

The Geometry of Deep Learning.

Lecture 1: Overview

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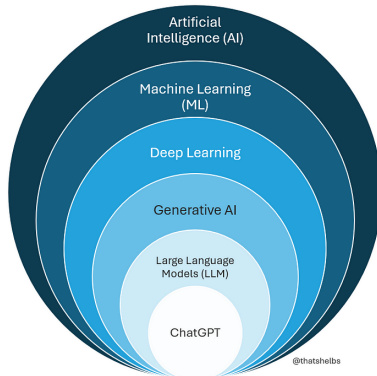
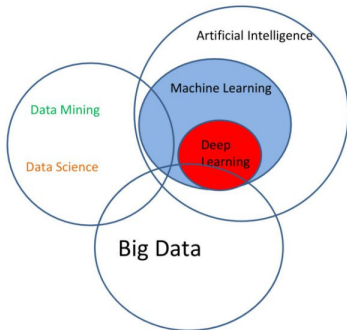
December 11, 2025



Plan of the course

- Introduction to Deep Learning (DL)
- Information Geometry
- Neurogeometry and Deep Learning
- Geometric Deep Learning (GDL)
- Graph Neural Networks (GNN)
- Generative AI (GenAI)

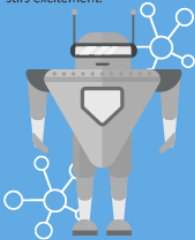
AI, Machine Learning, Deep Learning and GenAI



AI, Machine Learning and Deep Learning

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Early artificial intelligence stirs excitement.



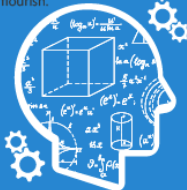
1950's

1960's

1970's

MACHINE LEARNING

Machine learning begins to flourish.



1980's

1990's

2000's

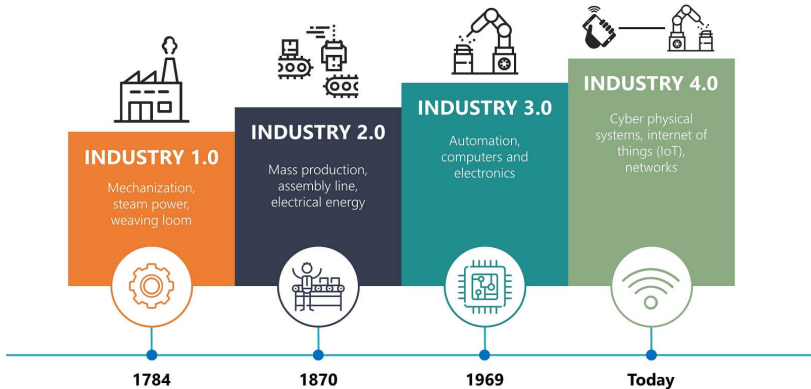
DEEP LEARNING

Deep learning breakthroughs drive AI boom.



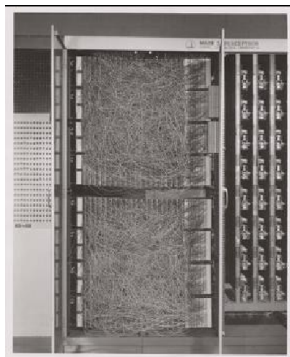
2010's

Industry 4.0



Some History: The Perceptron, a binary classifier

The first neural network: Mark I Perceptron (1957 Rosenblatt).
Navy Lab, Cornell University.



First Neural Network

Perceptron (1957 Rosenblatt): algorithm for binary classification.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } w \cdot x + b > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Data (input and labels):

$$D = \{(\mathbf{x}_1, d_1), \dots, (\mathbf{x}_s, d_s)\}$$

Training set with s example.

$x_{j,i}$ value of the i -th feature of the j -th input.

w weight vector.

Functioning of Perceptron: binary classification

Algorithm: Perceptron Learning Algorithm

$P \leftarrow$ inputs with label 1;

$N \leftarrow$ inputs with label 0;

Initialize \mathbf{w} randomly;

while !convergence **do**

 Pick random $\mathbf{x} \in P \cup N$;

if $\mathbf{x} \in P$ and $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} < 0$ **then**

$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{x}$;

end

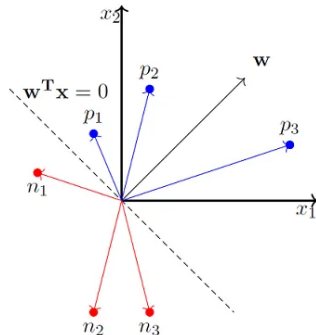
if $\mathbf{x} \in N$ and $\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} \geq 0$ **then**

