textbf{0.24} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 80.46 \pm 0.32 \\ \textbf{80.78} \pm \textbf{0.16} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} {\bf 36.43} \pm 0.41 \\ {\bf 38.82} \pm {\bf 0.1} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 56.62 \pm 0.24 \\ \textbf{56.95} \pm \textbf{0.57} \end{array}$

2. Generalization prediction

Method	CIFAR-10-GS ReLU	SVHN-GS ReLU	CIFAR-10-GS Tanh	SVHN-GS Tanh
StatNN [4] NFN _{NP} [5] NFN _{HNP} [5] NG-GNN ([1])	$\begin{array}{c} 0.9140 \pm 0.001 \\ 0.9190 \pm 0.010 \\ 0.9270 \pm 0.001 \\ 0.9010 \pm 0.060 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.8463 \pm 0.004 \\ 0.8586 \pm 0.003 \\ \textbf{0.8636} \pm 0.002 \\ 0.8549 \pm 0.002 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.9140 \pm 0.000 \\ 0.9251 \pm 0.001 \\ 0.9339 \pm 0.000 \\ 0.9340 \pm 0.001 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.8440 \pm 0.001 \\ 0.8580 \pm 0.004 \\ 0.8586 \pm 0.004 \\ 0.8620 \pm 0.003 \end{array}$
ScaleGMN (Ours) ScaleGMN-B (Ours)	$\begin{array}{c} 0.9276 \pm 0.002 \\ \textbf{0.9282} \pm \textbf{0.003} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{0.8689} \pm \textbf{0.003} \\ 0.8651 \pm 0.001 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.9418 {\pm} \ 0.005 \\ \textbf{0.9425} {\pm} \ \textbf{0.004} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{0.8736} \pm \textbf{0.003} \\ 0.8655 \pm 0.004 \end{array}$





3. INR Editing

od	MSE in 10^{-2}
(2)	5.35 ± 0.00
[3]	2.58 ± 0.00
NP [5]	2.55 ± 0.00
_{HNP} [5]	2.65 ± 0.01
GNN-0 [1]	2.38 ± 0.02
GNN-64 [1]	2.06 ± 0.01
GMN (Ours)	2.56 ± 0.03
GMN-B (Ours)	$\textbf{1.89} \pm \textbf{0.00}$





