Harnessing Euclidean Symmetry-Equivariant Neural Networks for the Understanding and Design of Physical Systems



# **Tess Smidt**









# Harnessing Euclidean Symmetry-Equivariant Neural Networks for the Understanding and Design of Physical Systems





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How do we build neural networks that naturally handle data from physical systems?



How do we build neural networks that naturally handle data from physical systems?

One option: A minimal, yet powerful assumption ⇒ "Build-in" the symmetry of 3D space



To describe physical systems we use coordinate systems

# (1) and (2) use different coordinate systems to describe the <u>same physical system</u>.

We can transform between coordinate systems using the symmetries of 3D Euclidean space (3D rotations, translations, and inversion)



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Traditional machine learning see (1) and (2) as completely different!



Machine learning models not built to handle symmetry require data augmentation. For 3D data, this is expensive, requiring ~500 fold augmentation.

training without rotational symmetry



training with symmetry



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Traditional machine learning see (1) and (2) as completely different!

E(3) equivariant neural nets (E(3)NNs) see (1) and (2) as the <u>same system</u> described differently...



Symmetry emerges when different ways of representing something "mean" the same thing.

Representation can have symmetry, operations can preserve symmetry, and objects can have symmetry.

## Euclidean symmetry, E(3):

Symmetry of 3D space The freedom to choose your coordinate system



#### Symmetry of geometric objects

Looks the same under specific rotations, translations, and inversion (includes mirrors).



Symmetry emerges when different ways of representing something "mean" the same thing.

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Looks the same under specific rotations, translations, and inversion (includes mirrors).



## Euclidean symmetry-equivariant networks are state-of-the-art on many atomistic ML tasks.

Some (non-exhaustive) examples include...



### Euclidean symmetry-equivariant networks are state-of-the-art on many atomistic ML tasks.

Some (non-exhaustive) examples include...



E(3)NNs can recognize equivalent recurring geometric patterns that appear in different locations and orientations (from seeing only one example) and generalize well to systems with similar motifs.





E(3)NNs will automatically (without training) transform complex geometric objects correctly, e.g. the electronic Hamiltonian of this water molecule. The same system under rotation still "means" the same thing.

An Euclidean neural network trained on one example of water, can predict properties in any rotation.





## Just like the properties of physical systems, the outputs of E(3)NNs have equal or higher symmetry than the inputs.



tsmidt@mit.edu | T. E. Smidt, M. Geiger, B. K. Miller. Physical Review Research (2021) | e3nn.org <sup>17</sup>

Invariant models pre-compute invariant features and throw away the coordinate system. Equivariant models keep the coordinate system <u>AND</u> if the coordinate system changes, the outputs change accordingly. I'll focus on equivariant models.





### Equivariant methods are more data-efficient than invariant methods

Refs:



(log) Number of training examples

Equivariant methods are more data-efficient than invariant methods and (for some tasks) higher-order interactions improve accuracy.

Refs:



(log) Number of training examples

Euclidean neural networks differ from traditional neural networks in how you...



 $\otimes$ 



Define how data transforms (lrreps)

*Interact Data* (Tensor products)

Featurize Geometry (Spherical Harmonics)



Define how data transforms (Irreps)



Interact Data (Tensor products)



Featurize Geometry (Spherical Harmonics)

All data acted on by O(3) can be broken up into simpler "data types" (irreps) defined by...

angular frequency (positive int) rate of change under rotation

parity does

even or odd does not or does flip sign under inversion

### Some examples include...

L=0

Even parity (scalars) Classification labels



rabbit

Odd parity (pseudoscalars) Chirality or "handedness"

right

hand

Odd parity (vectors) Coordinates Even parity (pseudovectors) Rotation axes

L=1

**Even parity** Double-headed Ray



Odd Parity Helix





Define how data transforms (lrreps)



Interact Data (Tensor products)



Featurize Geometry (Spherical Harmonics)

What are all the ways in which we can multiply (interact) scalars and vectors?