$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{w} - \mathbf{x}$;

end

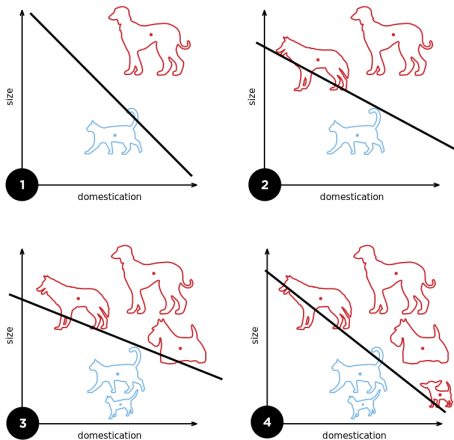
end

//the algorithm converges when all the
inputs are classified correctly

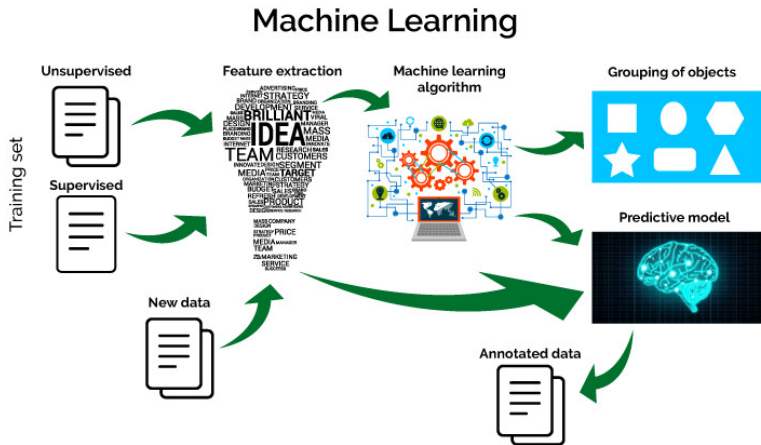


Linear Classification

Perceptron works only for linearly separable datasets.



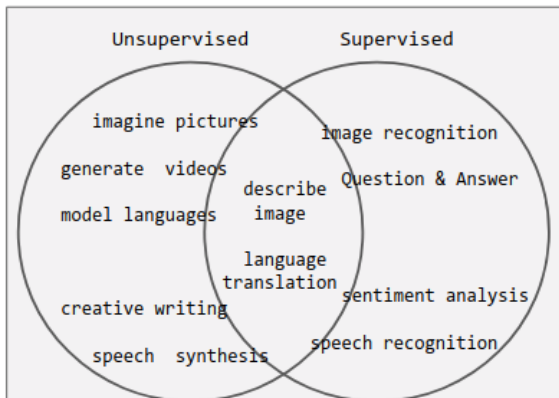
Algorithms of Machine Learning



Learning

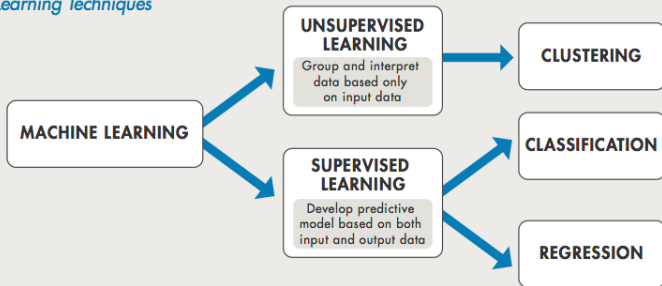
Types of Learning

- **Supervised:** weights are learned with backpropagation (perceptron).
- **Semisupervised, reinforced:** data is learned via interaction with world.
- **Unsupervised.**

