Cardinality-Agnostic Universal Approximation for Neural Networks on Point Clouds Christian Bueno\*

*University of California, Santa Barbara*

Alan G. Hylton

*NASA Glenn Research Center* 



Feed-Forward Neural Networks consume fixed-size ordered data. *E.g. vectors*



Recurrent Neural Networks consume arbitrary-size ordered data. *I.e. sequences*



This Talk: Neural Networks that consume arbitrary-size un-ordered data. *I.e. sets*











## $\operatorname{Fin}(\Omega)$

Point Clouds



#### $F: \text{Fin}(\Omega)$  –  $\boldsymbol{n}$

Permutation-Invariant Cardinality-Agnostic

#### PointNet and DeepSets







#### PointNet and DeepSets

$$
F_{PN}(A) = \psi \left( \max_{a \in A} \varphi(a) \right)
$$

(Qi et al. 2017)







$$
F_{DS}(A) = \psi \left( \sum_{a \in A} \varphi(a) \right)
$$

(Zaheer et al. 2017)

PointNet and DeepSets  $F_{PN}(A) = \psi \left( \max_{a \in A} \varphi(a) \right)$  (Qi et al. 2017)  $F_{DS}(A) = \psi\left(\sum_{a \subset A} \varphi(a)\right)$  (Zaheer et al. 2017)  $F_{DS}(A) = \psi \left( \frac{1}{|A|} \sum_{a \in A} \varphi(a) \right)$ 

*Consistency* 

Consistenc

#### Refactor

 $F_{PN} = \psi \circ \max_{f}$  $F_{DS} = \psi \circ \text{ave}_f$  $(\max_{f} i) = \max_{f_i}$  $(\text{ave}_f)_i = \text{ave}_{f_i}$  $\max_{f_i}: \text{Fin}(\Omega) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$  $ave_{f_i}: Fin(\Omega) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 

#### Continuity?



What topologies yields continuity on  $Fin(\Omega)$ ?

#### Continuity?



What topologies yields continuity on  $Fin(\Omega)$ ?



#### Continuity?



What topologies yields continuity on  $\text{Fin}(\Omega)$ ?

 $(\mathcal{K}(\Omega),d_H)$ 

$$
(\mathcal{P}(\Omega),d_W)
$$

Space of nonempty compact subsets with Hausdorff metric  $d_H$ 

Space of Borel probability measures with Wasserstein metric  $d_W$ 



$$
\operatorname{Max}_{f_i}(A) = \max_{a \in A} f_i(a)
$$
  
 
$$
\operatorname{Max}_{f_i} : (\mathcal{K}(\Omega), d_H) \to \mathbb{R}
$$
  
\n
$$
\uparrow
$$
  
\n
$$
\downarrow
$$
  
\n
$$
\uparrow
$$
  
\n
$$
\downarrow
$$
  
\n
$$
\uparrow
$$
  
\n
$$
\downarrow
$$
  
\n
$$
\
$$

 $F_{PN} = \psi \circ \text{Max } \epsilon$ 

$$
F_{DS} = \psi \circ \text{Ave}_f
$$

$$
Ave_{f_i}(\mu) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu}[f_i(x)]
$$

$$
Ave_{f_i}: (\mathcal{P}(\Omega), d_W) \to \mathbb{R}
$$
  
Space of Borel probability measures  
with Wasserstein metric  $d_W$ 

$$
F_{PN} = \psi \circ \text{Max}_f \qquad \qquad F_{DS} = \psi \circ \text{Ave}_f
$$

$$
\operatorname{Max}_{f_i}(A) = \max_{a \in A} f_i(a)
$$

$$
\operatorname{Max}_{f_i} : (\mathcal{K}(\Omega), d_H) \to \mathbb{R}
$$

Space of nonempty compact subsets with Hausdorff metric  $d_H$ 

 $p:\mathbb{Q}\to\mathbb{Q}$ 

polynomial

$$
I'DS - \varphi \circ \text{Ave}_f
$$

$$
Ave_{f_i}(\mu) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu}[f_i(x)]
$$

$$
Ave_{f_i}: (\mathcal{P}(\Omega), d_W) \to \mathbb{R}
$$

Space of Borel probability measures Intuition with Wasserstein metric  $d_W$ 

$$
F_{PN} = \psi \circ \text{Max}_f \qquad \qquad F_{DS} = \psi \circ \text{Ave}_f
$$

$$
\operatorname{Max}_{f_i}(A) = \max_{a \in A} f_i(a)
$$

$$
\operatorname{Max}_{f_i} : (\mathcal{K}(\Omega), d_H) \to \mathbb{R}
$$

Space of nonempty compact subsets with Hausdorff metric  $d_H$ 

 $p:\mathbb{R}\to\mathbb{R}$ 

polynomial

$$
I'DS - \psi \circ \text{Ave}_f
$$

$$
Ave_{f_i}(\mu) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu}[f_i(x)]
$$