Not a scalar or vector. Does not have a single angular frequency. Can be decomposed into "irreps". What are all the ways in which we can multiply (interact) scalars and vectors?



What are all the ways in which we can multiply (interact) scalars and vectors?





Define how data transforms (Irreps)



Interact Data (Tensor products)



*Featurize Geometry* (Spherical Harmonics)

The input to E(3)NNs is (typically) geometry and (geometric tensor) features on that geometry.



geometry	= [[:	кО, У	), z0]	],[x1	, y1,	z1]]
features	= [					
[m0,	v0y,	v0z,	v0x,	a0y,	a0z,	a0x]
[m1,	vly,	vlz,	vlx,	aly,	alz,	a1x]
]						
•••						

The input to E(3)NNs is (typically) geometry and (geometric tensor) features on that geometry. We categorize our features by how they transform under rotation and parity (as irreps).



```
geometry = [[x0, y0, z0],[x1, y1, z1]]
features = [
       [m0, v0y, v0z, v0x, a0y, a0z, a0x]
       [m1, v1y, v1z, v1x, a1y, a1z, a1x]
]
scalar = e3nn.o3.Irrep("0e")  # L=0, even
vector = e3nn.o3.Irrep("1o")  # L=1, odd
irreps = 1 * scalar + 1 * vector + 1 * vector
```

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```

What do we do with the geometry?

Typically, we use convolution operations in the network to interact geometry with features.

A quick recap on convolutions: A filter is convolved with an image to produce a new image. (Technically... cross-correlated)



http://deeplearning.stanford.edu/wiki/index.php/Feature\_extraction\_using\_convolution

### In E(3)NNs we can use convolutions to interact point geometry with features on points.

We can operate any geometric data: voxels, meshes, points, etc.

For atoms, we use points. Images of atomic systems are sparse and imprecise.





We use continuous convolutions with atoms as convolution centers.



O(3) equivariant convolutional filters are based on learned radial functions and spherical harmonics... Filter is indexed by channel c, degree I, and order m. *To "interact" filter with node features, you use tensor products.* 



in case of local filter).

The spherical harmonics are the simplest functions that transform as irreps of O(3). The L spherical harmonics take in a unit vector and give 2L + 1 coefficients that transform as the (L, parity =  $(-1)^{L}$ ) irrep.



from e3nn import o3 sphharm 0 = o3.Irrep("0e") sphharm 1 = o3.Irrep("1o")sphharm 2 = o3.Irrep("2e")sphharm 3 = o3.Irrep("3o")

tsmidt@mit.edu | T. E. Smidt. Trends in Chemistry (2021) | e3nn.org






These projections are robust to noise. Symmetry is NOT binary - you still get cancellations.



What do these differences give us?







Interact Data (Tensor products)



Featurize Geometry (Spherical Harmonics)



Tuong Phung



Elyssa Hofgard



Aria Mansouri Tehrani

Example: Bispectra



Take invariants (scalars) from...  $x \otimes x \otimes x$ 

Tuong Phung



Elyssa Hofgard



Aria Mansouri Tehrani

## We've used the tensor interactions that E(3)NNs are built from

to explore trends in local environments, unit cells, and high entropy alloys.

Example: Bispectra



Take invariants (scalars) from...  $x\otimes x\otimes x woheadrightarrow x woheadrightarrow x$ 



Smooth under distortion

**Trigonal Prism** 

Octahedron



Tuong Phung



Elyssa Hofgard



Aria Mansouri Tehrani

Example: Bispectra



Take invariants (scalars) from...  $x\otimes x\otimes x o x$ 



Smooth under distortion

**Trigonal Prism** 

Octahedron



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Aria Mansouri Tehrani

Clustering of bispectra from materials data and *inverting back to geometry* yields common local environments



Example: Bispectra



Take invariants (scalars) from...  $x\otimes x\otimes x$ 

common local environments



Smooth under distortion

be used as a convention free

descriptor of lattice geometry.