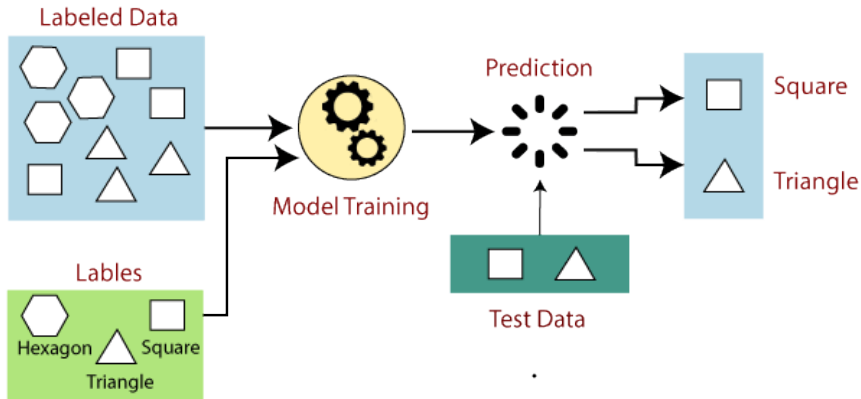


Supervised/Unsupervised Learning

Machine Learning Techniques

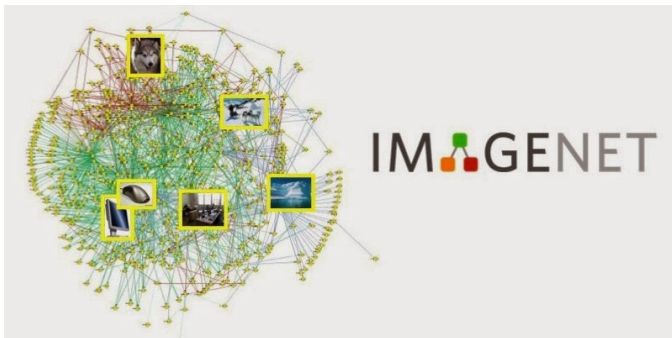


Machine Learning Cycle (supervised)



Imagenet Challenge ILSVRC:

ImageNet Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge



- **2010** 20000 images, 20 categories, 25% error.
- **2011** 1 million images, 1000 categories: 16% error.
- **2015** 1 million images, 1000 categories: 4% error.

2017: the challenge is declared won.

Images in Imagenet



(a) ImageNet Synset: One sample image from each category



(b) Corel-1000 Dataset: Sample images from each category



(c) Caltech-256 Dataset: One sample image from each category



(d) Caltech-101 Dataset: One sample image from each category

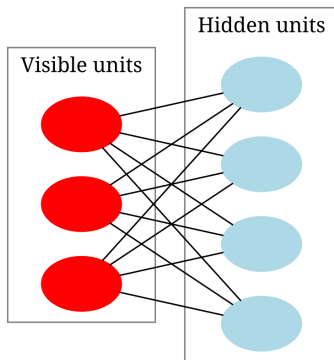
The winners

- **2012 Alexnet:** Error 15% Alex Krizhevsky, Ilya Sutskever, and Geoffrey Hinton (first CNN)
- **2013 ZF Net:** Error 11% Matthew Zeiler, Rob Fergus, NYU.
- **2014 VGG Net:** Error 7.3% Karen Simonyan, Andrew Zisserman, University of Oxford
- **2014 GoogLeNet:** Error 6.7%
- **2015 Microsoft ResNet:** Error 3.6%

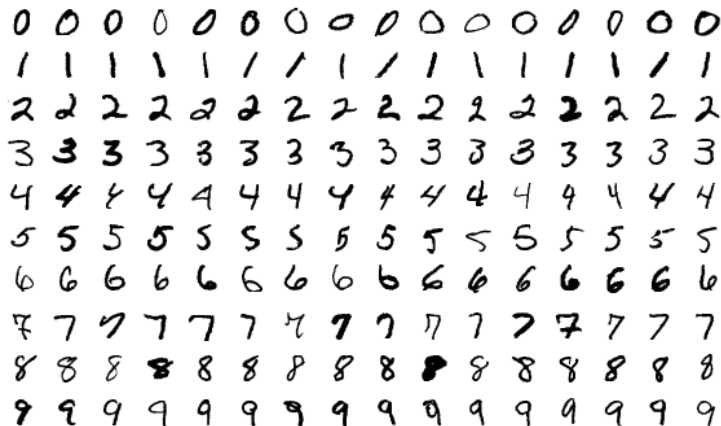


2024 Nobel Prize winner: Geoffrey Hinton

Digression: Restricted Boltzmann Machines



MNIST



CIFAR10

airplane



automobile



bird



cat



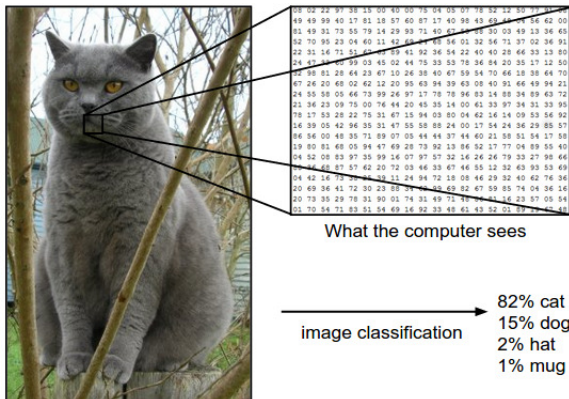
deer



dog



What does a computer see?