$$
Ave_{f_i}: (\mathcal{P}(\Omega), d_W) \to \mathbb{R}
$$

Space of Borel probability measures Intuition with Wasserstein metric  $d_W$ 

$$
F_{PN} = \psi \circ \text{Max}_f \qquad \qquad F_{DS} = \psi \circ \text{Ave}_f
$$

$$
\operatorname{Max}_{f_i}(A) = \max_{a \in A} f_i(a)
$$

$$
\operatorname{Max}_{f_i} : (\mathcal{K}(\Omega), d_H) \to \mathbb{R}
$$

Space of nonempty compact subsets with Hausdorff metric  $d_H$ 

$$
p:\mathbb{C}\to\mathbb{C}
$$

polynomial

$$
I'DS - \psi \circ Ave_f
$$

$$
Ave_{f_i}(\mu) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu}[f_i(x)]
$$

$$
Ave_{f_i}: (\mathcal{P}(\Omega), d_W) \to \mathbb{R}
$$

Space of Borel probability measures Intuition with Wasserstein metric  $d_W$ 

$$
F_{PN} = \psi \circ \text{Max}_{f}
$$

$$
\text{Max}_{f_i}(A) = \max_{a \in A} f_i(a)
$$

$$
\text{Max}_{f_i} : (\mathcal{K}(\Omega), d_H) \to \mathbb{R}
$$
  
space of nonempty compact subsets with Hausdorff metric  $d_H$ 

$$
F_{DS} = \psi \circ \text{Ave}_f
$$

$$
Ave_{f_i}(\mu) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mu}[f_i(x)]
$$

$$
Ave_{f_i}: (\mathcal{P}(\Omega), d_W) \to \mathbb{R}
$$
  
Space of Borel probability measures

with Wasserstein metric  $d_W$ 

 $(\Omega, d)$  compact  $\Longrightarrow (\mathcal{K}(\Omega), d_H)$  and  $(\mathcal{P}(\Omega), d_W)$  compact

#### Stability of Extension

**Theorem.** Suppose  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^N$  is compact. Then every PointNet and normalized-DeepSet network with Lipschitz continuous activation functions is Lipschitz continuous on  $(\mathcal{K}(\Omega), d_H)$  and  $(\mathcal{P}(\Omega), d_W)$  respectively.

$$
||F_{PN}(A) - F_{PN}(B)|| \le K_{F_{PN}} d_H(A, B)
$$

$$
||F_{DS}(\mu) - F_{DS}(\nu)|| \leq K_{F_{DS}} d_W(\mu, \nu)
$$

#### $Classical UAT \rightarrow Topological UAT$

**Theorem.** Let X be compact Hausdorff and  $\sigma \in C(\mathbb{R})$  not a polynomial. If  $S \subseteq C(X)$  separates points and has a nonzero constant, then span( $\sigma \circ$  span $S$ ) is dense in  $C(X)$ . If S is a linear subspace, then span( $\sigma \circ S$ ) is dense in  $C(X)$ .

#### Topological UAT  $\rightarrow$  UAT for Extension

**Theorem.** Let X be compact Hausdorff and  $\sigma \in C(\mathbb{R})$  not a polynomial. If  $S \subseteq C(X)$  separates points and has a nonzero constant, then span $(\sigma \circ \text{span} S)$ is dense in  $C(X)$ . If S is a linear subspace, then span( $\sigma \circ S$ ) is dense in  $C(X)$ .

Letting  $S_{PN} = \{ \text{Max}_f | f \in \mathcal{N}^\tau \}$  and  $S_{DS} = \{ \text{Ave}_f | f \in \mathcal{N}^\tau \}$  works!

This yields a UAT for generalized PointNet and DeepSets on  $\mathcal{K}(\Omega)$  and  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ .

#### UAT for Extension  $\rightarrow$  Point Cloud UAT

**Theorem.** Let X be compact Hausdorff and  $\sigma \in C(\mathbb{R})$  not a polynomial. If  $S \subseteq C(X)$  separates points and has a nonzero constant, then span $(\sigma \circ \text{span } S)$ is dense in  $C(X)$ . If S is a linear subspace, then span( $\sigma \circ S$ ) is dense in  $C(X)$ .

Letting  $S_{PN} = \{ \text{Max}_f | f \in \mathcal{N}^\tau \}$  and  $S_{DS} = \{ \text{Ave}_f | f \in \mathcal{N}^\tau \}$  works!

This yields a UAT for generalized PointNet and DeepSets on  $\mathcal{K}(\Omega)$  and  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ .















#### Is the Problem at Infinity?



 $\leq k$  points

# Is the Problem at Infinity? ??? …Not Quite

 $\leq k$  points

### Is the Problem at Infinity?

#### …Not Quite



 $\leq k$  points

#### Center-of-Mass, PointNet, & Fixed Size Sets



Two  $d_H$ -continuous paths with same limit... …But different limiting centers.