Octahedron



Tuong Phung



Elyssa Hofgard



Clustering of bispectra from materials data

and *inverting back to geometry* yields

Reciprocal lattice points up to k<sub>max</sub>





Aria Mansouri Tehrani





Yifan (Henry) Cao



Rodrigo Freitas



arXiv:2311.01545





Rodrigo Freitas



We've used E(3)NNs to build data-efficient and scalable models of physical processes. ...and E(3)NNs are state-of-art for OC20, OC22 and ODAC23.

Yi-Lun Liao

#### **Open Catalysis 2020 Dataset (examples)**



Predict energy, forces of given configurations and relaxed structures.

Graph attention built from tensor products of irrep features



Equiformer: Equivariant graph attention transformer ICLR 2023 (arXiv:2206.11990) Input 3D Graph

Embedding

Layer Norm

Equivariant

Graph Attention

Layer Norm

Feed Forward

Network

Feed Forward Network

> Output Head

Meta Layer Norm

 $\times N$ 

First equivariant transformer to be state-of-art on multiple atomistic benchmarks (QM9, MD17, OC20).



Abhishek Das Brandon Wood

### We've used E(3)NNs to build data-efficient and scalable models of physical processes.

Predict phonons with symmetry guarantees using higher order derivatives with e3nn-jax. (Ultimately paving the way to training directly on spectra...) (arXiv:2403.11347)



Phonon predictions with E(3)-equivariant graph neural networks, <u>arXiv:2403.11347</u> NeurIPS 2023 - Al4Mat Workshop (https://openreview.net/forum?id=xxyHjer00Y).



Joseph Checkelsky

### We've used E(3)NNs to build data-efficient and scalable models of physical processes. Predict phonons with symmetry guarantees using higher order derivatives with e3nn-jax. (arXiv:2403.11347)

How to go from structure to phonons in a way that is straightforward to do with deep learning frameworks and preserves physics formalism?

1×1×1+ Hessian

700

Phonon predictions with E(3)-equivariant graph neural networks, <u>arXiv:2403.11347</u> NeurIPS 2023 - AI4Mat Workshop (https://openreview.net/forum?id=xxyHjer00Y).





Shiang Fang







Joseph Checkelsky

We've used E(3)NNs to build data-efficient and scalable models of physical processes. Predict phonons with symmetry guarantees using higher order derivatives with e3nn-jax. (arXiv:2403.11347)

Phonons from the Dynamical matrix built from force constants.



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Mario Geiger



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Phonons from the Dynamical matrix built from force constants.

$$D_{\alpha\beta}(ij,\vec{q}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{m_i m_j}} \sum_{a} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial(\vec{x}_{0i})_{\alpha}\partial(\vec{x}_{aj})_{\beta}} e^{i\vec{q}\cdot(\vec{x}_{aj}-\vec{x}_{0i})}$$
Phonon band structure: eigenvalues & vectors
$$\sum_{j\beta} D_{\alpha\beta}(ij,\vec{q})e^n_{\beta}(j,\vec{q}) = [\omega^n(\vec{q})]^2 e^n_{\alpha}(i,\vec{q})$$
Phase factor gives momentum dependence

Phonon predictions with E(3)-equivariant graph neural networks, <u>arXiv:2403.11347</u> NeurIPS 2023 - Al4Mat Workshop (https://openreview.net/forum?id=xxyHjer00Y).



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- Full access to eigenmodes
- ⇒ Determine symmetry of states (e.g. IR vs. Raman active)
- ⇒ Compare directly to experiment (e.g. spectroscopies, neutron)
- ⇒ Backpropogate through energy model
- ⇒ Generalize to other derivatives (e.g. E field)



Phonon predictions with E(3)-equivariant graph neural networks, <u>arXiv:2403.11347</u> NeurIPS 2023 - Al4Mat Workshop (https://openreview.net/forum?id=xxyHjer00Y).