Image= set of pixels=matrix

3: RGB channels (Red Green Blue)

Every coordinate is a number between 0 and 255.

The problem: 50000 images $32 \times 32 \times 3$ in 10 categories (database CIFAR).

Score (classifier):

$$f(x)_r = \sum_{s=1}^{10} W_{rs} x_s + b_r$$

W weight matrix (inialized randomly).

x image vector

$f(x)$ gives a score to each class: the higher score gives the answer.

Cross Entropy Loss via Softmax

The Softmax function:

$$S(\mathbf{z})_i = \frac{e^{z_i}}{\sum_{j=1}^K e^{z_j}} \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, K \text{ and } \mathbf{z} = (z_1, \dots, z_K) \in \mathbb{R}^K.$$

takes as input a vector $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^K$, and normalizes it into a mass probability distribution.

The Loss function

$$L_i = -\log \frac{e^{f_{y_i}}}{\sum_j e^{f_j}} = -f_{y_i} + \log \sum_j e^{f_j}, \quad L = \sum_i L_i$$

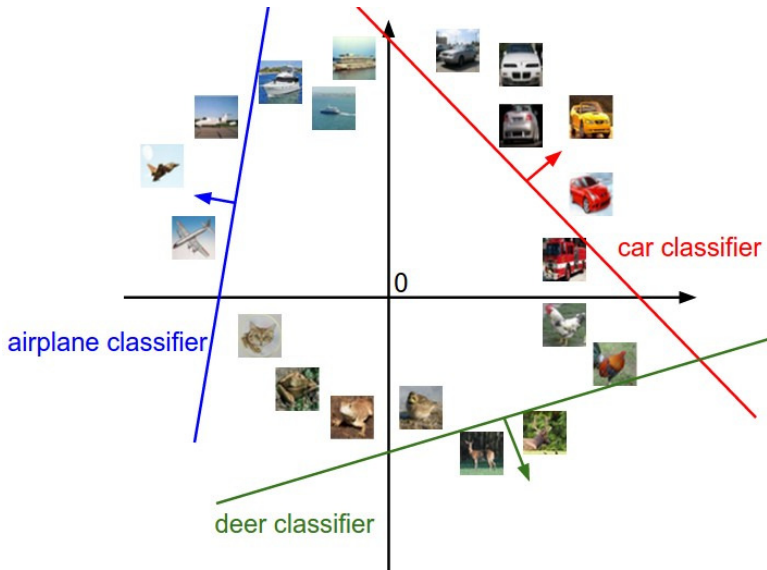
y_i : label of the i -th image class

Bias: b_j influence the score but do not depend on images.

Regularization: added to level the weights.

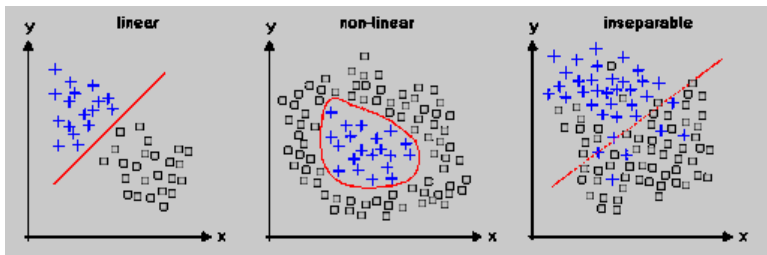
Linearly separable Databases

A linear classifier works only if database is linearly separable:

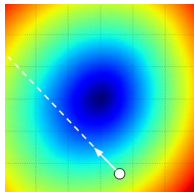


Non Linearly separable datasets

Non linear classifier works only if database is separable by curves and surfaces in some easy way.