#### Error Lower Bound for  $ave<sub>f</sub>$

**Theorem.** Let  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  be the unit ball,  $k \geq 3$ , and  $f : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}^n$  continuous. Then for any distinct  $p, q \in \Omega$  and  $0 < \tau < 1$  there exists a k-point set A with  $p, q \in A \subseteq \Omega$  so that

$$
||F_{PN}(A) - ave_f(A)|| > (1 - \tau) \left(\frac{k-2}{2k}\right) ||f(p) - f(q)||
$$

for any PointNet-type  $F_{PN}$ , regardless of depth/width/training/etc. Thus,

$$
|F_{PN} - \text{ave}_{f} ||_{L^{\infty}(\text{Fin}^k(\Omega))} \ge \left(\frac{k-2}{2k}\right) \text{Diam}(f(\Omega))
$$

Moreover, we can construct such geometric "adversarial" examples

















#### Summary

- **•** PointNet & normalized-DeepSets uniquely continuously extend to  $\mathcal{K}(\Omega)$  and  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ respectively.
- PointNet & normalized-DeepSets can uniformly approximate the uniformly continuous functions on Fin( $\Omega$ ) w.r.t.  $d_H$  and  $d_W$  resp. They cannot uniformly approximate anything else.
- PointNet & normalized-DeepSets are Lipschitz if activations are Lipschitz
- Constants are only functions mutually approximable by PointNet and DeepSets on  $Fin(\Omega)$ .
- PointNet cannot uniformly approximate averages of continuous functions (*even for fixed cloud size*) and geometric adversarial examples are abundant and easily constructed.

#### References

Michael Fielding Barnsley. Superfractals. Cambridge University Press, 2006.

- Ricky TQ Chen, Yulia Rubanova, Jesse Bettencourt, and David Duvenaud. Neural ordinary differential equations. arXiv preprint arXiv:1806.07366, 2018.
- George Cybenko. Approximation by superpositions of a sigmoidal function. Mathematics of control, signals and systems, 2(4):303-314, 1989.
- Nicolas Fournier and Arnaud Guillin. On the rate of convergence in wasserstein distance of the empirical measure. Probability Theory and Related Fields, 162(3-4):707-738, 2015.
- Kurt Hornik, Maxwell Stinchcombe, and Halbert White. Multilayer feedforward networks are universal approximators. Neural networks, 2(5):359-366, 1989.
- Arthur Jacot, Franck Gabriel, and Clément Hongler. Neural tangent kernel: Convergence and generalization in neural networks. arXiv preprint arXiv:1806.07572, 2018.
- Moshe Leshno, Vladimir Ya Lin, Allan Pinkus, and Shimon Schocken. Multilayer feedforward networks with a nonpolynomial activation function can approximate any function. Neural networks,  $6(6):861-867,1993.$
- Ernest Michael. Topologies on spaces of subsets. Transactions of the American Mathematical Society, 71(1):152-182, 1951.

James Raymond. Munkres. Topology. Prentice Hall, 2000.

- Charles R Qi, Hao Su, Kaichun Mo, and Leonidas J Guibas. Pointnet: Deep learning on point sets for 3d classification and segmentation. In Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition, pages 652-660, 2017a.
- Charles Ruizhongtai Qi, Li Yi, Hao Su, and Leonidas J Guibas. Pointnet++: Deep hierarchical feature learning on point sets in a metric space. In I. Guyon, U. V. Luxburg, S. Bengio, H. Wallach, R. Fergus, S. Vishwanathan, and R. Garnett, editors, Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 30, pages 5099-5108. Curran Associates, Inc., 2017b.

Walter Rudin. Real and complex analysis. Tata McGraw-hill education, 2006.

M.b. Stinchcombe. Neural network approximation of continuous functionals and continuous functions on compactifications. Neural Networks, 12(3):467-477, 1999. doi: 10.1016/ s0893-6080(98)00108-7.

Cedric Villani. Optimal transport: old and new. Springer, 2009.

- Edward Wagstaff, Fabian B Fuchs, Martin Engelcke, Ingmar Posner, and Michael Osborne. On the limitations of representing functions on sets. arXiv preprint arXiv:1901.09006, 2019.
- Keyulu Xu, Weihua Hu, Jure Leskovec, and Stefanie Jegelka. How powerful are graph neural networks? In International Conference on Learning Representations, 2019. URL https: //openreview.net/forum?id=ryGs6iA5Km.
- Dmitry Yarotsky. Universal approximations of invariant maps by neural networks. arXiv preprint arXiv:1804.10306, 2018.
- Manzil Zaheer, Satwik Kottur, Siamak Ravanbakhsh, Barnabas Poczos, Ruslan R Salakhutdinov, and Alexander J Smola. Deep sets. In I. Guyon, U. V. Luxburg, S. Bengio, H. Wallach, R. Fergus, S. Vishwanathan, and R. Garnett, editors, Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 30, pages 3391-3401. Curran Associates, Inc., 2017. URL http://papers.nips.cc/paper/ 6931-deep-sets.pdf.

#### Thank You!