Mario Geiger



Joseph Checkelsky

Symphony: Symmetry-equivariant Point-Centered Harmonics for Molecular Generation ICLR 2024 (arXiv:2311.16199)





Ameya Daigavane



Song Kim



Ophiuchus: Scalable Model of Protein Structures through Hierarchical Coarse-Graining SO(3)-equivariant Autoencoders (arXiv:2310.02508)



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![](_page_59_Picture_2.jpeg)

**Reconstructed all-atom proteins structures** 

![](_page_59_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_6.jpeg)

Manvitha Ponnapati

![](_page_59_Picture_8.jpeg)

Joe Jacobson

Mario

Geiger

Ophiuchus: Scalable Model of Protein Structures through Hierarchical Coarse-Graining SO(3)-equivariant Autoencoders (arXiv:2310.02508)

![](_page_60_Picture_2.jpeg)

Latent interpolation between protein conformations are physical.

![](_page_60_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Picture_5.jpeg)

Ophiuchus: Scalable Model of Protein Structures through Hierarchical Coarse-Graining SO(3)-equivariant Autoencoders (arXiv:2310.02508)

![](_page_61_Picture_2.jpeg)

Diffusion of random sampled latent to generate new backbones

![](_page_61_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Picture_5.jpeg)

Jacobson

We've used E(3)NNs and E(2)NNs to uncover asymmetry (<u>arXiv:2402.02681</u>, ICML 2024) and handle spontaneous symmetry breaking (<u>arXiv:2402.02681</u>).

![](_page_62_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Picture_2.jpeg)

Elyssa Hofgard

![](_page_62_Picture_4.jpeg)

YuQing Xie

![](_page_62_Picture_6.jpeg)

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![](_page_63_Picture_1.jpeg)

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Elyssa Hofgard

![](_page_63_Picture_4.jpeg)

Rui (Ray) Wang

![](_page_63_Picture_6.jpeg)

Robin Walters

YuQing Xie

![](_page_63_Picture_9.jpeg)

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![](_page_64_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_64_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_64_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_64_Picture_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_64_Picture_6.jpeg)

Rui (Ray) Wang

![](_page_64_Picture_8.jpeg)

Robin Walters

YuQing Xie

![](_page_64_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_65_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_66_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_67_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_68_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_69_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_70_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_71_Figure_0.jpeg)
# We've used E(3)NNs and E(2)NNs to uncover asymmetry (arXiv:2402.02681, ICML 2024) and handle spontaneous symmetry breaking (arXiv:2402.02681).



Many provable guarantees about these approaches. Can be applied to diverse datasets, e.g. from structural phase transitions to fluid dynamics.

a + $Pm\bar{3}m$  (221) Imma (74) Pnma (62)







University

Robin Walters

YuQing Xie



# **Open Questions**

#### Equivariant nets can be slow. This is an engineering problem.

Tensor products have not been optimized in the same way as traditional operations (e.g. matmul). More equiv. models will put pressure to fix this.

Equivariant generative models. Lots of activity: diffusion, autoregressive, etc. But still many challenges:

Large, variable numbers (atomistic) point systems Handling different types of hierarchies in the same model (short, long, symmetry) Laying down patterns / motifs of points

We still don't know the "best" way to compose building block / leverage properties. We are behind other fields (e.g. computer vision) in the number of things that have been "tried out". This is rapidly changing!

#### **Best training practices**

How to get good performance across diverse systems Any additional "tricks" for training generalizable models Euclidean neural networks are built with the powerful assumption that atomic systems exist in 3D Euclidean space.



We've used E(3)NNs to understand and design atomic systems from molecules and proteins to crystals and alloys. E(3)NNs use specific data types to encode how data transforms and interacts. Higher order features can be created from simple vectors!



There still a lot to do!

- "Best" building blocks
- Improved efficiency
- New generative capabilities
- "Best" training practices

•

Tess Smidt | tsmidt@mit.edu | e3nn.org | atomicarchitects.com

Thanks to the group...