Gradient Descent



Update of the weights:

$$w_{ij}(t+1) = w_{ij}(t) - \alpha \nabla L_{\text{stoc}}$$

Stochastic Gradient: $\nabla L_{\text{stoc}} = \sum_{i=1}^{32} \nabla L_{\text{rand}(i)}$

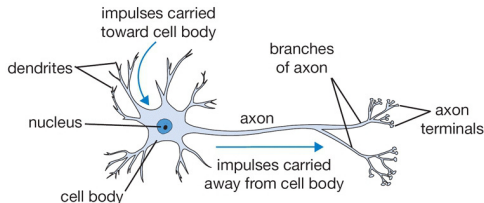
True Gradient: $\nabla L = \sum_{i=1}^{50000} \nabla L_i$

Epoch: when we estimate almost all the images were examined via random sampling.

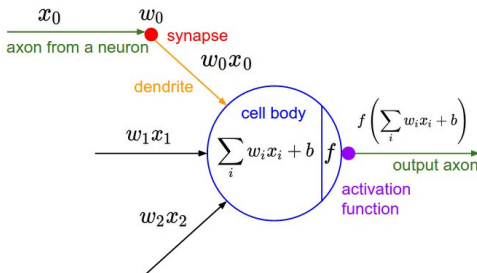
Learning rate: α (thermodynamical analysis: temperature).

A neuron as a linear classifier (perceptron)

Biological neuron

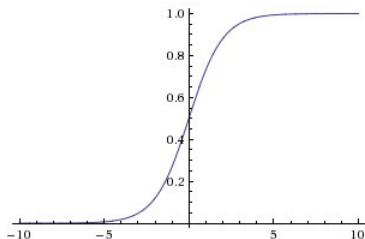


Artificial neuron

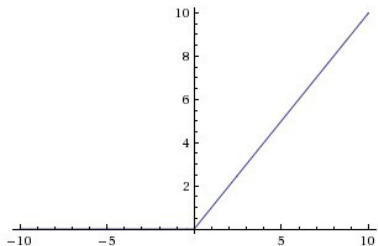


Activation Functions

- Sigmoid



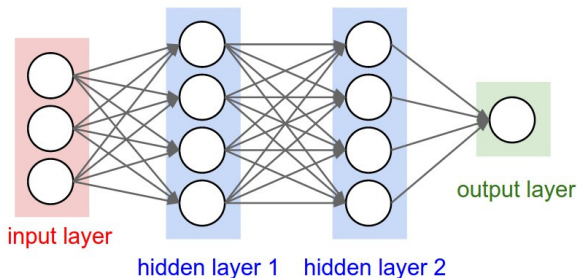
- RELU (Rectifying Linear Unit)



Neural Networks (not convolutional)

Neural Network with two hidden layers

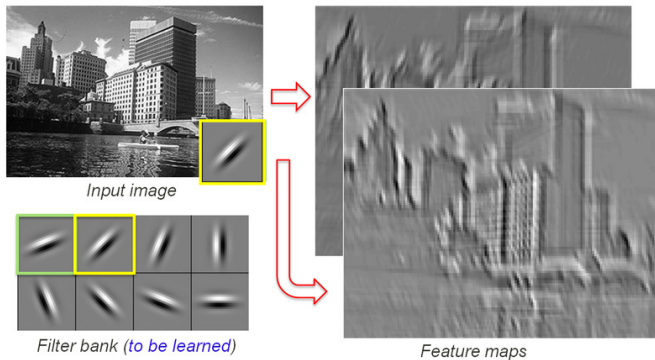
$$f(x) = W_3 \max(0, W_2 \max(0, W_1 x))$$



Convolutional Neural Networks

Convolutions: extract *features* from a given image.

Key: discrete convolution via filters

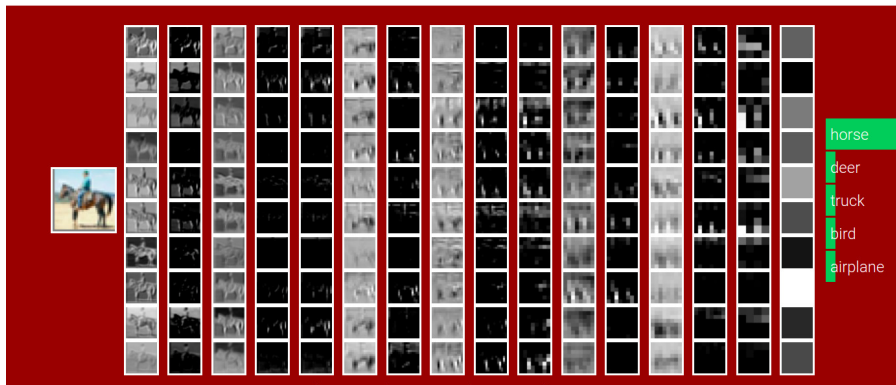


Stanford CS231
Convolutions

CS231n: Convolutional Neural Networks for Visual Recognition

Spring 2020

Previous Years: [\[Winter 2015\]](#) [\[Winter 2016\]](#) [\[Spring 2017\]](#) [\[Spring 2018\]](#) [\[Spring 2019\]](#)



Programming Deep Learning/1

Main programming tools: TensorFlow (Google), PyTorch (Facebook).