**Tess Smidt** 

Principal Investigator



Tricia O'Donnell

Administrative Assistant





Postdoctoral Scholar

Rui Wang

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Elyssa Hofgard

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PhD Student







Julia Balla

PhD Student

Yi-Lun Liao

PhD Student



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YuQing Xie

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Giulianna Hashemi-Asasi PhD Student









SM Student



**Tuong Phung** 

Undergraduate Student

Undergraduate Student

# Thanks to the group, our collaborators, ...



Abhishek Das Brandon Wood



**Robin Walters** 





Joe Jacobson Ilan Mitnikov Manvitha Ponnapati





Joe Checkelsky Shiang Fang



Yifan (Henry) Cao **Killian Sheriff** 

Thanks to the group, our collaborators, and our funding!



DOE ICDI grant DE-SC0022215





The NS Artificia Fundan

The NSF Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions







AFOSR Young Investigator Program

PHY 2019786

# MIT SuperUROP





Euclidean neural networks are built with the powerful assumption that atomic systems exist in 3D Euclidean space.



We've used E(3)NNs to understand and design atomic systems from molecules and proteins to crystals and alloys. E(3)NNs use specific data types to encode how data transforms and interacts. Higher order features can be created from simple vectors!



There still a lot to do!

- "Best" building blocks
- Improved efficiency
- New generative capabilities
- "Best" training practices

•

Tess Smidt | tsmidt@mit.edu | e3nn.org | atomicarchitects.com

# Calling in backup (slides)!



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Predict phonons with symmetry guarantees using higher order derivatives with e3nn-jax. (Ultimately paving the way to training directly on spectra...) (arXiv:2403.11347)

# Training with Hessian vs. Forces

Hessian improves stability but does not result in obvious scaling improvement.













Joseph Checkelsky

Phonon predictions with E(3)-equivariant graph neural networks, <u>arXiv:2403.11347</u> NeurIPS 2023 - AI4Mat Workshop (https://openreview.net/forum?id=xxyHjer00Y).

# Symphony

Test ↑	Symphony	EDM	G-SchNet	G-SphereNet
All Atoms Connected	99.92	99.88	99.87	100.00
<b>Reasonable Bond Angles</b>	99.56	99.98	99.88	97.59
Reasonable Bond Lengths	98.72	100.00	99.93	72.99
Aromatic Ring Flatness	100.00	100.00	99.95	99.85
<b>Double Bond Flatness</b>	99.07	98.58	97.96	95.99
Reasonable Internal Energy	95.65	94.88	95.04	36.07
No Internal Steric Clash	98.16	99.79	99.57	98.07

# Symphony

N	MD of Bond Lengths $\downarrow$	Sym	phony	EDM	G	G-SchNet		phereNet		
	C-H: 1.0	0.0	0739	0.0653		0.3817		0.1334		
	C-C: 1.0	0.3	3254	0.0956		0.2530	1	1.0503		
	C-O: 1.0	0.2	2571	0.0757		0.5315		0.6082		
	C-N: 1.0	0.3	8086	0.1755		0.2999		0.4279		
	N-H: 1.0	0.1	032	0.1137		0.5968		0.1660		
	C-O: 2.0	0.3	3033	0.0668		0.2628		2.0812		
	C-N: 1.5	0.3	3707	0.1736		0.5828		).4949		
	O-H: 1.0	0.2	2872	0.1545		0.7899		0.1307		
	C-C: 1.5	0.4	142	0.1749		0.2051		0.8574		
	C-N: 2.0	0.5	5938	0.3237		0.4194	2	2.1197		
	MMD of Bispectra $\downarrow$	Symph	ony	EDM	G-S	chNet	G-Spł	nereNet		
	C: C2,H2	0.210	65 (	).1003	0.4	4333	0.6	6210		
	C: C1,H3	0.2668		0.2668	68 (	).0025	0.0	0640	1.2	2004
	C: C3,H1	0.11	1 (	0.2254	0.2	0.2045		1.1209		
	C: C2,H1,O1	0.15	)0 (	0.2059		0.1732		0.8361		
	C: C1,H2,O1	0.330	)0 (	0.1082 0		0.0954		1.6772		
	O: C1,H1	0.028	32 (	0.0056 0.0		0487	7 <b>0.0030</b>			
	C: C2,H1,N1	0.14	<b>B1</b> (	0.1521		0.1967		1.3461		
	C: C2,H1	0.252	25 (	<b>0.0468</b> 0.1788		0.2	0.2403			
	C: C1,H2,N1	0.363	631 0.2728		0.1610		0.9171			
	N: C2,H1	0.09	53 (	).2339	0.2	2105	0.6	0141		
ensen-Shannon Divergence $\downarrow$		↓ Sy	mphon	y EDN	M	G-SchNe	et G	-SphereNet		
	Atom Type Counts		0.0003		02	0.0011		0.0026		
Local Environment Counts			0.0039	0.00	57	0.0150		0.1016		

## Symphony

# 5 CONCLUSION

We have proposed Symphony, a new method to autoregressively generate 3D molecular geometries with spherical harmonic projections and higher-degree E(3)-equivariant features. We show promising results on molecular generation and completion, relative to existing autoregressive models. However, one drawback of our current formulation is that the discretization of our radial components is too coarse, so our bond length distributions are not as accurate as EDM or G-SchNet. This affects our validity when using lookup tables to assign bond orders as they are particularly sensitive to exact bond lengths. Further, Symphony incurs increased computational cost due to the use of tensor products to create higher degree E(3)-equivariant features. As a highlight, Symphony is trained on only  $\approx$  80 epochs, while G-SchNet and EDM are trained for 330 and 1100 epochs respectively. Further exploring the data efficiency of Symphony remains to be seen. In the future, we plan to explore normalizing flows to smoothly model the radial distribution without any discretization, and placing entire local environment motifs at once which would speed up generation.

## Ophichus

1									
Model	Dataset	<b>Sampling Time</b> (s) $\downarrow$	scRMSD (< 2Å) $\uparrow$	<b>scTM</b> (>0.5) ↑	<b>Diversity ↑</b>				
FrameDiff [Yim et al. (2023)]	PDB	8.6	0.17	0.81	0.42				
RFDiffusion [Trippe et al. (2023)]	PDB + AlphaFold DB	50	0.79	0.99	0.64				
Ophiuchus-64 All-Atom	MiniProtein	0.15	0.32	0.56	0.72				
Ophiuchus-485 Backbone	PDB	0.46	0.18	0.36	0.39				

# Table 3: Comparison to different diffusion models.

#### Why "interact" these types of features?

# Interactions lead to smooth, features with rich information.

Illustrative example: the bispectrum *i.e.* scalars and pseudoscalar from triple product



# The bispectrum of spherical harmonic coefficients up to $l_{max} = 4$ has 14 scalars + 1 pseudoscalar.







mp-4762: TIAg<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub>

**Tuong Phung** 

Okay, but what does this have to do with REAL materials? Ex: Clustering *local environments* with the bispectra

Database: Materials Project Materials: Crystals with Ag-S bonds # Crystals: 669 Radial Cutoff: 3.1 Å # Environments: 3061 # Clusters: 8

Cluster Centroid BiS *⇒* Inverted BiS *⇒* 





# Just like the properties of physical systems, the outputs of E(3)NNs have equal or higher symmetry than the inputs.



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Using the training procedure itself, we can find data that is implied by symmetry (symmetry-breaking "order parameters"). Gradients have symmetry of "true" outputs.



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93

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ENNs have the symmetry of the *representation* built-in.

ENNs also *preserve* the subgroup symmetry of the inputs.

Many different types of geometric objects have the same symmetry.

ENN transforms geometric objects into different objects with same or higher symmetry.



Order parameters describe symmetry breaking and distinguish between degenerate states.



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# **The Atomic Architects Slay Into Battle!**