Environment: Colab

Computer: GPU (NVidia) replacing CPU!

Programming parallel and object oriented:

Forget “if else” and “loops”!

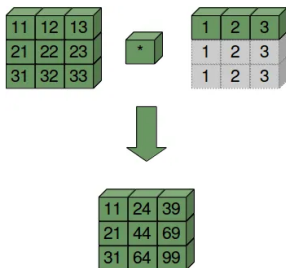
Replace “if else” and “loops: with masks and broadcast:

we read an array at once in the memory.

Numpy: redefines all objects, overloads operators.

High Level Programming. PyTorch allows CNN programming with few lines of code.

- **Broadcasting**



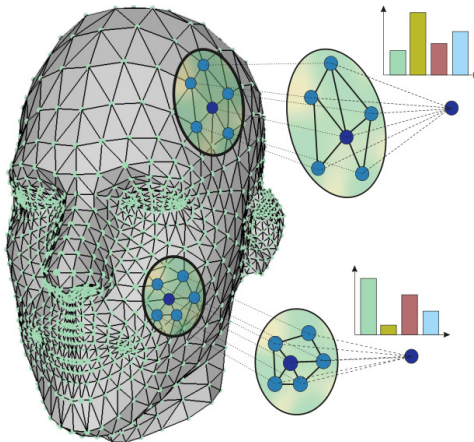
- **Masks**

Source Array	Bool Array	Destination Array	Result after copy: Destination Array
[65, 44, 77]	[T, F, T]	[85, 10, 20]	[65, 10, 77]
[25, 22, 31]	[F, F, T]	[15, 12, 32]	[15, 12, 31]
[14, 20, 63]	[F, T, F]	[66, 28, 13]	[66, 20, 13]

Graph Neural Networks GNN

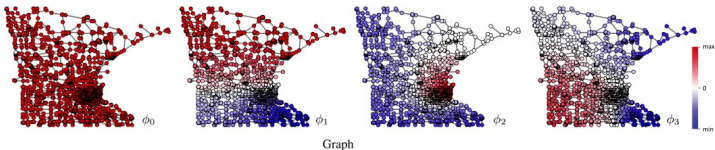
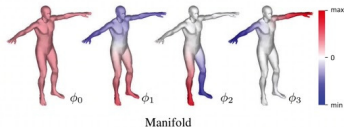
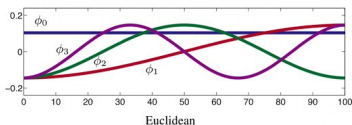
Geometric Deep Learning: Bronstein et al, 2016.

- Do convolutions on graphs (called “non euclidean domains”)
- Manipulate complex and heterogeneous datasets (beyond image recognition)
- Effectively work on 3D images

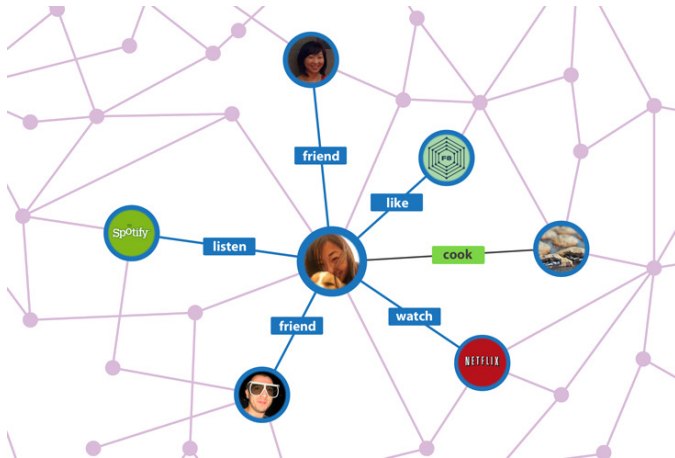


Geometric Deep Learning/2

The eigenfunctions of the laplacian form the smoothest-possible basis function over a specific graph (they minimize the Dirichlet energy).



Geometric Deep Learning/3



Generative AI: Transformers and Chat-gpt

